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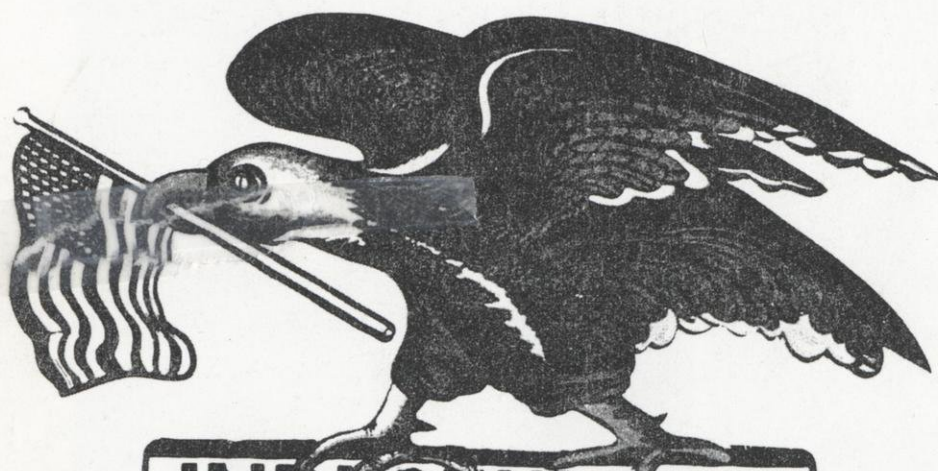
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BICENTENNIAL

1776

1976



INDEPENDENCE

PURPOSE

DIGNITY

NOV. 14 1876-1976

TOWN OF SPENCER CENTENNIAL

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Surprising as it may seem, the following article appeared in a paper on April 15, 1905. It might well have been printed in recent years since "Women's Lib" has become such a prominent issue.

A WORD OF MOTHERHOOD

By Frances Gilbreath-Ingersoll

Be it a hovel or palace, a shack on the prairie, or a "brown-stone front," it is not home until a man places therein the one woman of all the world to him. And when she holds the scepter of motherhood, theirs is a kingdom bounded by the infinities.

If I were to go into that branch of politics called "women's rights," I should try to make a "split in the party" in short order. "Womens rights" too often means children's wrongs, when a woman places outside duty between home and herself, robbing childhood of its "gold" to pay the "price" of worldly ambitions. A woman has the divine right to the selection of those to whom she entrusts the education of her children, a voice in the limitation of vice and intemperance, and the unhampered disposal of her share financially in the firm of Home & Co. I am very glad the "free and equal" clause in our constitution does not include women.

But if a woman really wants it, let her take her place shoulder to shoulder with the men she desires to imitate. Bear arms in time of war, go down in the mine, stand with her hand on the throttle and sail by the same chart. If she wants the "freedom" of man, let her "stand treat" with the boys, carry her own 2:00 a.m. latch key, bet against her husband at horse racing and poker, and compare brands of cigars with him—become an unsexed monstrosity.

The relation of cause and effect between women's rights and "wrinkle removers," "complexion renewers," "shape reformers" and "hair restorers" is clear. Women once craved admiration at home, individually; but in her ever-widening circle she now demands it collectively, and builds to suit the varied tastes of her audience. We all cling to youth, and it is our own prerogative to keep its legitimate charms so long as we may, when the passing years filch them from us one by one.

But there will come a time when the hair is white, the face graved deep with lines, the eye too dim to see beyond the threshold, when we must each write "finis" over the grave of our buried youth.

Beautiful above all women, then, is she whose image is shrined sweetest and fairest and fadeless in the hearts of husband and children, who "rise up and call her blessed."

Gift of:

Spencer Township

For: Spencer Branch Library



Spencer Branch Library
Spencer, WI 54479



DEDICATION

IN THE BICENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WE SALUTE THE CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC ESTABLISHED 200 YEARS AGO BY MEN OF GREAT VISION WHICH SECURED TO "OURSELVES AND OUR POSTERITY" THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY. FOR IT WAS THIS LIBERTY WHICH INSPIRED MEN TO CLEAR THE WOODED WILDERNESS, TO TURN IT INTO PRODUCTIVE FARMS, BUSY COMMUNITIES, AND THRIVING CITIES. FROM SETTLED AREAS AND FOREIGN LANDS THEY CAME, MANY WITH FAMILIES, TO ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE OF A NEW LAND, OF HARDSHIPS AND HARD WORK, IN ORDER TO ATTAIN A BETTER LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR POSTERITY. THE TOWN OF SPENCER CENTENNIAL BOOK IS GRATEFULLY, RESPECTFULLY, AND PROUDLY DEDICATED TO OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC, TO LIBERTY, AND TO OUR PIONEERS.

According to the **History of Marathon County** by Marchetti, the settlement of the present towns of Spencer, McMillan, Day, Brighton, Hull and Holeyton began with the building of the Wisconsin Central Railroad in 1871 and 1872. The Wisconsin Central Railroad entered the township on the southeast corner and ran practically diagonally through the township. By 1872 the railroad was running cars as far north as Colby, but as soon as a person got off the railroad right-of-way, he was in dense woods. The settlers followed the tracks of the railroad, hewing out a place in the heavily forested area. As soon as a trail was cut and the line surveyed, the fine government lands invited homesteaders to come and settle. The lands were taken very slowly at first, because when taken under the homestead law, settlement and residence was required. Without any other highway or road than simply the surveyor's line for a railroad track, it took a mighty brave family to settle and bear all the hardships of pioneer living.

There were several sawmills along the railway, including mills at Mannville, owned by Mann Bros. and a cousin, and several mills located in or near what is now the Village of Spencer. Ownership changed frequently but some of the early owners mentioned were P. A. Thayer, W. C. Clifford, J. J. Kennedy who later moved to Rib Lake. Probably the first mill was owned by James L. Robinson who came from Lubec, Maine and built his mill in 1874. Fire was a deadly enemy of the sawmill in early days and history tells of mills burning and being rebuilt. From Mannville to Unity the white pine predominated as standing timber which accounts for the numerous mills which sprang up along the railway. As late as 1913, there was a small sawmill in the township owned by the Consolidated Farm Company which did custom sawing for farmers.

The majority of the settlers were not emigrants, but native Americans, many of them honorably discharged soldiers of the Civil War who saw a chance to become landowners at a small outlay of money. Emigrants were also attracted to the central Wisconsin area for they could obtain passage to the settlement of Spencer from Bremen or Hamburg, Germany for the sum of \$39.50.

One of the earliest to make homestead entry in the Town of Spencer was John Gardiner. His entry was made on Section 4, Township 26, range 2 east on September 11, 1871, and final proof was made on October 2, 1873. Mr. Gardiner was born in Canada on December 29, 1837 and he died March 29, 1910. He operated a store in Spencer and bought the first hay press in the area. The second settler listed was Edgar Tenant who made homestead entry on September 15, 1871 in Section 30, Township 26, range 2 east and his final proof was also filed October 2, 1873. Other early settlers included John K. Hayward, the first town chairman, who was born in New York September 29, 1834 and died September 7, 1913. Mr. Hayward was also the first postmaster, the post office being located in his house. His son, Marathon, was the first white boy to be born in this settlement. Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Richardson, both born at Compton, Province of Quebec, Canada, came to Spencer in 1875. Mr. Richardson held various town offices as well as being a teacher. Mr. Edwin Heath, the first assessor of the town, came to Spencer in 1875 from Almond. He was born in New York on January 21, 1832 and died September 16, 1909.

Some of the earliest farm settlers who made profitable farms were Charles Drews, Gottfried Rindfleisch, John and Peter Weis, August Griepentrog and Charles Cramer. Clearing of the farmland was very difficult because of the very large pine stumps left standing as the lumberjacks sawed their way through the dense Central Wisconsin forests. Many accounts are read in the early issues of the **Spencer Tribune** of injuries and death suffered while dynamiting and pulling out these stumps.

A very interesting little notebook with the date 1853 written on the first page contained the following description of the Town of Spencer as seen through the eyes of the Deputy Surveyor, Oscar Wright. "This township is mostly all hemlock; the most is found too flat for cultivation but would make good meadow. There are but few swamps and most of them are good for meadows, being black alder and being nearly all dry. The town is poorly watered. The upland is good 1st and 2nd rate quality. There is some good white pine in this township but scattering." Mr. Wright commenced surveying the township on December 5th, 1853 and finished December 17th, 1853. Assisting him were two chairmen and an axeman.

It is interesting to note that before Spencer was incorporated into a township on November 14, 1876, it formed a part of the Town of Brighton. After its incorporation into a separate township, it still took in territory almost twice the size of the Town of Spencer as it is today. This extra territory included the larger part of what is known as the Town of McMillan and was included in the Town of Spencer until December 21, 1888.

The first election of the Town of Spencer was held on April 3rd, 1877 at the house of Wm. Waters. J. W. Lowe acted as Chairman of Inspectors and 157 voters registered. H. W. Bennett and W. H. Tilden were chosen Inspectors and C. K. Richardson was chosen Clerk. Polls opened according to law. At 12 polls were closed for one hour. On motion the meeting voted to raise six hundred and fifty dollars for incidental expenses of the town for the ensuing year. On motion the meeting voted to raise one thousand dollars as a special road tax for highways and bridges. On motion W. S. Benedict was chosen Overseer of Road District No. 3; D. W. Bodle chosen Overseer of Road District No. 1; P. Cranmer chosen Overseer of Road District No. 2; and O. B. Foster chosen Overseer of Road District No. 4. One o'clock P. M. polls opened according to law. Five o'clock P. M. polls closed according to law. Elected as town officials for the coming year were: J. K. Hayward, chairman; Charles McMillen and J. H. Mann, supervisors; Frank Whipple, town clerk; John Dimond, treasurer; H. W. Bennett, W. S. Benedict and R. H. Wright, three justices of peace; G. Reas and P. Cranmer, two constables; and Ed Heath, assessor.

Minutes of the First Town Meeting—April 21, 1877

Proceedings of the first meeting of the town board of Supervisors of the Town of Spencer held at the office of the town clerk of said town. Members present: J. K. Hayward, chairman; C. V. McMillen and J. H. Mann, supervisors.

Board decided to assess the highway mill tax at 4 mills on the dollar. Board decided that the special tax voted to be raised for highways and bridges be apportioned to the road dists., according to their several assessed valuations of this year. Also decided to pay out no money from this fund for labor on highways until the work has been accepted by them.

Board decided that the license for selling liquor be seventy five dollars.

Board hereby authorizes town clerk to procure book and blanks for use of town.

Board decided to change the Nos. of school dists. three and five of the Town of Brighton to Nos. one and two of the Town of Spencer respectively.

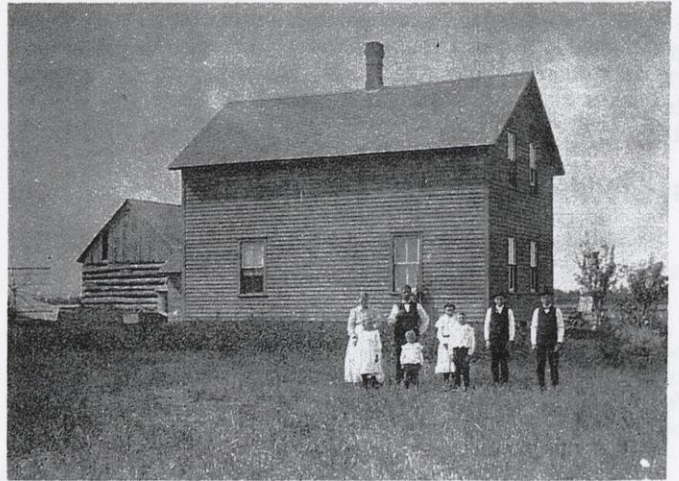
Board ordered and determined that Sects. No. five, six and seven of Town 26 range three now part of school dist. No. three be taken from said district and attached to and become a part of school dist. No. four.

Board ordered and determined that sections thirty-one and thirty-two in Town 26 range three now part of school district No. three be taken from said and attached to and become a part of school district No. two.

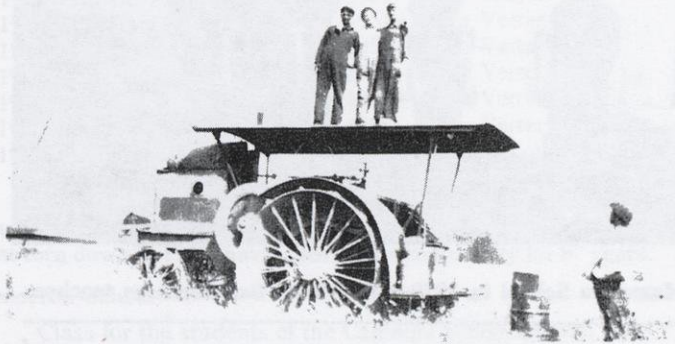
Board ordered and determined that the same changes be made in the highway lists as in the school districts.



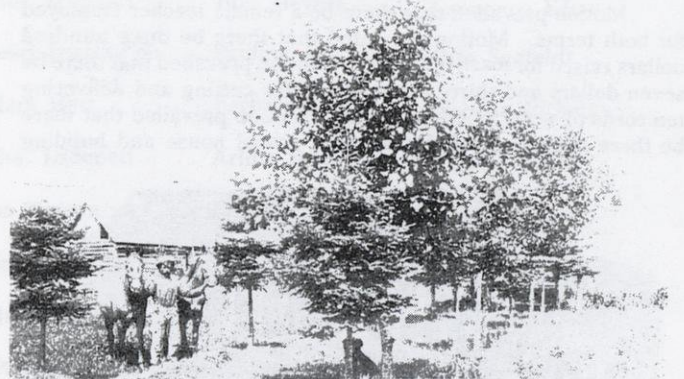
Load of logs were cut. Place and people unknown.



The home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Korth Sr. In the picture are Mrs. Korth and Gustie, Mr. Korth and Louis, Minnie and Ernie, and Frank and Bill.



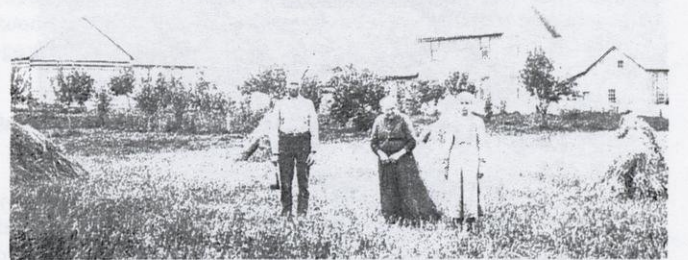
August Popp Farm, 1926. Paul Daum, Frank Huetter, Pete Wiltgen and Frank Huetter Jr. on ground.



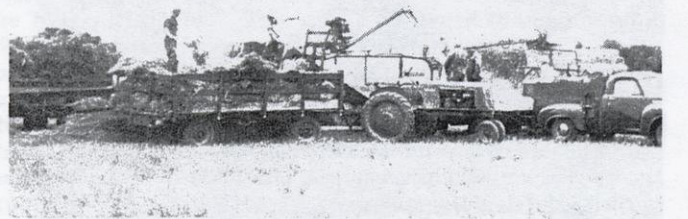
These buildings are presumed to be the Charles Hildebrandt farm located in Sec. 32. Charles is standing holding the team of horses.



John P. Weis and Wm. Weis. Taken in Germany during World War I.



August Popp, his mother, and Bertha Gauger.



Threshing oats on the Weis farm: Ed Weis, Fred Larson's hired man, Ed Serch, Bill Weis, and Ray Weis.

The following accounts were audited. Acct. of J. W. Lowe for one-day service as Inspector of town meeting, amount \$2.00. Order issued. Acct. of W. H. Tilden for one-day service as Inspector of town meeting, amount \$2.00. Order drawn May 5, 1877. Board adjourned. Frank Whipple, Town Clerk

SCHOOLS

For the term commencing September 1, 1876 and ending August 31, 1877, the following statistics were available.

There were four districts—1, 2, 3, and Jt. Dist. 4. Total number of boys and girls attending school was 141. Four teachers were hired with males being paid \$50 per month and females being paid from \$25.50 to \$32.50. Total money received or on hand August 31, 1876 was \$2,022.19.

The following was taken from the proceedings of the annual school meeting held in School District 4 of the Town of Brighton and Spencer Joint for the year 1879, August 25th.

“Motion prevailed that there be eight months school. Four months winter term commencing the 15th day of October; four months summer term commencing the second Monday in May.

Motion prevailed that there be a female teacher employed for both terms. Motion prevailed that there be three hundred dollars raised for teacher’s wages. Motion prevailed that there be seven dollars and thirty cents raised for cutting and delivering ten cords of wood at school house. Motion prevailed that there be three dollars raised for banking school house and building

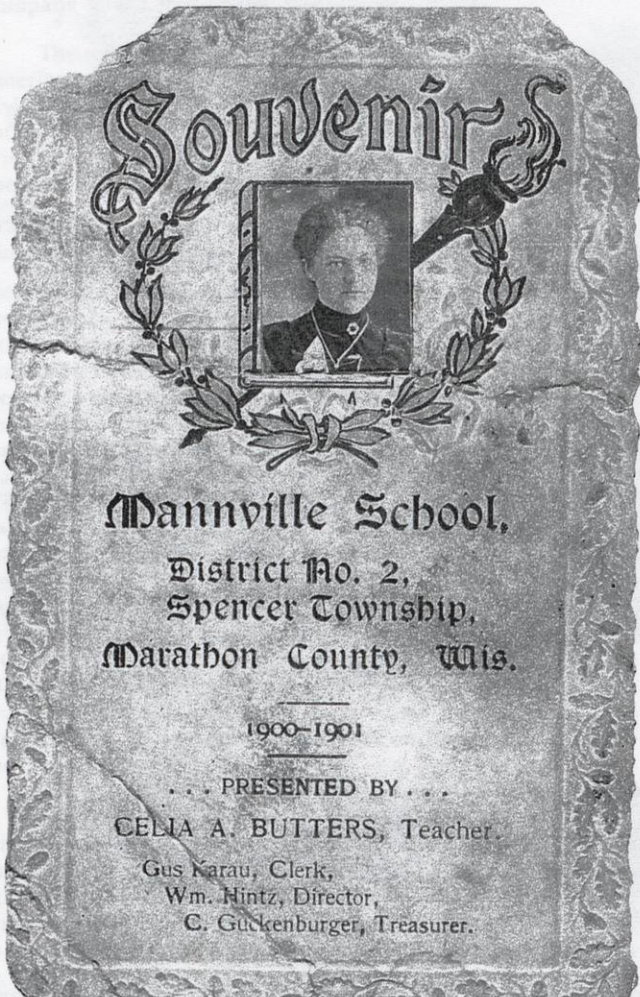
platform in front. Motion prevailed that there be six dollars raised for clerk’s fees. Motion prevailed that there be one hundred and fifty dollars raised for incidental purposes. Motion prevailed that four hundred and sixty-six dollars and thirty cents be raised for school purposes. Benj. Gilpin, Clerk”

Mannville School

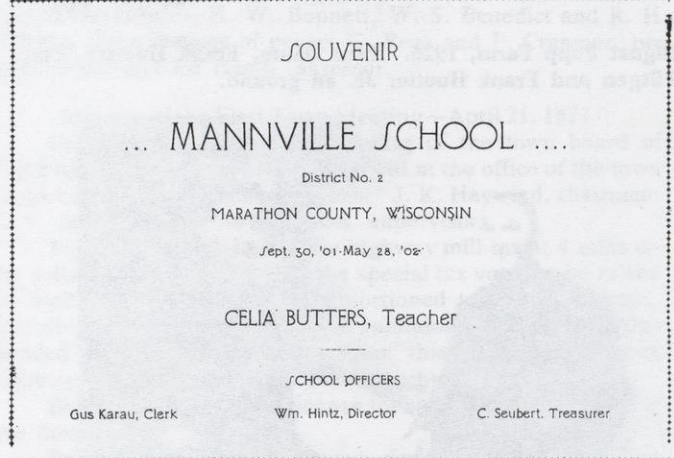
The Mannville School opened its doors in 1875. When the terrible forest fire destroyed most of Mannville in 1893, the school was burned also. It was rebuilt at a cost of \$135.65. In the old school records, there was a notation saying that Joe Zahn had supplied one cord of wood for the school at the cost of \$1.45.



Mannville School in 1920 with Albert Barwineck as teacher.



A souvenir of the Mannville School from 1900-1901.



The following is a list of teachers:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1875—Fannie Howe | 1886—Della Finerty |
| 1876—Alice Graves | 1887—Della Finerty |
| 1877—Isabelle Hulce | 1888—Della Finerty |
| 1878—Kate Bently | 1889—Susan Gaffney |
| 1879—Miss McArthur | 1890—Susan Gaffney |
| 1880—Luella A. Perry | 1891—Susan Gaffney |
| 1881—Maggie Ogle | 1892—Thos. Gaffney |
| 1881—Alice Hulce | 1893—Bessie Gardner |
| 1882—Miss C. B. Franklin | 1894—Bessie Gardner |
| 1882—Miss Hattie McGann | 1894—Hatty Hayward |
| 1883—Miss Hattie McGann | 1894—Katie Gichrist |
| 1884—Miss Hattie McGann | 1895—Katie Gichrist |
| 1885—Della Finerty | 1895—Albert Butters |

1896—H. G. Andres	1925—Agnes Holzschuh
1897—Celia Butters	1926—Agnes Holzschuh
1898—Celia Butters	1927—Frances Krause
1899—Celia Butters	1928—Frances Krause
1900—Celia Butters	1929—Hilda Schwantes
1901—Celia Butters	1930—Viola Kautza
1902—Celia Butters	1931—Viola Kautza
1902—Ella Blankenburg	1932—Dorothy Koch
1903—Ella Blankenburg	1933—Dorothy Koch
1904—Ella Blankenburg	1934—Dorothy Koch
1905—Hattie B. Bentz	1935—Dale Driscoll
1906—Ethel E. Bucklin	1936—Dale Driscoll
1907—Minnie Zahr or Yahr	1937—Dale Driscoll
1908—Anna Weigel	1938—Dale Driscoll
1909—Anna Weigel	1939—Charlotte Holterman
1910—Elsa Hupe	1940—Charlotte Holterman
1911—Elsa Hupe	1941—Iris Peterson
1912—Christine Sorenson	1942—Iris Peterson
1913—Christine Sorenson	1943—Martha Beahm
1914—Christine Sorenson	1944—Erma Guenther
1915—Christine Sorenson	1945—Erma Guenther
1916—Christine Sorenson	1946—Louise Buetsch
1917—Gertrude Cramer	1947—Louise Buetsch
1918—Mrs. Matt Britten, Jr.	1948—Louise Buetsch
1918—Edna Sparhawk	1949—Louise Buetsch
1918—Hattie Frost	1950—Alice Vetter
1919—Eleanor Peterson	1951—Alice Vetter
1920—Frieda Stuhr	1952—Alice Vetter
1921—Frieda Stuhr	1953—Alice Vetter
1922—Frieda Stuhr	1954—Alice Vetter
1923—Albert Barwineck	1955—Alice Vetter
1924—Agnes Holzschuh	1956—Marian Kobs

When the Mannville School finally closed its doors to students at the end of the term, it was converted into a church. It was torn down in 1962, having served its community for 87 years.

Cameron School

Class for the students of the Cameron School District were held in the town garage prior to the completion and opening of the new school which occurred after Christmas in 1903.



Cameron School, about 1911: Top row, L to R— Maud Riethers, Margaret Lessleyong, Hattie Schultz, Olive Jensen, Teacher, Willie Reithers, Jake Rizzi, Harold Drews, Clarence Genett. Third row— ?, Evelyn Eckes, Martha Schultz, Helen Schultz, Second row— ?, Pete Gessert, Charles Gennett, ?. Bottom row— Gertrude Gessert, Walter Ives, Helmuth Schultz, Geneva Eckes, Mudschen Schultz, ?, Caroline Eckes, ?, Gertrude Eckes, Forrest Genett.



Another picture of students at Cameron School when Albert Barwineck was teacher.

The following were teachers:

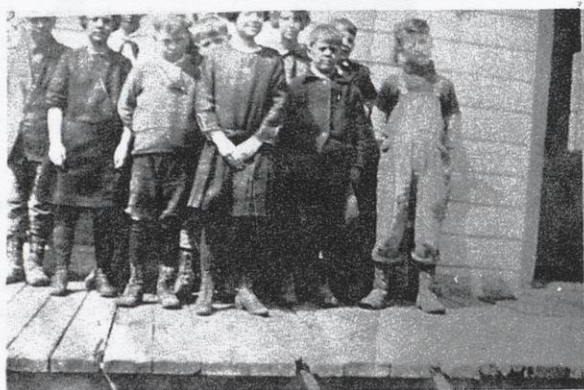
Maude Welsh	Lydia Schmidt	George Hull
Effie Williams	Julia Beyers	Lawrence Kline
Pearl Lessington	Pauline Justman	Otto Seefeldt
Mary Hart	Barbara Beyers	Isabelle Pickett
Mrs. Lodonett	Arline Brost	Crystal Fandry
Ina Damon	Elsie Crossgrove	Oscar Boethe
Linda Freeman	Ethel Andrews	Irma Guenther
Margaret Sike	Frank Merrill	Margaret Reineking
Christine Sorenson	Arlie Schjonneman	Clara Hauke
Hattie Louchinger	Clara Koch	Bernice Gauger
Olive Jensen	Ruth Schultz	Margaret Shupe

Consolidation of the small rural schools spelled the end of Cameron School and it held its last classes in 1956. The building stood empty for one or two years and then was sold and moved to Spencer.

Brighton School

The Brighton School was made up of a joint district with students from both the Town of Spencer and the Town of Brighton. The original school, a one-room log building, was located in the Town of Spencer on land now owned by Chester Lipsey. As was the case in many of these early schools, it was decided that a more central location would better serve the area. Thus, the second school was built on a corner of the farm then owned by George Schwantes, just across the town line road in the Town of Brighton. This school continued to operate until 1961 when consolidation with the Joint District No. 1 of Spencer took place. Brighton School was one of the last area schools to remain open. The building has since been converted into an attractive home owned by Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Gripentrog and stands on its original location. Records for a complete list of teachers was not available but through talking with many former students, we were able to come up with the following information. As far as can be determined, a gentleman by the name of Butters (Harry or Albert) was the first teacher. In 1909 Eva M. Kalk taught 38 children for \$35. Flora Clark was hired

for the same sum in 1910 and from 1911 to 1914 Gertrude Baker received \$38 to \$40.



Students at the Brighton School.



Brighton School built in 1878 or 1879. The following pupils appear in this picture: Ervin Rindfleisch, Earl Cramer, Arthur Schwantes, Bill Baker, George Luepke, Walter Luepke, Louis Korth, Philip Smith, Emil Schwantes, Alvin Schwantes, Leonard Cramer, Walter Neuman, Esther Schwantes, Mildred Voelker, Myron Foth, Minnie Siebarth, Adelia Schwantes, Emil Cartwright, Miss Gertrude Baker [teacher], Leona Siebarth, Lorena Krause, Minnie Voelker, Artelia Voelker, Mildred Voelker, Myrtle Schwantes, Linda Gripentrog, Laura Schwantes, Ethel Baker, Helen Smith, Linda Neuman, and Lydia Gripentrog.

The list of teachers which follows is not necessarily in correct order.

Agnes Pickett	Ina Helsten	Pearl Schulz
Donna Blaisdell	Ethel Baker	Henry Rust
Martha Potts	Celia Kurth	Ivy Sorenson
Mary Fuller	Esther Beyreis	Evelyn Witt
Ella Blankenberg	Edna Nequette	Erna Douglas
Kate McCormick	Elroy Rundle	Hazel Rohloff
Lydia Schmidt	Dorothy Georgas	Martha Beahm
Florence Couper	Lloyd Ravey	Alice Vetter
Margaret Holzem	Louise Gregerson	Nina Engel
Minnie Larson	Muriel Rhoads	

Timlin School

The Timlin School (also known as the **Reckner School**) was also made up of a Joint District lying partly in the Town of Spencer and the Town of McMillan. At one time the school was located on a hill less than one-fourth mile east of the McMillan-Spencer town line. This hill is now part of the 203 acres which comprise the Rocky Maple Ridge Dairy Farm owned by Marvin Carlson, presently the constable of the Town of Spencer. Enormous boulders and the many hard maple trees found on this hill have given the farm its name.



Seventh & eighth grade class of Timlin School in about 1929: 1st row: Aloyious Burggraf. 2nd row: Charlie Miller, Herman Frank, Adam Wojcik, Peter Skaya, Hugo Lau, Marie Schilling, Gertrude Adamski. 3rd row: Ernest Frank, Frank Wojcik, John Talkowski, John Adamski, James Liebelt, Rose Talkowski, Ella Brown, Lydia Lau, and Antonia Perlock.

Old timers recall when the boys would run into the woods during their noon hour to capture snakes with which they teased the girls.

The school was removed from the hill and hauled to a more central location in the district along County Trunk C and the road now known as St. Joseph Avenue. Moving the school was accomplished by sawing the building in half. This took place in December of 1918 and January 1919.

Although it was impossible to obtain a complete and accurate list of teachers, we did find that the following taught at one time:

Flora Clark	Marlene Schwantes	Dale Driscoll
Esther Seitz	Alice Schaefer	Margaret Koch
Margaret Fandry	Minnie Larsen	Lila Ehrike
Amy Blankenberg	Eva Holzem	Lily DeVries
Veneta Merrill	? Meidel	Mae McGonigal
E. Hanson or Johnson	Sophia Hlavac	Beverly Tyrolt
Elizabeth Thon	Ella Mueller	Martha Beahm

The doors of the school closed in the Spring of 1955 and part of the district was attached to Joint District No. 1 of Spencer. The school was then moved to the Wm. Weis farm where it was used as a shed for a number of years and then torn down.



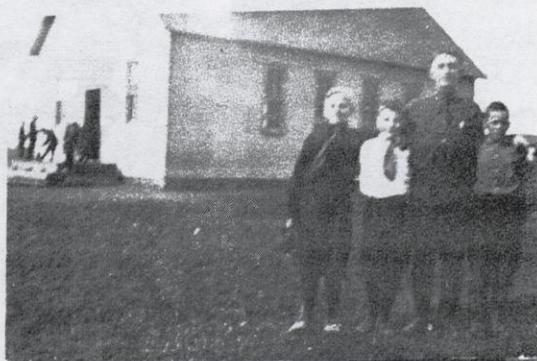
The Sawyer School as it looks today.

Sawyer School

Still sits the schoolhouse by the road,
 A ragged beggar sunning;
 Around it still the sumachs grow,
 And blackberry vines are running.

Although its original purpose as an institution of learning has long been discontinued, the Sawyer School building still retains its original form while serving in another capacity. The brick building was closed as a school in 1945 or 1946 and the students were then transported to Jt. District # 1 in the Village of Spencer.

Centrally located along Highway 13 in Section 15 it has served as the Town Hall for the Town of Spencer since 1950. The first Sawyer School was a wooden structure.



Another view of old Sawyer School.



In front of old Sawyer School: Roy Dittman, Edwin Adams, Max Nigl and Albert Barwineck, kneeling.



Students at the Sawyer School.

A partial list of teachers was obtained through conversations with town residents and former students. These teachers were:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------|
| Albert Barwineck | Pearl Meyer |
| Lydia Schmidt | Alma Schmidt |
| Elsie Urban | Martha Beahm |
| Alex Larson | Lenore Faulks |
| Henry Rust | ? Dommer |
| Vesta Felling | Lila Luck |
| Viola Schwantes | Fern Goerman |



An early picture of the Cameron School when Christine Sorenson was teacher. Also in the picture but not in order are Walter Ives, Peter Gessert, Muchen Schultz, Mabel Ives, Gertrude Eckes, Geneva Eckes, Gertrude Gessert, Helen Schultz, Evelyn Eckes, Cecelia Gessert, Carolyn Eckes, Hattie Moede, and Max Schultz.



MANNVILLE SCHOOL PICTURE* 1905: Roy Greisbach, Mabel Greisbach, Holda Egger, Adella Karau, Ernest Egger, Wenzel Egner, Matt Britten, Silas Huber, Esther Huber, Harriet Bentz [teacher], Emil Brehem, Albert Hoff, Emma Gauger, Emil Karau, Julia Egger, Ben Seubert, Flossie Martel, Eva Betts, Alvina Huber, Eva Schmidt, Emma Karau. Sitting on bench, from left: Edwin Egger, Ernest Brehem, Olga Gauger, Emil Gauger, Rose Brehem, Edwin Schmidt, Frank Egner, Alice Flischman, Louis Britten. Sitting on ground: Alma Brehem, Lilly Huber, Agnes Flischman, Martha Koch.



Gust Karau Sr. family. Front seat, Mr. and Mrs. Karau, Adela and Emma. Back seat, Gust Jr., Ida, Elsa, Emil. Two children, Eldor and Reinhold were not on the picture. Reinhold [Reinie] owned Karau's Super Market in Marshfield.



L to R: Mrs. Wm. Krause, son Harold, Wm. Krause [a former town chairman]. Purchased by Ray Hoff, who built a new barn and an addition to the house. Along highway 13, new owner is Conrad Kozik.



Two Zahn sisters, Josephine and Mary.



The interior of the old Sawyer School with Fern Goerman, teacher.



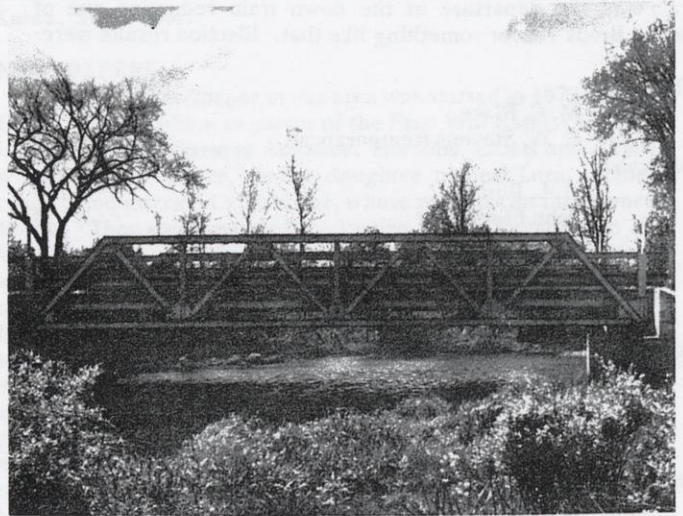
Contrasting yesteryear with today. Fred Foth and Frank Oelrich sit on the wooden portion of the bridge on County Trunk C which spans the Little Eau Pleine. Even the younger settlers of our town can remember when C was barely passable in the Spring.



A souvenir of the Sawyer School from 1911-1912.

ROADS

Roads were often described as corduroy or turnpikes with nearly every meeting having a petition presented for the building of a road. Overseers were elected at each annual meeting. The following is an excerpt taken from the meeting held on April 15th, 1880. "Board decided that each highway overseer shall be required to enter a bond in double the amount estimated to come into his hands; with two sufficient sureties to be approved by the Board on the sixth day of May next. Ordered that the bond of Overseer of District No. 1 be to the amount of \$700, that the bond of Overseer of District No. 2 be \$500, that the bond of Overseer



The bridge as it looks today. Often fishermen can be seen trying their luck when the waters aren't too high.

No. 3 be \$600 and the bond of Overseer No. 4 be \$150." On January 1, 1897 orders were made out to Frank Korth, Frank Schwantes, G. Rindfleisch and Chas. Schwantes for cutting ice from highway.

Roads weren't too good even in 1914 as the following was found in the treasurer's report on January 21, 1914 — Chas. Haslow, damage to auto on highway, \$30. — It was also interesting to note that brushing in those days paid 15 cents per rod. Chas. Drews was given the job of brushing out 220 rods along a road.

In the minutes of a meeting held June 4, 1900, the following was recorded: Board met at the Hayward Crossing south of the Village of Spencer for the purpose of witnessing a test of a road grader on trial by the agent of the Austin-Western Co. of Chicago. Members present were Chas. Rienow and W. W. Andrews, first supervisor. The trials proving satisfactory, the said grader was purchased upon the following terms: Payment to be made in two payments, one falling due March 1st, 1901 and the other falling due on March 1st, 1902. The promissory notes were given for \$125 each, the one falling due in 1901 without interest.

GOVERNMENT

It appears that people were very interested in their local government before the turn of the century. From the local paper came the following: "At the caucus to nominate candidates for town offices held at Prentice Hall yesterday, the following men were successful: For chairman of the Board of Supervisors, M. C. Blake; Side Board, H. D. Bump, John Frothinger; Town Clerk, J. H. Neil; Treasurer, Frank Whipple; Assessor, J. B. Gill; Justices, full term, C. K. Richardson; to fill vacancy, E. T. Pierce; Constable, J. A. Honeywell, W. S. Albright, and Albert Janecke."

"Many citizens of the Town of Spencer, recognizing the worthiness of our present Town Clerk and feeling that no other could be an improvement, desire to place before the people the name of Thos. S. Norton, as a candidate for their vote on Tuesday next. Signed, Many Citizens."

Continuing a little farther in the old Spencer papers, we found the following account and results of the election held on April 4, 1882.—Mannville voters turned out almost enmasse on election day, and the crowd in town between the arrival of the up train and the departure of the down train reminded one of Donny Brook Fair or something like that. Election results were:

Chairman:		
	M. C. Blake	233
	E. W. Stevens (temperance)	7
Supervisor:		
	H. L. Bump	235
	John Frothinger	128
	P. Newton	109
	N. L. Sweet (temperance)	4
	O. A. Britton (temperance)	4
Town Clerk:		
	J. Neils	84
	Thos. S. Norton	153
	O. A. Britton	3
Assessor:		
	J. B. Gill	213
	Wilbur Green	3
	E. W. Stevens	5
	B. Nokes	1
Treasurer:		
	Frank Whipple	236
	N. L. Sweet	4
	C. K. Richardson	1
Justice of Peace:		
	C. K. Richardson	212
	E. F. Pierce	236
	A. W. Raymond	20
	E. W. Stevens	3
	N. L. Sweet	3
	J. K. Hayward	2
Constable:		
	J. A. Honeywell	227
	W. S. Albright	236
	A. Janecke	230
	O. A. Britton	4
	N. L. Sweet	5
	E. W. Stevens	4
	Chas. Salisbury	7
	P. Kissinger	1

Because the Town of Spencer included the Village of Spencer, all early annual elections were held in buildings in the village. Buildings mentioned most frequently were Farrington's Hall, J. S. Damon, G. Wendell's Feed Mill, Neil Bros., Louis

House, Prentice Hall, Charles Stoltenow's building and Pioneer House. Meetings of the town board were usually held at the clerk's house. In 1905 a site for the town hall was purchased from Herman Plath for \$25.00. Action on this matter was originally taken at the annual meeting in 1904 at which time it was voted to procure a site as near the center of the town as practicable. It was also voted that the Town Board shall borrow \$500 for the erection of said town hall. On April 20, 1905, the Board met at the house of Wm. Kommer to let the job of building the town hall to the low bidder. The low bid of \$380 was awarded to Adolph Ehlers.



Election board at the Spring primary, 1976: L to R, Gertie Bodendorfer, Marian Karau, Helen Hoff, Pat Kibbel, Diane Heckel.

Election officials worked at the polls for \$2.00 a day, polls generally opening at 9:00 and closing at 5:00 with a break during the day for the annual meeting. In the congressional election of 1878, the Town of Spencer, which then included the town and village, cast over 200 votes, the largest that was cast in any town or village in Marathon County outside the city of Wausau. From that time on, the vote decreased because sawmills pulled out as the timber vanished, and farming increased. It appears according to the town records, that the town and village of Spencer operated together as a single unit until 1903 at which time a settlement was made. Contract and Agreement dated January 30 and February 6, 1903 read as follows:

"According to the terms of the settlement made between the Town of Spencer, Marathon County, Wisconsin and the Village of Spencer, County and State aforesaid, said settlement being made on the 30th day of January and the 6th day of February 1903, it is hereby agreed that the Western Road Grader now in the Village of Spencer should be owned jointly by the town and said village to be used in the village and the northern road districts of the town and that the expense of keeping the same in repairs should be borne jointly by said town and village. That the outside liabilities of the town at the time of the separation of the village should pay its proportionate share amounting to 25% of the whole of said liabilities and consists of the payment price of our road machine \$250 payment on which fall due as follows: On or about April 1, 1903, \$125 with interest. On or about April 1, 1904, \$125 with interest. That the Village should pay its proportionate share of the following bills—."

Because of the dense woods and lack of proper fencing, there were frequent reports of livestock being lost or strayed. A portion of the Town Records had the label ESTRAYS under which the following items were recorded:

Frank Cressy this day files notice of a stray described as follows "to-wit"— one mare bay color about 16 years old. Hollow back. Right hind foot white, the owner of which is

unknown, having come upon the premises owned and occupied by him "to-wit." The North 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 7, Town 26, Range 2 in the Town of Spencer, State of Wisconsin being there found was taken up by him.

Notice filed this 8th day of October 1881. Thos. S. Norton, Clerk.

Jan. 9, 1882— Affidavit of R. W. Spencer residence Section 24 Town 27, Range 2 in the Town of Brighton, Marathon County, Wisconsin, that he is the owner of the stray described above, the same having strayed from his possession October 7, 1881. Thos. S. Norton, Clerk.

Jan. 28, 1889— Tim Shay, this day files notice of a stray described as follows: One steer, color black, with white under belly and about two years old, the owner of which is unknown, having come upon premises owned and occupied by him in Mannville on Section 26 North, Range 2 East in Marathon County, Wisconsin, being then found was taken up by him. Notice filed this 28th day of Jan. 1889.

G. E. Vandercook, Town Clerk.

Jan. 28, 1889— Certified copy of Notice referred to made and transmitted to County Clerk. G. E. Vandercook, Town Clerk.

Jan. 28, 1889— Appraisal of property described above made by N. A. Gafney, a justice of the Peace, filed in the office of the Town Clerk of Spencer, this 28th day of January 1889.

Value of said property appraised at	\$10.00
Fees for certificate	.25
Fees for travel	.20

G. E. Vandercook, Town Clerk

TOWN CHAIRMEN

1877—J. K. Hayward
 1878—H. H. Chandler
 1879—A. J. Brock & G. C. Stanford
 1880—P. A. Thayer
 1881-1883—M. C. Blake
 1884—John Gardiner
 1885-1888—Chas. Schilling
 1889—H. Robinson
 1890—J. K. Hayward
 1891-1892—E. Heath
 1893-1894—M. P. Hartford
 1895-1904—Chas. Reinow
 1905-1912—F. C. Blankenburg
 1913—Andrew Sorenson
 1914-1918—F. C. Corbett
 1919-1926—H.C. Andrews
 1927-1934—W. F. Krause
 1935—H. C. Andrews
 1936—Henry Schmidt
 1937-1940—H. C. Andrews
 1941-1962—Wm. E. Weis
 1963-1970—Victor Carpenter
 1971-1976—Arnold Dieringer
 1976—Andrew Bodendorfer, Jr.

PRESENT TOWN BOARD

Andrew Bodendorfer, Jr.
 Ernest Karau
 Donald Drews
 Theodore Oelrich
 LaVern Kibbel
 Marvin Carlson
 Ernest Karau

CHAIRMAN
 SUPERVISOR
 SUPERVISOR
 TREASURER
 ASSESSOR-CLERK
 CONSTABLE
 HEALTH OFFICER

April 7, 1882— Twelve more families are enroute for Spencer direct from Germany. Let them come, there is good land here and they are just the kind of settlers to develop our country.

May 19, 1882— Supervisors Blake and Frothinger have been looking over the town to ascertain the place where they can invest about \$750 of town funds and do the most good to the greatest number of building roads.



The present Town Board, L to R: Donald Drews, Supervisor; Ted Oelrich, Treasurer; Marvin Carlson, Constable; LaVern Kibbel, Clerk-Assessor; Andrew Bodendorfer Jr., Chairman; Ernest Karau, Supervisor.

NEWSPAPERS

The first newspaper in our area was started in 1879 by Rev. E. W. Stevens, who was pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church. It was called **The Spencer Advance**. His sons, Elbert and Albert, worked on the paper, and a daughter named Lura. Elbert courted and married Captola Bar, whose parents ran the **Spencer House**. They were married by Justice A. W. Raymond in the Woods, with Lura and her beau as witness, so you can see there was some romance in the early days, as now. Rev. Stevens only ran the paper about two years when it was taken over by A. B. Barney of Mayville. He was born June 2, 1835 and attended one term at Whitewater Normal School, went to the United States Military Academy at West Point; then studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1878 and moved to Spencer where he practiced his profession and dealt in real estate. He died in 1910, having been at different times in the last years of his life an inmate of the state hospital at Winnebago. He left no family. Mr. Barney sold the paper to Thos. S. Norton in about 1883. Thos. S. Norton was born in Trumbull County, Ohio, June 18, 1848, and when a boy came to the country when his parents took up their residence in the Town of Byron. On December 11, 1871, he married Miss Emily A. Clark of the Town of Empire. While he edited the paper which was now called the **Spencer Tribune**, he held various town offices including justice of peace and town clerk. He died in Fond du Lac on March 10, 1906 at the age of 57.

He has a grandson, Donald Holterman, residing in Spencer at this time. Mr. Norton sold the paper to Eddy and Gilbert Vandercook of Colby, who were owners of the paper at the time of the Spencer fire. Mr. Gilbert Vandercook was a town clerk for our township and later went on to be appointed chief clerk in the State Department at Madison in 1895 and later assistant Secretary of State. He had severed his connection with the **Spencer Tribune** when he went to Madison, but still claimed residence here, it was said, for political purposes. He was employed by the **Milwaukee Sentinel** and reported for Chicago papers at the same time and held high rank as a newspaper writer. According to later Spencer papers, Mr. Vandercook published an EXTRA at the time of the Spencer fire.

Sept. 17, 1880— Order of Town Board this day filed in this office dividing the Town of Spencer into election precincts to be known as Precinct No. 1 and Precinct No. 2 for the ensuing general election.

LIQUOR

In 1893, a liquor license to operate a saloon cost \$200. Not too many years before, they cost \$75. A saloon keeper had to sign a "Conditions of Liquor Seller's Bond" which contained the rather flowery language found here:

That whereas the said _____ made application to the Board of Supervisors of the Town of Spencer aforesaid for License to keep a saloon within the limits of said Town, for the sale of strong, spirituous, ardent and intoxicating liquors, to be drunk on said premises, in a quantity less than one gallon —

Now, therefore, if the said _____ shall, during the continuance of his license, so to be granted as aforesaid, keep and maintain a well-regulated house; if he shall permit no gambling with cards of dice, or any other device or implements used for that purpose, within his grocery, saloon, shop or building of any name whatsoever, kept by him, or within any outhouse, yard or shed appertaining to the same—

April 21, 1885— All saloons had to be closed by 11:00 P. M. and on Sundays and anyone who violated forfeited his license.

Temperance organizations were in evidence in nearly every town. From the **Marshfield Times** of June 8, 1888 it was reported that Mrs. G. I. Follett, Mrs. John Gardiner, Mrs. F. C. Hartford represented the Spencer branch of the WCTU at the State Convention in Milwaukee this week. On May 12, 1882, an article pertaining to a temperance organization in Mannville reported in the Spencer paper that— "This lodge is in a thriving condition and expects to 'work wonders' during the coming year.

It seems to us that Spencer could afford to have a temperance lodge of some kind. It seems that there were many people of a 'temperament' nature trying to reform the town. Most any accident or incident directly caused by intoxication or imbibing was highly publicized. An example: A Swede named Nils Ljungren, on Friday of last week became intoxicated and laid or fell down on the track of the railroad. A freight train passing over the road ran over him, inflicting injuries from which he died Saturday."

Spencer, May 11, 1882— The dying victim of the deadly carwheels in Minnesota, who had both legs cut off, when asked how it happened, summoned strength enough to gasp out with his last breath the explanation of how he got under the train in three words: "Whiskey did it!" and expired, adding another to the countless host that are sent, untimely, to the dread unknown, and whose pitiful and tragic end is explained— whiskey did it. When the world gets more just, this awful murderer will be placed in the same category and on the same standing as other murders, highwaymen and outlaws. Surely it is not fair to hang Guiteau who only assassinated one victim, and let this assassin, whose victims are millions, go free. Treat them all alike. Either forgive each or hang both.

Can our officers do nothing to stop the obscene language so frequently indulged in on our streets. It is disgraceful in the extreme, and is becoming so alarmingly conspicuous as to make it unsafe for ladies to appear on the walks.

It might be interesting to compare the taxes assessed to the Town of Spencer in 1883 to the taxes levied on the town for the current year.

1883	
Town Tax	\$ 500.00
State Tax	156.88
County Tax	1,338.39
County Poor Tax	360.35
County School Tax	129.60
Co. Sup. Salary	56.47
	<hr/>
	\$2,541.69

School District Taxes	
District No. 1	\$1100.00
District No. 2	520.00

District No. 3	450.00
District No. 4	156.83
	<hr/>
	\$2,226.83

Road Tax Returned Delinquent	
District No. 1	\$518.28
District No. 2	289.59
District No. 3	129.13
District No. 4	179.09
District No. 5	101.42
District No. 6	197.98

TOTAL \$6,181.01

1976	
Town Tax	\$10,888.72
State Tax	1,623.24
County Tax	35,606.14
Spencer Jt. Dist. 1	91,897.46
State Trust Funds 1	6,308.14
Voc. Dist. 15	11,813.77
Handicapped Tuition	71.25
Overrun on Taxroll	.16
	<hr/>
	\$158,208.88

The total valuation of the Town in 1975 is \$8,116,200.00
The total valuation of the town as fixed by the assessor for 1883 was \$208,113.00.

ANNUAL MEETINGS 1889-1933, HIGHLIGHTS OF:

1889— Approval made to raise \$1,000 to build a highway running south from the village (County Highway V). In 1889 and 1890 the meeting was called to order at Louis House.

1891— Meeting was called to order at the building known as Thayer's office and polling place changed to Wendell's building across the street. Polls open 9-5.

1896— Petition read for making and repairing sidewalks in the Village of Spencer and Irene. Motion tabled one year. The town board met at G. Wendell feed mill lots (the polling place of 1895) and adjourned to Chas. Stoltenow's brick building on main street where the meeting was called to order. Report of the G.A.R. post for care and removal of Henry Siegrist was read. And it was decided that the town pay \$30 to the G.A.R. Post and \$50 on the doctor's bill. At sundown the polls were declared closed.

1897— Met at Chas. Stoltenow's brick building

1898— Met at the building known as the J. S. Damon building on Main Street. General election held November 8, 1898. Town board met at Damon building, being place of last polling place and then adjourned to Farmington Hall. No results of election were given but Chas. Rienow presided at next meeting.

1899— Met at J. S. Damon building on Main Street, the place where the last town meeting was held and adjourned to Hartford's Hall (as per notices posted in 5 different places in town according to law.)

1913— In consideration of the fact that Fred Fischer having taken into his family four orphan children and caring for same and on account of sickness of said children causing said Fred Fischer considerable extra expense, it was voted to pay \$35 to Fred Fischer.

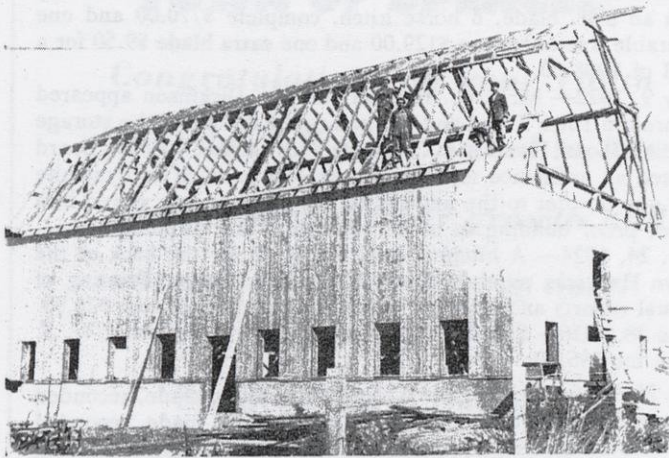
1920— Town will pay for labor on highway for a man, \$3.00 and for a man and team \$6.00 for 8 hours of work.

1921— Board paid \$2.50 for man and \$5.00 for man and team for 8 hours of work.

1922— Board paid \$2.00 for man and \$3.50 to man and team for 8 hours of work.

1923— Board paid \$2.50 for man and \$4.50 for man and team for 8 hours of work.

1924— Motion made and carried to fix up Town Hall such as



Carl Hoff barn raising in 1921.



A building on the Wm. Gessert farm, wrecked by the wind March 27, 1938. Raymond is standing in the door and Marie is on top.



The Wm. Gessert farm in the earliest days.



Picture of Carl Hoff house, now owned by Donald Frey, and thought to be one of the oldest houses in the town. L to R: Anne Jantz, Wm. Hoff, Marie Luick, Clara Hoff, Frank Hoff. On sidewalk by dog, Albert Hoff. In buggy, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hoff.



George Zahn, a soldier in World War I, lived in Sec. 27 where Mr. and Mrs. James Lang now live. Joe Zahn, a brother to George, was a blacksmith doing the work for the Town of Spencer back in the "20's."



L to R: Mrs. Joe Egner, Joe Egner, Mark Huetter & son Karl, Mrs. Frank Huetter, daughter Martha on fender, Frank Egner, Wenzel Egner, Mrs. Wenzel Egner, and Anna Huetter. June 25, 1929. WEDDING DAY.

sealing the inside and put in two voting booths. Shall be left to town board.

1925— Motion carried to raise \$1500 in the tax roll for purposes of finishing the county trunk highway running east of the village.

At this meeting the clerk's salary was raised to \$162.50 and the assessor's salary was \$112.50.

1926— Motion made to buy a 10 ft. blade road grader not less than 7000 lbs. in weight. Motion made to let the Town Hall to responsible tax payers for social use, free of charge, but responsible for all damage done.

1927— Wages for a man was \$.31¼ per hour and man and team, \$.56¼ per hour.

Special Meeting called March 7, 1929— A request for such meeting having been made to the Town Clerk in writing by 12 qualified voters of said town for the purpose of immediate snow removal from all highways in said town. 53 ballots were cast and 39 were for, 13 were against, and 1 was blank, so resolution to hire a snow plow was carried. System of two patrolmen was adopted in 1929.

1930— Motion for town to furnish 18 ft. culverts to farmers lost. Motion for town to furnish 16 ft. culverts to farmers was carried. Motion made to snowplow all town highways if need exists. Motion carried. Motion made that Town of Spencer compensate any Fire Dept. not to exceed \$25 for services rendered. Motion carried.

1931— Motion made and seconded that those that die at county home, body be sent to Madison unless there are relatives to take the same. Motion made and seconded that no annual reports be printed next year. It was interesting to note that wages were lowered this year.

1932— Motion made and seconded that no money be raised for gravel this year. Motion made and seconded that we discontinue paying for any more fire protection.

1933— Wages for hand labor was lowered to \$.20 per hour and man and team to \$.37½ per hour.

TOWN BOARD MEETINGS AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

—1916 to 1968

April 29, 1916— Board decided to buy at least two road graders and two wheel scrapers. Board considered disposal of 20 acres of land received as payment for care of John L. Schlossnagel and his wife. A public auction was held on May 13, 1916 with William Reithers being high bidder at \$1430.

Jan. 13, 1917— Received this day a check for \$8.55 by Chairman from County Supt. of Poor Farm. Check found on person of John Schlossnagel who died Dec. 19, 1916 having been at poor farm 11 months. He also left a certificate of deposit for \$30 which Chairman will try to collect. Drows ordered \$36.80 for funeral expenses for above John Schlossnagel. Mrs. Schlossnagel died Feb. 4, 1916.

Jan. 22, 1916— Board was called together to settle the purchase of 1 acre of land in the SE corner of Sec. 24 Town of Sherman and Spencer. Mr. Otto Krebs, owning the land and refusing to sell after first agreeing to give land and allowing a schoolhouse to be built on same. After due consideration Board balloted on amount to give Mr. Krebs for above land. The decision was that the Board would award \$30 damages for the same.

June 1918— Flagpole erected on front of town hall and 6 ft. flag to be bought.

May 16, 1919— Wages were now \$2.00 for man and \$4.00 for man and team for 8 hours work.

July 12, 1919— Clerk issued Cigarette License to Spencer Entertainment Co. for \$5.00

Aug. 25, 1919— Board acted on resolution of granting a permit or franchise to the Wisconsin Valley Electric Co. to erect lines to transfer electricity.

May 22, 1920— Town Board met excepting Sup. Fred Below, together with Clerk and Highway Supt. and S. A. Turner, agent of Adams Road Machine Co. at the Hotel Janson for the purpose of buying a road grader. After considering the different kinds of

graders they decided to buy what the Co. calls the Road King with an 8 ft. blade, 8 horse hitch, complete \$770.00 and one steerable tractor tongue \$129.00 and one extra blade \$9.50 for a total of \$908.00.

May 9, 1922— Mr. Geo. Hanson and Mr. Dickinson appeared before the Town Board and put in a complaint about the storage of the Hoops Hardware Company's dynamite. Town Board passed an ordinance to have any explosives such as dynamite and gun powder to the amount of 200 lbs. or more stored in a bullet proof building to be 80 rods from any dwelling.

Feb. 24, 1924— A hitching post for \$6.45 for the back of the Town Hall was purchased at the Farmers Coop. Printing of annual reports and a notice in the **Spencer Record** cost \$25.95.

June 28, 1926— Safe for Town Hall was purchased from W. S. Price for \$95.00

Jan. 25, 1936— Special Town Meeting. Motion made, seconded and carried to plow all town highways. Motion made, seconded and carried to rent equipment from plow companies allowing \$700 to keep town highways open balance of winter. If town decides to buy equipment at annual meeting, this \$700 will be part payment on equipment. The following committee was appointed to act together with the Town Board at the demonstration and to decide on what plow to be used. Committee appointed was Frank Huetter, Henry Schmidt, Max Nigl, Elmer Blankenburg, Richard Gauger, Fred Korth, Frank Corbett and Bert Krohn.

April 7, 1936— Annual meeting. Motion was made and carried that snow removal equipment be bought. Upon voting to buy a cat or truck, 87 voted for a truck, 56 for a cat and 10 were blank.

Dec. 23, 1936— It was voted 21 to 15 to build a temporary shed rather than remodel town hall and upon another ballot 20 voted to build on private property and 14 on town property.

April 14, 1936— \$2,000 part payment for Four Wheel Drive Auto Company for part payment on truck; also gave note of \$2500 payable March 1, 1937 at 6%

April 5, 1938— Annual Meeting. Town officers salaries were as follows: Chairman, \$125; Supervisors, \$50; Clerk, \$175; Treasurer, \$170 (treasurer to furnish own bonds); and Assessor to receive \$4.00 per day.

April 4, 1939— Annual Meeting. Motion made, seconded and carried to build bridge between Town of Brighton and Section 3 providing Town of Brighton meets Town of Spencer on expenses.

April 1, 1941— Annual Meeting. The following resolution presented by F. C. Corbett was read by Chairman, H. C. Andrews. Resolved that the Town Board of the Town of Spencer be and are hereby instructed to deed to the Spencer Cemetery Association all rights and title to land held by the Town of Spencer, laying in the Town of Sherman, Clark County, Wisconsin and known as the Spencer Cemetery, also all money in the Town Treasury belonging to the cemetery fund. The above resolution was amended as follows: That the Town of Spencer reserve a plot of ground in the above named cemetery known as the potter's field.

August 23, 1946— Special Meeting. Special meeting of August 23rd was held in the Town Hall at 8:00 P.M. for the purpose of authorizing the Town Board of the Town of Spencer to enter into an agreement with Towns of Sherman and Unity, Clark County, and the Town of Brighton, Marathon County, to purchase and operate fire fighting equipment and also to levy a tax to pay for and maintain the same. Upon Motion meeting was adjourned to August 28th at 8:00 P.M. At the meeting on August 28th, a vote on the above agreement had the following results: 66 votes were cast with 57 yes and 9 no.

April 1, 1947— Annual meeting. Motion made and carried to buy fire truck providing three townships come in together with Town of Spencer in 90 days. Hand labor was now paid \$.75 per hour and \$1.00 for team work.

April 4, 1950— Annual meeting. Motion was approved to have Chairman choose two men for buying Sawyer School. Frank Cherney and Harold Drows were chosen. A motion was made at

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Jacobitz Service

Lawn & Garden Equip.

Lawn Boy & Simplicity

McCulloch & Pioneer Chain Saws

JENSEN MOTORS, INC.

Spencer, Wisconsin 54479

Phone 659-3939

the annual meeting the following year that the Sawyer School would be the Town Hall and polling place hereafter.

April 1, 1952— Annual meeting. Motion made and carried to sell old town hall on sealed bids and to try to put old town hall grounds for a wayside.

April 7, 1953— Annual meeting. Motion made, seconded and carried to build new town garage on town hall grounds. Motion made, seconded and carried for Town Board to call a meeting after they have estimates on cost of building. Motion made, seconded and carried that old town hall grounds be sold to Isadore Bargander for \$1.00.

July 24, 1954— Special meeting. Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wm. E. Weis. After much discussion on an army worm infestation, a motion made by Harold Drews and seconded by Ernst Karau that the town buy a sprayer. Motion carried. Committee appointed by the chairman to buy the sprayer was: Harold Drews, Melvin Norum and Arnold Dieringer.

April 5, 1955— Annual meeting. Motion made by Schmidt and seconded by Mech to buy a motor patrol. Motion was lost on a ballot vote of No 37, and Yes, 21. Motion made and seconded and carried to join the Wisconsin Towns Association.

April 4, 1961— Annual meeting. Motion made by Alfred Frischman and seconded by Ted Oelrich to buy a new motor patrol and snow plow with wing. Motion was lost. Motion made by Victor Carpenter and seconded by Conrad Boehm to rescind the motion and vote by ballot. The result of the ballot was 33 Yes and 29 No.

April 4, 1967— Annual meeting. Motion made by Norbert LaSee and seconded by Omar Hannum to authorize town board to enter in an agreement for ambulance service.

June 7, 1967— Monthly meeting. Motion by Drews and seconded by Karau to appropriate \$50 to hire someone to complete a research and history of the Township.

April 10, 1968— Special meeting. Board interviewed Herb Meyer who offered to assess the town for \$3300 including extra expert help. Board interviewed Melvin Schmidt who offered to assess the town for \$5000 including extra expert help. Motion by Drews and seconded by Karau to hire Herb Meyer.

RAILROADS

Railroads played a very important part in the settlement of our area by providing transportation through terrain which otherwise would have been difficult to travel across. They also played an important part in carrying the logs out of the woods to the mills. At one time a railroad train could travel west from the town hall across the Bill Gauger farm (now owned by Lawrence Strite), across the Bill Gennett farm, across Walter Krohn's farm to Jake Rizzi which is the Marathon-Clark County line. This was solid pine country and provided good harvest for ambitious loggers. In about 1877 a man by the name of Marvin Winters logged in this area. It is said that ties from the railway have been found in recent years although most have been removed or have been covered over.

The early railroads and trains were much different than their modern counterparts of today. The engines were very small and burned wood which was piled at the side of the track. Every so often the train had to stop to "wood up" and often the men passengers would get out and help with the task of putting wood on the engine.

MANNVILLE

Mannville, in 1875, was an important sawmill town along the Wisconsin Central. For several years it was a rival of Marshfield and at one time the largest place on the line of the Wisconsin Central north of Stevens Point. In its heyday, corner lots were sold at premium prices with the idea in mind that it would someday be the metropolis of the northwest.

The land on which Mannville stood first belonged to Horatio Gilbert, who in an early day came in possession of it by land warrants. From him it passed into the hands of E. S. Stone,

who disposed of it to the Mann Bros., after whom Mannville was named. By 1878 it was a flourishing mill town with the main mill being owned by the Mann Bros., and a cousin named Joe Mann. There was also a small mill owned by the Chase Company of Oshkosh, which sawed shingles. The logs were sawed into small lengths and then sawed into shingles. The Mann Bros. had a general store in connection with their mill. This was the practice in all mill towns at that time. In 1893, one of the most terrible forest fires caused the burning of the mill and the burning of the town which at one time was larger than Marshfield. On a foreclosure proceeding the property changed from Mann Bros. to C. J. Kershaw, a wheat speculator from Milwaukee. This last transaction had barely time to be placed on record when Kershaw failed and the property passed into the hands of the Menasha Chair Company. This concern, as if haunted by the ghost of misfortune, was also compelled to close its doors, resulting in the transfer of the property to Henry Sherry and finally to Gustav Karau. Mr. Karau, a native son of West Prussia, came from Reedsville to Marshfield in 1888 and bought the land in Mannville in 1895 with the intentions of farming it. He continued to operate it until shortly before his death, which occurred June 18, 1908. His son, Emil, was the next owner followed by Eldor Karau, Lawrence Retterath, John Fischer, and finally the present owner, Norbert Dittner, who moved to the farm on November 26, 1957. Mr. Dittner deals in feeder pigs.

A few miles to the east of Mannville there was a large mill owned by B. F. McMillan Co. A town developed that was later known as McMillan. Lumber was hauled from McMillan to Mannville where it was shipped on the Wisconsin Central Railroad. There are conflicting views as to which was built first to connect Mannville and McMillan, the railway or the road. According to one of our earliest settlers, the road was built first and the loads of logs were hauled by teams of oxen. The sawdust road was constructed by laying slabs down after the trees and big stumps were taken out and then loads and loads of sawdust were hauled in big dumpcarts and put on top of the slabs. If, in the course of the hauling, the road would wear out in spots, more sawdust and slabs were used to patch holes that developed. It made very good travel for horse and buggy but would hardly serve the purpose for traffic of the present day.

According to a report in a Marshfield paper the railroad was built through the woods for a distance of about four miles and huge logs were used in place of rails with no railway ties between. The wheels of the engine and car were concave.

It appears that the people who lived in this bustling little "metropolis" in the 1880's had their share of fun in attending dances, basket socials, tableaux, strawberry socials, home talent plays, and oyster suppers according to news items appearing in the local papers. In winter the young people used to have sleigh-ride parties in a big bob sled.

From the **Mannville News** of Friday, December 16, 1881— Upham Bros. store has been sold to Tyson & Pierce. The last named firm have now an unusually fine stock of general merchandise. Their planing mill is running on full time, and they expect to saw eight million feet of lumber during the coming season. They already have four camps in operation.

Gill and Newton are repairing and improving the shingle mill, and expect to average over 100,000 per day, when they get started. They will employ 28 men at the mill.

R. H. Coonan, the village shoemaker, is an artist in his line.

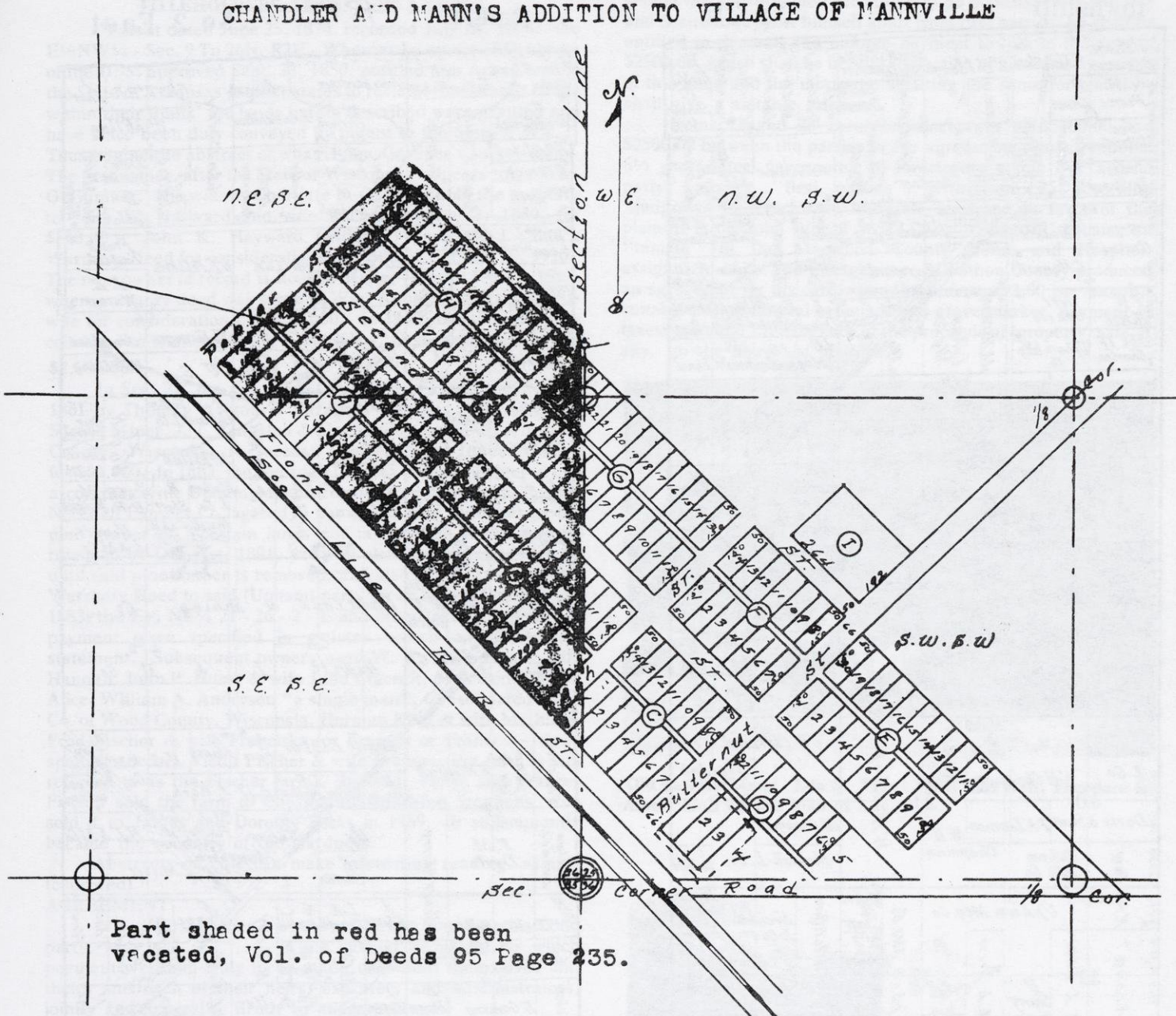
George H. Welton, who had been engaged in teaching at Amherst for three years is the new bookkeeper for Tyson and Pierce.

Mrs. Waters has 18 boarders, but will soon have her usual number, 26. She has run the house six years, and with satisfaction.

Miss Clara Hulce is the teacher here. Mr. Kennessy, of Plover, is in charge of the store as chief clerk.

City drayman Donaldson is a boss cook. Antwine Gotchy,

CHANDLER AND MANN'S ADDITION TO VILLAGE OF MANNVILLE



the boss shingle packer, is the oldest inhabitant. Rueben Rice is now running the planer at the planing mill.

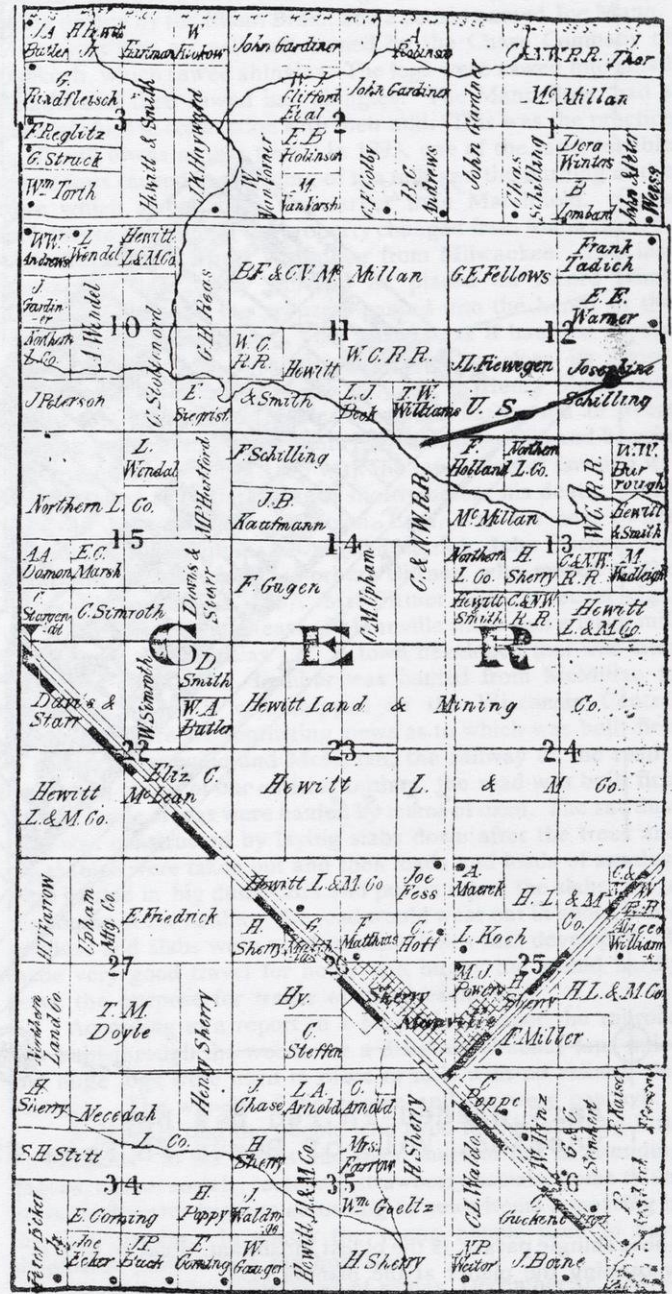
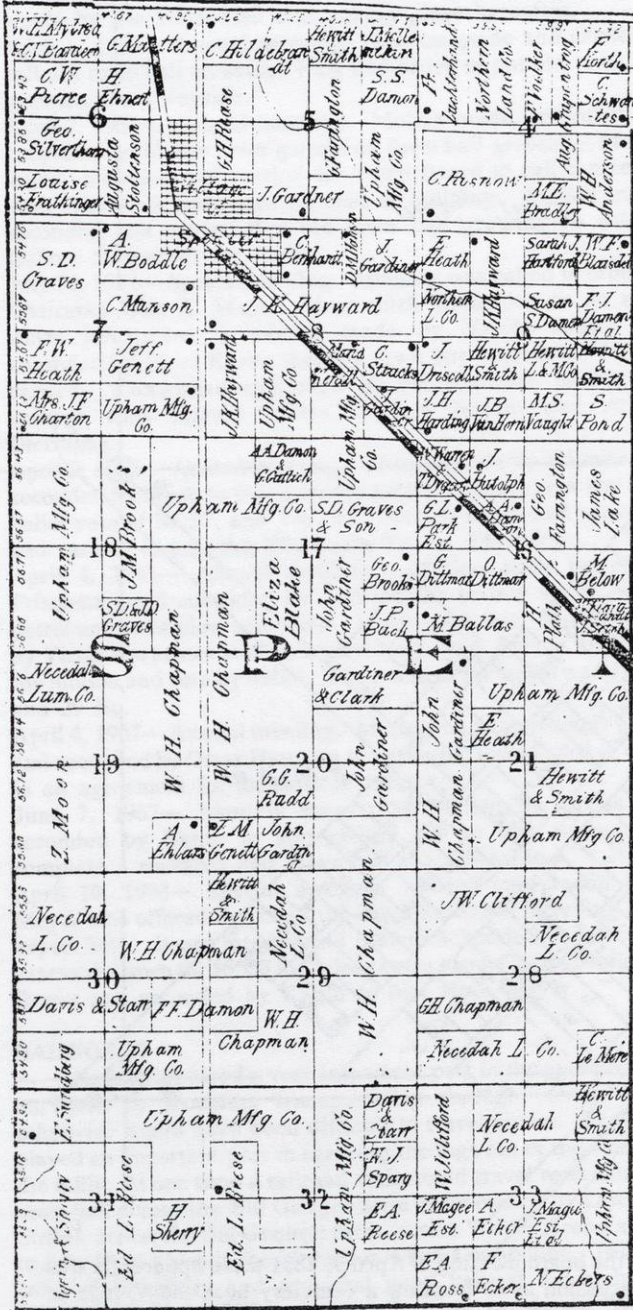
Dan Shea will lumber this winter, and his brother will attend to the wants of the customers of the saloon. Dan is having a large trade.

December 16, 1881—CHALLENGE. The undersigned hereby offers to saw with any man, in either of the states of Wisconsin, Minnesota or Michigan, for any sum of money that may be agreed upon. Sawing to be not less than ten hours actual work and in any mill to be named by the challenged party, stipulating only, that if it be a strange mill, then the challenged party shall do the first sawing. Sawing to be done alternately by hours, or each a full day at the option of the party challenged. Logs to be uniform.

Address: J. B. Markle
Mannville, Marathon, Wis.

Mannville is no longer officially a part of the Town of Spencer, having been annexed to the City of Marshfield in 1970, but the history of Mannville is still very much an integral part of the history of the town.

At the board meeting of April 9, 1881 there apparently was some discussion as to locating a cemetery near the Village of Mannville. The Board instructed J. H. Whiting to make investigation and search for a suitable place to locate a cemetery near the Village of Mannville and report at the next meeting of the Board. Going on to the minutes of the meeting on the 9th day of May 1881, the following was recorded— "J. H. Whiting, special committee of Mannville Cemetery reported a site offered by C. J. Kershaw on Sec. 25, Town 26, Range 2, ordered by Board that matter be laid over for further consideration at next meeting of Board." A further study revealed that this matter again was reported on at the Board meeting the 28th of June. J. H. Whiting, Committee on Mannville Cemetery, reported the selection of a site containing 5 acres near Village of Mannville owned by C. J. Kershaw which can be procured for \$100. Board decided to adopt report of W. H. Whiting and purchase the site. The cemetery was used because the following item appeared in the Spencer Tribune of April 13, 1884. "Died at Mannville, of consumption, Henry Donaldson, age 41 years. He was buried at the Mannville Cemetery Tuesday." In questioning old timers, we found that the location of the cemetery was across from what is now the Donald Frey farm.



Excerpts from the **Spencer Tribune:**

July 21, 1882— We have heard complaints of misdemeanors at the cemetery. It is said that the plants and flowers placed on the graves of persons buried there, are destroyed or damaged often by vandals who made the graveyard a playground. Such people should learn that there is a severe penalty for all such depredations

If anyone has got the idea that the roads are like pavement, drive out of town and be undeceived. They are like the swamps that had a hard bottom, but the bottom was ten feet below the surface.

October 6, 1882— There has been brought to Spencer this fall as fine produce as can be raised anywhere in the state. Beets, onions, potatoes, cabbages, squash, pumpkins and other vegetables are simply wonderful. This goes to show what would be an advantage for people in older parts of the state to know, that in the vicinity of Spencer the soil is the most productive of

any in the state. Fritze Kuethe is trying his first year at farming, but he has the finest vegetables in the vicinity. He has pumpkins that weigh 50 lbs., cabbages that weigh 15 lbs., and other vegetables that are equally good. Fred will be a boss farmer yet.

From the minutes of the meeting of April 15th, 1880, came this rather interesting bit of information — "Voted to proceed to build a calaboose at the village of Spencer or Irene, said calaboose to be 14 feet by 16 feet and 7 feet high, and P. A. Tnayer was authorized to procure a location therefore and make out specifications for the same and report at the next session of the Board." In a related matter, the following appeared in the November 26, 1894 minutes — "Agreed that A. Wendell should care for tramps (town to furnish the wood) at 25 cents a night in calaboose when there were any tramps that needed care or a place to sleep."

TITLEHOLDERS, TRANSFERS & TRIVIA

“Patent dated June 25, 1874, recorded July 24, 1874: the E½NW¼ - Sec. 9 Tp 26N, R2E - Whereas by an act of Congress of the U. S. approved Sept. 28, 1850, entitled ‘An Act to enable the State of Arkansas & other states to reclaim the Swamp Lands within their limits’ the lands herein described were granted and have since been duly conveyed by patent to the Sate of Wis.” Thus begins the abstract of what is now Gardner’s turkey farm. The first owner, after the State of Wisconsin, appears to be Wm. G. Gumaer. His widow, Charlotte E. Gumaer, sold the property to John K. Hayward and wife Rachel on May 3, 1889, for \$500.00. John K. Hayward (widower) gave A. L. Boock Warranty Deed for consideration of \$1,500.00 October 19, 1910. The next owner of record is Rosalie Muller — from 1912 to 1917, when warranty deed was given to Wm. Kobs & Mary Kobs, his wife for consideration of \$3,200.00. In 1942, the property was conveyed to Daniel Kobs & Edna Kobs, husband and wife, for \$2,500.00.

In Sec. 21, the E½ NE¼, was part of lands conveyed in 1881 by Thomas Weston & Elizabeth Weston, E. S. Miner & Serena Miner, J. T. Kingston & Hannah Kingston, all of Juneau County, Wisconsin, to Necedah Lumber Co. of Juneau County for \$10,000. In 1883, the Necedah Lumber Company entered into a contract with Upham Manufacturing Company whereby the Necedah Lumber Co. agreed to pay the sum of \$100,000 for the pine timber on “certain lands not in question to be cut and removed by Dec. 1st, 1891, and will also pay all taxes thereon until said pine timber is removed; and also agrees to convey by Warranty Deed to said (Upham) party on or before October 1st, 1883, the E½ NE¼ 21 - 26 - 2 - E and other lands.” Details of payment were specified in a later search and reabstract statement. Subsequent owners were W. B. Thompson & wife Hannah, John P. Hume & wife Julia Cracraft, J. C. Pond & wife Alice, William A. Anderson “a single man”, Consolidated Farm Co. of Wood County, Wisconsin, Herman Kear & wife Mathilda, Fred Fischer & wife Franciska (or Frances or Franzes— three spellings occur), Victor Fischer & wife Frances (the farm is still referred to as the Fischer farm). In 1953, Victor and Frances Fischer sold the farm to Chester and Mildred Stephens, who sold it to James and Dorothy Hicks in 1959. It subsequently became the property of the Gardners.

Abstracts of Title can make interesting reading, as this (censored)

AGREEMENT

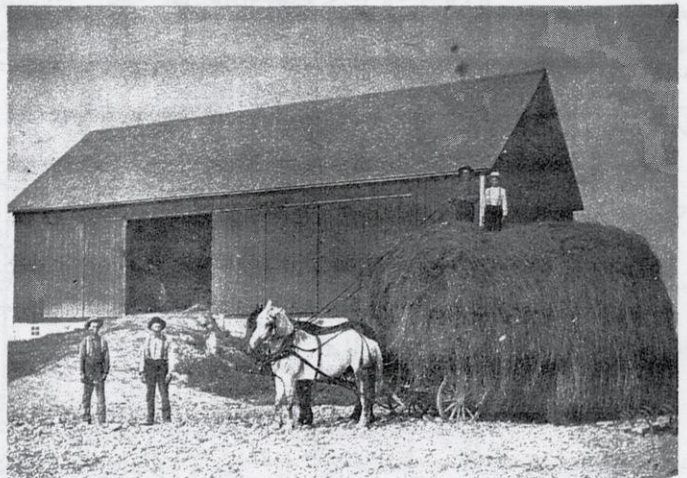
“First parties are held and firmly bound unto second party, who is, in the sum of \$2,500.00 for which payment well and truly to be made they bind themselves and theirs and each of their heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

The condition of this obligation is such that second party being desirous of providing for proper support, maintenance, care and medical attention during the term of his natural life, has this day conveyed to first parties the following: (land description).

Therefore if first parties shall well and truly care and provide for and maintain second party during the term of his natural life providing him with a suitable and separate room in the house on said premises and the right to the use of the balance of the house in common with first parties, furnishing him with a horse, harness and buggy for his own use when conveniently possible, furnishing him with suitable and substantial board at their table and providing him with proper care, medical attention and treatment at all times and particularly in times of illness, then this obligation shall cease and be null and void at the death of second party and said obligation shall be fully satisfied, otherwise to be and remain in full force and effect and the recording of the original or a duly certified copy of the legal death certificate of the death of second party shall operate to discharge this obligation and the mortgage given to secure the performance of the conditions hereof, provided however that

should the above-named second party be dissatisfied in any way and desire to support himself apart from first parties, he shall be entitled to demand and enforce payment to him of the sum of \$2500.00, which shall be in full satisfaction of his claim by reason of this bond and the mortgage securing the same for which he shall give a suitable release.”

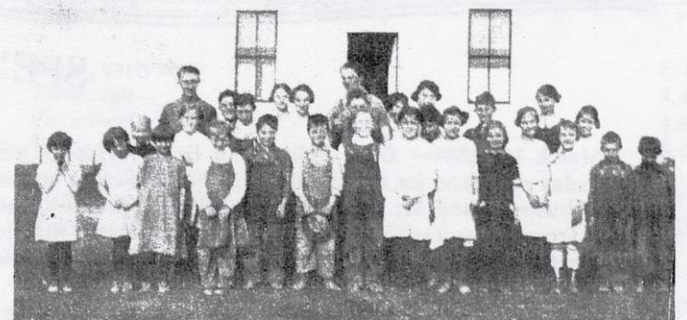
Items 22 and 23 recorded mortgages of \$5000.00 and \$2500.00 between the parties to the agreement. Item 24 (about 6½ years later) gave notice of foreclosure action by “second party” against “first parties”, with Item 25 recording “judgment of foreclosure and sale rendered in favor of the plaintiff in the total sum of \$8513.09.” “Plaintiff” became an “inmate” of the Marathon County Home and Hospital; assignment of the two mortgages to Marathon County produced an agreement for his care, spending money (\$3.00 per month), suitable burial, funeral expenses and grave marker, payment of taxes, etc., and “the balance of the proceeds of (property) sale, if any, to the heirs” of plaintiff.



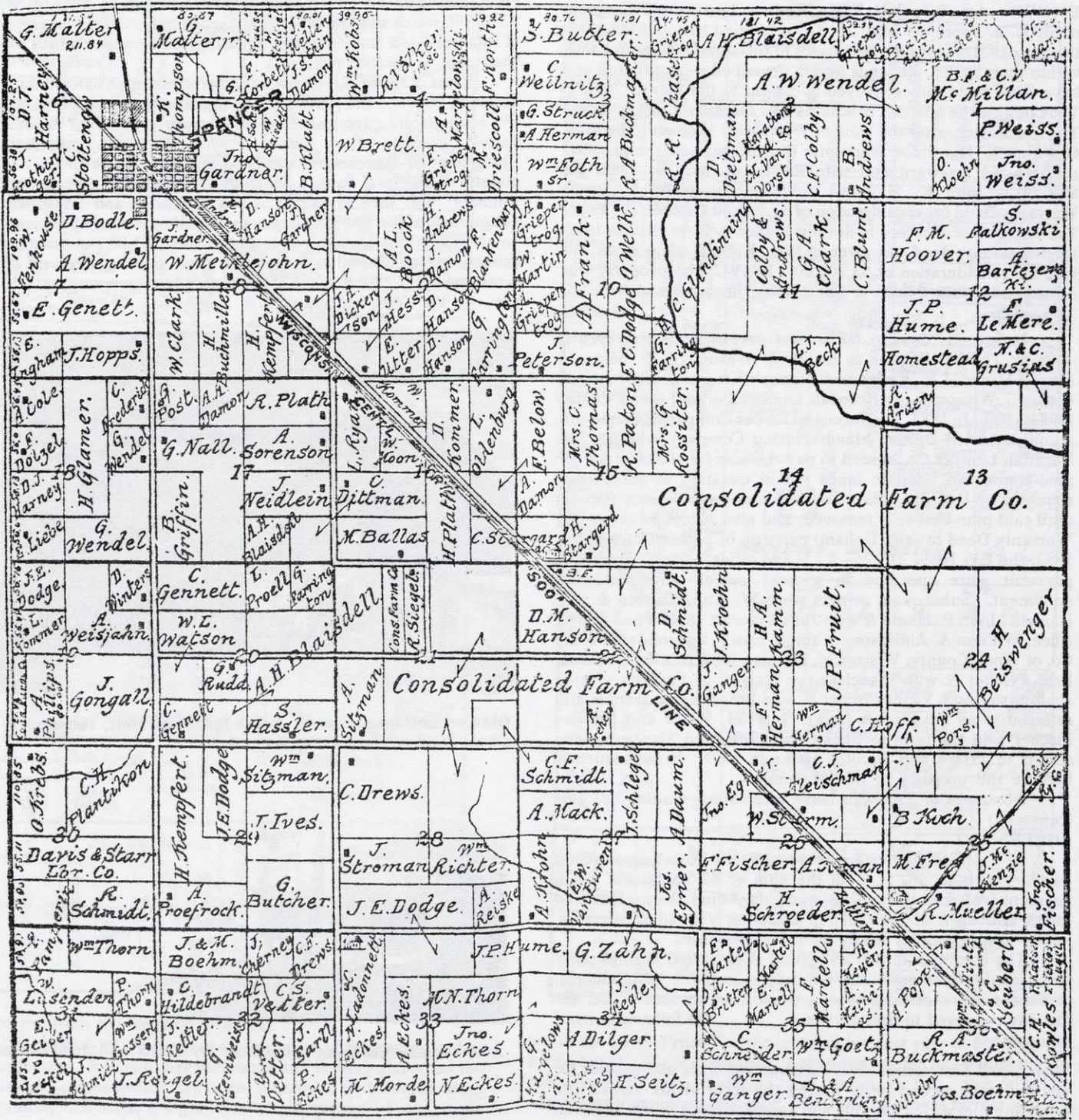
Old Carl Hoff farm. L to R: Frank Hoff, Carl Hoff, Theodore & Albert Hoff on the load of hay.



A rather unusual team being used by Frank and John Ballas.



Mannville School



SPENCER

March 14, 1884— G. I. Follett and Frank Whipple left Wednesday afternoon for the county seat; Mr. Follett to attend to legal business and Mr. Whipple to make his returns to the County Treasurer as Tax Collector. Mr. Whipple reports that he has collected 89% of all the taxes levied in the Town. This is probably the closest collection ever made.

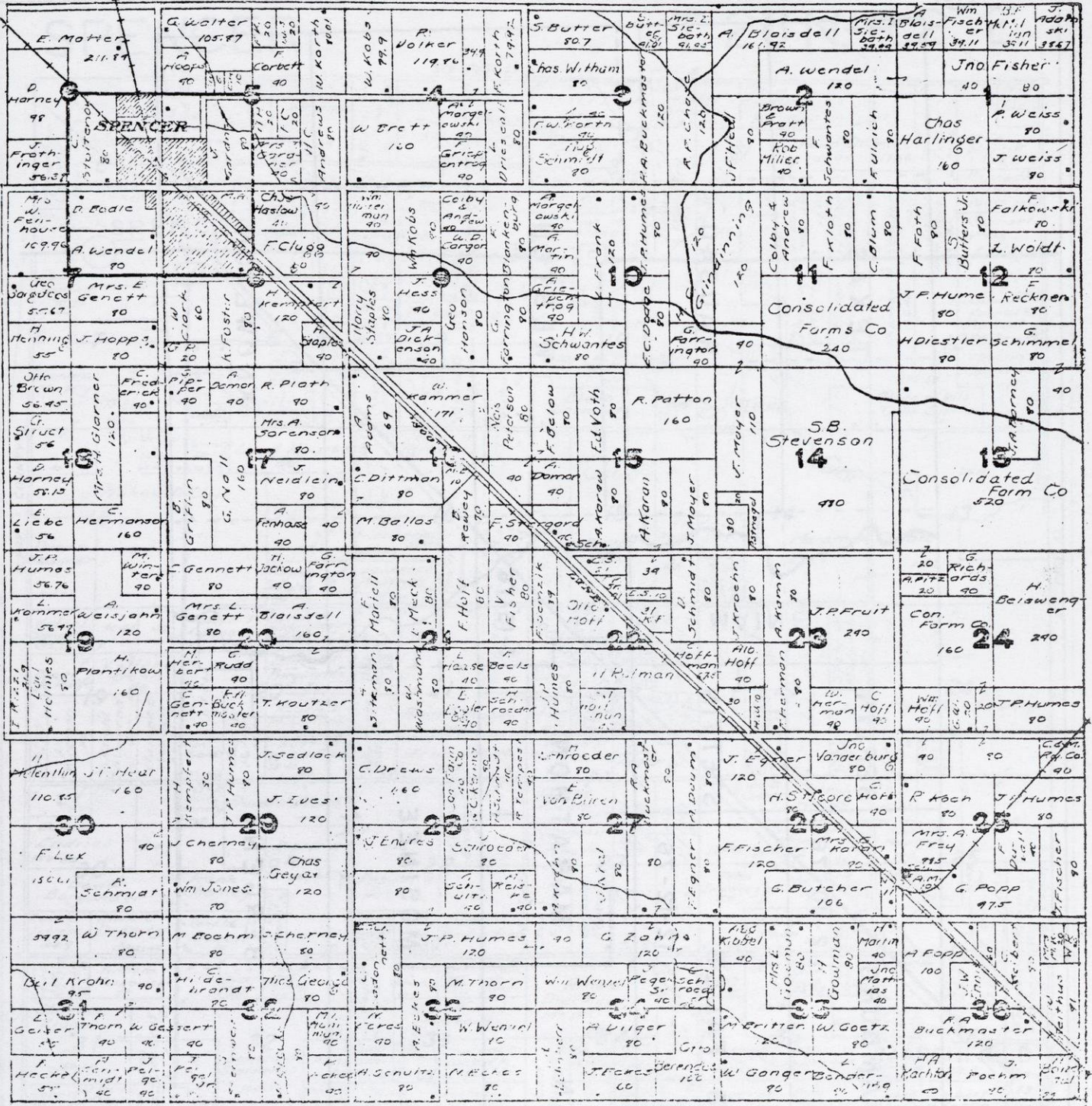
Settlers have this week commenced to tap their sugar bushes and prospects now are that the maple sugar crop this spring will be a good one.

March 28, 1884— This has so far been the best Spring for making maple sugar that has been known for several years. Considerable has been brought into town, which so far is being bought up at 15 cents per lb.

Jan. 11, 1884— Mrs. Bert Krohn was elected president of the South Spencer Special Homemakers Club at a meeting held at the home of Mrs. Victor Fischer Wednesday afternoon. Others elected were Mrs. Martin Below, vice president, and Mrs. Richard Koch, Secretary-treasurer.

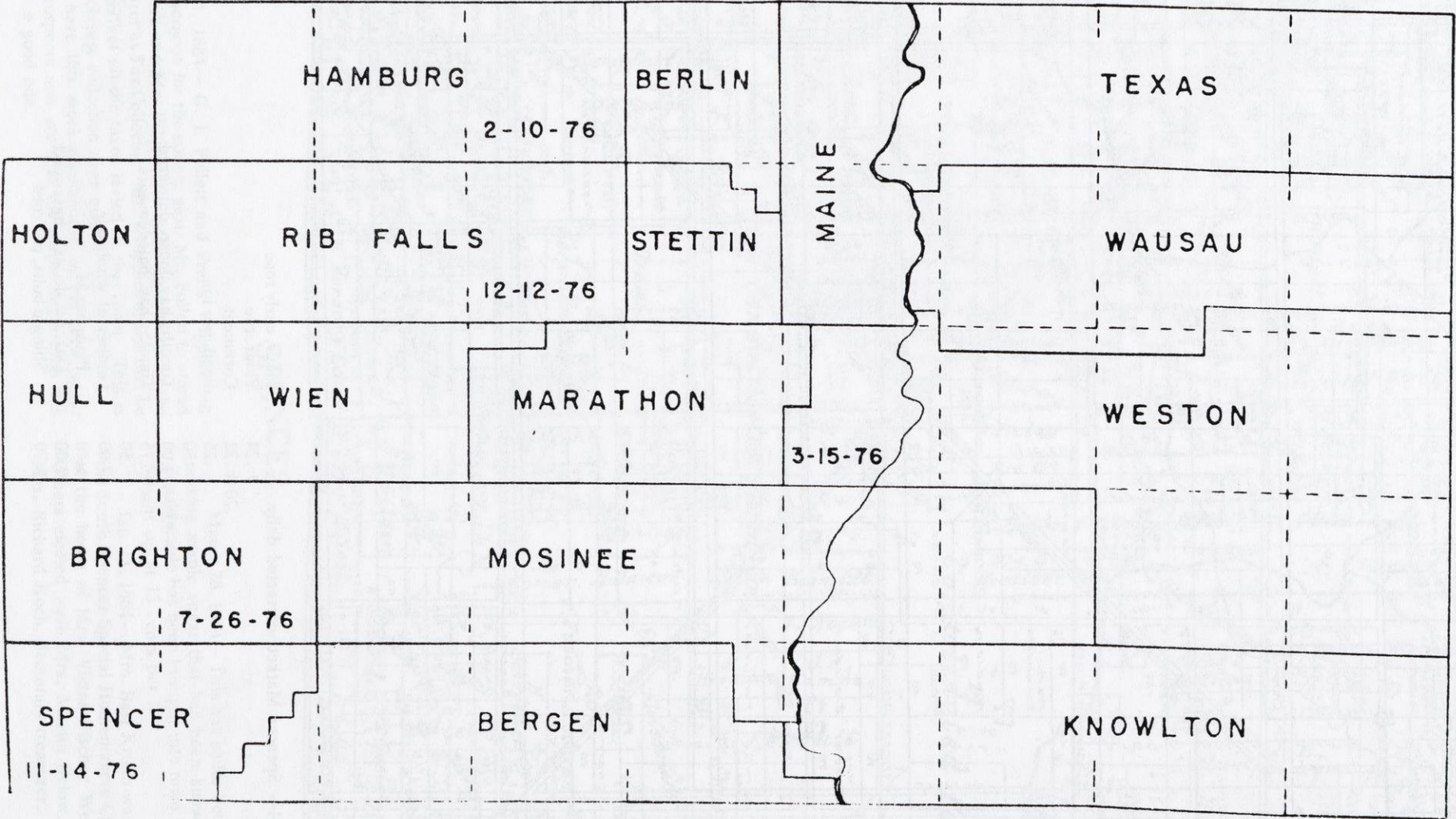
T.26N. SPENCER R.2E.

1919-7



Jan. 11, 1884— Spencer Market, corrected daily.

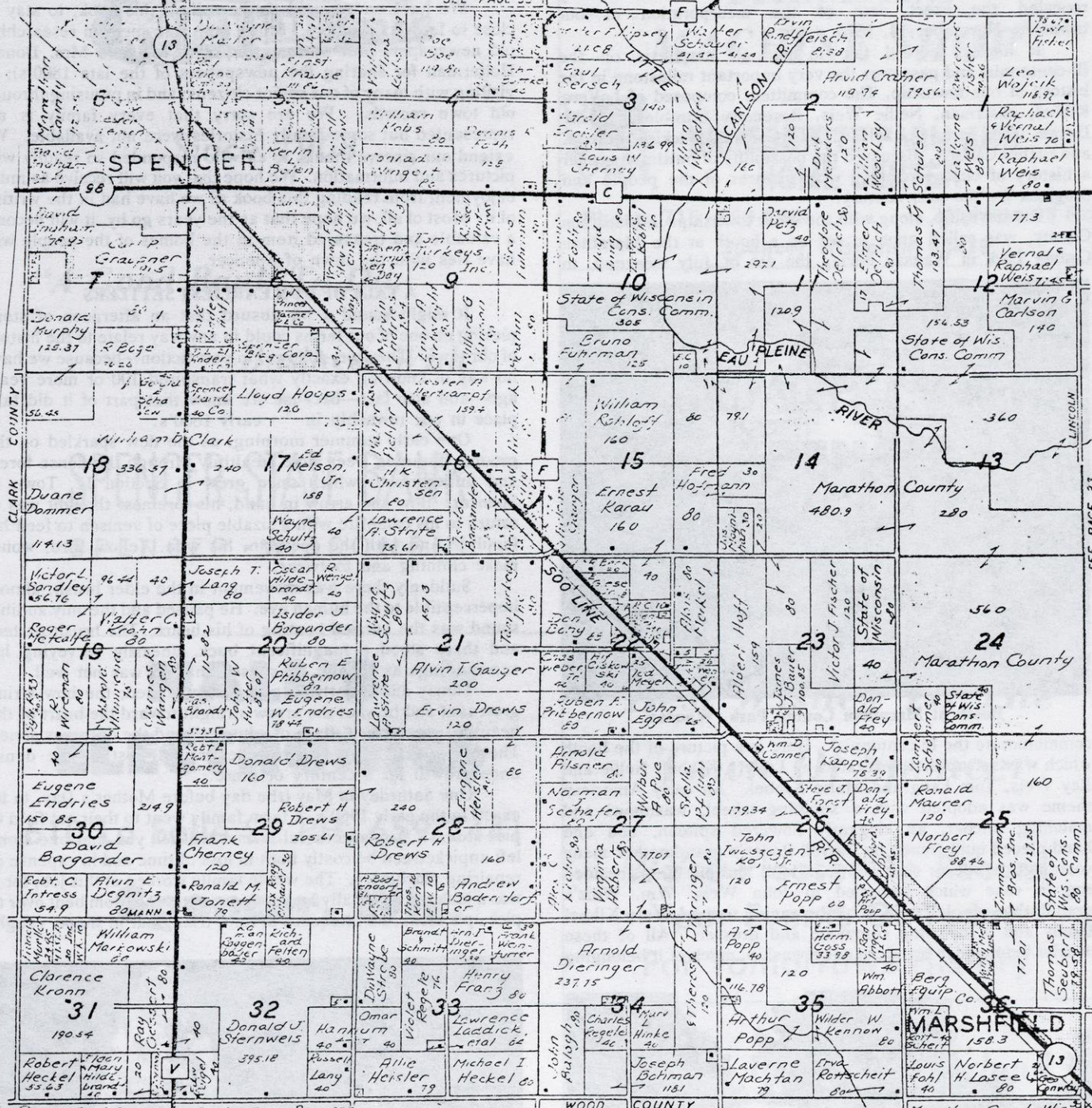
Butter, choice	\$.24	Flour, early rose	5.40
Butter, good	.20 & .22	Flour, rye	4.40
Eggs	.25	Cornmeal	4.00
Potatoes	.50	Feed, per ton	28.00
Beans	3.00 & 4.00	Timothy hay, loose, delivered	\$ 7.00
Onions	.75	Timothy hay, baled on cars	12.00
Rutabagas	.50	Lumber at wholesale	
Pork, per barrel	17.00	Pine, per M	\$5.00 to 7.00
Flour, patent	6.40	Oak, maple, ash, basswood	\$5.00 to 8.00
Flour, buckwheat	10.00	Shingle bolts, per cord	\$3.00
Flour, silver leaf	5.70		



SPENCER

T. 26 N.-R. 2 E.

SEE PAGE 33



SEE PAGE 23

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PRIVATE FOREST CROP LAND
 OPENED FOR HUNTING & FISHING

STATE OWNED LAND

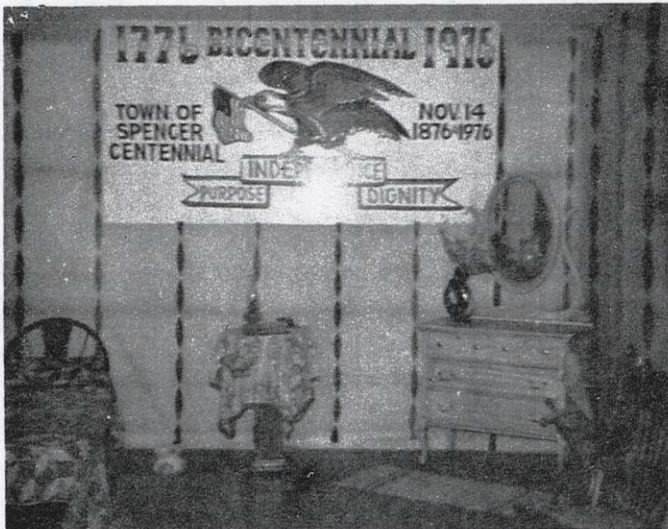
COUNTY OWNED LAND

BICENTENNIAL BOOK

Our centennial celebration for the Town of Spencer came about quite accidentally. It was during an organizational meeting of the Bi-centennial committee that a map of Marathon County revealed the exact date of the incorporation of our township--November 14, 1876.

It hardly seemed fair to put all emphasis on the Bi-centennial and pass over the very important milestone in the history of our township. The committee, composed of LaVern Kibbel, chairman, Nellie Weis, Rosemary Gamble, Blanche Drews, Tom Lang, John Hoff, Ann Gardner, Vickie Andreae, and Esther Carlson, discussed the possibility of putting together a history of our town along with pictures of the people and progress for the past century.

Our township, along with the other townships in Marathon County, was called upon to set up a booth at the Marathon County Park in Wausau during the 4th of July weekend, to



Booth at Marathon County Park, Wausau.

commemorate the bi-centennial. Here is a picture of the booth which was set up and decorated by LaVern Kibbel, Nellie and Ray Weis, Tom Lang and Marie Kibbel. An early American theme was adopted with a spinning wheel, washbowl and matching pitcher, an elegantly flowered spittoon, bed and hand-pieced quilt (made by Darrell Roder's grandmother many years ago), a rocker over 100 years old, and old lamp, braided rug, a vase which belonged to John Weis, Wm. Weis's grandfather, an old family Bible belonging to the LaVern Kibbel family and a matching commode and dresser. All of these articles belonged to people in our township, much of it belonging



Town of Spencer Bi-CENTENNIAL FLOAT FOR Spencerama

to Nellie Weis.

A bi-centennial float was prepared and entered in the Spencerama Days parade with Denys, Donna, Billy and Missy Gamble, Renee Andreae, Carl Hoff and Scott Carlson depicting various chores in an early settler's life.

We have endeavored, in compiling this book, to stay as close to facts as possible. Much time was spent in researching old newspapers (our sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Holterman for sharing the newspapers of the late 1800's); in visiting with many of our senior citizens; and in perusing through old town records. We are sorry that every family is not represented but some family histories were not available. We extend our sincere thanks to all who responded so readily with pictures and information. We hope that you will receive as much enjoyment from reading this book as we have had in the writing of it. Most of all, we hope that as the years go by, it will become a valuable and treasured item in the homes of the people who have ties with the town of Spencer.

A TALE OF OUR EARLIEST SETTLERS

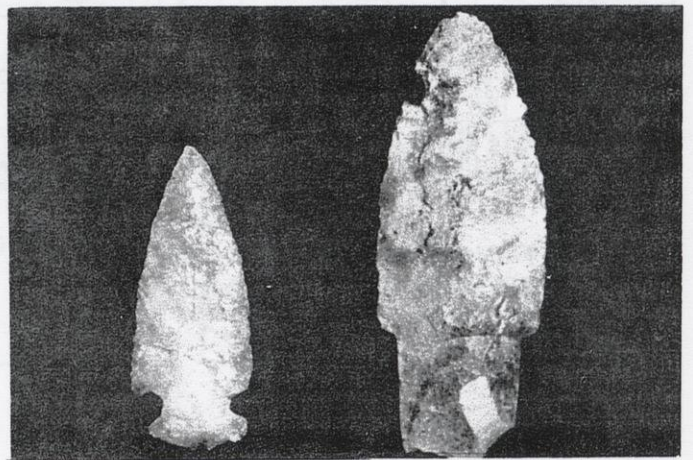
It might sound a bit absurd that an afternoon of stone picking on one of our farms could in any way relate to the history of our town. The story follows, in part fiction—because we have no way of knowing exactly what transpired 100 or more years ago—and also fact—because we know that part of it did take place in our township in the early 1860's.

One early summer morning, as the dew sparkled on the ground, Running Deer stole stealthily through the dense forest and undergrowth which once grew in Section 12, Town of Spencer. Bow and arrow in hand, his foremost thought was to return to his campfire with a sizable piece of venison to feed his family. And with the deerskin, his wife, Yellow Bird, would make clothing and footwear.

Suddenly there was movement in the elder brush, almost imperceptible to the human eye. He paused and the only audible sound was the hurried beating of his heart. The brush parted, and there stood a magnificent buck, uneasily surveying his surroundings as though he sensed that all was not well.

Slowly and quietly Running Deer aimed; the bow string grew taut and he shot the arrow straight toward the heart of the beautiful creature. A flash of white tail and the deer was gone. The arrow fell harmlessly to the ground, lost in the dense undergrowth for a century or more.

One Saturday in May (the day before Mother's Day, to be exact) in the early 1960's, a farm family went to their oat field to pick stones. Any successful farmer will tell you that one stone left unpicked can be costly both in loss of time and in expense of repairing machinery. The whole family worked at this job, for it was a task not especially looked forward to. As Mom bent over to pick up a stone, a white piece of flint, triangular in shape, caught



Spearhead and arrowhead found on farm in Section 12, evidence that the Indian once lived here long before the white man.



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Town Of Spencer*

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Your Events Of Today
For Tomorrows History

*Bob & Florence Berglund
and the staff of the*

TRIBUNE - RECORD - GLEANER

Loyal - Spencer - Greenwood

her eye. She picked it up, almost unable to believe her good fortune—a perfect arrowhead in a field that had been tilled for possibly 50 years or more. What a wonderful gift for Mother's Day!

And a stranger story can yet be told, for on this very same farm, one of the children was playing in the garden plot with an oddly shaped stone. Upon closer examination the family discovered that it was a spearhead—not quite so perfect as the arrowhead but still easily identified. Whoever the Indians were—Winnebago, Chippewa, Cherokee, Sauk, no one knows; but the noble red man once trod the land where we now live and we have proof that they did.

ORGANIZATIONS

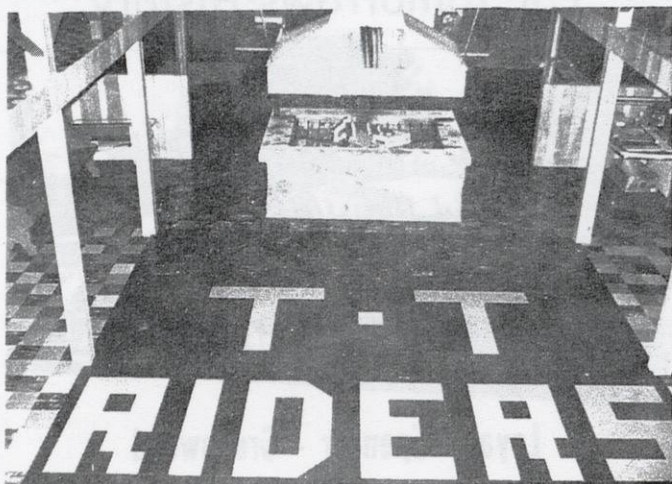
The T and T Riders motorcycle club was organized in June of 1965. The T and T abbreviation is a shortened form of track and trail although the majority of the club are road riders. The purpose of our organization is to promote fun and safety in the sport of motorcycling.

The first club officers were as follows: President - Jack Adler, Vice President - Ken Matthes, Secretary - Juleen Adler, and Treasurer - Judy Brumbaugh. Initially the T and T Riders consisted of 15 members; they made an application to join the American Motorcycle Association and received their charter August 11, 1965.

Incorporation of the T and T riders occurred in the Spring of 1967 before the sponsorship of our first motorcycle event, a scrambles, which was held August 13, 1967 on five acres of land



Exterior view of T & T Riders Motorcycle Club located on the western side of the town.



Interior view of T & T Riders Motorcycle Club.

leased from Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weigel of Route 4, Marshfield. Annual races took place on this site for three years.

Ten acres of property was purchased in the Town of Spencer in October of 1969 and the building of a new track was begun that Autumn. On July 4, 1970, a short track race was the first motorcycle event conducted on the present club grounds which now totals 39 acres. Various projects such as: a railroad tie fence, tree planting, a 24 ft. by 60 ft. clubhouse which is still being improved and track improvements have kept the membership busy.

Currently the T and T Riders consist of 54 motorcycle enthusiasts, most of whom are from the Marshfield, Stratford and Spencer areas. Our present club members are: President - Rodney Melbinger, Vice-President - Francis Mueller, Secretary - James Spiering, and Treasurer - Donald McCauley.

WEDGE ACRES ANTIQUE AND RESALE SHOP

Wedge Acres Antique and Resale Shop is owned by Walter and Marge Pichler. They started business in September of 1954 in a small building on the corner of Main and LaSalle Streets in Spencer, under the name of Spencer Second Hand Store. A year later the business was moved to a larger building at 108 W. Clark Street, where it continued for 15 years in the buying and selling of used furniture.

Walter's father, Ludwig Pichler, helped in the store and with the buying of used merchandise. In 1970 the property was sold and the building dismantled. A new building was erected one mile south of Spencer on Hwy. 13 and ¼ mile west, and opened as Wedge Acres Antique and Resale Shop, where there is always a large selection of antique items and good used furniture.



A few of the items on display at Wedge Acres, an antique shop owned and operated by Walter Pichler.

WACHHOLZ FAMILY

On the east side of highway 13 going to Marshfield is situated a very attractive place which serves as both a residence and a business location. Laura's Beauty Shoppe is also the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wachholz of Route 3, Marshfield. Mr. Wachholz also is the agent for Mobil Oil Co. They moved to this location in the fall of 1959 and she started the beauty shop shortly after. Mrs. Wachholz' father, Herman Hoernke, who is 83 years old lives in his mobile home on the property. He is active and helps to keep the attractive yard trim and neat by mowing the grass. The beautifully kept flower beds and lawns are a cooperative effort of all three, according to Mrs. Wachholz. They have one son, James, who is the manager at Woolworth's in the LaCrosse shopping center.

THE FREY FAMILY

Records show that the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Donald Frey now live in Section 26 was bought from the United States government in 1857. The owner of the land in 1884 was Carl Hoff, father of Albert Hoff. The original house still stands and is thought to be one of the oldest houses in the town, having been built in 1895. It was the birthplace of Albert Hoff, one of our oldest fulltime citizens. The Donald Freys purchased the farm from the Carl Hoff estate in April of 1944. Norbert Frey, a brother, lives in Section 25 on land owned by M. Power and H. Sherry in 1895 according to a map of the town. At that time there was a railroad running from the lumber camps at Mannville and McMillan right through that property. One might add a bit of interesting information regarding the building of the house in 1895. Mr. Carl Hoff bought two houses in Mannville after the fire, one for \$20 and the other for \$30. With the material from these two houses he constructed the house which the Donald Frey family lives in today.

CARPENTER-CHERNEY FARM

The land now owned by Louis Cherney in the southwest corner of Section 3 bounded by C on the south and F on the west was first occupied in 1886 by an early settler named Ferdinand Weiland. In 1890 it was sold to Henry Hewitt and in 1893 the land again changed hands when Wm. Foth, grandfather of Myron Foth, purchased it. Sometime after 1911 it was sold to Albert Beutsch and then to August Schmidt. In 1919 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Sersch sold their farm at Barneveld and moved to the town of Spencer purchasing this property. Mr. and Mrs. Sersch (Katherine Kurth) were married in 1887 and had 13 children, namely, Mary, who died at the age of 2, Fred, George, Ed, August, Sue, Emma, Lena, Wilma, Carl, Paul, Walter and Arnold. Peter Sersch paid \$18,000 for 80 acres of what was considered to be a very good farm in the days of the land boom after World War I. Peter Sersch died in 1925 and the farm was then run by Walter and Carl until it was taken over in the late 30's by Fred Sersch and his wife, the former Minnie Zepplin. Mrs. Sersch died in 1935.

The farm again changed hands when it was purchased February 1, 1945 by Mr. and Mrs. Victor I. Carpenter of Marshfield. Mr. and Mrs. Carpenter (the former Lucy Geiger of Dorchester) were the parents of 10 children, Victor, Jr., Wm. D., Lucille Hope, Robert, Lloyd H., who died in 1949, Floyd H., Carol Kay, Jonae Ann, Janice M., and Mary Constance. The farm started out at 140 acres and 120 additional acres were acquired from the August Kibbel farm. This was later sold to Dr. and Mrs. Beery (Lucille Carpenter) and is now owned by Len Zawislan.

Vic decided to retire from farming in 1968 and has been engaged in the insurance business since then. He and his wife left the farm in 1972 and moved to Spencer when they sold it to Louis Cherney, the present owner. Three acres of the farm were

sold to Vic's son, Robert, who is mail carrier in the town of Spencer.

During the time the Carpenters were residents of the town of Spencer, Vic served as chairman from 1963 to 1971. In the late 60's the construction of the pipeline through the township took place. The Berg Equipment, located in the town of Spencer prior to the annexation to the City of Marshfield, filed an objection to the real estate and personal property assessment of their plant. Many hearings were held regarding this case and it finally wound up in the Supreme Court of the State of Wisconsin. It was a rather unique case and the ultimate decision was made in favor of the Town of Spencer.

THE EGGER FAMILY

John Egger, Sr., who had lived with his family on the Senn place which was located in Section 26 and is presently owned by Preston Yoder, was born in Switzerland in 1860. In 1878 he moved to Sundridge, Ontario, Canada where the family bought land at Deer Lake. The family consisted of his father and mother, two sisters and two brothers. On the shore of Deer Lake the soil was sandy, stony and often bed rock prevented deep plowing. After 25 years of struggle, the John Egger, Sr. family moved to Wisconsin, Town of Spencer in 1903. The family consisted of his father, William, born in Switzerland in 1828, Mary, John, Jr., Ernest, Julia, Hulda, Edwin and Walter.

The Egger farm, 120 acres in size, was cut by the Soo Line R. R. and State Highway 13. The place originally had a small house, a log cow shed and only about three acres of cleared land. The family worked hard and long hours together to clear land, cut wood to sell, raise crops and care for a dairy herd. The family continued to grow with Mathilda born in 1903, Oscar 1905, Glenn 1907, Grace 1909, and Raymond in about 1913.

In 1920 John Egger, Sr., with his wife Julia and family, moved to Marshfield where he retired and died in 1944. Of the Egger children, Mary, Ernest and Hulda have died. John, Jr. the oldest son, lives on a farm in Section 22 in the Town of Spencer with his wife, Martha. Julia Johnson lives in George, Iowa; Edwin lives in Bellevue, Washington; Walter lives in Dana Point, California; Mathilda Dunlap is in Oroville, California; Oscar is in Rhinelander, Wisconsin; Glenn is at Mesa, Arizona; Grace is at Horse Creek, Wyo., and Raymond is at Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Two of the oldest residents of the Town are Mr. and Mrs. John Egger, Jr. They moved from Marshfield to the Town of Spencer on April 18, 1918 with their three week old daughter, Martha. Here they settled on 63 acres and proceeded to carve a farm out of the forests. In July of this same year, John was called into service and served in the Army for 41 months. Mr. Egger, who is 87 was born January 9, 1889 at Deer Lake,



Mr. and Mrs. John Egger, Jr., longtime residents of our town.

Ontario, Canada. Martha Krusa Egger, 83 years old, was born in the Town of Marshfield near Klondike on October 23, 1892. They are the parents of two daughters, Martha, Mrs. Arthur Beahm of the Town of Spencer, and Delores, Mrs. Wayne Tabor of Phoenix. Both Mr. and Mrs. Egger are quite active for their age. Mr. Egger has the task of splitting wood and filling the wood box. Mrs. Egger likes to work in her garden and makes afghans and rugs, also.

THE WEIS FAMILY

When the Town of Spencer was very young, it took a pioneer of strong heart and hardy stock to step into the wilderness and carve out a farm upon which he might raise his family. Such was the man named John Weis. Born in Germany



Stierle Bros. MARSHFIELD WIS.

John Weis



Stierle Bros. MARSHFIELD WIS.

Margaret [Burgraff] Weis

October 17, 1864, he emigrated to the United States in 1888 where he purchased the east 1/2 of the SE 1/4 of Section 1, Township 26, Range 2 East from Jacob Boland and his wife Lizzie for the sum of \$250. On October 3, 1893 he was married to Margaret Burgraf at St. John the Baptist Church, Marshfield. In 1904 he acquired the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 1, Township 26, range 2 East from John Thor for \$650.

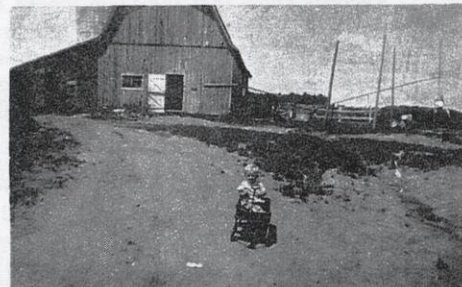
All of their eight children were born in a log cabin on the first parcel of land which they purchased. These children were William, Margaret, Kathryn, Anton, Jacob, Marie, Theresa and Andrew. On March 16, 1906 Mrs. Weis died of pneumonia and he was left with the tremendous task of raising eight motherless children. John sold the farm on February 25, 1931 to his son and daughter-in-law, William and Neillie Weis, for \$7,000. He died on November 22, 1949.

Now the farm had passed to the second generation in the person of William Weis and his wife, the former Nellie Skoine, whom he had married September 26, 1923. To them were born seven children, namely: Edward, Donald, Raphael, VirJean, Vernal, Patricia and Rosemary. William, or Bill, as he is fondly remembered by all his neighbors and associates, became town chairman of the Town of Spencer in 1941 and served until 1962, the longest tenure of any person holding that office in the history of our town. During that time he was also county supervisor and served in several positions on the county board. Bill died on May 24, 1964.

The farm passed to the third generation on January 1, 1960 when Ray and Vernal Weis and Vernal's wife, Eleanor, purchased the farm and have operated it since. It is now composed of 475 acres and a herd of 200 head which includes 75 milk cows. This is quite a contrast to the little wilderness farm which had its beginning way back in 1888. The time draws near



Old buildings on the John P. Weis farm, now owned by his son LaVern, and completely modernized.



when the farm will no longer be in the hands of the Weis family as it has been sold and the new operator will take over June 1, 1976. It had been in the Weis family for 84 years, the oldest farm in the township.

Another emigrant who came to our town in 1888 was Peter Weis, a brother to John. He worked in the woods for the McMillan Bros. for 25 cents a day until after his marriage in 1895 to Catherine Thor. After their marriage they set about making a home for themselves near his brother, John. To them were born the following children: Anna, Jacob, John P., Joseph and Elizabeth. They farmed until 1943 when their son Jacob took over and farmed until 1963 when he sold all but ten acres to Ray and Vernal and purchased the Hiway Motel in Marshfield. The remaining ten acres belongs to Allen Yetter.

A grandson of Peter Weis still resides in the Town of Spencer and operates a dairy farm. The LaVern and Mary Ann Weis property is located four miles east of Spencer on County Trunk C in Sections 1 and 12. LaVern, whose father was John P. Weis, was born and raised on this farm. The property is divided into two parcels, with an 80 acre farm on the north side of the road and an 80 acre farm on the south side of the road, directly across from each other.

The farm on the north side of the road was purchased by George Colliday in 1857 from the United States according to the entry on the abstract. It then passed on to B. Lombard Jr. in 1885 and was purchased by Charles Schilling in 1888. After this the ownership changed many times. In the meantime, this 80 acres was split, making two 40 acre plots. In 1916 Charles Hardinger purchased one 40 acre plot from B. F. McMillan and the other 40 acre plot from John Dietel. In 1921 Frank Hardinger purchased the full 80 acres from the Charles Hardinger estate. Peter Weis became the owner in 1925 and sold it to his son, John P. Weis, in the same year. The last and present owner, LaVern Weis, purchased it from his father, John P., in 1961.

The farm on the south side of the road was purchased by Peter Dedrick, Jr., in 1857 from the United States. In 1858 it was sold to Fredrick Curtis who, in turn, sold it to the George Fellows family in 1862. The next owner was Florence M. Hoover who owned it from 1899 to 1914 when it was purchased by Wilhelm Foth. In 1920 it changed hands again when Sam Butters became the owner. It became part of the Weis farm when John P. Weis

purchased it from the Sam Butters estate in 1944. In 1961 LaVern Weis also bought this land from his father and is the present owner.

John P. Weis was born in 1896 to Peter and Katie Weis. He was married to Elsie Reckner. They had five children, Isabelle, LaVern, Lorraine, Jerry and Shirley. LaVern was born in 1926 to John P. and Elsie Weis. He was married to Mary Ann Weix in 1951. They have four children.

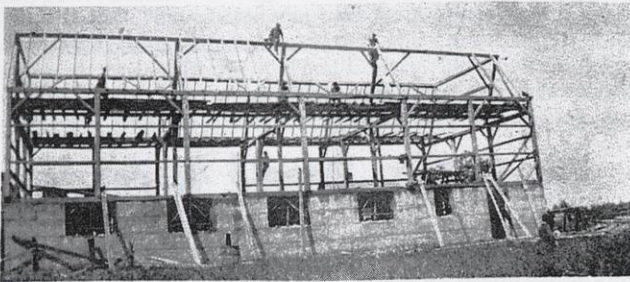
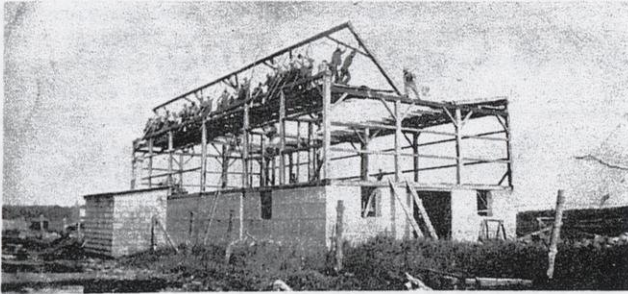
THE ERNEST KARAU FAMILY

Our senior supervisor of the Town Board, Ernest Karau bought a wild 80 acre farm in the Town of Spencer in 1932. He

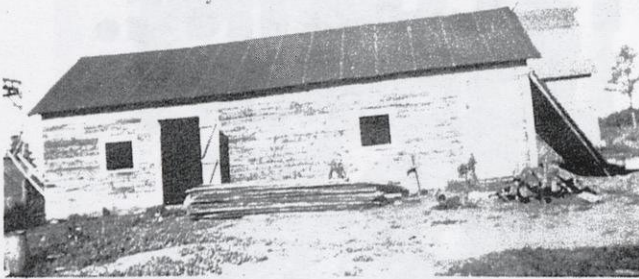
married Marian Dietsche in May of that same year. When they were first married, they lived in a tent. Later they moved into one end of the little barn till their house was done in November. They cleared the land with horses and cut hay by hand in the marshes. They also loaded and unloaded the hay by hand to feed the few cows they had. Farming in those days was not particularly profitable when you consider that they sold a cow that weighed 1020 lbs. and got \$10.20 for her.

Each day Ernest walked three miles to his dad's farm where he cut logs in the winter time so he would have enough

Six sons of Adolf Karau and brothers to Ernest Karau who served in World War II.



Raising a barn for Ernest Karau in 1938. It took much man-power as the picture shows, to raise the heavy timbers. This 36x80 foot barn with a solid concrete wall, completely furnished, cost \$836 when built.



The barn in which Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Karau lived when they first were married.



The first farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Karau.



Norman Karau, who was lost in Philippines for 3 months.



Reinie Karau



Rueben Karau



Raymond Karau



Arnold Karau



Paul Karau

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lumber to build a big barn in 1938. When the 36x80 foot barn was completed, it cost only \$836.

Ernest and Marian have five children, Melvin, James, Helen, Elmer and Robert and fifteen grandchildren. With the exception of Robert, who attended Spencer Public Schools, the other children attended the Holmes School. Ernest served on the Holmes School Board for six years.

They lived on their first farm for 16 years and then bought his dad's farm in 1948. For two years his dad, a sister, and a brother lived with them. In 1950 Adolph and Rueben went to live with Adolph's daughter, Mrs. David Bargander.

Along with farming, Ernest did custom threshing for about four years and also operated a slaughter house for about ten years. In 1964 he went into the lime business. He started out with two trucks and has had as many as seven trucks operating. The lime is hauled out of Stratford, Chili, Granton, Loyal, Mannville and Spencer. In 1973 Ernest and his son, James, bought what was called the Kenz plant in Spencer. He also hauls granite and sand and does excavating. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Farmers Coop for 13 years and has been a Supervisor for the Town of Spencer for 13 years also, as well as having served as constable at one time.

One of the earlier recollections Ernest had was that of Chippewa Indians coming into the woods on what is now the Karau farm. They peeled elm bark from trees, traveling all the way down from Ashland to Skunk Hill, now more familiarly known as Powers Bluffs in Wood County. Two Indians died and were buried in the woods but the graves are no longer visible. It is thought that they used the elm bark as a medicine.

ANDREWS FAMILY

W. W. Andrews was born in Guildhall, Vermont in 1834. The family moved to Sheboygan County where Mr. Andrews, in 1858, married Mary Jane Clark. Three children were born of this



Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Andrews [Alice & Bert]

union -- Emma (Mrs. Charles Colby), Herbert Clinton and Marium Susan (Mae).

In 1894, the family moved to Spencer, where Mr. Andrews bought a considerable amount of land. He also operated the Hotel Andrews, which is now known as Rita & Archies.

H. C. (Bert) Andrews, who was Chairman of the Town of Spencer for many years, married Alice Palmer on June 11, 1896. An indication of the pioneer spirit in our forefathers is the anecdote concerning the father of Alice Palmer. As a youngster in his teens, he stowed away on a ship leaving England, planning to emigrate to Australia. When he appeared from hiding, he was told that the ship was bound for America. So instead of becoming an Aussie, he became an American.

The last large sawmill erected in Spencer was operated by Bert Andrews, Laurence Driscoll and Charles Colby. The Andrews had four children: Marium married John Roith, both were government employees in Washington, D. C.; Ethel married photographer Guy Wyman, Wausau; Russell married Fae Cook; Gertrude, an X-ray technician at Walter Reed Hospital, married Raymond Johnson, a meat salesman.

Except for a period of employment in Rockford, Illinois, Russell has spent most of his life in the Town of Spencer. As a youngster living in town, he used to ride his bicycle out in the country and think that would be a wonderful place to live. When he was seven years old, his father bought the farm on which Russell is living. His marriage to Fae Cook took place on January 4, 1935. Fae was the daughter of George S. and Elizabeth Ann (Gillett) Cook, Unity. Elizabeth Gillett taught in the English Academy at Fond du Lac. (Fae's grandmother was also a schoolteacher.) The Cooks had eight children; Vera, a school teacher, married a farmer; Merle married Lee Holmes, a minister; Fern married Raymond Fleming, a minister; Sewell worked for the State Highway Commission; Fae, a school teacher, says she married a chicken farmer; Audrey died of diphtheria; Calvin is Marathon County Highway Commissioner; and Shirley, a beautician (Mi-Lady's) married Everett Capes.

Fae graduated from Marathon County Normal School, subsequently attending summer school sessions in Stevens Point. She taught at Unity, a school between Unity and Colby, and in the village of Spencer. After their marriage, they lived in the upstairs apartment on the home farm, where they were in dairying as well as chickens. Their two daughters are married, Jane (Mrs. George Angell) lives in Shakopee, Minnesota; Syril (Mrs. Herbert Mandel) lives at Janesville.

Russell retired from farming and rents his land. He worked for a few years at Land O' Lakes, and now does some carpentry and remodeling. Fae is quite content to stay in the house that has been her home for the past 41 years.

THE DRISCOLL FAMILY

James Driscoll was born in Ireland and came to America as a young man. He was a lumberman, working the lumber camps of Canada before coming to Wisconsin, where he worked at his trade in Spencer and also Rib Lake for a period of time. James Driscoll married Henrietta Hayward, daughter of John K. Hayward, the second white settler to arrive here. Mr. Hayward came from Waupaca County in 1872. He helped clear the right of way for the Wisconsin Central Railroad from Manville to the station originally known as Waltham, where he built the depot and established a post office, serving as postmaster until 1874, when the station was moved northward and renamed Spencer.

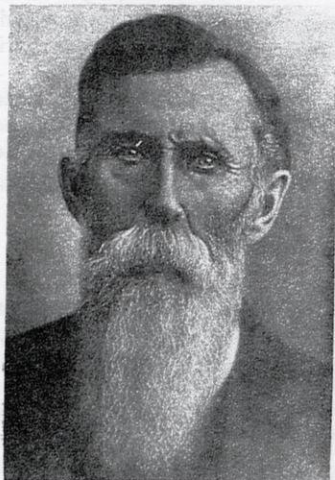
John Hayward put up a log house and sent for his wife and six daughters. He later built a large frame house, in time for the birth of the second of his five sons. The oldest, Marathon (known as Merton or Merty) was the first white child born in Spencer. The Hayward home farm is now the site of the lime plant.

James and Henrietta (Hayward) Driscoll had two sons, Laurence and another who died in infancy. Laurence lived here all of his life with the exception of four years when, as a teenager, he resided at Rib Lake, where his father's work had moved the family. As a young man, Laurence had the experience of threshing with his grandfather and uncles. Grandfather Hayward owned a threshing rig which would be placed on a railroad flatcar and all would travel to the harvest fields out west. Threshing on one farm would often take two weeks. This railroad travel undoubtedly influenced Laurence's uncles, as Merton and Frank became railroad engineers, and Gilbert became a conductor.

In 1899, Laurence Driscoll took as his bride Marium Sue (Mae) Andrews, the daughter of W. W. Andrews. (Laurence and Mae were both born in 1876 - 100 years ago!) Their son,



Mr. and Mrs. James Driscoll and son Laurence



W.W. Andrews, grandfather of Floyd Driscoll & Russell Andrews.



Mariam Sue [Mae] Andrews



Wedding picture of Laurence and Mae Driscoll.

Floyd was born while they were living on what is now the Marvin Endreas farm which Laurence rented from his father. Dale Driscoll was born in Spencer where the family moved when the farm was sold. (Two sons died in infancy.)

Laurence Driscoll and George Hayward were the first two rural mail carriers, George having the route west of town, Laurence the east route. In the Spring, Laurence would have to walk half of his route because of the bad roads. Later, he and his brothers-in-law, Charles Colby and Bert Andrews, bought and operated a sawmill (where the Village Plaza is now located.) Laurence built and lived in the house in which Harley Graves lives. The family moved to the farm (now the Sherbourne home), where they lived until 1934, (Laurence was postmaster from 1933-1944) when they rented the farm and moved into the old John Gardiner home in Spencer. He died in 1952, Mae Driscoll in 1965.

Floyd and Ethel Driscoll farmed the 80 acres along "C" (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8 and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 9). Ethel worked at the Picus grocery store in the winter months and became a member of the Board of Education of the Spencer Schools. She was serving as Clerk at the time of her death in 1957. Floyd retired from farming and in 1960 married Naomi Sykes who had been his high school sweetheart. They live on the same farm, a parcel of which was sold to Walter Fleischman for a home. The land is being cropped by Dennis Foth.

Dale Driscoll lives in Marshfield. Residents of the Town of Spencer remember him as a school teacher at the East and West Timlin schools and at Mannville school.

Floyd recalls when the "old" Bolen house was a horse barn owned by John Gardiner. He maintained a race track (where the school buildings are located and which was still visible from the air a few years ago) and trained horses for sulky racing. The track was in use in the early 1900's, but not in 1910. John Gardiner died of injuries suffered in a fall from the loft of the horse barn. The road we know as County Highway "C" was little more than a logging road through a tall tamarack forest, with four wooden bridges between town and Driscoll's farm home. As a teenage youngster, Floyd remembers how frightening it was to walk that road and cross those bridges in the dark of night.

ALLIE HEISLER FAMILY

Allie Heisler was married to Isabelle Becher, Auburndale, in 1934. They lived first in Chili, Town of Fremont, Clark County, before moving to the Town of Spencer in 1949. The farm they bought had belonged to Martha Moede, from whom it was purchased, in about 1909, by Mr. and Mrs. August Schultz. After the death of August, Mrs. Schultz married Delbert Milhahn, known as "Buffalo Bill" because before his marriage to Mrs. Schultz he was employed in a circus. So the parcel of land located in Sec. 33 was called the "Buffalo Bill Farm" and still is remembered as such by some of the residents of the town today. After the Milhahns left the town, the farm was owned by Merton Hannum. After his death, the farm was sold to H. K. Christensen, Abbotsford, and then to Allie Heisler.

Mr. Heisler worked at Weyerhaeuser. Later he opened a sand pit and sold sand lift to the county, cities, and various townships.

The Heislars had seven children, Delores married Walter Mundt, Mosinee; LaVern lives in Texas; Eugene married Clara Johnson, lives on the William Reimer farm located in Sec. 28; Sylvia married Maurice Hougum, lives at Rozellville; Shirley married Donald King, lives at Pittsville; Virgene married Alfred Krueger, lives in the house on the home farm rented from her brother; Patricia married Thomas Hutter, Marshfield. Allie sold the farm to his son Eugene in 1975 and 10 acres to Gerhardt Lokre.

Mrs. Allie Heisler died in 1973. Mr. Heisler now makes his home with his daughter in Mosinee.



The buildings of the Fritz Hoffman farm, once known as one of the Consolidated Farms. This house was used as a boarding house.

CONSOLIDATED FARMS

As nearly as can be determined, the Consolidated Farms came into being early in the 1900's. A real estate agent named J. P. Hume brought a number of Hungarians to this country to work on several farms set up and owned by the Consolidated Farm Company. About 25 houses were built and some are still being used in other locations about the town. The Fritz Hoffman house was the boarding house for Consolidated Farms. The homes where Richard Shotwell and Norman Tremmeling live were also Consolidated houses moved from their original locations. The following article appeared in the February 4, 1909 issue of the Marshfield paper. "At an annual meeting of the Consolidated Farm Co. last week, the following directors were elected: John P. Hume, J. C. Marsh, Hugo Wagner, K. W. Doege, Harlow Hyde, J. A. Hoffman and Amos Roll. The company has spent in development over \$15,000. About 300 acres of land have been cleared and stumped the past year."

From what old timers recall, land was bought for \$20 per 40 acres. Most of it was low lying and worthless. About four or five sections was purchased and the area ran from County Trunk C to the Mannville road and the McMillan-Spencer town line. The people who worked the farm were supposed to accumulate shares. It is said that the Company borrowed money on the land with which to pay the laborers so that when the laborers supposedly had their farms earned, they were encountered with mortgages on their land.

From the May 1, 1910 edition of the Marshfield paper the following was taken: "Considerable excitement was occasioned Monday when a delegation of settlers from the Consolidated Farm Co. appeared at the local office and demanded the return of the money they had paid on their land contracts claiming fraud and misrepresentation."

As late as 1913 the Consolidated Farms Co. was mentioned in Marchetti's history of Marathon County as having a sawmill for doing custom work for farmers. Whatever the goals or ambitions were cherished in the formation of this company, it is now a thing of the past barely remembered by most of our townspeople.

An excerpt from the Marshfield paper of April 27, 1905 -- The price of cheese was 14 cents, the highest reached in a dozen years. There is not apound of old cheese in the market and the demand all over the U. S. is much greater than the supply. A year ago at this time cheese was a drug on the market at 6c a lb.

RUSSELL LANG FAMILY

In 1971 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lang, one of the enterprising young farm couples of the Town of Spencer, were honored by the Spencer Jaycees by being chosen "Outstanding Young Farmers". Mr. and Mrs. Russel Lang purchased their farm from Norman Kommers in 1965 and built their herd up in number from 13 to 37. This herd of 37 produced 15,700 lbs. of milk and 553 lbs. of fat with a 3.7 test. From 1966 to 1971 the Langs made many improvements which included the installation of a bulk feeding system, milking transfer system and a new well. When the town clerk moved away, Russell took over the duties for a time but resigned in order to devote full time to farming. Although it was a hard decision to make, the Langs decided to give up farming in 1971 for reasons of health. However, they have remained citizens of the Town of Spencer, having constructed a new home in Section 32. Russell is assistant sales manager for Berg Barn Equipment. Mrs. Lang is not only busy raising their children, Timothy, Jane, Amy, Rachel, Edwin, and Bethany, but she is also assistant organist for Trinity Lutheran Church in Spencer.

ADOLPH KARAU FAMILY

The name Karau has long been familiar in the Town of Spencer. Adolph Karau was born in Germany in 1878 and came to this country in 1909. He lived with his aunt and uncle in Mannville. He worked at the Roddis plant in Marshfield where he was a cabinet maker by trade. He married Emma Breheim in June of 1911 and lived in Marshfield until 1915 when he moved to a 160 acre farm in the Town of Spencer which he had

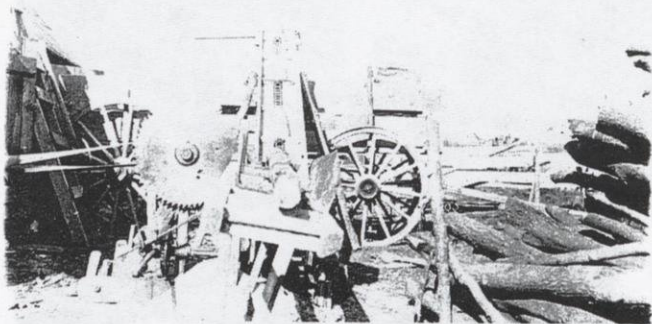


Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Karau, Arlene and Rueben.

purchased in 1913. There he built a log barn to live in until he could clear enough land to build a house. Before the house was completed, it burned to the ground so he had to start all over again. He would cut logs in the winter and each morning he would take a team of horses and a sleigh and haul a load of logs down to the Roddis plant. He cut his own logs with which he built his barn in 1921. All of the farm work was done with horses until the last few years when a Ford tractor was purchased. There were 13 children, Ernest, Adolph, Jr., Albert, Arnold, Erna, Elia, Erma, Norman, Paul, Reinie, Arlene and Rueben. Mrs. Karau died in April of 1946 and Adolph stayed on the farm till 1948 when his son, Ernest, took over. Adolph died in July of 1952. A rather unusual and interesting fact might be stated here regarding this family. Six sons of this German family served in World War II and all came home alive. They were Arnold, Norman, Paul, Reinie, Ray, and Rueben.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cherney, longtime residents of our town



Saw rig -- cutting wood for the stoves at the Frank Cherney home.

FRANK CHERNEY FAMILY

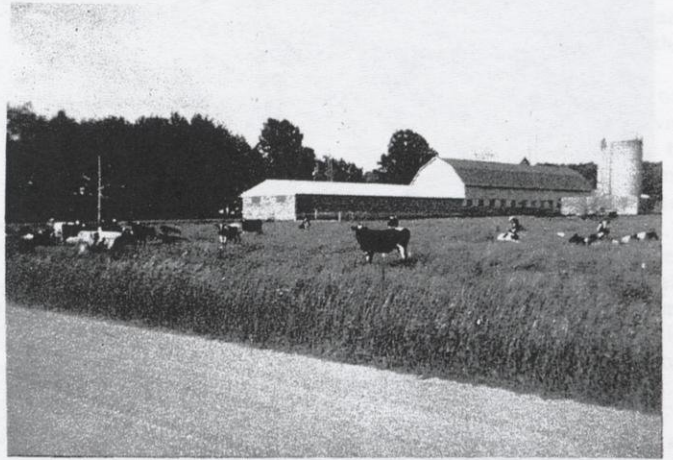
Frank Cherney came to the town of Spencer in 1907. He was born in the town of McMillan December 3, 1892. When he purchased his farm, located in Section 29, it was all timberland and saw mills, but he developed it into a modern dairy farm.

On October 23, 1928, Frank married Olga Gross in Saint John's Catholic Church, Marshfield. The couple has four children, Elaine, married to Nick Jashor, living in the town of McMillan; Lucille (Mrs. Carl Christenson), Eagle River; Arlene, Milwaukee; and William, who now operates the home farm. Frank Cherney served as a Town of Spencer Supervisor.

Mrs. Cherney remembers when Frank bought a 1916 Model T Ford for \$360.00 and in 1918, the first area Fordson tractor with plow for \$1,000.

THE ERVIN DREWS FAMILY

In 1896 Charles Drews of Burnett, Wis. and Hattie Stoltenow of Spencer, Wis. were married. In 1897 they bought 200 acres of wild land in the Town of Spencer through a logging



Robert Drews farm.

company which owned a lot of the land in that territory. They paid \$3.00 per acre. There were no roads or cleared land and after clearing a place for the buildings, a house and a barn were built in 1898. The roads were just trails in the woods and all around the buildings was brush and woods. The boys were small and would go out to pick flowers in the woods. They would get about 20 feet from the house and would start to cry as they thought they were lost because they could not see the house or barn. Charlie (as he was known) cut and hauled logs the first few years they were there and gradually added livestock to the farm.

The original house is the same house that is still on the farm. A different barn was built in 1916 and since then there have been two additions to the barn plus the erection of many other buildings. Charles and Hattie had two sons, Ervin, born in



Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Drews, in 1896.

1898, and Harold born in 1899. Harold and his late wife, Elsie, purchased a farm on 26 Road in the Town of Spencer near the old homestead. Ervin stayed on the home farm with his parents and after his marriage he and his wife, Blanche, farmed the home farm. Their two children were born there--Patricia (Mrs. Richard Ives) of Alexandria, Va., and Robert who is on the home farm now. Robert and his wife, La Verne, purchased the farm from his parents in 1974. They have two boys, Daniel and Christopher at home, and one daughter, Carolyn, of LaCrosse, Wis. Ervin and his wife now reside in Spencer, Wis.

Robert has added acreage to the farm and at the present time it consists of 646 acres. There are 90 dairy cows and 125 head of young stock on the farm.

The Charles Drews were the first settlers in that area of the Town of Spencer. The farm has been in the family for 79 years.

Spencer Record, February 9, 1953--ERVIN AND ROBERT DREWS RECEIVE AWARD OF MERIT

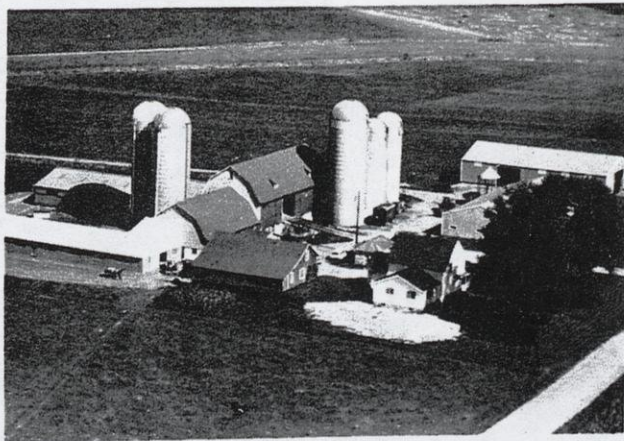
A father and son received an award of merit from the Marathon County Soil Conservation District in recognition of their outstanding achievements in soil and water conservation. Ervin Drews and son, Robert, Route 3, Marshfield, were presented the award certificate by Wm. E. Weis, Spencer, Chairman of the Soil Conservation District at the Spencer Farm Institute Tuesday, February 7.

Ervin Drews signed up with the Marathon County Soil Conservation District in the spring of 1960. The SCS made a soil survey of his 360 acre farm. Using this soil map as a basis for planning, Drews and his son, Robert, have developed a basic conservation farm plan. All crop fields will be surveyed and the sod waterways and surface drains will be constructed. An excellent start was made in the fall of 1960 when 75 acres of cropland was drained. This involved the installation of 7400 feet of sod waterways and 13,000 feet of surface drains. Another 50 acres is scheduled for drainage work during 1961. Drews is planning to purchase his own land leveler to be used to improve the surface drainage on all his 245 acres of cropland. Soil test recommendations are followed with a goal of alfalfa-brome hay on all fields as the drainage problems are taken care of. A feeding program revolving around a 30x50 foot silo with a capacity of 1000 tons of silage is the hub of the Drews' stored feed program.

Fifty-six acres of woodland is protected from grazing. Improvement cuttings are being carried out to improve the quality and annual growth of this woodland. A woodland management plan has been drawn up by the WCD foresters.

STERNWEIS FAMILY

The Donald Sternweis farm is located in the southwestern corner of the Town of Spencer. The farm was first established by George Sternweis and his wife, Mary, in 1906. The original farm consisted of 80 acres but George bought additional acreage to



make his holdings 245 acres. The George Sternweises had eight children.

Their son Donald and his wife Marge bought the farm from his father in 1957. Since then many modern buildings have been added. There are nine silos associated with the farm which now totals 565 acres. One hundred thirty dairy cows and one hundred twenty heifers are all part of the farm.

Donald and Marge have seven children. In 1974 a corporation of the farm was formed with their son Steve and his wife Dolores who live on an adjoining farm owned by the corporation.

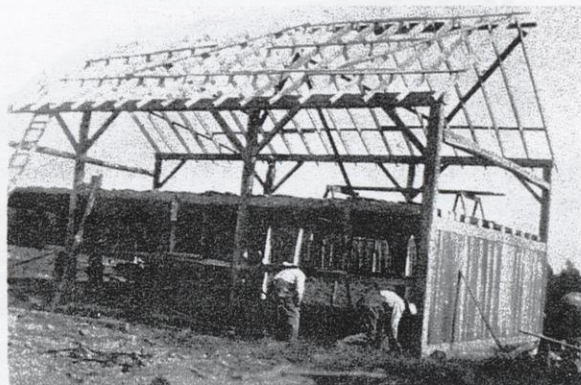
THE MYRON FOTH FAMILY

Myron Foth was born in the Town of Spencer August 22, 1903, the son of William and Louise (Griepentrog) Foth. He received his education at Jt. No. 4, Town of Brighton, Spencer. Myron's father was killed in a McMillan logging camp accident. His mother subsequently married Albert Margelowsky. They moved to the Eckes settlement, Town of Lincoln, Wood County, which borders the Town of Spencer, living there for two years. They sold that farm and moved back to the town of Spencer, where they purchased the farm of her father, August Griepentrog. The Margelowskys had two other children, Elsie, who married Paul Sersch, and Arnold who lives in Marshfield. Myron stayed at home and helped his parents clear land and cut woods to make a productive farm.

On June 1, 1927, Myron Foth was united in marriage to Sophia Hupe of the Town of McMillan. They purchased the farm they live on in Sec. 10. They decided they needed more land, so in 1961 they purchased the Fred Griepentrog farm in Sec. 4, which they farmed until 1967. At that time they sold the farm to



The original George Sternweis farm in 1956.



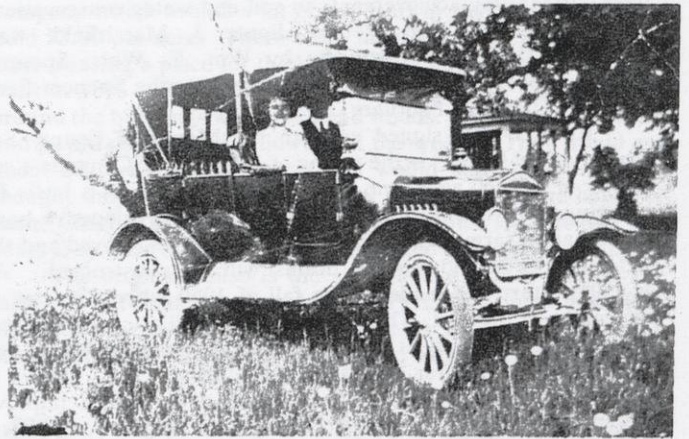
Barn raising in 1927 on Foth farm.



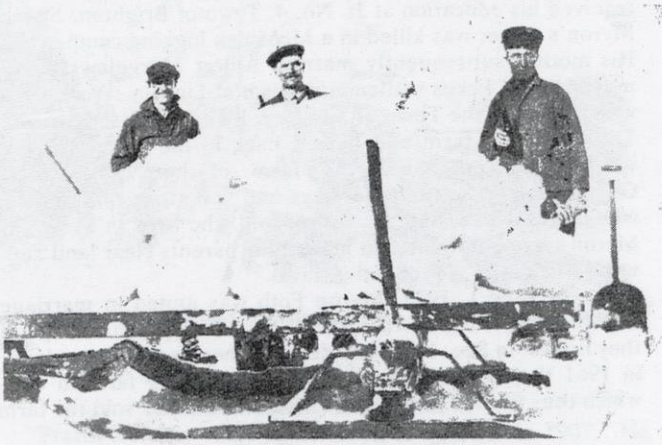
Wedding picture of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oelrich in 1910.



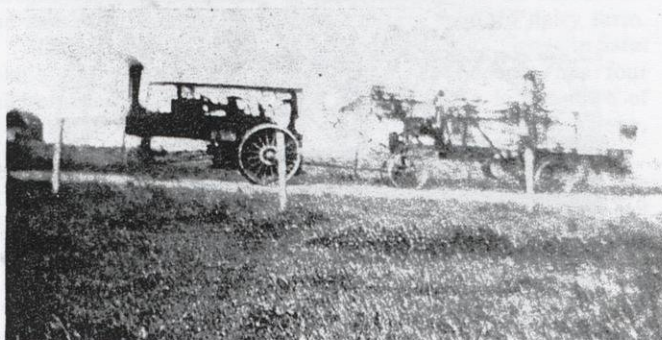
Mannville School, 1941.
Bottom row, L to R: Herman Halle, Richard Halle, Lambert Schommer. Row 2: Arnold Mellenthin, James Schommer, Ken Schommer, Glen Fischer, Paul Halle. Row 3: Jim Koch, Wenzel Egner, Jerome Schommer, John Hoff, Karl Huetter, Harvey Britten.



Courting in proper style — William and Lizzie [Weis] Fischer.



John Bisser, Frank Huetter



Threshing machine with steam engine fired by wood, on the William Weis farm in 1920.



Centennial work certainly ages some folks — Abraham [John Hoff] Lincoln.



Family reunion: Armin, Russel, Ardene, Mrs. Foth, Dennis, Mr. Foth, Irene, Robert.



The Myron Foth home.



A young Myron Foth.



Wedding picture of Sophia and Myron Foth.

their son, Dennis, and returned to the house where they formerly lived.

Mr. and Mrs. Foth have six children. Irene, married Delmar Toltzman and lives at Spencer; Robert married Dorothy Dittner, lives in Belvidere, Ill.; Armin married Emily Roggenbauer, lives in Spencer; Ardene married Melvin Casswell, Milwaukee; Dennis married Gayle Folmar (from Alabama), lives



The Myron Foth family: Standing - Irene, Robert, Armin, Ardene. Seated - Dennis, Mr. and Mrs. Foth, Russell.

on the home place, and Russell married Marie Ault and lives at Spencer.

In their retirement, Myron enjoys television and helps Dennis with farm work, and Mrs. Foth enjoys gardening and sewing.

(Note: Myron's mother had homestead rights on the 40 acres, and when Myron became 21, he was the owner.)

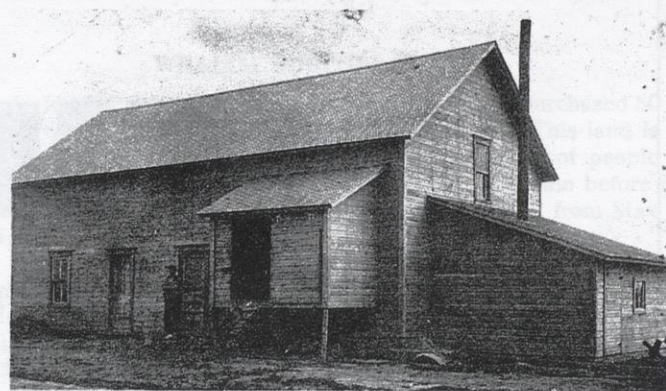
RINDFLEISCH FAMILY

Gottfried and Friedericke (Weiland) Rindfleisch, with their two sons Albert and Ernest came to the Town of Spencer in 1886 from Jefferson, Wisconsin. They settled on the land that is today the farm of the late Paul Sersch. The log house they build is the existing house, covered with siding and plastered inside.

Albert Rindfleisch married Martha Schwantes on July 26, 1894 and lived in the Town of Brighton. Ernest married Louise Schwantes in 1899 and they lived on the "home" place about this time -- 1900 and 1901.

Gottfried Rindfleisch owned and operated a machine shop in the Village of Spencer. This shop was located near where the Tremmel Machine Shop stands today. This shop was an International Farm Machinery Shop.

William (Bill) Rindfleisch, the son of Albert and Martha



Korth Corner Cheese Factory, built by August Hoops about 1909. Cheesemakers were Wm. Counow, Louis Schultz, Wm. Shorer, Aug. Hoops, Otto Mellenthin, Ernie Beisner, Leonard Cramer and Art Beisner.

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100th Birthday

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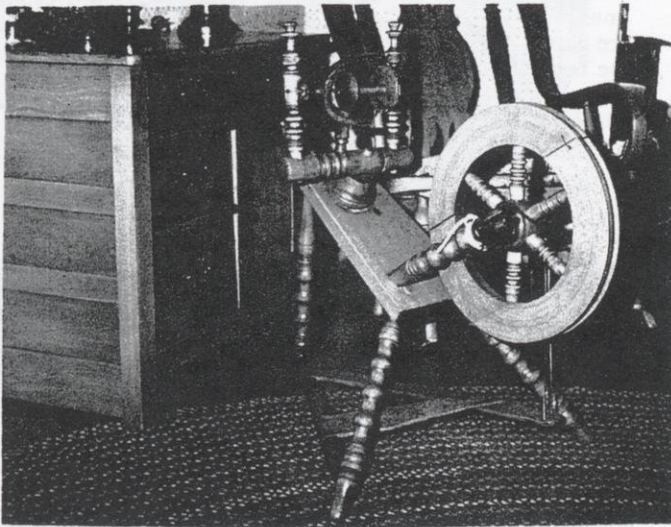
FLOWERS PLANTS

HOBBY & CRAFT SUPPLIES

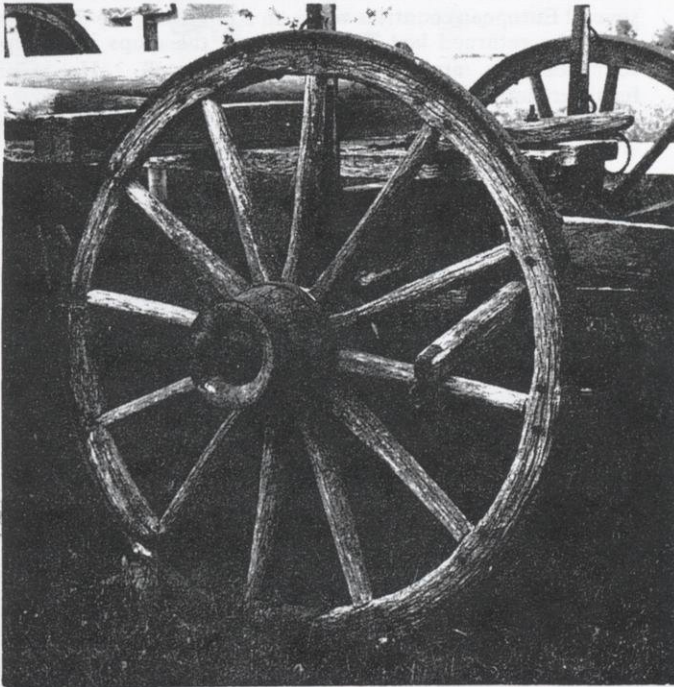
BOLENS OUTDOOR EQUIP.

BEST WISHES FOR 1976

PICUS IGA



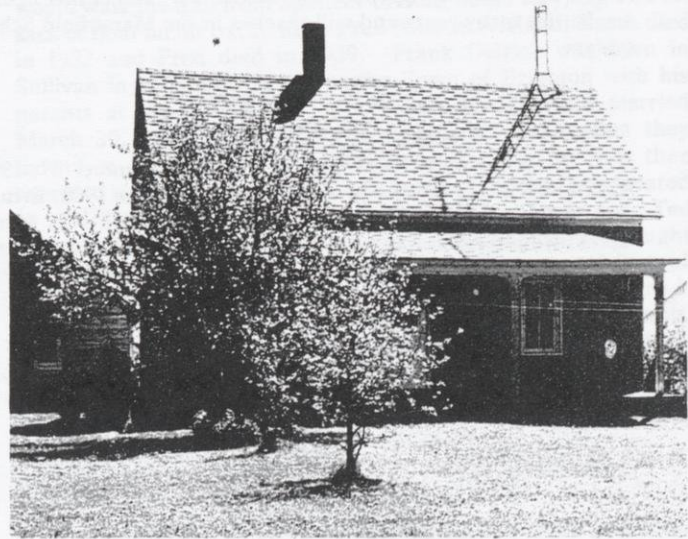
An antique spinning wheel once used by William Rindfleisch's grandmother sits in front of a commode and rocker, also mementos of the past. These items are found in the home of the Rindfleisch family along with countless other beautiful old treasures.



Wagon wheels from the yard of William Rindfleisch bear silent testimony to the "olden" days.

Rindfleisch bought the "Korth Corners" Cheese Factory property in 1949. This factory was built in 1910 by August Hoops and had been operated through the years by a Mr. Schultz, Otto Mellenthin, Eric Beisner, Art Beisner and Leonard Cramer who owned and operated it for about 20 years. It was sold to "Dairy Belt" in Spencer about 1945. During the time the factory was operated by Leonard Cramer, Bill Rindfleisch was secretary of the factory and trucked milk. After it was sold to "Dairy Belt" the Jerry Harries lived in it for a year or two. Bill did trucking for about 26 years which included cattle and milk. He sold his trucking business in 1966 when he became employed by Land O' Lakes of Spencer. The Rindfleisches have two children, Nancy and William, Jr.

In 1957 Bill and Ethel Rindfleisch remodeled the "cheese



The home on the farm of the late Paul Sersch is one of the oldest in the town, having been erected in the 1800's by Gottfried Rindfleisch.



The William Rindfleisch home, once known as the Korth Corners Cheese Factory.

factory house" using an Early American motif. Many of the pieces of furniture have been in the family for more than one generation. One such piece is a beautiful old spinning wheel which belonged to Bill's grandmother. When walking through this home it is indeed hard to picture it as a place where cheese was made.

WILLIAM ROHLOFF FAMILY

In 1857 Charles E. Henry and Thos. J. Wintz purchased 80 acres of land from the United States government. This land is located in Section 15 and was owned by a number of people including L. Wendal, Mrs. C. Thomas and R. Paton before it was eventually purchased by William Rohloff in 1941 from Max Nigl.

Ten years later 40 acres joining the farm was purchased from Eva Larson and four years later another 40 acres was added. This land had belonged to Henry Reas who had lived on this forty. Mr. Reas lived in a small house at the edge of the woods near a beautiful white oak. There is still a good well located on this property. Mrs. Rohloff recalls that Hank Reas was their neighbor for one summer. When winter came he closed the door and went to Florida.

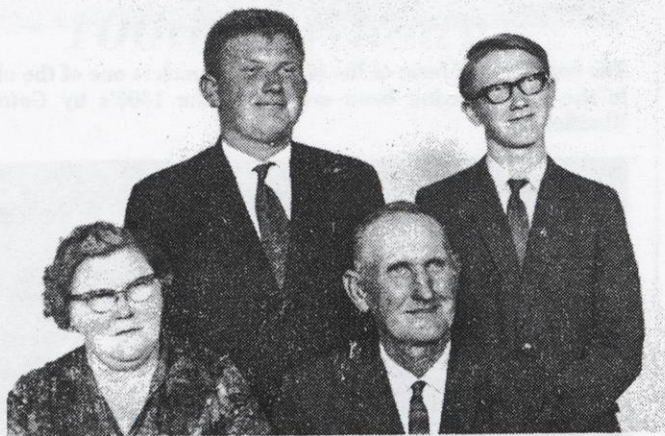
During the years the Rohloffs have lived on this farm they have built onto the barn. Horses were used for farm work until 1954. On this farm three children, Carl, Sharon and Christa were

reared and attended Spencer Public School. Hazel has been a teacher for many years and still teaches in the Marshfield School system.

EMIL CARTWRIGHT FAMILY

Emil Cartwright was born in Illinois September 27, 1902. He came with his mother to the town of Spencer in 1908, living in the house now the Myron Foth residence, which was located across from the Peter Sersch farm and owned by William Martin. Emil's mother later married August Marten, and after his death, Mrs. Marten and her son purchased from the Dodge Estate the farm now owned by LaVern Kibbel.

After leaving the farm Emil worked on the section of the Soo Line Railroad. He was in the army from November 2, 1942 - March 21, 1943, returning to work in the section after his

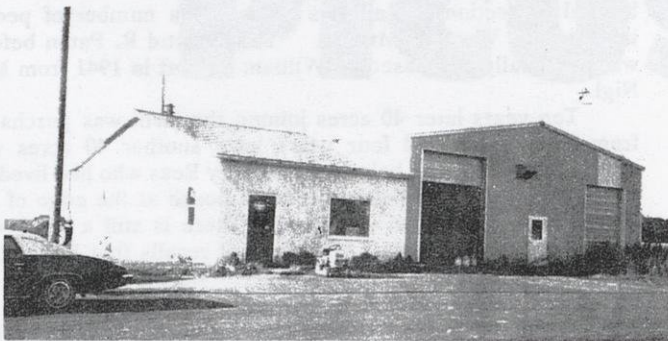


discharge. His marriage to Esther Facklam, daughter of Henry Facklam (town of Sherman) took place June 24, 1944. They purchased the Vivian Dickson farm and had two sons. Harvey operates the home farm and Albert, Spencer, is employed by Wicks Building System.

Emil recalls operating a dance hall in 1931 - 1932. Now retired, he enjoys fishing and hunting. Mrs. Cartwright enjoys housekeeping.

BOB'S GARAGE

Bernadine Gauger purchased the farm from the Stargardt estate when her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stargardt, passed away. In 1967, Bob and Bernadine started a little garage 26 x 32 feet. Later, in 1969, Bob built the addition of the present garage. Bernadine passed away in 1971. Bob was remarried in 1972, to Arlene Klein who now owns the business operated by her husband.



Bob's Garage — operated by Bob Gauger.

Taken from the Wausau Record Herald in 1950--Despite an unusually late start this year, small grains in Marathon County are generally doing well. This outstanding crop of Ajax oats on the farm of Fred Larson, town of Spencer, is well-headed and indicated a heavy yield, since some of the heads showed approximately 40 kernels. Inspecting the more than two foot



high stand the other day were (from left to right), William E. Weis, town chairman who operates several large farms in the area; the Rev. A. W. Fischer, pastor of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Stratford; Larson, and Marvin Carlson, a neighboring farmer. Larson's other fields, planted in Clinton and Yellow Kerson strains, are also doing well. Father Fischer, who toured several European countries while on a pilgrimage to Rome, from which he returned last Thursday, said the crops in European countries, too, are doing exceptionally well. He credited fertilizer supplied European countries by America under the Marshall plan as being largely responsible for some of the best crops in years.



Mr. and Mrs. Frank Korth Jr.

FRANK KORTH FAMILY

Frank Korth, Jr. was born in the Spencer area to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Korth, Sr., on March 23, 1887. He attended the Brighton School and the Lutheran Parochial School in Spencer. Until the time of his marriage to Frieda Schmidt on May 9, 1916 he worked for his father. He then moved to a farm in Section 3 where he lived until 1952 when he sold out to Harold Bechler. Mr. Bechler still operates the farm. The Korths moved to Marshfield where Frank died May 16, 1962. Mrs. Korth is 82 yrs old and still lives in Marshfield. There were seven children, Mrs. Roy (Anita) Kruse; Arno, Mrs. Art (Delores) Kiel, Mrs. Roland (Ruth) Friedrich, Wayne, Lois and Marie.

FRANK OELRICH FAMILY

Numbered among the list of pioneer settlers in our town were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oelrich. Minnie (Korth) Oelrich was born in 1889 in a log cabin on the farm now owned by Washington Boucher. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Korth



Front row: Minnie Korth and Frank Oelrich; back row: Bill Korth and friend.



Horses and logging sleigh on Oelrich farm.



Frank Oelrich standing on logs back in the days when oxen were a common sight.

were born in Germany in 1857 and 1859, respectively. They came to this country and were married in Milwaukee in 1880. In 1882 they moved to the town of Spencer where they bought a 40 acre piece of wilderness. Another 40 acres was later added. To them nine children were born. Minnie recalled how her father

would walk the trail from Spencer to their home carrying a 50 lb. sack of flour on his back. Mrs. Fred (Gustie Wieland) Korth died in 1932 and Fred died in 1939. Frank Oelrich was born in Sullivan in 1883 and moved to the Town of Brighton with his parents at the age of four. Frank and Minnie were married March 30, 1910, and lived in Wausau until 1912 when they moved to Darlington where they lived until 1914. They then returned to the Town of Spencer and purchased the farm located in section 2 which they farmed until 1945. Their son, Ted farmed until 1957 when their daughter, Lillian Johnsrud, bought the farm. At the present time, Ted Woodkey, a grandson of Frank and Minnie Oelrich, is operating the farm which makes it the third generation to have lived on it. In addition to farming, Frank Oelrich was well known for masonry, having helped with many barn basements in this area. Seven children were born to them, Marian, Eleanor, Lillian, Ted, Elmer, Wilmer, and Bonnie. Mrs. Oelrich lives in the village of Spencer and enjoys knitting, crocheting and baking.

TED OELRICH FAMILY

Ted Oelrich, our Town Treasurer, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oelrich and has been a life-long resident of the town, having been born here in 1917. He attended school in the town of Brighton and graduated from Spencer High School. He worked for the Farmers Coop until January of 1942 when he entered the Army where he served from January of that year until September of 1945. Almost three years was spent overseas in the African Middle East operation and with the 5th Army through Sicily and Italy until the surrender of the German Army. Upon his release from the army he started farming on his father's 240 acre farm where he farmed for 12 years. He then bought 80 acres of his own in Section 11. At this time also he started working at Weyerhaeuser in Marshfield where he became foreman and has remained until the present time. In 1956 he became Town Treasurer, a position which he has held ever since.



Ted and Frank Oelrich pushing the crosscut way back in 1935.

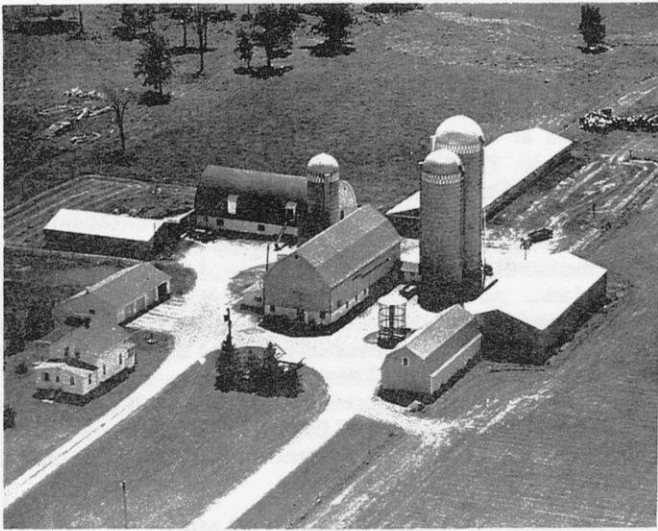
ARNOLD DIERINGER FAMILY

The Arnold Dieringer Family purchased the farm on March 15, 1954. It was purchased from Frank Gaier who had purchased it from George Zahn who was one of the pioneers of the town of Spencer. The farm is located one and one-fourth miles west of the city of Marshfield limits--now called Mann St.

Many improvements were made after the Dieringers moved on the farm. In 1954 a silo was built and later a round roof barn and a loose heifer barn were built. Another silo, plus a milk house and machine shed, were added a few years later. In 1974 a free stall barn for dairy cattle was built, plus a three stall garage.

Many additional acres have been added to the original farm which consisted of 237 acres. At present the farm consists of 553 acres.

The Dieringers have seven children—three girls and four

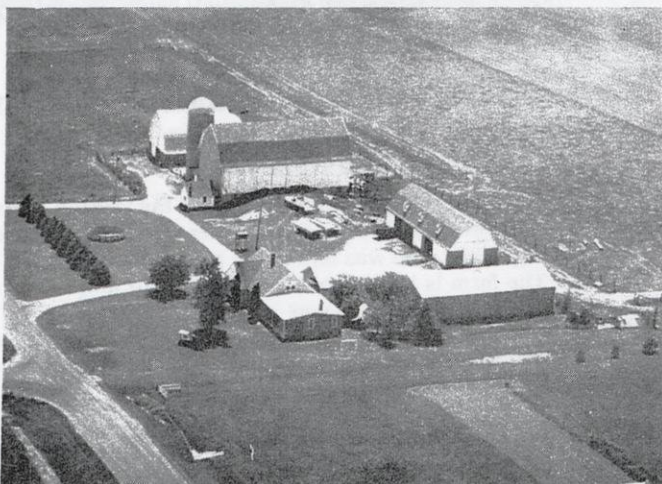


Arnold Dieringer farm.

boys. The girls have married and moved away from home and the boys, Richard, Robert, Arnold, Jr., and Dennis are farming the home place with their parents. Mr. Dieringer served as chairman of the Town of Spencer for five years.

MARVIN CARLSON FAMILY

Marvin Carlson, our Town Constable, has lived in the Town of Spencer since September of 1949, having purchased the farm in Section 12 from Wilbur and Theone Larson. Looking back upon the abstracts, it appears that the first settler on this farm was named O. Nelson and the entry was dated September of 1857 although the entry says "not of record". The first patent recorded was that of E. Goodwin on May 19, 1891. Two lumber companies, the John Week Lumber Company and the B. F. McMillan Lumber Co. at one time or another owned the land before the turn of the century. A succession of owners followed until Wilbur Larson purchased it in February of 1945. He and his wife, the former Theone Elliott, farmed until 1949 when Mrs. Larson became ill with polio and they decided to sell the farm for her health. The 160 acre farm has grown to 203 acres with the acquisition of "Rocky Maple Ridge", 63 acres of rock and maple from Fred Larson in 1966. Mrs. Carlson served as Town Clerk for 4 years from 1971 to 1975. A rather interesting note is that in 1949 there were four farms being operated in this immediate vicinity while today only one remains. Much of the land is now owned by the Department of Natural Resources and has been developed into an area to attract ducks and other wild fowl.



Rocky Maple Ridge Dairy Farm, owned by Marvin Carlson.

**Mr. and Mrs. Andrew
Bodendorfer Sr.,
Andrew Jr., Donald
and Ethel.**



ANDREW BODENDORFER, SR.

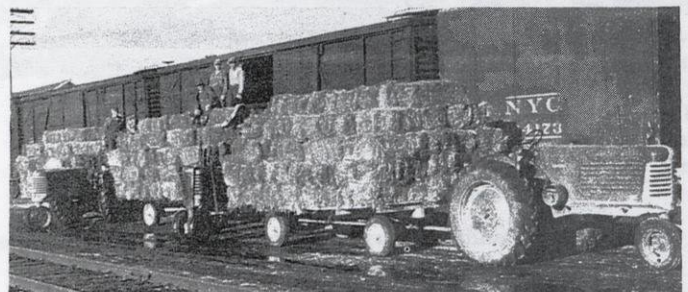
Andrew Bodendorfer, Sr., was born in the Town of Lincoln, Wood County, in 1905. In 1926 he moved to the Town of Spencer and rented a farm owned by C. J. Sparr. His marriage to Elizabeth Krohn took place in 1927. They lived on this rented farm for 14 years. In those years Andrew worked for the Town of Spencer repairing roads, and was paid \$.60 an hour for man and team. When working for the county, he was paid \$1.00 an hour with his team.

In 1931 Andrew started hauling milk for \$.05 a hundred. He hauled for seven years. In 1939 the Bodendorfers bought the George Scherr farm. As a road patrolman for the Town of Spencer, starting in 1941, he used his tractor to pull a grader. The wages were \$2.25 an hour for tractor, fuel, and man. He held that job for several years. They lost their house by fire in 1949, so they bought the Chas. Sweikert farm.

Elizabeth (Krohn) Bodendorfer was born, raised, and has lived in the Town of Spencer all of her life. They had five children, two are living. They still live on the same farm.



The original buildings of the Andrew Bodendorfer Sr. farm, bought in 1939. The house burned later.



Loads of hay being shipped out in the early 1960's. In the picture are Ervin and Robert Drews and Andrew Bodendorfer Sr., and Donald.

NELS PETERSON-ARTHUR BEAHM FARM

The (Nels) Andrew Peterson farm located in Section 16, originally belonged to Andrew's father—John Peterson. John purchased the farm in 1895 when Andrew was seven years old. Andrew's father farmed until 1910 when Andrew took over the operation. The farm consisted of 80 acres and in 1914 Andrew bought another 80 acres from Louis Oldenburg—the father of Mrs. Andrew Peterson.

When Andrew and his wife started farming there were only a few acres of cleared land. The rest was mostly pine trees and wild land. Andrew cleared the land with dynamite using about 100# of dynamite each year, until the land was cleared for farming operations.

In the first years of farming, potatoes were planted for a cash crop. They would load the potatoes in a wagon box in the fall and haul them to Marshfield where they were sold.

In the early years of their life the Petersons traveled to Spencer to church where a chapel car would come in and park where the UBC Building Center now stands.

Andrew sold the original John Peterson eighty to Herman Schwantes and moved to the Oldenburg farm which they sold to Art Beahm in 1943.

Andrew and his wife raised four children— George of Three Rivers, Michigan, Elmer of Sugar Grove, Illinois, Irene (Mrs. Vilas Luepke) of Spencer, and Evelyn (Mrs. Max Nigl, Jr.) of San Jose, California.

We have within our Township one of the largest man-made ponds in Central Wisconsin. This 5 acre pond was constructed in 1958 on the farm of Art Beahm who lives in Section 16; this was unique enough to merit a story in the **Milwaukee Journal**.



Constructed primarily for flood control and for watering livestock, the pond has an estimated reservoir of 2½ million gallons of water with a 13 foot depth at the deepest point. It has also been stocked with fish.

Two agencies of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, played major parts in the construction of the pond. About 75% of the cost of earth moving, metal spillway, emergency sod spillway and seeding the fill was refunded by the ASCS which had approved pond construction for government aid. Mr. Beahm completed a number of necessary upland conservation measures on the pond watershed, including crop terraces and sod waterways, in order to qualify for federal aid.

The Beahms moved to the Town of Spencer, Marathon County in April of 1941 and have resided on their present farm since 1946. Mr. Beahm was born in Chicago on October 9, 1917 where he lived until he was 22. He attended the University of Illinois for three years studying agriculture. Mrs. Beahm was born in Marshfield on March 23, 1918 and moved into the Town of Spencer with her parents, Mr. & Mrs. John Egger, Jr. at the age of 3 weeks. She attended Stevens Point Teachers College for two years and taught area schools for about nine years. The hobby of raising tropical fish was started in 1948 and is enjoyed

greatly by both.

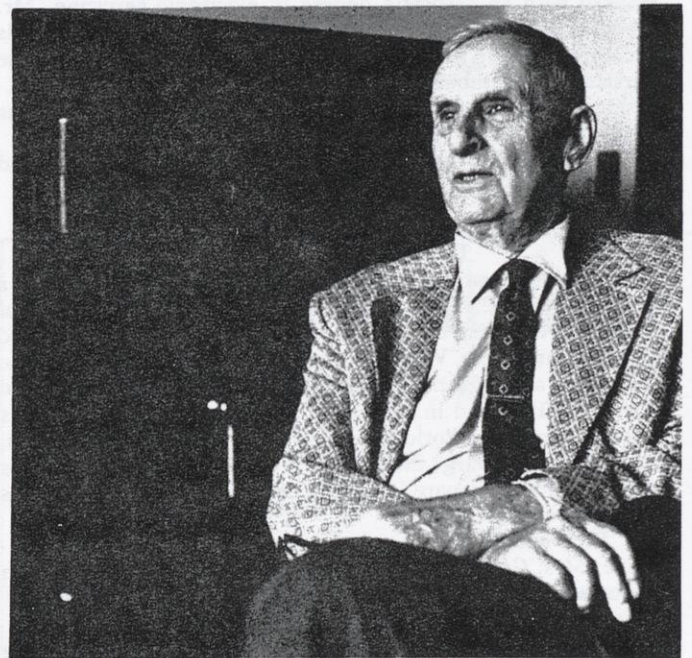
Although a fire destroyed their barn in September of 1971, they rebuilt and are still engaged in farming.

ALBERT HOFF FAMILY

For those senior citizens who have spent their lifetime in the Town of Spencer, its history is a real part of their lives. They have helped to write it, in a sense, for they cut the trees, removed the stumps, broke the land and built the farms which are an important part of our town history. Many of them served in various offices of the town government.

One such living testimony to the past is Albert Hoff who celebrated his 80th birthday on May 21, 1976. Albert's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Carl Hoff, came from Germany (spending three weeks on the ocean) in 1884 and settled in the Town of McMillan for two years before moving to the Town of Spencer in 1886. There they built a home on the farm where Donald Frey lives. In fact, the house now occupied by the Frey family is the home where Albert was born. One of his earliest recollections is of an Indian grave located in a small clearing in a woods on this farm. He remembers Indians coming when he was 3 or 4 years old, to care for this grave which had a wooden fence around it. What tribe these Indians belonged to or where they came from is an unknown fact.

In 1919, at the age of 21, Albert moved to his present



Albert Hoff, a lifetime resident of the Town of Spencer, sitting in front of the safe at the Town Hall. Having served as clerk of the town for many years, Albert was familiar with its contents.

May 19, 1882— The passenger train going south Wednesday afternoon set fire to the right of way near P. Cranmer logging camps 2 miles southeast of town. The fire spread rapidly and caught in the horse stable attached to the camps which contained 6 valuable horses. By hard work 3 got out and the other 3 perished in the flames. Quite a large quantity of feed and hay stored in the stable was also destroyed. The loss to Mr. Cranmer will not fall short of \$1,000. One of the horses burned, Mr. C. had repeatedly refused \$300 for. When the fire was discovered there was only the cook in the camp, who, seeing that he could not control the fire alone, started for the crew who were at the time about one mile off, and by the time they arrived on the ground, the stable was on fire.

location in Section 23, where he has lived ever since. The farm consisted of 70 acres in the beginning and he cleared all but 5 acres. It has grown to 160 acres and was taken over by his son and daughter-in-law, John and Helen Hoff, in 1961.

Albert Hoff was married to Clara Regele on May 18, 1927 and they had three children: John, Irene, and Margie (Mrs. Donald Sternweis) all living in the Town of Spencer. Mrs. Hoff died on December 29, 1973. Albert fondly recalls that he married into a family of hunters and the many deer heads and racks which are mounted attest to the years of successful deer hunting.

For 18½ years Albert served as Town Clerk from 1934 to 1953. He has been active in Town affairs, having been in attendance at this year's annual Town meeting.

KIBBEL'S TV AND ELECTRIC SERVICE

In May of 1972 a part-time business was started up in the Town of Spencer by one of the younger citizens of the township. Ernest Kibbel was employed by Jerry's TV of Colby but he decided to start a small workshop in the corner of his father's garage. Business grew and before long Ernest found himself with too much work and quarters too crowded in his temporary shop.

With progress in mind, he quit his job in Colby and went into the electronics business full-time. This also meant building larger quarters and becoming a dealer for a television company.

A 1971 graduate of North Central Technical Institute of Wausau with an associate degree in electronic servicing, Mr. Kibbel is looking forward to serving the needs of the area. He is already employing some part-time help. His wife, Pat, whom he married on December 16, 1972 also assists with the business. Besides being a dealer and repairman for television, he also does farm-work wiring.

Kibbel's TV and Electric Service is located two and one-half miles east of Spencer on County Trunk C.

THE MEINDERS FAMILY

Dick and Kathrine Meinders, with their family, moved to a farm in Section 2, Town of Spencer, located 3½ miles east of town, in December of 1957. Previous to this time they had rented a farm near Woden, Iowa. Dick was born at Buffalo Center, Iowa, and Kathrine at Titonka, Iowa. They were married March 18, 1943 and in November of that same year Dick was called to serve in World War II where he spent three years, receiving his discharge in 1946. He served in the Pacific Islands and his unit was prepared to attack Japan when news of Japan's surrender came.

Dick and Kathrine are the parents of seven children: Elaine (Mrs. Guy Jones) now living in Guam; Dwain, living in California; Marian, Mark, David, Arlyn and Joyce at home. Their farm is 120 acres in size and they milk from 30 to 35 cows. Both Dick and Kathrine are active in their community, having membership in the American Legion, VFW, and the Trinity Lutheran Church.

According to a map of the township, in 1895 the land owned by Meinders belonged to M. Van Vorsh and C. F. Colby. It later belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schwantes. Mrs. Schwantes was the former Annie Korth. They had three children: Alex, Raymond, and Arlene (Mrs. Lawrence Bauer). Still legible on the wall of the barn is the name "Raymond Schwantes" and the date "1929" — a silent reminder of those who lived there long ago. Later this farm was owned by the Reineking family and was purchased from Mrs. Pauline Reineking and her son, Richard, by the Meinders in 1957.

LA VERN KIBBEL FAMILY

LaVern Kibbel was born in the Town of Spencer on September 29, 1916, the son of August and Elsa Kibbel. He received his education in School Jr. District 4 Brighton and



The Kibbel family: LaVern, Dorothy, Marie, Ernst.

Spencer, and Trinity Lutheran Parochial School at Spencer, graduating from Spencer High School in 1933. He worked on his parents farm, and worked out part-time. In 1940 he purchased the 80 acre farm, Section 10, from Emil Cartwright. He was employed by O. W. Trindal Co. until 1949. During this time, LaVern decided to go into poultry, namely egg production. Due to economic conditions, the poultry adventure was discontinued, but he kept a few milk cows and worked part-time at electrical wiring and some carpentry.


On August 26, 1950, LaVern was united in marriage to Dorothy Emmel. They have two children: Ernst (Ernie) whose home and electrical business (Kibbel's TV and Electric) is located on the home farm, where he also milks some dairy cows with his father. Ernie married Patricia Burdick on December 16, 1972. Marie lives in Wausau where she is employed by Employer's Mutual Insurance of Wausau.

LaVern had the desire to be a town official, and this wish was fulfilled in 1953 when he sought and was elected to the office of Clerk of the Town of Spencer, serving in that capacity until 1967. At that time his employment at Pathfinder Mobilehomes, Inc., caused him to decline nomination as Clerk.

The Kibbel family are members of Trinity Lutheran Church, where LaVern has served as Trustee and Chairman of the Finance Committee, and is also a member of the dartball team.

In 1971 the Town of Spencer was without an assessor, so LaVern accepted the appointment by the Town Board to that position. In 1974, residents of the town voted that the offices of assessor and clerk can be held by the same person. In 1975, LaVern was elected to both offices. He is a member of the Central Assessors Association and the Wisconsin Towns Association.

Hardly a person living in the Spencer area has not at some time or other heard of the Crazy Bridge. How it got its name is a rather complicated story as the old timers tell it. According to the early citizens, it was located on the County Trunk V and 26 road intersection, three miles west of highway 13. There was a "draw" or "slough" located practically in the middle of the intersection so an "s" bridge was put in going across the 26 road while one could go straight across the bridge traveling on V. It was a wooden bridge and was replaced in 1934 when a half moon culvert was installed. Still later the bridge was changed and two full culverts to the south and two culverts to the east were put in when the road was blacktopped. These culverts are necessary because this is a particularly low spot in the area with drainage eventually going into the Yellow River. Just as time changes everything, it has also changed the Crazy Bridge and the course of the water slightly, but as the saying goes, "a lot of water has gone over the dam" since the days of the Real Crazy Bridge.

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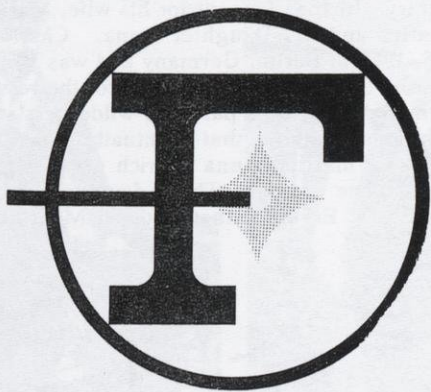
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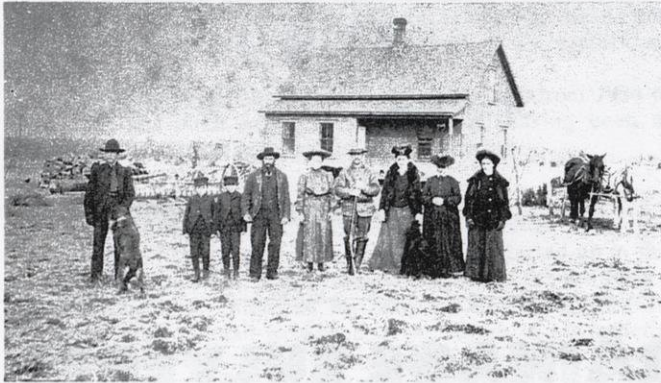
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Spencer, Wis.

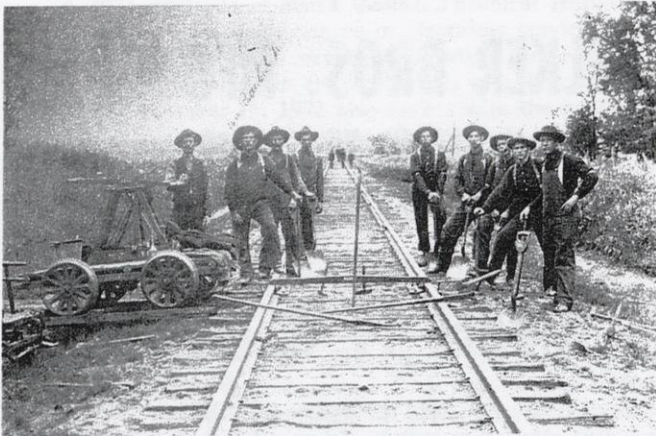
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MRS. WILLIAM ROTTSCHIEIT

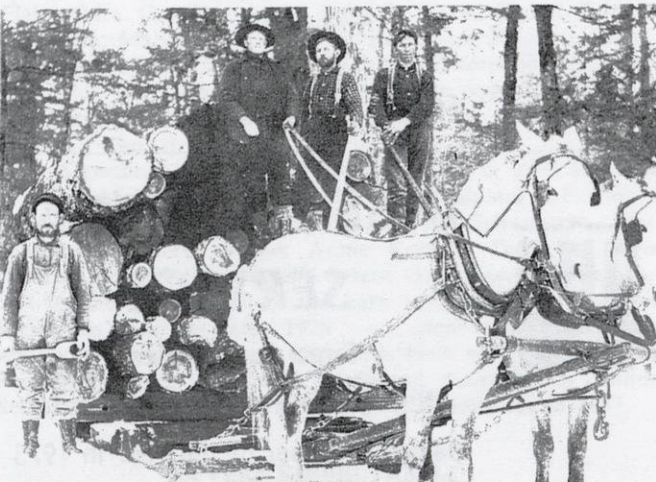
The 80 acre farm, formerly owned by the Lawrenz Benderling family, which is the S½ of the SE¼ of Section 35, Town of Spencer, was obtained by the Homestead Act from the United States government on April 15, 1859 by Thomas B. Scott. The farm changed ownership a number of times until it was bought on August 14, 1899 by Lawrenz Benderling and his wife.



The Benderling family, about 1908, showing the house before it was remodeled and enlarged. Left to right: John, Joseph, George, father Lawrenz, Mary, Fred, Anna, mother Anna, Ella.



The railroad provided transportation for the lumber produced at the many sawmills in the territory. It required many workers. 2nd from left, William Rottscheit Sr.; 3rd from right, Fred Benderling; right, Jake Rottscheit.



The logging industry required strong men and strong horses. [Picture courtesy Mrs. William Rottscheit, Route 3, Marshfield.]

Anna, from Oshkosh, Wisconsin. During their ownership, a dairy barn and other farm buildings were built, and the house was remodeled and enlarged.

The Benderlings raised a family of eight children, which included four sons— Fred, John, George, and Joseph, and four daughters— Theresa, Anna, Ella, and Mary. All are deceased except Anna Rottscheit of Seattle, Washington, Ella Rottscheit and Mary Rottscheit of Marshfield.

After the deaths of Lawrenz and Anna Benderling, the farm was bought by Melvin and Agnes Amundson of Rice Lake, Wisconsin. After the deaths of the Amundsons— Melvin in 1964 and Agnes in 1968 —the farm was taken over by their daughter, Mrs. Erva Rottscheit, who is the present owner.

DITTMAN FAMILY

Another one of our early pioneers was a German emigrant, Gustav Dittman, who left Berlin, Germany on October 18, 1882 and arrived at Spencer, Wisconsin on November 11 of the same year. Gustav Dittman was born February 26, 1841 and was 41 years old when he made the decision to seek a new home in a strange country. In 1883 he sent for his wife, Maria Elizabeth, his son Charles and his Daughter Anna. Charles was born February 25, 1870 in Berlin, Germany and was 13 when he set foot on the land that was to be his home for the rest of his life. Gustav Dittman purchased a parcel of wilderness in Section 16 out of which he built a farm that eventually grew to 160 acres. Charles, the son, married Anna Oelrich on July 15, 1897 and farmed in the same section. Three daughters, Mrs. Herman (Erna) Plath, Mrs. Ervin (Esther) Hoops, Mrs. Albert (Flora)



Flora [Dittman] Barwineck and Vesta Felling with their woolly playmates.

Ladies gathering for picture taking: 1-?, 2-Mrs. Martin Ballas, 3-Mrs. Rheinhold Plath, 4-Mrs. Charles Dittman, 5-Mrs. Albert Adams.



Threshing on the Dittman farm.



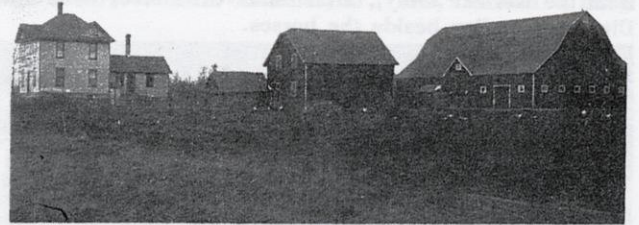
Horse and buggy days — Wm. Weis and John Drachenberg.



Frank Huetter Jr., August Matthes, John Bissen, Frank Huetter Sr., Henry Frey, cutting ice January 1925.



Alvin Gauger and John Hoff. John Weis - father of William Friends then and still friends!



John Egger Sr. homestead. The house was built in 1908 and the barn in 1912. Joe Senn bought the farm in 1920 and it now belongs to Preston Yoder.



Alvin Gauger at the age of 11 years, playing the Swedish Waltz.

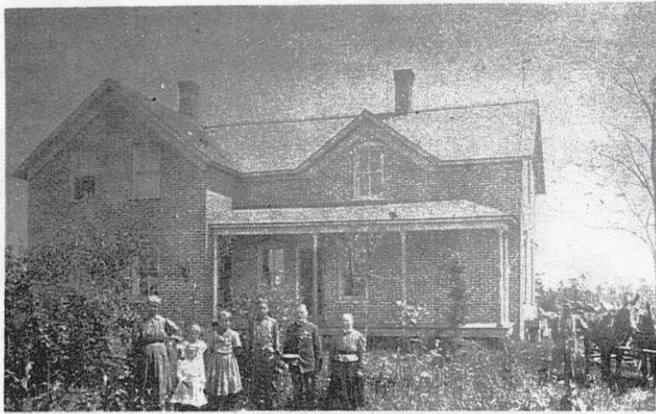


Mannville Cheese Factory was built in 1908 by Mike Duv

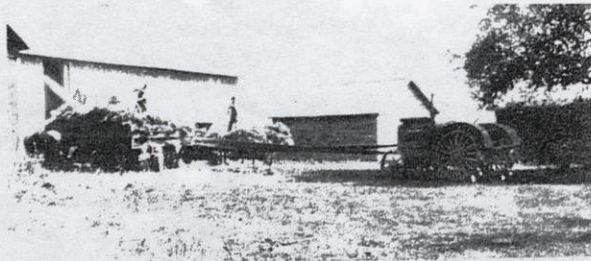


Holzschuh Cheese Factory built in 1914 by Chris Holzschuh.

Barwineck, and one son, Roy, now deceased, were born to them. Charles Dittman was Town Treasurer for the Town of Spencer for 14 years and Clerk of the Sawyer School for 18 years.



An early photo of the Charles Dittman home. L to R: Mrs. Charles Dittman, Flora Dittman, Esther Dittman, John Ballas, Gustav Dittman [dressed in his general's uniform from the German army], Mrs. Gustave Dittman, and Charles Dittman standing beside the horses.



Threshing the old fashioned way on what is now the Lloyd Hoops farm.

MERTON HANNUM FAMILY

Merton Hannum came to the Town of Spencer in 1917 and bought a place in Section 32. His birth date was October 9, 1876. He married Pearl Hildebrandt and there were four children born to them. Omar lives on the home farm; Clarence, who married Alice Brasman, lives in the Town of Sherman; Troy married Mary Kaiser and lives in Marshfield; and Francis, who married Harriet Rottscheit, lives in the Town of Lincoln. Merton Hannum served as a school board member of the Cameron School. He died in 1946 and his wife died in 1947. Omar bought the home place in 1947.

FRED LARSON FAMILY

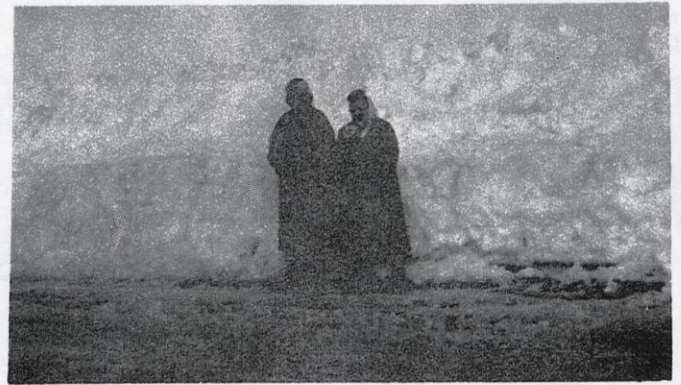
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson, longtime residents of the Town of Spencer, retired in 1966 to Athens, Wisconsin, but are regular visitors in the Spencer area. The original farm was bought in 1921 from Fred Weidman and was completely covered with timber—one of the few farms cleared from "scratch" in the 1920's. The barn which still stands in Section 12, is the original barn. The original house was one moved from the McMillan Sawmill area which had been used for help in the camp. Many houses were moved by settlers and used for homes after the camps closed down.

In 1929 the task of clearing the land was begun and cows were put on the place. At this time, Ervin Westfall was hired to care for them. Emil Luepke and Ervin Beyreis were also hired prior to the time when Mr. and Mrs. Larson moved to the farm in 1937. An additional 40 acres had been purchased in 1931 from Art Prehn, a Wausau attorney, and three years later in 1934, 80 acres were bought from John Cole, attorney for E. C. Dodge (part of the Consolidated Farms). Then, a final addition was

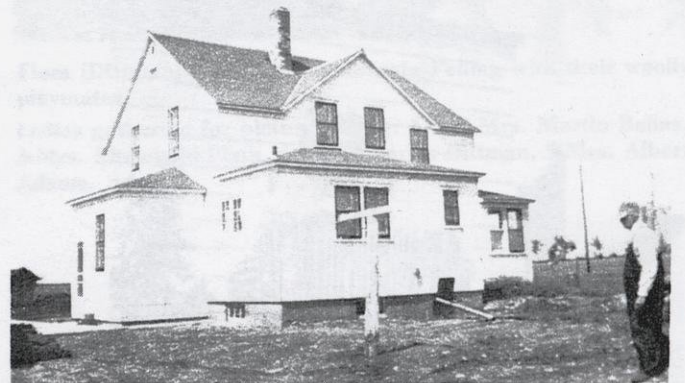


The original barn which still stands on the Darrell Roder property, formerly belonging to Fred Larson. Dern Larson and a Westfall boy stand with their pets.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson, Dern # Wilbur



Evidence of a bad snowstorm. Mrs. Fred Larson and friend



Fred Larson home in the 1940's

made to the farm when 63 acres lying in the Town of McMillan was bought from the Ed Reckner estate in 1947.

A lean-to was added to the barn in 1928 or 1929. About 18 cows were first kept and the number grew to 42. In 1937 Fred added pigs to his farm and the number of sows kept varied from 8 to 25. Two sons, Dern and Wilbur were born to them and Dern helped with the farming from 1946 until the farm was sold. Dern also had a livestock business which he had purchased from John Sorenson. Wilbur farmed the land next to Fred until he sold his

farm and moved to Illinois for a short time, after which he returned to Spencer and farmed on his father-in-law's farm (A. C. Elliott), until he made the decision to return to school. He and his wife, the former Theone Elliott and their three sons moved to River Falls where he entered college and studied to become an ag instructor. At present he is the ag teacher in the Jefferson School System. Dern and his wife, Ruth (Hein) moved to Goodyear, Arizona after the farm was sold, and have resided there since. Their two daughters are married and live out there too.

As we talked to Fred, he reminisced about the early days, notably the weather which always plays a big part in the life of the farmer. The dry weather of this year brings back the memories of the '30's' when farmers were forced to truck their cattle to the northern part of the state in order to feed them. Fred recalled that their total crop of hay for one of those years was one load. Hay sold for \$12-\$14 a ton at that time. Marsh grass and poplar trees were cut for the cows to feed upon. In the fall of 1934, the tables were turned as it became so wet that the corn had to be harvested by hand and sometimes loaded on a stoneboat. He also told of a cloudburst in the late 1930's when it rained so hard and leaked into the chicken coop, and about 50 young chicks were drowned. Water flowed over the road about a foot deep. Some young stock were marooned on a knoll down in the pasture near the swamp.

Winters also shared in the memories, particularly one week in March when there were three blizzards. Roads were so bad that additional plows had to be brought in and farmers drove their teams over the drifts through the fields to get their milk out to the main roads.

Fred and his wife, the former Eva Reas (whose father was one of the earliest settlers in the Spencer area) now enjoy their retirement by regularly visiting old friends in nursing homes and keeping in touch with people in our area.

It might be added that their farm was purchased by the Weis Bros., except for five acres upon which the building stands, and some acres purchased by the Department of Natural Resources for wildlife.

The buildings are now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Roder and children Ronald and Darla. Darrell is supervisor at Land O'Lakes in Spencer.

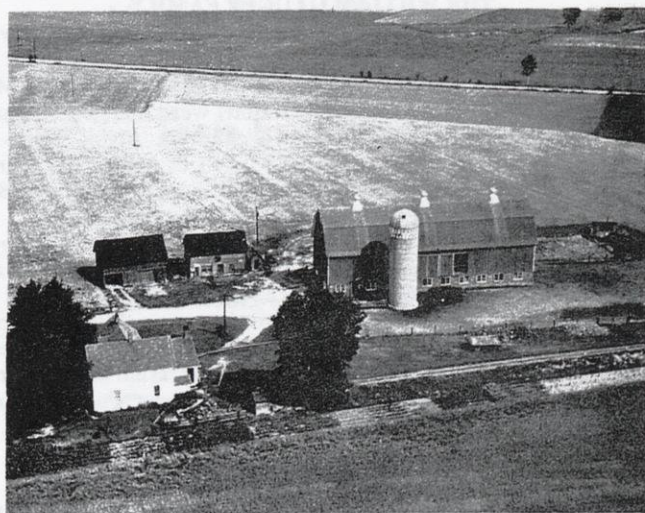
THE KOMMER FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. William Kommer, who settled in the Spencer area in the 1890's, originally came from Germany. The land purchased at this time was all woodland and one part was bought from Damons and the other part purchased from George Farrington. They farmed until 1913 when their son, William Jr., and his wife, Minnie, took over. Three children, Vila, Norman, and Ilma were born to them. In 1959 their son, Norman, and his wife the former Erma Stargardt, bought the farm and lived there until 1965. They had five children: Jane, Norman Jr., Judy, Marie and Gayle. After the sale of their farm they moved to

Spencer where Mr. Kommer was employed at Pathfinder until it closed. He now drives school bus. Mrs. Kommer is employed at Land O'Lakes.



Mr. & Mrs. William Kommer, Jr. Vila, Norman & Ilma



The Norman Kommer farm in the 1950's



The Wm. Kommer farm in the early 1900's

THE STARGARDT FAMILY

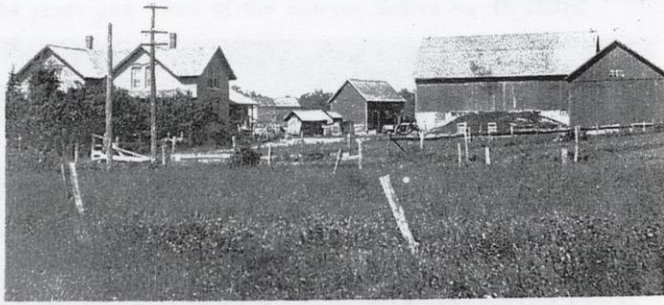
Carl Stargardt, one of the earliest settlers in the town of Spencer, came from Germany in 1885. There were six children born to Mr. and Mrs. Stargardt: Carl Jr., Marie, Herman, Otto, Fred, and Annie. On April 22, 1914 Fred Stargardt became the owner. He and Mrs. Stargardt had six children: William, Erma,



William Kommer, Sr.



Dorothea Kommer



The Fred Stargardt farm in the 1930's

Francis, Pauline, Bernice & Bernadine (twins) and Ruth. One daughter, Bernadine (Mrs. Robert Gauger), now deceased, became the owner of the farm in 1960. Bob's Garage is now located on a portion of the farm, and the house was purchased and remodeled by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kerkseick of Spencer.

THE WILLIAM GAUGER FAMILY

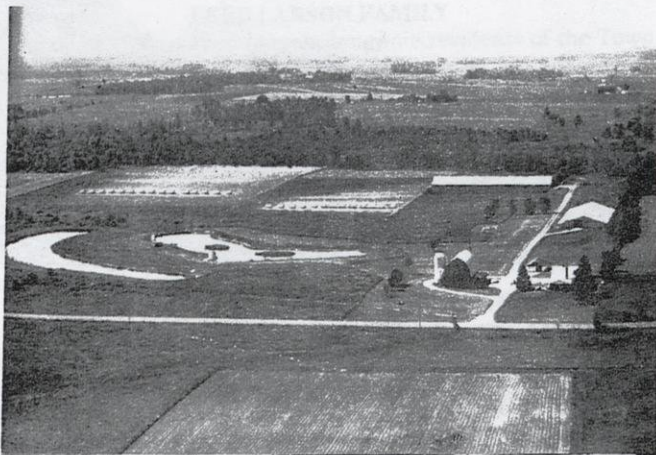
What was once a portion of the Consolidated Farm Co. was sold to Theodore Hoff on December 27, 1917. This land is located in Section 21. In 1919 William Gauger purchased it. Mr. and Mrs. Gauger (the former Clara Hoff) were married on June 26, 1917. To them were born two children, Alvin, Town of Spencer, and Arlene (Mrs. Ernest Mancl) of Milladore. Mrs. Gauger died February 23, 1938 and William who is now 85, resides at the Convalescent Center in Marshfield.

The farm is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Alvin T. Gauger who bought it September 24, 1955. They also bought an additional 120 acres from Howard LaSage to increase the size to 200 acres. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gauger have two children, Larry of London, England, and Janet at home. They now raise beef cattle and Mrs. Gauger has been a teacher-librarian for 34 years, having spent the last 16 years with the Spencer Public School System.

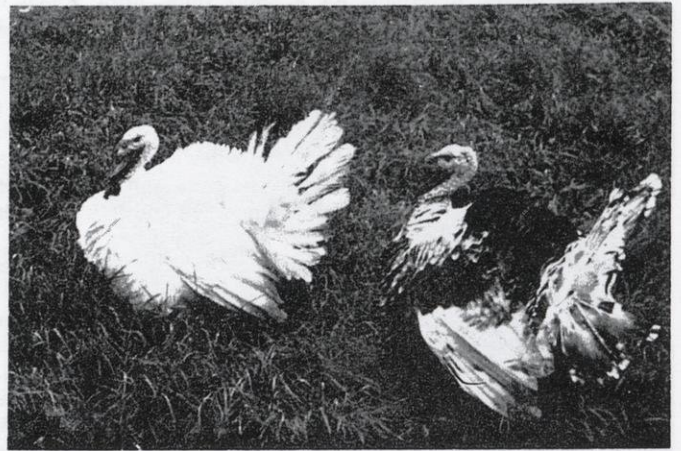
GARDNER'S TURKEY FARM

In 1956, Gordon and Ann Gardner bought the Dan Kobs farm of 120 acres in Section 9 of the Town of Spencer. The next year they had a 74 x 200 foot pole shed erected for the production of turkey broilers. A second pole building, 76 x 246 feet, was built in 1959 to increase capacity.

In 1961 the Gardners began producing turkey hatching



Gardner's turkey farm.



Heads up, girls — the boys are strutting to show their fine feathers!

eggs in a pole building erected for that purpose in Section 16. These eggs were transported to Rochester, Minnesota, to be incubated and the hatched poults sold. This breeder operation was expanded to 4000 breeder hens in 1963, with the acquisition of the Hick's turkey farm located in Section 21. The breeder operation was phased out in 1967, the production of meat turkeys expanded. Since 1970, they have leased the David Ingham turkey shed in Spencer, which they operate in conjunction with the other farms.

Turkey hens are raised semi-confined—in buildings with yards. Toms are ranged throughout the summer, with the late fall flock finished in the buildings.

THE CRAMER FAMILY

Located in Section 1 on a farm originally owned by Ernest and Margaret (Holzem) Korth, Mr. Korth built both the barn and the house upon the heavily wooded 40 acre tract. Later, Frank Schultz became the owner and he sold it to Earl and Bertha Cramer. To them were born three children: Arvid, Claire, and Vernice. Arvid rented the farm from his father and then bought it. He married Margie Boehm May 19, 1951 and to them were born five children: Sharla and Susan, both married, and David, Mike and Sherry at home.

At the time Arvid bought the farm, it was 120 acres in size but he purchased an additional 80 acres in 1963 from Donald Schwantes to make it 200 acres. They keep about 45 head of milk cows and about 45 head of young stock. Mike helps with the farm work while David is employed by Farmers Coop at Spencer.

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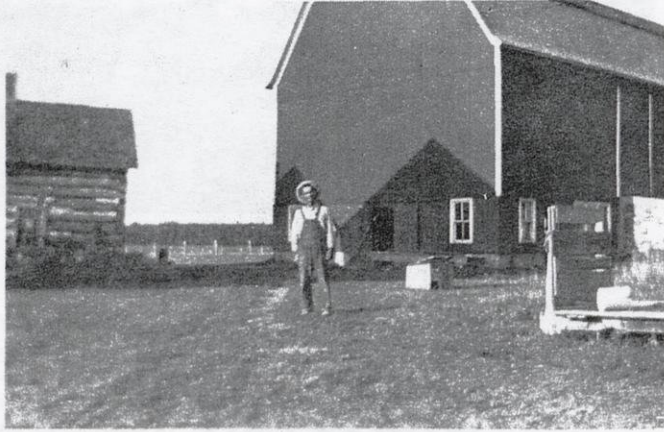
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MRS. JOHN REIGEL

One of our senior citizens is Mrs. John (Martha) Reigel, who resides in her own house on the family farm in Section 32. Martha (Maidy) Reigel was born December 4, 1898 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and moved with her family to the Town of



View of log building on Martha Reigel farm, taken in 1939.



Raking hay with real horsepower on Martha Reigel farm in 1937.



Mrs. Martha Reigel, one of our senior citizens, standing by a pump in her yard.



Gus Reigel in door of cheese factory located in southern part of town in early 1900's.

Spencer when she was 4 years old. John Reigel was born June 4, 1884 in Two Rivers, Wisconsin and came to the Town of Spencer at the age of two. In July of 1910 he purchased his farm from John Gaffney. Martha and John were married June 23, 1925. For 12 years Mr. Reigel was the assessor for the Town of Spencer. He served on the school board for the Cameron School, District # 3 and was also Director of the North Lincoln Telephone Company in the Town of Spencer. Two sons were born: Elmer Reigel who is married and has one daughter. He owns a tavern in Unity. Edward operates the family farm along with his wife, two daughters and one son. Mr. John Reigel died August 25, 1955 at the age of 71. Mrs. Reigel likes to keep busy by working outside and in the garden. She enjoys her three granddaughters, one grandson, and one great-grandson.

Mrs. Reigel also told of a cheese factory located near their farm and operated by her brother, Gus Schultz until he was called into the army in 1914. Another brother, Richard, bought it and made it into a dance hall for awhile. It was then purchased by Nora Wittman and reconverted to a cheese factory for a few years. The building was then torn down and the property is now owned by Walter Gessert. Nobody seemed to remember the name of either the cheese factory or the dance hall.

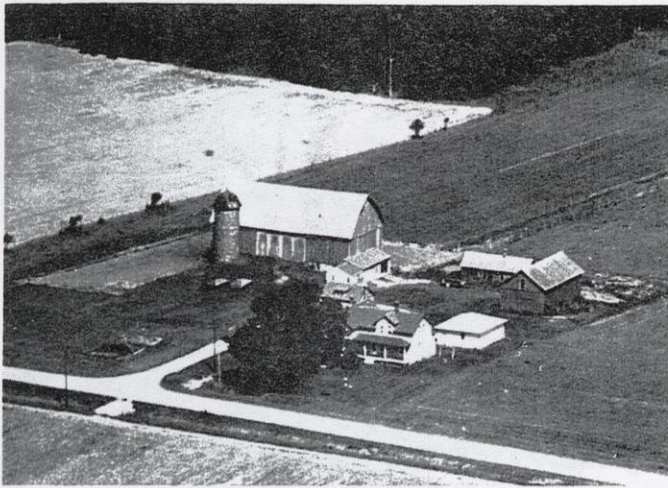
GUST MATTER

The year 1900 was a momentous time in their lives for Gust Matter and his wife, Bertha, for they were married then and also purchased their farm in Section 6. Their son, Raymond, was born in 1908 and in May of 1941 he and his wife Ella purchased the farm from his parents. They farmed the land until 1969 when Ray had a heart attack and was forced to give up farming. Their son, DuWayne and his wife, Betty, purchased the farm in May of 1969, thus making this a third generation farm in our town.

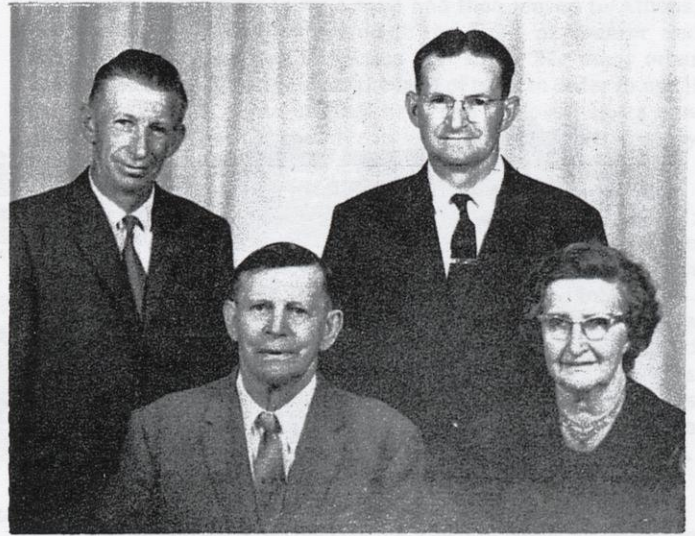
Gust Matter was one of the earliest settlers in the town and served as a town supervisor for some time. Five children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Matter: Fred, Mildred, Raymond, Darrell, and Frances. Mr. Matter also served as Treasurer of Trinity Lutheran Church for seven years.

Raymond recalls when the Yellowstone Trail went by their farm. The telegraph poles had yellow marked on them. A short time later the road was named State Highway 13 and rerouted to its present location.

Gust Matter's brother, Edward, owned a farm west of Highway 13 and the Soo Line Railroad. The farm stayed in the family until 1976 when it was sold to Ernst Krause.



The William Kobs farm.



Seated: Mr. and Mrs. August Kibbel. Standing: Milan and LaVern.



Making hay — Jimmy, Merlin, Dan Kobs, George Holiday. Willard Kobs on tractor.

THE WILLIAM KOB'S FAMILY

In 1902, William and Mary Kobs purchased an 80 acre farm northeast of Spencer, from Frederick Luchterhand. They had six children, Ervin, Martin, LaVern, Danny, Willard, and Edna. They farmed for 40 years. Their son, Willard married Ilma Kommer in 1936 and helped farm with his folks until in 1952 when they bought the farm. Willard and Ilma had a daughter, Shirley, and a son, William. William farmed with his parents until in 1967 when he married Mary Grandy and they rented until purchasing it in 1975. In 1969, Bill and Mary bought 80 acres across the road to the south, totaling it to 160 acres. Bill and Mary are the third generation to live on this farm. They have five children, Brian, Cheryl, Michael, Christopher, and Chandra.

THE AUGUST KIBBEL FAMILY

August Kibbel was born at Wayne in Washington County, the son of Ernest and Marie Kibbel. He moved with his parents to a farm at Campbellsport in Fond du Lac County and received his education in schools in the Campbellsport area. He then, with his brother Henry, came to a farm in the Town of Sherman, Clark County, the area known as Veefkind. He helped his brother clear the land, cut timber, and develop a modern dairy farm.

On April 15, 1914, August Kibbel was married to Elsa Karau of Mannville (Town of Spencer) in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Marshfield, with the Rev. Louis Thom officiating. The young couple left for Campbellsport, where they operated the home farm with his brother, Edward. After two years, August decided that he would like to own his own farm, so they left Campbellsport, came to the Town of Spencer. Here they bought



The August Kibbel house — then and now. Remodeled by Dr. Beery, now owned by Leonard Zawislau.

the 40 acre farm from Frank Martell, located in Sec. 35 and now owned by Arthur Popp. Desiring a larger farm, they sold to Ray Shaw and purchased the William Frank farm located two miles east of Spencer, Sec. 10, moving there in February of 1918. The farm is presently owned by Leonard Zawislau.

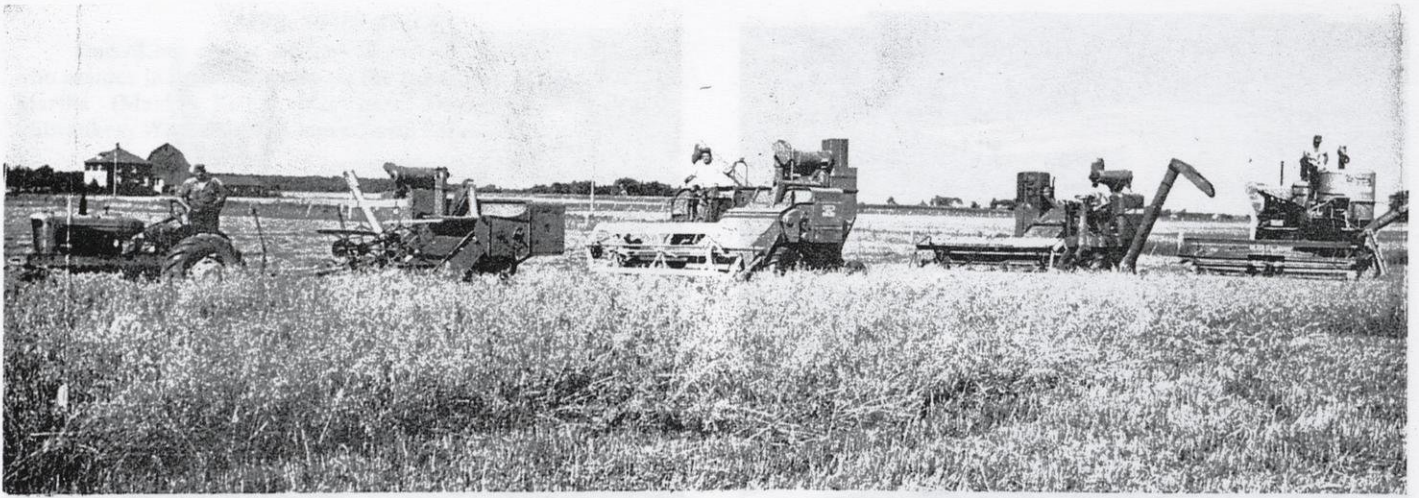
There was much hard work to be done on these 120 acres to bring this farm into a profitable enterprise. Pine stumps had to be removed to make available more crop land. In 1923, a new 36 x 80 foot barn was built. A new silo and machine shed were added in later years. The August Kibbels had two sons: LaVern married Dorothy Emmel, Marshfield; Milan married Marian Duchow from Mill Creek (Town of Marshfield). Milan rented the home place for a time, then moved to the village of Spencer. In 1958 the farm was sold to Victor Carpenter and the Kibbels retired in the village of Spencer.

August Kibbel died January 20, 1969 and Mrs. August Kibbel passed away September 11, 1975. They had celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1964.

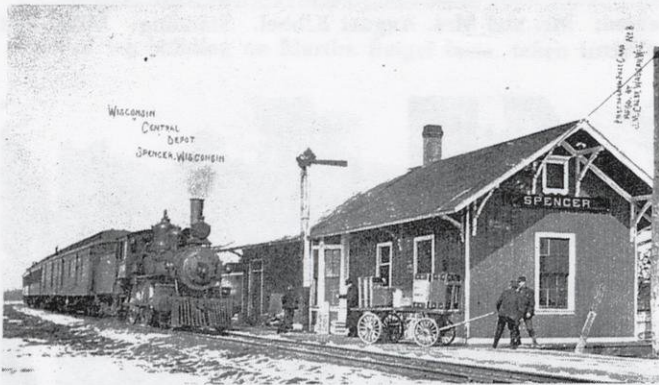
“WHITE CITY”

The farm known as White City derived its name from the fact that all the buildings, fences, etc. were painted white. It is located in the southwestern part of the Town of Spencer along County Trunk V.

Part of the farm—160 acres—was originally owned by George Nall, father of Elmer Nall who took over about 1935. Together with Charles Hall—both of the Chicago area—they formed a partnership. They bought land adjoining and near the



Combining oats on the William Weis farm in 1966. L to R: Arnold Dietel, Gary Gawlikowski, Rueben Gliniecki, and Edward Weis.



The Wisconsin Central Depot in 1908.



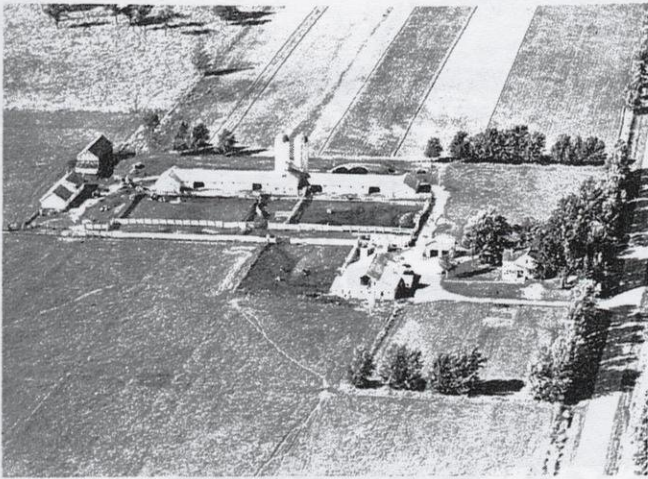
Lloyd Hoops, "Shorty" Hoff and Alvin Gauger, clearing the town roads.



Mrs. John Egger spinning wool at her home.
Year unknown.



This house located in Section 33 was built by Anton Eckes in the early 1900's. It was owned by Andrew Regele and occupied by Gurney Sweet. It was then sold to Carmen Way and is presently unoccupied.



The farm known as "White City."

old Nall farm so that the total acreage was 577 acres. Of this, 320 acres was stumps and brush. The owners employed about 30 men along with several teams of horses to clear and plow this land so that it could be used for planting agricultural crops. The farm was stocked with a few dairy cattle and about 200 head of Hereford cattle. They employed five men on a steady basis to take care of the cattle and farm the land.

The owners operated the company for several years but due to ill health and various reasons they gradually sold their holdings.

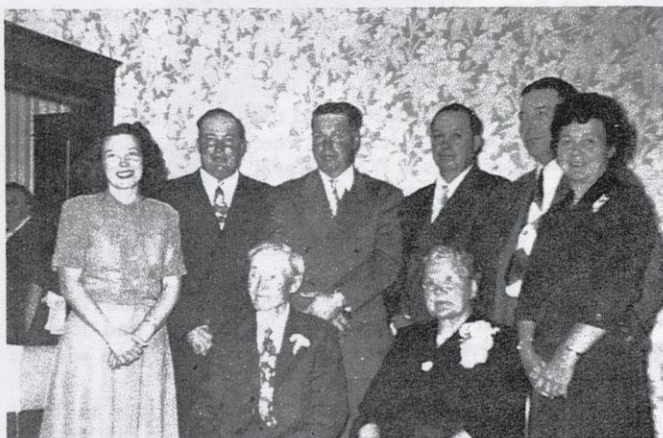
Today the farm is owned by W. W. Clark of Missouri and it is operated by L. C. Christensen of Abbotsford, Wisconsin.

HERMAN POPP FAMILY

Herman Popp was born in Germany and came to this country with his parents when he was about twelve years old.



Edward Popp on a Sampson tractor with a plow, back in 1925



The Golden Wedding of Mr. & Mrs. Herman Popp. Left to right, standing: Esther, Arthur, Ernest, William, Edward, & Clara. Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Popp.

They lived in Milwaukee for a time and then moved to Athens, Wisconsin. In 1918 they moved to the Town of Spencer and settled on a farm located in Section 26. Here, like many other early farmers, they had to clear the land of trees in order to use it for growing crops. The original barn was removed and a new barn was built. Four years later in 1936, the barn was struck by lightning and burned down. Again a new barn was built.

Herman Popp was married in 1903 to Mathilda Wellner. The marriage was blessed with six children: Edward, Merrill; William of Wisconsin Rapids; Clara of Milwaukee; Ernest on the home farm; and Arthur who also lives in the Town of Spencer on a farm located in Section 35. One daughter, Esther, died in 1971. Part of the Popp farm was located in the Mannville sawmill area where slabs were piled about 4 feet deep. This caught fire and burned for about three years. Another interesting fact about this farm was a well that was twelve feet square. Ernest, who lives on the home farm takes an active interest in the local town government and attends the annual town meetings regularly.

BERT KROHN FAMILY

One of the early settlers in the Town of Spencer retired to the village, but at the age of 86 can still recall the "good old days". Bert Krohn was born in Manitowoc County on March 11, 1890. He and his wife, the former Anna Freidenberger, came to the Town of Spencer in 1914 with the main purpose in mind being the purchase of a cheese factory. However, he bought a farm 96 acres in size in Section 31. A house had been roughed up so he set to the task of finishing the house and blasting out stumps to clear the land and build a barn.

Bert recalls that in those days he would walk through the woods to town because there were no roads. There were wood



troughs built along the place where the Crazy Bridge is, so that people could walk through.

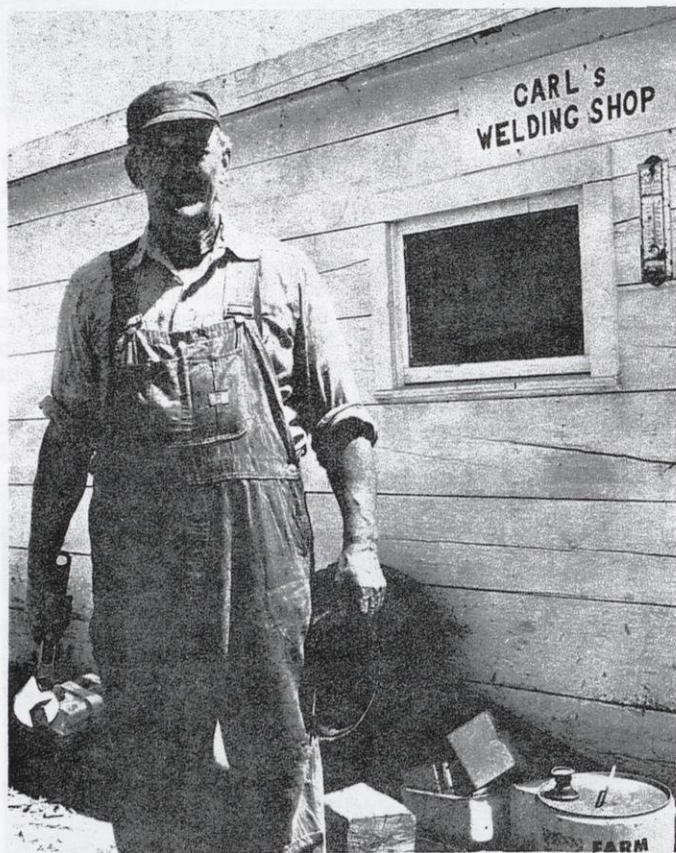
By cutting wood in winter, they could make a little extra money for entertainment. Bert told of going to town for a "pony" of beer which they tied on a hand sled and dragged home through the woods. Then the neighbors would gather to play cards and have a party.

Later Bert bought another 80 and another 56 acres and when he retired Ernest Beyreis rented it for 16 years. At the end

of that time Bert's son, Clarence, took over the farm. At the present time Clarence has 152 acres and another son, Walter has the 80 acres.

Mr. and Mrs. Krohn had six children: Clarence and Walter who live in the Town of Spencer, Viola Krohn and Laura Schlem who live in Milwaukee, Elmer in Fond du Lac, and Art who is deceased. Mrs. Krohn died about 13 years ago.

The home in Spencer where Bert lives was constructed from lumber which he got from the Romeo Cheese Factory after it ceased operating. Bert tore down the factory and built the home by himself—evidence that the pioneer spirit is still strong in these early settlers. He even made the cement blocks for his basement.



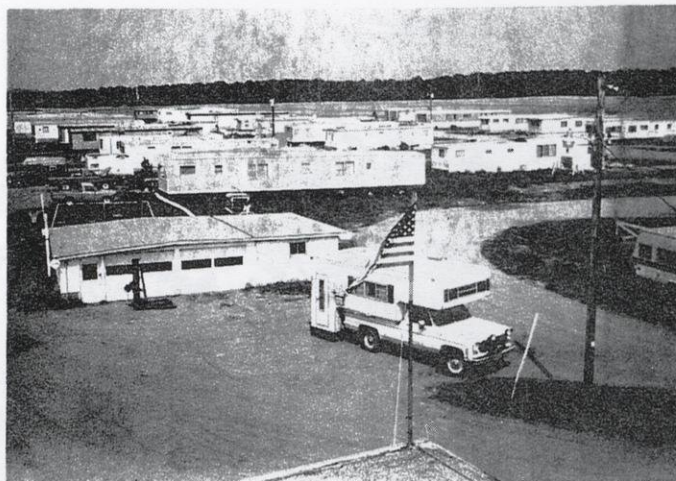
Carl Schoolman in front of his welding shop where he does work for many farmers of the town besides repairing of town equipment.

CARL SCHOOLMAN FAMILY

Carl Schoolman was born in Ladysmith on June 13, 1912, coming with his parents to Spencer in 1919. He attended the Cole Corner School and the Spencer Parochial School (Lutheran). He farmed his father's farm in the Town of Sherman until 1954, when he came to the Town of Spencer, to the John Holzshuh farm. After 19 years there, he bought his present site.

Carl spent four years in the army, 1942 to 1946. He was married to Esther Oelrich, daughter of the Fred Oelrichs, on October 21, 1944, and the couple has two children: James, at home employed in the welding business, and Susan who works at Singer Sewing in Marshfield.

Carl's Welding Shop is located in Section 20 on County Trunk V, three miles south of Spencer. The planting and harvesting seasons keep Carl especially busy, because when the farmers break down with machinery, they know Carl is ready to do the job anywhere at anytime.



Kilty's Kountry Kourt

KILTY'S

Located within our township is a sizeable mobile court known as Kilty's Kountry Kourt owned and operated by Robert and Elvira Kilty. Bob and his wife, the former Elvira Golden, moved from Marshfield to their present location (familiar to oldtimers as the Martin Below farm) in 1964. The previous owner was Richard Grey who was farming at the time fire destroyed the barn in 1963. The original house still stands and is occupied by the Kilty family.

The Kourt is situated on 40 acres of land and started out in 1965 with 12 units. It has grown in size to 50 units. When asked as to why they started the court, they replied that there was a need for mobile home parking space in the area. The Kiltys have seven children, and Bob referred to his three older sons, Bill, Gary, and David, as his right-hand men in the development of the Kourt.

BRUNO FUHRMAN FAMILY

Located in Section 10 was an old established farm, 160 acres in size, which belonged to Herman Schwantes, sometimes known as H. W. Schwantes. In 1952, Mr. Schwantes sold the farm to Richard Fuhrman. Richard hired his nephew, Bruno Fuhrman, to operate the farm and paid him wages for nine months. After that he worked for his uncle on a 50-50 basis for five years. In 1957 Bruno purchased the place from his uncle.

Since the time he bought the farm, Bruno has developed it into a modern well-kept dairy farm. An addition was added to the barn. An additional 80 acres of land was bought from Richard Gray, this being more familiarly known as part of the Fred Below farm. Three new silos have been built as well as a new pole building in 1974. The farm grew in size with the purchase of 80 acres known as the John Pauline farm. In addition to this, he rents land from William Rohloff.

Bruno and his wife, Marie, and their two children Inge and Helmut, came from East Germany where they had lost all their property and belongings in World War II. Bruno was a soldier in the German army for five years and was as far as the gates of Leningrad, Russia, during the war. When he came to the United States he had twelve cents in his pocket, which he has still got and treasures today.

Another son, Martin, was born in 1953 and lives in Chicago, and their daughter, Inge, is married and lives at Curtiss. Helmut lives at home and operates the farm with his parents.

Bruno believes in liming and fertilizing the land so that it will produce very good crops. No one can tell him that you can not make money in this country. Many times he would say to close neighbors, "This year I made lots of money." Bruno can also speak that in the German language.

Certainly Bruno and his family are an example of courage,

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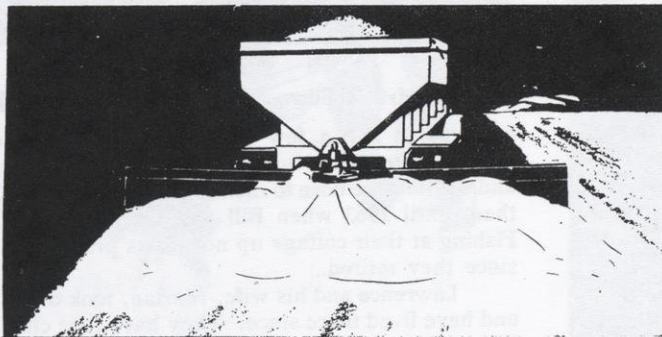
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perseverance, good citizenship and hard work, for they came to this country with twelve cents and now own and operate one of the finest farms in our township. We are proud to say that they live among us.



Our grader operator, Ruben Pribbernow



Comparing the old with the new. In front of the Austin-Western grader now used for patrolling the roads of the town, stands an old tractor grader.

RUBEN PRIBBERNOW FAMILY

Today the job of maintaining the roads is in the hands of our Road Superintendent, Ruben Pribbernow. Ruben started working for the Town in the fall of 1965, succeeding Alfred Frischman : At that time there were approximately 58 miles of roads to be patrolled. With the annexation of a portion of the town by the Village of Spencer and the annexation of the Mannville area by the city of Marshfield, the miles of roads were reduced to about 40. Grading, snow removal, setting up snow fences, checking culverts, are all included in this job, and during a winter blizzard the day can be a very long one.

Ruben and his wife, Arline, moved to the Town of Spencer from Withee in May of 1947. They have six children, Fay, Larry, Roger, Douglas, Keith, and Kay, and three grandchildren. Besides the job of patrolling roads, Ruben has a 160 acre farm with dairy cows which he and his wife operate.

WILLIAM FISCHER FAMILY

In 1922 Bill and Lizzie (Weis) Fischer bought a 120 acre farm in Section 1 of the Town of Spencer. At this time the only buildings were a frame house and a log barn where he kept his 10 milk cows and 2 work horses. In 1923 a new barn was



Mr. and Mrs. William Fischer Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Fischer

constructed and a few years later both a new house and a machine shed were built. Three children, Lawrence, Cecelia, and Gertie were born to them. Their son, Lawrence, farmed with them until 1963 when Bill and Lizzie retired from farming. Fishing at their cottage up north has provided a happy pastime since they retired.

Lawrence and his wife, Marian, took over the family farm and have lived there since. They have four children. The farm has grown in size to 240 acres and 28 milk cows.

BELOW FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Below settled on a forty acre tract of land in Section 16, the Town of Spencer, in the year of 1891. Some years later another 80 acres was added. To this union, twelve children were born. One son, Martin, married Jennie Moen on November 6, 1924. They purchased the 80 acre Woodkey farm in the Town of Sherman and farmed there for 18 years. In March of 1942 they moved to the Below farm in the



First snowplow of the Town of Spencer on road on Adams farm, back in 1943. Ervin Hoops, driver and Carl Hoff, helper.



Digging out after a snowstorm. Left to right, Bernard Hoff, Bob Pederson, Chester Adams, Roy Dittman [behind shovel], Lloyd Hoops, Tom Lingel, Alvin Gauger.

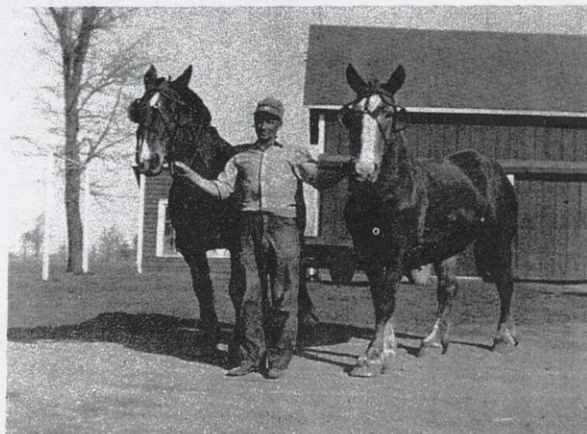


Marathon County "CAT" in 1943 helping our little snowplow out.

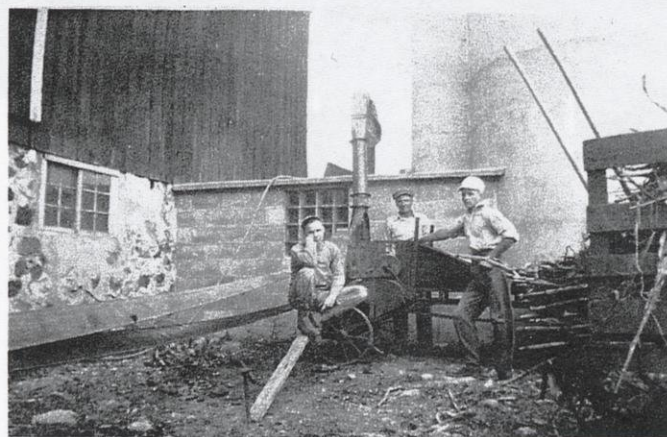
Town of Spencer which consisted of 120 acres. About four years later the Damon 40, which joined their land, was purchased. Most of this land was in timber which they later sold. Many hard hours were put into making this productive farm land. In the first years of farming all work was done with horses. During the time Mr. and Mrs. Martin Below lived on this farm, the barn was remodeled, a milk house and large cement silo were erected, and the house was modernized. About 32 milking cows were kept and a good number of young stock. In 1957 the farm was sold to Richard Gray and the Belows moved to Spencer where they now reside.

Mr. and Mrs. Below were the parents of four children: Arnold in Illinois, Gerald in Minnesota, Lawrence who lives in Spencer, and June (Mrs. Lloyd Hoops) who lives on a farm in the Town of Spencer.

The Below farm is now the site of Kilty's Kountry Kourt.



Martin Below with his team of horses



Oldtime silo filling about 1950 with Martin Below, Lawrence Below and Lloyd Hoops.



Martin Below farm

GESSERT FAMILY

Another early settler of the town was William Gessert, born at Calumet, Wisconsin, April 21, 1875, and educated at Bakerville Parochial Schools, having moved to that vicinity at an early age. After his marriage to Mary Heckel they farmed at Bakerville for a time before coming to the Town of Spencer in the early 1900's. Mrs. Gessert was born September 11, 1883 in the Town of Lincoln, Wood County. The Gesserts farmed until Mr. Gessert's death on October 18, 1948. After that the farm was operated by Mrs. Gessert and her son, Raymond. Mrs. Gessert



Hunting crew at Viaduct Bar, 1951. L to R: Andy Eckes, John Hoff, Arnold Gadke, Jerry Welch, Albert Hoff, Carl Huetter,

Unknown, Glen Fischer, Robert Blanchard, Andrew Regele children unknown.



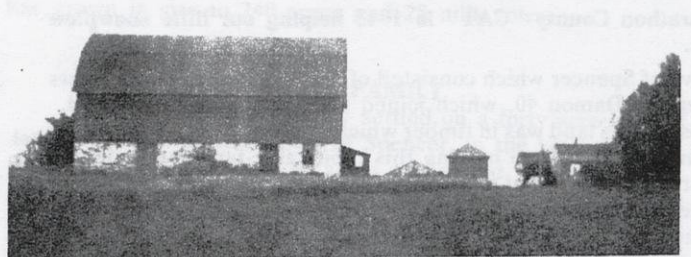
The Floyd Polanek farm.



Springtime Road on County Trunk C, about 1945.



Town of Spencer 4-Wheel Drive Truck pulling out Thorval Moen's "cat."



Buildings on the Allie Heisler farm, formerly owned by August Schultz.

died November 24, 1970 and Raymond continued farming until 1976. He is now retired, still living on the farm but renting the land to the neighbors.

During the years when they farmed, they remodeled the log house and purchased the barn from the old airport in the City of Marshfield. They took it down and rebuilt it on its present location. Mr. and Mrs. Gessert have nine children: Peter at Wisconsin Rapids; Marie at Green Bay; Gertrude and Celia at Marshfield; Marcella, Town of Lincoln; Walter, Town of Spencer; Melvin & Carl in Marshfield; and Raymond on the home farm. The farm is 120 acres in size, with 80 acres being located in Sec. 31 and 40 acres in Sec. 32.



DREWS FAMILY

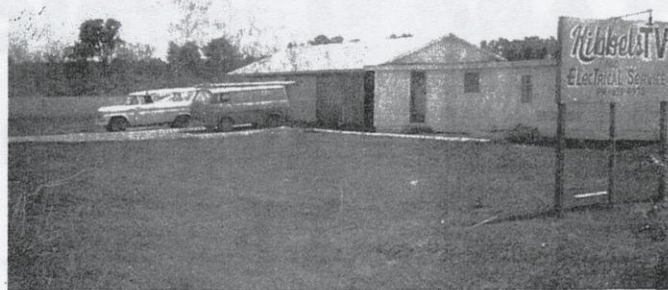
The younger member of the town board, Donald Drews, resides on a 160 acre farm located in Section 29. This farm had as one of its earliest settlers a man named William Sitzman who, in the 1890's, built a house and started farming on 80 acres. Previous to that it had been owned by W. H. Chapman and then O. O. Fortin. J. Sedlacks, the parents of Tillie Swarthout, bought the farm in 1913 and added a barn and a machine shed. Grant Heath was the next owner and sold it to Harold Drews and his wife Elsie (Crossgrove) in 1924. At that time there were about 25 acres under plow. The farm grew to 160 acres when they bought 80 acres from Reinholt Kampfert in 1939. This portion of the farm had about 8 acres of cleared land at that time. Today there is about 20 acres of woods and the rest of the land is under cultivation.

In 1964 Harold and Elsie sold the farm to their son, Donald, and his wife, Susie. They now have 85 head of stock including 52 milk cows that average 588 lbs. of butterfat and 15,000 lbs. of milk per year. Their son, Charles, helps them and plans on being the third generation to operate the farm. A daughter, Mrs. Gerald (Sharon) Kobs lives in Spencer, and another daughter, Mrs. Lyle (Diane) Duranceau lives in Wausau. They have one grandchild.

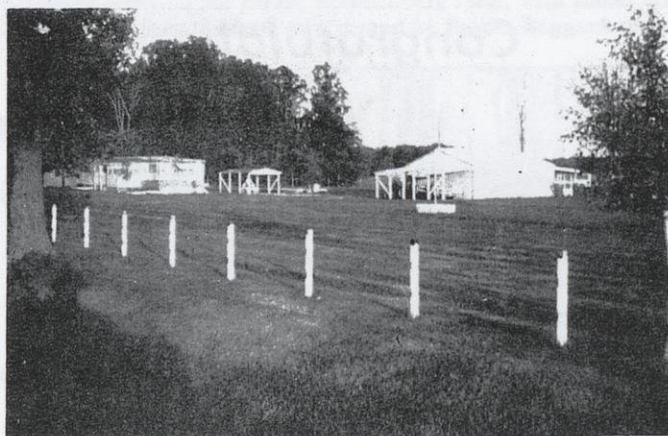
MONTGOMERY HOBBY FARM

This hobby farm is located at the corner of Highway V and Road 26, three miles south of Spencer. It is owned by Robert and Louise Montgomery. They located here in May of 1972, having moved from Riverside, California. He is originally from Marshfield, and his wife lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee prior to their marriage in 1946.

The development of their hobby farm has been slow due to the fact that the land is being cleared very methodically, from marshland and swamp to a more usable condition. Bob and Louise enjoy organic gardening. They have built a greenhouse, which is one of Louise's favorite work areas. She raises all of the vegetables in the greenhouse and then transplants them to the



A view of one of the business places in our town — Kibbel's TV and Electric Service.



The hobby farm of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Montgomery, located in Section 29.



Land in Section 35 which this house stood on, was bought by Thomas Scott from the U. S. Government as a 120-acre parcel in 1866. In 1875 it was divided into two 60-acre parcels. In 1908 Fred Breheim purchased and then sold it to Joe and Mary Egner on March 10, 1919. Frank and Wenzel became owners in 1931 and upon Frank's death it became the property of Wenzel. On May 17, 1973 Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Skaya bought the land. Mrs. Skaya is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Egner.

outside garden area at the most opportune time. She is very successful with this process, and is naturally very proud of her efforts. Bob has a hobby of his own, he manufactures steel-reinforced concrete fence posts. These are being utilized

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Marathon County, Wisconsin
on their 100th Anniversary*

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on the hobby farm, and someday will be available for sale in the local area.

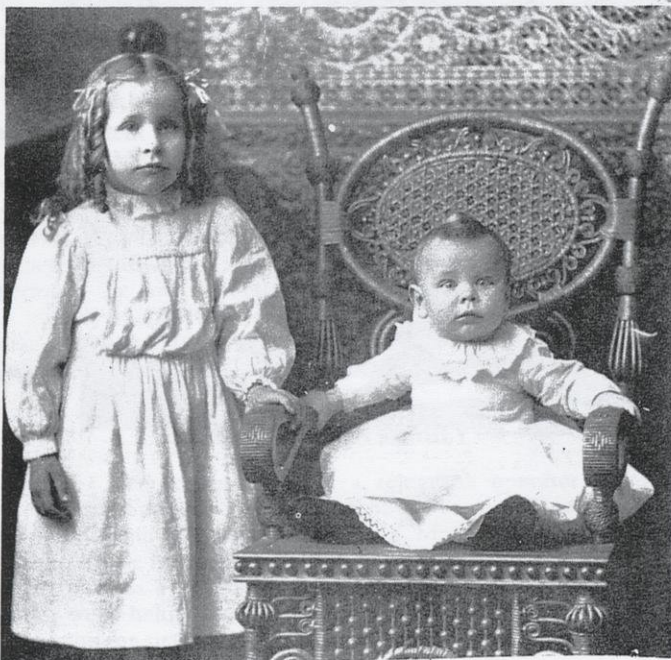
Prior to locating here in the Spencer area, Bob served for 25 years in the military, having retired from the U. S. Air Force with the rank of Lt. Colonel.

BLANKENBERG FAMILY

The Blankenberg family came to the Town of Spencer in 1897 and Fred Blankenberg, Elmer's father, bought 80 acres of land in Sec. 10 (the farm now owned by LaVern Kibbel). In 1907 Mr. Blankenberg sold the farm to Herman and Otilie Welk.



Family picture of the Blankenberg family in 1906. L to R: Amy, Selma and Ella. Front: Mr. and Mrs. Blankenberg and Elmer.



Elmer Blankenberg at the age of one, 1899.



A sawing scene on the Elmer Blankenberg farm, with Elmer on the log. This is on the farm now owned by Roman Roggenbauer.



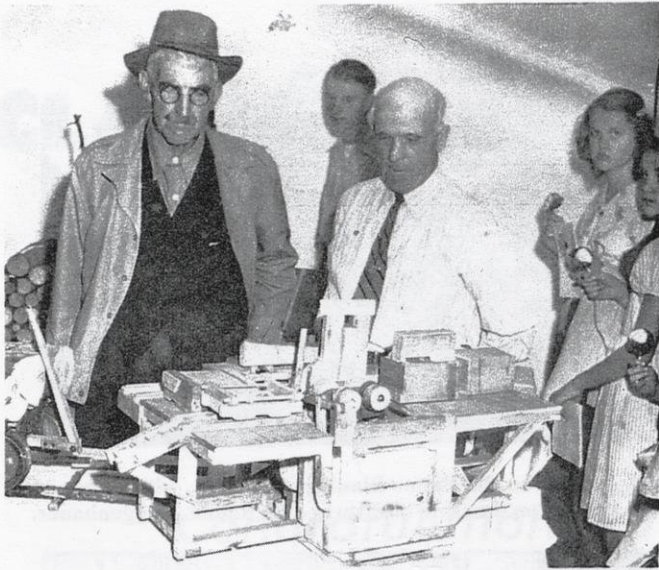
Maple syrup time in 1913 on the Fred Blankenberg farm [Tam Turkeys, Inc.]. L to R: Elmer Blankenberg, Rosalie Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blankenberg. As high as 600 trees were tapped during the season and syrup was sold for \$1.25 a gallon, which was thought to be a good price in those days.



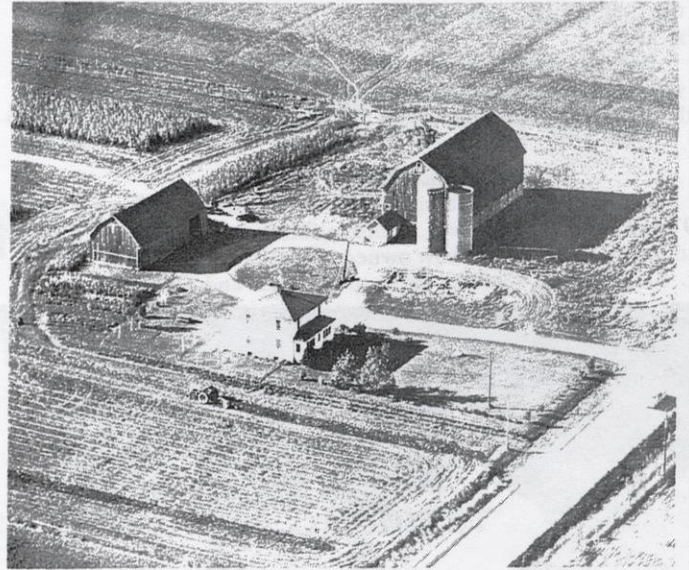
Elmer Blankenberg with his prize team of Percherons taking part in a horse pulling contest in Spencer back in the 40's. Later his horses took first prize at the Central Wisconsin State Fair in Marshfield.

Afterwards, Fred Blankenberg purchased the 80 acre farm in Sec. 9 known as the John Pauline farm and now owned by Bruno Fuhrman. The next owner of the farm was Charles Timm who in turn sold it to William and Naomi Harris. After the death of Mr. and Mrs. Harris, John Pauline became the owner of the farm.

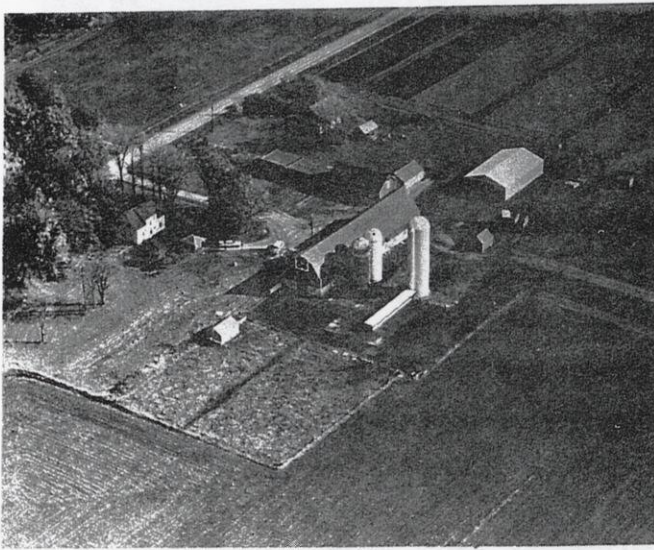
Fred Blankenberg held the office of town chairman at one time and also was town clerk. His son, Elmer, also was interested in town affairs. Elmer lived in Section 32 on a 40 acre



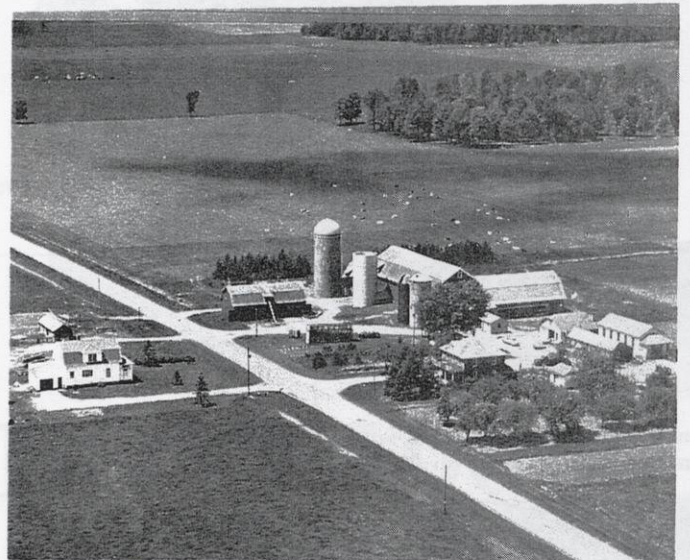
Geo. Hayward, 3rd from left, with his hand-carved saw mill.



The original homestead of Peter Weis.



The Donald Drews farm.



The Weis farm. The building on the far right is the old Timlin School.



The Robert Drews farm.





House that Fred Blankenberg built in 1900, located on the place where LaVern Kibbel now lives. It is now a part of the chicken house on their farm. In front of the house is Fred with the horses.

parcel of land. He was patrolman for Marathon County and the Town of Spencer for 24 years. In the early days patrolling roads was done by horses. Both Elmer and his neighbor, Ervin Stoneburg, were great horsemen and loved horses.

Besides Elmer there were four girls born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Blankenberg. They were Flora, Ella, Selma and Amy. Ella was a teacher at the Mannville School. Elmer operated a restaurant for awhile in Spencer. He sold his farm and moved to Loyal where he now lives.

An interesting note is that the west end of the chicken house 18 x 26 on the LaVern Kibbel farm was the house built by, Mr. Fred Blankenberg.

ANDREW BODENDORFER JR. FAMILY

Our present chairman, Andrew Bodendorfer Jr., is a lifelong resident of the Town of Spencer, having been born here in 1931. As a youth he attended Cameron and St. John's School, and helped his father on the home farm.

In 1953 Andy married the former Gertie Fischer and they spent the first few years of their married life farming, hauling hay, and logging.

In 1962 he went to work for Michels Pipeline & Construction as a laborer. A year later he was made foreman and worked throughout the State of Wisconsin. As many of the residents of our town know, the pipeline runs through the town and for several years the town was able to collect a sizeable sum of money through utility taxes.

In 1965 Andy went to work for Gabes Construction as a superintendent and was in charge of crews throughout the state and Upper Michigan. In order to spend more time with his family, Andy quit construction and went into a business of his own, buying and selling hay and cattle. This decision was made in 1971, the same year he became supervisor of the Town of Spencer at the spring election. Upon the resignation of Arnold Dieringer, he was appointed to fill the unexpired term.

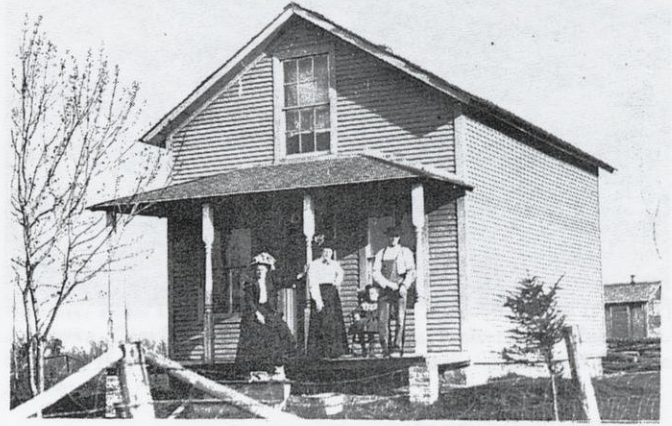
Andy and Gertie have five children: Linda of Marshfield, Mrs. Jerry (Sandy) Ertl who lives at Kilty's Kountry Kourt, and Greg, Kurt and Mikie, all at home.

GEORGE HANSON FAMILY

George Hanson was a telegraph operator before coming from Spokeville to Section 9 of the Town of Spencer. He married Cecelia Butters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Butters, whose farm is now owned by Chester Lipsy. Old-timers remember it as a potato farm and a place where Sunday School picnics were held. Cecelia had two brothers, Sam and Harry, and a younger sister, Josie. Sam was Town of Spencer assessor at one time.

George and Cecelia Hanson had three children: Kenneth

of Kerrville, Texas; Willard, on the home place; and Violet, who married John Pauline. Since the death of John, Violet stays with Julia Egner, Route 2, Stratford.



Picture taken prior to 1910: Cecelia, Mrs. Butters, Josie, Samuel Butters.



Uncle Sam Butters farm — now Pat Weis farm.



Grandma and Grandpa [Samuel] Butters.



Sam Butters and his Maxwell car. [Uncle to Willard Hanson.



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Former Town Chairman Wm. Weis with his
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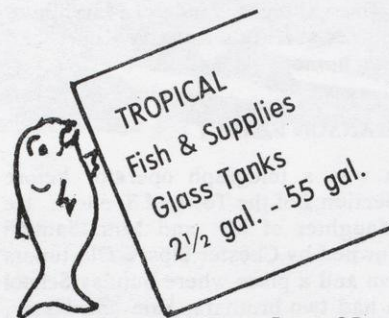
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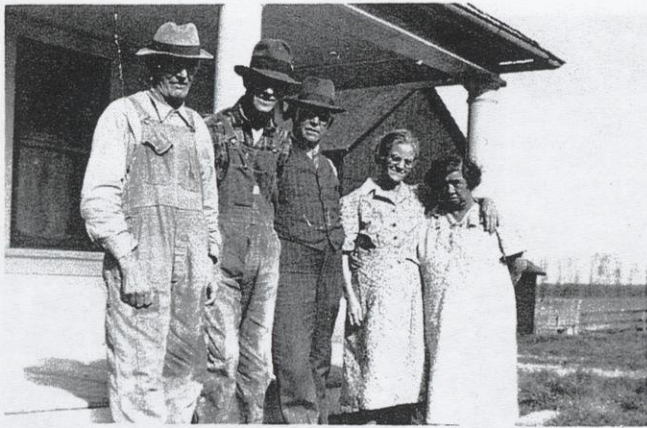
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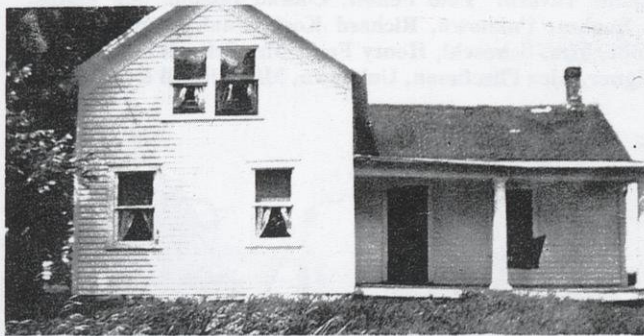
Over 25 years in business



Left to right: George Hanson, Sam Butters, Harry Butters, Mrs. Hanson, Betty Dix [housekeeper for Sam Butters].



Picture taken March, 1940: Harriet [Hayward] Clark, Mrs. Corbett, Ruth Driscoll, Mae [Andrews] Driscoll, Alice [Palmer] Andrews, Cecelia [Butters] Hanson, Mrs. Holterman, Mae [Mrs. George] Hayward, Annie [Mrs. Will] Clark. Little girl is Jane Andrews.



The George Hanson home.



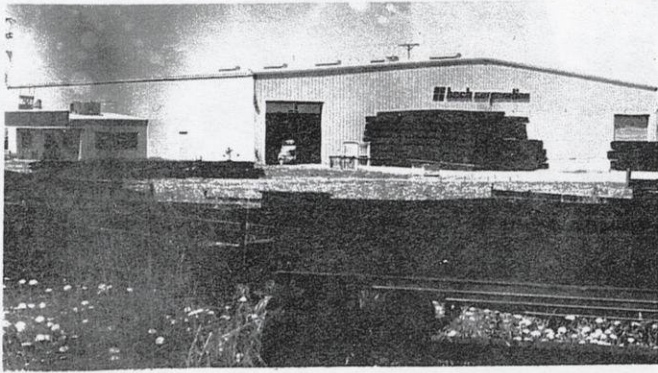
Willard Hanson as a young man.



Wedding picture of Violet Hanson and John Pauline.



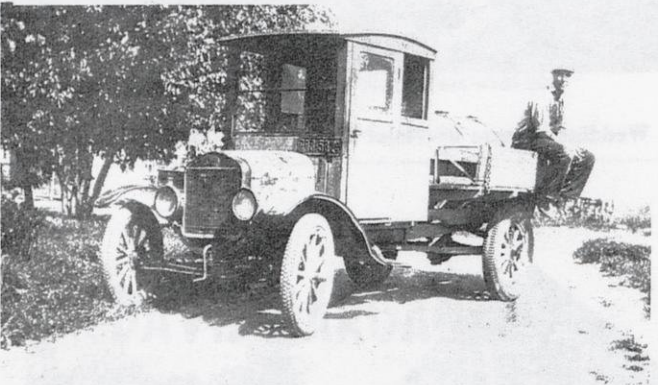
Frank Herman and his home.



Another one of the business places of our town—Beck Corporation.



The Weis children: Lizzie, Anna, Baby Jacob, Catherine, Pete, John, and Joe.



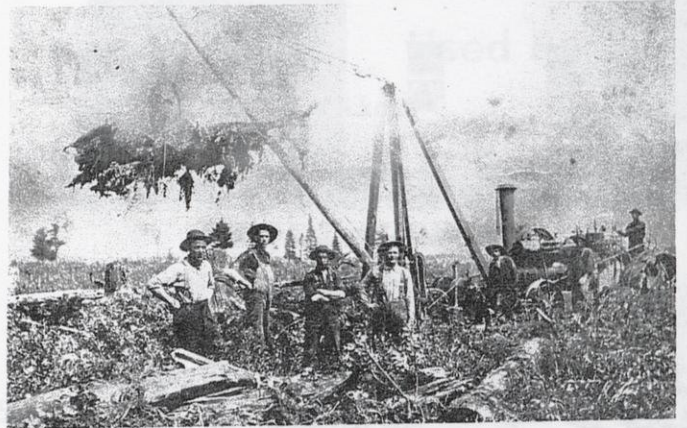
Ed Popp delivering gas from Lang & Scharman in 1925.



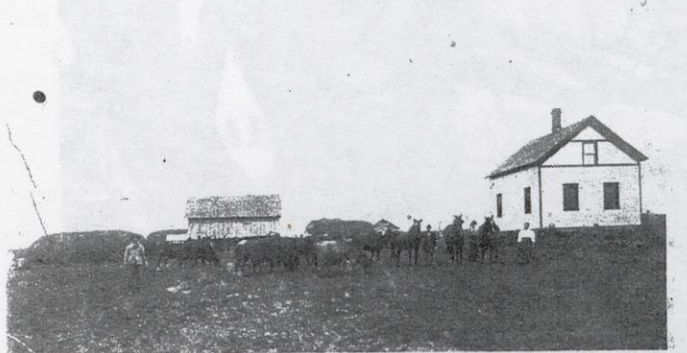
Mr. and Mrs.
Robert Voelker.



Mannville Tavern: Pete Felton, Conrad Boehm, Joe Felton, Matt Boehm, Unknown, Richard Koch, Paul Daum, Richard Schmidt, Mrs. Schescki, Henry Frey, Mr. Schescki, Unknown, Joe Egner, Alex Flischman, Unknown, Mike Duvall & son Alvin.



Stump pulling in McMillan Marsh. L to R: 1-Unknown, 2-George Wonders, 3-Harry Beels, 4-Richard Schmidt. Men near tractor unknown.



Joseph Egner, Frank Wenzel, Mrs. Joseph Egner & Son, 1917.

NOTICE

I am in need of money to pay bills now due and I earnestly request all who are indebted to me to call and settle at once. If settlement is not made within 20 days from date, I shall prosecute all claims collectable and shall publish all others in the paper. I mean business. Call and pay up!

Anton Shafer



Farmers Cooperative Company, was founded Sept. 18, 1912, by a group of farmers to provide themselves with a reliable and economical source of farm supplies.

Sales to themselves that first year were \$1,856 worth of Seed, Corn and Oats. Over the years, the Co-op has grown about 1,207 times in size. Sales in 1975 were \$2,241,159.

Chuck Steffenhagen Mgr.

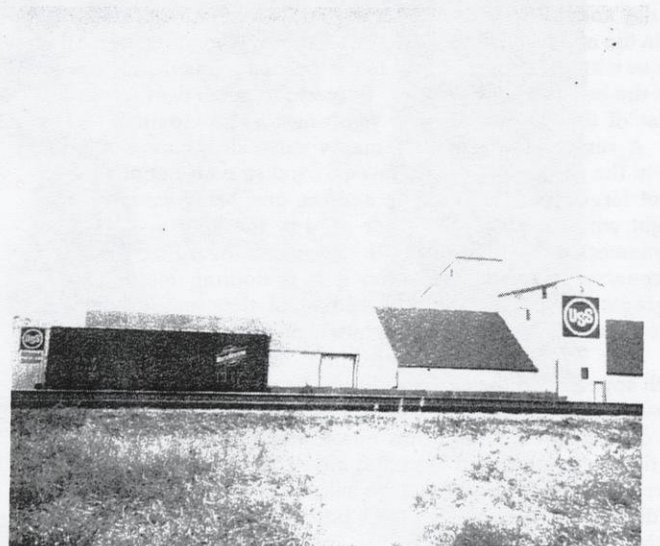


FARMERS COOPERATIVE COMPANY 1912-1976

Serving the Spencer Area for 64 years

**FARM MACHINERY
FEED & FERTILIZER
HARDWARE & APPLIANCE
SERVICE STATION
BULK PETROLEUM TRUCKS**

**CONGRATULATIONS
TOWN OF SPENCER**





LAYING OF THE PIPELINE from Marshfield to Spencer, Wisconsin was inspected by Spencer Officials. Donald Putnam, Manager of Marshfield District, took the group on the inspection tour recently.

ITEM

Spencer Record, Oct. 27, 1932--At one of the local stores the following prices were noted: Men's plaid flannel shirts, 69c; ladies thread silk hose per pair, 39c; herring 9 lb. keg, 89c; a pancake flour 5 lb. bag, 19c; assorted cookies, 2 lbs, 29c. Another store had round sirloin steak for 15c per lb., and picnic hams for 11c per lb.

June 2, 1882— The 106th anniversary of American Independence is now but a short way off, yet nothing is heard of it. Washington's birthday, which should be remembered by every true American, passed without a thought. Decoration Day was unobserved and had it not been that no school was taught that day and the little ones were at home at no unusual time, not one in ten of our citizens would have known when it came. Shall it be so with the 4th of July? Is the Spirit of '76 entirely drawn from the hearts of our people? Is there no patriotism left in the breast of the descendants of Washington and Adams?

A remembrance of any man's early struggles is a great help in the enjoyment of our success; and so with nations. Let us not forget that the freedom and the prosperity we enjoy was bought with the blood of better men in the long ago. Let us commemorate the holiest day in the year to every true lover of his country in some way, even if it is nothing more than to congregate and listen to the reading of that instrument that made America free, the Declaration of Independence.

July 7, 1882— As an afternote of the patriotic thought which appeared in the earlier edition of the Spencer Tribune, the following article is included. "The fourth in Spencer was not a gala day but there were a few entertaining events. A foot race was fixed up among the boys and after that a sack race. All day fire crackers and torpedoes were heard. Considerable fire water was disposed of, one or two pitch battles was the consequence. A subscription was raised in the afternoon and in the evening there was quite a display of fireworks. Nearly all the young people either went to Marshfield or Loyal to the dance.

From the early Spencer newspaper, the **Spencer Tribune**, we were able to gather many interesting bits of information such as the following:

December 23, 1881— Mannville logs are pouring in by the millions. The 'old Mann Mill' commenced the 13th. Tyson & Pierce will operate the mill this season, with J. Markle, head sawyer. This gentleman is claimed to be the "Boss" Sawyer in the Northwest and takes a back seat to no one.

January 6, 1882— We have seen many sorts of beasts of burden, but never until last week saw an ox driven single. One passed the office between a pair of shafts and seemed to work kindly enough.

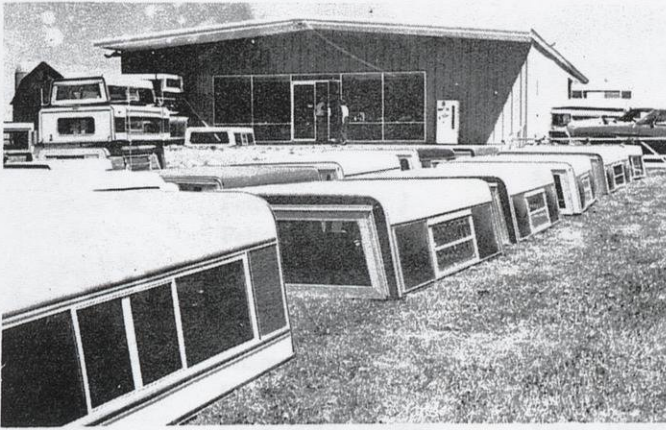
February 10, 1882— W. C. Clifford has got in about 3 million feet of logs. P. A. Thayer has over 2 million feet at the close of last week. Treasurer Frank Whipple reports taxes coming slowly and thinks he will be compelled to stir things up a little.

October 14, 1881— Frank Whipple, postmaster, had what was advertised as the "neatest, best stocked drug store north of Stevens Point."

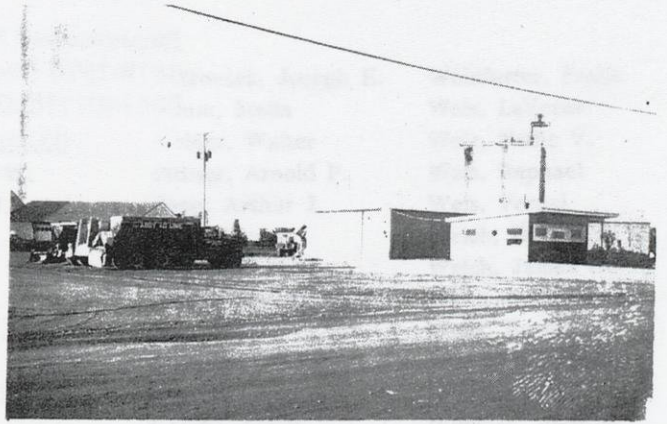
December 16, 1881— At Mannville there were about 400 men waiting for work at the mills. Miss Alice Hulce was listed as the teacher in the Mannville School.

March 3, 1882— Wanted, 5000 good hardworking farmers to till the rich farming lands in the vicinity of Spencer.

April 18, 1893— The Board fixed the following penalties for stock running at large, according to the vote taken at the annual town meeting. For horses, not to run at large either night or day, \$2.00 for each and every offense. For cattle not to run at large between the hours of 9:00 P.M. and 5:00 A.M., 50 cents per head for each and every offense. It was also noted in the issue published on April 21, 1882 that "According to law, hogs have no right to run at large in this town, but notwithstanding the fact of law, quite a number of hogs are running around loose, very much to the annoyance of people who did not think it necessary to fence against such 'varmints'. We trust the owners of such animals will see that they are taken care of, or the offices will see that they (the hogs) are pounded according to law."



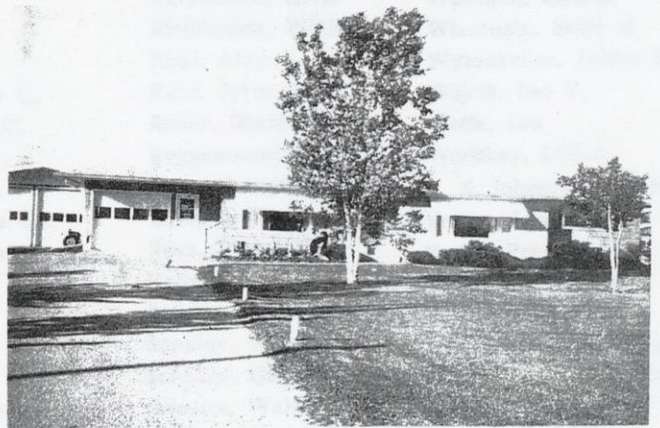
One of the business places in our township — the Cliff Eckes Cycle Shop.



Karau's Lime Service, owned and operated by Ernest Karau.



Joker's Wild night club, one of the businesses in our town.



Laura's Beauty Shoppe, owned and operated by Mrs. Donald Wacholz.



Rose Mary, the committeewoman, "Okay, let's get this book to the printer. We've wasted enough time."

W 977.529 B471b

Bicentennial 1776-1976, Nov. 14,
1876-1976 Town of Spencer centennial /
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1976 TAX ROLL

Abbott, William J.	Egger, John	Johnsrud, Lillian	Petkovsek, Joseph E.	Weinfurter, Frank
Adler, Paul	Emmel, Mary	Kappel, Joseph	Pflum, Stella	Weis, LaVerne
Anderson, Duane L.	Endries, Eugene	Karau, Ernest	Pichler, Walter	Weis, Nellie V.
Andreae, Larry G.	Endries, Marvin A.	Kennow, Wilder W.	Pilsner, Arnold P.	Weis, Raphael
Andree, Johanna M.	Felten, Richard J.	Kibbel, Ernest H.	Popp, Arthur J.	Weis, Vernal
Andres, Roman	Felton, John O.	Kibbel, LaVern	Popp, Ernest	Welch, Donald H.
Andrews, Russell P.	Fischer, Lawrence J.	Kilty, David L.	Potz, Darvid W.	Welch, James H.
Bader, Raymond I.	Fischer, Ronald	Kilty, Robert	Pribbernow, Ruben E.	Wellman, LeRoy E.
Balogh, John	Fischer, Victor J.	Kilby, William R.	Pue, Wilbur A.	Wells, Burton R.
Bargander, David	Fitzmaurice, Larry D.	Kittel, Carl R.	Radlinger, Jerome L.	Wenzel, Robert E.
Bargander, Dennis	Flagel, Arthur A.	Klein, Russel A.	Regele, Charles	Wiersig, Eldor
Bargander, Isidor	Fleischman, Donald	Kline, David C.	Regele, Violet	Wilhelm, Joyce E.
Barkow, Elmer F.	Fleischman, Veronica A.	Kobs, William	Reigel, Edward	Wingert, Conrad M.
Bauer, Duane M.	Fleischman, Walter	Korn, Thomas F.	Rindfleisch, Ervin	Wireman, Roscoe
Bauer, James J.	Forst, Steve J.	Kozik, Conrad	Rindfleisch, William R.	Wisconsin, State of
Beahm, Arthur R.	Foth, Dennis R.	Krause, Ernst	Rizzi, Alice	Wittenkeller, James R.
Bechler, Harold	Frank, Thomas	Krohn, Alexander C.	Rizzi, Sylvester J.	Wojcik, Leo V.
Beck Corporation	Franz, Henry	Krohn, Clarence C.	Roder, Darrel R.	Wolfe, Lon
Blenker, James H.	Frey, Donald	Krohn, Jerome A.	Roggenbauer, Max C.	Woodkey, Lillian
Bodendorfer, Andrew	Frey, Norbert	Krohn, Walter C.	Roggenbauer, Roman	& Johnsrud, Alfred
Bodendorfer, Andrew Jr.	Fuhrman, Bruno G.	Lakehead Pipeline Co.	Rohloff, Wm.	Yetter, Allan
Boe, Joe	Fuller, Kenneth A.	Landwehr, Eugene J.	Rose, Duane H.	Yoder, Preston A.
Boe, Teddy A.	Gamble, William L.	Lang, James E.	Rottscheit, Erva	Zawislan, Leonard
Boge, Hilarius	Gardner, Gordon W.	Lang, Joseph T.	Salisbury, James W.	Zimmerman, Paul
Bohy, Donald F.	Gauger, Alvin T.	Lang, Russel	Sandley, Victor L.	Zimmermann Brothers,
Bolen, Merlin L.	Gauger, Arlene	Larson, Dern F.	Schalow, Gerald E.	Inc.
Boucher, Ruth E.	Gessert, Raymond	Lindgren, Richard H.	Schauer, Walter	Zimmermann, Joseph P.
Brandt, Douglas J.	Gessert, Walter J.	Lipsey, Chester E.	Scheller, Robert R.	Zorman, Rudolph
& Schmitt, Brenda J.	Goss, Herman R.	Lokre, Gerhard E.	Schommer, Lambert	
Burrill, George	Graf, Harold L.	Machtan, Laverne	Schoolman, Carl	
& Hinke, Helen	Griepentrog, Donald E.	Mara-Wood Farms, Inc.	Schultz, Stanley B.	
Buss, Hulda	Griepentrog, Raymond	Marathon County	Schults, Wayne	
Butler, Joseph R.	Gunia, Edward J.	Markowski, William	Schwantes, Donald H.	
Carlson, Marvin G.	Hammond, Harold E. Jr.	Marshfield T & T Riders, Inc.	Seehafer, Norman J.	
Carpenter, Robert F.	Hannum, Omar	Matter, DuWayne	Sersch, Elsie	
Cartwright, Emil A.	Hanson, Willard G.	Matter, Violet	Sherburne, James D.	
Cherney, Frank	Harrell, David A.	Maurer, Ronald W.	Skaya, Lloyd S.	
Cherney, Louis W.	Hebert, Virginia	Maurer, Wilfred	Soo Line RR Co.	
Christensen, H. K.	Heckel, Michael I.	Meinders, Dick	Spencer, Town of	
Christman, Steven R.	Heckel, Robert	Merkel, Alois	Spiering, James A.	
Churkey, William P. Jr.	Hederer, Ralph A.	Metcalf, Roger R.	Steffen, James E.	
Ciskowski, Alfred J.	Heinzen, George T.	Meyer, Bernard G.	Stelzl, Arnold E.	
Clark, William B.	Heisler, Allie	Meyer, Benjamin J.	Sternweis, Donald J.	
Coffield, John L. Jr.	Heisler, Eugene	Miller, Gilbert D.	Stevens, Margaret	
Cohler, Wilbert	Hendrickson, Donald E.	Montgomery, Robert L.	Stevens, Vernon & Margaret	
Conner, William D.	Hildebrandt, Eldon G.	Moynihan, Joseph	Sirebe, DuWayne	
Cramer, Arvid	& Mary Ann H.	Mueller, Francis	Strite, Lawrence A.	
Cressman, Harvey C. Jr.	Hildebrandt, Oscar	Murphy, Donald E.	Stute, William C. Sr.	
Degnitz, Alvin E.	Hoff, Albert	Nelson, Ed Jr.	T & T Riders, Inc.	
Detwiler, Thomas	Hofmann, Fred	Neville, Richard J.	Tremelling, Norman C.	
Dieringers Inc.	Hoops, Lloyd	Nienow, Fred C.	Usarek, Dennis W.	
Dommer, Duane L.	Huston, Wayne Eugene	Nikolai, Jerald J.	Uthmeier, W. A.	
Drews, Donald	Hutter, John W.	O'Brien, James L.	Uzabel, Thomas M.	
Drews, Ervin	Intress, Robert C.	O'Brien, Richard A.	Wachholz, Donald H.	
Drews, Robert H.	Iwaszchenko, John	Oelrich, Elmer F.	Wachholz, LaVerne	
Driscoll, Floyd A.	Iwaszchenko, John Jr.	Oelrich, Mrs. Mary	Watje, Vernon	
Eckes, Clifford M.	Jensen, Eugene	Oelrich, Theodore	Weber, Charles	
& LuVerne M.	Johnson, Lyle A.	Overholt, Harold	Weinfurter, Dale	

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