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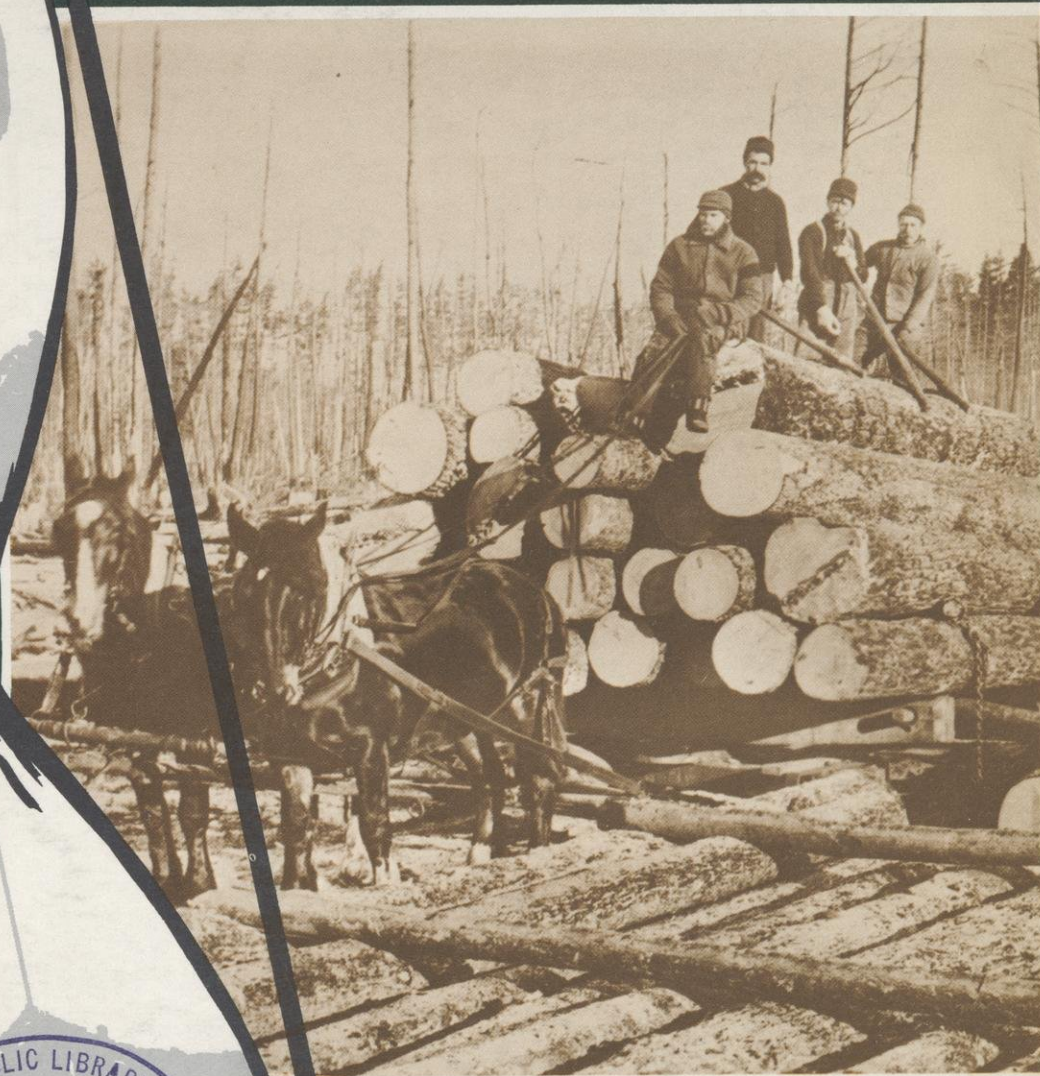
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# STETTIN CENTENNIAL

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## Foreword

With grateful thanks we acknowledge the efforts of the following individuals and value of the following reference courses, without whose help this summary of the historical highlights of the first century of existence of the Town of Stettin would have been impossible:

Stettin Lions Club, for initiating the interest and action which led to this centennial observance.

Town of Stettin officials and citizens.

Clarence J. Poeske, president of the Stettin Lions Club, for many hours of work in compiling and editing this book.

Frank Plano, for historical summary.

Earl Street and other members of the Town of Weston Centennial Committee, for invaluable assistance.

"History of Marathon County," published in 1913 by Judge Louis Marchetti.

"History of Northern Wisconsin," published in 1881 by the Western Historical Society.

Wausau Daily Record-Herald.

Wausau Public Library.

Marathon County Historical Society.

We hope this book will preserve for Town of Stettin residents at least a small portion of the interesting heritage which is theirs. We hope, too, that it may serve as a reference for future generations, that they might know of the contributions of Stettin's pioneers and today's residents in transforming the wilderness to today's modern environment.

The Stettin Centennial, Inc., observance is a non-profit venture. Any funds realized will be equally divided between activities for children and youth of the township and for the Lions Camp for the Blind, Rosholt, Wis.

### **MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY**

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## Stettin -- Then and Now

The Township of Stettin has a history of which every present resident may be proud and it shows signs of becoming ever more important in the future.

The Town of Stettin had one of the first saw-mills in Marathon County and the lumberman was the first permanent white settler to arrive in these parts.

Stettin had, all evidence seems to point, the first farm in Marathon County. Today, its rich soil and industrious farm residents are doing their part in making the slogan on the Wisconsin automobile license plate ring true. This is, indeed, "America's Dairyland," and the Town of Stettin has helped the Badger State gain a reputation which identifies it with dairy farming in all parts of the world.

Stettin was a leader from the start. It sent the second largest number of men into the Civil war of any township in Marathon County. Only the Town of Berlin had more enlistees in that dreadful war between North and South.

This busy township was organized in 1860, two years before Wausau was incorporated and 12 years before Wausau became a city.

### *Stettin Was Bigger*

In land area, Stettin has been bigger than most present residents would imagine. When the County Board of Marathon County established Stettin Township in February, 1860, it consisted of Township 29, Ranges 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 East. That would include all of the present townships of Rib Falls, Rietbrock, Johnson and Holton, extending from near Wausau to the Clark County line. However, it was only a short time later that the present boundaries were established.

Of course, Central Wisconsin was "big country" in those days. Marathon County, when first established in 1850, for example, extended from its present southern boundary all the way to Upper Michigan on the north. At that time, however, the county was one township narrower than it is now.

In 1860, the year Stettin was organized as a township, the county was widened to its present boundaries with the addition of a row of townships along the original east boundary. The county still extended to the Michigan line, however.

In 1874, the county was reduced to near its pres-



*An Early Stettin Settler's Cabin*

ent size and in the following year, the extreme northwest township became a part of Taylor County and Marathon County has remained the same size since that time.

### *Marathon's Ninth Township*

Stettin was the ninth township to be organized in Marathon County. However, one of these was the Township of Jenny, which became Lincoln County, also extending to the Michigan line, in 1874.

The Townships of Wausau, Eau Claire (renamed Weston in 1859) and Mosinee were organized in 1856. Marathon Township was organized in 1857. but because no officers were named, it had to be reorganized in 1859, according to early reports.

Then followed the Town of Jenny (1857), Town of Texas (1858) and the Towns of Berlin and Knowlton (1859) leading up to the time that Stettin was organized in 1860. The last of Marathon County's 42 townships -- Guenther, was organized in 1920.

The late Judge Louis Marchetti of Wausau, in writing his well-known "History of Marathon County" in 1913, had this to say about the Town of Stettin:

"It is one of the richest towns in Marathon County, with splendid farms and fine buildings."

Today's residents may well be proud of the part they and their ancestors and predecessors have played in the development of their township, their county, their state and their nation.

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## Stettin-- Before The White Man

Before the lumberman and farmer set foot on the soil of the Township of Stettin, that area, along with the rest of northern Wisconsin, was one great forest.

The policy of the fur companies who were seeking and obtaining rich rewards in fur with trading posts throughout the Northwest Area, was to "convey the impression that the country was uninhabitable, sterile, forbidding and the habitation of remorseless Indians and savage beasts, where no white man could exist or subsist."

The area which is now the Town of Stettin, along with other townships around here, was roamed by great bands of Indians in the days before the white man came to settle and even after he settled. An early resident relates that the first year he was here, he counted in one band about 800 Indians going up to make sugar in the maple groves above Wausau.

Many years before the white man came, Wisconsin is believed to have been inhabited by a prehistoric race called the Mound Builders. Little is known of the lives and habits of the savage nations inhabiting what is now Wisconsin before civilized man moved onto the scene in this part of the world.

### *Wisconsin Territory*

Wisconsin Territory was formed on April 20, 1836, only nine short years before the first saw mill was turning out lumber in the Town of Stettin. The State of Wisconsin was created May 29, 1848, four years after that saw mill went into operation on the Little Rib River.

Adventurers coming up the Wisconsin River in the early days, upon striking a sandy streak which lies to some extent across the state, at once concluded that such was the character of all of Northern Wisconsin.

However, this region had been so carefully explored by 1836, that, with its value thoroughly es-

tablished, a treaty was signed with the Menominee Indians, extinguishing the Indian title to a strip of land six miles wide up along the Wisconsin River as far as Big Bull Falls, where Wausau is now located.

### *Water Sites Taken*

It was not long afterward that the valuable points for water mills were being taken by the early lumbermen and the Town of Stettin timber was soon to echo with the sound of the woodsman's axe.

Most of Wisconsin, in the very ancient past, was covered by huge glaciers, some of which were several thousand feet in thickness. The Town of Stettin, like most of Wisconsin, benefited greatly from the slow-moving, grinding action of these masses of melting ice. Rivers and creeks were created and rich deposits of powdered rock were deposited in the Stettin area. They also made huge deposits of sand, gravel and rotten granite, which have been a great boon in construction of modern roads and buildings.

Wisconsin was the property of the Indians in the days before the white man. However, there appeared to be no permanent Indian village in the Stettin area, although they frequently passed through this area.

The French explorer Nicolet, found the Indians when he first visited Wisconsin in 1634. The Indians made friendly visits to the Stettin area after the arrival of the white man and by 1848, the Indian had given up his last claim to the region.

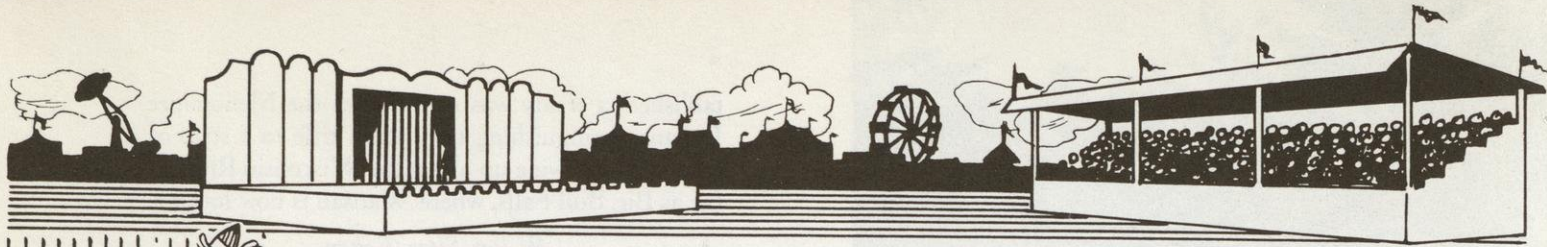
### *Magnificent Forest*

Before Stettin was settled, it was covered with magnificent forest, broken only by wild meadows along the bottom lands of the creeks and streams. Along the banks of the rivers stood the majestic pines which the lumbermen soon were to seek out. Back a mile or more from the banks of the streams, hardwoods, including maple, birch, ash, oak, basswood and butternut, interspersed with pine, hemlock, balsam and spruce, predominated.

There is no historical record of white men visiting the region now included within the present boundaries of Marathon County during the time of French control, 1634 to 1763. It seems likely, nevertheless, that French explorers and fur traders did penetrate the area around the Town of Stettin via the Wisconsin River, for in those days, the canoe was the established method of travel.

The first white men known to have been within Marathon County were fur traders who were employed by the American Fur Co. In 1835, Robert Wakely opened a tavern and trading post at Point Bausee down the Wisconsin River. It was four years later that lumberman George Stevens came from Pennsylvania to Wausau.

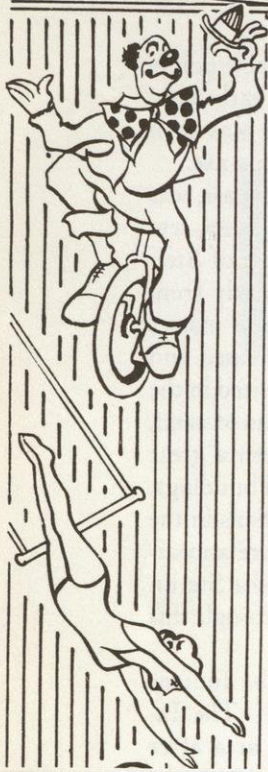




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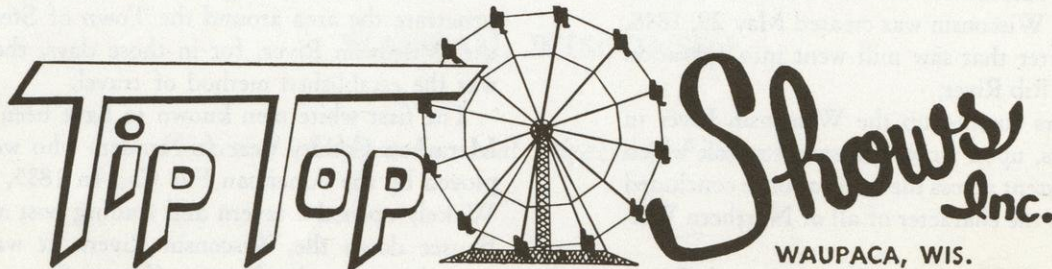
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LOGGING CAMP ON RIB RIVER, 1895 -- The old-timers on this picture are (atop building, left to right) August Beilke, Otto Zunker and August Erdman; (standing, left to right) Christ Radke, George Hoepfner (rear), Fritz Hoeft, Herman Tessmer, Robert Hoeft, man at rear with pipe is unidentified and Fritz Haasch stands next to him; the next two are unidentified, followed by Carl Hoeft, father of Fritz and Robert; Carl Beilke; Mr. Stanke; Carl Buttke, brother of Christ Buttke; the photographer, Adelina Buttke (Mrs. August Beilke) and Frances Buttke (Mrs. Carl Beilke).

## The Lumberman Arrives

It was 1839 when Marathon County was invaded by the restless lumberman, John L. Moore, who began operations at Little Bull Falls, now Mosinee. In that same year, George Stevens, for whom Stevens Point was named, began mill operations in Wausau.

It was a short five years later that Benjamin Single built a sawmill in what is now the Township of Stettin. Operated by water power when first constructed in 1844, this mill was situated on the Little Rib River, four miles west of Wausau, according to available descriptions. In 1851, Single abandoned the water-powered mill and built a steam-powered sawmill nearby. He operated this plant for about 20 years until a fire destroyed the property in 1871.

Some reports seem to indicate that the Single mill was never rebuilt after that fire. However, it is reported in "The History of Marathon County"

that the mill in use in 1881, the year in which that book was published, had been erected in the summer of 1873. It was reported to have a capacity of 40,000 board feet for a 12-hour work day and the mill was employing 35 men at that time.

### Busy Stettin Mill

The Single mill on the Little Rib cut out as much lumber as any of the mills at Wausau in the early days and also gave employment to as many men, according to historical reports.

Wrote an early lumberman about the area:

"The struggles of the early pioneers to get into the Wisconsin Valley were great.

"This country was a dense and unsubdued forest from the place where Stevens Point is located to the shores of Lake Superior on the north. To open up the country for the business of lumbering was no child's play, but was work for men of stalwart

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bodies and determination of mind. Such were the men who opened this vast expanse of territory.

"The wealth in the magnificent pine was alluring to the pioneer as ever the gold fields of California in 1849. The question of how to get at it to make it marketable was the all absorbing thought of all minds."

Despite these efforts, when the first German farm settlers came to the Town of Stettin in 1856, about 11 years after Single established his mill on the Little Rib, Marathon County still "presented the appearance of an unbroken forest," wrote one old-timer. Hardly a dent had been made in the harvesting of the great timber crop.

### *A Single Trail*

In 1855, the only trail in the entire present Town of Stettin was apparently one between the settlement at Big Bull Falls, or Wausau, to the Single mill on the Little Rib. A sled road, only passable in the winter months for sleds drawn by teams of horses, existed between Merrill and Stevens Point, "touching at the small settlement" at Wausau.

William Glover writing in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* (pages 166-167, v. 25) describes



the dangerous rapids at Big Bull Falls which the lumbermen had to run. "Even the best pilots landed many pieces -- not gently, in a cataract running an estimated ten to twenty miles per hour -- on a rock near the foot of the channel appropriately called 'Lumberyard Rock'."

But Little Bull Falls, at Mosinee, was even worse. "There the river plunged over a 16-foot ledge and rushed through a narrow gorge a quarter of a mile long. A few hundred feet above the gorge lay a huge exposed rock, and in the channel below a submerged rock around which swirled tremendous currents. At the end was a bottomless eddy. This maelstrom caught huge timbers and held them upright for days and uncoupled and ripped apart cribs of lumber in its grip. It was news in some seasons when a week of running at Little Bull brought no accidents."

#### *Expert Pilots*

So it was safest to hire "an expert standing pilot who did nothing but run Little Bull. The most famous was Willian Cuer. He rode a horse back from his trips through the gorge and used two crews. His fee was \$1.00 per trip, and he could make some thirty trips between dawn and dark."

But there were still many accidents. The Mosinee people crowded the bridge to look. "I have seen a raft with ten men on . . . every man of them all out of sight under the water at the same time, not a particle of the raft or men could be seen for a few seconds, but several hats were seen floating on the billows around." When a raft got stuck on a rock "in the channel above the falls, men were often left stranded on it for days before a raft drifted close enough to be boarded or someone chanced the rapids in a boat." Sometimes the eddies were so swift that rafts would be uncoupled and left without oars. The marvelous pineries, whose logs had to run the gauntlet of the falls, were annexed when Henry Dodge's Treaty with the Menominee at Cedar Point in 1836 bought a strip of land six miles wide and forty-eight long on the Wisconsin River from Point Bas to Wausau.

Such was the condition in the Town of Stettin and the surrounding area before 1856, when the first farms were to be established in the township.

The southern part of the state was being rapidly settled at that time, but the north was a wilderness. However, no state in the union was to enjoy so large a growth in so short a time as Wisconsin was to witness in the first 10 years after its admission to statehood.

It remained, however, for the hardy German immigrants to convert forest to field and to establish permanent residence in the Town of Stettin.

*Phill-up with Phillips "66"*

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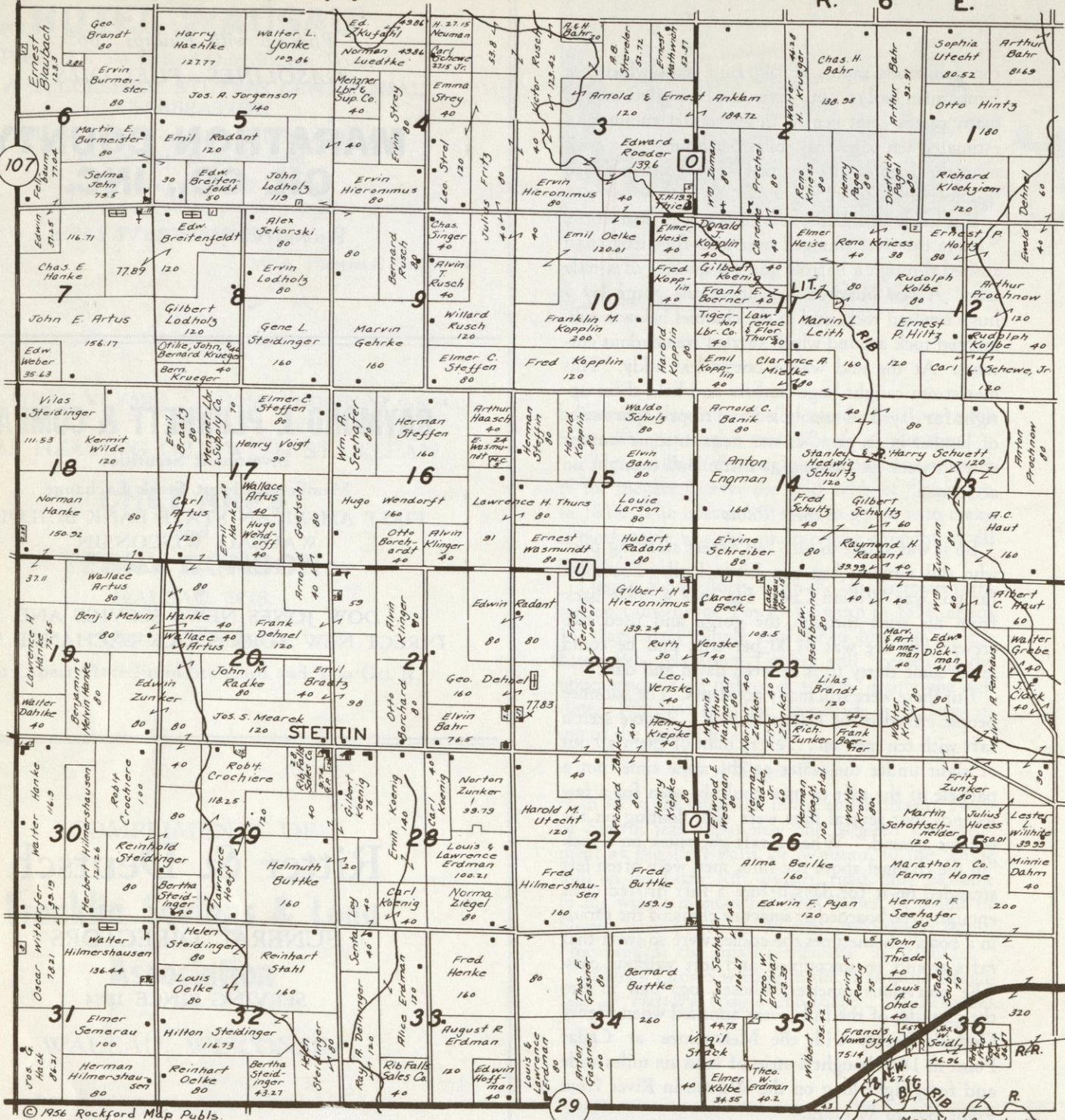
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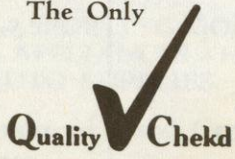
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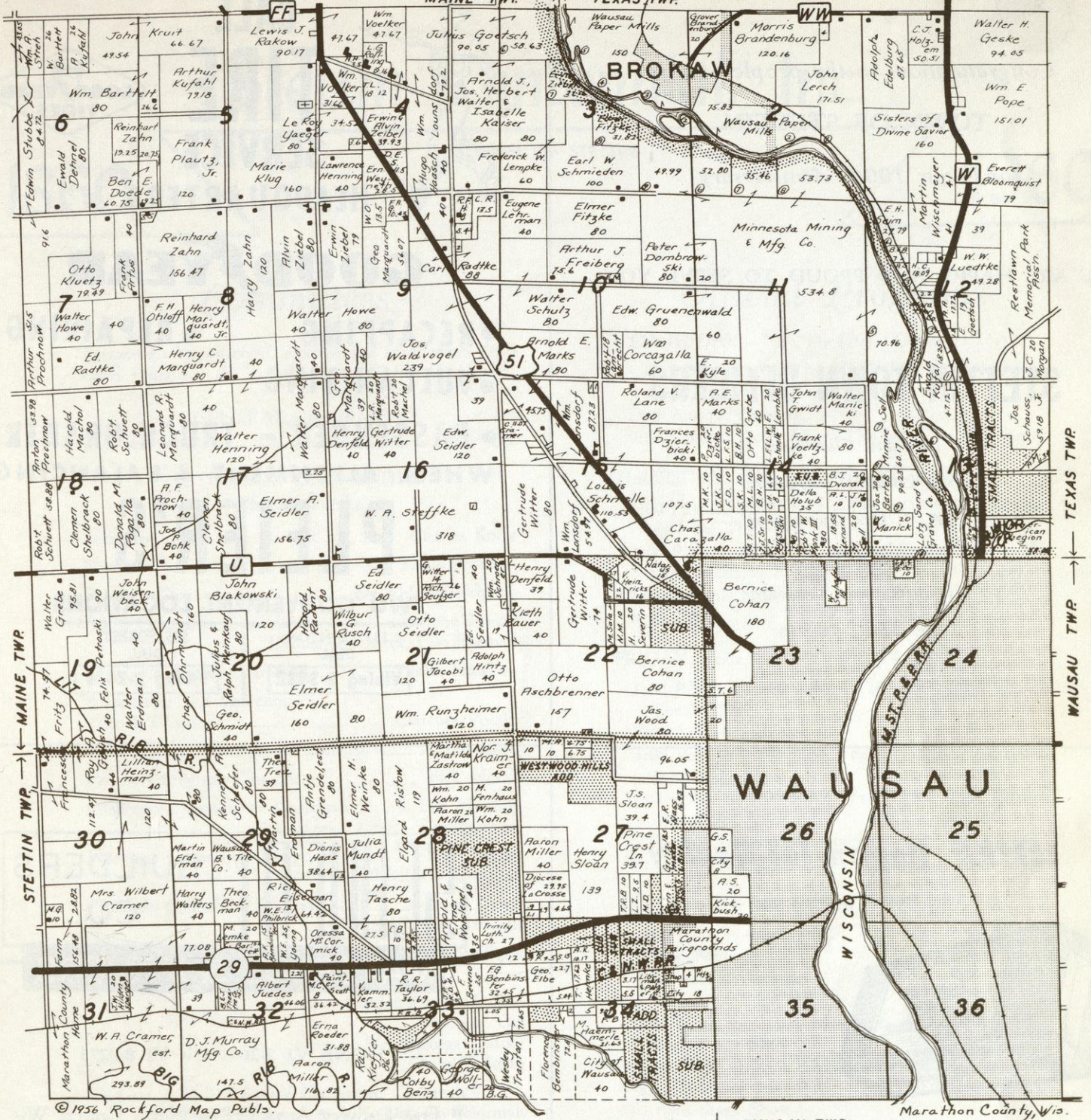
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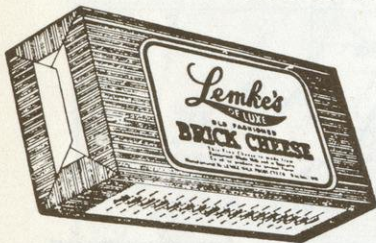
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## Stettin's Soil is Broken

Reported to be the first "real farmer settler" who came to the present Town of Stettin was John Artus, who had been working in the lumber mills at Wausau for several years prior to getting the urge to go into farming. Artus purchased 80 acres and moved on the land in 1856 and proceeded to hack the first real farm out of the wilderness.

However, Judge Marchetti, in writing his book, "The History of Marathon County," records that "This man Perley Dodge made probably one of the first farms in Marathon County, not personally, but with hired help. He had eight acres cleared, seeded mainly to grass in the fifties, the farm being only about five miles northwest from the (Single) mill."

A partner of Dodge got in some difficulty with Benjamin Single and a shot was reportedly fired at Single, but the trouble was never aired in court or in public, the historian reports. However, it broke up the partnership between Dodge and a man named Judson, with Dodge departing and selling the farm to an employee of the Single mill, John Marquardt, to whom Single advanced the purchase money.

*John Artus -- First Farmer*

Still, John Artus is believed to be the first full-fledged farm in Stettin. In the same year in which he arrived, 1856, there also came on the scene in Stettin the four Buttke brothers -- Ferdinand, Carl, Christian and William -- and their cousin, Carl Buttke II, followed by Gottlieb Wendorf in the next year. Also arriving in 1857 were reported to be the brothers Kippke, Fred Kopplin, August Weinke, Carl Haasch, F. Sager, Carl Kickbusch, Daniel Radke, G. Kaatz, Carl Erdman, Frederick Beilke and J. Hildensperger.

The year 1958 brought Ottmar Sauter and John Sauter, Michael Erdman and John Loy, Sr. to the Stettin wilderness. Also listed were John Wilberle and M. Vogedes.

Nearly all these men -- or at least their sons -- worked at times in the Single mill on the Little Rib, which was not more than seven miles from the farthest farm mentioned, according to Judge Marchetti.

Another working man at the Single mill also began clearing land in the Town of Stettin in the early 1850's. This man, a native of Norway, whose name is not given, cut down nearly 15 acres of timber, but never cultivated it or lived on it. He finally sold it after moving out of the county in the late 1850's.

*The "Norwegian Farm"*

Because of the founder's nationality, this farm was called the "Norwegian Farm" for many years by the early settlers of Stettin. It grew up into brush and small trees and lay wild for about 12 years, when Caspar Traxel purchased it in 1868 and settled on it and improved it.

Regarding the early development of Marathon County, Judge Marchetti wrote: "The settlement in the Town of Stettin soon became the most popular and flourishing one in the country."

Marchetti also writes: "The farm settlement in Stettin flourished, together with that in Berlin, and while a great number of the original settlers have gone to the Dakotas, Nebraska, Iowa and as far as Oregon, the majority still reside on the original homesteads, the land being now held by their sons and grandsons.

"It is one of the richest towns in Marathon County, with splendid farms and fine buildings," it was written in 1913.

One early observer writes that "but for the staying qualities, the endurance, the grit and the frugality of these pioneers, they might not enjoy the prosperity which is theirs today."

In 1856, Marathon County had but one organized township, the Town of Marathon, and reference was made to the good qualities of those farmers who had settled there. But the report adds: "What has been said of these men applies with equal force to the pioneers in other towns, the Towns of Stettin and Wausau and the Irish Settlement (Halder)."

It is said that in New York City in 1848, every hotel keeper and railroad agent and everyone else who was approached for advice, directed immigrants to Wisconsin. There was such an overwhelming preference for Wisconsin that many German immigrants considered no other spot. From 1855 to 1857, about 75 per cent of the Marathon County population was of German parentage.

The names of the townships reflect the German settlers. Twelve out of the 42 are pure German, including Stettin. The 1905 population showed that more than two-thirds of the foreign born were German.

An 1857 account of Marathon County by A. G. Ellis states that this county could become the best agricultural county in the state, as the weather conditions were steady, with no sudden changes. But in 1857, Wausau was cutting 20 million feet of lumber annually and Mosinee another 6 million feet. It was later that agriculture became important.



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STETTIN PIONEERS -- Mr. and Mrs. Ottmar Sauter were among the earliest Town of Stettin settlers. They carved a farm out of the wilderness after Mr. Sauter bought 80 acres of timber land in 1857, three years before the township was organized.

## *A Pioneer Recalls The Early Days*

What was life like in the Town of Stettin nearly 100 years ago? Mrs. Mary Schilling, 212½ Prospect Ave., Wausau, whose father, Ottmar Sauter, was one of the very earliest pioneer farmers in the township, gives an interesting account of her memories and stories she picked up from her parents and other old-timers. Mrs. Schilling, now age 92, was born in the Town of Stettin on July 15, 1867.

In 1857, Ottmar Sauter bought two eighties of timber land and cleared about 70 acres out of the forest for his farm, which was located about 12 miles from Wausau and seven miles from the Village of Marathon.

"We were poor, but we always ate well," said Mrs. Schilling of her early childhood. Since there was little market for milk and dairy products, the family usually had plenty of milk and butter, except during the long winter months.

### *Buildings of Logs*

Her father built himself a log house, a log barn and a little log pig pen with a straw roof. However, a bear got the first little pig he raised, Mrs. Schilling recalled, and the family dog never warned the family. In those days, Mr. Sauter didn't even have a rifle or shotgun. His only weapon was a big revolver, so a neighbor with a shotgun was called over to try and dispatch the bear. However, the animal never showed up again.

Like a number of other early Stettin settlers, Ottmar Sauter worked for a time in the Benjamin

Single mill on the Little Rib River. But he found he didn't have time to "blow his nose" during the 12-hour day, so he decided to try his hand at farming and bought some land, which was very cheap then.

There was a twinkle in her eye as Mrs. Schilling recalled some early stories that made the rounds in the Town of Stettin. One was about a farmer who heard his heifers belling in their stockade and he approached the stockade to discover that a bear had invaded it. The farmer is reported to have hit the bear with the handle of an axe and yelled, "Get out of here or I'll use the sharp end." It really happened, Mrs. Schilling claims.

How were these poor farm families able to survive and even prosper? It was a miracle of sociology and economics which modern Americans would find difficult to believe.

### *Carried Precious Shoes*

The Sauters went to church at Marathon and would carry their shoes until they were in sight of the church and then put them on. Shoes were a valuable item in the Wisconsin wilderness of a century ago and the owner would not think of wearing them out on the long hikes to church.

Mrs. Schilling can recall when she first saw a visitor in the Town of Stettin wearing factory-made clothing and what a sensation it caused!

Not only did Mrs. Sauter make all the clothing for the family, which included 10 children, but Mr. Sauter also had a carpenter build a big loom and he spun his own wool and loomed it into cloth for use in making clothing. He had learned the trade as a child in Germany before taking the long six-

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week sailing trip to America. The head of the family would get busy on the loom or the spinning wheel whenever it rained, or during the long winter months and on summer evenings.

The family had little wild game on the table. Mr. Sauter kept the boys too busy to hunt. However, occasionally on a Sunday, one of the boys would shoot enough squirrels for a meal.

*Load of Wood: \$3.00*

Mr. Sauter worked extremely hard making firewood to sell in Wausau during the winter months. A whole load of cord wood brought the magnificent sum of \$3 in those days. And then, sometimes, Mr. Sauter was unable to collect for the wood he hauled to town on his weekly trips.

He cleared about an acre a winter, an indication of the fine stands of maple and other hardwoods which he found on much of his 160 acres. Many times, as he went to Wausau with loads of wood, he would carry a large package of butter wrapped in cloth to sell to some special customers. In the winter, the Sauter family usually ate lard flavored with apples as the spread. "I liked it," Mrs. Schilling said.

Mrs. Schilling recalls well the onion-flavored butter which the Sauter family ate in the spring. The first greens in the woods in those days were wild onions and the cows, allowed to roam freely in the big timber, would eat them with relish. As a result, the butter had a very strong onion flavor.

*Cows Sometimes Lost*

Occasionally a cow would be lost in the deep woods and never be recovered. However, the loss was not too great, since there was no cheese factory or creamery to sell the milk to anyhow.

Mrs. Schilling recalled her mother telling how another farmer, George Lodholz, settled nearby and, at night, the Lodholz farm light could be seen from the Sauter farm. "It gave her a warm feeling here," she said, clasping her hand to her heart and telling of the dark wilderness and the great distances between farms.

Every farmer had a beard in those days. In the winter, Mr. Sauter had a full beard and moustache, which were perfect for keeping the face warm while he worked in the woods. But in the summer, complaining that he was having trouble eating soup, he would remove the moustache and trim down the beard, Mrs. Schilling said.

Such was life in the Town of Stettin when the woods was being cleared by the early pioneers 100 years ago. It was a difficult, yet satisfying, experience. And better days were ahead!

## The Indian Scare -- Other Hardships

Hardship was common among the farm pioneers who immigrated to the Town of Stettin from Germany.

They had "their trials, their hardships, their sufferings, their privations and, for many years, the coarsest of fare and garments," it was reported. But the worst days of anxiety and fear, amounting almost to desperation, were experienced when sickness laid its paralyzing hand on a member of the family and the others had to see the suffering without the ability to alleviate the pain.

In those days, there were no physicians within many miles and no roads to reach help.

If the work of men was hard, the life of the pioneer women was harder still. They were real helpmates, assisting in clearing and piling of underbrush, sawing logs, handspiking them together and burning them, helping in planting and harvesting, and often taking the little children out in the field wrapped in comforters and attending their wants during pauses in the field work.

Cattle roamed freely in those days. In fact, all the domestic animals were running at large, picking their food in the woods. After cattle food, such as hay and straw, had given out in the spring, the cattle browsed on the young shoots of the fresh cut trees. This isn't exactly prescribed for milking cows, one observer noted, but it kept the cows alive.

Men and women wore home spun clothing, colored by boiling it in the bark of hemlock or butternut shell.

The Town of Stettin had a touch of the Indian scare which swept over the State of Wisconsin, when thousands of farmers fled to the larger cities. This scare followed the Sioux War in Minnesota, which began with the terrible massacre of the people of New Ulm in the summer of 1862.

An incident near the Village of Wausau caused

some friction between Indians and whites. A white woman claimed she had been assaulted by the son of a Chippewa chief while picking berries near the Wisconsin River.

A meeting was held in Ringle's Hall in Wausau and while debate was on, a man, out of breath, ran into the hall shouting, "They are coming down the river in canoes. I have seen their lights."

The men stampeded for their homes to arm themselves. They returned with guns, axes, pitchforks and one had a scythe. When they checked the river, they found the Indians in two bark canoes, spearing fish and using lights, of course.

One group of six men lived all one winter on one ox which had died from sickness and whose frozen carcass furnished their meals. They had some peas also, but no flour. Potatoes were a rarity.

One barrel of cooked and mashed potatoes was brought all the way from Belvidere, Ill. They were "hailed with delight," according to reports. Salt pork furnished the standard meal and everybody was reported to be happy when there was plenty of it.

The men just didn't have the time to go hunting, but they did resort to fishing to help out the monotonous menu. There were then no trout in the creeks, but they never looked for any, as catfish weighing 15 pounds were more in popular favor than would have been the finest trout, reports one old-timer.

It was fortunate that the Town of Stettin was settled after 1842, for this was a terrible winter and many Indians perished of hunger. One of the chiefs, Mayig (the otter), who had a large family, killed his squaw and he and the children subsisted on her remains, it is reported.

The wretched Indians, in their begging expeditions into Big Bull Falls, had to be driven off with clubs, it is said.

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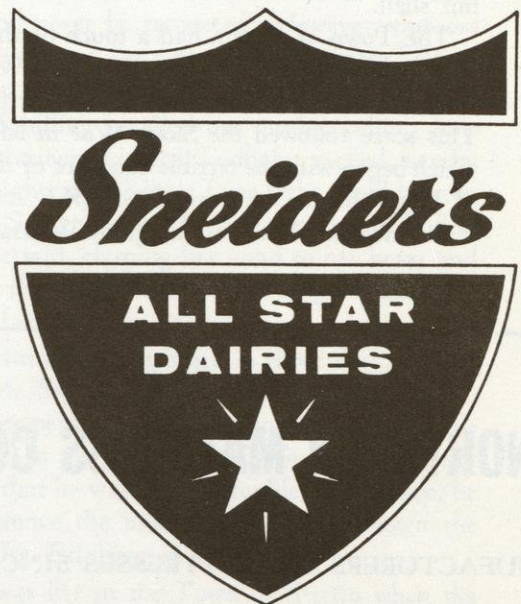
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*An Early Cheese Factory located on County Trunk F*

## *Stettin . . . . In The Year 1912*

The Town of Stettin in 1912 had four cheese factories, according to an account in "The History of Marathon County," published in 1913 by Judge Marchetti. The four factories were "all well supplied with milk," it was reported.

One little portable saw mill, purchased in 1882 by Carl Buttke, William Buttke, Ottmar Sauter and John Loy, which did a large amount of custom sawing for farmers for 20 years, had been sold and moved into the southern part of the town, where it was still in operation by August Sehafer. Another mill, owned by Fritz Erdman, was making shingles and laths, while a third mill was being operated by Fitzke and Plautz on the Little Rib River.

The town in 1912 was divided into seven school districts, even as it is today in this Centennial year of the township. There were two churches, each an Evangelical Lutheran Church. The first congregation, Trinity, observed its 50th anniversary on June 2, 1912, Judge Marchetti reports.

### *"Primitive Conditions"*

His story continues:

"The anniversary services were held in the forenoon in the church, which had been renovated and

decorated with flowers, and the Reverend Ehnke and President Ahl of Oshkosh and Reverend A. F. H. Gebhard, the founder and for 28 years pastor of the congregation, spoke of the primitive conditions under which it was organized and of the hardships with which the founder had to contend.

"Of the founders who had signed the roll of membership, only two, the Reverend Gebhard and A. Kippke, were present. Some had moved away, but the majority rested in the cemetery around the church and, in words which sank deep in the heart of his hearers, Reverend Gebhard remembered the dead.

"In the afternoon there was a festival in the grove at the church, where greetings from the neighboring congregations were read, addresses made and the women of the congregation did the food honors for the many guests that took part in the celebration. Reverends P. Spiegel of Wausau and P. Ficken of Edgar each made an address fitting the occasion and the memory of this anniversary will not pale in the hearts of those who had the good fortune to be present. The present pastor is the Rev. Paul Martin Pilz."

That is Marchetti's account of Stettin in 1912.



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*Some Pioneers and Sons of Pioneers at a wedding in 1908*

## *Some Stettin Old-Timers in 1930*

A farm directory of Marathon County published in 1930 lists the names of all residents of the Township of Stettin in that early Depression year. More interesting is the fact that the directory lists the number of years which those 1930 residents had spent in Marathon County up to that time.

A total of 56 Stettin families at that time had spent 50 years or more living in the county and many others had been living in this area for at least 40 years, indicating the perseverance with which the early pioneers attacked the problem of earning a living off the Town of Stettin soil.

Three of the Stettin residents at that time had 70 or more years of residence to their credit, led by William Ristow, with 74 years. Carl Dahm Sr. was listed at 73 years and Julius Wilde had 70 years. Thus, Ristow had been residing in the area continuously from 1857 to 1930.

The other Stettin old-timers with 50 years or more of Marathon County residence in 1930 were as follows:

Fred Bothner, of Bothner's Corner, 57 years;

Christ Buttker, 66; Edward Crochiere, 59; Michael Erdman, 64; Fred Fenhaus, 62; Edward F. Gehrke, 56; August Hanke, 50; William Hanke, 50; Louis Hilmershausen, 67; Albert Kiepke, 55; John Kiepke, 65; Emil Krueger, 51; August Deichsel, 58; Edward Fenhaus, 59.

Otto Hanneman, 57; Albert Hieronimus, 56; John H. Huckbody, 52; Theodore Jarness, 54; Mrs. Helmuth Klockzeim, 64; Gust E. Kopplin, 61; A. G. Melang, 52; August J. Mielke, 51; August Moeck, 50; Albert Radant, 58; Herman Radke, 50; Fred Saager, 67; Carl Schewe, 53; Herman Schreiber, 54; Elise Tasche, 61; Otto Tress, 57; August Treu, 57; Fred Treu, 53; Edward C. Wendorf, 60; Otto Wendorf, 57; Peter Ziegler, 53.

Anton Loy, 59; Gust Rubow, 56; August Seehafer, 64; August Semerau, 60; Joseph Spatz, 60; Albert Steffen, 56; Carl Steidinger, 50; Ludwig Steidinger, 58; William Steidinger, 52; John F. Wilde, 68; Gust Wilke, 53; Mary Witberler, 54; Carl Zunker, 50; August Bahr, 55; Herman Bahr, 53; Emil Bentz, 55; Herman Buttker, 59; and Carl Dahm Jr., 56.

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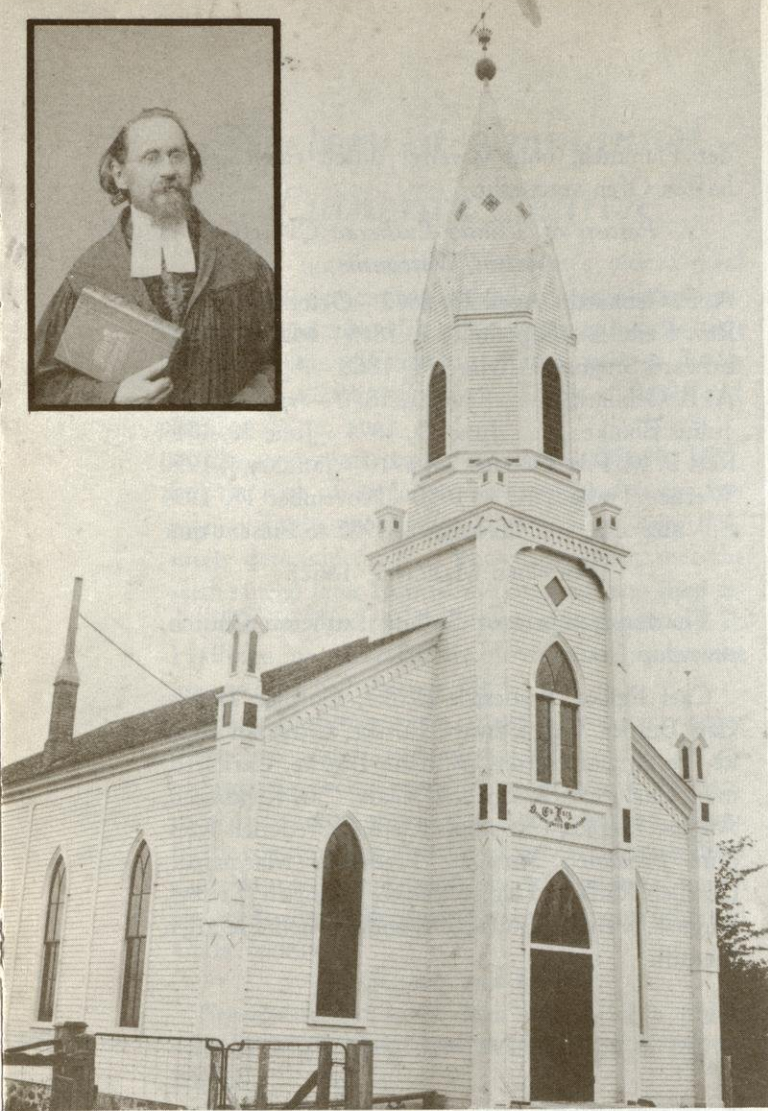
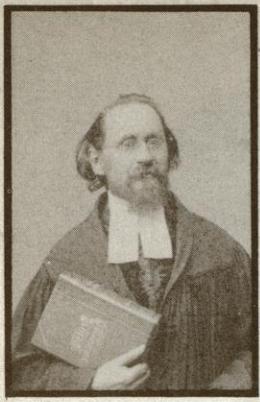
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Trinity Lutheran Church, Town of Stettin  
Rev. A. F. Gebhard (Inset)

## Early History of Trinity Lutheran Church

BY THE REV. P. MARTIN PILZ

(Editor's Note: For the benefit of you old-timers, we thought you would enjoy reading this history of Trinity Lutheran Church in German. Accordingly, we print it that way, as authored by the Rev. P. Martin Pilz, a former pastor of the church).

Im Jahre 1856, als die hiesige Gegend dichter Urwald war, wo Baeren, Woelfe, Fuechse and dergleichen Raubtiere ihr Unwesen trieben und dach-Ziehende Indianerstaemme ofter weilten, war es, dass die ersten Ansiedler hier in Stettin ihr bescheidenes Heim errichteten. Waren die meisten der Ankoemmligen auch arm an irdischen Guetern, so waren sie dennoch gluecklich and zufrieden,

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reich an leiblicher and geistlicher Gesundheit, dass sie auch in der neuen Heimat nicht des Herrn ihres Gottes vergassen. Dienten sie auch im Familienkreise neben dar Klaerung und Urbarmachung des Landes nach Christenart treulich dem Herrn durch Erbauung asu Gottes Wort and Gebet, so stellte sich doch gar bald das Verlangen ein, wie in der alten Heimat "Pommern", aus der sie kamen, am Sonntage in gemeinsamen Gottesdienste ihres Gottes and Heilandes zu gedenken. Hunger and Durst nach dem Worte Gottes trieb die ersten Ansiedler, sich am Sonntage zum gemeinsamen Gottesdienste in den Haeusern einzufinden, wo nach Gesang und Gebet von Carl Eduard Buttke (Clerk Buttke genannt) eine Predigt vorgelesen wurde.

Im Herbst des Jahres 1859 kam Herr August Freiderich Gebhard, der sich der Unterweisung der Kinder in der englischen Schule annahm. Immer staerker wurde der Wunsch nach einer lutherischen Gemeinde in der eigenen Mitte. Endlich sollte sich der Wunsch erfuellen. Im Jahre 1862 organisierten sich die lutherischen Ansiedler zur "Evangelischen Lutherischen Dreieinigkeits Gemeinde in town Stettin", und entwarfen eine Konstitution. Es war fuehrwahr eine Freude fuer die neu gegruendete Gemeinde, als derselben in der Versammlung am 2. Maerz 1862 von Herrn Zierath 2 Acker Land zu Friedhofzwecken and von Herrn August Kiepke 2 Acker Land als Pfareigentum geschenkt wurden. In dieser Versammlung erwaelhte man den bisherigen Sekretaer der Gemeinde, Herrn Lehrer A. F. Gebhard einstimmig zum Pastor der Gemeinde. In mitten derselben erhielt er am 16. April 1862 durch Herrn Carl Eduard Buttke die Leinordination zum heiligen Predigtamte. Am 5. December 1863 hatte Herr Pastor A. F. Gebhard ein Koloquium vor dem "Bruderbund ev. lutherischer Christen unveraendeter Augsburgischer Konfession" and wurde als rechtmassig berufener Prediger des goettlichen Wortes in Town Stettin, Wis. bestaetigt.

Die Gottesdienste wurden damals and in den folgenden Jahren im Distriktschulhaus No. 1 (nahe der jetzigen Town Hall) abgehalten. Im Jahre 1863 ging die junge Gemeinde trotz aller aeusseren Armut an den Bau eines Pfarrhauses (log house), das in spaeteren Jahren als Schulhaus diente. Etwas 3½ Jahre diente Herr Pastor A. F. Gerhard der Gemeinde mit Wort and Sakrament, um dann einem Rufe an die Cedarburger Gemeinde zu folgen. Die heisige Gemeinde berief am 1. Sonntag in September 1865 Herrn Pastor Keitel zu ihrem Seelsorger. Unter seiner Amtsfuehrung baute the Gemeinde ihr erstes Gotteshaus, eine Frame Kirche 48 x 36 Fuss; dies geschah in Jahre 1866. Dies Gebaeude wurde am Neujahrstag 1879 ein Raub

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*Pastors of Trinity Lutheran Church  
Stettin, Wisconsin*

A. F. Gebhard...April 23, 1862 -- October 15, 1865  
Rev. Keitel...September 3, 1865 -- May 12, 1867  
Edward Sitzmann...March 1, 1868 -- April 1, 1870  
A. F. Gebhard...July 1, 1870 -- April 1, 1894  
Julius Ehmke...June 15, 1894 -- June 30, 1919  
Rev. P. M. Pilz...October 24, 1910 -- January 1, 1950  
Werner Trelle...1950 -- November 15, 1954  
L. Vater...January 18, 1955 to Present time

(FOUNDED MARCH 2, 1862)

Charter members of Trinity Lutheran Church, township Stettin.

Carl Beilke, Frederich Beilke, Gottlieb Boeck, Carl Buttke, Carl Edward Buttke, Christian Buttke, Ferdinand Buttke, William Buttke, Carl Erdman, Carl Haasch, Gottlieb Kaatz, Carl Kickbusch, August Kiepke, Christoph Kiepke, Frederich Koplplin, Frederich Krueger, Frederich Marquardt, Gottlieb Radant, Daniel Radke, Heinrich Treibel, August Weinke, Gottlieb Wendorff and Heinrich Zierath.

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# History of Immanuel Lutheran Church

One of north-central Wisconsin's oldest rural Lutheran congregations which has always been served in conjunction with other congregations is that of the Immanuel Lutheran church, now of Town of Stettin and formerly of the Towns of Berlin and Maine.

The congregation was organized in March, 1861, but the date of its formal incorporation as the Immanuel Lutheran Congregation has not been definitely determined. It is known, however, that the settlers who later formed the congregation then resided in the Town of Berlin and that the Rev. J. P. Hoffman, an early-day circuit rider, came into the area as early as February, 1861.

Pastor Hoffman was a circuit rider in every sense of the word and assumed the responsibility of administering to the spiritual needs of 18 districts, each of them organized into a congregation. Some of the communities mentioned in his district in those early days were those of Amherst, Almond, Stevens Point, Towns of Berlin and Hamburg and others in Clark county.

### *In Schools and Homes*

Services in the early days were held in public schools, where they were available, or in private homes.

It was only a short time after the congregation of the present Immanuel church was organized that it became evident that the existing house of worship for the young congregation was inadequate. A meeting to discuss the situation was called on September 20, 1865.

Seventeen members of the young congregation pledged their whole-hearted support in money and labor for the erection of a suitable house of worship. As a result of such pledges, it was decided to build a log church, 24x32 feet at an estimated cost of \$300. Edward Nass, August Prechel and Friedrich Trantow were named to the building committee.

Happy, as well as unhappy, days followed for the congregation in the ensuing years. Never a large congregation, it was obliged to share its pastor with other nearby congregations in the same situation and the result was that the Immanuel Congregation was served by pastors of various synodical affiliations as it aligned itself with different congregations from time to time.

### *Two Groups Merge*

The situation continued until 1923, when it joined with St. John's Lutheran church in the Town of Maine to form a parish and to call a pastor to

administer to their spiritual needs. Like its sister congregation, it now works in cooperation with the program of the American Lutheran church.

The original log church served the congregation for many years in the Town of Berlin but it finally had to be replaced in 1899 by a brick veneer church on the site of the original church. The brick veneer church was built under the direction of the pastor, the Rev. Fred Neubauer, and the building committee of Carl Klinger, Fritz Roemke and Herman Rollenhagen.

A decision to relocate the church was reached in 1923. The building was dismantled and moved several miles to the south-west, to the Town of Stettin, to be relocated on a parcel of land acquired on the Carl Zumann farm. The building, which still serves the congregation, was then reassembled on its present site.

### *Active Cooperation*

Members of the congregation of the relocated church have actively cooperated with the St. John's congregation in furthering the parish program. It has been served by the same pastors since 1923 and, in 1925, cooperated with the sister congregation in erecting the present parsonage adjacent to the St. John's church.

The present membership of the congregation lists 90 confirmed members. It has a church council of three, Elroy Pagel, Elroy Utecht, and Gordon Mathwich.

Available records indicate that the following pastors have served the congregation: The Revs. P. J. Hoffman (1861-1867 and 1882-1885); William Hudtloff (1867-1882); Julius Ehmke (1885-1894); the Rev. Dr. Alexander (1894-1897); Fred Neubauer (1897-1900); P. Retter (1900-1902); August Koepp (1902-1923); A. W. Scharfe (1923-1927); Jacob Reiff (1927-1945); Edmund Baumgarten (1945-1950); B. F. Matter (1950-1957) and the present pastor, Floyd O. Olsen (1957- ).

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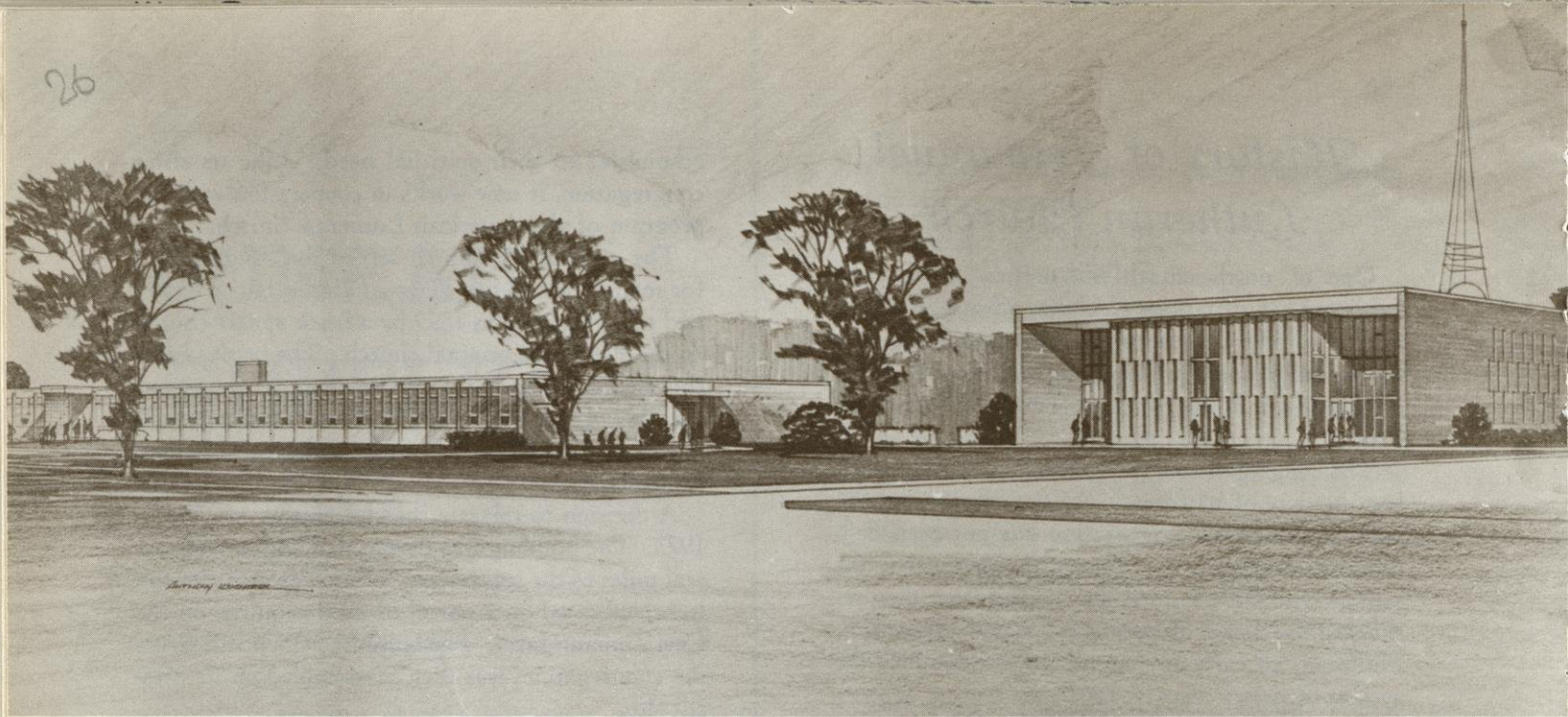
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26



*Architect's Sketch of St. Matthew's Parish Buildings*

## *Brief History of St. Matthew's Catholic Church*

St. Matthew's Catholic Parish in the Town of Stettin was organized in July of 1958, with the Rev. Bernard O. McGarty appointed as the first pastor of the new parish by His Excellency, the Most Rev. John P. Treacy, bishop of the La Crosse Diocese, of the Roman Catholic Church.

The parish property presently comprises thirty-nine acres situated at S. 28th Ave. and Hubbill. In addition, the former Deichsel home site was purchased and serves as a temporary rectory. In July of this Stettin Centennial year, the home will become the residence of the Franciscan Sisters of St. Joseph, who will staff the new St. Matthew's School. Sister Mary Carilia is the present superior.

### *First Service in 1958*

The first church service of St. Matthew's Parish occurred on Aug. 3, 1958, in the Wausau Auto

Auction Building, located two miles west of Wausau on Highway 29. This service consisted of four masses and was attended by 325 persons. Through the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bembinster, services are held at the auction lot building weekly on Sundays and will continue to be held there until the parish buildings are ready for occupancy.

It is anticipated that the school will be ready for use at the beginning of the fall term of 1960. The new school and church are of contemporary architecture. The school will consist of eight classrooms, a principal's office, library and a social room with a serving kitchen.

St. Matthew's Parish, under the leadership and guidance of its pastor, the Rev. Father McGarty, now enjoys the spiritual and social life of an organized Men's Club, a Women's Council, a Holy Name Society and a Choir.

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1862 -- 1863	-----	John Wilde
1863 -- 1864	-----	Wilhelm Fraedrick
1864 -- 1865	-----	Charles Geise
1865 -- 1869	-----	John Sauter
1869 -- 1870	-----	Christian Buttke
1870 -- 1871	-----	August Wilde
1871 -- 1872	-----	Wilhelm Fraedrick
1872 -- 1875	-----	Henry Wilde
1875 -- 1876	-----	Albert Wendorff
1876 -- 1880	-----	John Loy
1880 -- 1885	-----	John Treu
1885 -- 1886	-----	John Loy
1886 -- 1890	-----	John Treu
1890 -- 1892	-----	Paul Gebhard
1892 -- 1893	-----	Julius Weinke
1893 -- 1896	-----	Paul Gebhard
1896 -- 1898	-----	Julius Weinke
1898 -- 1904	-----	Paul Gebhard
1904 -- 1914	-----	Carl Schewe
1914 -- 1915	-----	Carl Koenig
1915 -- 1916	-----	William Buttke
1916 -- 1917	-----	Anton Loy
1917 -- 1919	-----	Christ Buttke
1919 -- 1921	-----	William Meyer
1921 -- 1922	-----	Christ Buttke
1922 -- 1923	-----	Richard Kniess
1923 -- 1927	-----	Albert Steffen
1927 -- 1931	-----	Val G. Denfeld
1931 -- 1935	-----	Edward Wendorf
1935 -- 1937	-----	Val G. Denfeld
1937 -- 1939	-----	William R. Hanke
1939 -- 1949	-----	Edwin Fellbaum
1949 -- 1953	-----	Val G. Denfeld
1953 -- 1955	-----	Lawrence G. Burger
1955 -- 1959	-----	Richard A. Eiseman
1959 --	-----	Raymond H. Ott



Mr. and Mrs. Carl Buttke. He was one of the three Buttke Brothers who first settled in the Town of Stettin in 1854.

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*REMODELED QUARTERS FOR SANATORIUM -- This structure, formerly known as the Willard Preventorium, is now Mt. View Sanatorium. The building, formerly used for children who contracted tuberculosis, has been completely remodeled by Marathon County and is now serving its capacity of about 33 patients. Miracle drugs have helped cut down the number of TB patients. At one time the main sanatorium (shown on opposite page) and the preventorium had a total of 90 patients.*

## Mount View Sanatorium

Work on Mount View Sanatorium was begun in 1916 on a sandy plateau located five miles west of Wausau on Highway 29 in the shadow of Rib Mountain. The institution was officially opened on April 18, 1917, with a capacity of forty beds and no restrictions as to stage of disease or patients admitted, though no special provisions were made for children. Erected by Marathon County for its own tuberculous and those of surrounding counties, the governing body was and is a group of three Trustees appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. The present board of trustees consists of Rev. Walter Piehler, Route No. 5, Merrill, Wisconsin President, who has served since January 1, 1936; Mr. Leo Wadinski, and Mr. R. E. Puchner.

Mrs. Cora Stephenson, R.N., was the first Superintendent and Dr. W. A. Ladwig the first visiting physician. On July 1, 1918 Miss Mary Hughes, R.N. succeeded Mrs. Stephenson as Superintendent, a position she held until 1935 when Miss Florence Hamilton, R.N.-B.A. succeeded her. Following the death of Miss Hamilton, August 5, 1949, Miss Harriet Meagher, R.N. the present Superintendent, assumed charge.

In 1918, Dr. E. M. Macaulay was appointed

visiting physician, a position he held until January 1, 1948. His successor was Dr. Walter T. Becker. Following the resignation of Dr. Becker, the present Medical Director, Dr. C. M. Yoran was appointed in Jan. 1949. Dr. H. H. Christensen became staff surgeon in 1934 and served in this position until his accidental death in June, 1949. Dr. Walter T. Becker was then appointed staff surgeon.

During the first ten years, the nurses and employees occupied the same building as the patients. In 1927 the second unit was added when the County Board appropriated the money for a Nurses' Home, increasing the patient capacity of the institution to sixty-six. At that same time, the County instituted the office of County Nurse, having her work in conjunction with the other health units of the County.

In July, 1935 Mrs. Lee M. Willard died, assigning a generous portion of her estate to be used for the erection of a Preventorium in memory of her husband, Dr. Lee M. Willard, one time consultant on the Sanatorium staff. To this bequest was added a federal grant and in 1939 the Lee M. Willard Memorial Preventorium and complete dental, x-ray, and surgical unit, as well as a new central heating plant were added. The capacity of the Preventorium was fourteen.

From 1925 to 1933 a two months affiliation in



MARATHON COUNTY'S SUNNY VALE MANOR--This large Town of Stettin building, which has served well as the Mt. View Sanatorium since its establishment in 1917, will soon serve another purpose. Now called Sunny Vale Manor, it is to be a residence for elderly persons of the County Home who are able to be "up and around." The first residents are expected to move into the completely remodeled quarters soon after July 1, 1960.

Tuberculosis was offered to Senior students of the various Wisconsin Hospitals. Because of lack of personnel, major surgery has been done at Wisconsin General Hospital and St. Mary's Hospital.

In June, 1958 construction was started on the Lee M. Willard Memorial Preventorium to enlarge the building to accommodate thirty-one patients and on May 23, 1959, the personnel and patients of Mount View Sanatorium moved into the enlarged building. Remodeling and repairing was then started on the Sanatorium building to provide facilities for a "home for the aged" for ambulatory county patients to be known as "Sunny Vale Manor." This building should be ready for occupancy in late summer, 1960.

### *Sunny Vale Manor*

Within a month or two after the Township of Stettin observes its centennial, a new county facility for aged persons will open within the boundaries of the township. This is Sunny Vale Manor, to be located in the completely remodeled former Mt. View Sanatorium Building.

Sunny Vale Manor, which should be a beautiful and friendly place when completed and in complete

operation, will have a maximum capacity of 60 persons and will be operated under the supervision of Christ Christenson, superintendent of the Marathon County Home and Hospital.

The new facility will be entirely for the elderly person who is ambulatory. With this in mind, the new building will feature a completely remodeled central dining room and such practical facilities as a recreation room and an occupational therapy room, where the old folks may enjoy craft work, various other hobbies and games.

Mr. Christenson anticipates that the first residents will be moving into the completely remodeled building on July 1, 1960, or shortly thereafter.

Sunny Vale Manor will have its own laundry, kitchen and chapel, in addition to single and double rooms for the residents. The large porches of the former sanatorium building have also been remodeled into living quarters for residents.

The overall project, including new equipment for nearly all of the rooms, is costing Marathon County approximately \$275,000.

The ever-increasing number of aged persons, thanks to great advances in medical sciences, are going to use and enjoy this wonderful new institution in the Town of Stettin.



MACHINERY FOR STETTIN FARMERS -- A carload of machinery bought for Town of Stettin farmers by Roemer & Talheim, Wausau hardware store, is unloaded at the Wausau Depot. Mr. Talheim is seated in buggy in center foreground. George Filber is sitting on the tool box on the mower behind Mr. Talheim. This picture was taken at the Milwaukee Road Freight Hour in 1903.

30

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- JACK O'BRIEN
- GEORGE REIS
- BOB VIELE



Horse-powered threshing. Among those on the picture are Frank Reinke, Carl Jehn, Otto Giese, Gust Bauman, Julius Pagel, Mrs. Ferd Giese, Mr. and Mrs. William Giese, Mrs. Gust Tesch, Arthur Giese and Mrs. Harry Emmerich.



Playing for weddings 50 years ago in Stettin were Henry Prechel, Richard Giese, Herman Schuster and Edwin Luedtke.

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Congratulations*



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Jeanie & John  
HASKO



This is the Adolph Melang Jr. home, where he operated his Indian Spring Water business. He also served as a teacher for the Stettin School in District 7.



Taken 44 years ago during the 50th wedding anniversary celebration for Casper Fenhaus, this picture is at the Edward Fenhaus home.

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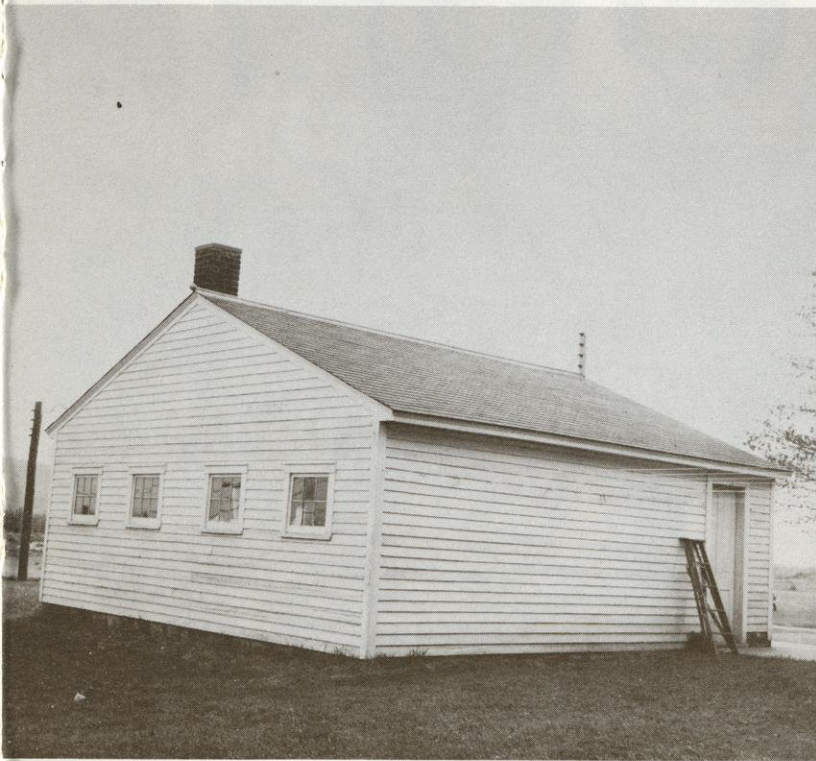
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*This is the old District 7 Stettin School where Mr. Melang taught. This building is now a double garage at the Fenhaus home on Highway 29 at 28th Avenue.*

*This is the old Stettin Town Hall.*

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STETTIN'S CENTENNIAL QUEEN CANDIDATES -- These girls entered the contest to choose a queen of the Town of Stettin Centennial celebration. They are (seated, left to right) Judy Horak, Iris Strei and Tinker Seymour; (standing, same order) Ramona Langhoff, Ardell Dehnel, Lorraine Krohn, Carol Jaeger, Ardell Fellbaum, Lou Ann Hoeppner, Virjean Boerner and Diane Schnabel.

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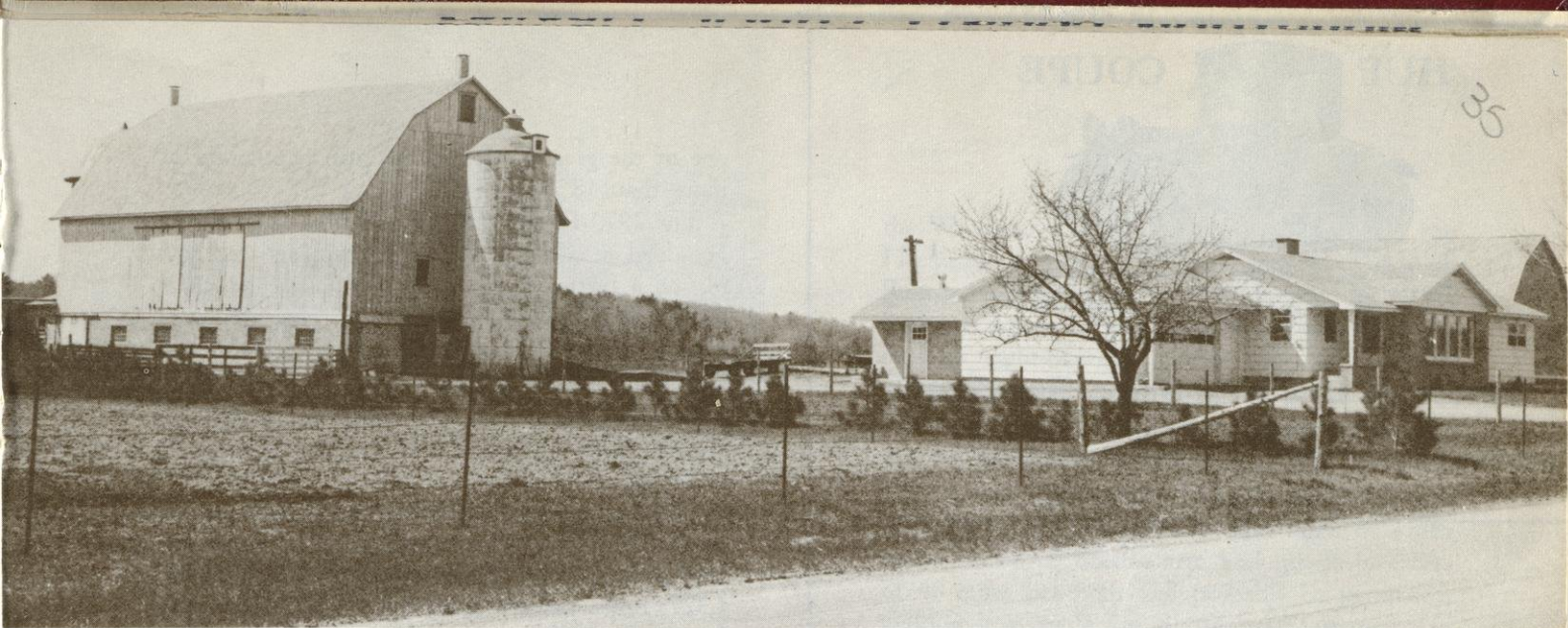
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*A modern Stettin Dairy Farm -- the Fenhaus Farm on Sunny Vale Lane.*

## *Stettin -- And America's Dairyland*

The Town of Stettin and all of Marathon County lies in the North-Central "American Cheese" region. The pioneer and the cheese factory came to the region almost simultaneously.

As new land was cleared, the farmers used it for pasture. As more land was cleared, permanent pastures and hay fields followed. A cheese factory soon furnished the local market for milk. As more cattle were added to the farms of the region, the cheese factory expanded its production.

The small crossroads cheese factory proved ideal under these "pioneer" conditions, as it furnished an outlet for surplus milk, provided the surrounding farmers with a monthly cash income and manufactured a product which could withstand shipment from the region to the large population centers.

Stettin did not go through the wheat growing period like much of the State of Wisconsin did. Dairying followed almost immediately after lumbering, as other stories in this booklet indicate.

An indication of Marathon County's agricultural importance is shown by its rank among the 100 leading counties in the United States. The 1954 census showed that Marathon County, with Stettin's help, ranked second among all counties in the nation in the number of milk cows on farms. A fourth-place rank was held in that year in pounds of whole milk sold and in total value of dairy products sold. Marathon also ranked 17th among all counties in cattle and calves on farms and in land acreage from which hay was cut.

Marathon also ranked high in green pea acreage harvested for sale (21st), cattle and calves

sold alive (37th), oat acreage harvested (42nd) and snap bean acreage harvested for sale (86th).

That Stettin has contributed more than its share to Marathon County's high agricultural rating is indicated in some rural resources of Marathon County as compiled by the Crop and Livestock Reporting Service of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture.

One interesting statistic is Stettin's high soil productivity rating. If all of Marathon County is given a soil productivity rating of 100, then the Town of Stettin rates a soil productivity rating of 107, or 7 per cent above the average township.

Stettin also has more than its share of milk cows, with 2.9 per cent of the county's total, according to a 1955 study. In that year, the county had 89,500 producing cows and total milk production of 626,500,000 pounds. The total number of cattle and calves in Marathon County was at the record total of 158,200 head at the beginning of 1955.

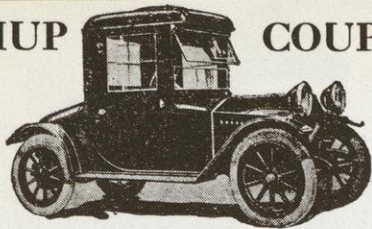
As of 1954, the Town of Stettin was reported to have 25,019 acres of land in farms. This represented 81 per cent of the total land area of the township. This was very close to the county average, since the county had 835,258 acres of farmland, or 82.7 per cent of its total area. In the same survey, the Town of Stettin was reported to have 159 farms. Only 12 of the county's 42 townships had more farms in that year.

In the interval from 1950 to 1955, all but four of the towns in Marathon County had decreases in farm population, according to assessors' reports, and Stettin was no exception. In fact, Stettin had



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one of the greater declines in farm population of more than 18 per cent.

The 1950 Federal Census indicates that exactly one-third of all of the Stettin residents were living on a farm. Stettin's official 1950 census total was 2,946, of which 982, or 33.3 per cent, were farm residents. The farm population of Stettin that year included 529 males and 453 females.

Statistics from the 1954 Federal Agricultural Census indicate that the Town of Stettin had the following:

Cropland harvested, 9,650 acres; cropland pastured, 2,024 acres; other cropland, 329 acres; woodland pastured, 6,918 acres; woodland not pastured, 1,327; other pasture land, 3,669 acres, and other farmland, 1,102 acres.

In a 1938 survey, Stettin was reported to have 9,076 acres of woodland. This represented 30 per cent of the total land area of the township.

A look back shows how far Marathon County has come in agriculture since 1860, the year in which the Town of Stettin was organized. In that year, the entire area of Marathon County (which at that time extended all the way to the Upper Michigan border), had the following crop acreages:

Corn, 98 acres; oats, 265 acres; barley, 4 acres; rye, 65 acres; wheat, 330 acres; potatoes, 233 acres, and tame hay, 1,075 acres. The acreages of oats and tame hay showed remarkable increases by 1900, reaching 31,166 acres of oats and 51,726 acres of hay. In 1955, there were 96,000 acres of oats and 151,000 acres of hay.

Stettin's contribution to the Marathon County total in 1955 included 3.1 per cent of the corn, 3.4 per cent of the oats and 3 per cent of the tame hay. In all cases, Stettin was above the township average for Marathon County.

There have been great changes in agriculture, indeed, since the German immigrants first started clearing the land of the Town of Stettin slightly over 100 years ago. Development of new varieties of crops, mechanization of farming, livestock raising trends, transportation and communication developments, instruction in vocational agriculture and population movements have been among the forces exerting great influence upon the agricultural pattern of the Town of Stettin and Marathon County.

The introduction of power machinery, automobiles and conveniences in the home have all allowed more time and energy for both better farming and for recreational needs.

Stettin's agricultural tomorrow promises to be better than its present, thanks to further developments.



*Stettin roads were built like this in the old days. In a few years, Stettin will be at Wisconsin's crossroads . . . the junction of Highways 51 and 29.*

## Stettin at Wisconsin Crossroads

Within three years after its Centennial the Town of Stettin will be the crossroads for Wisconsin's principal midstate highways.

Highway 51, sometimes referred to as "Wisconsin's Main Street", and Highway 29, the principal east-west cross-state artery in this section of Badgerland, will meet in the Town of Stettin.

It will mark a far cry from the amazingly poor transportation facilities which existed in this same township when it was first established as a unit of government within the confines of Marathon County 100 years ago. At that time, there was hardly a trail leading from Wausau into the Town of Stettin. Two teams of horses or oxen were often required to pull a single wagon over the bumpy trail that existed in those days.

Some of the early pioneers were extremely disappointed, in fact, to find that the area was covered by such heavy forest lands and that transportation was so difficult.

### *Heavy Traffic Load*

When the presently-proposed highway project is completed in three years, cars by the thousands will pass over this same soil in each 24-hour period. In fact, recent studies have shown that Highway 51 traffic for a 24-hour period on a yearly average was 3,890 vehicles to the south and 3,540 vehicles to the north. Highway 29 had 4,350 vehicles counted east of Wausau and 6,460 west of the city in the Town of Stettin. The great majority of these cars will be traveling through the Town of Stettin when the big by-pass project is completed.

Present plans, which are fairly definite with

the Wisconsin Highway Commission, provide for Highways 51 and 29 to approach the Town of Stettin from the south on 24th Avenue. In about a 40 acre area one block north of the present Highway 29 right-of-way, a huge cloverleaf pattern will be constructed, making it possible for cars on either of the two main highways to turn onto the other without ever making a dangerous left turn.

This new highway system, to be built with federal and state funds, will be four lanes in width in the Town of Stettin area and speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour will probably be permitted, making it possible for Stettin residents to speed out in any of four directions from their homes with a minimum of traffic difficulty.

From the Stettin cloverleaf, Highway 51 will continue due north until it connects with the present road northwest of Wausau.

### *Proposed Traffic Routes*

Both Highways 51 and 29 will go south on the four-lane pavement to an area near the entrance to Rib Mountain State Park, where another cloverleaf will separate the two traffic streams. The Highway 51 traffic will continue south, crossing the Wisconsin River over a new span to be built just above the Weston Steam plant of the Wisconsin Public Service Corp. The new highway will cross present Highway 51 in the vicinity of Clark's Bridge near the Steam Plant.

The work in the Town of Stettin will be some of the first to be done on the long-range project. In fact, the district office of the Wisconsin Highway Department at Wisconsin Rapids is busy now purchasing land for the big project. The contracts for much of the Stettin work are expected to be let in late summer, 1960, and the work will commence almost immediately, it is anticipated by Lyle Fuller, Marathon County highway commissioner. The new road from Highway NN in the Town of Rib Mountain, through the Town of Stettin to the present Highway 51 right-of-way north of Wausau is expected to be the first completed, particularly the intersection structures in this area, which would include the major cloverleaf in the Town of Stettin.

The new highway set-up means that practically all traffic -- north, south, east and west -- will pass through the Town of Stettin, whether the vehicle is going to or from Wausau or just passing through in any direction.

The Town of Stettin will be, indeed, "Wisconsin's Crossroads."



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### HISTORY OF THE STETTIN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY DATES BACK TO 1876 RECORDS WERE KEPT IN GERMAN



The first four policies issued by Stettin Mutual Insurance Co. in 1876.

Nearly a Century ago this area was being settled by sturdy pioneers, land was easy to obtain for clearing and cultivation so as to make a living for those who lived upon it. There were many difficulties and all too many hardships. One of the most difficult tasks was the construction of the necessary buildings for human habitation and for cattle of the early pioneers. Usually the only tools of the pioneer were his axe and his saw. Consequently untold hours of toiling went into the construction of a home and other farm buildings. The fruit of this hard labor would often be wiped out in a matter of an hour by fire out of control. The burden of rebuilding was staggering. The thought of sharing each others burdens was early present, consequently, a number of neighbors joined together in a mutual pledge to rebuild any home or building destroyed by fire. So on April 1, 1876 a number of farmers in the town of Stettin which then also included the present town of Rib Falls, organized the "STETTIN GEGENSEITINGER GESSELLSCHAFT," an insurance company.

### STETTIN'S LARGEST INDUSTRY

The Hartwig Manufacturing Corp. is a Town of Stettin industry which started out with one man on the payroll when it was incorporated on Jan. 11, 1954, and now has a payroll of 28 men.

The business was first located in a small wooden building near 615 Grand Ave., Wausau, and among the first products of the firm were television towers. Shortly after incorporation, a tract of land was purchased in the Town of Stettin and a 50 by 60 foot Butler building was erected. Plans were made for continued expansion and in November, 1957, a 60-foot addition was made to provide for additional machinery which was installed soon afterward.

The corporation expanded its production into precision machinery and structural steel fabrication. Plans were made for continuing the expansion at the present location on S. 24th Avenue, but because of the proposed Highway 51 bypass, these plans had to be changed.

Then, the corporation secured an architect and plans were drawn for the modern plant now under construction in the area south of the Lone Pine School. This plant, which may also be expanded in the future, measures 80 by 200 feet, with 90 per cent of the wall area glassed.



A new home for Hartwig Manufacturing Corp., Stettin's largest industry.



The Town of Stettin garage and office building as they look in this Centennial year. The garage was completed in 1948, the office building in 1958.

. . CONGRATULATIONS . .

to the Town of Stettin and its Centennial!

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Ken & Mil Plautz

## Stettin -- Nuclear Powerhouse

The Town of Stettin, which was short-changed somewhat when it came to water power, could show up the entire State of Wisconsin and perhaps the nation in the future when it comes to providing new "fuel" as a source of tomorrow's power. Stettin, it seems, may have a supply of uranium beneath its fertile farm fields.

To date, of course, there is no definite assurance of this. Yet, trained geologists have indicated a belief that uranium may be found in this township. Today, with plenty of surplus stocks on hand, Uncle Sam has quit paying a bonus for uranium discoveries, but what about the future, when nuclear power may be all-important to mankind?

On Dec. 22, 1953, Allen Black, Madison, a University of Wisconsin geologist was quoted as saying that in Canada, uranium appears at the end of a geological deposit of stone. After a look around Stettin, he said he expected the same could be true here, since the rock formations of the glacial period end in Central Wisconsin.

R. C. Emmons and F. G. Snyder, two other geologists of the state university, wrote that "it appears desirable to obtain more detailed information on this promising area than we have been able to gather in four weeks. It is suggested a party spend a full summer to map, on a scale of six inches to the mile, the area of greatest promise around Stettin."

A Record-Herald article on Sept. 27, 1956, announced: "Wisconsin has apparently not been written off as a source of uranium or other radioactive material."

At that time, the Atomic Energy Commission was running a survey in this part of the state, using a meter in an airplane to detect gamma rays emitted by radioactive material. Earlier, in 1946, the U. S. Bureau of Mines made test borings in the area.

However, efforts at digging pay-off supplies of uranium apparently paid no dividends in the Town of Stettin. Still, with all of the promising reports, it still seems likely that a workable supply of the nuclear fuel of the future will be found in this township.

John Bramstedt and Nick Axotis, Fond du Lac, who formed the Titan Mining Co., a closed corporation, reported in 1955 that they had discovered some ore which reportedly had a 6 per cent content of uranium. They reported that the Geiger counter, which indicates the presence of radioactive material, goes "crazy" when it comes near a particular "hot spot vein" in the Town of Stettin.

The two men had obtained mineral rights to two square miles.

A Record-Herald headline of July 2, 1955, reported "Encouraging Uranium Ore Samples Reported Found in Marathon County." These were reported to be on the Harold Utecht farm in the Town of Stettin. It was reported that uranium is frequently found in areas with large deposits of granite and the sub-surface of Marathon County is, of course, largely granite. However, early test borings showed that the uranium deposits were too "lean", it was reported.

Regardless of whether the Town of Stettin becomes an important source of the nuclear fuel of tomorrow, it is certain that it is an area of great geological significance. In addition, Stettin formerly had quarries operated by the Lake Wausau and Marathon County Granite companies. Lake Wausau was in Section 23 and Marathon Granite in Section 14, off County Trunk U. The stone was geologically described as "dark gray syenite."

The significance of the stones in Stettin is evidenced by the fact that many university groups interested in geology have visited the township on many occasions in the past. Professor Emmons, of the state university, brought a group of students from the universities of Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Indiana here on Oct. 19, 1953.

"This is perhaps the most spectacular occurrence we shall see," he told the students in pointing out stones in an abandoned quarry off County Trunk U, now used as a swimming hole. He called it a quarry in a "syenite dike which trends northwest."

In another report, one rock in Section 5, Range 7 East, was said to offer "real promise of yielding good commercial feldspar . . ." Zircon, the diamond substitute, was also found in quartz veins in Section 22, Range 6 East, and it was reported that they may well occur elsewhere in the Town of Stettin. The zircon content was expected to improve with depth.

Also noted was the value of "disintegrated syenite," or rotten granite, in road-building. Not all of the "faults" where this material exists have been recognized, it was reported, although more can be estimated with reliability, it was stated.

And so Stettin, whose past has been largely a history of the growing of crops and feeding of dairy cows at ground level, may have a great future below ground level. It may provide the fuel which will generate the nuclear power to run our submarines, to fly our airplanes, to power our automobiles and to light our homes. Who knows?

**Marathon City Salutes Stettin**

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FARMERS UNION  
CO-OP**

Organized, owned, and operated by the people in this community to serve themselves with petroleum products, feed, seed, fertilizer, hardware, machinery, and groceries.

Co-ops are community builders with open membership, neutral in race and religion.

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SAWMILL & PLANING MILL

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Since 1890

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BUCHBERGER

**THE MARATHON  
ELEVATOR**

Rajak Bros.

**PILLSBURY'S BEST  
FEEDS**



PHONE MARATHON 2611

MARATHON, WIS.

# Stettin's Progressive Neighbors

WAUSAU -- This kingpin city of the Wisconsin Valley is no longer the "far away place" which its Chippewa Indian name means. Thanks to improved communication and transportation, the products of its widely diversified industry, along with the dairy products of Marathon County, go far and wide.

Wausau now has more than 60 well diversified manufacturing establishments employing nearly 9,000 persons and with an annual payroll in excess of \$40 million. Products include paper and paper packaging, lumber and building materials, veneer, batteries, fishing tackle, shoes, roofing granules, electric motors, metal plates, metal windows, foundries, industrial machinery, road building machinery, ventilators, trailer parts, paints, raincoats, vanillin, piston rings, cheese and other dairy products and it is the home of the third largest writer of compensation insurance in the nation.

Wausau has 479 retail establishments with sales totaling about \$50 million and nearly 70 wholesale establishments with sales of about \$30 million. Bank clearings set an all-time record of more than \$500 million last year.

Wausau has an outstanding library and two modern, well-equipped hospitals which have been of great service to Town of Stettin residents. Yawkey Home, 203 McIndoe St., the home of the Marathon County Historical Society, is an increasingly popular place and the society has won awards as an outstanding local unit in the state.

Stettin is proud of its "Big Brother" to the east.

VILLAGE AND TOWN OF MARATHON -- The Village of Marathon, which observed its Centennial in 1957, has had a close relationship

with the western sections of the Town of Stettin for the past century. Their economic growth has been closely intertwined with one another.

Marathon, like Wausau has a number of thriving industries and business firms. There were 205 houses in the village in the Centennial year.

The Town of Marathon, while its growth was not as spectacular as other surrounding townships in the early years, has come along fast in recent years and is another agricultural leader in an agricultural county.

TOWNSHIPS OF RIB FALLS, HAMBURG, BERLIN AND MAINE -- These townships, completing the ring around Stettin, enjoyed much the same agricultural growth which Stettin did during the past century, although none have been able to keep up with population gains recorded by Stettin in recent years.

Rib Falls for some years was a part of Stettin. Hamburg is the home of the Fromm Brothers Ranch, internationally noted for their furs. Berlin was for some years the population leader among townships of Marathon County. And Maine is covered with rich farms and has the important quarry which provides quartzite for roofing granules manufactured in Wausau.

MOSINEE AND WESTON -- Stettin also salutes two nearby neighbors, the City of Mosinee and the Town of Weston, which held recent centennial celebrations. The Mosinee event was in 1957, while Weston celebrated last year.

The area has been blessed with a liberal share of natural resources and its industrious people, for a century and more, have made the most of them.

*Compliments of*

**Sonnentag Concrete  
& Gravel**

MARATHON, WIS.

PHONE 4564

COMPLIMENTS OF

KOO-KOO KLUB

HIWAY 29

*Proprietor*

WILFRED RIEHLE

**OLYMPIA**

TODAY--THURSDAY  
**HOOT GIBSON**

-- IN --  
**"THE SAGEBRUSH  
GENTLEMAN"**

-- ALSO --  
**"ELMO THE MIGHTY"**  
-- AND --  
TWO REEL COMEDY





## STETTIN'S MAIN STREET

Officially it has another name, but the Town of Stettin still has its "Main Street." Now called "Westgate Shopping Center."

Highway 29, once just a trail through the woods, later a thoroughfare for cross-state travelers and area residents motoring in and out of Wausau, is now a busy business area along the eastern end of the township.

The stores in this area are as modern, progressive and competitive as those in any other area community. Several have introduced modern shopping innovations, notably the 29 Super Market with its many service features, and The Suburban, a self-selection department store.

Springing up with pretty residences as well as impressive business and industrial properties, this busy area has most of the more than 100 business establishments of the township.

Even more impressive is the unusual variety of stores in this fast-growing suburban shopping and residential area. The firms range from driveins to department stores, from supermarkets to farm machinery, from heating contractors to machine shops, from trucking firms to well drillers, from plastering contractors to bottle gas plants, from

soft drink bottling to taverns, from used car auctions to car salvage yards, from building supplies to filling stations, from a body repair shop to live-stock sales barn, from motels to a mobile home dealer, from tree nurseries and florists to an ornamental iron shop, and from upholstering to excavating.

Some of the firms along the south side of Highway 29, in the Westgate Shopping Center, starting at the Wausau City limits, are:

Zell & Zell Tavern, The Suburban Department Store, Suburban Drugs, 29 Super Market, Day's Bowl-a-Dome, International Harvester Store, Tilden's Sinclair Service Station, Ace Motel, Bartelts Standard Service, Helmke's Ornamental Iron Works, Wausau Auto Auction Co., Wausau Machine & Tool Co., Sunset Bar, Bluhm's Motel, Allen Mobile Homes, Larry's Body Shop and the Skelly Station.

Along Highway 29 on the north side in Westgate Shopping Center are: Horak's Texaco Service Station, Britespot Drivein, Stettin Mutual Insurance Co., the CTL Co., West Hill Floral, the Taster Freez Drivein, Beckman's Standard Service, Marlene Motel, John Sloan Trucking, Sunbeam Gardens Nursery, Modern Builders & Suppliers, White

Eagle Club, Pine Valley Truck Stop, Huehnerfuss Bar and the Oscar Strachota & Sons Sales Barn.

Interspersed among these business firms and on streets behind them are clusters of modern homes, with pretty pastel colors and many trimmed in attractive brick or stone. Some, particularly in the popular Pinecrest community, are among the finest and most attractive in the Wausau area.

Other business firms of the community, most of them in the well-populated area south of Highway 29 near the Wausau city limits, include:

Will's Heating Co., Kurth's Upholstering, Yunk Welding & Machine Co., Fred Lang Well Drilling, Hugo Lang Well Drilling, Krahn Lumber & Supply Co., Parson's Brothers Plasters, Raybern Electric Co., Midland Cooperatives LP Gas Plant, France Sales & Service Pyrofax Gas Plant, Seven-Up Bottling Co., Aero Auto Parts Co., Wausau Steel Corp., the new Hartwig Mfg. Co. plant, now under construction at Centennial time.

Club 29, Tic Toc Club, Eugene Brandenburg, George M. Garske and Dionis Hass Mink Ranches, Sunset Bar, Wisconsin LP Gas Co., Edward Burish Cheese Factory, Bergen Mining Co., Trail's

End, M & J Auto Parts, Ervin D. Jaeger Vending Co., Little Creek Mining & Milling Co., Marathon County Fish & Game Club, Frankie's Beverages, Inc., Norman Rusch & Sons bulk milk haulers, Stewart Infrared Commissary, Young Road Construction, Molzberger Oil Co., Wausau Oil Co., Gerry's Bakery Counter in the 29 Super Market.

Eldred Thiel Cheese Factory, John E. Olson Beer Distributor, Prospect Mining Co., Theodore Frick's Towncraft Sports Equipment, Pine Woods Bar, West Hill Lumber & Supply Co., Kemps Grocery, Richard F. Seufzer Concrete Blocks and Top Soil, Reno Kniess Sheet Metal Roofing, John Kopp Vending Machines, Wally Greubel's Garage, Rib Mountain Self Service Market.

Wisconsin Valley Hatchery, Marathon Stamping Co. Inc., Ronald Detjens Trucking, Cherek's Grocery, Paul Buch LP Gas Plant, Fred Seubert Sawmill, Art Bluhm Box Crating, and Whirl-a-Way Mfg. Corp., manufacturer of garbage disposal units.

We think the list is complete, but apologize if any firm has been overlooked.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GOOD PEOPLE  
OF STETTIN FROM GEORGE & HIS  
SUDDEN SERVICE BOYS AT

## HORAK'S SERVICE & AUTO SALES

HWY. 29 WEST

IN THE WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER

STETTIN

THE FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF  
USED AND SECOND HAND  
CARS FOR SALE. THESE CARS  
ARE ALL IN GOOD RUNNING  
CONDITION AND GOOD BUYS  
FOR THE MONEY.

Ford, 2-Passenger Roadster, 1914 Model .....	\$265.00
Maxwell 2-Passenger Roadster, .....	\$.65.00
Haynes 3-Passenger Roadster, 1917 Model .....	\$1,150.00
Cadillac, 5-Passenger, 1910 Model .....	\$150.00
Chalmers, 5-Passenger, 1912 Model .....	\$150.00
Reo, 5-Passenger, 1914 Model .....	\$425.00
Regal, 5-Passenger, 1917 Model .....	\$525.00
Haynes Chassis, 1914 Model .....	\$325.00
Paige Chassis, 1915 Model .....	\$750.00

IN STETTIN'S ONLY  
SELF SELECTION DEPT. STORE

*You Will Find*

OVER 25 FAMOUS BRAND  
NAMED MERCHANDISE

*For the Entire Family*

- ★ LOW PRICES
- ★ PERSONALIZED SERVICE
- ★ AMPLE FREE PARKING

# The SUBURBAN, Inc.

HY. 29 -- WEST  
IN WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER

## SUBURBAN *Rexall* DRUG

NEXT TO 29 SUPER MARKET  
IN  
WESTGATE

DON ROGALLA, R.PH.

*your*

STETTIN PHARMACIST

*Free Prescription Delivery*



Gustave Kopplin

August Semerau

## Stettin's Oldest Old-Timers

Believed to be the oldest natives still living in the Town of Stettin as this is written are Gustave E. Kopplin, 91, who was born March 16, 1869, in the township, and August Semerau, 89, whose birth date was May 10, 1871.

Mr. Kopplin was born in the log cabin homestead of his father, Frederick, which was about a half mile south of the present Kopplin home, while Mr. Semerau was born in a log hut in an area immediately adjacent to the present Semerau home. The Kopplin home now is on County Trunk O, about a mile and a half north of County Trunk U, while the Semerau residence is one mile east of Marathon Corners on Highway 29 and then a half-mile north on a town road.

The two old-timers, surprisingly clear-minded for their age and considering the hard lives they must have lived in Stettin's early days, have some interesting stories to tell.

### *Trees "Blacked Out" Sun*

Mr. Kopplin can remember walking to Big Bull Falls with his father as a boy under virgin pines that

93  
were so large and closely spaced that they "blacked out the sun."

Mr. Semerau remembers when his father walked all the way to Stevens Point to buy some flour for the family. The railroad went only as far as Stevens Point in those days, so the pioneer settler hiked down by way of a trail between Marathon and Mosinee and then down the Wisconsin River. He carried the flour back on his shoulder.

Mr. Kopplin's father was one of the very earliest settlers in Stettin. The first German settlers arrived in 1856 and he purchased his land in 1858. The only three settlers in the immediate area when the elder Kopplin arrived were three bachelors, Ottmar Sauter, John Ernst and George Lodholz. With the arrival of more immigrants, the three soon were married, however, Mr. Kopplin recalls.

Ottmar Sauter was the father of Mrs. Mary Schilling, 212½ Prospect Ave., Wausau, whose story is told elsewhere in this book. Mr. Kopplin and Mrs. Schilling were schoolmates, he recalled.

### *All Have Bear Stories*

Nearly all the old-timers have a favorite bear story. Mr. Semerau recalled how bears ate out of their garden once in a while and also stole a pig. Mr. Kopplin remembers well one time when his father tangled with Mr. Bruin. The father had a muzzle loading shotgun, but unfortunately did not keep it loaded. When he heard a pig squealing, he grabbed an axe and aimed a blow at the bear, who flicked the axe aside with a paw. Standing on his haunches, the bear clawed the pioneer settler on the arm and chest and the younger Mr. Kopplin says that his father carried those scars to his grave. Luckily, a dog put Mr. Bruin to flight before he could do more damage.

Mr. Kopplin Sr. learned the cabinetmaking trade in Germany before coming to the Town of Stettin. His wife was sickly, so he supplemented the family income by hand-working window sash and making coffins. Mr. Kopplin recalled that his father received only \$6 or \$7 for a handmade coffin in those days.

"My father only paid 50 cents an acre for land and people often ask why he didn't buy more," Mr. Kopplin said. "Well, where was he going to get the \$60?" he asked, indicating how hard money was to come by in those days.

### *Oxen Were Popular*

Mr. Semerau can recall when his father came home with a pair of oxen. They were used on farms

48

# CTL Company, Inc.

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Across From 29 Super Market  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN  
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*Restaurant, Tavern, Institutional  
and Janitor Equipment and Supplies*

FLOOR POLISHING MACHINES  
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COMMERCIAL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT  
COFFEE MAKERS  
HEAVY DUTY POTS AND PANS  
GLASSWARE  
CHINAWARE  
DINNERWARE

*"Visit Our Showroom"*

*"AGAIN -- NEWLY ENLARGED TO SERVE YOU BETTER" --*

WE ARE MOVING AHEAD WITH STETTIN

## PINEWOODS BAR

ACROSS FROM MARATHON PARK

*Fish or Shrimp Every Friday*

*Sandwiches Served At All Times*

*Packaged Goods*

1500 W. STEWART AVENUE

WESTGATE

### THE BRITE SPOT DRIVE IN

come in and try some of our  
delicious sandwiches and  
home made pies

ON HWY. 29 Across from  
29 SUPER MARKET

*Westgate Shopping Center*

*ALICE & GUST ECKERLE, Props.*

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502 SOUTH 17TH AVE.

*Tap Beer at Its Best*

WESTGATE

in those days because they were cheaper to obtain and maintain.

In recalling the dark forest, Mr. Kopplin said travel at night was almost impossible. He recalled his father telling of one farmer who was traveling by night and had a candle lantern. In the darkness, one of his horses rammed headon into a tree and was killed. The farmer sat down and cried over the great loss. In those days, a horse brought a lot of money, even \$200.

While the Kopplin farm was only about seven or eight miles from Wausau, there were only three farm homes in that distance when Mr. Kopplin made his early visits to the city. Two of them were between the Benjamin Single Mill on the Little Rib and Wausau.

The Single mill was located where the Alvin Dix home is presently situated on what is known as the Rib Falls Road, Mr. Kopplin said.

*Arrived in 1867*

Mr. Semerau's father, Paul, came to Stettin in 1867, when he purchased 160 acres for \$400 and later sold one eighty. Mr. Semerau attended the one-room school now known as the Spring Valley School. At that time, the school year was only six months long. Still, he had to quit during the fourth grade to help his father on the farm.

The Semerau family has held membership in Trinity Lutheran Church since 1867 and Mr. Semerau was baptized, confirmed and married there.

Mr. Kopplin recalls well the old Rib Falls Road. From Falls Bridge near the Curtis Companies Inc. plant in Wausau, it curved northwest, somewhat along the present railroad right-of-way, then cut southwest and went through Marathon Park, he said.

Mr. Kopplin served the township for five terms as assessor, the first time in 1904, and he can recall when he knew every resident of the township.

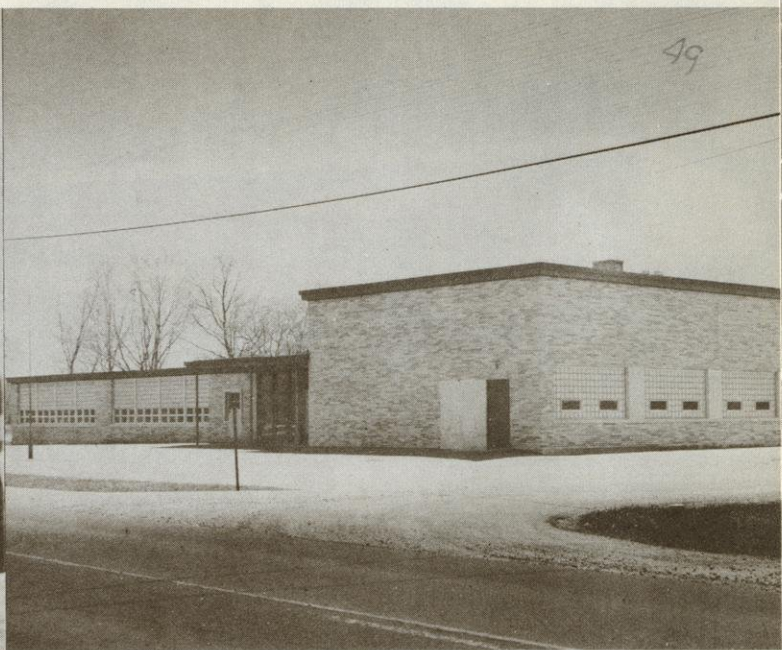
Mr. Semerau's father worked in the woods around Jenny, now Merrill, and lived briefly on a farm in the Town of Texas area before taking up homesteading in Stettin. For a time, in an effort to get ahead financially, he also signed on the crews which rafted lumber down the Wisconsin and Mississippi Rivers to St. Louis, Mo.

The third generation of the family is now farming both homesteads. Mr. Kopplin lives with his son, Franklin, while Mr. Semerau's son, Elmer, operates that farm. Both farms are much larger now.

Hats off to two Stettin pioneers, Gustave E. Kopplin and August Semerau. They are living symbols of the hardy pioneers who settled this township!



*The Old -- The Woodland Dale School, Ella Mathich, Teacher.*



*The New -- Modern in every respect is the Lone Pine School of District 7, with five classrooms and a multi-purpose room.*

## Stettin's Schools

In its Centennial year, the Town of Stettin has seven school districts, plus an area which is attached to Joint District No. 1 of the City of Wausau.

The districts and the schools they operate are as follows:

District No. 1, Spring Valley School; District No. 2, Rib View School; District No. 3, Spooner School; District No. 4, Vilas School; District No. 5, Mitchell School; District No. 6, Woodland Dale School, and District No. 7, Lone Pine School. Lone Pine School is often referred to as simply the Stettin School.

As this booklet goes to press, District No. 1, 4 and 5 are contemplating joining the Marathon High School Joint District. At present, the Town of Stettin has 95 enrolled in the Wausau Senior High School on a tuition basis and 21 in Marathon High School on a tuition basis.

In the present seven districts, not counting the area attached to the City of Wausau, there are at present a total of 225 students. The area attached to the Wausau School District is between the city limits (which runs along Seventeenth and Twelfth Avenues) to Twentieth Avenue.

All of the schools in the township are of the one-room variety except the Lone Pine School, which is a modern institution with five classrooms and a combination gymnasium-multi-purpose room. In addition, two more classrooms will be added during the summer of Stettin's Centennial year.

Yet, as late as 1955, the Lone Pine School was also a one-room building. In that year, two classrooms and the multi-purpose room were added.

Last year, two additional classrooms were added.

At the time of the latter dedication, Cong. Melvin R. Laird, Marshfield, said that the modern steel and concrete addition represented "an acceptance by the electors of this District of the Town of Stettin of their responsibilities as citizens in this great land of ours."

The multi-purpose room of the Lone Pine School will seat 300 persons. A modern kitchen was added during the 1955 work. In addition, the playground has been enlarged.

The Town of Stettin has accepted its responsibility of educating its children.

Following are the current school board members in this Centennial year:

District No. 1 -- James A. Loy, Arno Radtke and Reinhold Steidinger, all of Marathon Route 2.

District No. 2 -- Clifford Buttke, Lawrence Erdman and Harold Utecht, all of Marathon Route 2.

District No. 3 -- Lilas Brandt, Wausau Route 4, and Willard Radant and Stanley Schultz, both of Wausau Route 1.

District No. 4 -- Norman E. Hanke, George Dehnel and Harold Theis, all of Marathon Route 2.

District No. 5 -- Earl Buch, Marathon Route 2, and Alvin Rusch and Norman Luedtke, Wausau Route 1.

District No. 6 -- Ernest E. Anklam, Franklin Kopplin and Harold Hintz, all of Wausau Route 1.

District No. 7 -- Laurent Bernhardt, Elmer Wolselegel and Ted St. Clair, all of Wausau Route 4. Mrs. Eleanora Beilke is principal of this school.



One of Stettin's new business firms -- Frankie's Beverages Inc.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM

# DAY'S BOWL-A-DOME BAR AND ALLEYS

GENE CAROTHERS -- RUSS DAY

*On the Parade Route*

14 BOWLING LANES -- AMF AUTOMATICS

80 FOOT - COMPLETELY STOCKED BAR

LOCATED ON HIWAY 29 JUST WEST  
OF THE 29 SUPER MARKET  
IN WESTGATE

COMPLIMENTS OF

*West Hill*

FLORAL & GIFTS  
GARDEN CENTER

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**BECKMAN'S**  **SERVICE**

1912 STEWART AVE.

WAUSAU, WIS.

PHONE VI 8-2201

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*Products and Service You Can Depend On*

**"FIX IT YOURSELF -- THEN CALL RUSS"**

Progress of . . .

# STETTIN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

1708 W. STEWART AVE., WAUSAU, WIS.



*Oldest Business in the Town of Stettin*

In Business Since 1876 -- 84 Years of SERVICE

A. J. Gassner, Sec'y.

Writing Fire, Wind Storm, Extended Coverage,  
Theft, Vandalism, Glass Coverage, Business Interruptions

STETTIN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY  
Serves Marathon, Lincoln, Shawano, and Clark Counties.

Gross Insurance Dec. 21, 1959 -- \$128,000,000.00

—IN WESTGATE—

52  
*Congratulations . . .*

**ON YOUR 100TH BIRTHDAY STETTIN**

---

*We are Proud to Have Grown With You.*

---

# **JOHN SLOAN**

*Specializing in:*

- TRUCKING
- TRENCHING
- EXCAVATING
- BULLDOZING
- CRANE SERVICE
- FILL DIRT
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- ROTTEN GRANITE
- SNOW REMOVAL
- COMPRESSOR RENTAL
- HEAVY EQUIPMENT HAULING



**DIAL VI 2-3833**

**2110 STEWART AVENUE**

**WEST ON HY. 29 IN STETTIN**



53

## Stettin--A Fast Growing Community

There are two population statistics from the 1950 federal census which indicate how rapid has been the growth of the Town of Stettin.

First, the Town of Stettin had more residents in 1950 than any other unit of government in Marathon County, outside of the City of Wausau.

Secondly, the area officially described as "Southwest Wausau," which includes portions of both the Towns of Stettin and Rib Mountain, was acknowledged to be the largest unincorporated area in the entire State of Wisconsin.

### Second to Wausau

Stettin's official 1950 census population is listed as 2,946 persons, which placed it ahead of all other townships and such units of government as the Village (now city) of Schofield. Weston Township ranked second with 2,179 population in 1950, which placed it far behind Stettin. Schofield had 1,948 citizens in that census year.

Stettin's official 1960 figure, just released as this book went to press, is 4,136, a gain of more than 40 per cent in the past 10 years. Figures for other townships were not available at press time, however.

Stettin's tremendous growth, particularly in the "Southwest Wausau" area, are evident from a comparison of 1940 and 1950 census figures. The township had 1,825 souls in 1940 and 2,946 in 1950, an increase of 60 per cent, which is remarkable, indeed. The growth from 1930 to 1940 was less spectacular, but the big buildup in the eastern end of the township had not commenced in that pre-war year. The 1930 population was 1,302, indicating, however, an increase of 40 per cent, which is also remarkable.

Stettin, of course, had been a township population leader in Marathon County ever since the township was organized in 1860. Unfortunately, figures could not be found for the first 15 years of the township's existence.

### 909 in 1875

However, in 1875, the Town of Stettin was reported to have 909 residents, including 479 men and 430 women. In that year, only the City of Wausau, with a population of 2,820, and the Town of Berlin, with 1,124 persons, were reported to have a greater population among the units of government within Marathon County.

However, the 1875 figure, quoted in the book, "History of Marathon County," was from a state census and may have been inaccurate. At any rate, the federal census in 1880 listed only 684 population for Stettin.

By the start of the 20th century, Stettin's popu-



Old-time pop wagon pulls up to Stettin picnic. Standing next to wagon is Albert Fehlhaber.



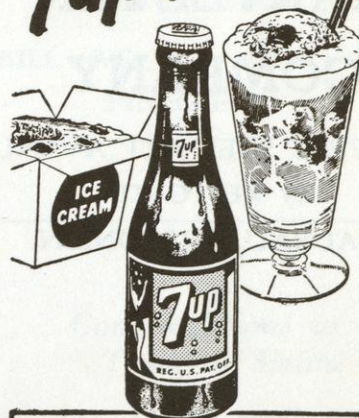
**Forecast: bright and smiley faces**

**When you serve this double treat**

**Take 7-Up, your favorite ice cream...**

**And there's a team that's hard to beat!**

enjoy a  
**7-Up "Float"**



Put two scoops of ice cream (or sherbet) in a glass, and pour chilled 7-Up gently down the side.

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**GEORGE ELBE**

**PROGRESSING WITH STETTIN**

# RAYBERN ELECTRIC SERVICE



YOUR DEPENDABLE  
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR



*Congratulations  
The Town of Stettin  
on  
Its 100th Birthday*

## INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY

1819 WEST STEWART AVENUE  
IN WESTGATE  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN



*McCormick Farm Store*

*International Motor Trucks*

*McCormick Farm Equipment*

57  
lation had grown to 1,110, which certainly was not a spectacular growth for a 20-year period. The 1900 to 1910 period saw an increase of only 43, from 1,110 to 1,153. The following decade witnessed an increase of 199 to 1,352 persons in 1920.

The 1920-30 decade witnessed the only population decline which Stettin has ever experienced. The count dropped from 1,352 in 1920 to 1,302 in 1930. However, the substantial increases in the three decades since that time seem to indicate that Stettin is heading for its most spectacular growth in the near future.

### *Vote Against Lincoln*

While no population figures were available for 1860, the year in which the township was formed, reports indicate that a total of 56 ballots were cast in the Town of Stettin in the presidential election of that year. The surprising results show Abe Lincoln absorbing a sound thrashing from his opponent, Stephen A. Douglas, by a count of 54 to 2. In 1884, Stettin cast 153 ballots, 128 for Cleveland and 25 for Blaine.

Marathon County's total population in 1850, the year in which the county was formed, totaled 489. And this included all of the area between the county's present southern boundaries and Upper Michigan on the north.

Subsequent figures show 2,892 souls in the county in 1860, 2,885 in 1870.

### *Dealer In*

*Sinclair Products & Goodyear Tires*

LUBRICATION

WASHING

WAXING

WHEEL BALANCING

*We Service Your Car Like Our Own*

## ART TILDEN SERVICE CENTER

2007 STEWART AVE.

WESTGATE

PHONE VIking 2-1288

BRAKE

IGNITION

EXHAUST SYSTEM

AUTO, TRANSMISSION

} *Service*

DRIVE WITH CARE -- BUY SINCLAIR

## Stettin Today

The fine new Town of Stettin Office Building and Garage are evidence of the progressive spirit which has moved its citizens to action in recent years. The office was completed in 1958 and the garage was built in 1947 and 1948. They are located at Churchill Lane and Stettin Drive.

Another indication of Stettin's advance in a century is its assessed valuation, now reported to be in excess of \$10.5 million.

Stettin currently boasts about 900 residential homes and 177 farm homes. There are reportedly 134 mercantile establishments of one type or another, plus seven manufacturing concerns.

A unique feature of the township -- and an attractive one -- is the naming of all of its town roads and the marking of the roads with attractive metropolitan-type street signs. There are such interesting names as Sunny Hill Lane, High View Lane and Evergreen Drive.

Another example of a group of citizens picking themselves up by their own bootstraps was the formation of the Stettin Sanitary District No. 1 in 1957, covering the area from the city limits to 24th Avenue, including the Disbrow Addition. A \$325,000 project licked this problem and the sewage unit went in operation last year. A gravity flow system is used, with a lift station pump to pump the sewage into the Wausau sewage system.

Stettin Township currently has three voting precincts. They are located in the Town Office, Precinct No. 1; Lone Pine School, Precinct No. 2, and Stettin Mutual Building, Precinct No. 3.

The township collected a total of \$326,703 in taxes in the past year. This total included \$250,955 in real estate and personal property tax, the remainder coming on tax levy and other charges for the Stettin Sanitary District No. 1.

The present Town of Stettin officers are:

Raymond H. Ott, chairman; Ervin Lodholz and A. J. Dix, supervisors; Le Roy Rusch, clerk; Edwin Radant, treasurer; Joseph W. Seidl, assessor; Walter Halkoski, justice of the peace; Herbert Wolfgram, building inspector and sanitary inspector; Mrs. Andrew R. Zorowski, health officer; William Kohn, weed commissioner; Franklin Kopplin, William Waraksa and Franklin W. Helke, constables, and Clarence Haack, dump caretaker. Ervin Lodholz is also in charge at the Town Garage and has been doing highway work for 22 years. Edwin Radant has been town treasurer for 30 years. Ray Ott has been chairman for eight years, while Joe Seidl has been assessor for six years.

COMPLIMENTS OF

## Wisconsin LP-Gas

801 S. 22ND AVE.  
WESTGATE  
PHONE VI 8-7200

*Cooking, Drying, Water Heating*

*Heating for*

FARM -- HOME -- INDUSTRY

*Bulk or Bottle*

## George Dalsky

CONCRETE WORK

*Sidewalks -- Driveways -- Porches  
Steps -- Floors*

2808 HUBBILL AVE.

VI 5-2626

PINECREST

*Congratulations to  
Town of Stettin*

## Modern Builders & Suppliers

COMPLETE BUILDING SERVICE

WEST ON HIGHWAY 29 -- ROUTE NO. 4  
WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

56



*Approaching Stettin's Westgate Shopping Center from the West on Highway 29.*

*Pathfinder Mobile Homes & Travel Trailers*

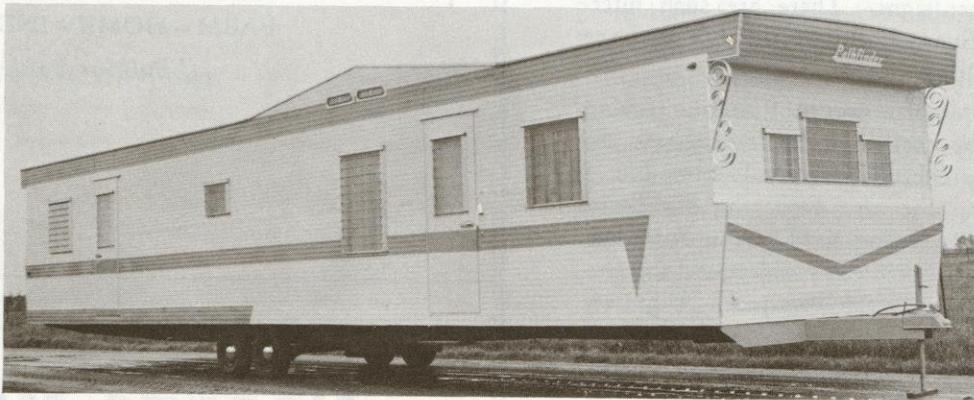
*We*

*Buy*

*Sell*

*or*

*Trade*



*We*

*Repair*

*Remodel*

*Paint*

**PARTS -- SUPPLIES -- HITCHES**

**COMPLETE CAR HOOKUP**

**ALLEN MOBILE HOMES**

**HWY. 29 WEST**

**PHONE VI 8-8282**

**WAUSAU, WIS.**

*Compliments of the*

**WHITE EAGLE CLUB**

**HIGHWAY 29 WEST**

*Good Drinks -- Fine Foods*

*Al Hintz --Lenley Janke*

*Congratulations on Your 100th Anniversary*

**N. C. RUSCH & SONS**

**BULK MILK TRUCKING SERVICE**

**ROUTE 4**

**WAUSAU, WISCONSIN**



*Our Best Wishes to All the Citizens of The Town of Stettin  
On This Anniversary*

## **HARTWIG MANUFACTURING CORP.**

*Structural Steel Fabricating  
Production and Precision Machining*

ROSEMARY LANE, WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

PHONE: VIKING 8-7137

Erwin A. Hartwig  
*President*

Robert R. Hartwig  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

CONGRATULATIONS FROM

### **Huehnerfuss Bar**

3 MILES WEST OF WAUSAU

ON HIGHWAY 29

*Save on Complete*

- ★ Wreck Rebuilding
- ★ Painting
- ★ Glass Installation
- ★ Minor Bumping Touchup
- ★ Radiator Work
- ★ Mobile Home Painting
- ★ For All Makes of Cars

*at*

**LARRY'S BODY SHOP**

Hwy. 29 W. WAUSAU

### **SUNBEAM GARDENS & NURSERY**

- *Select Nursery Stock*
- *Lawn & Garden Supplies*
- *Landscape Planning*

28th Ave. at Hy. 29 -- West  
Opposite Centennial Grounds

—IN WESTGATE—



*One of the strangest sights in these parts is the Buffalo herd at Kolbe Brothers, Town of Stettin.*

# KOLBE BROTHERS LUMBER COMPANY

ROUTE NO. 4

WAUSAU, WISCONSIN

PHONE VI 5-3838

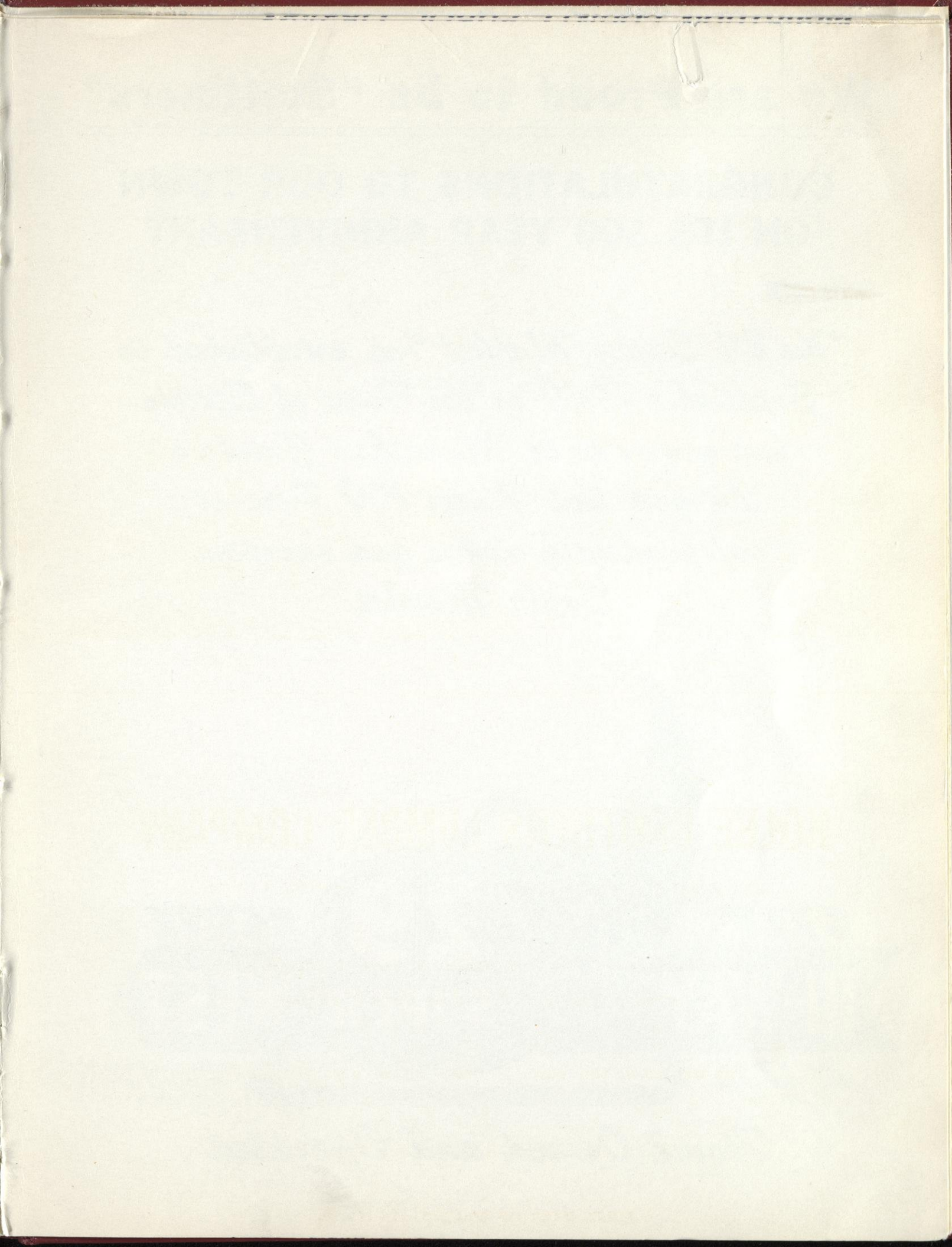
*Manufacturers of Northern Hemlock, Pine & Hardwoods.*

*Sawmill, Planing Mill & Kiln Lumber Drying*

THE ORIGINAL AND BEST. IT CAN'T BE BEAT BY THE WEST!

**We Supply All Kinds of Building Materials**

5 MILES WEST OF WAUSAU ON HY. 29



**We are Proud to be "Stettiners"**

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR TOWN  
ON ITS 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

APR 24 1963

*The 29 Super Market Inc. established in  
September 1949 in the Town of Stettin  
has grown to be Marathon County's  
Largest and Finest 100 Percent  
independently owned and operated  
Super Market.*



*Home Owned and Operated*

WESTGATE SHOPPING CENTER