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Stratford Centennial 1891 - 1991



For Reference

Not to be taken from this room

Stratford, Wisconsin

We Celebrate Our Heritage

Dedication

This centennial book is dedicated to the residents of the Stratford Area, past, present and future. To the brave, industrious lumbermen armed with axes and saws, who first came to the forests to clear away the trees. To the farmers who followed and cleared away the stumps and rocks and set their plows to the land to discover the rich soil underneath.

To the many people who presently live in the area, some still working the land broken by their forefathers, some who were enticed here by the excellent farming conditions, some who work in neighboring cities and chose to have their homes in our beautiful, small town, rural setting.

And to those who are still to come, whether by birth or choice, to live in the Stratford area.

The information gathered while doing the research for this book has instilled an enormous appreciation for the hard work and perseverance of the early settlers. They came, some following the westward migration of our great country and some leaving their native countries, in search of a better way of life for themselves and their families.

It is regrettable that those who could give us the best insight into our past, those who were here in the beginning of our settlement, are no longer here to tell their stories.

We all owe our gratitude to everyone who preserved and shared their photographs and passed on their stories, to the news publications of the area which recorded the happenings of the times and had the foresight to include biographies of local settlers as well as their reflections and to past historians who understood the importance of a written history to future generations.

It is the hope of the Centennial Book Committee, that the Stratford Centennial Book will give the reader an understanding of our past, a feel for the rhythm of life in the community and enjoyment, as they learn about the people and events so important to the settlement of this area.

The Centennial Book Committee apologizes for any omissions due to lack of information and offers sincere gratitude to everyone who has contributed to the publication. Naturally, there is more to the history of Stratford than is found in the pages of this book. Due to necessary space limitations, selections were made to give the overall picture of our community.

Stratford Centennial Book

1891 -1991



Marathon County Public Library
300 N 1st St
Wausau WI 54403

Stratford, Wisconsin

Documentation

Articles and documents are recorded as they appeared. If they included spelling errors, they were left as written. Any errors of documented facts or any instances of information conflict have been corrected to the best of the author's understanding. These changes and explanations have been noted for clarification. We apologize for any errors which may have been made due to misunderstanding or absence of information. No intentional misrepresentations have been made.

Photographs containing groups of individuals are named left to right and back to front unless otherwise specified. If the exact date was not known, an attempt was made to place it as close as possible to the time period and the notation, circa, has been added.

Thank You

One of the most used sources of information has been the Stratford Journal. The centennial book committee would like to thank Paul Hale for making the past issues available to the committee. Many hours were spent scanning through the Stratford Journal for stories which reflected the happenings of the growing community of Stratford.

In 1956, the Journal published a special issue which contained a historical prospective of the community. The articles were written by Mrs. Robert Allen. Mrs. Allen did such a beautiful job of researching and writing the historical stories, that we have, in many cases, quoted her stories directly. The committee thanks Mrs. Allen and the Stratford Journal for the community service they provided with this issue.

The committee is grateful to all of you who have generously submitted your collections of old photographs, news clippings and memories. By sharing your treasures, you have helped to make the committee's task of recreating the past much easier and more complete.

The Stratford Centennial Book may be purchased by contacting the Stratford Village Clerk. Write to: Stratford Village Clerk, PO Box 12, Stratford, WI 54484. (715) 687-4166.

There are copies of photographs not used in the book in the clerk's office. Stratford considers the collection of Stratford memorabilia and historical photographs an ongoing project. Donations to the collection are always welcome.

Stratford also has a historical museum project which welcomes donations of artifacts, memorabilia, photographs and financial support.

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Before Stratford

Early History

The Indians

RESOLUTION # 91 - 6

Concerning the Celebration of the Centennial 1891-1991.

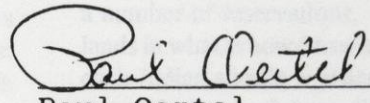
WHEREAS the Village of Stratford was settled 100 years ago by industrious lumbermen armed with axes and saws and by the farmers who cleared the stumps and rocks, and;

WHEREAS, residents of our Village are proud of the heritage of our ancestors, and;

WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees recognizes the industrious citizens, past and present, who undertook the arduous task of incorporating our local government to create a self-sustaining and enterprising community,

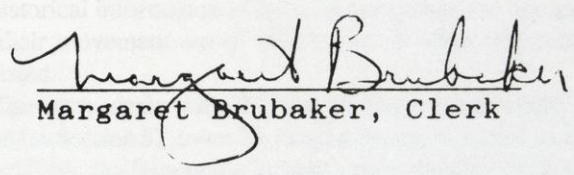
THEREFORE, I, Paul Oertel, President of the Village of Stratford proclaim the year 1991 as the year of the Centennial to be celebrated in full spirit by our residents, and our guests.

Dated this 9th day of April, 1991.



Paul Oertel
Village of Stratford

Attest:


Margaret Brubaker, Clerk

Before Stratford

Early History

The Indians

The Stratford area was once a lush forest of trees, home to wildlife, flowers, and birds. The Indians passed through the region, hunting the wide varieties of game, catching fish in the rivers, as well as gathering the sap from the sugar maple trees so abundant in the area.

Unfortunately, they left no written history, only stories passed down from one generation to the next which cannot be verified. Oral histories vary in the telling and can only be used as a loose interpretation of the way things were. It is only when the white man entered the region that written documentation became available, told from the white man's point of view.

Several tribes were reported in southwestern Marathon County. The Chippewa and Winnebago Indians lived in Green Valley and Day townships when settlement came to the area.

The Potawatomi were located in the same townships. They settled in the area after a peace treaty was signed between the Indians and the United States giving up their rights to their home in the Milwaukee area. As the population grew around Milwaukee, they were forced northward, finally settling in the Little Eau Pleine Valley. They would travel to Rozellville to trade at the store of John Brinkman Sr. and work for farmers in the area, helping them clear their land. More information can be found in the Town of Day Centennial Book on the life of the Indians in the Rozellville and Smokey Hill areas.

An article from The Wausau Pilot, March 19, 1907, gives the historical information of the Indian migration to our area and their movement out of the county as white settlement increased.

"The story deals with the old Saunders farm which is located in Section 32, town 26, range 4 in what is known as the town of Day, the farm being located a short distance from the Little Eau Pleine river. There was an old Indian village on this farm.

"The reasons the Indians came here are written in the congressional record of the 57th congress.

"The government invited the Chippewa, Fox, Sac, Menominee, Iowa, Sioux, Winnebago and a portion of the Ottawa and Pottawatomic tribes of Indians to meet in Prairie



*Indian woman from
southwestern Marathon County.*

du Chein on Aug. 19, 1825, for the purpose of meeting its commissioners, Wm. Clark and Lewis Cass, to establish treaty and boundary claims. The government later established a number of reservations. The Menominees were assigned lands in what is now Shawano county and it was required that each Indian should register before entering the reservation. Part of the band refused to fill this requirement and moved into this county and built a village on what was afterwards the Saunders farm; another band moved to where the village of Auburndale is located. The country along the Eau Pleine rivers was especially attractive to them because it afforded good fishing, plenty of wild fowl and game and forests of sugar trees. There were upwards of 500 Indians located on this farm summer and winter.

"In the silent, somnolent forests they built round, bark houses. A framework of poles and branches was made and bound together and entirely covered with large pieces of bark firmly held in place by tough, pliable, rope-like straps of dogwood bark. Usually they had a low platform constructed around the walls of their huts, which was used as a lounging place by day and as a bed by night. In the center was an open space with dirt floor. In winter and on stormy days they cooked their meals in this open space, the smoke wending its way upward through an aperture left in the roof.

"Here he lived the life of his forefathers, employing his time in hunting and fishing and occasionally giving battle to other Indians who trespassed on his lands, though he was generally peaceable.

"One of the legends of this band, which is related by a remnant of the tribe, is that when the Great Spirit summoned one of their number to the Happy Hunting Grounds, they laid him away with tribal rites in a shallow grave, which was covered with cordwood-like sticks. There was a large burying ground on the Saunders farm just east of the house which was plowed over about fifteen years ago.

"Thirty odd years ago, (1870's) Otto Saunders purchased the land where this large Indian camping ground was located and while the Indians had no legal title, he paid them \$200 for their clearing."

Another article, from the Marshfield Times, August 5, 1887 tells of the beginning of the end for a Potawatomi band in the area.

"The Pottowatomie [sic] delegation of Indians commanded by Capt. John Young, who have for about fifteen years, lived in the N 1/2 NW and Se NW of section 1, Town 26, range 3, east in Marathon County*, have received notice that they must purchase the property at \$1,000, \$500 of which must be cash, by the 13th of August or be removed by the sheriff. Accompanying the notice is a further notice that they must not remove any of the crops as it is claimed by the owner. Capt. Young's band have held peaceable possession of the farm during fifteen years and have cleared about forty acres. The band number about two hundred and fifty people. They are making every effort possible to protect the improvements they have made by purchasing the property, but it is doubtful if they will be successful in raising the \$500 necessary for a cash payment."

The Indians are reported to have left the area, not being able to meet the cash payment.

*The township reported is in error, unless this was the designation of the town of Day in 1887.

Mrs. Adella Cline of March Rapids related the following story to Pat Krause in an oral history interview on June 24, 1975. The complete transcript of the oral history is available at the Marathon County Library and is part of the Marathon County Heritage Program.

"The Indians would travel along the Little and Big Eau Pleine rivers in the spring of the year. They would gather bark from the slippery elm trees, which was much in demand for medicinal purposes. The bark was stripped by cutting it along in a strip about 20 feet or so straight up and then the bark was folded and strapped onto each side of a pony.

"Mr. Weber at Webertown tells many times when the weather was bad, they would shelter the Indians. They slept on the floor, sometimes as many as 15 women with their children. They would ask for some medicine and maybe some warm clothing. They would offer to make hand mittens or shoes for the help they were given. The Indians paid for everything in beaded leather articles. Before they left the area for warmer climates they repaid the people for any help that was given to them.

"Mr. Herbert Weiland who lived in the area on a farm with his family tells of the time when the Indians were coming through. The Indians came to the log house and asked if they could set their tent up nearby and his father said yes. While they were talking, the Indian noticed the 11 year old boy. He looked very ill and had been in bed for some time. The Indian inquired, "What is the matter with that boy?" Mr. Weiland told the Indian that he had rheumatism in the joints and the Indian asked permission to treat him. The Indian told him to dig a jar of angleworms and hang them in the hot sun so they bake out all of their fat or oil. The Indian prepared a tea of spruce balsam tips, red maple bark and angleworms. The oil from the angleworms was applied to the boy's joints and with this treatment he recuperated fast."

The Coming of the White Men

The first white men to walk on the soil of what is now known as the Village of Stratford were probably French fur traders in the 1600's. They spent months and sometimes years at a time, following the rivers, trapping the abundant game.

The territory of Wisconsin had a settlement near the sight of Green Bay as early as 1634. Later French fur traders came to make their fortune as well as missionaries to spread Christianity to the "savages". In the 1820's lead miners started villages in the southern part of the state.

Settlement began in earnest in the 1830's and the pine forests which covered the northern two thirds of the state became an important resource of building material and fuel. Wisconsin's lumber industry was born.

The lumber industry, which was responsible for the settlement of Wisconsin forest lands, by necessity followed the rivers. The rivers were needed to transport the logs to mills to be sawed into lumber to meet the demands for building materials in the growing nation. Central Wisconsin was ignored for many years as areas along the larger rivers were settled to the East and West. Logging operations followed the Wisconsin River in the East and eventually spread into the smaller tributaries, eventually reaching the Little and Big Eau Pleine Rivers.

As the lumber companies swept through an area, they cleared the forests of pine as quickly as they could and moved on in the search for more. Hardwoods were ignored or burned

as they could not be floated down the river to market. They left behind large pine stumps which were later cleared by the industrious farmers who changed the landscape to fertile fields for agricultural pursuits.

The transformation from forest to farms was rapid. The soil beneath the thick forests was thick and ideally suited for agriculture. Lumberjacks worked in the woods during the winter when snow was available to skid logs to logging sleighs which were loaded and pulled to the river banks where they were left to wait for the spring floods. When the snow melted, the rivers became raging torrents and the logs were rolled into the water to hurtle downstream.

Pine logs, which had a diameter of three to four feet, were not uncommon and measured 12, 14, and 16 feet in length. It was not unusual to scale some of the large logs at 1,000 to 1,200 board feet and the prices received by the settlers when clearing their land would make a lumber buyer very happy now. In 1889 the price paid for number one grade pine logs which scaled 1,000 board feet was \$3 per thousand. During World War I it had gone to \$105 and up.

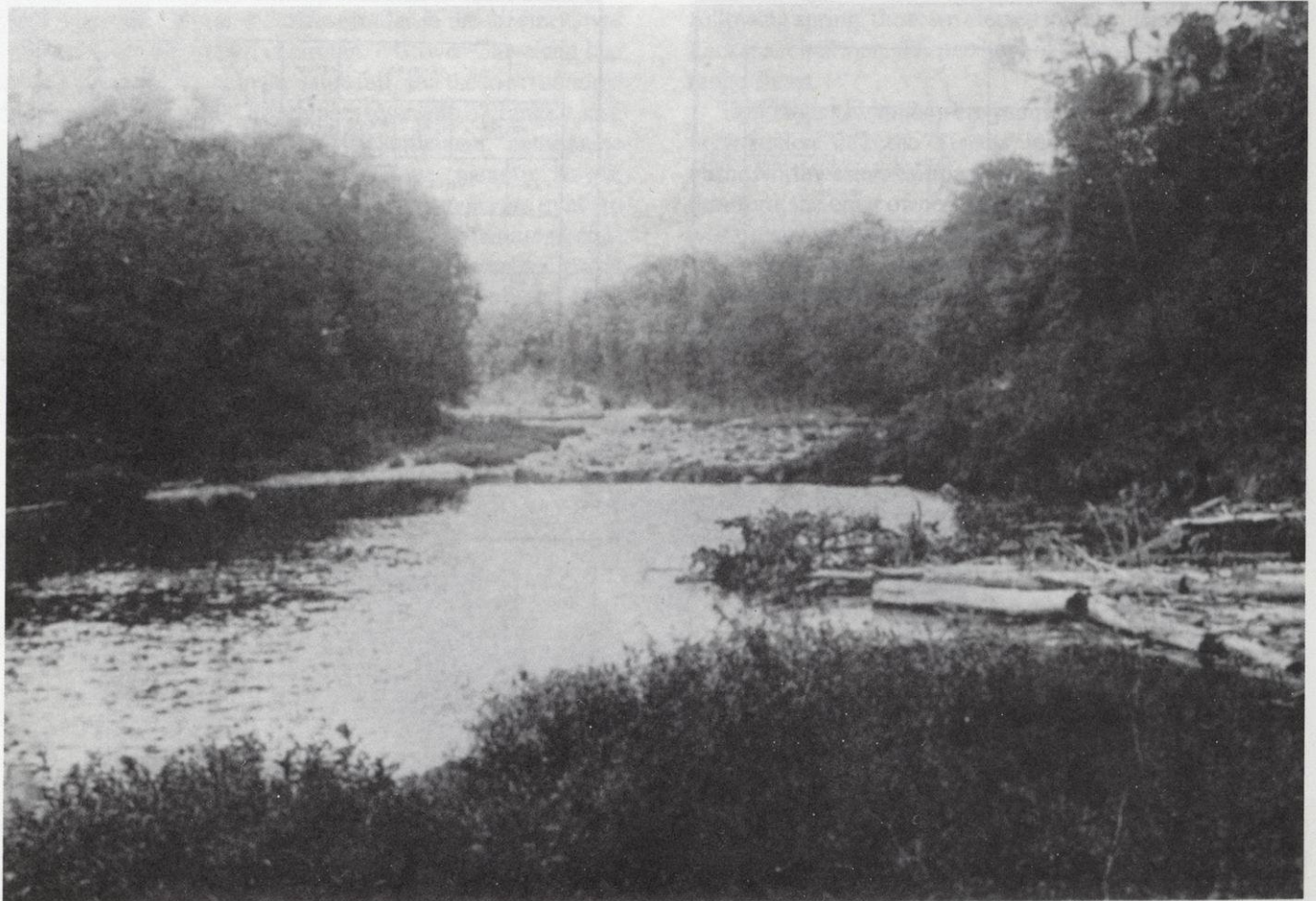
Production from the mills was shipped to all parts of the country with a large share of it going to the prairie states. Hemlock was sawed into sheeting, two by fours, three by 12 road planks and heavy boards for sidewalk crossings. White

pine went into one inch and one and one-quarter inch shop lumber. Furniture, beer barrel staves and sleigh runners were made from white oak while red oak boards were shipped to manufacturers of high grade furniture and pianos. Birdseye maple was rare and commanded premium prices because of the fancy bedroom furniture which was considered so stylish at that time. The massive pianos of the nineties owed much of their weight to the red oak.

Basswood, light in weight, was useful for box boards and a limited supply went into the production of wooden shoes. The lowly rated elms were burned to get them out of the way. The common maples were also disposed of as nuisances. They served the settlers mainly as firewood. The lesser grades of timber were wasted but this same wood, if available now, would have a high value.

Logging settlements sprang up along the Little Eau Pleine River and the Big Eau Pleine River in the area surrounding the present sight of Stratford.

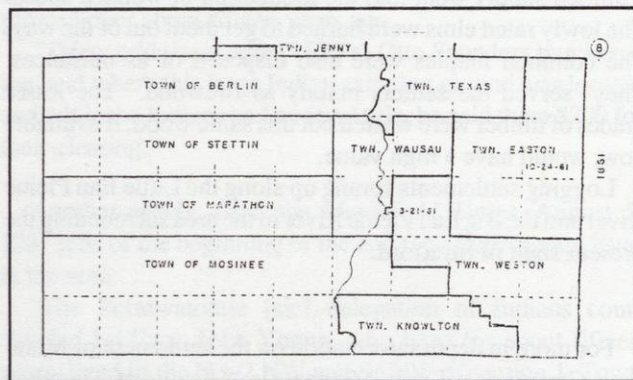
For more in depth information on the settlement of Marathon County see: Louis Marchetti's "History of Marathon County, WI and Representative Citizens" which was published in 1913.



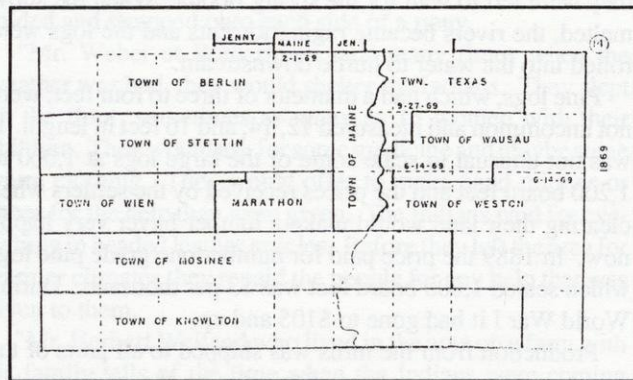
View of the Little Eau Pleine River, (County Park and west of RD), Courthouse, Stratford

The Progression From Portage County to Cleveland & Eau Pleine Township

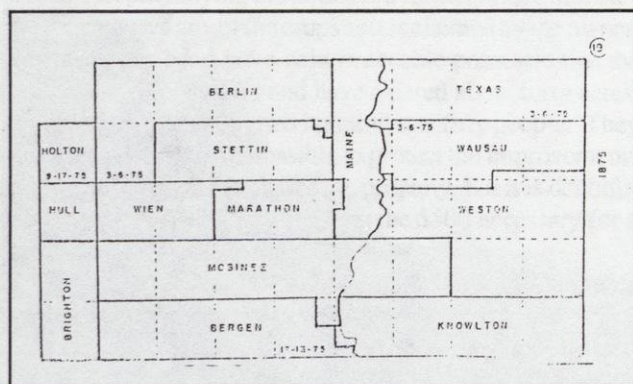
Prior to 1850 this area was part of Portage county, known as the Town of Big Falls. In 1851, the first townships of Marathon county were formed. At that time, what is now Cleveland and Eau Pleine Townships was part of the township of Mosinee. The following maps show the progression of township formation as they affect these townships.



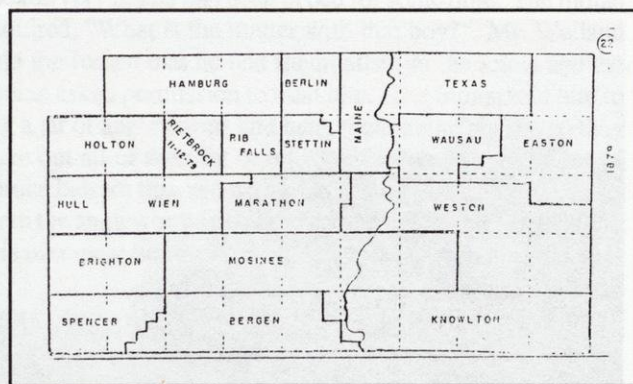
#1 1851



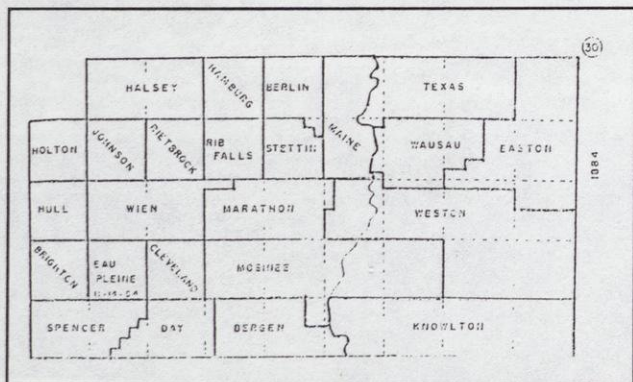
#2 1869



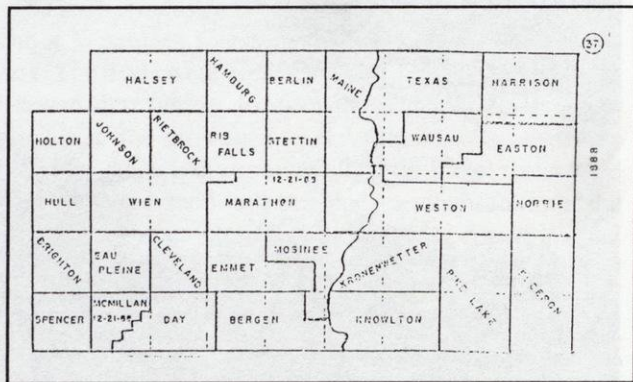
#3 1875



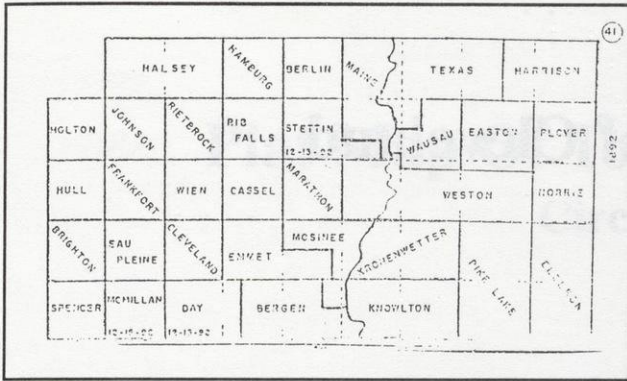
#4 1879



#5 1884



#6 1888



#7 1892

Increased population in the county was responsible for the rapid division into increasing numbers of townships.

The Town of Cleveland

The Town of Cleveland was set off from the town of Mosinee, November 14, 1884, and organized in the spring of 1885. Edward Hayes, the oldest settler in the territory, was elected as the first town chairman. Grover Cleveland had been elected president in the same fall, and the town honored him by taking his name. It embraces township 27, range 4 east.

The town formed part of the "Irish Settlement," as the name of the first settlers sufficiently indicate, namely: Hayes, Hughes, Bradley and others, whose descendents are living in the town on large, good cultivated farms. The German emigration set in after the building of the Wisconsin Central Railroad and the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad from Wausau to Marshfield.

Source: The History of Marathon County and Representative Citizens, 1913

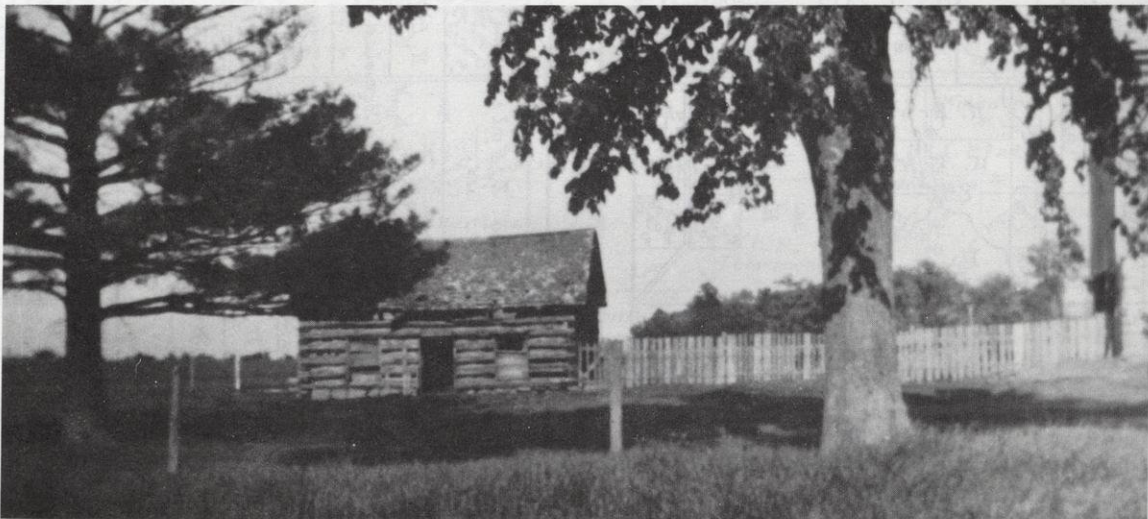
The Town of Eau Pleine

The town of Eau Pleine was set off from the town of Brighton on November 14, 1884, and in the election the following spring, the town elected its first officers with Edw. Laesig as chairman. The territory of this town is township 27, range 3 east.

Two large saw mills were running in this town before its organization. One, the "Staads" mill, so-called, was situated on the Northwestern railroad, about two miles southwest from Stratford; the other owned by the firm of Dowd, Sons & Co., was situated at the little village of March Rapids nearly in the center of the north boundary line of the township.

The farm settlement in this town was very weak in numbers when the town was organized.

Source: The History of Marathon County and Representative Citizens, 1913



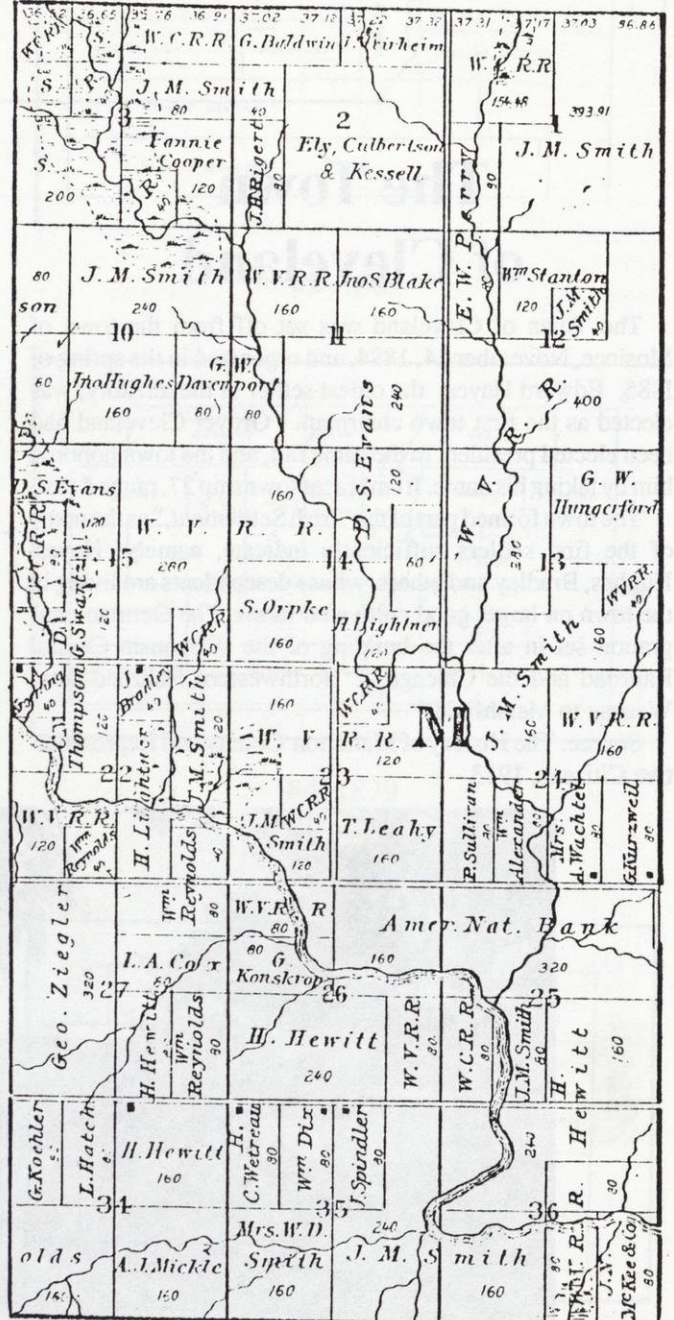
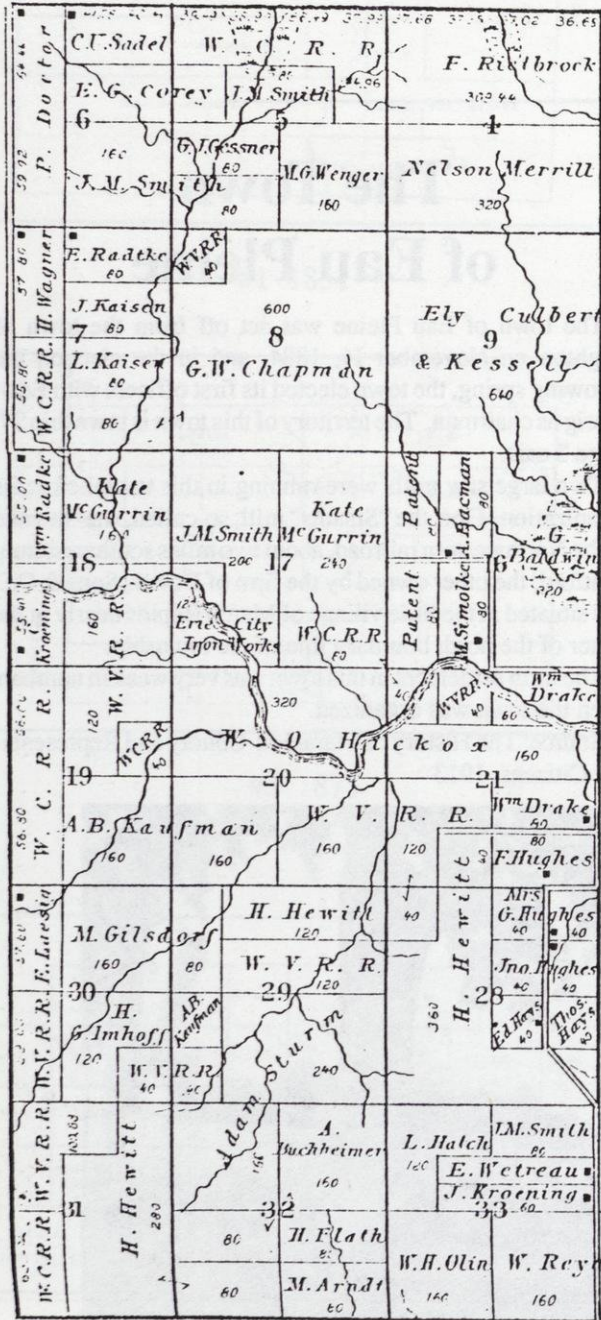
Nikodim farm in the Town of Eau Pleine, (County P and Wescott Rd), *Courtesy: Don Schnitzler*

Plat Map Of Town of Cleveland

Circa 1882

Township No. 27.

Range No. 4 East.



Logging and Early Settlements



Photo of early area lumber camp

The western portion of Marathon county was unsettled and wild in the years before 1871. What settlement there was, was due to logging operations utilizing the Big Eau Pleine and Little Eau Pleine Rivers.

The following was found in the History of Clark County, Wisconsin, by F. Durtiss-Wedge, published in 1918. It is one of the best descriptions of early logging and applies to the Stratford area as well as Clark County.

“A logging camp presented to the spectator a combination of animated sights and sounds. Here, camped in log shanties, and with log stables for oxen and horses, were congregated together from 25 to 100 men, according to the size of the winter’s work laid out for them. Some of the men would be engaged in cutting down the pine trees and were called ‘choppers’, some were engaged in sawing the logs into lengths varying from 12 to 18 feet, or more, the average being 16 feet; others with oxen were busy skidding the logs and others called teamsters engaged in hauling great loads of logs on immense sleighs, from the skidway down to the river, where they would be loaded either on the ice, or else put on rollways on the river bank, from thence at the opening of the river in the spring to

be tumbled into the swift running stream, the last work being termed ‘breaking the rollways.’ Before the logs were landed they were marked on the bark on the side of the log with the owner’s log mark, and stamped on the ends of each log several times with what was known as the ‘end mark.’ Each logger had his own marks, which were registered with the lumber inspector’s office.

“With the coming of spring and the disappearance of the snow from the logging roads, labor in the forest came to an end. The loggers now turned their energies to the log drive. Presently the rivers were freed from their imprisoning coat of ice, and spring floods were on hand to carry the logs to the mill. Unhappy the logger, particularly when his operations took him far upstream, if the melting snow and the spring rains produced only a slight rise of water. Then his logs were tied up and he must wait for a more favorable year to carry them to market. But when the river was high the red-shirts gaily set about the hazardous work of breaking the rollways and delivering to the swollen stream, the accumulated harvest of the winter’s work. The drive was picturesque as it certainly was the most dangerous portion of the season’s operations. Down the ice-cold torrent thousands upon thousands of logs



Log drive on the Big Eau Pleine River near Stratford. *Courtesy of Clarence Kafka.*



Wagan on the Big Eau Pleine River near Stratford. *Courtesy of Verlyn Polster.*



Fred Laessig's log house. *Courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman.*



Christian Weber's General Store
Courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman.

On the north bank of the river, Edward L. Laessig, a native of Saxony, and his wife Jeanette (Baenen) of s'Hertogenbosch, Holland, migrated from near Green Bay. Their daughter, Augusta, became the wife of Michael Wagner. Their son Frank married Christian Weber's daughter Mary, and their eldest daughter, Philomena married Henry Weber, brother of Christian, who like his brother, had come to the north and built a home of logs in the wilderness.

All the original dwellings were built of logs cut from the forest, but with the operation of the Weber saw and shingle mill, cut lumber became available.



Christian and Anna Weber. Webertown was named for Christian Weber. *Courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman.*

Henry Weber, a carpenter, also helped operate a boarding house for his brother, Christian, who had a general store and the position of Post Master.

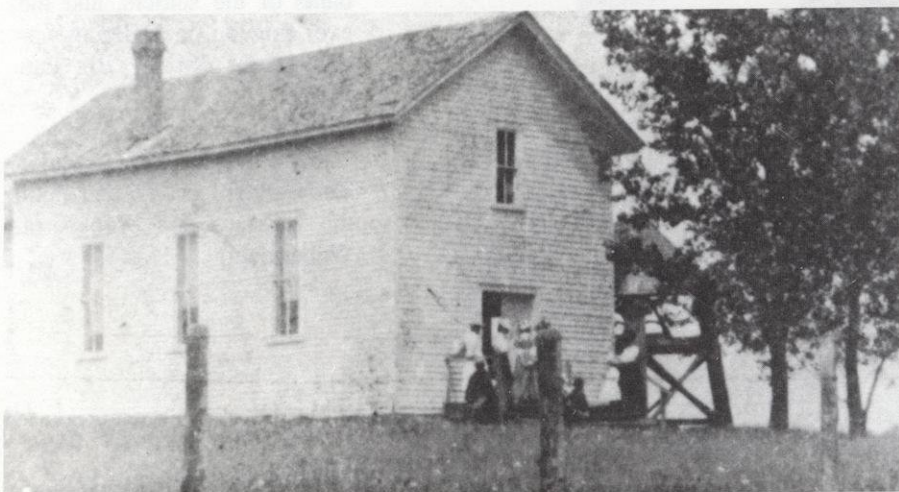
Brother-in-law, Jacob Kaiser, a livestock dealer, was the mail carrier for the March Express from Webertown, March and Unity, while Andrew Kaiser ran the saloon and another brother Lawrence was shoe maker. Joseph Sawyer was blacksmith; V.G. Chrouser plasterer and Justice; Peter Doctor, shoemaker and road builder; John Filen, painter; Fred Osee, carpenter and mason; Ed Polege, brick manufacturer; M.B. Wagner, general store and saloon; Edward L. Laessig, stone



Christian Weber Saw Mill at Webertown. *Courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman.*



Christian Weber home on the Big Eau Pleine at Webertown during a spring flood. *Courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman.*



Holy Trinity Catholic Church at Webertown. *Courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman.*

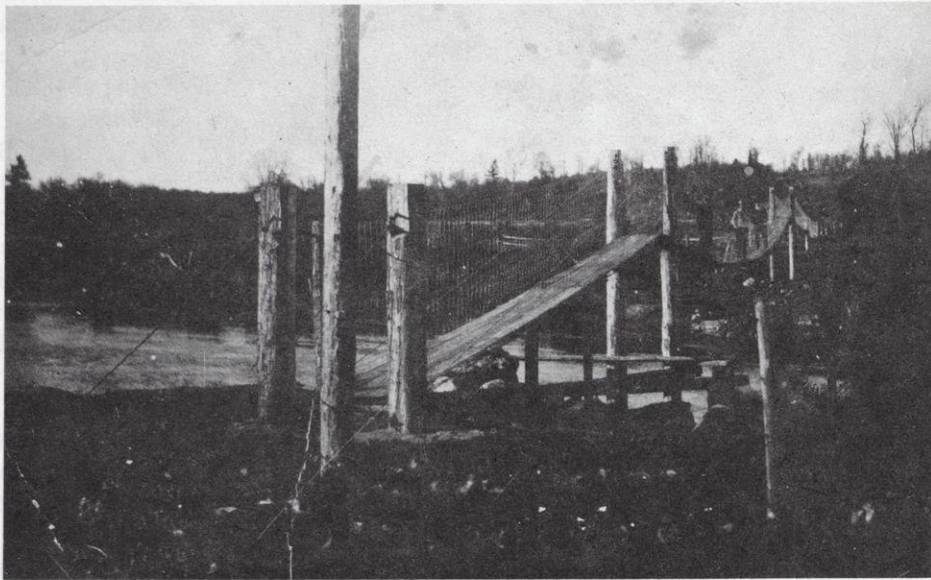
mason and first elected Town Chairman of Eau Pleine Township when it was established in the spring of 1885.

Other early settlers included the names Boland, Brandt, Fromberger, Hazelton, Lawyer, Quinelle, Steiner, and Walter.

Important as livelihood to the settlers, was religion. After years of meeting in private homes it was decided to build a church in 1884. Holy Trinity, named after the home parish in Trier, was built by generous craftsmen's hands on four acres donated by Michael Wagner. The 24 x 60 ft. frame building and adjoining bell tower of wood from the Weber mill was completed in 1887. Christian Weber and Andreas Kaiser were the first trustees. Father Ignatius Schaller of Marshfield helped organize the parish which consisted of about 70 Catholic families, including names such as Carl, Fingstel, Hein, Hennes, Hughes, Kieffer, Laessig, McDonald, Ross, Scheigl, Schelb, Schwartz, Simolke, Wenzel and Wesley. Priests from Colby, Marathon City and Rozellville came to offer mass several times each year, until the mission became affiliated with the Rozellville parish of St. Andrew's in 1893 after which regular services were held.

On the northern side of the Big Eau Pleine, and a bit east, the Lutheran settlers established St. Paul's Lutheran Church along what is now Highway 97. They built a 20 x 30 ft. structure in 1893. Original members include the names Buddan, Falaskey, Ferminick, Heisdreer, Korham, Kroening, Laessig, Leffel, Lemmer, Polege, Plautz, Radke, Richnow, Teske, Usadel, Zettler and Zuelke.

In 1880 a school house was built just north of the river. Mary Laessig was the first teacher. Children from both north and south of the Big Eau Pleine attended, so a footbridge was constructed by Christian Weber.



Walking Bridge across the Big Eau Pleine at Webertown. *Courtesy Caroline Reichert*



Julie Wagner on walking bridge across the Big Eau Pleine at Webertown about 1916. There is a sign above the bridge that warns of a \$5.00 fine if more than two people are on the bridge at the same time *Courtesy Adella Cline.*

Weber Settlement was a thriving community until the arrival of the Chicago and North Western Railway which attracted the young, ambitious lumberman, W.D. Connor, who, in 1891, established the village of Stratford.

Today, all that remains of Webertown are two old cemeteries, a few stone structures obscured by the terrain, descendants of the settlers, and the ever flowing, meandering waters of the rippling Big Eau Pleine.

(The writer, Patti Laessig Zimmerman, is a descendant of the Laessigs and Webers of Webertown)

March Rapids

March Rapids was located in the present day township of Eau Pleine. The Big Eau Pleine River made the land attractive as a timber source and was originally purchased by lumberman John Week in 1855. John Holmes was the first settler - he built a sawmill on the site around 1875. Mr. Richards came shortly afterwards. Tom March also built a sawmill and gave the community its name. March sold his mill to Doud and Son who built a railroad spur to the nearby settlement of Staadt.

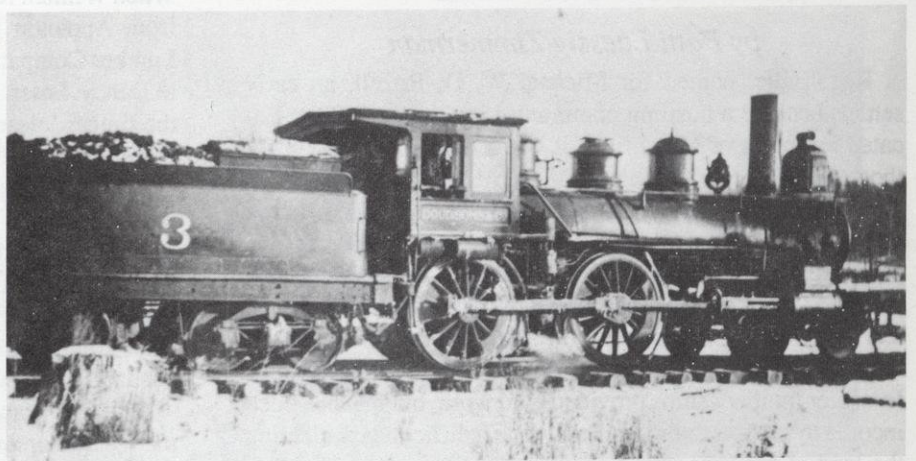
At its peak, March had about 40 buildings including several stores and saloons, a shoe-harness-coffin shop, a dance hall, hotel, boarding house and schools.

Other early settlers were Albert Radke, William Hein, Paul Haffner, Herman Leffel, and William Wesley.

March Rapids boasted a sawmill, a planing mill, a tie mill and a heading mill. The company built a boarding house which was managed by Mrs. McLoughlin. Mr. Doud donated land for the Emmanuel Lutheran church. The Doud Mill was destroyed by fire in 1913, and the Douds purchased a mill in Fenwood and had it reassembled at March. The mill ceased operations in the 1920's.



The mill at March Rapids



Doud & Son Railroad



At March Rapids mill

Other area communities

Main Street looking East, Rozellville, Wis.



Courtesy of Clarence Kafka

Rozellville

by Patti Laessig Zimmerman

Rozellville, named for Michael W. D. Rozell, an early settler, became a bustling community in the late 1880's. Located northeast of Marshfield, it was a desirable location for those interested in buying land after the Homestead Act of 1862. Acreage sold for \$1.00 to \$1.25 per acre. Lumber companies had gone through earlier and reaped a harvest of the choicest pines, floating the logs down the Little Eau Pleine River to Dancy where they entered the Wisconsin River. That left many hardwoods to be cleared for farming. In the beginning, selling the timber was the only livelihood for the settlers. In winter lumber camps provided hard work, but much needed income to support their families. It was a difficult task clearing the land and raising crops of any size, taking years for tree stumps to rot before any substantial farming could be done, and still more years before dairy farming could provide a livelihood. There were no cheese factories in those early years. The general store provided the only market for butter made from the milk, and that was churned by hand.

Earliest white settlers to the area were the George Beach family and the Campbell brothers, Sam and Henry and their families for whom the original settlement of Campbelltown was named, located just a mile north and a mile west of Rozellville.

Other settlers arriving between the years 1877 and 1880 included William Raschke, Leonard Schmidt, Andrew Daul, Nicholas Pinion, Caspar Aply, Jacob Reichert, Nick Rehlinger, Matt Folz, Nick Benz, Ada Sturm, Christ Franzen, Jacob Hoffman, Jacob Young,

Peter Riplinger, Simon Streigel, Anton Kiefer, Nick Oppman, Charles Veers, John Staadt and Matt Oppman arrived in 1887,

John and Caroline (Daul) Brinkmann arrived in May of 1880, walking the final stretch of their journey from Marshfield

as there was no other means of transportation available. When William Raschke hauled the equipment for a saw mill from Appleton for Andrew Daul, he'd used the Weeks' Lumber Company road which was just north of Rozellville to Dancy. Later August Kroening and William Raschke cut the timber, clearing the roadway between Marshfield and Rozellville, following the Indian trail.

Many Indians lived along the Little Eau Pleine River, Rice Lake, and the Big Eau Pleine River. A camp was located just northeast of Rozellville where the Indians still lived in wigwams amid the protective forest, coming to town to trade furs, maple syrup and ginseng at Brinkmann's Store. John Young was the Pottawatomie Chief and some of his descendants still live nearby.

The first blacksmith was Fred Klumb. He did far more than shoe horses. He made buggies, wagons, sleighs and many things including household utensils. He repaired just about everything, and often bartered his work, as did many in those days because cash was scarce.

Another blacksmith was Andrew Striegel. George Beach was Postmaster until Rozellville became the main settlement, then Michael W.D. Rozell received the appointment in 1877, followed by John Brinkmann, Sr. in 1881, who relocated the Post Office from Campbelltown to the Brinkmann Store in Rozellville. George Kohler was the first star route mail carrier, followed by Matt Brausch whose wife Helen also hauled her share of the mail. A tavern was operated by Fred Bernitt, Nick Pinion had a saw mill, Joseph Schirmer was a butter maker, Peter Borens repaired shoes and boots.

Other settlers listed on the 1881 plat are C. Peters, H. Bubbers, C. Griesbach, L. Spindler, J. Frieders, N. Gross, A.H. Hutchinson, A. Zimmermann, A. Gessert, P. Nikolai, J. Etringer, B. Fullmer, J. Derfus and others.

In 1881 St. Andrew's Catholic Church was started, meeting in private homes. Andrew Daul donated two acres of land where a 22 x 40 ft. log church and adjoining bell tower was

built by volunteers. Originally about 60 families became part of St. Andrew's Parish. Father Reisser of Marathon City was the first priest to offer mass at St. Andrew's. Eventually it became a mission of Marshfield, Auburndale and Hewitt. In 1893 Holy Trinity of Webertown was attached to St. Andrew's and Fr. Alois Schauenberg became the first resident pastor of both parishes.

Area Lutherans began meeting at the Jacob Reichert home, and in 1885 Rev. L. Th. Thom of Marshfield helped organize St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Jacob Reichert donated two acres of land and in 1896 a church was built.

It is speculated that if the railroad had located here in this little community, it may have become a fair sized city. However, that never was to be, and Rozellville remains a crossroads town, between the larger communities of Stratford and Marshfield.

Stadt

Stadt was founded by John Stadt in 1892 along the Chicago and North Western Railroad. Stadt had a saw mill, shingle mill, lath and planing mill, store, warehouse, post office, depot, blacksmith shop, boarding house, saloon and eight homes.

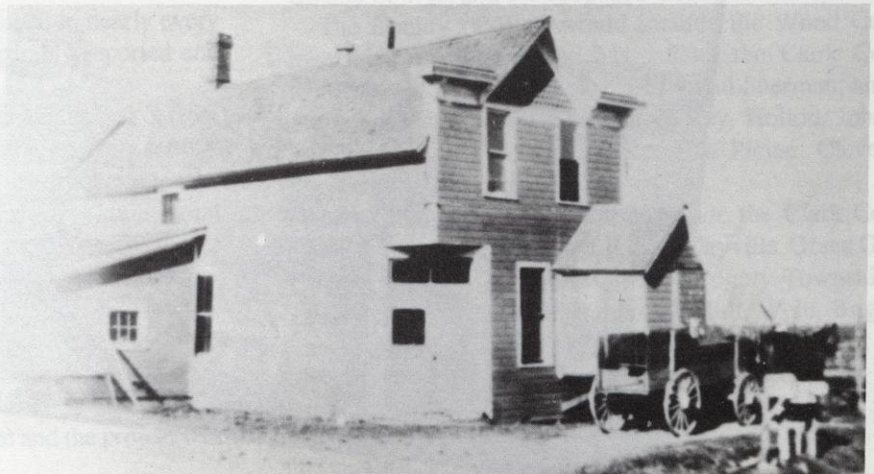


Main Street looking West, Rozellville, Wis.

Courtesy of Clarence Kafka



Stadt Mill



Stadt Cheese Factory

Street scenes of Fenwood



Fenwood

Fenwood is located north of Stratford in the town of Wien. Fenwood is much like Stratford, in that it had its beginning with the Milwaukee Lakeshore & Western Railroad and was settled in the same year, 1891.

The first settlers were Mr. C. S. Curtis and J. A. Porter. When the railroad extension was first talked of, they had woodsmen looking over the present locality of Fenwood. They found it to be a large territory of valuable hardwood and a good location for a mill, and they bought all they could. Curtis, Porter and Clark organized the Fenwood Lumber Company. They built a mill with an average capacity of 40,000 feet of lumber per day. They also built a lath mill, shingle mill and a complete planing mill.

At the request of the M.L.S. & W.R. R., the Fenwood Lumber Company laid out eighty acres in town lots. In 1891, Fenwood had a hotel, two stores, one owned by Mr. Umhoefer and one owned by Radant Bros. The railroad built a depot and a double section house. Lots ranged in price from \$25.00 to \$75.00.



A New County?

The distance from the county seat at Wausau has been viewed an inconvenience for many years and was even more difficult in the early years when transportation was limited to horses, oxen and later the railroad. Townships in the area were feeling distanced from their seats of government as well.

The proximity of Stratford area townships to Marshfield in Wood County made it natural for the settlers in the area to go there for their supplies and entertainment. A trip to Wausau was a large undertaking which had to be done for the transfer of any land or registrations of births, deaths and marriages.

As the population of Western Marathon County increased, movements to establish a new county were introduced.

One would include the western portion of Marathon County, the northwest portion of Wood County and the eastern portion of Clark County. The movement began in 1877 and died about 1898. It was introduced to the Wisconsin legislature in 1877.

There was no opposition to the creation of a new county, and a bill for the organization of one was ready to be favorably reported to both houses of the legislature and would have passed without doubt, had not the question of the location of the county seat cropped up as a disturbing factor at the most inopportune time for the scheme. Colby wanted the county seat. It had the most settlers east and west for twelve miles.

Spencer and Unity objected saying that the place of the county seat should be left to a vote of the people. If so left to the voters there was great danger that Colby would not be selected because Spencer, Mannville and other areas had large numbers of floating population due to the saw mills in those areas.

When this dispute arose, the legislature postponed the whole project to the next session. The project was kept alive for many years, but it never advanced so far as in the first attempt, and although bills were introduced in nearly every session thereafter, they never were favorably reported and died in the committee room.

In the first bill, it was sought to take ranges 2 & 3 from Marathon only. At that time, they were very sparsely settled; nearly all the land in that territory was either government or railroad land and yielded to taxes, the railroad lands being exempt from taxation. It was supposed that the territory was unprofitable to Marathon county. The members representing the counties of Marathon and Clark were of the opinion that expenses for roads, schools, and courts would be more than the territory would bring in taxes, and it would be good policy to let this territory go.

Later, opposition to the division set in and the project was doomed to failure.

Source: Marchetti, History of Marathon County

The following article was published in the Marshfield News-Herald, Wood County Centennial Edition, Aug. 5 - 11, 1956.

Rivers County Organization Turned Down

"In February of 1895 there was a movement to create a new county to be comprised of territory withdrawn from Wood, Clark and Marathon counties.

The tentative name chosen for the proposed new unit of government by its advocates was "Rivers county."

The plan, as reported in early newspapers, was to take Marshfield, Lincoln and Auburndale townships, the village of Auburndale and the city of Marshfield away from Wood county and link them with 10 townships, including the town of McMillan, from Marathon and six from Clark.

The proponents sent a delegation of 18 representatives to a meeting in Grand Rapids on Feb. 15 to present their case to the Businessmen's Assn. of Grand Rapids and Centralia.*

Speaking on behalf of the proposal for creating the new county were B. W. Pulling, John F. Cole, and John P. Hume and H. A. Lathrop of Marshfield and B. R. Salter and Samuel Shafer of Colby.

The Grand Rapids and Centralia spokesmen argued strongly against what they termed the "secession" movement. They pointed out that the territory proposed to be withdrawn from Wood county had a valuation (for tax purposes) of \$490,000, or approximately 24.5 per cent of the total valuation of the county, and a population comprising roughly one-fourth of the county's total populace..."

*Grand Rapids and Centralia are now known as Wisconsin Rapids.

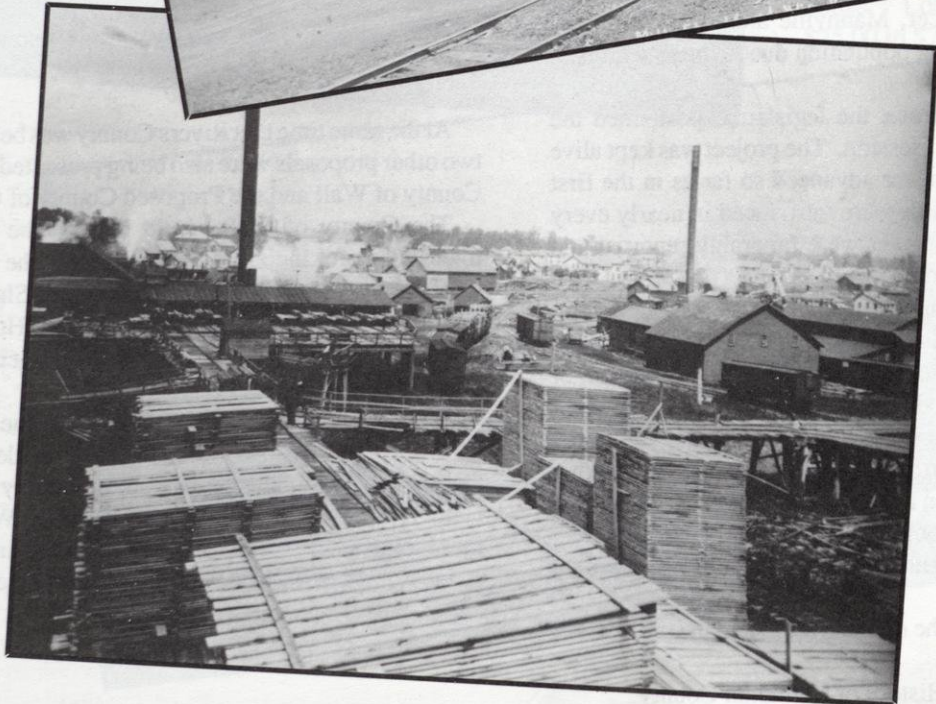
At the same time that Rivers County was being considered, two other proposals were also being presented. The proposed County of Wall and the Proposed County of Colby.

The County of Wall would include the Wood County townships of Lincoln and Marshfield, the Clark County townships of Mayville, Colby, Unity and Sherman, and the Marathon County Townships of Halsey, Holton, Johnson, Reitbrock, Hull, Wein, Brighton, Eau Pleine, Cleveland, Spencer, McMillan and Day.

The County of Colby would include the Clark County Townships of Thorp, Withee, Hison, Mayville, Green Grove, Colby and Unity and the Marathon County Townships of Halsey, Holton, Johnson, Reitbrock, Hull, Wein, Brighton, Eau Pleine, Cleveland, Spencer, McMillan and Day.

Obviously neither of these proposals passed either.

The Connor Mill



Stratford Beginning

The Railroad

In 1890, the land that became the Connor Mill site was a homestead owned by a Mr. Hafner. The immediate area was sparsely settled, not being reachable by river or rail. Although there was little pine here, the countryside had some of the best hardwood.

On June 19, 1890, The Milwaukee Lake Shore and Western Railway Company presented a proposal to the Marathon County Board of Supervisors to build a railroad through Marathon County from Wausau to Marshfield. The proposal, in the flowery legal language of the time, is recorded in Marathon County records and describes the intention to extend the line as follows: a line of railroad westwardly or southwestwardly through the County of Marathon which shall constitute a line of railroad to furnish transportation facilities by rail from the City of Wausau to the western or southern boundary of said County of Marathon and thence southwesterly reaching a crossing of the so called Wisconsin Central lines at or near Marshfield in Wood County.

The proposal was accepted; the Railroad and the Supervisors determined the route and the needed land was acquired.

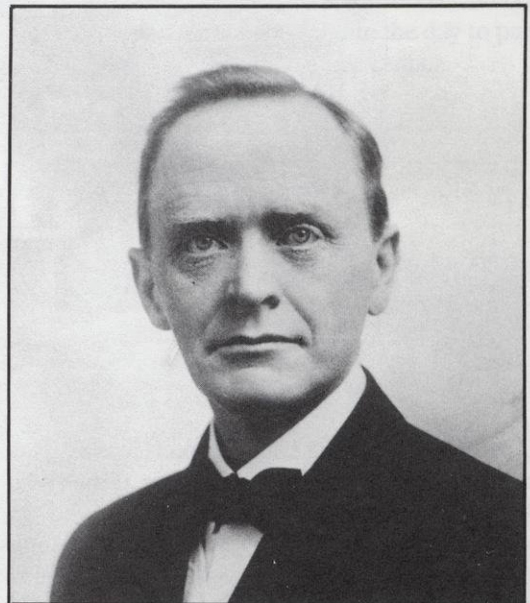
R. Connor Company

The announcement of the proposed route attracted the attention of Robert Connor, a successful lumberman in Auburndale, Wisconsin. Mr. Connor was depleting his supply of lumber in the immediate area of Auburndale and had been contemplating expansion of his operations.

The R. Connor Co. was a thriving lumber company in Auburndale, located in Wood County, Wisconsin. Three brothers, Robert, John and James Connor, natives of Scotland, came to Auburndale from Stratford, Ontario to take advantage of the nation's demand for lumber. John and James left after the lumber in the Auburndale area was depleted. Robert remained and called on his son, William Duncan Connor to help him run the company.

William Duncan Connor, better known as W. D., took on more responsibility in 1888 when his father, Robert, entered the Wisconsin State Legislature. In 1890 he became president of the company.

There were successful lumbering communities in the southwestern corner of Marathon County but no large operations. The area seemed to be an ideal location for Mr. Connor to expand his growing lumber business.



W. D. Connor *Courtesy of the Connor Family.*



The Connor Mill *Courtesy of Terry Frank*

The Connor Mill



Robert Connor built a band saw mill at what is now Stratford, bringing workers from his lumber company in Auburndale. Connor Company records list the names of men who worked to clear the land to make room for the mill in August of 1891.

Wm. Adams
 O.K. Anderson
 Mike Baltus
 N.M. Berg
 Peter Berg
 R. Borchart
 John B. Borgeson
 George Bower
 Jerry Bradley
 August Budkey
 Ferdinand Budkey
 Wm. Budkey
 John Burton
 Wm. Cady
 Wm. Chrowser
 Andrew Daul
 W. C. Dean
 Mike Derfus
 Wentz Dillinger
 Joseph Dennee
 Geo. Fenrich
 Ignatz Fuhr
 Wm. Fulmer
 Edd. Fulmer
 John Haefs
 B. Hafenbradle
 Chas. Hanna
 John Harrington
 Edd. Hayes
 Frank Hilgart
 Edw. Hughes
 Aley Johnson

August Junamen
 Frank Junamen
 Gregor Junamen
 Christ Kaiser
 Peter Kaiser
 Frank Katlow, Jr.
 Edd. Kennedy
 John Kennedy
 J.C. Kieffer
 Mark Kieffer
 John Kohl
 Joe Koller, Jr.
 Joe Koller, Sr.
 Lewie Koller
 Nute Kolsted
 August Kraining
 Charles Kraining
 Ernest Kraining
 Fred Kraining
 Peter Krings
 Herman Langer
 Wm. Lawrie
 Albert Leffel
 Jacob Lusk
 Wm. Madenwalt
 Fred Mews, Jr.
 Fred Mews, Sr.
 George O'Brien
 Edd. Polege
 Julius Polege
 Casper Pankratz
 Frank Pankratz

Joe Pankratz
 C. H. Parham
 Peter K. Peterson
 E. Pfifer
 Joe Raab
 Albert Radtke
 Edd. Radtke
 Ernest Radtke
 Wm. Radtke
 Arne Revling
 Aley Rogney
 Nute Rogney
 Thomas Rogney
 Gilbert Rudi
 Fred Schuette, Jr.
 Fred Schuette, Sr.
 Fred Schultz
 Albert Seivert
 John Sell
 Joe Sidle
 Arthur Singelback
 Sam Smith
 Joseph Strum
 Fred Summerfield
 E. Varshow
 Andrew Weber
 Christ Weber
 Henry Weber
 Wm. Weinfuter
 Emell Wetterau
 Ben Williams

There was a boarding house in operation in November and Camp #1 began operations in December.

(From Gordon Connor's address to Stratford at the 1956 Lumberjack Days celebration. Many names sound like familiar names with different spellings. This could be due to phonetically writing them as the writer guessed at the spelling.)

On September 10, 1891 the following article appeared in the Marshfield News.

Lake Shore Completed From Marshfield To Wausau

The last rail connecting Marshfield with Wausau by bands of steel was laid. The work of surfacing is now being done, and is completed as far as the Big Eau Pleine. It will take a couple of weeks before the track on this end is in any condition whatever for use and it will be October before trains can run over the road with any degree of safety.



Depot at Stratford

Shortly after the village was laid out, the railroad company built its depot, a one story frame building 76'x14 1/2'. They built side tracks and prepared to deliver the lumber and other forest products produced by the area mills to the lumber markets.

Although the original mill was started in 1891, and timber was cut in 1891, it wasn't until the fall of 1892 that the first shipment of lumber was shipped from Stratford. Three camps were run, one near Staadt, one near Jake Altman's farm, and the other near Fred Schuette's place.

To supply the needs of the workers, Connor built a general store with Post Office.

From Gordon Connor's address at the 65th Anniversary of Stratford, Sunday, July 1, 1956

Friday, October 21, 1892

It was a busy day at the Company store. Fred Schuette, the first customer, purchased two plugs of tobacco, two planes, a brace and bit - all for the sum of \$2.30. The next customer was

William Radtke, who held his purchases to a minimum in buying a half pound of smoking tobacco for 12 cents, seven yards of calico at 7 cents per yard, three window panes for eight cents each. Henry Weber was in for a large order, as well as Ed Laessig. Ernest Radtke and Pete Doctor, Sr. went heavy for tobacco, each purchasing a one pound plug for fifty cents. H. Soper purchased eleven yards of calico for eight cents per yard. John Kaiser, V. G. and R. A. Chrouser were in for miscellaneous purchases as well as Andrew Daul and Garrett Hughes. Fred Schuette returned later in the day to purchase a bottle of "pain killer" for twenty five cents.



The first Connor Company Store

W.D. Connor was charged twenty five cents that day for a message to and from Marshfield. Ed Radtke, John Kaiser, Garrett Hughes, and the Chrouser brothers brought in several pounds of hides which they sold at three cents per pound and Ed Hughes sold 180 pounds of beef for six cents per pound. E. Wetterau shod one mule for eighty cents.

Saturday, Oct. 22, saw the work on houses #1, #2, and #3 progressing rapidly. Many of the same customers returned for merchandise in such items as pork at eight cents per pound, butter at eighteen cents per pound, eggs at fifteen cents a dozen, cheese at twelve cents per pound, crackers for eight cents per pound and cabbage for five cents a head. One of the best buys that day was made by Andrew Kaiser when he purchased a half dozen chairs for \$2.50. H. W. Goetz came in and picked up his washing and had the fifty-nine cents charged to his account. A. H. Rusch dropped in to purchase butter. His brother, A. F. Rusch, was in to purchase six pounds of oatmeal for a quarter. Others making purchases that day were Ole K. Olson, Nute Rogney, Jake Ottinger, E. Kraining, August Kraining, Fred Ottinger, G. Junemen, and Frank Juneman. Andrew Kaiser came back before closing to purchase a box of cigars for \$1.50.

It being Saturday night, some of the boys thought they should make a small "draw" ranging for Ole Olson's fifty

cents, \$2.00 for Sam Smith, the Juneman brothers, Nute Rogney and Herman Langer. Peter Doctor, Jr. got set for the biggest time of all with a draw of \$5.00.

The following week at the store found Pete Kaiser who bought a barrel flour for \$4.75 a barrel and a barrel of salt for \$1.35. Fred Schuette was back to purchase calico at eight cents a yard. Ed Zuelke was in for quite a list of groceries including 100 pounds of flour for \$2.40, a pound of coffee for a quarter, and one half pound of smoking tobacco for twelve cents.

The first part of the following week saw Charlie Daul, Charlie Schultz, Charlie Schuette and Martin Kurtzweil on the books as customers.

In the first part of November, 1892, the price of lumber ran from \$4.00 to \$33.00 per 1,000 feet and an entire carload was selling from \$80.00 to \$170.00.

The payroll for the month of October, 1892 contained many of the names mentioned as customers of the store and their wage rates ran from \$22.00 per month to \$28.00 per month with a few exceptions such as Charles Lee at \$4.50 per day, Frank Sheribel at \$3.00 per day, Fred Kraining at \$36.00 per month and E. O Cady at \$50.00 per month. Board and keep at the boarding house was fifty cents a day.

In November the number of employees increased considerable and so did the purchase of coffee and tobacco. Overalls were eighty-five cents a pair and the rent was from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per month on houses #1 and #2.. As winter approached, the purchases increased for mittens, socks, rubbers and as the days grew shorter, the popularity of the lantern increased and many sales were made at sixty cents each. Beans sold at five cents per pound with sugar at six cents

Several Indians were working for the Company both in the mill and in the woods and there are many listings of moccasins sold at ninety cents per pair. Venison was sold in the store for ten cents per pound and Frank Young, an Indian, received \$1.09 for venison he delivered that day.

As Thanksgiving neared, Pete Kaiser delivered 125 pounds of turkey for nine and one half cents per pound and L. Kaiser delivered eighteen pounds of geese at eight cents per pound. A load of wood delivered for seventy-five cents. Mike O'Connell outfitted himself for the winter, paying \$1.50 for a pair of pants, seventy cents for a jacket and one dollar for a cap.

In December of 1892, houses #4, #5, and #6 started to take shape and in the middle of December also saw the issuance of "scrip", the lumberman's currency.

Early that December the names of Mike Baltus, E. L. Rozell, Jerry Bradley, August Leffel, Herman Viegut, August Viegut, Rudolph Viegut, F. Guenther, John Harrington, Wm. Grambow, Joe Kurtzweil, D. Reed and many others began to appear on the Company payrolls as Camp 1, Camp 2 and Camp 3 got under way for the winter's work.

A new customer in January of 1893 was Frank Curtin. On the January payroll, Joe Kunding was drawing \$45.00 per month, August Mews \$30.00 per month. Most of the sawmill wages were from \$24.00 to \$26.00 per month. Fred Schuette in Camp 1 was drawing \$45.00 per month, Herman Langer in Camp 2 was getting \$50.00 per month. Casper Aschenbrenner appeared in January of 1893 in which time he worked three days at \$78.00 per month. The highest paid man at the mill was J. C. Emberson at \$91.00 per month.

By March of 1893, Fred Dix, John Severin, and John Kohl were regular customers as were many Indians such as Charlie Pottwein, Jim Eagle, Pat and Paul Whitefish, Joe Jack, Charlie Sky, Jack Brown, Jim Young, and numerous others. Lena and George Koller were steady store customers and on March 17 they purchased a washboard for a quarter and a corset for Lena at fifty cents.

John Baltus was in for the purchase of eight old shoes at a cost of \$1.60 and Ed Kennedy bought one old shoe for twenty cents. W.D. bought a pair of moccasins for fifty cents and suspenders for fifty cents.



Connor Mill



Skidding logs with oxen

Only two of the lumberjacks in the picture have been identified. The leftmost is Charles Kohl and the third from the left is Jim Chrouser

March of 1893 was cold, but with an eye to warmer weather ahead, the icehouse was filled with four days of work at a total cost of \$5.85. Through the winter logging seasons, the crews in the camps and the mill were made up predominantly from the surrounding farm area. Oxen and horses were used for skidding the logs, and many parts of harness, rigging, etc. were purchased, as these farmers worked with their own oxen and teams, augmenting their yearly incomes. John Baltus and his team worked at the mill for \$70.00 per month. Will Ebbe worked at Camp 2, Frank and M. Stauber worked at the mill. Mike Kohlbeck was working in the lumberyard at \$26.00 per month.

Many of the farmers delivered their own logs for sale to the company as well as having lumber sawed to be used on their small farms at a cost of \$3.00 per M'. John Haas delivered 35,000 feet of logs for \$6.00 per M'.

Houses #7, #8 and #9 were started in May of 1893 but Casper Aschenbrenner and Frank Sheribel were still living in Marshfield and walking home each Saturday night, ten miles down the long railroad tracks, and back again Sunday nights, ready for the whistle on Monday morning.

Through the next years the names of Burkart, Bruner, Ullrich, Schuster, Ottinger, Sheribel, Warnke, Aschenbrenner, Verch, Lawrie, Drexler, Barts, W. F. Goetz, Franzen and Dr. Wahl all become connected with the successful operation of the Company at Stratford.

The company started with one band saw, but after running about three years, a planing mill and dry kiln were added.

The Connor Company was so pleased with the success of their Stratford operation that they started to plan for further

There were about 30 men employed the first years and E. E. Aschebrener came to Stratford as sawfiler in 1894. Fred Schuette was the first superintendent of the mill, followed by Sam Schmidt, Herman Langer, Wm. Goetz and Rob. Connor. Mike Brunner was foreman of the mill from 1898 - (his death) Frank Shirbel was head sawyer, coming here in 1894. Yard boss was Joe Kunding, followed by Mr. Drager and Geo. Burkart and August Warnke.

Stratford Named After Stratford, Ontario, Canada

The Connors came to Wisconsin from Stratford, Ontario, Canada. When they located their mill in the wilderness of southwestern Marathon County, they chose the name of the settlement and gave it the name, Stratford.

expansion. To acquire more timber, W.D. Connor turned to Forest County in 1896. In 1900 the company purchased a used sawmill which they erected at Laona. The "Stratford story", the beginning of a village, was repeated at Laona. Even some of the names were the same as some Stratford people relocated to the new community.

The birth of Laona put a financial strain on the company. To meet their payroll and keep their workers fed, the R. Connor Company turned to the use of lumber company "money". They issued tokens or scrip, at Stratford in November, 1900. The scrip could be spent the same as money at company stores.



Workers at the Stratford sawmill, *Courtesy Pat Zuelke.*

Working at the Connor Mill

From *Saw-Dust*, a collection of stories by Len Sargent, Jr.

At the age of fourteen, I finished my common school education. Dad helped me get a job at the Connor Company saw mill working the night shift. The night shift was from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., with one hour off for lunch.

My first job consisted of standing on a platform beside the hot pond, with a pike pole in my hand, pushing and pulling the logs around in the warm water and lining them up and steering them on to the bull-chain, which took them up a steep ramp to the second story of the saw mill.

Occasionally would change off with the deck man. I would go up the ramp to the deck where the logs land in the mill. I would take a cant hook and roll the logs down a slight incline, where the head sawyer would operate the steam nigger, a vertical finger-like machine, that would roll the log over and slam it on to the carriage which would push it against the band saw.

For a while, I "fed the hog". The job consisted of picking up the board edgings and poking them down a hole in the floor, where they went to a big grinder, known as the hog, and where they would be ground up into chips, known as hog feed. Some of this hog feed would be used for fuel for the boilers, but most of it would be used for filling in swamps and low spots in the roads.

Another job that I had was cleaning up saw dust that found itself on the first floor of the mill. It was a dangerous job as line shafts and belts were turning everywhere.

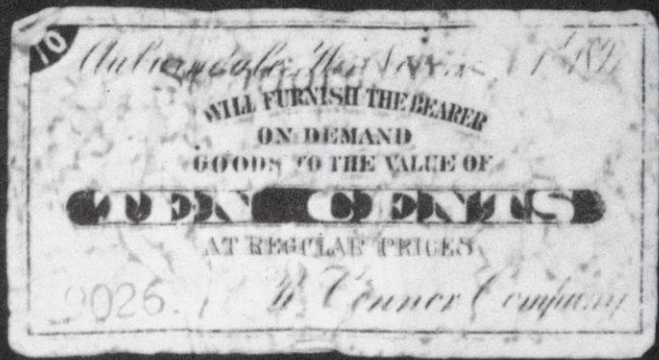
One morning, I was asked to go to the horse barn with Billy Harkins, the foreman. A dump-cart driver had not shown up for work. We harnessed up a team of horses and hitched them to the cart and went to the slab box at the mill. We filled the cart and hauled the load to the slab yard. Slabs were piled here to dry for fuel for the saw mill boilers. After a load was hauled, he left me in charge of the team. Later, I went to work in the locomotive round house to become a night watchman. The round house was not round at all, but oblong, with one single standard width railroad running into it. There was one funnel like smoke stack through the roof at the further end. Big wide swinging doors, allowed the engine to enter the building and be closed when inside.

There were no electric lights in the round house and in order to see, the watchman carried a torch, consisting of a tin can with a spout and wick and filled with kerosene.

When the engineer finished his days work, he spotted the engine over the ash pit which was just outside the round house. The watchman would dump the grates and hoe out the clinkers and ashes into the pit. He would then shovel coal into the tender from the coal bin. After that was done, there was still enough steam left to run the engine into the round house.

It was a thrill that I never forgot, when I climbed up on the engineers seat, put the Johnson bar (reverse lever) into the most forward notch, took hold of the throttle and eased that big baby into the round house.

It was my job, to take cotton rags and clean the engine from top to bottom every night. In the morning, I would take the dirty waste, soak it with kerosene and throw it on the grates, then fill the fire box full of dry slab wood, and at about 4 a.m., set it afire, so that I would have a fresh fire and steam up at 6 a.m.



Stratford Scrip
Courtesy of The Connor Family



Tokens issued at Laona. The same type of tokens were used at Stratford.

Courtesy of The Connor Family

In 1919, the mill was completely rebuilt. The mill doubled in size and all parts were put into first class condition under the supervision of Wm. F. Goetz. The boilers were rearranged to constitute a central plant furnishing steam for all the mill purposes. The steam was furnished to the planing mill engine through a six inch overhead pipe and the shavings sent back for fuel. High pressure boilers were installed for the saw mill. The rear end of the old mill and the lumber shed were torn down.

The log pond was cleaned and made much deeper, and a new concrete dam built.

From Stratford Journal, August 8, 1924:

After a steady run of ten months, the R. Connor Co. have completed the seasons cut of logs, the last log passing through the saw Wednesday. The season was a good one. Over 12 million feet of logs were fed to the hungry teeth of the big band saws. Most of the logs were cut and hauled from the Frankfort line north of Stratford. The coming season will about complete the cutting of logs on the Connor holdings in this vicinity, but provisions are being made to ship logs from other points.

The following article from the Stratford Journal, April 24, 1925, gives a first-hand description of the Connor Mill at that time. We believe it was written by Herman Gerndt, the listed editor of the Stratford Journal. Our uncertainty lies in the fact that the Journal changed hands many times that year.

Connor mill

The writer, accompanied by Superintendent W. F. Goetz, took a tour of inspection through the R. Connor Co. sawmills of Stratford.

Every man is thoroughly trained in his particular line of work.

First we were taken down through the boiler rooms where five large boilers generate the steam power for the mill. Here we found the large furnaces fed automatically with the saw dust. Waste from the mills was conveyed to them by conveyor chains. The surplus fuel is carried on by to a large fuel room beyond the furnaces and again brought back to them by conveyors when needed for night fires.

From the boiler rooms we next visited the rooms upstairs where we found a large crew of men at work on the saws, edgers, trimmers, etc. Here we got a glimpse of how the large logs are handled in a modern mill. All the risks of early days have been eliminated now by the use of modern machinery, and it was indeed interesting to watch as the men operated the various machines.

Here the large logs, after being elevated up to the main floor, are rolled onto a carriage by steam and rigidly held in place while the carriage is driven forth and back past the saw. Here the head sawyer, standing to one side, operates this carriage and turns the logs by the use of levers. Two men work on the moving carriage, one known as the carriage rider "dogging" the logs securely while the other, known as the

setter, by the use of steam levers, sets up the logs according to signals given him by the head sawyer.

When finished, the lumber is then dumped from the carriage onto live rolls and conveyed over to the resaws or edgers, according to the size of the timber, and another large log is rolled to its place on the carriage. From the edgers the lumber is conveyed to the trimmers where the trimmer operator, again by the use of levers, trims the boards to the lengths desired as they leave the mill on their way to the marker and over sorting chains to the trucks and out over the tramways to the yards.

At the rear end of the mill men are engaged sorting the "waste" as it passes in conveyors picking out those pieces suitable for lath, broom handles and other small articles. Here we found a very busy crew at work.

To the south of this main mill is located what is termed as the "heading" mill where barrel heads, laths and other smaller pieces resawed. This at one time was was a very busy branch of this great establishment but the demand for their products have fallen off to such an extent of late the company figures on closing down this section permanently some time this year.

The mills and yards together at this place cover about one hundred acres of ground, their annual cut of lumber being around 12,000,000 feet. Their product is mostly hardwood consisting of maple, oak, elm, birch, ash, basswood, hemlock and white pine, and most of this comes from large timber holdings of the company situated some ten miles east of the village. A private owned railroad runs out to the tract and surveys have already been made with the intention of extending this road some five miles further out this summer. When this is completed and new camps established, employment will be given to around fifty or so more men during the coming cutting season.

At the present time the R. Connor Co. employs about one hundred and fifty men and their monthly payroll at this place runs around \$12,000 per month. Pay days fall on the 5th and 20th day.

Aside from their own personal cut of 12,000,000 feet annually the mills here do custom sawing for our farmers and average about 200,000 feet additional for them each year. At the present time our yards here are well filled with cut lumber, probably between 8,000,000 feet and the company have enough logs on the ground to keep the mills busy until well toward fall.

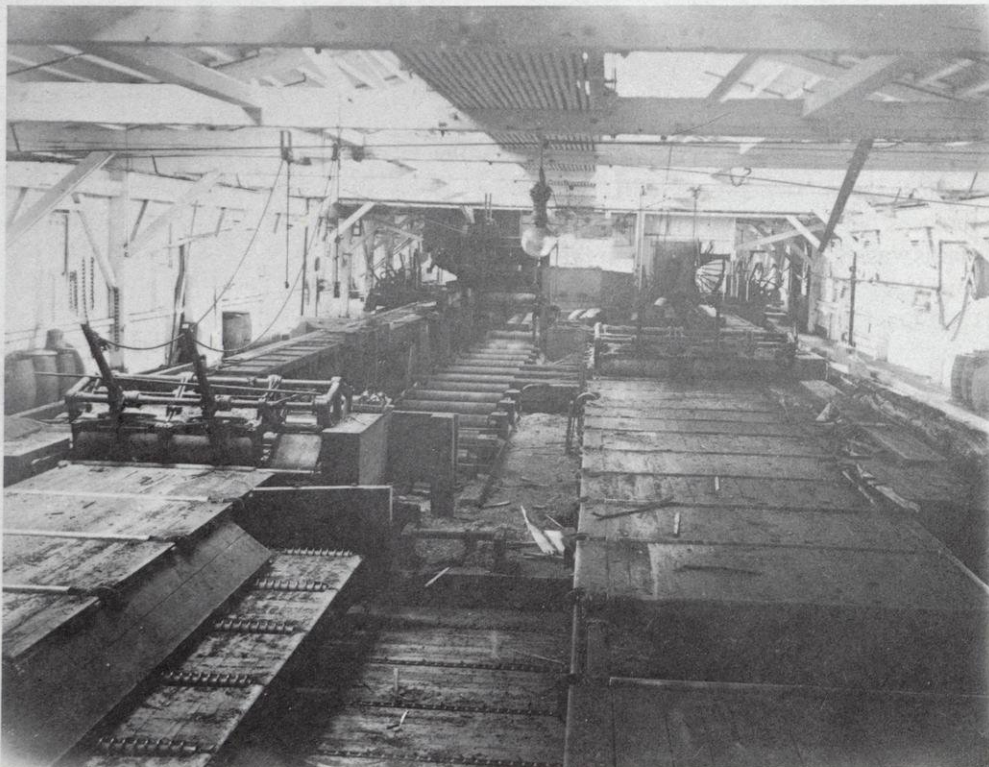
In addition to the mills this company operates a large dry kiln in connection where the maple lumber, especially, is dried and prepared before it is shipped out to their mills at Laona, where it is made into flooring.

A large part of the output of this mill is used for making furniture, agricultural implements and automobiles and is shipped direct to the various large factories over the country. I understand they turn out more hardwood lumber right here in Stratford than any other mill in this section of the state.

The local plant consists of the main band saw, one vertical and one horizontal re-saw. From the large engine room power is furnished to run everything and large dynamos furnish electricity for use throughout the mills and yards.



August Drexler, Sr. working at the boilers in the Connor mill *Courtesy of Pat Zuelke*



Inside a Connor Mill

A fire, on Dec 25, 1931, destroyed the R. Connor Company planing mill. The mill had not been running that day. Three fire departments, Stratford village, the mill crew and the Marshfield department fought the blaze several hours. All adjoining buildings were saved.

The mill ceased operations in 1932 and was moved to Connorville in 1934.



Did You Know?

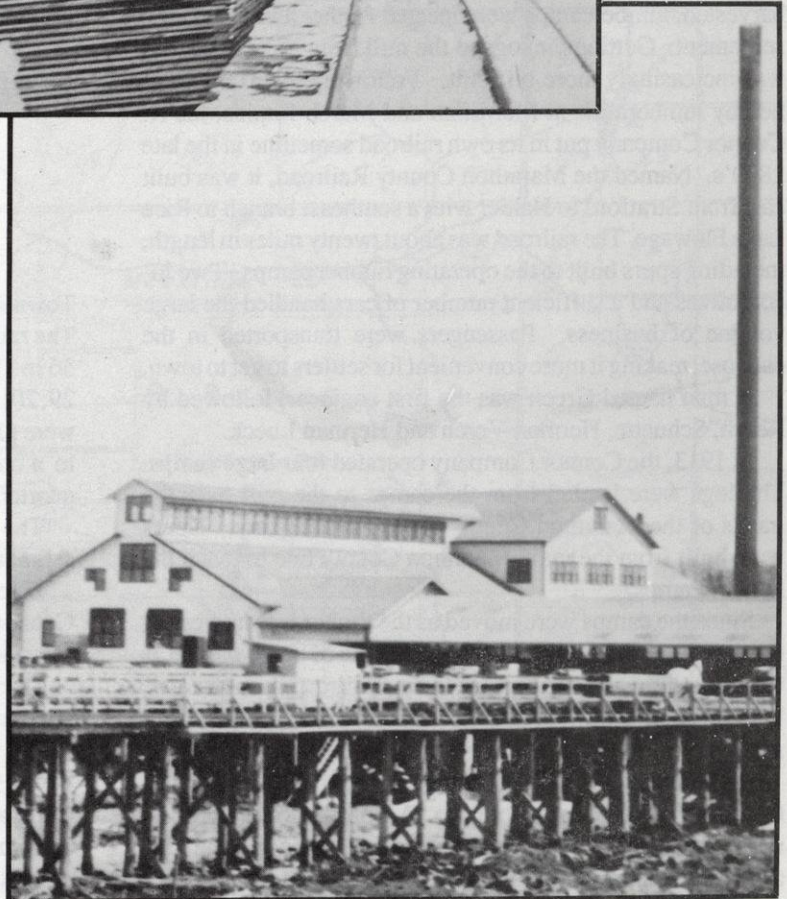
Where is Shanty Town ?

In early years, the settlement of homes along highway 97, south of the railroad tracks was called Shanty Town.

Where and what was Pummertown?

Zion Lutheran Church was built in Pummertown - meaning the people from Pomerania lived there.

In 1893 there were just two roads leading from Stratford. One went west to Webertown and the other south to Juneman's corner and east to Rozellville. People living in the other directions either had to come to town afoot or on horseback.



The Marathon County Railroad



Wheel scraper clearing the Marathon County Railroad bed. *Courtesy of The Connor Family*

As the trees in the immediate area of Stratford were harvested, lumbercamps were located further away from the settlement. Getting the logs to the mill from great distances was increasingly more difficult. Following the example of nearby lumbermills at McMillan and March Rapids, the R. Connor Company put in its own railroad sometime in the late 1890's. Named the Marathon County Railroad, it was built east from Stratford to Halder with a southeast branch to Rice Lake Flowage. The railroad was about twenty miles in length, including spurs built to the operating lumber camps. Two locomotives and a sufficient number of cars handled the large volume of business. Passengers were transported in the cabooses, making it more convenient for settlers to get to town.

A man named Green was the first engineer, followed by Resch, Schuette, Herman Verch and Herman Lueck.

In 1913, the Connor Company operated four large camps. The logs were hauled from the camps to the mill over the tracks of the Marathon County Railroad Company. Spurs were built from the main Marathon County line to reach the lumber camps.

Since the camps were moved as the timber was harvested, the spur lines were temporary and capable of being moved as the camps moved from forty to forty. Railroad section crews laid about one mile of rail per month toward new timber sections.

On February 21, 1903, The Marathon County Railway Company filed for incorporation. According to the incorporation papers, the railroad was commonly known at the time as the R. Connor Co. Logging Railroad and extended from a point in Stratford in the North West fractional quarter of Section 30, Township 27 North, Range 4 East to a point in the North East quarter of the North East quarter of Section 16,



Railroad section crew

Township 27 North, of Range 5 East in said Marathon County. The railroad passed through Sections 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 & 36 in Township 27 North, Range 4 East and Sections 31, 30, 29, 20, 17 & 16 in Township 27, North of Range 5 East. There were plans to extend the line through sections 15, 14, and 13 to a convenient point in the easterly line of the Northeast quarter of Section 13.

The current length of the line was 14 miles and the estimated length of the addition was 3 miles.

Directors in the corporation were W.D. Connor, Robert Connor and W. McCulloch of Marshfield, J.C. Kieffer and Herman Langer of Stratford.

During 1906, the Marathon County Railway Company transported a total of 4,781 cars, of which all but 101 cars were for the R. Connor Company.

In 1907, the capital stock of the Marathon County Railway Company was \$40,000.00. It owned 40 "Jimmy log cars" used exclusively for the transportation of logs.

In 1911, it was decided to again expand the Marathon County Railroad by constructing a branch line, about nine miles in length. The description is as follows: Starting at a point on the main line of said railroad in the N.E. 1/4 of the



The Marathon County Map 1901



Marathon County Railway on Drexler farm. *Courtesy of Pat Zuelke*

S.W. 1/4 Section 20, Township 27 North, Range 5 East and running thence in an easterly direction through Sections 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 13 in Township 27, North of Range 5 East and through Sections 18, 17 and 21 in Township 27 North, Range 6 East and to terminate near the center of section 21. The expansion was expected to be operational by January 1, 1912.

A minor law suit was filed in 1907 against the Marathon County Railroad. The suit was filed by a merchant in Halder who wished to ship merchandise on the Railroad line but felt that the fees charged per carload were excessive, alleged that their depots were inadequate and that no schedule was posted.

The Railroad charged \$5.00 per carload of logs or similar lumber products shipped less than eight miles and \$7.00 per carload shipped more than eight miles but did not charge for partial carloads.

The Marathon County Railway Company defended the suit by stating that the bulk of the business done by the railroad consisted of hauling carloads of logs and their rates were lower than those charged by the C. & N. W. Ry. They further stated that the caboose was used to carry the passenger business, for which no charge is made and passengers were discharged at any point along the line. They stated that they kept a small depot at Camp 4, approximately three miles from Halder. The depot was kept locked and the key was available from the conductor on the train or from a nearby farmer. The small amount of business done at the depot did not make it economically sound to keep a station master at that station. As for the scheduling of the trains, as most of the business was related to logging, it would be impossible to set a regular schedule.

The findings of the Railroad Commissioners, in July of 1907, found that the rate was excessive and set the new rate at \$3.50 and \$4.50 respectively. As a result of the suit, the Marathon County Railway Company was forbidden to give "free rides" to passengers and ordered to set a fee for passenger service. The fee was set at two cents per mile. They were allowed to carry doctors and other persons in emergency cases as a work of humanity.

They were ordered to work out an arrangement with the C. & N. W. Ry. for use of their depot in Stratford but the commission found that the depot at Camp 4 was adequate for the amount of business it garnered and that it was "more useful to the citizens" to be allowed to get on and off the train at any point along the line, than to have a manned passenger depot.

The scheduling issue was resolved by ordering the railroad to establish a schedule for one day each week for passenger service.

In November of 1907, The Marathon County Railway Company submitted evidence that from Sept. 17, 1907 and up to and including the trip on Oct. 22, 1907, the entire revenue derived from the passenger service in operation of this train amounted to \$1.10, charging all passengers at the rate of two cents per mile. The cost to the company, in wages to the train crew and coal alone, for operating the train, amounts to \$4.00 for each trip. Upon reviewing the evidence, the Railroad Commissioners withdrew the order to operate the passenger service one day each week.

In 1920, the Central Wisconsin Traffic Association filed a petition against the Marathon County Railway Company because the Company was no longer furnishing railroad service along the Halder line. The Commission ordered the company to furnish bi-weekly trips from May 1 to December 1 and one trip a week during the remainder of the year. The order was modified in 1924 to exempt the portion of the line between Stratford and Halder lying between Halder and the Hughes School House Landing located at the point of intersection between the east and west highway extending east from Stratford, and that service on the remainder of the line may be omitted during such portion of the winter as the railway line is snowbound.

On May 7, 1928, The Marathon County Railway Company filed an application to discontinue operation of their railroad. The testimony showed that the R. Connor Company, which has conducted logging operations in this territory, has discontinued operations and there would be no further business for

the railway company from that source. From January 1, 1927 to May 31, 1928, the income of the Marathon County Railway Company on business handled other than that of the R. Connor Company, amounted to only \$212.15. On June 13, 1928, The

commission granted the authority for the Marathon County Railway Company to discontinue service.

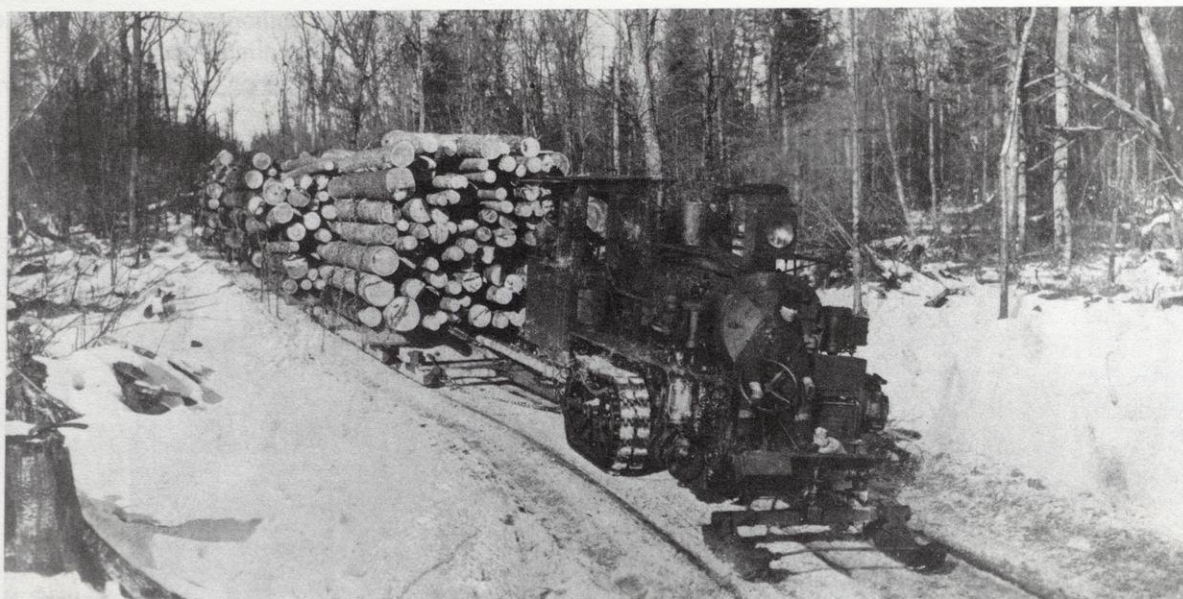
From Railroad Commission of Wisconsin *Courtesy of John Gruger.*



Marathon County Railway "Speeder" or "Pede". R. Connor Co., Stratford in the late 1890's
Old Citizens of Stratford: L-R Wm. Goetz, Charles Schultz, Mike Baltus, Adam Laurie, Fred Schuette and son and father, Walter and Wm. Drollinger. *Courtesy of the Connor Family.*



R. Connor Company train on the Marathon County Railway. Herman Leek is the Engineer. *Courtesy of Eva Hougum*



1905 Steam Hauler with load of logging sleighs. *Courtesy of the Connor Family.*

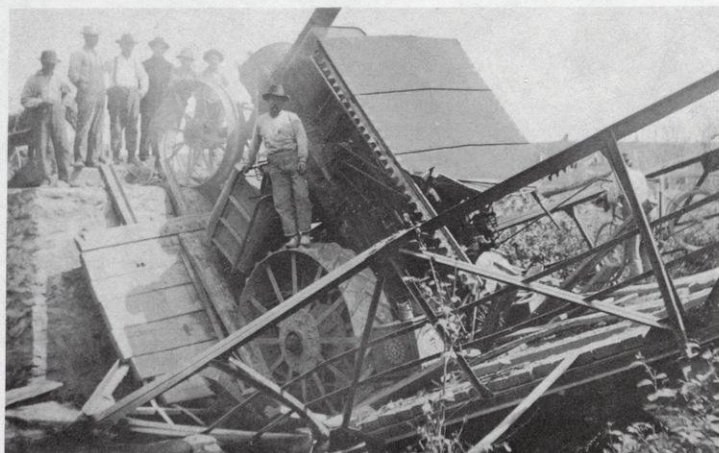
“Rosie the Steamhauler”

A new invention, the steamhauler, replaced the need to use horses to transport the logs to the mill or railroad spur. It was capable of hauling train loads of log sleighs. It was similar in idea to today's tractor. It had a boiler, an engine cab and crawler treads. Steering was done by a man sitting in front. He was completely unsheltered from icy winds or sleet.

"Near Stratford around 1910, the R. Connor Company tried converting a steam hauler to summer work by replacing treads with wheels and sleighs by wheeled lumber wagons. "Rosie the Steamhauler" was a famous sight until May 19, 1911 when it crashed through a weakened Noisy Creek bridge during a giant hailstorm. "Rosie" and the crew of Andrew Schiller, engineer, and William J. McLaughlin, fireman, were destroyed in an explosion of scalding steam - ending that steam hauler era locally." (From: A Century with Connor Timber)



"Rosie" *Courtesy of the Connor Family*



"Rosie" accident on bridge over Noisy Creek.
Courtesy of Dorothy Schriener.

At Work in the Woods

Early settlers worked for the lumber mills during the winter months. They would leave their families and take to the woods, living in logging camps which may be located miles from their homes. Summers they would spend clearing their land of lumber and stumps getting it ready for cultivation.

Mike Baltus Story

From the Wausau Record Herald
March 20, 1954

"At the age of 16, I started working for the R. Connor Company, driving oxen on the road and hauling logs at Auburndale. When they started the new town of Stratford, I moved along and that reminded me of the start my folks had at Auburndale.

"At that time all there was of Stratford was the company store, a few taverns, and what they called Shantytown; they were building the sawmill. There were no churches and on Sundays we went to the church at Webertown, a mile and a half northwest of Stratford, which was then larger than Stratford.

"Well do I recall the next winter, when the mill was running. I was driving six oxen, hauling logs, and when I got near the mill there would always be sawdust on the ice road to make it pretty poor sledding. Mr. W.D. Connor would usually be on hand to help me herd those oxen onto the dam where we unloaded.

"A year or two later Mr. Connor said, 'Mike, I believe you have most of our oxen worn out now and I think I will start you out with horses.' A few years later I think he found out I was pretty hard on horses, too, so they put me on as foreman, which I figured out they thought would soon put an end to it all. But I was tougher than they figured, I guess, so I stayed at that job about 20 years, although I was farming on my own some of the summers."



Courtesy of Ronald Schuette



Courtesy of The Connor Family





A water tank sleigh. Ice roads were needed to keep loaded lumber sleighs moving. (L-R) Otto Schultz, Otto Sievert and Mike Baltus. (Note stove to keep water from freezing) *Photo provided by Connor family.*



Courtesy of The Connor Family

Getting the logs from the woods to the railroad line was accomplished by building ice roads. Oxen were used to skid and clear the path. The water tank sleigh would follow, spreading water to lay a "road" by building a layer of ice over a foot thick to carry the heavy loads of logs. A "rutter" was used to cut a deep groove in the ice to hold the logging sleigh runners. These ruts had to be kept clear of snow and ice build up as well as sticks and manure.

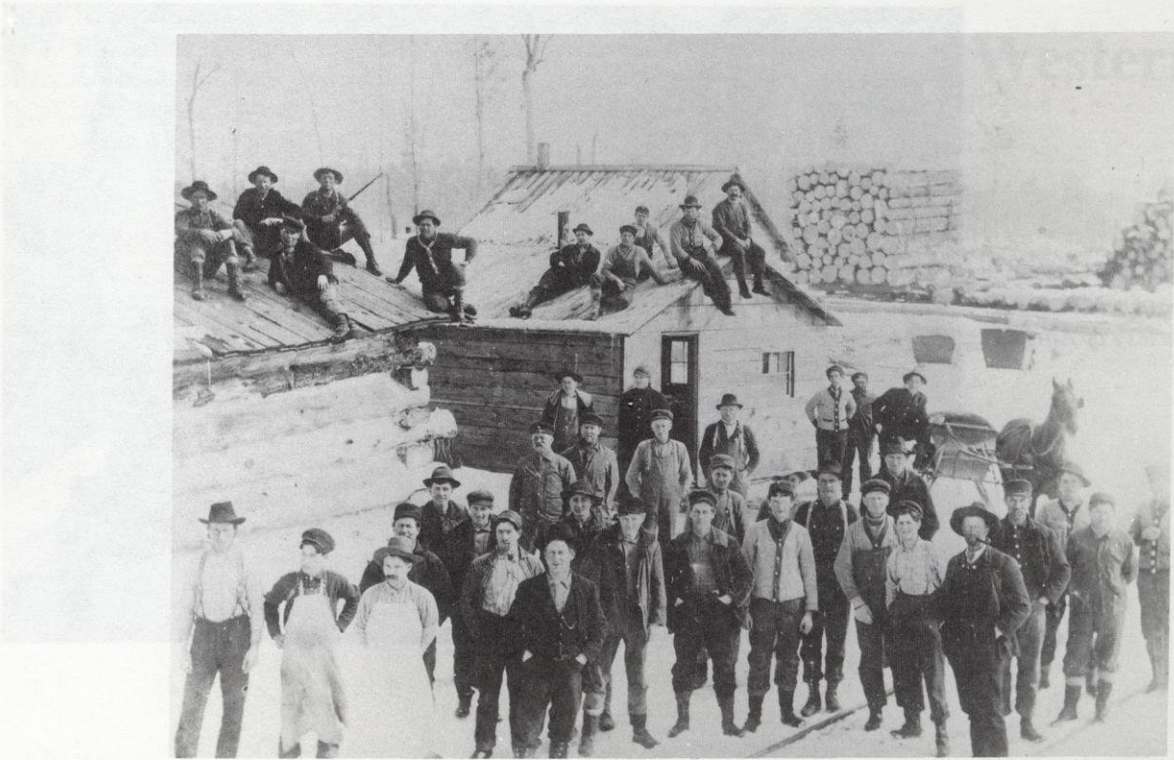
Camp Meals

Tony Schuster, a Stratford store clerk recalled early days in Stratford when oxen freely roamed the muddy streets during late winter. It was his job to bring meat to the camps from the company store. But, during one week of muddy roads, the meat supplies never arrived. In desperation he seized and carved up a roaming ox and took it to camp without mentioning the origin of the meat.

At breakfast there were pork chops, steaks, pies, cakes, doughnuts, sausage, bacon, cereal, flapjacks with syrup, and big molasses cookies. Except for cereal or pancakes, dinner provided more of the same, with "kraut, baked beans, rutabagas, and cheeses. Raisin pie was a favorite.

"No talking" was the universal lumber camp rule. The men ate silently, except to ask for a passing plate. The cooks wanted them out of the way and the companies wanted them on the job. They ate even faster when the lunch sleighs, called swing-dingles, took blanketed hot food to the woods.

In camp, tin plates and mugs were always placed upside down on the tables.



An afternoon in camp.
 Courtesy of The Connor Company



"Dinner Time" The sign at the top reads, "For our employees only. No others need apply for board here. Please don't ask for accommodations unless your willing to pay for your meals. R. Connor Company". Courtesy of Alfred Wenzel.

Emil Kohlbeck and Joseph Gerl enjoy a game of cards in the bunkhouse. *Courtesy of Alfred Wenzel*



Mike Baltus Story
From the Wausau Record Herald
March 20, 1954



Biggest load of logs. *Courtesy Ronald Schuette*

“We worked in the woods from daylight to dark. I remember a winter at Camp 3 near the Big Eau Pleine river when we were hauling logs on a two-trip road. They had a lot of logs cut in the woods and it was breaking up on March 1st. My brother-in-law, William Drollinger, was foreman and he said, ‘Boys, let’s try and get in all we can. I’ll give you a half day’s time for every trip you make.’ So we were all willing each to outdo the other and we kept it up for 13 days and 13 nights, without unharnessing our horses, and thereby finishing the job. On St. Patrick’s Day we all celebrated, but how those horses ever stood the rap I cannot figure out to this day. I do know that the teamsters were all in, for it was just eat and go, that’s all.

“In the matter of hauling big loads, I claim credit for loading and hauling the biggest load of logs ever loaded and hauled in Wisconsin. It was done in 1910 at the R. Connor Company’s Camp No. 8, northeast of Rozellville. The biggest load scaled 29,441 feet, the hemlock logs measuring from 18 to 24 feet.”

The Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railway Company

The Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railway Company advertised itself as:

The Hunting Line.

The Fishing Line.

The Lumber Line.

The Manufacturing Line.

The Mineral and Mining Line.

The Line for Tourists and Speculators, Capitalists, Settlers and Emigrants.

The Line of all Lines for Sportsmen.

Deer are so Plenty that they are Occasionally Run Down by the Trains on the Road.

Article from The Marshfield Times, Torch
of Liberty,
May 14, 1891

"Only a month or so longer and the Milwaukee Lake Shore and Western R.R. will be in the city and open for business. The work has so far progressed the grade has been finished from Wausau to Marathon City and the laying of track commenced, the first rails being placed on Monday of this week. The work of grading this way from Marathon City is being pushed as rapidly as possible and every precaution is being taken to keep the grade work ahead of the construction work. Men are in great demand, one hundred having been called for on Monday with wages at \$1.75 per day. Some delay in the construction will be caused by reason of the unfinished condition of this bridge over the Eau Pleine, which bridge must await the arrival of timber necessary to further work. With this additional road comes to the city additional advantages that will receive recognition as early as they are made known. Nature has done much for us, fortunate moves on the chess board of time much more, it now remains for the citizens to arouse themselves to the need of the hours and encourage by word and deed the location of additional factories, institutions, etc. which will help build up and develop our city."

The Milwaukee, Lake Shore & Western

RAILWAY COMPANY,

— AND —
The St. Paul Eastern Grand Trunk

RAILWAY COMPANY

— OFFER FOR SALE TO MANUFACTURERS AND SETTLERS —

200,000 ACRES
HARDWOOD LANDS,

IN SHAWANO, OONTO, LANGLADE, MARATHON AND FOREST COUNTIES.

WISCONSIN.

—
An Investment in Timbered Lands is Always Safe.
—

J. O. THAYER, GEN'L LAND AGENT,

111 and 113 New Insurance Building, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Article from The Wausau Daily Pilot,
October 20, 1891

Excursion to Marshfield

"An excursion from Wausau and Marathon City to Marshfield will be had by way of the newly opened Lake Shore Railroad, on Sunday, October 25th, 1891. The train will start from the Lake Shore depot, Wausau, at 9 o'clock a.m., and returning leave Marshfield at 3 o'clock p.m. The fare will be \$1.25 from Wausau and \$1.00 from Marathon City for the round trip. Music by the Third Regiment Band. The excursion will be under the auspices of the society "Frohsinn." Everybody invited."



First Stratford Depot.



Enlarged Stratford Depot.


The Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railroad built a depot in Stratford in 1891. It was a frame one story building. In 1915, the depot had electric lights but no plumbing.



Gathering at the Stratford Depot. *Courtesy of Terry Frank*

The Chicago North Western Line

The Milwaukee, Lake Shore and Western Railway Company sold the line in 1893 to the Chicago North Western Railroad.

STRATFORD TIME TABLE	
	
East Bound	
No.	Due.
316	8:56 A. M.
332	3:45 P. M.
West Bound	
315	10:07 A. M.
331	3:45 P. M.
107	2:15 A. M.
F. A. Semelhack, Agent.	

Time Table, September 17, 1920.

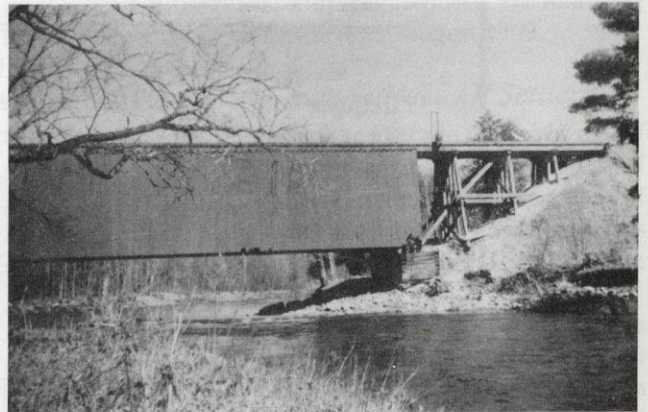
In July of 1981, The Chicago and North Western Railroad obtained authorization to abandon the line from Marshfield to Wausau.

In November, it was announced that rail service through Stratford would end on November 8.

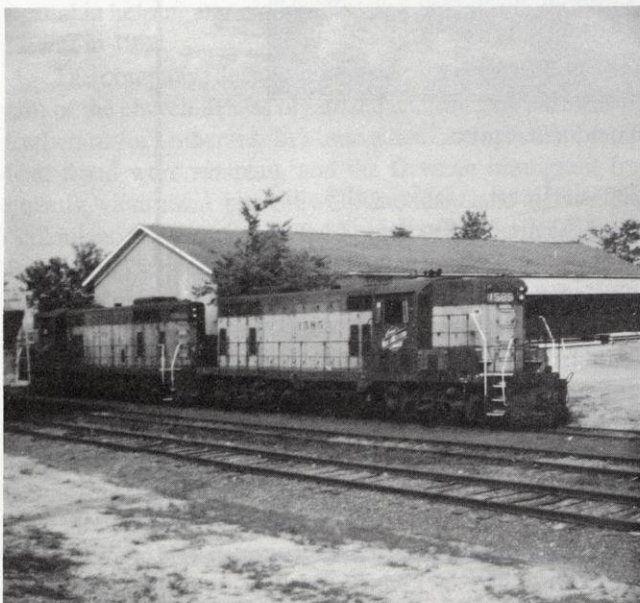
The railroad later removed the tracks and sold the property to interested individuals and businesses. The line is still recognizable as it stretches through the village but the railroad age is over.



Rail line through the wilderness.



Early railroad trestle bridge.



Last train through Stratford. *Courtesy of Tom Becher*



Chicago North Western over the trestle north of Stratford. *Courtesy of Tom Becher.*

Colonization

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HISTORICAL

Der Colonisations-Vermittler.

Ein Handbüchlein für lutherische Landsucher

Herausgegeben von

Die Ev. Luth. Colonisations Co.

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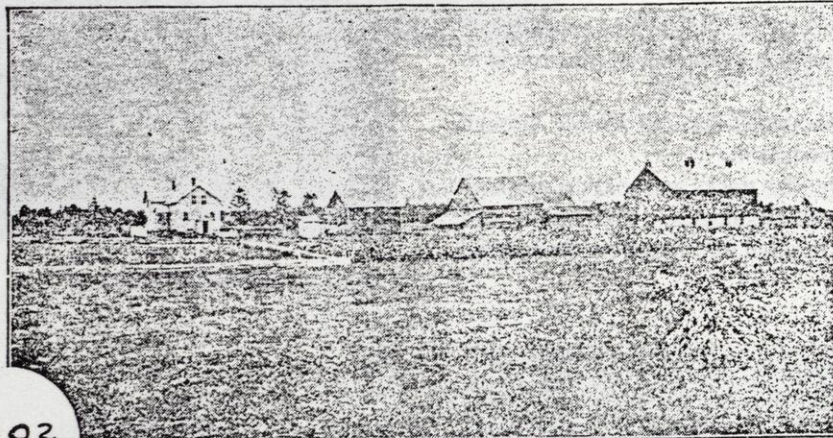
Merrill, Wis.

Bellfield, N. Dak.

Sechster Jahrgang.

Nummer 1.

Gutes, fruchtbares und dabei doch billiges Land ist es, wonach viele Umschau halten, und obgleich noch heute in manchen Gegenden, wo man auch ein gesundes Klima, gutes Wasser, gute Märkte, Kirchen und Schulen,



G 902
EV

Farm-Ansicht in unseren Wisconsin-Kolonien.

deutsche Nachbarn, Telephone und Landpost vorfindet, ebenso gutes und fruchtbares Land zu etwa einem Drittel bis zur Hälfte des Preises, den man für solches Land in älteren Gegenden zahlen muß, zu finden ist, wissen doch nur wenige Leute es tatsächlich zu finden. Viele Leute sind schon des öfteren weit herumgereist, haben manche Gegenden, die ihnen als besonders gut geschildert wurden, untersucht, aber leider schlechter gefunden, als ihnen beschrieben. Diese haben eben den Irrtum begangen, sich nach der meist versprechenden, durch gewissenlose Agenten übertrieben geschilderte Gegend zu wenden, anstatt solche auszuwählen, die nicht so verlockend, aber desto wahr-

The page shown here is an example of how land in our area was publicized.

advanced. so that where timber must be removed in clearing land an income was assured.

There was no general land boom. The owners realized that these lands would increase in value and were in no haste to sell them. So a moderate, steady agricultural growth prevailed. During the last year, however, more settlers came into some sections than had previously located there. Paper mills and other industries have been established in recent years with the result that employment is always at hand when wanted. Many poorer settlers divide their time between home and mill, but those who can always prefer to devote their whole time at home, making as large an income from timber and other products and improving their homes.

The future value of farms established in the areas referred to is indicated by the fact that those that are old enough to be cleared of stumps are being held, and sometimes sold at \$80 to \$100 per acre. Dairying and stockraising is being supplemented with sugar beets which yield \$50 to \$80 per acre, tobacco at from \$100 upward, clover seed at from \$25 to \$75, potatoes from about \$80 to \$100. There is no room for doubt that this great area of more than 10,000,000 acres in northern Wisconsin equals any section in America as a dairying region. In years to come it will yield handsome returns for labor expended, and attain a value consistent with its productiveness.

That corn can be successfully raised throughout this whole area has been demonstrated in too many of the older settlements to any longer be questioned. The experiment

station has produced splendid crops within ten miles of Lake Superior. Fields as large as 110 acres are now growing in the northern counties. For silage purposes this corn is of the highest value. This area has a market in Superior and Duluth and adjacent iron region of over \$5,000,000 worth of food products per year, in the copper region of immense proportions, has direct transportation to Chicago, and other market centers. The area is filled with manufacturing cities and villages that have sprung up with the development of water powers.

In the future, as our multitude of magnificent water powers are developed with resultant urban communities, these markets will be greatly multiplied. These powers are rapidly being developed and each development means a city or village local market. What the influence of these markets will be on the future value of these lands, no one can now say that it will be immense is assured.

The cost of clearing these lands will vary greatly-some areas are heavily timbered with a valuable harvest now ready, other areas are cutover lands and others are burned over districts with little clearing needed. As a rule the greater the amount of clearing, the more realized from the timber removed. The homeseeker will make his choice according to his circumstances, experience and inclinations.

The hardwood stumps rot very rapidly and are usually left for several years in pastures. The longer they are left, the easier they may be removed."



Log Homes in Stratford Area

The Village

Stratford began as a “Company Town”, as a direct result of the Connor Mill and a strong dependence on the Connor Company. The Connors built the Connor Company Store and a boarding house to meet the early needs. A post office was established next to the store. As Connor built homes, the workers’ families were moved to Stratford and the village grew.

The early area settlers were generally those who were planning to farm. They purchased their land, cleared the timber and then the stumps and rocks. Many of the first shelters they built were rough, log cabins with dirt floors.

Time was usually of the essence. Their entire survival may depend on getting land cleared and crops planted as quickly as possible to feed their families. Most settlers farmed in the summer and worked in the camps during the winter months, leaving their families to tend to the farm while they were gone.

Early settlers in the village proper were workers in the mill. They moved into homes which were built by the R. Connor Company. As early as 1892, other businesses were being established.

According to Judge Curtin, who came to Stratford in 1892, at that time there was a population of approximately 20, with Connor’s store, the sawmill, Sargeant’s Hotel, the depot and two taverns, and five dwellings. The buildings were set in the timber, with no streets, only trails. It wasn’t until late in the fall of 1893 that the stumps were taken out of the street.

In May, 1892, H.L. Klemme came to Stratford, starting a tavern. He also thought the streets of Stratford were in need of improvement as many years later, Mr. Klemme told the editor of the Stratford Journal that it was necessary to wear rubber boots to go from his tavern to the depot.



Courtesy: Paul Unteit



On 97 between Elm & Walnut looking north.



Scenes of growing Stratford

The Village continued to grow and prosper. The following article is from the Marshfield News, Feb. 25, 1909.

BUSY STRATFORD

Substantial proof of a wide awake village

"The place where Stratford now stands was once the camping ground for wild tribes of Indians. But this is not an Indian legend we are going to tell. The pale face now own the territory and have laid it out into lots and blocks and built up a village. Stratford by rail is 12 miles distant from Marshfield and you hardly get your seat warm before the conductor that took your fare informs you that you have reached your destination.

For three-fourths of a mile on the west side of the track is a row of business houses, the streets back being built up of homes. Possibly 800 people live there and surrounded by every comfort of the present age are happy, prosperous and contented. It has not reached that stage of paved streets or boulevards but still lingers in the lap of the wooden age in the way of buildings and walks. But Stratford is a busy little place and the past year has added to its importance by the building of a large brick school house and the incorporation of a bank.

It might be of interest to mention the business firms, the largest of which, of course, is the R. Connor Co. with their big department store, saw, planing, stave and heading mills. In addition to these they have their own lighting plant and furnish light to the village. The store is looked after by E. H. Allington and the mills by Wm. Goetz. The other business interests are L. B. Weber, livery; Louis Klumb, butcher shop; John Gall, tailor; Kaiser Bros., barbers; O. A. Holm, harness shop; Louis Garbish, saloon, John Hicke, saloon and hall; H. L. Klemme, saloon; E. C. Leitritz, hotel; Chris Korntved, restaurant; Mahoney & Son, general merchandise; Maxson Bros., hardware and farm machinery; two blacksmith shops. feed mill, opera house, co-operative creamery; bank, Walter Oby, cashier; C.O, Fuller and H. S Wahl, physicians; Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, brass band, electric lights and telephone. So it will be seen that in a business way nearly every branch in a commercial sense is represented and with a good farming country fast settling up to draw from. Stratford is a thriving place.

Possibly the best indication of its thrift is reflected by the first statement of the new bank which after a business period of only three months, shows a bank deposit of \$19,000. This of itself has added confidence and business tone to the place."



Courtesy: Mrs Strasser



1907 - Looking west from Leo Wenzel corner on 97 and Elm St

As time went on and more businesses were established, the reliance on the Connor Mill decreased. In 1910, responding to the need for more services in the villages to service the growing population, it was decided to incorporate as a village and establish a governing body separate from the two townships of Cleveland and Eau Pleine.

Record of the proceeding in the incorporation of the Village of Stratford

State of Wisconsin

Circuit Court for Marathon County

In the Matter of the incorporation of the Village of Stratford

State of Wisconsin

Marathon County SS

W.F. Goetz, James L. Chrouser and Christ Franzen being first duly sworn on oath say, that they were duly appointed Inspectors of Election by the Circuit Judge for said County, on the 7th day of January, 1910, pursuant to Chapter 40 of the Statutes of Wisconsin, that they presided and acted as inspectors of an election held pursuant to a notice duly given by said inspectors on the 19th day of January, 1910, at the Town of Cleveland, said County, for the purpose of determining whether the territory described in said notice should be incorporated into a village or not, a copy of which said notice of election marked Exhibit "A" with the affidavit of posting thereof annexed thereto is hereto attached and made a part of this affidavit; that at said election Frank J. Curtin was designated Clerk thereof, that at the close of said election on said day the votes cast thereat were duly canvassed by said inspectors; that the annexed statement Exhibit "B" is a full and correct statement of the result of said election.

(Signed) Walter Obey, Notary Public

Marathon County Wisconsin

My Commission expires 12/22/12

State of Wisconsin

Marathon County

Village of Stratford SS

I, Frank J. Curtin, Village Clerk of the Village of Stratford, hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of all the proceedings had, in the Matter of incorporation of the Village of Stratford.

Dated this 6th day of May 1910

Frank J. Curtin

Village Clerk

Exhibit "A"

Minutes of Survey of the proposed Village of Stratford
State of Wisconsin-County of Marathon-Village of Stratford

Certificate of survey made by W.L. Harris of the boundary of sections 19, 20, 29 and 30 in Township 27 N of Range 4 East and sections 24 and 25 in the Township 27 N of Range 3 East.

Beginning at the SE corner of Sec 29 of Township 27 N, of Range 4 East, Stone 6"x7"x 3' set in road. From this point

west on section line between sections 29 and 32, V 5° East, to the 1/4 post between sections 29 and 32, distance 2634.4 ft. Stone 6"x6"x3' set in road. No witness trees to be found. Thence West on section line V4° 54', to the corner of sections 29, 30, 31, 32 dist, 2631.5. Stone set in road for corner 8"x8"x3', stump of original witness tree Birch 12 inches N28° E50 links. Thence West on section line between sections 30 and 31 V5° 24' to the 1/4 post between sections 30 and 31 dist. 2649.6 ft. Stone 8"x8"x3' set in road for corner. Stump of original witness tree Hemlock 12 inches S21° E 21 links. Thence West on the section line V5° to 33' to the corner of sections 30, 31, 25, 36, on range line between Range 3 and 4 distance 992.3 ft. Stone 7"x8"x3' set for corner, no witness trees to be found.

Thence West on section line between 25 and 36 in Township 27 N of Range 3 E V4° 28' to the 1/4 post between sections 25 and 36, dist. 2638.1 ft. Stone 8"x8"x3' set, no witness trees to be found. Thence West on section line V4° 10' to the corner of sections 25, 20, 35, 36 dist. 2556 ft. Stone 8"x8"x3' set. No witness trees to be found.

Thence North, (Angle 90° 24') on section line between sections 25 and 26 V 4° 25' to the 1/4 post between sections 25 and 26 distance 2630.3. Stone 8"x8"x3' set. No witness trees to be found. Thence North from 1/4 corner to corner of Sections 25, 26, 23, 24 distance 2618.0 ft. Stone 6"x7"x3' set V4° 55'. Stump of original witness tree Birch 12 inches N52° W 53 links. Thence North on section line between sections 23 and 24 V4° 26' to the 1/4 post between sections 23 and 24 dist. 2630 ft. Stone 6x6x3' set. Original witness tree Birch 12 in. N 71° W 37 links. Thence North on section line V3° 58' to the corner of sections 13, 14, 23, 24, dist and 2636 ft. Stone 6"x6"x3' set. Original witness trees Hemlock 13 in. N46° E 29 links Hemlock 12 in. S 23° W24 links.

Thence East (angle 91°21') on section line between sections 13 and 24 V5° 19' to the 1/4 post between sections 13 and 24 distance 2633 ft. Stone 7"x7"x3' set. No witness trees to be found. Thence East on section line V5° 49' to the corner on range line, of sections 13, 18, 19, 24, distance 2624.4 ft. Stone 6"x6"x3'. Stumps of original witness trees Birch 16 in N 61° W 34 links. Birch 14 in. S77° E 46 links. Thence East on section line between sections 18 and 19, in Township 27N of Range 4 East V5° 11' to the 1/4 post between sections 18 and 19 dist. 904.2 ft. Stone 6"x6"x3' set. Stumps of original witness trees Black Ash 14 in. S 12° E24 links. Birch 12 in. N26° W8 links. Thence East on section line, V 5° 10', to the corner of sections 17, 18, 19, 20 distance 2641 ft. Stone 6"x7"x3' set. Original witness tree Birch N 10° 30' E49 links. Thence East on section line between sections 17 and 20, V4* 52' to the 1/4 post between sections 17 and 20 distance 2627 ft. Stone 6"x7"x3' set. Original witness trees Hemlock 20 in. S32° E28 links. Thence East on section line V4° 35' to the corner of sections 16, 17, 20, 21 distance 2632 ft. Stone 6'x7'x3' set. No witness to be found.

Thence South (angle 90°) on section line between sections 20 and 21, V4°35', to the 1/4 post between sections 20 and 21 distance 2618.8 ft. Stone 6"x7"x3' set. Thence South on section line V4°50' to the corner of sections 20, 21, 28, 29

distance 2618.8 ft. Stone 6"x7"x3' set. No witness trees to be found.

Thence South on section line between sections 28 and 29, V5° 29E to the 1/4 post between sections 28 and 29 distance 2647.7 ft. Stone 6"x7"x3' set. Stumps of original witness trees Hemlock 12 in. S30°W 22 links, Hemlock 24 in N25° E6 links. Thence South on the section line V5°15' to the corner of sections 28, 29, 32, 33 distance 2635.6 ft. This point was the beginning of survey.

The above described boundary encloses three thousand four hundred and twenty nine and sixty one hundredths acres (3429.60A). I hereby certify that I have made the above described survey in compliance with section 855 statute 1898 Vol. One.

(Signed) W.L. Harris

U.S. Dep. Surveyor

Subscribed and sworn to before me his sixth day of November AD 1909.

Wm. F. Goetz, Notary Public

Marathon County, Wisconsin

My Commission expires

May 21st, 1911

State of Wisconsin

Wood County SS

W.L. Harris being first duly sworn on oath says: that he resides in the City of Marshfield, Wood County, Wisconsin, and is a practical surveyor; that on the 24th day of October 1909, at the request of W.F. Goetz, Phil Burkart, Geo Davel, F.A. Taylor, Wm. Grambow and Louis Klumb, of the Town of Cleveland, in said County, he made an accurate survey of the territory intended to be embraced within, the limits of the proposed Village of Stratford, said County, a statement of which survey is hereto affixed; that the annexed map was at the same time made by affiant and is an accurate map of the territory to lie embraced within the limits of such proposed Village, showing the course and distances of the boundaries and the quantity of land contained therein.

(Signed) W.L. Harris

U.S. Dep. Surveyor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of November, 1909

W.W. McCulloch

Notary Public

Wood County

Wisconsin

My Commission

expires August 18th, 1912

Frank J. Curtin being first duly sworn on oath says: that he is a resident of the Town of Cleveland, Marathon County, Wisconsin; that on the 11-12-15 and 16th days of November 1909, at the request of W.F. Goetz, Phil Burkart, Geo Davel, T.A. Taylor, Wm. Grambow and Louis Klumb of the Town

of Cleveland aforesaid, he took an accurate and complete census of the resident population of the territory intended to be embraced within the limits of the proposed Village of Stratford, said County towit: Sections 19,20,29 and 30 in Township 27 N. of Range 4 East being in the Town of Cleveland and Sections 24 and 25 in Township 27 N. of Range 3 East being in the Town of Eau Pleine; being the identical territory as shown in the map and survey of W.L. Harris of the proposed Village of Stratford, that the annexed and foregoing enumeration of the population of said Territory exhibits the name of every head of a family and the name of every person a resident in good faith of such territory on said 11-12-15 and 16th day of November, 1909, and the lot or quarter section of land on which he resides; that said list contains a total of 815 names, all residents in good faith in said Territory.

Frank J. Curtin

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of November, 1909.

W.W. McCulloch, Notary Public

Wood County, Wisconsin

My Commission expires Aug. 12, 1912

Exhibit C

Notice of Application For Incorporation of Village

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned residents and tax payers of the territory hereinafter described, on the 7th day of January 1910, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the Court House in the City of Wausau, in the County of Marathon, Wisconsin will apply to the Circuit Court of said County for an order incorporating as a Village by the name of "The Village of Stratford" the territory situated and lying in the Towns of Cleveland and Eau Pleine, in said County, bounded and described as follows to wit: (see previous description)

Notice is also hereby given that an accurate survey and map of said territory and an accurate census of the resident population of said territory as required by law, are left at the office of R. Connor Co., which office is within such territory, where they will remain for a period of 5 weeks from the posting of this notice, subject to examination at all reasonable hours by every person interested.

Dated this 23rd day of November, 1909

(Signed) W.F. Goetz, Phil Burkart, George Davel, T.A. Taylor, Wm. Grambow and Louis Klumb

State of Wisconsin

In Circuit Court for Marathon County

In the Matter of the Application for the Incorporation of the Village of Stratford

State of Wisconsin

Marathon County SS

W.F. Goetz being first duly sworn on oath says: that he resides in the Town of Cleveland, Marathon County, Wisconsin, and that he is past 21 years of age; that on the 26th day of November, 1909, in said town he posted the annexed

notice of application for the incorporation of the Village of Stratford in three of the most public within the territory described in said notice as the territory to be included within the proposed Village of Stratford, to wit:

One copy on the front door of the R. Connor Co. Store on Lot 8, Block 16 of the plat of the Village of Stratford, in said Town of Cleveland, one copy of said notice at the quarter section corner between Sections 24 and 25, Township 27 North, of Range 3 East, in the Town of Eau Pleine, said County, and one copy of said notice at the Southwest corner of Section 30, Township 27 North, of Range 4 East; that said notices were posted more than six weeks previous to the 7th day of January, 1910, and that there is no newspaper published within said territory.

(Signed) W.F. Goetz

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of December, 1909.

Walter Obey, Notary Public
Marathon County Wisconsin

My Commission expires December 22, 1912.

State of Wisconsin

Circuit Court for Marathon County

In the Matter of the Application for the Incorporation of the Village of Stratford.

The petition of W.F. Goetz, Phil Burkhart, George Davel, T.A. Taylor, William Grambow and Louis Klumb respectfully shows:

That these petitioners are residents and tax payers of the territory hereinafter described; that said territory is not less than one half mile in area and is not included in any village, and is all lying in the Town of Cleveland Eau Pleine in Marathon County, Wisconsin, and contains a resident population of not less than 300 persons, to wit: 815 persons, and contains a village in fact with a reasonably compact center of population; that your petitioners have caused an accurate survey and map of said territory to be made by a practical surveyor, as provided by law, of said territory, which survey and map are hereto annexed and marked Exhibit "A" and have also caused an accurate census of the resident population of said territory to be taken as provided by law, which census is hereto annexed and marked exhibit "B".

That said survey and map and said census have been left at the office of the R. Connor Company in the Town of Cleveland, Marathon County, Wisconsin, in said territory, for five successive weeks as required and provided by law, subject to the examination at all reasonable hours of all persons interested. That said territory is bounded and described as follows: See surveyor's description.

That the petitioners desire to have such territory incorporated as a village and the laws of the State of Wisconsin by the name of the "Village of Stratford."

That a notice of application for said incorporation was given as provided by law which notice and the affidavit showing posting thereof is hereto annexed, marked exhibit "C."

Wherefore, the petitioners pray that the Court make an order setting forth the boundaries of such territory by courses and distances and declaring that such territory shall be an incorporated village by the name of "Village of Stratford" if the electors thereof shall assent thereto as provided by law.

Dated January 7, 1910

(Signed) W.F. Goetz

Phil Burkart

George Davel

T.A. Taylor

William Grambow

Louis Klumb

First Village Census 1910

1. Jno	Wolf	37. Ruth	
2. Margaret		38. Nettie	
3. Frann		39. John	Ably
4. Fred		40. Nellie	
5. John		41. Florence	
6. Peter		42. Rudolph	Ulrich
7. Mary		43. Alvina	
8. Louis		44. Walter	
9. George		45. Emil	Kotsch
10. Jos	Hablewitz	46. Martha	
11. Clara		47. Alvera	
12. Charles		48. Walter	Oby
13. Edward		49. Alma	
14. Edna		50. Alice	Katiolinek
15. George		51. Chas	Laeffelmacher
16. Ervine		52. Augusta	
17. Charles	Lillgie	53. William	
18. Amelia		54. Fred G	Reckner
19. Emma		55. Minnie	
20. Ella		56. Bertha	
21. Harry		57. Harry	
22. Karl		58. Herbert	
23. Peter	Olson	59. Robt	Quade
24. Anna	Senkbeil	60. Clo	
25. Thos	Fahey	61. Marion	
26. Mary		62. Mike	Baltus
27. John		63. Anna	
28. Steve		64. Helen	
29. Leo		65. Frann	
30. George		66. Elmer	
31. Mamie		67. Margaret	
32. Matt	Steines	68. Mabel	
33. Katie		69. John	Krostag
34. Ceclia		70. Barbara	
35. D. M.	O'Connell	71. Anna	
36. Nora		72. Chas	Krostag

73. Joseph		130. Karel		187. Ida		244. Charles	Felix
74. Alvin		131. Victor		188. Alphonse		245. Gertrude	
75. John		132. DeWaine	Reed	189. Alma		246. Evelyn	
76. Louis		133. Lena		190. Leona		247. Howard	
77. Peter		134. Anna		191. Fred	Senkbeil	248. Ed	Tillman
78. Anton		135. Georgia		192. Christiana		249. Louis	Garbisch
79. Frann		136. Mildred		193. Adaline		250. Anna	
80. John	Seering	137. Elmer		194. Raymond		251. Arthur	
81. Effie		138. Walter		195. Walter		252. Harry	
82. Jacob	Sternler	139. John	Kaiser	196. Alvin		253. Fred	
83. Bertha		140. Henry	Oettinger	197. Louis F.	Schaber	254. Theodore	
84. Lizzie		141. Theresa		198. Elizabeth		255. Fred	Sawer
85. Sallie		142. Beatrice		199. Leone		256. Wesley	Cain
86. Ruth		143. Ruben		200..Margaret		257. Eva	
87. William		144. Jos	Schmidt	201. Bryon		258. Cecil	
88. Eva		145. Mary		202. Nettie		259. Milford	
89. Bertha		146. Emil	Schmidt	203. Anna		260. Richard	
90. Hilda		147. Wm	Grambow	204. Louis		261. Doris	Hollister
91. Fred	Zuege	148. Emma		205. Frances		262. Gabriel	
92. Minnie		149. Dorothy		2C6. Jacob	Ostertag	263. John	Bannach
93. Frann		150. Esther		2C7. Augusta		264. Clara	
94. Mary		151. Fred	Schuette Sr.	208. Otto		265. Clara	
95. Martha		152. Ricka		209. Clemmis		266. Mary	
96. Lizzie		153. Fred	Thompson	210. Charles		267. John	
97. Lorenz		154. Mary		211. Henry	Bartz	268. Loretta	
98. John		155. Edwin		212. Louisa		269. Joseph	
99. Gust	Schladowsky	156. Amy		213. Herbert		270. Frank	Weber
100. Paulina		157. Sadie		214. Melvin		271. Frances	
101. Dell	Thompson	158. Fred		215. Theodore		272. Frank	
102. Florence		159. Lyra		216. Gertrude		273. August	
103. Eunice	Bennett	160. Herbert		217. Wm	Juno	274. Anna	
104. Chr	Schunn	161. Wm. F.	Goetz	218. Cora		275. Theresa	
105. Augusta		162. Ernestine		219. Chas	Wallner	276. John	
106. Ella		163. Fred		220. Mary		277. Henry	
107. Allma		164. Etta		221. Theresa		278. W.	Aschenbrener
108. Lillian		165. Alma		222. Josephine Hentges		279. Frances	
109. Henry	Nelson	166. George		223. Agnes		280. Edward	
110. Mary		167. Robert		224. Spencer	DeMoss	281. Dorothy	
111. Albert G.	Verch	168. Jos	Platteter	225. Flora		282. Mary	Weinfurter
112. Lena		169. Rosa		226. Bessie		283. Otto	Hoff
113. Emma		170. James		227. Mack		284. Martha	
114. Gustav		171. Theresa		228. Emily		285. Raymond	
115. Chas	Ottow	172. Leo		229. Lois	Everett	286. Otto	
116. Anna		173. Charles		230. Anna	Bradley	287. Jos	Strupp
117. Elsie		174. Louisa		231. Viola	Cassody	288. Cunigunda	
118. Hy	Kulback	175. Edward		232. Chas	Radatz	289. Wm	Reichert
119. Minnie		176. Sever	Lekken	233. Alvina		290. Anna	
120. Aug	Warnke	177. Tena		234. Lydia		291. Rudolph	
121. Hattie		178. John		235. Freda		292. Albert	Preiss
122. C. E.	Aschenbrener	179. Elmer		236. Melinda		293. Augusta	
123. Anna		180. Alice		237. Frank	Wolf	294. Esther	
124. Mary		181. Carl		238. Margaret		295. Adam	Lawrie
125. Rudolph		182. Louis	Young	239. Wilfred		296. Anna	
126. Frank		183. Anna		240. Ervine		297. Zita	
127. Edward		184. Genevieve		241. Raymond		298. ARthur	
128. Anna		185. Frank	Scheribel	242. Raymond	Kyle	299. Robert	
129. Gasper		186. Gertrude		243. Agatha		300. George	

301. Geo	Davel	358. Henry	Wahl	415. Mary		472. Gust	Verch
302. Johanna		359. Emma		416. Elizabeth		473. Amelia	
303. Lillian		360. Leonard		417. L.J.	Balgheim	474. Martha	
304. Arthur		361. Fred	Fischer	418. Louisa		475. Wilbert	
305. Frank J.	Curtin	362. Dora		419. Lillian		476. Herman	Leuck
306. Minerva		363. John		420. Coy	Payne	477. Minnie	
307. Harry		364. Violet		421. Minnie		478. Hugo	
308. William		365. L. B.	Weber	422. Esther		479. Henry	Lillgie
309. Marguerite		366. Jennie		423. Lilias		480. Fred	
310. Ferd Quade		367. Dan	Mahony	424. Lucinda		481. Henry Jr.	
311. Albertina		368. Mary		425. Chas	Koch	482. Meta	
312. Adelia		369. Jos E.		426. Martha		483. Frank	
313. August	Hahn	370. Nute	Rogny	427. R.	Zeihr	484. Arnold	
314. Augusta		371. Anna		428. Pearl		485. Otto	Polege
315. Oscar		372. Margaret		429. Geo	Schweickl	486. Minnie	
316. Ed	Nanlin	373. Ed	Dennee	430. Anna		487. Hazel	
317. Mary		374. Lena		431. Theresa		488. Uriah	
318. Fred	Hintzman	375. Margaret		432. Lena		489. Agedues	Mayer
319. Ricka		376. Donald		433. Cecelia		490. Mary	
320. Rev. J.C.	Martin	377. Wallace		434. Joe		491. Jacob	
321. Norma		378. C. O.	Fuller	435. Louis		492. Tillie	
322. Albert		379. Jennie		436. Phil	Burkart	493. Peter	
323. Rudolph Haase		380. Gladys		437. Agnes		494. Lorenz	
324. Almira		381. Alfred		438. Frank		495. Frank Schweighofer	
325. Ambrose		382. Mrs. A. G. Murray		439. George		496. Johanna	
326. Cinda		383. Edith	Barney	440. Anna		497. Frank	
327. George		384. John	Oettinger	441. Willie		498. Johanna	
328. Harry	Neipert	385. Theresa		442. Lizzie	Rock	499. Aug	Kobnick
329. Tom A.	Taylor	386. Gertrude		443. Joseph	Riffel	500. Minnie	
330. Alvin	Stengel	387. Wilford		444. John	Burkart	501. Ewald	Schmidt
331. Arthur	Weber	388. Marie		445. Anna		502. Ella	
332. Wm	Lenz	389. Anna	Homick	446. Henry	Schiffer	503. Margaret	
333. Anton	Friders	390. H. L.	Klemme	447. Minnie		504. August	
334. Chas	Ablin	391. Bertha		448. Bertha		505. Jos	Schroepfer
335. Frank	Berdan	392. Freda		449. Anna		506. Barbara	
336. Louisa		393. Anna		450. Elsie		507. Joseph	
337. Helen		394. Alma		451. John	Kuhlman	508. Katie	
338. Ella		395. George		452. Julia		509. Eva	
339. Margaret		396. Lillie		453. Alfred		510. James	
340. Louis	Klumb	397. Otto		454. Elsie		511. Wolfgang Brei	
341. Lena		398. John	Frahm	455. Aloys		512. Mary	
342. Melinda		399. Wm	Koch	456. John Jr.		513. Sophia	
343. Conrad	Reichert	400. Ella		457. Adalia		514. Joseph	
344. Henry	Koch	401. John	Allen	458. Elinor		515. Mary	
345. John	Hickey	402. Sarah		459. Margaret	Kaeser	516. Anton	Brei
346. Frances		403. Philip		460. John G.	Allen	517. Edward	
347. Ed	Hoffman	404. Palmer		461. Elanor		518. Elsie	
348. Amelia		405. Robert		463. Joseph	Resch	519. Louis	Meixner
349. Arthur		406. E.C.	Leiteritz	463. Anna		520. Kate	
350. Viola		407. Barbara		464. Joseph		521. Mary	
351. Fred	Klumb	408. Olive	Gartner	465. Frank		522. Wolfgang	
352. Emma		409. Nellie		466. Anna		523. Kate	
353. Herman		410. Geo	Bolin	467. Edward		524. Louis	
354. Luella		411. Henry	Bruch	468. Mary		525. Rosa	
355. Ida		412. Adolph	Teitz	469. Anton		530. Anton	
356. Marie		413. Edmund	Laessig	470. Chr	Franzen	531. Fred	
357. Adolph	Frank	414. John	Duffy	471. Ricka		532. Mary	

533. Mike		590. Mike	Heller	646. Bertha		703. William	
534. Franz		591. Margaret		647. Frances		704. Frank	Laessig
535. Ignatz		592. Earl		648. William		705. Mary	
536. John		593. Leo		649. Melvin		706. Ruben	
537. Chas	Wallner	594. Armella		650. Daniel		707. Earl	
538. Mary		595. Felix		651. Esther		708. Chas	Laessig
539. Charles		596. Della		652. Mabel		709. Jennie	
540. Anna		597. Raymond		653. Jno	Lapinski	710. Frank	
541. Joe		598. Nick		654. Jos	Dein	711. Leon	
542. Frank		Schultz		655. Al	Friday	712. John	
543. Ferd	Krause	599. Effice		656. Fred	Carlson	713. Stella	
544. Alvina		600. Grace		657. Stanley	Nowitzke	714. Mabel	
545. Evaline		601. Willie		658. Frank		715. Sylvester	
546. Mabel		602. Edward		659. Sever	Westhime	716. Anna	
547. Rud	Zettler	603. Jno	Feilen	660. Jno	Wascak	717. John	Junneman
548. Minnie		604. Lena		661. Paul	Glanitzke	718. Mary	
549. Paul		605. Eva		662. Jacob	Drexler	719. Gregor	
550. Louis		606. Magdalene		663. Caroline		720. Chas	Doll
551. Amanda		607. Andrew		664. Charels		721. Mary	
552. Emil		608. Lorenz		665. Anna		722. Walter	
553. Alvina		609. Joseph		666. Jacob		723. Adaline	
554. Mollie		610. Henry		667. Rudolph		724. Carl	
555. Tillie		611. Julia		668. Henry		725. Willie	
556. Chas	Eisner	612. Regina		669. William		726. Harry	
557. Mary		613. Mat	Leick	670. Albt W.	Verch	727. Marie	
558. Theresa		614. Anna		671. Minnie		728. Jos	Framberger
559. Anna		615. Tillie		672. Amelia		729. Josephine	
560. Joseph		616. Jacob		673. Carl		730. Mary	
561. John		617. Mary		674. Herman	Verch	731. Anna	
562. Frank		618. Anna		675. Hattie		732. Lena	
563. Edward		619. Jos	Sturm	676. Hubert		733. Notburger	
564. Rosella		620. Mary		677. Henry	Heller	734. Herman	
565. Fred	Gorr	621. Alex		678. Louisa		735. Josephine	
566. Carrie		622. Chas	Kellnhofer	679. Mabel		736. Barbara	
567. Willie		623. Anna		680. Gilbert		739. Theresa	
568. Martha		624. Anna		681. Hazel		740. George	
569. Fred Jr.		625. Louisa		682. Thos J.	Hoesly	741. John	
570. Otto		626. Mary		683. Elizabeth		742. Mike	
571. Dora		627. Margaret		684. Thomas		743. Philip	Harter
572. Hilda		628. Charles		685. Herman		744. Lena	
573. Hans	Noren	629. Jos	Fischer	686. Hermania		745. Emil	
574. Thea		630. Maggie		687. Mike	Brunner	746. Bertha	
575. John		631. Joseph		688. Theresa		747. Anna	
576. Helmer		632. John		689. Dorothy		748. Frances	
577. Esther		630. Mike		690. Edward		749. Anton	
578. Rev. Martin	Casper	634. Edward		691. Margaret		750. Louis	Dabler
579. Maggie	Schrr	635. Maggie		692. Agness		751. Augusta	
580. Peter		636. Philip		693. Gust	Drexler	752. Ed	Dustin
581. Sister Julia		637. Willie		694. Frances		753. Anna	
582. Sister Anysia		638. John	Daul	695. John		754. Sylvia	
583. Sister Leander		639. Tillie		696. Lizzie		755. Margaret	Bleier
584. Sister Ricka		640. John G.		697. Joseph		756. Basila	Bury
585. M.	Kollmansberger	641. Tillie		698. Theresa		757. E. H.	Maxson
586. Theresa		642. Clara		699. Frank		758. Hattie	
587. Theresa		643. Mamie		700. Mary		759. Prentice	
588. Robert		644. Luella		701. August	Drexler	760. Doris	
589. Anton		645. W. C.	Lipke	702. Agness		761. Lester	

762. Fred Aschbrener	777. Theresa	792. Gladys	807. Vera
763. Bertha	778. Anna	793. Clifford	808. S. E.
764. Henry	779. Frank	794. George E	809. Wm Zeigler
765. Frank	780. Ignatz	795. Edna Wis	810. Lena
766. Sam	781. Mike Schmitbauer	796. Jno Obernberger	811. Alice
767. Hilda	782. Matilda	797. Josephine	812. Alma
768. Jos Kohl	783. Matilda	798. Barbara	813. Andrew Zeigler
769. Mary	784. Martha	799. Lizzie	814. Anna
770. Violet	785. Mike	800. John	815. Fred
771. Albert Leitzke	786. Elsie	801. Lina	
772. Emma	787. Arthur	802. Mary	
773. Inas	788. Rudolph	803. Alphonse	
774. Roland	789. J.L. Chrouser	804. Frank	
775. Ignatz Resen	790. Clara	805. Wm Thurston	
776. Theresa	791. Elmer	806. Selma	

Author's note: It is known that their are probably misspellings. Some are the census takers mistakes, some are incorrect interpretation of his handwriting. We tried!

1

PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Form 19.

Register of Village officers elected and qualified for the year 1910.

Wm F Goetz	President
Phil Burkart	Trustee
Louis Klumb	"
C. E. Aschenbrenner	"
Shas Doll	"
Geo Lavel	"
Jno Bannach	"
Frank J. Curtin	Clerk
Thos A Taylor	Treasurer
Chris Franzen	Assessor
Wm F Goetz	Supervisor
Frank J. Curtin	Justice of the Peace
L. B. Helver	Constable

PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Form 19.

1910
April 11 : First meeting of the Village Board of the Village Board of the Village of Stratford, held in the Village ^{hall} on the 11th day of April 1910, all members present. Meeting called to order by President Wm F Gatz at 8:00 P.M.

On motion, Ordinance No 1, Relative to restraining, Horses, Cattle, Hogs, sheep and Goats, from running at large on the public streets of the Village of Stratford Passed by the Board, all members voting in favor thereof.

On motion, Chris Franzen appointed street commissioner.

On motion, next meeting of this Board to be called by the president.

On motion, meeting adjourned at 9.50 P.M.

Frank Cutten
Village Clerk

April 15 At a joint meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Cleveland and the Village Board of the Village of Stratford, held at the hall in the Village of Stratford, on the 15th day of April 1910, for the purpose of dividing the property belonging to the town.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

On motion, the ~~the~~ Town sells to the Village the town hall, the furniture therein, the jail and the cemetery, the Town to keep the safe and the cash on hand, and the Village Board ^{the town} of Cleveland, and the Village Board of the Village of Stratford, except the claim of the Town of Cleveland against Bond Sons and Company.

And on Motion it was decided by and between the Town Board and the Village Board, that the claim of the Town of Cleveland, against Bond Sons + Co, be collected, or settled with the said Bond Sons + Co, on a basis satisfactory to the Town Board of Cleveland, and the Village of Stratford to receive its share, on a basis of 38% of the amount collected, after deducting collection fees.

On Motion, the Boards adjourned at 5 1/2 Pm

(Signed) Ernst Hattman } Supervisors
 Edward Hayes } Town of
 Henry Schebrock } Cleveland

(Signed)

W. F. Gatz
 Village President
 Frank Curtin
 Village Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Statement of the Assessment of the Village for the Year 1910, forwarded to the County Clerk

Horses	No	76	value \$	5,760.
Cattle	"	1,98	"	3,075.
Sheep + Lambs	"	33	"	66.
Swine	"	14	"	77.
Wagons + etc	"	85	"	2,105.
Cash Stk			"	6,400.
Mcht + Mfgns Stock			"	88,750.
Automobiles.	No		"	600.
All other personal property			"	<u>5,695.</u>
Total Val of Per property			\$	112,478
Val of Land	\$	69,695		
Improvements	\$	<u>59,665</u>		
Land + Impts				129,360.
Val of Kil Lots		27,200		
Improvements		<u>75,500</u>		
Lots + Impts				<u>102,700.</u>
Total Val Land, Lots + Impts,			\$	<u>232,060</u>
Total Val of all property,			\$	344,538.

Dated August 22-1910

Frank J. Curtin
Village Clerk

PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Form 19.

Statement of taxes certified against the
Village of Stratford by the County Clerk for year 1910

State Tax	661,50
County Tax	714,00
Co Supt Tax	31,19
Co School Tax	682,37
Co Soldiers Tax	14,00

Total taxes certified to by County Clerk \$ 2103,06

School Dist Loans not certified by Co. Clerk

Jt Dist No 3. Stratford + Eau Claire	231,50
" " " 5 " + Cleveland	2395,69
" " " 6 " " "	99,60
	<u>4,829,55</u>

Taxes certified by School Dist Clerks for year 1910

Jt Dist no 3 Stratford + Eau Claire	\$ 150,00
" " " 4 " + "	200,00
" " " 3 " + Cleveland	50,00
" " " 5 " + "	400,00
" " " 6 " + "	<u>200,00</u>
	1,000,00

High School Tax certified to by the
Clerk of the High School Dist for year 1910 416,99

Village Taxes levied by Village Board
 for Year 1910 \$ 3,478.96
 Sidewalk tax levied against abutting owners \$ 77.55
 Special sidewalk taxes 158.29
 Delight Highway taxes for year 1910 4,514.80
 Total Taxes \$ 61.29
10,822.93

Frank J. Gustin
 Village Clerk

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Form 19.

Aug 19 C. L. Ray, a bill poster for the Bannum
 1915 and Bailey shows, was run over by
 a freight train and severely injured.
 Drs. Becking and Fuller were
 ordered by the village board to
 care for the injured man. The
 doctors finding the man so badly
 injured that he could not be properly
 cared for here. The board orders that he be
 taken to the hospital at Marshfield.

Statement of assessment 1915

	No		Value
Horses	140	\$	11,875
Neat cattle	366		12,022
Sheep	1		4
Swine	49		352
Wagons etc	150		2,965
Merchants stock			27,050
Manufacturers stock			61,250
Franchise			5,000
Automobiles	27		9,950
Other motor vehicles	3		150
Other personal property			8,495
Bank Stock			18,750
Total Val personal prop		\$	<u>157,813</u>
Lands	\$	82,380	
Improvs	<u>74,440</u>		
Total	\$	<u>156,820</u>	
Lots	25,575		
Improvs	<u>100,770</u>		
Total	126,345		
Total Val real estate		\$	<u>783,145</u>
Total Val of all property		\$	<u>440,978</u>

Dated August 21st 1915

F. J. Curtin
Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF STRATFORD PRESIDENTS

William F. Goetz	4-06-1910 to 4-10-1911	Peter Klein	10-06-1943 to 4-04-1944
George Davel	4-10-1911 to 4-09-1912	Joseph R. Heim	4-04-1944 to 4-07-1947
William F. Goetz	4-09-1912 to 4-05-1921	Peter Klein	4-07-1947 to 4-15-1954
Herman Langer	4-05-1921 to 4-03-1923	Harold Weber	4-15-1954 to 4-08-1957
William F. Goetz	4-03-1923 to 4-03-1928	Carl Marquardt	4-08-1957 to 4-06-1959
Joseph G. Ritgen	4-03-1928 to 4-01-1930	Freman D. Smith	4-06-1959 to 4-08-1963
William F. Goetz	4-01-1930 to 6-24-1931	Albert Bandle	4-08-1963 to 4-07-1967
A. P. Schoultz	6-24-1931 to 4-11-1932	Harry Metzke	4-07-1967 to 4-13-1971
H. L. Klemme	4-11-1932 to 4-02-1935	Melvin Guenther	4-13-1971 to 4-21-1987
Jacob Dix	4-02-1935 to 4-04-1939	Fred Justman	4-21-1987 to 6-14-1990
Louis Klinner	4-04-1939 to 10-06-1943	Paul Oertel	6-14-1990 to Present

Stratford on an Angle

From Saw-Dust by Len Sargent, Jr.

Stratford, Wisconsin is a thriving village in a wonderful farming community. As one drives down the main street from north to south, in about the center of town, the street takes a sharp turn to the west. Most of the buildings on this portion of the street, face east, while the street runs northeast to southwest. Consequently, most of the buildings have a triangle of land in front of them. Why this crazy quilt pattern?

As it was explained to me a long time ago, it happened as follows: The surveyors who laid out the street and lots were informed that the railroad would run north and south, so they intended to have the street run parallel to the tracks. However, when the railroad came along, its surveyors discovered that if they were to run the tracks directly north and south, they would run into the new Connor Lumber Company saw mill pond. Rather than take a sharp turn around it, they laid out the right-of-way through the village from northeast to southwest. Consequently, the railroad right of way went diagonally

across the street. Therefore, the street was moved back and cut off corners of the lots, and on the extreme end, came close to splitting them in half.

There is one building that not only faces the street, but lines up with its lot as well. Consequently, the northeast corner of the building comes to a sharp peak.

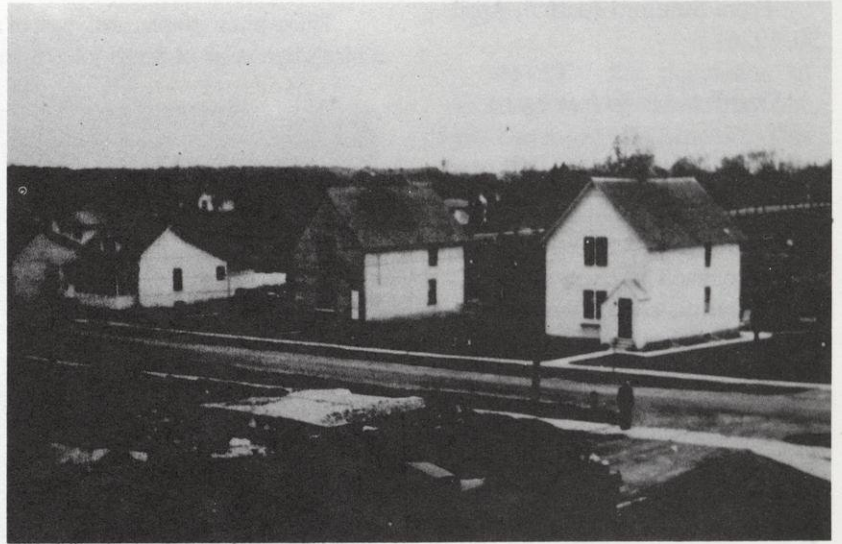
This building is the Stratford House, the first building to be built on the street, and my home from 1894 to 1900. When my father and mother took charge of this hotel, they were determined to make a first class hostelry out of it and they did a good job for those days. It was noted for its good beds for twenty-five cents a night, and its high quality meals at twenty-five cents per meal. A regular customer at the hotel was W. D. Connor, the head of the R. Connor Lumber Company, who operated the saw mill.

My folks had a fine business in the Stratford House, and built an addition to it which was as big as the original building. They expanded and built a nice dance hall that was also used as an opera house.



From Stratford Journal, Feb. 21, 1919
Connor Cottages Completed

The four cottages which have been under construction for some time are ready for occupancy. They have been built for rental to the company's employees, and are splendid little houses. Each has a full basement, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, pantry and plenty of closet room. They also have comfortable porches.



From Stratford Journal, June 1924

What will prove without a doubt the best home building sites in Stratford has just been opened for the sale of lots. The new addition will be known as the Davel Addition to the Village of Stratford and will consist of 22 choice lots. The lots are located west of Weber Avenue between Elm and Larch Streets. The land was formerly a part of the Henry Aschbrenner farm.

Water, sewer and electric service will be extended to the new addition as rapidly as it is built.



FOR SALE

20 Choice Building Lots in the
 Village of Stratford

\$150 and up per lot
 Reasonable terms

All ideal Home sites. Now, with the Building season upon us, is the time to get one for the home you plan to build.

GEO. DAVEL

STRATFORD,

WISCONSIN

From Stratford Journal, Aug. 11, 1916
New Band Stand

At the last meeting, the Village Board voted that the amount necessary to build a band stand be furnished.

Work on walks begun

Some of the old wooden walks have been torn up in many places and will soon be replaced by about 14,000 ft. of cement walks.

From Stratford Journal, April 30, 1926

Stratford is growing in population

The writer well remembers when the Village of Stratford was a small struggling hamlet. For the farmer to reach here was almost an impossibility, especially early in the spring of the year or following a heavy down pour of rain. Mud galore faced the hard working farmers when they wanted to come to town and when they did arrive they found no relief in the village streets.

Today all roads for miles around leading to and in Stratford are well graded, drained and surfaced with a heavy coating of decomposed granite, making it a pleasure for our tillers of the soil to come to the village.

Then again, the merchants take great pleasure in trying to show those who come here, a true brotherly welcome. Those who are in need of commodities of life invariably pick Stratford as their trading post. Prices are as low and in many cases considerably lower here, than in most villages.

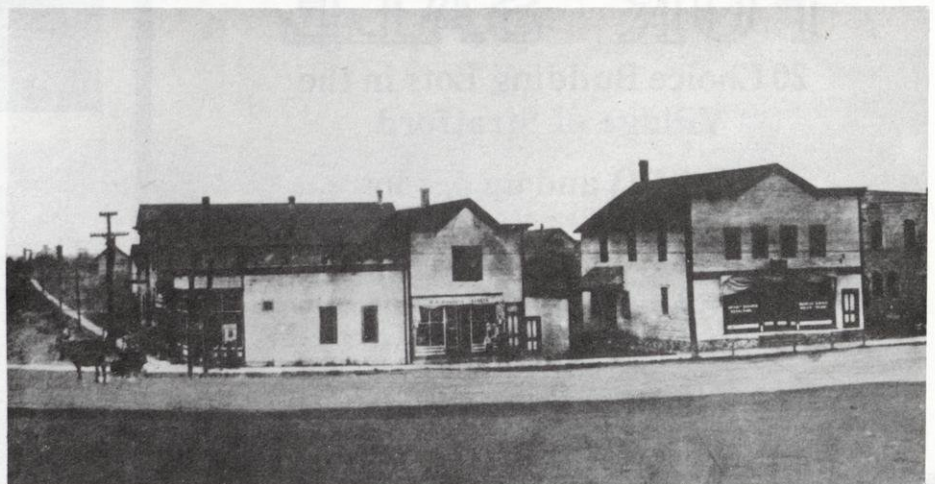
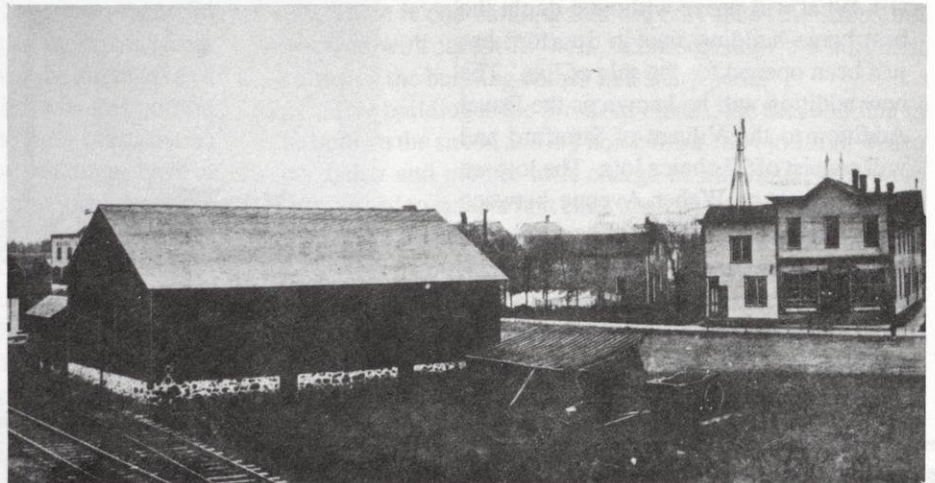
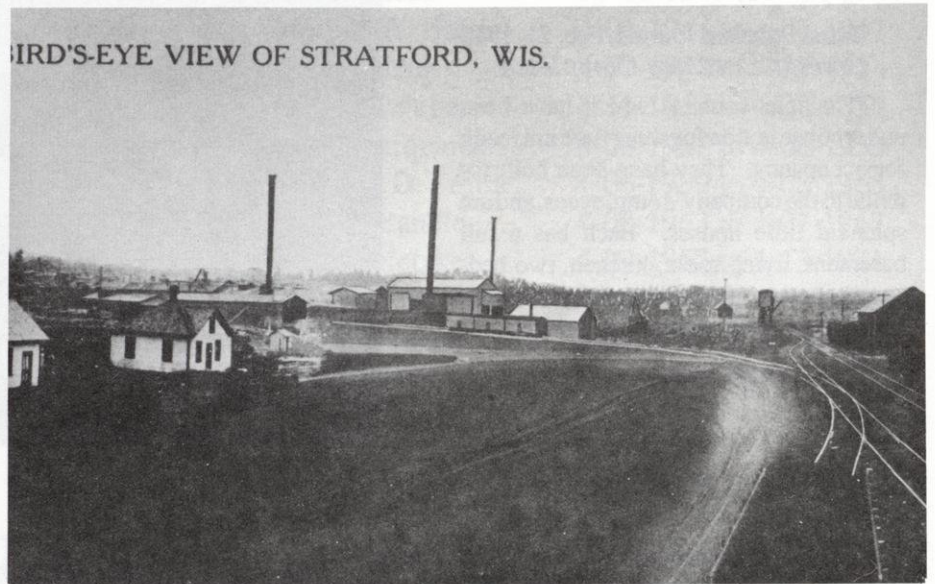
The past few years has brought about many changes in residences. New modern beautiful homes have been erected, of the very latest architecture, beautiful lawns added, and several old homes have been remodeled.

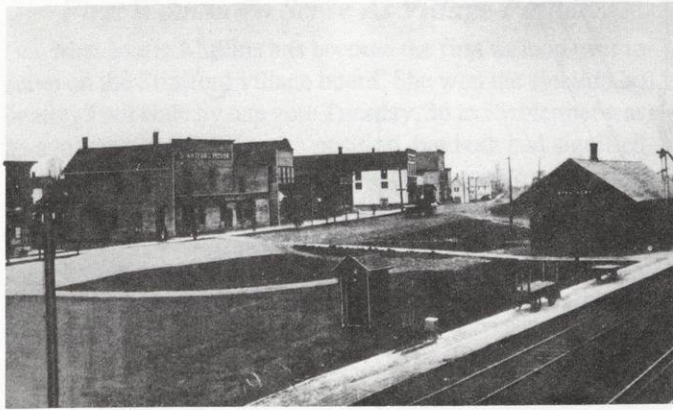
Many honest to goodness up-to-date business blocks have been erected and improvements on others are now under way or about to be started.

The village is now supplied with Sewage and Waterworks, affording property owners the best kind of fire protection. It will also be hard to find city drinking water that will excel or even equal ours.

Stratford is now nearing the 1500 mark in population. It is growing steadily, a good healthy place to live in.

These photographs are a part of a folding postcard. There are four photos, showing a bird's eye view of Stratford's main business street.





In 1930 the population of Stratford had dropped from the 1920 count of 1,014 to 960. This was after the closing of the Connor mill.

**Election Tuesday, April 2nd.
Get out and Vote!**

THE VILLAGE TICKET

For President
Wm. Diermeier
Jacob Dix
H. L. Klemme

For Supervisor
Wm. Diermeier
Jacob Dix
H. L. Klemme

For Clerk
Frank J. Curtin

For Treasurer
E. A. Becher
Frank C. Marohl

For Assesor
Chas. Laessig

For Trustee (Three to be elected)

H. H. Aschbrenner
Joe Hablewitz
J. R. Heim
Louis Klinner
Frank Lillge
Chas. Raugh
J. J. Wittmayer

For Constable

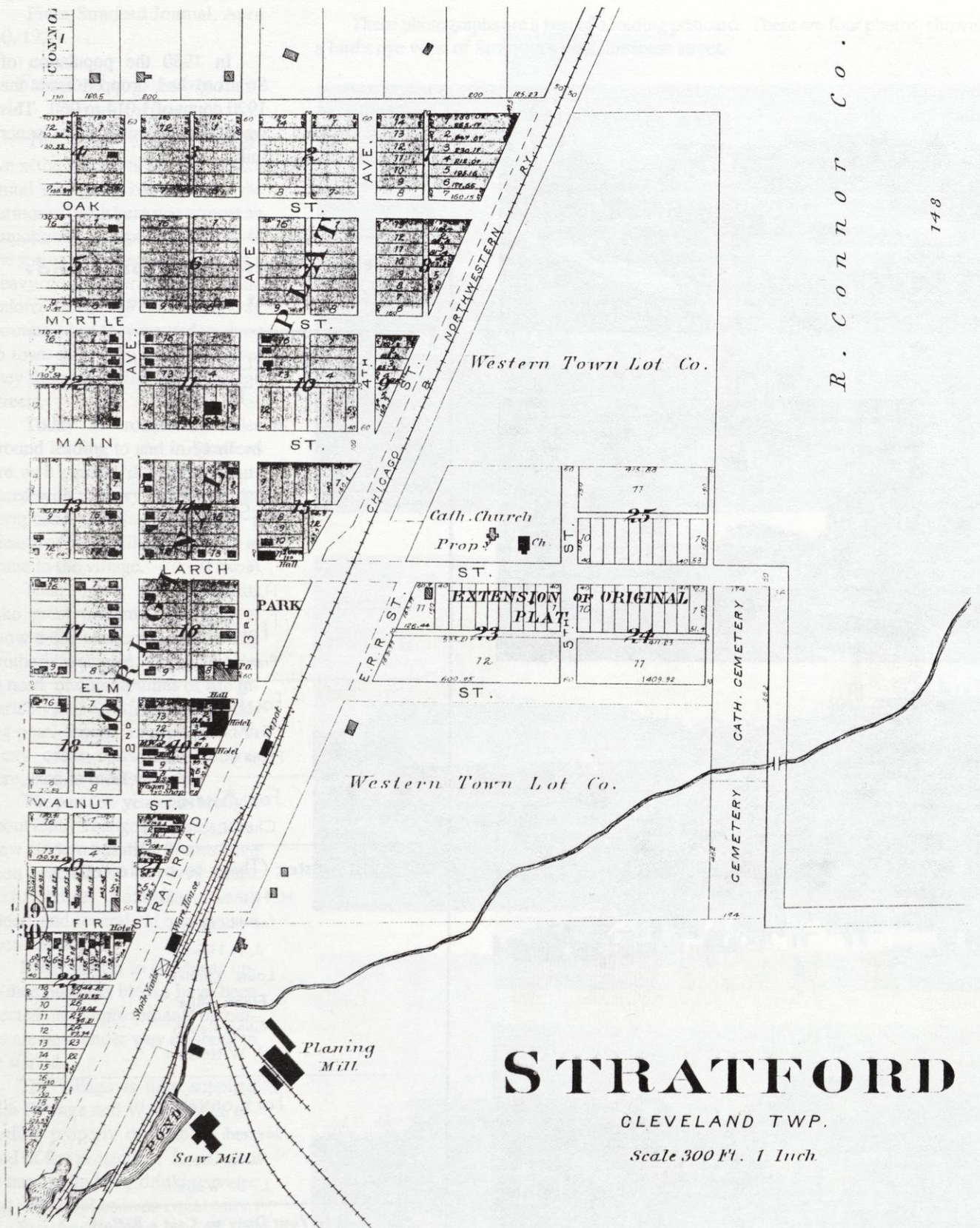
Joeseph M. Brei
Wm. Lueck
L. B. Weber

It Is Your Duty to Cast a Ballot!

From Stratford Journal, March 28, 1935.

R. CONNOR CO.

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STRATFORD

CLEVELAND TWP.

Scale 300 Ft. 1 Inch

Plat of Stratford from 1901 Marathon County Plat Book

From Stratford Journal, April 3, 1975
First Woman To Serve As Village Father

Mrs. Marie Mullins has become the first woman ever to serve on the Stratford village board. She won the election by beating Paul Hale by one vote Tuesday, 36 to 35. Neither was an avowed candidate for the position, but both had signified their willingness to serve would she or he receive a majority.

The village election had started out in a lack-luster fashion, with Mel Guenther, president, and Mel Schmidt, trustee, being the only candidates on the ballot. As election time neared, more interest developed as individuals indicated their willingness to serve.

Tom Stack, who had served on the board, decided not to run this year because of the pressure of other business. But enough pressure was put upon him to induce him to state his willingness to serve.

Neither Mrs. Mullins or Mr. Hale campaigned in any way for the position. Both were somewhat reluctant to take on the thankless position, but neither wanted to neglect to take on the duties if the people wished to elect them.

The votes cast were:

Trustee: Mel Schmidt, 209; Tom Stack, 169; Marie Mullins, 36 and Paul Hale 35. There was a tremendous scattering of one, two or three votes for individuals. Mel Guenther, president, received 235 votes to succeed himself.



1991 Village Trustees (l-r) Don Weber, Yvonne Schoultz, Richard Chrouser, President - Paul Oertel, Elmer Hayes, Joe Lato and Dave Ehrike.



Roseann Johnson, Village Treasurer and Margaret Brubaker, Village Clerk



Current Village Hall

Stratford's Electricity

The R. Connor Company furnished direct current to part of the village residents and business places from 1896 until May 1, 1923 when its franchise was assigned to the Stratford Light and Power Company. It rebuilt the distribution system to alternating current on above date. Alternate current was purchased from Wisconsin Valley Power Company, now Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. In October 1925 the Village of Stratford purchased the assets of the Stratford Light and Power Company and operated the plant as a municipality under a Water and Light Commission.

Stratford Journal, May 4, 1923

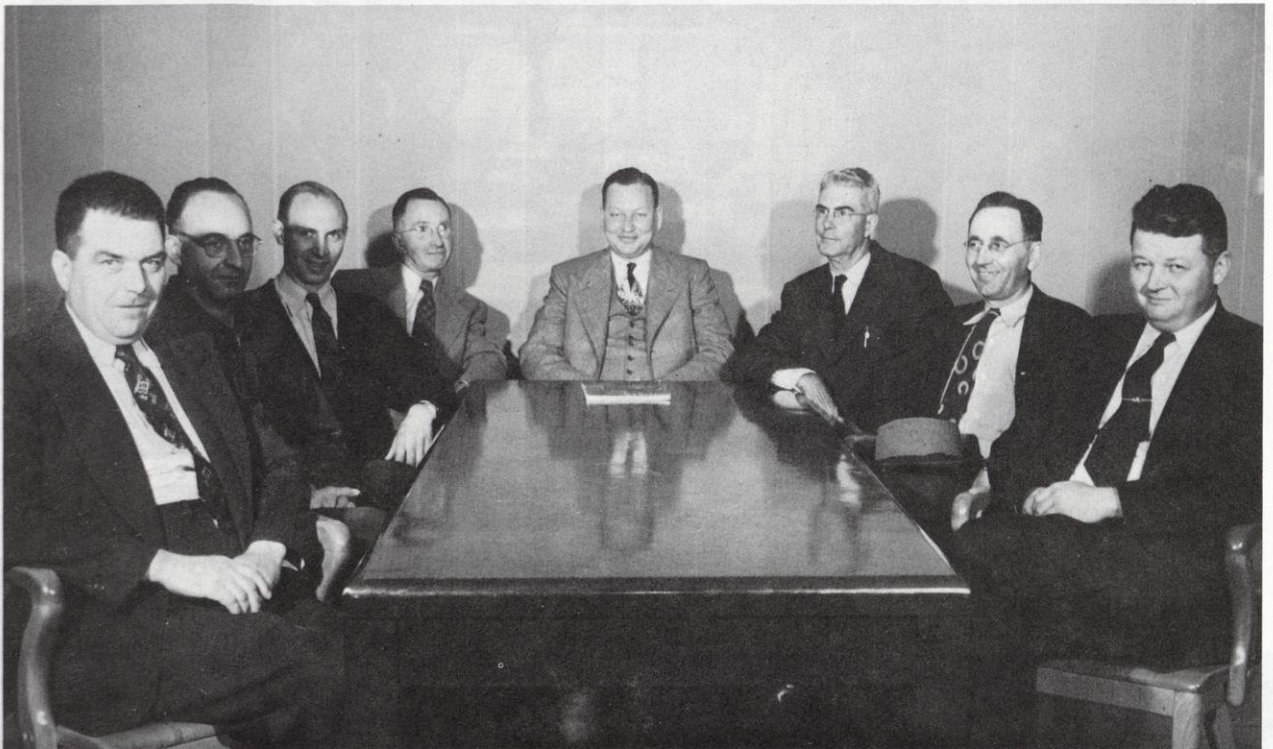
The electric light system of the Stratford Light and Power Company was connected up with the High Line of the Wisconsin Valley Company. The reaction of people generally to

the news of the final touch that completes the system was a broad smile and "Good".

Stratford Journal, 1925

Village to Buy light plant

The proposition of buying the lighting system of the Stratford Light & Power company is favored by the electors of the village. The vote on the question was 125 for and 49 against buying. The price of the plant was fixed at \$26,000 in the year 1922, the Stratford Light and Power Company was organized and lines were built for the purpose of supplying electric energy to the people of the village. In the fall of 1925, the village purchased the electric light and powers lines from the Stratford Light and Power Co. and since then the electric utility has been operated as a municipal plant.



Early Water & Light Commission

(L-R) Bill Diermeier, Don Hale, Walter Johnson, Oscar Helstrom, Rueben Davel, William Van Ryzin, Tony Schoultz and Jerry Sauter.

Some village residents and businesses took care of their own electricity needs:

From Stratford Journal, Oct 15, 1920

A Fairbanks Morse Lighting Plant is being installed in the Jos. Polster home.

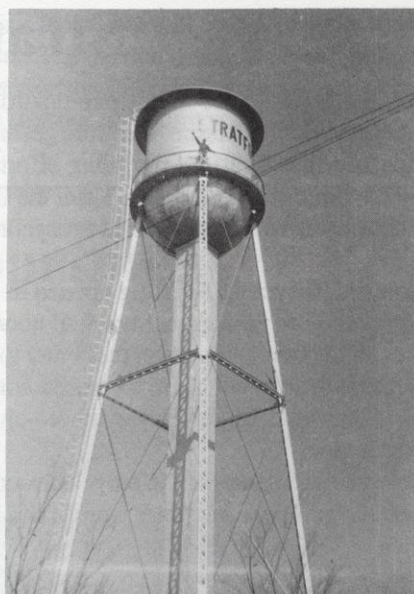
The Fairbanks Morse Lighting plant has arrived at the Lutheran Church. This plant will furnish lights for the parsonage as well as the church and will be installed immediately.

Frank Zygarlicke served as the Director of Public Works and Superintendent of the Stratford Water and Electric Department. He retired in October of 1973. When he began his career, the village purchased \$2,000 worth of electricity from the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. In 1973, they were purchasing \$12,000 worth of electricity.

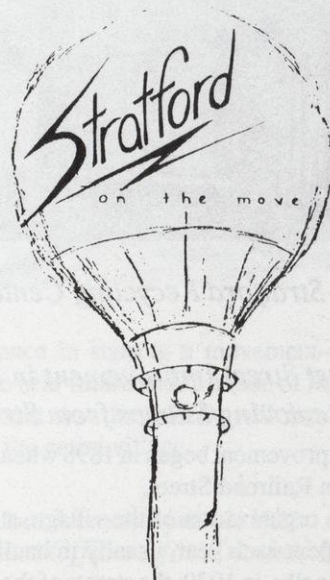
The present Director of Public works is Kevin Breit. Also working for the Public Works Department are Jerry Frodl, Mark Jensen.



Pete Weber drilling Village test wells. *Courtesy of Don Weber.*



Stratford's first water tower. Frank Zygarlicke is on the railing. *Courtesy of Don Weber.*



In 1990 the Stratford Water and Electric Commission determined that the village water towers needed to be repainted. They decided to paint a logos on the towers to advertixe the village as part of the repainting project.

A contest was held to find logos for the towers. Village residents were invited to submit their designs for judging. A prize of a \$100 donation to a selected charity was offered for each tower design chosen.

Dan Drexler submitted the winning entry for the old water tower and Tammy Kuyoth submitted the winning entry for the new tower.

The towers were painted with a light blue background and dark blue letters and designs.



Current Electric and Water Department and Village Garage.

Stratford Recycling

Growing awareness concerning our environment has made recycling an important issue. Stratford got an early start in recycling. The first Stratford recycling efforts were coordinated by the Stratford Girl Scouts. Later the Chamber of Commerce became involved and formed a recycling committee.

The Stratford Recycling Building opened in 1985. It is open on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays from 9 til noon. Various area churches and organizations man the center to help separate the items and help get them prepared for shipping. Margaret Brubaker and Elmer Hayes are co-chairs of the recycling committee.

Markets must be found for the recycled products. The markets fluctuate greatly, sometimes a profit can be realized

while at other times it is necessary to stockpile the recyclables until a buyer can be found.

Many area residents help with various duties at the center. Erv Uerling is an active voluteer who helps prepare the items for shipping.

The Marathon County Board and the State of Wisconsin now mandate certain types of recycling. In 1990, Village residents purchased recycling containers which are used for curbside pick-up of glass, paper and aluminum. This was done to help comply with mandates from Marathon County as restrictions were placed on items that were allowed in county landfills. More items will be added to the list in the future.



Stratford Recycling Center



Stratford Senior Citizen Housing

First Street Improvement in 1898, Removing Stumps from Streets

Street improvement began in 1898 when the stumps were removed from Railroad Street.

After the organization of the village, a large amount of money was spent each year, usually in hauling granite on to the streets. Finally, in 1929, the streets of the business section were paved.

From Stratford Journal, May 28, 1959

What Is Stratford's Population?

What is the population of the village of Stratford?

The population listed on the signboards at the edge of the village, is 892, that of 1950. When taking the population at that time, the federal government counted those students at colleges and schools in the population of the cities where the schools are located. There has been quite a little opposition to this, reasonably, too, and perhaps that will be changed in the next census, in 1960, and those young folks will be counted as members of their home communities.

This last weekend, Mrs. Hale and I took a census of Stratford. We drove on every street and road in the village

limits, past every home and apartment. We knew quite well how many live in most of the homes and apartments, and supplemented our knowledge with that of our friends.

As close as we can figure, the total population of Stratford is 1113, and if anything, this figure is a little understated. At least in two instances, our figure was one less than it should be as a relative, unknown to us, lived with the occupants of the home. There might be an extra person or two living with some of the families, but the total number at a home would never be less than the figure we put down.

Also noted in the survey were the number of homes built in or moved to Stratford in the 25 years the editor has been a citizen of the village. That number is 60, and it includes homes that were completely remodeled or rebuilt, as was the Reuben Davel residence.

Not included in the 60 homes, though, are the several apartments built in the Davel Building. There are, I believe, 27 folks living in that building.

Twenty-five years ago, in 1934, the population of Stratford was figured at, roughly, one thousand. Today, with 60 homes and several apartments added, there are only about 125 more. Where in the world were all the folks living 25 years ago?

What started this survey was a suggestion made at a village board meeting that Stratford become a city instead of a village. A cardinal requirement of growing from a village to a city- by state law— is a population of a thousand. This requirement can be very easily complied with.

This is a move that will be studied very carefully before it is taken. The advantages and disadvantages must be weighed seriously. Colby and Loyal are cities, the latter taking the step not too many years ago.

Stratford Fire Department



Fire protection in a community the size of Stratford is, by necessity, taken care of by volunteers. It wasn't until 1921 that Stratford had an organized volunteer fire department.

From Stratford Journal, January 21, 1921
Fire Department

Business Men and Citizens See the Great Need of having a Recognized Fire Dept. to Give Better Protection to Stratford Lives and Homes

Local Men Willing To Serve

The water works system now nearly completed in the village of Stratford has brought home the fact that unless a fire department is organized, the village will receive no benefit in the way of fire protection even though it is supplied by water. There are many reasons why Stratford should have a regular recognized fire department. Water is the best agent known in fighting fire but in order to derive the benefit of its protection in Stratford, a recognized company must be formed to use it. We understand that a two per cent reduction is made on all the fire insurance premiums of all risks located within the protection of the fire department. Unless we have a department no reduction in insurance rates can be affected. It has been hinted that the Stratford Chamber of Commerce will no doubt lend

valuable assistance in starting a movement for better fire protection in the near future and in a case of this kind there is no reason to doubt that the S.F. D. will receive hearty co-operation from the entire village.

From Stratford Journal, April 13, 1923
Firemen Elect Officers for Another Good Year

At a 100 percent attendance meeting the Stratford Fire Dept. elected its full list of fourteen officers and is again prepared to meet the fire demon full handed and unafraid.

The officers elect:

President, WS Van Ryzin
Vice President, FA Semmelback
Secretary, FJ Curtin
Treasurer, Ed Dennee
Chief, AE Way
Assistant Chief, Joseph Brei
Chemical Engine Co. No. 1 (7 men)
Jo Brei, Captain
Chas. Raugh, Lieutenant
Chemical Engine Co. No. 2 (7 men)
T. W. Hoffmann, Captain
Ed Zenner, Lieutenant

The Volunteer Fire Department Charter

We the undersigned hereby agree to become members of the Volunteer fire Department, organized in and for the Village of Stratford, Marathon county, Wisconsin, on the 28th day of October 1921. We further agree to conform to the Constitution and By Laws of said Volunteer Fire Department and to obey all lawful orders and commands of its officers.

Ed Dennee
A B Simonis
Anton Hablewitz
Sevir Westheim
Fred Lillge
J J Wittmayer
Henry Heller
Peter E. Weber
Frank X. Hoffmann
Rudy Ulrich
Ben Ludwig
Wayne Wyman
Howard Wilcott
Steve Fahey
Frank L. Lillge
Chas Raugh
J. M. Brei
F. C. Marohl
F. Steiner

Sam Frankwick
J. B. Clark
J. J. Schneiber
Theo W. Hoffmann
Geo. Bean
A. E. Wall
F. J. Curtin
W. S. Van Ryzin
John J. Mettelka
Edward Johnson
John T. Berdan
Clyde Laurence
Elmer Nelson
Charley Berlin
Geo Davel
W. F. Goetz
Mike Zenner
Wm Popp
Adolph Frank

F. A. Swellbach
H. Langer
Phil Burkart
E. H. Allington
J. E. Schmidt
E. P. Rifleman
John A. Burkart
James Chrouser
Edward Zenner
Frank R. Otto
E.A. Becher
Eugene A. Karies
W.G. Lenz
Robert Laurie
J.H. Meier
Bert Kieffer
M.B. Emmerich
G.W. Rifleman
R. R. Hubbard

Hook and Ladder Co (12 men)
F. C. Marohl, Captain
Mike Zenner, Lieutenant
Hose Company (12 men)
Adolph Frank, Captain
Steve Fahey, Lieutenant
Pump House Superintendent
Geo. Bean

From The Stratford Journal, May 5, 1966
Some Days You Just Can't Win

On the evening of May 3rd, the Fire Department answered a call to the Jos. Stockheimer residence near Rozellville to extinguish a chimney fire. The only damage to the house was caused by smoke, and a bad scorch on the kitchen wall. The call was answered at 8:30 p.m.

The fire chief, Robert Leonhardt has been getting quite a ribbing from the members of the department because he had a rather bad night. The department was returning to Stratford after the fire, and the trucks got as far as the junction of M and 153 when the tank truck ignition switch failed, and the truck could not be started. Chief Leonhardt was riding in the truck when it happened, and he said that he would get into the Town of Cleveland truck and ride back in that to get some help. That truck got 200 feet up the highway when its clutch went out.

Chief Leonhardt then got in the panel truck to come back with the two wreckers to pull the vehicles into town. He went to the Klemme garage with Don Kroening, each driving a wrecker to the junctions. Chief Leonhardt got the smaller wrecker as far as the dump hill, where it ran out of gas.

Some days you just can't win.



In 1975 Don Wenzel (center) was recognized as The Wisconsin Fire Fighter of the Year. Here he is presented with a plaque by a Schlitz Brewing Company representative. Schlitz sponsored the award program. Don Weber, Stratford Fire Department Chief is on the far left.

Through the years, Stratford has been served by many brave citizens. We only wish we had all their names to include in this publication.

Today, Stratford is still represented by volunteers. It is a tribute to Stratford businesses that they are understanding when the siren blows and their employees race down the street to the fire station.

Stratford Fire Fighters 1991

Chief Walt Marohl
 1st Asst. Henry Marohl
 2nd Asst. Larry Wiesman
 Capt. Tom Schoenherr
 Capt. Marv Wisnewski
 Lt. Alan Leonhardt
 Lt. John Kraus
 Pres. Pete Wojcik
 Ron Bean
 Daryl Beining
 Russ Beining

Doug Deiler
 Bill Griesbach
 Don Griesbach
 Steve Guralski
 Paul Hale
 Roger Karl
 Tom Karl
 Todd Krause
 Dick Leonhardt
 Robert Leonhardt
 Kyle Marohl

Mike McMeeken
 Jim Schmidt
 Roy Seubert
 Tom Stack
 Steve Steiner
 Joe Stockheimer
 Don Weber
 Don Wenzel
 Rose Wenzel
 Merlin Wiesman
 Pete Winistorfer

Stratford Police Department

We have constructed a list of individuals who served the Village in law enforcement as best we could. There has not been an active list kept throughout the years and often, in the early years, it seems some served for a month or two here and there. Also in the early years there seemed to be times when the offices of constable and justice of the peace were alternated between individuals.

Early Years

L.B. Weber is listed as the first person to serve the village as constable. He served off and on until 1922. When he wasn't serving as constable he served as a justice. Also listed as a constable during 1915 until 1921 is Paul Zettler and Max Polege from 1913 to 1914. DeWaine Reed was a constable from 1921 to 1923.



Korey Schillinger is congratulated by his mother, Judy, at his swearing in ceremony as Stratford Chief of Police in 1987.

Village Marshals

Village Marshals were Joe Brei, 1944 - 1958 and Jerome Drachenberg, 1955 - 1958. Gaylord Faulks is listed as a justice of the peace in 1958.

Chief of Police

Kenneth Weber	1959 - 1963
Harold Bean	1963 - 1964
Charles Ponczoch	1964 - 1968
Harvey Wagner	1968 - 1971
LeRoy Schillinger	1971 - 1987
Korey Schillinger	1987 - Present

The Stratford Library

The first library books that were made available to the public was while Mr. M. Mortenson was high school principal. He received books from the Free Traveling Library in Madison and loaned them out to all who cared to read.

In 1932, the Stratford Women's Club, which had organized in 1930, established a library in the K.C. rooms of the Chrouser building. Mrs. P.J. Ladron was the first librarian.

Their members volunteered their time to catalog and repair books individually donated and those rented from the State Library Service in Madison.

After a few years, Mrs. Roger Schutte was appointed the librarian. Library hours were set for every Friday afternoon and evening in the Knights of Columbus Hall. The Knights of Columbus Hall was in the back of the old post office building which is presently owned by Mr. Joseph Lato. A resale bookshop in 1946-1947 and proceeds of rummage sales, were methods used to expand the meager book supply.

On October 30, 1947, the library was moved to the Village Council Chambers. The Village Council Chamber was exactly where our present library is located today. The library and the Village Hall shared the same facilities.

In 1948 a rental shelf was started. Books, best sellers in fiction, were rented out for 10¢ per week. This was done to help the books pay for themselves. Storytimes were first held in 1947 with Mrs. Lamphere being in charge. In January 1949, the Stratford Library reopened as a County Library.

In May 1953, the first meeting of the Stratford Library Board was held. The librarian at the time, Mrs. Nell Spencer, was afraid of book theft, being that the library and Village Hall shared the same room, and asked that the library be moved. In March 1954, the Village Board agreed to remodel the old truck garage quarters, (now the



Librarian, Nell Spencer in an early Stratford library. This was located next door to the current library. This site is now the office of the Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce. *Courtesy Marshfield News Herald*

Community Hall) for the library headquarters. In Sept. 1954, the truck garage remodeling was completed and the library moved into a small room next to the Village Council Chambers. In 1956, Mrs. Spencer implemented her first Summer Reading Club.

Due to Mrs. Spencer's failing health in December of 1965 Mrs. Dorothy Wiesman was appointed branch librarian. In July 1974 the library was moved from its small quarters at the remodeled truck quarters (now the Community Hall) back to where it was housed in 1947. The Village Council Chambers then moved to the municipal building, leaving the library as the sole occupant of the old Village Council Quarters. In 1974 the Stratford Library also witnessed the merger of the County Library Extension Services and the Wausau City Library.

Mrs. Wiesman was replaced as librarian by Mrs. Marie Babros in December of 1982 after serving in the position for 17 years. Mrs. Marie Babros served as branch Head from December 1982 until October 1984. Mrs. Jan Leiterman has since been hired as Branch Head. Mrs. Janice Pankratz is presently the assistant Librarian and Storytime coordinator

From Stratford Journal, December 1, 1982

Dorothy Wiesman Retires

By Jack Cody

An avid reader's best friend is the librarian. Avid readers of Stratford have had a friend in Dorothy Wiesman since 1965, when she began working at the Stratford Branch Library.

Dorothy was born in Brighton, Wisconsin, went to college in Stevens Point and moved to Stratford in 1936. Since moving to Stratford, she has taught school, raised a family and has become the Stratford Branch Librarian.

Having accomplished all this, Dorothy is now retiring. The following interview tells Dorothy's story and adventures as our librarian.

"How did you become librarian?" I asked.

A friend of mine said that Mrs. Spencer, the former librarian, wasn't feeling well and she may need help at the library. So, I called Mrs. Spencer. She hired me as a substitute.

Then Mrs. Spencer became very ill and I eventually took over her duties as librarian. When I started it paid only thirty-five dollars a month, and that was paid by the village.

“Why did you want to be a librarian?”

I’ve always liked books. I could sit up and read until I was blue in the face. And my children liked reading. I’d read to them, and Cliff, my husband, would read to them too. I just grew up with books. I guess that’s why I was a teacher too.

“How did Story Hour begin?”

Story Hour was first held at the high school, in about 1969. At first, volunteers helped me. Some of the early volunteers were: Terrie Clatterbuck, Joyce Grassl, Sherry Steiner, Kari Wieland, Jane Wetterau, Michele Wood, and Jane Becher.

Then it was moved to what was then the village hall. The first Story Hour Librarian was Jane Becher, in 1974. The next was Mrs. Bob Aschbrock, and then Rae Ann Schanz took the job. Marie Babros is our current Story Hour Librarian.

“I understand you had a very special relationship with Rae Ann.”

“Yes, Mrs. Schanz was very special, and was great as a helper. She was a great promoter of the library and was wonderful to work with. We had a lot of fun preparing for the summer reading program.”

“Do you feel the library has come a long way?”

I do. Yes, because it was just that little library to begin with. What is the library now was the village hall and what was the library was in that small part between the community hall and the village hall. The kitchen was off the library. Where the library is now there also was a jail. When they remodeled for the library, they tore out the bars and everything. And that was quite a mess. I still have the key to the jail cell door.

Our collection has grown to about 4,000 books on hand. We also have over 15 different magazines that we receive, including the Stratford Journal. We can also request books now.

“What did you enjoy the most?”

The summer reading programs were always a great adventure. The most fun were the Halloween and Christmas parties, when the children were very excited. The looks on their faces were always my biggest reward.

“Has there been a lot of damaged books turned in?”

The last few years have been very remarkable. Very few books have been damaged.

But the fun part, a lot of times, was to find items accidentally left in the books: from hairpins to bobby pins to toothpicks to crackers, letters, even money (\$22.00 one time). Bills, both paid and unpaid, were often stuck between the pages.

“Did you ever find anything unusual in the book return box?”

A snake. A dead snake. I’ll bet you could hear my screams all over town.

“Now that you’re retiring, what are you going to do with all your time?”



Melvin Guenther, village president in 1982, presents Dorothy Wiesman a plaque in honor of her years of service to the Stratford Library. Current Village President, Paul Oertel is in the background.



Jan Leiterman, current librarian at the Stratford Branch Library.

Well, I have my hobbies: crocheting, knitting, and doing bead ornaments. And Cliff has his gardening and outside work. We belong to a lot of church organizations. And we’ll be spending a lot more time with our children and grandchildren. Our family is very musical. We all play an instrument, including the grandchildren. Perhaps we’ll have more time to play together. We also hope to travel and spend more time at our cottage.

“Any last thoughts?”

Yes, a library can’t survive without the help of a lot of people.

I would like to thank all the organizations and people who have helped me over the years. And a special “thank you” to my husband, Cliff, who helped me most of all.

Recently a little boy was in the library and discovered that Dorothy was retiring soon. He checked out his books and headed towards the door. But just as he reached it, he turned around and wished Dorothy a “Happy Retirement.” On behalf of the community, Dorothy, we wish you a “Happy Retirement!”

Stratford's Post Office

The location suggested in Dec. 1891 by the proposed postmaster was 250 feet west of the Lake Shore and Western Railroad Company. It was located in the Connor Store. The first postmaster served from Jan. 9, 1892 until April 28, 1905 when W. F. Goetz received the appointment and served for ten years. John Kaiser served for nine years, from Feb. 1915 until Mauritz Mortenson Jan. 1924. In 1924 the post office was moved.

From Stratford Journal, Dec. 5, 1924
New Post Office in Chrouser Bldg.

Announcement was recently received that the contract for the new post office location had been granted to Geo. Chrouser and the Chrouser building on Second Ave. has been found satisfactory for this purpose.

The building is now occupied by the Kowalsky Drug Store and as soon as arrangements can be made for the



In the early 1920's DuWaine Reed picked up the daily mail at the depot and delivered it to the post office. *Courtesy Marie Reed.*

In 1919 the post office was in the present Wetterau Barber shop, but was moved to the Dairy shop in 1920. All of the carriers used teams instead of cars. Each carrier had to have at least two teams as no team could stand the steady grind of the route six days a week, week in and week out.

In 1958 Albert W. Raschke retired from his job as a rural mail carrier. He worked for the post office for 39 years. He stated that he had put in enough mileage by horse-drawn vehicles, snowmobiles and automobiles to circle the globe

removal of the drug store Mr. Chrouser will commence remodeling and installing fixtures. This work will take considerable time and it is doubtful whether the post office can be moved to the new location much before next spring.

The location is a good one and when properly remodeled and equipped will furnish better accommodations for the public, as well as for the post office than the present inadequate building.

In 1957, the Post Office was moved back to its present location in the Davel building. Employees of the post office at that time were Al McNeight, Arnold Steines, Mrs. Frances Laessig and Donald Beining. There were three rural mail carriers, Raymond Kaiser, route one; Robert Allen, route two; and Albert W. Raschke, route three. Substitutes were Melvin Schmidt, Richard Drexler and LaVerne Polster.

Postmaster at the Stratford Post Office:

John C. Kieffer	1892 - 1905
William Goetz	1905 - 1915
John Kaiser	1915 - 1924
Mourtis Mortenson	1924 - 1936
Al McNeight	1936 - 1975
David A. Kraemer	1976 - 1986
Gordon Grassman	1986 - 1988
Lori Rogney	1989 - Present



During the Christmas season, the amount of mail arriving in Stratford called for a sleigh instead of a wheelbarrow to transport it from the train to the post office. *Courtesy Marie Reed.*

more than 20 times.

Raschke entered the postal service in 1919 when he succeed the late William Krostag as carrier on Route 1 out of the Rozellville Post Office. The mail was received by stage from Marshfield once a day at that time.

The Rozellville route was changed to start from Stratford in October of 1919 and Raschke then moved to Stratford as carrier of Route 3.

In 1932 he gave up his horses and purchased a snowmobile for use during the winter. The snowmobile was used four years before being discarded because snow removal became general and roads were open at nearly all times. The snowmobile, however, performed other services while

owned by Raschke, since he was frequently called upon by Dr. E.R. Murphy to take him on night calls in the rural areas.

From Stratford Journal, September 3, 1980

On August 22, 1980, Ray Kaiser completed a job he started on May 1, 1949. Preceding Ray on Route 1 was William Bradley. Carriers on the other two routes out of Stratford were Al Raschke on Route three and Robert Allen on Route Two.

From Stratford Journal, November 19, 1980

Arnold Steines retired from his post as a mail carrier. Arnie started with the U.S. Postal Service in 1938. He entered the military service in 1940 and served for two and one-half years. He then came back to work as a clerk in the Stratford Post Office for 17 years and then took over as a rural carrier and held that position for 21 years.



Lori Rogney - Stratford Postmaster



Al McNeight at Stratford Post office.



Current Stratford Post Office. Courtesy Tom Becher

Stratford Telephone Service

From Stratford Journal, Oct 15, 1920

The Stratford Telephone company is stringing 40 miles of wire to points west.

From Stratford Journal, May 6, 1921

Telephone company has Rapid Growth

From a humble beginning in 1906 of 30 subscribers and a plant valued at about \$1500, the Stratford Telephone Co. has grown until to-day it has over 225 subscribers, owns 30 miles of pole lines on which are strung over 200 miles of wire, owns its central office and managers' residence, first class central office, and equipment, the total value of which is over \$14,000. The company serves the village of Stratford

and a wide surrounding community from five to fifteen miles in all directions.

In 1928 The Stratford Telephone Company dissolved. John A. Burkart, as president and general manager sold his stock to two parties who in turn disposed of the company to a large corporation. The Company which incorporated in 1906 had three presidents, Robert Connor, W. F. Goetz and John Burkart.

The Telephone Company was later taken over by General Telephone Company. In 1958, Stratford telephone subscribers found themselves with dial telephones.



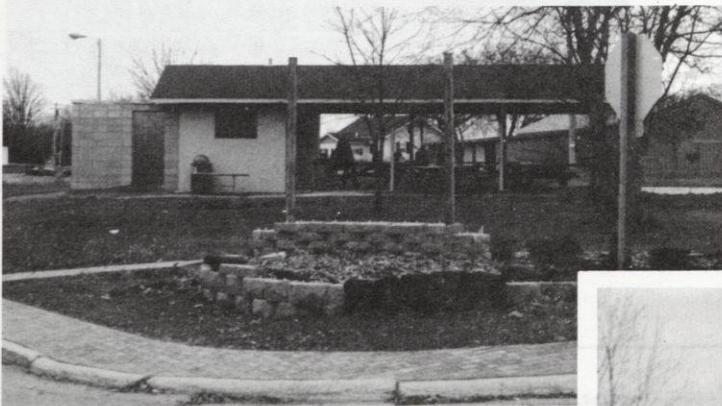
Mary Meixner, telephone operator at Stratford. *Courtesy Pat Zuelke*



The Stratford Community Hall, Fall of 1990

Village Park

The Stratford Village Park is being upgraded for the centennial. The shelter house is being remodeled and made larger, a sign designating the park as Klemme Park is being added and a flag pole is being erected.



Marie Reed



I Remember When

A collection of stories written by or from interviews with long-time Stratford Area people.

Tales of Yesteryear

by Eva Punswick Hougum

The sound of a train whistle takes me back in memory to my earliest recollections of the old logging train's steam whistle.

In the early 1900's the lumbering industry was still being carried on in the north central area of Wisconsin, but much of the cutover land was being developed into small farms.

To till the soil and to raise a few chickens, hogs, and dairy cattle for family sustenance was my parents' objective in moving from southern Wisconsin to Marathon County in the spring of 1904. Land was cheap and the soil was productive.

My home was sandwiched between the Big Eau Pleine River and The Connor Lumber Company's railroad tracks. The buildings were unpainted and weather beaten and had been used as Connor's Lumber Camp No. 3 prior to my early occupancy.

To our southern Wisconsin visitors, it seemed a very isolated and lonely place, but not to one of my tender age. I always had my faithful dog, 'Iskinote,' which translated from the Potawatomi language means 'stump' as my companion.

In the summer when the water was low, I could wade across to the sandbar on the opposite bank. There were clams to take back to open and look for pearls. In the late summer there were wading parties, boating, and picnics with neighbors under the shade trees on the river's bank. Wild choke cherries, plums, thorn apples, and hazel nuts were waiting to be picked in the fall. Indians made their annual trip at that time of the year to gather kin-nic-a-nic bark and ginseng roots to make their tobacco and tea.

In winter the early settlers to the north and south drove through our fields and by our house on their way across the frozen ice to dig sand which was hauled home for the next year's building projects.

In the late spring there were otter and muskrats swimming along the shore and deer to watch as they came to the river to drink. However, early spring was the most exciting season of all, as that was when the log drive started down the river. As soon as the ice started to break up, the river men (or river-rats as they were sometimes called) with their pike poles made their appearance. The logs had been cut and hauled on sleds during the winter months and were piled high along the riverbank.

The river men that rode the logs, using their pike poles to guide the logs from jamming, were a hardy, rough breed of men. Even though they wore heavy high leather boots with



Log Drive on the Big Eau Pleine

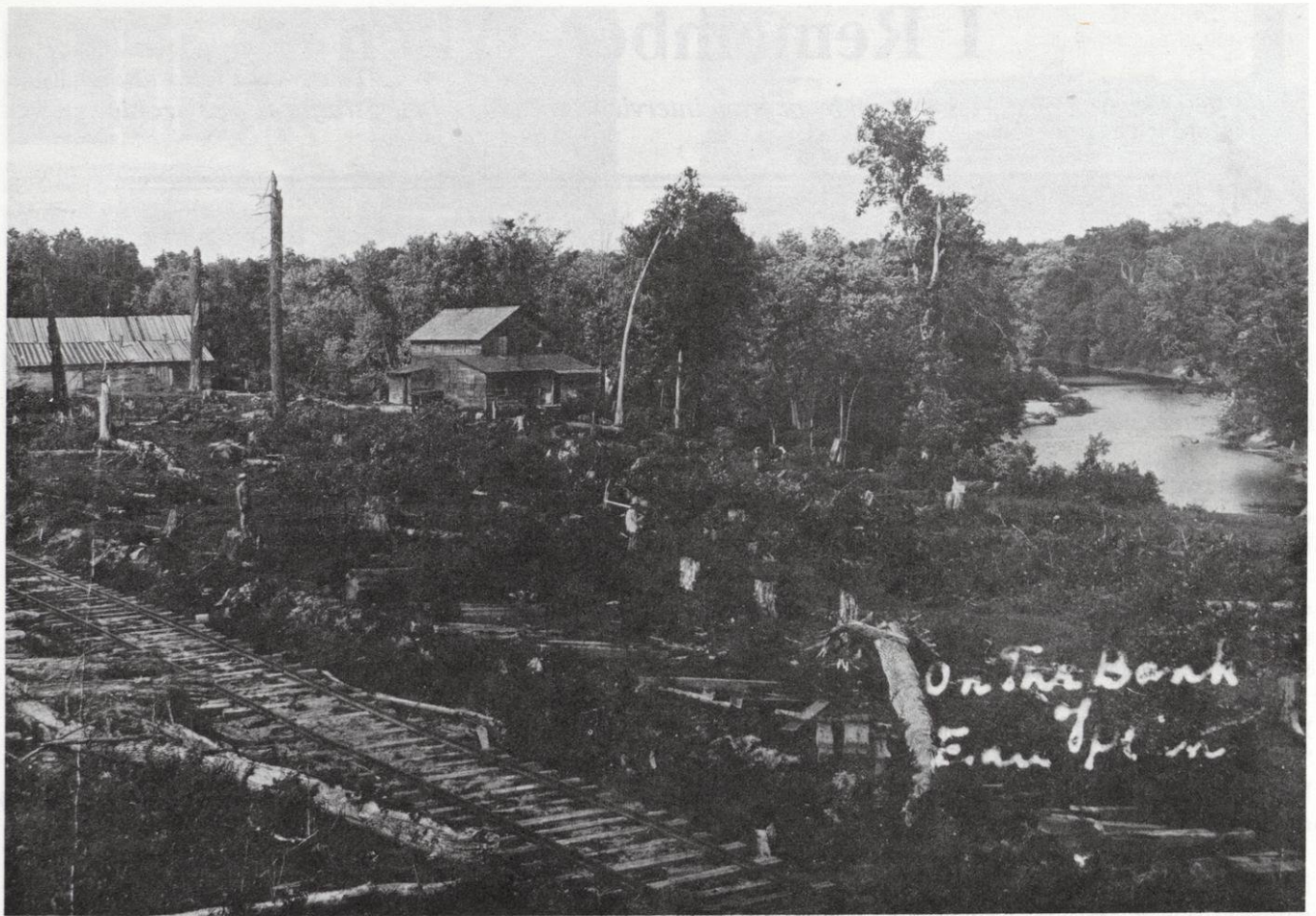
spike soles to keep from slipping, it was a dangerous job and not uncommon for a man to suffer a crushed leg.

The "wanigan," a tent on a flat boat, followed the log drive, for it was here that the food was prepared to satisfy the hungry men and where the river men ate and slept.

River water was used to make the coffee, the beef stew, to boil the potatoes and to make flapjacks, huge cookies, and doughnuts. I well remember as a small child getting aboard the wanigan and being given one of those huge "joe-froggers" to eat. It was at least six inches in diameter. I remember the head cook in his none too clean white apron and his assistant, the cookee.

Mr. Larson was a log scaler from the Weeks Lumber Company of Stevens Point, where the logs would reach their destination via the Big Eau Pleine River to the Wisconsin River. He was a frequent and welcome visitor at our home and would buy all the eggs my mother could spare. I presume his other job besides scaling logs was to see to it that the cook had the food staples needed, such as sugar, flour, lard, and coffee. Milk was never used.

After the log drive was completed another group of men assembled at the river for an entirely different occupation. Fishing was not a sport in those early days; it was a part of the livelihood for the settlers. My father being a fisherman by trade in his native land of Norway, knew exactly when the Pickerel would be running. He had made a new net or repaired the old one during the winter months and he was ready. The seining of the fish was usually completed in one or two days. The net was strung across the river below the deep hole, then two men in a row boat would start up stream where the water was deep and while one man rowed the boat the other would scare the fish into the net by hitting the water with a long pole.



Site of Camp Three, located in the Town of Cleveland. *Courtesy Eva Hougum*

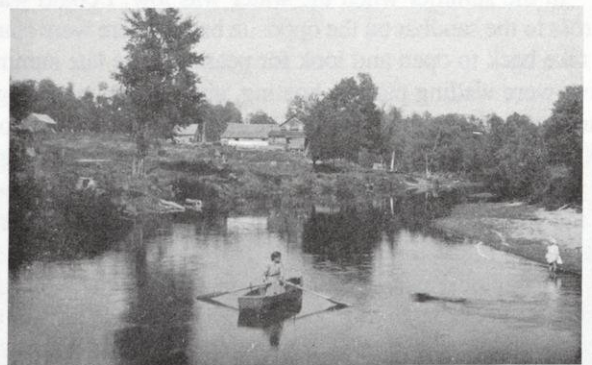
This would drive the fish into the net. The smaller ones would easily slip through the mesh, and only the game fish would be caught. This procedure was illegal, but I do not remember that my father was ever apprehended.

One time when the game warden came by and noticed nets hanging to dry on the outside of the shed wall, he destroyed them. One of these nets belonged to my father. However, by that time the fish were salted, packed in stone jars and safely stored in the cellar. The cellar was a dug out space under the middle of the house and entered by a trap door in the kitchen floor. No law man would have bothered going down in that dark hole looking for evidence.

Then always there was the train — screeching as it came around the bend at the junction, on its way to the saw mill in Stratford, with its load of logs to be sawed into lumber. Mr. Lueck, the engineer, would often stop for a refreshing drink of buttermilk kept cold in the spring house. Perhaps there was a bag of candy to be tossed from the cab as I waved and waited.

The train was indeed an important part of our life in those pioneer days. It was a means of transportation to and from the outside world and a news media before the days of the daily or local newspaper.

Perhaps it was this fact, that the railroad was so much a vital part of our everyday life, that my father's life was spared.



Bertha Punswick on the Big Eau Pleine near Camp Three. *Courtesy Eva Hougum*

When I was about four years old, he was seriously injured when a young horse kicked him in the face — breaking his nose and upper and lower jaw. A few minutes following the accident, the train with a load of logs came along on its way to the saw mill. My mother went out to the track and flagged the train to a stop. They quickly uncoupled their load and raced the locomotive to Stratford. In a very short time Dr. Wahl was on his way, using the company's motor car.

Across the railroad tracks from the house and barn was an old building used as a blacksmith shop during the time the

logging camp was in operation. A patch of clearing had been planted to grain in the spring. One noon watching my father harvest this grain between the stumps using a hand cradle, he told me I had a middle name and it was "Antonia". It sounded beautiful and left a lasting impression. He added, had I been a boy I would have been "Anton", named after one of his uncles in Norway. This explanation must have satisfied me, as I do not remember that the subject was ever brought up again. I still called myself "Little Vava" as I could not pronounce the long sound of "E" in Eva.

Gone are the days of the lumberjacks, the log drives, and the logging train, but in memory I can still hear those daring, brave men tell their tall tales as they sat in our lean-to kitchen around the old cast-iron cookstove in Camp No. 3. Occasionally on a quiet, fall evening I still imagine I hear that train coming around the bend, and the sound of the steam whistle takes me back in memory to the small world of my childhood days.

Early Memories of Charlie Raugh

Charlie and Celia Raugh from Marshfield News-Herald, June 6, 1986.

Charlie Raugh recalled early Connor Company logging days in Stratford when he was interviewed by Laura Johnston of the Marshfield News-Herald.

Raugh was manager of the furnishing and hardware departments for 54 years at the Connor Co. Store. Money was scarce, so whenever the Connor chauffeur was unavailable, Raugh would fill in, often taking two or three day trips with Mr. Connor and the children to Milwaukee or Madison.

"Old W. D. (Connor) was a real enterprising guy," Raugh said. "I used to drive the old man around... he never learned how to drive, he always had a chauffeur. One time, I remember he wrote 11 letters by the light of the dome light in the car on the way home from Laona.

Raugh hauled provisions out to the logging camps as part of his job at the Store.

"That was very interesting to go in there (to the logging camps). They had tin dishes. They wouldn't talk while they were eating. They told me it was because that would make too much noise - the rattle of the dishes was bad enough without the talking too!" Raugh said.

"They had a long day. They'd be up at dawn and work until dark. They started at about 75 cents a day, and the most anyone got was about \$1.50. Most of the married men stayed in town and worked at the mill. The younger fellows had to have jobs so they'd go to the camps.

Living conditions in the camps weren't very civilized compared to modern standards, according to the Raughs. "What they called the bunkhouse was about two rows of beds, and more rows stacked on top of the first. All those guys would be packed together in the bunkhouse and it was cold and there'd be no air. Boy, that was an awful odor in there," they said.

Raugh explained the way the lumberjacks would log a forest.



Cooks at a Connor Camp

"They'd go into the forest and cut down the trees, then hitch the logs to horses and pull them out of the forest. Then they'd load the logs on to a wagon and haul them to the mill. If it was winter, they'd flood the road with ice and carve ruts in it and haul the logs by sleigh. Sometimes they'd float the logs down the river, but they could only do that with softwood the hardwood would sink."

Harry Metzke Remembers

From Marathon County Library Oral History Project.
Interview with Harry Metzke by Pat Krause 1976

"My father worked for the R. Connor Company as an engineer in the heading mill to see that all the machinery was working all right. Of course, that thing burned down at one time. I can still recall the terrible fire they had when that heading mill burned down there. They used to call it Shanty Town - the south part of the town there. A lot of people lived there and they called it Shanty Town and they were all around this building.

We had a twenty acre farm and we kept seven or eight cows. I used to haul the milk there after I got a little older and I was going to school. I used to haul the milk for ourselves there and all along Shanty Town where those houses were. The fellows worked in the mills and they'd have one or two cows and I picked up all their milk on a buggy - Schmidts, Bauers, Drexlers, Eisners, and Jake Drexlers - and haul the milk down where Ott Cheese Factory was - Where Equity is now in that building that was there - that used to be Ott's Cheese Factory. I hauled that milk down there before I went to school in the morning.

Then when I graduated from high school I got a job - they called it the square shed. I piled squares in this shed. They were different lengths. They maybe were 2 by 2 - some 4 feet, some 6 feet, some 8 feet - and then that fall when the sawmill started, I got a job in the shed. We took lumber off from the chains and put it on carts which would run on rails. Now, that lumber was taken out into the yards and piled - green lumber. They had two fellows that had horses. They would go along what they called tramways. They were elevated platforms - not really a platform but they were built like a platform but they ran quite a distance. These fellows would take the horses, hitch them to these little cars - the rails were maybe 11/2 inches wide is all they were - but they were nailed down on these tramways and the horses would pull the lumber out in the yard and we had to pile the lumber then. I remember I was working in the shed first but I couldn't stand that account of my wrists - my wrists would get real stiff, so Albert was our boss there and he ran the lumber piling and stuff and I asked him if I couldn't go out and pile lumber. It was out in the cold winter but you didn't seem to mind it. You were dressed for it and I can never forget it. I piled lumber for about a week and then a lot of these fellows - transients - would come in - a lot of them from Minneapolis at that time - looking for jobs. They

would give them a job and send them out to pile lumber. I got quite a kick out of that because I had only piled lumber for about a week myself but Albert would send all these new guys to me to teach them how to pile lumber and I had only been out there a week myself.

The mill had a regular barn there and everything and they had a fellow that took care of the horses, fed them and bedded them and everything else. These fellows that used their horses on the tramway there, they had to clean them and curry them and stuff like that themselves.

August Warnke was boss of the dry yard. They dried the lumber - they had a regular kiln there and they would dry the lumber and then ship it out to these different areas that they could use for building. This other stuff that we piled was green. We piled those on piles and then they would leave them there until about the next year or as they sold the lumber. They had a chance to dry. You had to pile them so there was air spaces in between so the air could get in and they dried them."

Frank Hughes

The following story appeared in the Wausau Record-Herald in 1935.

"Frank Hughes came to this area in 1852 with his parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Garret Hughes. They were the first settlers in what is now the Town of Cleveland. Their nearest neighbor was Timothy Kennedy. The timber in that section was mostly hardwood, for which there was no market in that early day. The early settlers found it necessary to burn the logs, a laborious task. Garrett Hughes brushed out a trail to his homestead. He cleared the land as rapidly as possible and started to grow some wheat to feed his household. There was no logging during the first years of their residence there, but soon afterwards, the John Weeks Lumber company of Stevens Point started logging operations and had camps along the Big Eau Pleine. This gave the Hughes family and other settlers an opportunity to sell hay, straw and beef for which there was a big demand.

Frank stayed on the farm until he was sixteen years old, when he went to work on the river. Once, he made a trip on a raft to Alton, Ill. and the rest of the time, until he was past the age of fifty-three years, he drove logs on the Big Eau Pleine and the Wisconsin rivers.

Log driving had its perils. Life was endangered often, but Mr. Hughes had only one companion drown. This was on the Big Eau Pleine while they were employed by the John Weeks Lumber Company. Peeled hemlock was easy to drive, whereas green logs with the bark intact were the hardest because they would jam easier and the logways were more difficult to release."

Stratford Churches

Community Bible Church



A large part of the Presbyterian church congregation withdrew in the spring of 1935, and under the leadership of the Rev. Frederick H. Giles they organized the Community Bible church.

During the summer months, services were held in the auditorium of the Connor building.

In 1935 the Evangelical church building at Staadt was purchased and moved to the location on highway 97.

Under the energetic leadership of the Rev. F.H. Giles, the congregation grew rapidly. He served here until 1953, when he was followed by the Rev. George R. Dunivent. Rev. Dunivent served until December of 1963. Rev. Roger Insley came in April of 1964 followed by Pastor Andy McAdams in October of 1973. Pastor McAdams served the congregation

until November of 1976. Rev. Edward Riddrick came to Stratford in January of 1977 and served the Stratford Community Bible Church until January of 1983. Rev. Kenneth Chadbourn came to serve the church in April of 1983 and was in Stratford until October 1990. It was during Pastor Chadbourn's service in Stratford that the congregation built their new church on highway 97 south.

The present pastor is Rev. Jeffrey Schwieger who came in December of 1990. Church Elders are Lyle Hoffman, Norbert Young and Daniel Hibbs. Church Deacons are John Brubacher, Arthur Young and Brian Krause. The present secretary is Edna Young and the present treasurer is Blanche Anderson. The church has a membership of 130.



German Evangelical Church

By Mrs. Allen From Stratford Journal 1956

Many will remember the German Evangelical church. It was built in the early 1900's by Robert Buss, Gustave Albert and Herman Verch, Fredinand Krause, Charles Otto, and Mr. Simon. Services were held each Sunday evening. The minister preached at the Evangelical church in Marshfield in the morning, then drove to Staadt for afternoon services and then to Stratford in the evening. The group was small and the congregation was discontinued before 1920.

Presbyterian Church

By Mrs. Allen From Stratford Journal, 1956

Sunday school and worship services had been held in the Modern Woodman of America Hall and on May 14, 1903, the First Presbyterian church was organized. Through the years this was to be a changing congregation. It is said that the members of the Presbyterian church gave more farewell parties than any other group in the town. In a mill town there is a changing population, so many came and worshipped, but soon moved on.

Names familiar in the early history of the church were Dustin, Thurston, Maxon, Lipke, Chrouser, Rogney, Dabler, Bullman, Thompson, Langer and DeMoss.

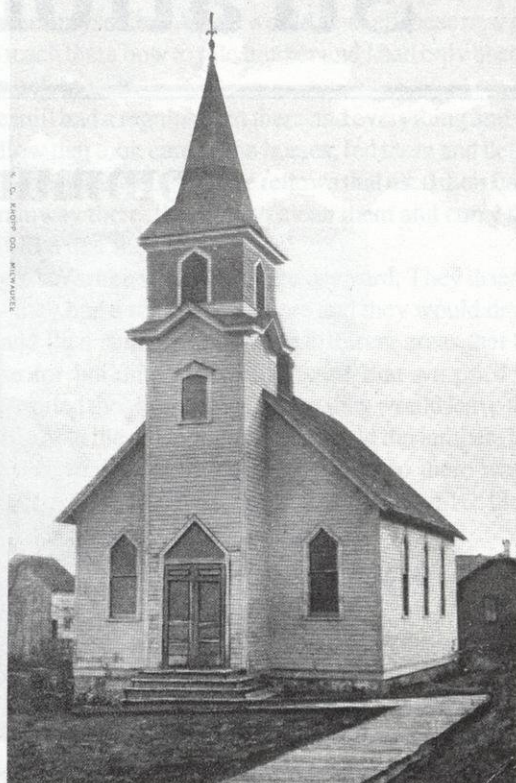
The first wedding to be held in the church which had been dedicated in Dec. 1903, was that of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Chrouser, in January 1905. Elders and the pastor of the Marshfield Presbyterian church aided in the organization of the church and the R. Connor Co. was to give much financial aid to the struggling congregation, until some time after 1930.

In 1956 the church was still in Stratford with but twenty contributing families.

The loss of membership to a new church established in the village made the support of a full time minister difficult. The Stratford Presbyterian Church along with the Presbyterian Church of Athens, Edgar and Abbotsford formed the Marathon Larger Parish and shared a minister beginning in the late 1940's. Growth in the Stratford congregation did not come about and a decrease in the number of churches in the Larger Parish resulted in the closing of the Stratford First Presbyterian Church.

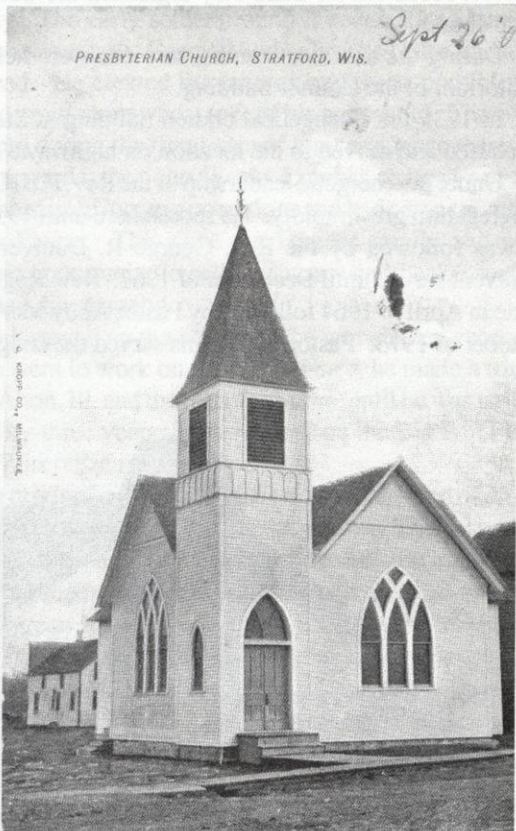
The Stratford First Presbyterian Church united with the First Presbyterian Church of Marshfield on September 15, 1968. The church building and land was given to the Village of Stratford for any use the trustees of the village desired to make of the gift. In 1970 the Village had the church torn down.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL SALEM CHURCH, STRATFORD, WIS.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, STRATFORD, WIS.

Sept 26 '0



St. Joseph's Catholic Church



Courtesy of Paul Untiet

Much of the early information for this article was taken from the St. Joseph's Parish 75th Anniversary Book.

Stratford residents of the Catholic faith worshiped at the Webertown church until it became evident that Stratford needed its own church. Charles Kiefer and Phillip Burkart went from house to house to find out how many of the Stratford folks would care to have a church of their own.

The story of St. Joseph's Catholic Church began when the parishioners began raising funds for their new church. They held picnics, dinners, suppers, luncheons in private homes, ice-cream socials, card parties and quilt raffles. Many social functions were held in the Klemme Woods for the fund raising projects.

The foundation for the church was laid in Sept. 1898. It was built on land donated by Frank Fullmer. Later, this same man headed the crew that hoisted the bell into the tower of the church. After other buildings were erected, the deed to them shows a transfer from the Connor Lumber Co. and it was never established if it was a purchase or a gift.

The land was timber-covered and had to be cleared. Rock and gravel had to be brought in from the farms. After a long day at the saw mill and working on their farms, the parishioners gathered to clear the land and later to work on construction of the building. Tony Drexler recalls his dad telling him about the men hanging lanterns from the rafters so they could work after dark. The cornerstone was laid in the spring of 1898 by Father John Eisen of Marshfield and the building was completed late in 1899.

After the building was completed, the original bell for the tower was purchased with donations. This bell was later replaced by the one from Holy Trinity church when that building was razed. The bell was returned to Webertown later and is now used as a monument there.

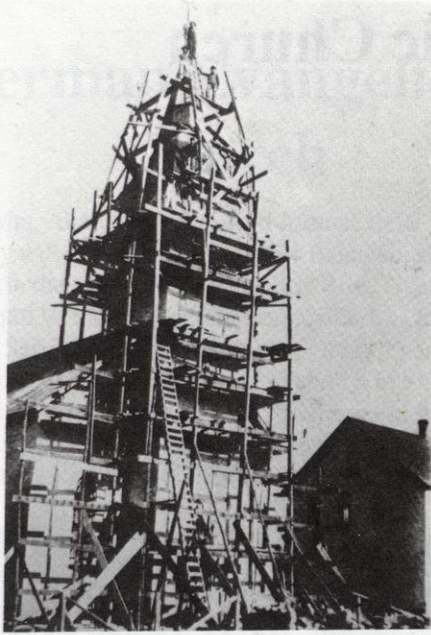
In Father Glaser's records, we find the first baptism he performed at St. Joseph's was on December 3, 1899. The baby, Marian, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Kaiser (nee Geiger) on November 10 of that year.

On November 6, 1900 the Rev. Jacob Schwebach confirmed the following boys and girls: Frank Schreiner, John Frodl, Bertha Stangl, Katherine Junemann, Willie Junemann, John Burkart, Anthony Wix, Frank Wenzel, Frank J. Schweigl, Louis Wenzel, Joseph Sargent, Eddie Junemann, Leonard Sargent, John Hughes, Mathia Hughes, Joseph Platteter, Joseph Schroepfer, Robert Willie Hayes, Fred Oettinger, Anna Frodl, Myrtle Condon, Magdaline Hughes, Thersia Burkart, Paulina Hughes Louisia Stangl, Barbara Schieber, Thersia Eisner, Elizabeth Wix, Barbara Burkart, Louisa Berdan, Maria Hayes and Eleanor Sargent.

The first funeral at St. Joseph's was that of George Schweigl on October 31, 1900.

The first wedding performed at St. Joseph's with Father Glaser officiating, was that of Louis Meixner and Catherine Wudy which took place on Jan. 16, 1901.

The first resident pastor of St. Joseph's was Father Martin Caspar. He was here from 1902 until 1912. During his



Building of Church (1899)

pastorate the school-convent building was erected. This was outgrown by 1915 and in 1916 a three story convent home was built.

Father Frederick Forster came to St. Joseph's in 1912 and served until 1917.

Father John L. Schumacher came to St. Joseph's in 1918. He served this parish until his death in 1944.

On April 9, 1939, the congregation voted to erect the Church-School combination building. This necessitated tearing down the old church. One year following the decision to build, the new church was opened for public inspection.

From Stratford Journal, June 27, 1940

First Services Held in New Catholic Church

"The first services were held in the newly completed St. Joseph's Catholic church in Stratford Sunday morning, June 23.

Building operations for the new church and school combination building began in August 1939. The cost of construction was \$70,000.

The church proper has a seating capacity of 600, with a separate vestry room, mother's room, Baptismal room and a choir, which will seat 100. At the opposite side of the building are six school rooms, with separate ventilated cloak rooms and an office for the sister superior.

The old edifice was of brick veneer, 125 X 46 and was built in the year, 1899. At the time the church was dedicated, there were 37 members. At present there are 237 members."

Following Father Schumacher's death the parish was served by several pastors until Father Anthony Fischer came on October 30, 1945. In 1948 Father Anthony Lechler came to assist Father Fischer in his work. He left in 1949 and Rev. Raymond Peters came. In 1950 Rev. Joseph Shetokas and Rev. John Brey assisted him.

A new rectory was built in 1949. Father Fischer left in 1952. He was replaced by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor A.N. Schuh. While he was here, the school addition was completed. Father Schuh left in 1955. Father Joseph Udulutch arrived on August 11, 1955. His assistant pastors were Father Schmidt, Rev. Joseph Keating and Father Robert Wagner. Father Udulutch left in 1963 and was succeeded by Rev. E.J. Thome.

Rev. Thome served at Stratford until 1968 when Father Stanley Chilicki came. Father Chilicki served for less than one year. He was followed by Father Cletus Abts who stayed until June of 1972.

Father Francis Wavra became the pastor of St. Joseph's in June of that year. He served at Stratford until March of 1980. Father Joseph Grassl came in June of 1980 and remained until May of 1990.

Today the St. Joseph's Parish is served by Father Joseph Konopacky who came to Stratford in July of 1990.



St. Joseph's Church (1990)

Zion Lutheran Church



First Zion Lutheran Church *Courtesy of Paul Untiet*

By Mrs. Allen From Stratford Journal, 1956

Zion Lutheran Church was organized in the fall of 1898. The Rev. A. F. Imm conducted worship services in the village hall. The first officers were Fred Schuette, Sr., Carl Pueschke, William Lipke and Fred Quade. There was a membership of fifteen families and the Rev. Imm served only a short time. He was followed by the Rev. L. Heidelberger, who served until 1900, when the congregation disbanded to be reorganized a few months later.

Fred Quade was president and Henry Schiffer was secretary. Members were Fred Schuette, F. Hintzmann, Fred Quade, Max Teske, H. Schiffer, J. Lapinski, Charles Doll, H. L. Klemme and Mrs. Schmidtbauer.

The R. Connor Co. donated the land for a church in 1901 in Pummer Town and the cornerstone was laid in July of that year for the first church, which served until 1924 when the present church building was erected. One of the original members, H.L. Klemme, served on the building committee.

The Rev. Carl Schmalz served the church for six years until the coming of the Rev. T.E. Diemer, in 1913.



Zion Lutheran Church 1990

The Rev. Diemer came here as a student pastor and at the time of his graduation from the seminary, he had the opportunity of serving a fine church but chose Stratford instead. He was here for 40 years. Pastor Arlin Adams was at Zion from 1953 - 1956. He was followed by Pastor Carl Schulte from 1956 - 1954.

Pastor John Albrecht came to Stratford in 1965 and stayed until 1969. Pastor Donald Gaurke came in May of 1969. In June of 1981 Pastor Gaurke left and was followed by Rev. Jon Becker of Wausau. When Rev. Becker left in 1987, Pastor Dan L. Alexander came and still serves as pastor of Zion.

Today, Zion has a membership of 390.

The 1991 Church Council:

Bev Aschenbrenner

Jerry Clint

Wayne Hanneman

Bob Ulrich

Jim Greenberg

Rudy Werner

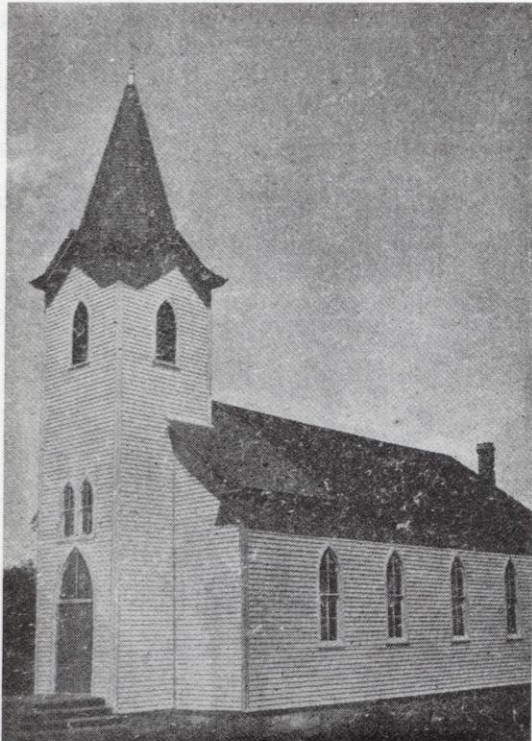
Richard Dennee

Kevin Miller

Don Kroening

Some residents of Stratford worship at area churches. Some of those include the following:

The Ebenezer Reformed Church



Ebenezer Church Circa 1920

The Ebenezer Reformed church was organized in 1883 with about 30 charter members, but the beginning must be set back even a bit earlier than that. In 1881, the Rev. Wm. H. Stienecker had seen this country and invited the people of his

village home in Germany to come to this place for there was promise of better things. He saw this land as one of promise for those who longed for a spot they might call their own. Then our territory certainly presented a different appearance than it does today. The timber was endless and the land still was much in the hands of the real Americans. Those who did not despise hard work and difficult labor could picture a home surrounded by garden and cleared fields. The stone piles and farms of today are witness of their labors.

Those who came belonged to the Reformed branch of the Christian tradition of faith. It was not at all strange that those who were taught in the way of Christ should desire for themselves and their children a place to give thanks to the Lord. A congregation was organized by these early settlers of the Reformed faith on September 30, 1883, under the guidance of Rev. Wm. Stienecker. There were 30 who took part in the organization of the "Bible Congregation" soon to be called Ebenezer Reformed Church. Church services were held in a private dwelling or at the Balsam School. In the year 1886, it was decided to build a church and in the same year, 40 acres which today constitutes our church property, was purchased for \$200 on November 8.

At first it was decided to build a log church, but finally it was decided to build a frame building. There was an abundance of trees for wood. Those who cleared one half acre were entitled to a lot in the cemetery. At the time of dedication on November 17, 1889, the membership had increased to 54.

Rev. Stienecker served the congregation from Wausau until 1886. Following him, Rev. Otto Muehlmeier served from 1890-1891. Rev. F.C. Schnulle of Wausau served until 1895. Then by the decision of the Mission House Seminary, he was replaced by student F. Dallmus. This enabled Rev. Schnulle to devote all his time to Wausau's congregation. During Rev. Dallmus' pastorate, the parsonage was built. It was under the ministry of Rev. H.W. Schroer, beginning in 1889, that extensive changes were made on the church building.

Rev. Schroer left in 1906 and was followed by Rev. H.G. Schmid in 1909. After two years, he left and was replaced by Rev. Carl O. Schroer in 1911. It was under his ministry that the congregation had its first English service. At this time the pastor's salary was raised from \$400 to \$800 and supplying the parsonage with food was discontinued. A barn was built near the parsonage. In 1920, under Rev. Calvin Grossheusch, the parsonage was enlarged, English became a part of the regular worship service, an envelope system was adopted and a basement was put under the church.

With approximately 220 church members and 80 Sunday School children, Rev. John Mohr began his ministry in 1926. In 1929, furnaces were installed in the church and parsonage. A reed organ and a piano were obtained. The church interior was changed with a new front being built and carpets laid. Electric lights were installed. In 1936, Rev. Mohr left and Mission House sent student Blaufuss who was later installed and ordained in the church in 1937. At this time, St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Marshfield was made a part of the Town of Cleveland charge. During Rev. Blaufuss' pastorate, the art glass windows were put in, a new heating system was installed and the interior of the church decorated. The parsonage was modernized and the local cemetery group organized and the cemetery landscaped. With the merge with the Evangelical churches, the name became Ebenezer Evangelical and Reformed Church.

The Rev. Paul Olm, Jr., accepted the call of both churches in 1946. During his term the present Hammond electric organ was dedicated. The Rev. George Behrens served from 1951 until 1957. During this time, an educational unit was added to the back of the church.

The next full-time pastor was Rev. Harvey Reh who served from 1958 until 1962. New Hymnals were purchased in 1960. The church adopted the name of Ebenezer United Church of Christ in March, 1960. Rev. A. George Schmidt was interim pastor from 1962 to 1963. In 1962, 26 new pews were purchased and the church was redecorated. Rev. Wallace

Hermann served from 1963 to 1964.

Ron Fruth, a student at the United Theological Seminary served the congregation during the summer of 1964. Rev. A. George Schmidt then returned, serving Ebenezer until Rev. Larry Bremer began his ministry in 1965. Carpeting was installed in the parsonage. The new Constitution was adopted October 23, 1967. Rev. Kenneth Dix was ordained here in 1965. Rev. Philip Yeager served from 1969 until 1972. Three thousand trees were planted on church property during his pastorate. The wooden cross and plantings were put in the cemetery. Logs were cut in the woods and the lumber was used for a garage attached to the parsonage. The present pastor, Rev. Robert Goessling, came in 1972. In 1974, the members added a new addition to the front of the building providing more classroom space, more bulletin board space and a renovation of the bell tower.

Pastor Alwyn York, a graduate of the Chicago Theological Seminary, Chicago, came to serve the congregation in the fall of 1985. He left in March of 1991 and Rev. Elton Helms became pastor of the congregation.

The history of Ebenezer U.C.C. like that of most congregations, is a list of pastors and of repairs and improvements to a building. The real work of the church as God's servant on this earth is difficult to record. Let us turn to the past only as a guide for the future.

Statistics:

First child baptized: Philip F. Rosenthal, Son of Henry and Anna Rosenthal. Born: 8/2/81 Baptized: 3/3/83.

First wedding: 11/5/89, Frank Gere and Minnie B. Ziegler.

First confirmation class: Minnie Ziegler and Emma Schoppenhorst.

Oldest Living Member: Mrs. Henry Hilgemann 9/14/1882.

Present number of communicants: 171.

Present Number of Sunday School Children: 29.



Ebenezer United Church of Christ - 1990

St. Adalbert's Mission

The following was printed in the Wausau Record Herald and the 75th Anniversary Book from St. Joseph's Parish in Stratford, published in 1975. It was compiled by Miss Virginia Gawlikowski and Miss Angeline Gawlikowski.

"The modern, small brick edifice of St. Adalbert's Congregation in the town of McMillan was named after the patron Saint of Adalbert Mrozinski, a charter member when the congregation was formed in 1903, who donated the land for the structure. Two church buildings, largely built with donated labor by members of the congregation on land given by one of the four charter members, gave mute evidence during the past several decades of the religious zeal of the membership of the church.

The congregation received its start in July, 1903 when four families of Polish descent decided that the time had arrived for them to have a church where services could be conducted in their native language. Adalbert Mrozinski (at whose home masses had been said whenever a priest could be brought to the community), Joseph Mallich, John Schwabe and Anton Belinski made arrangements to have the new church, when built, serve as a mission of the Sacred Heart Church in the town of Cassel.

Land for the new church was donated by Mrozinski and construction was begun in 1904 under his direction, since he was a carpenter. The original charter members were assisted by other residents of the community and the frame structure was completed in May, 1906.

Father Theophilus Wojak, who was pastor of the Cassel parish, continued to serve the congregation until 1907. Previously he had offered Masses in the Mrozinski home.

Succeeding Father Wojak at various times were Fathers John Raicki, Francis Czyzawski, Joseph Miller, and J. Karcz. The first two remained two years each and the last named was in charge for one year.

Father Francis Kulig served the congregation from 1914 until 1920, when the church was destroyed by fire. Enrollment at the church at the time of the fire was at a peak and the members decided that construction of a brick church would be feasible by using the insurance payment and with each family contributing toward the purchase of the needed brick. The labor, as in the building of the first church, was to be donated.

While plans were being completed, services were again resumed at the Mrozinski home and continued to be held there until 1921, when the new church was dedicated.

Father Francis Brzostowicz was the celebrant of the first Mass in the new church and continued as pastor there until 1928. His successor, Father Max Kluczykowski, who later served at Ponitowski, remained with the congregation 14 years and was succeeded by Father S.S. Szymanski, now of Mill Creek, in 1942. Father Szymanski served until 1948.

Decision was reached in 1948 to abandon the holding of services in the Polish language, and St. Adalbert's was made

a mission of St. Joseph's Church at Stratford. Father Anthony Fischer, pastor of St. Joseph's was the first pastor to serve the mission after the change was made.

Later the mission was served by the Rt. Rev. Monsignor A. Schuh, pastor of St. Joseph's Church, Stratford.

St. Adalbert's became independent of St. Joseph's parish in 1963, under the leadership of Father Nellis, a teacher at Columbus high school. Those within a three mile radius of St. Adalbert's had a choice of joining the parish or remaining at St. Joseph's."

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

From Marshfield News-Herald, May 21, 1950

The Town of Day congregation was started by a cemetery group. A group of Christians who came to the vicinity more than 70 years ago laid the foundation of the present congregation of the St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in the town of Day, first organized as a cemetery association. The people were dying and a cemetery was needed to lay these Christians to rest.

These early settlers met May 1, 1880 for the purpose of establishing a cemetery in the area and were formerly organized into "Den Freedhoff in der Letzten Haimat." Original officers were Adam Zimmerman, president; Jacob Reichert, secretary and John Reichert, treasurer.

Besides the officers the group consisted of the families of Gustav Wolff, John Kroening, Martin Wetterau, E. Spindler, William Dix, Jacob Spindler, Henry Burnett, E.W. Cook, Ernest Gaelman, George Koehler, and Nicholas Hoffman.

The meeting of the group resulted in the beginning of religious services as often as possible in the homes of the loosely knit families. Whenever it was possible for a traveling missionary to come to the area, word was sent out in the neighborhood and services were held.

This arrangement continued for about 13 years before some of the group and others met with Rev. L. Thom, then the pastor of a Marshfield church to organize a church congregation. The organization date of the present St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran church of the Township of Day took place, according to available records on July 23, 1893. The original members were F. Klump, H. Burnett, Andrew Zeigler, Oscar Oertel, J. Sell, E. Kroening, Jacob Reichert, Arnold Gilgash, Adam Gessert, Chris Franzen, E. Wetterau, J and Chris Bubbers and J. Hoffman.

Three years later the neat little frame church, which still serves the congregation, was erected one mile north and three-fourths mile west of Rozellville and was formally dedicated November 8, 1896.

During the 57 years of its formal organization the congregation has been guided by pastors of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin and other states and has continued as a power of influence in the community. Since 1924 it has worked hand in hand with the sister congregation of Grace

Church of the town of Green Valley after the latter congregation had been served since its organization in 1916 by pastors from the village of Marathon and the town of McMillan.

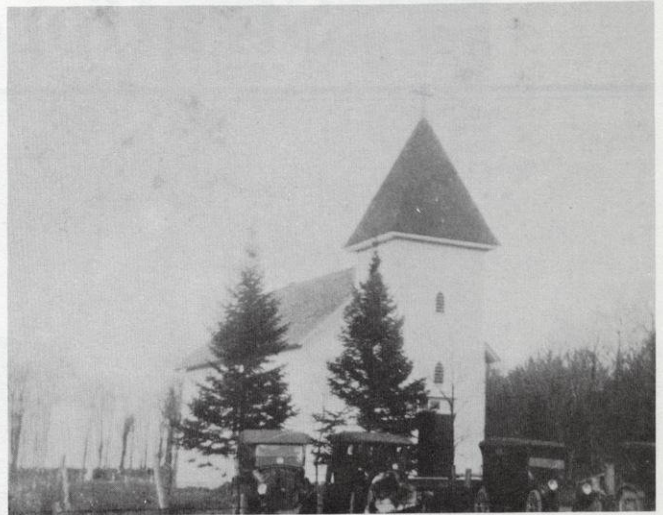
Pastors serving the St. Paul's congregation since 1893 (available records indicate) were:

T. Thom - Marshfield	1893-1922
O. Hensel	1922-1924
E. Kollander	1924- July 1, 1929
O. Kuehl	July 14, 1929- July 28, 1936
Walter O. Nommensen	Sept. 27, 1936-Dec. 3, 1944
Carl Kuske	Feb. 4, 1945 - July 30, 1957
Gustav Gerth	Aug. 4, 1957 - April 18, 1963
Myron Sordahl	July 5, 1964 - Nov. 12, 1967
Ronald Semro	Aug 4, 1968 - Sept. 4, 1970
Henry Ellvein	Mar 21, 1971 - Dec/ 1974
Dennis Enser	June, 1975 - June 1981
John Unnash	July 12, 1981 - Aug. 15, 1985
James Schmeling	Aug. 20, 1985 -

The adjoining congregations of St. Paul and Grace churches united during the tenure of Pastor Kollander to build the present parsonage adjoining the St. Paul's church in 1924.

Present officers are: John Burkhardt, president; Gordon Seehafer, secretary; and Charles Veers, treasurer.

The present membership includes 109 of which 71 are Communicant members and 19 are voting members. An organization which has been instrumental in furthering the activities of the church and of the congregation since it was formed May 5, 1912 has been the Ladies Aid Society. Officers of the group which has at present a membership of 13 are: Mrs. Theodore Bartz, president; Mrs. C. C. Kieske, vice president; Mrs. James Polinka, general treasurer; Mrs. Otto Veers, secretary and Mrs. Philip Reichert, treasurer of the flower fund."



St Paul's Lutheran Church, 1924 *Courtesy Anne Solinsky*

Stratford Schools



First Stratford Grade School. Courtesy Terry Frank

The committee thanks Mr. Dale Dooge for his work researching and writing the school history.

Stratford Public Schools

By Dale Dooge

Stratford's first public school was erected before 1900, about where the addition to the school buildings was built in 1954. The school was used until 1907, when the present high school building was built. Originally the building had only one floor, but increased enrollment made it necessary to add the second floor for the upper grades including the 9th grade.

But the enrollment grew and the four years of high school were desired. The old frame building was moved away and the new red brick school was built. This sufficed for the grades and the high school until 1936, when an addition, a gymnasium and four high school class rooms were added on the north. Then, in 1953, a four room addition on the west to house the grades was completed.

Education of the district students, after the completion of the elementary and high school building in 1907, was done by three or four elementary teachers and a high school staff of two or three teachers and the principal who also taught some of the course work. The basic courses of English, history, science and mathematics were the curriculum offerings with the commercial courses of typing, bookkeeping and shorthand also available beginning in 1918.

Excerpt from The History of Marathon County - 1913

On the second floor is the union high school of which M. Mortenson is principal and Miss Leta Stowell was assistant.

The high school has a reference library of 300 volumes, a traveling library consisting of both English and German books. The high school has a well equipped laboratory for the study of physics. At one end of the assembly room a stage is arranged so that the room is used for entertainment. The high school principal, Mr. Mortenson, has been in his present position for three years.

The high school had an enrollment of twenty-three students in 1911 and one graduating senior. The number of students attending high school had doubled to forty-six by 1917 with seven seniors graduating. All the students entering high school as freshmen four years earlier completed their high school education either at Stratford or another school in 1917.

The basic curriculum offerings continued until 1930 when the high school staff increased to four with an instructor for the German course. There were 65 students enrolled in the high school in 1935 as more tuition students from the rural



Stratford School, Circa 1920. Prior to 1928, the first floor was the grade school, the second floor and the basement were the high school. *Courtesy Tom Becher*

school districts began to attend. Increased enrollment created a need for more building space and playground area.

In 1935 the voters of the district defeated a proposal to purchase additional land for more playground area. This year the first, second and third grades were moved to the Wittmayer building located the first door to the north of Leick's Hotel that had been remodeled for the classes. There were 31 graduates this year, the largest to date.

In 1936 another teacher was added and the agriculture courses were offered in the curriculum. The 1937 high school faculty had six teachers, a principal and the social sciences were added to the curriculum. The board of education delegated the agriculture teacher the responsibility of contacting the rural grade school students to encourage them to attend high school. There were 28 graduates in the Class of '37.

The 1937 high school curriculum required the Freshmen to study English, Business, Citizenship and to elect General Science or Agriculture; a Sophomore had to study English, History and had a choice of Biology or Agriculture and Typing; Juniors were required to study English, American History and elected German, Geometry, Shorthand, Geography or Agriculture; a Senior studied Physics, American History as required and selected Social Problems, Agriculture, Business, English or German.

In 1937 the extra curricular activities included Band, Basketball, Girls Intra-Mural basketball, Forensics, Dramatic Club, Hobby Club, FFA, Stratford Junior Dairy Improvement Association, Art Club, Glee Club, Pep Club, Annual Staff, Journalism Club and Science Club.

The addition of new class rooms and gymnasium were needed as the start of school in September, 1937, had the largest high school enrollment recorded to date, 183. There

were 64 Freshmen, 42 Sophomores, 45 Juniors and 32 Senior students representing an increase of 30 students over the previous year. Tuition students numbered 108 compared to 88 last year and there were 76 village students versus 65 the year before. The addition of agriculture to the curriculum and good commercial courses were thought to be influencing the student's decision to attend high school. The minimum tuition for the rural students was \$72 a year and depending upon the expense of the school district could reach a maximum of \$108.

In 1938 chemistry was added to the curriculum. School began with an even larger enrollment than last year, 204. The Freshman Class had 60 students, Sophomore 63, Junior 38 and Senior 43. There were 64 district and 140 tuition students. The Class of '38 had 32 seniors graduate.

Class scheduling had to allow for some rural students to begin their day after the regular starting time and to leave early in the afternoon as the bus was making two trips each morning and afternoon.

Enrollment in the high school continued to increase, for in 1940 there were 237 students. The high school faculty had seven teachers and the principal. There were 40 graduates.

In 1946, the student population was 70 in the grades and 172 in the high school for an enrollment of 242. There were three elementary and eight high school teachers, a principal and a band instructor on the staff.

The 1947 school year had an elementary and high school enrollment of 222 with three grade, seven high school and a principal on the staff. The foreign language and geography were no longer in the curriculum, having been dropped in some prior year.

During the 50's, enrollments were increasing and the need for more teaching stations pressing. A sewing class was

added in 1950 and, with the addition of the four classrooms to the west in 1952, the home economics courses were added in 1954.

The high school staff had 12 members and the principal in 1955. The number of board of education members increased from three to five. Geography and College Prep English were added as curriculum electives in 1957 and the high school staff increased by two teachers in 1958.

Increasing elementary and high school enrollment and shortage of classrooms indicated that it was now time to begin construction of a new high school in 1957 that could be used to house the elementary school until the facility could be completed in its entirety in the future. Advanced mathematics, advanced algebra, advanced chemistry, general business and business machines were added to the curriculum for 1959.

Consolidation of the rural school districts with the Village of Stratford District was completed and the district now comprised the Village of Stratford and all or parts, of the towns of Cleveland, Day, Eau Pleine, Emmet, Frankfort, Green Valley, McMillan and Wien. In 1963, the school had a full time guidance counselor and the high school faculty now had 19 teachers and the principal.

The Class of 1964 would be the last class to use the 1907 building and to graduate from the gymnasium built in 1936. The school year for 1963-64 was adjusted so that graduation could be held early, May 15. After graduation, the equipment, furniture, books and materials were removed, a moving sale held for the saleable items remaining in the building and the 1907 structure razed before the end of May.

Completion of the new high school had been started in 1963 and in late summer of 1964 the high school moved into its new building. The elementary school vacated the area it had been using and moved into the old high school facilities. The 1907 building was razed, new kindergarten rooms and a kitchen were built upon its foundation during the summer of '64.

With both the elementary, now kindergarten through sixth grade, and the junior high and high school in larger facilities, the district was now able to accommodate the larger enrollment and to enrich the curriculum in 1964. The elementary enrollment was 355 students and the high school had 334 students. The school faculty now had 35 teachers, 10 elementary, 3 junior high, 19 high school, a guidance counselor, principal and superintendent. Enrollment in the elementary school in 1969 was 525 and 397 in high school. There were 532 in K-8 and 384 enrolled in high school for 1970-71. The 1971-72 enrollment showed 539 K-8 and 384 high school. The 1974-75 school year had an enrollment of 513 K-8 and 392 high school.

The total student enrollment for 1963-64 was 656; 1964-65, 688; 1965-66 787; 1966-67, 826; 1967-68, 889; 1968-69, 322; 1969-70, 922; 1970-71, 916; 1971-72, 323; 1972-73, 923, 1973-74, 920 and 1974-75, 905.

The hot lunch program served 88,467 meals during the 1974-75 school year. A total of 151,000 miles was traveled by 18 buses transporting 774 students to the public school and 189 to the parochial school for 1974-75. The cost to the district for each student transported in 1978-79 was \$1.51 per day.



Stratford High School, 1934. The barn in the background was later moved to where Becher Feed Mill is today. Courtesy Elaine Becher

From Stratford Journal, February 1, 1924
Shall Our High School Be Dissolved?

February fourth will be a red letter day in the history of Stratford and the surrounding communities. On that day the voters of our high school district will be called upon to decide whether or not the Union Free High School located at Stratford shall be continued.

Will it be cheaper in the long run to dispense with the high school? If you are an average tax payer and have an assessed valuation of \$3000 you are paying about \$6.00 per year towards the support of the high school. If the high school is dissolved parents will have to send their children to neighboring towns to school.

You voters and citizens of Stratford, Town of Eau Pleine and Town of Cleveland think this over earnestly before you vote upon such vital a question. Put the welfare of your children ahead of your purse and vote against dissolution.

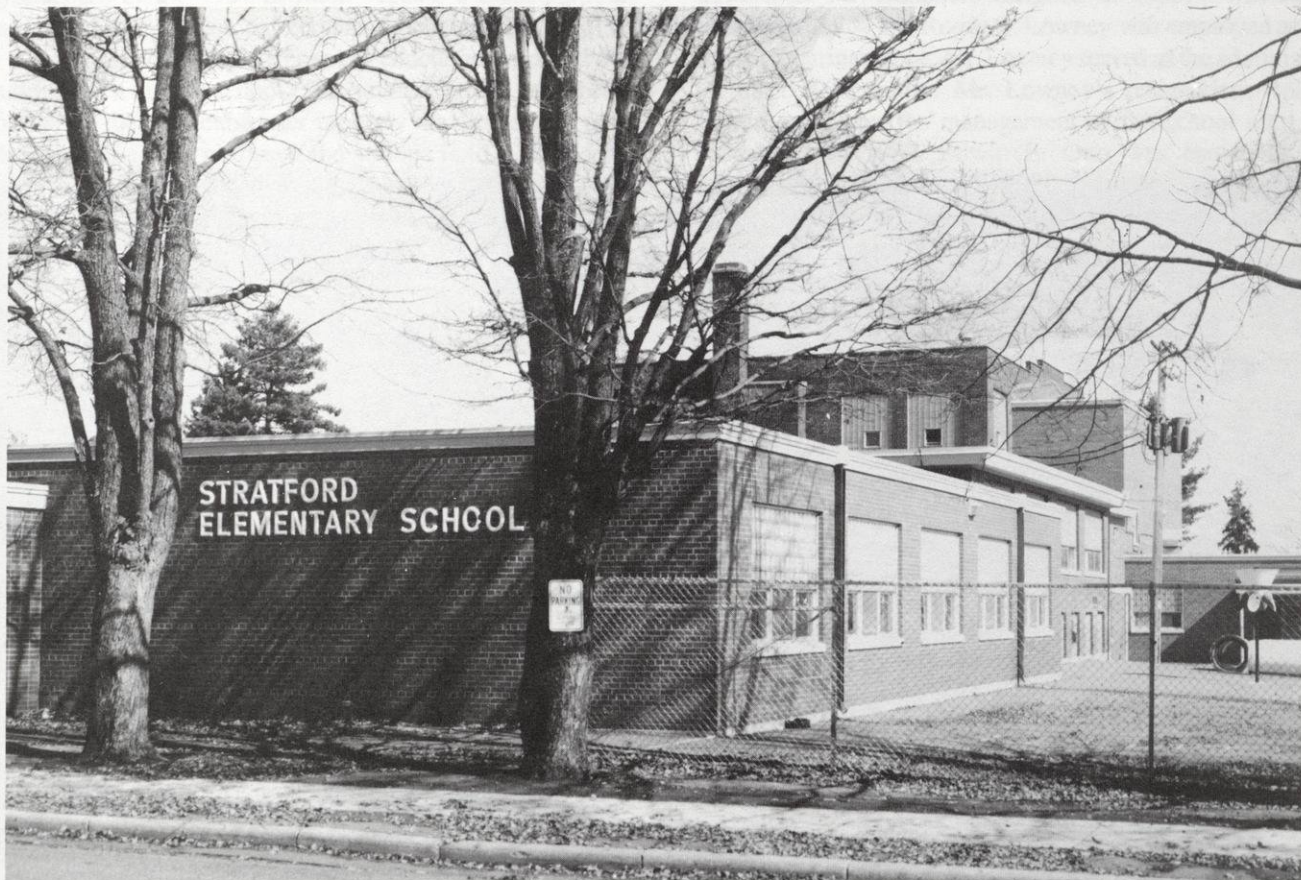
Increased enrollments, a need to improve facilities and to meet the educational needs and requirements of the student for a changing society has challenged the school district the past fifty years.

Space needs and athletic competition brought about the construction of four classrooms, gymnasium, stage and furnace room for occupancy in 1937 to the north of the original 1907 building. A rural school building was moved in for an agriculture shop. They later moved another rural school to town and attached it to the first one to be used as the agriculture class room.

Again space needs, curriculum enrichment and improved facilities resulted in the 1953 addition to the west of the 1907 building. This addition included four classrooms, boys and girls locker room and shower facilities, laundry room and furnace room modification.

Looking to the future, separation of the elementary and high school students and a need for larger facilities for both, initiated the plans for a new high school and land was purchased east of Third Avenue across the street from the original school building.

Consolidation of the district not yet complete to provide the valuation needed to finance a completely new building in



Stratford Elementary School, 1990



Stratford High School, 1990.



Stratford Athletic Field

entirety, the decision to construct the high school in separate phases started in 1957. That part of the present high school from the west entrance south was the first to be built. This segment included eight classrooms, boiler room, kitchen facilities and an all purpose room. This would become the elementary school until the high school could be completed.

The second part of the new high school construction was the band and chorus room and two classrooms to the north of west entrance to the building. These rooms were used for the 1961-62 school year.

To the west of the 1953 addition on the original 1907 building, four new class rooms and a conference and a work room were added in 1956.

Increasing enrollment, district consolidation complete and the desire to add trade and shop courses to the curriculum prompted the completion of the third phase of the new high school for the start of the 1964 - 65 school year. The completing of the building added the administrative offices, library, study hall, ten classrooms, metal and wood shops, teacher work room, locker and shower facilities, 105' x 84' gymnasium, 36' x 82' stage, gym lobby and a concession stand.

During the summer of 1964 the elementary and high school building built in 1907 was razed to the foundation and two kindergarten rooms, kitchen and storage facilities were constructed on the foundation of the razed building. The gymnasium of the 1937 addition became a multi-purpose room used for athletics, cafeteria and meeting room.

In Spring of 1972, the board of education proposed the building of a middle school. The building would have been located on the Aschenbrenner property the district had purchased for building purposes and athletic field. The \$6,000 bond issue recommended was defeated by the voters with 1,042 against and 164 favoring a new facility.

Remodeling of the agriculture, shop and drafting classroom area and the addition of shop space to the agriculture, metal and wood shops of the new high school was completed in 1980.

Addition of special education courses and services, providing educational fulfillment for the handicapped student and more support personnel for quality education at the elementary level prompted voter approval for an addition to the elementary school. The addition was made to the north of the 1953 and 1956 elementary additions. The new facility provided eight classrooms, administrative offices, conference area, library and computer lab. The elementary addition was completed and dedicated in December 1989. The addition also included a new heating plant for the new construction as well as to service all of the other elementary buildings.

Administration

Administration of the Stratford Public School was the responsibility of the principal for many years of the school's history. The principal also taught classes along with the discipline and management of the school.

Mourits Mortenson became principal of the school in 1910 and taught the mathematics and science courses. He resigned in January 1924, to accept the postmaster position for the Stratford Post Office.

Howard L. Rice became the principal following Mr. Mortenson's resignation in 1924. Mr. Rice also taught the mathematics and science courses along with the administrative duties. After 13 years as head of the Stratford School, Mr. Rice resigned in 1937 to accept the management responsibilities with a book and stationery outlet store in Marshfield.

Clarence Wesslen, a teacher in the high school at the time, was selected to be the principal after Mr. Rice's resignation in 1937. He had joined the high school faculty in 1927 and taught the history classes. He continued to teach along with the supervision and management responsibilities and resigned in 1946 to accept a similar position with the Athens School. He later became the County Superintendent of Schools for Marathon County.

Milo M. Lanphere was hired to be the principal following Mr. Wesslen's resignation in 1946. He taught the social problem classes along with the administrative duties during most of his tenure at Stratford. At the end of the 1962 school year Mr. Lanphere resigned to accept the administrator's position at Brandon-Fairwater.

Charles W. Riley was named to be the District Administrator after Mr. Lanphere resigned in 1962. Mr. Riley resigned in 1964 and Roger G. Lowney was employed as the school superintendent. Mr. Lowney served as the administrator until 1970. After Mr. Lowney's resignation, Robert Hubert took over the management of the school until his resignation in 1980. Edwin E. Otto was named to the superintendent's position in 1980 and is serving the school system in that capacity as the community prepares to celebrate its centennial year.

In May of 1991, Mr. Otto retired and Mr. Jeffrey Dickert was hired to take his place.

Teachers

Many capable and dedicated teachers have taught at Stratford and shared their time and talents with the youth of the community. Some of them taught in the system only a few years, others stayed longer and a few accepted the challenge for most or all of their teaching career. The Stratford Board of Education and Stratford Education Association took the opportunity upon a teacher's retirement, to recognize and honor the teacher with a dinner and appropriate awards.

Mae Fuller joined the Stratford faculty in 1961 and taught the Early Childhood and special education classes. She retired in 1980 after 22 years of teaching; 19 years at Stratford and three in a rural school.

Dale Dooge began teaching the business education subjects at Stratford in 1947. He taught at Stratford for 38 years and retired in 1985. He had taught a semester before coming to Stratford.

Elmer Hayes became the music director and taught instrumental and vocal music at Stratford beginning in 1955. He retired in 1988 after 33 years teaching; 31 at Stratford and two years at a junior high school.

Donald Franke, who joined the Stratford faculty in 1960 as an English and Social Studies teacher retired in 1988. He had taught 28 years in the Stratford system.

Lenore Faulks taught in the Stratford Elementary School for 26 years, starting in 1962. She had taught five years in area rural schools for a total of 31 years of teaching experience. She retired in 1988.

Helen Kratzer taught the kindergarten classes at the Stratford Elementary School for 25 years. She began teaching in Stratford in 1965 and had taught seven years in other area schools.

Margaret Piquet joined the Stratford Elementary School faculty in 1966. She taught 24 1/2 years at Stratford and had 6 1/2 years of rural teaching experience before coming to Stratford.

Carol Nisbet joined the faculty in 1955 as the school librarian. She also taught English and French classes. Mrs. Nisbet retired in 1971 after 16 years of teaching. She had prior teaching experience before joining the Stratford faculty.

Helen Perry taught history for 14 years, joining the staff in 1955. She had to leave teaching in 1969 for health reasons. Dan Storry and Ronald Wood both joined the faculty in 1964. Mr. Storry taught the art classes for 15 years and for health reasons resigned in 1977. Mr. Wood taught biology and science for 14 years. He died in April, 1988.

The Stratford Schools have been well maintained and cared for by dedicated custodians. Functional, clean and comfortable facilities contribute a great deal to the overall educational process. Class after class of graduates can acknowledge their appreciation for the help, guidance, support and kindness given to them by a janitor when involved in a school activity.

Playing an important part in the life and education of students attending Stratford Schools was Mr. Dabler, a janitor in the early history of the school. Charlie Bean was janitor in the 1920's and August Dale took care of the janitorial duties in the late '20's and early '30's.

Herman Lueck was head custodian for the Stratford Schools for 20 or more years and retired in 1954. George Dhein took over the head custodian responsibilities for the school system after Mr. Lueck's retirement. He retired in 1986 with more than 30 years of service to the community.

Program

Tenth Annual Commencement.
Stratford High School.
Friday May 28, 1920.

"Anchored." High School Girls.
The Class of 1920..... Ruth E. Johnson.
Boishevism..... Isabel H. Laessig.
"Lovely Night." High School Girls.
The Pilgrims. Laura M. Bean.
General Pershing. Mary F. Jeske.
College Medley.....
..... Charlotte Schmalz-Robert Lawrie.
Election of President Ellen L. Raleigh.
Evolution of the Piano. Elsie A. Otto.
"Voices of the Woods." ... High School Girls.
Women. Josephine J. Jicinsky.
"A Merry Heart." High School Girls.
Presentation of Diplomas.

Stratford High School Graduates

The first class to graduate from the Stratford High School was the Class of 1911. One student completed the required course of study for that year. Nellie Gardner was that student and so became the first student to graduate from the school. Between 1910 and 1919 a total of 48 students graduated with the Class of 1913 and 1919 having the largest number with eight graduates.

During the 1920's there were a total of 129 students graduating. The Class of 1920 had the smallest class with seven and the class of '29 having the largest number to date, 25 graduates. The Class of 1927 had 18 students graduate and was the class to publish the first yearbook for the school, "Ess Aitch Ess." The class of '29 was the first to wear caps and gowns at the commencement exercise. The first participation in conference basketball by the Stratford team was in 1929 and the high conference scorer was Joe Felhofer from the Stratford team.

The period of the 1930's had a total of 276 graduating seniors. The Class of '30 and '31 had the smallest class with 16 and the Class of '39 was

the largest, 42. A Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1933 with Mrs. T. W. Hoffmann as president. The school orchestra was formed in 1930 and the high school band was started in 1935 with 18 members which had grown to 33 members in 1937. In 1938 the band mothers organized and made the black jackets trimmed in orange and worn with white trousers for the band uniform. In 1937 the new addition of classrooms and gymnasium was being used and the school yearbook resumed publication.

In the 1940's more students were completing high school and graduating. There were a total of 415 graduating from 1940 to 1949. The Class of '41 was the largest class, 57, and the Class of '49 the smallest with 32 seniors. World War II was being fought and some of the graduates chose their branch of service by enlisting after graduation. The school yearbook became the "Stratavarian" in 1947.

The black uniform trimmed in orange was purchased for the band in 1946. The baseball and basketball teams were becoming a challenge and a threat to many of the conference teams. The school buses were painted red, white and blue and during the summer months many of the students that were old enough would get a job at the local canning factory.

Education of the youth of the community during the 1950's became more challenging as the enrollment increased and more students were preparing to enter college. More course offerings were available as the faculty number increased from eight to fourteen. The yellow school buses were transporting the rural students beginning in the early 50's. The number of students graduating from 1950-59 was 509 with the Class of '51 having only 37 and the Class of '59 the most with 70 students. Hot lunch was served in St. Joseph's Church Cafeteria requiring a three block walk for a hot lunch. Basketball competition in the conference was very strong and Stratford's conference standing up to the top. Plans for a new high school began to take shape with construction started in '57 and the high school band gets new uniforms in '59.

With the completion of a new high school in the '60's, more course offerings became available with more teaching stations and a high school faculty of 23. The transportation of students to the public school became a district expense as the district consolidated. The number of students attending high school and graduating increased as there were 714 students completing high school with the Class of '62 having 52 graduates and the Class of '69 having the most to date with 96 graduating. Hot lunch was served in the Stratford Elementary School Cafeteria across the street. The band moved to new facilities, the science department got individual student labs in '61 and new choral robes were purchased. Conference

The Junior Class
of the Stratford High School
cordially invites yourself and friend
to the
Junior Prom
to be held at the Stratford Opera House
Friday evening, April twenty-seventh

"Schultz's Orchestra"
Dancing 8:30 to 1:00
Grand March 9:00

Cickets \$1.25
Extra Ladies 25c
Refreshments

PRESENT THIS INVITATION

Prom invitation, year unknown. *Courtesy Don Weber*

participation in football and track began in '62 and wrestling in '64. The students said farewell to the old high school in the spring of '64 and hello to new facilities in the fall. George Davel's memorial trophy was presented in '63 and the new high school dedicated in '64. Homecoming parades and float building were a part of the school activities. Two sections of Kindergarten in the morning and afternoon began in 1965.

Educational opportunities continued to improve for the students during the 1970's and 958 students completed high school during this time. The Class of '71 and '75 each had 90 graduates and the Class of '76 had the most students to graduate in the history of the school with 108 graduates. During the latter part of this period high school diplomas were presented at commencement to twenty-three adults having completed high school with GED studies. An athletic field was developed and seating constructed on the Aschenbrenner property that had been purchased by the district. The girls began conference participation in volleyball and basketball in the mid '70's and in track a little later. New uniforms were purchased for the high school band in 1979. The students were sharing educational experiences with foreign exchange students attending school at Stratford.

Education in the 1980's had an updating of the course offerings and new techniques and technologies were evident in the instruction. The VCR and television had replaced the movie projector and film for instructional purposes. Copy machines were used in place of the offset and mimeo duplicators and carbon paper for duplicate copies became a thing of the past. The computer became an instructional tool and its use and application was integrated into many of the courses of study. The vocational and trade courses quickly adapted to it and classes were offered for computer literacy and programming. The enrollment having peaked the prior decade, the Class of '86 had the largest number of graduates, 96, and the Class of '89 the smallest with 75 graduates. The total number of students graduating during the 80's was 836. Competition

in all extra extracurricular activities of the school was very competitive during the period and the Stratford students and teams made their opponents aware of their skills.

The last decade of the 20th Century begins with a continuing of the technological advances in the processing of data and the accessibility of the ever increasing wealth of information available to the student. The foreign language offer in the curriculum has changed from German to Spanish for the 1990-91 year and girl's softball has been added as a competitive sport. The number of computers available for student use in both the elementary and the high school has increased from the ten or twelve units of the 80's to fifty or more computers and many of the classrooms now have a terminal connected to the mainframe. The typewriter keyboarding is taught using the computer and the student grade report to the parent has been computerized. The school has on the average, one computer for each six students.

The high school library has 10,000 books and 3,000 paper backs available for student use. The library card catalogue is going on computer, the reference encyclopedia will soon be on computer and the shelved books will be bar coded for ease in checking in and out and to inventory.

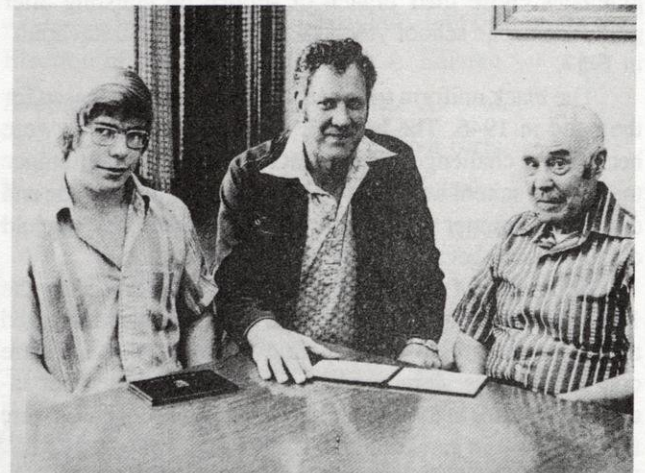
The newest is the Instructional Television Fixed Service to be available in 1991-92 to the Stratford, Spencer, Loyal, Granton, D. C. Everest High Schools and other area schools in the future. The service will make available curriculum offerings that otherwise would not be offered due to inadequate enrollment, no available teacher or excessive instructional costs. ITFS will link together the students in the participating schools with the instructor and each can communicate with one another via television as if it were an actual classroom setting.



From Stratford Journal May 1976
*Three Generations of One
Family Awarded Diplomas*

For the past two years, Stratford area citizens have had the opportunity to fulfill the necessary requirements to be issued a high school diploma.

This year three generations from one family will receive diplomas from Stratford High School. Mrs. Harry (Jennie) Laessig, Mrs. M. (Phyllis) Doll and Miss Pam Doll.



Pictured above (left to right). Grandson Larry Hougum, Robert Hubert and Clarence Hougum.

Mr. Hougum, who successfully farmed for many years and sent all of his children through high schools and higher education, was denied a high school education because of economic conditions. He is the son of a minister and a half century ago and more, many ministers simply did not receive adequate pay.

Mr. Hougum had to stay home and help while his brothers and sisters were given an education.

It is rather fitting that much of the encouragement to go to school again to get a diploma came from Mr. Hougum's grandson, Larry Hougum who is pictured here with his grandfather and Mr. Heubert, superintendent of the Stratford High School. Larry is a graduate of the Stratford High School and he was the first to urge Mr. Hougum to go back to school to get a diploma and he kept up the encouragement during the year.

From Stratford Journal May 25, 1977
C. Hougum is Oldest to Receive H.S. Diploma
Clarence Hougum, a resident of the Stratford area for many years, became the oldest person to receive a diploma, signifying graduation from the Stratford high school this week.

Tid Bits

From Stratford Journal, Jan. 30, 1920
Entertainment At High School

An entertainment will be given on Feb. 3 at the High school. The entertainment will consist of a two act play entitled "The Red Lamp," a one act minstrel, and movies.

The proceeds will be used to pay the running expenses of the High school basketball team.

Program:

Part I

One Act Minstrel.

Ellen Raleigh, Ruth Johnson, Josephine Jicinsky, Laura Bean, Isabel Laessig, Mary Jeske, Else Otto, Bertha Stemler, Victor Draeger, Edward Brunner, Lloyd Kurtzweil.

Piano duet - Elsie Otto and Ruth Johnson.

Part II

"The Red Lamp"

Cast of Characters

Matilda Deering, A rich spinster - Marion Bever.

Harold Deering, Her Nephew - Bert Kieffer.

Alice Deering, Harold's Sister - Marguret Staffeld.

Archie Clarke, A Young Lawyer - Robert Goetz.

Bill Worth, A Man of All Trades - Lloyd Langer.

Anna O'Shane, Maid at the Deering's - Ellen Raleigh.

Part III Movies

Admission 20 and 35 cents.

Curtain rises at 8 p.m.

Bring this program with you.

School Band and Orchestra

The orchestra was organized in 1930, under the direction of Mr. Frank Giles. The orchestra was made up of six violins, mandolin, slide trombone, guitar and piano.

The school band was organized in the fall of 1935 with eighteen members. The enrollment has steadily increased until it reached thirty three members in 1937.

School Notes

From Stratford Journal Feb 24, 1938

Herman Lueck finds out a lot of personal information sweeping out the classrooms at night.

Some people think that if your put a skirt on a pump handle, Charles Doll would pump all day. Johnny Aldrich thinks that the best part of a nickel is three cents. Do you?

When we had our biology test last Monday, Elmer Holtman, who sits next to Eugene Frankwick was constantly looking at Eugene's paper. Finally Miss Panzenhagen looked up and said, "Elmer, that's the fourth time I caught you looking at Eugene's paper." To which Elmer innocently replied, "How can I help it if I have to look four times to get one answer?"



Stratford High School Boxing Team - 1938 (l - r) Top Row: Louis Woldt, Sylvester Kohl, Richard Wells, Gordon Casey, Leander Kirsch, Bobby Wix, Roman Becher, Coach - Sam Dapin. Bottom Row: Bob Laessig, Bill Wix, Gail Forrest, Wayne Spencer, Jerry McGivern, Bryon Zepplin. *Courtesy of Gail Forrest.*

From "Ess Aitch Ess", 1927 High School Yearbook

Alumni

Class of 1911

Nellie Gardner

Class of 1912

Elizabeth Hayes
Amanda Kroening
Emil Schmidt

Class of 1913

Arthur Garbisch
Anna Klemme
Alice Cotilnick
Frances Lipke
Leonard Wahl
Charles Wagner
Marie Taylor
Henry Hoffmeister

Class of 1914

Nellie Bean
Fred Goetz
Alma Kroening
William Lipke
Edward Marohl
Viola Stadt
Otto Wahlmann

Class of 1915

Donald Dennee
Joe Hayes
Charles Platteter
Albert Spindler
Louis Wagner

Class of 1916

Doris Hough
Esther Lipke

Class of 1917

Wallace Dennee
Adolph Foelker
Nora Hayes
Alma Klemme
Emma Kroening
Frieda Stuhr
Julia Wagner

Class of 1918

Lillian Langer
Zita Lawrie
Nellie Schar
Mildred Wicker
Charles Beach

Class of 1919

Mayme Fahy
Marie Kroening
Eudora Langer
May Schelling
Cecilia Schweikl
Helen Zuelke
Dan Lipke
Kenneth Wicker

Class of 1920

Isabel Laessig
Elsie Otto
Ellen Raleigh
Mary Jeske
Josephine Jicinsky
Ruth Johnson
Laura Bean

Class of 1921

Verda Baxter
Marion Bever
Margaret Bradley
Evelyn Colvin
Velma Doering
Agnes Jeske
Lloyd Langer
Everett McNeight
Charlotte Schmalz
Margaret Staffeld

Class of 1922

Edward Brunner
Robert Goetz
Myron Kaiser
Bert Kieffer
Lillian Klemme
Harry Lillge
Karl Lillge
Eva Punswick
Fern Sanders

Class of 1923

Edward Aschenbrenner
Arline Bever
Florence Bolen
Minnie Breisath
Fred Garbisch
Anna Hinkforth
Melinda Klumb
Robert Lawrie
Mena Seitz
Florence Stover
Amanda Zimmerman
Linna Cooley

Class of 1924

Alton Baxter
Aletta Dent
Otto Klemme
Hubert Laessig
Lucille Langer
Mabel Lipke
Ethel Miller
Claude Rifleman
Milli Verch

Class of 1925

Emerald Baxter
Margaret Brunner
Arthur Davel
Josephine Framberger
Helen Junemann
William Raleigh
Alice Schaefer
Iola Langer
George Lawrie
Merton Lueptow
Leslie Miller
Erwin Spindler
Hubert Verch

Class of 1926

Victor Aschenbrenner
Ralph Dent
Frank Diermeier
LaVerne Emmerich
Lillian Hughes
Earl Junemann
Lucile Strachota
Kingsley Towle
Florence Untiet
Beatric Wagner
Marjorie Wells

1927 Teachers



HOWARD L. RICE, Principal.

River Falls Normal
University of Wisconsin
Science and Mathematics

ELLSWORTH, WISCONSIN.

MAYME FAHEY

Whitewater Normal
Commercial

STRATFORD, WISCONSIN.

GUDRUN JAHR

River Falls Normal
University of Wisconsin
English

HUDSON, WISCONSIN.

ROYCE H. DODGE

River Falls Normal
History

ELLSWORTH, WISCONSIN.

Senior Class of 1927

GENEVIEVE BAHR

"Gen"

Commercial Course
Treasurer 2
Annual Humor Editor

"Yes, this life is getting serious."

JENOLGA BREISATH

"Jenks"

Commercial Course
"Life is short; so am I."

AGNES BRUNNER

"Ag"

Commercial Contest 2
President 4
Commercial Course
Vice President 2
Class Play 4

"Here's a girl who is honest and square,
But who loves dates, jazz, music, and air."

EVELYN FELIX

"Ev"

Commercial Course
Basket Ball 2

"When I am gone pray who will entertain
the populace?"

MARJORIE CRAWFORD

"Margie"

English Course
Entered from Kewaunee High
School 4

"These teachers just work me to death
No wonder I'm so thin."

MARY DIERMEIER

"Dearie"

Commercial Course
Basket Ball 1, 2, 3
Secretary 4

"Three packages for a dime. Guess what—
gum!!!"





TED GARBISCH

"Teddie"

English Course
Basket ball 1, 2, 3, 4

"The Midnight oil, the Midnight oil,
I burn it often, but not in toil."

GLENARD HUGHES

"Fraggs"

English Course
Class Play 4

"I don't let my studies interfere with my
education."

JUDITH KELLER

"Judy"

English Course

"Oh heaven, if men were but constant,
they'd be perfect."

FLEANOR KUEHLMAN

"El"

Commercial Course
Basket ball 2, 3

"When in the course of human events it
becomes necessary for us to bluff—
let us bluff."

VIOLET KOHEL

"Kohel"

Commercial Course
Class Play 4
Annual Alumni Editor

"Someone call me at sunrise, but don't let
the sun raise too blamed early."

NORMA LADRON

Commercial Course
Entered from Oconto Falls
High School 2
Class Play 4

"Ye Gods, I know I'm in love, but with
whom?"

OLIVE MAROHL

"Ollie"

- Commercial Course
- Treasurer 1
- Vice President 4
- Class Play 4
- Annual Business Marager
- Salutatorian

"Angels are perfect — Iam but a woman."

ALLISON McNEIGHT

"McNutt"

- Commercial Course
- President 3
- Basket ball 4
- Class Play 4

"Bashful, but give h'm a chance."

REUBEN OETTINGER

"Ted"

- Commercial Course
- Basket ball 3, 4
- Class Play 4
- Annual Athletic Editor

"All good boys love their sisters,
But I so good have grown,
That I love all other boys' sisters
Better than my own."

GORDON STOVER

"Stover"

- English Course

"Greater men than I have lived — but
they're all dead."

MAGDALENE WITTMAYER

- English Course
- President 1
- Commercial Contest 2
- Treasurer 4
- Editor-in-Chief of Annual
- Valedictorian

"She is a quiet maid — at times."

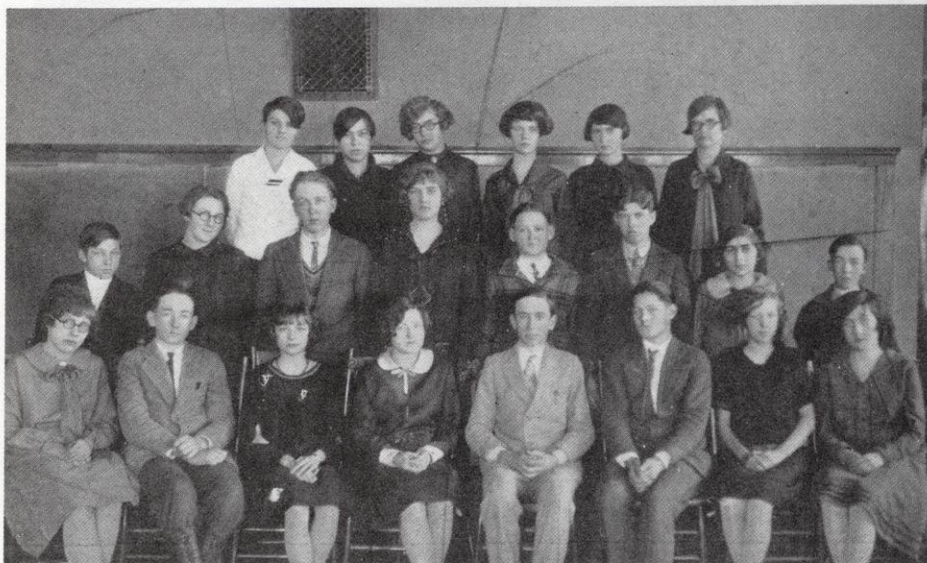
ALMA ZIEGLER

- Commercial Course

"Happy am I; from care I'm free!
Why aren't they all contented like me?"



1927 Classes



FRESHMEN

BACK ROW — (Left to right) — Olm, Klein, Vetter, Law, Evert, Nipko.
MIDDLE ROW — Bartz, McNeight, Burkhardt, Remus, Logan, Felix, Kroening, Weber.
FRONT ROW — Haroldson, Kaiser, Emmerich, Bolen, Chrouser, Heller, Framberger, Laessig.



SOPHOMORES

BACK ROW — (Left to right) — Ulrich, Wendt, Metzke, Spindler, Barfz
Aschbrenner, Simolke, Freiberg.
MIDDLE ROW — Hablewitz, Hendricks, Warnke, Kuhnert, Brunner, Felhofer,
Metzke, Juneman, Reed, Heller.
FRONT ROW — Shadof, Kriehn, Hughes, Schultz, Verch, Zoellner, Jaeger,
Diermeier, Grassl.



JUNIORS

BACK ROW — (Left to right) — Popp, Goetz, Davel.

MIDDLE ROW — Kuehlman, Klein, Lueck, Schuette, Raleigh, Baxter, Weber.

FRONT ROW — Allen, Aschenbrenner, Oettinger, Wimer, Stover, Doering, Kairies.

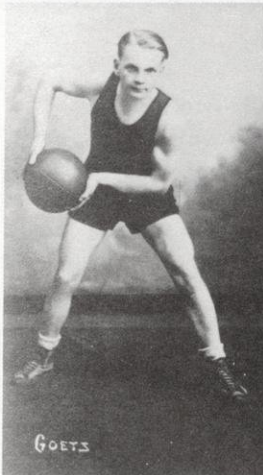
Basket Ball Team



SEATED — (Left to right) Davel, Oettinger, Felhofer

STANDING — McNeight, Kairies, Dodge, Garbisch, Kuehlman Goetz

Basketball Team From the 1928 High School



GOETZ



KAIRIES



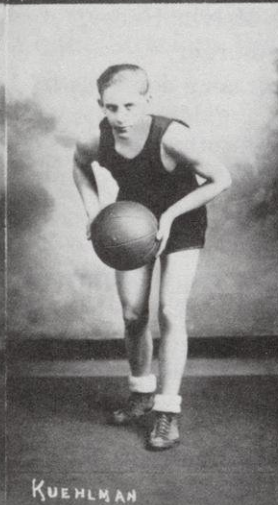
DAVEL



JAEGER



POPP



KUEHLMAN



FELHOFER



WEBER

From the Falmbeau, 1929

Senior Class Last Will & Testament

We, the Senior Class of 1929, being of sound mind and body, do hereby make this, our last will and testament.

Although we realize how keenly our absence will be felt by those we leave behind, and that the school will be practically disabled in the coming year, we feel it our duty to do our best by requesting our numerous talents, ambitions and characteristics as follows:

To our principal, Mr. Rice, we leave the building, slightly damaged but still intact, and our records by which he may set a standard for the coming classes.

To the faculty we leave our impressions, some written in black, some in red, for better or for worse.

To the Junior Class we leave our spirit of progress, originality, and hope that they will use it as we have this year.

Individually we bequeath our belongings and achievements as follows:

Lylas Grassl wills her power of speech to Viola Remus.
Adela Hablewitz leaves her melodious voice to the 1930 Glee Club.
Harold Hendricks leaves his soul-ful look to Arnold Hablewitz.
Herbert Spindler leaves a Saxophone solo to Elmira Hilgemann.
Theodore Zoellner's spare time to any one who can use it.
To Gordon Bever, Joe Felhofer's pep.
To Marcella Jaeger, Lucille Schultz's love for dancing.
To Ruth Smith, Gertrude Warnke's sense of humor.
Susan Reed wills her speedy line to Loretta Speath.
Verna Aschbrenner's blushes to George Ladron.
Victor Bartz's love of the outcours to Donovan Allington.
Eleanor Brunner's pleasing personality to Eleanor Laessig.
Milton Heller's reserve to Gilbert Ladron.
Agnes Ulrich's ability as a pianist to Alice Law.
Bertha Wendt's reputation as a "vamp" to Naomi Bolen.
Lillian Simolke's sweet and winning smile to Robert Zeigler.
Dorothy Aschenbrenner's curly locks to Margaret Kroening.
Rose Juneman flirtatious habits to Evelyn Polege.
Harry Metzke's interest in Edgar girls to Melvin Heller.
Lydia's recipe for reducing to Francis Framburger.
John Jaeger's ability to move fast when occasion demands to Aloys Aschenbrenner.
Sylvius Doering's ability as cheer-leader to Dorothy Popp.
Dorothy Diermeier's ability to get to school on time to Arthur.
Helen's best wishes for good luck to next year's editor.
Charles Metzke leaves the school a sadder and a wiser boy.

To this document we put our hand and seal, on this the twenty-third day of May in the year of our Lord, 1929.

Signed and Sealed,
Theodore Zoellner,
Senior Class President.



Back Row—Reno, Doering, Felhofer, Frank, Aschebrock
 Third Row—Bolen, Warnke, Aschbrenner, Miller, Spaeth, Ladron, Svec
 Second Row—Radtke, Smith, Shadof, Emmerich, Ulrich, Law, Framberger,
 Klein
 First Row—Hablewitz, Brunner, Verch, Metzke, Jaeger, Reed, Chrouser, Grassl

Oratory and Declamatory

Up to this time, this school has not actively participated in any work of this nature. Of the entire student body, one-fifth volunteered to try to make oratory and declamatory contests play an active part in the future history of the Stratford High School.

As a beginning we have a sponsored only local contests held in the Auditorium of our school. Members of the faculty have acted as judges.

Out of the contestants the following were selected to go into the finals:

Loretta Spaeth
 Marcella Jaeger
 Elizabeth Klein
 Naomi Bolen
 Navada Emmerich
 Susan Reed

Helen Verch
 Francis Framberger
 Sylvius Doering
 Frank Miller
 Charles Metzke

At the time of this writing the finals have not as yet been held.

From The Flambeau, 1931

ATHLETICS

BASKETBALL SQUAD

Standing (left to right) Wesslen (Coach), Zoellner, Laessig, Fischer, Ulrich, Lenz, Klein
Seated—Radke, Frank, Aschebrock, Aschenbrenner, Goetz, Patefield, Van Ryzin.

GAMES OF THE SEASON

First Team				Second Team			
Stratford	9	Marathon	11	Stratford	15	Athens	5
Stratford	11	Colby	13	Stratford	33	Athens	10
Stratford	7	Colby	13	Stratford	8	Mosinee	3
Stratford	18	Athens	12	Stratford	13	Mosinee	5
Stratford	17	Mosinee	14	Stratford	14	Edgar	4
Stratford	27	Edgar	20	Stratford	31	Edgar	5
Stratford	20	Athens	18				
Stratford	9	Marathon	10	TOTALS	114	Opponents	32
Stratford	18	Edgar	15	Won	6	Lost	0
Stratford	17	Mosinee	18				
Stratford	16	Colby	12				
Stratford	6	Auburndale	26				
Stratford	17	Greenwood	14				
Stratford	13	Colby	23				
TOTALS	205	Opponents	229				
	Won 7	Lost 7					

League Standings

	Won	Lost	Pct.
Mosinee	7	1	.875
Stratford	5	3	.625
Athens	4	4	.500
Edgar	2	6	.250
Marathon	2	6	.250

INDIVIDUAL SCORING RECORD OF THE THREE LEADING TEAMS

Player	Town	G.	F.G.	F.T.	P.F.	T.P.
Kulas	Athens	8	18	11	16	47
Van Ryzin	Stratford	8	18	9	9	45
Klimpke	Athens	7	14	12	15	40
Patefield	Stratford	8	17	4	17	38
Doherty	Mosinee	8	13	7	7	33
Kriekamp	Mosinee	5	12	8	5	32
Herald	Mosinee	8	13	3	4	29
Manley	Mosinee	4	10	1	6	21
Aschebrock	Stratford	7	9	0	6	18
Theilig	Athens	8	6	4	8	16
Aschenbrenner	Stratford	8	5	6	12	16
Knauf	Mosinee	8	4	3	6	11
Krieg	Mosinee	7	4	6	7	14
Krzmarcik	Mosinee	6	3	5	7	11
Radke	Stratford	5	3	2	6	8
Frank	Stratford	7	1	3	17	5
Hubing	Athens	8	1	3	10	5
Sutkiewicz	Mosinee	5	1	2	0	4
Goetz	Stratford	8	0	2	8	2
Calmes	Athens	5	1	0	5	2
Kordus	Mosinee	5	0	1	4	1
Stargardt	Athens	8	0	1	9	1

INDIVIDUAL SCORING RECORD OF STRATFORD HIGH

Player—	Games	F.G.	F.T.	P. Fouls	Total Points
Van Ryzin	10	20	11	9	51
Patefield	10	17	4	17	38
Aschenbrenner	10	6	10	12	22
Aschebrock	9	9	0	6	18
Radtke	7	4	2	6	10
Frank	9	2	5	16	9
Geotz	10	0	2	8	2

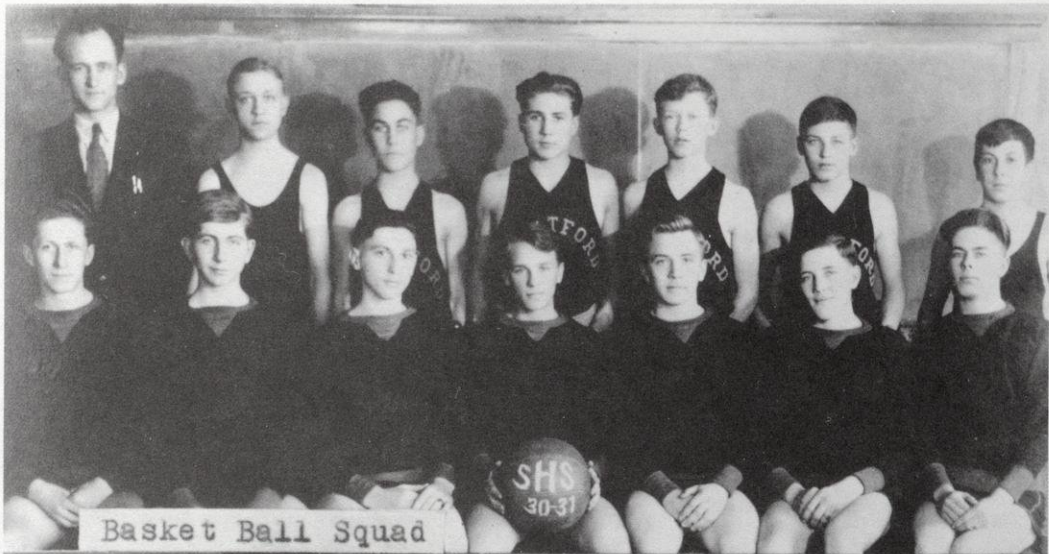
REVIEW OF FOOTBALL SEASON

Third Row—(left to right)—Frank, Patefield, Verch, Zoellner, Lenz

Middle Row—Laessig, Allington, Jaeger, Weber, Kotsch, Klein, Wesslen (Coach)

Seated—Wells, Goetz, Frank, Burkart, Fischer, Fischer

This was the first year in the history of the school that Stratford had a football team. About thirty fellows started out to make up the regular team. Two games were played with Mosinee High School. These were the only games that could be scheduled this year but the boys went out every Sunday afternoon to play the "City Team." Our squad was handicapped somewhat by the lack of equipment, but the business men of the Village responded to a drive for funds and enough money was collected to buy shoulder pads and helmets. There are high hopes of having a strong team next year because there are only three letter men graduating from the regular eleven. Those leaving are Captain Harold Kotsch, Ervin Fischer, and Adolph Frank. Ivan Fischer, the only scorer this year, will be back with Claude Burkart, and Ray Goetz in the backfield. With this combination, Stratford will be well represented.





KANN



GUSTEK



GOETZ



SEITZ



FAULKS



KIRSCH



KIPP



KALKOFF



DELL



HULTMANN



KAISER



GUST



SIMOLKE



PUFF



ALDRICH



MR. WESSLEN



HENDRICK



KAISER



SPENCER

STRATFORD H. S.

PORTRAITS BY COLBY

1940



CONDON



WEIN



WESTHEIM



NELLER



PLATTEKER



ZUELKE



ZEPPLIN



CHROUSER



BARNOWSKI



JESKE



PIQUET



FULLER



FRANK



TOELLE



B. LILLCE



SYRING



JOSI



SCHADOF



L. LILLCE



KUNKEL



L. Reed



W. Frieders



R. Schoenfuss



C. Wells



J. Dunow



R. Gerl



M.A. Bahr



V. Gawlikowski



B.A. Hein



B.J. ULLMAN



A. Lau



A. Bauer



F. Austin

CLASS OF 1949



M. Lanphere - Prin.



L. Kohlbeck



E. Kaiser



J. Dhein



L. Nikolai



M. Hartmann



A. Schmitz



R. Ulrich



H. Zophia

STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL



N. Weber



M. Guenther



M. Weichelt



D. Hartl



C. Leick



J. Guenther



W. Schlotthauer



L. Leick

TOBIEN STUDIO WAUSAU - WIS.



C. Knoll



M. Wix



J. Bradley



E. Jozwiak



The First Public School Classes. Courtesy Lillian Kroepin.



Class Photo dated 1904. This was taken in the old Town Hall which was used for kindergarten, first and second grades. Courtesy Mrs. Henry Zuelke

The identifications do not include which rows children are seated in. --- Hellfish, Ella Schmidt, Jack Lipke, --- Kroening, ---Reidel, ---Kohl, Wallace Dennee, ---Fitzgerald, Otto Gorr, George Goetz, Alma Goetz, ___ Kroening, Eva Stembler, Emma Kroening, Bill Curtain, Ed Kroening, Lilas Payne, Marie Klumb, Alma Klemme, Harry Garbish, Etta Goetz, Frieda Kroening, Zita Lawrie.



Stratford's first Public School Dated 1904. It was later rebuilt for a home. Courtesy of Marie Zuelke

Joe Brei, Amanda Zettler, --- Reidel, Walter Doll, Emil Zettler, Mary Brei, Frank Lillge, Bill Lipke, Alma Kroening, Donald Dennee, Emily DeMoss, Ed Marohl, Francis Lipke, Ida Klumb, Tillie Schmidtbauer, Margaret Dennee, --- Reidel, Harry Curtain, Adela Quade, Unice Bennet, --- Hellfish, Fred Goetz, Adeline Doll, Fred Thompson, --- Kohl, Art Marohl, Luella Klumb, Meta Lillge, ___ Stembler, Ray Allington.



First Grade Class, Miss Burry, Teacher. No Date or Identification. Courtesy Lillian Kroepflin.



New School, 1911 or 1912. Courtesy of Lillian Kroeplin



New School, 1911 or 1912. Mr. Waterman is the teacher. Courtesy of Mrs. Henry Zuelke



Stratford Grade School, 3rd & 4th Grades, 1920. Row 1 (front to back on right side of photo) Paul Verch, Kenneth Wiemer, Arthur Bartz, Lester Verch, Emil Warnke, Edward Hunt
 Row 2 - Robert Wells, Chas. Metzke, Erna Olm, Esther Radant, Victor Bartz, Melvin Heller, Theodore Zoellner, Clifford Chrouser, Leonard Kotsch, Harry Metzke
 Row 3 - Verna Aschbrenner, Gertrude Warnke, Lucille Schultz, Eunice Marohl, Delbert Frieberg, Albert Schultz, Otto Verch, Harvey Chrouser, Casper Pilarzyk
 Row 4 - Emanuel Yesse, Edna Krause, Helen Verch, Agnes Ulrich, Hilda Gorr, Mabel Lueck, Amelia Yesse
Courtesy of Verna (Aschbrenner) Skrenes.



Stratford Grade School, 7th & 8th Grades, 1926-27. Mable Raleigh, Teacher (not in picture) Row 1 - L to R. Elmer Frey, Ralph VanRyzin, Edgar Wendt, Harold Kotsch, Don Allington, Orville Leffel, LaVerne Radtke
 Row 2 - Robert Ziegler, Lila Wiemer, Dorothy Pupp, Rose Kruehn, Margret Heller, Anita Radtke
 Row 3 - Frank Miller, Adolph Frank, Eleanor Krause, Robert Verch, Edward Metzke
 Standing - Ruth Smith, Myrtle Lueck, Irene Frey
Courtesy of Robert Ziegler.

The number of students graduating in the Class of 1990 was 59. The 1991 commencement will be Stratford High School's 81st class to graduate and the 27th graduating class from the new high school. Attending Stratford High School during the community's centennial year in the class of 1991 are 78 seniors with plans to graduate at the commencement exercise on May 24, 1991.



1991

Stratford High School Typing Room, 1930

Michael Aldrich
 Charles Anderson
 Troy Beining
 John Bohman
 Michael Bornbach
 Dennis Brusky
 Lisa Dennee
 David Eckes
 Jeremy Egner
 Tara Egner
 Damon Englebretson
 Jean Forrest
 Dan Franz
 Jenny Gage
 Scott Gebelein
 Randy Greenberg
 Cindy Groff
 Gayle Hamann
 Ryan Hauke
 Jenny Hilgemann
 Jamie Hoffman
 Chris Hollatz
 Jill Hollatz
 Tina Joch
 Cindy Kaiser
 Rita Kaiser
 Shawn Karl
 Kraig Kramer
 Tammy Kuyoth
 Ricky Landwehr
 Greg Lato
 Tina Leffel
 Pat Leick
 Craig Leonhardt
 Catina LeVoy
 Ted Lyons
 Aleasha Mapes
 Amy Masanz
 Greg Masanz

Ryan McMeeken
 Elaine Nikolai
 Melanie Novak
 Eric Nyhagen
 Kim Obernberger
 Jeff Palmer
 Jamie Pankratz
 Brian Reif
 Cari Reif
 Valerie Robinson
 Dan Schallock
 Joe Schillinger
 Matt Schillinger
 Ed Schmidt
 John Schmidt
 Betsy Schmitt
 Tim Schoenherr
 Todd Schoenherr
 Diane Schroepfer
 Phil Schultz
 Jodi Schutz
 Sandy Schwabe
 Dawn Shuda
 Rae Ann Spindler
 Todd Stack
 Denise Strasser
 Mark Strasser
 Michelle Strasser
 Susan Stroetz
 Andy Turk
 Gary Vanderhoof
 Dick Varsho
 Chad Vetter
 Tracey Viegut
 Troy Weis
 Tom Wenzel
 Tammy Wiesman
 Heather Williams
 Pat Wrensch

The foreign exchange student attending Stratford High School for the 1990-91 school year is Hinrich "Rick" Friedrich Lange, Hamburg, Germany, son of Herrman and Ursula Lange. Hinrich's father is the school administrator for all the schools in Hamburg and his mother is a hospital physician. He has two older sisters at home.

Hinrich is enrolled as a member of the Junior class and his favorite subjects are music, history and English. When he returns to Hamburg, he will resume his studies at the Christia-neum Gymnasium School and expects to graduate in 1993, having completed the required thirteen years of education. He plans to attend a university after high school graduation; but at the present time is undecided on the course of study he will pursue.

At Stratford and when home, he is involved in music and is a member of a rock band. In Germany, Rick enjoys participation in soccer and European handball.

Arrangements for the opportunity for Hinrich to experience living in a small American town and to attend the Stratford High School were completed through the International Fellowship organization. He is impressed with the friendliness of the people in the community and believes the German student is challenged academically more than his American counterpart. Hinrich's parents away from home are George and Sharon Schmidt, rural Stratford.

The Stratford School District, in the centennial year of the community, has an asset investment of 7.8-7.9 million dollars in buildings and equipment. The 1990 school census shows a student population of 1,192 children in the district. The student enrollment in the school is 730 with 357 in grades K-6, 98 in junior high, and 275 in the high school. The district has 56 teachers on staff, 29 support personnel for a total of 85 employees.

There are 11 teachers in special education, 18 for elementary, three junior high and 24 in high school. Support personnel includes ten teacher aides, five secretarial, four custodians, five food service employees and library aides.

Teachers 1991

The centennial year teachers in Stratford Elementary and High School include:

Margaret Ball	Lia Klumpyan
Pamela Benes	Sheri Krueger
Cindy Beranek	Julie Levelius
Sharon Bluhm	Lori Lockhart
Tammy Boeger	Steve Mather
Margaretha Brubacher	Marilyn Meyers
Barry Brubaker	Joyce Owens
Amy Buchberger	Dennis Paulson
Aura Lea Carrell	Larry Peterson
Marthel Delaney	Arne Ruha
Robert Delaney	Gladys Ruha
Peter Derleth	Kathy Ruplinger
Linda Desormeaux	Richard Sawyer
Carol DeVault	Jennifer Scheuer
Lynn Fergot	Bryan Schilling
James Glenn	Janet Schmitt
JoAnn Gonnering	Marcia Schoessow
David Gouin	Gary Skerhutt
James Grady	Shirley Skerhutt
Mark Guderski	John Southworth
Jane Hafenbredl	Tammy Sytsma
Jean Haffa	Calvin Tackes
Wendy Heckendorf	Susan Teska
Michelle Hintz	Mark Totten
Kim Imhoff	Don Uthmeier
Julie Johnson	Becky Warren
Connie Jonett	Carol Wisnewski
Susan Karsten	Kelly Zielke

The support staff:	Ken Laessig
Elaine Becher	Norene Laessig
Shirley Bores	Cindy Leonhardt
Lois Clatterbuck	Robert Leonhardt
Lois Custer	Mary Mathiesen
William Dhein	Pam Neises
Mary Ann Drexler	Donna Reif
Wendy Drexler	Judy Schillinger
JoAnn Goes	Jeanette Schoenherr
Sally Greenberg	Mae Schroepfer
June Hannemann	Rosalie Simonton
Merle Huegel	Nancy Ulrich
Mary Ann Kaiser	Karen Viegut
June Krebsbach	Tammy Boyer
John Kress	Irene Wojcik

Todays Administration

The administration and management of the school system is done by Edwin E. Otto, Superintendent; Michael Young, High School Principal; Barbara Gaulke, Elementary Principal; Mark Kingston, High School Guidance; Mary Wussow, Elementary Guidance.

The 1990-91 board of education members are Kenneth Breit, president; Gilbert Leick, vice president; James Weichelt, treasurer; Barbara Wensch, clerk; Francis Nikolai, member.

School Transportation

Transportation to and from school in the early years was by walking or at best by horse. Later the automobile, while more comfortable would have difficulty in bad weather or blocked roads. Getting to school depended on a student's desire for an education and students living some distance from the school had to put forth a good deal of effort to accomplish their goal. With the increase in the number of students attending high school from the rural districts, the school bus concept came about.

Rupert Kurtzweil Sr., rural Stratford, owned and operated the first school bus to transport students to the Stratford High School. He started the bus service in November, 1937 and his was the first school bus in Marathon County.

Mr. Kurtzweil had purchased a used city bus from Stevens Point and converted it to a school bus holding about 30 students. The following year he purchased a new 40 passenger bus. He had only one bus and did all the driving, making two trips to and from school each day plus the athletic and field trips for the school. At that time the student paid for the transportation and it cost \$3 a month for riding the school bus.

Operating a farm and driving school bus demanded too much of Mr. Kurtzweil's time, so he sold the bus and routes to Paul Wensch, Stratford, in 1940. Mr. Wensch operated the bus service for only a short time before transferring ownership to Schoultz Bus Service owned by A. P Schoultz, Stratford.

In 1942 the Schoultz Bus Service was operating two buses and each vehicle was making two trips in the morning and again in the evening. Students riding the bus were attending the high school as the grade students were attending the rural schools.

During the early 1950's, Mr. Schoultz sold the buses and routes operating to the West of Highway 97 to Clifford Faulks Sr., rural Stratford. The Schoultz Bus Service continued to service the school district students to the East of Highway 97.

Ownership of the buses and routes operated by Mr. Faulks was transferred to Klemme Bus Service in the early 1960's and in 1989 Robert Ulrich, Stratford, purchased the equipment and routes. The Ulrich Bus Service is operating

seven buses during the 1990-91 school year for students residing to the West of Highway 97.

A. P. Schoultz's son, Richard, took over the operation of the Schoultz Bus Service in 1963 and later sold the equipment and routes to Dennis Kuyoth in 1987. The Kuyoth Bus Service is operating seven buses during the 1990-91 school year to serve the district students living East of Highway 97.

School bus drivers for the 1990-91 school year are: 26 years, Lloyd Domres, Joe Kaiser, Paul Hale; 25, Gene Adams, Edith Steiner; 23, Irene Seehafer; 20, Carol Fleisner, Pat Nikolai; 17, Rueben Syring; 14, Karen Pataska; 9, Dan Bohman; 4, David Syring; 2, Gordon Rundle.

The following are interesting stories and poems taken from "Flight", The Stratford Senior High School Literary Magazine, Spring 1990.

Gossip

One day in the bathroom at school, Jimmy and Johnny were eating beans. Jimmy started choking on the juicy jelly bean he was eating. Johnny excitedly yelled and asked "Are you choking, Jimmy?" When Johnny yelled this, Jazzy Joany was jumping by the bathroom door. She thought the two were smoking, so Jazzy Joany went and told the principal, Mr. Jackson.

Mr. Jackson got really excited and called Jimmy and Johnny's mothers and told them that Jazzy Joany saw Jimmy and Johnny smoking dope in the bathroom with some girls. Jimmy's mother called Jazzy Joany's mother and told her that Jazzy Joany sold marijuana to Jimmy and Johnny in the bathroom at school and they are together in the bathroom smoking it. While this was going on, Mr. Jackson called the Jeffersonville County Police Department and told them some kids were smoking dope in school. The Police Department heard it incorrectly and thought there was a big drug party at school. They brought in a bunch of police with machine guns and surrounded the bathroom.

At this time Jimmy and Johnny's parents got there, and Jazzy Joany's parents pulled up to school too. As the police pulled open the door to the bathroom, there stood Jimmy and Johnny eating their gigantic, Jumbo bag of juicy jelly beans.

Todd Schoenherr 11th Grade

Heat Versus Hay

Putting on my gloves, I walked outside; the sun was beating as hot as ever. I started to walk towards the barn where three wagons of hay waited to be unloaded. The three people who were mowing went up in the barn, and I started up the elevator and began to unload the wagon of hay.

The first fifteen to twenty bales were fine. Then they started to get somewhat heavier one by one. It seemed as though it was getting hotter. My mouth started to get dry and my face really hot.

Dad yelled from the haymow, "Unload faster!" I tried as hard as I could, but now it seemed as if my face sprinkled a little bit. My face started dripping with sweat; it was so hot. My mouth was so dry that when I swallowed, I swallowed the hay dust. With the little bit of wind that blew it was hard to see, because my eyes were watering from the chaff in them. I was so hot that my hands stuck to the fur inside my gloves, and I could feel the fur getting wet.

Finally, I lifted up the last bale and put it on the elevator. I walked up to the barn to get some ice cold water and could smell the salt that was thrown on the hot hay. I would rest just a few minutes and start to unload the next load of hay.

Michelle Strasser, 11th Grade

Prey

The sleek black cat hunts the mouse,
stalking through the night.

Silent,
ready to pounce.

Much as...

Death haunts its prey,

creeping slowly,

yet too fast for unsuspecting kills,

who scream in silent rage.

Then death makes one final lunge at
life's throat...

Darkness.

Dionne Emenecker, 12th Grade

Soul's Journey

Faith is believing,
knowing it will happen.

Never, never deceiving,

Singing, jumping, and clapping.

Light is beaming within you,

making everything bright.

Your friends are glowing too,

as you all walk toward the Light.

Love, trust, and hope,

Joining all as one.

All of us learning to cope,

as our time has finally come.

It is beautiful and simple,

never hurting anyone.

The brightness is ample,

the soul's journey is done.

Laurie Dennee, 12th Grade

Once Was Enough

Just as emotions change

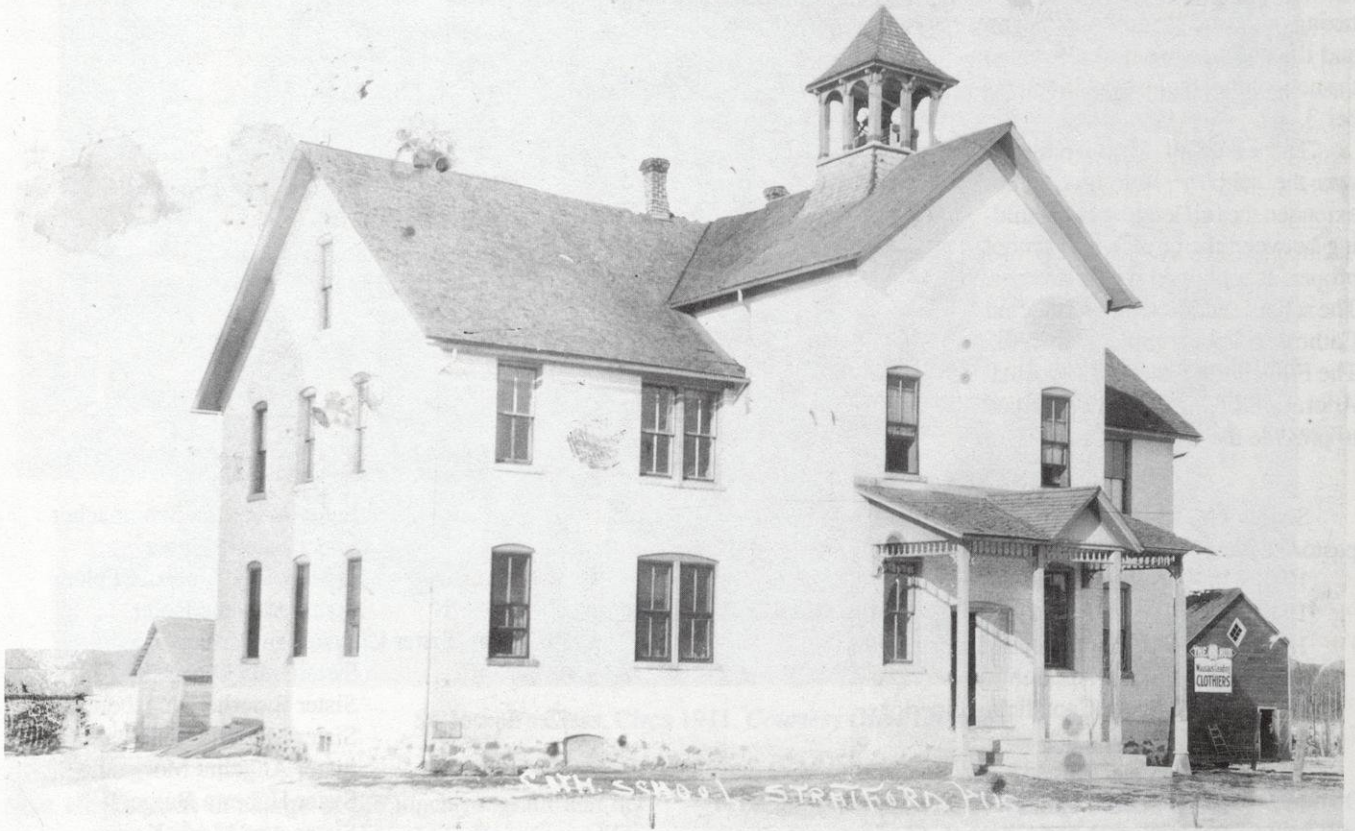
So have my feelings for you

I used to love you once

But once was enough.

Jenny Hilgemann, 11th Grade

St. Joseph's School



St. Joseph's Catholic Church built their first school in 1902. It was a four room wood frame house located 100 feet east of the church. At first only two rooms were required to begin the education of the children of the parish. The Franciscan sisters, two teachers and one house sister, occupied the other two rooms. When three classes were needed for the school the sisters were restricted to one room. Sister M. Raphael, Superior and Sister M. Lorretta served as teachers until 1904. Sister M. Tobia remained as house sister until 1906.

Other nuns serving during the early years were:

- 1905 - 1907 Sister M. Anastasia, superior
- 1906 - 1907 Sister M. Alfreda, House sister
- 1907 - 1911 Sister M. Anysia
- 1907 - 1908 Sister M. Irmina
- 1907 - 1912 Sister M. Julia

While Father Forster was in Stratford (1912 - 1917) he insisted that the school children learn to read and write in German as well as English. He believed this would keep them in close touch with the language spoken in many of the homes.

It was the custom to send children to the Catholic school the year they made their Solemn Communion. They would board with people in town and when that year was up they would go back to the country school nearest their homes, or in some cases quit school altogether. In 1913 the graduating class consisted only of young ladies.

Around 1915 it became apparent that the school, with increased enrollment, needed the room occupied by the sisters. Plans were made to build a separate convent. In 1916 a three story convent home was built. The first floor consisted of a living room, kitchen, dining and music room. The Chapel, center of convent life, was located on the second floor, and the sleeping quarters were on the third floor. The building still stands across the street to the east of the new convent. It is now owned by Joe Schmitz.

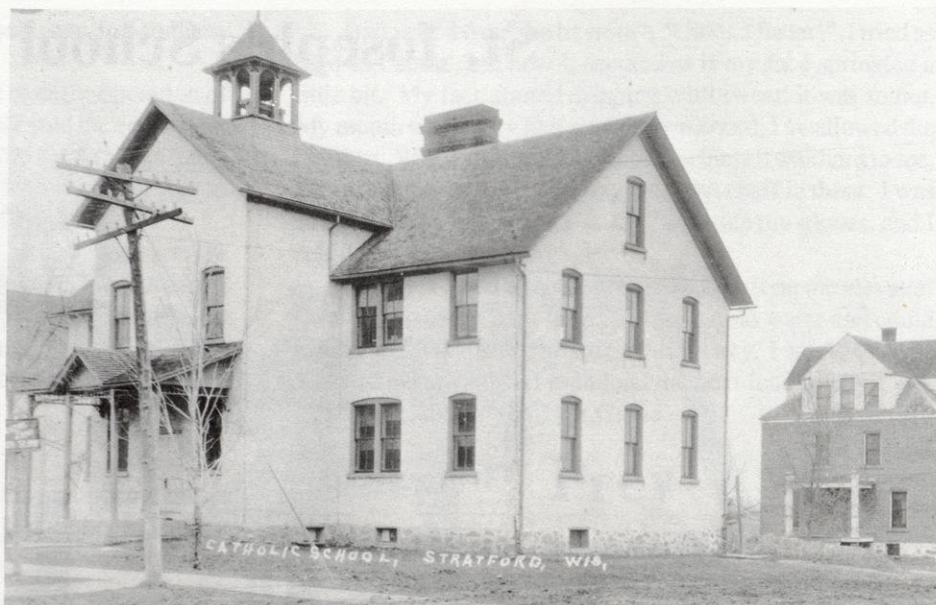
Sisters who staffed our school and convent during Father Forster's pastorate were:

- 1912 - 1915 Sister Adolphine, Superior
- 1912 - ? Sister Salome
- 1912 - 1914 Sister Beatrice
- 1915 - 1817 Sister Anysia, Superior
- 1915 - 1916 Sister Winanda
- 1915 - 1918 Sister Leandra
- 1915 - 1916 Sister Aquiline
- 1916 - 1922 Sister Alicia
- 1917 - 1918 Sister Rose, Superior
- 1907 - 1927 Sister Rita, House Sister

Unlike Father Forster, Father Schumacher encouraged the young people to speak, write and learn good English and confine their German speaking to their home and family.

On April 9, 1939, which was Easter Sunday, the congregation voted to erect the Church-School combination building. July 15th the razing of the old schoolhouse began and the children went to classes in the new school building on September 3.

The east half of the building was the school. A long corridor extended the full length of the building between the church and school proper. It contained six classrooms. The school section replaced the first Catholic school completed in 1902. The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration of La Crosse continued to provide the teaching staff.



Sisters who served the parish under Father Schumacher's pastorate were:

1918 - 1919 Sister Ambrose, Superior
 1919 - 1921 Sister Basilla
 1919 - 1921 Sister Romana, Superior
 1921 - 1928 Sister Alexine
 1921 - 1927 Sister Cantalicia, Superior
 1921 - 1924 Sister Luca
 1924 - 1925 Sister Aimee
 1924 - 1925 Sister Paulissa
 1924 - 1926 Sister Leona
 1925 - 1926 Sister Juliana
 1925 - 1927 Sister Germaine
 1926 - 1927 Sister Emanuel, Superior
 1927 - 1933 Sister Teresa
 1927 - 1928 Sister Charlene
 1928 - 1930 Sister Asteria
 1928 - 1930 Sister Theonilla
 1928 - 1931 Sister Placida
 1930 - 1933 Sister Danita
 1930 - 1941 Sister Alacoque, Superior
 1931 - 1932 Sister Denise
 1932 - 1934 Sister Gilberta
 1933 - 1938 Sister Mary Louise
 1934 - 1935 Sister Michaeline
 1933 - 1936 Sister Melania, Superior
 1935 - 1937 Sister Janice
 1935 - 1940 Sister Honorata
 1937 - 1939 Sister Frances Claire
 1938 - ? Sister Josara
 1938 - 1940 Sister Odilia
 1939 - 1941 Sister Celea
 1940 - 1941 Sister Julia
 1940 - 1941 Sister Viola
 1940 - 1941 Sister Huberta
 1942 - 1943 Sister Arsenia Felder
 Sister Emeline Ebbing

Sister Milburga Schumacher
 Sister Estelle Huber
 Sister Mary Ambrose Felder
 Sister Aloyene Rohn
 1943 - 1944 Sister Chrysologa Perkins
 Sister Julia Olbertz
 Sister Emerita Hingsberger
 Sister Macrina Engelhard
 Sister Angelita Morgando
 Sister Huberta Burger
 Sister Ann Marie Kerper
 1944 - 1945 Sister Chrysologa Perkins
 Sister Julia Olbertz
 Sister Emerita Hingsberger
 Sister Macrina Engelhard
 Sister Cecilita Asher
 Sister Corine Gund
 Sister Jonita Kundinger

House Sisters

1927 - 1928 Crispina
 1928 - 1930 Rita
 1930 - 1931 Jovita
 1931 - 1932 Edwardiana
 1932 - 1941 Emerita

Music Sisters

1920 - 1921 Sister Justina
 1921 - 1926 Sister Pulcheria
 1926 - 1929 Sister Annita
 1929 - 1936 Sister Justina
 1936 - 1937 Sister Irene
 1937 - 1941 Sister Justina

The Rev. Anthony Fischer came to St. Joseph's parish October 30, 1945. One of the first projects started under Father's guidance was the hot lunch program. More than 300 pupils of the parochial and public high school were served lunch during the school term in the school basement. Mrs.



St. Joseph's Class, Circa 1911. *Courtesy Olive Laessig*

Matt Hughes was in charge of the lunch program and her assistants were Mrs. Bill Bradley, Mrs. Mike Zenner and Mrs. John Fischer.

William H. Russell, a representative of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Production and Marketing Administration inspected St. Joseph's hot lunch project and reported that it was the best "set-up" in the state. He was surprised that the charge was only 15 cents and the meals so ample and nourishing. He said a similar meal anywhere else would cost at least 25 cents. Mrs. Hughes continued managing the program until 1958 when Mrs. Conway Weber assumed the duty.

The Rt. Rev. Monsignor A.N. Shuh came to Stratford on July 9, 1952. A highlight of 1953 was the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Franciscan Sisters' service to this parish. The grateful congregation feted them at a dinner and reception in the church hall. Trustees Bill Bradley and Jerome Kaiser presented them with a gift from the parish, and many of the societies also showed their appreciation in various ways.

A new beginning...a time to build again. To Monsignor fell the task of adding an addition to the school. A school built only fifteen years before was proving woefully inadequate for the heavy influx of students in the fifties. St. Joseph's school in 1938 was thought to be sufficiently large to take care of any future classes, but no one anticipated an enrollment of almost three hundred pupils.

School authorities recommend that no teacher be asked to teach more than 25 students, that classes larger than that do not

benefit the student as well as those of smaller size. Three of the classrooms at St. Joseph's had over fifty pupils, and the two smallest had forty-five. To cope with the increasingly large enrollment each year, a new addition of four classrooms and other utility rooms were added to the school. The addition was two stories, 97 by 38 with a complete basement. It provided two large, airy, light classrooms on each floor. The stairway was at the west end of the addition, and at the same end were the wash rooms, girl's on the first floor and boys on the second.

Members of the building committee were: Anton Schoultz, Al Raschke, George Burkart and Matt Kaiser. The trustees were Jerome Kaiser, Jerry Bradley and Monsignor Schuh. The finance committee members were Joseph Kaiser and Dale Smith, co-chairmen, Gilbert Leick, Secretary and E. A. Becher, Treasurer.

The Franciscan Sisters who taught during the years 1952 to 1955 were:

- Sister Naomi Namer
- Sister Deotilla Schmitz
- Sister Juanita Kiernan
- Sister Flaviana Baissl
- Sister Agnesette Basteyns
- Sister Rose Eileen Biehl
- Sister DeLessis Sargent
- Sister Theophilia
- Sister Sharon McChesney
- Sister Innocence Ryan

Sister Rosalinda Bornheimer
 Sister Delphine Pedretti
 Sister Mary T. Flaherty
 Sister Mary Marvin Bellinghausen

With the increase in school enrollment which then numbered almost 400, the teaching staff likewise increased. Hence in 1959, Father Udulutch saw fit to build a spacious block and brick convent just east of the school with an interconnecting passage. This lovely, well lighted corridor just above the main entrance was used for music students. It has since become the school office.

The sisters who staffed the school during the years 1955 to 1963 were:

Sister Innocence Ryan
 Sister Alfreda Lawrence
 Sister Florence Wurzer
 Sister Venard Neppel
 Sister Flavis Hennig
 Sister M. Thomas Flaherty
 Sister M. Marvin Bellinghausen
 Sister Valorie Nehl
 Sister Olivia Cox
 Sister M. Andrew Radetski
 Sister Janet Abts
 Sister Mary Myron Stork
 Sister Michaeline Peters
 Sister Pierre Liewer
 Sister Donna Hytry
 Sister Therese McGarr
 Sister Pierre Liewer
 Sister Donna Hytry
 Sister Aquiline Mueller
 Sister Susanna Pikus
 Sister Raphaella Underberg
 Sister Magloire Hornick
 Sister Mary Timothy O'Neill
 Sister Jelen Jean Brinkman
 Sister Serena Schmitt
 Sister Coronatta Borte
 Sister Mary Luke Dalsky
 Sister Maryann Gossling
 Sister Jean Patrice Rondorf
 Sister Huberta Burger
 Sister Eustasia Lappe
 Sisters who served St. Joseph's from 1963 through

1969 were:

Sister Helen Jean Brinkman
 Sister Michaline Peters
 Sister Raphaella Underberg
 Sister Huberta Burger
 Sister Mary Luke Dalsky
 Sister Pierre Liewer
 Sister Jean Patrice Rondorf
 Sister Marie Chantal Kopet
 Sister Bernard Ann Schutte
 Sister Wilhemine Brenner

Program

Closing Exercises

St. Joseph's School

STRATFORD, WISCONSIN

June 13, 1918

How We'll Help to Win the War. Chorus
 Soldiers of the U. S. Garden Army

Drama "A Cup of Coffee"

Characters

Mrs. Mathilda Ryan Lillian Davel
 Mrs. Rose O'Brien Agnes Jeske
 Alice, Mathilda's friend Anna Jicinsky
 Jennie, Mathilda's maid Margaret Bradley
 A Saleswoman Edna Hablewitz
 A Collector Laurina Jaeger
 A Cobbler's Wife Dorothy Brunner
 Two Children | Beatrice Wagner
 | Marcella Jaeger

A Spring Song The Little Ones
 The Baby Show The Little Girls

OPERETTA "Old Glory" or "The Boys of '76"

Characters

General Putman Philip Fischer
 Colonel Stocum Louis Laessig
 Major Sniffin Anthony Riehle
 Joe Mason Frank Diermeier
 Simple Peter, the Village Dolt Herman Framberger
 Tom Payson, a guard Alexander Wagner
 Hans, a young Hessian Soldier Carl Aschenbrenner
 Professional Tramps } Red Rube Edward Brunner
 } Ike Myron Kaiser
 } Spider Edward Eisner
 Village Boys and Hessian Soldiers

Conferring of Diplomas and Class Pins,
 Rev. J. L. Schumacher

GRADUATES

NINTH GRADE

Lillian Davel
 Dorothy Brunner
 Agnes Jeske
 Margaret Bradley
 Philip Fischer

EIGHTH GRADE

Edward Brunner
 Myron Kaiser
 Anthony Riehle



St. Joseph's Class in 1917. *Courtesy of Anton Drexler* (L to R) Row 1. Anton Drexler, John Yaeger, Rueben Davel, Ray Kilman, Marion Fahey, Dorothy Aschenbrenner, Delia Hablewitz, unknown. Row 2. Mark Wagner, Irvin Hablewitz, Bub Schelp, Ray Diermeir, unknown, unknown, Marie Walters, Marian Spaeth, Susan Reed, Lilas Grassl, unknown. Row 3. Unknown, unknown, unknown, Casper Drexler, unknown, Frank Resch, Lucy Stueber, Josephine Walters, Barbara Framberger, Catherine Schuttee. Row 4. Unknown, unknown, unknown, Bill Hughes, unknown, Frank Obernberger, Teresa Junoemann, Lucille Edinger, unknown, Hazel Kohl, Fern Aschenbrenner, Margaret Schriener.

Sister M. Raphael Christensen
 Sister Floricita Mesa
 Sister Ethelrede Murray
 Sister M. Ann Rafael Curran
 Sister Delrita Schneider
 Sister Francina Leibold
 Sister Huberta Burger
 Sister M. Luke Dalsky
 Sister Verda Kraemer
 Sister Marguerite Hagman
 Sister Gloria Huebsch
 Sister Colette Hahn
 Sister Odilia Buddge
 Sister Marie Antoine Herian
 Sister Joyce Schmitt
 Sister Constantia Kowalski
 Sister Mary Gwen Weisenbeck
 Sister Delores Schneider, Principal
 Sister Lorraine Herian
 Sister Mary Ellen Huebsch
 Sister Odilia Budde
 Sister Shirly Straub
 Sister Theresa Kowalski

In the summer of 1970 rumors were flying all over the village that St. Joseph's school would close, or part of the grades would transfer to the public schools. This was a time,

when because of finances, many Catholic schools in the area and around the country were closing. In August Father Abts assured the congregation that St. Joseph's had "no intention" of closing our school and all children should be registered as usual

On April 9, 1971, Father Abts announced the following: "Through their earnest efforts and great dedication your faculty, lay and Sisters, have been successful in getting a \$4,000 grant from Title II." This money would be spent for the materials needed to set up the Individual-Instruction-Program.

Sisters who staffed the school during the years 1969 to 1973 were:

Sister Delores Schneider
 Sister Joyce Schmitt
 Sister Lorraine Herian
 Sister Mary Helen Schara
 Sister Mary Louise Mutch
 Sister Theresa Kowalski
 Sister Mary Ellen Huebsch
 Sister Mary Ellen Collins
 Sister Luanne Dekker
 Sister Clara Mae Kuempel
 Sister Susanna Pikus
 Sister Marguerite Hagman
 Sister Mercita Weis

Father Wavra's pastorate continued the development of a new educational concept in St. Joseph's School called 'Individualized Instruction.' This included the upgrading and increase of many school facilities and materials.

Parish Board of Education

Father Thome established the first Parish Board of Education in May 1968. This board, along with Father and the school principal, was to determine all policies for all the forms of Christian Education in the parish. These include: The

parish school, the CCD religion classes, the CCD high school religion classes and the study clubs for Adult Christian Education.

The first meeting of the Parish Board of Education was held May 16, 1969. The members serving then were Roman Theurer, Arnie Steines, Mrs. Ernest Kunkel, Father Thome, Sister Delores and Mrs. Walter Wallschlaeger.

Some of the things done by the new board were the formulating of a salary schedule, a constitution and a handbook of school policy. Persons who have since served on this board are Lawrence Steines, Ronald Polster and Roland Kirsch.



8th Grade Graduating Class, St. Joseph's Catholic School, Spring of 1923

(L to R) Row 1. Roland Chrouser, Marvin Kieffer, Reuben Oettinger, Sylvester Laessig, Glen Hughes, Joseph Wenzel. Row 2. Leona Leick, Agnes Brunner, Olive Marohl, Lottie (Loretta) Schreiner, Mary Diermeier, Marcella Spaeth. Row 3. Eleanor Kuehlman, Esther Schelb, Rose Meixner, Edna Merklein, Elsie Brei, Evelyn Felix, Florence Kurtzweil, Violet Kohel

St. Joseph's PTA

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) was organized and held its first meeting October 29, 1953. It was called the "Home-School Association" and had its beginning under the supervision of the Rt. Reverend Monsignor Alphonse Schuh, pastor, and Sister Naomi, school principal.

Donald Schultz was appointed chairman and Mrs. Walter Dhein was appointed secretary.

A constitution was drawn up by Jerome Kaiser, Dale

Smith and Mrs. Ted Wagner with Father Schuh acting in an advisory capacity. The constitution was adopted at the December 7, 1953 meeting.

The first elected officers were: President, Joseph Wenzel; Vice-President, Arnie Steines; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Walter Dhein. These officers were elected at the April 22, 1954 meeting.

Through the years, the organization has been responsible for many informative programs, as well as many successful projects for the benefit of St. Joseph's school and parish.



St. Joseph's 8th Grade Graduation About 1925 Courtesy of the Tony Drexler Family

(L to R) Row 1. Leo VanDerLeest, Dorothy Aschenbrenner, Wm. Meixner, Delia Hablewitz, Orville Hughes. Row 2. Valerie Platterer, Caroline Wenzel, Margaret Schreiner, Rose Junemann, Lilas Grassl, Dorothy Kiermeier. Row 3. Ed Stueber, John Yaeger, Mark Wagner, Casper Pilarzyk, Joe Felhofer, Anton Drexler, Clarence Leick



The 1928 Graduation Class of St. Joseph's

(L to R) Row 1. Sylvester "Pinky" Rock, Fred Jaeger, Kenny Weber, Oliver Kaiser, Allie Leick, Bernice Kaiser and Margaret Junemann. Row 2. Royal Klein, Clem Steines, William Murphy, Willard Weber, Anna Jacobson, Elsie Meixner, Susan Steines (now a nun) and Elenor Weber. Row 3. John Diermeier, Roman Spaeth, Leon Kaiser, Warren Murphy, Marie Schroeffer, Florence Grambow.



The Eighth Grade Graduation Class of 1933

(L to R) Row 1. Mary (Wenzel) Mayer, Alice (Meyer) Steiner, (Diploma Bearers): James Grassl, Rita (Kann) Roggenbauer, Mary Carol (Chrouser) Stotmeister and Calvert Raugh, Albertine (Frankwick) Lassa, Betty (Hayes) Gebert (dec.). Row 2. Donald Chrouser, Alfred Wenzel, Doris (Laessig) Schmitt, Genevieve (Strachota) Kennedy, Fern (Jost) Van Ryzin, Mercedes (Kann) Krause, Agnes (Junemann) Brandle, Arnold Steines, William Zenner. Row 3. Peter Steines, Arnold Diermeier (dec.), Ruben Hablewitz, Edward Becher, Raymond Steines, Rupert Aschenbrenner, Gilbert Simolke, Rupert Gilles.



St. Joseph's 8th Grade Graduating Class 1945 Courtesy Coleen Austin

(L to R) Row 1. Maryann Bahr, Joanne Guenther, Delores Hartl, Father Peters, Lorraine Kohlbeck, Audrey Bauer, Maryann Wiesman. Row 2. Emanuel Sherman, Elaine Kaiser, Betty Ann Hein, Joyce Bradley, Lorraine Reed, Cecilia Leick, Margaret Wenzel, Theodore Grassl. Row 3. Ray Handrich, Marcella Kroening, Joan Dhein, Lucille Nikolai, Agnes Schmitz, Lucille Leick, Rosemary Schoenfuss, Edward Jozwiak. Row 4. Wilbert Wiesman, Francis Austin, Mae Wix, Cordelia Adams, Albert Raschke, Margie Kaser, Marion Stack, Silvan Kaiser.

St. Joseph's School 1990-1991 Teachers

Ted Mickelson,
Principal; Religion 7-8; Social Studies 6-7
Miss Marcia Konkol;
Kindergarten P. M. ; Computer Literacy all grades
Sister Mary Eve Hytry: First grade
Miss Donna Schallock; Second grade
Mrs. Laura Straub: Third grade
Mrs. Eunice Potts: Fourth grade; 5 math & science
Mrs. Joan Wood: Fifth grade; 4 religion & language
Mrs. Kathryn Krause: Sixth grade religion, science &
math ; 7-8 science & math
Mrs. Kathleen Garnett:
Language arts, reading 6-7-8: Social studies 8

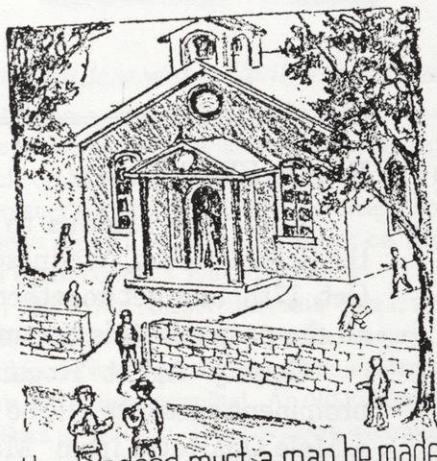
Mrs. Jane Lamermayer: Music 1-8
Mrs. DeEtta Peterson: Phy Ed 1-8; Art 6-7-8
Mrs. Marie Burke: Aide
Mrs. Peggy Weigel: Aide
Mrs. Virginia Forrest: Secretary

1990-1991 PTA

James Glenn, President
Agnes Kaiser, Vice President
Joanne Brusky, Secretary
Linda Rock, Treasurer

Education Committee
Mark Kaiser, President
Sally Chrouser, Secretary
Joseph Gliniecki, Mrs. Dianna McMeeken, Keith
Bombach

Bits of Nostalgia



Hard indeed must a man be made
By the toil and traffic
of gain and trade
Who loves not the spot
where a boy he played

WASHINGTON SCHOOL
District No. 6
Cleveland Township,
Marathon County, Wisconsin

IRENE KURTZWEIL, Teacher

PUPILS

Julia Riehle	Kate Bradley
Irvin Belanger	Frank Bradley
Russell Burdick	Gertrude Burdick
Ambrose Riehle	Henry Marohl
Ernest Belanger	Alven Riehle
Mildred Howe	Rosie Burdick
Roy Howe	James Yates
Dorothy Lee	Doris Lee
Minnie Simolke	Clara Simolke
Josephine Riehle	Clara Burdick
Alfred Marohl	Dan Bradley
Arthur Belanger	Viola Howe
George Belanger	Anthony Riehle

Louis M. Lee, Clerk
John Riehle, Director
Andrew Simolke, Treasurer

From Washington School, District No. 6 Cleveland Township, 1910



Grant School, 1914 - Ethel Faleske, teacher. Courtesy Cecelia Marohl.



DEAR FRIENDS:

I am very anxious to meet you at the School House, Wednesday evening, Oct. 17th, in a get together meeting of all the people in this community. 1924

County Agent Rogan and other prominent speakers will be with us, also a Male Quartette from Marshfield will render a few selections.

The ladies are requested to bring lunch.

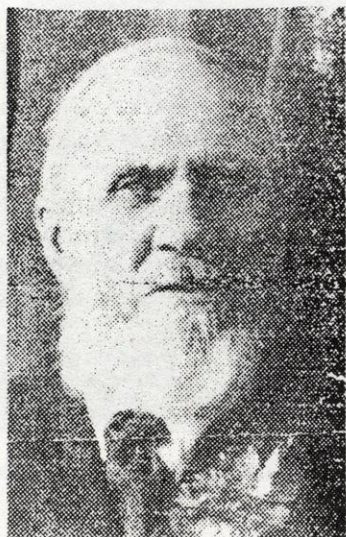
Sincerely yours,
MARION E. BEVER,
Teacher.

Dist. No. 4, Town of Cleveland.

Stratford

"We Serve Our Country"

The Civil War



Stratford Resident was a Civil War Veteran

Fred Aschbrenner, an early Stratford resident, served his country in the Civil War. The Wausau Record Herald published an article on March 3, 1921 on the occasion of Mr. & Mrs. Aschbrenner's 50th Wedding Anniversary and the Marshfield News Herald published an article on March 3 1930 in honor of the couple's 59th anniversary.

"It was in 1856," Mr. Aschbrenner said "that I, with my parents, brothers, and sisters, landed in this country... We traveled by rail from New York to Milwaukee and from there to Beaver Dam, the railroad terminal. An old Indian trail led from Beaver Dam to Wausau. From Wausau we traveled to the town of Berlin, some fourteen miles north of Wausau. We purchased our land for a dollar and a quarter per acre.

"In the spring of 1862, President Lincoln issued a call for volunteers. It did not take me long to make up my mind to answer this call by enlisting. In the company of twenty four young men, who had also answered the invitation to enlist, I was sent to Madison where after drilling for several months, we were sent south."

Mr. Aschbrenner was a member of Company I, First regiment of the Wisconsin cavalry with Lieutenant Little, and in July, 1863, the regiment broke camp to report at St. Louis, Missouri. Company I was actively engaged in thirty battles. After a service of two years and eight months, Mr. Aschbrenner received his honorable discharge from the service of the United States.

He married Bertha Kluender on March 3, 1871 In 1902 they moved to Stratford where they farmed until 1910. The farm was taken over by their son Henry, who erected a home for them on Highway 97, where they lived for many years. Mr. Aschbrenner died December 29, 1935 at the age of 96. Mrs. Aschbrenner died January 7, 1936 at the age of 87.

The following have been identified as Stratford Area individuals who served in the Civil War:

Paul Heffnar
William Hein
Henry Nelson
Adam Oettinger
Joseph Sawyer
Frederick Aschbrenner

World War I

The following list is from the Stratford Journal:

World War I Veterans

Andrew Hekedish
Peter Kaser
Fred Guenther
Christ Buche
John Helmke
Harold Wicker
Emmet Colvin
John Spencer
Hugo Schafrich
Paul Zettler
William Pupp
John Stuhr
Walter VanRyzin
Fred Lillge
Andrew Passehl
Richard Polege
Lawrence Borchardt
Anton Borchardt
Arthur Burkhardt
Henry Wallman
Albert Spindler
Charles Bean

John Landwehr
 Henry Lillge
 Henry Toelle
 William Stotmeister
 Joseph Brei
 Roger Schuette
 Andrew McGivern
 Henry Steiner, Sr.
 Louis Schreiner
 Herbert Garbisch
 Jacob Morris
 Edward Wagner
 Frank Weber
 Anton Weber
 Alex Piontek
 Charles Kaiser
 Frank Laessig
 Geroge Kann, Sr.
 William Bradley
 Michael Zenner
 Leo Platteter
 Thomas Simolke
 John Kroening
 Ervin Belanger
 Jacob Drexler
 Charles Drexler
 James Hayes
 Andrew McGivern
 Leo Schelb
 Joseph Resch
 Barney Skaya
 Albert Riehle
 Albert Schmidt

Letters Home

The back issues of the Stratford Journal contained many letters from area men serving in World War I. They provide a glimpse of the times.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Popp received the following letter from their son, William, from somewhere in France:

June 20, 1918

Dear Mother and Father:

Will drop you a few lines to let you know that I am well, and hope to remain in the very best of health, hoping that this letter will find you all the same.

We have been having very fine weather here, up to a few days ago, when it started to rain and is raining today, and have enough rain now to last for a month. I hope it will stop soon as the trenches get muddy, but the boys don't think of the mud at all, when they see a German they are all anxious to take a shot at him.

Well how is everybody around home now, I suppose they are busy putting in crops, and taking care of their gardens. The people over here have very nice gardens and they sure do take care of them, as they have to raise everything in the line of food from their gardens.

It is just haying time over here now, the people have lots of hay cut and ready to haul in, but too much rain, what hay is cut is likely to spoil, and the people here haven't any to lose. You ought to see the old women out in the fields, some are so old they can hardly walk, but they have to get out in the field in order to get the crops in.

You wrote about writing a nice letter about the country and the people; but as things are, a fellow can't write much over in this country, and any how if there are any fellows that would like to know what this country looks like let them enlist and come across, the more men over here, the better chance we have with the enemy.

I am taking a medical treatment for my blood, and am not with the company at present, but expect to get back very soon.

Will close for this time, tell everybody hello for me, that I'm still feeling fine. Closing with best wishes and regards. Hoping to return to you soon.

From your loving son,
 William H. Popp

From Stratford Journal, July 5, 1918

More Selects Notified

The following are some of the boys who received their notices to report for Military Service, and will leave here Monday, July 8.

Paul Zettler, Mike Fisher, Fred Lillge, Frank Sweickhoefer, Joe Hayes, Bill Stemler.

From Stratford Journal, Aug. 9, 1918

A Soldier's Letter

Mr. & Mrs. William Spencer, Sr. received the following letter from their son, William, from somewhere in France:

June 23, 1918

Dear Folks:

Just a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same. Well how is everything at home? I suppose you have all your crops in by this time. Everything looks nice around here.

We are in a nice place now, and the people around here certainly use us fine. They do all they can to make it like home for us.



William Spencer. *Courtesy of Don Schnitzler*



John Drexler, *Courtesy Anton Drexler*

We are having some time trying to learn to speak French. But I think we will get along alright. The girls try hard to teach us. Say don't be surprised if I bring one of them home with me when I come back, ha, ha!

Has John gone to training camp yet? I know he will like it as I do, I don't want anything any better than army life for me. The boys think its worse than it really is.

Well this is all for this time as news is scarce.

Now don't worry, mother, if it's God's will we will all be back again.

Good bye, with lots of love.

Your son,
William Spencer.

From Stratford Journal, March 7, 1919:

Returning Soldiers

Corp. Chester Breaw arrived home from overseas Tuesday night.

Albert Hein returned from Camp Hancock Ga., the first of the week.

Alfred Huebner returned home Monday.

Corp. August Weber, who has been in the service the past nine months, 5 months in France, arrived here Friday on a visit to his father.

Jake Drexler arrived home Monday on a fifteen day furlough.

From Stratford Journal, May 2, 1919

Soldier's Letter

The following letter was received by Mr. and Mrs. George Wagner, from their son, George, who is in France:

Sougy, France,
March 30, 1919

Dear Parents, Brothers and Sisters,

Will drop you a few lines tonight to let you know I received your most welcome letter.

I think Herman Wenzel will be home before I leave France. The Remounts have a lot of work to do yet, so I will be here for some time. We got about 5,000 horses in camp now, and they are still coming in, these horses all got to be sold to the French. We sold quite a few already but there are a lot more to sell. A few days ago the Remounts and Vets took a bunch out of here to three different places, the bunch I went with was gone three days. The 2nd day of April I will leave for about four days with 100 horses. So you see I am busy working for my Uncle most of the time. Ha, Ha. Two weeks ago they sent some horses that were no good for work, to Germany to make baloney. I bet they taste good. Ha, Ha.

It is about three weeks ago that I came back from my furlough, but did not take time to write about my sightseeing trip. I was in Paris about 8 hours, seen quite a few churches and was in the Notre-Dame. It sure is a fine building, also seen the tomb of Napoleon. I got cards of most of the places, so

when I get home I will show and explain them to you. I went to Monte-Carlo down on the border of the Mediterranean Sea. Menton is the place where I stayed.

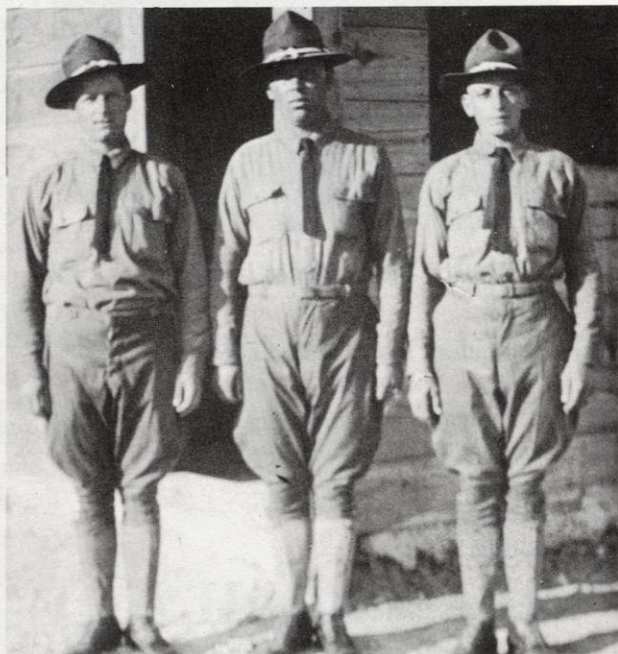
One day I was up in the Alps, that was the most snow I seen this winter, also was in Italy.

The French are seeding about two weeks already. We are having all kinds of rain here, that is what we had all winter, it never froze and they were plowing all winter.

Received those pictures that Theda took and surely was glad to see all you folks, you all look the same as you did when I left. The house looks good.

This is all the news for tonight so will close with best regards to you all and hope these lines will find you all the same as they leave me.

With love,
Your son and brother,
GEORGE



(l-r) Joe Drexler, Jake Drexler and unknown (May have been a Firnstahl) *Courtesy of Anton Drexler*

From the Stratford Journal, June 20, 1919

Biggest Celebration Ever At Stratford, July 4, 1919

Get ready for the glorious fourth for there will be something doing from sun-up to sun-set.

The program of the day will start at 10:00, with a grand street parade, participated in by all returned soldiers and sailors, mothers of the service men, Red Cross society, Loyalty Legion and Fraternal Orders. Orations by prominent speakers, games, sports, races in the afternoon, cash prizes. Baseball game, fireworks in the evening, the biggest display ever, dancing, amusements galore.



John Spencer. *Courtesy of Don Schnitzler*

From Stratford Journal, June 27, 1919
Peace Has Come

Peace has come and many of our heroes have already returned. The village and business men have gone to a great expense to make this event the greatest ever.

Much interest has been manifested since the amounts of prizes offered for feasts and decorated cars have been announced. Business men are working overtime "dolling up" floats and cars.

The parade will begin at 10:00. It will be led by the band and all the returned soldiers and sailors from Stratford and surrounding country, followed by their mothers in automobiles.

Dr. J.J. Schreiber and F.A. Semmelback will lead in community singing.

Later there will be a snappy exhibition drill by YOUR soldiers. At the close of the drill the boys will stand retreat, a daily formation in the army when all soldiers pay respect to our flag and National Anthem.

In the evening you will hear another concert and dancing will commence at the Opera house at 9 p.m.

At 9:30 the committee will touch off the greatest display of fire and color you have ever witnessed.

From Stratford Journal, June 27, 1919

Home From Overseas

Claude V. Pearson, who has been serving in the U.S. Army the past year, here and overseas, received his honorable discharge and arrived home Tuesday, from Camp Grant. He was called into the service May 3rd, 1918, and served most of the time overseas.

Emmett Colvin returned home from Camp Grant Wednesday, where he received his honorable discharge from service. He was called into the service May 3rd, 1918 and served 10 months overseas.

Robert Kohlmansberger and Bernard Zophia, who have been serving in the U.S. Navy, here and overseas, received their release from service and arrived home Monday from Camp Grant.

Charlie Bean, who has been in the military service here and overseas the past year, returned home Tuesday from Camp Grant, where he received his honorable discharge.

From the Stratford Journal, January 7, 1921

Stratford Honors Dead War Hero

With Flags at Half-mast, Business Houses Close and People Stand with Bowed Heads as Procession Passes. American Legion Escort and Firing Squad in Uniform Pay Tribute to the Memory of Andrew T. Hekedish, who Made the Supreme Sacrifice for his Flag and Country.

Local Post Named in

Honor of Andrew T. Hekedish

Funeral services for Andrew T. Hekedish, were held in Stratford last Monday at St. Joseph's Catholic church. Requiem mass was said by the Rev. Fr. Schumacher, pastor and interment made in the Stratford Catholic cemetery.

The body of Andrew T. Hekedish, hero of the world war who died of wounds received in action arrived in Stratford last

Friday afternoon and was received by a committee of honor in uniform from the local American Legion, who carried the flag draped casket to the undertaking rooms of Ritger & Platteter to lay in state till the time set for the funeral services. At 8:30 Monday morning Bugler Joseph Drexler sounded "Assembly" and the call was responded to by about 40 ex-soldiers from Stratford and surrounding territory in uniform. The casket was carried by Ted Steiner, W.W. Wyman, Jr., Walter Doll, Herman Wenzel, James Hayes and Henry Zuelke, all ex-service men in uniform from the undertaking parlor to the street where the American Legion organization in command of Fred W. Goetz, post adjutant, stood at attention. Business was suspended in Stratford during the funeral services and the streets were filled with people who came to pay their tribute of respect to one who gave his life for his country on the field of battle. The procession to the church was led by the post adjutant, acting commander and the chaplain and the American flag under armed escort. The colors were carried by Charles Raugh, Wm. Laessig and Jacob Drexler as guards. Following was the firing squad consisting of over-sea soldiers, James Bean, Peter Rodesch, John Heinzen, Jr., Jacob Heinzen, Charles Kaiser, James Schroepfer, Ray Leonard and William Stemler, commanded by ex-sergeant Joseph Brei. Following this division was a large escort of ex-service men in uniform in command of Frank E. Laessig.

After the services at the church the cortege moved in the same formation to the cemetery where the burial service was read and the firing squad fired a salute of three volleys, after which taps were sounded by the post bugler.

Andrew T. Hekedish, son of Joseph H. Hekedish was born December 21, 1895. He entered the United States Army May 25 and received his military training at Camp Custer, Michigan and left for overseas duty with the famous 85th Division in July 1918. He was later transferred to the 4th Infantry, 3rd Division and went with that organization into the Muese-Argonne front. On October 5, 1918 he was severely wounded and admitted to a field hospital where he died the 26th of October.

World War II

World War II Veterans

Henry Kremin
Mike Novak
Ernest Belanger
Melvin Wiesman
Walter Schoppenhorst
Victor Handricks
Frank Jeske
Gerald Bradley
Harold Schroepfer
Mark Wiesman
Ray Wiesman
Glenn Kohel

Arnold Diermeier
Edward Dvorak
Edward Meixner
Donald Schoenfuss
Harold Grassl
Anton Bohman
Clarence Hoffmann
Ernest Matthes
Mike Pflingstl
John Leonhardt, Jr.
Joe Jost

Stratford Journal, Feb 20 1941

Several Join Army

Several young men from this vicinity joined the army in the last few days. Robert Wix, Paul Forest and William Staadt, all of the town of Eau Pleine, and Leonard Kirschbaum, Raymond Wiesman and Herbert Frickestein of the town of Cleveland enlisted and left Wausau for a year's training.

Bert Brunner and Charles Doll went to Wausau and enlisted for three years in the Air Corps.



World War II Honor Roll

In March of 1941, the Stratford Journal advertised that it would send the Stratford Journal Free to all enlisted men from Stratford and the surrounding communities. By April 21 soldiers were receiving the paper. On May 10 more were added.

Stratford Journal December 16, 1943

Local Soldier Takes Part in the invasion of Italy

Parents receive letter Describing First Landings

Nov. 5, 1943

Dear Folks,

Will drop a few lines to let you know that I'm still O.K. and in the best of health, and also to hope to find everyone at home the same. The nights and mornings are quite chilly here, but suppose it is colder back home.

Well, they gave us permission to tell of some of our combat experience. I have seen action. Our outfit was the very first American troops to invade the European continent and I was one of them. We sure got a hardy reception of bullets and shrapnel, but most of us got through. It's true we had losses, but that had to be expected. I also went through several

other battles for some of these towns, but the morning we got off the assault boats was the worst. The only thing I got out of it was a very small scratch on my arm from crawling through barb wire entanglement, but it didn't even need any medical attention. That was the morning we made the landing on the beach. We were trapped by a number of tanks once while we were advancing toward some high hills, they had us pinned down there for some time when finally the artillery got the range on them and knocked out a number of them, then the others that were left, turned and beat it. After that we continued our advance. They also shelled us for some three or four days and nights once, but they didn't do much damage.

One never knows what war is really like until he's actually been under fire, but I've come through OK so far and am still gong strong, and we'll never stop until we've driven them into Berlin or until they get down on their knees and beg for peace. I've seen several incidents that made my blood boil. Let's hope we'll end it soon.

Well, I guess thats all I know for now. Don't worry about me, I'll be all right, and I hope I'll be home next year by this time.

Best regards to all
Love, Harry (Schroepfer)



Adolph A. Frank



George H. Frank



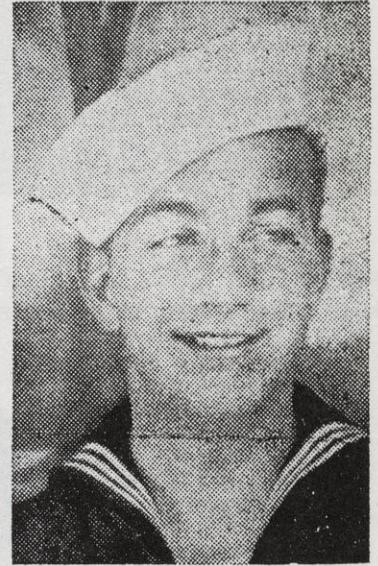
Lloyd T. Frank

STRATFORD COUPLE HAVE 5 IN SERVICE

Sixth Son is Preparing to
Enlist in U. S. Army
Air Corps



Harold W. Frank



Donald C. Frank

Stratford Journal July 13, 1944

Donald Steiner Returns to Service After Being Prisoner Over a Year

Don Was Captured by Italians in Africa on Feb. 1, 1943. Word was received by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Steiner from the war department that their son, Donald, who had been a prisoner of war, was returned to duty.

Donald Steiner, age 24, went into the army in Jan. 1942, and went across in either April or May, 1942.

He was captured at the battle of Kasserine pass in Africa by the Italians, Feb. 1, 1943.

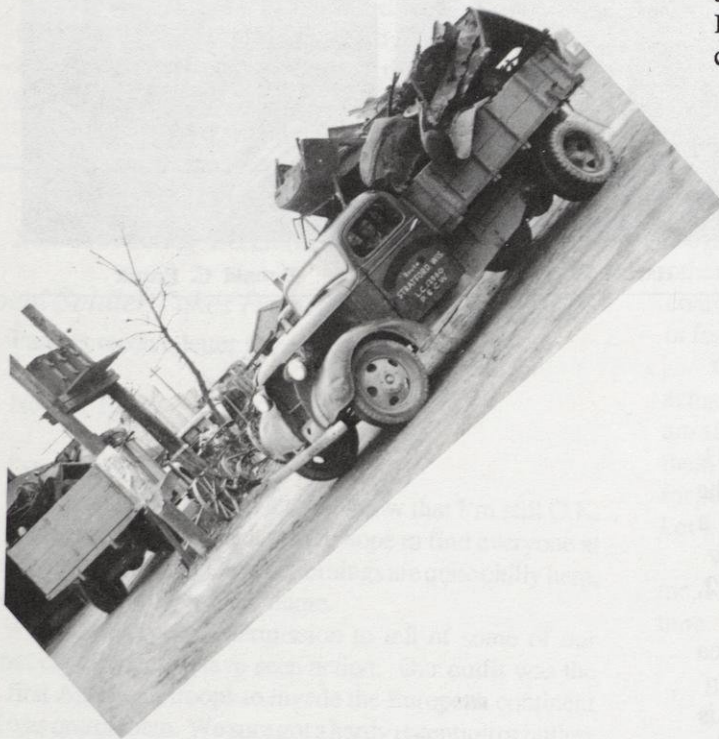
For the past year not one word has been heard. It is supposed that during that time he has either been held by the Italians or Germans and finally escaped.



BROTHERS, SISTER IN SERVICE—Three children of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Allington, Stratford, are serving in three branches of the Nation's armed forces. S/Sgt. Donavon Allington (left), 29, an Air Forces mechanic, enlisted for overseas duty in October, 1940, and has been serving in the Caribbean area since June, 1941. Kenneth Allington, 26, petty officer, third class, in the Coast Guard, enlisted last June and is at present at the Coast Guard Training Station at New London, Conn. His wife, the former Leone Connaughty, of Marshfield, plans to leave this city next week to join him. Ensign Lois Allington, 25, enlisted as a Navy Nurse at Great Lakes, Ill., about a month ago and will report at Long Island, N. Y., about May 20. She became a registered nurse last June and is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, receiving her degree in nursing in February. She has been employed at Wisconsin General Hospital at Madison.

Scrap Drives

During World War II, the community held scrap drives along with the rest of the nation. Tires were collected at the Dixie Station and scrap metal was collected and taken to a collection point.



Metal scrap collection. *Courtesy of Tom Becher*



Tires at Dixie Station. *Courtesy of Terry Frank*



1956 Memorial Day Services in Village Park

Take notice of the beautiful gazebo in the background. Front row: (l-r) Pete Steines, Vess Laessig, Harvey Wiesman, John Kaiser, Rupert Wenzel, Ray Belanger. Back Row: Ray Kaiser, Newman Bean, Ken Weber, Alfred Dunow, Arnold Steines, Ralph Kopp, Wally Szymanski. *Photo courtesy of Don Weber.*

Korean War Veterans

James Schlotthauer
 Donald Kohlbeck
 Vietnam Vets
 Lawrence Bohman
 Terrance Kohlbeck
 Larry Oertel

In 1991 another group of Stratford Area men & women were called into the service of their country. We regret that we were unable to obtain a list of all who were involved in the Persian Gulf Conflict known as Desert Storm. At this time (April 1991) the streets of Stratford are decorated with yellow ribbons and the American Flag in honor of these individuals.

Viet Nam War

From Stratford Journal, February, 1966

Awarded Purple Heart

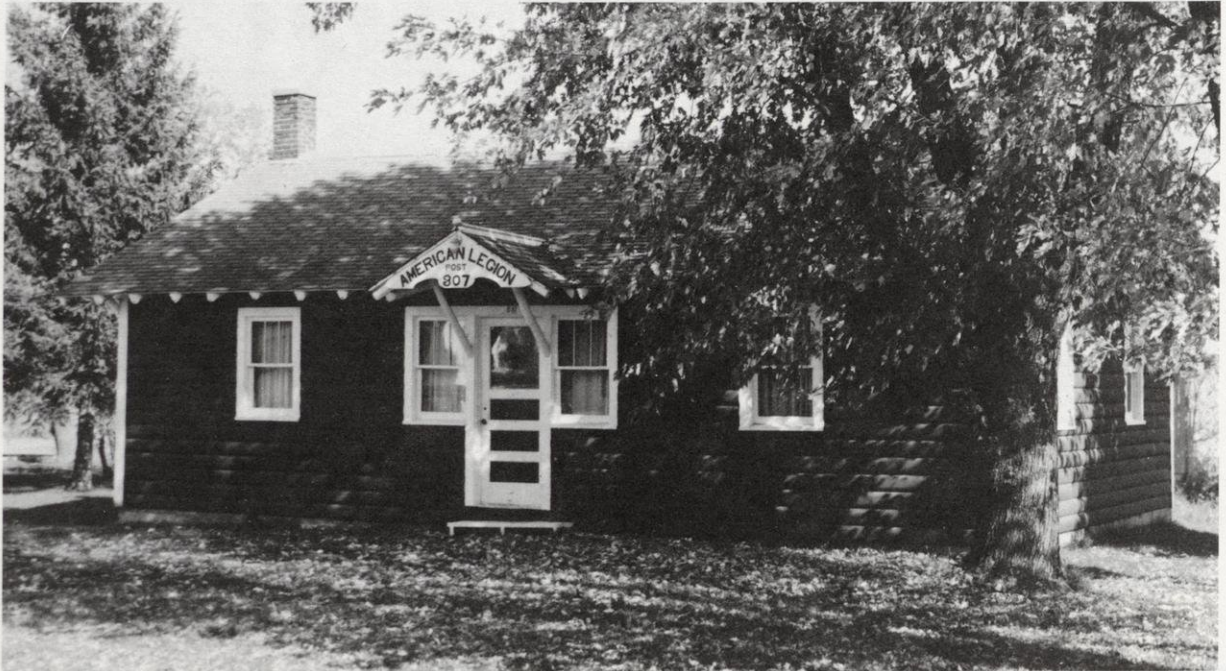
Spec. 5 Richard Steines, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Steines has received the Purple Heart for valor in the line of duty in Viet Nam. Steines, who was with the 173rd Airborne, had been in Viet Nam since May 1965, until he was wounded in action Sept. 21, 1965. His most severe wounds in September, besides several flesh wounds, was in his foot which was struck by a piece of grenade, causing a hole in the foot and fractures.

Steines graduated from Stratford High School in 1962, and received his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

(We were unable to obtain a list of Stratford Area men and women who had served in Viet Nam.)

Stratford Organizations

Stratford American Legion



Stratford American Legion Club House located in the village park.

From The Stratford Journal, October 22, 1920:

The meeting held at the town hall last Saturday night by the ex-servicemen was well attended and Stratford will have an American Legion Post. All final arrangements were made and the boys are expecting the arrival of their charter. It was deemed advisable to elect only officers enough to go ahead with the organizing and the balance of the officers required will be appointed later. This will give those who come in later a chance to hold office and will give the Post a larger number to select from, therefore placing men in positions where they will do the most good. As is the custom the organization is named in honor of one who made the supreme sacrifice and it was voted unanimously to call this the Andrew T. Hakedish Post. A meeting is called for Tuesday, October 25 at the Village Hall and every member is requested to make a special effort to attend and bring a comrade. All ex-service men are cordially invited to meet with the Legion whether they are members or not. Plans will be made to observe Armistice Day, November 11, and the boys plan to get a couple of drill teams in shape for that day. If it is possible the plans of the National Headquarters regarding the distribution and presentation of service medals will be carried out on November 11th.

The Stratford Journal is glad to offer its columns to the American Legion as it has all other organizations in and near

Stratford and has made arrangements for some interesting reading matter which explains the American Legion What it is and W-h-y it is. It is surprising the number of people (and some are ex-service men) who have little or no idea what this great organization is. Last week the official report credited the organization with 9,605 Posts. Over one-half of the men who served in the American forces are now members of the American Legion. (There are approximately 8,400,000 ex-service men.) Those who are interested will find something of interest each week in the Journal.

From Stratford Journal, Jan. 1, 1932

The New Legion Home

Andrew T. Hekedish Post, American Legion has completed its club house at the southern end of the village park. The building is a one story structure. It is designed to represent a log cabin. A portion of the site was secured by grant from the Stratford Village board and the remainder by lease from the C. & N. W. Railway.

"It has always been a dream of our Post to own its own home" said Chas. Rough, post-adjutant.

From Stratford Journal, June 23, 1938

Legion Elects Officers

Andrew T. Hekedish Post No. 307 had their regular monthly meeting Thursday night, June 9th, at which election of officers was held. The following were elected: Commander, Frank Lillge; Vice-Commander, Frank Aldrich; Adjutant, Ernest Pasche; Finance officer, Geo. Burkart; Service officer, Chas. Raugh; Chaplain, Frank J. Weber; Sergeant at Arms, Jos. Brei.

1991 American Legion Members

Kenneth Allington	Charles Raugh
Donald Beining	Frank Repking
James Dearth	Sylvester Rock
George Joch	Lawrence Steines
Jerome Kaiser	Martin Syring
Ardelle Klemme	Lawrence Toelle
Joseph Kolb	Ernest Van Ryzin
Donald Persteiner	Orv Wetterau
	Harvey Wiesman

1991 American Legion Auxilliary Members

Evelyn Allen	Mary Stack
Leone Allington	Frances Steines
Gertrude Bornowski	Elizabeth Tabor
Joanne Brusky	Marge Toelle
Marion Kaiser	Marie VanDerLeest
Dorothy Kolb	Esther Wiesman
Violet Leiterman	Lil Zenner
Caroline Rock	Marie Zuelke
Edith Schoultz	

Donate Legion Building to Village

In 1991 the American Legion donated the Legion Hall to the village. It will be used as a historical museum. Since 1985 the building has been the site of historical exhibits during Lumberjack days and Heritage Days celebrations.

Stratford Girl Scouts



Brownie troop, 1963. Leaders: Mrs. Joseph Heim and Mrs. Marge Leick.

On Thursday, August 27, 1959 a meeting was called at the village hall for all those interested in organizing a Girl Scout troop in Stratford. Connie Schroepfer and Elaine Becher led the round table discussion. Those interested were invited to attend a meeting at Marshfield in the Girl Scout rooms on Monday, August 31.

A meeting place for the Girl Scouts in Stratford was discussed. Florence Ulrich is to inquire about the Lutheran Church parlors. Marie Reed is to inquire about the Catholic school hall. Connie Schroepfer is to inquire about the Presbyterian church parlors and the Community church parlors.

Officers were elected:
President - Florence Ulrich
Secretary - Elaine Becher
Treasurer - Lita Seidl

Leadership offered:
Brownies- Marcy Smith, leader
Shirley Ludwig - co-leader
Agnes Weber - co-leader
Sophie Klemme - leader
Gen Grassl

On October 6, 1959 the first girl scout meeting was held at the high school gymnasium with 98 girls in attendance.

On March 17, 1960, Stratford officially registered six troops, 89 girls, with Silver Birch Council. It is known as Birch Trails Girl Scout Council today.

Their activities have been many and varied. They have done progression camping from the tiniest Brownie to the high school seniors. They have done clowning activities, enjoyed father-daughter and mother-daughter banquets, breakfasts and teas, run the Rain Gutter Regattas, enjoyed polka parties, and badge work activities too numerous to mention. They started the ecumenical movement in the early 1970's by observing Girl Scout Sundays as one group in area churches. This year they were at Zion Lutheran Church.



Jeanne Becher was the Queen for the 50th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in 1962

In 1976, a bi-centennial event, Flames for Freedom, was held. Stratford girl scouts and former leaders gathered at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on March 12. At 5:00 PM all present lit their candles and joined the flames of all girl scouts in the United States to pay tribute to our forefathers and to the flames of freedom they handed down to us 200 years ago.

Also in 1976, Stratford had its first, First Class Scout. Karla Kroeplin, daughter of Karl and Jean Kroeplin, achieved this goal as a Cadette in Troop 135.

Girl Scouts have always enjoyed tripping. Their travels have included the Wisconsin Dells area and Noah's Ark, Circus World Museum at Baraboo, House on the Rock at Spring Green, Holiday on Ice (now Ice Capades) and Heritage Hills at Green Bay, Greater America, the Shrine Circus, and a passenger train ride from Wausau to Wisconsin Rapids. This was one of the last runs for the Milwaukee Road passenger train before service was discontinued.

Special trips by bus have included senior girl scouts traveling to Savannah, Georgia (the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low, founder of girl scouts) in 1978 and in 1984 .

In July of 1982, Stephanie Fredrick was accepted to participate in Western Saddlebag, a two-week encampment at Ten Sleep, Wyoming. In October of 1986, a senior 5-day trip to New York by plane was enjoyed.

Their service projects have been numerous. On Arbor Day, 1969, they planted trees and shrubs on the boulevard on Main Street. The three flowering crab trees are still there today. In 1987 the scouts re-landscaped the boulevard. They created four flower beds and added numerous trees and shrubs. This was donated to the village of Stratford in observance of the 75th anniversary of girl scouting.

They have also planted flower boxes in the village park, trees at Northside Apartments, and potentilla bushes at the VFW clubhouse.

Other service projects have included baking cookies for the Senior citizens, shut-ins, convalescent homes, and the Library Story hour. They have made tray favors, game kits, and collected books, presented skits and musical selections for St. Joseph's Hospital, Norwood Hospital, House of the Dove, Marshfield Convalescent Center and Northside Apartments.

Stratford girl scouts have also pioneered the recycling program in Stratford. They collected newspaper since the late 1970's. As the program grew they needed to dispose of them. A truck was borrowed from Klemme Feeds to haul the recyclables to Marshfield. In 1984 they collected over 4 ton of newspaper, 183# aluminum cans, 120# of tin (which sold for 30¢ a 100#), 20 gal. of waste oil and tons of glass. In January of 1985 the girl scouts donated \$125 to the Chamber of Commerce to help continue the program. They also did the first curbside pick-up of recyclables in May of 1987.

Scouting achievements included:

Beth Ulrich being the first Stratford girl scout to graduate from the scouting program (1978).

Kristina Bung and Donna Bahr received the Silver Award (the 2nd highest award in scouting) in May of 1987. Michelle Thompson received the Silver Award in January 1991.

Kristina Bung received the Gold Award in 1989. She was the first Stratford girl to earn the highest award in girl scouting.



Girl Scout Troop 134 in 1960. *Courtesy Marie Mullins*
 Front Row: (l-r) Rosemary Laessig, Karen Walters, Kay Klemme, Susan Grassl, Mary Theuer. Row 2: Mary Sue Weber, Janice Laessig, Sharon Schroepfer, Janice Lato and Judy Metzke. Row 3: Mary Krause, Mary Semandel, Ruth Weterau, Barbara Rock, Dayne Rae Dennee, Ruth Hartmann. Row 4: Cynthia Seidl, Barbara Brown, Judy Leonhardt, Harriet Dix, Paulette Mullins, Donna Wenzel and Catherine Smith.

Adults who have served as leaders since 1959 are:

- Fran Albanese Hongisto - 1973-76 Cadettes
- Mrs. Charles (Bonnie) Anderson - 1978-80 Juniors
- Mrs. Glenn (Audrey) Anderson - 1966-67 Juniors
- Mrs. Robert (Joanne) Aschebrook
 1969-70 Brownies 1976-77
 Business Mgr. Cherokee Day Camp
- Mrs. Donald (JoAnn) Beining - 1959 Intermediates
- Mrs. Neal (Donna) Belke - 1971-76 Juniors
- Ms. Dinah Betz - 1976 Cadettes
- Mrs. Stan (Dianne) Blaszkowski - 1976-77 Juniors
- Mrs. Kathy Furler Bohman - 1979-81 Brownies
- Mary J. Breiling - Intermediates
- Paulette Brown - 1976 Juniors
- Mrs. James (Linda) Bung
 1978-85 Day Camp
 1981-82 Juniors
 1983-87 Cadettes
 1987-89 Seniors
 1989-91 Cadettes
- Mrs. Joseph (Janet) Burkart - 1962-64 Brownies
- Mrs. Karen Newman Carl - 1969-70 Cadettes
- Mrs. George (Debbie) Chrouser - 1976 Cadettes

- Mrs. Jerry (Doris) Clint - 1971-73 Brownies
- Mrs. Donald (Lois) Clatterbuck
 1969-72 Brownies
 1974-76 Cherokee Day Camp Director
 1980-81 Seniors
- Mrs. George (Loretta) Dhein - 1960 Brownies
- Mrs. Dale (Virginia) Dooge - 1970 Brownies
- Mrs. Jerry (Eleanor) Drachenberg - 1960 Brownies
- Mrs. John (Jan) Drexler - 1986-87 Brownies
- Mrs. Robert (Pat) Drexler
 1976 Juniors
 1977-79 Cadettes
- Mrs. Lorna Feemster - 1987-88 Juniors
- Mrs. Sue Forst
 1985-86 Brownies
 1986-87 Juniors
- Mrs. Tom (Sue) Fredrick
 1978-79 Brownies
 1980 Juniors
 1982-83 Brownies
- Mrs. Donald (Marjorie) Gauerke
 1969-71 Juniors
 1969-82 Troop Committee
- Mrs. JoAnn Goes - 1959 Intermediate
- Mrs. Pete (Genevieve) Grassl - 1959 Brownies
- Mrs. Karl (Nancy) Greenberg
 1987-89 Brownies
 1989-90 Juniors
- Mrs. James (Jackie) Greenberg - 1981 Brownies
- Mrs. Martin (Loretta) Guden - 1960 Brownies
- Mrs. Rosemary Haigh - 1980 Brownies
- Mrs. Paul (Phyllis) Hale
 1981-82 Juniors
 1983-84 Cadettes
- Mrs. Charles (Thea) Hamann - 1980 Brownies
- Mrs. Arnold Hartway - 1960 Intermediates
- Mrs. Fred (Donna) Heil - 1990-91 Brownies
- Mrs. Joe Heim - 1963 Brownies
- Mrs. Lois Clement Holt - 1969-70 Cadettes
- Mrs. Elmer (Loraine) Holtman - 1972-76 Juniors
- Mrs. Robert (Blake) Hubert - 1973 Seniors
- Mrs. Everett (Lores) Huebner - 1959 Brownies
- Mrs. Jeff (Sherryl) Johnson - 1989-90 Brownies
- Mrs. Ray (Betty) Kaiser
 1963-67 Juniors
 1967-70 Cherokee Day Camp director
- Mrs. Jerome Kann - 1966-68 Cadettes
- Mrs. James (Joan) Kemps - 1972-74 Brownies
- Mrs. Myrtle Kille
 1971-75 Brownies
 1975-76 Cadettes
- Mrs. Donna Klemme - 1966-67 Juniors
- Mrs. Otto (Sophie) Klemme - 1959 Brownies
- Mrs. Charles (Pat) Krause
 1959 Intermediates
 1965 Juniors
 1969 Brownies

Mrs. Ronald Krause - 1960 Intermediates
 Mrs. Richard (Jane) LaRonge - 1971-72 Cadettes
 Mrs. Glenn (Martha) Lake - 1984-85 Juniors
 Mrs. Clarence (Marge) Leick - 1961-66 Brownies
 Mrs. James (Karen) Linzmeier - 1978-79 Juniors
 Mrs. Pam Loveland - 1986-87 Juniors
 Mrs. Kay Lowney Jones - 1967 Juniors
 Mrs. William (Shirley) Ludwig - 1959 Intermediates
 Mrs. Mike (Kathy) McElwain
 1976-77 Brownies
 1978-79 Cherokee Day Camp Director
 1980-81 Juniors
 Sharon Rodgers Mildbrand - 1975-76 Cadettes
 Lucy Mullen Pilsner - 1980-81 Cadettes
 Mrs. Tom Neal - 1960 Brownies
 Mrs. Storme (June) Nelson - 1975-76 Cadettes
 Mrs. Harold (Rosie) Orth - 1970-71 Juniors
 Mrs. Don (Delores) Pernsteiner - 1971-74 Brownies
 Mrs. James (Vicki) Pfahning - 1987-1991 Brownies
 Mrs. Charles (Jean) Ponczoch - 1968-69 Brownies
 Mrs. Duane (Mary) Pupp - 1983-87 Brownies
 Mrs. Marie Reed - 1960 Brownies
 Mrs. Robert (Audrey) Rimmel - 1960 Intermediates
 Mrs. Sylvester (Caroline) Rock - 1960 Brownies
 Mrs. Cindy Rodriguez - 1985-86 Juniors

Mrs. Robert (Sharon) Rottscheit - 1973 Brownies
 Mrs. Judy Seaver Ruhff - 1978-79 Brownies
 Mrs. Donald (Rae Ann) Schanz - 1975-77 Brownies
 Mrs. George (Sharon) Schmidt
 1982-83 Cadettes
 1983-85 Seniors
 Mrs. Melvin (Ruth) Schmidt - 1974 Cadettes
 Mrs. Richard (Yvonne) Schoultz - 1960 Intermediates
 Barbara Schroeder - 1986-87 Brownies
 Mrs. Dale (Marcy) Smith - 1959-64 Brownies
 Mrs. John (Betty) Southworth
 1976 Cadettes
 1977-81 Seniors
 1978-79 Juniors
 Mrs. David (Edie) Steiner
 1963-68 Brownies
 1968-70 Cadettes
 Mrs. Richard (Nancy) Sternweis - 1990-91 Juniors
 Mrs. Robert (Ellen) Stotmeister - 1972-74 Juniors
 Mrs. David (Kathy) Strasser
 1982-1985 Juniors
 1985-89 Cadettes
 1989-91 Seniors
 Mrs. Fred (Jane) Tealey - 1974-76 Brownies
 Mrs. Norman (Pat) Thieme - 1976-77 Brownies



Brownie Troop 1990 - 1991

Front Row: (l-r) Holly VanDer Leest, Michele Johnson, Mandy Hewitt, Charlene Heil, Laura Pfahning. Row 2: Amy Johnson, Jill Ellis, Jennifer Josiak, Shannon Heeg, Stacy Eiberg, Megan Rasmussen, Trisha Sauter. Back Row: Assisstant leaders, Darlene Johnson, Ruth Joswiak, Donna Heil; Leader, Vicki Pfahning.

Mrs. Denton (Hazel) Theobald - 1959 Intermediates
 Pat Bailey Thompson
 1986-87 Juniors
 1990-91 Seniors

Mrs. William (Lola) Thorpe - 1968-69 Brownies

Mrs. Robert (Donetta) Ulrich
 1968-73 Juniors
 1973-79 Westmar Neighborhood Chr.
 1980-83 Cadettes
 1983-87 Seniors
 1987-91 Juniors

Mrs. Walter (Florence) Ulrich
 1960 Brownies
 1971-72 Cadettes
 1959-1984 Troop Organizer

Mrs. Shirley Wallschlaeger - 1972 Juniors

Mrs. Arnold (Idabelle) Weber
 1964 Cadettes
 1972-74 Juniors

Mrs. Kenneth (Agnes) Weber - 1959 Brownies

Chris Weis - 1980-81 Cadettes

Mrs. Jerome (Nancy) Weis - 1977-79 Juniors

Mrs. David (Pat) Welter - 1965-66 Juniors

Mrs. Mildred Wenzel - 1959-60 Brownies

Mrs. Richard (Judy) Wenzel - 1983-84 Juniors

Mrs. Vic (Rita) Wiesman - 1975 Brownies

Mrs. Darryl Wickstrom - 1961 Brownies

Mrs. Pete (Irene) Wojcik
 1980-83 Juniors
 1983-84 Cadettes

Mrs. Ron (Joan) Wood - 1972-73 Juniors

Mrs. William Wurl - 1973-75 Brownies

Mrs. Doug (Mary) Zirbel
 1983-86 Brownies
 1986-87 Juniors



GIRL SCOUTS

Mrs. Walter (Elaine) Becher, Stratford, has been a registered adult scout since 1959 and has served as Stratford's girl scout treasurer and on troop committees. Mrs. Walter (Florence) Ulrich also registered in 1959 and served as Troop Organizer, troop leader and on troop committees. These two people have each served 32 years for the girl scout movement.

The current leaders are:

Mrs. James (Vicki) Pfahning and Mrs. Fred (Donna) Heil for Brownie troop 148.

Mrs. Robert (Donetta) Ulrich and Mrs. Richard (Nancy) Sternweis for Junior troop 131.

Mrs. James (Linda) Bung and Kristina Calmes for Cadette troop 135.

Mrs. Kathy Strasser and Pat Thompson for Senior Troop 98.

The VFW Auxiliary of Stratford Memorial Post #6352 is the sponsoring organization of the Girl Scouts. Donations have also been received from various organizations and individuals.

Girl Scout Recycling

by Donetta Ulrich

Recycling began in Stratford almost 20 years ago. It was a youth effort to not only help save our resources and landfills, but to earn extra money for their projects. The early 1970's saw the Luther League from Zion Lutheran Church collect newspapers and paper feed bags from the local feed stores.

The leaguers would gather and tie the newspaper into bundles, remove the plastic from the paper feed bags, and also tie them into bundles. The paper was stored in the old canning factory and when they accumulated enough to make a truck load they would sell it. A truck donated by Klemme Feeds would haul the paper either to Stevens Point or to Tork's at Wisconsin Rapids, depending on the market.

When the Luther League discontinued their paper drives, the girl scouts continued the recycling program. Little or no money was realized from the effort. Their first newspaper market was Tom and Sue Fredrick who ran the paper through an old silo filler to shred it into bedding for their hogs.

The program continued to grow as more things could be recycled. They also used a borrowed truck to haul them to Marshfield. The Stratford girl scouts were the first non-profit



Girl Scout Recycling crew. (l-r) Donetta Ulrich, Cathy Strasser Tina Strasser, Julie Sazama and Mary Zirbel. Denise Strasser is on the truck. *Courtesy Donetta Ulrich*

group to run the Stratford Area Recycling Center. They presented a check in the amount of \$125 to the Chamber of Commerce at the grand opening of the Stratford Area Recycling Center in January, 1985.

Stratford girl scouts were also the pioneers in curbside pick-up. The first pickup was done in May of 1987 as a gift to the village in observance of the 75th anniversary of girl scouting.

Stratford Homemakers



Homemakers 60th Anniversary, 1990. Row 1: (l-r) Marian Graff, Aletha Grimm, Florence Ulrich, Evelyn Allen, Marie Norwood, Marie Hughes, Marcy Davel. Row 2: Marie VanDerLeest, Delaine Vetter, Doris Weber, Mildred Schultz. Row 3: Jean Weichelt, Donetta Ulrich, Mildred Wenzel, Elaine Becher Lillian Drexler.

The Stratford Women's Club was organized on October 7, 1930. Twenty-seven ladies met at the Stratford High School and elected the following officers:

Mrs. Peter Ladron, president; Mrs. William Cowling, vice president; Mrs. George Goetz, secretary; Mrs. William Kumbier, treasurer.

Charter members, in addition to the officers, were:

Mrs. Grace (George) Alberts
 Mrs. Marie (Frank) Aldrich
 Mrs. Emma (Henry) Aschenbrenner
 Mrs. Martha (Joseph) Brei
 Mrs. Nora Bean Custer
 Mrs. John Deininger
 Mrs. Angie (William) Diermeier
 Mrs. Martin Emmerich
 Mrs. Theresa (John) Fischer
 Mrs. Rebecca (Vern) Grassl
 Mrs. Otto Greve
 Mrs. Margaret (Joseph) Heim
 Mrs. Ida (T.W.) Hoffmann
 Mrs. Herman Langer
 Mrs. William Lenz
 Mrs. Fred Lillge
 Mrs. Frank Marohl
 Mrs. Celia (Charles) Raugh
 Mrs. Alice (Howard) Rice
 Mrs. Nora (Joseph) Ritger
 Mrs. Edith (Anton) Schoultz

Mrs. Florence (Roger) Schuette

Mrs. E.M. Trickey

From 1930 to 1945, members met at the K.C. room in the old post office building, (now Hair-Unlimited Beauty Shop). In 1931 the club organized the first library in Stratford with Mrs. Ladron as the librarian. The club borrowed four cases of books from the county library to get started, and proceeded to hold many fund raisers to continue expansion of the facility. The library was moved to the Village Hall in 1945, and club meetings were then held in the library.

In 1939, the Club joined the County Homemakers Association, and became very active in County Health programs. A cancer bandage workshop was conducted by Mrs. John Spencer, and another project, the Health Care Loan Closet, was started in 1948, and is still sponsored by the club. Today, many items such as wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and beds are available to residents of the Stratford School District for a period of time extending up to three months. No fee is set for usage of the items, but donations are accepted to help update and purchase additional health care items. Various youth projects were aided by the Club. An ice skating rink in the village was developed, and for many years, arrangements were made for the Easter Bunny to distribute treats to the local children. A scholarship fund was established in 1966 to aid a graduating Senior girl to continue her education in the college of her choice. Another scholarship, the Grace Alberts scholarship, honors one of the club's former members. The Club

presently assists the American Legion Auxiliary sponsor a girl to Badger Girls State in Madison. Some of the other community activities of the club have included beautification at the Northside Apartments, donations to 'Jaws of Life', Girl Scouts, Sunburst Youth Homes at Neillsville and the Infant Rehabilitation Center in Marshfield. They have also helped at the Recycling Center in Stratford. The Pennies for Friendship fund was begun in 1965. Participation in the annual Stratford Heritage Days was done in 1989 and 1990. Members, dressed in appropriate costumes, prepared and served ethnic food from a decorated booth. In 1990, the club received second place for their booth featuring German food.



Jody Ulrich, Florence Ulrich and Nancy Ulrich modeling their applied sweatshirts, a Homemaker's Club project.

Meetings are held monthly, except for June, July and August. Members volunteer to attend lessons on various subjects presented by the Marathon County Home Extension office, and then share the information with club members at the next meeting. A feature of each meeting is a "Show and Tell" exhibit. Members display various items featuring sewing skills, craft ideas, or projects that members can do as a group. The group also takes an active part in the yearly County Day and members have attended the National Conference of Homemakers Clubs. A yearly trip is also part of the club's activities.

The name of the club was changed from the Stratford Women's Club to the Stratford Homemakers in 1972. Their 25th, 35th, and 50th Anniversary dinners were held in October of 1955, 1965, and 1980. The 60th Anniversary was held on November 6, 1990 at the Community Hall with 19 members attending the special dinner.

Current officers and members are:

Marie Mullins, President

Agnes Kaiser, Vice-President

Mildred Wenzel, Secretary

Elaine Becher, Treasurer

Evelyn Allen, Margaret Brubaker, Marcy Davel, Lillian Drexler, Marian Graff, Aletha Grimm, Marie Hughes, Marie Norwood, Mildred Schultz, Donetta Ulrich, Florence Ulrich, Marie Van Der Leest, Delaine Vetter, Doris Weber and Jean Weichelt.



Marcy Davel and Elaine Becher work a "shift" at the Homemaker's Booth during Heritage Days 1990.

Knights of Columbus

Unfortunately, no information was received on the Knights of Columbus. We found the following article in the Stratford Journal, June 20, 1919:

K. Of C. Organized Here

June 15th, a council of Knights of Columbus, was organized here with a membership of 65. Considering that Stratford is the smallest town in the state to have a Council of this great order, the initial number of members is a very good showing and they expect to double this number by fall.

Stratford Lions Club

By Dale Dooge

Lionism began in the Stratford area with the organization of the Stratford Lions Club in the fall of 1939. The first meeting of the club was on Tuesday, September 19 at the Dixie Tavern located on Highway 97 in the village.

Under the sponsorship of the Marshfield Lions Club, the Charter Night for the presentation of the charter to the Stratford Lions Club was held on October 17, 1939. The leadership and guidance for the new club was provided by Lion Harrington, President, Marshfield Lions Club and assisted by Dr. D. J. Van Patter, District Governor 27C. There were twenty one men in the Stratford area that signed the application to establish a Lions club in the community.

At the organizational meeting of the new Lions Club, C. J. Blaska was elected club president and R. T. Oettinger secretary. Frank Lillge, George Kann and A. P. Schoultz were first, second and third vice presidents. Other officers included Dr. S. R. Cohen, Lion tamer; Theo. Zoellner, tail twister; George Davel, Theo. W. Hoffman, Wm. Diermeier and Dr. E. R. Murphy, directors. The other charter members included E. H. Allington, E. C. Brunner, Adolph Frank, O. H. Helstrom, Clarence Leick, A. L. McNeight, Elroy Nelson, W. W. Patefield, Clarence Wesslen and Wm. S. Van Ryzin. The club members agreed to meet on the first and third Thursday of each month at the Dixie Tavern.

Special recognition of the club's twenty-fifth, fortieth and fiftieth anniversary was noted by the club members. The celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary was held at the Stratford Elementary School Cafeteria on October 10, 1964 and the after dinner speaker was Dr. Robert D. McCullough, International Director, Tulsa, Oklahoma. Dr. Charles Kucirek was the club president and the seven new members were inducted into the club by Shafeec Mansour, Wausau Lions Club, Wausau, Wisconsin.

The club members hosted the fortieth anniversary of the club at St. Joseph's Hall, Stratford, on October 6, 1979. The club president was Paul Hale and the speaker for the evening was Past District Governor 27C-1, Joe Boetcher, Colby Lions Club, Colby, Wisconsin. There were two new members inducted into Lionism that evening by District Governor 27C-1, Helmer Lecy, Roche A Cri Lions Club, Arkdale, Wisconsin.

In observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the club, a dinner for the members, friends and area Lion clubs was held at the Belvedere Supper Club, Marshfield, on October 7, 1989. The guest speaker for the evening was Past International Director, Bill Biggs, Omaha, Nebraska and Randy Krebsbach was the club president. Mike McMeeken, District Governor 27C Stratford Lions Club, Stratford, was the master of ceremonies and Immediate past International Director, Helmer Lecy, Roch A Cri Lions Club, Arkdale, Wisconsin, inducted a new member into the club.

The fifty plus years since the Stratford Lions Club organization has benefitted the community in numerous ways. Hundreds of hours of labor were donated by the members and thousands of dollars of money was given by the club for community improvements. The club has given donations to individuals in need, students, youth groups and to Lion sponsored activities. The members give of their time to various community activities such as conducting fund drives and sponsoring or co-sponsoring community celebrations known as Lumberjack Days, Stratford Homecoming, Summerfest, Pollka Fest and Heritage Days. The club members operated one of the food stands at the 1974 Wisconsin Farm Progress Days on the Kenneth and Richard Leick farm.

Several Lion sponsored activities are supported with financial contributions from the club. The club annually donates to the Lions Camp, Rosholt, Wisconsin for the vision, hearing and other handicapped people for a week of camping experience without cost. The club contributes to the Leader Dog for the Blind, Rochester, Michigan and the Lions Club International Foundation. Used eye glasses and hearing aids are collected by the club and sent to the Wausau Noon Lions Club for preparation and shipment to people in need in other world areas.

Over the years, the club members have donated many hours of labor and worked to raise thousands of dollars for improvements at the village softball park. The projects to be noted include fencing, lighting, seating, blacktopping, playground equipment and a shelter. In the spring of 1989 the club built and donated to the Village of Stratford a Concession stand at the park for use by the club and other community organizations. The club shared in the construction costs of the warming house for the skating rink and have provided playground equipment for the village park.

Stratford delegates to the School Safety Patrol in Washington, D. C. and to Badger Boys State, Ripon, Wisconsin, are sponsored by the club. Assistance in financing travel costs for youth delegates from the Stratford High School and the community attending conventions and meetings is given by

the club. Two or more scholarships have been given to graduating seniors from the Stratford High School since 1975. Community youth have received donations for Halloween, Christmas and Library parties. Senior Citizen group activities are supported as well as remembrances at Christmas. The club is the sponsoring organization for the Stratford Boy Scout Troop.

There are numerous community projects the club is proud to have been a part of. Some worthy of mention are a donation of a rescue manikin to the Stratford Fire Department and a donation towards the "Jaws of Life" purchase. The club donated the scoreboard at the high school athletic field and several years later replaced it with a new board and contributed towards the construction of the press box at the field. The memorial planter and tower to display the bell from the old elementary and high school, demolished in 1964, was completed by the club. Donations for an eye exam or purchase of glasses or hearing aid, when a need exists, are given by the club.

Rather than let a recreational facility in the community close, the club took over the ownership and management of the bowling alley in Stratford until a new owner was found in 1975. Even though the hours often got late and the members very tired from the hard work remodeling, decorating and the installation of automatic pin setters, a great deal of satisfaction and pride was realized by the members in keeping a community business and improving a recreational facility.

Funds for the financing of the Lions projects and activities during the club's history have come from the support given by the citizens of the community. The club has sponsored dinners, dances, pancake brunches and suppers, home talent shows, ball tournaments, bowling tournaments, card parties, polka fests and community celebrations during the summer as fund raising activities.

Beginning with twenty-one charter members, the membership grew through the years to a high of sixty members. The current membership consists of forty-two active Lions in the community. There are no charter members still active in

the club. However, C. J. Blaska and A. L. McNeight are living in other communities. During the past fifty-one years forty-seven of the members served as the club president and four have served the presidency more than once. Seventeen of the past presidents are still active Lions in the club.

The club has been privileged to have so many dedicated and caring members. Years of club membership range from the longest of forty-eight years to a recently inducted member. The 1990-91 club membership includes Casper Altman, Al Becher, Richard Becher, Walter Becher, Ezra Brown, Barry Brubaker, George Chrouser, Don Dahlke, Lowell Dallman, Dale Dooge, Jay Gilray, Melvin Guenther, Paul Hale, Wm. Kaiser, Robert Kafka Lloyd Keller, Mark Kingston, Allie Knoll, Charles Krause, Randy Krebsbach, Joe Lato, Dan Leonhardt, Les Lillge, Wm. Marohl, Harry Metzke, Mike McMeeken, Paul Oertel, Ed Otto, Paul Pankratz, Dale Pokalulus, Lyle Pospyhalla, Sylvester Rock, Arne Ruha, Jerry Sauter, LeRoy Schillinger, Melvin Schmidt, Ted Schoenherr, Don Spindler, Bob Ulrich, Orv Wetterau, Harold Wrensch and Mike Young.

The business meeting of the club is held on the first Thursday of the month preceded by a cook-out or a sit-down dinner. The board of directors meet the third Tuesday of the month. The meeting place of the directors and the club meeting may vary depending on the activities planned for the evening. The Stratford Lions Club was the home club for the District Governor 27C-1, Mike McMeeken, for 1989-90. Elected to serve as the club president during the Stratford centennial year was Randy Krebsbach; secretary, Al Becher and treasurer, Harold Wrensch. Paul Oertel, Don Spindler, Dan Leonhardt are the first, second and third vice presidents. Other officers are Don Spindler and Mike McMeeken, tail twister; Casper Altman, Lion tamer; Dale Dooge, Paul Pankratz, Lowell Dallman and Mike McMeeken, directors.

The International Association of Lions Clubs' motto is "We Serve" and the members of the Stratford Lions Club are committed to achieve this goal and their club's goal of service to the community.

By Mrs. Allen from Stratford Journal, 1956 issue

Red Cross Organized Here During World War I

The local Red Cross was organized in November 1917. Some of the active members were Mrs. Geo. Davel, Mrs. Walter Oby, Mrs. R.R. Hubbard, Mrs. E. P. Rifleman, Mrs. W. F. Goetz, Mrs. E. H. Maxon and many others.

They met at the homes of members twice a week and worked at sewing. In addition to the active members who did the sewing and knitting there were the contributing members old and young alike.

Benefit basketball games were played to replenish the Red Cross funds.

A group of young ladies sold pictures of an albino deer, others gave home talent plays and the Young Ladies Sodality of St. Joseph's gave an ice cream social for Red Cross funds. The organization was busier and busier. Each young man who left to join the service was given a comfort kit made by the local Red Cross. Each kit contained necessary toilet articles.

There were meatless days, wheatless days and heatless Mondays, with all business places closed each Monday and only the schools remained open.

With the purchase of a fifty pound sack of white flour you also purchased fifty pounds of other grain cereals.

Dr. J.J. Schreiber published a notice of free dental work for the men going into the service.

The Loyalty Legion was organized early in 1918, with M. Mortenson as secretary.

Stratford Sportsman's Club

From Stratford Journal, Thursday, March 17, 1938:

Organize Sportsman's Club Here

The first meeting of the Stratford Sportsman's Club at the Auditorium Wednesday night was very well attended. A crowd of approximately three hundred turned out to learn ways of increasing the wild life of our state as a whole, and this district particularly.

Roger Schuette and Peter Polster have been working hard to organize a Sportsman's club here, and the meeting was the culmination of their efforts. They were made President and Treasurer, respectively, of the new organization. Other officers elected were John Fischer, vice-president, and Vern Hendrickson, secretary. The directors will be chosen at the next meeting.

Veterans of Foreign War

By Erv Uerling

This history of Stratford Memorial Post #6352 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (covering the period from its beginning to printing deadline of December 30, 1990) was updated for inclusion in the Stratford Centennial Handbook, as requested by a joint committee of the four sponsoring organizations.

This organization is made up of honorably discharged veterans who have earned a campaign medal for foreign service in the armed forces of the United States.

This history begins with an open meeting held March 13, 1946 at Dixie Hall to enlist membership in the new post. On April 10, 1946 a charter with 52 members was approved. The officers were installed by members of Marshfield's Post #1866 in the old high school gym.

Our Post was later to repay the assistance in the formation of a new Post in Auburndale during 1969. We donated \$500 to help them get started.

The first post commander was George Kann. Other officers were Hugo Schaffrick, Jerome Kaiser, Len Laessig, Art Weber, Ray Kaiser, Roger Schulte, Ken Weber, Ed Gust, Ray Schroepfer and Wm. Fischer.

The Post became a corporation in 1949 (copies of pertinent information are kept in Post files.)

The Post's fundraisers have been many and various over the years, some more successful than others. At present we depend on steak feeds, bar income, hall rentals and income from Heritage Days activities.

We began by sponsoring dances, the first of which was held at Rozellville October 17, 1946. Other dances were a masked ball on February 5, 1947 at Trianon Ballroom with the Howie Sturtz Orchestra. A very successful Gift Night dance was held at the Riverview Ballroom. Raffle prizes were donated by our businessmen and the Post ran the bar. (Our Post thanks the community for all the support we've been given over the years.)

Pea Green dances (co-sponsored with the Oconomowoc Pea Company) were an important part of early Post history. The last dance our Post sponsored was a Mother's Day dance held in Rozellville.

Some activities had their proceeds committed for a specific purpose. Stunt Night for high school band uniforms, garbage can sales for Boy Scouts, a Jaws of Life benefit dance held in Rozellville and the annual poppy sales. There may have been others of which records are not available. There have been Duck Shoots, Sheephead tournaments, bowling tournaments and VFW district meetings that can be mentioned at this time.

In 1948 a Memorial Book of area service men and women was published. Not unlike the list of area service persons presently deployed in the Middle East.

Post Meetings

The Post meetings (usually held monthly on the 2nd Thursday) have had various locations between its beginnings in Dixie Hall and its present location at our Post clubhouse at 203 Weber Avenue. Besides the present location, our Post has owned one other, a remodeled schoolhouse on Hwy C. The last meeting there was held on January 5, 1961 after which meetings were held at Holiday Lanes until the move to our present location in 1974.

The Post clubhouse has been the result of good luck and planning, hard work and much appreciated community support. A contingency fund for property purchase was a part of early Post history. A special meeting was held in July 1948 to approve the purchase of two lots from Fred Aschenbrenner in honor of his father, a Civil War veteran. The clubhouse building project was financed with income from Farm Progress Days (held in 1974), money borrowed from members, generous donations and a mortgage from Stratford State Bank. (Our thanks to them for the help they were then and have been since.)

The building was ready for meetings in the Fall of 1974. Thanks to our contractor for donated labor and the Stratford Builders who put in the ceiling. The actual cost of the building can only be estimated. A mortgage burning was held in 1983. We are presently debt free.

Improvements have been made - enlarging the parking lot in 1988, Veteran's Monument 1984, cooler 1988, extra insulation, flagpole, landscaping and new siding in 1987.

Our Post has acquired personal property over the years beginning with the basics needed for a color guard, parades and memorial services, such as rifles, flags, helmets, etc.

The gun cabinet was built (still in use) by Pete Grassl in 1950. Labor was \$32 and material \$35. At present, we have

all that is needed to honor our veterans.

We now have a \$3 donation for lunch and refreshments and door prize. At one time the kitty was a dime and later a quarter. Our first dues were \$5, they are presently \$14. A little is kept in the Post, most goes to Department and National.

Original fundraisers have been discontinued. We now operate with hall rentals, bar income and steak feed profits. At present we pay no taxes and equipment and building are in good condition. Our present concern is the aging of our membership. We need new, younger veterans with an overseas campaign ribbon.

We've been involved in many community projects, village park improvements and Memorial Day activities being the important ones.

As a veteran's group we feel that honoring those who made our way of life possible for ourselves and others is our main purpose. The first mention in the Post's written history is sharing expenses with the American Legion for the Memorial Day program in 1959. We've worked with them ever since.

This Memorial Day Program will be held in Stratford. Originally held in the Village Park, the services were moved to the Veteran's Memorial on Highway 97 after the dedication ceremonies there.

In 1946 the young men of all wars, who had been on foreign soil, organized the Memorial Post No. 6352 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Nine years later their auxiliary was organized.

The V.F.W. Ladies Auxiliary

By Elaine Becher

The instituting of an Auxiliary to the Stratford Memorial Post #6352 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars had its beginning in a meeting held at the Riverview Ballroom in Stratford on October 5, 1955. Seventeen ladies were present. Seventh District President Viola Plautz of Antigo attended and explained the qualifications and purpose of an auxiliary. She stated that prospective members needed to be wives, mothers, sisters, or daughters of men who are eligible for the V.F.W. The purpose of an Auxiliary is to work with the post to assist local veterans and their families, help support Veteran's hospitals and the V.F.W. National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, a home for wives and children of deceased and disabled veterans, give education on American patriotism and flag etiquette, give aid to people in disaster situations, and provide community service in various ways.

Charter Members

On November 22, 1955, a meeting was held at Grassl Hall in Stratford, and 21 ladies became Charter members of the

newly formed V.F.W. Auxiliary. They included:

Bertie Becher	Jane Polster
Evelyn Davel	Marie Polster
Eleanor Drachenberg	Constance Schroeffer
Belle Drexler	Alice Steiner
Shirley Gebelein	Elizabeth Wagner
Genevieve Grassl	Agnes Weber
Alvera Kann	Bernice Weber
Inez Kann	Lorraine Weber
Betty Kaiser	Mary Wetterau
Marion Kaiser	Margaret Zygarlicke
Lorraine Lillge	

The first officers who were installed at this meeting with Seventh District President Plauz presiding, were:

President - Eleanor Drachenberg
Senior Vice President - Constance Schroeffer
Junior Vice President - Margaret Zygarlicke
Treasurer - Alice Steiner
Chaplain - Lorraine Weber
Conductress - Agnes Weber
Guard - Shirley Gebelein
Patriotic Instructor - Bernice Weber
Color Bearers - Evelyn Davel Betty Kaiser Inez Kann Jane Polster
Trustees - Evelyn Davel Inez Kann Jane Polster
Secretary (appointed) Mary Wetterau
Publicity Director (appointed) Belle Drexler

Guests from the V.F.W. Auxiliaries of Green Bay, Antigo, Nekoosa, Wausau, and Marshfield were in attendance.

The first meeting date was set for the first Tuesday of each month at the Stratford Village Hall. (The date was later changed to the second Tuesday of each month). Community service became an important part of the Auxiliary and one of their first projects was participation in the Stratford Lumberjack Days in June of 1956. Members designed and entered a float in the parade and also shared a booth with the American Legion Auxiliary to sell sandwiches and coffee. Many floats were entered in these Homecoming Days parades in succeeding years, and several were prize-winning floats for the queen. Also, members served charcoal-broiled chicken dinners during the Homecoming Days and this became a yearly fund raising event.

Additional funds were needed for various projects so in August, members held a white elephant sale at their meeting. This was an example of the many and varied ways members started raising money for veteran and community causes.

In February, members became involved in the chairmanship and collection for the local Heart Fund. A total of \$265.65 was collected. Participation became yearly. This was followed by the chairmanship and participation in Stunt Night,

a program of skits, music, and fun with 70 percent of the proceeds to be donated to the Stratford High School band. Community support helped the event to be both entertaining and successful and the Auxiliary again sponsored the event in 1958.

Girl Scouts

In 1959, the Auxiliary decided to do something for the girls of Stratford. With the help of Marshfield and Wausau personnel, the Girl Scout Organization was formed, and the Auxiliary became the sponsoring organization. Annual chili suppers helped raise some of the needed funds for books, flags, trips, and various items for the scouts. A Girl Scout program in Rozellville also received monetary donations from the Auxiliary.

Membership grew steadily and more projects were undertaken. The Buddy Poppy sale was held each year around Veterans Day in November with the proceeds donated to disabled veterans and their families. The Poppy sales have continued every year for this worthy cause. Donations for veteran-related projects are an important part of the auxiliary's purpose and a few of their donations include: Seasonal treats for veterans at King, Tomah, and other VA hospitals; aid for families at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan; monetary donations to Vietnam Vets Memorial fund; Wisconsin Vets Memorial; Korean Veterans fund; World War I Doughboy Statue; Bob Hope USO Center; Chapel of Four Chaplains; Wisconsin Veterans Magazine; Torch of Freedom; VFW and Lillian Campbell Nursing Scholarships; Easter and Christmas seals for the National Home; Health and Happiness funds; Political Action groups for Veterans' benefits, and the local Stratford VFW clubhouse building fund. Patriotism and love of country is also expressed by the members as they participate in local Memorial Day ceremonies and march as a unit in local and area parades. Visitations to the Veterans hospitals and providing many items such as lap robes, bibs, and personal items for the veterans are done many times during the year. The Auxiliary also has an "Adopted Veteran" at King since 1982. Letter writing to national and state representatives for veteran related causes is done, and locally, shut-in or disabled veterans are remembered periodically with visits and gifts.

Donations have also included many non-veteran projects and activities such as: funds for the Ronald McDonald House; St. Joseph's pediatrics unit and the "Snack and Chat" program for cancer patients; Make a Wish Foundation, Norwood Hospital; Wood Medical Center; United Fund; Pilot Guide Dog program; Special Olympics; Stratford Fire Department ambulance and equipment fund; Christmas decorations for Village streets; treats for the Library Story Hour; ballpark improvement and the football scoreboard; and aid to area residents who have had fire, tornado, sickness, or other misfortunes. Members have also been involved in the Cystic Fibrosis Bike-a-Thons; Muscular Dystrophy Telethons; and Marshfield Living Center bingo parties with treats and prizes. A yearly event for several years has been the serving of a

dinner for the Stratford Senior Citizens.

Some of the school related programs include scholarships and awards for local high school seniors and Voice of Democracy essay and speech contests, monetary donations to foreign exchange students; FHA trips; FFA Mini Park; drug prevention programs, donating many books, pencils, and audio-visual materials of patriotic and flag programs; and safety and fire prevention poster contests. A yearly event since 1986 is the Principal's Academic Banquet. This dinner is prepared and served to National Honor students, their parents, and many teachers.

An important event for Stratford VFW and Auxiliary members was the building and furnishing of the new clubhouse at 403 Weber Avenue. The Auxiliary's first meeting at the new clubhouse was held on September 14, 1974. Various donations and fund raising activities helped furnish a kitchen and dining area. The first dinner was served on August 9, 1975 for a class reunion. Members continue to prepare and serve dinners for various occasions.

"Jaws Of Life"

One of the largest Community Service projects of the VFW Auxiliary was their involvement in the purchase of the "Jaws of Life" for the Village of Stratford. The "Jaws of Life" is a life-saving rescue tool used in farm, industrial, and auto accidents.

At the October 13, 1981 meeting of the Auxiliary, Lillian Drexler, member and Safety Chairman, stated that a serious automobile accident happened recently in our town of Stratford. Our firemen had to call on the Edgar firemen, a distance of 15 miles to obtain a "Jaws of Life" to free the injured person from the wreckage. After some discussion, the Auxiliary decided to start a "Jaws of Life" fund to raise \$8,000.00, the amount needed to purchase the rescue tool. The Auxiliary voted to donate \$300 to start the fund.

On November 26, 1981, Safety Chairman Drexler, Auxiliary President Evelyn Davel, and Community Service Chairman, Rita Wiesman, met with representatives of the VFW Post, Stratford and Rozellville Lions, Stratford Jaycees and Jaycettes, Stratford Volunteer Firemen, and the Stratford Homemakers Club. Plans were made to have a Mardi Gras dance and a raffle to raise the needed funds. The Stratford Journal and two neighboring newspapers helped advertise the "Jaws of Life" fund raising, and donations started to come from organizations, businesses, and private individuals. By January 12, 1982, \$4,000 had been raised. A large billboard was erected on the Stratford Village Hall to indicate the amount of money received, and the amount of money needed to reach the \$8,000 goal.

On February 13, a demonstration of the "Jaws of Life" was held at the Fire Station and was attended by many interested people.

The Mardi Gras dance, with the "Firemen 5" of Auburndale performing, was held at the Kraus Hall in Rozellville on February 20. The ladies from the Auxiliary and the Firemen's wives served lunch for extra funds. The raffle

drawing was held and prizes were awarded. All efforts proved to be worthwhile as a total of \$9,036.00 was raised. The "Jaws of Life", costing \$7,570, and an additional cutting ram, costing \$1,004.00 was now possible. Total cost: \$8,574.

The items arrived on March 29, five months after Safety Chairman Drexler drew attention to the need for the life-saving equipment in our community.

The following organizations, in addition to the many individuals and businesses who participated in the fund raising were:

- Stratford VFW Auxiliary
- Stratford VFW Post
- Stratford Lions
- Rozellville Lions
- Halder Lions
- Stratford Jaycees
- Stratford Jaycettes
- Stratford Fire Department
- FFA Alumni Association
- Stratford Homemakers
- Little Rose Homemakers Club
- Happy Homemakers Club
- St. Joseph's Rosary-Altar Society
- Zion Lutheran Ladies Aid
- Clover Hill Dairy
- Lady Knights of Columbus

Our sincere thanks to Chairman Lillian Drexler and all who helped with this worthwhile Community Service project!

In 1986, members were asked to help with the local Bloodmobile. The activity is now held at the Clubhouse four times a year with members donating their time and providing cookies and refreshments for donors.

A very special project of the Auxiliary has been the distribution of the American flag. Flags have been donated to the Stratford Village, schools, churches, Girl Scout and Boy Scout organizations, neighboring auxiliaries, individuals, and used as prizes and gifts. One goal was to have a flag in every classroom in the schools and this goal has now been reached. The Auxiliary is especially proud of this achievement.

Another big goal was reached when the Auxiliary donated \$1000 for Cancer Aid and Research. This goal was achieved in 1984 and again in 1985 and 1986. Raffles, bake sales, donations, and various fund raisers, combined with community support, made these donations possible.

Christmas Tree

Christmas time is special and each year members have packaged and delivered gifts and food to the shut-ins, elderly, and needy of the Community. In December of 1990, members donated an artificial tree, complete with lights and trimmings, to the Stratford Village. The tree was placed in the Community Hall for the benefit of all who used the hall. The tree will be taken care of each Holiday Season by the Senior Citizens Club.

Each year Auxiliary members take time out from their many activities to enjoy a Christmas pot-luck dinner at the Clubhouse. "Santa Bohman" makes his appearance and helps distribute the gifts.

Awards and citations presented to the Stratford Auxiliary and to individual members have been numerous, and have been received from district, state, and national levels. Some of the awards received were for outstanding work in: Community activities; Americanism; Cancer Aid and Research; Safety; Hospital; Youth Activities; National Home; Rehabilitation; Legislative; PAC; Citizenship; Buddy Poppy; Press book/publicity; and Historian.

Evelyn Davel received the coveted "President of the Year" award in 1981 when only five such awards were given out in the state. She received it again in 1986 at the State convention. "In recognition of her accomplishments and unselfish service as President." She has been the Auxiliary President for 12 years. Several members have also held district and state offices, and have achieved awards for outstanding service.

The preceding history of the Stratford VFW Auxiliary only lists a limited number of members' names and activities. This was not done with the intention to omit names, but rather to give credit to all members who have worked together on countless projects for the benefit of our Veterans, our country, and our community. Hopefully, 1991, the Centennial Year of Stratford, will bring the continuation of dedicated members to the Ladies Auxiliary of Stratford Memorial Post #6352 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Current VFW Members

1. Allen, Evelyn
2. Bauman, Lillian
3. Becher, Bertie
4. Becher, Elaine
5. Beining, Mary J.
6. Bialozor, Elizabeth
7. Bohman, Marie
8. Bornbach, Eleonora
9. Bornbach, Helen
10. Brandt, Mary Jane
11. Brown, Lucille
12. Burggraf, Marion
13. Carl, Wilma
14. Carolfi, Marian
15. Chrouser, Mary
16. Davel, Evelyn
17. Dennee, Marie
18. Drachenberg, Eleanor
19. Drexler, Adeline
20. Drexler, Lillian
21. Fischer, Florence
22. Gebelein, Shirley
23. Gliniecki, Marcella
24. Grassl, Genevieve
25. Greenberg, Eileen
26. Hansen, Irene

27. Hirsch, Veronica
 28. Hougum, Sylvia
 29. Johnson, Mavis
 30. Junemann, Ethel
 31. Kaiser, Betty
 32. Kaiser, Marion
 33. Kann, Inez
 34. Kann, Rachel
 35. Kieffer, Helen
 36. Klemme, Jeannette
 37. Kloos, Marie
 38. Laumer, Isabella
 39. Leick, Mabel
 40. Lillge, Lorraine
 41. Maguire, Irene
 42. Marohl, Bernice

43. Meyer, Angeline
 44. Mullins, Marie
 45. Mundt, Beverly
 46. Nikolay, Joanne
 47. Phelps, Mabel
 48. Raschke, Ledvina - deceased
 49. Robida, Josephine
 50. Schaefer, Lorraine
 51. Schiferl, Susan
 52. Schoenfuss, Sandra
 53. Seehafer, Irene
 54. Seitz, Lorraine
 55. Serwe, Debra
 56. Southworth, Elizabeth
 57. Spindler, Barbara
 58. Steiner, Alice

59. Theurer, Celia
 60. Uerling, Caroline
 61. Weber, Agnes
 62. Weber, Bernice
 63. Weber, Loraine
 64. Wetterau, Marian
 65. Wiesman, Esther
 66. Wiesman, Lois
 67. Wiesman, Rita
 68. Wiesman, Victoria
 69. Wojcik, Joyce
 70. Wundrow, Bernice
 71. Zopfi, Elaine
 72. Zopfi, Joanne
 73. Zygarlicke, Margaret



VFW Auxiliary, Some of the ladies at the first meeting at the Riverview Ballroom.
 Row 1: (l-r) Connie Schroepfer, Mary Wetterau, Gen Grassl, Eleanor Drachenberg, Mary Chrouser.
 Row 2: Barbara Bandle, Jane Polster, Margaret Zygarlicke, Bernice Weber, Evie Davel and Bernice Weber.

Stratford Women's Bowling Association

by Donetta Ulrich

The Stratford Women's Bowling Association was officially sanctioned by the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) on November 8, 1947. The Association included the ladies leagues from Stratford and Little Rose. Rozellville ladies joined the Association in 1954 and Fenwood ladies joined in 1970. The Stratford Women's Bowling Association then included Holiday Lanes and Little Rose of Stratford, Rozellville Lanes of Rozellville and Fenwood Alleys of Fenwood.

The first secretary-treasurer of the SWBA was Viola (Ole) Remus. Other area bowlers who served in that capacity were Stella Knoll, Evelyn Leonhardt, Donetta Ulrich, Jeanette Debra Zarnke and Kathy Bangart.

The main project of the SWBA is to host the annual bowling tournament. Sites for the team events and the singles and doubles events are rotated annually. They also hosted 500 tournaments and the spring bowl-off of league champions to determine the SWBA champion.

Little Rose Lanes were destroyed by fire on August 5, 1985. The SWBA then consisted of Edwin Memorial Lanes of Rozellville, Kegler's Kove of Stratford, and Fenwood Bowling Center of Fenwood. On August 1, 1989, the ladies from Edgar joined the SWBA and once again it served four bowling houses. In the summer of 1990 fire destroyed the Fenwood Alleys.

The Association is currently serving Edwin Memorial Lanes of Rozellville, Kegler's Kove of Stratford, and Edgar Lanes of Edgar. It is comprised of 380 members, 34 multiple members bowling in six women's leagues and 13 mixed couple leagues.

The current officers are: Donetta Ulrich, president; Dorothy Zschernitz, vice-president; Florence Fischer, secretary - treasurer; and Darlene (Dottie) Mueller, sergeant-at-arms.

The Stratford Area Economic Development Foundation

The Foundation was set up as a method to obtain funds from government, private, and other foundation sources. These funds support operating costs such as office occupancy, personnel, community promotion, economic education, public forums and business recruitment efforts.

In June the Stratford Area Economic Development Foundation, Inc. established a joint office with the Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce and hired Susan Weber as the Executive Director. Director, Justman resigned and Kedrin Ernst Dallman was appointed to fill his term.

Stratford Business/Industrial Park

One of the first projects undertaken by the Foundation was the Stratford Business/ Industrial Park planning project. The Village had been trying to attract business and industry to the park but was unsuccessful due to the lack of the needed infrastructure.

The Foundation worked to establish a preliminary street plan and organized lay-out of the park and drafted a document for Covenants and Deed Restrictions to establish the organized building within its boundaries. The document was later adopted by the Stratford Village Board.

The Foundation then explored ways of funding for the needed streets and water and sewer and electrical service for the Business/Industrial Park. At the recommendation of the Foundation, the Village of Stratford applied for grants from FmHA and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. The grant applications were successful and were presented to the Village by Governor Tommy Thompson on February 16, 1990 in the amount of \$135,000 from DOT and \$184,00 from FmHA.

Also, at the recommendation of the Foundation, the Village Board pursued an arrangement with WPS for the electrical needs of the park.

Work on the improvements (streets, sewer and water, and electricity) for the Stratford Business/Industrial Park began during the spring & early summer of 1990.

Retention Program

The Foundation recognized the importance of working with existing business and industry and in 1989 they established a business retention program.

Prospect Development

The Stratford Area Economic Development Foundation, Inc. was very active in 1989 in pursuing prospective business and industry for the Stratford Area. Working with Forward Wisconsin and the Marathon County Economic Development Council, proposals are sent to companies who have expressed an interest in our area.

Current Projects

The Stratford Area Economic Development Foundation is currently refining a community marketing program to attract other businesses to our Village.

The Foundation is working with the educational system in the Village and the greater area to help to provide better educational opportunities for our youth and the employees of area business and industry.

1990-1991 Directors

Dan Wieland - Chairman
Barry Brubaker - Secretary
Allie Knoll - Treasurer
Dan Bohman
Elmer Hayes
Kedrin Dallman
Dave Ehrike

Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce

The Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce has been around for quite some time as these articles show.

From Stratford Journal, Jan. 23, 1920:

Start of Stratford Chamber of Commerce

Stratford's Crying Need On The Eve Of Realization Means Advancement and Betterment

Some twenty-six of Stratford's leading business men assembled in the Opera house to consider and discuss ways and means of furthering and promoting local interests. A few of the local promoters of Civic organizations deemed it prudent to enlist the services of four gentlemen from Wausau to help swing sentiment in favor of an organized local body whose object and purpose should be to not only stimulate and give birth to new undertakings but also aid in the development of the already established enterprises.

The group was convinced of the necessity of an organized force that their talks were concluded by the adoption of a resolution favoring the establishment of an organization whose aim and purpose should be the cultivation of closer agriculture, business and community relation tending to the development and fostering of new and established enterprises to the end of furthering and promoting the general welfare and pledging personal effort and financial support.

Temporary officers were chosen: Theo. W. Hoffman, Chairman and Ales T. Kowalsky secretary, and the chairman was instructed to appoint a membership and an organization committee of five.

The membership committee appointed include Dr. J.J. Schreiber, M.E. Kieffer, Paul Spiegelberg, Dan Mahony and P.J. Ladron, all five are well known citizens of Stratford.

From Stratford Journal, Jan. 30, 1920

Success of Stratford's Chamber of Commerce Assured

The number of citizens in and about Stratford signing the application card of membership in the Chamber is indeed a source of gratification to the promoters. But it is not the number signing that is surprising, it is the manifest willingness and desire to help boost Stratford's new enterprise and what it stands for that calls for admiration.

Stratford, you are still in your infancy. Your Chamber of Commerce has visions of your glowing future, and in its calling upon the citizens in and about Stratford. Arise, take up thy work and follow me, hangs the secret of her success.

Meeting of Stratford Chamber of Commerce

The second meeting of Stratford's citizens for the establishment of a Chamber of Commerce was held in the opera house to consider the adoption of a set of rules for proper guidance.

The chairman, Theo. Hoffman, called upon the chairman of the membership committee for a report. The report included sixty-five properly signed membership application cards.

Election of Directors followed. The following members were elected: J.L. Chrouser, Nick W. Kieffer, P. Spiegelberg, Jos. Ritger, J. Vergenz, G. Davel, A. Bever, H. Keller, M. Kieffer, T. W. Hoffman and E. Allington who will meet on Friday in the Stratford State Bank to proceed with the election of officers.

From Stratford Journal, January 21, 1921

Chamber Annual Banquet New Directors Elected

The annual banquet of the Stratford Chamber of Commerce was given in the Stratford Opera House last Thursday evening. The evening started with the serving of the banquet by A. A. Bever, local hotel proprietor. After the banquet, Principal M. Mortenson of the Stratford High School, acting as toast-master, introduced the speakers. Theodore W. Hoffmann, cashier of the Stratford State Bank, gave an interesting talk on the "Future of Stratford and Stratford Business."

New directors are: N. W. Kieffer, P. J. Ladron, James L. Chrouser, E. P. Rifleman, William Van Ryzin, Thomas R. Richards, H.R. Keller, M. Mortenson, Theodore Hoffmann and A. A. Bever.

The Board of Directors appointed the officers for the following year. They are: President, P.J. Ladron; Vice-president, E. H. Allington; Secretary, Joseph Ritger; Treasurer, Theodore Hoffmann.

A committee was appointed by the president to confer with the village council in reference to installing a four cylinder engine at the pumping station instead of the one cylinder now in operation. A committee was also appointed to investigate the question of organizing a fire department in the village that will be recognized to the extent of lowering the insurance rates.

A committee to take steps in improving Stratford's mail service was also appointed to take up the matter with the postal department and see if mail cannot be picked up and delivered by the two limited trains. Truly this service if affected will be appreciated by the Stratford people and especially the business houses, having no out-going mail after business hours.

Now is the time to get right behind the Chamber of Commerce and PUSH. Remember they are representing your interests at all times and are open to suggestions and advice. Their aim is Stratford, Stratford business and Stratford people first. They cannot succeed and do big things for Stratford and Stratford community unless everyone lends their good-will and co-operation. Stratford people, Stratford business men, Stratford farmers, your shoulder is needed at the wheel.

The Chamber Today

The preceding articles show the very beginning of individuals and businesses joining together to make a difference in the community. Today, the Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce is still going strong, working for and with the community.

Membership is at an all time high. The Chamber has sponsored many events in the community. They sponsor the Stratford Trade Fair, 5th Quarter, The Old Timer's Softball Tournament, Christmas Promotions and many more.

The Chamber holds three general membership meetings during the year and an Annual Meeting and Banquet in January. The board of directors meets monthly.

A joint office with the Stratford Area Economic Devel-

opment Foundation is maintained in the community building. Susan Weber serves as the Executive Director.

The 1991 Board of Directors:

Jim Drexler - President

Dick Becher - Vice President

Pam Ehrike - Secretary

Randy Krebsbach - Treasurer

Mike Rock

Russ Smolke

Fritz Ulrich

Patty Ehrike

Dick Seubert

The Stratford Game Club

Stratford Journal Thursday, March 28, 1935

Game Club Liberates Fifteen Pheasants Here

The Stratford Game Club liberated fifteen Chinese Pheasants about six miles northeast of Stratford just recently. These birds are to supplement others that have been planted in this territory in other years.

This Pheasant is a native of China, but has been transplanted in this country for a number of years, and has become one of our finest game birds. He is large, about the size of a good sized tame chicken, and the meat is very similar to that of tame chicken. The Pheasant is one of the finest game birds there is, wily and quick on the wing.

If these birds are allowed to multiply, it will not be many years before Central Wisconsin can again have plenty of good hunting areas. If anyone is caught killing any of these birds before the law allows, he should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Senior Citizens Club

Unfortunately no information was submitted on the Senior Citizens Club. We include the following article from the Stratford Journal October 12, 1967:

Senior Citizens Club is Organized Here

On Monday, October 8th, at 2:00 p.m. at the Stratford high school lobby, a new organization came into being, known as the Stratford Senior Citizens Club and, as the name implies, only senior citizens are eligible for membership, the

age requirement is from 50 years of age and older. However younger folks who are either disabled, ill or otherwise incapable of working are also eligible.

The activities of the club will consist of companionship, entertainment, social hours, and other programs to be outlined at future meetings. In order that this organization can function to serve the needs of the senior citizens of Stratford and the surrounding area, the officers of the club can use the assistance of the local village government, the Stratford Business Men's Association, the Service organizations, the Lions club, the local and community newspapers, radio and individuals who are always ready to help further a very worthy cause, such as this club.

The state commission on aging has been contacted for assistance available through the state-wide organization. The Marathon County Board will also be contacted to find out if any assistance is available through its committee on aging. A booklet is available from the state organization which contains news regarding the clubs' activities together with interesting news regarding other clubs' activities.

All who are eligible and who wish to join are asked to come to the next meeting at the high school gym lobby on Friday, October 20 at 2:00 p.m.

The officers and board of directors will meet at the village hall at 2:00 p.m. Monday, October 16 and will decide at this meeting on future meeting dates.

At the first meeting, 36 charter members joined the club which was led by Felix Merkel of Marshfield.

The following officers were elected: Ernest Pache, president; Mrs. Walter Van Ryzin, vice president; Wm. Untiet, secretary, and Sue Platteter, treasurer. Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Brown, Mrs. John Spencer, Mrs. H. Kipp, Mrs. A. Jaeger and Walter Van Ryzin, directors.

Club Scouts

Unfortunately no information was submitted on the Senior Citizen's Club. We include the following article from the Stratford Journal.

Stratford Journal Thursday, March 30, 1967

Organize

The organization meeting for a Cub Scout Pack in Stratford was well attended Wednesday night as 41 boys and their parents attended.

Jim Heinle, District Boy Scout representative, led the meeting off with a few enjoyable games after which the boys adjourned to the gym for ping pong, basketball and games while the parents were given a run-down on the purposes and benefits of establishing a pack.

A second meeting for parents only has been set for 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, in the Gym lobby. Many of the people who were unable to attend the first meeting may thus find an opportunity to attend this meeting.

Much interest and enthusiasm was indicated at the first meeting and already people have volunteered their services.

The position of Cub Scout Leader is still open and here is a wonderful opportunity for a man who would like to give about 3 nights a month to this rewarding position. Here is just the job for a person that would like to help the youth of our community, perhaps a person who would like to return the help extended him when he was a boy.

Boy Scouts

Stratford does have an active Boy Scout group. Unfortunately, no information was submitted. We apologize for the lack of information.

Jaycees

Stratford had a very active Jaycee and Jaycette group for a few years. No information was submitted but we did receive a photo copy of a Stratford Journal article, which we have included below.

STRATFORD JAYCEE'S RECEIVE FIRST AWARD



Stratford Jaycee President, Duane Pupp, (left) is shown accepting congratulations from Wisconsin Jaycee president, Bill Gilbert. The Stratford chapter had just been awarded a trophy for having the highest percentage of members at an "Excitement Night". The meeting was hosted by the Spencer Jaycees.

And that's the way it was...

A selection of notes from The Stratford Journal

January 1917 - The cook shanty at Camp 10 burned to the ground. New provisions had to be sent.

March 1917 - When Albert Verch was preparing to run the Marathon County Railroad engine in the round house, a lantern he left in the cab while he went to open the doors, set fire to the cab. He immediately turned in the alarm, but before the fire was under control, the woodwork was burned and the valves and gauges were destroyed.

June 1917 - Geo. Schmidt is building a cheese factory on the Joe Baxter farm half way between here and Staadt.

1917 - House For Sale - Good location 1 block from main street; 4 rooms, 1 pantry, 1 closet down stairs; 2 rooms, 2 large closets up stairs: barn.-Price \$1300. call at Journal office.

November 1918 - A deal was made this week whereby Ed Schoppenhorst, owner of the Stratford Opera House gets an improved farm near Colby and Jos. Gravens of Colby gets the Opera house and blacksmith shop.

April 1919 - Fred Damon Jr. became the possessor of the Stratford Opera House and the property connected with the same.

May 1919 - A deal was closed whereby Fred Damon sold the property known as the Stratford House to Jos. Ritger of Marathon City. Mr. Ritger will remodel the building and put in a stock of furniture and undertaking supplies.

July 1920 - Thirty three thousand pounds of TNT has been allotted to Marathon County farmers by the Land Clearing department of the College of Agriculture. It will be shipped sometime during the month of August. The cost will be 9 cents per pound plus two cents for freight and handling with a rebate if there should be any.

Plan for Distribution

In order that farmers in every part of the county have an equal chance the following plan of distribution approved by the chairman of the county Agricultural Committee has been adopted. Eight hundred pounds will be allotted to each town. Distribution to be in the hands of the town chairman. Each chairman will be supplied with blanks. Each farmer will be limited to fifty pounds. Go to your chairman, fill out a blank and pay him \$5.50, he will issue a receipt.

He will send blanks with money to the County Agent's office. Under a ruling by the College the TNT must all be

shipped to one place. Chairman must make arrangements to have someone from his town call for the TNT as soon as notified. In case there is extra charge for hauling from Wausau this must be added to the eleven cents.

In cases where town chairmen do not dispose of the allotment for their towns, same will be given to towns having applications in excess of their allotment. Applications must reach the office of county agent by August 1. Prompt action is necessary. Beginning farmers should be given the preference.

October 1920 - While working on improvements around his building, Monday, P.F. Grassl, proprietor of the Stratford Pool and Billiard Hall stepped on a rusty nail. He is detained from his regular duties on this account and his business is being carried on by Ed Obermeier.

December 1920 - Young Men Fall 100 Feet To Death Quick Action and Courage of Sam Frankwick, Local Mechanic, Rescues Crew Foreman from Dangerous Position, when Scaffold Gives Way Dropping Two Steel Structural Workers 100 Feet through False Works to Frozen Ground.

New Stratford Water Tower Claims Two Lives

Fred Benz of Wausau, and John Kujawa of Almond, were killed at Stratford Wednesday, when a scaffold on which they were working, at the top of the new city stand-pipe, broke and dropped them to the earth a hundred feet below. Two other workmen, Sam Frankwick and Al Schroeder, who comprised the crew, were not injured, Mr. Frankwick being on the ground and Mr. Schroeder, the foreman, directing the riveting from the inside of the tank at the top of the structure. It is probable that only the courage and quick action taken by Mr. Frankwick averted further disaster when he quickly mounted the frail ladder and climbed thru the ruins and lent assistance to Schroeder who was in a precarious position inside the tank, dangerously near the five-foot bottom opening with little or no support except a narrow plank which was liable to slip at any moment and drop him to the fate of his companions. The cool courage of both men was remarkable and as soon as Frankwick reached the top with a line, Schroeder pulled himself to safety and both men hastened to the ground, where Benz and Kujawa lay crushed and lifeless. Dr. G.F. Murphy, Stratford physician, was notified and hurried to the spot, where he found Kujawa dead and few signs of life in Benz. Benz died about ten minutes after the arrival of the doctor. The bodies were taken to the undertaking parlors of Ritger and Platteter and the relatives of the deceased notified. Coroner Meilahn of Wausau reached Stratford Wednesday evening and Thursday morning a representative of a Wausau undertaking firm arrived to accompany the body of Benz to Wau-

sau. Instructions reached Mr. Ritger from the relatives of Kujawa Thursday afternoon and it is probable that his remains will be sent to Almond. Both of the men who were killed were single and about thirty years of age.

October 1923 - The Stratford Brewing Company will commence the manufacture of 4% beer in accordance with the latest interpretation of the prohibition act.

October 1924 - The Knights of the Ku Klux Klan held a meeting here Monday and Tuesday evening in a field west of town. They were out in regalia Tuesday evening.

August 1936 - Ed Maxon had the first automobile in Stratford. It was a Fuller. The next car was an International, with high, black, buggy-like wheels. The motor was laid in the car width-ways, and it was necessary to raise the running board to crank the car. Mr. Klemme had the third car, a Cadillac.

May 1949 - WARNING—During the first two weeks of the current softball season, ten new softballs were thrown into those first games, and there were four used balls left from last year, yet after Wednesday night's game there were only six balls to be found.

It is quite obvious to the officers of the league that eight balls could not be lost in so short a period, and is more obvious that certain persons are making off with those balls.

At that rate the league cannot meet expenses, and certainly no one person or persons would want to be responsible for the failure of the most enthusiastic sporting enterprise that Stratford has known for many years.

All players are asked to keep a close watch on all balls. When warming up or holding fielding practice, players are asked to return the balls to the players bench after they are finished with them, and to watch carefully when foul balls are hit.

This is a warning - Any person apprehended stealing, or having illegal possession of a league ball will be turned over to the proper authority and dealt with according to the law.

February 1950 - A train, enroute from Marshfield to Stratford, became mired in the snow at McMillan. It took over two days to free the train from the snow banks. A crew of 35 men worked to clear the train. They reported that the snow was so firmly packed that picks were required to loosen the snow before it could be moved.

January 1978 - A fire on Jan. 2, 1978 destroyed the Leick's Hotel and Sportsman Bar. The building was erected about 1900 by Charles Daul. At one time, Peter Grassl, Sr. had a pool hall in the building. It was purchased by Peter Leick in 1928 and he ran the hotel until the 1940's.

The fire started in an upstairs room. Edwin (Major) Dhein, who was a resident of the hotel, died in the fire.

Draft Dodger

From The Marshfield Herald September 20, 1923
Kept In Hiding For Five Years

Devotion to Mother Makes Young Man a Draft Evader
Only for the death of his mother Frank Schweighofer who resides on a 20 acre farm near Stratford might yet be a self made prisoner. Frank is 34 years of age and the story of his life, especially that concerning the last five years, is truly pathetic.

Previous to the World War draft, Frank's father went back to Germany, his native country, and after an absence of a year or more word came back that he had abandoned his wife in America and married another in the fatherland.

It was sad news to the family which consisted of a mother and two children, Mary and Frank. Nevertheless Frank was a dutiful son and comforted his mother with assurances that he would care for her and his sister.

Everything went pleasingly on until one day Frank got word that he was among the list of drafted men. It was an awful blow to his mother, for without him and his help, life was not worth living. She plead and fought that he remain at home and won out by Frank becoming a draft evader by remaining in seclusion and not reporting to the draft board.

Five years have elapsed since the day of his draft and no one during that time, with the exception of his mother and sister, knew of his whereabouts. Like the ships that pass in the night he kept his whereabouts a secret by self imprisonment remaining at home, keeping out of sight during the day and working the best he could on the farm under the cover of darkness.

The old saying "that murder will out" became true in Frank's case when a few weeks ago his mother passed away after a short illness, her dutiful son remaining at her bedside until the last breath of life had passed away. There was no longer need of him remaining in seclusion and for the first time in five years he appeared in public as a mourner at the grave of his mother.

His appearance caused a ripple of excitement and soon officers of the law, without resistance, made him a prisoner with instructions that he be taken to Marshfield and delivered to Police Chief, M. Griffin, for safe keeping. He was brought to this city September 7 and was kept in the city jail until the following Tuesday. On that day Mr. Griffin received word from a state draft official for the release of the prisoner for the present, with instruction to the town officials of the town in which he lived to keep posted on his whereabouts.

Upon his release he told Mr. Griffin that it was his intention, as soon as he had arranged his business matters, to give himself up to the proper authorities and pay the penalty of a draft evader but seemed to console himself with the thought that it was a mother's love that influenced him in the matter. When the facts in the case become known it is believed he will be reinstated into citizenship with only a reprimand.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The following are actual court cases found in the old village records. We have deleted the names but found the complaints and the language of the times interesting.

In the above entitled action _____ complains that on the 7-8th day of May 1917, at the town of Eau Pleine in said County of Marathon, _____ did with force and arms in and upon the said _____, make an assault, and the said _____ did then and there beat, bruise, wound and ill treat and other wrongs to the said _____ then and there did. Complainant examined on oath and complaint reduced to writing and filed.

Warrant issued thereon and delivered to _____, Constable, for service.

May 28th, 1917. In the above entitled action, warrant returned with the following return upon it:

State of Wisconsin
Marathon County SS

I hereby certify and return that by virtue of the within warrant, I have arrested _____, the defendant named therein, and have him now in custody here in court to answer, as I am commanded by the within warrant.

L.B. Weber, Constable
Fees \$2.55

Warrant filed in my office.

May 28, 1917. In the above entitled action, case called at my office in the Village of Stratford, Marathon County, Wisconsin at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Accused in court, in custody, charge as stated in warrant and complaint read to accused and he required to plead. Accused pleads guilty.

It is therefore adjudged and determined that the accused _____ do have a fine of one dollar and the costs of this action taxed at five dollars and forty five cents to wit:

F.J. Curtin, Justice fee \$2.90
L.B. Weber, Constable fees \$2.55 \$5.45

Fine and cost paid and accused discharged from custody.

Dated and done at my office in the Village of Stratford, Marathon County, Wisconsin, this 28th day of May 1917.

Frank J. Curtin
Justice of the Peace

In the above entitled action, _____, complains that on the 23rd day of September 1917 at the town of Eau Pleine in said County, _____ did then and there beat, bruise, wound and ill treat and other wrongs to said _____ then and there did. Complainant examined on oath and complaint reduced to writing and filed. Warrant issued thereon and delivered to L.B. Weber, Constable for service.

October 1st, 1917. Warrant returned with the following return upon it:

State of Wisconsin
Marathon County SS

The warrant was executed by arresting the within named _____ and he is in custody now before the court.

Fees L.B. Weber, Constable

Warrant filed in my office October 1, 1917, in the above entitled action. Case called at my office in the Village of Stratford, Marathon County, Wisconsin at 10:30 o'clock in the forenoon. Accused in custody and in court. Charge as stated in warrant and complaint read to accused and he required to plead, accused pleads guilty to the charge. The court finds the accused guilty as charged in the complaint. It is therefore adjudged and determined that the accused _____ do pay a fine of fifty dollars and the costs of this action and be imprisoned in the common jail of Marathon County for six months. The costs of this action taxed as follows. Fine and costs not paid.

F.J. Curtin, Justice fees \$3.15
L.B. Weber, Constable fees \$9.53 \$12.68

Warrant of commitment on sentence issued and delivered to L.B. Weber, Constable.

Dated and done at my office in the Village of Stratford, Marathon County, Wisconsin in this first day of October 1917.

Frank J. Curtin
Justice of the Peace
Certificate of conviction filed with the Clerk of Circuit Court.

Frank J. Curtin
Justice of the Peace

Affidavit (Complaint) for Criminal Warrant
State of Wisconsin

ss

Marathon County

The State of Wisconsin against John Brill

John G. Wesley, being duly sworn, says that on the 26th day of May, in the year 1914, the Town of McMillan, in said county, John Brill did unlawfully and willfully while driving two horses attached to a lumber wagon, on the highway

known as the Rozellville road, the said John Brill was overtaken by one John G. Wesley, who was driving an automobile on the said highway, and the said John Brill, did neglect and refuse to turn his team from the center of the road so that the automobile could pass, although there was ample room for the said John Brill to turn out and permit the automobile to pass; thereby forcing the said John G. Wesley to drive his automobile into the ditch, in order to pass the team and wagon driven by the said John Brill.

I Remember...

Sargent Saloon Incident

From Saw-Dust by Len Sargent

Len Sargent's father, Len Sargent, Sr., had a hotel and saloon at Stratford during the late 1800's. He tells the following story about an incident that occurred.

"Dad had to go to Marshfield on business, an all day trip with a good team of horses. He left Frank Pagel, a young man, in charge of the saloon. Frank did not know that it was illegal to sell liquor to Indians. The log drive had just finished and the Indians came to town to shop. They went in our saloon and Frank did a landlord business. When the six o'clock whistle blew and our regular customers came in from work in the mill, they took one look and kept right on going to the next place. The place was full of Indians, shooting pool, throwing dice, dancing and raising hell.

"When Dad came in, he got rid of them in short order. Several Indian ponies, loaded down with provisions, were tied out in front of the place. Dad simply untied the ponies and chased them down the street. He then opened the door and hollered that the ponies had gotten away. The ponies were running down the street, with canned goods, etc. flying everywhere, and the Indians after them. Dad locked the doors and put out the lights, and none too soon, because soon the boys were back trying to get in.

Logging Accident

Tony Schuster, who worked in both the Stratford and later the Laona store, had his own favorite story concerning coffins. Once a lumberjack was killed while logging near Stratford one Saturday. The "walking boss" offered to take the corpse

back to town in his sleigh. The weather was forty below zero and enroute the body froze into a sitting position. Upon arrival in Stratford the "walking boss" could not find the doctor. Anxious to be rid of his burden, he secretly climbed the store's back stairs and placed the body in its upright sitting position into a store loft coffin. The unsuspecting watchman on his later rounds let out a frightened yell which stirred the village.

(From A Century with Connor Timber)

For The Fun of It

By Lil Kroepflin

I'm sure few people remember the fourth of July picnic celebrations put on by the Herman Klemme family way back in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The few who do will enjoy them all over again when they read this.

I was born in 1904, so I was a bit young to remember much of them. I have heard the family telling about the fun times they were, even though it took days to prepare for them.

There were the busy days before the celebration when cakes had to be baked and frosted, sandwiches to be prepared for, ice cream to be cooked with real cream and all the other goodies needed for it before freezing. Believe me, the freezing part was the hard part because they were five gallon freezers and were really hard to turn. I'm sure it took more than one man to do the job. Then of course, the picnic grounds had to be prepared for use.

The big day started out with a big bang made with dynamite set off by my father to awaken the villagers as well as the family to prepare for the day. The food as well as other things had to be taken to the picnic area which took place on the 80 acre farm my father had at the north east end of the village now owned by Paul Oertel. It was a large area with a pavilion for dancing, a beer stand and sports area.

The picnic started whenever the people arrived and lasted until after the dance at night.

There were fun things going on all day long. There were foot races, sack races, a greased pole to climb and claim the money on top, greased pigs to catch, horse pulling contests.

There was a young lad known as the town character who was great at climbing the greased pole and catching the greased pig. He was the first to be seen at the picnic area on the day following the picnic looking to see what he could find, especially money which we often times found when digging in our garden.

The fireworks and a dance took place in the evening and lasted until the wee hours of the morning. I'm sure it was a fun day for all.

Lil Kroeplin is the daughter of H. L. Klemme. She is 86 years old and lives in Stratford.

Patent

Alexander J. Sturm of Stratford writes the News that he has recently received a patent for a new and improved sharpening device for use in sharpening knives, scissors, etc. He says his patent covers an article that at once becomes a household necessity. It is simple and can be placed on the market at a retail value of 25 cents.

POLIO INSURANCE

\$10.00
for 2 years

for
FAMILY PLAN

\$5.00 for individual over 18

Offers Up To
\$5,000

For hospital, doctors, nurses,
ambulance, iron lung, etc.

Jerome J. Kaiser

In August of 1949, the country was in the midst of a polio scare. The epidemic was on the minds of everyone. This ad ran in the Stratford Journal

"Bashful Mr. Bobbs"

A FARCE---COMEDY IN THREE ACTS

given by

Young people's society of Lutheran Church

at the

STRATFORD OPERA HOUSE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 14

CHARACTERS.

Katherine Henderson, A young wife.....Anna Zuelke
Frederick Henderson, Her husband.....Robert Klinner
Mrs. Wiggins, The landlady.....Olga Zuelke
Obadiah Stump, A fresh country product..Arthur Bogen
Frances Whittaker, An athletic girl.....Marie Doll
Rosalie Otis, A society bud.....Gertrude Bartz
Mr. Robert Bobbs, The bashful one....Walter Klinner
Jean Graham, A Delaware Peach.....Helen Zuelke
Marsten Bobbs, Anything but bashful.....Fred Zuelke
Celesta Vanderpool, Of the Movies.....Elsie Mews
Julie, Her French maid from Paris, Ky....Martha Verch

Time:--Day before yesterday.

Act 1 Was he a Burglar? Late afternoon in June.

Act 2 A Human Butterfly. Nearly night.

Act 3 Thieves and Bridegrooms.

Music by Stratford Orchestra.

DANCE HOME GUARDS **DANCE**
Music by Stratford Orchestra

TONIGHT AT THE OPERA HOUSE

Let's all go, have a good time, and
boost the rifle club.

Tickets \$1.00

Dancing 9:30 to 2

Stratford Area People

We asked area residents to submit family stories for publication in the book. Only a small number responded so there are only a few families represented. We hope you enjoy reading about Stratfordites.

Henry H. Aschbrenner Family



One of the prettiest church weddings ever witnessed here occurred last Sunday at Zion's Lutheran church, Rev. Carl Schmalz officiating. The happy pair are Henry H. Aschbrenner and Miss Emma May Lillge.

The Misses Ella Lillge, Mabel Radant and Hilda Aschbrenner acted as bridesmaids. Msrs. Frank Aschbrenner, Frederick Quade and Frederick Lillge performed the duties of groomsmen.

After the ceremony at the church the bridal party retired to the home of the bride where friends and relatives were served a sumptuous wedding dinner. In the evening a dance was given at the Opera House, the Stratford band furnishing the music. (From news clipping - June 12, 1910. Newspaper not identified). *Courtesy Mrs. Harold Skrenes.*

Edward Becher Family

Edward and Bertha Becher had owned and operated Becher's Ice Cream Parlor at 213 Elm Street in Stratford from 1917 to 1949. Edward was born on January 19, 1893 in Greenville, Wisconsin. He had purchased a Watkins route in this area and came to Stratford about 1911. Bertha was born near

Wausau on July 23, 1893 and in 1898 came with her parents, Philip and Magdalene Harter to an area one-half mile west of Stratford. (Now the Bill Reckner farm.) This became the future home and farm of the Harter family. After the Becher's marriage on June 16, 1915, they lived in Stratford. Bertha had started an ice cream parlor in part of their home at the corner of Elm and Second Street. She made all the ice cream, using



Ed & Bertha Becher. *Courtesy Elaine Becher*

her own recipe. The enterprise soon needed more room, so they built a one story brick building at the east end of their lot. The business, under the name of Becher's Ice Cream Parlor, continued until 1949 when it was sold. Ed then became a salesman for the Extension magazine for many years. After semi-retiring, he worked for his son, Al, in the office of Becher Feed and Farm Supply. Previously he had held offices at St. Joseph's Parish and the Stratford Village. He died May 21, 1970 at the age of 77.

Bertha continued to reside at her home in Stratford, and later resided with family members until she entered Bethel Living Center at Arpin. She died September 5, 1984 at the age of 91. The couple had celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in 1965. Their children are:

Magdalen (Mrs. Louis Bowen) Fond du Lac; Dolores (Sister Marita) Oshkosh; Leo (Edward) Lancaster; Mary (Marian) (Mrs. Walter Werner), Marshfield; Walter, Stratford; Roman, Santa Clara, California; Aloysius, Stratford; Florence, (Mrs. Roman Theurer), Stratford; Joan (Mrs. Sylvan Spiegelberg, died 10-18-81) Philip, Winona, Minnesota; Jeanette (Mrs. Anthony Schuster) Campbell, California; Thomas, Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Walter Becher Family

Walter (Wally) and Elaine Becher have been in business in Stratford since 1954. They own and operate Becher's TV store at 207 Elm Street. Wally's parents were Edward and Bertha (Harter) Becher who owned and operated Becher's Ice

Cream Parlor in Stratford from 1917 to 1949. After graduating from Stratford High School and serving in the Navy from 1942 to 1945, Wally attended Tri-State College in Angola, Indiana and received a B.S. degree in Electronics. Elaine attended C.S.T.C. (now called UW-Stevens Point) and received a B.S. degree in Education. They were married in 1951 and moved to Chicago where Wally was employed in the engineering department of the J.P. Seeburg Corporation, and Elaine taught kindergarten in Bensenville, Illinois. In 1954 they returned to Wisconsin and started Becher's TV store in Stratford. 1991 marks 37 years of continuous ownership and business at the same location. From 1967-1972 they also managed a small restaurant and drive-up in the original Becher's Ice Cream Parlor that was adjacent to their TV store. Elaine has been employed as a teacher in the local schools since 1973, and is active in various organizations and community activities. She is a past area agent for N.T.C. and has been on the Advisory Board for several years. Their children are: Jeanne (Mrs. Bruce Marcus), Chicago, Illinois; Mary Lynn (Mrs. Bruce Herstad), Superior, Wisconsin; Suzanne (Mrs. Sidney Nozaki) Pahala, Hawaii; Robert (Bob) Married to Sally Whitfield), Dumas, Texas; John, (twin to James) San Jose, California; James (Jim) married to Angel Dradi, San Jose, California, Patricia (Patty) (Mrs. Martin Lascelles), Boulder, Colorado; Thomas, Stratford, Wisconsin. Grandchildren are: Seth, Ben, Leah, and Hannah Herstad, Steven and Scott Nozaki, and Jane Lascelles.

Edward Dennee Family

Mr. Dennee was born in Ontario, Canada and Mrs. Dennee in New Holstein, Wisconsin.

Mr. Dennee came to Stratford with his parents at the age of 21. He worked for the Connor Lumber Company until they ceased operation. He then worked for the Farmer's Co-Op until his retirement.

They were some of the first settlers of Stratford. Mr. Dennee died in 1958 and Mrs. Dennee in 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennee had three children: Wallace, Donald and Margaret (Heim).

August Drexler Family

August Drexler was born July 20, 1865 in Wien, Austria. His wife Franziska was born May 21, 1867 in Eisenstein, Austria. They were married October 8, 1889 and came to this country in 1894. They had ten children: John, Elizabeth, Joseph, Theresa, Frank, Mary, August Jr., Agnes, Casper and Anton.

They settled in Sherry for a short time before moving to Stratford. In 1896 they bought the farm southeast of Stratford, where his youngest son, Anton, and wife Sylvia now reside.

August worked at the Connor Mills.



August Sr. and Francis Drexler *Courtesy Pat Zuelke*



Frank Drexler Family

(l-r) Frank, Theresa, John, Sister Ritana, Joe, Francis, August Jr., Sister Doris, Casper, Agnes and Tony. *Courtesy Pat Zuelke*

DECLARATION OF INTENTION.

I, August Drexler do declare upon oath that it is bona fide my intention to become a citizen of the United States, and to renounce forever all Allegiance and Fidelity to all and every Foreign Prince, State and Sovereignty, whatever; and particularly to the the Emperor of Germany

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 3rd day of April, A. D. 1896 } August Drexler

Hugo Peters CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT.
per Paul F. Peters
clerk

Circuit Court, Marathon County.

STATE OF WISCONSIN, }
COUNTY OF MARATHON. }

I, Hugo Peters, Clerk of the Circuit Court in and for the county aforesaid, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original declaration of intention of August Drexler to become a citizen of the United States.

Witness my hand and the seal of this Court this 3rd day of April 1896

Hugo Peters CLERK.
per Paul F. Peters
clerk

Mike Baltus Family



1913 - Photo of the Mike and Anna Baltus family in front of their home. The home was located on Third Street where the high school stands today. The children are Helen, Frank, Elmer, Margaret, Mable and Roger. Mike Baltus worked for the R. Connor Company. More information about Mike is in the section on logging earlier in the book. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Troy Hannum.

Darrell Ehrike Family

Darrell is the youngest son of Esther (Matthes) and the late Frank Ehrike of Stratford. Patricia is the daughter of Leon (born in Marshfield) and Patricia (N.J.) Scheller, both of whom are deceased. Patricia was born and raised in N.J. She met Darrell, while on vacation visiting relatives in Marshfield in 1974. They married in April 1975 in N.J. and moved back to Stratford in August 1975. They have three children: Darrell Jr. (D.J.), Jeffrey and Ashlee-Jean. Darrell is an independent insurance agent and owns his own agency at 219 East Elm Street.

Earl Ellenbecker Family

Earl and Bernice (Syring) Ellenbecker came to Stratford in 1982 when they retired from a farm in the town of Cleveland, which they operated for thirty-three years.

Among Earl's interests are playing cards and gardening. Bernice enjoys handicraft and writing.

Joseph Framberger Family

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Framberger moved to their newly purchased 80 acres in Section 24, Town of Eau Pleine (part of the Village of Stratford) in 1896. The purchase price was \$600. It had a small log house and three acres of cleared land with the balance heavy timber, as was most of the area. Migrating groups of Indians would ask for food, which they were given from a not too plentiful supply.

On a later trip, to show their appreciation, they gave Mrs. Framberger a hand woven wooden basket which is still in the family, as is the bulk of the farm land. All but twelve acres was cleared of timber and rocks and the farm was an important contributor to the crop production and economy of the area.

Joe Framberger was a part time teacher in the pre-1900 school across the river from Webertown and was a charter member of St. Joseph's Church in Stratford.

Adolf Frank Family



Frank Family photo taken in 1963. Ralph, Don, Harold, Roger, Florence, Lloyd, Adolph Sr., George, Adolph, Jr.



Adolf Frank Sr., *Courtesy Terry Frank.*

Adolph G. Frank was born in Jackson, WI, December 3, 1882 to Samuel Frank and Mathilda Epling. He grew up in that area which is about twenty miles north of Milwaukee. He was confirmed at Evangelical Lutheran Church, April 12, 1896. He migrated north to Stratford in search of work with the Connor Company. He was a good blacksmith and excellent horse shoer. In those days most material had to be handmade, horseshoes, bolts, plow shares, plow points. He was very good at tempering a piece of iron.

Bertha O. Schiffer was born in Germany September 4, 1890 to Heinrich G. Schiffer and Wilhelmina C. Rosenow. She came to the US at the age of three with her parents, settling in Augusta, WI. They later moved to Stratford in search of work with the Connor Company. She was confirmed March 20, 1904 at Zion Lutheran Church in Stratford.

Adolph Frank and Bertha Schiffer were married in Zion Lutheran Church, September 4, 1912. They were blessed with eight children, Adolph Arthur, George Henry, Lloyd Theodore, Harold Waldamer, Donald Charles, Ralph Douglas, Florence Lillian and Roger Russell.

Adolph married Maude Backus from Marshfield. They settled in Marshfield where Adolph did bookkeeping and tax work for many years. He was a building inspector in Marshfield for twenty-three years. They had three children.

George married Irene Walter in Aurora, Colorado. He remained in the service after WWII, retiring as a Master Sergeant in the US Air Force after thirty years. They had three children.

Lloyd married Doris Stover of Stratford. He was an avid athlete. He graduated from River Falls College. He was a teacher for many years in Wheaton, IL. Lloyd was also a commissioned officer in the US Marine Corps in WWII. They had two children.

Harold Waldamer married Catherine Kennedy from Eagle River. Harold was in the CCC's prior to World War II. They moved to Milwaukee after the war where he worked on construction for many years. They had one child.

Donald Charles married Lillian Winkka from Maple, WI.



Adolf Frank Jr., *Courtesy Terry Frank.*

Don served in WWII with the US Navy. He remained in service retiring after thirty years with the rank of Lt. Commander. They made their home in Anaheim, California and were blessed with seven children.

Ralph Douglas served in CCC's in Wausau area prior to WWII. He related many stories of building the Eau Pleine Flowage in the mid 1930's. Ralph served in the Merchant Marines during WWII. It is believed his ships were sunk three different times. In later life, Ralph returned to Stratford where he became involved in the mobile home business. Ralph is probably best remembered by the local saloon keepers for his happy-go-lucky attitude and story telling.

Florence Lillian married Gordon Kieffer from Wausau. They owned and operated the Pine Bar and Restaurant for over thirty years in Wausau. They had four children.

Roger Russell married Marjorie Kuethe from Spencer. He was too young for WWII, however, he went on to college at Wheaton, IL and received a commission in the US Marine Corps Reserve. Roger was a hospital supply salesman, logging many hours of flying time to many cities in the US. They had four children.

Roy Gebelein Family

Roy and Shirley Gebelein came to Stratford in 1946 from the Town of Day after Roy was discharged from the Army Air Force.

Roy was a tank wagon salesperson for Mobil Oil for ten years and Shirley was a homemaker.

In 1956 they bought the Mobil Service Station, formerly Kann's Service. They operated the service station for twenty-nine years before selling the business to Baltus Oil of Marshfield. Roy also drove school bus for thirty-nine years while in business. They have six children: Sister Judith, Peggy, Lowell, Diane, Duane and Maria and one son Larry deceased in 1952.

Ray and Shirley are members of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and the VFW and Auxiliary.

Melvin Guenther Family

Melvin and Victoria Guenther came to Stratford in 1941 from Colby where Melvin had been associated with Paholka Plumbing and Heating. They founded Guenther Sheet Metal and Plumbing in the vacant Meyers harness shop. The business was opened in June. In July of 1943, Melvin was called into government service on the Alaskan Highway. He served there as superintendent of plumbing and heating and later was put in charge of all maintenance of government and army installations. In October of 1944 he returned to the business which Victoria had kept open as a service and repair shop. The business went on as it had in the first years. Harold Guenther, a brother joined the business in 1945 having served in the European Theater during WWII. Everet Kennedy was the first plumbing apprentice and later Arnold Boldt was hired as a sheet metal worker. Theodore Wagner also worked for the concern for many years. In 1947 the Guenthers added a large shop area to the original building.

In 1958 they sold the building to Klemme Sales and took what is now the Guenther apartments as part of the sale. They operated in that location until 1968 when they purchased the former S&S Service Station and converted it to a plumbing and heating shop. Harold Guenther left the business in 1959 to purchase Merrill Plumbing and Heating. Arnold Boldt went to Peterson ship yards as a sheet metal worker. Mr. Wagner retired because of health problems.

On April 1, 1970, the business was sold to Donald Schultz. He renamed the business Stratford Plumbing and Heating. Melvin stayed with the business as Master Plumber for three years and then retired.

Melvin is still active as a member of the Wisconsin Assoc. of Plumbing, Heating, Cooling Contractors and serves as executive secretary of the Wisconsin Valley Plumbing Contractors Association. In 1963 Melvin served as State President of WAPHCC. He is on the planning and zoning committee of the Village of Stratford. He served as president of Stratford Businessmen's Association for a number of years, Village President for sixteen years, Member of Board of Education twenty three years, two terms as Lion's President, president of St. Joseph's Holy Name Society, and as chairman of the Diocese of LaCrosse CCD committee and a long time usher at St. Joseph's.

Victoria served as treasurer of SHS Band Boosters, President of the Area Bowlers Association, treasurer of National Catholic Foresters and as co-chairman of one of the groups of St. Joseph's Altar Society.

It is unusual when a person who has several University courses in Business Management and who was Office Manager and part owner of a business for thirty years, decides to get her high school diploma. Victoria Guenther graduated from Stratford High in 1975 and her husband, then President of the Board, was privileged to hand her that diploma.

The Guenthers are parents of six children, all graduates of St. Joseph's and Stratford High and all are college or university graduates with degrees up to Ph.D. Joan Welk, James, Robert, Richard, Harold (Harry), and Paul.

Arnold Habeck Family

Arnold and Margie Habeck came to Stratford in 1961 to a farm south of Little Rose from Unity. They moved to the Village of Stratford in 1962.

Arnold worked for Thorval and Byron Moen in Marshfield. At that time they did a lot of terracing, ditching and road work throughout the local and surrounding area working closely with the Marathon County Soil Conservation Office-the Stratford Branch. Later he worked for Trierweiler Construction Company until the time of his retirement in 1987. Margie taught fourth grade at Madison Elementary School in the Marshfield Public School System from 1962 until present. They have three children who all graduated from Stratford High School: Guy, who is the present Elementary Principal of the Mosinee Elementary School; Sandra, who is a Registered Nurse living in Baraboo and working in a Nursing Home in Sauk City; and Gary, who is retired and living in Darby, Montana.

Arnold served on the Village Board as a trustee as well as a member of the church council of Zion Lutheran Church.

Due to unexpected illness, the Habecks purchased a home in which they could function in 1988 in Spencer.

Philip Harter Family



Philip and Magdalene Harter (1951)

Early settlers in the Stratford area included Philip and Magdalene Harter. Philip was born in Germany on April 28, 1870, and came to the United States in 1887 when he was 17 years old. He settled in the Town of Texas, Marathon County. He later returned to Germany to get his future bride,

Magdalene Heintzmann, who was also born in Germany. They had planned to be married at a later date in Wisconsin. However, when they arrived in New York, authorities informed them, that due to immigration quotas, Magdalene could only enter the United States if she was married to Philip. If not, she would have to return to Germany. Philip would be allowed to stay as he had already been a resident of the United States. So they were married in New York on May 23, 1891. Magdalene had packed her wedding gown in the trunk that she brought with her, but due to the hurried and unexpected situation, she was unable to wear the gown for her wedding. In 1898 they purchased a wooded area about one-half mile west of Stratford (now the Bill Reckner farm). Philip, with the help of neighbors, built a house and all the other buildings. The Harters lived there until 1929 when they retired and moved to the Village of Stratford. Philip became Village Street Commissioner, a position he held for 20 years. They were charter members of St. Joseph's Church and celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in 1951. Magdalene died on July 23, 1951 and Philip died on August 26, 1957. Their children included: Anna, (Mrs. Walter Doll) and Helen (Mrs. Frank Weinfurter) who both reside in Marshfield; and five other children who are deceased, Frank, formerly of Seattle, Washington; Anton, and Frances (Mrs. John Steines) both formerly of Adams, Minnesota; Bertha (Mrs. Edward Becher) formerly of Stratford; and Marie, who died in infancy.

J. R. Heim Family

Mr. Heim was born in Hilbert, Wisconsin. He came to Stratford in 1920 and was associated with the Stratford Cow Testing Association. In 1924 he married Margaret Dennee and then moved to Plymouth where he was associated with the Kraft Cheese Company. In 1926 they moved back to Stratford and he started with the Farmers' Co-Op as manager until his retirement in 1957.

He served on the village board for many years and on two different cases was named village president, serving several terms.

They had two children: Edward, who resides in Appleton and retired in 1990. Joan, who resides in Marshfield, has been employed by the Marshfield Clinic for 38 years.

Mr. Heim died in 1968 and Mrs. Heim in 1981.

Ignatz Hoffman Family

Ignatz Hoffman Sr. immigrated to the United States in 1890. Along with him came his sister Mary and her husband, Michael Schneck. Ignatz left behind in Austria, his pregnant wife, Magdalena, and his one year old son, Joseph. Ignatz settled in Ford City, Pa. where he obtained employment as a

glass blower. His second son, Louis, was born in Austria on November 22, 1890, and then, when Louis was two years old, Magdalena, along with her two sons, and a sister, who came along to help care for the children on the long journey to America, joined her husband in Ford City. Her sister, Miss Moultnor, had planned to return home to her native country, but while in Ford City, met a young man, fell in love and married him. His name was Mr. Fred Kuchrenreiter. They remained in Pennsylvania and raised their family there.

Ignatz and Magdalena had their third son, Anton, born in Ford City, and shortly after moved to Wisconsin, settling just south of Stratford in an area that was called Shantytown. Their home, although remodeled, still stands today.

In the early 1900's, a family band was formed and the family played at many church picnics and other community events. Even though their son John was a deaf mute, it is said that he played the piano beautifully. He was also a very talented artist, doing many pencil drawings of wild animals and birds for his nieces and nephews, and in 1925 painted a picture of the "Last Supper" which is in the possession of a niece, Betty Schuster of Pittsville.

Marie Susa, of Greenwood, granddaughter of Ignatz and Magdalena, has in her possession, original canvas portraits of them.

Joseph Hoffman eventually formed his own band, after coming from a strong musical family background. They traveled all over Wisconsin, playing mostly for dances. Joe also wrote and composed his own songs, the most successful being a ballad, "Dear Little Pal", written while he lived in Burlington in 1925.



Louis and Irene Hoffman

Louis enlisted in the United States Army on April 25, 1918. Although he wasn't physically injured while in service,

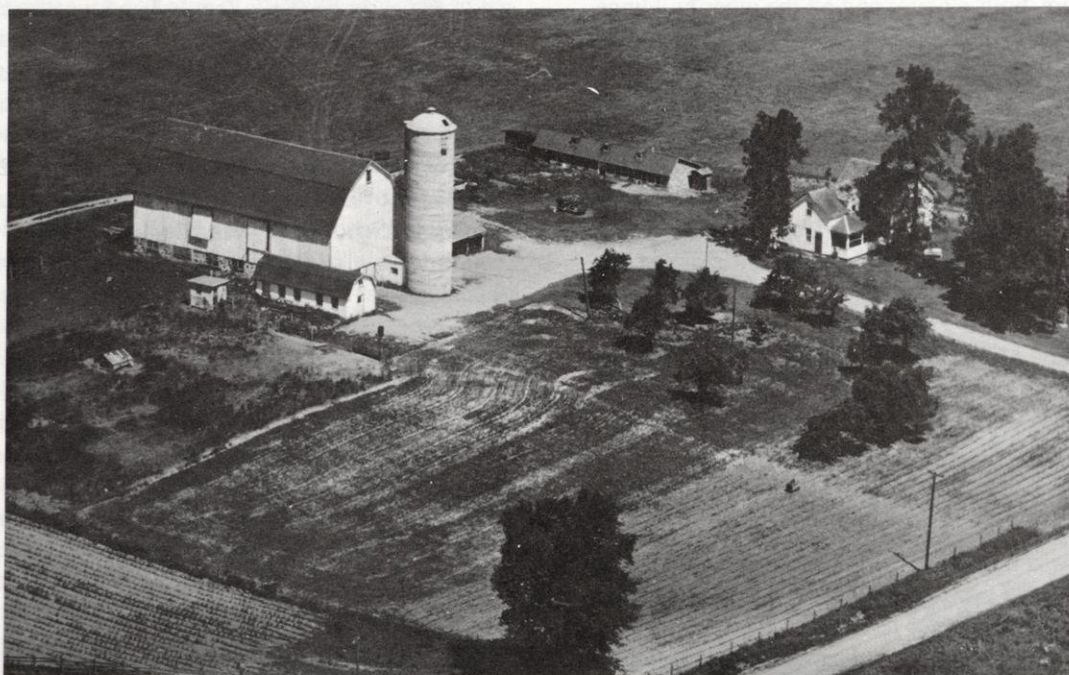
the noise from the exploding shells took their toll on his hearing and eventually he became totally deaf. His love of music sufficed and he played his beloved clarinet for many, many years in the municipal band in Marshfield. While in the Army Band, he once took John Philip Sousa's place, a proud moment indeed.

Descendants of Louis and Irene Hoffman are: Edwin Hoffman, Ray Hoffman, Marie, Alois, Betty and Robert.

Ignatz and Magdalena left their mark in America, leaving a grand total of 152 descendants as of this year, 1990. Among them, only two sets of twins, boys, Keith and Kevin, born to Lorraine and Walter Hilt, and girls, Kathleen and Kristeen, born to Betty and Fran Schuster.

Among the descendants also, is one priest, Father Jim Hoffman, a great grandson, who is pastor of Our Lady Queen of the Universe parish in Woodruff, Wisconsin.

Hughes Family



Hughes farm - 1950's. Courtesy Connie Hughes

Hughes Farm 1856-1991 As written down by Connie Hughes and Alice Olson

John Hughes homesteaded this 120 acres of land on November 19, 1856. He came from Ireland but the year is unknown. John married Theresa (maiden name unknown). This 120 acres is all that is in the family now but the total amount of acres is unknown. In 1889 the farm was sold to John's son, James, a single man. In 1889 James' brother Patrick purchased it. Sometime between 1889 and 1894, Patrick's brother, Michael and wife Ellen owned the farm jointly with Patrick. Michael and Ellen sold a strip of land 100 ft. wide to Milwaukee Lakeshore Western Railway Co. in 1891 for railroad right of way. They were paid \$181. On August 19, 1893, Chicago Northwestern Railway bought the right of way from Milwaukee Lake Shore.

On April 14, 1894 the land was sold to North Milwaukee Lumber Co. for the timber. The organization consisted of Frank Staadt, William Staadt, August Loth and William Hinkforth. The farm was located in the Town of Staadt where



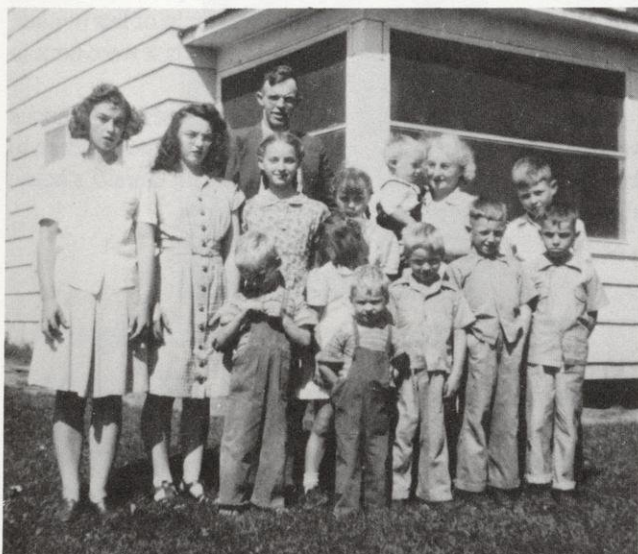
Charles and Alice (Vandehey) Hughes - 1890. Courtesy Connie Hughes.



The Charles and Alice (Vandehey) Hughes Family: Top, Ervin Hughes and Glenn Hughes; Across: (l-r) Ray, Charley, Myron, Bill, Alice, Theresa, Genevieve and Orvill. Mother, Alice Hughes is in front. *Courtesy Connie Hughes*

there had been a blacksmith shop, depot, mercantile general store, church, cemetery, post office, saloon and some homes. The industry was Staadt Lumber Co.

The corporate name of North Milwaukee Lumber was changed on April 12, 1894 to the John Staadt Lumber. Co. They then sold the land back to Charles M. Hughes (a nephew of Pat and Mike) on May 25, 1894 for \$400 reserving all timber rights. It was also stated that any future owners shall never use any part of the premises to erect a building for the purpose of conducting a saloon or where intoxicating liquors would be sold, or all premises would revert back to previous parties or successors.



Ervin and Margaret Hughes Family 1944. *Courtesy Connie Hughes.*

On October 21, 1890, Charles M. Hughes married Alice Vandehey. On December 13, 1919 Charles died at the age of 54. He was walking to Stratford on the railroad tracks when he had a heart attack. The train stopped and picked him up, placing him on a flat bed car and took him to town to be identified. Since there was no will, everything was divided among the children and Alice had an incredible amount of paperwork to gain the farm back in her name. There were a series of quit claim deeds made back to Alice.

Her eleven children ranged in age from oldest to youngest: Theresa Hughes Hayes, 28, Stratford; Myron, 27, Atlanta, GA; John (deceased at age 24); Charles 22; Ervin 20; Raymond 18; Alice 16; Wilfred 13, Leonard 11; Orval 9; Genevieve 6; all at home.

In 1928 Alice Hughes granted an easement to Wisconsin Valley Electric Co. for the purpose of transmitting electric current by means of a power line through her land. For this she was paid \$1.00.

In 1942, April 20, Wilfred L. and Margaret (Brunner) Hughes and Charles J. and Julia (McGivern) Hughes purchased the farm from Alice. Then on August 25, 1943 Charles and Julia bought out Wilfred and Margaret. On January 22, 1949 Ervin and Margaret (Clark) Hughes purchased the farm. Before this they had lived here and ran the farm for Charles and Julia, during which time in 1942 Charles had electricity put in.

On September 21, 1964 Ervin provided a quit claim deed to Margaret for the farm, knowing he was ill. On January 12, 1965 Ervin passed away. Ervin and Margaret had twelve children:

Elaine Stoiber, Jane Levendusky, Donna Goetzman, Johnny, Alice Olson, Gerald, Ervin, Margaret Mueller, Patrick, James, Neil and Kenneth.



Ken Hughes Family, 1990. Back row: Jonathon, Debra, Donald and Robert. Seated: Ken and Connie Hughes. *Courtesy Connie Hughes*

On August 31, 1967 Margaret sold the farm to her youngest child, Kenneth and his wife Elizabeth Ann (Connie). They still own and operate the Hughes farm 145 years after being homesteaded by John Hughes. In the 1970's Ken and Connie purchased 40 acres from the Ray Leonard estate nearby. The abstract showed John Hughes had originally homesteaded this land also. He eventually lost it through a gambling debt.

Ken and Connie have four children: Robert Erwin 25; Donald Maynard 24; Debra Marie 22; Jonathon Clark 17.

Memories of Margaret Clark Hughes

There was a shack by the RR tracks with a box stove in it that the hobos would light a fire in to keep warm. Then they would come to the farm to beg for food. They usually asked for bread with lard and syrup on it. But when the Gypsies would come through they would sometimes steal eggs, milk and chickens rather than ask.

Once a man and woman came and both of them were dressed like men. Margaret saw them coming so she got the kids in the house and locked the door. Margaret refused to let them in. Genevieve was there at the time so Margaret sent her over to the barn with the milk pitcher so she could tell Ervin to come, as the people were persistent. When they saw Ervin

come out of the barn they left. Margaret said she'd been afraid that time.

There was also the time a hobo stole the trip rope from the hay barn and hung himself from a tree in the back field.

Genevieve and Margaret would catch the train to go to Stratford for church or whatever. If they were running for it, the engineer would wait for them. The cost was about 25 cents. Alice, Margaret's daughter, says she remembers paying 15 cents to take the train into Stratford to school and when they got there, the conductor would return the 15 cents to them.

Margaret said the train would go through before 9 a.m. and return sometime after 10 heading for Marshfield. So if they wanted, they would go to Marshfield and then return on the 2 o'clock. She says it was very handy with the train and depot right there in the town of Staadt.

The town of Staadt was dying out by the time Margaret married Ervin in 1928. The Staadt Lumber Mill was no longer in business, but the Connor Mill and Stratford was booming. When Margaret got here, there was still a depot and a saloon, a town hall and an old school house.

Across the driveway the Hughes' had a huge apple orchard. They never sold any but gave away and used all they could.

There also was a man by the name of Pete Beyel. He would peddle his wares on his bicycle, things like candy bars, shoe laces and buttons.

Margaret says Charles and Alice cleared most of the land of stumps, stones and trees. They'd clear a piece, farm it and start another.

She also remembers in the 1930's when there was a drought, the cattle were driven in a cattle drive up north for water and feed. There they could rent a piece of land and milk the cows. She says it was a terrible drought. There was nothing around here to feed the animals.

Margaret had her first child, Elaine, in the hospital because she suffered from toxemia and was quite ill. The next five children were born at home with the help of her mother, and her mother-in-law, Alice Hughes. The last were born in the hospital.

Ervin had purchased a Victrola and Sunday afternoons were spent cranking it up and Ervin teaching the children to dance and sing. The same Victrola stands in Gerald's house in Marshfield today.

Dennis Kuyoth Family

Dennis and Cheryl were both born in the rural Stratford area. Dennis is the son of Anton and Irene Kuyoth. Cheryl is the daughter of Leonard and Laverne Bornowski.

Dennis and Cheryl built their home in Stratford in 1985. They own and operate Kuyoth, Inc. They have two children, Troy and Tammy.

Ray F. Leonard Family

Ray and Maud Leonard came to a farm in the Town of Cleveland, two miles south and two miles east of Stratford in 1919 from Leaf River, Illinois.

One brother, Carl Leonard, came from their native Chambersburg, Pennsylvania a bit later and met and married Emma Schmidt and moved to Marshfield.



Ray and Maud Leonard. *Courtesy of Edna Hinshaw*

One daughter Edna born in 1923 moved with Maud and Ray to the Staadt area in 1937, Town of Eau Pleine.

Ray dehorned many cattle during the depression years and raised Guernsey cattle. Both were charter members of Community Bible Church. Edna Leonard graduated from Stratford High School in 1941. Later she and her husband owned and operated Fischer's grill in downtown Stratford next to the Diermeier Market, 1959 to 1969.

The Fischers, with the help of their only daughter Mary Sue, also operated Franklin Salt Water Taffy concession some twenty years. Edna later was employed at St. Joseph's Hospital until retirement.

In 1918 he ran a Pool Hall and sold soft drinks and smokes. Also cut ice on the Big Eau Pleine. He had a saw mill. He ran a Hotel and Bar in Stratford. Was a cattle buyer; had a trucking business. He built and ran the Riverview Ballroom.



Wedding photo, 1892, of Christ and Josephine (Hoffman) Kaser. They lived their entire life in the Stratford area. *Courtesy of Mary Hannum*

Joseph Kaser Family



Joseph Kaser. *Courtesy of Mary Hannum*

Joseph M. Kaser, born, Feb. 9, 1893. Married to Margaret (Baltus) Kaser, 1924. Margaret's father, Michael Baltus was well known in the logging industry. He worked for R. Conner Co. Lumber Industry. When in Stratford Michael Baltus lived on 3rd Street.

Joseph M. Kaser was involved in many businesses throughout his life time.



H. L. Klemme Family - 1911

Back Row: Ann, Alma and Freida. Front Row: Bertha, Otto, George, Lillian and Herman. *Courtesy of Lillian Kroepelin*



Lena Kaiser-Patrick Sheehee Wedding Photo

There are so many people in the photograph that it was impossible to print a key that would identify everyone. We do have a numbered key available. It can be viewed at the Village Hall.

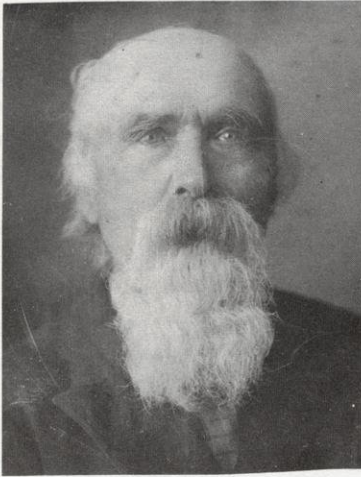
Frank Kaiser, Guy Hughes, Barney Hughes, Theresa Hughes, Myron Kaiser, Walter Kaiser, George (Weber) Reed, Tom Sheehee, Lena Kaiser Sheehee, Pat Sheehee, Susan Ohlinger, Arnie Kaiser, Peter Kaiser, Bridesmaid (?), Andrew Kaiser, bestman, Mildred Reed, Elmer Reed, Annie Weber Reed, Annie Kaiser, Leo Hughes, Joe Kaiser, Jake Hughes, Susie Kaiser, Charles Kaiser, Katy Weber Kohl, Kohl baby, Harvey Weber, Clara Kreuger Weber, Margaret Kaiser Kreidler, Mother of Margaret-Susanne, Richard Hughes, Marian Hughes, Gert Kaiser Schmitt, Maid of Honor-Tressie Kaiser, Lena Weber Reed, Nettie Weber Polege, Aunt Et holding Hattie Kaiser Engldinger, Peter Kaiser, Mary Laessig (Frank's wife), Clara, Uncle John Kaiser, George Kaiser, Pete Rock's father, Laurie Kaiser, Gertie Hughes Felix, Carl Felix, John Kaiser, Pearl Hughes, Mary Aschenbrenner, Ollie Kaiser, Mary Kaiser Steines, Bert Hughes, Clara Weber, Lena Ohlinger, Hilda Afelbeck, Carrie Kaiser, Katy Kaiser Kirsch, Maggie Hughes, Lizzie Kaiser Orth, Gary Hughes, Lillian Hughes, Thesesa Hughes, Aunt Mary Petrie Kaiser, Laurence Kaiser, Maggie Rock, Weber from Auburndale, John Ohlinger, Herb Chrouser, Jake Kaiser, Matt Hughes, Gerbish (?), Bert Hughes, Christian Weber, Mr. and Mrs. Sawyer, Mr. & Mrs. Pete Rock and two sons, Mr. Speath & Alphonse, Mrs. Speath with baby Marcella, Mary Kaiser Ohlinger, Edward L. Laessig, John Weber, DeWaine Reed.



Kaiser Family

Back row: (l-r) Myron, Elizabeth, Hedwig, Caroline, Anna and Walter. Front row: Charles, John, Marietta and George.

Laessig Family



Ed Laessig. *Courtesy Olive Laessig*



Ed Laessig Family

Back row: (l-r) Edward, Louis, Mary, Fred, Charles, Hank, Frank. Middle row: Anna, Julia and Augusta. Front: Jeanette (Baenen) and Ed.

Courtesy Patty Laessig Zimmerman.

Louis Oertel Family

Albert Oertel (father of Ann Solinsky) was born south of Rangeline to Louis and Christiana Oertel. He was the youngest of 9 children. Paul, Louis and Rudolph lived in the Rangeline area, and sisters Emelia (Charles Ottelein), Frieda (Joe Striegel) and Anna (Simon Striegel) also lived here. His brother Wille lived in Farmville, Virginia and sister Mary Pressley in West Virginia.

When Albert was about 16 years old the parents and younger children moved to Virginia where Albert met and married Margaret Quieser. They came back to Wisconsin in 1911, moving to Milwaukee in 1913 and lived there until 1951. In 1951, Albert retired from his job as scale inspector for the Milwaukee Railroad having bought the former Matt Schiltz farm. They had three children: Ann (Solinsky), Albert, deceased, and Elmer of Milwaukee. Mrs. Oertel died on Jan. 11, 1961, and Albert died Mar. 27, 1965.

Artman and Ann Solinsky bought the Oertel home and Ann lives there at the present time. Their son Edward who lives on the home farm, rents the land.



*Mr. and Mrs. Albert Oertel.
Children Elmer, Ann and Albert.*

Joseph Polster Family

Joseph and Angeline Polster and family, five boys and two girls moved to Stratford in 1907. The farm was located three miles east of Stratford on Highway 153.

In 1927 Peter and Marie Polster and family, four boys and one girl moved to Stratford and purchased the Polster Electric

business at 214 2nd Avenue. Peter operated the business until 1959.

In 1959 the business was then purchased by Verlyn and Sharon Polster, who have five children: Jeff, Rick, Susan, Keery and Kevin.

In 1989 the business of Polster Electric was purchased by Rick and Cindy Polster who have two children, Lindsen and Liza.

Charles Raugh Family

Charles, age 94, now resides in a Schofield, Wisconsin nursing home. Celia, his wife for over 69 years, passed away in January 1991. They had spent most of their lives in Stratford, having moved to a nursing home in September 1990.

After serving in the Army in World War I, Charles married Celia Schweikl on June 1, 1921. They have four living children: Constance, Carmen, Calvert and Cleo. A fifth, Carol, died as a young child.

Charles worked for over fifty years as a retail clerk for the Connor Company and later the Davel Family while Celia was a homemaker. Both were very active in the American Legion and its Auxiliary. They also gave generously of their time to other community organizations and activities.

George Schmid



George Schmid. *Courtesy of Dorothy Schreiner*

Lester Schneider, Jr. Family

Lester and Phyllis (Blizard) have been residents of the Town of Frankfort since 1963 when they purchased the Harvey Bohman farm. Lester has retired from farming in 1989.

During the Second World War Phyllis served in the WAVES, and during the Korean War Lester served in the Army Signal Corps in Germany where he met his wife who was working as an Army Librarian in Kaiserlautern. They were married in Oneonta, New York on Nov. 26, 1955.

His wife is a retired librarian from the Marshfield Public Library.

They have four children: Stephan (Catherine) and David of Marshfield; Peter, of Lakewood, Colorado; and Patricia Van Der Leest (Peter) of rural Stratford.

Lester Schneider Sr. Family

Lester Schneider, Sr. married his wife, Ida (Bornowski) on Dec. 31, 1924. Ida's parents, Adolph and Dorothea (Dittmar-Ballerstein) Bornowski, Sr, emigrated from Germany and settled the farm now owned by Leonard and Leta Ebben.

Lester and his wife lived in Sheboygan for twenty years where he worked for the Armour Leather Company. Their children include: Lester, Jr. born on Jan. 6, 1927; Carol (White) of Hamilton, MN, born on May 1, 1930; and DyWayne, born on July 29, 1938. The family moved to a farm in the town of Frankfort in 1944. Lester died on May 6, 1971.

DyWayne is presently a Lutheran minister serving two rural churches near Colby, one in which his grandparents, Heinrich Schneider and Emma (Ewald) were married November 25, 1890 at the St. Paul's Church, Green Grove. DyWayne's mother is making her home with him at Green Grove.

Frank Schreiner Family



The Frank Schreiner Family

Standing: (l-r) Louis, Frank, Joe
Seated: Frank Jr., Rose (Holding baby, Rose), and Marie
Courtesy Mrs. Frank Schreiner.

The Edward Solinsky Family



The Solinsky Farm, 1983

The farm now owned by Edward and Barbara Solinsky is Ed's former home. He was raised there with two sisters and two brothers. Art and Ann Solinsky bought the farm in 1941.

The farm was formerly owned by Daniel Schlothauer and he sold it to Ed Schneeweis.

Ann Oertel grew up in Milwaukee, but had several relatives in the Rangeline Area where her father, Albert Oertel was born (the youngest of Louis and Christiana Oertel's nine children. He moved to Farmville, VA when about 16 years old. He married Margaret Queiser there and moved back to Wisconsin in 1911. In 1951, they bought the former Fanny and Matt Schultz farm.

Art and Ann rented that farm until after the Oertels died; she in 1961 and he in 1965, and then bought it. In Sept. 19, 1970 Art died so Ann and son Ed lived there alone until he married Barbara Kaiser Dec. 11, 1971. On July 31st of 1973 Ed and Barb bought the home farm back from Ron Domres and moved there. It was great having the old farm back. Ed and Barb had three boys, Craig, Jeremy, and Paul.

The other Solinsky children are Annette Guldon from the Little Rose area. She and her husband Bill had three children; Marcia Bauer of Marshfield, and Bill Jr. and Kenneth both of the Little Rose area. Annette and Bill have three grandchildren.

Art E. Solinsky lives and farms in the Junction City Area. He and his wife Joy (Lahman) had 5 children. Kent of Stratford and Wayne who works on the farm with his dad. Jeff who lives in Arkansas and Cindy who works for the DNR on the endangered species program lives at Jet City. Michélie and her husband, Jeff Gaetz of Rural Junction City. Joy died on March 18, 1984, Art married Jill Wischefski on Sept. 21, 1985.

Patricia married Patrick Nikolay on April 25, 1958. They lived in Sheboygan where Pat worked at the Kohler Co. They



Ephreum Selky and Mrs. Rudolph Solinsky. The little boy is Artman Solinsky, the baby is Olga Kramer.

bought a farm in the Blenker Area. They had four boys while living in Sheboygan and then one daughter and three more boys since. Perry, Tom, Greg are truckers, and Pat Jr. and Jay farm, and Danny, the youngest, works in logging with his dad. Julie the only girl, is a surgical nurse at St. Joseph's hospital. They have one grandson. Robert works in Janesville at GM. He married Sherrie Skaug Sept. 21, 1974. They and their daughter, Renee, live in rural Milton. Sherrie works at Parker Pen.



Artman Solinsky Family

Back Row: Bill Guldán, Annette (Solinsky) Guldán, Artman Solinsky, Bob Solinsky, Artman Solinsky Jr., Pat Nikolay and Perry. 2nd Row: Billy Guldán, Ann Solinsky, Marsha Guldán, Edward Solinsky, Patricia Nikolay. Third Row: Wayne Solinsky, Joy (holding Jeff), Tom Nikolay (In Patricia's lap), Front Row: Ken Guldán, Kent Solinsky and Tom Nikolay.

Ulrich Family

The roots of the Ulrich family in Stratford began with Rudolph Ulrich and Alvena Schiffer.

Rudolph was born in 1882 in Germany, close to the Russian border. At the age of twelve, he worked in a glass factory in Russia. He came to North America with his parents when he was a teen-ager and settled in Winkler, Manitoba, Canada.

When he was twenty-one, Rudolph and his cousin, August Warnke, worked in the Dakota wheat fields. In fall they went into Minnesota and there learned of the Connor Company saw mill in Stratford, Wisconsin. In 1903 he started work in the mill as a setter. He worked for Connor Company in Stratford until 1942, when they followed the company to Wakefield, Michigan. Eight years later he retired and moved to Mosinee.

The late 1800's also brought the Henry Schiffer family from Germany to America. They first settled in Augusta, where they had a relative, but soon moved to Stratford to also work for Connor Company. Henry Schiffer was well educated. He founded the first Lutheran Church in Stratford by inviting seven families to his home. He was the church secretary for many years, and kept well written minutes. He also played the organ and spent many hours at the organ trying to decide the key in which he wanted the church bell to ring. This bell is still in Zion Lutheran Church.

Henry and Wilhelmina Schiffer had five daughters, the oldest being Alvena. (The other four were: Minna - Mrs. Max

Degner, Marshfield; Bertha - Mrs. Adolph Frank of Stratford; Anna - Mrs. Ted Krischner of Milwaukee and Elsie - Mrs. Charles Krause, also of Milwaukee.) They lived in the house located on the corner of East Railroad and Larch Streets (now owned by Mrs. Lillian Drexler). When Alvena came to Stratford her first job was working at the hotel owned by H.L. Klemme.

On September 4, 1906, Rudolph Ulrich and Alvena Schiffer were married at Zion Lutheran Church. They had six children and all are still living: Walter of Stratford, Agnes (Mrs. Charles Kyhos) of Mosinee, Arnold of Wausau, Lillian (Mrs. Donald Dupuis) of Mosinee, Alfred of Mosinee, Marian (Mrs. Arnold Saarnio) of Mercer.

Upon the death of Henry Schiffer, at age 48, Rudolph and Alvina Ulrich purchased the house at 403 Larch Street. They lived there until 1942 when they moved to Michigan.

Walter Ulrich has been a life long resident of Stratford. He was born and educated in Stratford. He worked for White House Milk Plant, later known as Western Condensery, and then Foremost Dairy, for thirty-eight years. He married Florence Untiet September 27, 1930. She was born in Wausau and moved to the Town of Cleveland at an early age. Walter and Florence have three children: Robert & Fredric (Fritz), both businessmen in Stratford and Bonnie (Mrs. Pat Buchberger), a teacher in Mosinee.

Florence worked at the Stratford State Bank, Klemme Sales, and was Village Clerk for five years. She has been very active in church and community organizations, helped organize Girl Scouts in Stratford, and loves to play cards.

Untiet Family

Paul Untiet and Sandra Borman Untiet came to Stratford in 1988, Paul, the son of Norman and Viola Untiet, grew up on a farm in the Town of Cleveland. Sandra, the daughter of Carl and Verna Borman, grew up in rural Aniwa, Wisconsin. Paul is the 4th generation to live in the Stratford area. Heinrich and Sophia (Schroer) Untiet came to the Town of Cleveland in 1894 from Ladbergen, Germany. Paul is a vocational rehabilitation teacher for the State of Wisconsin and works in Wausau. Sandra is an English teacher at Marshfield Senior High School.

Clifford Wiesman Family

Clifford and Dorothy Wiesman came to live in Stratford in the fall of 1936. They first lived in an upstairs apartment on 401 N. 3rd Ave. They moved to 721 N. 3rd Ave. in the spring of 1938 where Dorothy still lives.

Clifford was employed by Stratford Farmers Co-op Produce Co. for 42 years in the feed department, then as a mechanic and a parts man for John Deere Machinery Dept. until his retirement.

He was active as Stratford's Fire Chief; assistant fire chief; Stratford High School Music Band and Scouts. He never forgot his church. He was an active member as an officer in many organizations of Ebenezer United Church of Christ.

His hobbies were gardening, playing cards, attending Senior Citizens meetings, bowling, and visits to their cottage near Tomahawk. He died Sept. 12, 1988.

Dorothy taught school three years at Balsam School Southeast of Stratford before her marriage. She, too, was active in the High School music department and Scouts. She worked as Head Librarian in the Stratford Branch Library for 17 years.

Dorothy also served as an officer and volunteer committee worker of United Church of Christ where she still is an active member.

She enjoys reading, knitting, crocheting, many other crafts and playing cards. She is an active member of Sunburst Youth Home Auxiliary of Neillsville, attends Senior Citizens meetings, and Cleveland Homemakers.

Their three children are Dale, Theone, and Glen, all married. Eight grandchildren, one great grandchild, one step-great grandson.

Dan Williams Family

The Dan Williams family came to Stratford in the Fall of 1981 from Denver, Colorado when Dan took early retirement from the Farm Credit System. The family purchased the George Kroening Farm on Fairview Road and County M as their retirement home. This was the first time the property had been sold since it was homesteaded.

Dan was not ready for retirement when he moved to Stratford. Dan's thirty-year career as one of the top high-risk credit and workout specialist with the Farm Credit System led to his forming the consulting firm Daniel Williams and Associates, Ltd. in 1981. Since then he has been involved as the key high-risk credit and workout specialists for six large-scale problem portfolios involving multimillion to multibillion dollar agricultural and commercial financial institutions across the country.

This involvement required moving the family to Washington, DC, Portland, Oregon and St. Louis Missouri over the past ten years. This past year the family decided not to move again. In March of 1990 a family business, Access Mobility, was started. Dan is assisting his wife with this venture. Access Mobility handles accessibility products and adaptive driving equipment for seniors and the physically challenged.

Dan and Angela have five children: Benjamin, 21; Heather, 18; Patrick, 16; Amy, 15 and Paul, 12. The Williams are of Irish descent originally bearing the family name Brophy. The Brophy grandparents immigrated to America in the early 1900's and sometime thereafter Dan's father changed his name to Williams. It is believed his involvement with the Irish Republican army may have necessitated this change.

Angela's family is of Anglo-Saxon descent. Angela's father, Peter Thayer-Wood is originally from England. Upon marrying Helen Stapler and coming to America, Peter changed his name to Wood. Peter's great grandfather was one of the first settlers from England to settle in New Zealand. His ship was one of the first four ships to arrive in New Zealand on 16 December 1850. Angela's great great grandfather settled what is now Christ Church, New Zealand. Angela's mother Helen is from the Stapler family. The Staplers are noted in historical records in medieval England as being wool merchants. One was the Lord Mayor of London. Stephen Stapler from whom Angela is directly descended came to America with his friend William Penn.

BALLERSTEIN/BORNOWSKI FAMILY TREE



Richard
Bornowski/m
Leona Schneider

Emil
Bornowski/m
Elsie Borchardt
c-Freddie,
Dorothy, Marion,
Marie, Bernice

Adolph, Jr.
Bornowski/m
Gertrude Custer
c- Leonard,
Arnold, Violet

Herman
Ballerstein/
m Laura Hoefs
c-Willis, Robert,
Delbert, Audrey,
Erna, Herman, Jr
Arla Mae

Gust
Ballerstein/
Alice Egge-
brecht
c- Viola,
Clarence,
Eleanore,
Milda, Arlene

(Middle row)
Alma Bornowski
Randt/ Buttke
c- Gordon, Doris,
Ray, Eunice,
Janet, Karen

Emma Ballerstein
m John Krueger
c- Golda

Ida Bornowski
m Lester Schneider, Sr.
c- Lester, Jr., Carol,
DuWayne

William
Ballerstein/
m Louise
Syring
c-Norma, Im-
gard, Myrtle

Mother: Dorothea Ditmar
Ballerstein/ Bornowski

Father: Adolph, Sr.
Bornowski

Businesses of Yesterday



Photo Courtesy of Clarence Sandgren.

The R. Connor Company Store

Stratford's first business was the R. Connor Company Store. It was located on the corner of Third and Elm Streets. (Currently Davels). It was started in 1892 out of necessity for the mill workers and their families. Looking at Gordon

Connor's speech used earlier in the book, it seems as if anything one could imagine could be purchased at the store, from corsets to coffins.



Photo Courtesy of Verlyn Polster.

It was a "Company Store" and many times men's wages had been spent there before pay day. A strong interdependence developed between the "Company" and the men and the men and the "Company".

George Davel came to Stratford in 1898 and began working in the Connor Store.

The store underwent many changes as Stratford grew, becoming more modern and expanding the types of merchandise. As families located in the village a few luxuries were added. In 1921 the wooden building was moved and a brick and stone building was constructed with 30,000 feet of space. The north side of the building contained offices.

At the time of the opening of the new store, George Davel was the store superintendent and the department heads were J.J. Whitmeyer, Frank Lillge and Otto Radtke.

In 1922 a door was made on the south side and a drug store and ice cream parlor were added. That same year they opened a retail lumber yard at the rear of the store.

By 1931 the store was growing again. The Connor Company added a new auditorium. The woodwork was of dark oak and the walls were finished in cream color. The stage was described as being the most up-to-date having, a row of footlights and ceiling lights as well as very expensive velvet curtains.

The stage could accommodate a cast of over 60 people. The auditorium boasted a seating capacity of over five hundred. The balcony on the east end of the hall had a seating capacity of 125.

The Connor's sold the store in 1936. It was purchased by George Davel. Ted Zoellner and Ted Oettinger purchased the auditorium.



New Building



Inside Connor Store



JUST arrived—several new models of ROYAL WORCESTER corsets fresh with Fashion's very latest touches. Those who already wear these fashionable corsets need no further invitation than this mere announcement.

And to others we would say that this showing of ROYAL WORCESTER models is a style event well worth visiting.

Expert corsetieres in attendance to aid your selection and insure correct fitting of

ROYAL WORCESTER CORSETS

R. CONNOR COMPANY

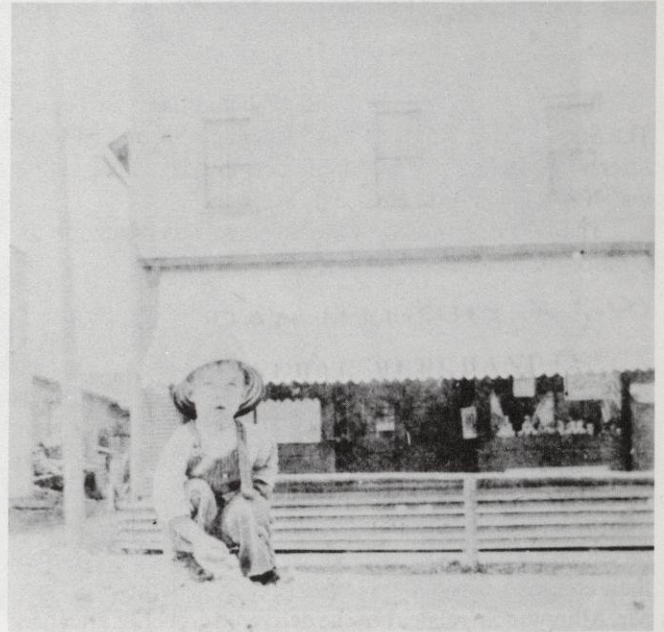
The Home of Hart Schaffner & Marx
 THE GOOD CLOTHES STORE. THE TRADING CENTER

Advertisement from Stratford Journal, 1916.

Mahoney's Store



New Store



This is the only photograph available. It is of very poor quality but as it was the only one it was used.

Dan Mahoney and his wife Mary came to Stratford in 1901 and opened the store. He was the first independent merchant to be successful in the village. He sold a line of general merchandise. His son, Joseph Mahony worked with him. Dan Mahoney died in 1923 and his son sold the store and moved to Milwaukee.

It was located on the northeast corner of Highway 153 and Third Street.



Jake Drexler in front of Connor Retail Lumber Store.
Courtesy Terry Frank

NOW ON DISPLAY

Samples of a big line of the Finest **MADE-TO-MEASURE** Clothes, on display at our store

**Young Men's Fashions
Finest Workmanship
Perfect Fit
Wonderful Values**

For Good Tailoring Service
—Fine Garments— and best Values—call upon us.

We Take Your Measure.

Dan Mahony & Company
The Good Quality Store.



The Store of Real Bargain

Advertisement from Stratford Journal, 1916

The Square Deal Allington & Van Ryzin

In 1915 Ernest Allington and William Van Ryzin opened The Square Deal Store. It was located on Second and Elm Streets where the Discount Liquidators is today. Their slogan was "Cash is the Axle Grease of Business".

The best description of the business was printed in the Stratford Journal on May 20, 1965:

Allington, Van Ryzin Golden Anniversary

"Like almost all businesses, their first years were hard and the two partners were only able to keep their new business on a sound financial basis by the practice of strictest economy. It was the time when the Connor Company store had the bulk of the trade in Stratford and the company was hard competition to buck. Company employees had to trade at the new store on the sly because they were afraid of the repercussions from their employers were they found trading with the new store. Mr. Allington Sr. relates how he delivered groceries after dark with a wheelbarrow to Connor Company employees, to keep their trade a secret.

Both the Senior Mr. Allington and Mr. Van Ryzin gained their first business experience in the Connor Company Store in Stratford, with Mr. Allington's father, who managed that store during the years 1904 to 1909. The Allingtons came here from Stanley and Mr. Van Ryzin came to Stratford in 1907.

In 1909, Mr. Allington, Sr., took over the management of the Rust-Owen store in Drummond. Ernest Allington went to Drummond with his father, and in 1912, Mr. Van Ryzin joined him there.

On June 19, 1912, Ernest Allington and William Van Ryzin were married in a double ceremony, the former to Miss Frieda Klemme of Stratford and the later to Miss Grace Allington.

At that time, Mr. Allington's father-in-law, the late H.L. Klemme, owned the store building which they now occupy. It had been the Stratford Opera house and at one time stood on the corner where now is located the Stratford State Bank.

Mr. Allington and Mr. Van Ryzin rented the store building from Mr. Klemme and started in business for themselves. Their competition was not only the Connor company store, but also the store owned by Dan Mahoney, a very popular merchant in Stratford, who supplied those who did not trade with Connor company. Perhaps they could have been called brash young men for starting out the way they did.

But their business prospered and by 1925, conditions looked so promising that a warehouse was built at the rear of the store, and the store room that had been at the north side of the building was rebuilt into a grocery department. The building remained unchanged until 1950, when the modern grocery was built to adjoin the department store to the south.

At the time the grocery department was constructed, the entire interior of the old part of the building was remodeled, to allow a much better display, and greater convenience. And at the same time, the exterior of the building was covered with an attractive siding.

Allington and Van Ryzin are two very closely-knit units. In 1950, the department store was under the supervision of Messers Allington and Van Ryzin, Sr. and the grocery department, then a Red Owl store, was under the management of Ken Allington and Ralph Van Ryzin.

In 1960, the connections with the Red Owl company were discontinued and in 1962, Kenneth Allington took over the management of the dry goods department and Ralph Van Ryzin manages the grocery department. Ralph's son, Russel now manages the meat department.

Long Time Employees

Miss Eva Schroeffer started working at the Allington & Van Ryzin store shortly after its opening, and is still a part-time employee. Mayme Laessig and her sister Nina, started work about three years later, and Miss Laessig is still active in the store. Miss Madelyn Weber started in 1934. Mrs. Kenneth Weber is now employed in the dry goods department and Shirley Hoefs is checkout girl in the grocery department. Burnard Custer handles store deliveries and is general handyman at the store."

The Allington & Van Ryzin store was sold in 1980 to a Mr. Linder who operated J.W. Foods until 1982. The building is now the home of Discount Liquidators.



Eva Schroeffer, Mayme Laessig and Bill Van Ryzin.

Keiffers Market



Keiffer's Market Courtesy Olive Laessig

Not much has been written about Keiffer's Store. It was located where the Stratford Farmers Co-op had their farm machinery before 1991.

Klumb's Meat Market



Louie Klumb opened a meat market in 1904.. He is on the left behind the counter. His helper is Conrad Reichert. The woman and children are unidentified.

Bever's Little Wonder Store

Art Bever ran the Bever's Store and Commercial Hotel. It is uncertain when it started but prior to being used as the store the building was the Klemme Saloon. It was located across from Klemme Feeds.

In 1920 the building was remodeled. The business consisted of a hotel, grocery and provision store, and an ice cream parlor. The lobby of the hotel also had a bar room.

The business was discontinued when they moved to Marshfield about 1929.

The Bever's had six children when they lived in Stratford. Marion, Arlene, Ralph, Gordon, Mark and Lucille.



Inside the store. Maggie Bever, Arthur Bever, Gilbert Nelson and Bertha Nelson (Mother & Father of Maggie), and Arlene Bever.



Bar of the Commercial Hotel



Soda Fountain Photos courtesy of LuAnn Rebman, daughter of Ralph Bever.

Klemme's Saloon

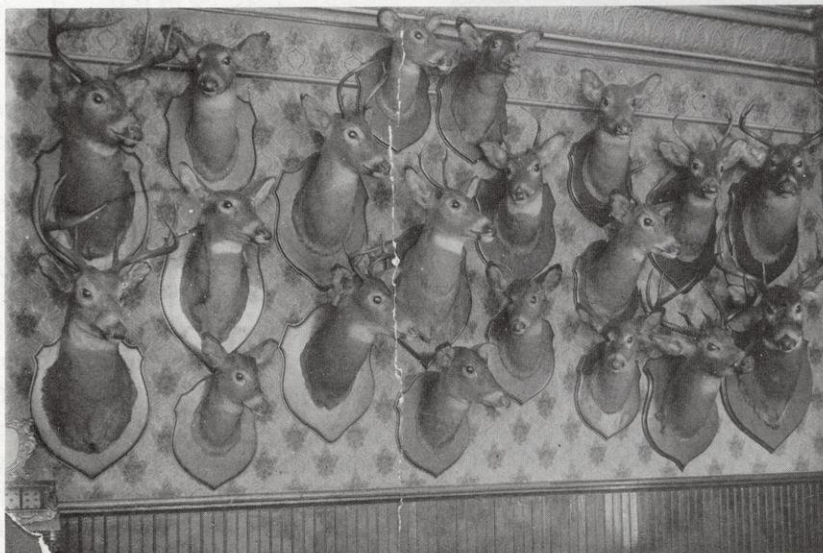


H.L. Klemme Saloon. Bartender, Charlie Roseman: In front of the bar are Klemme and Joe Dennee. *Photo Courtesy of the Connor Family.*

H. L. Klemme came to town in 1892 and opened the Klemme Saloon. There was a dance floor upstairs and a dining room and bar downstairs.

In 1900 he built the Klemme Blacksmith shop just south of the saloon. Gottfried Struck was the first blacksmith and in 1904, Klemme sold the shop to Fred Burnette.

He built a new blacksmith shop across the street. Albert Preuss, the blacksmith, worked in the front part of the building and Joe Kuehlman, the wagon maker, worked in the back.



Mr. Klemme must have been quite a sportsman as a wall was covered with mounted deer heads. Photo Courtesy of Lillian Kroepflin

Johnson's Blacksmith Shop



Johnson's Blacksmith shop was originally the grocery portion of Allington & Van Ryzin's store.

He moved to the former Opera House which had been moved from Third Street to Second Strret. The upper story was later taken down. The man in the center is Ed Johnson. The man by the stove is his father. The man on the left is unidentified.

Maxson Lumber Company

Although the name of the business was the Maxson Lumber company, it was actually a hardware store. The Maxson store was located on Highway 153 east, in the building recently vacated by the Stratford Farmers Co-op. It is not known when it opened or when it closed but it was in operation in 1915 as evidenced by the sales slip.

Stratford Cigar Factory

In 1912 Adolf Schaefer opened a cigar factory. He made the "Cuba Flora", which sold for a dime and the "Stratford", which sold for a nickel.

Marohl Real Estate

F.C. Marohl moved the Stratford in 1913. He ran a real estate and painting business.

Buttke Restaurant

Mrs. Annie Buttke opened a restaurant, grocery and bakery in 1913.

L.B. Weber Livery



L.B. Weber operated a livery business in Stratford for seven years. It was in operation in 1913 when he placed an order for an automobile. He also operated a dray and baggage business.

Stratford, Wis., *Sept. 10* 1915

D. Harrison

... IN ACCOUNT WITH ...

MAXSON LUMBER COMPANY

... DEALERS IN ...

HARDWARE, FARM IMPLEMENTS, WOOD, HAY,
AUTOMOBILES, GASOLINE ENGINES.

1911			
Dec	6	2 ax handles	50
	9	1 ax	150
		3 files	40
		1 saw tool	15
	14	1 ax	150
	18	7-6" maul	60
		washboard	35
	27	7" maul	35
1912	6	3 ax handles	75
		1-8" maul	80
Feb	5	1 saw	150
		1 saw wedge	15
		interest 3 gr wks 5 day	183
			1038

From Stratford Journal 1918: A deal was completed this week whereby Ed Schoppenhorst, owner of the Stratford Opera House, gets an improved farm near Colby and Jos. Carvens gets the opera house and blacksmith shop. Mr. Carvens has rented the blacksmith shop to Adolf Frank and the opera house to George Burkart and Jos. Brei.

Becher's Ice Cream Parlor



Edward Becher came to the Stratford area from Greenville, Wisconsin when he purchased a Watkins dealer route in this area. He met and married Bertha Harter of Stratford. Bertha was an excellent cook, and had expressed her interest in opening an ice cream parlor using her homemade ice cream recipe.

They started by purchasing Dr. Wahl's residence at the corner of Elm and Second Avenue. The property included two lots surrounded by an iron fence and two rows of trees with a carriage barn on the opposite corner, next to the alley. They opened a wall within the house for a "parlor" with tables and chairs so people could come in and enjoy a dish of her homemade ice cream. Anna Harter Doll (now 95 years old and living in Marshfield) was Bertha Becher's sister. She helped Bertha with preparing and serving the ice cream, a "special treat" as people did not have refrigeration in their homes at that time to make and keep ice cream. She commented, "Ed (Becher) would chop up a large block of ice before he went on his Watkins route, and then Bertha and I would chop it into smaller chunks to use in the ice cream maker. We would make two gallons of ice cream at a time, taking turns doing the hand cranking. We then set the ice cream in buckets of ice to keep it cold. We served the ice cream plain, or had chocolate and other toppings if they preferred. Soon the Bechers saw a need for more room to expand their small enterprise so in April of 1917 plans were made to build a 22' x 34' one story building with full basement on the corner of their property next to the alley. They called it "Becher's Ice Cream Parlor."

Magdalen Becher Bowen, oldest of the Becher children related, "In the kitchen was a four burner gasoline stove. Joe Brei, the village fire marshal, took special interest in seeing that we had a fire extinguisher and kept it updated. However, I don't remember it being used in the kitchen, but it was used to put out a water heater fire in Rifleman's basement next door to us. In 1930 Dad purchased a bottled gas stove and Ritgers Funeral Home serviced it with Skelgas.

Four tables with four chairs each provided the serving arrangement. Food for plate dinners and pies were prepared in the Becher home kitchen and carried over to the Ice Cream



Parlor for noon serving. Ice cream was now served in their new establishment. A soda fountain was also installed and added more tasty treats for serving. It was a busy time at noon and also after the performances at the Opera Theater, and after the high school ball games.



Watkins products, as well as other items such as candy, cameras, film, tobacco, pipes, cigars, fresh fruit, dairy products, newspapers, and magazines were added for the retail trade. "Anything to help make an extra nickel," said Anna. "Times were hard and money was not plentiful like it is nowadays." Gas pumps were also added in front of the store. The Becher children, as well as hired help, all had their jobs. Magdalen related that she remembers her dad showing her how to make change at a very young age. She was instructed to "wait on" the young children who came in with their pennies to buy candy. The business was open seven days a week, providing the people with a variety of items and a social place to gather. Twice Ed was robbed, once at gun point.

A wing was added to the west side of the building for booths and many other changes took place through the years. In May, 1949 the business was sold to Roy Pucker of Marshfield. Glenn Hughes of Marshfield purchased it next in April, 1950; then Ray and Hallie Gross October, 1953;



William and Mildred Belke in September, 1957; Don and Joyce Bean in January, 1965 and in May, 1967, Walter Becher, son of Ed and Bertha Becher, purchased it. He had originally planned to annex it to his business place that was located a few feet to the west. However, plans changed and it was continued as a restaurant until May, 1972. A walk-up was added during this time. Quality Bakery of Mosinee rented part of the building to sell their bakery products. In May, 1981 Bob Leonhardt purchased the building and later it was again owned by Walter Becher. He had the building joined to his TV store, and it continues to be used as extra space for his electronic repair shop. (The preceding information was supplied by Anna Doll of Marshfield, Magdalen Bowen of Fond du Lac and Walter Becher of Stratford.)

From The Stratford Journal May 19, 1949

E. A. Becher completed thirty-two years of business at one location in Stratford last Monday when he completed a business transaction with Mr. Roy E. Pucker, formerly of Marshfield, whereby the latter took over Mr. Becher's business property and business here.

Mr. Becher started in the store business here on April 1, 1917, purchasing his property from Dr. Blekking. On the property was a home and an old barn. The barn was torn down and the original store started that spring. Until the store building was completed in July of 1917, the store was housed in the front rooms of the home.

In 1935, an addition was built on the west side of the store, providing much needed room for booths.

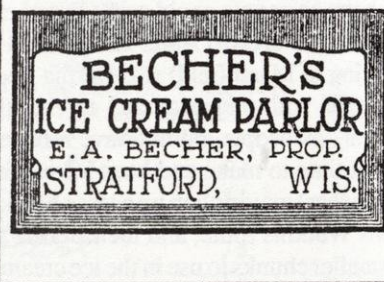
Roy E. Pucker sold his business in Marshfield in September last year, after being there almost twenty five years. He ran the Pucker's New Store located across the street from the Charles hotel.

Mr. Pucker is making no drastic changes in the operation of the store. The hours the store will be open will remain the same - from eight in the morning until ten in the evening, seven days a week. In the future, there will be some changes in the physical property, and they will be announced as made.

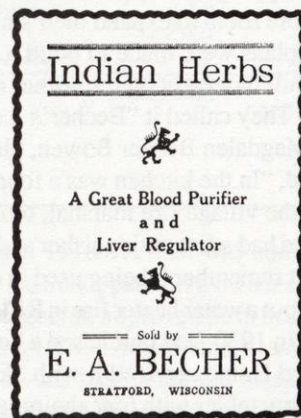


Somebody's Mad

And we are glad,
And think we know
What will appease her.
A Dish of Ice Cream,
Our Fountain's a Dream,
Sure a visit here will
please her!



Advertisement from The Stratford Journal, 1920.



Advertisement from The Stratford Journal, 1921.

A GLIMPSE OF WHAT
OUR BUSINESS IS

WE SELL

Eastman Kodaks and Films Watches and Clocks
Lady Gray Toilet Articles
Watkins Products Indian Herbs
Ice Cream—Sodas, Sundaes, Bulk and Brick
Short Orders, Lunches Fancy Groceries
Johnstons Box and Bulk Candy
Other Good Candies Fruits of all Kinds
Vegetables in Season
Pipes and Tobaccos Cigars and Cigarettes
Stationery and School Supplies

WINONA GAS AND OILS

UP TO DATE NEWS STAND

Magazines and Newspapers

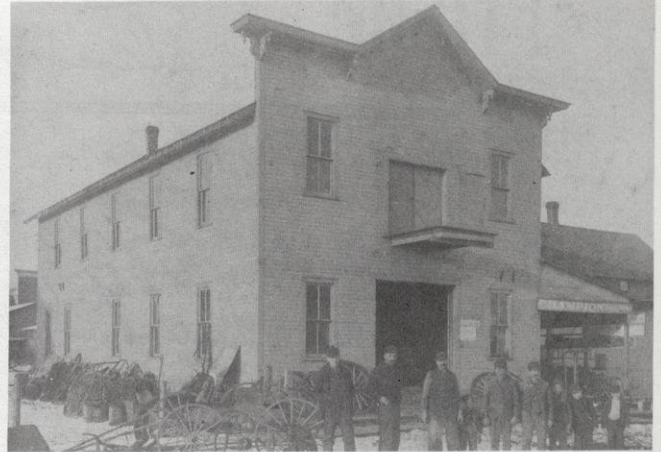
Subscribe through me and save time money and trouble.
One remittance and the work is done. Let me renew
your subscription.

OUR AIM IS TO PLEASE YOU
A TRIAL WILL CONVINCING YOU.
Our Stocks are always fresh and prices standard

E. A. BECHER

Telephone No. 19 Stratford, Wisconsin

Fred Klumb's Blacksmith Shop



Fred Klumb Blacksmith Shop. (l-r): Herman Klumb, Fred Klumb, Albert Preiss, John Kuehlman, John Krostag and George Klemme. Photo Courtesy of Marie Zuelke.

Fred Klumb operated a blacksmith and wagon making shop in Stratford from 1901 - 1912. It was the first blacksmith shop in the village. On the front of the building is a platform. They would put a wagon on display on the platform during parades and other events. Mr. Klumb also sold coffins.

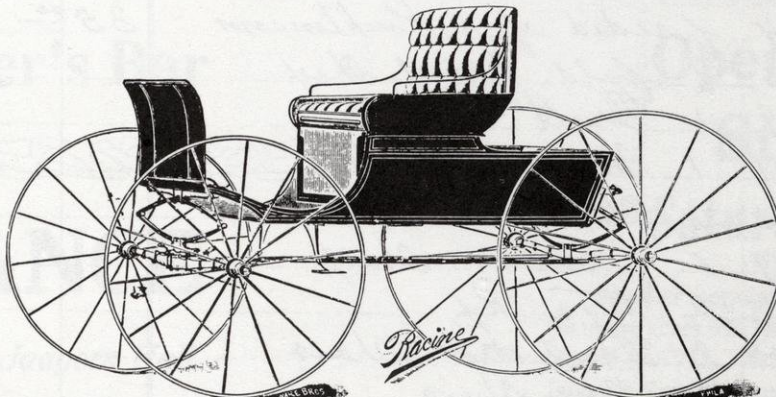
"Anything to make a buck", is what is written in the story.
This ad from the paper attests to that.

Advance Sheet...

New Styles For
1898.



New Catalogue
showing complete line of...
new styles will
soon be ready....



No. 220. "THE LAKESIDE."

END SPRING GEAR.— 15-16 best steel axles, double drop perch ironed full length, oil tempered springs 36" long. Sarven patent or compressed bu. wheels, 7/8" tread, 40" and 44" inch or 38" and 42" high, (3/4" or 1" tread if so ordered). Bracket front. Corning body latest design.

SEAT— Extra large seat, solid panel spring back. Trimming: Whip-cord, green cloth, or leather. Painting: Light Brewster green with body in shade to harmonize, fine line striping.

The delicate harmony of colors and general artistic design makes this vehicle very attractive.

No. 220½.—Same as above with stick seat, same as shown on No. 225½.

Listed as the new style for 1898. This was found in Fred Klumb's account book.

Frank. Pagel

1904				132.15 ⁰⁰
March	16	2	Keys	20
"	16	1	Slight Roller	1.25 ⁰⁰
"	17	1	Rope Halder	25 ⁰⁰
"	18	1	Platform	1.30 ⁰⁰
"	19	1	Drill Sharp	50 ⁰⁰
"	22	1	Hook & link	35 ⁰⁰
"	23	1	Key	10 ⁰⁰
"	26	1	Drill Sharp	50 ⁰⁰
"	29	1	Ring	05 ⁰⁰
"	31	1	Drill Sharp	50 ⁰⁰
April	2	1	Drill Sharp	50 ⁰⁰
"	4	1	Sett Rims & Tires	13.00 ⁰⁰
"	5	1	Chain Tightener	75 ⁰⁰
"	5	1	Ball Oil	35 ⁰⁰
"	5	1	Ring	10 ⁰⁰
"	23		Rep for Pump	50 ⁰⁰
"	25	5	Old Shoes	1.50 ⁰⁰
"	28	1	Drill Sharp	50 ⁰⁰
May	4	1	Rad	15 ⁰⁰
"	4		Credit of J. Kuhlmann	35 ⁰⁰
"	6	1	Gold Chisel Sharp	10 ⁰⁰
"	9	1	Drill Sharp	50 ⁰⁰
"	11	1	Magan Pale Rep	3.00 ⁰⁰
"	11	1	Old Shoe	20 ⁰⁰
"	19	1	Crabar Sharp	10 ⁰⁰
"	23	2	Keys Rep	40 ⁰⁰
June	15	2	Old 2 New Shoes	1.20 ⁰⁰
"	20	4	New Shoes	1.50 ⁰⁰
"	21	2	Chain links & 1 Rad Split	20 ⁰⁰
"	21	1	Old Shoe	15 ⁰⁰
"	28	1	Magan Reach	70 ⁰⁰
"	30	1	Old Shoe	20 ⁰⁰

Portion of an account page from Fred Klumb's account book.

The Stratford Opera House



Photo courtesy of Paul Untiet

The Stratford Opera House was originally located where the Village Hall is today. It was moved to Second Street sometime prior to 1910. It was the sight of much of Stratford's entertainment. Minstrel groups and traveling play groups would come to Stratford to put on presentations.

It is mentioned in many accounts of weddings as being the location of the wedding dances. The dances were held upstairs.

From Stratford Journal, June 20, 1919:

New Management in Opera House

Geo. Rifleman and P. J. Ladron have leased the Stratford Opera House and have taken charge. Their idea seems to be that anything that is worth doing is worth doing well and want to carry out this idea in their undertaking by giving the people of this locality the very best possible in movies.

Jaeger's Bar



DANCE

Tonight at Jaegers Hall

Sept. 21--Pete Webers

Sept. 24--Shooting match

and dance at

Herman Reichert's



SATURDAY NIGHT!

Harry J. Earle
PRESENTS

“A Happy Night
in Dixie”

Merry Musical Mixup

A Show Above
the Average

CLEAN-CLEVER-CLASSY
SPECIAL SCENERY
PRETTY GIRLS

Dixieland's
Dandiest
Dancing
Dandies

Opera House
Stratford
Saturday, Aug. 21st

Another popular Stratford gathering place for many years was Jaeger's Bar. The bar was purchased in 1915. At that time it was known as Jaeger & Sons Tavern and was run by John Jaeger and his son, Arnold.

In 1939 the Jaeger's installed a Frigidaire locker system. It contained 114 lockers capable of storing 300 pounds of meat.

For many years Jaeger's hosted the Skat Sectional Tournaments. Skat players from all over the area would gather to show their skill at the popular card game.

The tavern still looks the same. It is closed to the public.



Skat players at Jaeger's Tavern. From Stratford Journal, May 19, 1976.

HORSE AUCTION

AT STRATFORD, WIS.

I WILL BE AT JAEGER'S BARN WITH A NICE BUNCH OF HORSES WEIGHING 1300 TO 1600 LBS., FROM THURSDAY, MAY 23 TO SUNDAY, MAY 25. I WILL SELL OR TRADE AS USUAL. SATISFACTION FULLY GUARANTEED. COME IN AND GIVE US A LOOK.

JOE BAUMAN
THE OLD RELIABLE



In 1929 horse auctions were held in Jaeger's barn located behind the tavern.

Leick Hotel

From Stratford Journal, March 30, 1928:

WILL OPEN HOTEL IN DAUL BUILDING

A real estate deal was closed thru which Peter Leick became the owner of the Peter Daul building at present occupied by the Stratford bakery. Mr. Leick will have the interior entirely remodeled into a modern hotel, with about fourteen be rooms, a spacious dining room and waiting room all of which are to be steam heated. A small soft drink parlor will occupy a portion of the front ground floor. A full basement will be built to accommodate the furnace room and store room.

The Leicks ran the hotel and bar until 1942 when it was sold. The building was erected about 1900 by Charles Daul. At one time, Peter Grassl, Sr. had a pool hall in the building. It was destroyed by fire in 1978.

The Progress Hotel



BUSINESS STREET, STRATFORD, WISCONSIN

The Progress Hotel was built in 1893 by John Schmidt. The succeeding owners of this hostelry were Peter Daul, Jake Gardner and Ernest C. Leiteritz. In 1918 Wm. L. Mahlock took possession of the hotel and conducted the same up to the time of his death in 1925. Since that time his wife ran the hotel until the fire in 1928 which totally consumed the building.



From Stratford Journal, March 9, 1928:

RAZED BY FIRE

Wednesday morning about 2:30 the citizens of Stratford were aroused by the fire bell and various whistles announcing that the old landmark, the Progress Hotel, was being razed by fire. The fire is supposed to have started from an overheated furnace. It was first discovered in the room occupied by the owner, Mrs. Wm. Mahlock who sent the alarm to the help and guests. Some made their escape from the upstairs windows, clad in their night clothes, as the fire had made such headway that there was no time to dress or save anything.

The fire department made a hurried response, and under their fire chief, Geo. Rifleman, were successful in keeping the

flames in tow, thereby saving the many buildings that were endangered. Everything was removed from the Ford garage which adjoined to the west. Being built of tile and coupled with the heavy stream of water, it was undamaged.

At this early hour there was a heavy wind from the west, which made the fighting more hazardous. Flying embers in the direction of the Farmers Produce Company, the stockyards and the Connor mill were in the direct path, but guards were placed and each escaped without damage. At about six o'clock all that remained of the structure was a mess of ruins.

The estimated loss is said to be around \$15,000 which we are informed is partly covered by insurance.

Interesting To All Who Travel

There's a big man in Stratford whom you all should know,
 He's a good natured, congenial and in actions not slow:
 An old timer on the road, who was one of the boys,
 This man, of all men, knows their troubles and joys.
 The trials of traveling men are sure numerous enough,
 When one reflects on how often they meet with rebuff;
 Hence, at night, it gives pleasure untold, as a boon,
 To know that the landlord has a comfortable room.
 Between Marshfield and Wausau, forget it not,
 The PROGRESS HOTEL, Stratford is the best place to stop.
 The pleasing faced landlord will provide good beds for sleep,
 And his estimable wife supplies good things to eat.

RATES:
 \$1.00; \$1.50 and \$2.00 per day

STEAM HEAT
 Bath in connection

PROGRESS HOTEL

WM. L. MAHLOCH, Proprietor

Telephone No. 6
 Barn in connection.

STRATFORD, WIS.

Wisconsin House

RATES \$1.00 A DAY

BAR IN CONNECTION

In 1915 Charles Gaulke was the proprietor of the Wisconsin House. It advertised rooms for \$1.00 a day.

WISCONSIN HOUSE

CHARLES GAULKE, Proprietor

STRATFORD, WISCONSIN,

Feb. 18th

1915

Stratford House



Stratford had many hotels and hotel owners over the years. This is a photograph of the Stratford House. It was managed by R.A. Groff in 1913.

Ritger & Platteter

From the Stratford Journal, October 15, 1920
Furniture Firm Builds Special Show Rooms

Ritger & Platteter, proprietors of the Stratford Furniture Store and Undertaking Parlors have just completed a new department in their place of business in the way of a music room where they will demonstrate the Sonora Talking Machine. The room is directly in front of the furniture department and is neatly decorated and equipped with easy chairs and conveniences that will appeal to the customer who drops in to have the Sonora demonstrated or pick out a new record. The Stratford furniture store throughout is nicely arranged and the way the large and varied stock is distributed in its own section is sure to please and help the prospective buyer in making a satisfactory selection. Those who are interested will find a trip to the Sonora Dept. of the furniture store very interesting and will be welcomed by the owners and have an opportunity to see and hear the different types of the machine.

The Highest Class
Talking Machine
in the World

The Instrument of Quality

Sonora

clear as a bell

The only phonograph sold without offering "easy" payments as the leading attraction



DO not be misled by the growing "installment" evil. Be cautious when you are offered an apparently attractive method of payment with some kind of phonograph attached.

Sonora is sold on a quality basis only and you always get full value.

When you buy a Sonora you buy it for its quality, the terms being of secondary consideration.

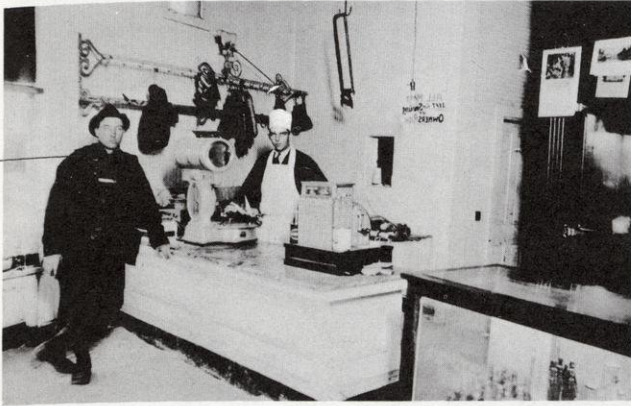
Sonora's superiority was clearly proven because "The only jury which heard and tested all of the phonographs at the Panama-Pacific Exposition recommended that the Sonora be given a marking for tone quality higher than that given to any other phonograph or talking machine."

Because of its tone you will choose a Sonora. Hear it! Magnificent upright and period styles \$75 to \$2500

RITGER & PLATTETER

FURNITURE and UNDERTAKING
STRATFORD, WISCONSIN

Diermeier's



First Diermeier store. Wm. Diermeier and Elmer Reed, customer. *Courtesy Hubert Boehm.*

The Stratford Journal published an excellent history of the Diermeier Store.

From Stratford Journal Nov. 13, 1969

Stratford's Oldest Business in Continuous Ownership is Sold

Stratford's oldest business in continuous ownership by one couple changed hands last week. Diermeier's store, which Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Diermeier started on a shoe string almost 50 years ago was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ellenbecker.

Mr. Diermeier had learned the butcher's trade by working in several shops in central Wisconsin. On Feb. 2, 1925 he rented the south 17 x 20 feet of their present store building and started a meat market therein. The rest of the building was occupied by the late Mr. Gust Polege. There was a door then on the south end of the building.

In 1927, Mr. and Mrs. Diermeier bought the building. In 1931, they put a basement under it and in 1933, they moved their store into the barber shop and rented the former area used by the meat market to the late Sam Frankwick for a paint store. Mr. Frankwick moved from the building in 1935, and since then the Diermeiers have occupied the whole building.

Like most everyone else, they had some mighty tough times in their early years. One of Mr. Diermeier's favorite stories is that he had a note coming due, and he had saved \$500 to meet it, actually the first \$500 in cash he had ever managed to get hold of at one time. One of the salesmen who regularly called on them, kept telling him to buy a certain oil stock that was booming on the market: "You'll double your money in a month." He finally yielded and bought the stock; the market tumbled out of sight, and his \$500 was wiped out in days.

Until 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Diermeier made their home in the second story of the store building.



Inside Diermeier Store - 1930's. Wm. Diermeier, Gert Riehle, Angie Diermeier and Edna Schlotthauer. *Courtesy Hubert Boehm.*

In 1946, they purchased the corner lot and the following year they built the locker plant on the east end of that lot.

Another article we found tells of some excitement that happened in the village.

From The Stratford Journal May 12, 1938 Gangland Invades Stratford!

As a general rule, the strikers and their organizers avoid the small town confining their activities to the larger centers. Monday morning a bunch of the strikers and their organizer from Marshfield deviated from this rule, and they came off decidedly second best.

It seems that Diermeier's Market ordered some supplies from a Chicago wholesale house to be delivered at Stevens Point. Early Monday morning, Mr. Diermeier hired Joe Kaser and his truck to go to Stevens Point and pick up the supplies, Mr. Diermeier accompanying him. On the way home, they stopped at a Marshfield wholesale house and picked up some sugar and other groceries.

Although the Marshfield police protected Mr. Kaser's truck as long as it was in the city limits, the strikers drove out of the city limits and pulled in front of the truck in an attempt to force it to stop. Instead of stopping, Joe drove into a car and forced it out of the way and continued on to Stratford, the strikers following in their three cars.

Here, another attempt was made to stop the unloading of the truck. The strikers swarmed around, possibly with intent of injury to the truck, certainly with the intent of destroying the produce on it, but at this time Mr. Diermeier went into the store and came out with a rifle and said that the first one who interfered with the unloading would be hurt. The strikers went across the street in a hurry, but not fast enough to keep up with their organizer, whose attitude seems to be "Let's you and him fight."



Diermeier Tavern, 1931. John Diermeier is behind the bar, patron is unidentified. It was located next to the cafe on Third Street. *Courtesy Hubert Boehm.*

It's too bad that other employers cannot follow the same plan Mr. Diermeier used. One of the biggest causes of the recession is the attitude labor takes in that all profits of business should be given to them for their work, and the owner is not entitled to a just share.

In writing the story of the clash here Monday, the Marshfield Daily News-Herald stated Tuesday that Mr. Krueger, organizer of the strikers, said that Mr. Diermeier would be served with a warrant for defending his property with a gun. If the time has come when a man cannot defend his property against rowdyism with a weapon, then it is time



Diermeier Store, 1944 *Courtesy Hubert Boehm.*

that property owners took the law into their own hands and used guns to kill off some of the lawless element who are making a farce of our lives.

Wednesday night's Wausau Record-Herald stated that Tuesday evening, at six o'clock, a meeting was held at Wausau of the wholesale grocers of the seven cities in which the strike was called, and spokesmen of the strikers, at which an agreement to end the strike was signed. Neither side would divulge the terms of the agreement but the best authority states that the total gain of the strikers was a reduction of 50 cents per week in their pay.

Pete Weber's Saloon at Webertown

Pete Weber's Saloon was located at the corner of 97 and Equity Road where the Equity Livestock Sales is located today. Weber also operated a dance hall.

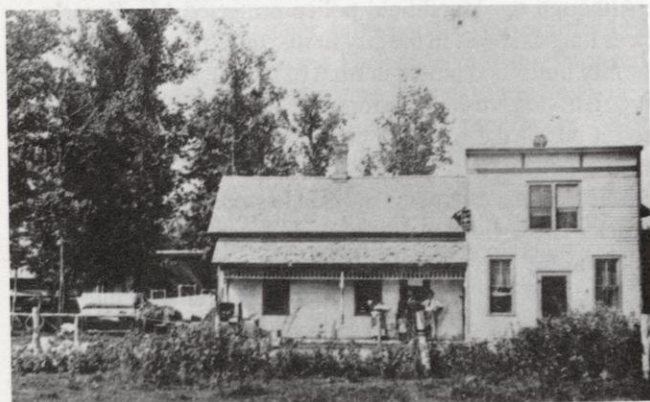


Photo courtesy of Patti Laessig Zimmerman



Photo courtesy of Patti Laessig Zimmerman



Albert Belanger stops at Pete Weber's Saloon on his way to the mill with a load of logs. *Photo courtesy of the Connor Family.*

Rodesch-Heinzen Co.

From Stratford Journal, October 15, 1920
Rodesch-Heinzen Co. Have Busy Season

Rodesch-Heinzen C. is a Stratford firm that is becoming very well known in this section of the country for the work they are doing in their line. The members of the firm are both skilled in their work of stone, brick and cement construction and are giving satisfaction where ever they take contracts. They have several Stratford jobs to their credit this season and the people who employ them speak highly of the service they received. The Rodesch-Heinzen firm was planned while both the young men were serving "over there" with the Fourth Division. The friendship that sprung up between two buddies was the foundation upon which the partnership was built and it seems that they are now following the same methods in their present business which they practiced while serving Uncle Sam.

Watkins Dealer

Ask the Man who Uses Watkins Fly Spray

He will tell you that Watkins Fly Spray costs less, because it goes further. You get more for your money as a result. It has always been known as clean, effective and economical.

Flies knocked down by Watkins Fly Spray stay down. Kill them and they won't bother your cows while you are milking. It's clean, odorless and will not taint the milk nor gum up the hair of the cows.

I am taking orders now for summer delivery. Wait for my call and I will show you how to save money.

Alfred Grimm

Rural Watkins Dealer

Phone 86

Stratford

Alfred Grimm was the rural Watkins dealer for many years. The advertisement is from the Stratford Journal, 1938.

Gambles Store

Mr. M. L. Schwantess started the Gambles Store in 1936. He rented John Wittmayer's building, just north of the Leick's Hotel on Third Street. When he rented the building it was being used as a class room for the first, second and third grade classes. Wilfred Henrichs operated the store for nearly ten years when it was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Art Boucher.

Chrouser Brothers

The Chrouser Brothers operated a tie mill in Stratford. In 1913 it was reported that the firm had manufactured about 100,000 ties. They were dealers in tie logs, pulpwood and cordwood.

Kaser Concrete

CONCRETE BLOCKS ARE BEST

Are you going to build a house, a basement or cellar, a silo, a chimney? Build of Concrete Blocks. The concrete blocks for building material are cheaper than any other material money can buy.

I am re-entering the concrete business and am prepared to make blocks of any kind for any kind of building.

JO KASER, Stratford, Wis.

Advertisement from Stratford Journal, 1923

Whitehouse Condensery

The Stratford Journal Thursday, June 21, 1956

By Mrs. Allen

This was January, 1923, and there was much excitement among the farm people of the community. The new condensery was almost completed, a fine plant built by the A & P corporation and it was said it cost them \$80,000.

There were those who didn't like the idea of selling milk to a big corporation but it would be worth trying.

A handful of farmers gathered at the bank corner early in January on stock day, were discussing George Alberts. He was a native of Mayville and had come here while the plant was being erected. A graduate of the Eau Claire business college, he had been working for the A & P corporation for some time before coming here. The men liked him and had confidence in his ability, and agreed they were all going to try the new condensery.

The creamery had been closed for several years. The opening of the condensery had been set for February 1 and Archie Leick and his orchestra would furnish music throughout the day. There would be 23 cash prizes, awarded to the first ten farmers to bring their milk; the ten with the most milk the first day and the three trucks that would bring the largest loads of milk. Andrew Kaiser said he didn't know of an easier way to earn five dollars even if he had to be there at the intake all night, and there were those who said he spent the night there. I could not verify that but he did get the five dollars and Emil Ullman was the farmer with

the most milk, while Elroy Spindler copped off first place for the milk hauler with the largest load.

It was a fine event, almost as good as the county fair, and not nearly as warm as this was February 1.

More than 1,000 people toured the plant that day and 15,000 pounds of milk were taken in. This amount was to be doubled in six weeks, and for almost a quarter of a century, the condensery was to serve as a good milk market, even weathering the milk strike of 1933 without incident.



Photo courtesy Donetta Ulrich



*War time scrap drive in front of the Condensery.
Courtesy Tom Becher.*

The White House Condensery closed for business in September of 1951. They blamed changing conditions for the closing. Twenty-five years ago, the market for condensed milk was considerably larger. At that time, an electric refrigerator was a luxury and few families had them. Now every home is so equipped and fresh milk can be kept for much longer.

At one time, the Whitehouse employed nine in the plant. Four employees Art Schmidtbauer, Jos. Schroepfer, Henry Oettinger and Leo Platteter had worked at the plant since 1929.

Auto Sales Company

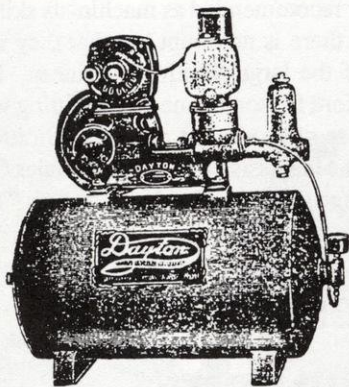
From Stratford Journal, Oct 15, 1920

A Standard Oil Service Station

The Auto Sales company of Stratford is now classed as a regular Standard Oil Service Station and is classed on the same basis as the Standard Oil Stations in Marshfield, Wausau and larger cities. Heretofore they have merely retailed gasoline as any other garage and the new basis which will be in effect soon will mean that they will not only continue to retail gasoline but that they will be in a position to accept the coupons issued by the Standard Oil company. The central location of the Auto Sales Company is an ideal place for a service supply of gasoline and will be appreciated by transient trade who carry coupon books issued by the Standard Oil Co.

Platteter & Greve

Buy a
Dayton Water System
And You will get Years of Service



WE HAVE A COMPLETE
LINE OF DEEP AND SHAL-
LOW WELL SYSTEMS

No Job Too Large or Too
Small

YOU CAN BUY THE WELL
KNOWN SYSTEM FOR LESS
MONEY

We have several customers in
this vicinity who have had
their Dayton Water Systems
for over Twenty Years and the
same pump is still going
strong

WE ARE PLEASED TO
GIVE YOU AN ESTIMATE
ON YOUR JOB

PLATTETER & GREVE

Licensed Plumbers

Phone 12

Stratford, Wis.

From Stratford Journal, 1938.

Ford
COUPE
New Price
\$530

F. O. B.
Detroit
Completely
Equipped

The world has never known
an enclosed car of this type
at a lower price. No car at
any price has ever offered a
greater value.

Place your order now to in-
sure early delivery. Terms
if desired.

**Stratford Auto
Company**

From Stratford Journal, 1923.

Building Boom In Progress

From Stratford Journal, May 23, 1924:

East Railroad street will have an entirely different appearance when P. Grassl and J.G. Ritger get through improving their properties.

Mr. Grassl is busy tearing down that part of his building adjoining the Ritger Furniture establishment and will construct a new one story addition to the old structure. The new part will house an up to date bowling alley establishment with two alleys. It will be 120 feet long and extend from the street to the alley. Excavation will soon commence for a basement under the whole structure and a modern heating system will be installed. A large enclosed porch will be built on the new addition. In the process of tearing down, the workmen found two small bottles of some strange liquid between the walls. Upon close examination (seeing not tasting) it proved to be a sample of real Old Taylor of 1909 vintage. If temptation can

be overcome, the relics will be placed in a velvet lined case and put on display.

Construction of a basement under the Ritger property has been in progress some time and it is said that the whole building will be moved south about ten feet and an addition built on the north side adjoining the post office. Mr. Ritger also contemplates installing bowling alley equipment and has placed an order for two factory built alleys for early delivery. Bowling is a wonderful exercise for old and young and for ladies and men.

George Klemme has commenced the building of a new home on an ideal location on the Klemme homestead sight, Larch Street. We understand the new home will be a story and one half bungalow design.

Henry Meier, one of our progressive business men, has moved his former harness shop to make room for a new building. This will be of two story size, with a basement under the entire building. The floor to be used and equipped as a first class harnessmaking and shoe repairing shop and will be up to date in every respect. The first upper floor will be used as a residence for Mr. Meier and family. The location is on Second Ave. near Walnut St.

Motor Inn

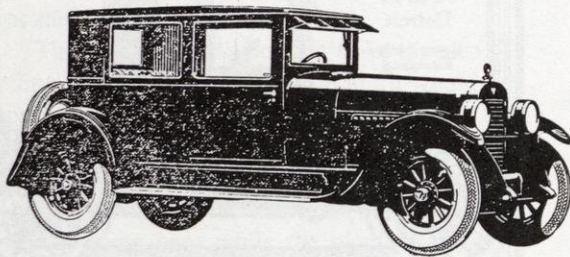
From Stratford Journal, Oct 15, 1920

Buick Garage is Now the Motor Inn

A business transaction has recently taken place in which Stratford loses one of its business men and gains two. E.W. Raugh who has conducted the Buick Garage for the past three years has sold his business to Messrs. Hoesly & Ludwig of Council Bluffs, Iowa and possession will be taken on Monday, October 18. The new proprietors are young men and come to Stratford highly recommended as machinists skilled in auto repair work and there is no doubt but that they will enjoy a goodly share of the large Stratford business. Mr. Hoesly has been in Stratford for some time and is getting well acquainted with the class of work that comes to Stratford garages. For some time he has assisted in the Auto Sales Co., Garage. The Buick garage will hereafter be known as "The Motor Inn."

Northern Milling Company

Grover W. Gaska, formerly of Wausau has been the genial manager of the business for the Northern Milling Company for about a year. This company bought out the business from the Maxson Lumber Company. There is a warehouse stocked with flour, feed and other cereal products. Farm produce is bought and shipped.



The HUDSON COACH

\$1250

(The New Price—Was \$1345.)
Freight and Tax Extra

Today's Hudson Super-Six Coach costs less than half the price at which the open models have sold. We are now the world's largest builders of Six-Cylinder cars. Quality is constantly improved and therefore Hudson is more than ever "The World's Greatest Buy." Hudson's leadership is based upon ten years' concentration in refining a great car around the famous Super-Six motor. This exclusive invention added 29 per cent to motor efficiency, yielding 76 horse-power without added weight, size or cost. It almost doubled car endurance. No other motor, however costly, in design or construction excels the Super-Six smoothness, reliability and performance. There has been constant improvement in every detail. Easier steering, greater roadability, more comfort, better materials, finer workmanship, handsomer appearance, and more lasting finish. In all ways it is the Greatest Hudson and the lowest priced Hudson. Hudson Super-Six Sedan, 5 passenger, \$1695; 7 passenger \$1795. All these prices freight and tax extra.

D. E. MORRISON, Dealer

Badger Motor Co., Garage,

Stratford, Wisconsin

Ad from Stratford Journal, 1925

Stratford Co-operative Creamery Co.

From Stratford Journal, Aug. 8, 1919

Local Concern Prospering

The Stratford Co-operative Creamery company, who have their factory located in Stratford are enjoying the largest patronage since locating here. They now have over sixty patrons which are hauling in a good supply of milk. Besides the milk a large amount of cream is taken in for butter.

There are various reasons for this success. First of all is their fair dealing with their customers and next is the high grade product they turn out.

The records of the factory show that the factory has been steadily increasing and with the nice herds that are developing around Stratford no doubt their business will increase much more.



Ott Cheese Factory by Euqity. Photo courtesy Patti Laessig Zimmerman



George Schmid's Cheese Factory

The factory was located at Marathon Pride. It was destroyed by fire. Photo courtesy of Dorothy Schreiner.

Stratford Electric Company

In 1918 the following announcement ran in the Stratford Journal: We wish to announce to the public of Stratford and vicinity, that we have opened an Electric Shop over the Chrouser Blacksmith Shop, and are prepared to do house wiring and electric repairing of all kinds. Will also handle all electric goods. The Stratford Electric Company, J.H. Morsch, Manager.



Farm Light and Power

Here is a 40 light plant that you will like—for its economy and utility. Touch a button to start it and another to stop.

The low speed engine with ball bearing dynamo assures long life—less attention—lowest possible maintenance cost. The 40 light "F" farm outfit comes completely mounted on one base with the famous throttling governor "Z" engine which also gives mechanical power to operate a washing machine—cream separator—churn—or other machines independent of the dynamo, either direct or through a line shaft. Unquestionably the biggest value in the farm lighting field—and you get the added advantage of mechanical power.

Come in and see this plant and let us prove its reliability point by point.

J. A. BURKART
STRATFORD WISCONSIN

40 LIGHT \$325
"F" PLANT

(Complete F. O. B. Indianapolis)
A distinctive design in larger "F" plants is offered as below:

65 Lights	100 Lights
	200 Lights



40 Light F Plant

Schoultz Motor Company

Anton P. Schoultz and wife Edith moved to Stratford in 1927 to begin a Ford Dealership, operating out of the former Schuette Garage, now known as the Stratford Farmer's Co-op.

In 1929 he purchased the building on the corner of West Railroad and Larch Street from the Zenner Bros. In addition to the Ford dealership, he also franchised Allis Chalmers and New Holland farm machinery, as well as the first Bell City Threshing Machine.

In 1941 he purchased the one school bus that was operating in Stratford and continued with the school student transportation for the next 45 years, along with son Richard who later purchased the business from his Father.

Richard Schoultz, along with his wife Yvonne, was a partner with his father from 1951 until 1980 when the garage business was sold and then in 1987 the bus transportation business sold, both to Dennis and Cheryl Kuyoth who continue to operate them.

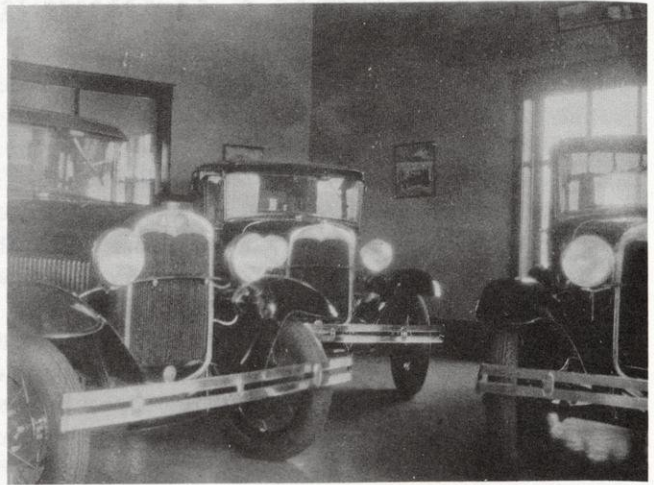
The Schoultz family was comprised of four other children besides Richard, namely Tom, Barbara, Mary and John.

Anton P. Schoultz died July 25, 1987, at the age of 91. Edith Schoultz continues to reside in Green Bay.

Richard and Yvonne continue to reside in Stratford. Both have served as Trustees on the Stratford Village Board, Richard from 1985-1987 and Yvonne from 1988 to present; and as officers of the Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce. They have served as Chairman of the Stratford Heritage Days Breakfast for five years. Yvonne has served as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the National Council of Catholic Women from 1979-1989.



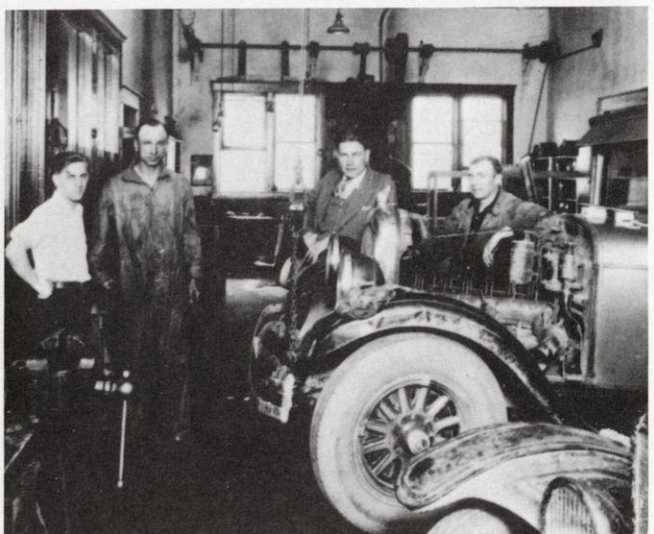
Anton Schoultz puts gas in car for customer Charles Hebert. *Courtesy Dick Schoultz.*



Model A's in showroom at Schoultz Motors. *Courtesy Dick Schoultz*



Anton and Dick Schoultz in front of Schoultz Garage *Courtesy Dick Schoultz*



Repair garage at Schoultz Motors. *Courtesy Dick Schoultz*

Schuette's Garage



Ronald Schuette, Roger Schuette, Alfred Dunow, Pete Steines and Jerome Kaiser. *Photo courtesy of Ronald Schuette.*

Roger Schuette started in the garage business in 1930. He purchased the building from Mr. Steininger, who operated the Pontiac agency. The building was located on highway 153, a block east of the junction of highway 97. The building was built in 1915 by Mr. Maxon and had housed the Overland

agency. Mr. A. P. Schultz had rented the building and had his Ford agency there.

Mr. Schuette ran the business until 1962 when he sold the building to the Farmers Co-op.

Dixie Oil



From The Stratford Journal May 12, 1938:

Dixie Oil Station Remodeled

The Stratford Oil Company is doing considerable remodeling on their oil station on Highway 97. They have put on veneer paneled walls and took out the old partition, and put in a new plate glass display window across the west and northwest wall. They have also installed two new computer pumps and put in new curbing around the outside. They are also redecorating the inside and it is going to look like a new station when it is finished.

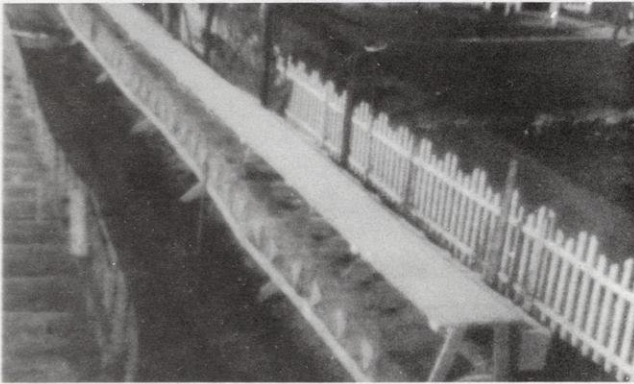
Mink Ranches

The Stratford area was home to many mink ranches when the mink prices were at their peak. Unfortunately not much information was submitted. The following article is the first evidence we found of the mink ranch trend.

Sept. 23, 1927:

Stratford will have a mink ranch

Otto Greve of Stratford and Hubert Greve have purchased the Henry Lillge, Senior estate and are going to convert his place into a mink ranch.



Some mink ranches were in back yards. We have no identification as to where it was located other than in Stratford.

Stratford Theater

Stratford Journal, July 1939:

Art Davel and Willard Zoellner are the new proprietors of the Stratford theater. Mr. Davel and Mr. Zoellner have purchased all new equipment and intend to give the people of this vicinity a fine brand of movie entertainment.

Kann's Direct Service

George Kann opened his new Zephyr Service station in November of 1949. It was located just south of the intersection of highways 97 and 153. Mr. Kann and his sons operated another service station for many years.

The Kann Direct Service is now the Waterworks, owned by Dennis and Cheryl Kuyoth.

Drachenberg Laundromat

In 1961 Jerry and Eleanor Drachenberg started a laundromat in the Davel building, and operated it until 1974 when it was sold to Mr. Gottshak of Marathon. When the business started, washes were 25¢ per load and drying 10¢. It had seven washers and five dryers. It was open 24 hours.

Drachenberg Mobile Oil

Jerry Drachenberg bought the Mobil gas truck and took over the Bulk Plant from Bill Freiders in the spring of 1959. The price of No. 2 fuel oil was 14¢ a gallon and gasoline was about 30¢ a gallon. The bulk plant was located by the Farmers Co-Op.

He was in business for 15 years until Mobil Oil Company got rid of all their consignees and moved everything out of Stratford. They even took down the building. When he started, gas and fuel came in by tank car and later by transport.

Passehl Sugarbush

From Stratford State Journal April 12, 1956

Andrew Passehl has started a new, for him, venture this spring. He owns the very nice 160 acres of timber just north of the rendering plant, and this year, for the first time, he is tapping the maple trees and making maple syrup.

Mr. Passehl did not go into the venture half way. He bought all new equipment, an evaporator, tanks, pails, spouts, etc., and has started his first year with tapping twelve hundred maples.

The sap is collected in pails at the trees, dumped into a tank, hauled through the woods on a stone boat by horse power and poured into an underground tank, from which it is pumped automatically to an overhead tank, to be poured into the evaporator as needed. At no time is man power needed except to collect the sap.

The evaporator is of a new design, fed as needed from the overhead tank. The sap enters at one end and travels continuously from one vat to another, as its consistency thickens, until it is in the final compartment, where it is further boiled until its specific gravity reaches the point of desirable maple syrup.

When that point is reached it is poured into a large container through a fine filter that removes any possible foreign matter that could possibly remain in the syrup. Then the syrup is taken to the Passehl home here in Stratford where it receives the final refining before it is bottled for sale.

Guenther Plumbing

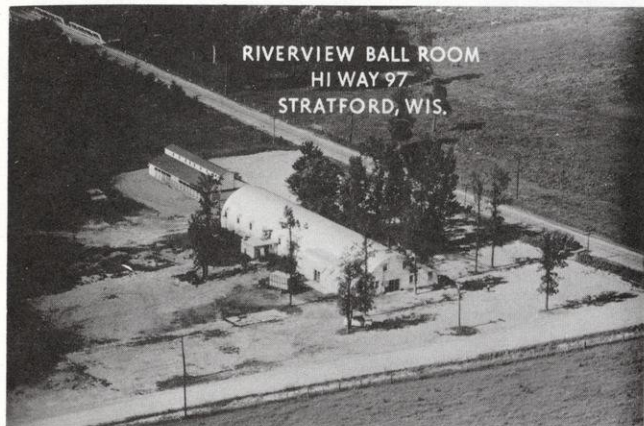
Stratford Journal, June 19, 1941:

To Open Plumbing Shop

Melvin Guenther formerly of Colby will open a plumbing shop in the building that was occupied by J.H. Meier harness and shoe repair shop. More information about the Guenther Plumbing business is in the family story about Mr. and Mrs. Guenther.

Riverview Ball Room

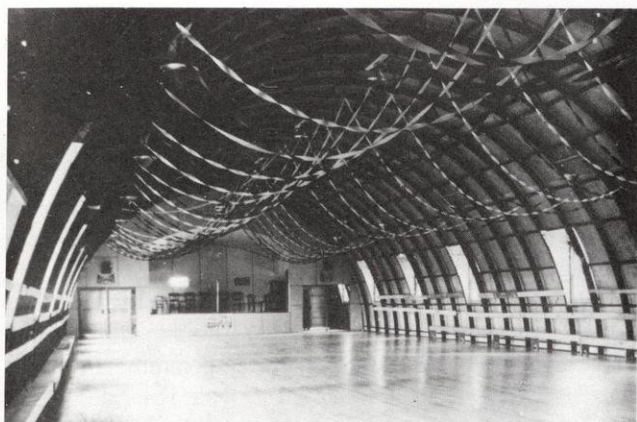
The Riverview Ball Room was located north of Stratford. It was a popular place for young and old alike during the 40's and 50's. It was built by Joe Kaser.



Kaser Mill



Joe Kaser Mill just northwest of Stratford. *Photo courtesy of Mrs. Troy Hannum.*



Photos courtesy of Mrs. Troy Hannum

Hughes Store



Glenn Hughes Store

MILLINERY

The Latest
In Good Hats.

MRS. B. ZEPP.
Rifleman Building. STRATFORD

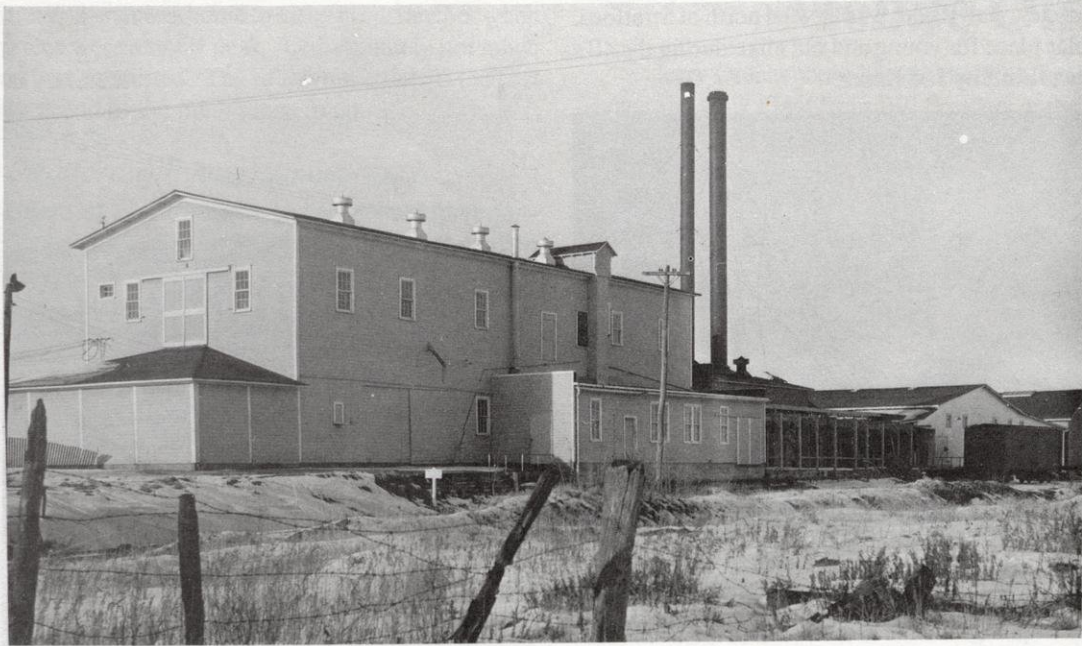
Fish Fry

At
EauPleine
Tavern
Friday, Feb. 11

10c Per
Plate

From Stratford Journal, 1938

Stratford Canning Company



The Stratford Canning Company was built in 1923. It was owned by C.A. Smith, F. J. Meilke, G.H. Lueptow, H.H. Tucker and Otto Greve. They came to Stratford from east central Wisconsin where the pea canning industry is old and established.

The main building was 20 X 96 and of two story construction and will house a modern two-line canning system, making it possible to enlarge to a three-line plant. The warehouse was 68 X 128 and had arrangements for warm storage of peas.

From Stratford Journal Oct. 17, 1924
Canning Factory

750 acres have been planted in the surrounding country and with an average yield, should produce 100 cases of peas per acre. The crop will begin to ripen about July 1st and run until late in August. During that time the canning plant will be operating full blast and night work will at times be necessary to take care of the day's run. 30 women and about 100 men will be required during the rush period in the plant and at the vineries and to do the trucking.

Four vineries have been located in outlying districts where most convenient and these will thresh the peas which will then be hauled to the factory in metal baskets on trucks.

Several brands of peas will be put on the market, among which will be called the Stratford Brand.

From Stratford Journal April 1925

Last season was the first year of the local pea factory and the season's pack amounted to between 86,000 and 87,000 cases and the output sold very readily at satisfactory prices. The acreage last season was about 760 acres and around the same number of acres have been pledged for this season.

The usual run of the factory during the packing period is

around six or seven weeks and in that time between 125 to 135 persons are employed.

After the peas have been shelled and loaded they are hauled to the factory and dumped onto conveyors that carry them up to the second floor where they are run through a series of six graders, or screens, each screen taking care of a certain size pea. From these graders they are then dropped to the picking tables where the workers carefully pick out all split skinned or bad peas.

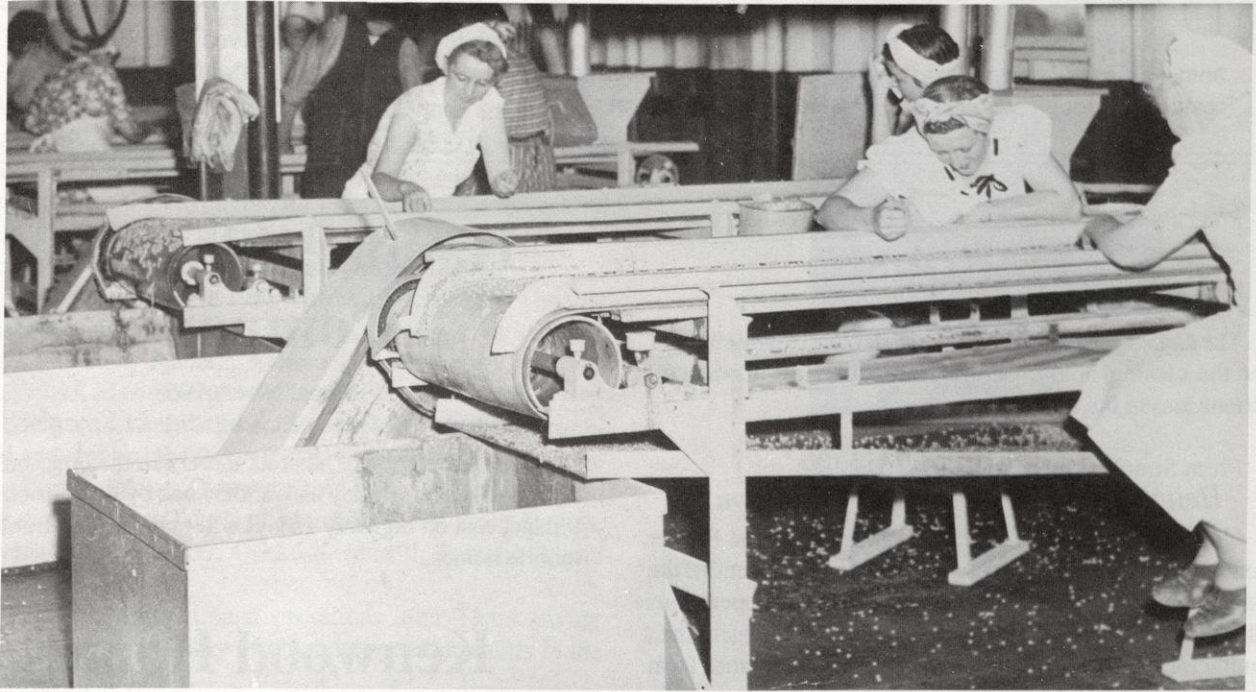
From these tables the good peas are then conveyed along to hoppers and again dropped to the first floor to the blanchers where they are heated to a certain temperature. From the blanchers they are then conveyed to what is termed as the "screen washer," where they are thoroughly washed. From this washer they are conveyed over to the filer and brine machines where they are placed in cans.

The cans are then conveyed over to the closing or capping machines where the tops are securely fastened. After they have been thus securely topped and sealed, the cans are then conveyed to the nine large cookers where they are thoroughly cooked.

From the cookers they are then conveyed to the large cooling tanks and when cooled are conveyed out to the warehouses where they are labeled and packed into boxes or crates.

The company sells their goods under three district brands: Stratford, Lone Tree and Big Eau Pleine.

In 1930 the Stratford Canning Company was purchased by the Oconomowoc Canning Company.



Workers at the Oconomowoc Canning Factory. Courtesy Wally Marohl

From Stratford Journal, June 23, 1938
Canning Company Starts Next Week. Big Run is Expected

The last few days of fine weather have hurried along the pea crop of this vicinity. A total of 1500 acres in this vicinity has been planted to peas this year. The opening of the factory will put approximately 200 local people at work, 125 men and women at the factory and 75 at the 22 vineries scattered throughout the countryside. It is expected that the run will last five weeks.

From Stratford Journal, March 26, 1964

*Klemme Brothers buy local
 canning company plant*

The Klemme brothers purchased the Canning Company plant from the Oconomowoc Canning Company.

The brothers will use the building at the rear of the property for storage for feeds and will try to lease the balance of the property.

The old canning company plant was torn down in April of 1980.



Oconomowoc Canning Factory *Courtesy Caroline Pretsch.*

In an undated news clipping Miss Leona Wagner was crowned Queen of the Pea Pack. She was elected by employees of the Oconomowoc Canning Company in the fourth annual queen contest sponsored by the Stratford Veterans of Foreign Wars. The queen's court consisted of Miss Jane Sauter and Miss Charlotte Knoeck.

Stratford had its share of industry throughout the years. The mobile home industry thrived here when mobile homes enjoyed more popularity. As no histories were submitted we have included these items which we found while searching through the back issues of the Stratford Journal.

Heitons

The canning company building underwent many changes after the closing of the Oconomowoc Canning Company. Heitons leased the buildings for awhile.

From Stratford Journal Feb 25, 1965
Heitons Plan Huge Industry Expansion

Underway here is a remodeling program at the former Oconomowoc Canning Company plant on the north end of the village which will inaugurate an expansion of the operations of the Heiton Farm Equipment Company of Wisconsin, Inc., manufacturers of self-unloading forage boxes and farm wagons.

The Heiton Company, owned by David Tonsfeldt, has leased the former canning company complex of eight usable buildings, with an option to buy, from Klemme Bros.

The company's decision to expand its operations represents one of several progressive steps since the establishment of the industry in Stratford on August 25, 1963. At the present time the company's manufacturing activities are carried on in connection with Hennig's farm implement sales business at the south edge of the village.

The company's manufacturing force now numbers 30 employees.

Westbrook Homes

Another company leases space in the old canning company buildings.

From Stratford Journal, October 27, 1966
New Industry Here Leases Canning Factory

Two young men, Dick Jones and Guy Rustad, have leased part of the old canning factory and will start a mobile home factory here in the near future.

The company, manufacturers of the Westbrook homes and which will be known as Westbrook Homes Inc. are not going to use the old canning building, but will use all other buildings of the canning plant. The owners, the Klemme Brothers, are busy removing old equipment from the rented buildings and storing it in the old canning building.

The new company plans to manufacture a mobile home similar to those that now are made here at the Northern Star Plant.

Hammerblow Tool Company

From Stratford Journal March 1968
Hammerblow Tool Company in Stratford.

The company will have its factory in the large building formerly used as a turkey barn and owned by Bob Ulrich in the village, east on highway 153. It will manufacture frames for mobile homes.

Kenwood Homes

From Stratford Journal, Dec. 1969
Kenwood Homes holding open house at new plant

A manufacturing plant that started here in a makeshift building in November of 1966, with ten employees moved into their new factory on Oct. 20 1969. The new factory building, with a total of 65,000 square feet is located on the east side of Highway 97, just south of the railroad track.

Kenwood Homes are proud of their new plant. The first mobile home unit manufactured, a 12 x 60 by Kenwood in Stratford, was turned out in the spring of 1967. It was delivered to Minnesota.

There are now 110 employees in the Stratford Plant. Officers of the corporation are Dick Jones, president; Guy Rustad and Bob Lee, vice presidents, and Roland Heywood, Stratford division manager.

Northern Star

The Marshfield News Herald reported that the Northern Star Corporation shipped out its first 12-foot-wide unit in June of 1964. The unit was 72 feet long and was supported by four axles rather than the usual three axles.

From Stratford Journal, Nov 13, 1969
Northern Star sold to New York Corp.

Don. W. Ferring, president of Northern Star Mobile Homes has announced the sale of control of the local mobile home factory to LCA Modular Enterprises, a New York based corporation.

Dean Wieland will continue heading the local factory.

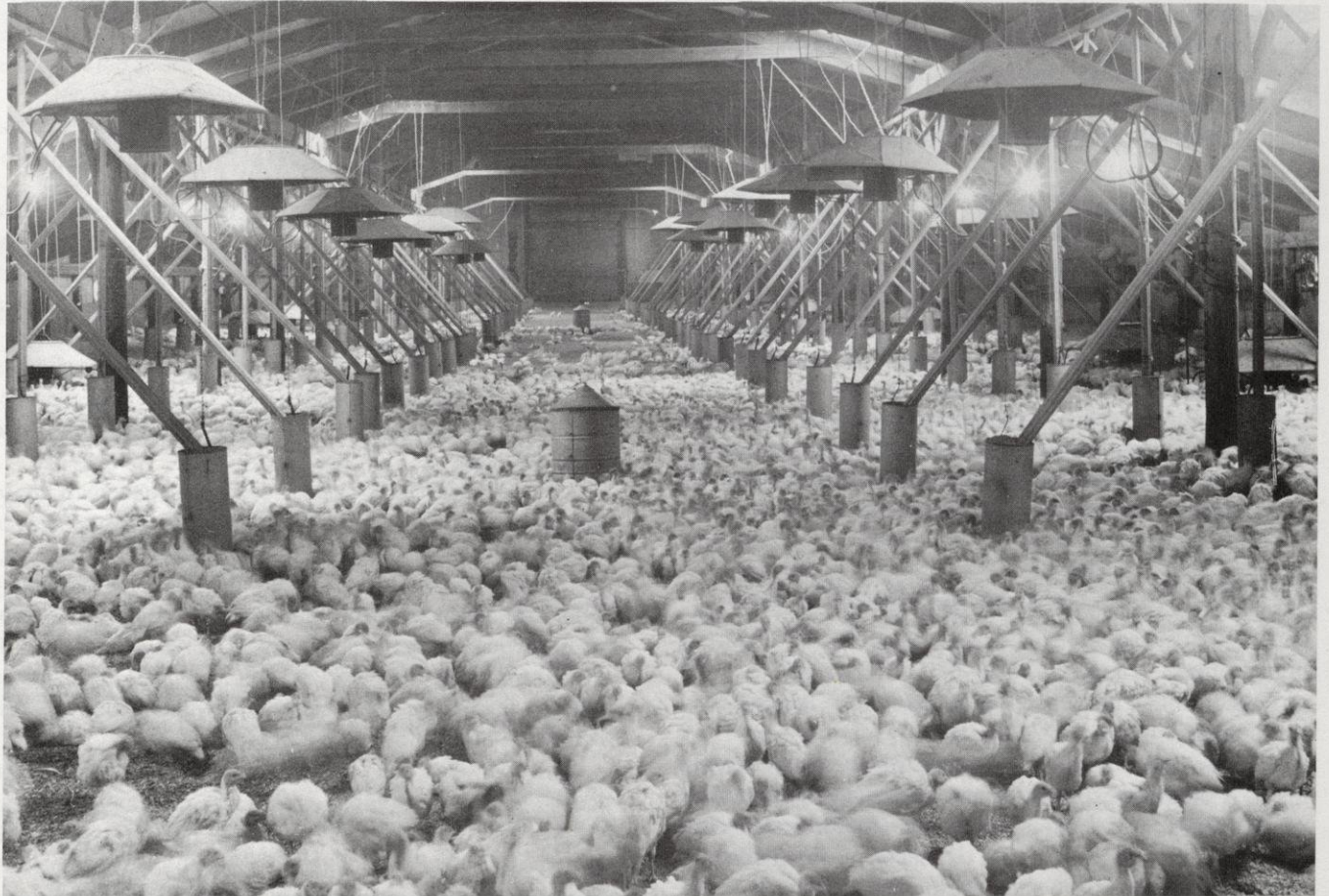
Stratford Farm Fresh

Stratford Farm Fresh, a specialty firm supplying fresh turkeys for the Thanksgiving and Christmas season, was located just east of Stratford on Highway 153. It was a joint venture of Bob Ulrich and Larry and Ardell Klemme to have a specialty product available for those who did not want the "piece de resistance" of their holiday meal frozen. The birds were grown by Klemme and Ulrich turkey farms.

The plant opened in 1962 with eight employees. The first Thanksgiving employees were James Weigel, Neil Belke, Donetta Ulrich, Jeanette Klemme, Mary Weigel, Bernice Steczynski, Marie Oertel and Lorraine Seitz.

Turkeys were killed one day—chilled—and then packaged and shipped the following day. Over 1,000 birds were processed in 5 days. They were sold in Central and Northern Wisconsin going to Stratford, Marshfield, Wisconsin Rapids, Stevens Point, Wausau, Oshkosh, Merrill, Tomahawk and Minocqua.

The firm discontinued operations after Thanksgiving 1981 due to the inability of obtaining premium birds in the Stratford area.



Thousands of young turkey chicks at Stratford Farm Fresh. Courtesy Donetta Ulrich.

Har-Mac

The April 15, 1954 issue of the Stratford Journal announced that a new factory, Har-Mac, a mobile home manufacturer, would be located in Stratford. It was planned to make exactly ten mobile homes each week, no more and no less.

Ground was broken for the Har-Mac Corporation factory building in May of 1954. By the end of June, they had begun limited production, planning to have two mobile homes completed by July.

From The Stratford Journal January 5, 1956 *Har-Mac, Inc. to Introduce New Luxury Home at Cleveland*

Plans to enter the luxury field in the production of mobile homes have been launched by Har-Mac, Inc., following completion several days ago of a major addition to the company's plant here, Mac Matthews, the firm's general manager, announced this week.

New models, complete with such refinements as carpeted floors, washing machines, air conditioning, Roddiscraft walls, newly toned interiors, plus all the time-tested and space-stretching techniques and imaginative arrangements for living on wheels, will be unveiled next week at the national mobile home show at Cleveland, Ohio.

The company, which now employs about one hundred persons in its modern plant, expects to add substantially to its personnel force.

The local industry's present position is quite different from that of less than two years ago when it began operation in Stratford. At that time it produced a few units a week in a plant with 8,000 square feet of manufacturing space. The plant was constructed with capital provided by the Stratford Industrial Corporation, an organization of local business and professional men.

Today, the firm has quadrupled its plant's facilities from 8,000 to 32,000 square feet of manufacturing space, tripled its personnel, increased production more than 400 percent, and multiplied its dealer organization ten fold.

The large plant addition completed last week, plus numerous other additions to the original plant buildings during the past year were financed entirely by Har-Mac, Inc., and imposed no additional investment upon the development organization. The investment of the local business and professional men in the original structure is being liquidated by rental payments.

The weekly payroll of the company now averages more than \$6,000 and is expected to increase sizably by April. The year just ended was a record year of sales for the entire trailer home industry, Matthews said. Demand for the product in 1956 is expected to be even larger in view of the many large scale construction projects planned over the nation, which will see multitudes of artisans and craftsmen on the move.

The Stratford plant, through its sales network of more than 100 dealers, has shipped trailers to Canada, and to all reaches of the nation. Not too long ago, one of its products was consigned to Belgium.

The company produces trailers in four lengths, ranging from 33 to 45 feet and offers its products in ten different floor plans. Its new luxury mobile home, with the ultimate in accessories, fitted into the product, will retail for approximately \$6,900.

Officers of the firm are Mac Matthews, president; Leo Van Ert, vice president; J. Ben Wing, vice president; Fred B. Rhyner, secretary treasurer. All officers, excepting Mr. Matthews, live in Marshfield. The officers and Clarence Olson, plant manager, comprise the board of directors. Neil Kille is sales manager.

Stratford Journal, May 10, 1956 *Har-Mac, Inc. Starting their 2nd Thousand Homes*

The growth of Har-Mac, Inc. has amazed all who have been acquainted with the business. The resolution to produce only 10 homes per week was short lived and now production is nearer the 25 a week mark. Number 1004 rolled off the assembly line on May 10, 1956.

From The Stratford Journal October 23, 1958 *Har-Mac Introduces New Pleasure Boat*

A combination mobile home and houseboat for the hunter and fisherman with a strain of gypsy blood that prompts him to seek new horizons was launched in Lake Wausau from the ramp of the Northland Marine base in Schofield Sunday afternoon.

The completely equipped land and water home slid into the water without mishap, its rubber tired wheels were retracted and the spectators were the first in the area to use it to "tour" the lake.

A new product of Har-Mac, Inc., to supplement its line of mobile homes the combination is known as the "Mobile Duck."

Equipped with a trailer hitch, the combination mobile home and houseboat can be pulled with an ordinary passenger car to favorite camping spots, rivers, flowages or lakes. It serves as a trailer when on land and its wheels are retracted into the hull when used on water, with its buoyed hull requiring a draught of only eight inches.

The "Mobile Duck" is 25 feet long and 8 feet wide. It can sleep four and is equipped with a gas cooking stove, gas heating, gas refrigerator, built-in tanks for fresh water, marine-type toilet facilities, clothes closets, and can be lighted by gas or electricity. The electricity is furnished from batteries or can be secured by plugging in with regular AC current wherever available.

A steel hull, in which the air tanks are located, has been used for safety and the tanks make the "duck" non-sinkable, according to Mac Matthews, company president. Atop the hull is the aluminum cabin with its interior mahogany finish.

Two 35-horsepower outboard motors furnish the power when the "duck" is used as a house board and can push the floating home up to about 14 miles per hour.

From the Stratford State Journal Feb 15, 1962

Har-Mac Factory Purchased

New Owners Expect to be Operating May 1

After several weeks of negotiations, the Har-Mac, Inc., plant here was sold last Friday to the Northern Star Mobile Homes Company, whose head offices are in St. Paul, Minnesota. The company operates a mobile home factory in

Guttenberg, Iowa, and one in St. Paul, but is being forced to vacate the latter plant because of urban improvements in that city.

The Har-Mac plant has been idle for two years, and the company was adjudged bankrupt last year. The plant, which has an area of 2,000 square feet, was started in 1954 and at one time 110 were employed there.

President of the Northern Star Mobile Homes is Don W. Ferring, Vice President and general manager is Dean Weiland. He, and Roy Swalen, superintendent, will move to Stratford in the very near future to prepare the plant here for operation.

Production here will emphasize the larger models of mobile homes, the 10 and 12 wides. At present, the plans are to hold production to one unit per day, with an employment force of 30 to 40 men.

Stratford Bowling

It can not be denied. Stratford is a bowling town. On any given night Kegler's Kove is filled with bowlers. Meetings are scheduled around bowling nights as whole families are involved in the sport.

This is nothing new. In the 1930's and 40's some of the headlines in the Stratford Journal were about bowling scores. It all began in 1927. Pete Grassl, Sr. and Joseph Ritger had two lanes (where Rocky's Tavern is now).

Five years later they moved to where the present Sauter Kundinger Funeral Home is.

In 1936 they moved again, this time to the basement of the Connor Building and two more lanes were added. It was managed by Ted Zoellner, Tony Stock and Ted Oettinger.

Other managers were:

1956-58 Bill Schroepfer and Jim Weber

1958-59 Chuck "Tuffy" Doll and Sam ?

On Nov. 15, 1959 a fire destroyed the building owned by Davel Bros. and with it the bowling alleys.

In December of 1960 Lawrence and Belen Drexler opened the new Holiday Lanes with six lanes. Women had one league and bowled Wednesday and Thursday nights. "Storky" left in 1975.

July 31, 1975 Lions leased lanes from Davel Bros. for one year and were managed by Larry Propp.

July 1, 1976 Keglers Kove - Dale and Annita Pokallus purchased it from Stratford Lions Club.

1988 League split into two separate Leagues. Wednesday Keglers Klassic and Thursday Keglers Kove Ladies.

Old Timers: Vic Guenther

Madellyn Weber

Stella Knoll

Helen Zoellner

Lucy Kohlbeck

Ted's Tavern

From Stratford Journal, Oct. 1936

Open New Tavern in Auditorium

Ted Oettinger and Ted Zoellner, who have been busy the past two months, announce this week that their tavern and bowling alleys in the basement of the auditorium are ready for occupancy.

The alleys, regulation size, have been installed in that part of the Connor store basement that was occupied by the shower rooms and ladies' dressing room.

The tavern, which was remodeled by Fred Lillge, is occupying the space formerly used by the club rooms and men's dressing rooms. The stairway has been moved to just south of the door and entrance to the auditorium and goes directly to the alleys.

A new bar and back bar, both built by Fred Lillge, occupy the north wall. Booths will be placed on the south side but probably will not be installed in time for the opening.

From Stratford Journal, October 3, 1940

Bowling Season

The Stratford Keglers will have the treat this year of bowling on new alleys. The proprietors of Ted's Tavern have rented space in the basement of Davel's store, and have moved all their old equipment there, and have installed new equipment there to double and improve the bowling facilities of Stratford.

Barbers

Many barbers have had the task of keeping Stratford men shaved and shorn but the first recorded "official" barber was Ed Rifleman. In 1910 Rifleman built the Rifleman building at 219 Elm Street.

He had men people working for him, especially on the weekends when the lumberjacks came in from the woods. Then he and his helpers would sometimes work until two o'clock in the morning. Haircuts were 25¢ and they did a lot of shaving in those days as most men could not keep their razors sharp.

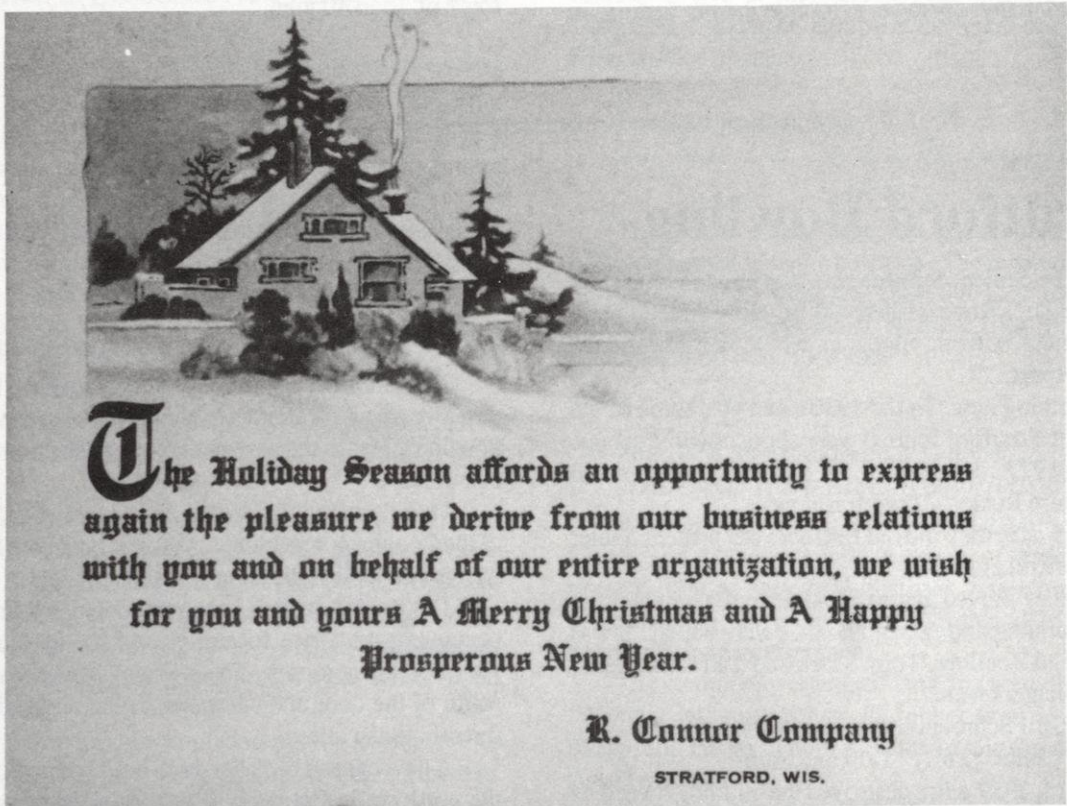
Some of the barbers that worked with Rifleman were Clarence Hoffman, Louie Laessig and Ed (Swede) Nelson.

The Rifleman building was sold in 1946 and the building became a drug store.

In 1912 John Kaiser built a barber shop on East Railroad Street. His brother, Jake, worked with him. Kaiser later sold the shop to Swede Nelson for a Hudson car and a sum of money. After Swede Nelson died, his wife rented the shop to other barbers.

A few other names were recalled for barbers in Stratford. Joe Masanz worked for Swede Nelson. Gust Polege had a barber shop in the Diermeier building. Irvin Kroening was a barber as was Dennis Baumman and Herb Frank.

(See Wetterau Barber Shop in the section on today's businesses.



We are sorry we only touched on a few of the many businesses and industries that have been a part of Stratford's history. We have relied on people's memories, the newspaper accounts and the stories that were written by those of you who were involved in some way with the businesses. We urge all of you in business to write a short history of your company and take it to the Village Hall. That way the 2091 book will have all the information about you. Do it today! A hundred years slips by in a hurry.

Stratford's Medical Community

Stratford Physicians

Once again we are grateful for the wonderful job done by Mrs. Allen and the Stratford Journal in recording Stratford's history. We have used her article from the 1956 issue of the Stratford Journal and other articles from the newspaper for your enjoyment.

Village Served by Many Distinguished Medical Men

By Mrs. Robert Allen

In 1895, 200 people called Stratford their home. The need for medical service was being felt by all. W. D. Connor knew of a young man from Canada who would soon finish medical school and he made arrangements for him to come to Stratford.

Dr. Henry Wahl came to the village in 1895. For eighteen years he served the needs of the growing population. He put up his private single telephone lines to Rozellville, March Rapids and Fenwood to better serve his practice. Dr. Wahl's wife was a nurse. Like other horse and buggy frontier doctors of his day, he also pulled teeth and acted as coroner as well as being a physician and surgeon. The Wahls left in 1913.

One of Dr. Wahl's contemporaries was Dr. C. O. Fuller, who came to Stratford the first part of this century. In 1905, Dr. Fuller built the brick home on the corner of State Highway 97 and 153. Dr. Fuller left here in 1918 to join the army at Fort Riley, Kansas.

Dr. and Mrs. J.H. Blekking moved here in 1913. Their home was the one vacated by Dr. Wahl. Dr. Blekking left Stratford in 1917.

Dr. C. H. Hilger followed Dr. Fuller. A year later, Dr. G. F. Murphy came here and the two doctors formed a partnership which was to last only two months.

From Stratford Journal, Aug. 8, 1919:
Dr. G.F. Murphy Will Locate Here

This week a deal was made whereby Dr. G.F. Murphy of Athens, will go into partnership with Dr. C.H. Hilger of this Village.

The office will be located at the same old stand, at the Dr. Hilger residence.

Dr. Hilger left and Dr. Murphy continued his practice until his death in 1930. He was followed by another Dr. Murphy. Dr. E. R. Murphy came here from Antigo and served here until 1954.

Dr. F. C. Kroeplin came to Stratford in 1930.
From: Stratford Journal, Dec. 1 1938:

OPENS NEW OFFICE

For the past two months, Dr. F. C. Kroeplin has had a crew of men remodeling and repairing the property he purchased on the corner of Second Avenue and Elm Street, across from Allington & Van Ryzin's store, building for him a modern office. Dr. Kroeplin has been planning to move his office to a ground floor location for some time, to make it easier for his patients, especially those with injuries, to call at his office for treatment.

His office will occupy the entire ground floor of the building. The room at the southeast corner of the building will be the waiting room, and off from this Dr. Kroeplin has had partitioned a small closet which he will use for his dark room to develop the x-ray pictures. Just north of the waiting room is the consultation room, and, also, off from this room, a closet has been partitioned to house his drug supplies. The northwest room of the building will be used for an operating room, and he has two other smaller rooms for treatment rooms.

From the operating room there is a cement platform out to the driveway, to allow the transfer of ambulance patients to the office with the least difficulty. An outstanding feature of the whole office is the extra wide doors he has had installed. Patients, even those with the most serious of injuries, can be taken to the office, and from one room to the other in the office, with no difficulty whatsoever.

From The Stratford Journal March 10, 1966

Dr. Kroeplin

Thirty six years ago on Feb. 22, a young man from Milwaukee, just out of medical school, drove to Stratford to find a location to open an office. This young man was Dr. Frederick C. Kroeplin.

Getting as far as the Carl Spindler hill and seeing the village as it looked, dressed in its dirty spring attire, was enough to discourage him and make him turn back.

On his way home, some friends who had accompanied him, asked if he had noticed the nice farms in the area. Thinking it over and encouraged by these young men, he decided he would return and inquire more about the needs and location. He returned the next day to interview Mrs. Murphy,

the wife of the late Dr. George Murphy. An agreement could not be reached because of his lack of funds so he had to look elsewhere. He stopped at the bank and with the help of the late Theo. Hoffmann and Edward Brunner, he was able to find a location for his office and living quarters, plus help in finding homes on house calls. His office location was on the second floor of the George Chrouser building, later owned by Dr. O.R. Klemme.

After several trips to and from Milwaukee, he finally slid into town on icy roads with his meager load of supplies and equipment. The first week or two he stayed at the Stratford Hotel, sometimes having to sleep on his examination table because his bed at the hotel was occupied by someone else. Finally, through the kindness of Jos. Ritger, the owner at that time of the furniture store and funeral parlor, he was able to furnish his own living quarters with a bed, radio and chairs, which he paid for when he was able.

He opened his office March 4, 1930, his first patient being the late Mrs. George Spindler. Many difficult years lay ahead for him, not only because of the depression, but for the many house calls which had to be made over icy, drifted and muddy, sinkholo roads. Since the Marshfield hospital was closed to all outside doctors, at that time, many hard trips to Wausau had to be made in all kinds of weather, over all kinds of roads, a distance of over 70 miles round trip.

In August of 1930, Dr. Kroeplin was married to Miss Lillian Klemme, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Klemme, pioneer residents of Stratford. They lived in two rooms next to the office until Mr. Chrouser built an addition of two more rooms and a bath over the room at the east end of his building. They lived in this lovely little apartment until the spring of 1934, when they moved into the Dr. Schriber home, purchased by Dr. O.R. Klemme, who moved from Owen, Wis., to take over Dr. Schriber's dental practice at that time.

Dr. Kroeplin's practice outgrew its small quarters and was expanded into the apartment area making it not only larger, but more convenient.

On January 14, 1935, a daughter was born to Dr. and Mrs. Kroeplin. In May of 1935, construction on their own home was started and what a spring it was, rainy and wet, making it almost impossible to put in the foundation. However, on November 11, that year, they moved in and spent their first Christmas in their new home.

On September 29, 1936, a son was born to the Kroeplins, making their family complete. With Carol and Karl around to grow up with, the days were sometimes happy, sad and hectic, as pleasures, sickness and sorrows passed their way.

In 1937, with his practice growing larger and larger, and looking ahead, he bought the Mrs. Rebecca Grassl property, the present location of his office, which was for sale. With a great deal of remodeling and beautifying he moved into the new building.

The winters at this time were severe, with much snow and sub-zero temperatures. Most of his calls in the winter months were made with a horse and sleigh hut. The sleigh hut, which were common then, was built on a sleigh, with windows,

doors and a wood heater.

Dr. and Mrs. Kroeplin remember making a winter call together to the Rangeline area, south east of Stratford. It was a wet, snowy day, with slush in the tracks and snow piled high on each side of the road. The call was an all-day affair. They finally reached Rozellville, where Mrs. Kroeplin visited at the Oppman home, calling home several times to inquire about the children, while the doctor made the rest of the trip to the patient's home in the farmer's bob sled. They returned home that night, weary and tired, with a team of horses almost too spent to move, because of the ice balls frozen to their feet from the slush and cold. After this wearisome trip, the horses had to be cared for before Dr. Kroeplin could crawl into bed, where he was no sooner there when a call came and he had to again be off to battle the elements to save another life. This was only one of the many busy days and nights which followed year after year.

Frank Aldrich, who at that time was the proprietor of a local garage, built a snow mobile for Dr. Kroeplin, which he used to make his winter calls. It wasn't necessary to follow the roads with this machine, and Dr. Kroeplin cut through fields, covering his calls faster.

Dr. Kroeplin always had very efficient office help. The late Dorothy Diermeier and Lucile Schulz were the first to help him in his office. Then a Miss Hough of Stevens Point, and later two daughters of Mr. and Mrs. L.B. Weber, Connie and Ruby. The latter worked for Dr. Kroeplin for well over 25 years. He expanded his office in 1958, and his office force was expanded by the addition of Miss Fay Spindler and Mrs. Wilbert Van Der Leest, the latter a R.N. After Miss Spindler's marriage, Mrs. Lillian Drexler took over her position.

Dr. Kroeplin served the community of Stratford for many years. The last few years he did cut his work load to a certain extent but he kept working until his death in 1973.

Today the village is served by a branch office of the Marshfield Clinic. The office is located in Dr. Kroeplin's old office. The office is staffed every week day and physicians from Marshfield come to Stratford on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The doctors presently at the Stratford office are Dr. Michael Mehr, Dr. John Przybylinski and Dr. Charles Wirtz.

Teena Leonhardt and Tamara Martens work at the clinic.



The Stratford Clinic

Dentists

By Mrs. Allen, 1956 issue of the Stratford Journal

Dr. Crawford had a dental office in the Daul building where the Reuben Oettingers now have their hotel and tavern. He was here in 1910, but perhaps was not a resident dentist. Some believe he lived in Edgar and had a part-time office here.

Dr. J.J. Schreiber came here in 1915 and for a short time had offices in the house now owned by Mrs. Bartz and in the Building now occupied by Stratford Hardware. He then moved to the Chrouser building, where Dr. Klemme has his dental office. Mrs. J. R. Heim, the former Miss Margaret Dennee worked in Dr. Schreiber's office, being employed at the three different locations.

Dr. Schreiber's practice and office were taken over by Dr. O. R. Klemme on Feb. 1, 1934. Dr. Klemme later bought the Chrouser building.

For a time, Dr. Dan Lipke worked with Dr. Schreiber. Dr. John Jaeger joined Dr. Klemme in a partnership in July 1936. This partnership continued for a short time. Previously Dr. Jaeger had had his own office here.

Dr. S. R. Cohen came here in the 1930's and opened a dental office, but moved back to Wausau a few years later.

Dr. Otto Klemme came to Stratford the first of February 1934. His office was located in the Chrouser building upstairs from the present day Hair Unlimited.

Otto R. Klemme was born in Stratford in July 1906, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. H.L. Klemme. He received his schooling in the elementary and high schools, graduating with the class of 1924. He was a graduate of the Marquette school of dentistry, class of 1928.

His first dental office was at Owen, which he opened in 1928, staying there until 1934. He entered the army in 1943, serving until 1944, three months of which time was spent in England.

Dr. Klemme and Miss Sophie Voigt of Loyal were married in 1946. The couple had two children.

Dr. Klemme retired in 1971.

In July of 1971 Dr. Jerome D. Melbinger, D.D.S. opened his new dental building and started practicing in Stratford. His brother, Lonnie, joined him in 1973, but only stayed a short time. Dr. Ken Ellis purchased the Dental Clinic and sold it to the Dental Clinic of Marshfield in August of 1978.

The Stratford Dental Clinic

The Stratford Dental Clinic is open Tuesday and Wednesday of each week and the second and fourth Thursday of the month. Dr. Dennis Godar is the dentist. Brenda Glenetski works as a dental hygienist, Kim Litchfield as the dental assistant. Betty Jozwiak takes care of the office duties.

Veterinarians

Dr. H. E. Wicker is listed in a directory of Stratford Professionals in 1956.

Dr. Charles Kucirek came to Stratford from Auburndale in 1960. He served Stratford area farmers for twenty six years. He retired from his practice in 1986.

Town and Country Veterinary Service

Dr. Douglas Skrake came to Stratford in the early 1980's and has had a growing business ever since. There are now veterinarians working with him in his practice which is located at 124 S. Weber Avenue.

Douglas R. Skrade, DVM

Peter Schreiner, DVM

Ray Hoover, DVM

Susan Stanius, DVM

Russ Smolke is the Manager and Arla Manecke is the secretary.

Dr. George Ellis Towle

Physician & Surgeon

Phone 101 Stratford, Wis.

Dr. G. F. Murphy

Physician and Surgeon

Stratford, Wis.

Telephone 20

Dr. J. J. Schreiber

DENTIST

Chrouser Building Phone 52 (Stratford)

1923 Directory from Stratford Journal

Businesses of Today

For this section of the book we asked business owners to write a brief history of their business and submit it for publication. We are grateful to those who responded. We have attempted to recognize all current Stratford businesses and we apologize for any oversights.

A & B Process Systems Corporation

A & B Process Systems was started in 1973 by A.J. and William Hilgemann. The company fabricates and installs stainless steel equipment for the dairy, food, pharmaceutical and other processing industries. A & B has designed processing equipment for major food processors throughout the nation.

They are one of Stratford's largest employers with approximately 100 employees.

Access Mobility

Access Mobility is a Stratford based business specializing in accessibility products and adaptive driving equipment for seniors and the physically challenged in Central and Northern Wisconsin. Accessibility solutions to help people get where they want to go and overcome architectural barriers in their homes and communities include: stairway lifts, porch lifts, ramps, residential and commercial lifts, residential elevators and bathtub lifts. Owner Angela Williams says "Our consultants are informed about accessibility issues and we believe that architectural barriers can be overcome with the right equipment and a "Can Do" attitude."

Our Adaptive Driving Division offers safe and reliable equipment for vehicle access and adaptive driving including wheelchair and scooter lifts, hand controls, power seating, wheelchair restraint systems, and custom interiors. Access Mobility is a member of the National Mobility Equipment Dealers Association (NMEDA) and is working with this nationwide organization of manufacturers and dealers in setting industry standards for the safe and dependable transportation of the physically challenged. Access Mobility also handles three wheel power scooters, a leading line of Swedish rehab products and power lift chairs; products which enhance

the quality of life for those with limited mobility. Access Mobility can be reached locally by calling 687-4404. Those outside the local dialing area can call toll free: 1-800-233-1235.

Access Mobility looks forward to being an integral part of the Stratford community. We appreciate the support we have received and look forward to working with the community to make Stratford an even better place to live in the years ahead. We are committed to serving the accessibility needs of communities, businesses, schools, churches, families and individuals in Central and Northern Wisconsin and here in Stratford. We salute you, Stratford and thank you for the opportunity to be part of this fine village.

Becher Feed & Farm Supply



During the summer of 1952 Aloysius Becher and his brother, Philip, now of Winona, MN, started remodeling an old barn in which Al had housed layer chickens. The land had been purchased by Edward Becher, their father, around 1937 from Herman Langer. The mill opened for business in March 1953. The first dairy cow grinding was done on that day for Mertz Weber.

A grand opening was held in September 1953. The first Beautena dairy heifer was won by Joseph Wenzel at that event. An egg laying contest was held with pullets entered by Richard Leick, Mrs. Howard Lloyd, Norman Graveen and Mrs. Ed Kafka.

A number of additions were completed over the years. In 1978 a drive through with truck hoist was built. Bulk storage and a cob corn roller mill were added in 1984-85.

Becher Feeds has always sold Purina Chows. In 1982 Al purchased a Silopress for ensiling forage into large bags. There are now two Unipresses (just a different name) operating in the area during the growing and harvesting season. Custom barn painting is another service offered using a lift truck. Al's son, Richard, is now managing the mill.

In the 1960s, eleven acres of this land were sold to the Stratford Board of Education for our present high school. It had formerly been planted in cucumbers which were harvested with the help of local children.



Becher's TV



Construction of Becher's TV Store in Stratford, Wisconsin was started on October 11, 1954. The 28'x52' building is located at 207 East Elm Street and consists of two levels: a store area and a repair shop on the ground floor, and living quarters for the family on the second floor. An attached garage was built on the west side. Construction was completed in early April of 1955.

Walter (Wally) Becher, owner, spent his early years in Stratford and graduated from the local high school. After completing an electronics course at DeForest School in Chicago, he was employed there by the Zenith Corporation. In 1942 he enlisted in the Navy and served for 3 1/2 years. Following his discharge, he enrolled at Tri-State College of Engineering, at Angola, Indiana, and graduated in 1950 with a B.S. degree in Engineering. He was then employed in the en-

gineering department of the J.P. Seeburg Corporation of Chicago for four years.

The 1950's brought an increased demand for TVs in the home, so Wally decided to start a store for the sales and service of TVs and radios in the Stratford area. RCA and Philco TVs, radios, and phonographs were handled, as well as TV towers and antennas. Many tubes and parts were also stocked for the service department. "Elvis" was becoming popular at this time, so a good supply of "45" and "33 1/3" records were a must. A white line, consisting of refrigerators, ranges, freezers, washers and dryers was also added, but floor space was limited, so the white line was discontinued after several years. The demand for more electronic items grew and so the business expanded, both in sales and in service work.

In 1957, the General Telephone Company designated the Becher store as the payment center for their customers in this area. "It was a lot of extra work, but it was also a good way to meet many of the people in this area," said the Bechers. This service continued until 1987 when the telephone company decided to have their patrons mail their payments directly to their home office.

The Becher store became the pick-up station for the Quick Dry Cleaners of Marshfield in 1958. This service still continues, but under the cleaning services of Judges Cleaners of Marshfield.

In July of 1960, Elaine, (Wally's wife) added a complete line of Infant Gifts and Children's Ready-to-Wear to the sales area. Greeting cards and religious articles were also added. The attached garage area was now used for extra space. Mrs. Helen Bean of Stratford became an employee at this time.

One of Helen's amusing moments came when she was waiting on a potential customer during the holidays. The man, accompanied by his god-child, was planning to purchase a gift for the little girl. While showing some of the Holiday dresses, Helen asked the young girl if she would like a particular velvet jumper she was holding. The youngster very seriously replied, "No, I don't do much jumping- so I don't think I would need a jumper."

The advent of Color TV meant more floor space was needed, so after 13 years, the children's wear department was closed out. Color TVs were now in demand and sales and service work increased. The Becher children helped out in



various ways. Unpacking and marking merchandise, assisting with recordkeeping, helping deliver TV sets, cleaning, and waiting on customers were some of their duties. A variety of items such as auto radios, CBs, scanners, intercoms, speakers, walkie-talkies, stereos, weather-alerts, tapes, vacuum cleaners, telephones, electric fences, and VCRs were sold and serviced. Film developing with one day service was added, as well as the sale of films, cameras, and related photographic items.

Service work, all done by Wally, continues to be an important part of the business. However, the service work on TVs now is limited to only the sets he sells. The service area was enlarged in 1985 when the former restaurant next door was annexed.

1991 marks 37 years of continuous ownership and business at the same location for Becher's TV. What will the next 37 years bring? "Hopefully, retirement" said Wally.

Bill's Service Center



Bill Dahlke of Bill's Service Center established his business in 1977 after completing his schooling at N.C.T.I.. The business was located in the back of the present Fareway Sales building.

In October 1981 land located at 801 N. Weber Ave. Hwy 97 North was purchased from Ed Knoll. An addition was added in 1983.

The business sells various parts and accessories; Polaris ATV's; snowmobiles; lawn and garden equipment; and chainsaws.

Bill grew up in the Halder area, and is married to Barbara "Baur" Dahlke. He has three daughters, Sarah, Maria and Katie.

Custom Line

Jim Huegel owns Custom Line a business which customizes automobiles.

Don Dahlke Insurance Agency

Don Dahlke, has been in the insurance business for more than twenty-five years. In 1980 he became an agent for the American Family Life Insurance Company and opened his office at 201 S. Weber Avenue. His wife, Shirley, works with him as the office manager.

Dairyland Labs

Dairyland Labs has been a part of the Stratford business community for nine years. They are located on Highway 97 South. The business is owned by Glen Reit of Arcadia, the location of another Dairyland Laboratory.

The firm tests bulk milk for Wisconsin dairy plants and at present they test the quality of milk for 25% of Wisconsin dairy farms. They also test water, feed and soil. They are able to solve any quality problems that originate on the farm through various testing methods.

The manager of the Stratford Dairyland Lab is Jim Krasselt. He has managed the lab for three and a half years. The business has nine employees.

Davel's

George Davel & Co., Inc. is a continuation of the original first Stratford business - The R. Connor Company Store. George Davel managed the store for Connor from 1898 until 1936 when he purchased the building and stock. Upon George's death, his two sons, Arthur and Reuben took over ownership of the store.



A fire destroyed the original building in 1959. The fire destroyed the store, eleven apartments, the Stratford Post Office and the bowling alley and tavern located in the basement. Twenty-five people were left homeless in the fire. They were unable to save any of their possessions as the fire swept through the structure.

The post office was back in business the next day. About twenty bags of mail were rescued.

The loss to the store was much greater. They not only lost the building and all the merchandise, but also cash and checks totaling nearly \$4,000 which could not be reached due to heavy smoke. The total loss was estimated at \$250,000.

Davels rebuilt and have been in business ever since. They sell groceries, meats, deli items, bakery, hardware, cards and much, more. Ken and Mary Kraus and John Davel currently run the store.



Reuben Davel



Inside the new Davels Store



Davel's Store today

Discount Liquidators



Discount Liquidators is located at 301 North 2nd Avenue in the former Allington & Van Ryzin Store. The business opened five years ago and offers a huge variety of merchandise at discount prices. It is owned by Gene Novitzky and managed by John Prokosch.

Ehrike Insurance Agency

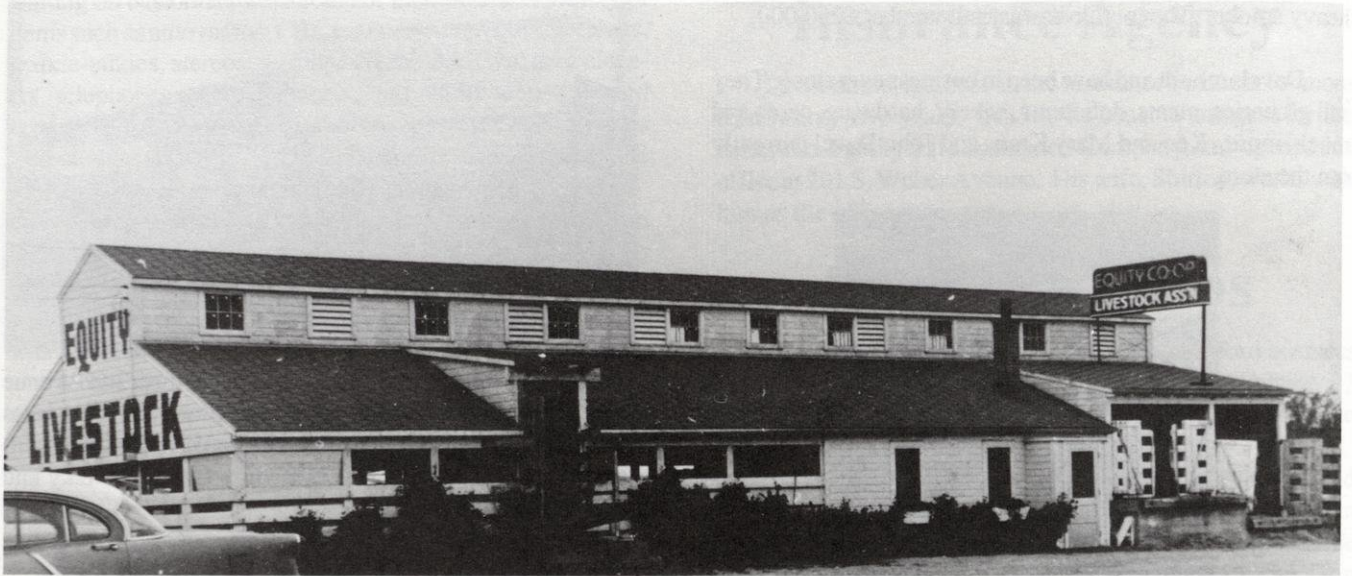


Darrell Ehrike, LUTCF has been in the insurance business for the last fifteen years and previously had an office in his home at 311 W. Fir Street. As with growth, he needed more office space so he purchased the building at 219 East Elm Street in 1986. Darrell was a captive agent for a number of years, but in December 1988 he went independent and now owns his own agency. Darrell is licensed in all lines of insurance.

Equitable Financial

Dan Wieland, a representative of the Equitable Financial Company, has his office at 201A South Weber Avenue. Dan ran his business from his home for many years before moving his office to its present location. Equitable Financial Company deals in a vast array of investments from mutual funds to annuities to limited partnership investments. They also are a leading provider of life, disability and health insurance in the country today.

Equity Livestock Sales



Equity in 1952

Equity Livestock Sales had its beginning in Stratford in 1952. The "Equity Central" a federation of local shipping associations in the area, raised the money to build the first sales building. The present Stratford Equity Livestock Sales barn was opened October 16, 1959. It is located on Hwy 97 North. The company held their first livestock auction on Oct. 12, 1959. An addition was added in 1963 to handle the increased volume of livestock being sold at auction. The original building was razed in the early 1960's.

Ben Lang of Marshfield was one of the original founders. Don Clatterbuck managed the business from 1958 until he retired from Equity in 1987.

Farm tractors and pick-up trucks pulling cattle trailers and livestock trucks are a common sight in Stratford. On sales

days farmers and truckers are bringing their cattle to market. Sales are held four days a week, Monday through Thursday. The second and fourth Thursdays are Feeder Cattle sales and every Tuesday are Dairy and Feeder Cattle sales. They also hold tested hay sales on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.

There are forty-four licensed truckers that haul cattle to Equity. They now serve over 7,000 producers. In 1990 the total livestock sold was 173,804.

Equity is currently managed by Roger Thompson. There are twenty-seven employees at the Stratford market.



Fareway Sales

Jim Drexler and Fritz Ulrich are the owners of Fareway Sales, an auto parts business. They began their business in 1972 at 237 North 3rd Avenue.

Flowers & Spice



Cindy Becher opened Flowers & Spice in 1990. Cindy sells fresh and silk flowers and plants and bulk spices. Needless to say it is the sweetest smelling store in town. Her shop is located on 3rd Street.

General Shoe Supplies, Limited

General Shoe Supplies, Limited is a fairly new business located on North Street in Stratford. It occupies the warehouse of the former Oconomowoc Canning Company.

The business began in July 1980. It was originally a joint venture of Towle Industries and Stratford General Corporation. In 1982, Stratford General Corporation acquired Towle Industries stock.

General Shoe Supplies Limited manufacture steel toes for safety shoes. These steel toes are found in name brand shoes such as Red Wing, Mason, and Weinbrenner Shoes. Contracts to federal prisons such as Leavenworth, Kansas, San Luis Obispo, California and Huntsville, Texas, are also being filled. Present production is 500,000 pairs of steel toes annually.

The first employees in 1980 were James Weigel, Manager; Dick Leonhardt, and Jeff McHugh. Present employees are: James Weigel, Manager; Art Steczynski, Dan Kress, and Judy Schillinger Omelian.

Hair Unlimited

Hair Unlimited, located at 220 2nd Avenue, was started in June of 1975 by owner, Patty Weichelt. Hair Unlimited is a beauty salon that specializes in family hair care and retail hair care products. Currently, Patty has one employee, Deb Hayes. The business celebrated their fifteenth anniversary in 1990.

The Hairdresser

Susan Kann is the owner of The Hairdresser, a family hair care center. Joy Weisenberger also operates out of the shop. It is located at 200 E. Fir Street.

Susan purchased the business in 1985 from Kathleen Hansen. At that time it was located at 201 1/2 S. Weber Ave. She later moved the business to 219 E. Elm. The Hairdresser specializes in permanent waves and haircutting. They also sell professional hair care products and accessories.

Kegler's Kove

Kegler's Kove is located in the basement of the Davel building. It is run by Dale and Anita Pokalus. More information is included in the section on bowling in Stratford.

Klemme Feeds

The present Klemme Feeds site was purchased by H. L. Klemme in the early 1920's from Stratford Equity Co-op. It started as a grind mill for area farmers. Early employees at the feed mill were Jim Laessig, Bud Laessig, John Vergenz, and Bill Pupp.

With increased business and the need for more room, Herman Klemme purchased the building next to the mill. (It was owned by Wausau Beverage (a beer distributor) and later by Armour & Swift of Marshfield to package and wax cheese for local factories.

When George Klemme took control of the company, the name was changed to G.L. Klemme & Sons.

In addition to feeding the farmers' animals they also filled the farmers' machinery needs. Klemme's carried the McCormick-Deering Implement dealership which later became known as International Harvester. Farm machinery was sold and serviced from the present mill site until the early 1950's when they purchased the Ed Johnson blacksmith building. (formerly the old opera house and currently Guenther's apartments). In 1960 the International Harvester franchise was sold to John Hennig of Rozellville.

In the 1940's, commercial feed, seed, and fertilizer were added. Nutrena was sold to local farmers, as well as Nutrasweet and Master Mix. In 1955, they added Doboy Feeds and have carried that line since. The business originally fed only dairy cattle and hogs, and then expanded to turkeys, steers, and veal calves. In the early 1960's they serviced 12 turkey farms, feeding over one million turkeys annually.

Upon the death of George Klemme in 1958, his sons Ardell and Larry, continued the business. The feed mill was incorporated as Klemme Feeds in 1959.

In 1970, Klemme Feeds started a liquid fertilizer business. It was discontinued after 3 years of operation.

In 1975 Klemme Feeds became a subsidiary of Stratford General Corporation.

Klemme Feeds opened a branch store in Auburndale in 1985 with Paul Spatz as manager.

Present employees are co-managers Bob Krause, who started in 1958 as a truck driver, and Don (Tiger) Wenzel who was hired in January 1967 as a bookkeeper. Other present employees are Pete and Dennis Van Der Leest, Gerald (Huck) Kress, and Rick Bangart.

Klemme Sales, Inc.

Klemme Sales Inc. is located on the corner of Walnut and Second Street in Stratford. That property was first purchased by Herman Klemme on Feb. 11, 1907, from Ferdinand Quadt. In 1913 he sold the property to Emma Brieske. She kept it two years and then sold it to L.B. Weber. In 1915, he sold it to Mike Brunner, who two years later sold it to Stratford Equity Co-op. In 1922 Herman Klemme purchased it again and started a garage that carried a Buick dealership. Roger Schuette and Toots Laessig were among the first mechanics employed at the garage.

In 1927 they obtained the Chevrolet franchise. Herman Klemme kept ownership of the garage until 1939 when he sold it to his son George, who had been managing the business. The garage was closed during World War II (1942-1946) as no new cars were being manufactured.

With Ardell Klemme's return from the war, the garage re-opened. Business was expanded with the help of Bob Ulrich, Bud Smith, Arnold (Buck) Ulrich and Jerome Patrick. In 1951, the name of the garage was changed to G.L. Klemme & Son. Also in 1951 a body shop, managed by Harold Weber, was added to the present structure. Five years later the name was changed to Klemme Sales, Inc., with Larry and Ardell as owners.

The building located just south of the garage was owned by Melvin Guenther. Klemmes purchased the Guenther building in 1959 and converted it into office space and a parts department. The upstairs was remodeled into living quarters.

Upon Larry's retirement in 1985, Tom and Mary Stack acquired his share of the business. Bob Ulrich and Tom Stack purchased the balance of the stock when Ardell retired on January 1, 1988.

Extensive remodeling was completed in 1990.

Present employees are: Tom Stack,



Early days at Klemme Sales (l-r) George Klemme, Ardell, Klemme, Bob Ulrich, Arnold (Buck) Ulrich, Jerome Patrick, Harold Weber, Jim Weisenberger and Delfred Kann.



Klemme Sales before remodeling.



Klemme Sales after 1990 remodeling.

manager; Jerald Scheibe and Tom Bornbach, bookkeepers; Tom Sauter, parts manager; Paul (Bucky) Drexler, shop foreman; and Donald Kroening, Kurt Schwarze, and Mike Stack, mechanics. Steve (Tubby) Draxler is foreman of the body shop. Also employed in the body shop are Jeff Goldbach and Scott Baasch.

Knit Expressions

Gertrude Jicinsky is the talented owner of Knit Expressions. The business sells sweatshirts with knit inserts that can be made to order.

Knoll's Bar

Ed and Mary Ellen Knoll own Knoll's Bar, located on South Weber Avenue. The Knoll's purchased the bar from Harvey Bohman in May of 1981. Ed and Mary Ellen work in the bar and have one bartender, Brenda Fischer.

Kozy Kafe

The Kozy Kafe is located on Third Street in downtown Stratford. Darla Hahn became the owner and head cook in 1989. Lunch time at the Kozy Kafe keeps waitresses, Leona Perlock, Mary Weigel and Dawn Iwaszczenko busy.

Kulp's of Stratford

Kulp's of Stratford is a roofing and construction business owned by Robert Kulp. The firm was started in 1985.

Kuyoth, Inc.



Dennis and Cheryl Kuyoth purchased the Schoultz Motors from Richard Schoultz in 1980. They named their business, Kuyoth Repair Service. Repairing of cars, trucks, farm tractors and serving a fleet of school buses which Dick Schoultz owned, was the primary business. In 1984 the Kuyoths expanded their business and added a used car dealership which is called Kuyoth Auto Sales. In 1987 the Kuyoths experienced growing pains again. They purchased Schoultz School Bus Service from Dick Schoultz and renamed their new addition, Kuyoth Bus Service. They transport school children for the school district of Stratford.

In 1988 a body shop was added. That department is managed by their son, Troy.

In June 1988, they purchased Kann's Service Station and renamed it Water Works Car Wash. The building was remodeled and a car wash was added.

Modern Beauty Shop

Ellen Ehrike owns the Modern Beauty Shop. She purchased the building from Sam Frankwick in 1956. Before starting her business in Stratford she worked in beauty shops in Milwaukee and Marshfield.

Ellen's daughter, Barbara has worked for her for 18 years and her daughter-in-law, Pam worked for her for a time before opening her own beauty shop.

The Modern Beauty Shop is located on Second Street in Stratford. It is open Tuesday, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

Nyhagen Machine, Kelnhofer Machine, and Stratford Machine

Three companies under one roof. Terry Nayhagen is the owner of Nyhagen Machine which he started three years ago. Wayne Kelnhofer is the owner of Kelnhofer Machine and Sam Millazo is the owner of Stratford Machine. The three entrepreneurs have combined their talents to be the very best in the machine business.

The businesses are located at EP4329 Webertown Road.

Parkside Styles Tanning & Hair Salon

The business was started by owner-manager and operator, Pam Ehrike in January 1987. The Salon specializes in haircutting, styling, perms, hair coloring and highlighting and tanning for men and women. It carries a full line of Paul Mitchell and Biolage Hair Care Products. Makeup facials and a full line of Mary Kay Cosmetics is also a speciality.

Employees include 2 part time tanning technicians, Amy Carl and Kristie Haigh.

Rock Oil Refining Inc.

Rock Oil Refining was started in 1952 by Sylvester (Pinky) and Caroline Rock. Their sons Allen and Mike worked for the company until 1986 when they purchased the business along with their brother Peter and their brother-in-law, David Feemster.

Wally Feltz worked for Rock Oil for almost 40 years until his retirement in January of 1991. Other employees are Chuck Chrouser, Roy Seubert and Don Griesbach.

The company collects used oil and refines it into industrial oil which they market.

The Rock Oil Refining Co. is located on Hwy 97 North.

Rocky's Bar

The building I am in has probably been a tavern since it was built. Pete Grassl owned it for about 45 years; it was then managed briefly by Bob Dein, Al Bandle and Bob Leonhardt. My Uncle, Red Kann, took over the business in July of 1964 and managed it until July of 1980 when I took over. I have enjoyed it very much. It's a small bar, no pool table or other games, but everyone is friendly and it serves as a good gathering place to hash out all the world's problems. The most important thing is that my customers are a mix of all age groups and everyone gets along great.

There are a lot of hours in a week but with the help of Tom Fischer and Scott Johnson, I seem to make it through. It's been fun and I hope to be around for quite awhile.

Sauter Kundinger Funeral Home

The Sauter Kundinger Funeral Home is located on Third Street next to the Village Hall. It was purchased by DuWayne and Donna Kundinger in February of 1977. Jerry Sauter is also involved with the business.

Scott's Market

Scott and Kathy Kann purchased the grocery business from Frank and Donna Ellenbecker in 1980. Employees of the store are Gordon Kann, Nancy Wiesman, Shawna Lance, Chad Vetter and Debbie Marohl.

Spe-Dee Drapery, Inc.

Frank and Mildred Ule and Frederick and Patricia Boldt of Marshfield rented the Helstrom Pharmacy Building and opened a drapery shop there.

They began by making draperies for mobile homes. The Ules sold their interest in the business to Vernard and Dorothy Dallman.

1971 Spe-Dee Draperies moved into their new quarters on South Highway 97. The Dallman's son, Lowell, joined the firm in 1975. Presently Spe-Dee Draperies employs three workers. They still supply window treatments for mobile homes however they are now a work room for many decorating firms in Wisconsin. They are also engaged in retail sales of their custom made window treatments.

Stratford Beauty Nook

The Stratford Beauty Nook is owned by Rachel Kann. She started the business in her home in 1961. Before starting her beauty shop she worked in Mosinee. The shop is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Stratford Bread & Butter

The Stratford Bread & Butter opened in Stratford in 1985 on the corner of Hwy 97 and Hwy 153. It was started by John Baltus of Marshfield. They sell gas, food, lottery tickets, and other miscellaneous merchandise as well as register deer during deer hunting season. Rhonda Umnus is the Manager and Wendy Johnson and Heather Rasumssen are full time employees. They also employ six to seven part-time workers.

Stratford Building Supply

In 1956 Ralph Chrouser started Stratford Building Supply. In 1957 Joe Burger and Jens Casperson joined him in the business. Casperson died in an automobile accident in 1957.

The lumber and building supply business has built many structures in the area through the years. Today the business is run by the sons of Burger and Chrouser; Joe Burger, Jr., Grant Burger, George Chrouser, Peter Chrouser, Mike Chrouser, John Chrouser and Dick Chrouser.

Stratford Designs, LTD.

In 1984 Dennis and Jean Hastings moved their business from Marshfield into the former Farmside Farm Machinery building on Highway 97 south. They produce silk screened wall decor in their establishment. The finished product is shipped all over the United States.

During the peak season from September to December, they employ up to twenty-five employees. The rest of the year about twelve are employed at the company.

Stratford Farmers Co-op

From The Stratford Journal May 28, 1920
Feed Mill Proposed for Stratford

(By Alex T. Kowalsky A.B. LL.B.)

"The need of a general feed mill in Stratford is not lacking in demands amongst the farmers. A proposition has been submitted to several leading business people and farmers by a Mr. Smith representing the Hastings Industrial Comp. of Chicago who was in our midst last week and the scheme proposed appears plausible. Stratford, the center of a rich agricultural district is an ideal location for a feed mill. The farmers living about Stratford must go to Marshfield, Mara-

farmers living about Stratford must go to Marshfield, Marathon City and Colby, the nearest feed mill stations, to have their seeds ground. Many of our farmers have an aversion to go to these distant places and long for a station in Stratford that will satisfy their wants. The Hastings Industrial Comp's. business is to erect and install feed mills on a basis of cooperation, forming a company and selling stocks for the establishment of a feed mill. Their object in getting the farmers in as parties to their company is similar to the creamery companies now operating throughout the state. The farmers as part owners of the feed mill would naturally turn over their seed to their mill and this action would assure the

operators that their plant would have the cooperation of the farmers stock holders and these farmers too would induce their neighbors and friends to bring their seed to this their mill.

Cooperation today is the watchword of modern business and none need cooperation more than the farmers. Without it industry would fail and if farmers would look at their business from this modern standpoint and act accordingly, their success would be greater and more beneficial."

The previous article is the first mention of a co-operative for a feed mill. It is not known if a feed mill materialized at that time but we do know that six years later the Stratford

Farmers Co-op had its beginnings.

The first organizational meeting of Stratford Farmers Co-op Produce Company was held August 12, 1926. The original Stratford Co-op Produce Company building was purchased from Herman Langer in October of 1926. Jake Dix was hired as manager until November 1926, when Joe Heim was hired as manager. Warehouse employees were Philip Custer and Alex Wagner. Frank Pagel was the first president of the Board of Directors.

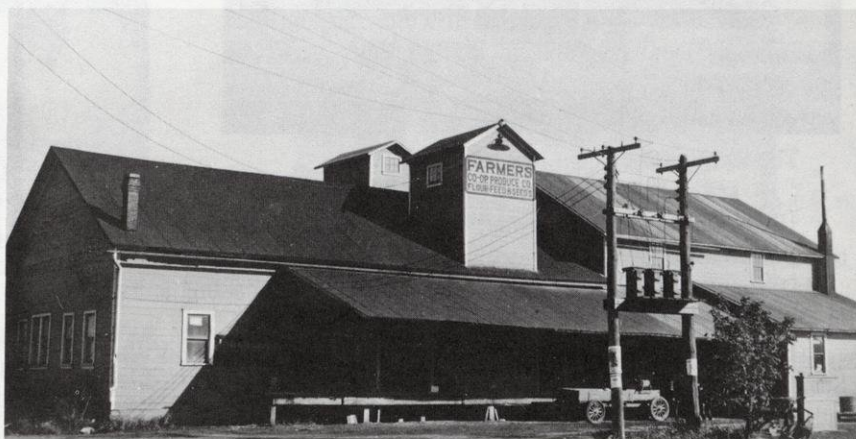
In 1936, a small warehouse addition and office space was added. Alice Aschenbrenner was hired as bookkeeper. She was employed about a year. Ruth Bandle succeeded her as bookkeeper. The John Deere building was purchased in 1939. At one time, this building was a bowling alley. The Tin Barn was purchased from Oconomowoc Canning Co. in 1943. This building was used for storage space. At one time, Ed Davies kept horses there.

In 1946, the Mahoney Building was purchased. This building was torn down in 1957. A semi-trailer was bought in 1946. This was used to haul corn which in those days had to be unloaded by hand in barrels, and wheeled into the warehouse. John Lickteig was the semi-driver.

In 1947, the Service Station and Bulk Gas Business was purchased from Marco Co-op at Marathon City. Walter Dhein was hired as Bulk Gas truck driver. At this time the Board of Directors consisted of: H.R. Keller-President, Theo. W. Wagner-Vice President, Phil Hein Sr., Al Jones and Lawrence Leick-directors.



The first Stratford Co-op building.



The Mill.

In 1955, H.R. Keller retired from the Board of Directors and Theo W. Wagner succeeded him as President.

July 31, 1956, Joe Heim retired as manager and Wm. Kothbauer was hired to be the new manager. He managed until December 31, 1957. Don Pernsteiner was named manager on April 1, 1957.

1957 - A new mill and office was constructed on the present site and a new fuel truck and tank were purchased. Some old buildings were removed. A few years later, a bulk feed truck was added and the request for purchasing land from the Chicago Northwestern Railroad was made. By 1962, the north warehouse (former feed mill) was replaced because the structure had split apart. The present Service Station was purchased from Roger Schuette and the old station was sold to Brandt Brothers.

1963 - Several parcels of land were purchased from the railroad. During the next five years, a new machinery shop and warehouse were built. The old Tin Warehouse was traded with Stratford Builders at that time.

Introduction to bulk feed was initiated during this period and modifications were made to the mill and delivery equipment. Bulk feed tanks were added to the mill, and a bulk feed tank lease-purchase arrangement for on the farm delivery was made available. Our bulk petroleum tanks were moved to a new location-East on Hwy 153. This move was made because of safety standard demands.



The former Schuette Garage which is now the Co-op Service Station.



The former implement building.

1969 - The fertilizer plant was put into operation where all grades of fertilizer were formulated. The fertilizer was in bag or bulk form.

During the next six years, the truck fleet and their hauling units were up-graded.

1976 - A parcel of land on 3rd street was traded with the Village of Stratford, for a parcel South of the feed mill. On this site, a new warehouse was constructed. In 1957, there were 11 employees. In 1976, there were 23 full time employees.

1980 - The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad served notice that it was going to abandon rail service through Stratford.

1983 - The old office was dismantled and the new office was built on the same site.

1984 - The Fenwood Feed Mill and Warehouse business was purchased.

1985 - A cluster of 12 more Bulk Feed bins were erected. A complete feed pelleting system was also installed. This modern pelleting system consisted of two more legs and a 100 HP California Pelleting Machine.

1987 - A parcel of land East on Hwy 153, was purchased from Marshfield Savings and Loan. An adjoining parcel was also purchased from Orville Bombach.

1989 - On this 10 acre site, a new 50 by 100 foot warehouse was built.

More than ever . . .

. . . the Finest, Fastest, Cleanest Thresher

More now than ever before the Red River Special is the Finest, Fastest, Cleanest Thresher ever built for Agricultural America

THE FINEST
Finest—because it offers all the latest improvements: Hyatt Roller Bearings, Alemite-Zerk Lubrication, Rockwood Weatherproof Fibre Pulleys, rust resisting Armco Ingot Iron, Bridge Truss Construction, Hart New Model Feeders, Hart Grain Weighers French & Hecht Wheels.

THE FASTEST
Fastest—because Double Belts running on Rockwood Fibre Pulleys, driving shafts running in Hyatt Roller Bearings Alemite-Zerk Lubricated, keep every part running at the smooth, even pace set by the Big Cylinder to do clean threshing fast, to keep the machine threshing at capacity.

THE CLEANEST
Cleanest—because it is built around the famous 4 Threshermen, the big Cylinder, the Man Behind the Gun, the Steel Winged Beater, and the Beating Shakers, the greatest combination ever devised for getting the grain from the straw with cleaning mills that deliver it clean, bright, merchantable. See us for complete information.

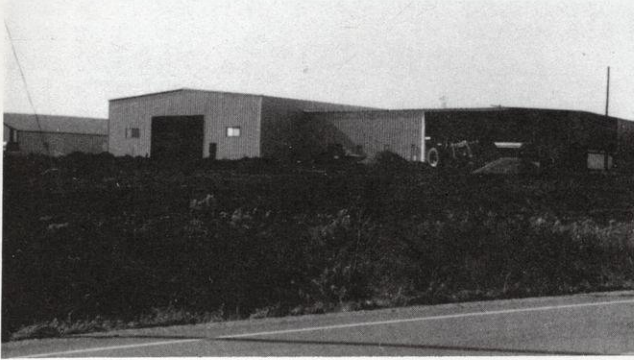
NICHOLS & SHEPARD
In continuous business since 1848
Sold By

FARMERS' CO-OP PROD. CO
Stratford, Wis.

Ad from Stratford Journal, 1929

1990 - Completed on this site, was a new, modern machinery complex which included offices, showroom, parts and distribution center and a large modern repair shop.

At the present time (February 1991) Don Pernsteiner is manager. The Stratford Farmers Co-op employs 40 full time employees. The Board of Directors includes Mark Kaiser-President, Bruce Hughes-Vice President, Peter Beining-Secretary-Treasurer, Arnold Polege and Gilbert Leick-Directors.



The new Co-op Machinery Repair and Sales

Stratford Finance



First office of Stratford Finance Corporation. (r-l): Bob Ulrich, Ardele Klemme and Larry Klemme.

Stratford Finance Corporation was formed in 1956 with Bob Ulrich as manager. Business was transacted from an office located in the garage of G.L. Klemme & Son. An insurance agency was added to Stratford Finance Corporation in 1959 when the agency of Arnold Steines was purchased. After acquiring that business they expanded to carry 07 and 09 loan licenses.

G.L. Klemme & Son purchased the Guenther Building in 1960. This became the new home for Stratford Finance. The following year a general line of insurance was offered to the public as a result of the acquisition of the Frank Weber, John Gorman, and Griesbach insurance agencies.

Business continued to grow and in 1963 an additional employee, Bud Hargraves, was hired to ease the work load.

In 1970, the Stratford Finance and Insurance business was moved to the O.R. Klemme building, (now Hair Unlimited). They remained there until 1974 when a new office building was built at 300 Third Avenue.

Business ventures were expanding and changing. They purchased the Oconomowoc Canning Company property in 1969, Klemme Turkey Farms in 1969 and 1970, 50% of the stock of Stratford Homes in 1973, the school bus route in 1974, and the Jerome Kaiser Insurance agency in 1977.

In May of 1977, Stratford Finance Corporation changed its name to Stratford General Corporation.

A second office building was built in 1980. The insurance portion of the business remained at the old site and the balance of the business moved into the new location at 248 Third Street. Several years later the insurance business also moved to its present location. Four years ago Pam Ehrike leased the old insurance building and established a new business (Parkside Styles) in Stratford.

Business has continued to be diversified. Stratford General Corporation purchased 5 feed mills—Klemme Feeds in 1975, General Feeds and Seeds of Wausau, Ringle and Birnamwood in 1979, and General Farm Supply of Spencer in 1981. In 1982 General Shoe Supplies Ltd. became a part of Stratford General Corporation.

Sole ownership went to Bob Ulrich upon the retirement of Larry and Ardell Klemme.

Presently employed are Bob Ulrich, Bud Hargraves, Don Spindler, Bernice Steczynski and Mary Stack.

Stratford Hardware



Richard and Lucille Larsen own Stratford Hardware. They purchased the business in 1988 from Joe and Carol Lato. They have done some remodeling since taking over the business and have plans for more in the coming years.



The first Stratford Hardware.

Joe and Carol Lato owned Stratford Hardware from 1956-1988. They purchased the business from Allen and Beatrice McCrory. It was located in the building which houses the Kozy Kafe today.

They purchased the Grasal building three doors to the south in July of 1960. The building was remodeled and moved to the new location Sept. 1960. In Nov. of 1969 they added on to the building back to the alley. The opening of the new addition was in June of 1970. They retired from the hardware business in November of 1988.



Stratford Hardware in 1966.

Stratford Homes



From Stratford Journal

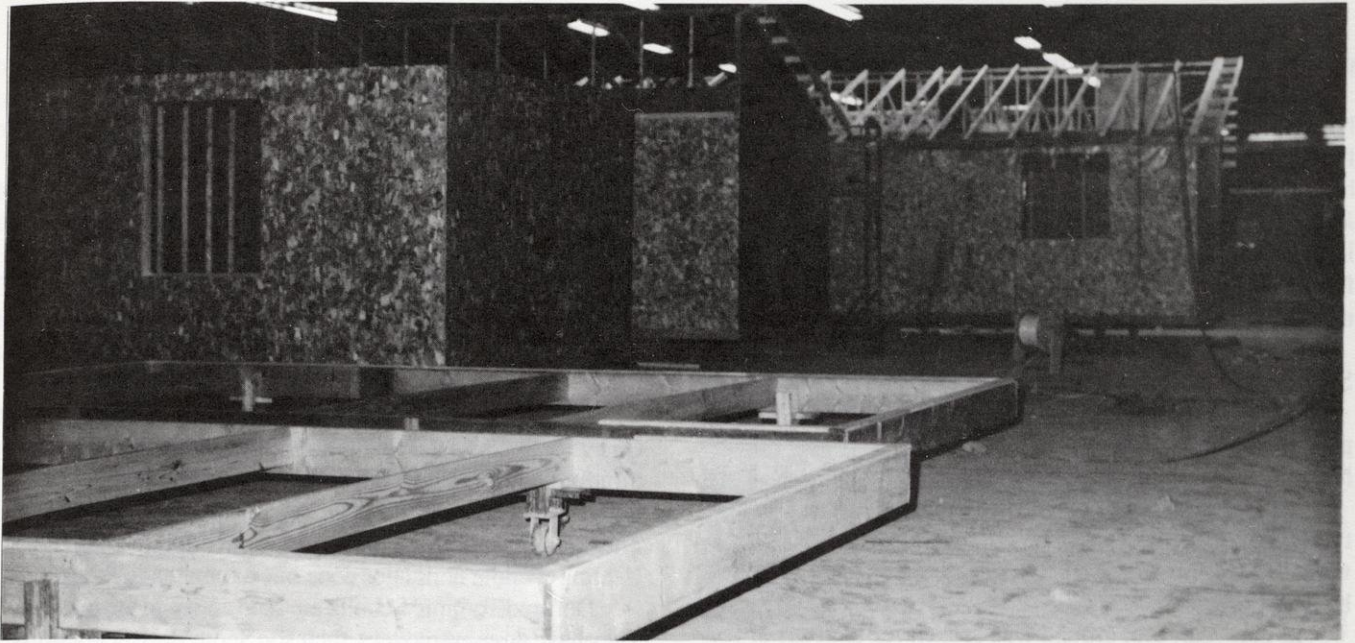
The April 5, 1973 issue of the Stratford Journal announced the sale of the Kenwood Homes, Inc., plant to Stratford Homes, Inc., a completely locally-owned mobile home manufacturing corporation. Stratford Homes was accepting applications for employment and would accept former Kenwood Homes and North Star employees. They would employ approximately 75 people at the outset of operations.

Stratford Homes began production on Monday, April 9, 1973. By April 19 they announced their first completed 24x48 foot home. They planned to run two complete homes a day in the near future. Stockholders and officers of the company

were Dean Wieland, President; Ardell Klemme, Don Ferring, Larry Klemme and Charles Krause, vice presidents; Ken Breit, secretary and Robert Ulrich, treasurer.

In 1974 they changed from mobile homes to modular homes. In 1987 the business was purchased by VCI Industries of Minnesota. Dean Wieland remained with Stratford homes until March of 1990 when he retired and moved to Rhinelander.

Glenn Chadbourne is the current president. Stratford Homes is still manufacturing modular homes and has eighty employees.



Inside the Stratford Homes plant.

Stratford Journal

We felt that the best history of the Stratford Journal was the one written by Don Hale and published in the Stratford Journal, Thursday, June 1966.

Stratford Journal Has Had Many Publishers Since its Birth 60 Years Ago



Stratford residents, poured over the Stratford Reporter. Mary Kaiser Steines is the lady in the center holding the paper. Photo courtesy of Patti Laessig Zimmerman.

The Stratford Journal was started as the Stratford Reporter in 1906, by Frank J. Curtin; the issues for the first ten years of its existence are lost, because of a fire in the printing office in 1916.

Most of the papers following that date are in the files now in the Journal office, the first one being dated April 28, 1916, just a little over 50 years ago. The first paper is torn and pretty yellowed, but still very readable.

Here is an announcement at the top of the first column, stating:

"Having become the new proprietors of the Stratford Journal, formerly owned by Wm. J. MacQueen, we take pleasure in thanking our predecessor for the cordial introduction given us in his farewell issue. We will endeavor to keep up the present standard of the paper, and it will be a pleasure to serve the people to the best of our ability. Being absolute strangers it will be a very difficult task to get all the news at present, but with the cooperation of the people, we will endeavor to make the Journal a credit to both the publishers, Stratford and vicinity. Respectfully yours, Chas. Pomasel and E.A. Bahr." The Wm. MacQueen who had sold the Journal was the father of Wm. MacQueen of Deerborne, Mich., an attorney who has made frequent visits the last few years to Stratford and to the Stratford Journal office.

Part of the Journal was then printed in the German language. The R. Connor Co., Maxon Lumber Co., Chas. Weisbro, M.E. Kiefer, Allington & Van Ryzin, and Dan Mahoney & Co. advertised their business places would close every evening at six o'clock except on Mondays and Saturdays during the summer months.

The Stratford Equity sold the Chevrolet automobile and they cost \$490, F.O.B., factory, but one with a starter cost \$550.

Mr. Bahr continued as publisher of the Journal until through the last issue of July, 1920, after which the new owners, the Schermerhorn Brothers of Ontario, would take over his duties. The older of the two brothers, G.L. Schermerhorn, had been a master printer in Chicago, and the younger, H.M. Schermerhorn, had served as station agent for the NW railroad, and had had some printing experience.

The Journal office was moved that week to the Chrouser building, the present Dr. Klemme building. At that time a new

press and other equipment was added.

The Schermerhorn Brothers were in Stratford only until November, 1921, the issue of the 18th of that month being the first under the new ownership of Frank R. Otto, who stated in his first issue: "Now that I have taken possession of the Journal, I am going to say that I have the best equipped shop in this section of the State and can assure you that I am here for business and am going to give you the best kind of newspaper.

"I do not need any further recommendation for Mr. Schermerhorn has said enough regarding that line.

"I gave up my duties with one of Marshfield's largest publishing houses to come here, and I shall say again that I have the best equipped shop in this section of the state."

During Mr. Otto's ownership of the Journal, the first typesetting machine was installed, a Linograph, doing away with the tedious work of setting all the type in the newspaper by hand.

In that year, too, ground was broken for the start of the Stratford Canning Company here. Plans at that time were to can pears, beans, beets, and perhaps, sweet corn.

Mr. Otto's last issue was on May 9, 1924, at which time the ownership of the Journal was taken over by a group of local businessmen. (I believe that the four were Theo. W. Hoffmann, R. Connor, Fred Semmelhack and George Chrouser.)

Mr. Chrouser was president of the Home Publishing Company, but much of the actual writing of the news and comments was done by Mr. Semmelhack. He was a bit unconventional at times, and some of his stories raised some rumpusses.

He learned of the dangers an editor faces. He printed a news story of a Stratford citizen and slightly misspelled his name. The day after publication, this individual came in to the Journal office and was carrying a quart syrup pail. Mr. Semmelhack was entirely unprepared when the irate subscriber swung the pail at his head and told him: "I'll learn you to spell my name with an ski instead of sky."

Beginning with the April 5, 1926, issue of the Journal, it was under the ownership of Earl B. Crawford, who came here after serving as editor of the Keystone Enterprise. Mr. Crawford published the Journal through the boom times of the late 1920's and in the early years of the depression of the 1930's. In June, 1934, he sold the Journal to the present owner, who took possession on July 1, 1934.

In October, 1943, a disastrous fire destroyed most of the machinery and equipment of the Journal. It was the middle of World War II when all the machinery was at a premium. For months, the Journal was printed in outside shops, until equipment could be found. The Journal was not completely set and printed in its own shop again until April 6, 1944.

Don hale took over the Stratford Journal in 19? and his son, Paul, the current owner of the Journal took over in 1969. Paul also publishes the Stratford Merchants Messenger.

Stratford Mini Storage

Joe and Carol Lato opened their Mini Storage business in 1990. They have sixteen storage units of various sizes from 10x10 to 10x24 at 201 South Street.

Stratford Plumbing & Heating

In 1970 Donald Schultz and his wife, Tommie, purchased Guenther Sheet Metal & Plumbing and changed the name to Stratford Plumbing and Heating. The business is located on South Weber Avenue and does a thriving plumbing business. They do residential, commercial and remodel plumbing. Heating work is no longer done but it remains in the name.

Don and Tommie Schultz are both active in the business. They have three employees, their son Scott, Barb Schoenfuss, and Roger Roehrborn.

The Stratford State Bank



By Allie Knoll
For the Stratford Journal

At the turn of the century, the community of Stratford was a busy logging settlement. Mills were harvesting thousands of board feet of virgin timber. The lumberman in the area received their pay and purchased their necessities at the supply stores and probably kept the remaining cash under the mattress.

The Connor Company mill provided a general store where the payroll could be redeemed for merchandise. However, the people not employed at the mill needed a depository for exchange of their funds.

As commerce expanded and other trades developed, it became apparent that a banking institution would be required to handle the monetary transaction of the individuals and merchants.

In 1908, a group of men headed by Robert Connor, H.L. Klemme, W.F. Goetz, Jacob Wachtl, and Christ Franzen organized to file a Certificate of Incorporation with the State Banking Commissioner to be known as the Stratford State Bank. It was decided to commence business on October 14, 1908. However, delays in securing the charter postponed the starting date to November 2.

The first meetings of the group were held in the town hall and Connor Co. office. The above five individuals were elected to the original Board of Directors by the stockholders. The original stockholders of the corporation were:

John D. Kissinger	E.C. Leiteritz
Henry S. Wahl	Peter Strachota
M.B. Wagner	Karl Wallner
Robert R. Quade	Wm. C. Lipke
Christ Franzen	F.J. Schuette
W.R. Franzen	Jacob Wachtl
Phillip Schlegel	E.H. Maxson
Albert Huss	F.G. Reckner
Louis Klumb	Louis Spindler
H.E. Allington	Martin Casper
Wm. Van Ryzin	H.L. Klemme
E.N. Allington	Peter Daul
Louis Garbish	J.A. Pennebecker
K.W. Doege	Wm. F. Goetz
Robert Connor	Charles Schultz

The first meeting of the Board of Directors was held on September 30, 1908, and Robert Connor was unanimously elected president; Christ Franzen, vice president; and W.F. Goetz as secretary and to serve as cashier until a cashier was chosen. It was decided to lease the storeroom of the building owned by Peter Daul at a monthly rental of \$12.00. The location was Lot 5, Block 21 which was the site of the Stratford Hotel.

At the November 14, 1908 meeting, Walter Oby was elected as the first cashier at a salary of \$900 per year.

In June, 1909, a site was purchased for a permanent bank building, that being Lot 1, Block 19. On that site was constructed the building that was to serve as the bank's home for seventy years and which now houses the village government. Building plans were formulated and as with any construction project, decisions were required to fulfill these plans. Original specifications called for pine lumber, however, that was later changed to hemlock as an agreement between Mr. Connor and the contractor, Chippewa Falls Construction, was worked out.

In 1913, Henry S. Wahl was elected to the board to fill the vacancy left by the death of Jacob Wachtl. The stockholders also decided to increase the capital of the bank from \$10,000.00 to \$25,000.00.

In 1917, H.L. Klemme resigned as a director and was replaced by Walter Oby who had been the bank cashier since

the bank's inception. That position was short-lived as Mr. Oby resigned as cashier and board member in February 1918. His positions were soon filled by Theodore W. Hoffmann. It was also at this time that the first posting machine was purchased from the Burroughs Corp.



During the war years, the Bank pledged reserves to the U.S. Government to finance war expenditures. The services of Mr. Connor were temporarily absent as he performed government duties in France.

In July 1919, plans were approved for remodeling and enlarging the bank building as increased volume warranted a new vault and safe deposit boxes.

James L. Chrouser was appointed a director in June, 1920 to fill the vacancy left by the death of Christ Franzen. In July, 1920, H.S. Wahl resigned from the board and his position was filled by J.J. Schrieber.

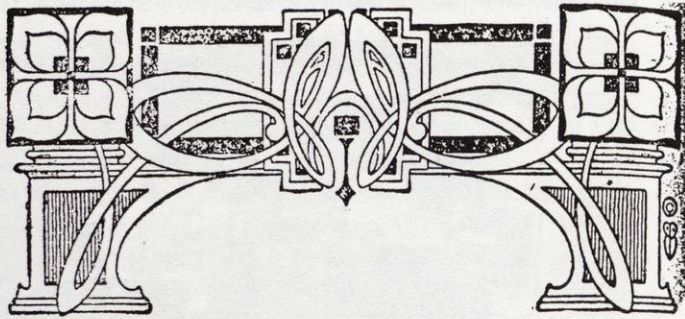
At the January, 1921, annual meeting, a motion was passed to increase the Board of Directors from five to seven members. Directors elected at that meeting were R. Connor, Theo. W. Hoffmann, James L. Chrouser, W.F. Goetz, J.J. Schrieber, John Spindler and John Forman.

The annual meeting in 1926 included the resignation of Robert Connor from the board. Since he became a resident of Michigan, he was not eligible to serve on a bank board in Wisconsin. His resignation ended an 18 year affiliation with the bank, serving as president since its beginning. W.F. Goetz was elected as the new president and W.S. Van Ryzin was elected to the newly created position of Chairman of the Board. Hoffmann was elected president of the bank succeeding Goetz and John Spindler succeeded Chrouser as vice president as neither incumbent desired re-election. E.C. Brunner was elected assistant cashier.

In February, 1929, M. Mortenson was elected a director succeeding Chrouser and in July, George H. Davel was elected to succeed the resigned Goetz who was the last of the original directors of the bank.

The Board approved the hiring of Harry Metzke as an employee effective July 1, 1930.

At the January 1938 meeting of the Board, it was reported by Mr. Hoffmann "that a slow run was evident and savings balances being withdrawn." The directors therefore adopted the following resolution: "Be it resolved that this bank avail



The Bank The Woman

Women as well as men, often have business affairs in which they need counsel.

The safe and wise course is not always plain, perhaps, in some matters of money or property in which they have not had long experience.

This Bank is always ready to give aid and advice in such matters. It is a part of the service it is designed to give.

STRAITFORD STATE BANK
STRAITFORD
WISCONSIN



Ad from Stratford Journal, 1923

itself of the Village President's proclamation declaring a holiday from January 20, 1933 to February 4, 1933 for adjustment and reorganization."

The Board met on January 23, 1933 and determined that it was necessary to levy an assessment of 100% on all stock in order to reorganize. According to state law, if the levy was not paid, such stock would be sold as provided by law. The bank then applied to the State Banking Department for aid for stabilization of the bank. In March, 1933, the bank applied for \$12,500.00 of scrip from the state. In order to secure the scrip, the assets of the bank were subject to a lien by the state in the amount of scrip received. Scrip was to be

accepted from other banks for settlement of indebtedness until the governor determined that the financial emergency no longer existed.

In October, 1933, an application for membership in the Temporary Federal Deposit Insurance Fund was submitted to insure savings deposit funds. The bank was also instructed that the maximum interest rate it could pay on deposits was 3%. In December, 1933, the bank officially became a member of the FDIC.

Reorganization

The bank reorganized in January 1934 with the following officers elected, M. Mortenson, president; Theo. Hoffmann, vice president; cashier and secretary; and E.C. Brunner, assistant cashier.

J.J. Schrieber resigned as a director in May, 1934 and Dr. F.C. Kroeplin filled the vacancy on the board. It was during these years that the bank experienced a large amount of delinquent loans due to the economic times. The interest rate paid on savings deposits was reduced to 2 1/4%. Service charges were also implemented on checking accounts. Savings interest rates were further reduced to 2% in 1935, again by order of the State Banking Commission.

The annual meeting in January, 1936 included the enactment of a new set of by-laws. As had been the case for many years, the annual meeting was held in the Knights of Columbus Clubrooms in the Chrouser building. Officers from previous years were re-elected and Harry Metzke was elected an assistant cashier.

E.C. Brunner resigned from the board in October, 1946, E.H. Allington was elected to replace him. Dorothy Adamski (presently Dorothy Altmann) was employed in May, 1951. Verna Wellhoefer was elected as assistant cashier in January, 1952.

Archie Leick was elected to the Board in December, 1954 to fill the unexpired term of George Davel who passed away.

William J. Hoffmann, who had been legal consul to the bank, was elected to the Board in January, 1955 to increase the board membership again to seven. George L. Klemme was voted to replace the retired John Gorman who served on the Board for 34 years. Shirley Grimm was also employed to work as a teller.

Board members serving at this time were E.H. Allington, Theo. Hoffmann, Dr. F.C. Kroeplin, Archie Leick, W.D. Van Ryzin, Wm. J. Hoffmann, and George L. Klemme.

Carol Leick was added to the staff in June 1955. Interest rates on deposits were increased in November from 1% to 2%. A vacancy on the board occurred in May, 1958 with the death of George L. Klemme.

Charles W. Krause began employment in January, 1959 as a vice president. Interest rates on certificates of deposit were raised to 3% in June, 1959, while rates on real estate mortgages were raised to 5 1/2% and on commercial loans to 6%.

Ardell Klemme was elected to the board in December 1959. The bank increased the interest rate on certificates of deposit of one year to 4%. The rate on regular savings accounts was adjusted to 3%.

Dorothy Altmann was promoted to the position of assistant cashier in January 1962. Charles Krause was elected to the Board of Directors in January 1963 to succeed William Hoffmann who died in that month.

In August, 1963, a stock split was authorized in which the capital stock was increased from \$50,000.00, divided into 500 shares of \$100.00 each, to \$100,000.00 of 5,000 shares of \$20.00 each.

Theo. Hoffmann submitted his resignation from the presidency in January 1964 and that position was filled by Charles Krause with Mr. Hoffmann assuming the new position of Chairman of the Board. Alma Laessig and Joan Kolb were employed as tellers.

Theo. Hoffmann, whose career with the bank spanned a period of 46 years, passed away in October, 1964. The bank grew from \$238,000.00 in assets to \$4,000,000.00 during his tenure.

Dean Wieland was elected in January, 1965 to fill the vacancy on the board. Ardell Klemme was elected to serve as a vice-president in January 1969, and the bank hired Richard Vetter as of October 1, 1970.

Consideration was given to establishing a branch in the Village of Fenwood. However, the board, in May, 1971, decided against such action.

Arthur Zuelke was appointed to the Board of Directors in September 1971 to fill the unexpired term of W.S. Van Ryzin. Interest rates on 2 1/2 year certificates were increased to 5.75% in December, 1971.

In January, 1972, the board entered into an option with the Village of Stratford to purchase the park property for a construction site of a new bank building. The option was withdrawn in August, 1972 and options were subsequently

made on the Davel and Hubert properties. In October, 1972, a resolution was passed by the board to move the bank's office location to the corner of Elm and Weber Streets.

A two for one stock dividend was approved in January, 1973 increasing the capital stock of the bank to \$200,000.00 which is the present day level. Elected as assistant cashiers along with Dorothy Altmann, were Richard Vetter, Alma Laessig and Joan Kolb.

Interest rates paid on savings accounts were increased in July, 1973. Passbook savings earned 5%, one year certificates earned 6% and three year certificates 6.5%. Interest rates on loans were 8.5% for real estate and farm loans.

Dr. F.C. Kroeplin, a director for 39 years, passed away in September, 1973 and was replaced on the Board by Harry Metzke in December. Doreen Kuse was added to the staff in October, 1973 and Carol Leonhardt was rehired in February, 1974 after an extended period of absence. Interest rates on the new four year certificates of deposit were at 7.25% beginning October, 1974.

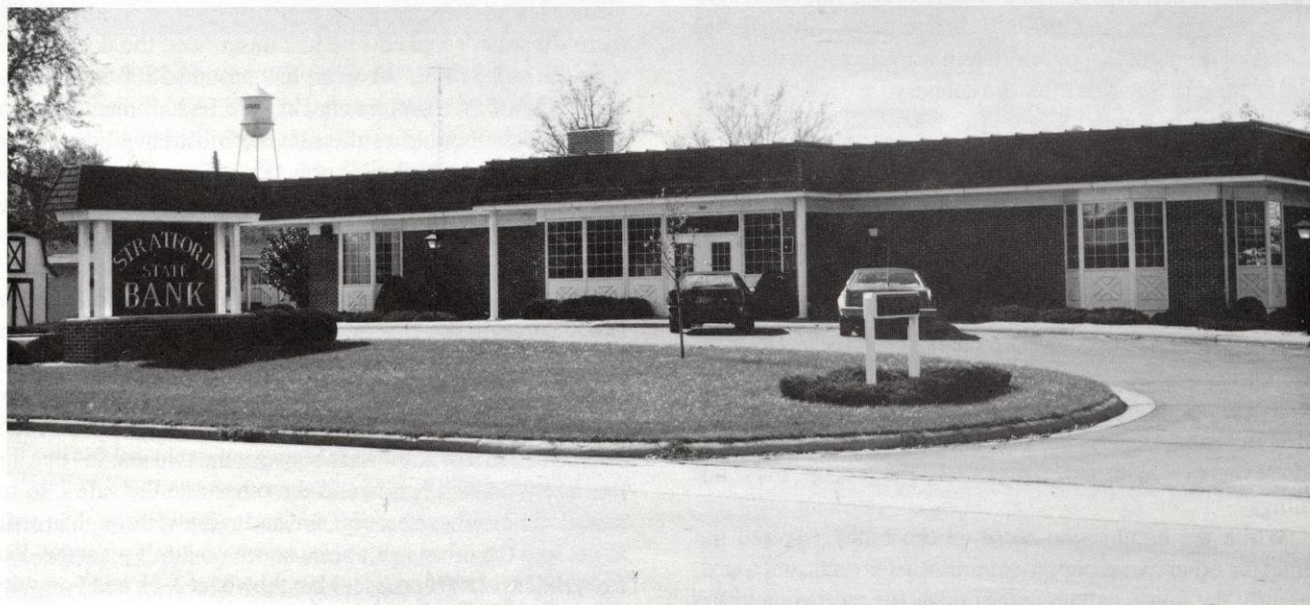
Individual Retirement Accounts were authorized by the board in March, 1975 subject to government regulations. Lillian Drexler was hired in October, 1975 and the bank installed its first computer program.

In January, 1976, Richard Vetter was elected as vice president and Dorothy Altmann as cashier. In May of that year, Penny Wiesman was added to their staff. In April, 1977, Larry Kann was employed by the bank.

Richard Kraus was elected to the board to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Ernest Allington, in May, 1978.

Judy Landwehr was hired in March 1980, Julie Justman (now Folz) in April, and Kevin Bornbach in September.

Officers elected at the 1981 organizational meeting were, C.W. Krause, president; Ardell Klemme and Richard Vetter, vice presidents; Dorothy Altmann, cashier; Alma Laessig, Joan Kolb, Doreen Kuse, and Lillian Drexler as assistant cashiers.



Harry Metzke resigned from the board in July, 1981 ending 50 years of service to the bank. Thomas Stack was appointed as a new director.

Archie Leick resigned from the board in December, 1982 fulfilling 28 years as a director of the bank.

Allie Knoll was hired in March, 1983 as a vice president and compliance officer. Glenn Hoffman was elected to the board of directors in May. Ardell Klemme submitted his resignation in July, 1983 ending 24 years of service to the bank.

The bank, in its 75 years of operation, endured many struggles. As a fledgling organization at the start of the century, it became part of the community and prospered with it. At a relatively young period in its life, it survived a world war. Then its greatest challenge to existence came with the Great Depression and its aftermath. Soon another war shook its foundation.

Through it all, the institution lasted and today stands proudly as an anchor in the community. As time rolls on, institutions will change, some losing their identity, others falling victim to various misfortunes, and still others losing their function in society.

The financial institution of tomorrow will, no doubt, bear only a small resemblance of those known throughout the years.

The Stratford State Bank will continue to serve the needs of the community and its services will be those that the people of this area require.

Bank Robbery

From Stratford Journal, July 18, 1930

Stratford Bank Robbed

Bandits Got Away with Nearly \$12,000

The Stratford State bank lost about \$12,000 to three roughly dressed unmasked men Tuesday afternoon at about 2:45. The bandits used a high powered motor car, thought to be a Nash sedan bearing an Ohio license plate. Sheriffs and volunteer vigilantes throughout northern Wisconsin were notified within 30 minutes after the robbery.

Shut five In Vault

Three employees, Theo. Hoffmann, president and cashier, Ed. Brunner, assistant-cashier, and Harry Metzke, book-keeper as well as M. Brunner and Jacob Dix., two customers who were in the bank at the time, were shut in the vault. Mr. Hoffmann said all three of the bandits entered the bank, leaving their car unattended. One covered him with a pistol and the second turned his gun on two other employees. The third man, carrying a sawed off shotgun with a pistol handle, confronted the two bewildered customers.

"Put 'em up high!" the first bandit ordered. Hoffmann said. "I was a bit slow and he repeated. "Put 'em up, we're fooling!"

While the bandit who stood in the lobby covered the quintet the other two scooped up money in the vault and cages. Presently the guard called a warning to his partners and the pair emerged, forcing the victims into the vault.

A few minutes later, Hoffmann led the imprisoned five out and notified the telephone operator who spread the alarm. The bandit car was seen leaving Stratford westward on county trunk 'B'.

The loss is fully covered by insurance.

Harry Metzke related the following account of the bank robbery to Pat Krause for an oral history project conducted by the Marathon County Library. (edited)

"On July 15, 1930, we had the misfortune of having our bank robbed," said Metzke. "Of course, at that time, the amount of money that they took was a lot of money. In present-day standards, it wouldn't be a great deal. As I recall that time, we were getting ready for the White House Milk Company pay day and we had maybe a total of about \$16,000 cash on hand. I was sorting checks at a desk getting ready to do the posting. It was about quarter to three in the afternoon and we were kind of busy. In between you had to go up and wait on a window and sort checks. We had a few customers in the bank at that time. Ed Brunner was working there, his dad was there, and Jake Dix was there and I wasn't paying too much attention. I happened to look up and a fellow walked around the side of the cages and I thought he knew me and I was looking him kind of over and then I looked and I saw he had a gun in his hand. Ed was by the one window waiting on his dad and he told us to go over and kneel on the floor and there was another fellow that was by Ted Hoffman - he was in the front office in the front desk - sitting by the desk. There were these old-fashioned radiators that they had, so Ed and I were kind of stooped down there and we had our hands on this radiator and we kind of peeked around a little bit - the fellow was taking the money out of the cash drawers - and then he came over and tapped Ed on the shoulder and he says "Come in here and open that safe up." Of course, in those days the safe was there - I mean we never relocked it during the day in case we needed some extra money during the day. So Ed went in there - It wasn't locked - he just unscrewed the door and he took the money out. We even had around \$800 in gold and about \$2,000 in travelers checks. We had a bunch of silver dollars in the bottom of the safe, he must have been taking some of those and I don't know; if he figured they were too heavy or what but he dropped one roll of those which we found under the safe about a month later. Then when they got the money, they said "You fellows come over here and go in the vault." So, we all got in the vault - there was Ted Hoffman and I, and Ed, and Jake Dix, and Mike - and the fellow closed the vault door. "Well, how we gonna get out of here now?" Ted started monkeying around with the lock from the inside and we had had trouble with our safe at one time on our vault door and we had to saw some bars between the two vaults - one had the safety deposit boxes and the other one the safe - so we sawed some of those bars off and had to crawl through in order to get into the other vault because we couldn't open the door from the inside. Of course, I bent the bars back and I crawled through there and I got out and Ted Hoffman got out of the

vault door about the same time and I ran outside and here was Joe Ritger, and George Gage who was running the bowling alleys where the funeral home is now, and they were sitting on the bench. I said "Hey, the bank was robbed, the bank was robbed." They looked at me. They didn't even get excited - they thought I was kidding. I got quite a kick out of it; when the robbers left, we had an old Springfield Army rifle standing in the corner in the vault. It was just standing there - I don't know who it belonged to or what but they took that thing along with them but that was found in a ditch out in March Rapids later. They threw it out, so they evidently used that route to get out.

The insurance company paid us all our money back. They came around with a lot of pictures for us to identify. This one guy I could identify - I didn't see the other one that was in front by Ted - but we found out later that one had been shot in an apartment raid in Minneapolis and something happened to the other guy too, he was pulled up for another robbery and they found some safety deposit keys in his possession and knew which bank they were from and they found these travelers checks of ours that had been stolen at that time. I remember I received a \$10 raise after the bank robbery.

Telschow Oil



Reinhold Telschow and his wife Mildred started the business in Stratford in 1936. They purchased a lot from George Davel and put a building on it for the purpose of selling gasoline and petroleum products. Mr. Telschow relates:

"We had two electric pumps that showed the gallons but no dollar amounts.

Our bulk business was already established as we had a bulk plant in Fenwood.

In 1950 an addition was added to the station for doing service work. When our two sons, Leon and Gordon, came into the business, we incorporated and they became part owners of the business.

In 1967 when Highway 97 was rebuilt, we remodeled the building we have today. In 1984 we again remodeled and turned the service station into a convenience store. We have two employees, one full time and one part time. Leon is the manager and Gordon is in charge of bulk deliveries, and I am mostly retired. Our business name is Telschow Oil Company."

Tower Bookkeeping

Kedrin Ernst Dallman began Tower Bookkeeping in 1985. The business is located in the Spe-Dee Drapery building. Kedrin specializes in bookkeeping services and tax preparation but she and her two employees also perform other clerical work for clients.

Walsh Grain Company of Stratford

The Walsh Grain Company of Stratford had its beginnings as the Stratford Fur Foods Company in 1947. It was started by Carl Spindler and Dr. Kroepin. Primarily the business was established to provide feed for the mink industry which was thriving in the area. It also provided a service to the farmers in the area as it gave them a way to dispose of dead and down cattle.

John Sandgren was the first manager, Lawrence Drexler followed him. Lloyd Keller took over as manager in 1960.

Stratford Fur Foods was purchased by North Star Barge and Warehouse Corporation of Minneapolis in 1970 and became the Stratford Fur Food, a division of Frozen Foods and Cereals of Wisconsin. Lloyd stayed on as manager until he retired and Mike Walsh took over.

The decline of the popularity of mink and the phasing out of the mink business in the area caused the business to diversify. Today the business includes pet food as well as fur foods.

Waterworks Car Wash



The history of Waterworks is included in the Kuyoth, Inc. history.

Wetterau's Barber Shop

Orv Wetterau operates a barber shop at 219 Second Avenue. Orv came to Stratford in November of 1952 from Wausau and rented the Swede Nelson barber shop. He rented for four years and then purchased the building from Mrs. Nelson.

In 1960 he sold the building to the Stratford State Bank and purchased the former telephone office, the site of his present business.



Stratford, 1990



Stratford, 1990

STRATFORD MURDER

The Jenny Riehle Murder

By Dale Dooge

The timeless waiting, anxiety and the hope that any news about a missing member of the family will be good ended on a note of sorrow for a Stratford area farm family on the evening of Sunday, June 30, 1907.

While returning to her home in the late afternoon, after attending church in the morning and visiting with friends during the afternoon; Jennie Riehle, oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Riehle, rural Stratford, was found dead by a neighbor in a lonely wooded area about a mile from the family home.

Miss Riehle, 16 years old, a modest and refined young lady, left Stratford for her home on foot about four o'clock this Sunday afternoon following the Northwestern railroad track north towards her home located about three and a half miles northeast of Stratford. Her father, anxious when she had not returned by her usual time, galloped on horseback to Stratford in search of his daughter, Jennie, along the way. Not finding her and after inquiring about her whereabouts he learned that she had been seen far down the road going towards home. However, having found no trace of her on the way, he returned home only to find that his daughter still was not home.

At about dusk on this Sunday evening, Rudolph Fulweiler, Riehle's neighbor, was hunting rabbits with his dog and came upon the body of a woman lying within a few feet of the road. Startled by the finding, he remained on the road and called out several times. Receiving no answer, he then returned home for help. Fulweiler, together with others whom he had told, returned to the body by the side of the road.

Upon arrival at the scene where the body had been found, Fulweiler, along with the neighbors, observed that a struggle had taken place a little farther up the embankment. The condition of the body indicated that someone had done an awesome and dastardly thing to the victim. Lifting the dress that had been thrown over the victim's face by her perpetrator they discovered that it was their neighbor's daughter, Jennie. Without disturbing the body, the men returned home and informed the victim's parents.

Having obtained additional assistance, Jennie's father accompanied the three men back to the murder scene. Some of the men remained at the scene and part of the group, including Fulweiler took word to Stratford. News of this horrible crime excited the people of this small, rural community and so, little sleeping was done this night. The people were horrified and outraged at the murder of one so fair and so well known in the community. All night long till the gray dawn of the next day the people of Stratford walked the streets in anger

and outrage and woe be it to the man that could have been proven guilty of the crime in this tempered situation. Word of the murder had been dispatched to the Marathon County officials. Meanwhile, about eight o'clock that Sunday evening, two strangers came into town and stopped at Leiteritz's place and ordered a drink. They asked for directions to Marshfield and said that they had walked the railroad from Fenwood to Stratford. The two tough looking characters then went to Garbisch's saloon for more drinking. The arrival of the two strangers had taken place before the murder news had reached the community and so no one suspected the two men of any wrong doings.

Marshal Dwaine Reed and his assistant happened along at the Stratford train depot just before the north midnight passenger was about to leave the station. Seeing two men attempting to leave town by stealing a ride, they were ordered to throw up their hands and were soon in the little jail near the town hall. The strangers gave their names as Ive Bartlett, Nashville, Tennessee and James Mackey, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The questioning of the two men revealed that they had left Fenwood on foot at six o'clock and, if their story could be believed, arriving in Stratford two hours later would clear them of any suspicion. The murder of Jennie Riehle had been fixed as taking place between the hours of five and six o'clock and probably no later than 6:30 as Mr. Fulweiler had indicated that he had left home at about that time.

The time and place of the two strangers, however, would need good evidence on their part to establish their whereabouts when the Wausau authorities arrived to take up the investigation. A shoe worn by Bartlett and turned over at the heel matched with a footprint found along the roadway and also at the river bank where it was thought the murderer washed after the crime had been committed. At the murder scene a shirt button had been found and it was reported that one of the arrested men was missing a button on the front of his shirt.

The arrival of the 2:45 a.m. train from Wausau brought Sheriff O'Connor, District Attorney Regner and Dr. W. C. Dickens. The authorities concluded from the measurement of Miss Riehle's steps that, after leaving the railroad track, she was running to avoid her assailants whom she had met on the railroad track or that were hidden in the woods in anticipation of her coming. From the evidence they found, it is believed that Jennie had been able to escape her pursuers for another fifty rods farther up the road where her body lay probably at the point of exhaustion from running. Fifteen feet off of the road the grass and weeds were trampled and pieces of her clothing were strewn about indicating her valiant struggle for life and her honor. Also found were her prayer book, hat and parasol. The murderer had left the victim with her hands bound behind her back with a strong cord, clothing torn and thrown over her head and left lying a few feet off of the

roadway. It was believed that the presence of Fulweiler hunting that evening may have frightened the assassins away.

Following the arrival of the sheriff and district attorney, Miss Riehle's body was brought to Stratford. Monday morning an inquest was conducted before Justice F. J. Curtin. Impanelled on the jury were H. L. Klemme, Dan Mahoney, Louis Garbish, Fred and Louis Klumb and Charles Otto. The autopsy was conducted by Dr. C.O. Fuller and Dr. W. C. Dickens. The murder case was adjourned for two weeks while the sheriff and district attorney gathered evidence on the slayers of the murdered Riehle girl. The two suspected prisoners left Stratford on the afternoon train for Wausau for security at the county jail.

In an attempt to get the murder solved quickly, Marathon County District Attorney, Frank P. Regner, sought the assistance of Wisconsin's premiere detective from the Reimer & Wilson Detective Agency of Milwaukee, Charles W. Wilson, to aid in the apprehension and conviction of Jennie Riehle's murderer. After a lot of talking and a great deal of urging by the district attorney, Mr. Wilson did finally agree to take the case.

Arriving the following morning, Mr. Wilson began by questioning the two suspected tramps who had been arrested and in jail. After two hours of talking with the two men, Mr. Wilson told the district attorney that he could release them when their vagrancy term was up as they were not the murderers. The release of the two suspects presented a very confusing problem for the authorities, for if the two strangers had not committed the murder, then who could possibly be the guilty party?

Unknown to the district attorney, the detective arrived in Stratford as a surveyor engaged in the preparation of a plat book. He worked in the woods around Fulweiler's home for two days and was successful in getting Fulweiler to help him find some of the section lines. Fulweiler was hired by the detective to go with him and in a little while they began to confide in each other. Fulweiler told the detective about finding the body and about hunting and fishing illegally and even showed Mr. Wilson how to tie a double slip knot like the one that bound the hands of the murdered girl. On a business trip that took them to Wausau the two men shared the same hotel room. While Fulweiler slept, the detective listened in. In Fulweiler's dreams the troubles on the suspect's mind were reenacted.

While working together, the past record of Fulweiler was being very carefully checked and there seemed to be various parts of the puzzle that did not just seem to fit together. Fulweiler's stories which he told as to his activities on that fatal Sunday afternoon, how he just happened upon the body, his past record and always his seeming haste to turn away any suspicion upon himself and by continued reference to the two strangers, as the ones responsible for the killing, seemed to arouse the suspicion of the detective. On Thursday, July 11, at noon, Fulweiler was taken into custody and charged with the murder of Jennie Riehle at Stratford on Sunday, June 30, 1907. Fulweiler was arraigned before Judge Marchetti and confined in the county jail without bail and an eight day

postponement in his examination was ordered. There had been a strong suspicion of his connection with the murder from the time he reported finding a body and how he happened to be in the area. District Attorney Regner and Sheriff O'Connor expressed confidence that the right person had been found and was now in jail. The two strangers that had first been arrested as suspects in the case and held enabled the authorities and the detectives to follow up on many clues that might otherwise not have been possible.

Fulweiler was in municipal court on Tuesday, July 16, 1907 for a preliminary hearing at which time a motion to continue the case on July 26 was made. It was believed the postponement was for the purpose of obtaining additional information regarding the murder of the innocent Stratford girl for which Fulweiler was charged. The authorities are of the opinion that the accused man is showing signs of weakening and think that an admission of guilt may be forthcoming.

Fulweiler's confinement in the county jail had made him nervous and excited and whenever given an opportunity to express himself denied his guilt by relating details of his activities on the day in question. However, observers have noted that one day the account will differ from that given on another regarding pertinent points of the situation. The two vagrant suspects arrested in Stratford the evening of the murder were in the county jail unaware that Fulweiler had been charged for the girl's murder.

The adjourned inquest resumed on Tuesday, July 2, at Stratford into the cause of Miss Riehle's death after two earlier adjournments. The hearing was held in Justice Curtin's court using the same jurors that were first impanelled with the examination of the witnesses conducted by District Attorney Regner. The first witness was the girl's father, testifying that he was a farmer with seven children and that Jennie was the eldest and had turned sixteen last September. She had gone to church with two brothers and he and his wife followed later. He had seen her in church but did not talk with her. Lewis Lee and Rudolph Fulweiler had reported the death to the family and he then accompanied them to the place where Jennie had been found at about eight o'clock in the evening.

A second witness, Jacob Kaiser, testified that on the afternoon of June 30, he and John Kaiser, John Searing and Earl Racey had walked along the Northwestern track from Stratford to about fifteen rods from the bridge that crosses the Big Eau Pleine river. He had left Stratford about 3:30 in the afternoon and when returning to Stratford had met Jennie at the mile board marker on the way towards home at about 5:15 p.m.

Mrs. August Burkhardt who lived near the church had seen Jennie leave to go home using the railroad track, between four and five o'clock that afternoon. William Yonkon, who lived near the place where the murder took place, told the panel that he had been home until two o'clock in the afternoon and then he and his wife and grandmother went to visit his son, Louis and were there until Rudy Fulweiler came and told of finding a body. He, his son and Fulweiler then went to the place where the body had been found. He reported the victim lying on her back with her dress wound about her head and

mouth two or three times and was dead. He and Albert Blanger, William Yonkon and Rudy Fulweiler had stayed with the body until the authorities had been notified.

Louis Burdick testified that he knew the girl and had seen her going to church that Sunday and the next information he had was about her death from Rudy Fulweiler that same evening.

Dr. W. C. Dickens, Wausau, testified to his being called on July 1 to investigate the death of Jennie Riehle. Upon arrival at the site of death, reported finding the body on its side with the hands tied behind the back with a piece of clothes line, the hair matted and messed up, blood and mucus about the nose and mouth, an imprint of human fingers to the left of the neck and a thumb mark on the right, and torn underclothing.

Dr. C. O. Fuller, in the presence of the jurors, conducted the autopsy when the body was brought into Stratford. No other external injuries were found other than a broken rib on the left side, and that there had been a good deal of internal bleeding as a result of the suffocation and choking and that, in Mr. Fuller's opinion, death had been caused by strangulation. The jury rendered the verdict at the end of the hearing that some person unknown at the time had caused Jennie Riehle's violent death.

While Sheriff O'Connor was taking Fulweiler back to the jail following his hearing on July 26, the prisoner made an escape while the cell door was being unlocked. However, his freedom was short as he was soon captured and returned to the Marathon County jail. Fulweiler became very communicative after the attempted escape, telling Sheriff O'Connor that he had planned the break away. He also related how he would go home and hide in the woods awhile until he could see the family and then head West where he would not be known.

Rudolph Fulweiler confessed, on Monday, August 5, to the murder of Jennie Riehle on June 30, 1907. Following the confession, Fulweiler was arraigned before Judge Silverthorn.

Word had gotten out that there was the possibility of Fulweiler pleading guilty. When he was being taken to the court room a group of forty or fifty men followed. From the point of leaving the carriage at the court house entrance until he was seated in the court room, Fulweiler never raised his head.

After the court proceedings had commenced, District Attorney Regner appointed Brayton Smith as counsel for the accused. The court being satisfied that the guilty plea had been a voluntary act of the accused then pronounced sentence. Rudolph Fulweiler was sentenced to life in the state prison and on each June 30 to be placed in solitary confinement. The day following the sentencing by Judge Silverthorn, Rudolph Fulweiler was taken to Waupun to spend the rest of his natural life.

Thirty-six years after he had taken the Stratford girl's life, he entered the Wisconsin General Hospital for treatment. He appreciated the care and concern shown by the doctors and nurses at the hospital and thanked the staff for their caring in an interview with the writer for the July issue of the prison magazine, "The Candle." Except for the time at the state hospital from 1910-1912, Fulweiler had given his life to the state but, at age 72, after returning to Waupun from the hospital, he still had hopes of getting out.

(Information pertinent to the murder of Jennie Riehle has been obtained from the published articles appearing in the Marshfield News, July 4-Aug. 8, 1907 and a June 30 article in the Milwaukee Sentinel.)

I saw it in the news...

Epidemics

Spanish Flu

From Stratford Journal - April 7, 1976:

The following article, written by Don Hale, was printed in the Stratford Journal, recalling the Spanish Flu Epidemic that swept the world in 1918. At the time Mr. Hale wrote the article, the nation was preparing for the predicted "Swine Flu Epidemic".

Fifty eight years ago the Spanish flu struck a devastating blow to the whole world. Even the First World War in Europe took second interest of the people for fear that the Spanish flu would strike your family next.

I was 15 years old at the time. I well remember that in so many cases, well, healthy people would come down with the flu. They would stay at home for a few days, get better, go

outside, come down with pneumonia, and be dead within a couple of days. It was a peculiar thing that it was the big, husky people, both men and women, who seemed to succumb the easiest. But the flu was not choosy. It picked on all ages, sizes and members of both sexes.

Over much of the United States, September was the month that was considered the worst. But that was not the case in Stratford. October was a deadly month in this village. The flu had hit earlier in Europe, and because of the massed conditions necessary in the army, there was little chance to avoid the disease. Deaths among the service men in the war zone from the flu were far more numerous than the casualties of war.

Using the issues of the Stratford Journal from the fall of 1918, it would seem that the flu struck quite suddenly here. The October 4, 1918 issue did not contain the obituary of a single flu victim, but in the next issue, there were five, two close neighbors, and both were big husky men who laughed

at illnesses: Frank Wesely and Carl Treankler of the March Rapids neighborhood. Two of the Wm. Krostag family of Rozellville died that week from influenza, the father and a son, age 22. The fifth death was that of Mrs. Julius Low, at her home near Stratford.

The next issue of the Journal carried this notice:

"The schools here were closed the first of the week on account of the Spanish influenza. Several teachers left Wednesday morning to visit their homes until the epidemic is over." Also, a lecture course scheduled at the high school was postponed because of the flu.

Another notice said: "There was no Journal issued last week because we were laid up with the influenza."

The week preceding Friday, October 25th, was a deadly one for the families of people in the Stratford community and elsewhere. In that week's issue there were ten obituaries:

Private Walter Allen of Rochester, Minn., died at Camp Grant following a three week siege of Spanish Influenza. His body arrived on the early train and was taken to the home of Mrs. Allen's parents in the town of Eau Pleine.

Otto Emil, two year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Leffel of March, died in the Marshfield hospital October 16.

Louis Frickenstein, age 23, died of influenza Monday night at the home of his mother in the town of Cleveland.

Bernice, age 16 months, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C Grambow of McMillan, died at the Marshfield hospital.

Anna, age 11, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Joswiak, died at the home of her parents in the town of Eau Pleine.

Miss Lucinda Rhodes, the daughter of Mrs. Anna Rhodes, former residents of Stratford, died at the home of her mother in Marshfield.

Marth Margaret, age 23, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. Schafer, died at the home of her parents.

Leonard, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Zophi, died Sunday.

Funeral services for Paul Zettler were held Monday at the home of his mother, Mrs. Minnie Zettler. Pvt. Zettler had come home from camp to see his seriously ill mother, and when he got here found that his wife was ill with the flu too. He had gone to Marshfield on Monday evening to see his mother, and while there came down with the flu and died the following Sunday morning.

Mrs. George Kreidler died at her home two and a half miles from Fenwood in the town of Cleveland.

In the October 25 issue of the Journal is also this notice:

"Though our church is closed for all public services, still the following is not contrary to the rules of the board of health.

"The church is open at all hours and he who wishes may enter. Since there are no services open to the public, individual members of the parish are advised to visit the church at their convenience and say some prayers."

By the next week, November 1, the incidence of new cases of influenza had dropped considerably and there was a prominent notice in the Journal:

"At a meeting of the board of health in and for the Village of Stratford, held on the 29th day of October, it was ordered that the schools in said village be opened on Monday, Novem-

ber 4, 1918, and that churches, theaters, moving pictures shows, etc. may open on the first Sunday following the 4th day of November, except that no funeral services may be held in the churches until further notice."

By November 22, the siege seemed to be over. There was not one single obituary in the Journal that week."

Mrs. Adella Cline of March Rapids told the following story to Pat Krause for the Marathon County Oral History Project:

"The doctor that came and took care of the people in our area, his name was Anthony Shimmer from Colby and I recall him coming to our house. I was awfully sick and my little sister, Elsie was sick too. Doctor Shimmer came upstairs and sat on the chair. He put his hand on his head and went sound asleep. In the meantime my father fed and watered his horse.

The doctor left some pink medicine and my mother heated raw onions and put them on our chests."

Measles

From Stratford Journal, Jan. 5, 1934:

Notice

During the present epidemic of measles in the village of Stratford, parents are requested and ordered to keep their children who have not had the disease at home and not allow them to congregate on public streets, attend school, church, basketball games or other places where children attend, until such epidemic has passed.

Board of Health

Fire

From Stratford Journal, January 25, 1929:

Oak Hill Cheese Factory Destroyed By Fire

Four children and two women clad only in night clothes and with bare feet, were forced to walk three-quarters of a mile through snow banks early Saturday morning following a fire at the Oak Hill cheese factory, located four miles north of Stratford on highway 97. The total loss is estimated at \$12,000. The property was about half covered by insurance.

The fire which was caused by an explosion in the factory boiler, was discovered at 4 a.m.

Heros

From The Stratford Journal, 1928:

Risking his life to save other's lives and property damage, Mike Schmidtbauer, helper in the Connor Meat Market, put out a fire at the large underground gasoline tank of R. Connor Co. last Saturday afternoon. Had the tank exploded, Mike would have taken an aeroplane ride along with many others who were standing 100 feet or so away.



The hunters: (r-l) Frank Weber, Andrew Weber, Max Polege, Henry Weber, Lori Weber, Johnny Weber, Pete Weber. *Photo courtesy of Marie Reed.*

Recreation

From Stratford Journal, Dec. 3, 1936
Many Deer Brought Here

The first deer that was brought into Stratford was tagged and brought home by John Novotny. He got his shot early Sunday morning just about five minutes after going into the woods.

The first Stratford man to shoot a deer was Frank Aldrich, who got his buck early Saturday morning about half an hour after going to the woods. He was up with L.B. Weber, the Weber boys, Conway and Kenny and Vic Bartz. Conway and Kenny showed up their dad, both bringing home a buck, and Laurie returning with what he started. Nor was Vic successful.

Probably the happiest of all the Stratford hunters was Ben Weigel. He didn't get a buck but he did come home with a 250 pound black bear. Just before sundown, he saw the dim outline of the bear about fifty feet away. He had just six shells with him and he shot them all at the bear. Although he was certain that he had seriously wounded the bear, it did not fall, and he did not care to tackle a wounded bear without more ammunition, so he left him in the woods overnight. The next morning he returned to the spot, and found the bear less than a quarter of a mile from the spot where he shot him.

From Stratford Journal, Nov. 28, 1938:
Many Hunters Bring Back Deer

At least sixty deer licenses were issued by Judge Curtin to people of Stratford and vicinity for the season which closes

this year on Thanksgiving Day.

So far, we know of twelve successful hunters who have brought deer back with them. They are L.B. Weber, Vic Bartz, Frank Aldrich, Peter Polster, Roger Schuette, Rupert Kurtzweil, Lawrence and Clarence Leick, Don Allington, R. W. Dehn, John Obernberger and Jake Preisig.

The Law

From Stratford Journal, April 18, 1924:
The Burning of the Cross

Some little excitement was created last Wednesday when it was discovered that someone had burned a fiery cross in our village. We feel that this was the act of some boys having read about such things being done and wishing to have a little boyish fun.

However some folks think we have a Klan organization in our midst or that it was the work of outsiders.

From Stratford Journal, Oct. 31, 1924:
Robbers Enter Connor Store

Sometime early Sunday morning the Connor Department store was broken into and robbed by a band of thieves who carried away merchandise valued at \$1200 and so far no trace has been found of them.

They gained entry by breaking the window in the drug store door and opening the night lock and then proceeded to loot the store at their leisure. Among the missing articles were 20 suits of men's clothes, 4 over coats, 4 leather bags, 12 caps,

7 wool jackets, some sweaters, gloves, ladies coats, stockings and various other merchandise. The thieves took the time to undress the forms in the display window and scattered the forms helter skelter on the floor. They overlooked some expensive over coats in the cases and numerous ladies dresses and other wearing apparel which were on the second floor.

The thieves no doubt loaded their loot into an auto and disappeared and it appears that the band included a woman for among other things they carried off one corset and left the empty container behind.

The first alarm of the theft was given by night watchman Morrison who discovered the broken window on one of his rounds and immediately called Mr. Goetz and Mr. Geo. Davel of the R. Connor Co. who opened the store and took immediate action to apprehend the thieves.

A list of the stolen articles has been sent to police chiefs in all nearby towns and a reward of \$100 has been offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties.

From: Stratford Journal, Sept. 1, 1938:

Local Store Robbed Last Friday Night

Robbers, the identity of whom is unknown, but who are suspected to be local, or nearby residents, broke into the Allington & Van Ryzin store last Friday evening and stole about \$100 worth of merchandise. It is presumed that they are local folks as they showed themselves familiar with the outlay of the store.

Wearing apparel was the principal thing taken.

The robbers entered the store through the basement rear

door, smashing a panel in the door. Once inside the store they drank a case of beer, throwing the bottles around, and generally messing up the whole store.

From Stratford Journal, Nov. 14, 1940:

Two Business Places Robbed Monday Evening

Safe-crackers who visited two places in Stratford are being sought by the Sheriff's office this week.

At Mr. Becher's store the thieves made off with \$132, after knocking the combination from the safe and prying off the door. They also took a carton of cigarettes and a moving picture camera.

For the fourth time, the office of the Stratford Farmer's Co-operative Produce company were visited by safe blowers, but this time they failed to open the strong box.

Sheriff Ralph Gunzel said the combination was knocked off but the burglars failed to get the safe open. They left after taking 45 cents from the register.

On three other occasions, burglars were more successful and opened the company's safe.

Storm

From Stratford Journal, Aug. 23, 1934:

A terrific windstorm that covered most of the entire northwest struck Stratford Saturday evening uprooting a few trees, and doing other damage. In the village of Stratford the most damage was done to the building occupied by "Doc" Gross. The battlement and upper front of the upper story was torn away from the building and thrown to the pavement, exposing the living rooms upstairs.



Tornado

From Stratford Journal, March 24, 1938:

Tornado Hits Vicinity Several Farm Buildings Wrecked.

The first hard storm of the year hit Stratford and vicinity early Tuesday morning after two days of the most beautiful March weather imaginable. The tornado, traveling north and east, struck at different farms in this vicinity.

The farm that suffered the most serious damage was that of Jos. Resch, a mile south of Stratford. Mr. Resch's fine barn was completely demolished, the framework was scattered

way across the road. The stone basement walls were twisted and smashed. This storm, like all tornadoes, behaved freakishly and left a stave silo and old shed, adjacent to the barn, uninjured.

A straw pile was blown away on the Henry Frodl farm, a half mile south of the Resch. Steel fence posts holding snow fence along highway 97 were all bent to the east, almost laying flat on the ground.

Farms in McMillan, Wien and Spencer were also damaged.

Accidents

From Stratford Journal, April 20, 1917

Tuesday afternoon while out for a ride, Mr. & Mrs. DeWaine Reed met with an accident that might easily have been a serious one. They were just turning the corner by the bank, when a car started up and, the horse being a little nervous, jumped to the side and threw the occupants of the buggy into the ditch. Mrs. Reed received several bruises about the body and face and Mr. Reed received bruises on elbows and shoulders.

From Stratford Journal 1929:

The east bound limited, at about 12:30 p.m. Thursday, struck a car driven by Joseph Berner broadside and completely demolished it. Mr. Berner was alone in the car and was instantly killed. The accident happened on Highway 97, near the Connor boarding house.

Flood



1938 at Weber Bridge. *Courtesy of CarolinePretsch.*



1938 at Weber Bridge. *Courtesy of Ronald Schuette*



1938 at Stratford Jumping Grounds. *Courtesy of CarolinePretsch.*

Stratford Music

Stratford's love of music is evident when we see how many bands have furnished musical enjoyment over the years.



Stratford Band, Circa 1908: standing (l-r) Jake Stemler, Ignatz Hoffman, Bob Taft, and Walter Oby. Sitting: Tom Hoesly, Louie Hoffman, Wm. Van Ryzin, John Oettinger and Charles Radatz. *Courtesy Lillian Kroepelin.*



Stratford Military Concert Band, 1915. We know a key exists for this photo but we were unable to obtain it in time for publication. We will try to have it available at the Stratford Historical Exhibit. The Stratford Military band was a musical organization of fourteen active members. The band was organized in February of 1913. Regular practice was indulged in and the band was open for local and outside engagements. Theo. Steinmetz of Marshfield was the musical director and Walter Oby was manager. *Photo courtesy of Ernest Van Ryzin.*



The Cleveland Community Band 1927. Front Row (l-r): Ivan Fisher, Neal McCorry, Ervin Fisher, Carl Spindler, E. A. Bahr, Clarence Koehler, Wesly McCorry, Milton Heller and Norman Untiet. Second Row: Mark Wiesman, Art Nowock, Joe Fisher, Clifford Wiesman and Alvin Dix. Third Row: Ed Spindler, Herbert Spindler, Harold Hendricks, Paul Wiesman, Earl Koehler and Melvin Dhein. *Courtesy of Mrs. Clifford Wiesman.*



Undated photo of the Cleveland Community Band. Again we don't have the key but will try to obtain one.



The Family Band The Ignatz Hoffman family back in the early 1900's and all the kids played an instrument. Mother (Magdalena) is at left with baby Johnnie. The boys in front, hands on lap, are Frank & Mike. Mary peeks over Louis' shoulder (with clarinet) who once took Sousa's place with the US Army Band. Ignatz leans on Louis' leg. Joe stands at left with Dad Ignatz Hoffmann and at right with violies are Tony and Fred. Circa 1905.



Night Hawk Entertainers

Players from left to right: Archie Leick (Manager), Laurence Leick, Clarence Leick, Alois Wilhelm, Leona Novatny (Leick), Tony Kraemer.

Others that played in the band - Bill Goerke 1929-1932, sax player - Tony Kraemer played from 1927 until 1929.

They played for dances from 1924-1932. First dance was at Riverside, November 26, 1924. Other places were Willow Grove Pavillion, Rozellville; Maple Grove Pavillion, Stratford; Frolic Gardens, Edgar; Johnson's Opera House, Stratford; Yellow River, Baker-ville; Club House, Marshfield; Prochnow's, Athens; Plautz Pavillion, Little Chicago. They played for a benefit dance at Green Leaf, Brown County at St. Mary's Church arranged by Uncle John Leick. On August 23, 1926 they started playing in Peter Leick's new barn called the Elmwood Ballroom.

SONS OF THE SOIL

Presented for Your Radio Pleasure



Ralph

Russ

Ernie

Courtesy of

Johnson Hardware Co.

Allington & Van Ryzin
Federated

Stratford State Bank

Schoultz Motor Co.

Frankwick Paint and
Appliance Store

Allington & Van Ryzin
Red Owl Agency

Each Monday Evening,
8:30 to 9:00

Radio Station WDLB

"Sons of the Soil" are Ralph Van Ryzin, Russ Moss and Ernie Allington of Stratford. This is an advertising card for WDLB with a list of past Stratford Businesses. Circa 1952.

Stratford Celebrations



Boy, does Stratford know how to throw a party! These photographs are labeled "Holstein Picnic, June 16, 1921."

The sign in the back ground says "My Father used a scrub bull, Me Too!" *Courtesy Terry Frank*



Scrub bull going into "sausage machine." *Courtesy Terry Frank*



End of scrub bull. *Courtesy Terry Frank*



Stratford knows how to throw a fun celebration. As we make plans for our Centennial Event we have a lot of experience from which to draw. The above photograph is believed to be a 4th of July Celebration just after World War I. *Photo courtesy of the Connor Family.*

1956 Lumberjack Days

In 1956 Stratford celebrated its 65th Birthday. It was a lumberjack day to remember as several thousand people jammed the streets of Stratford to enjoy the fun. The sponsoring organizations were: Memorial Post 6352, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Hekedish-Kremin Post 307, American Legion. The parade was the highlight of the weekend, being almost a mile long. There were old model cars, old-time buggies and bands.

Reigning over the celebration was Miss Dorothy Riehle, the queen of Lumberjack Days. Runners-up, the princesses, were Caryol Damon and Judy Ulrich. Gordon Connor, a descendant of W.D. and Robert Connor Sr., recalled the early days by reading from an early company ledger.



Courtesy Mrs. Harold Skrenes



Courtesy Verlyn Polster



Mrs. Gordon Connor tweaked the beards to be sure no "false whiskers" were allowed to win in the beard judging contest. Rueben Davel, Mary Connor, Walter Van Ryzin and Jerry Bradley

The Wm. Bradleys



Wm. Bradley, Neuman Bean, who tied for having the longest beards. Arnie Steines, most artistic, Fred Schoenherr and bob Bohman, Fullest Beards

Out of seven contestants for Centennial Queen, Miss Dorothy Riehle was awarded the title. Her court is (left) Cayrol Damon and (right) Judy Ulrich.



Walter Van Ryzin, Mary Connor and Rueben Davel



Gordon Connor



Clarence Kafka "duded up" and old wrecker in background. *Courtesy Clarence Kafka*



Surrey with the fringe on the top. *Courtesy Clarence Kafka*



*1966 Homecoming
& Stratford's 75th Anniversary.*
Top row: (l-r) Fritz Ulrich, Pete Steiner, Don Weber, Morris Laessig and Arnie Steines. Bottom: Al Becher, Ben Weigel, Elmer Holtman and Harry Mezgke. *Courtesy Don Weber.*

Ice Skating Show sponsored by the Lions Club in the 1940's. The skating rink is located where the Dental Clinic is today.

Photos courtesy Terry Frank.



Playing Bingo in the streets of Stratford. *Courtesy Tom Becher.*



Lumberjack Days 1986

In 1986 Stratford celebrated their 95th Birthday with a parade, bed races, childrens events, dances, a historical exhibit and a carnival.

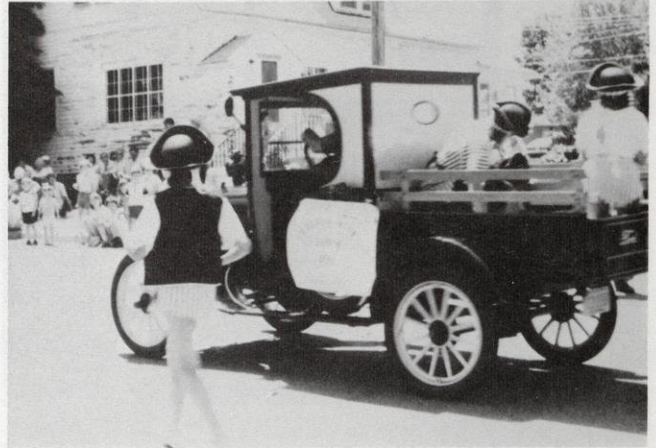


Stratford has bed races every year. Each year more and more teams show up to compete and just enjoy the fun. Not only do you get to dress up in stunning nighties and race down the street, you can try your hand at jumping rope or whistling with crackers in your mouth, or putting your hair in curlers, or, like the contestant in the bottom photo, balancing your way (or not balancing your way) across a mud bath.





Floyd Zopfi's llama dressed for the occasion.



Buck-A-Neer Supper Club pirates.



Marching Band.



Lumberjack events.



Even the younger set gets into the act. The pedal tractor race was a popular event.



A greased (or in this case, buttered) pig contest.



Ice cream eating contest contestants put their faces into the contest.



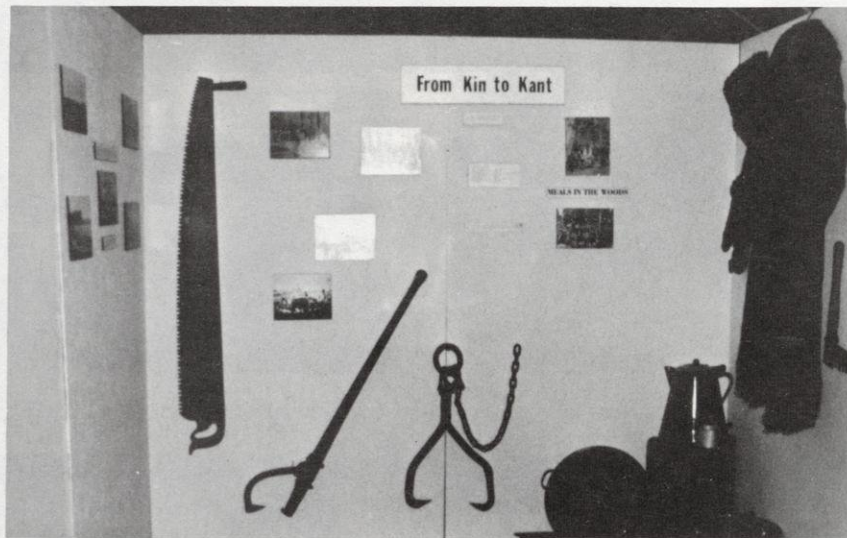
Dairy breakfast at Kulp's farm east of Stratford



"A Step Into Stratford's Past", an historical exhibit was located in the American Legion Cabin. Viola Bornbach, Stella Knoll and Olive Laessig dressed in the proper attire to take the "step back".



Inside the cabin were photographs, documents and artifacts to give viewers a glimpse of Stratford's beginnings.



The section of the exhibit showing logging in the woods was entitled "From Kin to Kant" or from "Kin See to Kant See".

Heritage Days, 1990



The 1990 parade was bigger and better than the previous years as Stratford "geared up" for 1991.





The Aschenbrenner Family Float



Ethnic dancers appeared on the International Stage.

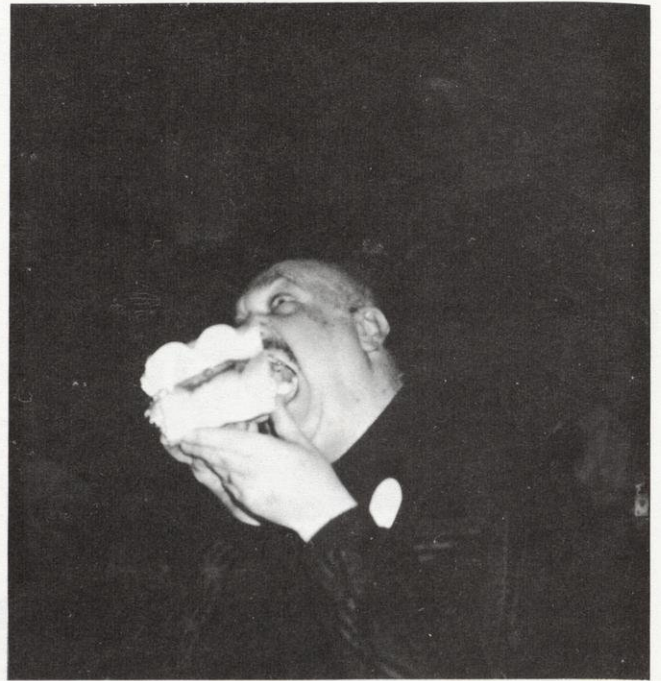
1991 - "A Taste of Stratford"

The Stratford Centennial got under way with a "Taste of Stratford" on April 20. A giant submarine sandwich was donated by the Subway Restaurant of Marshfield and served up to party goers. Following the "taste of the sandwich", a "taste of entertainment" was presented.





100 foot submarine sandwich.



A "big taste".



Stratford Centennial Chorus.



Stratford Alumni Band.



High School Swing Choir Quartet. (l-r): Dennis Brusky, Jean Bauer, Amanda Raleigh, Mark Strasser.



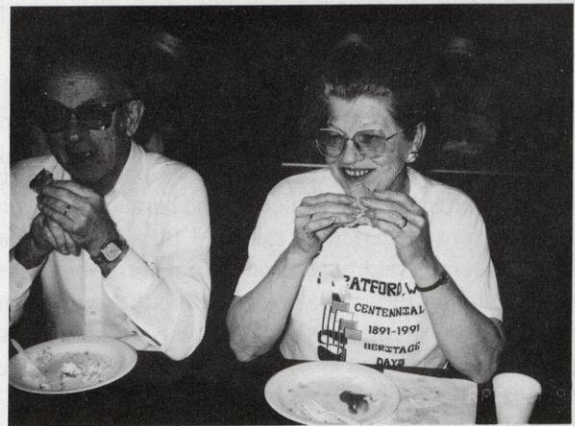
"Stratford Dancing Girls" onstage.



These lovely "Stratford Dancing Girls" are getting ready to entertain. I wonder if they are destined for more engagements in the future. One observer was heard to remark "For guys, they don't have such bad looking legs!" (l-r): Elmer Hayes, Dave Ehrike, Fritz Ulrich, Ken Breit, Paul Oertel, Jim Drexler, Ted Schoenherr, Dick Schoultz, Bob Ulrich and Chuck Krause.



Raising of the Heritage Flags



Les and Lorraine Lillge enjoy the fare and the company. Lorraine is wearing a Stratford Centennial T-Shirt.

Stratford Area Farming

Agriculture is a very important part of Stratford's past and present. In the early days, especially before refrigeration, many village residents kept a cow or two in small barns behind their homes. During the summer months the cows were "put to pasture" in the woods around the village and brought home in the morning and evenings to be milked to provide milk, butter and cream for the family meals. Excess butter or cream would be sold to neighbors who did not keep a cow.

As more land was cleared of trees in the surrounding country side, more farms were settled and agri-business sprang up in and around the village. Feed mills, creameries, cheese factories and livestock sales outlets are all businesses that made Stratford a "farming community".

Early Farming

This story gives an excellent account of early farming in settlement times.

From Saw-Dust by Len Sargent, Jr.

Len Sargent (Sr.) purchased eighty acres of virgin timber land in the town of Day, Marathon County, Wisconsin. It was two miles to the nearest store at Rozellville and two miles from the Potawatamie Indian Village.

"After the trees were cut down, the branches trimmed off and the trees cut into logs and hauled off to the saw mill, the real work started in.

Crops had to be planted as soon as possible, so the branches and brush had to be piled up and burned. We waited until just before it started to rain and then we had giant bonfires. The small stumps were pulled out but the big stumps were left standing for several years before they were dynamited out. As soon as the fires were out, plowing started in and believe me that was some job because of the large protruding roots that reached from one pine stump to another.

The plow used for this breaking of the ground was known as a shovel plow and although it was a wonderful implement for the new farmers, it was one devilish tool to handle and a back breaker if there ever was one.

It consisted of a pole that was attached to the neck yoke between the horses, the other end to a vertical member with a shovel fastened to the bottom. There were two plow handles attached, which permitted the plow to be steered and lifted over the roots.

I drove the horses, and since my folks could not afford shoes, I was barefoot. I remember stubbing my toes against roots and sapling stubs and occasionally stepping on a hot ember from those fires. Every time the shovel would hit a root, it would be "Whoa, back up, and get up Molly or Jack".

It was hard work for me but the real work was done by my dad, lifting that plow over the roots and steering it all day long.



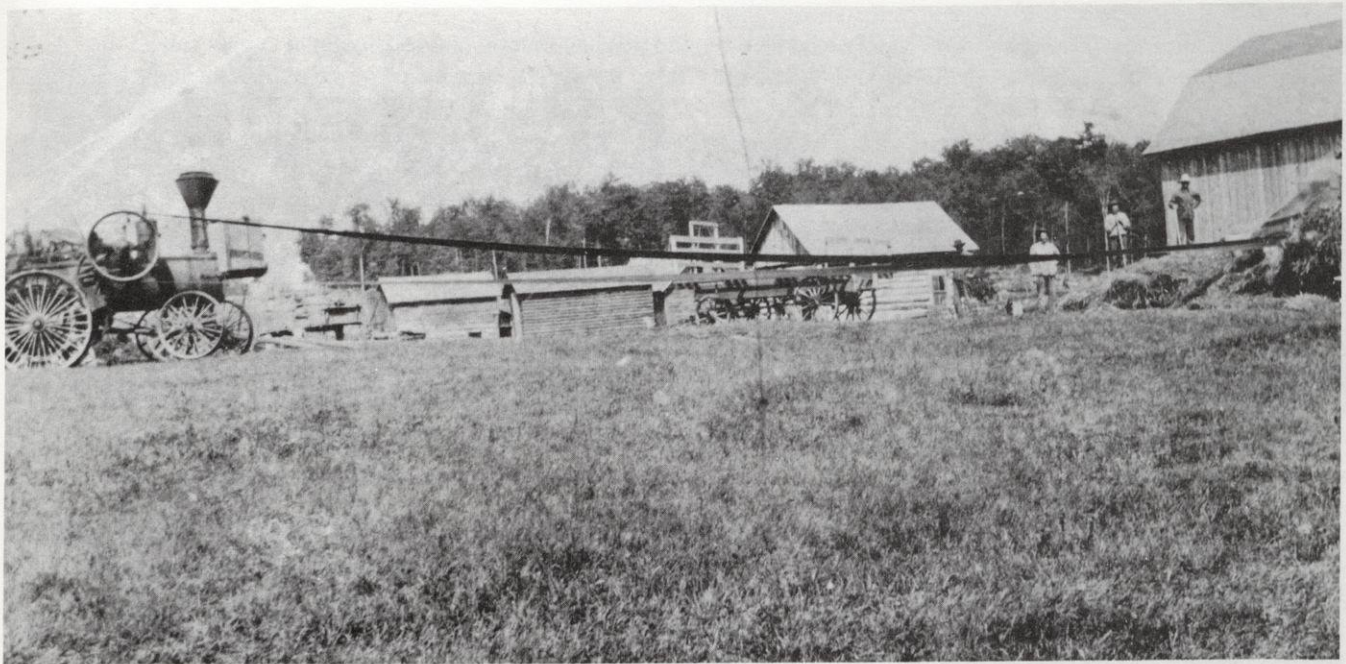
Stratford Area Farmer Swinging a Scythe.

At harvest time, I remember my Dad swinging a scythe to cut the hay and a cradle to cut the grain. The cradle was a cumbersome thing, with a scythe to cut the grain and a series of wooden fingers to keep the grain stalks together. Mother would follow Dad, picking up the grain, taking a few stalks and twisting them together and binding the sheaves. She would stack the sheaves together, putting a few on top as a sort of shelter to form a shock.

Threshing the grain was done with a flail. It was a stick about six feet long, fastened to another stick with a raw hide string. The flail stick was about three feet long. The grain was laid on the barn floor, and both my mother and dad would pound at it with those flails until the grain was knocked off the stalks. Then it was sifted through screens, all by hand.

Later my uncle, John Hughes, bought a threshing machine and went from one farm to another in the fall of the year. Threshing day was always a big day. All of the neighboring farmers would come to help. Mother would have a big lunch ready and dad would have a pony of beer ready for the threshers.

The power for the thresher was furnished by a horse power machine. It consisted of a big gear, laying horizontal,



Threshing at Seidel's Farm. Courtesy Cecelia Marohl.

contacting with a smaller gear from which tumbling rods reached to the thresher. There was a platform over the big gear and the horse driver could sit on the platform, turning round and round with the horses.

During the season there was plenty of other work to do. Mother had a garden and raised potatoes, turnips, onions, etc. In the fall it was dug up and put in the root house.

We had a couple of pigs and in the fall they were butchered and cut into hams that were smoked. Head cheese was made, feet were pickled and the rest went into a brine barrel and called sow-belly. Occasionally, the Indians would bring us a saddle of venison.

We had a few cows that browsed around in the woods. It was my job to round them up towards evening. The cows had bells around their necks so that they were never too hard to find.

We gathered cow slips and leeks in the woods. We also gathered wild plums and picked raspberries and gooseberries as well as butternuts and hazelnuts.

Mother made our own butter in a high narrow stone crock with a cover which had a hole in it. A stick with cross pieces fastened to the bottom, was lifted up and pushed down countless times until the butter was churned. It was good butter too, except when the cows had eaten leeks. Then it was pretty strong.

As far as I remember, we always had plenty to eat.



Threshing. Courtesy Alfred Wenzel.



Oscar Frank shocking oats. *Courtesy Cecelia Marohl*



Tony Drexler cutting hay with faithful helpers Fanny & Jim. Circa 1930. *Photo courtesy of Drexler Family.*

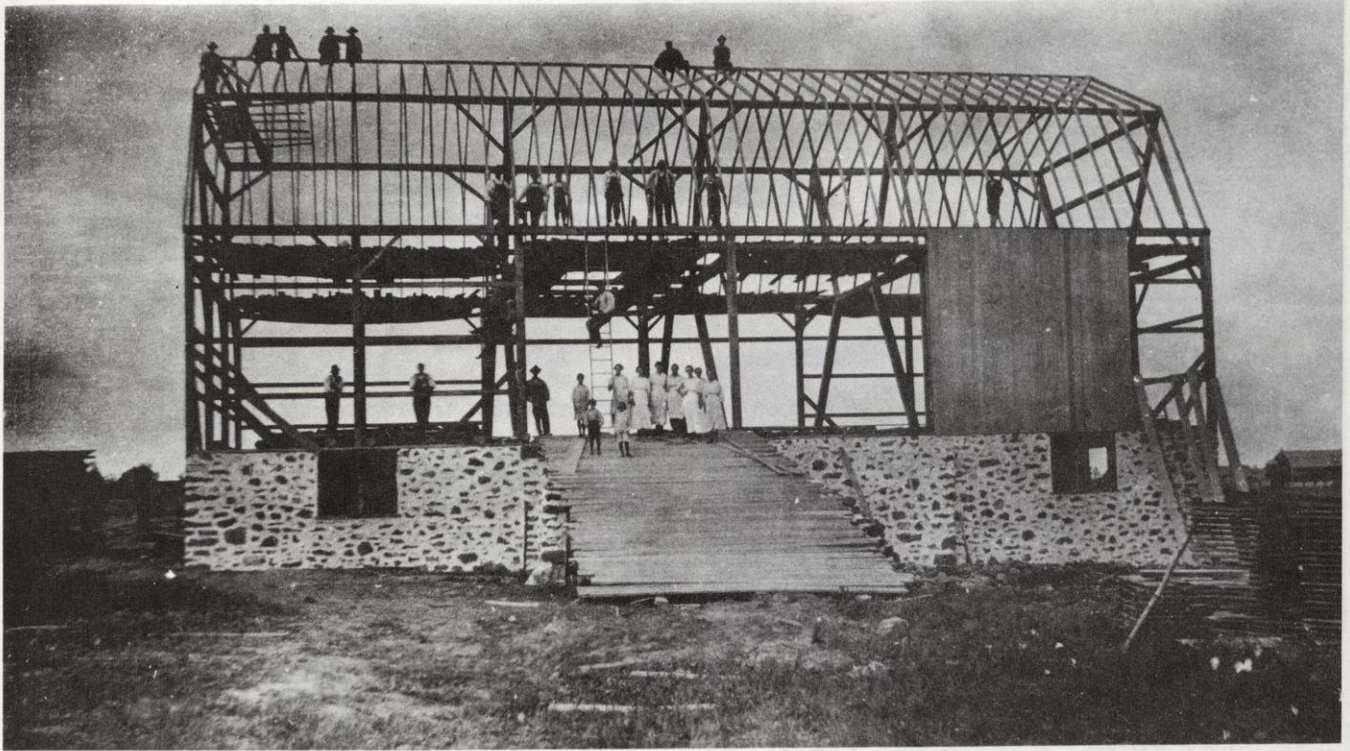


August Drexler Sr. Farm circa 1906. The farm is now owned by Anton Drexler. The farm has been in the family for more than 90 years.



Making hay at August Drexler's farm. (Circa 1918) *Courtesy of the Drexler Family.*

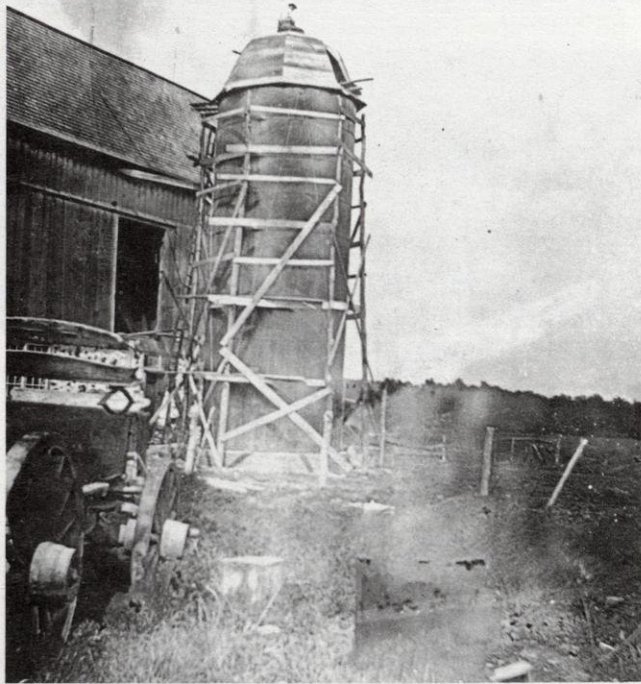
A barn raising was a community event. Friends and neighbors would come for miles around and raise a barn in a few days. The women came along to help in the kitchen. There was usually tables so full of food they would sag in the middle.



A barn raising at the August Drexler Sr. Farm in 1917. *Courtesy of the Drexler Family.*



A barn raising crew taking a picture break at the August Drexler Sr. Farm in 1917. *Courtesy of the Drexler Family.*



Silo building was a lot different in 1924. This is at the August Drexler farm and Casper Drexler is sitting on top of the silo.

Usually when we think of milking machines, we think they are a rather new invention. The following article proves us wrong.

From Stratford Journal, April 20, 1917:

Installs a New Milking Machine

H.H. Aschenbrenner installed a milking machine in his barn and is more than satisfied with his investment.

The machine is run by a Fairbanks Morse engine and milks two cows at a time. One man, with the aid of this apparatus, can milk as many cows in half the time it takes two men. Besides being a time saver, the machine is easier on the cows and is perfectly sanitary, the least particle of dirt will stop the flow of milk.

Mr. Aschenbrenner, at present, is milking eleven cows, and a good clean looking herd of cattle it is. With all the modern improvements he now has, the people are assured of perfectly clean milk and we think that Mr. Aschenbrenner would be willing to take anyone over his entire farm at any time and feel sure that no fault could be found about cleanliness.

Stratford Co-operative Cow Testing Report

In the following report we see Jacob Spindler's herd win first honors as the highest profit producing herd in the Stratford Cow Testing Association. This being the second year in succession Mr. Spindler's herd has won the blue ribbons in this class.

The highest herd increase is seen in Wm. Schneider's herd. Last year only

eight cows in this herd completed a years work. This year with fourteen cows the increased production per cow is 50.2 pounds of fat or \$33.20 more above the cost of feed. Mr. Schneider's herd ranks first as the highest fat producing herd with a lead of 42.4 pounds of fat or a total production of 319.5 pounds.

This strengthens the slogan of Wiscon-

sin Cow Testing association--Weeding--Feeding--Breeding.

By hauling his cream to the creamery and doing his calves full justice, Harry R. Keller reduced his price of butter fat. Not with standing his handicap he falls seventh in line an increase of 26.3 lbs. of fat or \$27.58 over last years work.

HARRY A. JOHNSON, Official Tester

OWNER OF HERD	Herd Letter	Testing Period.			AVERAGE PER COW PER YEAR								
		From Aug. 1-1916	To July number 31-1917	Average cows	Pounds of Milk	Pounds of Fat	per cent Fat	Price per lb	Value of product	Cost of roughage	Cost of Grain	Total cost of Feed	Profit above feed cost
Jacob Spindler....	F	"	"	11	6948	277.1	4.0	.509	\$140 97	\$20 66	\$22 83	\$43 49	\$97 48
Wm Schneider....	A	"	"	14	8255	319.5	3.86	.508	167 16	27 70	45 18	72 88	87 54
G H Butzke.....	J	"	"	12	6453	262.4	4.2	.52	133 85	22 81	22 66	45 47	81 80
Hart Bros.....	I	"	"	9	6096	251.6	4.1	.51	131 24	29 00	23 81	52 81	79 23
Mrs G Hein.....	G	"	"	12	7097	257.8	3.6	.488	128 99	27 23	19 86	47 09	79 11
Wm Lenz.....	V	"	"	6	5812	249.1	4.3	.50	117 58	22 71	16 94	39 65	77 43
H R Keller.....	U	"	"	6	6511	269.9	4.14	.437	120 85	25 47	14 47	39 94	77 32
Malcolm McCoy....	B	"	"	5	6699	259.8	5.9	.51	128 24	28 27	26 43	54 70	74 03
Ed C Augustine....	K	"	"	8	5716	222.3	3.9	.507	110 09	25 62	11 75	37 37	72 67
Andrew Kaiser....	W	"	"	10	5435	212.9	3.9	.504	102 71	23 42	11 08	34 50	69 20

Auction Sale

Having sold my farm in the town of Eau Pleine, Marathon County, I will offer for sale at public auction at my place one mile north and 5 miles west of Stratford, 10 miles east of Unity and one mile south of March Rapids on

Wed. May 26th

Commencing at 10 a. m. sharp. Free lunch at noon.

The following described property:

LIVESTOCK

26 head of cattle, consisting of 17 milk cows, 5 to freshen soon, 3 2-yr. old heifers, full-blooded Durham bull; team of horses weighing 3,300 pounds, 10 hogs, about 60 chickens.

Machinery

Grain binder, mower, manure spreader, seeder, sulkey plow, 2 walking plows, sidedelivery rake, hayrake, hayloader, smoothening harrow, springtooth harrow, logging sleigh, lumber wagon, light sleigh, milk wagon, top-buggy, surry, 2 hand cultivators, cutter, pump-jack, horse and a half power gasoline engine 2½ h. p. gasoline engine, 350-gallon gas tank with pump, fanning mill, cream separator,

MISCELLANEOUS

20 bee-hives, extension ladder, log chains, hayslings, heavy double harness, light driving harness, single harness and other articles too numerous to mention.

Terms: All sums under \$10 cash, over that amount 6 months time at 7 percent on good bankable notes.

JOHN WESLEY, Owner

LOUIS KLUMB, Auctioneer

F. C. MAROHL, Clerk

Ads from Stratford Journal, 1920

From Stratford Journal, June 27, 1919:

Pure Bred Cow

Brings \$555.00

At Peter Strachota's

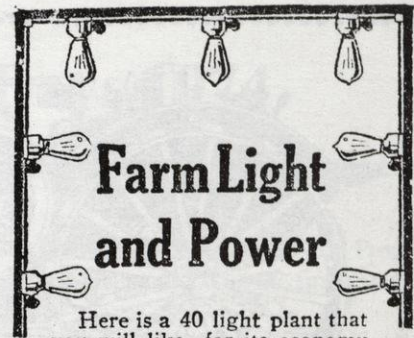
Auction Sale Last Week

The auction sale held at Peter Strachota's farm was without a doubt the best ever held in this section. All 66 head were sold, 21 head of Pure Breds which brought an average price of \$347 each. The highest price Pure Bred cow sold was Jewel De Kol Gem the 4th which was purchased for \$555.00.

There were 29 grades sold at an average price of \$186 per head. The highest price grade was purchased by Ben Pennebecker of Stratford, a six year old cow with a record of 75 lbs. of milk per day.

Mr. Strachota was very well pleased with the results of the sale.

269



Here is a 40 light plant that you will like—for its economy and utility. Touch a button to start it and another to stop.

The low speed engine with ball bearing dynamo assures long life—less attention—lowest possible maintenance cost. The 40 light "F" farm outfit comes completely mounted on one base with the famous throttling governor "Z" engine which also gives mechanical power to operate a washing machine—cream separator—churn—or other machines independent of the dynamo, either direct or through a line shaft. Unquestionably the biggest value in the farm lighting field—and you get the added advantage of mechanical power.

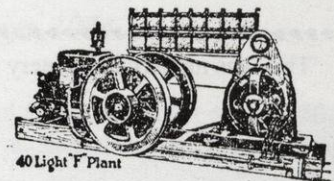
Come in and see this plant and let us prove its reliability point by point.

J. A. BURKART
STRATFORD WISCONSIN

40 LIGHT \$325
"F" PLANT

(Complete F. O. B. Indianapolis)
A distinctive design in larger "F" plants is offered as below:

65 Lights 100 Lights
200 Lights



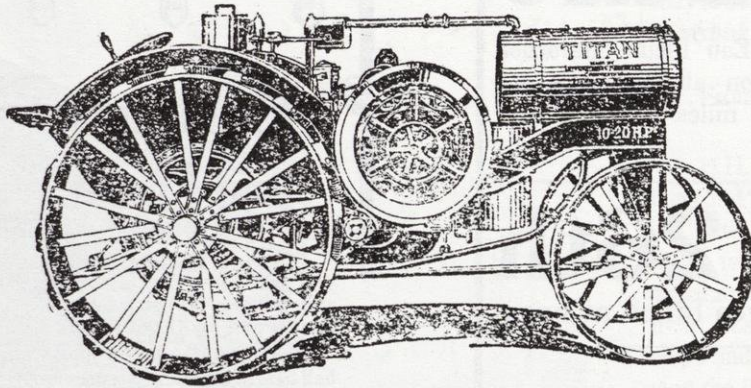
From Stratford Journal, Oct. 27, 1933

Strike in Full Swing Here this Week

The milk strike is going full blast at this writing. Stratford has had as high as seventy-five farmers picketing at one time at the intersection of highway 97 and county trunk B. Milk, butter, wood and eggs, in fact all farm produce is being kept off the market. Eggs are as scarce in Stratford as hen's teeth. Radio broadcasting station gave Stratford front page publicity in their broadcasting this week.

It appears the tillers of the soil mean business this time and are bound to force prices of their produce upward, and intend to continue the strike until they do get it.

The people as a whole are in sympathy with the farmer.



Titan 10-20—The Real Kerosene Tractor

REMEMBER this—Titan 10-20 was designed and built from ground up to turn kerosene into reliable power, properly and economically. Titan 10-20 is right and ready for you—and it took years of experiment and test to get it just right.

Titan 10-20 is the real kerosene tractor, not merely a gasoline tractor with kerosene "attachment." You'll be wise to keep this in mind, now that hastily made over makeshifts are to be found on every hand. Titan 10-20 runs on kerosene under all loads, cuts your fuel bill in half, saves you \$200 per average year. Titan 10-20 records prove this. We will prove it. Make the others prove it too, if they can.

Look your farm machines over and order repairs now.—There is a reason,

STRATFORD EQUITY COMPANY.

Stratford,

Wisconsin

This was modern machinery in 1918.



This is on Hwy 97 between Elm and Walnut Streets looking North in 1908. Notice barn in right front.

Market Report

Kilian Strachota, ships Livestock every Monday at Fenwood and Stratford and every Tuesday from Marathon City and Wausau, and pays the following prices.

Corn fed Steers	\$ 5.50 to \$ 8.50
Corn fed Heifers	4.00 to 6.00
Corn fed Cows	3.50 to 5.00
Grass Steers	3.25 to 4.50
Grass Cows	2.50 to 3.00
Grass Heifers	3.00 to 3.50
Bulls	3.50 to 4.00
Milkers and Springers	30.00 to 50.00
Fat Hogs	11.50 to 12.00
Light Hogs	10.75 to 11.50
Fat Sheep	4.00 to 5.00
Fat Lambs	10.00 to 12.00
Bucks	3.00

CHOICE SUCKING CALVES

135 pounds or better.....	\$ 9.00
130 pounds	\$ 8.75
125 pounds	\$ 8.50
120 pounds	\$ 8.25
115 pounds	\$ 8.00
110 pounds	\$ 7.75
105 pounds	\$ 7.50
100 pounds	\$ 7.25

Calves weighing less than 100 lb., pail fed or skim milk fed, according to quality.

Co-op. Shipping Ass'n.

LIVESTOCK SHIPPED

The Stratford Co-operative Shipping Association ships livestock (every) Tuesday and received the following prices.

CALVES

For shipment March 19, 1925.

Calves brought \$10.25 at market and netted as follows:

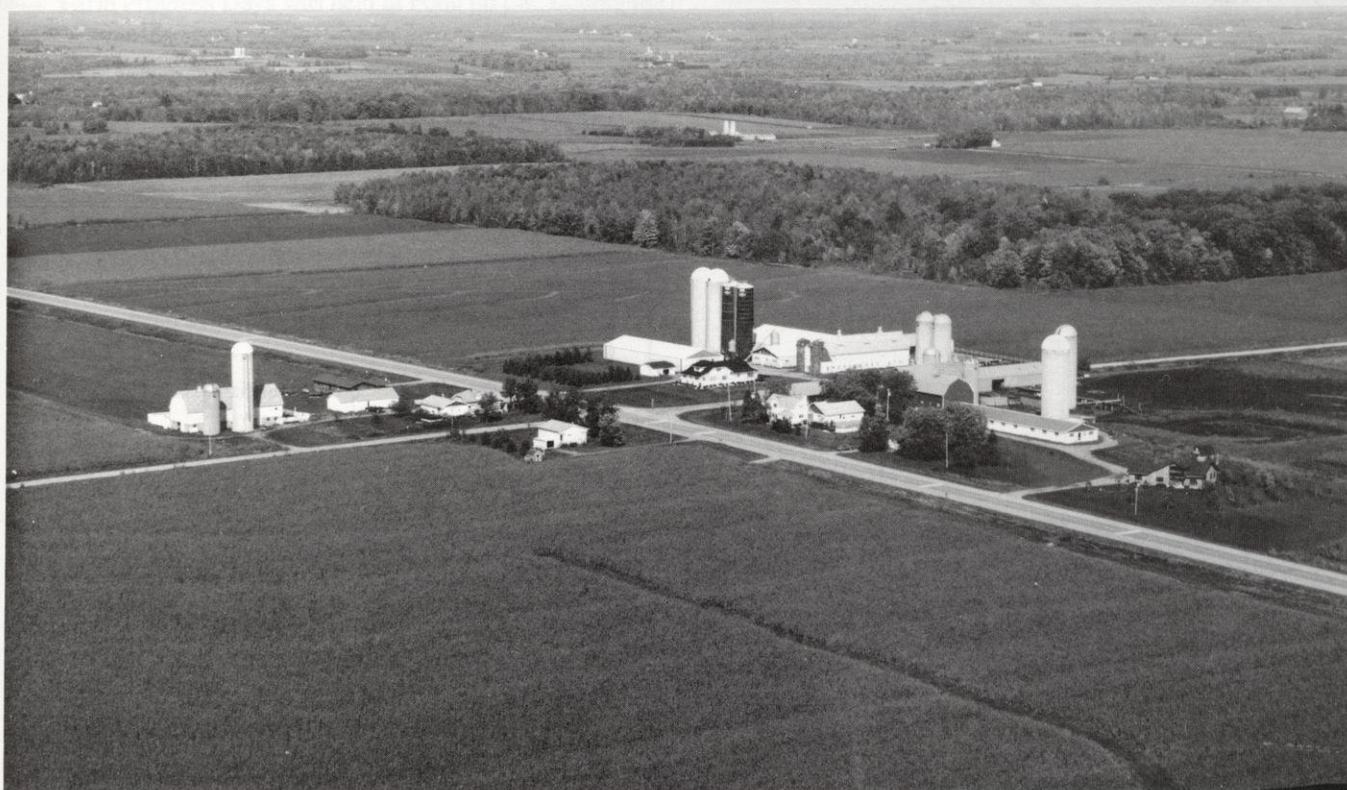
135 pound calves netted....	\$14.81
130 pound calves netted.....	\$13.37
125 pound calves netted.....	\$12.53
120 pound calves netted.....	\$11.69
115 pound calves netted.....	\$10.89
110 pound calves netted.....	\$10.12
105 pound calves netted.....	\$ 9.38
100 pound calves netted.....	\$ 8.64

COWS, etc.

Cows brought \$3.25 to \$5.00
Hogs brought \$13.25 to \$14.00
Bull brought \$4.60

Wisconsin Farm Progress Days 1974

In 1974 the Ken and Richard Leick Farm on Highway 97, south of Stratford was the home of the Wisconsin Farm Progress Days. The event ran for three days, July 30, 31 and August 1. It is estimated that 40,000 people attended on the first day and a total of 125,000 people in the total of three days.



Leick corners, the site of Wisconsin Farm Progress Days, 1974.

Special Farm Progress Days Newspaper Section was published jointly by the Wausau Record-Herald and the Marshfield News-Herald on July 27, 1974. The articles and photographs about Farm Progress Days are from the special section.

Leick Farm History

Many years ago a farmer by the name of Peter Leick came to the Stratford area from Brown County to buy a farm. Peter, grandfather of Kenneth and Richard Leick, present owners of the Farm Progress Days site, therefore laid the foundation of the present Leick complex.

Archie Leick, son of Peter and later father of Kenneth and Richard, helped his father. In 1926 Archie married and his father built the young couple a home the following year.

In 1927 Grandpa Leick went into the hotel business in Stratford, and Archie and his brother, Lawrence, farmed

together, renting the land from their father on a 50-50 basis until 1936, when Archie purchased the present Farm Progress Days farm.

Archie and Lawrence, who had also purchased acreage nearby, now worked their farms separately, although they were still in partnership with the larger pieces of machinery. In 1944 Archie bought another 80 acres across the road, where Richard now lives. Ten years later he bought another 40, making a total of 220 acres of good farmland.

Through the years Archie Leick acquired the reputation of being a good 'co-operator.' When the company agent wanted to guide a tour through the countryside, Archie's farm was always there with a welcome.

Archie was an active worker in the shipping association, serving as its secretary. He helped build the Equity Livestock property. He was also representative of District 11 of Ameri-

can Dairy Association and was on the organization's executive board. Archie has also been a director of the Stratford State Bank the past 20 years.

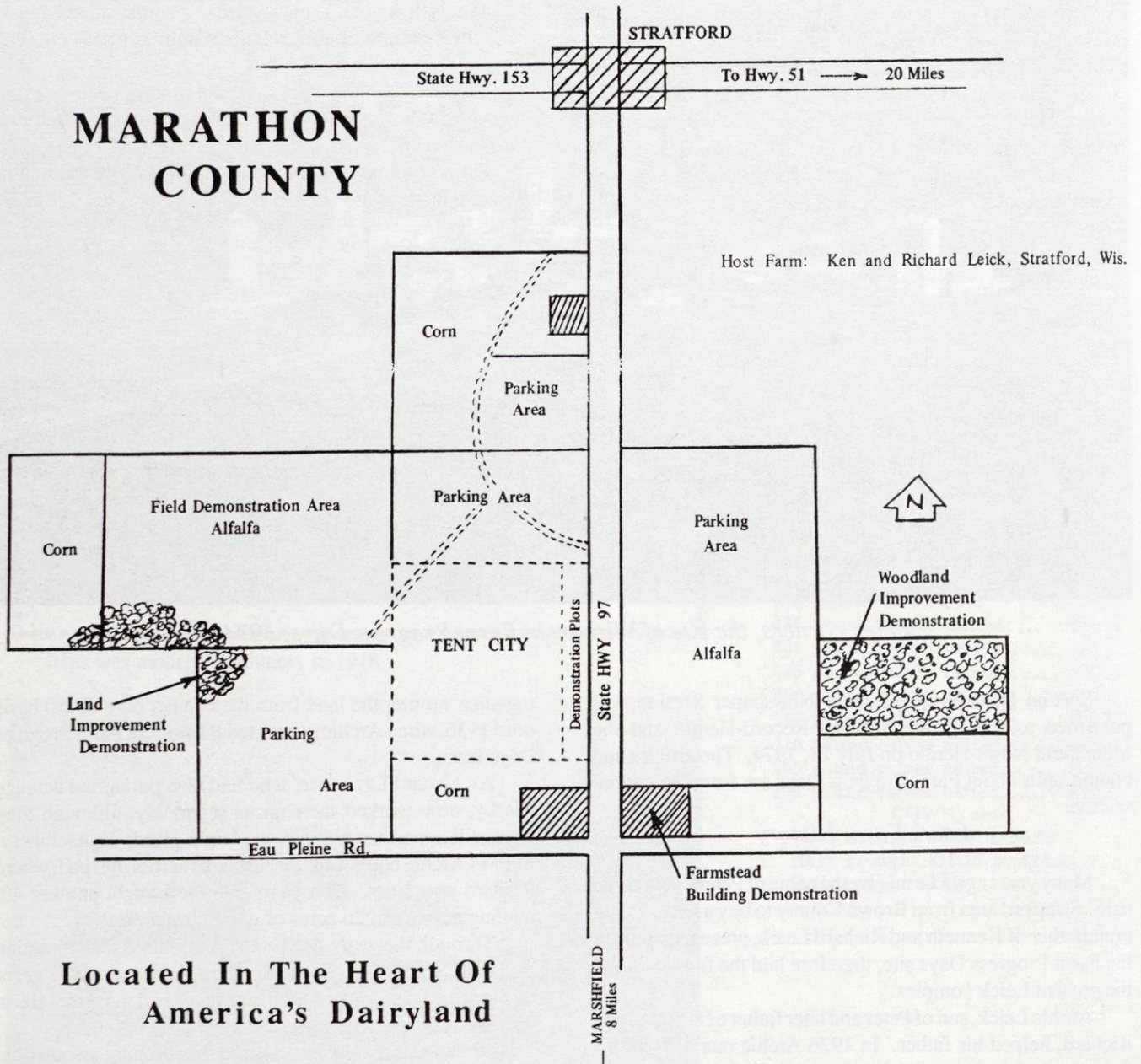
The Leicks had six children graduate from school, each went a separate path. Richard wanted to farm, as did Kenneth, although the latter had to serve in the Army. After his military service, Kenneth went to British Honduras for two years as a Papal Volunteer for the La Crosse Diocese.

When Kenneth returned, he joined the farming team with his father and brother - each working on one-third shares until

1968, when Archie sold out to his two sons. Archie retired at 62 and moved with his wife, to Marshfield.

The Leick farm is 420 acres in size, milking 100 head. If Grandpa Peter Leick could return and see the changes in machinery and methods which have occurred over the years he would most likely approve - although the cost of commodities, land buildings and equipment would seem staggering.

As for Archie, he still returns to the farm almost daily - not to work full time, but to lend a hand with a little painting, adjusting a tractor's motor, or just to plain "be back on the land."



Located In The Heart Of
America's Dairyland

It's the big show - Farm Progress Days!

Farm Progress Days is the second largest outdoor show of its kind in the United States, and the top agricultural show in Wisconsin. It is scheduled to take place July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1 on the Kenneth and Richard Leick farm near Stratford.

What is Farm Progress Days? It is an annual three-day event set up on a rotation basis starting with grassland emphasis in June, small grain and tillage operations in the summer months, and corn harvest and tillage operations in October.

Farm Progress Days was held in Fond du Lac County in 1973, featuring corn and soybean crops.

This year it is being held in Marathon County, and puts emphasis on forage crops as related to the county's 84,200 dairy cows, (nearly five per cent of all milk cows in Wisconsin) producing 859 million pounds of milk in 1973.

Four steps must be taken before a county can receive authorization to conduct Farm Progress Days: First, the county's agricultural committee must apply to the State Board of Directors. Second, the County Board must appropriate \$5,000 to underwrite the event. In every county to date, the

executive committee has paid this money back to the county after the event.

Third, the county must agree to follow the general memorandum agreement between the State Board of Directors and the county executive committee. Fourth, the county must agree to have the county agricultural agent serve as executive secretary of the executive committee.

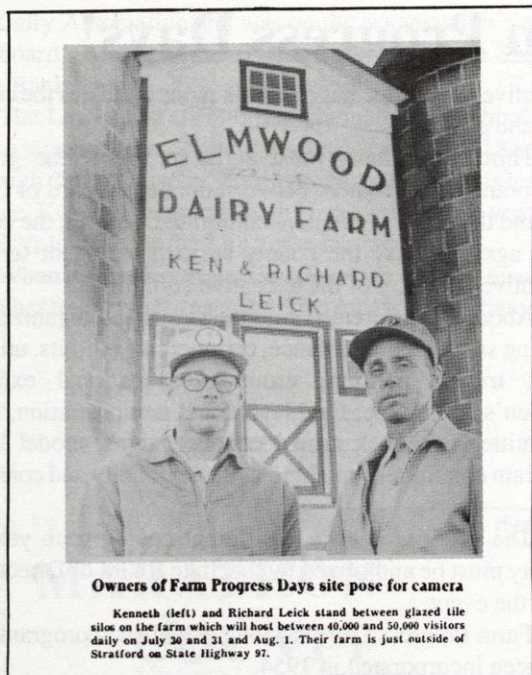
About 20 different committees must be organized, including site selection, finance, commercial exhibits, utilities, food, traffic, parking, grounds, educational exhibits, women's committee, field layout and demonstration, youth committee, livestock crowd conduct, signs, model home, program committee, public relations, publicity and conservation.

The event is held in a different county each year. A county must be authorized by the State Board of Directors to hold the event.

Farm Progress Days is a long-established program, having been incorporated in 1954.



The executive committee of Farm Progress Days, pictured above, is responsible for the smooth operation of Wisconsin's greatest agricultural event of the year, slated for July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1 at the Kenneth and Richard Leick farm near Stratford. In the front row are, from left, George Fergot, grounds chairman; Frederick Werner, chairman; George F. Hartman, executive secretary; Alfred King, transportation, and Loddie Loskot, recording secretary. In the back row are, from left, Tom Davis, transportation; Fred Mittelstadt, parking; David Smith, hospitality; Leo Martin, layout and demonstrations, and Calvin Cook, signs committee chairman. Missing from the picture is Charles Anderson, finance committee.



Owners of Farm Progress Days site pose for camera

Kenneth (left) and Richard Leick stand between glazed tile silos on the farm which will host between 40,000 and 50,000 visitors daily on July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1. Their farm is just outside of Stratford on State Highway 97.

Tent City Important at Farm Progress Days

Tent City will be the center of activity for thousands of visitors at 1974 Wisconsin Farm Progress Days. Over 250 exhibitors have contracted for 540 lots which makes this the largest Wisconsin Farm Progress Days ever. The event is set for July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1 at the Kenneth and Richard Leick farm, just south of Stratford.

Preparations were started back in 1972 with surveyor's tapes laying out dimensions of Tent City. Since then the big job has been lot sales and arrangements.

Public service is demanded in any city, and Tent City is no exception. There will be six food tents on the grounds manned by volunteer groups to insure good food for all. Menus and prices will be uniform throughout.

Just getting the water, garbage, and toilet facilities arranged for upwards of 30,000 people per day is no small task. Then there's police, first-aid, and fire protection, too. Electrical and telephone service are high in priority requirements.

To turn a dairy farm into a teeming city of 30,000 people can pose some unique problems in farm management. There's crop rotation to consider, in order to have well-established alfalfa-grass sod for tent city and parking. And you can't forget about producing the crops required to feed over 150 head of cattle.

There are such matters as parking space, machinery loading ramps, driveways, and traffic patterns (both vehicle and pedestrian). It's essential to provide sufficient space for people to get about and exhibitors to display their equipment.

The educational tent and the women's tent will be located on the edge of Tent City. You'll get a chance to have your hearing tested by Wisconsin Department of Health technicians. And right near-by will be the tractor safety and tipping demonstrations to remind you of the constant need for safety.

It's a safe bet one will not be able to see all of Farm Progress Days in one day - maybe not even all three days!

Farm Progress DAILY PROGRAM

DEMONSTRATIONS & SPECIAL EVENTS

- Field Harvesting - Alfalfa 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 am
- 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
- U. of W. Extension Education Tent - Exhibits: 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Presentations at: 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:00, and 2:00 p.m.
- State & Federal Agency Exhibits
- Plant Clinic - Bring Your Sick Plants
- U. of W. Extension Women's Tent 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- Topics: Meat Facts, Food Preservation, Landscaping,
Buying or Sewing, & Energy Conservation
- Tractor Safety & Tipping 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
- Land Forming Demonstrations 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.

CONTINUING DISPLAYS & ACTIVITIES

- Tent City - Commercial Exhibits 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Demonstration Plots 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Dairy Barn & Milking Parlor 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Dairy & Dairy Beef Exhibits 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- Forestry & Woodlot 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Lunch Stands - Uniform Menu & Prices . . . 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- First Aid - Law Enforcement Continuous
- Sheboygan County Sign-Up 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- News Headquarters 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- Marathon County Headquarters 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Refreshment Statistics

Would you believe that visitors to Farm Progress Days ate and drank the following:

- 18,100 bags of potato chips
- 17,400 hot dogs
- 14,580 bar-b-ques
- 32,000 doughnuts
- 17,300 ham and cheese sandwiches
- 7,458 half pints of white milk
- 22,136 half pints of chocolate milk
- 11,624 half pints of orange drink
- 25,158 ice cream bars
- 23,250 glasses of 7-Up
- 18,900 glasses of Royal Cola

Milk conversion rates

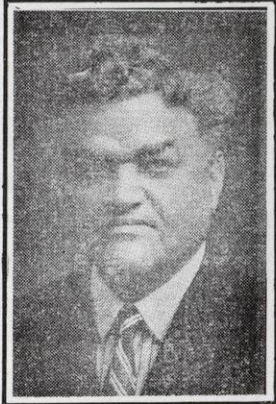
One quart of milk weighs 2.15 pounds. The following table is an approximation, since each product depends chiefly on the butterfat content of the milk.

To make one pound of:	Requires:
Butter	21.2 lbs. whole milk
Whole Milk Cheese	10.0 lbs. whole milk
Evaporated Milk	2.1 lbs. whole milk
Condensed Milk	2.3 lbs. whole milk
While Milk Powder	7.4 lbs. whole milk
Powdered Cream	13.5 lbs. whole milk
Ice Cream (1 gal.)	12.0 lbs. whole milk
Cottage Cheese	6.25 lbs. skim milk
Nonfat Dry Milk	11.00 lbs. skim milk

Politics & the Law

Two Stratford residents have made a bid for the office of Marathon County Sheriff. In 1926 Art Bever ran this advertisement in the Stratford Journal.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT Written, authorized and paid for by A. A. Bever, Stratford, Wis., in his own behalf. Amount \$4.50.



I HEREBY ANNOUNCE MY CANDIDACY FOR THE OFFICE OF
SHERIFF
 OF MARATHON COUNTY
 on the Progressive Republican Ticket at the
 Primaries, September 7, 1926

I was born in Outagamie county 48 years ago. I am a high school graduate and well qualified to fill the office of sheriff. I have always been a Progressive Republican and shall continue to work for the principals of this party.

I am a married man and have six children. For many years resided in Wisconsin Rapids and Marshfield. Past nine years have been a resident of Marathon county, having conducted successfully a hotel at Rozellville for two years and past seven years a grocery and hotel business in the village of Stratford.

My wide acquaintance and business experience will enable me to properly, honestly and efficiently perform the duties of the office of SHERIFF.

I solicit your support.

Arthur A. Bever

In 1986 Stratford Police Chief, LeRoy Schillinger ran against long time Marathon County Sheriff, Louie Gianoli and won. He served as Sheriff for two terms.

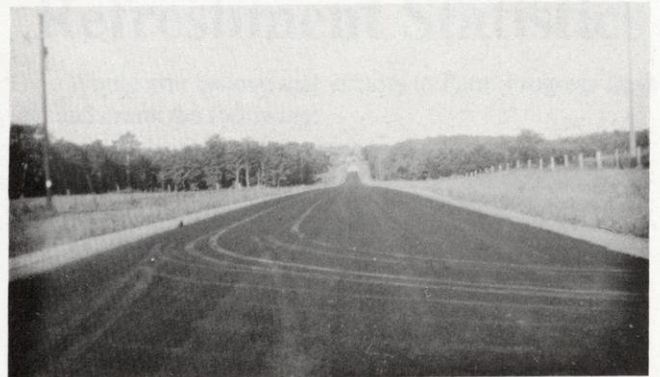
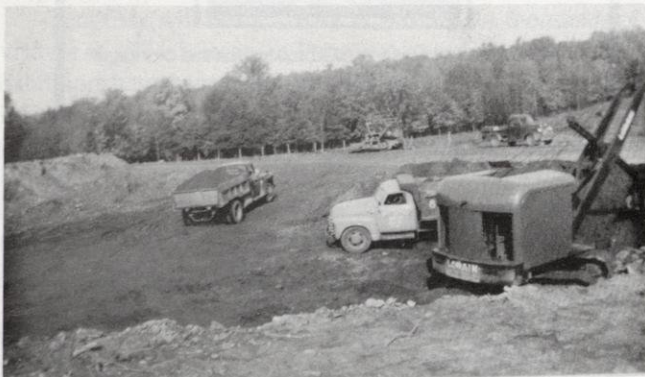


A Family Tradition: LeRoy; Korey (son), Neilsville Police Force 4 years; Silver Schillinger (uncle), Inspector of Detectives, Wausau Police Force, 29 Years.



Bridges & Roads

Transportation is important to any community. Stratford has two major state highways crossing through the village, Highway 153 and Highway 97.



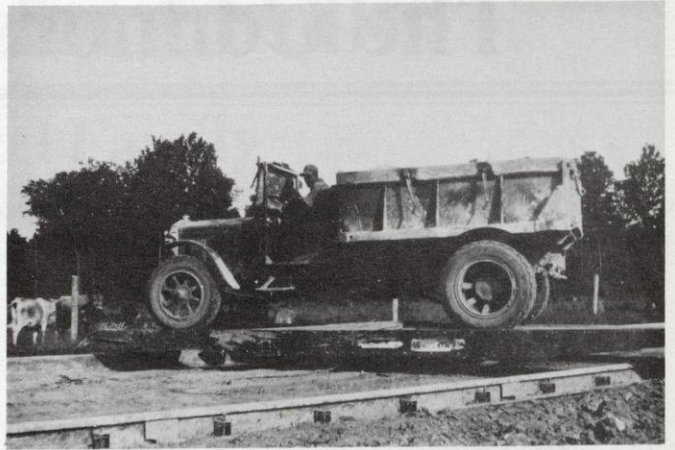
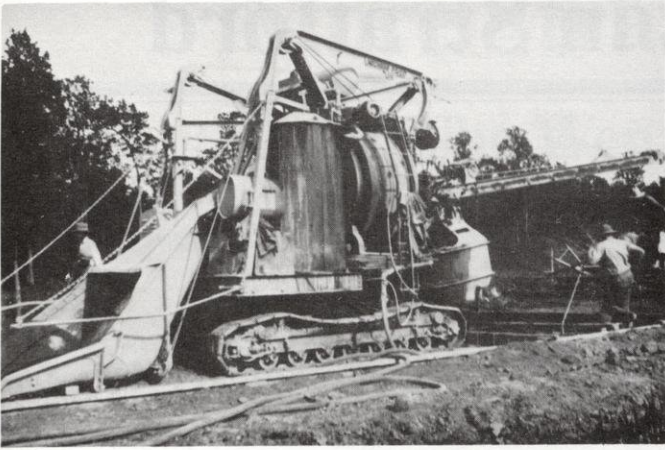
Making Highway 153 Photos courtesy of Clarence Kafka.



Building the old Bradley Bridge, 1916



Building the new Bradley Bridge, 1950's. *Courtesy Clarence Kafka*



Building Highway 97 summer of 1928. Photos Courtesy of Pat Zuelke.



Highway 97 in 1908.



The popular "loop" in downtown Stratford.



Fred Schuette on an early Stratford area road. Courtesy of Ronald Schuette.

The Connors in Stratford

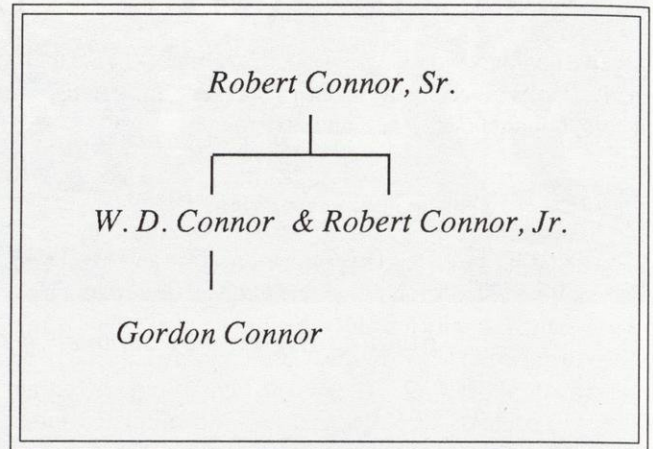
The Connor Family is the founding family of Stratford. They aren't listed as residents because they did not live in the Village except to stay overnight at one of the hotels on an occasional evening.

The R. Connor Company was responsible for building the mill in Stratford, but it was under the guidance of W.D. Connor that it was built. It was at that time that the Senior Robert Connor turned over the responsibility of the business to his son.

Robert Connor Sr. was not an active participant in the history of our community. His son, Robert Connor Jr., a dashing young man, did come to work in the village and was a part of the mill and the bank.

The responsibility of closing the Stratford mill in the 1920's, fell to Gordon Connor, son of W.D. Connor. He supervised the moving of the equipment and hiring of men to go to the company's other mills in Laona and Wakefield.

It was Gordon Connor and his wife, Mary Roddis Connor, who came to Stratford to help celebrate Lumberjack Days in 1956. Gordon's speech is in the early portion of the book and Mary's photographs appear in the beard judging contest photographs.



It is also Mary Roddis Connor who founded the "Camp 5" Lumberjack Museum in Laona. The museum has many Stratford photographs and artifacts of Stratford's early history. Mrs. Connor furnished many photographs for this book and for our Stratford Historical Exhibit in the American Legion Cabin. She is the author of the book, "A Century With Connor Timber", a historical account of the Connor Lumber Era, celebrating 100 years in the business.



Robert Connor, Jr.



Gordon R. Connor

More Stratford Folks

The Wenzel Family

We apologize to the Wenzel Family for not having their history in the Family History Section. Their package of photos was inadvertently placed in the miscellaneous file and not discovered until the Family History Section was at the printers. We include it here, hoping better late than not at all.

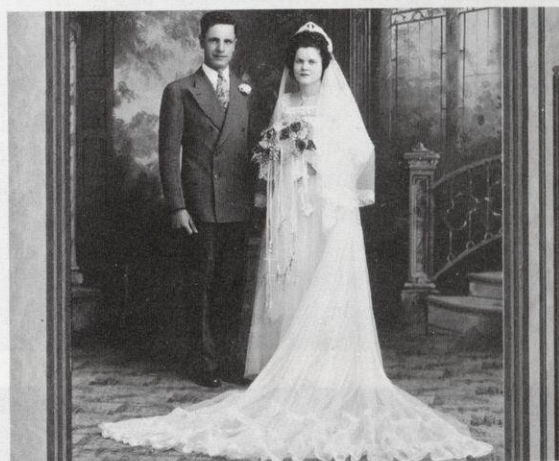
Franz Wenzel was born in Eisentein, Bohemia and Thersia (Kolros) Wenzel was born in Panzer, Austria. They came to America in October of 1889 with a family of seven children. The family settled in the Pittsburg, Pennsylvania area until 1891 when the family moved to the Blenker area. After a train started a grass fire which burned out their farm that same year, they came to Stratford. They settled on a farm on Balsam Road just south of the Village limits. The fourth generation of the Wenzel family is still on the farm.



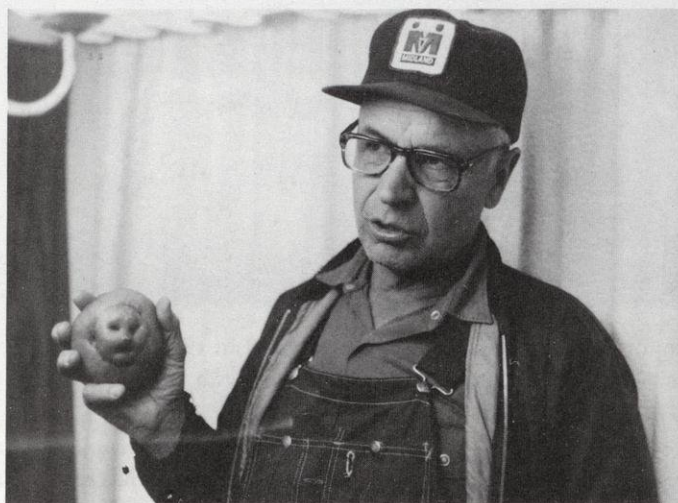
Franz & Thersia Wenzel



Anna & Louis Wenzel, 1913



Alfred and Marie Wenzel, 1946



In 1979 Alfred grew a peculiar tomato. After washing it and examining it closer, he saw the form of a human face. Alfred is on the right.

The Edward Knolls

The Edward Knoll family is from rural Straford, four miles north of the village on Highway 153 in the Town of Eau Pleine. Ed came to the Stratford area as a young child. He married Stella Zaleski in 1925. The Knolls raised ten children: Edward Jr., Ben, Jerry, Clemens, Allie, Annette, Patricia, Arlene, Susan and Flora.

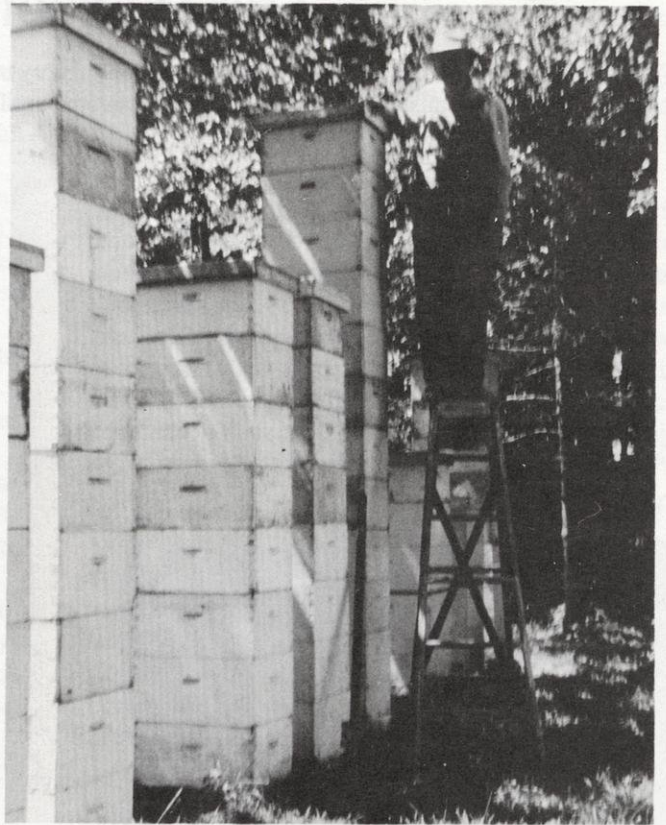
Ed Knoll was most famous for his apiar which was the subject of many news articles through the years. In 1976 the Marshfield News-Herald printed the following article:

Beekeeper's Dream

"In 1914, some of Ed Knoll's bees produced honey 11 boxes high. The 76-year-old rural Stratford beekeeper didn't expect to see another year like that, but he did. His best bee colony, which filled 13 boxes, is expected to produce between 400 and 500 pounds of honey.

He attributes the feat to a young queen bee, an unusually active colony and phenomenal conditions for honey production.

Knoll has 62 colonies which he predicts will produce an average of 200 pounds. This is beyond the 75 to 80 pounds which are left in the hive to sustain the colony during the winter."



The Knolls were also known for their lavish Christmas decorations. In 1949 they had a spectacular lighting display in their windbreak in front of their home. The 20 spruce trees were illuminated with 500 lights strung throughout the branches.

Ed died in 1973. His wife, Stella, is a familiar face in the Stratford community. In 1988 she celebrated her 80th birthday at the Rose Bowl Lanes in Rozellville when she went there to bowl. She reigned as the "Queen Bee" on the Knoll Family Float for the 1990 Heritage Days Parade.

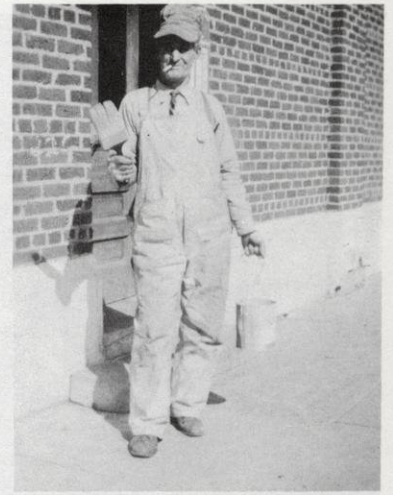
Three of the Knoll sons are still active in the Stratford community. Ed Jr. has Knolls Bar, Jerry is a local area farmer and Allie is Vice President of the Stratford State Bank and co-chairman of the Stratford Centennial Celebration.



Oscar Helstrom & John Wittmayer
 Courtesy Terry Frank



Charlie Raugh & Frank Weber
 Courtesy Terry Frank



The Painter, Charlie Grechen
 Courtesy Terry Frank



Mary Meixner & Mike
 Schmitbauer
 Courtesy Terry Frank



Henry and John Weber. The message on the card reads, "This fish weighed 28 pounds and was 4 feet 1 inch long. He was a cracker jack." Courtesy Marie Reed.



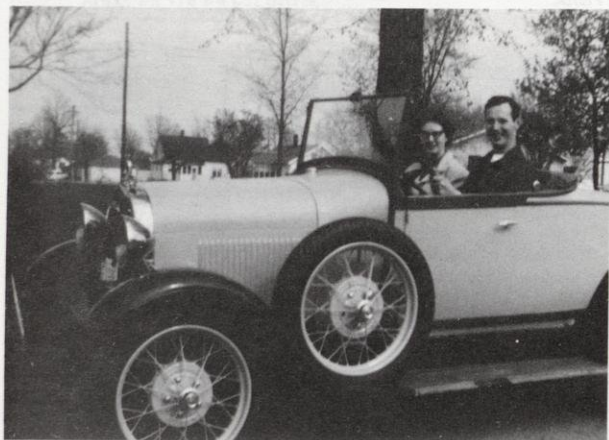
Adolf Frank
 Courtesy Terry Frank



1906, Eating melons on the river bank. Photo taken on the Eau Pleine River. (l-r) Warren Bulman, Ed Aschbrenner, Henry Ashbrenner, Harry Wahl and Robert Quade.



1906, Russ Mitchell in the buggy shed in Stratford.



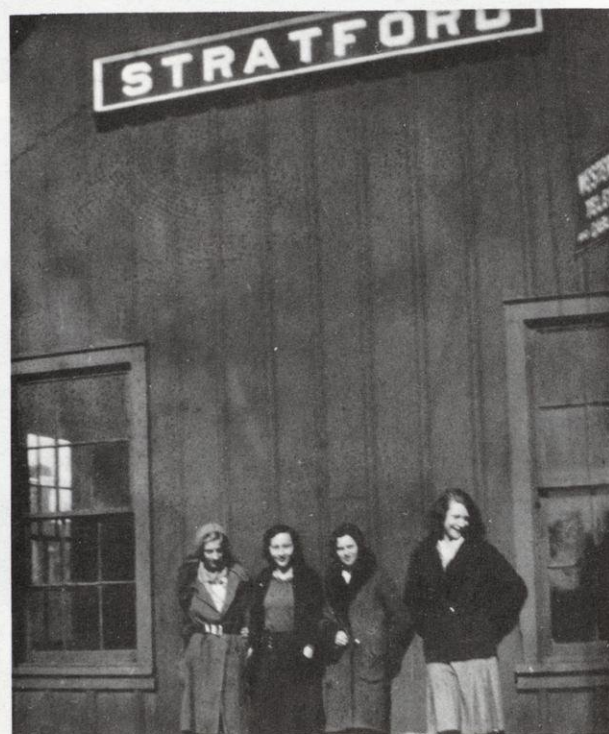
Dick and Yvonne Schoultz in Malcom Young's Model A, Circa 1960.



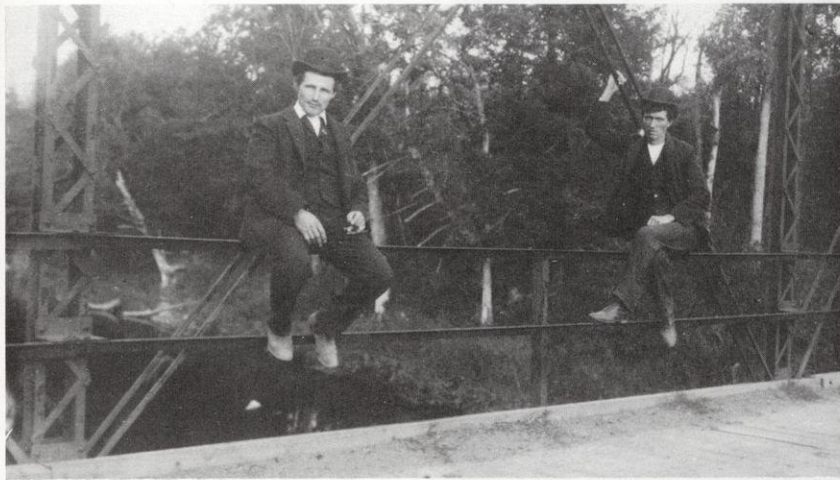
Dan Bohman in the Village Spirits dining area. Village Spirits closed its doors in 1991 and will be sorely missed by the community.



Tom Hoesly, Stratford's first mail carrier.



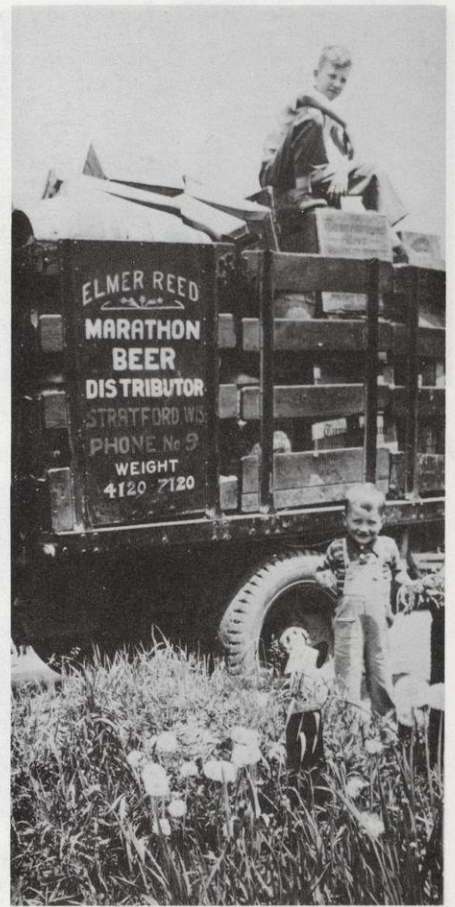
Leone Wix, Beatrice Snec, Idabelle Verhaven and Irene Fuller at the Stratford Depot. *Courtesy Adella Cline.*



Ferdinand Krause and Albert Leitzke on bridge over Big Eau Pleine River north of Stratford, 1907



Melvin Heller in the milk wagon owned by The Clover Dairy. For many years the wagon traveled the streets of Stratford delivering milk for the Henry Aschbrenner Dairy. The slogan reads "A Bottle of Milk is a Bottle of Health." *Courtesy Verna Aschbrenner Skrenes.*



Bill Reed (upper) and Jack Reed on Elmer Reed's truck. *Courtesy Marie Reed.*



Allie Knoll plants a tree in the Village Park for Arbor Day, 1985. The Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored a tree every year. Note the shelter in the background. The shelter was remodeled and enlarged in 1991.



Cheryl Kuyoth and Margaret Brubaker chat in front of Kuyoth Repair.



Sawing logs on the Joe Schoenfuss farm in the early 1900's. *Courtesy Clarence Kafka.*



Chamber of Commerce members visit at a General Membership meeting at Kegler's Kove.



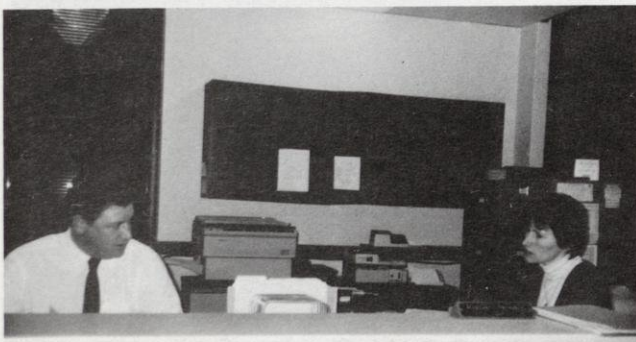
Group at the fire escape chute at old high school. *Courtesy Adella Cline*



Fishing on the Big Eau Pleine. *Courtesy Clarence Kafka.*



Bathing beauties. *Courtesy Cecelia Marohl*



Village President, Paul Oertel and Clerk, Margaret Brubaker discuss village business in the Village Hall.

The August Drexler Family didn't need television or movies to entertain them in the early 1920's. They staged their own productions.



Frank and John Drexler *Courtesy of the Drexler Family.*



Frank, August and John *Courtesy of the Drexler Family.*



Frank and John *Courtesy of the Drexler Family.*



Teresa Drexler, Mary Meizner and Mary Drexler in the Drexler parlor, 1919. *Courtesy the Drexler Family.*



Stratford "Oldtimers" during the 1956 Lumberjack Days.



More of the 1956 parade. Look at the buildings in the background.



Stratford Memorial Day Parades. Upper in early 1950's, Lower in 1985.



Pete Weber drilling well at the Robert Krause Sr. mink ranch. Courtesy Don Weber.



Bill Stroetz brings Mr. and Mrs. Santa to town in 1985

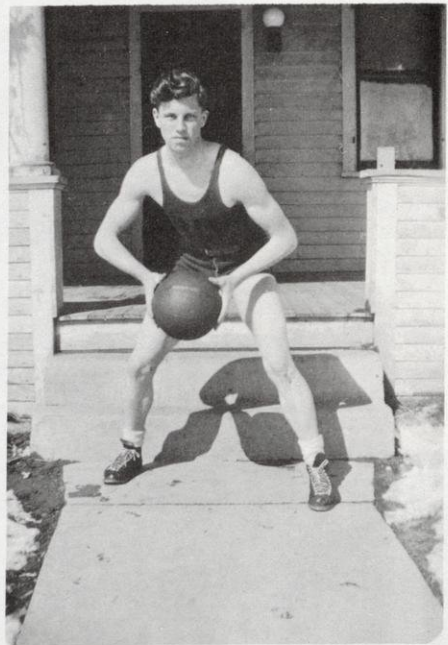
Stratford Sports



Progressive Corners Ball Team 1927. Courtesy Cecelia Marohl.



Skaters: _____ Henke and Bill Bartz.
Courtesy Terry Frank.



Lloyd Frank, Stratford Basketball Team.
Courtesy Terry Frank.



Football: Man in center is Lloyd Frank.
Courtesy Terry Frank.



Dixie Bowling Team: George Neary, Law Berner, Eugene Lehrman, _____ and Mr. Wesslen. *Courtesy Terry Frank.*



Marathon Brewery Bowling Team in early 1950's. Lucy Kohlbeck, Marie Reed, Lylas Chrouser, Lorraine Reed, Lorraine Weber, Shirley Gebelein. This photo appeared in the Stratford Journal.

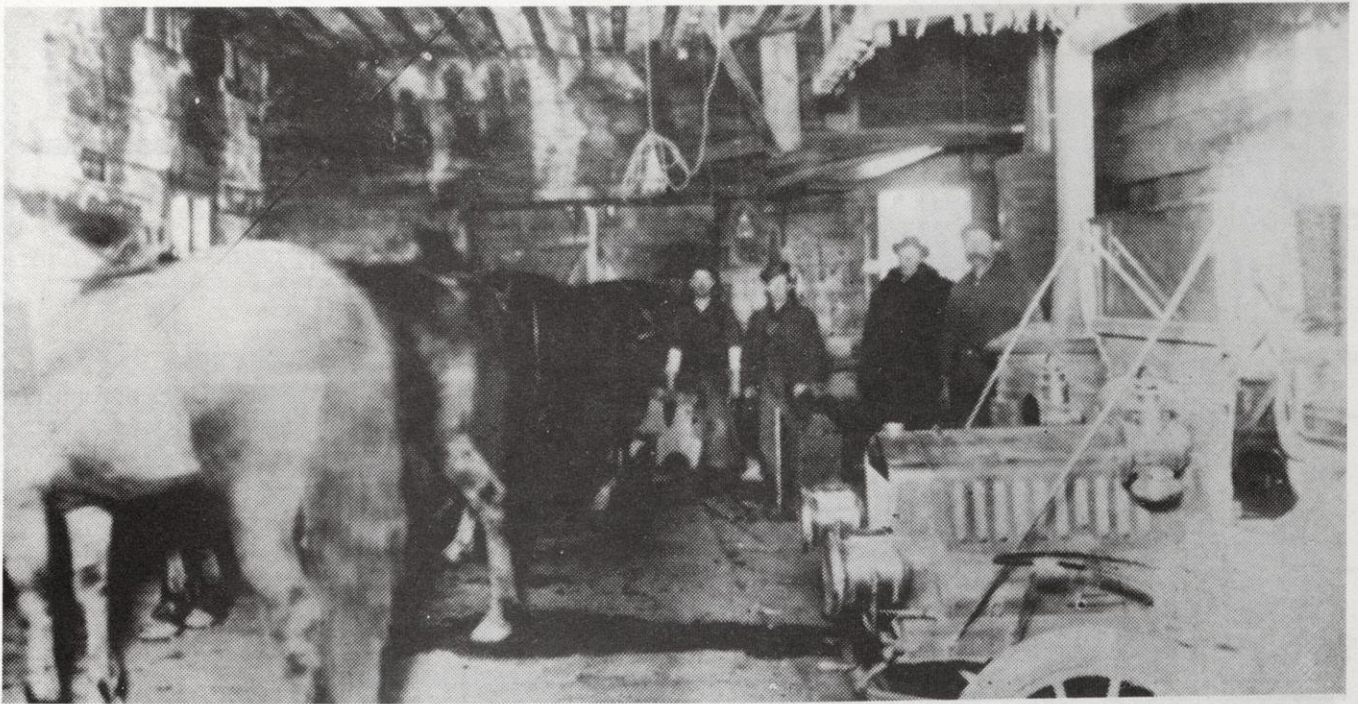


1950's Stratford Boy Scout Troop and their leaders.

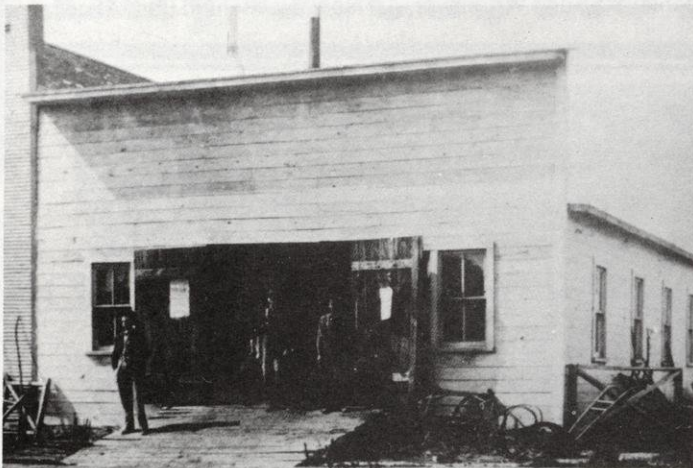
Back row (l-r) Verlyn Polster, Leo Platteter, John Spencer, Dr. Wicker, Jerome Kaiser. Row 2: Ronald Polster, Frank Wicker, Jim Guenther, Donald Kohlbeck, Eugene Telschow, Jemmy Schlothauer. Third row: Terry Wunsch, Fred Ulrich, Fred Davel, Bill Jaeger, Jack Reed, George Davel, Karl Kroepin. Front Row: Jimmy Spencer, Bobby Sawyer, Bob Guenther, Chuck Drexler, Ronald Zenner, Eugene Meyer, Bill Dhein, Mickey Wunsch. *Photo Courtesy Stella Knoll.*



Making ice on the Eau Pleine River north of Stratford. *Photo courtesy Mrs. Troy Hannum.*

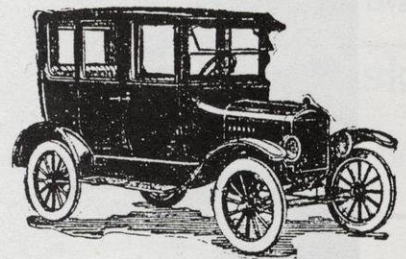


Stratford blacksmith shop. Interior of Bonnach's Blacksmith Shop. John Bonnach is in the far rear wearing a leather apron. Robert Connors car is in the foreground. *Courtesy the Connor Family.*



Stratford Blacksmith shop.

For Sale
C h e a p



We have on exhibition at Bever's barn in Stratford, a collection of used Ford Roadsters, Coupes, Tourings and Sedans, which must be sold at once.

DRAYING

We haul anything anywhere,
by Truck

DEWAIN REED

Stratford, Wis. Phone 9



Menu in back of bar reads:
 Sandwiches
 Ham & Cheese 5¢
 Sardines 10¢
 Shrimp 25¢
 Pork & Beans 10¢

Jaeger's Bar. The calendar appears to be dated 1947. Joe Hablewitz, John Wittmayer, Art Nowack. Behind Bar: Alice Jaeger and Arnold Jaeger. *Courtesy Stella Knoll.*



Jaeger's Bar. John Carl, Mrs. John Carl, Jessie Carl, Hazel Carl and behind bar is A. B. Jaeger. *Courtesy Stella Knoll.*

Repair Shop

I have opened a Repair Shop in the Schweikl building
one block west of the Progress Hotel

Bring in your Lawn Mowers, Sewing Machines, Pumps,
Can furnish repairs for all makes of Sewing Machines

Make and repair all kinds of **TIN WORK**

ROBERT TAFT, STRATFORD,
Wis. Phone 61

1917 Advertisement from Stratford Journal

Buy Seeds Now

Do not wait until the rush is on,
you will need them soon, so assure
yourself of a supply of good SEEDS,

**Clover, Alsylke, Timothy, Rape,
Mangel, Corn, Peas, Etc.**

Garden and Lawn Tools

Let us show you what we have.

R. Connor Co.

STRATFORD, WISCONSIN

1920 Advertisement from Stratford Journal

DR. J. H. BLEKKING

Physician and Surgeon

Office Opposite School House
Hours: 9 to 12 a. m. 1 to 3 and 7 to 8 p. m.
Telephone No. 5. Stratford, Wis.

Dr. J. J. Schreiber

DENTIST

Across from Village Hall Stratford,

SMOKE "Bank Stock" 10c Cigar

Hand made, ask for it

ADOLPH SCHAEFER
Cigar Manufacturer

J. E. GROSS

Veterinarian

Horse Hospital at the Hotel Leiteritz barn
All calls promptly answered. Phone No 6

STRATFORD WISCONSIN

IGNATZ PRUELL

SHOE REPAIRING

Neatly and quickly done

All work GUARANTEED

Building next to the Stratford Livery

Dr. F. Warsinske

Veterinary Surgeon

Will be at the Stratford House
every Tuesday

LEAVE YOUR

**WATCH, CLOCK and
JEWELRY REPAIRING**

With C. HUNT, The Jeweler
Located in Rifleman's Barber Shop

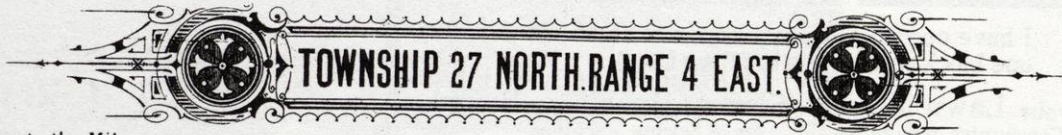
E. P. RIFLEMAN

BARBER

Modern Shop. Stratford, Wis.

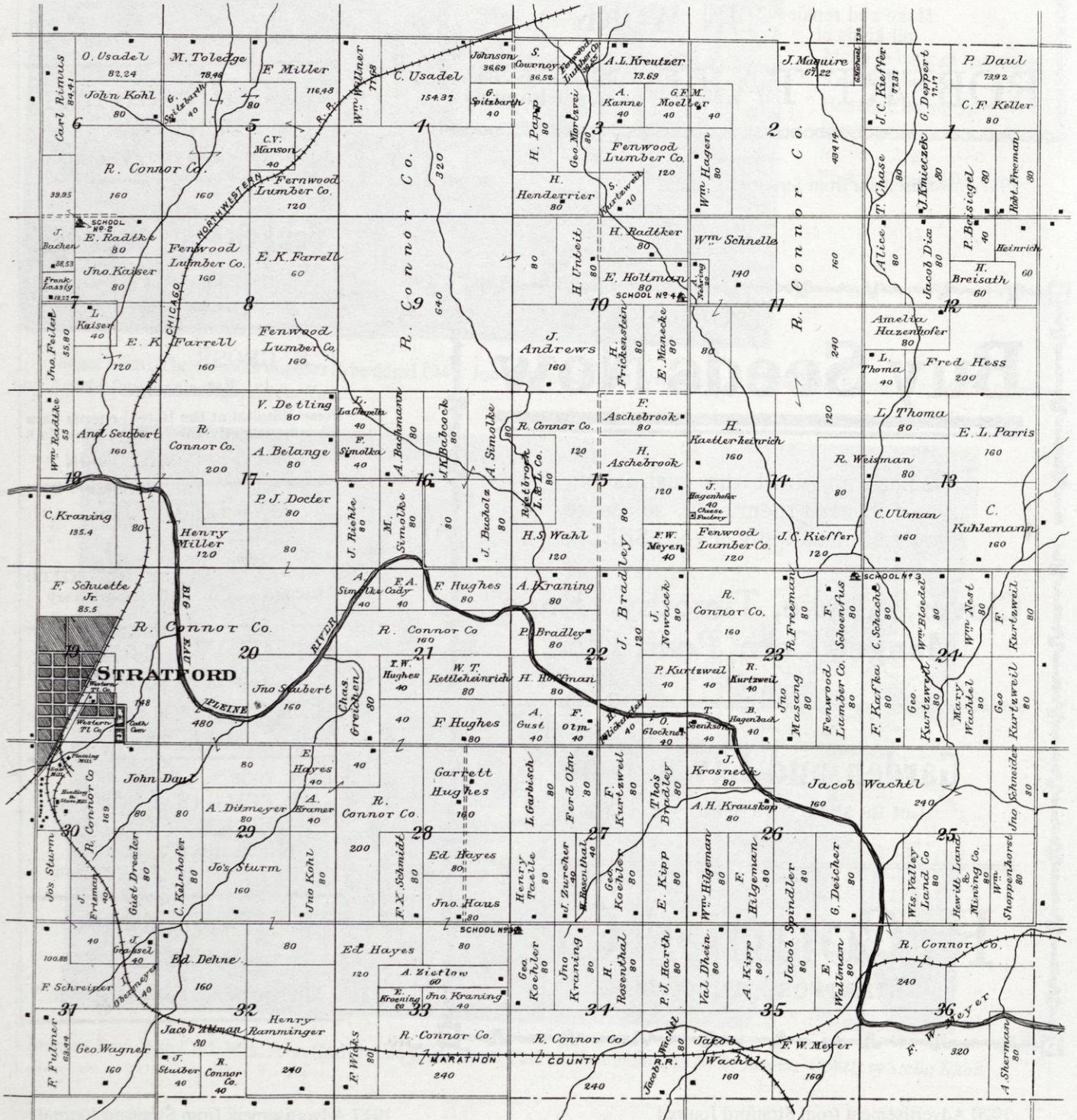
1917 Advertisement from Stratford Journal

Town of Cleveland, 1901



Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

of the 4th Principal Meridian.

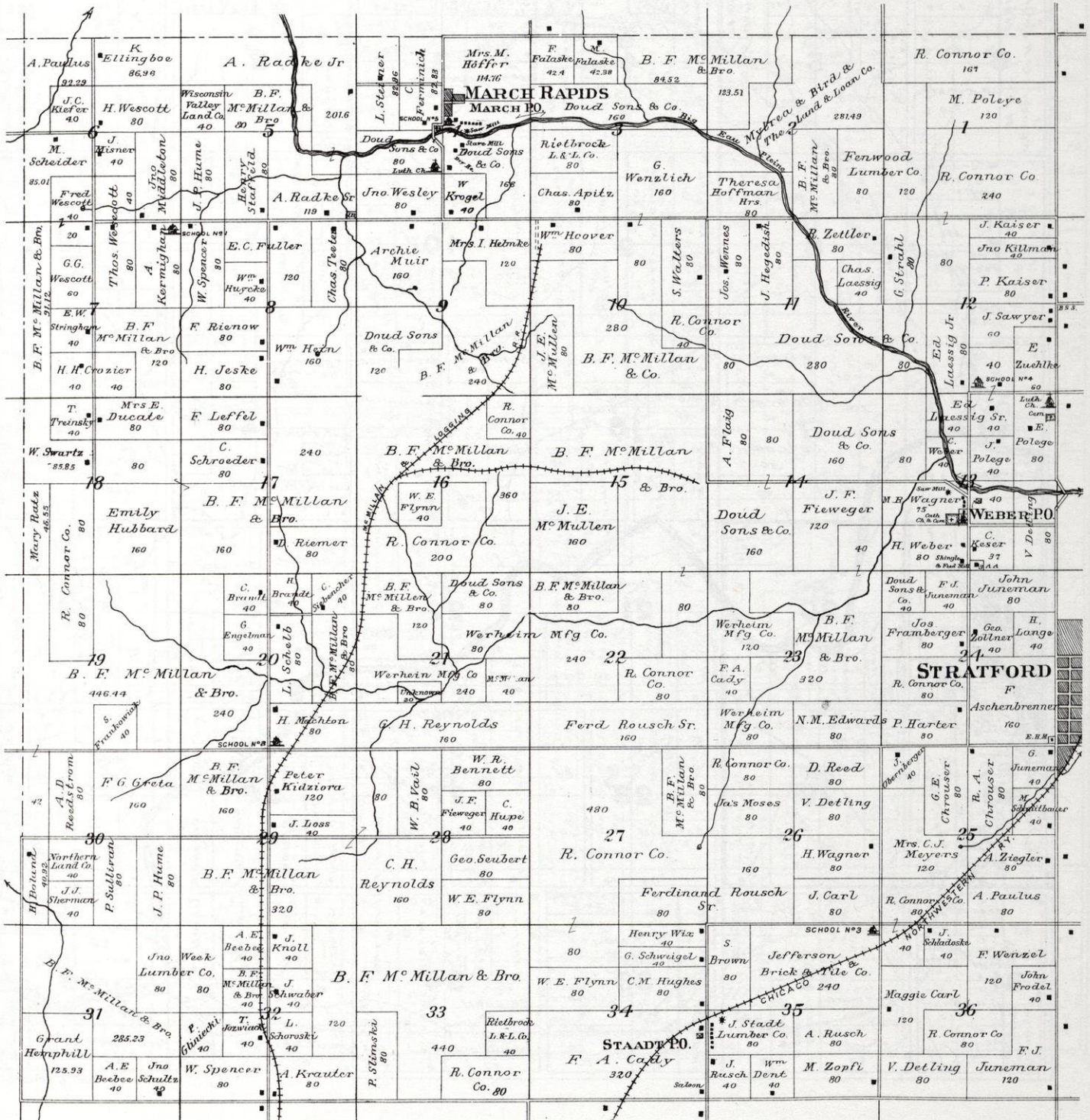


Town of Eau Pleine, 1901

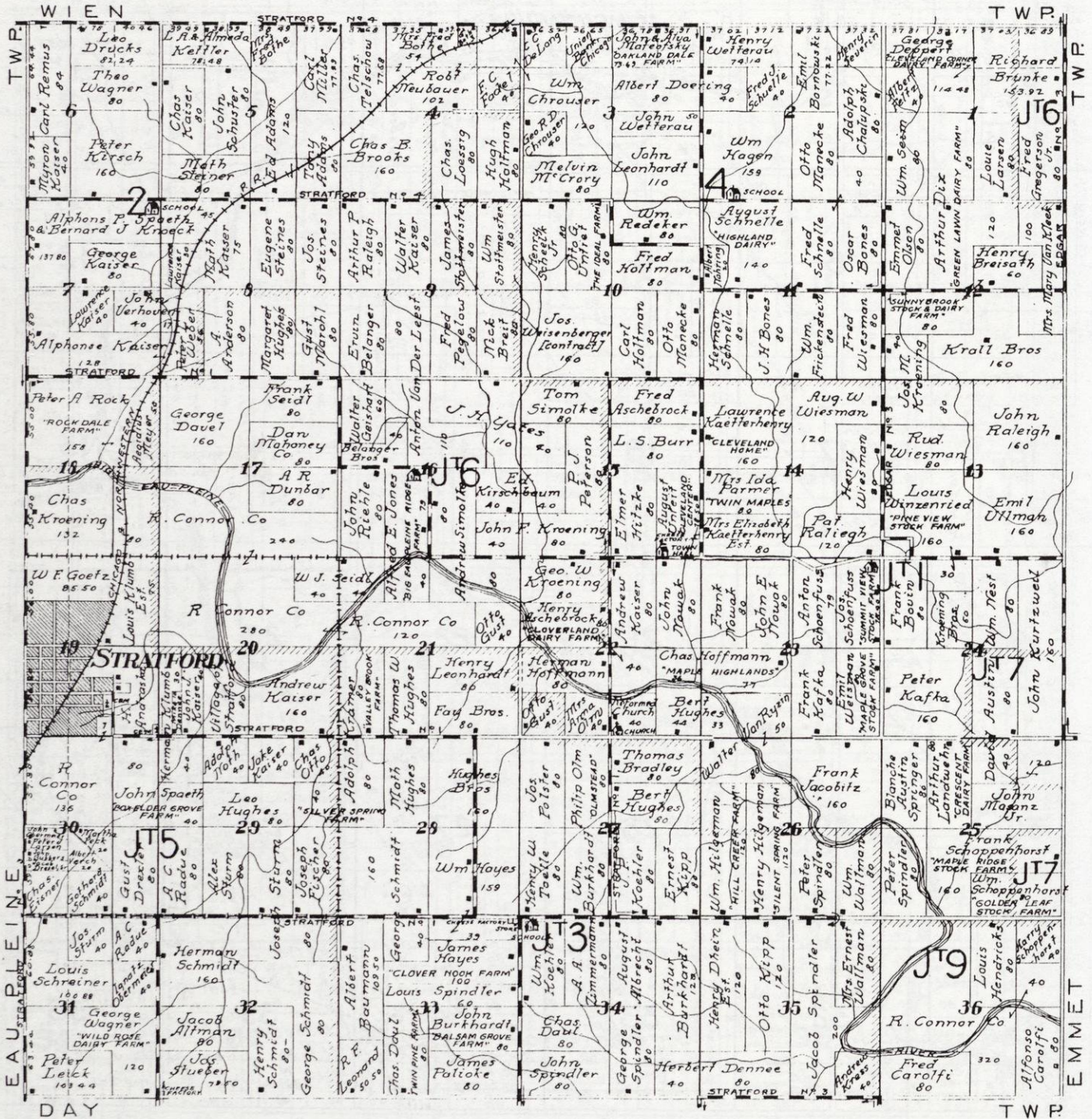


Scale 2 Inches to the Mile.

of the 4th Principal Meridian.



Town of Cleveland, 1930



In Closing...

From The Committee

The committee has saved the last page to once again express their appreciation to everyone who has had a part in helping with the book. Without the co-operation of a great many people this publication could not have been completed.

There will be many who will be disappointed that their family or business was not recognized in the book. To those we express apologies. It was not possible to contact everyone individually. We had to rely on our request for information through the Stratford Journal, Heritage Days publicity, flyers and word of mouth. We appreciate greatly those who responded with donations of stories and photographs, family, organization and business histories and general information.

The official Centennial Book Committee, Wally Marohl, Elaine Becher, Phyllis Schneider and Susan Weber, spent long hours researching for the book. They poured through the back issues of the Stratford Journal, spent hours at the library on the microfilm readers scanning issues of the Marshfield and Wausau newspapers, proofread hundreds of pages of typing, and typed pages and pages of manuscript. It would be impossible to add up the hundreds of hours they gave to the project. Dale Dooge took bits and pieces of researched information, added research of his own and wrote the public school history, the Lions Club history and the Reihle murder story. Donetta Ulrich provided information on organizations and businesses and contacted many individuals for information. Marge Laessig joined in for the newspaper reading sessions. Tom Becher was excellent in helping with research, especially the railroad information. They are all to be commended for their contributions to this publication.

We are all too aware that the book barely touches on everything that has happened in our area in the last 100 years. That would be a monumental task. As you read the book and if you find yourself thinking about things we missed, please write them down and tell us about them. The Village is collecting information as an ongoing project. The Stratford American Legion has donated their very historical cabin to the village to be used as a historical museum and it is planned to provide exhibits about Stratford History. Any stories and photographs you may have will help make those exhibits more accurate and interesting.

We hope you enjoy the Stratford Centennial Book

The Centennial Book Committee

Dear Reader,

Well this is it, the final page. The proofreaders have gone home and the many months of putting the book together are over. The piles of papers and photographs that have accumulated on the floor of my home office have dwindled and I can see the carpet once again. I will take this last batch of pages to the printer in the morning and get back to work for the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development.

The committee has thanked the many people who have worked on the book but I want to add a thank you to some who have been behind the scenes.

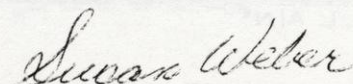
A very special thank you to my mother, Mildred Shrake, who helped put all of this information on the computer and has run countless errands for the past few months. Not only did she help with the book but she kept my kitchen counter from disappearing under a mountain of dirty dishes and served up meals when I didn't have time.

Another special thank you to my husband, Allen, who has been very understanding as I have been "traveling in time", neglecting the world around me. For the last two months I have been "married" to the book and couldn't be bothered with little things like laundry and cleaning and conversation.

My employers, the boards of directors for the Stratford Area Chamber of Commerce and the Stratford Area Economic Development Foundation have been more than patient with me as I put my jobs on hold and concentrated on the book.

This has been a marvelous experience learning about Stratford's growth and its wonderful people. It will seem strange to get back to normal - whatever that may be. Thank you, Stratford. Enjoy the book and I'll see you at the Centennial!

THE END





Stratford, Wisconsin

Stratford, you pearl of Wisconsin
Your name spells contentment to me;
Though through places far many I've wandered,
I have always found shelter in thee.

Your fast growing, pretty surroundings;
Your bustling and well kept highways;
Your mills, your stores and your houses,
Show your spirit so everyone says.

For me there is none that is better,
Your people good citizens all.
Who everywhere always uphold you,
Should misfortune to you e'er befall.

Some folks leave you but sooner or later,
They always come back that we know,
You're simply the best town we know of,
And I'm right here "to tell the world" so.

For you are the town that we cherish;
That we love and will always hold dear;
And we don't care to stay from you far away,
For We're happy and proud to be here.

Good Luck to you Stratford, Wisconsin,
Your future is bright as can be;
We are with you and for you and of your,
Our unbounded faith is in thee.

FAS

This poem appeared in the Stratford Journal in the early 1900's. The only clue to the author are the initials FAS.

