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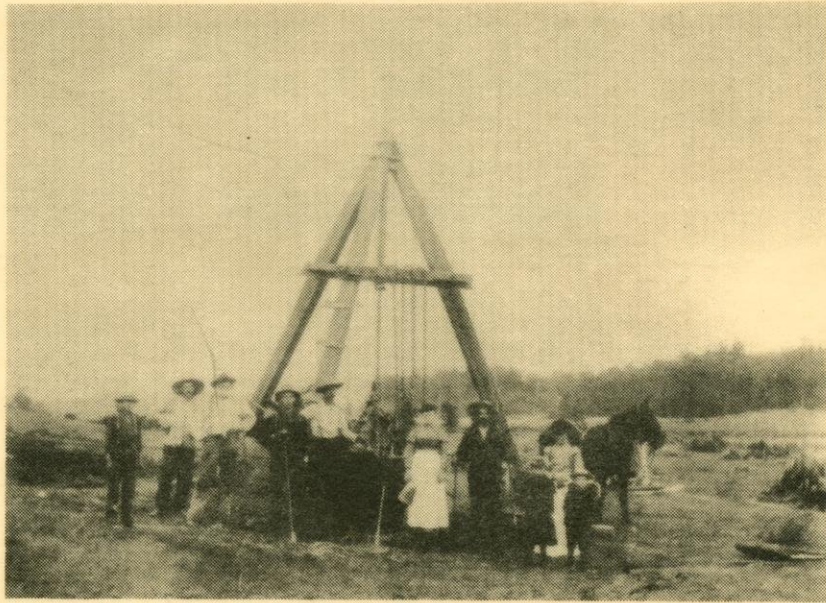
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CENTERVILLE

1850 - 1976

CLEVELAND

1958 - 1976



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TOWN OF CENTERVILLE

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VILLAGE OF CLEVELAND

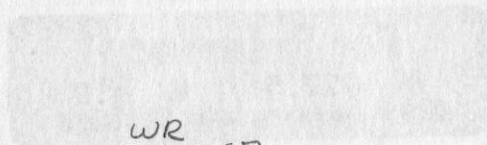
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TOWN OF CLEVELAND

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Cleveland Fire Department
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Manitowoc County Library
Manitowoc County Historical Society
Lions
Jaycees
Boy Scouts
Girl Scouts
4-H Club

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Mrs. Rose Lorfeld
Mr. Arthur Hingiss
Mrs. Clara Mill
Mr. Edwin Hinz
Mr. Ruben Kraus
Mr. Clarence Kolb
Mr. Wally Freis

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Mr. Edwin Klessig
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INDIAN MOUND EXPLORED

Manitowoc County derives its name from the Indian word "munedoowk", which has two meanings, "home of the good spirit" and "the devil's den." Several tribes inhabited the county at some time or other, tribes staying here for the summer only, and moving to central Wisconsin for the winter months.

It is unknown which tribes visited the Town of Centerville. One Indian summer campsite is rumored to have been located on land now owned by Wally Freis. Mr. Freis stated that he has found close to one hundred spear heads and arrow heads on his land.

Further east on Fischer Creek flood plain, approximately a quarter of a mile from Lake Michigan, on section 15 of the Town of Centerville, a solitary Indian burial mound was found on the John Mill farm. The mound was built entirely of yellow sand and was seven feet high and forty-five feet in circumference. When it was explored, seven skeletons were found, all in a sitting position at depths of one and one-half feet to about five feet. A wedge-shaped copper ax and a slate gorget were found in the mound. The bones were re-interred, but subsequently carried off by unknown parties.

THE INDIAN SCARE

On September 2, 1862, the residents of northeastern Wisconsin were rudely awakened by cries that the Indians were coming. Messengers from all parts of the county announced that the Indians were burning and murdering everything in their path.

For the next two days, the roads were crowded with ox carts pulling wagons full of women and children, fleeing to Manitowoc and Sheboygan for safety. The residents of the Town of Centerville barricaded the women and children on one of the piers at Hika Bay. Common sense prevailed however, as they considered the fact that the Indians might set fire to the approach and the women and children would find themselves between the "devil and the deep sea." They were then taken to Sheboygan for safety.

After several days without any sign of the Indians, everyone returned to their homes. Later it was decided that the rumor of the Indian raid was the work of Copperheads, or southern sympathizers, to prevent enlistment at a time when they were sorely needed. The entire alarm was really unfounded, for at that time there were only a few hundred peaceable Indians left in this part of Wisconsin.

HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF CENTERVILLE



Pier at Hika Bay. The above picture is the first pier built in the Town of Centerville. It was built by Peter Werner around 1854.

On January 9, 1849, the Manitowoc County Board divided the county into four towns. The Town of Centerville was included in the town designated as Meeme, with five other towns. The town of Centerville was officially recognized as a township in 1850, with Mr. Charles Kaehler as its first chairman. The first actual settler was Mr. Adams. Although the town records are incomplete, many of the original homesteads are still in the same family, having been passed down from generation to generation. Our first settlers obtained their land through government land grants.

The Town of Centerville lies in the southeast corner of Manitowoc County, and always was considered one of the finest farming towns. Almost 100% of our first settlers were of German descent.

Among the earliest settlers, in 1847, were F. W. Rossberg, G. Patitz, E. Jaehnig, and J. Augustine. In 1848, they were joined by D. Schneider and F. Huhn, and in 1849, by A. Rettele and E. Franke. By the year 1854, August Mill and brothers, J. Bogen-schuetz, G. Leonhard, J. Sachse, H. Carbert, C. W. Leiteritz, C. Pohland, A. Klessig, A. Bahr, and F. W. Boettcher settled in the town.

The first schoolhouse was built on section 20 in 1850, and the first Catholic church on section 8. In 1856 R. Barthel built

a saw mill on section 8. In 1866 C.Schrieber moved here from Manitowoc and commenced brewing beer - the capacity of the brewery by 1878 was 1500 barrels a year. In 1868 Aug. Mill built a grist and planing mill with a lumber yard.

By the year 1878 the town had several stores; Peter Werner, then chairman, operated the General Store in the village, P. Hoffman and Company were proprietors of a boot and shoe store on Section 28, and M. Rossberg on section 15. Kaiser and Weber owned a saw and grist mill on section 20. There were three successful cheese factories in operation run by Aug. Klessig, J. Hertel and F.A. Kielsmeier.



Strattman's General Store and Tavern, located at county L.S. and Lincoln Avenue.

Justice of the Peace records from the year 1856 show that the first jury trial on record for the Town of Centerville was March 7, 1856. Justice of the Peace, F.N. Otto presided in the case of Gottlieb Thuraw versus Joseph Wokaleck. Although details and charges of the trial were deleted, it was stated that Mr. Thuraw be awarded \$62.50 and defendant Joseph Wokaleck pay court costs of \$3.12.

On April 17, 1871, Justice of the Peace Andrew Rettele heard testimony from plaintiff that defendant illegally dug out and stole eight plum trees from plaintiff's land. Defendant was ordered to pay \$3.00 in damages and \$1.89 in court costs.

The records of these proceedings are far from complete, but the judicial system itself apparently worked. Pressed inside the Justice of the Peace records, were twelve four leaf clovers, either to help insure justice or the Justice of the Peace was an Irishman.

In the same tradition, the people of the Town of Centerville fight for their rights today as was done in August of 1908. Mr. Charles Voss fought a court case against the town boards of Meeme and Centerville. Mr. Voss requested that a road be built at the north end of a highway located between section 7, Town of Centerville and section 12, Town of Meeme. Town of Centerville and Town of Meeme were ordered by the court to construct a road and share in all costs, damages, and maintenance.

In comparison to today's cost of road maintenance of over \$70,000.00 a year, the annual town report of 1911 reported road maintenance costs of \$546.99 for the entire year.

Doctor E.N. Reinert, pictured at right in front of his home and office. The annual reports of the early 1900's showed a variety of disbursements. Dr. Reinert was paid \$1.50 for medical attendance to one individual.



Town Board meetings were held at the clerk's office until a referendum was held on April 1, 1930, to change the meeting place to the Cleveland Fire House. With a total number of 191 votes cast, 7 of which were women, the final tally was 118 yes and 73 no.

It wasn't until April of 1953 that plans were made to buy land and construct a new fire house and town hall. A ballot vote was taken as to whether or not to construct said town hall. The vote was unanimous to build the fire house and town hall combination. This vote was never carried through; instead the town bought Mr. Ed Schurrer's garage and used it for the town hall with the fire department renting the garage space from the town. In 1959, Manitowoc County Highway Department bought the garage from the town. Since that time the town board has had an agreement with the highway department to rent the front of the building for official town business.

The Senior Citizen's Organization donated new curtains for the front windows in 1975.

PIONEER FARMING

The primary occupation of our early settlers was farming, but it wasn't until 1856 that agriculture became more important than lumbering. The 1860 census reported 809 farms in Manitowoc County, and by 1880 the largest number of farms reported was a total of 4,361 in Manitowoc County. In the 1975 farm census, the Town of Centerville had 84 farms operating.

The pioneer farm had a few cows, hogs, horses, chickens, geese, sheep, bees, and a garden and orchard. The men engaged in the routine and tedious labor of animals and field and the never-ending job of clearing land and constructing buildings.

The farm wife had to help milk cows, make butter, help with the butchering, set hens, raise chicks, extract honey, spin wool, sew and knit, make soap, can, and bake. The farm wife kept the wood fires going for heating and cooking, and carried water. When there was field work, she helped with the haying, shocking, and weeding in the cornfields. The homes were training schools for the children. Families were large and help from the children was a part of their every day life.

Just as it took courage, determination, and dedicated devotion in the early years to the many tasks of being a farm family, it still takes these same qualities today. Though modern conveniences and labor saving devices make social and economic conditions very different, families must carry on effectively.

Our State University system in the late 1800's began to help farmers with new methods of raising forage crops, breeding of cattle, and plants and means of storing these crops. Production of animals and crops increased.

After World War I, farms entered the mechanized age, as horses gradually were replaced by the tractor, with the "Great Depression" slowing this down. After World War II, there was an exodus of farm youth to look for jobs in neighboring cities. With family labor gone, farmers had to adapt to the new and larger harvesting equipment. Slowly there was a move to specialized farming such as dairy and hogs. Animals were fed with mechanical feeders, and animal waste removed with barn cleaners. As these investments increased, the trend toward larger herds and the need to become more efficient was evident to survive.

By the late 1960's, great concern of environment, ecology, conservation, and pollution again caused farmers to try new methods of handling animal waste, this time in liquid form. Milking parlors and pipeline milk systems and larger field machinery enables one man to handle more animals and crops.

From the horse and milk wagon delivery to the corner cheese factory; from can trucks to stainless steel tank trucks with milk markets many miles away to supply a now 95% urban population, the

farmer accepts new problems and slowly but surely solves them.

Just as private business is important to the farmer, the co-operatives are a vital part of this community. Our forefathers were instrumental in helping organize feed, seed, and dairy plants, artificial insemination, feeder pig, farm records, milk testing, and insurance co-ops. The foresight of these people was a stepping stone for us to use the highly technical knowledge these organizations can now share with us.

Our ancestors would marvel at the computer system of book-keeping our modern farms use, the large amounts of money we handle, the cost of farms today, the number of silos on one farm, the vast expansion of buildings, open fields, 100 cows on one farm, the vast communication, transportation, and power line system, and the neat farmsteads.

They, in turn, could be proud of the fact that they had the courage and fortitude to settle in this Town of Centerville, where they and their generations have been blessed with fertile soil, the winds and the moisture of Lake Michigan; a place where families have been taught the thrift of a past generation, to be stewards of the soil and responsible to their families and fellow man.

Once farming was a "way of life." Today the farmer is a technical engineer involved in the production of food, and the farmer of the Town of Centerville is proud of that fact and remains dedicated.

FARMERS FIGHT I-43 WITH THE SPIRIT OF '76

Interstate 43 is a proposed federal highway running from Milwaukee to Green Bay, 325' wide, with limited access, using 42 acres of land per mile with additional acreage needed at interchange sites. I-43 is slated to run north and south through the entire six miles of the Township of Centerville.

The Spirit of '76 is the love of freedom deep within every loyal American determined to win and willing to fight to uphold the cause he believes right.

In the year of the American Bicentennial, a culmination of controversy between Cleveland farmers and government officials responsible for forcing the highway through Northeastern Wisconsin, resulted in the arrests of highly-respected rural Cleveland citizens in opposition of the highway, because of its effect on Wisconsin agriculture. The farmers asked that the highway be super-imposed on existing U.S. 141 roadbed and be scaled down, so as to retain more land for individual Americans to engage in free enterprise rather than revert to the centralized government. They planted American flags in front of bulldozers. Several of those arrested for trespassing were descendants of the founders of the Town of Centerville, who carved productive farms out of a wilderness.

Norbert Orth, whose great grandfather, Johann Orth, founded his farm in 1854, defended his right to land ownership, and Ed Klessig, whose family owned the first cheese factory, were put in jail with a group.

The early German settlers chose Wisconsin, because its climate so closely paralleled that of their native land. Johann Orth came over on a sailing vessel, which took two months to cross the ocean. He spoke fondly of his hometown of Trier, the oldest city in Germany, and how his family walked to St. Wendel, which is near Trier, and the cruises they took on the Moselle River. It is believed that St. Wendel Church and the naming of the neighboring Township of Mosel originate from these beginnings.

The expertise in farming of these early settlers was a great gift to the area and was passed on to each succeeding generation. The Germans, even a century before, were such good farmers that Catherine II, Empress of Russia, invited them to the fertile Ukraine to teach the Russians to farm.

The fantastic productivity on the ancestral lands of the Centerville farmers, and the Highway Departments lack of empathy for rich farmland, resulted in the most historically significant happenings of the Centerville Bicentennial celebration. Believing that "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed", the Town of Centerville voted against I-43. The Manitowoc County Board voted in favor--largely an urban oriented majority. From a predominantly rural citizenry during the American Revolution, farmers today represent less than 5% of the population. Their vote cannot ever swing an election. They have great economic power, but little political power. Farmers today can protest "Taxation without Representation", as did the Minutemen of 1776, who were largely a handful of farmers also.

Realizing their weakness, the Centerville farmers made monumental efforts to arouse a public outcry against I-43 by holding open houses, public forums, debates, a protest walk from Sheboygan to Green Bay, a meat and cheese sale, a public dance, etc. When the Highway Department and the legislators still ignored them, they took 3 cows and a calf to Madison and parked them on the lawn of the State Capitol. They were there for one month and generated much public support from the people and garnered 22,000 signatures on petitions against I-43.

The cities of Sheboygan, Green Bay, and Manitowoc then sent out representatives to persuade the Governor to build as scheduled. Governor Lucey declared on May 18, 1976. that construction of the I-43 as planned was clearly the best choice, and that construction would continue. This was based on planning time spent and valuable data gathered concerning costs and environmental impact of the project.

If I-43 is a reality in the Tricentennial, to the farmers who are protesting its construction, it will forever be the changing of God's green acres into a man-made thoroughfare over and above the cries of the people that it was imprudent and wasteful.

Facts and figures can show most vividly our town's progress. Below are statistics from the personal property assessment books from the years 1871, 1876, 1890, and 1975.

| 1871 | 1876 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Horses..... 242 | Horses..... 367 |
| Cattle.....1039 | Cattle..... 978 |
| Mules and Asses..... 1 | Mules and Asses..... 4 |
| Sheep and lamb..... 634 | Sheep and lamb..... 672 |
| Swine..... 673 | Swine..... 542 |
| Total assessed value | Wagons, carriages..... 279 |
| <u>\$64,684.</u> | Pianos and melodeons.. 9 |
| 1890 | Total assessed value |
| Horses..... 527 | <u>\$264,748.</u> |
| Cattle.....1472 | 1975 |
| Mules and Asses..... 3 | Cattle.....4454 |
| Sheep and lamb..... 334 | Sheep..... 29 |
| Swine..... 546 | Swine..... 287 |
| Wagons and carriages 438 | Total assessed value |
| Pianos and melodeons 18 | <u>\$9,831,483.</u> |
| Watches..... 22 | |
| Total not available. | |

CENTERVILLE BRICK OVEN BREAD

Our ancestors made use of everything around the farm. The sheep raised on the farm provided them with wool; the cows, with their own homemade butter; but remembered the most were the ladies for their famous brick oven breads.

Large brick ovens which were located outside were used constantly during the summer months to keep the houses as cool as possible. Three women of the Town of Centerville who were known for their brick oven breads at the area church bazaars were Mrs. Richard Lutze, Alvina Born, and Mrs. Marie Klessig. A fire was made in the oven with a special wood. When the bricks inside the oven were white hot, the ashes were swept out. The bread dough was placed on a large wooden pallet with a long handle, and the dough was flipped upside down on the hot bricks. Contrary to oven baked bread, this bread browned first and then baked. At the church bazaars the breads would be auctioned off for the extravagant price of two or three dollars a loaf. Meat was also prepared in these ovens for the church bazaars.

OUR LOCAL CHEESE FACTORIES

The Town of Centerville had small cheese factories of both private ownership and farmer co-ops. One of the oldest cheese factories was built in 1872 and was operated by August Klessig, on what is now Union Road. The Klessig Cheese factory was in business from 1872 until 1943, and remained in the Klessig family.

August Klessig's eldest son, Adolf, learned the cheese making trade at a Sheboygan Falls cheese factory, and brought his cheese-making knowledge back to the Klessig cheese factory. After August Klessig's death Mrs. Klessig managed the factory and was head cheese maker until her son, Leo, took over in 1913.

The Clover Leaf cheese factory, which is located on the corner of Country Trunk X and Union Road was originally bought from Leo Klessig and the building was then moved to the previously mentioned location. Robert Barthel rebuilt the building. Oscar Barthel ran the cheese factory until 1908, and Ed Lutze operated it until 1914. It was then owned by Henry Matthias for six months after which it was bought as a farmer's co-op. The farmer co-op cheese factory operated until the formation of Lake to Lake Dairy. The factory was also used for living quarters until 1908.

John F. Hinz ran a privately owned cheese factory on the corner of Union Road and Highway 149. It was originally started by E. Hingiss, and then by William Sommer, followed by Walter Sommer. Mr. Hinz bought the factory on February 1, 1926 and was one of the last to close in the Town of Centerville, May of 1948.

On the same land where Bender's Steak House now stands, Mr. Arno Koeppsel ran a privately owned cheese factory until fire demolished the building.

The Kielsmeier cheese factory located near Lake Michigan was the second cheese factory to be started in the town. Listed in an historical atlas of 1878, we can assume that it was built around that time. It was later privately owned by Otto Sixel until 1932 or 1933.

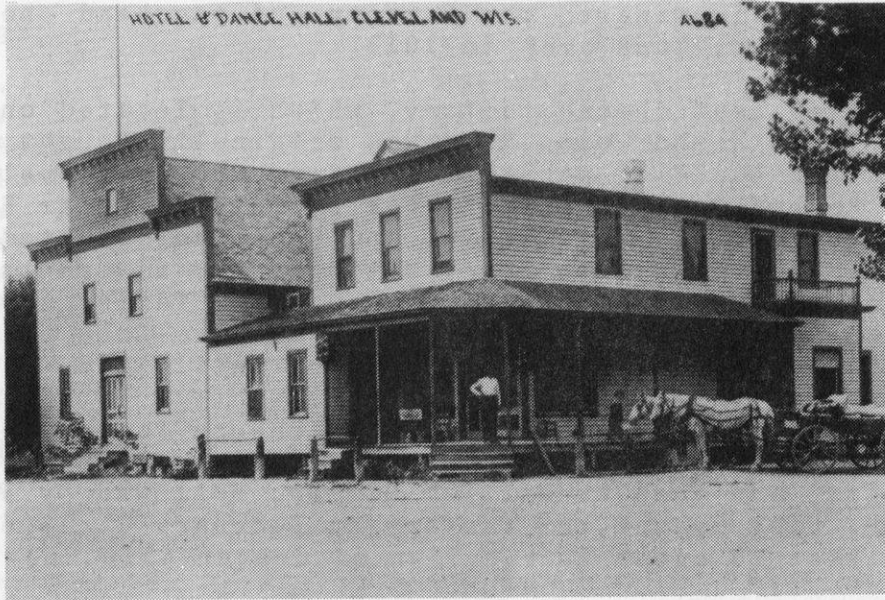
Two other privately owned cheese factories were the Pine Grove cheese factory on the corner of Union Road and Ucker Creek Road and the Matthias Dairy located across the street from the old Wimpler Tavern. The original buildings still stand.

FRIENDLY SALOONS

In the early 1900's, saloon licenses were granted for nine saloons. The fee for a saloon license was \$100.00 per year. During prohibition the cost of licenses decreased to \$50.00 a year. Since April 1, 1949, the cost of liquor licenses has remained the same for the Town of Centerville.

Theresa's Tavern, on the corner of Highway 149 and County XX has been a family bar since the 1800's. Miss Nennig's great grandparents started the tavern. During the summer months parades were held down the now existing highway 149 and a picnic followed at the Nennig Tavern. The tavern was handed down from P. Nennig to Frank Nennig, and then to Joseph Nennig, who constructed the octagonal building which still stands. For approximately ten years, summer dances were held in the octagonal dance hall.

WIMMLER'S TAVERN



The above tavern is more commonly known as Wimmler's Tavern. Both buildings pictured above were moved to this site about 1880. The first owner was Charles Bahr, followed by August Erdman, and then Charles Wimmler. The tavern complex housing a bar, bowling alley, archery range, dance hall, living quarters and an attorney's office was owned by the Wimmler family since 1908. It was destroyed by fire in 1974. Mrs. Wimmler had operated the tavern for 44 years. She and her late husband, Harold, had taken over the operation of the tavern from her father-in-law. Paulie's Palace, built by Paul and Romelda Albright, daughter and son-in-law of Mrs. Wimmler, replaces the old Wimmler Tavern.

Mr. Charles Rieck and his wife Hermine operated what is now Hillside Tavern from December 30, 1872 to December 19, 1903. A Civil War veteran and a member of the Army Band, Mr. Rieck provided his guests with entertainment on his clarinets, which he made himself. Mr. Rieck was born October 25, 1845 and died April 30, 1936. Pierre Knickelbein now operates this tavern.

Stoeckigt's Ballroom was originally started by Peter Hoffmann. What is now the living quarters was previously a General Store. The tavern was constructed by Peter Hoffmann, and was operated by him until John Gretz married Hoffmann's daughter and took over the business. John Gretz constructed the dance hall in 1923. The establishment, known as Tourist Inn, was in the Gretz family until May of 1965, when Eugene Stoeckigt acquired the business.

HIKA BAY TAVERN AND UNION HOUSE

Hika Bay Tavern and Union House stands at 252 Lincoln Avenue in the Village of Cleveland.

The proprietor of this tavern beginning in 1899 was Hugo Schurrer. Mr. Schurrer was one of the most colorful personalities in this area. He was born in Stuttgart, Wurtemberg, Germany in 1867 and came to the United States as a young man in 1885. After a brief stop-over in Milwaukee he came to Cleveland, which at that time was just a flagging point on the old Lake Shore railway. For a time he worked for fifty cents a day making fence posts. Then he was promoted to a job with the Lake Shore Railroad for eighty cents a day. He decided to try something a little less strenuous, and went to work for Peter Hoffmann in his tavern in the St. Wendel area. After that he operated his own tavern in Cleveland for four years, and then moved to Centerville where he established his tavern business in the building now known as Hika Bay.



The building housed a tavern, rooming house, and dance hall. For a time it also included a barbershop. There were nine rooms upstairs and three downstairs. Meals were served for fifty cents, which included all you could eat. Beer in those times sold for \$5.00 a barrel, and good whiskey sold for \$1.50 a gallon. The establishment was known as the Union House. The rooming house and meals were discontinued in 1944 "when food was hard to get."

Hugo Schurrer had many other activities besides running his tavern. He was a town constable for thirteen years, a substitute mail carrier for fourteen years, and town treasurer for two years. He served on the school board for twenty-eight years, and also

played in the Germania Centerville Band. When Mr. Schurrer passed away in 1961 at the age of 94, he was the village's oldest resident and the oldest tavern license holder in the state. In his lifetime he was issued sixty-eight licenses as a tavern-keeper.

Schurrer's Tavern was in the Schurrer family from 1899 to 1972, when it was sold and the name changed to Hika Bay Tavern and Union House. It was resold again in 1975 to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore Miller.

RUTHERFORD'S SURF DINNER CLUB AND MOTOR HOTEL

Until December 23, 1963, Cleveland had a dinner club and hotel. Folks who had planned to usher in the New Year of 1964 at Rutherford's had to change their plans when the buildings were reduced to a heap of ashes in a matter of hours.

The Rutherfords had come to this area in 1941 to open up a dinner club on the site of the former Strattmann Winter Gardens. Louis and Fred Strattmann had operated a tavern, dance hall, and country store there for many years.

PHONE MOSEL 32-1-L

MEET THE CROWD AT

STRATTMAN BROS.

LOUIS AND FRED

PRIVATE PARTIES AND PICNICS
REFRESHMENTS DANCING

CENTERVILLE, WIS. P. O. HIKA, WIS.

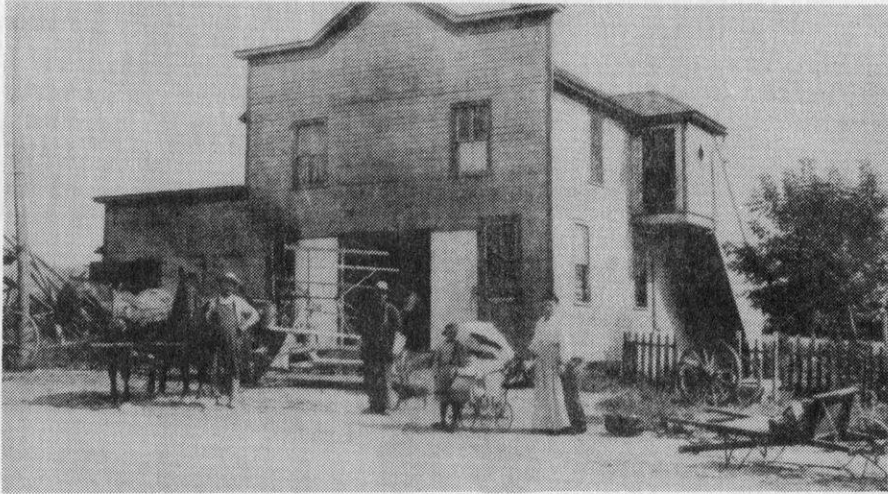
An extensive dining room, bar kitchen, and living quarters remodeling project had barely been completed before World War II gasoline rationing forced them to temporarily discontinue business in October of 1942. During the war years they operated a popular eating place in downtown Manitowoc, which is now the Left End. They returned to their Hika Club shortly after V-J Day in September of 1945.

With Mrs. Rutherford in charge of food preparation and serving, the Surf menus and rustic atmosphere quickly gained a favorable reputation, not only in this area, but throughout the state and midwest as well.

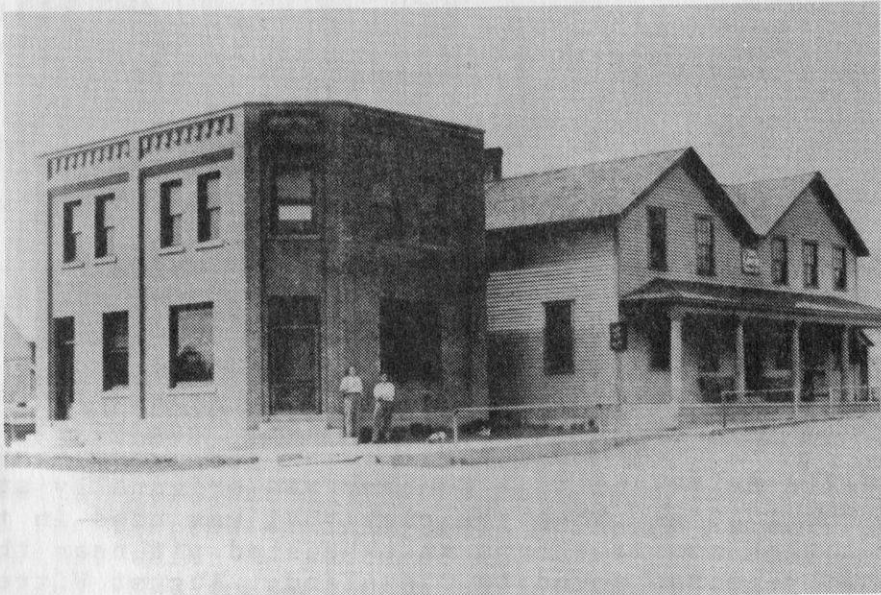
In 1948 the Rutherfords added a sixteen unit hotel and expanded the dining facilities. An enclosed swimming pool for year-round use was added in 1953, and additional units in the hotel were added. The hotel units totalled thirty at the time of the fire.

The fire caused damages estimated at \$300,000 and was a great blow to Mr. Rutherford and to the village as well.

BLACKSMITH SHOP

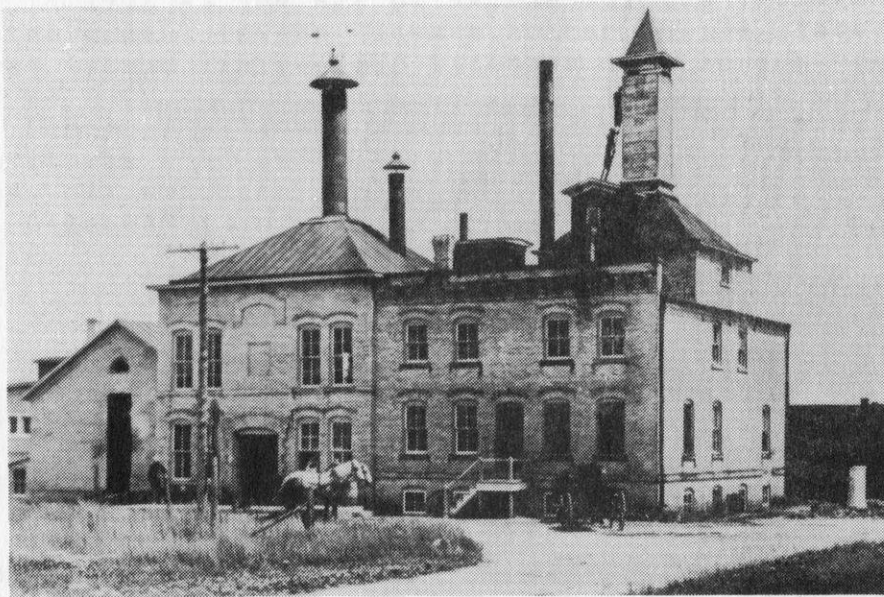


Pictured above is the Fred Kolb blacksmith shop that operated in the same building that is now Francis Schneider's Garage. Fred Kolb was born in the Town of Meeme in 1874 and as a young man went to Barron, Wisconsin to learn the blacksmith trade. In 1905 the blacksmith shop was opened. Mr. Kolb did several repairs for the Town of Centerville as stated on the financial reports. In 1907 he received \$2.70 for grader repairs. Mr. Kolb's blacksmith shop closed in 1938 when he retired.



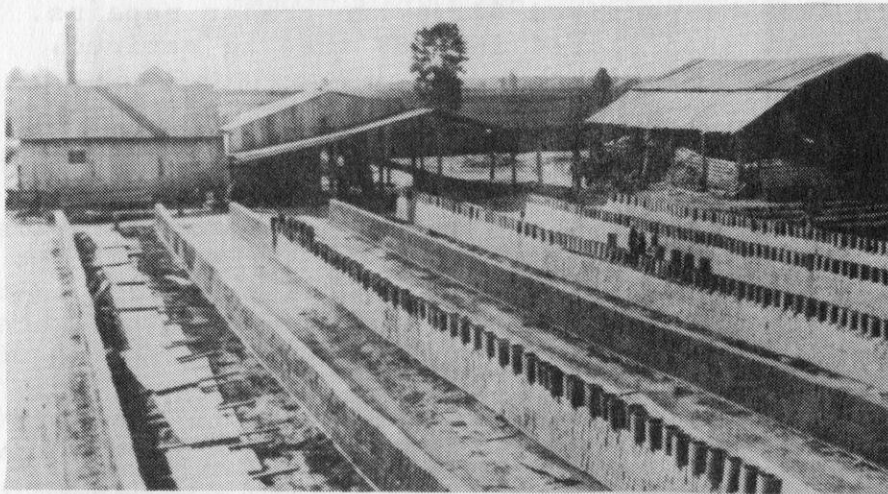
Cleveland State Bank - Built 1911 and the John Doersch Tavern

BREWERY, ONE OF CENTERVILLE'S OLDEST PLANTS



Pictured at left is the brewery that was built in 1890. This brewery was rebuilt from the original brewery, which burned down in 1880.

The first brewery was built in the Town of Centerville sometime in the 1840's, and was constructed by Simon Kraus. The buildings were destroyed by fire in 1880. The Gartzke Brothers took over the brewery in 1899 and operated until 1914. After the brothers shut down the brewery, the building was torn down and the bricks were transported to Manitowoc where they were used in constructing the Mikadow Theatre.



BRICK AND TILE COMPANY

Centerville Brick and Tile Company was originally started sometime in the 1850's. When the clay that was used in the brickyard was no longer available from an exhausted pit near the village, the brickyard was moved to Cleveland. August Witte, a son of the original owner, and Charles Doerst, bought land to the west of the railroad and constructed the building pictured above. This brickyard was operated until 1920.



Workers on
break at
Centerville
Brick and
Tile Company.

POSTAL SERVICE HISTORY

The first post office in Centerville was established in 1855. Later post offices were established at St. Wendel and Cleveland. The post office for Centerville was given the name Hika since there already was a post office in the state named Centerville. The Hika post office closed in 1954 and the St. Wendel post office sometime before 1915.



The first postmaster for Cleveland was Mr. John Hills. He was followed by John Gretz, Edward Jost, and Tom Gretz. The post office was first operated in a house on Hazel Street, and then at Wagner's Hotel, which is pictured above. This hotel is now known as Jurk's Bar. The present post office was built in 1960.

THE ADVANCEMENT OF FIRE PROTECTION



First ladder wagon of the Badger Fire Department, built by local craftsmen in 1850.

The Badger Fire Department acquired their first ladder wagon in 1850; this 29 foot, hand pulled wagon was made entirely by local craftsmen. This piece of fire equipment is said to be one of the most unusual in the entire collection of fire fighting equipment at the Hall of Flame Musuem at Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The Badger Fire Department also constructed a red and white hand-drawn and hand-operated pumper. This 1860 Rumsey pumper was used in fighting the great Chicago fire. Later it was bought by the Cleveland Fire Department. It is now located at the Hall of Flame Musuem at Kenosha, Wisconsin.

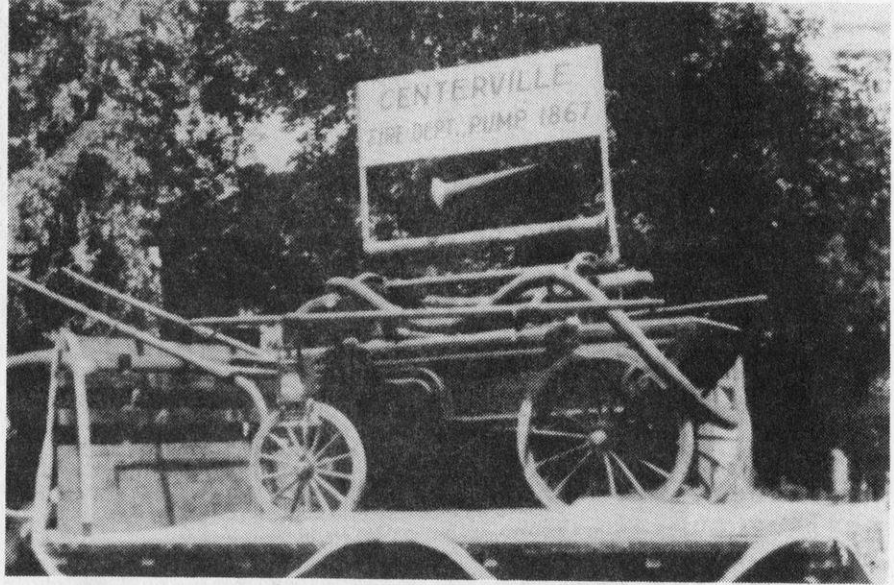
Originally the Badger Fire Department and the Cleveland Fire Department were separate fire departments. The Cleveland Fire Department started their charter in 1890. The first fire chief is not on record, but available are the following names of fire chiefs, William Toepel, Harold Wimpler, Clarence Stolzmann, and present fire chief, Francis Van DeLoo.

The first fire department building is still standing just to the south of Stoltenberg's Funeral Home. The second fire house was to the east of the present fire house. From 1952 to 1960 the fire department rented garage space from the Town of Centerville's Town Hall, which is now owned by the Manitowoc County Highway Department. The present fire department is presently adding a new addition which will house three trucks.

Major fires combatted by our volunteer firemen were a fire in 1830 which started in a livery stable next to the Stoltenberg Store destroying completely both the store and the stable. In 1941 the Cleveland Fire Department responded to a request from the Millersville Fire Department for assistance at a fire at a box factory. In 1952 they fought a fire at Seipel Saw Mill at Spring Valley. Very publicized was the 1963 fire that destroyed Rutherford Motel at Hika, and in 1974 Wimmler's Tavern.

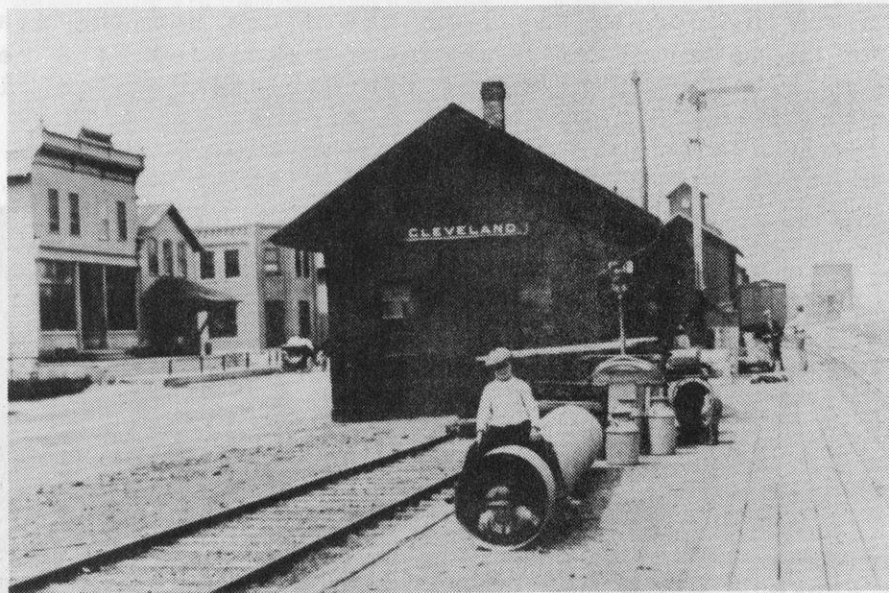
At right is the picture of the hand-drawn and hand-operated pump constructed by the Badger Fire Department, and used in the Chicago Fire.

The Cleveland Fire Department purchased their first horse drawn, gas driven pump in 1908.



The above picture shows Stoltenberg's Store before the fire in 1930. At that time Stoltenberg's Store was located in the first two buildings. The fire started in the livery stable, the third building from the right of the picture.

CENTERVILLE FARMERS CELEBRATE RAILROAD



The farmers of Centerville looked forward to the building of a railroad through the area, especially since the farmers had a serious problem transporting their produce to the market. The story of the railroad rate control was a political issue that lasted years and because of the high rates, most of the farmers were unable to get full use of the railroad. This issue was not settled until Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. became Governor of the state.

Construction of the railroad was completed in the summer of 1873. The railroad line construction was begun at both ends and joined at Cleveland. A celebration was held and everyone received a silk hat to commemorate the event. The first train to travel on the new tracks was a circus train.



HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS ARE PLANNED

It was during the 1880's that harbor improvements seemed necessary due to the population increase and the arrival of new industry. To finance the project stock was sold at one dollar a share. The help of Governor W.D. Hoard was sought. The governor came to visit the Town of Centerville and was very impressed and promised to see what he could do to further the idea. However, all plans for harbor facilities were abandoned when the largest industry in the Town of Centerville was destroyed by fire. That industry was the Simon Kraus Brewery.



Hika Bay Area

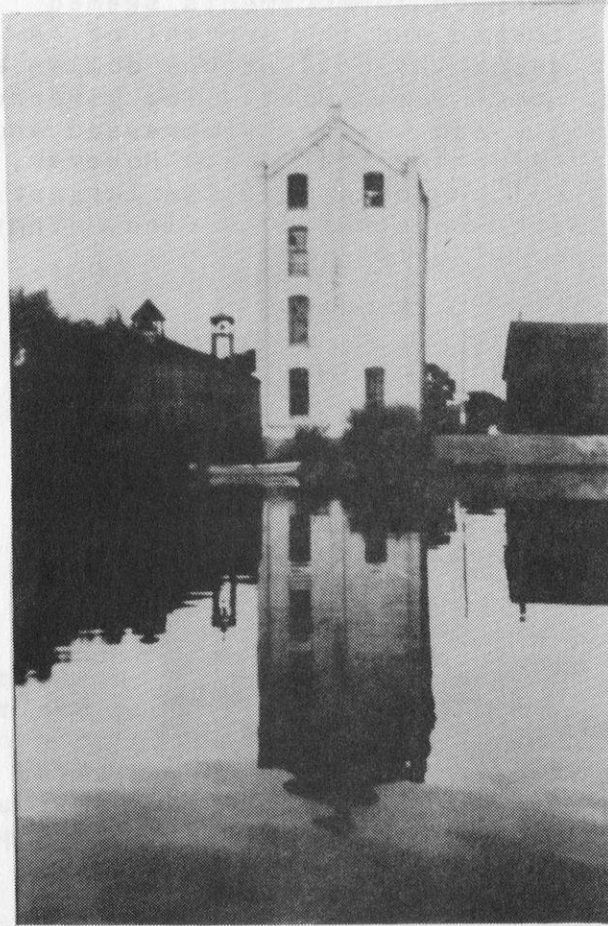
DAM COLLAPSES SEVERAL TIMES

The dam on Centerville Creek not only washed out in the year 1942, but the citizens repeatedly renovated the dam. In 1864, Samuel Mann, a merchant, advised that a wooden dam be built and that Mr. Godfrey Mill and his brother John, abandon their present location on Fischer Creek and rebuild in Hika.

The wooden dam built in 1864 held the water that was backed up from the dam until 1906. It was then rebuilt with concrete until a heavy rainfall in the year 1924 washed away the soil at both ends of the dam, taking with it the entire mill located on the northern riverbank.

For many years the dam was not rebuilt. Finally aided by the Izaak Walton League with a donation of \$4,500 and with the agreement of the Badger Fire Department to underwrite the remainder of the cost, the new dam was built and dedicated on August 9, 1936.

DAM COLLAPSES AT CLEVELAND



On Sunday June 28, 1942 the Town of Centerville was hit by a storm that caused a portion of Hugo Rahn's mill to collapse and be washed into the lake. Newspaper clippings said that the storm broke at 1:00 a.m. and that the village fire department attempted to open the flood gates on the dam, but the water pressure was too great. Warnings by Mr. Edwin Hinz saved the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Rahn; they leaped to safety as the foundation of the mill crumbled like kindling wood and was washed by the force of the water under the bridge and into Lake Michigan, taking 300 chickens with it.

(Pictured at left is a picture of the mill before it collapsed and below is after the storm.)



PICNICS HELD TO RAISE FUNDS FOR DAM

DEAR FRIEND:

The people of the little village of Centerville, (Hika P. O.) take this opportunity to invite you to spend SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1934, at Centerville.

One of the spots that contributed greatly to the enjoyment of all, was the old Mill Pond, but which as you know, was lost to us when the dam broke out about ten years ago. We have ever since tried to figure out ways and means how we could possibly re-establish this dam so as to get the pond back. Nothing definitely has been done about it until now, so we want you to know what we have planned to do.

The Manitowoc and Sheboygan Chapters of the Izaak Walton League, one of whose objectives is to preserve and restore the great out-of-doors of America, for the present and future generations, have kindly undertaken to assist us, and for this purpose we have arranged a Gala Fall Festival, with PICNIC and DANCE at Strattmans' Winter Garden, to be held Sunday, September 9, 1934, all the proceeds of which will go to the Dam Building Fund. There will also be a BIG PARADE at 1 o'clock. Don't miss it!

We will look forward to have you with us on that day. Make up a party and bring or tell your friends to come also. The more the merrier. Dancing, games and amusement for all.

Come early and stay all day. A plate luncheon will be served from 11:00 A. M. to 1:00 P. M., by the ladies of the village, at Strattmans' Park. 25c a plate.

THE COMMITTEE

By.....

Several picnics were held to raise money for the construction of a new dam. Portrayed above is an original copy of the announcements of the picnic which were mailed out on one cent post cards. Found in the Cleveland Fire Department's old files were copies of the invoices from two of these picnics. Below are a few of the supplies needed to conduct a picnic and their prices. Compare for yourself the differences of what it costs today.

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Kingsbury Breweries... | 26 half barrels of beer @ 6.50 |169.00 |
| Sheboygan Malt Co..... | 3 half barrels of beer @ 7.00 | 21.00 |
| Two Rivers Beer..... | 5 half barrels of beer @ 6.50 | 32.50 |
| Lakeside Bottling Co.. | 20 cases of soda @ 70¢ | 14.00 |
| E.A. Berndt Market ... | 200 # pork sausage @ 22¢ | 44.00 |
| | 100 # hamburger @ 18¢- | 18.00 |
| Mueller & Bartzen..... | 208 # ham @ 31¢ | 64.00 |
| Dick Bros. Bakery..... | 200 doz. Semmel @ 16¢ | 32.00 |
| Strattman Bros..... | 3 # Sugar |18 |
| | 5 cartons of cigarettes @ 1.15 | 5.75 |
| | 16 # coffee @ 26¢ | 4.16 |
| | 50 # onions | 1.50 |
| | 1 pint liquor for Band |85 |
| | 34 bags of charcoal @ 11¢ | 3.74 |

The profit made at the September 9, 1934 picnic is not available, but the picnic held on August 10, 1941 brought in a profit of \$130.20. At the 1941 Dam Picnic records show that the stand to bring in the most money was the Bingo stand with cash profit of \$116.15. Money made at one of the sausage stands was \$72.80 and the third largest amount was the east bar with a total of \$67.00.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
ARCHER-DANIELS-MIDLAND COMPANY**

The Annual Meeting of the stockholders of the Archer-Daniels Midland Company will be held on the Eighth day of October, 1935, at 2:00 P. M., at the office of the Company in the City of Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors for the ensuing year and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

W. H. MORRIS, Secretary.

**Minneapolis, Minnesota,
September 25th, 1935.**

Stockholders who do not expect to attend the meeting are requested to date and sign the attached proxy and, after having signature witnessed, return to the Secretary, in the accompanying stamped envelope.

The Cleveland Cooperative was formerly known as the Archer-Daniels Midland Company. The Cleveland Cooperative celebrated its 50th anniversary on March 24 1970. Records show that the Cleveland Local was organized on July 20, 1918. The co-op's first annual meeting was held on January 9, 1919. The Cleveland Local Union voted to incorporate into a cooperative association selling \$10,000 of capital stock at \$25.00 a share. Sales volume had increased from the year 1936 of \$150,000 to 1970 sales of \$19,239,476.



LOOKING NORTH ON HICKORY STREET

CANNING INDUSTRY

Cleveland had a small cannery, built and operated by the O'Neil Brothers and William Belitz. They discontinued operations in 1912, after ten years, and converted the cannery into a feed and grist mill, which is the present site of the Cleveland Cooperative.

Late in 1923, members of the Johannes family, John Hubert, Ed and Nicholas Johannes, who had an interest in the Knellsville Canning Company of Port Washington, Wisconsin, formed a Corporation known as the Johannes Pure Food Company and built a canning plant to the north of the old canning company site. The plant was in readiness for the pack in 1924 and was equipped with two lines of machinery for peas. In those early years 60,000 cases of peas was considered a big pack. In 1926 the necessary equipment to pack green and wax beans was installed, and beans were packed until 1932 when they were discontinued because they became an uneconomical item to pack due to supply and demand countrywide. In 1937 a corn canning line was added.

The Company continued to pack under the name of Johannes Pure Food Company through 1938, when conditions forced them to liquidate and on October 3, 1939, the company was re-organized by Al. W. Johannes and operated in 1940 as the Cleveland Canning Company. That year final re-organization was completed, and the corporate name was changed to Lake Shore Canning Company. Under the direction of Al.W. Johannes, the plant was modernized and in the period from 1942 through 1957, four warehouses were built and a new corn plant and canning line added.

In the 1950's production of peas and corn reached a maximum of 180,000 cases of peas and 250,000 cases of corn (both cream style and whole kernel) per year. In the peak years of production as many as 100 Mexicans and migrant laborers were needed to hand pick the corn in the fields to provide enough corn for the canning lines. Local labor was scarce because of the competition for labor at Kohler, Manitowoc, and Sheboygan. When corn harvesters were introduced in 1952, the labor force in the fields was cut from 100 to 20 people. New corn husking and cutting equipment eliminated more people so that for the same production of corn the labor force was cut from a peak of 180 people to 80.

In 1962 Al W. Johannes died, and the next three years were bad economically for the canning business. As a result, the plant and equipment were sold on April 16, 1965 to a group from New Holstein, namely, A. R. Hipke, G. J. Hipke, John Leibham, and Walt Frisch. They formed the corporation known as the Hipke Packing Corporation, and began operating that year. Each year the plant and equipment and field machinery were updated for peak performance and efficiency. A continuous cooker was installed in 1973 and another in this Bicentennial year of 1976 along with automatic huskers and cutters for corn handling. The warehouse and labelling lines were revamped and a new loading dock for rail cars and tractor trailers was installed. When A. T. Hipke and Sons, Inc. of New Holstein

discontinued canning operations at that city in 1973, this production was absorbed by the Cleveland plant which added another line of products - lima beans.

Currently the plant employs between 30 and 40 Texas Mexicans and another 40 local men and women on two shifts. There are 12 year-round employees in various capacities to handle the production of roughly 350,000 cases of canned goods. There are approximately 100 growers for the 1000 acres of peas, 1600 acres of corn, and 400 acres of lima beans grown for processing.

In the years of service to the various companies, Otto Stein, at the age of 79 and still active, has been continuously employed since 1924.

Office manager, Peter J. Yankunas, is beginning his 44th year with the Cleveland canning industry. In previous years, Mr. Yankunas also served as an officer of the Lake Shore Canning Company and Lakeshore Farms.

WAGNER YARDS

Wagner Yards was operated by Edwin Wagner until 1972. It was previously owned and operated by Edwin's father, Dominic Wagner, and grandfather, Peter Hoffman. They originally purchased the land from John Doersch in October of 1885, at which time the lumber and coal business was operated from sheds located on the west side of the railroad tracks.

Along with the lumber and coal business, services offered were the custom mixing of paint, and expert advice on planning and remodeling of homes.

All types of material were available from foundation to roof, lumber, millwork, all concrete materials, paint and paint supplies, wallpaper, hardware, coal, drainage tiles, floor tiles, plastic and ceramic and organic supplies.

VOGEL LUMBER COMPANY

This company began in 1914 under the name of Vogel, Stoltenberg, and Vogel. The partnership consisted of Herman Vogel, Robert Vogel, and Adolph Stoltenberg.

The partnership of Vogel Lumber Company consisting of Laverel Vogel and Robert Vogel was begun in 1947. Laverel Vogel had begun employment in the company in 1922.

Laverel Vogel became the owner in 1956, and in 1970 a corporation was formed by Laverel and his son Lloyd. Lloyd had begun employment in 1949.

In the beginning the firm was a retail lumber, building supply and coal dealer and did general shop work. Beginning in 1930 until 1971, the company did a great deal of cabinet making. In 1947 a 36x72 storage shed was added and in 1957 the new office and display store, covering over 1100 square feet were added.

R. P. JOST COMPANY

The R. P. Jost Company was started in 1923 as a partnership between Martin Kohn and Rudolph Jost. Their shop was located behind the Casper Blacksmith Shop.

In 1925 the partnership was dissolved and Rudolph Jost built the present store. The business was then called R. P. Jost, and plumbing, hearing and electrical work was done.

In 1928, the appliance business was added, and in 1932, the dairy equipment business was added.

It became known as the R. P. Jost Company in 1947 when it was taken over by Ralph and Roger Jost.

The business had been in the family for fifty-three years.



LOOKING SOUTH ON HICKORY STREET

OTHER EARLY SERVICES

Many services were available by 1917 in the bustling area called Cleveland, with some of these still in business today.

Adolph Stoltenberg carried a complete stock in his general store with items ranging from a spool of thread to heavy harness which hung on pegs on the wall at the back of the store. Shoppers did not have to drive the twelve miles south to Sheboygan or the fourteen miles north to Manitowoc to pick up the necessities of everyday living. This store is still in the family.

William H. Toepel and William Belitz were managers of general hardware stores with side lines of farm machinery and the automobile. Joe and Wilbert Casper took care of any black-smith work that needed to be done in the area.

August and Charles Doersch were grain dealers, and August Erdmann and Charlie Lorfeld were cattle buyers, with a stockyard located across from Vogels. Herman Sixel was the village cheesemaker, whose products were acclaimed for miles around.

Bill Grotegut was the man to see if you wanted to get somewhere in a hurry. He ran the livery and offered horses and riding rigs at reasonable prices. Joe Sedlack served as railroad station agent and could always provide the exact time, day or night, by pulling out his large watch.

Reinhardt Pippert started the Pippert Meat Market in 1914. His son, Gordon, started working in his father's store in 1929, and took over the business in 1939. It is still in operation. Later, R. C. Pippert started the nursery business.

Early tinsmiths in the area were Albert Lutze, Robert Belitz, and Albert and Otto Reinemann. John Hills ran a photo studio.

In the Centerville-Hika area, R. H. Hinz served as barber and watchmaker. Edwin Hinz was later postmaster and ran a store. Alfred and Louis Dassler tended to blacksmithing chores, with the business being later taken over by Alfred Dassler. This is now Dassler Sales and Service, operated by Eugene, son of Alfred.

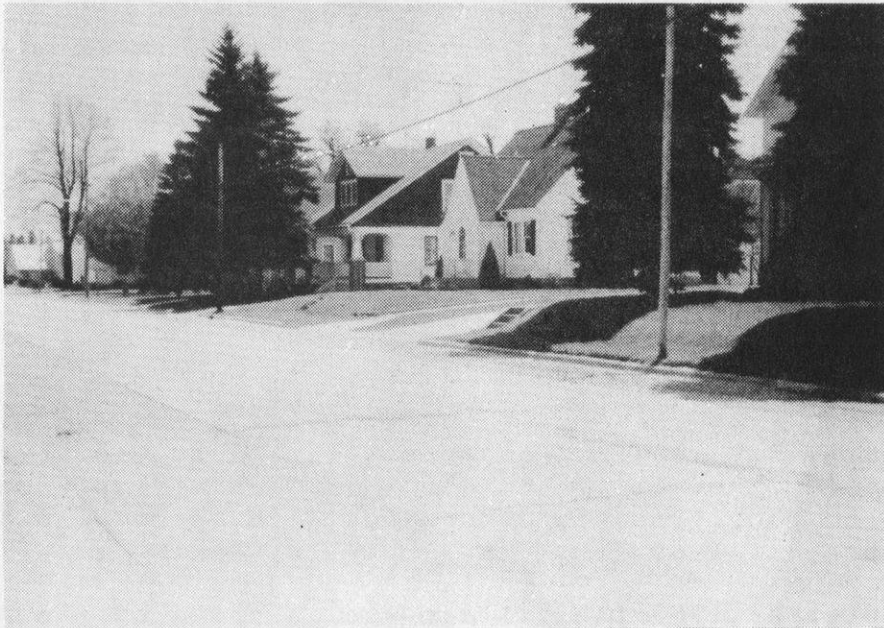
Sachse Bros. store was the hub of business, as was Rudy Mill's hotel and saloon. In 1920 E. R. Mill opened his print shop. When it closed in 1957, Edward Koenig purchased the equipment, and is using it in his shop located in the Town of Centerville.

A butcher shop was located east of Dassler's in the early years. When the shop closed, the building was purchased by Reinhardt Pippert, who moved it to the middle of town. This building is now the Bennin Barbershop. The building was first used by Herman Bergner as a harness shop, then by Rueben Prahl as a barbershop, and purchased by Don Bennin in 1965.

HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF CLEVELAND

In June of 1952 the Town Board of Centerville received a notice from the State Board of Health stating that property owners in the area of Cleveland, St. Wendel, and Hika were polluting the waters in the Centerville Creek and that proper arrangements for sewage disposal be made.

A hearing on sewage disposal in the hamlets of Cleveland, St. Wendel and Hika was held on May 22, 1956 with Town Chairman Herman Lutze presiding. Mr. Oscar Eggers of the State Board of Health explained the dangers of getting sewage into the water supply. He suggested that the Town Board appoint a committee of property owners in the three areas to work out a plan to correct the pollution problem. On June 5, 1956 the following committee was appointed by the Town Board: St. Wendel, Richard Gretz, Arwin Neuman, and Anton Wagner; Hika, Eugene Dassler, Robert Wagner, Edward Kress; Cleveland, Ralph Jost, Herbert Lorfeld, and Howard Vogel. On June 26, 1956 it was decided that all three areas work together to create a Sanitary District. Ralph Jost was elected President of the committee and Howard Vogel, secretary.



View of homes on south side of West Washington Street.

In March of 1957 Richard Gretz resigned and was replaced by Ken Schnell.

After making a study of the situation, the sanitation committee, on March 16, 1958 submitted a recommendation that Cleveland, St. Wendel, and Hika incorporate in an effort to ultimately find a solution to the pollution problem.

On October 28, 1958 the incorporation election was held. The total number of residents that voted were 319; 196 votes were cast for incorporation and 123 against.

Following the incorporation, the first village election took place on December 9, 1958. Howard Vogel was elected president; Lorena Schurrer, clerk; Herbert Lorfeld, treasurer; William Rutherford, County Board Supervisor; and trustees, Robert Wagner, Edward Kress, Kenneth Schnell, Leander Scharenbroch, Arno Thomas, and Eugene Dassler. The first meeting of the new Cleveland Village Board took place December 16, 1958.

In June of 1963 McMahon Associates of Menasha was hired and a preliminary survey for a sewage system was begun.



On January 31, 1964, an order was issued by the State Board of Health ordering the village to construct adequate sewage collection and treatment facilities in accordance with approved plans not later than December 31, 1965.

In September 1965 the village was informed by the Department of Health that it's application for Federal Grant funds under the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act had been reviewed, and that the sewage treatment facility proposed, met the criteria for Federal aid, and the village had been offered a Federal Grant in the amount of \$54,210.00. Bids for installation were taken July 27, 1965. Water facilities were on the Board's mind at this time and financing for this project were being explored.

In May 1966 notice was received that the village would receive an outright grant of \$162,000.00 from Farmers Home Administration, and a \$170,000.00 loan repayable over a period of forty

years at a rate set by the government. Early application by the Village Board enabled it to be the first Wisconsin Community to receive aid under the new bill.

On June 28, 1966, two hundred and seventy-one people voted at the water facility referendum election, 217 votes for and 54 votes against.

Contracts for the water facility were taken August 6, 1967.

Village application for operation as a sewer and water utility was granted November, 1966 and initial rates prescribed by the Public Service Commission.

The first hook-up into the sewage system was made in March, 1967. By December of that year there were 112 connections into the system with more being added daily. Final inspection for treatment plant facilities was made by the U.S. Department of Interior Federal Water Pollution Control Administration on November 14, 1967. Federal grant money for the treatment plant totalled \$49,767.00.

With the completion of the sewage and water facility, negotiations were begun for street paving in March 1968 and a contract signed. The project was completed in October of 1968 at a cost of \$156,017.85.

Cost of the sewer and water facility including the treatment plant, sewer and water mains, water tower, deep well, test well, meters, pumphouse, engineering, legal and professional fees, and supervision totalled \$883,830.90.



Pictured above is the Cleveland Fire Department. Construction of the new addition was begun in spring of 1976.

Along with incorporation and the sewer and water facilities came growth and progress.

In 1959 the new Bank was built. This is now being expanded. In 1960 a new Post Office was built by Tom Gretz and leased to the Post Office Department. A new Telephone Co. building followed.

Cleveland Elementary School was built in 1967 and the new Lakeshore Technical School in 1972.

A mobile home community was developed in 1970 by L & M Enterprises, a partnership made up of Lloyd Mowrer of Valders, Mike Wallander of R#1, Manitowoc, and Curtis Rank of Manitowoc. The area consists of nineteen and one-half acres in the NW corner of the village adjacent to highway 141. There are approximately forty-five mobile homes in the mobile home park at present.

Ground was broken for the first office of the Lakeland Ins. Company in the state on September 24, 1975.

PAST AND PRESENT VILLAGE OFFICIALS

President

Howard Vogel
Eugene Dassler
Wm. Rutherford
Robert Wagner

Clerk

Lorena Schurrer
Joann Gries
Kathryn Wagner

Treasurer

Herbert Lorfeld
Peter Yankunas

Assessor

Arwin Neumann
Edwin Jost
John Gries
Carlton Voigt

Police Officer

Wilbert Casper
Ervin Paul
Joseph Buchberger
Francis Van De Loo
George Coulter

Trustees

| | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| Edward Kress | Leander Scharenbrock |
| Kenneth Schnell | Eugene Dassler |
| Arno Thomas | Robert Wagner |
| Joseph Pitsch | Carlton Voigt |
| Anton Wagner | Wm. Rutherford |
| Walter Leonhard | Willard Matthias |
| Albert Forner | George Herrmann |
| Eugene Stoeckigt | Dennis Melger |
| Fred Foster | Wayne Vogel |
| Joseph Scheidt | |

Building Inspectors

Ervin Blanke
James Berge
Gilbert Belitz

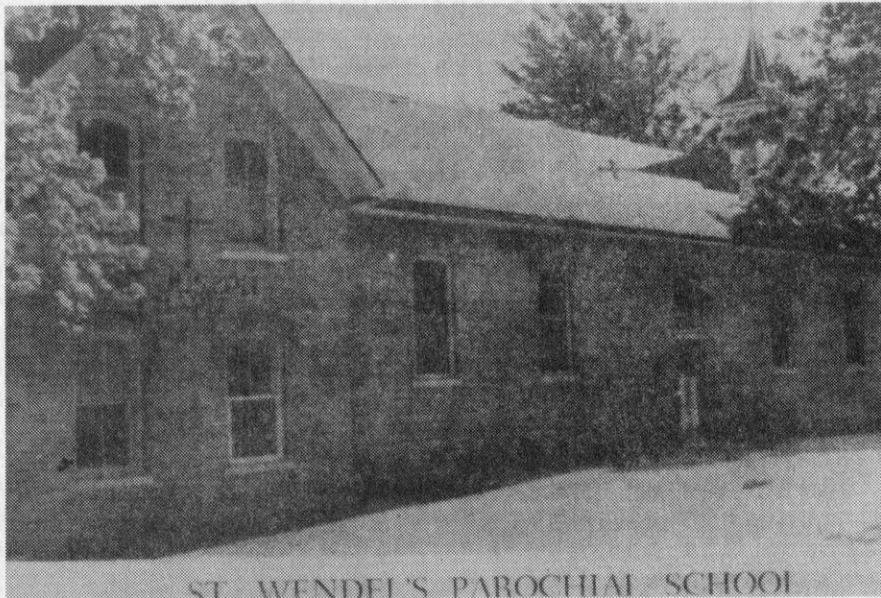
School Commissioners

Anita Wagner
Virginia Saemann
George Herrmann
Robert Naber

ST. WENDEL CHURCH

St. Wendel Congregation dates back to May 31, 1853. Fifty-one German families contributed to a fund for the erection of a church and to support priests who came from Sheboygan to provide spiritual needs. Before the erection of the first church building, Mass was offered in the Wm. Knauf residence in the Town of Mosel and in the Joseph Schulte residence in the Town of Centerville.

Property for the erection of the first church building was donated by Stephen Grasser who gave a parcel of land from his farm. The first church was erected about in the middle of what is now St. Wendel Cemetery. Under the patronage of St. Wendel, the first church of log construction was erected in 1854 and dedicated in 1855. Priests coming from Sheboygan served the parish from 1855 to 1861. In 1860 it was proposed to build a larger church for the increased membership of St. Wendel. Meanwhile, Catholics living at Centerville, then a flourishing village on the shores of Lake Michigan, two miles east of St. Wendel obtained permission to erect a priests house and a church with the understanding that a priest would be stationed as pastor of the new parish and St. Wendel would be atteded as a Mission. The church was erected at Centerville under the patronage of St. George. Rev. Josephat Reible was appointed pastor with St. Wendel as the mission. The members of St. Wendel never quite gave up on their project of a new church and work was begun in 1863. The new church was erected north of the first log church and dedicated on October 20, 1864.



In 1865, under Father Weiss the first parochial school was established at St. Wendel. The original log church was converted into a school and the first teacher was from St. Nazianz Convent. A home for the teacher was provided in a dwelling north of the

present boundary line of the cemetery which was later enlarged and the school transferred from the old log church to this building which served for both school and residence for the teachers until the brick school on the east side of the highway was erected.

From 1865 to 1871 while St. Wendel was still a Mission of St. George of Centerville, funds were collected to build a priest's house and a two story frame building was put up north of the frame church.

From 1871 to 1875 under Rev. J.H. Karfhage, the priest's residence was transferred from Centerville to St. Wendel and St. George of Centerville became the Mission.

In 1880 Rev. J. P. VanTreek became pastor of St. Wendel. In 1881 two acres of land was purchased on the east side of the highway for the erection of a new one story building of brick construction with an addition as a home for the teachers. From 1864 to 1872 Sisters from St. Nazianz taught school; from 1873 through 1884 Franciscan Sisters of Charity from Alverno taught school, and from 1884 to 1890 lay teachers taught school. From 1893 to the closing of the school, teaching duties were performed by Franciscan Sisters.

Father Hellstern was pastor from 1882 to 1893. During his tenure, the parish of St. Wendel was incorporated on August 8, 1883.

A two story priest's house was built in 1893 with much of the labor donated by the parishioners. Father Olig was pastor at this time. This house still stands and was moved to a location south of the church when it was vacated and sold in 1972.

On Christmas Day in 1894 with Rev. Wm. DeJalle as pastor, the old frame church burned to the ground, On January 10, 1895 a building committee was chosen for the erection of a new church and building began that spring. Between 1898 through 1903 the school and Sister's house were enlarged, the interior of the new church was painted and decorated, and the new boundary lines between the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and Green Bay were established putting St. Wendel under the supervision of the Diocese of Green Bay.

On October 20, 1905 under the pastorship of Rev. R. Nickel, the golden jubilee of the congregation was celebrated.

Up until 1907 school had been taught in the German language and during Father Kuhl's term as pastor, the English language came into being in the school. The rectory was modernized and cement walks laid around the church. In 1915, with Rev. Roder as pastor, the church was enlarged.

Rev. Henty Letz was pastor from July 7, 1923 to May 14, 1927, and extensive work was again done on the church. One half acre of land was added to the church property in order to provide larger playground facilities for the school children.

Father Emil Schmitt succeeded Father Letz as pastor in 1927 and served until 1934. In 1930 a new Sister's house was erected. Rev. H. Halinde served the parish from 1933-1937, Rev. Theodore Kersten from 1937-1940, and Rev. Joseph Schaefer from 1940-1950. During Father Schaefer's term as pastor, extensive work was again done on the church and the church property. In 1947 considerable work was again done on the cemetery and the church basement was completely done over and a kitchen installed.

Father Lawrence Loerke followed Father Schaefer in 1950 and 1951. Rev. Richard Keller served the parish from 1951 to 1957. Early in 1952 St. George's Church in Hika closed with the members of that parish being transferred to St. Wendel's parish. At a meeting of the members of that parish in 1952, it was decided to construct a new school to overcome the crowded conditions of the present school and plans were approved for new construction. A building fund was set up and in 1956 the new school was built. During Father Kellers tenure, in 1955, the 100th anniversary of St. Wendel was celebrated.

From 1957 to 1965 Rev. Leo Ott was at St. Wendel. He was succeeded in 1965 by Rev. Jerome Watry, who remained until February of 1970 when Father Tom Peeters came to St. Wendel. In 1972 St. Wendel School closed, and Father Peeters moved into the vacated Sister's house. With the vacation of the priest's house, the building was sold and moved to another site south of the church where it was converted into a two family dwelling.

ST. JOHN ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The double name of St. John and St. Peter tells the early history of the congregation. Two congregations existed prior to 1920, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hika and St. Peter's on the Union Road west of Cleveland. For sixty years both churches, separated by approximately three miles, were served by the same pastor.

St. John Evangelical Church of Hika began in 1860 with the first church council elected in September. A new church building was planned immediately, and on September 5, 1861, the new building was dedicated. The first resident pastor was Pastor H. Quehl, who arrived in 1862 from Naperville, Illinois.

Shortly after Pastor Quehl's arrival, St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on June 14, 1863. Until completion of the church building, services were held in District #3 School. The congregation affiliated with the Wisconsin Synod in 1868, and membership in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod has continued until the present time.

Pastor Quehl was succeeded by Candidate C. Dowidat in 1868. He remained until 1875. From 1875 to 1877 Pastor Peiper served. Pastor Haase served from 1877 to 1883. Pastor Jaeger stayed until 1887, when Pastor Sprengling came and served the congregation for forty-six years.

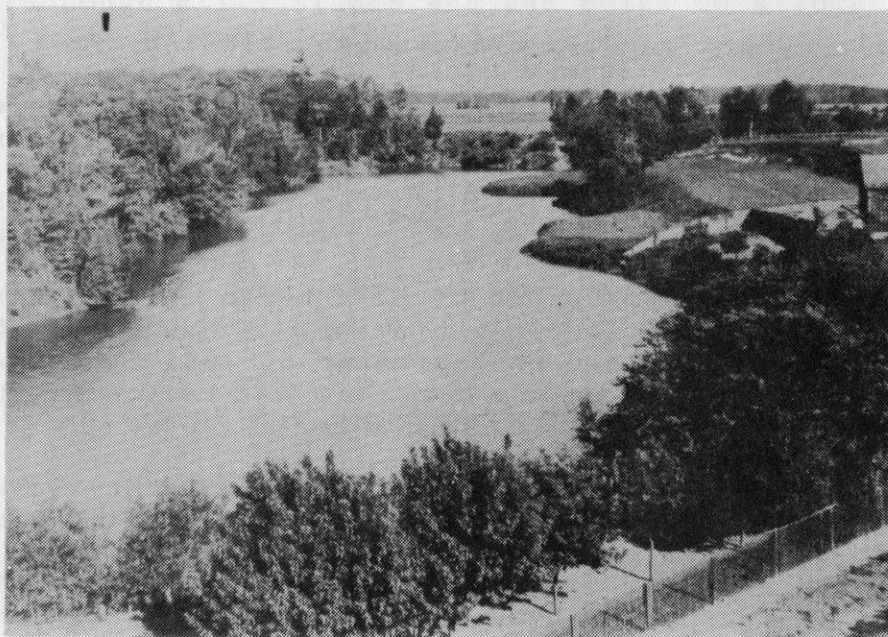
On May 23, 1920 the decision was made to merge the two congregations and build a new church building. A site committee was selected and on July 4, 1920, it was decided to build the new church on the present location. The cornerstone was laid in 1922 and dedication was held on June 25, 1923.

Pastor Sprengling resigned in 1933 because of ill health, ending a ministry of forty-six years in the congregation.

Pastor Braun was installed in November of 1933. On September 22, 1935 the congregation celebrated a double anniversary. Seventy-five years had passed since the organization of the congregation; fifteen years had passed since the merger of the original two congregations.

In 1948 the congregation commemorated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of the church building.

Pastor Braun accepted a call to Milwaukee in 1950 and his successor was Pastor E. Bode, who was installed August 27, 1950. Pastor Bode remained until October 1959, and Pastor Gerhard F. Cares was installed as pastor in May, 1960. During this year the congregation celebrated it's 100th anniversary. Pastor Cares served the congregation until 1967. He was followed by Pastor Paul Knickelbein who remained until 1969 when the present Pastor Henry F. Koch was installed.



SCENIC VIEW OF CENTERVILLE CREEK

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

The Manitowoc county school system began soon after the first settlers arrived. After Manitowoc County became a part of the Wisconsin territory in 1836, territorial schools were set up. These territorial schools were administered by county school commissioners. The first law relating to the organization of common or elementary schools was passed by the Wisconsin territorial legislative assembly in 1839. The act to create county, town, or school districts was passed in 1841. One of the duties of the commissioners was to divide the county or towns into convenient school districts.

The law of 1841 creating districts delegated much power in regard to organization, maintenance, and the administration of the schools. The district became the unit for administration and control of schools. Town and county governments were authorized to make a tax levy, but they rarely did so. The money needed to maintain these so-called public schools was obtained partly from district taxes, partly from per capita tax, and partly from gifts and contributions. Only the children of the more prosperous could afford to attend in some cases, because the poor struggling settlers could not afford the per capita tax.

In 1848 when Wisconsin became a state, the first legislature passed legislation providing that counties of the state be divided into school districts by the town superintendent of schools. Manitowoc County had by that date been settled here and there by nationality groups. Records in the assessors' books of 1856 to 1860 on file in the county treasurer's vault indicate that by 1860 there were 82 school districts in operation in the county. By 1948 there were 115 school districts.

School districts were often set up to put schools within walking distance for the children of a community. Some of the later districts were organized to get out from under a district maintaining a high school system with a high tax rate. Such districting resulted in inequalities among the various districts. The tax rate ranged from no dollars per thousand in several districts to \$13.36 in another district. Per pupil cost of education in the rural one room school ranged from \$64.00 to \$902.00. Such unequalized educational opportunities throughout the county and state led the Wisconsin Legislature of 1947 to set up County School Committees to develop and institute a plan of school district reorganization within each county.

Joint school districts with some of the area within two or more towns or counties were organized as early as the 1850's.

Up to 1917, every school district in Manitowoc County was maintaining a school. After that year, some district schools were closing due to lack of enrollment caused by parochial school attendance, smaller families, farm mechanization, and other factors. By 1948, eighteen school districts out of the 115 set up had

ceased to function and had suspended operations.

Since the settlers coming to Manitowoc County found the land forest covered, the first schools were built of logs. Lumbering was one of the pioneer industries, and sawmills were built along the many streams where water power could be harnessed. Sawmills cut the logs into lumber, and this lumber was used to construct frame houses for the progressive settlers who were becoming dissatisfied with the pioneer log houses. The growing school population by 1870 crowded the little log schoolhouses so that new quarters became necessary and the pioneer school was replaced by frame and brick schoolhouses from 1870 to 1900. Many of these are still in use today, having been converted into housing facilities.

By 1905 county records show that school enrollments of sixty to one hundred pupils per school were quite common. State legislature that year passed a law requiring districts with more than sixty-five pupils enrolled to provide an additional room and teacher. This resulted in adding an extra room on many of the school buildings then in use. These two room schools became known as "graded schools."

The first schoolhouses were scantily furnished with home-made furniture. Desks and seats were made by someone in the district. They were all one size, so that the young pupils were perched on a high bench with their feet dangling off the floor, and the overgrown boy found the benches and desks too small, so his feet were sprawled out in the aisles. An aisle down the middle of the room separated the boys from the girls. A box stove in the center of the room toasted those who sat nearby, but had no effect on those sitting near the walls. Windows gave the necessary lighting. Drinking water was dispensed by a common dipper from an open pail. A teacher's desk was placed on a platform across the front of the room. Boards painted black were the blackboards. A map or two, a variety of books brought from the homes, and individual slates completed the learning and teaching equipment of the nineteenth century schools in the county.

In the twentieth century, standards of school buildings and equipment were set by state and educational leaders. Heating plants with vents were installed, the open water pail was replaced by covered jars and bubbler attachments, hand-made desks and seats were replaced by double desks and seats and later by single adjustable ones. Wooden blackboards were replaced with slate, and uniform text books, library books, and modern teaching and learning equipment was brought into the schools. By 1948, about thirty rural districts were maintaining modern school buildings with indoor toilets, running water, and electric service.

The pioneer school often had three month terms of twenty-two days per month. In many schools, a five or six month school term was maintained. This was divided into a summer and winter term. The winter term began in November and ended in February or March. The summer term began in April or May and closed in July or August.

Usually the winter term was in charge of a male teacher because the boys and girls from fifteen to twenty-one years attended. Wages paid for winter sessions were higher than for spring or summer session teachers. In 1905 the state prescribed at least an eight month school term to qualify for state and county aid. A minimum term of nine months was specified by legislature in 1937.

The first pioneer schools were concerned with teaching children the 3 R's, reading, writing, and arithmetic. These subjects, and grammar, were the principal ones taught until the early 1850's. Geography was then added, and after the Civil War, history and civics were added.

Nineteenth century county school children were not graded as they are today. The system of grading pupils into Grade 1 to 8 was started about 1910. Separate classes for each grade were conducted daily with the first and second grades spending their time learning to read and speak the English language. By 1915 the fifth to eighth grades were studying grammar, physiology, U. S. history, arithmetic, civil government, geography, spelling, reading, and nature study. As the years passed, legislature required the teaching of more and more subjects. This necessitated the grouping of subject matter under more inclusive headings, such as nature study, physiology, and health termed as a science course.

Pioneer pupils in the log schoolhouses used whatever books were available in the community. The blackboard and slate became important tools of learning. Text book companies began sending book salesmen into the county after the 1850's to sell text books to school boards. In 1919 a County Uniform Text Book Committee was authorized by state legislature, and all text books had to be selected by this textbook committee.

Early pioneer schools had few books in addition to those used as texts. In 1887 the township library law was passed and this law specified that one-twentieth of the school fund income be devoted to purchasing library books. An equal amount had to be appropriated by the county for this purpose. This law was instrumental in beginning our present school libraries. In 1889 legislature changed the law by authorizing town clerks to withhold ten cents per person of school age for the purchase of library books. In 1921 the amount was doubled to twenty cents per school age child, and in 1943 the law was again changed to allow for the distribution of all the income from the state school fund prorated according to the number of school children on the school census in the state.

The township library law was excellent in purpose, but it caused unequal library reading opportunities throughout the county. Small schools with few children on the school census were often limited to three or four books per year, while schools with a large census received as high as fifty to one hundred library books yearly. To equalize library reading opportunities in the county, a county circulating library was set up in 1946. Books were obtained

through an agreement with the school district boards to set aside fifty percent of their regular library fund allotment each year to purchase library books for the circulating library. These books were the property of the districts, but were "loaned" to other districts for a month at a time.

Manitowoc county boys and girls attended the first pioneer schools when convenient. The short, irregular school terms, the poorly qualified teachers in many cases, and the very irregular school attendance of school age children made it quite impossible to complete the course of study set up. The bright young person who completed the "standards" set by the teachers was advised to write the teacher's examination, and, if successful in the examination, he or she taught school. If not successful, he or she would often return to the district school during the winter term for more learning.

The first diploma examination was held the last Friday and Saturday of March, 1886. It was conducted at Two Rivers and Cato and was in charge of County Superintendent John Nagle. A total of thirty-five county pupils took the test, but only seven of the applicants passed. The students were tested in grammar, spelling, arithmetic, geography, writing, constitution, reading, and physiology. The test was dictated by the superintendent.

Diploma examinations were held every year after 1886. By 1890, printed tests were given. A system of preliminary examinations given about six weeks before the regular diploma testing was begun about 1900. These tests were made by the superintendent, printed, and distributed in sealed envelopes to the teachers, and not to be opened until the day set for the preliminary testing. They were given to indicate to the teacher and pupils what material could be expected in the regular examination.

Three grades of diplomas were issued during the early 1890's, namely first, second, and third grades. The first grade diploma required an average of 85 and a minimum of 70; the second grade diploma required an average of 75, with a minimum of 60; and the third grade required an average of 75 and a minimum of 50. No third grade diplomas were issued after the early 1900's, but first and second grade diplomas were issued until 1935, when only one grade of diploma was presented to rural eighth grade graduates. A system of recognizing outstanding graduates was begun in 1925 by setting up Honor Classes made up of the upper ten percent of the eighth grade rural graduating classes.

Diploma tests changed with the times. Essay and oral examinations were the rule until the 1920's. Manitowoc county superintendents gradually changed over to the short answer type of examination. About 1940 standardized tests were advocated, and county made tests were abandoned. By 1946 standardized tests were the rule and grade placement instead of standings based on 100% was inaugurated.

The development of the diploma examination system and the policy of having all children complete their eighth grade graduation placed an ever-growing load on the county superintendent. He not only had to make the questions; he also had to mark the hundreds of papers. About 1900, the county superintendent appointed a board of examiners made up of the leading teachers in the county. This board then conducted diploma examinations in ten or more centers throughout the county. At first board members took the papers home and corrected them in their spare time in the following weeks. By the middle of May the papers were finally graded and names of graduates could be determined. In the late 1920's, papers were graded by the board in the week following the examinations, in the county office. After standardized tests came into use, grading time was greatly reduced.

The first diplomas issued to rural school graduates were mailed to the successful candidates. In 1903 the first annual district school graduating exercises were held in the Turner's Opera House in Manitowoc on June 11th. Forty-five rural school boys and girls graduated. In later years, graduation exercises for all county rural school graduates were held at the County Normal School and Lincoln High School. A program by the pupils was always a part of the graduation exercise.

The teaching of the 3 R's provided pioneer children with sufficient knowledge to cope with problems of pioneer life. Progress was inevitable, however, and one room schools became graded schools, and graded schools developed into high schools. Legislature, as early as 1875, provided for the organization of high schools. Teachers progressed from "hired if they could read and write" with no qualification standards, to licensed teachers, and then to certified teachers with the standards for teachers' certificates being raised as the years went by. A need was seen for teacher training for rural school teachers, and the first such school in the county was located in the Fifth Ward (Garfield) School building. The first training school class of nine men and twenty-three women graduated in July of 1902. In 1921 the County Rural Normal School was erected in Manitowoc. Records indicate that John Lorfeld of Centerville was on the building committee. Teachers' colleges no longer exist today. Teacher certification requires four year college attendance.

Great strides have been made in education since those early years. Certainly the concerns of the first teachers, many of whom were not qualified themselves and had very little to work with, cannot be compared with the concerns of today's teachers whose years of professional training have prepared them for the job of teaching in today's modern educational facilities. One fact remains, however. As the pioneer teachers struggled to prepare their pupils with sufficient knowledge to cope with pioneer life, so too is it the responsibility of today's teachers to prepare today's pupils for the world in which they will live.

Education began in the Centerville township with the setting

up of six school districts. A history of each district follows.

CENTERVILLE NO. 1 - POINT RIVER

The history of Centerville District No. 1 dates back to 1852. Owning land in the district at that time were the Bakers Wagners, Stoltenbergs, Hockmayers, Schuettes, Bogenschultzes, Obergockers, Janings, Kielsmeiers, Doerschs, Leiteritzes, Boettchers, Wimmllers, Orths, Groteguts, and Salms.

Education for the district children was first provided in an old Lutheran parochial school which was located near the present building.

The first school of frame construction was built in 1871 by community members for \$560.00. It was called the Point River School after 1918 because Point River flowed near the school building. It was located in section 3, Town of Centerville, 1/8 mile west, and 1/4 mile south of the present building. The school was built the same year the Lake Shore railroad was laid. The first building was abandoned in 1908 and sold to the Groteguts, who later sold it to Kielsmeier for \$152.00. Kielsmeier used the old lumber in it for construction of a farm building.

The second school which still stands was constructed in 1908-1909 for \$3,003.00. The acre and a half site was purchased for \$275.00. The school was built as a two room building with a large attic and full basement. Kerosene lamps were used until 1939, when electric service was provided. Outdoor toilets were still in use in 1948. An artesian well supplied the water.

The structure built in 1908-1909 was used as a graded school from 1909-1912. Enrollment in the school was always large, but by 1908 it became so large that the state advocated two rooms. During the first years in the new building, the enrollment reached a total of seventy-seven. In 1912 the southern half of the district organized a new school district with the result that the enrollment was cut almost in half. Centerville District No. 1 contained sections of 1, 2, 3, part of 4, 9, 10, and 11. In 1945-1946 the enrollment had declined to twelve.

The second school used the double desks from the old school for several years. These were then replaced by single adjustable seats. When the school became a one-room school again in 1912, one of the rooms became a playroom and a room in which to prepare noon lunches. Children bought their own books up to 1940, but after that year free textbooks were provided.

Adolph Doersch served on the school board for many years. Other early school board members included Rossberg, Rettele, Jaehnig, Arends, Mill, Jacobi, Klessig, Schuette, and Lorfeld. Records since 1946 list Alvin Grotegut, Lester Gerschmel, Melvin Doersch, Harold and Clarence Bruckschen, Hugo and Leroy Janing,

Emil Lutze, Arvin Dehne, Herbert Erdman, Ed Mrotek, and Palmer Kracht, as school board members. Some of these men served their district for many years.

County records show that winter and summer terms were not held in this district in the early years. Only winter term teachers are listed. Men teachers were nearly always employed and were preferred. The school year gradually increased from a three month to a nine month term.

Spelling contests were popular, and community affairs were held in the school with prizes awarded from the district treasury. Annual Christmas programs were the biggest and longest awaited affairs. In the 1920's, contests were held at Wimmeler's Hall by all of the schools in the township. In 1959 Centerville No. 2 LaFollette consolidated with District No. 1, and pupils from LaFollette School attended Point River. When redistricting came about in 1962, the area for school purposes was attached to Manitowoc. Point River School closed, and the children were bused into the city. The school building was sold, and is today in use as a family dwelling.

CENTERVILLE NO. 2 - LAFOLLETTE

Centerville No. 2 school district was made up of sections 5, 6, 7, 8 and parts of 4, 9, 17 and 18 in Centerville Township. The new district was organized in 1856.

The first school, a log building, was built a few rods west of the present site. No record of the size or cost is available.

In 1873 a new frame school was built and the old log structure torn down. The new school was built to be modern at that time with four windows on each long side to provide the lighting. The building was about 24x30 feet without a basement and cost about \$520.00. It contained one large classroom and an entry-cloakroom. There were two blackboards at the front of the room. Double seats and desks were used. In 1887 a belfry was added and the building re-clapboarded. Wainscoting and new blackboards for the side walls were added at the same time.

Another quarter acre of land was purchased in 1906 for \$50.00 to enlarge the school grounds. In 1914 single seats replaced the double desks. They were purchased from Sears Roebuck for \$119.30. Electric lights were installed in 1937, and that same year a well was drilled on the school grounds to eliminate the carrying of water from a cheese factory west of the school. Since 1918 the school was known as the LaFollette School in honor of Robert M. LaFollette. Before that, it was often referred to as the Jacobi School because of the connection the Jacobi family had with it. By 1948 the school was heated with a floor furnace instead of the old box stove. A large well-built library cabinet provided storage for all books, and the room was equipped with a radio, piano, steel

file, chairs, work tables, and other modern school equipment.

Enrollment fluctuated with the times. There is no record of yearly attendance prior to 1870. In 1870, the enrollment was forty-eight according to the town clerk's report to the county superintendent's office. The highest enrollment occurred in 1875 when sixty-one pupils attended. The average for the latter part of the 1800's and the early 1900's was fifty. In the 1940's, the enrollment average was about twenty pupils yearly.

Centerville District No. 2 was settled by Germans as the names of the early settlers indicate. Early pioneers included Leiteritzes, Treicks, Korfs, Barthels, Wagners, Rapsbergs, Henschels, Groteguts, and Kueckers. Later the family names of Lutze, Klessig, and Jacobi were familiar in governmental and agricultural fields.

Early school district officers served for little or no pay. They were interested in providing the best education possible for the times, and made it their duty and privilege to serve as a school board member. Ernest Leiteritz, Jacob Gauch, and Henry Horman served in 1872 for \$2.00 per year. Frederick Jacobi became a board member in 1884 and served for forty-two years. Later board members were Ray Grotegut, Edgar Jacobi, Albert Jacobi, Harry Vogel, and Gerhard Lutze.

There is no record of teachers before 1872. Those listed in the county superintendent's record book indicate that Irish teachers were preferred in this German community. Their pay was above the average paid other teachers in the town.

The records do not show that summer and winter sessions were held. There may have been German schools for a short period each year. The school served as a community center for meetings and social gatherings.

On December 1, 1959, District No. 2 consolidated with District No. 1 and LaFollette School closed. The building still stands, but is not in use.

CENTERVILLE NO. 3 - PLEASANT HILL

The Pleasant Hill school, Centerville Jt. 3 with Meeme, was given that name by the school society members in 1918. The name was chosen because the schoolhouse stands on a small hill from which there was a pleasant view of farms and woodland. It was formerly known as the Saxon School because it was built next to the Saxon Church, so called because the early settlers had come to America from Saxony, Germany. Residents of the nearby communities later referred to the school as the Klessig or the Wiegand school because of the connections that these families had with district affairs.

The district was organized as Centerville No. 2 in 1852, and included almost all of the western half of the Centerville township.

In 1856, a part of this district was attached to Centerville No. 4. The northern half of the original Centerville district No. 2 set up a school district by itself in 1856. The school districts in Centerville were then re-numbered, and the old Centerville district No. 2 became the Centerville district No. 3, with Meeme.

The first log school was constructed soon after the district was organized, for \$150.00. Little is known about the first building except that it contained long benches, seating about six children each.

The old building was torn down and the second schoolhouse, a frame structure was built in 1873 in the same place. The new school had blackboards, double desks and seats, and a better stove. It was built by Carl Rieck at a cost of \$525.00. It was alike in design with rural schools of that time with windows on three sides and no special room for wraps and dinner pails. This schoolhouse was abandoned after forty-three years and was purchased by the Cleveland Hardware Company. It was moved to Cleveland and used as a tinshop. This building is still being used by the R. P. Jost Co.

The third school, which building still stands, was erected in 1917 on the first site. It was a modern red brick building housing a full basement, main floor, and a large attic. A furnace and stoker were installed in 1945. By then the school consisted of a large entry, a large classroom about 32x38 feet, and a large kitchen. The classroom had a spacious built-in library of shelves and drawers and all of the modern teaching and learning aids recommended for a one room school.

Pleasant Hill maintained a fairly large enrollment since its organization. The district had no summer sessions after 1872, but it is known that the first log school served the early settlers as a church until the present St. John and St. Peter's Lutheran Church was built. This congregation at times used the schoolhouse for its summer Bible school classes. The highest enrollment on record, as reported by town clerks, was in the 1880's when more than seventy pupils attended. The average yearly attendance during the last half of the 1800's was between forty-five and seventy.

Early settlers influential in establishing the first school were E. Jaehnig, A. Katemann, G. Paul, G. Gabsch, G. Franke, C. Hammann, A. Klessig, G. Toenisch, F. Klessig, C. Lorenz, C. Augustin, C. Trautmann, W. Rossberg, C. Fritsche, F. Kolb, G. Lutze, and H. Huhn. The majority of them were farmers, but a few were carpenters, masons, and harness and shoe makers. Some district residents who became prominent in town and county affairs were Louis and Otto Wiegand, who served as town chairmen; Joe Schneider, also as town chairman, Kurt Wiegand, chairman of the County AAA, John Lorfeld, town chairman and state assemblyman.

School records kept since 1851 showed that Christian Jaehnig was the first school board director, C. Kateman, treasurer; and Carl Wiegand, Clerk. They served without salary. Other school officers

since 1872 were Ernst Jaehnig, August Klessig, John Lorfeld, Louis Wiegand, and Joseph Schneider. These men served their district for ten years, except for Louis Wiegand, who was on the board for twenty-nine years. District residents serving on the board after 1906 were Otto Wiegand 1918-1939 and Edwin Klessig 1922-1946. Board members from 1946 were George Lutze, 15 years; Arno Huhn, 11 years; John Hinz, 10 years; Carl Prigge, 6 years; Arno Gabsch, 4 years.

The first teacher, Ida Losner, in 1852 taught a four month term for a total salary of \$50.00. The school term began in December. The next teacher, Dominic Schneider, taught for \$20.00 per month, and he also served as town clerk and town superintendent of schools. Of other instructors on record, Wm. Birkle became county clerk of Sheboygan.

There are no records of subjects taught before 1870, but by that time McGuffey's spellers, Sander's readers, and Ray's arithmetics were used. In the 1880's geography, grammar, and history were added. Up to 1870 German was taught for three months each term, but it was gradually discontinued.

During the early 1900's, the young people of the district formed a club known as the School Society. The club put on plays and sponsored social affairs in the district and used the school for a meeting place. District No. 3 was always to be reckoned with at school fairs and spelling contests.

In the early days a shoemaker had his shop directly south of the school. A cheese factory on the Edwin Klessig farm was the site of the first cheese factory, and was built in Centerville by Edwin Klessig's grandfather in the late 1870's.

When Chapter 563 of the Laws of Wisconsin for 1959 charged that all territory in Wisconsin must become a part of a high school district by June of 1962, Centerville No. 3 was attached to the City of Sheboygan for school purposes on July 1, 1962. Pupils from the Pleasant Hill school district No. 3 attended Red Arrow School for the 1962-63 school term, and Pleasant Hill closed its doors. Since this district was a joint district with Meeme, some of the students went to Kiel.

Pleasant Hill School still stands. The building was sold and has been used for storage.

It is interesting to note that Olga Voss, a resident of the Village of Cleveland, taught at Pleasant Hill school from 1947 to its closing.

CENTERVILLE NO. 4 - CENTER SCHOOL

Center School, in all early records, was designated as school district No. 4. To the people in the district, however, it was

known as the Nennig school because of the Nennig families who have lived and are still living across the road. In 1918 the school was given the name "Center School" because it was situated on Highway 141 about halfway between Manitowoc and Sheboygan. The district included the E 1/2 of Sec. 17; all of Sec. 16 except the N 1/2, the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4; all of Sec. 21; the E 1/2 of Sec. 20; all of Sections 29 and 30; the E 1/2 of Sec. 32; and all of Sec. 33 except the SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4. The district was four miles long and a mile and a half wide.

On May 12, 1856, the town superintendent of schools of the town of Centerville directed George Leonhard, a resident of the district to notify every qualified voter in the proposed Centerville District No. 4 to attend the first school meeting at the home of F. Miller on May 23, 1856, at which time officers were elected.

In September of 1856, the annual school meeting was held and plans were made to select a school site and to determine the type of building to erect. A quarter acre of land at the southeast corner of Section 20 was purchased from Joseph Leonhard. In 1901 another one-half acre was purchased from George Leonhard. On this site a log building 20x25 feet was erected. People of the district furnished the logs and helped build the school. Those who furnished material and helped build received \$1.00 per day. Those who furnished only labor were paid six shillings per day. The crude log building was clapboarded for extra warmth, and the interior was furnished with long benches, a small blackboard, and maps. Pauline Rosebergen, the first teacher, taught from December 1856 to March 1857 for \$12.00 per month.

In 1857 four months of school were to be held; however, if there was money left in the treasury, school would be held longer.

Records reveal that most of the district people were German immigrants. It was definitely stipulated at each annual school meeting that a teacher who could speak German be hired.

On March 12, 1887, a special meeting was held to vote on the question of a new school. The vote was twenty-six to two in favor of a new school. The vote was nineteen to ten in favor of a brick building over a frame one. The new structure was to be 36x24x12 feet. The building committee consisted of John Doersch, Carl Toepel, and Christ Wetzell. It was a well-planned structure, having a double hardwood floor and eight windows. It was built on the same site as the first building and was a part of the building which still stands. The contractor was paid \$700.00 to construct the building.

In 1901 the voters decided to lengthen the old brick schoolhouse by adding sixteen feet to the west at a cost of \$300.00. Seven years later at a special meeting, it was decided to install a ventilating system. Playground equipment was purchased. In the following years a new hardwood floor was laid, adjustable seats

purchased, additional blackboards, electric lights, and a new furnace installed, and modern teaching aids purchased. During 1946 a modern, fully-equipped kitchen to make possible the serving of a complete hot noon lunch was added to the schoolroom.

In 1856 to 1865 the enrollment was about twenty-five. This increased from year to year as more children took advantage of the education offered to them. The largest enrollment was in 1917 with sixty-three pupils. At that time a special meeting was held to discuss ways and means of coping with the over-enrollment situation. A suggestion to add a second room and making the building a graded school was voted down, and it was decided instead to enroll no child below six years of age. This plan brought the attendance below sixty. By 1948 the enrollment was down to twenty-four, since many district children attended St. Wendel parochial school. The first census record taken in 1867 lists a total of 134 children of school age, 67 boys and 67 girls.

The Centerville assessment roll of 1856 lists the following settlers living or owning land in this district: F. Benkard, John Schneider, Charles Bogenschutz, T. Ahrens, and Joe Schneider.

The first school officers were C. Jaehnig, C. Mayer, and T. Kiefer. Treasury records show that in 1857 the clerk received twenty-five cents to attend a meeting and thirteen cents to post notices of the annual meeting. Some district settlers who served terms as school officers were Frank Nennig as treasurer for twenty-five years, Frank Arends as clerk for twenty-four years, Wm. Arends as clerk for twenty-one years, and C. Toepel as treasurer for twenty-one years. Records from 1946 list Joe Hansen, Victor Heinz, John Duesing, Karl Omsted, Henry Matthias, and Herbert Schwoerer as school board members. From 1951 to 1961 Kenneth Schnell and Herbert Lorfeld also served.

When District No. 4 was attached to the Sheboygan School District July 1, 1962, Center School remained open as a kindergarten for Cleveland area children until the new Cleveland Elementary School opened in December, 1968.

The school building was put out on bids and purchased by the Cleveland Auto Sales. The building still stands, and is being used as a family dwelling.

CENTERVILLE NO. 5 - RED ARROW

Centerville district No. 5 was located in the old village of Centerville, later known as Hika, and now the Village of Cleveland. It was named the Red Arrow school in 1919 in honor of the famous Red Arrow, or the 32nd division to which many of the local boys belonged during World War 1.

Centerville district No. 5 was organized on January 19, 1852 as Centerville district No. 1. In 1856 the school districts in

the township were renumbered, and old Centerville No. 1 became district No. 5. On January 5, 1852, the town superintendent of schools for the township ordered Peter Schneider, a resident of this community to notify all qualified voters in Sections 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, and the E 1/2 of Sections 32, 33, and 34 to meet on January 19, 1852 to consider the establishment of a school district. Thirty-three voters met and elected officers. They also agreed by majority vote to build a schoolhouse on Lot 6, Block 9, in the village of Centerville at a sum not to exceed \$100.00. The money was to be collected at a five percent fee by the next August through taxes. On June 30, 1852 Susan Gretz was hired to teach a three month term, beginning on July 1, at \$14.00 per month.

In November of 1852 the E 1/2 of Sections 29 and 32 were attached to district No. 2, and in May of 1856, more areas were attached to districts 3 and 4.

The first schoolhouse was built in the summer of 1852. In September of 1853, the school board leased the schoolhouse for \$1.00 per month to George Leisner for a period of six months with the agreement that one room of the house was to be kept free for classes should it be decided to hold school. Equipment consisted of two tables and two benches, each twelve feet long, and made for the sum of \$4.00. In 1858 the old school and site were sold at auction for about \$50.00.

In 1858 the SE 1/4 of Lot 11, Block 12 was presented to the district as a gift. Whether this gift was accepted is a question since the district later bought the S 1/2 of Block 1, Lot 9 from John Sachse for \$25.00. A building committee was appointed to design and contract for a new school. Joseph Herman was hired to construct the building at a cost of \$162.00 to be ready for occupancy by October 1, 1859. A stone foundation was put under the building in 1866, and a woodshed was built in front of the school. Records do not indicate the kind or size of the second school, which was considered inadequate by 1871. At a special school meeting, voters decided to erect a brick school. By October, 1871, a brick building was built for \$867.00. In 1911, through the efforts of R. H. Hinz, then clerk of the board, the school installed the first playground equipment for a rural school in the State of Wisconsin. The swings and whirligig were homemade at a cost of about \$18.00. The school had an artesian well which had an outdoor bubbler.

The first school term consisted of a three month session, but by 1858, a summer and winter term was inaugurated. By 1860, an eight month term was maintained. The voters also decided that school should be taught no more than five and one-half days per week. Although a German settled community, this district did not vote to teach German in the school until 1865, when it was decided to teach German one-half of the time. By 1875, it was decided to teach German one-half hour per day. By 1893, German was taught only one-half day per week. Records indicate that German teaching was

discontinued in 1903.

The earliest record of enrollment was found for 1858, when thirty-three pupils attended. In 1874 there were one hundred six children of school age enrolled, the youngest being three and one-half years of age and the oldest seventeen. The average enrollment in the 1940's was about thirty pupils.

Early settlers of this district as shown in the Centerville assessment records were the Wagners, Schneiders, Eickhoffs, Schultes, Huhns, Sachses, Werners, and the Mills. Otto and Evers owned much of the land in the village and surrounding area. Most of the settlers were farmers, but many families lived in the village where the men worked in the pioneer industries of Centerville.

School fairs were annual events in the early 1900's. These fairs featured farm and garden products as well as things made in the schoolroom. Prizes were always appropriated from the school treasury. Red Arrow pupils were always to be reckoned with in the township and county spelling and achievement contests.



When Red Arrow school was declared unfit for use as a school in 1959, electors of the district decided to replace it rather than remodel. A bungalow model home was selected, since it was felt that it could easily be converted into living quarters, should the district decide to sell the building in the event that the school would close. The main floor of the 26x46 foot frame building served as a classroom for grades one through eight, and the basement was used for recreational purposes. The old Red Arrow school building was sold to William Rutherford, who used it for storing and

repairing furniture and equipment for his Surf Motel business. Mr. Rutherford sold the building several years ago to a Milwaukee resident, and it was resold again last year to a Wauwatosa attorney. The interior has been converted into a beautiful summer home. This old Red Arrow school building is located in the village on Beech Street.

The new Red Arrow School closed at the end of the 1962-63 school term. The following year Cleveland area students attended school at the Mosel Lakeview School in Haven. When court order declared this school to remain in the Town of Herman school system, Cleveland area children were bused to Washington School in Sheboygan until the new Cleveland Elementary School was built.

The 1946-1961 Manitowoc County School Annual lists district school board members for that year as Arno Thomas, Ed Schurrer, and Edward Kress. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Kress served on the Board until it was dissolved. Howard Vogel replaced Ed Schurrer in 1951, and Gilbert Belitz replaced Howard Vogel in 1957, serving on the Board then until it was dissolved.

Many Cleveland people will also remember Charles Burkhart, who taught at Red Arrow School from 1948 to 1961. Betty Mahnke taught the 1961-62 school term, and Mrs. Erna Treick taught the 1962-63 term. Mrs. Treick went with the students to their one year at Mosel Lakeview. The following year Mrs. Treick went to Lincoln-Erdman and Cleveland area students went to Washington School in Sheboygan.

CENTERVILLE NO. 6 - MAPLE LEAF

Centerville school district No. 6 was designated the Maple Leaf School, in 1918, to conform to the requirements of Chapter 40.36 Laws of Wisconsin. It was given that name because it was situated across the road from the Maple Leaf cheese factory. The school was located on the NE corner of the NE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 of section 15, Centerville Township. It was often referred to as the Jacobi school because it was located near the Jacobi homestead.

The organization date of this district is August 3, 1907. It originally belonged to the Centerville No. 1 district. The first annual school district meeting was held on July 6, 1908 at the home of Fred Schuette. The voters assembled voted to purchase the school site from Fred Schuette.

Construction of the first school building was for some reason delayed for four years. During those years the children from this newly created district used the German Lutheran summer school building which was located one-half mile west of the school site. Mabel Sell was the first teacher hired by the district board at a salary of \$49.00 per month for the eight month term.

The second school building was constructed in the spring of

1912 by mason Wm. Toepel, carpenter Art Rieck, and painter Henry Born, at an approximate cost of \$1516.00. The frame building was 30x34 feet with a schoolroom 29x24x12 feet. A large entry-cloak-room provided storage for children's wraps and dinner pails. A part of the entry was cut off and used as a stairway to the basement. The full basement had a furnace, fuel storage space, playroom and facilities for hand washing and drinking water. A spring supplied the drinking fountain and other schoolyard buildings housed the toilets. Twenty-eight single seats and the teacher's desk were purchased in 1912. By July, 1913, the building was ready for the annual school meeting.

Centerville District No. 6 never had a large enrollment. The number of pupils enrolled in 1909 was twenty-seven with an average daily attendance of twenty-three. Average enrollment since the district was organized was about fifteen pupils yearly. During the school year of 1945-46, the average daily attendance was nine pupils. The 1945 census listed only twenty-eight children from four to twenty years in that district.

District No. 6 was a farming community settled by Germans. The first school board members were Fred Schuette, clerk; Frank Rettele, director; and Wm. Jaeger, director. In its forty years of existence, the names of Schuette, Rettele, Sixel, Bruckschen, Lorfeld, Jacobi, Kielsmeier, Zimmermann, Siggelkow, and Jaeger were repeated again and again as members of the school boards.

On February 27, 1947, a special meeting was called to vote on the question of suspending the district school for the 1947-48 term. The vote was in favor of closing the school and transporting the nine pupils to Centerville No. 1 school from which the district had detached itself in 1907.

The school was closed and sold at auction September 11, 1948 for \$1480.00.

THE CHANGEOVER

Chapter 563 of the Laws of Wisconsin for 1959 stating that all territory in Wisconsin must become a part of a high school district by June of 1962, marked the end of the small rural schools.

Since Cleveland was located in Manitowoc County and equidistant between Manitowoc and Sheboygan, the question that arose was where did the residents of this area want their children to be educated.

Superintendents of both Manitowoc and Sheboygan Schools, Angus Rothwell and Leslie Johnson discussed annexation of schools with residents and governing bodies. In July of 1961 a letter was sent by fourteen concerned citizens to residents in Districts 3, 4, and 5 stating that this group, after carefully screening the various possibilities, had come to the conclusion that a petition to Sheboygan for annexation to the Sheboygan school system was the

best course. The letter contained information on the Sheboygan school system. A petition was circulated within a few days.

After the filing of the petition with the Sheboygan school system, a prospectus was prepared by the system and distributed to the people of the districts with information on the operation of the Board of Education, administration of the school, and information on budget, finance, taxes, indebtedness, fiscal control and budget approval. In addition, there was an explanation of transportation plans, food services, special instructional services, and a description of the curriculum.

An informal hearing on the petitions was held in the Common Council Chambers in the City of Sheboygan on August 28, 1961, to act on the petitions. The petitions were signed by an estimated seventy-five percent of eligible voters in the school districts; however, the Towns of Meeme and Centerville and the Cleveland Village Board voted to deny the petitions. Three of the seven Village Board members, however, voted to join the Sheboygan High School District. The Sheboygan Board of Education at this hearing publicly announced that the people of these districts would be welcome to share in the educational program of the city district, and a resolution to this effect was passed September 7, 1961.

Since the petition was denied, an appeal was made to the State Superintendent of Schools. The appeal was filed on October 27, 1961. A hearing by the State Superintendent was held at the Sheboygan County Courthouse on January 10, 1962. No one appeared against the appeal at the hearing. On February 14, 1962, the State Superintendent issued the order for attachment to the Sheboygan High School district. The Common Council, Board of Education, and school administration waited until the order became effective June 30, 1962, before they proceeded to make arrangements to take over the district schools. Red Arrow remained open for the 1962-63 term. The following year these students attended Mosel Lakeview School. When the courts declared this school to remain a part of the Town of Herman, Cleveland area children were bused to Washington School in Sheboygan until the Cleveland Elementary School was built. Center School remained open for Kindergarten in order to keep the small children closer to home. It, too, was closed with the opening of the new Cleveland School in December of 1968.

On December 23, 1963, the administration of the Sheboygan Public Schools called the attention of the Board of Education to school plan needs of the district. They recommended a Seven-Project Building program. In support of this program, they cited increasing enrollments, overcrowded buildings, largely caused by district reorganization, classrooms exceeding recommended enrollment standards, non-replacement of old buildings in several generations, limited instructional services, need of additional buildings, and additions to existing buildings.

Cleveland Elementary School was the first project in the

\$7.6 million seven-project building program. A site for the new school had already been obtained in 1964, when William Rutherford offered thirteen acres of land on the corner of Birch Street and Washington Avenue. This area had once been a landing strip for airplanes. Sheboygan Public Schools and the Common Council traded the new Red Arrow School property to Mr. Rutherford for his land. The school building was then converted into a home by him.

On November 21, 1967, The Sheboygan Board of Education authorized the letting of major bids on the new \$517,466 Cleveland School. The plan included seven classrooms, K through 6, a cafeteria, multi-purpose room, and a library, to serve the pupils of the Village, the Township of Centerville, and Mosel in the local district.

Opening of the bids took place December 21 at 2:00 P.M. at Jefferson School in Sheboygan. Construction began immediately, and students moved into the new facility December 2, 1968. Wilfred Gesch was the first principal. The enrollment totalled 187 boys and girls, K through 6.

Dedication and open house took place on February 23, 1969. More than 1,000 persons inspected the new facility.

Two portable buildings have been added to the school since 1968 to provide adequate space for the increased enrollment, which, in this Bicentennial year was 260 students. Mr. Ervin Bach is the principal and the school is staffed by nine teachers. Specialists on the Sheboygan school staff come in for classes in music, reading, art, speech, and physical education. The school has a part-time librarian. The staff is rounded out by part-time food servers, two custodians, and a secretary. There is also one aide working full-time, a noon hour supervisor for the playground, and a good-sized number of parent volunteers.

LAKESHORE TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

In 1970 the Village was contacted by the Vocational Technical Adult Education Board as a possible location for its new school. After three years of study and long range planning by the District 11 VTAE Board, it was announced in March of 1971 that the 4.5 million dollar school would be built in Cleveland. Groundbreaking took place on August 9, 1972, with the three building campus scheduled to open its doors in the Fall of 1974. Dedication and open house at the new L.T.I. was held April 27, 1975, drawing thousands of people.

L.T.I. records this year showed seventy-five full time teachers working with 2100 full time students and 900 part time students. In the apprentice training program, an additional 265 students received classroom instruction offered in 11 different trades. The Lakeshore campus offers 48 full time and part time programs. The total number of students enrolled in evening adult continuing education programs throughout the entire district numbers 19,000.



HISTORY OF MEMORIAL PARK

Memorial Park was first dedicated and renamed from Centerville Memorial Park to Veteran's Memorial Park on Memorial Day 1967. The park originally started in 1946 and with a sudden flash of community interest in 1947, the park land was bought from Arvin Neumann and Mrs. Eleanor Jost. On November 9, 1947 sixty men with trucks, plows, and a tractor gathered at the park to climax the season's work by planting 300 sumac trees, 150 elm, and several scores of evergreens. Everything was donated, trees, shrubs, time, and even the noon lunch for the men.

The project was originally planned as a rural youth project by the Centerville Farm Bureau with the purpose of "doing something for our rural youth." The park was deeded to the Town of Centerville after landscaping was done in 1947, and a seven man park commission consisting of Herman Lutze, Albert Jacobi, R.C. Pippert, Karl Omsted, Wilbert Casper, Clarence Witte, and Walter Pagelow was appointed.

The park commission made improvements in the following years of building a grandstand in 1949, baseball dugouts in 1950, and the grandstand was enclosed in 1957. In 1959, with the incorporation of the Village of Cleveland, Memorial Park was turned over to the village.

Centerville Farm Bureau member, Wally Freis, suggested a monument with the name of the park. A committee was formed to study this suggestion. The committee appointed included three farm bureau members, Wally Freis, Walter Klessig, and Albert Jacobi, and three members of the Chamber of Commerce, William Rutherford, Clarence Witte, and Peter Yankunas.

In 1976 the Cleveland Lion Clubs has plans to build a shelter, and the village has future plans for park development including tennis courts.



WEST WASHINGTON STREET

A DREAM IS FULFILLED

After nearly 12 years of work by other Eastern Wisconsin Lions' Clubs, particularly the Manitowoc Lions, who were the sponsors, a new service club was organized in Cleveland, namely The Cleveland Lions Club.

The date was June 4, 1963, and its charter membership consisted of 25 men, who solemnly dedicated themselves to helping their fellow man. They have become members of an International Organization with clubs in 122 countries of the world, serving mankind, with no monetary reward, but an inner satisfaction of having done good.

The following were the charter members of the new club;

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Ralph Jost | Tom Gretz | Charles Kolb |
| Richard Gretz | Ray Bushmann | Joe Pitsch |
| John Gries | Howard Vogel | John Kleckner |
| Wally Freis | James Johannes | Marvin La Croix |
| Rev. Leo Ott | Louis Johannes | Walter Klessig |
| Gilbert Belitz | Carlton Voigt | Harold Kolb |
| Clarence Witte | Reuben Fischer | Art Hensel |
| Herbert Lorfeld | Hilmer Wagner | Ed Stierberger |

The first officers of the newly organized Lions Club were;

| | | | |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|
| President | Ralph Jost | Lion Tamer | Charles Kolb |
| Secretary | Tom Gretz | Tail Twister | Clarence Witte |
| Treasurer | Herbert Lorfeld | Directors | Wally Freis |
| 1st Vice | John Gries | | Hilmer Wagner |
| 2nd Vice | Joe Pitsch | | John Kleckner |
| 3rd Vice | Howard Vogel | | Rev. Leo Ott |

Special recognition should be given to Past District Governor LeRoy Strye, Lion Austin Smith, and State Secretary Shafec Monsour for their determined effort to help organize the club.

It is interesting to note that at the present time, December, 1975, there are 42 Lion members. Of the original Charter Members, 11 are still members, 3 are deceased, 7 have moved, and 4 have resigned.

CLEVELAND V.F.W. POST 8974

An organization meeting was held November 22, 1946 at the Cleveland Firehouse. Alvin Droll was elected temporary chairman and Roger Jost temporary adjutant and quartermaster. The Post was instituted January 27, 1947 by Henry Wirtz and Otto Zube of the Sheboygan Post. There were twenty-two charter members. Wallace Pippert was elected First Commander. Meetings were held at the Firehouse, Tourist Inn, Wimmmlers, Cedar Lodge, Pigeon Lake, Drolls, and Schurrer's Tavern. The official V.F.W. Rifle Squad was organized to participate and conduct funerals with Gordon Wagner as the first Squad Leader.

In 1948 the first picnic was held and the first bowling team sponsored. A building fund was begun and the first membership drive was held.

On July 4th, 1949, the dedication of the flag pole and Memorial Park took place. Picnic stands were constructed. The Post began selling poppies for Poppy Day. In March a 99 year lease was obtained from the Centerville Park Board for land on which to construct a clubhouse. Plans and bids were obtained and accepted as presented to the Post.

In 1950 several hospital beds were procured for community use. The first poultry party was held in September. At this time the post authorized the organization of the Ladies Auxiliary with the Post furnishing the charter fee. The first children's Christmas party was held, the Post paying the expenses, the Auxiliary organizing the party.

In 1951 the first joint installation of officers of Post and Auxiliary was held, and has been as such ever since. In August, several wheelchairs were purchased for community use. It was decided also to purchase flags for any school in the community or surrounding area in need of a flag. All members were bloodtyped in November, making blood available to all people in the community and surrounding areas. Howard Vogel became Rifle Squad Leader this year.

In 1952 the Post seal was purchased and past commanders were presented with a Past Commander pin.

By this time several buildings in the village had been considered for a clubhouse, but to no avail. In March of 1954 the build-

ing committee was authorized to proceed with actual construction of the clubhouse. Many members and people in the community contributed much time and effort in the construction, with many Saturdays proclaimed V.F.W. building days, all members being asked to help.

In April, 1955, Arthur Schurrer was elected Commander. By this time, the clubhouse was well underway. The auxiliary decided to donate all the kitchen facilities. Graveside flags were purchased for placement on the veterans' graves for Memorial Day each year. Howard Vogel was elected Eighth District Commander. The first flag was secured in April of 1955 for the Post. Dedication of the clubhouse took place May 29, 1955 with a flagpole service. Gold Star mothers were the guests.

In May of 1955 Leo Noel became Commander. Kohler Company donated all the fixtures inside the clubhouse. The bar was donated by several members. A house committee was elected. Folding chairs were purchased, and twenty-four card tables were received free by selling advertising spaces. Picnics were discontinued in 1956, and it was decided to hold a Memorial Day dinner instead.

Warren Buechel was elected Commander in 1956; Howard Vogel was elected State Junior Vice Commander.

Eugene Dassler was elected Commander in 1957, and in 1958 Wallace Pippert was elected. Drapes for the clubhouse were donated by the Gold Star mothers. A testimonial dinner was sponsored by the Post at Tourist Inn for State Commander Howard Vogel for all the help he gave the Cleveland V.F.W. and many other posts throughout the State.

Robert Lorfeld was elected Commander in 1959, Lionel Bushey in 1960, Jerry Leonhard in 1961 and 1962, Melvin Wesener in 1963, Al Hardrath in 1964, Warren Heckmann, 1964 and 1965, and Ralph Jost in 1966. During these years a baseball team was sponsored, grave markers for sons of Gold Star mothers were purchased, a Lite-a-Bike program held, and flags displayed in the village on holidays were purchased by the V.F.W.

On Saturday, January 28, 1967, the V.F.W. celebrated its 20th anniversary at the V.F.W. Clubhouse. Eighteen of the original charter members were present. Speaker for the occasion was Assemblyman and Department of Wisconsin V.F.W. Judge Advocate Harold Froehlich of Appleton.

Clem Hartlaub served as Commander in 1967 and 1968. The Post voted to sponsor a Boy Scout troop, furnishing them with a flag. Flags were also furnished for the new Cleveland Elementary School. All past Commanders and World War I veterans were honored in November.

Elected Commander in 1969 was Ellsworth Schuette. The Blood Bank was started. Gerald Leonhard became Rifle Squad Leader. Ellsworth Schuette received the honor of being elected All State Post

Commander. A Hunter's Safety Course was organized and the Lite-a-Bike program held. Mr. Schuette was re-elected in 1970. A big project this year was the new kitchen. Two U.S. flags were donated to the Village for the sewer and water plant flag poles.

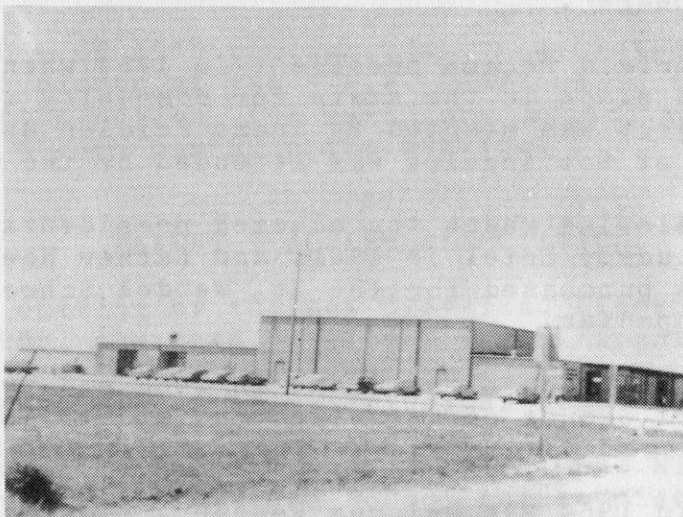
In 1971 Allan Cornell was elected Post Commander. Hugo Vandoske was honored for his many years as Post Quartermaster. The first senior citizen organization meeting, sponsored by the Post, was held on November 29, 1971.

Elected as Post Commander in 1972 was Cletus Wagner. In May, Gerald Leonhard was elected Eighth District Commander. The Post Clubhouse exterior was painted and air vents installed. The 25th anniversary celebration was held October 28th. Past Department Commander Vogel was appointed special aid de camp to National Commander in Chief Vicitis.

Allen Hansen was elected Post Commander in 1973. V.F.W. grave markers were purchased for all deceased members and a flag was given to St. Casimirs. Past Department Commander Vogel was appointed Chairman of the Wisconsin Veterans Committee and Luchinger Memorial Committee and a member of the National Publicity Committee.

Edmund Schmitt was elected Commander in 1974. Memorial services were conducted as in every other year at the four cemeteries. New flags were purchased for the village. A cub scout troop will be sponsored.

Elected Commander in 1975 was Bernard Shesta. Flags and staffs for re-sale commemorating the Bicentennial were purchased with all profits being designated to purchase additional new flags and promoting patriotism in the community. The V.F.W. Bi-Centennial Week set for April 24 - May 1, 1976, was observed by the Cleveland V.F.W. Post on April 25th with a brat fry, military displays, and a military service at the V.F.W. Clubhouse.



CLEVELAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CLEVELAND AUXILIARY POST 8974

The ladies Auxiliary was instituted on November 8, 1950. Mrs. Kay Ewald was the first president and was very instrumental in forming the auxiliary along with the 29 ladies present at the first meeting which was held at Droll's Hall.

By October 1952 the auxiliary had 40 members, and presiding as president was Adeline Kolb. Loretta Wimmmler was elected as president in 1954, and attended with Alma Koehn the national Convention in Milwaukee. Loretta was Eighth District Junior Vice President. During this time a committee was appointed to look for kitchen facilities for the new clubhouse.

The first meeting in the new clubhouse by the auxiliary was in April of 1955. Twenty-four card tables were obtained for the clubhouse. Under the presidency of Selma Vogel, the auxiliary was honored with a placque for placing second in the state with a community service book.

Elected president in 1956 was Bernice Beuchel. One flag was donated to the new Boy Scout troop and four additional flags were given to area schools. The auxiliary helped with the Mobile Chest X-Ray Unit and a Red Cross volunteer was formed to help at the Blood Bank.

The auxiliary was very busy in the years 1957 and 1958. Presidents for those years were Bernice Dassler and Irene Feidler. These ladies launched a variety of projects such as, poppy sale by both the post and the auxiliary, visit to King Hospital with gifts, the delivery of the Lakeland Reporter to community boys in service, and obtaining a seeing eye dog for Elmer Lutze. In 1957 the organization was again awarded second place in the state for their community service book, and they also placed seventh in the nation. Loretta Wimmmler attended the National Convention at Miami Beach, and was district color bearer.

Bernette Lorfeld became president in 1959 when the auxiliary again won second place in the state for community service. The recipe book project was started by Irene Feidler and the national convention held at Los Angeles was attended by two members.

For the following years the elected presidents were in 1960 Jeanette Jost, Audrey Ertel in 1961, and Esther Noel in 1962. An outdoor flag was purchased for the St. Wendel School, along with a set of encyclopedias.

Marie Leonhard became president in 1963 and two flags were donated to the Girl Scouts of Cleveland and at St. Isadore School. The auxiliary placed fourth in the state for community service.

President in 1964 was Delores Wesener. Ida Vandoske was elected in 1965 and re-elected in 1966. \$50.00 was given to the Post to help

pay for the flags to be displayed in the village on legal holidays. Thirty-six new chairs and a truck for them were purchased in March of 1967 when Loretta Wimmeler was president. Flags for the Pioneer Lutheran Church group and St. Isadore's were purchased.

Elected to the presidency in 1968 was Irene Feidler, who had served since the start of the auxiliary as sunshine committee representative sending get well cards and sympathy cards. Purchased this year with card party money were several coffee makers, and wheelchairs. In November of 1968 one outdoor and eight indoor flags were purchased for the new Cleveland School and four flags were presented to St. Wendel School.

Irene Feidler was re-elected to the presidency in 1968, and received a citation for having 100% membership. A dehumidifier was purchased for the clubhouse basement, plus a stainless steel warmer, bowls and spoons for the kitchen. In July Selma Vogel received a citation for the historian book report. Irene remained president in 1970. Plastic cups with disposable liners and an outdoor flag which was presented to Meeme school were activities that year.

Carol Hansen served as president in 1972, 1973, and 1974. Joan Schmitt served in 1975, and Adeline Kolb was installed as the 1976 president.

Throughout the years the auxiliary has had a pot-luck with the Post at Christmas. Boys in service receive Christmas cards and boys overseas receive packages. Fruit baskets are given each year to the elderly, shut-ins and sick. Each year a Halloween party is held for the children in the community and an Easter Egg Hunt. The auxiliary holds many card parties, ice cream socials, bake sales, sales of vanilla, pepper, cards, flavoring, cookbooks, etc. as fund raisers. Ten ladies volunteer for the Regional Blood Bank each time it is in the area and assist as staff aides. Members make lunch and coffee for the Cleveland Fire Department in times of need.

In November of 1975 the auxiliary celebrated its 25th anniversary with a dinner at the V.F.W. Clubhouse. At the April 25th Bicentennial celebration, the auxiliary helped with the brat fry and conducted a card party in the evening.

PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

With the opening of the new Cleveland Elementary School in December of 1968, the need developed for a Parent Teacher Assoc.

On February 13th of 1969, Principal Henry Hartenberger of Washington School in Sheboygan, Mrs. Arthur Lloyd, president of the Sheboygan Council of Parents and Teachers, and Wilfred Gesch, Sr., principal of the new Cleveland School met to discuss the formation of a P.T.A. at Cleveland School.

On March 4th, Mr. Hartenberger, Mrs. Lloyd, Mrs. Earl Stoltenberg, Mrs. Fred Pagelow, Mrs. Marvin Jumes, Mrs. Owen Wippermann, Mrs. George Schneekloth, and Wilfred Gesch met and discussed the steps needed to set up the Cleveland P.T.A. This group called themselves the steering committee.

Temporary responsibilities were assumed as follows: Mrs. Earl Stoltenberg, chairman; Mrs. George Schneekloth, by-laws; Mrs. Marvin Jumes, hospitality; Mrs. Owen Wippermann, secretary; Mrs. John Kleckner, publicity; Mrs. Fred Pagelow, program. Mrs. Schneekloth, Mrs. Kleckner, and Mr. Gesch served on the nominating committee.

A resolution was adopted that a P.T.A., a local unit of the Wisconsin Congress of the National P.T.A. be formed at the Cleveland School. By-laws were read, discussed, and adopted at a meeting held May 20, 1969. The meeting recessed for a short time to enroll charter members which numbered thirty. Since there were no nominations from the floor, an elective ballot was cast for Mrs. Stoltenberg, president; Mrs. Edward Duellmann, vice president; Mrs. Owen Wippermann, secretary; and Mrs. Marvin Jumes, treasurer. The officers of the newly formed P.T.A. were installed by Mrs. Mary Testin, past president of the Sheboygan Council, and secretary of District 6. Four meetings were scheduled for the school year beginning in September, 1969, to be held at 7:30 P.M. on the third Tuesday of the month.

Since this beginning, the Cleveland School P.T.A. has been very active. 1970 officers included Mrs. William Huhn as president, Mrs. Marvin Jumes, vice president; Mrs. Edward Wegner, secretary; and Mrs. Harold Kolb, treasurer.

Past presidents include Mr. and Mrs. Peter Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Kramer, and Mrs. Robert Wagner.

Past vice presidents include Mrs. Robert Cronen, Mrs. Robert Wagner, Mrs. Lee Villeneuve, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Grittinger.

Past secretaries include Mrs. Darrel Lassila, Mrs. Wayne Vogel, Mrs. Francis Salm, and Mrs. Peter Wagner, presently serving her second term.

Past treasurers include Mrs. Harold Kolb, Mrs. Edward Zill, and Mrs. Robert Prigge.

The 1976 officers are Mrs. Wayne Vogel, president; Mrs. Tom DeLorme, vice president; Mrs. Peter Wagner, secretary, and Mrs. Wayne Schuette, treasurer.

Throughout the years, the Cleveland School P.T.A. has had at least four meetings per year. Leadership is made up not only of the officers, but also a slate of committee chairmen, who together with the principal, make up the executive board, working together in a combined effort to maintain P.T.A. objectives.

The P.T.A. has sponsored school open house. American Education Week activities, Parent Room Visitation, Pot Luck Dinners, gym and music demonstration programs, programs dealing with child-molesting school curriculum, ecology, mental health Red Cross and first aid demonstrations, parent-child relationships, parent effectiveness, library and hatrack readers, social services, parent volunteer program, bake sales, student pictures, lyceums fun fair and the Bicentennial project of parent volunteers cementing the outdoor basketball court.

SENIOR CITIZENS

A Senior Citizen group was started in the Cleveland area in March of 1972 with the help of the Spring Valley Center of Homemakers.

The first officers were Clarence Kolb as president, Frank O'Neil as vice-president, Lorena Hinz as secretary, and Ray Gries, as treasurer.

Meetings are held at the Centerville Town Hall, with programs of scheduled speakers, slide presentations, social hour, and refreshments.

The last two years, members planted flowers in front of the Town Hall.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The Cleveland Chamber of Commerce was begun in 1947 by a group of local businessmen, aided by the Sheboygan Chamber of Commerce and Attorney Austin Smith of Manitowoc.

In the early years the Chamber met above the old firehouse.

Ralph Jost was the first president and Herbert Lorfeld was the first secretary-treasurer.

Chamber activities include the setting up of a utility district for lighting which gained street lights for the area before incorporation.

Farmers' Institutes were sponsored in the early years, and the Chamber was instrumental with the Farm Bureau of Centerville in the purchase and development of the park.

In the early years uniforms were purchased and athletic teams were sponsored. Christmas street decorations were purchased by the group, and contests for Christmas home decorations sponsored.

In more recent years, the Chamber of Commerce purchased and recently repainted the Village of Cleveland sign, and also distributed a colorful brochure of the village depicting village growth and progress.

BOY SCOUTS

The first Boy Scout troop on record in the Cleveland area was in 1949 with Francis Grott as Scoutmaster, Walter Pagelow as committee chairman, and committee members Tom Gretz, Wallace Pippert, Edwin Wagner, and Ralph Jost. Ralph Jost became Scoutmaster in 1950 and after that year the troop became inactive. It was organized again in 1955 with Clarence Belitz as Scoutmaster. During the five inactive years, some Cleveland Scouts were members of St. Boniface troops and were transported to Manitowoc by car pools. After 1957 Scouting again became inactive but was reorganized in 1961 with William Dern as Scoutmaster.

Scouting for boys has been active in the Cleveland area since that time. Scoutmasters following William Dern were Robert Wilke, Eric Wagner, Carl Schroeder, Ralph Gries, James Noel, and presently in charge is Kenneth Richter. Aiding these scoutmasters through the years have been many assistant scoutmasters and committee members made up of scout parents.

A Cub Scout pack was organized for one year in 1956 under the leadership of Eugene Knier. Cub Scouting then became inactive, but was again organized in 1968. Serving as Cubmaster have been Roger Genson, Ralph Gries, and Clarence Belitz, Jr. They have been assisted by many committee members, Webelos leaders, den mothers, and assistant cubmasters.

GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout Week held special significance in March of 1963 when eighteen girls became members of the first Girl Scout troop in the Cleveland area, and received their Girl Scout pins in an investiture ceremony at the St. Wendel Church Hall.

The eighteen charter members of Cleveland's first troop, Troop 36, were Linda Bender, Mary Jane Buchberger, Donna Dessl, Linda Grott, Christi Herman, Sheila Knier, Fay Koenig, Connie Kress, Michele LaCroix, Louise Noel, Sandra Pierce, Cynthia, Sandra, and Gail Scheidt, Mildred Schmitt, Barbara Sukowatey, Frances Wagner, and Mary Kay Wagner.

Leaders of the first troop were Mrs. Roger Pierce, Mrs. Francis Koerber, and Mrs. Joseph Buchberger.

A Junior troop led by Mrs. Robert Wagner and Mrs. Eugene Dassler, and a Brownie troop led by Mrs. Edward Zill and Mrs. Willard Matthias were started the following year.

Scouting on the Cadette, Junior and Brownie levels has been active through the years; for several years there was also a Senior troop.

Registered Scout leaders through the years include the above

mentioned leaders and Mrs. Edward Kleckner, Mrs. Robert Naber, Mrs. Joseph Leonhard, Mrs. Mark Pirkov, Mrs. Peter Jensen, Mrs. Henry Saemann, Mrs. Carl Schroeder, Mrs. George Herrmann, and Mrs. Eugene Scheidt.

The present leaders are Mrs. Marlyn Brandt, Mrs. Ronald Jost, Mrs. Prescott Shaw, Mrs. Patrick Bryant, Mrs. Dennis Melger, Mrs. Charles Koenig, Mrs. Arnold Kramer, and Mrs. Robert Wagner. Scout mothers assist on occasion.

There are fifty-seven Girl Scouts at the present time in the Brownie, Junior, and Cadette levels.

CLEVELAND 4-H

Among the oldest of the county youth organizations is the 4-H Club. The 4-H Club was an outgrowth of the early corn clubs started by Professor R.A. Moore of the college of agriculture. From these early clubs the present 4-H Club evolved.

The 4-H Club has become a nation wide program, primarily educational in nature. Its' purpose is to teach rural boys and girls the latest and best agricultural and home economics practices, and the finer and more significant things of rural life.

The 4-H Club owes its' beginning to Mrs. Maybell Fischer. Mrs. Fischer started the handicraft program as one of the club's first activities. The Dairy projects were started by leader Roland Sigelkow, who was a 4-H leader for nine years, starting in 1948.

Mrs. Gordon Pippert contributed 15 years as a leader for the club and with an astonishing record for increase in the club's membership. When Mrs. Pippert started as club leader the membership was numbered at approximately 15 local youth, and by the time of her retirement from the 4-H Club, total membership was between 60 to 70 local youth participating.

Presently there are 23 youth involved in 4-H working with 7 leaders. The present leaders are: Ed Schnell, Cheryl Kohl, Joann Huhn, Elaine Johnson, Maggie Belitz, Roseann Klein, and Mrs. Valeria Blanke. The club is presently active in eleven different projects; Team Leaders, Exploring 4-H, Dairying, Who Have I Been, Food Preservation, Knitting, Woodworking, Clothing, Crocheting, Gardening, and Small Engines.

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