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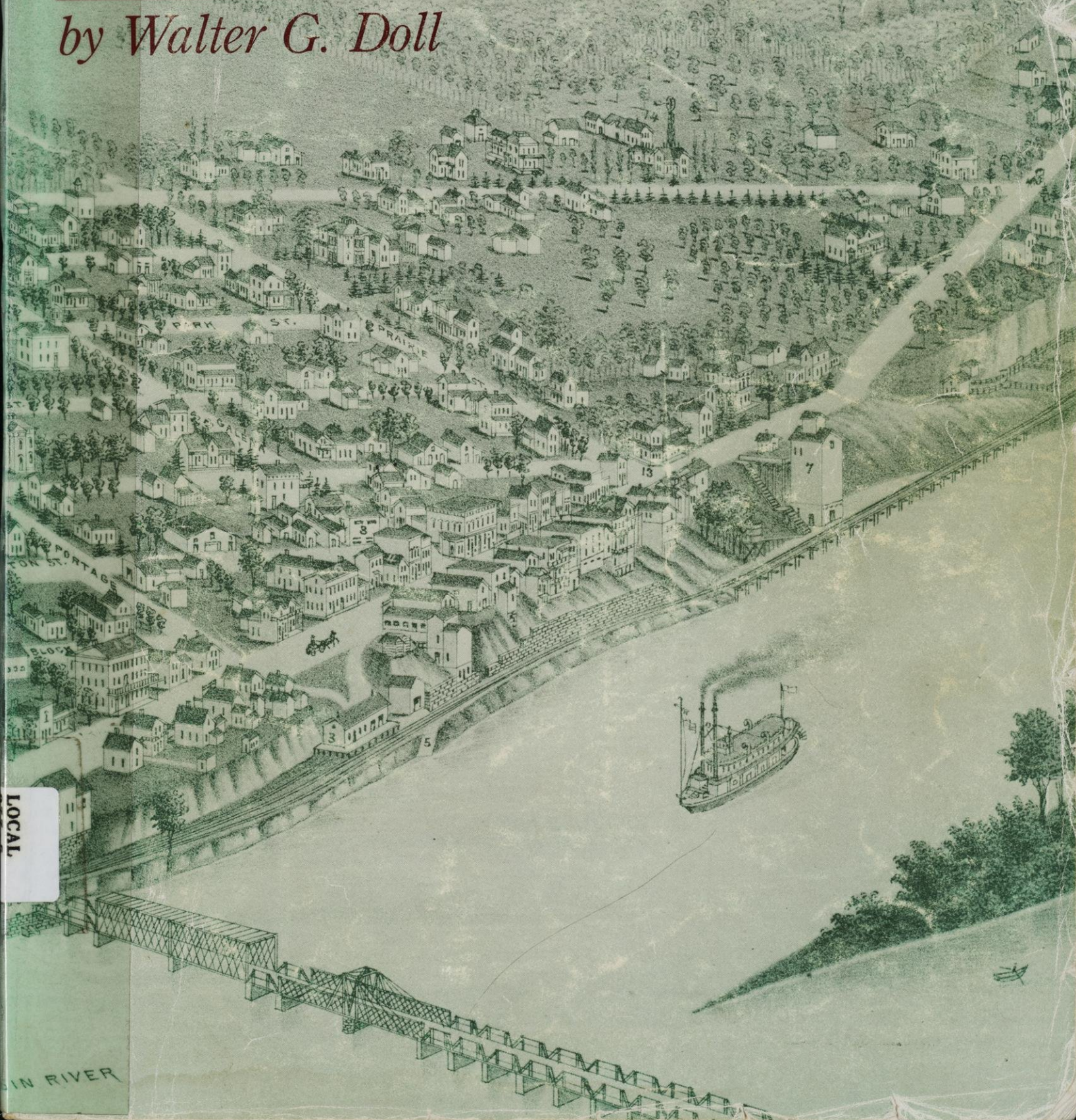
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Historical Sketches of Prairie du Sac

by Walter G. Doll



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Historical Sketches of Prairie du Sac

by Walter G. Doll



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Walter G. Doll
Sept. 17, 1892 - January 5, 1973

The community of Prairie du Sac owes a debt of gratitude to many loyal sons and daughters. One son, who chronicled his love of Prairie du Sac for the benefit of all, was Walter G. Doll.

Mr. Doll had a lifelong appreciation for the village, for the everyday pattern of living in which he participated, for the people whose lives touched his own, and for the march of world history that left its mark on a small mid-western town.

Walter Doll compiled the material in this book over the years. The written material is entirely his, most of the pictures were found by him. Additional statistical material that was deleted can be found in the Prairie du Sac Library.

Village Clerk 31 Years Qualifies as Historian Reprinted from the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 1967

Prairie du Sac, Wis. — Complex and complicated is the way Walter Doll describes the post of village clerk, and it's becoming more difficult every year.

Doll has been the village clerk at Prairie du Sac since 1936, first on a part time basis, then full time upon his retirement from teaching.

"Now it's time I had some leisure time," the softspoken, white haired Doll said, "I'm 74. It's about time."

He's served the community, first as a teacher, then as teacher-clerk and finally as clerk, for 54 years.

That service will come to the end Sunday when his elective term is over. The village board recently combined the posts of clerk, treasurer and assessor, and selected Albert Gastrow for the job.

Doll noted that there were many additional utility customers to bill now, many more reports to fill out for the increasing village labor force such as tax deductions, social security and fringe benefits, and many more governmental reports to compile.

Doll also noted that the amount of money the village official must handle has grown tremendously, and he cited figures showing that the school tax has grown from \$3,500 in 1936 to \$147,000 here in 1966, with total taxes during the same period mounting from \$43,346 to \$261,052.

Doll is strictly a hometown boy. He was born in Prairie du Sac, and except for schooling, a brief teaching tenure in Nebraska and World War I duty in Paris, has lived here all of his life.

His teaching career began here in 1913 and terminated 41 years later. "I was one of four teachers on the staff when I started," he recalled. "and earned \$540 per year."

He was the high school's first basketball coach. Of this he is positive for he helped build the school's first standards and bounding board. "We played our games outside then," he said.

He initially taught commercial subjects, then civics, later specialized in history.

Though his history teaching days are far behind him, he has remained the community's unofficial historian, compiling a pictorial record of the community since it was incorporated in 1885.

He'll have more time for that project after the end of April, but he expects life to "be dull for me after being so active so long."

"I'll find something to keep me busy," he added, "I always have."

Foreword

The year 1960 marks the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Prairie du Sac. It seemed fitting, therefore, that an historical sketch of this kind should be prepared in this year.

Like the pioneers of every community the men and women of the early history of Prairie du Sac who helped to build up this community were independent and self-reliant, asking and expecting favors of no one. They relied on their own ability and resources to carve out for themselves a comfortable, and in some cases, an affluent living. They have left a heritage of civic responsibility, economic independence and pride in their home community, which should serve as an inspiration for the people of a later day.

W.G. Doll

Walter G. Doll's Foreword states, "The year 1960 marks the 75th anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Prairie du Sac." Thus, 1985 is the 100th anniversary of the village. The actual date was October 17, 1885. In observance, the Prairie du Sac Library is publishing the historical papers written by Mr. Doll in 1960.

As the years went on, Mr. Doll found more information regarding certain subjects and so added to and sometimes duplicated some of the stories. Mrs. Walter Doll recognized that some of the information needed to be edited and suggested, among others, that Leah Gruber be responsible for the editing. In line with this suggestion, the material has been edited by Leah and her committee of Edward Gruber, John Gruber, Doris Litscher Gasser and Janice Bender.

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Historical Material

The Beginning

Before the early settlers came to Sauk County in 1838, an Indian tribe known as the Saukies occupied the area which later became Prairie du Sac. The tribe was also known as the Sauks and the French version, Sacs. This was then the prairie of the Sacs from which the name Prairie du Sac is derived.

The Saukies or Sacs were well advanced, living in a village of about 90 houses, each large enough for several families. The streets were regular and well-spaced. John Carver, writer and traveler, called it the largest and best built Indian village he had ever seen.

After the ratification of a treaty with the Winnebago Indians, land in southern Wisconsin was opened for purchase and settlement.

The early settlers who saw this area from the heights across the river for the first time, were much impressed by the attractiveness and natural beauty of Sauk Prairie. It is said that Count Haraszthy visited many of America's famous localities for the purpose of selecting a new home which would compare favorably in its natural characteristics with his home in Hungary. He wandered from place to place and through many rural districts of many states. None seemed to satisfy him until chance led him to the banks of the Wisconsin River and he wrote "during my prolonged traveling I had not seen in Europe or in America the work of nature in such matchless perfection and I can say with all conviction that there cannot exist a more beautiful spot in any part of the world". Rev. James G. Whitford, the first minister to come to Sauk County (1841), in speaking on this subject, said "The half has never been told."

The First Settlers

The first settlements in Sauk County were in the Prairie du Sac-Sauk City area during the spring and summer months of 1838. The first white family was that of James S. Alban, who arrived Dec. 20, 1838. Alban worked at whatever job he could get and later read law under William H. Clark, the first lawyer in Sauk County. Clark came in 1842 and boarded with the Albans. After the death of his wife, said to be a most gracious and hospitable lady, Alban moved to Plover in Portage County. Here he

practiced law and served as Probate Judge of Portage County and was twice elected to the State Senate. He was appointed colonel of the 18th Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers and was killed at the battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862. In the 1840s Alban owned the property which is now the Prairie du Sac Feed and Coal Co., at the corner of Water and Prairie Sts., and in 1846 he was deeded the lots later owned by the Doll family, at 510 Prairie St. and in the same year owned lots 8, 9, 10 and 11, of Block 16 of the Original Plat, which is at the corner of Seventh and Washington Sts.

Chas. B. Haney, son of Barry and Anna Haney, was the first white child born in Sauk County. The date was Nov. 30, 1839.

In 1839, H. F. Crossman, William May, D. B. Crocker, Burke Fairchild, S. B. Harner, N. Lathrop and a Mr. Hunter arrived. In that year, D. B. Crocker, who first laid claim to the area where the principal part of the village now stands, laid out a part of his claim in village streets and lots. This was the first step in the up-building of the village.

The abstract covering lots 4 & 5, block 7, of the original plat, now 443 Third St., gives the following information:

Part of 75.26 acres deeded by the U.S. Government to William Henry Hubbard on Oct. 26, 1843.

1844—An agreement with John Le Messurier, Daniel B. Crocker and Arba M. Seymour to adopt and ratify the town plat with the following alterations: Streets to be 66 ft. wide, the public square to remain private property unless conveyed by deed; a piece 150 ft. in width extending from Water St. to Wisconsin River and covering the present ferry landing from Water St. to the river and sets apart the same for public use.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1844—Arba M. Seymour, | \$16 |
| 1845—Oliver W. Lycon, | \$40 |
| 1846—George Cargill, | \$30 |
| 1850—Ebenezer Watson, | \$100 |
| 1855—Alex N. Morrel, | \$240 |
| 1855—Samuel R. Dennett, | \$750 |
| 1859—Sally Dennet, his widow, | by will |
| 1868—Heirs of Sally Dennett, | |
| Chas., John & Marilla Dennett, | |
| 1868—Amos Farr, | \$1100 |
| 1869—David Conger | \$1050 |

A former owner of this property claims the house was built in 1848.

Among other first families were those of Albert Skinner, Cyrus Leland, the Kellogs, Frank Abbott, Archiblad Hill, J. I. Waterbury and D. K. Baxter. They were mostly of New England stock, commonly known as Yankees, while the Germans and Hungarians settled in Sauk City.

One history claims that the first white family was that of Charles Parks. He built a house, or moved into one built by D. B. Crocker, on a lot later owned by J. J. Ochsner. Ochsner owned lots in Block 6 of the Original Plat, which is now the business district, and also owned land in the block north of Block 6, Original Plat, which would be north of Prairie St. in Simon's Addition. The most likely location is that lot now at 370 Prairie St. The house was owned by the Ochsner family for 80 years and has been remodeled or rebuilt several times.

In June, 1839, Jonathan Hatch and family moved into a large cabin near where Miles Keysar later built his home, at the corner of Water St. and Winnie Ave. His granddaughter, Florence Higday, was the second wife of Charles Stoddard and his daughter, Esther, married David Myers. Hatch died in 1889 at the age of 81 years and is buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

In the fall of 1839 or the spring of 1840 Crocker put up a log cabin and brought in a small stock of merchandise which he hauled out from Milwaukee over difficult and sometimes hazardous roads. This was the first store in Sauk County. Crocker's store stood a little south of the Baxter House. It was torn down in 1878.

The first celebration was on July 4, 1839, attended by about 25 adults, including the few women in the community. "There were no firecrackers, no cannon, no fireworks and no brass bands, only good fellowship and an expression of sincere patriotism." A lunch of baked beans and corn bread was served and the chief topic of conversation was the recounting of their various experiences.

In 1840, Joshua Abbott came here and with Archibald Hill erected a frame building for a hotel on land donated by D. B. Crocker & Co. The hotel was opened in the spring of 1841 after the arrival of Abbott's family. This was the first frame building as well as the first tavern in the county. The hotel was maintained only a few years and then converted into a tenant house, then used as a photograph gallery and the residence of Dr. Whitford. This building stood at the north end of Block 6, at the junction of Third and Water Sts.

In 1840, William Frink started a blacksmith shop, and in that same year brought the first mail from Madison. In 1844, the shop was bought by Samuel Kelsey who operated it until his death in 1865. This is the stone building at the corner of Galena and Water Sts. Through the years it has been variously used as a furniture store, a grocery store, a saloon, postoffice, an electric shop and a dress shop. In the meantime, William Frink and John Le Messieur a.k.a. Messure and Messurier, bought one-half of Crocker's land claims and started to build cabins.

Lyman Crossman was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1840 and as such married several couples and in 1842 he himself was married and after his death a few years later his widow, Cornelia, married George Owen.

About 1840 or 41, a Methodist preacher, a Mr. Fullerton held the first religious services here, probably in the home of Charles Parks. Every three weeks he filled appointments at Prairie du Sac, Baraboo, Blue Mounds, Dodgeville, Honey Creek Mills and Spring Green. He said his congregations averaged 8, he traveled 300 miles and his salary was \$50.92 per year, \$50 from the Missionary Society and 92¢ from his circuit.

George Owen started a wagon shop here in 1843, said to be the first mechanical institution in Sauk County. It stood on Park Avenue near Galena St.

In 1846, Prescott Brigham started the first stage coach service between here and Madison and later, lines led to Mazomanie, Baraboo, Merrimac and other points. Brigham also became the first judge of Sauk County.

The *Sauk County News* of Feb. 25, 1882, editorializes as follows, "The Prairie du Sac and Mazomanie stage line is discontinued, and the line to Lodi contracted to semi-weekly service between Lodi and Farr's corners (refers to Farr's store at the corner of Prairie and Water Sts.) The Black Hawk line is maintained and will be kept up until superseded by a railroad, a thing that the good people of that burg are expecting in the near future. The line to Madison, Billy Brown, proprietor, is run with the regularity of a clock and is a great convenience to the people along the line. The much mooted stage line to Baraboo is not dead, but asleep. When will it awake?"

In 1846 or 47, Cyrus and Eleazer Leland erected a building and put in a stock of merchandise. Soon they sold to Baxter and William Hubbard. In 1848, Jeremiah Keysar and Alexander Morrell started a store, but shortly after Keysar sold his interest to Israel P. Green. This store stood where Ploetz and Glynn have their law office now, at 624 Water St. In 1875 this store building was bought by Jacob Hatz and later M. C. Moore had his hardware store here.

In the spring of 1850, M. S. Moore had come from the East and opened a store in what was then the postoffice building until he could erect a new building, which was later operated by his son, E. C. Moore. Later this establishment became one of the old standbys and Moore one of the oldest merchants who began business in the county and one of the most influential citizens. In 1851, M. S. Moore also started a lumber yard which later was taken over by Christ Obrecht.

Dr. Samuel Bassinger started the first drug store in the early 1850s.

In 1860, there were five dry-goods stores, one hardware store and tin shop, two boot and shoe shops, three blacksmith shops, one wagon maker, four saloons and one drug store.

In William H. Clark's Address of Welcome at the Sauk County Old Settlers Association Meeting, in speaking of the early pioneers, said: "They were industrious, with a zeal that never abated and with a heart that never faltered, they encountered all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, broke the virgin soil and plowed the furrows deep to supply the needs of themselves and those that followed them."

Business and Industry

The most important business of the early settlers was farming. Even within the village limits there were the farms of John E. Wright, W. H. Jacobs, J. I. Waterbury, A. M. Bickford, U. H. Kendall, Elisha P. Tabor, George Owen and the farm at the corner of Broadway and Park Ave.

An interesting phenomenon of the 1860s was the experience farmers had with the raising of hops. Sauk County became the leader in hop-raising. Before 1860, the price per pound for hops at the nearest market, Beaver Dam, was 7¢ per pound. In a short period of 3-5 years, the price advanced to 50-60¢ per pound. The crop failure in the East had created a huge demand for hops and Sauk County helped to create a supply. Before 1860, the number of pounds of hops raised was in the tens of thousands, but in 1866 the yield in Sauk County was estimated at 15,000,000 pounds having a value of \$7,000,000. It was the best cash crop of any and made many farmers rich.

But the era of prosperity was short-lived. The bottom of the market dropped out completely in 1868 and many farmers suffered a complete loss. It must have been exciting while it lasted. However, there were some benefits, such as money spent on improving the farms and the hop house could be used for barns or for housing others farm crops and machinery.

An old hop house can be seen on Robert Enge's farm near Witwen, distinguished by the gable at one end.

James Christian was a practical inventor and genius with tools and equipment. His plow shop was built in 1858 and was located where Trager's Food Store is at 670 Water St. The name of the business was The Christian Plow Manufactory where Christian made from fifty to seventy-five plows a year without help besides the repairing which was done. He lived at the corner of Third and Galena Sts.

The most important source of income of the early settlers was farming. Jonathan Hatch raised the first crops on land along Water St. between Winnie Ave. and Grand Ave. There were also the farms of John E. Wright, Wm. H. Jacobs, George Owen, J. I. Waterbury and Uriel Kendall, among others.

Other occupations and businesses were: innkeeping in the Briggs and the Baxter Hotels, which were among the leading hotels along the Wisconsin River; the storage of grain in Miles Keysar's elevator; the manufacture of grain reapers, about 1880; the lumber yards of J. Werner and Christ Obrecht; the mills of M. S. Moore and J. T. West; the shoe repair shops of Jacob Pluess and Thomas Baker; mercantile stores such as Conger Bros., E. C. Moore's; Hatz's, Tabor's, Schneller & Felix's and others; drug stores such as Bassinger's, Cummings's, Wotring's and Weaver's. None of these mentioned was in existence in 1960.

Early Refrigeration. In the very early homes, a small room was provided under the kitchen for preserving vegetables and meat as best they could. A ladder or steep steps gave access to this hole in the ground. Then ice was used. Some time in the winter months a group of men would go on the frozen river near the depot and saw up the ice into blocks weighing about 100 lbs. These would be loaded on



First Church in Sauk-Prairie-Roxbury Region, 1846. Reproduction of an early photograph of combined church and dwelling erected by Father Inama midway between Sauk City and Roxbury about the year 1846 or later. Father Inama can be seen standing just beyond the fence, and in the immediate foreground are the pebbles fringing what is now called Madison Brook, which springs from Crane Lake near Roxbury, and empties into the Wisconsin River about two miles south of Sauk City. The cellar ruins of the building may still be seen about a half mile back from the point where the brook flows beneath Highway 12 between Sauk City and Roxbury. This photograph is of the first church of any kind erected in this region. Picture courtesy of Denman Kramer.

to horse-drawn sleds, hauled up the depot hill and stored in the ice house on Third St. in the building near the meat market which at that time was at the corner of Third and Prairie Sts. The meat market was the biggest user of ice. The blocks of ice, when stored, would be covered with saw dust to keep them from melting in the hot summer months, then piled up one on top of the other. A rope, pulley and ice tongs were used to lift them in place. It was also considerable work to wash the saw dust away before the ice could be placed in the ice boxes, as at that time water would have to be pumped and then hauled to where it could be used. Not much came easy in the early days, nor were there many conveniences.

If private homes wanted ice it was necessary to provide a wooden ice box. Ice was delivered on certain days and cards were provided and placed in a window to indicate whether the customer wanted 25 or 50 lbs. It was the job of the drayman to deliver ice and his chief qualification was a strong back. As the ice melted, there was a tube in the ice box which would drain off the water into a pan set under the box. This had to be emptied before it got too full otherwise there would be water all over the floor. A cake of ice delivered would cost from 5¢ to 25¢, depending on its size.

Ice made possible the manufacture of ice cream, the preservation of perishable foods, the cooling of beer and other drinks, and the reduction of temperature in mortuary parlors, etc. The ice business lasted more than 40 years or until the introduction of modern refrigeration.

In 1860, M. S. Moore installed machinery in one of his buildings to run a steam mill for grinding grain. But after a short time found it didn't pay and the machinery was sold and the building converted into a hardware store,

which became one of the leading stores in the area.

Another mill was built by James Werner in 1864 on the location of the Old Banner Mill at 430 Water St. This didn't work out very well and soon after he sold the mill. About 1880 Conger Bros. bought the machinery and soon after they, too, sold it. Nothing further was done until some years later. Werner also got some patents on items used in the manufacture of reapers, for which he had high hopes. But that, too, failed.

1881 Directory

A directory dated 1881 gives the following list of the residents in the village of Prairie du Sac:

N. H. Briggs, Prop. Briggs House—Boarders taken in by the day, week or month—Tables furnished with the best the market affords—Charges reasonable.

Eugene Burton, farmer, res. corner 9th St. and Grand Ave.

Thomas Cook, shoemaker, res. and shop 476 Water St.

Albert Fisher, veterinarian, office now barbershop at 635 Water St., res. 836 Water St., son-in-law of Rev. John Thilke; his daughter, Mame, taught in Prairie du Sac schools and later moved to Canada.

Edmund Keysar, cattle buyer, res. 410 Galena St., father of Miles.

Joseph Keysar, clerk, brother of Jeremiah and Miles.

Otis Kilbourn, cattle buyer, res. corner of 1st & Washington Sts., house brought down from village of Newport on a raft.

O. S. & E. W. Knapp, merchants. O. S. bought L. V. Tabor's store in 1875.

James Long, carpenter, also operated Briggs or Empire House.

Joshua McCoy, carpenter, res. Water St. north of 7th.

Osmund McCoy, brother of Joshua, carpenter, later moved to Massachusetts.

Alex McGinnis, carpenter, Civil War vet.

George H. Mills, farmer.

Archibald Moore, druggist.

Chas. Nold, photographer.

John J. Ochsner, shoe dealer, fur buyer, variety store.

Edward Oertel, blacksmith, wagons, buggies, sleighs and cutters for sale; shop on Galena St., res. cor. 3rd & Galena.

George Owen, farmer.

Harrison Page, shoemaker.

Alfred Page, carpenter, res. at head of Broadway on 7th St. Currier Page, teamster.

Henry Page, steamboat man.

W. R. Patchen, Treasury Agent, creamery route agent.

E. C. Perkins, geologist, money lender, res. 6th St. between Broadway and Washington Sts. (He had many rocks and odd shaped stones in his yard.)

J. C. Pry, farm machinery, served 3 years in Civil War, wounded.

Samuel S. Pry, Clerk Hatz's store, res. 700 block on Water St.

C. A. Schultz, gunsmith, res. Middletown.

August Sprecher, clerk Conger's store.

Elisha P. Tabor, farmer, res. 7th and Prairie Sts.

J. I. Waterbury, farmer, 747 7th St.

Michael Weinzierl, harness maker, res. & shop Middletown.

Dr. D. H. Whitford, physician.

Early Families

There were several groups of brothers and other near relatives who came to the village at about the same time:

Three *Moore* brothers: Archibald, a druggist, whose two sons, Theron and Joe were tinsmiths; Martin S. and his son E. Conway were merchants; DeGraw, a lawyer, who moved back to New Jersey.

Four *Keysar* brothers: Jeremiah, Joseph, Miles H. and Ed, along with cousins Holmes and Frank. The marriage certificate of Miles Keysar lists his father as Edmund.

Two *Oertel* brothers: Ferdinand, wagon maker and dealer in wagons and buggies, and Edward, a blacksmith.

Two *Tabor* brothers: Lavallette, who built the Schneller and Felix store, and Steven, both merchants; two cousins: Thomas and Edward P. who built Tabor's Hall, and an uncle, Elisha P.

The *Congers* arrived about 1860 and included David and five sons, a daughter and a cousin, Halsey. The following information was furnished by Miss Alice Conger, a great-granddaughter.

The father, David and three of his sons started the Conger store about 1863. David was taken ill while riding on a train near Bloomington, Ill. and died there in 1873.

David Seabury remained in Prairie du Sac and ran the store.

William Frame had interests in the store. He engaged in the general mercantile business and dealt in wool until 1898. He served in the Civil War. He was elected to the State Senate in 1894. He died in 1918.

John Sidney was one of the firm but moved away.

Frederick Halsey graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. He practiced medicine in Menasha and Prairie du Sac. He died in Prairie du Sac, Apr. 7, 1896.

George Duffield went west, eventually took up temperance work and became a Methodist minister.

Mary Stowell Conger married Charles Sligh who was head of the Sligh Mfg. Co. at Grand Rapids, Mich.

There were also Joshua, Nathaniel and Edwin C. Perkins, the latter remembered as a conservative money lender and capitalist. Stephen D. Perkins was proprietor of the Commercial Hotel.

While the Moores at one time were quite numerous and certainly did much for the community, today there is none of that family left in the village. There are nineteen stones in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery with the name Moore. Nor are there any of the Keysar or Perkins family left.

Dr. Albion P. Cummings was born in Maine in 1820. He came to Prairie du Sac in 1850 and began the practice of medicine, training for which he had received in the East. He was highly respected as a physician and as a person. He died in 1894.

His daughter, Ella, married Jesse Cooper who managed the Cummings Drug store until Cooper's death in 1897. The drug store was located in the old Mueller store at 622 Water St.



"Avenue of Trees" in Middletown, painted by Jennie Wright English in 1885. Courtesy of Mrs. Robert W. Thull, a great great granddaughter of John E. Wright.

The Cummings house is on 5th St. between Galena and Washington Sts.

Dr. C. P. Riley, another well-known physician, had his office in what is now (1967) the flower shop at 618 Water St. The Riley house was located at 635 Prairie St, and was on land transferred to John L. Messuier in 1844 and after several other transfers was bought by Dr. Chas. P. Riley in 1879. He lived here for 15 years when the property was sold to Wm. H. Jacobs.

Philo Carpenter was born in New York in 1830 and came to Wisconsin in 1856 and was married to Eliza McGinnis, a sister of Mrs. Thomas Baker and Alex McGinnis. They lived on rented farms until they went to Pennsylvania in 1864 during the time of the excitement caused by the discovery of oil.

They returned the following year and bought a farm situated on Highway 12, which farm is now inside the powder plant area. They lived here until 1899 when they moved to Prairie du Sac to the house at the corner of 5th and Prairie Sts., where they spent the rest of their lives. Mr. Carpenter died in 1901.

Three boys were born to them, two died at a young age and James R., the third son, continued on the farm until he retired to Prairie du Sac where the family lived at 330 Park Avenue. Mr. Carpenter engaged in various business enterprises and served as Village President, 1907-1908 and as Trustee for two years. Mrs. Stella Carpenter Accola is a granddaughter of Philo Carpenter.

Joshua B. McCoy was born in 1845 in the province of Quebec, Canada. When the Civil War broke out he and two brothers enlisted in the Union Army, although they were not U.S. citizens. Joshua served for three years.

Joshua came to Prairie du Sac in 1867. He married Fannie Stoddard and their son was B. E. McCoy. He was appointed policeman at the State Capitol building in 1895 and later marshall of the Supreme Court, serving until his death in August, 1911. He is buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery. Mrs. Fannie McCoy Wegner is a granddaughter.

Early Settlers Holding Responsible Positions

The first County election in 1844 chose the following from Prairie du Sac:

Sheriff—Joshua E. Abbott

Clerk of Board of Commissioners—Burke Fairchild

Collector—J. I. Waterbury

School Commissioners—Cyrus Leland

and Arba M. Seymour

Assessor—Jonathan Hatch

Justice of the Peace—Cyrus Leland

and Prescott Brigham

Judge of Probate—Prescott Brigham

County Judge

Prescott Brigham 1844

George Cargel, 1845-46

William H. Clark, 1846-49

William T. Kelsey, 1892-1919

Sheriff

Joshua Abbott

Alexander McGinnis

C. J. Meyer

Wisconsin State Assembly

Lyman Crossman, 1842-44

S. H. Bassinger, 1858

Ephriam Young, 1860

J. S. Tripp, 1862

James I. Waterbury, 1867

William W. Perry 1872

George C. Swain, 1872

Thomas Baker, 1875

Wisconsin State Senate

G. DeGraw Moore, 1850

Jonathan W. Fyffe, 1852

Smith S. Wilkinson, 1863-65

James I. Waterbury, 1868

William F. Conger,

Civil War Officers

Colonel: James S. Alban

Captains: Nathaniel S. Frost, Sumner Fletcher

Lieutenants: John B. Malloy, John W. Fancher,

Basil Smout

County Seat

At first this area was a part of Crawford County, then in the winter of 1839 and 1840, the settlers petitioned the Legislature to make a new county and call it Sauk, which was done. The county was organized and three commissioners were appointed to select the site for the county seat. The choice was between Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, which up to that time were the only settlements in the county. They agreed to locate it in the village which made the most attractive offer.

Haraszthy offered his store as the building for the court house. Prairie du Sac offered building lots which were thought to be worth more than the store and the county seat was located in Prairie du Sac, in 1843. Haraszthy was much mortified and disappointed and determined that if he couldn't have the county seat he wouldn't allow it to be in Prairie du Sac.

Then he discovered that there was a provision in the deed for the lots which stated that if the county seat were ever removed, ownership of the lots would revert to the original owners. This seemed like a wise and cautious thing to do, but Haraszthy used this an excuse to claim fraud had been perpetrated and got the citizens of Baraboo to join with him to try to get the county seat moved to Baraboo. They petitioned the Legislature in the 1845-1846 session to let the people vote on the question. The petition was granted and the result of the election held April 9, 1846 gave the county seat to Baraboo by one vote.

One can only conjecture what the results might have been had a compromise been reached placing the county seat in Middletown or half way between the two villages.

This did not end the warfare between the two villages. The people of Lower Sauk and those from Baraboo seemed to have entered into an alliance to control the political affairs of the county to the exclusion of the "Yankees" from Prairie du Sac. And there was the post office matter and the question where the first bridge would be built. All this kept the rivalry between Upper and Lower Sauk alive.

John E. Wright and Middletown

The U.S. Government gave title to the SE¼ of Section 1 of T9 R6 consisting of 160 acres located in Prairie du Sac and Sauk City to Chas. Haraszthy and Chas. A. Baxter. The area extended from 9th St. to the Wisconsin River and from Grand Ave. in Prairie du Sac to Hemlock St. in Sauk City. In 1843, Baxter sold his half, or 80 acres, which was located in Prairie du Sac to Haraszthy. In 1845, Chas. Haraszthy transferred the land to his son, Agoston Haraszthy, who in turn sold to Joseph Reiner, from whom John E. Wright bought it in 1850.

Count Haraszthy, an enterprising Hungarian nobleman, had arrived in Sauk County about 1840. Much has been written about the Count, but for our purpose, his story will be concerned only with that part relating to the early history of Prairie du Sac. He began building a large cement house after the style of Hungarian manors, but financial reverses caused a change in his plans and he moved to California with his family after selling his farm, which in 1850 became the property of John E. Wright. We are concerned here chiefly with the Wright property, part of which is now owned by Mrs. J. U. Schmidt at 139 Prairie Ave.

Mr. Wright and his family came here from New Jersey and was of good old English stock. He was distantly related to George Washington, and his wife, Elizabeth Steele, was a descendant of the colonial governor William Bradford. At the age of 21, Wright started giving lectures on physics and chemistry before schools and colleges and popular lectures to public audiences. He traveled extensively throughout the eastern and southern states.

Mr. Wright thought that the cement house that Count Haraszthy had started could not stand the severe freezing of Wisconsin winters and had the unfinished house torn down and built the present structure of red bricks. Writing at the time of the Centennial in 1938, one of the daughters of John E. Wright described this house as having an upper and lower porch, each with trellis-like pillars. Inside was a long hall with an easy stairway, with large round and polished gumwood stair rail and a saddle-like newel post. Large front and back parlors opened off the long hall, each with a fireplace. The kitchen in the rear had a large iron cauldron cemented in the floor. There was a pump in the kitchen connected with a large underground cistern for soft water and outside near the kitchen was the well with a house over it and the "old oaken bucket." The house had been designed by Walter Pashley, who later built many buildings for Marshall Field of Chicago.

On the north side of the house there was a long large garden with rows of fruit trees, currant, gooseberry and raspberry bushes, pie plants and a strawberry bed.

The area between the house and the river on the east contained seven acres, surrounded by a neat, white picket fence, and here he planted eighty trees. There was a gravel walk from the house to the picket gate, the walk lined with trees under which were several garden seats.

Mr. Wright built a large lumber mill on the river bank with a tall, red brick smoke stack. Below the mill he built a residence for the mill superintendent. Opposite the lumber mill, he built a large square 2-story building facing the street, housing a store and the Masonic Lodge

(1859-65) in the south half and having six living rooms in the north half. After the Masons moved to other quarters the 19 members of the Albrights, as the Evangelical Church members were then called, used the hall for their religious services. This building stood just north of O'Donnell's Body Shop and was removed by O'Donnell to provide parking space.

Between the Baxter and Wright farms there was a portion of it set aside for the "June Fest". This area is the block south of the new Lutheran Church and is bounded on the north by Oak St. It had many trees, a bandstand, tables and benches, and a platform for dancing and a very deep beer cellar, which held many hogsheads and barrels of beer. It had an iron railroad track to haul these to the surface. The evidence of this cellar can still be seen between the two houses bordering Oak St.

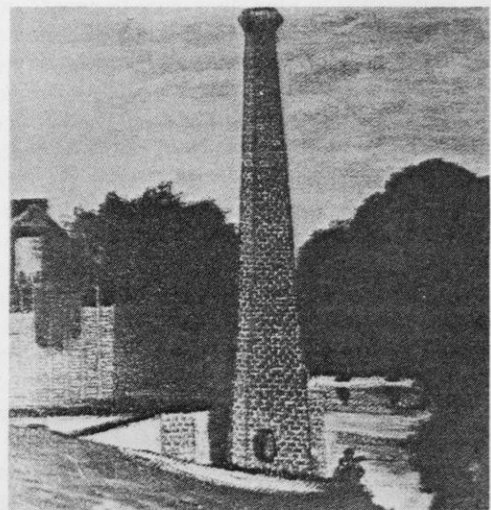
The lumber mill was destroyed by fire some time in the 1860s, which left only the stone foundation and the mill's tall brick chimney, which remained a landmark for 30 years.

In 1862, Mr. Wright was accidentally shot while hunting. He was buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery with full Masonic rites. His burial place is marked by a tall, white shaft.

In the early days, the three areas were sometimes called Ueber Sac, Unter Sac and Mittel Sac, meaning Upper Sauk, Lower Sauk and Middletown.

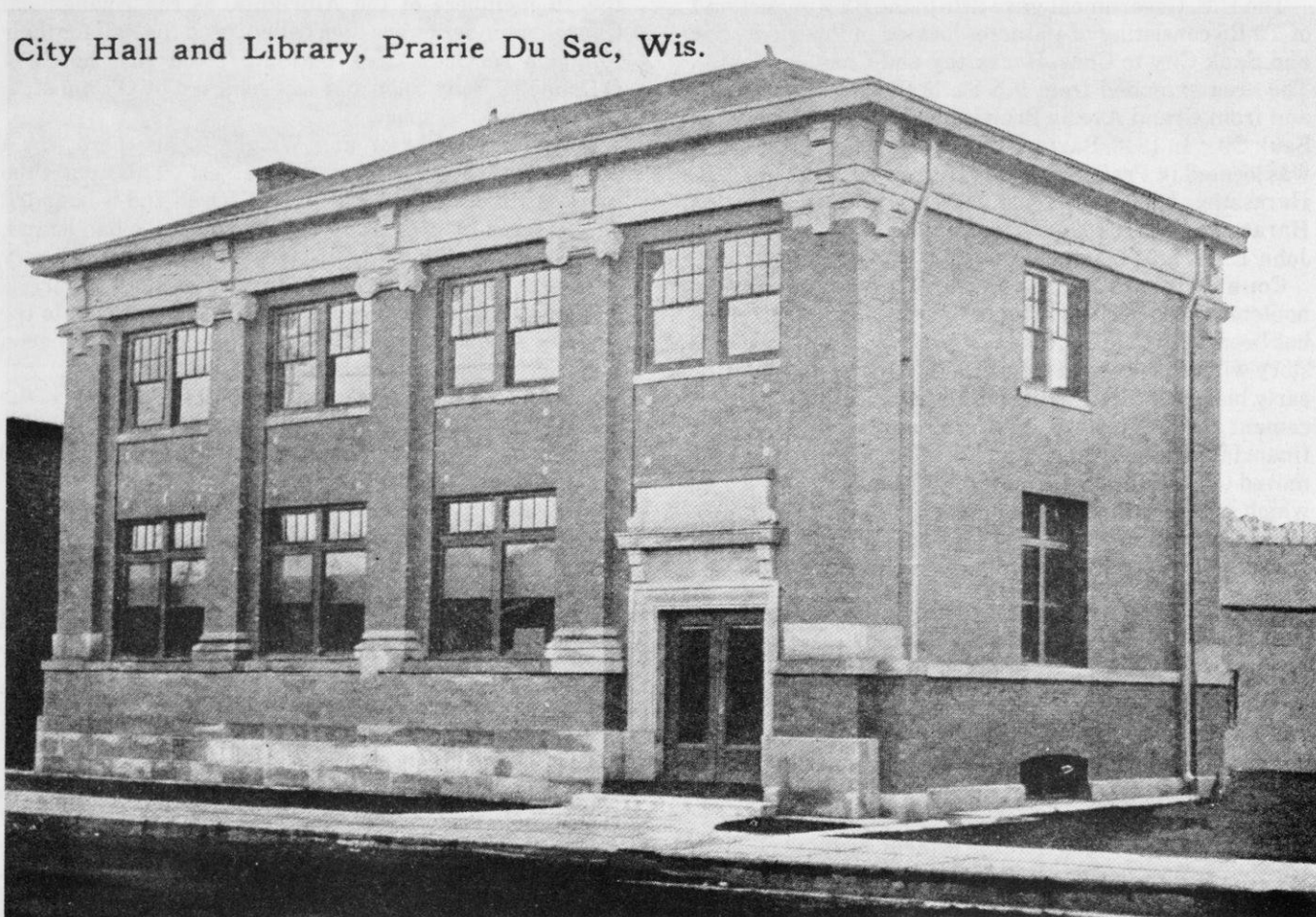
Wright had hoped to make Middletown the business center of Sauk Prairie and about 1860 there was a cabinet maker, harness maker, blacksmith, cigar maker, wagon maker, watchmaker and carpenter all doing business in this section, besides the lumber mill and large store. But Middletown steadily declined after Wright's death. The lumber mill was never rebuilt and the store was discontinued and the Masons moved to another location.

The 80 acres were sold to W. H. Jacobs, who donated about 13 acres to the village for Marion Park. The southwest section was platted and called W. H. Jacobs Subdivision and Replat. Jacobs altered the interior of the house and some felt that he ruined the pioneer decor. Then John Roessler bought the property and in 1903 sold the house and lots to J. U. Schmidt, whose family still owns it.



Painting shows ruins of the mill in Middletown.

City Hall and Library, Prairie Du Sac, Wis.



Tripp Memorial Library, Picture courtesy of Martin C. Ohlsen.

Businesses, Water St. East

Addresses

In order to facilitate the location of buildings in this sketch after the names of the owner may have changed, the following is a list of the street addresses in 1960.

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----|-------|------|
| Mockler Building | 595 | Water | St. |
| Restaurant Building | 585 | " | " |
| Winiger's Bakery | 575 | " | " |
| Furniture Store | 541 | " | " |
| Gattshall & Gruber | 541 | " | " |
| Gasser Building | 529 | " | " |
| Bohn's Garage | 540 | " | " |
| Schmalz Garage | 540 | " | " |
| Anlauf's Appliances | 560 | " | " |
| Chas. J. Ploetz Law Office | 562 | " | " |
| Theater Building | 564 | " | " |
| Bank of Pra du Sac | 580 | " | " |
| Felix's | 590 | " | " |
| Annex to P O Building | 602 | " | " |
| Post Office | 604 | " | " |
| Robert Lang | 604 | " | " |
| Hufford's Barber Shop | 608 | " | " |
| Muellers Drugs | 612 | " | " |
| Sprecher's Tavern | 616 | " | " |
| H. C. Moore's Building | 622 | " | " |
| Blaha Building | 628 | " | " |
| Tarnutzer's Garage Office | 630 | " | " |
| Tarnutzer's Garage | 634 | " | " |
| Tabor's Tap | 638 | " | " |
| Tabor's Bldg. | 640 | " | " |
| Steuber Bldg. | 640 | " | " |
| Morter & Walch Bldg. | 640 | " | " |
| Ford Garage | 670 | " | " |
| Giegerich's | 514 | Park | Ave. |
| Conger's Store | 609 | Water | St. |
| Schoephorster's | 609 | " | " |
| Hotel & Tavern | 625 | " | " |
| The Grill | 631 | " | " |
| J. J. Ochsner's | 631 | " | " |
| Roy Peterson's Shop | 635 | " | " |
| Steuber's Watch Shop | 639 | " | " |
| Schreiber's Shoe Store | 639 | " | " |
| Hatz's Hall | 649 | " | " |
| Esser's Bldg. | 655 | " | " |
| Accola & Osterfund | 671 | " | " |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------|-----|
| P. D. S. Feed & Coal Co. | 701 | " | " |
| Doll Bldg. | 205 | Galena | St. |
| Chevrolet Garage | 225 | " | " |
| Page Co. | 255 | " | " |
| Olcott's Variety Store | 641 | Water | St. |
| Dray & Ostrander | 200 | block | |

The First Bridge

The following information is taken from a *History of Sauk County* published by the Western Historical Society:

"Some time in the 1840s, enterprising citizens had obtained a bridge charter, securing rights and provisions for building a bridge, but nothing further had been done. There was a very great need for a bridge across the Wisconsin River, as the difficulty and slowness attending a ferry boat passage was very great, and retarded a great many from coming here to trade, besides being a great hindrance and annoyance to the inhabitants of the village who had to go and come over the river when they made trips to the city for supplies. Notwithstanding this condition of things and the charter privileges, nothing was done, no one having been found ready to take shares and advance money enough to push the thing through until M. S. Moore arrived.

"Mr. Moore at once took hold of the matter, for if anything was to be done it must be done without delay, as the charter would soon expire; and owing to the rivalry existing between Upper and Lower Sauk at that time, the chances were that they could not get another charter; therefore, without further delay, the enterprise must be, and was, started during the fall of 1850, and under the direct supervision of Mr. Moore, the engineer or chief mechanic being Thomas Worthington. The work was started in earnest in 1851. At first piles were driven into the hardpan about twelve feet beneath the bed of the stream of sand surface, and on these the bridge was built, there being no other foundation. The result was as had been predicted—the ice and spring freshet nearly swept away the entire bridge; as the stockholders could do nothing but start the work again in the spring. This time the foundations were placed on stone piers and made the bridge as strong as possible. The bridge was about 80 rods long, with a suitable draw and originally cost \$1500.00. How-



Entrance to first Prairie du Sac bridge with part of toll house shown. E. C. (Conway) Moore standing at entrance. Sign above reads: "Not more than 4000 lbs. on bridge at one time. Five dollars fine for riding or driving faster than a walk on any part of this bridge."



Another view of bridge and toll house and bridge road. This road crossed the railroad tracks which led to the depot. Some of the bridge tenders were: the Durkee family, E. C. Moore, Claude Hesselgrave and Tom Coulson.



Prairie du Sac Bridge, 1851-1921

ever, the bridge has never been a paying proposition, although a liberal toll is charged: 25 cents for a team and 5 cents for a pedestrian. The bridge was the first crossing over the Wisconsin, and remained so for several years."

E. B. Crane was president from 1852-56. M. S. Moore was the long-time secretary, followed by E. C. Moore. Other familiar names include: Dr. S. H. Bassinger, first druggist in the village; Elisha P Tabor, who built what was later the Schneller & Felix store; Hiram Perkins, W. H. Hubbard, Isaac Morehouse, J. I. Waterbury, A. M. Baldwin, S. S. Mather, N. H. Drew. There was a toll house on the Prairie side of the bridge. When the bridge was torn down, the house was moved to 347 Holly Court, now the home of Reuben Mueller. An old picture shows three boys using one of the piers for a bath house, while they went swimming in the river.

Banner Mill

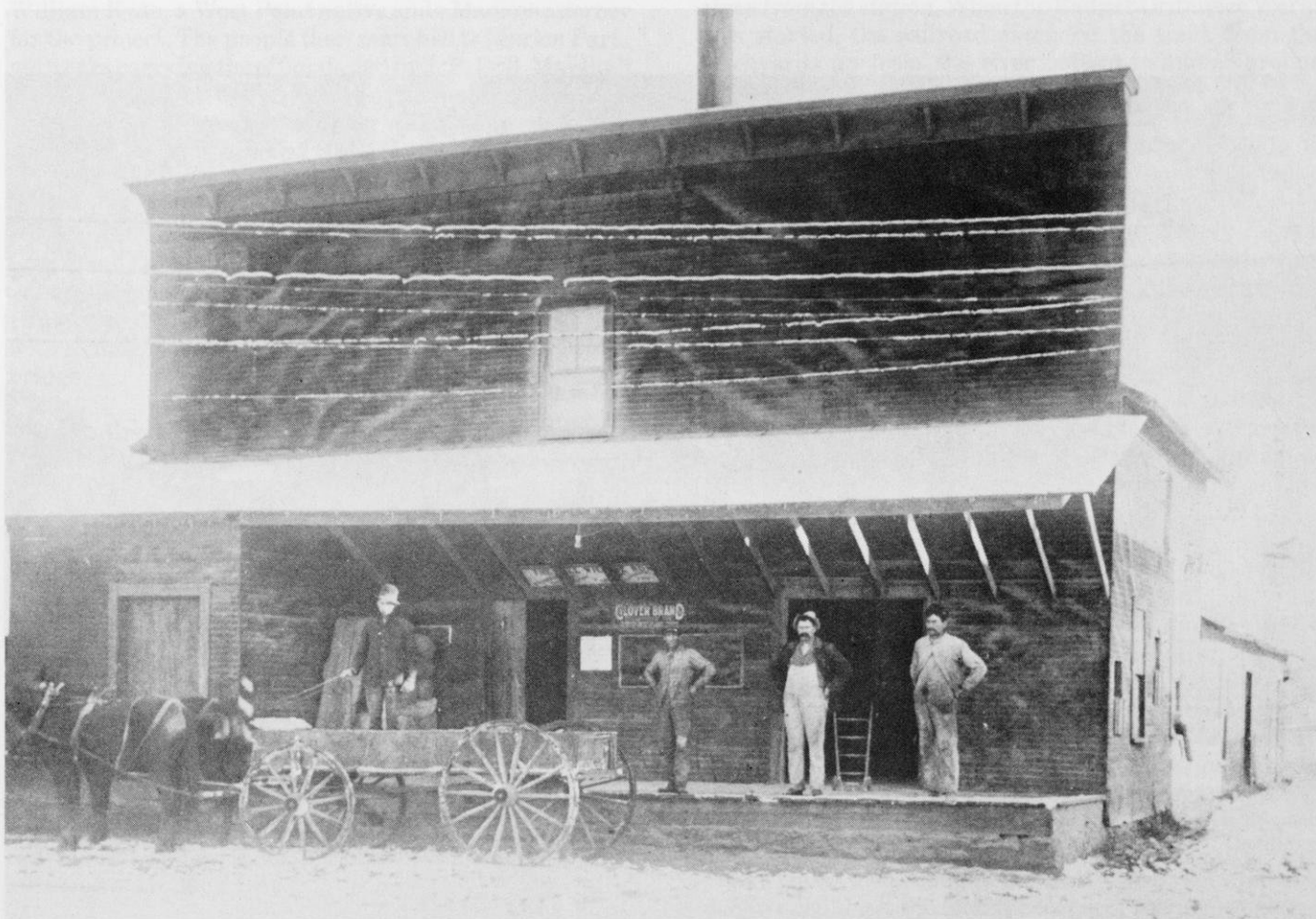
The Banner Mill around the year 1910 was owned and operated by John M. Meisser. Besides grinding feed, the mill also generated electricity for the village until the village took over this service in 1914 and bought the electricity from the Wisconsin River Power Co. Lights were furnished only until 11 o'clock in the evening and sometimes there was a power failure before that. It was wise to have a kerosene lamp ready for such an emergency.

Lot 10 and N 10' of 9

The Abstract of Title in possession of Mrs. Vernice Zick shows the following transfers of this property were made.

1849—Arba M. Seymour
1854—Samuel H. Bassinger
1861—Archibald Moore
1862—Silas W. Corwith
1892—Emily Yensch
1909—Alvina Schumacher
1910—George Gruber
1912—Herman Wegner
1936—Henry D. Tooley
1940—Mrs. Vernice Zick

Samuel H. Bassinger built what was probably the first drug store in the village, which was located in the old Och-sner house, and he was one of the first trustees of the Prairie du Sac Cemetery Association. Archibald Moore had a tin shop at the corner of Water and Prairie Sts. S. W. Corwith was one of the earliest publishers of the *Sauk County News* and later had a grocery store and dress shop in this building. The building in which the print shop was housed is still standing and can be seen at the rear of this lot. Part of the house on this lot is now being used as a dwelling and part for a bait shop and fishing supplies store by Mr. and Mrs. Gust Zick.



Standing on the platform of the Banner Mill, left to right: William Johnson, John M. Meisser and John Reuter. Picture courtesy of Robert Reuter.



Christ G. Just in his paint wagon in front of his home and paint shop located in the block south of the second bridge. Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from the collection of Steuber Plates.

Hubbard's Addition, Block 1

On Oct. 26, 1843, the United States Government conveyed about 75 acres to William Henry Hubbard, which later became Blocks 1 & 2 of Hubbard's Addition to the Village of Prairie du Sac, and some of the blocks in the Original Plat. Hubbard's Addition is the area between the east side of Water St. and the Wisconsin River and extends north and south between the Ford Garage at 670 Water St. to Kinzler & Frey's Service Station at 404 Water St., and approximately between Prairie St. and Broadway. The Wisconsin Bridge Co. owned several lots at the south end of this area and included the road which led to the toll bridge, which crossed the river at this point. To the north of the road was Werner's Lumber Yard, around the year 1860.

Various parcels of land in Block 1 were sold as follows: in 1844 Hubbard sold land in the middle of the block to David B. Crocker, who was one of the original settlers of Prairie du Sac. In 1844, another part was sold to Arba M. Seymour; in 1847 Seymour sold to G. DeGraw Moore, who may have been one of the first Moores to come to this community. Crocker sold his land to Burke Fairchild in 1847. It was about this time that Hubbard's property was platted as shown on maps of the village. The area in Block 1 was at one time part of the business section as it had a printing shop, grocery store, millinery shop, shoe shop and post office.



Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Just in front of their home and store.

The Second Bridge

Interested parties began advocating the project of a new bridge across the Wisconsin River at Prairie du Sac as early as December, 1912, when a mass meeting was held on that question. A hearing before the Highway Commission was held in Hatz's Hall. An election was held Aug. 25, 1913, in both West Point and Prairie du Sac on the matter of issuing bonds, resulting in 125-31 in favor of in West Point and 195-7 in Prairie du Sac. The first bridge committee consisted of John Bonham, J. B. Ragatz, George Cook and Elvin Chrisler. Later, Paul Conger, C. I. Kindschi and Walter E. Smith, were added to fill vacancies.

The outbreak of World War I interrupted the activities and nothing was done officially for five or six years.

After waiting about 10 years, the bridge was finally begun on March 3, 1920. Charles Oakey was the resident engineer. The bridge was 1427 feet long and 20 feet wide, and had 17 piers, 16-20 feet high. It had a draw or lift span to conform to government regulations.

The bridge was formally opened and dedicated on June 25, 1921, by the lowering of the bascule, and the firing of a cannon, and a program. Citizens of Prairie du Sac met some from West Point and conducted them to the platform at the Prairie du Sac approach to the bridge.

The formal program began at 1:30 p.m. It included music by the Baraboo Marine Band and an address by William Ryan, a West Point native and a Madison attorney for the project. The people then marched to Marion Park, with cars carrying the officials, led by J. P. Doll, Marshall of the Day. Here Governor John Blaine and Mayor of Lodi, William Gores, spoke, along with bridge engineers, chairmen of Columbia and Sauk County Boards.

There were some 4000 people that saw the formal opening of the bridge. In the evening crowds gathered down town where entertainment was furnished by the Lodi Band. About 600 cars were parked on the streets.

John Bonham might be called the "Father of the Bridge" and the citizens of West Point presented him with a chair in appreciation of his services in behalf of the bridge.

The Railroad

The following information was furnished by the Public Relations Department of the C. M. St. P. & P. Railroad Co.:

"The 10.37 mile line of the Milwaukee Road from Mazomanie to Prairie du Sac was constructed in 1881.

"Our Division office at Madison has supplied the following information about the personnel at Prairie du Sac, and some other interesting background material:

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Frank "Dollie" Miles | 1906-1938 |
| A. P. Richter | at intervals from |
| W. J. McDonnell | 1938 until the Station |
| F. Gassman | at Prairie du Sac was |
| M. P. O'Laughlin | closed in 1940 |

During this period Mr. Ernie Just was employed as the station clerk and remained there until the station was consolidated with Sauk City.



Second Wisconsin River bridge. Photo by John Gruber.

"Prairie du Sac was a livestock shipping point and a stockyards was maintained there about a half-mile up the river from the station. When the Badger Ordnance Works was started, the railroad extended the track from the stockyards up from the river bottom to higher ground and on into the Badger Ordnance property."

The first station agent at Prairie du Sac was Harry G. Lathrop. Others were Frank Scheel and Harry Kelly. In the Directory of 1898-99 C. L. McCullum and David Lampman were listed as station agents.

In the Feb. 9, 1900, issue of the *Sauk County News* it was stated that on the previous Monday eleven carloads of stock had been shipped by H. C. Keysar & Co.

Depot and Hill

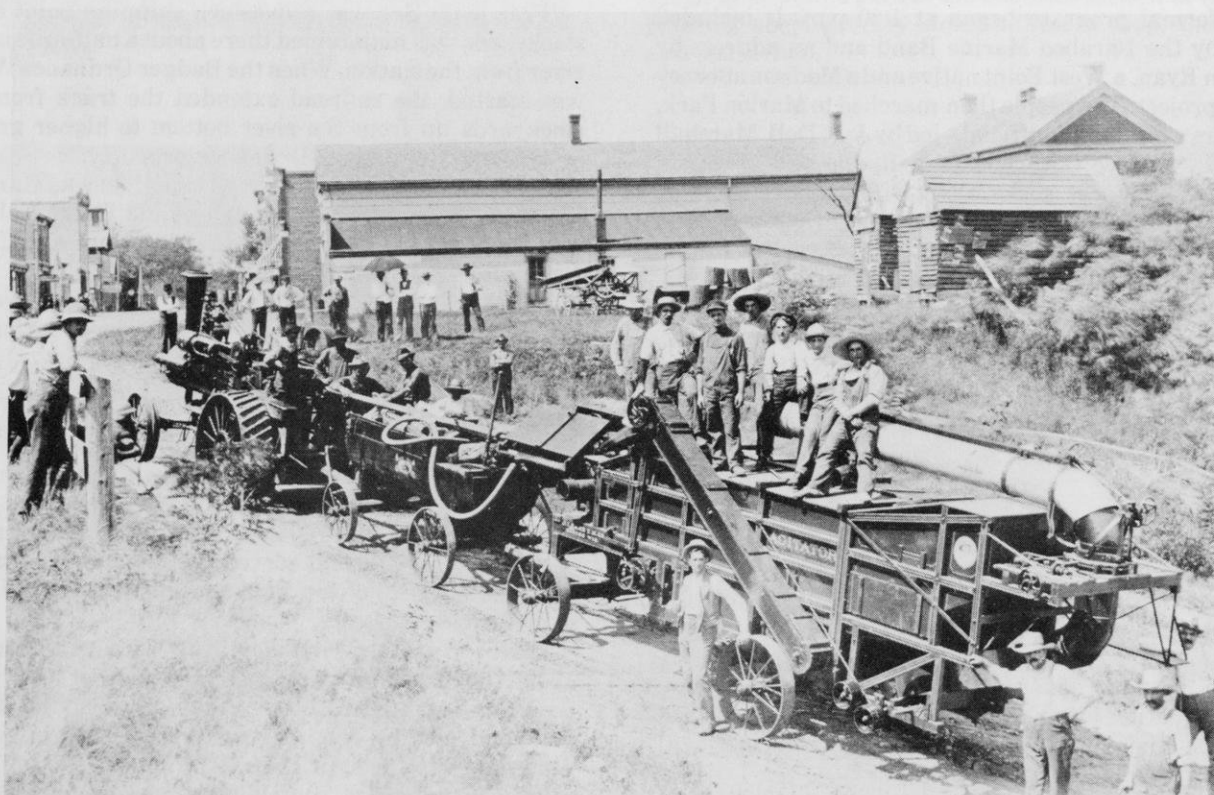
The depot hill was located between the Oldsmobile Garage at 540 Water St. and the bridge, where the parking lot is. The depot building itself was located at the bottom of this hill and served the community and the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company for over 75 years.

Three trains served the village daily, one arriving about 7:00 a.m. and leaving at 7:30; another arriving at noon and leaving at 3:00 p.m. and one arriving at 7:00 p.m. and leaving soon thereafter. Each train carried passengers and freight and most important to some, the mail. The post office, consequently, was open from about seven in the morning to nine at night. It was the job of the depot agent to haul the mail to the post office, for which he used a two-wheeled push cart. It was no easy job at Christmas time to push the large bags of Christmas mail up the steep and sometimes slippery hill.

The trains also brought the daily papers and the only way we could get the football scores of the games played



Depot built in 1881; razed in 1950. Picture courtesy of O. H. Cramer from Horatio Moore's collection of plates.



Picture taken about 1902 or 1903 shows property of E. C. Moore, lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 2 of Hubbard's Addition. Long frame building was Moore's General Store, since removed and now being used as a warehouse by Accola & Osterfund at 667 Third St. Building back of corn cribs was a grain elevator.

Picture also shows a new threshing machine being pulled up the depot hill. It had been shipped by rail for delivery to the Doll implement store.

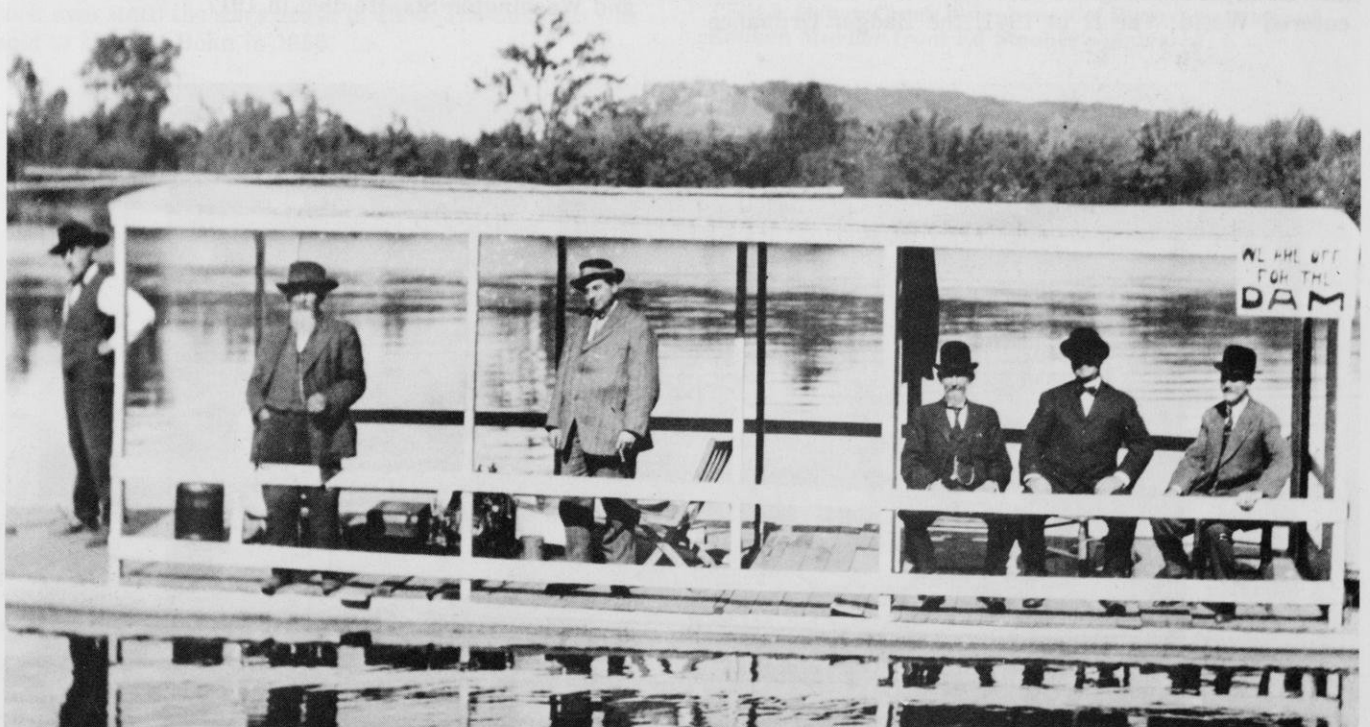
At top of hill and left of the smokestack is George Schneller. Under the umbrella, Dr. A. O. Kendall and O. E. Stone; next

is Alex McGinnis and then Al Baldwin. On top of threshing machine with black cap, John Koch; with curly hair, Grant Lampman; second from the right, A. E. Von Wald. Back of water wagon is "Puppy" Mueller; leaning on wheel of thresher, Ed Buehler; at extreme right front, John Doll and George Doll.

Building with bell tower at top left had been a schoolhouse and moved here from the grade school yard. Note the weather flag above tower. These flags were flown every day and foretold the weather, different colors indicating the kind of weather to expect.



Hauling logs from railroad cars at depot for use in the construction of the dam about a mile up the river from Prairie du Sac. The project was started in 1910 and completed in 1914. The team is standing at the bottom of the depot hill. The buildings at the top were E. C. Moore's warehouses.



This type of boat took passengers from the village to the dam. Sign at upper right reads: "We are off for the dam." From left to right:—E. C. Perkins, John J. Ragatz, J. S. Tripp,—and John Bonham. Picture courtesy of Denman Kramer.

on Saturday would be from the noon papers that came on Monday which is quite a contrast to the speed by which we know scores today.

The depot was always a fascinating place to hang around, especially at train time, but other times as well. Some of the boys were much interested in the locomotive and they knew what the initials of the various companies that were painted on the freight cars stood for. They knew that L & N stood for the Louisville and Nashville R. R. and that C. B. & Q. stood for the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy R. R., etc.

The depot hill was probably best known during the winter months when there was snow on the ground and it was used for sliding down hill. There were two slides, one down the road, which was the more conservative and the other straight down the hill. The most thrilling ride was down the steep hill, past the depot building, across the railroad tracks, down another short incline to the river, past John Kleinline's houseboat and then out onto the frozen river as far as the momentum could carry the sled.

One year a group of boys built a long bob sled. The rear of the plank stuck out about three or four feet and any one riding that part of the sled had to be careful not to be thrown off, part of the fun was to put an uninitiated high school teacher on this end and when the sled hit the bottom of the hill where there was a slight cut-out, the teacher would fly up in the air and miss the sled on the way down and it would go on without her.

Hundreds of boys and girls of that period have nostalgic memories of the depot hill.

The bus and trucking industries gradually took over the transportation and freight business and that of the railroads continued to decline. The Village bought the railroad property that was in the Prairie limits in 1940 and the depot building was razed. After the United States entered World War II in 1941, the Badger Ordnance

Works located north of Prairie and needed huge supplies of materials. The railroad bought the property back in 1942 and built a spur north to this area. When the Ordnance works closed down, the railroad business fell off again, and today there are only three trains a week coming to our village.

Hubbard's Addition

Block 2 of Hubbard's Addition includes the business section on the east side of Water Street. At the time of the incorporation of the village, the various lots were owned by the following:

Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 . E. C. Moore

Lots 5, 6 and 7 . Schneller & Patterson

S½ of lot 8 . Robert Lang

N½ of lot 8 . Dr. O. P. Riley

Lot 9 . Dr. Albion P. Cummings

S½ of lot 10 . John Fey

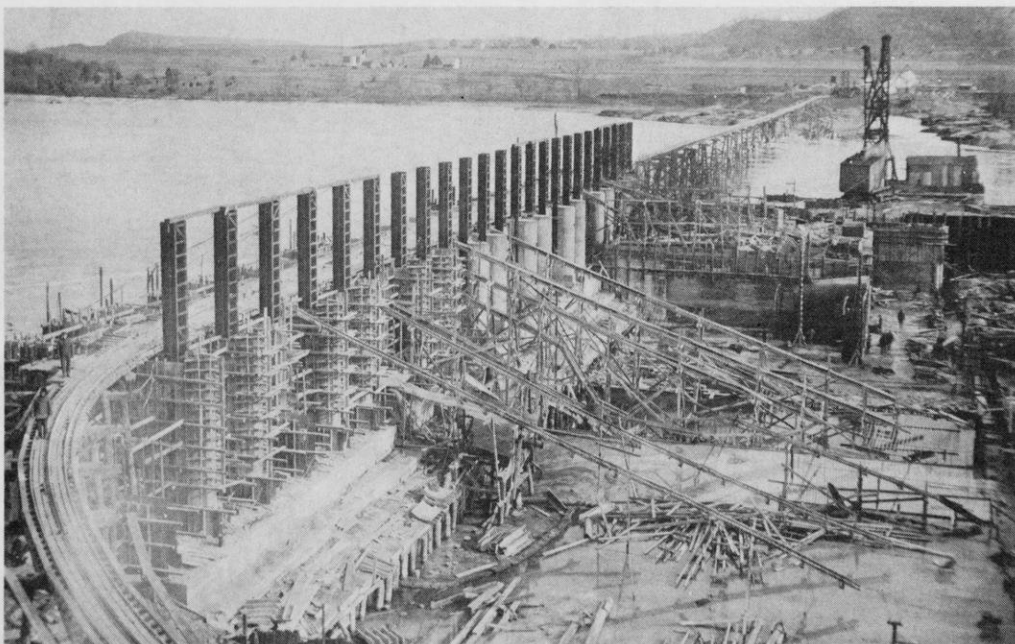
N½ of lot 10 . Jacob Hatz

Lot 11 . Andrew Tarnutzer, James H. Bailey, E. P. Tabor

Lot 12 . H. C. Keysar, James Christian

Bohn's Oldsmobile Garage, Anlauf's Appliances, Chas. J. Ploetz's Law Office and the Midway Theater are now on the lots that were then owned by E. C. Moore. An old picture of this area shows a long building facing the street, which was the main store, and two buildings in the rear. In an old Sauk County directory dated 1890, Mr. Moore advertised as follows: "Headquarters for Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Notion, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, Groceries, Crockery, Hardware, etc."

E. C. Moore (better known as Conway Moore) was in charge of the toll bridge after selling his store. He lived near the Grade School on the northwest corner of Fifth and Washington Sts. He died in 1917.



And this is what they were going to see. . . the construction of the Power House Cofferdam at Prairie du Sac, Dec. 8, 1912. Picture by F. S. Eberhart.

Troy & Honey Creek Telephone Co.

The first building added to the Moore property was that used for an office by the Troy & Honey Creek Telephone Co., which stood about where Bohn's Garage is located.

A group of local people consisting of John Bonham, J. U. Schmidt, John E. Witwen, Albert Walster and Julius Kuoni formed a company to furnish phone service to the community, in about the year 1904. The office was first located in a small frame building located on Fifth St. between the lots now owned by Reginald Dray and William Ostrander.

About 1910 the office was moved to this Moore property. The records are not very clear as to when the company was organized nor when it was dissolved. However, there is one notation that mentions a purchase of part of Lot 1 of Moore's land by J. U. Schmidt in 1915. Presumably this was the land on which the telephone office was located. However, as that is the only entry, he must have sold it the same year.

The following people worked as telephone operators for this company: Lena and Emma Just, Lena and Della Woerth, Edna Walster, Lilah and Maizie Keysar, Ruth McPherson and Johanna Becker. A. E. Von Wald of Sauk City was in charge of construction and maintenance.

Schmalz Building

About the year 1915, E. C. Moore placed a tin-covered building on the lot where Bohn's Garage is located. This was used for a garage operated by Joe Haberman. In 1919, Fred Schmalz bought this lot and after a fire had destroyed Haberman's Garage, Schmalz built the present building in 1922. Fred and George Schmalz operated this garage until 1941 when Fred Schmalz & Son (Arland) took over until the son's death in 1954. The business was sold to Everett Bohn in 1955.

Anlauf's Appliances

1885—E. C. Moore

1914—C. H. Lehmann

1920—Rollie Steuber

Edwin Steidtmann

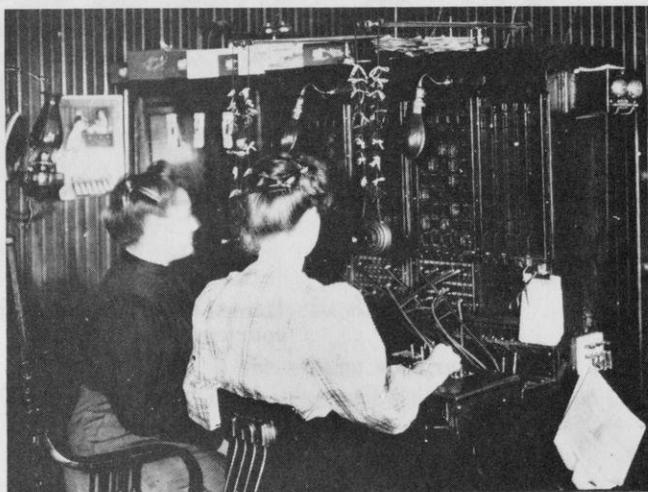
1922—Rollie Steuber

1925—O. W. Falconer

1947—Fred Schmalz

1960—Walter Anlauf

The first building on part of lots 2 and 3 of this property was built by O. W. Falconer for use as a clothing store. The second floor was used as living quarters. Jack Shovers took over the business in 1939 and from 1940-1945 it was operated as The Leader Store by a Mr. Skurnick.



Edna Walster and Maizie Keysar at the switchboard of the Troy & Honey Creek Telephone Co. Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's plates.



Former E. C. Moore property as it looked in 1960. On the right is the Schmalz building, and on the left is Anlauf's

Appliance Store, with part of Ploetz's law office and of the theater building.



Home of E. C. Moore, Fifth and Washington Sts. Picture courtesy of O. H. Cramer from Horatio Moore's plates.



E. C. (Conway) Moore's General Store and Feed Store. Picture courtesy of O. H. Cramer from Horatio Moore's plates.

In 1945, Walter Anlauf rented the building for an appliance store. He purchased the property in 1960 along with the vacant lot between his store and the garage. In order to take care of his expanding business, Mr. Anlauf built a 106' x 25' addition to the store.

In 1954, Chas. J. Ploetz built a law office on part of lot 3 of this property.

The Moores

The father, *Martin S. Moore*, came from New Jersey with his family about 1850. He lived at the corner of Fifth and Galena Sts. where the EUB Church now stands. When the church was built in 1905 the house was moved to Marion Park where it served as the pavilion up to about 1964 when it was removed to make room for an additional grade school building. Martin was associated with his son, E. C. (Conway) Moore, in the mercantile business. Their general store was one of the leading establishments of the village. Martin was the prime mover in the building of the first bridge across the Wisconsin River at this point, in 1851-52. He died in 1888 and is buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery along with 18 other Moores. His daughter, Fannie, who died in 1923, is remembered as an extremely fastidious person, always giving her skirts a good shaking before entering the house.

E. Conway Moore was born in New Jersey in 1835. His first wife was Catherine M. Bell (1832-1860) whom he married in the home of her father above the first frame store building in Sauk County, located where the bakery now is at 575 Water St. Their children were Martin C.

who married Alice Kelsey and worked with his father in the store, and Frank who died in 1865 at the age of 11. His second wife, Elizabeth E. Egberton (1832-96) was from New Jersey. His third wife was Birdie Bachly (1852-1908).

Conway is best remembered as proprietor of the general store which was located where the theater now stands at 564 Water St. It was considered one of the leading stores at that time. They advertised "staple and fancy dry goods, notions, clothing, boots and shoes, groceries, crockery, hardware, etc." At one time they also operated a feed mill and store at the rear of the property. After selling the store he operated the toll bridge as one of the principal owners.

His home was at the corner of Fifth and Washington Sts. He died in 1917.

Martin Conway Moore, better known as "Coony," was the son of E. C. Moore. At first he worked in his father's store and when Jacob Hatz moved out of his store building into the new Hatz's store and hall building in 1887, Coony established his hardware store. This was located at 624 Water St.

He married Alice Kelsey, daughter of Samuel Kelsey, one of the early settlers. They had one son, Horatious C., better known as "Rashe." Moore lived at 339 Water St. M. C. was born in 1856 and died in 1934.

The Banks of Prairie du Sac

The first bank in the village was conducted by J. S. Tripp as a private bank in a small building located on the



Interior of Old Sauk Bank, September, 1918. Left to right: C. I. Kindschi, Miss Pearl Babington, Miss Minnie Schreiber,

M. A. Reynolds, O. E. Stone. Picture courtesy of Geo. Wintermantel.



THE SAUK BANK AND
BONHAN THEATRE
PRAIRIE DU SAC, WIS. Nos. 22

The third bank located at 580 Water Street, built in 1921.
Picture courtesy of Elsie Schoephorster.



Mr. Tripp standing in front of Sauk Bank Building. Note wooden sidewalk and dirt road. Picture courtesy of Denman Kramer.



Peoples State Bank, organized in 1916 by a group of local citizens. Picture courtesy of Elsie Schoephorster.

site of the present bank, which was begun in 1888. In that year he purchased lot 5 from Schneller and Patterson. Ten years later Mr. Tripp, together with O. E. Stone, organized the Sauk Bank and received a charter from the State of Wisconsin to operate as a state bank. Later Myron A. Reynolds joined the two men. A brick building had replaced Tripp's first bank building. This was torn down and the present one built in 1921, while James S. Flatland was cashier.

The Sauk Bank continued until 1925, when it was succeeded by the Prairie Sauk Bank.

The second state bank was organized in 1916 by a group of local citizens headed by J. B. Ragatz and J. L. P. Accola and E. D. Gruber, Sr. It operated under the name of Peoples State Bank. It conducted its business in a new building located at the intersection of Water and Galena Streets. The present bank operates under the charter of the Peoples State Bank.

These two banks served the community until 1932, when they were consolidated under the name of Bank of Prairie du Sac which has continued until the present time.

John L. P. Accola was associated with these two banks from 1916 until the time of his death in 1956 and W. A. Schreiber from 1920 until his death in 1955; George Wintermantel from 1921 and Miss Maud Accola from 1930, both until the present time.

J. S. Tripp

The following information is taken from a history of Sauk County, which gives an extensive account of the life and activities of this estimable citizen of Prairie du Sac.

Mr. Tripp was born in Duanesburg, New York, in 1828. He attended Schoharie Academy, read law and was admitted to the bar before the Supreme Court of New York in 1853.

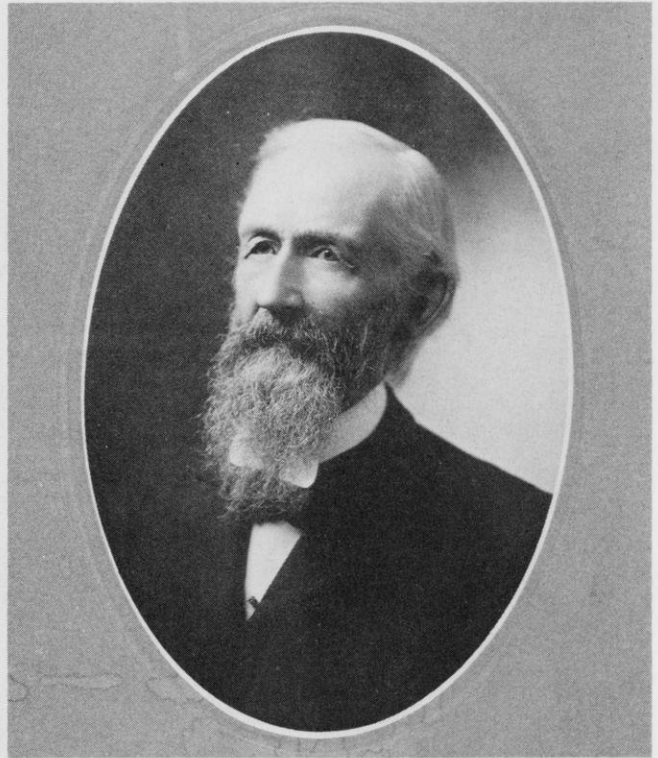
He then came west and settled first in Baraboo where he was in law partnership with his cousin. In 1854 he moved to Sauk City where he entered law partnership with Cyrus Leland. In 1862 he was elected to the State Assembly. He started banking in 1868 and was post master from 1854-61.

In 1857 he married Fannie W. Hallett of New York. She died in 1865 and in 1874 he married Nellie M. Waterbury, who was a daughter of J. I. Waterbury. She died in 1893.

In 1888 he moved to Prairie du Sac and devoted full time to the banking business, although his knowledge of law was also a help in banking.

In 1912 he donated \$10,000 for the erection of a public library and village hall. He served as village president for 20 years, 16 years as clerk and many years as county supervisor. At the time of his death he left a considerable amount to the University of Wisconsin. One of the men's dormitories at the university is named for him. He was a charter member of the local Masonic Lodge and at the time of his death was the oldest Mason of continuous service in Wisconsin.

He died in 1915 and is buried in the Sauk City Cemetery. The Masons conducted the funeral services at the grave and the esteem in which Mr. Tripp was held was



J. S. Tripp

shown by the fact that over 100 Masons from Baraboo, Mazomanie, Black Earth and the twin cities attended the ceremonies.

"His was a life of signal usefulness and his influence was potent and beneficial. Fidelity to trust and conscientious performance of every duty formed part and parcel of his nature. Highly gifted, he exercised his talents nobly. His memory will be kept green in the hearts of his fellow citizens who knew his sterling qualities and admired them."

W. A. Schreiber

Mr. Schreiber graduated from the Prairie du Sac High School in 1909 and later attended the Madison Business College. He started working for the International Harvester Co. in Madison, with time out for service in World War I. After working in Madison for a number of years, he returned to Prairie du Sac in 1920, and from that time until his death in 1955, he worked in the bank, most of the time as cashier.

Bill, as he was called by his friends, gave freely of his time to community and civic affairs. He was instrumental, with others, in organizing the Lake Wisconsin Club and building the golf course; he helped to establish the American Legion Memorial at the cemetery. He was Past Commander of the American Legion and a member of "The Last Man's Club." He served on the Village Board for 28 years, longer than any other trustee; he was Past Master of the Masonic Lodge; Past Chancellor of the Knights of Pythian Lodge, and a member of the Evangelical United Brethren Church.



The store as it appeared about 1890 when it was owned by George Schneller and J. J. Felix, with George Fey's barber shop on the right. Note the wooden sidewalk, hitching posts, ornate barber pole and merchandise on display in front of

the store. The men on the extreme right and left are not identified. The others from left to right are: J. J. Felix, George Schneller, George Schneller, Jr. and Adam Neu. Picture courtesy of H. G. Felix.

Tabor's Store

The building that was formerly the Felix & Gasser store and is now a drug store at 590 Water St. was built by Lavalette Tabor about 1864. Lavalette's brother, Steven, worked in the store until his death in 1869. Steven lived in the house that later became the Doll property at 510 Prairie St. Julius Ragatz was another clerk in the store. He died at the early age of 34, leaving three children and his wife, Margaret Buehler. They lived at the corner of Third and Galena Sts. The house was sold to her brother, Florian Buehler, who owned the property from 1882 to 1913.

The store was bought by O. S. Knapp & Son in 1875; by Mark Patterson and George Schneller in 1883; Jacob Felix bought out Mark Patterson in 1889 and the store became that of Schneller, Felix & Co. When Mrs. Peter Massueger sold her half interest in 1900, the name was then Schneller & Felix.

In 1921, Henry Felix and Glarner Gasser took over under the name of Felix & Gasser. When Gasser retired in 1950, Felix conducted business alone under the name of Felix's. After being associated with this business for fifty years, Felix sold the business to Oliver P. Mueller and son, Curtis, who remodeled the place for a new drug store.

The Narrow Building

1896—Florian Buehler
1905—E. C. Perkins
1913—Edmund Lindemer
1914—Louis Underholzner
1930—John Held
1939—H. J. Hillenbrandt
1940—J. L. P. Accola
1953—Mary L. Heath

This refers to the N7' 9" between the Post Office and Muellers Drug Store located at 602 Water St. The records do not show what Florian Buehler did with this property. E. C. Perkins probably bought it for an investment. It was during this period that Grant Lampman had a barbershop here, followed by Al Smith and Ed Lindemer. In 1927, John Held rented the property for a photo gallery and small gift shop. He bought it in 1930. At the present time it is the home of Mr. & Mrs. George Heath.

1927-40—John Held Photo & Gift Shop
1942-43—Raymond Steuber Watch Repair
1943 Dan Hutchins Watch Repair
1945 Charles Steines Coffee Shop
1945 Clifford Silvest " "
1945 Art's (Niehus) " "
1946-54—Charles J. Ploetz Law Office



Laying water pipe on Water St. in October 1913.



Water St. scene on Jan. 25, 1909. Sauk Bank building on right. Second from right is store of Schneller & Felix. Next is two-story building where Post Office now stands. Notice

dirt roads and the telephone poles with wires. Parking was no problem in that day.



Mr. and Mrs. Grant Lampman in front seat of their early model car. Note cap with goggles and driving gloves, which were standard equipment for drivers in the early days.



The Riley Home located at the corner of 6th and Prairie Sts. Picture courtesy of Denman Kramer.

Post Office Site

1885—Robert Lang
 1895—George Mockler
 1899—John Kaufman
 1903—George Mockler
 1906—John Ziemke
 1908—Alfred Zimmerly
 1911—Louis Underholzner
 1929—H. J. Hillenbrandt
 1941—Mark Hillenbrandt
 1943—Ernest J. Hillenbrandt

The post office is located on the S½ of lot 8. Before the present building was built by E. J. Hillenbrandt in 1943, there was a two-story frame building located here. It was used by the above listed owners for a tavern on the first floor and living quarters on the second floor.

Hufford's Barber Shop

1885—Dr. C. P. Riley
 1905—Dr. J. W. Buehler
 1938—Mrs. Irma Hufford
 1948—Mrs. Christine Weirich

Dr. C. P. Riley, a highly esteemed citizen and respected doctor, had his office where Hufford's barber shop is now located at 610 Water St. He built one of the finer homes of that early period at the corner of Sixth and Prairie Sts., now converted into a triplex. After Dr. Riley moved away, the office was used by Dr. J. W. Buehler in conjunction with the Ragatz Jewelry Store. Dewey Hufford changed it into a barbershop and at his death, it was taken over by his son, Donald.

In 1929, Frank Kirchstein operated a grocery store in this building as did William Frosch in 1930.

Mueller Drugs

1885—Dr. Albion P. Cummings
 1900—E. C. Perkins
 1903—Grace Buehler
 1906—Joe C. Haberman
 1914—Thane Dodge
 1921—Henry Mallon
 1921—F. O. Taylor
 1924—C. E. Stafford
 1925—Ferdinand Hemberger
 1947—Fred Schmalz
 1958—Oliver P. Mueller

Dr. Albion P. Cummings had his office and drug store in this building occupied by Muellers Drugs. His son-in-law, Jesse Cooper, clerked in the store. Mr. Cooper also served as village clerk from 1895 until his death in 1897. Mr. Cummings died in 1894. From sometime after Mr. Cumming's death until 1903, J. S. Weaver operated the drug store. About 1900, Geo. H. Freeman had a tailor shop above the drug store.

In old directories, E. C. Perkins is listed as a capitalist and real estate broker and he probably bought the property as an investment. From 1903 to 1947 it was used as a restaurant by Ed Buehler (Banana Ed), Joe Haberman, Thane Dodge, Henry Mallon, F. O. Taylor, C. E. Stafford and Carl Hemberger. In 1947 Fred Schmalz bought the building and remodeled it and in 1950 O. P. Mueller moved his drug store to this place from across the street. It has completed a full cycle and was used as it was originally, as a drug store, until in 1960 Muellers moved to the Felix building.

Sprecher's Tavern

1885—John Fey
 1900—George Fey
 1907—Clarence Fey
 1911—Thane Dodge
 1914—Edmund Lindemer
 1921—Otto Gasner
 1947—Edward S. Sprecher
 1948—Albert H. Sprecher

John Fey had a saloon where Sprecher's Tavern is located at 616 Water St. After he retired from that business, he

served as Village Clerk for 12 years, from 1900-1912. Then George and Clarence Fey operated a barbershop here as did Ed Lindemer in a later period. In 1911, Thane (Jimmy) Dodge bought the property and ran a restaurant. Dodge was well known throughout the state as a pitcher for the old Madison Blues team and other semi-pro baseball teams. He lived at 485 Broadway.

Otto Gasner bought the building as an investment. The following are some of the renters:

1938-40—Anna Hawkins Home Bakery

1941-42—James Jensen Tavern

1942-44—John Brady Tavern

1944-46—Xystus Hallway Tavern

1946 Floyed Sterlin Tavern

1946 Roland Olson Tavern

1946 Albert H. Sprecher

This building has also completed a full cycle, from tavern to tavern.

H. C. Moore Building

The abstract covering the property of Ploetz & Glynn at 624 Water St. shows that William H. Hubbard received title to this lot from the U.S. Government in 1843. He transferred part to Daniel B. Crocker, part to Arba M. Seymour and part to Burke Fairchild. In 1847, Seymour sold his part to G. DeGraw Moore, Crocker sold his to Fairchild and in 1849, Fairchild sold his part to Jeremiah Keysar, who was a son of Edmund Keysar, a brother of

Miles and Joseph and the father of Frank and grandfather of Maizie, Lilah and Harold Keysar.

Keysar built the store about 1849 in partnership with Alexander Morrill, then Keysar sold his interests in the store to Israel Green. The abstract shows that Keysar transferred his lot to Green & Morrill in 1850.

In 1875 this building was owned by Jacob Hatz and he conducted a general store in it. It was bought by M. C. Moore in 1892 and he used it for a hardware and tin shop. About 1933, Emil Morter moved his shoe store into this building and he used it until he moved into the Steuber building about 1945. At the same time Horatio Moore used the annex to the north for a gun store and repair shop. Horatio died in 1949. He was the last of this pioneer family.

The Prairie Plumbing and Heating Company was the last to use the property.

Blaha Building

1885—Tarnutzer Estate

1889—E. Kirschner

1891—E. C. Perkins

1912—J. R. Rundlet

1917—Joe Neu

1920—Frank Schneider

1925—Otto Gasner

1926—Oscar Cramer

1930—E. A. Van Epps

1948—Francis S. Crawford

1950—Wm. Blaha

Originally this was a part of the Tarnutzer property. Entries in Andrew Tarnutzer's books show meat purchased from E. Kirschner, which would indicate that he had a meat market here and in 1889 bought the property. E. C. Perkins, Otto Gasner and Oscar Cramer bought the property for an investment. J. R. Rundlet had a drug store in this building. Joe Neu, Frank Schneider, Krohn & Krueger, E. A. Krohn, E. A. Van Epps, Francis Crawford and Bill Blaha each used it for a meat market and groceries. In 1958, Blaha moved his market into Esser's building. At present Earl Fuchs is using it as a gas and appliance store.

Tarnutzer's Store

The only property in the business district that is in the same name in 1960 as it was in 1885 is the Tarnutzer property. It has been in the Tarnutzer name for 88 years.

Andrew L. Tarnutzer operated a grocery store on the site of Tarnutzer's Garage office. His sign was placed on the rear of the store to attract raftmen who hauled freight up and down the river on rafts and boats.

A neat record, in fine Spencerian handwriting, kept in books still in possession of the Tarnutzer family, shows that Mr. Tarnutzer opened for business on Friday, May 24, 1872. There is no record of the amount of cash received on the first day, but there were two charge accounts:

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| John Stauber, hair oil | 25¢ |
| Stephen Bennet, oranges | 10 |
| May 27 | |
| George Ragatz, 3# coffee | 84 |
| Josh Permins, 9 doz eggs @ 8¢ | 72 |



Store of Keysar and Morrill, 1849-1850; Store of Jacob Hatz, 1875-1892; Store of H. C. Moore, 1892-1934; Razed in 1963.



This picture of Tarnutzer's Store was taken sometime before 1877. The man in the white coat is Andrew L. Tarnutzer. The building on the left with the sign "Provisions" was the former law office of Smith S. Wilkinson. When Tarnutzer's livery stable was built about 1892, Wilkinson's office was moved to the rear of David Conger's house at 729 Water St. The piled-up stones would indicate that Mr. Tarnutzer also sold building stones. Some one writing to the Homecoming Committee in 1907 mentioned the Tarnutzer Store, which he thought must "have sold everything under the sun." Picture courtesy of Laverne Tarnutzer, who is a grandson of Andrew L.

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| May 28 | |
| H. Lukins, Over Alls | 1.00 |
| Paid Cash | 70 30 |
| Fred Shute, by cash | 20 |
| To 1 necktie 50¢ & paper collars | 45 95 |
| Charley Newell, gum | 01 |

The above are some of the typical entries found in the records.

Following, among others, are some of the familiar names of that period who bought and charged goods at this store: Stephen St. John, Harry Page, James Christian, Henry Glarner, J. J. Ochsner, Joe Moore, Bertram Giegerich, Frank Meyers, Dr. A. P. Cummings, Alex McGinnis, and E. C. Moore. There are many entries that show that Tarnutzer bought most of his flour from the Witwen Bros. Mill.

The last entry is dated Jan. 3, 1877. Mr. Tarnutzer died about a month later on Feb. 1, at the age of 37.

The Masonic Lodge used this building for meetings from 1879 to 1884. During the years that Albert Tarnutzer was postmaster, 1898-1922, the post office was located in this building.

1879-1884—Masonic Lodge
 1898-1922—Post Office
 1925—Dutch Siebold Bakery
 1925-26—Paul Brewer Bakery
 1931—Albert Gussett Bakery
 1931-34—Fred Viney
 1937—Karl's Beauty Shop (Lambacker)
 1938-39—Ara Steuber Beauty Shop
 1940-51—Mabel Kech Aide Beauty Shop
 1951—Garage Office

Tarnutzer's Garage

William L. and Arthur C. Tarnutzer built a livery stable, about 1892, on the rest of the lot owned by their father, Andrew. The first floor housed the buggies, surreys and a hearse. The business consisted of hauling agents to neighboring farms, or taking travelling salesmen to "catch" a train at Lodi or Baraboo. The ledger kept by the Tarnutzer brothers shows that many of the local business men hired a livery rig, presumably for both business and pleasure. Charges varied from 60¢ to \$2.50. Another source of business was from doctors, maybe to give their own horses a rest or because hiring was easier. These names are found in the ledger: Drs. Ellis, J. W. Buehler, A. P. Cummings and Fred Conger. Rigs were hired by the engineers while the dam was being built. A stage to Baraboo was operated for a time.

The two and three-seaters were used by various groups, such as baseball teams to play at neighboring towns, or for funerals, or groups going to the Sauk County Fair at Baraboo, or societies and lodges. Those mentioned are: Christian Endeavor, Modern Woodmen of America, Republican Club and the A. O. U. W. Lodge.

The hearse was used only on special occasions. It was black with fancy trimmings. The horses used were also black or a reasonable facsimile thereof and in the summer time wore black fly nets. Early entries show rent of team and hearse to Zarwell and Klipstein, and the charges varied from \$3.50 to \$5.00.

The stalls for the horses were on the basement floor, which was reached by means of a dirt ramp. The wide stairway on the first floor to the second enabled them to store the cutters and sleighs on the upper floor during the summer months.

The ledger indicates that not all accounts were paid. It also shows that George Doll did the blacksmith work.

In addition to the livery business, Tarnutzers also delivered freight from the depot at a time when there were three trains daily. This was almost a full time job as all freight came by rail and was delivered to the business places.

Another service, no longer performed, was storing ice in the winter for use in the summer. A crew of men would first cut cakes of ice and then teams with sleds would haul them up the depot hill to someone's icehouse, the largest of which was Vogel's on Third St. about where Pulvermacher's Produce located. The cakes would be covered with sawdust and the next summer they would be dug out and used at Vogel's Meat Market or delivered to homes.

Arthur Tarnutzer usually had a pair of black and white spotted coach dogs with him, one of which was stuffed by the taxidermist, Ed Ochsner, which he added to his bird and animal collection, now housed in the Village Hall.

When automobiles began to be used, Lloyd (Tip) Tarnutzer, the son of William, started to change the livery stable into a garage. In 1910, he got the agency for the Moline car and in 1914, he received the agency for the Dodge, which he has sold ever since. This proved profitable both to Tarnutzer and the Dodge Brothers.



Parade of Dode Fisk Show, July 19, 1909. Note the Post Office to the right of the Livery Stable and Martin Walser's Harness Shop to the left. The white awning is on the north annex to Steuber's Hall; beyond that is Meisser & Buehler's Monument Shop and then Koch's blacksmith shop, where the Ford Garage now stands. The white building in rear of picture is the office of H. C. Keysar & Co., used in connection with the grain elevator and stock buying. Style in women's clothing seemed to favor black skirts and white blouses. Picture by F. S. Eberhart courtesy of Ralph Marquardt.

Bailey's Harness Shop Tabor's Tap

1885—James H. Bailey
1892—Martin Walser
1936—Walter D. Accola
1948—Obert C. Tabor

In 1885, Bailey's Harness Shop stood north of Tarnutzer's Garage, where Tabor's Tap now stands. In 1892, Mr. Bailey sold his business to Martin Walser, who continued operating the harness shop until about 1924 when it was converted into a radio repair shop and used by the following: Herbert Steidtmann, 1924-25; A. C. Baer, 1926-28; H. W. Fenske, 1929. From about 1930 to 1936, the Wisconsin Power & Light Co. used the building for an office and appliance store managed by John Berberich and Harold Jessop. Walter D. Accola and Obert C. Tabor have conducted a tavern on this site in a remodeled building.

James H. Bailey

Mr. Bailey was born in Belmont, Wis., 1839. He was a harness maker's apprentice at the age of 13 and continued at that trade until he was 21 when he enlisted in the Union Army and was a member of the 6th Wisconsin Artillery.

After the war he farmed near Spring Green for a short time and then moved to Prairie du Sac where he again took up his vocation as harnessmaker and continued in that business for twenty-five years when he sold it to Martin Walser, and retired.

Miss Louise Bailey, a daughter, was born in 1869. She taught in the Prairie du Sac grade school from 1903 to 1916. She was village librarian from 1916 to 1946. She and Mrs. Alice Conger Knapp, both over 90, are the only two people of that early period who were born in Prairie du Sac and are still living here. Miss Bailey has lived in the same house nearly all of her life.

Tabor Family

The first Tabors to come to Prairie du Sac were the brothers, Lavallette V. and Steven. Lavallette acquired quite a bit of property in the village, including land on the east side of 7th Street, north of Prairie St. and lived at 750 7th St. At one time he owned the land at the corner of Prairie and Water Sts., and he built the house on the lots later owned by the Doll family at 510 Prairie St., in which Steven and his wife, Caroline, lived. He built what was later the Schneller & Felix store at 590 Water St. He was an Elder in the Presbyterian Church sometime between 1865 and 1880. Steven died in 1857 at the age of 47 and Caroline died in 1908 at the age of 83. Both are buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

Edward P. Tabor was a son of Jeremiah (d. 1843) and Dolly Tabor (d. 1857 at age 72). Edward P. moved from the Tabor farm in the town of Troy about 1½ miles southwest of the village of Witwen, to the farm still owned by the Tabor family located on Highway 78 beyond Highway 12 where he had a large orchard and raised the Morgan breed of horses. He lived and died (1902) on this farm. It has been told that when he was a young man and had saved \$50.00 he walked to the Mineral Point government land office and filed for another 40 acres. He built the Tabor Block in 1887 which included a hall and a dry goods store, and bought furs and wool. He was married to Sarah Miller of the town of Troy. Their children were:

Obert married Louise Buehler and lived on the above mentioned farm. It is through this marriage that the Tabors have the Bartlett Coat of Arms.

Jay Lavallette (Lave) married Selma Reuslers in 1889. Sometime after 1910 the family moved to Montana and the son, Edward, and daughter, Inez, have furnished some of the information on the Tabor family. Lave died in 1956.

Edward L. died in 1875 at age 18.

Emeline J. married a Mr. Obert. She died in 1880 at age 26.

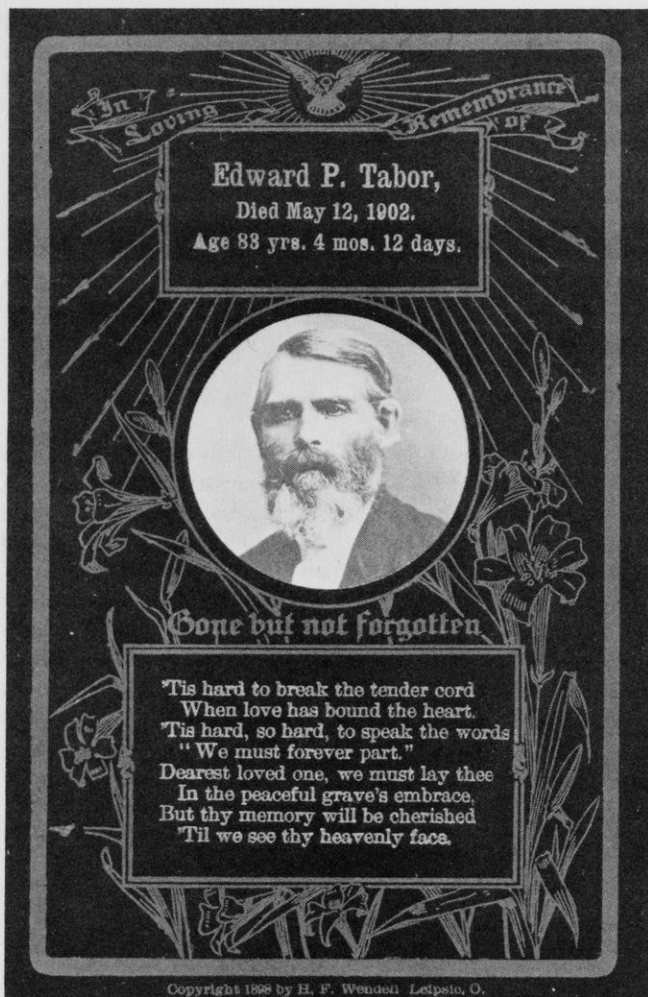
Bell married Charles Waffle.

Thomas W. died in 1865 at the age of 11 months

Eleanor (Ella) died in 1857 at the age of 5 years.

Edward P. died in 1902 at the age of 83. After his death, his widow bought the Page house at the corner of Park Ave. and Washington St. which later was moved away when Albert Gruber built the present house. Most of the Edward P. family are buried in the Sauk Prairie Cemetery.

Elisha P. Tabor was a brother of Jeremiah and an uncle of Edward P. He is listed as a farmer in the 1881 village



Edward P. Tabor

directory. His farm was in the village and was located at the corner of Prairie and Seventh Sts. In the 1887 village assessment roll it shows that he also owned the property on the east side of the street 718 7th St. He was also president of the Bridge Co. in 1857 and was one of the original members of the Universalist Church, in 1867. He died in 1887 at the age of 88 years and is buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

There were other Tabors living in the area but there is not much information about them. And a daughter of Smith S. Wilkinson married Charles Tabor. They lived in Dennison, Iowa.

There are these marriages of record:

1848: Lavallete V. Tabor married Tamson Freeborn.

1850: Edward P. Tabor married Sara Miller.

1853: Isaac Tabor married Derdama Hyland. Isaac was one of the original members of the Universalist Church in 1867.

1866: Robert Tabor married Ellen Pickering.

1879: Richmond P. Tabor married Mary Keysar, who was a daughter of Edmund Keysar and a sister of Miles H. Keysar. He was in business in Merrimac, then moved to the Dakotas where he was killed in a hunting accident in 1889. The widow lived until 1929. They are both buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

1880: Nelson G. Tabor married Lucy A. Norton.

1889: Obert J. Tabor married Louise A. Buehler. He died in 1906 and she in 1956. They are buried in the Sauk Prairie Cemetery. Their children are: Wilson married Elizabeth Colvin.

Hunter married Hattie Schoepp.

Harry married Vivian Colby

Fern married Frank Partridge and after his death she married Carl Kennedy and they are living in Colorado Springs, Colo. She furnished the information on the Bartlett Coat of Arms and other family history.

Traverse, deceased.

Forest married Grace Kohler.

Byrdell married Carl Hemberger

Lynn married Grace Dunlap.

These children of Obert and Louise Tabor are the descendants of Josiah Bartlett, M. D., an American patriot and statesman, the first governor of New Hampshire and a member of the 2nd Continental Congress. He was the first to vote for the Declaration of Independence and the second to sign it, next after John Hancock.

Josiah's son was the father of Mary Bartlett who married Nathan Bennett and their daughter, Emmeline Bennett, married Ulrich Buehler. Their daughter, Louise, married Obert J. Tabor. The descendants of Obert J. and Louise Tabor are therefore entitled to the Bartlett Coat of Arms.

Tabor's Hall, Steuber's Hall, Morter & Walch Building

This building was built by E. P. Tabor in 1887. The stones for this large structure were hauled from Sumpter by horses and wagon. It was five stories high on the river side and two stories high on the street level. It contained a service elevator to lower merchandise from the upper stories to the lower floor where it would be loaded on to the river boats and later on railroad cars. The lower floors were used for buying and shipping farm produce.

The upper floor was for many years a popular hall containing a stage and a balcony. Many road shows of the era made this a regular stopping place, playing to large crowds. It was also used for church, school and community activities and social gatherings. About 1890 the Prairie du Sac Brass Band practiced here every Monday and Thursday evenings, under the direction of G. A. Baldwin.

An old souvenir program printed by Giegerich & Just gives the program of a Cantata presented by the Sauk City and Prairie du Sac Musical Union held at Tabor's Hall on March 7, 1904. It was entitled "Balshazzar's Feast or the Fall of Babylon." Some of the familiar names listed on the program include: J. L. P. Accola, Christian Ragatz, John Koch, E. J. Buehler, Chas. Bickford, Ed Steuber, Elic (Alex) Steuber, J. C. Haberman, Rev. A. S. Phelps, Rev. W. J. Hillman; Misses Florence Meyer, Helen Baldwin, Celia Astle, Ruth Hutchins, pianist, Addie Keller, Lulu Keller, Alice Lotz, Alta Kindschi, Mamie Steuber, Ella Bickford, Selma Waffenschmidt, Bessie Bundy, Lena Woerth, Ida Giegerich; Mesdames F. S. Eberhart and A. O. Kendall.

About 1910, a group of high school boys tried to convert one of the basement floors into a basketball court, but

found that the supporting posts were too much of a hazard.

A public dance in Steuber's Hall was advertised for the night of July 3, 1915, with Black's Mazo Orchestra to furnish the music. Admission was 75¢.

When the Twin City Lodge, Knights of Pythias, was organized in 1921, it used this hall for a meeting place until 1924. This was an active and prosperous lodge at about that time with over 70 members, and many interesting meetings, lunches and game feeds were held here.

Various business establishments have used the main floor since the building was erected. The first was Lave and Bert Tabor's Clothing Store. The Kindschi, Ragatz and Gasser store was in here from 1888 to 1895. About 1915, Irma and Sylvia Lehmann had a restaurant here; Hillier's Clothing and Kroger's Grocery Store used the building; Winiger's Bakery was located here about 1942 when a severe storm damaged the building and he was forced to find another place.

The building was purchased by C. C. Steuber in 1911 and by Emil Morter and Edgar Walch in 1945, who have converted it into two business establishments and five apartments.

Hillier Company, 1921-26
Universal Grocery, 1927-29
Kroger Groceries, 1930-32
Viney's Bakery 1934
Winiger's Bakery, 1935-44
Walch's Tavern, 1945-
Morter's Shoe Store, 1945-58
Morter's Repair Shop, 1945-
Cecil Ragatz Shoe Store, 1958-

North Annex to Tabor Property

1885—E. P. Tabor
1914—Frank Gaukel

Some time prior to 1909 a brick addition to the north side of the Tabor Hall was made, for it was in that year that Bert Giegerich moved his printing shop to this annex. He remained here until the completion of his new building on Park Ave. in 1912. In that year Christ Ragatz opened up a music store here. Mr. Ragatz was instrumental in promoting the organization of many musical groups both in the community and in the church. He conducted many bands, including the All-Girls Band which can be seen on the pictures of the 4th of July celebration in 1915. A sign in front of this store in that year reads "Robert Aton, Pianos."

Frank Gaukel ran a pool hall in this annex until he left for the service. In 1917, John Held opened a photo gallery in this building and stayed here until he joined the army in 1918, when he sold his business to Peter Brill. After the war Gaukel & Hiddeson conducted a photo gallery and music store. Shortly thereafter a fire destroyed the property and it was not rebuilt.

Around the year 1900, Julia Wintermantel, later Mrs. Ed Parman, operated a hat shop in a frame building north of the Annex to the Steuber building. At one time she had four helpers: Mrs. Rossetta Gruber; Mrs. Ed Buehler; Cora Hubbard, later Mrs. Wm. P. Just; and Lou Bestor.

North End of Hubbard's Addition

Because lots 11 and 12 of Block 2 of Hubbard's Addition are wider than the others, they were split up among various owners.

Parts of lots 11 & 12

1885—H. C. Keysar

Split of Keysar's on north

1889—J. A. Moore

1893—Buehler & Meisser

1921—P. D. S. Auto Co.

Split of Keysar's on south

1889—Buehler & Meisser

1920—J. E. Meisser

1921—P. D. S. Auto Co.

Until this property was used by the Prairie du Sac Auto Co. for a garage building, the most important users were Jacob E. Meisser and Florian Buehler who operated a monument works in the two buildings that can be seen on pictures of this area. According to the above dates they operated this business for twenty-seven years. Meisser's buildings were removed when the P. D. S. Auto Co. added the south part of their garage in 1921 for an office and repair parts.

Ford Garage

North end of lot 12

1885—James Christian

1902—John Koch

1913—P. D. S. Auto Co.

95 ft. in lot 12

1885—James Christian

1906—E. C. Perkins

1908—Emil Besitsky

1909—Della Schmidt

1912—P. D. S. Auto Co.

The small, white frame building stood on the property next to the monument works of Meisser & Buehler. The records do not show who built this, but in 1905 and 1906, it was used by Henry Steinwender as an upholstery shop and by Emil Besitsky as a paint shop, respectively. This building was moved to 715 Seventh St. where it is being used as a residence.

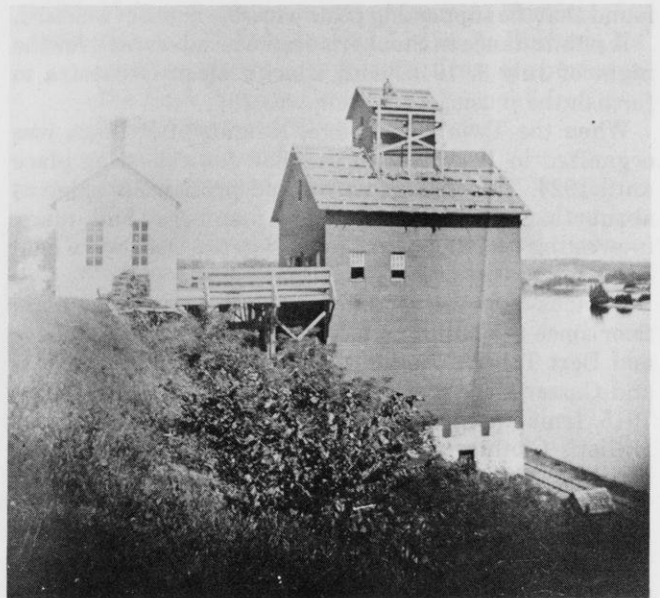
A company was formed, consisting of C. H. Lehmann, Rollie Steuber and Fred Lemm to handle the Ford agency. They built the center part of the present garage in 1912, placed an addition on the north in 1913 and the office part in 1921. Fred Lemm died in 1936 and Lehmann and Steuber continued until 1945. Since that time, Glen Hamacher, among others, operated the agency. Richard Deutman is the present owner of the business and Mrs. Rollie Steuber owns the building.

In 1885, James Christian had a plow works on the lot and later John Koch operated a blacksmith shop until the property was sold to the Prairie du Sac Auto Co.

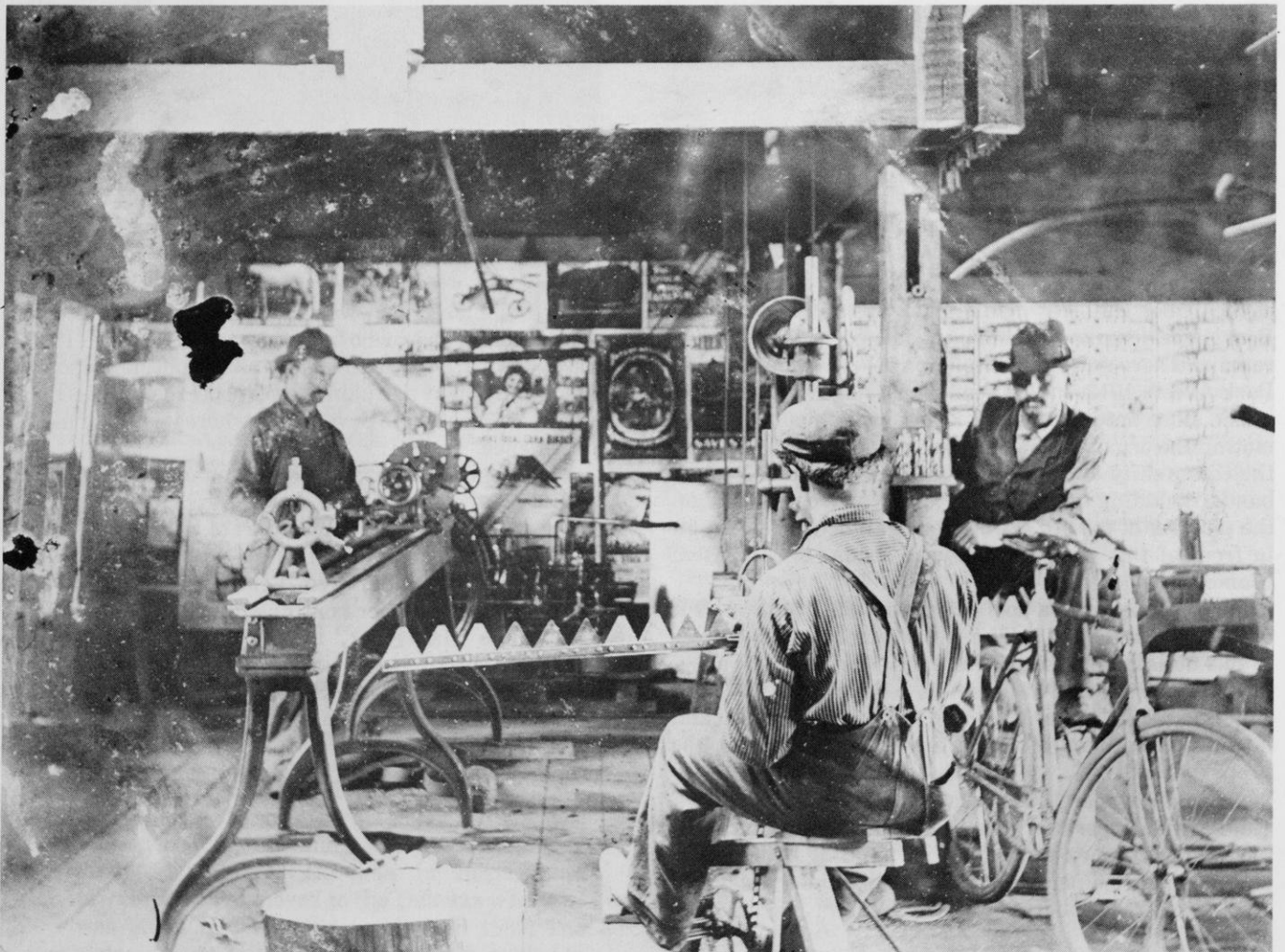
Keysar Grain Elevator

This grain elevator was located on the river bank back of 720 Water St. The property passed through the hands of various owners until 1946 when Conrad Moely at the last sold it to Emil Morter, who razed the elevator and used part of the lumber to build the duplex at the above address.

A *History of Sauk County* describes the elevator as follows: "The largest grain warehouses and elevator in the county, and the only one in this section, stands on the river bank at this point. It was erected in 1869 by M. H. Keysar & Co., at a cost of \$10,000. The foundation is of stone, sixteen feet high, 40 x 40. Upon this is erected a massive frame about forty-four feet in height. 150,000 ft. of the best lumber and over 100 kegs of spikes entered into the construction of the building, besides the various other articles used. It has a capacity for the storage of about 50,000 bushels of grain. This being the only shipping point in this part of the county, an enormous shipment is made annually, the amount sometimes exceeding 100,000 bushels per annum. The proprietors of the warehouse are also owners of the steamer *Ellen Hardy*, which was used for shipping the grain to Portage and from there to market by rail."



Elevator and office. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Prude Hart.



Interior of Koch's blacksmith shop. The man whose back is turned is John Koch, operating a sickle-grinder.

Utility Hoist & Manufacturing Co.

In a brochure put out by this company, it states that it is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Wisconsin with factory and offices located in Prairie du Sac.

"The factory is of modern daylight construction 75 x 150 feet in size. Considerable machinery has been installed and a great amount of preliminary work has been done, such as, consistent advertising in leading trade journals published in the interest of the construction business, which has resulted in a large number of inquiries, which the company is receiving daily, asking for catalogs and prices. Owing to the fact that the buyers of our line of products are now in the market and a surprising amount of activity is being shown in the building business, the company is now ready to get into the production of its various lines."

The products to be manufactured were listed as: Hoists, Material Elevators, Full Swing Derricks, Sand Screens, Winches, Sheaves and Sheave Blocks, Horse-Power Brake attachments, Excavators, Clutches and Batch Meter and Meter Pumps.

The factory was located at the western end of Grand Avenue in Prairie du Sac. The offices were in the frame building just north of the Tabor Building.

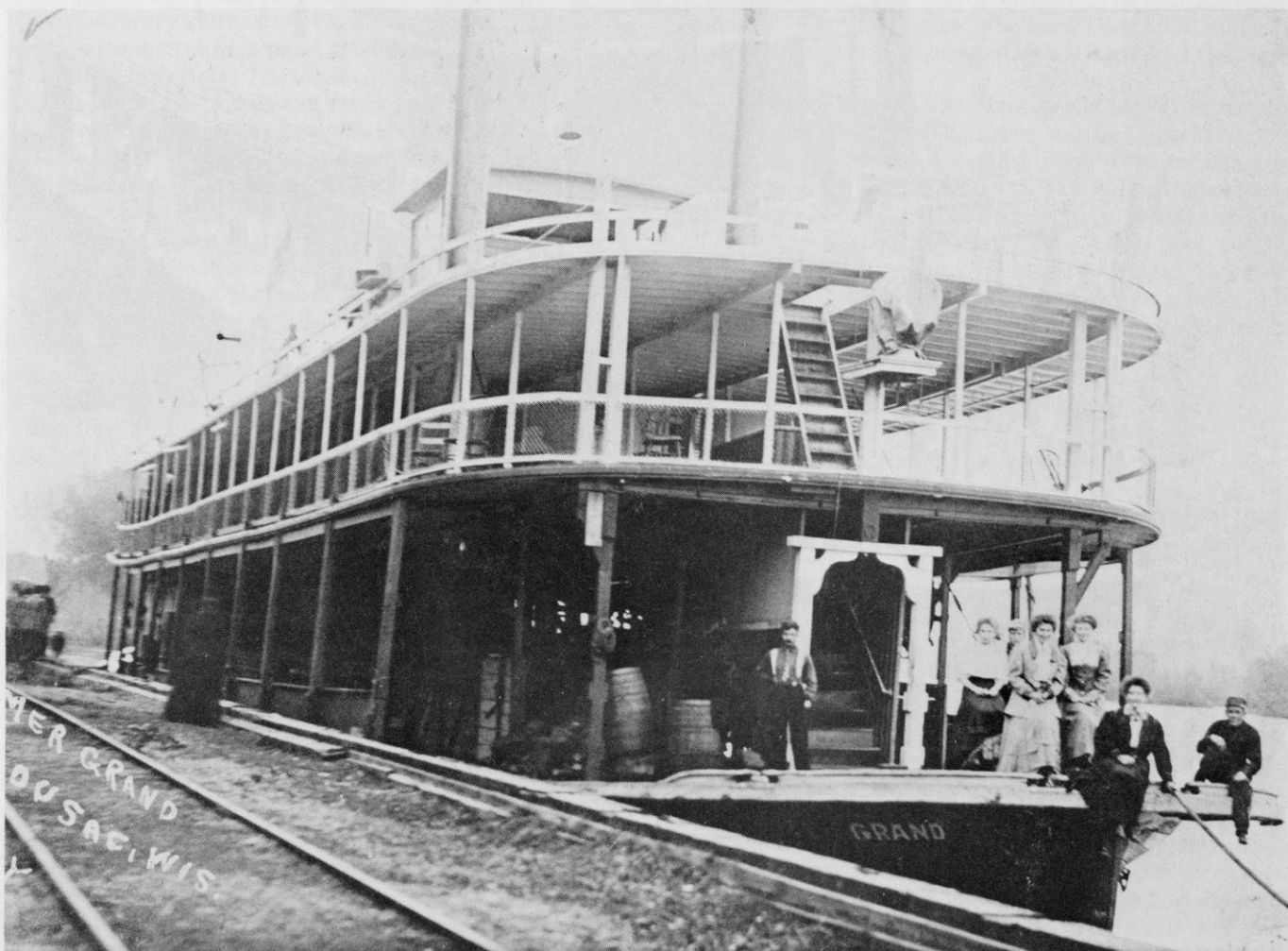
\$25,000 worth of stock was sold locally. The President of the company was N. C. Woodin, an engineer formerly with the Bucyrus Company of South Milwaukee. He lived in the house that was on the lot where Les Cramer's Filling Station is now located. The house was later moved and is now the home of C. H. Wegner, at 414 First St.

The Vice President was Dr. D. E. Murphy, "well and favorably known as an honest and successful business man. He has resided in Prairie du Sac for about twelve years."

Secretary-Treasurer—F. S. Eberhart, "he has been a resident of Prairie du Sac for over twenty-five years. Is known as the City Jeweler and a shrewd business man and respected citizen."

Director—Charles Ploetz, J. B. Ragatz, Arthur O. Wagner, and E. J. Schoephoerster, "all well known residents of Prairie du Sac."

The brochure advertises this as a speculative venture. It did not turn out to be successful and the men who invested in the enterprise all lost their investments.



Steamer Grand tied up at dock by the Grain Elevator in 1909. Members of the graduating class of that year came down to make an inspection. Those shown are: Ruth Gasser, Gertrude Ragatz, Elda Steuber and Nora Ryan. Senior girls wore

dresses long in 1909. Picture taken by Roy Anderson, who had a photo gallery in what is now Peterson's Barber Shop at 635 Water St. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Pruda Hart.



This is a copy of a picture taken in 1876, and shows the *Ellen Hardy* tied up by the grain elevator. Notations on the back of the original state that this wheat steamer plied between Prairie du Sac and Portage, also Fox River points; that the captain at one time was Alfred Page and the cabin boy,

Harwood V. Page; that the owner of the boat was Miles C. Keysar. It shows the village of Clifton across the river and the hotel at the end of the bridge, and Kehl's home and vineyard on the hill. Picture courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. John Buehler.

Businesses, Water St. West

Jacob Pluess House

The home and shoe repair shop of Jacob Pluess was located at what is now 415 Water St., next to the B & G Texaco Filling Station. (Mr. Pluess was the grandfather of Chas. Meisser). It was in part of the business section of the village, which included the printing office, a millinery store, a grocery store, another shoe repair shop, the post office, a lumber yard, a paint shop and a feed mill, along with the Briggs Hotel. During the time that Herman Zeitler and later Chas. Colby ran the Banner Mill, they manufactured cement blocks under a shed on the lots south of the house, where the filling station is located now. This land was rented from the Pluess Estate as Mr. Pluess died in 1910. About 1921 or 22, Herman Kindschi bought the house and he also had a shoe repair shop here. Both Mr. Kindschi and Mr. Pluess used the south front room for the shop and the rest of the house for a dwelling.

Sometime after the death of Mr. Pluess, John Reuter lived here during the time he was employed by John Meisser in the mill across the street. The picture shows Mrs. Reuter and children. Loretta, Florence and Ewald.

The filling station on the south lots was built by Charles Gruber and Richard Breunig in 1939.

Briggs House

1885—Estate of James Long

1891—Mrs. E. Long

1902—Brittingham, Hixon Lbr. Co.

1923—Dresen Bros. Lbr. Co.

1947—Sauk Prairie Lbr. Co.

1950—Lloyd Tarnutzer

The lot at 431 Water St. in Block 1 of the Original Plat, on which Tarnutzer's Used Car Lot is located, was the site of the Briggs Hotel. It was a favorite stopping place for many transients, such as raftsmen and salesmen, as well as serving as a boarding house for many local residents. An old directory gives the Briggs House as the address of many of these local single men.

The building was torn down in 1902 and the property was then used as a lumber yard by the listed owners. For the past ten years it has served as a used car lot.

Gasser Building

This building, now owned by Gattshall & Gruber, is over 100 years old. It was built by Henry Glarner who used it as a home and jewelry store. His daughter, Mrs. Anna Gasser Moore, had a millinery store here for nearly fifty years and then it was taken over by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Glarner Gasser, who conducted a hat and gift shop for a number of years and then it was sold to Gattshall & Gruber.

From 1922 to 1924, Dr. Karnop had his office in that part that had been used as a dwelling by Gassers, where he carried on a general practice. From 1925 to 1933, Dr. Kliese and from 1936 to 1940, Dr. Harris, had their offices here. From 1933 to 1936 and again from 1940 to the time he built the Medical Arts Building, it was used by Dr. Milton Trautmann. Peter H. Meng and later Dean W. Kyle, both optometrists, had had their offices in this building. Dr. Kyle is the present occupant. The south wing is used by Gattshall & Gruber for a furniture display room.

Mrs. Anna Glarner Prader Gasser Moore

Anna Glarner, daughter of Margaret and Henry Glarner, was born in the village of Prairie du Sac Nov. 18, 1858, and died at her home in Prairie du Sac Feb. 4, 1940. She spent all of her 81 years in the community where she was born.

In 1878, she was married to John Prader and lived on a farm about a mile north of the village. In 1887, she was married to Florian Gasser, who was in business in a general store in partnership with J. B. Ragatz and George Kindschi. In 1923, she was married to M. C. Moore, hardware merchant.

She first taught in rural schools for a number of years. In 1883, she started a millinery store in Prairie du Sac, in which business she was engaged for nearly 57 years. In 1933 she celebrated her fiftieth millinery anniversary.

She was very active in all phases of church work, beginning as Sunday School teacher in the Evangelical church located in Middletown, between Sauk City and Prairie du Sac, and continued as teacher for over 50 years. She was instrumental, with Mr. Gasser, in building the new church at Prairie du Sac.



Jacob Pluess House. Picture courtesy of Robert Reuter.



Briggs House.



Anna Glarner Prader Gasser Moore Shop.
Picture courtesy of Wayne Hatz.



Mrs. Anna Glarner Prader Gasser Moore offered classes in Millinery and sewing. In the front row are Margaret Gasser,

Mrs. Moore,—, and Katie Gasser. Ruth Gasser Hatz is in the back row on the right. Picture courtesy of Wayne Hatz.

She formed classes in millinery and sewing and many young women received such training in her store.

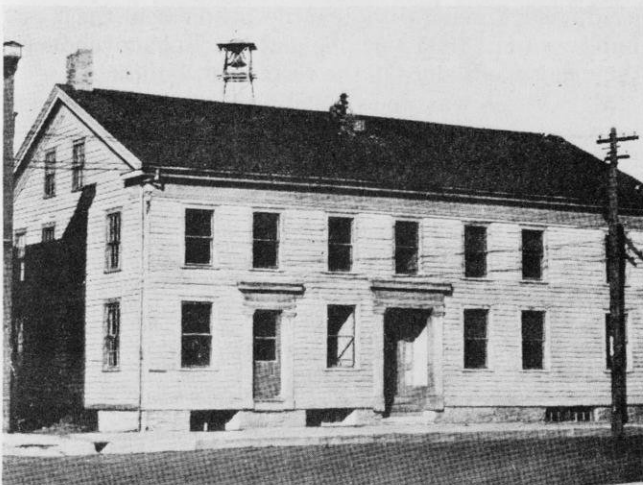
"She was a good Christian mother, a good business woman, a good companion and won the esteem of many friends in business, social and religious circles." (*Sauk County News*)

Furniture Store

The building which houses the furniture store was probably built by D. R. Baxter, who also built the Baxter House, which was located where the village Hall now stands. In 1892 Mr. Baxter sold his furniture business to J. F. Zarwell. Mr. Baxter also had a paint shop which stood directly north of the present store. This was sold to



Klipstein's Furniture Store about 1895. F. C. Klipstein standing in doorway. Signs advertise Wall Paper, Paints, Undertaking Furniture. Two couches and a chair for sidewalk display. The bench may be for sale or for convenience of loafers. Three hitching posts are shown. The large clock on the left advertises Link's Jewelry Store. The upper floor on the left housed Dr. Jacob Senty's Dental Office.



Baxter House, from book by H. E. Cole.

the village to use as a fire station and was moved to the rear of the village lot on Park Avenue. This is the tin-covered building used by the electric department for storage.

A few years later, F. C. Klipstein joined with Mr. Zarwell in a partnership, and in 1898 E. D. Gruber Sr. bought out the Zarwell interest and the firm was then called Klipstein and Gruber. In 1902, E. D. Gruber sold his interest to Herman Klipstein and the firm went by the name of Klipstein Brothers.

At the time of the Klipstein's occupancy, the first floor of the south part was occupied by Link's Jewelry Store. Around 1890 and later, the upper floor of the south part was used as a dentist's office. Drs. Senty, Henry Ragatz, and Walter Schellenberger used the office successively until about 1917, and since that time the entire second floor has been used for furniture display. A directory of 1898-99 shows that G. A. Schrody operated a Jewelry Store on Water St. between Galena and Washington, which must have been in this building.

In 1906, E. D. Gruber and Albert Gruber bought out the Klipstein Brothers. April 18, 1918, E. D. Gruber sold his $\frac{1}{2}$ interest to his brother, Albert Gruber. In 1919 Albert Gruber sold a $\frac{1}{3}$ interest in the business to L. E. Schultz. After Albert Gruber passed away, from injuries received in an auto accident caused by hitting a pig in the road, L. E. Schultz purchased Albert's $\frac{2}{3}$ interest from the estate on Oct. 5, 1928. In April, 1929, L. E. Schultz sold a $\frac{1}{3}$ interest to E. L. Gattshall. In Sept., 1939, L. E. Schultz sold a $\frac{1}{6}$ interest to E. L. Gattshall and a $\frac{1}{2}$ interest to E. D. Gruber when the firm became known as Gattshall and Gruber. In 1958 E. L. Gattshall transferred his interest to his sons, Russell and Donald.

At the present time, Russell and Donald Gattshall are associated with Edward Gruber. (Some of the information is taken from *Saukies*, a pamphlet prepared by a grade school class in 1948.)

Baxter House

The first hotel built was that of Steinmitz and Fief (Fyffe). Travelers stopping there often came from Madison and here boarded a boat for Prairie du Chien or other points along the river.

Soon after the building was completed it was purchased by D. K. Baxter, an early settler. The Baxter House became a famous place of entertainment not only for the traveling public but for grand dancing parties on the upper floor.

There was much rivalry between the Briggs House and the Baxter House. It was the custom for hotels to meet the trains at Mazomanie and lure travelers to one of the hotels. Baxter had a \$1000 coach, drawn by four horses. Competition was so keen that the price of transportation to or from Mazomanie was only 25 cents.

Mr. Baxter became a good friend of E. Zantow who lived atop the Baraboo Bluffs. Zantow named a part of his land "Baxter's Hollow" in honor of his friend and it still goes by that name today.

Mr. Baxter sold his hotel property to Zantow from whom the village bought the building in 1902 for \$2000. Up to that time the village owned no building for a meeting place, but now it served as a village hall, library and jail.

Giegerichs

The Sauk County News was identified with the Prairie du Sac community for 77 years.

The *News* was established in 1876 by Burnett and Son of Black Earth where the paper was first printed, and by G. W. Ashton of Prairie du Sac. Between 1884 and 1899 publishers of the paper included: Silas W. Corwith, whose office was located where Zick's Bait store is, at 450 Water St. He was followed by Charles E. Whelan, 1885-86. Later about 1907, Hon. C. E. Whelan was National Lecturer for the Modern Woodmen of America. Then followed George L. Conklin, Fred W. Johns, Etta Johns, Browne Brothers and E. J. Browne.

On Aug. 10, 1899, Bert Giegerich and William P. Just bought the paper from E. J. Browne and the partnership continued until 1909 at which time Giegerich became sole owner. When the paper was acquired the office was located on the second floor of the building now occupied by Winiger's Bakery at 575 Water St. From there it was moved to the second floor of Tarnutzer's office building at 634 Water St., then to the building next door south, and then to Steuber's Annex south of the Ford Garage. In 1912, Mr. Giegerich erected the present building on Park Ave. and moved his equipment into it.

In 1953, Mr. Giegerich sold the *Sauk County News* to Leroy Gore who published the weekly paper in Sauk City under the name of the *Sauk Prairie Star*.

In the early days all type was set by hand, but later typesetting machines were used. The hand-fed job press has given way to an automatic press and the slug cutter to an electric saw, along with many other labor-saving machines.

When Mr. Giegerich retired it brought to an end one of the oldest established businesses in the community, dating back to 1876, and it was his boast that the paper never missed an issue when he owned it. And always Mr. Giegerich held the respect and confidence of the citizens. It was his policy not to publish scandalous news nor that which might reflect on the character of any one or cause unnecessary grief. The fact that his publication flourished for over half a century seems to have justified his policy.

After the sale of the newspaper, the business was converted into job printing and office supplies, conducted by Giegerich's sons, Lorin and Robert. In 1959, the sons built an addition in the rear of the present building to make room for their expanding enterprise. Today the Giegerichs are equipped to handle any sort of job printing the customer may want, in addition to having a nearly complete line of office supplies and machines.

Much of the above information was supplied by Mrs. Bert and Lorin Giegerich.

Restaurant Building

1885—Thomas Baker
1887—Christ Obrecht
1895—Ragatz & Gasser
1916—Ragatz & Albertus
1918—Fred Albertus
1920—Guy Albertus
1925—Esther Lehmann
Sylvia Steuber

J. B. Ragatz and Florian Gasser bought this property from Christ Obrecht for their dry goods business. The partnership lasted until the death of Mr. Gasser in 1909, and the enterprise ended with a disastrous fire in 1913.

After the fire, the building was converted into a motion picture theater. An ad in the July 3, 1915, issue of the *Sauk County News* says: "METROPOLITAN THEATER. Two shows every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday evenings. Doors open at 7 P.M. Admission 10 cents. Watch for posters in front of theater."

Following this venture, Guy Albertus ran a restaurant here until he opened one in Reedsburg. Clifford Kaufman bought out Albertus in 1925. To a whole generation of high school pupils the place was known as Cliffie's. It was their favorite meeting place after school and after games in the evening. Cliff received many letters from boys in the service during World War II and after, expressing their appreciation for giving them a place to "hang out" which was clean and respectable. After his death in 1956, the building is still being used for restaurant purposes.

J. B. Ragatz

J. B. Ragatz was a member of one of Sauk County's pioneer families. He was a merchant, the first president of the Peoples State Bank and a village official.

Mr. Ragatz is best remembered for his activities in civic affairs. He represented his district in the Wisconsin State Assembly for one term; he served on the County Board; he was a member of the school board; he served as justice of the peace for many years; he was a member of the village board for twenty years and village clerk from 1922 to 1936. The honest, efficient government that Prairie du Sac had during that period is due in no small part to J. B. Ragatz.

He built the home in which he lived at 575 Broadway in the year 1900. He died at that place in 1936.

Florian Gasser

In 1878, at the age of 17, Florian Gasser entered the employ of Conger Bros. as clerk. In 1888 he entered into partnership with Geo. Kindschi and J. B. Ragatz, who conducted a general mercantile business in the Tabor building until 1895 when he and Mr. Ragatz conducted their dry goods store in the restaurant building.

Mr. Gasser was known and respected as a business man, but more especially as a Sunday School worker. In the latter activity, he was well known throughout the county. It was his ambition of bring about the moral up-building of the community. Mr. Gasser died suddenly in 1909.

The Mockler Building

1885—J. H. Rose
1899—George Mockler
1901—Adam Neu
1903—George Reuter
1910—George Mockler
1913—Fred Schara
1916—George Mockler
1945—Ed Mockler



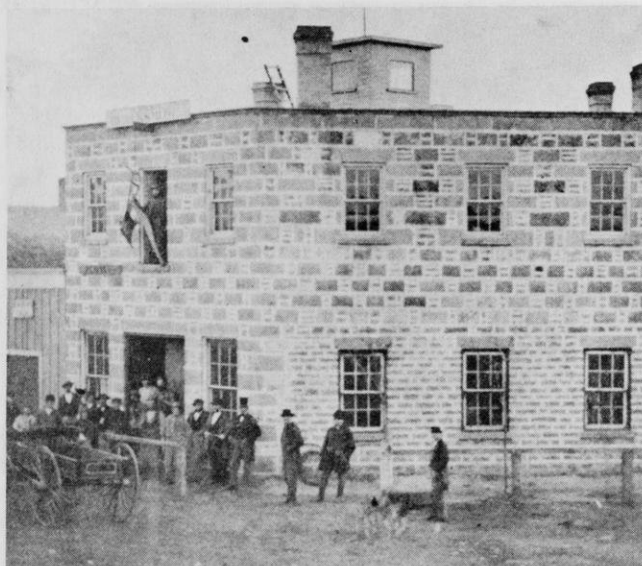
Looking west on Galena St., showing part of the Conger-Schoephorster store on the right, with bales of wire in the triangle. On the left is the Doll Implement shop and next is

the Ragatz & Buehler blacksmith shop. Part of the F. A. Oertel home is shown next to the blacksmith shop. The picture was taken by F. S. Eberhard in 1908.



This is probably the only picture in existence taken from this angle. It is taken from the Doll building at the corner of Park Ave. and Galena St. It shows part of Conger Bros. Dry Goods and Clothing store, and the triangle on which they displayed grinding stones and bales of wire. Across the street, from left to right, part of Fey's saloon with balcony, Cumming's or

Weaver's Drug store with apothecary sign; Dr. C. P. Riley's office; Mockler's saloon; the small annex; the Schneller & Felix store. It is not known why so many buggies were present when the picture was taken. Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's collection of plates.



The Mockler Building about 1850. Picture courtesy of Mrs. G. V. Accola.

In 1840, William Frink opened the first blacksmith shop at the corner of Galena and Water Sts. His mechanic was a man by the name of Axtell, who repaired plows, chains, etc., or whatever early equipment was used.

Earliest records show that William Hubbard sold this property to Samuel Kelsey in 1844. Mr. Kelsey built the building and used it for a blacksmith and wagon shop. The upper floor was used for storing lumber and other materials and was converted into living quarters when it was purchased by George Mockler.

The property was sold to Christ Obrecht in 1881 and to J. H. Rose in 1885. It is not clear what Obrecht used the property for, but in a 1900 Directory it lists "Frank Simons - Furniture, corner of Galena and Water." That must refer to this building. According to Ed Mockler, J. H. Rose and Matt Jacoby had a grocery store here. From 1899 to about 1920, the above named owners operated saloons in this building.

The post office was located in this property from 1923 to 1943 and as follows:

1923-34—Post Office, B. E. McCoy, Postmaster
 1934-43—Post Office, Albert Ehret, Postmaster
 1946-50—Oscar Emond Electric Shop
 1954-56—Alam Garmong Dress Shop
 1956-58—Mrs. Lawrence Hutter Dress Shop
 1959-67—Mrs. John Zingg and Mrs. Marvin Lange Dress Shop

Triangle, Water & Galena

The triangle at the intersection of Water and Galena Sts. was always an interesting place. The small one-story addition to Conger's Store once housed a drug store operated by Dr. Wotring, then it was part shoe store and part office for Congers, where H. V. Page kept the books without benefit of adding machine or typewriter. At the triangle, Congers kept large grind stones and bales of wire which the boys liked to climb around on and maybe tip over and roll away on Halloween.

Something nostalgic disappeared when the directors of the Peoples State Bank cleared away this area and put up

the new bank building in 1916. In 1932 this bank merged with the Prairie Sauk Bank and moved to the other bank building. In 1933, Gilbert Schumacher rented the old bank building and operated a drug store and bought the property in 1938. Schumacher's store later was taken over by O. P. Mueller, who came down from Alma during the days of the powder plant. At the present time, it is being used by Van Loenen's Clothing Store.

1933-44—Gilbert Schumacher Drug Store

1944-50—Oliver P. Mueller Drug Store

1950- —Robert Van Loenen Clothing Store

On second floor.

1917-26—Dr. R. A. Schlag, M. D.

1926-41—Dr. R. J. Hudson, M. D.

1941-44—Dr. E. M. Randall, M. D.

1917-46—Dr. T. Henry Ragatz, Dentist

1946-49—Dr. Paul Morgan, Dentist

The upper floor has since been used as an apartment.

Conger Store, Now Schoephorsters

This mercantile business was established in 1863 by three brothers, David S., Wm. F. and John S. Conger, and for many years was conducted under the name of Conger Bros. and Conger Bros. Co., and later as Conger, Grotophorst and Meisser. It continued under that name until 1900 when Chas. Schoephorster became a partner in the business. In 1902, the firm was incorporated under the state laws of Wisconsin as Conger-Grotophorst Co. and it still is an incorporated firm. In 1906 the name was changed to Conger-Schoephorster Co. Wilbert Schoephorster became identified with the firm in 1918. Beginning Jan. 1, 1946, it has operated under the name of Schoephorster's, Inc., as the entire stock was purchased by the Schoephorster family. According to an old picture, thirteen clerks worked in this store at one time.

In 1910, a grocery store was added to the mercantile business and another addition was built in 1916 for a hardware department. In 1954 this latter addition was rented to William Kohlman and is now being used as a self-service grocery store.

According to an account written by Miss Jennie Baker in the *Sauk County News*, Dr. Wotring, a brother-in-law of David Conger, was dissatisfied with the way in which the only drug store in the village was filling his prescriptions and he wanted to start one of his own. Accordingly, David Conger built a one-story addition on the south side of Conger's store, which was used as a drug store for several years. Later this part of the store was used by Conger's as an office and shoe department. The office was then torn down in 1915 to make room for the two-story brick building for the Peoples State Bank. This bank consolidated with the Sauk Bank. Gilbert Schumacher started a drug store here, which later was taken over by O. P. Mueller, who came down from Alma, Wis. during the days of the powder plant. At the present time, it is being used by Van Loenen's Clothing Store.

When Chas. Schoephorster started to work for the Congers in 1890, he had to take care of their horses and milk two cows, in addition to his duties in the store, for which he was paid \$175.00 per year. They also were engaged in the poultry business and kept their live chickens in a little lean-to in the rear of the store until enough chickens had accumulated to crate and haul to the depot



The Conger Store with an addition to the south. This part, a drug store for several years, later became Conger's office

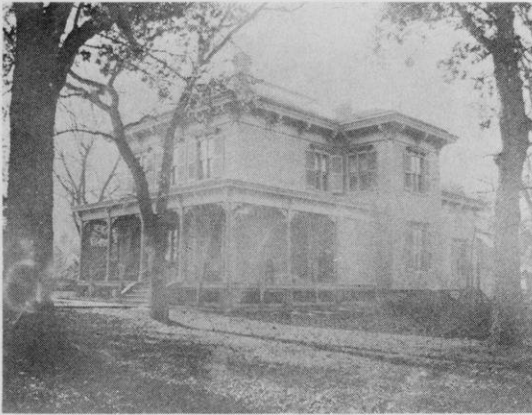
and shoe department. It was torn down in 1915 to make way for the Peoples State Bank.



Charles Schoephorster, Richard Hoppe, and —, in the Conger Store.
Photos courtesy of Elsie H. Schoephorster.



John Wintermantel,—, Lena Wintermantel,—, W. A. Schoephorster, Dorothy Mae Schoephorster, and Ernie Marks in the store.



Home of David Conger. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Alvin Shuknecht.

for shipment to market. They bought wool which they piled up in their warehouse until a buyer came along and bought up the supply. They also dealt in hides and building stones.

Congers also owned a branch store at Denzer and in 1894, Schoephorster was sent out to manage that and stayed there for six years before coming back to the main store, where he has been ever since. This year marks his 70th anniversary as a merchant in the same store, which probably sets some sort of record.

Conger Brothers

The following information was furnished by Miss Alice Conger:

David Conger came west in the early 1860s and settled in Prairie du Sac where he and three of his sons, John Sidney, William Frame and David Seabury, started the Conger store about 1863. David, the father, probably built the Conger store which originally consisted of only the part facing Water St. David died Feb. 6, 1873.

David S. remained in Prairie du Sac and ran the store. He lived at 729 Water St.

William F. had interests in the store. He engaged in the general mercantile business and dealt in wool, until 1898. He was elected to the State Senate in 1894. He lived at 285 Broadway. This house directly faced Third Street and it is said that he built the house there to enable him to see what was going on up town.

John S. was one of the firm but moved away. He lived at 741 Water St. He sold the property to Wm. C. Cook and when Cook moved to Texas in 1913, it was bought by Christ Ploetz.

Hotel and Tavern

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| 1885—Alex McGinnis | 1908—S. D. Perkins |
| 1892—Fred Jacobi | 1912—John E. Witwen |
| 1896—Keller & Thaelke | 1922—Ceclia Ditsch |
| 1900—Mary Schultz | 1941—Henry J. Ditsch |
| 1906—Adam Neu | 1945—J. P. West |
| 1912—John Ziemke | 1951—Alfred Erickson |
| 1936—Frank Reuter | & Truman Dunlap |
| 1940—Simon Specht | 1953—John Beinvogel |
| 1953—Gabriel Lichty | |
| 1953—Floyd & Philip Lauver | |

In the minutes that give the account of the incorporation of the Village of Prairie du Sac in 1885, it states that the election on this question was held in the feed store of Alex McGinnis. He owned lots 2 & 4, Block 6, of the Original Plat. This property was split in the year 1908, as you can see from the list of owners.

The record is not clear when Mr. McGinnis gave up the feed business, but from 1892 on, this property has been used for tavern and hotel operations. In 1908, the hotel business was entirely separate from the tavern and was first run by S. D. Perkins. It was called the Commercial Hotel and included a dining room, kitchen and lobby with sleeping rooms upstairs. From 1911 to 1916 it was operated by Mr. & Mrs. George Curtis, 1916-19 by Hugo Schultz, 1919-22 by George Clark, followed by Mrs. Ditsch. Mr. Clark had managed a hotel in Macon, Missouri, and brought back with him a colored cook, Robert Smith. When Clark sold the business to the Ditsches, it was made a part of the contract that Smith should always have a job and a home in connection with the hotel. Smith served as cook for many years. He died Jan. 2, 1959. He was the only colored man in the community who made this his permanent home.

Henry J. Ditsch started the Twin Arch Tavern in 1941.

Twin Arch Tavern operators:

1941-44 Henry J. Ditsch
 1944-45 Ed Baumgarth
 1945-46 Pliny W. Hall
 1946-47 Laufenberg & Kelly
 1948-50 Raymond Ring
 1950-53 Alfred Erickson

When John Beinvogel became owner of the property he completely remodeled and modernized it, and called it Tally Ho. He divided it into two parts, with the tavern on the north and a lunch counter and dining room in the other part.

The Grill

The earliest record shows that this building was owned and operated by J. J. Ochsner for use first as headquarters for the buying and selling of furs and then as a variety store. It was taken over by Otto Gasner in 1912, who also had a variety store. In later years it has been used as a restaurant operated by the people listed below. It was bought by Roy Peterson in 1958.

Operators of the Prairie Grill

N. H. Hiddessen, 1925
 L. J. Brownrigg, 1926-37
 Dave Stillman, 1937-45
 Wm. H. McFadden, 1945
 Lillian Nightingale, 1945
 Clifford Silvest, 1945
 Kenneth Carstens, 1946
 Gastrow & Ruck, 1947
 George Johnson, 1948
 Clarence Page, 1948
 Andrew Gruber, 1949
 Lilah Hosig, 1949
 James Paris, 1949-52
 Mrs. Wm. Mudgett, 1953
 George Nussbaum, 1953-54
 Mrs. Lena Soelle, 1955—

Peterson's Barber Shop

Lots 5, 6 and 7, Block 6, of the Original Plat were all owned by J. J. Ochsner in 1885. The building which is now owned and used by Roy Peterson as a barber shop was built in 1886 by the Dresen Lbr. Co. It was originally used as a photo gallery by Albert Giegerich, a half brother of Bert Giegerich and later by G. A. Lindsey and by Roy Anderson, both for the same purpose. At that time the building was set back about 25 ft. from the sidewalk. It remained a photo studio until about 1918 and has been used as a barber shop since that time, first by Leslie Saubert and then by George Steckenbauer until taken over by Roy Peterson in 1928 and he has operated it since that time.

According to Fred Wintermantel, Dr. A. Fisher, a veterinarian, had his office in this building. He was married to the oldest daughter of Rev. John Thilke (described at the end of this book) and lived in the house east of Thilke's.

Steuber's Watch Shop

1885—J. J. Ochsner

1912—Otto Gasner

1956—Roy Peterson

This property at 639 Water St. was originally owned by J. J. Ochsner. The earliest information available indicates

that Albert H. (Tud) Tarnutzer ran a shoe store on this location in a small frame building. About 1902, Samuel Schreiber leased the building from Mr. Ochsner and conducted a shoe store and repair shop, in which he used the old fashioned cobbler's bench, no longer seen around here.

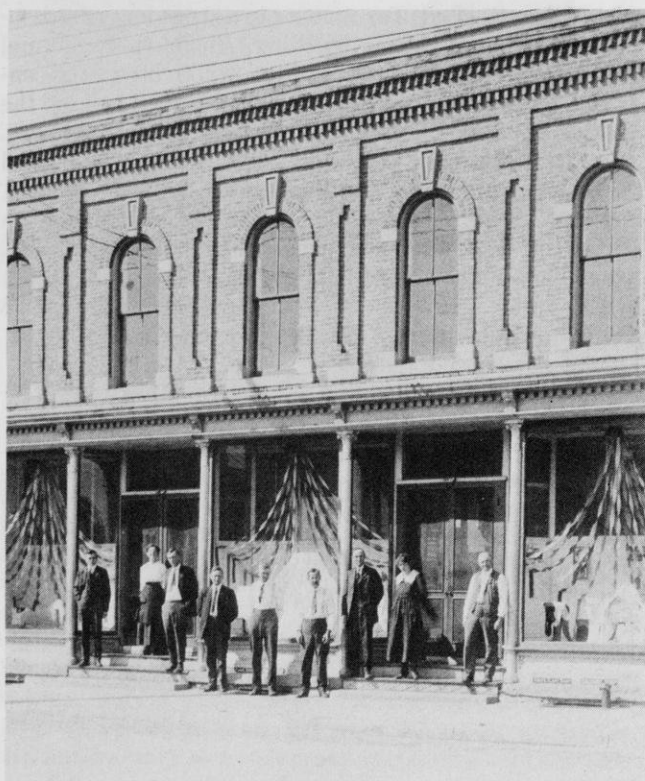
In 1911, Mr. Schreiber with D. D. McPherson moved the building to the rear of the lot and built the present one, and continued with the shoe business. Mr. McPherson withdrew from the partnership about 1915 and Mr. Schreiber continued until 1930 when he was bought out by Emil Morter, who continued on this location until 1933 when he moved into the Moore building.

Partial list of occupants:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Samuel Schreiber Shoe Store, | 1902-11 |
| Schreiber & McPherson Shoe Store; | 1911-15 |
| Samuel Schreiber Shoe Store, | 1915-30 |
| Emil Morter Shoe Store, | 1930-33 |
| Badger Variety Store, | 1939 |
| Sam Chesley Print Shop, | 1940 |
| Rodney Caflisch Dry Cleaning, | 1941-42 |
| Edwin Ploenske Dry Cleaning, | 1942-43 |
| Raymond Steuber Jewelry Store, | 1943-52 |
| John Fisher Jewelry Store, | 1952-56 |
| Raymond Steuber Jewelry Store, | 1956- |



Otto Gasner operated a news stand and variety store.



Conger-Schoephorster store, about 1917. From left to right: W. A. Schoephorster, Miss Anna Schwanke, George Wintermantel, Richard Hoppe, William Bonham, John Wintermantel, Charles Schoephorster, Miss Louise Conger, and H. V. Page. Picture courtesy of Elsie H. Schoephorster.



Hatz's Store and Hall, about 1905, advertising a 15-day mill outlet sale. From left to right, John Schreiber,—, Hazel Hatz, Esther Hatz, Erna Ragatz, Dorothy Hatz, Jacob Hatz,—, Ella Buehler, Olga Wegner, Gertrude Ragatz, Lena Hatz, Vivian Reynolds, Richard Hoppe and Ralph Steffins. Picture courtesy of O. H. Cramer.

Eberhart Building

1885—J. J. Ochsner

1902—F. S. Eberhart

1945—Orville Olcott

The lot on which this building stands was originally owned by J. J. Ochsner. In 1902, F. S. Eberhart built the present building for use as a jewelry store, with living quarters on the second floor. Besides operating this store, Mr. Eberhart took many pictures of scenes around this area. You will find his name on many post cards still sold.

1909-35—F. S. Eberhart

1939—N. Y. Coffee Shop

1940—Sam Chesley Print Shop

1941-45—Jack Wedlake Variety Store

1946-48—Clarence Sipple Variety Store

1949—A. H. Koten

1949-56—Henry Schroeder Variety Store

1956—Orville Olcott Variety Store

Hatz's Hall Koltres Building

Jacob Hatz operated a mercantile store in what was later known as the Moore building on the east side of Water Street. He had visions of greater business if he were in a larger establishment and accordingly had George A. Baldwin put up the well-constructed, two-story building with full basement known as Hatz's Hall.

The upper floor of the hall was used as an opera house and public meeting place. Neither the school nor the churches had recreational facilities in their buildings and this was the favorite place for social gatherings for both. Here they played "Drop the Handkerschief," "Last Couple Out," "Captain Jinks" and games of similar nature. Class plays were given here and it was in this hall that Commencement exercises were held. On the walls of the stage you can see the names of the class plays for the various years along with the names of the play casts.

It was in this hall that the "Birth of a Nation," the great Civil War classic of silent movie days, was shown. It carried its own orchestra. Here the High School oratorical contests were held. A public meeting was called to be held here to discuss the issue of building a new high school. Mr. Babington, who was then principal, presented the affirmative arguments and he was opposed by E. D. Perkins, who led the opposition. The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favor of the new building.

Valentine Accola was taken in as partner and Hatz & Accola operated a general store on the first floor. Later Mr. Accola sold his share to Mr. Hatz and at his death it was operated by his daughter, Miss Dorothy Hatz. From 1939 to 1947, Marachowskis of Portage had a grocery store in this building. In 1947, Harry Koltres of Waunakee purchased the building and since that time it has been used as a hardware store.

According to George V. Accola, Jacob Hatz, Jacob F. Hatz and Valentine Accola were partners in the store in

the early 1890s. When Jacob F. Hatz died in 1895, J. L. P. Accola was taken into the store. An old picture shows six men clerking in this store at one time. In addition to the above, they included Matt Jacoby, Wm. Rischmueller, and John Weirick.

Prairie du Sac Feed & Coal Co.

The land on which this building is located was originally owned by William Simon, whose name is given to one of the sub-divisions. It was successively sold to the following: Thomas Baker, Samuel Basinger, James Alben, Jeremiah Keysar, Lavallette Tabor, Archibald Moore, Isaac F. Smith and Amos Farr. In 1879, E. J. Farr bought the property and owned it until 1908 when he sold it to Wm. C. Cook. During the time that Farr owned it, it was used as a barn and for storage, then as a creamery operated by Bickford and Lamson. A. M. Bickford, grandfather of Melvin Bickford, and his partner operated this business for eleven years. M. A. Reynolds was the buttermaker. In 1893, a poultry company, of which Farr was a member, took over the building for dressing and packing poultry for shipment. In 1898, Mr. Farr bought out the hardware store of J. A. Moore and conducted a hardware store for about ten years.

In 1908, this property was sold to Wm. C. Cook, who operated a feed business. He in turn sold it to the Prairie

du Sac Farmers Produce Co., in 1912. Leonard Ploetz was the President of this company and James R. Carpenter, the Treasurer. In 1921, this company sold to Nelson Ploetz and Andrew G. Accola. Ploetz sold his interest to A. G. Accola in 1923, who sold the business to E. J. and Conrad Schoephorster in 1924. In 1925, E. J. Schoephorster sold his half interest to Andrew Accola, who in turn sold his interest to Conrad Schoephorster in 1932, when Conrad took his son Raymond into partnership and since that time it has been operated as the Prairie du Sac Feed & Coal Co.



Prairie du Sac Feed & Coal Co. New building on the site is now the home of Schwartz Insurance Agency.

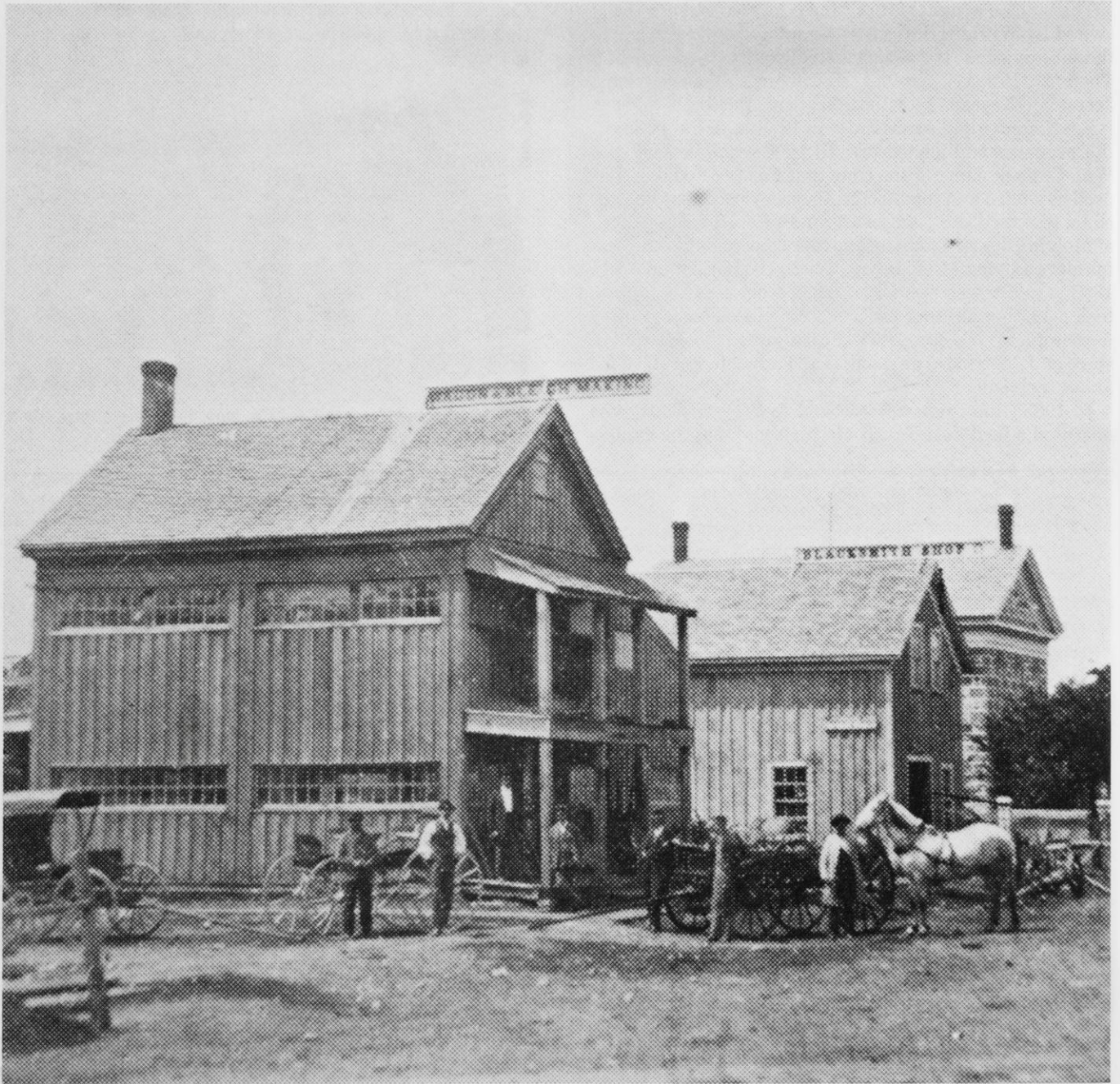


Picture taken in 1908 shows a corner of J. J. Ochsner's Variety Store, the Commercial House, Adam Neu's saloon, Conger's Store and the annex built for Dr. Wotring's Drug Store. The empty space at the triangle always displayed bales of wire. Here a bandstand would be erected for band concerts on Saturday nights.

In the second block is the Baxter Hotel where the Village Hall and Library now stands. The first building in the second

block was then owned and operated as a saloon by George Reuter. The sign above the large window advertizes Bachele cigars and the one attached to the corner is a beer sign. In the road and in front of the large window is the old town pump, since replaced by a drinking fountain.

There appears to be an early electric arc street lamp hanging above the intersection. Picture by F. S. Eberhart.



Wagon shop of F. A. Oertel at the corner of Galena St. and Park Ave. Later it became the implement store used when J. P. Doll was in partnership with Conrad Meyer.

Center building is the blacksmith shop of Edward Oertel, torn down in 1923.

Third building is the home of F. A. Oertel, torn down in 1958.

Note the absence of telephone and electric poles and wires. There are no cement sidewalks and paved roads and no automobiles. This was back in the horse and buggy days.

Businesses, Galena St.

Doll Building

The land on which this building is located belonged originally to George Owen, whose name appears quite often in the early records of the village. This corner lot was bought by F. A. Oertel in 1855 or 54, on which stood a small house and a wagon shop. The E½ of lot 7, block 5, which the buildings are located was sold by F. A. Oertel to Wm. F. Niem (or Neim) on Jan. 25, 1879. On May 31, 1884, the heirs of W. F. Niem sold it to Dr. Charles P. Riley for \$736.00. From 1888 to 1891 the building was rented to John Keller and William Waffle for a farm implement store. In 1891, it was rented to John P. Doll, in partnership with Conrad Meyer for a few years. On Jan.

1, 1898, Doll bought it from Dr. C. P. Riley for the sum of \$850.00. The building was torn down about 1900 and a new implement store was built, which stood here until 1965. Mr. Doll conducted an implement business on this site for fifty-three years, two years of which he was in partnership with his brother George, until George's death in 1906. After J. P. Doll's death in 1942, the property was sold to Harwood Page who in turn sold it to E. A. and Myrtle Ingles.

J. P. Doll was active in both church and civic affairs. He was trustee of the Evangelical Church for 27 years, a member of the County Board for 12 years, of the Village Board for 20 years and served as village president for two terms.



This is the only picture of the Doll Building taken from this angle that I have seen. It was taken about 1914. It shows the bales of wire on the triangle at Conger's Store. The building

on the triangle now was built in 1915. The hydrant in the foreground was installed in 1914. These facts show the time of the picture. This Doll Building was torn down in 1965.

"In these offices he won the respect of his associates as he had won the confidence of those with whom he had business dealings." (*Sauk County News*)

Chevrolet Garage and Page Co.

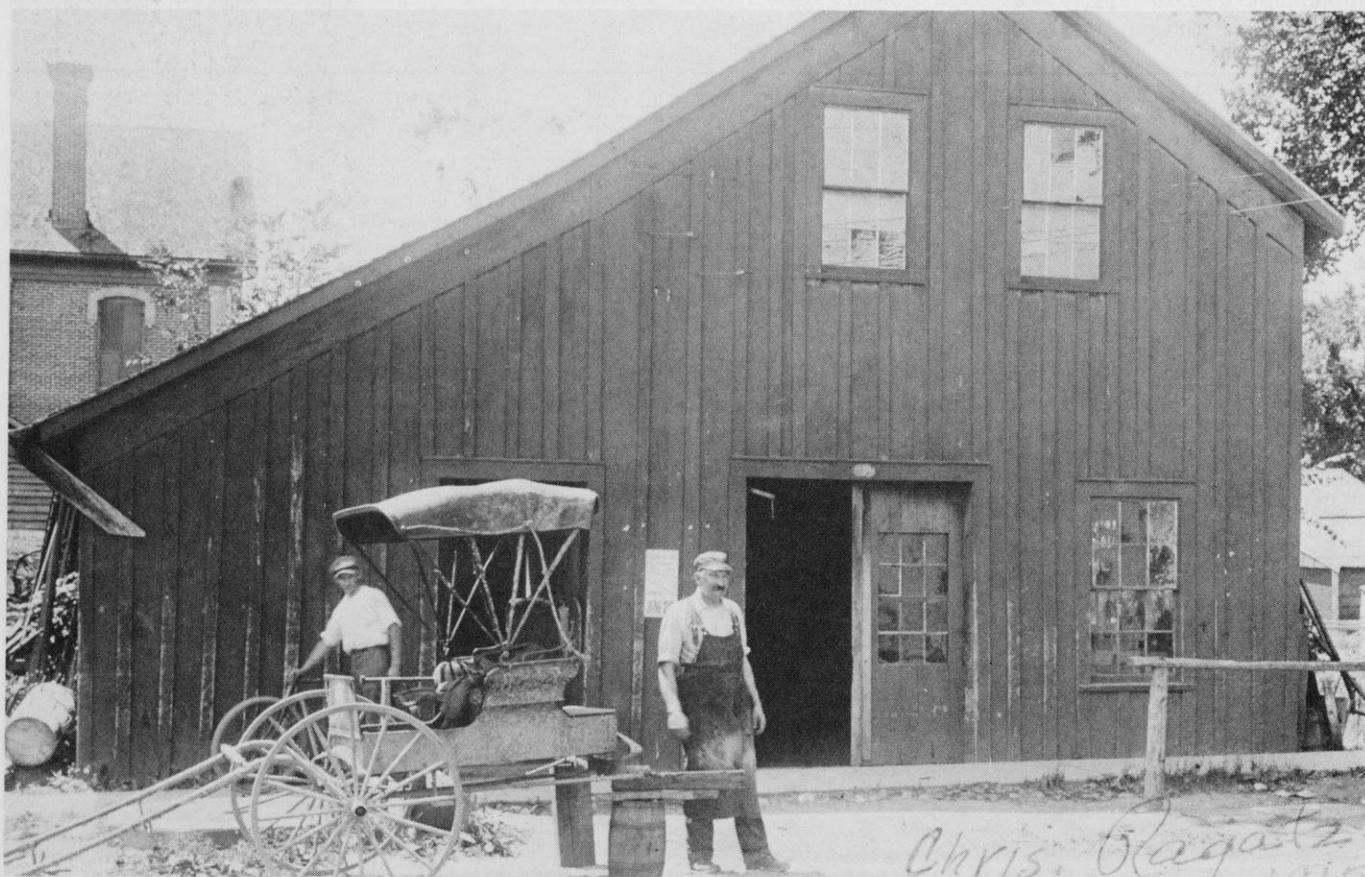
1885—F. A. Oertel
1896—George Doll
1910—William Buehler
1923—J. U. Schmidt
1947—E. A. and Myrtle Ingles
1927—Chas. Ploetz & Co.
1936—Harwood A. Page
1953—J. Wayne Page

The blacksmith and wagon shop that stood here was operated by Edward Oertel, who lived on the southeast corner of Washington and Third Sts. Edward was a brother of Ferdinand Augustus Oertel. George Doll bought this property in 1896 and conducted a blacksmith shop in partnership with Christ Ragatz until 1904 when George joined his brother John in the implement business. William Buehler bought it 1910 and conducted the business with Mr. Ragatz, until Buehler joined with George Accola in the hardware store in 1920. When J. U. Schmidt bought the property in 1923 he tore down the old blacksmith shop and built the present garage.

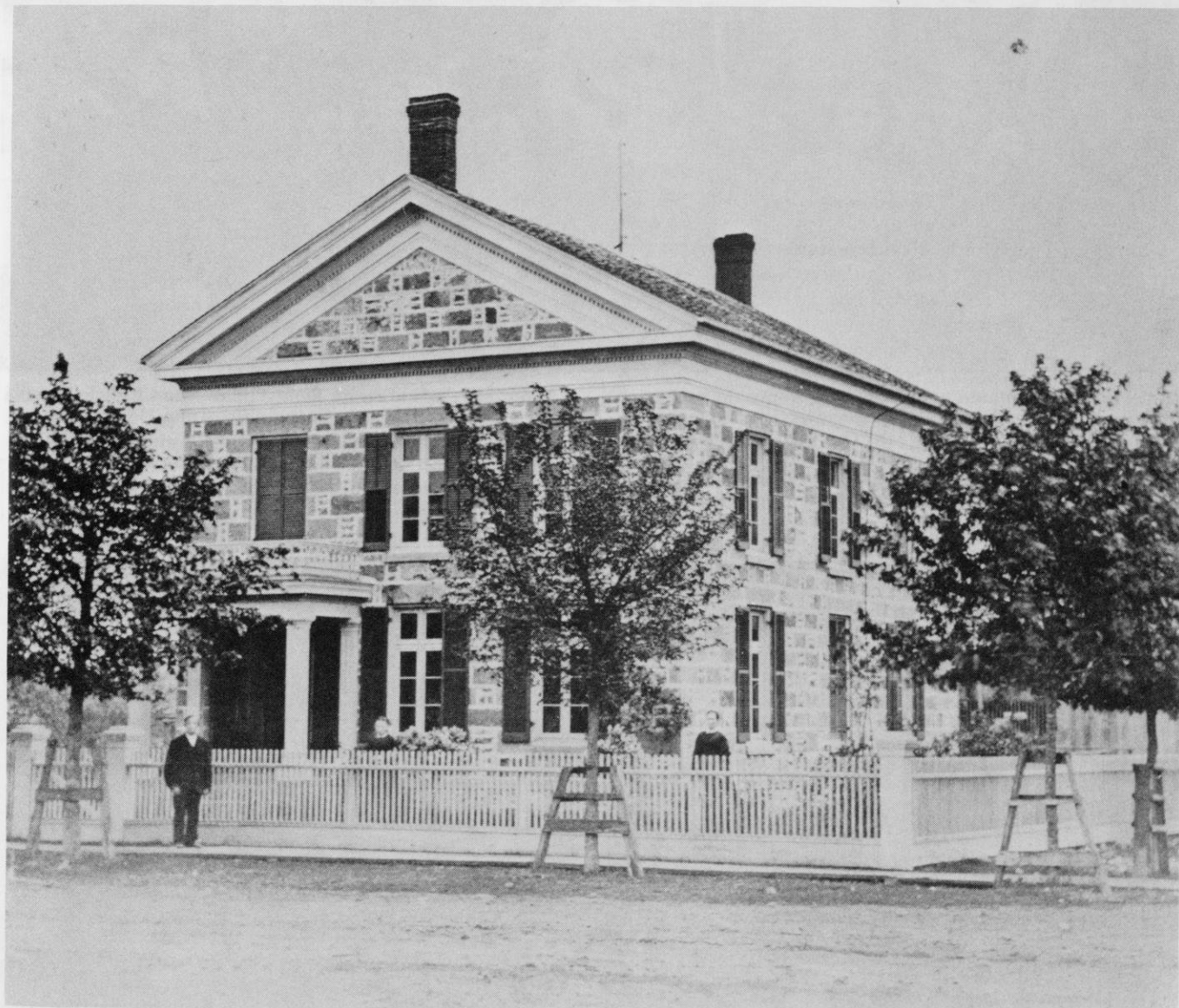
The land to the west of the garage was sold to Chas. Ploetz & Co. who built the present implement store. At Ploetz's death in 1935, the business was taken over by

Harwood Page and at Page's death in 1951 it was then conducted by his son Wayne and later took in Fred Steckelberg as partner.

The Oertel home which stood on the northwest corner lot was an old landmark of the village. It was built in 1860 and when torn down it was 98 years old and this year could have celebrated its centennial. The lot is now used as a display area by the Page Co.



Ragatz & Buehler blacksmith shop in 1917. Picture courtesy of Cecil Ragatz.



Home of F. A. Oertel was built in 1860 and torn down in 1958. It was located at the corner of Galena and Third Sts., the lot now used by the Page Co. to display farm implements. Mr. Oertel standing in front of fence, Mary Jane and Mrs. Oertel in back.



In the days before automobiles, neighbors would gather at different homes on Sunday afternoons to visit and talk over the happenings of the past week. This picture, taken by Ed Steuber, shows such a group. It was probably taken about the year 1902 at the Thilke or Gattwinkle home near the north end of Water St., which was then known as the Baraboo Road.

Front row, left to right: Sena Thilke, Sena Keller, Martha Dahnke, Mrs. Herman Gattwinkle, Anna Heron.

Middle row: Erna Lohmer,—, Kate Heron, Addie Keller, Marie Woerth, Lena Schueffler, Susie Heron, Mame Fisher.

Top row: Herman Thilke, Fred Dahnke, Bill Knipschild and Fred Schueffler.

Picture courtesy of Mrs. Addie Keller Kinzler.



This picture is of interest because it shows some of the people mentioned elsewhere in this sketch.

Bottom row, left to right:—, Ruth Hutchins Accola, Dr. R. A. Schlag, Mrs. F. S. Eberhart, Mrs. Ed Buehler, Mrs. Albert H. Tarnutzer, Alma Buehler Stoddard, Mrs. Grant Lampman, Grant Lampman.

Second row: Mrs. Alice Conger Knapp, Miss Louise Bailey, Mrs. James Bailey.

Top row: Mrs. Alta Kindschi Tarnutzer,—, James Bailey, Mrs. Hutchins, Lloyd Tarnutzer, Albert H. Tarnutzer, Mrs. R. A. Schlag, Roy Stoddard,—, Mrs. Florence Bickford Meyer, Miss Ella Bickford, George Meyer.

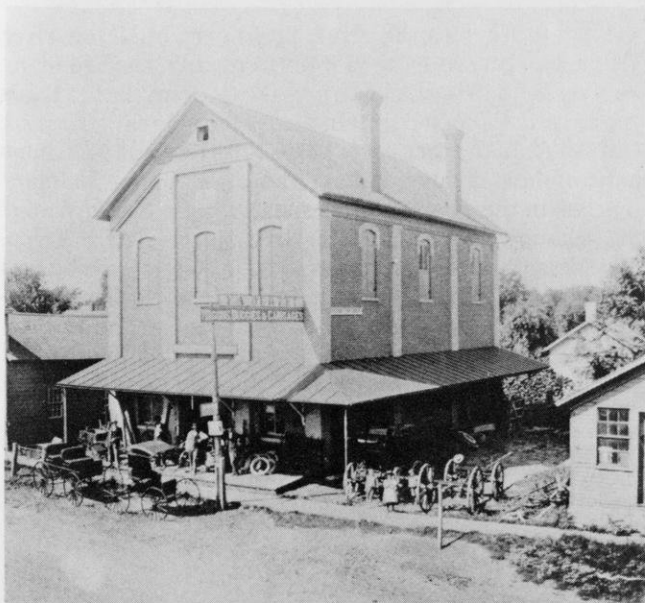
The picture was taken on the porch of the pavilion in Marion Park. Picture courtesy of Warren Hart.

Community Spirit

Eureka Lodge # 113, F. & A.M.

The Masonic Lodge of Prairie du Sac celebrated its 100th anniversary last year. It was consecrated August 8, 1859, at which time the Grand Lodge officers installed the Worshipful Master and the other officers. This first meeting was held in what was then the Odd Fellows Hall in the red brick building which is just north of the P. D. S. Feed & Coal Co. on Water St.

In 1859 the lodge moved to a larger hall over a store in Middletown between Prairie du Sac and Sauk City and in 1865 to a hall in the Kirschner building in Sauk City. In 1866 it moved back to Prairie in a new hall in the building known as Conger's Store, now Schoephorsters. In 1879 Conger's business increased to such an extent that they needed that room and the Lodge moved into the building which is now used as Tarnutzer's office.



Oertel's Wagon Shop built in 1884. Masonic Hall on second floor. Sign reads "F. A. OERTEL—Wagons, Buggies & Carriages." Mr. Oertel standing at the left. Small white building on right is Oertel's old shop. Sign on door reads "New York Buggies".

In 1884, F. A. Oertel proposed to build a larger wagon shop for himself on his property on Park Avenue. He would build the lower floor if the Lodge would build the upper floor for use as a meeting place. the proposition was accepted and for the first time in about twenty years, the lodge had a hall of its own. The lower floor was bought in 1912 from Mr. Oertel, although it was continued to be used as an implement store until 1925 when the building was remodeled and a spacious dining room and a kitchen were added along with other improvements. In 1953, the upper floor or lodge room was extensively changed by the addition of a new desk, chairs and a carpet so that the lodge now has a fine temple clear and free of debt.

Those who have been most active in the lodge during the past fifty years, among others, are: M. A. Reynolds, E. J. Farr, Stephen St. John, Fred Madison, Robert Aton, Dr. D. E. Murphy and Christ Gruber, B. E. McCoy and Fred Kurtz each served as secretary for many years. Today an active and interested group of younger men are filling the chairs occupied by these former members.

The following is a list of those who have passed their 27th anniversary as a mason with the number of years each was a member:

| | | | |
|-------------------|----|----------------------|----|
| Robert Aton, | 53 | Andrew Gruber | 37 |
| Roy Sisson | 48 | Peter Gruber | 36 |
| Reese Schlag | 46 | C. H. Lehmann | 35 |
| E. L. Gattshall | 45 | Peter Lohr | 35 |
| Henry G. Felix | 44 | Everett Bohn | 34 |
| Charles Meisser | 44 | John A. Radlund | 32 |
| Albert H. Kohlman | 44 | Arthure Heldorf | 32 |
| D. E. Murphy | 42 | Glarner Gasser | 32 |
| Walter Schlag | 41 | Earl Price | 32 |
| John Schreiber | 41 | Ivan Gruber | 31 |
| Frank Reusch | 41 | Emil Morter | 31 |
| Peter H. Meng | 40 | E. A. Ingles | 30 |
| Walter G. Doll | 40 | Lester Madison | 30 |
| William Davidson | 39 | Oscar H. Reibe | 30 |
| Felix Ferber | 39 | Conrad Schoephorster | 29 |
| George V. Accola | 39 | Christ Gruber | 29 |
| Charles Bole | 37 | Orville Olcott | 29 |
| Willard Taylor | 37 | Cecil Ragatz | 28 |
| Rudolph Mueller | 37 | Martin Ohlsen | 27 |

Smith S. Wilkinson

Mr. Wilkinson, an attorney, represented the district in the State S'nate for two terms, 1862-65; he was elected Worshipful master of the local Masonic Lodge when it was organized in 1859 and served in that office in 1859, 1860, 1862 and 1870. He lived at the corner of Fifth and Prairie Sts., in a house that was floated down the Wisconsin river from the village of Newport, near Wisconsin Dells. There are two other such houses which are still in use, one at 247 First St. and the other at 366 First St. Mr. Wilkinson's name appears on many abstracts showing transfers of property to and by him. He moved to Dennison, Iowa, some time after 1870, where his daughter, Mrs. Charles Tabor, lived.

Miss Jennie Baker wrote that the law office of Mr. Wilkinson was north of Tarnutzer's grocery store. When the livery stable was built the law office building was moved to the rear of the David Conger home. It was removed when Alvin Schuknecht bought the property in 1946.

Wilkinson was born in New York in 1824 and came to Prairie du Sac in the 1850s. He died at Dennison, Iowa in 1889 and is buried at Adrian, Michigan.

Past Masters of Eureka Lodge 113 F. & A.M.

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Smith S. Wilkinson, | 1859, 1860, 1862, 1866, 1867, 1868, 1871 |
| J. Stephens Tripp | 1861, 1880 |
| George B. Burrows, | 1863 |
| Isaac D. Evans, | 1864, 1869 |
| Samuel F. Amy, | 1865 |
| H. John Kelsey, | 1869 (two weeks) |
| Frank C. Sisson, | 1870 |
| John C. Link, | 1872, 1873 |
| W. T. Kelsey, | 1874, 1875 |
| Edward Oertel, | 1876, 1877 |
| Jacob C. Pry, | 1878, 1879 |
| Joseph A. Moore, | 1881 |
| Frank O. Sisson, | 1882 |
| William H. Waffle, | 1883, 1884, 1885, 1886 |
| Edwin J. Farr | 1887, 1888, 1889, 1890, 1900 |
| | 1901, 1902, 1903 |
| J. V. Stevens, | 1891 |
| S. C. Pry | 1892 |
| William R. Patchen | 1893 |
| Jacob W. Felix, | 1894 |
| Myron A. Reynolds, | 1895, 1906, 1907, 1908, 1909 |
| | 1912, 1913, 1914, 1915 |
| John S. Roeseler, | 1896 |
| Charles F. Ninman, | 1897, 1898, 1899, 1904 |
| Bert Giegerich, | 1905, 1910, 1911 |
| Stephen St. John, | 1916 |
| C. I. Kindschi, | 1917 |
| John W. Buehler | 1918 |
| Earl C. Frost, | 1919, 1920 |
| Daniel E. Murphy, | 1921, 1922 |
| Robert Aton, | 1923 |
| George Gruber, | 1924, 1925 |
| Lawrence J. Steuber, | 1926 |
| William A. Schreiber, | 1927 |
| Leslie E. Schultz, | 1928 |

| | |
|--|------------------|
| Walter Doll, | 1929 |
| J. Fred Madison, | 1930 |
| Charles A. Bole, | 1931 |
| Arthur J. Holdorf, | 1932 |
| Harwood A. Page, | 1933 |
| Fred W. Kurtz | 1934, 1935, 1936 |
| Alex Jones, | 1937 |
| Lester Madison | 1938 |
| Arthur Thingvold, | 1939 |
| Dewey Hufford, | 1940, 1941 |
| Rudolph Mueller, | 1942 |
| Albert Kohlman, | 1943 |
| Edward D. Gruber, | 1944, 1945 |
| Chris D. Gruber, | 1946, 1947 |
| Raymond C. Schoephorster | 1948 |
| Robert Nagler | 1949 |
| Martin C. Ohlsen | 1950 |
| Leslie Page Schultz | 1951 |
| Robert J. Hatz | 1952 |
| Denman G. Kramer | 1953 |
| Wayne H. Hatz | 1954 |
| Merlin D. Sprecher, | 1955 |
| Lyle W. Sprecher, | 1956 |
| Earl A. Sprecher, | 1957 |
| Richard Hegerfeld, | 1958 |
| Julius H. Schreiner, | 1959 |
| Dean Kyle, | 1960 |
| Chalmers Perry, | 1961 |
| William Roth, | 1962 |
| Kevan Clemens, | 1963, 1964 |
| Robert VanLoenen, | 1965 |
| Douglas Hamilton, | 1966 |
| Past Masters of Sauk Prairie Lodge 113 F. & A.M. | |
| H. Duane Kundert, | 1967 |
| John W. Swafford, | 1968 |
| Lee Olson | 1969 |

Naming of Black Hawk

The bluff across the river, prominent in all our river views, now owned by the Power Company, has had many names. In 1848 it was known as Ikey's Point. In the 1850s it was called Rocky Point. In the 1860s some called it Look Out Bluff. In the very early 1870s Miss Lucinda McGinnis aunt of Miss Jennie Baker, and at that time primary teacher in the Prairie du Sac school, Miss Nellie Waterbury, daughter of Isaac Waterbury and wife of J. S. Tripp, and Miss Cora Wotring, sister of Dr. Wotring, who was visiting here and who later married John S. Conger, picnicked weekly on the bluff. They talked of the Indians who had formerly lived in these parts and of how proud Black Hawk must have been that all this beautiful country belonged to his people, and they began calling the bluff "Black Hawk's Look Out", a name which has remained. Contributed by Miss Alice Conger.



A picture of the local lodge of the Modern Woodmen of America taken in Marion Park at Prairie du Sac about the year 1895. The Prairie du Sac Brass Band is also shown, the leader which at one time was George Baldwin, shown on the picture, second from left in front row. The Woodmen had a very active lodge for many years until the older members died off and life insurance rates were increased.

Top row: 1, George Doll; 2, J. P. Kindschi; 6, E. D. Kindschi; 10, Met Mather; 12, Jacob F. Hatz; 15, Martin Walser; 16, Albert Lindemer; 19, Wm. F. Steuber.

2d row from top: 10, Jacob Hatz; 11, Fred Waffenschmidt; 17, August Gastrow; 19, John Meisser.

3d row from top: 1, George Schneller; 5, Val Accola; 7, Fred Steuber; 8, Will Bryant.

3d row from bottom: 1, George Schneller; 6, Andrew Moely; 7, Henry Roick.

2d row from bottom: 3, John Wintermantel; 6, J. P. Doll; 9, Ed Ochsner; 10, Fred Popjoy; 11, Roy Mather; 14, M. A. Reynolds; 15, Fred Fraust; 17, Wm. Weynand; 18, Jacob Hill; 21, John Sisson.

Front row, left to right: Robert Lang, George Baldwin, John Von Wald, Jacob Meisser, Washington Ochsner,—, Dave Lampman, George Kindschi, J. J. Ragatz, Lave Tabor, Christ Ragatz, J. B. Ragatz, Harry Fey.



Horseback riding seems to have been another activity of the young people of an early day. This picture, taken about 1895, shows a group of riders who had taken part in a Fourth of July parade and then went to the school yard to have their pictures taken. They are, from left to right: Ed Buehler,

Minnie Thomson, Jesse Page, Nell Buehler, George Stoddard,—, Lawrence Steuber, Mame Fisher, Ed Johnson, Jennie Farnum, Lawrence Keller and Persis Bennett. John Buehler is on the pony. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Addie Keller Kinzler.



Members of the Twentieth Century Club, probably depicting some facet of Dutch life and customs, are: Standing at left, Mrs. Waite; at right, Mrs. Leander Drew. Seated in front row, left to right, Mrs. Joe Moore, Mrs. Mary Jane Atwood, Mrs. H. V. Page and Mrs. J. J. Felix. Top row, left to right, Flora Steel, Mrs. Hutchins, Mrs. Cooper, Mrs. Roberts, Mrs. Wm. Tarnutzer,—. Picture courtesy of Mrs. John Buehler.



The Twentieth Century Club included Mrs. Atwood, Mrs. J. J. Felix, Mrs. J. L. P. Accola, Mrs. C. I. Kindschi, Mrs. M. E. Fiske, Mrs. Sam Babington, Mrs. J. A. Moore, Mrs. Mae Bowman, Mrs. Louise Conger Ley.

Twentieth Century Club

A clipping cut from the June 16, 1929, issue of the *Capital Times* says that the Twentieth Century Club of Prairie du Sac is believed to be one of the oldest women's clubs in Wisconsin.

"Away back in 1899 two enterprising women, Mrs. Mary Oertel Atwood and Mrs. A. O. Kendall, wishing to keep up with the other communities that had women's clubs, set out to start such an organization. They succeeded in getting nineteen women sufficiently interested to organize a club which was soon to be known as the Twentieth Century club by which name it still flourishes after 30 years." (now 61 years)

At first the club met once a week and followed an intense course of study on such subjects as literature, modern art in Europe and America, topics based on the National Geographic Magazine, history of Wisconsin and current events. All of this required quite strenuous study and some of the members dropped out and others were invited to join. Membership was limited to fifteen.

"Early in the history of this club it showed a keen community interest. Through the efforts of the club members, the public library was started. They sponsored the first chautauqua that came to the village, and they furnished a teachers' rest room in the high school. They also assisted in the purchase of and presentation to the village of the piece of ground between the library and the drug store (now the bakery) to give Main Street a green spot and to set off the library building.

"All members have kept before their mind's eyes the motto adopted in 1899: 'While we live we will continue to learn', thereby setting an example of culture and showing what can be done in the way of adult education."

Today the Club accommodates twelve members who meet once a month at a luncheon followed by a discussion of a topic.

Library Lawn "Lest We Forget" To Give Credit To Whom Credit is Due

The readers of the article "Live and Learn", a timely write-up, which appeared in the *Capital Times* of June 16th, will need a little further information regarding the presentation to the Village of Prairie du Sac, of the piece of ground between the library and the drug store (now the bakery). Some time before Mrs. Jennie Keysar died, she handed me the following statement, saying to me—"You will live longer than I will and I want the public to know who sponsored the buying of this piece of ground". The following in Mrs. Keysar's own handwriting reads thus: August 12, 1912. "Mrs. Kendall, Mrs. Anna Gasser and Mrs. Jennie Keysar bought of Perkins and Page the land north of the library building for the sum of \$800.00. Mr. Ed Perkins gave us \$25.00. We had from the Fourth of July dinner \$240.54, making our first payment \$265.54; July 9, 1912, we made a second payment of \$160.00. Mr. F. M. Waterbury donating \$100.00 and Mrs. Jennie Keysar \$50.00 and \$10.00 from a cake sale."

We doubt not in the least that we received some money from the Twentieth Century Club and they have some record to show how much they gave. Any member of said club who gave \$50.00 or \$100.00 will have honorable mention in our home paper. The balance required to finish paying for the lot was paid by Fourth of July dinners and food sales when credit is due all the residents of Prairie du Sac, who are always ready to furnish food and are willing to help when service is needed. When the last payment was made Mrs. Jennie Keysar, Mrs. Kendall and myself turned the deed over to the village of Prairie du Sac at the Sauk Bank.

An old tree stood in the center of this lot, and Mr. Tripp requested it be cut down, which we had Mr. Leonard Schneller do. A year or two ago the Twentieth Century Club planted a tree which died.

Respectfully submitted, Mrs. Anna Gasser Moore
(From the files of Mrs. George V. Accola)



Track Team in 1897. On the ground, Ernie Washington, trainer. When a Dr. Orr from Tennessee, came to spend his summers here, he brought Ernie with him to take care of the doctor's horses. Later Ernie was drowned while working on the construction of the dam. In business suit with hat, Dr. Fred Conger, coach, son of one of the Conger Bros. and uncle of Miss Alice Conger.

Kneeling, left to right: Chas. Colby, who later managed the Banner Mill; George Campbell, Prairie du Sac High School graduate, Class of 1899, later bank president in Kaloma, Wash.; Ronny Herren, who died in 1898, while a senior in

high school; Washington Ochsner, son of J. J. Ochsner; David Conger, who disappeared in Oregon about 1912.

Standing, left to right: Ben Weaver, son of the druggist; Wm. Ryan, later a Madison attorney; Ed Ragatz, jeweler in Prairie du Sac and Madison; Louis Cooper, son of Jesse Cooper, later an English professor in Ohio State University; Fred Hankwitz, Class of 1899, later a R. R. mail clerk in Fond du Lac; J. L. P. Accola, later a hardware dealer and banker; Archie Meyers.

Picture courtesy of John Schreiber who got it from Fred Hankwitz.

Community Spirit

A noticeable characteristic of the business and professional men of the village following the turn of the century was a civic pride and community spirit. The evidence of this was shown by the annual Fourth of July celebrations, Homecoming Week, band concerts, Chatauquas and Lyceum courses.

In a special edition of the *Sauk County News* dated July 3, 1915, it advertises the Chatauqua for that year. The price of admission of a season ticket was \$2.00, which entitled the holder admission to two shows a day for seven days, or 14 in all. The ad says, "A Chatauqua is a tonic for the system, a change from the daily grind of life. It is exceedingly interesting and invites to higher ideals. It is instructive and of lasting good for any community." The meetings were held under a tent in Marion Park.

Chatauquas were held in the summer and Lyceum courses given during the winter months. The courses were first held in Hatz's Hall and later in the new school building. They were held once a month and consisted of musical programs or lectures. A group of citizens would sponsor both the Chatauqua and the Lyceum courses, guaranteeing the cost, and when they started to lose money, not enough citizens were willing to invest in the project and interest died out.

The biggest community project in the past seventy-five years was the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the

founding of the two villages, held jointly with Sauk City and the surrounding area in 1938.

Probably the biggest single community project was Prairie du Sac's Homecoming celebrated on July 31, August 1 and 2, in 1907. The *Sauk County News* of August 8, 1907, devoted much of its space to an account of this event. The headlines read: "Great was Prairie du Sac Homecoming." "Hundreds of former residents return for festivities—Orations, Ball games and Band concerts enjoyed by vast crowds—letters from former residents an interesting feature of great event."

The meeting place was Marion Park where the programs were held, meals served and ball games played, while the evening band concerts were held under "an illuminated arch" on Water St.

Eighty-eight homes were listed, along with their guests, that opened their doors to the homecomers. Some homes had as high as ten guests, some coming from as far away as California and New Jersey. Invitations to the homecoming had been sent out to all former residents by the secretary and many of those who were unable to attend sent letters, which were all published in subsequent issues of the *News*.

The program of the first day listed the following: Prayer—Rev. H. J. Droegkamp; Address of Welcome—Hon. J. S. Tripp; Response—Judge W. T. Kelsey; Early history of Prairie du Sac—Dr. O. A. Kendall; short addresses by W. H. Canfield, author of *History of Sauk County*, Baraboo;



This picture shows the large crowd attending a Field Day in Prairie du Sac in the summer of 1900. Athletes from surrounding communities competed with those from this village. Some of the local athletes included Ed Ragatz, Louis Cooper and J. L. P. Accola. In the race for 12-year olds, Lloyd Tarnutzer ran against Thane (Jimmy) Dodge from Spring Green. Billy Weynand contested for and won the greased pig.

At the time the picture was taken, the *Sauk County News* was published on the second floor of the Post Office building on the right.

Bert Giegerich and Will Just may be sitting in the window of their printing office. The man with the megaphone is Fred Conger.

At one of the field days, Archie Hahn of Dodgeville competed in dashes. Later he attended the University of Michigan and in 1904 won a gold medal in the Olympic Games held that year at St. Louis and won a gold medal in 1906 when the games were held at Athens, Greece. Both medals were won in the 100-meter dash. (Information supplied by Frank Curtis) Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's plates.

Judge and Mrs. W. A. Johnson, Valley City, N. D.; Cyrus Leland, Troy, Kans.; Jos. Johnson, Baraboo; Chas. Whelan, Madison; James A. Danforth, Chicago; Chas. Tabor, Dennison, Iowa; Basil Smout, Wells, Minn.; Hon. Thomas Baker; E. C. Perkins E. C. Moore, J. J. Ochsner, F. A. Oertel, Peter Kindschi, C. H. Stoddard, Stephen St. John, O. E. Stone, W. C. Cook, Alex McGinnis, J. H. Bailey, Dr. J. W. Beuhler, Jacob Pluess, Alford Page, J. C. Payne, H. E. Stone, E. J. Farr, George Astle, Sylvester King, Holmes C. Keysar, Dietrich Grotophorst.

On the second day the program started at 10:00 a.m. with music by the band. Prayer was offered by Rev. M. R. Laird, followed by a song by the High School Ladies chorus. The address was given by Rev. F. L. Roberts. The ball game was between West Point and Mazomanie. Dinner and supper were served in the pavilion. In the afternoon was another ball game, this one between Lodi and Middleton. The band played during the dinner hour and afternoon and evening. The third day followed somewhat the same program with the main address given by C. E. Whelan, National Lecturer of the Modern Woodmen. There was a Forester Drill team contest for a \$50.00 purse and the ball game was between Cassell and Prairie du Sac. The printed program stated "The greatest display of

artistic fireworks ever witnessed in a place of this size will be made Friday evening, Aug. 2. Don't miss it."

A subsequent issue of the *Sauk County News* gives the financial report of the Homecoming. It shows donations of \$1.00 and \$2.00 from various citizens and business places, including one of \$15.00 from F. Effnger (F. Effnger refers to Fred of the Effnger Brewing Co. of Baraboo.) and one of \$5.00 from J. S. Tripp. Receipts from meals served (at 25¢) totalled \$201.35, from ice cream stand, \$51.84, from lemonade stand, \$158.86. Total receipts were \$513.03 and total expenditures, \$511.53, leaving a balance on hand of \$1.50.

(The above information was taken from issues of the *Sauk County News* in possession of Mrs. George V. Accola.)

Excerpts of Letters Appearing in the *Sauk County News*

At the time of 1907 Homecoming, Charles Osgood wrote that he lived in Clifton in 1866, but that he spent most of his time in Prairie du Sac while working for Charles Evans as a painter.

At that time hundreds of rafts of logs and lumber went floating down the river every season.

J. J. Ochsner kept a shoe store and Andrew Tarnutzer had a store that contained about everything in the world. Thomas Baker was postmaster and did some boot and shoemaking on the side.

Archibald Moore had a hardware store and tin shop. (This was where the Prairie du Sac Feed & Coal Co. is located, at the corner of Prairie St. and Water St.). Just north was an apothecary shop (the old Ochsner house) and the Good Templar's Hall was on the second floor.

Werner's Lumber Yard was just above the old bridge. (This is where Jensen's mill is located.)

At that time Clifton had a post office, a wagon shop and a blacksmith shop.

At the time of the 1938 Centennial a daughter of John E. Wright gave the following information:

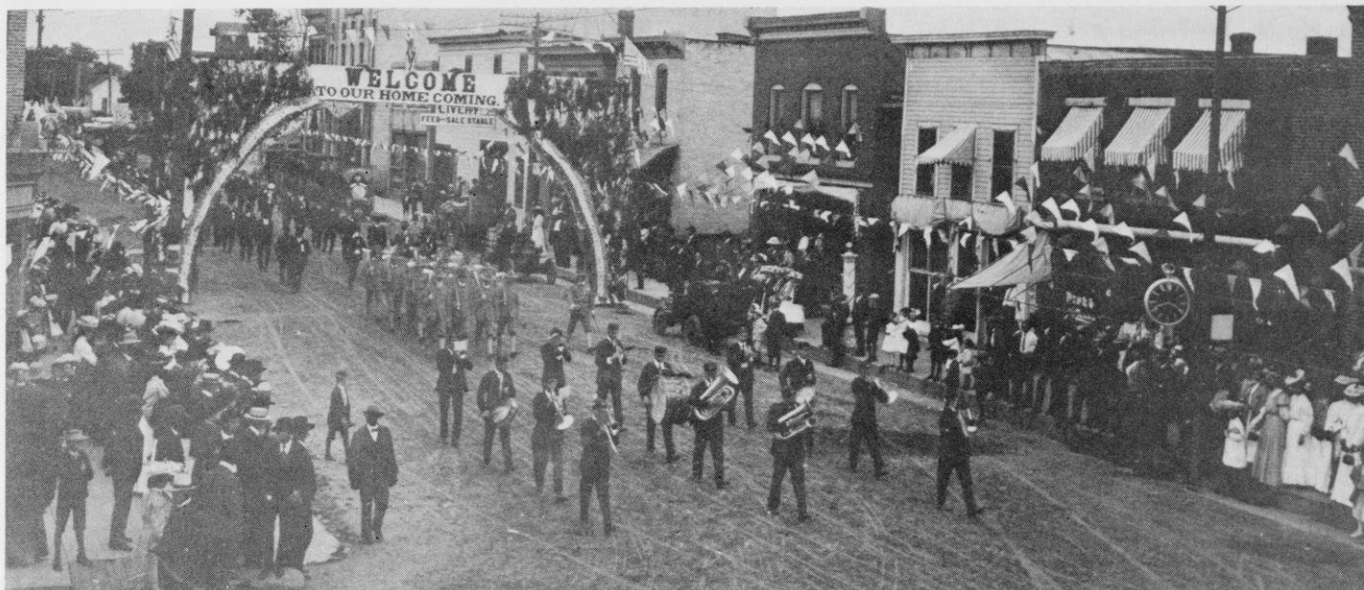
Some called Prairie du Sac "Obersac" and Sauk City "Untersac."

Auguston Haraszthy owned 160 acres between Sauk and Prairie, which was bought by John E. Wright, who built one of the first homes in Prairie du Sac, about 1850. (This is the property now owned by Mrs. J. U. Schmidt on Prairie Ave.) South of Wright's place was land owned by Chas. O. Baxter. Mrs. Elizabeth Mills, a widow, owned the property to the north. (In 1890, Mrs. Mills lived at the south west corner of Fifth and Washington Sts. She owned considerable property in the village and also in the town of Troy. Mills St., west of Lincoln Ave., may have been named after her. The 1887 assessment roll shows that she was assessed for personal property the sum of \$2950, which was a considerable amount at that time. She has an imposing monument in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.)

Wright built the two story building in Middletown, which was used by the Masonic Lodge from Sept., 1859, to Jan., 1865.

Houses from north to south in Middletown:

1. 30 x 60 property owned by Weinzierl, who had a harness shop in the front room. He, or his widow, moved to



1907 Homecoming Parade, led by the Prairie du Sac Band, followed by the Forester Drill Team and members of the Modern Woodmen of America Fraternal Lodge. The decorations and arch show the time and effort spent. Members of the band: Trombone—Dan Hutchins, Alto—Roy Stoddard, left snare drum—John Buehler, left cornet—Ed Just, middle cornet—George Just, clarinet—a Mr. Voss from Madison, base drum—Howard Baldwin, right cornet—Wm.

P. Just, right snare drum—Lloyd Tarnutzer, base horn—J. L. P. Accola, baritone—Chris Ragatz.

The Forester Drill team was sponsored by the Modern Woodmen. E. J. Farr, left front with white beard, was instrumental in organizing the team. George Woerth, extreme right front, was drillmaster. He was a member of the Illinois National Guard at the time. Fred Powers was drum Major. Picture courtesy of Elvin Accola.



Fourth of July parade in 1910. The use of cars in the parade while the buggies along side of Tarnutzer's Livery Stable stand idle is a sort of prophecy of the new mode of transportation to come. Picture by R. M. Anderson, courtesy of O. H. Cramer.



Team driven by Robert Waffenschmidt in the Royal Neighbor float, July 4, 1915. Sign on building at left, "Prairie du Sac Shoe Store." Selling Out sign in the window indicates a sale prior to the dissolution of the Schreiber and McPherson partnership. Picture by Photoart House, Madison, courtesy of Robt. Waffenschmidt.

the house which stood at the west approach to the present bridge.

2. The home remodeled by F. S. Eberhart. This was originally a large 2-story frame building owned by Bohnsack who operated a wagon shop.

3. A widow lived here (not named in the account). Miss Jennie Baker noted that a daughter later taught in the Prairie du Sac High School. This could be Anna Tarnutzer who taught from 1898 to 1899).

4. A substantial brick building used as a dwelling and shop, owned by Anton Haberman, a blacksmith.

On Water St. between Broadway and Washington, east side:

1. Road leading to the bridge.
2. Lumber yard.
3. Silas W. Corwith store and home.
4. Mrs. Mary Morrill's millinery shop.
5. Post Office and Shoe store of Thomas Baker.
6. House owned by Weinzeirl.

Excerpts From Autobiography of Mrs. Mary Atwood

"Mary Janet Atwood was born July 21, 1854, in the little frontier town of Prairie du Sac, Wis. It was early plotted into blocks and my father, Mr. F. A. Oertel, bought the northern part of Block 5 from Mr. George Owen in 1853 or 54 containing a wagon shop in the northeast part and the small house in which I was born. In 1860 he built the big stone house in the northwest corner of the block. We moved in during the winter of 1860-61 and it was my home until my fathers death.

"The Old Academy days gave happy playmates. Later I went to our State University where I spent four busy, but happy years and formed some friendships which have lasted a lifetime.

"After graduating with the Class of 1876, I began teaching in the Primary Dept. of our public school. I received a salary of \$20.00 per month for teaching the first four grades with 50 to 70 pupils each year. Mr. George Schneller, on the School Board told me I was not worth it—with no experience, but perhaps I could amuse the children while their mothers cooked the dinner. I taught nine years in this department with an overcrowded room.

"In 1889, during the early spring, I was very sick with rheumatic fever, I walked with a crutch and a cane that summer. Dr. Cummings said that I must spend the winter in the South, and recommended New Orleans as the hottest place he knew. I obtained a position in an American Missionary School with over 700 pupils and dormitories for boarders. I took my cane with me. I was there two years and baked all the rheumatism out of me. Then my mother was not well and I stayed at home for four years teaching fifth, seventh and eighth grades and assisting with high school pupils. Again in 1895 I went South and after several years I was married to President Atwood of Straight University. I generally spent my summers at home or at least a part of them. I came home when mother died, for three months. The last three years I did not teach as I was beginning to get deaf. I often wrote Mr. Atwood's private letters or heard his Latin class when he was very busy. The last year I was there I attended the Tulane University lectures.



Mrs. Mary Jane Atwood, at age 70. Picture by Seeley, Oak Park, Ill. Courtesy of Mrs. Garnet Race.

"In 1905, my husband resigned after forty years of continuous teaching. —We came to Prairie du Sac and moved into our new home in 1906. My husband chose the site because the hills across the river reminded him of his home in Vermont. Mr. Atwood died in October, 1909 and I have lived here all these years waiting and listening for the call that must soon come to me.

"—I have been in every state in the U.S. except Maine. I have been to Alaska and Canada. I have been over the border in Mexico. I have been to Japan and Hawaiian Islands. I have been to Europe. Should have liked to visit the Holy Land but the present people and all would have had to spoil all the imagery of Christ's time and I should like to keep that in my mind.

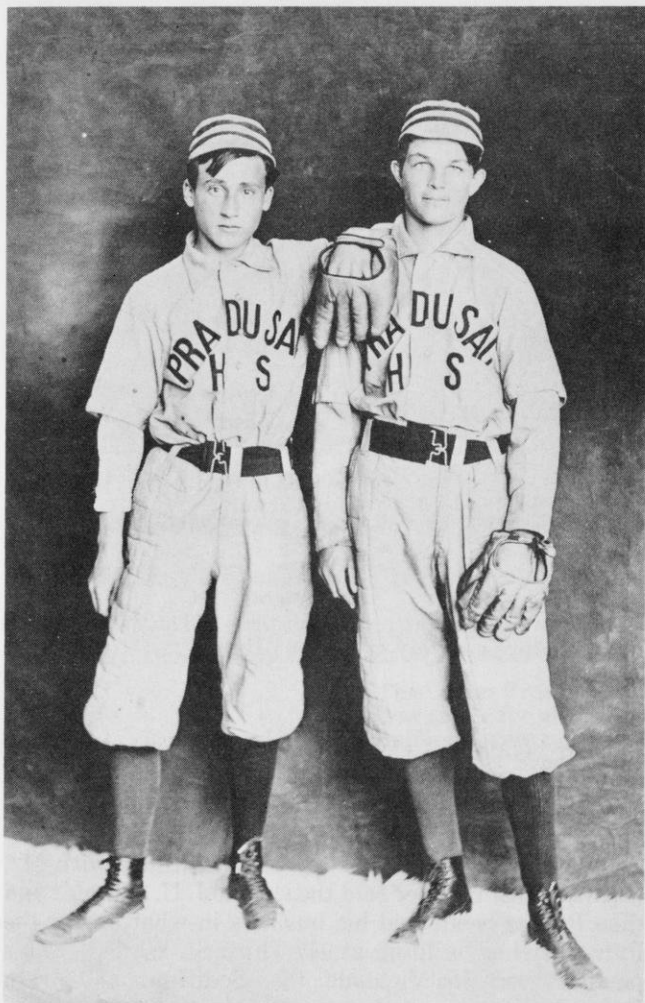
"—My motto since I was old enough to have one is that of our Literary Club, "While I live I will continue to learn." I have been especially interested in travels and education of all classes. I have never refused to help, whenever I could do anything connected with our school. Our young people need an education to compete with others and to make a civilized and Christian, peaceful and prosperous country in which to live.

"I would not change my life for that of anyone that I know. On the whole it has been a happy, peaceful and contented one. Prairie du Sac has been my home all my life. I think it the most beautiful spot on earth, the gem of the picturesque with its environments.

May God bless our little village and all its people".

"Auf Wiedersehen"

Mary J. Atwood.



Walter G. Doll and Louis Ferber



The baseball team in 1909. Seated: Walter Doll, Sidney Cook, Bill Ploetz, Roy Sisson, Harry Lindemer, Guy Albertus. Standing: Bill Schreiber, Wesley Sprecher, and Bert King.



Baseball team in 1912. Top row: Bert King, Byron Bickford, R. S. Babington, Webster Sprecher. Middle row: George Mockler, Art Lindemer, Oscar Vogel, Glen Wagner. Bottom row: George Albertus, Edwin Schneller.



The batter in the picture is W. G. Doll. The exact date when this picture was taken is not known, although it must have been about 1910. It shows a baseball game being played in Marion Park before any unit of the school buildings had been built. (It is unusual because of the location of the baseball diamond, which is near the northwest corner of the park. Most of the games were played in the southwest corner.) The diamond in the picture can be placed in reference to the homes shown. The first house on the far left is now

the home of Mrs. Mary C. Meyer, at the corner of Fifth St. and Grand Ave. Just north is the home of Martin Zech at 248 Fifth St. The white house nearest the park at the corner of Fourth St. and Grand Ave. is the home of Mrs. Mildred Zins, and north of that, the homes of Mrs. Amanda Schultz and Mrs. Raleigh Saxer. Note the many barns in the picture. Picture courtesy of O. H. Cramer from Horatio Moore's plates.

Sauk County News Items By Miss Jennie Baker

The following items were taken from articles written by Miss Jennie Baker and appeared in the *Sauk County News*:

The first stage coach arrived from Madison in 1844. Later the line was extended to the surrounding communities of Baraboo, Lodi, Denzer, Leland, Witwen and Black Hawk. The line was discontinued in 1918.

The old house which stood at the corner of First and Washington Sts. was floated down the Wisconsin River from the village of Newport. In 1885 it was the residence of Otis A. Kilbourn, who is listed as a stock buyer. When William Buehler built the present home, the old building was moved south on First St. and is now the residence of Rev. David Rath, at 247 First St.

The house which stood at the corner of Park Ave. and Washington St. was occupied by H. V. Page in 1885. Mr. Page was in partnership with A. H. Tarnutzer in a shoe store in the building at 639 Water St., later was post master and then clerk and bookkeeper in the Conger-Schoephorster store. When Albert Gruber built the present house, the old one was moved to what is now 366 First St.

The Hutter house at the corner of Third and Washington Sts. was owned by Mr. & Mrs. George Frost. Their son, Nathaniel, was captain of a regiment in the Civil War and died in service.

Miss Baker mentions a large flag suspended from the Tabor store to Kelsey's blacksmith shop. The Tabor store later became Schneller and Felix's and the blacksmith shop is now the Mockler building across the street.

Ragatz Family

In 1842, Bartholomew Ragatz, who with his family came from Switzerland, settled on land which became the first farm just south of the Ragatz or Honey Creek Church. Among his eight sons were George and Thomas.

The first George Ragatz located on the farm which is now owned by Wallace Enge located about one mile south and east of the village of Witwen. Among his four sons were George and Christ. This second George Ragatz married Anna Enge. They moved to Prairie du Sac and built the house at the corner of Fifth and Broadway just south of the Presbyterian Church. He clerked in Conger's Store. He died in 1896 at the early age of 38 years, leaving his widow and a son, Arthur.

Christ Ragatz first moved to the village of Black Hawk where he worked as blacksmith in partnership with Louis Quarhammer in the years 1885-93. He had married Margaret Felix and while living in Black Hawk two children were born to them: Erna (Mrs. Carl Stark) and Gert-rude (Mrs. Loren Webb). In 1893 they moved to Prairie du Sac and while their house was being built at the corner of Seventh and Broadway, at the curve, they lived in the M. S. Moore house located at the corner of Fifth and Galena Sts., where the Evangelical Church now stands. A son, Cecil, was born to them in Prairie du Sac, in 1902.

Christ had formed a partnership with George Doll in a combined blacksmith and wagon shop, which was purchased from Edward Oertel and was located at what is now 225 Galena St. When George Doll went into the implement business with his brother John about 1904, Will



Ragatz Band. On the ground, left to right: John Buehler, Howard Baldwin, Lloyd (Tip) Tarnutzer. Second row: Chas. Haberman,—, Roy Stoddard, George Just, Dan Hutchins. Standing: Christ Ragatz,—, Will Just, Ed Just and J. L. P. Accola.

The picture was taken in front of the band stand in Marion Park. Picture courtesy of Warren Hart.

Buehler bought out Doll's interests and formed the new firm of Ragatz & Buehler.

In 1912, Mr. Ragatz opened a music store in the north annex to Tabor's Hall. He was in this business for two years when he again took up blacksmithing with Mr. Buehler until Buehler sold the shop to J. U. Schmidt and then Ragatz conducted his business in what is now the Pulvermacher building at 647 Third St. While here his partners were Joe Vitenda, John Schiffman and Ervin Davis. Mr. Ragatz died in 1926 at the age of 63.

To those who knew Mr. Ragatz he meant music, bands, choirs. He was instrumental in promoting the organization of many musical groups, both in the church and in the community. He served as superintendent of the Evangelical Sunday School; he was long-time director of the church choir and as such conducted the annual Christmas and Easter cantatas; he organized and conducted bands and orchestras, including an all-girls band of about twenty members. All of this was done without receiving any money compensation. Today he might be called "Mr. Music Man."

When Thomas Ragatz died in 1890 at the age of 54, his widow and her family moved to Prairie du Sac into the house at the corner of Fifth and Broadway. When William Sprecher built the present house on this site, the Ragatz house was moved just south on Fifth St. by Howard Johnson and is now owned by the Adolph Schlappbach Estate.

The sons of Thomas Ragatz who established themselves in Prairie du Sac were John J., Joseph B., T. Henry and Edward J.

John had married Anna Tarnutzer, a school teacher, and they lived in the house at 569 Seventh St. Three sons were born to them: Lowell, Roland and Roy.

John started a jewelry store in the present Accola & Osterfund building at 671 Water St. shortly after this former school building had been moved here in 1891. Originally it was the former academy building located on the south of the Presbyterian Church. Then it was moved



The Ladies Brass and Reed band was organized in 1912 and was active for about 4 years. Both the summer and winter uniforms were made by the mothers of the musicians including the hats. From left to right: Erna Ragatz, Emma Schara Vera McCoy, Rose Koch, Florence McPherson, Louise Koch, Constance Lernerz, Christie McPherson, Ruth McPherson, Esther Myers, Gertrude Ragatz, Clara Koch, Juliet Bernhart, Margaret Gasser, Elsie Baumgerth, Helen Haberman, Leona Dresen, Fay Fiske.



Ladies Brass and Reed Band, 1913. Standing in the rear is Christ Ragatz, band leader. The young man on the left is his son, Cecil (Second Row). Standing, left to right: Leona Dresen, Juliet Bernhard, Christie McPherson, Erna Ragatz, Margaret Gasser, Constance Lennartz, Emma Schara,

Florence McPherson, Louise Koch, Vera McCoy, Fay Fisk, Clara Koch, Helen Haberman and Esther Meyers. Kneeling, left to right: Rose Koch, Frances Powers, Gertrude Ragatz and Ruth McPherson. Photo by F. S. Eberhart.



Taxidermist Ed Ochsner standing beside his Fourth of July float near the band stand in Marion Park. Ochsner's life-time collection of stuffed animals and birds is on display on the second floor of the library. Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's plates.

to the school yard and served as a public school until it was moved in 1891 to make room for the present red brick building. E. D. Gruber, Sr. bought this former school building in 1902 for a furniture store and then John J. and Edward opened a jewelry store in the building now occupied by Eileen's Flower Shop at 608 Water St. In addition to the jewelry business, John also fitted glasses, a profession he followed when he moved to Madison where he opened an office in Radcliffe's Jewelry Store at the corner of Main and Pinckney Sts. When the Tenney Building was erected on this site, Mr. Ragatz moved to Baron's Store where he continued until his death in 1940. He is buried in Madison.

Joseph B. Ragatz built the house at the corner of Sixth and Broadway at what is now 575 Broadway. Joe is best remembered as being associated with village government, but in his early years he was in the mercantile business. From 1888 to 1895, he was associated with George Kindschi and Florian Gasser in the clothing business located on the first floor of Tabor's Hall. In 1895, Ragatz & Gasser moved to what is now the Red Arrow Restaurant building at 585 Water St. and continued the dry good business at this location until the partnership ended with the death of Mr. Gasser in 1909. The enterprise ended with a disastrous fire in 1913.

J. B. Ragatz served on the Village Board for 20 years, from 1902 to 1922 and as Village Clerk for 14 years from 1922 to 1936. He was long-time Justice of the Peace and during this period he was also agent for various fire insurance companies. He served one term in the State Legislature and was thereafter known as the Honorable J. B. Ragatz. He died in 1936 and left his widow and a son, Joseph.

Henry Ragatz was a dentist. His first office was above the furniture store and then above the bakery from 1902 to 1917 and from 1917 to 1946 above the Peoples State Bank building located at the triangle on the corner of Water and Galena Sts. He died in 1946 and left his widow and daughters, Kathryn and Frances.

Edward J. Ragatz was in partnership with his brother John in the jewelry business, in the building at 608 Water St. They combined this with optometry. When his mother died he and his family moved into her house at the corner of Broadway and Fifth St. Six children were born to them while they lived in Prairie du Sac, one child died in infancy.

The family moved to Madison in 1925 where Ed opened an office on E. Washington Ave. where he operated the Madison Industrial Vision Service in which he examined eyes and fitted glasses as needed for various firms, including Oscar Mayer and Gisholt.

Ed died in 1935, leaving a widow and the following children: Mrs. Helen McCormick, Madison; Edward, Stanley, Wis.; Donald J., Sauk City, Wis.; William G., Madison, and Mrs. Emily Kuehni, Madison. Ed is buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery along with his wife, who died in 1966.

The Ochsners

John Jacob Ochsner was born in Switzerland in 1829 and came to this area in 1854. In 1868 he bought the property where they lived at 715 Water St. which was the former Bassinger Drug Store and is one of the oldest houses in the village. This property was in the Ochsner family for 80 years. He also owned the property at 370 Prairie St. where his son Edward lived. The assessment

roll of 1887 shows he owned lots 5, 6 and 7 of Block 6, which extended from the hotel building at 625 Water St. to the hardware store of Accola & Osterfund.

Mr. Ochsner was an apiarist and bought furs and hides for about 50 years. His place of business was just north of the hotel, where he later operated a variety store. He died in 1912.

His children were Benjamin, Edward, Emma and Washington. Ben is listed as a teacher in the 1890 directory, but is best remembered as a successful surgeon practicing in Durango, Colo. He was also nationally known as a photographer and was a national champion pistol shooter.

The Nov. 21, 1941, issue of the *Wisconsin State Journal* describes the work of Ed as a taxidermist, covering a period of over half a century. He was a "walking encyclopedia, a book, on outdoor life in this part of the state." He was consulted by the State Conservation Department if it wanted a grade-A job in taxidermy. "He could detect a faulty curve, a misplaced feather or a foot a fraction of an inch off the balancing point" on a stuffed bird. He was untrained in his profession but often called upon by men of science to help with their problems. Ed was also an apiarist, a fur buyer, a crack pistol shot and was widely known for his dog kennels. His neighbors knew about the dogs, too.

In 1934, Ed and his brother Ben donated to the public library Ed's fine collection of mounted animals consisting of all kinds of birds and furred specimens of about 1000 in number. This collection may be seen on the second floor of the library.

Washington graduated from the Prairie du Sac High School with the class of 1899 and is shown as a pole vaulter on a picture of the high school track team of 1897. Before the use of electric street lights there were kerosene lamps placed on 6-8 ft. poles which needed to be manually lighted each evening. Wash had this job and used a bicycle with a high front wheel which enabled him to reach the lamps without the use of a ladder. Later he moved to California, became a geologist and acquired oil lands, which made him wealthy. He died in California.

Emma, remembered for her attractive red hair, spent most of her adult life teaching school, first in Prairie du Sac and then in Baraboo.

Knights of Pythias

Twin City Lodge #186, Knights of Pythias, was initiated and the officers installed by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin on March 31, 1921. This first meeting was held in the Bonham Theater in the afternoon and evening with time out for lunch in the Marion Park Pavilion. Following are the charter members: W. A. Schreiber, Lawrence R. Sprecher, Joe F. Meyer, Wes Davis, Earl McFarland, Thane E. Dodge, Robert Aton, Claude L. Richardson, L. J. Steuber, Earl E. Bonham, Guy Albertus, Fred Lemm, John H. Schreiber, Orlin Bonham, W. H. Schnellenberger, Edw. A. Zick, Albert H. Tarnutzer, Leslie Saubert, Henry G. Felix, E. J. Ragatz, R. A. Schlag, M. C. Hiddeson, John C. Westmont, Henry Malone, Roland Steuber, H. Orson Powers, H. V. Page, C. H. Steuber, C. H. Lehmann, Louis Voss, Alex Ferber, Richard Ziemke, A. E. Von Wald, L. A. Ziemke, H. A. Page, Jas. S. Flatland, Frank

Vondrasek, Clifford Metcalf, Ivan H. Ley, John A. Radlund, Roy S. Powers, John Meisser, Walter G. Doll, W. H. Price and J. U. Schmidt.

During the first few years of the Lodge's existence, the meetings were held in Steuber's Hall. In 1924, the lodge with the Royal Neighbors lodge bought the old Methodist Church on Sixth St. and have owned it since that time. The basement was made into a dining room and a new heating system installed. This gave the two lodges a good-sized and commodious meeting place.

The lodge had the highest membership of 73 in 1923. For the past several years few meetings have been held.

The following are the living Past Chancellor Commanders: Gerald Albrecht, Robert Aton, Lloyd Bittner, Chas. Bole, W. G. Doll, Wm. G. Evenson, Albert H. Kohlman, Emil Morter, H. T. Shields, John Winiger and Clarence Zimmerman.

King's Daughters

On Aug. 21, 1924, the former members of the M. E. Ladies Aid Society met in the home of Mrs. Addie Sisson for the purpose of organizing a club to take the place of the above named society. It was decided to organize a club.

They adopted the following bylaws: One. That the rate of \$1.00 a year for dues be paid by each member either annually or semi-annually as best suited to the individual; these payments to be made at the last meeting in the months of March and September. Two. That the serving of refreshments be restricted to three articles: Two eats and a drink. Three. That the privilege of inviting guests be left to the hostess who may invite as many as she desires.

The first officers to be elected were: Mrs. Addie Sisson, President; Mrs. Lydia Davis, Vice-President; Mrs. Minnie Tarnutzer, Secretary; Mrs. Clara Daugherty, Treasurer. Other members mentioned were: Mrs. Sorg, Mrs. Weynand, Clara Schwanke. At the next meeting held on Sept. 30, 1924, four more names were added: Mrs. Eberhardt, Mrs. McCoy, Mrs. Metcalf and Mrs. Dresen. Here it was voted to call the club the King's Daughters. Money was to be raised through the sale of fancy work, quilts, candy, rugs and food. The purpose of the club was to do good wherever needed and contribute of the meager resources to the needs of people and groups as they would hear about them.

Through the years, contributions were made to the Easter Seal Society, Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital to which they gave a walker and wheel chair, American Cancer Society, Kiddie Camp Fund, La Crosse Flood Victims, Community Chest, March of Dimes, Park Plaque, Fire Department Building Fund, and many needy individuals, to name some of the recipients. At the early meetings from five to ten members were present. It seems surprising that so much good was accomplished with such a small number.

The last meeting recorded in the minute book was on Aug. 22, 1968, when \$258.65 was given to the Sauk Prairie Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, and the organization known as the King's Daughters disbanded. The last president was Mrs. Wilson Hoppe and the last secretary was Miss Leona Wehner. Other officers in the later years were Mrs. John Rieser, Mrs. H. H. Grotophorst, Mrs. Kate Wafenschmidt and Mrs. Pruda Hart.

The following article appeared in Betty Cass's column in the *Wisconsin State Journal* in 1938.

Dear Betty:

I'm up here on what is known as Sauk Prairie, directing my seventy-teenth pageant (I've lost all count) and am I getting sold on this region! It has everything—a broad level prairie that stretches for miles yet one can always see the hills that encircle it; a beautiful river that's all spread out for the dam which makes a marvelous waterfall; and every morning when I awake I look out at a gorgeous sunrise over the wooded bluffs on the east side of the river. The only thing that makes me marvel is that there are not more August Derleths, Mark Schorers and Marcus Bachs, inspired to write, sing or paint when every day one is surrounded by such beauty. You should come up here and sojourn a while yourself.

Now after this eulogy can you wonder that I am enthusiastic about the big historical pageant we are staging on the nights of Aug. 11 and 12, here in Marion Park at Prairie du Sac. You know, of course, that every community can boast of unique features that will make good pageantry which belongs only to that place. But these two towns, Prairie du Sac and Sauk City, which we are combining with the whole region here in this great bowl into Sauk-Prairie have an unusual number of such features.

I wonder how many know that Black Hawk was probably born on this prairie and here across the river at Wisconsin heights he met his first crushing defeat in the Black Hawk war. Jonathan Carver visited the Sac Indians here at about the time of Black Hawk's birth and wrote that here he found the most civilized and prosperous and peaceful Indians in the territory which had been claimed as French territory and which the British were still hoping to hold on to.

Is it any wonder that Berry Haney, the stage coacher from Mineral Point to Portage, had long been casting covetous eyes across the river at this fertile region and that he should be the first to drive a stake in it, the minute he knew the American government was going to drive the Indian out lawfully or unlawfully? Can you blame the colorful Hungarian Count Haraszthy exclaiming to his father, "Eureka, Father, we have found the real Eldorado"? Through his influence Sauk-Prairie became the center of many of Europe's best and most cultivated citizens from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland who came here seeking a haven of freedom to think and work as their conscience dictated. To them a cabin in the wilderness was preferable to a palace that had become a prison. Here dwelt and worked in his garden F. G. H. Leuder, the great botanist; here herding sheep for the count was Edmund Juessen, a cousin of Carl Schurz and a graduate of the University of Bonn. Upon his arrival here he dramatically threw away his sheepskin and became a shepherd. Here, too, sojourned and taught, and ministered to his parishioners the little priest, Father Adelbert Inama, known as the Apostle of the Four Lakes region and here settled the great Swiss families of Ochsner and Ragatz and Kindschi. I might go on indefinitely telling you about the many dramatic incidents and colorful characters I have discovered in my research.

MR. L. E. SCHULTZ is chairman of the Centennial, and August Derleth of "Wind Over Wisconsin" fame is production manager. I'm afraid the pageant is keeping him from doing his daily stint of a poem a day or 4,000 words on his new novel, which I believe will be the best yet.

Folks who come to the pageant should come early enough to stop at the town hall to see the splendid exhibit of Wisconsin birds, particularly ducks, that was presented by the Oschner brothers, E. D. and Dr. B. J.

There will be two ox teams in the pageant, one of them especially trained for the pageant by the Sprecher boys from Black Hawk.

County Judge Harry J. Bohn is lending the property committee the first old sodbusting plow to break sod in that section. An ox-team will be hitched to it and it will be used in an early pioneer scene entitled "There's Work to be Done," where we will run a fifty ring circus by having the men, women and children duplicate the candle-making, quilting, churning, cradle-rocking, cabin-building, grain-cradling, tree-cutting, fencebuilding, and other activities of pioneer days. Most of the people in this scene are rural folks from the Sumpter area.

THERE will be a scene presenting the building of the power dam which will be staged by the workmen there. The following men from Madison will represent themselves in their parts as the engineers, contractors, financiers, superintendents, etc. Among these will be Prof. Daniel Mead, Mr. C. V. Seastone, Mr. Grover Neff, and Mr. R. G. Walter. Mr. J. H. Verheyden will impersonate Magnus Swenson.

YOU'LL be interested to know that twenty-five years ago I started my professional pageant and writing and directing career right here at Sauk City. And many of the folk playing in this pageant were in my first one. For that first pageant I had Prof. Coerne, then head of the University school of music, compose some special music for "The Song of the West" which has been published and used extensively. We are using it again. Mr. John Mael of Madison has composed special music for an invocation for this pageant. He also has selected an old piece of music by John Forde called "Liberty and Home" that was given to us by Rasmus B. Anderson. We will sing it in the German scene.

By the way, we have a splendid sixty-voice mixed chorus that is being directed by Mrs. B. C. Lueders and a fine sixty-piece band under the direction of Melvin Schneider.

You should come up and take a look at all the historically-decorated store and home windows and see what a trimming and cleaning and painting the whole of Sauk-Prairie is getting, in order to receive all of its Centennial guests.—Ethel Rockwell.



Between 1938 and 1942 there was an active American Legion Band in the Sauk Prairie Community. They marched in the 1938 Centennial parade and in state and national American Legion Conventions. They played at County and State Fairs and for many local concerts on the library lawn as well as in Marion Park.

This picture, taken in 1938, contained these bandmen: 1st Row: Wallace Clavadatcher, John Koch, Lou Schultz,

Charles Ninman, Newton Witwen, Toby Clavadatscher, Clifford Meyer, Bob McFarlane, Ken Hall, Casper Schlungbaum. 2nd Row: John Gasser, Ed Wenzel, Norbert Schwarz, Merlin Gasser, Calvin Scharer, Harvey Accola, Vincent Schmidts. 3rd Row: Cecil Ragatz, Director, George Just, Dan Hutchinson, John Williams, John Ochsner, Gibbs Zauft. 4th Row: George Wintermantel, Gus Federman, Frank Little. Picture courtesy of Cecil Ragatz.

Civil War Records

Mrs. George V. Accola has in her possession an original record kept by Alexander McGinnis of the members of the 23rd Regiment during the Civil War. The papers are somewhat worn with age, but the fine meticolus hand-writing of Mr. McGinnis is easily read. I have copied part of the record, dated at Carrollton, La., Sept. 10, 1863.

A Record of the Members of Company "K",
23rd Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry,
For the Year ending Aug. 30, 1863, by Alexander McGinnis, First Segeant.

Nathaniel S. Frost, mustered as Captain of Co. "K", Aug. 10, 1862 at Madison, Wis. Died at Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 18, 1862, leaving a wife and one child at Prairie du Sac. (The parents of the Captain lived at the corner of Third and Washington Sts. at 284 Washington St.)

Ephraim Fletcher, mustered as 1st Lt., Sept. 7, 1862, at Madison, Wis. Captain at Arkansas Post, Jan. 3, 1863, resigned 7-30-63.

John B. Malloy, mustered as 2d Lt., resigned at Memphis, Tenn., 1-28-63. Has wife and 4 or 5 children at Prairie du Sac.

Basil Smout, born in London, Eng., age 27, occupation tinner, enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. Promoted from 1st Sgt. to 2d Lt. at Miliakens Bend, La., 3-19-63. Has wife and one child at Prairie du Sac.



Forester Drill Team. From left to right: E. J. Farr, Chas. Bickford, Edwin Doll, Walter Doll, Sidney Cook, Harold Keysar, Fred Powers, Emil Besiski, John Koch, Mike Just, Charles Meisser, Roy Powers, William Ploetz and George Woerth. White frame building on right is Meisser and Buehler's Monument Shop and north of that is Koch's Blacksmith Shop. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Pruda Hart.

Andrew J. McFarlane, from Sgt. Major to 1st Lt. 1-13-63, at Arkansas Post, wounded while skirmishing at rear of Vicksburg May 20, 1863. Died at Portage City 7-4-63.

Alexander McGinnis, age 31, born Tyrone Co., Ireland, mechanic, enlisted Aug. 13, 1862. App. 5th Sgt. in place of Patchen, diseased, on Yazoo River, 12-27-62 to 1st Sgt. in place of Smout, promoted 4-1-63. Fought at Chickasaw Bayou, Fort Hinnaman, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black Pine Bridge, Vicksburg, Jackson and expedition to Dallas Station and Green Hill. (In Vol. 2 of Roster of Wisconsin volunteers, it states that Mr. McGinnis was wounded at Carrion Crow Bayou, La., and mustered out 10-18-64)

Frederick Waffenschmidt, born in Germany, farmer in Sumpter, enlisted 8-9-62 for 2 years. Died in hospital at Young's Point La., 8-5-63, leaving a wife in Prairie du Sac. Fought at Chickasaw Bayou and Expedition to Dallas Station.

John C. Link, born in Coblenz, Ger., age 26, enlisted 8-6-62, occupation, watchmaker. Battles: Chickasaw Bayou, Ft. Hinnaman, Port Gibson, Champion Hills, Black River Bridge, Vicksburg, Jackson and expedition to Dallas Station and Green Hill. Has wife and one child at Priaire du Sac. (Link's Jewelry Store in Prairie du Sac was in Zarwell & Klipstein's Furniture Store, as shown on picture elsewhere in this book)

Civil War Veterans buried in Prairie du Sac Cemetery:

| Name | No. of years served | Date of Death |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| James Bailey | 3 | 1920 |
| Rev. Frank Barrett | | 1898 |
| William F. Conger | 3 | 1918 |
| John Dieterle | 3 | 1925 |
| Augustus Dilley | 1 | |
| John W. Fancher | 2 | 1915 |
| Roswell M. Lyon | 3 | 1895 |
| Joshua M. McCoy | | 1911 |
| Joseph McGinnis | 4 | 1882 |
| Joseph A. Moore | 1/2 | 1936 |
| Alexander McGinnis | 2 | 1910 |
| Chas. Miller | 2 | 1911 |
| Fred Schoephorster | 1 | 1888 |
| William Sorg | | 1920 |
| Stephen St. John | 2 | 1929 |
| Theophilus Taylor | | 1868 |
| Chas. A. Young | | 1865 |
| Alonza Avery | 3 | |
| Alfred H. Armor | 3 | 1922 |
| Rev. Daniel Noyes | | 1862 |
| Andrew Herron | | 1916 |
| John Keller | | 1914 |
| Erhardt Kindschi | | 1911 |
| Wm. A. Johnson | | 1919 |
| Alvin Wiswal | | 1865 |
| James Sanderson | | 1864 |
| George L. Flanders | | 1905 |

In May 1863, a Ladies Soldiers Aid Society was organized and elected the following officers

President—Mrs. Joseph Keysar
Vice President—Mrs. George Frost
Treasurer—Mrs. Smith S. Wilkinson
Secretary—Mrs. A. J. Baker

Boxes were made up and money raised and sent to the Sanitary Commission to be distributed to the soldiers. Farmers from this area sent 20 bbls. of potatoes, 18 lbs. of honey, dried apples and 2 bbls. of onions.

The Society was disbanded on May 30, 1865.

The Tranquil Years

The years before 1914 might be called "The Tranquil Years" in Prairie du Sac and they might be called that in most any small community in America. They were years of isolation, of leisurely pace and slow tempo. Villages were isolated because of lack of daily papers, few telephones, no radio or television sets. Today London, Paris and Rome are household names and only hours away. Then they were names in the history books, and Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Manila were places almost out of this world to most people. What happened in Berlin, Germany, or Sarajevo, Serbia, seemed of little consequence in our Village. To-day we must have the news every hour on the hour, but in 1900 once a week seemed sufficient and if not that often no one seemed to mind. To people living in a world of tension and fast tempo, the serenity of those days is beyond comprehension.

The quiet in our village was broken occasionally by a passing wagon and team kicking up a cloud of dust or splashing along in the muddy road. Or by a farmer on stock days who had stayed too long in the saloons and spent too much of his hog money, being too noisy starting out on his way home, sitting high up on his hog rack, building up his courage to face the unpleasant welcome he knew was waiting for him at home.

Or the quiet was broken by the sound of a stick being rubbed along a picket fence by a small boy, or by the whistle of the train as it pulled up to the depot on its thrice daily run, and if the wind was right by the clanging of the bell and the chug-chug of the locomotive.

In the evening you could hear the shouts of the boys and girls as they gathered in the school yard for games, and when it got darker, the sudden cry of "Run, Sheep, Run."

But the outbreak of World War I in August, 1914, ended America's isolation, and our village, like all other communities, has never been the same since. Sir Edward Grey, British statesman, said at the outbreak of the war, "The lights are going out all over Europe and we shall not see them lit again in our generation".

In 1960, the lights are not yet lit.

World War I Veterans

The following roster of World War I veterans hangs in the Village Library.

Roll of Honor
Prairie du Sac, Wis.
Respectfully Dedicated

To our Boys who joined the Army of Righteousness in the Cause of Humanity and Liberty.

A tribute to the courage and the valor with which they met the greatest crisis that a nation has ever known.

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Edwin Accola | Rees Schlag |
| Melvin G. Wagner | Carl H. Lehmann |
| Everett Oertel | H. Orson Powers |
| Ewald Kleinschmidt | Byron Bickford |
| Milton Fraust | Rollie Steuber |
| Edwin Schneller | Louis Schara |
| Roy S. Powers | William Fitzgerald |
| Walter Albers | George Mockler |
| Herbert Steidtman | Russell McGilvra |
| Dewey Albertus | Frank King |
| Edwin Kinzler | Henry G. Felix |
| Forrest Tabor | Harry Tabor |
| Edwin Willey | George Wintermantel |
| John Preuss | Earl Bonham |
| Ralph Stoddard* | Gus Preuss |
| Oscar Vogel | James Cramer |
| Julius Fenske | Walter G. Doll |
| Holmes Baldwin | Charles Meisser |
| Wm. A. Schreiber | Harwood Page |
| Albert Becker | Floyd Wegner |
| John Moely | John Welsch |
| John Held | Walter Ziemke |
| Elmer Clement | Oscar H. Reibe |
| Eldon Poetz | Leland Rose |
| Paul Schwartz | Bert King |
| John Joseph | Clarence Stelter |
| Edward Underholsner* | Edward Zick |
| Sidney Conger | Raymond J. Schwarz |
| W. A. Schoephorster | |

Men & Women Who Served in World War II.

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| Monroe Accola | Walter Markham |
| Edward R. Alwin | Earl Mettel |
| Robert Albertus | Anton B. Misk |
| Samuel R. Babington | LaVern M. Mueller |
| Russell Balfanz | Merton H. Murphy |
| Victor Balfanz | Edward Neumaier |
| Elijah J. Barrow | Maurice Neumaier |
| Gordon Bender | Roland Neumaier |
| Ryland Block | Emmert Oehrlein |
| Harold Buehlow | J. Wayne Page |
| John L. Cole | Dale A. Page |
| James Cramer* | Warren R. Page |
| John J. Doll | Derrill Quigley |
| Mary Ann Doll | Otis Quigley |
| Edward Feller | Dr. E. M. Randall |
| M. Wayne Gattshall | John Rosenbalm |
| Lawrence Gaval | R. Wm. Rosenbalm |
| Robert Giegerich | Eustace H. Ryan |
| Ivan Gruber | William Schoephorster |
| Dr. K. D. Hannon | Lou Schultz |
| Warren C. Hart | Page Schultz |
| Gerald Hehenberger* | Dwayne Schweppe |
| Carl Hutter | Clifford V. Stewart |
| Margaret Hutter | Obert C. Tabor |
| Neal Jenewein | Christian C. Waffenschmidt |
| William Jenewein | Lyman Waffenschmidt |
| Donald Kaufman | Thomas Waffenschmidt |
| John C. Kaufman | Donald Waydick |
| Dr. Donald Kindschi | Raymond Werla |
| Sylvian Kindschi | Ray E. Wilson |
| Donald Kinzler | Newland Zarske |
| Merlin Kinzler | Gibbs Zauft |
| Milton Laufenberg | Albert C. Zick |
| Harvey J. Leister | Lorin W. Zick |
| Carl W. Lemm | |
| Robert W. Malone | |

Veterans Day, Indeed

No matter what you may end up calling it, November 11 will always be Armistice Day to the Veterans of World War One.

Perhaps it was a gracious gesture to call it Veterans' Day and to lump all veterans together for one single observance day and to have done with it for another year. But it appears that when you attempt to honor too many people at one time, you usually end up honoring no one at all. They tried the same thing with Washington's birthday by attempting to commemorate all the Presidents in one lump sum.

Veterans have their own wars to think about and remember. We think of Verdun and San Mihiel, the Argonne, the Marne, and Flanders Fields. We remember Black Jack Pershing, Eddie Rickenbacker and Sergeant York. We think of Woodrow Wilson and Kaiser Bill, Marshall Foch and Von Hindenburg. We never forget the

Red Baron who saluted as he was shot down.

On Armistice Day we think only of the First World War. November 11th is certainly a day for remembering, especially for those of us who lived out those trying days in the perhaps vain hope of making the world safe for democracy.

We learned to sing with Katy's stuttering sweetheart, and of Madelon, of a Long, Long Trail Awinding, and of a town called Tipperary.

We, too, packed up our troubles in our old kit bags, and we, too, saw the roses blooming in Picardy.

It was "Over There," and "My Buddy," and "Hinky Dinky Parles Vous."

That is what the Veterans of World War One remember.

Ed te Veltrup

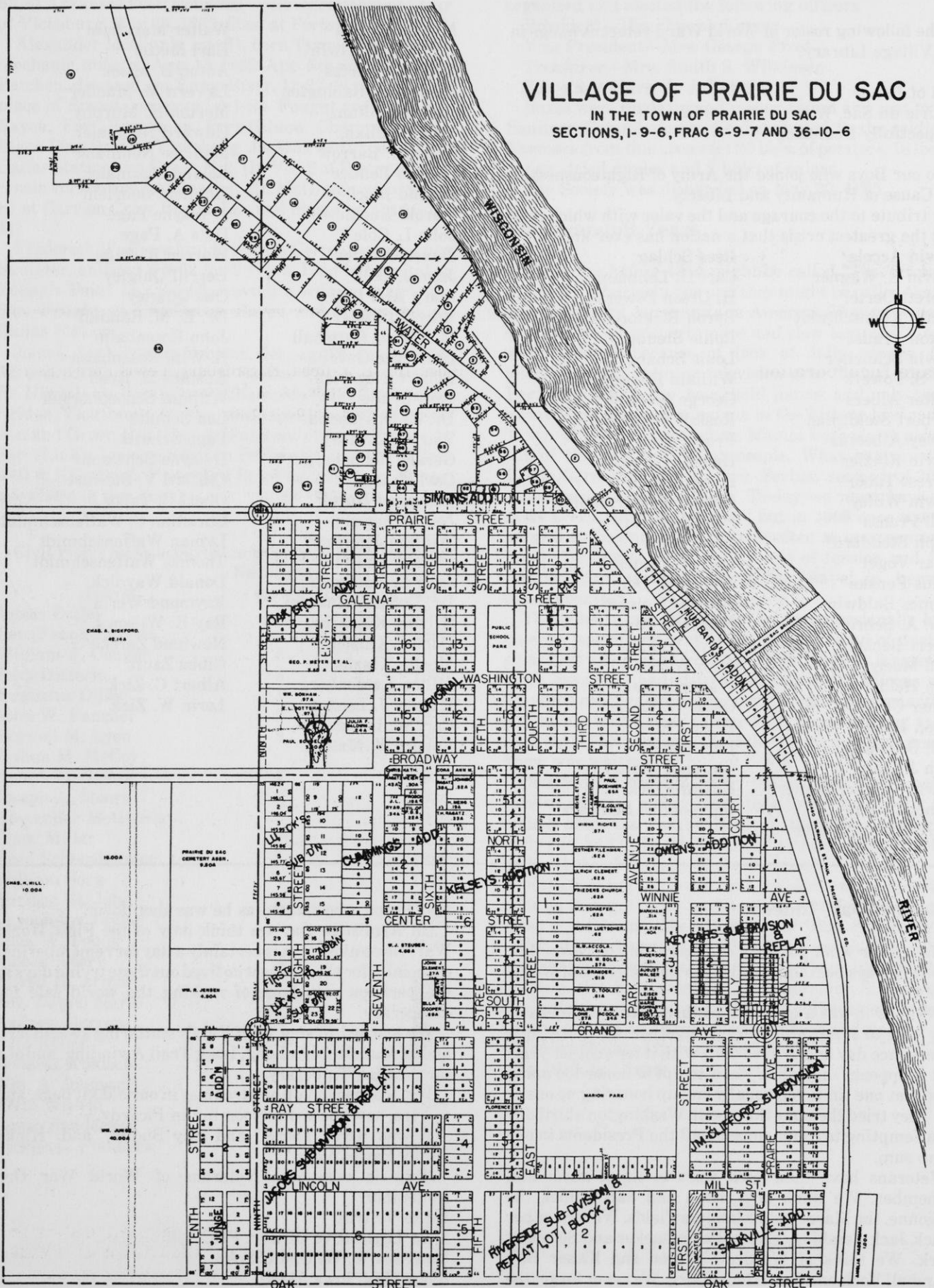
Iowa Legislative Officer, PDC

Veterans W. W. One U.S.A.

Sioux City, Iowa 51250

VILLAGE OF PRAIRIE DU SAC

IN THE TOWN OF PRAIRIE DU SAC
SECTIONS, 1-9-6, FRAC 6-9-7 AND 36-10-6



Village Matters

Village Incorporation

The Village of Prairie du Sac was incorporated on October 24, 1885, 75 years ago this year (1960).

The original plat of the village was comprised of seventeen blocks, with one block set aside for a public school. The area covered by this original plat was bounded on the north by Priaire St., on the east by Water St., on the south by Broadway and on the west by Seventh St.

According to the first assessment roll on record, the owners of the various lots in these seventeen blocks were listed as follows:

- Block 1: Jacob Pluess, James Long, Kittie Howe, N. H. Briggs and David Meyers.
- Block 2: W. F. Conger, Cornelious Meyers, Thomas Baker, A. W. Young and A. Kilbourne.
- Block 3: J. H. Rose, Thomas Baker, Henry Glarner, D. R. Baxter and Christ Obrecht.
- Block 4: F. A. Oertel, Thomas Carey, H. V. Page, George Baldwin, Jacob Weynand and the Presbyterian Church.
- Block 5: Mrs. Frost, F. A. Oertel, D. R. Baxter and Thomas Carey.
- Block 6: Hannah Drew, J. J. Ochsner, Alex McGinnis, Jacob Hatz and Conger Bros.
- Block 7: Amos Farr, Ella Dirkee, J. H. Rose, Nathaniel Reuter, J. S. Tripp and Conger Bros.
- Block 8: Jeanette Kelsey, Florian Buehler and Mrs. R. Sawyer.
- Block 9: Charles Evans, Elizabeth Mills, James Christian and Mary Heron.
- Block 10: J. H. Rose, Jeanette Kelsey, Agnes Lotz and the Universalist Church.
- Block 11: E. A. Hyland, George Schneller, F. O. Sisson and John Keller.
- Block 12: George Ragatz, C. R. Riley, Elizabeth Mills and the Presbyterian Church.
- Block 13: E. C. Moore, A. P. Cummings and Martin Moore.
- Block 14: Hannah Drew, D. R. Grow, Peter Kindschi, and Martin Meisser.
- Block 15: George Baldwin, Pat Moran, Nathaniel Perkins and Mrs. J. Dodd.

Block 16: L. J. Reed, E. Salisbury, Lewis Ferry, E. T. Younde, O. B. Hubbard and H. M. Grow.

Block 17: Dick Grotophorst, J. A. Moore and C. P. Riley.

As far as can be determined, the only living descendants of the original owners of these lots who are still living on the same property as their ancestors are Mrs. Ruth Hutchins Accola on lot owned by H. M. Grow and Miss Anna Schneller on property owned by her father, George Schneller.

To the original plat, the following additions and subdivisions have been added to the village of Prairie du Sac, but not necessarily in this order: Jacob's, Cumming's, Kelsey's, J. M. Clifford's, Owen's, Hubbard's, Simon's, Key-sar's and recently those of Junge's and Luck's. There are four other additions: Saukville, Riverside, Oak Grove and the Assessor's Plat.

Village Sub-dividers

Following are a few facts about some of the afore-mentioned sub-dividers. No definite information was available on those omitted.

William T. Kelsey was the son of Samuel Kelsey, who was one of the earliest settlers in the village. William T. was the first village clerk and later was elected to the office of County Judge, which office he held with distinction from 1892 until his death in 1925.

Dr. Albion P. Cummings was one of the first physicians and druggists in the village. He lived in what is known as the Cooper house on Fifth St. across from the old grade school. The drug store was located in the building now occupied by Mueller's Drugs.

W. H. Jacobs donated the land for Marion Park, which he named after his daughter. Platted in 1896.

William Guysbert Simon gave his name to Simons Addition, which is a narrow strip of lots along the north side of Prairie Street. The records show that he bought this land and an area between Water Street and the railroad property north of Hubbard's Addition, from the U. S. Government, in 1845.

George Owen was born in England in 1821 and arrived in Prairie du Sac in 1842. He lived at the corner of Water St. and Broadway. This corner lot was in the name of

Cornelia Crossman, the widow of Lyman Crossman, who Owen married in 1852. According to the record, this land was originally owned by Charles Harasthy who sold it to Cornelia Crossman in 1845.

George Owen seems to have been quite a substantial citizen: a sub-division is named after him; he was one of the first trustees of the Prairie du Sac Cemetery Association; he was vice president of the Sauk County Old Settlers' Association; he was a member of the town board for eight years, six of which he was chairman; he owned quite a bit of land in the village, including the lots in Block 5 of the Original Plat on which stood his wagon shop and a house. The shop and house were bought by F. A. Oertel, according to his daughter, in 1853 or 54, but the deed shows 1860. Oertel continued to use the wagon shop until he and the Masonic Lodge built the present Masonic Hall in 1884. The first floor was Oertel's wagon and implement shop and the second floor was used by the Masons.

A *History of Sauk County* says, "A wagon shop was one of the first mechanical institutions of the place (Prairie du Sac). It was opened by George Owen in 1843, and to this gentleman belongs the distinction of having made the first wagon, constructed on modern principles, made in the county".

According to an account related by Miss Louise Bailey, one of these Winnie sisters visited the Owens one summer and Mr. Owen named a street, Winnie Ave., after her. This caused some consternation among the local citizens as they thought she was not identified enough with the community to have a street named after her. A better name might be Atwood Ave. to honor one of Prairie du Sac's most loved and esteemed citizens, Mrs. Mary Atwood.

Owens died in 1893 (at the age of 72) and when his wife, Cornelia, died in 1894 (at the age of 83), the property was transferred by will to her sister, Mrs. Mary Ann Winnie, who sold it to August Graff in 1898. The house that Owens lived in was moved to the opposite corner on Holly Court to make room for a new house that was built by Graff in 1912.

There is a memorial window in the Presbyterian Church in memory of George Owen and Cornelia Owen. They are buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

Miles Keysar was born in New Hampshire in 1823. Besides working on his father's farm, he taught country school for two years. He came to Prairie du Sac in 1848, where he worked as a carpenter for three years and earned enough capital to enter the lumber business, then transferred his interests to the mercantile trade. In 1857 he erected a building which later became Conger's Store. He was in this store until 1861 when he sold his holdings and entered the grain and stock business, which occupied his time until his retirement in 1889. He also was associated with most of the civic, commercial and social affairs of the village until his death in 1901, which ended a successful career of 53 years in village affairs.

He was one of the principal owners of the *Ellen Hardy*, a steamship plying between Prairie du Sac and Portage. And it was largely through his efforts that the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul railroad was induced to build the road to Prairie du Sac, which helped to bring about the decline of the little community of Clifton on the opposite side of the river.

He built what was then (1869) the largest grain elevator in the county and the only one in this section. This elevator was located on the river bank and beside the railroad tracks in back of what is now 720 Water St.

He built the large 3-story commodious and pretentious house on an elevation overlooking the Wisconsin River at the corner of Water St. and Winnie Ave. Some of the interior furnishings were imported and the furniture came from Marshall Field in Chicago.

In 1850 he was married to Barbara Stevens who died in 1853. There were no children of this marriage. In 1860 he was married to Stella Lawrence, who is the Mary S. on the tombstone. She was the daughter of Mrs. Elizabeth Mills. Two children were born to them, Lawrence M., who died in 1879 at the age of 17 and Miles H., who died in 1896 at the age of 22. Stella died in 1878 and in 1880, Keysar married Mrs. Jeanette (Lyon) Lay, who was better known as Jennie. She was born in Vermont in 1840 and died in Prairie du Sac in 1925. She is remembered as an aristocratic and much respected lady, who was identified with many community and church projects. She furnished room and board for Rev. Clarence McCartney while he was student pastor of the Presbyterian Church while attending the University of Wisconsin, 1903-05, and also for Rev. Melvin Laird. Dr. McCartney later became pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Pittsburg, Pa., which he served for 37 years and which had a membership of 2500 in 1952. He received the highest honor of the Presbyterian Church, that of Moderator. Wm. Jennings Bryan proposed his name for this post in 1924. Rev. Melvin Laird, who was pastor here from 1905-11, was the father of Congressman Laird.

In the abstract covering the Keysar property on Water St. it shows that Elizabeth Mills acquired the 6¼ acres included in the transfer from Edward A. Tappan for \$500. Tappan had bought it from Auguston Haraszthy. Mrs. Mills transferred it to her daughter Mary Stella Keysar for \$2000, which would indicate that a house had been built on the property sometime between 1851 and 1866. This house was removed to the corner of 5th and Center Sts., now at 306 Fifth St., when Keysar built the new one in 1889.

Another abstract shows that Keysar owned the lots at the corner of 5th St. and Broadway, which for a long time was known as the Ragatz house, which later was moved to the lot just south of the corner. While living here he was interested in horse racing and had a track around the two adjoining blocks, which accounts for the rounded corner at Broadway and 7th St.

In 1903, Keysar's Sub-division and Replat was platted as shown on village maps, so that his name will be perpetuated as long as the village stands. Mr. Keysar died Oct. 26, 1901. A tall shaft marks his resting place in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

Incorporation Petition

On Sept. 16, 1885, a petition was presented to the Sauk County Circuit Court for the incorporation of the Village of Prairie du Sac, giving a description of land which was to be included in the area, which included 528.83 acres. The description of this land covered four pages of fine writing. The following is a list of the taxpayers who signed the petition:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Edward Oertel | F. A. Roll |
| George Schneller | Florian Gasser, Jr. |
| E. C. Moore | E. C. Wiswall |
| C. P. Riley | W. F. Conger |
| Henry Glarner | Jacob Hatz |
| John S. Conger | F. A. Oertel |
| Wm. L. Patterson | D. S. Conger |
| A. M. Bickford | Jacob Pluess |
| A. P. Cummings | Florian Buehler |
| M. Willis | J. H. Bailey |
| John Fey | Geo. W. Baldwin |
| A. G. Baldwin | J. A. Moore |
| Valentine Accola | C. H. Stoddard |
| D. Grotphorst | |

On July 17, Sarah J. Baker took a census of the area to be included and found the population to be 526. She charged \$10.00 for this service, but it wasn't until Aug. 6, 1887, that the Board authorized the payment of this bill.

On Sept. 14, the Notice of Incorporation was published in the *Sauk County News* and these additional names appeared in the notice:

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Thomas Baker | John W. Buehler |
| August Sprecher | Holmes C. Keysar |
| J. H. Rose | J. S. Waterbury |
| A. Hill | A. S. Waterbury |

On Sept. 21, the Court ordered an election to be held. The notice of the election was published in the *Sauk County News*, giving the date as Oct. 17 and was to be held in the feed store of Alexander McGinnis. There were 122 votes cast, 61 voting "yes" and 61 voting "no". The tie vote required the drawing of a ballot out of a hat. John Meyers, a qualified elector, was chosen to make the draw, which was for incorporation.

The date for incorporation was Oct. 24, 1885.

For the purpose of incorporation an election of Village officers was required and at this election 124 votes were cast, with the following result:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Village President: | F. A. Oertel |
| Trustee: | A. M. Bickford, J. H. Rose Jacob Hatz and J. B. Patterson |
| Clerk: | Thomas Baker |
| Treasurer: | E. C. Moore |
| Supervisor: | J. S. Tripp |
| Marshall: | Elihu Meyers |
| Constable: | Samuel Pry |
| Police Justice: | Edward Oertel |

The first annual election held May 4, 1886, resulted as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Village President: | E. J. Farr |
| Trustees: | D. S. Conger, J. B. Patterson Peter Kindschi, Jacob Meisser A. M. Bickford, A. Fischer |
| Clerk: | W. T. Kelsey |
| Treasurer: | E. C. Moore |
| Supervisor: | M. L. Patterson |
| Marshall: | Elihu Meyers |
| Constable: | A. W. Young |
| Police Justice: | Edward Oertel |

It is interesting to note that Thomas Baker had considerable difficulty in getting his bill for expenses for incorporation paid. Several motions to pay the bill were lost and other bills that were presented were placed on file. It was finally paid on April 2, 1888.

Important Dates in Village History

- 1885—Village incorporated
- 1890—First street lamps
- 1893—Fire Company organized
- 1896—First electric street lamps
- 1912—Corner stone of Village Hall laid
- 1914—Electric and Water systems inaugurated
- 1916—Brick pavement on Water St
- 1923—First White Way
- 1932—Fire Company reorganized
- 1936—Sanitary Sewer System inaugurated

Items Appearing in the Minutes that Show the Changes that have Taken Place.

Common labor was paid at the rate of 15¢ per hour, later the pay was raised to \$1.50 per day. Man and team received 40¢ per hour. The salary of the Village Clerk was \$40.00 per year. At first the Trustees served without pay.

The problem of preventing stock from running at large and preventing obstruction of sidewalks by leaving teams unhitched. There was the problem of providing hitching facilities.

The question of erecting a windmill tower and tank at the public well.

Some one was given the job of raising and lowering the signal or weather flags. It seems that different colored flags were used for different kinds of weather.

The Board received a petition that some provision be made to take care of tramps.

There was the difficulty in getting to Baraboo to get legal advice from Attorney Herman Grotphorst.

There was the problem of lighting the street lamps; of building wooden sidewalks and what to do with them when they were replaced by cement; of furnishing a room for band practice.

In 1902, a petition was received from the residents in the northern part of the village requesting that a storm sewer be built to "conduct the water to the river instead of allowing the same to overflow their premises and thereby causing them great inconvenience and damage." (This problem bothered later boards)

There were many requests of citizens along Water St. to construct a sewer to the river.



Farmers' Day or Stock Day at Prairie du Sac, Jan. 25, 1909. Picture taken by R. M. Anderson. Shows part of Galena St., with the Doll building and Ragatz & Buehler's Blacksmith Shop on the left and part of Conger's Store on the right. Hogs and cattle were brought to the stock yards in these wagons.

After unloading, farmers tied their teams to the hitching posts while they exchanged their cash for needed supplies and refreshments. Note the dirt roads and the haphazard parking. Picture courtesy of O. H. Cramer.

In 1904, a committee was appointed to locate two dry wells in the "sink hole" near Valentine Accola's residence to connect with the sewer on Broadway and East St. (now 4th).

The tax levies varied from \$75 in 1888, \$56.38 in 1895 to \$950 in 1898. The tax levy in 1957 was \$141,000.00.

On three different occasions in the early period, citizens petitioned for a referendum on the matter of prohibiting the sale of liquor.

Village Hall

At first, the Board meetings were held in the office of whoever happened to be clerk, in the "Brass Band" room and in the room over the creamery, now the Prairie du Sac Feed & Coal Co. building.

The first mention of a Village Hall was in the minutes of Sept. 6, 1890, when \$50.00 was appropriated to furnish the hall. In the minutes of Feb. 1891, it shows a payment for one half year's rent to James Christian. (On an old map of the village it shows the Christian Plow Co. building on Water St. about where the Ford Garage is located.) This building was used as a village hall until Nov. 1892, when a part of the Keysar and Baldwin building was used. (This was the triangle building which stood where the north addition to Accola & Osterfund's Hardware store now stands.) In Dec. 1891, a committee consisting of Peter Kindschi, F. A. Oertel and W. C. Cook was appointed to draw up plans for a Village Hall.

On June 1, 1896, the hall then used was rented to the Modern Woodmen of America for one year for \$35.00.

On July 26, 1902, it was voted to hold a special election to determine if the village should buy the Baxter House, then owned by E. Zantow, for hall purposes for the sum of \$2000.00 and issue bonds for that purpose. The election was held on Aug. 15, resulting in a vote of 57 for, 34 against and one blank. The Board proceeded to purchase the building and insure it for \$800. It was first used in 1902 as a Village Hall. Part of the building was occupied by Thomas Baker and the Board had to negotiate with him to determine the amount of rent that he should pay, which sum was fixed at \$3.00 per month.

A committee was appointed to select appropriate rooms for the use of the Free Public Library. The Board voted to move the furniture from the Woodmen Hall to the new location and to move the jail and wood for heating purposes to a "more secure place". They voted to buy 30 chairs for use in the hall. Later it was voted to give the southeast room of the hall rent free to the "music band", providing they "keep the room in order and furnish their own light and wood".

The Clerk was instructed to buy spittoons as needed for the new hall and voted to take out the partitions on the second floor to make sufficient room for holding public gatherings and sociables.

In 1912, a standing committee consisting of Joe Dresen, J. B. Ragatz and E. D. Gruber was appointed to aid in planning for a new hall, and they were to serve without

compensation. No further mention is made regarding the work of this committee, but the Board later voted to tender J. S. Tripp a vote of thanks for his generous offer to donate the sum of \$10,000.00 for a hall and library building, the corner stone of which was laid in 1912, with the Masonic Lodge taking part in the ceremony.

The Ladies of Prairie du Sac purchased the land north of the hall and presented a bill for \$275.00, which was not allowed and on October 13, 1914, a deed for this land was handed over to the Village Board by the Ladies, for which they were tendered a vote of thanks in behalf of the Village.

The old hall was moved to Sixth St. and there used as a school building. Later a part of it was rented to the Y. M. C. A. This building was put up for sale at public auction on March 11, 1918, and bought by J. U. Schmidt. It was first used as a broom factory and later for storage and about 1956 sold to James Meier who tore it down and built a home on this site.

Village Library

When the old Baxter House was purchased for a Village Hall, a library was installed in two of the rooms. The library was under the control of the Public Library Association and the first board consisted of Rev. F. W. Umbreit, E. J. Farr, O. E. Stone, Rev. W. J. Turner, Miss Anna Schneller and Miss Ruth Hutchins (Mrs. J. L. P. Accola).

The minute book of the Library Board gives the following information:

On October 22, 1900, the Board decided to open the library for the first drawing of books on Saturday afternoon, October 27, and the band was asked to play in front

of the entrance during the reception. The reception committee was to consist of the two librarians, the officers of the Association and the Chairmen of the committees. The minutes stated that Miss Gattiker, the librarian, was cataloging the books, and instructing Miss Ruth Hutchins in the management of the library. Miss Sarah Jane Baker was the secretary at this meeting.

In July, 1901, the Library Board requested that the Village Board assume control of and maintain and support the library.

On August 12, 1901, Ruth Hutchins was appointed librarian at a salary of 10¢ per hour. The secretary, E. J. Farr, was instructed to make a request of the Village Board for funds for library purposes.

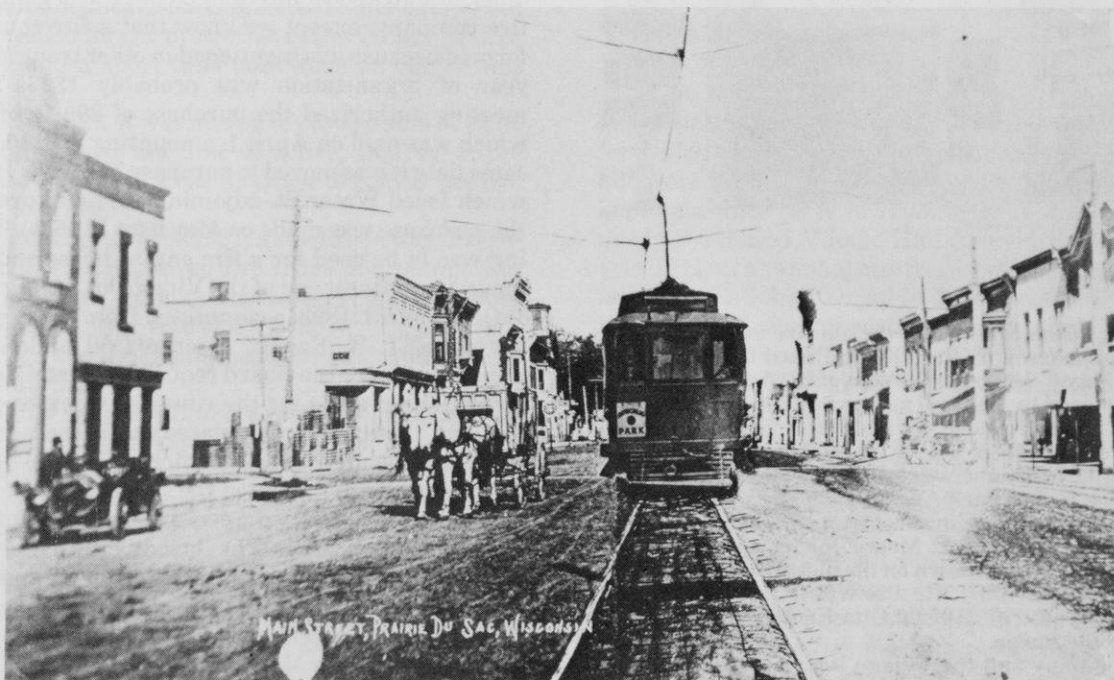
On September 24, 1901, the library hours were established, stating that the library should be open every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings. It was also decided that the money in the treasury amounting to \$20.53 be paid to the librarian for her past year's work.

On September 8, 1908, the Board accepted the resignation of Ruth Hutchins and appointed Vivian Reynolds to succeed her. The report shows that Miss Hutchins' salary for the previous year amounted to \$67.70.

On October 26, 1910, Vivian Reynolds submitted her resignation, which was accepted and Stella Carpenter was appointed in her place.

On December 1, 1913, Stella Carpenter resigned and Nellie Wakeley was appointed at a salary of \$3.50 per week. The library was to be open six nights a week and Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5.

On August 10, 1916, Louise Bailey was appointed librarian at a salary of 25¢ per hour during the hours when the library was open.



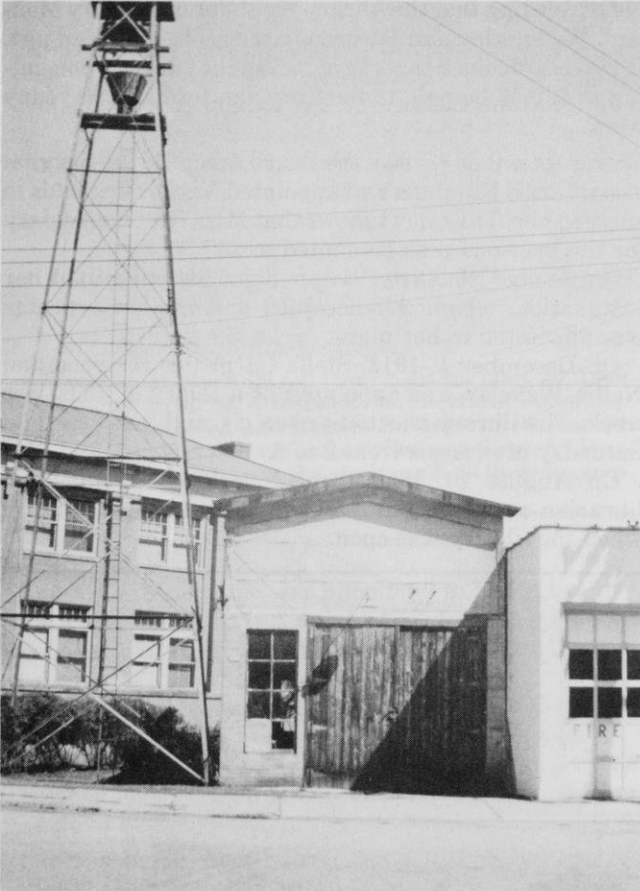
Street car and tracks superimposed on picture of business section. A local area man, Julius Wehner, tried to promote an interurban line from Madison to Sauk City and Prairie du Sac. By appealing to community spirit and local pride, he was able to sell some shares of stock in this venture, which, of

course, failed. The date on the certificates of stock in the Wisconsin Interurban System was 1916. Note: Tarnutzer's dray wagon and team; Model 10 Buick at left; bales of wire at the triangle; the southeast entrance to the Conger-Schoephorster Store. Picture courtesy of Ralph Marquardt.

In 1902 the Village appropriation to the Library was \$250; in 1916 it was \$600; in 1958 it was \$1500.

On May 22, 1934, the Village Board "gratefully accepted" the generous offer of Dr. Ben J. Ochsner, a distinguished former resident of the village, and of his brother, Ed Ochsner, a taxidermist of statewide reputation, of an outright gift to the public library of the fine collection of mounted animals consisting of all kinds of birds and furred specimens of about 1,000 in number, providing that the Board grant the necessary space in the Village Hall for display in cases to be furnished by the School District.

Miss Bailey resigned July 11, 1946, and Alice Graff was elected to succeed her beginning August 10, 1946, and she was to receive a salary of 60¢ per hour.



The building in the center was the old fire engine house, which was purchased by the Village Board from John Zarwell on May 6, 1893, for the sum of \$165.00. This building had been used by Zarwell as a paint shop and stood just north of his furniture store, facing Water St. According to the minutes of the Village Board, this building was to be used for a fire engine house and was to be moved to the west end of the Village lot, facing Park Ave. In 1900, the Board voted to cover the engine house with sheet iron and the contract for this work was given to M. C. Moore, for which he was paid \$135.00. The bell tower shown on the picture was erected by Charles Stoddard in 1904. He also was to furnish bell and rope, all for the sum of \$100.00. Otto Kroll was given \$2.00 for painting the tower.

The Fire Company and the Village Board are planning on removing this building and tower and erecting a new fire station. (1962)

Fire Company

On Oct. 3, 1891, a committee was appointed consisting of C. J. Meyer, Peter Kindschi and F. A. Oertel to study the needs of the Village in regard to fires. On Oct. 17, the committee was instructed to purchase several 12 qt. pails and have them well painted inside and out and to purchase three or four ladders and as many hooks as necessary and to purchase a suitable wagon to carry the ladders and pails and to secure a place to store them.

On November 7, the bills for the pails and ladders were paid: pails, \$12.00; painting \$5.00; ladders \$7.85 and \$5.76; wagon for ladders \$35.00. On Jan. 2, 1892, F. A. Oertel offered a piece of land on which to place a shed for the hooks and ladders.

A serious fire must have broken out in the Village in August, 1892. (I believe this was at the Obrecht Lumber Co. yards, which was located at 5th and Broadway, shown on some of the old village pictures.) At the next Board meeting following the fire a resolution was adopted which thanked the C. M. & St. P. R. R. Co. for hauling Mazomanie's fire engine to the scene of the fire. It was also voted to pay \$6.00 each to Henry Lukens and Frank Burges for the use of their teams in conveying Sauk City's fire equipment up from Sauk City and to pay \$50.00 to each of the fire companies of Mazomanie and Sauk City.

This disastrous fire evidently woke up the Board to the needs of some fire protection better than what they had and a committee was appointed to buy a fire engine, and the minutes of Feb., 1893, show a payment of \$625.00 for a fire engine, which was to be stored in a building owned by Wm. C. Cook.

On March 4, 1893, a committee was appointed consisting of C. J. Meyer, V. Accola and Christ Buehler to solicit names and call a meeting to organize a fire company. No other minutes show anything about the organization of a fire company, except we know that a fire company was formed because it is mentioned in other transactions. The year of organization was probably 1893. The same meeting authorized the purchase of 200 ft. of fire hose, which was paid on April 1, amounting to \$110.00. On the same date it was moved to purchase Zarwell's Paint Shop, which faced Water St. adjoining the furniture store and the purchase was made on May 6 for \$165.00. This building was to be used for a fire engine house and was to be moved to the west end of the Village lot, facing Park Ave.

On April 18, 1893, a committee from the Fire Co., consisting of J. B. Ragatz, George Doll and Robt. Lang appeared before the Board requesting that a small sum of money be set aside for the running expenses of the Fire Co., and that cisterns be placed in different parts of the Village to be used in case of fire.

The Board appropriated the sum of \$20.00 for running expenses and appointed a committee to find out the cost of 2 or 3 300 bbl. cisterns. The Board also discussed building a tower on the engine house for a fire bell, and exempted the members of the fire company from paying a poll tax. At a following meeting the Board voted to buy a white hose reel from the Madison Fire Co. for \$20.00.

On June 20, the Board purchased a fire bell from John Keller for \$54.00 and voted to place a lamp in front of the fire engine house. Geo. Baldwin was paid \$34.77 for the bell tower and fixing the engine house.

On April 3, 1894, the Board appropriated \$500.00 to build cisterns. However, there is no record that these cisterns were built, and the money appropriated was later voted transferred to the General Fund.

No reason was given for this action, but on Jan. 6, 1900, the street committee was instructed to visit the engine house and inspect the same and to look into the question of raising the salary for lighting the lamp at the engine house and at the next meeting the salary was raised from \$6 to \$8 per year.

Later it was moved to cover the engine house with sheet iron and the contract for this work was given to M. C. Moore, for which he was paid \$135.00.

On Oct. 7, 1903, the Board voted to pay the Fire Company of Sauk City the sum of \$50.00 for the efficient aid given in quenching the fire in the F. S. Eberhart and J. Wintermantel store and also to pay the refreshment bill of \$14.30 incurred at the time of the fire.

On June 16, 1904, Chas. Stoddard was given the contract to build a bell tower, furnish bell and rope for \$100 and Otto Kroll was given \$2.00 for painting the tower.

When the fire bell rang, it was a race to see who could get his team to the fire engine house first, because the first one there to get his team hitched to the fire engine was paid a certain sum for conveying it to the scene of the fire.

On July 2, 1913, the Board paid the Sauk City Fire Co., the sum of \$50.00 for services at the Ragatz & Gasser fire.

In the minutes of April 25, 1916, the Clerk was instructed to find out which members of the Fire company had not paid their fines for non-attendance at the meetings and those who had not lived up to the By-laws of the Fire Co., and the names of such members should be placed on the poll list.

At the annual meeting held April 3, 1923, it was moved that the sum of \$500 be appropriated for the purpose of purchasing a Chemical Fire Engine and other equipment as may be needed for the protection of the Village against loss by fire and a short time later such an engine was bought for \$250.

On April 10, 1923, it was moved to pay the sum of \$3.00 to the party, who at the time of a fire, shall be at the engine house first with a car or truck to convey the fire equipment to a fire.

At the annual meeting of 1927, a resolution was presented to purchase an approved fire truck and pumps and such other equipment as may be necessary, but the resolution was defeated by a vote of 67 to 22.

Aug. 9, 1927, the Board purchased a fire siren from Mr. Decot of Sauk City.

At the annual meeting of 1928, a resolution was adopted recommending the purchase of a fire truck for a sum not to exceed \$2500, by a vote of 49 to 28.

On Jan. 13, 1931, the Board received a communication from the Fire Company requesting the purchase of a fully equipped fire engine mounted on either a Ford or Chevrolet truck. On Jan. 12, 1932, the Board voted to buy a fire truck and to have an electric connection between the telephone office and the siren, and that a telephone be installed in the outer hall of the Library building. On March 8, it was voted to accept the bid for a fire truck from Peter Pirsch & Co., which was approved on May 18 and \$2300 was paid for it.

From a list presented to the Board 27 names were selected for the purpose of organizing a new fire company and the newly elected officers of the company were confirmed by the Board of March 31, 1932.

As a result of the new fire fighting equipment and the newly organized company, the Fire Insurance Rating Bureau placed the Village in Class 7 and the Board was informed that if certain requirements were met the Village could be placed in Class 6. These requirements having been met later, a Class 6 rating was given the Village 1934.

Since the Organization of the new company, much progress in fire fighting has been made. Some of the more recent fire chiefs have been: Dr. L. J. Steuber, Walter D. Accola, Elmer Anderson, Alvin Luetscher and the present chief, Wayne Page.

A new fire truck was purchased in 1953 at a cost of \$9809.55. A better building was needed to house the new fire engine and the members of the fire company generously donated their labor for this purpose and through their efforts a fairly adequate building was erected and when the old jail building became available they converted it into a well-equipped meeting place for the fire company members.

The Village is justly proud of its fire company, made up mostly of the younger men of the community who take great pride in maintaining an efficient fire fighting organization. They keep themselves well informed regarding their responsibilities in fire fighting methods and take the courses offered by the Red Cross in life saving methods. They also have taken over the job of providing and maintaining a skating pond during the winter months and each year put on a banquet for Village Board members and their wives, proving that they can be as efficient in entertaining as they are in fire-fighting.

Village Jail

About 1896, the Board voted to purchase cells for the jail, which was to be located in Tarnutzer's Livery Stable, for which they were to receive \$12.00 per year for rent, but were to furnish the wood for the stove. The jail was kept here until early in 1903, when it was moved to the newly purchased Village Hall (the old Baxter House).

In 1911, at an annual meeting it was reported by the Village Marshall that the jail in the basement of the Village Hall was entirely impractical and on April 7, the Board voted to erect a cement block village lock-up, the cost not to exceed, \$1,000.00 and it was to be located on the S. W. corner of village property on Park Avenue. A committee was appointed for this purpose, made up of Joe Dresen, J. B. Ragatz and E. D. Gruber. Later a contract was awarded to Chris. Fuchs for \$775.00. Sept. 7, it was voted to put shades in the jail room.

This remained the jail until shortly after the Sauk-Prairie Police Commission was organized in 1949, after which it was no longer used. In 1957, the Fire Company converted it into a fine meeting room connecting it with the fire engine house, at a cost of approximately \$1,000.00. It is planned to use it also for a polling place.



Marion Park, dedicated July 4, 1894.

Marion Park

June 18, 1894, the Clerk presented a deed to the Village Board received from W. H. Jacobs and wife, conveying to the village grounds for a public park. The park was named Marion, for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacobs.

The first park commissioners were Valentine Accola, Thomas Baker and Wm. C. Cook. Baker resigned and was replaced by Jacob F. Hatz.

On June 27, 1894, the Village Board passed a motion to prohibit ball playing and picnics in Marion Park on Sundays. At the same time they also voted to buy 100 ft. of land from W. H. Jacobs west of the park to East St. (now Fourth St.)

On July 7, 1894, the Board voted to buy one dozen settees for use in the park and instructed the Park Commissioners to plant some trees.

On May 4, 1895, the Board appropriated the sum of \$20.00 for use of the Park Commissioners.

November 7, 1896, the bill of G. L. Flanders for \$1.25 for planting trees in the park was presented and ordered paid.

On June 20, 1898, a petition signed by 73 taxpayers was presented to the Board which requested that booths or stands be built in the park and to have them ready by July 4th. This was later voted and A. G. Baldwin was given the job.

On July 2, 1901, J. J. Felix appeared before the Board asking that a suitable building be erected at Marion Park and the street committee was instructed to inquire of experts the probable cost of same. It seems to have taken several years to accomplish this and although no mention of this appears further in the minutes, we know that the house owned by a Mr. Moore which stood where the Evangelical Church now stands was purchased and moved to the park. On Aug. 5, 1905, the Board received the financial report of the Ladies Park Pavilion Board made by Ann Baker, as follows:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Paid for the building | 300.00 |
| Moving same | 100.00 |
| A. G. Baldwin, cement work | 217.15 |
| Lumber Co. | 301.58 |
| Conger, Grotophorst, for stone | 52.50 |
| H. C. Moore, hardware bill | 101.20 |
| Total cost | 1072.43 |
| Paid on same | 650.77 |
| Balance due | 421.66 |
| On October 7, the Board voted to pay the balance due. | |

The Evans Family

Fred Evans is listed as a member of the Presbyterian Sunday School.

J. D. Evans is included in the list of postmasters given by H. E. Cole in his *History of Sauk County*. He was appointed in 1853. He and then his wife served from 1853 to 1861. He was Secretary and chief supporter of the Prairie I O G T, a temperance lodge, organized in 1857.

Isaac D. Evans, a tailor by trade, kept a shop and a book-store in the building now occupied by a flower shop at 608 Water St. He was married to a 17 year-old girl, Melissa Hennes, and they lived in a house located at the corner of Broadway and Third Sts., now at 270 Broadway. The original house was torn down to make room for the present one. Mr. Evans was a colorful character who could charm an audience with his melodious bass voice and sang in the Presbyterian choir. But he had a drinking problem and a church group tried to rehabilitate him and thought they had succeeded. He was elected to various offices, and was one of the incorporators of the Academy Association in 1863 and held the office of Treasurer of the Sauk Prairie Bible Society from 1853 to about 1870.

But one morning he was found dead in his shop by David Conger whose store was just across the street. This was a severe shock to the family and the community. His sons then helped to support the family, one of them worked in L. V. Tabor's store and later two of them worked in Marshall Field's store. Mrs. Evans then moved to Chicago, where she became interested in welfare work and after her death in 1907, a Melissa Welfare home was named after her.

Charles Evans, a house painter, lived in a house, since remodeled, at the corner of Prairie and Fourth Sts., at 385 Prairie St.

Ada Evans, unmarried, also lived in this house. She was a seamstress.

The relationship between some of these Evanses is not clear.

Post Office

The first postmaster for this area was Frank Crossman, appointed in 1842. He was considered a very worthy man. Then George Gargel served until his death and then his widow took over until 1851 or 52. Simeon Dean from Lower Sauk was then appointed. Up to that time they had to go to Upper Sauk for their mail and this was a source of irritation for the residents of Sauk City. Dean chose 20 or 25 stalwart citizens who went with him to Upper Sauk and took the contents of the post office to Dean's office located in his store.

This left the citizens of Upper Sauk without a post office there for about six months, when a new post office was established with G. A. Ostrander as postmaster. He held office only a short time when he moved to New York City where he became a successful lawyer.

In 1858, J. D. Evans was appointed to fill the vacancy and after his death his wife held this office until Aug. 1861 when Thomas Baker was appointed. Baker used his home as his office in the house now next to the bridge. He also had a shoe shop in the one story annex shown on the picture of this place. Later he moved the office to the store building of Mr. Bell where the bakery now stands just north of the village library. When Mr. Baker built the present 2-story brick building, the post office was located here.



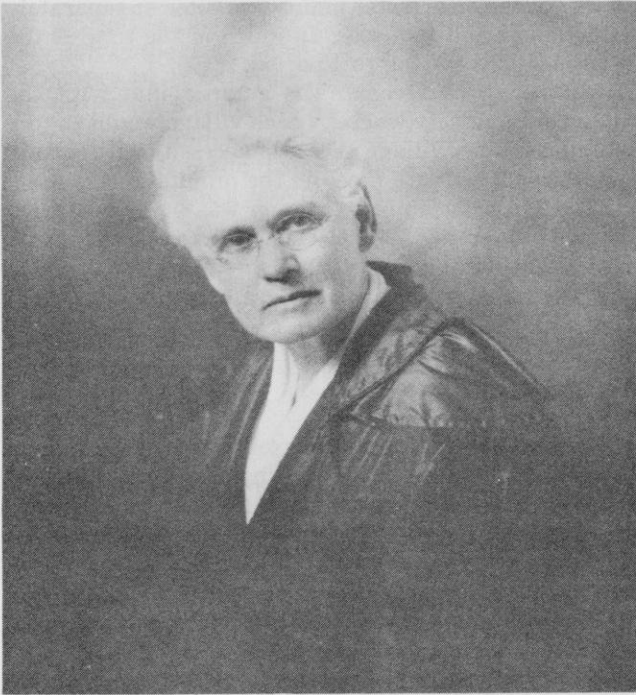
First Baker Post Office. According to information left by Miss Jennie Baker, this was the home of Thomas Baker until 1865, at the time Mr. Baker was postmaster. The post office was in the front downstairs room of the two-story part, and a shoe shop was in the one-story part. The property on the left was owned by a Mr. Weinzierl and had been moved up from Middletown, where he had used it for a home and harness shop. The building was removed when the second bridge was built.



Second Baker Post Office. According to H. E. Cole, Sauk County historian, this building was the oldest frame store building in Sauk County. It originally stood north of the Baxter Hotel. It was owned by Jonah Bell when Mr. Baker bought it and moved the post office here in 1865. Later it was moved to his property on Prairie St. Mr. Baker is standing on the left. Pictures courtesy of Mrs. G. V. Accola.

"Tall, white, with green shutters, it had a quiet dignity which pervaded the atmosphere of the entire street". Derleth. Thomas Baker purchased this home at 590 Prairie St. from O. S. Knapp. Baker died there in 1909. After Louis Birgen bought this property, J. U. Schmidt moved the old store building, (the second Baker Post Office) to Sauk City and fixed it up as a dwelling. It was purchased in 1949 by Rollie and Sylvia Steuber who converted it into a Rest Home which they operated until 1966. Since then it has reverted to a family home and is now occupied by the Robert Risley family.





Jennie Baker

Baker served for 24 years and when a Democratic administration came into power with the election of Grover Cleveland, in 1886, William T. Kelsey was appointed. The Republicans won the presidency back again in 1890 and there was much speculation who would then be appointed from the various applicants. The Dec. 17, 1889 issue of the *Sauk County News* published by Fred W. Johns gave the matter front page coverage: "A. B. Thomas, the representative in Congress from this district, was here some time ago and made a personal canvass of the village, but the result had been kept a secret until Friday last when Thomas Baker received the official announcement of his appointment to that position. Mr. Baker served the people of this place for over twenty years in that position and his appointment is the most gratifying endorsement that one could desire or hope to receive.

The retiring postmaster, W. T. Kelsey, has been a very courteous and accommodating official and his removal is regretted by many, regardless of party affiliations, but no one could be more resigned to step down and out than he, knowing that 'the powers that be' have so willed from a purely political standpoint, and not because of any inefficient services."

Mr. Baker served the term 1890-94, making a total of 28 years as post master of the village. The Democrats came into power again following the election of 1894 and then Harwood V. Page was appointed (1894-98), followed by Albert Tarnutzer (1898-1922); B. E. McCoy (1923-34); Albert Ehret (1934-63); Albert Sandeman, temporary (1963-66); W. H. Roth (1966-)

Electrical System

On March 5, 1913, the Prairie du Sac Light & Mill Co., operated by William Albers, filed an application for an indeterminate permit to operate an electric light plant. It was granted.

On Dec. 10, 1913, the Board adopted a resolution asking for better and more dependable electric light service from the Prairie du Sac Light & Mill Co., and to petition the Railroad Commission of Wisconsin to make a thorough investigation of the lighting system and the service rendered to the Village.

On Dec. 30, a resolution was adopted instructing the Clerk to issue a call for all citizens interested in securing a better system of electric lights at a lower cost to assemble in the Village Hall on Jan. 14, 1914.

On Jan. 30, 1914, a resolution was adopted to submit the question of taking over the electric system, to the voters.

On June 23, a contract for rates from the Wisconsin River Power Co. was ordered presented to the Railroad Commission. This contract was adopted on June 25.

On Aug. 11, 1914, a contract for erecting electric lighting system was given to George Erich of Julius Andrea & Sons; the poles were to be bought from the Brittingham Lumber Co. amounting to \$458.35; lamps from W. Johnson for \$99.51; and other material from Julius Andrea & Sons for \$4634.58.

Bonds in the amount of \$13,000.00 were issued to pay for the cost of installing the system.

Wm. Johnson was engaged as Superintendent of Light & Water at a salary of \$1100.00 per year and he was to devote full time to his duties.

The first rates were as follows:

Minimum charge—75¢ per mo.

First 20 kw., 10¢ per kw.

Next 30 kw., 9¢ per kw.

Next 50 kw., 8¢ per kw.

Next 50 kw., 7¢ per kw.

All over 150 kw., 6¢ per kw.

Minimum charge—60¢ per mo.

1st 50 kw., 3¢ per kw.

Over 50 kw., 2¢ per kw.

Contrary to most all other costs, there has been a substantial reduction in electric light rates.

Waterworks System

On Jan. 7, 1905, a petition signed by 19 citizens was presented to the Board, asking that the question of building a waterworks system for the Village be submitted to the voters. At the same meeting the president appointed a committee to confer with the proper authorities in Sauk City as to the practicability and their willingness to build a joint system to serve both villages, but on Feb. 4, the committee requested postponment of any action to a more convenient period.

Pursuant to the unanimous vote of citizens taken at a mass meeting, the Board was requested to hold a special election to vote on the question of bonding the village for \$30,000.00 to construct a waterworks system. A special election was held on Jan. 14, 1913. The number voting and the result of the election was not shown in the minutes, but it was shown that the vote was favorable by a large majority. A special meeting of the Board was called for Jan. 24 to deliberate on the necessary steps to be taken to provide for the payment of the bonds and interest on the sum of \$30,000.00 voted on Jan. 14 and a resolution was adopted for the issuance of the bonds.

On Feb. 5, 1913, the Board by resolution voted for the construction of a municipal water system and that a special election be held on March 14 to vote on the question of constructing such plant. At a meeting on March 19, it stated that a majority had voted in the affirmative and a resolution was adopted to proceed with the project. Another special election was held on April 11 to vote on the question of the issuance of bonds and that vote was favorable.

On April 22, by a vote of four to three, the Board accepted the proposal of R. G. Walter and Samuel Meade to engineer and build the system.

On May 7, the Board appointed E. D. Gruber and Leonard Ploetz to purchase the land needed for the system and to contact J. S. Tripp, Mrs. Johnson and E. E. Kindschi for this purpose. The land for a pumping station was bought from E. E. Kindschi and the land for the water tower from Chas. Becker. The contract for laying the pipe was given to Webber and Gay and for the water tower to the Chicago Bridge and Iron Co.

According to one of the reports to the Public Service Commission, the system went into operation in January, 1914.

Bids for Superintendent of Water Works were received by the Board on Oct. 1, 1913. August Korthal bid \$800 per year; S. D. Perkins, \$459.75; Nick Rex, \$800; John Kinzler, \$900; Herman Graff, \$600; H. C. Kinzler, \$600; L. C. Stoddard, \$720; Roy Stoddard \$520; R. E. Johnson, \$840.

It was moved to table all of the bids and on Nov. 8, Ragatz, Gruber and Ploetz were appointed to confer with Wm. Johnson in regard to the Superintendency of Waterworks. On Nov. 19, it was moved to reject all bids and that Wm. Johnson be hired at a salary of \$50 per month.

On Dec. 30, the Superintendent was instructed to fill cisterns when requested and to charge \$1.50 for the first 50 bbls. and \$1.00 for each additional 50 bbls.

The rates charged for water consumption were quite different from those charged at the present time:

For private dwelling houses, \$5.00 per year for the use of one family; for private houses occupied by more than one family, \$4.00 additional to the above for each additional family using from such water plant. For lawns and gardens \$2.00 extra.

For horses and cows, 50¢ each per year per head.

Hotels, \$20 per year; saloons, \$10 per year.

Hardware stores, \$5.00; barber shops, one chair, \$3.00 and \$2.00 for each additional chair, bath tub in connection with barber shop, \$2.00

Restaurants, \$5.00; dentist office, \$5.00; churches, \$2.00 Schoolhouses without water closets, \$10.00

Public garages, \$15.00; livery and feed stable, \$10.00

Banks, \$5.00; blacksmith shops, \$3.00; drugstores, \$3.00 Meat markets, \$5.00; Photograph galleries, \$5.00

All parties not satisfied with the above rates were permitted to install and keep in good repair at their own expense, a meter for which rates were also established.

There must have been some difficulty over the bill of Webber and Gay for engineering services in connection with installing the system, which took up quite a bit of the time of the Board, because on March 25, 1915, the Village president was authorized to settle Webber and Gay's action against the village.

Each extension of water mains was voted on separately by the board and that took up much of the time of the board meetings during this period.

In 1934, an agreement was entered into with the Village of Sauk City whereby each village would supply water to the other village in case of necessity with certain stipulations which are noted in the minutes.

In 1942, a new pumping station was built in Marion Park with a pump of 500 gal. capacity at a cost of approximately \$20,000 and in 1957 another station was added to the system with a pump of 1000 gal. capacity at a cost of about \$45,000.

Street Lighting

One of the projects that took a lot of time of the Village Board was adequate street lighting. The first time that this subject came up was on Oct. 1, 1888, when 60 citizens petitioned the Board to erect street lamps. The matter was referred to J. F. Zarwell and J. E. Meisser who were ordered to study the number of lamps needed, where they were to be placed, the probable original cost and the cost of upkeep.

Many meetings were given over to a discussion of this problem. The minutes show the purchase of the first eight-circle street lamps, others show the purchase of 2 and 3 lamps at a time, the payment of these items and of the oil used in the lamps. Bids were let for lighting the lamps, the first ones received were from E. Ochsner and a Mr. Wandschneider. The job was given to E. Ochsner for \$8.00 per month. In 1893, W. L. Tarnutzer got the job for \$78 per year, but he failed to finish out the year and Christ Buehler took over, but he was paid \$95.65. The lowest bid in 1895 was that of Washington Ochsner and many of the older people will remember him lighting lamps while riding a high frontwheeled bicycle, and he was given permission to ride on the sidewalk while in the performance of his duties.

The first mention of electric street lights was in July, 1896, when Knipschild Bros. asked permission to erect poles on Main St. for electric light purposes. In that year the Board voted to accept the offer of the Knipschilds to furnish 3 electric lights on Main St. for \$5.00 per month. The following year the same company was to furnish 30-32 candel power street lamps, which were to run to eleven p.m. Later electricity was furnished by J. M. Meisser.

For several years the Board received petitions at nearly every meeting from citizens asking for street lights to be placed at various street intersections.

The first White Way was built in 1923 on Water St. from Prairie to Washington St., one block on Galena and one block on Third from Galena to Prairie St. In 1928 these lamps were placed on Park Ave. as far as Washington St.

These lamps were replaced in the business section on Water St. to a newer type in 1941 and these were extended to the southern village limits in 1949.

Sewerage System

The first mention of a sewer for the Village is found in the minutes of Feb. 25, 1930, when a resolution was adopted favoring a joint sewerage system with Sauk City and

appropriating the sum of \$250 to be used to help Sauk City defray the cost of the survey necessary for the project.

On May 18, 1936, an ordinance was adopted to create a Sauk City-Prairie du Sac Sewerage Commission for the purpose of planning, constructing and maintaining a sewerage system and disposal plant.

On June 9, 1936, a resolution was adopted to hold a referendum election on the issuance of \$66,000 in bonds for the construction of a sewerage system. An election was held on June 22, and the vote was favorable.

There were many resolutions that needed to be adopted for carrying out this project and board sessions lasting until midnight were the rule.

The joint main sewer line costs were as follows:

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Sauk City: | \$44,689.40 |
| Prairie du Sac: | 19,152.60 |
| For the Disposal Plant: | |
| Sauk City: | 9747.00 |
| Prairie du Sac: | 8303.00 |

For the maintenance of the disposal plant each village has been appropriating the sum of \$2500 per year.

To date, there have been over 500 sewer connections made in this village.

E. J. Farr

A history of Sauk County gives the following information about E. J. Farr: He was born in Vermont in 1849 and came to Prairie du Sac with his parents in 1856. When he reached manhood he operated the various businesses described elsewhere, which included the poultry business, creamery and hardware. In the later years of his life he sold fire and life insurance.

"Mr. Farr has been connected with the official life of the village for many years and in a number of capacities. For twenty-five years he has served as justice of the peace. He also has been president of the village seven times, giving its citizens a good and clean administration each term, and has been on the board of trustees several times. He has shown himself one of the most useful and energetic workers in the cause of securing local improvements, and was a member of the board at the time the first cement sidewalks were laid in the city, and improvement which necessitated a hard fight to land. He has been steadfast Republican from the outset of his voting career, and in religious matters is a Universalist. Fraternally he belongs to the Masons, having held the office of worshipful master in the lodge at Prairie du Sac for eight years, and is a member of the Woodmen, the Royal Neighbors and the Eastern Star."

Those Who Have Served as Village President and Their Years of Service

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| E. J. Farr, | 1887-90, 1895 and 1909-10 |
| E. C. Perkins, | 1891 and 1898 |
| J. S. Tripp, | 1892-93 |
| Valentine Accola, | 1896-97 and 1901-03 |
| Wm. C. Cook, | 1900 |
| J. J. Felix, | 1904-06 |
| James R. Carpenter, | 1907-08 |
| Samuel Babington, | 1911-16 |
| Joseph F. Meyer, | 1917-18 |

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| William Bonham, | 1919-27 |
| Carl H. Lehmann, | 1928-32 and 1942-43 |
| George V. Accola, | 1933-35 |
| L. E. Schultz, | 1936-37 |
| J. P. Doll, | 1938-43 |
| Emil Morter, | 1944-48 |
| R. C. Schoephorster, | 1949-54 |
| W. H. Osterfund, | 1954— |

Those Who Have Served as Village Clerk and Their Years of Service

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| W. T. Kelsey, | 1887-92 |
| M. A. Reynolds, | 1892-93 |
| J. S. Tripp, | 1894 |
| Jesse Cooper, | 1895-97 |
| E. J. Farr, | 1898-99 |
| John Fey, | 1900-12 |
| George E. Cook, | 1913-14 |
| E. M. Doll, | 1915-17 |
| J. L. P. Accola, | 1917-20 |
| E. L. Gattshall, | 1921-22 |
| J. B. Ragatz, | 1922-36 |
| W. G. Doll, | 1936-38 |
| B. E. McCoy, | 1938 |
| W. G. Doll, | 1938— |

Members of the Village Board with Years of Service

Note—Years of service may not be accurate in some cases, due to incomplete records or errors in computing them.

W. A. Schreiber (28), R. J. Schwarz (23 to date), F. S. Esser (22), J. B. Ragatz (20), J. P. Doll (20), Joe F. Frosch (12), Alfred Mallon (11), J. E. Meisser (11), Emil Morter (10 to date), Joseph Dresen (9), H. G. Vogel (8), Leonard Ploetz (8), Ed Zick (8), Wm. Buehler (7), B. E. McCoy (7), Wm. Jenewein (8), Valentine Accola (6), Edward D. Gruber (6), J. L. P. Accola (6), D. E. Murphy (6), Chas. Colby (6), R. C. Schoephorster (6 to date), Melvin Bickford (6), E. C. Perkins (5), Jacob Pluess (5), L. H. Pohlman (5), Chase. Schoephorster (5), Wm. Bonham (5), James Ryan (5), H. C. Keysar (4), A. G. Baldwin (4), C. J. Meyer (4), Florian Buehler (4), J. J. Felix (4), Chris. Ragatz (4), J. J. Ochsner (4), Wm. F. Steuber (4), J. H. Bailey (4), John Wintermantel (4), Chas. Bickford (4), H. A. Page (4), John Winiger (4 to date), C. I. Kindschi (3), J. W. Buehler (3), J. W. Meisser (3), E. J. Schoephorster (3), H. V. Page (3), Wm. Blaha (3 to date).

The following served for two years:

Peter Kindschi, J. F. Zarwell, Wm. C. Cook, Christ Buehler, George Doll, Jacob F. Hatz, J. J. Ragatz, Martin Luetscher, E. J. Farr, John Bonham, O. L. Young, Eugene Barton, C. F. Rose, Wm. P. Just, J. R. Carpenter, William Shell, Herman Gattwinkel, C. H. Lehmann, George Meng, Hugh Stewart and A. E. Wegner.

The following served for one year:

D. S. Conger, J. B. Patterson, Jacob Meisser, A. M. Bickford, A. Fischer, J. D. Waterbury, F. A. Oertel, George W. Kindschi, Chas. Stoddard, W. A. Conger, J. F. Bergen, T. J. Bryant, M. A. Reynolds, Ed Steidtman, Fritz Berndt (to date), O. P. Mueller.

Prairie du Sac Cemetery Association

This organization is over 100 years old. The first meeting of the people for the purpose of organizing a cemetery association was convened Nov. 11, 1859, at the schoolhouse. The trustees elected were: Nathaniel Kenison, Samuel Kelsey, M. S. Moore, Samuel Bassinger, George Owen, J. E. Wright and Isaac Morehouse.

On Feb. 20, 1860, a resolution was adopted to purchase the land for the cemetery from Nathaniel Kenison for the sum of \$35 per acre.

In the minutes dated May 25, 1860, the proposition of Amos Willis to build the cemetery fence for the sum of \$90.00 was accepted. From looking through many old records one gets the impression that these early settlers had a lot of native intelligence and ability, and that they were cautious in their business dealings, as witness the following agreement drawn up by the secretary of the association:

Article of agreement made and concluded this 26th day of May, A. D., 1860, between the Prairie du Sac Cemetery Association, party of the first part and Amos Willis, party of the second part, as follows, to wit:

The said party of the second part for the consideration hereinafter mentioned does for himself, his heirs, executors and administrators covenant with the said party of the first part, his executors, administrators and assigns, that he or his assigns shall and will within the space of sixty days next after the date hereof in a good and workmanlike manner and at his own proper expense at the town of Prairie du Sac, well and substantially erect, build and finish a fence around the grounds of said cemetery association according to the draft or plan and specifications adopted by said association herunto annexed with such materials as the said cemetery association shall provide for the same.

In consideration whereof the party of the first part does for itself and assigns agree and covenant with the said party of the second part, his executors, administrators and assigns well and truly to pay or cause to be paid to the said party of the second part, his executors and assigns the sum of ninety dollars in manner following, viz: the sum of ninety dollars on or before the fifteenth day of August next or to give a note with ten per cent interest payable in sixty days. And also the party of the first part or it's assigns shall and will from time to time as the same shall be required, find and provide the necessary materials for the building of said fence. And for the performance of all and every one of the articles and agreements above mentioned, the said parties do hereby bind themselves, their executors, administrators and assigns each to the other in the penal sum of one hundred dollars, firmly by these presents.

In testimony whereof the said parties have hereunto interchangeably set their hands and seals this day and year first when written, sealed and delivered.

In presence of

L. A. Perkins

Attest: Isaac Morehouse, Secy.

Nathaniel Kenison, President (Seal)

Amos Willis (Seal)

Following this agreement are detailed specifications for building the fence.

By-laws were adopted Oct. 19, 1860, section 1 of which says that for the purpose of uniformity in burials, the head shall be placed toward the west, with the feet toward the east on lots situated on the west half of all blocks. But on the east half of all blocks the head shall be placed toward the east and the feet toward the west in all interments. Section 2 says in part that when the sexton is employed by any person to excavate a grave the charge shall not exceed two dollars when the ground is free from frost and in no case shall the charge exceed three dollars. Section 4 gives the right to enclose lots by a fence, but not to exceed two and one half feet. Among the other duties of the secretary, he must keep a register of all burials—stating the name, place of nativity, names of parents, day of death, age, sex, married or unmarried of the person interred. Such a record has been kept for 100 years and gives valuable information that may not be found in any other place.

According to the daughter of John E. Wright, writing in the Aug. 11, 1938, issue of the *Sauk County News*, the first cemetery was located across the street from the present one and just east of Bickford's farm.

John E. Wright was one of the earliest settlers, who built the house at 139 Prairie Ave., said by some to be the oldest house in the village.

Prairie du Sac Cab & Body Works

Another business enterprise that started and didn't last was begun about 1920 and was known as the Prairie du Sac Cab & Body Works. It was located in what is now the Wintermantel & Sprecher building at 633 Third St. This building was built by Albert Stelter and Arthur Wagner and was first used as a "hitch barn," where for a nominal fee farmers could keep their horses during the time they did whatever business it was that brought them to town. Here the horses could be fed and brought in out of the weather.

The body works was managed by Alvin Leindorff and was financed by some of the business men of the village. Rudolph Mueller and Ed Zick worked in this shop for a time.

A brochure put out by the company advertised cabs and bodies for all makes of trucks. Special orders were their specialty. Besides cabs and bodies, they made stanchions for cows, stake panels and windshields.

The brochure says, "This booklet is intended to present to you in the most condensed form the products we have to offer. Our designer has spared no pains in trying to give the purchaser value received for every dollar invested, also to insure the operator comfort and advantages.

As to durability, harmony in design, and as to the material used for construction, we will compare our product with any of its kind on the market."

When the old hitch barn was built at 633 Third St., a group of boys, including Ralph Kendal and Laverne Tarnutzer, participated in a ceremony of laying the cornerstone, one of the cement blocks placed at the southwest corner of the building. Ralph, a serious-minded youth, acted as master of ceremonies and read portions of the Bible, which they had gotten from one of the boy's home, and gave the speech, all very soberly. Bud and the other boys stuffed old papers into the hole of the cement block.

If the building ever is torn down, I wonder what they will find in the "cornerstone."

Homes

Early Housekeeping Chores

An annual spring chore was the making of soap. The first requirement was a big barrel. This was set on two blocks, high enough off the ground to allow a good-sized trough to be placed under the barrel. Into this barrel they would empty the ashes from a wood-burning stove, and when the barrel was full, water was poured into the ashes until they were soaked. Then the lye would seep through the ashes and into the trough from which it would be emptied into a large black kettle and mixed with soap fat saved from the fall butchering and what had been accumulated during the winter and then this mixture was boiled to get their supply of soap.

Most of the very early furniture was hand made. Bed springs were made by weaving a new rope across and back and from top to bottom. Mattresses were of unbleached muslin filled with clean straw or corn husks twice a year. The selling of corn husks to the townspeople was another source of revenue for the farmers.

A distinguishing feature of the early cook stove was the hot water reservoir attached to it. Usually there was a fire in the cook stove at all times, so there was a constant supply of warm, if not hot, water. Rain or soft water was caught off the roofs and drained into the cistern, from which a pail with rope brought it to the surface. Many early settlers depended on springs for their drinking water.

Another important household chore was the weaving of cloth. Many homes had a spinning wheel and a loom on which the cloth for the family's needs was woven. Sheep were raised for wool and the women spun the wool needed. for mittens, stockings, blankets, underwear and shirts. There were quilting bees at which neighbors came in to help make quilts. Even to-day many of the older homes still have the long poles with holes in them with wooden pegs and the clamps that were used to hold the poles together.

Farmers also got some income from the cord wood they sold to the villagers. The average family used from 8-10 cords a year. The wood was hauled to town on sleds and piled in the yard until the saw rig came around to saw the 4-foot lengths of wood into three pieces to fit into the ordinary stove. Most of the wood was split into pieces for use in the cook stove, but the knotty and hard-to-split pieces

were kept as chunks to be burned in the heating stoves. Before the invention of the saw rigs, the men would have to saw the wood as well as split it. Then it was the job of the younger members of the family to pile the wood in the wood shed. From there it would be carried into the house and dumped into the wood box, ready to be used as needed.

Butchering was another fall household chore. Families bought a quarter beef or half a hog, depending on the size of the family. The best part of the hog was salted down and the rest made into head cheese and various kinds of sausages. Some of the best beef was put in brine in big crocks and made into corned beef. Bones were used for soups. And some that could be kept for a short time only was used for steaks and roasts. The fat of the hog was cut up into small cubes, fried, strained and stored in crocks for lard.

Hazelnuts, hickory nuts and butternuts were gathered in the fall and later cracked and used when they were wanted. Making butter and baking bread was a weekly chore.

One of the daily chores for the men was to take care of the horses and to milk the cows. Pictures of early Prairie du Sac show a barn on most properties. Horses were kept in some cases to drive to church. Every church had a long shed in the rear with open stalls for parking the horse and buggy during the church services. This gave protection from the hot sun in the summer and from the cold and snow in the winter. Doctors and ministers kept horses to make country calls; some businesses needed horses; farmers needed horses; some kept horses for racing and some for Sunday driving.

For many families their only source of milk was their own cow. There was a common pasture for cows located in the northern part of the village, known as Tripp's pasture or Tripp's grove, entrance to which was between the 2d and 3d houses on the northern end of 7th St. The lady who lived in the 2d house always had a lot of empty Peruna bottles standing on the window sills, which always intrigued the boys who were hired to take the cows to pasture. Old pictures show fences around most homes to keep out the cattle and other animals.

The earliest homes were lighted by candles. In some homes it was the job of the daughters to make them by placing a wick inside the candle mold. Tallow or beeswax

was melted and poured into the mold to form the finished candle.

Some time after the discovery of oil in Pennsylvania in 1859, candles were replaced by kerosene lamps and lanterns. And cleaning these lamps became another daily chore of the housewife. This chore consisted of filling the lamps with kerosene, trimming the wicks and cleaning the tall glass chimnies. This chimney would get quite clouded when it had been used the night before and quite black if the wick had been unevenly trimmed. To clean the chimney the housewife would blow moist breath into it, rotate some crumpled paper inside the glass until it became sparkling clean. And if there were three or four lamps to clean, this cleaning process could become quite a chore. In 1914, the village got electricity from the recently completed dam and power house and in turn sold the electricity to the homes. Then candles and lamps disappeared from the scene except for decorative purposes and electric lights soon were used in every home and business place.

You can see from the above that the early pioneers were very versatile and pretty much self-sufficient.



Birthplace of W. G. Doll, at the head of Fifth St.

The Doll House

The birthplace of W. G. Doll stood at the head of Fifth St., what is now 510 Prairie St. It was removed in 1910 and the present house built in that year.

1843—U. S. Government to William Guysbert Simons. Simons was deeded all the land north of Prairie St. and the land east of Water St. and north of Prairie St. to the Wisconsin River.

1845—Simons deeded Lots 5 to 18 to the Sauk County Commissioners for a proposed site for the county court house. This plan fell through and in 1846 Sauk County deeded the land back to Wm. G. Simons.

1846—James S. Alban. Mr. Alban and his wife built a cabin and theirs was the first white family in Sauk County. Some time after the death of his wife he

moved to Plover in Portage County where he practiced law. During the Civil War he was a colonel in the 18th Wisconsin Infantry and was killed in the battle of Shiloh on April 6, 1862.

1846—Jeremiah Y. Keysar.

1851—Caroline C. Tabor, Lot 12.

1851—Lavalette Tabor, Lot 11, who built the house.

1887—Tabor heirs to Thomas Baker, Lots 11 & 12. It was during this time that Mark Patterson lived in this house.

1888—George Doll, Sr. This property was in the Doll family for 66 years. It was sold in 1954.

The fence around the Doll house was to keep out stray cattle. There were four entrances, the one on the left led to my grandfather's room, the one in the center led to the parlor, which was seldom used, and there were two entrances in the rear. Conspicuous in the picture is the little building in the rear.

The part of the house most used consisted of the kitchen in the rear and the combined dining and living room. The living-dining room had a wood-burning stove, which was set up in the fall and removed in the spring. Each year, my brother, Ed, and I had the job of splitting about ten cords of wood, oak for heating and poplar for a fast fire, piling it in the woodshed and then filling the wood box as it was needed. Besides heating the room, the stove served other useful purposes. A tin tub was placed near the stove and filled with warm water, and the stove then provided warmth for the Saturday night bath. It was a place to undress on cold winter nights. In order to have buckwheat pancakes for breakfast, the mixture was prepared the night before and placed near the stove to rise and be ready for use in the morning. The hot coals provided a place for popping corn. Just before Christmas a group of young people would sometimes meet in our home and "string" popcorn, which was used to decorate the Christmas tree in the church. The isinglass in the door of the stove allowed the flames to spread a warm glow in the room.

The sink was also in this room and on it was a small hand pump for pumping the rain water, which had been drained off the roof into a large underground cistern. Drinking water was gotten from the well and pump outside. When it was cold we had to be careful not to touch the handle if our hands were wet because the skin would freeze to the iron.

There was a pantry next to the dining room. Ed and I took turns wiping the dishes and carrying them into the pantry. We quarreled over whose turn it was to wipe, as that seemed to be the more odious job of the two.

The pantry led to my grandfather's room. He was quite easy-going and we liked to spend most of our time in his room where we could raise more roughhouse until it got too much for even his good nature. There was a butternut tree in our yard and in the winter months he cracked many of these and had them ready for us when we came home from school.

One incident we often talk about was the time my grandfather was smoking a cigar. Ed was fascinated by the ashes which had formed and decided they should be knocked off. He flipped at them but got too close to the cigar, and ashes and cigar flew across the room. I have forgotten what my grandfather said, but it could have been "lausuben".

Conspicuous on the table was the large German family Bible, which he read assiduously every day and evening. I have fond memories of my grandfather.



Zarwell House, about 1902. Picture courtesy of Chas. Schoephorster.

The Zarwell House

The house at the corner of Fifth and Broadway was built by John Zarwell, furniture dealer and undertaker. It was later bought by Chas. Schoephorster; his son, Wilbert, is standing in the picture, taken about 1902. At the time the picture was taken it was the only house in the block. Zarwell owned the four lots on the north and Christian Obrecht owned the other ten lots, on which he had a lumber yard, which is shown on an old village picture of 1883.

The white frame house on the left, located on Fourth St. was the home of Frank Sisson. The building at the rear on the right was the carpenter shop of Louis Pohlman, who was a building contractor. This shop was later used by Alvin Leindorf for the same purpose. Sometime later the building was moved to the corner of Fourth and Galena Sts. and converted into a blacksmith shop, used first by Ulrich Clement and then by John Schiffman. It was torn down when Dr. Gibbs Zauft built his clinic at this corner in 1957.

The Willis House

The home with the fence around it was that of Melatiah Willis, located at the corner of Park Ave. and Broadway. This was the first home built on Park Ave. and it was built by a lumberman. The lumber came down the river on rafts, and it is said that he built the cupola on the top of the house from which he could see the river and detect the shipments of lumber. The fountain which he built is still functioning this day. Note the dirt road, the wooden sidewalk, the fence, the windmill and barns. In an 1890 Directory, Mr. Willis is listed as retired. Mrs. Willis was a

sister of Dr. Kendall. Those who visited her remember the attractive appointments.

Steuber House

1845—U.S. Government to Oliver Hoyt
1845—Hannibal Crossman
1847—Lyman Crossman
1847—Mira Morrison
1848—Cornelia Crossman (married George Owen)

Sept. 13, 1852)

1871—Geo. & Cornelia Owen to William T. Kelsey
1882—L. H. Bennett
1889—Edwin C. Perkins
1889—William F. Steuber (built house)
1907—Leander Drew
1920—Lois F. Steuber—daughter of Leander Drew
1941—Dr. L. J. Steuber
1943—Freade Wareham (niece of Dr. Steuber)
Now owned by Milton Laufenberg

Cummings Cooper House

Albion P. Cummings came to Prairie du Sac in 1850 from Maine and began the practice of medicine. He was highly respected as a physician and a person. He died in 1894. His daughter Ella married Jesse Cooper who managed the Cummings Drug Store located in the building which is now 612 Water St. The Jesse Coopers lived at the corner of Sixth and Broadway. One son, Louis, was born to them. He became an instructor at Ohio State University. After the death of his father (who took his own life) Louis and his mother moved in with the widowed Mrs. Cummings. Mrs. Cooper lived to be in the 90s, and she made a home for Louis who had a mental illness. After her death he spent his last years in the Reedsburg County Home.

The home of Dr. Cummings, later known as the Cooper House, is on Fifth St. between Washington and Galena.

Lantz House

The house, built about 1850, is located at the corner of Galena and Fifth Sts., in Block 11 of the Original Plat. The land was part of the 75 acres deeded to William H. Hubbard by the United States Government in 1843.

1843—Wm. H. Hubbard
1844—Daniel B. Crocker
1848—Burk Fairchild
1848—Martin S. Parker
1850—Alex M. Morrell
1862—Isaac F. Smith
1874—Drew Sisters
1878—Emma Stone (later Mrs. Wakeley)
1885—John Keller
1901—John Kaufman
1904—August Graff
1907—Frank P. Neu
1909—Mrs. Barabara Lantz
(Owned in 1960 by James Hein)



Looking south on Park Ave. from Broadway. Note the fence around the property of Melatiah Willis, at the corner of Park Ave. and Broadway. The first house on the left was that of Mrs. Ursula Page Ploetz, now at 352 Park Ave. Next is the home of James Carpenter and then of Christ Held. It was once the home of Wm. P. Just, who at one time was in partnership with Bert Giegerich while they were publishers of the *Sauk County News*. The first house on the right is that of Jacob F. Hatz, who was known as "Big Jake" to distinguish

him from the other Jacob Hatz. They were in partnership in the Hatz Store. Jacob F. Hatz had seven daughters: Marie, Ida, Emma, Lena, Sarah, Cora and Esther. Next is the home of Leonard Schneller, then of Gaudenz Witwen and then the Evangelical Parsonage. The white house in Marion Park at the end of the street is the Pavilion, which was moved there 1905. The picture, therefore, was taken some time after that. Picture courtesy of Mrs. George Accola.



Another picture of part of Park Ave. shows the Melatiah Willis House. Below this was the home of Jacob F. Hatz.



Mrs. Miles Keysar (Mrs. Jeanette Lyon Lay Keysar) "Jennie"



The Miles Keysar House: "A proud house high above the river. . . The house, people said, was haunted, and indeed it was. . . by the ghosts of those who died". (Interior) ". . . beautiful gumwood panels and its teak and mahogany. . . its imported rugs, with French wallpaper, with hangings from Marshall Field. . ." August Derleth



August Derleth stands in front of the Cummings-Cooper House. Photo from *Sauk Prairie Star*.
"A cozy house, made all the more so of winter nights by the glow of its great coal stove, which looked redly out into the

village all night long, and, after the lamps had been put out, gave off a red glow to lie upon the snow outside. . ."
From August Derleth's *Walden West*.

Hutter House

According to records on file in the village offices, the house, located at the corner of Washington and Third Sts., was built in 1840. At the time of the Civil War, the parents of Captain Nathaniel S. Frost lived in this house. Captain Frost enlisted in Co. "K", 23d Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry on August 10, 1862 and died at Memphis, Tenn., Dec. 18, 1862, leaving a wife and child at Prairie du Sac.

Later Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Tarnutzer and son, Lloyd, lived here. Besides operating a livery stable, Mr. Tarnutzer hauled the freight received at the railroad station to the various business establishments of the village. A team of white horses used for this purpose was kept in the barn adjacent to the house. One of the pictures in this book shows the white horses and dray wagon used.

Alois Hutter bought this property and business from the Tarnutzers and continued hauling freight until the advent of the trucking industry. The property is now owned by a son, Lawrence Hutter, who lives at 285 Broadway.

It was the job of LaVerne Tarnutzer to take the horses to the town watering trough located about where the drinking fountain is now. Usually no difficulty was encountered but one evening the horses took a notion to be different and got away from LaVerne and walked over to the lawn of C. I. Kindschi at the corner of Washington and Fourth Sts. and there caused considerable damage, much to LaVerne's embarrassment.

Carpenter House

Around the year 1860, the property belonged to Smith S. Wilkinson. It was located at the corner of Fifth and Prairie Sts. The house was floated down the Wisconsin River from the village of Newport, near Wisconsin Dells. Transfers of the property were as follows: In 1885, it was owned by Peter Kindschi, who sold it to Philo W. Carpenter in 1899, transferred to Eliza Carpenter in 1906, to James R. Carpenter in 1918 and to J. B. Schoephorster in 1920.

Standing at the left in the picture is Mrs. Eliza Carpenter and on the right is Miss Cynthia Francis who stayed with the Carpenters while attending high school and was graduated with the Class of 1901. The house on the left was that of Martin Meisser, on the right in the same block was that of Peter Kindschi, grandfather of Mrs. Alta Kindschi Tarnutzer, and on the extreme right in the next block, was the home of Dr. C. P. Riley

When Mr. Schoephorster built the present house, part of the old one was moved to the lot immediately back of the house on the picture. Another part is the house at 430 Seventh St.

Edmund Keysar House

Lots 1, 2, 3, Bl. 11, Corner 4th and Galena Sts., were transferred to William H. Hubbard by the U.S. Government in 1843. Hubbard divided his holdings with Daniel S. Crocker and Arba M. Seymour. There were several transfers and in 1850 the property was sold to Israel Green for \$200; to Solomon Brown in 1851 for \$170; to Alexander Morrell in 1856 for \$500; to Edmund Keysar

in 1864 for \$600. It would appear that a house had been built on these lots in the 1850s and improvements and additions made while Keysar owned it. When F. O. Sisson bought the property in 1885, the amount paid was \$1100. A village picture shows the house to be about the same in 1883 as it is now.

Mrs. Elizabeth Mills

The name of Elizabeth Mills appears very often in lists of real estate transfers which would indicate she must have been a successful business woman. In 1851-66 she owned 6¼ acres of what is now Keysars sub-division, lots 5, 6 and 7 in Block 12, lots 4, 5, 6 and 7 in Block 9 and land in the town of Troy. She listed about \$2500 personal property in 1887, which was a large amount for that time.

The abstract for this property shows:

1844—Wm. H. Hubbard to Daniel B. Crocker, lots 5&6, \$10

1844—Hubbard to Arba M. Seymour, lot 7, \$10

1847—Seymour to Ebenezer B. Bradford, lot 7, \$15

1860—Bradford to Hiram Holdridge, lot 7, \$25

1861—Holdridge to Marie Werner, lot 7, \$30

(The Werners somehow also received title to lots 5&6)

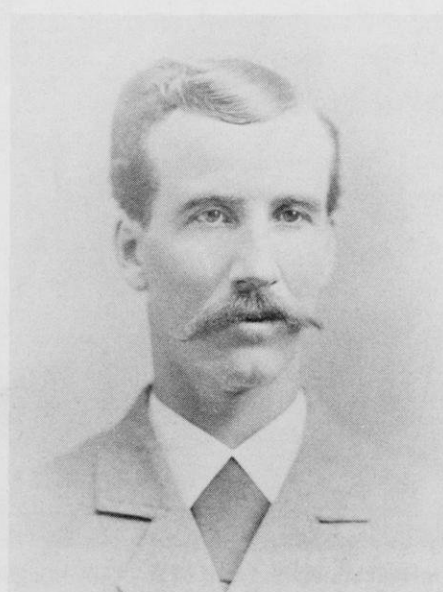
1865—Werner to Stephen Coburn lots 5, 6, 7, \$2000, which indicate that the house was built in the period 1861-1865.

1881—Coburn to George H. Mills, \$1200

1882—George H. to his mother, Elizabeth Mills

Mrs. Mills owned the land between Winnie Ave. and Grand Ave. and her home was on Water St. near Winnie Ave. She also owned the house and lots at the corner of 5th and Washington Sts., where she died in 1894 at the age of 81. The only other statistic on Mrs. Mills was that she was born in England.

In 1889, Mrs. Mills willed the use of this property to her sister, Jane Dorsch, during her natural life and after her death to give to her grandson, Miles Hyde Keysar, (son of Mary Stella Mills Keysar) if he reached the age of 21, and her nephews, John H. and Francis L. Pearce, share and share alike.



Horatio Mills. Photo by Sim Mould, Baraboo.



The Steuber House at 305 Fourth St.



The Lantz House is at the corner of Galena and Fifth Sts.



Home of Edmund Keysar, F. O. Sisson and Fred Schueffler.



The Hutter House, at the corner of Washington and Third Sts.



The Carpenter House. Picture courtesy of Mrs. G. V. Accola.

There is an imposing monument in the cemetery with the names of Elizabeth Mills and Jane Dorsch on it. There is also a memorial window in the Presbyterian Church with the name of Elizabeth Mills and Horatio Mills, who was her son (on legal papers usually written George H. Mills.)

1903—Pearce to Susan E. Avery

1919—Avery to J. P. Witwen and wife, Emily

1939—By will to Emily Witwen, who died September 29, 1954, and George Wintermantel appointed as trustee. Witwen Estate to Marvin Kohlmorgen

Lot 10 and S 20' of 11. Block 7, 432 Fourth St.

1843—U.S. Government to William H. Hubbard—75.26 acres

1844—Block 7 platted, part of Original Plat.

1844—Quintin Smith

1854—James Plummer

1856—James Christian

1856—Cordelia Morrell

1857—Daniel B. Eldridge

1859—H. R. Ryan & P. S. Hollenback—Attorneys

1863—Sauk County to Smith S. Wilkinson (Tax Deed)

1869—Jane Eldridge

1871—John Werner, Jr.

1872—George L. Flanders

1885—Ella Jane Durkee

1907—R. S. Babington

1915—John C. Steuber

1953—Iver Schara

1953—Lillian Belskey Black & Emma Kolacinski

1954—Arthur Somerau

Wm. H. Hubbard was one of the first land-owners in the village and owned much property. Hubbard's Addition is named after him.

Quintin Smith operated the first private school in the village. The school was held in his home.

James Christian manufactured plows in a building located about where the Ford Garage is. He lived at the corner of Third and Galena Sts.

Smith S. Wilkinson was a prominent attorney of that period; he was the first Worshipful Master of Eureka Lodge and a member of the Wisconsin State Senate.

John Werner had a lumber yard where Jensen's Mill is now located on Water Street.

In an 1890 directory, George L. Flanders is listed as a laborer and lived at 780 Water St.

R. S. Babington was High School principal from 1907 to 1940. In 1915 he built a new house, now at 370 Fourth St.

John C. Steuber was a retired farmer and the father of Louis and Rollie Steuber.

Bickford House

The home of Addison M. Bickford while he farmed on the edge of the village was at the corner of Seventh and Washington. For 11 years he operated a creamery in the building later occupied by the Prairie du Sac Feed and Coal Company. He was married to the former Susan Dickey and the father of Cora, Florence, Ella, Carrie, Mabel, Charles and Byron.

The name of Addison M. Bickford was on the petition for incorporation of the village and he was one of the first village trustees.

Kelsey Home

Samuel Kelsey's wife was named Jeannette or Janet. They had four children: William T., who later became Sauk County Judge; Horatio, who died as a young man; Agnes and Alice or "Ally".

Judge Kelsey married Minnie Perkins; they had two children: Rachel and Will, neither of whom married. Will became a Madison attorney.

Agnes married Ernest Lotz, a tailor. They had one daughter, Alice. Agnes died when Alice was about 5 and she was raised by Alice Moore. Alice Lotz died unmarried.

Alice Kelsey married M. C. Moore and they had one son, Horatio, who married Gertrude Felix. They had no children. Accordingly there are no descendants of Samuel Kelsey living.

Thilke House

The land on which this property is located, now at 856 Water Street, was originally conveyed by the U.S. Government to William Guysbert Simons in 1845. Various transfers of the property were made up to 1870, when it was purchased by John Thilke who built the house. Rev. John F. Koch, a subsequent owner, gives the following information. "An interesting story is told about Mr. Thilke, a farmer, who moved to Prairie du Sac from the Sumpter area. When Mr. Thilke was still on the farm, the Evangelical people in his vicinity were building a church. He became one of the most ardent workers on the project, and when spring came and with it crop-planting time, the workers gradually dwindled until only Mr. Thilke remained at the church-building. Finally the church was done, and then John Thilke proceeded to plant his crops. A very severe frost killed early plantings, and it is said that Mr. Thilke's bountiful crop, planted late, was the best in the area. Thus Mr. Thilke built the limestone, marble-faced house overlooking the Wisconsin River."

It would seem Mr. Thilke was rewarded financially for his faithfulness in building the church and the money received from his crops enabled him to build the house.

The limestone used in the dwelling is from a local pit near Cassell. The walls of the house are 23 inches thick and in over three-quarters of a century, no cracking has appeared in the foundation—attesting to the excellent workmanship of those who built the house. The lumber is white pine and it was floated down the Wisconsin River, board upon board forming a raft, held together by large wooden pegs. There is a well on the east side of the property, 32 feet deep, completely brick-lined."

Mr. Thilke sold the property to Christian Kindschi. There was a cupola on the house and a railing around the roof. Old neighbors used to tell seeing Mr. Kindschi up on the roof, after having imbibed too freely, singing songs and talking loudly to himself. They were afraid that he might fall over the railing.

At the present time the property is owned by Bruce Cornwell, who is a director-producer, and designs and ex-



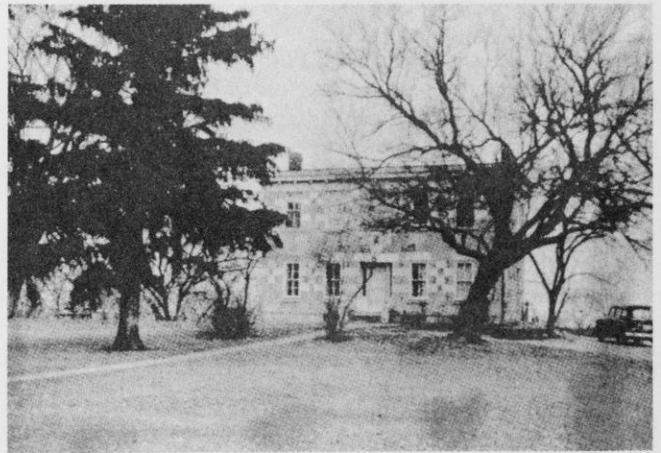
Home of Holmes Keysar 460 Prairie St. One of the families which was quite prominent in the early period was that of the Keysars, which included Jeremiah, Miles, Holmes C. and Frank. Now there are no descendants of this family living in the village.



Home of Edwin C. Perkins 453 Sixth St. There was also Joshua and Nathaniel. No one of that family is now living here.



Kelsey Home, at corner of Third and Washington



Thilke House



Bickford House. Photo by P. J. Schadde, Sauk City.



Rev. John Thilke

ecutes his own art work. Mrs. Cornwell is a writer and helps her husband on script and research. They are the only husband and wife team doing this sort of work in Wisconsin. Their studio is in their home and divided vertically from their living quarters.

Rev. John Thilke

According to a story told by Mrs. John Keller, who was the daughter, Mena, mentioned above, Honey Creek got its name as follows: Mr. Thilke's first home was somewhere near this small creek. One day someone mentioned that this was a land of milk and honey and it was suggested that the creek be named Honey Creek.

The church that he helped to build in the town of Sumpter was always known as the Thilke church and for a long time was served by the pastors from the Evangelical Church in Prairie du Sac. (It was located on highway #78 about five miles north of Prairie du Sac) near the cemetery, which is now in the Badger Ordnance Works area. The church was removed in about 1942.

He built the Thilke house on the farm that he bought in the town of Sumpter. He hauled wheat by team to Milwaukee and later to Madison. He held evening classes and church services in his home and after the church was built, he was its preacher. After he moved to Prairie du Sac, in 1870, he was instrumental in helping build the church in Middletown, which is the building now used by the Sauk-Prairie Lbr. Co., as a work shop.

He died a few years after moving to Prairie du Sac and is buried in the above-mentioned cemetery and on his tombstone is the following inscription: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

The following biography of Rev. Thilke is taken from a *History of Sauk County*:

"He was born in Hanover, Germany, April 7, 1816; at the age of 15 he went to Hamburg; from there to London and then in 1844 to the United States. In 1845, he settled in the town of Honey Creek and was one of the pioneer settlers of that area. Then he moved to Sumpter where he lived for a number of years, and in 1870 came to Prairie du Sac. He was licensed to preach in the Evangelical Association of America in 1869, and was active in ministerial labors from that time on. He kept constantly on hand at all

times all of the best makes of sewing machines and a full line of supplies, also a line of organs.

"He was married in New Orleans in 1844 to Miss Mary Heitman. There were three children born to this union: Louise, wife of A. Fisher, Prairie du Sac; Emma, wife of Rev. Charles Schneider, Arlington, Wis; Mena, wife of John Keller, Prairie du Sac."

According to Mrs. Addie Keller Kinzler, a granddaughter, he went to England before coming to this country in order to perfect himself in the English language. The family name was Thaelke, but he thought it would be better to change the name to Thilke, because it had a more English sound.

David Myers

One of the most colorful of the early settlers was David Myers, remembered as a champion horseshoer, raiser of championship horses, expert hunter and fisherman and as equally proficient in the use of choice invectives. Myers was born in New York in 1822 and came to Prairie du Sac in 1845. Here he resumed his blacksmithing, which he had done in Madison for two years before coming to this village. His red brick blacksmith shop was located at the north end of Block 1 of the Original Plat, where the Mobil Oil station is located, at 493 Water St.

He was recognized as an expert horseshoer and set a record of making 100 shoes in one day. He also took off and reset 100 shoes on horses in one day. He worked at this trade until he was 80, when he retired to his 2-acre farm at the corner of Prairie and 7th Sts., where he raised tobacco and cared for a fine stable of horses. He was an excellent horseman and had some of the best horseflesh in this part of the state. Sometimes he owned as many as eleven fine stallions, for which he paid high prices to dealers in Canada, Michigan and other places. He won a number of first prizes at races and exhibitions. It was a common sight to see Mr. Myers riding in a two-wheeled cart behind one of his prize horses, going to and from his farm.

In 1848 he married Esther Hatch, daughter of Jonathan Hatch. She died in 1892 and later he married Anna Brunner, who was born in Switzerland. Myers lived to the ripe old age of 91. The children by his first wife were: Cornelius, a blacksmith; Elihu, a carpenter; John and Frank, masons; Hattie M., wife of Bert Hannaman; Mary, wife of Fred Johnson.

J. J. Ochsner Home

This red brick building located at 715 Water St. is well over one hundred years old and one of the oldest in the village. The land on which it is built was entered at the United States Land Office by William Guysbert Simons. The first sale of the land was to Philip Nichols in 1844 and in 1850 it was sold to Samuel R. Bassinger, who probably erected the building and used it for his drug store. In one of the land descriptions, it mentioned a corner of the drug store as the starting point and in one of the letters printed in the *Sauk County News* at the time of the 1907 Homecoming, the writer mentions an apothecary shop located at this place. We can safely assume that this building was therefore used as such. The Odd Fellows Lodge held its

meetings on the second floor, and the Masons used this hall when Eureka Lodge, F. & A. M. was organized in 1859.

Mr. Bassinger was one of the prominent citizens of that early period. He was on the first Board of Trustees of the Prairie du Sac Cemetery Association when it was organized in 1860. He wrote a short history of the Congregational Church, which later became the Presbyterian Church. He was probably the first druggist in the village.

Mr. Bassinger sold the property to Archibald Moore in 1861 and in 1868 Hans J. Ochsner (J. J. Ochsner) bought the property at a sheriff's sale for about \$1700, and it was in the Ochsner family for eighty years, until 1948.

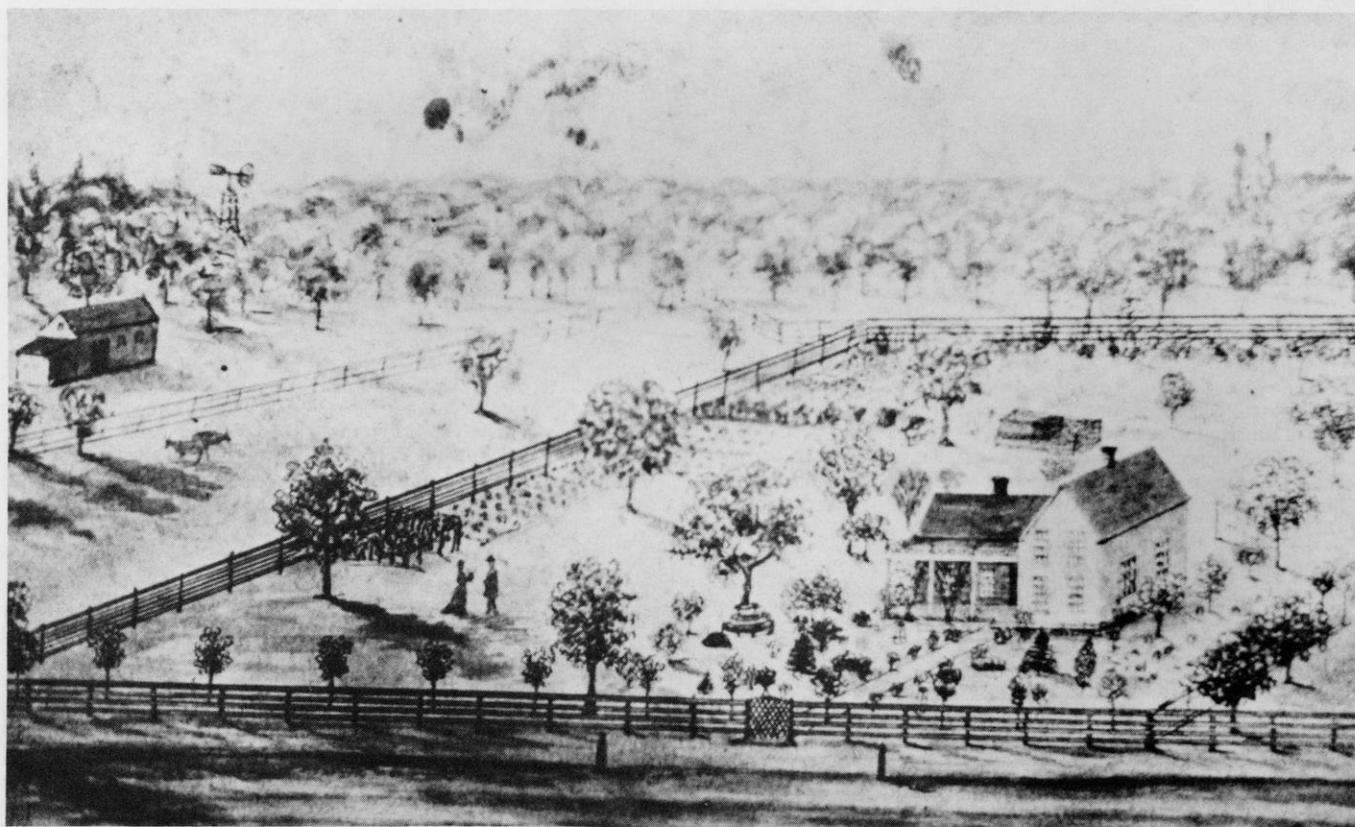
Patchen House

On the back of the original of this picture it says, "A picture of Prairie du Sac taken by Wm. R. Patchen showing his residence in 1865." The house is now listed as 865 Water St. In the 1890 village directory Mr. Patchen is listed as a creamery route agent and in the 1898 directory he is listed as retired. He was born in 1827 and died in 1920. His daughter, Carrie Gessler, was born in 1859 and died in 1933. Both are buried in the Prairie du Sac Cemetery.

The area back of this house was known as Tripp's Grove and many residents used it as pasture for their cows. It was also a good source of leaf mold; a mixture of decayed oak leaves and black dirt which was good for potted plants.



J. J. Ochsner House



Patchen House in 1865. The windmill shown at left was on Charles Stoddard's property. He dealt in pumps and windmills. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Mary C. Meyer.



This picture is of interest because it shows the Martin Moore house on the corner where the EUB Church now stands. When the church was built this house was removed to Marion Park for the pavilion. To the left of the Moore house is the home of John Wintermantel. To the right of the school on

Galena St. is the home of F. O. Sisson. The three boys in the front row center from left to right; Walter Doll, Holmes Baldwin and Henry Felix. Upper right are three teachers with Miss Jennie Baker in the center. She is often quoted in this sketch. Picture courtesy of Mrs. Cora Page Buehler.

Schools

As early as 1843, a Scotchman by the name of Quentin Smith started a private school in his home. Smith owned lots 10 and S. 20' of 11 in Block 7 of the Original Plat, which is the property now owned by Arthur Somerau at 432 Fourth St. It may be that this is the location of the first school in the village.

There was no other school house in the village until after the Court House was moved to Baraboo (after an election authorized by the State Legislature resulted in favor of having the Court House in Baraboo). In 1846 the village purchased the former two-story court house building and converted it into a public school. This served the needs of the village until 1856 when it was moved and a new stone structure was erected on the same site. The old

court house building was sold to F. Myers for \$112 and he used it for a workshop. Later it was used as a barn on the property of George Schneller at 685 Fourth St. I. Moorehouse built the new stone school house at a cost of \$1200. It was 30' x 40' in size.

At about this time the village inhabitants felt the need of more school facilities and a meeting was called for June 10, 1861, to be held in the school house to discuss the problem. At that meeting 12 incorporators were elected: S. S. Wilkinson, President; Martin S. Moore, Vice President; David Conger, Secretary; Isaac D. Evans, Treasurer; Lavalette V. Tabor, R. Meriher, J. Werner, L. E. Smith, E. Watson, J. Dennett, Joshua Perkins and J. Leverell. The Capitol stock was put out at \$1200 and



Grammar Room '96: Front row, left to right: Elzena Meyer, Vivian Reynolds, Ralph Weaver, Harry Cook, Frank Kendall, Almeda Bennett, Ed Steuber, Dave Ware, Mike Just. Middle row: Myrtle Stoddard, Dan Hutchins, Ed Meyer, Charlie Hatz, Ella Accola, Robert Bailey, Kate

Lampman. Top row: Helen Baldwin, Katherine Meyer, Lena Boehmer, Agnes Schlueter, Mabel Bickford, Robt. Lang, Clarence Fey, John Kehl and Persis Bennett, teacher. Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's plates.

shares at \$25 each and the name selected was Prairie du Sac Academy Association. A meeting of the stockholders was held on Oct. 31, 1863, at which time they elected 9 trustees and authorized the purchase of lots 1, 2, 8 & 9 of Block 12 of the Original Plat. This is the area south of the Presbyterian Church. The lots were bought from S. S. Wilkinson for \$100. The building was completed Aug., 1864, at a cost of \$1809.50.

The first high school was a private one and opened its doors on Sept. 12, 1864, with John Lovewell as principal. It advertised three terms each year and gave particular attention to those desiring to teach. In her autobiography, Mary Jane Oertel Atwood mentions that she attended this academy. Probably due to lack of paying pupils, this closed in 1871. The district purchased the academy building and moved it to the north of the stone school building



Northwest room, second floor of the 1891 school building, taken about 1908. Teachers, left to right, R. S. Babington, Elsa Baumgarth, Myrtle Tugenreich and Anna Schneller. Picture courtesy of George Wintermantel.



An unusual Panorama showing two churches and the school house. South of Presbyterian Church is home of George Ragatz. Between the school house and the Evangel-

ical Church are the homes of Dr. Albion P. Cummings and John Wintermantel. Picture taken about 1910 courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's plates.



Tabor's Hall, decorated for the 1915 graduation class party.
Picture courtesy of Fern Tabor Kennedy.



High School Classes of 1909 and 1910 with teachers.
From left to right: Walter G. Doll, Elda Steuber, Glarner Gasser, Floy Sisson, W. A. Schreiber, Lisle Sisson, Lawrence Sprecher*, Lulu Ryan, William Ploetz, Mrs. R. S. Babington, R. S. Babington, Pruda Shell, Sidney Cook, Gertrude Ragatz, Nora Ryan, Ruth Gasser, Robert Gasser, Theresa Ganser, Wesley Sprecher, Lottie Smith, Walter Albers*, Miss Elsie Baumgarth, Miss Vinnie Harvey, William Cook*, Laura Meyer, Henry Felix, Miss Alva Melaas, Roy Sisson.

*Waiters at the Junior-Senior banquet held in the Commercial Hotel prior to this meeting in Tabor's Hall.

In the years around 1910, there was a Junior-Senior Banquet in place of the present Junior-Senior Prom. The classes met in Tabor's Hall and then marched across the street in a body to the Commercial Hotel where the banquet was served, then marched back to Tabor's Hall for the evening's entertainment, consisting of a program and games like Captain Jinks, Last Couple Out, etc.

Picture courtesy of Warren Hart, whose mother, Pruda Shell Hart, is shown in the picture.

where it was used for elementary classrooms. The stone school housed the upper grades.

The third structure built on the site of the former Court House Square is the present grade school. The date on this building is 1891. This housed both the high school and the grades. Later the first two grades were moved into the old Baxter house, where the village library now stands. The old stone school was torn down and the old academy building (with bell tower) was moved to Water Street where it was used as a furniture store and later as a hardware store.

The first public high school principal was John Youmans who served from 1887-88. During the tenure of John Jones from 1888-91, the present red brick school house was built to accomodate the 8 grades and high school. The members of the first class to be graduated from the high school in 1891 were Persis Bennett, Evelyn Farr and Ethel Shull. Jones was followed by John Bergen, Arthur Row and John Dixon, but for the next 33 years the dominant figure was principal R. S. Babington, who served from 1907 to 1940.

My association with the Prairie du Sac schools covered a period of more than 50 years. This created a problem in knowing what items to include and what to omit in a short school history. Short, because a committee member is adverse to listening to a long, dry historical account, and short because a former classmate said "cut it down" before even knowing how long or short the story was.

Today, teachers must have a bachelor's degree in order to teach in high school and many hold Master's degrees,

but in the early period, most teachers got a license by graduating from a two year's course at a normal school. In order to teach all of the subjects offered in the course of study, teachers were sometimes asked to teach subjects for which they had no preparation. One of the vocational teachers was asked to teach American History for which she was ill-prepared and that may have influenced her decision not to return the following year. Shorthand was once taught by a teacher whose only preparation was keeping one day's assignment ahead of the pupils.

To relieve crowded conditions in the high school, the attic or third floor was converted into classrooms by cutting dormer windows in the roof. That provided a room for the physics lab, for typewriters and other classrooms. Typing pupils were given a book of instructions and a typewriter and pretty much left to fend for themselves.

For the benefit of the younger generations let me say that we had extracurricular activities, too. For parties, class plays or Lyceum lectures and concerts we used either Hatz's Hall above the present Eagle's Nest, or Tabor's Hall, the upper floor of the Ragatz Shoe Store. For banquets, we marched across the street to the Commercial Hotel, more recently called the Tally-Ho. We played baseball in the school yard and laid out our own basketball court, using home made backboards and baskets.

As the years passed more young people saw fit to enter high school and the one room with the four teacher's desks in front became so crowded that a meeting was called to discuss the advisability of a new building. Mr. Babington offered his usual terse and practical arguments in favor



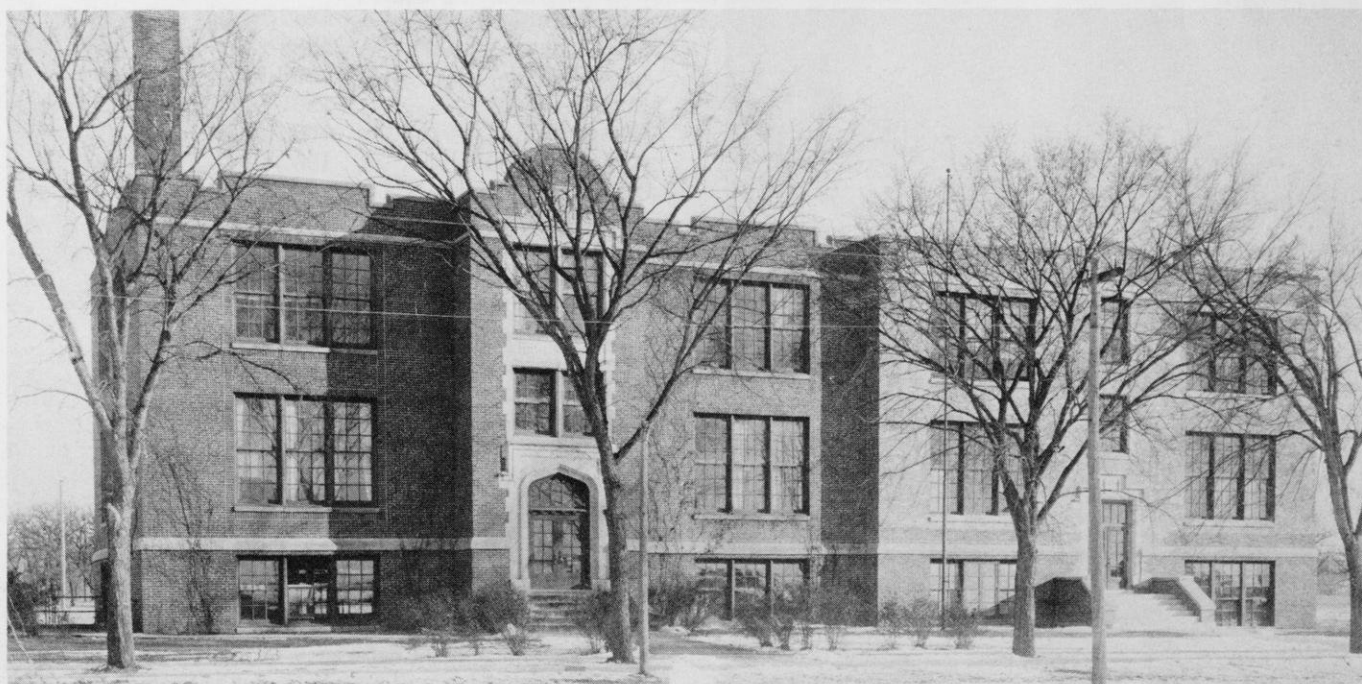
Northeast room, second floor of the 1915 school. Class of 1919.

First row: Esther Reischmueller, Hattie Boettcher, Helen Cole, Alice Loper Second row: Ernest Maulwarf, Loretta

Giese, Gertrude Lennertz, Della Kindschi Third row: Clarence Enge, Clifford Kaufman, Vernice Avery, Stella Gibbs, Thelma Albertus. Picture courtesy of Della Wintermantel.



Construction of the new gym which was dedicated in 1929.
The 1915 school with it's 1922 addition is on the right.
Picture courtesy of Paul Babington.



High School, built in 1915, with 1922 addition.

of such a project and although there was some opposition, a new high school building was authorized. It was built at the south end of 4th st. and opened in the fall of 1915. There were eleven members of this class who were graduated the next spring. An addition was built on the south end of the high school building in 1922. I taught in this building from 1915 to 1954 and when this part of the school burned down in 1965, I felt I had lost an old friend.

One of the changes that came along with the new high school was that now each teacher had a room of his own. But probably the big feature was the gymnasium, which was the envy of all the schools around. It was pretty small as gyms go today and like the Old Red Armory at the University, it could be called a "cracker box". And being small, contact between ball players was sometimes pretty rugged. At that time schools were not under the jurisdiction of the WIAA and the only qualification a referee needed was the possession of a pair of tennis shoes and a whistle. There was a stage which was used for plays, at games it was used for spectators, and it finally served as the Band Room, as a band had been organized under Edward Noaly in 1925.

Again Mr. Babington had shown his ability to keep up with the changing times by being one of the first to add vocational courses to the curriculum, such as Domestic

Science, Agriculture and Manual Training. Mae Laird, an aunt of the present Secretary of Defense, Melvin Laird, was the first Domestic Science teacher and Stanley Johnson the first Ag teacher. Mention should be made of Harvey Shields who came here in 1921 and during his 33 years of service was instrumental in building up his department to a vital force in this agricultural community. For 33 years of devoted service, particularly in teaching Ancient History, we also remember Anna Schneller. It is a coincidence that Mr. Babington, Mr. Shields and Miss Schneller all taught the same number of years, 33.

Probably the finest memorial to the foresight of Mr. Babington was the new gymnasium and auditorium which was dedicated in 1929. This compared favorably with any gymnasium in the state in a community of comparable size. Where crowds of 1200 could be accommodated, it served as a great community center, being used for basketball games and tournaments, political rallies, band concerts, farm bureau meetings and many other types of activities.

The influx of population due to the operation of the powder plant during the second world war caused overcrowding in the schools and the use of additional class rooms in the KP Hall, some of the churches and in the Park Pavilion. As a result, in 1949, another building was added to the school plant for the grades from four to eight, and in 1957 another unit was added to the high school for the use of band, Home Economics and Manual Arts. This takes us up to about 1960.

Following is a list of the principals:

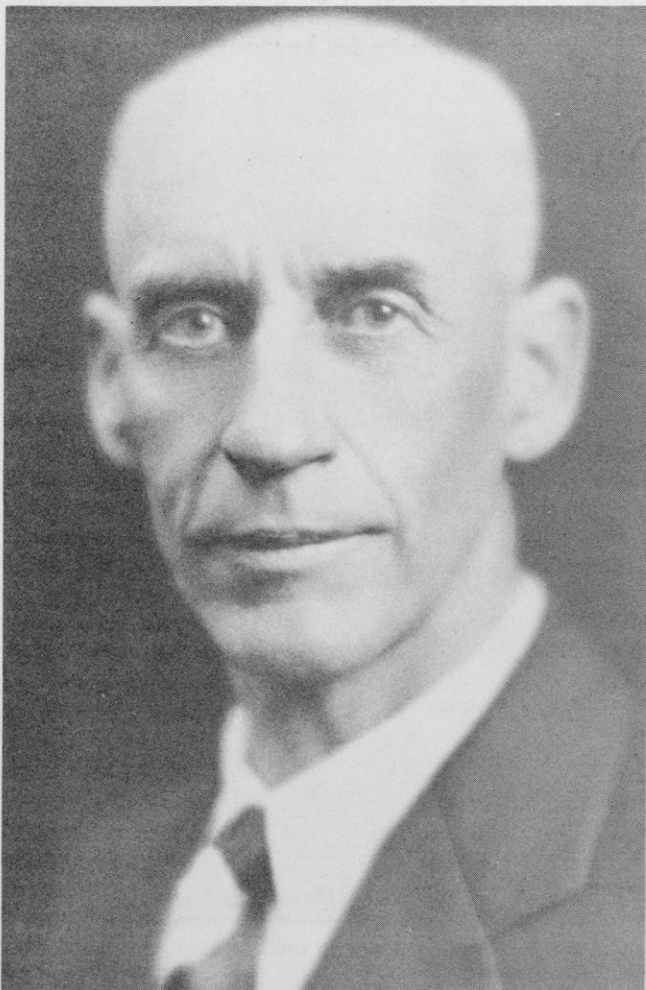
| | |
|------------------|-----------|
| John Youmans, | 1887-1888 |
| John Jones, | 1888-1891 |
| John Bergen, | 1891-1901 |
| Arthur Row, | 1901-1903 |
| John Dixon, | 1903-1907 |
| R. S. Babington, | 1907-1940 |
| Olaf Clausen, | 1940-1945 |
| A. H. Koten, | 1945-1948 |
| Gus Bole, | 1948-1955 |
| Frank Hanrath, | 1955-1960 |
| Kenneth Poppy, | 1960- |

Retired teachers living in this area:

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Alice Conger (Knapp), | 1893-1895 |
| Anna Schneller, | 1900-1933 |
| Walter G. Doll, | 1913-1954 |
| Ivan H. Ley, | 1917-1922 |
| Harvey T. Shields, | 1921-1954 |
| Albert H. Kohlman, | 1922-1928 |
| Mrs. A. H. Kohlman, | 1922-1924 |
| Raymond F. Kahl, | 1942-1949 |
| Mrs. Alfred Ness, | 1948-1950 |

No mention of the Prairie du Sac Schools would be complete without special reference to Mr. R. S. Babington, "Prof" as he was affectionately known to his many friends. He grew up in Cassell Prairie on the farm of his father, Samuel Babington. He attended high school in Sauk City and in Spring Green, graduating from the later in 1899 as valedictorian.

He was principal of the schools for 33 years, 1907-1940, during which time his farsightedness and progressive ideas brought about many changes in the school plant and curriculum. Those who were privileged to sit in his classes will always remember him with affection and respect.

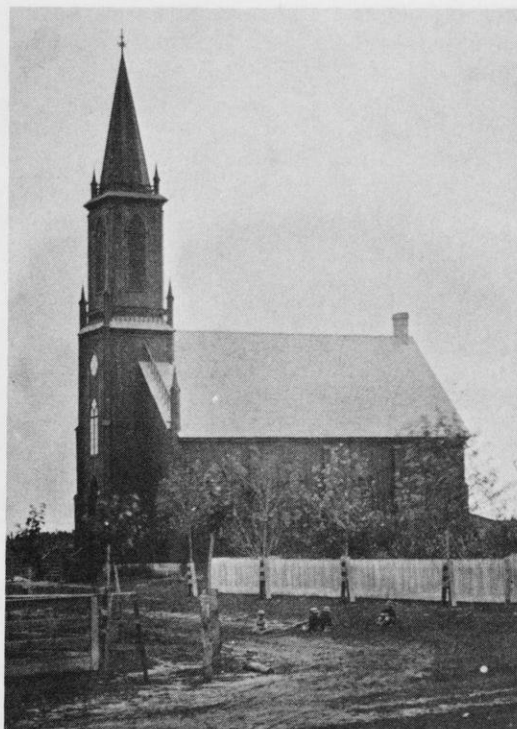


Principal R. S. Babington. Picture courtesy of Paul Babington.



Prairie du Sac High School on south 4th St., opened for classes in 1915. Picture courtesy of Paul Babington.

This was the second Presbyterian Church and was built in 1868. It had originally had a high spire which was blown down in a storm, possibly around 1900. It remained without spire until 1970 when again a spire was added. Pictures courtesy of Elvin Accola.



Churches

Presbyterian Church

At the time of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the First Presbyterian Church at Prairie du Sac a short historical sketch was prepared which tells about the "Pioneer Days—1841-63, Struggling Times—1864-92, Church reaches Majority—1893-1916."

The following are some of the items taken from this account:

In 1841, Rev. Solomon Chafee came to this area, and after a service in one of the homes, a Presbyterian Church was organized. The charter members were: Calvin Frink, Lydia, his wife and daughter Mary, Charles Parks, Burke Fairchilds, John and Nathan Kellogg and Mrs. Jane Axtell. Next year Rev. W. Nichols became their first pastor. In 1844 the church became Congregational. During these years the church met in the homes of the members, in the school house, and probably in the court house. In 1851 the first church was built, some of the money being secured from friends in the east. The grandfather of Mrs. Ruth Hutchins Accola was pastor just prior to the Civil War. As early as 1863 there was a flourishing Sunday School and the church enrollment reached fifty-four. New settlers were coming from the East and the future looked bright.

The young, fiery and enthusiastic J. W. Dinsmore became pastor about 1864. The new settlers had been largely Presbyterians, and so the church was changed back to its original form. The membership had grown to 75. The "Wilkinson House" (corner of Park Ave. and Broadway) had been purchased for a manse, and out of a revival came the building of the second church, which was dedicated in 1868. But now followed a long series of disappointments. Baraboo had become the county seat and the railroad crossed the river at Merrimac.

The later settlers were mostly of the German tongue, other churches were organized and financial hard times added to the difficulties. It was a credit to the members that the church was maintained through these trying years. They not only continued the regular services, but they established the habit of giving generously to benevolences. The salary of the ministers was increased, the manse enlarged and rebuilt after a fire. The organization of a Missionary Society and Christian Endeavor revealed the progressive spirit of the members.

In 1893, Rev. F. F. Barrett became pastor and it was during this period the growth of the church enabled it to work for the entire self-support which was finally gained when Rev. W. J. Turner became pastor in 1898. In the years that followed the church was improved in several ways, especially by adding a basement. The diamond anniversary year was fittingly observed in the building of a new manse.

During the 75 years, 525 members have been received, an average of seven a year. It took over half a century to acquire a church building, a manse and to become self-supporting, but during those years much of service was rendered that cannot be told in figures or facts.

In recent years extensive alterations and remodeling of the church building have been carried out to better serve the needs of the congregation. In 1952, the 112th anniversary of the church, new pews, chancel and communion ware were dedicated with Dr. McCartney assisting Rev. Bayley in the service. In 1954, the basement was enlarged and a new heating system was installed and a kitchen and dining room added. In 1959, the interior was redecorated and a new organ installed. Present membership is 180.

Following is a list of pastors who have served since 1885:

1882-1888—C. R. Burdick
1888-1891—J. G. Orr
1892—James Dyghton
1893-1898—F. F. Barrett
1898-1903—W. J. Turner
1903-1905—Clarence McCartney
1905-1911—Melvin R. Laird
1912-1913—Peter Book
1915-1917—J. B. Donaldson
1917-1918—S. C. Schick
1918-1920—Hugh Owen
1921-1923—G. C. Albright
1923-1927—W. A. Horn
1927-1939—D. C. Johnson
1939-1941—Maurice Jones
1942-1945—Kenneth Fox
1945-1948—Paul B. Haist
1949-1953—Ray Bayley
1953-1956—Robert Alexander
1957—Allen Maruyama

Dr. Clarence E. McCartney

Rev. McCartney was student pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Prairie du Sac from 1903 to 1905, while attending the University of Wisconsin. 49 years after delivering his first sermon, he returned to Prairie du Sac to assist in the dedication of the new pews, chancel, furniture and communion ware, and to present the congregation with a new pulpit Bible.

Rev. McCartney received the highest honor of the Presbyterian Church, that of Moderator. William Jennings Bryan proposed his name for this post in 1924. He was pastor of the First Presbyterian Church at Pittsburgh, Pa. for over 37 years. In 1957 this church had a membership of 2500.

He also had 46 books published, many of them historical works, particularly of the Civil War period. One of his books, "Lincoln and his Cabinet" is in the village library.

In his will he left a sum of money to the church at Prairie du Sac, which was used to install the beautiful stained glass window above the chancel.

Evangelical Church

The beginning of the Evangelical United Brethren Church goes back to 1844, when a veteran missionary bishop preached to a little group in a small schoolhouse in Sauk City.

The history of this church in this community dates back to 1844, but for the purpose of this account it will begin with the building of the first church to serve the members.

Before the church was built in Middletown, services were sometimes held in the John E. Wright home, which is now owned by Mrs. J. U. Schmidt located at 139 Prairie Ave.

It was in the year 1872 that a substantial stone church was built in Sauk City, near the village limits of Prairie du Sac. This served as a house of worship for the church members of the two communities until the new church was built and dedicated in 1906. This stone church was then sold to the Dresen Lumber Co. and is now being used by the Sauk Prairie Lumber Co. as a work shop.

Several years before the new church was built, Sunday evening services were held in the Universalist Church, now the Lutheran. After all, it was quite a walk to the Middletown church at night without benefit of street lights and sidewalks.

The services in the early church were entirely in the German language and it wasn't until about 1920 that English was used entirely. You will notice that the inscriptions on the stained glass windows in the church are in German.

Rev. F. W. Umbreit served the congregation from 1899 to 1903. Later he became Treasurer of North Central College at Naperville.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. W. J. Hillman, 1903-1907, that the present church was built, at a cost of \$21,800. The church was dedicated free from debt in February, 1906.

Rev. H. J. Droegkamp served in this field for only one year, as he was elected to the office of Presiding Elder, which necessitated his moving to another district. He was followed by Rev. George Scheible who served the congregation until 1913.



This is the first church built by the members of the Evangelical Congregation of Sauk City and Prairie du Sac. It was built in 1872 and was located half way between the two villages. Note the stalls for horses in the rear of the church for use of the members who could afford to ride to the meetings. The building later became the work shop for the Sauk Prairie Lumber Co.

Rev. Philip Schneider served the church for seven years from 1913 to 1920. It was during this period that the congregation made significant progress in various ways. Membership increased from 248 to 315. It was during these years that this church raised more money for missionary enterprises than any other church in the entire denomination. The envelope system was introduced, which materially increased the money raised for the budget. The "penny" collection was a thing of the past.

In 1939, during the ministry of Rev. H. H. Ferch, a pipe organ was installed which added much in producing a more sacred atmosphere in the worship service.

In 1943, while Rev. Chas. Bender was pastor, extensive alterations were made in the sanctuary, including a divided chancel with reredos, communion altar and other appropriate chancel furniture. On Nov. 16, 1952, also during the ministry of Rev. Bender, the new Fellowship Hall was dedicated. The cost of this unit was about \$120,000 and at the time of dedication all except \$3800 of this amount had been paid for and by 1955, the debt was wiped out.

When the church was built in 1906, there were 228 members and today 435. Sunday School membership was 108, now it is 278.

Roll of ministers since 1895
1895-1899—H. E. Erfmeyer
1899-1903—F. W. Umbreit
1903-1907—W. J. Hillman
1907-1908—H. J. Droegkamp
1908-1913—G. H. Scheible
1913-1920—Philip Schneider
1920-1927—W. A. Lemke
1927-1934—F. A. Trautmann
1934-1940—H. H. Ferch
1940-1953—Chas. A. Bender
1953—James Verduin

75th Anniversary of the Evangelical Church written in 1945

My recollections of the historical events of this church hardly go back 75 years, but they do begin with the church at Middletown, which to some of the older members brings back nostalgic memories. The services in that church were all held in the German language and even the Sunday School classes for the boys and girls were taught in German. We learned our Catechism German and could glibly give the answers, although I'm not sure that we understood all the big words that were used. We learned "A B C, die katz laufed in dem schnee" and similar phrases in order to perfect ourselves in that language. And most of us knew the prayer of the superintendent by heart.

There was a low partition down through the center of the church and the men sat on one side and the women on the other and considerable excitement was caused when strangers came into the church and the men got on the wrong side. However, certain boys and girls did manage to sit next to the partition opposite each other, and so they weren't too badly inconvenienced.

One of the big events that we always looked forward to was the Christmas program, at which time we always had a big tree, liberally covered with strings of popcorn, which we had strung at some one's home about a week before. There were many candles on the tree and it was Grandpa Doll's job to light these and we were always worried that a fire might be started because of all the inflammable material on the tree. We always practiced our pieces at home before the program, so we wouldn't get stuck, but it didn't always help. The Superintendent had the job of announcing each number of the program, and the responsibility of the success of it was largely on his shoulders, which is quite different now, and much better for the superintendent.

It would be quite a chore today for most of us to have to walk to Middletown to church, but we didn't mind it then and no one thought of staying at home. When Sunday morning came it was just naturally understood that we'd go to church. There was no sidewalk then, only a path along the road and just a few of the members were fortunate enough to have a horse and buggy to drive down. Some families kept horses just for that purpose. And we were considered lucky if we were overtaken by some one like that and were offered a ride. I remember Jacob Hatz's surrey with the fringe on the top.

It was in this church, however, that many of the leaders of the church today began their Christian life, and many of the lessons learned there have never been forgotten.

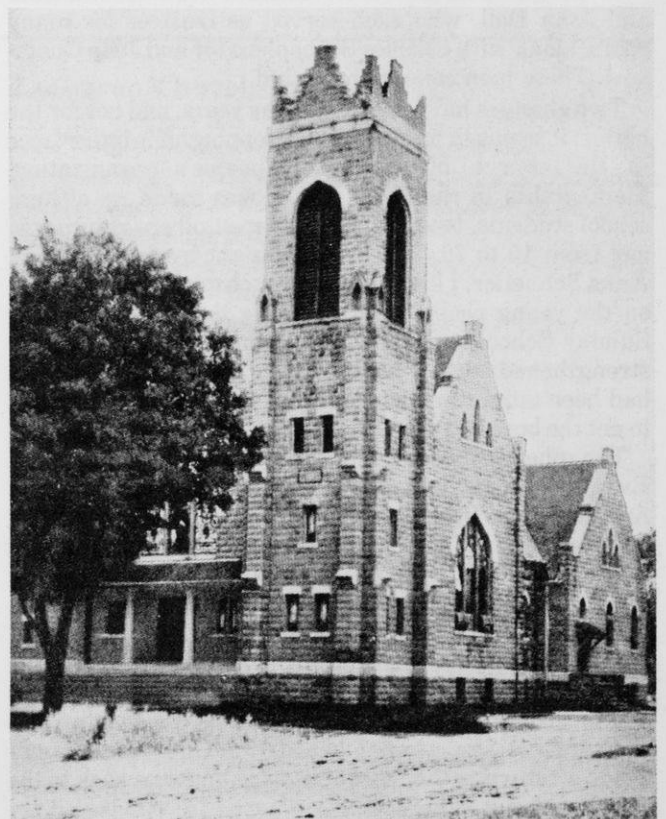
Later on we used the Universalist Church, now Lutheran, for the Sunday evening services and for Y. P. A., and the young people of that day had many fine meetings and good times there. One feature of that church was the choir loft, which was in back of the church instead of the front, where we were used to seeing it.

When the new church was built and dedicated in February of 1906, Bishop Heinmiller preached the dedicatory sermon in German. At that time this was probably one of the finest churches anywhere in Sauk County and we were justly proud of it.

It seems to me that the church in the old days played a more important role in the life of the family than it does now. The conversation at the Sunday dinner table centered about the activities of the churches more than now, even though it may have just been an argument as to how many minutes over an hour the preacher had preached. Then the competition from other sources was not so great. Now we have to listen to the noon news, or listen to Jack Benny at supper time.

When we moved into the new church the janitor's salary was boosted to \$50.00 per year. Then the electricity for the community was furnished by a private utility from power generated in what is now the Banner Mill building. Current was shut off at 11 P.M., which meant that in the morning the janitor would have to build his fires by lantern light. The current was uncertain, too. Sometimes the lights went out in the middle of the service and the janitor would have to go to the basement to get a kersene lamp, and usually just as he had gone to all that trouble and set the lamp on the table upstairs, the lights would go on again. My mother and I were janitors one year, which I remember as the year of the snow fall, and you know there is a lot of space around the church from which snow has to be shoveled.

Each of the preachers who had served us in the past had some characteristics with which he is remembered. Rev. Leonard Buehler, (Dicka Buehler to most of us) was never a regular preacher during our time, but after his retirement he lived in Prairie du Sac and sometimes preached down in Middletown. Some of you may remember that his heavy ponderous sermons were punctuated by numerous "und so weiter, und so weiter". I think, though, he is better remembered by the beautiful



Evangelical Church dedicated in February 1906.

stained glass window in the auditorium and the beautifully toned bells which he donated to the congregation when the present church was built. Rev. Frank Umbreit was so moved by his own preaching that at least once in each sermon he had tears in his eyes. Rev. Hillman had the unhappy faculty of antagonizing certain members of the congregation, but that may have been, due to the fact that not everything can go smoothly when there are chances of differences of opinion during the time of a building project, and he should be remembered as having successfully put through the building of the new church. Rev. Droegkamp meticulously prepared and read his sermons. Rev. Schneider, in his sly, diplomatic way usually got the congregation to do what he wanted and is best remembered for the fact that it was he who inaugurated the present system of raising large sums of money at Christmas and on Children's Day, so that for many years this church led the entire denomination in amounts raised for that purpose. These are the preachers, no longer living, that I remember. Maybe at the 100th anniversary of this congregation, we will be able to add some names to that list.

There are some laymen, too, who stand out in my memory. There is Jacob Hatz who was Superintendent of the Sunday School for so many years, especially in Middletown. Chris Ragatz for directing the music in the church during most of the years that I can remember, up until the time of his death, who didn't like it at all and showed it, when one of us in the choir hit a sour note. And I like to think of his now directing a heavenly choir with which he never has to become disgusted. There was George Schneller, S. S. Superintendent, long time teacher and choir member, and almost a life-long member of the Y. P. A. or League. Florian Gasser, faithful worker; John Hatz and John Doll, who each served as trustees for many years, along with Charles Schoephorster and John Guetzkow. These men come to my mind.

Two changes have come with the years, and not for the better, it seems to me. One is the dropping off in importance in the church of the young people's organization. Membership in the old Y. P. A. was made up of high school students, teachers, business men, others, ranging in age from 15 to 70. The lessons taught by Ida Hatz and Anna Schneller, I know made a much greater impression on the young people than anything they learned in the Sunday School and many young men and women were strengthened in their hour of temptation because of what had been taught in that organization. Today it is difficult to get the boys and girls to take much interest in that work.

The other is the difference in the work of evangelism. Evangelistic services sometimes lasted for three weeks. And it was an inspiring sight to see the altar lined with boys and girls. These meetings were taken seriously by all, and boys and girls in high school would speak to each other about the need of going forward. I have heard the world's greatest evangelists, Gypsy Smith, Billy Sunday, Aimee Semple McPherson, but none of them made the impression that Petticord, Baittinger, George Epp and others made upon me, possibly because I was at an impressionable age when I heard them. Maybe our age needs a return to that sort of service to get us back to the religion of our fathers.

The years have wrought many changes. New faces appear in places of responsibility, new methods are tried, we have better buildings, better trained workers teach the lessons, and yet those of use who can remember the old days think they had something to offer church members, too.

Methodist Church

The first mention of a Methodist Church in the village is found in an old Sauk County Directory printed in 1890, which states that their meetings were held in the Universalist Church. At that time there were 60 members in the church and 25 members in the Sunday School. Rev I. B. Bickford was the pastor and N. H. Ellis the Sunday School Superintendent. Mr. Ellis ran a restaurant which may have been on the site of Blaha's Market.

A pamphlet prepared by the Sumpter Church a few years later says that on April 7, 1896, the Methodist Class was reorganized with 10 members in full and 27 probationers, with O. C. Evans as class leader. It also states that "We also invested in the old Baptist Church the sum of \$250."

A partial list of class members in 1896 was as follows: Susan Colby, Rebecca Christian, Orrin Evans, Hanna Evans, Violet Fey, Stella Fey, Mary Fancher, Anna Fletcher, Hattie Grow, Kate Lindsey, Edith Page, Archie Meyers, Irvie Meyers.

List of Probationers: Chas. E. Colby, Earl Colby, Elizabeth Fey, Nellie Lampman, Alice Myers, Ida Myers, Elsie Myers, Jane G. Shell.

At first this church did not have a parsonage and the pastors lived in various houses in the village. From 1916 on, the pastors lived in the Methodist Parsonage north of the church at the corner of Galena and Sixth Sts. Mrs. H. M. (Hattie) Grow had willed this property to the church for such use.

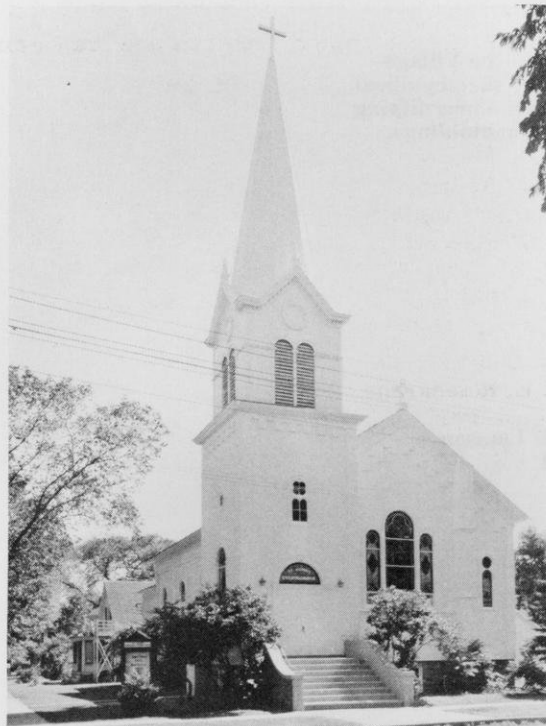
The pastors served Sumpter, Merrimac and Prairie du Sac:

1900—W. P. McClaskey
 1901—James Ford
 1903—A. S. Phelps
 1906—F. L. Roberts
 1909—Arthur Dinsdale
 1910—J. W. Barnett
 1913—H. W. Holter, A. H. Piersdorf
 1914—Wm. Philpott
 1916—Rollin C. Hallock
 1918—W. L. Nofciere
 1919—C. E. Rosenkrans
 1920—Geo. Edwards



Sixth St. scene, about 1900, shows Methodist Church and Parsonage, homes of Deck Grotophorst and Joe Moore. At the end of street, home of Thomas Baker. This building was the first church built by the Presbyterians in 1851. When their present church was built in 1868 this building was

moved to Sixth St. and was used by the Baptists, the Methodists, the Knights of Pythias and the Royal Neighbors. Picture courtesy of Reuben Mueller from Ed Steuber's plates.



St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Lutheran Church

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized in November, 1891, under the leadership of Pastor P. Pichler. During the 69 years of its existence, the congregation has been served by 12 pastors:

1891-1893—P. Pichler
 1893-1895—G. Sandrock
 1895-1904—F. Eigenmann
 1904-1912—C. Meyer
 1912-1918—F. Lambertus
 1918-1921—A. Zeilinger
 1921-1927—M. Bliese
 1927-1929—J. Keiser
 1929-1944—David Rath
 1944-1950—E. Henrichs
 1950-1956—J. Behrens
 1957—E. Fruehling

The congregation was originally organized in Sauk City. In March, 1891, the Lutheran group purchased a hall from the Freie Gemeinde. The present building in Prairie du Sac was acquired from the Universalists in 1911 and was dedicated in January, 1912. Extensive repairs and remodeling has been made since the building was acquired. Present membership is 450.

In writing a sketch of this kind, it is necessary to get information from many sources and many people. It is, therefore, impossible to list the names of all those who have helped in this preparation. My thanks are due all of them and especially Mrs. Alice Knapp, Miss Alice Conger, Lloyd Tarnutzer, C. H. Lehmann and Mrs. George Accola, to mention a few.

Information came also from these sources: two-volume *History of Sauk County* by H. E. Cole; *Sketches of Sauk County* by Wm. H. Canfield; *History of Sauk County* published by the Western Historical Society in 1880; *Illustrated Album of Biography*; letters of John E. Wright's daughters; information left by Miss Jennie Baker; various abstracts in possession of present owners property described.

If the stories of some buildings, organizations or people are more complete on some than on others, it is only because more information was available on some. There are other century-old homes in the village in addition to those mentioned.

The history of some buildings is not complete because only the facts and dates that were authentic were included. And only sketches of people who have passed away are given.

W. G. Doll

Cover

Copy of a lithograph hanging on the wall in the Village Clerk's office, dated 1883. Note the old bridge, the steamboat and lumber raft on the river. With the aid of a magnifying glass you may be able to identify some of the buildings.

1. Academy
2. School
3. Depot
4. Post Office
5. Steamboat Landing
6. Stock Yards
7. Grain Elevator, M.H. Keysar & Co.
8. Carriage Shop, F. A. Oertel
9. Carriage Shop, Cornelious Myers
10. Lumber Yard, Chris Obrecht
11. Christian Plow Co.
12. Vineyard, Jacob Kehl
13. Prairie du Sac Creamery, Bickford & Lamson
14. Windmill Warehouse, C. H. Stoddard
15. Briggs House
16. Baxter House
17. Presbyterian Church
18. Universalist Church
19. Baptist Church
20. Prairie du Sac Cemetery

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