

# Town of McMillan centennial : 1888-1988.

## [Wisconsin]: [McMillan Centennial Committee], 1988

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As I rambled I met a young schoolma'am. She mourned in a sorrowful strain, She mourned for a jolly young raftsman On the banks of the Little Eau Pleine. "Alas, my dear Johnny has left me. I'm afraid I shall see him no more, For he's down on the lower Wisconsin, He's pulling a 50 foot oar. My curses attend you Wisconsin. May your rapids and falls cease to roar. I will go to some place where I'll never Hear the sound of a 50 foot oar. I'll go to some far foreign country--To England, to France, or to Spain--But I'll never forget Johnny Murphy Nor the banks of the Little Eau Pleine."

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#### MAP OF VILLAGE OF MCMILLAN

<u>Drawing and Coded by Harold Grambow</u> (Mr. Harold Grambow was a long-time clerk of the Town of McMillan. He also worked for the McMillans in his boyhood.)

1. B. F. McMillan Home 2. Garage 3. A. E. Beebee Home - 1890 4. Caretaker's Home 5. Half Mile Race Track 6. Coach Horse Barn 7. Race Horse Barn 8. Work Horse Barn Sleep Shanty
Boarding House 11. Blacksmith Shop 12. Sawdust Dump and Slab Yard 13. Log Yard 14. River Dam & Bridge 15. Saw Mill 16. Log Pond 17. Log Yard 18. Engine House Wood Yard 19. Lumber Yard 20. Office & Store 21. Planing Mill & Electric Power House 22. Stave Factory 23. Warehouse 24. Worker Homes 25. School House 26. Plank Walk 27. Elevated Tram 28. Northwestern Depot, McMillan 29. New Town Homes 30. Sawdust Road to Mannville 31. Logging Road (Ice Roads) 32. Logging Road (Ice Roads) 33. Bridges

\* \* \* \*

Roads Railroad N.W. <del>1111111</del> Private Railroad 11 <del>11 11 11 11</del> River - - - - - -

### B. F. McMILLAN

### (Founder of the Village of McMillan)

He is said to have been the first millionaire in the area, and was the employer of Amanda Beebee, who later bequeathed money to the city for the new Marshfield Free Library.



Otto Schmelter, Chaueffer for McMillan



#### BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MCMILLAN

The following article on Benjamin Franklin McMillan, founder of the village McMillan, Wisconsin, is taken from the 1905 edition of the "American Lumbermen." It was sent to me (Editor) by Richard F. McMillan, 144 Cottage Avenue, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin 54935, a great nephew of Benjamin F. Richard F. is the son of F.S., son of Richard H. (a brother of Benjamin F.), son of David S. The village of McMillan no longer appears on the map, but it was located in Marathon Co., five miles north of Marshfield, WI. In 1974, the 100 year old house of David S. McMillan (B. F.'s father) at 1924 Pine St., Stevens Point, Portage Co., Wisconsin was entered on the National Register of Historic Places (U.S.A.) for its outstanding architecture.

#### Benjamin F. McMillan

The McMillans of Wisconsin, not pioneer lumbermen of that state, are pioneers of the locality in which they operate. Benjamin Franklin McMillan was born October 17, 1845, at Fort Covington, Franklin County, New York. His father, David Stiles McMillan, in his early days was a farmer, and later engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods. When young Benjamin F. McMillan was six years old his father moved with his family to Malone, New York, where the senior McMillan founded the McMillan Woolen Mills, which are still (1905) running and bear the original name. In 1864 the family, consisting of the parents and six remaining children of a family of thirteen, moved to Wisconsin and located fourteen miles north of Stevens Point, on the Plover River, where the older McMillan engaged in the manufacture of lumber.

The Plover, a tributary of the Wisconsin, was for many years an important lumbering stream and even to this day a few pine logs come down its waters every spring. The output of the McMillan mill was rafted down this stream to its junction with the Wisconsin and then to the Mississippi and on to the lumbering markets of Dubuque, Davenport, Keokuk, St. Louis and other points. The McMillans themselves operated a large wholesale yard at Keokuk, Iowa, from which their lumber was shipped to the trade by rail.

In 1873, B. F. McMillan's father retired from active business, at which time he and his brother, Charles V., decided that a location farther west, in the then wilderness, would be desirable. In the spring of 1874 they built a sawmill at what is now <u>McMillan</u>, Wisconsin, five miles north of the present (1905) thriving city of Marshfield, though at that time there was not a house where Marshfield now stands. The whole country was one unbroken wilderness of timber---pine and hardwoods. No corporation was formed---not even a partnership--but the two brothers called their business B. F. McMillan & Bro. and began sawing lumber in the summer of 1874, and are still (1905) sawing there.

Many important outgrowths have sprung from the McMillan business, some of them larger, in the amount of capital invested and in the value of the product, than the parent institution. Charles V. McMillan continued actively in the McMillan business until 1885, when he went to Ashland, Wisconsin, and ran a cold storage business as the McMillan Brothers Company, the ownership of which was identically the same as that of the McMillan interest at <u>McMillan</u>. This business was closed out in 1890 and the brothers then organized the Winnebago Furniture Company, buying the old C. J. L. Meyers sash and door plant at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and converting it into a furniture factory.

4





1890 These two pictures were taken about 1890, shortly after the home was built by B. F. McMillan, lumberman.





1988

In 1899 the brothers built a mill at Ontonagon, Michigan, and was run under the name of C. V. McMillan & Bro., in order to distinguish it from the McMillan business, although its ownership is the same. The Ontonagon mill saws pine, hemlock and hardwoods. The McMillans are also interested in a retail lumber yard at Fond du Lac, operated under the name of the Crofoot Lumber Company.

B. F. McMillan has always studied with particular care the subject of grading and the adaption of lumber to use. He originated the percentage rule in hardwood which is used all over the United States. He also eliminated the word "cull" from hardwood rules, and his ideas as to hardwood lumber grading are found in the rules of all the important hardwood lumber associations. He has always taken active interest in association work, was one of the organizers and prime movers in the Wisconsin Hardwood Lumbermen's Association and was one of the originators and was president for several years of the Wisconsin Hemlock Manufacturers Association.

Mr. McMillan married on April 30, 1873, at Constable, Franklin County, New York, Miss Ada M. Beebee.

He has been a staunch Republican, taking much interest in the work of the party in his county and state and attending its conventions, although never seeking political honors. He has at <u>McMillan</u> a beautiful home which contains one of the finest libraries in central Wisconsin. It especially abounds in fine and limited editions of standard authors. The house is a product of Mr. McMillan's own plant, finished throughout in curly birch and showing to the best advantage the beauties of this native Wisconsin hardwood. Mr. McMillan has always taken a great interest in horses and a few years ago had in his stables at <u>McMillan</u> over one hundred specimens of the finest trotting blood, but has gradually disposed of them.

The little village of <u>McMillan</u>, which was incorporated in 1893 has the unique distinction of being the only incorporated village in the United States with neither a saloon nor a church within its limits. Every year a police justice is elected as a matter of form, but he never qualifies, and in the twelve years since its incorporation the village has never had a civil or criminal lawsuit.

It is governed by a president and a board of six trustees, and since its establishment Mr. McMillan has been its president. He has also been postmaster during the twenty-four years that the post office has been established there. When the village was incorporated a poor fund of \$1200 was raised, but it has not yet been expended, for there has never been a pauper within the limits of the village nor has it paid a cent of pauper tax.

No railroad reached <u>McMillan</u> when the mill was built and for many years the product was hauled by sleds or wagons to Mannville, a station on the Wisconsin Central Railway not now in existence. Twelve years ago the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Company built a line through McMillan from Wausau to Marshfield.

During the operation of their plant, the McMillans have owned many thousands of acres of land. They have made a practice of fitting this land for agricultural purposes and selling it on easy terms to good settlers, and in this manner has been built up a rich agricultural district. The business



1966



Clyde Wynia Residence (The McMillan Home) 1988 The Banks of the Little Eau Pleine



Saying, "Alas, my dear Johnny has left me, I'm afraid I shall see him no more. He's down on the lower Wisconsin, He's pulling a fifty-foot oar. He went off on a fleet with Ross Gamble And has left me in sorrow and pain; And 'tis over two months since he started From the banks of the Little Eau Pleine."

I stepped up beside this young school-ma'am, And thus unto her I did say, "Why is it you're mourning so sadly, While all nature is smiling and gay?" She said, "It is for a young raftsman For whom I so sadly complain. He has left me alone here to wander On the banks of the Little Eau Pleine."



"If John Murphy's the name of your raftsman, I used to know him very well. But sad is the tale I must tell you: Your Johnny was drowned in the Dells. They buried him 'neath a scrub Norway, You will never behold him again. No stone marks the spot where your raftsman Sleeps far from the Little Eau Pleine."

\* \* \*

"My curses attend you, Wisconsin! May your rapids and falls cease to roar. May every tow-head and sand-bar Be as dry as a log schoolhouse floor. May the willows upon all your islands Lie down like a field of ripe grain, For taking my jolly young raftsman Away from the Little Eau Pleine."

\* \* \*





Back of Home 



Back of Home 

#### Copied from the Marshfield News-Herald, Marshfield, WI, Thursday, Sept. 22, <u>1966</u> - Updated June, 1988

#### The <u>Clyde</u> Wynia Home Sugar Bush Lane

The home purchased by Mr. & Mrs. Clyde D. Wynia is the original B. F. McMillan home in the Town of McMillan on a country road known as Sugar Bush Lane. The scenic location on the Little Eau Pleine River recently has attracted quite a number of other home owners to build nearby.

The most recent member of the McMillan family to live in this home was Thorton A. Green, who, with his family, was still a part of the Marshfield community until leaving in 1961 for Tucson, Arizona.

McMillan became a thriving lumber town concurrent to Marshfield's own rapid growth as a lumbering community. It was named after the McMillan brothers, B. F. and C. V. McMillan, who first established the lumber mill there. It was the custom for mill owners to run a general store as well as a boarding house for the lumbermen, which the McMillans did.

Although untrained for frontier life, the capable Mrs. B. F. McMillan was remembered by early settlers as an outstanding worker and helpmate. Besides being a gracious hostess, she was a thoughtful friend to the early settlers as she traveled on horseback to minister to the sick or carry food and clothing to the needy.

The existing three-story McMillan home was begun in 1873. All the curly red birch cut on the land was saved to be used in the house. (A bedroom wing, formerly a bunkhouse, and a kitchen wing were added later.) The beautifully embellished woodwork, typical of this early period, was hand carved by a woodworker who lived on the premises for two years. There are seven bedrooms and, originally, had six fireplaces, of which four remain, each differently designed. B. F. McMillan was a collector of first edition books which filled the many ornate bookcases.

Visitors will want to note the original hand tooled hardware, light fixtures and leaded, beveled glass windows. Allegedly, the house laid vacant for a 12-year period, but nothing of value was broken or stolen

Legend has it, that Mrs. McMillan, Sr. concealed three treasures in the home--a seal fur cape, a set of matched emeralds, and B. F.'s coin collection. The cape was found under a drawer in a closet but the whereabouts of the others is unknown.

The house is furnished with many antiques by the Wynias, including a sampler made in 1794 by Mrs. Wynia's great-great-great grandmother and an old sea captain's chest. Mr. Wynia is an attorney by profession and his hobbies are woodworking, glass and ceramics. Many unusual pieces designed and constructed by him are in use by the family. Paintings were done by Mrs. Wynia and her father, and hooked rugs of handspun wool were done by Mrs. Wynia, a Registered Nurse by profession. Much of the woodwork, the ornately curved staircase in particular, have been scraped and refinished by Susan Wynia, daughter of Clyde and Nancy Wynia, with special tools provided and made by Mr. Wynia.



Ada M. (Beebee) McMillan (Wife of B. F. McMillan)



Mr. & Mrs. B. F. McMillan (in front seat of car) Mrs. Harriet McMillan (Mother of B. F.) & Mrs. C. V. McMillan (in back seat)

#### <u>PIONEER</u> WOMAN <u>A LEADER IN McMILLAN</u> <u>COMMUNITY</u> Arpil 16, 1936 Marshfield News Herald

In reviewing the history of one of Marshfield's earliest neighbors, the McMillan settlement, mention must be made of Mrs. B. F. McMillan, whose husband was one of the two brothers that built up the logging industry which flourished here for nearly 40 years.

Ada M. Beebee was born April 17, 1847, at East Constable, New York, the daughter of Amander and Laura (Bell) Beebee, prominent residents of that community, who traced their ancestry to early English settlers in America. She was married April 30, 1873, to Mr. McMillan, who was also a native of New York, having been born Oct. 17, 1845, at Fort Covington, Franklin County. His parents were David S. and Harriet (Barbour) McMillan.

The McMillans had left New York in 1864 for Portage County, Wisconsin, where the father and sons engaged in manufacturing lumber. The products of the mill at Sharon were sent down the Wisconsin River to Keokuk, Iowa, where a retail yard was maintained. B. F. McMillan had been in charge of that yard from 1868 to 1870. In 1873 the father retired from business and died shortly afterward.

#### Kept Boarding House

Included in the camp which the McMillan brothers built up in southwestern Marathon County in 1874 was a boarding house, which also served as the home of the millowners. Although untrained for the position, Mrs. McMillan readily adapted herself to frontier life, and soon became the capable manager of the boarding house.

Their only child, Laura Bell, was born in 1876 and lived only six months. She was taken for burial to Stevens Point, where Mr. McMillan's mother still lived at that time.

Among the early settlers of the community who recall Mrs. McMillan's pioneering achievements is Mrs. Ferdinand Greta, now of St. Paul, who visited relatives here last summer. Included in her reminiscenses of the time when she came as a bride of 18 to the north woods were happy memories of the days spent with Mrs. McMillan at the boarding house and of visits made by Mrs. McMillan, who traveled on horseback to minister to the sick or carry food and clothing to the needy.

"Mrs. Frank McMillan was a real lady, if there ever was one," she said, "and she never let anyone feel that she thought herself better than any of the rest of us."

#### Built Home in 1892

In 1891 the Lakeshore Railroad was built from Marshfiled to Wausau, through the settlement, and McMillan Station was established. The following year the McMillan home was built--one of the first in Central Wisconsin--where Mr. McMillan gathered a wonderful collection of books, specializing in first editions. The place became famed for its hospitality, with Mrs. McMillan as its gracious hostess.

An attack of pneumonia proved fatal to Mr. McMillan on Nov. 12, 1918, and Mrs. McMillan died Aug. 29, 1924, after a lingering illness. Both passed away in their home at McMillan, and were buried in the family lot in Stevens Point.



#### Nieces & Nephews of B. F. McMillan

Left to right in picture: F. S. McMillan, son of Richard H. McMillan; Mrs. Thorton Green, Sr., formerly Anna McMillan, daughter of C. V. McMillan; Maude Margerite McMillan, daughter of Henry S. McMillan; Henry McMillan, son of C. V. McMillan. B. F. McMillan in mirror.

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#### MRS. HARRIET B. McMILLAN (Mother of B. F. & C. V. McMillan) 1911

Mrs. Harriet B. McMillan was the wife of David Stiles McMillan, one of the oldest pioneers of Portage County, Wisconsin. Mrs. Harriet McMillan was born in Orwell, Vermont, November 22, 1815. Her mother, Mrs. Joseph Barbour, was the daughter of Lord McIlroff of Ireland. In 1835 at Fort Covington, N.Y., she was married to Mr. McMillan, and lived in Malone, N.Y. where Mr. McMillan was a prominent manufacturer of woolen goods until 1864, when they came to Portage County. Here he founded an extensive lumber industry, milling and shipping his produce down the river to Keokuk, Iowa.

Mrs. Harriet B. McMillan was the mother of B. F. McMillan and lived at this home for several years prior to her death. She lived to the ripe old age of 96.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

#### SIX GENERATIONS OF MCMILLANS WHO LIVED IN THE VILLAGE OF MCMILLAN

Harriet B. McMillan (Mother of B. F. & C. V. McMillan)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Van Vechten McMillan Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Franklin McMillan (Both couples lived in the original house.)

Anna Louise McMillan (C. V. McMillan's daughter) She was born in Stevens Point and taken to McMillan at six weeks of age. The C. V. McMillans built a cottage to the south (where the windmill stood) and moved over there when the other three children were born. 2. Marquerite (Born at McMillan)

Charles Henry (Born at Fond du Lac)
Catherine (Born at Fond du Lac)

Thornton A. Green, & wife Mildred (Mona)

Anne McMillan Green Joan Chandler Green Charles McMillan Green, II

Children of Anne & Joan Green

#### Charles Van Vechten McMillan



Mrs. C. V. (Kate Ann Prentice) McMillan with great grandaughters Anne & Joan Green June, 1937 C. V.'s Daughter (Anna McMillan) Mrs. Thorton A. Green, Sr.







THORTON A. GREEN, JR.

Thorton A. Green, Jr. came to McMillan in Feb. 1934. He rode a boxcar, loaded with household belongings, over 100 sheep and 2 riding horses--at a so-called "immigrant" freight rate.

Mona came with Anne (2) and Joan (5 mo.) in the spring.

Thorton was an innovative farmer. He was one of the first to grow alfalfa for hay and was also the first to chop hay and blow it into silo (wet) or hay mow (dry). (See pictures below.)

He built a large dairy barn with no haymow posts or beams. The barn was supported by beams bolted in diamond pattern; it was taken down and moved in early 60's.







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Copy of an article appearing in the Marshfield News Index, Marshfield Wisconsin - July 14, 1931

#### THRIVING LUMBER INDUSTRY ONCE FLOURISHED AT MCMILLAN

#### BROTHERS STAKED OUT SITE IN 1873

#### Central Wisconsin Provided Rich Belt of Timber for Sawmills

By 1891 the lumber industry in the Town of McMillan attained flourishing heights. Seventeen years before that date, in 1873, two brothers, B. F. McMillan and C. V. McMillan, laid the foundation for an industry that subsequently developed into a prosperous enterprise.

For miles around the townsite of McMillan, rich belts of timber furnished what seemed an inexhaustible supply of material for the McMillan sawmills. In these woods, camped in log shanties, were congregated crews of men who were engaged in cutting down the trees and sawing the logs into various lengths; others were busy skidding the logs and hauling them on immense sleighs from the skidway down to the river, where they would be unloaded either on the ice, or else put on rollways on the river banks, from whence at the opening of the river in spring to be tumbled into the swift running stream.

#### Logs Sent Down River

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 freed from their imprisoning coat of ice, and spring floods were on hand to carry the logs to the mill. 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 went surging and hurtling, sometimes halting at an obstruction, as if in hesitation, and piling up in wide masses, then rushing onward again with greater momentum than before.

The drama of the forest and the early day sawmill might be written around the adventures of any pioneer lumbermen, but it is the activities of the McMillan Brothers with which this story, largely concerns itself.

Located on the banks of the Little Eau Pleine river, about five miles north of Marshfield, is the village of McMillan. It takes its name from B. F. McMillan C. V. McMillan, brothers, who invaded territory as early as 1873. Their location there was more of an accident than design. For some time previous to their visit to McMillan they had contemplated the purchase of a sawmill at a point near the present site of Dancy.

Like shrewd businessmen they concluded first to investigate the timber resources of the surrounding country. Strapping to their backs the woodsmen's kit, they started out, and after several days journey through the trackless forests brought up late one afternoon on the banks of the Little Eau Pleine. They came out at a point where the river gracefully bends; below them were the falls over which the water rushes with thundering notes,

## LOGGING IN THE VILLAGE OF MCMILLAN



1880





Man with hat next to tree is Robert Hahn.

1890

while above them the stream was lost in a mass of foliage that overhung the stream.

#### Had Little Capital

It was a picturesque spot; nature had done much for it. Vast forests of valuable timber lined the banks of the river on either side, heightening the impression that the spot was designed with a view of utilizing it for a purpose such as they had in contemplation. After a serious talk as to chances of the venture, they concluded to drive their stakes just a little below frost line was reached.

They had little capital in the usual interpretation of the word, but made up the deficiency in that direction with any amount of pluck and energy. It stood them in hand. They had taken upon themselves a contract that less courageous men would weaken before. The undertaking necessitated considerable outside capital, a condition difficult enough to meet at any time, but increased a hundred fold at the time they needed it.

#### Financial World Disturbed

Jay Cooke, the veteran of Wall Street, had just played his last card in the game of bluff on the street and lost. Failure after failure followed in quick succession. The financial world was disturbed to the very center. The panic of '73 was just in its incipiency. Money was close, and difficult to secure at any price. Such was the condition that confronted the McMillan brothers, at the outset. The McMillans, however, were not to be deterred by causes such as these. They knew before they engaged in the undertaking that there was much to contend with and prepared to contest theirs, inch by inch, if necessary. The low ebb of the money market caused their cheeks to blanch, but fact is they would and did.

It required earnest perseverance. Clouds of discouragement hung threatening over the horizon of their hopes. There were days and weeks of uncertainty, but reward came. The clouds broke. The necessary capital was secured in March, 1874, and they commenced the work of building.

#### Vast Supplies of Timber

The sawmill was located just at the end of the falls, a double rotary saw was introduced, and that fall 1,000,000 feet of pine was sawed out. The brothers organized under the firm name of B. F. McMillan & Brother. Four townships, heavily timbered with pine and hardwood, tributary to the Little Eau Pleine, furnished their supply. During the winter months camps were introduced in the woods and landings established on the river banks. Crews of men were employed, the timber cut into logs, hauled to the landing and in the spring when the ice went out, the drive to the mill, a distance of 15 to 20 miles, began. Careful and prudent business methods characterized the work of the firm from the outset. Personal attention was given to the details of the business.

B. F. McMillan, the senior member of the firm, gave his close attention to the drive, and could ride a log with any of the many men under his charge. He often gave visitors a brief description of the methods of log drivers, while at their work. To more clearly explain the matter, he would



make a short tour of a large number of logs lying idly in the pond, waiting the summons of the saw.

#### First Years Brought Trials

The first years, brought many trials to the McMillan brothers, but the results were sufficient to place the company on a good financial basis. Outstanding obligations were met and with that burden off their shoulders progress seemed sure and certain. Additional land interests were secured, the capacity of the mill increased, and the number of employees multiplied. In 1879 a planing mill was added to the plant and with a set of three machines, an improved grade of lumber was offered for sale.

As the business began to increase the firm felt more and more the impediment arising from insufficient shipping facilities. Every foot of lumber had to be hauled by team to Mannville, a distance of three and one half miles and from there shipped to points destined. How to overcome this was a question, serious from whatever point viewed. The only solution offered was to secure a railroad line to the mill. The railroad could not be induced to construct the line. The building of a private road was a questionable undertaking. Logging by railroad, while today thoroughly established on a firm basis, was at that time in its infancy and of doubtful tenure. It was, however, the only resource open to them if old methods were to be abolished. Therefore, in 1881, the project of building a private line to Mannville was undertaken and carried out. It proved to be a success and a valuable feeder for the mill. Several years later a bandsaw took the place of the double rotary saw, and at the present time from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet of lumber was being manufactured annually.

#### Watched Market Closely

The firm, always wide awake and alert, took every advantage of favorable changes in the market. For a number of years attention was given to the manufacture of staves, but when oak took an upward turn in the market the timber was too valuable as lumber and the business was abandoned. In 1882 they located a plant at Ashland and after successfully conducting it for several years closed it out at a good figure. In addition to these ventures, others, independent of the manufacture of lumber, were engaged in. Profitable investments were made in California and a large stock farm was established at McMillan. The farm comprised 250 acres of improved and cleared land. It was stocked with blooded horses and was considered one of the best, if not the best in northern Wisconsin. A private race track was built and other improvements were contemplated.

#### Picking Stock No Easy Task

His experience in the mercantile line extended to now and then a purchase on the outside of a counter in a neighboring store. In the purchase of the stock he enlisted the services of the head bookkeeper, possible for the reason that he did not know anymore about it than Charley himself. After consulting all sorts of catalogues they started making a list of items they wanted. They passed safely through the crisis of selecting the grocery stock, managed to overcome certain obstacles in the boot and shoe line, and got through the dry goods stock after being hung up for a time on the gent's furnishing goods stock. The dry goods stock was approached with misgivings. They were correct in their conjectures that



Old Logging Camp Town of McMillan

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Between 150 and 200 men were employed by the concern and during 17 years they had engaged in business there, the record of broken limbs figured up to only two, while only two or three workmen met with accidents in the mill and none of them sustained serious injuries.

#### No Fires In Yards

The property has been a bonanza for insurance companies. The firm placed more faith in protection by insurance, though in all their experience they have not had a single fire to look back to. Only the greatest amount of caution can prevent losses from causes such as that. The class of material handled and sawdust spread about, is easily ignited from sparks from a passing engine, a smoke stack or a brush heap in a distant field or wood. So constantly does the danger recur that Frank McMillan has a scent for it. Many a time has the plant been saved from this very fact. At one incident McMillan was returning from dinner and was following a somewhat circuitous route to the office. As he passed a storeroom he raised his head, gave two or three sniffs of the ozone and remarked, "Where's that fire?" He was frank to admit to those accompanying him that he didn't know, but before the opportunity was offered to say so, his eye quickly caught up the surrounding neighborhood and discovered a fire nicely started in an old dry stump under the store building. A few minutes more would have given it a start on the inside where it might easily have remained undiscovered until it had attained such headway as to threaten destruction of the entire plant.

#### Brothers Own Fine Homes

The McMillans moved their families early to their new location and no pleasanter homes can be found than those presided over by the ladies. Boating, riding, driving, well filled libraries and a variety of other things furnish delightful entertainment.

The present is promising for the firm. In addition to their mill plant they have a large furniture factory in Fond du Lac in which they are making a high grade article for chamber suites and tables. The plant was acquired about a year ago and has been increased in capacity since then. The buildings were of solid brick and were three stories high. Three hundred men are employed there. At McMillan improvements are also being made that represent a large outlay of capital.

A large crew of men are now at work on a new line of railroad which extends north of McMillan for a distance of 10 miles. The survey is a direct route for Merrill, Wisconsin, though whether the road will ever be extended north farther than the present terminus is not known. The roadbed is graded up in first class shape, it is well tied and presents the appearance of a first class, standard road, in every respect. In looking it over or riding over it, we cannot repress the suspicion that there is a future in which the new road will be extended north and Marshfield will receive another feeder through its means. A substantial railroad bridge



CHERRY SALT & LINE SALUDID IN

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#### Laying Out New Town Site

Another departure taken by the firm is one that is both enterprising and precautionary. It is the laying out of a new townsite of a distance of from 40 to 60 rods from the store. The increase in the mill force necessitates additional homes for men and their families, and Mr. McMillan concluded to locate a town for that purpose. It is situated between the two tracks on a level piece of ground that has been sub-divided into large lots, Wide streets have been laid out and 15 houses are now in progress of erection under the supervision of Charles Schilling.

The streets will be graded nicely, shade trees set out and walks built. It is but a short distance from the river, which will be practically cleared of logs as soon as the new road is completed, thus offering better opportunity for boating. The river bank at this point is high, the river accessible and navigable for many miles. The banks, lined with trees and vines, lends a pretty effect to the picture. There is talk of a small steam yacht being put on the river which will certainly heighten the pleasure of this rural retreat.

There is a charm about McMillan, its people, its location, the push and energy displayed that makes it inviting to all who visit here.

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#### Historical Notes

- 1871 The Central Railroad (Soo Line) was completed from Menasha to Stevens Point.
- 1872 The City of Marshfield came out of the woods on April 1, 1872 when Louis Rivers, its founder, arrived from Neceedah with his brother, Frank, and began clearing a site for his first "hotel," a spacious log building.
- 1885 The Germans of Marshfield have a theater every two weeks, the actors of which are our own citizens. They are much more enterprising than the Yankees who have been trying for two years to organize a company for home amusement and as yet have not accomplished any.

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#### ANOTHER TWO YEARS FOR THE MCMILLAN MILL

#### Feb. 13, 1904

After trying for the last 15 years to clean up the timber contiguous to the McMillan sawmill the end is now in sight. While in this city last week Mr. McMillan was asked concerning the present winter's work and said they were getting in a very fine lot of logs and with weather permitting would bank seven or eight million fees for next summer's saw. "It is the beginning of the end" said the pioneer lumberman" and another two years at the longest the mill will close down for good. It was 40 years ago when I began in the lumber business; 38 years of which I have operated the old mill that will soon be left for the swallows to nest in. During this time the mill has cut off an average of 8,500,000 a year or a total of 300,000,000. That is a pile of lumber if it could be seen piled in one yard but the end is in sight. Another two years and we will accomplish what we have been trying to do the last fifteen years, that is to saw the last log." The McMillan Mill, like the Connor Mill at Auburndale, was the first to be built in the early days of this section.

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#### Historical Notes

- 1879 Schooling It wasn't until this year, 1879, that schooling became compulsory in Wisconsin and then only 12 weeks a year for children between ages 7 and 12.
- 1882 The Barbers have formed a combination to put the price of a shave up to 15 cents.

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#### THE FINAL LOG DRIVE - TWENTY YEARS ON THE EAU PLEINE

1893

(Copy taken from an old newspaper clipping.)

Over 150,000,000 feet of logs have been run down the Little Eau Pleine and cut into lumber.

Within the next few weeks B. F. McMillan & Bros. will commence their last drive of logs on the Little Eau Pleine, finishing up a cut which is approximated at over 150,000,000 feet and represents a product of \$1,000,000 or more, that has been floated down this stream to their plant alone in the past twenty years. The drive, which will last about four days, will be made the occasion of a pleasant outing for B. F. McMillan and family as well as several friends who will occupy berths in a wangan or boathouse built upon a raft of logs. The party will start in near Spencer and follow the driving crew down until the mill is reached. The outing is full of promise of enjoyment as exciting as it is rare. In all the manifold labor that falls to the woodsman from the moment that he swings the axe with deadly assault on the trunks of the towering giants of the forest until it comes forth from the mill cut to meet the requirements of the market, there is not part of his duty so exciting and dangerous as the river work. The men who follow this calling in the spring after the woods work is done, must be cool, quick and accurate, for their lives frequently pay the penalty of any error made. A low approximation is one in every two hundred log drivers lose their lives by drowning during the season. Mr. B. F. McMillan, who has always given his personal attention to the work, has had between four and five hundred men employed during the past twenty years and enjoys the rare satisfaction of knowing that not one life has been lost during that time, though prompt and energetic methods were more than once necessary to make this record possible. B. F. is an all-around riverman himself and rides a log as

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gracefully as a swan floats upon the bosom of the lake and one of the treats he promises his wangan party is an exhibition of his skill in handling the fickle log. It will be entertainment now, but in the days of yore it meant life or death to many a poor fellow who missed his calculations and was floundering around in the water beyond his depth on a cold day in March.

Speaking of this phase of the subject to the writer a few years ago, Mr. McMillan said "Some of my boys have had very close calls." One who had been driving the river for ten years was coming down on a log and jumping for another miscalculated. I always supposed he could swim and thought nothing of the chance he was taking until he went under with a yell that meant death in every vibration. I was one hundred feet away and got to him just in time. As he came up his arm fell over a log near him while another pushed forward by me caught the other arm as it came down and wedged between the two supported him until a rescue was effected. Many were the experiences of a similar character, and even worse when we have had to threaten with sudden death with the pike pole to bring them out of their stupidity, resulting from the cold water bath, to a realizing sense of their danger. One moment's hesitation meant a death. The old drivers have little use for the suckers, or new men when they pretend to be other than they are. An incident of that order is found in a man who claiming six years experience started in and was a failure in all he undertook. I watched him pretty carefully but one day he got in and it was a hard fight to save him as he fought desperately and threatened to drown us both. Right in the midst of the struggle one of the old men who had grown more and more disgusted with the pretensions made, sung out, "Frank, let him go, let him go, he's no good anyway," but we got him out.

The danger to life is greatly augmented because the men are scattered so. The logs generally stretch for a mile and a half up and down the river

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and it requires constant activity on the part of the men to keep things moving. This scattering of forces is a strong temptation to shirk and Mr. Mac said that he could never overcome it until he hit upon the plan of climbing a tall tree commanding the work, from which elevation he could watch the men and they knew it. A new man coming up the river met an Indian working away for dear life, said, "What you working so hard for, where's Frank?" "I dunno, I dunno, replied the Indian without stopping "Spec him up tree."

The days of driving are now largely giving way to railroading and the drives on the other streams will, like those of the Eau Pleine, soon pass into history.

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#### POTAWATOMIS by: Esther Schalow

For many years prior to 1875, there was a village with a population of 400 Indians located in Section 31 & 32 in the Township of Day., Marathon County. This land was later purchased by a Mr. Otto Saunders who asked the Indians to leave as they had no legal title to the land. The Indians refused to move, so the settlers set fire to the Wigwams and destroyed the village. From this place, the Indians moved to the Little Eau Pleine River at McMillan and Riverside.

For years after the white settlers came to this territory, they were outnumbered by Indians. However, through the influx of white settlers, they were soon crowded out of their hunting grounds and villages.

Wood County was inhabited by bands of Potawatomis during the entire latter half of the last century. In the year 1899, they started scattering, but a number of families stayed around Skunk Hill, now Powers Bluff near Arpin, Wis.

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Copied from the Stevens Point Journal - Stevens Point, WI, Friday, November 15, 1918.

#### FUNERAL SERVICES FOR B. F. MCMILLAN

#### Business Associates and Friends Join in Tribute

#### Burial at Stevens Point

The following account of the funeral of B. F. McMillan, a brother of C. V. McMillan of this city (Fond du Lac), is taken from the Stevens Point Journal of the issue of Friday, Nov. 15.

The remains of B. F. McMillan were laid to rest in Forest cemetery in this city at 3:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon. Brief services were held at the family home in McMillan in the forenoon and then the remains were brought here, accompanied by members of the family and a delegation of Marshfield men with whom he had been associated in business and a social way. Walter Elexander, C. C. Yawkey, B. Heineman, L. A. Pradt, C. S. Gilbert, F. P. Stone, A. L. Kreutzer and M. C. Ewing of Wausau and O. Bacheewiig of Mosinee were also present coming down in automobiles.

The remains were taken directly from the train to the cemetery, where the Episcopal burial service was conducted by Rev. E. Croft Gear of the Church of the Intercession. The floral offerings were many and beautiful. The pallbearers were selected from among his business associates of Marshfield and Wausau.

Among the relatives, besides the widow, who attended the services were the following: Charles V. McMillan and wife of Fond du Lac and their son and two daughters, C. H. McMillan of Fond du Lac, Mr. & Mrs. Thorton A. Green of Washington, D.C., and Mrs. Welch Walker, whose husband is in the Army. F. S. McMillan, Fond du Lac, another nephew was present, also Mrs. C.C. Conlisk of Fond du Lac and Mr. & Mrs. A. E. Beebe of McMillan. Mrs. S. B. Powell, the only surviving sister of the deceased, was unable to attend the services.

A brief sketch of Mr. McMillan's business career after coming to Portage County in 1865, at which time he was 20 years old, was given in a recent issue of the Journal. Commencing in a small way, with a capital of \$5,000 in 1873, when in company with his brother Charles V., they established a saw mill in the dense forest in which the village of McMillan is now located, he came to be known as one of the most active and wealthiest businessmen in central Wisconsin. He sawed the first and last log that went through their saw mill, and he was also postmaster of the office that bore his name. He was first appointed by President Hayes and although an active republican, held the office through all succeeding administrations up to the time of his death.

The saw mill business was conducted under the firm name of McMillan Brothers and for five years they hauled the lumber to Mannville, then in 1878 they built a railroad spur three and a half miles in length to that station, using their locomotives in operating the little road. In 1880 or 1881 they added the stave mill and planer and the general store in 1888. Securing the Lake Shore Railroad in 1890, which established a station near their mills, and named it McMillan, the brothers about that time built a nine-mile logging road, reaching through the township of Eau Pleine, and penetrated their own lumber land. The McMillan Brothers owned land in California. Other industries followed. In 1885 they established a cold and warm storage house in Ashland, under the firm name of McMillan Bros. & Co., which they managed four years, the last year handling produce to the value of \$600.000. In 1890 McMillan Brothers purchased the plant formerly owned by C. J. L. Meyer at Fond du Lac and incorporated it as the Winnebago Furniture Company, with a capital of \$200,000 and with C. V. McMillan as president, B. F. McMillan as vice-president and E. R. Herren as secretary and treasurer. In 1899 B. F. McMillan began the breeding of fine horses, and had a valuable stable of thoroughbreds.

Principal among his interests at the time of his death were extensive tracts of timberland in Lousiana and California, stock in the Wausau Sulphate-Fibre Company of Mosinee, of which he was the treasurer, in the Marathon Paper mills of Rothschild, in the First National Bank of Marshfield, of which he was the president, and a number of other enterprises.

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# MCMILLAN COMMUNITY ONCE SITE OF THRIVING SAWMILL

(Mfld. News Herald, April 15, 1936)

Reference has been made in these articles to the fact that Mannville outdistanced Marshfield in early development. Another community which closely followed Mannville in development was McMillan, where the mill was opened in 1874 and shut down for the last time in 1911.

The following article published in a Marshfield paper in 1911 gives a review of the history of the McMillan operations:

Mr. and Mrs. C. V. McMillan of Fond du Lac, Mrs. Thornton Green of Ontonagon, Mich., Miss Catherine McMillan of Fond du Lac and Miss Winifred Prentice of Cement, Oklahoma, arrived at McMillan Thursday, coming from Fond du Lac by automobile for a family reunion held that day at the home of Mr. & Mrs. B. F. McMillan. The gathering also marked another important event in the history of the village and the sawmill that was built there 37 years ago by B. F. and built there 37 years ago by B. F. and C. V. McMillan as on that day it was closed down never to start again.

#### Pioneer Institution

The mill has been operated continuously every year since that time and has converted into building material a forest of timber. It was the third mill to be built on the line of the Wisconsin Central between Stevens Point and Ashland and in consequence is reckoned among the pioneer institutions of its kind in this part of Wisconsin. In later years the Northwestern Railroad was built through the place but this luxury did not come until long after civilization had been established.

The McMillan brothers, then robust young men, came to these parts in 1873 and during the week of the great panic that year were engaged in looking for a timber supply for the starting of a sawmill. The first night out they slept in a haystack near Unity and a week later came out of the

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woods striking the Wisconsin Central track in what is now known as the Adler addition in this city. Their next move was to buy a site and build a mill which they did where the mill now stands.

The building of the mill was begun in March, 1874, and completed the following July. During the winter previous their first log cut was made, consisting of 800,000 feet which was floated down the river to the mill site. The first logging was done on Section 2, Town 27, Range 2 East.

#### **Operated 37 Years**

On starting the mill, C. V. McMillan sawed the first log and, as a fitting finale to a most prosperous business, he was present Thursday and sawed the last one, a period of 37 elapsing between the first and last. The first lumber sawed was hauled by team to Mannville for shipment but, this proving too slow, a railroad was built, the rails being made of wood which were later replaced by steel. In addition to the building of the road, they have since built a steam logging road of 18 or 20 miles to their different camps and gave up the idea of water transportation.

From the beginning, the enterprise was a success with but few accidents and no serious fires to stop the wheels of progress. On many occasions, the mill has been on fire but at no time was it ever burned; the heaviest losses by the fire happening in the woods to their rollaways. Another strange thing connected with the mill is that, during the 37 years not an accident causing death happened. Two men were drowned in the pond and three men killed in the woods.

The land on which the mill site and village of McMillan stands is a part of a solid body of 1300 acres, 200 acres of which has been cleared of all stumps and is one of the finest farms in Marathon County. The other 1100 acres is in pasture and of which, as time goes on, will be cleared and turned into one large farm.

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Tractor Clearing Land In The 1930's Jake Felton & Frank Ratzburg



Otto Luther Horse and Carriage - 1917

# <u>McMILLAN</u> <u>VILLAGE IN PINERIES BUILT AROUND MILL PLANT</u> (Taken from the Wausau Daily Record Herald, 1934)

# Late B. F. McMillan Greatly Impressed With Dairying Resources of Section

#### COLONIZED LARGE AREA

# "Mansion" Now Occupied By Grand Nephew; Will Build Up Sheep Ranch

Years before Marshfield became a settlement, McMillan was a thriving community. The Wisconsin Central Railroad was extended to the western boundary line of Marathon County in 1871 and 1872, and in the fall of 1873, Benjamin F. and Charles V. McMillan, sons of David Stiles McMillan, an experienced lumberman, whose operations had been extensive, tramped through the pine forests of Wisconsin looking for a desirable site for a sawmill, and with \$5,000 capital for their enterprise.

B. F. McMillan was born at Fort Covington, N.Y. October 17, 1845, and attended school until he was eighteen years of age. He then assisted in his father's business until the latter's retirement in 1873. The family had left New York in 1864 and located at Sharon, Portage County, where David S. McMillan, the father, had erected a mill and rafted lumber down the Wisconsin River to Keokuk, Iowa. The father died at Stevens Point in 1883.

In the spring of 1874, B. F. and Charles V. McMillan built a sawmill in southwestern Marathon County on a bend in the Little Eau Pleine River and amidst a virgin growth of tall pine, the flawless boards and timber from which found a ready market. The channel of the Little Eau Pleine at this bend was dammed to provide a mill pond. They had purchased 800,000 feet of pine in 1873 in that vicinity and the cut from this was hauled to Mannville, a station on the present Soo Railroad, which station an early historian in 1881 described as "a rather new place, mostly filled with Americans--almost 200 in number. It has two schools, two or more stores, with boarding houses, sawmills, a shingle mill and a planing mill. It is on the Wisconsin Central Railroad and has the elements of growth and prosperity."

#### Built Own Railroad

The McMillan brothers were unsuccessful in getting the Milwaukee Lake Shore and Western Railroad, which completed its line from the east into Wausau in 1880, to build to McMillan at that early date, nor did they succeed in having a spur extended from the Soo Line. Consequently in 1878, they built a railroad spur three and one-half miles in length from their village to Mannville. They hauled lumber over this line with their own locomotive, known as "Snorting Bill," and which old settlers recall was as "long as it was wide." Two years later they built a planing mill and a stave mill, and in 1888, they established a store. The Lake Shore Railroad extended its line to that community in 1890 and erected a depot which was later destroyed by fire and which was replaced with a box car.

The McMillan brothers built a nine-mile logging road into the town of Eau Pleine to March Rapids. First, this was of narrow gauge and later the line was rebuilt standard gauge. The road beds of both the McMillan lines, the one to March Rapids, the other to Manville, are still recognizable to the old settlers but are now grown over with brush and trees. In 1890, they purchased the plant at Fond du Lac, formerly owned by C. J. L. Meyer, and they formed the Winnebago Furniture Manufacturing Company with a capital of \$200,000, with C. V. McMillan as president, B. F. McMillan as vice president and E. R. Herren as secretary-treasurer. C. V. McMillan retained his business interest in the partnership at McMillan and was also interested with his brother in California and southern lands, the McMillan Brothers and Company Cold Storage House at Ashland, and in other enterprises.

# First Band Saw

Their sawmill at McMillan was rigged up with a band saw, the first in the pinery, and also the first manufactured by the E. P. Allis Manufacturing Company of Milwaukee. The mill sawed an average of 10,000,000 feet for the thirty-seven years of its operation or a total of 370,000,000 feet, including hemlock. In 1880, the mill started to cut some hardwood, which at that time was very low in price, selected red oak lumber, clear and twelve inches wide, bringing only \$17 per thousand at that time at Milwaukee. The firm sold 400,000 feet of basswood for \$4.50 per thousand, half of the purchase price being paid in woolen goods, the other half in money. Later, the firm found a ready market for hardwoods, and one of its many shipments of curly birch was exported to Germany.

# Started With Oxen

In early years the McMillans operated with oxen. Later horses were substituted and B. F. McMillan took a great interest in them. In addition to his draft teams, he had a stable of thoroughbreds and on his 1,400 acre farm and mill tract, he had a half-mile race track on which his trotting horses were given workouts. His farm was run as a hobby and included three large barns, the largest of these, 70 X 100 feet, having been built for his trotting horses. This later was converted into a dairy barn. A mediumsized barn was used for his large draft horses and a smalller barn for his carriage horses. The contour of the race track is still observable in the plowed field. The buildings are all of pine construction and in good condition considering their age.

The McMillan village was incorporated in November, 1891. G. H. Reynolds, at that time bookkeeper for the firm, was its first representative on the county board of supervisors. The population of the village was almost entirely limited to the owners of the mill and their employees. The population shortly after the incorporation reached 200, but gradually declined. The sawmill continued operations until 1911, after which time the population gradually left and the dwellings were sold and moved to other locations.

The old school record of 1875 is still intact and is at present in the possession of the town school treasurer, August Luchterhand. The record shows that B. F. McMillan had been school treasurer in that year, Mrs. B. F. McMillan school clerk and V. C. McMillan director, and that school matters were discussed and transacted as they met for their meals from day to day.

When the township in which the village had been platted was detached from the town of Spencer, it was in turn named, "McMillan," which name it bears today.

#### Bred Horses

B. F. McMillan began the breeding of fine horses in 1889, and later he built up a fine herd of from forty to fifty registered Holstein milk cows. One year he raised considerable grain and had a herd of fifteen hogs which he slaughtered and fed to the men at his camps. He had two barns for this purpose.

In early days, he left considerable timber on the lands he logged. He sold these lands to settlers, and he brought a large number of Polish and German farmers into the towns of McMillan, Spencer and Eau Pleine. These men worked in his sawmill and in his camps and worked Sundays and nights to clear their farms, their families doing the remainder of the work.

McMillan took a keen interest in many of his employees and in those who had purchased lands from his company. When one of these was unable to meet a bill incurred through illness or death of a member of the family, he would frequently endorse the obligation and make it possible for the employee to pay it gradually out of his wages. August Luchterhand, who came to that section in 1880, worked twenty-two years for the firm. At first he piled slabs, then he was fireman in the boiler room of the mill, and he next was urged by Mr. McMillan to become a lumber inspector. He reluctantly accepted the new responsibility, and worked twenty-five years at scaling and grading the lumber. He recalls that McMillan would accompany his men on the drive and remain with them during any crisis.

#### Liberal But Exacting

He was liberal to his men although exacting in business dealings. Practically all of the 100 families to whom he had sold land remained settlers. In direct contrast to this was a colony of settlers in the Town of Spencer who had purchased lands and who found it necessary to pay freight charges on household effects, to enable them to return to Chicago because they were unable to maintain themselves under these primitive farming conditions and without employment such as the McMillan brothers provided in their sawmill and camps.

In all these early colonies, hardships and suffering were general. The nearest doctor was at Stevens Point and the death rate of infants was high. The fittest survived and a race of strong men and women thus developed.

#### Refused To Sell

B. F. McMillan was approached many times to sell blocks of land near his village for platting, but he refused. Had he conceded, the history of the community of McMillan would possibly have been very different. The settlement consisted of two distinct parts, one known as the old town, which was south of the mill and had approximately fifteen houses, and the other known as the new town with about eight homes. Buildings that remain today include the B. F. McMillan "mansion," the cottage occupied by C. V. McMillan until his departure for Fond du Lac in 1890, the office building, the boarding house, the sleeping shanty, both of which buildings are two stories high and the lumber in which is still of value, the blacksmith shop, the barns and several dwellings. One of the latter was used by a tenant following the death of Mrs. B. F. McMillan ten years ago. Her husband died at the close of World War I, after a short illness of pneumonia. Friends had suggested that he leave the mansion and the responsibilities involved in his large holdings at McMillan, but he steadfastly refused and said he would spend the rest of his days at that home. Six months ago a grandson of C. V. McMillan, Thornton Green, of Natchez, Miss., located in the mansion, with the intentions of again developing the farm. He has brought in 140 sheep, which number will be increased if conditions are favorable. The farm at present consists of 1,170 acres, of which 250 acres are under plow. The mansion is being remodeled for the use of Mr. and Mrs. Green and includes fourteen rooms, all finished in curly birch, carefully selected for this purpose at the McMillan mill when the mansion was built in 1890.

The furniture from the McMillan household had been sold after the death of Mrs. McMillan, and some of the pieces are still in the neighborhood, treasured by the old settlers. It was of distinctive style as the McMillan family was cultured. C. V. McMillan, who died about ten years ago at Fond du Lac, had been an extensive collector of oriental rugs. Mrs. C. V. McMillan still resides at Fond du Lac and is at present visiting at the Thornton Green home at McMillan. She has three daughters and one son, living. One of the daughters is Mrs. Thornton Green Sr., and was formerly Miss Anna McMillan. Mr. and Mrs. B. F. McMillan had one daughter who died in infancy. Mrs. B. F. McMillan was formerly Miss Ada Beebee, a sister of A. E. Beebee of Marshfield, who was for many years a member of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors from the Town of McMillan and who during all that time was a member of the committee on delinquent taxes, on which subject he was very well informed. Mr. Beebee for many years lived in the cottage at McMillan vacated in 1890 by C. V. McMillan and was general manager of the McMillan lumbering operations.

#### Left One Lone Pine

August Luchterhand recalls that a 160-acre tract of white pine at McMillan was the choicest stand of these trees he had ever seen in his lifetime, and he mentioned that B. F. Mcmillan was careful to allow one of these glorious pines to remain on the river shore, the base of the tree now measuring four feet in diameter.

B. F. McMillan was enthused with the possibilities in central Wisconsin and he is quoted by John Gregory in volume two of a four-volume history of west central Wisconsin as having remarked in 1895 that he knew of land in Portage and Marathon counties which a few years before could have been purchased for \$5 and \$10 an acre that had advanced to \$65 and \$75 an acre. Even the sandy soils, he remarked, are growing potatoes and the "the owners have comfortable bank accounts--all through knowing how to treat it." He added that Marathon, Portage and Waupaca counties have become the richest counties in the state and that the country farther north is just as good, except the Norway pine lands which he classed as good for nothing. He further mentioned that the man with hardwood land finds a ready market for his wood and lumber during the winter months in addition to farm returns and that this section is a paradise for a man of little means and in time will be one of the finest farming sections in the state.

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# LARGE BARN IS BEING BUILT ON McMILLAN FARM Marshfield News Herald - August 1, 1936

One of the largest dairy barns in the state, 36 feet wide and 128 feet long, is under construction at the T. A. Green farm, known as the old McMillan farm, in McMillan township.

The total length of the new structure, including a 16 foot addition to be used for the storage of feed, is 128 feet. The building will be equipped with 60 steel stalls and stanchions, and with drinking cups for cattle.

The roof is of a patent gothic construction, and the building will be electrically ventilated. Set on a concrete foundation, its stable walls are sheathed with beaded ceiling, laid over construction paper, with an inside lining of insulite.

The hay mow will hold 150 tons of hay. The Green farm is stocked with 50 head of purebred and grade holsteins. The barn now in use on the farm will be used to house 130 head of sheep, which Mr. Green says are more profitable than cows at the present time. The present sheep quarters will be converted into a machine shed.

The Green farm comprises 1,120 acres of land, about 250 of which are under cultivation.



# Henry Dethloff in Buggy

40



Edelweiss Cheese Factory About 1940 (Jack Zepplin)



Cheese Makers Family (Dick Ligiphema Family)



Otto Luther 1940 Hauling Milk (Couldn't get through the road)



Cloverdale Cheese Factory (Bought in 1924) Otto Luther Grist Mill R. Kohlbeck



#### McMILLAN ROAD PROJECT

A new road being constructed in the town of McMillan across the site which once was a flourishing sawmill community, is being viewed by the group in the top photo. From left, they are Duane Corbin, Wausau, district game manager; Sylvester Markee, town board member; Fred Reckner, Fred Hahn and Otto Kloehn, former McMillan company employees; Harold Grambow, town board member, and Arthur Scheuer, township chairman.

Otto Kloehn, then 84, and Fred Hahn, then 74, view ruins of the McMillan sawmill where both men were employees until the mill ceased operations about the time of the outbreak of World War I. In the background is the Little Eau Pleine River, once raised to a height of 18 or 20 feet by a dam to hold back a large body of water for floating logs to the sawmill.





# <u>NEW McMILLAN ROAD RECALLS COMMUNITY'S LUMBERING ERA</u> Marshfield News Herald, 1963?

Many items of fact, long stored away as history, are being brought to mind as a new road is being carved into existence as part of a projected McMillan Marsh wildlife area development program.

Requested by the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the road branches off County Highway E, 3 miles north of Marshfield - Marathon County line, and extends three-fourths of a mile west to the Chicago and North Western Railroad right-of-way, which connects Marshfield with Stratford and Wausau.

From the railroad, the highway will continue about one-fourth mile through a proposed parking area, and "from there on," says Arthur Scheuer, McMillan township chairman, "a service road will continue through the area and will have its terminus at the McMillan - Spencer township line. The service road, traversing an area containing some swampy ground, will not be open to the public," Scheuer said.

Cost of development, west of the tracks, will be assumed by the Conservation Department and construction will be under the general supervision of Duane Corbin, Wausau, district game manager.

\* \* \*

West of the tracks the road also will serve as a dike in several places to impound small bodies of water. Engineers will survey the wildlife area this winter; the right-of-way for a service road will be cleared this fall, and road construction will be done in 1964 as soon as conditions permit.

Scheuer said that an estimated \$23,000 has been allocated for the project by the Wisconsin Conservation Department, the money to be made available from state park and cigaret tax funds.

Much of the land west of the tracks in the proposed construction area is owned by the Conservation Department. Some is crop land, planted to food for wildlife, and some is being managed by neighboring farmers under sharecropping agreements.

The McMillan Marsh Wildlife Area is considered by the Wisconsin Conservation Department to be a tie-in project with the Mead Wildlife Area. Observation by residents discloses that at various intervals during the year, deer travel through several townships from the McMillan area to the Mead area. "The development of both areas is expected to help fill need for outdoor recreation in Central Wisconsin," Scheuer said.

The new road cuts through an area where for years before 1913 or 1914, snarling saws set up a high penetrating whine as they bit into pine and hardwood logs cut from nearby timber stands logged by the McMillan interests.

Recollection of those days has faded pretty much from memory, but there are a few "oldtimers" around who engaged in the lumbering pursuit as a means of livelihood, and who recall the McMillan community as it existed before operations dwindled. One of them is Otto Kloehn, Route 4, Marshfield, then 84 years of age, who began working for the McMillan interests at the age of 13, and remained as an employee until the mill closed down. A lumber scaler, Kloehn said he scaled the last carload of logs before operation ceased.

Another is Fred Hahn, Route 4, Marshfield, then 74 years of age, who worked for the McMillan firm about 13 years as a teamster and on the tramway, a logging railway with wooden rails operated by horsepower.

The McMillan firm, according to Kloehn and Hahn, logged along the Eau Pleine and beyond the river course in McMillan, Eau Pleine and Brighton townships.

\* \* \*

Sawyers would go into the woods and drop the trees and saw them into logs. Swampers would then follow and trim off the branches and cut skid trails. Then came the skidders with their horses. Company railroads brought the logs from assembly points to the mill site, where they were stored in booms or reservoirs until floated into the mill to be sawed into demanded sizes.

From McMillan, the lumber moved over a company-owned railroad to Mannville, a community north of Marshfield on Highway 13, where shipments were transferred to the Wisconsin Central Railroad, now the Soo Line.

\* \* \*

The community in those days boasted a sawmill, planing mill, heading mill, lumber yard, a company store, a depot, and from 40 to 60 houses, located on both sides of the Chicago and North Western Railroad tracks. "New Town," west of the tracks, consisted of McMillan Avenue and First, Second and Third streets. "Old Town," east of the tracks, consisted of Railroad Avenue and East Avenue.

A dam across the Little Eau Pleine River created a head of water as high as 20 feet, spreading over an area of more than 15 acres. Fred Hahn recalls that the McMillan company kept a motor boat handy for cruising the small lake created by the dam.

In its golden days, the mill and the community which grew up around it constituted a flourishing settlement. Today, the Eau Pleine at that point is a small stream, and there are only small remnants of the old mill as reminders of the more prosperous and thriving era.

\* \* \* \*

# Marshfield Brick & Tile Co. (about 1920) (Once located on the so-called Brick Yard Road)



Building in foreground (office), behind it the first kiln - an "updraft" The round kilns were called "down drafts."



Pea Viner - 1928



Pea Viner (Corner of Hwy C & Staadt)



TAVERNS IN THE TOWN OF MCMILLAN Riverside Tavern 1-Joe Schaeffer, 4-Gust Tews, 9-Mike Fischer Riverside Store 1-Mrs. Joe Schaefer, Joe Schaefer & ? Riverside Tavern - 1900 No names Riverside Gas Pumps Roman Kohlbeck Riverside Store, Tavern & Gas Before remodeling Station Lavern Luther in truck by Riverside Gas Station









Front <u>Row:</u> Mick Wiltgen, i Suaan Confort, Peter Rodest Mary Lecher holding Matilda Thomas, Mike Lecher, Rose C <u>Top Row:</u> Harry Lecher, 1, John Thomas, 7 7

# TAVERNS IN THE TOWN OF MCMILLAN





Peter Thomas Saloon -- Bartender, Peter Thomas; August Schlagenhaft & John Thomas

Dine & Dance card from the Cotton Club Colton Club Chicken and fancy drinks A specialty 3 MI. North-East of Marshfield, on 97 WM. Silbernagel, prop.

PHONE BLACK 197



<u>Front Row:</u> Nick Wiltgen, Margaret Wiltgen, Susan Confort, Peter Rodesch, Leona Lecher, ?, Mary Lecher holding Matilda, Peter Thomas, Eleanor Thomas, Mike Lecher, Rose Carl, ? <u>Top Row:</u> Harry Lecher, ?, Ethel Thomas, ? ? ? John Thomas, ? ? Peter Thomas Saloon, 1915



Peter Thomas, Jr. at age six playing for the Eagles Convention in 1925.



Cotton Club (Late 1920's) Now Mummy & Kay's

#### TOWN OF MCMILLAN SCHOOLS

Public school districts in McMillan were established in 1891. The first school tax levy for schools in 1892 showed an amount of \$535.55. There were four school districts and two joint school districts, one with the Town of Day and one with the Town of Spencer.

District number one, City View School, was in Section 32, Joint District 2; Dodge School was in Section 25; School District 3, McMillan School was in Section 16; Joint District 5, Timlin School, was in Section 7. District 6, Riverside School, was in Section 24; District 4 was dissolved in 1924 and was divided into District 7 and District 8. District 7, East Kerwin, was in Section 1 and District 8 was in Section 3.

The rural schools were dissolved and annexed to Marshfield, Stratford and Spencer school districts between 1953 and 1957.

Dodge, Riverside and Timlin schools were removed from the sites, which reverted to the original parcel of land. The other schools were sold with the site and remodeled into residences.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# (These articles appeared with these pictures in the Marshfield News Herald) About 1954

# Study Election Proceedings

Rural Marathon County grade students learned first hand how election proceedings for a town meeting are run off. In the picture below Art Scheuer, chairman of the Town of McMillan, explains to the children from Riverside and McMillan schools, the procedures being used to Town Clerk Harold Grambow (seated). Others in the pictures from left to right are Gloria Seehafer, Lyle Luchterhand, Douglas Seehafer, Viola Woldt, Diane Hahn and Marathon County Supt. of Schools, W. E. Moore. Picture of school children leaving the bus (at left) to enter the Town Hall.







# MARATHON COUNTY'S SMALLEST SCHOOL McMillan Township - City View School

Four classes are represented among the five pupils comprising the entire enrollment of the City View school in the Town of McMillan to give the school the smallest enrollment in Marathon County. Harold Wegner, 9, a third-grade pupil, was ill at St. Joseph's Hospital at Marshfield when the above picture was taken but the Oertel sisters and the Sebastian brothers, representing the other two families at the school, are shown here. From left to right they are Norman Sebastian, 6, first grade; Donna Oertel, 6 first grade, and Jeanine Oertel, 9, fourth grade and Siegfried Sebastian, 10, fifth grade. The teacher, Mrs. Wilmer Draheim said the school started with an enrollment of five, increased to eight when two families with three children moved in and was reduced to five again when a family with three children moved away. The school is operated by District #1, Town of McMillan.



Left to right - Azilda Schilling, Doris Frey, Teacher (with face out) L. Back row: Belou, E. Breitenback, Ron Hupe, Howard Harris, Fred Hupe, Roland Hupe, Angeline Luther

2nd row: Glen Vickerman, Marcella Luther, M. Koch, Lucille Kloehn, Melvin Zoellner, Roy Hupe, Gordon Kock, Norman Frey

3rd row: A. Koch, Clara Harris, Melvin Koch, Berdine Luther, Hilda Koch, Roland Frey, Lavern Luther, Colvin twins (Lois & Lenore)

# McMillan School



Dodge School







#### Riverside School

#2 Florence Giles, #3 Dethloff, #4 Taves, #5 Linda Schalloch, #6 Sarah Draheim, #7 Dethloff, #8 ?, #9, Leona Podratz (behind her), #10 ?, #11 Freida Schalloch (ribbon in her hair, #11 Boy Taves, 4th last boy -Howard Schalow. Teacher is unidentified.



# Riverside School - 1924

Front Row: ?, ?, Evelyn Schaefer, Carmont Blackwood, Arnold Tews, Ken Blackwood, Helmuth Tews. 2nd Row: Ramona Blackwood, Elta Schallock, Laura Schallock, Viola Hahn, Amanda Tews.

3rd Row: Victor Dornfeld, Ed Farning, Adolph Hahn, Len McGivern, Melvin Klemme, Roman Wunch, ?.

4th Row: Orville Leverton, Alfred Luchterhand, Laura Hahn, Celia McGivern, Elsie Tews.



<u>City View School</u> Teacher: <u>Miss Leffingwell</u> Top Row: Helen Gehrke, Ernest Krause, Louise Seehafer, Elroy Schlingkert, Ester Draheim, Marie Krah, Eugene Henkel Middle Row: Kermit Sommers, Evert Schlingkert, Chester Seehafer, Robert Gehrke, Verna Sommers, Albert Krause

Front Row: Robert Weinfurtner, Paul Gehrke, Gerald Kroh, Louie Gehrke, Elaine Brukert, Nelda Schlingkert, Floyd Kroh, Wilmer Draheim

City View School





# A Still & Lonely Place

Its paint is peeling, its front door scarred, but this little red schoolhouse on County Road E outside Marshfield has weathered the elements with character. The yard, where once children played, is quiet now, the bare flagpole still standing straight. Tiny daisies and purple thistle grow in tractor-tire sandboxes where sand castles were once built.

# ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 1988



# McMillan Lutheran School in 1890

Peter Mees, who conducted a retail store in Marshfield from 1899 until shortly before his death in 1923, and served as teacher of St. Peter's Lutheran School in the town of McMillan from 1886 to 1899, is shown with Mrs. Mees and his 55 pupils.



# St. Peter's Church Town of McMillan

St. Peter's congregation was organized Dec. 15, 1880, under the leadership of a traveling missionary, the Rev. John Schutte, and the following were chosen to serve on the church board:

John Luchterhand, president; Gustave Schilling, secretary; Frederick Bilgrien, treasurer; Frederick Brandt and Louis Zimmerling, elders; Carl Schilling, Albert Gerwing, and August Zimmerling, trustees.

#### First Church in 1882

On Dec. 11, 1881, the congregation decided to build a log church, 25 by 35 feet, and the structure served from 1882 to 1894 as a house of worship, and as a school from 1894 to 1903, when it was torn down. Peter Mees, who later conducted a retail shop in Marshfield, was the teacher from 1886 to 1899.

Early in 1894 St. Peter's Lutheran congregation of McMillan resolved to replace the old log church which had served for 12 years as their meeting place and parochial school with a new frame building. On June 10th of that year the corner stone was laid.

In 1899 Pastor Thom resigned and Rev. Theo. Engel became the first resident pastor at McMillan. In 1900 the present parsonage was built. In 1904 the congregation purchased a large bell for the church. Lights were installed in 1917 and the church was enlarged and renovated in 1919. Two years later a pipe organ was purchased.

The picture of St. Peters Church & School was taken about 1912. The pastor then was Pastor Paetz. (This school was moved to Marshfield and was remodeled and is located near the fairgrounds.) By: Esther Schalow



# KERWIN SCHOOL



Home of Mr. & Mrs. Gustav Schilling in the Town of McMillan where first church services were held until St. Peters Church was built. The house, erected about 1889, was replaced in 1903.



#### VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT IN THE EARLY YEARS

Mrs. Kay Siemers started making the fire phone calls in June, 1953. Before that time Louise Karrer from the Riverside tavern made the calls. Date is not known when the volunteer fire department was organized. The list of volunteer fireman on the list were as follows: Leonard McGivern, John McGivern, Elroy Fisher, Harry Blackwood, John Hardinger, Harold Felton, Alvin Kloehn, Ruben Luchterhand, Sylvester Markee & Harvey Roehrborn. Picture below: Standing - Alvin Kloehn, Fred Schellenberg, John McGivern, Bert Henseler, Harvey Roehborn, Pat Draheim. Kneeling - Bill Zieghan, Sid Hough, Louie Carr, Sylvester Markee & John Hardinger.





McMillan Fire Department - 1988

Back Left:

Front Row: (L to R) Phil Weinfurtner, Ron Derfus, Bill Guldan, Blair Watt, Greg Zygarlicke, Glen Swensen, Lt. John Weigel Eugene Eckes, Lt. Dale Folz, Capt. Don Griesbach, Tom Senn, Ernie Lurvey, Bob Swenson, Pat Weigel, Dennis Stroetz, Deputy Chief David Swenson, Chief John Bujalski



# IT WAS A GALA OCCASION!

This affair at Kestel Bros. Spot Cash Store sometime around the turn of the century was a gala event, complete with a four-horse hitch on the hayrack and an orchestra. The store was located on the site now occupied by St. Vincent de Paul. Frank Luchterhand's teams (Town of McMillan) brought the most passengers to this event.



PICNIC IN THE MCMILLAN GROVE IN 1923

The women are Regina Felton, Ada Tremelling, alice Krause, Clara Krause. The last man on the picture is Stanley Grabuski.



# ST. PETERS PICNIC AT SNIDER WOODS

PILE OF LOGS TAKEN OFF ROAD - NOW HWY 97 HENRY DETLOFF HAULING LOGS AT 1924 RIVERSIDE







The "Bridge Gang" building Riverside Bridge



The "Bridge Gang" after Riverside Bridge was completed. From left to right: John Goergen, Tony Felton, Albert Tremelling, Tom Grabonski, Joe Felton and Andrew Goergen

# Marshfield News Herald, April 16, 1908, Election Returns

<u>Town McMillan</u>--Supervisors, Ben Lang, chairman, John Widman, Albert Radtke; clerk, Anton Bever; treasurer, Chas. Zahm; assessor, Wm. Hupe; justice, L. J. Boucher, Albert Harris; constables, Peter Nenning, J. C. Arnett, L. A. Pritchard.

Village McMillan--President, B. F. McMillan; trustees, Jos. Welfi, H. C. Vick, Wm. Liebelt; supervisor, A. E. Beebee; clerk, Frank Giles; assessor, Wm. Zellner; treasurer, A. E. Beebee; constable, Otto Kline; justice, W. M. Boucher.



Art Scheuer served as Supervisor, Justice of the Peace, Clerk, County Board Member and Chairman from 1934-1967.



William Hupe, Assessor, 1906-1921 & 1930-1942--He is reported to have walked the township counting cows and other personal property.



# PREPARING BALLOTS FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Ballots were prepared at the Town of McMillan Hall by Harold Felton, William Schultz and William Stroetz in preparation of the state's primary election which had primary races for the Spencer Board of Education and Marathon County Board of Supervisors representative.

# OLD MCMILLAN TOWN HALL









NEW MCMILLAN TOWN HALL

#### INTERESTING MINUTES TAKEN FROM THE TOWN OF MCMILLAN BOOKS

First <u>Recorded Legal Trial</u>: Henry Sherry vs. Louis Oertal, filed July 31, 1898, before Justice of the Peace Edwin Buruh. Verdict given 8 a.m., August 5, 1899. Case called--parties appear in court by their respective attorneys. After hearing evidence, the court now here this 5th day of August, A.D., 1889, finds for the plaintiff, and against the defendant. It is therefore ordered and adjudge that the plaintiff, Henry Sherry, do have and recover of the defendant, Louis Oertal, the sum of 55.16 principal, and levy 8.72 interest, making his damage 62.88, making in all the sum of 82.50.

First Assessment Roll: Assessment roll signed by Wm. Brandt and witnessed by Edwin Bump, Justice of Peace for 1889 showed a total valuation of \$63, 716.00; Real Estate at \$50,770 and \$12,946 Personal Property. 40 acres owned by Charles Schilling at \$120; 40 acres owned by Frank Lang at \$300 and 40 acres owned by George Zink at \$345. Horses were assessed at \$10 to \$40; cows from \$10 to \$17.50 and swine at \$3.00.

First Recorded Marriage: Husband, George Hodgeden; Wife, Valma Beauchaine. Birthplace of husband, August, Maine; wife, Town of Lincoln, Wood County. Color of parties--white. Dated at McMillan in the County of Marathon on the 29th day of June, A.D., 1894. Ben Lang, Justice of the Peace, Town of McMillan.

Interesting Case: April 27, 1896 - State of Wisconsin in Justice Court for Marathon County before Benedict Lang, Justice of Peace. Frank Budtke complains on oath that on or about the 14th day April, 1896, in the county of Marathon, two smoked hams were feloniously stolen or carried away, by some person or persons unknown and he has good reason to believe and does believe, that the said personal property or some part thereof, is concealed in the house, barn or upon the premises of Frank Schoeneman, and he prays that a search warrant be issued, to search for the aforesaid property. Search warrant issued. Search warrant returned. No goods were found and this case is hereby dismissed by the court. Total costs for the action and paid by the plaintiff: Complaint .25, oaths and certificate .25, warrant .25, adjournment .25, filing papers (2) .10, Subpoenas (1) .25, travel 2 miles .08, entering judgement .25, oaths (2) .24, costs .12, testimony .96, filing county certificate 1,00, docketing case .25, recognizance .12, entering returns .12, entering verdict .25, discharging prisoner .12, Total: \$4.87.

Last <u>Recorded Case</u>: Mrs. Adelia Krze vs. Elva Woldt, Nov. 4, 1957, before Harvey Roehrborn. A warrant was issued on Elva Woldt for personal property valued at 50 dollars which belonged to Mrs. Adelia Krze. The trial to be held at my home at 9:00, Nov. 11, 1957. The case of Elva Woldt and Mrs. Adelia Krze was settled at my home on Nov. 11th, 1957 at 9:00. Elva Woldt agreed to return six chairs, one dresser and a cook stove, the other things he said were taken by his ex-wife. He also agreed to pay court costs of \$4.20.

- 1889: It is hereby ordered and determined that Sec. 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, and 12 14-1/2 Fourteen North have 15-1/4 Fifteen North East quarter shall hereafter constitute a school district number (4) Four of the Town of McMillan, Marathon Co., Wisconsin. Given under our hands this 12th day of October, 1889--Fred Brandt, Wm. Widmann, Charlie Raun; Peter Mees, Town Clerk.
- 1889: A motion that the Town will hold a special meeting at Fred Brandt's house between Sec. 20 & 21 for reason 300 dollars to build a bridge between Sec. 15 & 16 in the Town of McMillan. Seconded.
- 1890: Special election for raising \$500 to build a bridge between Sec. 16 & 17. 49 voted for the bridge, 6 against.
- 1891: Frank Grover elected clerk, Fred Zoellner elected supervisor.
- 1893: On vote by ballot there were \$300 raised for the purpose of building a town hall. The whole number of votes were 65 for against ?
- 1894: Aug. Zimmerling elected supervisor; Jacob Esser, Clerk; A.Grettinger, Treasurer; Wm. Sommers, Assessor. Paid Peter Weber - 7 chairs & 1 table \$9.00. Wm. Noll Hardware -for stove -\$9.00. Proceedings of annual town meeting held on the 3rd day of April 1894: George Bauer -4 days roadwork - \$5.00.
- 1898: St. Joseph's Hospital board and medicine \$7.00
- **1899:** Total county tax \$966.30
- 1900: J.P. Jenson Insurance on Town Hall 80 cents.
- 1904: Robert Zink elected supervisor Chas. Zahn elected assessor, Ben Lang - elected supervisor Milwaukee Bridge To. for Iron Bridge over Little Eau Pleine River between Sec. 9 & 10 - \$997
- 1905: Marshfield High School tuition for children \$44 O. H. Giles - assessor salary - \$63 Herman Weigel - Money loaned on payment for bridge and interest at 5% included - \$512.50
- 1907: Ole Johnson full payment of road job between Sect. 13 & 14 \$60.45
- 1908: Wm. Ziegler damage on broken buggy and lost time \$7.10
- 1910: Frank Schilling elected chairman 1910-14; 1917-23 Wm. Schilling and Albert Radtke elected supervisors.
- 1912: Bernard Zoellner elected treasurer (1912-1915; 1939-1944)
- 1913: William Burggraf elected clerk and served until 1944.

#### New Fire Station in the Town of McMillan



- 1917: Gust. Luchterhand elected supervisor (1917-21; 1925-28) Peter Nikolai elected supervisor. Frank Schilling re-elected chairman (1911-14; 1917-23) August Luchterhand, treasurer (1916-1938)
- 1919: Annual election. Whereas moving the clock ahead one hour and keeping such a law on the statutes cannot remove the dew on hay and crops until old soil is ready and whereas said law is a detriment to all farmers and results in less and musty crops. Therefore be it resolved that we ask our Congress to abolish said law. Adopted unanimously.
- 1926: Chas. Luchterhand elected supervisor (1926-1932) John Breidenbach elected chairman (1926-1929)
- 1927: Motion made and seconded that the Chairman instruct the road foreman to open roads the first snowfall. Motion made and seconded that there should be no snowplowing until the spring of the year. Motion made and seconded to appoint a committee to answer question. Motion made and seconded to spend the money from gas tax for gravel on the road north and south from the Town Hall.
- 1930: Charles Schultz, Eldor Luchterhand, George McGivern were hired as road patrolman at \$130 a month. Wm. Hupe re-elected assessor and served until 1942.
- 1932: May 24, 1932: Resignation of Town Chairman To the Town Board of the Town of McMillan: I hereby resign the office of the Town Chairman for the following reasons: To much trouble, more than I can take. Gust Luchterhand. Filed May 28, 1932: This meeting is requested for the purpose of hiring the patrolman and reducing their wages, as the voters asked at our Annual Town meeting. We also hereby kindly request the sideboard to resign from their office.
  1933: Wm. Klemme elected chairman (1933-1947)
- 1933: Wm. Klemme elected chairman (1933-1947) Ben Merkel elected supervisor (1934-1934) Robert Hahn elected supervisor (1933-1934)
- **1934:** Archie Blackwood, Arthur Scheuer supervisors (1935-36) Beer and liquor license set at \$50 each.
- 1936: Built tractor shed for \$1039.00

Ervin Bilgrien and Robert Hahn elected supervisors (1936-1940) 1939: Gust Luchterhand elected supervisor.

# Town of McMillan Ball Diamond



- 1940: Motion made and seconded to buy patrol grader. Motion made and seconded to pay highway supt. 30 cents/hr.; man and team on scraper 50 cents/hr.; man and team on wagon or light work 40 cents/hr.
- 1941: Arnold Kolell was hired for motor patrol grader at 35 cents/hr. Resolved by the Board of Supervisors of the Town of McMillan that the Federal Food Stamp Plan be placed in operation.
- 1942: Ben Merkel elected supervisor.
- John Breitenbach elected assessor. 1944: Hired Leonard McGivern for 60 cents/hr. in the Town of McMillan on Cat or Little Tractor. Wm. Burgraff tendered his office as Town
- Clerk, Arthur Scheuer appointed to complete the vacancy.
- 1945: Reuben Luchterhand elected treasurer (1945-1974)
- 1947: Motioned to build Allman bridge for not more than \$17,500. Arthur Scheuer elected Chairman (1947-1967)
- 1948: Petition for dissolving School Dist. #2. 31 in favor of keeping the district intact and 21 in favor of dissolving the district.
- 1949: Harold Grambow elected clerk.

Otto Baumbach and Arnold Kolell elected supervisors.

- 1950: The Town Board was authorized to enter into an agreement with the Mfld. Rural Fire Dept. for fire runs.
- 1951: Milo Frankland appointed first building inspector, cost of 1st permit \$3.00.
- 1952: Borrowed money at 3% interest to pay for four wheel drive truck.
- 1954: Donald Frankland elected supervisor. Special meeting to consolidate all schools fully in the Town of McMillan. Those in favor of consolidating all schools to go to the east side, those opposed to the west side. For 59; Against 71.
- 1956: Harry Blackwood elected assessor (1950-1962)
- 1961: Harold Weichelt elected supervisor. (1961-1975) Treasurer from 1975-1980
- 1962: New bridge over Little Eau Pleine River known as Schultz Bridge was built \$26,290.00. Raymond Podratz appointed supervisor.
- **1963:** Sylvester Markee elected supervisor, chairman in 1967-1979 Bernard Kroening appointed assessor (1963-1985)
- 1967: Entered into an agreement with City of Marshfield for ambulance service. First zoning committee appointed.

# William Stroetz elected supervisor: Harold Felton elected constable.

# New Cat and New Grader for the Town of McMillan





- 1968: Town named roads and assigned fire numbers. First used liquid chloride to alleviate dust.
- 1972: Adopted Marathon County Zoning Ordinance.
- 1974: Annual meeting time changed to evening hours. Harold Weichelt appointed treasurer; Harold Felton appointed supervisor.
- 1975: Ernest Larson elected clerk. New town hall built at estimated cost of \$22,014 Sold old stove from town hall for \$40, old town hall for \$80
- 1976: Dedicated new town hall and ball park June 27, 1976.
- 1977: Harold Grambow appointed clerk to fill unexpired term of Ernest Larson. Anthony Eilers elected clerk. Passed a no-smoking resolution for the Town Hall.
- 1979: Bids for the proposed garage came in at \$48,954 Vince Weber elected supervisor; William Stroetz elected chairman. Floyd Hardinger hired for patrol grader.
- 1980: Steven Drach appointed treasurer. Town dump was closed and green box service initiated.
- 1981: Purchased Champion Grader for \$72,846 plus trade-in.
- 1982: Fire dept. re-organization with David Larson being elected fire chief. Purchased tanker truck.
- 1983: Arlene Larson appointed treasurer. Addresses changed from rural routes to emergency numbers and street names.
- 1984: Movement to plan orderly development of the township.
- 1985: Established Plan Commission with the following members being appointed: Tom Seubert, David Swenson, Marvin Davis, Erford Franklin II, Lee Parbel, Charles Cherney and William Stroetz. Russel Weichelt elected supervisor.
- 1986: Committee appointed to study blacktopping of town roads. Established exclusive agricultural zoning for the town.
- 1987: Town rejected plans to begin blacktopping town roads indefinitely. David Swenson elected supervisor.
- **1988:** Total assessed value \$36,545,935.00 Year 1889 - \$63,716.00

#### PRESENT TOWN OF MCMILLAN OFFICIALS

Left to Right: Arlene Larson, Treasurer; Dick Scheuer, Clerk; Bill Stroetz, Town Chairman; Russ Weichelt and Dave Swenson, Supervisors. (Not on pict.) Town Constable: Russ Adamski, Dennis Stroetz





BASKETBALL TEAM - Towm of McMillan 1930-31 Top Row: Elmer Seehafer, Sr., John Weinfurtner, Wm. Halle, Coach Bottom Row: Chet Seehafer, Ed Fandry, Sr., Frank Weinfurtner



BASEBALL TEAM - Town of McMillan 1911 3rd from left is Carl Matthes
McMillan 49'ers Club - 1929



- Top Row: Mrs. Albert Seehafer, Mrs. Joe Vickerman, Mrs. Wm. Haag, Mrs. Peter Caferty, Mrs. Clarence Harris, Mrs. Leo Nikolai, Sr., Mrs. John Schilling, Mrs. Leta Koch, Mrs. George Frey, Mrs. John Neibauer
- Front Row: Mrs. John Frankland, Mrs. Frank Sherman, Mrs. Ed Reinhart, Mrs. Emmet Colvin, Mrs. Royal Brandt, Mrs. Ervin (Clara) Eggebrecht, Mrs. Otto Baumbach, Mrs. Art Seehafer



# 55th Anniversary - 1983 - McMillan 49'ers

Back Row: Alma Seehafer, Thelma Frey, Lucy Lang, Gail Snortheim, Gertie Grambow, Judy Duellman, Margaret Baumbach & Mary Frey Front Row: Clara Seehafer, Diane Lang, Lenore Nikolai, Lillian Frenkland, Arvilla Frankland & Angie Seehafer

### MCMILLAN FORTY NINER'S HOMEMAKERS CLUB

The McMillan Women's Club was organized on Sept. 20, 1928 at the McMillan Community Club House which now is the Charlois Supper Club. Eleven ladies signed the charter. Mrs. Arthur Seehafer is the only

living charter member and now resides at the Bethel Living Center.

Officers	elected:	President	Mrs.	Emmet Colvin	
		Vice-President.	Mrs.	Frank Sherman	
		Secretary	Mrs.	Wm. Haag	
		Treasurer	Mrs.	John Schilling	

The first meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Albert Seehafer on Oct. 18, 1928. Mrs. Otto Baumbach joined the club and served as an officer in more than one capacity, the longest of any member--more than 30 years.

The members voted to call themselves the McMillan 49'ers as they were the forty ninth Homemaker's Club in the county. Other decisions were to meet on the third Thursday of each month.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Club colors - Green and white

Flower - Goldenrod

Song - Pack Up Your Troubles

# Motto: It isn't the club you belong to, It's just how you take it. It's not the subject assigned you, But just what you make of it.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Pennies were collected for the Sunshine Fund: now, pennies are used for a County project and called "Pennies for Friendship."

Lunch was to consist of five foods excluding coffee and pickles. A fine of \$1.00 was imposed for <u>exceeding</u> the limit. This rule has been <u>broken</u>, argued and contested perhaps more than any other rule. Now, the hostess serves one thing and a beverage.

Dues were 25 cents a year--now 25 cents per month.

Club membership was limited to women living in township of McMillan. Rule no longer valid.

# Interesting notes from club records are:

1928, Dec. - Exchange of Christmas gifts--not to exceed 10 cents.

- 1928 Club voted to buy (25) golden Song Books at 3 cents each.
- 1929 First baby born to a club member--Patricia Nikolai
  - Mrs. Leonore Nikolai, who is now residing at Mfld. Living Center, joined the club.
- Mrs. Ervin Eggebrecht, charter club member, died. Club purchased a child's fracture bed in her memory and donated it to St. Joseph's

1930 - On Jan. 16, a resolution was made and published in the Marshfield News Herald and Milwaukee Journal that the members went on record as being 100% Butter Users. - Schlick test was done for all area children. 1930, March 19 - Gossip not allowed in club. - Easter - Candy was sent to hospitalized children. 1930, April 10 - Bill of 25 cents for cigarettes be allowed. (Doesn't say who it was paid to.) 1930, June 19 - Decision to make a quilt and sell raffle tickets. Will be given away at the Flower Show. 1930, Aug. 28 - Flower Show & Supper. 1930, December - Club asked to pay dues to County in advance to help defray a deficit of \$30. Repeated in 1980. - Ladies attending Leader School in Stratford paid 20 cents each; now, we pay them 20 cents per mile for attending. 1931 - Floral tributes to bereaved families; now, a \$25 memorial is given. 1932, May 19 - Rug and Quilt Show at Community Club. \$6.27 profit. \$1.00 was donated for use of hall. - \$10 donated to a "Free Child's Bed" in the Wausau Hospital. 1932, October - Held a dance at Community Club House - Debit \$1.35. 1933 - St. Patrick's Family party held at Albert Seehafer home. 1933, June - Roll call answered by giving a one-minute extemporaneousspeech. - Voted to discontinue baby showers. 1933, Aug. 29 - Flower Show with a bake sale; coffee cake and ice cream. net \$10.65 1933, October - Entertained Marshfield Women's Club at a dinner. 1933, December - Christmas "goodies" to the needy consisting of 26 bags of candy and nuts, 2 pkgs. tobacco and 2 pkgs. cigarettes. No cost given. 1934 - \$2 donated to "Portrait of Mrs. Jones Fund". \$5 donated to "Free Bed Fund" at Wausau Hospital 1934, June - Voted to cancel Flower Show due to drought. 1934, July 19 - Tour of gardens at Baumbachs, Schillings and Harsch. No mention if rains came after the cancellation of Flower Show. 1934 - Family Picnic at the Park - continued each year until 1963. 1935 - "Red Heart Friends" was initiated and the tradition has continued uninterrupted. - Made a bathrobe for a friend (neighbor) who was going to the hospital. - Bake sale to raise money for prizes for Flower Show. - Flower Show at Country Ballroom on Aug. 27. Flowers are to be grown by amateurs only and judged by Mr. Hefko. Paid Jake Felton \$2.00 for use of hall. - Bake sales, dinners, etc. were held to raise money for Cookbook project. 1935, Sept. 17 - Served a supper for the "Commercial Club" 1936, January - Voted to order 500 cookbooks - cost \$198.50 1936, Jan. 21 - Home of member, Freida Schilling, was destroyed by fire. - No Flower Show held because of drought. 1937, Aug. 25 - Flower Show. Gave ribbons instead of cash prizes. 1938, May 19 - Cookbook debt paid - note burned and decision to give Mrs. Brandt a gift in appreciation for the money loaned without interest. 1938, Aug. 18 - Four members left early (Mrs. Neubauer, Kraemer, Haag &

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Harris) to make supper for "Threshers" at Neubauers. 1938, August - Flower Show at School House - asked school board to turn on the lights for evening. 1938 & 39 - Footstools and mattresses were made by members with materials furnished by government at a minimal charge. 1939, Aug. 24 - Flower Show at City View School. 1940 - Prizes for hats made of flowers and a flower arrangement in a shoe or slipper were part of the plans for the Annual Flower Show (It was the last one held. 1940, September - Bill for 6 and 1/2 cents for a card sent to an ill member was allowed. 1930-1955 - Members would tie quilts, do mending or sew carpet rags at meetings. At one meeting, sec'y noted "No work done for hostess; a social time was enjoyed by all." 1941, May - Club sponsored a dance at Country Ball Room. Non-attendance of members to be fined \$1.00. Proceeds to go to Red Cross - \$4.25. 1941, August - Flower Show cancelled due to drought. 1942, Sept. - Roll call answered by ways of saving sugar. 1942, Dec. - Each member wrote a letter to a soldier. 1943, Nov. - Money in treasury used to buy a war bond. 1942-46 - Gifts were sent to soldiers during World War II at Christmas and Easter. 1943-49 - Wrapped bandages for Red Cross 1947 - Box of clothes, etc. sent to a family in Germany. 1948, Aug. 22 - Any member reaching the age of 70 was under no obligation to entertain club. 1950, Sept. 21 - Club contributed to County Scholarship Fund. 1953, Sept. - 25th anniversary celebrated at St. Peter Parish Hall. 1955 - Clara Seehafer represented the club at the National Homemakers Convention in Chicago. 1959, June - Club served a breakfast for the Rollohome Corp. Profit \$41.75 1960 - Pancake supper held at Freys. Net profit \$296.81 was donated to Veteran's Hospital. 1963 - Club celebrated 35th anniversary with a banquet at Hotel Charles followed by a party at the home of Rollie & Mary Frey. 1964 - First Benefit Breakfast hosted by Mary Lou Kirsch in her home. 1965 - Next Benefit Breakfast followed by Alma Seehafer and Mary Frey. 1968 - Presented Parkview Apartments with two lamps and tables. 1972 - Celebrated 40th anniversary at Charlois Supper Club. 1976, June - Had a float in Marshfield Centennial Parade. - Bicentennial quilt made by club members was given away at opening of new Town Hall. Club donated stainless steel flatware and coffee and creamer. 1979 - Set up a Scholarship Fund for a graduating senior from Columbus or Marshfield Senior High. Senior High Graduate, Tammy Parmelee, was the recipient. 1979, June 21 - A letter was sent to Congressman Obey regarding the negative effects of T.V. ads on children. 1981, Feb. 19 - Motion was made for club to participate in organizing and making a McMillan Township Map. 1981, July 20 - Thank you letter sent to Proctor & Gamble Corp. for their stand on non-sponsoring of violent and sexually explicit T.V. programs. 1982, May - Homemakers Week was observed by planting a tree and shrub at the Town Hall.

1983, June - Participated in the parade.

- 1984, Jan. 26 Celebrated Leonore Nikolai's 90th birthday at a luncheon at Casa Loma--also Margaret Baumbach's 86th.
- 1985, September 55th Anniversary at Holiday Inn.
- 1985, October 25 Celebrated 25th Breakfast & Bazaar at Frey's. Netted \$1,468.75.
- 1986, Feb. Valentine Party at Bethel Living Center.
- 1988, Jan. 11 Celebrated Margaret Baumbach's 90th birthday before she went to the Living Center.
- 1988, June 3 Participated in the June Dairy Breakfast at the Edleweiss Cheese Factory.
- 1988, September Club is commemorating its 60th anniversary in conjunction with McMillan's Centennial with 9 active and 3 honorary members.

The McMillan 49'ers have been involved and supportive of many community needs besides those mentioned such as:

- -- Diptheria Innoculation clinics (1929)
- -- People suffering loss in a fire.
- -- People suffering because of serious accidents.
- -- The handicapped
- -- Others needing financial assistance.
- -- Scholarships for "College Week" for Women
- -- Historical Society Upham Mansion
- -- Marshfield Senior High Band
- -- Marshfield Senior High Madrigal Singers
- -- Infant Rehabilitation Center
- -- Marshfield Medical Foundation
- -- Marshfield FFA
- -- Veteran's Hospital
- -- Christmas baskets to elderly and shut-ins
- -- Mount View Sanitorium
- -- Foster Parent's Program
- -- Dairyfest USA
- -- St. Joseph's Hospital
- -- Marshfield Living Center
- -- Marshfield Day Care Center
- -- Red Cross
- -- Hosted parties at the "Living Center"

### Scholarship Recipients

1979	Tammy Parmelee	Senior High Graduate
1980	Peggy Porter	Columbus High "
1981	Lynette Werner	Senior High "
1982	Tony Pichler	Columbus High "
1983	Margie Tenpas	Senior High "
1984	Lisa Laidlaw	Columbus High "
1985	Renee Rasmussen	Senior High "
1986	Julie Duellman	Columbus High "
1987	Mary Miller	Senior High "
1988	Randy Ruder	Columbus High "

# MARA-WOOD 4-H CLUB Town of McMillan

The Mara-Wood 4-H Club was organized in 1940 by leaders Mrs. Joe Felten and Wilmer Draheim. During the nearly 50 years, there have been hundreds of members and many leaders. Some years there has been an enrollment of more than 75 members. The motto of the club has always been "To Make the Best Better." It would take a book to record all the achievements of the club since 1940. However, the following is a brief summary.

During the early 1940's the club worked hard to contribute their share to the National Defense. They had an opportunity to buy war savings stamps at each meeting. Clothes were collected for the war relief program. Many tons of scrap and paper were collected with help from the community. Care packages were also sent to countries in Europe.

One of the outstanding activities from the beginning of the club until recent years has been the participation in the county fire prevention and safety program. Essays, scrapbooks and displays were all part of the club's work. Many individuals received county awards for their excellent work. Many years the club had 100% participating in this program.

Mara-Wood 4-H Club had the championship softball team in the county many seasons. Sports always played a large part in our club including basketball and volleyball. The teamwork was excellent for the club.

The music and drama program was also stressed throughout the years. The club had outstanding plays and music groups at county contests and even went to district contests.

Many of the members recall the good times they had at the 4-H camp at Wausau, Wisconsin Rapids and Wis. Dells. Some of the members had the opportunity to attend the "Trees for Tomorrow" camp. They made new friends and had some great experiences.

We had members represent the club in style shows, demonstrations and judging contests on the county and state level.

In 1945 Darlene Koch was the healthiest girl in Marathon County and in 1946 she was chosen the Marathon County Dairy Princess.

National 4-H Club Week was observed many years with window displays in stores, radio programs, and the club also displayed a large banner over Central Avenue.

Some of the members were exchange students to other counties in Wisconsin and also other states. In exchange their new friends came and spent some time with our members. Some of those friendships have lasted many years.

The highlight of the year was always the fairs. Wausau and Marshfield were the fairs that most of the members attended. But some members showed their animals at several fairs in the state. For many years we had several project booths at both fairs but the last few years we were allowed only one booth per fair. One of the goals of the club was to have 100% participation of members exhibiting their projects at a fair. Many years this was accomplished. The cattle exhibit from the club was always important. At one time the exhibited included more than 75 animals. The chicken, pig, sheep and rabbit exhibits were also important. The members always worked long, hard hours so they would have the outstanding herd at the fair. Showmanship, best-fitted, judging and demonstrations were also a big part of the fair.

It has been interesting looking through the past records of the club. I wish space would allow mentioning the individual accomplishments of the members but as that is impossible each member and leader will always remember the experiences they had.

> Ethelyn Draheim, 4-H Leader for more than 40 years



OUTSTANDING MARATHON COUNTY 4-H CLUB - The Mara-Wood 4-H Club, which includes Wood and Marathon County members, was selected as the outstanding Marathon County 4-H Club at the annual Club Achievement Day program at Wausau, Oct. 31, ?. Mara-Wood Club members in the above picture include (left to right, front row) Richard and Doris Felten, Bernice Wagner, Margie Scheuer, Darlene Koch, Lucille Scheuer, and Donald Hardinger; (second row) Wallace Brey, Martha Felten, Marcella Kraschnewski, Ruth Breidenbach, Genevieve Felten, Marvin Hardinger, and William Weigel; and third row) Walter Weigel, Jerome Palacek, Melvin Kraschnewski, Richard Louis and Raymond Felten and Richard Scheuer. Once the lumber barons had cleared away the towering trees of McMillan Town in the late 1800's, what remained was rolling farmland adjoining the Little Eau Pleine River. The lumber baron's daughter and her husband, (Mr. & Mrs. Thorton Green) replanted a section of land in white spruce in the 1940's. The results of their efforts now tower 40 feet into the sky.

In 1978 we purchased the land and built our home, moving in June of 1979. Shortly after, we purchased and transported Marshfield's remaining brick street to provide the materials for the circle drive. This area surrounds the reflection gardens later built for our children. It wasn't until 1984 that the lake, gardens, and stroll paths were envisioned, and the never-ending job of clearing trees and construction began.

Initially, our purpose for this project was somewhat selfish, our goal possibly more abstract--to merge water, stone, and the purity of nature to create a peaceful setting of tranquility for our introspection. We wanted to develop a refuge to lend grace and serenity to our lives as well as enjoyment, as we participate in the celebration of all the seasons in change.

We invite you to experience our gardens; stroll along one of many pathways, allow the world of peace and harmony to unfold with each step taken, each turn encountered. Pass through the willowed tunneled walkways; observe the natural interplay of water and sandstone, allow yourself to be swept away with the musical rhythm of water splashing, spilling and rolling over stone.

Rest awhile in the secluded firepit, designed with rustic intent, enhanced with garden formality. Experience the intertwining and unique multi-dimensional blending of the wind, the silence, the chirping, the fragrances, the dampness, the earth.

#### WELCOME TO OUR GARDENS!

### Garden Features:

- 1. Hosta Shade Garden
- 2. Lakeside Woodland Stroll Paths (\*)
- 3. Three Pool Waterfall (\*)
- 4. 500+ ton Sandstone and Fieldstone Garden Construction
- 5. Lanscaped Island
- 6. Firepit
- 7. Landscaped Penninsula
- 8. River Garden Walkway (\*)
- 9. One-Acre Landscaped Pond (\*)
- 10. Three-Acre Background Pond (\*)
- 11. Brick Circle Drive First Street LaPointe Hotel Section, Marshfield, WI

(\*) Under Construction

Linda and Stephen Schulte Foxfire Gardens - 1988



FOXFIRE GARDENS - 1988 Linda and Stephen Schulte Sugar Bush Lane













# McMillan Centennial 1988

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### Program Of Events

September 3, 1988 10:00 a.m 4:00 p.m.	- Tour of the "McMillan Mansion" - Tour of the "Fireside Gardens"
September 4, 1988 9:00 a.m.	- Centennial Worship Service at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in the Town of McMillan Rev. John Tesch, officiating
September 10, 1988 11:00 a.m.	- Centennial Parade
1:00 p.m.	<ul> <li>McMillan Centennial Celebration Ceremony</li> <li>Presentation of the Flag - Rep. Dave Obey</li> <li>National Anthem - Buck Leverton</li> <li>Filling the Time Capsule</li> <li>Introduction of Special Guests</li> <li>Singing of the "Little Eau Pleine" song</li> </ul>
1:30, 3:30 & 5:30 p.m.	<ul> <li>Scheer Lumberjack Show</li> <li>Antique Car Show</li> <li>Hot Dogs and Pop - Sponsored by the Mara-Wood 4-H Club all afternoon.</li> <li>Beer Tent - Sponsored by the Volunteer Firemen.</li> <li>Pie, Ice Cream and Coffee - Sponsored by the McMillan 49'ers.</li> </ul>
Dusk	- Fireworks Display
8:00 p.m. to ?	- Live Music - Dancing in the Fire Station

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# ACKNOWLEGEMENT

Our sincere thanks to the many people who contributed pictures, stories, and etc. for this book; our regrets are that we were not able to use all the pictures and articles due to limited space.

McMillan Centennial Committee

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



