

Rietbrock centennial: 1880-1980.

[Wisconsin]: [publisher not identified], 1980

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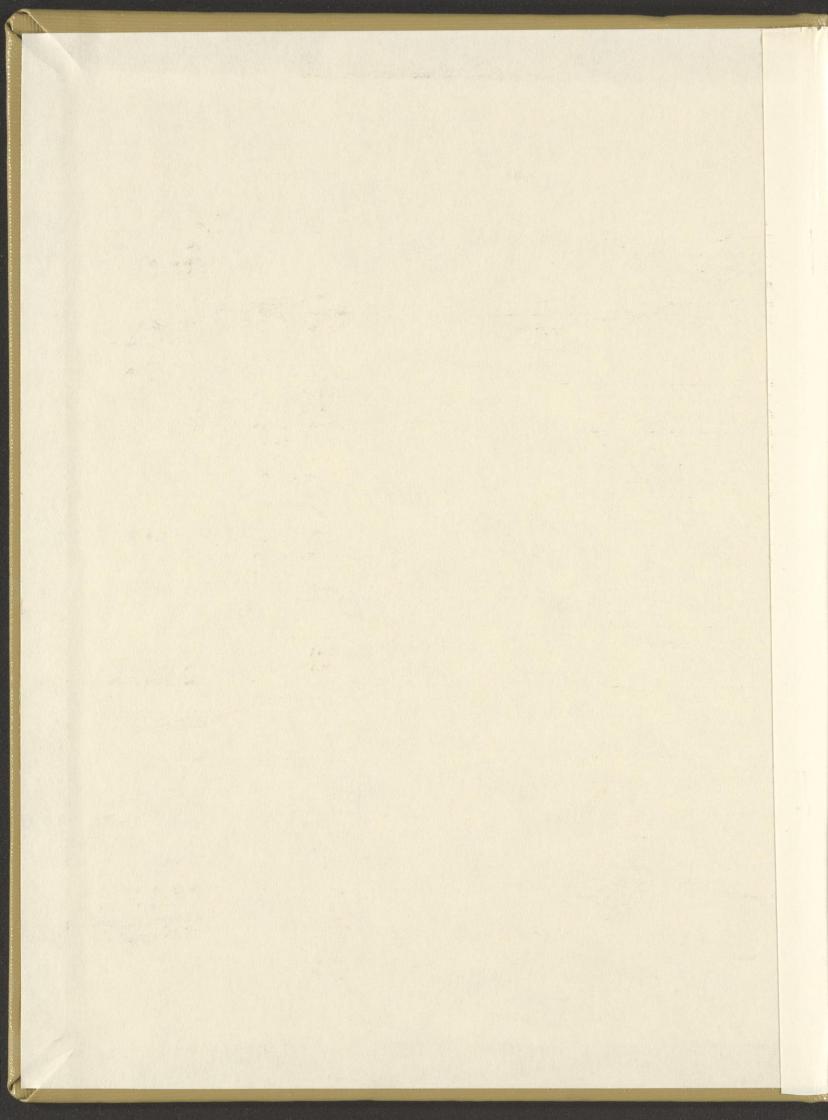
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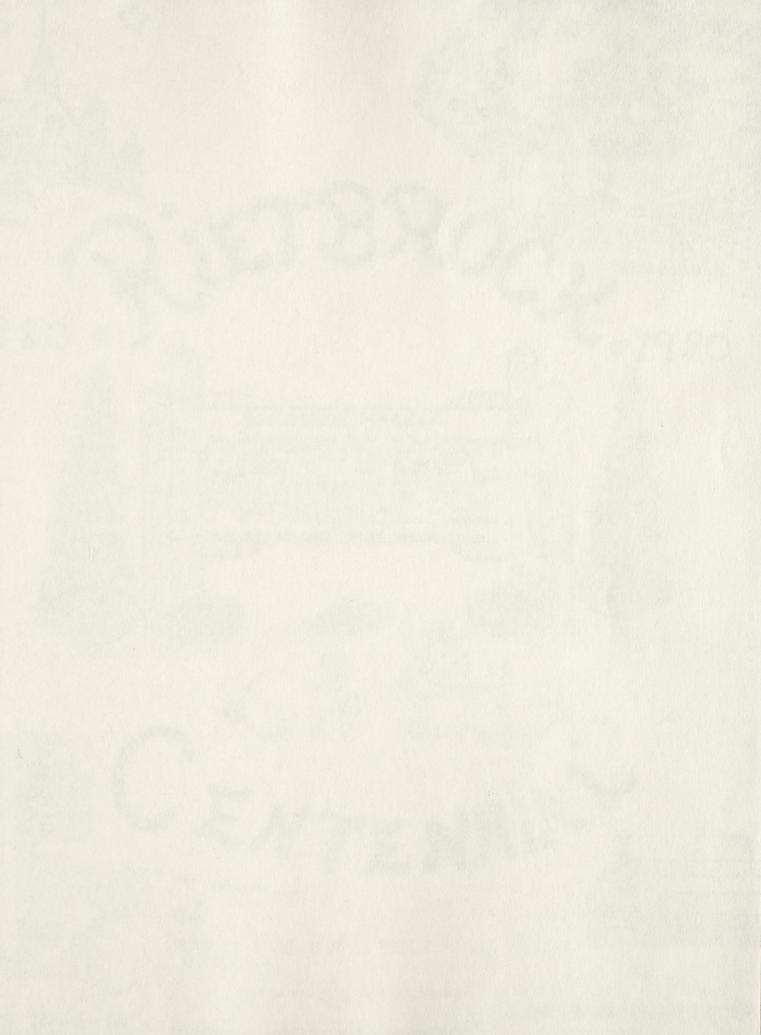
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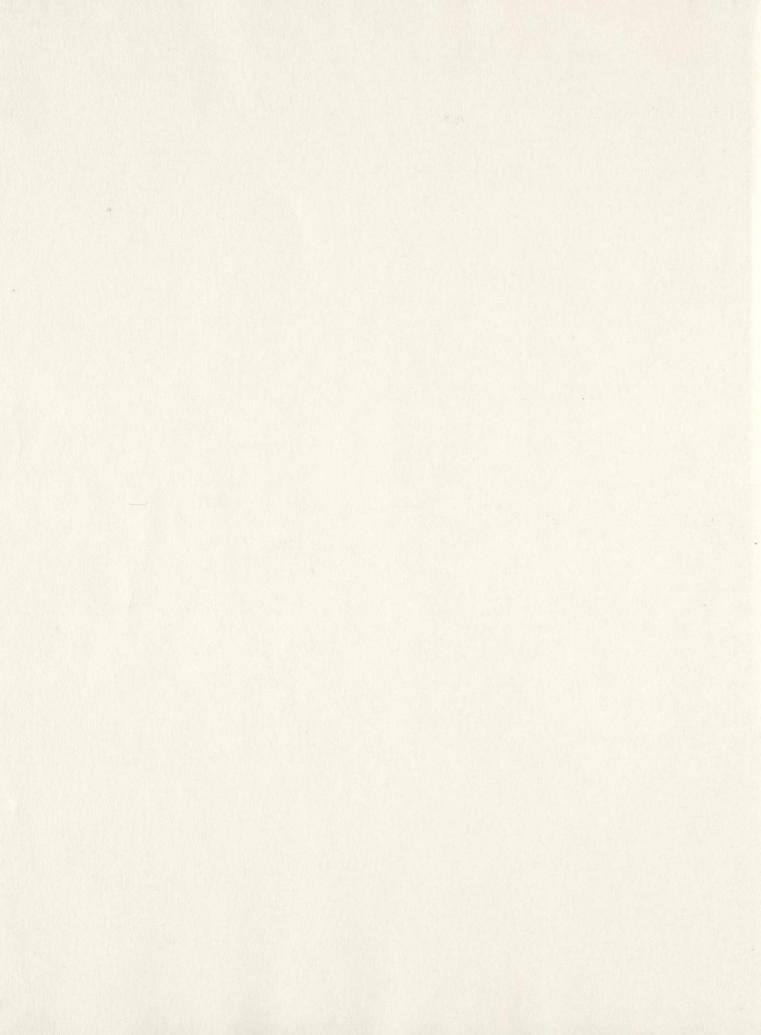
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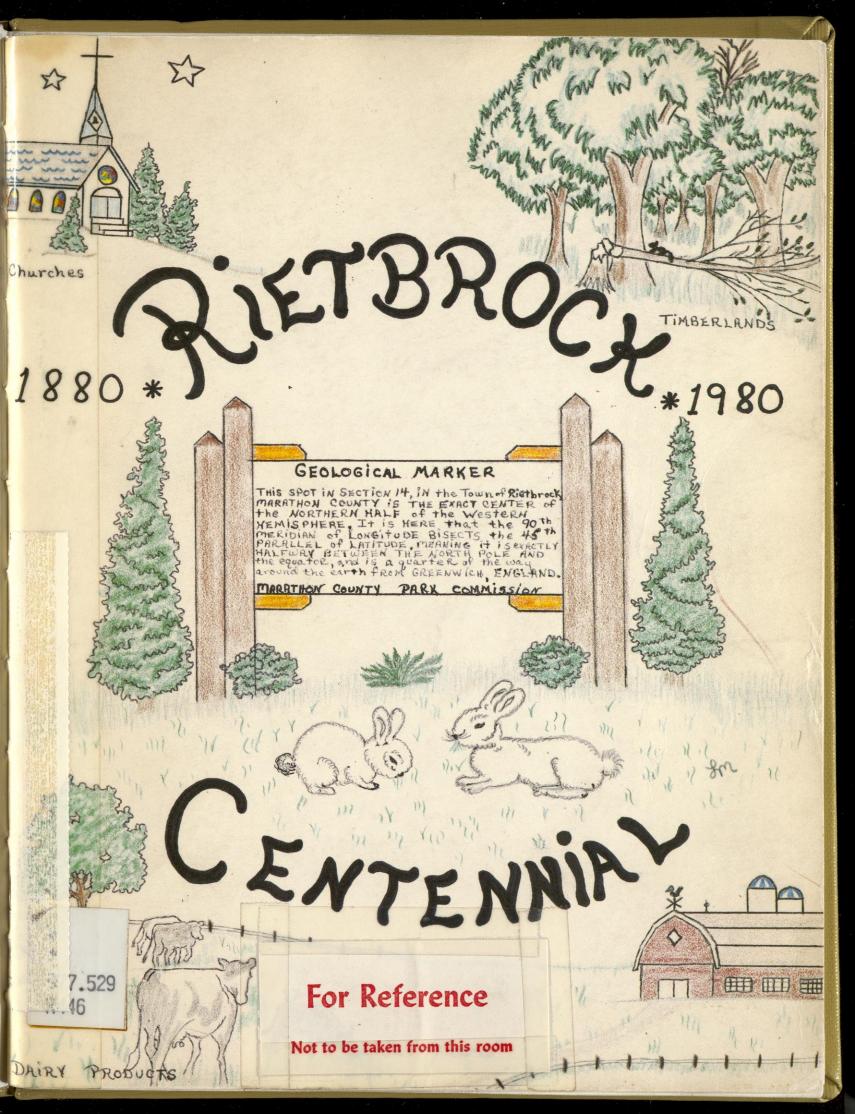
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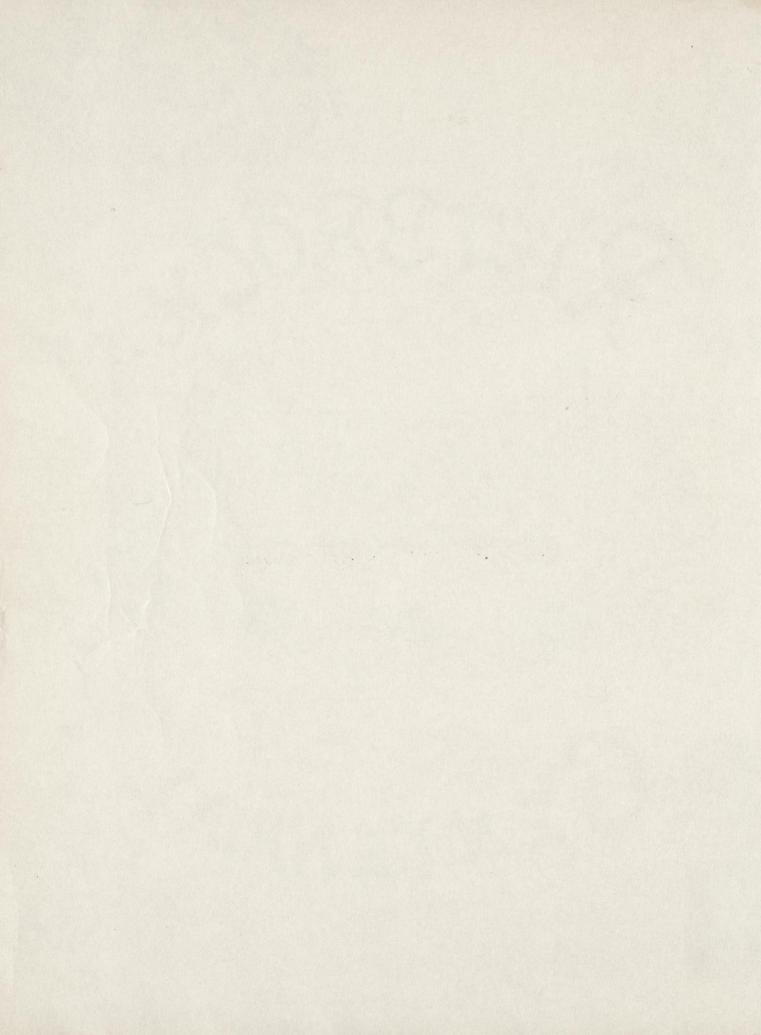
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We, the citizens of the town of Rietbrock, hereby dedicate the 1980 Centennial book to the grand-daughter of our benevolent founder Frederick Rietbrock, Mrs. Christine Plisch of Athens, Wisconsin and to all other living descendants of this prominent man.

MARATHON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY



Forward

1980 - brings us an opportunity to celebrate the 100th birthday of our town. We wish to dedicate this booklet to the living relatives of our prominent founder—FRED RIETBROCK.

With sincere and grateful thanks we acknowledge the effort of the many individuals who so willingly furnished pictures, valuable information and biographies of our early settlers, for without help this summary of Rietbrock's existence would have been impossible.

We also acknowledge the following reference for their assistance:

Wausau Public Library, Marathon County Courthouse, The ''HISTORY OF MARATHON COUNTY'' published in 1913 by Judge Louis Marchetti,

Christine Plisch – granddaughter of Fred Rietbrock

The Book of Happiness

Wausau Record Herald,

Rib Mountain Echoes,

Mr. Ben Straub for developing the photos for this book. Your cooperation and helpfulness has made our book more meaningful and complete.

Rev. Msgr. William M. Braun for various information,

Clerk's Record Books preserved by former Town Officials,

Present Town Officials interests and actions which led to this Centennial observance,

A special "Thank You" to Miss Laurie Matysik, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Myron Matysik for designing the lovely work of art on the cover. Laurie recently graduated as a Medical Assistant from the Mid-State Technical Institute at Marshfield, Wisconsin.

If we have inadvertently omitted anyone or anything—we apologize. It was certainly not done intentionally but due to lack of information received from citizens contacted.

We believe you will find this booklet interesting and informative and we hope it will please you all.

The Committee Patricia Berg, Robert Riske Kenneth Reuter, George Sommer Beverly Witucki

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HISTORICAL WRITERS Adela Nowicki, and Pearl Kolpack

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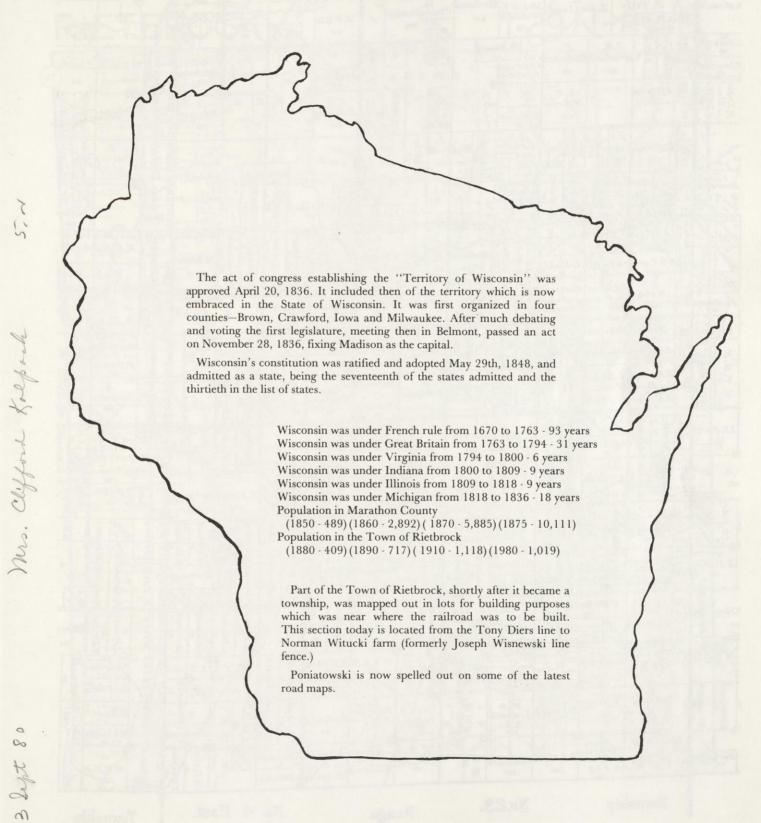
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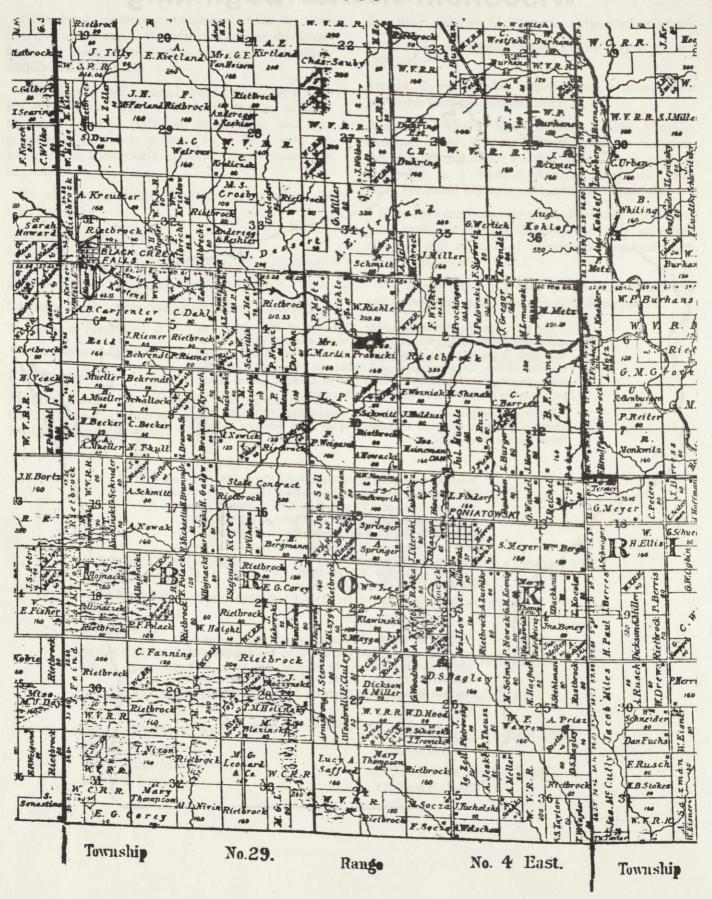
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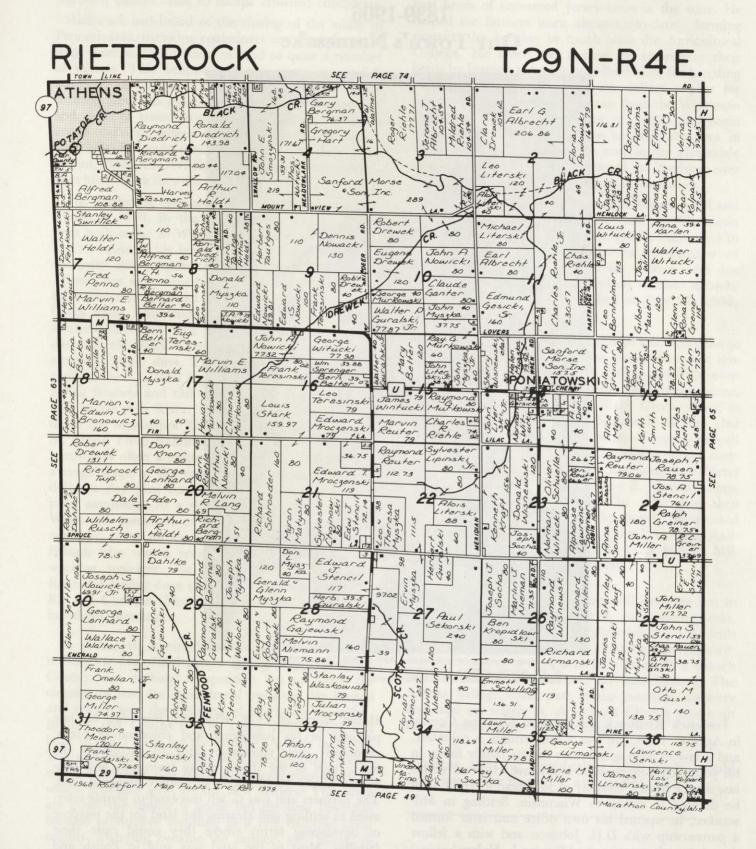
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MASTER OF CEREMONIES Clifford Kolpack

Wisconsin In The Beginning

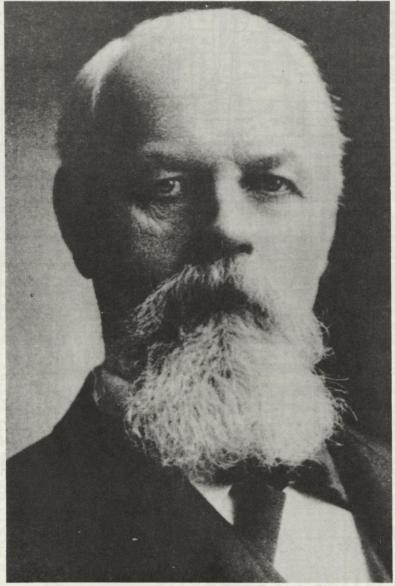






Frederick Rietbrock

1839-1906 Our Town's Namesake



Fred Rietbrock was born in Milwaukee, April 6, 1838. Through his efforts many of the original pioneers of Poniatowski came from Milwaukee to settle in Marathon County. He died July 23, 1906 in Athens, WI.

Frederick Rietbrock was born in Kenosha County in April 6, 1839. He was a lumberman, a colonizer, and a lawyer who spent years on the family farm. In his young days he chose to study law. He received his law degree from University of Michigan in 1865; then he decided to return to Wisconsin. Settling in Milwaukee, he opened his own office and later formed a partnership with D.H. Johnson and with a fellow Ann Arbor classmate named Pierson L. Halsey.

In a short time Rietbrock became prominent in legal and politicial circles of the city. His immigrant father had been one of the pioneer settlers of Kenosha County in late 1830. The settlement of Rietbrock &

Halsey began in 1878. Rietbrock interested his law partners in his lumbering and colonization plans; eventually their enterprise came to encompass the major part of the three county townships and controlled nearly 50,000 acres of heavily timbered land. The partners aim was to sell this land to people interested in settling and clearing the land for the purpose of developing farms where they could raise their families. Most of the land was sold to Polish and German immigrants who were having difficulty finding employment or land in southern Wisconsin. These people, who had left their homeland for various reasons, came because the land was plentiful and

cheap. Some came to avoid military service, which was compulsory in Germany for young men over eighteen. Others came to escape crowded conditions.

Rietbrock had heard of the closing of the mines in Pennsylvania, throwing coalminers out of work; so he went there and sold tracts of land to quite a number of miners. This venture did not prove successful, however, as the cold climate plus the hard job of clearing land was more than they had bargained for; and most of them returned to the mines. When a group of Polish settlers wanted to name their village after him, he made them a speech about their great patriot, PONIATOWSKI, and suggested they name it after him; which they did.

The lumbering operation had been chosen and purchased in 1879. By the early 1880's, a railroad had been built as far as Wausau, but Rietbrock wanted a shorter route to his land. He applied to the railroad company for a spur to Black Creek Falls (now Athens) but was turned down. So in 1890-1891, he built his own railroad from Abbotsford to Black Creek Falls. This enabled him to get his lumber to markets. After he built a saw mill he erected three dams on the Black Creek-which was a respectable stream in those days. This provided a means which enabled them to float logs down to the mill with the spring freshets and raft their lumber down from the mill to the Rib River. From there lumber went on down the Mississippi River enroute to the market at St. Louis. From standing timber to market the cash return was often a matter of two or three years. The average wage in the early 1880's amounted to one dollar a day plus board, with the Rietbrock Company assuming .50 a day per capita for the latter. When the operation of the sawmill needed a good manager, it was turned over to his son-in-law William Erbach who was a very conscientious and a hardworking manager. He was married to Marianna Rietbrock having three children; William A., Frederick R., and Christne (Mrs. Franklin Plisch) who resides in Athens, presently.

As he himself admitted Rietbrock was instrumental in bringing over 7000 people into Western Marathon County, not seeking competition but to hurry the clearing of land for agricultural purposes. He invited and encouraged the building of two more sawmills -Braun's and Chesak's. The Ceres Roller Mill was built to grind meal for the farmers. A Hub and Plug Mill was started; a Heading Mill manufactured barrel staves and heads; two Brick Kilns were opened, all of which provided jobs for the new settlers. The Mills are gone; the timber is gone; but the dear land has become productive resulting in a rich dairying community. Dairying became the farmers gold mine. A creamery or a cheese factory marked a cross-road section every few miles. Rietbrock moved to Athens and soon became involved in the development of the agricultural community.

In 1883, he established the Helendale Farm north of the village of Athens, where he developed one of the best herds of registered Jersey cows in the state. He helped the farmers learn about up-to-date - farming practices by keeping in touch with the Agricultural College. He aided the farmers in improving their herds by loaning them his pure-bred bulls for breeding purposes. He charged them ten dollars a year for this service. He hired a dairyman from the Wisconsin College of Agriculture to come to Athens and begin regular butterfat testing of the herds in the area in 1905. "Teksa Sunbeam", - a cow in the Helendale Herd, was the first of any breed to produce over 1,000 pounds of butterfat in a year in the nation.

When Frederick Rietbrock's health began to fail and he could no longer stand the cold of Wisconsin winters, he moved to California; but he continued to keep contact with the villagers. In the summer of 1906, he returned to Athens for a visit with his daughter, Marianna, and son-in-law, William Erbach. Here he took gravely ill and died on July 22, 1906, at the age of 68.

Out of love and respect for the man who had done so much for the settlers and the community, the employees at the Rietbrock Mill laid a carpet of evergreen branches all the way from the Erbach home, which stood on a hill across Black Creek, down to the siding of the railroad he had built. Rough clad loggers, lumber-mill workers, nearby farmers, as well as every businessman in the community stood bareheaded while the village priest and long-time friend of Fred Rietbrock, Father Anthony E. Muehlenkamp, delivered the funeral sermon. The coffin was then carried by his men, down the green pinescented path to an official parlor car, of the Wisconsin Railroad, that waited at the depot to carry him to Milwaukee where his body was interred.

The memory of this great man will never be lost in the community of Athens and the surrounding areas. He left beautiful footprints of generosity on the sands of time. Among his many gifts of land to the neighboring communities is a 20 acre plot on which a church and cemetery at Poniatowski are now located. The Athens Village Park, part of the cemetery property and land on which St. Anthony's Church was built are also memories of his generosity.

Athens and the neighboring communities would never have come into being without him.

Mankind are always happier for having been happy; so that if you make them happy now, you make them happy twenty years hence by the memory of it.

Sydney Smith - "America"

History of The Town of Rietbrock

The town of Rietbrock is situated in the northwestern part of Marathon County. Highway 29 borders it to the south, County Trunk H. to the east, Highway 97 on the west, and east Townline Road separates it from the town of Halsey to the north. According to the soil conservation department of the county, Rietbrock contains a variety of soils but most of the land is well suited for agriculture. The terrain of the land is hilly and its chief body of water is Black Creek, which empties into Rib River. In seeking information, it was noted that the granite beds in the Mosinee area lay at one time in the region, but the glaciers swept the huge deposits of granite southward. The glaciers are also responsible for leaving an unbelievable amount of soil, including white quartz, on top of a mountain range in this area and, besides this, tests showed a gravel pit in the area to be a mile deep, all evidence of the glacier period.

In the 1870's, the country was undergoing serious problems so a law firm in Milwaukee, including Fred Rietbrock, Pierson L. Halsey and Judge Johnson decided to buy up land owned by the Western Valley Central Railroad Company to use for possible settlement, to provide income for the unemployed and also to thin out the congested urban areas.

The settlement of the towns of Rietbrock and Halsey began in 1878. Founder Fred Rietbrock, of the Muwaukee law firm of Jonnson, Rietbrock and Halsey, colonized these towns and named a town after each of them. Up until 1879, this area was a part of Stettin. The Town of Stettin consisted of Township 29, Range 2 (Holton), 3 (Johnson), 4 (Rietbrock), 5 (Rib Falls), and 6 (Stettin). Holton separated itself from Stettin September 12, 1875, Rib Falls followed in 1877, Rietbrock on November 12, 1879, and Johnson on November 15, 1883.

Records from the Clerk's book of 1880 show the following:

"At a meeting of the Town Boards of Rib Falls and Rietbrock concerning the settlement between said towns, it could not be exactly ascertained which have been all the assets of said town of Rib Falls and therefore it was concluded by the two said Town Boards of Rib Falls and Rietbrock that the town treasurer of the Town of Rib Falls shall pay over to the Town of Rietbrock **one-third** of all the property credit, effects and assets now on hand or that shall be hereafter levied and collected upon the joint territory of said towns of Rib Falls and Rietbrock, according to the following order of the County Board of the County of Marathon, to wit:

The County Board of Supervisors of Marathon County do ordain as follows:

That the Town of Rib Falls consisting of Township

Twenty-nine (29) - Range four (4) and five (5) East - be and the same is hereby divided and all the territory embraced in Township Twenty-nine (29) North of Range four (4) East is hereby detached from the Town of Rib Falls and is hereby erected and created into a new town. Said Town shall be known under the name of RIETBROCK.

The first annual Town meeting in said new Town shall be held in the building known as the "COURT HOUSE", situated upon the North East of the North West Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Number fourteen (14) in Township Number Twenty-Nine (29) North of Range Number four (4) East".

The existing indebtedness of the present Town of Rib Falls shall be and the same is hereby divided pro rata according to the last assessment roll of the present Town of Rib Falls and all the property, credit, effects and assets now on hand and to be hereafter levied and collected upon the joint territory of said Town are hereby and shall be divided between said old Town of Rib Falls and the new Town hereby erected, pro rata, according to said assessment roll and the ordinary expenses only for maintaining the Town Government shall be borne out of the Common Fund now on hand and hereafter collected.

On motion the meeting adjourned sine die. Dated at Rib Falls July 19th A.D. 1880.

Supervisors of the Town of Rib Falls C. Hanke A. Heise Wm. Harder

Supervisors of the Town of Rietbrock Peter Teusz Jacob Myszka Anton Jozwiak

In search of rich farmland, the first settlers being of Polish nationality bought land from Rietbrock on favorable terms becoming lumberjacks, worked in the sawmill of Rietbrock, cleared the land of rocks and started what has become a century of family farming. With the Johnson, Rietbrock and Halsey law firm advertising in Polish language newspapers other settlers from Pennsylvania and Poland soon arrived.

POLSKA KOLONIA ROLNIGZA

FROMATOWSKI W MARATHON CO. WISCONSIN.

FROMATOWSKI W MARATHON CO. WISCONSIN.

FROMATOWSKI W MARATHON CO. WISCONSIN.

RIETBROCK & HALSEY, Właskiele.

Alhens, Nis.

FOLISH LAND COLONIES

*FONIATOWSKI W MARATHON CO. WISCONSIN

Good Leei-Polish Church & Neighborhood Good Roads
Valualis Sinkerland Co. WISCONSIN

Good Leei-Polish Church & Neighborhood Good Roads
Valualis Sinkerland RETBROCK & HALSEY, Owners

Athens, Wis
Given by Miss Della Lochen for the Gentennial Book

Given by Miss Della Lochen for the Gentennial Book

Among the early settlers were Peter Teusz; Ludwig Findorf; L. Schwager; M. Milkowski; Bloczynski; Lukowicz; Hart; Retka; Myszka; Schwittlick; Nowicki; Kreft; Klawinski and others. Peter Teusz was the first chairman of the new town, and Ludwig Findorf and L. Schwager, who kept tavern and was the first postmaster, the name of the post office being "Poniatowski".

About the same time came Fred Bradfish, who settled in Township 29, range 5, east of Poniatowski, followed by the families of: Berres, Bergs, Brauns, Krells, Henricks, Meyers, Schaetzls and many others.

The population in the year of 1880 was 409, and at present we have a population of 1019.

The first voting place was held at the "Court House" in the village of Poniatowski from 1881 until 1887. The courthouse was then destroyed by fire, and voting was then held at District No. 3 (the White School House) at Poniatowski from 1887 to about 1924, when they were held at the John Wisnewski Hall. Here, they also held their town meeting until in the years of 1932 (or 1933) when they were held at the John Gesicki Hall, until the new Municipal Building was erected in 1977.

The Town of Rietbrock had four public schools, and one Catholic School. Records taken from the Clerk's book show that registration of school officers and terms of office took place as early as 1879. Jacob Myszka was the 1st Clerk of School Dist. No. 1 from Sept. 1878-Aug. 1881 and the first Director was Joseph Klawinski from Sept. 1878-1881.

In the 1930's and 1940's the public schools closed their doors, sending the children to public schools at Athens and Edgar - with the exception of the Holy Family Parochial School which remained open until June of 1970.

The Town in the 1880's had two creameries - one operated by Mathias Braun until he moved to Athens and one that was then located behind the Chesak Store and Saloon, but later was destroyed by fire and replaced by one built facing the road south of the saloon and store. In 1912, more factories were started, the Matysik's Cheese Factory at Schnappsville, a Marathon Creamery across from Heier's Corner (now Pioneer Bar), Bergs Cheese Factory (Cherry Grove) and Clover Belt. The Town of Rietbrock has a new Municipal Building built in 1977.

One Holy Family Catholic Church and the following businesses:

One General Merchandise Store, Tavern and dance hall-that of John R. Gesicki, Seven taverns, namely:

Tony and Charlene Zychowicz, owners of Tony and Charlene's

Frank Ziegel, owner of Detour Inn

Fred Bockhop, owner of Dew Come Inn

Walter and Annette Augustine, owners of Annette & Wally's

Mike and Rita Matysik, owners of Schnappsville

Leonard and Lena Platta, owners of Pioneer Bar Clarence and Rita Trzybiatowski, owners of Owl's Club Bonin Store & Locker - Joe Bonin

Snack Shack Eat Shoppe - Leonard and Shirley Lechleitner

Country Ceramics - Bev Stencil & Gayle Mauer Co-owners

Excavating, Trenching & Bulldozing -Nicholas Karlen

Carpenter & Contractor - Ervin Karlen Rietbrock Ready-Mix - Arlyn Stencil

Bob's Welding & Repair - Robert Scheelk

Ellenbecker Construction

Poniatowski Service Center - Kenneth and Marvin Reuter

Frank Omelian & Sons Sales & Service

Tractor & Equipment Dealer - Bronowicz Bros. Inc.

Ted Meier & Sons - Forest Products - Sawmill

Peter Nowicki's - Sawmill & Commercial Hauling Stencil Excavating - Joseph Stencil

Harvey Soczka - General Trucking Gravel - Forest Products - Lumber

Les Gauerke & Sons, Inc., L.P. Gas and Neuendorf Freight and Gravel

Dennis Kroening - Cattle Trucking - Dealer Sylvester Lipinski Jr. - Cattle Trucking Kenneth Reuter - Milk hauler & Gravel



Proceedings of First Town Meetings

Taken From The Records April 6, 1880 - April 5, 1881

Minutes of Proceedings of the annual Town Meeting of the new organized Town of Rietbrock in the County of Marathon held on the 6th day of April A.D. 1880 for the purpose of electing the Town Officers and transacting the general Town business.

At 1 o'clock Ludwig Findorff, acting as Inspector of Election called the meeting to order. He then stated in short what business is to be transacted. The question then was put up how many mills road tax shall be raised. Motion was then made and carried that Seven Mills road tax shall be raised for the ensuing year. As the roads are in a poor condition a motion was made and carried that Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars shall be raised "Special Road Tax" for the ensuing year. Motion was next made and carried, that Two Hundred and Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars shall be raised for the ensuing year as "Incidental Fund". Next motion was made and carried that One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars shall be raised for the next year for the Town School Fund, and motion made and carried that Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars shall be raised to be known as "Town Poor Fund".

The meeting then proceeded to elect viva voce the Path master for the different Road Districts for the next year.

Peter Teusz was elected Path Master for Road dist. No. 16

Jacob Myszka was elected Path Master for Road dist.

J. Murkowski was elected Path Master for Road dist. No. 12

Andrew Jozwiak was elected Path Master for Road dist. No. 11

Motion was then made and carried that the next annual Town Meeting shall be held in the School house in the School district No. 5 Town of Rietbrock. Next motion was made and carried that all money delinquent road money shall be worked out by contract, let by the Town Board and paid out by the T. Treasurer.

The polls were then opened to receive the ballots.

Inspectors,
Peter Teusz
L. Findorff
Wm. Bergs

Minutes of Proceeding of a town meeting held on the 10th day of April A.D. 1880 for the purpose of having the Town Officers receive the T. Treasurer's bond and make contracts with its Assessor and Town clerk.

All members present. The chairman stated its business to be transacted. All the officers have been sworn in, except L. Findorff, J. of the Peace. Agree-

ment was then made between the town board and Jacob Murkowski, that he shall receive for making the assessment in the Town of Rietbrock, for the ensuing year, truly and faithfully, the Sum of Forty (\$40.00) Dollars, to be paid out of the Incidental Fund, not otherwise appropriated. The Town Clerk shall receive for the work belonging to the Town Clerk's office, The Sum of Seventy-five (\$75.00) Dollars, and for all other extra work he shall be paid extra. The Town Treasurers bond was then examined and approved by the chairman.

The board adjourned sine die.

Supervisors, Peter Teusz

County of Marathon

Town of Rietbrock

J. Myszka A. Jozwiak

Proceedings of a town meeting held on the 23rd day of April A.D. 1880 for the purpose of dividing the Town of Rietbrock into Road districts, changing the names of the School districts and making out the Road Warrants. All members present. The board then proceeded to sub-divide the Town of Rietbrock into Six Road districts and caused the following order to be made out to wit.

We the Supervisors of said town, do hereby order, that said town is hereby divided into Six (6) road districts as follows:

I. - Road district number one (1) shall include Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11 and 12. All the inhabitants liable to work on highways residing in said district are hereby assigned to said road district number one (1).

II. Road district number two (2) shall include Sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9. All the inhabitants liable to work on highways residing in said district are hereby assigned to said road district number two (2).

III. - Road district number three (3) shall include Section 13, 14, N1/2 or 23 and N1/2 of 24. All the inhabitants liable to work on highways residing in said district are hereby assigned to said road district number three (3).

IV. Road district number four (4) shall include Sections 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, W1/2 of 21 and W1/2 of 22. All inhabitants liable to work on highways residing in said district are hereby assigned to said road district number four (4).

V. Road district number five (5) shall include Sections the S1/2 of 21, the S1/2 of 22, the S1/2 of 23, S1/2 of 24, the W1/2 of 27, Sections 28, 29, 30, 31 and 32. All persons liable to work on highways residing in said district are hereby assigned to said road district number five (5).

VI. - Road district number six (6) shall include Sections

25, 26, E1/2 or 27, Sec. 33, 34, 35 and 36. All the inhabitants liable to work on highways residing in said district are hereby assigned to said road district number six (6).

The names of the School District have been changed by the following order, to wit.

County of Marathon
Town of Rietbrock

It is hereby ordered and determined that the W1/2 of Section 2 and Sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and the W1/2 of Sec. 11, the N1/2 of Sec. 15, Sections 16, 17 and 18, known as School district No. 6 in the Town of Rib Falls, shall now be known as School district No. 2 in the Town of Rietbrock, and Sections 13, 14 and the S1/2 of Sec. 15, Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36, known as School district No. 5 in the Town of Rib Falls, shall now be known as School district No. 1 in the Town of Rietbrock. The Board next proceeded to make out the Road Warrants, a copy of which is on separate paper to be filed in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Board then adjourned sine die.

Supervisors, Peter Teusz J. Myszka A. Jozwiak

NOTE:

As the former Road districts have been changed and two new ones formed, it was necessary to appoint two path masters more in addition to the four elected at the annual Town meeting. The following persons are also path masters of the respective road districts.

Michael Lemanski, Road district No. 1. Andrew Jozwiak, Road district No. 2. John Bloczynski, Road district No. 3, Jacob Murkowski, Road district No. 4, Jacob Myszka, Road district No. 5, Peter Teusz, Road district No. 6.

Proceedings of a Town meeting held on the 3rd day of May A.D. 1880 for the purpose of granting Town license to Frank Jermann and dividing the work to be done in the several road districts.

All members present. Frank Jermann appeared personally and applied for Town license to keep a saloon, and it appearing to the Town board that there is no reason for refusing to grant the same, the following order was caused to be made out to wit.

County of Marathon Town of Rietbrock ss

Whereas Frank Jermann of said Town, has applied to the undersigned, town board of said Town of Rietbrock, for license to keep a saloon on the following descended premises, within said town to wit. On the NE corner of the NE1/4 of the SW1/4 of Sec. 14T. 29-R4 East, for the sale, in quantities less than one gallon, of strong, spirituous, malt or intoxicating liquors, to be drank on the premises or not to be drank on the premises.

It is therefore ordered, that to the said applicant

the license applied for by him be granted, upon his duly executing and filing the bond required by law, and upon his paying for such license the sum of Twenty Two Dollars to the Town Treasurer of said Town and that the Town Clerk detest and deliver such license to each applicant therefore, upon his producing to said clerk a receipt, showing, the payment to the Town Treasurer of the sum hereby required by him and upon his filing with said clerk the bond aforesaid.

The Town Board then divided the work on the roads among the several Road districts by the following order, to wit.

County of Marathon
Town of Rietbrock

We, the supervisors of said town, do hereby order that the overseer of highways in Road district between Sections 12 and 13, and that the overseer of highways in Road Dist. No. 3 shall do all work on the East half mile between Sec. 11 and 14, and that the overseer of highways in Road district No. 2 shall do all work on the East line of his district between Sec. 9 and 10, and on the South line of said district between Sec. 7 and 18 and the West 3/4 mile between Sec. 8 and 17, and that the overseer of highways in Road Dist. No. 4, shall do all work on the North line of his district the East 1/4 mile between Sec. 8 and 17 and 1 mile between Sec. 9 and 16 and on the South 1/2 mile between Sec. 14 and 15 and that overseer of highways in Road Dist. No. 3, shall do all work on the N1/2 mile between Sec. 14 and 15, and that overseer of highways in Road Dist. No. 5 shall do all work between Sec. 23 and 26, on the South 1/2 mile between Sec. 27 and 28 and the East 1/4 mile between Sec. 28 and 33, and that overseer of highways on Road dist. No. 6 shall do all work on the W3/4 mile between Sec. 28 and 33 and on the 1 mile between Sec. 24 and 25.

Given under our hands this 3rd day of May A.D. 1880.

The Board then adjourned sine die.

Supervisors, Peter Teusz J. Myszka A. Jozwiak

At a meeting of the Boards of the Towns of Rib Falls and Rietbrock held on the 7th day of June A.D. 1880 at Rib Falls, in regard to settlement between said Towns it was agreed, that the roads on the Range line between Ranges 5 and 4 being also the Townline between said Towns shall be worked and kept in repair as follows, to wit. The first one half mile running South from the Townline between Towns 29 and 28. And it is hereby agreed, that in case there should be ever necessary to build a bridge across the Black Creek on said Range line between Ranges 5 and 4 the respective Town of Rietbrock and Rib Falls each shall pay the half of what it will cost. One motion meeting adjourned sine die.

Supervisor of the Town of Rib Falls

C. Hanke A. Heise Wm. Harder Supervisors of the Town of Rietbrock P. Teusz

Jacob Myszka A. Jozwiak

Municipal Town Hall Of The Town Of Rietbrock



With the establishment of a town government comes the need for a meeting place. Like most of the towns in Wisconsin, these places were usually small halls owned by local tavern keepers. When the Town of Rietbrock was newly organized it did hold its meetings for the first few years in the "courthouse" in Poniatowski. Later it rented halls which continued up to 1976. In 1976, then Chairman Glenn Greiner brought up the need for a building to house the town's machinery and possibly include a hall. The citizens at the annual meeting voted to build a combination hall and garage. Land was bought from George Wisnewski, and after discussing the bids of several contractors, Urban Steel Builders were contracted. The structure measures one hundred twenty-five feet in length with the width being fifty feet. The hall comprises about one-third of the total area. The hall serves not only as a meeting place for the electorate but is used for social events by residents as well as those outside the town. It has also been used as a classroom for conducting extension classes for the North Central Technical Institute.



Town Of Rietbrock Is Created July 18, A.D. 1880

At a meeting of the Town Boards of Rib Falls and Rietbrock concerning the settlement between said towns, it could not be exactly ascertained which have been all the assets of said town of Rib Falls and therefore it was concluded by the two said Town Boards of Rib Falls and Rietbrock that the town treasurer of the town of Rib Falls, shall pay over to the town of Rietbrock **one third** of all the property credit, effects and assets now on hand or that shall be hereafter levied and collected upon the joint territory of said towns of Rib Falls and Rietbrock, according to the following order of the county Board, of the County of Marathon, to wit.

The County Board of Supervisors of Marathon County do ordain as follows:

That the Town of Rib Falls consisting of Township Twenty-nine (29) Range four (4) and five (5) East be and the same is hereby divided and all the territory embraced in Township Twenty-nine (29) North of Range four (4) East is hereby detached from the Town of Rib Falls and is hereby erected and created into a new town. Said Town shall be known under the name of Rietbrock.

The first annual Town meeting in said new Town shall be held in the building known as the "Court House" situated upon the N East of the North West Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Number fourteen (14) in Township number Twenty-Nine (29) North of Range Number four (4) East.

The existing indebtedness of the present Town of Rib Falls shall be and the same is hereby divided prorata according to the last assessment of the present Town of Rietbrock, and all the property, credit, effects and assets now on hand and to be hereafter to be levied and collected upon the joint territory of said Town are hereby and shall be divided between said old Town of Rib Falls and the new Town hereby erected, pro rata, according to said assessment roll and the ordinary expenses only for maintaining the Town Government shall be borne out of the Common fund now on hand and hereafter collected.

As there was a deficiency in the Town Treasury of the Town of Rib Falls during the office of Wm. Klatt of about One hundred and forty (\$140.00) Dollars and this sum had to be paid by the sureties of said Wm. Klatt, the Town Board of the Town of Rib Falls taking in considerating that the said Wm. Klatt died by accident, settled with the sureties to that effect, that they should pay only the part due to the Town of Rietbrock. The Town Board of Rietbrock then concluded to take only the sum of twenty-five (\$25.00) Dollars, which should be paid by the Town

Treasurer of Rib Falls to the said Town of Rietbrock. On motion the meeting adjourned sine die.

Dated at Rib Falls July 19th A.D. 1880.
Supervisors of the
Town of Rib Falls
Town of Rietbrock

C. Hanke P. Teusz
A. Heise J. Myszka
Wm. Harder A. Jozwiak

At a meeting of the Supervisors of the Town of Rietbrock on the 12th day of July A.D. 1880, contracts were let for building the following bridges. One bridge over the Black Creek between Sections 2 and 3. Contract taken by M. Milkowski for the sum of One Hundred and sixty-five (\$165.00) Dollars. Bridge to be completed in two months. One bridge south of the foregoing contract taken by Albert Nowacki for Seven Dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50). One bridge south of the foregoing between Sec. 2 and 3, contracts taken by J. Literski for thirty-one dollars and fifty cents (\$31.50).

On application made by six freeholders and residents of the Town of Rietbrock and six freeholders and residents of the Town of Hamburg to the town Boards of Rietbrock and Hamburg laying out the Town line between Townships 29 and 30 Range 4 East the said town Boards met at Kreutzersville Town 30 Range 4 East on the 24th day of July A.D. 1880. The proceedings of said meeting are recorded on pages 27 and 28. "ROAD RECORDS".

At a spectal meeting of the Supervisors of the town of Rietbrock the following order was issued by the Supervisors of the town of Rietbrock to wit.

Town of Rietbrock County of Marathon

We the undersigned supervisors of the town of Rietbrock deeming the tax raised at the last annual town meeting insufficient to pay the debts of said town to hereby order that a special tax of Two Hundred and fifty (\$250.00) Dollars shall be raised for the ensuing year A.D. 1881 on all taxable property personal and real in said town.

Dated Town Rietbrock the 23rd day of Nov. 1880.

Supervisors of the Town of Rietbrock

P. Teusz J. Myszka

A. Jozwiak

At a special meeting of the Supervisors of the town of Rietbrock for the purpose of granting town license to Martin and Joseph Chesak, the said supervisors of the town of Rietbrock issued the following order: County of Marathon Town of Rietbrock ss

Whereas Martin Chesak and Joseph Chesak of said town have applied to the undersigned, town board of said town of Rietbrock for license to keep a saloon on the following described premises within said town, viz. Beginning eight rods south of the center post of Sec. No. fourteen Town No. Twenty-nine North of Range number four East, running thence South on the quarter line of said Sec. No. fourteen twenty-one rods and five and one half of a foot, thence West sixty rods thence North twenty-one rods and five and one half of a foot thence east sixty roads to the place of beginning being a part of the North East quarter of the South West quarter of said Sec. No. fourteen and containing eight acres, for the sale in quantities less than one gallon of strong, spirituous, malt, ardent or intoxicating liquors, to be drank on the premises. It is therefore ordered that to the applicants the license applied for by them be granted, upon their duly executing and filing the bond required by law, and upon their paying for such license as follows:

And that the town Clerk attests and delivers such license to the applicants therefore, upon their producing to said clerk a receipt, showing the payment to the town treasurer of the sum hereby required of them, and upon their filing with said clerk the bond foresaid.

Given under our hands this 26th day of February A.D. 1881.

Supervisors of the Town of Rietbrock P. Teusz J. Myszka

Minutes of Proceedings of the annual Town Meeting, Town of Rietbrock, held at Poniatowski, on the fifth day of April A.D. 1881.

The polls have been opened in the forenoon and votes received till 12 o'clock. Then the meeting adjourned for one hour according to law. At one o'clock, the chairman called the meeting to order and on motion the Town Clerk read the annual financial report for the year commencing April 6th A.D. 1880 and ending April 5th A.D. 1881. Motion than was made and carried, that the sum of Three hundred and Fifty (\$350.00) Dollars shall be raised for the Incidental Town Fund. Motion made and carried that Two Hundred and Fifty (\$250.00) Dollars shall be raised for the Town Road Fund. Motion made and carried that the sum of One Hundred and Fifty (\$150.00) Dollars shall be raised for the Town School Fund. Motion made and carried that the sum of Fifty (\$50.00) Dollars shall be raised for the Town Poor Fund. Motion made and carried that Ten Mills on the Dollar shall be raised as road tax. The proposition for borrowing the sum of One Thousand Dollars for road purposes was voted down.

The polls then were opened to receive the ballots. The Statement of the elector Town Officers, County Judge and Judges of Supreme Court is made out in the Book of Elections.

Dated this 5th day of April A.D. 1881.

Inspectors of Town Election.

Town Officials 1880 - 1980



L-R, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Names unknown. Seated L-R, 1, 2, 4, Names unknown. 3-Joseph Chesak, 5-Jacob Myszka.



Present Town Officials, Back Row - L-R George Sommer, Kenneth Reuter, Supervisors, Joseph Witucki, Constable; Gary Lewis, Assessor, Seated - L-R, Patricia Berg, Clerk; Robert Riske, Chairman; Beverly Witucki, Treasurer.

The town was established November 12, 1879, and in the spring of April 6, 1880 the first election was held at Poniatowski (Court House) Town of Riet-Brock, Marathon County. It was situated upon the N East of the North West Quarter of the South East Quarter of Section Number fourteen (14) in Township number Twenty-Nine (29) North of Range Number four (4) East.

INSPECTORS OF ELECTION:

Ludwig Findorff, Peter Teusz, and Wm. Bergs

FIRST CLERKS OF ELECTION:

Theo. M. Helinski Thomas Berres

		U OD DI	
	CERTIFICAT	E OF ELECT	ION.
(cdt)	POLI	L BOOF	<
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An Ele	etion Had at 1	the Annual To	wn Meeting,
Held at.	malasti But	Louse, on the Sist	164 day
-	of April	18	180.
Seun os.	Richard	, Oounty of 2016	washen
	An	d State of Wisconsin	
For the Election of the	e following officers, to-wit: "	Three Supervisors, one of which	th shall be Chairman, one Jesser
- Justices of the Peace	for full town Treasurer;	Justices of the	Peace to fill vacancy; Jour.
Measures;	Judges of County Court	onstables;	ors; One Scaler of Weights and
Highways;	Associate Institute of the Sm	Juages of Circuit C	Associate Justices of
the Supreme Court, for I	all term, and	preme Court, to ini vacancy; .	Associate Justices of

then leave the Statement blank res	d, is not filled at an election, the Town Clecting the said office, wherever it may on	lerk can draw a pen mark across the offi-	ce to be omnitted at the said election, and
0	INSPECTORS	S OF ELECTI	ON.
- hudway or	underf Teler	Jeus 30 Mm D	orgs
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	Teler o	Jeusy	INSPECTORS
	3pm	Bergs	INSPECTORS
Subscriber	l and sworn to before me		
Sith 16th		The state of the s	
After the figure (s) write " Inspec	The detection," or "Clerk of Election."	M. Helingki	JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
Last entry This book of found on the owned and of many years, 1881-1906.	was on April 2, 1 buld not be locate to back room si perated by Jos. Ci	ed for many years, helve in general s hesak, who was the wski Postmaster fo ed and spersed	Finaly it was

ERE:

Ben Straub Photo, Edgar, Wis.

FOLLOWING SIXTY-SEVEN VOT	ERS WHO VOTED THE FIRST TIME WE
1. Martin Koening	34. Mike Lemanski
2. August Meller	35. John Soczka
3. Andres Jozwiak	36. Joseph Tuchalski
4. Theodore Lewandowski	37. Albert Nowacki
5. Albert Lewandowski	38. John Literski
6. Joseph Ody	39. August Lukowicz
7. Peter Nowak	40. Stephen Meyer
8. Joseph Reichl	41. John Retka
9. Joseph Pietrowski	42. Adam W. Schwittlik
10. John Pawlowski	43. Stephen Retka
11. Peter Sekorski	44. John Bloczynski
12. Albert Hart	45. Frank Wozniak
13. Jacob Myszka	46. Mike Bloczynski
14. Christian Metz	47. John Springer
15. John Richter	48. Albert Lukowicz
16. Peter Wojciechowski	49. Joseph Klawinski
17. Peter Hetterich	50. Herman Gardo
18. Joseph Trawicki	51. Christian Bramm
19. August Springer	52. Charles Dahl
20. Anton Poznanski	53. Gottlich Rux
21. Joseph Waskowiak	54. Hans Brahm
22. Joseph Szcepaniak	55. John L. Petri
23. Paul Prodzinski	56. Louis Petri
24. Andrew Krolikowski	57. Henry Petri
25. Martin Nowicki	58. Mathias Milkowski
26. Anton Kiedrowicz	59. Peter J. Berres
27. John Makowski	60. Wm. Bergs
28. John Kulas	61. Simon Myszka
29. Adam Senski	62. Frank Wisniewski
30. Jacob Murkowski	63. Leo M. Helinski
31. Anton Rzepinski	64. Ludwig Findorff
32. Albert Jesko	65. Peter Teusz
33. Ignatz Zell	66. Thomas Berres

67. Peter Neuens

They had elected to the offices the following;

TOWN CHAIRMAN - APRIL 6, 1880 - APRIL 6, 1881 Peter Teusz

SUPERVISORS:

Jacob Myszka Andrew Jozwiak

TOWN CLERK:

Theo. M. Helinski

TOWN TREASURER:

Adam W. Schwittlik

JUSTICE OF PEACE - for full two year term Peter Teusz Jacob Myszka

JUSTICE OF PEACE - for full one year term Theo. M. Helinski L. Findorff

CONSTABLE:

Jacob Murkowski Joseph Reichl **Thomas Berres**

ASSESSOR:

Jacob Murkowski

	CHAIRMAN	SUPERVISORS	CLERK	TREASURER
1881	Peter Teusz	August Meller M. Milkowski	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Schwittlik
1882	Peter Teusz	J.J. Reichl M. Milkowski	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Schwittlik
1883	Peter Teusz	Stanislaus Zyduk John Richter	Joseph Chesak	John Bloczynsk
1884	Peter Teusz	John Gates L. Findorff	Joseph Chesak	A. Rzepinski
1885	Peter Teusz	John Gates John Richter	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Schwittlik
1886	Jacob Murkowski	Fred Weihle M. Milkowski	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Schwittlik
1887	Jacob Murkowski	lgnatz Zell M. Milkowski	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Schwittlik
1888	Wm. Bergs	John Richter Fred. Wiehle	Joseph Chesak	John Rux
1889	Jacob Murkowski	John Richter John Richter	Joseph Chesak	M. Milkowski
1891	Wm. Bergs	August Sprenger Stephen Retka	Joseph Chesak	M. Milkowski
1892	Wm. Bergs	August Sprenger John Richter	Joseph Chesak	John Gates
1893	Jacob Murkowski	August Sprenger John Richter	Joseph Chesak	John Literski
1894	J.J. Reichl	August Sprenger John Richter	Joseph Chesak	Jacob Myszka
1895	J.J. Reichl	Joseph Klawinski Frank Stenzel	Joseph Chesak	Jacob Myszka
1896	J.J. Reichl	August Sprenger Joseph Meyer	Joseph Chesak	Jacob Myszka
1897	Jacob Murkowski	August Sprenger M. Bloczynski	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Swittlick
1898	Jacob Murkowski	Albert Wisnewski . John Soczka	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Swittlick
1899	Jocob Myszka	Albert Wisnewski . John Soczka	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Swittlick
1900	Jacob Myszka	Albert Wisnewski . John Teresinski	Joseph Chesak	A.W. Swittlick

CHA	IRMAN	SUPERVISORS	CLERK	TREASURER	CHAI	RMAN	SUPERVISORS	CLERK	TREASURER
1901	J.J. Reichl	Frank Stenzel M. Woznicka	Joseph Chesak	Frank Wozniak	1931	M.M. Schaetzl	John Rauen	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1902	J.J. Reichl	Frank Stenzel M. Woznicka	Joseph Chesak	Martin Trawicki	1932	M.M. Schaetzl	Matt Soczka John Rauen Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1903	Jacob Bergman	Mike Woznicka Frank Stenzel	Phillip Berres	Martin Trawicki	1933	M.M. Schaetzl	John Rauen Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1904	Jacob Bergman	August Sprenger Mike Woznicka	Phillip Berres	Martin Trawicki	1934	Louis Brinkman	J. Teresinski Sr. Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1905	Jacob Myszka	John A. Socha Mike Woznicka	Phillip Berres	M.M. Schaetzl	1935	- Louis Brinkman	J. Teresinski Sr. Robert Riske, Sr.		Philip Myszka
1906	Jacob Myszka	John A. Socha Anton Kraft	Phillip Berres	M.M. Schaetzl	1936	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Robert Riske, Sr.	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1907	Jacob Myszka	John A. Socha Anton Kraft	Phillip Berres	M.M. Schaetzl	1937	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Robert Riske, Sr.	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1908	Alex Cichon	Joe Klawinski John Kaehne	Phillip Berres	M.M. Schaetzl	1938	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Robert Riske, Sr.	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1909	Alex Cichon	Joe Klawinski John Kaehne	Phillip Berres	M.M. Schaetzl	1939	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Robert Riske, Sr.	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1910	Alex Cichon	Joe Klawinski J. Wojciechowski	Phillip Berres	Joseph Matysik	1940	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Robert Riske, Sr.	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1911	Alex Cichon	Joe Klawinski J. Wojciechowski	Hubert Bergs	Joseph Matysik	1941	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Sylvester Kraft	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1912	Alex Cichon	Joe Klawinski J. Wojciechowski	Hubert Bergs	Joseph Matysik	1942	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Sylvester Kraft	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1913	Martin Trawicki	John A. Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1943	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Sylvester Kraft	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1914	Martin Trawicki	John A. Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1944	Louis Brinkman	John Guralski Sylvester Kraft	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1915	Martin Trawicki	John A. Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1945	Louis Brinkman	Peter Albrecht Sylvester Kraft	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1916	Martin Trawicki	John A. Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1946	Louis Brinkman	Peter Albrecht Sylvester Kraft	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1917	Martin Trawicki	John Al Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1947	John A. Wisnewski	Peter Albrecht Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1918	Martin Trawicki	John Al Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1948	John A. Wisnewski	Peter Albrecht Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1919	Martin Trawicki	John A. Socha John Lake	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1949	John A. Wisnewski	Peter Albrecht Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1920	Martin Trawicki	Matt Soczka John Teresinski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1950	John A. Wisnewski	Peter Albrecht Frank Socha	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1921	Martin Trawicki	Matt Soczka John Teresinski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1951	John A. Wisnewski	Frank Socha Peter Albrecht	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1922	Martin Trawicki	Matt Soczka John Teresinski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1952	John A. Wisnewski	Frank Socha Peter Albrecht	C. Myszka	Philip Myszka
1923	Martin Trawicki	Charles Bramm John Teresinski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1953	John A. Wisnewski	Frank Socha Peter Albrecht	C. Myszka	Lucy Myszka
1924	Martin Trawicki	Matt Soczka J. Wojciechowski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1954	John A. Wisnewski	Frank Socha Peter Albrecht	C. Myszka	Lucy Myszka
1925	Wm. Lonsdorf	Matt Soczka Mike Wisnewski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1955	Clarence I. Meyer	Frank Socha Andrew Witucki	Irvin T. Meyer	Lucy Myszka (dec.)
1926	Wm. Lonsdorf	Mike Wisnewski John Guralski	M.M. Schaetzl	Joseph Matysik	1957	C. Myszka	S. Chojnowski Frank Socha	Irvin T. Meyer C. Myszka	appd. unexpired John R. Gesicki
1927	Wm. Lonsdorf	Mike Wisnewski John Guralski	C. Myszka	Joseph Matysik	1959	C. Myszka	Frank Socha	Irvin T. Meyer	John R. Gesicki
1928	M.M. Schaetzl	John Rauen Matt Soczka	C. Myszka	Joseph Matysik		C. Myszka	S. Chojnowski Arnold Riske		John R. Gesicki
1929	M.M. Schaetzl	John Rauen Matt Soczka	C. Myszka	Joseph Matysik		C. Myszka	A. Sommer	2	
1930	M.M. Schaetzl	John Rauen	C. Myszka	Joseph Matysik			A. Sommer Arnold Riske	Irvin T. Meyer (dec.)	John R. Gesicki
		Matt Soczka			1965	C. Myszka elected	F. Pawlowski Gregory L. Hart	J.R. Gesicki	D.J. Wisnewski elected

CHAII	RMAN	SUPERVISORS	CLERK	TREASURER	ASSI	ESSOR	CONSTABLE	JUSTI TWO YEA	ICE OF PEACE RS ONE YEAR
1969	F. Pawlowski	Harvey Soczka	J.R. Gesicki	D.J. Wisnewski	1893	N. Kaszynski	John Gates N. Kaszynski	Joseph Chesak Joseph Braun	
1971	Robert G. Riske	Kenneth Kraft Harvey Soczka	J.R. Gesicki	D.J. Wisnewski			A. Bloczynski John E. Chesak		
	Glenn Greiner	Kenneth Reuter E.G. Albrecht		D.J. Wisnewski	1894	N. Kaszynski	Anton Kreft Robert Schwager A.W. Schwittlick	Joseph Chesak Jacob Myszka	
19/5	Glenn Greiner	Kenneth Reuter Elmer Metz	Mary Jo Diers for remainder term Jan. 15, 1975 - March	D.J. Wisnewski		N. Kaszynski	Charles Bramm A.W. Schwittlick Albert Kraft		
1977	Robert Riske	Kenneth Reuter	7, 1975 Patricia Berg Patricia Berg	Ronald Mueller	1896	N. Kaszynski	August Arnt Martin Rzepinski R. Schwager		Thomas Berres Jacob Myszka
		Elmer Metz		Beverly Witucki remainder of term Nov., 1978	1897	N. Kaszynski	N. Kaszynski R. Schwager M. Rzepinski	John H. Chesak Joseph Bramm	
1979	Robert Riske	Kenneth Reuter George Sommer	Patricia Berg	Beverly Witucki			John Ranow Albert F. Kreft		T. Derres
	ASSESSOR	CONSTABLE	JUSTIC TWO YEARS	E OF PEACE ONE YEAR	1898	Alex Bloczynski	Martin Rzepinski Joseph Hart R. Schwager J.M. Richter	Joseph Chesak Thomas Berres	
1881	Jacob Murkowski	J.J. Reichl Herman Gadow J. Szczepiniak	L. Findorf Joseph Chesak		1899	Alex Bloczynski	Martin Rzepinski Joseph Kaiser	J.J. Reichl Joseph Chesak	Jacob Myszka
		J. Murkowski					Albert F. Kreft R.L. Schwager		
	Jacob Murkowski	J.J. Reichl Thomas Berres Herman Gadow	Jacob Myszka J. Heinemann		1900	Alex Bloczynski	Martin Rzepinski Peter Neuens Stan Krolikowski		John Chesak Thomas Berres
1883	J. Murkowski	John Gates J. Murkowski Herman Gadow Thomas Berres	Peter Teusz Ludwig Findor Joseph Chesak		1901	Alex Bloczynski	Martin Trawicki Stan Krolikowski Peter Neuens Thomas Berres		John Chesak Thomas Berres
1884	August Meller	John Gates J.J. Reichl	Joe Heinemani Peter Teusz	n	1902	John Pietrowski	Martin Trawicki Jacob Niemczyk		Frank Wozniak
1885	August Meller	Jacob Murkowsk John Gates J.J. Reichl	Joseph Chesak L. Findorf				M. Rzepinski John Myszka Martin Trawicki	Jacob Myszka	J. Wisnewski
1886	N. Kasyznski	N. Kaszynski Joseph Braun John Gates	Peter Teusz		1903	Alex Bloczynski	Frank Stenzel Ben Stenzel M.M. Schaetzl	Jos. Chesak Bob Whiehl	Jacob Myszka J.J. Reichl
-932 -44991	29 30 30 30 30 Th	N. Kaszynski J.J. Reichl Joseph Braun	J. Heinemann		1904	Alex Bloczynski	J.P. Bramm Jos. Kuhl		J.J. Reichl
1887	N. Kaszynski	John Gates Joseph Braun	L. Findorf J. Heinemann				A. Jagodzinski S. Krolikowski Alex Cichon	Jacob Myszka	Jacob Bergman
1888	N. Kaszynski	Herman Gadow J.J. Reichl John Gates	J. Heinemann		1905	A.W. Schwittlick	Jos. Kuhl A.W. Sommer Jos. Braun	Jacob Myszka Jos. Chesak	J.J. Reichl Julius Wisnewski
1000	N. Nuozynow	Joseph Braun J.J. Reichl N. Kaszynski	Peter Teusz		1906	Martin Trawicki	Wm. Stark J.P. Braun	Jos. Chesak	J.J. Reichl
1889	N. Kaszynski	John Gates	Joseph Chesak				John Raun Frank Stenzel	Philip Berres	Jacob Bergman
		Herman Gadow A. Bloczynski N. Kaszynski	Joseph Braun		1907	Martin Trawicki	Jos. P. Braun Thomas Chesak John P. Neuens	Jacob Myszka John C. Chesak	Thomas Berres J.J. Reichl
1890	A.W. Schwittlick	John Gates Jacob Myszka N. Kaszynski	Joseph Chesak A. Bloczynski	rif pel 8661 più est	1908	Martin Trawicki	Jos. P. Braun Thomas Chesak John P. Neuens		
1891	N. Kaszynski	John Gates Jacob Myszka N. Kaszynski	Joseph Braun F. Keiner		1909	Martin Trawicki	Jos. P. Braun Thomas Chesak John P. Neuens		
1892	A.W. Schwittlick	John Gates N. Kaszynski J.J. Reichl Anton Kreft	Joseph Chesak Jacob Myszka		1910	Martin Trawicki	J. Klawinski Anton Kraft S. Krolikowski		

3,4133	10 3311201		JUSTI	CE OF PEACE					
ASS	ESSOR	CONSTABLE	TWO YEAR		ASS	ESSOR	CONSTABLE	JU	STICE OF PEACE
1911	Martin Trawicki	Joseph Klawinsk Anton Kraft	Lyon Credital W		1946	Otto Lenhard	J. Wisnewski Andrew Witu	Stan Writz	referring upage.
1912	Martin Trawicki	Stan Krolikowski Joseph Klawinski	gph Chesali, M		1947	Otto Lenhard	J. Wisnewski A. Witucki	Stan Writz	
903 1		S. Krolikowski Jos. Jagodzinski			1949	Otto Lenhard	J. Wisnewski A. Witucki	I.T. Meyer	
1913	John M. Myszka	Joseph Klawinski			1951	Frank Sommer	Andrew Witu	cki Otto Sommo	er
		Jos. Zinkowicz Alex Cichon				Frank Sommer	Joseph Witue		
1914	John M. Myszka	R. Nickoles				Frank Sommer	Joseph Witue		
STIBE 21	eph Clesak Inom	Arnold Dettmann			1957		Joseph Wituo		
Will the	Antaline E. Clarente	Albert Heideman			1959	Frank Sommer	Joseph Wituo		
1915	John M. Myszka	John Gesicki M.M. Schaetzl				Frank Sommer	Joseph Wituo		M. Jacon L. Tell
		Alex Cichon				- 1975 Frank Sc	and the second second		ıcki
1916	John M. Myszka	John Gesicki				Anna Sommer			Paulin Almeria
		M.M. Schaetzl- John M. Myszka			1975	-1979 Joseph W	itucki	Start His	
1917	John M. Myszka	Arthur Bodwin			1977		essment Arrow /	Appraisal - Green	Bay
		Joseph Matysik John Gesicki			1978				
1918	John M. Myszka	Adolf Heier	Leo Gesicki John Gesicki	Jacob Niemczyk	1979		L RECOGI	NITION O	/FD
1919	John M. Myszka	Adolf Heier	John Literski	Alex Cichon	т				
1000	es-culcium ·	M.M. Schaetzl			-	WENTY YI			
	John M. Myszka	Joseph Braun				IUWN	OF RIETE	SRUCK AF	(E
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski				T	HE FOLLO	WING	
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski				Laters Bringing	IL I OLLO	Willia,	
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski			OFFICIALS				
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski			Joseph Chesak - 22 years - dec. Philip Myszka - 22 years -				22 years - dec.
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski	Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Martin Trawicki - 22 years - dec. Joseph Wisnewski - 26 years Matthew Schaetzl - 25 years - dec. Frank Sommer - 25 years - dec				
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski	st. Uzentsi*	Falla coet	Joseph Matysik - 21 years - dec. Joseph Witucki - 37 years				
1927	de la constanta	J. Wisnewski	A. Literski	J. Klawinski	Casimir Myszka - 37½ years - dec.				
	John M. Myszka	J. Wisnewski	Adolf Heier	Ignatz Drewek		26300	ROAD PATROL OF	PERATORS	
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1933	John Lee	J. Wisnewski Henry Behrendt		M.M. Schaetzl		N YEARS AND W BROCK CONSTAB		LY SERVING AS	THE TOWN OF
1934	John Lee	Adam Matysik Joe Teresinski	Leo Socha	Louis Brinkman		CATERPILLAR OPERATORS	WINGS		WER GRADER PERATORS
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1936	John Lee	J. Wisnewski				Joe Witucki	George Reichl	douge	
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1938	John Lee	J. Wisnewski			1936	Joe Witucki Joe Nowicki	George Reichl Joe Jagodzinski	George	Reichl
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1940	John Lee	Stan Kroll J. Wisnewski			1937	Joe Witucki Joe Nowicki	George Reichl Joe Jagodzinski	George	Reichl
1941	John Lee	Jacob Stencil Joe Wisnewski			1938	Leo Bornheimer Joe Nowicki		George	Raichl
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CATERPILLAR OPERATORS		WINGS	POWER GRADER OPERATORS		ATERPILLAR PERATORS	WINGS	POWER G	
	Joe Nowicki Joe Jagodzinski Leo Bornheimer	Walter Guralski Jake Stencil George Reichl	George Reichl			Ray Hopperdietzel	Stan Writ Leo Born	Z
1942	Joe Nowicki Joe Jagodzinski Leo Bornheimer	Jake Stencil Walter Guralski Joseph Writz	George Reichl	1962	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Ray Hopperdietzel John R. Gesicki	Stan Writ Leo Bornl	
1943	Joe Jagodzinski Jake Stencil	Walter Guralski Frank Cichon Herb Guralski	George Reichl	1963	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Ray Hopperdietzel Frank Cichon	Stan Writ Leo Bornl	
1944	Joe Jagodzinski Jake Stencil Joe Witucki	Walter Guralski Frank Cichon	Jake Stencil	1964	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Ray Hopperdietzel	Stan Writ Leo Bornl	
1945	Frank Cichon Joe Jagodzinski	Albert Kraft Art Nowicki	George Reichl Earl Brady Joe Witucki		TRUCK OPERATORS	WINGS	DITCHING GRADER	ROAD GRADER OPERATORS
1946	Joe Jagodzinski Frank Cichon	Art Nowicki Albert Kraft	Stan Writz Joe Witucki	1965	Wilbur Eisenhut	R. Hopperdietzel	OPERATOR	Stan Writz
1947	Joe Jagodzinski Frank Cichon	Albert Kraft Lucas Stenzel	Stan Writz Joe Witucki	1000	Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	N. Hopperdictzer		L. Bornheimer
1948	Joe Jagodzinski Frank Cichon	Lucas Stenzel Stan Writz	Stan Writz Joe Witucki Theo Stencil	1966	Earl Albrecht Joe Nowicki	R. Hopperdietzel	1956-69 Frank Cichon	L. Bornheimer
1949	Joe Jagodzinski Frank Cichon	Stan Writz Lucas Stenzel	Joe Witucki Stan Writz	1967		R. Hopperdietzel		L. Bornheimer
1950	Frank Cichon Joe Jagodzinski	Lucas Stenzel Stan Writz John Belter	Joe Witucki Stan Writz		Earl Albrecht Nicholas Karlen Caterpillar			
1051	TRUCK OPERATORS	John Dollar	Loo Witwoli	1968	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	R. Hopperdietzel		L. Bornheimer
1951	Frank Cichon Joe Nowicki Peter Nowicki Leo Bornheimer Earl Albrecht	John Belter Sylvester Lipinski Lawrence Bohl Stan Writz	Joe Witucki Stan Writz Lawrence Rauen John L. Socha Leo Bornheimer		Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar Earl Albrecht	R. Hopperdietzel Jerome Albrecht		L. Bornheimer R. Hopperdietzel
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1953	Earl Albrecht Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Lawrence Bohl Sylvester Lipinski	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1971	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Jerome Albrecht Herbert Guralski		Leo Bornheimer R. Hopperdietzel
1954	Earl Albrecht Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Wilbur Eisenhut Sylvester Lipinski	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1972	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Herb Guralski Edward Stencil		Leo Bornheimer R. Hopperdietzel
1955	Earl Albrecht Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Wilbur Eisenhut Sylvester Lipinski	Stan Writz Earl Albrecht	1973	Wilbur Eisenhut Earl Albrecht Harvey Tessmer Caterpillar	Herb Guralski Edward Stencil		Leo Bornheimer R. Hopperdietzel
1956	Earl Albrecht Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Wilbur Eisenhut Sylvester Lipinski	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1974	Wilbur Eisenhut	Herb Guralski		Leo Bornheimer R. Hopperdietzel
1957	Earl Albrecht Joe Nowicki	Wilbur Eisenhut Sylvester Lipinski	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1975	Wilbur Eisenhut	Herb Guralski		Leo Bornheimer R. Hopperdietzel
	Caterpillar				Wilbur Eisenhut	Herb Guralski		R. Hopperdietzel
1958	Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Lawrence Bohl Ray Hopperdietzel	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1977	Wilbur Eisenhut Allen Switlick	Herb Guralski Norbert Albrecht Tony Zychowicz		R. Hopperdietzel
1959	Wilbur Eisenhut Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Ray Hopperdietzel Frank Cichon	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1978	Allen Switlick Allen Schmitt	Norbert Albrecht Tony Zuchowicz Allen Switlick Herb Guralski		R. Hopperdietzel
1960	Wilbur Eisenhut Joe Nowicki Caterpillar	Ray Hopperdietzel	Stan Writz Leo Bornheimer	1979	Allen Switlick Allen Schmitt	Allen Schmitt Norbert Albrecht Tony Zychowicz		R. Hopperdietzel E. Teresinski



First pony grader



Discontinuation of the last split drag.



First snowplow truck.



Huge drifts caused concern as to where to push the snow



One of the first caterpillar operators pictured from left was Joe Nowicki, and one of the first wing operators was Joe Jagodzinski.



Town's new patrol grader. Pictures are from L-R, Robert Riske, Kenneth Kraft, Leo Bornheimer and Ray Hopperdietzel. Leo has been the Town's operator of machinery for 32 years.



Leveling the grounds around the Municipal Town Hall are from L-R, Ralph Literski, Gerald Knorr, James Literski, Mike Nowicki, Robert Riske, chairman.



Big, Big Plow - Herb Guralski, left, and Wiggie Eisenhut, operators of the new Town of Rietbrock snow plow are dwarfed by the hugeness of the unit. The truck a FWD is equipped with a Wausau plow.

Poniatowski

When a group of Polish settlers wanted to name their village after Rietbrock, he informed them about their patriot, Poniatowski, and suggested they name it after him, which they did, in about the year of 1879.



GENERAL "JOZEF ANTONI PONIATOWSKI"
Old picture furnished by John R. Gesicki, Ben Straub Photo, Edgar, Wis.



Main Street in Poniatowski, 1910. Church, school and Chesak's on right.

GENERAL "JOZEF ANTONI PONIATOWSKI" Born - May 7, 1763, Vienna

Died - Oct. 19, 1813 Leipzig

An officer in the Austrian Army, Poniatowski was transferred to the Polish Army in 1789 at the request of his uncle, King Stanislaw II Augustus Poniatowski of Poland.

He distinguished himself against the Russians in 1792 and took part in Tadeusz Koxciuszko Anti-Russian revolt in 1794. Poniatowski retired in 1795, after the third partition of Poland; but he was named commander-in-chief of the Duchy of Warsaw by Napoleon in 1807. He led a Polish corps in Napolean's Russian Campaign of 1812 and during the Battle of Leipzig October 16-19, 1813, and was made a Marshal of France. On the last day of the battle the wounded marshal died in an attempt to cross the Elster River on horseback.¹

Descendants of the famous general are Joseph, who has a John Deere dealership in Brooklyn, N.Y., and John Poniatowski of Detroit. The latter visted at one time in Poniatowski with John R. Gesicki, the clerk of the Town of Rietbrock.²

¹Taken from Encyclopedia Britannica; 73-74 edition; Volume 8, Page 110 Information procured from Marathon County Historical Society, Wausau, Wis.

²Information procured from John R. Gesicki.

There were many transactions in buying and selling of property after 1870 in the Town of Rietbrock. Some of the first to be recorded are as follows: The first known transaction of Section 14, 22, 23, Township 29 - Range 4 E was in 1854 as Thomas W. Taylor sold the property to James and Maria Buck of Milwaukee.

In 1870 James and Maria Buck, thru agent John



Main Street in Poniatowski. Approximately 1904

Ringle (who was a Marathon County Clerk and then went into the Real Estate business), sold 640 acres to Daniel Johnson and Frederick Rietbrock for \$240.00. In another transaction, 320 acres in Section 23 were acquired by Johnson and Rietbrock in the same year.

In 1876, Rietbrock and Johnson started selling portions of this property to Paul Narlock.

In 1878, Narlock of Town of Rib Falls sold a parcel of land to Pauline Ody - charging a 7% interest.

In 1878, Paul Narlock sold a parcel to John Literski; this land has stayed in the Literski family since then.

In 1879, Pauline and Joseph Ody sold 3 acres to Frank Jermann, and 21/2 acres to Joseph Blaszka of Poniatowski.



Josephine and Anna (Chesak) Blaszka daughters of Joseph Blaszka.

In 1881, Frank Jermann sold 8 acres to Martin Chesak and son Joseph - coming here from Washington County, Wisconsin. A "COURT HOUSE" was built by the first settlers, somewhere between 1875-1878. It was here where they held their gatherings, for a time — until it was gutted by fire. As the years progressed, the first log church was built by the settlers and completed in the fall of 1879. In 1882, Mathias Braun moved here, 1/2 mile north of Poniatowski and in 1883 built a sawmill. (Refer to write-up).

In the early days the mail came through three times a week, on a run from Wausau to Poniatowski, with a stage coach-like surrey and two horses. Later it was hauled by Anton Wisnewski to and from Edgar with a horse and buggy and then by his daughter Julia Wisnewski (refer to Trawicki write-up) until her marriage to Martin Trawicki in 1898. It was then hauled by her sister Frances Wisnewski (Nowicki) from 1898 until her marriage to John Nowicki in November of 1903. As more rural roads were being built the mail was delivered by mail carriers. The first postmaster of Poniatowski was L. Schwager. He was succeeded by Joseph Chesak in 1881.

The post office was located in what is now a Gesicki warehouse and the first store was located south of the present one.



Frances (Wisnewski) Nowicki hauled mail from 1898-1903

With the settler's hard work the present church was completed in 1890. John Lukowicz, who was a photo-



John Lukowicz

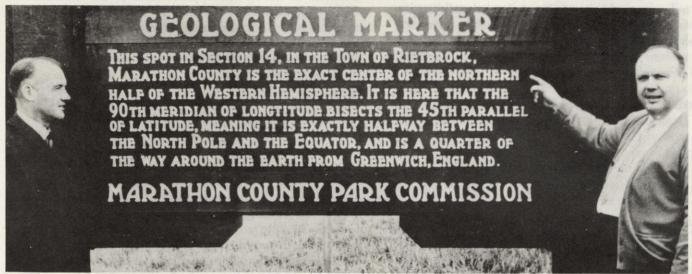
grapher in the surrounding area, was also a carpenter who installed and made the first pews and altars for that church.



MR. CLEAN - Poniatowski's greeting card off Highway 29 was clean as a whistle for Governor Schrieber's stop at Rietbrock Municipal Building. The day was just as pretty as the sign.

Smallest Public Park In The Nation

Geographical Marker

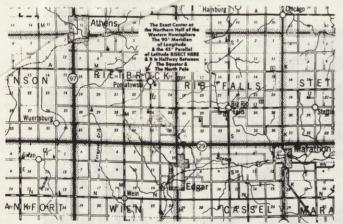


Left: Duane Corbin, County Park Commissioner, and John Gesicki, Clerk of the Town of Rietbrock, also a member of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors for District 20.

Mr. Gesicki, who, after over five years of research, working together with the University of Wisconsin, Wausau, and the Marathon County Technical School,

also the U.S. Department of Interior, it was definitely determined that the exact center of the North Half of the Western Hemisphere was located in the N.W. corner of section 14, Town of Rietbrock, on the land now owned by Ervin Wisnewski, who agreed to permit the marker erected thereon on July 15, 1968. Marker was erected in 1969.

The Pioneers didn't know it at the time, but they chose a place which is in the exact center of the northern half of the Western Hemisphere. The marker is flanked on either side by neatly trimmed shrubery, with a forest grown to the left and an open field beyond. The rectangular wood marker on two wooden posts announces:



"This Spot In Section 14, In The Town Of Rietbrock, Marathon County, Is The Exact Center Of The Northern Half Of The Western Hemisphere. It Is Here That The 90th Meridian Of Longitude Bisects The 45th Parallel Of Latitude, Meaning It Is Exactly Half Way Between The North Pole And The Equator, And Is A Quarter Of The Way Around The Earth From Greenwich, England."

It also marks the spot where the four quadrangles of Hamburg, Athens, Stratford, and Marathon meet. In laymen's terms it is located in the Town of Rietbrock in the northwest corner of Section 14, or one-half mile west of Poniatowski and on County Highway U and one-quarter mile north on the town road. It is on the east side of the road. "It" is simply a location specifically the place where the 90th meridian of longitude and the 45th parallel of latitude bisect, putting Poniatowski very near the center of the northern half of the western hemispher.

John R. Gesicki, former clerk of the Town of Rietbrock; former County Board Chairman, and a former member of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors, was instrumental in locating and identifying the park. John's search for that exact, invisible point began in earnest in 1963, taking him five years to piece together information and to find the correct set of maps that would pinpoint the spot. After four years of searching, Calvin Cook, Marathon County highway engineer, suggested he try to lay his hands on four quadrangles that would fit together. John heeded the advice and wrote the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and received copies of the 1899 maps. Just like the missing pieces to a jigsaw puzzle, they all fit together and solved the mystery. "The old Marathon County maps were printed wrong," noted John, "They showed 45 degrees too far north and 90 degrees too far west. They were off about 500 feet." Once John, with help from North Central Technical Institute and UW-Marathon had found the spot, the United States Department of the Interior sent out a survey team to confirm the discovery. But even after the team of government surveyors had pounded a stake into the earth, John still wasn't satisfied.

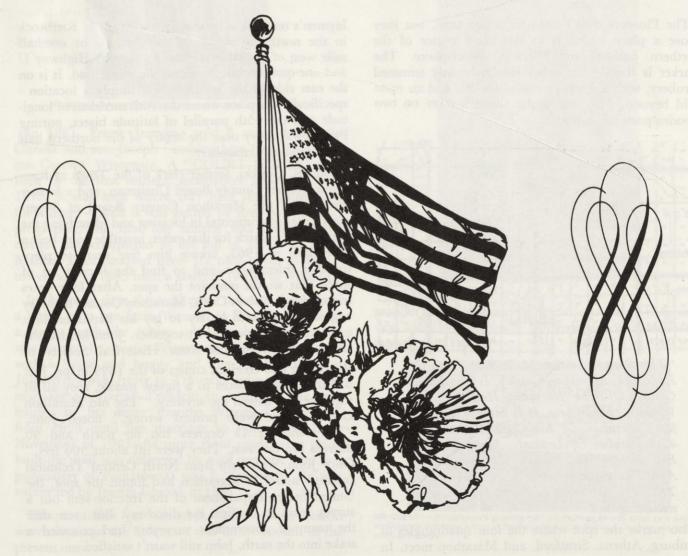
He felt the uniqueness of the intersection needed public recognition. So he contacted the Marathon County Board, suggesting they make the spot part of its park system. After appropriating funds for a marker and obtaining a recreational easement from the landowner, Poniatowski, in 1969, received the distinction of having the smallest known public park in the nation -a whole whopping 0.14 acre. It wouldn't have become a reality if not for the landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Wisnewski who donated this land at a cost of \$1.00 on July 15, 1968. The marker was made, lettered, erected and finished by the Marathon County Park Department with the approval of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors. The General Telephone Company moved a post, put in a higher one and raised the wires to prevent blocking the park entrance. The town of Rietbrock Board contributed to the preparation of the site.

While John was sifting through information, his path crossed that of another geography buff, Seth Riggle, a copying machine service representative from Plains City, Ohio. A brochure he published explains that Poniatowski was directly opposite the action when Sir Edmund Hillary first scaled the world's highest peak—Mt. Everest. It also notes that to the

east and west, at nearly equal distances, lie the earth's lowest land surface and the deepest part of the ocean—the Dead Sea and the Marianas Trench. Another odd tidbit is that directly east or west 18 degrees brings a traveller to either the Appalachians or the Rockies. Plus, Poniatowskians have little to fear in case of nuclear war, since they are equidistant between two major military academies that also lie on the 45th parallel—the Air Force Academy and Annapolis.

The location does have some practical aspects though. In October, 1977 Poniatowski was invaded by four astronomers from the U.S. Naval Observatory's Grazing Occulation Program. According to a clipping, their mission was "to secure accurate timings of the apparent interaction of a bright star with the dark limb of the moon." In English, that means the scientists photographed the moon passing across the face of a bright star, Rhi Saggarii. They timed the instant the star disappeared so they could compare measured time with observed time. Then they used the information to arrive at relative astronomical time and to calculate when events in the heavens will occur.

Information was procured from AGRI-VIEW, June 2, 1978.



Biographies-Halsey, Chesak, Braun, Nowicki

Pierson L. Halsey

Pierson L. Halsey, who was a Justice of the Peace in the Town of Rietbrock, was the owner of 600 acres of valuable land here. For a number of years he was well-known in the County as an able attorney, practicing in the state and federal courts and in the United States Supreme Court. He was born February 5, 1871, at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and is a son of Lawrence and Mary I. (Loveridge) Halsey. On June 10, 1908, Mr. Halsey married Miss Grace L. (Loveridge) Greenwood, who was the daughter of Rev. John W. & Gertrude (Loveridge) Greenwood, the former being rector of the Episcopal church at Oshkosh. Mr. & Mrs. Pierson Halsey had one daughter, Mary Gertrude.

He bought land two and one-half miles south of Athens for his stock and dairy farm of 135 acres, and here he made a specialty of raising Berkshire hogs, Guernsey cattle and chickens. The land is now owned by Bronowicz Bros.

When Pierson and wife Grace moved on this 135 acre farm, he knew very little about farming. He wouldn't let the cook use any of the eggs the hen laid, but wanted to keep a record of how many they laid daily; so he dated each egg and stored them in the pantry. Mary, the maid, finally had to dispose of them because of the strong odor of rotten eggs. Pierson would buy eggs in town for domestic use. He couldn't understand why the hens weren't laying in winter, when the hen-house was so cold the hens' feet and combs were almost frozen.

To his wife's Grace discomfort and problems, their frame house burned to the ground, with all their possessions. Her wealthy father-in-law soon built them a spacious brick mansion, with all modern conveniences available to farmers at that time, including a lovely marble fireplace in the living room. There was indoor plumbing and carbide lights, with a lovely pond nearby.

Grace's life was very lonely. She spent most of her time sewing. Not having the opportunity to go shopping for new clothing, she remodeled her own gowns. She could rip apart an old dress and have it re-styled in a few days. When her little daughter was born, Grace spent many hours sewing for Mary Gertrude and her dolls. Grace, her husband, and little Mary Gertrude always dressed for dinner and ate in the dining room. The maid and hired help ate in the kitchen. Occasionally Grace drove a horse and buggy into Athens to shop or visit friends.

One of Grace's problems was finding furnishings for her new home. She decided to furnish the bedrooms for the maid and hired men with used beds and dressers. She didn't know that the beds she bought were infested with bed-bugs, until the hired men came downstairs one morning with lumps. The pests moved

into the master bedroom also. However, at that time the only way to deal with them was to spray gasoline in the cracks of the bed, which was dangerous because it could ignite and burn the house down. They tried this, and almost did set the house on fire. Mary, the maid, found that Pierson had been sticking pins into them on a board. This was quite an achievement, because the pests vanished as soon as a light was turned on. Mary and Grace used quarts of kerosene, sprayed in cracks of the bed and corners of the mattresses, to get rid of the bugs.

Pierson did make use of his legal ability. He served as Justice of the Peace in the Town of Rietbrock, where he lived. His father owned more than six hundred acres of woodland, which he sold to settlers coming into the community.

Though Halsey did pioneer in Rietbrock and contribute a part to our township, our adjoining township is named for this pioneer.

Chesak Families

Martin Chesak and wife Mary (Sigmond) Chesak were born, reared, and married in Austria; and from that country they came with their children to the United States in 1857 and settled in the town of Trenton, Washington County, Wisconsin. For three years after coming to Wisconsin he followed his trade of brickmaker. Then when he moved to Marathon County in 1880, and for a number of years afterward, he was in partnership with his son Joseph in the merchantile business, and also, worked with all his sons in lumbering.

Mary and Martin had the following children: Joseph, Barbara (Herman Schreiber), John H., Mary (Joseph Masak), Frank F., a prominent business man and politician in Marathon County, and Josephine (John A. Blecha).

Son Joseph who was born in Pilsen, Bohemia, Austria on December 8, 1854 was three years of age



Honorable Joseph Chesak

when his father emigrated to Trenton, Wisconsin. He received the common school education in that town. Until he was sixteen years of age, Joseph was mainly interested in his school books and the sports and occupations of boyhood; but then he was deemed old enough to begin the work of a man in the lumber regions, where he worked as a laborer until he was twenty-one years old. Then, after completing a business course in the Spencerian College at Milwaukee, he started a general store at Newberg, Wisconsin, which he continued from 1875 until the time he came to Poniatowski in 1880. The Chesak's then built a store at Poniatowski and engaged in the general merchandise business which is now owned by John R. Gesicki.



Joseph Chesak and Wife Mary

In 1876, Mr. Joseph Chesak was married to Miss Mary S. Wilger, who was born in Washington County, Wisconsin, a daughter of Mathias and Susan (Hentz) Wilger. To Joseph and wife Mary were born five children, namely: Mary B. (George M. Blecha), John C., Thomas M., Agnes J. (Joseph N. Miller), and Anna R. (Joseph Bellon). Mr. Chesak and family belonged to the Catholic church and in politics he was a Republican. While living in the town of Trenton, he served as town clerk and for twenty-two years was clerk of the Town of Rietbrock, for fourteen years was justice of the peace; and in 1888 was elected to the General Assembly for two years. He was also trustee of the village of Athens in 1907 and 1908, supervisor of the village 1909 and 1910, trustee of the Marathon County Insane Asylum from 1894 to 1897, being elected president of that body.

When Joseph arrived in the town of Rietbrock, some roads had already been opened, but they were new and impassable at times. The settlers were all beginners and poor, of course; and it took a long time and much hard work to make a farm. However, Mr. Chesak had faith in the industry and honesty of these hardworking, frugal beginners, and assisted them to the best of his ability, by extending credit to them, and was their advisor in a general way. The fact that he could speak four languages made his store the center of intelligence in the community. He was elected and re-elected town clerk for twenty-two years,



Seated Joseph Chesak, in back daughter Agnes (Miller), her son Earl and grandchildren Audrey and Tom Miller.

and was also school treasurer and justice of the peace. His business was carried on under some difficulties first, he having to bring his merchandise from Wausau by surrey and two horses over poor country roads, take all sorts of farm produce in exchange and carry them in the same way to Wausau and market them. He carried along the mail from Wausau to Poniatowski three times a week, and sometimes passengers, too, were carried by his horses and surrey.

Succeeding L. Schwager, Joseph Chesak was postmaster of Poniatowski from August, 1881 to April, 1906, at which time he retired and moved to Athens, Wisconsin.

In the year 1891 the three Chesak brothers, Joseph, Frank and John, started the lumber mill at Athens, Wisconsin, which was one of the important business enterprises of that era. It was this mill that was purchased by Braun Bros. & Co. in 1914, and is in the building business today.

Frank married Anna Blaszka September 13, 1894. He was a prominent business man and politician in Marathon County.

John H., pioneer lumberman of this section of the county, was prominently identified with the early



Frank Chesak and wife Anna

history of Poniatowski and Athens communities, both in a business way and as a public servant. He was born in the town of Trenton, near Newburg, in Washington County, April 13, 1860.



In 1885 he attended Oshkosh Normal, taking a three-year teachers course; completing this, he took a commercial course at Wausau. Then followed six years of teaching — four years at School District No. I, known as the "green school" south of Poniatowski, and two years at Poniatowski school district No. 3.

Mr. Chesak was married in Toledo, Ohio, to Tena Hurt, in 1889. Seven children — six boys and one girl — were born to this union. Five of the boys died in infancy, while Helen, a daughter, died February 4, 1918, at the age of eighteen. One son, George, lived at Athens, Wisconsin.

Tena died November 4, 1904. Next year on November 14, 1905, he was married to Miss Emily Penegor of Rockland, Michigan. To this union one child was born — Dorothy (Wiley), who presently lives at Chippewa, Wisconsin.

In 1890, John Chesak moved to Athens. Here he was superintendent of the Chesak & Munes Lumber Co.; and when this firm became the Athens Manufacturing Co., he continued at this position until its sale to Braun Bros. & Co. in 1916.



He was also a director of the bank of Athens for a number of years. Like nearly all persons whose time is occupied with business and community activities, Mr. Chesak found time to cultivate a hobby. In his case it was the playing the violin. At school he studied this instrument, and later he often found relaxation and enjoyment in playing his favorite selection, "The Mocking Bird".



George and Helen, children of John

On rare occasions, Mr. Chesak would recall numerous interesting anecodotes and happenings of the sturdy pioneer life whose hardships and struggles he shared with other early settlers, and to listen to these recitals was a privelege greatly appreciated.

Mr. Chesak has been a dependable and conscientious citizen, ready and willing at all times to devote his time and energy for the advancement of the community.

Mathias Braun & Sons



Mathias Braun 1831-1908

An industrious, versatile, and ingenious man, Mathias Braun came to America from Aachen, Germany, in 1847. At the age of sixteen he came with his parents, his twenty-six year old brother, Arnold, and his three sisters — Agnes, Catherine and Gertrude. His oldest brother, Peter John, came to America a year earlier, in 1846, as is evidence from the records filed in the Fond du Lac County Circuit Court.

The family settled on the north shore of Wolf Lake in Fond du Lac County, near the parish of St. Joe. In 1858, Mathias married Gertrude Stein. In 1868, Mathias moved to Woodville Township in North Central Calumet County. Mathias and Gertrude Stein had eleven children. In addition to running a farm, he operated a general store, ran a saloon, and was the postmaster for the community of St. John's. His wife died and left him with a family of eleven children, Nathias needed help, so he married Josephine Wehner in June of 1874. However, she died a year later. In 1878, Mathias married again. He and Gertrude Becker had twelve children.

In 1882, (with eleven children living) Mathias moved his family to a 160 acre tract of land in the Town of Rietbrock, Marathon County, 1/2 mile north of Ponia-



The Mathias Braun Homestead Farm 1882

towski. Formerly the John Rauen farm, now owned by Charles Riehle. Here, on the banks of Bear Creek, he with sons, Joseph, William, John, and Anthony, built and operated a saw mill and a creamery. The creamery was built near the saw mill, for power so the settlers could separate their milk from the cream. When the railroad was built into Athens, which up to 1890 was called Black Creek Falls, Mathias moved his 1883 saw mill from his farm 1/2 mile N. of Poniatowski to that settlement.

The firm was known as Matt Braun & Sons until 1907, when it was changed to Braun Bros. & Co. The Saw Mill operated until 1953, when most of the heavy stand of timber was gone and dairying became the leading industry on the fresh farmland. Although the planeing mill was discontinued in 1956, Braun Bros & Co. continues to operate two retail lumber yards, one at Athens and the other at Milan.

JOSEPH BRAUN

Joseph Braun, eldest son of Mathias, was born in Fond du Lac County in 1861. In 1886 he married Cecelia Heineman. They had four children; Henry, Belle, Esther and Anthony. At the time of his death in 1907, he was superintendent and manager of the Matt Braun & Sons Lumber Co., a director of the Bank of Athens and held investments and offices in the Athens Park Association. His untimely death at the age of 48 in 1907 brought about a change in the name of the Lumber Firm to Braun Bros. & Co.

WILLIAM BRAUN

William, second son of Mathias Braun, was born on a farm on the shores of Wolf Lake near St. Joe's in Fond du Lac County in 1865. He was 17 years of age when the family moved to the timbered country of the Town of Rietbrock in Marathon County in 1882. He wielded the axe and held his own at the cross-cut saw during the first years when the land was being cleared of timber to provide acreage for farming. There were no eight hour days as they swung the cradlescythe in the harvest field from sunrise to sunset.

Up to the time he married Mary Louise Meyer in 1892, he helped in the operation of the saw mill as the head-sawyer. A handy man with tools, before the age of motors and power driven machines, he built a Cooperage on the NE corner of Plumber and 4th streets in the city of Wausau. William and his two employees manufactured all the beer kegs and barrels required to supply the needs of the two Wausau Breweries — Mathie and Ruder, as well as repair all damaged cooperage. They shaped the hardwood staves with hand draw-shaves.

His family of five children were born in their home on Plumber street. When his older brother, Joseph, died in the spring of 1907, he was asked to rejoin his younger brother, John, in the lumber business at Athens. He moved his household goods by means of two horse-drawn wagons to Athens, a distance of nearly 30 miles.

His son, Albert, who had been employed by the Edward Hines Lumber Co., in their offices at Hayward, Wis. and Virginia, Minn. and a Secretary to Frank Bissel at Wausau, joined the Braun Bros. & Co., in 1920. Albert's son, James W. Braun joined the firm in 1949 and continues with four Braun cousins to operate the business at Athens and Milan.

William and Mary Braun had five children — Albert, Lucy, Cecilia, William and Marie.

JOHN BRAUN

John Braun, the third son of Mathias Braun, was a member of the Braun Lumber Co. from its start at Poniatowski in 1883. A practical man, much of the planing or construction and maintenance of the saw and planeing mills was left to his direction - he was known as a millwright. Upon the death of his brother Joseph, in 1907, much of the business and finance of the company became his responsibility until Albert, son of William, joined the firm after the World War I, in 1920.

Edward, second son of John Braun, was taken into the firm in 1920. He became the lumbergrader. He left the lumber business in 1930 to become engaged in the Oil Business and owner of the Ford Auto Agency at Athens. Wilfred, second son of John Braun, was taken into the firm in 1927, following a course in architectural engineering. He continues to lay out drawings for the buildings being constructed by the firm. Wilfred and three of his sons, William H., John and Joseph, together with James W. Braun, son of Albert, continue to operate two retail building services at Athens and Milan.

John Braun married Emma Haelke in 1893. They had six children — Edward, Irene, Harry, Wilfred, Matthias and Mercedes. John died at the age of 80 in 1947.

Martin Nowicki

Reference detail - See "Century Farms"

Martin Nowicki, who was a violinist in Europe came to this country in 1877 with his wife the former Kathryn Socha. They had nine children—Johanna (Zobrak), Pauline (1st wife of Andrew Miller), Michael, Anna (Kreft), Josephine (Teresinski), John, Frank, Andrew and Antonette (Wojciechowski). From him, some of his children acquired an interest in music namely, Michael, John and Andrew. A family orchestra came into being consisting of Martin as 1st violinist; Michael a clarinet player; John 2nd violinist, Andrew a coronet player and a cousin John Wichlacz a Cello player. They practiced many an evening usually after all the evening chores were finished and played for many weddings in the surrounding areas.

As John's son Art recalls, his father told him that it was usually proper in those days for the orchestra to lead the bridal couple with music to church. The musicians had a horse driven surrey, and at one particular wedding the horses stopped unexpectedly. Andrew with his trumpet, did not expect this, - lost his balance, fell into the new big Cello and broke it. For the moment, a few sad moments followed, but they quickly went back home to get their old Cello and they proceeded with their playing. There were home weddings held all day and all night until about three or four in the morning, with lunch served just before their departure. Most of the invited guests walked home in time for the morning chores. The musicians sometimes continued on to the next wedding with the horses being their only transportation.

The talent of music in the Nowicki family had touched many descendents who have pursued their talent to some degree. The following chart illustrates this by generations. Note that the musically gifted parents are in parenthesis next to their children. If parents were not gifted, geneology is tracked back to Martin's children with the parent beneath.



Michael Nowicki Clarinet and other instrument player



John Nowicki Violinist



Coronet Player

Nowicki — Six Generations of Music

First Generation

Martin Nowicki

Second Generation

Andrew Nowicki John Nowicki Michael Nowicki Anna (Nowicki) Kreft Josephine (Nowicki) Teresinski Antonette (Nowicki) Wojciechowski Frank Nowicki Pauline (Nowicki) Miller Johanna (Nowicki) Zobrak

Third Generation

Arthur Nowicki (John) Joseph Nowicki (Michael) Tony Nowicki (Michael) Celia (Nowicki) Albrecht (Michael) Allie Kreft (Anna) Michael Teresinski (Josephine) Frank Teresinski (Josephine) Joe Teresinski (Josephine) Leo Teresinski (Josephine)

Fourth Generation

Jeanette (Nowicki) Riehle (Arthur Nowicki)

Helen (Nowicki) Bogaczyk Phyllis (Nowicki) Mader (Joseph Nowicki) Teresa (Nowicki) Schwartz

Patricia (Albrecht) Niewolny John Albrecht Jr. (Celia (Nowicki) Albrecht) Delores (Albrecht) Osterbrink

Lawrence Witucki Ralph Witucki (GC - Michael Nowicki) Lorraine (Witucki) Soltes (C - Rose (Nowicki) Witucki) Lucy Witucki Raymond Myszka (GX - Michael Nowicki) David Myszka (C - Mary (Nowicki) Myszka) Joan (Socha) Seagraves (GC - Michael Nowicki) (C - Lucy (Nowicki) Socha)

Mary (Kreft) Nowacki Gladys (Kreft) Paul (Allie Kreft)

Dolores (Kreft) Krebs GC - Anna (Nowicki) Kreft (C - John Kreft)

Marlene (Kraft) Schlegel GC - Anna (Nowicki) Kreft C - Sylvester Kraft

Joan (Tessmer) Sonnenberg Lynn (Karow) Steem G C - Antonette (Nowicki) Wojciechowski Cheryl (Karow) Eckert C - Emma (Wojciechowski) Karow

Fifth Generation

Tiffany Riehle (Jeanette (Nowicki) Riehle)

Beth Bogaczyk Becky Bogaczyk (Helen (Nowicki Bogaczyk)

Gary Nowicki Ronald Nowicki G C - Tony Nowicki

Fifth Generation (con't)

Michael Nowicki C - John Nowicki James Nowicki

Jacqueline Sjoberg (Dolores (Albrecht) Osterbrink)

Steven Witucki Mary Witucki (Ralph Witucki)

Linda Witucki Sharon Witucki G C - Michael Nowicki Connie Witucki C - Walter Witucki Lisa Witucki

Laurel Heier G G C - Michael Nowicki C - Dolores (Witucki) Heier

Janice (Myszka) Buchberger (Raymond Myszka)

Dennis Myszka Mary Kay Myszka (David Myszka) Jean Myszka Kenneth Myszka

Janet Sikorski G G C - Michael Nowicki C - Regina (Socha) Sikorski

Pamela (Murkowski) Stencil Debra (Murkowski) Seubert G G C - Michael Nowicki Brenda (Murkowski) Schoessow C - Raymond Murkowski

Kenneth Zarling G G C - Michael Nowicki C - Leona (Murkowski) Zarling

GGC - Michael Nowicki Gloria Berens Roseann (Berens) Hoffmann C - Teresa (Murkowski). Berens

Jean Murrow G G C - Michael Nowicki C - Thomas Murrow

Mary Lou (Murkowski) Koranda G G C - Michael Nowicki C - Howard Murkowski

David Kreft Debra (Kreft) Menoni G C - (Allie Kreft) C - (Harry Kreft)

Maureen (Towey) Locker G C - (Allie Kreft) C - (Leona (Kreft) Towey)

Nancy (Kreft) Banks G C - Allie Kreft) C - (Florian Kreft)

Karen (Nowacki) Gotsch Kathy (Nowacki) Griffin (Mary (Kreft) Nowacki)

Stacy Krebs Gregory Krebs (Dolores (Kreft) Krebs)

Jean (Kraft) Stenzel G G C - Anna (Nowicki) Kreft C - Dennis Kraft

Kim Tessmer G G C - Antonette (Nowicki) Wojciechowski

C - Jerome Tessmer

Sixth Generation

Diane Drewek G G G C - Michael Nowicki C - Gloria (King) Drewek

*NOTE: GGGC - Great, great, grandchild G G C - Great, Grandchild G C - Grandchild C - Child of

Century Farms

Diedrich Farm

In the year 1865, Mr. Baum built a log house on what is now the Art Diedrich and son farm. He only stayed three months and then went back to Milwaukee.

In 1866, Karl Dahl and Art Diedrich's grandmother were married and homesteaded the place for 5 years. It then became their home. Her husband, Charles Diedrich was born on the ship enroute from Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Dahl moved here in March, from Wausau, Wisconsin. They used a stone boat drawn by a horse to bring their possessions and food to their new home. Their only neighbors were Luecks, who lived about ten miles from them on Highway A, and the Lewandowski brothers who lived in a log house across the road. They had to walk to Wausau for provisions. Herman Dahl, a son, and half brother of Charles Diedrich, often walked to Wausau to attend a dance there. They had to cross the river by walking along the trunk of a tree that had fallen across the stream.

In 1888, Charles Diedrich married Theresa Albrecht and took over the farm. Fourteen children blessed their union. Of these, seven boys and two girls are still living, Mrs. Lydia Wauer and Lawrence of Muskego; Mrs. Emma Schmidt, Milwaukee; Clarence, Theinsville; Ernest and George, Cedarburg, Wis., and Art, Alfred and Henry of Athens, Wisconsin.

The Charles Diedrich family often showed their purebred Holstein cattle at the Athens Fair. The cattle were usually chased to town for the Fair along a trail through the woods. If the cattle won a prize they were led in the Fair parade.

In fall, the men would work in the woods, while the women had to do the chores. The farm had no electricity or running water until 1940. The cattle sometimes had to go for a mile to a creek or spring for water. In winter this meant chopping a hole in the ice for their water. The women also worked with their husbands clearing the land.

When Mr. Diedrich passed away in 1924, Theresa then moved to a farm in the town of Halsey with her son Edward. Art and Olga Diedrich then took over the farm and are still residing there and working the farm with their son Ronald and his family.

Editor's note: This was the first and oldest farm in the Town of Rietbrock, having been in the Diedrich Family for 115 years, according to our records.

Szymon Myszka Farm





M. Szymon Michael Myszka, born in 1828, the son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Peplinski) Myszka, came with his wife Maria (Kiedrowski) and their three sons to this country from Poland in 1876, and settled on a tract of land located in Section 22-Township 29-Range 4-E. They had a family of four boys and three girls. Jacob married to Anna Bloczynski; Leo (Helen Guralski); Frank (Mary Piotrowski); John (Margaret Kreft-Rose Gesicki); Anna (Martin Teresinski); Agnes (Charles Muskowski); and Pauline (Vincent Haesle).

They came in this heavily wooded area, clearing land so that they could raise a few crops and food



Theodore & Frances (Writz) Myszka

for themselves, built shelter homes from logs. As the years progressed Szymon handed down the farm to his son John in 1901. In 1908 Jacob bought the farm from his brother. Later in years Jacob sold the farm to his son Theodore and wife Frances (Writz) in the year of 1913. Jacob and his wife and children then settled on a farm located one mile northwest of Poniatowski.

Theodore and Frances worked hard clearing the heavy timber of 100 acres. They used horses and logging sleighs. The house and barn were built of logs. At the beginning they had like 5 cows, 6 sheep, some pigs and chickens. To get the groceries they used sleighs once a month. Lot of field work was done by hand, grain with a cradle; hay made with sythes; straw chopped by a hexle machine and peas and beans done by flail. The women had to help a lot until the family grew up. Later Theodore built a barn in 1914 and in 1920 the brick house was built. A lot of hand work was included and later a wood stave silo was also built. In 1928 he bought a McCormick tractor and a McCormich threshing machine with which he did custom work for threshing and filling silos. He was the only one that had one, besides a small line of machinery.

Theodore (dec. 1960) and Frances (dec. 1964) had 13 children namely: Leo, Andrew, Joseph, John, Paul, Julia (Boris), Rose (Buchberger), Catherine (Sis. M. Kay), Victor, Marcella (Vogedes), Martha (Zielinski), Louie, and Loretta (Jesko). Three sons served in the service U.S.A.

Frances enjoyable hobbies were spinning wool and knitting.

In the year of 1945, their son Leo, and wife Theresa (Bargender) bought the farm and continued to farm with the same horses and the same tractor for two years. They had 26 milk cows, and some sheep, chickens, geese, and ducks. As the years went on Leo bought more machinery, a new tractor in 1952 a Co-op tractor, silo, blower, drags, chopper, wagons and a different threshing machine with which he did custom work. In 1969 a new 44' x 104' shed was built, the house was remodeled and pine and spruce trees were planted.



Leo & Theresa (Bargender) Myszka

Leo and Thersa had ten children namely: Marlyn (Sister M. Ursula), Kenneth, Carol (Sister M. Carlotta), James, Betty (Miskulin), Joyce (Benning), Glenn, Gerald, Cindy and Randy. The two daughters are nuns in the Felician Order of Chicago, and three sons farming. Theresa's parents are deceased. She came from a family of eight. Four brothers and three sisters.

In 1976, two single sons Glenn and Gerald bought the farm from them. Leo and Theresa then moved to their new home at Athens, Wisconsin. Remodeling of the barn and milkhouse was done; new pipe line milker was installed; more cows added; a new silo was built and more machinery and tractors were purchased. They are now on grade A milk and ship to A.M.P.I.



Fourth generation Glenn & Gerald Myszka



The County of Marathan

and

Marathan County Agricultural Society

Century Farm or Home Ownership Certificate

GLENN & GERALD WYSZKA

Having presented proof of present sourceship for tall property located in Marathan County, Wisconsin,

and, which property was acquired by SIMON MICHSKA

in 1876

and has since remained in continuous Family Ownership is awarded this

Century Ownership Certificate

by the

County of Arathan und the Arathan County Agricultural Paciety

Dated and Signed at Wassan, Wisconsin

This 12th Day of August, 1976.

The Wassan But a Bandan State of County Agricultural Paciety

According to Bandan State of County August, 1976.

Nowicki Farm

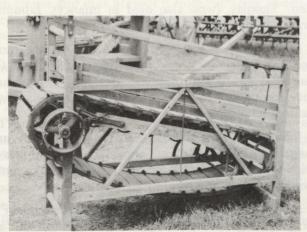


Nowicki Century Farm

Records show that Daniel Johnson and wife Eleta and Fred Rietbrock and his wife Helen sold a 120 acre tract of land to Martin Nowicki and wife Kathryn (Socha) who came from Europe in 1877. They came with a few other settlers, namely: Switlick, Lewandowski, Wojciechowski and Waskowiak families. Living together with the Switlick's for a few days, they cleared for themselves a little space where they built a log house and later a barn. They had nine children.

Martin who was a musician ironically died at an early age of a heart attach while playing at a wedding. He left his wife Kathryn and family to clear the lands.

As money was needed, Mike, as a young man, and his older sisters walked to Wausau to work. Those were long and tedious hours. Many times they would stop in at the Waskowiak's on the way to rest and then continue home. They raised sheep to supply the wool for the family needs. Cows were kept according to how much feed they had from the cleared lands. The cream was skimmed from the milk by hand and what they couldn't use themselves they fed to the animals. When creameries came into existence they could then sell the cream to creameries. They had their own separator which was driven by a tread mill operated by a dog, sheep or goat. Threshing of grain was done by flail. Whatever products they had extra were taken by the younger brother John and their



Tread mill used to operate a cream separator - powered by a dog.

mother to Wausau. On their way they left the wheat or rye to be ground into flour at the Rib Falls mill, only to be picked up on their way back. As the years went by the flail threshing of grain was replaced by a six-horsepower grain machine - consisting of a cylinder and sieves. One man cut the bands on the bundle while one or two men fed the bundles into the machine. Then one would shovel the grain away in bushel boxes while the other men carried the grain into the bin. Few others carried the straw to the mow.

Later the thresh machine came into existence which was driven by a steam engine. This machine took the bundles as they were and separated the grain from the straw and blew the straw out onto a stack or mow.

Mike assumed the responsibilities of operating the



Mike Nowicki family making hay

farm. As it was a custom to have an agreement made those days, Mike would have to pay off the rest of the children as they left home and support his mother until her death.

Mike married Mary Kropidlowski, November 16, 1891. They had a family of twelve children: Anna (Murkowski), Helen (Murkowski), Frances (Nowacki), Anton, Mary (Myszka), Lucy (Socha), Joseph, Julia (Witucki), Rose (Witucki), Celia (Albrecht), Peter, and Thomas.



All living children of Mike Nowicki. Back Row: Peter, Celia (John Albrecht), Lucy (Frank Socha), Rose (Joe Witucki), Joseph, Julia (Andrew Witucki), Tony. Front Row: Thomas, Mary (Jacob Myszka), Frances (John Nowacki), Helen (Leo Murkowski), Anna (Peter Murkowski).

With the help of the family, Mike cleared the rest of the land and located the buildings where they are now. As the years progressed and the children married and settled elsewhere, Joseph who married Stella (Handlowski) October 25, 1932, purchased the property from his father in November 14, 1932. The following spring of March 1933, after their marriage, Joseph's father passed away leaving the mother in his care. She lived to a nice age of 81 years, passing away April 18, 1952. Joseph and wife Stella have nine children: Maryann, Helen (Bogaczyk), Phyllis (Mader), Joseph Jr., Theresa (Schwartz), Edward, Richard, Christine (Delago), and Bernice (Manhardt).

Joseph and Stella have moved to live in Athens, Wisconsin selling their interests to son Edward and



Edward & Mary (Guden) Nowicki present owners of Century Farm. Children L-R: Greg Tamara, Ellen Kelly.

wife Mary (Guden) on October 2, 1968. This couple with their children, Greg, Tamara, Ellen, and Kelly have done extensive modernizing on this homestead which they operate today.



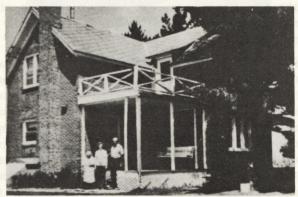
Literski Farm

In the year of 1877, John Literski and wife Josephine (Kulas) purchased 80 acres of wooded land in Rietbrock. They cleared some off on which they built a log house and barn. It was in this log house that church Mass was said occasionally before Holy Family parish built a church.

The family continued to clear land for raising more crops. Several years later the present house and barn were built.

John and Josephine raised a family of ten children, six daughters and four sons. The children were: Martha (Kaull, John Barbara (Bargender), Tony, Rose (Bargender), Albert, Mary (Welbes), Victor, Frances (Breska), and Verona (Cyzan).

John died on October 13, 1906, at sixty years of age. Josephine continued to live on the farm, and in 1907, son John took possession of the farm. Josephine, his mother, made her home with him, as did some of the brothers and sisters who were unmarried at the time. Mother Josephine lived here until her death at age ninety, on March 10, 1899.



Angeline, Marcella & John Literski

On September 16, 1912, John married Angeline Writz. They also had ten children, seven sons and three daughters: Frank, Joseph, Regina, (who died in infancy), Mary, (Mrs. Peter Nowicki), John, Alois, Leo, Thomas, (who also died in infancy), Edmund, and Dorothy, (Mrs. Howard Murkowski).

In 1943, when their son John took over the farm, John and Angeline made their home with them. On June 27, 1951, John married Marcella Nowicki and they continued to farm. They have one daughter Janice (Schreiner).

John, Sr., died in 1964, at the age of 84, and Angeline died in 1978, in Tomahawk. She had moved with John and Marcella, in 1977, to their lake home north of Tomahawk.

At this time in 1977 nephew James Literski (son of Leo) and wife Sherry (Schug) bought the farm and are presently farming with their three daughters: Marsha, born in 1972; Jill, born in 1975; and Amy, born in 1977.



Meyer Farm



The Stephen Meyer home (second house) one-half mile east of Poniatowski

On October 2, 1878, Stephen Meyer, his wife Maria, and their 8 children, ranging in age from 2½ to 18 years, left their native land, Switzerland. The main reason for leaving was to find a new home where they could practice their religion freely and without being forbidden to worship in public.

On October 5, they left a seaport at Havre, France, on a voyage that took 13 days—10 of which were stormy. Because of the extremely high waves, the captain shut off all power on the ship, letting it take its own course and thus prevent it from capsizing. August Meyer recalled that he was five years old aboard ship when a large wave swept across the 400 foot long by 50 foot wide ship and completely drenched his mother's clothes. She went to the hold and had her clothing dried; buy they were so stiff with salt they were uncomfortable.

Their first attempt was to settle in the area of Detroit, Michigan; but they did not find that to their liking. They then traveled to Milwaukee and were informed there that land was available in Marathon County. They arrived by train at Wausau, then had one day of travel by ox cart to Rib Falls. From Rib Falls they still had another day of travel to the present farm, because they needed to cut a trail with saws and axes.

At that time a building located east of Poniatowski was available to all newcomers who wished to establish a home in the area. Here they could live expense-free until a building of their own could be erected. This building was known as the Court House, because all differences which arose were also settled in this building.

The Meyers stayed only one night in this building, for reasons known only to the family. Their first home, therefore, was just a temporary shelter. They cut down a large tree and erected a shelter over the stump, which served as their first table. Cut boughs of fir trees were used as a bed, for bedding they brought along.

The following year they built a two story log house and other farm buildings.

Robert Meyer, then 14, told of the family's being called at 3 o'clock in the morning to cut hay, with a scythe, around the stumps until sun-up; then when the dew was off, they would turn the hay with forks. Later they raked it, loaded it and unloaded it all by hand. The cradle and flail were main tools but Robert also said his father never hesitated to purchase machinery as it was made available.

The present house was built in 1897 and the barn in 1913. It was August Meyer who took possession of this farm in 1915. From 1946 until 1976 Irvin Meyer owned the farm. Presently his son Ronald lives on the Meyer homestead.



Ronald Meyer - Century Farm



Kraft Century Farm

Albert Kraft and wife Josephine (Wesolowski) arrived in Milwaukee between 1877-1878.

To them as pioneers of Wisconsin, those days surely must have been a high adventure.

The stories sounded more and more interesting as they kept hearing and reading about the "good cheap land" and "huge trees in the North". With the Klawinski family already here and settled in Section 22 in the Town of Rietbrock, Albert and Josephine Kraft decided to head in that same direction.

They came in summer with their six children, namely: Anton, August, Albert, Julia (Benkowski), Elizabeth (Krause), and Margaret (Myszka). As the means of transportation way by foot to their destination, August and Anton usually swam across the river to make it possible for others to get across-the trees were blazed as markers. Upon their arrival they made their home with the Klawinski's for a short while until Albert and Josephine purchased a tract of land in Section 23, Township 29-N Range 4-E from Rietbrock & Halsey for \$800.00, in 1878. The first land deed was started in 1857 by James Buch.

They then built a log house near a spring. Those days they used mostly pine logs for building, as it was the easiest to split. The rough boards were laid on the ground, a few at a time, at first, and then later the entire floor. The shorter logs were split in a shingle effect for laying across rafters in a shingle-like fashion, in order for the roof to shed water. The source of water was obtained from the spring. They dug a hole, planked in and then tied a bucket on one end and a stone weight on the other end, in order to pull it up. During the winter months many a fish came along.

Deer, wolves and bears were plentiful.

The gardens were around the stumps. Many-a-time when the pioneers planted the buckwheat around the stumps the bear made sure he had fertilized it. The most urgent provisions were brought home by foot from Wausau.

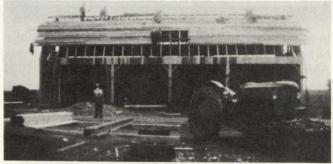
Later Albert and Josephine handed down the farm to their son Anton and wife Anna (Nowicki). Albert died in 1897 and his wife Josephine in 1914. To Anton and Anna were born the following children: Allie (dec.), Lucy (Myszka) (dec.), John, Sylvester, Mary (Janz), Albert (dec.) and Margaret (Dublin).

The present home was built by Anton's brother-inlaw Frank Benkowski, and the barn by Frank Myszka. Besides clearing the lands, Anton was a head sawyer at the Chesak Sawmill for many, many years. He died in 1915 leaving his wife Anna to take over the farm with the children.

Later, in 1939, their son Albert purchased the homestead and, in 1940, he married Marcella Rauen. They



continued farming the 160 acres, purchasing in 1955 the eighty acre Jakubowski farm. Mother Anna died in the year of 1943. In 1954, they built a machine



Machine shed being built on the Kraft farm

shed. They had a family of the following: Kenneth, Ronald, Judith (Albrecht), Randall, Allen, Carla and Gerald.

After the death of Albert in July, 1969, Kenneth purchased the farm and he and his wife Mary Jane (Kurtzweil) are now farming the 240 acres. In 1977, they had remodeled the barn. They have three children: Brian, Paul and Kevin.



Present farmers on Kraft Century Farm Kenneth and wife Mary Jane (Kurtzweil) Kraft children Kevin, Paul and Brian

*1. Josephine Wesolowski's grandfather was a General in the 4th Polish Army.

Murkowski Farm

Finding heavy, wooded area, without sign of civilization, such as a road, school, church and the absence of all conveniences which seemed an absolute necessity for some cultured people from Pennsylvania such as had the means to leave left returning in disgust. But John Murkowski, a young unmarried man decided to settle on a tract of land Section 17 - Township 29 - N Range 4-E in 1878. He cleared enough land to build a log house and barn. Later as he married Lekodia Hart they both cleared enough land so that they could start into farming slowly. The hardships were great at the beginning with the raising of a large family. But with the help of their children, they were able to spend all of their life on this tract of land now owned by a grandson Clement Murkowski.

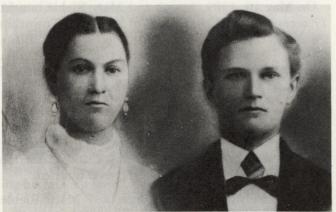
Blacksmith Shop

Records show that in 1846 a tract of land Section 15, Township 29 - N Range 4-E was given by the United States Government to David Keith for serving in the War of 1812.

A settler Jacob Murkowski settling in about 1876 or earlier started a blacksmith shop shoeing oxen, making hoes and other oddities. The only road from the village of Poniatowski to this farm was a path they used as a road. The settlers helped each other as best they could.

As more land was cleared, records show that Jacob and Eva had the land in 1890 to 1895, then Jacob and Josefa had the land until 1898. It was then purchased by Anton Wisnewski from 1907-1918; later in that year it was handed down to Frank Wisnewski until 1930, when it was sold to John Gesicki Sr. In later years it was purchased by Thomas Witucki and is now owned by their son James.

"Senski"



1875-80. Wedding Picture. Adam Senski, 1845-1931, Maryanna (Koss) Senski, 1856-1922. Parents of Ignatz, Veronica (Mrs. John Michalski), Stan St., Mary (Mrs. Mike Janowski), Julia (Mrs. Joe Gesicki), John also Katherine (Mrs. Andrew Novitzke). Grandparents of Stan Jr., Edward, Lawrence, Leo, Regina (Mrs. Clements Napierala) and others. Copies from a drawing on October 7, 1972.

Adam and Mary Senski came to Marathon County, Town of Rietbrock, in 1879. They emigrated from Poland and lived in Milwaukee for a short time. They moved on 40 acres, just one-fourth mile west of the present Lawrence Senski farm, which is now owned by George Urmanski and the house is owned by Gary Lewis. Ignatz Senski occupied this house until 1947.

There were seven children in this family. Ignatz, the oldest, was born in Milwaukee. Stan and John were the other two boys, and the girls were - Julia (Gesicki), Mary (Janowski), Veronica (Michalski), and Kathryn (Nowicki).

In 1899, they purchased another 40 acres, which is now part of the Lawrence Senski farm.

Stan was married to Caroline (Wisnewski) in 1909, when he became owner of this land. In 1911, Stan built the house which is now occupied by Lawrence Senski. Adam and Mary continued to live in the older home at the same location.

Stan Sr., and his wife Caroline were parents of the following - Stan, Jr., Leo, Lawrence, Edward and Regina (Napieralla).

Lawrence Senski is the present owner of this land and he purchased the farm in 1953.

Metz Farm

Michael Metz came to Rietbrock from Kewaskum, Wisconsin, during the fall of 1879 to search for land for his family. He chose a parcel of land having a spring and located beside the Black Creek. Then he returned to Kewaskum to spend the winter with his family. Today this two-hundred-one-acre plot of land is bordered by East Town Line Road, on the north, and by County Highway H, on the east. Ninety of these acres have been in the Metz family name for the past century.

When spring came, Michael and his four teenage children—three sons and a daughter—put their family's possessions in a horse-drawn wagon and moved to their chosen land in the Town of Rietbrock. The sons were named Christian, Philip and Mike, and the daughter was named Maggie. It is not known as to what happened to the mother and why she was not now with the family.

Immediately the trees were cut and a log house was built. As time went on the family was involved in farming, and other farm buildings were built. Later a well was dug so that the family used the well and he cattle use the spring. The deed to this property was recorded on December 8, 1880.

As the sons began to marry, the father divided his land among them. He sold each of his three sons sixty acres and kept the remaining twenty-one, below the Hanke farm, for himself. Christian purchased his sixty acres for \$200.00, and it is this land which is part of the homestead.

Maggie Berres married Christian and they built a log house on the north side of Black Creek. There was no Town Line Road as yet, and the creek was used to follow to a trail on "H" when the family went shopping. The small part of Black Creek was built up with logs to serve as a bridge when the water was high and they wanted to get to the trail. It is the logs from this house that he used to build a pighouse when he built Maggie her new home on Town Line Road, and which Elmer used for pigs, or for chickens at the present time.

Hardship and tragedy seemed to follow Christian and Maggie. When typhoid fever struck the family in 1896, it was feared that the whole family might be wiped-out; however, all survived but two members of the family—an infant daughter and a small son named Johnny. Two years later Christian began to build a new house, beside Town Line Road, for his Maggie; however, she died in childbirth before the house was completed in 1898.

Christian then moved his family of four girls and two sons (one of whom was William) into their new house and ten-year-old Kate assumed the role of mother. Christian continued to farm here until 1916 when his son William bought the sixty acres and another thirty acres from his Uncle Philip, who was a logger and not interested in farming. This accounts for the ninety-acre homestead.

Daughter Kate married and went with her husband to homestead in Canada. She visited in this area about in 1975, shortly before her death at the age of eighty.

William married Theresa Eder and had four children: Elmer (Leona Erdmann), Virginia Gauerke (Lester), Josephine Wiesner (Ludwig), and Carl (Louetta Wojeski). Virginia and Elmer are Town of Rietbrock residents.

Elmer purchased the homestead in 1948, and he and Leona continue to farm there at the present time.

Among the records given to Elmer with his deed was a lease that was attached to the deed and dated April 18, 1874. This lease gives the Wisconsin Central Railroad Company the right to build a track from Spencer to Rib Falls, with the right-of-way through the Metz' land. The lease was given to the railroad by Fred Rietbrock, stayed with the deed and passed to the purchaser of the land, Christian Metz, and still is on Elmer's deed. No railroad was, or is ever expected to be, built, however.

With the building of roads in the early 1900's, travel was made easier. It also meant that bands of gypsies would be traveling these roads, and they were feared by residents who called them "Oklahoma Indians". Elmer recalls that his father warned that if they wanted chickens, you better give them some.

"First you sold them five and the next day, somehow, they stole five." said Elmer's father. No one ever gave them milk, but they always seemed to have some. When farmers saw a string of horses coming, they watched their farms to make sure nothing would disappear with the gypsies, who would quite mysteriously disappear during the night. This made for some excitement for the Metz Family and a memory of bygone days.

William and Theresa did not move too far away from their first home, as they built their retirement home across the road (in the Town of Halsey) from Elmer on the homestead, which will have been in the Metz name for 100 years on December 8, 1980. However, this land was bargained for in 1879 and cleared in the spring of 1880 for the house that was built at that time.

Joseph Riehle

Joseph Riehle was born on November 17, 1858, in Moris, Indiana. At the age of 21, he came to Wisconsin with his four brothers—William, Andres, John and Felix.

John Riehle bought land Northeast of Stratford. On December 1, 1888, Joseph, William and Andrew Riehle each bought 104 acres of woodland in the Town of Rietbrock, three miles East of the Village of Athens—Section 3 of Township 29, Range 4, East, lying North of the Black Creek. Andrew Riehle sold his farm and moved to Menominee Falls, Wisconsin.

In 1880, Joseph Riehle married Mary Wagner, daughter of Joseph and Catherine Wagner. Mary Wagner was born in Schwartzback, Austria. When 11 years old, she came to America with Mrs. Frank Blecha and parents. Her parents came to America two years later. They settled in Corinth, Wisconsin, Mary worked in Hartford and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

On May 10, 1909, Joseph and Mary Riehle bought 17 acres of land—E½ of SW¼ of Section 3, Township 29 North Range-4, East, lying North of the Black Creek. Joseph and Mary had 11 children—Frank, Peter, Anton, Conrad, Emma, Leonard, Catherine and Joseph. Three children died in infancy.

Frank married Emma Framke; Peter married Elizabeth Albrecht; Anton married Frances Platta; Conrad married Anna Berres; Emma married Harry Gauerke; Leonard married Elizabeth Handrick and Catherine married William Woellner. Joseph never married.

On December 3, 1924, Joseph and Mary Riehle sold their farm to Anton Riehle.

Mary Riehle died March 20, 1928, at the age of 61. Joseph Riehle died February 3, 1947, at the age of 88.

Frances Platta is the daughter of Leo and Josephine Platta.

Leo Platta was born on April 9, 1882, in Germany. He served in the German Army for two years. Later he came to America and settled in Wisconsin. On November 5, 1907, he married Josephine Wisniewski in the Town of Rietbrock. He moved to Athens, Wisconsin, and worked for the Rietbrock Lumber Company, before moving to a farm.

Josephine Platta was born in Carniz, Poland, April 15, 1884, the daughter of Anton and Mary Wisniewski. When six years old, she came to America with parents and settled in Poniatowski. She had seven brothers—Ted, John, Frank, Leo, Joseph, Alex and Tom and three sisters—Julia, Frances and Caroline.

Leo and Josephine Platta had four children—Frances, Leonard, Anna and Mary.

Leo Platta died April 25, 1957, at the age of 75. Josephine Platta died February 4, 1958, at the age of 73.

Second Generation

Anton Riehle was born on October 27, 1894, in the Town of Rietbrock. During World War I, he seraved with the U.S. Army in France. Afterward, he returned to Rietbrock to farm the homestead, which he purchased, in 1924, from his parents.

On November 5, 1931, Anton Riehle married Frances J. Platta in Chicago, Illinois, and Frances was back in the Town of Rietbrock again.

Frances J. Platta, daughter of Leo and Josephine Platta, was born on October 30, 1908, in the town of Rietbrock. She attended the Parochial Grade School in Poniatowski and later went to work in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois. After her marriage to Anton, she moved to the farm in the Town of Rietbrock.

Anton and Frances Riehle had six children—Germaine, Marlene, Roger, Nancy Ann and Patricia Marie, twins, and adopted James F. Riehle. Patricia Marie died in infancy.

Germaine Ann Riemer resides in Germantown, Wisconsin; Marlene Otto, California; James Frank Riehle is employed with Johnson Services in Milwaukee; Nancy Hopperdietzel resides in the Town of Halsey, Athens; and Roger resides on the homestead, Town of Rietbrock.

On June 1, 1960, Anton and Frances Riehle sold their farm to son Roger. Roger had been employed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and in California before buying his father's farm.

In 1975, Roger purchased the adjoining neighbor's farm (originally the Arnold Riske's) from Ernest and Betty Klimpke. This fifty-two-acre farm is located in Section 3—Township 29, North, Range-4.

Roger was married to Judy Jacobi in 1976. At this time, Anton and Frances moved into the home "next-door" and Roger and Judy lived on the homestead.

Anton retired at the age of sixty-five, and this gave him time to pursue his favorite hobby, fishing. It now became his full-time occupation, as he could be seen fishing on almost any stream in the area each day. And Frances, who had a yearning to become an artist, also had time for her hobby. She enrolled in the Joe O'Bryan Art School, at Westboro, Wisconsin, to study oil painting. She has to date completed many interesting and lovely works of art.

Anton died on April 20, 1977, at the age of eightytwo, but Frances still lives in the Town of Rietbrock, on Town Line Road, on Roger's farm.

Bramm



Christ Bramm farm now owned by the grandsons, The Penno's.

Christ and Anna Bramm (nee Blumenberg) came to the Town of Rietbrock about 1880 and lived on a forty-acre tract across from what is now the Marvin William's farm. (The cabin is there now. It shows the toll the elements have taken over the years). Mr. Bramm worked as a Millright in the Chesak Saw Mill. Transportation was by footpower and with horses. They sold this place and bought eighty acres which they developed into a farm. It was closer to work. Mrs. Bramm and the girls sawed trees down for bolts, as a supplemental source of income. The family was typical of the frontier. Lena (Mrs. Rudolf Dreger), Anna (Mrs. Gust Engebrecht), Caroline (Mrs. David Tautrim), Emma (Mrs. Henry Krueger), Renata (Mrs. George Meier), Minnie (Mrs. Fred Penno), Bertha (Mrs. Ed Laub), Laura (Mrs. Peter Olson), Emilia (Mrs. Alvin Muenchow), Herman and Sophia (nee Switlick), Charles and Margaret (nee Krell), Linda (Mrs. Charles Framke).

Fred Penno came to this country in 1904. He came from Rovno, Russia, Town of Cuttie Zalessie. He hauled logs, for the Rietbrock Company, on the old ice road. He also worked in the harvest fields in Minnesota, shocking and threshing grain. In 1915, he married Minnie Scherz (nee Bramm) and they farmed

on forty acres in the Town of Rietbrock. In 1919, they sold this farm and went to California. While there he worked in the vineyards and fruit orchards. In 1923, they returned to this area and purchased the Bramm farm. They cleared and broke up the rest of the land. Members of the family are: Walter and Anna Scherz (nee Mathie) both deceased. Irvin Scherz, Dec., Ruth Scherz (nee Lampert), Lawrence Penno; Frederick Penno, Carl and Margaret Penno (nee Mueller) and Dorothy, Mrs. Ferd Mais.

Lawrence worked at the 3-M plants in Wausau and the Town of Maine for over twenty-eight years and is farming now. Frederick also farming on the home place. Carl, principal at the Edgar High School, served in the Armed Forces for more than three years. He was with the Fifth Army in the European Theatre, with an Anti-Aircraft Battalion. Dorothy worked as a sales person in Wausau Stores.

Stenzel Family

John and Anna (Igowski) Stenzel, both born in West Prussia, migrated to the United States presumably between 1878 and 1880. They purchased an 80-acre tract of land in the NW-Section 27 in the Town of Rietbrock.

They experienced all the hardships with all the other pioneers that had arrived here. Children born to this couple included: Joseph, husband of Martha Klawinski; Rose, wife of Joseph Klawinski; Frank, husband of Maria Dawbroski and second wife, Rosalia Jozik; John; husband of Anna Nowacki; August, husband of Rosalia Wichlacz; Albert, husband of Hedwig Jacubowski; Bernard, husband of Maria Bloczynski; Anna, wife of Stanley Witucki; and Martha, wife of John Gajewski.

In a few years on November 21, 1887, Joseph married Martha Klawinski in Poniatowski. He resumed the responsibilities of farming, with the passing of his parents. They were blessed with five children, namely: Rose, married to Paul Prodzinski, who died six years later and she then married Joseph Sturgel; John, husband of Veronica Omelian; Frances, wife of Stanley Kulas; Lucas, husband of Clara Socha; and Julia, wife of John Socha. In 1901, Joseph died leaving his interests to his wife Martha. She remarried, in 1902, to Alex Cichon, a widower with three children namely: Frank, Anna and Leo. They then had three of their own children, Emma, Alex and Helen.

As the years went by, the land was passed down to Joseph's son Lucas and wife Clara. They have a family of four sons, namely: Clarence (dec.), Lawrence, killed in the Korean conflict, Lucas, Jr., and Edward.

The land is now in the fourth generation. It was purchased by their son Edward and his wife Sharon (McKee), in 1963, and is being operated by them and their four children, Bonnie, Laurie, Edward Jr., and Dawn.

He is the happy man whose life even now Shows somewhat of the happier life to come; Who, doomed to an obscure but tranquil state, Is pleased with it, and, were he free to choose, Would make his fate his choice; whom peace, the fruit.

Of virtue, and whom virtue, fruit of faith, Prepare for happiness; bespeak him one Content indeed to sojourn while he must Below the skies, but having there his home.

William Cowper



Pioneer Farms

Bloczynski Family



Jan and Wiktorya (Letarski) Bloczynski

It was during the year of the Chicago fire, 1871, when Jan and Viktorya (Letarski) Bloczynski became urged to move from Milwaukee to the great free and open spaces. For five years they studied their plans.

One hot, October afternoon, during the Indian summer of 1876, they arrived in the Town of Rietbrock. They arrived, yes. But, what unwelcome newcomers! There was not a living soul to greet them. And our present nearby railroad stations at Edgar and Athens, where were they? Well-that was over one hundred years ago. They traveled from Wausau, which was then the nearest railroad station, to Rib Falls, in a wagon drawn by a team of oxen. For two weeks, the women and children of the pioneer group made their living quarters within the Henry Baseman blacksmith shop, while the men and boys blazed a trail, and cut down enough trees for an ox team to pass through the dark forests. Having loaded four hundred feet of lumber upon a wagon, the ox team, followed by men with bundles in their arms, began their westward journey. Jan and Viktorya exchanged carrying, upon arms, the baby of their family, Dominica (Sister Christina), who was then three years of age. After wading through swamps, and groping their way in the dark evening shadows for many long hours, they finally reached their destination which soon had been incorporated under the name of Poniatowski, who was loved by his Polish people. Bloczynskis settled in the central part of Section 14. In later years, it was purchased by their grandson Thomas Myszka. It is here that Thomas's wife Helen still lives at the present time.

Jan and Viktorya camped for the first several days on the hill, which now is a part of the Oliver Schueller farm. Until their first log cabin was built, they found shelter under a roof of thicket and evergreen brush. Together with them, the Milkowski,

the Norlock, and the Klawinski families were the first to live where no white man had ever lived before.

Four weeks later, this little group of Rietbrock's "Daniel Boones"—the solitary pioneers—was followed by six more families, who were also Milwaukee emigrants; and all of them were harbored temporarily at the Rietbrock camp.

In the second group of pioneers were the families of Stephen Rethka, Simon Myszka, Frank Wisnewski, Theodore Lewandowski, Nick Knaczenski and Anton Rzepinski. A year later followed Peter Wojciechowski, Martin Nowicki, Joseph Waskowiak, Adam Schwittlick, Joseph Szczepaniak, and Anton Poznanski.

The pioneers lived far apart, separated by miles of forests and marshes. They were, indeed, very lonely. But soon, news reached the farmers of Rib Falls and Marathon city about the Rietbrock pioneers. That was when they had to pay their first taxes to the Town of Rib Falls, as the pioneer land were still under the jurisdiction of that town. Among the many neighboring settlers who exchanged visits with the newcomers were the Haesle, Halkovitz, Rux, and Tessmer families. As soon as the colonists knew that they had some fine neighbors on the other side of the marsh, they did not wish to return to their old homes in Milwaukee; the mighty spirit of Kosciuszko was moulded in them; they were eager to sacrifice everything in order to help their neighbors. Whatever pecuniary aid they could give to their neighbors, they gave it gladly, even if they themselves were not harvesting any money in that far-away forest country.

Satisfaction is not always complete in money alone, for money in a wilderness has little value. The tales of the pioneers confirm this point of view. Most of those pioneers had savings and money with which to buy food, but it meant a sacrifice of long hours and difficult labor, to furnish it to their homes. A day, and even longer, was the time schedule to Marathon City, as those very early trips could be made by foot only. Each "schopper" brought home just the little bundle which he could carry under his arm, or upon his shoulder. We must remember that there were yet no roads for wagons; and there were no horses, even for several years. After forest lanes were chopped through the treachererous swamps, Jan Bloczynski was the first to request Mr. Magdans-a farmer east of Rib Falls, who had an ox team-to deliver a load of food stuffs. When the farmer received the twenty-dollar goldpiece for his produce, he exclaimed, "Mein lieben Gott, ich habe so vas nicht geschehen fur eine lange, lange zeit." (My loving God, I have not had this

happen to me for a long, long time.) It is apparent that money, then, was quite scarce. The farmers saw very little of it. But even our pioneers who had money were not so pleasingly cheerful about it, when they had no roads or bridges over which they could travel to transport the necessary provisions.

Jan had four sons by his previous marriage, namely: Mike, John, Stan, and Leo; and with his second wife Viktorya, they had Alex, who married Elizabeth Slewicki; Anna, wife of Jacob Myszka, and Dominica (Sister Christine), who as a young girl from



the area went to the convent. She was a member of the Franciscan Order of La Crosse. She celebrated her 60th Anniversary as a nun at Holy Family Church at Poniatowski, August of 1942, Sister Christina died at the age of 98, being in her 80th year of her religious profession.

Myszka Family



Jacob and Anna Myszka

Most of our early pioneers were of European origin; they left their native country because they were dissatisfied with the German yoke and the Prussian iron rule of militarism under Bismarck. At the time they came to the United States—the land of the free—Lincoln's abolishment of slavery had just been put into effect.

Jacob Myszka was born July 22, 1855, in Leszo Pomorze, Poland. He set sail with his parents Symon and Maria (Kedrowski) Myszka for Montreal, Canada, in 1869, when he was a boy of fourteen. The family later established itself in Milwaukee which was then known as Walker's Point. Living there until the time when Fred Rietbrock, of the Johnson, Rietbrock &

Halsey law firm, sought pioneers for its lands in Marathon County, they settled in the Poniatowski vicinity in October, 1876. Having come to a virgin soil, a virgin timberland, it fell upon these early settlers to

Swladectwo urodzenia i chrztu swietego

Jakob

Chrześniaka imię - baptizati nomen

	Olca nazwisko, imię, stan Patris cognomen, nomen, status. Michael Myszka				
	Matki imie i nazwisko rodowe Matris praenomen et nomen gentile Marjanna Liebrowoka				
	Urodzenia dzień, miesiąc, rok Nativitatis dies, mensis, annus				
	Rok urodzenia wyrażony słowami Annus nativ. expressis verbis affertur				
	Mlejscowość urodzenia Widno powiat (capitanus) Chujuste				
	Został ochrzczony - Est baptizatus d. 24. lipra 1855 r.				
	w kościele – in ecclesia parafjalugu v Lesnie				
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	desno de lulezo 1929 r				
	pieczęć L. S. RzKatolicki Urząd Paratjainy — Officium par				
	to de				
	Name I al				
	Name - Jacob				
	Father - Michael Myszka				
Mother - Maryanna Kiedrowska					
	Date of birth - July 22				
	Year - 1855				
	Place - Widno Chojnive - little village in Leszno, Polano				
	Baptised - July 24, 1855				
	Church - in Leszno				

decide their and our future. As a young boy Jacob often told his family how he used to run errands for his mother. He "ran" to Rib Falls or to Marathon City. On one of these errands, Jacob purchased a cabin broom and a window sash for their first log house. When he returned home, he had a broken broom handle and a window sash without a pane, all of which damage was done by his unavoidable hopping around over the wide marshes and over the squirrel lanes which were "pretzelled" with roots of anti-diluvian pines.

Father - Kitzermann, Pastor

As records showed February 8, 1929

The first farm purchased by Jacob was a 60 acre tract of land near his father Symon's farm.

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'epganal Property Valuation,≸	Carl B.	TEM TOWN Tressurer.

On November 26, 1879 he married Anna Bloczynski. She was born April 21, 1862 to John and Victoria Bloczynski. The wedding ceremony took place in the

Mission church at Poniatowski, Rev. Klemecki of Arcadia, Wis. officiated. From this marriage there were six sons and six daughters, namely, Theodore, Pelagia (Meller), Thomas, Philip, Jacob Jr. Helen (Markowski), Anna (died in infancy), Mary (Kreft), Constantine, Emma (Rockhold), Edward, and Christine (Kosz).

After purchasing land from his brother John in 1908 he farmed until 1913 when he sold the place to his oldest son Theodore and wife Frances (Writz). He purchased a section of land near Poniatowski formerly known as the "Belvedere Farm". (The land is now owned by Raymond Murkowski and the home is



Jacob Myszka farm home "Belvedere

owned by Edwin and Brenda Schmidt). He then lived here a few years, moved to the village of Athens for awhile, and moved back later to spend his remaining years on the farm.

When many of the early pioneers were returning to the cities, because of the untold sacrifices which had to be endured in pioneer life, and as others chose to take their easier lot in city life, Jacob remained in the undeveloped lands of Rietbrock, and devoted his life to help build a new settlement. He was essentially prominent in establishing Poniatowski, the nucleus of the Town of Rietbrock, a settlement which remains—ever since its inception, a most interesting item of mention by the Wisconsin State Historical Society in its collections (Vol. 14, pg. 383).

After the community received, in donation, from Rietbrock a twenty - acre tract of land for community purposes Jacob sent to various Polish and Catholic communities in the state seeking financial aid when the settlers were desirous to build a church. It was through his efforts that a school for the Polish language was founded; an outstanding teacher, Helinski, who guided the education of the youth in the town's early history. Jacob encouraged organizations of Polish culture, helped to found the Adalbert Society and during the late nineties, in collaboration with Mr. Tomkiewicz of Edgar, organized a Polish Club.

He held various town offices serving as supervisor, chairman, treasurer, and also in county government circles. Local records reveal countless instances of his zealous work in building roads, which were of primary and vital importance toward creating a new community. In this respect, his family is in possession of one of such records, dating back to 1898, at which time he served as a Commissioner of Roads. This private "Memoir" includes an interesting item, because of its contribution to developing the village of Athens. This part reads: "Money recommended for outer roads from Poniatowski into the village of Athens (Black Creek Falls), \$80.00, which was spent chiefly for labor in building a town road". It will be remembered that 1898 was only seventeen years after the one first log house was built in the present village of Athens.

In September, 1929, the Jacob Myszka's celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

He died August 19, 1938 at the age of 83 and his wife Anna died January 5, 1939, at the age of 77.

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Mary and John Kulas



John and Mary Kulas were attracted to their homestead by an advertisement, which offered land for sale at a reasonable price, placed in a Milwaukee newspaper by Frederick Rietbrock. It was late in the summer of 1877 when Mary, John, and Andrew-age 2—migrated to that part of the Town of Stettin, Marathon County, which later became the Town of Rietbrock. They selected the S½ of NW¼ of Section 11 as their homestead site.

Seven other relatives made the move north with them. They were accompanied by Mary's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Wozniak and their three daughters, Anna, Rose, and Kate, and their year-old son, Frank, and also Stanley's brother Leo, a single man. They settled on the adjoining N½ of the NW¼ of Section 11.

Having had experience in the hard work of digging wells by hand in the Milwaukee area, and with winter approaching, they selected a rise on the forest floor at the base of which flowed a stream of clear spring water. Near the east line of the eighty acres, this point is approximately one mile due north of Poniatowski.

Kulas, with the assistance of the Wozniaks, proceeded to excavate a shelter in the ground, covering the same with poles and split pine logs for a roof; this was to become their habitation for their first winter in the wilderness. They occupied themselves that winter with preparation of materials for a log cabin and log barn, erected during the summer of 1878, near the location of the dug-out.

Some years later—after the Town of Rietbrock constructed the road between Sections 10 and 11, and their homesite was still being served by only a trail from a point one-half mile north of Poniatowski—they abandoned the original log buildings and constructed a frame house and another log barn near the west line of the eighty, adjacent to the new road. That frame dwelling, together with an addition to accommodate

the growing family, served them well—as it did their son Stan and his family in later years. The original eighty acres with its improvements was sold in 1974, after having been in possession of the Kulas family for 97 years.

Mary and John were the parents of eight children, namely: Andres, Agnes (Mrs. Julius Naiman), Mike, Stan, Anna (Mrs. Joe Lapinski), Mary (Mrs. Frank Trawicki), John Jr., and Frank. Only John Jr., of Athens, and Frank, of Milwaukee, survive.

Mrs. Mary Kulas passed away in 1914 at the age of 54 years. John Kulas lived to the age of 90, passing away in 1939. Both were laid to rest in Holy Family cemetery in Poniatowski.

Meller Pioneer (Wisnewski) Farm



August and Maryanna Meller

Among the early immigrants, who were under the German rule in the old country to arrive in Milwaukee and later settle in Section 36-Township 29-N Range 4-E., between 1878-1880, were August and wife Maryanna (Gappa) Meller. Their cousin Peter Teusz, who came along with them, settled on an eighty-acre tract of land across from them in Section 25. August was born on August 24, 1839, to Thomas and Barbara Meller; and Maryanna Gappa was born September 1, 1844, to August and Rosalia Gappa.

In these early years, they experienced a lot of hardships. They had to clear land to build a home and also a log barn, to house a few animals. Trees were felled with an axe. The stumps were burned out to prepare the land for their crops. The grain had to be cradled by hand. August, being a carpenter, built the home which was remodeled when son Paul took over the interests. In those times, the houses were not built too warm. The wood burning stove was used for cooking meals and to heat the home. Ker osene lamps and lanterns were used for light.

August and Maryanna (Gappa) Meller had ten children. The first three were born in the old country, namely: John, one child name unknown—lost at sea due to illness; Stanislaus; Paul; Theodore; August; Joseph; Julianna (Bloczynski); Anna (Pietrowski) and Nicholas.

When August and Maryanna Meller came here between the years of 1878-1880's, from Milwaukee, Paul was but three years old. They worked and cleared the land, as the homesteaders had to live here a few months-even years-before they could purchase lands.

Records show, in the court house, they owned an 80 acre tract of land August 17, 1881. Records also show that in the year of 1881, August Meller was the first supervisor and Matthew Milkowski was the second supervisor for the Town.

As the sons grew up and helped with clearing the land, the two oldest sons—John and Stanislaus—found interests elsewhere and left home. Their whereabouts became unknown. Paul, the oldest at home, with all the other younger brothers helped the parents with the work. After getting married, they settled elsewhere. Theodore settled on a farm nearby, Section 35 (now owned by Marie Miller); while August, Joseph and Micholas (a former "Green schoolhouse" teacher) all settled in St. Paul, Minn. Julia married Stan Bloczynski and lived in Chicago; and Anna married Valorie Petrowski and lived in Wausau.

Paul married Pelagia Myszka October 22, 1906.



Paul and Pelagia (Myszka) Meller

She was the daughter of Jacob and Anna (Bloczynski) Myszka. They had then taken over his father's home place on December 13, 1906, taking care of his aging parents until their deaths. His father August died at 71 years of age, leaving Maryanna to live with Paul and Pelagia until she passed away at the age of 72. Three daughters were born to them: Irene (Jesko); Adela (Nowicki); Salomea (Sally Wisnewski). A son died in infancy. They farmed with the help of their daughters. A new barn was built to replace the log barn, machine shed, granary, summer kitchen; and they cleared the rest of the land. In 1922, a Delco light plant was put in the home along with a few other improvements. Paul owned his first car in 1923. As the Clover Belt cheese factory was organized by the farmers in 1927, he was one of the stockholders and also treasurer for many years. His age and ailing health forced him to retire and take up residence in the former Thomas Myszka home in Poniatowski. He lived there with his wife until April 20, 1948, when he passed away at the age of 72. Pelagia continued living there until the death of her son-in-law John Jesko in 1959, when she sold the home to Tony and Agnes Nowicki. (Now David and Janice Schreiner's home). She then went to live with her daughter Irene Jesko living to a nice old age of 92, she passed away on May 23, 1975.

Their son-in-law and daughter, Frank and Sally Wisnewski, purchased the farm Dec. 23, 1941. Many inprovements were made-new electric lights and water systems to the house and barn were installed. To house more livestock, the barn was completely remodeled and a new 60 ft. addition was built in 1972; the old milk house was replaced; an old wooden silo was torn down and replaced by a Madison Stave silo; another silo was built; and a bunk feeder was added on in 1975. During the course of the years, and with the help of their son Ralph-and changing times-more land was needed. After the death of John Jesko, in 1959, the 80 acre farm (formerly the Albert Jesko farm in Section 35), was purchased in May, 1960, to make the original Meller farm of 160 acres. More modern machinery was needed; so the old wooden machine shed was torn down in the summer of 1978, and a new steel shed 50 x 136 ft., was built the same year. For the last three years, the farm has been rented to their son, Ralph.



Meller Pioneer farm, now owned by son-in-law and daughter—Frank and Sally (Meller) Wisnewski.

To Frank and Sally Wisnewski were born the following children: Robert, who died in infancy; Mary Kay, deceased who died at the age of 23; and Ralph.

Hart Farm

Albert Hart and wife Agnes came to this country in 1870, settling in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Not finding Milwaukee to their liking, they decided to come to the timberland area in March of 1878—settling on SE ½ of NW ¼ of Section 4, Township 29, N - Range 4-E, According to Deed Book 31, page 151, records, D. H. Johnson, his wife Eleta A. Johnson, and Fred Rietbrock and his wife Helen deeded to Albert Hart on October 27, 1881. (Recorded June 9, 1882).

Children of the Hart family were Leon, Joseph, Leokadia (Mrs. John Murkowski) and Stanley.

Mrs. Thomas (Helen Murkowski) Myszka, 83 years old and a granddaughter of Albert and Agnes, recalls many interesting events and highlights about the family as related to her by her mother. When her mother was fourteen years old, in 1878, The Hart family came to the Town of Rietbrock.

To clear land, they had to first cut down the trees, roll them onto a pile, and burn them. They they felled more trees and built a log house, putting moss on top of the roof for warmth. Between the stumps, they hoed the ground and planted potatoes. After a few years, the Harts had enough logs to build a barn. Even the pine shingles were made from their own sawed logs. Finally they bought a cow and were able to sell the milk. Meanwhile, they existed as best they could on potatoes, rutabagas, pumpkin, beans, and whatever vegetables they could raise in their "stump garden".

When they had an acre of land cleared of stumps, they seeded rye, cut it, stacked the bundles, and put moss on top to protect the grain from moisture. They had to wait until winter to flail the grain. When winter came they poured water on a stretch of ground to make a smooth threshing floor of ice. When a windy day came, the chaff was separated from the grain. A hollow log was shaped into a cone and lined with small smooth stones. Then a stone was found to serve as a plunger pushing the grain down. Here the grain was flattened and ground while this stone was being turned. This grain was then sifted and used as flour for pancakes.

Later, as they produced more rye grain then they could use, they took the rye to Wausau. Usually four or five people walked together. As they walked by foot and had no roads, they marked trees as they went along, so that they could find their way back home. They would carry the sacks of flour and other provisions on their backs—usually as much as they could. On the way back home, the Harts would often stop at the Village of Poniatowski to see John and Victoria Blocynski. Here they were always given something to drink or eat.

Hart's sone Joseph married Mary Stroika. Children from this union were: John, George (who died in service), Mary (Mrs. Joseph Mroczenski) and Barbara (Mrs. Max Switlick). It was John who married Louise Mroczenski and inherited the homestead.

John and Louise had eleven children, namely: Joseph, Sister Mary, John, Anna (Kwiecinski), Agnes (Hoth), Frances (Albrecht), Edmund, Gregory, Sophia (Braun), Raymond, and Rosemary.

In the fall of 1952 John passed away, leaving his interests to his wife Louise. Louise Hart died on February 17, 1979, at the age of 83. Gregory and Raymond managed the farm for many years. When, on August 2, 1967, Gregory married Patricia Buckett, Raymond went to Illinois. Since 1967 Gregory, Pat, and their two children—Lori and David—have been farming the Hart Farm.

Schaetzl Family



Matthew and Ursula Schaetzl and son Matthew

Matthew and Ursula Schaetzl came to this country in 1878, with their only child Matthew, then 12 years old. They settled on the P. Hedruk farm now owned by Raymond Reuter. Later they moved to Rib Falls, then settled on a tract of land in Section 15, in the Town of Rietbrock. They cleared land so that they could put up their house and barn and grow food to



The home of Matthew & Ursula

preserve for the long cold winter. Clothing was homespun and wool was spun on a spinning wheel. Yarn was dyed and knitted into warm socks, caps, and mittens. Mattresses were filled with straw and woolen quilts kept them warm on the cold nights. The cooking stove was their only source of heat. Tallow was saved and soap was made usually in the early spring in a large black kettle.

Matt, being their only child, cared for his aging parents until their death. He married Gertrude



Matthew and Gertrude Schaetzl

Sprenger, the daughter of Anton and Gertrude (Singer) Sprenger, when he was twenty years old. Their five children were: William, Mary (Belter) Helen (Biel), John and Joseph. After a few years they bought the Jake Bergman land joining his father's land, located one and one-quarter miles from Poniatowski. Matt had improved the buildings and toiled as the years progressed.

Not to far away from their farmland was a little



Matthew Schaetzl and Gertrude Sprenger wedding certificate

village called Poniatowski, where a creamery was built facing the road, south of the saloon and store. It was here where Matt and his oldest daughter Mary operated the separator. The skim milk the farmers took back home to feed their animals. Later years a cheese factory was established.

Mary recalls that many times they had been left to take care of the farm work while the mother and father operated the Poniatowski cheese factory. During the



Taken at Anton Sprenger farm, Matthew and Gertrude's wedding. Some known people participating are, Fr. Muehlenkemp, Mr. & Mrs. Jake Bergman, John Rauen,

Joseph Hoffman, Mrs. Schwager, John Chesak and Schopp-the musician with his concertina.



Children of Matthew and Gertrude. L-R Helen (Biel), John, William, Joseph, Front row-Gertrude, Matthew and daughter Mary.

winter months, in the early years, the cheese was made every other day. In the meantime, Matt scaled lumber for Quaw & Schill Co. at Schnappsville. Mary recalls when she was helping her father they sometimes worked day and night as whenever the price of milk went up they made sure they got the cheese out before the prices would drop. Besides being a cheesemaker he was also a treasurer for the Marathon County Farmer's Creamery Co. when it was organized in 1906. He held various offices in the Town of Rietbrock for 25 years. He was a Republican candidate for a Member of Assembly 1st District, belonged to a bridge committee; was on the County Board, took census, in the early years and also took part in church activities.

Matt later sold his interests to his daughter and son-in-law John and Mary Belter in 1948. To them were born six children namely: Gertrude (Dvorak), Marcella (Ludkey), George, Patricia (Stasek), Norbert and David. John and Mary farmed until John's death in 1959, leaving Mary to farm with the children until some of them found interests elsewhere. In 1977 Mary sold her farm to her son Norbert with whom she has been and is presently living.

Trawicki Family

Martin Trawicki, son of Joseph and Anna (Niemczyk) Trawicki, was born in Milwaukee, November 8, 1875. His parents emigrated from Poland in the early 1870's and settled on the south side of Milwaukee. They raised a family of six children: two sons, Martin and Francis, and four daughters; Anna (Mrs. Joseph Kunz), Martha (Mrs. Francis Wozniak), Pauline (Mrs. John Hoffman), and Mary, who died at an early age and whose remains rest in the Holy Family Cemetery in Poniatowski.

In the year of 1878, among the settlers mainly of Polish nationality who were coming here from Milwaukee, was Joseph Trawicki Sr. family. They settled in the town of Rietbrock, about 2 miles northwest of



L-R Martha, Anna, Martin, Pauline, Frank, Joseph and Anna Trawicki

Poniatowski—now the Walter Guralski Jr. farm. They lived in a log cabin; and as each child left to start a life of his own, Martin took over the homestead. In the year of 1898, he married Julia Wisniewski, daughter of Anton and Mary (Kulas) Wisniewski. Prior to marriage the young bride delivered mail between Poniatowski and Edgar, taking over from her father. The young couple cleared more land and later replaced the log cabin with a more modern building. They raised a family of ten children; Mary (Mrs. Mike Pollack) Bellon, Helen (Mrs. Alexander Maliszewski), Frances (Mrs. John Teresinski), Joseph



Martin and Julia (Wisnewski) Trawicki

(Delphine), Francis (deceased), Celia (Mrs. Henry Jesko), Esther (Mrs. Vincent Hajduk), Edward (Teresa), Leona (Mrs. Ray I. Murkowski), and Sylvester (Bernice).



Martin was prominently identified with the early history of Athens and Poniatowski, as a pioneer, farmer, and lumberman. Over twenty years he held various town offices in the Town of Rietbrock.

In the year of 1929, they sold the farm and returned to Milwaukee. Here Martin died December, 1940, and his wife Julia lived until March, 1963.

Albrecht

Adam and wife Franziska (Habla) Albrecht came from Germany to America on November 11, 1877. They settled at Saukville, for a time, before coming to the Town of Rietbrock in 1880. Adam was born in Kscheutz, Bohman, in 1853, and wife Franziska was born in Leskau, Bohemia, in 1848. They purchased a tract of land now owned by Gordon Thurs. Living here for awhile they then purchased land in the Town of Halsey and built a home. Not finding it to their liking, they later moved back to the Town of Rietbrock, settling on a tract of land now owned by John and Leona Schaetzl, a great-granddaughter. It was



Adam & Franziska Albrecht with their two children Anna (Andris) and Frank.

here that they spent the rest of their lives. Adam died in 1925 and his wife Franziska in 1931.

Like all other settlers, their hardships were many: clearing lands and getting buildings built for their shelter. They had six children—four died in infancy. Daughter Theresa, born in 1882, was the first baby baptized at St. Anthony's Congregation at Athens. The only two children who survived were Frank, born in Town of Rietbrock in 1885, and Anna (Albrecht) Andris in 1890.

The graddaughter Frances (Andris) Artman recalls her mother telling of many incidents taking place—one of how the Indians roamed the area and camped for the winter in the area; sometimes they came to the homestead out of curiosity and would ask to use the family dog for hunting purposes. In return they always remembered them with some game.

When the new mission church (now St. Anthony's) was organized at Black Creek Falls, Adam Albrecht was one of the charter members.

Herman Mueller Farm

Herman Mueller was born April 20, 1855, in FREISTADT, Wisconsin. He received very little formal schooling—actually about two years of grammar school. His parents deemed it more important for him to give assistance on their eighteen-



THE FARM OF HERMANN MUELLER. By looking at such a home, you might ask yourself, whether the lucky children in the swing, would even consider trading with the city children.

acre farm near Mequon. Until he was twenty-five years of age, he continued to assist with the farm work, and in addition, he helped his father Melchior in a carpenter business, learning the trade for himself.

Interested in getting cheap land, he contacted the Rietbrock Land and Lumber Company in Milwaukee, Wis., and from them purchased two eighty-acre tracts of virgin timber for five hundred dollars each, in Section 7 in the Town of Rietbrock. Moving to Athens, together with his brother Frank, he cleared part of the land, sold the logs, and did some part-time carpenter work. He was employed by the Rietbrock Company to help build the first sawmill at Black Creek Falls, as the community was known at that time.

He, together with twenty-three others, became a charter member of the newly-organized Trinity Lutheran Church on August 20, 1882, at Athens, Wisconsin.

While working at the Rietbrock Company, he met Wilhelmina Helena Duenow; her father had been working at Rietbrock at the same time. The two were married in 1886. The ceremony took place in the



Wedding picture of Herman & Welhelmina Mueller

public school which was also used for church purposes at that time. This school building was removed to make way for the present post office in Athens. They lived in town for a period of about two years, and during that time their first son, Edwin, was born.

Wilhelmina Duenow was born in 1864 in Prussia. Her formal schooling was received in the State Public School. Her father, Henry Duenow, was born in Prussia in 1838, son of a fuedal landowner. He entered the brass industry establishing a successful business. He married Bertha Brickner, a Bavarian girl of noble birth. Of their thirteen children, three survived: Wilhelmina (Mueller), Minna (Becker), and Ida (Weigand).

At the age of thirty-nine, Henry was forced out of business, a casualty of the industrial revolution. While searching for employment he met a relative of Mr. Rietbrock who recommended him to the Rietbrock Lumber Co., Milwaukee, Wis. He applied for and got the job and was sent to the mills at Athens, Wis. He held the job as night watchman. He and a Mr. Jensen also established a gardening business. One year later he sent for his wife and three daughters, meeting them at Dorchester, Wis., and bringing them by wagon to Athens. He built a house, and soon quit the night watchman's job, and began to log a claim on a road near Athens. His first home burned, and he built a second, high on a hill, maintaining it and supporting his family with a profitable gardening

business. This property is presently owned and occupied by the John Lesczynski family. Henry Duenow died of typhoid fever in Alameda, California, on the twenty-fifth of September, 1913. He, his wife lie interred in the Athens Cemetery.

Herman Mueller and his wife then moved to their land, clearing it, and from then on devoted his life entirely to farming. It was here that the remaining



Edwin, Herman (seated), Herbert, Walter, Irma, Welhelmina (seated, and Arthur)

five of their children were born: Edwin, Walter, Arthur, Herbert and Irma (Rahn) in that order. Applying his skill as a carpenter, he greatly enlarged and remodeled his original home. Just before it was completely finished, however, it burned to the ground in February, 1906. The home was rebuilt during the following summer, and he continued living there with his family until his children became married and he himself retired at the age of seventy-two.

After selling the homestead to his youngest son, Herbert, he moved to Milwaukee. Herbert, in turn, sold this farm to his son George, in 1942.

Herman Mueller passed away on the sixteenth of March 1937, of a cerebral hemorrhage. His body lies in Wondereys Rest Cemetery in Milwaukee. His wife Wilhelmina passed away of a cerebral hemorrhage on the twenty-second of December, 1945. Her body was interred beside that of her husband.

Edwin Mueller, deceased owned the property presently occupied by Alice Wisnewski. Walter Mueller, deceased, was born March 8, 1889, educated in Athen's schools and, until he was about nineteen years of age, helped his father with work on their farm. He worked at the carpenter trade; later he moved to Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, with his family, to work in the construction of buildings. He married Esther Hencke, a school teacher from Fond du Lac County. He built the home which is presently owned and occupied by the Stan Switlick family.

Arthur Mueller was born on August 25, 1891, the third child of Herman and Helena Mueller. Arthur

spend about six months in Milwaukee learning about the carpenter's trade. He, his brother Herbert, and his cousins Art and Ed Becker built many homes and other buildings in the Athens-Rietbrock area. In 1918, Arthur went to the Army. He was married to Mathilda Engebrecht, daughter of Henry Engebrechts, on June 12, 1919. Upon his return to Athens, he purchased forty acres from his father and built a house there. The family lived there until 1946 and then sold the farm to Leo Bruss. Today Walter Heldt owns this farm.

The Arthur Muellers had six children: Martin (who died at age 8), Robert of New Berlin, Wis., Margaret (Mrs. Carl Penno) of Edgar, Wis., Elfrieda (Mrs. Robert Riley) of Annapolis, Maryland, Roland of Winfield, Kansas, and Carol (Mrs. Paul Hannah) of Park Ridge, Illinois. Arthur now lives at 924 S. 6th Avenue in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Herman's daughter Irma (Rahm) also lives in Wausau, at the Kannenberg Plaza.

Herbert Mueller, deceased, had owned the homestead. Today Walter Heldt owns this property. Mrs. Herbert Mueller (Adela Gluch) lives at 421 Maple Street, Athens, Wisconsin, and their only son George resides in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Writz Family Farm

Ignatz and Josephine Writz landed in New York, from Europe, in 1876. While here a son, Frank, was born to them. About a year later they moved to Milwaukee. It was here in 1878 that daughter Mary (Slagoski) and in 1880 son Thomas were born. Ignatz and Josephine soon tired of metropolitan life. Yearning for property and a farm of their own, they decided to come to the Poniatowski area and settled on a forty-acre tract of land on the NW Section 9, now the property of Robert Drewek.

The forty was all woods at the time of their arrival, but Ignatz and Josephine tried to make the best of it all. It was here that Angeline (Literski), Frances (Myszka), and Julia (Lake) were born. Again the couple did not find the land suitable for farming, because it was stoney. This time they purchased an eighty-acre tract of land—SE Section 16, now owned and operated by Edward Mroczenski. It was a wooded area and they again cleared land, to be able to build a log house and a log barn. It was here that Stan was born, in 1892, and later Josephine (Glasel) and Vincent.

The family remembers that Indians and gypsies frequently traveled through the area and would peddle medicines to them and their neighbors.

In 1904, Ignatz and Josephine built a brick home and a barn in 1915. The home is still there, but the

barn was destroyed by fire a few years ago. After son Stan came back from serving in World War II, he took over the homestead. It was then that Stan, Frank and Tom did their threshing and also that of neighbors.

In 1920, Stan married Eleonora Myszka. They farmed the homestead with their children: Florian, Bernice, Raymond, Stanley, Daniel, Benjamin, Leona, Regina, Jerome and Margaret. Later, their son Jerome farmed when Stan gave up farming.

Besides farming Stan worked for the Rietbrock Lumber Company, Braun Lumber Company, and The Town of Rietbrock. He became well-known to the townspeople while he operated the road grader for twenty years.

His wife Eleonora passed away in 1958, and Stan is presently living with his granddaughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Kathy) Franz, at Edgar, Wisconsin.

Switlick Family

At the first spring election of April 6, 1880, which was held at the Poniatowski Court House in the newly organized Town of Rietbrock, sixty-seven voters went to the polls to vote. It was then that Adam Switlick was elected to be the first Treasurer of the Town of Rietbrock.

He and his wife Pauline and their ten children had first settled where Charles and Patricia Berg now live. The only present survivor from the ten children is Hedwig Switlick, who lives in Chicago, Illinois.

Information obtained - Adam was to have lived well over one hundred years.

Sprenger Family

In the early 1870's, the immigrants traveled through a lot of heavily wooded areas finding a place to settle to their liking.

Anton and Gertrude (Singer) Sprenger were one of the families that settled on a tract of land, Section 15, now the Charles Riehle, Jr. farm (Formerly Raymond Berres). All their children were born in the old country, but they had all died before they left for this country with the exception of two, namely: Joseph and Gertrude (Schaetzl).

Joseph, who later married Ursula Eder, settled on the former F.P. Weigand farm. They had 9 children: Mary (dec.) Catherine (Dorfschmidt), Ann (Berhmann), Caroline (dec.), Celia (dec.), Helen (Felzkowski), William, Elizabeth (Morrison), and Joseph (dec.) After the death of Anton, Ursula farmed with the children; she later sold the land to Joseph and William. In later years, Joseph sold the homestead to William and Marie (Switlick) Sprenger. They lived here for 43 years. In 1978, they sold the land to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Guralski, Jr., and the dwelling was sold to Thomas and Jean Stephany. William and Marie Sprenger are retired and now live at Jenson St. at Athens, Wisconsin.

Berres Pioneers

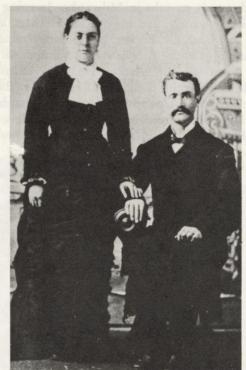
Thomas and Mary Berres were among the pioneer farmers of the Town of Rietbrock that started from what is now known as "scratch". Thomas was born in West Bend, Wisconsin, in 1856, and Mary was born in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, also in 1856. They were married in 1881 in Fond du Lac and shortly after they moved to Marathon, Wisconsin. A brother-in-law (John Lehman) was engaged in the hardware business there, so Thomas could earn a livelihood and learn a trade. A year or so later, they purchased 40 acres of a so called "woods" and started to cut down trees, to begin their intention of establishing a farm.



Seated Mrs. Thomas Berres. L-R - Mrs. Chas. (Clara) Rauen, Mrs. Theo. (Mathilda) Fischer, Thomas L. Berres Jr., Mrs. August (Eleonore) Meyer, Mrs. Ed. (Anna) Granger was not present when taken.

Building a log cabin was an establishment - a necessary beginning. There was no demand for logs at that time, so they needed to burn the downed trees—was a trying procedure—to hurry the process of clearing the land. Later, a log barn was built to provide for the farm animals; as many as they could provide feed for were gathered between the stumps of trees. In 25 years, their 40 acres was all tillable.

In about 1895, they built a small addition to their log cabin and Thomas established what was then called a Tin Shop. He made stove pipes, pails, kettles or whatever could be made with tin to be used in homes or for farm use. Out of the scraps of tin, he made cooky cutters; his wife fashioned them and he soldered them. Many of these are still in use in the Meyer household. When hardware stores were established in Athens and Edgar, he discontinued his



Wedding picture of Thomas and Mary Berres taken in 1881



All buildings erected by Thomas and Mary Berres except the silo and garage.

shop; and by that time, there was enough clearing and work that went with it.

The permanent house was built in 1897 and the barn was built in 1903. Thomas died in 1929 and their farm was sold to Herman Fischer. His wife lived with a daughter in Milwaukee and the last 2 years she was in the care of her daughter, Mrs. Mathilda Fischer of rural Edgar. She died in 1945.

Bergs

William Bergs, Sr., born in 1838, immigrated from Prussia, Germany, with his parents when he was about 16 years old. It was known that he could speak Polish as well as he could speak German, his native tongue. They settled at St. Cloud, Wisconsin, which is located near Fond du Lac, WI.



In front from the left - Margaret Bergs (Mrs. John Schueller) Mrs. William Bergs Sr. In back Anton Bergs, William Bergs, Joseph Bergs and Hubert Bergs.

William, his wife Kathryn and four children moved to Marathon County in 1881 and purchased 160 acres of land from Fred Rietbrock. Their first buildings were a log house and a log barn located just west of the present house. The children who came with them were: Hubert, who was seven years old, Tina (Mertes), five, William Jr. - three, and Margaret (Schueller) - one year old. Later, three more children were added to the family - Elizabeth (Lynch), who later moved to Canada and died when she was 34 years old, (Mrs. Lynch is buried in the old German Cemetery in Poniatowski), and two sons, Joseph and Anton.

William, Sr., evidently became active in community affairs soon after he settled in this township, since his name appears on the first records of the Town of Rietbrock.

William, Jr., had worked for the railroad in Duluth for about three years and had saved some money so that he was able to buy ninty-four acres of the original farm. Hubert bought sixty acres, which were purchased by Harry and Helen Kolpack in 1914, and Joseph bought the six acres to the north, where he built the present Cherry Grove Cheese Factory. Wm. Bergs, Sr., died in 1903, at the age of sixty-five, and his wife died in 1923.

William, Jr., was married to Margaret (Schueller) in 1911 when he was thirty-three years old. They had five children - Theresa, Paul, Joseph, Clara (Miller) and Norbert.

Joseph bought the farm in 1944, when William and Margaret moved to a home in Edgar. William died in 1961 and his wife moved to live with her son, Paul, in 1963. She died in 1968.

Joseph and wife Marcella (Rausch) had six children - Charles, Michael, Darlene (Jensen), Carmon (Richards), Matthew and Daniel. They sold the original ninty-four acres to Charles Riehle in 1978 and they moved to Marshfield.

Pawlowski Pioneer Family

The earliest public record in Marathon County on the farm now owned by Florian Pawlowski was entered in the name of Francois Cholvin on Nov. 21, 1856. Then it changed hands a few times before the widow of Gustavus Werlich sold this tract of land to John Pawlowski. The quitclaim deed was dated March 19, 1884, and recorded April 28, 1884.

John Pawlowski and wife Minnie came from Germany to America with their son Adolph. Later twin sons were born to them, Edward and Paul. As they grew up, they helped with the clearing of the lands and helped with the building. In 1903, Ed and Paul built the present brick home. It was built with three layers of brick from a factory at Edgar. John Kulas, pioneer of Athens, remembers hauling the brick, for the home, on a sleigh in winter. In 1907, John Pawlowski bought eleven acres north of the Black Creek from the Rietbrock Land Lumber Company, In 1908, when Edward married the former Agnes Urmanski, John and Minnie transferred the farm to them. In need of more land, Edward, in 1918, bought forty acres of woods north of the Black Creek from the Rietbrock Land and Lumber Co. of Milwaukee for \$1500. He farmed until August 8, 1941, when their son Florian took over. At present he with his wife Annabelle (Donlevy), are semi-retired. They have a family of four children, namely: David, Kathy, Sharon (Westfall), and Linda (Madison).

In 1965, Florian was elected by the people as a supervisor in the Town of Rietbrock, and upon the death of the Town's chairman he was appointed to serve his vacancy. In 1967, he was then elected the Town's Chairman until 1971. And more recently, in April, 1980, Florian was elected to the position of Supervisor of District 18, which includes Athens, Town of Rietbrock and part of Rib Falls.

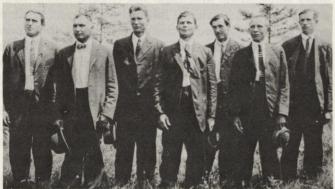
Wisnewski Families

Mankind yearns for peace and will go almost anywhere in search of it. It was this yearning that caused immigrants to leave their homelands. Now it was mandatory in Poland that as boys became of age they had to serve their country for a certain amount of time. Having a son age 13, Anton decided to abandon his native land in search of a free country.

In 1889 he and a few other settlers set out on a sail-boat for America. They traveled for almost two months, as whenever, the winds blew in the wrong direction, they ended up farther from their destination —America. As Anton arrived in Poniatowski, months later, he found the area to his liking. Two years later he wrote his wife Maryanna to pack up her

belongings and come with their seven children to this country. They came on the first steamship to cross the Atlantic to this country in seven days.

Anton (deceased 1931) and Maryanna (deceased 1933) had 12 children. The first seven of them were born in Poland. They are as follows: Theodore, Johanna (died on ship and dropped into the Ocean), Julia (Martin Trawicki), Frances (John Nowicki), Josephine (Leo Platta), John J. (Mary), Caroline (Stan Senski), Frank born in U.S.A. (Mary), Joseph (Regina), Leo, Alex (Helen), and Thomas. Their homestead is where Florian Witucki now lives.



L-R John, Theodore, Joseph, Frank, Leo, Thomas and Alex



L-R Back Row: Frances (Nowicki), Caroline (Senski); L-R Front Row: Josephine (Plata), Julia (Trawicki)

As the children were getting older, they all helped with the clearing of the lands; and some went out to work. Anton hauled mail from Poniatowski to Edgar and later handed that job to his oldest daughter, Julia. She held the job until her marriage in 1898 to Martin Trawicki. (Picture in Trawicki write-up). Her sister Frances continued to haul mail until her marriage to John Nowicki in 1906. After this time the rural carriers took over.

In 1910, Anton and Maryanna bought the Lukowicz property, Section 14, located across the road from the Literski's, where they spent their remaining years.

Raising a family of seven boys and four girls meant a lot of mouths to feed. They raised geese so that the feathers could be used for pillows and featherbeds. The sheep were raised not only for meat, but the wool was sheared from them, washed, and carded, to be spun into yarn, and put onto skeins for knitting stockings, caps and mittens. However, their main meat was pork. In the fall of the year, 7 porkers was the usual number to be butchered. Their grandson Art Nowicki recalls that when he attended the Holy Family School at Poniatowski, he usually stayed with them; and his job, at this time, was to turn the meat grinder by hand and stuff about 1-1/2 to 2 washtubfuls of sausage meat into the casings. These were long tedious hours.

As more clearing was made to grow more feed for the animals, Anton started to buy up more land in the surrounding area of Poniatowski. He purchased land that is now operated by Richard Schroeder (the former Mleczek farm). His son Joseph recalls how they chased the cows three miles every morning to this pasture land. For convenience sake, they later sold this tract of land.

When the sons grew up, some helped at home; others went out to work. Theodore the oldest, went out west to the Dakotas to harvest grain, then on to Iowa to pick corn. Joseph farmed with his brother Leo on the homestead and with lands joining across the road and the John Myszka land south of Poniatowski. As Theodore came home, his father handed down the home place (Lukowicz's); later it was transferred to Thomas, another son. Frank, who married Mary Laska, was given the Jacob Murkowski land by his father. It is now owned and operated by James Witucki. Theodore, Joseph, and Thomas each also owned land along the Black Creek.

Besides farming, Joseph succeeded M.M. Schaetzl as a cheesemaker at Poniatowski. He made cheese for seven years, until the factory was closed in 1945. Joseph and Regina (Myszka) who married in July of 1928 had six children, namely: Donald, who was the treasurer for the Town of Rietbrock from 1965-1977 until his resignation, Edmund, Ervin (deceased), Norbert, Lorraine (Nowicki), and Marvin.

Joseph's wife Regina passed away November 1, 1958. The farm is now owned by Norman Witucki, and Joseph lives with his daughter, Lorraine.

Thomas sold his interests to his nephew Ervin and wife Mary Wisnewski in 1962. Ervin lost his life in an accident while unloading the Marathon County caterpillar from the trailer truck, which overturned and pinned him underneath. He died December 2, 1970. Thomas then went to live with another nephew, Norbert, until he took up residency at the Abbotsford

Nursing Home, where he now lives. The farm now belongs to Ervin and Mary (Karlen's) four daughters, Pamela, Renee, Wendy and Sherry Wisnewski.

The Carl Rauen Farm

Carl and Angela (Goeden) Rauen were both born in Germany, 1843. At the age of four they came to America on the same sailing vessel and it took six weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean. His parents lived in New York and McHenry, Illinois, for a short time. They then moved to the town of Trenton, Washington County, Wisconsin.

In 1870, Carl and Angela were married and lived in Rockford, Illinois for six years. After the death of his mother in 1876, Carl and Angela and their three small children returned to the town of Trenton and took over the old Rauen homestead. The other children were all born in the town of Trenton.

In 1895 they moved to Marathon Co., town of Rietbrock. They had 9 children - Minnie (Schneider), Louise (Rinzel), Mary (Rinzel), Susan (Reichl), Michael, John, Peter, Charles and Frank. Four of these brothers farmed in the town of Rietbrock.



Carl and Angela (Goeden) Rauen

Carl died in 1912, and Angela lived with Frank and his wife until 1934 when she died. Frank bought this farm in 1912; the same year he was married to Mary, the daughter of Joseph Meyer. They lived in the old log house until the new house was finished in 1915.

Records on this property go back to 1856 when Aaron M. Pettingeill bought this land from the Federal government. In 1879 Ludwig Findorf owned this farm and the taxes on the 80 acres were \$8.00. In 1895 the 80 acres were valued at \$1000.00 and the taxes were \$13.70.

Frank and his wife Mary had five children - Irene (Boris), Elmore (who died at age 21), Josephine (Bergs), Joseph, Dolores (Mauer). Mary died in 1947 and Frank died in 1967.

Son, Joseph bought the farm in 1960 and is the present owner, Joseph married Barbara Mallak, daughter of Leo and Rose Mallak, and they have 4 children, Donna (Kaiser), Duane, farming with Joseph, Diane and Doreen.



This "Old Log House" has been moved to the Village of Edgar public park, as a reminder of the "Pioneer Days". It is a gift to the village by the present owners, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Rauen & Family, who reside about four miles north. During 1895, Mr. Carl Rauen bought a parcel of land with this building already on it from a Mr. Kuester. He, later sold some to his son, Frank. Frank, after farming many years sold some to his son, Joseph, the present owner. The original builder is not known, neither is the age of the building. Louis Schueller deserves a lot of thanks for being the promoter of this project, and he is also doing most of the work.

This farm has now been in the family for about 85 years.



The "PIONER HOUSE" after being rebuilt in the Edgar Village Park.

The Fischer Family

The Fischer family arrived in Town of Rietbrock in 1898. Coming from Burlington, Wisconsin their first home was purchased from Ludwig Findorff. It was located in the center of Poniatowski, and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Wisnewski. With farming being the way of life for people in the town of Rietbrock, the Fischer family built a large barn in 1904 and a home in 1917—which is now the property of Sanford Morse. As time progressed, Herman Fischer purchased the Tom Berres farm located across the road from the 160 acre farm. The town Municipal Rietbrock Building is on a parcel of the former Fischer farm.



Old Findorf home later purchased by the Fischers. L-R Herman, William, Theodore Catherine, Fishers, Mrs. Louise Fischer, Herman Fischer Sr.

Being unexpected hosts to bank robbers who robbed the Athens Bank, Sept. 22, 1909. Miss Lena Fischerwho thought the men were her brothers returning from milking in the barn a distance away-opened the door to the robbers. They placed themselves near a stove and were not about to be moved. Later. when Herman and his brother arrived home, they still refused to move. Not knowing who they were, Herman and his brother sat watch all night. Early in the morning the strangers left. Later the sheriff's department rode up with the horses, looking for the bank robbers who had robbed the Bank of Athens of eight hundred pennies. Herman's sister Lena wore wooden shoes at the time; when she saw the sheriff, she ran up the stairs almost scaring the sheriff away with the clatter of shoes.

Herman Fischer was also one of the men who helped construct the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in 1900. With sadness he also helped again in the destruction which took place in 1955.

Pioneers

One hundred years ago, — ah, that was another day! Different? Yes, quite different. Our Town of Rietbrock was then but an infant, fostered and fondled by our untiring fathers — the PIONEERS.

Most of our early pioneers were of European origin; they left their native country because they were dissatisfied with the German yoke and the Prussian iron rule of militarism under Bismarck. At the time they came to the United States — the land of the free — Lincoln's abolishment of slavery had just been put into effect.

After a trial, and tedious seasons of Misery, the settlers deciding whether to continue enduring their lot pioneering or whether to return to Milwaukee; they had chosen to remain a while longer. And, ultimately, they never returned; they lived in the Town of Rietbrock in quiet content, enduring their trials while trials abounded. To them, therefore, we return

our gratefulness - especially for making the lumbering and the farming projects in our community a bright success. It is they who began to bring sunlight into the dense forest region, to cultivate the soil, to build roads, to introduce, establish, and maintain a local government, and to erect our schools and churches. Numerous and burdensome were their self-inposed duties and tasks, which they took upon themselves willingly — not withstanding the fact that many of them left their best opportunities behind them.

To those pioneers, road building was the outstanding task; for without roads they were handicapped and lived in utmost seclusion. Who would think that to travel from Poniatowski to Rib Falls was once a whole day's job? Startling accounts have been as to how many an ox team, having started before sunrise and being goaded over the hemlock and pine network of roots which covered the marshes and the unblazed forests, never returned to the half-starving pioneer families before dusk.

It is a luxury now to ride over well-made roads, just as it is a luxury to live in comfortable homes built of materials which are transported from afar over the roads built by that unfailing pioneer strength.

To those of us who know naught of the pioneer experiences, there can be in our mind no more than a mere vagueness of what once used to be. Where once mighty pines and aged oaks crowded Buttermilk Creek, and where once Indians gathered at the Potato Creek, we have prosperous farm lands today. Those old potatoes and sour milk, dumped by our pioneers into the creeks, which are distinguished accordingly, have floated somewhere; the log cabins of over one hundred years are gone, forgotten.

To the pioneers, we owe a debt of gratitude for building our roads — for uniting our little settlements with the rest of the civilized world. If they could rise, we believe they would say it was worth the struggle.





1880 Retka Home in Poniatowski, L-R Stephen Retka, Father Francis, Martha (Pietrowski), Father Michael and Pauline Retka.



L-R August Meller, Peter Teusz, Adam Senski



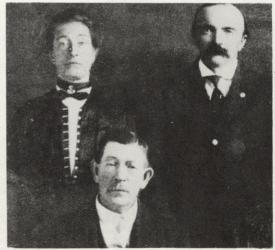
Joseph and Elizabeth (Petri) Reichl son George



L-R Hugo Schwager & Martin Keefe, Sitting - Jacob Myszka



Early pioneers



John Pietrowski, seated father of Martha at left, and Joseph Meyer husband of Martha.



Joseph Wojciechowski



Wedding picture of Ben & Anna Reuter, July 20, 1897



Wedding of Stanley Witucki & Kathryn Nowacki (1st wife) taken in 1887.



Jake and Mary Bergman parents of Mrs. Ben Reuter



August and Franczeka Urmanski



Otto Sommer Residence, L-R Otto, Loretta (Nowacki), Mrs. Otto (Elisabeth Fischer) holding son Lawrence, Frank and Joe.



L-R Charles Muskowski, Joseph Klawinski



Mrs. Lucy Kulas - 90 yrs. old taken April 6, 1980



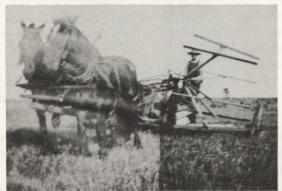
John and Martha (Retka) Pietrowski taken about 1895

Machines of Agriculture



First manure loader powered by a belt driven wench.

The sickle, scythe, cradle, flail, axe, hoe, besides the plow and harrow were the only implements used by our pioneer farmers. Most farmers had handmade sleighs and wagons, too.



First grain binder after the reaper

In later years improved implements and machinery were placed on the market for those who could afford them—such as the threshing machine, mower, reaper, binder, seeders, cultivators, fanning mills and more modern drags and plows.

As the horses were replacing some of the oxen, barnyard manures were carefully preserved—to be used

to fertilize the soil. And during the fall it was banked around the footings of barns and houses to keep out the winter winds.

To keep the cattle from roaming they built fences of split rails, stumps and stones. These fences also served as markings for boundaries and fields. Later

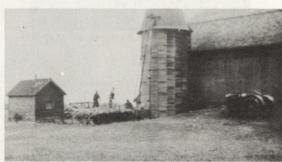


Corn-Growing Pioneer — Herman Fischer the first farmer in Marathon County to put in a corn crop. Shown with his heavyweight trio of draught horses as he prepares a five-acre field for corn. Fischer, who came to the country from near Burlington in Racine County, said neighbors laughed when he planted corn and wanted to know what "the southerner knew about raising corn up here near the north pole". He raised the two horses at the left from colts and acquired the black at the right from a fox farm.

these fences were replaced by barbed and woven wire, and stumps were blown out with dynamite.



Bindering corn for silage



Silo filling



Hauling hay the old way. Note the high wheels



Tree tops were piled and cut with a circle saw. One man pushed the table; another took off pieces and the others carried the sticks to be cut.



Logs cut with a "drag saw". One man rolled logs; another operated the saw rig; another took off the wood chunks on the John Nowicki farm.



Bronowicz Bros. International Combine

Threshing, silo filling, and firewood sawing were neighborhood projects. One and two-cylinder kerosene and gasoline tractors had been used for plowing, harrowing, and threshing. Then the lighter four-cylinder Fordson and McCormick-Deering came into use for harvesting and general farm work. These had steel wheels and a speed of about 4 m.p.h.

In the late 1920's many changes were taking place. Electricity, automatic water-pumping systems, milking machines, small second tractors, and rubber-tired tractors were beginning to be used. The horses were slowly being replaced by the tractors and the five, six or eight-foot combines did away with binders and threshers. Grain elevators and blowers were used; green and dry hay was chopped in the field and blown into the barns and silos. A lot of hay baling was also done. Later the barn cleaners came in existence and also electric fencers. Artificial insemination was also slowly introducted.

Many acres of land were converted to growing canning peas. The closest Pea Canning Factory was at Athens.

Viners were set up and farmers raising peas had access to the vines which were used as cow feed. Farmers received a portion according to the average of the yield. This also provided many summer part-time jobs but many will never forget the odor.

In this day the high powered, modern machinery of today has attributed to better farming and the farmer's independence.

Barn Razing In The **Early Days**

Many of our present-day youngsters have not seen-and may never see - a brand new barn taking shape before their very eyes.

The carpenter who supervised the framing of the building was a true artisan. The huge timbers were not the product of any sawmill. They were hewn



Philip Myszka hewing timber to make it square

timbers, laboriously scored by the axmen, and then hewn by the wielder of a broadaxe. They were works of art-perfectly straight, perfectly square, morticed, and tongued with a pair of holes drilled through



John Kulas, Sr., drilling holes and making tenant pockets.

them with hand augers to accommodate the oak pins that would be driven into them when they were lifted into their places. No product of power tools or factories were these.

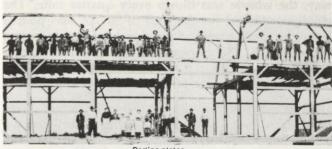
The sills were laid on the stone wall or foundation which was the beginning of framework to start the building where the bottom frame work was begun. Here the "sleepers" were laid between the framework. Then the sixteen foot posts with the beams joining



them with little braces, girts, and storm braces were razed. When they were all razed, the frame work of the structure was finished. The most dangerous job was about to take place. The perline plates with posts and braces were joined and put on top of this structure. When that was all joined and finished the



rafters were then put on to the perline plate which held the roof. The outside sheeting was then put on the building. When that was finished, the roof boards were put on to the rafters; and when the roof boards were finished, the wooden shingles were put on them.

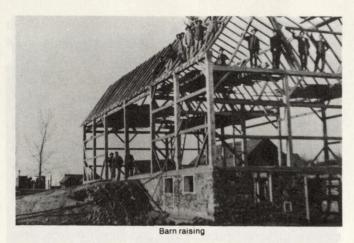


Perline plates

The floor was then laid consisting of one layer of one-inch lumber all through the barn. The thresh floors were finished with the two-inch planks on top of one-inch for strength to hold heavy equipment.

After the completion of the building a few kegs of beer were tapped, and food again was being served. If the milking and chores happened to be a little late that night, so what?

In those days everyone for miles around went to help with the raising. About 40 to 50 men were in-



volved. The meals served at this time were something to dream about. Relatives, neighbor ladies, all helped in preparation of the meals. One had to make sure no one was left out as far as help was concerned, as hard feelings set in amongst them.

Threshing-Time Memories

The flail was the first, hand implement used in threshing done by the early settlers. This method was replaced by the horse-powered, hand-fed machine, which consisted of a main cylinder and a few sieves and bushel boxes. And finally, the steam-powered threshing machines were available. These were called "threshing rigs" and a few families owned their own, usually four individuals owned each rig. As years went by, some individuals were able to afford their very own "rig".

At threshing time, neighbors went from farm to farm to help each other until all the grain was threshed. To let the farmers know that the "rig" was on its way, the whistle was blown every quarter mile. The children watched for the puff of smoke that poured from the smokestack on the big engine that pulled the separator. The horses were driven by the "water boy", who sat on top of the wooden water tank wagon and kept the steam boiler supplied with water.

Sometimes the rig came in late afternoon, after finishing at the neighboring farm. No matter when the rig arrived at the next farm, it had to be set up before the threshing could begin. It was turned around and positioned so that the separator could be pushed backwards into the barn. This was done by using a bucking pole which was attached to the machine and engine. A rope was then tied to a short pole located on each side of the separator, so four men (two on each side) could pull or steer the separator into the barn while the engine was pushing the separator backwards. By placing a block of wood under each front wheel, the separator became a free-standing machine that would be powered by a drive-belt placed on a pulley put on the engine. The belt was tightened and a block

of wood was put in back under the main drive wheel of the engine to hold the belt secure. The machine was put in motion and set to go.

Several men with pitchforks were in the mow to toss the bundles onto the platform where two spikepitchers put the bundles in the machine. In a few minutes, the grain fell into a container that served as a scale, or talley, weighing the bushels a farmer had.

The straw was blown into a mow or blown onto the ground. The blower tender's job was to start the stack in a circle as large as the farmers wanted. Atop the stack, the man with his pitchford arranged the straw as it fell—a hat pulled down over his head, wearing, usually, a blue jacket and a red handerchief around his neck to protect against the chaff.

The sack carriers usually were younger men who could carry the grain on their shoulders to the granary. Since the granary was often a distance of great length away from the barn, as a precautionary measure in case of fire, the carriers complained of aching shoulders at the end of the day.

Much water was needed for the steam to power the engine. This was the duty of the "water boy". The horse-drawn wagon with the wooden tank on it would often haul water from about three quarters of a mile away. When the "water boy" arrived at the creek, he would lower the hose into the water, man the pump's lever handle back and forth and draw water into the tank. It took about fifteen to twenty minutes to pump the sixteen-barrel tank full. When the tank was full, the wagon made its way back to the steam engine, and the water was transferred to the boiler of the steam engine.

During threshing time, mornings and forenoons were quite hectic for the housewives. They had to make plans almost a week in advance inorder to have enough cakes, cookies, pies, and meats for the customary 9 o'clock forenoon lunch and the 3:30 afternoon lunch. They had to help with the milking in the very early morning hours inorder to have the men's breakfast ready when they arrived between 6:00 and 6:30 a.m. Breakfast usually consisted of fried potatoes and meat. Oftentimes "rig" crews stayed overnight at the farms. And after breakfast, the dishes, milk cans, pails, and other utensils had to be washed and put away before the 9:00 o'clock lunch.

While the men were lunching, the women were also preparing for dinner. The meats—pork, mutton, or veal—were roasting in the oven, early, so that the apple pies could be baked in time.

When dinner was ready, the engine was shut down and the men came to eat—about eighteen to twenty at one time. The "water boy" was the last to come, because he first had to unhitch his team of horses and feed, water and care for them. The cooks who labored all forenoon over hot wood-burning kitchen stoves found that food just disappeared because the

crew always had healthy appetites. After their hunger was satisfied, one by one they left the table to go and rest a minute under the shade trees—until the whistle sounded to return again to work. After the crew had eaten, the table was reset, and the cooks, children, and whoever else was left, had their feast.

In the meantime, two separator men oiled and greased the machine, while the engineer put chunks of wood into the firebox to raise the steam; and he, too, oiled and greased his engine. When all was in readiness, the toot of the whistle was sounded and the threshing begun. By this time, the "water boy" had his team and water wagon ready for the trip to the creek for more water.

Lunch break was due again about 3:30. Afterward, the crew threshed again until the whistle blast at 6:30 p.m. or so, ending the threshing—but not the day. Now supper was waiting for the men. Then the neighbors went home, and the threshing crew slept in the barn mow. The next morning they went through the same procedure again.

The modern combine made the old-fashioned methods obsolete, but the memories will remain.





Field threshing



Baling straw



We're shock threshing. Aren't we cute



John Nowicki, Leo Murkowski pulling the threshing rig into the farmers yard.



ALLIE KREFT THRESHING RIG AND CREW, AT SCHNAPPSVILLE, TOWN OF RIETBROCK

L-R Walter Guralski and Stan Stencil on wagon, Nick Wozniczka on water tank, Standing by horses L-R are John Miller, Joe Lipinski, Alex Cichon Sr., Tom Stencil, Ed Waskowiak, Peter Wichlacz, August Arndt, Vincent Milkowski holding fork, Allie Kreft. Sitting on machine is Paul Klawinski, Jake Niemczyk standing and John Kreft sitting on wheel.



Posing for the camera in the beginning of the 1900 were Mike Nowicki on water tank, Leo Murkowski sitting on the engine. Standing L-R Frank Switlick, Joe Wojciechowski and Andrew Nowicki.

Thus happiness depends, as Nature shows, Less on exterior things than most suppose.

Cowpar - "Table Talk"

Older Machinery



Frank Sommer, father of George, purchased his first thresher made by J.I. Case Co. about 1947. Custom threshing was done by him and a few other company threshing crews. The first steam engine purchased by Frank was a J.I. Case 25 - 75 H.P. Later Frank with his son George purchased another Case



Sommer threshing machine

Engine, a 65 H.P. Then George purchased a 36 x 58 M Case Thresher from Bill Becker.

When the combines came into existence a lot of custom threshing by companies was discontinued. George recalls having participated in and displaying his steam engine for at least four years of "Threshing Days" at Prochnow's Ballroom. He now owns an 80 H.P. Case Steam Engine, three threshers, and two clover hullers that he does work with.

The only two steam rigs left in the Township are Frank Teresinski's and George's, and these are often displayed at various display and exhibits for engines.

Logging and Sawmills

The settlers arriving here during the years of 1850 and 1880 found giant pines and hardwood forests untouched by the axes of men. The only trails that were made were those made by the deer and other wild animals leading to water's edge of the creek. The only sounds heard were the voices of the birds and the gurgling of water.

Fred Rietbrock, a lawyer from Milwaukee, came to Wausau in 1876 to settle an estate and had become interested in the possibilities of these large lands. To give the people work in winter to tide them over until they got enough land cleared to live on, he planned to build a sawmill around the falls of a small stream, naming it the Black Creek Falls. (Now Athens). He used the falls for waterpower.

Soon several acres were cleared on the creek bank, a dam was made which created a pond to store logs, and soon the sawmill became a humming, screaming reality. The peace and quiet of the forest was destroyed by the ring of the lumberjack's axes and their cry of "Timber" as one forest giant after another crashed to the earth.

It was not easy to cut the great pines and hardwoods, as the settlers soon found out. They had no powersaws. Some trees were more then six feet in diameter at the base, so platforms were built several feet off the ground to where the trees were small toward the top. A man would stand on each side of the tree on this platform, drawing a cross-cut saw back and forth

until the big top began to sway. With a warn-cry of "Timber" the men would leap to the ground, out of harms way. Sometimes the tree would catch on another and roll sideways, and too bad for the poor "jack" who couldn't get out of the way fast enough. Oxen were used to do the skidding and hauling. In about 1890 the horses replaced the oxen.

As more people were arriving from Milwaukee, Rietbrock built camps to shelter them and give them jobs in the woods. With thirty thousand acres he had to keep logging or be crowded out of the business



Steam Hauler-hauling logs to Rietbrock Mill

market. As the timber was getting to be further away from the mill Rietbrock hired "jobbers", and gave them contracts to haul the distant timber to the saw-

mill. When it became too far away, he set up landings in the woods for his jobbers, to transport the timber to this landing, which was hauled by the steam hauler to the mill.

As the timber was getting to be further away, Rietbrock built another landing and set up another steam hauler, which hauled it to the first landing. The other then hauled it to the mill.

Rietbrock loggers included the following:

John Guralski

John Teresinski, Sr.

Martin Trawicki

John Lee

Joseph, Anton & Frank

John Nowicki, nephews,

Stencil Co.

Tony & Joseph, & Joseph

Mike & John A. Wisnewski Philip Myszka &

Wisnewski John Pietrowski

John Kreft

John Lake

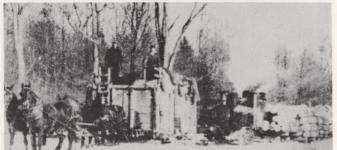
Ignatz Drewek

Jacob & John Soczka

Joseph Wojciechowski

Myszka Bros.

(Theordore & Jacob, Jr.)



Hauling water to make ice roads for steam hauler to transport logs.





Logging camp near Black Creek where logs were hauled on Black Creek to Athens



The Morning Star logging camp on the Moonlight Lonely Trail. John Guralski's Camp No. 4



L-R Joe Teresinski, Albert Literski. Ray Murkowski, Trawicki Logging Camp.



Ray Murkowski & Joe Trawicki making ice road in camp.



Trawicki Logging Camp.

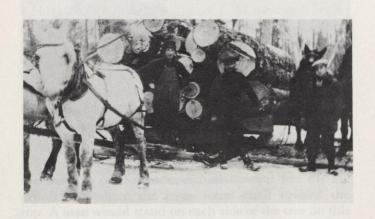
Finishing cutting a tree. Pictured are John, Joe, Peter Nowicki and Joe Witucki.



Breaking off camps, L-R John Nowicki, unknown, unknown, John Kroll.



John Nowicki & Lillian (Kroll) Rauen, the cook talking things over.

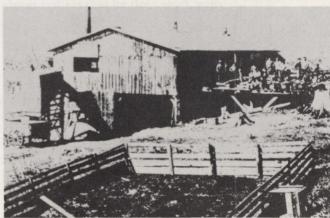


Saw Mill

In 1880 Rietbrock built a saw mill and planing mill, and also erected three dams on Black Creek, which was a respectable stream in those days, by



The Rietbrock Mill



ak's sawmill, later purchased by Braun Bros



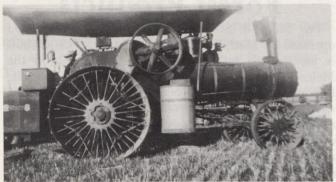
Now. 15, 1910. After the steam boiler exploded at the Math. Braun Saw Mill, one half mile north of Poniatowski. Copies 9/17/70.

means of which they were able to float logs down to the mill with the spring freshets and raft their lumber down from the mill to the Rib River and on to the Wisconsin and Mississippi which formed the route to the market at St. Louis.

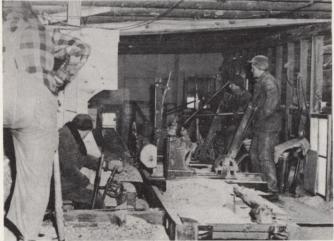
The same year a railroad had also been built as far north as Wausau, but that was 28 miles distant. Rietbrock wanted a shorter route for his timber and lumber holdings. He applied to the North Central (later the S00) Railroad, which ran up through Marshfield. His request was turned down, so in 1890-1891 Rietbrock built his own railroad from Abbotsford to Black Creek Falls (15 miles) with an extension of ten miles as far as Goodrich.

In 1883 Mathias Braun, and his four oldest sons, Joseph, William, John, and Anthony built and operated a saw mill and creamery, 1/2 mile north of Poniatowski in the Town of Rietbrock. In 1891 it was relocated to Black Creek Falls. A third saw mill (Chesak's) started operation that same year. It was purchased by Braun Bros. & Co., in 1914.

Nowicki Saw Mill



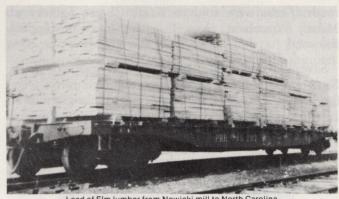
Power used when the Nowicki sawmill was purchased in 1919 and also



Sawmill in motion. Pictured are Frank Teresinski-Deck man, Tony Nowicki - Head sawyer, Walter Witucki-carriage rider, Howard Murkowski-setter

In 1919, a sawmill from Mr. Balsam of Goodrich, Wisconsin, was purchased by two brothers, Mike and John Nowicki and partner John Teresinski, Sr. The mill was used for custom sawing. In 1934, the partnership changed, as John Nowicki sold his share to Leo Murkowski, and John Teresinski, Sr., sold his share to his son Tony Teresinski. Peter Nowicki inherited his father's share.

In 1944, Peter Nowicki purchased Leo Murkowski's share and Tony Teresinski's share. The mill was then rebuilt, and a Waukesha gas motor was purchased to replace the steam power. Business was being managed



Load of Elm lumber from Nowicki mill to North Carolina



John Nowicki on tractor transporting logs to the sawmill. Peter Nowicki standing

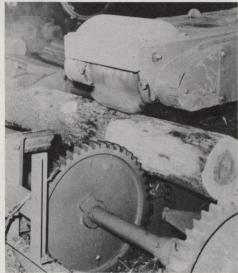
by Peter Nowicki, and his wife, Mary was the bookkeeper. Logs and tie cuts were purchased and were sawed into lumber and railroad ties. Hardwood lumber was sold to furniture and box factories, and ties were sold to Soo Lines and Northwestern Rail-



Howard Murkowski sharpening saws

roads. Slabs were sold to Kraft Cheese Factory at Milan, Wisconsin, as well as to local people for firewood.

Sawmill operation was and is seasonal from September to May, as most of the men hired were farmers. In 1951, a G.M. Diesel replaced the gas motor. In 1961, a lumber planer was purchased to be used for custom planeing.



Debarker used at the mil

In 1965, a bark peeler was installed to peel the logs, as was a wood chipper to chip the slabs. The chips were sold to paper mills: American Can Co., at Rothschild, Mosinee Paper Mill at Mosinee, and Owens-Illinois at Tomahawk. Generators powered by diesel motors were installed to produce electricity for

the plant. A truck, tractor, and trailers were purchased to haul lumber, chips, and ties. In 1966, a log turner was installed. In 1967, a new automatic carriage was purchased to replace the old manual carriage. In 1968, a live deck was added. In July 1968, the business was incorporated, which is operating under the name of Nowicki Lumber & Tie, Inc.; officers of the Corporation are Peter Nowicki and wife Mary R. Nowicki.

In 1972 a new steel building was built to house the mill, which offered employment for many men during its operating season.

Ted Meier & Sons Forest Products

Ted Meier & Sons Forest Products is owned and operated by Matt, Ted, Jr. and Ted, Sr. The sawmill is located 1/2 mile north of Jct. 29 & 97 on the Meier farm. The mill started in the fall of 1973. The first winter the mill stood out in the open, and a tractor with forks was used to move the logs and load the semi-trucks. In 1974 and 1975, the mill buildings were put up and an end loader added, made sawing more convenient. In 1979, an automated mill was installed. All logs are bought and sawed into lumber or ties and sold to different companies for various uses. Even the sawdust is in great demand by paper mills and by farmers for use in their barns; and slabwood for firewood has a good market.

This family has seen its project expand into a full time business.

Creamery and Cheese Factories

The first creamery in the Town of Rietbrock was located one-half mile north of Poniatowski crossroad. It was operated by Mathias Braun until he moved to Athens in 1891. A creamery and butter factory was then established at Poniatowski. It was located behind the Chesak Store and Saloon. Here, the farmers brought the cream to be separated from the milk taking the residue from the milk — whey — back to

CREAMERY and BUTTER factory at Poniatowski, which was later destroyed by fire. Copies from an old picture furnished courtesy of John Gesicki.

be fed to their animals. Later in years the factory was destroyed by fire and a new creamery was built facing the road, south of the saloon and store. In later years it was converted into a cheese factory.

In March, 1906, a man by the name of John H. Jenkins managed and organized the Marathon County Farmers' Creamery Company with the following officers: William Riehle, president; Rinehold



A new creamery built facing the road, south of Chesak's saloon and store.

Paersch, secretary; M.M. Schaetzl, treasurer; and John J. Jenkins, manager. The farmers then had a place to sell their products. John H. Jenkins owned eighty acres of land in the Town of Rietbrock—the land now owned by Leo Literski.



Here again, the farmers, in spite of the poor road conditions and spring sink holes, brought the milk in 10 to 12 gallon cans delivering them at the "intake". The first cheesemaker M.M. Schaetzl weighed the milk, took milk samples for butterfat content, and then the milk was transferred into the vat. Next the



M.M. Schaetzl and daughter Mary making cheese

"starter" was added. When the milk reached a certain degree the acid content was checked, and rennent, the substance that started coagulation of the curd, was added. When completely coagulated, the curds were cut with wire curd knives and stirred with wooden rakes separating the whey from the curds. The whey would drain into a holding tank and the curds were cut into 8" slabs, separated, allowing remaining whey to continue to drain. When the curd slabs were matted down to a certain acidity content they were run through a hand operated "curd mill". Meanwhile, the factory was remodeled and a cream separator was installed; the pasturized whey in the holding tank was separated; the cream running into ten gallon cans; and the whey running into another tank. The cream was then hauled to the creamery and the patron farmers took home the whey in the same cans their milk was brought in for hog and calf feed.

Back to the curds, after having gone through the curd mill they were spread over the vat and "forked" by hand until all excess moisture had drained. Salt was

then added and curds were placed in cheese hoops, dressed with cheese bandages and placed into a cheese press overnight. It was then taken and put into the "curing room" for aging and storing and then shipped to a buyer — Pauly & Pauly and Kraft.

Each of the farmers would take his turn in hauling the finished cheese to the buyer.

M.M. Schaetzl's daughter Mary Belter recalls whenever the price of cheese went up they would work nights to get the cheese out before the price of cheese would drop. She recalls, in the first years, cheese was made every other day during the winter months, but as the farmers increased their volume, cheese-making became a seven-day-a-week job (no-holidays-just as the farmers). With the family cooperation M.M. Schaetzl continued making cheese until 1938; then Joe Wisnewski took over the cheesemaking until 1945, when the factory was closed. The building was sold and used as living quarters for a number of years and then razed.

Rietbrock had 4 other factories: one at Schnapps-ville; one in Section 18 Township 29-N Range 4-E across the road from Pioneer Bar; the Joseph Bergs cheese factory located 1-1/2 miles east of Poniatowski known as Cherry Grove and now owned by Ervin Jagodzinski; and the Clover Belt Cheese Factory, formerly the William Dvorak factory. It was purchased by Ray Goldbach and is managed and operated by Mr. Vernon Utecht. Presently the town has only the last two factories operating.

Matysik-Bonin Cheese Factory Now Bonin Locker Plant & Store

One of the early pioneers that settled in Schnappsville was Alex Cichon and wife Martha. They purchased land from early settlers Frank Wisnewski and Fred Rietbrock. Another pioneer settling here a little later was Joseph Matysik and his wife. They had Alex, Adam, Elizabeth (Bonin) and Anna (Rhode). After his wife died he married Josephine Skoczynski and they had three children—Otilia, Leonard and Dr. John.

Joseph and daughter Anna (Rhode) bought—from Alex and Martha Cichon—a tract of land, May 16, 1913, and had Frank Myszka build them a cheese factory, store and living quarters. Joseph was the first cheesemaker, making cheese with the help of his two sons Alex and Adam. Later he sold his interests to Joseph and Elizabeth (Matysik) Bonin in 1920. Bonin's had 12 children, namely; Anna, Mayme (dec.), Sylvia



Joseph Matysik family

(Wadzinski), Marcella (Brosseau), Leonard, Leo, Eugene, Phylis (Miller), Dolores (dec.), Betty (Seubert), Joseph, Jr., and Rita. With the help of their family they continued making cheese for 18 years. After a time, the farmers began to haul milk elsewhere and



Joseph Bonin and family posing for the photographe



Joseph and Elizabeth Bonin at the store

cheesemaking was discontinued and the factory was closed down. Remodeling took place and it was reopened for business as Bonin Locker Plant & Store in the year of 1947. After his wife's death in 1950, Joseph continued living with is son Joseph, Jr., until his death in 1964.

Joseph Jr., who with his wife Irene (Kropidlowski)—whom he married in 1957-took over the Locker Plant & Store in July, 1954, and is now in operation.

They have a family of three children, namely: Gail (Wendtland), Joseph Jr., and Patty Jo.

1918 Cheese Factory Across From Heiersville (Now Pioneer Bar)

The area of farmers active in dairying was becoming quite large, so to make it more convenient for farmers to haul their milk shorter distances, a new cheese factory was built in Section 18, Township 29-N Range 4-E in 1918, by Art and Ed Becker. Living quarters for the cheesemaker was provided upstairs. The first cheesemaker was Frank Biel; he



Cheese factory of 1918 remodeled into living quarters. Owned by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heideman.

was followed by Charles Hopperdietzel, Alvin Muenchow and Art Balz. For some reason the factory closed for a time. However, some years later Charles Bramm and other farmers wanted it re-opened. Art Balz was hired as the cheesemaker. He had as many as forty-seven patrons, at his peak time, and that meant that patrons were hauling their milk by horse and buggy from many miles away. In 1935, Charles Pauly bought out this factory and two others in the Athens area and built one larger factory in Athens. Then milk haulers trucked the milk for the farmers to the Athens Pauly Cheese Factory.

The abandoned factory was sold to the Albert Heidman family. Albert and his wife used it as their home until their deaths. It was 1952 when Earl and Mary Heideman purchased this property, and they have lived there ever since that time.

Cherry Grove Cheese Factory

In 1881 William Bergs, Sr. came from St. Cloud, Wisconsin, and settled in the area. In 1901, William's sons, Joseph and Hubert Bergs bought this land and built a creamery. They named it Cherry Grove because wild pin cherries were found growing in the

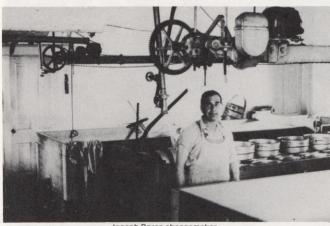


The Bergs Co. Creamery. By 1910 it was known as the Berg Co. Cheese Factory. Located five miles north of Edgar. Now operated by Ervin Jagodzinski, L to R Joe and William Bergs.

area. Some years later Hubert married the former Adeline Schueller and left the factory business. Joe married Elizabeth Metz in 1915 and he then continued making cheese at the factory. The present



Ervin Meyer bringing milk to Cherry Grove factory



Joseph Bergs cheesemaker

house was built in 1919 by Oscar Reichl. A second factory was built in 1918 and stands on the same site. Joseph operated the factory until 1948, when he retired to Edgar. His son, Wilfred, married the former Mary Kulas in 1949, and he operated the plant until 1954. They then sold it to Ervin Jagodzinski, and his uncle, the late Anton Knetter. In 1957 Ervin and Arleane Jagodzinski bought the plant from his uncle and have operated it for the past 25 years.

Various changes have occured in those 25 years. All milk was hauled in cans, with many farmers hauling their own milk. Farmers then converted to bulk tanks

and some to Grade A. A hand-fired boiler was in use in the early years for cheese-making and fuel went from wood and coal to oil and natural gas. 1954 statements show the price of milk at \$3.05 per hundred weight, butter at 63 cents and aged cheese at 80 cents a pound.



Cherry Grove Cheese Factory and home now owned and operated by Ervin Jagodzinski family.

Factory additions were: a cooler and a larger addition in 1962. A tubular pasteurizer, automatic cheese-making equipment, clarifier, fine saver, cream bulk tank, P N meter were added over the years to modernize the cheese-making process of today. Various cheeses were made: cheddar, barrel, Monterey Jack and Co-Jack. At present, mostly Colby cheese is made into 40 lb blocks. With two ambitious sons Dale and Darryl helping Ervin, the business has become a family affair.

Clover Belt Cheese Factory



1927 Clover Belt Cheese Factory

First meeting of Stockholders was held at the Anton Jagodzinski home on Oct. 10, 1927. Twenty-one original stockholders, and twenty patrons.

Officers elected for one Year:

President - August Urmanski Vice-President - John Pietrowski Secretary - Jacoab Soczka

Treasurer - Paul Meller

Director - John Jesko

The making of cheese began in November, 1927. Buyer - Pauly & Pauly Cheese Co. Price of cheese - 24 - 3/4 cents Price of butterfat - 59 cents Average price per 100 lbs. of milk - \$1.94

The first cheesemaker was Maynard Schwantes followed by Lemke, John Wisniewski, Merrill, Wisconsin, and William E. Dvorak, the last cheesemaker from Sept. 1929 to March, 1969. William E. Dvorak purchased the factory from the stockholders in Aug., 1933.

Lowest price of cheese - Feb. 1933 - 8-1/2 cents Lowest price of butterfat was 20 cents Average price per 100 lbs. of milk - 67 cents

The Dvorak's sold the factory in 1969 to Ray Goldbach, Marathon, Wisconsin. Mr. Vernon Utecht is the present cheesemaker and manager. The factory still holds the name as Clover Belt Cheese Factory in The Town of Rietbrock.

Cows

Cows are funny. They like to walk through mud.

They don't worry about anything, just lie and chew their cud.

When they're hungry they go feed in the barn, While the farmer figures ways of keeping them from harm.

Now cows give milk so frothy white From eating green grass morning and night.

Then we make cheese — that's yellow, Swiss, brick, strong and mellow.

So figure this one out if you're an educated fellow — How a black cow gives white milk for making cheese that's yellow?

Harry F. Davis

from Rib Mountain Echoes, Volume II, copyright 1967 by the Wausau Writers Club Worzalla Publishing Company, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Transportation

Many of the early pioneers came to this country by sailboats and steamships. Settling in the town of Rietbrock, their only means of transportation was by foot. Later, the oxen were used for heavy work; then railroads came into existence. After they cleared and made roads, the horses replaced the oxen. They



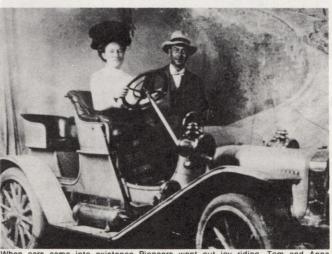


1910 - 1912: At Poniatowski. Joe Gesicki, left and "Harvester Bill" to the right. The latter was a representative of the Int. Harvester Co. Copies 11/20/79 from picture furnished courtesy of John Gesicki, of Poniatowski.

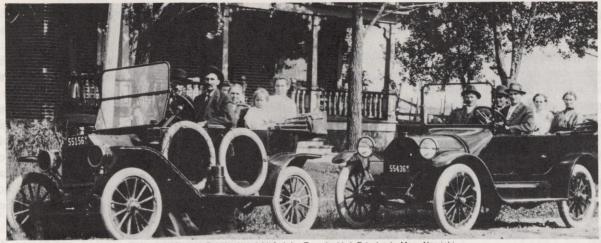
were used to drive the surrey those days. As time advanced, the horse and carriage was replaced with that of the autos, in about 1910.



Alex Chichon-moustache, Stan Kroll, child - Lou; In back, Mrs. Stan Kroll, Mrs Alex Cichon.



When cars came into existence Pioneers went out joy riding. Tom and Anna Chesak



First car in front: L-R Mike Nowicki & John Teresinski, L-R in back, Mary Nowicki, child unknown, Josephine Teresinski; Second car, In front, L-R Anton Kreft, Stan Kroll in middle, Allie Kreft - driver, Ladies, L-R Mrs. Stan Kroll, Mrs. Anton Kreft.

A few in the Town of Rietbrock found the trucking business a desirable occupation. Hauling milk became an asset to the trucking business. Some involved in trucking milk in cans with their own trucks those days were: Reuben and Ed Dettmann, Thomas Socha, Thomas Witucki, Albert Stencil, George Witucki, Alois Stencil, Leo Soczka, Edward Gesicki, Hoge, Leonard Miller, Art Heldt and Edwin Heldt, Tony Diers, Joseph Writz, Eddie Lenard, Joseph Trawicki, Joe Schaetzl and others. In later years most of the factories bought out the individual truckers and hired there own men. The others found interests elsewhere.

One individual milk hauler is Kenneth Reuter who



Kenneth Reuter by his bulk milk truck

bought his first can truck and route from Edwin Heldt in Feb. of 1966 and hauled the milk to Pauly Cheese at the Athens Plant. Finding it his fancy he bought a second can truck and route from Tony Diers Nov., 1967, and again hauled all this to Pauly Cheese Plant at Athens. When The Pauly Cheese Plant closed, on Oct. of 1970, he hauled the milk to Honey Bee Plant at Hamburg, Wisconsin, owned by Pauly Cheese Co.

Kenneth bought his first bulk truck and route from Pauly Cheese Co. in Oct. 1970, and in Oct. 1974, he purchased the second bulk truck, but without a route. When the milk cans became obsolete, in June of 1978, Pauly Cheese Co. quit taking can milk; and he also discontinued can hauling. At the present time, he runs two bulk trucks and the milk is delivered to Pauly Cheese Co. and Honey Bee Plant. Besides this trucking, he does occasional gravel hauling.

Another phase in trucking in the town of Rietbrock involves the general, commercial and livestock haulers. They are the following:

LES GAUERKE & SONS INC.

Delivery of L P Gas, Neuendorff Freight and Gravel

HARVEY SOCZKA — General

Gravel - Forest Products - Lumber

TED MEIER & SONS

Hauler of slabwood

DREWEK BROS.

Commercial trucking

PETER NOWICKI

Commercial trucking

SYLVESTER LIPINSKI JR.

Livestock hauler

DENNIS KROENING

Livestock hauler

There are also some privately owned truckers in Riet brock who haul their own pulp, etc.

Rietbrock Schools

The Town of Rietbrock had four elementary schools from grades one through eight at one time, and one parochial school. Records show that these schools were begun as early as 1878; boundaries were set up in 1880; and the last school closed its doors in 1970. People identified their schools by such names as the "green school" or the "white school". However, the districts and names of the schools were as follows: School District No. 1 (known as the Green School); School District No. 2, Hoffman School; School District No. 3, (Poniatowski White School); School District No. 4, Silver Arrow School; and Holy Family Catholic School.

The floor plans for each one-room school seemed to be the same. They were built as one large classroom. We entered from a hall where we hung our coats, scarfs and caps, and we placed our boots neatly in a line-up on the floor underneath our coats. Our lunch pails of all shapes and sizes were placed on a shelf built just for them. In one corner of this hall was a pail of water for drinking, etc., and as years passed this pail was replaced by a water bubbler.

The classroom would have an old pot-belly heater, either in the middle of the room, or to one side, which the teacher would have started early in the morning so that the children could warm themselves when they arrived. Wet clothing from the snow or rain could be hung close to the heater to dry, and mittens and wet boots were laid on the floor beneath the stove. On really cold days we would keep our coats on until the room got warm. In the earlier days during the warmer fall days some pupils even walked barefoot, as shoes were not easy to buy or some could not afford them.

Much class work was done on the large blackboards that seemed to cover much of the wall space. Above the blackboards were several wide board cases which contained large maps on rollers. These could be pulled down over the blackboards, for viewing by the students.

Classes began at nine in the morning and were dismissed between three and four in the afternoon, depending upon the season, weather, darkness, etc. Two short recesses were given—one in the midmorning and one in mid-afternoon, each about fifteen minutes in length—and we had an hour for noon. The teacher usually had a hand bell to ring when it was time to stop playing and return to classes. It was often a reward and privilege to get to ring it—eighth graders often did it. During this time baseball kept the upper grades occupied, and the younger children jumped rope, played tag, or had games where all played together. Teachers helped the little ones get bundled up for play and for the long walk home.

According to records, the Poniatowski Public

School provided a hot lunch program for its children long before the Federal School Lunch Program came into being. Anna Krell Braun, who lived just a short distance from the school, would prepare large kettlefuls of soup, stew or hot noodle and meat dishes at her home. At noon two of the bigger boys would run over and fetch the hot kettleful to the school. The school board provided a two-burner kerosene stove at the school, so the teacher could prepare hot cocoa or other extras. The children usually brought their own bread or so.

Early in December we started practicing for our school Christmas program, spending weeks memorizing parts for plays. At first the teacher would skip a class or two to begin rehearsals, but the final week all the time was spent for practicing.

Valentine Day was also very special. Most of the valentines were made by hand. At school we were given paper, paste and scissors. We would then cut and fold the paper and would write verses on, and they then were ready for the valentine box. This was a large cardboard box with a slit in the top so the valentines could be slid in. Then, on Feb. 14 they were distributed. Boys or girls would giggle or blush when they received one from the opposite sex.

Picnic days were a lot of fun. Although saying goodbye to our friends and our teacher was sad, in a way we were happy to be free for a few months. In the fall we would be only too glad to come back.

The schools were gradually beginning to close, after years of children passing through its doors. Like all large one-room schools in Marathon County these four schools gave way to the State School district reor-



School Dist. No. 1 known as the "Green School" Some identified pupils are front row L-R unknown, Benedict Stencil, Ed Milkowski, John Woznicki, unknown, John Stencil, unknown, 2nd row, Philip Stencil, Earl Koening, Adela (Miller) Nowicki, John T. Miller, Sally (Miller) Wisnewski, Isabella (Muskowski) Crotty, unknown, unknown, Josephine (Wisnewski) Wadzinski, 3rd row, Josephine Stencil, unknown, unknown, unknown, Helen (Urmanski) Myszka, Unknown, Unknown, Unknown, Last row, Irene (Miller) Jesko, Anna Bonin, Teacher, Francis (Sekorski) Orlikowski.

ganization law which required all areas in the state to be a part of some high school district by July 1, 1962. Outside of District No. 4, our schools had been operating as "suspended" districts for sometime before school district reorganization took place. They had a school board but no schoolhouse and the Board transported the children to either Athens or Edgar schools. This was in the 1930's and the 1940's. The school buildings were either sold to farmers or taken down. The land was used for agricultural purposes or new homes were built.

The Clerk's Record book shows that Registration of School Officers and term of offices began in 1878, of School District No. 1, known as the "Green School" from Sept. 1879, ending Aug. 31, 1880; there were 96 children over 4 and under 20 years attending.

Clerk	Treasurer	Director	Teacher
1878-1881 Jacob Myszka	ide rada	Joe Klawinski	IT adsets
1881-1885 Jacob Myszka	market / Comment	Joe Klawinski	lash-in f
1885-1889 Albert Jesko		Joe Klawinski	John Chesak
1886-1889 Albert Jesko	Peter Teusz	Joe Klawinski	John Chesak
1887-1890 Albert Jesko	Peter Teusz	Joe Klawinski	John Chesak
1888-1891 John Soczka	Peter Teusz	Joe Klawinski	John Chesak
1891-1892 John Soczka	Adam Senski	Joe Klawinski	John Chesak
1892-1905 John Soczka	Adam Senski	Joe Klawinski	John Chesak
1905-1906 John Soczka	Adam Senski	Joe Klawinski	Nicholas Meller
1906-1907 John Petrowski	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Clara Bowe
1907-1908 John Petrowski	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Clara Bowe
1908-1909 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Susan Ceranski
1910-1911 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Virgil Bowe
1911-1912 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Tillie Berres
1912-1913 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Tillie Berres
1913-1914 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Blanch Kruegar
1914-1915 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Anton Kraft	Christine Krell
1915-1916 Stan Kroll	Alex Cichon	Mrs. Anton Kre	ftAnna Brady
1916-1917 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Albert Miller	Anna Brady
1917-1918 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Anna Brady
1918-1919 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Carrie Berres
1919-1920 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Vlasts Horak
1920-1921 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Elvera Ringle
1921-1922 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Elvera Ringle
1922-1923 Stan Kroll	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Alma Ohm
1923-1924 Jacob Soczka	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Frank Joswiak
1924-1925 Jacob Soczka	Paul Meller	Matt Soczka	Bernice
			Feltzkowski
1925-1926 Jacob-Soczka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Bernice
	Waskowiak		Feltzkowski
1926-1927 Jacob Soczka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Reinhardt Tobe
the left descrip someth	Waskowiak		
1927-1928 Jacob Soczka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Milton
DAMENTO TO STREET	Waskowiak		Kirchman
1928-1929 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Milton
suces university sears	Waskowiak		Kirchman
1929-1930 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Margaret
	Waskowiak		Sellung
1930-1931 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Lillian (Brown)
Madaba 3.15 King Sign	Waskowiak		Brady
1931-1932 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Lillian (Brown)
bladeshill file salesyllade	Waskowiak		Brady
1932-1933 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Frank Socha	Virginia Cappel
划。但是他人所是是自己的意思的	Waskowiak		
1933-1934 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Mike Wisnews	kiVirginia
Waskowiak	(Punke)		
1934-1935 Casimir Myszka	Andrew	Mike Wisnews	ki Margaret
	Waskowiak		Melvin
1935-1936 Casimir Myszka		Mike Wisnews	ki Virginia Punke
	Waskowiak		•
1936-1937 Casimir Myszka		Mike Wisnews	ki Virginia Punke
			0

Waskowiak

Clerk	Treasurer	Director	Teacher
1937-1938 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Joe Szymanski
1938-1939 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Joe Szymanski
1939-1940 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Joe Szymanski
1940-1941 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Joe Szymanski
1941-1942 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Prosper Koppa
1942-1943 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Prosper Koppa
1943-1955 Casimir Myszka	Andrew Waskowiak	Mike Wisnews	ki Prosper Koppa

The records show that the school operated its last year (1942-1943) term with Prosper Koppa being the last teacher with an annual salary of \$855.00. The building was later sold to Joseph Urmanski. A home now owned by Brian Geerdts is in its place.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 2 HOFFMAN SCHOOL



Interior of School Dist. No. 2 · Hoffman School 1905

Teacher Mary Bauman. Some identified pupils are: Frances (Nowicki) Nowacki,
Mary (Teresinski) Wisnewski, Helen (Nowicki) Murkowski, Anna (Nowicki) Murkowski,
Josephine & Hedwig Switlick, Jenkins, Frank Teresinski, & Tony Nowicki.

With information obtained from the record book, 39 children over 4 and under 20 years were attending from Sept., 1879, and ending Aug. 31, 1880, at Hoffman School, Officers were:

Clerk - Herman Gadow . July 6, 1885 - July 2, 1888 Treasurer - Christ Bramm July 5, 1886 - July 2, 1889 Director - Peter Neuns July 5, 1887 - July, 1890 Clerk - Joseph Hart July 2, 1888 - July, 1891 Treasurer - A.W. Schwittlick July 1, 1889 - July 1892

One of the early teachers was to have been a Mary Bauman. Some of the other teachers and officers were the following:

were the following			
Clerk	Treasurer	Director	Teacher
1892-1913 - INFORMA	TION NOT AV	AILABLE	
1913-1914 —			Della Lochen
1914-1925 - Not availabl	e		
1925-1928 Paul Wilger	Martin Trawick	ki J.P. Neuens	Florence (Marggi) Berres
1928-1929 M. Lewandow	ski Martin Trawic	ki J.P. Neuens	Amanda marggi
1929-1931 M. Lewandows	ki A. Behrendt	J.P. Neuens	Amanda Marggi
1931-1933 M. Lewandows	ki A. Behrendt	J.P. Neuens	Eunice (Wilke) Diedrich

Teacher	Clerk	Treasurer	Director
1933-1935 M. Lewandowski	A. Behrendt	J.P. Neuens	Eunice (Wilke) Diedrich
1935-1939 M. Lewandowski	A. Behrendt	J.P. Neuens	Eunice (Wilke) Diedrich
1939-1940 M. Lewandowski	Henry Behrendt	Felix Andreski	Amayra Thelig

Records show that 1939-1940 was the last year of operation. The annual salary of the last teacher was \$765.00. The land is now owned by Sanford Morse.

JOINT SCHOOL DIST. NO. 1 of the Towns Rietbrock and Halsey.

Section No. 1 the E 1/2 of Section 2 the E 1/2 of Section 11 and Section 12 of the Town of Rietbrock and Section No. 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36 of the Town of Halsey constituted this Joint School District. This school is located on the property of Mildred Riehle in the Town of Halsey.

RIETBROCK SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3 Poniatowski White School



School District No. 3-known as the White School in Poniatowski



Frank Wisnewski, Mike Rauen, Edward Myshka, Albert Meyer, Arnold Kaiser, Dorothy Auner, Esther Meyer, Teacher, Tina Blank.

Records show in Deed Book 31, page 486 that D.W. Johnson, Electa A. Johnson, Fred Rietbrock, Helen M. Rietbrock, his wife, to School District Number three (3) of the Town of Rietbrock, Marathon County, Wisconsin. Dated February 15, 1883. Later in the year of 1884 or 1885 a school was built. The officers were:

Treasurer - Joseph Chesak July 6, 1885 -
July 2, 1888
Director - Mathias Braun July 5, 1886 - July 2, 1889
Treasurer - Joseph Heineman July 2, 1888 -
1891
Clerk - Thomas Berres Nov., 1888, Vacancy of L.
Findorff 1889
Treasurer - A Schwager May 14, 1889, Vacancy
of Heineman 1889
Clerk - Thomas Berres July 1, 1889 - July, 1890
Treasurer - Joseph Chesak . July 1, 1889 - July 1891
Director - Jacob Murkowski July 1, 1889 -
July, 1892

After the "court house" was destroyed in the village of Poniatowski, the school house was used as a voting place from 1887 to sometime in the 1920's. Some of the teachers who taught in this school were; John Chesak; Gorman, Helen Bowe, Edna Boew, Ruth Laabs, Tina Blank, Anna Krell, LaPoint, Marie Lonsdorf, Marie (Braun) Wozniak, Rosalia Meyer, Virginia (Cappel) Punke, Lillian (Brown) Brady, Caroline (Rauen) Kraft and Arlene (Wirkus) Krahn. According to records the school was last operated in 1934-35 school year with Arlene Krahn the last teacher. Her annual salary was \$520.00. The officers from 1927-1930 were:

Clerk - Albert Meyer, Treasurer - Ben Reuter Director - M.M. Schaetzl

1930-1937

Clerk - Albert Meyer Treasurer - Harry Kolpack, Director - Joseph Wisnewski

Later the school was sold to Ben Miller and wife Elizabeth, then sold to Edmund and Angeline Gesicki and in 1963 to Nicholas Karlen. He has built a home and other buildings on this school site, his present residence.

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 4 SILVER ARROW SCHOOL

This school was built somewhere around 1908 and it was the last Rietbrock public school to be closed.

The first teacher was Mrs. George Rietz, Sr., followed by F. Kissingler, Koskey, L. Hopperdietzel, P. Brady, Meyer, Johnson, N. Aderhold, and in the following years were:

Teacher	Clerk	Treasurer	Director	
1927-1928 Olga Backes	A. Heideman	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1928-1929 Hortense Backes	A. Heideman	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1929-1930 Amalia Calmes	A. Heideman	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1930-1936 Amalia Calmes	A. Heideman	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1936-1937 Ida Heldt	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1937-1938 Ida Heldt	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1938-1939				
Mildred Weidenhoeft	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1939-1940				
Mildred Weidenhoeft	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1940-1941				
Geraldine Habeck	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1941-1946 Caroline Kraft	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	H.F. Aderhold	
1946-1947 Marcella Meier	Otto Lenhard	Philip Myszka	Pat Zettler	

The records show this was the last public school to close, operating through the 1946-1947 school year. At the time of closing, the annual salary was \$1,485.00. The building was later sold to Raymond I. Murkowski and torn down. A new home was built by his son LeRoy and now owned by James Sodoma.

Holy Family Catholic School At Poniatowski

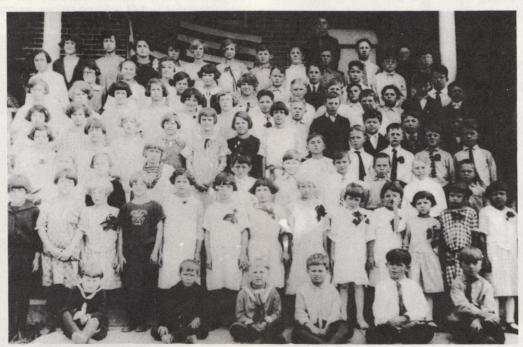
The pioneers, hoping to give their children a Catholic education, built a frame parish school in 1903. This frame structure was completed with much of the lumber coming from the original log structure church. The school soon had a large enrollment being staffed by lay male teachers, namely; Michalski, Milkowski, Winiaszewski, Kurek and Helinski. It was called the Holy Family School.

Church records reveal that during the pastorate of Father Kupka the present brick-veneered parochial school was built and dedicated July 31, 1910. This marked the time when the parish first had sisters to staff the school. For the next six years, the Sisters of Notre Dame staffed the school. In 1916 sisters from the Felician Order accepted the invitation to teach at Poniatowski and the school remained in their charge, until its closing in 1970. It was a 2-story, 3-classroom building. With a convent in the

rear, the classes were divided into a 1st, 2nd, & 3rd grade group, 4th, 5th, & 6th grade group, and 7th & 8th grade group. One nun was a housekeeper, and cook, while the remaining three taught. Each school day the parish priest would conduct Mass in the lower 4th, 5th, & 6th grade classroom where there was an altar built into the wall. The nun would "pump" a portable organ while the older girls would sing in the choir for Mass. Older neighborhood citizens would attend week-day Mass and kneel on one long kneeler in the back of the class while the school children gathered closely together in the one classroom converted chapel-this forming the Christian education of today's parents. After Mass, the children all went to their respective classes until 3:00 P.M. Although there was electricity, there was only one water-font for drinking.

In 1953, the parochial school was enlarged and remodeled. The school basement was rebuilt, modern bathrooms were installed and a new heating plant was also installed. The school had an enrollment, at first, of about 112 to 125 children, until the last few years when the enrollment went down to about 85 pupils. The last teachers were Sister Geraldine, Sister Hilda and Mrs. Sylvester (Caroline) Kraft.

The school closed its door in 1970. The nuns living quarters were rented out and CCD classes are now being held in the classrooms each week.



1923-1924: HOLY FAMILY SCHOOL, PONIATOWSKI, WISCONSIN.
Sitting down: Eddie Niemczyk, Louis Lenard, Thomas Murkowski, Sylvester Bergs, Paul Kocik and Albert Guralski. Standing, 1st row: Leona Trawicki (Murkowski), Leona Pietrowski (Albrecht), Sylvia Bonin (Wadzinski), Frances Pietrowski (Hoppa), Agnes Brown, Regina Schueller (Lenard), Theresa Bergs, Lucy Myszka, Barbara Kulas (Scheatzel), Mary Literski (Nowitzke), Theresa Kulas (Rliehe), Rozella Rauen and Harriet Kulas (Thalman). 2nd Row: Regina Riehle (Not Shown), Irene Murkowski (King), Angeline Handloski (Gesicki). Josephine Sekorski (Adamski), Anton Omelian, John Rauen, Walter Myszka, Florian Jakubowski, Thom Nowicki and Thom Jakubowski. 3rd Row: Irene Rauen (Boris), Helen Pietrowski (Urmanski), Leo Teresinski, Steven Lenard, Sylvester Lipinski, Leonard Guralski and Sylvester Witucki.

(Myszka), Eleanore Wisnewski, Lucy Miller (Buchberger), Leona Lapinski, Rudolph Wanemacher, Alex Bergs and Anton Trojanowski. 5th Row: Sophie Lipinski, Regina Stencil (Wielock), Gertrude Wanemacher, Margaret Brown, Leona Reichle, Evelyn Mauer, Florian Stencil, Mike Sliwicki, Rauen,

Brown, Frank Jakubowski, Leo Woznicka and Eddie Miller. 6th Row: Lucy Wozniczka, Esther Trawicki (Hajduk), Lucy Teresinski (Writz), Sophie Boris (Zettler), Marie Bergs (Sister Kathleen), Josephine Krell, Celia Muszkowski, Ray Berres, Fran Murkowski, Eddie Socha, Theodore Niemczyk, Leonard Meyer,

Stubinski. 7th Row: Anna Trojanowski (Jagodzinski), Sophie Gesicki (Handlosky), Josephine Meyer, Maymie Milkowski (Belter), Stella Handlosky (Nowicki), Victoria Lenard (Drewek), Peter Nowicki, Thomas Witucki, Eddie Sliwicki, Frank Niemczyk, Arthur Nowicki & Earl Braun. 8th Row: Leonard Miller.

Churches

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH

According to Historian James E. Noonan, "The pioneers were Catholics to a man and shortly after they had built their humble dwellings and barns, they erected a church." It was hardly more than a log chapel but it served its purpose. The 20 acre tract of land was donated by Mr. Fred Rietbrock for this purpose.

One of the earliest recorded Masses in the area was celebrated by a Father Bukowski, a priest from Stevens Point, who conducted the Sacred liturgy at the home of John Literski. (Now the James Literski Farm). Records indicate that throughout this time other priests came at various intervals from Arcadia and North Creek to hold services at the homes of the settlers. On the occasion of one of his visits in 1878, Father Bukowski set about establishing a mission church in what was then locally known as the Court House.

The occasional visits of missionary priests led to the agitation for a house of worship and a decision was reached in the fall of 1878 to proceed with the



Holy Family Catholic Church

building of a church. The construction of the first church, of log construction, was completed in the fall of 1879.

Soon after the completion of the log church, the name of the community was changed from "Gmina Polska", which means Polish settlement, to "Administration of St. Joseph Parish".

Completion of the log church led members of the faith to seek more regular services, and a priest was sought for the community, to come at least three times a year. To support their requests for more regular services, the parishioners built a log parish house in 1879.

Some of the earliest priests recorded serving in those days were Father Klimecki from Arcadia, who came twice a year after the church was built, and a Father Lager, who journeyed over from Medford. Historical records of the parish state that the first resident priest was Father John Monczynski, OFM, who was assigned to the parish in 1881.

During this two-year tenure, the log rectory caught fire and burned to the ground. Following Father Monczynski's departure in 1885, the early pioneers were served from time to time by Father August Krogulski, who came occasionally from Junction City. It was during this time that the parishioners succeeded in erecting a frame building to serve as their parsonage, replacing the destroyed log rectory.

On September, 22, 1886, the Rev. Andrew Gara arrived to serve the congregation in response to a petition to the bishop of the diocese for the assigning of a resident priest. Father Gara was born in 1860 in Jawiszowice, Galicia, Austria. His early education was obtained in his native village, at Zywice, and the



Rev. Andrew Gara

Gymnasium at Wadowice. He studied at the Gregorian University in Rome where he completed the study of philosophy and theology. In 1885 Father Gara came to this country. On June 24, 1886, he was ordained at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee, by Archbishop

Heis. Before his appointment to Poniatowski he served for two months as assistant to Father Ignatius Schaller at Marshfield. He also attended the mission at Athens from September, 1892 to July 1896. He has been credited with "putting the foundation to the Poniatowski parish" during the 12 years he remained here.

Major activities during the tenure of Father Gara included the replacing of the original log structure with the present brick-veneer church in 1890, when the name of the congregation was changed to the Holy Family Congregation. The agitation for the new church to replace the log building, which was proving too small and which was also declared unsafe, was begun in 1889. Other land improvements were made and development of the present parish cemetery was begun.

Father Gara left the parish June 29, 1898. He was succeeded by the Rev. T. Lugowski, Pine Creek, who remained until the end of the year before being succeeded by the Rev. C. Frydrychowicz.

A dispute within the congregation during the tenure of Father Frydrychowicz, who remained in the parish until February 1901, resulted in the church being closed by the Bishop, some members of the Polish congregation buried their hostilities and worshipped with their German neighbors in their church. Such action merited the opening of Holy Family Parish in July, 1901, Father Biela was named successor to Father Frydrychowicz. He remained until Easter, 1902, when he was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Miller, a German. Having a German priest as pastor, parish nationalism again poked its head. Parish troubles during his tenure led to his leaving the parish in less than three years.

However, during this period of strife, the parish school — a frame structure — was completed. Succeeding Father Miller in 1905 was Rev. Ignatius Modarski, but his tenure was also short-lived. He resigned and left the parish in 1909, after his plans for a new school failed to materialize.

July 1, 1901, marked the beginning of some stability for the strife-torn parish, with the appointment



Rev. Florian Kupka

of Rev. Florian Kupka as pastor of Holy Family and for Holy Trinity Mission, by Bishop James Schwebach. No other pastor accomplished as much for the parish as did Father Kupka, who lived to serve the parish for 32 years.



Refreshments enjoyed after yearly church picnic clean-up were the following, Front row L-R Nick Woznicki, John A. Wisnewski, Regina (Joe) Wisnewski, Stan Writz, Stanley Jagodzinski, Adela (Art) Nowicki, Rev. Florian Kupka, Back row L-R unknown, unknown, John A. Miller, John Jesko, Joe Wisnewski, Pelagia (Paul) Meller, Albert Miller, Anna Kreft, Irene Jesko, August Urmanski, Josephine (John) Teresinski, Emma Urmanski, unknown, Mary (John) Wisnewski, Margaret (John) Guralski

Church records reveal that during the pastorate of Father Kupka, the present brick-veneer parochial school was built and dedicated July 31, 1910. Throughout his tenure, firmness and fairness reigned. The congregation learned to work together once again. The church was completely redecorated, and the present rectory was constructed in 1917 at a cost of \$10,000.00. Church societies such as the Ladies Altar and Rosary Societies and the Men's Society, were begun. The faith became so dominant that several girls from the parish decided to become nuns. Ill health forced Father Kupka to retire in 1941. He was succeeded by the Rev. Max. Kluczykowski, who continued the progress of the parish through 1948. During his pastorate the mission of Holy Trinity was



Holy Family School was officially dedicated July 31, 1910

merged with Holy Family. All that remains of the German Mission Church today is the cemetery, which is still cared for by Holy Family parishioners. The church undercroft was excavated, the interior of the church was refurbished, new pews were installed, the school basement was rebuilt, and new heating plants were installed in both the church and school.

In 1948, Rev. Stanislaus Lapinski was named pastor; stability strengthened as families intermarried and the community learned to become united.



Holy Family Church & Rectory in 1918

On July 9, 1952, Father Edward Roskos was appointed pastor of Holy Family by Bishop John P. Treacy. Records indicated that during his pastorate of twenty years, Father Roskos was granted permission to enlarge and remodel the school.

Suffering from a prolonged illness, Father Roskos retired on August 17, 1972 as the second longest-term pastor in the history of the parish. His retirement



Rev. Edward Roskos



1955 May Crowning devotion at Holy Family Church

was short lived, however, as he died October 8, 1972, and was buried in Holy Family Cemetery on October 11, 1972.

Father Roskos is the only pastor of the parish buried in the parish cemetery. His tombstone is located directly behind the white crucifixion scene in the center of the cemetery.

August 28, 1972, started the three-year pastorate of Father Richard J. Herrmann. He was appointed pastor by Bishop F. W. Freking. Under Father Herrmann leadership, renovations in the parish continued. On July 15, 1975, Father Herrmann resigned to accept an assignment elsewhere. His successor, Father Thomas Langer, newly named principal of Newman High School in Wausau was officially installed as pastor by the Very Rev. Hilary F. Simmons, then Dean of the Wausau Deanery, on October 1, 1975. Under the direction and leadership of Father Thomas Langer, the parish had taken on more of the new look of Vatican II.

While minor renovations of the rectory and church undercroft had been completed, emphasis had been placed on education and liturgy.

A century of faith and worship — with the first Mass in the John Literski (now James Literski) the 100th anniversary celebration of Holy Family Parish of Poniatowski — took place on Sunday, July 31, 1977, with a Mass of Thanksgiving concelebrated by Bishop F. W. Freking and other priests. A barbecued chicken dinner following the Mass was served. Booths, games, refreshments, live and old time music, were provided.

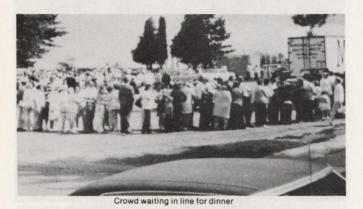


Outdoor Mass - The members of Holy Family Catholic Church in Poniatowski celebrated the American Bicentennial on Sunday with an outdoor mass and an old fashioned family picnic in the afternoon. Wearing special vestments made for the mass is Father Thomas Langer.

On the following day, August 1, the Franzen Bros. Circus featured two shows. They were two days of rejoicement for young and old.



21 Gun Salute - Members of the Edgar VFW Post 10187 gave a 21 gun salute following the outdoor mass in Poniatowski. The legion members were a part of the color quard which honored the dead soldiers from the parish.





Barbecued chicken is being prepared for Centennial dinner

Father Langer's resignation as principal of Newman Catholic High School in Wausau was accepted as of June 8, 1979. Being also a pastor of Holy Family Parish, Poniatowski, he was granted a leave of absence from the diocese so that he could accept an assignment as principal of the Parkersburg Catholic High School, Parkersburg, WV. effective July 2, 1979. He was succeeded by our present pastor Rev. Lloyd Geissler, who was installed officially as the Pastor of Holy



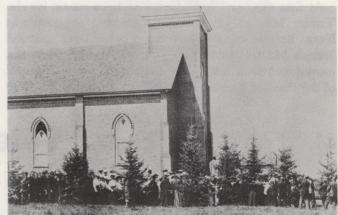
Some of the old time music provided by Art Nowicki & Leo Teresinski, the grandsons of pioneer Martin Nowicki

Family Parish, by the Dean of the Wausau Deanery, Very Rev. Ralph Rafacz, July 24, 1979.

In summary, the history of Holy Family is perhaps not unlike that of countless in a stubborn wilderness. (The woods were so thick in the early days that settlers would frequently get lost on the trails to Edgar). The trip from Poniatowski to Edgar was often impossible during the winter months. By todays standards, those were not only hard, but they seem almost exaggerated. Though they had little of what we now consider indispensable, the people of Poniatowski did have what it takes to get things done, and they had it in abundance.

Accordian to Historian Noonan, "They had tenacity of purpose and honest Christian caliber about them that motivated the necessary sacrifice and effort to build well for the glory of God and the good of their souls.

Now in its fifth generation, the faithful of Holy Family Parish continue to provide for the Church whenever asked. For one hundred years the faithful members have tested their loyalty and endurance and continue to find themselves not lacking in their love for God.



Dedication of Holy Trinity Mission Church August 6, 1906

Records show that another Catholic Church was erected, less than a quarter mile from Holy Family Church, to serve the Catholics of German ancestry — who also were attracted to the area by Fred Rietbrock.

Among the early German settlers were the names of Berres, Fischer, Meyer, Krell, Rauen, Braun and others. Their first church, a log one, was built in 1899. Later, it was replaced by a brick-veneer building in 1905. In the early days, the German speaking settlers were attended by priests who spoke German from neighboring parishes. Rev. Anthony E. Muehlenkamp, Athens, Wisconsin, was the very first priest to have said the first Mass. Later, Holy Trinity, as the German Parish was called became a Mission of Holy Family, the Polish church. The problem of language was of great importance to the Polish and German immigrants in those days. With time and intermarriages between the German and Polish people, that problem was solved.

With the appointment of Father Florian Kupka as Pastor of Holy Family, he was also appointed to serve Trinity Mission Church, by Bishop James



Interior of Holy Trinity Mission Church

Schwebach. Services were held every Sunday at 9 A.M. while the Holy Family had the later Mass at 10 A.M.

The first candle holders and liturgy book stand that were used in the church were made by Thomas Berres.

At first the nuns furnished the organ music for the Trinity Mission Church; the following organist was Nora Berres. Next Lolly Krell, who later married Joseph Meyer, played for the services; and when she moved to Milwaukee, Miss Angeline Rauen, daughter of the Charles Rauens took over, at the age of 15. This

was in 1925. She was the organist until the closing of the church in March of 1943. The first wedding she played for was that of Lydia Rauen and Lawrence Bradfish.

Father Kupka served the Trinity Mission Church until he retired in 1941, because of ill health. He was replaced by Rev. Max. Kluczkowski, and it was during his pastorate that the Holy Trinity Church was merged with Holy Family, in 1945.

A permanent marker was placed at the site of the altar of the church, by the Rev. Edward Roskos, then pastor of Holy Family Church. It was in memory of the many masses said in the church during the past years.

The pews of the church were donated to the con-



Holy Trinity Church Razed - Part of the changing, 25-man volunteer crew engaged in razing the former "German" Catholic Church at Poniatowski. The inset shows Herman Fischer, who helped erect the church building and who assisted in the razing operations.

gregation of the Holy Name Catholic Church in Wausau, and the material was used in the construction of an addition at the Holy Family Catholic School.

The brick veneer church structure was never modernized and was lighted with oil lamps, while stoves provided the heat. The church was then razed in 1954. All that remains of the German Mission today is the cemetery, which is cared for by the Holy Family parishioners.

Veterans

World War I began in 1914, and in the year of 1917, the United States became involved in a war against Germany. During this time rationing of flour and sugar took place and the "flu" claimed many lives of soldiers abroad and civilians at home. This war ended in November, 1918.

After this was, the World War II outbreak

began in 1939 and lasted until 1945. Food rationing, war bonds, scrap metal drives, gasoline and fuel oil rations stamps and shortages were common at home. A few years after this war ended we again experienced the Korean and Vietnamese conflicts. Men and women from the Town of Rietbrock that were in Military Service during World War I, World War

II, Korean, Vietnam, Army Reserves, U.S. Marines, U.S. Navy, Air Corp. and National Guards were the following:



Local boys leaving for service in 1917



George Belter - killed in service World War II



Lawrence Stenzel - killed in service Korean Conflict.



In 1917 soldiers on their way to France.



Alphonse Gantner wounded during World War II and died as a result one year latter.

Albrecht, Peter Bargender, John Cichon, Frank

*Hart, George - killed in service

Jagodzinski, Joseph Jesko, John Klawinski, Anton Klawinski, John Kroll, John Kulas, John

*Matysik, Alexander - killed in service

Mueller, Arthur Murkowski, Joseph Myszka, Casimir Myszka, Philip Riehle, Anton Socha, George Teresinski, Anton Teresinski, John Wisnewski, John A. Wisnewski, John J. Wisnewski, Joseph Wisnewski, Leo Writz, Stan

Andris, Mark Artman, Dennis

*Belter, George - killed in service

Belter, George J. Bergs, Victor Bonin, Leonard Bonin, Eugene Bornheimer, Elmer Bornheimer, Leo Jr. Bradfish, Arland Brinkman, Raymond Brodziski, Alexander Brodziski, Frank Bronowicz, Edwin Bronowicz, Henry Chojonowski, Chester Chojonowski, Clemens

Cichon, Alois Cichon, Ervin Gajewski, Alois Gajewski, Lawrence Gajewski, Raymond Gajewski, Stanley

*Gantner, Alphonse-wounded and

died as a result a year later

Gantner, Lawrence Gantner, Wilfred Gauerke, Bernard Gauerke, Dale Gauerke, Dennis Gauerke, James Gauerke, William Geerdts, Brian

Gesicki, Edmund Gesicki, John R. Gesicki, Jerome Gesicki, Anthony Gesicki, Theodore

Guralski, Albert Guralski, David

Guralski, Harvey M. Handzlewski, Francis

Hart, John A. Karlen, Ervin Kemp, Gene Kolpack, Bryce Kolpack, Terry

Kraft, Ronald

Kropp, Alfred Kropidlowski, Kenneth

Kulas Clarence Kulas, George Lee, Raymond Lenard, Stephen Lipinski, Joseph Lipinski, John Lipinski, Raymond Literski, Alois Literski, Edward Literski, Michael Lukasko, James Mallak, Bernard A. Mauer, Matthew Miller, Benedict Miller, Edward Miller, George Miller, Gene

Miller, John T.

Miller, Robert Mroczenski, Dennis Mroczenski, Edward

Mroczenski, Joseph - killed in service

Mroczenski, Julian Mroczenski, Leo J. Murkowski, Anthony Murkowski, Clemens Murkowski, Thomas Myszka, Andrew Myszka, Benedict J. Myszka, Donald L. Myszka, James

Myszka, John A. Jr. Myszka, Kenneth Myszka, Louis Myszka, Norbert T.

Myszka, Paul Myszka, Victor

Nimmerguth, Clarence Nimmerguth, George Nowicki, John

Nowicki, Robert Passehl, DuWayne Passehl, Jerome Sr. Passehl, Jerome Jr.

Penno, Carl Redman, Ernest Redman, Frederick Jr.

Redman, Robert Reuter, Marvin Riehle, Kenneth Riehle, James

Riske, Ernest Schaetzl, John Jr. Schaetzl, Richard

Schueller, Andrew Sekorski, John Sekorski, Paul

Senski, Joseph Sliwicki, Michael Socha, Edward Socha, George

Soczka, Edward Sommer, Thomas Stencil, Alois

Stencil Benedict Stencil, Clarence

Stenzel, Lawrence - killed in service

Stenzel, Luke Jr. Switlick, Florian Switlick, Mark Trojanowski, Anton Urmanski, Joseph Jr. Urmanski, Richard Viegut, Eugene Wadzinski, Anton Walters, Wallace Waskowiak, Clarence Waskowiak, Stanley Waskowiak, Thomas Wesley, Arnold Williams, Harvey Williams, Myron Williams, Clifford Wisnewski, Arthur Wisnewski, Dale

Wisnewski, Donald Wisnewski, Edmund Wisnewski, George Wisnewski, Norbert Wisnewski, Mark Wisnewski, Richard Wisnewski, Robert Witucki, George Witucki, Lawrence

Witucki, Stanley Witucki, Sylvester Writz, Benjamin Writz, Daniel Writz, Florian

Writz, Jerome Writz, Raymond Writz, Stanley Ziegel, Frank

GIRLS IN SERVICE

Bergs, Mildred M. (Brill)	U.S. Marine
Bergs, Viola C. (Godina)	U.S. Marine
Mauer, Marcella (O'Malley)	Lt. Nurse
Mroczenski, Clara (Wirkus)	
Wisnewskw, Leona (McJimsey)	WAAC

1980 GIRLS IN SERVICE

Mroczenski, Colleen. Spec. U.S. Army Mroczenski, Pauline WAAC

An apology is requested if there is an error or an ommission in the listing of anyone.

Youngest Resident of Town of Rietbrock



Karen, the youngest citizen of the Town of Rietbrock was born at Wausau Hospital Center at Wausau, Wisconsin on November 12, 1979. She is the daughter of Kenneth and Kathy (Langer) Lang. They moved to Poniatowski in June, 1975, from Wausau. Ken is an electrician for Murray Machinery Co. in Wausau.

Karen has a sister Kristine, who is six years old and attends kindergarten at Edgar Public School, and a brother Carl, who will be four years old in March.

Town of Rietbrock's Oldest Resident in 1980



Mrs. Frank Belter (Mary Brodziski) was born in Poland in the year of 1884. She came to this country with her parents when she was six years of age.

Mary married Frank Belter in 1902. Their first home was on the former Skoczynski farm (now owned by Sylvester Lipinski, Jr.) where they resided for one and one-half years. Their next move was to the Village of Athens. After ten years there, they purchased their farm south of Athens. Although Frank passed away in 1948, Mary still resides at the farm she has called home for the past sixty-five years.

Their children were as follows: Martha (Matysik) deceased, Bernard, John, dec., Joseph, Edward, George (Killed in World War II, 1943), Ervin, Leo, Frank, Irene (Machewicz) and Bernice (Jankowski).

Mary is a member of the American Legion Auxillary of Athens and has been a Gold Star Mother in the Town of Rietbrock for the past thirty-six years.

Longest - Married Couple in The Town of Rietbrock

Congratulations to Robert and Dorothy (Schueller) Gantner for reaching their 63rd wedding anniversary on November 27, 1979.

Mr. Gantner was born in Belguim, Wisconsin, and came to work in Rib Falls in his young days. Dorothy was born in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, and also came to Rib Falls area in her young days. They were married in St. John's Catholic Church in Edgar, Wisconsin, on November 27, 1916.

They have lived in the Town of Rietbrock ever since their marriage. They once lived on a tract of land now owned by Charles Rauen, by Otto Gust, and on Edward Gesicki farm before buying a tract of land in Section 10, Township 29-N, Range 4-E. This farm is about one and one-half miles northwest of Poniatowski, and this is where they still live. While they farmed here, Dorothy still found time to work at the Edgar basket factory for many years.



Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gantner

Ten children blessed this marriage—five sons and five daughters. They are: Alphonse (deceased), Lawrence, Joseph, Wilfred, Claude, Germaine (Guralski), Caroline (Witucki), Lucille (Rausch), Mary Jane (Frieders), and Frances (Brodziski).

Robert enjoys gardening and fishing while Dorothy also helps with the gardening and does sewing for

her children and grandchildren.

From all the residents of Rietbrock, we wish you many more anniversaries.

Recreation and Club Organizations

In the early days when the settlers were scattered all over the woods, they had no time for recreation of any kind. Their work was too demanding to have much time left for any play. Rest was their best enjoyment.

Fish and game were very plentiful in the early days. For meat they ate mainly deer, rabbit, squirrel, partridge, wild ducks or geese. Many lacked guns, so they made traps. For fishing they made a hook and line, a trap, net and spears. From deer skins, mittens were made and usually from the bear skins they made "lap robes" to cover up. Most of the hunting those days was done with muzzle loader guns.

In later years, venison and other wild meats were supplemented by other animals. Most every farm acquired pigs for their own consumption. With the help of a neighbor, a pig was butchered as needed. Most of the pork was put into a salt brine and often smoked for better taste and keeping. In those days meat grinders were not available. Men would kill, scald and cut up the animals, while the women cleaned the casings for sausages, and cut up meat for liver and blood sausages. One specialty was head-cheese. When the meat grinders became available, the "kielbasa" was made. Although today there are a lot of bow and arrow hunters, hunting with a rifle is still most popular during the week-long season in November.

Before their children grew up, the women had to take them out to the fields and attend to the wants and needs of the little ones while they helped their husbands saw down trees, cut them into logs, burn them, help in the picking of stones, and harvest. As the youngsters grew up, they then had to help with these chores. The youngsters had calves, lambs, cats and dogs for pets. Art Nowicki recalls making a harness for his two pet dogs. Prince and Sport, a team. They weighed 70 lbs. each. While a teacher was boarding and rooming at his father's home during the winter months and the roads became drifted, he would harness the dogs to his sleigh to haul their books and lunch to the Silver Arrow School. Art and the teacher followed the tracks the dogs made with the sleigh. As they arrived at the school, he unharnessed the dogs and covered them. At noon he would feed them; they then waited until Art was ready to go back home. When the roads were very good in winter they made four miles in 25 minutes.

Those days family visits at the neighbor's home were quite common. They would meet usually on holidays and birthdays. Now days, many card clubs are held in homes. The youngsters played some games while the adults became involved in "schafskopf". Some would be high winners, others "booby" winners.

As the years progressed, a lot of granary dances were held, with two or three musicians. With no

halls available, the wedding receptions were held at home. Meals were prepared and served at the bride's home. Neighbor ladies would come and help with the baking for days before the wedding. The wedding dance was usually held in the barn on the thresh floor or in the granary. It was a custom in the early days to have a "bride's dance." The gentleman had to drop a silver dollar on a plate, and if it cracked or broke he could dance with the bride. Later the custom was discontinued—either the bride or the musicians, with the continuous dancing or playing, were tired out, or to many plates were broken. When the dance halls came into existence, the wedding dances were held at the halls.

Now days, many people travel to the lakes each weekend with their campers—or they have their own cottages or have access to one - and spend their recreational time fishing, swimming, boating and water skiing.

Snowmobiling has become quite popular for all ages in the Town of Rietbrock. The clubs have organized and established trails in the township and adjoining townships.

Roller skating is enjoyed by the youngsters, while bowling is still a popular event for men, women and couples having their leagues.

Television provides many hours of entertainment for all ages. It has made a remarkable progress, inasmuch as having color television is now common in most homes; more than one TV set is found in many homes.

Greiner Bros Orchestra



This picture was taken at the Town of Rietbrock Municipal building during a recording session. Members include: Front row, L-R: Glenn Greiner, Ralph Witucki, Ralph Greiner, James Pekol. Back row, L-R: James Rhyner, Harold Schultz, John Greiner.

Ralph and Glenn Greiner formed a seven piece Bohemian style orchestra in 1955 and rapidly became known as one of Wisconsin's finest Ole Time bands.

The Greiner Brothers Orchestra has made many appearances on television and radio, including a live T.V. show on CH. 12, Rhinelander.

The band has made four albums to date, one on Northland, one on Cuca, and two on the ever popular Polkaland label.

Club Activities Rietbrock Extension Homemakers Club 1937-1980

Forty-two years ago in the month of November, 1937, a group of eight women gathered to form a "Homemaker's Club". With the help of Miss Helen Pearson, then the Home Demonstration Agent of Marathon County, and Miss Eunice Wilke, now Mrs. Henry Diedrich, the group organized at the Hoffman School, town of Rietbrock.

Officers elected at this meeting were: President — Mrs. Alfred Diedrich

Vice-President - Mrs. Edwin Peters

Secretary - Mrs. Lester Neuens

This club has steadily grown and at present there are 16 active members. Two of these are honorary members. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at homes of the members.

A fine spirit of cooperation is noted in the many activities carried on by the club throughout the year, including the following ones:

1. Interesting reports by leaders on subjects pre-

sented at leader's school meetings.

2. Donations to all worth while projects.

3. A sunshine fund from which gifts are sent to ill members.

4. A white elephant sale and an auction sale.

5. An annual card party at which husbands of the members are as guests.

6. An annual picnic in July to which the entire family is invited.

7. An attractive booth is to be set up by members in the fall at the Athens Fair.

8. A Christmas party for members and with an

exchange of gifts from her "Secret Pal".

The Club has participated in many programs throughout the years, namely: A "Mother Goose Party" presented by the Rietbrock Homemakers on County Day October 6, 1949; a Stage Nite on March 16 & 17, 1950; a Stunt Nite "A Day to Remember" held 1951. Many premiums were awarded for booths at the Athens Fair in the years of 1950, 1951, bakery booths in 1952, 1953, and display of articles in 1954 and 1961.

The Rietbrock Club members celebrated their 25th Anniversary September 30, 1962, as an organization-with a dinner at Trianon Ballroom for all former members and husbands.

A special guest was Mrs. Henry Diedrich, who with Miss Helen Pearson, a former county agent, organized the club in 1937. All the first officers were present, namely: Mrs. Alfred Diedrich, president; Mrs. Edwin Peters, vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Albrecht, secretary-treasurer. Cards were played and prizes were awarded.



Rietbrock Homemaker 25th Anniversary dinner at Trianon Ballroom - 1962.

Fall flowers graced the tables and formed the corsages that were presented to the women.

Throughout the years, Mrs. Otillie Burger and Mrs. Alex Ellenbecker Homemaker Club member's have attended a number of Conventions that were held in Hawaii, Maine, twice at Texas, Seattle Washington, Kentucky, Porto Rico, Denver, and a few times at Illinois. The last few years Mr. and Mrs. William Sprenger have also attended Conventions at Dearborn, Michigan, Florida, Virginia, and New Mexico.

The club is in existence for 43 years. The present officers are:

President — Mrs. Jerome Passehl Vice-President — Mrs. Arthur Nowicki Secretary — Mrs. Ben Artman Treasurer — Mrs. Gregory Hart Sunshine Officer — Mrs. William Sprenger

Hi Neighbor Extension Homemakers Club



Front row - Mrs. Rubina Bunge, Mrs. Leo Bornheimer, Mrs. Cliff Kolpack, Mrs. Joe Wisnewski, Mrs. Joe Rauen, Mrs. George Rauen. Second row - Mrs. Joe Bergs. Back row - Mrs. Charles Riehle, Mrs. Gilbert Mauer, Mrs. Leonard Karlen, Mrs. Paul Bergs, Mrs. Clarence Meyer.

On March 17, 1949 Mrs. Clarence Meyer decided to invite ladies from the neighborhood to her home for the purpose of organizing a Homemakers Club. Only 6 ladies attended and this was disappointing. But those present proceded to organize and elect officers — president, Mrs. Clarence Meyer; Vicepresident, Mrs. Cyril Bornheimer; secretary, Mrs. Clifford Kolpack; and treasurer, Mrs. Gilbert Mauer.

At the April meeting 5 new members joined. Leader lessons for the first year included: curtains and drapes, cooking with a pressure cooker, making salads, sewing skirts and making lamp shades. Leader lessons throughout the years have been varied and

stimulating.

In 1950, we gave miniature banks, with each member contributing money into it, to all the new babies born to club members. We had money making projects, proceeds which were used in the community. All members participated in a Home Nursing Course, given by a County Nurse at Kroll's recreation room. We also had special holiday parties just for the children. We still enjoy family picnics in the summer and have Christmas parties with the husbands as guests.

Through the years we donated to various needy organizations. We have enriched our lives and those of our families and community by taking advantage of and participating in Extension programs and special interest programs. At present, our 10 members still meet monthly and look forward to many more years of learning and growing both physically and mentally.

There are also other women in the Town of Rietbrock that belong to other clubs.

Rietbrock 4-H Club



Poniatowski Pals - Christmas Party
L-R Row 3, Robert Bornheimer, Bernard Bornheimer, Donald Rauen, John Schaetzl Jr.,
Sylvester Lipinski Jr., L-R Girls Row 2 - Lorraine (Wisnewski) Nowicki, Lorraine
(Lipinski) Holbach, Row 1 - Jeanette (Nowicki) Riehle, Merced a (Lipinski) Lepak,
Eillen Bornheimer (Sis. M. Audrey)

A 4-H Club was organized in 1938 by N.K. Aderhold. The group was very small. They took their produce and animals to the Wausau Fair, and after one year membership it was discontinued.

In 1953 - 1955 it was again organized by Mr. John (Florence) Schaetzl and Mrs. Leo (Regina) Bornheimer and called the "Poniatowski Pals". Meetings were attended by the group each month. At Fair time at

Athens they usually displayed their articles and set up the Booth.

As interests were weakening and transportation was not available for some of the members to get to the meetings, it, too, slowly was discontinued.

Poniatowski Daredevils Snowmobile Club

The Poniatowski Daredevils is the name of the town of Rietbrock's snowmobile club. It was



A machine used to maintain trails

organized in 1975, and incorporated in December of that year. Thirty-seven members joined that year and the membership has held steady since then. The name "Daredevils" was selected after local snowmobiles practiced jumping over a Poniatowski strawstack.

Presently the club maintains about 30 miles of snow-mobile trails in the area. This past year the club purchased a dragging machine called a "weasel". Members are in the process of customizing the machine and a drag to better groom the trails.

The Daredevils activities include a variety of things — participating in the snowmobile safety courses, chili suppers, landowners parties, bonfires and club rides.

Businesses of Today

John R. Gesicki General Merchandise Store & Tavern

Records show that in 1885 thru 1887 the General Merchandise Store went under the name as Blaszka's and Chesak's Store; and in 1889 it went under Chesak, Blaszka & Co. From 1890-1899, it was Martin Chesak & Son. Thereafter Joseph kept the



Chesaks Second Store and Saloon in 1901

interests and 1905 Joseph Chesak, wife Mary and sons John and Thomas, became the Chesak Company, a corporation, on about 17 acres, subject to a lease given by the parties of the first part to the George A Kreutzer Creamery Co. of Athens, Wisconsin where the Creamery was established. Clipping taken from The Herald Focus, of 1971, state.

Ledgers kept in Chesak's careful handwriting inorcate in those early days he bought as much from his customers as he sold. Every purchase and sale was entered in a 640 page, bound, leather book. Eggs and butter were his main purchases, with the farmers bringing him as much as 285 pounds of butter at one time. He was paying 6 cents a dozen for eggs. Entries in the journal mark a sharp contrast with prices today. Some examples are: 1 bottle wine 50 cens: 1/8 keg beer 50 cents; 1 lb. coffee 13 cents,



About 1924. Poniatowski. The John Gesicki Sr. Saloon & Store, Now owned by John Gesicki, Jr. Records show that in 1901 this was a store and post Office owned by Joseph Chesak. Also was a stopover for the Wausau, Rib Fah, Athens horse drawn stage line. Copied 1/10/73.

Ben Straub Photo, Edgar, Wis.

2 lbs. 25 cents; 1 pt. of "alkohol" 40 cents, or 1 gallon or "Peter's whiskie" for \$1.40 a gallon; 3 1/2 doz. eggs 49 cents; 1/2 bbl. (50 lbs.) flour \$3.50; 1 gt. vinegar 5 cents; 5 lbs. beef 50 cents; 1 pair overshoes 85 cents." John R. Gesicki, present owner, cherishes the precious historical journal.

The store hasn't lost its flavor of the old general store. It's been in the Gesicki family for sixty-eight years, ever since the Chesak Co. Corporation sold it to Leo and Joe Gesicki in 1912, (with the exception of the Creamery building and the right of way around it) and then bought by John Gesicki, Sr. They had many things going. They had one of the first locker plants in the county when the locker was opened in 1936. The cooler was enlarged to keep up with the demand for beer by-the-case. John Sr., and his brother had a franchise for International Harvester farm equipment. There are three ice house on the property, but they are no longer used. They were usually filled with ice from the pond, so that beer could be cooled in the summer time. During the threshing season, between 175 and 200 kegs of beer were sold each week. They were the only suppliers for miles with cold beer.

A large dance hall at the rear of the store, is owned by Gesickis, which was a gathering place for many dances and weddings. Another small hall south-



Gesicki's small hall located south west of the store and tavern used for many

west of the store was also remodeled by them in the year of 1932 or 33. Many school programs were held and main meals were prepared for yearly church picnics, besides other activities. It was also the Town of Rietbrock's voting place until the Municipal Building was erected. Their park served as picnic grounds many years for the yearly church picnics.

When John Sr., died, John, Jr., his mother, and a brother, Edward, took over the business. However,

Edward gave it up in favor of farming.

Frances who died at the age of 91 was very spry and alert. She is remembered by many where she sat on her favorite chair, always ready to greet her friends who came to shop. She was noted for the front window of the store filled with a small greenhouse of flowers and plants, which is still kept up by John's wife Loretta.

Bronowicz Bros. Inc.

In 1959, Henry and Mary Bronowicz with their four children, Zenia, Hank, Edwin and Irene moved onto the place now known as Bronowicz Bros., Inc. They moved here from Bronson, Michigan, a small town near the Indiana border. Henry was a full-time tailor and part-time farmer and with the move to Wisconsin he became a full-time farmer.

In 1968, after boths sons—Hank and Ed—served in the Army, Henry sold the farm to his sons as a partnership. Hank and Ed farmed the place and in 1971 they began a sideline tractor business, with the help of a brother-in-law Dennis Bohl. By 1976, the tractor business became so successful and both businesses took more time then three people could handle; it was decided to sell out the dairy part of the business. In April, 1976, the cows were auctioned





and the tractor business became a full-time business then called Reconditioned Tractors.

In February, 1978, the business incorporated and became known as "Bronowicz Bros., Inc.," with the three employees of the corporation being Hank and Ed Bronowicz and Dennis Bohl.

Ownership of Bronowicz Bros. Farm

Jan. 22, 1857 Nov. 17, 1950 Hirman T. & Hannah Ross Hirman W. & Sarah A. Ross Jan. 15, 1878
Fred Rietbrock & wife Helen M. &
L.W. Halsey
Nov. 21, 1884
Lawrence W. Halsey
April 1, 1910
Pierson L. Halsey
August 7, 1914
Mary Gertrude Halsey
Nov. 24, 1915
Herman F. Aderhold & wife Lela
Sept. 25, 1947
T.B. Charlton
July 1, 1950
Robert Dunkel & wife Dorothy F.

Nov. 17, 1950 T.B. Charlton Nov. 27, 1950 Francis J. Conway Aug. 4, 1951 Glenn I. Berry & wife Irene O. May 14, 1952 Francis J. Conway June 16, 1952 Theodore J. Papierniak & wife Helen B. May 24, 1954 John M. Lato & wife Mary T. March 30, 1959 Henry Bronowicz & wife Mary T. March 30, 1959 Henry Bronowicz & wife Mary T. March 14, 1975 Marion A. & Edwin T. Bronowicz

Nicholas Karlen Contracting & Excavating

Buldozing - Excavating -Hydra-Hammer - Scraper -Trenching

On July 12, 1957, Nicholas Karlen started his business with a small backhoe As the years went by he replaced the old machines with used and new equipment. Since Sept., 1970, he has operated with hired help. The last two and one half years he's been running the business with four men, five machines and two trucks with low-boy trailers. The five machines are as follows, John Deer '310' backhoe and loader, 'Case '880' backhoe on tracks, Case '1150B' buldozer with power angle blade and rippers, John Deere '750' bulldozer with power tilt blade and Cat. '613' earthmover, eleven yds.

The business has done really well in the last twenty-two and one-half years. Nicholas tries to keep the machinery in good running condition and to satisfy his customers.

Ervin Karlen, Carpenter

Born and raised in the town of Rietbrock, Ervin is well known in the surrounding area for his efficient management procedures in his profession.

He, with a small crew, has built countless sheds, barns and a number of new houses in the past 19 years that he has operated his own business. His son, Patrick is at present working with him.



S. D. Ellenbecker Inc.

ROUTE #1, BOX 39A . EDGAR, WISCONSIN 54426 . 715 - 257-7666

The company of S.D. Ellenbecker Inc. Route 1, Box 39A, Edgar, Wisconsin is located about one city block east of the intersection of Highways 29 and 97.

Sylvester D. Ellenbecker, President of the company, started his block-laying business in 1968, under the name of Ellenbecker Construction. The business incorporated in 1972 and changed its name to S.D. Ellenbecker Inc. "We now do all types of industrial and commercial work and have an average of 20 to 25 employees," said Sylvester D., as he told of the activities of his corporation.

Frank Omelian & Sons Sales & Service

The Omelians say that what started out in 1968 as a "hobby affair" has today grown beyond their expectations. Doing their overhauling and repairing of tractors lead to doing custom work for people. Now they also do buying and selling of tractors and machinery for customers.

Bob's Welding & Repair

Bob and Janice Scheelk moved to the Town of Rietbrock on the corner at Highway 97 and 29 in 1967, and started a small welding shop. They presently do tractor overhauls, make snow buckets, repair farm equipment, and do all kinds of welding jobs (etc). He also does bulldozing, farm ponds, clearing, manure pits, stumping, etc.

Country Ceramics



Country Ceramics Building

Country Ceramics was officially started in October, 1976, by Beverly Stencil and Gayle Mauer, co-owners at Route 2, Edgar, Wisconsin. After attending classes, seminars, making up and selling many finished pieces of ceramics. Gayle and Beverly decided to form a partnership. They opened a small shop in Beverly's home, where they had classes teaching others to do what they themselves enjoyed doing—plus finishing gifts for other people. The manufacturing of greenware was done at Gayle Mauer's house.

Today they are located in a newly-constructed 3600 square foot building, designed for all their needs. They now pour about 1500 molds, do the firings, and supply everything that goes with ceramics, including kilns. They have people coming to their shop from all over Wisconsin, as well as from other neighboring states. They have found that it was a very enjoyable hobby that turned into a full time business. It keeps the two of them very busy — keeping the shop stocked, teaching classes, waiting on people and answering questions daily.

Snack Shack

"All the way to Wausau for a hamburger and a soft serve ice cream cone?" This is the question that probably started the thinking and eventual building of what is now the Snack Shack on the Edgar corner, Jct. H and Hwy. 29, owned and operated by Len and Shirley Lechlietner.

The Snack Shack was opened on Sept. 12, 1975, specializing in fast food service, and featuring soft serve ice cream cones, shakes and sundaes, hamburgers, fries, chicken and plate lunches. Beginning in 1977, daily specials were offered with homemade pie and rolls. Fish fries were served every Friday from 11 A.M. until 10 P.M.

It has become well known to area residents and to the many truckers who enjoy the large parking area.

Rietbrock Ready Mix

Rietbrock Ready Mix was the name chosen for the ready-mix business because of its location in this

township. It sounded like an interesting name to

Arlyn Stencil, owner and manager.

The business began with Arlyn purchasing a 1962 Reo mixer truck in 1972. He set up a small plant and would do concrete work on weekends and on his vacation time from a job in Wausau.



Arlyn Stencil owner and manager

The following year he went into the ready-mix and contracting business full time. It now has worked its way up to four mixer trucks, dump trucks, backhoe and air hammer. They employ on an average of 15 men during the summer season.

They haul concrete in about a 30-mile radius. The future holds the hope of setting up a new plant to be more efficient. All this was possible because of a lot of hard work and many nice people who "gave them a chance".

Stencil Excavating



Joseph Stencil Excavating machine

Joseph Stencil in 1932 worked for his dad, Anton Stencil, in the logging business in Michigan—where he did all the road building during the summer. Later he moved to Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, where he built roads for four years with a Cat-dozer.

His life-long ambition finally came true in 1972 when he purchased his first Caterpillar D-6 dozer. Joe said "With the fine cooperation of all the good

people in the area, my business has expanded to one having 5 - Bulldozers, 1 Case 980 Backhoe, 2 - 20 yard earth movers, a Brush Rake and Disc for land clearing".



Harvey Soczka Trucking and Dairy

With a heap of determination and ambition behind it, a new business emerged in the spring of 1971.

Harvey Soczka was just reading a newspaper when he noticed an ad for an authority for sale. He laid the paper aside but sooner than he thought, the notion grabbed him and not letting go, he got in the car and picked up a friend and headed for Madison.

When the authority was officially issued on April 22, 1971, the first truck he started with was a 1962 Chevrolet. Since then it has extended to many areas within the state of Wisconsin, and includes forest products from wood producers and manufactured forest products from various lumber mills, and road building materials and decomposed granite for many contractors within the state. He is now the proud operator of four trucks and tractors and five semitrailers.

With the help of his two sons Kenneth and Arlin, he also operates a 256 acre dairy farm.

Ginseng

Sheds that cover and shade fields from 1/8 acre to many more acres are found in the Town of Rietbrock along with many areas throughout the Marathon County.

At one time Town of Rietbrock was also a producer of ginseng, but when the depression came many growers had discontinued the raising due to the market prices.

Today seeds are planted in fall in large gardens covered with straw, and in spring the plants come thru the straw. All weeding is done by hand. In three or four years the berries are also picked by hand and from these berries the growers get their seed.

Mature ginseng (about 4 years old) is harvested in fall. After the roots are dug, they are washed and then dried until no moisture is left and then sold.

Ginseng is shipped to the Orient. People in that part of the world, especially the Chinese and the Koreans, value the root for its medicinal properties. Today American companies make vitamins out of the roots, tea etc.

In the Town of Rietbrock some of our ginseng growers to mention a few are, George and Charlotte Murkowski, Dennis Nowacki, Jerome Seubert, Randall Murkowski and few other beginners.

Taverns

Tony & Charlene's Tavern Former John J. Wisnewski Tavern

Beginning at the center post of section 14 in township 29 north range 4E, thence running west on the quarter line 60 rods, thence, south 8 rods, thence 60 rods to the north and south quarter line of said section 14, thence north 8 rods to the place of beginning, said parcel being a part of northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of said section 14-29-4E containing three acres were purchased in the year of 1885 by Alois and Barbara Schwager.

In 1900 it was sold to Anna Saugkuhl by the widow Schwager. She in turn sold it to Philip M. Berres and Phillip Metz that same year. In July of 1901 Albert Wisnewski acquired this property then sold it to Julius Wisnewski in 1903.

The other owners in subsequent order were: 1906 Julius Wisnewski sold to John Cier 1910 John Cier sold to Joseph Jagodzinski



Phillip Berres, Phillip Metz Tavern 2nd from left Wm. Fischer

1915 Joseph Jagodzinski sold to Vincent Milkowski of Athens

1917 Louis Braun took over this property from Milkowski

1921 Ruth and Earl Braun, infants thru their guardian Anna Braun sold this property to John Wisnewski. In October of 1920, John Wisnewski, son of Anton and Mary Wisnewski, married Mary Teresinski, daughter of John and Josephine Teresinski. They purchased the business place in fall of 1920, taking up residency in 1921. They had three children,



Poniatowski, 1922-23. Store, Saloon & Blacksmith Shop, owned & operated by John Wisnewski. During 1901, A. Wisnewski operated a hotel & Saloon on this Ben Straub Photo, Edgar, Wis.

namely: Louis (dec.) George and Theresa (Klosinski). The hall was used for town meetings, voting purposes, weddings, dances, school programs and many other functions.

In February of 1932, the building was destroyed by fire; but John Wisnewski immediately rebuilt, with the exception of the hall which was discontinued. Instead, he built living quarters, tavern and a store which he and his family moved into in September of 1932. All activities were then held at the John Gesicki Hall. As a side income, John Wisnewski also built a blacksmith shop, across the road to the north from his business place. This building was demolished by Kenneth Reuter, the present owner. John made logging sleighs, repaired wagons, shrunk wagon rims, shod horses and did all sorts of repair work for the farmers. Besides, he was also doing masonary work. In the back of his shop, he-for many years-was a





John Wisnewski old tavern From L-h, unknown, unknown, unknown, Andrew Miller, Alex Wisnewski, Frank Teresinski, Frank Schroeder, Joe Trawicki, Bartender - John J. Wisnewski.



John Wisnewski store & tavern now owned and operated by Tony and Charlene Zychowicz.

buyer of veal calves for Charles Barrett and later for the Edgar Packing Plant. After being in business for 26 years, they sold their interests to John and Lillian Kroll, in 1947. After the death of John Kroll, Lillian later sold the property to Sylvester and Caroline Kraft in 1954, taking over residency in 1955. After being in business for 14 years, they sold their interests to their son and daughter-in-law, Dennis and Rose Kraft, in 1969. During their three-year tenure, some improvements were made and it was then sold to Richard and Muriel Jurek, in 1972. They, in turn, sold the property to the present owners—Tony and Charlene Zychowicz on February 1, 1975.

Schnappsville Bar

Alex Cichon, pioneer and owner of a part of land in the area, moved a granary from his premises, brought it to the corner of his land, and remodeled it into a saloon. One day a few pioneers were conversing with one another when one said, "What shall we call this place?" One of them was having a "Schnapps" (another name for whiskey) just then someone perked up and said, "Let's call it Schnappsville." And so it was. It is located two miles north of Highway 29 on County Trunk M. Alex purchased a sawmill, a shingle mill, and set up behind the saloon. Then came along Quaw & Schill Co. and rented a parcel of land for their landing, so they could purchased logs in the area. M.M. Schaetzl was the scaler at the time. From this landing the logs were transported to Edgar.



Schnappsville Tavern in the 1920's. Adam Matysik holding son Myron. Little did Myron realize then, he would some day be the owner and operater of the Schnappsville Bartoday.

As the farmers cleared the land and farming was increasing, Cichon and three other farmers went in company and bought a "threshing rig", so that they could thresh their grain for themselves and others.

At one time or another the saloon was destroyed by fire for Cichon or Milkowski—the fact remains unknown. It was rebuilt, and Vincent Milkowski, one-time owner, sold it to Adam and wife Martha (Belter) Matysik in 1924. They operated the tavern until Adam passed away, Nov. 16, 1958, leaving his wife to take over the business. They had four children: Myron, Clarence (dec.) Elmira (Makowski) and Mary Ann (Lindstrum). After continuing the business for 15 years, Martha sold her interest to her son Myron and daughter-in-law Rita (Kropidlowski) in 1969. She then went to live with her daughter Elmira until her death.

Myron and Rita were married in 1954 and have six children, Cynthia (Karlen), Laurie, Tina, Marillee, Adam and Matthew. The tavern has been remodeled recently.

Pioneer Bar "Heiersville"

Pioneer Bar, which is located on County Trunk M about three-fourths of a mile east of Highway 97, is the only business left of what was once bustling with business and social activities and known as Heiersville.



The first tavern and dance hall purchased from N. Thull by Adolph Heier and wife.

It was in 1914 that Adolph Heier purchased a tract of land with a dance hall and tavern in Section 8, Township 29-N Range 4-E, from N. Thull. He and his wife continued to operate the tavern, but they remodeled the building by making the dance hall smaller and using part of it for a general store. This now meant that families could be closer to fresh supplies and thus the business became named Heiersville. The fact that a cheese factory was built across the road, in 1918, to serve area farmers helped to make the area and business more active. However, Adolf Heier was involved in a car accident, in 1939, which took his life and left his wife and small children to continue with the business. She discontinued the store and only operated the tavern until 1935, when she sold the business to William Barkow.

Seven years later, in 1942, Lawrence and his wife LaVerna Bohl bought the business from William Barkow. They removed the dance hall and built on a new addition. After twenty years, they sold the tavern to Jerome and Kathleen Writz.

From 1962 until 1966 Jerome and Kathleen

operated the business.

Harold Miller and wife Eleanor purchased the business in 1966 and operated Pioneer for twelve years. On April 15, 1978, Leonard Platta and wife Lena bought the business and are the present operators of the remodeled Pioneer Bar.

Dew Cum Inn Tavern

The Dew Cum Inn building was originally used for a home. It was built in 1906 by August Bothe and located 2 miles west of the Jct. of Hwy. 29 and 97 in the Town of Johnson. It was moved to its present site in 1946 by a man known as Scotty. The parcel of land on which it was moved was part of the Tony Brodziski farm. It has been operated as a tavern since 1946 and at a period of time a restaurant was also doing business there.

Fritz and Mary Bockhop purchased the business in 1960 and they operated the tavern and restaurant for



Dew Cum Inn Tavern

two years. In 1962, they rented it to another party and the restaurant business was discontinued. Bockhops moved back in 1964. A son, Gerald has been the manager since 1977 when Mrs. Bockhop, his mother, was killed in a traffic accident.

Gerald is also involved in the antique business since 1967 and he hauls items to and from Texas, Colorado, Iowa and Nebraska.

Living with Gerald are his father and a brother, Merlin.

Detour Inn

In August, 1932, the Socha's moved from Kenosha and bought two acres of land from his father John Socha. On these premises Leo Socha, Sr., built the



The former Leo Socha's Tavern now called the Detour Inn

tavern. At that time there were five children - Leona, Leo, Jr., Leonard, Larry, and Louis.

At first only gas, cigarettes, candy and pop were sold, as this was in the prohibition days. Later, beer and liquor were added to the business. Also, three more children were added to the family-Lorraine, Leroy and Lester.

May, 1948 - Louis was electrocuted while working on the town road in Rietbrock.

July, 1961 - Leo, Sr., and Sophia retired after 32 years in business. Leo, Jr., and Leroy took over the business for one year.

July 1962 - Leo, Jr. took over the business alone and ran it until 1977.

May, 1965 - Leo Socha, Sr., died in a car accident on Highway 29, less than a mile from the tavern. He was 69 years old.

July, 1976 - Sophia Socha sold the tavern to Bob Bruegl, but Leo, Jr., continued to operate the tavern until Bob sold it in 1977, to Frank Ziegel - the present owner.

Sophia Socha is still in good health and residing in the village of Edgar. She is presently 80 years old.

Annette & Wally's Bar

Fred Redman and wife Hazel had a tract of land SW Section 31, now at the Junction of Highways

29 & 97. They built a small gas station and later made a tavern out of it. For a time they had rented the place to Fred Bunde and then again to Scotty Johnson. Later Fred and Hazel Redman continued taking care of the business themselves until Fred's death; then Hazel continued the interests herself for awhile until she later sold the place to their son Bud. He built a new bar in 1958 and it was called Redman's Bar. After operating the business for a few years Bud and JoAnn sold their interests in 1962 to Wayne and Geri Belanger, who operated it for about nine years. They sold it to Walter Augustine in July, 1971, who named it Annette & Wally's, they continue to operate the business today.

Owl's Club

In 1924, William and Tillie Nimmerguth bought a tract of land, situated in the NW Corner of Section

5 in the Town of Rietbrock, from Herman Habeck. William and Josie Lenhard opened up the tavern and operated the tavern business for a few years. The Nimmerguths then operated it from about 1927 until William passed away in 1935. In 1936, the top of the tavern was destroyed by fire. The remodeled one-story tavern was then rented to Ervin Habeck, Lenard Wozniak, Sylvester Schedcik, Viegut & Nietzel, Bill & Mary Boneski, Vivian Empey & Mildred Haferman, and Lester Thurs, in succession.

About 1943, Fred and Lorna (Niemmerguth) Mootz purchased the place but never operated it. They sold the tavern to Allen McCory; then it was sold to Joe Jodge, Ed Mullins, Walter Klimpke, Wilfred Riehle, & Joe Handrick. The Handrick's rented it to Rick Westfall, and later it was rented to Ervin Boris. Joe Handricks sold it to Alvina Schueller; she sold the place to John Hass, and John sold it to present owners-Clarence and Rita Trzebiatowski.

Chronological Order of Events

- 1878 Court House built in Poniatowski.

 Terms of school officers began at School
 District No. 1.
- 1879 Official charter was granted November 13, 1879. Poniatowski named after GENERAL JOZIF ANTONI PONIATOWSKI from Poland. This area was part of Stettin and Rib Falls. First "Polish Log Church" built. L. Schwager first Postmaster. First log rectory built. School District No. 2, Hoffman School built.
- 1880 Town itself began functioning. Rib Falls and Rietbrock were separated. Voting was held to raise \$200.00 for road tax, \$250.00 for incidental funds, \$50.00 for poor fund, and \$100.00 for school tax. Town was divided into six Road Districts. Fred Rietbrock built a sawmill and a planeing mill. Frank Jermann applied for a town liquor license to keep a Saloon, for the sale in quantities less than one gallon of strong, spirituous malt ardent or intoxicating liquors to be drank on the premises or not to be drank on the premises. License was \$25.00.
- 1881 Martin and Joseph Chesak received a liquor license. Joseph Chesak succeeded L. Schwager as postmaster.
- 1882 Supervisors of the town shall receive \$1.50 per day at town meetings. Mathias Braun family moved to Poniatowski.
- 1883 A liquor license was now \$25.00. Mathias Braun built the sawmill and the first creamery. Third sawmill built by Chesak.

- 1884 District School No. 3, Poniatowski White School built.
- 1885 Liquor license now \$100.00.
- 1886 Motion that no town Aid should be given to any person residing in the Town of Rietbrock upon the loss of any livestock.
- \$150.00 was raised for school purposes and \$350.00 for current expenses. A request was made by the Chairman that saloon keepers close their Saloons at certain times during the whole year and also requested them to close their Saloons every time there were services in the Catholic Church in said Town to which the Saloon keeper did not consent, Therefore license was refused by the Supervisors.
- 1888 The Supervisors met at the Town Clerk office in the Town of Rietbrock for the purpose of granting license to the several Saloon keepers in said Town. Present Holy Family Brick-veneer church was built.
- Ordinance was made that no buck, boar, bulls or stallion be allowed to run at large in the Town of Rietbrock.
- 1890 Board of health organized with Jacob Murkowski as a chairman.
- 1891 Town Clerk was paid \$90.00 a year for office work and \$2.00 per day outside of the office.

 Mathias Braun moved his sawmill to Athens.

 A Creamery and butter factory was established at Poniatowski.
- 1892 A contract was made with W.S. Hennett &

- Co., Minneapolis MN to build an iron bridge with stone pieces for the sum of \$1,259.00 across Black Creek on the section line between Section 2 and 3.
- 1893 The overseers of Highway shall receive cash for overwork in their respective road district after the regular Road tax is worked off but not to exceed \$5.00 in anyone Road District.
- 1894 The chairman and supervisors shall receive \$1.50 per day for the ensuing year for actual work in said town as Town Board.
- \$300.00 to be raised for the purpose of surveying the whole town, and the balance for the surveying to be paid out of general fund now on hand. Long square stones to be set on section corner and 1/2 section and in center section. The town board to hire the help to survey the town with the approval of the county surveyers. The men shall not receive more than \$1.00 per day. One of the Town Board to assist the surveyor and shall receive \$1.50 per day.
- 1896 143 men voted at the annual meeting in April. Women were not allowed to vote.
- The town shall furnish 2" hemlock planks and spikes for a sidewalk from A. Schwager corner running south up to Chesak's Warehouse, the work shall be done by the Road District. Town purchased a town safe for treasurer for \$75.00. Chairman was given a salary of \$70.00 a year and Supervisors \$35.00.
- 1898 Town Board was authorized by the voters to raise money to build a bridge on Range line between range 4 and 5.
- 1899 The first log German Church was built.
- 1900 Poll workers received \$2.00 per election. Expenses for the year consisted of building roads and several bridges.
- 1901 Cherry Grove Creamery built.
- 1902 Six more roads were built and several bridges.
- 1903 Holy Family Parish Frame School built.
- 1904 Every resident shall have the right to act as a poundmaster and use his own yard as a pound. Fifty cents per head must be paid by resident to retrieve impounded animal.
- 1905 John Cier who has a dance hall in connection with his Saloon agreed he will not have more than six dances during the year for which his license was issued.
- 1906 Marathon County Farmers Creamery organized.
- 1907 The rate on county, state and town taxes was fixed at \$1.18 per \$100.00 valuation.

- 1908 School District No. 4 Silver Arrow School built.
- 1909 There was a motion to build a Town Hall in village of Poniatowski, but this did not materialize.
- 1910 A sidewalk was built from the Polish church running north to first corner, thence east up to German church, said sidewalk to be built rock elm planks, four feet wide. The present brick-veneer parochial school built.
- 1911 It was noted that Pathmasters shall look after the culvert and throw out all unnecessary culverts.
- 1912 Cheese making was started in the factories. The Frank Stencil road petition shall be adopted that a highway shall be laid out and cut out commencing at the corner sec. 21-22-27 and 28 running land one half miles west and \$75.00 has been raised for road.
- 1913 The General Town meeting was held at the School House of Dist. No. 3. Matysik Cheese factory built.
- 1914 Moved that the John Myszka road petition signed by 14 freeholders of same town was excepted and that \$150.00 be raised for this.
- 1915 A letter was received by town board from a Mr. Riley (lawyer) inquiring if the town be willing to repair damages done on the buggy and harness on one of Town of Rietbrock's highways. Not allowed. Tuition paid the Athens High School \$18.00 for 1914. Tuition paid the Edgar High School \$36.00.
- 1916 Petition to make a passable highway running 2 miles west of "Schnappsville" to school house of Dist. No. 4 signed by 16 freeholders of same town duly voted and decided to be made and turnpiked on one side.
- 1917 Present Holy Family Rectory built.
- 1918 Moved that the town board should investigate gravel pits and buy some if possible. Heiersville Cheese Factory built.
- 1919 During the years of national prohibition,
 1932 people who wanted to purchase liquor in the
 Town of Rietbrock found that it could be
- acquired quite easily. Originally it was manufactured for medicinal purposes but it turned out to be a cure all for many people. Every bottle had a label stating it was to be used for medicinal purposes only.
- 1920 A tractor purchased from the Case Threshing Co., a 22-40 horse power for \$2,826.20. Mike Teresinski hired to operate tractor at \$4.50 per day. Saloon keepers had to pay \$50.00 for liquor license.
- 1921 Years wages for assessor \$100.00 and clerks salary was \$150.00.

- 1922 202 voters were present for annual meeting.
- 1923 Discussion and motion to build a machine shed 30 by 50 and 10 feet high, but no money was raised for this.
- 1924 The yearly report was printed and each tax payer was given a copy, but this was dropped the next year because printing was to costly.
- 1925 Town board renewed five liquor licenses at \$35.00 each.
- 1926 Board was to investigate renting John Wisnewski Hall for town meetings since the school is to small for this purpose.
- 1927 Clover Belt Cheese Factory had first meeting of stockholders.
- 1928 \$1,000.00 was raised to help the poor.
- 1929 Two pony graders were bought.
- 1930 A motion to hire a Caterpillar for power and not a steam engine for grading roads. It was also approved to leave the gravel hauling if it is to be with teams or trucks up to the town board as deemed best and cheapest.
- 1931 An assessor was hired at \$5.00 a day, who should have time not to exceed 30 days for the work furthur agreed the field book must be finished without extra pay. The assessment book to be completed the first week in August.
- 1932 Gas tax money now available to townships.
 140 voters were present at a town meeting to
 hear Mr. Rogan, County Agent, talk on
 grasshopper poisoning. It was decided to have
 the poison material hauled to one place in
 Poniatowski and be distributed from there.
- 1933 Liquor licenses were issued at \$30.00 each.
- 1934 Liquor licenses raised to \$50.00 plus \$25.00 for beer license. Snow removal in township big issue. By ballot vote it was 102 in favor of snow plowing and 135 against plowing snow. But all roads will be plowed in March.
- 1935 Moved to buy a Caterpillar and snow plow all roads.
- 1936 Taxpayers were sent cards showing the amount of personal and real estate tax due, it was voted to continue this type of notifying system.
- 1937 Moved to hire trucks for hauling gravel, giving all those that have bills, a chance to work it off. A charge of .25 cents to those who want the town snow plow to plow snow in their driveway.
- 1938 Due to the flood in the area a lot of damage to bridges and roads occured which now need repair. A stop sign on the prospective highway in Poniatowski in the center of section 14 on all four corners to avoid accidents. Town

- board met in regard to the zoning ordinance, this program was discussed and it was moved to reject zoning.
- 1939 School District No. 2 Hoffman School last season of operation.
- 1940 It was decided to have WPA build the Black Creek Bridge.
- 1941 Because the snow plowing bill ran so high last winter, a motion was made that the town hire a county truck for next winter's plowing. Thus leaving our plow in the shed.
- 1942 Hand labor wages were raised from 25 cents an hour to 30 cents an hour. School District No. 1 known as the "Green School" closed its doors.
- 1943 Snow plowing crew will get 50 cents and 60 cents an hour.
- 1944 A stone crusher was hired to crush gravel for road work. \$2500.00 was raised for graveling roads.
- 1945 Red Patrol Grader bought. Snow fences will no longer be put on county roads but only on town roads. The two parishes in Poniatowski merged.
- 1946 One mile of new snow fence was purchased. Last year of operation for School Dist. No. 4 -Silver Arrow School.
- 1947 Two more miles of snow fence were bought.
- 1948 A motion to buy a patrol grader and snowplow was defeated but then it was voted to raise \$4,000.00 to eventually buy this machinery.
- 1950 A 7 to 8 ton truck for snow plowing was purchased.
- 1951 Voters decided to purchase a medium weight Caterpillar Patrol Grader for \$13,472.28.
- 1952 Discussion and motion that a new town shed to house the new equipment is to be built.
- 1953 The parochial school was enlarged. It was approved that one third of a fire run be paid by owner and two thirds of the bill be paid by the town. Lucy Myszka succeeded her late husband, Philip Myszka as an elected Town Treasurer. The first woman to hold a Town office
- 1954 Holy Trinity Church was razed. Butler Steel Shed built.
- 1955 The operators of the snow plow earned \$1.20 an hour and the wing operator \$1.00 an hour. A used Austin Ditching Grader was purchased for \$500.00 plus old grader.
- 1957 Moved that the old town shed be offered for sale by sealed bids with a minimum of \$500.00, said building to be removed from

- present site or arrangement made by purchaser with Thomas Myszka, owner of land.
- 1958 Discussion on a heating system in town shed was held.
- 1959 A resolution was adopted that any person who shall kill and/or, find a dead dog, not his own, shall notify the fact in writing to the town clerk or notify the board as to the disposal of same.
- 1960 Moved that the present system of road districts be abolished and the town chairman be supervisor of all work ordinarily done by the foreman in these districts.
- 1961 It was moved that the Town of Rietbrock pay its share toward a tank truck for fire protection, together with the Towns of Cassel, Emmet, Frankfort, Rib Falls, and Wien - said truck to be manned by Edgar Fire Dept.
- 1962 At the 81st annual meeting Herbert Stargardt spoke briefly to the voters to show appreciation for the work the board does rather than always throw brickbats. An Underwood Olivitti calculator for town purposes was purchased for \$510.00. All pony graders and drags to be returned to shed.
- 1963 An agreement was made with the Edgar and Athens Fire Depts. as to where their border lines are. The treasurer purchased 50 lbs. of rat bait to exterminate the rats in the town dump.
- 1964 Hanz Trucking Co. had the low bid of \$1.15 per yard for granite delivered any place in the town. The total bill was \$1,269.02.
- 1965 Motion made and carried that two men sand corners in the township when roads are icy, with the supervision of the town board.
- 1966 Annual meeting held on April 4th at 8:30 p.m. instead of in the afternoon as previously. By a ballot vote of 24 yes and 8 no to help the Athens Fire Dept. purchase a Paddy Wagon fully equipped for \$2,370.06 - along with the towns of Bern, Halsey, Johnson, and the village of Athens. December - C.J. Myszka, Chairman of Town of Rietbrock passed away unexpected. Both supervisors announced they would accept appointment as chairman. It was decided that a lottery could be conducted. Ray Ott, Marathon County Clerk provided a new deck of cards and the first round of drawing Florian Pawlowski and Alphonse Sommers each drew a king. Second round Florian drew a 6 and Alphonse drew a 4, thus as agreed, Florian Pawlowski became acting chairman.
- 1967 L.P. Gas heating system installed in town shed. A 6 foot high fence has been built around the dump and it will only be open on Saturdays.

- At the annual meeting a moment of silence was observed in respect to two former Town officials who passed away in the past year Irvin T. Meyer and Casimir Myszka.
- 1968 Resolution making it a town ordinance whereby nobody can sell or lease any land less than in one acre parcels for residential use. It should be at least 150 feet wide. This includes stationary buildings, house trailers and mobile homes.
- 1969 Town of Rietbrock now has its own little National park with a Historical marker stating"THIS SPOT IN SECTION 14, IN THE TOWN OF RIETBROCK, MARATHON COUNTY, IS THE EXACT CENTER OF THE NORTHERN HALF OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. IT IS HERE THAT THE 90TH MERIDIAN OF LONGITUDE BISECTS THE 45TH PARALLEL OF LATITUDE, MEANING IT IS EXACT-LY HALF WAY BETWEEN THE NORTH POLE AND THE EQUATOR AND IS A QUARTER OF THE WAY AROUND THE EARTH FROM GREENWICH, ENGLAND."
- 1970 Holy Family Parochial School was closed. An ordinance requiring a permit when having an auction was passed. A \$10.00 fee is required to obtain an auction permit.
- 1971 Discussion on using liquid chloride on town roads was held but the majority said to forget it for 1971.
- 1972 A new Caterpillar 14E Grader with a Wausau plow and wing installed was purchased. Kenneth Reuter had the high bid for the old town shed on the West side of the town road for \$22.50.
- 1973 Town of Rietbrock will not pay for any fire department call or run to any brush, grass or wood fire on any property in the township which was started by the owner who had failed to obtain a burning permit.
- 1974 93rd town annual meeting had 42 citizens present.
- 1975 New FWD Truck purchased. Mary Jo Diers was appointed Clerk with the resignation of John R. Gesicki. She chose not to run at the April election. Patricia Berg was a write-in candidate and was elected as town clerk.
- 1976 Naming of all Town roads by the Board. 77 electors were present at a special town meeting. People present voted to build a new town hall and shed. 67, yes, 6 no; and 2 blanks. Land purchased from George Wisnewski on the NW corner in Poniatowski. The building proper was not to exceed \$50,000.00. The well was drilled 355 feet. A new checkwriter was purchased for \$243.75. Liquid

chloride will be spread in front of all businesses on gravel roads and any one else that wants it in front of their place must pay for it.

1977 Town of Rietbrock hosted the Western Towns' Association — Governor Martin Schreiber was the guest speaker, at the new Municipal Hall. A moment of silence at the Annual Meeting for Frank Sommer. Holy Family Congregation celebrated its Centennial. A complete town reassessement was done by Arrow Apraisal Firm of Green Bay, Wisconsin. February 9, an open house of the new town hall and shed was held following the caucus meeting and the budget hearing. 91 voters present. Morse case versus Town of Rietbrock had been settled for \$1,000.00

for the purchase of the 1/2 acre of land where the previous shed had been built in 1954. A deed has been received.

1978 Repainting of the Black Creek Bridge. Beverly Witucki was appointed Treasurer when Ronald Mueller resigned. Seidel's Sanitation was contracted for \$455.00 a month to pick up garbage.

1979 Assessor Gary Lewis resigned. Building permits are now mandatory.

1980 Board appointed Rupert Kurtzweil, Jr. as assessor for 1980.

TOWN CELEBRATES ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Residents of The Town of Rietbrock

Name Wife's Name

Adams, Bernard Armela Rader

Albrecht, Earl Nancy Morse

Albrecht, Norbert Karen Peter

Albrecht, Gerald Judy Kraft

Albrecht, Jerome Mary Ann Myszka

Allar, Matthias (Dec.) Lucille Frane

Artman, Bernard Frances Andris

Augustine, Walter Annette Calmes

Becker, Arthur Sue Fergot

Belter, Bernard Evelyn Opichka

Belter, Bernard, Jr. Belter, Frank

Belter, Frank, Sr. (Dec.) Mary Brodziski

Belter, John (Dec.) Mary Schaetzl

Belter, Norbert
Berg, Charles
Patricia Witucki

Bergman, Alfred Helen Rubow Bergman, Arthur

Adeline Schultz

Occupation

Farming Farm Housewife

Farming Farming

Farming

Feed Mill Operator Housewife

Farmer - Laborer Housewife - Bookkeeper

Park Manager-retired

Tavern keeper-Carpenter Housewife-Tavern keeper

Farmer Housewife

Housewife - Retired

Farming Retired

Retired

Retired

Retired

Farmer

Kraft Foods, Milan Teacher, Town Clerk

Farmer Housewife Retired Retired Children

Diane (Adams) Ledman, John, Judy (Adams) Hoffman Louise (Albrecht) Ellenbecker, Michael, Karen (Albrecht) Schmitt, Norbert, Peter, Lisa, Denise, Dennis

Darrin John, David James, Julie, James

James, Genevieve (Allar) Omelian

Leona (Artman) Schaetzl, Barbara (Artman) Kadonsky

John, Cindy, Scott, Sherry, Ricky, Eddie

Jennifer

Bernard Jr., Evelyn Jean (Belter) Bruegl

Martha (Belter) Matysik (Dec.) Bernard, John John (Dec.) Joseph Edward, George (Dec.) Ervin, Leo, Irene (Belter) Macowski, Frank, Bernice (Belter) Janikowski

Gertrude (Belter) Dvorak, Marcella (Belter) Ludkey, George, Patricia (Belter) Stasek, Norbert, David

Russell, Rodney, Ryan

David (Dec.), Dennis, Thomas, Gary, Richard

Ronald A., Mary Jane (Bergman) Proft

Name Children Wife's Name Occupation Brian Brenda Bergman, Garv Farmer Shirley Writz Housewife James Kontz (hired man) Semi Truck Driver-Marathon Cheese Lisa, Lee Jr., Leonard, Lloyd Bergman, Lee LuCinda Armbrust Housewife Rietbrock Ready-Mix Dale, Christina Bergman, Richard Marathon Cheese Janet Viergutz Bergman, Thomas Unemployed Micelle Linda Stoughton Marathon Cheese James, Ronald Berres, Raymond (Dec.) Mary Murkowski Housework Retired Gerald, Merlin Bockhop, Fritz Mary Stead (Dec.) Bockhop, Gerald Antique Dealer & Bar operator Bockhop, Merlin Disabled Meat Cutter Gail (Bonin) Wendtland, Joe Jr., Patti Jo Bonin, Joseph Housewife Irene Kropidlowski Boris, Peter (Dec.) Retired James, Beverly (Boris) Kremsreiter, Ervin, Kathleen (Boris) Lehman, Maedelle (Boris) Erickson, Dwight, Delores Zettler Peter, Raymond, Charlene (Boris) Janke, Linda (Boris) Stencil, Karen (Boris) Durand, Michael, Richard Brian, Brenda, Chrissa, Patrick Boris, Peter, Jr. Farmer Margaret Schemenauer Farmer Bornheimer, Leo Retired Road Grader Operator Bernard, Norman, Elmer, Leo, Jr., Eileen (Borheimer) Sister Audrey, Leonard, Cecelia (Bornheimer) Feltz-Regina Brzezinski Marathon Cheese kowski, Harvey, Audrey (Bornheimer) Hoffman, James, Dennis, Linda Bornheimer, Dennis Factory worker Stacy, Tonya Connie Risch Factory worker Bradford, Arland Dairy Farmer Harriet (Bradford) Johnston, Ruth Ferguson Farmwife David, Dan, Deborah Braun, Robert Machine Shop Owner Jim Diane Gast Housewife-Bookkeeper Brodziski, Frank Farmer Tom, Hugh, Mark, Kevin, Housewife Paul, Ann, Lori Mary Sazama Bronowicz, Ed Tractor Sales & Repair Tractor Sales & Repair Bronowicz, Hank Carey, Mandy Housewife Jane Socha Bunkelman, Bernard Farmer Debbie (Bunkelman) France Nancy Kalepp Housewife Fork Life Operator Bunkelman, Carey Tracy, Travis Debbie Oelke Housewife Chojnowski, Sylvester Farmer Margaret (Chojnowski) Heidmann, Ray, Evelyn Housewife (Chojnowski) Kottke, Shirley, Allen Alice Lepak Chester (Dec.) Clemens, Edmund, Florence Retired Chojnowski, Telesphor (Chojnowski) Iwanski, Sylvester, George Anna Gajewski (Dec.) Diedrich, Arthur Farmer Marlene (Diedrich) Aplefbeck, Raymond D., Olga Heldt Ronald D., Beverly (Diedrich) Meir Factory Worker Laura, Jeffrey Diedrich, James Kathleen Fiedler Painter Tamey, Todd, Robbie, Craig, Joshua Diedrich, Raymond Farmer Mary Beth Waranka Joan Deml Diedrich, Ronald Farmer Julie, John, Adam Housewife Geraldine (Saindon) Heldt Farmer Elizabeth (Diers) Wolf, Eleanore (Diers) Wisnewski, Diers, Anthony Cecilia Sommer Housewife Ronald, Elmira (Diers) Masanz Construction Diers, Ronald Patty, Vicki, Jim Bookkeeper Mary Jo Johnson Dorzak, Gerald Construction Renee, Wanda, Jonas

Housewife

Yvonne Krebsbach

Name Wife's Name	Occupation	Children
Drewk, Eugene Mabel Dorfsmidt	Farming - Trucking Housewife	Janice (Drewek) Loshbough, Gary, Roger
Drewek, James, Debbie Nehrbass	Farming Clerical Work	
Drewek, Robert Gloria King	Farming Farming	Dennis, Lynette (Drewek) Brunke, Diane
Ellenbecker, Billy Mary Miller	Mason-Construction Marathon Cheese	Julie, Leslie
Fleming, Dennis Jo Saylor	Menzner's Lumber Co. Wausau, Ins.	Eugene, Timothy, Collen, Scott
Framke, Larry	Serviceman - Athens Co-op.	
Framke, Charles (Dec.) Linda Bramm	Retired	Norman, Carl, Bernice (Framke) Geise, Geraldine (Framke) Poker, Larry
Frane, Dave Debbie Bunkelman	Bulldozer Operator Data Processing-Marathon Co.	
Friemund, Darold E. Jr. Sharon Jenson	Marathon Cheese Corp. Kolbe & Kolbe Millwork	Amie
Friedrich, Edmund	Welder - Maintenance	
Friedrich, Roland	Mechanic - Farmer	
Gajewski, Jeffrey Jacqueline Smoczenski	Farmer - Milk Hauler Melcho - Venetian Blind Co.	
Gajewski, Lawrence Dorothy Schug	Farmer Marathon Cheese	Jeffrey, Dale, Wayne, Debbie, Gary
Gajewski, Leonard	Disabled	
Gajewski, Raymond Dolores Guralski	Farmer Housewife	Catherine (Guralski) Pliska, Gerald, Doreen, James, Caroline, Marlene, Bernice, John Charles, Donald, Margaret, Karen
Gajewski, Stanley Marilyn Cochnet	Farmer Housewife	Bernadette, Anthony, James, Jeff, Mike, Suzette, Robin (Granddaughter)
Gajewski, Wayne	Farmer	
Gantner, Claude Louetta Stencil	Cementer - Farmer Accts. Rec. & Cr. Clerk	
Gantner, Robert Dorothy Schueller	Retired Retired	Alphonse (Dec.), Lawrence, Joseph, Germaine (Gantner) Guralski, Wilfred, Claude, Caroline (Gantner) Witucki, Lucille (Gantner) Rausch, Mary Jane (Gantner) Frieders, Frances (Gantner) Brodziski
Gauerke, Lester Virginia Metz	Trucking Housewife	William (Diann (Dec.), Dennis, Bernard, James, Robert, Elizabeth (Gauerke) Weiler, Judy (Gauerke) Akey, Susan (Gauerke) Kummer, Donna (Gauerke) Laakso, John (Dec.), Richard, Dale, Michael, Kenneth Thomas, Debra
Geerdts, Brian Lisa Draheim	Sch. Social Worker Teacher	Kirsten
Geissler, Rev. Lloyd	Pastor of Holy Family Cong.	
Gesicki, Edmund Angeline Handlosky	Retired Housewife	Edmund Jr., Anthony, Louise (Dec.), Theodore, Rosemary (Gesicki) Sherfinski, Jerome, Margaret (Gesicki) Eksowicz, Robert
Gesicki, John R. Loretta Marth	Store & Tavern Housewife	Aaron, Charlotte (Gesicki) Guden, Kristine
Goytowski, Floyd Marie Soczka	Lods Manufacturing	Chad
Graveen, Ronald Jeannine Rusch	Manager of Midwhey Powder Teacher's Aid - Edgar	Dean, Alan, Brian, Linda, Michael
Greiner, Glenn Laverne Hart	Farmer Farmer-Housewife	Marilyn (Greiner) Nest, Ronald
Greiner, Ronald	Farmer	
Guralski, Herbert	Semi-retired	Joline (Guralski) Schug, Gary, Larry, Jeffrey,
Janet Krebsbach	Housemaker	Lyle, Charlene, Ronald, Rosann

Name Wife's Name	Occupation	Children
Guralski, Lyle Pearl Schug	Farmer Housewife	Valerie
Guralski, Ray Stacie Griesmer	Farmer Housewife	Rick, Patty, Randy, Roy
Guralski, Walter Jr. Gertrude Schug	Farmer Farmwife	Sandra, Steven, Sharon, Sally, Shiela, Scott, Shawn, Shane, Shelly, Sarah
Gust, Alan	Logger - Farmer	Gust, Otto
Gust, Otto Peggy Schill (Dec.)	Brick-layer - Farmer	Barb (Gust) Hall, Debbie (Gust) Lemmer, Alan, Robert, Mary, Mike, Terry
Hart, Gregory Patricia, Buckett	Farmer Housewife	Laura, David
Hart, Joseph S. Mildred Eisenhut	Mechanic & Bus Driver Homemaker & Salesperson	Robert, Donald, James, Norbert, Kathleen (Hart) Kulas
Hart, Norbert	Draftsman - Braun's Lumber Co.	
Heidemann, Earl Mary Cooper	Retired Housewife	Floyd, Gloria, Jean (Heidemann) Spaeth, David
Heldt, Arthur R. Ruth Heidemann	Farmer Interior Decorator	Arthur Jr., Carol (Heldt) Mantik, Roger, Dale, Donna (Heldt) Lotzer, Daniel (Dec.)
Heldt, Dale Dolores Diethelm	Farmer Housewife	Jason, Christopher, Cindee
Heldt, Walter Gertrude Heldt (Dec.)	Farmer	Elroy, LaVonne (Heldt) Endres, Brian
Hopperdietzel, Raymond Delores Achterberg	Patrol Grader Operator Marathon Cheese	Carol (Hopperdietzel) Johnson, Geraldine, Bernice, Byron
Huebner, Robert Shirley Mootz	Mink Rancher Housewife	Rand, Russell, Julie, Daniel
Jagodzinski, Dale	Cheesemaker	
Jagodzinski, Ervin Arlean Butalla	Cheesemaker Secetary	Dale, Diane, Daryl, Daryn
Jahnke, Russell Charlene Boris	Construction Housewife	Steven, Carmen, Amy, Lora
Jesko, John (Dec.) Irene Miller		
Karlen, Ervin Gertrude Dahlke	Carpenter Teacher	Patrick, Nancy, Brian
Karlen, Nicholas Mary Princl	Bulldozing & Excavating Housewife	Pamela Wisnewski, Renee Wisnewski, Wendy Wisnewski, Sherry Wisnewski, children of Ervin Wisnewski (Dec.) Joseph Karlen, Randall Karlan, Sarah Katherine
Kemp, Gene Judy Fickle	Farmer Farmwife	Tom, Jimmy, Steve
Knorr, Donald Dolores Wielock	Marathon Co. Employee - Farmer Housewife	Sharon, Gerald
Knorr, Gerald	Farmer	
Kolpack, Clifford Pearl Grendel	Salesman-Supervisor Jacques Seed Housewife	Terry, Bryce
Kraft, Kenneth Mary Jane Kurtzweil	Farmer Housewife	Brian, Paul, Kevin
Kraft, Albert (Dec.) Marcella Rauen	Housewife	Kenneth, Ronald, Judy (Kraft) Albrecht, Randall, Allen, Carla, Gerald
Kraft, Sylvester Caroline Rauen	Retired Housewife-Retired	Anthony, Dennis, Marlene (Kraft) Schlegel
Kraft, Randall Linda Schreiner	Construction Worker Employers Ins.	Ryan
Kremsreiter, Ronald Marlene Hardt	Carpenter Housewife	Keith, Kenneth, Karla, Kriste, Kimberly
Kreoning, Dennis Joanie Meyer	Cattle Trucker & Dealer Homemaker	Christopher, Scott

Name Wife's Name Occupation Children Kropidlowski, Ben Semi-retired Rita (Kropidlowski) Matysik, Kenneth, Irene Alvina Lee Housewife (Kropidlowski) Bonin, Gladys (Kropidlowski) Rennie, Bonnie (Kropidlowski) Totos, Vicki (Kropidlowski) Krause, Ronald B. Metal Finisher Nicki, Brenda (Dec.), Steve, Rhonda, Kraig, Robin, Lynn Krause Housewife Roxanna, Keith S. Krause Lang, Kenneth Electrician Kristine, Carl, Karen Kathleen Langer Housewife Lechleitner, Leonard Midwest Breeders Technician Colleen (Lechleitner) Johnson, Greg, Gary, Lynn Shirley Day Teacher Leer, William Railroad Vanessa Regina Wickersham Housewife Lenhard, George Farmer Kenneth, Todd, Angela Merceda Daniels Farmwife Lewis, Gary Sec. - Treas. Badger International LaTonya, Jody Nicole, Jeremy Bernadette Urmanski Homemaker Lipinski, Sylvester, Jr. Dairy Farmer-Cattle Trucker Kim, Ray, Connie, Keith, *Steve Riehle Marilyn Krueger Housewife Farmer Literski, Alois Dorothy Myszka Housewife Literski, Duane Construction Linda Boesl Laborer Literski, James Farmer Marsha, Jill, Amy Sherry Schug Farmwife Literski, Leo Farmer James, JoAnn (Literski) Hargraves, Duane, Virginia Myszka Housewife Florine (Literski) Bunkelman, Ralph, Michaelene Literski, Michael Mechanic - Part-time Farmer Ricky, Roger Jean Dahl Client Coordinator for Management Systems Lotzer, Bruce Pipe Fitter - Wis. Fuel & Light Justin Donna Heldt Office-Buyer for Kolbe & Kolbe Milwork Lukasko, James Salesman Kevin, Kregg, Vernell, Kirk, Vonda, Kyle, Vicki JoAnn Sansler Housewife Marino, Vincent *(James) Part-time Tailor-Retired Debra (Marino) Stephanus, Fred, James, Lori, Betty Stencil John, Nathan Matysik, Myron Tavern Owner Cynthia (Matysik) Karlen, Laurie, Tina, Marilee, Rita Kropidlowski Tavern-keeper - Housewife Adam, Matthew Mauer, Gilbert Wayne, Daniel, Ronald, John Dairy Farmer Dolores Rauen Homemaker McCarthy, Eugene Weathershield Ronald, Richard Colette Stevenson Badger Basket Meier, Theodore, Sr. Farmer - Sawmill Owner Theodore Jr., Matthew, Susan Elsie Stark Farmwife - Bookkeeper Metz, Elmer Farmer Laona Erdmann Farmwife Meyer, Irvin (Dec.) Ronald, Carol (Meyer) Westfall Alice Reuter Meyer, Charlotte Meyer, Ronald Dairy Farmer Miller, Edward Green Bay Packaging Miller, Dennis Farmer-Factory Worker Joseph, Teri, Michael, Tania, Tara Mary Ruhoff Homemaker Miller, George Retired Robert, Gary, Gene, Nancy (Miller) Mader, Mary Leona Socha Housewife (Miller) Ellenbecker, Donald, Carol (Miller) Adams, Kathy (Miller) Punke, Judy Miller, Frank Retired Miller, Peter Retired

Thomas, Dennis

Lou Ann (Miller) Lemmer

Farmer

Housewife

Miller, John A.

Clara Bergs

Name Wife's Name	Occupation	Children
Miller, Lawrence Phyllis Bonin	Farmer Housewife	Larry, Edward, Ann, Janice (Miller) Williams, Mary Kay, Pamela, Ted, Tim
Miller, John (Dec.) Marie Weigand	Housewife	David
Miller, Thomas Judy Williams	Farmer Housewife	Kimberly, Jennifer, Leslie
Mootz, Fred Lorna Nimmerguth	Retired Retired	Shirley (Mootz) Huebner, Sharon (Mootz) Schedler
Morse, Sanford A. Eula Wisner	Farmer Housewife	Nancy (Morse) Albrecht, Helen (Morse) Giese, Audrey (Morse) Pruss, Sanford Jr., Alberta (Morse) Walker, Sally (Morse) Mienen
Morse, Sanford Jr. Judy Justman	Farmer Housewife	Shelby, Sandra, Stuart, Sara
Mroczenski, Edward Jacqueline Jagodzinski	Farmer Housewife	Carol, Colleen, Jerome, Ronald, Geralyn, Norman, Brian, Mark, Mary
Mroczenski, Florian Dolores Ruplinger	Farmer Farmwife	Pauline, Barbara
Mroczenski, Julian Eleanora Hoffman	Farming Housewife	Judy, Doris, Edwin, Ruth, Earl
Murkowski, Clemens	Farmer	
Murkowski, Harry Balbina Felzkowski	Retired Retired	Ervin, Clemens
Murkowski, George Charlotte Freese	Painter at Drott, - gingsing farmer Housewife - partime Beautician	Ricky, Vicki, Jimmy
Murkowski, Leo (Dec.) Helen Nowicki	Retired	Clarence, Merceda (Murkowski) Literski, Howard
Murkowski, Howard Dorothy Literski	Farmer Housewife	Mary (Murkowski) Koranda, Karen (Murkowski) Ostrowick, Gerald, Rita, Mike, Tom, Arlene, Myron, Steve, Angeline
Murkowski, Peter (Dec.) Anna Nowicki	Retired	Frank, Irene (Murkowski) King, Thomas, Roman, Mary (Murkowski) Berres, Anthony, Jane (Murkowski) Gantner, Theresa (Murkowski) Beren Edward (Dec.) Marcella (Murkowski) Kramer, Leona (Murkowski) Zarling, Raymond
Murkowski, Raymond G. Geraldine Sprenger	Farmer Housewife	Debra (Murkowski) Suebert, Pamela (Murkowski) Stencil, Randall, Brenda (Murkowski) Schossow, Russell, Richard
Myszka, Donald Bonnie Roesler	Farmer	Donna, Donavon
Myszka, Ervin Lorraine Wirowinski	Farmer Housewife	Clifford, Linda, Kathleen, Eileen (Myszka) Hager, Larry, Jeffrey
Myszka, John J. Helen Urmanski	Retired Farmer Housewife	John A., Gordon, Judy (Myszka) Dalke,
Myszka, Joseph Írma Soucek	Retired Housewife	Priscilla (Myszka) Stenzel, Patricia (Myszka) Mroczenski, Norbert, DuWayne, Benedict, Donald Janice (Myszka) Barr, Dale, Joleen (Myszka) Dassow, Sharon (Myszka) Dassow, Debra (Myszka)
Marsha Lamand	Disabled	Dassow, Monelle
Myszka, Leonard Myszka, Thomas (Dec.) Helen Murkowski	Disabled Housewife-Retired	Mary Ann (Myszka) Soczka
Nagel, Dennis Kathy Nagel	A (care distribution and a control	Lisa, John, Daniel, Steven, Mark
Nardi, Nick Carol Warren	Salesman	Angela, Anthony, Corisa
Nowacki, Dennis Susan Schemenauer	Farmer Housewife	Ronald, Linda, Brian, Deborah, Tommy, Cynthia
Nowacki, Joseph	Retired Farmer Retired Farmer	Edward, Harvey, Hilary, Dennis, Isabel (Nowacki) Aschbrenner, JoAnn (Nowacki) Held

Name Wife's Name Occupation Children Nowicki, Arthur G. Retired Farmer Jeanette (Nowicki) Riehle Adela Miller Housewife-Retired Nowicki, Edward Farmer Greg, Tammy, Ellen, Kelly Mary Guden Housewife Nowicki, John Farmer Gary, Ronald, Michael, Jimmy Rosemary Rausch Housewife Nowicki, Joseph Jr. Truck Driver Jane Framke Cheese Wrapper Nowicki, Peter Saw mill operator Mary Literski Housewife Nowicki, Robert (Dec.) Lorraine Wisnewski Fiskars Scissors Co. Omelian, Anton Farmer James, Helen (Omelian) Socha, Ronald, Donald Bernice Andreyewski Housewife Omelian, Donald Farming-Flaker Operator Donald Jr., Deana Ann, Daniel Alvin Dawn G. Williams Nursing Asst. Omelian, Frank Jr. Farmer Matthias, Michael Genevieve Allar Housewife Omelian, Frank Sr. (Dec.) Frank Jr., Rose (Omelian) Kijak, Catherine Felice Sienicki Retired (Omelian) Schuette Passehl, Jerome, Sr. Carpenter Jerome Jr., Kathy (Passehl) Franz, Duane Bernice Writz Marathon Cheese Passehl, Jerome Jr., Truck Driver Steve, Chad, Melissa Arlene Rachu Housewife Pawlowski, Florian Co-Supervisor of Dist. 18 David, Kathy, Sharon (Pawlowski) Westfall, Annabelle Donlevy Semi-retired Farmer Linda (Pawlowski) Madison Penno, Frederick Farming Penno, Lawrence Farming Petrowski, Leona M. Holy Family Parish housekeeper -Secretary Radloff, Gary Dock worker - Medford Cheese Gary Lee, Lola Kremsreiter Factory - Medford Cheese Rauen, Joseph Farmer Donna (Rauen) Kaiser, Duane, Barbara Mallak Housewife Diane, Doreen Redmann, Fred (Dec.) Annette (Redmann) Behrendt, Betty Hazel England Housewife-retired (Redmann) Janke, Charles (Dec.) Fred Jr., Ernest (Dec.) Hazel (Redmann) Roach, Frank, Robert Redmann, Robert Construction Reuter, Kenneth Milk Trucker & Mechanic Reuter, Marvin Mechanic Amy Jo, Paul Nancy Albrecht Tax Consultant Reuter, Raymond Carpenter - Saw filer Roman, Kenneth, Doris (Reuter) Foltz, Anne Vogl (Dec.) Marvin Reuter, Roman Farmer Rieck, Dennis Construction

Riehle, Joseph Riehle, Roger

Jane Becker

Riehle, Charles Jr.

Grace Kurszewski

Riehle, Anton (Dec.)

Frances Platta

Judy Jacobi Riehle, Kenneth Susan Stremer Housewife-Artist

Kraft Foods Milan

Farmer

Housewife

Farmer Farmer Farmwife Farmer Med. Assistant Jesse

Richard, Annette, Ronald, Renee, Randall, Roy, Rachel, Ray, Amy Germaine (Riehle) Riemer, Marlene (Riehle) Otto, James Riehle (adopted), Roger, Nancy (Riehle) Hopperdietzel, Patricia (Dec.)

Name Children Wife's Name Occupation Riske, Robert Farmer-Town Chairman Douglas, Dale, Dawn, DeAnn Mildred Hetzel High School Librarian Rolicz, Joe Plumber Electrician Schaetzl, John Jr. Karen, David, Kenneth, Cheryl, Darald, Leona Smola Housewife Kevin, Brian Schaetzl, Richard Steidinger Oil Co. Jennifer, Jacqueline Victoria Rothaner Weathershield Schaefer, Kevin Carpenter Laura, Sarah Debra Schlinkert Housewife Schulz, Charles Inspector-Marathon Electric Virginia Cichon Data Entry - Wausau Ins. Scheelk, Robert Welder - Mechanic Cynthia, Victoria, Debra, Jennifer Janice Dudek Housewife Retired Schiepek, Joseph Schilling, Emmett Farmer Roxanne (Schilling) Spindler, Mary Ann, Janel Kuyoth Housewife Scott, Kevin Schmidt, William Schmidt, Edwin Engineering Tech. - Marathon Electric Brenda Luther Wausau Ins. Schmitt, Alan Trucker Melanie Karen Albrecht Farming Schossow, Donald Mechanic Brenda Murkowski Accountant Schreiner, Dave Greg, Kevin Logger Janice Literski Housewife Schroeder, Richard Farming Penny, Mark, Dawn, Peter Karen Norton Marathon Cheese Schueller, Oliver Farmer Andrew, Judith (Schueller) Yessa, Helen Stini Housewife Barbara, Thomas, Timothy, Theresa, Francis, Elizabeth Construction Foreman Schug, George Jr. Terrance, Timothy, Todd, Krist, Jodi Jean Mann Housewife Sekorski, Paul Farmer Charles, Richard, Theresa Housewife Margaret Seubert Sekorski, Charles Farmer Senski, Lawrence Farmer Ginseng Farmer Seubert, Jerome Debbie Murkowski Housewife Smazal, William Farmer Smith, Keith Dairy Farmer Sally, Allen, Cindy, Karen Farm wife Jean Ferrigan Laborer at G.M. Socha, Andrew Cathy, Dave, Mike Helen Omelian Laborer-Norword Mills Barb, Mike, Joan, Pat, Robert, Socha, Joseph Farmer Housewife Bonnie, Suzie Betty Daniels Assembler Amanda, Rebecca, Keith Spatz, Glen Linda Kainz Housewife Wausau Concrete Szablewski, Daniel Daniel Patrick, Victor, Joe Housewife Deborah Wilson Foundry Sodoma, James Loans-Sec./Teller Darlene Rodman First National Bank Soczka, Harvey Farmer-Trucking Kenny, Karen, Charlene, Arlin Housewife Rosemary Pecher Farmer Sommer, Alphonse Mary (Sommer) Knoeck, Tom, Polly Housewife (Sommer) Brehem, Linda (Sommer) Josephine Zinkowich Kuehn, Frances (Sommer) Wilichowski, Lauri Milk Hauler Sommer, Gerald Chris, Sandra, Gregory, Michael, Steven

Imogene Bargender (Dec.

Name Wife's Name Occupation Children Sommer, Frank (Dec.) George, Agnes (Sommer) Adamski Anne Fedyczkowski Housewife-retired Sommer, George Midland Coop.-Edgar Sommer, Lawrence Farmer Sommer, Thomas Farmer Scott, Jason, Julie Betsy Hilber Bank Teller Stallman, Herman (Dec.) Marie (Stallman) Lesczynski Anna Weber Retired Laura (Stallman) Kittel. Mabel (Stallman) Savino Stanke, David Farmer Jason Peggy Bergman Housewife Stargardt, Herb (Dec.) Susan, Carol (Stargardt) Hahn Emma Felda Ass't. Bookkeeper Stark. Louis Farmer Bernice (Stark) Balz, Lucille (Stark) Margaret Schmidt Housewife Arndt, Rita (Stark) Woller, Jerome Steffen, Tim Quarry Worker Brian Nila Ebert Housewife Stencil, Arlyn Rietbrock Ready-Mix-Owner Cara, Brenda, Rhonda Beverly Lenhard Country Ceramics-Owner Stencil, Richard Carpenter Pam Murkowski Secretary Stencil, Edward Farming-Truck Driver Bonnis, Laurie, Edward Jr., Dawn Sharon McKee Farming-Housewife Stencil, Florian Midwhey Whey Drying Plant Stencil, Joseph Excavating Arlyn, Roxanne (Stencil) Scheiderer **Emily Dallman** Housewife Stencil. Kenneth Farmer Kenneth Jr., Chris Carmon Stencil Home Ec. Teacher Stenzel, Luke Jr. Truck Driver Randy, Sandy Priscilla Myszka Housewife Stenzel, Randy **Factory Worker** Traci Lynn Jean Kraft Telecommunicator Stephany, Thomas Parks Manager Sasha Jean Chaplilski Homemaker Switlick, Alan Cement Contractor Jesse Joy Dobeck Housewife Switlick, Stanley Telephone installer & repairman Florian, Mike, Richard, Lorraine (Switlick) Jeanette Sprenger Housewife Boehm, Mark, Daniel, Jerome, LeAnn, Francis, Lora Tautges, Herb Farmer Julie, Richard, Dean, Carla, Susan Mardella Mierkey Housewife Teresinski, Eugene Farming Edward, Rita, Jeanette (Teresinski) Dvorak Elizabeth Sczygelski Housewife Teresinski, John (Dec.) Leona (Teresinski) Starzinski, Frances Trawicki Edmund (Dec.), Eugene Teresinski, Frank Retired Farmer Teresinski, Leo Farmer-Millwork Margaret Tambornino Homemaker Tessmer, Harvey Construction Thurs, Gordon Toolroom Foreman DeeAnn LuAnn Hoge Bookkeeper Tock, Thomas Computor Programmer Barbara Tock Loan Officer - FHA Trzebiatowski, Clarence Marathon Cheese Diane (Trzebiatowski) Erver, Rita Uhl Housewife-Tavern Debra (Trzebiatowski) Olson, Damon Urmanski, August Retired Helen (Urmanski) Myszka, Stella (Urmanski) Emma Stencil Retired Sekorski, Eleanore (Urmanski) Drewek Marcy (Urmanski) Heil, Bernadette (Urmanski)

Steiber, George, Edward (Dec.)

Name Children Occupation Wife's Name Bernadette (Urmanski) Lewis, Leona (Urmanski) Urmanski, George Farmer Lottie Kijak Homemaker Jojade, Dorothy (Urmanski) Imhoff, Virginia (Urmanski) VanDerleest, Jerelyn (Urmanski) Bauman, Wanda, Louise, Roberta, Richard, Ronald, Lauri (Urmanski) Seubert, Raymond Barbara, Sandy, Jeff, Eddie, Mary Jo Urmanski, James Farmer Rita Krautkramer Farmwife Joseph Jr., Patricia (Urmanski) Niewolny, Farmer Urmanski, Joseph Richard, James, Helen (Urmanski) Paul, Frank Helen Pietrowski Housewife Sharon, Gary, Rhonda, Ryan Urmanski, Richard Farmer Jeanette Seidl Farmwife Utecht, Vernon Manager of Cloverbelt Marathon Cheese Steven, Michael, Jason Patricia Roesler Housewife Mechanic Craig, Dana, Tara Van Der Leest, John Virginia Urmanski **Typist** Viegut, Eugene Farmer & Foreman-Marathon Cheese Jason, Troy Lila Schuster Medical Assistant Ernest, Clarence (Dec.), Dorothy (Wallner) Wallner, Julius Retired Martha Besson (Dec.) King, George (Dec.), Walter, Elmer Wallner, Walter Pauly Cheese Co. Cheese Maker **Motor Connector** Scott, Timothy, Kristi, Randy Walters, Wallace Area Mechandizer Lorna Bahr Mary Beth, Joseph, Jane, Diana Waranka, Michael Supervisor Mary Miottel Cheese Wrapper Waskowiak, Stanley Retired Welder Leona Mucha Farmer - works at Farmers Mill Eugene, Gerald Weigand, George Audrey Luedtke Farmerette-Housewife Marlene (Weigand) Bergman Cheryl (Williams) Rothenberger, Marvin Jr. Williams, Marvin Sr. Farming Grahms-Weyerhauser Cathy, Mary, Brian, Kevin, Shawn, Stacey Dorothy Heindl Williams, Marvin Jr. Mandy Sherrie Riehle Grahms-Weyerhauser Wielock, John Wisnewski, Alice Nursing Assistant Ricky, Dale, Scott, Kim, Heidi Lierman Postal Clerk Wisnewski, Donald Lyonel, Darrell (Dec.) Housewife-Marathon Cheese Brenda (Wisnewski) Dahlke Jean Rusch Wisnewski, Frank Mary Kay (Dec.), Ralph Salomea Miller Wisnewski, Ralph Farmer Laborer Wisnewski, George **Eleanore Diers** Housewife Donald, Edmund, Ervin (Dec.), Norbert, Retired Wisnewski, Joseph Lorraine (Wisnewski) Nowicki, Marvin Regina Myszka (Dec.) Step-children: Clyde B. Raymond, Diane Farmer Wisnewski, Raymond Lucille Krueger Farmer's wife (Raymond) Wesenick Construction Cindy Wisnewski, Mark Factory Carol Hart Retired Wisnewski, Thomas Witucki, Alan Farmer Michelle, Tracy, Nathan, *Matthew, Kristina Jean Wausau Ins. Nancy Punke Hobby Farm Troy, Janine, Lori Kae, Shawn, Donna Witucki, Edward Betty Thanig Housewife Retired Edward, Sister Mary Jo, Jerome, Norman Witucki, Florian Retired Elmer, Kathleen (Witucki) Franzen Celia Schreier

Hospital Emp. & Domestic Engineer

Farmer-Trucker

Witucki, George

Caroline Gantner

Alan, Annette (Witucki) Stremer, Donald,

Terrance, Ronald, Robert

Name Wife's Name	Occupation	Children
Witucki, James	Farmer	
Witucki, Joseph Rose Nowicki	Retired Farmer Housewife	Lawrence, Ralph, Lorraine (Witucki) Soltis, Lucy
Witucki, Louis	Farming	
Witucki, Norman Beverly Punke	Farmer-Cattle Dealer Homemaker-Town Treasurer	Brian Joshua, Jeffrey James, Daniel Jason
Witucki, Thomas Bernice Brinkman	Retired Farmer Housewife	Nancy (Witucki) Sumiec, Patricia (Witucki) Berg, Bonnie (Witucki) Decker, James, Debbie (Witucki) Wheeler, Rick
Witucki, Sylvester	Farming	
Witucki, Walter Shirley Stark	Farming Housewife	Linda, Sharon (Witucki) Kleiber, Connie, Lisa, Randy, Brian
Witz, Donald Shirley Jacob	Trucker Housewife	Michael, Marie, Matthew, Gilbert, Donna
Woellner, Walter Woellner, Julius	Retired Retired	
Woellner, Victor Jr. Wanda Weiler	Backhoe Operator for Mueller Pipeline Marathon Cheese	
Young, Vernal Joyce Keller	Farmer Homemaker	Christina, Roger
Zettler, Glenn Kathleen Schemenauer		Shelly, Corey, Tammy, Kerry, Tracy
Ziegel, Edwin Bertha Engelbrett (Dec.)	Retired	JoAnn (Ziegel) Krum, Shirley (Ziegel) Zocher, Franklin
Ziegel, Franklin Paula Baker	Bar Owner-Retired Military Bartender - Housewife	Debra (Ziegel) Busko, Theresa (Ziegel) Haroldson, Keith, Linda
Zychowicz, Anthony	Tavern	Linda, Harvey, Lisa, Christopher, JoWanda

Special acknowledgment is made to Mrs. Adela Nowicki and Mrs. Pearl Kolpack for the many, many hours they spent researching, writing, and compiling the official records, the stories, and the photos for the Centennial Book. The gathering of this information was no small task.

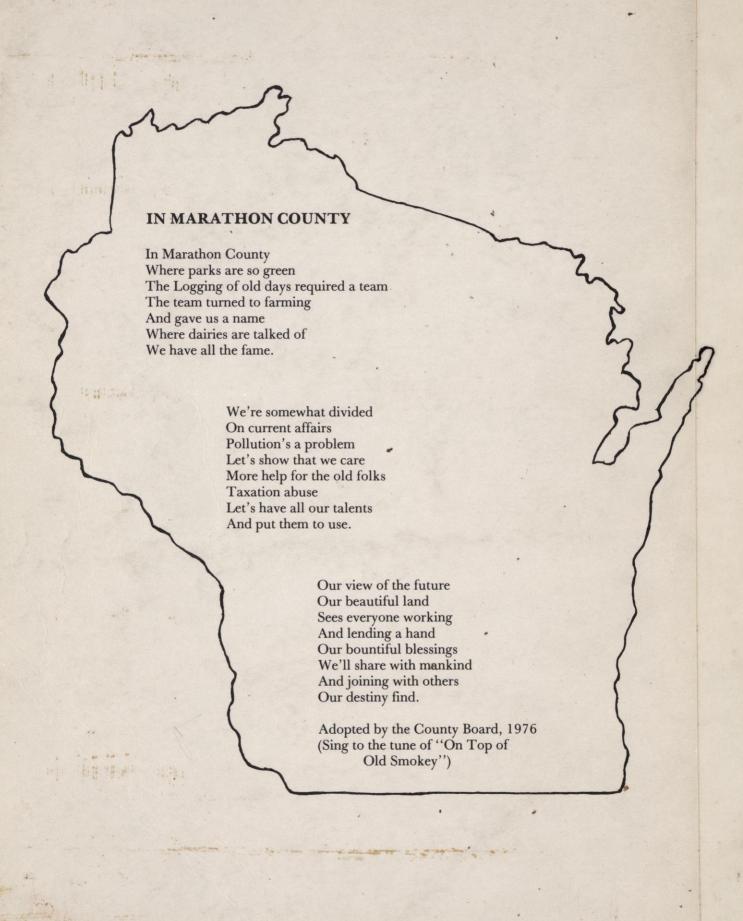
Tavern

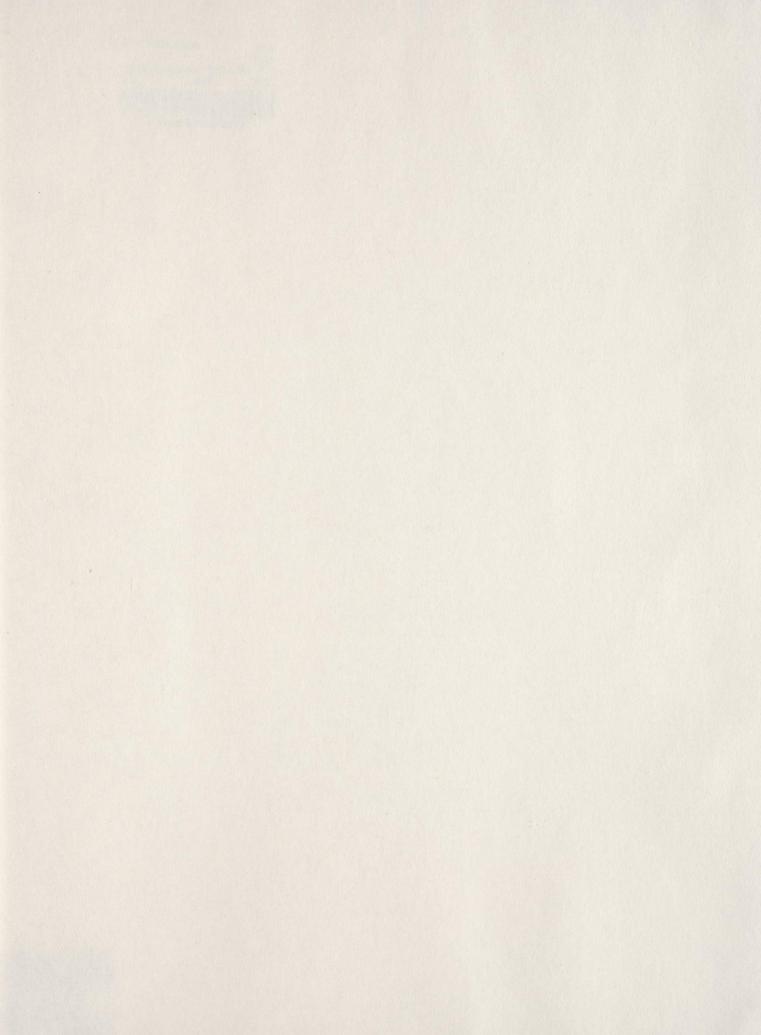
Charlene Ress

Also, thanks are due to their husbands, Art Nowicki and Clifford Kolpack, who, through their assistance, patience, and concern, helped Adela and Pearl to compile this Book.

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