Sights and sounds of the valley : a history of Fall Creek. c1978

Henke, Patricia; Wise, Steve H.
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"SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE VALLEY"

A HISTORY OF FALL CREEK

"The historical sense involves a perception, not only of the
pastness of the past, but of its presence." T. S. Eliot

"SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE VALLEY"

A HISTORY OF FALL CREEK

BY --- Patricia Henke and Steve H. Wise

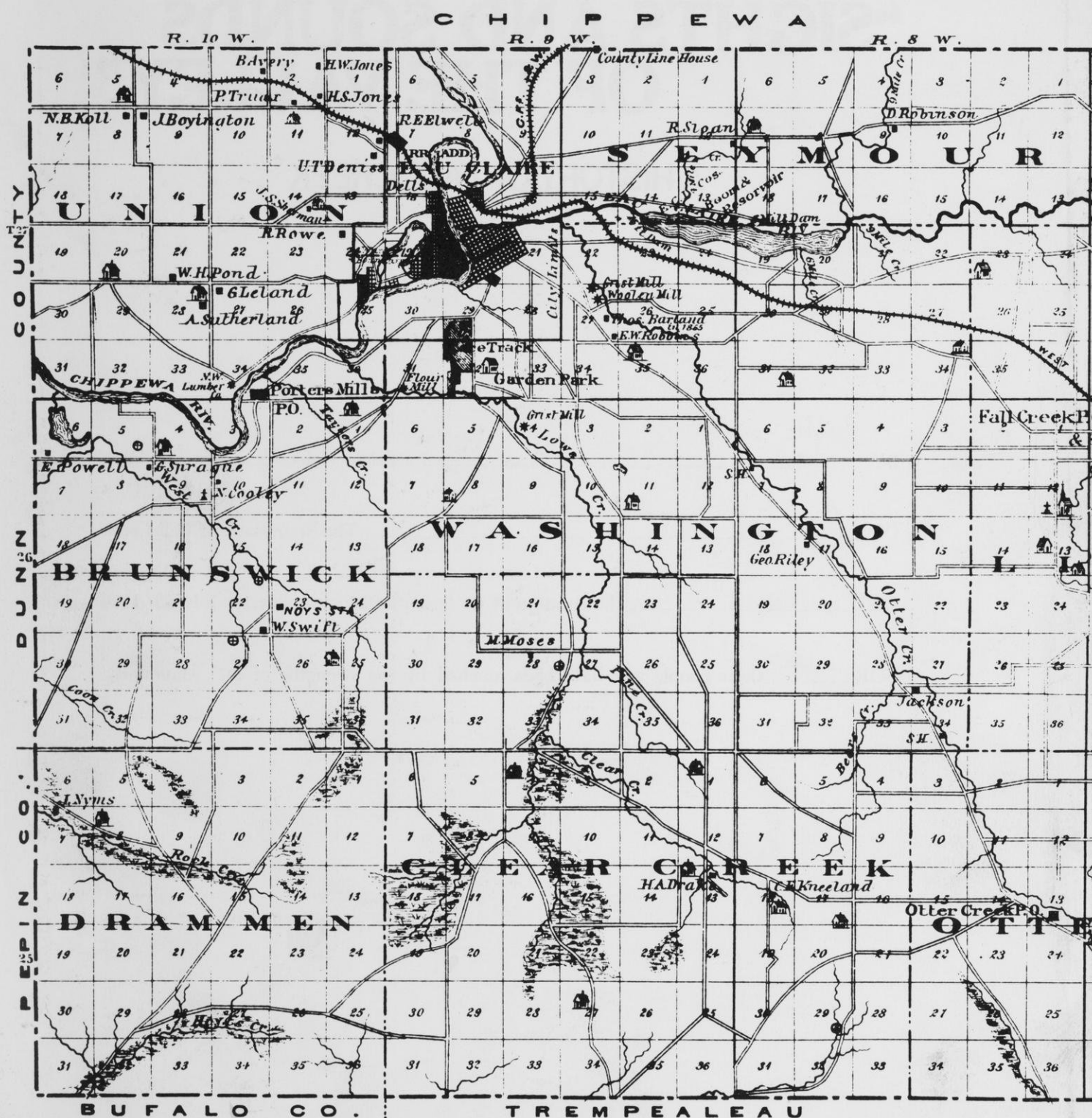OF --- The State Bank of Fall Creek

ON --------------------------- the occasion of its Seventy-fifth Anniversary, July 23, 1978

FOR -------- those people who have been touched by the strengths of this community.
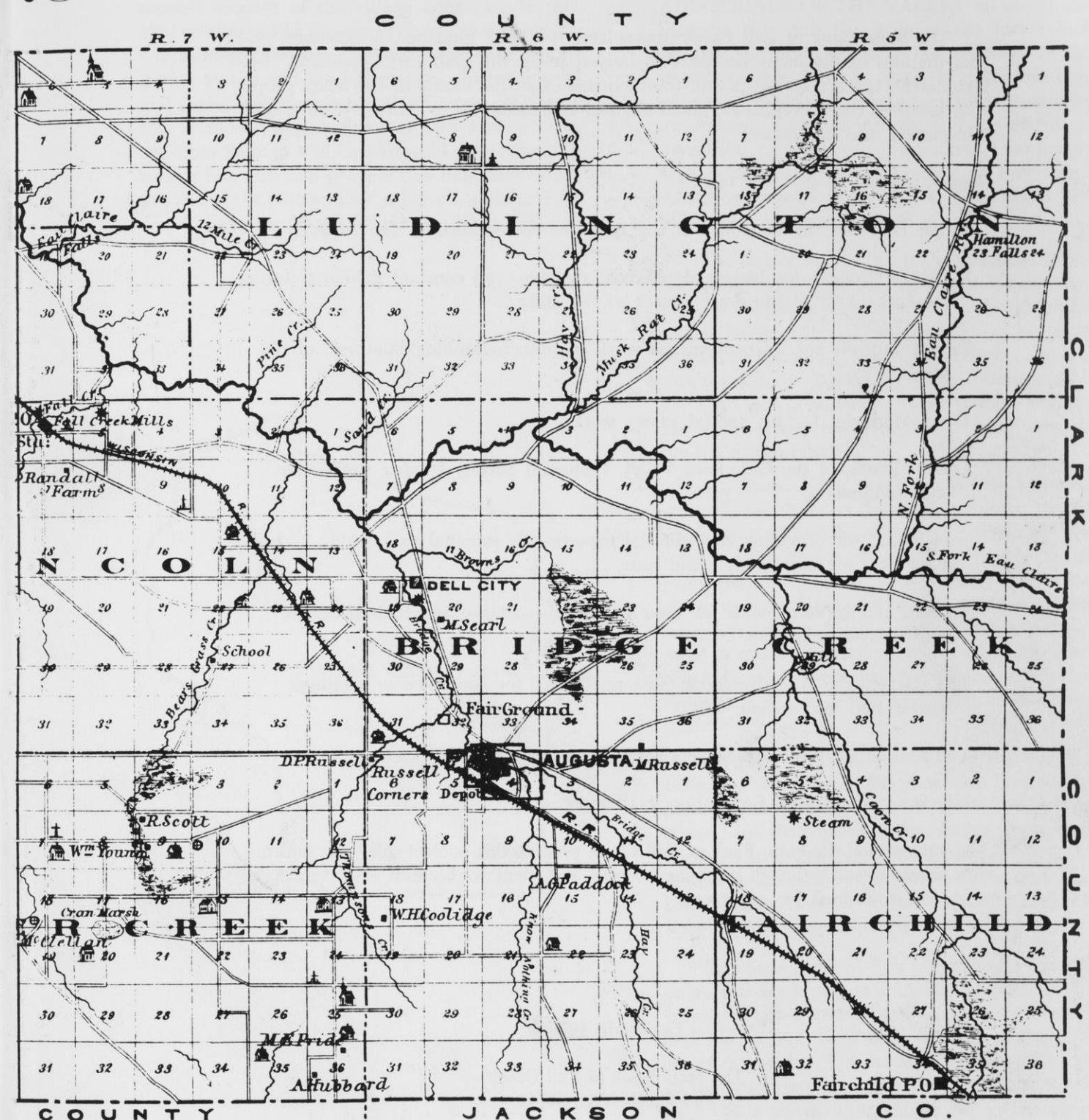
MAP OF EAU CLAIRE COUNTY

1878

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

R. 10 W.   R. 9 W.   R. 8 W.   R. 7 W.   R. 6 W.   R. 5 W.

UNION

B. Avery • H.W. Jones
P. Truax • H.S. Jones
County Line House
D. Robinson
N.B. Koll • J. Boyington
R.E. Elwell
U.T. Deniss
EAU CLAIRE
Dells
R. Rowe
W.H. Pond
G. Leland
A. Sutherland

SEYMOUR

R. Sloan
Mill Dam

LUDINGTON

Fox Claire Falls
12 Mile Cr.
Hamilton Falls
Musk Rat Cr.
Eau Claire

CHIPPEWA
N.W. Lumber
Porters Mills P.O.
Flour Mill
Garden Park
Grist Mill
Wool. Mill
Thos. Barland
E.W. Roberts
Pine Cr.
Sand
Fall Creek P.O. & S.
Fall Creek Mills
Randall Farm

E. Powell • E. Sprague
N. Cooley

WASHINGTON

Geo. Riley

LINCOLN

Browns
S. Fork Eau Claire
N. Fork

BRUNSWICK

NOYS STA
W. Swift
M. Moses

BRIDGE CREEK

Dell City
M. Searl
Fair Ground

CLEAR CREEK

Jackson
S.H.
J. Nyms
Rock Cr.
H.A. Drake
L.E. Kneeland
Otter Creek P.O.

D.P. Russell
Russell Corners
Depot
AUGUSTA
M. Russell
Steam
R. Scott
Wm. Young
A.G. Paddock
W.H. Coolidge

DRAMMEN

OTTER CREEK

McClellan
Cran Marsh
M.B. Pride
A. Hubbard

FAIRCHILD

Fairchild P.O.

BUFALO CO.   TREMPEALEAU COUNTY   JACKSON CO.

PEPIN CO.   DUNN COUNTY   CLARK COUNTY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

FOREWORD

by Steve H. Wise

The history of Fall Creek has been in the making for over 120 years, with the first documented account of the village appearing in the 1881 edition of *The History of Northern Wisconsin*. Unfortunately, no one had taken the time to organize and record the happenings, photos, ideas, and names which constitute this history. It therefore seemed fitting that, for its 75th Anniversary, the State Bank of Fall Creek would undertake the role of historian and provide this important compilation of the past century. After all, without Fall Creek, there would not have been the BANK.

FALL CREEK

The eight chapters which comprise this history have been written around the theme SIGHTS AND SOUNDS OF THE VALLEY. In words and pictures, they tell the story of the lure which brought the first settlers to the area and of the transitions which took place in transportation, education, communication, agriculture, commerce, government, spiritual growth, and the attendant amenities. Added to this is the story of the people who gave that unique dimension to Fall Creek which separates it from all the other towns and villages in our great country.

The task of searching out the historical tidbits hidden in libraries, attics, worn Bibles, and memories of long-time residents fell on the shoulders of Pat Henke. She spent untold hours planning, sorting, sifting, and gleaning. Her efforts have produced a work of literary excellence. Compliments for a job well done belong solely to Pat. Without her abilities and enthusiasm, this history would not have been possible.

We know there are gaps in this historical account, and it may also contain errors, though every effort was made to verify all information presented. While it is too late to fill in gaps or correct errors in this printing, it is entirely likely that some future historian would want to do so. If you have knowledge which would properly complement or correct this history, you are urged to share that information with us. We will place it in our repository where it will be available for future generations.

In addition to the contents of this book, a collection of more than 500 photos has been assembled, and to the extent possible, identified by date, names, and description. A numbered negative of each photo is available for reproduction. This system is designed so that the historian who compiles Volume II of the History of Fall Creek will have a resource upon which to draw.

The State Bank of Fall Creek hopes you will enjoy this book and will share our pride in the history of this community. You, the people of the Fall Creek area, have been the key to this community's success. You have also been the secret of the Bank's success. We offer this book to you as a token of our appreciation for your support and friendship.

DEDICATION

This history is dedicated to the people of the community who, through their support and patronage, have made it possible for the State Bank of Fall Creek to grow and prosper during its first 75 years.
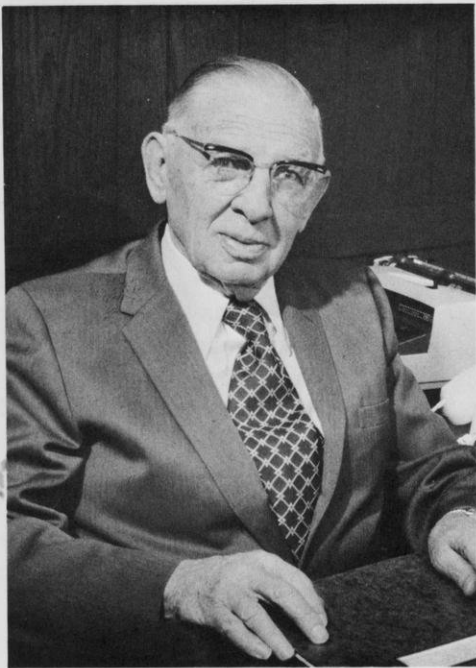
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Special recognition is appropriate for one of the leaders of this community whose activities over the past half-century have been devoted to the community and to the Bank.

Ralph W. Wise has worked diligently to strengthen this area economically, while continuing to give primary emphasis to its quality of life. Although he had many opportunities to share his abilities with programs on a much broader geographic scale, he chose not to compromise his commitment to Fall Creek.

Ralph Wise epitomizes the qualities which have created a community capable of meeting the challenges of the future with confidence and courage.

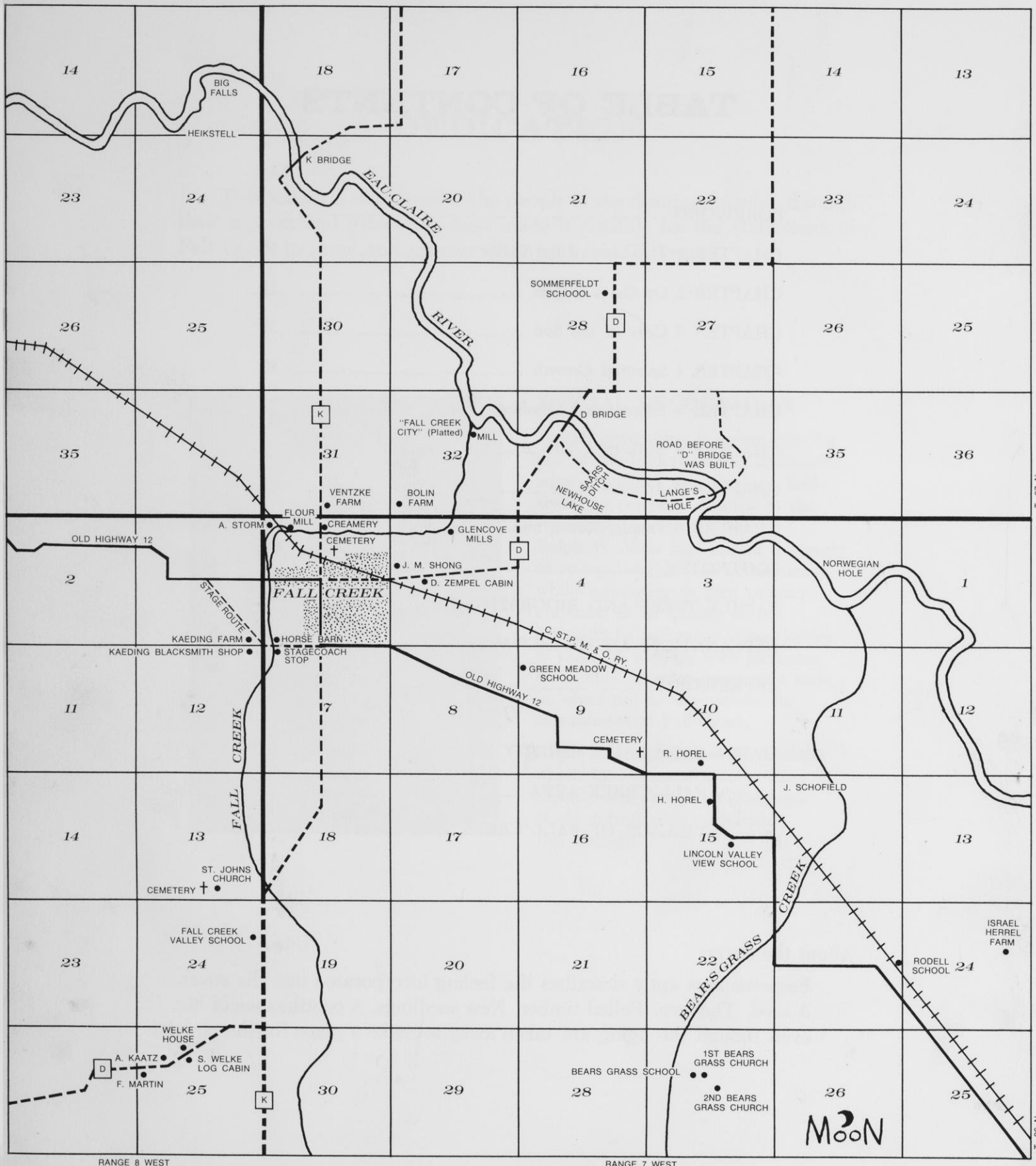# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the cover:

> Perpetualness aptly describes the feeling incorporated into the cover.
> A seed. The tree. Felled timber. New seedlings. A continuance of life
> even though the aging are taken away to make a place for the new.

FALL CREEK AREA

14

18 17 16 15 14 13

BIG FALLS

HEIKSTELL

K BRIDGE

EAU CLAIRE

23 24 20 21 22 23 24

RIVER

30

26 25 28 27 26 25

SOMMERFELDT SCHOOOL

D

K

"FALL CREEK CITY" (Platted)

MILL

D BRIDGE

35 31 32 35 36

SAARISH DITCH

ROAD BEFORE "D" BRIDGE WAS BUILT

NEWHOUSE LAKE

LANGE'S HOLE

VENTZKE FARM

BOLIN FARM

FLOUR MILL

CREAMERY

A. STORM

GLENCOVE MILLS

D

OLD HIGHWAY 12

CEMETERY

NORWEGIAN HOLE

STAGE ROUTE

J. M. SHONG

2 D. ZEMPEL CABIN 4 3 1

FALL CREEK

C. ST. P. M. & O. RY.

KAEDING FARM

HORSE BARN

KAEDING BLACKSMITH SHOP

STAGECOACH STOP

GREEN MEADOW SCHOOL

11 12 7 8 9 OLD HIGHWAY 12 10 11 12

CEMETERY

R. HOREL

FALL CREEK

H. HOREL

J. SCHOFIELD

14 13 18 17 16 15 13

LINCOLN VALLEY VIEW SCHOOL

ST. JOHNS CHURCH

CEMETERY

FALL CREEK VALLEY SCHOOL

BEAR'S GRASS CREEK

ISRAEL HERREL FARM

23 24 19 20 21 22 RODELL SCHOOL 24

WELKE HOUSE

A. KAATZ

S. WELKE LOG CABIN

D

F. MARTIN 25 30 29 28

BEARS GRASS SCHOOL

1ST BEARS GRASS CHURCH

2ND BEARS GRASS CHURCH

26 25

K

MOON

RANGE 8 WEST

RANGE 7 WEST

T. 27 N.

T. 26 N.

8

Giant among Giants — Mocker and constant
companion of Wind and Lightning . . . . majestic
White Pine to guide silent canoes to the
welcome of home campfires. Then — where
before, — limbs, twigs, and branches had provided
shelter . . . . trees became houses. Stumps left to
bleed — useless in their loneliness? Oh, No!
Brave, young seedlings seek their richness and
cherish their protection. Is it not the Mocker
remaining to remind us that no man
can destroy a tree?

W. D. JEFFERSON

THE LURE OF THE VALLEY

Tens of thousand of years of years ago, huge glaciers moved over northern Wisconsin. They leveled mountains and sheared off forests; they shaped valleys and crushed large rocks into fine sand. And then they melted. In the valleys ran rivers, and along them, in the sand pulverized by the glaciers, pine trees grew and thrived.

Jonathan Carver, the first man to write about this area, traveled up the Chippewa River in 1767. He told of trees six feet in circumference and of great open lands two days up the river where the shorelines were lined by many types of game, including buffalo, elk, and deer in great numbers. In fact, Carver said that on the Chippewa River the buffalo were larger and more plentiful than in any other place in his travels.

LUMBER

Lumber was the lure which first drew settlers to Eau Claire County and to Fall Creek, and it was a lumberman who, as far as we know, was the first resident in the Fall Creek area.

Simon Randall purchased timber rights in an area north of Fall Creek along the Eau Claire River in 1855 and moved his family to a cabin on the river bank just east of what is now CTH "D". Simon was an experienced lumberman who, in 1846, had built one of the first dams and saw-mills in the city of Eau Claire. He and his brother, George, logged the North Fork of the Eau Claire River as far north as Boyd, and also Muskrat and Hay Creeks, taking their logs down the Eau Claire River and selling them at Eau Claire. [1] (For a more detailed biography of Simon Randall, see p. 127).

The camp at "Saars Ditch" just east of where "D" crosses the Eau Claire River, was a convenient stopping place for them, since it was about half way between the Muskrat Creek timber area and the mill at Eau Claire. The little lake or slough there provided a good place for them to get their boats out of the river current.

One of the stories recorded about Simon shows the kind of ingenuity required of the early settlers: The first time he and his brother traveled up the Eau Claire River to the woods northeast of Fall Creek to cut logs, they forgot to bring a crosscut saw, the most essential tool of all. So Simon, using some of his skill as a blacksmith, took one of the rims off a wheel on their wagon, heated it so he could straighten and flatten it, and then made the saw teeth with a file. [2] Thus, he fashioned the tool he needed.

Simon Jr. was born during the time the family lived in the cabin near the Fall Creek. As a young boy, he was assigned the task of watching the logs as they floated down the Eau Claire River in the spring. At the old wooden dam (just above the present dam, off Highway 27), the logs were likely to start piling up. When just two or three of them stopped, young Simon was to run back to the camp to tell the men. They would then come
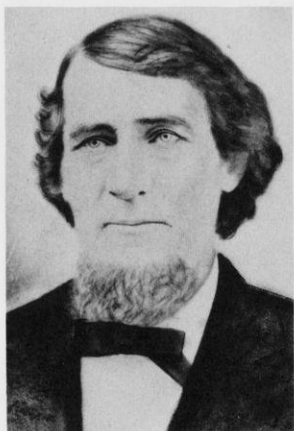
Lucille Drehmel

Simon and Louisa Randall, first settlers in the valley.

Mathwig #1100

Clearing at Saars Ditch today. Site of the Randall Camp in 1855, and, later, of Eber Clark's stopping place on the "Tote Road".

Luttrell #100

Loggers in the woods, 1910-1920, Team pulling out a large log.

Luttrell #99

Logging camp cook house. Axel Larson is the cook on the right. About 1915.

with their long poles and free the logs before there was a serious log jam. [3]

At the Big Falls, a partial dam would be closed on the Fall Creek side of the river during the log run. This forced all the water to the other side, making it deep enough so that logs could ride over the rocks and the falls. [4]

The reports of the "inexhaustible pinery" along the banks of the northern tributaries of the Mississippi attracted thousands of immigrants to the area in the mid-1800's. Settlers in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and southwestern Wisconsin needed building materials. Billions of board feet of lumber were cut, sawed, and shipped out of the area. "We'll never get the pine out if we log till hell freezes", was the opinion commonly expressed in the early 1890's [5], but within thirty years the forests were depleted, making it necessary to import lumber as early as the 1920's.

In the early 1900's, men from the Fall Creek area would often go north in the winter to work as lumberjacks. In fact, the opportunity to earn some hard cash at a winter job was one of the attractions the area held for immigrant farmers. Around the turn of the century, many of them probably worked for Peter Bolin, a lumber contractor of Irish descent who owned two hundred acres just north of the present village of Fall Creek. He spared no lumber when he built his spacious home with its many rooms and three stairways. (Part of the house has since been torn down; the remainder is the Clarence Kraemer home.) Peter took his oxen, his 24 horses, and his sleighs north every winter to bring logs out of the woods. [6]

INDIANS

Up until the early 1800's, Eau Claire County was Indian territory, belonging mainly to the Santee Sioux and the Ojibwas (later called the Chippewas), with many boundary disputes between them. In 1825, the U.S. Government called an important Indian council in Prairie du Chien at which time the boundary lines between the tribes were fixed. The line between the warring Sioux and Chippewa tribes, as adopted by this council, ran directly through what is now the city of Eau Claire, and placed the Fall Creek area in Sioux territory. The last battle between the Sioux and the Chippewa in the Eau Claire vicinity was fought in 1854. [7]

By the Treaty of 1837, signed at Ft. Snelling, all the lands of the Sioux nation east of the Mississippi were ceded to the United States. In October 1842, Chief To-go-ne-ge-shik, together with eighty-five chiefs and braves, signed a treaty whereby all the Chippewa lands in Wisconsin became listed as part of the United States. [8]

Sometime in the early 1800's, the Chippewa and the Sioux Indians fought a fierce battle for the possession of the wild rice growing in a little lake near Saars Ditch. For many years after that, the site was a rich source for arrowheads and spearheads. [9]

In about 1855-56, there was an Indian village of fifty-seven wigwams near the Simon Randall cabin on the Eau Claire River. Simon's oldest son, Allen, and the Indian children played together. [10]

In about 1880, Reinhardt Zempel (Daniel's son), saw some Indian men in town and told them

about his pig that had smothered to death when a straw pile tipped over on it. He said they could have it if they wanted it. The Indians returned to their camp by the Fall Creek across from the cemetery to get their squaws, and then went to the Zempel homestead just east of the village.

Since Reinhardt had neglected to tell his mother, Caroline, that the Indians were coming, she was badly frightened when they arrived with their hatchets and knives! She recovered, however, when her son explained that the Indians were peaceful.

The Indians dug out the pig, cut it into quarters and carried it to their camp where they laid it in the creek overnight to let the running water wash out all the old blood. Then they had a feast. [11]

As late as 1878, a group of Indians pitched their tents and made a summer camp on the hill behind the Herman Ventzke farm north of Fall Creek. Herman's grandfather, Albert Ventzke, told him how the Indians came down in the farmyard when the Ventzkes were sawing lumber. The Indians wanted the end slabs from the logs for making their arrow shafts. Another Indian village was located on the Eau Claire River at that time, near where the CTH "K" bridge now stands. [12]

Indians traveled through Ludington, too. Herman Drehmel has a large collection of arrowheads and spearheads which he found on his farm over the years. The quantity and the variation in craftsmanship would seem to indicate that the area had been a battleground or a meeting place for several tribes. Charlie and Arnie Tumm tell of the many arrowheads they found in the 1930's and 40's on what is now the William Henke farm. In one spot, near a small creek, they found numerous flint chips, suggesting that perhaps this was where Indians manufactured their weapons.

Dan Lane says that many arrowheads were also found along the creek on the old John Lane farm (Sec. 9, T27N R7W).

There are no reports of any Indian attacks on the settlers in this area of Wisconsin, but the Indian outbreak and massacre in Minnesota in 1862 caused many rumors and much panic in Wisconsin, too. Johann Lehn (Lane), Dan Lane's grandfather, was a small boy at the time and narrowly escaped death when Indians attacked his family's wagon as they traveled west from Wisconsin. His step-father was killed and his mother was captured, but later managed to escape. Johann, his cousin, and a neighbor boy eventually made it back to Fall Creek. For one week, they ate nothing but grass as they hid by day and walked eastward by night. [13]

ENGLISH SETTLERS

The Indians were the first owners of the land; and the United States government was the second, but the government could not put the land up for sale to settlers until it had been surveyed. According to records at the Register of Deeds office in
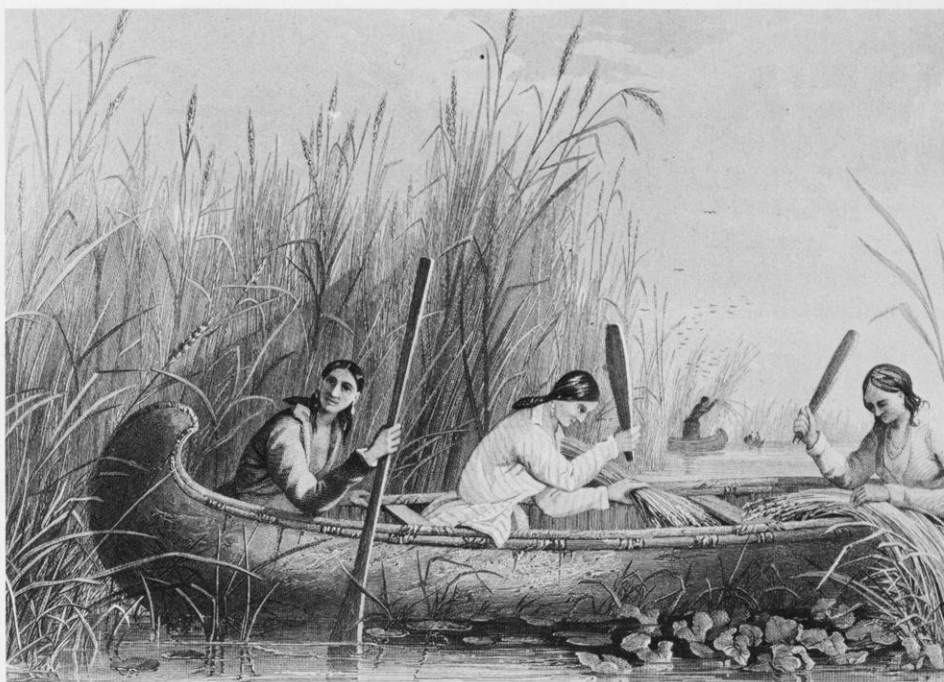
Gathering of wild rice, as it may have been done in the Saars Ditch area. This was a job usually done by the Indian women. They brought their canoes alongside the rice, bent it over the canoe, and then flailed it off the stem so it would fall into the canoe. Wild rice was a favorite food of the Indians in this area. (Drawn by Seth Eastman, from **Indian Tribes of the United States** by Henry R. Schoolcraft, 1857.)

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin WHi (W6) 13608

Eau Claire, there were no land sales in the Fall Creek area before 1855. Settlers may have staked claims to land before that, but they were not able to actually purchase it until then.

By that time, the area had all been surveyed and divided into townships, sections, and quarter sections. All the townships in the state were identified by town numbers (north and south) and range numbers (east and west). The early surveyors plotted the land into townships which were six miles square. These were further divided into 36 one-mile sections with a cedar stake set at each section and quarter section corner.

The first settlers in the Fall Creek area came from the eastern states and were of English descent. Simon and George Randall, for example, were born of English parents in Sebago, Maine. George settled east of Fall Creek on what is now the Gary Jungerberg farm, in about 1859. Ebber Clark and Abe Storm arrived that same year. Mr. Clark built a log cabin in the Saars Ditch area on what is now the Ewald Krause property (Sec. 33, T27N, R7W) and kept a stopping place on the old Pinery Tote Road which ran along the south bank of the river. Mr. Storm settled on what is now the Elmer Wilhelm farm, but built his house, by mistake, on a neighbor's land to the west of the pond.

The Horels (Richard, James, Henry), Joseph Schofield, Ira Richardson, and the Mintos formed a little English community southeast of Fall Creek (Sec. 10 and 15, T26N, R7W).[14] Obediah Works settled in Lincoln Township in 1857.[15]

In the Rodell (formerly Rosedale) area, Israel and Eliza Herrell were among the first settlers. They purchased 320 acres of wild, though not heavily wooded, land one mile east of Rodell (Sec. 24, T26N, R7W) in 1856. Patrick and Clarissa Herrick purchased 300 acres of school and university land for $12-15 an acre in the same area in 1858. In 1862, John Honadel, Christoph Erdman, and Christian Swanke purchased land in Sections 23 and 25.[16]

John Michael Shong (see family tree, p. 130), who was born near Nancy in Lorraine, France, was also one of the very early landowners near Fall Creek. He settled just east of the village, on what is now the James Huff farm, in 1859.

GERMAN SETTLERS

The Personal Property Tax Assessment Rolls are a very good indication of who was actually living in a particular township in a given year. Although there may have been a few residents who did not own enough property to appear on the rolls, we can safely assume that anyone whose name was on the list did, in fact, live in the area in that particular year.

In 1861, the earliest year for which we have a Personal Property Tax Assessment Roll for the Town of Lincoln, there are very few German-sounding names on the roll. G. Stelter (probably Gottfried - see biography p. 127). John Simmerman (Zimmerman?), and S. Wilk (Welke?) are the only ones. By 1864, however, many names which are now common around Fall Creek had appeared on the list. By 1900, the village of Fall Creek and the immediately surrounding area was 99% German.

Most of the Germans who settled in and around Fall Creek came originally from the provinces of Posen and Pommern (sometimes spelled Pomerania or Pommerian), both of which are now behind the Iron Curtain in Poland and East Germany.

Germans left their homeland to come to the United States as early as 1847, mainly because of religious and political unrest in Germany. Many left in order to avoid conscription into the German

PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT ROLL FOR THE TOWN OF LINCOLN 1864

Names are frequently misspelled on old records and this one is no exception. We have copied the names exactly as they were written by the official who made the list.

Buck, H. P.	Kaeding, Michel
Buck, Daniel	Kuehn, Daniel
Bartlet, Wm. P.	Leidiger, Erich
Bartz, Ludwig	Luther, Wm.
Bartz, Friederick	Muenchow, Daniel
Bahr, Ferdinand	Moldenhauer, Georg
Bartz, August	Martin, Fred.
Brummond, August	Markham, E. P.
Buck, A. D.	Norman, H. L.
Brummend, Wm.	Roesler, W.
Clough, Charlos	Richardson, D. C.
Combs, J. Wm.	Reetz, August
Chase, Wm. W.	Honedel, Georg.
Clark, Eber	Schofield, Joseph
Davis, John	Schofield, Thomas
Edwards, Wm.	Stellter, Wm.
Fose, Charles James	Stellter, Gottfried
Gessner, Christian	Stubbe, Carl
Hurst, John	Stuart, Charles
Horel, Charles	Scott, J.
How, Elisher	Strassburg, J.
Horlow, Wm.	Sturm, Sidney A.
Herrel, Israel	Teske, John
Horel, Samuel	Tallmadg, Henry
Horel, Richard	Wilke, Samuel
Horel, James	Widemann, G.
Jeske, Friedrich	Works, Oberdiah
Kidder, S. B.	Wilke, G.
Kaatz, August	Zimmermann, Christian
Kuehn, Martin	Zimmermann, Michel
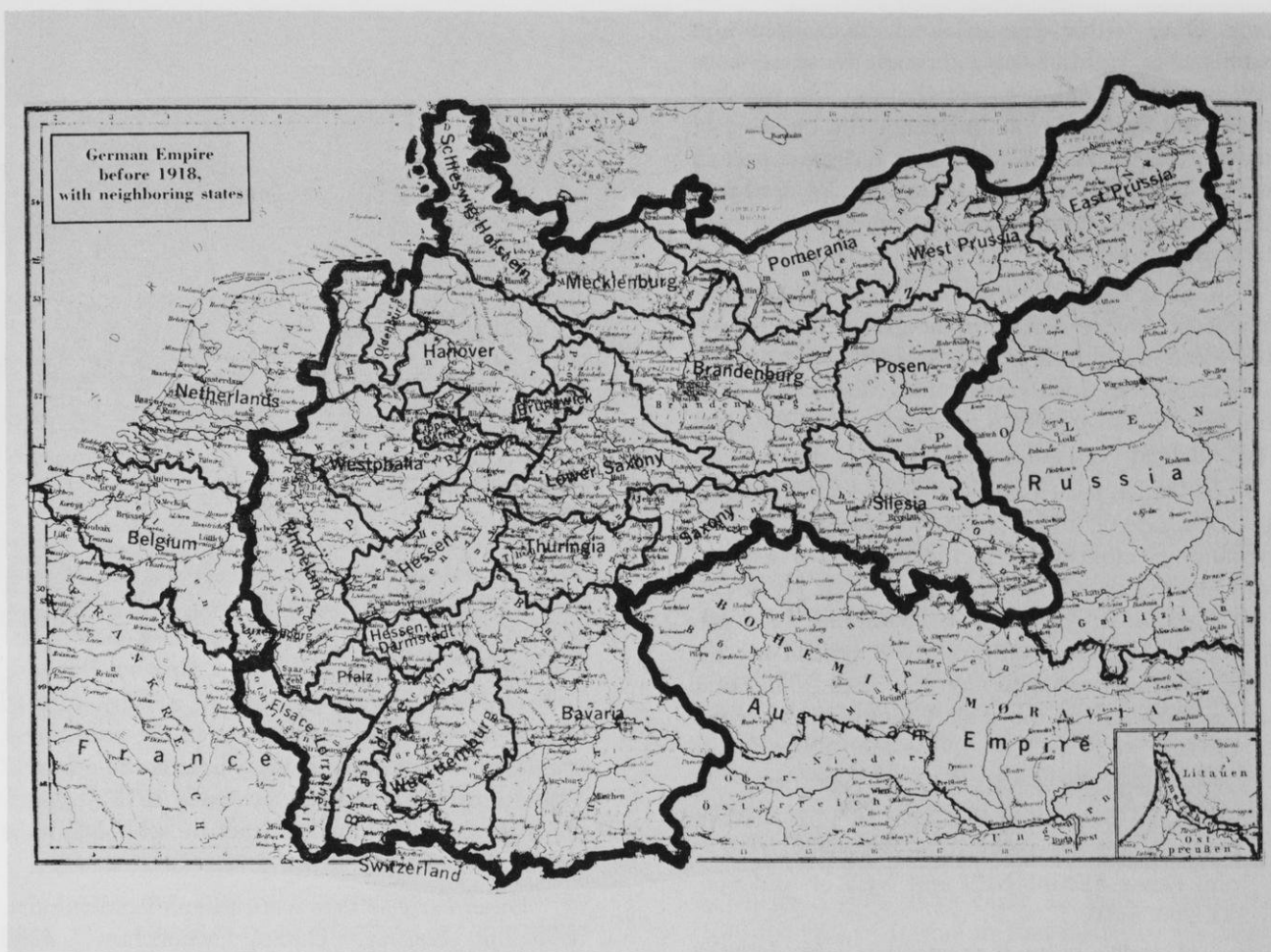
Map of Germany before 1918 showing the provinces. Most of the German settlers in this area came from Posen and Pomerania.

Army. Some entire congregations of German Lutherans were among the first to come because of discrimination in their homeland. Others were liberals, and the freedom of the American system appealed to them.

Nearly all of the early German immigrants in Wisconsin were farmers, and their hard work made a tremendous contribution to the state's agriculture. They came to Wisconsin largely because it was so much like their homeland in climate, products, and natural features.

Many of the Germans who eventually came to the Fall Creek area had first settled around Princeton, Wisconsin and in Marquette County, about 150 miles southeast of Eau Claire County. In the 1860's, Eau Claire County was the "frontier", and people came here from southern Wisconsin, drawn by the lure of opportunity in a new area.

There were several different ways in which the first settlers acquired their land:

1. Veterans were given land under an Act of Congress approved in 1855, entitled "An Act in addition to certain acts granting bounty lands to certain officers and soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States." It appears from the records in the Eau Claire County Register of Deeds Office that, while there was a considerable amount of land in Eau Claire County thus awarded to veterans, few, if any, of them ever came here to settle. Many old abstracts show that the first individual to own the land served in a particular regiment in Massachusetts or Virginia. Michael Zimmerman, for example, in 1861, purchased the assignment of a warrant first issued to Elisha Strong of Massachusetts for the NE, NW and SW quarters of the NE quarter and all of the NW quarter of Sec. 7, T27N, R7W.

2. Civilians could buy land outright from the U.S. Government or the State of Wisconsin through a land office (there was one in LaCrosse before the Eau Claire Courthouse was built).

3. In order to encourage the railroads to run lines into sparsely settled areas, the federal government granted them every alternate section of

land lying within ten miles of the railroad, in addition to right-of-ways through those sections still in government or private hands. The railroad could sell the land to help finance the building of the rail lines. The railroads also did their part in encouraging European immigrants to settle in those areas, offering low fares in connection with land purchases.

4. The Federal government gave the State of Wisconsin every sixteenth section of land which the state could sell, rent, or lease. Any money collected from such transactions was to be used for educational purposes, and thus came the term "school land" or "university land".

5. Under the Homestead Act of 1862, settlers had to reside on and cultivate ("prove up") a piece of land six months out of the year for five years and at the end of that time prove that he or she still lived on it. When those conditions were fulfilled, the settler would receive a special certificate granting ownership of the land. The first lands "proved" in the Fall Creek vicinity were in 1868:

Louis Bartz N½ of NE¼ Sec. 18 T26N R7W
Ferdinand Bahr S½ of SE¼ Sec. 18 T. 26N R7W
August Bartz N½ of NE¼ Sec. 20 T26N R7W
John Feske SE¼ of NE¼ and NE¼ of SE¼ Sec. 26T 26N R8W

Some of those same homesteaders also bought other property for cash.

Theodore Redlacyzk homestead west of the road by the over head bridge about 1896. Left to right: Julius Wilhelm, Fred Weggen, Fred Kroft, John Kallis (Ida's father). At time of picture the farm was owned by Fred Kraft.

Luttrell # 453

Covered wagon like those used by early settlers.

Christian Zimmerman is said to be the first settler to clear land for farming near Fall Creek. The *Eau Claire County Journal* for January 7, 1916, carried his obituary. In part, it stated that Christian "was almost the very first settler here, only one or two being before him, and he suffered all the privations of the pioneer in the wilderness, the family's first home being a hole in the ground." According to the article, he came to Fall Creek in 1856 and purchased a tract of school land at ten schillings * per acre.
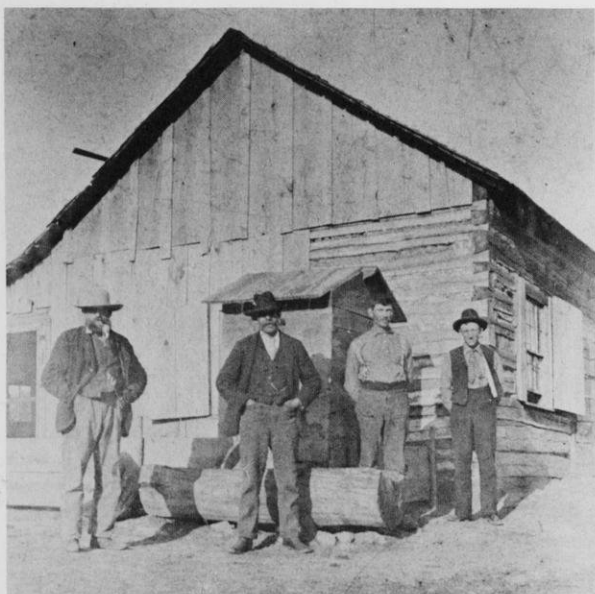
Other early settlers were Joseph Lindenthaler, Wilhelm Roesler, Daniel Muenchow, Fred Kaeding, Daniel Zempel, and Samuel Welke.

Samuel Welke's story, part of which he had written down himself in 1914, and part of which was related to us by his grandson, is typical of the experiences of many of the early Fall Creek immigrants.

THE WELKE STORY

Samuel Welke had just turned sixteen, and, with the strict military conscription laws prevalent in Germany in the mid-1800's, he would soon be forced into the Prussian Army as so many of his friends had been already. Young Samuel's parents, Gottlieb and Mary (Steinke), finally came to a decision . . . they would leave their home in Posen and take their sons out of Bismark's reach . . . to America.

The Welkes knew very little about America but they felt certain that they could make a better

---

* According to Dr. Richard Cameron at the Area Research Center, UWEC, a "schilling" was worth about twenty-five cents in Wisconsin in 1850-1878.

16

Luttrell #471

Samuel Welke Family, 1881. Front: Fred, Wilhelmina, Samuel, Emma. Back: John, Julia.

life for themselves there. After all, didn't people say that even the streets in America were paved with gold?

So, in 1853, the Welkes left their homeland, and, after the long voyage across the Atlantic, they made their way to Montello in Marquette County, north of Portage, Wisconsin. It was there that Samuel met and married Wilhelmina Menge in 1857.

Samuel loved the land and his dream was to own a farm of his own, so when the young couple heard that good farm land was available in Eau Claire County, they decided to go there. They set out in the spring of 1861 with a covered wagon pulled by two cows. Wilhelmina rode in the wagon with their two-year-old son, while Samuel led the cows across swollen streams and over roads that were mere trails through the woods. The slow and lumbering cows probably could not travel much more than fifteen miles a day, so the 150-mile trip may have taken nearly two weeks to complete.

When they finally arrived in Eau Claire County, Samuel and Wilhelmina chose a homesite near springs and a little creek in the Town of Lincoln (Sec. 25, T26N R8W), about three and a half miles southwest of the future location of Fall Creek. There they purchased eighty acres of state university land at $2.50 an acre. [17]

Samuel and Wilhelmina probably lived in or under their covered wagon while they were clear-ing their land and before their log cabin was completed. Or they may have dug a hole in the hillside and covered the opening with branches and twigs for protection, as many of the other early settlers did. Their second child, Johann Gottlieb (John), was born that October in the new log cabin. Four more children would be born there over the years.

Samuel and Wilhelmina worked hard. Much of their land was covered with oak brush, so before they could plant their first crop, they had to clear a small patch of land. This took precedence even over building a cabin in which to live. Chopping brush with a hand ax, wrestling to remove the roots, picking stones, and plowing the tough sod with a team of cows was not easy.

That first summer, Samuel and Wilhelmina no doubt lived off the land. Blueberries, straw-berries, and raspberries grew in mats and masses. Fish were abundant in the streams, and wild game was plentiful. Wild rice and cranberries grew a few miles north by the river, although the Welkes probably didn't venture that far the first year. Perhaps they learned to jerk (dry) meat to preserve it for later use as the Indians did. No doubt Wilhelmina dried some of the blueberries for winter sauces and pies, and she may have sold some for a little extra cash. In 1859, blueberries sold for $2.00 a bushel in Eau Claire, while sugar was seven cents a pound; prunes and New York diced apples were each 12½ cents a pound; and cheese was 14 cents a pound. [18]

The Welkes were happy to have the August Kaatz and Frederick Martin families as close neighbors. Neighbors were extremely important in pioneer days . . . both for companionship and for cooperative work projects.

At that time, the total population in all of Eau Claire County was 3,164. [19] The nearest trading post was Eau Claire, a village with about a thousand inhabitants. Although there was stage-coach service not far from the Welke farm, it was much too expensive for them to use. If supplies were needed, Samuel would either walk or go with his wagon and cows. Either way, the twenty-mile round-trip was a full day's journey, and one that was not made often.

CIVIL WAR

The Civil War started in 1861, the same spring the Welkes moved to Eau Claire County. In early 1865, volunteers were still needed.

Perhaps it was the money that encouraged Samuel and his two neighbors, August Kaatz and Frederick Martin, to enlist in the Union Army;

perhaps it was patriotism; or perhaps it was the lure of adventure. Probably, it was a combination of all three. At any rate, they left their young families in February, 1865, and joined Company G of the 48th Wisconsin Infantry, serving in Kansas and Missouri.

Although the war ended in April, 1865, Pvt. Welke and his friends remained in service through the summer and fall to protect the white settlers from Indians and bushwhackers who pillaged the land and burned houses. Meanwhile, Wilhelmina and the neighbor women back home were working the oxen in the fields and carrying the entire workload of the farm, as well as caring for their small children.

In early December, the men left Ft. Zarah, Kansas, and began the long trip home with six mule teams and rations for twenty-four days. A foot of snow fell the night before they left, and on the third day, a blizzard began which continued for four days. The snow was from three to thirty feet deep; but they had to go on or starve, so they shoveled out roads for eighty miles. Fifty men were given the task for the first hour and shifts were changed hourly. At night they would cut a hole in the snow and pitch their tents there.

It took them twenty-four days to reach Ft. Leavenworth, near Kansas City. By this time, only four of the six mule teams were able to continue. Fortunately, there was a wagon train that was returning empty from the West, and it was assigned to the Wisconsin company. A guard was stationed at each wagon to prevent the men from riding, for if they had not kept moving, they would have frozen. Halters and ropes were stretched along the sides of the wagons, and these made a hold for the men to aid them in walking or dragging themselves through the snow. The wagons, at least, provided transportation for their clothing, blankets, and the buffalo skins and wolf pelts which they had accumulated on the plains.

When they finally reached Madison on January 9, 1866, they were given a grand reception and then discharged from the army. (For more about Samuel Welke, see Capter 3.)

SERVING IN THE CIVIL WAR

Fall Creek area residents who served during the Civil War in Co. G of the 48th Infantry under Captain Hobart Stocking:

Lewis Bartz	Christian Schwanke
August Bartz	John M. Shong
August Brummond	Henry Tallmadge
August Kaatz	John Teske
Eric Leidiger	Samuel Welke
Frederick Marten	Obediah Works

FALL CREEK CITY

A "Fall Creek City" was platted as early as 1857 about a mile north of the present village of Fall Creek. Fall Creek City covered fifteen acres just to the southwest of the confluence of the Eau Claire River and the Fall Creek (NE¼ of NW¼ of Sec. 32, T27N R7W).

The plat included four blocks with a total of thirty-five lots, each of which had an appraised value of $1.27. Apparently, however, no one purchased them and the real estate deal fell through. In 1859, the entire fifteen acre area was up for sale for back taxes . . . those taxes being fifty-five cents per lot. [20] In 1863, there was no more mention of Fall Creek City on the assessment rolls; the entire forty was listed as being owned by Charles Thayer and Mr. Green. [21]

There was some kind of settlement in this area at one time, though, probably in connection with a saw mill and/or grist mill which used power from the falls. Old cellar excavations and well sites marking the location of these early mills could still be seen in the 1930's and 40's along the high banks of the creek and along the river bank. [22]

In 1861, the Town of Lincoln Assessment Roll shows that the forty acres just west of the confluence of the Fall Creek and the Eau Claire River (SW¼ of the NE¼, Sec. 32 T27N R7W) were valued at $1,000, while all other forties in the area were assessed at $80 to $100. This would indicate that there were buildings or improvements of some type on that land. It was, at the time, owned by Green, Thayer, and Perkins.

Apparently the village did not start developing in its present location until the railroad came through in 1871.

"COUSINS" TO "FALL CREEK"

On October 20, 1870, a postmaster was officially appointed for the settlement which was, at that time, known as "Cousins". Some say that this was because most of the residents were related to one another, but it was probably in honor of Henry Cousins, a prominent Eau Claire businessman. On July 24, 1874, the name was changed to Fall Creek after the stream of that name which runs along the edge of the community. [23] This was supposedly done at the insistence of Simon Randall who felt that the village should have what he called an "American name". [24] According to the 1914 *History of Eau Claire County*, "the citizens of Fall Creek objected to the name "Cousins", and it was renamed Fall Creek". (For more information about the development of Fall Creek village government, see Chapter 7.)

The first imposing strides of the Iron Horse....
the World grew smaller....and our
Valley more a part of it.

FROM OX CARTS TO JETS

No one knows for sure just how the first men in this region traveled. Primitive man probably first used trails made by animals. Certainly they followed the lines of least resistance along the high lands and ridges, seeking out the driest places when it was necessary to cross a valley.

The first white men to travel those trails were the adventurers, explorers, and fur traders. The lumbermen widened the trails into tote roads for their oxen and supply wagons. The settlers criss-crossed the country with roads on which they could travel with their teams of horses between the settlements and homesteads. Then came the railway with its long lines of steel track and noisy locomotives. And, finally, with the advent of the automobile, the concrete ribbons of the state and interstate highways were laid down.

RIVERS — THE GREAT HIGHWAYS

The rivers were the first highways of northern Wisconsin. When George and Simon Randall came to the Eau Claire area in the early 1840's, their only practical choice was to travel by water. They bought passage on a steam boat which took them up the Mississippi as far as Wabasha, Minnesota, and from there, they made their way up the Chippewa River to Eau Claire. Even in 1850, when members of their party went to get supplies, they hollowed out a huge tree to use as a canoe, floated down the river to LaCrosse, filled the boat with supplies, and then pulled it back up the river. [1]

The earliest landing place for traders, lumbermen, and settlers heading for the Chippewa River region was at Nelson's Landing, Wisconsin, a little below the mouth of the Chippewa on the Mississippi. The trail led from there directly to the Chippewa River which was then crossed in canoes, or by wading during low water seasons. Later, Reads Landing was founded, and it became "the great port of entry" for this entire section of Wisconsin. [2]

An account written by John C. Barland of a return trip from the Wolf River to Eau Claire in 1854, tells us a little about travel in the Fall Creek area at that time. He says that they crossed Bridge Creek; then traveled two miles on the trail to Bears Grass Creek. Then, "it seemed an intermin-

able struggle, over the windswept plain 'ere we reached Fall Creek late in the afternoon. Our trail crossed the creek in a deep gorge near the river . . . it seemed so grateful, the shelter of the hills and the trees . . . We climbed the hill out of the sheltering gorge . . . and again the wolves began to howl." [3]

The trail that they were following was probably the one which was known as the "Pinery Tote Road", a rough wagon trail used to tote supplies to the lumber camps. It ran east out of Eau Claire, following a route close to the south bank of the Eau Claire River, and went to within about four miles of Augusta, past the old Israel Herrel farm (now the Gerald Parker farm). A stopping place and supply house on the tote road was operated by Ebber Clark. [4]

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The first roads were not really roads, but merely a pair of tracks that wound in and out between trees and fallen logs, around the swampy areas, and across the plains, fording rivers and creeks in the places where the water was most calm and the stream bed most solid.

Building a road in the 60's and 70's in the forest areas usually meant simply cutting a line
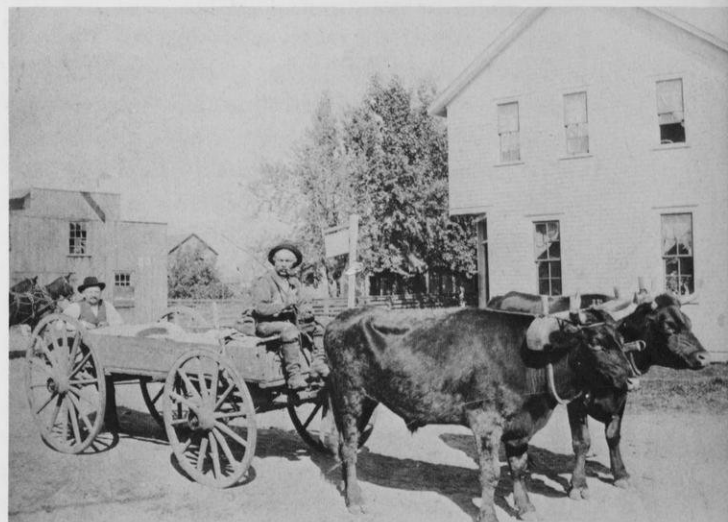
Luttrell #279

Team of oxen owned by August Doede. Faber House in the background, before 1894. Ludwig Schultz standing behind the wagon. At one time ox carts were the chief means of transportation in the Fall Creek area. 1887.

through the timber and then trying to burn or dig out the worst of the stumps. Even in the early 1900's, the roads in Ludington were simply trails through the forest, just wide enough for one wagon. The branches of the trees met overhead in most places, so very little sunshine ever reached the roadbed. Often farmers simply drove their wagons through the woods, not following any road at all. [5]

In 1848, the state legislature authorized a road from Prairie du Chien to Hudson via Sparta, Black River Falls, and Eau Claire; but it was the winter of 1849-50 before the road became passable. In spite of the fact that Thomas Randall described it as an "intricate and forbidding route", it was used extensively by immigrants heading west, by farmers hauling produce, and by the stagecoach lines carrying passengers and freight. [6] It was known as the "Stage Road" and eventually became old Highway 12. (See map p. 8.)

The present Highway 12 from Eau Claire to Fall Creek was paved in 1931. [7] Highway 12 was the main road from St. Paul to southeastern Wisconsin and Chicago and the heavy traffic on it often made it extremely difficult and dangerous to cross. With the opening of I-94 in 1962, Fall Creek's Highway 12 became a secondary route, and traffic in the village was reduced considerably.

BRIDGES

The first bridge built in Lincoln Township was one across Bears Grass Creek in 1862, probably where CTH "HH" is now. The total cost of building it was $300.00. That same year, plans were made to construct a bridge over the Eau Claire River. It took five years for the Town of Lincoln to raise their share, which was $3,500.00. This was matched by an equal amount from the County. Work on the bridge, which was located in the same place as the present "D" bridge, was begun in 1867. [8] Before the bridge was built, the river was forded at "Lange's Hole", about one mile east of the bridge. [9] (See map p. 8.)

On December 27, 1904, the voters of Lincoln Township decided in favor of raising $1,000 to defray one-half the expense of building a bridge "over and across the stream known as Fall Creek on the Eau Claire and Fall Creek Highway" (now County Trunk Highway "J"). [10] On January 31, 1905, another special election was held to decide the "proposition of building a bridge and raising $2,000 to defray one-half the expense of building said bridge over and across the stream known as the Eau Claire River, said bridge to be wholly in

the West half of Section 19, Town 27, Range 7 West" (now known as the "K" bridge). The voters approved the proposition 148 to 36. [11]

STAGE COACH

Shortly after the completion of the St. Paul-Prairie du Chien road, a stagecoach line began to service that route, and, until the arrival of the railroad in 1871, this was the only form of commercial travel available in the area.

The first mention of a stage line to Eau Claire is in the *History of Eau Claire County* which says that in 1855, the stage line ran from Madison to St. Paul. [12] After the West Wisconsin Railroad was completed from Chicago to Black River Falls in 1867, Black River was the stagecoach terminus.

The *Black River Falls Banner* of January 23, 1858 indicates that the stage ran three days a week at that time: "Passengers from the north (St. Paul) arrived here on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, and the next morning after breakfast can take this route and arrive at New Lisbon (then the western terminus of the Milwaukee road) at 8 o'clock P.M. The next morning the train starts east for Milwaukee, arriving there at 12:35 P.M."

The same newspaper, on March 4, 1858, reported that: "The arrangements have at last been completed, and now a daily line of stages (Sundays not excepted) ply between St. Paul, via the towns on the route, including Black River Falls, to the cars at New Lisbon." It took two days to travel from St. Paul to Black River Falls by stage.

By 1862, the stage traffic was increasing rapidly, and, for a time, there were two coaches daily from Eau Claire to Sparta. [13]

One of the stops on the Eau Claire-Sparta stage route was located just south of the village of Fall Creek, on what is now the Gerhardt Horlacher property. William Murphy ran the relay station there. He had a big white house with three porches which was located just a few feet west of Horlacher's house. There, weary travelers could get meals and lodging. Across the road was a horse barn used by the stagecoach line. [14] Eight horses were kept ready in the barn for the stages coming from Augusta and Eau Claire.

The "Fall Creek Journal" section of the *Augusta Union* carried the following article for which Simon B. Randall, Jr. is cited as the source of information:

"The early history of Fall Creek is closely interwoven with the personal history of William "Hotel De" Murphy. William Murphy and his

W. J. Price's Stage Line that operated between Sparta and Eau Claire. Sparta, Wis., 1863.

father, Richard Murphy, came from Toronto, Canada in 1865, settling near Augusta. In 1866, the Murphys operated a stopping place for tote teams hauling supplies up the Eau Claire river. In 1865, Mr. Murphy rented the Simon Randall farm, better known at that time as the Clow farm on Fall Creek and opened a hotel, bar room, and store, a stopping place for the stagecoach line, owned by Bill Price of Black River Falls, which operated between Sparta and Eau Claire, two coaches going each way daily.

"Murphy conducted the stage stopping place until the summer of 1869 when he built a dwelling house and store, which is now the site of the Patzwald tavern. Mr. Randall and his parents moved here from Augusta the same year, and took possession of their farm, operating the stopping place for a year."

The stage came from Augusta along what is now CTH "HH" and "J". From where Horlacher's barn is now, it forded the creek and cut diagonally across what is now Harold Kaeding's field to a point near the Kildahl house. Then it went in front of LaBerge's house and followed a trail which later became "Old Highway 12" to Eau Claire. Remnants of this highway can still be seen. [15] (See map, page 8.)

The hill west of Fall Creek was very steep (old-timers called it the "Eau Claire Hill"), and, in the spring of the year, stages often mired there because of the many springs along the hill. [16] A small hammer was found north of Kaeding's house, along the stage route, which was apparently used by stagecoach drivers to knock small stones out from their horses' hooves.

The Sparta stage brought the Milwaukee papers to Eau Claire (and perhaps to a few Fall Creek residents, too) only thirty-three hours after publication. The stage fare from Eau Claire to Sparta was $2.00; from Eau Claire to Read's Landing it was $5.00. [17]

In 1868, W. T. "Bill" Price operated the stage line on what was known as the "Overland" Route. *The Jackson County Banner* of February 1, 1868, carried this statement by Price: "I am running a line of stages between Sparta and Eau Claire daily, except Sundays. Leave Sparta each morning on the arrival of trains from the East and West, arriving when roads, etc., good, in twenty hours, and always in time to connect with stages for Durand, Hudson, and Chippewa Falls. Leave Eau Claire each morning and arrive at Sparta in time to connect with trains going east and west, passing Black River Falls going east at 5:00 P.M. and

going west at 3:00 P.M. My horses and coaches are FIRST RATE. Agents and drivers sober and gentlemanly and time just as good as can be made without hurting my horses. I am also willing to carry express goods and light freight at fair rates and want to carry every one that may want to ride."

In the same issue of the *Banner*, an article from the Sparta *Eagle* is quoted as having this to say about W. T. Price's Stage Line: "His horses and coaches are good, and his drivers sober and reliable. The usual time now made between Eau Claire and Sparta is 16 hours, as we are told by those who have lately been over the road." Apparently, potential passengers were very concerned about the reliability and sobriety of the stage drivers!

The Sparta-Eau Claire stage line operated until shortly after the railroad arrived in Eau Claire in 1871. Then there was no longer a need for the lumbering horse-drawn vehicles. One era passed and a new one began.

THE RAILROAD

The coming of the railroad provided Fall Creek with a link to the eastern part of the United States. It is hard for those of us living in the jet-age to imagine what an impact this single event had on the lives of people whose only means of transportation, until that time, had been the horse and their own two legs. Even a trip back and forth to Eau Claire, let alone to Milwaukee or Chicago, was greatly simplified, and the variety of manufactured goods which could be purchased in Fall Creek was vastly increased. The railroad also determined the location of the village of Fall Creek, which might otherwise have grown up near the Eau Claire River or by the stagecoach stop.

There was a railroad as far as Sparta in 1858. By 1867, it was extended to Black River Falls;[18] and in October 1869, rails had been laid to Humbird.[19] The stagecoach could then leave Eau Claire at 7:00 A.M. and connect with the train going east within seven hours instead of 12 to 18 hours as before.[20] Railway service to Augusta was inaugurated January 3, 1870, and the departure of the stage from Eau Claire was then timed to connect with the train at Augusta.[21]

In April, men working on the grading of the right-a-way between Augusta and Fall Creek quit, demanding a raise from $1.50 to $1.75 a day. Then the work was further delayed by lack of spikes. These arrived in June and work speeded up.[22] The July 14, 1871 issue of the *Eau Claire Free Press* announced the arrival of the railroad in Fall Creek.

Fall Creek Depot, 1913. Milton Schori on the left, "Bous" Jacobson on the right.

On August 1, 1871, the citizens of Eau Claire celebrated the arrival of the first train in their city. By January of 1872, it was possible for Fall Creek residents to travel by train to St. Paul, Minnesota. [23] For many years, however, there was only a single track. The double track was completed in 1906 — and taken up again in 1964 and 1965. [24]

In 1870, the rail line was called the West Wisconsin Railway. It later became a part of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railway, and still later, part of the Northwestern system.

Mr. Downs was the first depot agent. [25] Edward Gessner was station master from 1874 to 1878 and was express agent from 1876 until (and possibly beyond) 1881. [26] John O'Brien was depot agent in 1881, having worked for the railroad since 1876. [26] G. B. Downs was depot agent in 1895, according to the state census Militia Records of that year.

The December 18, 1914 issue of the *Eau Claire County Journal* carried these comments about the railroad: "....the C. St. P. M. & O. Ry. Co. is a progressive line and we are in hopes that a few short years will see Fall Creek with a depot that will have all towns along this and other lines beat. The company has made several improvements on their line through here the past few years that are laudable. It has a double track operated under the automatic block signal system, and, entirely local, it has put in a brick platform and also rip-rapped the stock yards and renewed the buildings and enclosures. There is a rumor also that they will soon provide a shelter on the northside of their double track for passengers going and coming on the west-bound trains."

The station agent at the time the article was written was E. B. ("Bous") Jacobson, and the night clerk was Milton Schori. Section foremen ("the watchdogs of the rails", according to the newspaper) were H. A. Moldenhauer, Frank Heuer, Joe Trader, and Wm. Heuer. So the railroad was important to the village in another way ... that of providing employment for its citizens.

In the early 1900's, there were seven passenger trains a day passing through Fall Creek. Westbound trains came through at approximately 5:30 A.M., 1:48 P.M.; 5:30 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. Eastbound trains arrived in Fall Creek at about 11:08 A.M., 9:40 P.M. and 2:00 A.M. The 2:00 A.M. train was a "limited" and would stop in Fall Creek only if there were passengers to disembark. If someone wanted to board at Fall Creek, the
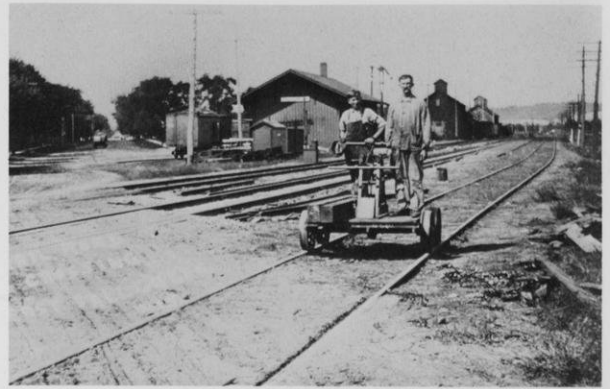
Luttrell #265

Railroad handcar used for transporting railway employees.

station attendant would stop the train by waving his lantern. [27]

When the railroad was first completed, trains stopped to take on passengers halfway between where the Marlow Bruesewitz farm and Bill's Farm and Feed are now located. The first depot was built where the elevator now stands. When that building burned, another was built on the same location, but was later moved to the present site of Bill's Farm and Feed. [28]

There was, for many years, a depot at Rodell. The 1910 Plat Book for Eau Claire County shows "Rosedale Depot." Apparently, there was another Rosedale in Wisconsin, so, in order to avoid confusion on the railroad, the Eau Claire County Rosedale was changed to Rodell.

There was also at one time a depot halfway between Altoona and Fall Creek called "Sunnyside". It is shown on the official Wisconsin railroad maps for 1881, 1892, and 1904; but is not on the 1916 map.

AUTOMOBILES

The *Augusta Eagle* of September 21, 1900, reported, "An automobile, the first seen in this vicinity, passed through here Wednesday. It was of the steam variety, and was going to the Merrilan fair." Dr. Lyman, an Eau Claire doctor who frequently came to Fall Creek, is said to have been the first person in northern Wisconsin to own an automobile.

The first automobile in the Fall Creek area was purchased by Henry Swanke about 1908. Dr. Sizer had the first automobile in the village, a 1908 Buick with a starter crank on the side. [29]

But ownership of an automobile in 1908 did not mean that one could easily make long distance trips. Ralph Wise remembers a trip to Chetek with Dr. Sizer and Frank Sizer in 1910 that took

Luttrell # 69
Early International Car, l. Otto Vogler, r. Philip Vogler.

Luttrell # 498
Model A Ford being pulled out of the mud, a common sight in the spring before the advent of hard surfaced roads.

all day to complete, partly because neither Dr. Sizer nor the people they asked along the way really knew how to get to Chetek, and there were no road maps. Even as late as 1921, a trip to the Ox Bow on the Flambeau, a distance of just a little over 100 miles, required a day and a half — mainly because they had 26 flat tires on the way! But this was expected — they carried that many inner tubes with them, plus patching and repair materials.

Wisconsin was a leader in the development of highway numbers and road maps. The *Eau Claire County Journal* of July 14, 1916, reported, "One hundred thousand automobile owners of Wisconsin and countless motor parties touring the state, who have been blindly groping from one roadside signboard to another and pestering chance wayfarers with questions as to the best route from somewhere to somewhere else may now rise up from the steering wheel, wipe their goggles and call the Wisconsin Highway Commission blessed. The long desired road map of the state is published and ready for distribution." The 1918 Wisconsin road map was the first in the world with highway numbers keyed to markers along the highway. The now familiar number system was later adopted by all other states and many foreign counties. [30]

The first auto sales and repair companies in Fall Creek were The Fall Creek Motor Company, owned by Edw. Stubbe (where Fall Creek Cable Co. is now), and the Stelter Auto Co., owned by W. R. Stelter (where the Keller Warehouse is now). These were the only auto sales firms in the village until 1923 when Frank Michels started a

Garage on State Street owned by Ed Stubbe. Left to right: 1. Unknown, 2. Moldenhauer, 3. Ed Stubbe, 4. Unknown, 5. Walter Stelter.

Luttrell # 126

Willys Overland agency. He later built what is now "Fall Creek Ford."

In the December 1914 issue of the *Eau Claire County Journal*, Mr. Stubbe advertised a Model C 25 1915 Buick, four cylinder for $950.00; a 1915 Model "25" Maxwell at $750.00; a Model C-55, 6 cylinder Buick at $1,650; and the Kisel Kar . . . $1,450.00 and up. (all prices f.o.b. factory).

The following information from the Statistical Reports of the County Supervisor of Assessments of Eau Claire County, shows the growth of the number of automobiles in the Fall Creek area from 1909 to 1923:

	1909	1911	1917	1923
Lincoln	1	1	54	190
Ludington	0	0	13	128
Seymour	0	1	11	85
Fall Creek	1	2	39	101

BUS SERVICE

Greyhound bus service was started in Fall Creek in 1937 with the St. Charles Hotel as the depot. Since the hotel was torn down in 1959, tickets have been purchased right on the bus.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Scheduled air service became available in the area on February 24, 1948, when the Wisconsin Central Airline began as a forerunner to North Central Airlines. North Central introduced jet airliners to Eau Claire in 1968.

POTPOURRI

● Recollections of H. P. Leavens: "I landed in Eau Claire in the early spring of 1857, reaching there by the first boat on its return, that came down the Chippewa that season. Our party waited at Reed's Landing four long days for its arrival . . . It took us an entire day to make the journey." [31]

● "Four span of mules and one span of horses passed through town on the way to Fairchild to work on the construction of the new railway from Fairchild west." (*Fall Creek Cultivator*, April 18, 1912, as quoted in the *Fall Creek Times* April 21, 1932.) This railroad went from Fairchild to Foster, Allen, and Cleghorn. It was called the Foster Railroad because it was built and owned by N. C. Foster. One of the stops on this railroad was "Strader" where the Grulkowski filling station and store is now. [32]

Luttrell #517

Stelter Auto Co. Ad, Eau Claire County Journal, December 18, 1914.

● In an account telling of her trip from Eau Claire to Chicago in February 1854, Betsy Moffatt wrote of travelling by horse and sleigh to within a few miles of Black River Falls where they changed to a wagon for the remainder of the journey to the railhead at Sparta. She took along a heated soapstone from Eau Claire to keep her feet warm. Arrangements were made in Sparta to have the stone returned to Eau Claire. [33]

● Rev. J. Bittner and Carl Hoehn built and operated the first "snowmobiles" in Fall Creek. They used an old Model T chassis and substituted skis and tracks for the wheels. Rev. Bittner drove his when he went out to conduct services in his

Market Day in Fall Creek, 1910, State Street.

rural churches. Carl found the vehicle invaluable in delivering mail on the rural routes in winter.

● There were many problems with the old "D" bridge. Often, the whole river bottom would be one big lake and the bridge, which was shorter and lower than the present one, would be covered with water. Erv Wilhelm told us about a Ludington couple who came into Fall Creek one fine spring day to have grain ground at the mill. They visited around town, and, by the time they were ready to go home, the husband was feeling pretty happy . . . and a little too bold. The snow and ice had been thawing all day and the bridge was under water. Although the wife begged him not to drive over it, he tried anyway. The woman's cries for help could be heard all the way to the Jungerberg house (Herb Dahlkes). The couple made it to safety, and so did the horses; but the grist they had had ground at the mill was never found, nor was the sled. The wagon box was found hanging in a tree!

Herman Drehmel says he remembers several times when he wanted to go to Fall Creek from out in Ludington, but had to turn back at the "D" bridge because it was under water.

● Travel by horse-drawn vehicles was often hazardous as these two newspaper reports indicate:

"Rev. H. Kretzschmar in company with Mr. Ludwig Grohn met with an accident while on their way to Seymour last Sunday. While fording a water hole, the sleigh tipped over and gave the gentlemen an unwelcome bath and they returned home thoroughly wet." (*Fall Creek Journal* March 30, 1917)

"John Knuth nearly lost his life some time ago when in the act of rescuing a team of horses from drowning near the Aug. Messerschmidt farm where a big pond of water had gathered under a deep drift of snow. Fortunately, both horses and Mr. Knuth were saved." (*Fall Creek Journal,* March April 6, 1917)

● "George Zetzman came out with his famous Ford last Monday. This is the first and only car we have observed this year on our streets." (*Fall Creek Journal,* April 6, 1917)

Early they came to the rich earth of the
Wide Green Valley .... settled .... built their
cabins .... fought their battles .... raised their
children, laughed their joys, and faced their
sorrows. Days, long in hours .... short in years—
they settled once more in the heart of the
valley .... and became part of its History.

WILLIAM H. JEFFERSON

CHAPTER III

GIFTS OF THE SOIL

"When the first settlers reached Eau Claire County and observed the immensity of the forest some of them little thought that only a few short years would elapse before the county would become one of the leading counties rich in agriculture."

Eau Claire County History 1914

While lumber was the lure that brought the first white man to the Fall Creek Valley, it was the good rich soil that brought permanent settlers.

Probably the first crops in the Fall Creek area were planted in the Saar's Ditch area on the open land near the Randall camp. Most lumbermen raised the vegetables and grain they needed for their own food and that of their animals, and the Randalls, no doubt, did likewise.

Wind-swept prairies, dense forest, brushland . . . all were found within a few miles of the Fall Creek Valley when the first settlers began to arrive in the mid 1800's and each type of vegetation provided its own challenge for the would-be-farmers.

CLEARING THE LAND

Those who settled north of Fall Creek had to clear timber from their land before they could plant their crops. In the Town of Ludington, to the northeast, the land was heavily forested, even up until the turn of the century. According to the *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley*, published in 1891, Ludington Township "is stocked with an abundance of hardwood, and in its west center is located the great maple sugar district." Dan Lane tells of forests so thick that you could hardly walk through them and of huge basswood trees several feet in diameter.

Erv Wilhelm, whose father cleared the land now owned by Mike and Judy Curler northwest of Fall Creek, said that their land, too, was heavily timbered. He can remember times when they rolled pile after pile of wood together and then set it afire and burned it — just to get rid of it. The ashes, he says, helped build up the soil. He remembers, too, a huge oak stump that could not be pulled out with four horses.

It is hard for people living today to appreciate the fact that the early settler looked upon trees as both friend and foe. They were friends when he could cut them and get them to a sawmill to sell.

Mathwig #1097

The Saars Ditch area today. This is probably where the first crops in the Fall Creek area were raised. As can be seen in this photo, blue stem, or "turkey foot" grass still grows there, as it did before the first settlers arrived.

But, since this was often impossible, trees were usually thought of as enemies, obstacles to cultivation and prosperity. So, they burned them.

The settlers who chose land south and east of Fall Creek had a different problem to contend with. This was prairie land with some brush, but few trees. The stories handed down by the old-timers support the scholars' theories that these prairies were the result of periodic burning by the Indians. "Apparently the Indians used fire for driving game in their hunts, for attracting game to the new growth after the fire, and for other purposes." [1]

Each summer, several varieties of blue stem grass, Indian grass, and needle grass grew on these prairies, some as tall as a man. The annual grass growth and the periodic fires created a good rich soil ideal for growing grain. The roots of the blue stem went so deep and were so intertwined that it was all but impossible to break the tough sod with anything but a steel plow. Wooden plows simply could not cut through the wiry root systems.

It is impossible for those of us who live in this age of mechanization to fully understand what was meant by "clearing the land" and "breaking the land" in the nineteenth century. It took an unbelievable amount of back-breaking toil to

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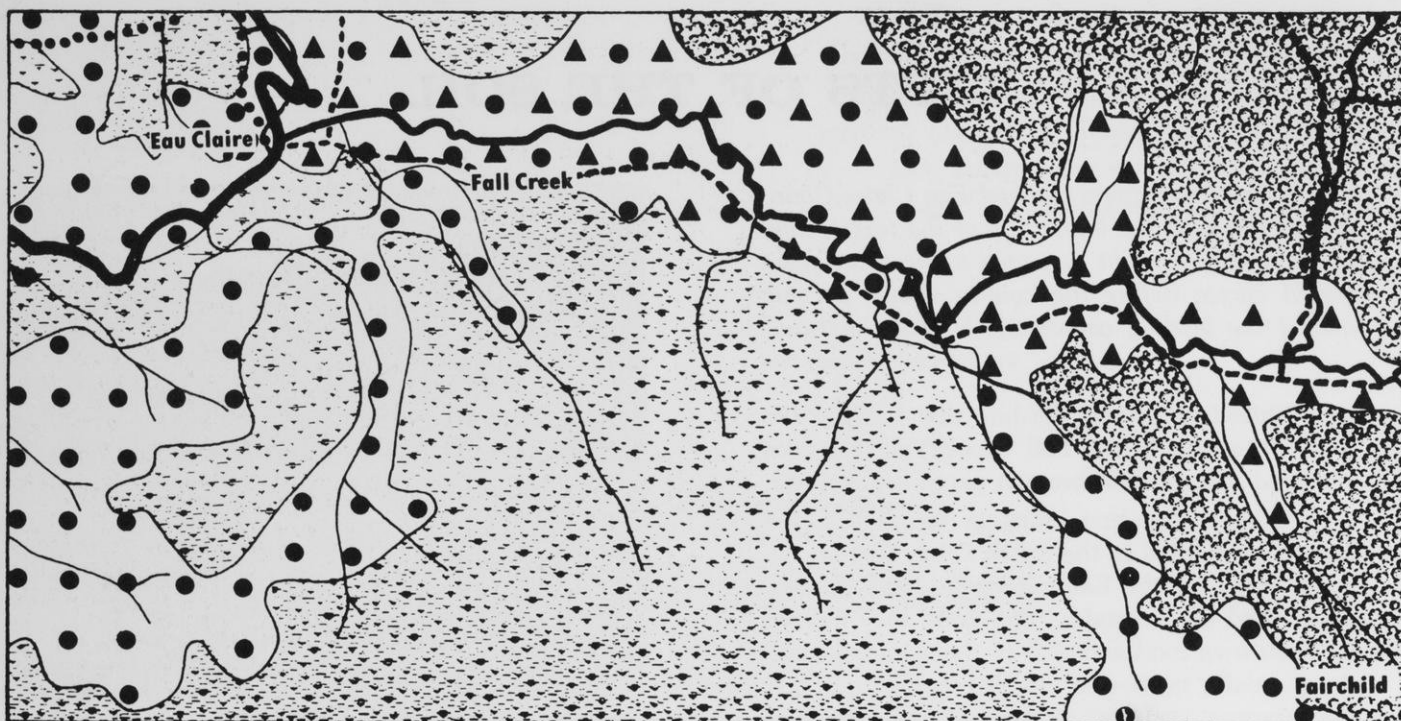
Prairie	(dots pattern)	Pine barrens	▲▲	Forest	(pattern)
Oak opening	●●	Oak-pine barrens	●▲	Wagon road	▬▬▬
		Indian trail	●●●●		

The types of vegetation found by the early settlers in Eau Claire County are shown on this drawing which was made by examining original General Land Survey records. The central part of the county was prairie land with the heavier pine forest being in the eastern quarter along the Eau Claire River. "Prairies" are defined as areas with less than one tree per acre, though they may have contained scrub oak and brush. "Oak openings" had more than one tree per acre, but less than 50% of the area was shaded by trees.

transform forests, brushland, and tough prairie sod into cropland. But, bit by bit and acre by acre, the job was done.

THE WELKE STORY — Continued

The story of the Welke family farm is typical of the development of agriculture in the Fall Creek area . . . from the immigrant farmer arriving by covered wagon to the modern dairy farm. Samuel and Wilhelmina Welke were introduced in Chapter I. Here we continue their story:

Samuel Welke had few farm tools or implements with him when he arrived in Eau Claire County. He, no doubt, had an ax and he may have brought a plow. The self-scouring breaking plow had been developed by John Deere in 1837, but, as far as we know, Samuel had only a crude wooden plow. The other implements he fashioned himself at home. His own strong back and muscular arms were his most valuable tools.

After a small opening had been carved and grubbed out of the oak brush, Samuel planted their first crop. He scattered the precious grain seeds with a practiced hand as he strode back and forth across the virgin soil, and he watched proudly as the young wheat and rye plants grew and matured.

At harvest time, the grain was cut with a cradle and bound into sheaves. Samuel, an expert cradler, could cut four acres a day. Most men could manage little more than half that. Some farmers in the area were still cutting grain with a primitive sickle or scythe and then raking it into an improvised shelter in the field. Samuel had heard about the mechanical reaper, but, although Cyrus McCormick had perfected it in the 1840's, there were only 3,000 of them purchased in the whole state of Wisconsin in 1860, none of them near the Welke farm. The threshing machine had been developed by Jerome Case before 1850,[2] but Samuel and his neighbors were still threshing their grain by pounding it with a flail and then winnowing it by pouring the grain from one container to another and letting the wind blow away the chaff.

Samuel and Wilhelmina worked hard and prospered. Each year meant the addition of a little more cleared land. An avid horticulturist, Samuel planted two orchards of fruit trees and many pines and cedars. In the early 1900's, he planted a mulberry tree which is still producing fruit. Maple trees on the farm were tapped, the sap collected and made into syrup. Samuel was also a bee-keeper, and so was able to supplement their income by selling honey, fruit, and maple syrup to regular customers in Altoona, Fall Creek, and Eau Claire. Wilhelmina cleaned and carded wool from the sheep they raised, spun the yarn, and made all their clothes.

The 1871 Personal Property Assessment Roll for the Town of Lincoln shows that Samuel's holdings were typical or slightly above the average for farmers in the township. He owned:

> 3 horses valued at ____ $120.00
>
> 13 neat * cattle _____ 115.00
>
> 8 sheep and lambs ____ 11.00
>
> 6 swine _____ 9.00
>
> 2 wagons _____ 39.00
>
> Other _____ 100.00

In 1879, the Welkes moved out of their log cabin into a new frame house on the north side of the road across from the cabin. That house, though it has been added to and remodeled several times, is still in use.

The state census of 1895 [3] was much more detailed and gives us a very accurate and complete picture of Samuel Welke as a typical Fall Creek area farmer of that era. According to the census report, he owned 120 acres improved land, 80 acres woodlot, and 40 acres unimproved land, for a total value of $3,500. His farm machinery consisted of a mower valued at $7.00, a plow ($8), a drill ($5), a hayrake ($18), a self-binder ($20), and a farm wagon ($5). There were at that time ten reapers and seven hayloaders, a number of corn cultivators, one corn planter, and one potato planter in the township; but Samuel owned none of these. He had four milk cows, valued at an average of $17.50 each, and he employed one man (possibly his son).

* As far as we have been able to determine, "neat" cattle referred to "cattle of the ox-type", as opposed to goats and sheep which were also sometimes referred to as cattle.

The crops raised on the Welke farm in 1895 were as follows:

	Acres	Yield	Value
Wheat	15	275 bushels	$150
Corn	7	100 bushels	40
Oats	20	800 bushels	200
Barley	6	275 bushels	110
Potatoes	2	100 bushels	35
Hay	(not given)	30 ton	180

The animals owned by the Welkes were:

	On Hand		Slaughtered	
	Number	Value	Number	Value
Hogs	24	$ 55	14	$110
Cattle & Calves	19	215	2	30
Sheep & Lambs	15	30		
Horses & Mules	6	250		

Samuel's son, John, married Pauline Keiser and continued to live on the home farm. Samuel lived with them until his death in February of 1922. John's son, Edward, married Harriet Volkman, and they became the next owners of the farm. The present residents on the farm are Edward's son, John, his wife Susan (Strasburg) and their three children, Deborah, Sheri, and John. The farm which Samuel Welke carved out of the wilderness in 1861 has now grown to a 300 acre modern dairy farm, owned and operated by his great-grandson.

FROM WHEAT TO DAIRYING

The progression from wheat and grain crops to dairying, which has taken place on the Welke farm, is typical of most farms in the area. In the 1860's, wheat was the primary cash crop in Wisconsin and in Eau Claire County. The virgin loam soil produced a good crop of all the small grains without any fertilization, but wheat was the most profitable. It was often used for barter; to pay debts; buy groceries, clothes and land; and to pay wages. [4]

Approximately 150,000 bushels of wheat were exported from Eau Claire in 1861. In 1862, the streets of Eau Claire were thronged with loads of wheat; and in 1877, there was more wheat sold in Eau Claire than ever before. Over the years, the price ranged from fifty cents to $2.00 a bushel. [5]

The *Augusta Times* reported in its November 10, 1886 issue that "W. E. Leidiger, living near Fall Creek, raised the largest yield of spring wheat that we have heard of yet this season, having gone 25 bushels to the acre and 72 pounds to the bushel, machine measure."

By 1880 wheat had practically disappeared as the principal crop in Wisconsin. Nels Haugen in

the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* says that the chinchbug infestation was the main reason, [6] but other sources indicate that it was simply a matter of soil depletion. It required a succession of several years of poor yields, however, to convince wheat farmers that this was the case. [7]

Actually, the failure of the wheat crop was probably a blessing in disguise, because it turned the farmers' attention to other crops and, finally, to dairying. It took several years of trial and error before most farmers would concede that dairying was the road to success. While home manufacture of cheese and butter for sale was common before 1900, it was considered women's work and beneath the dignity of a man.

Charles Hill, in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History,* reminds us that, "It is difficult for us, of the present generation, to understand how much courage it took in pioneer days to break away from wheat raising and turn to dairying. As compared with wheat growing, dairying requires a spirit of initiative, constant care and study, a great deal of sound judgment, and willingness to work hard during 365 days a year." [8]

About this same time, the cream separator was developed, a fact that gave great impetus to the dairy industry. Malcom Rosholt in *Town 25 North* says, "Few Americans today appreciate the significance of the cream separator . . . (or) the stir that was made when the first separator appeared in the neighborhood around the turn of the century. Up to this time, dairying was thought of not as a means to a living, but as a means of exchange for groceries. With the introduction of the separator, a new field of enterprise, the dairy industry, opened up." [9]

CREAMERIES

The first creamery in Eau Claire County was built in Augusta in the early 1880's, and shortly after that, one was started at Fall Creek. At first, these creameries gathered cream which the farmers had skimmed by hand at home. Then, with the advent of the cream separator, the job was speeded up. Skimming stations were established, a system which improved the quality of the butter and brought more money to the farmers, making it possible for them to make a living from dairying. [10]

In 1895, there were three creameries in the Town of Lincoln, according to the state census report — the Fall Creek Creamery, valued at $1,000; a creamery owned by Obadiah Works, valued at $500; and one owned by C. W. Halbert, also valued at $500.

The first Fall Creek Creamery was located north of the village on the north bank of Fall

The first creamery in the Fall Creek area was located just east of CTH "K", north of the creek. Farmers brought their whole milk in cans; then waited to get skim milk to take back for their calves, pigs, and horses.
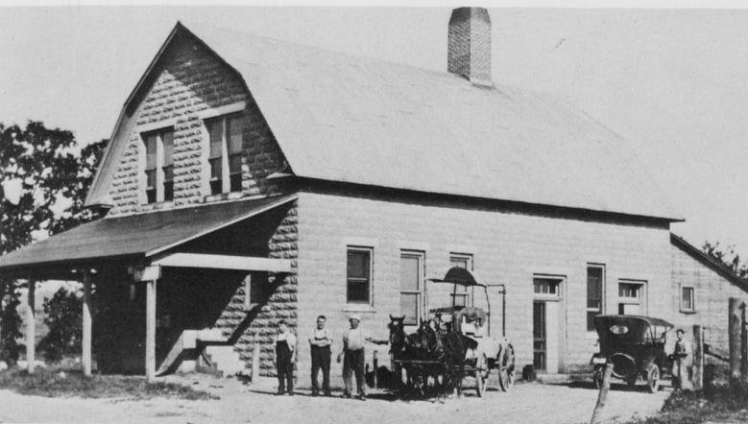

Creamery At Fall Creek.

Creek, east of Highway K. A few hogs were kept in a barn in back of the creamery and were fed the buttermilk, then a waste product. Money from the sale of the pigs was added to the plant's income.

A view to the west along Fall Creek, showing the old creamery on the right. County Trunk "K" and the mill can be seen in the background.

A new creamery was erected at the west end of the village in 1912 and remained in operation until 1968. Farmers unloaded their milk cans in front, under the protection of the roof. The man holding the horses is Fred Glenz, who lived east of Fall Creek on CTH "D". He came to the creamery regularly with his wagon and buttermilk tank to get buttermilk for his animals. To the far left is Phil Vogler.
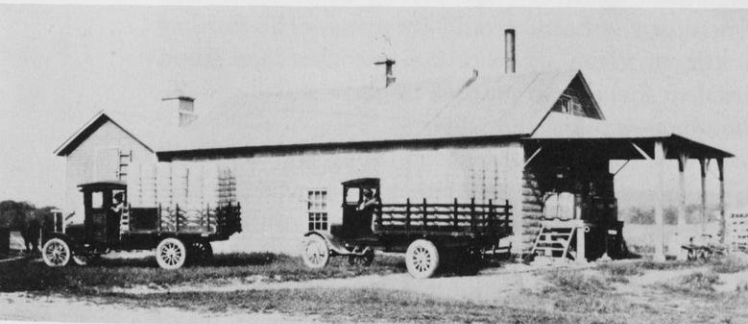
Ludington Creamery. The Ford trucks are loaded with empty butter tubs.

Many farmers living near Fall Creek brought their whole milk in to the creamery and then waited to get skim milk back for their pigs, calves, and horses. There were two or three cream pick-up routes, but if the farmer did not own a separator of his own, he had to haul the whole milk himself. In later years, the new creamery accepted whole milk. [11]

The new creamery was built on the west end of Fall Creek in 1912, and operated until 1968. It was originally a private enterprise, but about 1930 it became a cooperative. The first and long-time buttermaker was John Shields. In 1968, the Falls Dairy Company bought the creamery business and machinery; the John Wuethrich Creamery Company bought the brand name; and Arden Grudem bought the building, which was later sold to the village. [12]

According to the *Eau Claire County Journal,* the Fall Creek Creamery put out a record-breaking 100 tubs of butter one week in May of 1915. In August of 1916, the *Journal* said that "Buttermaker Saunders reports an average present output of about 8,000 pounds of butter per week."

About 1886, the Augusta Creamery established a skimming station in the Town of Ludington at the junction of CTH "X" and "XX" which grew and developed into a creamery. It was sold out to Luedtke Bros. of Ludington who operated it until about 1911, when it burned down. [13]

There were several skimming stations in connection with this plant. One of these was located in Ludington on the southeast corner of the Christ Drehmel property, across from the present Grunewald Store, and another was operated in the Town of Seymour, south of St. Bridget Church. Milk was delivered to these plants by farmers living in the vicinity. There, with a small steam engine and a cream separator, this milk was separated, and the cream was hauled in jacketed cans by team and wagon to the creamery where it was churned into butter. The tall cylindrical cans fit down into eight-sided wooden jackets. They had to be filled to the top and the cover placed on tightly so the cream would not be churned to butter before it arrived at the creamery.

Herman Drehmel was nine years old in 1904 when he first started hauling milk to the Ludington skimming station from their farm three miles away. The milk cans were taken in and weighed at the front of the building. Then, he would drive the horse around to the back where he would get the skim milk to take home. The correct amount of milk was measured by placing a knife-

like stopper on a calibrated brass gear with notches in it. Each notch represented a certain number of pounds of milk. When the right amount of milk had been measured out, the machine stopped automatically.

The first buttermaker at the Ludington Creamery was John Mussey, who was succeeded in 1906 by William Dudenhoefer. During the years the creamery was owned by Luedtke Bros., much of the work at the skimming stations was eliminated. By then many farmers had purchased separators of their own with which they separated the milk at home, using the skim milk as valuable food for their pigs and calves.

After the creamery burned in 1911, the farmers in the area organized the Ludington Farmers Creamery Association and bought the dwelling and land from Mr. Luedtke. Mr. Charles Krumenauer was the first secretary and treasurer, and Mr. Sommerfeldt was the president and manager. [14] In 1934, the name was changed to the Ludington Cooperative Creamery Association and operated under that name until 1971 when the creamery was sold to AMPI. In 1973, it was closed entirely. [15]

There was also, at one time, a cheese factory known as the Golden Crown Cheese Factory in Ludington on what is now the Richard Schultz property, just north of the Richard Deaton property. A skimming station was located on the corner of the Walter Aude (now Divola Aude) property, but it is not known what creamery this was connected with.

BURR OAK DAIRY (Later Zempel's Dairy)

Reinhardt Zempel, Daniel's son, started delivering milk and cream to homes in Fall Creek in 1912. His two sons, Erwin and Edwin (twins) and a daughter, Margaret, did most of the delivering with a team and wagon. Housewives would bring their own containers out to the wagon to be filled from the large milk can.

In 1922, Erwin and his wife, Martha (Brueske), took over the business and ran it until 1945. The milk all came from the 24 Guernsey cows owned by the Zempels . . . and all the milking was done by hand. Following is an excerpt of an account written about the dairy by Erwin's daughter, Mollie Zempel Strasburg:

"The first years we used the one room in the house for separating, bottling, and storing the milk. We had a huge ice box in this room. A cooling tank for the cans of milk was on the back porch. A big sink with a zinc top was used for two
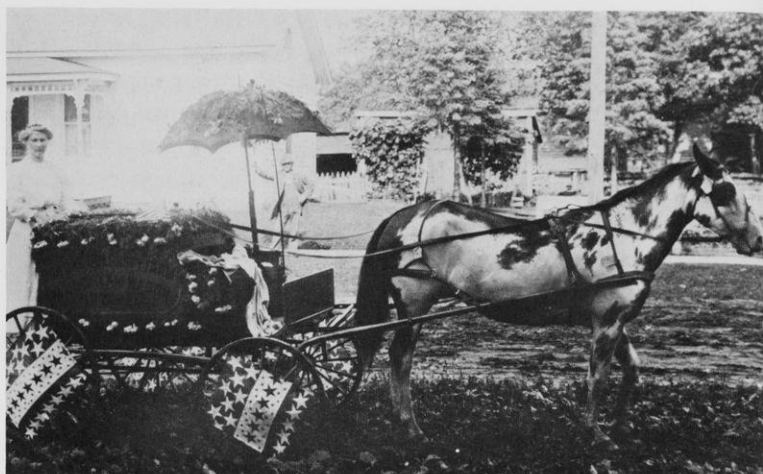
Luttrell #360

The Burr Oak Dairy, operated by the Zempel Family, made deliveries in Fall Creek from 1912 to 1945. Margaret Zempel, Reinhardt's daughter, is shown here with the Burr Oak delivery wagon ready for the 1912 Fourth of July parade. In the picture below, taken in 1926, Erwin Zempel was making deliveries with the wagon mounted on sleighs. Note the wood box on the side.

Luttrell #354

wash tubs and a drain tray for washing the milk bottles. These were done with a brush by hand. This was an afternoon job. The daily sales were from 100 to 120 quarts.

"In 1935, Dad built a cement block milk house near the barn. The work was still done by hand. Soon an electric operated brush was used. It took a good eye and strong arm to use this brush or the bottle would fly away. The hardest bottle to clean up was the one that had been used to shake soap powder to make suds by some housewives.

"We did all of the bottle filling with the tank from the cream separator set on a wooden box so it was high enough to get a quart milk bottle under the spigot. We soon learned to hold two quart bottles in one hand to fill them. The bottles would have to be refilled with a pitcher to make sure that they were full. Then the cap was put on by hand. It was a trick to be sure that the

cap was in place or else it would push all the way into the bottle and you would get a face full of milk. In later years, Dad bought a bottling machine that would fill two bottles and cap two bottles at a time. That was a time saver. It also clamped a paper cover over the top of the bottle.

"For years, milk sold for 5¢ a pint and 10¢ a quart, cream 15¢ a half pint and 30¢ a pint. We never pasteurized milk, just sold good Guernsey milk and cream. During the depression years, we sold milk for 7¢ a quart delivered. In the summer, we would also bottle chocolate milk. When the WPA workers were putting in the sewer and water works in Fall Creek, we would bottle half-pints of chocolate milk and whole milk and sell them to the workers for 5¢ a bottle. They were iced, too.

"Dad always packed his own ice, which was used for a big ice box to keep the milk in at home and to chip up and put in with the cases of milk in the wagon on the route.

"We had a special wagon with sliding doors and a step on each side, a double door on the back, and windows in the doors and on both sides in front of the doors and a hinged window in front. There were holes for the lines for the horses. This wagon was on springs. In the summer, we used wheels and in winter the wheels were traded for runners. We also had a small pot-bellied stove which was put in one corner of the wagon. It used wood about 3½ to 4 inches in length. We were really in luck if, when we crossed the railroad tracks, we could find a chunk of coal. To build a fire in this stove, we would get a shovel full of coals from the kitchen range in the house, and with pine kindling would soon have a good fire going.

"We used a pickup truck or sometimes the car and trailer during the harvesting season. It was easier with the horses. They soon learned the route and stops. You could not visit when you used the horses. They would move on to the next stop when they thought enough time had passed. It was almost impossible to change the route as the horses knew which street to go on and which corner to turn.

"When we first delivered milk, there were very few ice boxes and fewer refrigerators so we were on the route every day. Later years, we did not haul on Sunday and some holidays. We would take an extra supply to the grocery stores on Saturday afternoon.

"There were times when we would have to go out to the pasture and get the cows home and milk some for more milk for the stores.

"On the Fourth of July, we would hurry with the route because the parade could not start till we were done. Dad's four horses were used to lead the parade. There was always a parade and big celebration in Fall Creek those days. We would decorate our truck, a model T, and my sister Gwen, brother John, and I would have a place to sit.

"In the 40's, competition from the bigger dairies in Eau Claire with pasteurized milk forced Dad to sell out." August 31, 1945 was the last day of business for the Zempel Dairy.

There was also a dairy operation with delivery service on the neighboring farm operated by Ewald Schauer. When Marlow Bruesewitz bought the farm in 1939, he continued the dairy business for about three years.

THRESHING

Threshing was an *event*, not just a job to be done. It was something to look forward to, not only because it was the last step in the harvesting of grain, but also because it was a time when neighbor men and women came together to help each other and to enjoy each others' company . . . to talk, joke, and laugh together. Threshing meant hard work, a keg of beer, good food, and fun.

When farmers heard the shriek of the steam engine whistle echoing through the valley, they knew that the engine was stoked up, and they had better hurry, because it was time to start the day's threshing. If, for example, the Mehls and Patzwald machine was ready to thresh at the Ed Kaeding farm, Rudolph and Henry Boernke, Ernest Welke, Fred Hass, and Herman Fenske, together with their older sons, would get their teams harnessed up to their wagons and head down the road toward Kaedings. A few days later, they might all be working at Welkes.

The job of stoking the steam engine was an important one. Often a man would stay with the engine all night to keep the fire going, because, once it went out, it was a two-hour job to start the fire and heat the water in the boiler again. Straw, wood, or coal could be used as fuel. Coal was more expensive, but it also threw fewer sparks . . . an important consideration around straw piles. A steam engine would use as much as a ton of coal in a full day's work. Wood was used almost exclusively in the Fall Creek area because it was cheap and readily available.

Threshing was hard work — pitching bundles of grain up onto a wagon in the field; carefully feeding them into the separator; filling and carrying the heavy sacks of grain. There was usually

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Threshing machines and crews, on their way from one farm to another, frequently passed through the village. The small separator to the right is one of the first ones used in the Fall Creek area. It was probably run by horse power (eight horses moving in a circle) rather than steam. This machine had no blower; the chain and slats on the "shakers" in the rear shook and rolled the straw out. The grain was hand fed into the machine by two men. One man cut the twine on the grain with a special knife attached to his wrist, while the other spread out the grain and pushed it into the machine. The newer separator to the left was manufactured by the "Minnesota City" Co.

The building in the background is the Bartz Brothers and Zempel Store. The man with the white apron is thought to be Gus Bartz, one of the store owners. The man to his right is probably Ludwig Schulz. The picture was taken sometime before 1900.

a crew of fifteen to twenty men, and they all had very hearty appetites at dinner time. The farmer's wife started early in the morning to prepare the meals which nearly always included home baked breads, pies, and cakes. Often, there was a little competition among the women in the neighborhood as to who could provide the best meals for the threshers. Each farm wife felt that she had a reputation to uphold.

The first threshing machines were not run by steam, but by animal power — a treadmill on which two or three horses, or perhaps a bull and two horses would walk to drive the separator. Later a "sweep" was used with as many as eight or ten horses walking in a circle with a driver in the middle using a cane pole to keep them moving. The center of the sweep was attached to a gear which turned as the horses walked, and which, in turn, was attached to a tumbling rod that went to the threshing machine.

Threshing was not just a three or four week job in the summer or early fall. A machine operator/owner might start out in mid-summer and not be finished with all his jobs until Christmas. In the summer, some grain was threshed just as it was brought in on wagons from the field. Other farmers stacked their grain in the farmyard first; then when the threshers came, the bundles were fed into the separator from the stacks. Some farmers had as many as thirty-five stacks to thresh. With a new machine, 4500 bushels of oats could be threshed in a day. [16]

According to the 1895 census, the following people in the Town of Lincoln owned threshing machines: August Strasburg ($500), C. W. Stelter ($1,000), Charles Shong ($500), Rud. Kaeding ($600), C. W. Kaeding ($500). In addition, there were some who owned a half interest in a machine: Lud. Mehls ($375), Wm. Swanke ($400), and Fred Gust ($400).

In the early 1900's, in the heyday of the steam engine, there were five threshing machines which operated in the Fall Creek area. They were owned by William Flach (Peuse), Louis Mehls and August Patzwald, Rud Stabenow, the Geisler Brothers, (Ed, Herman, and William), and Gus Krause. August Luedtke (father of the brothers who owned the creamery) had the first threshing machine in Ludington; but Charlie Wilbur's machine probably was the best known in the township.

Threshing was not the only purpose for which the steam engines were stoked up, however. They were used for many other jobs . . . sawing wood, grubbing out trees, drilling wells, and moving buildings, to name a few.

Luttrell #84

The Mehls-Patzwald threshing rig, ready to be moved to a new location. This steam engine was self-propelled and was used to pull the separator from farm to farm, as well as providing the power to run the separator. The chain, which can be seen wrapped around the front axle, was part of the steering mechanism. The driver turned a crank which wound the chain around one side of the split axle, thus braking that wheel and turning the engine in that direction.

The crew, from left to right is: Standing on the ground in front — Fred Hass, Ed Kuehn, Gus Degner, Frank Redlaczyk, August Patzwald, Helen Redlaczyk. On the machine — Louis Mehls, Rudy Boernke, Ed Schultz, Henry Fenske. (Others are unidentified.) The man on the steam engine is Fred Greening. Taken about 1918.
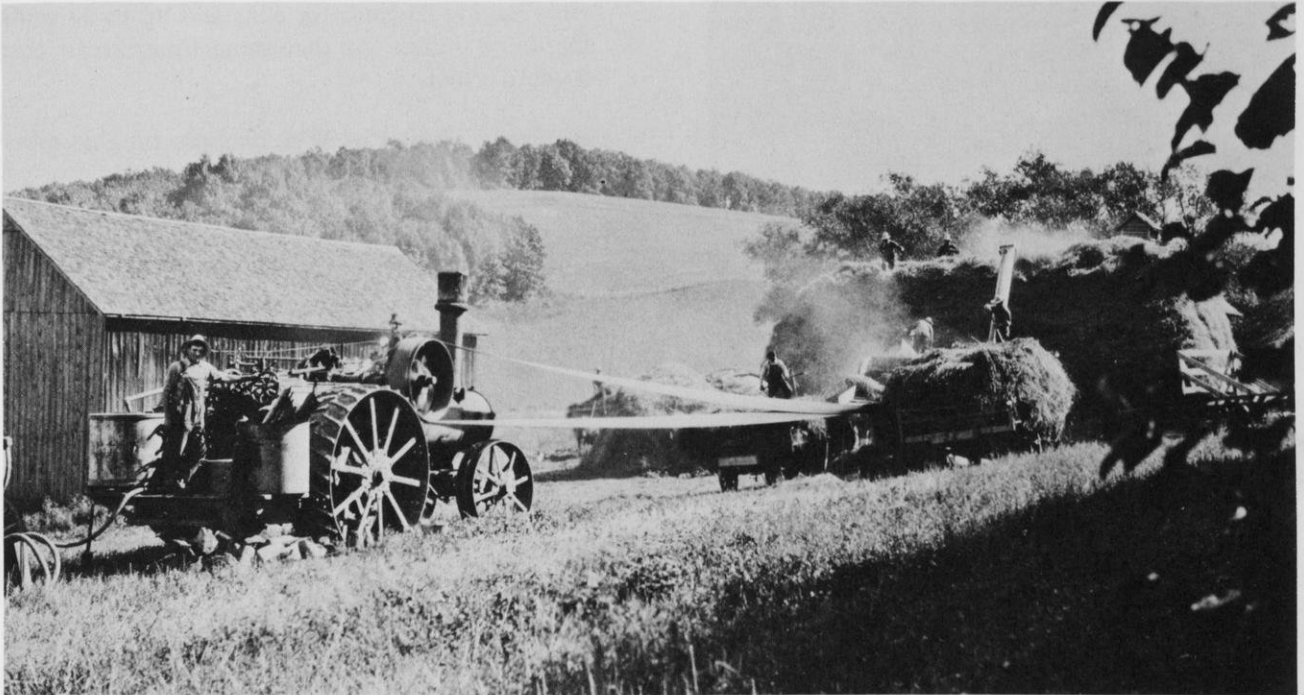
Luttrell #140

Threshing day at the William Peuse (Flach) farm. Bill Flach, himself, is on the steam engine. Note the pile of wood ready to be burned. A long belt was used to reduce the chances of a spark from the steam engine landing on the straw pile. Because of its weight, the long belt also gripped the pulley better. A portion of the portable water tank can be seen in back of the steam engine, with a hose running to the tank on the engine. This was "shock threshing" with the loads of grain being brought in directly from the field. Judging by the size of the straw stack, the crew had been working for some time at the Flach place.

Luttrell #260

The water wagon was used to haul water from a pond or stream to the steam engine. This tank, operated by Ed Geisler, had to be pumped by hand (pump handle can be seen right behind the tank) after first priming it by pouring a little water in the funnel on top. The water would be emptied into a tank on the engine to provide steam while Ed went to get more water. Note the fly nets on the horses. (ca. 1935)

Luttrell #341

An early hay baler, powered by a gasoline engine. The crew had to pitch the hay out of the barn and into the baler. The 100-pound bales were tied with wire which was hand-fed and fastened. From left to right, the crew members are: Front — Albert Hehl, Walter Stelter, Bill Stelter, Bill Rau, Jul Stelter, Ben Stelter, Fred Stelter. Back row — Julius Hehl, Gus Paul, Albert Paul. (ca. 1910)

Luttrell #312

Four horses on a two-bottom gang plow were a common sight in this area before the days of mechanized farming. Here, Herman Ventzke takes a break from spring plowing on his farm just north of Fall Creek.

40

POTPOURRI

● "The horse did not begin to outnumber oxen on Wisconsin farms much before 1860 and then only in the more developed areas."

● "I used to cut basswood in four foot lengths. I could cut a load in a day and haul it to Cadott to sell for firewood. I got $6.00 for 3 single cords." (Dan Lane)

● The average value of farm land in the Town of Lincoln in 1861 was $100 per 40 acres, according to the Assessment Roll.

● Herman Kopplin had the area's first silo. That was in about 1911. (H. Voechting)

● The *Eau Claire County Journal* for January 15, 1915, reported that there was an unprecedented demand for barn lumber and red paint because of the many new barns being built in Wisconsin.

● In 1950, the state plowing contest was held on the Martin Schiefelbein farm. This event evolved into an annual event now known as Farm Progress Days.

● In 1915, Fall Creek merchants paid between 17 and 35 cents a dozen for eggs and 22 to 28 cents for good dairy butter. In September, 1916, they were paying 24 cents for eggs and up to 24 cents for dairy butter. At that same time, bread cost 6 cents a loaf.

● Prices offered by Wm. Niebuhr on December 1, 1916:

Potatoes	$1.25 to $1.30
Wheat	1.35 to 1.50
Oats	.45 to .48
Rye	1.37 to 1.40
Hay	8.00 to 10.00
Hogs	8.00 to 8.25

● Excerpts from the *Fall Creek Cultivator,* as reported in the 1932 issues of the *Fall Creek Times:*

Mar. 7, 1912 "Work has begun on the Farmers Creamery in Ludington."

Mar. 21, 1912 "Twelve cars of spuds were shipped out of here last week by Niebuhr and Son."

Jan. 25 1912 "Prices: oats 43¢; barley $1.00 to $1.17; rye 85¢; hay $11.00 to $16.00; potatoes 70¢ to 75¢; eggs 35¢; live hogs $5.00 to $5.40; chicken 8¢."

The Wide Green Valley rewarded them daily
with its rich splendor . . . . and in the lantern
duskness they returned the favor with white
goodness—now and then a bit going a-stray to
delight the lips of a waiting child. Would that all
these earthy senses stored for decades in wood,
stone, and hearts could be bottled up and
kept for generations that will never know
the closeness of musky dirt floor.

WILLIAM H. JEFFERSON

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The German immigrant families who settled south of Fall Creek in the mid-1800's brought their Lutheran beliefs and traditions with them. As they made the difficult adjustment to life in the new world, they felt a strong need for a spiritual community. There was no Lutheran church in the area, not even in Eau Claire, so these families first met for worship in the home of Carl Stubbe.

According to an article written by a Mr. Zempel in the 1914 *History of Eau Claire County*, "The first church services were conducted by Daniel Muenchow in a log cabin. It was not such as we hear today in a grand church, but, although he was not a learned preacher, he explained the difficult parts of that which he read out of the Bible." [1]

In 1860, Pastor Ernst Winter came periodically from Minneapolis to conduct services. The following year the Northwestern District of Wisconsin, Missouri Synod, commissioned Pastor Henry Grupe as traveling missionary in northwest Wisconsin. Services were held more regularly then, and a class of children was instructed and confirmed — in German, of course.

When Pastor Grupe left the area, the families called Pastor Theodore Krumsieg. The following year, in 1863, there was no pastor in the territory, so a pastor in Marquette County, John Strieter, twice made the 200 mile trip to conduct church services, baptize children, and perform marriages. Since he had to come either by sleigh or buggy, it must have been a very difficult journey.

In 1861, Christian Gessner offered four acres of land as a site for a parsonage. On the deed are the signatures of August Kaatz, Friedrich Geske, and Michael Zimmerman as trustees, and John Strasburg and Gottfried Stelter as elders. At about this same time, a cemetery was established on a hillside across the road from where the church was eventually built.

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

William Julius Friedrich, a German immigrant who had just been graduated from the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, came to serve the congregation in August, 1864. He preached his first sermon in the small public school known as District #3, Fall Creek Valley School. That same fall, the congregation was officially organiz-

ed as "St. John Evangelical Lutheran of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession", and thus became the first Lutheran Church in Eau Claire County. The first baptism in the newly formed congregation was that of Emma Bertha Kühn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Kühn, on August 14, 1864. Christian Gessner, Samuel Welke, and Justine Stelter were sponsors. [2]

Services continued to be held in the school until the fall of 1868 when a church building was completed on land donated by Carl Stubbe. But less than two years later, on a warm afternoon in May, 1870, a devastating tornado cut a destructive path through the area, leaving only a pathetic pile of rubble where the newly built church had stood.

Times were hard; and a six hundred dollar debt remained on the church building which had now been destroyed. Undaunted, the congregation began building a new church. In the meantime, services were again held in the Fall Creek Valley School which was located near the church. Since the school was too small to accommodate all the members, those living in and near Fall Creek formed their own congregation at this time. (See history of Trinity Lutheran.)

The second St. John's Church was completed in December, 1872, and is still in use today. A new parsonage was built in 1886. In 1907, the church was remodeled and a chancel added.

In 1878, a new pipe organ was purchased for $1,100.00. The blower had to be pumped by hand, in the same manner one would pump water. The job of "windmaking" was given to the lowest bidder. In 1878, for example, J. Strasburg was paid an annual salary of $12.00, and in 1884, August Brummond was paid $17.00 for windmaking. It was not until 1953 that an electric blower was installed on the organ, and in 1960 a new electric organ replaced the faithful old pipe organ.

When Rev. Friedrich died in 1900, his son-in-law, Rev. J. H. Stelter took over the pastorate. Rev. Friedrich was, in his lifetime, responsible for the formation of most of the rural Lutheran churches in the area. He was often away from home for two or three weeks at a time, traveling by horse and buggy to visit his far-flung parishes. [3]

Some of the notations regarding financial decisions and pastors' salaries in the minutes of the congregational meetings are interesting:

At a meeting in September, 1869, it was resolved that the minister should receive the following payments for his services: baptism, $1.00; funeral, $2.00; wedding, $3.00; confirmation, $2.00. "Strangers" had to pay double.

In 1873, members who owned horses were to pay one dollar per year and those owning oxen were to pay fifty cents per year toward wood for the parsonage. (Obviously anyone who owned horses was considered to be wealthier than those who only owned oxen.)

Records of 1878 show a purchase of ten cords of jack pine, sawed in short pieces for $27.00. In that same year, Joachim Strasburg was paid one shilling every time he built a fire in the church.

In 1900, the pastor's annual salary was $550.00, to be paid in *money* instead of part wheat and part wood. But the price of a pastor's services had not changed much. The fee for a funeral was still $2.00 and baptisms were still $1.00 if held in the church, or $2.00 if the pastor had to travel to the home. The fee for weddings, however, had gone up to $5.00. [4]

ST. JOHN'S PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

The education of their children, both in religious and secular subjects, was a matter of great importance to the members of St. John's congregation.

Rev. Ave-Lallament, in "85 Years in His Service", wrote, "As early as 1868, a call was issued to Candidate Jacob Treichel, a graduate of the Missouri Synod Teacher's College at Addison, Illinois, to establish and teach a Christian Day School in this congregation. In those early times, the complete separation of church and state was not strictly observed by either the church or the state, since for a number of years the congregation's teachers also taught the District school (Fall Creek Valley, District #3), receiving the greater share of their salary from the state. Under this arrangement, the teachers taught German, and especially religion, in the morning, and secular subjects by means of the English language in the afternoon." [5]

Each head of a household who visited the church was to pay the teacher one bushel of wheat a year. Friedrich Gessner and August Zempel were appointed as trustees and collectors of the wheat. Each family was to make a base payment of $2.00, whether there were children in the family

Rev. Bittner

Interior of St. John's Church. This is a recent photo but the interior has not been changed since the 1880's.

Pastors Who Have Served St. John's Lutheran
1864-1900 William J. Friedrich
1900-1921 J. H. Stelter
1921-1946 Paul Schedler, Sr.
1946-1950 W. A. Ave-Lallamant
1950-1952 V. J. Suberbier
1953-1954 R. Malotky
1955-1956 E. W. Schwartz
1957-1962 R. E. Lehman
1962-1963 Alfred Rehder
1964-1973 Henry P. Kuhn
1974-1977 I. Ernest Bartels
1977-   Paul Bittner

or not. Two children from a family were admitted to the school free, and each additional child was admitted for one dollar, a fourth of the amount to be paid each quarter.

In 1869, school was held ten months of the year with two months vacation. One of those vacation months was to be during the harvest season and the other was up to the teacher.

A 20 by 30 by 13 foot addition was built onto the district schoolhouse in 1870 for religious instruction. To pay for the building, everyone in the school district who belonged to the congregation was to contribute $1.00 for the first eighty acres he owned and twenty-five cents for each additional 40 acres.

In December, 1884, the teacher was given fifty dollars to be used to buy wood. In 1902, the church paid the teacher a monthly salary of forty dollars. In 1905, the teacher was informed that he could add a little arithmetic, as he wished, to the curriculum! (Is it possible that no arithmetic was taught there before 1905?)

The combined church and state school was discontinued in 1913, but in May of that year,

Teacher Paul Reese was called to conduct summer school and Christmas school.

In 1921, Rev. Paul Schedler, Sr. accepted a call to become pastor of the congregation and to establish a Christian Day School. The school was opened in 1923 and operated until it was forced to close in 1929. A parochial school was again opened in 1946, shortly after the arrival of Rev. W. A. Ave-Lallament, and was in operation until 1950 when he left. Bus service was provided for the students. For the first two years, Pastor Ave-Lallament was both teacher and school bus driver. The enrollment ranged from 36 to 30 pupils. [6]

ST. BRIDGET'S

At about the same time the German Lutherans were building their church south of town, a group of Irish Catholic families began farming north of Fall Creek in Seymour near the Chippewa County line. They, too, longed for spiritual guidance and inspiration, so on March 22, 1868, a missionary from the Holy Ghost Fathers said mass for the farm families in the home of one of the worshippers — and this was the beginning of St. Bridget's Church.

In 1870, a frame church was built on land donated by John McQuillan and was named St. Bridget after a Catholic girl who had been put to death in Ireland. The community which grew up around the church became known as "Springfield Prairie".

This first church was struck by lightning and destroyed. The present church was erected at the same location in 1900 by T. A. Roycraft and Albert Melville. A church hall was built in about 1910, rebuilt in 1937, and destroyed by fire in 1942. Another hall was constructed in 1950 and is still in use today. [7]
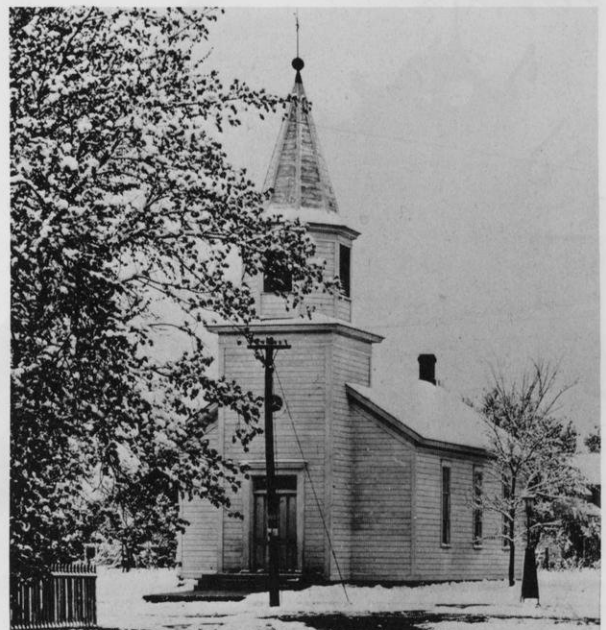
ST. JAMES - TRINITY LUTHERAN

In 1870, several families living in the village of Fall Creek met to organize St. Trinity Lutheran Church. Although the church was often referred to as just "Trinity Lutheran", the proper name was St. Trinity. The 1933 editions of *The Fall Creek Times* still carried news items about "St. Trinity." Until 1870, the Lutherans in Fall Creek had to walk or go by ox team the two miles to St. Johns for church services. Rev. W. J. Friedrich became the pastor of St. Trinity Lutheran while continuing to serve St. John's. Both churches later affiliated with the Missouri Synod.

In 1873, Trinity congregation constructed a church on the north side of Lincoln Avenue. The big square house just east of the nursing home was built as a parsonage.

As a result of difficulties within the congregation, Rev. John Weihrauch of the Iowa Synod was called to serve Trinity Lutheran. For a time, both Rev. Friedrich and Rev. Wiehrauch held services in Trinity. Since this proved to be a most unhappy arrangement, a group of people from the congregation met in January, 1885, and decided to organize St. Jacobs Lutheran Church (later changed to St. James). This group affiliated with the Iowa Synod and built a church on State Street. They called Rev. C. Baumbach as their first pastor. Due to further disagreements and difficulties in the Trinity Congregation, one segment of the membership asked to be served by an Ohio Synod pastor. It was this segment of the congregation

St. Bridget Church   Luttrell #362

Trinity Lutheran Church   Luttrell #469

Luttrell #496

Cemetery North of Town.
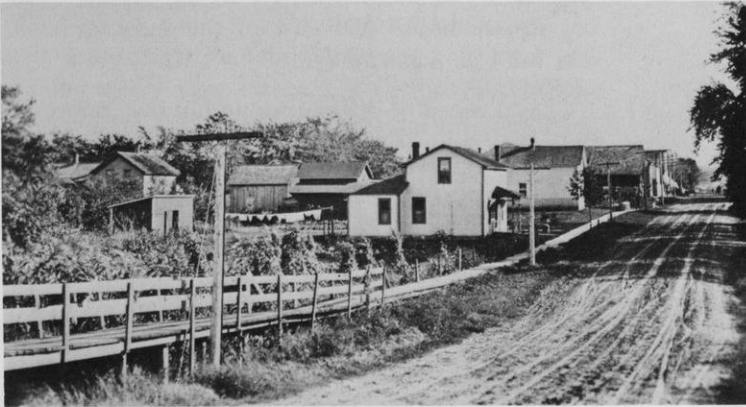
Luttrell #327

Boardwalk out to cemetery, 1911 — N. State Street.

Luttrell #165

St. James Lutheran Church

Luttrell #468

1916 Confirmation Class, Trinity Church. Back row: Edna Giebel, Ella Welke, Amelia Pape, Ida Hinterberg, Alma Schultz, Emma Coleman. Front row: Sam Glenz, Otto Fletschock, Henry Shoemaker, Rev. Johnson, George Mieske, August Westphal.
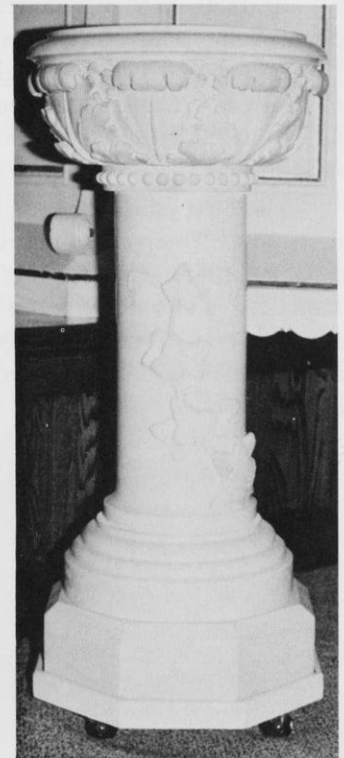
Mathwig #1123

The baptismal font carved by Joseph Lindenthaler, now in St. James Trinity Church. (See the story of Joseph Lindenthaler in Chapter 6.)

which retained the church property on Lincoln Avenue and continued as Trinity Congregation.

In 1930, the Iowa and Ohio Synods were merged, along with several other Lutheran Synods, into the American Lutheran Church. Thus, the Trinity and St. James congregations found themselves automatically in the same synod. In January 1944, both congregations voted to merge and the two were incorporated under the name of St. James Trinity Lutheran Church.

After the merger, the St. James Church on Washington Street was used for all church services and most other activities. The Trinity church building on Lincoln Avenue was used for an occasional meeting until it was razed in 1956. The land was then turned over to the village and has since become a wayside park. [8]

Luttrell # 361

Bears Grass Church — St. Peter Lutheran Church.

ST. PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH — (BEARS GRASS)

St. Peter Lutheran Church was organized about 1871 by Pastor W. J. Friedrich of St. John Lutheran Church, Fall Creek. For most of its more than 100-year history, it has been served by the pastors of Grace Lutheran Church, Augusta.

The first church was built on the west side of CTH "V", north of "JJ" (Sec. 27, T26N, R7W) facing east. It was of rough lumber, stripped with batten and erected on high blocks. The interior walls were of sand, straw, and plaster, all white-washed at regular intervals.

A new church was built in 1893 on land donated by Theodore Block. In 1916, the church was raised and a basement added. [10]

Pastors Who Have Served
St. James and Trinity

Trinity
1870-	W. J. Friedrich
1883-	John Weihrauch
1894-1902	J. F. Boerger
1902-	H. Fuhrmann
1915-1922	H. J. Johnson
1922-1922	William Viergutz
1922-1930	B. J. Matter
1930-1937	F. E. Bloede
1937-1944	J. D. Abelman

St. James
1884-1921	C. Baumbach
1921-1926	J. F. Drewelow
1926-1943	B. Spalding
1943-1944	Dr. A. Pilger
1944-1944	J. H. Abelman

St. James Trinity
1944-1956	F. E. Bloede
1956-1963	J. H. Kolberg
1964-1969	P. F. Wittenberg
1970-	T. C. Nystuen

Pastors Who Have Served
St. Peter Lutheran Church

1869-1871	W. J. Friedrich
1874-1876	Friedrich Wi. Ruediger
1876-1888	H. F. Proehl
1888-1890	H. Bruss
1890-1891	Heinrich Stute
1892-1915	Otto Braem
1915-1941	A. L. Otto List
1941-1948	W. W. Henry Mueller
1948-1974	Edmund G. Schedler
1974-	Arleigh L. Lutz, Jr.

CEMETERY

The first cemetery in the village of Fall Creek was established in about 1874 by Trinity Lutheran on land donated by Philip Lindenthaler. A board sidewalk led from the village, along what is now CTH "K" as far as the cemetery. Later, St. Jacobs (St. James) congregation located its cemetery just south of the Trinity Cemetery. In 1923, the Trinity Cemetery Association was formed, and in 1938, the St. James Cemetery was accepted into the corporation. [9]

ZION LUTHERAN

In the Town of Seymour, north of Fall Creek, a small group of families began worshipping together in the early 1880's. They met in each others' homes under the leadership of Rev. W. J. Friedrich.

Zion Lutheran Church was officially organized on August 9, 1885 when the charter and

by-laws were signed. The first officers were John Lane, Sr., Martin Kromrey, and William Volbrecht. All services and classes were conducted in German. Although the church has always been served by Missouri Lutheran pastors, it did not officially join the synod until 1978.

The first church building was built in 1886, with most of the materials and labor furnished by the members. In 1902, an addition was built which doubled the size of the church. A bell tower was also added at that time. The first Sunday School services were held in the early 1920's. A basement was built in 1941 and was expanded in 1973.

The ladies aid was organized in 1933 with Mesdames August Conrad, Gustave Doede, William Raether, and Erhardt Maik as the first officers. [11]

Pastors Who Have Served Zion Lutheran
1885-1894 W. J. Friedrich
1894-1902 F. J. Boerger
1902-1910 F. J. Fuhrmann
1910-1911 Herman Voetz
1912-1920 F. H. Kretzschmar
1920-1959 J. E. Bittner
1959-1963 Theodore E. Krueger, Jr.
1971-1977 Walter Steinbach
1978-   Ralph C. Morris

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

In 1892, a group of farm families in the Town Ludington, northeast of Fall Creek, began holding church services in the White School. The group was organized by Rev. J. F. Boerger, pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Fall Creek with the help of August Luedtke. In 1897, this group incorporated as "Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church". The congregation continued to meet in the school house for worship services, but purchased land for a cemetery south of Highway 27. In 1916, the members voted to construct a church building on the west side of the cemetery, and elected Ferdinand Raether, Ernest Knitter, and August Hagedorn as the building committee. The church building was dedicated May 6, 1917. The first child baptised in the new church was Karl Otto Frank Starck, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Starck.

The church was moved back from the highway and remodeled in 1946-49. In 1954, the congregation officially joined the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

On December 13, 1956, during an afternoon Christmas party of the Ladies Aid, smoke and fire were discovered in the furnace room. Although some of the church furnishing were saved, the fire was out of control by the time the fire department

Pastors Who Have Served Bethlehem
1892-1902 J. F. Boerger
1902-1909 J. H. Fuhrmann
1909 1925 K. C. Bubeck
1925-1954 Julius E. Bittner
1954-1958 Howard Behrens
1958-1961 Carl Broecker
1961-1963 Jerome Newton
1963-1971 C. J. Cizek
1971-1977 Walter A. Steinbach

arrived, and the building was entirely destroyed. A temporary roof was constructed on the old basement, and services were held there until January, 1958, when the new building was dedicated. This building is still in use. In 1970, a parsonage was constructed just east of the church cemetery. [12]

PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Individuals who held membership in certain organizations, such as the Woodmen's Lodge, were not welcome in any of the existing churches in Fall Creek in the 1890's. So, in November of 1899, a group of Christians met to discuss the formation of a new church organization which would be somewhat more liberal. They asked Rev. Scherbel of Middleton, Wisconsin to serve them temporarily, and he made the trip to Fall Creek to conduct services a number of times during the year 1900. Services were held in the Lincoln Town Hall.

A church constitution was formally adopted and signed in January, 1901, by twenty-three members who called themselves "Die Evangelisch-Lutherische Friedens Gemeinde zu Fall Creek" (The Evangelical-Lutheran Peace Congregation of Fall Creek). Among the first officers of the congregation were William Leidiger, G. J. Garbe, Fred Kunz, H. C. Hinterberg, Frank Heuer, and Fred Puhlmann. The newly formed congregation called Rev. E. A. Giesel as its first pastor. His annual salary was $200.00, plus free rent.

In March, 1901, the congregation voted to build a house of worship and elected J. E. Zetzmann, R. Schwartz, and August Mueller as a committee to find a suitable plot of ground for the church. A lot on Wisconsin Street was purchased from Philip Lindenthaler, one of the charter members, for $100.00, and a church building was dedicated later that year.

The congregation voted to become a member of the Evangelical Synod of North America in 1904 and dropped the name "Lutheran". From 1904 to 1908, the congregation was served by Rev. Streich who also was pastor of a church in

Luttrell #200

Choir at Peace Church (Evangelical & Reformed Church). Back row: Laura Schwartz, Lorena Leidiger, Adna Voechting, Rev. Schori, Ben Schwartz, George Linden-

thaler, Roy Quast, Milton Schori. Front Row: Lydia Zetzman, Selma Lindenthaler, Nettie Schwartz, Meta Schori (Zetzman), Amanda Schwartz.

Luttrell #223

Peace Church, U.C.C.

Marshfield. Because of the distance involved, services were held in Fall Creek only every three weeks and on holidays. For this, Rev. Streich received $175.00 a year.

In 1934, the Evangelical Church merged with the Reformed Church, and in 1957, they merged with the Congregational Church to become the United Church of Christ. As a result of this

merger, the local name was changed, in 1963, to "Peace United Church of Christ".

Rev. Ben Schori, a Swiss immigrant, became the first resident pastor of Peace Church in 1908 and served until his death in 1923. During this period of time, the church became known as "Schori's Church" and many of the older residents of the village still refer to it as such.

A parsonage was built in 1909. In 1970, the church was remodeled and Sunday School rooms added.

Pastors that served the church from 1923 to 1956 were: Victor Newman, Adelbert Helm, Adam J. Scherer, Gregory Kutz, Wm. G. Rath, Emil Helm, Richard Gadow, Wm. Halfter, F. W. Malin, Frederick W. Ringe, G. A. Firgau, H. C. Dallmann, Wm. Fritzmeier, George Holmann, Robert Brigham, Fred Steigemeier, and J. W. Jackson. From September, 1956, until his retirement in May, 1977, Rev. C. E. Guthrie was pastor of Peace Church. E. F. Puhlmann is presently serving the congregation. [13]

DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN THE CHURCHES

Perhaps, because the church held such an important place in the lives of Fall Creek citizens,

49
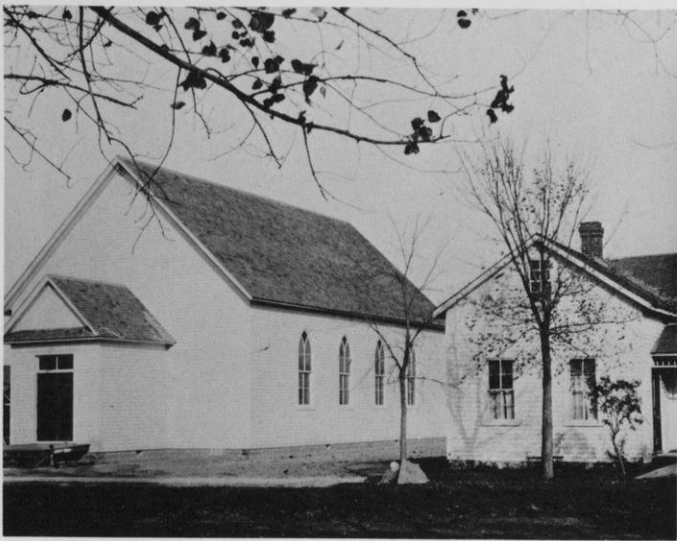
Luttrell #104

St. Paul Church before 1926, on the east side of Liberty St. moved to the west side of the street sometime in 1926-1927.

Luttrell #224

St. Paul Lutheran Church

disagreements within the congregations often became hotly debated and were frequently carried beyond the confines of the church itself. Such was the case in 1910 to 1914 when a "war" of sorts ranged in Fall Creek. At that time, the village was sharply divided over a number of issues revolving around Rev. Fuhrmann of Trinity Lutheran Church. The intensity of feeling aroused during the "Church War" should not be under-estimated. Those who remember that period in Fall Creek's history speak of it with sadness and regret.

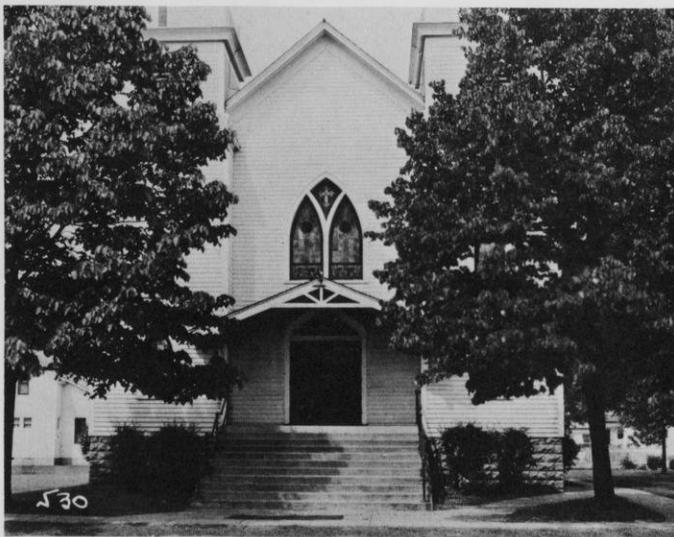When the smoke finally cleared, there was a new church in the village (St. Pauls), and Trinity Lutheran had changed its affiliation from Missouri Synod to the Ohio Synod. In 1914, then, there were four churches in Fall Creek, a village with a population of about 600. All four churches were basically Lutheran, each affiliated with a different synod: Trinity (Ohio Synod), St. James (Iowa Synod), Peace (Evangelical), and St. Pauls (Missouri). [14]

ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church was formally organized on May 15, 1910, under the leadership of Rev. Fred Kersten. Services were held in the Lincoln Town Hall until 1913 when a frame church was built on the east side of Liberty Street. In 1915, the parsonage was constructed and Pastor Kretzschmar moved in that fall. [15]

In 1926, to accommodate the growth of the congregation, the church building was moved across the street to the lot adjoining the parsonage. The land was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Stubbe. While the church was being moved, services were held in the Lincoln Town Hall. The enlarged and remodeled church was dedicated October 10, 1926. [16]

Pastors Who Have Served St. Paul Lutheran Church	
1910-	Fred Kersten
1910-1911	H. Voltz
1911-1921	F. H. Kretzschmar
1920-1959	Julius Bittner
1959-1968	Theodore E. Krueger
1968-	Gerald H. DeLoye

Between 1925 and 1940, St. Paul's had a church orchestra which played at the Sunday School Christmas programs and accompanied the congregational singing on church holidays. People came from miles around to attend those Christmas programs.

St. Paul's Orchesta [17]

Violins	Cornet
Edward Mieske	Otto Reetz
Helene Mieske	
Donald Moldenhauer	Trombone
Victor Bittner	Henry Moldenhauer
Clarinet	Bass Violin
Eilert Moldenhauer	Gustave Mieske
Eldor Bittner	
Elias Keller	Piano
Saxophone	Dora Fletschock
Edmund Muenchow	

During the 1960's, a 3½ acre plot of land was purchased on the south edge of the village, at the corner of State Street and Randall Road. An educational unit and fellowship hall complex was

completed there in June, 1971. Church services were held in the fellowship hall until 1975 when a new house of worship, connected to the fellowship hall, was dedicated. [18]

ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE PARISH

The Catholic families who moved into the predominately Lutheran Fall Creek area were faced with the problem of traveling long distances to attend church services. Msgr. John W. Pittz, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Eau Claire, was contacted for advice and guidance. He helped organize a small group to be served as a mission by him and his assistants. The first Mass was celebrated on July 3, 1955 in the Woodman Hall, and this remained the place of worship for several years.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for a new church were held on Palm Sunday in 1962 on a five-acre lot at the southern end of State Street. It was ready for use in the fall of 1962 and was formally dedicated on April 21, 1963.

From an original enrollment of about twenty families, the membership has almost tripled. No longer a mission, St. John the Apostle is now served by the pastor in residence at Augusta, Rev. Thomas Garthwaite. [19]

GERMAN LANGUAGE AND TRADITIONS

Most people in the Fall Creek area clung to the German language well into the 20th century. German was, in the opinion of many, the only language which could be used to worship God. In fact, there were those who believed that the Lord would refuse to listen to the Lord's Prayer in anything but the German language! In accordance with old German tradition, all the women sat on the right side of the churches, and all the men sat on the left ... except for one couple at St. Paul's. Henry Wise sat with his wife on the women's side of the church. The other members of the congregation looked askance at this — such heathens! [20]

The church choir sang only German hymns during the worship services. Rev. J. F. Drewelow, who was pastor at St. James from 1921 to 1926, in writing of his experiences in Fall Creek, told of one choir rehearsal when he and his wife dared to suggest that they try a certain English hymn. (There were a few in the appendix of the hymnal.) One of the tenors, he reported, "huffed up that quick, letting us know that such tomfoolery ought to find no place in precious church choir practice hours. Was English a language in which to sing

the praises of the Lord? He for one would have none of it, and he up and left."

English, however, was the only language used in the public school, so it was necessary for the churches to hold special German classes to teach the children how to read and write the language of the church. Rev. Drewelow explained, "the elders still insisted on German in the main service, with enough emphasis to require the children and youth to be trained in the use of the mother tongue for an intelligent sharing in work and worship. Long days and weeks of summer Bible school were therefore required, and rare was the pupil, the first year or two, who had the courage to request an English text." [21]

GERMAN SCHOOL

So important was the education of the youth in the German language, that Trinity Lutheran Church even established what was known as "German School", a parochial school held in a separate building on the church lot. It was built in about 1887 and continued as a fulltime school until about 1903.

The school building was located at the west end of the church property and was about the size of the present Empire gas building. It had no foundation, only air space under it, and there was no insulation or plaster on the walls. The little wood heater could do little to warm the building in mid-winter. The blackboard was just a wooden board painted black. The drinking water was provided by a pail and dipper at the back of the room.

The pupils ranged in age from 6 through 15. There were no grades; as a student finished one book, he or she went on to the next. The morning classes, religion and German, were taught in German, while the afternoon classes, arithmetic, reading, spelling, and geography, were taught in English.

Mr. Kirsch was a teacher in this school for several years before 1900. From 1901, until the school was closed in 1903, classes were taught by "Professor" Pearle.

The school building continued to be used for "German School" during the summer months until about 1909 or 1910. Classes were held every day, all day, for about eight weeks with the pastor as instructor. German and religion were the only subjects taught and youngsters of all ages attended.

Discipline was often a problem in the German School, with the older boys holding wrestling

matches and playing many pranks. At one time, they exchanged the front and back wheels on the pastor's buggy. He had to change them back before he could drive it. The pastor found, though, that the pupils could be helpful. In the spring, for example, he had them pick dandelions for him to use in making wine. [22]

ENGLISH SERVICES BEGIN

Rev. Kretzschmar, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church from 1911 to 1921, is said to have held the first English services in the village — but not on Sunday morning. He conducted an English service about once a month on Sunday evenings.

English services were held earlier than that at Bethlehem Lutheran. An article in the Ludington news section of *The Augusta Eagle* for October 11, 1901, stated that "The German minister from Fall Creek preached to an appreciative audience last Sunday evening. He will preach in English on Sunday evenings, once in two weeks, for the benefit of the Americans here."

German continued to be the predominant language at Bethlehem for another twenty-five years, however. All worship services were conducted in the German language and the minutes of the voter's meetings were recorded in German until 1926. In 1928, they voted to have half the services conducted in English. At that time, services were held only every other Sunday. In 1935, Rev. Bittner offered to give the congregation one extra English sermon a month, making one German and two English sermons each month. [23]

In 1932, judging by the announcements in the *Fall Creek Times*, it appears that St. James and Trinity Churches alternated English and German services. Frances Wilhelm tells us that she was a member of the 1920 confirmation class at Trinity, the first one to be confirmed in English. Rev. Kohlberg still conducted some German services at St. James Trinity up until 1963 when he left Fall Creek.

According to Rev. Bittner, St. Paul Lutheran discontinued German services in about 1930. The last German service held at Peace Church was in 1936.

In January 1925, St. Johns Lutheran congregation decided to have an English service once a month on Sunday afternoon or evening. In 1926, English services were held once a month in the morning, before the German service. In 1928, on Sundays when there was an English service, there was no German service. St. John's congregational minutes were recorded in German until 1936. It was also in 1936 that the first Lenten services were held in English. In that year Holy Communion was celebrated one month in English, the next in German.

By 1947, German services were reduced to one a month, and in 1950, it was decided to use English for all morning services with a German service at 1:30 P.M. on the second Sunday of the month. In 1952, it was voted to limit German Communion services to three times a year. [24]

POTPOURRI

- The first Sunday School in Fall Creek was organized at Peace Church in 1905.

- *The Eau Claire County Journal* of May 26, 1916, reported: "Parochial German school has opened at St. Paulus Church with Mr. Schultz of Springfield Seminary as teacher."

WILLIAM H. JEFFERSON
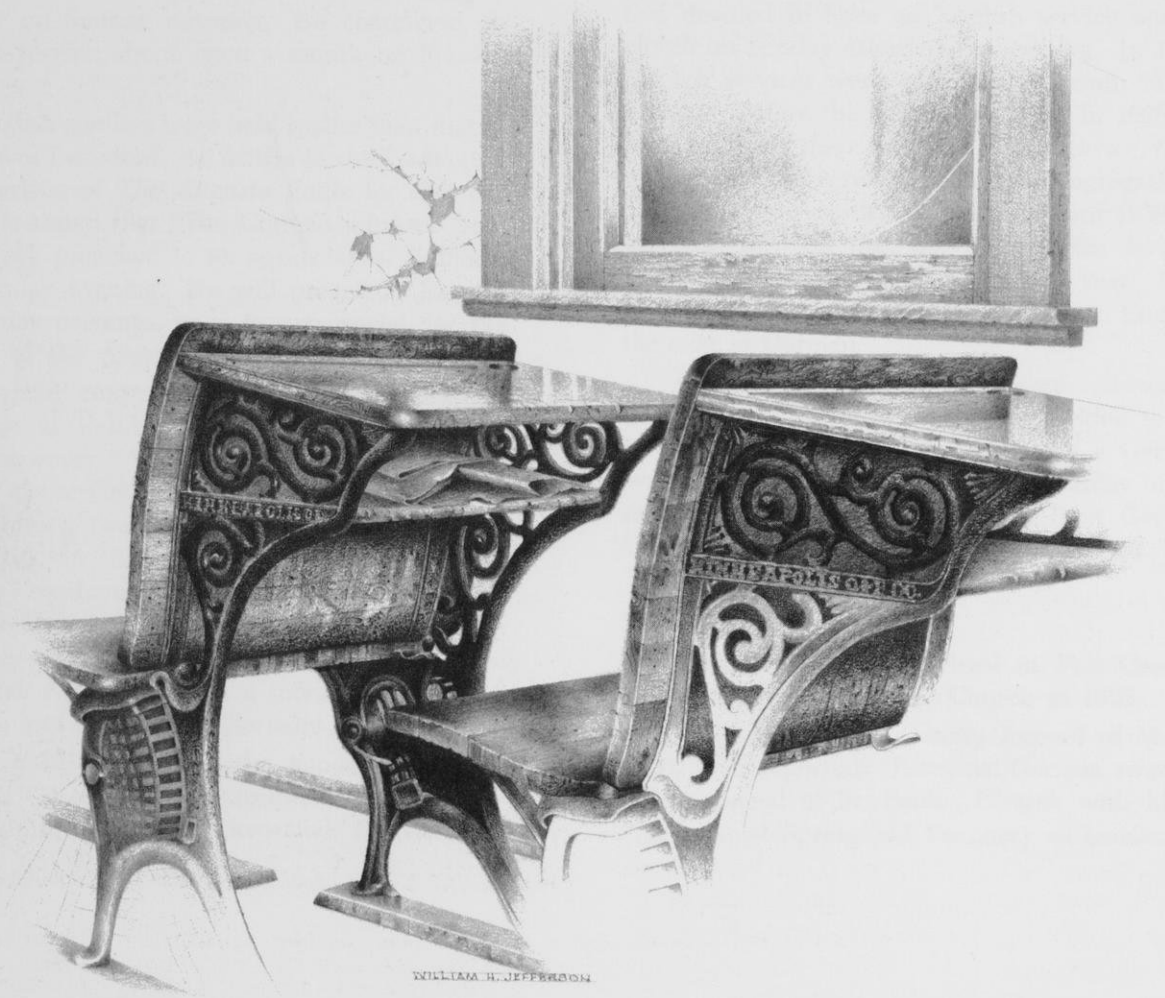
The Bell resounding through the Wide Green
Valley bringing them running and laughing with
their lunch buckets . . . . the small room echoing
for decades the sound of the Three R's . . . .
Now, nothing but the hollow emptiness
of the Fourth . . . . endless Recess.

SCHOOLS AND SCHOLARS

Thirteen-year-old Charlotte "Lottie" Dehnke struggled through the drifts, some of which were nearly waist-high. It had snowed again the night before, and no sleighs had come through yet this morning to make a track for easy walking. She and her brother had set out early this morning, as they had every morning for the past few weeks, to walk the four miles from their farm home on the north side of Fall Creek to confirmation classes with Rev. Friedrich south of the village.

Rev. Friedrich would surely understand if they were a little late this morning; but she hated to miss any of the class. She was learning to read and write! How she wished that she could learn more! If only there were a school in Fall Creek like the one her mother had attended in Herzog von Posen, Germany! Her mother could read and write both German and Latin very well; but a widow with eight children and a big farm to run did not have the time or energy to teach her children reading and writing.

Until the late 1860's, there was no public school for the children of the families who had settled around Fall Creek. Some of the young people, like Charlotte Dehnke (Mrs. Herman Kopplin), learned to read and write German as they studied church doctrine and the Bible in confirmation classes at St. John's Lutheran Church.

THE FIRST SCHOOLS IN FALL CREEK

But, in 1867,[1] Lottie's dream came true . . . a school was built in Fall Creek. A one-room frame building, it was located on State Street and Lincoln (where the parking lot is now) and was one of the very first buildings in the village. Later, it was moved to make room for the Bartz Bros. and Zempel Store.

The next school was located on McKinley Ave., on the lot where the Weber-Biskey Apartments are now. It is not clear whether this was a new building or if it was the same one which was first built on State and Lincoln.[2]

Additions were made to the school as the number of pupils increased, and eventually it was transformed into a graded institution. Before that, students were grouped by "readers", or books — first through fifth. When a pupil finished one "reader", he went right on to the next — a concept very much like the "new" ungraded classes and individualized study in modern schools!

Luttrell #397

The first school in Fall Creek. This picture was taken in 1969, shortly before it was torn down. The original building had a wing on each side. After the new school was built on Washington Avenue, the building was used as a paint shop by Mr. Voechting, wagon maker. Later, it was used as a storage shed by the August Raether Blacksmith Shop.

Luttrell #398

Grade School and High School, built in about 1885 on Washington Avenue. The school yard was enclosed with a fence and large close-set posts at the entrances to keep out grazing cows and horses. 1909.

Mary and Kate O'Brien, sisters[3], and Christopher Kriesel were among the first teachers in the village school. Mr. Kriesel, a German immigrant, taught in Fall Creek from 1870 to 1875 and later became principal of James Whitcomb Riley School in Milwaukee.[4]

The next school was built in about 1885,[5] at a cost of $2,000,[6] on the present site of the Middle School. This was a two-story, wooden frame building with an entrance hall and two rooms downstairs, and two rooms plus a library upstairs.

Since the school had no indoor plumbing or electricity, there were two outdoor toilets in the backyard, each with four holes. Each of the four rooms in the school had a water pail and dipper for drinking water. At first everyone drank from the same dipper. Later on, each child had a green and white porcelain cup which hung on a hook directly under the blackboard chalk trays.

The library held seventy books plus magazines and newspapers. For the lower grades, there were the *Youth's Companion* and the *St. Nicholas* magazines, and, for the upper grades, the *National Geographic, Current Events,* and the *Eau Claire Leader.*

Heat in the building was provided first by individual stoves in each room, and later by a central hot air furnace; but since the heat ducts were near the ceiling and there were no storm windows, the rooms were very cold in the winter. To get the blood circulating, the pupils and teachers would march up and down the aisles between the desks singing the multiplication tables. It was only the very slow learners who never learned them!

Discipline was strict in the old Fall Creek school. Pupils remained quietly in their seats. For permission to speak to the teacher, a pupil raised his hand. For permission to go to the toilet, a pupil would raise his hand with the index finger pointing upward. Then the teacher could simply grant or deny permission with a nod of the head instead of having to interrupt the class in progress.

Most of the desks were double ones with two pupils sharing one seat and desk. They were bolted to wooden runners in groups of five or six. The seat of one desk was attached to the front of the desk behind it. When classes were called to the front of the room for recitation, the children were seated on long beaches. The steeple on the school housed the bell which was rung at 8:30 A.M. (warning bell), 9:00 A.M. (late bell), 12:45 P.M. (noon warning), 1:00 P.M. (late bell), and at the close of each recess.

Arbor Day was celebrated by raking the yard and planting a tree, each of which was given a name. For example, the elm in front of the present band room was named "Queen Victoria."

Since there was no auditorium in the school, Thanksgiving programs and commencement programs were held in Emanuel's Hall (now the Red Onion) and later in Dreamland Theater. Eighth grade graduation was as big an occasion as high school graduation is today.

Until 1907, there were no high school classes in Fall Creek. Those few young people who went to school beyond the eighth grade attended high school in Eau Claire and Augusta. Even after the high school was started in Fall Creek, some students still attended the larger school in Eau Claire.

The first high school commencement in Fall Creek was held on May 28, 1913 at Emanuel's Hall with three graduates: Odelia Bartz, Caroline Bartz, and Henrietta Kopplin (later Mrs. Carl Voechting). Caroline and Henrietta went on to graduate from Stevens Point Normal School, a two-year teacher-training program. There was not another graduating class until 1917.

By 1916, the pupils had outgrown the four-room school, and it was moved across the street to make room for a new two-story, $16,000, brick building. The new school was dedicated February 2, 1917.[7] The old school was used for a time by George Hoehn as a garage and sales room for Durant cars. Later, his brother, Carl, tore the building down and used the lumber to build a house. That house is still in use at 119 Washington (Karl Dekan house).

At the time the new school was dedicated, the principal was Elmer Johnson, and Henrietta Kopplin was Assistant Principal (the principal and assistant also taught all the high school and junior high classes). Victoria McIlquham taught 5th and 6th grades; Alma Finstad, 3rd and 4th grades, and Amanda Schwartz, 1st and 2nd grades.

Luttrell #391

The first Fall Creek High School graduating class, 1913. Left to right: Caroline Bartz, Odelia Bartz, Henrietta Kopplin Voechting.

Luttrell #516

Picnic at Schultz Park, about 1891-92. Top Row left to right: Meta Voechting, Augusta Zempel Rieck, Henry Boernke, Agnes Siegler Zempel, Ottilie Boernke, Adelia Kopplin Mehls, Emma Zenke Ziemann, Minnie Zempel Lubinski, John Bolin, Adone Voechting Shong, Herman Mehls, Ed Kopplin, Herman Bruesewitz, Otto Boernke. **Second Row:** Hattie Brueske, Martha Bruesewitz, Ella Vogler, Ida Haaske Zetzman, Emma Lissack, Fred Haeske, George Redlaczyk, Gus Staples, Wm. Hoffman, Henry Bruesewitz, August Peuse, William Mehls, Adolph Zimmerman, Tom Bolin. **Bottom Row:** Edward Zetzman, Anna Bartz Petrowski, Emma Bruesewitz Niebuhr, Lola Randall Jones, Leo (Corbett) Boernke, Lillie Mehls Wardrobe, Robert Peuse, Walter Zetzman, Lena Wiese Hickey, Amanda Ziemann Sizer, Otto Bruesewitz, Julia Wise Kopplin, George Schwartz, Adolph Peuse.

Luttrell #230

Chemistry Class, 1910. Left to right: Clara Fuhrmann, Adela Mehls, Odelia Bartz, Henrietta Kopplin, Mr. Hennessey (principal), Roy Quast, George Lindenthaler, Walter Schauer, Walter Emanuel, Selma Lindenthaler, Caroline Bartz.

Luttrell #388

Eighth Grade Graduation, 1916. Left to right, front row: Amandus "Count" Zieman, Henrietta Voechting (Asst. Principal), Beata Kaatz (Mrs. John Wolter), Frank Zetzman. Back row: George Bartz, Clarence Neuman, J. Coburn Bertrand (Principal), Frank Redlaczyk, Ralph Wise.

Luttrell #7

5th and 6th Grades, about 1907. Front to back, starting with the row furthest to the right: Row 1: George Roesler, Felix Kromrey, Lydia Kunz, Marie Fletschock, John Mehls, Geo. Menge. Row 2: Grace Roesler, W. E. Randall, Eva Mattson, Marcella Bartz Parker, George Kromrey, (un- identified). Row 3: Selma Mehls, Alma Hoehn, Frank Kunz. Row 4: Phyllis Randall, Herman Frank, Louis Smith, Alvin Emanuel, Jule Stabenow, Alma Volbrecht, Walter Voss. Row 5: Ernst Bartz, Ad Heuer, Herman Heuer, Dan Downs, Hilda Heuer, Walter Reetz, Alvina Heuer.

Luttrell #70

Lower Grades, 1922. Front to back, starting with row on the right: Row 1: Gertrude Hartwich (Geske), Arvid Boernke, Arlo Heuer, Esther Baumbach, Harvey Raether, Elmer Heuer, Celia Boernke (Zich), Lydia Strasburg (Schiefelbein). Row 2: Robert Smith; left, Selma Krause (Erdman); right, Lula Emanuel; Selma Roesler; left, Wm. Mieske; right, Eilert Moldenhauer; Hildegard Zimmerman (Schlewitz), Esther Raether, Alfred Stabenow, Irene Kaeding, Kurt Baumbach. Row 3: Erma Baumbach (Walter); left, Roda Jungerberg; right, Onno Bryan; Nick Shong; left, David Zetzman; right, August Stephan; Angie Mieske (Green); Evelyn Kromrey (Puhlmann); left, Rose Kromrey; right, Hildegard Baumbach. Row 4: Douglas Hoehn, Hans Boernke, Sylvia Krenz (Dedrickson); left, Ruby Jaenke (Hamler); right, Marvella Stubbe.

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Grade and High School, built in 1917, now the Middle School.

Up until 1920, there were only six teachers in the entire Fall Creek school system; two in the high school and four in the grades. Salaries ranged from $92.00 a month for an inexperienced teacher to $150.00 for an experienced principal There were no fringe benefits, such as pensions or sick leave. In case of absence for any reason, the teacher paid for the substitute.

CURRICULUM

The subjects taught in 1920 were:

Upper Grades	High School
Reading	English - 4 years
Writing	Algebra - 1 year
Spelling	Physical Geography - 1 year
Arithmetic	Geometry - 1 year
Geography	History - 4 years
Physiology	General Science - 4 years
History	Physics - 1 year
Grammar	
Agriculture (8th grade)	

By way of comparison, the required high school subjects in 1977-78 were:

English - 4 years
Algebra - 1 year
Geography - 1 year
U.S. History - 1 year
World History - 1 year
Social Problems - 1 year
Biology - 1 year
Driver Education - 1 year
Physical Education - 4 years

In addition, there were 53 elective courses in 1977-78.

There were no formal physical education classes in the 1920's. Two 15 minute recesses provided exercise. The school hours were from 9:00 AM to noon and 1:00 to 4:00 PM for the children. The teachers were required to be at school at 8:00 AM and usually worked until 5:00 PM. There were no preparation periods during the school day for the teachers.

Assembly room in High School (now Middle School), 1923

The county superintendent of schools visited the Fall Creek school several times a year, and state supervisors came once a year. The state supervisor sent a complete report on the school and teachers to the school board, and it was on the basis of this report that teachers were rehired or fired.

The gymnasium that was built into the basement of the high school in 1917 was "just a little cracker-box". It was so small that the boundaries of the basketball court were the outer walls. Since the walls were of rough plaster, there was often a lot of players' skin left on them after a ball game! A chicken wire screen from the floor to ceiling protected the spectators (there were rarely more than ten or twenty) as they watched from the small stage at the west end of the gym.

From 1921 to 1955, Dreamland Hall (or Memorial Hall as it was later called), was used for all games. Since there was no shower or dressing room area there, the teams had to change to their uniforms at the bank and then run the half block to the basketball court. [8]

POST 1950 BUILDING PROGRAMS

The ag shop was added to the school in 1952, and, at the same time, a home economics room was made from the old gym. There were home economics and agriculture classes at Fall Creek High School long before 1952, though. The "School Notes" section of the April 6, 1917 issue of the *Fall Creek Journal* reported that, "The Domestic Science Girls entertained the Basket Ball Boys and the faculty to a formal dinner on Thursday evening." And, in the same paper, "The Agriculture Class and Botany Class have their hot bed completed."

In 1955, a new gymnasium with a stage and a band room with study hall area were added.

Shower room facilities were built in the late 1960's.

A new, five-room elementary school was completed in 1960 which housed the first five grades. In 1962, four classrooms, a kitchen, and a gym were added, and in 1963, two more classrooms were built. In 1967, the upper section, which contains a library, office area, and six additional classrooms, was built on.

Seymour Central, with three classrooms, a lunch room, and activity room, was built in 1960. Grades one through six were taught there until the spring of 1975. Since then, all students have been bussed into Fall Creek.

In 1975, a new high school was built at a cost of $1,650,000. The sixth, seventh, and eighth grades were then moved from the elementary school to the old high school, now renamed the "Middle School." [9]

SCHOOL SPORTS

The first Fall Creek High School basketball team was formed in 1917 with only six boys . . . and that included nearly every boy in the school. There were few substitutes! And there was no coach. In spite of that, in 1922, the Fall Creek team beat Eau Claire and went to the state tournament. They had to have a coach to represent them at the tournament, so "Red" Carroll, a college

student from Eau Claire went along as "coach". The members of that team were Frank ("Lefty") Hoehn, Eddie Miller, Albert Newman, Len Lubinsky, Ken Weir, and Ervin Moldenhauer. [10]

John Drewelow described the 1922 Fall Creek team thus: "Whether game or tournament, it seemed that these hustlers could sweep everything before them. In the final tournament game, in 1922, it was still the same. The game was against Eau Claire, at that place. When it was all over and smoke had cleared away, or, rather, when the avalanche of Fall Creek waters had sufficiently subsided, a beaten player on the opposing team was seen to do what he never once thought he'd ever do; he wiped away both sweat and tears. Those Eau Claire boys were, of course, a game and spirited bunch, a team of winning caliber, who, with no little reason, had felt that things might still come their way. And to see the little school from down the line, with virtually its whole enrolled student body on the team now carry off the honors was a bitter pill!"

But Fall Creek lost at the state tournament. Drewelow writes, "The floor of the university gym was of regulation size and therefore twice as large as any of our boys had ever worked on before. Even then, it was only at the outset that this larger layout bewildered the scrappy fellows from the

Grades 7-12, 1927-28. Left to right, front row: Ewald Krause, LaVerne Kopplin, Gordon Leidiger, Eddie Grogan, Harvey Boetzer, Edwin Block, Chester Joern, Eddie Krenz, Alfred Ida, Herbert Baumbach, Victor Buchholz, Lawrence Kunz, Norbert Peuse, Eddie Brettin, Donald Moldenhauer, Herman Glenz, Russel Tornowske, Raymond Boernke, Edwin Wise. **Back row:** Mildred Bruesewitz, Viola Smith, Hazel Boernke, Lorraine Steinbring, Vivian Melville, Bernadine Voight, Rosella Stubbe, Evadna Melville, Leona Lane, Milo Kromrey, Alma Strasberg, Aloys Muenchow, Edna Kunz, Harlan Niebuhr, Elmyra Vogler, Alvin Erdman, Charlotte Zetzman, Paul Redlaczyk, Cecelia Mittelstadt, Gerald Trader, Ruth Muenchow, Lydia Zempel, Arlene Boernke, Wilma Kuhnert, Myrtle Dadie, Leora Nichols, Nellie Pierce, Walter Kopplin.

Creek. Yet — alas and alack! — even the weakness and errors of a few initial moments can be fatal. For once, our vaunted team failed us." [11]

"Tommy" Thompson, school principal in 1923, was the first Fall Creek coach, and Walter Kopplin was the second. With Gordon Eggleston as coach, Fall Creek teams went to the state basketball tournament in 1936, 1937, and 1938, winning the Class C state championship in 1936. In 1977 and 1978, the team again went to the state tournament under the coaching of Ron Schultz.

A girls' basketball team was first organized in the fall of 1917 with Miss McNamara as coach. [12] The sport was later dropped but was started again in 1972.

Fall Creek High School excelled in track, too. In 1918, the Fall Creek team, which had but two members, won the track meet at Augusta. Arnie

Luttrell #322

1921-22 Sectional Champions. Left to right: Edwin Miller, Frank Hoehn, Lenard Lubinske, Mr. T. J. McGlynn (principal), Erwin Moldenhauer, Kenneth Weir, Albert Neuman.

Luttrell #520

Girls Basketball Team, 1925. Left to right: Vandetta Kopplin, Amanda Zempel, Thelma Roesler, Agatha Zetzman, Esther Krenz, Irma Muenchow, Jeanette Griese, Walter Kopplin (principal and coach). Evadna Melville, Elma Krenz, and Cecelia Mittelstadt were also members of the team.
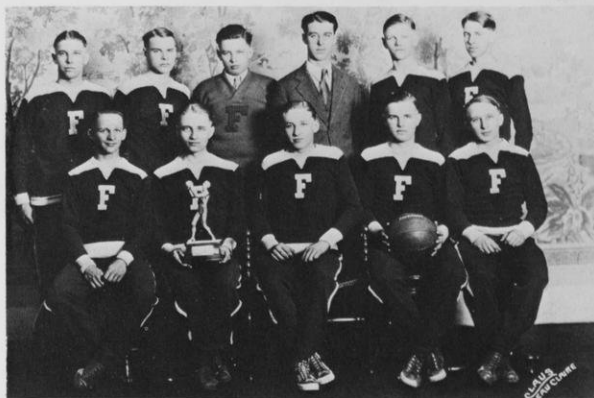
Luttrell #353

Championship Team WIAA Class B Tournament, 1930. Back Row: (l. to r.) Edmund Muenchow, Lambert Kopplin, Harvey Boetzer, Walter Kopplin, Arnold Kuehn, Elmer Shong. Front Row: Werner Niebuhr, Marlow Bruesewitz, Donald Boetzer, Lavern Kopplin, Marvin Zetzman.

Luttrell #283

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Luttrell #523

1938 Class C State Champions: First row, left to right: Moni Boernke, Vern Zetzman, Norman Krenz, Ray Raether, Art Abrahamson, Vic Bittner, and Ray Menge. Standing: Coach Gordon Eggleston, Asst. Mgr. Lynn Lindenthaler, Ben Schiefelbein, John Zempel, Charles Saunders, Paul Bjerke, manager, and E. A. Blang, principal.

Schori, an all-around athlete, won seven of the events and Ralph Wise won the other two.[13]

It was not until 1964 that Fall Creek played conference football, although they did have a team which played some games in 1962.[14]

FALL CREEK CHEERS — 1927
Submitted by Cecelia Mittelstadt Loken

    Sauerkraut, pretzels
    Wieney worst, beer
    Fall Creek High School
    Wir sind hier!

The official hometown cheer was:
    You triumphy Yo triumphy
    Haben swaben
    Rebecca leonamore
    Hoop de loop
    De shala de mere
    De boom de rah
    De all de pa
    Honika Hanika
    Wack wack
    Hob dob Bola Bara Bara
    Con slob
    De hob dob rah
    Fall Creek high school
    Rah Rah Rah!

(Ralph Wise says he remembers the first line as "Boomilicka Bow, Boomilicka Chow".)

Fall Creek School Principals
(Superintendents)

Bradley H. Hackett	Edwin Dabbert
Otto Kopplin	Howard Webster
Fred Arnold	Nordahl Fristad
Herman Degner	T. J. McGlynn
R. P. Johnson	Francis Thompson
Maude Wood	Walter Kopplin
Lydia Wellock	Harry Jensen
W. R. Zenter	Edward Blang
Tom Hennessey	Merrill Thiede
Harry Gilmore	W. Westlund
W. Wilson	H. Roemer
J. C. Bertrand	Armand Block
Elmer Johnson	James Kling
A. Walter Dahl	

SPEECH, DRAMA, AND JOURNALISM

Speech and drama were a part of the extra-curricular school activities in the early 1900's. Oratory was strongly emphasized when Mr. A. Walter Dahl (now a judge in Superior) was prinicpal. Class plays were presented nearly every year. In 1917, for example, the paper reported that the students did "Tony the Convict". The Fall Creek Drama Club, with Mr. Robert Carr as its advisor, now presents several plays a year,

including student-directed productions and an annual spring musical.

According to the first Fall Creek High School annual, published in 1925, there was a junior prom in 1924; annual school carnivals were being held; and a class play had been presented each of the previous four years.

Before the school newspaper was started, students wrote a column which was printed in the local newspaper. In 1917, it was called "School Notes"; in 1933, it was "Cricket School News."

RURAL SCHOOLS

One room rural schools were once the mainstay of rural education in Wisconsin. There was, at the turn of the century, a school house within walking distance of almost every child in the area . . . although sometimes "walking distance" meant four or five miles. These country schools provided basic education through the eighth grade, which was thought by most people to be sufficient at that time.

Many of the names of those schools were both descriptive and picturesque . . . Oak Knoll, Woodland Valley, Clay Loam, Pine Grove, Pine View. The Fall Creek Valley School, located south of the village near St. John's Church, was probably the first school built in the area. It was apparently in existence in 1864, because we are told that a log schoolhouse three miles south of Fall Creek was used then for church services. [15]

The Rodell, Bears Grass, Green Meadow, and Oak Ridge schools were established in the 1870's. Land was set aside for a school house in the Bears Grass area (District #2 Lincoln Valley View) in August of 1865. [16] Oak Knoll was built in 1881, and the Geisler School (a splinter from the Fall Creek Valley District) in 1892. The first school in the Clay Loam District of Ludington was built in 1884, although school was conducted in a log cabin before that. [17] Woodland Valley, also in Ludington, was started in about 1895. [18] The first Springfield Prairie School was also built sometime before 1900. Pine View, which was carved out of the Bruce Rowe and Sommerfeldt Districts, was started in 1912.

In the 1870's, most rural schools had only a five month term, three months in the winter with a man teacher and two months in the summer with a woman teacher. By the 1880's school was in session seven or eight months a year.

Records show that in the Bears Grass District, in 1875, a sum of $775 was raised by special tax

Luttrell #364

Oak Knoll School, about 1895. Note log wall in picture below. Front seat: left, John Meyer; right, Charles Stein. Second seat: left, Fedis Lane; right, Anna Maik (Mrs. John Henning). Third seat: Paul Meyer.

Luttrell #363

for the teacher's wages and an additional $41.75 was raised for the purchase of fuel and other expenditures. [19]

Verda Dahlke, who taught for nearly thirty years in country schools in the Fall Creek area, has given us an account of some of her experiences. She began teaching in 1924 at the age of seventeen. After the ninth grade at Osseo High School, she completed a two year teacher training program at the Eau Claire County Rural Normal School (tuition was $100 a year). She continued her education in summer school, night school, and with Saturday classes and correspondence courses until, at age 57, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree.

Verda has recorded some of her memories of her many years of country school teaching experience. A few excerpts follow:

"At seventeen, I had a small country school, as small and back woodsy as they come. I combatted head lice, bed bugs, poverty, and cold school houses. I learned to chop wood, shovel snow, build a fire, and bed down a fire for the night."

Woodland Valley School, 1900. The smallest boy in the front row is Herman Drehmel. To his left is Anna Drehmel and behind him are Chris and Karl Drehmel. The teacher was Clara Olson.

"We had basket socials and Halloween programs so scary the kids were even scared of each other. Christmas programs were superb, and the little old school houses, with wood heaters and kerosense lamps were full of good people (from wall to wall). Country people are so good; I loved them all and was invited regularly to every home for supper.

"The country teacher was respected, honored, looked up to by almost everyone. Discipline was strict and expected and honored and remembered. There's no greater honor to me now than for some gray headed old lady saying to or about me — 'She surely was strict but we learned a lot'. And they did learn a lot. If a child enters first grade and finishes eighth in one room, he's bound to have

partly learned phonics, reading, arithmetic, geography, history, and many other things each year and in eight years, he knew what he knew and knew it well.

"We had school from nine to four except fifteen minutes twice a day and one hour supervised noon — 'Ball games', 'Run Sheep Run', 'Pump Pump Pull Away' and 'Fox Wants a Corner' were a few games we played. Teachers usually loved to get the exercise and fresh air of the break, too.

"No one can ever guess or nearly estimate the fires I have built, the kindling I have chopped, the ashes I have carried out, the floors I have swept, yes, and scrubbed, the zippers I have zipped, the buttons I have buttoned, the buckles

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I have buckled, the lunches I have thawed out, the cold feet I have rubbed and thawed out, the blackboards I have washed and filled up again and washed again and again every day for nearly fifty years. Many a time I have had children keep blocks of wood under their desks to keep their feet up and out of drafts. Each class came up and sat by the stove while it recited.

"Once at Green Meadow, I had seven first grade boys, and only one could speak English. So, by the time I had presented the proper 100 words prior to a primer, I had learned 100 German words.

"Most country schools were very similar. They had outdoor privies and outdoor pumps, a hall where coats and dinner pails were kept and where the wood box and wash basin stood."

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

A country school teacher was often judged more on the quality of the Christmas program than on the quality of her teaching. The Christmas program was an event eagerly looked forward to by young and old alike.

The teacher alone was responsible for planning the program; selecting the skits, plays, recitations, and songs; assigning the parts; making the costumes (or selecting them from among the assortment of bathrobes and cast-off clothes brought in by the pupils for that purpose); building the makeshift stage (boards laid across saw horses or bales of hay); drilling the participants; decorating the schoolroom; getting and decorating the Christmas tree; arranging for the Christmas treats to be passed out to the children; and finding someone to play Santa (it had to be kept a secret!).

During the month of December, most of the normal school routines were abandoned in order to have time to practice for the all-important Christmas program. The first part of the month, reading classes would read skits, and practice would be held instead of classes after the last recess. The first period of the school day, usually devoted to opening exercises and singing would be extended to rehearse the songs for the Christmas program. As the time for the program drew closer, more and more time was taken from the class schedule. Of course, the teacher kept one eye on the window lest the county superintendent pay a surprise visit! Many a farm child got his first experience in speaking before an audience at the annual Christmas program. *Everyone* in the one-room school had his chance to perform. The experience thus gained was

certainly an important part of education for life. Some of today's farm leaders had their first lessons in elocution and speaking before an audience at the annual country school Christmas program.

It never failed that practice on the day of the program was a disaster. Lines were flubbed; songs were off-key; the curtain fell down; costumes came undone; there was so much noise and giggling in the "dressing room" (the cloak-room) that the recitations could hardly be heard. But somehow that evening, when the children returned, dressed in their Christmas best, they were transformed into accomplished actors and actresses. The little mistakes that did occur only added to the charm of the program. Parents, grandparents, friends, and neighbors crowded into the little school house, many sitting uncomfortably at desks too small for them.

After the program, Santa would arrive to pass out the bags of candy and apples from his pack and, with the help of the teacher or an older child, the gifts from under the tree. The school children had exchanged names, and bought gifts not to exceed 25¢. There were always handkerchiefs, perfume, homemade and "boughten" candies, and notepaper for the teacher.

RURAL DISTRICTS JOIN FALL CREEK

When the high school was established in Fall Creek in 1907, most of the students lived in the village. Youngsters from the country who wished to attend usually tried to find a place close to town where a farmer would provide room and board in exchange for help with the chores mornings, evenings, and weekends.

In the 1930's, there were some busses, but the students had to pay for the privilege of riding to school. Free bussing was not provided until about 1950.

As a result of the state law which made it mandatory that all territories be in high school districts by July, 1962, the school districts surrounding Fall Creek began petitioning to join Fall Creek in 1957.

The time of the reorganization was a difficult and sometimes unhappy one for many people. Families on one side of the road, for example, had church, family, and business ties in Cadott while the family across the road had strong ties to Fall Creek. Nevertheless, the Department of Public Instruction insisted that in order to make bussing more efficient, all families living along one road would have to belong to the same school

district. The school board was obliged to try to keep peace in the neighborhoods, try to build Fall Creek's enrollment, and comply with the state law, all at the same time. [20]

By 1962, the following districts had joined with Fall Creek:

Woodland Valley

Clay Loam

Pine View

Seymour (part went to Eau Claire)

Rodell (about ⅛ of the district)

Washington Jt. 7 (part went to Altoona)

Bears Grass (part went to Augusta)

Jobs (part went to Eau Claire)

Hillview

Green Meadow

Fall Creek Valley

Geisler

Pine Grove

From the little one-room school, started in 1867, the Fall Creek school system has grown to three schools with a total population of 940 students in the 1977-78 school year.

POTPOURRI

● 1915 Rules for Teachers:
   1. You will not marry during the term of your contract.
   2. You are not to keep company with men.
   3. You must be home between the hours of 8 PM and 6 AM unless attending a school function.
   4. You may not loiter downtown in ice cream stores.
   5. You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
   6. You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
   7. You may not smoke cigarettes.
   8. You may not dress in bright colors.
   9. You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
   10. You must wear at least two petticoats.
   11. Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
   12. To keep the school room neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily, scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water, clean the blackboards at least once a day, and start the fire at 7 AM so the room will be warm by 8 AM.

● From the *Eau Claire County Journal,* April 14, 1916: Rural school teachers now have a minimum of $40.00 per month, and if they remain two years in the same school, they get state aid to the amount of $2.00 a month; the third year $4.00, and after that $8.00 a month extra.

"THE BANK" rests .... silent now in its retirement. Its face creased — eyes dusted by time .... but still peering North a bit to remind its Grandson on the Corner .... of the sharing with friends eternal faith in the Valley.
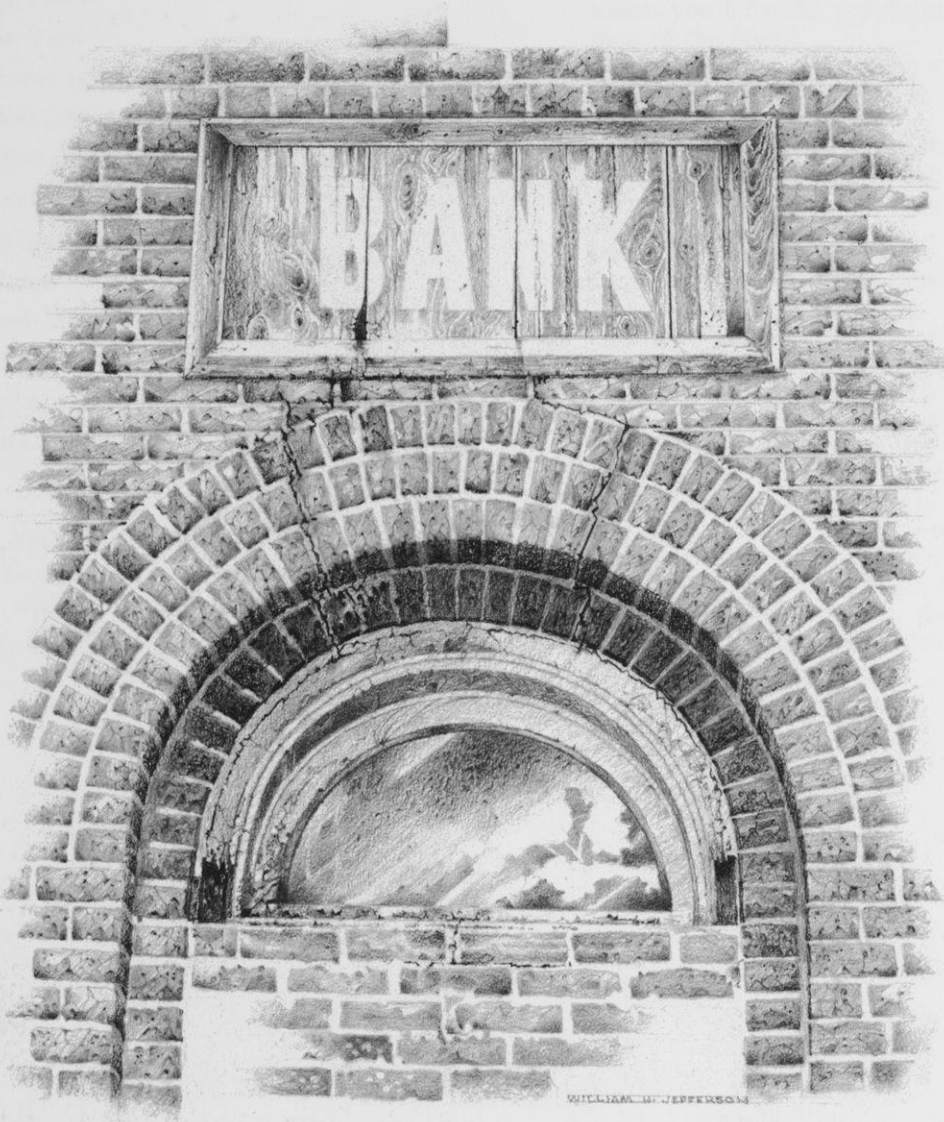
THE BIRTH OF A VILLAGE

THE BIRTH OF A VILLAGE

The first businesses in the Fall Creek area were located outside of the present village limits. They were centered around the stage coach stop to the south and the stream known as Fall Creek to the north.

Mr. William Murphy ran a tavern and hotel from 1865 to 1869 at the stagecoach stop south of the present village, on what is now the Horlacher farm. In the summer of 1869, Simon and Louisa Randall took over the operation of the inn, which was primarily for the convenience of travelers making the stagecoach trip between Eau Claire and Sparta.[1] For more information concerning the stagecoach stop, see Chapter 2.

The first blacksmith shop, owned by Fred Kaeding, was also located near the stagecoach stop, across the road from where the Harold Kaedings now live. Fred frequently walked the twelve miles to Eau Claire to purchase the heavy iron rods needed for his business, and it was not unusual for him to have to carry the rods home on his back.[2]

North of the present village, Fall Creek provided a good source of water power, so it was natural that some business would start along its banks. The water power was first utilized in 1867,

when Edward Gessner built a saw mill which he operated until 1871. According to another source, Mr. Bons and Mr. Jones owned the first sawmill, which was located on the creek 1½ miles northeast of the village (probably at the little falls just north of the present Gary Jungerberg farm). The first flour mill, which was also on the creek about 2½ miles northeast of the village (probably where the creek flows into the river), was owned by Mr. O'Mera and Mr. Hanaburg. In the 1920's, the remains of a small stone dam could still be seen just north of the Gary Jungerberg farm, where the creek turns north. Ralph Wise says that he was told that that had been Gessner's grist mill.

In 1873, Simon Randall decided to build a grist and flour mill by the falls on Fall Creek, in the northwest corner of the village. It was not completed, however, until after Simon's death in 1875.[5]

The location of the village of Fall Creek was finally decided by the railroad company. After the railroad was built in 1871, businesses began to spring up close to the tracks. And, in the spring of 1874, it was the West Wisconsin Railroad Company that filed the original plat at the Eau Claire Court House for a community called "Fall Creek".

Luttrell #328

Luttrell #278

Bratz Bros. and Zempel general merchandise store, and **Stolp Hotel and Saloon** (now the Chicken Chasers Bar), two of the earliest businesses in Fall Creek.

It is difficult to determine which business in Fall Creek was built first. One source indicates that the oldest structures in the village are a part of the present Chicken Chasers building (corner of Lincoln Avenue and Wisconsin Street), which was built by Pete Shong as a canteen, and a part of the old Arnold House (Gannon Apartments on Wisconsin Street and Grant Avenue). [6] Another source says, "The first store was situated on Randall's corner and the next one was built where Mr. Patzwald's building now stands." [7] St. Pauls Lutheran Church is now located on the site which was known as "Randall's Corner".

Tradition has it that "Bartz Bros. and Zempel", on the northwest corner of State and Lincoln, was the first store in the village. Daniel Zempel and Gustave Bartz purchased the lot from Simon Randall in 1873, but, according to the 1881 *History of Northern Wisconsin*, the store was not opened until July 1, 1876. Dan had apparently been a shopkeeper or perhaps the son of a shop-keeper in Posen, Germany, and when he first came to Fall Creek, he sold supplies to the lumberjacks traveling along the "tote road" by the river. Eventually, he decided to build the store in partnership with August and Gustave Bartz.

William Murphy, who moved into town after turning his boarding house over to the Randalls, built a house and general store on the southeast corner of the intersection, where the Patzwald Tavern is now.

In 1872, Edward Gessner bought the lot where Fall Creek Ford now stands and sometime after that, he built a general store on that site.

Luttrell #215

Elise Zenke, "Gutie" in her millinery shop. Located on the lot where the Fall Creek Mutual Insurance Company is now. About 1900.

BUSINESSES IN EXISTENCE IN FALL CREEK BEFORE 1890:

Following is a list of businesses which were in existence in the Fall Creek area before 1890. When known, the dates of the operation of each business are indicated. The date (1881) shown in parenthesis indicates that the business was listed as being in operation at the time the 1881 *History of Northern Wisconsin* was published.

Stone Mason — Joseph Lindenthaler

General Stores — Murphy's, started about 1870
   — Bartz Bros. and Zempel, open July 1, 1876
   — Gessners
   — Adam Jacobson (also an apothecary)
   — Albert Siegler where Bjerkes is now)

Blacksmiths — Edward Cone, started in 1875
   — J. W. Degner, 1876
   — Voechting Bros. Fred and Ernest, wagon makers and blacksmiths, started in 1879
   — Ernest Zenke, (1881)
   — Pope and Livermore (where Louie Zimmerman's house is now)
   — Albert Leidiger, wagon maker (1881)

Saloons — Kopplin Tavern, started in 1874 by Charles and Herman Kopplin

Hotels — Herman Mittelstadt, St. Charles House, 1878, Livery Stable, 1880
   — "Faber House", Faber purchased lot in 1886

Hotel and Saloon — William Murphy
   — Wm. Stolp (1881)
   — Henry Tarber (1881) (could be a misspelling of "Faber")

Saddler and Harness Maker — Mr. Henning, until 1876, then Ernst Brueske, from 1876 to 1894

Grain Dealers — Cargall & Van Valkanburgh, Sommermeyer & Sidell
   — August Bartz (also bought and sold pigs)
   — Geo. Reed, in grain and merchandising business in Fall Creek before and during 1878

Hardware Stores — August Seigler (1881)
   — C. J. Lessnor (1881) (could be a misspelling of "Lissack")
   — Theil and Gessner, agricultural implements (started by August Thiel in 1877)

Furniture Store — Wm. Niebuhr (1881)

Boots and Shoes — Julius Kopplin (1881)

Millinery — Mrs. Otto (1881)

Grocery Stores — Gottlieb Stolp (1881)
   — Stephan and Mary Wise, started in 1881

Boarding House and Stage Coach Stop — William Murphy; then Simon and Louisa Randall

Blacksmith — Fred Kaeding (died 1894)

Sawmill — Mr. Bons and Mr. Jones
   — Edward Gessner, 1867-1871

Grist Mill — Mr. O'Mera and Mr. Hanaburg
   — Gessner
   — Simon Randall (about 1873 or before)
   — John J. Miller (1881)

Flour Mill — Mr. O'Mera and Mr. Hanaburg
   — Simon Randall, 1873
   — Martin Martins, 1876, Chas. Kopplin, 1880; Bruesewitz & Rick, 1883; then just Bruesewitz

BUSINESSES IN EXISTENCE IN FALL CREEK IN 1914-15:

Twenty-five years later, the list of businesses in the Fall Creek area had grown both in number and variety. The following list was compiled from advertisements and articles in the 1914-15 issues of the *Eau Claire County Journal*, with additions made by long-time residents.

Undertaker — J. E. Garaghan, undertaker and embalmer, florist, furniture

Furniture & Undertaking — Wm. Niebuhr & Son

Hardware Stores — Gustave & Julius Roesler
— Ziemann & Bruesewitz (also electrical work)

Harness Shops — Gustave Roesler (Ed Boernke, harness maker)
— Ziemann & Bruesewitz (Charles Becker, harness maker)

Clothing Stores — F. Bruesewitz (managed by his son, Harry)

Barber Shops — Miller & Chambers
— Zempel & Joern

Auto Sales — Fall Creek Motor Co., owned by Edward Stubbe
— Stelter Auto Co., W. R. Stelter

Farm Produce — Wm. Niebuhr & Son (seeds, hay, straw, hogs, cattle, barley and potatoes)

Elevator & Stockyards — Fall Creek Grain & Produce

Cement/Coal — Wm. Niebuhr & Son

Confectionery Store — Ben A. Vogler, candy, bakery goods, fruit, nuts, fancy groceries, tobacco & cigars

Delicatessen — Mrs. G. O. Peuse, confectionery, fruit, and fancy groceries

Meat Market — Emanuel Bros.

Drugs & Gen. Merchandise — Charles Hoehn & son, Archie Hoehn, graduate pharmacist (also sold pianos)

Concrete — Fall Creek Concrete Co. (E. E. Tobey)

Shoe Making & Repairing — Carl Weiss

Hotels — St. Charles Hotel (Alfred Mittelstadt)
— Eaton House (Leslie Eaton)
— Arnold House

Mill — Fall Creek Flour Mills (P. O. Vogler)

Bank — State Bank of Fall Creek

Lumber — Midland Lumber Co. (Edw. J. Zetzman, Mgr.)
— Fall Creek Lumber, Frank Lanua (also coal)

Saloons — A. F. Patzwald, F. W. Muenchow, G. A. Emanuel, R. W. Kaeding, Frank Falch, Henry Voight, H. C. Joern

Insurance — Fall Creek Mutual
— Ben Joern, Hartford Insurance

Photographer — Herman A. Boernke

General Merchandise & Groceries — Julius Zetzman, Fall Creek Merchantile Co.
— Moldenhauer & Boernke Co.

Blacksmiths — Lud Kuehn/August Raether
— Wm. Haase

Jeweler — I. E. Melville

Dance Halls — Kaeding's Hall
— Emanuel's Hall

Contractor and Builder — John Ewald

Creamery — Fall Creek Creamery, John Shields, buttermaker

Well Drillers — Chris Drehmel, Herman Zempel

Tailor — Gottlieb Wiese (known as "Schneeder Wiese") started business before 1900 and continued into early 1900's

Corner of State St. and Lincoln before 1900. A view of Highway 12 to the west. Fall Creek Variety Store is on the left; Bartz Bros. & Zempel and the Rosentreter Meat Market is on the right. Trinity Lutheran Church is located where the wayside park is now.

Luttrell #325

State Street in about 1903. Left (west) side from south to north: Ziemann & Bruesewitz Hardware Store, Harness Shop and Seed Store, former Brueske Harness Shop, Rudy Kaeding Dance Hall and Saloon, Fall Creek Variety Store, Bartz Bros. and Zempel Store. Right (east) side: Elsie Zenke Millinery, Carl Weiss Shoe Shop, Niebuhr Paint & Wallpaper Store and Undertaking Parlor, Wise Grocery Store, Muenchow Saloon, Hamler's Saloon, State Bank of Fall Creek, Mittelstadt Livery Stable.

Lincoln Avenue, sometime between 1903 and 1912. To the right (south) is the Patzwald Tavern, Emanuel's Butcher Shop, Emanuel's Saloon and Dance Hall, Roesler Hardware. To the left (north) is The State Bank and the Mittelstadt Hotel. August Neuman is the man with the apron.

South side of Lincoln Ave. after 1912, with the new Patzwald Tavern in the fore-ground.

South side of E. Lincoln Avenue between 1906 and 1912. Ludwig Schulz Saloon, I. E. Melville Jewelry, Kunz Bros. Butcher Shop, Restaurant, telephone office and switchboard. The picture was taken during one of the "Saengerfests" or singing festivals. (See Chapter 8.)

Luttrell #381

Lincoln Ave. in about 1949, a view to the west.

Luttrell #493

FALL CREEK FLOUR MILL

The Fall Creek Mill and vicinity was considered to be one the beauty spots of the area, according to a 1915 newpaper report. Above the dam, on Vogler's Lake, bathers could take refuge from the summer's heat and skaters found many hours of winter fun. Just beyond the mill was Schultz's Park, a favorite picnic spot.

The mill itself, with its two-story water wheel, was a well-known landmark. Simon Randall began construction of the mill in 1873. After the dam was completed, and while he was waiting for the mill machinery to arrive, a tragic accident took Simon's life. In the 1800's, nearly every man carried a gun and it was the custom for anyone entering a home or business place to stack his gun in a corner against the wall. Because of their young son, Lennie T., who was just a toddler, the Randalls had tried to stop this practice in their inn. One day after the noon meal, while Simon was resting, Tamarlane knocked down a gun carelessly left against the chimney by Mr. Wilcox, a blacksmith employed by Simon. As Simon reached for the gun, it discharged and the bullet hit him in the thigh, part of it angling up into his abdomen. Everything possible was done to save him; but after three days of suffering, he died on July 22, 1875. [8]

Martin Martins of Neillsville finished building the mill and then sold it to Charles Kopplin in 1880 for $8,000. In 1883, the firm Bruesewitz and Rick took it over. The partnership was dissolved some years later, and Ferdinand Bruesewitz ran the mill by himself until September 1902, when it was struck by lightning and burned to the ground together with all the machinery. [9]

Fall Creek was without a mill from 1902 until 1904 when Paul O. Vogler and Adolph Vogler erected a 36 x 64 Barnard & Leas Mill with a 14 x 44 annex. In 1906, Adolph sold his interest to his brother, who became the sole owner. Paul owned the mill for 39 years. [10]

The *Eau Claire County Journal* of December 18, 1914, gave this background on the mill: "Up to 1909 the power had been derived from a turbine under a head of water held by a wooden dam, and had proved insufficient, so that a 60 horsepower gasoline engine was added to help out. However, in 1909, under the supervision of Lud. Schultz, father-in-law of Mr. Vogler, a powerful concrete dam was completed and a Fitz overshot waterwheel was installed and it is rarely now that the engine is ever used." According to a letter written by P. O. Vogler in 1910, the new steel overshot wheel required a little over 1200 cubic feet of water per minute to drive the whole mill at once, doing the same work as formerly done by the 60 HP engine. [11]

Farmers who brought their wheat into the mill to be ground paid for the service by giving a certain portion of the wheat to the miller. This he ground into flour and sold under the brand name "Golden Eagle".

The *Eau Claire Leader* of January 9, 1952, reported the razing of the old mill. According to the *Leader*, "The advent of bleached flour marked the beginning of the end for the mill. The operators ceased making white flour and began milling whole wheat flour, dairy rations, and poultry feeds." The mill was not used after 1943 when it was sold to the D. B. Benham Co. of Minneapolis. In 1952 it was salvaged for lumber by Voight Gilette of Eau Claire.

The Fall Creek mill was the last overshot wheel in Wisconsin. It was a large steel bucket type wheel in two sections, known as an I X L Overshot Gravity Water Wheel, made by the Fitz Water Wheel Co. of Hanover, Pennsylvania. [12]

BLACKSMITH AND HARNESS SHOPS

Until the automobile became the primary means of transportation, blacksmith and saddlery shops were as important to transportation as gas stations and auto repair shops are today.

A Mr. Henning, from Princeton, Wisconsin, had the first harness shop and saddlery in Fall Creek, located on State Street, between where the Fall Creek Hardware and the post office are now. In 1876, when he decided to sell out and return to Princeton, there was consternation among the villagers. It was so important to have a saddler in the village that three men made a trip to Wausau to search for one. They located Ernst Brueske, who was persuaded to buy Mr. Henning's shop. He and his family lived in the rear of the shop until 1894 when Mr. Brueske died. [13]

Jul Ziemann learned the harness making trade as a young man, and opened a harness business on State Street in about 1900. [14] It later became a part of the Ziemann and Bruesewitz Hardware Store with Charlie Becker as harness maker. Ed Boernke was harness maker in the harness shop connected with the Roesler Hardware Store.

Fred Kaeding had the first blacksmith shop in the Fall Creek area, but Edward R. Cone apparently had the first shop in the village, having established it in 1875. In 1876, J. W. Degner started a second blacksmith business. Degner, Cone, and Ernest Zenke (Count and Gertrude Ziemann's grandfather) all had blacksmith shops in the village in 1881, according to the *History of Northern Wisconsin*, printed in that year.

At one time, there were four blacksmith shops all doing business in Fall Creek, a village with a population of 200. The Pope and Livermore blacksmith shop was located where the Louis Zimmerman house is now. It was torn down in about 1905. [15]

Ludwig Kuehn was a blacksmith in Fall Creek for many years. His obituary in the December 8, 1932 issue of the *Fall Creek Times* provides information concerning the blacksmith businesses in Fall Creek through the years. According to the paper, Mr. Kuehn came to the village in 1882 and worked for five years in Ernest Zenke's blacksmith shop. In 1892, he associated with the Voechting Brothers where he worked for nine years. Then he conducted his own business in the Degner building for two years. He worked for William Haase for seven years and for August Raether for seven years. The Haase blacksmith shop was located where Melville's Jewelry is now.

Fred and Ernest Voechting had their business on McKinley Avenue where the Grosskopf apartments are now. Fred was a wagon maker and Ernest was the blacksmith. Ernest sold out when he went to Canada, and August Raether bought the shop in 1908. The power used for running his machinery was supplied by a gas engine until 1915 when he converted to electric power. He charged 20¢ a shoe to shoe a horse.

Albin Berg and August Raether made the first snow plow in Eau Claire County. It was pulled by six to eight horses, furnished by local farmers, and used primarily on old Highway 12. [16]
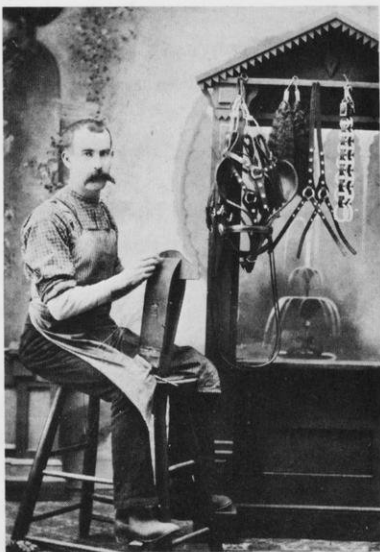
Luttrell #501

Ernst Brueske Saddlery and Harness Shop, Mr. Erdman, his helper, is sitting at the vise. Taken between 1877 and 1894.
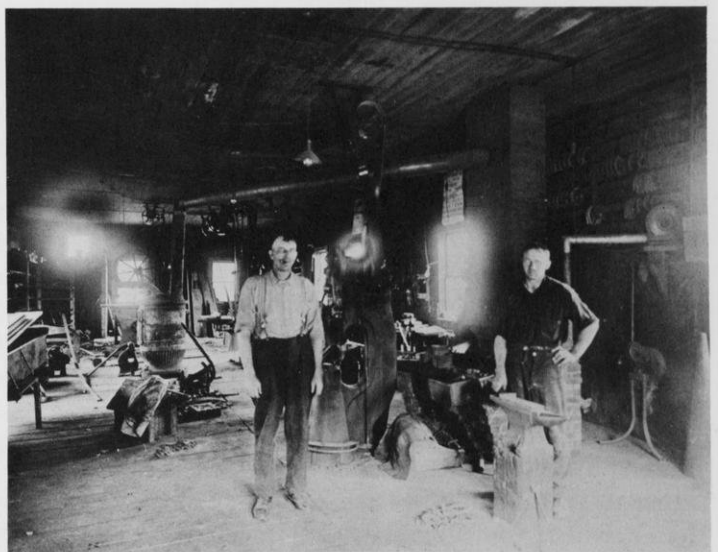
Luttrell #470

Raether Blacksmith Shop, about 1925. August Raether and Gust Fletschock.

GOLD MINE AT BIG FALLS

There were two efforts before 1900 to mine gold at Big Falls on the Eau Claire River. The latest, in about 1896, was a pit mine on the north side of the river, about 25 to 30 feet deep and six feet across. The earlier effort, in about 1880, had consisted of a shaft which extended at least 30 feet into the side of the hill on the north side of the river where it turns south at the falls. Ore was brought out in little cars which ran on tracks into the shaft. Operations were apparently dropped because they were not profitable. [17]

FALL CREEK MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.

The Fall Creek Mutual Insurance Company is the village's oldest business still in existence today. The company was formed January 20, 1875, in the one-room Fall Creek Valley School. Daniel Zempel, August Bartz, Samuel Welke, Herman Friedrich, August Kaatz, and Rev. W. Julius Friedrich founded the company first known as the Fall Creek Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Daniel Zempel became the first president and Rev. Friedrich the first secretary. The office was in Rev. Friedrich's home.

At the first annual meeting in 1876, it was reported that the company had insured capital totalling $79,615. Income was $217.34; expenses $144.95, leaving a balance of $71.34. [18]

As of December 31, 1977, the company had 1,240 policies on record with $59,115,116.00 of gross fire insurance and $51,157,633.00 of extended coverage. [19]

On the occasion of the company's 50th anniversary, Dan Lane, Daniel Zempel's grandson, was president of the company. Ed Schacht is currently president.

HOTELS AND LIVERY STABLES

Hotels in Fall Creek were built primarily for the convenience of travelers on the main route to Eau Claire from the South. The 1881 *History of Northern Wisconsin* indicates that, in that year, there were three hotels operating in Fall Creek. In 1873, William Stolp purchased the property where the Chicken Chasers is now and operated a combination hotel and saloon there until 1885. According to the 1881 account, "Henry Tarber" also had a combination hotel and saloon; but the author was probably referring to the "Faber House" which was located where Harv's Texaco is now.

The St. Charles House, with accommodations for twenty-four guests, was built by Herman Mittelstadt in 1878 on the lot where the east end of the bank is now located. The hotel was operated continuously by the Mittelstadt family until 1959 when it was torn down. Sometime prior to 1959, the name was changed from St. Charles House to St. Charles Hotel.

Herman and Bertha (Kopplin) Mittelstadt were married in 1872 and had four children: Clara, Frank, Walter, and Amanda. Bertha died while her children were still very young, and Herman later married Augusta Manske. They had three children: Alfred, Olga, and Ida. After Herman's death in 1887, Augusta operated the hotel by herself for over fifty years. When she died in 1938, her son, Alfred, and his wife, Louise (Roesler), continued the business. [22]

Cecelia Mittelstadt Loken, Augusta's granddaughter, has given us this description of the hotel: "There were ten rooms in the hotel, some of which had two double beds. The dining room was the full width of the building and had one long table and also a square one that could be made much larger. White tablecloths and linen napkins were used. Some widows in town did the huge laundries and many 'hired girls' came, found a husband, and departed. Each cooked a food specialty of her family so the meals were interesting and varied. For many years, the price of a meal was fifty cents and a room was $1.00." In the early 1900's, a meal at the St. Charles House was just twenty-five cents. [23]

It was customary in those days to have a livery stable in connection with a hotel, so that the guests would have a place for their horses. In 1880, Herman Mittelstadt built a barn on Grant Avenue, where the fire station is now, for the convenience of the guests who were staying at the St. Charles House. Mittelstadt's livery stable was also used by farmers who came to Fall Creek from outlying areas such as Ludington, Brackett, Cleghorn, and Seymour. They would leave their horses in the stable to be fed and watered while they shopped and transacted business in the village. The charge for this service was twenty-five cents. [24]

Henry C. Joern purchased the Faber House in 1894 and renamed it "Hotel Royal". In 1909, he sold it to Miller and Chambers, who later built and operated a livery stable (now the County Shop) in conjunction with the hotel. Leslie Eaton bought the hotel in 1913 and it became the "Eaton House". [25] In 1917, it was sold to Mrs. Trestrail of Eau Claire. [26] Edna Follinsbee, a widow, purchased the hotel in 1922. In 1929, it was sold to

Livery Stable, in connection with the Eaton House. Taken about 1913. The sign above the small door says, "Dr. H. E. Horel, Veterinary Surgeon."

Corner of State Street and Lincoln Avenue where the bank is now. August Bartz, standing in the front wagon with the raccoon coat, is inspecting grain brought in by farmers. The man standing in the second wagon (with the moustache) is J. E. Zetzman. Taken about 1892. The building in the background is the Bahr Saloon, formerly the Kopplin Saloon. Mittelstadt Livery Stable in back of the Saloon.

Erich and Louise Leidiger who had it torn down. Erich used the summer kitchen of the hotel as a filling station and auto repair shop. In 1946, he sold the lot to Harry Saunders who leased it to the Sacony-Vacuum Oil Co. which built a new filling station there. Harvey Kuhnert bought the station in 1971 and remodeled it.

Another hotel, the Arnold House, was run for many years by Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Arnold. [27] This building, located at the corner of Wisconsin Street and Grant Avenue, is now an apartment house owned by Lawrence Gannon.

SALOONS

Fall Creek has always had an abundance of saloons and bars. In July of 1916, when the population of the village was only a little over 500, the *Eau Claire County Journal* reported that, when the village board had met to consider the granting of liquor licenses, *all six saloon keepers* were present. An understanding was concluded at that meeting that all saloons must, after July 1, be closed promptly at 11:00 PM and be closed all day Sunday.

Over the years, there have been many different owners and operators in the various bars in the village. Following is a list of all the village bars, starting with the current or most recent operator and establishment name. Although we do not claim that this is a complete list, it is close.

Patzwald Tavern
Frank Pape
August Bartz
Henry Patzwald
August Patzwald
Ed Hamler/Jul Redman
Philip Otto

Jan's Place
Janice Olsen
Joe Comers
Al Kunz
Frank Younk
Edward Wise
Gust Emanuel

Chicken Chasers
"Satch" Hagedorn
Harvey Boetzer
Harry Saunders
(Charlie Hoehn drug store)
William Stolp (hotel & saloon)
Muenchow Saloon
(now the Jerry Dietsche home)
Violet Kritzman
Dan Muenchow
George Muenchow
Fred Muenchow
Harris Fall Creek Tavern
Dave Harris
Merlyn Langner ("Big Daddys")
Ralph & Avis Feuling
George & Galen Weber
      Dunneboil
      Larson
George Wiese
Ed Kopplin
Gust Peuse
Village Hall Bar
William Lange
Doug Kranig
Bill Abramovich (Puke's Place)
Henry Frey
Doug Swanson
Henry Frey/Donald Baker
Violet Lipke
Walter Wise
Frank Falch
William Klatt
Ludwig Schulz (Schulz Saloon)
Kaeding Saloon
(was Miescke's Grocery before
    it burned in 1929)
Rud Kaeding
Philip Lindenthaler
Bahr Saloon (where bank is now)
Julius Bahr
Herman Kopplin
Charles & Augusta Kopplin

August Neuman gathering empty beer kegs for return to the brewery for a fresh supply. The label on the box says, "John Walter Co. City Brewery". Taken about 1910.

DRUGGISTS — The Hoehns and The Bjerkes

Although Adam Jacobson was probably Fall Creek's first druggist, Charles Hoehn, the second, had a greater impact on the community. "You can't be everything to everyone", or so the saying goes; but Charlie Hoehn certainly tried. In addition to ministering to Fall Creek's medical needs as dentist, doctor, and veterinarian, he also owned a general store, served on the school board and the village board, and was active in civic, political, and church organizations.

Charles Hoehn was born in Germany in 1854 on a nobleman's estate. His father, August, was employed by a Count as a veterinarian of sorts and as a grounds supervisor. In 1876, the family immigrated to America, settling on a farm in Monroe County. In 1882, Charles and his brothers moved to the Brackett area.

After working for a time as an itinerant farm laborer and gardener, Charlie entered the employ of Adam Jacobson in 1884. Jacobson, who operated a general merchandise business at the present site of Fall Creek Ford, was also an apothecary. He urged Charles to study the 1875 *United States Dispensatory*, a book which contained most of the pharmaceutical knowledge of the day. Charles studied diligently and also pursued a course in medicine offered by the Chicago Independent Medical College. He was issued a diploma from that institution in 1888.

After Mr. Jacobson sold his business in 1890, Charles worked for Stephan Wise in his general store (now The Store). In 1892, Charles and two partners purchased the general merchandise stock of Albert Siegler, whose store was in the building presently housing the Prospector's Den (formerly Bjerkes).

By 1894, Charlie had bought out his partners and owned the business alone. In 1895, he rented

Patzwald Tavern, about 1910. August Patzwald and Henry Patzwald are behind the bar. The customers, left to right, are Gust Frederick, (unidentified), Martin Frederick, and Ed Kaeding.

the Lindenthaler Dance Hall (where the Post Office is now) and established a drug store there. Henke and Jaenke, who operated a planing mill and cabinet works in a building at the northeast corner of Wisconsin and Wilson, fashioned and installed the fixtures in the new store. Willis R. Roller of Milwaukee was hired as the registered pharmacist. He also had a watch repair and jewelry business in the front corner of the store.

A regular feature of the Chas. Hoehn store was a monthly bargain sale which offered such goodies as prunes or "broken rice" at 1¢ a pound (limit five pounds per customer); calico at 1¢ a yard (limit 12 yards); overalls for 25¢ (limit 1); bulk coffee for 10¢ a pound; and 20 pounds of sugar for $1.00.

Business continued at the same location until 1903, when Hoehn bought the former Stolp Saloon and Hotel building which was then vacant (now Chicken Chasers Bar). Additions were made to the rear of the building and also to the attached wing residence. The new location became the "Hoehn General Merchandise Store" and the family home.

In 1914, the business was sold to Henry Moldenhauer and Ed Boernke who moved the merchandise to what had been Emanuel's Hall (now Red Onion) which they leased from John Walters. In 1915, Charles' son, Arthur, graduated from Marquette University and was licensed as a registered pharmicist. He joined his father in the Hoehn's Pharmacy, an exclusive drug business, located where Chicken Chasers is now.

The business was sold to Alf Bjerke in 1922. Arthur Hoehn was later associated with Lars Urheim in the Urheim Drug Co. in Eau Claire. He resigned in 1953 and moved to California. [20]

Alf Bjerke, a Norwegian immigrant, was a graduate of Marquette University and a registered pharmacist. When he came to Fall Creek in 1922 to establish the "Bjerke Drug Store", his German wife, Elsie, had to work with him in the store as an interpreter, since most of the customers spoke only German. Alf eventually picked up enough of the language to carry on his business, but Elsie continued to work at the store nearly every day. Usual business hours extended from 8 AM to 10 PM, and even later on "Show nights", when there was an outdoor movie being shown in town.

Alf's brothers, Orvild and Jul, also worked in the drug store with him, and Alf trained them to become registered pharmacists as well. So, at one time, there were three pharmacists in Fall Creek! A prescription delivery service was available to customers in the Fall Creek area, even on weekends and nights.

Almost from the beginning, Bjerkes had a soda fountain in their store. They purchased the long marble topped fountain from Dor Smith's in Eau Claire and installed it in the building they rented from the Hoehns (Chicken Chasers).

In about 1933, the Bjerke Drug Store (including the soda fountain) was moved to the Roesler Hardware Store (now Keller Furniture). Friends and relatives came on a Sunday afternoon to help move the equipment and inventory. The building was divided down the middle, with Roeslers Hardware on the west half and Bjerkes Drug Store on the east.

In 1941, Bjerkes purchased the building across the street which had been Schori's Restaurant (now the Prospector's Den). It was necessary to cut about six or eight feet off the soda fountain to fit it in this small building.

After Alf died in 1959, Elsie continued to operate the store and obtained a drug store license so a variety of pharmaceutical articles could be sold. Veterinary supplies, greeting cards, and gift articles were also stocked. Alf's son, Paul, head pharmacist at Luther Hospital, managed the store for eighteen years after his father's death, but in December 1977, Bjerke's Drug Store, which had served the community for more than 55 years, was closed. For the first time in over 80 years, Fall Creek was without a drug store. [21]

Herman Boernke,
1890.

Luttrell # 459

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Herman Boernke was probably Fall Creek's first photographer, beginning sometime in the early 1880's. [29] He also did painting and wallpaper hanging, made picture frames and framed pictures. Mr. Boernke took many pictures of Fall Creek businesses, street scenes, celebrations, and people, and it is because of his work that we have such a good photographic history of the village. It was a form of entertainment on a Sunday afternoon to dress up and go to Boernkes to have a picture taken. The Boernke home and studio were in the house now owned by Erv Sell on the corner of State Street and Garfield Avenue. There was an addition built on the west side of the house which Herman used as a studio. Since Mr. Boernke did his photo work in the days before electricity and flash bulbs, the entire north wall of the studio was of glass to provide enough natural light for his photographs. [30]

Herman was born in Wausau, Wisconsin in 1861 and died in Fall Creek in December, 1919. He and his wife, Ernestine, had seven children; Otto, Lillian, Anna, Ella, Gertrude, Adone, and Leo ("Corbett").

After Mr. Boernke's death, Walter Brueske bought the photographic equipment. The Fall Creek Historical Society now has the Boernke/Brueske camera.

BANKS

At the turn of the century, there was no bank in Fall Creek. The closest bank was Eau Claire National, about a four-hour round trip by horse and buggy from Fall Creek.

Each businessman had to keep his own supply of money on hand, usually in gold. In the early

1900's, many Wisconsinites still remembered the wildcat banks of the 1850's and the worthlessness of some of the paper money they issued. Farmers hesitated to accept paper in exchange for their grain and livestock, insisting rather on payment in gold.

Henry Wise, who was the Fall Creek representative for Cargill Elevators, met the noon train from Eau Claire every other day to pick up enough gold for two days' business. At night, he hid the bag containing the gold under the bed in his apartment above his father's grocery store (now Wood's apartment above "The Store"). Farmers who brought produce to the elevator would be given a receipt which they could then take to Mr. Wise at the store and exchange for gold.

The businessmen in town felt that this system was no longer safe or convenient enough for their growing community, so they contacted William H. Frawley, an Eau Claire attorney, and asked him to help them form a bank. Mr. Frawley suggested that they invite Kim Rosholt, a successful and energetic Eau Claire businessman, to join them in the venture.

Mr. Rosholt and Mr. Frawley arrived in Fall Creek on the noon train on May 13, 1903 and were met by six Fall Creek businessmen who escorted them to Gus Emanuel's Saloon (now Jan's Place), a popular meeting spot in Fall Creek. As a result of that meeting, the eight men decided to form the State Bank of Fall Creek and made application to the State Banking Commissioner for a charter. The men present at the meeting became the original stockholders of the bank: G. E. Bartz, W. H. Frawley, Sr., Frank C. Lanua, Philip S. Lindenthaler, Charles J. Lissack, William Niebuhr, Kim Rosholt, and Julius E. Zetzman.

Kim Rosholt contributed $5,100 of the original capital stock of $10,000, the remainder being contributed by the other seven stockholders. Mr. Rosholt also purchased the Kopplin Saloon and lot as a future site for the bank.

On July 23, 1903, a charter was granted to open a bank in Fall Creek and Mr. Rosholt transferred the lot on the corner of State Street and Lincoln Avenue to the State Bank of Fall Creek. Work on the bank was started immediately, and, in October of 1903, the bank opened with Kim Rosholt as the first president, G. E. Bartz as vice president, and Charles Lissack as cashier.

In 1925, the bank directors felt that the old one-room bank building was inadequate for the amount of business being conducted, so the building was sold to the Ludington Telephone Co.,
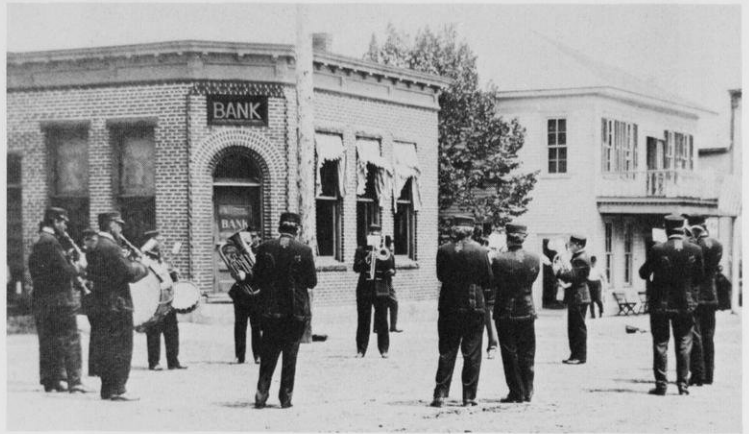
Luttrell #15

The first bank in Fall Creek, built in 1903, with Fall Creek Band. The St. Charles House is to the right of the bank.

Luttrell #1

Interior of The State Bank of Fall Creek, about 1909. George Hoehn is the customer. Carl Voechting and C. J. Lissack are at the teller windows.

which moved it a block south on State Street. The moving process was slow and tedious, requiring two weeks to complete. In fact, the movement was so imperceptible that business was carried on in the building during the entire operation. The steps were simply moved along the street next to the bank! A new two-story brick building was built on the original location and opened for business in the fall of 1925.

The stability of the bank was proven during the Great Depression. In 1929, there were sixteen banks in Eau Claire County. By the end of 1931, only three remained open: Union National Bank in Eau Claire, Peoples State Bank of Augusta, and the State Bank of Fall Creek.

There had been a second bank in Fall Creek from the fall of 1917 to 1929, the Merchants and Farmers Bank, located in the building now occupied by Dr. Zboralske. It, too, closed during

the Depression. The original incorporators of the Merchants and Farmers Bank were Gustave Roesler, J. E. Garaghan, Charles Hoehn, A. H. Miller, and H. H. Roesler. The first officers were Gustave Roesler, president; E. H. Geske, vice president; Edw. J. Zetzman, cashier; and J. E. Garaghan, assistant cashier. [31]

Early bank stockholders assumed a far greater risk than do today's stockholders. In the days before the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the stockholders themselves insured the deposits. If a bank failed, they were liable for double the value of the stock they held.

Ralph Wise recalls that there were some very hectic days for banks in 1931. Very early on Monday morning, September 24, 1931, someone from Union National Bank in Eau Claire telephoned Ralph and Carl Voechting, the bank President, to warn them of the impending disaster and to ask how much extra money the Fall Creek bank would need for the next day. Union National had gotten some additional money from a Milwaukee bank.

At 5:00 AM, Ralph drove in the back alley behind Union National and picked up $50,000 ... more cash than the State Bank of Fall Creek had ever had on hand before. To allay customer concern, they displayed the money prominently behind the counter when the doors opened that morning. Only one customer withdrew his deposits from the bank that day.

One of the main reasons the State Bank of Fall Creek was able to withstand the pressures of the depression was the confidence which its customers placed in it. If there had been a run on the bank, with people demanding their money, it, too, would have had to close. When customers asked about the safety of their money, they were told that it was invested in farms and businesses right in the immediate area. Since the depositors believed in the value of that property, they remained calm and were willing to leave their savings on deposit.

The bank that started in 1903 with a capital stock of $10,000 ended the first year of operation with deposits of $30,000. After 40 years, deposits had grown to $1,000,000. During the last six years, deposits have grown more than $2,000,000 per year, bringing the total to over $23,000,000 at the start of 1978.

In 1970, the bank had again outgrown its facilities. An extensive remodeling project added more space and gave the building a new and modern appearance.

The State Bank of Fall Creek has continued to modernize and to add equipment and personnel to better serve its customers, leading the way in Eau Claire County with many banking services. It was the first bank in the county to have a drive-up window, the first to build a permanent branch bank and the first to be open on Friday nights. It was the first to hire a home economist, and it is the only bank in the county with a graduate agricultural adviser on its staff.

The bank is still locally owned and operated, with thirty-one stockholders, none of whom owns a controlling interest. [32]

FIRST STOCKHOLDERS OF THE STATE BANK OF FALL CREEK

Luttrell #371

Kim Rosholt (1864-1920), the founder and first president of the State Bank of Fall Creek, was born December 27, 1864 near Scandanavia, Wisconsin, of Norwegian parents. Chirstened "Joachim", he was known through his lifetime simply as "Kim" Rosholt.

Kim never went to college, but he did study law in a Waupaca law firm. As a young man, he became active in the real estate business in northern Wisconsin. He bought large areas of cut-over timber lands and carried on very extensive and successful colonization efforts, bringing in thousands of families, mostly Polish and Norwegian, to farm the newly opened lands. He became known as the "Wisconsin Land Man", and letters so addressed — without a name — found their way to him.

Later, he become more interested in banking and manufacturing. An inventor as well as a businessman, his most successful and well-known manufacturing enterprise was the Northwestern Steel and Iron Works, located in Eau Claire on Ball St. There he manufactured the "Cooker Retort," a pressure canner he had developed for use in small commercial canneries. Eventually,

he also developed and manufactured pressure canners and cookers for home use, products which soon gained national as well as international prominence. This firm was the forerunner of Presto Industries.

Into everything he undertook, Kim Rosholt put the full force of his personality, his creative mind, and his tremendous energy. In Chetek, where he had his summer home, he rebuilt the dam, developed the electric power company, started a lumber company and a feed mill, built a yacht, and founded the Farmers and Merchants Bank. In Pensacola, Florida, where he spent several months of each winter on the yacht he had built, he invented a plant food which utilized waste products from the Gulf fisheries, and founded a business to package it. Then he organized the National Products Co. in Eau Claire to act as a sales agency for the plant food. (This firm later became primarily a barber supply firm and is still in existence on Main St.)

He had banking interests in Prentice and Waupaca as well as in Fall Creek and Eau Claire. In Tennessee, he bought wild land, transformed it into fruit orchards, and then built a cannery, blacksmith shop and store on part of the land. He started the village of Haugen, Wisconsin and the Haugen Lumber Co. A street in the village is named after his son, Raymond.

Another Rosholt invention was the "Casey Jones Engine" which motorized the old handcars used by railroad sectionmen. They were sold internationally through the Northwestern Motor Co., also organized by Mr. Rosholt, which is still in existence in Eau Claire.

Wherever he went, he saw business opportunities and set out at once to develop them. He loved a challenge. Mr. Rosholt was instrumental in establishing the Eau Claire Press Company and was, for a time, its president. He was the chief organizer and first board president of the Eau Claire YMCA, one of the major forces in the formation of the Union National Bank and the Union Savings Bank, a director of the Union National Bank and president of the Union Savings Bank.

Kim Rosholt married Gusta Zwicky, also of Scandanavia, and the couple had one son, Raymond. Kim died of diabetes, complicated by an infection, on January 4, 1920. He was 55 years old. [33]
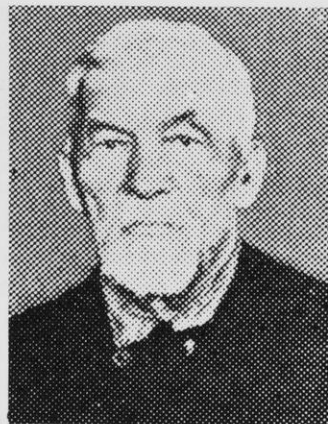
Luttrell # 519

Charles Julius Lissack *(1842-1915)* was born July 10, 1842 at Prellwitz, West Prussia, Germany. He came to America in 1864 and settled first at Ripon, Wisconsin. After teaching school for a short time in Wausau, he moved to Fall Creek and was employed by Edward Gessner in the mercantile business. He later opened his own hardware store (where Fall Creek Hardware is now), and operated it until he was appointed postmaster, a position he held for thirteen years. As a Justice of the Peace, he frequently acted as a lawyer for citizens of Fall Creek. He was also clerk of the Town of Lincoln for 29 years and served nine months as clerk of Eau Claire County. He was cashier of the State Bank of Fall Creek from its organization until he resigned in July, 1912. According to the *Eau Claire County Journal* of October 22, 1915, Mr. Lissack "may be regarded almost as the father of this community." His wife was the former Augusta Schroeder. They had three children: Otto, Ewald, and Emma.

Luttrell # 518

Gus E. Bartz *(1846-1903)* was born in Prussia and immigrated with his parents to Marquette, Wisconsin in 1855. He came to Fall Creek in 1861 and farmed with his father for nine years; then farmed on his own for five years. In 1876, he went into partnership with Daniel Zempel and

August Bartz to start a general merchandise store . . . "Bartz Bros. and Zempel". Mr. Bartz was treasurer of the Town of Lincoln for two years and Overseer of Highways for three years. He married Augusta Zempel (daughter of Daniel Zempel) on December 25, 1873. They had eleven children, eight of whom grew to adulthood: Agnes, Arthur, Anna, Ida, Waldemar, Gertrude, Martin, and Marcella (Mrs. Parker). [35]
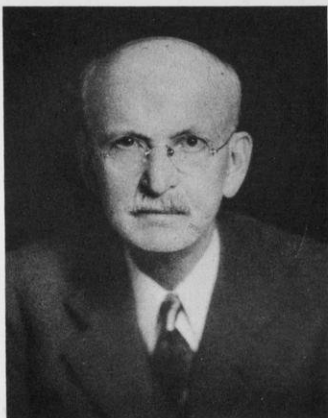
Luttrell # 479

William H. Frawley *(1865-1941)* was born in Black Earth, near Madison, Wisconsin, of Irish immigrant parents and came to Eau Claire as a youth. He was graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school and admitted to the bar in 1888. After graduation, he opened a law practice in Eau Claire and became known throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa as a skilled trial lawyer.

Mr. Frawley was always interested in politics and attended most of the Democratic conventions as a delegate from Wisconsin. It was as a Democrat that he was elected mayor of Eau Claire in 1897, after serving two terms as district attorney of the county. He served as mayor for approximately eight years. Although he was often urged to accept nominations for the governorship of the state, U.S. Senator, or other public offices, he always refused. In addition to his interests in law, politics, and banking, Mr. Frawley was also interested in farming and owned several farms in the area.

On January 24, 1894, he married Ida Mae Randall, daughter of Simon and Louisa Randall. The wedding ceremony was performed at the old stage coach stop south of the village of Fall Creek. They had two children: William H. Frawley, Jr., and Beatrice (Mrs. E. S. Riedell). [36]

Luttrell # 173

Frank C. Lanua *(1859-1919)* was born March 26, 1859, in Königsberg, East Prussia and came to America with his parents in 1872, settling first in Pine Grove Furnace, Ohio. In 1883, Frank came to Eau Claire County and worked in a lumber yard until November, 1901, when he moved to Fall Creek. He became associated with J. E. Zetzman in the mercantile business, and embarked in the lumber business under the name of The Lanua Lumber Company. Later, Mr. Lanua was manager for the Wilson and Weber Lumber Company for two years. In 1912, he started his own lumber business, The Fall Creek Lumber Company, which carried one of the most complete stocks in the area.

Mr. Lanua was married three times. In 1884, he married Augusta Arndsorf, by whom he had two daughters, Ida and Minnie (Mrs. Albert Carlson). After his first wife died, he married Minnie Schwartz. She, too, died prematurely, and he subsequently married Marie Zempel (Daniel's daughter). [37]
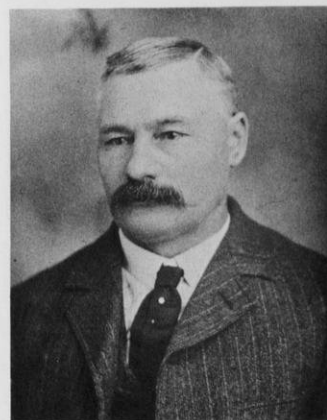
Luttrell # 138

Philip S. Lindenthaler *(1856-1920)* was born "Sebastian Philip" in Madison, Wisconsin, of Austrian and Swiss parents. In about 1866, the family moved to Eau Claire County where his father owned 160 acres of land in what is now

83

Lanua Lumberyard

the west half of the village of Fall Creek. When he was old enough, Sebastian legally changed his name to Philip Sebastian Lindenthaler, a name which was less foreign-sounding to the predominantly German immigrants in the Fall Creek area. From the time he was just twelve years old, Philip was responsible for farming his father's land, and at fourteen, when his father died, he became the chief breadwinner of the family.

On November 28, 1879, Philip married Mathilda Bartz, daughter of Carl Friedrich Bartz. They operated a restaurant in the building which now houses the Chicken Chasers.

Later, Philip built and operated a saloon, bowling alley, and dance hall on State Street, about where the Surge Co. is now. Mr. Lindenthaler was a member of the Woodmen's Lodge, and was one of the original organizers of Peace Church. He had five children, two of whom died very young of diptheria. The others were Selma, George, and Hilda. [34]

Fall Creek Mercantile Co., 1910. Left to right: Lydia Bartz Plath, George Zetzman, Frank Lanua, Ed Zetzman, Anna Boernke Moldenhauer, Fred Perso, Marie Zempel (later Mrs. Frank Lanua), Walter Zetzman, Emma Mathwig, Ida Lanua, J. E. Zetzman.

Minnesota where he was employed as a clerk for several years in various retail stores. In 1880, he came to Fall Creek and clerked in a store. He then opened a general store under the firm name of J. E. Zetzman & Co. In 1907, he organized a stock company which was incorporated as the Fall Creek Mercantile Co. where he served as secretary and general manager. For a time, he operated both the general store and The Fall Creek Variety Store, with both enterprises doing a thriving business.

In 1882, Mr. Zetzman married Amelia Roesler, daughter of William Roesler, and they became the parents of five children: Frank, George, Lydia, Walter, and Ed. After Amelia died in 1910, he married Emma Quast, daughter of Ludwig Quast. [38]

Julius E. Zetzman *(1858-1929)* was born in Saxony, Germany, December 15, 1858. His father, Stephen, immigrated with his family to the United States in 1860 and settled on a farm near Zumbrota, Minnesota. At the age of thirteen, Mr. Zetzman went to Watertown, Wisconsin where he entered college. He also attended Northwestern University and, upon completion of his education, he taught school for a few years. He then went to St. Paul,

William Niebuhr *(1846-1928)* was born in Hanover, Germany, December 2, 1846. When he was twenty years old, he immigrated to America, although the rest of his family remained in Germany. He lived in Chicago, Reedsburg, and

Eau Claire before coming to Fall Creek in the early 1870's.

William worked as a carpenter when he first came to this area, having learned the trade in Germany as a youth. He built some of the first houses in the village, including the Bartz home at 127 Grant Avenue (built in 1875). Both the St. Johns and the Bears Grass Lutheran Churches were built by Mr. Niebuhr.

In 1874, he established a furniture and undertaking business on State Street where Kunz's Hardware is now. In 1884, he entered into partnership with his wife's half-brother, Stephan Wise, (Ralph Wise's grandfather) in the general merchandising and grocery business. The partnership dissolved nine years later when Steve Wise moved to Canada. Mr. Niebuhr then went into the grain and potato business and purchased the elevator in Fall Creek which he himself had built a number of years before. There was a big scale in front of his store for weighing animals and grain.

A number of years before his death, he took his son, Otto, into the business with him, thus founding the firm of Niebuhr & Son. The firm dealt in cement, coal, seeds, hay, straw, grains, blueberries, hogs, cattle, and potatoes. He was active in the business until just four weeks before his death.

Mr. Niebuhr served as elder and treasurer of St. Pauls Lutheran Church for twenty-five years.

On April 20, 1876, Wilhelm Niebuhr married Julia Bartz, daughter of Louis Bartz, and they had seven children, three of whom grew to adulthood: Frank (married Louise Peuse), Otto, and Adeline (Mrs. O. C. Geisler). He died August 27, 1928. [39]

Luttrell # 194

Fall Creek Elevator

Bank Presidents	
1903-1919	Kim Rosholt
1919-1921	Henry Wise
1921-1941	Wm. Frawley, Sr.
1941-1946	Carl Voechting
1946-1959	Henry Bruesewitz
1959-	Ralph Wise

RALPH WISE — Sixty Years of Banking Service

No individual has been more intimately involved with the history and development of The State Bank of Fall Creek than Ralph Wise, the current president. His affiliation with the bank spans sixty of its seventy-five year history, beginning in 1918, when Ralph was just fifteen years old.

Carl Voechting, Cashier, had just gone into the Army, leaving Ralph's father, Henry, who was managing the bank, shorthanded. Between classes at the high school, Ralph would run back to the bank to work. When his father was out clerking auctions or selling insurance, Ralph made loans and carried on the business of the bank by himself.

At that time, the bank had thirty-three accounts which were kept in an old Boston ledger. Ralph did the bookkeeping at night, often working until midnight. He made use of all the bank equipment . . . a manual adding machine and an Oliver typewriter. That summer, Walter Kopplin (later to become Fall Creek High School principal) worked with Ralph and his father. And, in the fall, Gertrude Ziemann graduated from business school and joined the staff. She operated the newly purchased electric posting machine, a most modern piece of equipment!

Ralph worked at the bank through the next school year until June, 1919. His father became bank president in January of 1919. In the spring of 1921, when Ralph was a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, Henry Wise died. Carl Voechting, who was managing the bank, asked Ralph to come back to work for the summer. Then, when fall came, he convinced Ralph that he should postpone his university career to work at the bank for a year. The year lengthened to

Bank Directors	
(1903-1978)	
G. E. Bartz	*Ralph Wise
W. H. Frawley, Sr.	J. O. Ziemann
Frank Lanua	E. J. Keller
P. S. Lindenthaler	*W. H. Frawley, Jr.
C. J. Lissack	*A. E. Ziemann
Wm. Niebuhr	Gertrude Ziemann
Kim Rosholt	*John Schilling
J. E. Zetzman	*Steve Wise
Henry Wise	Lester Aude
Carl Voechting	*Henry Seyer
Henry Bruesewitz	
*Present Directors	

Ralph Wise and "Someday", the champion steer of the 1965 International Livestock Show. The $10,000 steer was displayed in the State Bank of Fall Creek lobby for an entire day before he was taken on tour to Europe.

Eau Claire County Journal shop, 1914 (later the Sinclair Station).

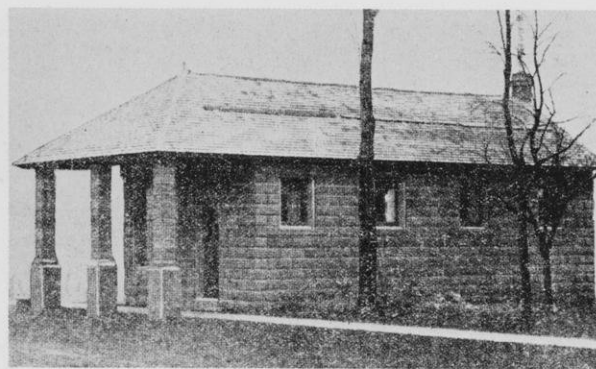two and finally into more than a half-century of banking service in the community.

Ralph became bank cashier in 1941 and held that position until he became president in 1959.

In 1924, Ralph married Marian Osterberg of Eau Claire and they had two children, Steve and Jean (Mrs. Bob Smith). Ralph's son, Steve, and his grandson, Mark, are now officers in the State Bank of Fall Creek.

NEWSPAPERS

Walter Brueske, surveyor, adventurer, and photographer, was the first and only newspaper publisher in Fall Creek. He was the founder, owner, and editor of the *Fall Creek Cultivator,* first published December 21, 1910. According to James H. Waggoner, writing in the 1914 *History of Eau Claire County,* the *Cultivator* was a "newsy, eight page folio sheet which, in 1913, had a circulation of 500 copies. In August of 1913, a handsome cement block building, 16 x 32, was erected for office purposes, fully-equipped with the latest power machinery for use in conducting a first class, up-to-date newspaper and printing office." The building described later became the Sinclair gas station.

The *Cultivator* was first printed in a small shop on State Street which had originally been the Ernst Brueske (Walter's father) saddlery. This building had also been a restaurant and confectionery run first by the Beckers and then by Helen Haas. It was used as a residence by Dr. Brown, the veterinarian, and by the Herman Mittelstadts. Jul Ziemann rented it for his business before he and Herman Bruesewitz bought the larger store adjacent to it.

In 1915, the old saddlery was torn down and Mr. Brueske built "Dreamland Hall", a 40 x 90 foot building which housed the newspaper and print shop in the basement, the Joern and Menge barbarshop, and a combination dance hall-theater. That building withstood the fire of 1929 but burned in June of 1970. [40]

Walter did all the reporting, writing, and printing of local news items for the paper. National news, general interest items, and serialized stories were purchased from a syndicate. Martha Brueske (Zempel), Walter's sister, was the typesetter or "printer's devil" for the paper until she married in 1917.

In 1915, Walter changed the name of the newspaper to the *Eau Claire County Journal* and published it under that name until 1918 when he left for eighteen months military service. He sold the paper to the Augusta paper and later worked on the staff of that newspaper. (First *The Cooperative News Budget;* then, after 1919, *The Eau Claire County Union.*)

In December, 1931, Mr. Brueske started the *Fall Creek Times.* However, due to lack of advertising support from the local businessmen during the Depression years, the paper was discontinued early in 1934.

The *Cultivator, Eau Claire County Journal,* and *Fall Creek Times* were all weekly papers. In 1917, the subscription rate was $1.50 annually, and in 1933, it was $1.25. [41]

Starting in 1919, there was a two-page "Fall Creek Journal" section in the Augusta paper. Walter Brueske was the editor of this section from 1919 until 1922 when P. M. Zempel took over. Harlan Niebuhr, G. H. Muenchow, and Mrs. Honadel were subsequent editors.

MELVILLE JEWELRY

Irving E. Melville, a graduate of the Stone School for watchmakers, came to Fall Creek in

Melville Jewelry Store, located at the west end of what is now the Village Hall Bar. Irving M. Melville, the owner, is behind the counter; Walter Brueske, newspaper editor, is his customer. Taken about 1909.

Ziemann & Bruesewitz Hardware Store, before 1915.

1906 and established a jewelry and watch repair business in a little shop located on the west end of what is now the Village Hall Bar. The *Cultivator* of February 29, 1912, reported that, "I. E. Melville has purchased the lot on which the Haase blacksmith shop used to stand and will erect a two-story combined jewelry store and dwelling house this spring." The new shop was named "Melville's Watch Hospital", and Irv Melville continued in business there until 1953 when he died.

Garth and Yvonne Melville took over the business in 1953, purchasing it from Garth's mother, Louise. [43]

KELLER FURNITURE STORE

The Keller Furniture Store is perhaps the most widely known of Fall Creek's businesses. The firm was founded in November, 1930, when Elias J. Keller, a licensed embalmer and funeral director, came to Fall Creek to purchase a funeral business. Along with the Niebuhr Funeral business, he also bought the entire stock of the Niebuhr Paint and Wallpaper Store, which included furniture. He rented the building which is now the Kunz Hardware Store from Julia Niebuhr.

In 1932, E. J. Keller married Hazel Ausman, a teacher at the Fall Creek High School, and she, too, became a licensed embalmer and funeral director. Together, they purchased the Joern home at 306 S. State Street (now the Stokes Funeral Home) and remodeled it to make a funeral home separate from the furniture business.

In 1941, the Kellers bought the present Keller building, formerly the Roesler Hardware Store. Since then, there have been regular periods of growth, expansion, and remodeling. In 1961, an extra warehouse was purchased for storage space. In 1968, a 40 x 80 foot addition was added to the original store. That same year the funeral business was sold to Bob Eick.

In 1940, Lester Aude joined the firm, and in 1950, the business was incorporated. Ron Smith joined the corporation in 1970. E. J. Keller died in 1972, but the business, which he founded in the midst of the depression, continues to grow and expand. Customers come from a 100-mile radius of Fall Creek, and some sales are made even beyond that distance. [44]

KELLER FURNITURE LOT

The land on which the Keller Furniture Store stands was first purchased by Alois Fix from the U.S. Government. Joseph Lindenthaler was the next owner, and after he died, his widow sold the land to Richard Murphy who, in turn, sold it to Simon Randall. Wilhelm Niebuhr purchased it from Simon's widow, Louisa, in 1880.

In May, 1885, Albert Ventzke (Herman Ventzke's and Amanda Puhlman's grandfather) purchased the property and started a hardware business. He also owned a farm north of the village and walked back and forth between the farm and the store.

William and Gustave Roesler bought the store in 1894 from the Ventzkes. They also purchased the three lots east of the store and remodeled the building. The Roesler Hardware Store sold all types of tools, hardware, kitchen ranges, pots and pans, and John Deere farm implements. George Roesler took over the business when his father died.

In 1941, Elias and Hazel Keller bought the building and moved their furniture business there. [45]

FALL CREEK HARDWARE

C. J. Lissack purchased the land where Fall Creek Hardware is now in 1885, and started a hardware store. He sold the property to Emilie Becker in 1897. She, in turn, sold part of it to Albert Redlaczyk and part to Gustav Garbe.

A small lot north of the present Fall Creek Hardware was sold to Jul Ziemann in 1897, and he established a harness shop there. (This building was torn down in 1977.)

In 1903, Jul Ziemann and Herman Bruesewitz established the Ziemann and Bruesewitz Hardware Store on the corner of State Street and McKinley Avenue. There was a wooden building with an open platform where farm machinery was displayed on the south side of the hardware store. In 1915, they built a new 40 x 130 cement block machinery warehouse for their stock of International Harvester farm equipment.

In 1921, Jul bought out Mr. Bruesewitz and the business became known as "Ziemann Hardware". After Jul Ziemann's death in 1937, his sons, Amandus ("Count") and Onno, took over the business.

In 1973, the store was sold to the Hehl-Grohn Company, who remodeled the building and changed the name to Fall Creek Hardware. [42]

Roeslers Hardware and Farm Machinery Store, before remodeling, taken sometime between 1894 and 1900.

PROHIBITION

Herbert Hoover referred to Prohibition as the "noble experiment". It may have been, but it was an experiment that failed. While the liquor laws were generally enforced wherever the people were sympathetic to the enforcemnt, they were not enforced in places like Fall Creek, with its overwhelmingly German population and its ratio of more than one saloon for every one hundred residents.

During Prohibition days, nearly everyone in Fall Creek made his own "home brew" beer, some only for family consumption, but others were willing to sell a little of their supply. Harry Saunders, for example, kept some of the local saloons supplied from his "brewery" located in the shed behind his house (now the Charles Russell home). These home breweries remained in operation until Prohibition was repealed in 1933.

Prohibition did not have a great effect on the drinking habits of Fall Creek citizens. The saloons remained open as "cigar stores", "pool halls", and "soft drink parlors", but they always seemed to manage to have a little moonshine on hand from one of the area stills, as well as a good supply of home brew beer. The local police did not bother the saloons at all, but the federal agents struck without warning on March 19, 1931. The

Eau Claire Leader report the following day read, "Armed with warrants based on previous investigations, 12 federal dry agents yesterday afternoon swooped down on the village of Fall Creek, raided five saloons and one private home and arrested six men on charges of violating the prohibition laws. Those who will appear before U.S. Commissioner A. J. Sutherland for arraignment this morning are George Muenchow, A. F. Patzwald, E. R. Kopplin, Walter Wise, H. H. Saunders, and Ed Wise." George Wise and W. D. Muenchow were also arrested, although their names did not appear in the article.

The March 21st issue of the *Leader* listed the liquor which was seized: "W. D. Muenchow, 2½ gallons moonshine liquor, 1½ gallons alcohol, 116 pints home brew beer, 2 gallons wort beer. Harry Saunders, 1,234 pints of home brew beer, 9 quarts home brew beer, 60 gallons of mash, 2 ounces of whiskey, 1 ounce alcohol. Ed Wise, 50 pints of home brew beer, 1 pint of moonshine liquor, 1 pint of alcohol. A. F. Patzwald, one pint moonshine liquor. Gust Fletschok, one pint alcohol. Ed Kopplin, 17 pints of home brew beer. Bartz was employed as a bartender at the Muenchow place, dry agents said."

When August Patzwald appeared before the judge, he was asked why he had two black eyes.

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August explained that the belt on his threshing machine had slipped as he was trying to adjust it and had caused the ax he had in his hand to fly around and hit him between the eyes. Judge Walter Lindly was so interested that he stopped the court proceedings and spent the next 45 minutes discussing threshing machines and threshing operations with August. Finally, the judge said, "You did not sell any illegal liquor, did you?" August, an honest man, replied that he had. But the Judge insisted, "No, you didn't! You go back to your threshing. You are pleading 'Not guilty' ". The other men were not as fortunate. They served their sentences in the Chippewa Falls jail. [46]

THE GREAT DEPRESSION

The great national prosperity of the 1920's ended abruptly with the stock market crash in the fall of 1929, but the Eau Claire area did not really feel the impact of the crash until the latter part of 1930. Then, by September, 1931, thirteen of the fifteen banks in Eau Claire County failed, and many people lost their life savings as well as their jobs. Prices plummeted. Butter, which had sold for 30¢ a pound fell to 16¢. [47] The *Fall Creek Times* for November 10, 1932, reported that, "The October level of farm prices in Wisconsin dropped to 68% of 1910-14."

There were no unemployment checks and no welfare checks, so people just had to manage in whatever way they could. And it was not easy. Bread lines and "soup kitchens" kept some Eau Claire residents alive, but such measures were not necessary in Fall Creek. People here had very little money, but they did have enough to eat.

A few Fall Creek farmers went to Carl Voechting, then bank manager, and offered to give their farms to the bank because they could not pay the taxes and the mortgage payments. Carl told them not to be so foolish . . . and to go back home and farm their land. No mortgages were foreclosed in the Fall Creek area by the State Bank of Fall Creek during the Depression, and no businesses failed. [48] Some businesses, such as the blacksmith business, did very well. In fact, August Raether said that, since farmers could not afford to buy new machinery, he was kept very busy repairing the old. [49]

Dr. Zboralske tells us, however, that few Fall Creek area residents had money for doctor or dental bills. Those who had to have medical attention usually paid in wood or produce. Dr. Reetz, the dentist, after waiting several days without seeing a patient, once asked, "Doesn't anyone in this whole territory ever get a toothache?" When one looks at Dr. Zboralske's waiting room today, it is hard to believe that there was a time when it was empty for days on end.

Farmers found it difficult to sell their produce for cash. In 1932, the worst year of the Depression for Eau Claire, more than two hundred farmers marched in front of the courthouse, asking that men and teams of horses, instead of motor patrols, be hired for patrolling country roads. Some wanted to be able to work out their taxes. [50]

Many young people who had moved to the city came back to live with Mom and Dad on the farm in the 1930's. At least there was food there. And the house could be heated with wood which they could cut themselves.

By 1937, the worst of the Depression was over. The government-sponsored Work Projects Administration (WPA) had given employment to many men, and the wages they earned were used to buy goods and services that stimulated the rest of the economy.

INTERSECTION OF STATE STREET AND LINCOLN AVENUE

Property abstracts provide a great deal of information concerning the history of a particular piece of land. From those abstracts and from historical accounts and the memories of several long-time residents, we have compiled this brief history of the businesses located at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and State Street:

Northwest Corner
(Parking Lot — old Merc Corner)

November 3, 1855 Given to the State of Wisconsin by the U. S. Government. The first schoolhouse in the village was built here in about 1867.

1873 Purchased by A. S. Storm who sold it to Simon Randall the same year. Simon sold a 60 by 100 rod parcel of land to August Bartz, Gustav Bartz, and Daniel Zempel in November 1873. Those three formed a partnership and built a general store: "Bartz Bros. and Zempel". There were living quarters above the store where the Gus Bartz family lived.

Next to the store, to the west, was a small building which was once Dr. Sizer's office and later Rosentreter's Meat Market. At one time it was also Mrs. Arnold's restaurant.

1900 Daniel Zempel sold out to August and Gustav Bartz who formed a partnership called "A. Bartz and Brother" and continued to operate the store. One could buy almost anything there from kerosene to lace.

Mrs. Nanson lived upstairs and had her dressmaking shop there.

1904 Julius Bartz purchased the property from the estate of Gustav Bartz, August having died earlier. He and his family lived above the store.

1907 Purchased by the corporation known as the Fall Creek Mercantile Co. with J. E. Bartz, J. E. Zetzman, and Frank Lanua as incorporators. The building was enlarged, both to the west and to the north, enclosing both of the smaller buildings that had been there. The "Fall Creek Mercantile" officially opened November 13, 1907, with J. E. Zetzman as manager.

In 1918, at the age of 16, Frank Zetzman, J. E.'s son, began doing the books for the corporation and gradually took over more responsibility for the business.

In 1929, after J. E.'s death, George Zetzman became president and Frank became secretary of the corporation. Frank managed the store.

1966 On May 1, James and JoAnn Wilhelm purchased the stock of merchandise and fixtures, rented the building, and operated a grocery store and meat business called "J and J" Merc. IGA. Most people continued to refer to it simply as "The Merc."

1974 The Wilhelms built a new store on Liberty St. and the "Merc" building was purchased by the State Bank of Fall Creek. It was used as storage space by the school and by Keller Furniture until the summer of 1975 when it was torn down to make a parking lot.

Southwest Corner

(Fall Creek Ford):

Jay Roundy purchased this corner from the U.S. Government in 1855.

1865 John and Sarah Roundy sold the property to Carlos Clough, who sold it to Simon Randall in 1867.

1872 Simon Randall sold the corner to Edward Gessner who apparently built a store and had his post office there.

1880 Jacob Jacobson purchased the property. This is probably where he had his general store. He died in 1891.

1893 Julius E. Zetzman and his brother, Richard, purchased the property at a sheriff's foreclosure sale. Richard later deeded his share over to Emilie and Julius Zetzman. During the time the Zetzmans owned the property, there was a variety store in the building, known as the Zetzman General Store, and the Zetzman family lived above it.

1907 The property was deeded to the Fall Creek Mercantile Co. with R. P. Rainey as President and Julius Zetzman as Secretary.

1915 In June, the building became Vogler's Confectionery where one could buy such delicacies as cantalopes, candies, baked goods, ice cream, and soft drinks.

1916 The Fall Creek Mercantile Co. sold the property to Chris and Jennie Luebkeman who deeded it to William Gibson in 1918.

1920 Purchased by John T. and Nellie Hinkel.

1921 Frederick W. Muenchow and his wife, Alvina, bought the property and their daughter, Dahlia, operated a restaurant there with a soda fountain, ice cream parlor, and confectionery.

1926 Verner G. and Della E. Plesner purchased it and ran a bakery and poker hall. They lived upstairs above the bakery. On May 18, 1929, a grease fire started in the small building behind the store where the doughnuts were being fried. The fire spread quickly and burned down the entire building.

Luttrell #30

Fall Creek Mercantile Co., corner of Lincoln Ave. and State St., after 1907.

1929 In November, the Plesners sold the empty lot to Frank and Edna Michal. The Michals built an auto sales and service garage known as the Michal Motor Co. It opened in the spring of 1930. In 1948, Frank Michal retired and rented the building to Wilbur Walters, and later sold it to Bob Miller. But it was always a Ford garage.

1969 Gen Wood rented the property in December and established "Fall Creek Ford".

Southeast Corner
(Patzwald Tavern)

1855 Purchased by Alois Fix from U.S. Government.

1856 Alois Fix deeded the property to Joseph Lindenthaler.

1870 Purchased by William Murphy who built a dwelling and general store there. It also served as a post office for a time.

1874 Purchased by Simon Randall.

1879 Inherited by Simon Randall's wife, Louisa, and their children.

(Tavern):

1880 Louisa Randall sold the corner lot to Philip Otto.

1890 Purchased by August Thiel and his wife, Louisa.

1896 Sold to Herman Garbe.

1899 Purchased by Julius Harke and Julius Redman; Harke subsequently sold his interest to Edward Hamler.

1903 Julius and Ida Redman sold their interest to August Patzwald.

1903 Hamlers and Redmans sold the property to John Walter. In 1910, the business was known as "Hamler and Patzwald", dealers in wines, liquors, and cigars.

1912 New brick tavern built.

1923 August F. Patzwald purchased tavern from the Walter Brewing Co.

1935 Property inherited by Ernestine Patzwald.

1946 Purchased by Henry and Vida Patzwald. Rented to August Bartz; then to Frank and Lucille Pape; property remains in Patzwald family.

(Empire Gas lot)

1878 Louisa Randall sold to William Niebuhr.

1895 Purchased by Frederick W. Muenchow.

1903 Purchased by Gustave Emanuel who sold it in the same year to John Walter. It eventually became the property of the Walter Brewing Co.
George Patzwald had a barber shop there for a number of years.

1943 Purchased by Henry Steinbring who used it as an office for his law business.

1945 Purchased by Edward Boernke who had a shoe store there.

1959 Sold by Ella Boernke to Armand and Edna Schori.

1961 Purchased by Andrew and Judith Risser and used again as a law office.

1971 Purchased by Betty Patzwald who rented it to Empire gas as an office.

Northeast Corner
(Bank):

1855 Purchased by Alois Fix from the U.S. Government.

1856 Alois Fix deeded the property to Joseph Lindenthaler.

1874 Purchased by Charles and August Kopplin. They built a saloon on the portion of it closest to the corner. In 1880, they sold that to Herman R. Kopplin. In 1888, it was sold to Hulda Rieck; then to George and Phillip Lindenthaler.

1891 Tavern sold to Julius Bahr and known from then on as the "Bahr Tavern". In 1900, it was sold to Gustav and Charles Rugotzke, and in 1902 to John Walter.

1903 In September, Kim Rosholt purchased the tavern and lot; on December 1st, Kim and Gusta Rosholt sold the property to The State Bank of Fall Creek. The tavern was torn down and a bank building constructed of brick.

1925 That first bank building was moved down State Street to its present location (now being used as Kaiser-Franey Law office) and a new and larger bank was built.

1877 Charles and Augusta Kopplin sold the east portion of their property to Herman and Bertha Mittlestadt. In 1878, Herman built a hotel, known as the St. Charles House, which was owned and operated by the Mittelstadt family until 1959.

1959 The State Bank of Fall Creek purchased the St. Charles Hotel. The hotel was town down and the lot used for access to the bank's drive-up window.

1970 The bank remodeled the existing building and expanded to the east onto the former Mittelstadt property, and also created some parking space to the north.

JOSEPH LINDENTHALER
The histories of the two preceding corner lots show that Alois Fix purchased land from the U.S. Government in 1855 and transferred it to

Joseph Lindenthaler in 1856. The abstracts for most of the land in Fall Creek west of State Street start out with these same two entries. There is an interesting story behind the land transfer from Mr. Fix to Mr. Lindenthaler:

Joseph Lindenthaler, an Austrian immigrant, had learned the art of "stone-dressing" in France. In 1855, while his family remained at their Madison, Wisconsin home, Joseph went to Iowa to help in the construction of a church. He carved a life-sized marble statue of Christ to be placed in the church, but the contractor went broke and was unable to pay Joseph for his work. In lieu of salary, he was given a deed to some land the contractor owned in Eau Claire County, Wisconsin.

The records in the Registrar of Deeds Office in Eau Claire show that Alois Fix transferred 160 acres (N½ of SE¼ and S½ of NE¼ of Sec. 6, T.26N, R7W) to Joseph Lindenthaler on August 11, 1856 for consideration of $350.00. So in effect, Joseph was paid $350.00 for his work on the church.

Joseph did not immediately leave Madison, and we do not even know if he went to look at his property in Wisconsin. Times were hard after the Civil War ended, and Joseph could not find work, so, in about 1865 or 1866, he packed up his family and possessions, and they traveled north to find the land they owned. They went by train to Reeds Landing and from there by boat to Eau Claire.

There was not much need for a stone cutter in this pioneer territory, so Joseph found little work to support his family. About the only call for a stone cutter's skills in those early days was for the carving of tombstones, and Joseph carved many of them. He frequently decorated them with a rose clasped between two hands. In order to have a model for his work, he would have his son, Sebastian Philip, and his daughter, Anna, clasp their hands around a rose.

Joseph also carved a baptismal font for Trinity Lutheran Church. That font is still in use in St. James Trinity Church. The inscription at the bottom says it was donated by Fredericka Lindenthaler. (See picture, Chapter IV.)

Joseph was not a farmer, and, although he sold some of his land in what is now the Village of Fall Creek, it probably did not command a very high price until after 1871 when the railroad came in and stores were built. Because of financial troubles, Joseph became very despondent. One day in 1870, in a moment of anger, he picked up a gun and shot at his oldest son, George. When he saw the blood around his son's head, he was sure that he had killed him and rushed out to the woodshed and shot himself. When 14-year-old Sebastian Philip came home from hauling grain to Augusta, he found his brother only slightly wounded, but his father dead.

Because he had committed suicide, Joseph could not be buried in the church cemetery. He was buried, instead, in a little cemetery east of the village, without church service or tombstone. While this cemetery was apparently started by the Horels, Krauses, and Richardsons, it was later deeded to the Town of Lincoln, and was thought of as a "potters field". Only the very poor and those who were not allowed to be buried in a church cemetery were buried there. The cemetery was neglected for many years; but recently the Town of Lincoln cleared out the brush, and the grave markers are again visible from the road. There is a certain amount of mystery about the cemetery since no one seems to be able to find any records concerning it.

It is one of life's ironies that this man who carved tombstones for others had none of his own; this man whose land was later donated by his son to Trinity Church for a cemetery, could not himself be buried in a church cemetery. [51]

"THE STORE" BUILDING

The building which now houses "The Store" is located on the east side of State Street on a part of the land purchased from the U.S. Government by Alois Fix in 1855 and deeded to Joseph Lindenthaler in 1856. Simon Randall purchased it in 1874, and his widow sold it to Stephan and Edward Wise, brothers, in 1881. In 1892, Edward sold his share in the property to his brother.

Stephan, who also owned several farms in the area (he built the houses on the James Huff and Gary Jungerberg farms), erected the two-story brick structure now known as "The Store" and operated a grocery and general merchandise business there. For a time, he and his family lived in the apartment above the store.

The Charles Hoehn family was living above the store in 1890 when their son, Arthur, was born. Charlie Hoehn was employed in the Wise general merchandise business. In 1893, Stephan turned the operation of the store, then mainly a grocery business, over to his son, Henry, who was just sixteen years old. This gave Stephan more time to manage his farms, take care of his insurance business, and become more involved in the cattle and

hog buying business with Wilhelm Niebuhr.

When Henry and Addie Wise were married in 1900, they lived in the second-floor apartment above the store, and it was here that their son, Ralph, was born. (One must remember that in the days before electric pumps and sewer systems, living in an upstairs apartment meant carrying all the water upstairs — and all the dirty water back down!)

In 1904, Stephan turned his grocery store and insurance business over to Henry and went to Canada with his wife and seven younger children. In 1906, Stephan and Mary Wise sold the property to Henry and Addie.

In 1907, Ferdinand Bruesewitz purchased the store, remodeled it, and established a clothing business there, which was managed by his son, Henry. In 1938, after his father's death, Henry became the new owner of the store. Armand and Edna Schori bought the business in 1951 and sold it to Joseph and Juanita Gilbertson in 1964. They, in turn, sold it to Gary and Pat DeMoe in 1977. The Schoris, Gilbertsons, and DeMoes all continued to operate the business as a clothing store; but when Richard and Nancy Wood purchased the property in 1977, they established a craft and hobby store there.

LUDINGTON BUSINESSES

Settlers in the Ludington area were six to ten miles from the village of Fall Creek, a considerable trip in the days of horse-drawn vehicles. Although they did go into the village occasionally for supplies and to have their grain ground, they also developed their own businesses close to home.

In 1890, there was a feed mill at the Ludington settlement operated by Uriah Eaton and a saw mill owned by Ephraim McComber. [52] Because of the abundance of timber in the area, several sawmills sprang up in the early 1900's.

Ed Ingram built the Ludington Store just south of the present Grunewald Store. H. C. Brown bought it from him and then sold out to Christ Drehmel in the spring of 1917. Louie Berlin ran a skimming station next to the store in the early 1900's. When Christ's store burned, he fixed up the old skimming station and used it as a store. Then he and Joe Berlin built a dance hall (now the locker plant portion of Grunewald's Store). William Boyea operated another dance hall in Ludington. Young people also roller skated in the dance halls. [53]

Reinhardt Welke purchased the Drehmel-Berlin dance hall and transformed it into a locker plant and grocery store. In October, 1968, James and Eleanor Grunewald bought the business and have operated it ever since.

POPULATION OF FALL CREEK AND SURROUNDING TOWNSHIPS:

Year	Fall Creek	Lincoln	Ludington	Seymour
1880	205	1,277	212	515
1890	450 [1]	1,786 [2]	558	406
1900	NA	1,731 [2]	874	559
1910	523	1,189	989	588
1920	507	1,111	865	697
1930	528	1,013	819	822
1940	572	1,014	913	1,327
1950	584	956	799	2,025
1960	710	849	757	2,243
1970	825	962	761	2,362
1975	914	971	895	2,702
1978	over 1,000 [3]			

1. Estimate in *Historical and Biographical Album of the Chippewa Valley*, 1891.
2. Total for Lincoln Township, including Fall Creek.
3. Estimate by the State Bank of Fall Creek based on housing starts.

PRICES

Following are some representative prices advertised by Fall Creek businesses in the local paper in 1915 and 1932. Keep in mind, though, that wages were also much lower in those years than they are today. In 1915, for example, the average annual wage for brakemen and firemen on the railroad was just a little over $1,000. Engineers earned about $2,000.

Eau Claire County Journal:
January 22, 1915, Fall Creek Variety Store — for 9¢ one could buy: a 10 qt. galvanized pail; a coal hod; a large enameled bucket; 3 bars of "Galvanic" Soap.

May 14, 1915, Fall Creek Merc. — men's work shoes, grain leather, $2.00 to $2.50; ladies' Whitehouse patent leather, button or lace, $3.75.

October 15, 1915, "Good Breakfast" coffee 18¢ a pound; 49 pound sack of Marvel Flour, $1.70.

May 14, 1932, specials for the opening of Gust Miescke's Red & White Store — oranges 18¢ a dozen; summer sausage, 2 pounds for 27¢; coffee, 1 pound 37¢.

Fall Creek Times:
July 21, 1932, Henry Bruesewitz advertised a special sale on suits. Prices ranged from $5.00 to $16.50 with two pair of pants.

August 4, 1932, Special 98¢ sale: For 98¢ one could buy: a wash dress, a pair of Oshkosh B'gosh overalls, 20 pounds sugar, a pair of children's shoes, or a pair of boy's school knickers.

WILLIAM H. JEFFERSON
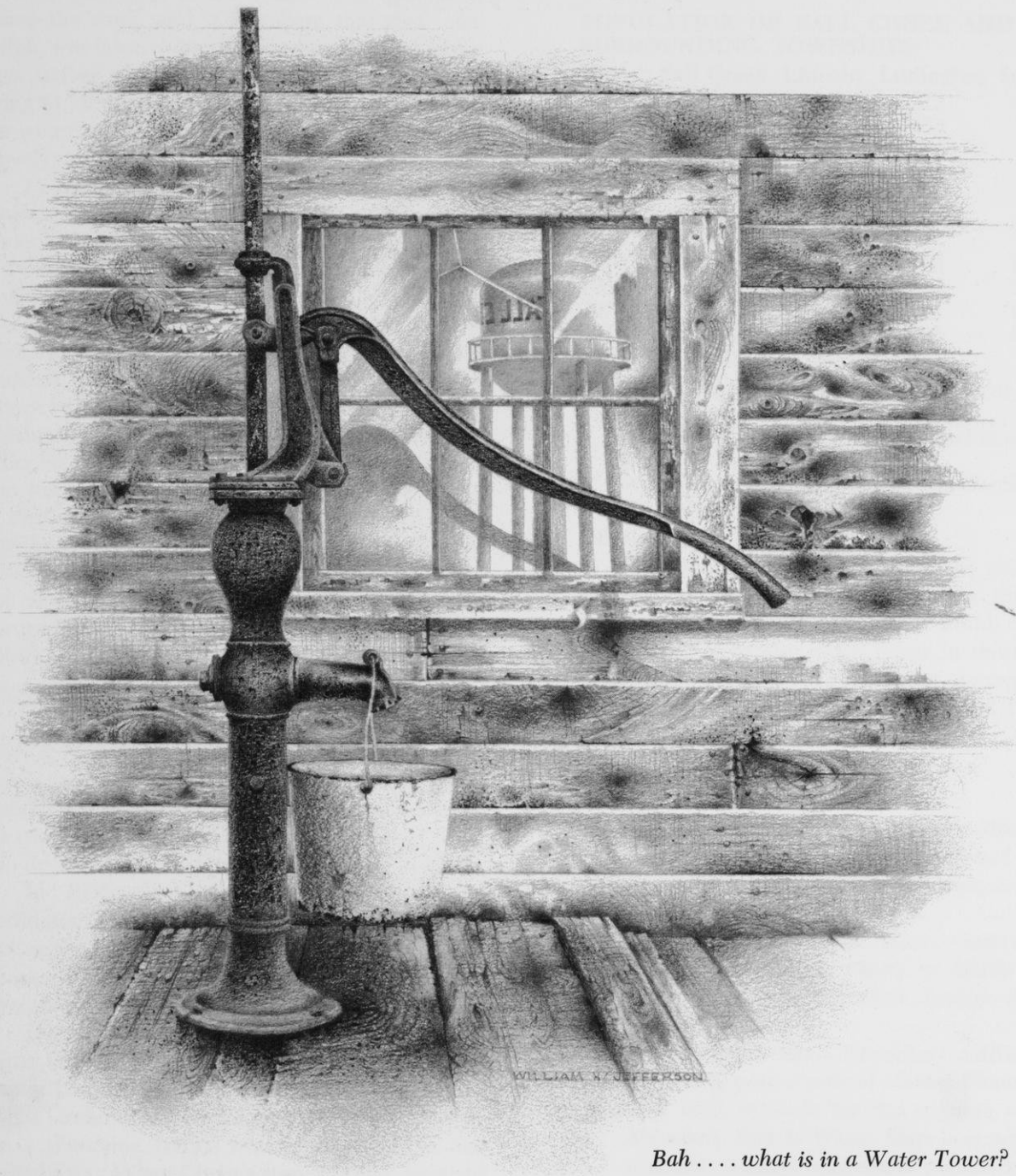
Bah . . . . what is in a Water Tower? Merely water!
Who can splash bare, delighting feet in the
residue of a water tower . . . . or tilt cup hands to
spray watery mischief at his best girl?
Now . . . . the Old Pump . . . . that's something
else . . . . cold and sweet to the tongue and
throat . . . . raining relief on a sweaty, grimey,
chaff-matted head to ease the swelter and
restore the spirit. Thinking back — even the
lugging of endless buckets seems a pleasure that
will never be felt in the anonymous
reflection of the water tower.

CHAPTER VII

AMENITIES

Life was not easy for the early pioneers in Fall Creek. They knew nothing of the luxuries we call necessities today . . . indoor plumbing, telephones, electricity, convenient medical services, fire protection. The development of these "amenities" parallels the growth of the village.

MAIL AND TELEGRAPH SERVICE

It is not clear where or how the first settlers got their mail. When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, the entire Chippewa Valley was without roads, mail service, or any form of communication with the outside world. Early in the 1850's, Congress established the mail route over the newly completed road from Prairie du Chien to Hudson, and George W. Randall was appointed as the first postmaster in Clearwater (Eau Claire).[1] It is likely that the very early settlers around Fall Creek had to go there to pick up mail — about twenty-four miles round-trip, by horse and buggy or on foot.

There was probably no mail delivery in the Fall Creek vicinity until the establishment of the Eau Claire-Sparta stagecoach line in the 1860's. Mail was distributed by George Murphy in his tavern next to the stage coach stop, and later at his store in the village (where the Patzwald Tavern is now).[2]

The coming of the railroad in 1871 brought with it links with the outside world that had not been possible before . . . both the telegraph, with an office located in the depot, and regular mail service. According to postal service records in the National Archives, the post office of "Cousins" was authorized by the federal government on October 20, 1870, and the name was changed to Fall Creek on July 24, 1874. Those same records show that William Murphy was the first officially appointed postmaster of "Cousins".

On July 3, 1871, Edward Gessner became postmaster, but just ten days later, July 13, Mr. Murphy again took over the office.[3] Apparently there was some conflict between Mr. Murphy and Mr. Gessner, each of whom owned general stores at the intersection of Lincoln Ave. and State St. For a time, they were both picking up mail from the depot and distributing it, each in his own store.[4]

The 1881 *History of Northern Wisconsin* lists Edward Gessner as postmaster, express agent, and dealer in agricultural implements. He came to Fall Creek in 1867, after working as a "contracting builder" in Eau Claire for ten years. He also built and operated a sawmill on the creek. According to the 1881 account, he was appointed postmaster in 1871.

The postal registers at the National Personnel Records Center begin with 1883. They show that C. E. Gessner was postmaster in Fall Creek in 1883.[5] Since there was a *Christian* Gessner in the Fall Creek area during this time period, he may have been postmaster . . . or the records may be in error.

There are some obvious errors in the records. They show as postmasters in Fall Creek:

C. E. Gessner	1883	
C. S. Lissack	1889-1901	
E. C. Degner	1903-1911	
Henry E. Steinbring	8-29-13 to 3-30-44	
Frank W. Zetzman	3-31-44 (no record of separation)	

It was *C. J.* (Charles Julius), not *C. S.* Lissack who was postmaster, and most long-time residents remember that he resigned the position in *1903* to become cashier of the new State Bank of Fall Creek. *Herman* A. Degner, not *E. C.* Degner, was the next postmaster.[6] E. C. Degner was a rural carrier.

POST OFFICE BUILDINGS

During the 1800's and early 1900's, it was the responsibility of the postmaster to provide post office facilities. We do not know exactly where the post office was located after Mr. Gessner sold his store in 1880, nor do we know where Mr. Lissack had his post office. Since he owned a store where the Fall Creek Hardware is now, the post office may have been there, too. Carolyn Bartz remembers going to get mail somewhere along that street. Reinhardt Zempel, who came to Fall Creek as a small child in the early 1860's, said that the post office was on the lot now owned by Vera Abramovich[7] (416 E. Lincoln). Her house was built by the Lissacks, but not until after 1900.[8] Martha Zempel, who was born in 1893, says that the first post office she remembers was on Lincoln Ave. in what is now the Honadel Apartments.

The "Degner" Post Office, located west of what is now the Chicken Chasers. Left to right: Carl Baumbach, Gustave Degner, Herman Degner (postmaster), Walter Harke, Herman Kunz.

When Herman Degner, a former school teacher, took over the job as postmaster, he built a small post office on the north side of Lincoln Avenue, between what is now the Chicken Chasers and Ella Boernke's house. After Mr. Degner resigned, the building was moved to State Street, next to Louis Zimmerman's house. It was used first as a tire shop and then as a residence.

The move was not without incident, however. The building was moved on log rollers, the whole process requiring about a week. On October 31, it was at the corner of State Street and Lincoln Avenue. Some of the village pranksters were very busy that Halloween night, because the next morning the building was found at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Wisconsin Street, back beyond its original location! "Corbett" Boernke, "Mizzy" Reetz, and the Emanuel brothers were credited with the move. [9]

According to the *Fall Creek Cultivator*, Henry Steinbring rented the Peuse confectionery building (formerly owned by Emanuel Brothers) in March, 1915 for a new post office. This building is now the Honadel apartment building. At that time, the building had two sections, the east side being Emanuel's butcher shop and the west side the post office.

Businessmen did not like having the post office on the far end of town. They wanted it more centrally located. But the railroad refused to bring the mail more than 80 rods from their depot. The controversy was finally resolved, and in 1925, the post office moved into what had at

one time been the Kaeding Dance Hall, in almost the same location where it now stands.

That building burned in the big fire of 1929, but the mail and equipment were saved. Post office business was conducted from the Village Hall temporarily until the present brick building was constructed.

Fall Creek Postmasters
William Murphy
Edward Gessner
Charles J. Lissack
Herman Degner
Henry Steinbring
Frank Zetzman
Darrell Wilson

RURAL DELIVERY ROUTES

The first rural mail service in the Fall Creek area was initiated in the early 1900's. The three original mail carriers were Walter Harke (Route 1), Emil Degner (Route 2), and Arthur Bartz (Route 3). [10] Alfred Mittelstadt, just 17 years old, was a "special carrier" and later a substitute carrier. In 1907, he became a full-time carrier on Route 4 which had been added to the rural mail system some years before with Herman Kunz as carrier. [11] A fifth route was added some time later.

There is some disagreement as to when Herman Degner became postmaster and when rural routes were established. Most memories and records indicate that it was 1902. But an article in the February 22, 1934 issue of the *Fall Creek Times*, on the occasion of Alfred Mittelstadt's retirement states, "The rural route system was inaugurated on November 1, 1900 by the then postmaster, H. A. Degner". *The Augusta Eagle* of Oct. 11, 1901, reported that "Herman Degner has been appointed postmaster at Fall Creek."

Alfred Mittelstadt's recollections of his 32 years as a rural mail carrier were reported in the *Fall Creek Journal* of February 22, 1934: A trip around his 26-mile route with horse and sleigh in the winter usually took seven or eight hours, he said, and even longer if the snow was deep. By the time he reached the end of his route on a late winter afternoon, it was necessary to light matches to see the names on the pieces of mail. In the spring, long stretches of his route were frequently under water, as the roads were absolutely flat and ungraded.

The hardships of rural carriers in the early days were increased by the fact that they made their routes in open vehicles, both in winter and

summer, and in any kind of weather. Enclosed cabs were not used until some time after automobiles came into use on the routes (about 1915-1920).

With the introduction of the automobile, the number of rural routes was reduced to four and, later, in about 1936, to three. In 1958, there were only two routes covering a total of 182 miles. [12] In 1977, a third route was added again with the three routes comprising a total of 198 miles. [13]

The rural mailboxes were more secure in the early 1900's than they are today. They were deeper than the ordinary modern box and had two compartments, one above the other. The mailman could pull out the top section, insert the mail, and then, after pushing it back in the box, tip it over, so the mail would fall into the lower section. This section was locked and could only be opened by the owner of the key. [14]

TELEPHONE

Telephone service was well established in Eau Claire in 1879, [15] but it was probably about 1903 before Fall Creek citizens could talk to each other by phone.

Many small independent telephone companies sprang up throughout Wisconsin in 1893, after the original patents owned by Bell Telephone had expired. Until government regulations of companies came into existence in 1907, subscribers to an independent company could talk only to other subscribers of the same company. [16]

One of these little independent telephone companies was started, possibly before 1900, by a Mr. George Hudson in the Town of Ludington, about six miles northeast of Fall Creek. Wires were strung from tree to tree, with an occasional pole set where necessary, to connect a few farm families in the area. The switchboard was located in the Kimball home (on the site where John Eiler now lives), and Mrs. Laura Kimball, Hudson's daughter, served as operator. The switchboard was later moved to what is now the Myron Berlin home west of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. [17] The company gradually expanded until it finally reached Fall Creek in about 1903. It was still known as the Ludington Telephone Company.

According to the *Fall Creek Cultivator,* Town of Washington farmers met at the Fred Schilling home in February, 1915, to discuss the matter of having telephone lines connect them with Eau Claire. And, in March 1915, the *Cultivator* reported that work on the new extension of the Ludington Telephone Company was to begin soon.

Luttrell #333

Fall Creek Telephone Office, 1907. Louise Roesler (in white dress) was the first switchboard operator. Girls in chairs, left to right: Grace Roesler, Lydia Kunz, Alma Hoehn. Boy on porch — George Roesler.

The first central office in Fall Creek was located in the Roesler home (now Baumbach's), and Louise Roesler (Mrs. Alfred Mittelstadt) was the first operator. Other operators were Ida Bartz, Amanda Haeske, Ora Jungerberg, Anna Randall and Elsie Haeske (Rick).

Elsie started working as a "central" operator at $8.00 a month in about 1906 or 1907, in her mid-teens. The switchboard, she remembers, was about two and a half feet wide and was divided into two partitions. There were about 50 numbers, including seven or eight country lines with six or seven parties each.

In back of the switchboard were jars filled with water and "blue vitro rocks". Each jar had a copper "crows foot" extending down into it. When the "blue vitro" wore out, it had to be changed; and when that was done, the telephone service would greatly improve. (The "blue vitro" was probably blue vitriol which formed an acid as it dissolved and, with the copper rod as a conductor, made a primitive battery.)

There was a crank by the switchboard to ring a phone after the proper connection was made. On country lines, each party had a different ring, such as "1 long and one short" or "2 long and 1 short".

In order to call Augusta, the Fall Creek operator had to go through the central switchboard out in Ludington. To call Eau Claire, the Fall Creek operator called the Eau Claire operator, and she

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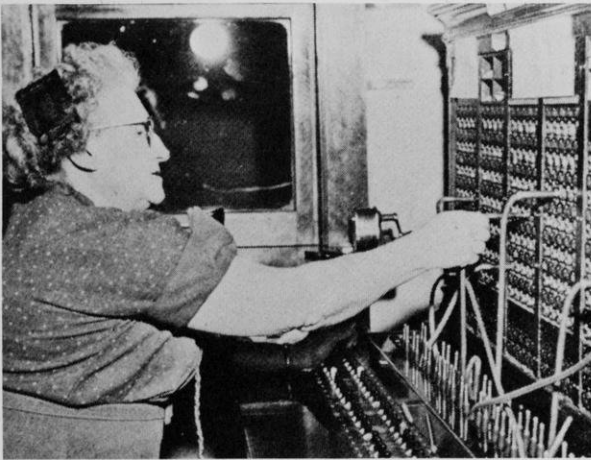
Anna Randall during her last week of work at the old switchboard, before the change was made to dial phones, 1957.

would connect the two parties. Only one phone in Fall Creek could be connected with an Augusta or Eau Claire phone at a time.

The central operators had to keep track of toll calls and prepare the phone bills. These were sent to Mr. Hudson, who then took them to J. E. Zetzman at the Fall Creek Mercantile where customers paid their bills. [18]

The switchboard was later moved to the second floor of the concrete block building which is now the Keller warehouse. When the new bank was built in 1924, the old bank building was sold to the Ludington Phone Company, then owned by August Schiefelbein. He moved the building to its present location on State Street and installed the switchboard in it. General Telephone purchased the company from Mr. Schiefelbein on October 1, 1946. [19]

"Central" operators provided many services beyond the simple connecting of two telephones. Ora Jungerberg was one of the most helpful operators. If, for example, a call came in for the Welkes, Ora might tell the caller, "Oh, they're not home; they're visiting over at the Martins. Shall I ring them there?" or "They're gone to Eau Claire. They won't be home 'til tomorrow." Ora made no secret of the fact that she listened in on conversations. She was not nosy; but how could she help people keep in touch if she did not know what was going on? One time she called a lady in town to ask, "Was that one tablespoon baking powder or baking soda you said to put in that recipe you gave Erna over the phone yesterday? I got all the rest, but I missed that when another call came in."

On January 30, 1957, the Fall Creek exchange was converted to dial operation. The exchange name "TRement" was assigned to it. At the same time, many of the rural lines were rebuilt. [20]

ELECTRICITY

The village board granted a franchise to the Chippewa Valley Railway Light and Power Company in 1914 for the installation of an electric light and power system. The poles were set between Eau Claire and Fall Creek in the fall of 1914, and most business places, as well as many residences in the village, were wired at that time. Electric power first flowed into the village in April of 1915, but farmers had to wait a few years before electric power lines reached out into the rural areas. In 1930, a line was built which extended about 4½ miles south of the village and another which extended a mile east. Some farmers installed their own electrical system using batteries. The Herman Kopplins, for example, had electric light, indoor plumbing, and a furnace as early as 1912, thanks to the Delco Battery System. [21]

The *Eau Claire County Journal* carried several reports on the progress of the electrification of Fall Creek:

December 18, 1914 — "The village has contracted for an adequate system of electric street lighting, and this, coupled with our smooth cement walks everywhere, will, in the future, cause the need of other excuses besides darkness and obstruction for stumbling." (Prior to the advent of electricity, gas lights were used in the village. It was the constable's job to pump up the gas pressure and light them each evening.)

April 30, 1915 — "Roy Cromwell of the Wisconsin-Minnesota Light and Power Company installed about 15 meters in commercial places Thursday and will install a lot more as they arrive . . . If weather remains favorable and the material arrives, the street lights may be in operation in two or three weeks. There will be 24 lights of 60 candle power which is equivalent to 85 watts each."

May 7, 1915 — "The new electric line is playing havoc with the local telephone system, especially where the high tension line crosses a country line the buzzing is aggravating and makes conversation extremely difficult."

SEWER AND WATER SYSTEMS

The first houses in the area were built near a stream to provide both water and summer refrigeration. Sometimes, a house was built right

over the top of a spring so that the housewife had only to go down into the cellar to get water or to get her butter and milk from the "cooler".

Of course, wells were eventually dug and hand pumps installed. For many years, every house in Fall Creek had its own pump and outdoor toilet in the backyard.

The first village well was drilled by Herman Zempel, using two horses as the power on the drill. The well was later enlarged and a large holding tank placed in the village hall over the pumping station to provide "running water" through a pipe in front of the hall. [22]

No indoor plumbing was possible until the arrival of electricity in 1915. At that time, four families, the Gus Roeslers, Jul Ziemanns, J. E. Zetzmans, and Paul Voglers, were the only ones to install electric pumps and indoor bathrooms. Over the years, a few other families added indoor plumbing and septic tanks, but "out houses" were still a common feature in the village in 1940.

In the late 1930's, the frugal villagers defeated a referendum seeking their support for the installation of a public sewer system. But the village board, under the leadership of Alfred Mittelstadt, realized that the WPA (Works Projects Administration) provided an opportunity to have the system installed at bargain prices.

So, in 1939, acting under a state law which allowed such work to be done without a majority vote, they went ahead with the project. WPA work gangs dug up the streets with picks and shovels and laid the sewer pipes. The community paid only $19,000 of the $119,000 cost of the project. [23] The work was completed and the first sewer bills sent out in 1940.

Mr. Mittelstadt's daughter tells us that her father took a lot of abuse from the village residents for the board's action and that he spent many sleepless nights over it; but when the job was done, most of the residents were happy with it and were ready to go ahead with a water system in 1948.

Luttrell #457

Wash day at Boernkes. Ernestine and daughters, Anna and Ella, in the Herman Boernke home, 1886.
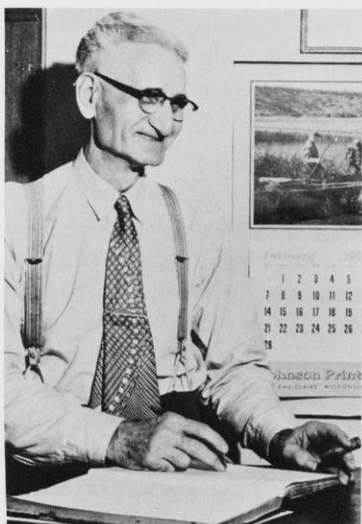
Luttrell #466

Alfred Mittelstadt, Village President for many years. The picture was taken at the counter in the office of the St. Charles Hotel shortly before it was torn down.

Luttrell #202

Every backyard had a wood pile and an outhouse. Behind Ziemanns, 1909. Left to right: two Hamler girls, A. E. ("Count") Ziemann, Gertrude Ziemann, Walter Haase, Onno Ziemann, (unidentified).

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There were some, however, who strongly objected to the public water system, too, partly on the basis of cost and partly just because they liked their individual water systems better. The water tower, with its 50,000 gallon tank, was erected with federal assistance in 1949 at a cost to the village of about $15,000. [24]

There may have been some residents who wanted to retain the old-fashioned "plumbing" systems; but the village board sounded the death knell for Fall Creek outhouses in 1941. The minutes of the June 5th board meeting state: "Motion made by Olson and seconded by Shong that the following ordinance be adapted:

Whereas, the village has constructed a sewage disposal system and the pumping of cesspools and outdoor toilets is a menace to the health of the community therefore;

Be it resolved that the pumping of cesspools or outdoor toilets, moving of outdoor toilets, and the building of new outdoor toilets be abolished in any district which is accessible to sewers.

Carried unanimously."

REFRIGERATION

Until 1915 (and later in the rural areas), there was no refrigeration in Fall Creek other than that provided by nature. Wisconsin's frigid weather provided all the refrigeration needed for the winter months, and, in addition, produced ice on the mill pond which was cut and preserved for summer use.

In January and February, when the ice was thick, the men of the village would saw it into 100-pound chunks which were then floated to the edge of the pond with special hooks. There it was lifted onto sleighs. In the 1930's, a type

Luttrell #271

Cutting ice on the Mill Pond, about 1930.

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of elevator was used to lift the ice from pond to sled level.

Rudolph Stabenow and Fred Wilhelm, who lived right by the pond, had both a sawmill and an ice business. The combination worked out very well since layers of sawdust were used to insulate the ice in the ice house to keep it from melting and to keep the layers of ice from freezing together. [25]

An article in the *Eau Claire County Journal* of January 8, 1915, reported that: "The ice harvest is in full swing on our mill pond. It started in 1914, on December 29th to be exact, with Fred Glenz as Major-General of the land forces and Fred Westphal as Admiral of the ice-cake fisheries, at least so Fred No. 1 has given the Journal to understand."

The ice wagon was always popular with the children and usually had a big following as it delivered ice throughout the village in the summertime. A little splinter of ice was a real treat for a child who had never been able to go to a freezer for ice cubes, who had never heard of a popsicle, and who ate ice cream only on very special occasions.

MEDICAL SERVICES

Convenient medical service was a luxury not enjoyed by the early settlers. In the absence of doctors, they used many homemade remedies, with some women becoming quite skilled in treatment with various herbs. Babies were delivered, not by doctors, but by experienced midwives right at home. Fredericka Lindenthaler was perhaps the first trained midwife in Fall Creek. After her husband, Joseph, died, she supported her family with her nursing skills. Mrs. Redman and Mrs. August Rugotske were the midwives after Mrs. Lindenthaler retired. [26]

Only the sturdiest of the pioneer babies survived infancy, and epidemics of scarlet fever and diphtheria often took the lives of older children, too. In 1873-74, these diseases claimed sixty lives in the community, according to the records of St. Johns Lutheran Church. In 1882-83, twenty-seven members of the congregation died of the same diseases, among them four of Rev. Friedrich's children, ranging in age from two to ten years, who died within two weeks of each other. Again in 1890, an epidemic swept the community and left eighteen childen dead. [27] The polio epidemic of 1908-1909 took a good number of Fall Creek citizens, and, in the winter of 1918-19 influenza was the killer. [28]

In 1900, Jul O. Ziemann was told that he had to have an appendectomy, and that he would have to go to St. Paul, since there was no one in the area to perform the operation. In fact, no one in Fall Creek had ever had surgery of any kind up until that time. Philip Lindenthaler loaned Jul $100 so he could make the trip. Everyone in town went to the depot to say good-bye; most of them thought they'd never see Jul alive again. Anyone who had "inflamation of the bowels" simply died; there was no cure. But the operation was a success and Jul did come back alive ... a fact that many considered to be nothing short of a miracle! [29] The *Augusta Eagle* for October 19, 1900, reported, "Mr. Jul Ziemann, who has been in the hospital at St. Paul for several weeks ... is expected home soon."

DOCTORS

A number of doctors have served Fall Creek citizens over the years, but it has been impossible to determine exactly when they were here. Dr. Williams was the first medical doctor who lived in Fall Creek and had an office here, but a Dr. Lyman from Eau Claire also came to Fall Creek frequently during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

Dr. Sizer came to Fall Creek in about 1896 and left again before 1920. His office was in his home on Lincoln Avenue in the house now owned by Charles and Connie Russell.

For a time, there were two doctors in Fall Creek. Dr. H. H. Voss, a German immigrant, came sometime in the early 1900's and moved to Racine in June, 1916. [30] His office was in his home on Washington Avenue, the second house from the corner of Wisconsin Street.

Dr. F. F. Zboralske has served Fall Creek longer than any other doctor. He came to Fall Creek in 1931, after his graduation from Marquette Medical University and internship at Madison General Hospital. In over 47 years of service to the community, Dr. Zboralske has rarely missed a day in the office, except for a two year period during World War II when he served in the Armed Forces.

During his first years in Fall Creek, he was a member of both the Luther and Sacred Heart Hospital staffs. But, following his return from World War II, he concentrated all of his hospital work at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire. He still makes rounds there daily.

His office, ever since he arrived in Fall Creek, has been what was originally the Farmers and Merchants Bank. At first, he shared office space

there with the dentist, Dr. Reetz. Dr. Zboralske later built an addition on the west side of the building.

Doctors Who Have Served Fall Creek [31]	
Dr. Williams	Dr. J. A. Hernandez
Dr. Elmer Sizer	Dr. John F. Gates
Dr. H. H. Voss	Dr. W. T. Austen
Dr. Beier	Dr. F. F. Zboralske

DENTISTS

Michael Kaeding is said to have been the first "dentist" in the Fall Creek vicinity. He did not know anything about filling teeth, but he did know how to pull them and this he did ... without any kind of anesthetic! [32]

Charles Hoehn, a drug and general merchandise store owner, served as the village "dentist" in the 1890's and early 1900's. His treatment, too, was simply to pull any tooth that ached. There are many still alive today who remember having teeth pulled by Mr. Hoehn. Herman Drehmel tells of being taken to Charlie Hoehn in 1902, when he was seven years old, because he had a toothache. He was seated in a "saloon chair", and, while Mrs. Hoehn held him down, Mr. Hoehn pulled the offending tooth. (For more about Charles Hoehn, see Chapter 6.)

Apparently, the first full-time dentist in town was Louis Sizer, a brother of the medical doctor who also served the village. Sometime before 1907, he had an office in Dr. Sizer's house (now the Charles Russell home). He may have also had an office in the small building between that house and the A. Bartz and Brother Store (now the parking lot). His drill was powered by a foot treadle, like an old sewing machine. It must have

Luttrell #305

An early Fall Creek doctor, relaxing with friends. Alma Strasburg Zetzman, Anna Bartz Petrowsky, **Dr. Sizer,** Lola Randall Jones, Louise Roesler Mittelstadt, Agnes Bartz Zetzman, Ida Bartz Parker. About 1905.

taken excellent coordination to keep the drill on the right spot and the treadle moving steadily, both at the same time! [33]

After Dr. Sizer left, there was no full-time dentist in Fall Creek for several years. Dr. R. Matzke, a dentist from Wonewoc, came about once a month in 1914-15 and set up his office at the Arnold Hotel for a week at a time. [34] In May 1915, this announcement appeared in the *Eau Claire County Journal:* "Dr. E. A. Rogers, dentist, of Augusta, will be here at the Mittelstadt Hotel all day every Wednesday." Dr. Baumbach (son of Rev. Baumbach) practiced in Fall Creek before 1930. His office was in what is now the Jerry Hill home.

A Dr. Nelson maintained a dental office in the mid-1920's above what is now Jan's Place.

In about 1930, Dr. Edward Reetz had a full-time practice in Fall Creek with offices in the old Farmers and Merchants Bank building. Later, he had an office upstairs above what is now the Chicken Chasers Bar. [35]

Dr. Theodore Korolewski arrived in Fall Creek in 1937 and served the area's dental needs until his retirement in 1972. He first lived in Milo Kromrey's house, and, for over eleven years, the living room of that house was his dentist's office. In 1948, the Fall Creek Mutual Insurance Company built a brick building with a dentist's office in one part of it, and Dr. Korolewski practiced dentistry there until the end of 1972. [36]

In 1973, a new dental clinic was built on the west end of town. Dr. Moulton first occupied the new offices. In 1975, Drs. Van Gordon, Friedeck, and Henry of Eau Claire took over the clinic.

CHIROPRACTORS

Louis Severson was Fall Creek's first chiropactor. He opened an office in the new Chiro-Electric Building on Plum Street on January 1, 1960. After Dr. Severson's retirement, Dr. Steven Mickelsen took over the practice in July 1975.

NURSING HOME

Fall Creek can be proud of the Fall Creek Valley Nursing Home, located at the west end of town. The $474,000 facility was erected in the spring of 1968 without any state or federal help. The project was launched by the Lions Club, which collected $75,000 of the $80,000 which was raised locally. The remainder of the funds was provided through village revenue bonds which are being paid out of the earnings of the institution. The original building provided facilities for 56 residents. [37] A new wing was opened January 1, 1975, expanding the building to a 72-resident capacity.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fall Creek had no organized fire fighters until February 20, 1922 when the Fall Creek Fire Department was organized with twenty-seven members. There was, however, some equipment in the village before that time which was apparently housed in a building near the village jail on McKinley Street.

There is no mention of any purchase of equipment in the fire department minutes until 1929; but a listing of equipment is found in the fire report for July 7, 1922. On that date, the department responded to a fire on the spire of Trinity Church with the following apparatus:

Chemical Engine   Sprinkler Tank
Pump No. 1   Hose Reel
Water Tank   Hose Cart
Hook and Ladder Wagon

The sprinkler tank mentioned was the same one used to wet down the streets. All the equipment had to be pulled to the scene of the fire by manpower. One man sat on the hook and ladder wagon and rang a bell as they moved along the street. The pump was operated manually, like a railroad handcar, with three men on each side. The stream of water produced was not very powerful!

The alarm for a fire was sounded by a bell in the tower of the Village Hall. According to the *Eau Claire County Journal* of January 1, 1915, "Our Village bell sounded its first fire alarm Tuesday evening." The fire, which was at the Melville Jewelry Store, had been started by a gas lamp in the display window. The lamp had apparently dripped gasoline and then exploded when Mr. Melville tried to generate it.

An article in the *Journal* of September 28, 1917, gives us a good description of the new alarm which had just been installed at that time: "Lineman Grogan of the Ludington Telephone has been busy for several days installing the new Balwin Electric Fire Alarm at the Village Hall. The apparatus will be operated by a push button at the Telephone central and a box will also be attached to the telephone pole at the State Bank corner and perhaps other places about the village. The alarm is attached to our village bell, the hammer being operated by a weight, which is released by the electric apparatus when the key is pushed at the central. Six or eight dry batteries are required to operate the release and the hammer strikes 390 times at one winding at the speed of 75 to 85 per minute. The alarm

must be rewound after each time it is used. The alarm is a valuable public improvement. There is no time lost in getting to the bell to ring by hand. Call up "central" and hear the bell before you can hang up the receiver."

A siren was installed in 1928, and for many years, both the siren and bell were used to sound a fire alarm. The siren also served as a "noon whistle" until 1974.

In April 1977, a new siren was purchased which has three different signals: an alert signal for bad weather or storm conditions, an attack signal to be used in case of a national emergency, and a fire signal.

Water for fire fighting was pumped from the pond or from cisterns located near what is now the Lincoln Avenue parking lot, near Molden-hauers, and near Raethers. Since the hoses were not very long and the pressure not very great, it was difficult to put out any fire not located close to one of the cisterns.

The lack of sufficient water was the major problem in fighting the "Plesner Fire" of 1929, the worst fire in Fall Creek's history. Eye-witnesses say that Arnie Gullickson drove to Eau Claire to get more hose to reach to the creek, but by the time he returned (his top speed was

The Plesner Fire of 1929.

Luttrell #310

Luttrell #248

Fall Creek Volunteer Fire Department, 1934-35. Row 1, left to right: Erich Leidiger, Henry Patzwald, Edwin Zetzman, George Roesler, George Berg. Row 2: George Menge, Edwin Marten, George Zetzman, Adolph Heuer, John Olson, George Lindenthaler, Clarence Jungerberg, Gustave Fletschock, Frank Zetzman, Edward Weidemann, Walter Petrick. Row 3: Edwin Rau, Harry Saunders, Elgart Fenske, Arne Schori, Gordon Eggleston, Matt Zimmerman, Edwin Miller, Harvey Raether, Edward Blang, A. E. Ziemann, Ewald Zimmerman.

30 mph.), the fire was out of control. The firemen were able to stop it at the Dreamland Dance Hall, a concrete building which stood between the present post office and Fall Creek Hardware. But three buildings were completely destroyed: Plesner Confectionery (a two-story building with living quarters on the second floor), Mieske's Grocery (two story), the post office and the Mieske Meat Market (one story).

The fire department report on the fire reads as follows:

Fall Creek, Wisconsin
May 18, 1929

"Fire which totally destroyed the Vern Plesner and Gust Miescke business property, broke out at about 3:30 P.M. Fire was caused by grease boiling over in the bakery shop. The local department could not cope with the blaze and help was called for from Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls. With this aid, the fire was about under control at 6:30. Some of the local equipment was kept at the scene of the fire all the following night, during which time members of the dept. kept watch for any more outbreaks of fire."

(Signed) G. H. Muenchow, Sec.

Fall Creek Fire Department Chiefs	
1922-1926	Harry Saunders
1926-1927	George Zetzman
1927-1928	George Menge
1928-1929	George Zetzman
1929-	Erich Leidiger
1929-1944	Edw. J. Zetzman
1944-1949	Harry Saunders
1949-1955	Elmer Shong
1955-1958	Charles Saunders
1958-	Fritz Geske

Three months after that fire, a new fire truck was purchased for the department by the Fall Creek Mutual Insurance Company. It was later sold to the department. In 1948 another truck, an FWD, was purchased. The 1928 truck was retired in 1954 when a used pumper was acquired. According to the *Eau Claire Leader* of July 1, 1954, the Fall Creek firemen paid half of the $2,000 cost of the truck which formerly belonged to the Eau Claire Department. Fire Chief Shong was quoted as saying, "We wanted this one to have on hand for local fires when the other truck is out on rural runs." The latest addition to the Fall Creek Fire Department in 1977, was a new International cab to replace a Ford Chassis used to pull the tanker.

For many years, the Fall Creek Fire Department was the only department in the area that went out on rural runs. Firemen received extra pay for out-of-town calls. In 1948, for example, the Chief and Asst. Chief were paid $6.00 for an out-of-town call. Members with a tag were paid $4.00 and others $1.00. Within the village, the Chief and his assistant were paid $2.00 and all others $1.00. [38]

VILLAGE GOVERNMENT

The following article and pictures, prepared for the December 18, 1914 issue of the *Eau Claire County Journal* by Walter Brueske, present a short history of the first few years of the Fall Creek Village government:

"Fall Creek was incorporated as a charter Village in 1906 and the first village board of trustees held their initial meeting on the 28th day of April of the said year. The first board consisted of J. O. Ziemann, President; and Philip Lindenthaler, Gustave Roesler, J. E. Zetzman, Chas. Hoehn, Herman Kopplin and Jul. Bartz, Trustees; Henry Wise, Clerk, and F. A. Perso, Treas. Since that the public affairs have been conducted as such things run — this way and that way and sometimes all ways at the same time — but through the whole of it a sure and steady progress has been made to rise like some mountain peak above the thunder storms. Among the commendable things that have formulated out of the desires of the villagers and enacted into process by their trustees is a creed to keep the streets and public places clean and neat. At the end of every week, except when wintry frosts hinder, the village marshall summons out Father Schiefelbein and a handy team and a few boys or other opportune workers and the accumulations are hauled away to the dump, far from the haunts of men. Another work that gives this village prestage is our cement walk, which has been built since incorporation to every quarter of the town, so everybody can retain dry feet on the wettest day. We have no paved streets of course but a fairly good surface is obtained by shale rock and a good grade for drainage and the streets are also kept sprinkled so they are dustless. For the latter work we have a Studebaker 600 gal. sprinkler, and for the past two seasons Mr. F. Wm. Miller has creditably fulfilled his contract to sprinkle. The cost to the citizens is about 2¢ per foot frontage for the season, which is indeed very low. The water is supplied to the sprinkler through a stand pipe in front of our village hall. The water comes from a 5000 gal. tank placed over the pumping station in the northeast corner of the village building and this tank is kept filled by an 8 h.p.

gasoline engine operating a 4 in. cylinder in a 129 ft. drilled well. The well is a success as concerns the supply and quality of water, which is pure and sweet. It was drilled in 1911 of the presidental administration of G. A. Emanuel and the credit is due to him and his board especially Gustave Roesler, who was a member of the well committee.

"As public affairs go it fell to a new board the next year to devise ways and means to get the water out of the well, and a plan was adopted which caused the installation of the pumping machinery as stated before. The plan included the addition of the hall as shown in the picture, and to this the economy of 1913 was applied and in 1914 we have it. The ground floor is devoted for housing our fire department which includes a general supply of ladders, hooks and axes, tanks and hand engine, hoses, etc; and this years purchase — a big 60 gal. Victor chemical engine.

"The upper floor is the village hall and it also has a separate apartment for the use of board meetings. If waterworks should at any time be the general wish, all that is necessary is to erect the water tower and connect the mains to the six inch main already laid to the street."

The "creed" referred to in the above article, was, no doubt, the "Ordinances of April 28, 1906":

Ordinance No. 1 stated that, "It should be unlawful for any person or persons to drive any horse or team or any other animal at the rate of seven miles an hour on any street, alley, or other public place within the limits of the village." If convicted, the guilty person would be punished with a fine of not less than one dollar nor more than five dollars, or by imprisonment in the "watch-house" of the village not less than one day nor more than five days, or both.

According to Ordinance No. 4, all regular licensed saloons within the village limits had to be closed at 11 o'clock in the evening and remain closed until 4 am. If the ordinances were violated, the fine was not less than five dollars and not more than ten dollars.

Ordinance No. 6 related to depositing rubbish in streets or alleys. If a person were found guilty, he would have to pay a one dollar fine. If he were found guilty a second time, the fine would be five dollars.

Ordinance No. 7 said that it was unlawful to hitch a horse or other animal to any lamp post, fence, or shade tree. It was also unlawful to "leave standing any horse, mule, or team upon any street, alley, or other public place." And it was
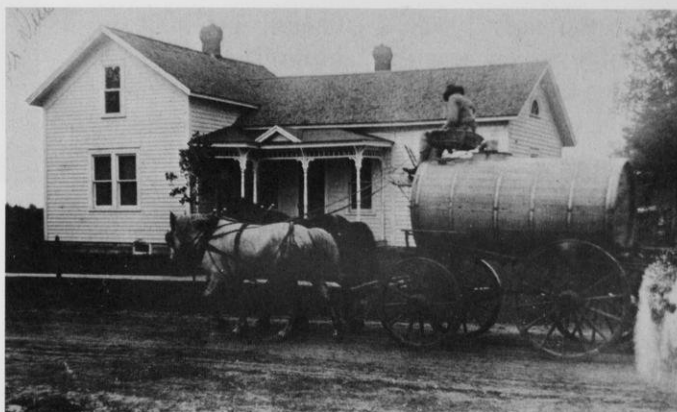
Luttrell #40

The sprinkling wagon was a common sight, spraying water on the dusty streets.

Village Board Presidents [40]

1906-1909 J. O. Ziemann
1909-1911 Jule Bartz
1911-1911 Fred Kromrey
1912-1914 Walter J. Brueske
1914-1915 J. O. Ziemann
1915-1917 A. A. Hoehn
1917-1920 J. E. Zetzman
1920-1920 G. A. Emanuel
1920-1923 Chas. Hoehn
1923-1926 E. E. Tobey
1926-1934 Julius Harke
1934-1949 Alfred Mittelstadt
1949-1951 Joe Leonard
1951-1959 Alfred Mittelstadt
1959-1965 Harvey G. Raether
1965-1971 Leonard Grosskopf
1971-1975 Charles Tumm
1975-1977 Richard Ziemann
1977-   Arnie Rongstad

Luttrell #44

Official Village Buildings, left, Village Jail; right, Lincoln Town Hall.

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unlawful to stop any team, animal or animals in the street or alley, thereby obstructing or interfering with travel or traffic.

Ordinance No. 8 stated that any person drunk and using any loud profane language and found with any gun, pistol, revolver, or cannon would pay a fine of $50.00 and be committed to the County Jail to hard labor during a term of 90 days. [39]

The Village Board met in the new Village Hall Council chambers for the first time on January 5, 1915. The *Eau Claire County Journal* gave this account of the meeting: "Mayor Ziemann had provided a supply of the best cigars in honor of the occasion and the clouds of smoke gave an appropriate illustrative effect to the utterances of future outlook and past reminiscense which broke forth from hearts at peace with one another and heads in harmony with all." Up until that meeting, the Village council had met in the Lincoln Town Hall.

In the early 1900's, a jailhouse was built on McKinley Street, near the Lincoln Town Hall. A building to house fire equipment was next to it. The jail was apparently used quite frequently in those early years. In the April 9, 1915 issue of the *Eau Claire County Journal*, the following statement appeared: "Chief of Police Julius Fenner announces that the 'Hotel de Bum' harbored 99 lodgers for the past season, while cases in Justice

Court figures to fifteen in number." Some of the "lodgers", however, were quite young and their stay in the "hotel" relatively short. Ralph Wise recalls spending a few hours there with Frank Zetzman when they were just ten years old for having broken some beer bottles behind Rudy Kaeding's Saloon. By the 1940's, the jail had become outmoded and was closed.
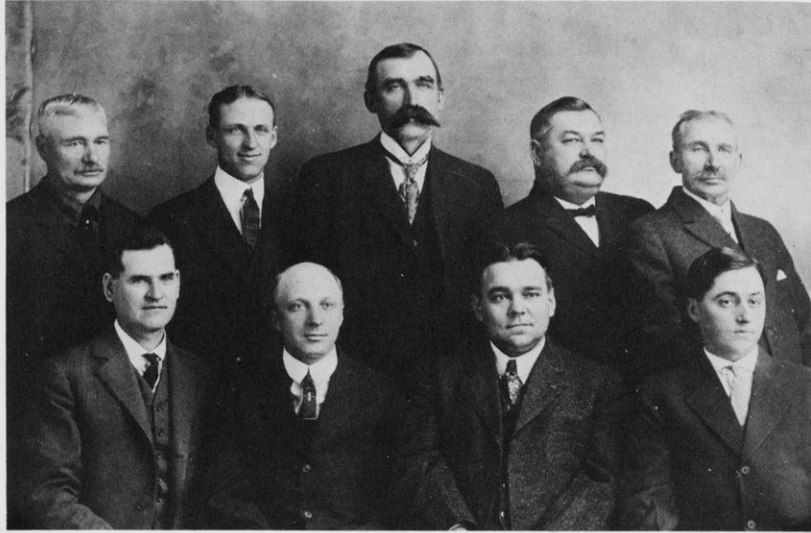
Luttrell # 253

Village Officers, 1914. Back row, left to right: Trustees Lindenthaler, Bruesewitz, Stabenow, Patzwald, Hoehn. Front row: Tustee Perso, Clerk Zetzman, Mayor Ziemann, Treasurer Emanuel.

Luttrell # 119

The Village Hall. Note the watering trough and the faucet from the stand pipe. This faucet was later raised so that it could be used to fill the tank on the sprinkler.

Luttrell # 499

William Miller, village constable. Fall Creek Stockyards in the background.

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Think you, Lad, that you can own this land
that I, so lovingly leave in your care?
Nay . . . . you may only borrow it for a short
while . . . . then it will sift through your
fingers too . . . . always to return to itself.

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

PEOPLE, PLACES, AND THINGS

The people of the Fall Creek Valley have always been its most valuable resource . . . friendly, industrious, down-to-earth folks with a zest for life. It is the people who have made the valley what it is today. All of the chapters in this book have been about these people . . . the story of how they settled in the valley, of how they worshipped, of how they educated their children, and of how they worked to make a better life for themselves and their families. But this final chapter is about their everyday life . . . their language, foods, and recreation; their organizations; the kinds of clothes they wore; and their loyalty to their country.

Although the very first settlers in the Fall Creek vicinity were mostly English and Irish, the good farm land of the area soon attracted more German immigrants than any other nationality, and the village itself became almost 100 percent German. These hardy German immigrants brought their language and culture with them.

German was the predominant language used in both business and social situations well into the 1920's. Actually, it was not pure German, but rather a mixture of "Platt-deutsch" (dialect) and English. For example, Fall Creek residents would say "Spiel das Piano", rather than the German "Spiel das Klavier." They spoke of the "train" rather than the "Zug" and when it came time to take up the wall-to-wall carpet (laid over a layer of straw) for spring cleaning, they talked about a "carpet" not a "Teppich". In fact, when a new arrival from Germany sent her shopping list to the Mercantile, the employees, all of whom spoke Fall Creek German, could not figure out what she meant by such things as "Kraüseln" (ruffling), "Apfelsine" (oranges), "Senf" (mustard), or "Citronen" (lemons). [1]

The children, of course, learned English in school and normally used it in their play. For some reason, though, the boys preferred to cheer and count their points in German when they played horseshoes. [2]

Any non-German was considered to be a foreigner, and the English were referred to as "Yankees". Martha Zempel, in a speech before the Fall Creek Women's Club in the 1930's, commented on the rivalry between the English and the Germans in the area. She said it "often led to prankish skirmishes, such as cutting roads through one another's wheat fields, or putting out the blacksmith's fire. As matches were not available in those days, putting out blacksmith's fire caused him a great inconvenience. A story has it that the blacksmith, anticipating one of these invasions, was ready for the pranksters and met them with a shovel full of hot coals, which put an end to their raids."

Addie Asplin Wise was the first full-blooded Yankee to live in the village. The story of how she was courted by Henry Wise illustrates the ingenuity and persistence that was typical of the early Fall Creek citizens. Addie lived on a farm on the other side of Augusta, more than ten miles away. It would have been difficult for Henry to find transportation to her house if he had not come up with a very novel idea. He and Gus Ziemann (Gertrude and Count's uncle) would gain access to the railroad section house by taking the door off its hinges so that they could "borrow" a hand car for the evening. The two of them would then pump the car through Augusta to a point opposite the Asplin farm, a two-hour trip. From there, they could walk across the field to the house, borrow a horse and buggy from Mr. Asplin, and drive in to a dance in Augusta. The

Luttrell #507

Addie and Henry Wise, 1900.

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return trip was made the same way. The young men had to be sure, though, that they returned the car to the section house and got the door back on its hinges by 6:00 AM! Henry and Addie were married in 1900. [3]

ORGANIZATIONS

Many Fall Creek residents belonged to the *German American County Verband* in the early part of the century. According to a 1914 history of Eau Claire County, this was a branch of the "National German-American Alliance of the United States of America", which had as its purpose the strengthening of unity among Germans in America and the safeguarding of friendly relations between America and "the old German fatherland." In 1914, the Eau Claire County branch had over 300 members. Two Fall Creek residents, Charles Hoehn and Albert Hoehn were among the officers.

The *"Saenger-Verein"* (singers club) was another organization which stressed the German background of its members. This was a group of men who got together to sing German songs and drink beer. From time to time, they sponsored "Saengerfests" to which they invited similar singing groups from surrounding communities. The festivals were held at the picnic grounds just north of where the Trinity Cemetery is now located; and they were always held on Saturday and Sunday. According to those who remember the scene, beer was brought in by the wagonload. The singing was apparently not of the best quality, but everyone enjoyed the fest anyway.

The Women's Club, organized in the early 1930's, had a more intellectual purpose. The members studied and reported on topics dealing with history, politics, fine arts, and famous people. They also formed a "Reading Circle" library. According to the *Fall Creek Times* of January 7, 1932, the books were available at the Fall Creek Mercantile Store, "and will be in charge of one of the members, who will act as librarian. Saturday night was designated as the time when the librarian will be present and will check out the books to all who desire them."

The *Fall Creek Lions Club* was organized in 1956. One of their first projects was to number the houses in Fall Creek and to erect street signs.

Luttrell #303

Fall Creek Cornet Band, about 1893. Left to rigrt, front row: Herman Schwanke, (unidentified), Herman Kunz. Middle row: Phil Lindenthaler, (unidentified), (unidentified), Otto Niebuhr, Herman "Fotie" Boernke, Henry Wise, Ernest Boernke, Henry Boernke. In the back row, the man fourth from the left is Ed Bucholz and the one sixth from left is thought to be Gus Bartz.

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This organization has, over the years, been extremely active in community service projects, including:

- restoring and stocking the Fall Creek Mill Pond
- conducting a drive to raise money to build the Fall Creek Valley Nursing Home
- building the first cabins at the Eau Claire County Youth Camp
- creating a wayside park in town
- carrying out the "Glasses for the Needy" program
- furnishing the teachers' lounge in the old high school
- furnishing folding chairs for the old high school gym
- developing the E. J. Keller Park north of the village

Among the money-making projects they have sponsored to fund these activities have been the planting and selling of Christmas trees, ice fishing contests, snowmobile races, and the Wisconsin State Championship Tug o' War Contests.

Camp #3258 of the *Modern Woodmen of America,* a fraternal and insurance organization, was active in Fall Creek in the early part of the century. 1894 is the earliest date of adoption shown on the insurance policies issued by the Fall Creek Camp.[4] Women were not allowed to have insurance with Modern Woodmen, so they started their own organization, known as the Royal Neighbors. The first mention of the Royal Neighbors in Fall Creek was in the January 1909 minutes of the MWA which records that the Modern Woodmen were invited to partake in a joint installation ceremony with the Royal Neighbors.[5] Both these organizations were very social in nature. They built the Woodmen's Hall which was used for many dances, card parties, and meetings.

The *American Legion Voight Post 376* was organized with twenty-three members in February 1923. It was named after Fred. E. and Walter Voight, brothers who were the first Fall Creek casualties in World War I. According to the preamble to the constitution, the purposes of the organization are:

"To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States; to maintain law and order, to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the great wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to

Luttrell #370

American Legion members, 1944. Left to right: Henry and Vida Patzwald, Walter and Ella Petrick, Milton and Elsie Schori, George and Cecelia Lindenthaler, George and Meta Zetzman, John and Elsie Olson.

make right the master of might; to promote peace and good-will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion of mutual helpfulness."

The first officers were: Matt Zimmerman, Post Commander; C. E. Guelle, 1st Vice President; George Zetzman, 2nd Vice President; Walter Petrick, Historian; Elgart Fenske, Sergeant at Arms; and George Lindenthaler, Adjutant and Finance Officer.

In 1924, the post planned and sponsored a 4th of July celebration and parade, with a new Ford being given as a prize. This was continued for many years. To raise funds for their many projects, the members held ice cream socials, card and bingo parties, ball games, poppy sales, and an auto polo match. They donated money to orphans, veterans' hospitals, Red Cross, Boy Scouts, and the USO. They purchased a campsite for ailing veterans near Tomahawk, helped each other in time of need, and bought American flags for the school and village. Each year since 1947, the Post has sponsored a delegate from Fall Creek High School to Badger Boys State.

In October, 1932, the Tenth District American Legion convention, with 3,000 people in attendance, was held in Fall Creek, a village with a population of 478 at the time!

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In 1950, a basement clubhouse was built with all but the most technical labor being done by the Legionnaires themselves. [6] In 1971, the post purchased the old St. Paul Lutheran Church and has used it since then as a clubhouse, for bingo parties, and for dances.

MILITARY

At the beginning of World War I, Fall Creek was nicknamed "Little Germany", because there were some in the surrounding communities who had the mistaken idea that Fall Creek citizens favored Germany in the conflict. From a letter written "somewhere in France" and dated October 28, 1918, by Ewald Kromrey, "Fall Creek and Eau Claire have always disagreed on everything and I wonder if they know that our little burg has more soldiers in the service than they have according to population. Many people from Eau Claire have written to me and said that Fall Creek is doing fine despite the fact that it has been christened Little Germany."

Fall Creek boys served their country well and were often able to be of special service since they could speak the language of the enemy. Herman Drehmel, for example, tells of how he acted as an interpreter and was in charge of German prisoners because of his ability to speak German.

The people left at home gave strong support to the boys in service. The Home Soldiers Comfort Club was organized at a meeting of townspeople on August 22, 1917, with Dr. E. A. Sizer as one of the prime organizers. Among the first officers were Bert Herrick, Mrs. I. E. Melville, Mrs. E. A. Boernke, and A. A. Hoehn. The purpose of the organization was "to bring happiness and good cheer to the hearts of those who had left home to serve their country." They made "comfort kits" supplied with personal necessities for the soldiers, sent boxes of candy and cookies to local boys, sponsored farewell parties for departing soldiers, wrote letters, and staged patriotic programs.

The club journal states that on May 20, 1918, a service flag containing 32 stars was unfurled to the breeze across the public square on White Monday by President J. E. Zetzman, I. E. Melville and Wm. Miller. Each star represented a Fall Creek boy in the armed services. [7]

Men from the Fall Creek area also served in World War II, the Korean Conflict, and the Viet Nam War.

ENTERTAINMENT

Without TV sets, radio, movies, organized school activities, or easy transportation to the "city entertainment" in Eau Claire, what did people do for fun? They simply made their own!

Luttrell #208
Carl Voechting in World War I Uniform.
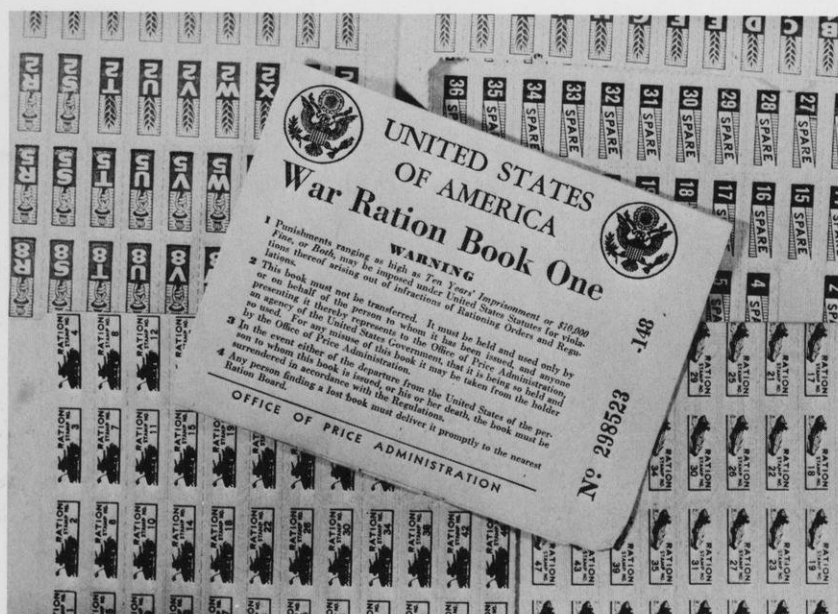
Luttrell #509
World War II Ration Books were issued by the Office of Price Administration (OPA). In order to purchase commodities such as sugar, meat, coffee, tea, butter, and gasoline, one had to have ration stamps. They were issued according to the size of the family.

Some of the entertainment revolved around work that had to be done. When there was a job that required more hands than were available in the family, it was accomplished through the use of volunteer labor from friends and neighbors. These occasions were called "bees" and were opportunities for socializing as well as working. There were "bees" of all types — feather bees, quilting bees, rag bees, corn-husking bees, barn-raising bees, and bean bees. Feather bees usually involved the older ladies. A housewife faced with a large pile of feathers to take care of would invite several of her friends to come and spend the day. They would work from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM, stripping the feathers off the stiff spines for pillows and featherbeds. The hostess would provide dinner and supper, and all the ladies would catch up on the latest gossip.

A barn-raising bee was a very special occasion, with all the men in the neighborhood gathering to help erect a new barn. The owner would have the lumber ready and would appoint one person as the "foreman" of the crew. With this system, a barn could be put up in a day. The ladies, of course, saw to it that the workmen were well fed.

Bean bees usually started about 7 AM and were for a wider age group, including the young people. As they separated the imperfect beans from the good ones, there was much talk and laughter and singing. At about 10 PM, the beans would be cleared away, and a big lunch set out. Then the dancing would begin and often last far into the night.

Dances were a favorite form of entertainment for teenagers and adults. They were held in in-dividual homes or barns out in the rural areas, or in one of the dance halls in Fall Creek... Lindenthalers, Emanuels, Kaedings, or, after 1915, Dreamland Hall. Music was, of necessity, always live... a single fiddler or accordian player, or a whole orchestra. Wedding dances sometimes lasted until 8 AM.

The 4th of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas were celebrated with a big dance at Emanuels (now the Red Onion) or Kaedings Hall (where the post office now stands) which lasted from 8 PM to 3 AM. At midnight, the orchestra and many of the couples would go over to the Arnold House (now the Gannon Apartments on Grant and Wisconsin) for lunch. Then it was back to the dance hall for more waltzes, two-steps, circle-two-steps, and quadrilles. [8]

For a short time, around 1905, there was a bowling alley in Fall Creek. P. S. Lindenthaler turned his dance hall into a bowling alley in connection with his saloon. This was located where the post office is now.

Card parties, too, were popular. A small group of women would sometimes rent the Woodmen's Hall (now Tanz's storage shed) and invite other women or mixed groups. They would provide prizes and a hearty lunch. Usually they played "500".

A shopping trip to Eau Claire was a special form of entertainment. Rarely did a woman go
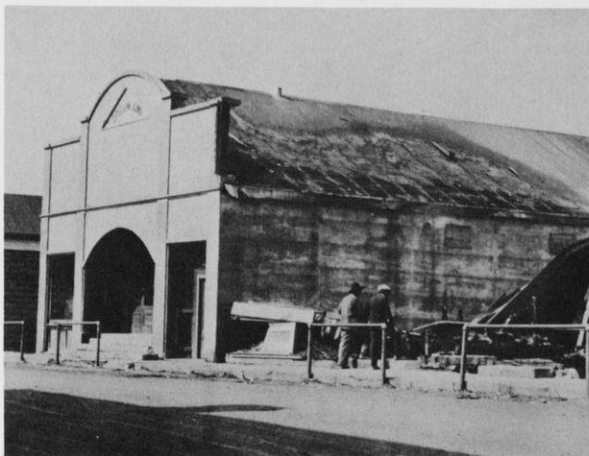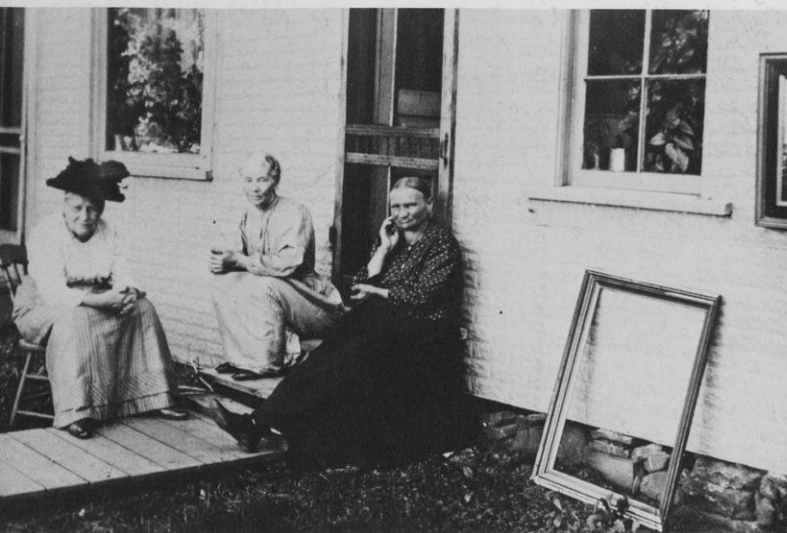

Luttrell #90B

Dreamland Hall, after the 1929 fire. "Meet me tonight in Dreamland".

Luttrell #456

The Zetzman Mule was such a well-known sight in Fall Creek that the local paper noted his death in 1912. Here he is shown in front of the P. S. Lindenthaler Saloon and Bowling Alley. The two children on the left are George and Zip Zetzman. Early 1900's.

Luttrell #286

Sunday afternoon visitors in front of the Boernke Photo Studio and home. Left to right: Mrs. Roesler, Mrs. Herman Boernke, Mrs. August Rugotzke. Sunday afternoons were times to go visiting, and a hat was a "must" if the lady was going more than a block from home.

by herself; but she would get a group of her friends together, and they would leave after their morning work was done on the 1:22 train; spend the afternoon shopping; and return home between 9 and 10 PM.

On Sunday afternoon, people found pleasure in such simple things as visiting their neighbors; going to Boernkes to have a picture taken; or walking down to the depot to meet the train, just to see who was arriving or leaving.

Picnics were common in the summer. They were usually held either out at "The Park", across from the present Trinity Cemetery or at Big Falls. The picnic baskets held no casseroles or "hot dishes"... they were unheard of in the early 1900's, but there was plenty of potato salad and sandwiches made with homemade bread, fresh butter, and thick slices of homemade sausage. The lemonade and ice cream were prepared right at the picnic.

Luttrell #191

The "Trapshooters" had their picture taken at Boernkes. Left to right, front row: Albert Redlack, Otto Niebuhr, Leo "Corbett" Boernke, Wm. Emanuel, Walter Glenz, Otto Emanuel. Back row: Wm. Steinke, Dan Muenchow, Pat Hamler, Henry Bruesewitz, Joe Bryan.

The village basketball team played in Emanuel's Hall. Left to right, front row: (unidentified), Joe Smith, Ben Joern. Back row: Guy Miller, Ray Chambers, Jim Garaghan.

Without TV to bring major league games into their living rooms, the men in the community formed their own baseball, basketball, and volley-ball teams. In about 1912, some of the young men in Fall Creek joined forces with some Augusta players to play the Brooklyn Nationals in Chippewa Falls. The local team won 5-2!

The *Fall Creek Times* for February 4, 1932 listed eight local volleyball teams . . . Zip's Merchants, Kopper's Teachers, Kopplin Collegians, Keller Trojans, Bruesewitz Clothiers, Steinbring Postmasters (winners of the Class B Chippewa Valley Volley Ball League Championship), and Farrington Elevators.

People from Fall Creek would occasionally go into the "big city" of Eau Claire for entertainment. During the years 1915-1917 the local newspaper frequently reported that someone from Fall Creek had gone to the "Grand Opera" or to a play or a movie in Eau Claire.

Boating on the mill pond. Left to right: Martha Brueske, Dora Melville, Helen Haas, Elsie Wiese.

A picnic in the park in about 1900. Left to right: . . . . . . Jackson, Ida Bartz, Louise Mittelstadt, Alfred Mittelstadt, Ida Hinterberg, Ed Zetzman, Agnes Zetzman, Anna Bartz, (unidentified), (unidentified), Lola Randall, ... Zempel, Minnie Haeske. Taken in "Schultz's Park" on "K" where the cabins are now.

Silent movies were shown in Emanuel's Dance Hall, using a projector cranked by hand. Someone played the piano to provide "mood music". A favorite among the youngsters was a western series called "101 Bison". The January 22, 1915 issue of the *Eau Claire County Journal* advertised the showing of the "History of the Dietz Family" and the "Battle of Cameron Dam" at the Opera
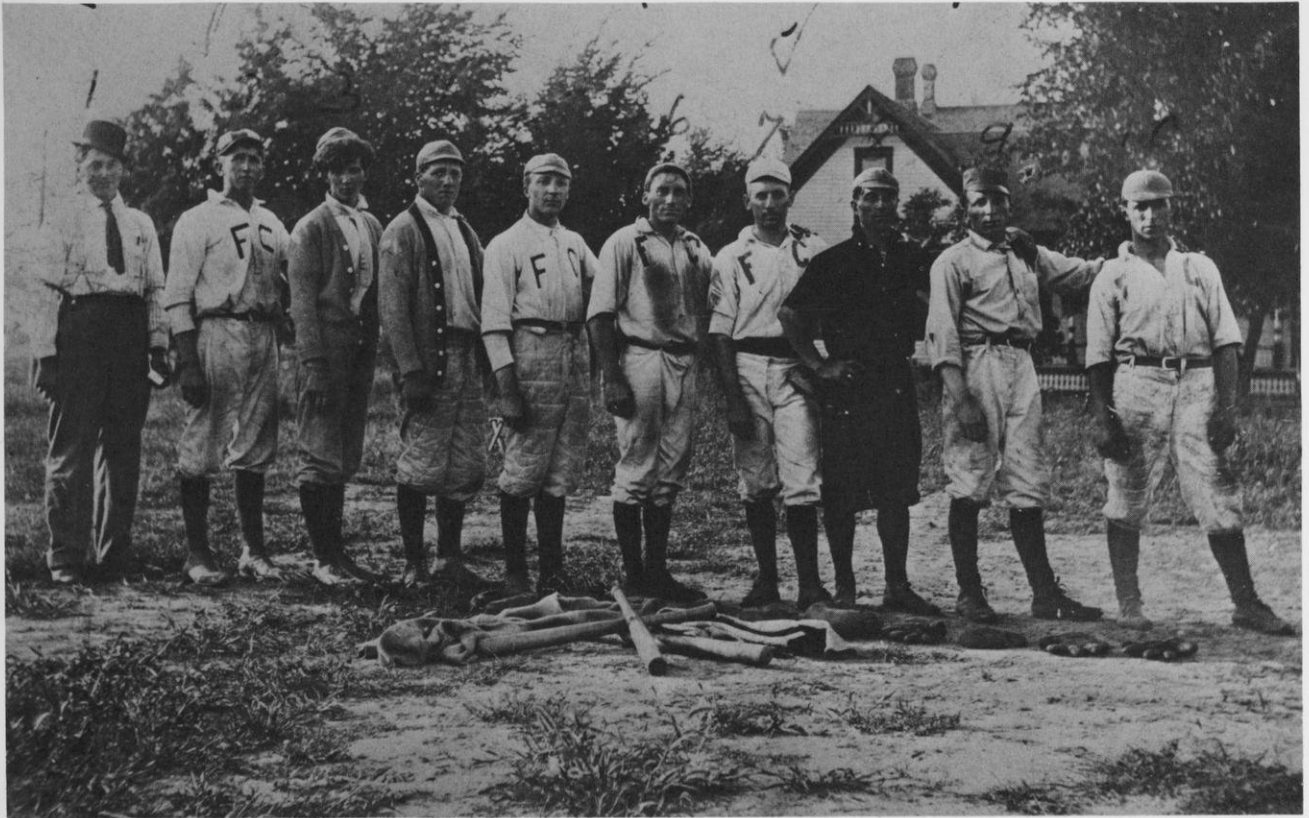
Luttrell #218

The Fall Creek Baseball Team won the Eau Claire County Amateur Championship in 1909. Left to right: Bill Emanuel (umpire), Pat Kaiser, Henry Steinbring, Ed Klingbeil, Ed Zetzman, Bill Schedler, Herman Degner, Leo "Corbett" Boernke, George Zetzman, Albert Emanuel.

Luttrell #377

Fall Creek Follies, March, 1931. Back row, left to right: Geo. Roesler, Louie Zimmerman, Lambert Kopplin, ... Christiansen, Clarence Theil, Gus Miller, Carl Gilgan, Walter Randall, Thomas Melville, Otto Weggen, Ed Rau, Ed Zetzman, Henry Steinbring, Edmund Muenchow, Marlow Bruesewitz, Frank Jungerberg, Dave Steinbring, The Director, Marvin Zetzman. Front row: Phillip Vogler, Erich Leidiger, J. O. Olson, Arnie Schori, Walter Reetz, Herman Mieske, Donald Boetzer, Herb Krenz, Geo. Muenchow, Elias Keller, Ralph Wise, Eddie Miller, Frances Strauch, Douglas Hoehn, Miss Hoff (the Follies pianist), Lyle Strauch, Gordon Strauch.

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House (Emanuel's Hall), 3 reels, using the Dietz Brothers Electric Light Plant. "Mr. Leslie Dietz will be here with this wonderful film. Pictures were taken on the actual fighting grounds and the Dietz family are shown in their fight for their rights."

Movies were first shown at Dreamland Hall in November 1915. The projector was run by electricity and Nancy Warner played the piano. "Charlie Chaplin" and "After the Ball" were the first movies shown.

A 1916 advertisement for the Dreamland Theatre reads, "Annette Kellermann in the spectacular pictorial triumph 'Neptunes Daughter', the film masterpiece of the world in seven reels. The Universal Moving Pictures has reason to believe it has uttered the last word in photo-play art. Matinee 10¢ and 15¢, night 15¢ and 25¢." [9]

A few excerpts from the 1917 issues of the *Fall Creek Journal* give us an insight into the entertainment and social life in and around the village at that time:

February 2 "A Young People's Society meeting was held at Miss Elsie Schultz's Monday evening."

March 2 "A Community Card Party will be held at the Modern Woodmen's Hall Saturday evening. The hall will be lighted and warm at 7 o'clock."

March 23 "There was a feather bee at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. Bonewald last Tuesday evening. Luncheon was served at 1 AM.

April 6 "Don't miss the big Easter Ball at Dreamland Hall Monday night."

May 18 "A basket sociable will be held in the schoolhouse of School District No. 7, Town of Lincoln on May 19 at 7:30 PM."

May 28 "Big dance at Dreamland Hall Monday, May 28. Excellent music will be furnished by Mieske's popular orchestra. Tickets $1.00. Big 25¢ supper at midnight."

June 8 "On Saturday, June 9, a big dance will be given at the Ernest Ida farm, 4½ miles east of Fall Creek. Anyone is welcome to come. Floor manager, H. Tumm."

November 2 "Halloween pranks were of minor occurrence in Fall Creek this year ... far from the good old democratic demonstration when 'we' were kids."

December 28 "The Jule Theatre Co. is showing at Dreamland tonight and also Saturday

and Sunday. The company is composed of very capable actors and they have good plays and specialties ... It is doubtful if there has ever been a better bunch of players at this theatre. Prices 15-25-35¢"

"There will be a big dance at Brown's Hall, Ludington, Saturday. Music will be furnished by Millers Orchestra."

The January 8, 1915 issue of the *Eau Claire Journal* announced the new Multi-Phonograph at the Ed Kopplin Saloon: "It is nickle in the slot machine and offers a selection of 24 records by simply turning a crank."

The Ludington News columns in the 1913 issues of the *Augusta Eagle* tell us something about social life in that part of the county:

January 3 "The moving picture show at Brown's Hall was well-attended, but the machine would not work so they gave it up as a bad job. There was a dance after the show that was well patronized by the young people around here and vicinity."

February 27 "The dance at Gill's Hall at Sand Prairie was postponed."

October 17 "There was a bee one day last week at Miss Mary Bain's. They lathed the house."

CHRISTMAS

Christmas for the German settlers was, traditionally, a two day holiday. The day after Christmas was "Zweiten Weihnachtstag" (2nd Christmas Day). The Christmas tree was usually a jack pine decorated with paper chains, popcorn, walnuts covered with colored aluminum foil, and perhaps a few "boughten" ornaments. At one time, each child was given a tree ornament at church. Candles were attached to the tree boughs with special clamps and were lit only when the whole family was gathered to appreciate the effect. A pail of water was kept nearby!

CELEBRATIONS AND PARADES

The Fourth of July was, for many years, a big occasion in Fall Creek. A list of the activities planned for the 1912 Fourth of July celebration appeared in the *Fall Creek Cultivator*: 100 salutes at sunrise, L. Kuehn and Aug Klingbeil in charge; parade at 10 with teams and "automobiles"; flag drill by 48 girls in white who will sing patriotic songs, speech by Edward S. Ackley; baseball at 2; contests and sports at 4 with many cash prizes; brass band all day; fireworks in the evening. [10]

Luttrell #53

Fourth of July Parade, 1912. Erwin and Edwin Zempel are driving the team. The baseball player closest to the camera is Edwin Miller.

Luttrell #86

German Day Celebration, 1914, in front of Emanuels Hall and Roesler Hardware.

RADIO PARTIES

The "radio age" arrived in Fall Creek in the early 1920's. The first radio receiving sets in the village were those built by Irving Melville, Rev. Bittner, and Chuck Muenchow. They were tube radios made with parts purchased at Kresge's Dime Store in Eau Claire. Rev. John Drewelow tells about those radios in his book, *Denim and Broadcloth:* "Those who liked to tinker were found building their own radio receiving sets. Simple instruction books were to be had, and the

Luttrell #193

Ready for the Fourth of July Parade. Left to right: Ida Bartz (Parker), Leo "Corbett' Boernke, Elsie Schultz (Vogler), Henry Bruesewitz.

several parts required could be purchased... two or three tubes, lengths and lengths of fine wire, several dry batteries, a switch, and a set or two of earmuff receivers. That, or about that much, they claimed, was enough for a simple start. Later, if you wished, you might add another tube or tubes, according to taste and desire, and further strengthen 'the set' to amplify the transmitted sounds. All the parts were arranged and

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arrayed in form and order and attached to a large piece of board, say ten by thirty-six inches.

"With visible pride, Irving M. might then invite you in for a demonstration, and if other friends were included, it could in all fairness be called a 'radio party'. Presently the switch would be snapped on, a dial turned this way and some other gadget that way, and spectral sounds would begin to wheeze from the earmuffs clamped over your head. If luck was good, you heard some faint something about WLS Chicago, and that, they said, is where it came from! Then it was, perhaps, WCCO Minneapolis. And if you'll actually believe it, someone, those many hundred miles away, even though in a bare whisper, was speaking to us right in our little Wisconsin town!...

"Presently the faint voice grew much fainter and then faded completely away, and try as he would from here on friend Irv could get nothing but spectral noises, which he claimed was called static. Our host's efforts continued for some further minutes, all, of course, with constant twisting and considerable turning and trying of knobs, after which he frankly admitted that luck was not with us today; air conditions were wholly unfavorable. He accepted our sincere appreciation, however, for the marvelous things we did hear and witness, and the demonstration was over." [11]

George Roesler bought the first ready-made radio in the village, and there was also one at Ziemann's Hardware Store. There are many who remember going there after the store had closed for the day to listen to the wondrous sounds from far away.

The first radio station in northwestern Wisconsin was WTAQ, which was founded, owned, and operated by Clyde S. Van Gordon,

grandfather of Dr. S. H. Van Gordon of the Fall Creek Dental Clinic. Known as "The Voice in the Wilderness," WTAQ was first heard on October 2, 1922. [12]

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

Children enjoyed such activities as jacks, marbles, sled riding, swimming, and ice skating. No adults flooded an ice skating rink or plowed off the snow for the children. But the mill pond provided a ready-made rink and the boys did their own snow clearing. They used a plow made of two planks joined to form a point in front and with a cross-bar in back. The handle was extended so that four boys could skate along in a row and push the plow in front of them. Starting at the bridge in Fall Creek, they would often make curving, winding paths all the way to the dam for the other skaters to follow.

Every youngster in the village skated...and they dried out at Kopplins (where Elmer Wilhelm lives now). Until about 1912, there were skating parties every Saturday and Sunday afternoon and on moonlit evenings. Of course, youngsters who lived in town also skated after school. Since there was no warming house, the boys would often build a bonfire right at the edge of the pond for thawing out cold feet and fingers. No one could afford shoe skates, but the clamp-on kind worked very well.

The boys played ice hockey with sticks cut from the willows growing at the edge of the pond and a round piece of wood sawed from one of the branches. There were no set teams; they chose sides anew each time they played. A black and blue eye, caused by a flying puck, was a frequent result of these games.

Before the automobile was commonplace, sledding was allowed on the "K" hill north of the village. Sliding down that hill on a homemade sled or toboggan was the fastest ride ever experienced by youngsters in those pre-auto days.

Another winter pastime for the children was catching rides on the sleighs as they went through town. It was great fun to run and jump on a bobsled runner and ride to the end of town. Then they waited for a sleigh going the opposite direction to catch a ride back.

Roller skating was also popular after about 1925. There was even an indoor rink in the Dreamland Hall for a short time around 1930. [13]

"Run My Good Sheep Run" was a favorite outdoor game played in the early 1900's by Fall

Luttrell # 455

Children enjoyed sliding in 1885, too. Boernke's backyard.

Piano Recital in the Arnold Hotel. Left to right, front row: Margaret Emanuel, Lily Brettin, Viola Muenchow, Thelma Roesler. Back row: Tracy Vogler (Stabenow), Lydia Zetzman, Ella Petrick, Esther Emanuel, Selma Mehls, Elsie Haeske, Ralph Wise, Harry Saunders, Frank "Zip" Zetzman, Harold Conrad (teacher).

Creek youngsters of all ages from five year olds well up into the teen years. Red Rover, I Spy, Keep Away, Cricket and Pum Pum Pullaway were other favorites.

There was usually a music teacher for those youngsters who wanted to learn to play the piano (or whose parents wanted them to learn)! In 1909, there were 21 pianos in the village; in 1911 there were 28. [14] Cora Randall, Simon's daughter, was perhaps the first music teacher in Fall Creek. She gave lessons in her home on State Street. Later, teachers came by train from Eau Claire once a week, giving lessons in the Ziemann home and at the Arnold Hotel.

FOOD

In their eating habits, too, citizens of Fall Creek retained the German traditions. Sauerkraut, sausage, salt pork, smoked hams and bacon, all homemade, were found in nearly every home. Potato pancakes and "punschka" were (and still are) special favorites.

Every farm had its own smokehouse where homemade sausage, bacon, hams, and sometimes even geese were hung. Apple twigs were considered the best wood for smoking. Before smoking, hams were first soaked in a salt brine ("add salt to the water until an egg will float in it") for six weeks; then dried. After smoking, they were covered with coarse pepper and wrapped in a big cheesecloth bag, ready for winter feasts. [15]

Nearly every family in the village owned one or two cows, some chickens, and perhaps a pig.

TYPICAL FALL CREEK RECIPES
(Contributed by Marjory Shong)

Punschka

Cook prunes with sugar; let cool. When cool, remove pits and chop, if desired.

1 cup milk
¾ cup sugar
¼ cup white syrup
½ cup shortening — (Spry)
½ tsp. salt

Bring to almost a boil; when cool, add:

½ cup mashed potatoes with ½ cup potato water
1 egg, beaten
1 pkg. yeast softened in ¼ cup lukewarm water and 1 tsp. sugar (For double recipe, use large yeast cake.)
Vanilla and nutmeg
Flour to make a soft dough

Let rise, take small amount of dough and place desired amount of prune in center. Put together to form a ball. Let rise and fry in deep fat at 375 degrees.

Lepp Christmas Cookies

4 c. brown sugar
6 well beaten eggs
1 c. molasses or part sorghum
½ c. hot water
3 tbsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. cloves
2 tbsp. soda
¾ tsp. salt

Add spices, soda, salt to flour.

6½ c. flour
1 c. ground raisins
1 lb. walnuts, ground

Let stand two days in a real cold place. Then roll out. Spread with beaten egg white. Cut in diamond shape. Press half walnut in center. Bake at 350 degrees about 12 minutes. These can be kept months.

Potato Pancakes

6 c. grated potatoes (raw)
3 eggs
1 tsp. salt
½ c. cream
¼ c. flour

Mix ingredients in order given. Bake on well greased hot griddle. The dough will be quite thin. They may be reheated if you have any left over. Serve with sugar or syrup. 7-8 servings.

Tifka Kleba (Potato Dumplings)

4 c. grated potatoes
1 tsp. salt
2 beaten eggs
2 c. flour
1 lb. diced lean side pork or roast

Grate potatoes, drain off liquid before adding salt, eggs, and flour. If a stiffer dumpling is desired, add more flour. Drop by teaspoonfuls in 5 quarts boiling water to which ¼ cup salt has been added. Boil slowly, about 20 minutes. Drain in colander. Fry the diced pork and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Add the drained dumpling to the meat in the pan and fry about 15 minutes. They are good when reheated. 5 servings.

No man correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present.

— Thomas Macaulay

Herman Ventzke with homemade sausage.

Luttrell #314

Luttrell #139

Philip Lindenthaler home in about 1900 (now Weber Apartments). Left to right: Philip and Mathilda Lindenthaler, Adna Voechting (Zahn), Hilda and George Lindenthaler in buggy, Selma Lindenthaler (Joern).

There was a barn or shed of some kind near each house for the animals and for the winter supply of hay. In the summer, the cows were taken out to pasture each day. Caroline Bartz recalls that when she was about ten years old, she took three or four of the neighbors' cows out to a pasture by the old creamery every morning and brought them back to town each evening. For this, she earned $1.00 per cow for the summer. Elsie Rick tells of working for a farm family all one summer to earn a load of hay for their cow.

WESTWARD MIGRATION

The pioneer spirit was strong among the settlers along Fall Creek; so, when this area became too civilized, many decided to move on to greater challenges and opportunities further west. A number of families moved to Kraemer, North Dakota. In fact, many good Fall Creek names like Shong, Redman, Thiel, and Krenz are also common there today. In 1904, Stephan Wise sold his farms; left his son, Henry, to manage his store in Fall Creek; and headed for Canada with his wife and seven children. They traveled by train to Kraemer, where his married daughter was living, and from there by team and wagon to homesteads near Saltcoats, Canada. Other families who went to Canada were the Herman Mehls, Ed Kopplins, Harkes, and Kaedings.

Later, in about 1910, Montana was the "Land of Promise" and drew many immigrants from Fall

Creek. Among them were the Bartz, August Peuse, Ludwig Schultz, Jul Roesler, Earl Randall, Fred Kunz, and Dan Downs' families. Most of these families left Fall Creek in 1912, and returned again in 1918 after several years of bad weather, crop failures, and hardships.

HOUSES

The first homes in the Fall Creek area were the log cabins built by early settlers. Erv Wilhelm, a skilled carpenter himself, says that he always admired those old cabins: "Some of the logs were 24 inches high and perfectly dovetailed on the corners. And all they had was an ax — a broadax and a choppin' ax, a crosscut saw, and maybe a square — maybe they had to borrow that. They did not have many tools but those cuts on the logs were perfect. Those old guys could really frame a log cabin!"

Some of the homes in the village of Fall Creek are more than a hundred years old. The house in which Caroline Bartz and Lydia Plath live was built by William Niebuhr in 1875. The Bartz family has lived in it ever since. Erna Voechting's house and Charles Russell's house were built about the same time, but Count Ziemann's house is still older. There are, no doubt, others in the village that were also built in those same years.

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Luttrell #199

Fall Creek Fashion Models. Left to right: Hilda Hoehn, Lydia Zetzman, Ida Bartz, Dahlia Kunz, Lillia Hoehn, Lorena Leidiger, Elsie Haeske, Grace Leidiger, Fanny Chambers. About 1910

Luttrell #190

1910 Fashions. Left to right, front row: Lydia Boernke (Sizer), Edith Rohrer, Ella Hoehn (Boernke). Back row: Helen Boernke (Kaatz), Anna Boernke (Moldenhauer), Jennie Boernke (Mrs. Jul).

Luttrell #241

The Kuehn Sisters: Ernestine Menge, Mary Wise, and Julia Geisler. A proper lady **never** parted her hair on the side! About 1915

Luttrell #474

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kopplin (Charlotte Dehnke) 1887.

Luttrell #514

Kunz-Schultz Wedding, 1897. "Lizzie" Schultz, Fred Kunz.

THE "GOOD OLD DAYS"

This review of the "good old days" may cause some to yearn for a time when the pace of living was less hectic, when there was more home-made entertainment and homemade food, when neighbors had time to be neighborly. But lest we get too nostalgic, Martha Zempel reminds us that, "The 'good old days' were not easy days. They were hard."

In 1914, two Fall Creek writers reminded their readers how much they owed their fore-bearers for having endured those hardships: "Let us who are living here in the peace and security of the safeguard of our present government gratefully remember the struggles and hardships of the early pioneer settlers." (Walter Brueske)

"Our security and comfort has come to us out of the hardships and struggles of many that were once well known but are now likely forgotten." (Mr. Zemple)

It would be well for us, too, to remember that our freedoms and comforts have been made possible through the efforts of people who have gone before us. If we can appreciate that, and if we can gain some insight from their mistakes and successes, our journey along the road toward becoming better citizens and better people should be a little easier.

CAPSULE HISTORY

July 4, 1836 — *Territory of Wisconsin* organized, including the present states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota, and parts of Michigan and the Dakotas.

May 29, 1848 — *Wisconsin* admitted to the Union as a state, having been, by that time, reduced to its present boundaries.

Oct. 6, 1856 — *Eau Claire County*, as we know it today, was organized by an act of the legislature.

Nov. 16, 1860 — *Fall Creek Township* set off by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Eau Claire.

Dec. 10, 1860 — Name of the Town of Fall Creek changed to the *Town of Lincoln*. (This was just one month after Abraham Lincoln was elected President of the United States.)

May 29, 1874 — Original plat for Fall Creek filed at the County Court House by the West Wisconsin Railroad Company.

April __, 1906 — *Village of Fall Creek* incorporated (first village board meeting was held April 28, 1906).

FOOTNOTES

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15 Henrietta Voechting.

BIOGRAPHIES & FAMILY HISTORIES

There was not room in this book to print all the biographies of early Fall Creek residents which we have on file. The following is a list of the men and women whose biographies we have collected from various sources which are available at The State Bank of Fall Creek for public use:

Bartz, August	Meyer, Mathias
Bartz, Gus	Mittelstadt, Herman
Boernke, Ferdinand	Niebuhr, Wilhelm
Boernke, Herman	O'Brien, John A.
Boernke, Julius	Petrick, William
Bolin, Peter J	Randall, Simon B.
Cone, Edward R.	Schiefelbein, Fred
Degner, J. W.	Shong, John M.
Gessner, Edward	Steinbring, H. E.
Harke, Julius	Stelter, Gottfried
Heuer, Christoph	Stelter, William
Hoehn, Charles	Strasburg, F.
Honadel, John	Strasburg, John
Horel, Henry	Thiel, August
Hudson, George	Ventzke, Albert
Kaeding, Fred	Voechting, Fred
Kopplin, Herman	Welke, William
Kopplin, Julius	Welke, Samuel
Kromrey, Frederick W.	Wilhelm, Jul
Kromrey, Martin	Zempel, Daniel
Kuehl, Julius	Zempel, Reinhardt
Lanua, Frank	Zetzman, Julius
Lindenthaler, Joseph	Zimmerman, Christian
Lindenthaler, Philip	Ziemann, Ferdinand
Lissack, Charles J.	Ziemann, J. O.
Messerschmidt, August	

Additions to the biography file will be welcomed.

Christoph Heuer, born in 1832, and his wife, Henrietta, came from Pommern, Germany in 1887, and settled on a farm near Fall Creek. Their two sons, Wilhelm (1860) and Frank (1868) were both born in Bromberg, Pommern.

(History of Eau Claire County, 1914, p. 571)

Gottfried Stelter married Anna Justine (Bogen) in Zachesberg, Bromberg, province of Posen, Germany in 1849. They immigrated to the United States that same year, settling first near Princeton, Wisconsin. In 1856, they moved to the Town of Lincoln, near Fall Creek. Gottfried died in 1894, his wife in 1917. Four sons and six daughters were born to the couple, only one of whom stayed in the Fall Creek area. Except for their son John, all the other children emigrated to Canada, North Dakota, and Montana.

(from Anna's obituary, **Fall Creek Journal,** March 9, 1917)

Simon B. Randall, Sr.

Simon Randall was born in the Town of Baldwin (now Sebago), Cumberland County, Maine, on January 1, 1817. He was the youngest of seven children born to John and Sarah Randall. His father, John, was a Baptist minister, as well as a lumberman. Simon attended school at St. John's Academy, and after completing his education, joined his father in the lumbering business.

In 1838, Simon and his brother, George, decided to try their fortune in the far west. They worked their way to Muscatine, Iowa, where their older brother, Thomas, was engaged in farming. After a short stay in Muscatine, they moved on to Wisconsin, attracted by the lumbering.

Simon and George found employment at the Spring Creek Mill on the Chippewa River, working hard to raise capital and becoming partners in several businesses. In 1846, their firm, McCann, Randall, and Thomas completed a dam on the Eau Claire River in what is now the city of Eau Claire. The company store was located where the

Uniroyal Company store stands today. A mill and other buildings were also constructed at the same site, only to have the entire operation, plus 10,000 sawed logs, swept away by a flood on June 5, 1847.

Although the dam and mill were rebuilt, Simon realized that he and his brother lacked capital to fully develop the firm, and decided to get out of the business of manufacturing lumber. He sold his interest in the mill to his partners.

Simon married Louisa Ehrman, a German immigrant, December 25, 1851, and a son, Allen, was born in 1852, reportedly the first white child born in the settlement. Simon purchased timber rights in an area north of Fall Creek, east of County Road "K," and moved his family into the woods. Simon, Jr. was born while the family lived here. Later, the family moved to a cabin on the North Fork of the Eau Claire River where more timber rights had been acquired.

In the spring of 1857, Simon purchased a farm in the Town of Bridge Creek, just west of Augusta. Not only was he interested in good farm land, he also needed a place to keep his oxen and horses during the summer. His children, Ollie, Jeremiah, Cora, Louisa, Frank, and Ida were born during the years the family lived on the farm.

Simon and George continued to log during the winter on Muskrat Creek and the North Fork of the Eau Claire River, taking their logs down the river and selling them in Eau Claire. In addition to buying timber rights, Simon bought land when it was available. In 1870, he turned over the farm near Augusta to his son, Allen, and purchased 600 acres of farm land on the edge of the village of Cousins (now Fall Creek). He also bought the combined boarding house, tavern, and stopping place for the stage on the old Sparta Road. Eight horses were kept ready in the barn for the stages coming from Augusta and Eau Claire. His son Lennie T. was born here.

In 1873, Simon decided to build a grist mill at the site of the falls on Fall Creek, just north of the village. The dam was completed and the mill was waiting for machinery when Simon was killed in an accident in the tavern. Loaded guns were stacked in a corner of the tavern and he was shot by one that was knocked down and accidentally discharged.

He died July 22, 1875, and was buried the next day in the Forest Hill Cemetery in Eau Claire, the city that he helped build and which had honored him and his brother, Thomas, by naming the two high hills on the north side of the Eau Claire River Mount Simon and Mount Tom.

Simon was a good natured man with a free and easy way that always attracted people to him. When he lived in Augusta, he conducted services at the Baptist church and at Hales Corners when no other minister was available. He was a generous man; no one who appealed for aid and was deserving ever went away empty handed. He was an energetic, ambitious businessman and his perserverance overcame the most disastrous misfortunes.

Condensed from "Simon Randall, Chippewa Valley Pioneer", a 1970 term paper by Lucille Drehmel.

Julius Wilhelm was born in 1850 in the Province of Posen, Bezirk (County) of Braunberg, Germany. In 1871, while serving in the Kaiser's Army, he marched through Paris against Napolean. He and his wife, Auguste (Weggen), immigrated to America in 1879, traveling by train from New York to Chicago and from Chicago to Augusta.

The Wilhelms first worked on the Rugotske farm near Augusta as hired hand and housekeeper for $125 a year, plus room and board, for the two of them. In October of 1881, they moved to Fall Creek where Jul was employed by the railroad. When they had saved enough money, they bought a farm northwest of Fall Creek (now the Mike Curler property). They paid $500 for eighty acres, only five of which were broken. The property included a small house and a little shack for a cow or horse.

The Wilhelms had eight children: Louise (Mrs. Fred Puhlmann), Guste, Wihelmine, Bertha, Julius, Fred, Ervin and Edwin (twins).

KAEDING FAMILY HISTORY

MICHAEL KAEDING

(1814-1900)
(Born in Germany, died in
Fall Creek)

Married ROSSINA MUENCHOW

Children Frederick (1837)
Wilhelmina (1840)
Henrietta (1842)
Louise
Rudolph (1851, m. Ernestine Hartwich)
Michael (1855)

FREDERICK W. KAEDING

(1837-1895)
(Born in Germany, died in
Fall Creek)

Married HENRIETTA PUHL (1st wife)

(1841-1882)

Children Albert
Laura
Frank
Fred
Jule
Emma
Pauline

Married BERTHA ZAMZOW (2nd wife)

(1858-1956)

Children Alex
Anna (m. Richard Randall)
Clara
Ewald
Mary } moved to Canada and Wyoming
Emil
Helen (m. Gust Meiscke)
Hugo

ALEX KAEDING

(1889-1966)

Married DAISY ERDMAN

(1893-   )

Children Evelyn
Harold

HAROLD KAEDING

(1921-   )

Married RACHEL DODGE

(1925-   )

Children Steven (1948)
Jean Dodge (1949) (Lewis)
Kathleen (1950)
Mary (1961)

Name was originally Käding

Louise Kaeding's marriage to August
Siegmund Thiel, son of Carl and Louise
(Menge) Thiel, on August 8, 1865, is the
first recorded marriage at St. John's
Lutheran.

Rudolph and Ernestine Kaeding were
the grandparents of: George and Irene
Kaeding, Bernice Menge, Viola Sell, and
Elmer and Henry Kaeding.

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JOHANN FREDRICK SCHILLING

(1813-1871) Born in Germany

Married CHRISTINA (LIPTOW or LIPTEN)

Children Wilhelm
Robert
Johann
Anna
Augusta

Johann Schilling purchased land in Eau Claire County in October, 1858, NW¼ Sec. 2T26N R8W.

JOHANN FREDRICK SCHILLING

(1833-1873)
Born in Leipzig, Germany

Married LOUISE RIECK

Children Herman (m. Bertha Gorrell)
Frederick William (1871)

FREDRICK W. SCHILLING

(1871-1961) Eau Claire County

Married ALVINE H. VOIGHT 1894

(1876-1960)

Children Rudolph (1895, m. Margaret Prill)
Edward (1897, m. Viola Puhl)
Mildred (1899, m. Byron LaMonte)
Ida (1902, m. Arthur Tietz)
Theodore (1905-1905)
Frederick (1909, m. Arlene Fouser;
then Lilah Mae Osborne)
Mabel (1912, m. Thomas Peterson)
Esther (1914-1914)

Father, Julius Voight, Born in Germany, died in Eau Claire County.

FREDERICK A. SCHILLING

(1909-   )

Married ARLENE K. FOUSER 1933

(1916-1976)

Children John Frederick (1934)
Gerald Leon (1937)

JOHN FREDERICK SCHILLING

(1934-   )

Married LORRAINE AIKEN 1953

(1934-   )

Children John (1954)
David (1957)
James (1960)

GERALD SCHILLING

(1937-   )

Married THELMA RUFF 1958

(1937-   )

Children Steven Frederic (1959)
Sandra Jean (1964)

SHONG FAMILY HISTORY

JOHN MICHAEL SHONG

(1829-1891)
(born near Nancy, France)
(died Fall Creek)

Married **CHRISTINE BOLLEY** 1863

in Fall Creek
(1842-1909)
(Born in Germany, probably Hanover,
and died in Ross, N. D.)

Children Charley
Sarah
Christie
Nicholas
Henry
Elizabeth
Cora
Maggie

John Shong is said to have come to America in 1848 and to Fall Creek in 1859. His name first appears on the Town of Lincoln Real Estate Tax Roll in 1861. In 1871, he owned 200 acres east of Fall Creek. All of the children moved to North Dakota except Sarah who married Gust Glenz.

NICHOLAS SHONG

(1871-1915, Fall Creek)

Married **ADONE A. VOECHTING** 10-18-1910

Children Doris (1910) (m. Lawrance Kunz)
Frederick (1912)
Elmer (1913)
Nicholas (1915)

Adone's father was born in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. All children were born in Newburg, North Dakota.

ELMER SHONG

(1913-   )

Married **MARJORY M. DEHNKE** 7-10-55

Children Jon (1956)
Bruce (1957)
Ann (1960)

Marjory was born to Adolph and Lillie Dehnke in the Town of Otter Creek, Wisconsin.

STRASBURG FAMILY HISTORY

JOACHIM STRASBURG

(Born Province of Pommern, Germany)
(Died in Fall Creek)

Married CHRISTIANA   in Germany

(Born, Pommern, Germany, 1824)
(Died, 1897)

Children August (1858)
Frederick
Herman
Henry
John
Louise (married _____Steinke)
Caroline (married _____ Krause)
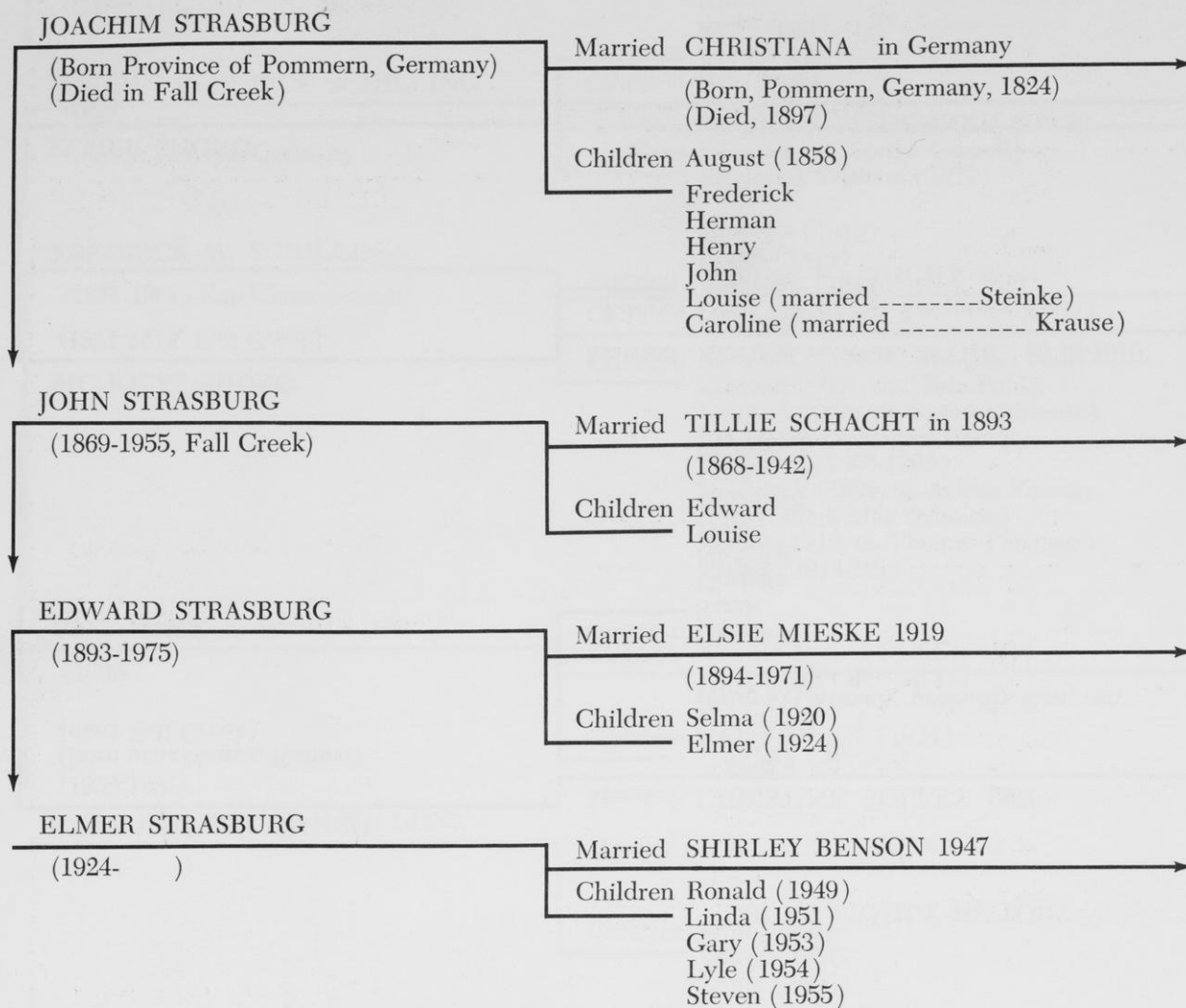
Came to Eau Claire County in 1859.
Purchased NE½ of NE¼, T27N, R7W in
February, 1871.

JOHN STRASBURG

(1869-1955, Fall Creek)

Married TILLIE SCHACHT in 1893

(1868-1942)

Children Edward
Louise

EDWARD STRASBURG

(1893-1975)

Married ELSIE MIESKE 1919

(1894-1971)

Children Selma (1920)
Elmer (1924)

ELMER STRASBURG

(1924-   )

Married SHIRLEY BENSON 1947

Children Ronald (1949)
Linda (1951)
Gary (1953)
Lyle (1954)
Steven (1955)

ZEMPEL FAMILY HISTORY

DANIEL MARTIN ZEMPEL

(1835-1904)
(Born in Radsitz, Posen, Germany, died in Fall Creek)

Married **CAROLINE AUGUSTA HENNING**

in Germany
(1835-1911)
(Born in Germany, died in Fall Creek)

| Dan came to Fall Creek in 1863, homesteaded east of the village. |

Children Marie (m. Frank Launa - E. E. Tobey)
Anna (m. George Brown Downs)
Ida (m. Chas. Bevers)
Gustave (1st Mollie Boernke)
Emma (m. Otto Kopplin)
Wilhelmina (m. Jerry, then Allen Randall)
Augusta (m. Gustave Bartz)
August (Jake) (m. Emma Stolp)
Herman (m. Caroline Clark)
Caroline (m. Johann Gottlieb Lehn)
Frederick (m. Augusta Dahlke)
Reinhardt (m. Christine Friedrich)

| Changed name to John Lane, parents of Ida, Anna, John, Emma, Daniel, Fidas, Caroline, and Rowene. |

REINHARDT HENRY ZEMPEL

(1861-1936)
(Born in Princeton, Wis.)

Married **CHRISTINE FRIEDRICH**

| First married Catherine Faber; she died in 1883.

Christine was the daughter of Rev. J. W. Friedrich, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, Fall Creek. |

Children Katharine ⎫ These three died of
Theodora   ⎬ diphteria as small
Walter   ⎭ children.
Frieda (m. August Koepke)
Erwin (m. Martha Brueske)
Edwin (m. Rosella Gessner)
Margaret (m. Walter Stelter)
Mollie (m. John Johnson)
Martha (died at age 10)
Ilma (m. Evert Wallenfeldt)
Christine (m. Walter Grohn)
Amanda (m. Norman Schanke)
Lydia (m. Bert Mitchell)

ERWIN MARTIN ZEMPEL

(1894-1965) Fall Creek

Married **MARTHA BRUESKE**

| Martha, born 1893 in Fall Creek. Her parents came to this country from Germany. |

Children Mollie (m. Bernard Strasburg)
John (m. Dawn Lowman)
Gwendolyn (m. Dr. L. J. Michienzi)
Richard (m. Barbara Glenz)
Nancy (m. Fritz Geske)

JOHN DANIEL ZEMPEL

(1919-   )

Married **DAWN LOWMAN**

| Farming the home farm east of Fall Creek, purchased in 1959. |

Children Dennis (m. Barbara Dun)
Donna (m. L. G. Sturz)

DENNIS JOHN ZEMPEL

(1945-   )

Married **BARBARA DUNN**

| Dennis and family live in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, where he is a school teacher. |

Children Mark John
Matthew Timothy
Kurt Daniel

FREDRICH ZIMMERMAN

Born and died in Germany
(Neuhof in Pommern)

Married ANNA CHRISTINE ROEHL

(1800-1889) Born in Germany,
died in Town of Lincoln

Children Wilhelm (1818-1887)
Christian (1825-1916,
m. Sophie Strasburg)
Michael (1836-1903)
Johann Friedrich (1828-1889)

Christian Zimmerman, who was born in
Radewich, Stettin, Germany, emigrated
to Lake Mills, Wis. in 1854. He came
to Fall Creek in 1856.
All of Fredrich and Anna Christine's
children were born in Germany and died
in the Fall Creek area.

MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN

(1836-1903)

Married LOUISE STRASSBURG

(1835-1903)

Children Johann Wilhelm (1864- ? ,
m. Ida Ruflat)
Fredrich (1871- ?)
Henry (1867-1931)
August Ludwig (1871- ? ,
m. Alvina Reinke)
Gustave (1873-1938, m. Ida Geisler)
Charles (m. Martha Anderson)
Mathilda (1862-1944, m. John Stelter)
Frank (1876-1934, m. Anna Gonitske,
then Helene Krause)

FRANK REINHARDT ZIMMERMAN

(1876-1934)

Married HELENE EMILIE KRAUSE

(1886-1929)

Children Leona (1920-1921)
Arnold (1921-1967)

ARNOLD F. ZIMMERMAN

(1921-1967)

Married HARRIET GUNEM 1943

(1923-   )

Children Arnold (1943)
Gerald (1945)
Nancy (1946)
Roger (1950)
Russell (1953)
Kristine (1965)

ARNOLD F. ZIMMERMAN, JR.

(1943-   )

Married CAROL WATHKE 1964

(1944-   )

Children Paul (1965)
Jan (1970)

EXPLANATIONS OF CHARCOALS

The charcoal drawings which introduce each of the chapters in this book represent scenes from the Fall Creek area. The artist, William Jefferson, made several trips to Fall Creek to search for subjects which were pertinent to the history of the area and which would lend themselves to his artistic style. He then worked from photographs made by Dean Mathwig.

Chapter I This stump could be any one of hundreds found throughout the woods around Fall Creek, a reminder of the lure which first brought settlers here and of the task which the early settlers had in clearing land for farming. The oak seedling growing from the pine stump symbolizes both the continuity and changes found throughout the history of the community. The new generation, though different than the former one, is, nevertheless, a product of the old, receiving from it its heritage, its support, its perspectives, and its hope for the future.

Chapter II The railroad tracks and bridge north of Fall Creek.

Chapter III The reference for this drawing was the Herman Ventzke barn, one of the oldest barns in the Fall Creek area. Built before Herman's grandfather bought the farm in 1878, it was moved to its present location in about 1899 by Mr. Tarbox. The foundation was built by Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Brettin. The wooden stanchions, added in 1914, are made of tamarack wood.

Chapter IV In the foreground of this picture, we see one of the old tombstones in St. John Lutheran Church cemetery. The church itself, the first Lutheran church in the county, is shown in the background.

Chapter V Here we see a portion of the interior of Pine View School in the Town of Ludington. The old school desks, typical of those used in all the rural schools, show evidence of years of use.

Chapter VI A portion of the first bank building in the village of Fall Creek, now located on State Street, one block south of the present bank.

Chapter VII When John Lane, Sr. (Reinhardt Zempel's son-in-law) first purchased his farm in Seymour, he found many springs and good, clear water. Into one of the springs, just twenty feet below ground level, he drove a pipe to provide water for his family. He and his wife, Caroline, then built a log cabin next to their water supply. As the years went by, they, and succeeding generations, built onto the log cabin; but the pump, which still supplies delicious spring water, and the log cabin remain standing today in their original locations on what is now known as the Henry Lane farm. The Fall Creek water tower, the modern counterpart of the hand pump, is pictured as a reflection in the window behind the pump.

Chapter VIII This could be any one of dozens of life-long residents of our valley telling about the soil he has loved and cared for all his life, reminding us again of the continuity of our history. Other generations will come and go, but this soil will remain. By some it will be used to supply food, by others for habitation, by others to provide beauty. Perhaps future generations will use the soil in ways not even dreamed of today . . . but still the soil, the good earth, will remain.

The photograph facing the back cover. Probably nothing depicts our walk into the future better than this photo of Dan and Danielle . . . one having a tie to memories going back to the beginning of Fall Creek, the other looking with innocence and anticipation to the future. Other Dans and Danielles will carry on the history of Fall Creek, making the chain longer but still continuous.

This example of friendship between the older and younger generations was a common sight in Fall Creek in the spring of 1978, when Dan Lane, grandson of Daniel Zempel, one of the first settlers in Fall Creek, waited each noon to help Danielle Bomball, great-great-granddaughter of John M. Shong, also an early settler, across the street to her home. The story of our valley was begun by the Dan Zempels and John Shongs; and it was continued by people like Dan Lane. The future belongs to Danielle and others of her generation.

AFTERWORD

The illustration on the cover of this history suggests the idea of continuity. *The Sights and Sounds of the Valley,* like any other history, has no identifiable beginning or end. Possibly this book should be referred to as Volume II or III. Unfortunately, we will never see the unwritten beginning of the story of our valley; but at least we now have a better understanding of one particular era.

The events of the succeeding chapters and volumes of our history are already unfolding themselves around each of us here in our valley today. Do you see them? Do your hear them? Do you feel them? Are you a part of them? Our accomplishments and failures will one day fill the pages of the next volume of Fall Creek history.

What will be your contribution to the continuing chain of human events which links the past to the future? Each of us has a responsibility to insure that the future of our valley will be a little better as a result of our having gone before. Our individual responsibility to the future was beautifully illustrated by Rev. Julius Bittner some years ago. When asked whether the congregation should leave its historic 60-year-old church and build a new one on the outskirts of town, this man, who had served in this place of memories for over 40 years, said, "We *must* build the new church, because our generation must leave something important of itself for those who follow."

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional copies of this history of Fall Creek
are available from:
    The State Bank of Fall Creek
    Box 429
    Fall Creek, Wisconsin 54742
    The cost is $10.00 postpaid.

Copies of most photos appearing in this book
or in the composite collection are available at a
cost of $1.75 for a glossy 5x7 print or $2.50 for an
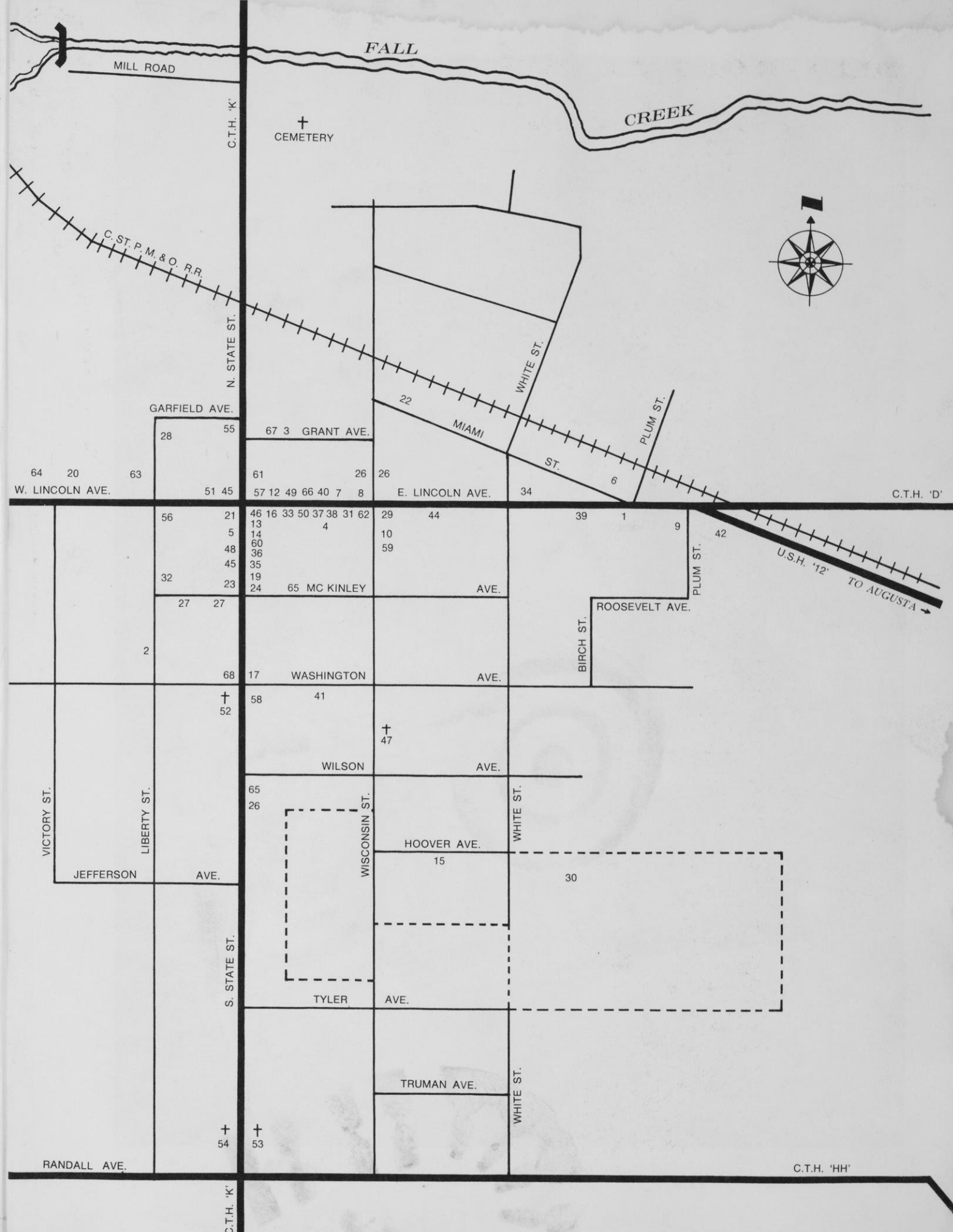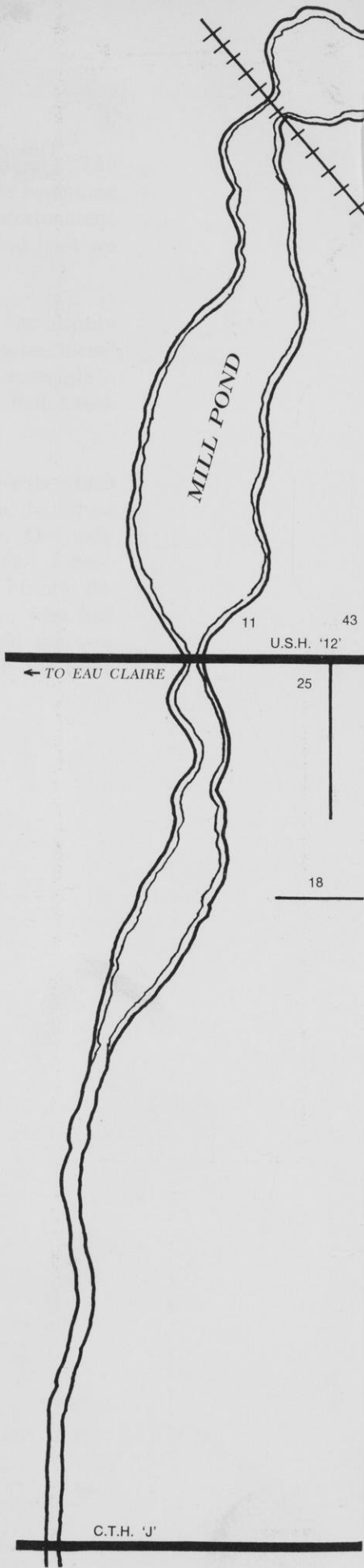8x10 print, including tax and postage.

NOTES

This page is provided for you to add your own personal family history notes or other pieces of information pertinent to the history of Fall Creek.

VILLAGE OF FALL CREEK   1978

KEY TO LOCATIONS

1. VERA ABRAMOVICH HOME
2. AMERICAN LEGION HALL
3. BARTZ HOME
4. BAUMBACH HOME
5. B & B SURGE
6. BILL'S FEED AND FARM SUPPLIES
7. ELLA BOERNKE HOME
8. CHICKEN CHASERS BAR
9. CHIRO-ELECTRIC BUILDING
10. COUNTY SHOP
11. CREAMERY (now Village storage area)
12. DAVE'S FALL CREEK TAVERN
13. JERRY DIETSCHE BARBERSHOP
14. DIETSCHE HOME
15. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
16. EMPIRE GAS
17. FALL CREEK CABLE COMPANY
18. FALL CREEK COMMONS
19. FALL CREEK CO-OP CREDIT UNION
20. FALL CREEK DENTAL CLINIC
21. FALL CREEK FORD
22. FALL CREEK FARMERS CO-OP (Elevator)
23. FALL CREEK HARDWARE
24. FALL CREEK MUTUAL INSURANCE CO.
25. FALL CREEK VALLEY NURSING HOME
26. GANNON APARTMENTS (3)
27. GROSSKOPF APARTMENTS
28. HARDEN APARTMENTS
29. HARV'S TEXACO
30. HIGH SCHOOL
31. HONADEL APARTMENTS
32. J & J IGA
33. JAN'S PLACE
34. JOHN'S NORTH STAR
35. KAISER-FRANEY LAW OFFICE
36. KUNZ HARDWARE
37. KELLER FURNITURE
38. KELLER WAREHOUSE
39. LAUNDROMAT
40. MELVILLE JEWELRY
41. MIDDLE SCHOOL
42. MIDLAND CO-OP
43. MILLSTREAM MOTEL
44. OLSON SHELL
45. PARKING LOT
46. PATZWALD TAVERN
47. PEACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
48. POST OFFICE
49. PROSPECTOR'S DEN
50. RED ONION
51. CHARLES RUSSELL HOME
52. ST. JAMES TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
53. ST. JOHN THE APOSTLE CHURCH
54. ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
55. ERV SELL HOME
56. SINCLAIR STATION (formerly)
57. THE STATE BANK OF FALL CREEK
58. STOKES & SONS FUNERAL HOME
59. WALLEY TANZ WAREHOUSE
60. THE STORE
61. VILLAGE HALL
62. VILLAGE HALL BAR
63. WAYSIDE PARK
64. WALTERS APARTMENTS
65. WEBER-BISKEY APARTMENTS
66. DR. ZBORALSKE'S OFFICE
67. A. E. ZIEMANN HOME
68. LOUIS ZIMMERMAN HOME

Map drawn by Edmund (Moon) Muenchow, Fall Creek

FALL CREEK

MILL ROAD

CEMETERY

C.T.H. 'K'

C. ST. P. M. & O. R. R.

MILL POND

WHITE ST.

PLUM ST.

N. STATE ST.

GARFIELD AVE.

22   MIAMI   ST.

28   55   67 3 GRANT AVE.

11   43   64   20   63   61   26   26

U.S.H. '12'   W. LINCOLN AVE.   51 45   57 12 49 66 40 7 8   E. LINCOLN AVE.   34   6   C.T.H. 'D'

← TO EAU CLAIRE   25   56   21   46 16 33 50 37 38 31 62   29   44   39   1   9   42   U.S.H. '12'   TO AUGUSTA →

5   13   4   10
14   59
48   60
45   36
32   35
23   19
24   65 MC KINLEY   AVE.
27   27
2
ROOSEVELT AVE.
BIRCH ST.
PLUM ST.

18   68   17   WASHINGTON   AVE.

† 52   58   41

† 47

WILSON   AVE.

VICTORY ST.
LIBERTY ST.
65
26
WISCONSIN ST.
WHITE ST.
HOOVER AVE.
15   30

JEFFERSON   AVE.

S. STATE ST.
TYLER   AVE.

† 54   † 53   RANDALL AVE.   WHITE ST.
TRUMAN AVE.

C.T.H. 'J'   C.T.H. 'HH'
C.T.H. 'K'

KEEP
FALL CREEK
CLEAN

Luttrell # 421

The value of this history — and the part each of us has played in it
was summed up so adequately in the following quotation.
"The humbling realization that each of us is merely a link in a chain.
We may someday be forgotten, but the contribution we made to the chain,
however slight, will always be there, AND AS LONG AS THE CHAIN EXISTS,
A PIECE OF US WILL EXIST, TOO." "Finding Our Fathers" by Dan Rottenberg (Random House - 1977)