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363 – Burlington 1835-1990
The First 150+ years
by
Burlington Historical Society

Contents:
Images, history, names of those of Burlington and surrounding areas.

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0 – 150 pages

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BURLINGTON

Wisconsin

The First 150+ Years



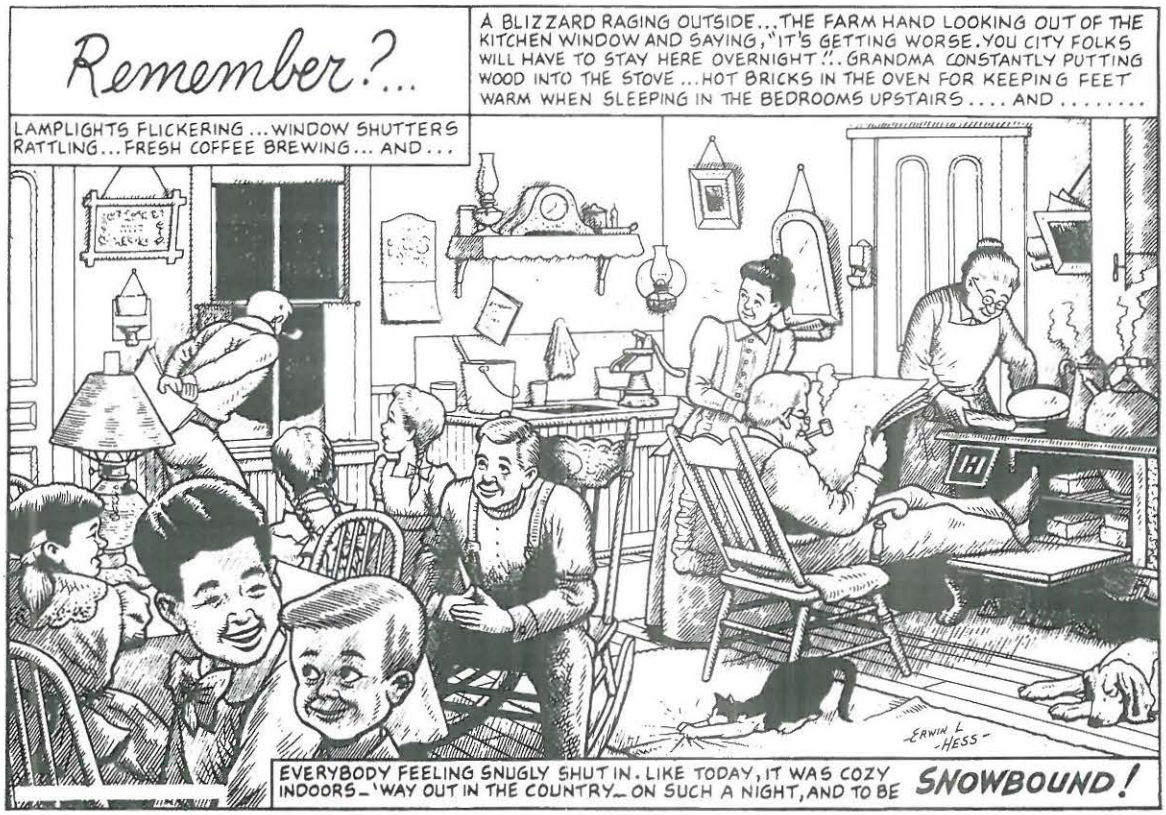
1835 - 1990

The late Erwin L. Hess, a cartoonist for the Burlington Pictorial in the 1960's, drew this cartoon of a Saturday night of typical home activities in the 1890's. The truth of the cartoon is found in the memoirs of Urban Prash (1894-1955), son of a Burlington druggist. He wrote, "Our bathtub sat in a corner of the huge kitchen. On Fridays and Saturdays, the cover came off, the copper boiler went on the stove, the pump and pail put to use, the old wood-coal range stoked up and then the baths began. The youngest first."



Cover Photo

A parade through downtown Burlington at the turn of the century. It is likely it was a July 4th parade, noting all of the flags in the photo. Note that all vehicles are horse-drawn, not an automobile in sight, on dirt streets. Also note that several of the buildings in the photo are still standing, but used for different purposes. The center of the picture looks up Milwaukee Ave. The street laterally through the picture is Chestnut St. The photo was taken with an Al Vista camera which was made in Burlington.



Erwin L. Hess cartoon of the Good Old Days.


JONES HOUSE

Preface

This book is a labor of love from Glenn Hintz, Jerome and James Hintz, publishers; Fran Meurer and Don Reed, writers; Joyce Galloway, artist; and Craig Middleton, photographer. It was edited, produced and printed by Hi-Liter Graphics, Inc. All receipts will go to an endowment fund for the Burlington Historical Society.

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Foreword

Burlington, Wisconsin — The First 150+ Years

For the Burlington Centennial observation in 1935, Francis Meurer, with Augusta Zwiebel aiding in research, compiled a history which has been used as source material for the first units of this book. In this year of 1990, he has revised and enlarged that history. Don Reed, then president of the Burlington Historical Society, has researched and written the growth and development of the city for the period 1935 to 1990.

Material in the book comes from various documents in possession of the Historical Society, from newspaper accounts and from the memories of some long-time residents. It is not meant to be an official historical record, merely a gathering of many of the incidents and events that took place from the 1830's to 1990 which the authors hope is informative, has some educational value and is entertaining.

City of Burlington Mayors, the Postmasters, and the church histories and pastors were updated to 1990. Official census figures since 1900, when Burlington became a city, were added. Histories of businesses who submitted information were also included.

Presented by the Burlington Historical Society,
Glenn L. Hintz Family and
Hi-Liter Graphics, Inc.

Dedication

This book is dedicated to the people of the Burlington area, past and present, whether they are mentioned in these pages or not, who have given of their lifetimes to make Burlington what it is today. Many persons throughout the years have made their marks on the history of the community in numerous ways, but they were not recorded and were lost with the passing of time and memory. May the future generations assume the commitment to carve their niches in history.

The Authors

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Chapter 1

The First Settlers and Before 1835-1840

Before telling the history of Burlington proper, some mention might be made of the Indians who moved through this vicinity. Although Indian mounds have been found about the city, there was no village in Burlington. Several important trails, however, passed through this section, leading to Mukwonago which was an important Indian settlement. There was a small Potawatomi village somewhere in the Town of Burlington in 1830 and Big Foot's village lay at the west end of Geneva Lake. These are the only known permanent abodes of Indians near here.

Of the various tribes of Indians which inhabited the Northwest Territory at the beginning of the 19th century, we are interested only in the Fox, Sac and Potawatomi tribes since the area that is now Burlington was a part of their domain.

The Fox and Sac owned the land bounded by the Wisconsin River on the North, the Mississippi River on the West, the Illinois River on the Southwest and the Fox River of Illinois on the East. This they ceded to the United States in November 1804 but were not required to vacate the land until the whites came to claim it. The land east of the Fox River was held by the Potawatomi and other tribes. Their claims were ended, but a treaty made at Chicago in 1833 allowed them to retain possession until 1836.

In 1831, Solomon Juneau was monarch of all he surveyed at the mouth of the Milwaukee River, while at Chicago there was a population of but 200 to 300, living in primitive housing under the shelter of Fort Dearborn. Scattered between these settlements were a few widely separated farms, managed in a crude, haphazard fashion. Squatters were more numerous than homesteaders, and at best very little attention was paid to metes and bounds.

It was not until the Black Hawk War of 1832 that settlers seeking homesites began to come in any number.

This war was not essential as a way of clearing the paths of civilization. The frontier settlement need not have crowded Black Hawk's village for some years to come. What it did accomplish in the way of territorial development, was to call national attention, in a marked manner, to the attractions and resources of an important section of the Northwest. The troops acted as explorers of large tracts, nothing of which had hitherto been definitely known among white men.

During and immediately following the war, newspapers of the eastern states were filled with descriptions, more or less florid, of the scenic charms of, and the possibilities for industries in the Rock River valley, the groves and prairies on every hand, and the park-like regions of the lakes. Books and pamphlets were issued from the press by the score, giving sketches of the war and accounts of the newly discovered paradise. They thoroughly advertised the area and at once attracted tides of immigration.

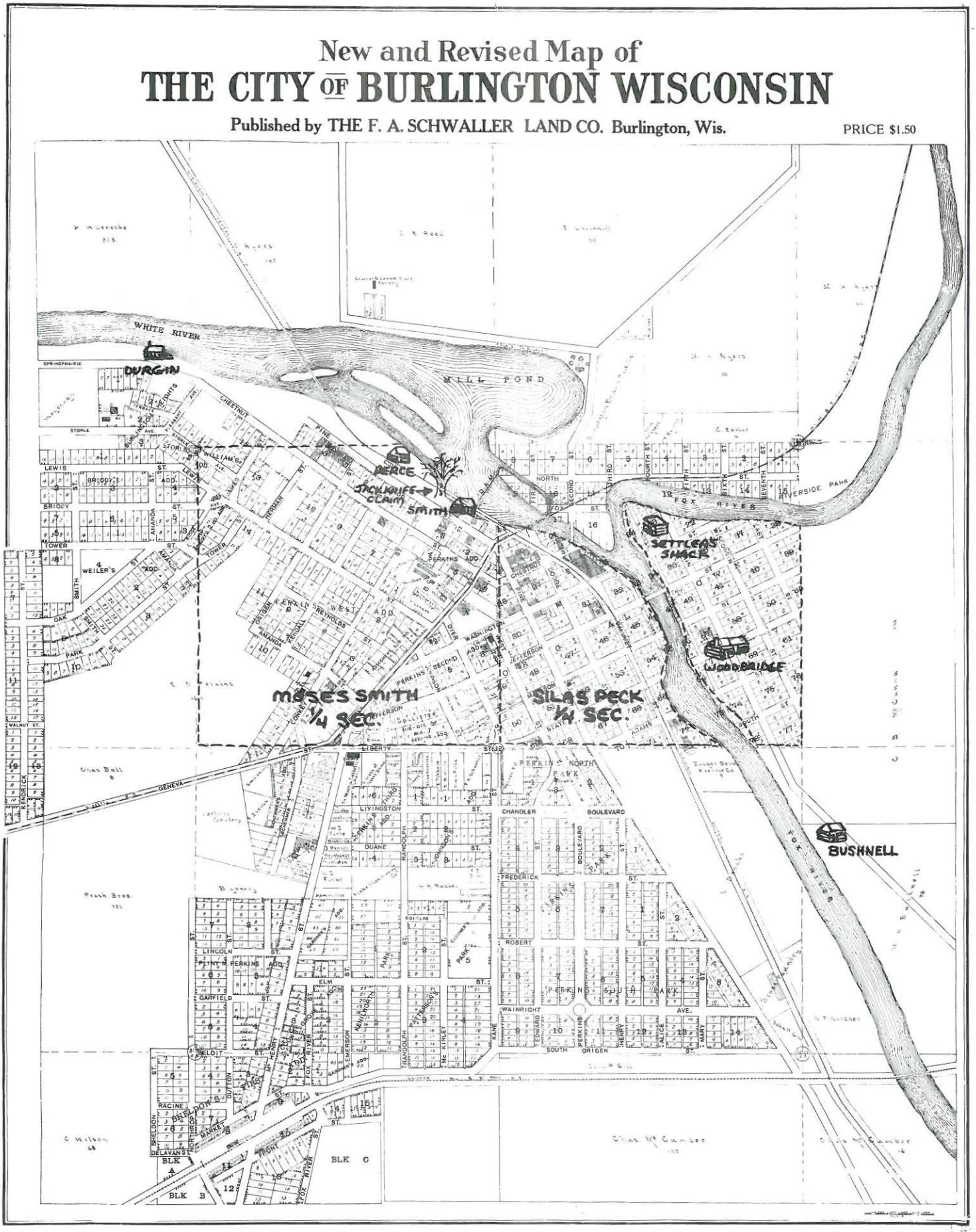
One such pamphlet, titled "The Emigrant's Handbook and Guide to Wisconsin" published in Milwaukee, was widely circulated in England in the mid 1850's.

It read in part: "The State of Wisconsin presents to the Farmer a combination of advantages in reference to its productions, which are scarcely to be met with in any other country. The contrast is very striking between the farm laborer in England and the farm laborer in the States. It is well known what miserable wages the farm laborer in England receives, ten shilling sterling being the average, whilst in Wisconsin there is not a single laborer on a farm who will receive less than from six shillings to a dollar per day, or twenty-four shillings sterling per week; at the same time enjoying the advantages of excellent schools for the education of their children, gratuitously; the consequence is that the farm laborers and their families are well fed, well dressed, well educated."

The early settlers who came to the northwest, were from two main sources — the nearer South and New England. Those from the south were chiefly hardy backwoodsmen who graduated from the Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana clearings and came west to better their fortunes, or because neighbors were getting numerous. They were poor, owning little more than their cabins, the scanty clothing they wore, a few rough tools, teams of scrub horses or yokes of oxen and some barnyard stock. They were for the most part, in the prime of life, enterprising, bold, daring, skilled sharpshooters and accustomed to exposure, privations and danger.

Those from New England were chiefly farmers whom the descriptions of clear, fertile prairies and oak openings had led them to desert their rocky, hillside farms, sons of mill owners who were seeking water power sites for their own factories, and land speculators in search of easy wealth.

It was not until the Black Hawk war of 1832 that settlers seeking homesites began to come in any number.



Overlay on map of Burlington showing cabins and Smith and Peck claims.

Who the first actual settler of Burlington was, is a question that has provoked much discussion. Some with good reason, believe Lemuel Smith was the first to arrive, others, with equally good reason, declare his older brother, Moses, was the first. The facts are these: Moses Smith and William Whiting were the first men to stake out a claim upon the present site of Burlington on December 15, 1835. On this visit, they made a "jack-knife" claim; that is, they carved their names and the date on trees on the land at or near the Standard Press building, 140 Commerce Street. They then left and returned on December 27 or 28 with Lemuel Smith and Benjamin Perce.

These four men built a shanty in the little grove near the river bend on the east side of the Fox River, in what is now Wehmhoff-Jucker Park. Then they built a claim cabin on the east side of the river on what is now Bushnell Park where Whiting decided to locate his claim and spent three days prospecting and surveying both sides of the river. Moses located a site where he could obtain water power for a mill. In May, he built a cabin at the site of his "jack-knife" claim. Lemuel Smith and Perce moved farther west. Perce claimed land where Voree was to be built, Lemuel took up a claim on the north bank of the White River on prairie land, rich and level, where there were no troublesome trees to deal with.

These statements are based on three references:

1. Lemuel Smith's letter to the Burlington Standard of December 28, 1872, which stated: "Mr. Editor, Thirty-seven years ago today, myself and three others arrived at the east bank of the Fox River, camping out the three succeeding nights in a dense thicket where Mr. Jucker's house now stands, weather cold but no snow. We, being the first comers, no claim marks were to be found. We spent three days in surveying and locating the present mill power. Built a claim cabin on the east side of the Fox River, made several claims, among them, my farm on Gardner's Prairie. Believing that I have established my claim as 'The Oldest Inhabitant,' I remain, L. R. Smith."

2. Judge C. E. Dyer's address at a meeting of the Old Settlers Society on February 22, 1871 stated: "About the 15th day of December, 1835, Moses Smith and William Whiting made the first mark at Burlington. Whiting claiming the east side of the river, and Smith on the west side, near where the Perkins' mill stood. They made what was called a "jack-knife" claim, by putting names and dates on a tree near where Muth's Brewery later stood, (that brewery later was remodeled and operated as the Malt House Theater by the Haylofters little theater group), built a rude log hut on the present farm of David Bushnell, spent three days prospecting land, surveying on both sides of the river and finally constructed a cabin on the west side."

3. The obituary of Moses Smith, written by James Strang in the Gospel Herald of June 14, 1849, stated, "In the fall of that year (1835), accompanied by his brother-in-law, Benjamin Perce, he (Moses Smith) explored the country on the Fox River and marked his claim where the village of Burlington was, it being the first claim on the Fox River."



Moses Smith's cabin. Probably the first post office. Still in existence in the 1870's.

The discrepancies between (1), Lemuel's failure to mention who accompanied him, and Strang's failure to mention Lemuel and Whiting may have resulted from ill-feeling between the men involved because Moses and Perce were members of the Mormon church while Lemuel was not.

Moses and Lemuel Smith were descendants of Samuel Smith, who came to Boston in 1714 from England. Religious differences led him to leave Boston and move to Hadsly, Massachusetts. Here Aaron Smith, the father of Moses and Lemuel, was born. At the time of the Revolutionary War, Aaron fought under Washington and was with the army at Valley Forge that awful winter.

After the war, the spirit of adventure led him to the frontier of civilization in New York. He lived there for several years and raised a family. Moses, Aaron, Jr. and Lemuel were born there. The family followed the frontier through Ohio to Wisconsin. In Ohio, the Smith and Perce families were neighbors and Moses married a sister of Benjamin. Moses and Aaron, Jr. and Benjamin Perce were ardent Mormons and had been since 1832.

As related before, Moses and Lemuel came to Burlington in 1835. Their parents came in 1836, probably during the later part of the year, and lived the rest of their lives here. Aaron, Sr. died September 23, 1838 and his wife Lydia, shortly thereafter.

An interesting consequence of their burial might be told here. At the time of their deaths, Moses owned land in the area off Milwaukee Avenue and

Amanda Street. He set aside an acre of ground for their graves and surrounded it with a wooden fence. During a later winter, this fence disappeared up someone's chimney and as time went by, the acre set aside was forgotten. This caused surveyors much confusion later when the most careful surveys would always show an exact one acre error. Finally, of course, the cause was discovered but the exact location of the missing piece of ground was never found.

Spring brought more members to the incipient community. Nathan Darling took up a claim for Nelson R. Norton on what, until recently, was the Edgewood Farm, at the intersection of Highway 11 and County Trunk W. Bostwick Beardsley is mentioned as being here, but we have no more about him. Palmer Gardner established a claim to the West of Lemuel Smith's land and the vicinity became known as Gardner's Prairie, and referred to later as the John Wilson farm. In March, George Bushnell located on the north shore of Brown's Lake at the site of the future Hockings Resort. Later, it became Liggett's Royal Palms, The Antlers, and more recently, the Stepping Stone. Because of the lack of excitement and his desire for better lands and living conditions, he left a short time later, going to Illinois. In May, James Nelson arrived and built a cabin and blacksmith shop near the south end of the Beineman Road bridge on West Chestnut Street.



During the summer of 1836, the arrivals were more numerous and you will notice from their names, they were mainly "Yankees." They came, for the most part, from New England by way of the Great Lakes.

During the summer of 1936, the arrivals were more numerous. They were mostly "Yankees" that came for the most part from New England by way of the Great Lakes.

Benjamin Perce moved back to "town" in June and built a log building for a store (but did not use it as such) on the site of the Burlington Feed Company just west of Moses Smith's cabin. Silas Peck arrived with his family and put up a cabin adjoining Perce's building. Jared and Charles Fox arrived. Charles was just 15 years old.

In August, Origen Perkins came to the settlement, made his claims and built a log cabin near the ball park. He then returned to his house in Joliet, Illinois for the winter. In the spring, he returned to his claim. Shortly thereafter, Dr. Edward G. Dyer, Origen's brother-in-law, arrived at the cabin to help in the claim development.

In a story of his life, Dr. Dyer recalled: "I arrived in Foxville about sundown. In (Origen's) rough shanty, about 10 x 12 feet, made of logs and pucheons split out of logs as substitutes for boards, I met the following persons, Origen Perkins and his hired man, Fletcher Lyon and his wife and small child, a Miss Barnes, a niece, and a young man named Mallony, seven persons in all. I made the eighth.

"There was no chimney, except a hole for smoke, which most of the time refused to go up through it. The fire was in one corner on the ground, with a flat stone for a chimney back. There I stayed about five weeks, getting myself smoked up like all the rest till we resembled Indians."

The year 1836 was a wild time of land speculation. Speculators ranged widely, looking for cheap land to become possible village sites, divided into lots to be sold at great profits. Claim jumping was frequent.

Land claims could be made and land claims could be sold, but no ownership of land could be definite until that land was bought at the Milwaukee Land Sales Office which was opened in 1839. In the three years between Smith's and Whiting's claims, in December 1835, and the sales at the land office in January 1839, conflicts could arise. One such conflict involved Enoch Woodbridge and David Bushnell.

In July 1836, David Bushnell bought William Whiting's claim to an area of land east of the Fox River, known later as the "Canada" section of Burlington. While Bushnell was in the East to get his family, Woodbridge built a log cabin on the land, jumping Bushnell's claim. David did not fight it, but let his claim go and settled a bit farther south on the land later named Bushnell Park.

Another conflict involved Woodbridge and Silas Peck. Daniel Rork, coming to the area in July 1836, claimed land between Moses Smith's claim and the west bank of the Fox River. Roughly, this would be the area from the White River near the dam, south to the Lincoln monument and east to the Fox River. In December 1836, Silas Peck bought Rork's claim to this area for $200. How Woodbridge managed it, we do not know, but Peck signed an agreement obligating himself to buy the land at the forthcoming land sales in Milwaukee and turn over to Woodbridge 9/16ths of the land or forfeit the sum of $10,000. Peck fulfilled his obligation to Woodbridge, but this was not the end of Peck's dealings in Burlington.

Ownership of land could not yet be recorded because the land had not been surveyed and put upon the market. But a man could claim up to a quarter section of land, live on the lot thirty days, cut so many rails, plow so many furrows to entitle him to that claim. Since government lines had not yet been established, it often happened that two men would locate on the same quarter section or, on occasion, one man would attempt to take forcibly a claim already improved and settled upon by another. Since all the settlers were, in fact, trespassers, the law of the land could not settle these conflicting claims. As a consequence, a mass meeting was held at Racine on June 6, 1838 to organize the Settlers Claim Society. A constitution was adopted to settle disputes and protect legitimate claims.

It provided that if a man claimed one quarter section, he must improve and cultivate at least three

acres within six months from the time of entering his claim and within one year, build a house suitable for a family, or, instead of building a house, cultivate three acres more on his claim. If his claim was situated in woodland, he must clear off the down timber and brush and all trees two inches in diameter and under, and enclose the requisite quantity of land with a good fence. If his claim laid on a prairie, he must enclose the proper quantity with a good fence and plough and put in a crop or plant in part and make hay in part.

The Society acted against claim jumpers. On one occasion, they engaged in a skirmish that was long remembered as the "Battle of Burlington." A dozen hardy pioneers took part in the fight but no one was seriously wounded. Timothy Woodbridge menaced John Bullen with an axe. William Curtis tried to kill Silas Peck, but firing blindly, shot Norman Dyer in the leg. After the shooting, Curtis fled to Illinois, where he was captured and held for trial at Springfield. His trial was postponed as he gave straw bail, and was never heard from again.

Enoch Woodbridge proceeded to solidify his hold on the land he acquired from Silas Peck. he engaged E. D. Putnam of Southport (Kenosha) to supervise the surveying and laying out of lots. Previous to 1836, a road was staked out from Racine to the forks of the rivers, but there had been none from Southport. On one of his trips to the Woodbridge job, Putnam loaded a wagon with stakes and with a horse and compass, he staked out a road on a straight line from Southport. (State Highway 142 from Burlington to Kenosha generally follows Putnam's route.) Putnam also at this time built a log house nineteen feet square, east of one Woodbridge built and filled that space between with framework. This made quite a commodious house for the time and, besides serving Putnam as living quarters, was used by him as a trading shop. He lived there until 1838 when he returned to Marshfield, Vermont.

In a letter dated April 13, 1885, sent to the "Standard," Putnam gave his own account of the surveying and naming of Woodbridge's village.

"I commenced the work of laying out the quarter section into village lots. I hired Elder Jason Lothrop of Kenosha as surveyor and Orson V. Thropp, Snooh and a young man by the name of Jacquith, to assist. We laid out the whole quarter section into lots 5 by 6 rods, I think, and a neat map of the place was made by Mr. Lothrop after which the proprietors were notified that the work was done. The proprietors, among whom were Charles Durkee, Dr. Walker, Samuel Ressique, Eldridge A. Ayers, E. R. Huginin **(Author's Note: Ressique and Huginin had been involved in claim jumping skirmishes in the Kenosha area.)** and others from Kenosha to the number of about 20 came out to see the place and name it. They brought with them M. G. Tobey and wife, who kept a hotel in Kenosha, to cater for the company. They brought with them all the good things to eat that could be obtained in Kenosha, and with some fine prairie chicken, which the boys shot, and some fish caught from the river, Mr. Tobey got up a dinner that would do honor to any hotel. I had cleaned out the chips and shavings from the house, built a table which was loaded down with eatables, and a company of 25 sat down to the best dinner probably ever got up in that part of the country. After dinner was over, the subject of naming the town was discussed and a name proposed. Now Mr. Woodbridge (chairman) said that inasmuch as I had done all that had been done there, I ought to have the honor of naming the place. Mr. Woodbridge's proposition was adopted by unanimous vote. I was taken wholly by surprise, as I had not even thought of a name, but after a moment's thought, I said that the State of Vermont, from which I came, had one town celebrated above all others for the beauty of its location and scenery. I would propose the name of the town — Burlington — as the name for this new town. The question was then put, 'Shall this town be called Burlington as proposed?' It was decided in the affirmative by a unanimous vote and three rousing cheers were given for Burlington."

The "neat map" was never recorded, Woodbridge's interest in the land passed on to Samuel Ressique, Burnam Webster and E. R. Huginin. The name of the post office remained Foxville until 1839 and Mr. Woodbridge fades away from our history.

Previous to this time, the settlement around the junction of the Fox and White Rivers was called "Lower Forks" and the area around the junction of the White River and Honey Creek was called "Upper Forks."

Mail was taken once a week from Racine to Mineral Point. Moses Smith, postmaster in 1837, distributed the Foxville mail from his log cabin.

One can easily imagine how eagerly this service was welcomed by men so out of contact with their people "back east." Once in the early days, David Bushnell received news that a letter from relatives in Oneida County, New York, had arrived for him. However, there was a postage of 25 cents due and with no money in the house, young David, it was said, immediately went out to get a job and earned the quarter so he might have the news which the letter contained. We wonder whether Moses Smith was postmaster at that time.

Living conditions during those early years were far from easy. The winter was bitter cold and because of the deceptive clarity of the atmosphere, many a nose was nipped before the men realized the severity of the cold. Just keeping warm was difficult. If a cabin had a fireplace that held a good fire, the air to feed it would come drafting from chinks around doors and windows.

It was not easy to get an adequate food supply.



"From Vermont, from which I came, there was one town celebrated above all others for the beauty of its location. I would propose the name of the town— Burlington." E.D. Putnam

Game was abundant if you had the powder and shot, traps or snares to get it. Prairie wolves roamed the area. Deer were numerous. In the winter of 1839, a hundred and five of them by actual count, forded the Fox River near David Bushnell's claim. Squirrels were everywhere. There were wild turkeys. On frosty, fall mornings, sandhill cranes gathered in great numbers, preparing to fly to southern wintering grounds. But staples like flour, salt, and lard were scarce and high in price. Provisions were shipped from New York and Michigan through the lakes in schooners and landed at different Lake Michigan ports. Merchandise would be brought from Chicago. Long, slow journeys did not improve the quality of shipments and some Eastern merchants were suspected of sending only provisions that could not be sold at home.

One man of small means and a large family it was said, bought a barrel of flour in Racine for $18. He found that a six inch depth of flour had already been taken out and the rest was dry and musty. Even after it had been pounded and sifted before use, the flour made the people ill. Another account relates how Messrs. Strong and Ives of Racine sent to Chicago for two barrels of pork and when opened they were found to contain nothing but brine and pig tails with a section of backbone upon which was a pound or so of meat.

Prices were high and kept up until the fall of 1837 when crops were harvested. Flour at Southport (Kenosha) was $15 a barrel, pork $25 a barrel, butter 50 cents a pound, cheese and ham 15 to 30 cents a pound. One must remember that this was at a time when good pay for a man was $1.50 to $2.00 a day.

Merchant William Meadows exchanged one-quarter pound of $1.50 a pound tea for a half cord of wood that took four men and one axe all day to cut. To these prices E. D. Putnam, at his trading shop, would have to add the one dollar per hundred pounds cost to bring his goods by freight wagon from Southport.



Palmer Gardner returning home with live coals in a leather bucket to relight his home fire. Coals burned through the bucket which meant a long, cold return for more.

In the spring of 1837, Putnam bought seed potatoes at $1.25 a bushel from Thomas J. Eayers and Rowland Cook, who had towed a boat load up the Fox River from Illinois. He planted them on a small island in the Fox River a little below the mouth of the White River. Indians had cultivated the island. Everything went well until almost harvest time when one day he found about a dozen hogs on the island. They had harvested the entire crop and left him nothing but tops.

Those hogs were part of a drove of 300 hogs bought in Joliet, Illinois, by Ephriam Perkins and driven up. He let them run on the prairie and in the oak openings and pick up their own living.

Matches too, we take quite for granted now, but at the time, the lack of them meant endless trouble.

Moses Smith, one wild, windy night, welcomed into his farm cabin Gardner and Salisbury, who had walked over from Gardner's Prairie to borrow coals. Salisbury, having fallen into the icy river, remained at Smith's to dry his clothing and Gardner started homeward with a pail of glowing coals. On his way homeward, he thought the pail seemed light. The bottom of the bucket, which had been made of leather, had been burned through and the coals were gone. He returned, borrowed more coals in an iron kettle and succeeded in reaching home with them, and a good comfortable fire greeted Salisbury upon his return home.

So far, most of the settlers mentioned, had come to a land which, although a part of the United States, was still an ungoverened wilderness. On April 20, 1836, however, by an act of Congress, the Wisconsin Territory was established. This land included the area which formed the states of Wisconsin, Iowa, Minnesota and much of North and South Dakota. Counties were defined.

Milwaukee County, at that time, included the present Racine, Kenosha, Rock, Jefferson, Waukesha, Walworth and Milwaukee counties and portions of Green, Dane, Washington, Ozaukee, Dodge and Columbia counties. Racine County was separated from the rest on December 7, 1836. At this time, it included Kenosha County.

The years 1837 to 1839 were the years of the real beginning of civic life in our community. The first officers for the newly established Racine County were formally chosen on April 4, 1837 and, included from this vicinity, were Lemuel Smith, assessor; Benjamin Perce, school commissioner; and Silas Peck, constable. Our settlement became Foxville officially when a post office was created on March 21, 1837 with Moses Smith as postmaster.

The next political division occurred on January 2, 1838 when Rochester township, including all of Racine County west of Mt. Pleasant, was established.

On March 9, 1839, Burlington township, including what is the Town of Dover and much of Brighton, was separated from Rochester. For

the precinct of Foxville, the voting place was the house of Ruel Nims. Election judges were Origen Perkins, Silas Peck, Stephen Bushnell. Origen Perkins was the Justice of Peace.

(Author's Note: Charles E. Dyer in his "Old Settler's Society" address writes: "On one occasion, a man called on Mr. Perkins for a warrant with which to make a complaint. He found Perkins digging a ditch. The complaint must be made then and there, but the justice had neither paper, pen or ink. Perhaps Mr. Perkins did not deem the offense a very grave one, but in the emergency of the case, he pulled off one of his boots, took from his pocket a piece of chalk, wrote the complainants statement on the boot leg, made him hold up his hand and swear to it, and then told him he would issue a warrant as soon as he went to the house.)

Unfortunately, we have no record of the interesting discussions that must have taken place at the town meeting when those early townsmen visualized the growth of their small village into a large manufacturing city.

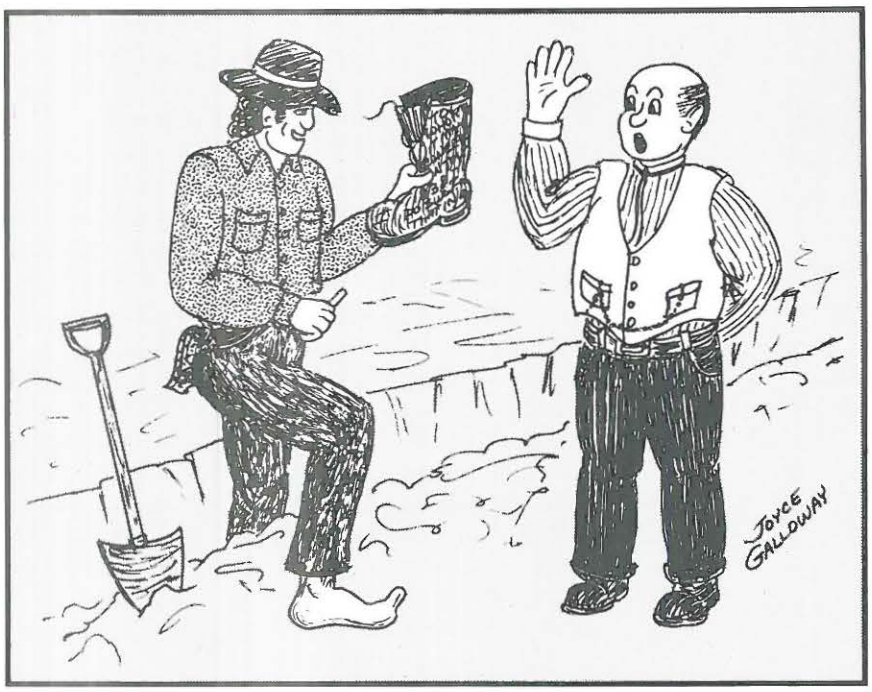
With such dreams before them, Moses Smith and Samuel C. Vaughn began the development of millsites. They began construction of a dam and an "up and down" sawmill. Dams then were made of rocks and logs and were threatened every spring by high water.

The sawmill is said to have been the first frame building in the village. The dam and mill were only partially completed when Vaughn and Smith dissolved partnership and Vaughn moved to Spring Prairie, on Sugar Creek, and erected a sawmill there.

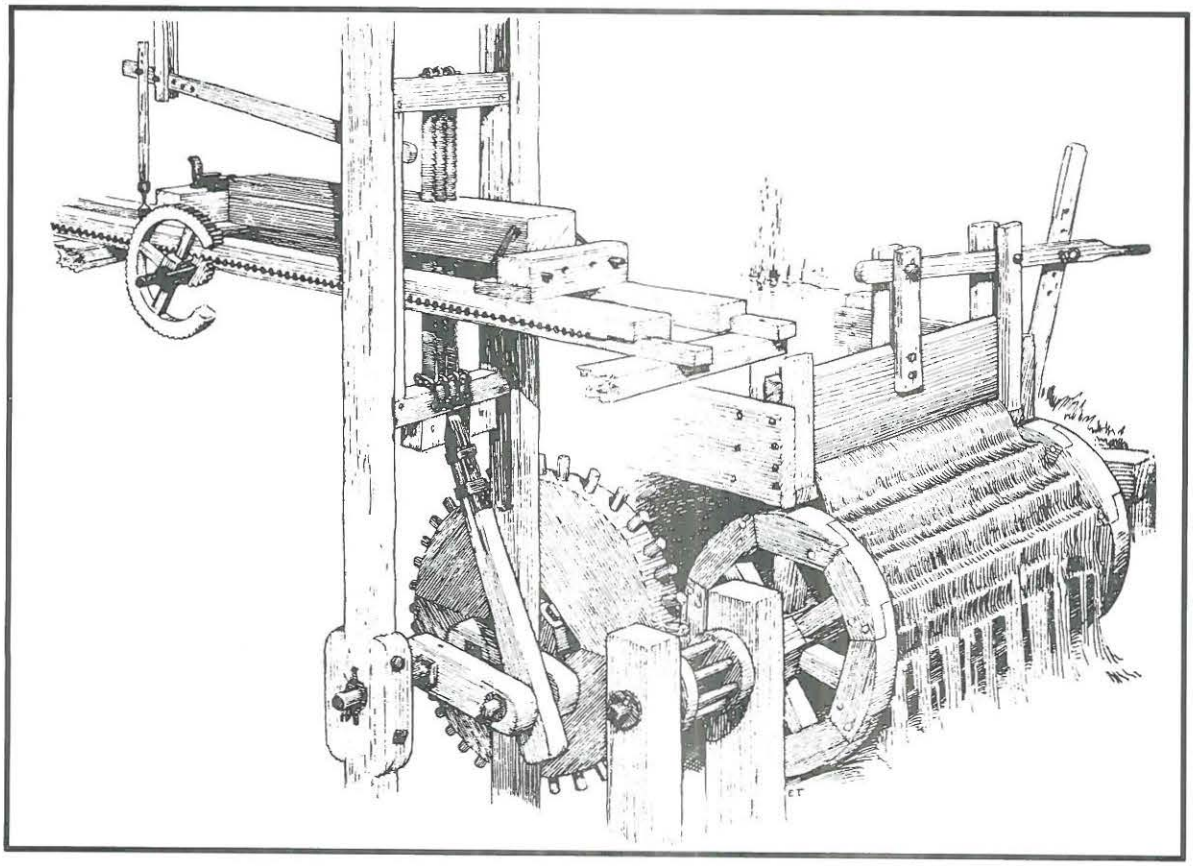
In April or May of 1837, Pliny Perkins and his father, Ephriam, moved to town from Joliet, Illinois, and purchased the unfinished dam and mill.

(Author's Note: The Perkins family dates its history back to the days of the Pilgrim Fathers in the 17th century and the coat of arms is still in the family.)

The dam and sawmill were soon completed. They also built a small, frame, grist mill, known as a



Justice of the Peace Origen Perkins, too busy to make out a legal warrant, chalked the complaint on his boot and had the complainant swear to it.



Working drawing of an up and down sawmill, such as built by Moses Smith.

three-run mill, two for wheat flour and one for grinding corn for feed. That mill probably ground the first crop of grain harvested in the township, that grown by Moses Smith in the summer of 1837 in a plot of ground where the Soo Line depot stood. Also in it was ground the first flour shipped from Wisconsin to New York. The flour was hauled to Kenosha by oxen for shipment to New York and European countries. Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha all depended upon Burlington for their flour supply.

The wagons used to haul grain were most cumbersome vehicles. They had wheels of solid wood with holes bored through the center for the axles. The floors consisted of rough wood slabs. Grist was also hauled on stone boats, usually simply a crotch of a tree with slabs of wood lain across and held down by pegs. To this was harnessed a yoke of two oxen. Drivers were clad in blue shirts and a pair of pants reaching halfway to the ankles, and a straw hat, minus the brim. They were armed with a ten or twelve whipstock having a lash of equal length attached. The man who owned a wagon was quite a figure in the community and was always willing to oblige his neighbors by letting out the wagon for trips to Racine or Kenosha at 25 cents a day, 50 cents for the two days round trip.

Pliny Perkins also had a general stock of merchandise in the log house Benjamin Perce had built for a store and continued business there for about a year. Game was plentiful around the village and a large part of his trade was in powder, lead and shot, taking in exhange muskrat and other skins.



The wagons used to haul grain were most cumbersome vehicles. They had wheels of solid wood with holes bored through the center for the axles.

Following the establishment of sawmills and grist mills, other businesses would be started, catering to farmers hauling in grain and hauling out sawn boards. Henry Edmunds opened the first blacksmith shop in 1838. In 1840, John W. Edmunds settled in town and became its first wagon maker.

Lewis Royce arrived on September 1, 1837, and soon afterward started a lime kiln to supply the plaster for chinking logs in those first log cabins. During his first year, he burned 300 bushels of lime. Royce was a lawyer but found his lime kiln more rewarding than practicing his profession. His house stood west of where the St. Paul Railroad Depot was later built. Squire Royce, as he was called, made out all the legal papers of the town, and no one could read them after they were written. Once the postmaster showed him a letter he had previously mailed and asked him to read the address. Royce asked, "What damned fool wrote that?"

(Author's Note: A friend wrote of him, "Lewis Royce was a legal 'dryasdust.' If a person consulted him on some modern, everyday question of contract or trespass or mill-dam rights or any other question, he took you back to the Pundents; brought you down to Coke on Littleton, then Blackstone; then Lord Hardwicke and finally the Supreme Court of Vermont, so that at the end of the interview, a person felt like a man who had lived in the middle ages and had gone through the process of evolution that would be new even to Darwin. He was a lawyer of great learning, lacking the practical application of his learning to professional work. He was a legal antiquary and if we could imagine such a thing as a law museum, wherein there might be exhibited personified curiosities of the law, our good friend would be entitled to a first place among the most antique specimens.")

During the first few years of any community's life, a man's house was not his castle but a tavern where every wayfarer could expect lodging. The first established public house for travelers was opened by Ruel Nims 1837. He brought his family on January 10, 1837, took over the unfinished cabin Woodbridge had started. It was a building with a mud and sticks chimney and a shock roof which did not completely cover the building, an Indian blanket being spread over the remaining aperture. The floor was dirt except one portion which had been covered with shocks. He kept it only a short time, however, selling in that year to Stephen Bushnell, a brother of David and George, who continued in the hotel business.

Bushnell soon had a competitor. In 1839, Pliny Perkins and Hugh McLaughlin built a frame structure at the southeast corner of Chestnut Street and Milwaukee Avenue. The west half of the building was used for a store and the rest for a hotel which was for several years kept by McLaughlin. The completion of the building at the end of the year was signalized by a grand New Year's Eve ball.

(Author's Note: In later years, the site would be occupied by the Jones House and the Badger Hotel.)

During the summer and fall of 1837, the county, realizing that the development of this region depended upon opening up of roads, a system of road surveys was begun. In June, pathmasters were elected to supervise the care and maintenance of county roads and Origen Perkins was assigned Town 3, Range 19. The townsmen of Foxville cooperated in this effort by building a bridge across the Fox River — the first bridge to span the Fox. It crossed the river at the foot of Jefferson Street.

During the late 1830's, settlers came in great numbers. Origen Perkins settled here permanently in 1837, bringing his family to the log house he had built the year before. Not satisfied with these accommodations, he soon built a new house near where the Lincoln monument would be erected.

(Author's Note: The ship monument on the McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home property marks what Origen's son, Frederick, claimed



The first Burlington hotel after it was moved from the corner of Chestnut Street and Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue) to make way for the Jones House. It was then used as a rooming house.

was the site of the first frame house in Burlington.)

In 1837, Daniel and Peter Campbell came to the area, settling in Gardner's Prairie. They are mentioned because at the first prayer meeting held in the vicinity of the Daniel's house on May 27 of that year, Lemuel Smith met Daniel's daughter, Melissa. It was an immediate romance, but because Melissa was only 12 then, they waited four years before they were married.

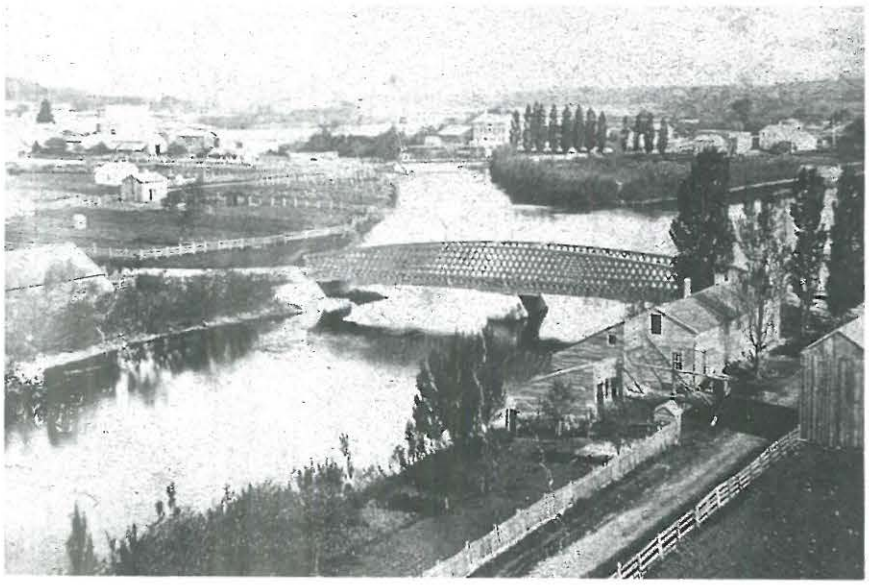
In 1838, Liberty Fiske, a friend of David Bushnell arrived. Nelson R. Norton settled on his claim made by Darling two years before and built a frame house with lumber brought from Chicago. In Chicago, Norton had built the first bridge across the Chicago River.

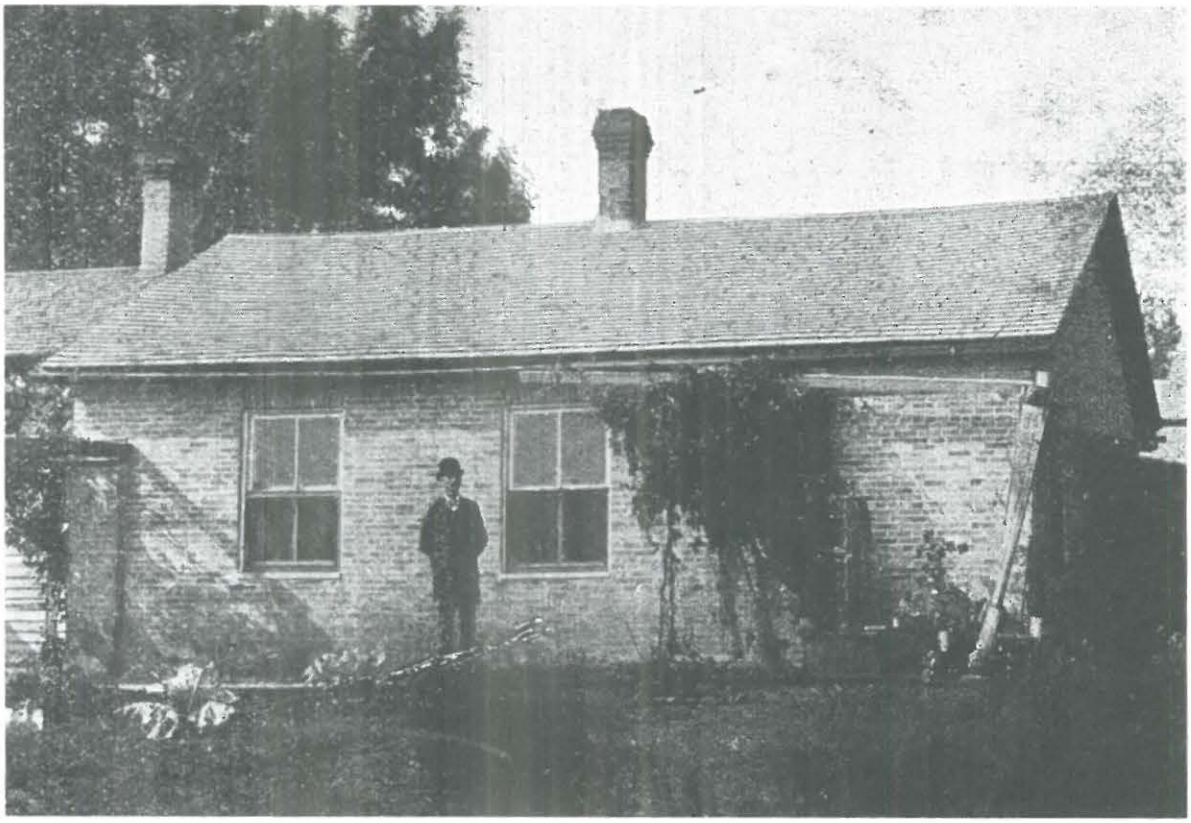
Ephriam Sawyer came on May 14, 1838, and made a claim to the land about three miles south of Highway 83. At the land sales later, he bought 275 acres. He was rather prosperous for a pioneer and on October 15, 1840, he brought his young bride, Gustava Cornelia Harrington, to his cabin which was well stocked with provisions and many luxuries — real bone handles knives and forks, really white earthenware dishes for their table, and soft woolen blankets for their bed. At least it was to have been so stocked, but it happened that while Ephriam was away on the important business of getting married, he was entertaining uninvited guests at home. A straggling band of Indians stopped at the lonely cabin, found things to their liking, and left behind them only those things for which they had no use. Thus it was a very dirty, disorderly cabin to which the bride came. Gustava's dowry, consisting of a used iron pot and a feather bed, was very welcome. In 1914, a house was built on this property made of Milwaukee (Cream City) brick.

Richard Brown, Thomas Toombs, George Bachellor and L. O. Whitman came in 1839. Clark Norton joined his brother and together they claimed land on both sides of the road and the shore land of Norton's Lake, officially called Rockland Lake.

Clark resided in the area of what has become known as the Uhen farm, while his brother had his cabin on the Edgewood Farm, at Highway 11 and County Trunk W.

The wooden bridge, the first across the Fox River at Jefferson Street, built in 1837. Picture taken from atop Muth's Brewery.





The first building for school purposes, on a lot deeded by Silas Peck to School District No. 1. The Burlington Historical Society rescued, moved and restored this building in 1986.

Dr. Edward G. Dyer, the first physician to come, brought his family on the 20th of June 1839.

A noteworthy "first" celebration was the marriage of Miss Alvira Hayes and William McLaughlin early in 1837. The guests at the wedding breakfast ate, among other things, a wedding cake, the shortening for which was the fat rendered from a string of Red Horse fish furnished by the groom. The young couple's happiness was short lived, however, for only a year after marriage, Mrs. McLaughlin died during an epidemic of congestive fever and was buried west of the village near the Racine-Walworth county line. This is believed to be the first death to occur in the community.

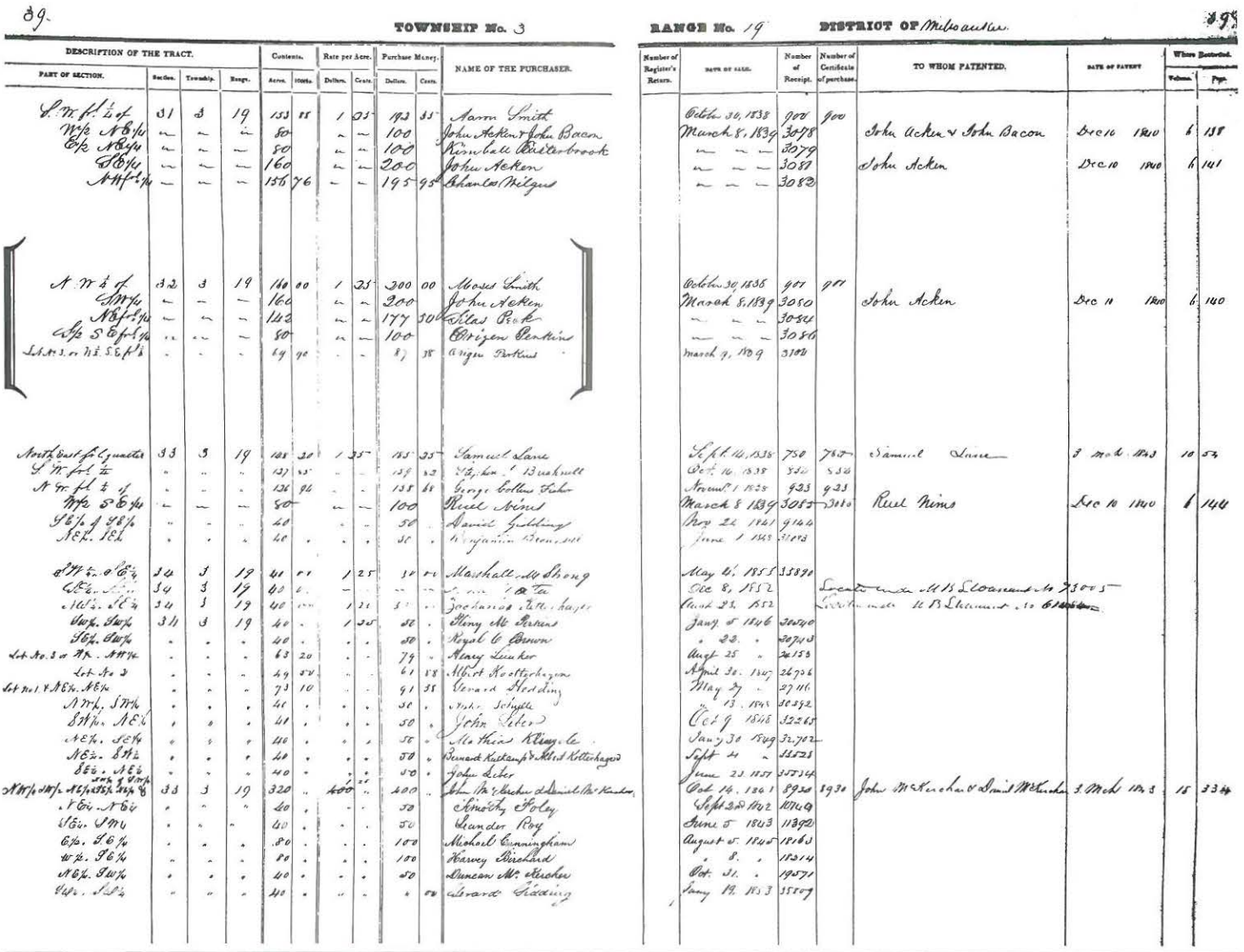
There is some controversy regarding the first birth. To Mr. and Mrs. George Newman, a son is said to have been born in June 1837. However, Charles Loomis, born in the fall of 1838, is generally credited with this distinction.

New Englanders were noted for their keen appreciation of the importance of education and the transplanted New Englanders were no exception. Less than three years after the first settlers arrived, a school was started. In 1838, Lawyer Royce engaged Miss Sarah Bacon to teach a small group of pupils in a sixteen foot square log cabin on a plot of land across the street from the mill site. Origen Perkin's son, Frederick; Ruel Nim's son, Franklin; Melissa Campbell (who later became Mrs. Lemuel Smith) were three of her pupils. Miss Bacon must have held a summer session, for in the fall, William Penn Lyon was hired to teach six pupils during the following winter.

Perhaps because the log cabin was too uncomfortable in winter or because there were more pupils, the next school session was held in a building across the millpond. A Mrs. Clark, sister of Charles J. Jones, aunt of Charles A. Jones, taught that sesson.

Education advanced in 1839 when Silas Peck deeded to School District #1, lot five in the block bounded by Pine, Jefferson, Dodge and Madison streets for a consideration of $20. In the next year a fine, new, one-room, 22 by 28 foot brick school house was built. For fifteen years, it was Foxville's uncertain seat of learning. Those early sessions could be quite irregular. Village youngsters might be faithful in attendance, but country children could be needed for field work in the fall and spring. In winter, weather could cut attendance. Teachers were faced with the scarcity of books and supplies. Lorenzo Eastman, Amos Eastman, Aniplias Chamberlain, Mrs. Beveridge, Charles Jones (who, in 1860, was the proprietor of the Jones House Hotel) and William Penn Lyons (who became Justice of the Supreme Court of Wisconsin) were some of the early teachers.

Harriet Dyer Norton wrote: "This schoolhouse was simply planned and constructed and tradition records the discomforts of the long hard benches, from which dangled innocent, short legs, of smoking stoves, aching fingers, frozen dinner pails and discipline as tough as the hickory switch which embodied authority. Mr. Lyon read law and taught school simultaneously and was known to his pupils as an earnest, kind, faithful teacher whose Quaker



89. TOWNSHIP No. 3 RANGE No. 19 DISTRICT OF Milwaukee 89

DESCRIPTION OF THE TRACT. Part of Section.	Section.	Township.	Range.	Contents. Acres.	Hundredths.	Rate per Acre. Dollars.	Cents.	Purchase Money. Dollars.	Cents.	NAME OF THE PURCHASER.	Number of Register's Return.	Date of Sale.	Number of Receipt.	Number of Certificate of purchase.	TO WHOM PATENTED.	Date of Patent	Where Recorded. Volume.	Page.
S.W. fr. ¼ of	31	3	19	153	88	1	25	193	85	Aaron Smith		October 30, 1838	900	900				
W½ of N.E. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		John Acken & John Bacon		March 8, 1839	3078		John Acken & John Bacon	Dec 10 1840	6	138
E½ of N.E. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		Kimball Butterbrook		" " "	3079					
S.E. ¼	"	"	"	160		"	"	200		John Acken		" " "	3087		John Acken	Dec 10 1840	6	141
N.W. fr. ¼	"	"	"	156	76	"	"	195	95	Charles Melgus		" " "	3082					
[																		
N.W. ¼ of	32	3	19	160	00	1	25	200	00	Moses Smith		October 30 1838	901	901				
S.W. ¼	"	"	"	160		"	"	200		John Acken		March 8, 1839	3080		John Acken	Dec 11 1840	6	140
N.E. fr. ¼	"	"	"	142		"	"	177	50	Silas Peck		" " "	3081					
E½ S.E. fr. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		Orrizen Perkins		" " "	3086					
Lot No 3 of N.E. S.E. fr. ¼	"	"	"	49	90	"	"	61	38	Orrizen Perkins		March 9, 1839	3106					
]																		
North East fr. Quarter	33	3	19	165	20	1	25	185	25	Samuel Lane		Sept. 14, 1838	750	767	Samuel Lane	3 Mch 1843	10	54
S.W. fr. ¼	"	"	"	137	85	"	"	159	62	Stephen J. Bushnell		Oct. 16 1838	850	850				
N.W. fr. ¼ of	"	"	"	136	96	"	"	155	66	George Collins Fisher		November 1 1838	923	923				
W½ of S.E. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		Reed Sims		March 8 1839	3085	3110	Reed Sims	Dec 10 1840	6	146
E½ of S.E. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Daniel Goldsmith		Nov 22 1841	9144					
N.E. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Benjamin Brown		June 1 1843	21178					
S.W. ¼ of S.E. ¼	34	3	19	41	01	1	25	51	26	Marshall & Strong		May 4, 1855	33890					
S.E. ¼	34	3	19	40						[illegible]		Dec 8, 1852			Certificate No 13005			
N.E. ¼	34	3	19	40		1	25	51		Zachariah Fitch Hayes		March 23, 1852			Certificate No B Skannet No 6			
W½ of S.W. ¼	34	3	19	40		1	25	50		Pliny M. Peters		Jany 5 1846	30590					
E½ of S.W. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Royal C Brown		" 22 "	30743					
Lot No 3 of N.W. ¼	"	"	"	63	20	"	"	79		Mary Lenker		August 25 "	26158					
Lot No 2	"	"	"	49	50	"	"	61	88	Albert Koolterbeyan		August 30 1847	26706					
Lot No 1 & N.E. ¼ N.E. ¼	"	"	"	73	10	"	"	91	38	Gerard Hedding		May 27 "	27116					
N.W. ¼ S.W. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Peter Schiffle		" 13 1845	30392					
S.W. ¼ N.E. ¼	"	"	"	41		"	"	50		John Leber		Oct 9 1848	32265					
N.E. ¼ S.E. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Mathias Klingele		Jany 30 1849	32702					
N.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Bernard Kuttenkamp & Mildred Kottenkayer		Sept 11 "	33725					
S.E. ¼ N.E. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		John Leber		June 23 1851	35754					
N.W. ¼ & W½ of N.E. ¼ of S.W. ¼ & S.W. ¼ of N.W. ¼	33	3	19	320		400		400		John McKechan & Daniel McKechan		Oct 14, 1841	8930	1930	John McKechan & Daniel McKechan	3 Mch 1843	15	334
N.E. ¼ N.W. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Timothy Foley		Sept 2nd 1842	11749					
W½ of S.W. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Saunder Roy		June 5 1843	13892					
E½ of S.E. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		Michael Cunningham		August 5 1845	18163					
W½ of S.E. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		Harvey Birchard		" 8 "	18314					
N.E. ¼ S.W. ¼	"	"	"	40		"	"	50		Duncan Mc Kechan		Oct 31 "	19571					
W½ of S.W. ¼	"	"	"	80		"	"	100		Edward Harding		June 19 1843	35809					

Excerpt from the 1839 land sale at the Milwaukee land office, showing the quarter sections bought by Silas Peck and Moses Smith on which Burlington now stands. (Note entries bracketed.)

parentage and training led to justice tempered with mercy to which a trembling culprit seldom appealed in vain."

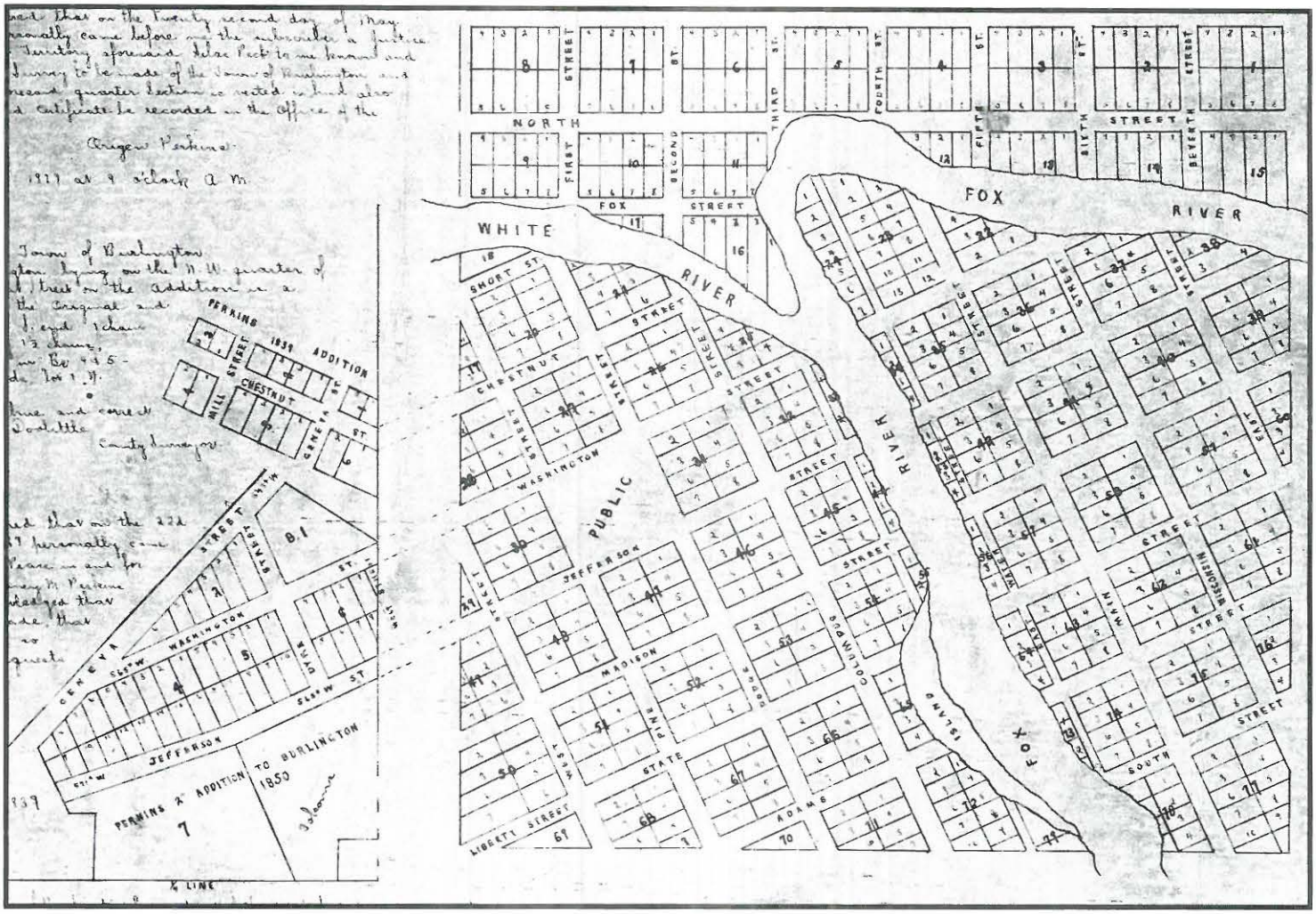
The most exciting event of all this period, was the land sale held in Milwaukee in 1839. It is said, the City of Racine was practically deserted, and undoubtedly, the same was true of Burlington. Men were eager to purchase land and clear their titles or to supervise the actions of the men who were representing groups of purchasers.

One man was selected from each township to bid off the lands for all at $1.25 per acre, the minimum government price. He had a list, with descriptions, etc., and when a tract was called by the registrars, he would answer, "Settler, a dollar and a quarter." "Gone," would be the response of the registrars.

The room was crowded to suffocation and when a speculator undertook to bid on a settler's home, he was lifted above the heads of the crowd and man-handled into the street, after which he was very glad to make himself scarce.

Silas Peck cleared his title to the claim he bought of Rork and had it surveyed and platted by A. W. Doolittle. The Fox River was, at that time, a navigable stream and was not included in the sale. It is still government property. Peck generously donated a square of his land, which would be bounded by Pine Street, Washington Street, Dodge Street and Jefferson Street to the city for a park, but the gift was neglected and some time later a petition was made by W. P. Lyon, H. A. Sheldon, Orson Sheldon and E. G. Dyer to the town to vacate Peck's park site because the neglect by the town was making it a nuisance to surrounding property. The land reverted to Mr. Peck.

An interesting story comes down to us regarding street locations. Silas Peck and Pliny Perkins recorded their street surveys at the county clerk's office on the same day. Peck's survey was a complete street map of his quarter section: Perkins' detailed only two small areas of his quarter section adjoining Peck's. It seems they agreed on the extensions of Jefferson Street and Washington Street into each other's property but disagreeed about Chestnut Street. The direction Perkins



Original plats, recorded in 1839. Peck's, on the right, completely platted. On the left, the partial platting of the land purchased by Pliny Perkins from Moses Smith.

intended to project it did not suit Peck, so, the story goes, Peck put up a stone building at 164 Chestnut Street to prevent the extension and thus caused the distinctive Chestnut Street bend.

From an examination of the map, a simpler explanation seems likely. North-South streets on Peck's plan ran parallel with the Fox River. Perkins planned to have his main East-West streets parallel to the White River. The point where the two portions of Chestnut Street meet was probably a compromise and set for all time, the bend in Chestnut Street.



Three unidentified women fishing on the "Mill Pond."

Pliny Perkins' father, Ephriam, was concerned about another road plan. When the Spring Prairie Road, Highway 11, was laid out, the supervisors favored its running directly into town over the steep hill on Ephriam's land, contending it was shorter than running around the base of the hill. Perkins was strongly opposed to this plan cutting into his property and carried the point by saying, "I do not find the bale of a kettle measures any more lying down than standing up." So Chestnut Street goes west around the base of the hill.

Another interesting note about our streets. None of them in the original quarter sections south of the rivers run true north and south. Only when the village extended beyond Liberty Street (State Street), were they laid out in line with the compass points. When Pliny Perkins brought in his third addition south of Liberty and his nephew, Frederick Perkins subdivided his farm south of Chandler Boulevard, the pattern was set for streets square with the world. Frederick named streets after his children, Robert, Edward, Henry, Alice and Mary. Mrs. Perkins' maiden name was Wainwright.

Chapter 2

The Area Grows 1840-1850

The years 1840-1850 are marked by the coming of another group of people. This was the decade when German immigration was largest. Those coming to Wisconsin were mainly from the Rhine provinces where political discord was rife and industry at a low ebb. Books and pamphlets written by Germans here, were widely read in Germany and influential in bringing immigrants here. The land, climate, and products of Wisconsin were so similar to those in Germany that those people found no difficulty in adjusting themselves to their new environment. Another incentive was the liberal constitution of the state. Only one year's residence was necessary before voting. To the politically oppressed people, this seemed a great opportunity for political freedom.

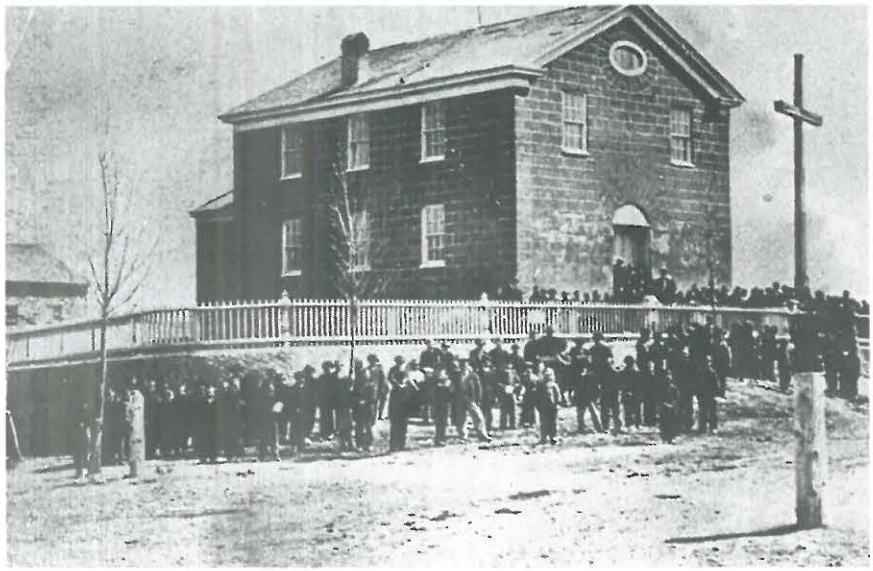
Joseph and Francis Wackerman were the first Germans, arriving in 1841. They were followed in a few months by Leonard Schmitt and his family. They were the first of a great number of genial, music-loving, socially-minded people whose spirit dominated the city for many years. These Germans were mainly Catholic but there was no opportunity for them to hear Mass until Rev. Thomas Morissey came here from Milwaukee and said the first Mass in the tavern of Ruel Nims.

This brings us to the another great influence upon the character of the town which was felt during this decade, namely the organization of religious life.

The German Catholic element banded together under the leadership of Rev. Father Kundig, and in 1844, built a small stone building on a rise of ground south of the village and near it put up a large cross. This was the first Catholic church building (the first stone house, in fact) in the village and formed the nucleus of the St. Mary's holdings. Around this church, dedicated to St. Sebastian, the German Catholics built their houses.

The Baptists were probably the first religious group to organize. In 1843, fifteen people, with W.R. Manning as their pastor, held services in the small brick schoolhouse (see page 10 in Chapt. 1) later known as Whitman School. They used this building on Sundays for eight years.

In February 1843, another group of people met in the schoolhouse to form the Presbyterian Church. They held services there also until 1852, when they erected a building of their own on Geneva Street near Dyer (Milwaukee Avenue and Kane Street). Rev. Milton Wells was the first minister, presiding here and in Rochester on alternate Sundays.



St. Sebastian's, the first Catholic church, built in 1847. This small stone building represented three years of effort by a committee of volunteers who dug the stone, hewed the wood and prepared the lime to create the church. It was demolished in 1965.

In March 1852, the small group of Baptists, Unitarians and German Methodists joined in erecting the Union Free Church which would serve as home for all of them. It was a beautifully designed stone building and stood yet in 1990 at the northeast corner of Kane and Jefferson Streets. The first pastor was Elder Van Amaridge.

In 1843, James Jesse Strang came with his wife, Mary Perce, the sister of Benjamin Perce, who had explored the area with Moses Smith in 1835. The Strangs joined Perce at his homesite where county line road (now Mormon Road) reaches present Highway 11. Here migrating Mormons gathered, and here Strang's interest in the Mormon faith grew. In the spring of 1844, he visited Joseph Smith, head of the Mormon church at Nauvoo, Illinois, and was baptized into the faith there.

Later that year, on June 18, 1844, Strang claimed he received a letter from Smith in which Smith said a revelation had come to him that Strang should form a settlement of Mormons at a site to be called Voree and that Strang should become Smith's successor in church leadership. When Smith was murdered on June 27, 1844, Strang returned to Nauvoo, produced the letter and claimed leadership. Those who believed in the letter's authenticity followed him back to Voree; those who did not believe (and they were the greater number) followed Brigham Young to Utah.

By 1849, most of Strang's devotees followed him from Voree to Beaver Island, Michigan, and in 1856

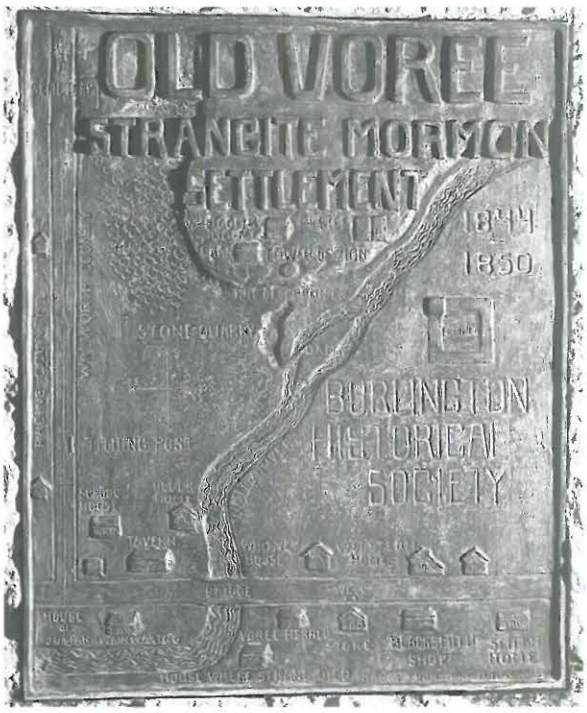


The first Protestant church, built in 1852, on the northeast corner of Kane and Jefferson Streets as the Union Free Church. In 1990 its beauty was preserved as the Church of the Nazarene.

he was mortally wounded there by two of his former followers who shot him. He made his way back to Voree where he died from those wounds 19 days after being shot. He is buried at the Burlington Cemetery.

While he was at Beaver Island, on July 8, 1850, he was crowned "king" by his followers, the only American ever to be so proclaimed.

The fusion of the Yankee and German characteristics, shrewdness, restraint, and severity on the one hand, and a love for music, art and general conviviality on the other hand, produced a blend that gave Burlington a distinct personality and was reflected again and again, as we shall see, in the social life of the people.

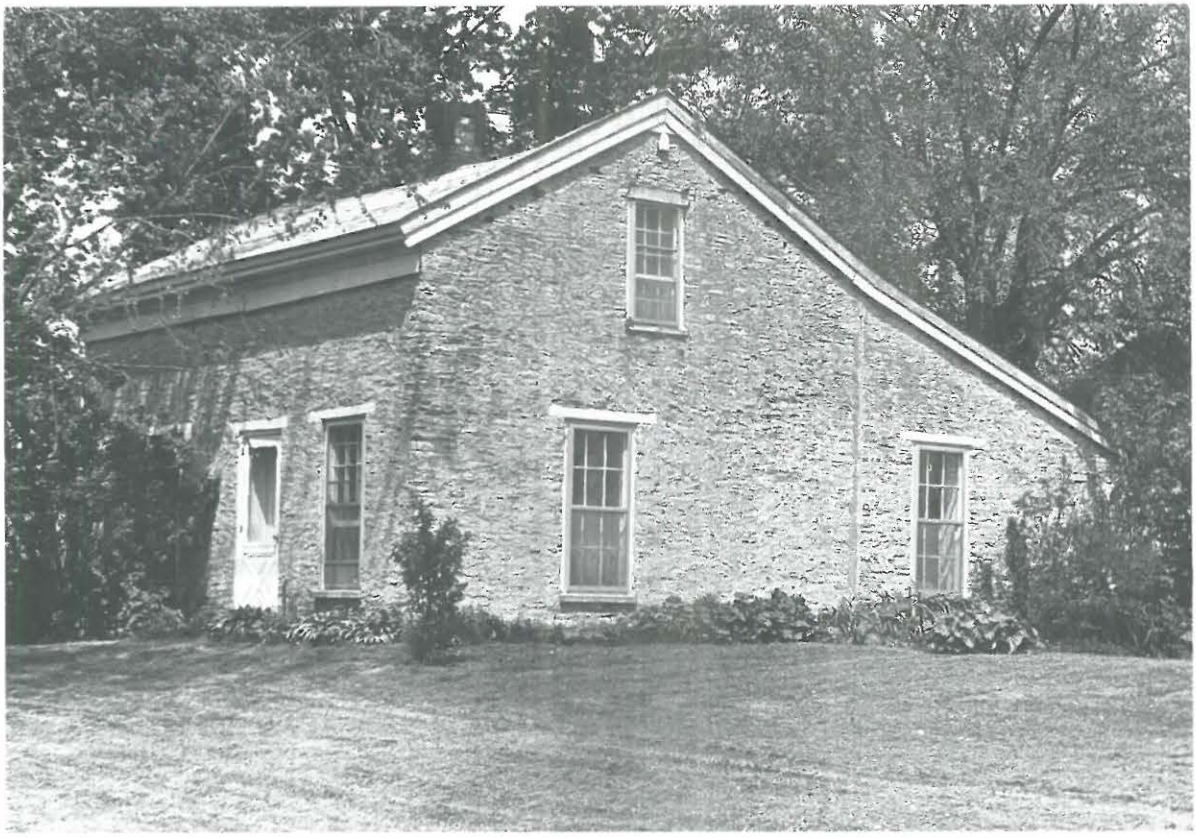


Plaster cast of the bronze plaque erected by the Burlington Historical Society, marking the site of the Voree settlement.

A more material effect upon the village growth was the establishment of roads. In 1841, the Perkins felt their milling, mercantile and other business interests demanded a thoroughfare from Burlington direct to Lake Michigan. The road to Southport, staked out by E.D. Putnam in 1836, was selected as the most feasible route. On this road, they spent about $1,200, $200 of which was contributed by outside parties. At this early period, this was very properly regarded as an important and enterprising undertaking and it remained an import thoroughfare for many years. In 1844, Racine, irked by the amount of goods that was traveling the Burlington-Southport road, raised a subscription and built a road direct from Racine to Burlington.

Easier access helped bring more people. Joseph Rooker and James Thompson arrived in 1841. George W. Gregg opened a brick yard on the north side of the mill pond and his business in later years grew into a large brick and tile factory. The pit from which he dug clay later was used as a baseball diamond and became known as Beaumont Field. From this yard came the bricks with which Benjamin Forbes built the first brick house in 1843. Caleb Barns had already established a law practice and was permanently located in Burlington in 1844. In 1846, Amos Phelps came to town. Ebenezer Heald settled here also, together with many others. A census taken in June 1842 showed a population of 483.

Living conditions in the 1840's and 50's became a little more secure. Fish and game were abundant and furnished the main part of the meals. Deer were to be had. David Bushnell could dine on



One of the remaining few Mormon houses remaining at Voree, reportedly the home where James Jesse Strang died.

venison and on corn meal cakes from corn of his own planting. Locally-grown produce became more available and cheaper. Flour was priced at $2.50 per hundred pounds, beef 3 cents per pound, pork 4 cents, mutton 4 cents, and potatoes $1.00 a bushel. Surplus produce could be sent to New York through the Great Lake route in 13 days.

Occurring during this decade, was the winter of the "big snow." It was the winter of 1842-43. Thomas H. Marsland describes it in a letter to the editor of the Standard Democrat of November 5, 1908. He wrote, "Mr. Editor: Sixty-six years ago today, it commenced to snow and it snowed some every week up to January 1, 1843. By that time, there was 20 inches or more of snow on the ground. The second week of January the south winds melted the snow off and for about two weeks, the weather was warm and pleasant — no snow and no frost in the ground, grass bright and green, which was beautiful to behold. In the latter part of January it commenced to snow and kept it up more or less 'til we had 20 to 24 inches of snow on the level. Snow did not drift any on account of the dense forests of timber. April 9, the snow began to melt and in four or five days it was all gone — no frost in the ground. The settlers, by the 10th, got out their oxen and started to break up a few acres of the virgin soil to raise something to eat, such as potatoes, wheat, corn and garden truck."

In this decade, Burlington's earliest industries started up and would become the firm foundation for its future growth and prosperity. Pliny Perkins' grist mill was doing a greater and greater business as the area settlers-turned-farmers brought in greater harvests of grain. In 1846, he built the first large mill in this section, a four-story, stone structure, 40 by 60 feet. He turned his old mill into an oil mill. His property then was rumored to be worth $50,000, a great sum in those years. The grist mill ran at full capacity for eighteen years until it was destroyed by fire in 1864. It was rebuilt, and burned again in 1874. Not discouraged, Perkins erected an improved mill on the ruins of the old and continued his profitable business. At times it was kept running at utmost capacity night and day all week by the farmers who brought in large grists, some coming from many miles. The men had to wait two days or more before returning with their flour and their patronage of taverns, stores, blacksmith shops and wagon makers made them an important factor in the growing village business.

In 1843, Mr. Perkins built a large woolen mill across the river in what became Echo Park, opposite the grist mill and had another mill race dug to run the water wheels there.

He leased this to James Catten for five years at $1,000 a year. In this factory was made the first roll of cloth turned out in Wisconsin. In a short time, the excellence of the cashmeres, tweeds, flannels and yarns became known far and wide. Quite a large custom business was done for the farmers, carding their wool into reels for the thrifty housewives to use in their domestic manufacturing.

About 1850, Catten, having made $15,000 profit, withdrew, moved his machinery down stream to erect another woolen mill there. In 1853, John

Appleyard formed a partnership with Charles Jones and Benjamin Fox to buy Catten's factory to turn into a grist mill as the Fox River Milling Co. The project probably didn't mature, for Appleyard died in July, 1854.

After Catten vacated the Pliny Perkins mill, Ephriam Perkins and Fiske of Kenosha took possession of it. Times grew hard, debts came on and Fiske was obliged to take it over alone. He ran the mill, mortgaging it for the means of continuing. Finding he couldn't pay the mortgage, he sold it to a Mr. Thompson of Connecticut for about $6,000. After two years, Ephriam re-purchased it for $12,000.

Among the other industries were Sawyer and Barns in their plow shop, John Edmunds, George Stohr, and McCumber and Williams, wagon makers, Hobart Wagner and Anton Zwiebel, who owned a foundry and machine shop on Chestnut Street, F. Keuper, J. Wambold, and William Rein, blacksmiths. (The latter shop was located on a portion of what is the Commerce Street parking lot.) A cooper shop on West Pine Street made barrels in which flour and pork could be shipped out.

Then there were Simon Kempf, F. Schemmand and T. J. Thompson, shoemakers, and M. T. Hayes, harnessmaker. Ephriam Sawyer started a sawmill in September 1841, moving into town from his farm south of the city. These are but a few of the men who sought their fortune in Burlington.

The merchantile business was carried on mostly on the corners of Milwaukee Avenue and Chestnut Street, and Pine and Chestnut streets. Among the sellers of general merchandise were Gammeal and Phelps in the Reuschlein block (above this was the post office), Mr. Clark, where the building at 100 West Chestnut Street stands, and Clark Norton and Orson Sheldon, the leading merchants, who bought the building on the northeast corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Chestnut Street.

Many of the things they sold are almost unknown to the modern generations. Fish oil, Camphine burning fluid and candles were sold for lighting purposes. In the drug department were some small bottles labeled "Petroleum or Rock Oil, for external use as a remedy for cuts and burns." That was all that was known of kerosene. Yellow sugar in mammoth hogsheads, loaf sugar in conical shaped loaves, grain cradles and flails, etc., all in one emporium. Anything could be had from a silk dress and bonnet, to axle grease and tar.

Francis Meinhardt, Sr. operated another such store. It stood on a piece of ground about 12 feet wide by 24 feet deep on the site of the former Bank of Burlington at 500 North Pine Street. The store occupied the front half of the building, living quarters the rear half. It was ostensibly a grocery store but in that little room, 8 by 12 feet, were packed an unbelievable variety of articles. To test the popular opinion that anything asked for could be provided, a man once went to the store and requested "goose yokes." The old gentleman fumbled over some dusty packages on the top shelf and, sure enough, produced them.

In Walworth County, just west of the White River, began an enterprise that was for years intimately connected with Burlington. In 1847, Lemuel Smith built a large frame house on what is known as the Wilson Farm and brought to that place the first flock of sheep in the vicinity. Here was one source of wool for Perkins' woolen mill.

On the corner of Pine and Chestnut streets, stood Dr. Lewis' drug store, W.C. Grassie's grocery in Barns' bank building, and the H. Newhaus jewelry store. Silas Peck's house stood a hundred feet east of the corner of the north side of Pine Street. The land from there to Washington Street was vacant. The parkland in the next block, donated by Peck to the community, was still unimproved.

A road ran across this land of Peck's from the Fox River Hotel, near the Jefferson Street bridge, to the Aiken House, at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Chestnut Street. The Fox River Hotel was run by W. H. Addington. The Aiken House was formerly Perkins' "Burlington Hotel." Another hotel in town was the Kossuth House, operated by William Wetroth.

The Aiken House was the station for the John Frinke & Company stage line that ran from Racine to Janesville, beginning in 1845. This line was taken over by Beswick and Jones after 1848. A large tree stood on Chestnut Street next to the hotel and near it was a big wooden pump and watering trough. The shade of this spreading tree made the spot a favorite place to watch the excitement, incident to the arrival and departure of the stage coaches. "A thrilling thing that was! All heads would turn when the horn sounded on the other side of the Fox River bridge. Next, would be heard the hoof-beats and the rattle of wheels on the bridge. Then, flying through the dust, would come the horses and the bright red and yellow coach, and proudly erect in the driver's seat, John Emmerich, the idol



The kind of stagecoach that came flying through the dust from the Fox River bridge to the Aiken House.

of every youngster in town. A pull on the reins, a sharp word of command, and Emmerich would pull up before the door of the hotel. Of course, there would be a time, while horses were watered and passengers and mail cared for, for a recital of the latest news and a few flashes of John's renowned wit. Then a blast of the horn, a crack of the long whip and the stage coach was off again." Yes indeed, thrilling it was for the spectator, but even more so must it have been for the passengers, who for the modest $1.50 fare from Racine to Burlington, could have the life jounced right out of them on those remarkable plank roads.

Among the six doctors here in 1850, was the good, but at times gruff, old Doctor Dyer. An oft told story illustrates his character.

It is said, he had come home late one night from quite a drive and was in a sound sleep when a loud knocking aroused him. Putting his head out of the window, he asked in no amiable tone, "Who's there?"

The knocker said, "It's Steve Houghton. Come out and see my wife. She's awful bad. Come as soon as you can, for God's sake."

The doctor said, "I can't Steve, I just got back from a hard jaunt. Can't turn out for another long drive tonight. Get some other doctor, I won't go." He slammed down the window.

Houghton, in his perplexity, thought of Caleb Barns. He would get him to go and use his influence with the doctor.

So another sound sleeper was rousted out, another window raised: "What's wanted?" asked a voice.

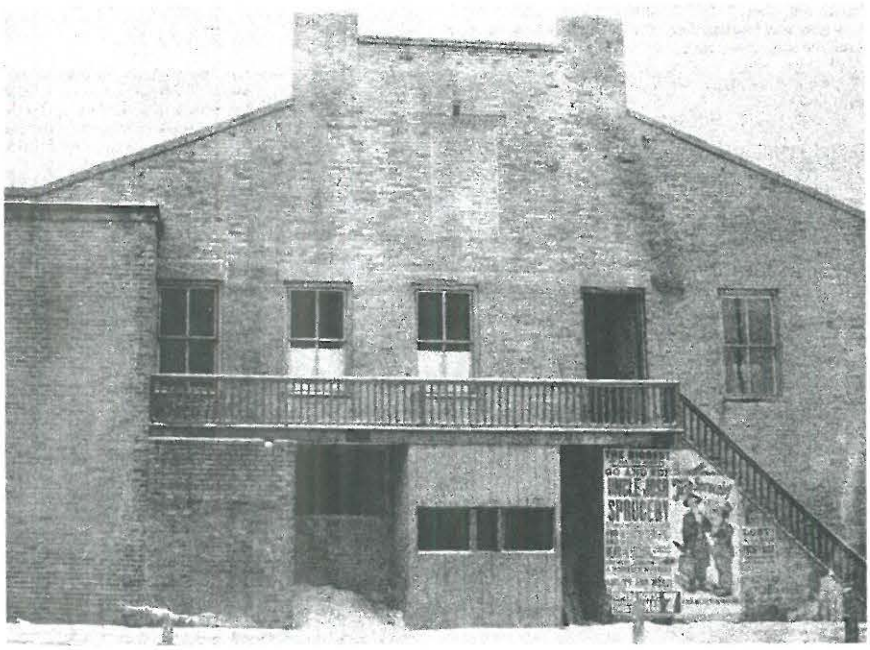
"Oh Barns," Houghton said, "go with me to Dyer's and see if you can't get him to go to my poor wife. He's always attended her, no other will do."

Barns, knowing the doctor's characteristics better than Houghton did, said, "Get into your wagon Steve, and drive home as fast as you can. You'll do well if you get there first." Houghton took the advice and found the doctor there before him.

A doctor's life was not an easy one. In the reminiscences of his life, Dr. Dyer recounts, "There were hardships to be borne. I was gone much of the time during the sickly season, often getting home when my wife and children were asleep in bed, at all hours of the night. Early in the morning, my wife would quietly arise to make breakfast — by the time I was ready, the breakfast was also ready. I ate hastily, went out and saddled my horse, to begin another day's ride. This was our daily life the whole sickly season.

Charles Foltz tells in *Old Timers Night,* that in 1850, the lawyers in town were Lewis Royce, A. F. Cole, J. C. Culver, C. W. Bennett, John F. Potter, W. P. Lyon and Caleb Barns. Compare this with the 1850 census in the Appendix.

Most of the banking was done in Racine. However, Burlington had at least one banker, lawyer Caleb Barns. Dr. Edward Dyer, making his rounds, saw young Barns with his law books under his arm, coming to Burlington from Milwaukee on foot and invited Caleb to join him. The two returned to Burlington together, taking turns riding Dr. Dyer's horse.



This building, built by Caleb Barns in 1847, is the oldest bank building in the state of Wisconsin, continually used for banking purposes throughout the years to 1990.

In 1847, Barns built the building on the southwest corner of Pine and Chestnut streets in which to conduct a banking business. Here, on the second floor, he had his office and bank until his death in 1866.

Following the usual practice of the early days, he paid as high as 10% interest on deposits and loaned money at 15% or more.

The first floor, Barns leased to William Grassie for a grocery store. It is said that long after Antony Meinhardt started the Meinhardt Bank in those first floor quarters in 1891, the somber smell of ledgers and lock boxes was sweetened with a faint whiff of molasses.

Most of the farms in the vicinity were heavily mortgaged, as the settlers had brought little money with them, and the farmers, as always, worked hard for the income. Wages for the hands were $13 a month, less board. At the lake ports only, was cash paid for grain; oats bringing 10 to 20 cents, barley 30 to 40 cents and wheat 40 to 50 cents a bushel. Consequently, these products were carried to Racine or Kenosha to pay the more pressing debts. The ordinary marketing was carried on by barter and trade. Cord wood for the local market brought 75 cents a cord, while tea cost $1.50 a pound. Thus a day's work cutting and hauling a cord of wood, could be exchanged for half a pound of tea. Eggs brought five cents a dozen and butter seven cents a pound.

Life, however, was not all hard labor. Merrymaking was not unknown. "I believe," said William

Meadows, "our satisfaction was greater because of the fact that all our pleasures have been secured by hard individual effort." Highlights in the fun, were oyster suppers at W. P. Storms of Vienna, or at Campbell's at Rochester. Corn husking parties, spelling contests and picnics with music furnished by Professor Wald's town band, were very popular. Street parades too, were numerous. Those in masks rebuked in pantomime anything that had given offense. Once for instance, a masker sat astride a miniature schoolhouse, grasping it with long, black fingers, to deride the fact that a school building on a town farm had been taken for some other use.

Fourth of Julys were always occasions for an explosion of spirits. Farm boys made a bee-line to town with two pounds of butter or three dozen eggs which they could exchange for one package of firecrackers and a cannon cracker or two. One can easily imagine how carefully these were shot off one at a time to make them last as long as possible.

So far, town life had been developing in a land still under territorial government. On May 29, 1848, the Wisconsin territory became the State of Wisconsin and Nelson Dewey was elected governor.

The polling place in Burlington was Klingele's saloon and grocery store, about where Pieters' Brothers used to be in the 100 block of East Chestnut Street. The store windows were the typical small-paned ones of that period and at election time, one pane was removed so people standing outside could pass their ballots through the opening.

The fact that Wisconsin had no territorial debt, while Michigan, Illinois and Indiana had contracted large debts through projects for internal improvements, attracted large numbers of immigrants to Wisconsin and helped to explain the rapid increase in our town's population during this decade.

In 1848, when Wisconsin became a state, it was organized into military divisions, each division into two brigades and each brigade into as many regiments as there were counties in the brigade. Racine County was the Fourth Regiment of the Second Brigade of the First Division, each ward in Racine, and each township in the county having a company enrolled.

The men in charge of these military units were: Philo White, Brigadier General of Second Brigade; Seth Johnson, Colonel - Fourth Regiment; Orson B. Sheldon, Lieutenant Colonel; Martin Clancy, Major; Nathaniel Dickinson, Captain of Company G (Burlington); Charles Jones, First Lieutenant; Liberty Fiske, Second Lieutenant.

The people of Wisconsin, perhaps more than any other group in the Northeast Territory, had a strong aversion to the idea of slavery.

As early as 1845, a memorial was sent to Congress asking that body to free whatever slaves were then in the territory and to protect it from ever becoming a slave state.

Many people in Burlington were connected with the "underground railroad" despite the fact that such a connection was exceedingly dangerous. The route came through Illinois (avoiding Chicago), Racine, Burlington, Gardner's Prairie, Spring Prairie, Troy, Mukwonago, Pewaukee, Waukesha and Milwaukee.

Dr. Dyer, C. P. Barns, R. C. Brown, John Aiken, John Hockings, Elder Cheney, John Bacon, P. M. Perkins, Origen Perkins, Lemuel Smith and Ephriam Perkins, were some of the altruistic men of this town. The house of Dr. Dyer, of Lemuel Smith, Origen Perkins and Silas Peck all are known to have sheltered fugitive slaves.

That these men were "conductors" on the road, was not widely known. If caught in such "subversive action," they could be subject to penalties under the fugitive slave law of fines of as much as a thousand dollars, imprisonment of six months and damages of a thousand dollars to the slave owner for each slave so lost. Utmost secrecy was necessary.

The first passenger on the "road" through Burlington was Caroline Quarrels, a young mulatto slave. She was successfully "conducted" on this trip by Lyman Good of Waukesha, and it was a journey full of hardships and peril lasting five weeks, during the summer of 1842. They were hunted and followed all the way by United States officers and other slave chasers, but eluded them all. Dr. Dyer was one of those who helped the girl along on her way to freedom. He gave a sack of provisions and raised a purse of $20 to speed her journey.

Another time, Lemuel Smith acted as "conductor" on the road. He went to Waterford to get a young slave and conduct him on his way. He brought him, under the cover of night, to a home west of Burlington, which was at that time the homestead of G. W. Ames. In this house, the Negro was sheltered during the night. The next morning those at the house, including the frightened fugitive, saw the sheriff's posse searching for the escaped slave, passing by on its way to Elkhorn. The Ames house was a little off the highway and fortunately the sheriff did not stop, much to the relief of those anxious watchers.

The last passenger on the "road" was Joshua Glover, an escaped slave who had been working at a sawmill near Racine. On March 10, 1854, his owner, having discovered his whereabouts, kidnapped him from there after severely beating him. A great hubbub arose when the people of Racine heard of Glover's imprisonment in Milwaukee. They held a mass meeting (the largest ever before held in that city), and sent a hundred men to Milwaukee to effect his release.

There the hundred were joined by other abolitionists, the jail was stormed and Glover released. He was spirited away to Prairieville

Many people in Burlington were connected with the "underground railroad" despite the fact that such a connection was exceedingly dangerous.

(Waukesha), then to Spring Prairie. He remained in the house of Deacon Britton about a month until the excitement quieted down. Then he was taken by the "underground" to Canada.

Mass meetings were held here at the Free Church and the Congregational Church (one of whose tenets was that no slaveholder or apologist for human slavery need apply for membership), and at Congregational churches at Union Grove and Raymond. All sent resolutions of thanks and sympathy to the citizens of Racine and Milwaukee. A liberty meeting at Syracuse, New York also sent greetings and thanks.

It was a daring act in support of an unpopular cause, especially so when one remembers that it was a criminal offense to give a fugitive money, food or lodging or aid him in any way.

Sherman Booth of Milwaukee, who led in the freeing of Glover from the Milwaukee jail, was sent to a federal penitentiary and his effigy was publicly burned by pro-slavery men. Such punishment in no way deterred other men from furthering their mission of humanity. How initially unpopular the abolitionist movement was and how abolotionists were insulted, despised and sneered at, called "white nigger," "nigger stealers," and how they were mobbed and persecuted, their meetings broken up; one must stand in admiration at their courage in supporting their cause.

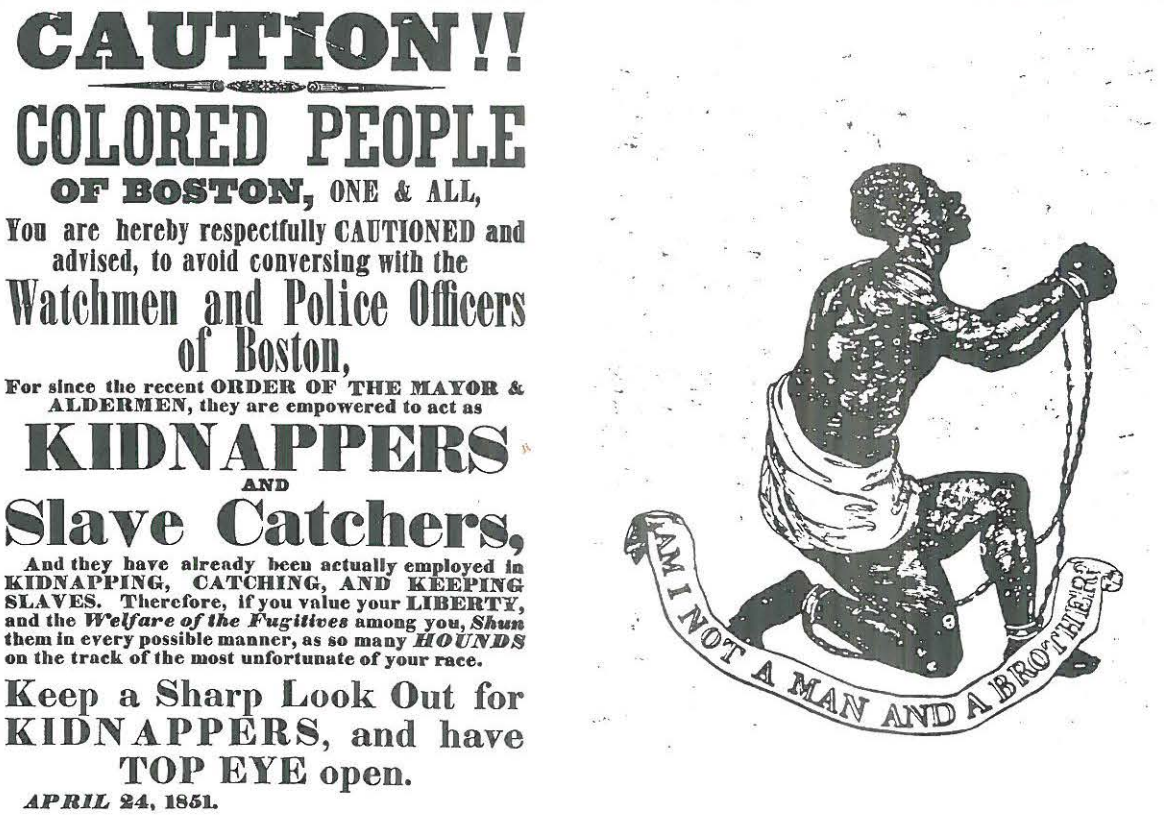
Two agencies for the spreading of the gospel of the abolitionist locally, were the "American Freeman" and the "Burlington Liberty Association." The Freeman was a newspaper in which Dr. Dyer, Caleb Barns, R. C. Brown, the Perkins, John Aiken and John Bacon had invested money solely to keep the paper going, with no expectation of a financial return.

The Burlington Liberty Association was organized in 1844 by Dr. Dyer and some of his friends and had about 40 members. In the election that year, their candidate on the Liberty ticket polled 33 out of 108 votes. It was a cause of great rejoicing since they had expected no more than a dozen.

It should be noted here that it was because of Dr. Dyer that "Liberty Street received its name." (The street, which was between Milwaukee Avenue and the Fox River, was later named State Street.)

At that time there were 1,629 persons in the Town of Burlington. There were no separate figures for the unincorporated village of Burlington. Burlington was incorporated as a village in 1886 and the City of Burlington incorporated as a fourth class city in 1900. Of the total, 585 were born in Germany or were children of German parents, 281 were English, 118 were Irish, 20 were Scots, 9 were from France, 1 from Denmark, and 615 came from the Eastern states or Canada.

The following occupations were listed: Farmers 289; Laborers 62; Shoemakers 9; Carpenters 19; Merchants 11; Tinners 2; Masons 8; Blacksmiths 7; Physicians 6; Tailors 6; Clerks 5; Lawyers 5; Sailors 3; Coopers 3; Teachers 3; Cabinetmakers 3; Stagedrivers 3; Millers 2; Chairmakers 2; Clergymen 2; Bakers 2; Gunsmiths 2; Basketmakers 2; Manufacturers 2; Tavernkeepers 2; Silversmith 1; Millwright 1; Postmaster 1; Butcher 1; Broommaker 1; Student 1; Pumpmaker 1.



CAUTION!!

COLORED PEOPLE

OF BOSTON, ONE & ALL,

You are hereby respectfully CAUTIONED and advised, to avoid conversing with the

Watchmen and Police Officers of Boston,

For since the recent ORDER OF THE MAYOR & ALDERMEN, they are empowered to act as

KIDNAPPERS

AND

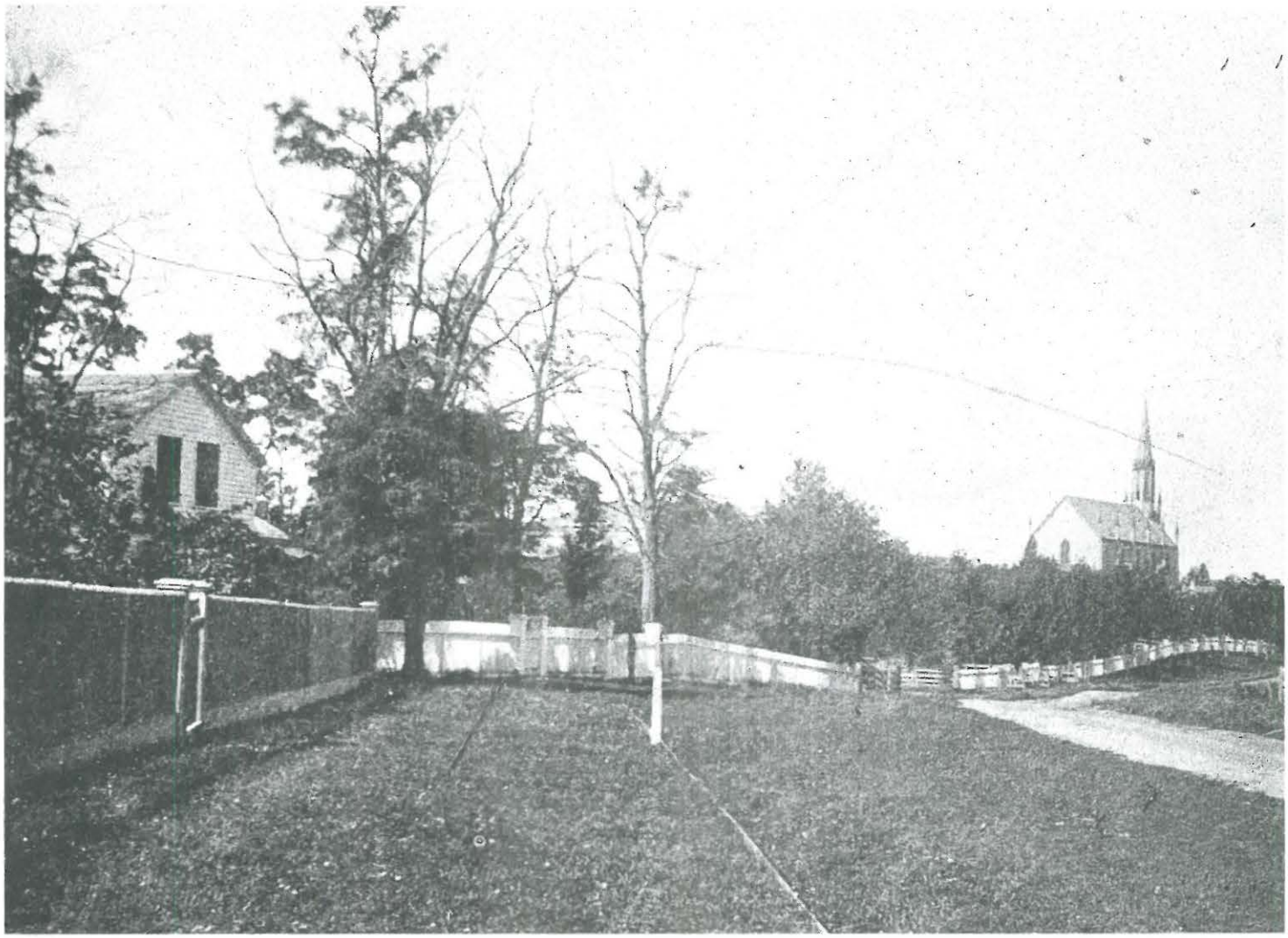
Slave Catchers,

And they have already been actually employed in KIDNAPPING, CATCHING, AND KEEPING SLAVES. Therefore, if you value your LIBERTY, and the *Welfare of the Fugitives* among you, *Shun* them in every possible manner, as so many *HOUNDS* on the track of the most unfortunate of your race.

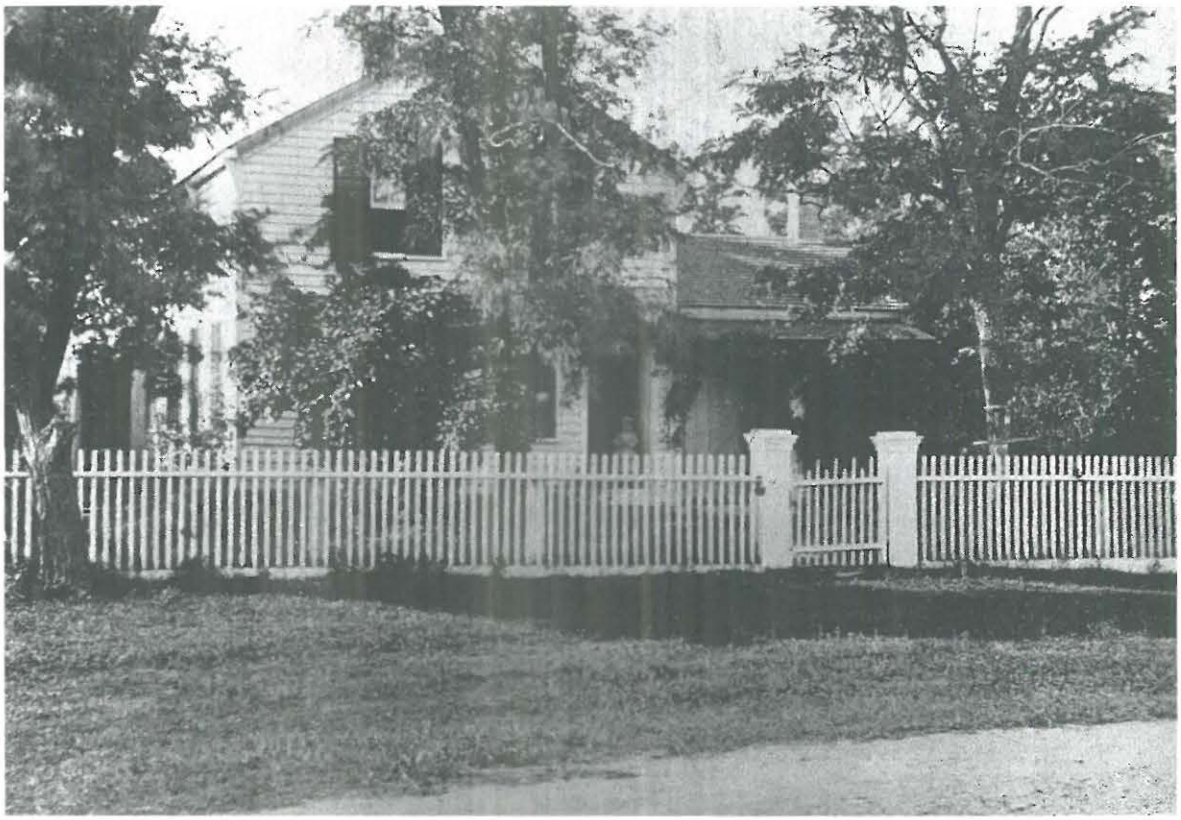
Keep a Sharp Look Out for KIDNAPPERS, and have TOP EYE open.

APRIL 24, 1851.

Posters such as this were circulated across the nation by abolitionists and abolitionist sentiment was spread throughout an ante-bellum nation by drawings such as this.

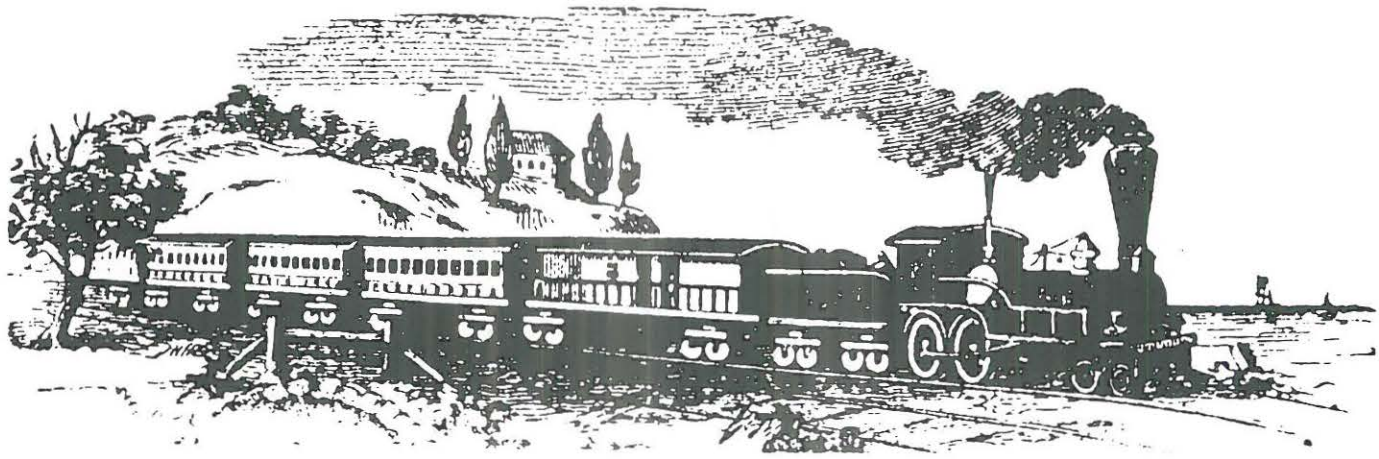


The home of Dr. Edward Galusha Dyer was one of the houses where a fugitive slave could find refuge. It was the first frame house built in Burlington. Note the path which he named Liberty Street and is now State Street in front of the house and old St. Mary's church on the horizon.



Chapter 3

Around the Civil War 1850-1870



Engraving of an old "iron horse" pulling cars, such as was seen on the Wisconsin Central when the railroad first came through Burlington.

About 1850, the rapid growth of the village reached a plateau. During the next three decades, it was much slower but still increased steadily.

The years 1850 to 1854 were prosperous ones for citizens of the state, but from then until after the Civil War, our town experienced a state of depression. In 1857, a disastrous monetary panic sweeping the country, was felt here as well as elsewhere. A more immediate cause was paradoxically the coming of the railroad in 1855.

The first to reach Burlington was in later years known as the Milwaukee Road. This company, which was the largest company building roads in southeastern Wisconsin, had been organized and renamed several times since it incorporated in 1847 as the Milwaukee and Waukesha Railroad Company. When the line was built through Burlington to Savannah, Illinois, in 1855, it was known as the Racine, Janesville and Mississippi Railroad Company. In 1866, it became the Western Union and later became the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad.

The City of Racine was almost bankrupted by its eagerness to encourage the building of this railroad. It floated stock to the extent of $350,000 or more and realized only a loss on its investment. In the sale of railroad stock, the farmers along the line of the road were not overlooked. Glowing prospects, descriptions of the good times sure to come with the operation of the railroad were spread. Nearly every farmer along the line mortgaged his farm to aid the building of the railroad. That railroad finished the stage coach business west of Racine.

In 1856, Burlington also became interested in the projected Fox River Valley Railroad of Wisconsin. It was to begin in Milwaukee to connect with the Racine and Mississippi at Burlington and continue on the Fox River Valley Railroad of Illinois, at the state line.

On September 6, 1856, a board consisting of John Biersback, Francis Meinhardt and Johan Boub was elected to consider the town's participation, and on November 1, they were authorized to subscribe to $35,000 worth of stock.

In 1857, the state of the company was as follows: resources in round numbers, $540,000, including $38,000 in farm mortgages. The estimated cost of completing the road was $730,000. Some $32,000 had, at the time, been expended in building the road. They had graded the roadbed and built some bridges, but had laid no rails. No rails were ever laid, the company failed.

One can still see, here and there, the roadbed of this line. It runs due south from Burlington, skirts the east end of Bohners Lake, continues through farmland and passes east of Slades Corners and Powers Lake. South of Powers Lake, the roadbed was used by the Jefferson Ice Company of Chicago for a spur line from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad to its ice house at the lake.

During the 1850's and 60's, Burlington was still an unincorporated village, but it had grown into an important merchandising center for the surrounding area. It was losing its pioneer appearance. More merchants were coming in because of the increasing population which had reached a number of almost 2,000.

There were: 9 merchants selling dry goods and groceries; 8 selling boots and shoes; 2 hardware stores; 11 saloons; 2 druggists; 2 jewelers; 3 milliners; 4 tailors. The Chestnut Street bend and



Stores in the 1850's were wood frame. Notice these street scenes of old Burlington, Chestnut Street on its way to the river.

two blocks of Pine Street were the heart of the business district.

The "downtown" was so different from the way it appeared in the 1990's. Most of the stores were wood frame one or two story buildings, some more substantially made of brick or stone. Some merchants sold their goods on the first floor and lived above their stores. Streets were unpaved and it is not too difficult to picture what that meant. In the summer, dust was insufferable even though a sprinkler wagon made futile attempts to keep it down. There were no street sweepers. Horses added their waste to dry and be churned up with the dust.

In the winter, the snow was moved only by hand shoveling. A heavy snow could paralyze business. Even a moderate snow would keep wagons in the shed and bring out bob sleighs and cutters. Without snow, traveling over the frozen ground could be the easiest of the year. Spring traveling could be the worst. Deep ruts, slush cross-furrowed by wagon wheels was bad for the driver, worse for anyone crossing such streets. Think of the women with those long, heavy skirts that reached the ground.

Only important corners had wooden cross walks (on which loaded wagons sometimes got "hung up" halfway across). Sidewalks were a sometime thing. It was up to each merchant to decide how he wanted to convenience his customers. Some would build a wooden walk just in front of his place. Another faced his store with a brick area.

On these were displayed the barrels of apples or potatoes, boxes of garden vegetables, brooms, buckets, coal scuttles, milking stools, etc. . . all subject to the dust from the street. Sometimes there were only planks paralleling the streets. In winter, darkness came early. After dusk, the village lamplighter made his way through the streets and in his wake, the oil lamps sputtered. In 1888, John Schumacher was paid $7 a month from village funds for tending to this important job. There was some light from stores that stayed open late; still, streets were dark and forbidding. People lit their way carrying hand lanterns.

This was the time, too, when homes were lit with kerosene lamps, Saturday night baths were taken in wooden or zinc tubs, with water pumped by hand and brought in by pails full, hauled from an outside well and heated on the kitchen stove.

There were signs of progress, H. W. Smith, the barber, advertised that a "long needed want is now supplied — a bathing room at my barber shop, where the public can have hot and cold baths at all times. Price only 25 cents a single bath, or six for a dollar."

The Jones House Hotel (Charles Jones, proprietor) on the corner of Chestnut Street and Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue), was still the frame building constructed by Pliny Perkins in 1839. It was known as the Aiken House until 1860. Along side was still the vacant store-site where the pump,



North side of Chestnut Street from Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue) west, showing Rose's Bakery, the Burlington Steam Laundry, P. P. Armour's Harness Shop, among others.

the watering trough for horses and the shady oak tree stood and where there was a driveway to the hotel livery stable. John Emerich was the chief hostler there, lording it over the 20 head of horses, the fine carriages, eleven buggies and an elegant hearse. It was the best outfit of its kind in the county outside the City of Racine. Jones also had charge of two buses which were at the disposal of those who spent the summer season at Brown's Lake.

On the corner across Chestnut Street in H. A. Sheldon's wood frame hardware store, one could buy cutlery, tinware, nails, glass, putty, paints and oils, whitewash brushes, agricultural implements, well and cistern pumps, stoves and all kinds of house trimmings.

Next to Sheldon's store (proceeding toward the bend) was Jacob Gill's saloon; then George Verhalen's dry goods, groceries and farm implements; Eugene Wehmhoff, jeweler; and Mrs. Wehmhoff's millinery shop, in the same building. Five other stores and we come to Francis Reuschlein's notion store on the corner of Chestnut and Pine Streets. For sale at his store were cigars made by him, imported tobacco and pipes, liquors and glassware, all kinds of stationery and greeting cards, wallpaper and lace paper doilies. It was best to visit him at Christmas time when the store was filled with dolls, all kinds of toys, evergreen wreaths and tree candles. Mr. Reuschlein was an active man. In his time, he was also postmaster, the first town clerk, Justice of the Peace, court commissioner, choir singer, president Teutonia Society, and the father of thirteen children.

Across Pine Street was Laskey's saloon (Bank of Burlington site). Back of it, on the continuation of Chestnut Street, was George Bradshaw's saloon. The Laskey building was moved down Chestnut Street in 1909 to become part of the tin can manufacturing plant at the milk condensery and eventually to become a part of the Hi-Liter Graphics printing establishment (producer of this book).

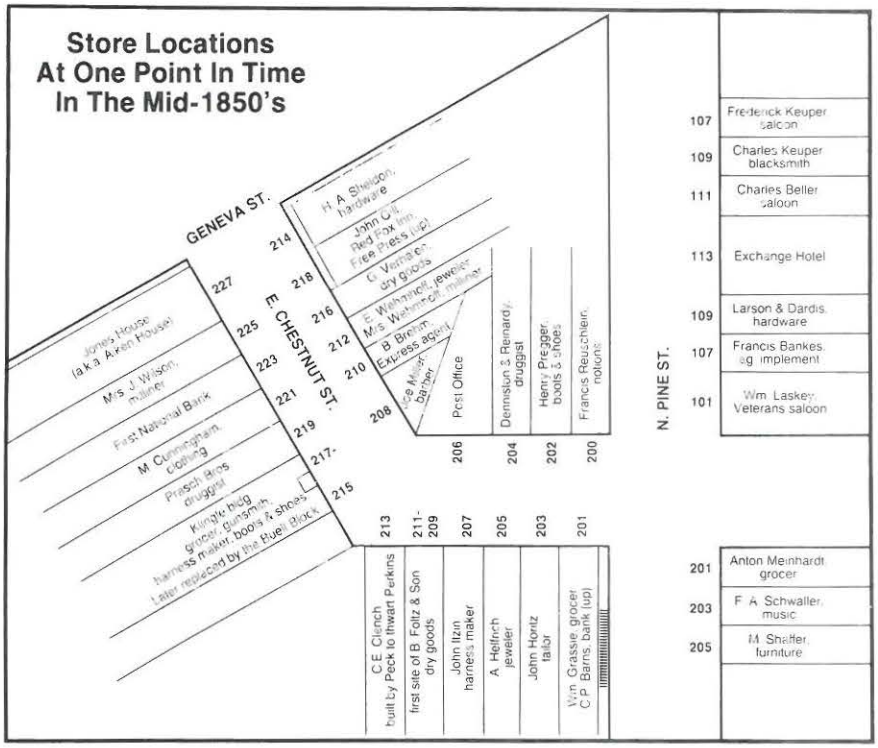


Charles Mole's Barber Shop on Pine Street.

To make way for the construction of Laskey's saloon, Anton Meinhardt had moved across Chestnut Street to 492 Pine Street. The variety of goods in his store was still limitless: "dry goods, groceries, hats and caps, crockery, hardware, paints and oils, wallpapers and window curtains, farming implements, kitchenware, etc., etc., etc." (see page 16). South of Mr. Meinhardt's store, M. Schaffer owned a furniture store, selling tables, chairs, bedsteads and having ready-made coffins on hand.



Dennison's Drug Store, Henry Pregger Boots and Shoes, Reuschlein's Notion Store and Laskey's Veterans' Saloon. Note the dirt streets and especially the mortar and pestle, a drug store sign. This mortar and pestle is in the collection of the Burlington Historical Society.



"Sanborn Maps" detailing the structure of the buildings, were used by fire insurance companies. Successive maps show changes of store owners.

Dr. H. D. Knight had his dentist office at his home where one could have, according to his newspaper ad, "sets of teeth inserted in Vulcanite Rubber base. Also teeth extracted with or without chloroform."

Across the street from the Meinhardt store, C. P. Barns carried on his banking business on the second floor of the building he built in 1848 (see page 17). In 1860, he was doing a yearly business of $300,000. William Grassie still operated his grocery on the first floor.

Adjacent to Barns' building toward the Jones House, was John Haitz, tailor, then came A. Helfrich, jeweler and John Itzin, harness maker. The double store was the first location of B. Foltz & Son dry goods, etc. Then came the building (#161) that Silas Peck put up to thwart Pliny Perkins' plan (page 12).

Around the bend stood the Klingele building, a large frame structure with a hallway through it from front to back, business places situated on either side: Mathias Klingele, grocer; Joseph Klingele, harness maker; Godfried Klingele, gunsmith; and Kautsky & Ganz, boot and shoemakers.

Between it and the Jones House were Dr. Cooper's drugstore, Jacob Crane's variety store and in 1872, the First National Bank.

A few places on Pine Street west of Laskey's saloon were The Exchange Hotel, owned by J. P. Mather, a frame building until 1902 when it was replaced by a modern Hotel Burlington and across from it, Andrew Sawyer's plow factory. Charles Keuper had a blacksmith shop between the two saloons of Frederick Keuper and Charles Beller. With five saloons plus bars in the two hotels in this small area, village men need not have gone thirsty.

Of the manufacturers of this period, the Perkins and Phelps flouring mill and Perkins woolen mill (page 15), were the largest and, despite some devastating fires, the most prosperous. During the Civil War, innumerable skeins of blue yarn for the uniforms of Union troops were spun. The yarn was made into cloth at the mill and shipped to other plants to be made into uniforms. The mill ran 24 hours a day to meet the demands of President Lincoln's war board.

Hubert Wagner, with his sons Hubert, Jr., and John, was doing a good business in his machine shop and foundry across Pine Street from the flouring mill. Years later, the first electricity in the town would be generated here.

Antone Zwiebel, on Chestnut Street (at 135) west of Geneva Street, with his sons Joseph and William, manufactured steam engines, windmills and did general machining.

F. H. Nims and E. F. Voorhees operated a steam sorghum works with cane mills and evaporators on Conkey Street. This site was later used for St. Charles Church. They were also house builders, ran a planing mill and manufactured doors and window sashes.

Across the river near the woolen mill, Rudolph Wald and Sons (Rudolph A. and Arnold) operated a tannery, ("leather tanned by Hemlock bark"), bought and sold hides, and made and sold boots and shoes. They also had a store very near the Barns bank building.

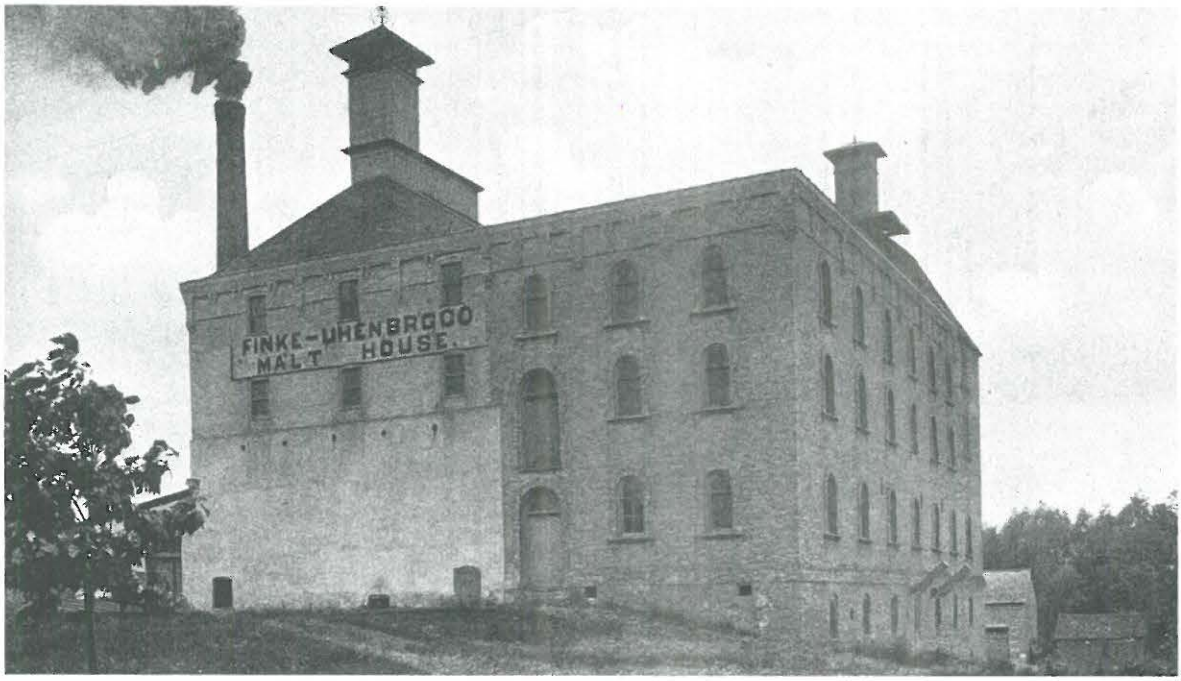
A bit further north, Emory O. Cole operated the Burlington Brick and Tile Company, first begun by George W. Gregg in 1843. An extensive and long lasting business manufacturing primarily drainage tile for farmers' fields. The baseball field along Milwaukee Avenue is in the depression made by the removal of clay for tile and brick manufacturing.

Jacob Muth's brewery, the first in town, had been built in 1852 on Main Street on the east side of the Fox River. It was a large frame building costing $2,500. He did a good business for the time, turning out twenty barrels of quality brew a day. His newspaper ad read:

> "I recommend my product as a first rate remedy for the preservation for health. Do away with patent medicines, pills, etc., and drink MUTH'S BEER and you will feel as well as a muskrat, as strong as a lion, and as happy as a man with the best feelings toward his fellow beings."

In 1872, he replaced the frame building with a very large brick and stone malt house. During the season of ten months, Muth used to malt 60 to 80 thousand bushels of grain.

Mr. Muth was interested in a group of young people who put on plays in a little house down by the river and, it is said, the curtain never rose before Mr. and Mrs. Muth had arrived and were seated. It is the Muth malt house in which the Hay-



Jacob Muth's second brewery, built in 1872, replacing his 1852 frame building. This is the building reduced in size, that became the Malthouse Theater.

lofters operate the Malthouse Theater. Mr. Muth would be pleased.

In 1877, he sold out to the People's State Bank of which he was a director. That bank folded in 1878.

Banking business in Burlington came to a halt when Caleb Barns died in 1866 and it was not resumed until 1872. Racine again became the place for Burlington's farmers and businessmen to do their banking. The business of Mr. Barns' estate, which was considerable at the time of his death, was carried on in his offices for 19 years by his nephew A. E. Wells, Anthony Meinhardt and Judge Charles Dyer. Mr. Wells learned the banking business from his uncle and later operated a bank in Nebraska.

The first agricultural fairs in Racine County were held near Yorkville in 1850, moved to Union Grove in the early 1860's. As Burlington increased in size and importance, its citizens wanted the fair to be held here. A fairgrounds was developed on 14 acres of land rented from Pliny Perkins on the north side of Chestnut Street east of Conkey Street. Later, the Wisconsin Central (Soo Line) depot and railroad yard would occupy the site. Sulky racing was a popular sport and the main attraction on the half-mile track. Fairs were held here for some twenty years, but about 1893, they were discontinued. It was a time of tight money nationwide and funding was just not available. No fairs were held until 1922 when E. A. Polley, a faculty member in the county agricultural school, and other interested citizens formed the Racine County Agricultural Society to revive them. The first new fair was held in Burlington. Later ones were moved to Union Grove where they continue to be held.

It is said a Mormon newspaper was published in Burlington previous to 1858, but the first town newspaper was put out April 8, 1858. It was called the "Weekly Burlington Gazette" and was owned by that ardent Republican, H. W. Phelps. It ran a little more than two years, ending on December 11, 1860 when Phelps went to Houston. Sometime in 1860, M. Bachmayer began another paper in the village and called it "Political Judge." Since he had no type, he was obliged to copy each paper as many times as he had subscribers. The paper was devoted mainly to the "calling out of the Catholic Church building committee" and to local news. It was circulated free. From the time of Phelps leaving until 1863, there was no paper issued in Burlington.

The establishment of a permanent basis for an education system in Burlington was not easy. The rudimentary instructions available in the little brick schoolhouse (page 10) did not satisfy many of the village citizens who wanted the kind of studies common to schools in the East.

This private residence at 116 Jefferson Street was built in 1844 to house the Burlington Academy.



In 1844, a private school, the Burlington Academy, was incorporated by an act of the legislature. Pliny Perkins, Origen Perkins, Dr. E. G. Dyer and Nelson R. Norton were the incorporators. A building to house it was built and is standing at 116 East Jefferson Street. Mr. R. D. Turner was the first teacher. John F. Potter, before he became Wisconsin's Attorney General, was another teacher. It was a fairly prosperous learning center under a Dr. Lewis' leadership. At one time there were 25 pupils and two teachers.

Soon after the academy was established, a Young Ladies' Seminary was opened in a building erected for its use on the grounds of the then Presbyterian Church at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Johnson Street. Miss Calendar and Miss Selleck were teachers there.

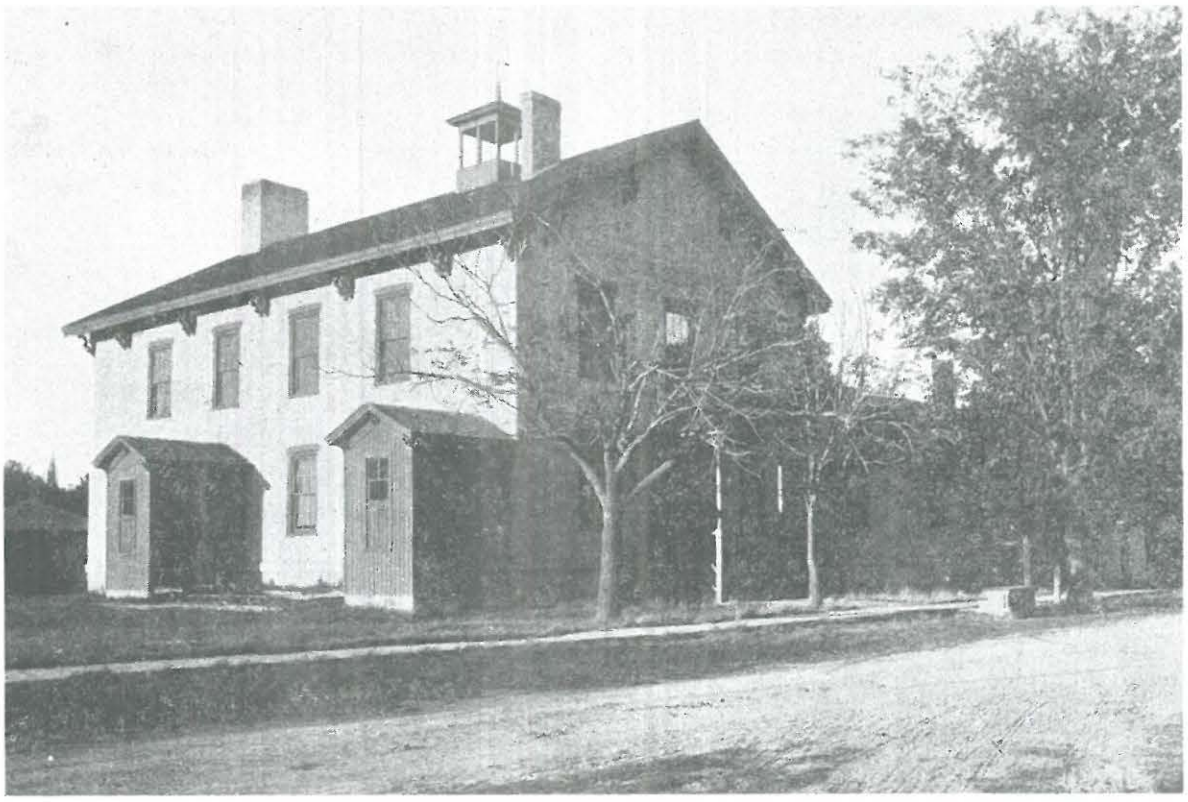
More progress was made to establish a public school system when the Legislature in 1857 passed an act incorporating the Burlington Union School District of Racine County. Under the chairmanship of Charles J. Jones, a district school board was elected on April 15, 1857. Members: Pliny M. Perkins, William Johnson, Wolf A. Raps, J. H. Cooper and C. P. Barns.

On July 31, 1858, the district was authorized by the citizens to build a schoolhouse on the selected site at the corner of Dyer and Liberty Streets (Kane and State). William Johnson was chosen to build it; Joseph Wackerman, Sr. to do the mason work. Only the lower floor was fitted up for school use when the building was accepted on September 19, 1859. The upper floor was not furnished until 1870.

During construction of this building, classes were held on the second floor of the Matthias Klingele building on Chestnut Street. Mr. Samuel Lockwood was the principal and Mrs. Lockwood and Emily Dyer were his assistants. When the new school opened, Lockwood remained as principal.

Despite the fact there was now a fine, new, large stone building in which to carry on, things did not go smoothly. Dissension arose about the way school was run and about costs reflected in taxes. A serious quarrel resulted in the formation of two school boards, each claiming to be the legal board. School meetings were held, resolutions passed and ignored, appropriations made and rescinded and school was closed for a year. The new board finally gained control in April 1861. Mr. Lewis Benedick was hired as principal and retained the following year. New principals came in rapid succession. In 13 years, there were 13 principals, each new one introducing a new course of study, teaching whatever he pleased. The tenure of the women teachers was briefer still. Records show that in a certain year, the two lower rooms had seven teachers, their terms of service ranging from three to 33 weeks.

The high school section included grades A, B, C, and D, with about 30 pupils in each class. Henry Allen "Little Hal" Cooper was a member of the C class. He later represented the first district in the United States Congress. The Civil War interrupted classes since most of the A class boys enlisted in the service. Many of the underclassmen left school, too. The Sawyer and Cooper boys from class C played drums for the older boys as they drilled in their impromptu camp on the banks of



This is the second school building built in Burlington, in 1859 and the upper floor finished in 1870, later named the Lincoln School. Notice the one story addition on the back. This at one time was used by the Multiscope Film Corporation.

the White River. When the time came for graduating the first class, July 3, 1863, only one girl received her diploma, Miss Harriet Dyer, signifying the completion of the four year course. After another small class was graduated in 1865, the high school was abandoned until 1872. Some students attended various township schools.

Real stability and character came to the school in 1872 when Edwin Ruthven Smith was installed as principal. Edwin was the grandson of pioneer Lemuel R. Smith. He had been a member of Mr. Lockwood's high school A class who had, all as a body, answered the call to arms during the Civil War. After three years honorable service in the army and after taking an advanced course in education, he was hired to bring order to the Burlington system.

It was completely reorganized by him, thoroughly graded and placed on a permanent basis.

The school was divided into four divisions: Primary, Intermediate, Grammer and High School, which were severally presided over by Mrs. Ellen Montgomery, Miss Christie Munroe, Miss Susan McBeth and Miss Frankie Cass. The high school course Mr. Smith established admitted graduates to the University of Wisconsin. Women teachers, more happy in the new atmosphere, stayed longer: Miss Frankie Cass-8 years, Miss Susan McBeth-11 years and Miss Christie Munroe-17 years.

With the public school now running on an even keel, Mr. Edwin Smith reluctantly resigned in 1883 to accept the position of Superintendent of the Manitowoc County schools.

As a sample of the courses of study private schools were offering, this circular issued on February 14, 1885 could be included.

CIRCULAR

The Burlington Education Society

Has opened an institution designed to teach pupils from the rudiments of education, to the completion of a thorough high school course, and also for training prospective teachers.

The institution is now in its infancy and under the charge of MISS MORREL, a well qualified teacher.

PRIMARY, MIDDLE AND SENIOR CLASSES

Primary Class - Reading, Spelling, Primary Geography, Mental Arithmetic.

Middle Class - Written Arithmetic Commenced, Geography, English, Grammar, History of the United States, History of England, History of Rome, History of Greece, Ancient Geography, Physiology, Natural Writing, Vocal Music, Botany, "What's on the Mind?"

Senior Class - Arithmetic finished, Algebra finished, Chemistry, Astronomy, Moral Philosophy, Rhetoric, Political Economy, Constitution of the United States, Ecclesiastical History, Wayland's Moral Science, Geology, French.

The principals of Morality and Religion will be STRICTLY inculcated.



Little Hal Cooper (later to become Congressman Henry Allen Cooper) was the drummer boy while the rest of "A" class was drilling for Civil War action. Little Hal, who lived directly behind the school house, was a mischievous lad who was sometimes sent home by his teacher. He climbed on the roof of his barn, and beat on his drum, until the annoyed teacher let him back in.

The second quarter will commence the 2nd Monday in September, third quarter 2nd Monday in December, fourth quarter 1st Monday in March.

Good board may be obtained in PRIVATE families at reasonable rates.

Tuition - Primary Class, per quarter $1.50; Middle Class, per quarter $2.25; Senior Class, per quarter $3.00.

David Wiltse, Sec'y Orville Stevens, President

TRUSTEES

Orson Sheldon, N. R. Norton; Orville Stevens; N. Dickinson; Zibino Bliss; D. Wiltse; Albert Thurston; N. McLaughlin.



Edwin R. Smith as he appeared in 1872 when he was the principal of Burlington's Public School.



Conkey Street School, built in 1895, renamed Cooper School in 1940 in honor of the late Congressman Henry Allen Cooper.



Henry Allen Cooper as he appeared in the 1900's when he was a U.S. Congressman.

As the number of Burlington citizens increased, so did school population. At the annual meeting of the District School Board in July 1895, it was generally agreed that a new and larger school building was sorely needed. Resolutions were adopted and funding approved. A little more than a year was required to complete the $35,000 building. Named the Conkey Street School, it was built on one of the high spots in the city at the corner of Conkey and Amanda streets.

It was an excellent structure of Racine white pressed brick, trimmed with Lake Superior brownstone, with a galvanized iron cornice and a roof of the best quality slate. The basement, extending above the ground, contained all mechanical equipment, restrooms and showers and a large room for a boys' gymnasium. The first floor was devoted to the rooms for the elementary grades, the second floor held the specialized rooms for the high school and a large assembly. The third floor (the attic) was fitted up for a girls' gymnasium. It contained several swings, a croquet ground (full size with sand bed) and a set of ten pins. The capacity of the school was 600 pupils. Also on the grounds was a home converted into a kindergarten with room for another 100 children. It was dedicated with great ceremony on February 20, 1897.

Its name was later changed to Cooper School to honor Henry Allen Cooper, a Burlington lawyer who became a United States Congressman from this district, an office he held for 31 years.

Since the population during this period was

predominantly German, sociable, agreeable, gregarious, it was inevitable that a social club would be formed.

On the evening of May 9, 1853, the Teutonia Society was organized at the Catholic School on the hill. The object of the society was to be "the elevation and refinement of the popular song and recreation of social life." The charter members were Joseph Block, William Riel, Henry Martensen, Francis Reuschlein, Jacob Muth, Julius Lueck, Dr. Francis Kords, Joseph Wackerman, Sr., John Ries, Richard Weygand, Conrad Bosshard, William Funk, Charles Wagner, Frederick Keuper, Matthias Bachmayer, Henry Burhaus, Casper Scheidt, and William Rein. Jacob Wambold, Martin Schafer, Ciriak Prailes, Frederick Wilhoft and Jacob Oelten were enrolled a few evenings later.

Until 1870, the society experienced financial difficulties. To rent a meeting room, plus furnishing a stove and wood and other necessities were matters of great concern. It was even difficult to obtain candles to light up the old school where meetings were held. However, the result of a few public concerts and a grand ball later swelled the treasury so they were able to buy a club flag and a piano.

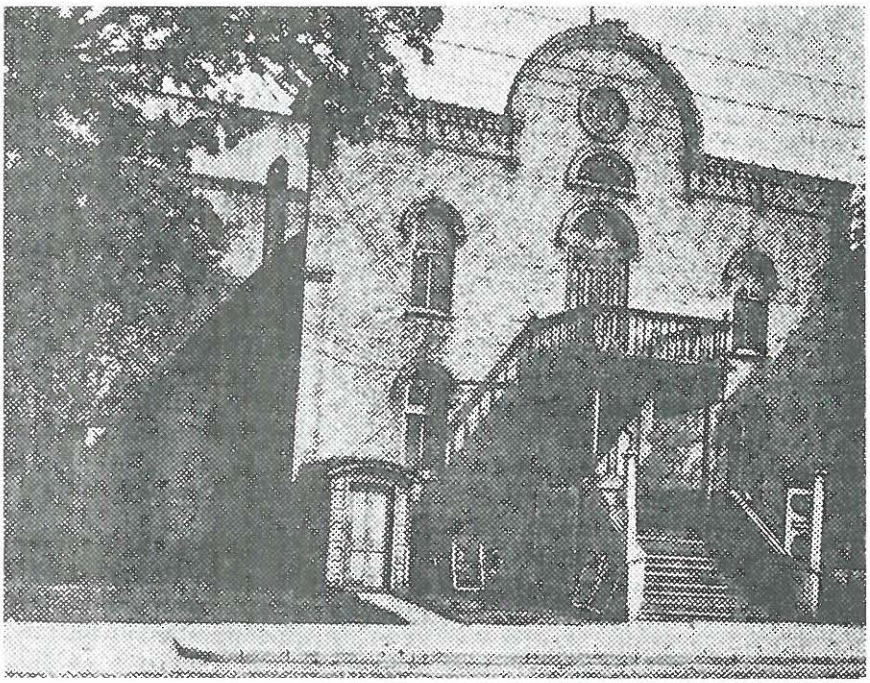
In 1871, the German Dramatic Society and the Turner Society joined Teutonia and as one club, planned to erect a hall. The building of the hall was done most enthusiastically by the members, some of whom borrowed sleighs and hauled stones for the foundation whenever they had time. The hall was erected at the corner of what is now Kane Street and Milwaukee Avenue on a lot bought from Peter Forbes for about a thousand dollars. The lot and building cost $5,221.50.

On October 8, 1871, "Teutonia Hall" was to be dedicated and a sumptuous feast was prepared, but, the society members never ate a bit of it. For that night Chicago was burning, and hearing about the destitute, the society packed the big roasts and everything that belonged with them and sent them to the sufferers.

Now that the hall was finished, theatricals, music and athletic sports flourished in the community. There was now a place where concerts could be given, plays produced and where men could exercise on the turning poles and bars.

In May 1877, the society started a park project. It purchased land for $1,216.50 west and opposite Durgins Bridge (now the Airport Road bridge), overlooking the White River. The cost included the cost of trees, labor and for the drilling of a well. The next year, the land was sold again for about $1,000. A feature of the park was the Brownson Cornet Band which gave summer concerts there.

Another social group in town was the Burlington Lyceum Club, organized by citizens in 1859. A weighty question discussed at one of the first meetings was: "Resolved: That the taxpayers of the Town of Burlington are justified in repudiating their taxes as assessed for 1859." Whether the affirmative won the debate and carried out the resolution isn't known. A special notice was made that the ladies as well as the gentlemen, were expected to attend.



Teutonia Hall, originally built in October 1871, shows an addition at the rear, built for a stage and loft.

Social groups also met at Schaeffer's Garden, located near the mill race, in what is Echo Park. It furnished a place for bowling and dancing. During the Civil War, soldiers drilled on the grounds. Hal Cooper, a lad of 11, played the snare drum for the drilling soldiers. At the east end of the Fox River bridge, stood a building where concerts and plays were given. This was probably the building mentioned before in connection with Jacob Muth.

The Odd Fellows Lodge was the first fraternal society to organize a lodge in Racine County. As early as 1843, ten Odd Fellows got together in Burlington and formed a lodge which was subsequently chartered by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin. Fred Loven of Kenosha was the first noble grand and Jame Catton, vice grand. Others in that first lodge

Photo of cast iron sign which can be seen in the above photo above the door of the balcony.



An advertisement, in German, for a performance at Teutonia Hall. Notice the names of the substantial businessmen in the cast.

Amusements.

Theater!

in der

Teutonia - Halle!

— IN —

Burlington, Wis.

Samstag, den 20ten Nov.

—o—

Ein Glücklicher

Familienvater

Lustspiel in 3 Aufzügen von Görner.

—o—

Personen:

Petermann, ...Herr Konst.
Max Leichthin, sein Neffe, ... „ Neuschlein.
Rosenberg, Maler, ... „ Zache.
Adele, dessen Frau, ...Frl. Weygand.
Clara, ihre Schwester, ... „ Wald.
Prickel, Farbenreiber, ...Herr L. Stang.
Guste, Kindermädchen, ...
Ein Droschkenkutscher, ...Herr Platt.

Nach der Vorstellung:

Tanzkränzchen!

Eintritt 25 Cts.—Kinder 15 Cts.

Kassenöffnung 7 Uhr, - - Anfang 8 Uhr.

Teutonia Park looking down from the top of the hill and showing the junction of the White River and Honey Creek.



were James Edmonds, Richard Weygand, Thomas Marsland, J. W. Edmonds, and E. S. Voorhees. In a few years after 1843, it was able to acquire a good hall over Kantz' hardware store on Geneva Street.

Masonic Lodge No. 28, F and A M was granted a dispensation of February 7, 1849 and was instituted under a charter dated December 15, 1849. For a time, the lodge met in the Odd Fellows Hall, but later secured a hall of its own.

One of the most interesting characters in the history of the town, was John Potter, "Bowie Knife Potter" as he was known. He received nationwide renown as a member of Congress representing this district. In 1850, Potter practiced law in Burlington. In 1856, he was a member of the Wisconsin legislature and the same year was nominated and elected to Congress. It was Lemuel Smith who started Potter on his political career. Smith was to have been sent to the state legislature, but the duties of his farm and growing family seemed to make his presence at home imperative.

Young Potter was a clerk in a grocery store at the time, and Smith went to him and proposed that he should go instead. Potter was reluctant. He believed that Smith should rightfully have the place, but Smith urged his acceptance and offered to throw his influence behind Potter if he accepted. Potter finally agreed to do it. He entered the legislature in 1856. In the same year, he was nominated for Congress and elected.

He was subsequently re-elected for the following term. Potter entered Congress during what was probably the most turbulent period in the history of the body. It was a time when personal assault took the place of dignified argument. It was while he was there, the "Bowie Knife" incident took place.

A quarrel had arisen when Potter accused Roger A. Pryor of erasing from the records some of the remarks Potter had interpolated in another man's speech. Pryor challenged Potter to a duel. "I was not a good shot with a pistol," he said, "and I did not propose to have any hair-trigger business. So I proposed to bring the combat down to the first principles of human butchery. I saw no reason to accommodate him by going out of the District to fight, therefore, I accepted his challenge with the stipulation that the weapons should be Bowie Knives and the encounter should take place in a closed room in the District of Columbia, each of the principals to have two friends, both armed, and the fight go on until one of the other of the principals fell," Potter is quoted as saying.

The terms were refused by Pryor, who called them barbarous. That Potter would stand by his offer and fight on the terms proposed, no one doubted, and Pryor knew it, too.

Pryor became the butt of ridicule everywhere, even in the South, where for a time, he was almost afraid to appear on a public platform because of

jibes from the audience.

The original Bowie Knife which Potter would have used if Pryor had not declined to fight, was presented years ago to Lawrence College at Appleton, where it is preserved and treasured as a relic of permanent interest.

On April 12, 1860 C. E. Dyer wrote the following letter to Potter. "My dear sir: I have just read, with great delight, the New York Tribune account of Lovejoy's speech and your participation in the proceeding that occurred during the delivery. Your courageous and manly conduct on that occasion in vindicating the freedom of debate, will receive the warmest approbation of your constituents. Thank God for such men as you and Lovejoy."

Later in a letter dated April 15, Dyer wrote; "A dispatch has just been received informing us that Pryor has challenged you and it causes not a little excitement. As you are the challenged party, I suppose you have a choice of weapons and if you would accept, name as weapons those that God has given you, your own strong arms and fists, it would be a long time yet before you would be out of Congress."

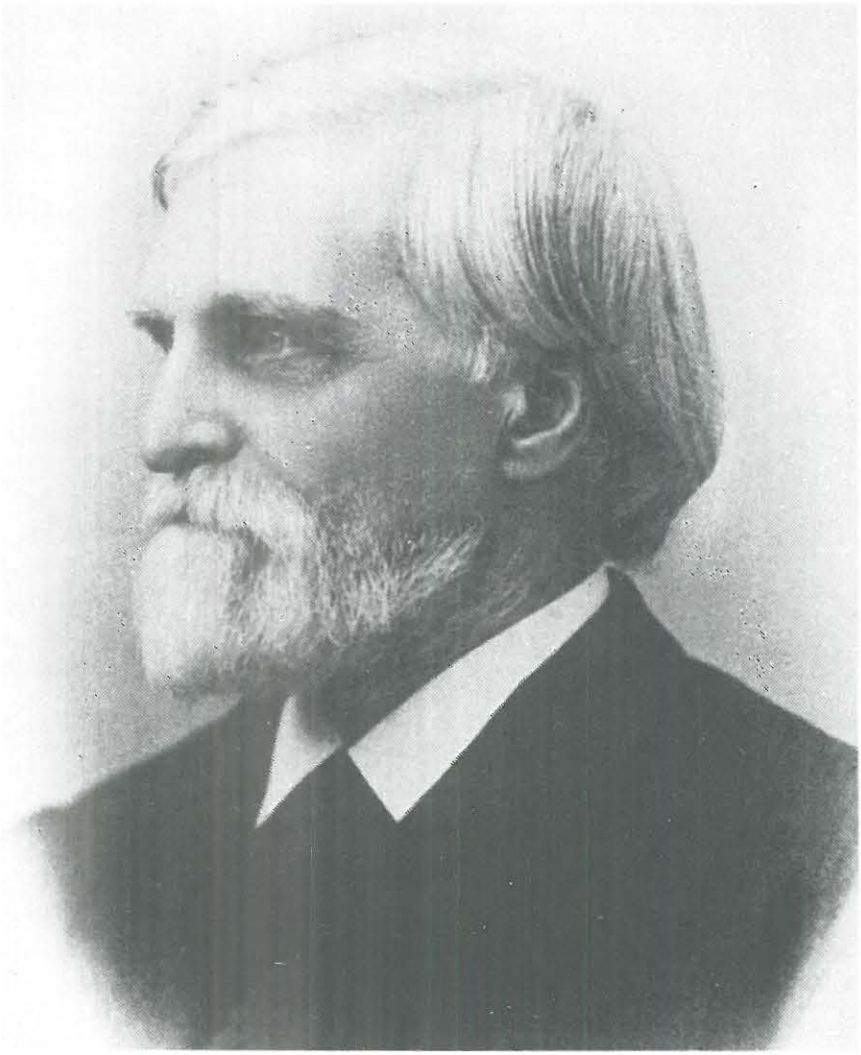
Potter was well liked in Washington. He was a close friend of Lincoln, Chase, Sumner and others. Lincoln appointed him counsel general to British America at Montreal. He served in that capacity for three years, then retired to his farm at Potter's Lake where he lived until his death on May 18, 1899.

When the Civil War broke out, there was much excitement here as well as in other parts of the country. Two groups were organized in Burlington. The Utley Guards (Company C of the First Infantry) and the Burlington Rifles (Company E of the Fifth Regiment).

The guards took their name from William L. Utley who was Adjutant General of the state. He was also head of military affairs during the first nine months of the war. On September 18, 1861 there were 110 men in this company.

In the Rifles were enlisted the German men of the community, 60 of them on this date. Into those two companies went the men who answered the first call for volunteers at the beginning of the war. All young men of Class A of the Lincoln School enlisted. The Cole brothers, Edwin Smith, Asa and Frederick Wells, William Sheldon, John Sawyer, Royce Partridge. Hal Cooper (drummer) and A. E. "Eddy" Wells were younger, lower-classmen. Just boys, they were too young to serve, but could play the drums for soldiers drilling in Schaefer's field. (The last four men were not mentioned in the list of enlisted men in the Racine County Militant.) Officers were Robert Hill, captain; William E. Gibbons, first lieutenant; and H. A. Sheldon, second lieutenant.

On September 25, 1861, the Guards left Burlington for the war, escorted to the train by the German company, the German Brass Band, and a great crowd of citizens.



John "Bowie Knife" Potter

Later volunteers joined various other companies, including the 22nd Regiment of Infantry, organized at Camp Utley at Racine, under the command of Colonel W. L. Utley. They were mustered into service on September 2, 1862. The 9th Battery of the Light Artillery, organized at Burlington under Captain Cyrus Johnson, were mustered in on January 17, 1862.

An additional 253 men, mostly volunteers, went to the war from Burlington. Of the total, 23 were either killed in battle or died at home from wounds received in the war.

The list of Burlington men who gave their lives during the Civil War is as follows:

Henry E. Benson, Company F, 2d. Wis., killed July 21, 1861, Bull Run, VA.

Glaucius Royce, killed May 5, 1862, Williamsburg, VA.

Frank D. Cole, Company F, 2d. Wis., killed Aug. 28, 1862, Gainsville, VA.

Julius Lueck, Company C, 1st Wis., killed Oct. 8, 1862, Chaplin Hills, KY.

John Weinborn, Company C, 1st Wis., killed Oct. 8, 1862, Chaplin Hills, KY.



Designed by Jim Bowie of "The Alamo" fame to stab like a dagger, slice like a razor and chop like a cleaver. A Bowie knife such as this would have been used by Potter had he dueled Pryor.



Soldiers' Monument, located in the town cemetery, was erected in honor of those men who died in the Civil War. Their names are inscribed on the monument over the words, "Our Fallen Heroes".

Dennis Callaghan, Company D, 20th Wis., killed Dec. 8, 1862, Prairie Grove, AR.
August Schultz, Company H, 9th Wis., killed April 30, 1864, Jenkins Ferry, AR.
George Martin, Company E, 9th Wis., killed April 30, 1864, Jenkins Ferry, AR.
William Madama, Company H, 22d Wis., killed July 20, 1864, Peach Tree Creek, GA.
J. Landgraf, Company H, 22d Wis., died May 19, 1864, Chattanooga, TN.
Gustave Hueblin, Company E, 9th Wis., died July 9, 1864, Little Rock, AR.
Joseph Brainard, Company C, 1st Wis., died July 1, 1863, Nashville, TN.
M. L. Crane, Company C, 1st Wis., died Burlington from wounds at Chaplin Hills, KY.
Christopher Haas, Co. E, 9th Wis., died at Burlington.
Henry Martensen, 35th Wis., died at Burlington.
Charles Neep, 2d Wis., died at Burlington.
Peter Wackerman, Company E, 9th Wis., died at Burlington.
Charles May, 39th Wis., died at Burlington.
John C. Richards, 2d Ill., died at Burlington.
O. Norris, Illinois Reg.
Herman Erdmann
E. Watteroth
Henry J. Kies

Of Civil War letters in the files of the Burlington Historical Society, two concerning Edwin E. Smith and Lemuel Smith are especially interesting.

One, written by Edwin to his mother, Mrs. Lemuel Smith, tells of a visit by President Lincoln and Secretary Seward to Ft. William, Virginia, where Smith was stationed.

"The President and Secretary Seward paid us a visit at Fort De Russey and I had the honor of giving them both a drink of water from my canteen. The President looks poorer than when I saw him last summer. Seward is not a very smart looking man, he looks like a great many farmers I have seen. Lincoln was dressed very shabbily, his coat being split quite badly at the elbow. He evidently does not intend to put on such style, especially among soldiers. He would not allow any fuss to be made over him, no guard turned out, no salute, nor demonstrations of any kind. At the time of the heaviest fighting, Tuesday evening, Lincoln and wife were on the parapet of the fort next to us. A shot from the Rebs struck a surgeon standing within a very few feet of Old Abe. I guess that if the enemy had known who he was, they would have tried harder to hit him."

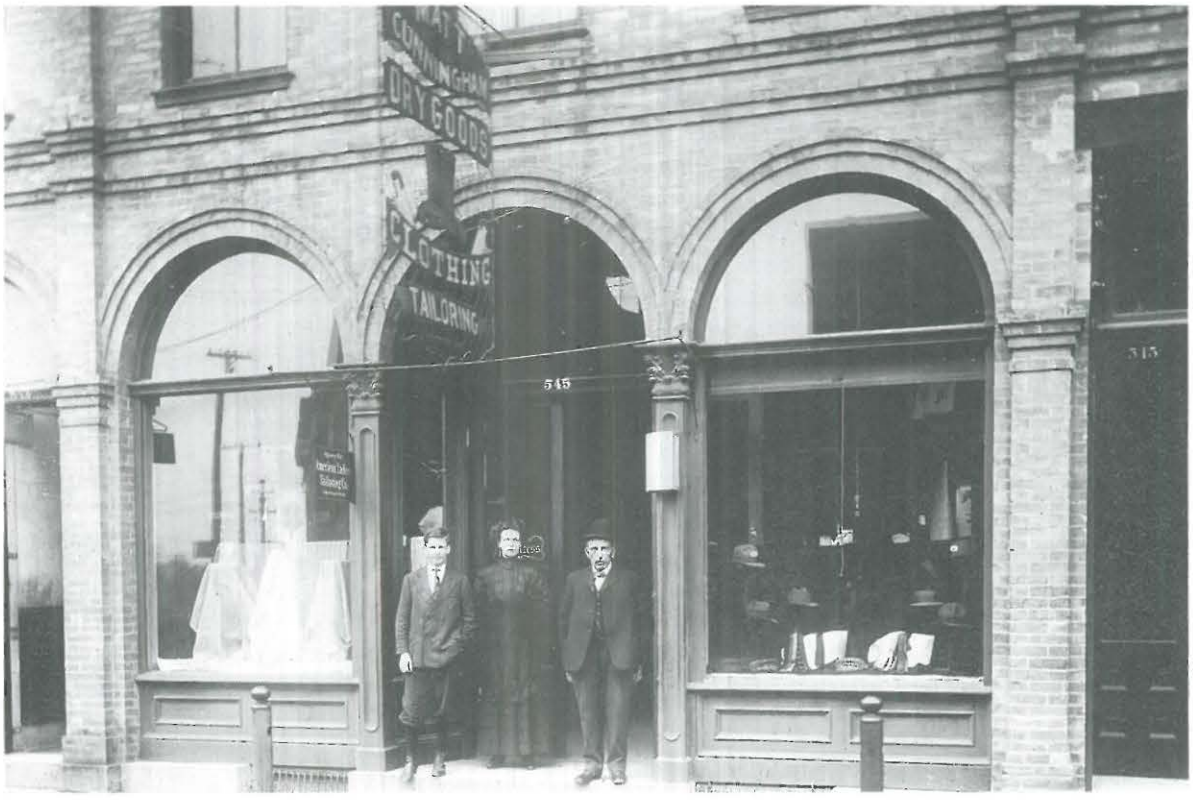
The second was a letter written by J. F. Potter to Secretary of War Stanton. A copy reads:

East Troy, Wis.
August 18th, 1863

Hon. E. M. Stanton,
Secretary of War.
Dear Sir:

The bearer of this note, Mr. Lemuel Smith, visits Washington for the purpose of seeing his son, Edwin R. Smith, a private in the 1st Wis. Art., now at Fort Worth. Mr. Smith is one of our most loyal and respectable citizens, whom I have known for many years. Any facilities which may be extended to him in the furtherance of his object, will be most gratefully acknowledged by him as well as by me.

Yours respectfully,
John F. Potter



The Matt Cunningham Dry Goods Store on Chestnut Street in downtown Burlington.

Chapter 4

Development of City 1870-1890



In the 1870's, the stores to the left of the Jones House housed a millinery shop, the Bank of Burlington, Cunningham's Clothing Store, Prasch's Drug Store (Notice the mortar and pestle.), both Foltz Dry Goods and Buell Hardware in the Buell Block, and Stang's Enterprise Store.

The Civil War brought dull times. A lull in the growth of the village lasted until 1881 or 1882. Trade and commerce were at a low ebb, especially following the monetary crisis which swept the nation in 1873. It was a time of scarce money. Money around Burlington was tight. Local trade was reverting to out-and-out bartering as a way of life. In 1872, the Burlington Woolen Mills, trying to preserve its funds, offered no cash whatever for 100 cords of wood needed to fuel its boilers but was willing to give "cloth, flannels, yarn, etc., in exchange for same." Stores offered 10 percent discounts on merchandise to customers who would lay hard money on the counter. It was not the best of times.

There were changes in the Perkins' mills. In 1871, Pliny retired due to ill health and rented his woolen mill to his sons, James and Edward, who took in a brother-in-law, Andrew Lawton, with them in the management of affairs. They kept it for five years, then lost it in the 1873 crisis and the failure of state banks. E.N. White, a local dealer in wool, bought it and kept it running, using 75,000 to 100,000 pounds of wool a year.

When the oil and grist mills burned in July 1864 only the flouring mill was rebuilt, grinding again in February 1865. On September 5, 1874, the grist mill burned again and the walls were so severely damaged that they had to be razed. Undaunted, Pliny and his sons had a more substantial structure erected at a cost of $20,000, then sold it to Elliott Benson and Maurice L. Ayers. After a time Benson retired and Ayers ran it successfully alone.

As an instance of its world-wide renown; in 1878, 500 barrels of flour were shipped to Glasgow, Scotland and 3,000 barrels to Hamburg, Germany. Some years the mill had to run day and night to process 300,000 bushels of wheat. Ayers owned it until changing conditions put it out of business.

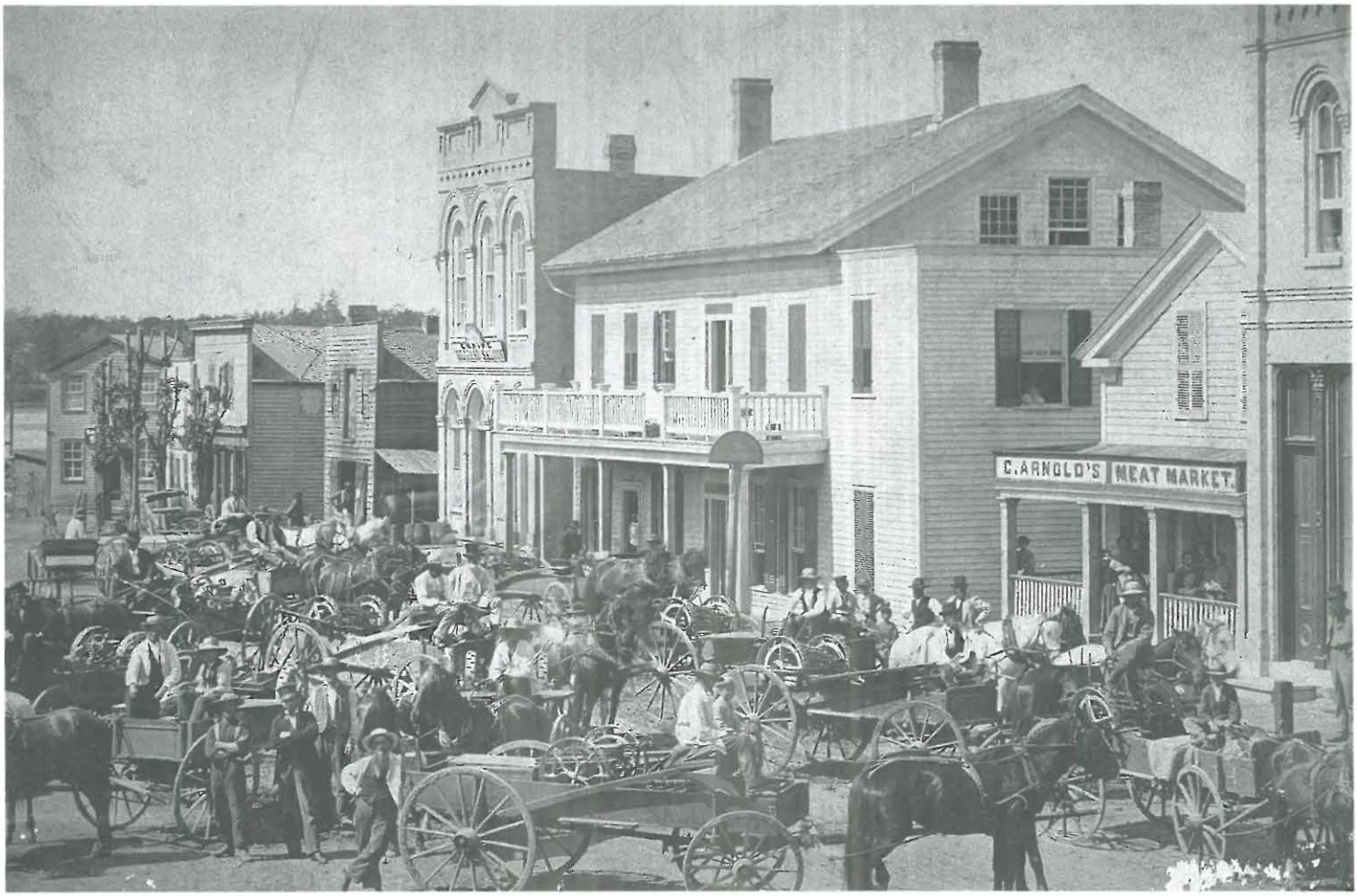
Wheat was the leading farm product locally through the Civil War days when livestock and dairying, which had made inroads by 1860, became the major farm industry. After the war, wheat fell from first place. Growing it on the same soil year after year and shallow cultivating exhausted the land, blight and cinch bugs caused increasing damage. Wheat growing moved west to Minnesota and the Dakotas. Oats and barley were still grown here to supply the malting towers of Jacob Muth and the new Finke-Uhen brewery, but they needed no mill.

By 1920, the renowned Perkins/Ayers mill was no more. It was only a hole in the ground and only basement walls bore witness that it had existed.

A change in the downtown building occurred in 1874. Charles J. Jones moved the wood-framed "Burlington Hotel" that had been built by Pliny Perkins and Hugh McLaughlin in 1839, to a site

(Ayers Mill) - flour sack





The Exchange Hotel run by John Mather on the north side of Pine Street, west of Chestnut Street.

half a block south on Milwaukee Avenue, where it was used many years as a tenement building until it burned. In its place he built a fine, new, three-story brick hotel and the opening of the Jones House was marked with a great celebration. Adjoining it he erected a brick store building called the Jones Block which eradicated the vacant lot where stagecoach watchers had gathered for years.

No sooner did he have the hotel built when he retired from the business and sold it to A.J. Hannas, who now owned both the Jones House and the Exchange House on Pine Street.

Despite the fact that this was not the best time to open a new bank, Jerome I. Case, a wealthy threshing machine manufacturer in Racine, thought the time had come to open a bank in a growing community. Burlington had about 1,200 people in the village and more on the numerous surrounding farms. He formed a group of monied men of Racine (Stephen Bull, Robert Baker, Massena Erskine, Chauncey Hall) wealthy enough to put up $50,000 cash. For a local connection he persuaded Burlington farmer Luther C. Anderson and mill owner Maurice Ayers to join them. Chauncey Hall was sent by Case to scout the village to learn of any possible opposition to outside capitalists setting up shop in the village. He found there was.

When word of Case's intentions got around, a group of Burlington men quickly organized a local bank of their own. E.N. White, H.A. Sheldon, P.M. Perkins and Jacob Muth were a part of the group. They were capitalized at $50,000 of which only $15,000 was in cash, the rest in bank notes.

Both groups sought a charter for a national bank and the prestigious name of The First National Bank of Burlington.

Enoch Squires in the Standard Press related this account of the rivalry:

> "As soon as the Case crowd learned that the rival local group was after a national charter, Ayers volunteered to make a late-night dash by horse into Milwaukee to catch the ear of U.S. Senator Matt Carpenter. The senator apparently had enough power to swing the charter one way or the other. Whichever group got it would be given the right to the imposing name, "The First National Bank of Burlington."
>
> As a result of his midnight mission, Ayers was assured the senator would endorse the application of Case, et al. The victory was theirs, but it was close. On leaving the senator's house Ayers came face to face with an emissary from the all-Burlington group. Under the circumstances, all Senator Carpenter could do was suggest the second group apply for a charter as the Second National Bank of Burlington.

Instead, they decided to operate with a state charter, under the name of "The Peoples State Bank"

After six years of having no local bank, Burlington for a short time, had two.

The First National of Burlington opened on February 26, 1872, with Jerome I. Case, president; M. L. Ayers, vice president; Chauncey Hall, cashier. Luther Hall was on the board of directors. Case left the management of the bank to Chauncey Hall, seldom appearing in Burlington. As evidence of Hall's good management, the bank weathered the 1873 monetary crisis with no serious problems and by 1883 had deposits totalling $160,000, high for those days.

When Chauncey Hall died in 1890, his son Eugene succeeded him and when that young man was killed accidentally, Mrs. Chauncey Hall carried on the business successfully into the 1900's.

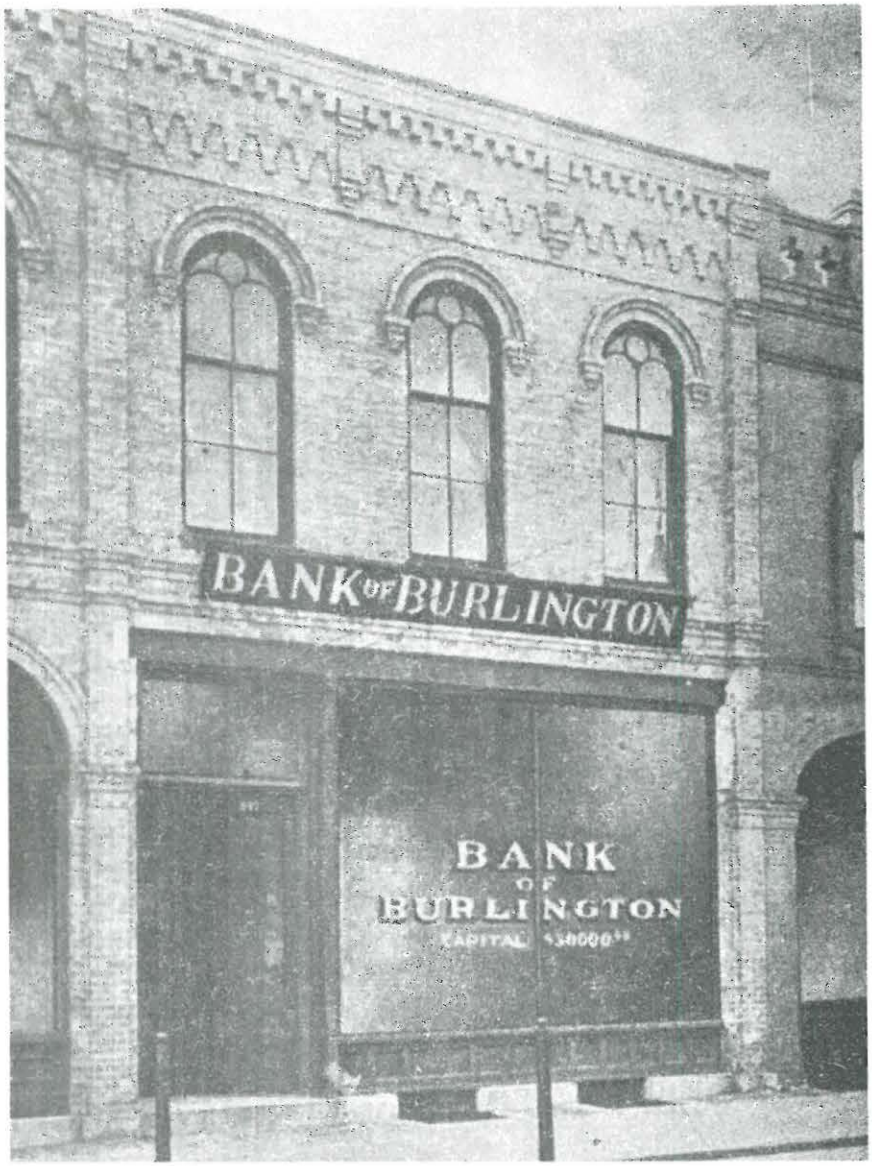
In 1891, nineteen years after its founding, the bank was reorganized from a national to a state bank, same officers, but the name was changed to the Bank of Burlington.

The first home of the bank was a vacant store building on the south side of Chestnut Street adjacent to the Jones Block which adjoined the hotel. It remained in this building for 38 years. In all that time the only improvements needed were a new glass front, new red oak flooring and a brick pylon in the basement to support a new vault on the first floor.

The Peoples State Bank did not fare well. When it opened in 1872 it had only $15,000 cash in its capitalization. With the stiff competition of the other bank, it could not survive the crisis following 1873. It lasted only six years, going into receivership in 1878. **(Author's note: An indication of the strong ethnic element in Burlington at the time; the instructions in the pass book were printed in German as well as English.)**

These years saw the erection of several new churches. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregation had been organized in 1858 and had met in the brick schoolhouse and in members' homes. In 1874, the congregation built a fine, new, frame church on the corner of Pine and Madison Streets. A parsonage was built in 1887 and a school building in 1895. German was the main language of the church in its beginning until 1930 when English began to be used in services and gradually replaced German which was discontinued in 1950.

Another Lutheran congregation was formed as the Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church on May 5, 1883. Acting without delay, they laid the cornerstone for their new church on July 11th of that year. Built of brick instead of the usual wood frame, it was erected on the corner of Jefferson Street and North Perkins Boulevard. Here, too, services were conducted exclusively in German until 1916 when English began to be introduced.

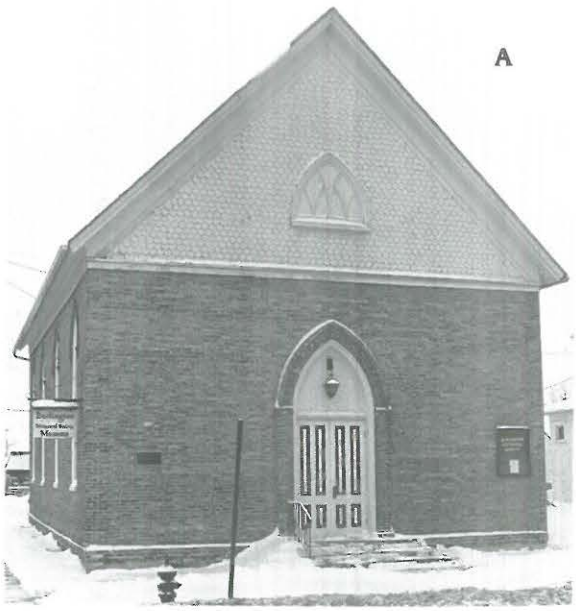


The first of three homes for the Bank of Burlington, used by the bank from 1872 to 1909 when it moved into the new building built by C.B. McCanna on Pine and Chestnut Streets. The final move was made to the location on South Pine Street.

The first Episcopalian service was held in the old Union Free Church in February 1859. Although the congregation adopted the name St. John the Divine, they had no home of their own, meeting in a store building or a borrowed church until 1884. In that year they bought a lot at the intersection of Edward Street and Perkins Boulevard and held the first service in the new church on June 19, 1894. It is interesting to note that the bricks were donated by Edward Brook, part owner of the Burlington Brick and Tile Company, who also hauled stone for the basement from the quarry at Voree.

The Plymouth Congregational Church's 18 founding members were made up of Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians and held their meetings in the little brick school house on Madison Street in the 1840's. They bought the wood Presbyterian church on Milwaukee Avenue and improved it with a new front and a new spire. Fire damaged it in 1895. By 1900, it was razed and in 1902 a cornerstone was laid for a new brick church to be dedicated in 1903.

A. Holy Cross Lutheran (old), (Historical Society Museum)
B. German Methodist
C. St. John's Episcopal
D. Plymouth Congregational







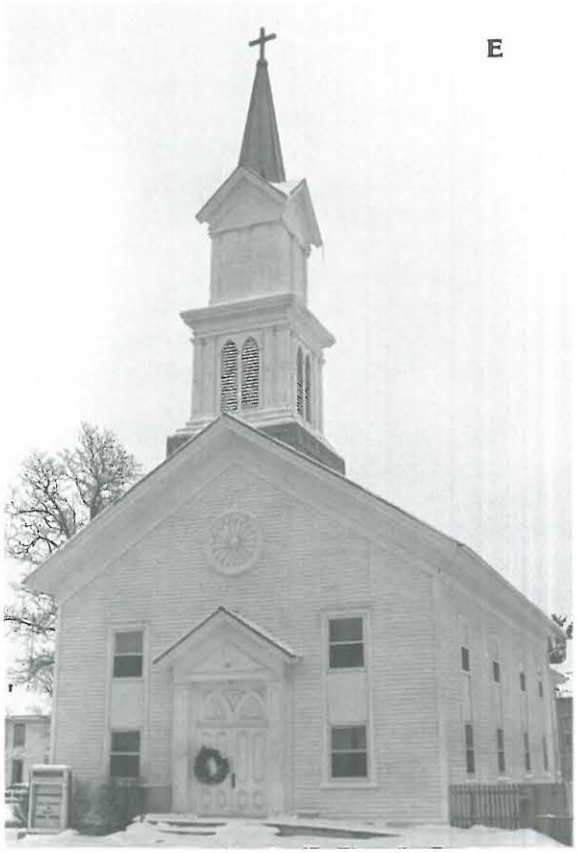


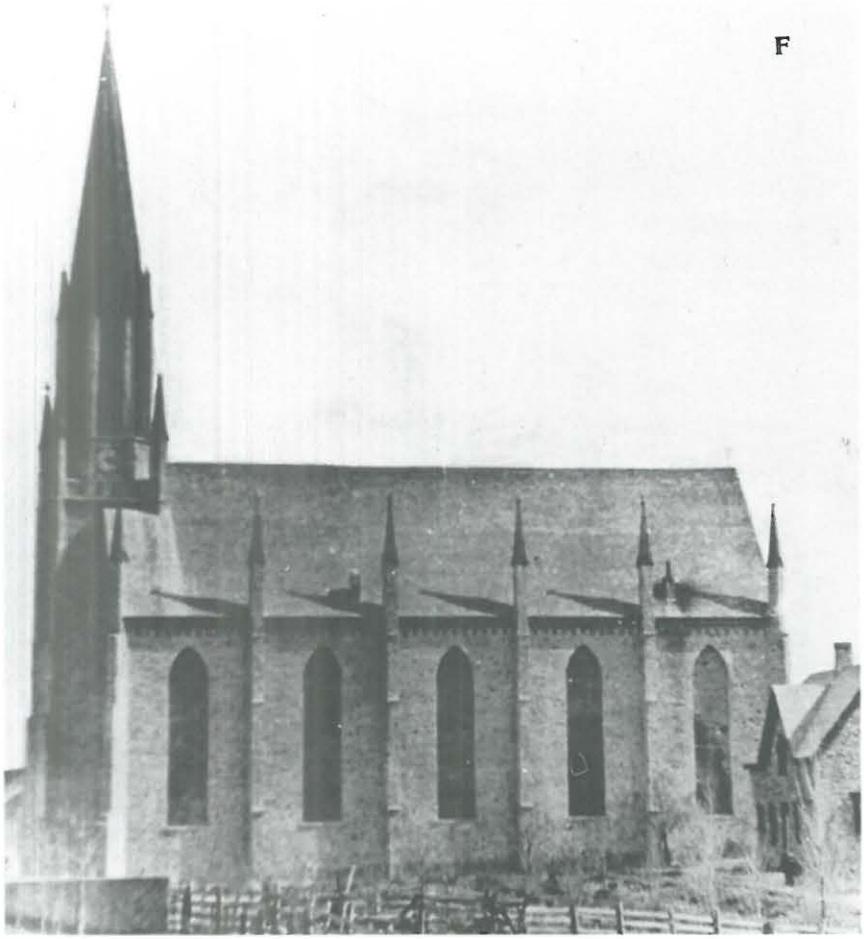
The German Methodists formally organized about 1862. Their church was built on the corner of Perkins Boulevard and Washington Street. As the younger generation of German Methodists grew up in an English speaking environment they came to prefer the English church service and consequently formed their own group in 1899, calling themselves the First Methodist Church. Both groups used the German church building until 1902 when the English group erected their church at the corner of State Street and Perkins Boulevard. In 1922, the two congregations united into one. The church building the Germans had built was sold to the Town of Burlington for use as a town hall.

St. Mary's Roman Catholic congregation had greatly outgrown the small St. Sebastian's Church on the hill by the year 1854. After five years of fund-raising and two years of hauling stone from the farms of parishioners the Church of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary was dedicated on December 5, 1859. This impressive stone structure probably will stand forever on its site on McHenry Street, just south of State Street. St. Sebastian's was converted into a two-floor school, classes in German taught on the first floor, classes in English on the second. It was Burlington's first parochial school.

During the next 32 years, the congregation grew as the village grew. Again a larger church was needed and a magnificent new St. Mary's Church was built on the corner of State and McHenry streets. Dedication ceremonies were held on December 10, 1891. Again the old church, the stone church, was remodeled into a school, replacing old St. Sebastian's which was taken over by the St. Eustachius Benevolent Society and named St. Eustachius Hall.

One remarkable happening may be mentioned here: Reverend Michael Wisbauer was the first and only priest at St. Sebastian's Church and served all during the time the stone church was active





E. St. John's Lutheran (old), Pine and Madison Streets
F. St. Mary's old stone church

. . . a tenure of 42 years.

The earliest newspaper in the vicinity, the Voree Herald, was published by James J. Strang in January 1846, to keep the Mormon congregation in touch with events in the rest of the church. The first issue dealt mainly with Strang's own account of receiving a letter from Nauvoo, Illinois from Joseph Smith, the founder of the Mormon church, appointing Strang to take over the leadership of the church.

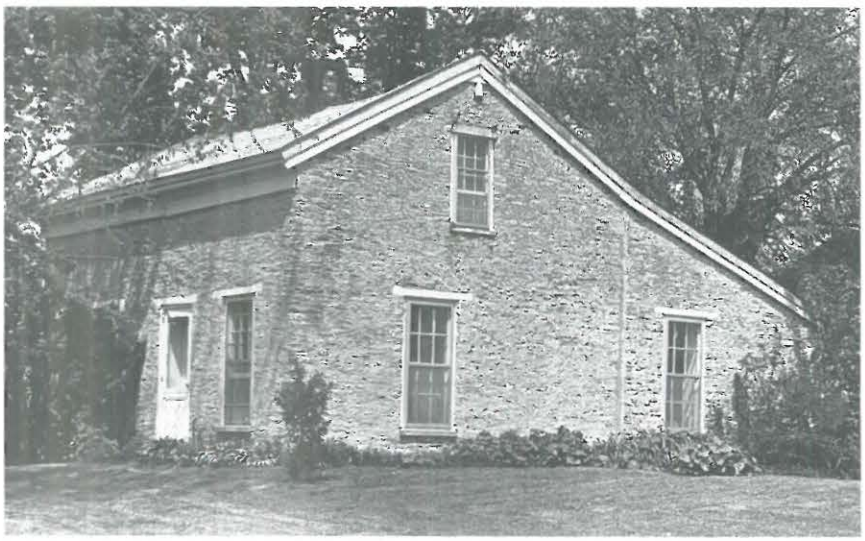
For one year, beginning in December 1846, the paper, still owned by Strang, was edited by John Greehow, mainly to report on the growing controversies within the church.

In September 1847, Strang resumed editorship and renamed the paper the Gospel Herald. It continued an active life into 1850 when Strang took his church members to Beaver Island in northern Michigan seeking a more peaceful haven.

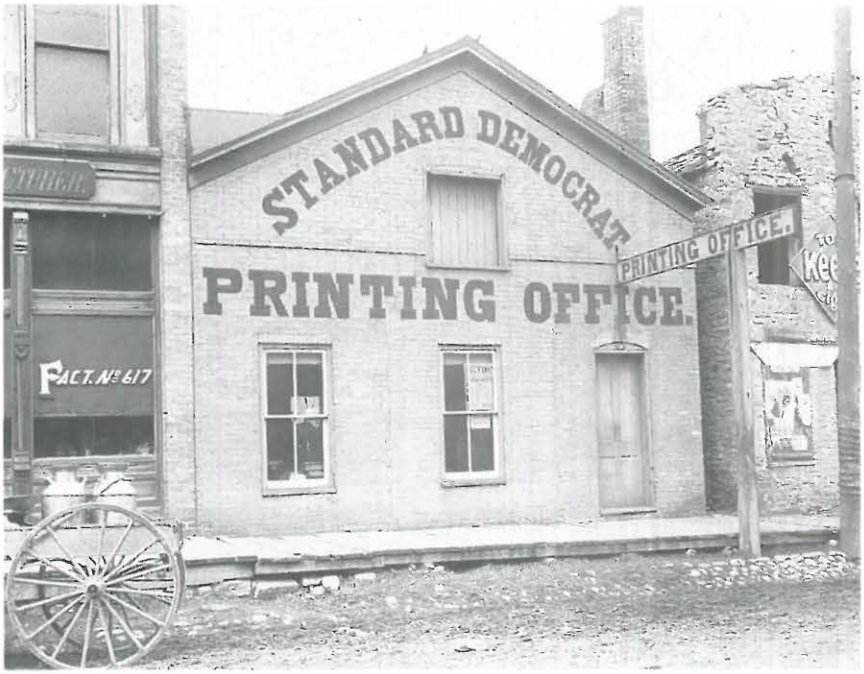
The first Burlington newspaper was the short lived Burlington Weekly Gazette put out by H.W. Phelps in 1859. Financial problems brought it to an end after only a year in existence.

In 1863, a long lasting newspaper business began. Despite changes in ownership and in name, it remains the oldest business in Burlington, a prosperous enterprise from the day of its founding. Lathrop E. Smith, editor and part owner of a newspaper in Beloit, Wisconsin, was induced by a group of Burlington people to aid President Lincoln's war effort by putting out a paper here with strong Republican sentiments. The first issue of his Burlington Standard came out on October 14, 1863. His paper was a success but his last issue was printed August 15, 1866. Smith was not a robust man and ill health caused him to sell to another staunch Republican, Henry S. Devereaux.

Devereaux's successful career extended from 1866 to 1881 when ill health again made a change in newspaper ownership. Two of his employees, Michael Wagner and C. Eddie Sawyer, bought the paper to keep it alive and continued to publish it on a nonpartisan basis. At this time the paper had a healthy circulation of 800 copies.



Strang house.



Standard Democrat when it was owned by Henry E. Zimmermann in the 1900's. It was located on the west side of Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue), north of Chestnut Street.

In April of 1886, Wagner and Sawyer sold the paper to James Stoner. A great change took place. Stoner was an ardent Democrat. The editorial policy changed "to keep alive the true principles of Jeffersonian Democracy" and the name was changed to the Standard Democrat.

During the 1800's "big city" newspapers did not reach small towns. Local papers then devoted more of their space to national and state news. Local happenings rated second page status. In a small town everyone knew everyone and news went by word of mouth faster than the paper could print it. It wasn't until after 1900 that much local reporting made the front page.

When Henry E. Zimmermann bought the Standard Democrat from Stoner in 1889 he began featuring local news prominently and for the benefit of the many German people in the village printed Der Standard Demokrat in German from 1896 to 1911.

In 1880, Henry Devereaux's Republican paper encountered competition from the Burlington Democrat founded by Levi Alden. That paper's democratic leaning did not last long, for Alden soon sold the paper to William A. Colby, who changed the name to the Burlington Free Press. He also changed its allegiance to the Republican party just at the time when James Stoner changed Devereaux' Republican paper to the Democratic banner. So here now were two papers representing both political parties, but in opposite camps.

When William Colby retired in 1891 to become postmaster of the Burlington Post Office, W.R. Devor became publisher and editor of the Burlington Free Press until 1920 when he sold the paper to Kirchner and Koch.



The interior of the Standard Democrat office. In the photo, from left to right, Louis Zimmermann, Henry Bollow, Warner Zimmermann and Theodore Korn.

Chapter 5

Industry and Utilities Grow 1890-1935

During the late 1880's, great strides were made in the growth of the village. In November 1886, the settlement reached the status of an incorporated village and in February 1900 it became a city. The modern amenities of water, sewer system, electricity, telephone, gas for heating and cooking came in to being.

A second railroad laid its tracks through Burlington. The Wisconsin Central arrived in 1884. Coming from the south it followed the east bank of the Fox River, into the downtown area, crossed the White River west of the millpond and continued north.

The two rail lines had a great effect on the growing prosperity of the city. It is hard to believe there were as many as sixteen trains a day entering and leaving the city. Mail, milk, grain, wool, flour, sheep, drain tile, blankets, foundry products going out; all kinds of retail merchandise coming in and a constant stream of passengers. More business and industrial life followed than was ever known before in the history of the place.

From the time in 1839 when the Town of Burlington was formed in Racine County, Burlington village was an unincorporated unit within the town and was governed by town laws. When in 1886, population in the area to be incorporated had increased to 1,744 residents, it was eligible to be incorporated.

A petition was filed with the circuit court which granted the petition and ordered an election to be held in November of that year at which the proposition for incorporation was passed. The first officers elected on November 30 were: E. Merten, president, F. Reuschlein, clerk, Eugene Hall, treasurer, and George Norton, police constable.

Within three years the town fathers and the new village officials had a large brick building built on the corner of Pine and Washington streets. This would replace the old church/town hall on Perkins and Jefferson streets. Beside the municipal offices, the building had room to store the fire engine, a hook and ladder truck, a jail cell and a tower for the fire bell. In succeeding years at various times this interesting building held a library, a chocolate factory, a creamery, book store, drapery shop and more.

Burlington became a city on February 27, 1900, when the population had increased to 2,256 residents. First officers were: G.C. Rasch, mayor, George Waller, clerk, L.J. Brehm, treasurer, L.A. Reuschlein, assessor, and Louis H. Rohr, attorney.

WESTERN UNION

R-A-I-L-R-O-A-D.

TIME TABLE.

Trains Going East.

Passenger Departs	7	A. M.
Arrives at Milwaukee	9:25	A. M.
" Racine	9	A. M.
" Chicago	11	A. M.
‡ Freight Departs	3:10	P. M.
Passenger Departs	5:15	P. M.
Arrives at Racine	6:45	P. M.
" Milwaukee	7:20	P. M.

‡ The only Train in P. M. making connections for Chicago.

Trains Going West.

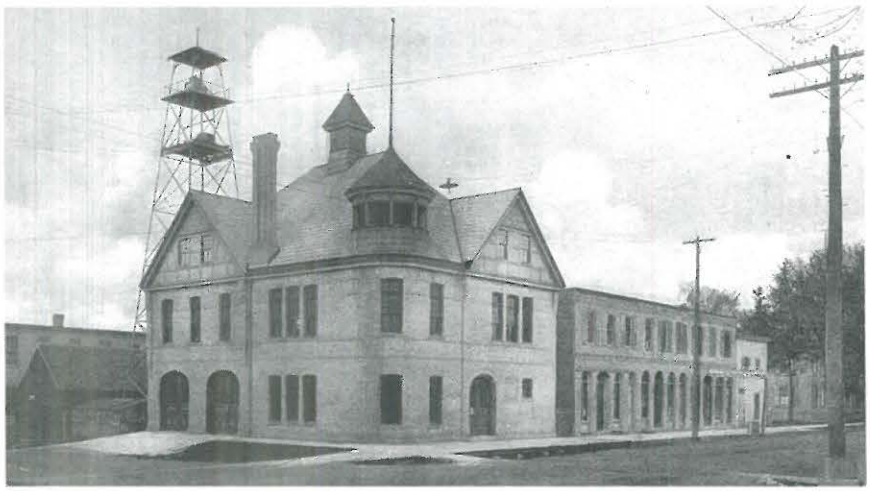
‡ Passenger Departs	9:18	A. M.
Freight and Accommodations Depart,	11:30	A. M.
‡ Passenger Departs	8:36	P. M.

‡ Make connections at Clinton, Beloit, Freeport, Fulton and Rock-Island.

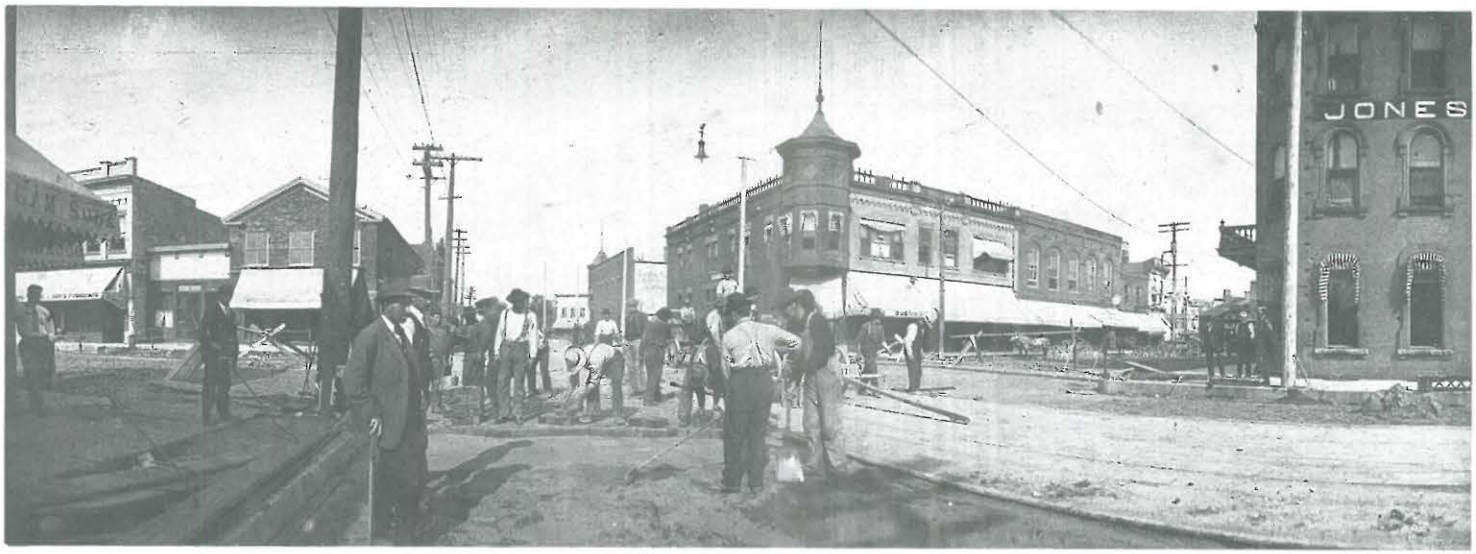
Train leaves Milwaukee at 6:20 for Burlington,
Leaves Racine at 6:45 P. M.
" Chicago at 5 P. M.
Three trains only each way carry Passengers.

Western Union Train Schedule. It was hard to believe there were as many as 16 trains a day entering and leaving the city.

The city officials with a new spirit carried on the improvements started by the village government and added new ones: Paving of streets, a waterworks, a sewer system, a real fire department and city-wide postal service. Now the city could lift itself out of the mud and provide a more comfortable, a safer and healthier environment for its citizens.



Old City-Town Hall at the corner of Pine and Washington streets. Note the tower for the fire bell and the entrances for the fire equipment.



Burlington streets came out of the mud when the brick paving of the streets was begun in 1909. Vitrified red brick was laid on Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue) and Chestnut Street. Only the downtown area was paved then.

The coming of the railway was the incentive for the initial paving project. In 1909, the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company was franchised to build an electric rail line from Milwaukee to Burlington. In the city the line followed the Fox River to Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue) and continued south to St. Mary's cemetery. The terms of the contract provided that the company improve the street between the rails, at crosswalks and on either side of the rails. That offered the opportunity to complete paving Geneva Street along the railway to the McHenry Street intersection. Paving with vitrified red brick (with "Purington" [sic] impressed on it) continued around the bend of Chestnut Street and the business section of Pine Street.

By September 1909, the downtown had come into the modern age. It wasn't long before the paving on Pine Street was continued to Madison Street and that Jefferson Street was paved to the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks. Next came the defining of widths of residential streets for construction of curb and gutter.

Previous to this, the village had ordered sidewalks of wood or cement be constructed throughout the downtown area. At last people could move about, walk and drive without suffering the mud and dust and ruts and debris of those former dirt streets.

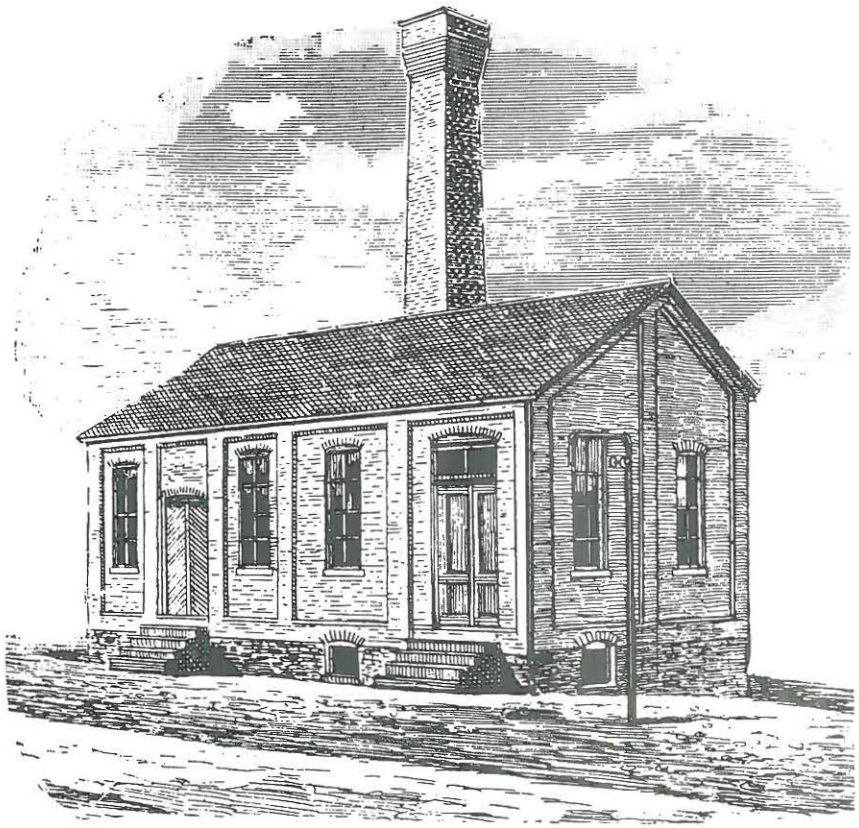
A city wide water system began to be possible when in April 1889 the Burlington Artesian Well and Water Company was organized with a capital of $5,000 to drill a well at a site on the north side of Pine Street near Mill Street. The company was formed by George Wilbur, C.B. McCanna, Eugene Hall, Charles Foltz, Matt Cunningham, E. Merten and George Verhalen. At 1,008 feet an abundant supply of excellent water was found. The next year a total of $28,000 in bonds was issued to build a pump house and a reservoir adjacent to it, a water tower and more than five miles of pipe. The tower was built on the hill at the west end of Lewis Street on a piece of land donated by Arthur Smith, who was the son of early settler Lemuel Smith.

The project was completed during the spring and summer of 1890 and there was a large celebration on August 18 when the water was turned on for the first time. "This begins a new era in the history of Burlington," said the Standard Press of that date.

In 1890, when the waterworks was established, the fire department was reorganized. An item in the Racine newspaper, dated April 14, 1890, printed this account of Burlington.

"The Village of Burlington is reaching out toward metropolitan propensities and for her size and population is getting there at a more rapid pace than the Belle City (Racine). Long ago a fine electric light plant was put in; They have a couple of railroads, and now a waterworks plant is being built.

The first waterworks station was built in 1890. It was located on Commerce Street. The well is still in the basement, but capped.



Many large buildings are in course of construction and new houses are dotted here and there."

In 1909, the waterworks was improved and water mains extended. Water meters were installed to charge customers more fairly for service. By the end of 1914 all who wanted could be served. Not all did. Some considered "hooking up" too costly and stood by their hand pumps in the back yard and the rainwater cistern pump in the kitchen.

In this modern age of luxurious bathrooms, it is hard to realize that up to 1895 and beyond, all downtown stores and all residences had outdoor privies, homes had chamber pots under the beds. That situation began to be alleviated when in 1895 a sewer line was dug in from Milwaukee Avenue around the bend of Chestnut Street to and along Pine Street to Jefferson Street to empty into the Fox River below the bridge. However, it wasn't until May of 1908 that city officials voted to provide an adequate sanitary sewerage system for the whole city and at the same time voted to install storm sewers to take care of surface water. Raw sewage was still dumped in the Fox River until 1934 when a sewage disposal plant was built on a site south of the city along the Fox River near the intersection of the Soo Line and the St. Paul railroad tracks.

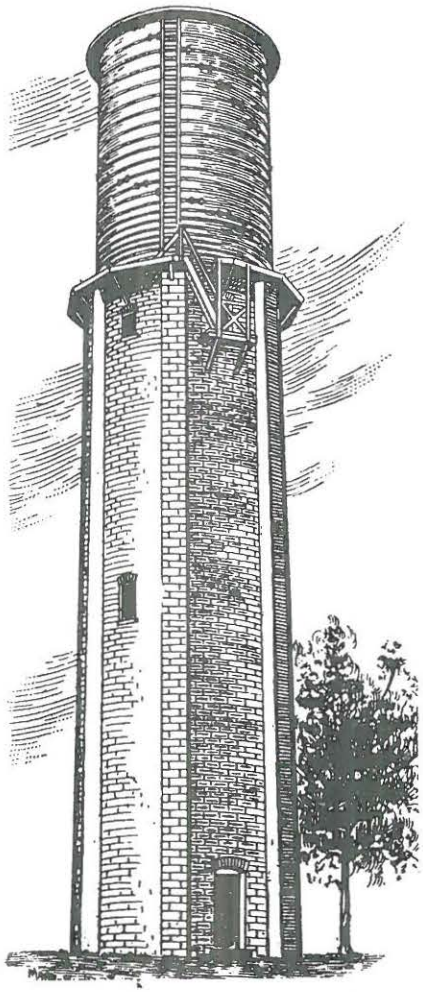
In the early 1800's, fire fighters were handicapped by lack of water and sparse equipment. Cisterns were dug in strategic places and kept filled with water, but never enough for a big fire. Equipment would consist of leather buckets, a hose cart with a hand pump and a few hundred feet of rubber or canvas hose. Most often a burning building would be doomed and efforts made just to save nearby ones.

In 1877, E.S. Vorhees was foreman of a 20 man company and J.E. Faitoute and Charles Keuper were assistants. The next year a hook and ladder company of 35 members was formed headed by Louis Konst. In 1879, there were 80 men in both companies.

"The men take great pride in their organization and have carried off a number of prizes for exhibitions of skill, including one from Freeport of $250 and a silver pitcher obtained at the Chicago tournament last September (1878)", a report of the time stated.

In 1890, improvements were made to Burlington's fire system. Equipment was updated, a new hose wagon and 1,000 feet of hose was added to the 300 feet then on hand and a $100 fire bell was hung in the village hall belfry. A building on Liberty Street (later to be renamed State Street), at the Hillside, (the area around the junction of Liberty and McHenry streets), was leased to store fire apparatus for that end of town. Included in the equipment was the remodeled old manhandled hose cart. Even to the present day, the department is manned by volunteers.

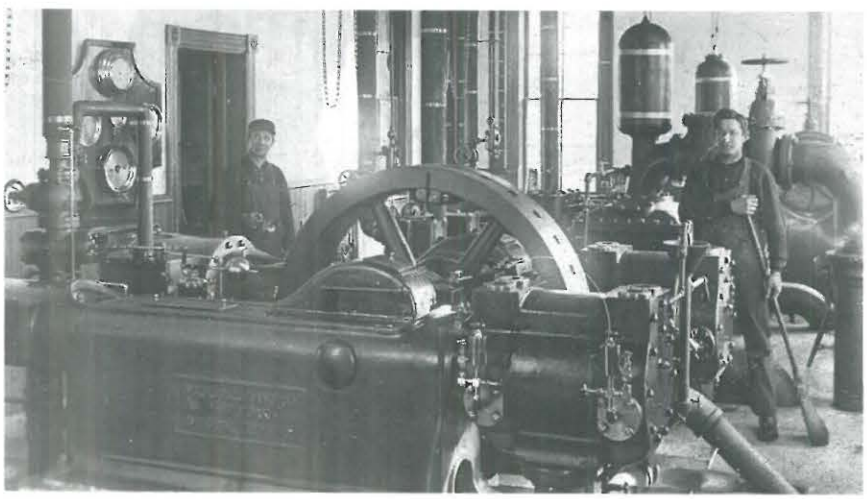
In 1907, a fire alarm system was installed with



This water tower was built in 1890 and served the city until it was no longer used and became a historic monument.

alarm boxes placed in each ward. Citizens could tell where in the city the fire was burning by the number of blasts from the steam powered whistle at the waterworks.

The police department in 1907 consisted of Marshal Frank Beller who had served as Village Marshall since 1896. When the office of Chief of Police was created in 1908, he became chief. Beller had a couple of policeman to help him. He held that office until 1934 when he retired on a pension. Chief Beller never carried a gun. A "billy club" (now among the artifacts of the Burlington Historical Society), and his two brawny fists were all he needed



The steam operated pumps in the water station.



Frank C. Beller as he appeared midway through his long career as Burlington's first police chief.

to keep law and order.

As Burlington grew, the need for an expanded police department also grew. In 1934, Lawrence Grossman succeeded Frank Beller as Chief of Police. Hubert Schenning, Roy McCourt, E.J. Alby, Art Rein, and Charles Wilson were policemen added to the force. Squad cars were bought and for a time there was a motorcycle traffic patrol.

It is interesting to note that utilities such as electricity and telephone, and the coming of the automobile, came into this city while inventions were still in experimental stage. Newer cities from their very beginning took such things for granted.

In 1879, Thomas Alva Edison had perfected the incandescent lamp and the generating equipment to supply it with current. Soon he had men traveling through the country promoting the establishment of more generating plants using equipment manufactured by his company.

One of these salesmen aroused the interest of Leonard J. Smith and C.D. Hubbard Jr. William and John Wagner owned a machine shop on Pine Street across from the Ayers (formerly Perkins) flouring mill. Steam power was already being used there and there was a small building available at their plant.

The four men, in 1888, formed the Burlington Electric Company. They installed two 12½ kilowatt Edison, bi-polar, direct current dynamos and a 60 horsepower boiler and a 40 horsepower Atlas Automatic steam engine to drive them. Electric current was first produced on November 22, 1888.

Now came the opportunity for lighting up the village. Twenty-four street lights were strung through the village, mainly at the center of street intersections. One light bulb with a white reflecting shade was suspended in the center of each crossing from a cable reaching from street corner to street corner. They were 32 candlepower (equivalent to a 100 watt bulb) incandescent bulbs and cost the village a rental fee of $1.50 each month. The lights

Burlington, Wis., Nov 10 189 8

Mrs Wm Lasker

IN ACCOUNT WITH

HALL & SMITH ELECTRIC COMPANY.

All Incandescent Lamps Renewed After 600 Lamp Hours at Company's Expense.
Lamps are the Property of the Company. Changes of Wires, Etc., at Consumer's Expense.
On Meter Bills of $5 Per Month and Over, 10 per cent. Discount for Cash. On Bills of $10 and Over, 20 per cent. Discount.
All Bills Due on the 10th of Each Month.

Time of Service.	To 9 o'clock.			To 12 o'clock.			All Night.			Contract Price per Month.
Candle Power.	6	16	32	6	16	32	6	16	32	
Price per Month.	35	50	90	50	75	125	75	100	175	

Present Index of Meter.....
Former Index of Meter.....
Watts Consumed at 10c per M.....
Discount.....

1 From Apr 10 to Nov 10 @ 75 — $6 00
8 months

For the Month Ending Nov **10th, 189 8. Received Payment,**

Kindly give this your earliest attention

Hall & Smith Electric Co
per Harrison, manager

An 1898 electric bill. Notice the various options for ordering electric service.

were first lit on August 5, 1889, probably to the cheers of delighted spectators.

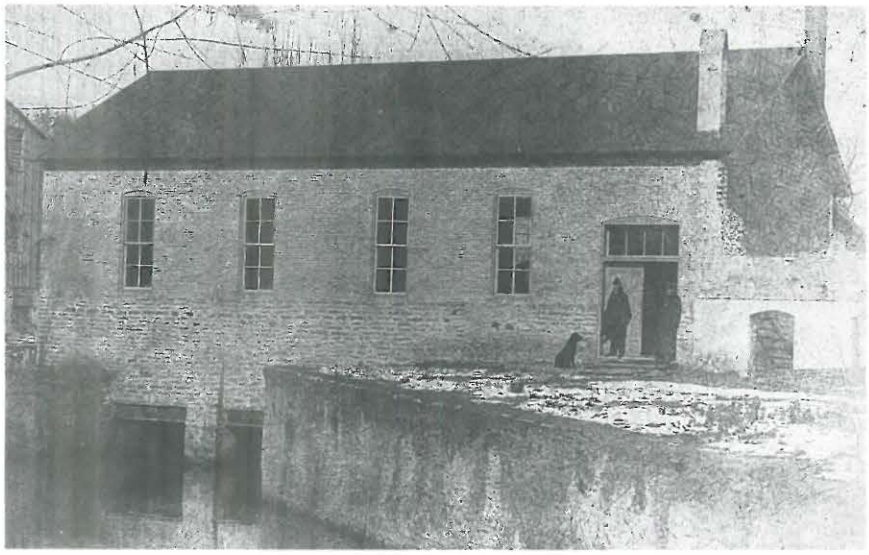
Lamplighter John Schumacher did not cheer. The old oil lamps were no longer needed nor were his services. His $7 a month job no longer existed.

Stores used the same size bulbs, rented at $1.00 a month. Homes used 16 candlepower (60 watt) bulbs for 50 cents a month. The homes of Leonard Smith, Eugene Hall, Fred Wilhoft, C.B. McCanna, C.A. Jones, Anthony Meinhardt, Matt Cunningham and Andrew Patterson were the first residences wired.

Electricity was such a marvel that the man who installed it into his home rated an item in the local newspaper. An 1889 news item reported, "The Edison incandescent electric light system is in practical use. All business houses, the Teutonia Opera House and many of the private dwellings have discarded petroleum and adopted the electric current. There are at present nearly 300 lamps in use."

Service was not always constant: Sunday was a day of rest for the men at the plant and current was available only from dusk until 11 p.m. In churches the organs were pumped by hand for morning services and could use the electric blowers in the evening only. If a Teutonia Society dance was still going strong at shutting-off time, someone would quickly pass the hat, then run down to the plant to persuade the operator to keep the generators going until 3 a.m.

Late in 1892, Eugene Hall and Leonard Smith bought out the interests of Hubbard and the Wagners and renamed the company the Hall & Smith Electric Company. Pliny Perkins had built a woolen mill in 1843 on a site later used by the Veterans Memorial Building in Echo Park. There he used water power in its operation. It had burned in 1878 and had not been rebuilt. The site suited Hall and Smith. The sluice, flume and wheel chamber were still in fair condition so in 1894 they acquired the property and put up a building on the old foundation and installed new water wheels to drive two 30 kilowatt Seaman & Halske generators. To back up the sometimes erratic water power they also installed boilers and a steam engine.



The Hall and Smith electric company plant, built on the remains of Perkins burned woolen mill.

The new company furnished all-night service, with men on duty around the clock. Shifts were divided among T.E. Hanson, John Roper, and William Leach. For a 12 hour day, six day week the pay was $40 a month. For four years these three men not only ran the plant, (remember both steam engines and water wheels were to be tended), but did all the residential and commercial wiring as well as regular line maintenance work.

As time went on more men were added, still, when companies are small any job is inclusive in its duties. When William Leach became manager of the Burlington Electric Light and Power



Interior of the electric company plant generating room. Water came through a sluiceway from the mill pond to turn the water-wheels that powered the generators.



William Leach became the manager of the electric company in 1902.

Company (formed when Leonard Smith acquired sole interest in 1902), he stoked boilers when he was needed, read meters, figured bills and sent his children, Richard and Edith, to deliver them. Bills not paid at the office he would collect, keeping the money overnight in a sugar sack under his pillow.

He was also the promotional department. Sometimes he would carry a few flat irons on his meter reading rounds and induce housewives to use the iron until he came around again the next month. No obligation, of course, but if she liked it, she might buy it, (and increase the use of current).

(Author's note: Mr. Leach must have been a colorful man, for at a late age he received an airplane pilots license and was known to fly in almost any weather. He was one of the early licensed pilots from Burlington. He housed his airplane and flew from a small triangular field located at Highway 142 and County Trunk J. He also played the flute, and sometimes was featured at concerts sponsored by various organizations.)

The electric company was manufacturing and sending out direct current. This does not travel well for long distances. There is a severe voltage drop and the longer the distance, the heavier the wire needed. C.B. McCanna had his own generator at his milk condensing plant and was attempting to supply current to the Brass Works without much success. In 1907, he and William Leach bought an alternator and installed it at the electric company plant. This not only solved the power problem downtown, but also could brighten up the whole city to the very fringes.

The distribution system was the province of William (Pete) Johnson and his line crew. Probably the most faithful member of the crew was Tessie, an unpredictable horse, that pulled the wagon loaded with line material. It must be remembered that streets and roads were not paved and the wagon was an iron wheeled affair. Tessie was ready and willing to start at seven in the morning (everything had to be loaded and ready to go by then), and she would work like a trouper without complaint. But she would not overtax her strength. If, on a soggy day, the going got too tough, Tessie would stop dead until the load was lightened or, as far as she was concerned, that was the end of the line.

In 1918, Leonard Smith sold the local company to the Wisconsin Gas & Electric Company of Racine with the provision that William Leach was retained as manager. Electricity now came from Milwaukee through a sub-station at the east end of Congress St. to the switching equipment at the "woolen mill" plant where the current was synchronized with the generator there. The water wheels were still being used but the boilers and steam engine had been removed. It was a rather unorthodox arrangement and B.C. Evans, looking at it, remarked, "This operates only by the grace of God!"

The old plant kept on supplying some power until 1933, by which time the water wheels were shut down and all power came from five transmission lines coming into the Congress Street substation from an outside source.

In 1950, the Wisconsin Gas & Electric Company, by order of the Public Service Commission, became the Wisconsin Natural Gas Company. Its electric utility property was bought by the Wisconsin Electric Power Company with headquarters at Milwaukee and Burlington became a part of the extension system of that company.

The first telephone line in Burlington was put in by George Wilbur, founder of the Wilbur Lumber Company, in 1886 to connect his Burlington and Lake Geneva offices. It was a private line and worked so well that other businesses became interested. George's son, Ross, set up a "central office" to accommodate 12 other business houses. The W.J. Finke, brewery, Jacob Gill's Red Fox Inn, Dr. Hicks, The Jones House, were among them. Ross was trouble crew as well as "central." When there was line trouble he donned his spikes, climbed poles and fixed it.

There were a couple of other private lines before Ross Wilbur extended his little company. There was one between the Meinhardt Bank and the Meinhardt residence, another between the Foltz and Chandler homes.

By 1899, the Wilburs had sold their lines to the Wisconsin Telephone Company. In 1890, the telephone directory listed 19 subscribers: Dr. J.H. Bower, Burlington, Blanket Company, Burlington Brick & Tile Company, The Central House Hotel, C.M. & St. Paul Depot, W.J. Finke, Jacob Gill, Dr. L.N. Hicks, Kearney & Rohr Lawyers, Dr. H. LaHahn, F.G. Klein, Lincoln Ice Company, Nic May, C.B. McCanna, McDonald Brothers, St. Mary's Island,

Wilbur Lumber Company and Wisconsin Central, Depot.

In 1897, the office was located in the Miller block, the second floor of Joe Miller's barber shop at the bend in Chestnut Street (#140). To many people the invention was a marvel. One newspaper reported that a number of villagers in Mr. Harrises Rochester store were "gasping in wonderment, almost unbelieving when Mr. Harris announced he could hear them talking from Burlington *five* miles away."

By 1900, telephones had become familiar objects. The golden oak case with the crank handle on the side appeared on many kitchen walls. One alerted Central by whirling the crank, then telling her to whom you wanted to speak. There may have been eight or ten customers on the same line, each with a distinctive ring, i.e., three longs, two longs and a short, etc. All people along the line could hear these rings and being familiar with them would know who was being called and when a call was not for them. How often though, could one hear the clicks of receivers being picked up by listeners-in!

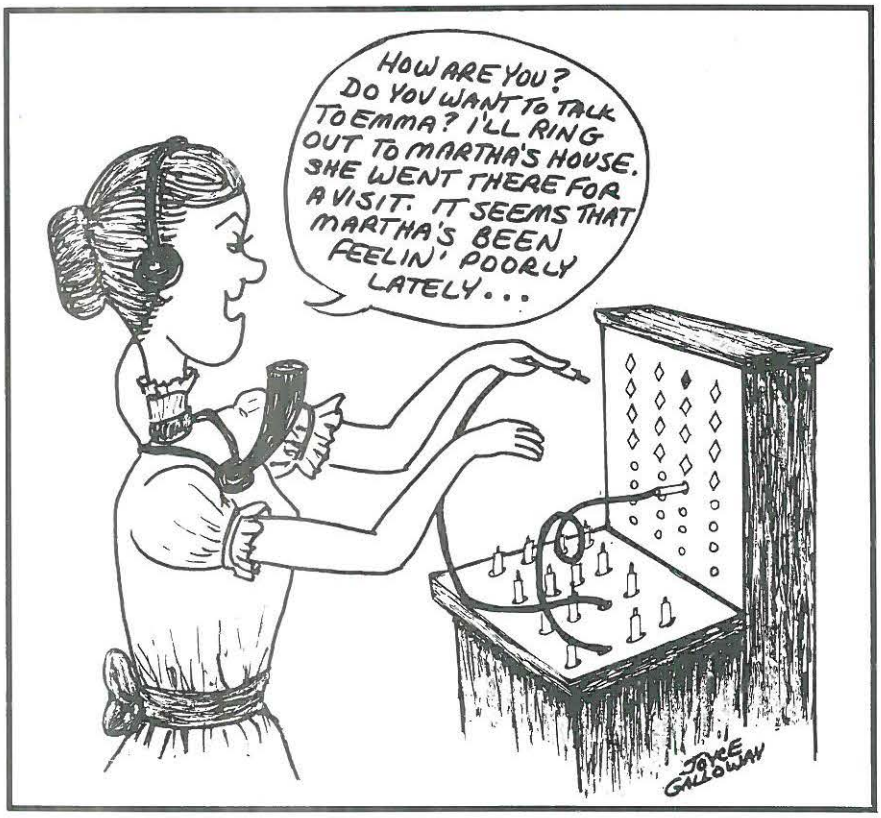
It was a great time for neighborliness. Central (whether she was Myra or Ellie or Gerty) became the friendly hub of information. She would know all of the news that passed through the lines. She would know by voice who the frantic caller was who shouted, "Oh Ellie, call me a doctor quick!" and hung up. Ellie would call the doctor, then call a neighbor to run over and help. She could inform one caller that the called party was not at home but visiting elsewhere and would call that number. In times of fire or storm her switchboard, which often was in her own home, could be busy 'round the clock.

In 1913, the magneto system was changed to a common battery system. No longer was the hand crank needed to generate current to signal the operator, nor was periodic replacement of worn out batteries in each phone needed. The source of all current was in the central office. This was the year when the office moved from the second floor of the Miller block to more spacious quarters in the first floor rear of the new Bank of Burlington building.

Telephone use spread rapidly. In 1945, there were 1,920 phones, in 1956, 3,360. There were more telephone operators too, a chief operator and a number of switchboard operators, still furnishing the helpful, personal service phone customers depended on.

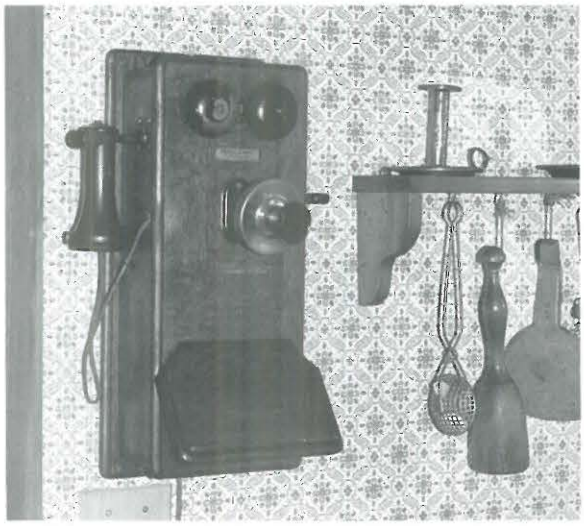
That changed in 1956 when dial service began. Through an intricate system of electro-mechanical switching devices a user could connect directly and almost instantly with any telephone he chose to call without any other human being involved.

To house that switching equipment, a new building was put up at the corner of Washington Street and Perkins Boulevard. The German Methodist Church which later became the first town hall, was razed to make room for the telephone building. Besides the equipment, the business office was located there and a station for a truck and two men to take care of maintenance and repair work. But no operators! That function was moved to the Lake Geneva office where an operator was on duty to handle trouble calls or help anyone unfamiliar with the dial operation.

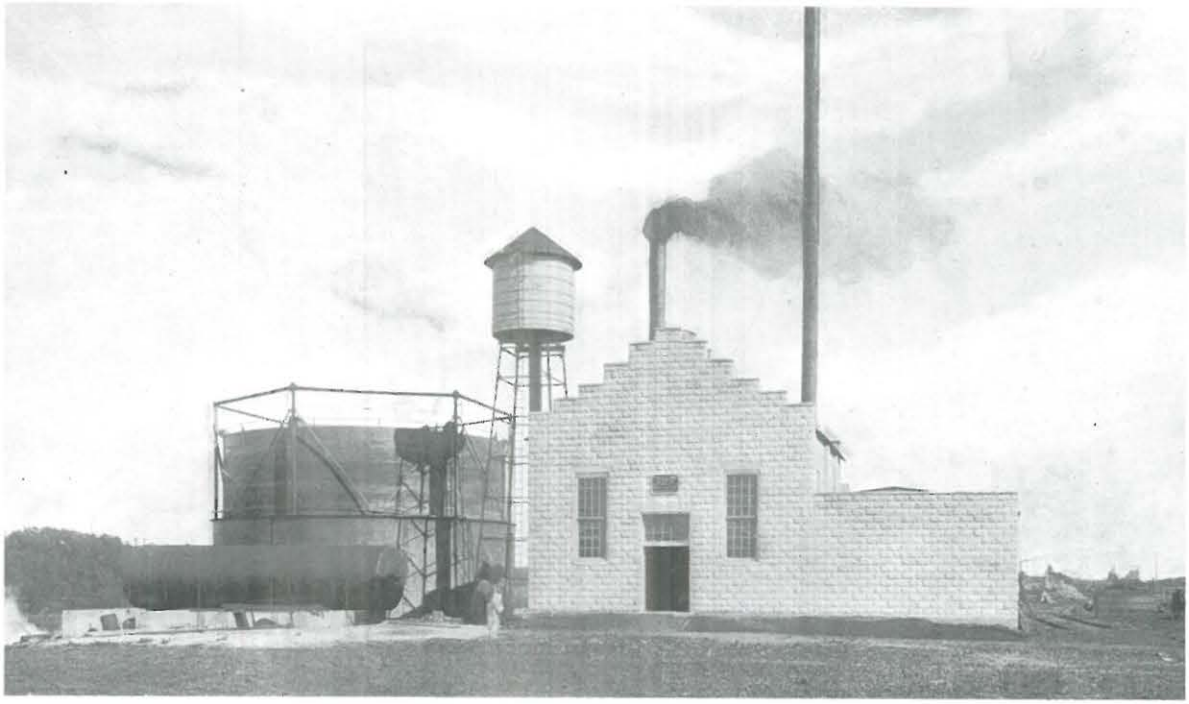


Country telephone operator at switchboard.

In 1906, H. W. Lawton, Albert Bushman and Dr. W. A. Prouty felt there was a need for a gas plant in Burlington to possibly replace coal in stoves and furnaces, even to compete with that new electricity in stores, houses and street lighting. They first tried to interest outside companies to locate here. Since no interest was shown by outside capitalists who



Wall telephone.

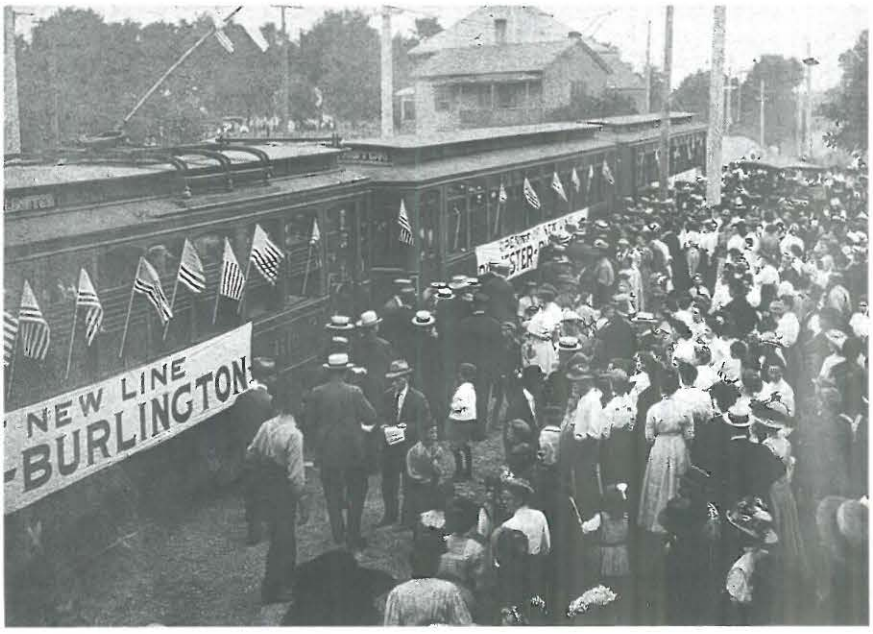


Citizens Gas Company plant, erected in 1907 on Calumet Street.

felt Burlington was too small for a gas plant to be profitable, those three men organized and incorporated their own Citizen's Gas Company and in 1907, erected a plant at the south end of Calumet Street to manufacture gas from coal. Their's was a popular product. Mains were laid throughout the city and gas was turned into them for the first time on February 1, 1907.

In August, 1908, as a result of the experimental lights placed on Lewis Street, the city council awarded the gas company a contract to put in 100 street lights in the city at an annual cost of $35 per lamp. They were to be 200 candlepower which should have been considerably brighter than the 100 watt incandescent bulbs of the electric company. That project may not have been successful as there is no more mention of it.

The coming of the T.M.E.R. & L. cars on July 1, 1909, was marked by a great celebration, speeches, bands and banquets.

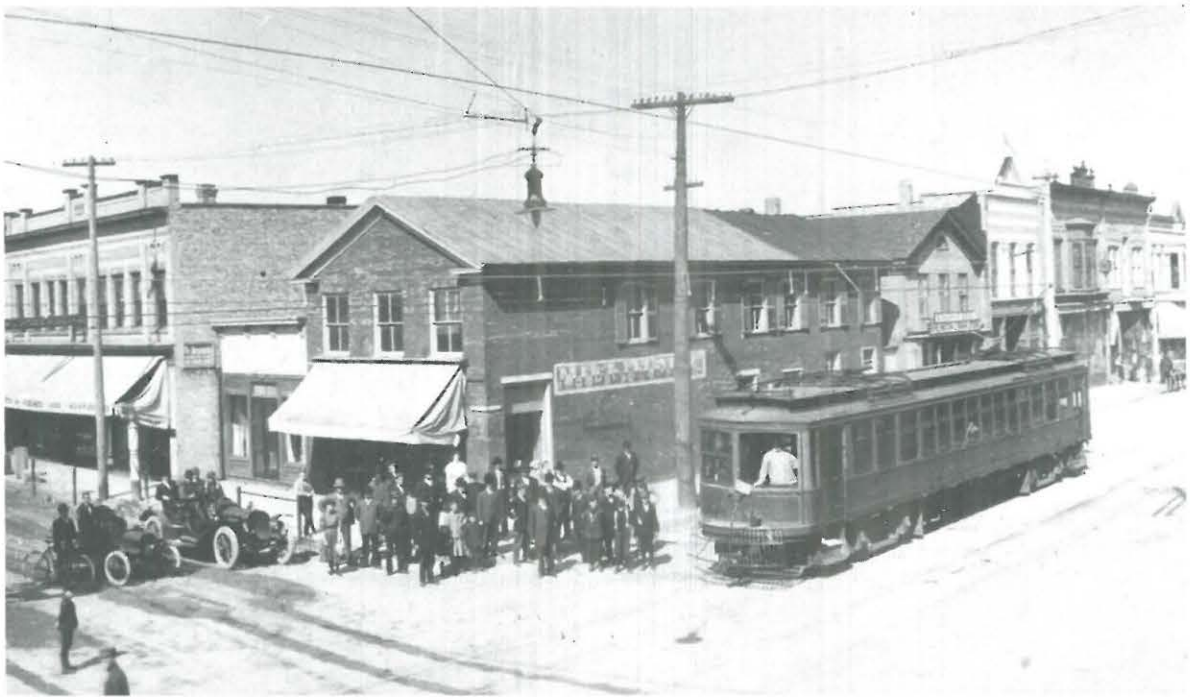


In 1927, Citizen's Gas Company was sold to the North American Utilities Company and the name changed to Wisconsin Southern Gas Company, with local headquarters at 349 Pine Street. The new company added to the plant and acquired new equipment to take care of expanding operations. Mains were extended to Lake Geneva, Elkhorn, Delavan, Williams Bay, Darien and Walworth. Both locally manufactured gas and liquid propane gas brought in, were distributed to these communities. Gas service was very reliable and only a few days were missed in 1930 when a cyclone damaged the plant. In 1946, the company began distributing natural gas brought up from Texas through a pipeline system.

The Milwaukee Electric Railway & Light Company's Rapid Transit Line was a wonderful addition to the community. The city granted a franchise to the company in January, 1907, to construct and operate an electric street railway on Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue) as far as St. Mary's Cemetery. (The intent of the company was to eventually extend this line to Lake Geneva.) The laying of the line was begun in March, 1909, and the first car rolled into the city on July 1.

A formal opening was marked by a great celebration. City officials and businessmen from Racine and Milwaukee came "to extol the glory of the accomplishment and the prosperity to follow." Brass bands played and speeches were made. The visitors were entertained by city officials at a banquet held in the Hotel Burlington. Only one incident marred the occasion: The car ran off the track near the William Leach home and the visitors had to walk to the celebration site.

The "Interurban" was a successful operation for almost 30 years. Cars left Burlington every second



These cars were comfortable, luxurious and dependable transportation between Burlington and Milwaukee and points in between. Notice the vintage automobiles on the left.

hour from 6:20 in the morning to 11:00 at night, arriving in Milwaukee two hours later. Intermediate stops were Rochester, Waterford, Norway, Wind Lake, Durham and St. Martins. A one-way fare in 1914 was 66 cents.

The first waiting room was in the Badger Hotel building. In 1926, the electric company built a new office building on Pine Street on the foundation of the old Perkins/Ayers feed mill. Tracks were re-routed from the river crossing to circle the building into a "car barn," a roofed-over space adjacent to the office. A more spacious and comfortable waiting room was a part of the office lobby.

Shoppers, students, businessmen were the main passengers. In addition, the company encouraged pleasure seekers to use the line "to reach lakes and hills and vales within easy reach from Milwaukee for all people at all hours — endless opportunities for picnics, from big shop outings to small family gatherings." Cars could be chartered by large groups and the only cost would be the $1.30 per person round trip fare.

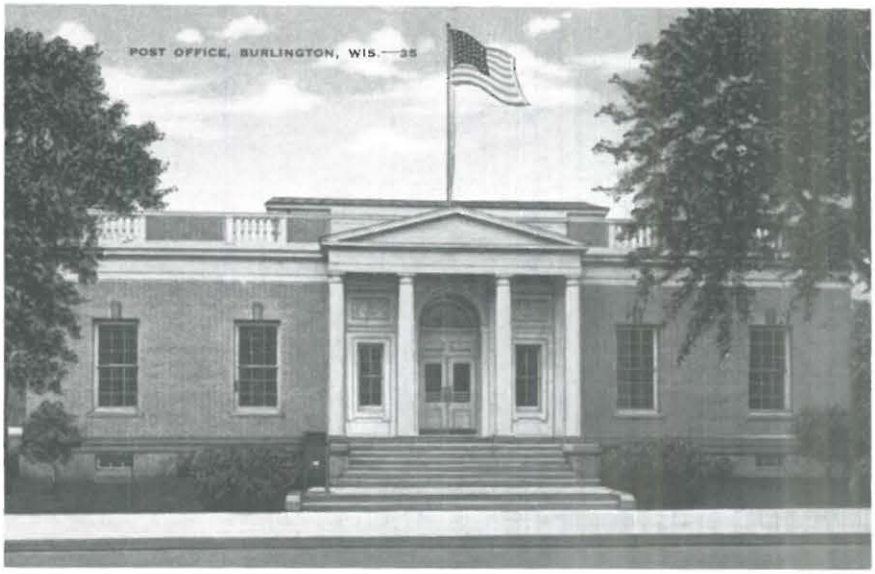
The increasing use of automobiles and the improvement of roads between Burlington and Milwaukee created too much competition for the line to continue. Passenger use declined, profits fell off and the decision was made to cease operations. The last car left Burlington on May, 1938, never to return.

The Burlington Post Office was established as Foxville, Milwaukee County, on March 21, 1837 with Moses Smith the postmaster receiving and dispensing mail from his log cabin. The name was changed to Burlington, Racine County, on July 15, 1839 with Steven Bushnell as postmaster. Other early postmasters, changing with the political changes in Washington, were Orson Sheldon 1848, Anthony Meinhardt 1857, J. Henry Cooper 1863, F. R. Reuschlein 1887, William Colby 1891. All familiar names in the city's history.

The office was housed in only a few locations in its existence. Space was rented in the Colby building in the bend of Chestnut Street (#151) in 1892 and in 1909 the old Western Union Hotel, 400 South Pine Street. In 1918, a federal building for its exclusive use was built on the corner of Pine and Jefferson streets. It was, and still is, a beautiful



The post office in what had been the Western Union Hotel at the corner of Pine and Washington streets.



Built as a modern post office in 1918, there is no evidence in this photo of hidden stairs and passages between walls for postal inspectors to observe employees.

Colonial style building and was used as a post office until 1961. When it was remodeled into the city library, the public became aware of hidden stairs and passages between walls from which inspectors could observe working employees.

On September 15, 1961, the move was made to the new post office, built by private interests and leased to the federal government. This was built at the corner of Pine and State streets.

Free rural, route service was begun in 1902. Free city delivery started in 1908 when stores and residences were properly numbered and street sign posts were erected. First class letter rate was 2 cents an ounce, postcards, 1 cent.

Mail came into and out of Burlington by train. In the 1890's, as many as twelve trains came through a day. Men in the mail cars would pick up pouches of mail at the station and sort it on the train to be dropped off at the next stations.

Sometimes Hugo Raettig, agent at the Racine and Southwestern railroad station at McHenry Street, would distribute mail right there as soon as it was dropped off to impatient businessmen before sending the rest to the post office "downtown." If a train had no other reason to stop, the pouch would be snatched by a swing out hook at the station from an extended arm on the mail car. Emmett Raettig, who occasionally helped his father at the station, recalled one time when the hook ripped the canvas pouch and a hundred little sample boxes littered the ground.

The industries that began in Burlington and made the city prosperous had their basis in the agricultural products of surrounding farms. Pliny Perkins' feed mill processed the wheat and corn from farmer's fields, his woolen mill the fleeces coming in from sheep farms. Both led to the influx of blacksmiths, wagon makers, harness shops and taverns.

Jacob Muth's brewery used locally grown barley. In 1856, Anton Finke founded another brewery on a site on McHenry Street near St. Mary's Church, which ran until his death in 1873. At that time, his son William Finke, took over and changed the name to the William J. Finke Brewery. In 1896, he formed a partnership with his brother-in-law, John H. Uhen and incorporated the firm as the Finke-Uhen Brewing Company. The plant was enlarged and bottling equipment installed. Their



Frank Martin, rural mail carrier of the past.



The arrival of a carload of agricultural implements delivered to Joe Wackerman, implement dealer, was the reason for a celebration. In this picture, left to right, is shown the Ayers (formerly Perkins) Feed Mill, Mutchler Grocery, the Rein Brothers blacksmith shop, and Joe Wackerman's store.

fleet of big beer wagons with their spans of handsome draft horses, were familiar sights. Finke-Uhen beer was distributed throughout this territory for many years, almost to the exclusion of other brands. In 1900, the company bought Jacob Muth's malt house on the east side of the Fox River, enlarge it and manufactured their own malt there.

The company continued to thrive until prohibition days. On November 30, 1918, brewing stopped. According to a newspaper prediction of that time, 60 men would be thrown out of work and 18 store buildings would be vacated when the 18th amendment would go into effect. Nothing quite that drastic happened. The only recorded change was the passing of J. F. Gill's famous Red Fox Inn at 112 Chestnut Street, which became a clothing store.

In 1923, the company was sold to the Burlington Cereal Products Company which made malt cereal products and "near beer" during prohibition. Among other things, that malt liquid was used by individuals as a basis for making "home brew." Evidently the company made some illegal brew of its own, for on March 30, 1925, Federal authorities dumped 1,300 barrels of beer into the sewer which emptied into the fishing ground south of the Fox River Bridge. The plant was padlocked for one year.

After the repeal of the 18th amendment, the business was bought by Chicago interests headed by A. C. Ketler and the new concern was named the Burlington Brewing Company. Again the plant was enlarged and new equipment installed. In 1939, 45,000 barrels of beer were brewed. Bottled beer was sold under the names of Burlington, Chesterton and Van Merrit. Mr. Finke lived to see the day when beer made in Burlington was again famous.

The Burlington Blanket Company had an interesting origin. The story goes that Colvina Sprague, a race horse, a little soft eyed beauty, owned by Frank Ayers, had the bad habit of chewing up all blankets placed upon her back. A.F. Ransom devised a new blanket that would fit in such a way the horse could not pull it around. Thus was born the "Stay-On" blanket, the first and principal product of the new company.

Mr. Ransom managed to interest L.J. Smith, G.C. and W.G. Rasch to furnish the capital to form a company, buy equipment and create a factory that was to become the Burlington Blanket Company. In 1891, three lots were purchased at the west end of the old fairgrounds on Pine Street and a large, two-story building erected thereon.

The product was an instant success. Collar pads and carriage robes were added to the product line.



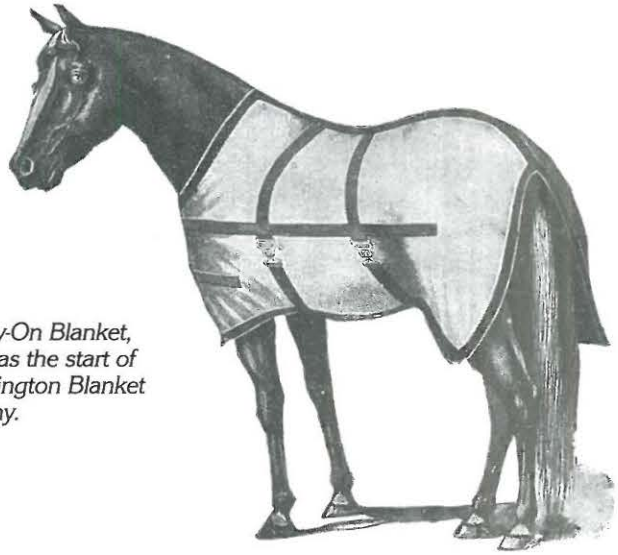
The first bottle of beer, brewed by William Finke, with some beer still in the bottle. This artifact is owned by the Burlington Historical Society.

Finke-Uhen brewery building on the west side of McHenry Street near St. Mary's Church.





The plant of the Burlington Blanket Company in 1898.



The Stay-On Blanket, which was the start of the Burlington Blanket Company.

From the original 30 employees, the number grew to 200 in 1902. There was a continual expansion of buildings. It became and remained for many years the largest manufacturing plant in the city.

As times changed, new lines were added; linings for Mackinaw coats, saddle pads, felted carpeting, linings for auto trunks. One time G.C. Rasch came back from Detroit with an order from Henry Ford for 30,000 Ford carpets a month, a $198,000 order.

The new lines created more business and more help was needed. The blanket company was the one place where women in numbers could find work. Women came from Rochester, Waterford and the surrounding area. The company built a dormitory building on Chestnut Street to house those who could not, because of distance, travel back and forth to work.



The Burlington Blanket Company was an employment opportunity for women.

World War I brought the company its first government contract for great numbers of horse blankets and collar and saddle pads. World War II brought other contracts for other war materials, cartridge and pistol belts, canteen covers, camouflage material. The service and quality of the products earned for the company the coveted Army-Navy "E" citation.

New inventions and new businesses required new products. Sound absorbing and insulating felts to be used in auto bodies, in air conditioning installations and on brine pipes in refrigeration equipment were needed and were developed by the company.

William A. McMillan of Milwaukee became interested in the insulation material and the future possibilities of that product. When G.C. Rasch died in 1932, W.G. Rasch carried on the business. In 1934, Mr. McMillan bought from him the controlling interest and proceeded to develop the insulation phase of the business by adding more buildings, more machinery and more modern production methods. He carried on a successful business into the 1940's. After he died, his son-in-law Richard Kinzer took over the helm. The ship did not weather rough seas well. The firm was sold in October of 1967 to Standard Cotton Products Company of Flint, Michigan, with the manufacturing plant set up in Danville, Kentucky.

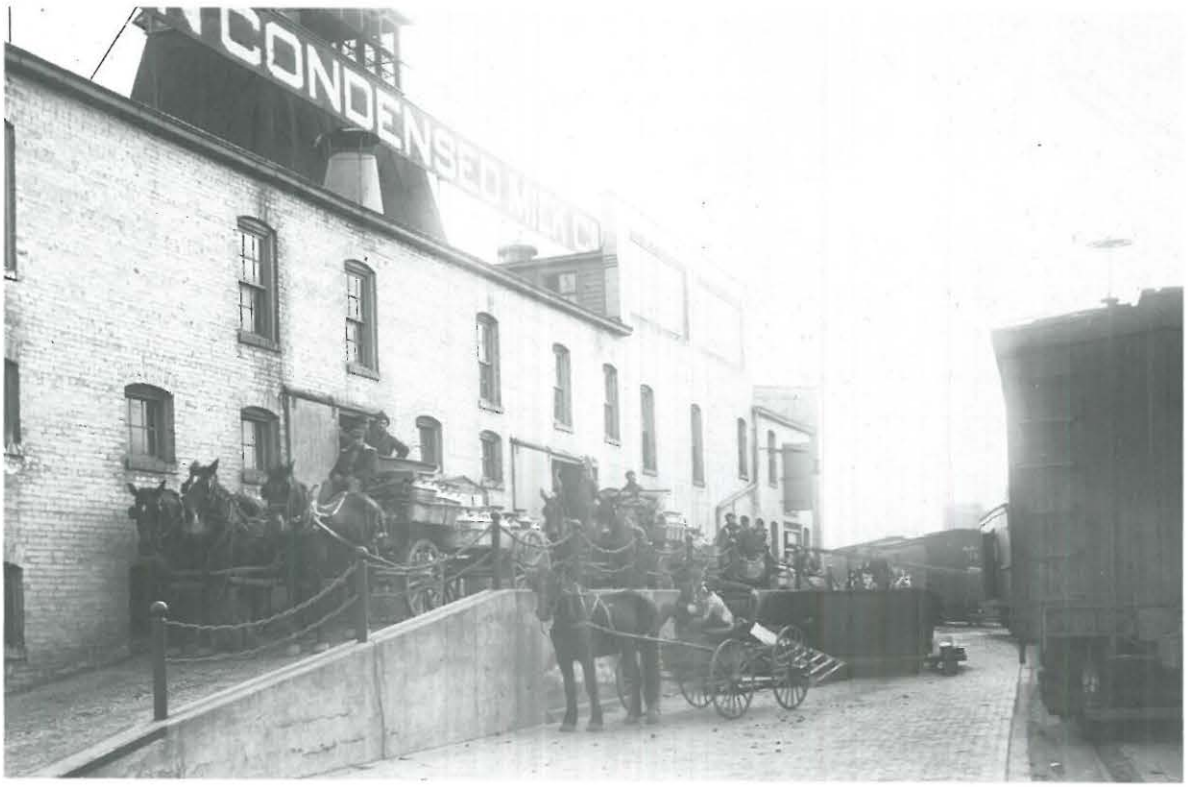
C.B. McCanna helped develop intensive dairying in southeast Wisconsin and northern Illinois by providing a ready market for milk from farm herds and shifting emphasis from wheat production to cattle raising.

In 1887, he organized the McCanna Cheese and Butter Manufacturing Company. In surrounding villages of Honey Creek, Spring Prairie, Waterford, and Kansasville he established creameries to which farmers could bring their milk, and in Burlington built a small factory where Chestnut Street ends at the Fox River as a central processing and shipping point for the cheese and butter products.



Mr. C.B. McCanna.

The quality was high, the market widespread, reaching as far as Scotland. There R.G. Frazer of Glasgow, an importer of dairy products, was so impressed that he came to Burlington to see Mr. McCanna. The meeting resulted in Mr. Frazer



Wisconsin Condensed Milk factory.



An employee is checking labels or seals on already filled cans of Lion Brand condensed milk. This print was made from an old glass photo plate which was damaged by water.



The Lion Brand condensed milk.

joining the business in 1893 when it was reorganized and renamed the McCanna and Frazer Company, still processing butter and cheese.

The chief source of money for farmers in 1891 was wool, some fattened cattle, barley grown to supply malt houses and the brewery. When the McCanna milk factory began operation, money became more plentiful in farmers' pockets, herds could be increased and the milk supply became more plentiful. To use the increased supply Mr. McCanna devised a new product in 1898 — condensed milk. Southern states had not developed dairying. There were no refrigerated trucks to transport fresh milk. Here was a market for canned condensed milk and Mr. McCanna supplied it. He formed the Wisconsin Condensed Milk Company.

A large factory replaced the old one, appropriate machinery was installed and the product, Lion Brand Milk was on its way. The demand in the South was tremendous: dozens of carloads a week were shipped. A weekly payroll of $2,600 helped keep the city's prosperity on a steady course and there was a steady supply of milk checks to farmers.

Condenseries were built also at Pecatonica, Grayslake and Valders to which milk was brought directly and creameries began to be closed. At one time there were thirty of them in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

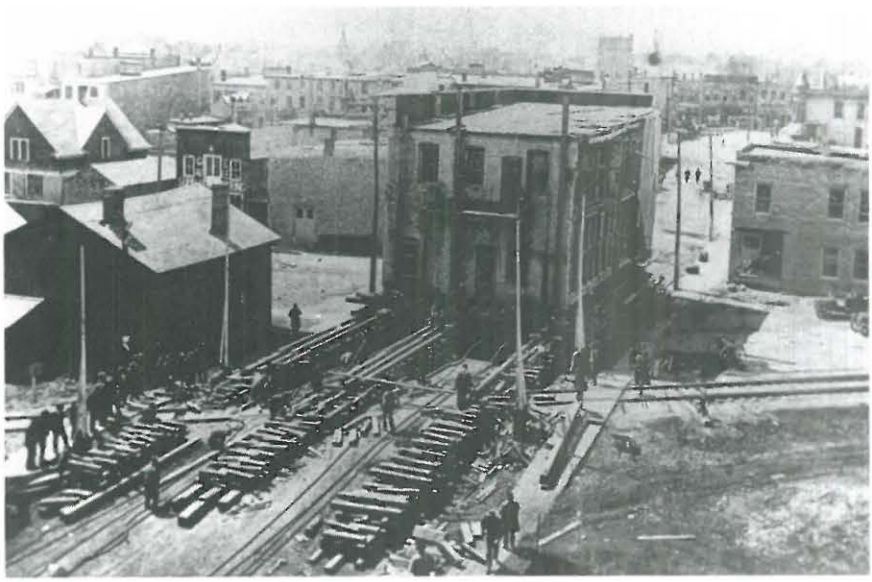
As an adjunct to the milk plant, a building in which to manufacture cans was built across Chestnut Street to the north. A familiar sound in the area was the clatter of cans rolling through an over-the-street conveyer rack from the can shop to the milk plant. Cans were also sent by box-cars full to other company condenseries — millions of cans annually.

For a lot of the "small-fry kids" of the community it was a pastime, standing by the open box-car doors and watching the cans come off a conveyer at the can plant, be picked up by hand with special forked tools and loaded neatly into the box cars.

A remarkable moving job added to the can shop in 1909. When Mr. McCanna planned to build the grand Bank of Burlington building on the corner of Pine and Chestnut streets, the two-story brick Veterans' Saloon had to be moved. By means of wood beams, wooden rollers, ropes and horses turning winches the building was moved out onto and down Chestnut Street, across the railroad tracks and onto a location adjacent to the can shop. Since, it has become a part of Hi-Liter Graphics.

C.B. McCanna was still the president of the milk company when the architectural plans of his bank building were being drawn. To symbolize his Lions Brand product the architect was instructed to include lion's heads in the decorations at the top of the two large pillars at the bank entrance. They

Horses and winches were used to move the Veterans' Saloon building from its location to the Wisconsin Condensed Milk factory site.



still can be seen.

In 1920, the condensery and the can plant were sold to the Nestle Company who renamed it Nestle's Milk Products, Inc. and continued operations. Burlington became the division headquarters for Nestle plants in the mid-west. There was a flurry of activity during World War II to supply the armed forces with canned and powdered milk, but with the war's end and with the growth of dairying in the South, demand dropped precipitously. The Nestle Company kept the operations going in Burlington until October, 1959, when the condensery closed. The can shop was kept going by the Phelps Can Company to supply other condenseries until closing in 1966. Those were sad endings to one of Burlington's earliest industries. But a glad beginning was made when Nestle returned to Burlington in 1964 to start construction of their newest, largest, most advanced chocolate factory.

The Burlington Brass Works began in 1902 when D.O. Storle developed an industrial steam valve and with John Gill built a small factory at the south end of Pine Street to manufacture it.

In 1906, C.B. McCanna and C. Roy McCanna bought out Storle and Gill and added new products such as the "Kant-Leak" valve for sink faucets for the growing plumbing business that flourished after the establishment of public water works. There was stiff competition from factories in other cities and for awhile there was a lull in the factory's operations. About 1910, plating and polishing departments were added to the machine shop. Copper and brass valves and faucets were the main product.

Steam was the power source for the machinery with all its requirements of coal, bunkers, boilers, manpower and the constant attention, the inefficiency, and the danger. The McCannas looked for another power source.

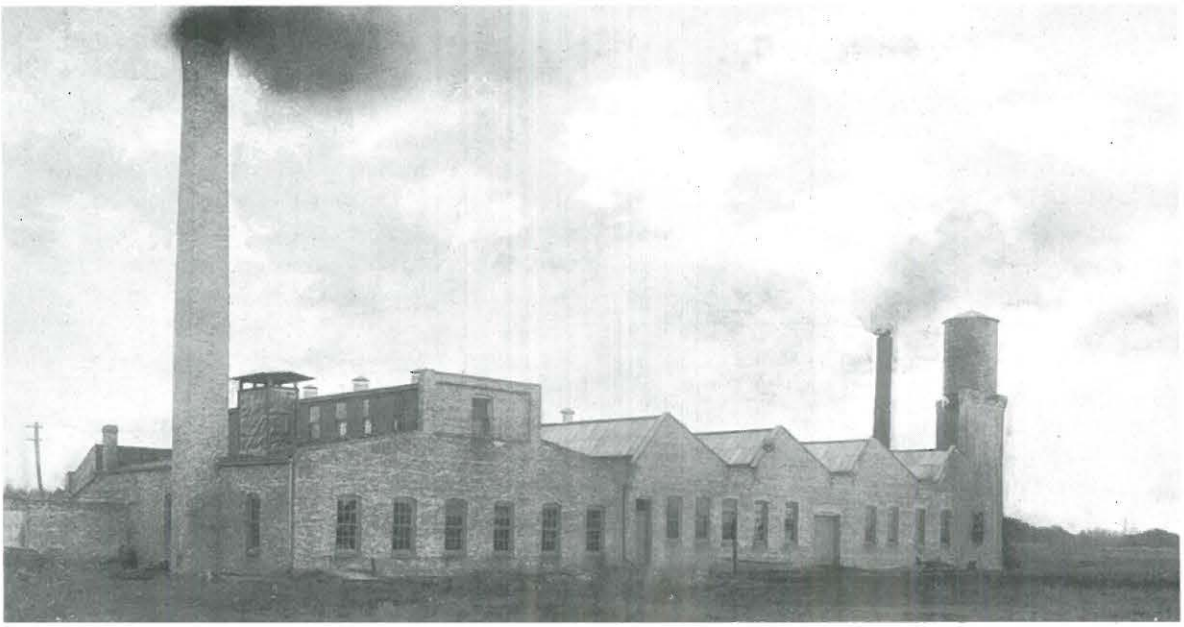
The McCannas had their own direct current generator at the milk plant and attempted to serve the Brass Works from that, without success. It was too far for a direct current line. C. Roy McCanna and William Leach bought an alternator and installed it at the Electric Company plant. Lines were run to the Brass Works and thereafter electric motors powered the machinery.

When C.B. McCanna died in 1913, C. Roy continued the business until he brought in the Harper brothers. George A. Harper bought into the firm in 1914 and was appointed manager. Harry E. Harper, brother of George, joined the firm in 1921 as assistant manager. A general reorganization took place. Additional buildings were put up, the work force increased and a new foundry was

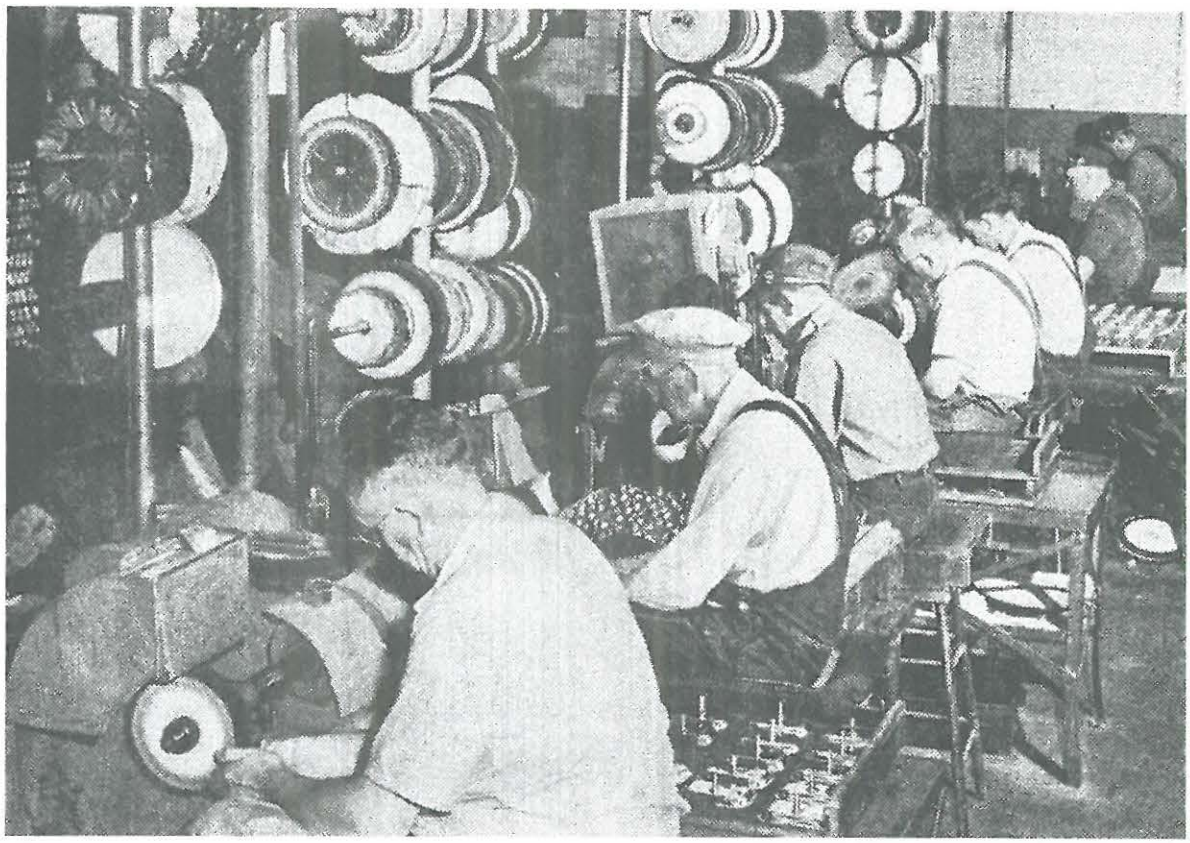


Mr. McCanna's Bank of Burlington. Notice on the top of the pillars the lions' heads, symbolizing the Lions brand condensed milk.





The Burlington Brass Works as it appeared about 1908.



Artillery shells were manufactured during World War II and the Korean conflict. The manufacture of the shells during World War II earned the Brass Works the coveted Army/Navy "E". During the Korean conflict, 1.5 million 90 mm shells were shipped.

built to meet the demand for bearings, hub caps and other parts for the thriving auto industry.

The company could process any brass product from start to finish. The item could be cast in the plant's foundry, machined in a complete machine shop, assembled, polished and plated under one roof at the firm.

During World War II, the company began making a variety of wares for the military — 75mm and 90mm shells for the army, detonator parts for anti-submarine mines, bushings for aircraft engines. The company was awarded three Army/Navy "E" citations.

Increasing costs and declining profits brought on the sale of the company in 1975 to Century Brass Products in Waterbury, Connecticut. The plant was closed in phases during the last months of 1979.

The Security Lightning Rod Company was founded in 1892 by Harvey Simpson, a man who from his earliest youth had been intrigued by the phenomenon of lightning and by Benjamin Franklin's experiments with it. He chose as his way in life improvement of his invention of lightning rods and the manufacture and sale of protective lightning rod systems. Born in Glasgow, Scotland, he moved by stages through Chicago and Kenosha to settle and begin his manufacturing business in Burlington. His first residence was on the east side of Pine Street in the middle of the block between Jefferson and Madison streets and in the barn behind that dwelling the manufacture of copper rods and fittings began.

A company was organized with a capital of $100,000 by local men including William J. Finke, John H. Uhen, Leonard J. Smith, Bernard Brehm and T.M. Kearney, men of substance and influence in the community.

His invention had brought him honors previous to his coming to Burlington. The French College of Science and Art awarded him a gold medal and an honorary membership, he was issued a certificate by the Academy of Inventors and Industrialists and, more financially beneficial, the Edison Electric Company ordered installation of his system on its buildings in several different cities. Even a speaker from the Underwriters Laboratory at a meeting of insurers acknowledged the debt insurance companies owed to the Security Company, saving them an immense amount of fire damage claims.

Nevertheless, it took Mr. Simpson's greatest skill of salesmanship to overcome ignorance and superstition and prove his product would afford protection from fires started by lightning. The Burlington Blanket Company could not be convinced in 19 years until in 1912 a $100,000 fire loss from a lightning strike induced them to install rods on all their buildings.

Companies world wide were not that stubborn. Early installations were made on the 200 foot chimney of the Horlick factory in Racine and on the seven foot bronze casting of "Old Abe," the Civil War eagle on top of the 100 foot marble column in the National Cemetery at Vicksburg, Mississippi. Farmers' barns and houses all through

the Midwest and Northeast were wired. In modern times the company concentrated on large industrial and commercial and public structures, state office buildings and the county coliseum at Madison, the Domes in Mitchell Park and the Greek Orthodox church in Milwaukee, the Performing Arts Center in Oshkosh. Overseas installations included the 16th century cathedral in Bogota, Columbia. In its most prosperous times, 30 to 60 large projects a year were installed.

Mr. Simpson was aided in the operation of his business by H.A. Runkel and Louis Brehm. After his death in 1912, control was carried on by Francis R. Bieneman and Louis Brehm. Raymond D. Bieneman, brother of Francis, became secretary and general manager in 1937, and Elwood Roosa, vice president and plant superintendent. In 1972 Raymond's sons, Philip and Denys were president and general manager respectively.

The barn where the first manufacturing took place was replaced by a concrete block building at the same location in the early 1900's and further rebuilt and enlarged in 1939. Here were installed the spinning machines for weaving together as many as 40 strands of copper wire into cable, other machines for swadging copper rods into points, for assembling the ornate weather vanes once in favor. Wintertime was the time for fabricating materials; summertime was the busy time for installation in the field.

Raymond Bieneman, after a career of 47 years as an officer of the company, retired in 1972. His sons resolved to sell the manufacturing equipment of the firm to the Hargar Lightning Protection Company of Maryville, Missouri, but to continue the sale and contracting end of the business in Burlington. The name was changed to that of the new owners and there was no longer a Security Lightning Rod Company. One more old, established business absent from the scene.

An interesting note concerning the death of Harvey Simpson: At the cemetery at the moment the casket was being lowered into the grave, a severe storm let loose from the heavens. The remains of Mr. Simpson were buried to the "roll of thunder and a clap of lightning". The bereaved widow was heard to remark, "How appropriate!"

In 1886, a partnership of Dr. John H. Bower and Francis G. Klein, to be known as the J. H. Bower and Company, began the manufacturing of carbonated beverages. The most popular of these were German birch beer, ginger ale and cream soda.

The firm actively promoted their product as made from the "Celebrated Burlington Rock Spring Water," containing a list of salts and chemical elements "that are most excellent for the bowels and the skin, throw off stomach gas, and act directly in the blood. In this water there is not a trace of anything disagreeable to the taste." The product



Harvey Simpson, the founder of Security Lightning Rod Company.

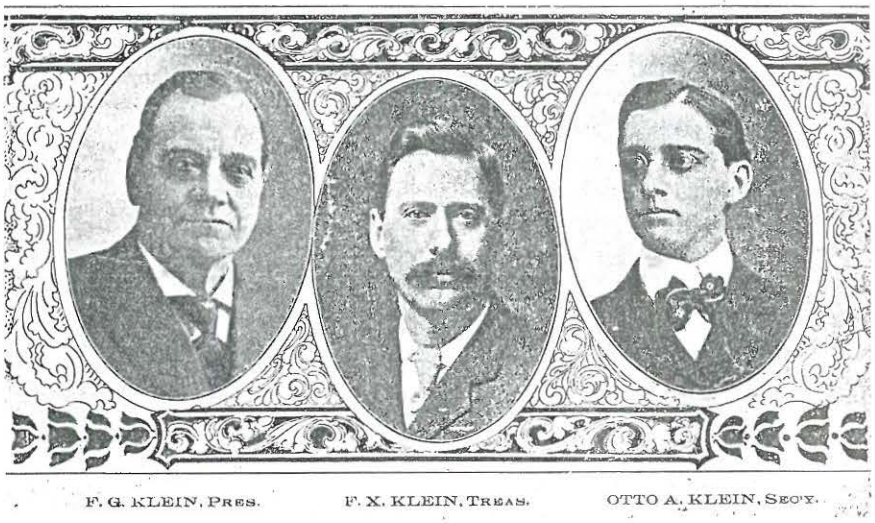
An advertisement extolling the benefits of the Security copper tube lightning rods.



F.G. Klein Company bottling works.



Klein Company officers.



F. G. KLEIN, PRES. F. X. KLEIN, TREAS. OTTO A. KLEIN, SEC'Y.

drew glowing testimonials. Birch beer by the barrels was shipped to the U. S. Ambassador in Peking, China for use at official functions.

Three years after the beginning Mr. Klein bought out his partner, who thereafter, would devote all his time to the practice of medicine and continued the firm as the F. G. Klein Company until his death in 1924 at the age of 91. His sons, Francis Xavier, treasurer, and Otto Anthony, secretary, kept the business going.

In 1890, Mr. Klein bought the building at the corner of Pine and Mill streets and enlarged and improved the manufacturing equipment. Five years later he added a new product, white beer, which required more remodeling. A cooling cellar was placed under a building next to theirs where large vats were set up. Brew kettles were installed on the first floor, malting tubs and cooling pans on the second floor. The brew passed from these through a large cooling machine on the first floor into the fermenting tanks in the cellar. The plant had a capacity of about 20 barrels a day.

As in all businesses, changes occurred. Andrew Adams purchased the company in 1934, changed the name to Klein Beverage Company and continued the same products into the 1940's.

Burlington had one unique but short lived factory: The Multiscope and Film Company, manufacturing the Al-Vista Panoramic camera, the world's first camera of that kind.

Peter N. Angsten invented the camera in 1896 but had problems exploiting his invention until George Eastman of the Kodak company put an emulsion covered roll film on the market. Then he began making the cameras in Chicago. The unique feature of the camera was a spring-propelled, pivoting lens that would rotate in an arc from left to right, exposing the image onto a curved



Peter Angsten, the inventor of the Al-Vista camera.

film along the sides and back of the interior of the camera, resulting in a sweeping 180 degrees wide angle photo.

Leonard J. Smith, already involved in several businesses in Burlington, met Angsten in Chicago, was impressed with the possibilities of the invention and invited Angsten to Burlington with the idea of producing it. Smith persuaded G. C. Rasch, W. A. Bennett, Edward Caldwell, William N. Selig and Clarence E. Partee (his son-in-law) to furnish capital to promote Angsten's patent, to form a company to be called the Multiscope & Film Company, and begin production. The firm was incorporated in 1897.

The first factory location was in an addition to the Lincoln School (vacant at the time after the construction of the new high school). To handle increasing production, the company leased the Burlington Novelty Company building at the northwest corner of Kendall and Amanda Streets until that building burned on January 12, 1900 and they returned to the school.

The early years were struggling years, but when a new two-story (with third story added later), brick factory was built for them during the summer of 1900 by the Burlington Advancement Association, output increased greatly, keeping 85 employees busy. The plant was ideal, located along the Wisconsin Central railroad tracks on a site south of Jefferson Street and equipped with vast floor space, an elevator, steam power, etc. Thousands of cameras were produced for domestic and overseas markets between 1897 and 1908. Branch offices were opened in New York, Chicago and Portland, Oregon. There were outlets in London and Berlin.



One model of the Al-Vista camera.



Verstraete-Fyfe Manufacturing Company, where the Al-Vista was made.



Trick photography. The same two men appear repeatedly. Figure out how this picture was taken.



An Al-Vista view taken from the top of the Finke-Uhen malt house on Main Street.

In the Chicago office, Clarence E. Partee conducted a large photo supply business and was a main outlet.

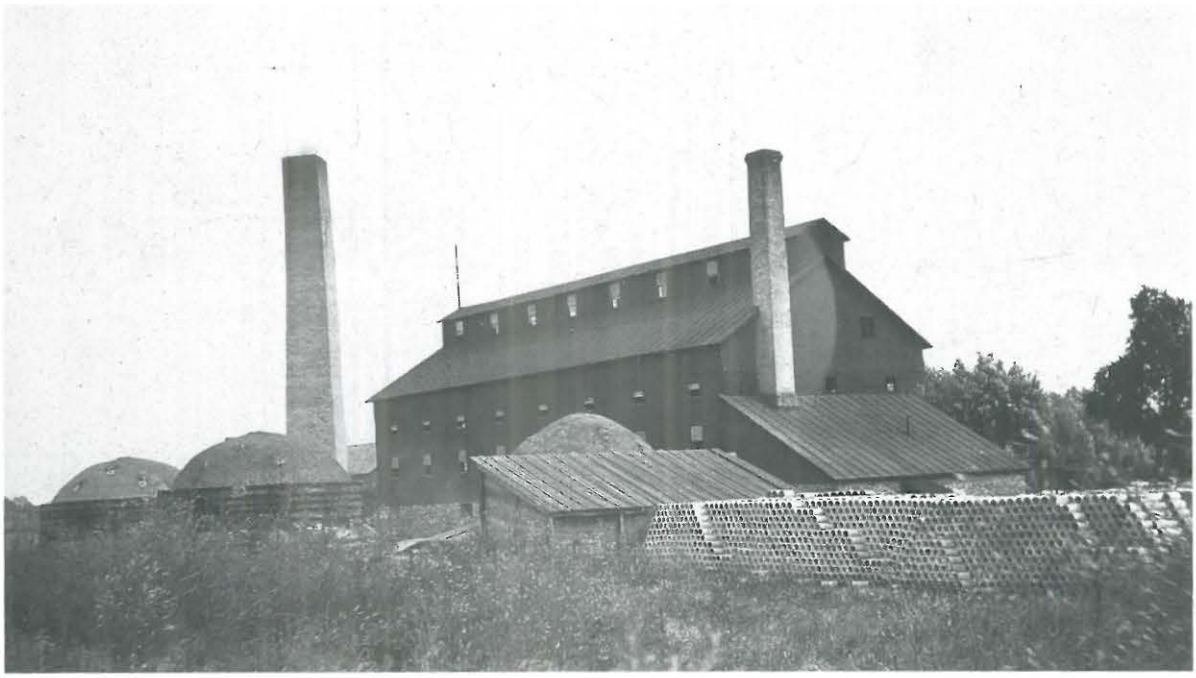
Honors came to the company in 1898. A gold medal was awarded at the Industrial Photographic Exposition in Berlin, Germany. It received an Achievement Award from the Photographer's Association of America.

At least seven models were made, Baby Al-Vistas taking 3½ by 10 inch pictures and selling for $5.00, to large models for 7 by 21 inch pictures and selling for $80.00. Quality was very high; lenses were the finest. Modern prints from old negatives show remarkable sharpness.

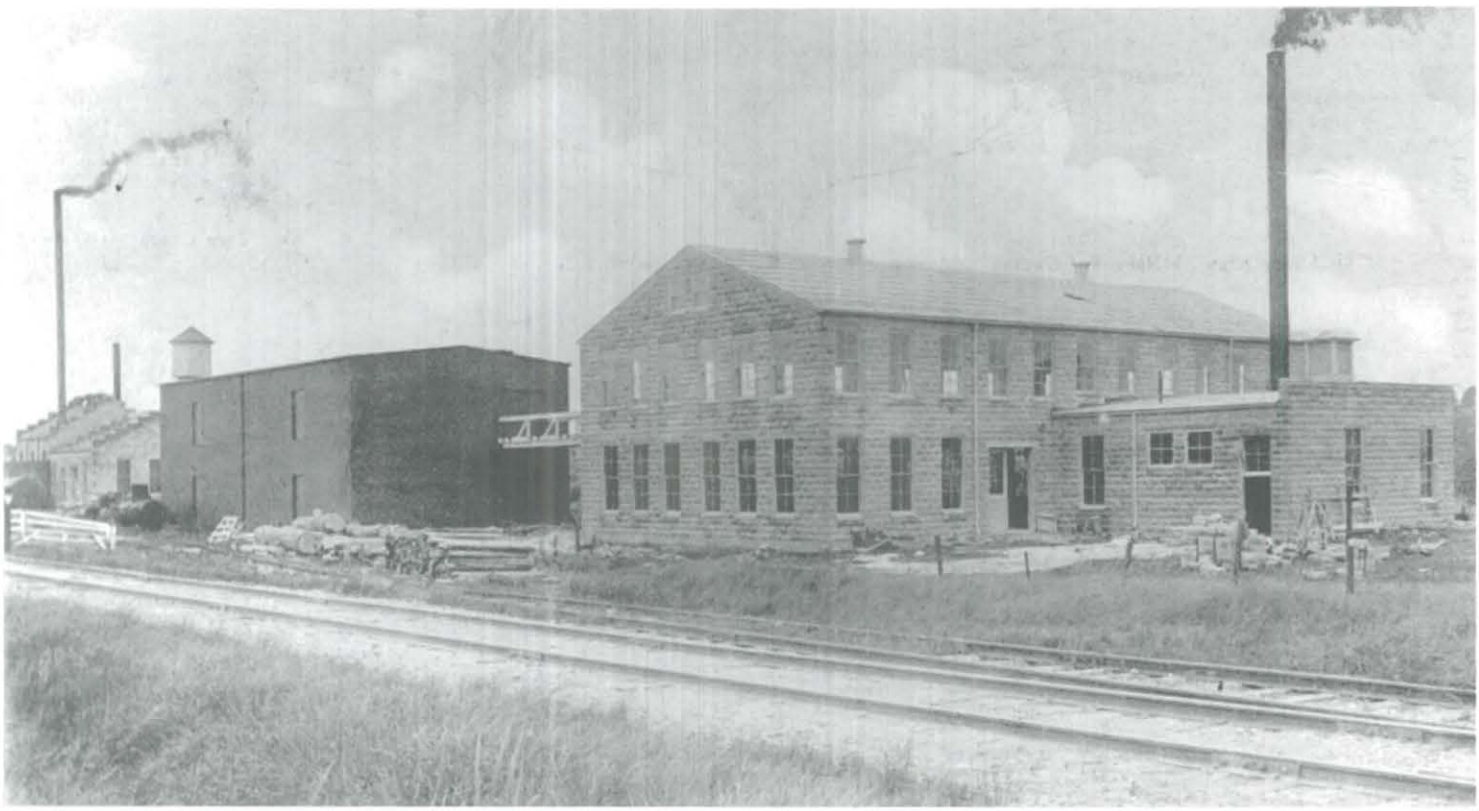
Despite the fact that their excellent product was attracting buyers world wide, the company had difficulties. It was well known that George Eastman did not like competition and made it difficult for Multiscope & Film to sell film in competition with Eastman products. There is a popular belief that, because M & F refused Eastman's offer to buy the patents and rights to the Al-Vista camera, he stopped making the film the Al-Vista required. Added to this problem, there were personal differences within the company.

By 1908, Mr. Angsten had sold his entire interest in the company for $3,400.

G. C. Rasch had left the company to devote time to his other interests. William Selig was more interested in developing a motion picture camera and left for a career in Hollywood. Leonard Smith and the Partee family became sole owners and on January 22, 1908, decided to sell everything to the Verstraete & Fyfe Company of Milwaukee. This company manufactured auto parts but contracted with M & F to build $50,000 worth of cameras here, thus relieving M & F of having to do the actual manufacturing. After selling to Verstraete-Fyfe, M & F leased the new building M. P. Petrie was erecting on the northwest corner of Pine and Washington streets. Here they would continue a business of wholesale dealing in cameras and photographic



The Burlington Brick and Tile Company factory, which was located on the corner of Highway 36 north and Grove Street. After the kilns were filled with unbaked clay tile, soft coal fires surrounded the outside of the kiln. The large chimney to the left in the picture drew the heat and smoke from those fires into the kilns, thereby baking the tile. The other chimney vented the steam boilers that operated the machinery.



The Badger Basket and Veneer Company, built in 1918.

supplies. They moved in on July 11, 1908.

On January 18, 1909, disaster struck. Fire gutted the Verstraete-Fyfe factory. It was a total loss of building and contents. Several carloads of finished products ready for shipment were destroyed. Verstraete-Fyfe cancelled its contract. Multiscope & Film had no way to fulfill its many orders. Clarence Partee took over controlling interest in the firm in 1910 and operated from his Partee Photo Supply Company in Chicago, selling Al-Vistas that were left in the company's wholesale inventory. Partee's catalog of photographic items did not list Eastman Kodak cameras or film products.

Now Multiscope & Film existed only on paper, kept alive with a faint hope for the future. On April 30, 1915, after five non-productive years, at a special stockholders' meeting, it was decided that "the corporation known as the Multiscope & Film Company of Burlington be and same hereby dissolved." The sad end of a grand product.

Enoch Squire, in a tribute in the Standard Press wrote, "Though the Al-Vista venture failed as Burlington's bid to become a permanent producing center for cameras, while it lasted, it added width and depth to this community's panorama of historic interest."

The Burlington Brick & Tile Company, under the management of William Meadows, was an important Burlington industry, again one that was tied to agriculture. Drainage tile was its main product to be used to drain wetlands to increase crop growing acreage. There was a demand not only locally, but in the surrounding states of Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota. In 1911, as many as five carloads a week were shipped out. That year 1,500,000 feet of tile of varying sizes ranging from 2½ to 12 inches in diameter were made by a crew of 25 men.

Brick was a secondary product but still an important one, as 35,000 a day, 500,000 in a season, could be turned out. It is assumed that many of the houses in the city were built of the local brick. A special eight inches square by 2½ inches thick was made for sidewalks but none are known to still exist in the city.

Two other factories connected with farming are included here. The Burlington Canning Company was devoted to processing locally grown corn and tomatoes. At its peak production in 1897, it put up 70,000 cases of tomatoes and 90,000 cans of corn. Busy as it was during the harvest, much of the year it was idle. Never a paying proposition, it died out when its buildings, located on Calumet Street near the gas plant, were destroyed by fire.

In 1911, John J. Wolf built a sauerkraut factory on South Pine Street on a site where a malt house had stood, near the Brass Works, after he had secured contracts from farmers to assure him 70 to 80 acres of cabbage. It was a good outlet for a cash crop. There were in the plant 42 fermenting tanks of three sizes that could hold 800 to 1,000 tons of cabbage. After Mr. Wolf died in 1940, Mrs. Wolf continued the business, aided by krautmaker Clarence Richter until 1949.

The Badger Basket & Veneer Company did not have a long life, but it produced a very high quality product, samples of which are still in existence 85 years later. The company had a rocky start. T. Y.



This shows the variety of baskets made by the Badger Basket and Veneer Company. The individual basket is in the collection of the Burlington Historical Society.



McGovran, a Milwaukee manufacturer who had been persuaded by G. C. Rasch and George Waller to begin a basket making plant in Burlington, lost interest when he found out how high the railroad freight costs would be for the logs from which the basket veneers would come. Also, there were long delays in the construction of a factory building that the Burlington Advancement Association would build, financed by a sale of shares, and leased to the new company. However, the plant was built, freight rates adjusted and production did begin in August, 1918. The slow pace of incoming orders discouraged McGovran and he left the business.

Herman Wegwart, a Chicago man more experienced in the manufacturing business, took over. Organizing skills and an aggressive sales manner got the company humming. Baskets of all sizes were made, from small market baskets to the largest with a 20 bushel capacity. Bushel baskets, coal baskets, clothes' baskets . . . all were very well made and long lasting. They sold for $1.75 to $81.75 a dozen.

Large elm, hickory, ash and birch logs were debarked and soaked in tanks of hot water to soften so large, thin sheets of veneer could be shaved off on huge lathes. Thin flexible strips would then be woven into sturdy baskets.

During the peak years of production, around 1918, six or seven carloads a week were shipped out by train. Seventy or more men and women were employed, earning as much as $1.50 a day for eleven hour days, five days a week.

Although the quality was extremely high, demand for the baskets dropped steadily. Perhaps others were making cheaper ones, perhaps the growing use of corrugated cardboard containers caused the decline. In its last months, only veneer for furniture manufacturers was produced. In 1925, the business closed. The Bernard Ferring Company, manufacturers of church furniture, used the buildings until 1934 when the business folded. Eventually, the buildings were torn down, only the cement block main plant remains, used by a local firm for storage.

One Burlington industry that was most closely allied to agriculture was Murphy Products Company, specializing in a mineral concentrate to be added to livestock feed. From studying causes of problems farmers were having with their beef and dairy cattle, James H. Murphy created combinations of protein, vitamins and minerals to supplement homegrown livestock feeds. Results on farms that tried his products encouraged him to put them on the market. His brother, Lawrence, joined him in the venture. In 1921, manufacturing licenses were obtained and production began in converted army barracks at Delavan.

It was a good product, the Murphys were good managers, advertising campaigns were successful. The young company soon outgrew its first plant. Burlington had a vacant milk plant on Dodge Street that suited their purpose. It was acquired in 1925. New product lines for hogs and sheep were added and sales grew. The Murphy's brought talented men



The Murphy Products Company plant prior to the fire on Christmas Eve, 1951.

into their business: Leo J. Warren, general sales manager; Roy Hoffman, corporate secretary and treasurer; Ed Furman, sales analyst; Robert Spitzer, research and technical director.

A stroke of genius was the decision to advertise heavily on radio. In 1926, the firm sponsored the WLS Barn Dance, a very popular radio program with a devoted Saturday night following. James often mentioned, "The WLS Barn Dance did as much to build this company as any other single thing."

The line of products grew. By the 1940's, a complete line of Murphy Cut-Cost Concentrates for all classes of livestock and a complete line of starter feeds had been developed.

In 1951, business was booming, the outlook for the future very bright. On Christmas Eve, fire struck the plant. A lifetime of work went up in flames. The manufacturing plant was destroyed and a part of the warehouse facilities. Using borrowed equipment, milling resumed at a smaller scale until a new, more advanced automated plant arose. A farm west of Brown's Lake was bought in 1954 to be developed into a research farm to test new products and methods.

When James Murphy died in October, 1960, Robert Spitzer became president. For 17 years, he and the management team behind him, promoted the company's growth nationwide. Plants were set up in North Carolina, Mississippi, Texas and California.

In the 1970's, the feed industry changed. The beginning of the end of Murphy Products occurred when, in 1971, it was bought by the Joseph Schlitz Brewing Company, ostensibly to strenghten the local company with a major corporate partner. However, a change in that company's objective came about following the death of its president, Robert Uihlien. Schlitz sold all Murphy manufacturing and sales operations except the making of Maltlage, cattle feed processed from spent brewer's grains.

The end of Murphy Products came when Schlitz was sold to the Stroh Brewing Company with headquarters in Detroit. In October, 1983, offices here closed and the Murphy name was seen no more on the building on Dodge Street.

The growth of industry and the growth of the banking business were very closely related. Working capital could be borrowed from banks; deposits would come from profits and wages paid.

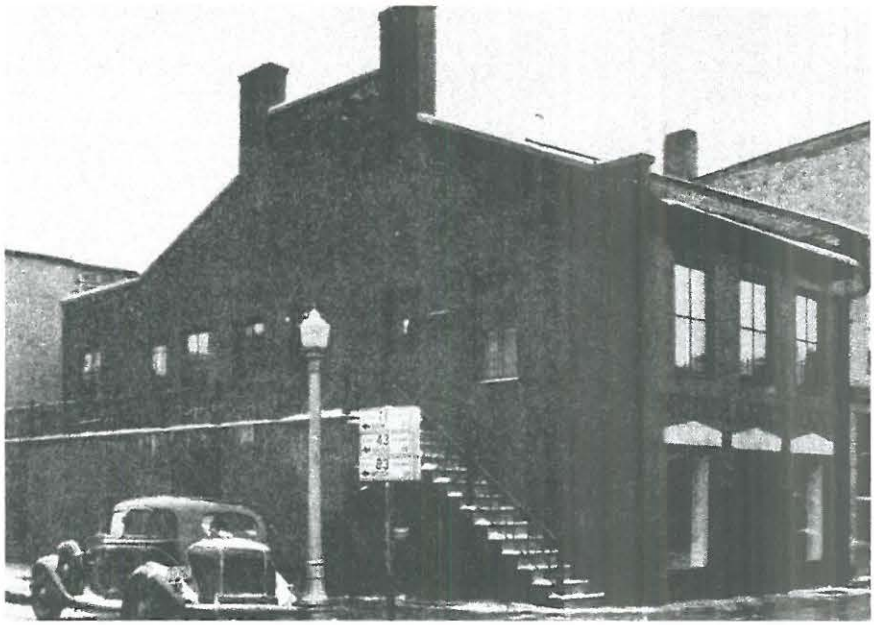
When Caleb Barns died in 1866, his banking and real estate business was carried on by his nephew, A. E. Wells, who learned the banking business from his uncle. Wells' friends, Anthony Meinhardt and Judge Charles Dyer, aided him until Wells closed it to move to Nebraska and open a bank of his own there. Anthony Meinhardt continued his grocery store (page 23) from the year 1866, carrying on an investment business on the side. By 1891, he was prepared to open a private bank on the lower floor of the Caleb Barns building, the area Barns had leased to grocer William Grassie, and opened for business on January 2.

Only a few months later, his health failed and he died in June of that year. His widow, Mrs. Eliza Meinhardt, had the strength and the wisdom to assume the presidency and carry on the new bank through the money scare of 1893. Daughter, Eda, after training with her uncle, Mr. Wells in Nebraska, returned to become the bank's cashier. Son Albert, upon graduating from college, joined the bank as vice president.

The Meinhardt bank operated as a private bank



One of the varieties of Murphy Products Company's products.



Meinhardt Bank in 1935 before the extensive remodeling.

until 1896, when state law required it to be incorporated as a state bank. In people's minds, it always remained a family bank with family members through three generations holding office.

A story is told to illustrate the trust people had in the bank. During the panic of 1893, banks were required to pay certificates of deposit when due, but no one could demand payment for one that was not due. One loyal depositor presented a certificate saying, "This one is due." When asked how he wanted the money, he said, "Well, make it so it ain't due!"

Another story tells us: Francis Meinhardt, son of Eliza, had a dentist office upstairs. A speaking tube connected the 1st and 2nd floors. Occasionally, Dr. Meinhardt would call down for someone to help tamp gold into a patient's tooth.

A private telephone line and alarm system was installed between the bank and the residence on Kane Street. The late Robert Bayer reported, "The heavy gong was truly alarming, usually sounding on stormy nights, and always requiring the hurried, exciting midnight trek through unlighted streets, with a dreaded burglary in view. Invariably, the storm had merely crossed the wires, but it had to be investigated.

The Bank of Burlington (page 34) which had been formed by Racine businessmen, became a purely local institution when in 1902, a group of local businessmen, believing that a local institution should be owned and managed by home people, purchased all of the stock owned by outside parties. Officers elected then were G.C. Rasch, president: Rev. Theodore Jacobs, vice president: E.H. Schnederman, cashier.

C. B. McCanna was elected president in 1906. Three years later, he erected the three story, sandstone building on the corner of Pine and Chestnut Streets for use as a new home for the bank. Bank offices occupied the first floor, the Wisconsin Condensed Milk Company and Attorney L. H. Rohr the second floor, and the Businessman's Association club room and gymnasium the third floor. For a time, the Wisconsin Telephone Company had its offices and equipment in rooms on the first floor rear.

The even course of the day's work was interrupted on February 25, 1931, when six bandits robbed the bank at the height of the business day. No one was hurt and the amount taken was never revealed. The robbers were never caught. This was the first time the bank was robbed, but not the last. On February 15, 1934, two Illinois youths thought they had succeeded in a robbery, but were caught the next day at their homes.

When C. B. McCanna died from heart failure in December, 1913, his son C. Roy McCanna took over the responsibilities. At age 32, he was the youngest bank president Burlington ever had, up to that time. The new bank building was used for



Interior of the bank with Miss Eda Meinhardt behind the desk.



The Meinhardt home on Kane Street, which was connected to the bank by one of the first private telephone lines and alarm system.

58 years until a newer one was built at 200 South Pine Street.

A third bank, the Burlington National Bank, opened on April 26, 1920. Well funded with a capital of $125,000, it began and continued to be, a substantial and well managed financial institution. The first officers were: H. A. Runkel, president; George W. Waller, vice president; William G. Rasch, cashier. Other directors were Albert Bushman, William S. Wilson, Joseph H. Toelle and Leroy L. McDonald.

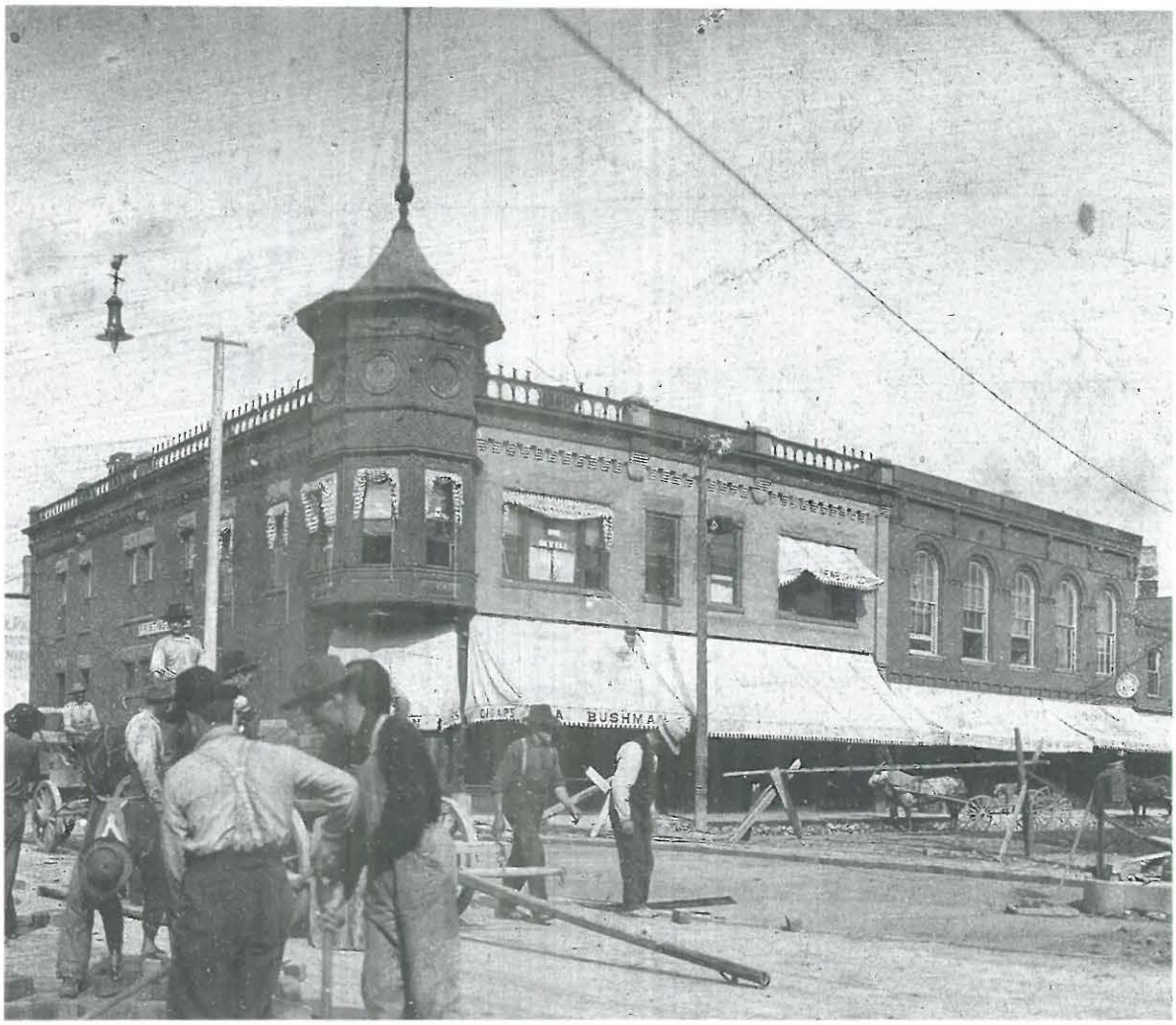
The first home was the turreted building on the northeast corner of Chestnut Street and Milwaukee Avenue, leased from William and Albert Bushman.



Eda and Albert Meinhardt, president and cashier.



Bank of Burlington in the 1930's. Note the overhead wires in the downtown.



When Prohibition came in 1918, Albert Bushman retired from the saloon business. That made this building available when the Burlington National Bank (later named First Banking Center) sought its first home. Also note the street being paved.

It continued in this location until 1959, a period of 39 years. The second and last move was made one long block south to the site on Kane Street and Milwaukee Avenue where the Knights of Columbus hall had stood.

By 1935, the bank had weathered the difficult times of the depression and was the first to open after the state-ordered closing in 1933 ended.

The late Robert Bayer, a noted Burlington banker, once said, "The banking stability in Burlington was evidenced during the depression of 1929-1935 when there was no panicky withdrawal of funds and at no time were depositors unable to withdraw their money from local banks. After the moratorium of March, 1933, all of Burlington's banks were reopened immediately, which was a further indication of a sound and stable community."

The Spanish American War in 1898 raised little excitement in Burlington. One military company, Company D 45th Volunteer Infantry, was formed with a full quota of 65 names. Among the volunteers were Andrew Haas, Adolph Plate, Charles Teut, Robert Brodda and Rheinhold Weyrough. Brodda and Weyrough saw actual service in the Philippines. The men drilled every evening in Schaefer's Garden, near the mill race, under the direction of Corporal John T. Rice. Thomas T. Henison was elected captain; Charles Bullock, First Lieutenant; and Louis W. Rohr, Second Lieutenant.

The distant rumbling of war guns was again heard in 1914, and in German communities like ours, feeling ran high. But the loyalty of the Burlington citizens to their United States was not to be doubted and the roll of the enlisted men who promptly answered the call of 1917, shows their patriotism.

The selective draft law required that on June 5, 1917, every man between the ages of 21 and 31 must register and in Burlington, 265 men entered their names. Many of these, of course, were excepted or ineligible because of physical handicaps. The first eight men left on September 6 for Camp Custer near Grand Rapids, Michigan, to help prepare the camp for the greater influx of soldiers. The first large contingent of 60 men left home September 22. They were cheered on their way by a grand "Au revoir" party at the Orpheum Theater (Teutonia Hall). On November 21, the second draft of 48 men left for camp.

A chapter of the Red Cross was organized in the latter part of May, 1917, shortly after America entered the war. The membership consisted of 68 persons. The officers were Mrs. H. E. Zimmermann, chairman; Mrs. Louis Rein, vice-chairman; Mrs. G. A. Harper, secretary; and George W. Waller,

treasurer. The Chapter was asked to raise $5,000 toward the national fund, but more than doubled its quota by collecting $10,258.24. Burlington citizens were also more than generous in their subscription to the Liberty Loan drive. They subscribed $139,000 in the very first drive.

Burlington, in common with the rest of the nation, had its sugar cards, flour substitutes, meatless days and gasless Sundays. No one was allowed to operate a car, without good reason, on Sundays and a road patrol out of Racine saw to it the edict was enforced.

As a further conservation measure, all industry was stopped for five days, beginning at midnight Thursday, June 17, 1918, and remained closed until the next Wednesday morning. War taxes were levied on telephone and telegraph messages, tobacco, club dues, life insurance premiums, amusement admissions and postage rates were increased. During the fall and winter of 1918, a severe influenza epidemic raged, necessitating a ban on all public meetings, schools, etc.

There was feverish activity with clubs and councils being organized, poster contests being sponsored, and women's clubs lending their aid, but the war drew to a close on November 11, 1918, and the general hysteria could spend itself in the welcome of returning soldiers. They began coming soon after the Armistice, but it was many months before they were all home. Of the 213 who left for battle, six failed to return. On May 15, 1919, the Lyceum Club sponsored a public reception for Burlington's soldiers and sailors.

The year 1919 saw the death of one veterans organization and the birth of another.

The Luther Crane Post, No. 201, Grand Army of the Republic, held its last meeting in the post hall on December 21, 1918 and voted to surrender its charter on January 18, 1919, It had been organized in 1885 with 32 members, through the efforts of Theodore Riel, A. A. Sheldon and G. C. Denniston. At one time, it had a membership of 160 but at the time of disbanding, there were only 18 members remaining.

On September 24, 1919, an organizational meeting of the local post of the American Legion was held. It was voted to name the post after Ross Wilcox, who was the first Burlington man to lose his life (August 7, 1918) in the war. The first officers were commander, Aloys Vos; vice commander, Alfred Andres; adjutant, Louis Renschlein; finance officer, Harold Runkel; historian, Frank Tobin and chaplain, Frank Christian.

In January, 1919, Florence Patterson was awarded the French Medal of Honor for her "devotion in the organization of nursing teams and the inspection of hospitals."

During the years after the war and into the late 20's, a great improvement in the appearance of the city was made by the erection of a number of important buildings. The Burlington High School, located where Cooper School now stands, was dedicated in February, 1917. Other buildings under construction during 1917 were the Soo Line Depot, the Nestle can shop and additions to the Burlington Feed Company plant. The new post office, now the Burlington Public Library, in 1928, the Electric Company's new office building on Pine Street, St. Mary's High School. The old city hall on Pine and Washington streets was bought by Joseph A. Bazal in 1927 and remodeled into a modern dairy plant. The Klingele building at 133 East Chestnut Street had been replaced by the brick Buell Block which became the second home of the B. Foltz & Son dry goods store. In April, 1927, the Pieters brothers, Albert and Joseph, twins, leased the building, remodeled it to suit their purpose, and opened a dry goods store of their own. The store expanded into one of the area's most complete department stores and operated there for years.

Some people still remember the store's trolley system for purchase payments. The cashier sat at a desk on the balcony. Wires ran from her station to several counter locations on the selling floor. When a purchase was made, the clerk put the money and sales slip into small container, pulled a cord to release a spring, and zip! The container would shoot up to the cashier who would make correct change and zip it back to the clerk. Fascinating to watch!

The prosperity felt throughout the rest of the world in 1928-29 was reflected in Burlington by



The Plaza Theater as it appeared shortly after the advent of sound pictures. Notice the marquee and the features being shown.



The original Burlington Memorial Hospital when it was finished in 1924. The hospital was built as a memorial to the veterans of World War.

much construction work. The Plaza Theater was built by Fred Oberg and Olaf Hoganson in February, 1928, showing silent movies at first but added the new and exciting sound equipment in 1930.

Hoganson, who began the general contracting business in 1899, remained half owner of the theater building for many years. He had moved to Burlington in 1915 to a new house he built. He also constructed a carpenter and millwork shop here.

Some of the buildings constructed by him were: Rochester Agricultural School dormitory, school at Big Bend, tuberculosis sanatorium at Wales, a school and a Lutheran church in South Milwaukee, Catholic church in New Munster, Catholic church in Paris, school in Sharon, city hall of Williams Bay, Walworth County garage at Elkhorn, the milk processing plant that became Murphy Products plant in Burlington, and the store building now occupied by St. Vincent de Paul in Burlington.

Oberg owned and operated the Hotel Badger for many years. The two partners in the theater building later sold their interests to Jack Yeo, who operated the theater for many years.

The Methodist Episcopal Church members erected a commodious addition to their building for recreational purposes. The cornerstone of the new Masonic Temple was laid in November, 1929. In the residence field, close to $80,000 was spent in the erection of new homes. In June, 1929, the building at 216 East Chestnut Street, at the corner of Chestnut and Dodge streets, was built on the site of the old Matt Rewald planing mill. For years, it housed the Champion Motor Company, later a Sears, Roebuck Store and in 1989, Clinton's Lumber Company. The original building was once used by E. N. White as a warehouse for storing wool.

Before 1924, when Burlington Memorial Hospital was built, several doctors practicing at the time, used their own homes as hospitals. About 1908, Dr. Frank Newell started what was designated as the first hospital at his home at 241 Chestnut Street. Doctors Fulton, Wehr and Prouty opened a hospital in Dr. Prouty's home at 424 Kendall Street, across from St. Charles Church. Dr. G. Warren Newell, in 1921, could accommodate eight to ten patients in his home at 250 Henry Street.

The sentiment for the building of a real hospital in Burlington began in 1920. There was a sum of $10,041 left in the war chest fund which it was thought, could be used to the best advantage in the building of a local hospital.

Generous donations from Mrs. Richard Leach, the Meinhardt Bank, the McCanna families and Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Rasch swelled the fund to approximately $50,000. Later donations increased it to $80,000 and plans were made for putting up a building on a site donated by the Finke-Uhen Brewing Company.

The first meeting of the directors of the Memorial Hospital Association was held March 8, 1923. The directors were George W. Waller, Henry A. Runkel, William H. Kruckman, the Rev. Philip Dries, Miss Eda Meinhardt, A. S. Titus, C. Roy McCanna, Frank O'Neil and Mrs. William G. Rasch. At this meeting, officers were elected as follows: G. W. Waller, president; Eda Meinhardt, vice-president; Mrs. W. G. Rasch, secretary; and C. Roy McCanna, treasurer. Those officers served at least until 1935.

The cornerstone was laid October 14, 1923, and the building finished not long after that. It had a capacity of 35 beds, two operating rooms, a maternity ward, X-ray and laboratory facilities. By 1934, the hospital had been put on the list of fully-approved hospitals by the American College of Surgeons.

Since it was built as a memorial to veterans of World War I, service men of that war and their families would be treated to room, board and care at no cost.

It was a very good hospital for its time, and no one then could foresee the tremendous changes in medical technology and practice that would result in a vastly expanded hospital of the 1990's.

Few people know that Burlington had a public park as early as 1840.

This was the piece of land now bounded by Pine Street, Jefferson Street, Dodge Street and Washington Street. The land was government property until 1839 when Silas Peck purchased it. Peck donated the land to the town for park purposes. In the deed, Peck specified that the improvements were to be made but the expense of such work was too great for the town and they did not even put a fence around it.

According to that clause in the deed, if not improved, the land reverted back to the Peck family. In 1864, the property was sold to Caleb Barns who immediately sold it to Francis A. Blake. In 1871,

the Blakes sold the property to Nelson R. Norton, who in turn sold it to Dr. Lewis Kords in 1873. In 1875, William Rhodes purchased the land and it was in the possession of that family until about 1922 when A. J. Tichlofen bought it. The residence on the property was occupied by Rhodes until his death and then was removed to the land owned by Tichlofen on the corner of West Street (now Perkins Boulevard) and Madison Street. The land on which it stood was exchanged for the old city hall property on Pine and Washington streets.

After vacating the Peck property, the idea of a city park lay dormant until 1926. In August of that year, the city council adopted a resolution to issue bonds for park purposes in the amount of $25,000. On August 3, 1927, the city council appointed a Park Board consisting of Louis A. Rein, Louis H. Zimmermann, Albert Meinhardt, H. A. Runkel, president, and C. Roy McCanna, secretary.

As a start toward a park system, three tracts in Norris Point were bought in 1928 for $16,000. Nestle Milk Products exchanged land below the dam for property east of the mill race ($2,500). In 1929, Louis Rein donated two lots between the White River and the raceway. About 1933, the Electric Company sold the mill dam, the mill race and the old electric plant site for a consideration of $1. All this property became one unit, Echo Park, named in honor of that worthy pioneer, Pliny Perkins, who milled the Echo brand of flour. The millpond was designated Echo Lake.

Across the highway, the old clay pit of the Burlington Brick & Tile Company had been turned into a fine baseball park by the Burlington Athletic Association, a group of local citizens interested in baseball. In 1929, the Park Board acquired the property by assuming the association's outstanding debts of a $6,000 mortgage and paying $600 in back taxes.

Donations enlarged the park system rapidly. Miss Ida Bernhoff in 1935, willed a tract of land on West Chestnut Street along the river which was developed by Louis Wagner and named Wagner Park.

Albert Meinhardt in 1937, donated the Benson property east of North Main Street where it ends at the Fox River. E. John Wehmhoff and his sisters, Frieda and Gertrude, gave the land west of North Main Street in the same area. The whole area, bordered on two sides by the Fox River, was named the Wehmhoff-Jucker Park. (The Juckers were the maternal grandparents of the Wehmhoffs.) Here is where Moses Smith and William Whiting built their lean-to shack in the winter of 1835 when they came exploring the area to make their land claims.

In 1944, Albert Meinhardt donated a small piece of land along the east side of the Fox River just south of the Jefferson Street bridge.

So, by the end of the first century of Burlington's existence, a park system had gotten a good start. It would continue to expand into the next century by the additions of Riverside, Devor, Nestle and McCanna major parks and a number of neighborhood playgrounds.

The Public Library was not created by city government, as was the park system. A group of private citizens, sparked by the enthusiasm of Miss Alma Neuhaus, banded together as the Burlington Free Library Association in 1908, "to provide a source of books and cultural programs to the people of Burlington." They were dependent on their own membership dues of one dollar a year, and on fund-raising efforts selling tickets to dances, band concerts, benefit plays at the old opera house for the purchase of books and for library expenses. In three years, the membership had grown to 126 and the association had acquired a stock of 800



The second home of the library was the first floor of the new city hall, built in 1925.

books.

By 1913, the association had proved its worth and a plea to the city council received a favorable answer. The council voted to appoint five members to a new library board and appropriated $600 to operate the library. They also provided space for the book collection on the second floor of the city/town hall at the corner of Washington and Pine streets where the library would share the meeting room of the town board. Miss Neuhaus received the official title of librarian, was to be paid $25 a month.

Shelves were built, chairs, tables and a desk were moved in and a coal stove bought so the library could be open in winter months. In time, the librarian's salary was raised to $35 a month and the budget increased to $800. In 1916, the library was accepted into membership of the State Library Commission.

For 15 years, it was the guiding hand of Miss Neuhaus that made the library a major cultural institution. Under her direction it grew in value, in the number of books acquired, in the number circulated and in services offered, but in 1923, she decided it was time for someone else to take over and she resigned in June of that year. Edith Hess, Cornelia Henderson, Augusta Zwiebel and Grace Lofgren carried on her work into the 1950's.

When the new city hall was built in 1925, most of the first floor was designed for the library. The new surroundings, greater shelf space for more books, the ease of entering on the first floor, all attracted more patronage. In cooperation with the Burlington Historical Society, a large case was installed where changing displays of the society's artifacts could be shown.

The construction of a new post office at State Street in 1964, and the vacating of the Federal building across from the city hall made possible a move of the library into a building that could be remodeled easily into ideal library quarters. The move was made on August 18, 1964.

Burlington Fire Alarm System

In case of fire, go to the nearest alarm box, even if a number of blocks away, break glass and pull down lever as far as it will go—then let the lever go. The alarm box will do the rest.

In case of fire and you resort to the telephone (day or night) call up **No. 444,** City Water Works Pumping Station, and state clearly the nearest fire alarm box number to fire as well as exact location of fire.

The person turning in an alarm should remain at the box or instruct a person to remain there to direct the firemen to the fire when they arrive.

Two short blasts indicate fire outside city limits.

When alarm is turned in from an alarm box, the box number is blown immediately and is repeated three times.

When alarm is phoned in a general alarm is sounded which is followed by nearest box number.

First number of box numbers indicates ward within which the box is located.

Location of Boxes

o. 12—Burlington Brass Works.
No. 13—Second and North Sts.
No. 14—Dardis Lumber & Fuel Co., Dodge and Jefferson Sts. — Telephone Call Station.
No 15—Main and East State Sts.
No. 16—Between Wis. Southern Gas Co. and Belle City Appliance Co.
No. 18—Nestle's Milk Products, Inc.
No. 23—Chandler Blvd. and Kane St.
No. 24—Perkins Blvd. and Frederick Street.
No. 25—Washington and Dyer Sts.
No. 27—Pine and West State Sts.
No. 28—Burlington High School, Robert Street — Telephone Call Station.
No. 29—Pine and Chestnut Sts.
No. 32—Amanda and Kendall Sts.
No. 34—McHenry St. (near Avis St.)
No. 36—Maple Ave. and Geneva St.
No. 37—Memorial hospital, Randolph St.—Telephone Call Station.
No. 38—Jefferson and McHenry Sts.
No. 41—Chestnut St. and Pleasant Av.
No. 43—Lewis and Conkey Sts.
No. 45—Wilbur Lumber Co., 585 Chestnut St. — Telephone Call Station.
No. 46—Burlington Mills, Inc.
No. 48—James St. and Storle Ave.

Chapter 6

Burlington Modernizes 1935-1990

The year 1935 was ushered in with bad weather. In January, there was enough ice on the streets for the children of the city to skate to school. For four days, the countryside was one huge skating rink.

That year also saw the Great Depression hit the community, and along with the lack of jobs and high prices came violence and strikes.

It was a year of tragedy also, as in February, Policeman Hubert W. Schenning was killed in a shoot-out by Reinhold Fluecker, who had been sought by Schenning and Policeman Arthur Rein for questioning about a holdup of a Honey Creek store earlier in the day. Fluecker was also killed by a bullet from Rein's gun. Fluecker's body was dumped by Leonard Fischer, his accomplice, on County Trunk W. Fischer was captured later.

(Author's Note: At this time, it could be pointed out that the City of Burlington has had only five Chiefs of Police since it became a city in 1900. The first was Frank Beller, who served from 1905 to 1934. After Beller came Lawrence Grossman, 1934-45, G. Roy McCourt, 1945-57, Walter Gabriel, 1957-87, and Herbert Goldschmidt, from 1987. Beller died in 1938, Grossman in 1987, and McCourt in 1967.)

There was other violence in this area that year with milk strikes, as strikers damaged milk companies, including the blowing up of the Pure Milk plant on Dodge Street, and the dumping of milk from the milk trains. Those responsible for the bombing were never identified. One young couple was "spooning" in an automobile just a few doors from the milk plant when it blew up. "We thought the world was coming to an end," the young lady said. "We'll never do that again."

The city's sewage plant was opened that year at a cost of $27,000.

Also that year, the first project of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was started in Burlington. That project was to construct a sewer line on Main Street.

The project setup was for two shifts of eight men each. These shifts worked on alternate weeks. There was a 48 hour work-week with pay ranging from $40 a month for unskilled labor to $55 a month for skilled labor. Only men on relief were allowed to work. The sewer was constructed entirely by hand labor, with the Federal Government supplying most of the money and materials.

Although prices for goods were deemed high for those days, they were low when compared to later years.

For instance: Bryan Roberts of the Union Chevrolet Company was selling new cars for $468. Eggs were 29 cents a dozen, beef roast 13½ cents a pound, and sirloin steak 18 cents a pound.

School enrollment, public and parochial, totaled 1,300 in 1935. The graduating class that year at Burlington High School was 53.

There were more cattle in the Town of Burlington than there were children. According to figures of the time, there were 2,889 head of cattle, 13,175 hens and 531 horses and mules. The Town of Burlington census of the time showed 741 residents.

The Depression continued in 1936, but there were still taxes. That year $48,000 was levied as school tax to balance a $100,000 budget. At that time, the district had a balance of $19,500 which was not spent.

As a part of the drama of the past, a "still" on West Chestnut Street was raided by federal agents. It was operating and agents found 2,000 gallons of illegal alcohol, which they dumped.

A class of 75 seniors graduated from Burlington High School in 1936, the largest class ever up to that time and for many years to come.

Recovery from the Depression began to show in 1937 as ten new houses were built and there were improvements to local industry. Local lumbermen showed a 25 percent increase in sales that year.

Another sign of the receding depression was the fun people were having. At a ball in honor of President Franklin Roosevelt's inauguration, 700 persons danced to the tunes of Heinie's Grenadiers, a popular band from Milwaukee Radio Station WTMJ. The dance was held at The Antlers at Brown's Lake. For several years after that, dances were held on January 30, President Roosevelts's birthday, for the benefit of the Sister Kinney Foundation. The foundation treated children who had been stricken with polio, a disease that crippled President Roosevelt.

A real sign of recovery took place in 1937 when Burlington Mills, Inc. announced plans for major improvements at its plant on Chestnut Street.

It was in 1937 that the first air conditioning unit was installed in Burlington. It was in the Arcade Rendezvous and bowling alleys, operated by Robert

In 1935 there were more cattle in the Town of Burlington than there were children. There were 2,889 cattle, and only 1,300 children enrolled in the schools.

The modern Plaza Theater.



The old Crystal Theater, which Jack Yeo modernized with sound, and renamed as the State Theater.



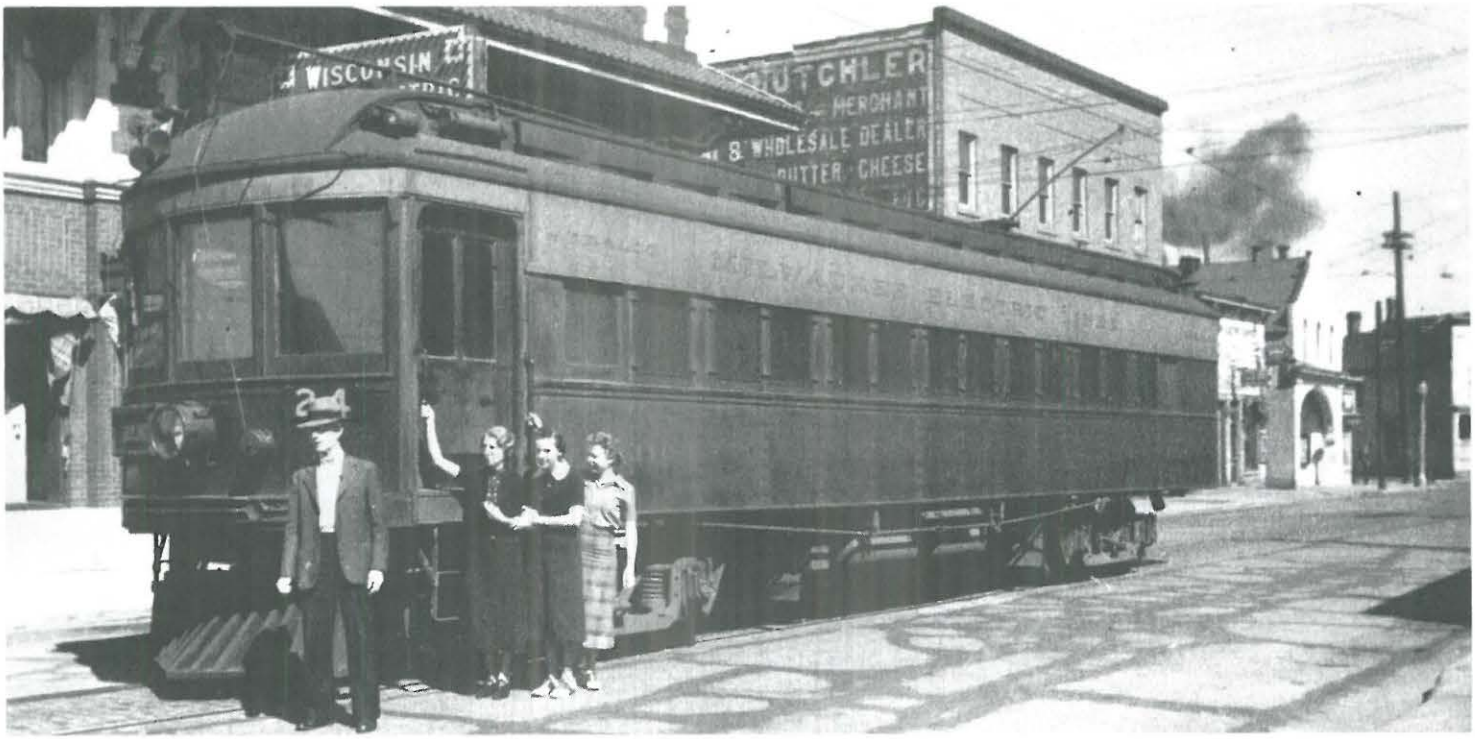
Steele on Chestnut Street. It was the largest unit installed in Southern Wisconsin.

Also that year, Jack Yeo, owner of the Plaza Theater, installed the latest in sound equipment at the theater. That was in the era that "Movies Were Your Best Entertainment." There were "Bank Nights" where theatergoers could win cash, and "Dish Nights" where persons would get a different dish each week if they attended the movie. Crowds jammed the theater to see such stars as Abbott and Costello, Mickey Rooney, Clark Gable, Gary Cooper, Carole Lombard, Joan Crawford, Fred Astaire, Ginger Rogers and many others.

It was in 1940 that the epic "Gone With The Wind" was first shown at the Plaza. All seats were reserved and it played to full houses for seven nights and two matinees.

Yeo also owned another movie theater in Burlington, the State Theater, located where the Commerce Street parking lot is now. He purchased the theater, then known as the Crystal Theater, from William Uglow, who ran it in the days before "talking pictures." Mrs. Uglow used to play the piano to accompany the silent pictures. Yeo renamed the theater, put in sound equipment and operated it on weekends and featured mostly western movies. What oldster could forget Ken Maynard, Buck Jones, Tim McCoy, Roy Rogers and the 12 week serials? Admission was 20 cents.

Yeo operated the Riviera Ballroom at Lake Geneva and the Schwartz Ballroom at Hartford, Wis.



The last car coming into Burlington in 1938. From left to right, Edwin Walter, motorman, Bertha Yager, Rosemary Beix, and Dorothy Pepper, clerks in the Wisconsin Gas and Electric Company.

Name bands were booked at both places. One of the big names playing the Riviera was the Ted Weems Orchestra. Perry Como was the lead singer.

One time, Yeo had booked the Benny Goodman orchestra to play at the Hartford Ballroom. He had told an Oak Hill, Wisconsin, tavern owner, who was his friend, that Benny Goodman was flying in a small airplane to Hartford and he would land nearby the tavern for a drink. Of course, this was a fib, but to carry it even further, Yeo hired an airplane in Burlington to fly over the Oak Hill Tavern and drop a note, saying it was too muddy to land. He said attached to the note was a dollar, with which the tavern owner was to have a drink.

Of course, there was no dollar. So that night, the tavern owner drove to Hartford to meet Goodman and to get his promised drink. Yeo had to make sure Goodman was tipped off so his trick didn't backfire.

Also in 1937, The Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company (T.M.E.R. & L. Co.) announced it was abandoning its electric railway line between Burlington and St. Martins. Reason given for the abondonment was not enough passengers to make the service profitable. Buses were substituted for the electric trains.

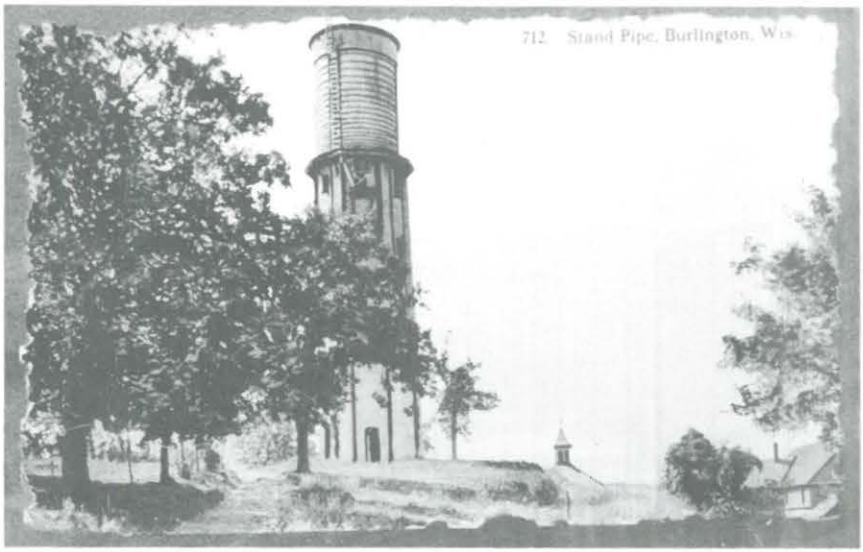
The first, and the only plane since, to fly U.S. Mail out of Burlington took place in 1938. It was in honor of National Air Mail Week, and the plane was flown from Burlington to Milwaukee by Roman Eckert, one of Burlington's pioneer pilots. The mail was carried in a pouch from the post office to where the plane had landed at the Eckert Farm, south of Burlington, by E.A. Raettig. He was accompanied by Postmaster Louis Reuschlein and a Sheriff's Department deputy. The flight to Milwaukee, in a 40 horsepower C-3 Aeronca, took 20 minutes. Two years later, that airplane was destroyed by wind while it was tied down on the ground, in the infamous Armistice Day storm of 1940.

Floods troubled the area in the spring of 1938, as the Fox River had raised eight feet above normal. Because of flooded roads and washed out culverts, Howard Ball, a rural mail carrier, had to drive 80 miles on his 65 mile route.

On July 19, 1938, the wooden water tower at the west end of Lewis Street collapsed, spilling some 40,000 gallons of water on the neighborhood. A replacement tower on top of the stone stand was built, but even that has served its time and is no longer used, and in 1981, it was replaced with a cement tank as a monument. Funds for keeping and restoring the tank as a monument were raised by donations.

Postmaster Louis F. Reuschlein hands pilot Roman Eckert the pouch carrying the first airmail out of Burlington.





The water tower that collapsed in 1938.

One can imagine the anxiety of those living near the overhead tank when it collapsed. It seems metal bands holding the wooden staves of the tank together broke, almost simultaneously, spilling the 40,000 gallons on whatever was below.

One person who lived just a few doors downhill from the tank said he and his father were sitting in his backyard early that evening when the tank collapsed. Wayne Longley, who lived at 416 James Street, said they were looking up after hearing a noise and saw a column of water descending. He said a wall of water three feet high then raced down James Street.

In 1939, unionism was recognized in Burlington as Burlington Mills employees organized as a local of the United Auto Workers. First local president was Arthur Albright.

Another first in 1939, the Soil Conservation Program was started as a part of President Roosevelt's New Deal Program, and the first benefit checks totaling $34,300 were distributed.

On the religious front, Cross Lutheran Church moved to a landmark on the corner of Kane Street and Jefferson Street and remodeled a church that was built in 1853.

In 1940, a city flower was officially named; the flower, the lilac, and a "plant a lilac" campaign was promoted.

Jehovah's Witnesses began their meetings in 1940 in rooms at the Badger Hotel.

That year, William Liggett announced a large remodeling program which would transform The Antlers into one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the area. Liggett had purchased the resort from Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hockings in 1934.

(Author's Note: Mr. and Mrs. Hockings had operated the resort since 1892 as the Columbian Hotel. The name was selected because of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, where Clarence gained fame as a chicken plucker. At that World's Fair, he entered and won a chicken plucking contest. His best time for plucking and dressing a chicken was eight seconds.)

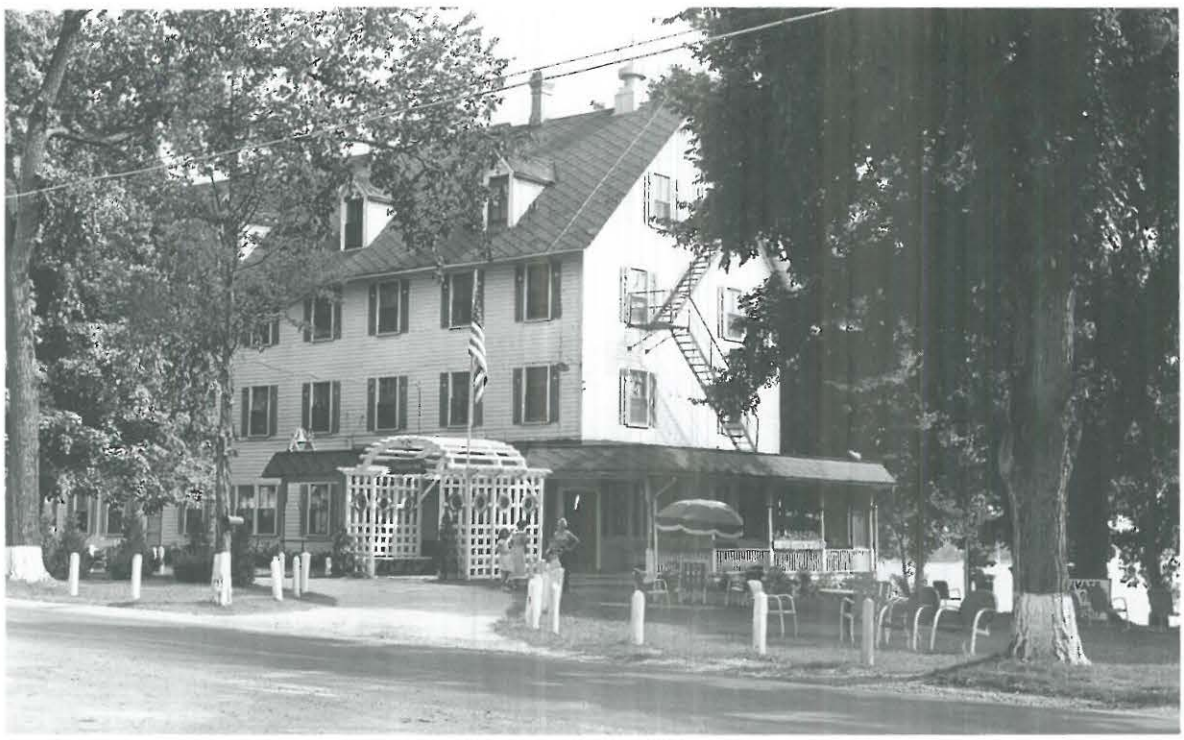
It was renamed Liggett's Royal Palms. One of the features would be a $30,000 leather bar and a dance floor which would accommodate 300 couples. Also a large Wurlitzer pipe organ, purchased from a Chicago theater, was installed.

Old timers can still remember Don Albright playing that organ for most of the festivities and parties held there.

Besides being a popular resort and dance hall



The Columbian Hotel at Brown's Lake, the forerunner of the William Liggett complex at Brown's Lake.



The old Columbian Hotel, remodeled into William Liggett's Holiday Inn.

every Saturday night, the hall became widely known because of the formal balls held there, including the VFW Spring Formal and several Memorial Hospital Charity Balls. Nationally famous bands and orchestras, including Dick Jurgens, Wayne King and Doc Severensen, would play for these formal affairs.

Another feature of the resort was the Marine Bar, overlooking Brown's Lake. Here smaller dances and large banquets would be held. Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs and the Chamber of Commerce would hold special meetings there. The ladies' night meetings of the various organizations and college fraternity and sorority parties would be amply cared for by Liggett and his wife, Ginger.

Conventions for the Murphy Products Company of Burlington would take over the entire resort, including the Royal Palms, the Marine Bar and the Holiday Inn Hotel.

The Hotpoint Corporation, too, held several conventions there. These meetings were so large the overflow bookings for lodging had to be made by Liggett at other nearby resorts.

Horse shows were often held on the spacious grounds, sponsored by the Boots and Saddles Club, as benefits for Memorial Hospital.

Liggett later also operated the Hotel Burlington and the Plush Horse Lounge. He died in 1966. Shortly after his death, the hotel ceased operations; however, the bar became Charlie Brown's Lounge.

It was in 1940 that the name of the Conkey Street School was changed to Cooper School, honoring the late Congressman Henry Allen Cooper, who had served in Congress for 31 years. He had attended school in Burlington.

It was in 1940; it was imminent that war was in the future for the United States and an anti-aircraft battery was formed by Burlington volunteers. Aliens



The Royal Palms, a dance hall which was a part of the Liggett complex. Many name bands of the era appeared here.





War heroes LeRoy Anderson and Lloyd Dennis Murphy, of World War II, for whom the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post was named. Ross Wilcox, the first Burlington man killed in World War I, for whom the American Legion Post was named.

were also required to register and 35 signed as aliens at the Burlington Post Office the first week.

Later the draft law was signed, and 544 young men between 21 and 36 were registered for the first peace-time draft in the nation's history. In the Town of Burlington, 178 were registered.

The year 1941, of course, brought the United States into World War II. From then until the war ended, more than 500 young men and women from the City of Burlington entered the military services and became a part of the more than 16 million young Americans who served in the United States military forces during the war. The first Burlington man killed in that war was William Reddman, a sailor, who was killed in 1943. At least 25 Burlington area men lost their lives in the war.

A Burlington man, Sgt. LeRoy Anderson, became the first World War II draftee to be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross. He had led his tank unit into battle, in the Battle of Bataan in the Philippines, and when his tank was disabled he continued to fight on foot. He was later taken as a prisoner of war. He was killed in October, 1944, when a Japanese prison ship, on which he was being transferred as a war prisoner, was sunk.

The Anderson-Murphy Post 2823, Veterans of Foreign Wars, was named after Sergeant Anderson and Gunnery Sergeant Lloyd Murphy, of the United States Marine Corps, who was killed in action on Saipan on July 9, 1944. He had been in the Marine Corps since January, 1938, shortly after he graduated from Burlington High School.

The citizens of Burlington, left at home during those war years, stood behind their sons and daughters fighting in all corners of the earth, and they, too, withstood many trials and tribulations at home. There was the rationing of many foods, including meat, butter, sugar, automobiles, gasoline, tires and shoes. There were numerous War Bond drives, scrap metal drives, and housewives even saved used cooking fats and empty toothpaste tubes for the war effort. Even the old World War I cannon that stood on the grounds of Memorial Hospital, went to war in a scrap drive. Hundreds of persons, including many women, worked at Burlington Mills or Burlington Brass Company; both had defense contracts. Both industries won certificates for their war production records.

After one of the successful war bond drives, Burlington was awarded with a public appearance of the then popular movie star, Dennis Morgan. Morgan arrived in town in a limousine, stopped at the Plaza Theater, and climbed on an outdoor stage. The first words he said were, "Wentker's is on the hillside, Woeste's farther down, Weiler's is on Brown's Lake, a little out of town."

The three places mentioned were all Burlington taverns that Morgan, as a young college student, had previously frequented with a Carroll College friend from Burlington. Prior to becoming a movie star he was known as Stanley Morner, a singer from Milwaukee.

In March, 1944, a devastating fire wiped out the main buildings and yards of the Dardis Lumber and Fuel Company. The fire was the most disastrous in many years. The lumber yard was rebuilt.

Also in 1944, in September, the Haylofters gave their first production in their new quarters, The Malt House Theater. The first production was a "Gay Nineties Revue." The theater received its name because the building originally housed the Jacob Muth Brewery and later the Finke-Uhen Brewery's malt house.

Of course, 1945 was a big year in Burlington, as the war in Europe ended in May and the war with Japan ended in August.

With the announcement that early August evening that the war had ended, many a dinner was left untouched as residents poured into the streets to celebrate. Horns sounded, bells rang and by 6:30 p.m. the downtown streets were filled with celebrants. Mayor Roy Hoffman appeared on a white horse and led a parade of celebrants and musicians right through the Hotel Badger Bar and up the street.

Then, of course, is the oft-told story of the celebrant at one of the local bars who was heard to say, "I wish this war would have lasted a year longer and I would have had my house paid for." Naturally, of course, this didn't go too well with some of the other celebrants who had relatives and friends in the military service, and the guy was last seen passed out on the floor. It was not from drinking too much, but because of a right cross to the jaw wielded by an unidentified person.

Other matters seemed insignificant for the rest of the year as the young men and women returned home, some going to their old jobs, others seeking employment. Food rationing was soon ended.

A check of grocery store ads of 1945 showed sugar selling for 33 cents a pound, fresh cabbage 4 cents a pound, and a 40 pound bag of grapefruit $1.89.

The Burlington Rescue Squad was started in October, 1945, by the Burlington Rotary Club.

President of Rotary, Fred New, a Burlington banker, instructed the committee of Charles Jackson and Warner Zimmermann to work out a plan for the necessary funding.

The first aid for prospective members was taught by Albert Ebbers, a well qualified Red Cross first aid instructor.

After a year of fund-raising preparation and training, a board of directors was named for the corporation to be known as Burlington Rescue Squad, Incorporated. The first directors were Leland Koch, Elmer Rubach, Charles Jackson, Otto Sperhake, Elmer Ebert, Carl Rubach and Robert Fulton.

The first squad members were Carl Rubach, Elmer Ebert, Albert Ebbers, Elmer Rubach, Charles Jackson, Don Reed, Robert Birchler and Clarence "Bill" Scharf. It was decided more members would be needed, but would not be admitted until they had properly qualified by taking a Red Cross First Aid course. The other 12 who became charter members were: Glenn Hintz, Charles Zimmermann, Glenn Adams, Mark Hannas, Frank Schwartz, Charles Brenton, Carl Altenbern, Jack Warren, George Harper, Willis Reineman, Russell Wilson and Harold Koch.



Interior of Henry Woeste Saloon. Woeste is behind the bar.

The nucleus of the new rescue squad was formed by adult leaders of the Burlington Sea Scout Ship of the Boy Scouts of America which had disbanded.

With the war ended, a building boom came into the picture in Burlington, as many new homes were started and industrial and retail businesses remodeled.

After the war too, Frank Weinman, Burlington's first and only water department superintendent up to that time, was honored. He recalled that in 1903



A 1948 picture of members of the Burlington Rescue Squad.

when the waterworks began, the backyard pump was still in vogue. The water department had but 330 customers. In his 40th year as superintendent, Weinman said, there were 1,278 consumers and there were 12 miles of water mains being used.

In June, 1946, a valve was turned and at the local Wisconsin Southern Gas Company plant, natural gas was made available to Burlington customers.

Lights for the baseball field at Athletic Park (now Beaumont Park), at an estimated cost of more than $13,000, were turned down by the city council in 1946, and in 1947, the lighting of the field was approved.

In 1948, members of the Church of Christ, Scientist purchased the congregation's present building at Jefferson and Johnson Streets. Members had been meeting in various locations since the 1920's.

There was one faction, led by William Frook, in the city that wanted the old Jefferson Street bridge over the Fox River replaced with a viaduct at State Street over the river and the Soo Line railroad tracks. That controversy went on and on, and after many years of arguing and political fireworks, the new Jefferson Street bridge was opened on October 2, 1949 and the State Street viaduct was all but forgotten.

Also in 1949, the greatest mass communication medium in history, television, soon became a way of life for Burlington citizens as well as the nation. Television antennae sprang up on roof tops all over the city and Gilbert Steffen sold his Battery Service Station to Murray Dow, and opened a new television-radio business on Chestnut Street. It was Burlington's first full-time television store.

Christmas Eve of 1950 saw many of the traditional observances of the holiday cancelled as one of the worst fires in the area's history destroyed the Murphy Products plant.

That was before live network television, and, of course, before color television. There was one Milwaukee station, WTMJ-TV, received here, and four Chicago stations. WTMJ-TV was only on the air a few hours a day and network television was delayed kinescope films. Most television screens were round and only eight or ten inches in diameter.

Many an evening meal was hurried as television set owners hurried to get the dishes done so they could watch their favorite shows, such as "The Milton Berle Show," "Studio One," "The Jack Benny Show," or the weekly wrestling from Milwaukee or Chicago. Many times, invited, or sometimes uninvited, guests would crowd the homes of television owners to see this great new entertainment medium, especially wrestling.

Wrestling on television was exceptionally popular when such men as Billy Goelz, Gypsy Joe or Gorgeous George were scheduled to appear.

In 1950, there were 438 babies born at Burlington Memorial Hospital, 62 weddings at local churches, and 95 deaths. It cost $263,476 to run the city and the new Kroger store opened with something unheard of up until that time, a self-service meat counter.

The 1950 census showed 4,722 persons in the city and the town almost doubled from 1,257 in 1940 to 2,250 in 1950. There were 303 students attending Burlington High School and 249 at St. Mary's High School.

St. Mary's football field got its lights that year, thanks to the efforts of Reverend Joseph Hanauska, an assistant pastor at St. Mary's. The first game was played under the lights on September 10 with Waterford.

Christmas Eve, 1950, saw many of the traditional observances of the holiday cancelled or interrupted as one of the worst fires in the area's history destroyed the Murphy Products Company plant on Dodge Street. Many a family had settled in for the start of the Christmas observance when the blasts of the fire siren sent firemen and rescue personnel to the scene of the fire in cold, sub-freezing temperatures. Firemen poured more than 350,000 gallons of water on the blaze. Several had frost-bitten hands from handling the water soaked hoses. Local restaurant people kept a steady flow of hot coffee and sandwiches to the fire scene so firemen could take a brief respite. William Liggett, operator of the Hotel Burlington, opened up his dining room in the Hotel Burlington to all who helped fight the blaze.

After receiving offers of all possible help from the Burlington city council, it took J.H. Murphy only a few days to decide to rebuild the livestock feed manufacturing plant. The new plant opened in 1952.

In 1950, because of the upcoming Korean war, Mayor A.J. Ketterhagen appointed Don Reed as the first Civil Defense director since World War II. It was while he was CD director that the Auxiliary Police Force was created.

Also, in regard to schools, a plan was presented in 1950 to separate the two school systems into two separate districts, the Burlington Grade School District and the Burlington High School District, and in 1951 that split district system was approved. Hot lunch programs in the schools became a reality in 1951, started by the Parent-Teachers Association.

Also in 1951, numerous Burlington men were called to active duty with the military services because of the conflict during the Korean Police Action.

A Burlington man with an idea became the founder of an organization which later became an international organization. It was in May, 1951, that Bruce Thompson, a recent convert to the Lutheran Church, asked Pastor Reuben Marti, then pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church, why that church did not offer an alternative to scouting for its young men. Pastor Marti challenged Thompson by asking, "Why don't you go out and do something about it?" In July of that year, Pastor Marti and Thompson presented the idea of organizing the Lutheran

Pioneers to the congregation. The congregation sanctioned the organization and encouraged Thompson to organize it as soon as possible.

By 1986, the 35th anniversary of the Lutheran Pioneers, there were nearly 600 Trains (individual groups) started in 37 states and three foreign countries, with more than 1,500 adult leaders. Thompson held the position of National Council Chairman for many years.

Some things don't change for many, many years. For instance, a large issue facing the city council at the time was traffic patterns and parking problems. One of the issues facing the city council that year was whether to fluoridate the city's water supply. It turned out to be a bitter battle, with Mayor Ketterhagen, a dentist, being a proponent of fluoridation, and Alderman John Vogelsang, Sr., a baker, being vehemently against it. In fact, it was reported the two men got into a fist fight in a local pub over the issue. The issue went to a referendum and the plan to fluoridate was beaten by a wide margin.

Another issue, pushed by Mayor Ketterhagen, in 1953, was the possible construction of a municipal building on South Pine Street, where the post office now stands, and a study group was appointed. However, aldermen were not receptive to the idea of including a gymnasium, a swimming pool and a sauna in the building, and the proposal was dropped.

Also that year, a street numbering and renaming committee was named by Mayor Ketterhagen. The committee included William Whiting, manager of the telephone company here, Lester O. Hoganson, Charles H. Zimmermann, Don Reed, and William Branen. That committee's plan was never adopted.

Some years later, a new numbering system was installed, and many of the streets, including such streets as Dyer, Liberty, Livingston and Frederick Streets, were renamed to conform with the numbering system. Dyer Street had been named after Dr. Edward Galusha Dyer, Burlington's first physician; Liberty Street had been named by Dr. Dyer because he was a strict abolitionist; and Frederick Street was named after a son of Origen Perkins. Dyer Street became an extension of Kane Street; Liberty Street became an extension of State Street; Frederick Street became East Highland Avenue; and Livingston Street became an extension of Chandler Boulevard. The plan finally adopted was designed by Carl Treichel, a long-time Burlington High School teacher. Treichel died in 1963.

It was also in 1953, that the Burlington Brewing Company, formerly the Finke-Uhen Brewing Company, ran into financial problems and closed its doors.

Louis H. Zimmermann, publisher of the Standard Democrat for more than 40 years, died in his sleep in March, 1953. William Branen was named editor and he later became publisher.

In May, 1955, the Standard Democrat purchased its rival, the Burlington Free Press, from Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ebert, and the name of the paper was changed to the Standard Press.

On July 28, 1954, a shopping guide, known as the Wisconsin Hi-Liter, was started by an advertising salesman, Mr. Al Crosby, who soon sold it to Arthur Roesing and Glenn Hintz, furniture store operators, and Lee Herrman, a jewelry store owner. Crosby published only nine issues of the Wisconsin Hi-Liter, when he reached a point where he could no longer obtain credit or loans to continue.

After Crosby left the business, Glenn Hintz took over management of the paper on a no-pay basis. The first office was above the old Lois Tire Shop at 209 East Chestnut Street.

In the fall of 1956, the Hi-Liter was moved to the lower floor of the Commerce Building at 132 Commerce Street.

In November, 1962, the company moved to its own new building at 256 South Pine Street, and for the first time the paper was printed on the company's own offset presses. Up to that time, the printing of the shopping guide was contracted out.

Taking what Glenn Hintz called, "a step backwards," the shopper went into competition with itself by publishing a weekly photo newspaper, the Pictorial News Advertiser. That didn't prove profitable, and on September 30, 1967, the subscription list was sold to the Standard Press and the Pictorial was laid to rest.

After the sale of the Pictorial, efforts were concentrated on increasing commercial printing and sales of Hi-Liter advertising.

This venture was successful, and in late 1975, Hintz became sole stockholder of the firm. After that, the firm purchased the old Nestle Company can plant at 280 East Chestnut Street and remodeled it for a new printing plant and office, one of the most modern in the state. The firm changed its name to Hi-Liter Graphics, Incorporated.

The old Nestle Company can plant, which houses the printing plant and offices of Hi-Liter Graphics, was moved to that location many years ago by C.B. McCanna for a tin can manufacturing facility for the Wisconsin Condensed Milk plant. It had been the Veterans' Saloon building at the corner of Chestnut Street and Pine Street.

In 1985, the company purchased the Sears building on East Jefferson Street. After remodeling, it became a bindery plant to bind catalogues and books. In 1989, the land and building of Schmaling's Country Market, across the street on East Jefferson Street, was purchased and plans for remodeling the interior and exterior are in the making as 1990 rolls along.

With the addition of this property, Hi-Liter Graphics is using about 80,000 square feet.

Some things don't change for many, many years. For instance, the issues of traffic patterns and parking problems.

Jerome L. Hintz and James L. Hintz, sons of Glenn Hintz, became shareholders in late 1976, and continue to be active in the management of the corporation. A part of the third generation of the Hintz family also was employed as supervisor of pre-press operations.

It was also in the 1950's that it was announced the Air Force planned to build a huge air base southeast of Burlington. In 1956, it was learned the Air Force was given the go ahead to purchase some 5,400 acres of land, which included 54 farms, for the base and that 350 houses, plus all of the facilities necessary for an air base, were to be built. The base had been named Bong Air Force Base, in honor of Richard Bong, a Wisconsin ace pilot of World War II. Later, Colonel Charles Lancaster was named commander of the Strategic Air Command (SAC) base.

It was also in 1956 that Mayor Ralph Larson broke a tie vote of the city council to approve an airport for the City of Burlington. The council action followed a referendum on the project which at first appeared to have been lost. But in a re-count, it was discovered 100 votes had not been counted and the referendum was declared passed, 1,045 to 954.

It was in April, 1956, that Ginger Beaumont, the first batter in the first World Series, died. Beaumont, who played for the Pittsburgh Pirates, the National League pennant winner that year, had a lifetime batting average of .311 for his 14-year career. Once he got six hits in six times at bat and not a ball went out of the infield.

In March, 1957, the federal government announced a $338,000 grant to Burlington Memorial Hospital. The grant was applied to a building package at the hospital costing $900,000. This was the first addition made to the hospital since it was started in 1924.

That year, the building which housed Master Mechanics Company and General Crystal Company on South Pine Street was destroyed by fire of unknown origin.

There even was a kidnapping in 1957 in the Burlington area.

Robert Hughes, a Fuller Brush salesman, turned hero in a wild chase to save a little boy. The victim was Scott Vrchota, six-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Vrchota. The boy had gone to the Honey Lake store to get a loaf of bread when he was forced into an automobile. Children were playing in Hughes' yard and saw the boy get into the car. They called Hughes and he took off in his car in pursuit. As the two cars neared Burlington at speeds up to 80 miles an hour, Hughes pulled along side the car and the kidnapper fired four shots at him, hitting Hughes twice in the arm. The boy was later released.

Also in 1956, the New York Yankees, who faced the Milwaukee Braves in the World Series, stayed at the Brown's Lake Resort. The Yankees also stayed there in 1957.

It was just prior to the team's 1956 stay at the resort that Yankee Coach Casey Stengel made his "bush league" remark. As the team was traveling through Sturtevant to Milwaukee, a crowd of people had gathered to get a glimpse of the team members such as Yogi Berra, Whitey Ford and Mickey Mantle. The colorful and sometimes gruff Stengel, seeing the crowd, said under his breath in disgust, "This is bush league." A national news reporter heard him say it and ran a story about it. For the rest of his career in baseball, that remark followed him.

The Yankees were then owned by Del Webb and he arrived at Brown's Lake Resort aboard a sea-plane that landed on the lake.

Bethel Baptist Church was dedicated November 30, 1958 and the Cross Lutheran Church members purchased seven acres, just east of Burlington on property purchased from C. Roy McCanna, for a new church. The organization of the Bethel Baptist Church was the first of several new churches of the half-century.

In 1962, Our Savior Lutheran Church was started. In 1973, Faith Chapel was organized. That year also, the First Church of the Nazarene was started in that historic old building which had formerly been the Cross Lutheran Church. In 1975, Peace Lutheran Church started. In 1977, Emmanuel Baptist Church first met. In 1980, the New Covenant Baptist Church was consecrated. The Cornerstone Ministries was started in 1980.

It was in 1959 that fire destroyed the C. Roy McCanna Edgewood Stock Farm barn at the intersection of Highway 11 and County Trunk W. In the winter of that year, the temperature fell to a record breaking 24 degees below zero, with 37 inches of snow on the ground. By February 12, there had been 32 days the mercury fell to zero or below.

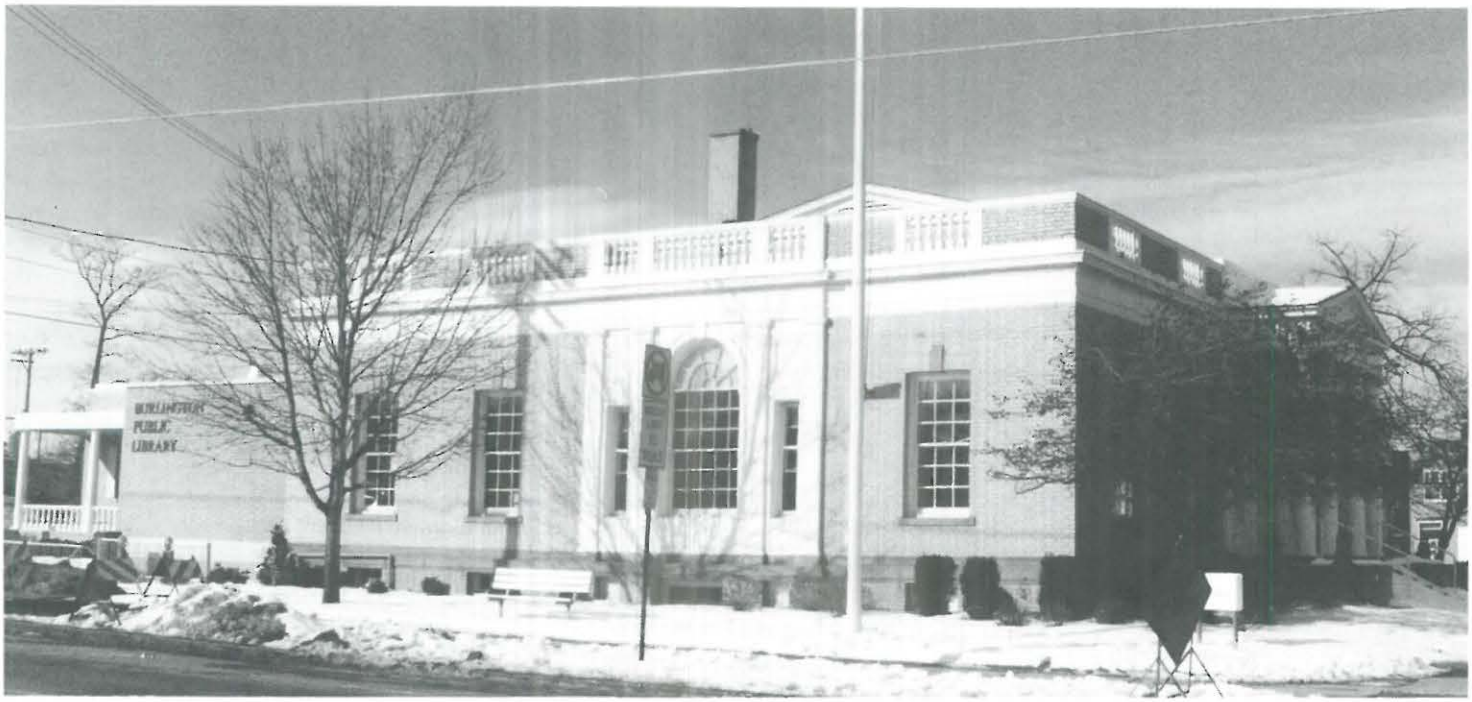
That year too, Merrie Jule Barney was chosen "Alice in Dairyland" in Janesville.

A referendum to change the route of Highway 11 off Main Street lost by but 18 votes.

Building plans for the Veterans Memorial Building were completed in August, 1959, and Reverend Henry C. Shadeberg announced his candidacy for the First District Congressional seat.

The week of October 8, 1959, it was announced that construction of the Air Force Base would be stopped and the project would be ended. The announcement shocked the community, as the now defunct base was about half completed. The water and sewer lines had been laid and the runway was all set for paving. Surrounding property owners had made plans to open business places near the base; in fact, one restaurant was already built. Several lawsuits were filed against the government and later the nearly 5,400 acres were transformed to the State of Wisconsin and became the Bong

It was in the 1950's it was announced the U.S. Air Force planned to build a large airbase southeast of Burlington. The Air Force was given the go-ahead to purchase some 5,400 acres of land, including 54 farms.



The Post Office, built in 1918, became the City of Burlington Library. Additions to the original building have been built.

Recreational Area under the supervision of the Department of Natural Resources.

Also that black year, Nestle's announced it was leaving Burlington, and Quality Carriers announced they were moving to Chicago because of labor pressure here.

In 1960, the City of Burlington's unofficial census was 5,800, with the town census at 7,773. The town had grown 5,514 and the city 1,027 in the ten years since the 1950 census.

The greatest flooding in 30 years was recorded in 1960 as the rivers overflowed their banks from Burlington to Wilmot.

A private airport, owned by Philip Warren, closed in June, 1960, and a ground breaking for the Veterans Memorial Building was held on Memorial Day, 1960. In August, it was announced Burlington would receive a new post office.

In November, Reverend Henry C. Shadeberg was elected to Congress, beating incumbent Gerald T. Flynn by about 10,000 votes.

In April, 1961, ground was broken for the Burlington Armory. The old post office was sold to the city for $1.00 to be used for library purposes. A large addition closely matching the original exterior was constructed in 1984.

Several events took place in 1962. Our Savior Lutheran Church began on July 15, with 44 persons attending the first worship service.

Tragedy struck in February of 1962, when Burlington Police Sergeant Anthony "Tony" Eilers was murdered just outside the city limits of Burlington. He had stopped a station wagon to inform the occupants that their rear license plate was loose, and five minutes later he lay dead with five bullet wounds. Wilson Brook, of Racine, later confessed to the crime. He was sentenced to a term of life in prison for the murder. He later escaped from the penitentiary, but was recaptured months after the escape.

The police department was again in the news a short time later when Chief of Police Walter Gabriel was charged by Mayor A.B. Rewald of "storing" a speeding ticket of a famous Milwaukee Braves baseball player, Eddie Mathews. Gabriel was exonerated by the Police and Fire Commission.

Also in 1962, the new Burlington Airport was dedicated with a program headed by Senator Alexander Wiley and Congressman Henry Schadeberg. Thousands of spectators witnessed an afternoon air show.

After being gone for 11 months, the 32nd Division of the Wisconsin National Guard returned home from Fort Lewis, Washington. The division had been called to active duty during the Berlin Air Lift. About 75 Burlington men were in the

Flood of 1960. Bridge Street, from Chestnut Street to Jefferson Street.



division.

In early 1962, two robbers armed with pistols forced their way into the Edward Rueter home, 400 Summit Avenue, and held the couple at gunpoint while they took cash and jewelry valued at $8,200. Police Chief Walter Gabriel said no clues or possible suspects had been found. At nearby Twin Lakes, on January 10, 1962, thieves took $4,000 in stamps and $400 in cash from the post office. A large metal safe was ripped open.

In the summer of 1963, the Veterans Memorial Building was dedicated. Patrick M. Lloyd and George Borgo were co-chairmen of the event, and Marvin Werth was parade marshal.

Also in 1963, the Nestle Company took an option on land on Burlington's south side. Plans included the construction of a chocolate factory there. Ground was broken for the new plant on September 3, 1964.

It was in February, 1964, when the Historical Society received the former Cross Lutheran Church, at the corner of Perkins Boulevard and Jefferson Street, as a gift from Mrs. Antionette Fulton, a charter member of the society.

The church building had been built in 1883. The church has been used as a museum by the Historical Society.

It was also in 1964 that it was rumored that a second large industry, the Foster Forbes Glass Company, would build a plant in Burlington, on County Trunk P, south of the Lavelle Rubber Company plant. It was only rumor and no one would say it was official.

However, earth moving equipment was moved in and began working. An enterprising news reporter hired an airplane and took photographs of the equipment working at leveling off a large area.

The reporter took the picture to then mayor, Leo Warren, plopped it on his desk and asked, "Mr. Mayor, what can you say about this?" The mayor replied, after looking at the photo, "Well, we can't say they are planting corn, can we?" And so the news was out.

In May, 1964, the Soo Line Railroad sought to end passenger train service between Chicago and Superior and that ended passenger service to Burlington.

In September, 1964, ground was broken for the Nestle Company chocolate plant on the city's south side and that brought that company back to Burlington after an absence of five years. Prior to the company leaving Burlington, it had operated a milk canning plant here.

Also in 1964, there was a move for Burlington to separate from Racine County and become a part of Walworth County. However, the plan never came to pass.

In 1965, Richard Kinzer, president of Burlington Mills, announced that the firm would close the Burlington plant because of a threatened strike. A short time later, he announced the plant would remain open, but that opening was short lived, and in 1966, the plant was moved to Kentucky.

For the second time in 14 years in a referendum, Burlington voters turned down the issue of fluoridating the Burlington water supply by a two to one margin. In another referendum, by a three to one margin, voters decided to keep the city clerk-treasurer's job an elective position.

Pinecrest Shopping Center, Burlington's first shopping center, was constructed in 1965 and most stores were opened in early 1966.

Foster Forbes Company opened its glass manufacturing plant here in 1966.

That year also, voters of the area voted to return to a K-12 school system with one administrator to head the entire district. Phillip Reinfeldt, who was principal of the elementary school district, was to become superintendent of the Burlington Area School District. Frank Hanrath, superintendent of the Burlington High School District, moved on to become superintendent at Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Also in 1966, the Phelps Paint and Tile Store on Main Street burned to the ground.

It was 1968 when Burlington felt the first hard impact of the unpopular Vietnamese War, when word was received that Timothy J. Kennedy, a Burlington High School graduate and a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy, had been killed by sniper fire in Vietnam.

It was on October 27, 1968, that Burlington lost one of its landmarks to fire. It was on that date the Coach Lamp restaurant was destroyed by a fire which was believed to have started by a burning piece of toast. The building had been constructed as a hotel in 1874 by Charles Jones, and was known as the Jones House. In 1914, it was acquired by Fred Oberg, who named it the Fritz Carlton and later changed the name to the Badger Hotel. Oberg changed the name of the hotel during World War I because of the anti-German sentiment that prevailed during that period. In 1961, Oberg's widow sold the hotel and it was remodeled into the Coach Lamp restaurant.

A new fire station, on Washington Street, was built in 1969. Previously, the fire department had been housed in the water department building at 164 Commerce Street. In addition to the fire department, the Commerce Street building housed the street department and the water department. Old timers still remember the wail of the steam powered fire whistle that was used to summon volunteer firemen to an alarm. Steam for the whistle was supplied by the boilers that generated steam power to operate the pump that pumped water from the well in the building. Later, the steam whistle was replaced with a klaxon type, electrically operated horn mounted on the roof of the fire station.

It was in 1968 Burlington felt the first impact of the unpopular Vietnamese War, when word was received that Timothy J. Kennedy had been killed by a sniper's bullet.

The department had a city-wide call box system that would sound the whistle automatically if the call box was pulled. That method of summoning firemen disappeared with a new, modern radio alerting system that was still in use in 1990.

(Author's Note: There have been nine fire chiefs since the department was organized in 1912. They were: John T. Prasch, 1912-1919; John McCourt, 1919-1925; Morris Schneider, 1925-1932; Roy Porter, 1932-1960; Clarence Scharf, 1960-1971; Robert Birchler, 1971-1977; John R. McCarthy, 1977-1982; Charles Hewitt, 1982-1987; and Richard VandeSande, 1987-?.)

The street department and water department also have long since moved out of that building and it was eventually sold. The street department moved to its present location at 824 Milwaukee Avenue when a new building was constructed there in 1960, and an addition was built in 1980. The water department moved its offices to a well house on Jefferson Street and to its new quarters at 508 Sheldon Street in 1964 when the water commission was formed.

The decade of the 1970's brought many changes to the growing area, both in the city and town of Burlington. Some were good, some were bad or even disastrous. But along with the nation, the residents danced to a new beat.

In 1970, Leys Department Store opened at the corner of State Street and Pine Street, in a building which was built for a Sentry supermarket. The store lasted for about 13 years.

Expansion was seen in the industrial community as Continental Can Company and Packaging Corporation opened in the Town of Burlington about 1971. But the Burlington Brass Works closed in 1979, and Murphy Products Company was sold to the Schlitz Brewing Company in 1971.

Fires took a toll as on July 24, 1977, St. Mary's Church was gutted by fire. But parishioners and the community in general came together with moral and financial support and a new $2 million church rose from the ashes.

It was on a cold February day that a new, prefabricated steeple was raised to restore Burlington's meager skyline, and the new church was dedicated on Dec. 7, 1979.

Two other big blazes were recorded in the '70's, the Coach Lamp Restaurant, in the former Hotel Badger building at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Chestnut Street burned. Natale's Restaurant burned in 1977 and the Colonial Club at Brown's Lake burned in 1979.

Weather extremes were also numerous during the 70's. Once in 1978, a blizzard left 25 foot drifts in some places. The plowed snow was so high it was impossible, from street level, to see automobiles traveling on the streets. In 1979, there were 40 straight days the temperature did not get above freezing.



A spectacular view of St. Mary's church steeple burning in 1977.

In 1973, spring flooding sent the rivers out of their banks. Two deaths were caused by the flood; a man and his son drowned when a boat in which they were riding overturned, dumping them into the rushing water.

Summer storms caused much property damage also, as in 1973, a sudden storm hit as the Burlington Air Show was going on at the airport. Many airplanes were flipped over, including a $200,000 Ford Trimotor airplane that had been used to give rides to passengers during the show. Much other property damage was done by the same storm.

There were other tragedies, such as the murder of a 16 year old gasoline station attendant, David Schwochert, who was abducted from the station, then killed and dumped in a field north of Burlington. His killer was never found.

Wedges were driven between people who had been friends for years when the Experimental Aircraft Association announced it was planning on

moving its air museum to property near the Burlington Airport. The controversy spread to residents and politicians. Backers cited prestige and revenue for the city, while opponents cited noise, traffic congestion and too much air traffic. The argument was settled when the E.A.A. announced plans to build the museum in Oshkosh.

Also in 1973, a small gathering of Christians, meeting at the Dave Stowell home, formed Faith Chapel, which acquired a church at Lyons. In 1990, the congregation moved back to Burlington.

In 1974, the contract of Superintendent of Schools Phillip Reinfeldt was not renewed. No reason was ever given by the school board as to why it was not renewed. Dr. Richard M. Sorensen was named as school superintendent.

Another tragedy struck in March of 1975 when 16 year old Cathie Ziebell of Burlington was murdered by a 22 year old New Munster man, and her body tossed into the Fox River in Kenosha County. Kenosha County authorities arrested Mark Ketterhagen, 22, and charged him with the murder. He was later convicted.

Parking meters became a thing of the past when the city council voted them out in 1976.

After the city council approved the swap of the city owned parking lot on Milwaukee Avenue for a similar property on Chestnut Street, construction of the Burlington Square Shopping Center was started in the spring of 1978 and completed later that year.

It was in 1979 that Otis Hulett announced he was disbanding the Burlington Liar's Club, which he started in 1929. The corporation charter was returned to the State of Wisconsin. But the Chamber of Commerce decided not to let it die, and through that body's urging, it was reorganized and re-chartered. The chamber named as officers, John Soeth, president, Don Reed, vice president, and Mitzi Robers, secretary-treasurer. Until Hulett died on November 11, 1989, he never recognized the existence of the new club.

The 1980's proved to be a decade of economic change and growth, changes in city government and celebrations.

In 1980, two long-time incumbents were beaten in city elections. Mayor John Thate, who was seeking his sixth term in office, was defeated by 34 votes by Alderman Leonard Kitkowski, and Thomas Reich, city clerk-treasurer, was beaten by a write-in candidate, Ralph Epping. Kitkowski's term lasted only two years as in 1982, he was beaten by Martin Itzin, a retired Marine Corps major. Itzin held the post for three terms and decided not to seek election to a fourth. He was replaced in 1988 by Stephen David, who beat out two other candidates. David was re-elected in 1990.

In another change in city government, a city administrator's post was created and later filled by Tom Leback in 1983. The post was created because the day-to-day administration of the city was too time consuming for a part time mayor.



Officers of the original Burlington Liar's Club, left to right, Otis Hulett, Lawrence Stang, Jr., and Gilbert Karcher.



The Historical Society's float in the Sesquicentennial Parade has been credited with providing the impetus for saving the old Whitman School.

A controversy arose over the placement of a proposed new city police building. The committee in charge of selecting a site chose one on Milwaukee Avenue, across the street from Echo Park. But the Burlington Chamber of Commerce opposed that site and favored building on city owned property next to city hall. The Chamber presented a 1,000 signature petition favoring the city hall site. The council approved this site and the new police building was dedicated in 1983.

During 1983, 1984 and 1985, there were several business developments. A 68 acre industrial park was made available to industry and the Wisconsin Electric Power Company and the Burlington Consumers Cooperative were the first to take advantage of the new area. White Oaks Restaurant, south of Burlington, was destroyed by fire on February 13, 1985. Owner Richard Kiekenbusch rebuilt the establishment and it re-opened a year later.

In 1985, plans were announced for the Fox River Plaza shopping center, which would include as anchor stores a Pick 'N Save supermarket and a K-mart store.

On a sour note, in 1983, the Stroh Brewing Company of Detroit, Michigan, announced the closing of the Murphy Products Company, which had been acquired when Stroh bought the Schlitz Brewing Company of Milwaukee. The livestock feed manufacturing company had been one of Burlington's most successful industries. It was started in 1925 by two brothers, James H. and Lawrence Murphy, who moved the plant here from Delavan where it was started in 1921. Schlitz had purchased the company in 1971.

In 1984, Sears Roebuck Company announced it was closing the Burlington retail store. That ended a 39 year operation in Burlington.

A landmark in Burlington started in 1918 by "Doc" Tichlofen, the Palace Lanes building was destroyed by fire in October, 1984. The owners, James Walsh and Robert Watson, rebuilt it and reopened as the Palace Bar and Restaurant in 1985.

The building had a long history in Burlington as Robert Steele purchased the business in 1927 and shortly sold it to Thomas Croake, who operated it until 1946. He sold it to Allen Castleberg, who converted the pool hall section of the building into a restaurant. Castleberg sold his interest to William "Gabby" Corbett and Nick Hancock in 1952, and they operated it until Richard and Carol Corbett bought it in 1972.

The year 1985 also saw the Burlington area celebrate its 150th birthday with a week-long schedule of festivities, including a three hour parade. General co-chairman of the event were Matthew Daniels and Jack Berry.

It was a float entered in this parade by the Burlington Historical Society which has been credited with providing the impetus for the saving of the old Whitman School.

The school building, which was the first school building ever built in Burlington in 1840, was in a poor location to be saved and was badly in need of repairs. The float in the parade used as a theme "Save Whitman School", and from then on monetary donations began coming in to the society.

The structure was moved to Schmaling Park, gutted and restored to what it may have looked like in those early days. Cost of the project was

about $28,000, all of which had been given by businesses and individuals. The school building was rededicated and opened to the public in September, 1988.

Celebrations continued in 1987 with the first Chocolate Festival, and Burlington became "Chocolate City, U.S.A." for a week. The festivals were continued yearly, at least until 1990, but in 1988, the festival became known as the "chocolate war." The Hershey Company, of Hershey, Pennsylvania, challenged Burlington's right to the name, "Chocolate City, U.S.A."

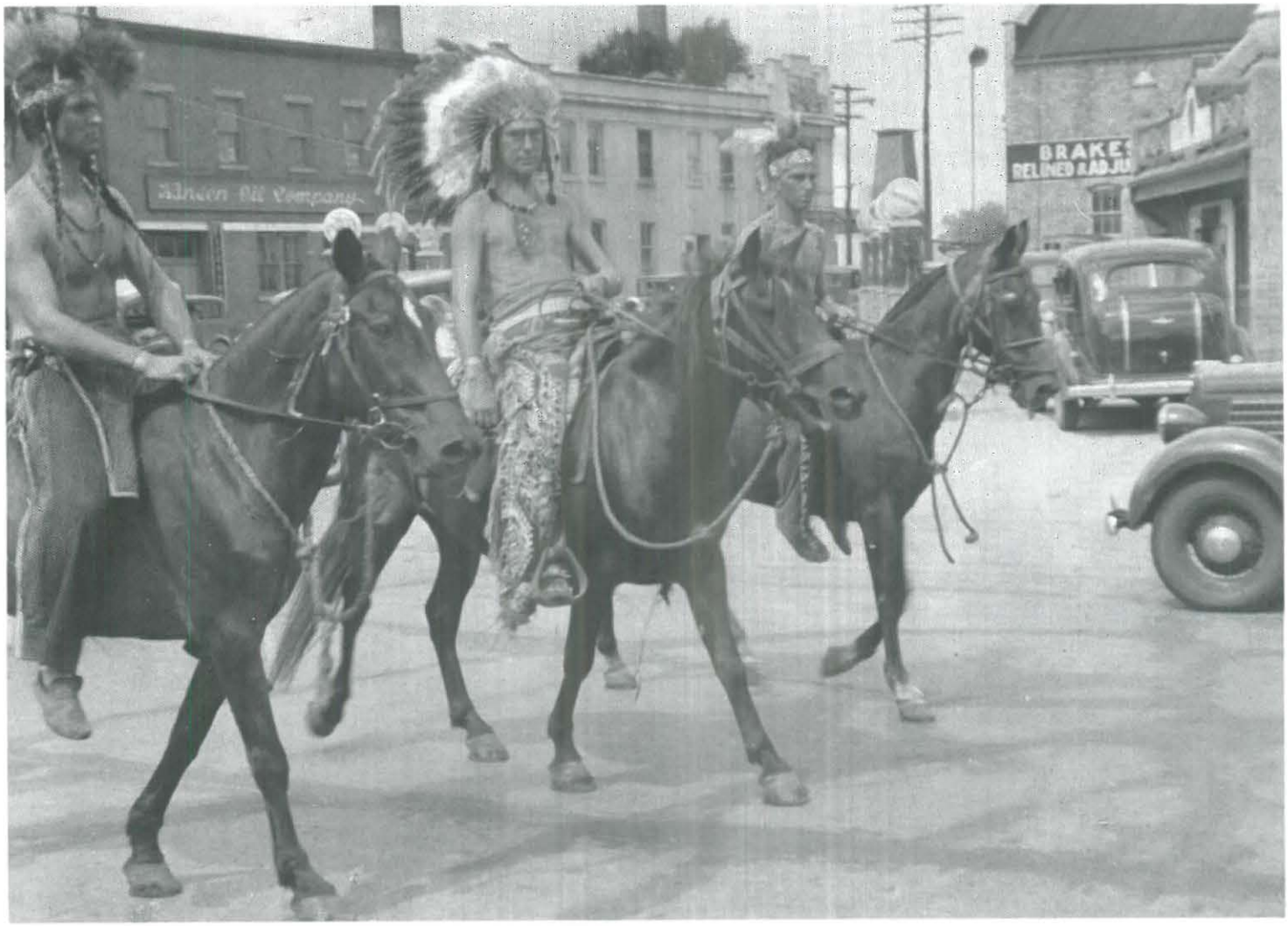
Drought conditions hit Burlington, as well as most of the rest of the nation, in 1988, and most farmers reported losing 50 percent of their crops because of the heat and dry weather.

That dry year was probably best described in the 1988 championship lie of the Burlington Liar's Club. The lie: "It was so dry, the only water one could buy was dehydrated in 36 ounce packages."

In July, 1988, William Branen, long-time publisher of the Standard Press, died of complications from a brain tumor. His son, Robert, was named publisher to succeed him. Bill, as he was commonly known, was a leader in the community and promoted and was the force behind many community activities during his tenure as publisher. Never one to seek glory, many of his ideas were carried out by others with him lending support, such as the Sesquicentennial observance, Chocolate City Festivals, the Industrial Park, and the restoring of the old water tower as a monument.

The final year of the decade, 1989, saw school news as the big topic of conversation. Gary Fields, superintendent of schools, in the midst of planning for a new middle school, resigned to take a similar position in Kennewick, Washington. At first, the school board was going to hold him to his contract, but later relented and allowed him to move. Fields had replaced Dr. Richard M. Sorensen, who retired, three years before. Dr. Jackson Parker was named the new superintendent. In a referendum in November, 1989, the construction of the proposed $12.8 million school complex was defeated by a 3 to 1 vote.

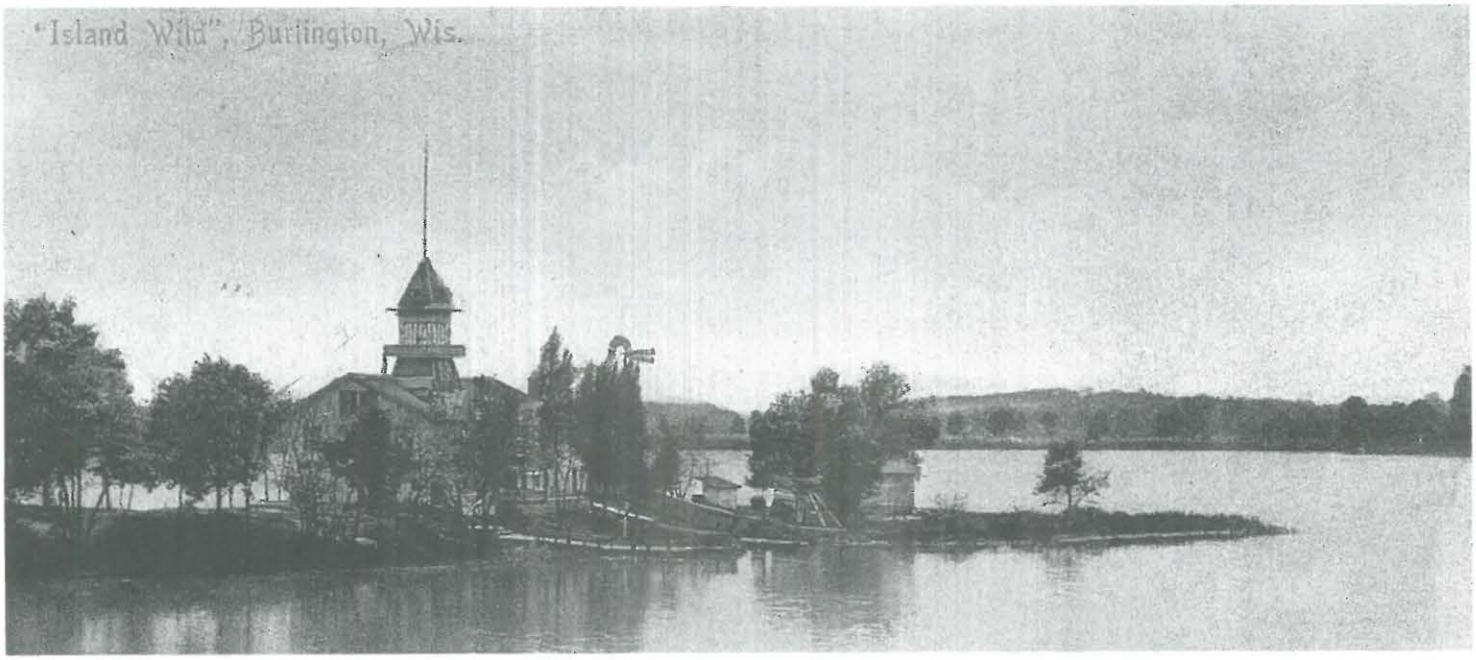
The last tragedy of the decade was the mysterious disappearance of Kerry O'Brien Krueger. The mother of a daughter, Mrs. Krueger had not been seen since December 6, 1989, when she supposedly left home to attend a trade show in Wyoming. Up until mid-1990, no trace of her had been found.



Make-believe Indians, from the left, Mark Hannas, Russell Cooney and Johnny Rudkowsky, riding in the centennial parade in 1935.

Chapter 7

Social Life Begins



The tip end of Island Wild showing the hall for dining and dancing.

Social groups formed early in Burlington. The Teutonia Society, begun in 1853, has been mentioned on page 29.

In 1870, the Old Settlers of Racine County was organized. At that time, these people were members: Nelson R. Norton, Silas B. Peck, Pliny Perkins, Lewis Royce, Daniel B. Rork, William Rooker, Orson B. Sheldon, Jacob Bussey, Stephen Campbell, E. G. Dyer and wife, S. M. Cooper, John M. Cooper, Mrs. L. S. Nims.

At a meeting of the society on February 22, 1871, Charles E. Dyer, son of Edward Galusha Dyer, Burlington's first doctor, gave a lengthy address telling the story of the first settlement of the several towns then comprising the County of Racine. This exhaustive historical address has become the main source of information for all succeeding accounts of the history of early settlers in the county.

There was one social group in the vicinity that had a national reputation for good hospitality and that was Gideon's Band at Brown's Lake. It was organized in 1874 by Fred Wild of Racine. For many years, he had been general freight agent for the Western Union and was well known amongst railroad men. A group of these men and a number of citizens of Racine formed the Gideon's Band as a social club. They elected for their summer camp, a small island on Brown's Lake which Julius Lueck had acquired by "squatters' rights," and bought it from him for about $16. They named it "Island Wild," an excellent choice since it not only honored the founder of the club, but was remarkably descriptive as well. Then began the activities which were to make the words "Island Wild" a key to unlock the most pleasant memories in the minds of many people.

Each family erected a tent for its sleeping quarters and some improved their places with little pavilions made of cedar poles and roofed them with vines and branches. For the center of festivities, a hall

Some of the members of Gideons Band skylarking on Island Wild.





Winter fun was horse racing on the ice of the mill pond.

for dining and dancing was built. Here banquets were given, attended by guests from all parts of the country. The leading officials of the largest railway systems in the Northwest were wined and dined, with the wines and ales that were famous at the time. Here, by the light of Japanese lanterns, couples danced most romantically to the music of the band playing Henry Allen Cooper's "Island Wild Waltz."

The island could not boast a good beach but swimming parties were taken, by sailboat, to a sandy shallow beach on the Osterman property. Boat transportation was provided by Captain Reuben Deud's sailboat, the "William E. Chapman" and a ferry operated with a cable pulled by Herr Osterman, most willingly assisted by all the small boys of the community.

The Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad printed special trip excursion tickets to Island Wild. The fare included the trip from Chicago to Burlington and to Island Wild by omnibus.

In 1884, the society broke up and the island was sold. A Mr. McCoy of Chicago purchased it for a children's camp. Later it was sold to Mr. Bremner, president of the Bremner Biscuit Company. Burlington people who were members of the society were Edward G. Dyer, A. E. Wells, Antony Meinhardt, Dr. Kords and G. Palmer.

In April, 1927, Teutonia Hall was leased by the Society of the Fischer Paramount Corporation and was remodeled into the Orpheum Theater, a modern movie house. Vaudeville shows were also given from the stage there. Shortly afterwards, this firm sub-leased the building to Community Theaters, Inc., and the theater was completely redecorated and furnished with modern motion picture equipment. The old level floor on which many Burlington people had danced and roller skated was changed to a sloping floor and theater seats were installed. The newly rebuilt hall was opened for business on October 26, 1927. The new theater included a ceiling of twinkling stars and the Diener sisters operated a candy and ice cream store in the building. The first talking picture at the Orpheum was Al Jolson's "The Jazz Singer."

Teutonia Hall after it had been remodeled into the Orpheum Theater.



During the winter of 1928, the new Plaza Theater, built by Fred Oberg and Olaf Hoganson, just two doors from the Orpheum, opened to the public. The first talking picture in Burlington was shown in this building on March 15, 1929. The feature was "Alias Jimmy Valentine."

The Teutonia Society had been declining gradually and in 1929, it went out of existence when on April 15, Teutonia Corporation was organized to take over the building. The new organization had a capital of $5,000.

The purpose of the new corporation was to purchase and improve real estate, and operate and manage theaters and public halls. The incorporators were Joseph A. Rueter, Henry N. Stang and



Interior of the Orpheum Theater, before talking pictures, when traveling vaudeville troupes put on performances. One such troupe is shown on the stage. Below, the house band, included from the left, Fred Boulden, drums; Theodore Korn, violin; and Laura Prasch, piano. These same musicians provided music for the silent movies.

James Mangold.

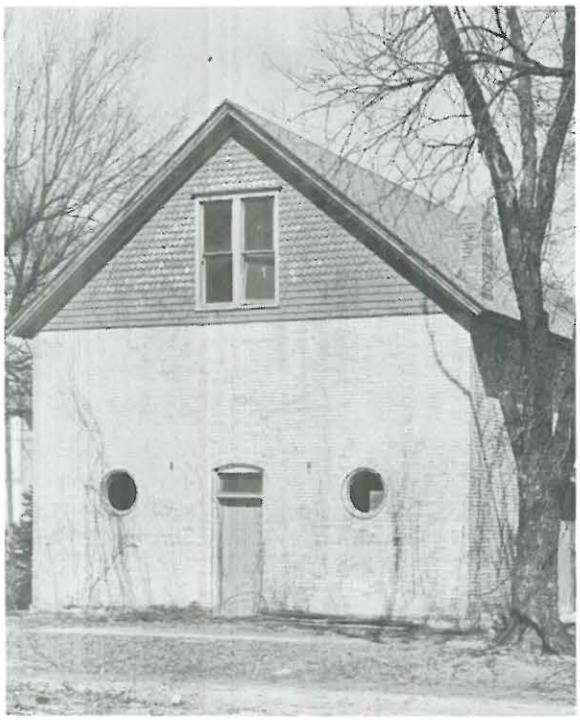
On the night of January 21, 1930, a fire of unknown origin broke out and despite the efforts of the fire department and hundreds of Burlington citizens, the building was destroyed. So the end came to a landmark into which had gone the hope and work of Burlington's early settlers who had contributed money and labor that the growing town might have a cultural center. The fire wrote finis to the history of the Teutonia Society as the hall was never rebuilt.

On the site, a gasoline station and automobile repair shop was erected. In 1986, when the owner Gilbert Tietel, dug into the ground to replace underground gasoline tanks, he unearthed the semi-circular, cast iron gable sign with the word "TEUTONIA 1871" cast upon it. Through his generosity, it is now one of the artifacts in the Historical Society Museum.

The torch of dramatic entertainment did not remain unlit long. In the fall of 1931, the Haylofters came into existence. Catherine Alvord, teacher of English and drama at Burlington High School, along with Stanley Jung and Elmer Ebert, wanted to form an independent "little theater" group. The idea was quickly accepted by others interested in dramatics and the continually growing membership warranted renting a clubroom. At the rear of the Howard Newell residence, on the corner of Dodge and State streets, stood a barn where Mr. Newell kept horses. There was a fine loft above the stable that was offered the group for a place to review scripts, plan productions and do some rehearsing. Honoring this place, the group adopted the name "Haylofters."



A relic of Teutonia Hall found after the Orpheum Theater fire. It is now in the artifact collection of the Burlington Historical Society.



The Newell barn, the first home of The Haylofters, Burlington's little theater group.



The Malt House Theater on North Main Street.

For years, plays were put on at the high school stage, occasionally in the old town hall/church on the corner of Washington Street and Perkins Boulevard. In late 1942, the vacant Finke-Uhen malt house on North Main Street was bought at an auction for $850 back taxes. Much volunteer work was done to convert the place into a 100 seat theater, fittingly called the Malthouse Theater. The Haylofters are the oldest, active, little theater group in Wisconsin.

The Burlington Lyceum Club was organized in 1914, "to advance the interest and promote the culture of musical and dramatic art in the City of Burlington." Women of the community were welcomed as members, particularly if they had musical ability. In the second year of the club, there were 70 active members who would perform and 35 associate members who did not perform or vote. Mrs. W. G. Rasch was the president and strong leader of the group. Other early officers were Mrs. J. F. Bennett, the Misses Martha Rohr and Ermina Zimmermann, Miss Alma Neuhaus and Mrs. John R. (Anna) Wilson.

Programs of vocal and instrumental numbers, readings on musical subjects, etc. were given at the home of Mrs. Rasch for club members. When Mrs. Rasch died in 1949, her will gave the home to the city with the provision that the Lyceum and the Women's Club would continue to have the use of it. In 1960, when the Veterans Memorial Building was built, the Rasch house had been sold and the clubs' equity in it was transferred so that future Lyceum and Women's Club meetings could be held there. Mrs. Rasch's Steinway piano was moved to the Veterans Building for the clubs' use.

Membership was then opened to men as well as women and the public was invited to the programs. The club is active and continues to carry on the objectives of the club's purposes.

In 1915, the Woman's Study Club was organized to "promote the welfare of the home and the community, and to stimulate interest along educational, civic and cultural lines and to promote sociability among the women of Burlington and surrounding area." By 1922, it had affiliated itself with the national federation and had changed its

OCTOBER 16

Bach and Handel

Music Prior to the Eighteenth Century . . . . . .
Mrs. Fulton

Largo . . . . . Handel
Miss Marie Christien, first violin; Miss Loretta Scheirman, second violin; Mrs. Wm. Rasch, viola; Miss Bell, cello

Talk on the Oratorio . . . . . .
Miss Delnia Mathews

Then Shall the Eyes of the Blind (Recitative) . . . . Handel
He Shall Feed His Flock (The Messiah) . . . . . Handel
Mrs. Pratt

Come Unto Him All Ye that Labor (The Messiah) . . Handel
Miss Loretta Schultz

Hallelujah Chorus (The Messiah) . . . . . Handel
First piano, Miss Charlotte Youngs, Miss Cecelia Youngs; Second piano, Miss Lorenza David, Miss Bell

Selected . . . . . .

My Heart Ever Faithful . . . . . Bach
Mrs. R. H. Fitch

Gavotte—D Minor . . . . . Bach
Miss Pansy Agner

Selected . . . . . .

Ave Maria . . . . . Bach-Gounod
Mrs. T. J. Shouldis, soprano; Miss Bushman, violin obligato

Page Eight

A print of an original Lyceum Club program from November 6, 1916.



Women's Club members act as Red Cross volunteers during World War I.

Chief of Police Frank Beller, left, receives the first Championship Liar's medal from Officer Hubert "Pink" Schenning. Schenning was the first vice president of the Burlington Liar's Club.

name to the Burlington Woman's Club.

During the war years, its activities revolved around the Red Cross, promotion of war bonds, U.S.O. activities, civil defenses and rationing. For many years thereafter, conservation and the environment were the center of interest, including bird and wild flower study and Arbor Day tree plantings. By their recommendation, the city council adopted the lilac as the city flower. For more than 30 years, the club has run the American Cancer Association fund drive. It has sponsored the Helen Mears art contest for school children. It had the same privileges as the Lyceum Club in the use of funds from the sale of Mrs. W. G. Rasch's home and now has a meeting place in the Veterans' Memorial Building. The most recent fund-raising effort is the annual Santa Claus breakfast where 500 or more youngsters are served and entertained by Santa Claus and where gifts by the hundreds, handmade by members all during the year, are sold. The thousands of dollars made are used in awarding scholarships to deserving seniors in Burlington and Catholic Central High Schools.

A unique organization which has received world wide publicity, is the Burlington Liar's Club, organized in 1929 by Otis C. Hulett, a Burlington newspaperman.

The club was founded on a lie when that year, Hulett filed a story with his newspaper, the Racine Journal News, that the old timers of Burlington sat around the pot-bellied stove at the police station and swapped tall stories. He wrote that a winner of the lying session was picked . . . Chief of Police Frank Beller, who said he never told a lie in his life. Hulett filed the tale with the newspaper between Christmas and New Year's when the news beats dry up. The paper, not knowing the whole thing was a fabrication, printed it.





A World War II cartoon depicts the dilemma of judges of a Burlington Liar's Club contest.



Antionette Meinhardt Fulton, one of the founders, the first president and a patron of the Burlington Historical Society.

The Associated Press picked the story up and sent it to all of its subscribers. The next year, the Associated Press called Hulett and asked him if the same thing was going to happen that year, and Hulett replied, "Sure." And, that was the beginning of the liar's club.

Since then, the club has been incorporated and requests for memberships and tall stories have been coming in from all over the world ever since.

Hulett disbanded the club in 1979 after 50 years, but through the efforts of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, it was revived and continued. Each New Year's Eve, a World's Champion Liar is announced to the world from the entries sent in during the previous year.

The Burlington Historical Society was organized February 13, 1928, for the purpose of collecting and preserving historical records and artifacts pertaining to the Burlington area. Antionette Meinhardt Fulton, Otis Hulett, Augusta Nielsen (Mrs. Louis Zwiebel), Martha E. Smith, Katherine Foltz, Mildred Jacobsen, Mary E. White, Helen Hicks, Katherine Wagner, William R. Becker and Herbert Duckett were the incorporators. On the 27th of February, the first officers were elected: Mrs. Fulton, president; Mr. Duckett, vice-president; Mrs. Zwiebel, secretary-treasurer.

Early meetings were held at the Meinhardt home and in the assembly room of the Conkey Street High School. Programs were given, historical papers read and ancient crafts demonstrated. Artifacts collected were displayed in cases in a room in the school made available to them by the school board.

In the efforts to preserve and call attention to Burlington's heritage, the society took on several projects. It aided Mrs. Charles Dyer Norton in erecting a sun dial at the Lincoln School with an inscription on the base honoring Dr. Edward Galusha Dyer, Burlington's first doctor. The "ship" marker, listing the names of early settlers, had been placed before the society's existence. It is on the McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home property, sited where the first frame house was built by Origen Perkins for his brother-in-law, Dr. Dyer.



The sundial on the grounds of Lincoln School.



The ship monument on the McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home property.

A major undertaking was the research of the Mormon settlement at Voree, a bronze casting made of the map of the village and the erection of a marker in a little park along Highway 11 at the White River. This was done with the cooperation of the Mormon people living in the area. For the 1935 Centennial Celebration of Burlington's founding in 1835, a history was compiled by Francis Meurer and Augusta Zwiebel of which this history is a revision and update.

In 1947, the school board informed the society that the rooms being used as a museum would be needed for classes and must be vacated. The board allowed all the artifacts, numbering thousands by now, to be stored in the school attic. There they stayed for 13 years. Interest in the society fell to a very low level, but it was still kept in existence by the concern of a few directors.

There was a resurrection on February 17, 1964 when Mrs. Antionette Fulton announced her donation to the society of the old Cross Lutheran Church on the corner of Jefferson Street and Perkins Boulevard. Volunteers spent countless hours refurbishing the interior to turn it into a museum. Park Department and Electric Company employees furnished men and trucks to transport the artifacts from the school to the new home.

Now many activities took place: Exhibits were prepared; the task of furnishing the log cabin in Echo Park donated to the city to Robert Fulton; programs given; tours arranged, especially for all fourth graders in the district every year; and again the collecting and accessioning of artifacts.

The latest and greatest accomplishment was the rescue from demolition, the moving and the restoring of the 1840 brick schoolhouse, the first building built in Burlington for school purposes. No longer being used as a school after 1856, it became at various times a storeroom for furniture, a lawn mower repair shop, even a garage when



The Lincoln Monument, donated by Dr. Francis Meinhardt. It depicts Lincoln delivering his second inaugural address.



Crowd at the dedication ceremonies on October 13, 1913.

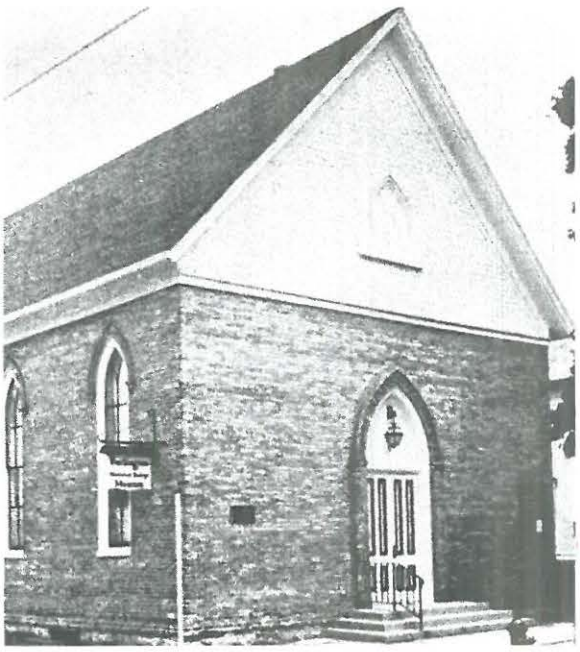


Lincoln School, the final phase of its remodeling as a school.

a car-sized hole was opened in one brick wall. It was also partitioned for living quarters. When it was about to be razed in 1981 to make room for a modern garage, the Historical Society acquired it, moved it to Schmaling park on Beloit Street and restored it as a historic site.

During the fall months of 1990 classes were taught there as they were in the 1840's to children whose parents were eager for them to have that experience. Mrs. Luigi Petracchi organized the program and she and teachers selected by her taught classes.

Beginning in 1929, the great depression hit the whole of the United States. During its first two years, Burlington experienced little of the deflationary aspects that had made themselves felt in the larger centers. Due to the fact the three banks in the City of Burlington were functioning normally, ordinary business transactions were able to be carried on in a satisfactory manner.



Burlington Historical Museum, built as a Lutheran Church in 1883, donated by Mrs. Fulton in 1964.

On March 3, 1933, the banking order declaring a moratorium and closing of all banks set in, but Burlington banks were permitted to open as early as any in the country. Business, with the exception of the short period of the moratorium, experienced no set back due to the break-down of the national banking machinery. It may be due to the fact that depositors were at all times able to withdraw their funds that Burlington escaped the hardships of frozen credits that afflicted many cities in the state and nation.

At the close of the century deposits in the three banks had increased materially, showing on the one hand the soundness and stability of the local community, and on the other hand the confidence the banking institutions enjoyed.

During the summer of 1932, the farmers in the vicinity erected a cooperative milk plant, and it was ready for business in late September. On October 6, the plant was demolished by a bomb planted by unknown persons, but not disheartened, they cleared the grounds and the walls quickly rose for a new plant, which was ready in November.

A Burlington Businessmen's Association was organized in 1910 with 200 members. Its aim was to further the civic interests of the city but interest gradually declined. In 1971, a shortage of houses



Because of the generosity of the citizens of Burlington, the Whitman School is now moved and restored in Schmaling Park.

created a problem and reorganization of the association took place in September. The present Chamber of Commerce is an outgrowth of the association.

An indication of the increasing popularity of the motor car was the formation, in May 1918, of the Good Roads Association. H.A. Runkel was the president, S.M. Reinardy, vice president, and Louis H. Zimmermann, secretary-treasurer. In those days a man who bought a new automobile rated a special item in the local newspaper. Another indication was the closing of the Pieters' Wagonworks. This business had been established in the 1850's and its closing after many years of successful business marked the closing of an era in transportation.

There was in 1912, a Burlington Automobile Association with Ben Holmes, president; Dr. William Fulton, vice president; C.E. Partee, secretary; and Dr. Francis Meinhardt, treasurer. Its purpose, first of all, was to promote and maintain a social



Interior of the remodeled school showing Mrs. Alice Petracchi teaching a class.



A typical Whitman school class with Mrs. Eileen Albright as the teacher and Mrs. Mary Skwierawski as the aide.



The Guarantee Auto Company, the forerunner of the John Cunningham Garage on the corner of Dodge and Chestnut streets. The car on the left is probably a Buick touring car. The car on the right is C. B. McCanna's American roadster.

organization of persons interested in the use of motor vehicles. Next, to promote just regulations in the use of automobiles, to promote the intelligent use of motor vehicles and the proper respect for the laws governing same, and to devise ways of increasing the pleasure and sport of motoring. All worthy goals for the present day, also! (The association was too late to influence mail carrier Louis Kessler. On Sunday morning, August 12, 1910 on Geneva Street, he bumped into a big Rambler owned by Milwaukee people. The lamps and radiator on Mr. Kessler's Buick were badly damaged.)

One of their activities was the organization of tours of a convoy of autos to neighboring communities. One tour, starting from Burlington, circled through Union Grove, Kansasville, Brighton, Salem, Trevor, Camp Lake to Silver Lake where a stop for dinner was made. Then on to Wilmot, Bassett, Twin Lakes, Richmond, Genoa Junction, Powers Lake, Slades Corners, New Munster and home. Riding in the cars would be businessmen and industry representatives who would hand out souvenirs and samples of the products. It was a great promotional event enjoyed by both the participants and the people along the way.

There were four automobile dealers in the 1914 city directory: Agner Auto Company (Studebaker, Cadillac and Ford); Auto Supply Company (Case and Maxwell); Ed Zwiebel and Brothers Company and William Huse (makes unknown).

In 1922, were seven: Agner Auto Company (Studebaker), Burlington Motor Car Company (Ford), Cunningham Buick Company (Buick), Knerien Motor Company (Chevrolet), Kuhn and Reynolds (Dodge), Luhn and Peeters (Reo), The Automotive Company (Case, Maxwell).

Gasoline was needed to fuel these vehicles and John "Jack" Hansen was here to supply it. In 1902, his father Andrew Hansen, had a business in Union Grove selling kerosene, the only petroleum product being marketed at the time through groceries and hardware stores. In 1911, he opened a branch in Burlington with son, Jack, as manager of the Hansen Oil Company. When gasoline became available it was supplied to the four automobile garages from a horse drawn tank wagon. In 1915, the tank was mounted on a regulation auto truck chassis, the first such vehicle, and deliveries to farmers became easier. The next step in progress was the construction in 1925 of the first "filling station" in Burlington on the corner of Chestnut and Mill streets. That same station was still pumping gas in 1990, 65 years. A most faithful worker in the company was Beulah Wolline, manager and bookkeeper, who in 1990 was completing her 55th year of service. The cost of state mandated reconstruction made it inadvisable to continue business and the station closed in 1990.



The Hansen Oil Company filling station, built in 1925, at the corner of Mill and Chestnut streets, still in existence and unchanged in 1990. Beulah Wolline was a long time manager and bookkeeper.

Chapter 8

Lakes Areas



Mr. Colby and his steamboat named Comet, but dubbed "The Galloping Soup Tureen" pulling up to a pier at Brown's Lake.

Two major lakes, Brown's and Bohners, are in the Town of Burlington and both have had an impact on the area's social, recreational and economic life. Brown's Lake was once called, "The Lake of the Shining Arrow" by the Potawatomi Indians.

In 1839, Luke Parrish Brown purchased the first 75 acres on the lake, at the Milwaukee Land Sales office for $1.25 an acre, and the lake was eventually named after him. In 1846, he sold 50 acres to Timothy Bliss for $550.

Until 1928, there were few homes on the lake, but there were resorts and many cottages.

In addition to the Columbian Hotel owned by John Hockings, which later became The Antlers, there was Moore's Lakeside Resort, Oak Park Resort and the Colonial Club. What is now Cedar Park was the Zacharius Ketterhagen farm and cattle could often be seen wandering down to the water's edge to drink. The subdivision was first developed in 1928 by Class and Frahm on 120 acres bought from Ketterhagen.

The first residence on what is known as Hall's Point, was owned by Florence Cooper Hall, daughter of Congressman Henry Allen Cooper, and widow of Gene Hall, a Burlington banker. After her death in 1920, the point was divided by a canal to provide more lakefront footage. Houses were planned in the Spanish motif, but only three were built in the style.

After Racine County turned down the property for a county park, Louis Afton of Hammond, Indiana, and his partner, Freda Thomas, reportedly bought the land for $50,000 and immediately began improvements. Within two years, Hall's Point Villa had eight summer homes with 15 more under construction.

According to legend, three brothers from Sweden came to Brown's Lake looking for a friend in Wheatland. They stayed at the peninsula, later known as Weygand's Peninsula, because they were afraid of what might happen with the Indians in the area. The next morning, they left for Wheatland.

Later, the peninsula became part of the Sigmund Hoffman farm which was sold to the Consumer's Ice Company. In 1907, Henry Weygand, Sr., Henry, Jr. and Richard Weygand, bought the peninsula.

According to reports of the day, two varieties



A rowboat plies a calm Brown's Lake.

of rare trees could be found there, chestnut oaks and hackberry.

Moore's Lakeside Resort had its beginning in 1869 when William V. Moore, a yankee from New York state, came to the area with the intent of farming. The summer of 1886 brought several fishermen from Chicago to the shoreline on the Moore property and Moore's wife served lunch and offered the men lodging. Word of the hospitality spread, and the Moores received requests for accommodations. By 1904, two wings had been added and 100 guests were accommodated. In 1906, Roy Moore took over and Moore's Lakeside Resort was in full swing.

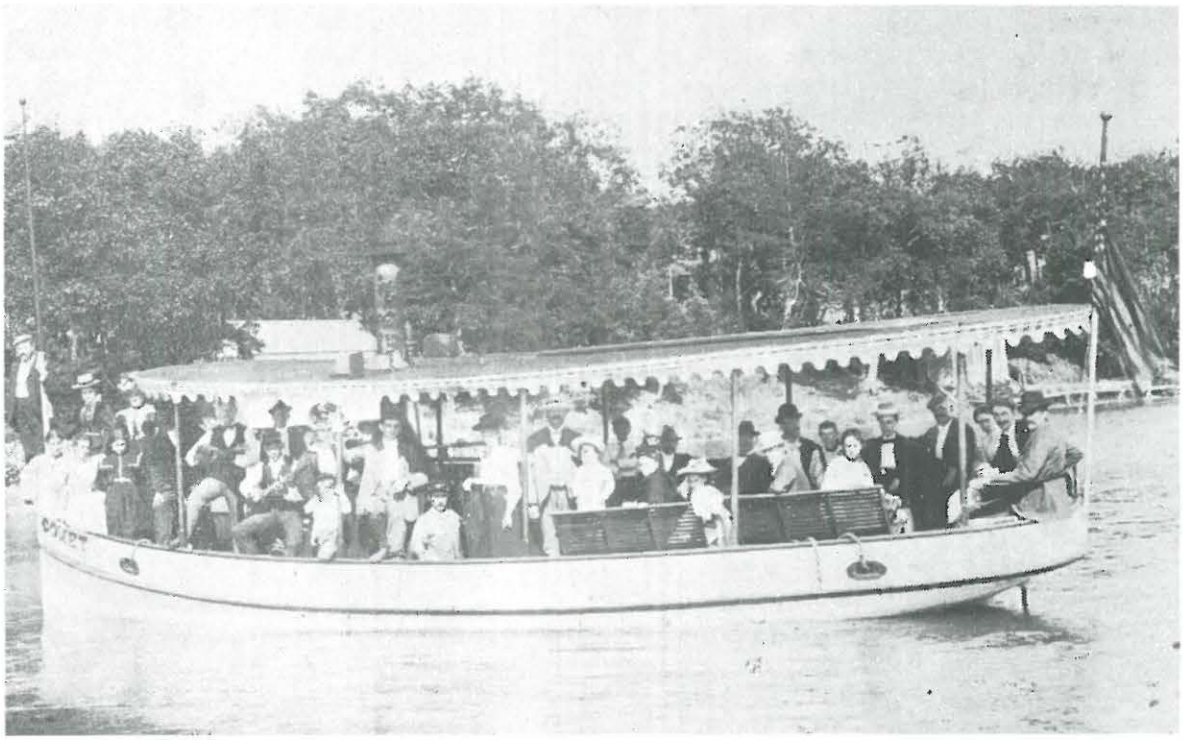
The Colonial Club first opened its doors in May, 1894 by P. H. Cunningham, originally from County Lunford, Ireland. It operated for many years and in 1979, it was destroyed by fire.

Petrie's Resort had its beginning in 1873 when Matthew Petrie purchased 475 feet of lake frontage for $100. When he first bought the property, his wife chided him so about the purchase, he sold a portion of it off. Later he bought it back for $300. In 1896, he, with the help of Ashley Vantine, a school janitor who became known as Grandpa Vantine, built a log cabin on the property. Vantine chose tamarack logs because of their durability.

Another resort on the lake was Becker's Farm Resort. William Becker, a cigar maker from Chicago, purchased the property in 1912, when some Chicago friends urged Becker to take on paying guests, the resort was started. After he retired in 1967, he sold the 60 acre resort to Racine County and it is now a portion of Einar Fischer County Park.

The history of Oak Park Resort, later known as Island View Resort, can be traced back to 1893 when J. C. Grant of the Grant Baking Powder Company and his brother, F. A. Grant, founded the Grant Park Resort. By 1909, Frances Kelnhofer had purchased the resort and changed the name to Oak Park Resort. The Cerami family purchased the property in 1952. Pauline Cerami turned the eyesore into a luxury resort, spending more than $1 million. It was then called Cerami's Island View Resort. In 1969, it was sold and later converted to condominiums.

The harvesting of ice in the winter was a major industry at Brown's Lake. At least two ice companies, the Consumer's Ice Company had a plant where Fischer Park became located. Another ice company, the Lincoln-Boyle Ice Company had an ice house on the Maginnis property. Ice was also harvested from nearby Norton's Lake.



In the 1890's, Brown's Lake was graced with the presence of this steamboat, the Comet. Photo was taken off the shore at the Columbian Hotel on the north side of the lake.

This ice was mainly used for shipment to Chicago for household use and to railroads for use in refrigerated box cars. The advent of mechanical and electric refrigeration put the ice business out of business.

In the ice companies' "glory days", cutting and harvesting of ice furnished much winter employment for local people as well as crews imported mainly from Chicago.

Glacial knobs covered with stands of oak, hickory and beech surrounded a part of what is now called Bohners Lake in 1843, when Martin Bohner and Augustus Greulich came to the area.

The two men settled the area with Bohner claiming the east shore and Greulich the west. Greulich sold his land in 1848 to Wilhelmi Reil, and Andreus Jacobson acquired it in 1851. That land remained in the Jacobson family until a portion of it was subdivided in 1928, forming White Oak Park.

Bohner, too, soon left the lake that now bears his name as he sold it to William Grass. In 1910, Frank Grass, a son of William, sold the farm to William Robers.

Robers was 26 years old when he and his new bride set up housekeeping on the Bohner farm and he remained on the farm until his death in 1952.

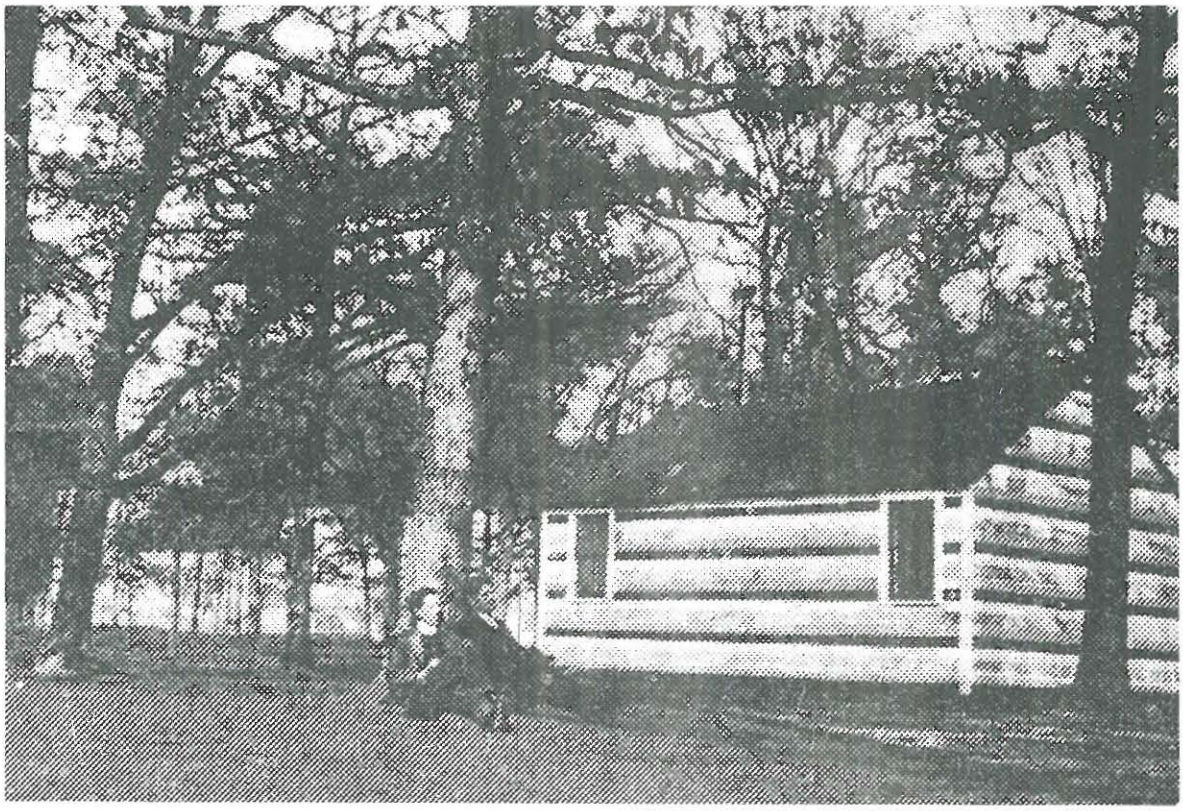
Another early settler was Anton Bohner, who ran a tavern at the lake. Legend has it that dances and the home brew served, attracted people from Burlington who earned the characterization "Rattanball" (ball of rats). Neighbors occasionally would hear a splash at night when the unsteady footsteps of a returning guest failed to keep him on the straight and narrow plank that spanned a nearby creek.



Brown's Lake beauties.

Next door to Bill Robers place, along the lake shore, was an area known as Schwaller's Woods. Picnics were held occasionally, especially St. Mary's Church picnic.

On the morning of July 4, 1905, six young men from Burlington drove out with a wagon-load of lumber and by evening they had erected the first cottage on the east side of the lake. They returned



Camp Lonesome at Bohners Lake, painted in red, white and blue stripes. It was the first cottage on the east side of the lake.

The standing rule for uninvited guests: "You are welcome but bring something to eat."

the next week and painted it red, white and blue. A friend commented on the lonesome spot, so the group christened the place "Camp Lonesome." This was the beginning of the Summerhaven subdivision.

In 1854, when everyone was interested in investing in railroads, the Fox River Valley Railroad purchased right-of-way through the region. An embankment for the planned railroad was constructed through the area, but no tracks were ever laid as the company apparently ran out of money. That was the beginning and the end of the Bohners Lake railroad boom.

In 1928, four Kenosha men subdivided part of the Jacobson farm, formed the White Oak Park Company, and built a golf course on both sides of Highway P. It wasn't a paying proposition though, and it reverted back to the Jacobson estate in 1933.

Also in 1928, portions of the John Gerger farm and White Oak Park were purchased by the Wisconsin Conservation Department and a fish hatchery was opened. The hatchery operated for about 10 years, producing thousands of bass each season.

Winkler School District No. 7 was established in 1847. A committee was organized and the necessary funds were raised. It cost $180 to build the first school.

Prior to 1930, there were fewer than 35 cottages on Bohners Lake. Jacobson rented eight cottages, Sherman three and Boschert one. There were a few more scattered through the Summerhaven and Bohners Lake subdivision. The early days were described as houses with no electricity and food brought in from Burlington.

The standing rule for uninvited guests: "You are welcome but bring something to eat." The ice man had to be notified if the resident was coming out so he could leave an ice block on the porch on Saturday morning. Cooking was done over a kerosene stove and the plumbing was in the backyard.

Always a city to enjoy a celebration, in 1935 the Burlington area marked the hundred years of its existence with a great four-day festival. The downtown stores gave over their show windows to the display of historical articles used by the old settlers, with the history of each object ascertained. Most of these articles were loaned by the Burlington Historical Society.

A water carnival was held in the evening at Echo Park, at which an array of historical and decorative floats built on boats passed in review on the lake. On another day, a worthwhile street parade featuring historical, commercial, industrial and comic floats drew an audience that filled all available standing room on the downtown streets. At the "old time" family picnic that wound up the celebration at Echo Park, Professor Harold G. Reuschlein addressed the gathering and presented several old settlers from the stage.

For the Sesquicentennial Celebration in 1985, there was a week-long schedule of events. There were concerts by various bands and musical groups, a pageant depicting the history of the area, many historical window displays, sales of souvenirs of the observance, and winding up the week with a three hour parade of floats, bands and marching units.

This brings to a close the chronicle of the people and events of the more than 150 years of building the City of Burlington and its environs — more than a century and a half that the crude log huts of the Smiths, Perce, Bushnell, Norton and the rest of those first settlers have grown into the Burlington of 1990.

It is an acknowledgement of the debt of gratitude we owe and a tribute to the memory of those past generations who had the courage to forge into the unknown future. They established communities like ours, with integrity and principles that made it impossible for them to compromise with what they thought was right. It was their vision and toils which built the area we know as "greater" Burlington today.

Finis

Church Histories

St. Mary's Catholic Church
108 McHenry Street

Significant Dates

Nov. 9, 1847 St. Sebastians Church dedicated.
Dec. 8, 1859 Church of Immaculate Conception dedicated.
Dec. 10, 1891 St. Mary's Church dedicated.
July 23, 1977 St. Mary's Church destroyed by fire.
Dec. 8, 1979 St. Mary's Church rededicated after being rebuilt.

Pastors

Rev. Kundig (Not resident.)	1842-45
Rev. Francis Kendeler	1845-46
(Fr. Kundig, Fr. Heinz, Fr. Kendeler visited parish.)	
Rev. Michael Wisbauer	1847-89
Rev. Theodore Jacobs	1890-1912
Rev. John A. Bertram	1912-14
Rev. Joseph Van Treeck	1915-32
Msgr. Edward Kersting	1932-49
Msgr. Joseph Heim	1949-76
Rev. Robert Gosma	1976-89
Rev. David Reith	1989-?

Schools

1860 St. Sebastians used as school.
1893 Church of Immaculate Conception remodeled into school.
1926 St. Mary's High School was dedicated.
1954 St. Mary's Grade School dedicated.
1984 St. Mary's High School became Catholic Central High School.



Catholic Central High School

From its humble beginning, Catholic Central High School, formerly St. Mary's High School, was a school that defied the odds.

According to an early history of the school, written by Francis Bienemann, it was in 1919 that it became very apparent a new high school building was definitely needed because of the extremely crowded condition of the Burlington High School. At the same time St. Mary's pastor, Father Joseph Van Treeck, was astonished to learn that nearly 50 percent of the public school students were Catholic.

Bienemann wrote, "With a scholarly and wide vision, born of a deep appreciation of the church's traditional approach to education, Fr. Van Teeck decided the time was opportune to consider Catholic high school education for the children of Burlington. He held several parish meetings to gain support and although it was great, there was opposition, vehement and strong, so Archbishop Messmer would not give the necessary permission to undertake a building program."

However, Fr. Van Teeck did not give up. "In June, 1920, he called a meeting of the grade school graduates of 1919 and 1920 and laid before them a plan to open a high school in the old St.

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Sebastian's Church, then owned by the St. Eustachius Benevolent Society," Beinemann wrote.

Because of the hectic days of reconstruction after World War I, it was difficult to obtain the necessary equipment for such an undertaking.

In August, it was discovered only one teacher would be available and equipment would be in short supply. But plans went ahead and with the arrival of Sister Michael, the lone teacher, things began to happen and she set about making a school out of nothing.

In 1925, St. Mary's High School graduated its first class. The graduates were Florence Bieneman, Loraine Heck, Marie Rueter and Raymond D. Bienemann.

By 1926, St. Mary's High School was firmly established. By 1974, the school board expanded to include representatives from other parishes. In 1984, this expansion was formalized into a centralized association consisting of 13 member parishes and the name was changed to St. Mary's Catholic Central High School. In 1989, the name was again changed to Catholic Central High School, to communicate the spirit of joint ownership of the 13 parishes.



Those parishes are: St. Alphonsus, New Munster; St. Andrew, Delavan; St. Benedict, Fontana; St. Charles, Burlington; St. Francis De Sales, Lake Geneva; St. Francis Xavier, Brighton; St. John the Evangelist, Twin Lakes; St. Joseph, Lyons; St. Mary's, Burlington; St. Patrick, Elkhorn; St. Peter, East Troy; St. Robert Bellarmine, Union Grove; and St. Thomas, Waterford.

St. Charles Catholic Church
Conkey Street

Significant Dates

1908, Decision made to form a new congregation as St. Mary's was overflowing its home. The name St. Charles Borromeo was given by Archbishop Sebastian B. Messmer.

Nov. 6, 1910. St. Charles Church and School dedicated. The site selected was the E. S. Voorhees and G. W. Fiske sorghum mill on Conkey Street.

April 24, 1910. Cornerstone for new church laid.



Nov. 6, 1910. Church dedicated. The building was a combination church and school, a four room, two story school facing Conkey Street and the church extending to the west.

1921, A new rectory built on Kendall Street. Rev. Dreis old frame rectory remodeled into a sisters' home.

1944, Church renovated and stained glass windows installed.

1950, New convent for sisters on site of first rectory.

1956, New school addition built.

1980, Complete renovation of church building, inside and out.

Pastors

Rev. Phillip Dreis	1908-27
Rev. F. J. Hillenbrand	1927-39
Rev. Charles G. Myers	1939-40
Rev. Henry Langenfield	1940-59
Rev. William Hummer	1959-70
Rev. Paul J. Bertrand	1970-70
Rev. Francis Jordan (Administrator)	1970-71
Rev. Ralph J. Wagner	1971-72
Rev. Raymond G. Andre	1972-88
Rev. Michael C. Benham	1988-?

School Expansion

New school building occupied.

Plymouth Congregational Church
Milwaukee Avenue



Significant Dates

Feb. 18, 1843. Organization of first Protestant Church in Burlington. Eighteen members united to form the Presbyterian Church under the guidance of Rev. Stephen Peet. Made up of Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians, they held meetings in the brick schoolhouse on Madison Street.

1852, Church built. (Presbyterian.) A wood church on Geneva Street

July 30, 1858. Plymouth Congregational Church organized at home of T. Van Slyck. (Largely made up of Presbyterians.)

Feb. 3, 1903. Present church dedicated. Pipe organ donated by Henry Simpson, founder of the Security Lightning Rod Company. The stained glass windows were donated by Charles J. Jones, Helen Tyrell, Mary and Franklyn Nims, Pliny M. Perkins, Ellen Conley Perkins, Rev. Benjamin Foltz, Rev. Philip C. and Louise Pettibone, John R. and Agnes Wilson, Luther Crane Post, Rev. L. A. Pettibone.

1980, Fiftieth anniversary.

Pastors

Rev. Milton Wells	
Rev. W. W. Cockran	
Rev. B. Folts	1854
Rev. P. C. Pettibone	1856-63
Rev. Mr. Sedgwick	
Rev. Sidney H. Barteau	1864-67
Rev. Osmer W. Faye	1867-69
Rev. Isaac N. Cundall	1869-70
Rev. Albert M. Case	1870-73
Rev. Ashler W. Curtis	1873-75
Rev. F. B. Norton & Rev. J. N. Cundall (Temporary)	
Rev. Peter S. Vannes	1875-77
Rev. James W. Scott (Temporary)	
Rev. Charles B. Curtis	1877-78
Rev. H. M. Corsbie	1878-80
Rev. Luman A. Pettibone	1880-95
Rev. Charles Blodgett	1895-99
Rev. William Kilbourne	1899-1904
Rev. Robert B. Blyth	1904-10
Rev. G. H. Marsh	1910-12
Rev. Hubert C. Herring	1913-17
Rev. George E. Stickney	1917-18
Rev. Ernest L. Benson	1918-21
Rev. Fred A. Stever	1922-29
Rev. Carl Stackman	1930-41
Rev. Leslie Barnette	1941-43
Rev. Arnold Peterson	1943-46
Rev. Henry Schadeberg	1946-60
Rev. Harold Becker	1961-62
Rev. Trent Rockwell	1963-78
Rev. James K. Burd	1979-89
Rev. Gary J. Loethen (Associate)	1981-85
Rev. Robert Saunders	1989-?

New Covenant Baptist Church
6919 McHenry Street



Significant Dates

April 20, 1980 Fourteen members of the Bethel Baptist Church of Union Grove formed the New Covenant Baptist Church in Burlington. For the first three years, they met in various rooms in the city. In 1982, they built a church at 6919 McHenry St. (Highway P south of Burlington).

1980 Church consecrated

1983 Church building dedicated

Pastors

Rev. Dan Cerny (First pastor)	1980-85
Rev. Jack Reeves, Jr.	1985-87
Rev. Grady Nichols	May 1987-Present



St. John's Lutheran
198 Westridge Avenue

Significant Dates

August 1858. Church organized.

August 1875. Church dedicated.

1887, Parsonage built.

1895, School built. Total cost $1,500.

1908, Addition to school built and art glass windows installed in the church.

April 15, 1912. An organ installed. It had 12 ranks of pipes, air supplies by pumping a bellows. Most of these pipes were used on the new organ in the new 1980 church which has 25 ranks, 1,421 speaking pipes and a full 32 note pedalboard. An electric blower supplies the air.

Oct. 7, 1962. New school dedicated on a location on Westridge Avenue.

June 15, 1974. New parsonage dedicated, built at the Westridge Avenue site.

1979, Old church sold.

Feb. 3, 1980. New church dedicated on Westridge Avenue. Membership 600.

Pastors

Rev. G. Goldhammer	1858-62	Rev. F. Soll	1908-12
Rev. C. Titze	1862-68	Rev. C. E. Sieker	1912-28
Rev. F. Schug	1868-73	Rev. Louis Baganz	1928-39
Rev. T. Thiele	1873-74	Rev. Alfred Von Rohr Sauer	1940-43
Rev. Eckelmann	1875-78	Rev. Ewald Blumenthal	1943-44
Rev. A. Liefeld	1878-83	Rev. George Barthels	1944-50
Rev. A. Bendler	1883-90	Rev. Rueben Marti	1950-51
Rev. J. Oehlert	1890-1900	Rev. Adolph Fischer	1952-56
Rev. M. Busack	1900-04	Rev. Harry N. Wiedmann	1956-72
Rev. Albert Moussa	1904-07	Rev. Robert H. Michkel	1972-75
Rev. Hans Moussa	1907-08	Rev. Richard Weeks	1975-Present



Emmanuel Baptist Church
45 South Teut Road

Significant Dates

April 17, 1977. The first meeting of interested parties to ascertain the possibility of establishing a church in Burlington.

July 5, 1977. The first Bible study was held.

Sept. 11, 1977. The first regular church service was held at the First Bank and Trust Company.

April 1981. Members considered purchase of property where church now stands.

June 1986. The first services were held in the new church building.

Pastors

Rev. Brown	1978
Rev. Lon Arnes	
Rev. Lawrence Williams, Jr.	1989

Peace Lutheran Church
Hwy. 36 North



Significant Dates

April, 1975. The process of affiliating with the Lutheran Church of America was started. A group held meetings first at the First Banking Center, then at the Masonic Temple.

January, 1974. Rev. Chesmond Bade arrived as a mission developer to organize a small group of people as the Peace Lutheran Church.

Nov. 14, 1976. The official organizing of Peace Lutheran Church.

March 1978. The first permanent pastor, The Rev. David J. Berggren arrived.

March 1979. Peace Lutheran merged with St. Paul's Lutheran of Lyons.

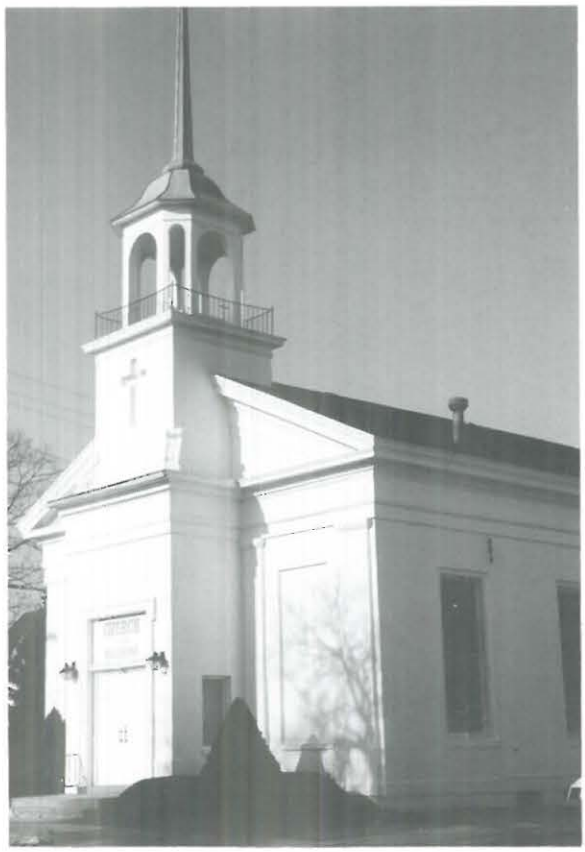
July, 1982. Ground was broken for the church building, located on North Highway 26 just on the northern edge of the city.

Easter Sunday, 1983. Service was held for the first time at the new church.

Pastors

Rev. David J. Berggren	1978-85
Rev. Robert D. Suhr	1985-Present

Church of the Nazarene
100 East Jefferson Street



Church of the Nazarene was organized in 1974 with seven charter members. It was incorporated in 1974. The first pastor was Rev. David A. Austin.

Sometime after the incorporation, the congregation purchased the old Cross Lutheran Church building at the corner of Kane and Jefferson Streets. This is one of the oldest church buildings in the city, having been built in 1853 by a group of Baptists, Unitarians, and Methodists and was called the Union Free Church.

Pastors

Rev. David Austin	1974-78
Rev. Glenn V. Propst	1978-81
Rev. Keith D. Stuck	1982-88
Rev. Terry W. Lemmon	1988-Present



First Church of Christ Scientist
133 West Jefferson Street

The teachings of Mary Baker Eddy spread throughout the country in the post-World War I years. In Burlington, the first meeting was held at the Masonic Temple and Mrs. Goldie Rosenberg was the first reader. When Mrs. Adalaide Harper moved to Burlington from Chicago, she called for a special meeting at her home on July 2, 1923. On Jan. 10, 1924, the Burlington group was officially incorporated under Wisconsin law as a Christian Science Society. In 1927, the society moved from the Masonic Temple to a leased room on the second floor of the McDonald Building and in 1948, the church purchased quarters, the old stone house at the corner of Jefferson Steet and Johnson Street. In the mid 60's, it was remodeled to seat triple the 24 seat capacity of the original building. Now it became recognized by the Mother Church in Boston as a branch church and received its official name of First Church of Christ Scientist. In the reading room of the church building, one can borrow books on the faith and also consult the daily newspaper, the Christian Science Monitor.



Bethel Baptist Church
257 Kendall Street

The first meeting of persons who organized the Bethel Baptist Church was held on June 25, 1955 when Dr. M. R. Siemens of Calvary Baptist Church of Racine, moderated a meeting of interested parties. One night a week, this group met over what was then the Badger Paint Store on Milwaukee Avenue. On Sept. 20, 1955, the group purchased a house on South Pine Street to be used as a parsonage and church.

In 1956, Miss Mable Buttles donated the land at 257 Kendall Street to the congregation and the present church was built there. She died in 1958, leaving her house at the corner of Kendall and Amanda Streets to the congregation. For several years that house served as the parsonage. The first pastor was Rev. Reuben E. Kile.

Pastors

Rev. Reuben Kile	1955-59
Rev. John Loggins	1959-63
Rev. Dewey Godwin	1963-70
Rev. Ronald Berquist	1970-88
Rev. Scott A. Carson	1988-Present

Mormon Church

James J. Strang, a gifted lawyer and a convert to Mormonism, arrived in Burlington in 1843 and gathered about him the several Mormons who had come here before him. There was correspondence between Strang and Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, who had moved his followers from New York, through Ohio to Nauvoo, Illinois. There, Smith was murdered by a mob and a scramble for leadership followed. Strang produced a letter purportedly written by Smith, wherein Smith bestowed the mantle of leadership on Strang.

There was a serious division among the church members. Brigham Young claimed he had been appointed and led his followers out to the State of Utah. Strang persuaded a goodly number (their writings say thousands) to follow him to Burlington. On a site where the Burlington-to-Elkhorn road (Hwy. 11) crossed the White River, Strang formed a settlement he called Voree (Garden of Peace) which had a post office, store, blacksmith shop and a print shop to produce their own newspaper.

There was also to be a temple and a Tower of Strength on the Hill of Promise. These structures were to be built from a quarry of limestone lying quite near the surface of the ground on the west side of the river. (In 1990, three houses and a barn are all that remained from their efforts.)

It was not the "Garden of Peace" Strang longed for. The non-Mormons, the "Gentiles" around them and in Burlington, did not look upon them with favor. Most of the members were upright, peaceable people, but there were some among them that brought suspicion on the whole community and caused trouble. Strang found it expedient to move. In 1847, he explored Beaver Island in Northern Lake Michigan, found it satisfactory, and led his followers there to establish the city of St. James.

Again, bitter hostilities broke out against them by the fishermen of the area. Even among themselves, there was strife due to the dictatorial manner of Strang, who had proclaimed himself "King of the Island."

His actions aroused such intense feelings that two of his own men, Thomas Bedford and Alexander Wentworth conspired to kill him. At the first chance, Wentworth shot Strang through the body. He fell mortally wounded. Both men confessed their crime and gave themselves up, but they were never tried or punished. Strang was brought back to Voree where his wives tended him, but a week after his return, he died and was buried at Voree. His remains have since been moved to the Burlington Cemetery.



Fishermen destroyed the settlement on Beaver Island and the Mormons scattered, some returning to Voree.

Voree stood silent until 1897. At that time, apostle I. B. Hickey, last of the original leaders of the church, ordained Wingfield Watson to become presiding high priest. A succession of elders led the group to modern times. In 1927, a small, plain church was built near Highway 11 and Mormon Road where Elder Richard Drew conducts services for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

A separate group of Mormons, led by Edler Bruce Flanders, attends services for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Strangite) in a new church built in 1966, on the Spring Valley Road.

In the 1930's, the Burlington Historical Society erected a marker commemorating the early Mormon settlement in a small Mormon park between the Mormon Road and the White River south of Highway 11.





St. John's Episcopal Church
148 Edward Street

Significant Dates

Feb. 1869. First Episcopalian services held in Burlington by the Rev. E. K. Miller and the Rev. H. C. Shaw in the Baptists meeting house (The United Free Church) on the corner of Kane and Jefferson streets.

1880, Adopted the name of St. John the Divine and met in a second floor hall on the corner of Chestnut Street and Geneva Street (formerly the B & K Shoe Store).

1888, Afternoon services held in Cross Lutheran Church (Historical Society Museum).

June 18, 1894. The first church services were held in the present church building on a lot bought from F. S. Perkins at the intersection of Edward Street and Perkins Boulevard. The brick was donated by Edward Brook, part owner of the Burlington Brick & Tile Company. The stone for the basement was hauled from the quarry at Voree.

Pastors

Rev. E. K. Miller	1869-78
Rev. W. B. Ball	1878-80
Rev. H. M. Greene	1880-82
Rev. W. C. Armstrong	1882-84
First resident vicar	
	1884-88 No priest
Rev. Charles Holmes	1888-92
Rev. L. P. Holmes	
Rev. T. C. Elgin	1892-95
Rev. F. S. DeMattos	1895-96
Dr. B. A. Brown	1896-97
Rev. C. H. Bloor	1897-99
Rev. J. T. Boville	1899-1901
15 year period when congregation was served by students from Nashotah.	
Rev. Killian A. Stimson	1917-18
Rev. C. E. Huntington	1918-26
Rev. Harley G. Smith	1927-31
Rev. W. C. T. Hawtrey	1931-36
Rev. Carl Truesdale	1936-41
Rev. Harold Wagner	1941-43
Rev. Benjamin Saunders	1943-51
Rev. Malcom Brunner	1951-58
Rev. Kazimier Olubowicz	1958-73
Rev. L. M. Knox	1973-79
Rev. Joseph Rider	1979-86
Rev. David Boyd	1987-Present



St. Francis Friary
503 South Brown's Lake Drive
(Highway W, east of Highway 36 North)

The St. Francis Friary and Retreat House, on County Trunk W, east of Burlington, was constructed and dedicated in 1930 as a memorial to Rev. Francis Manel, who selected the site in 1927 before his death. In 1957, a 22 room wing, with a library, work rooms, print shop and seminar rooms, was added.

Classes at the monastery began in 1932, offering a bachelor's degree to the seminarians successfully completing studies. It became a retreat house in 1980.

Known as the "peaceful sanctuary of Wisconsin," the grounds are dotted with shrines and grottos.

First Methodist Episcopal Church
125 East State Street



Significant Dates

1843, Methodists, Presbyterians, Baptists and Episcopalians joined into a Congregational church.

May 14, 1862. Origin of Burlington Methodist Church was in the Bible Christian Church of Burlington Road, which was organized on this date.

July 16, 1884. Rev. J. S. Leavitt met with members of the Burlington Road Bible Christian Church and organized them as a Methodist Episcopal Church.

1888, Burlington Road Church discontinued and its property leased.

1889, Church was re-organized, meeting place being the German Methodist Church at the corner of Washington and West streets (now Perkins Blvd.).

1901, Church was incorporated as Burlington Methodist Episcopal Church.

1905, April 23. Church building dedicated.

1928, Nov. 11. Fellowship Hall dedicated.

1959, Oct. 25. New sanctuary consecrated.

Pastors

Rev. Robert Davidson	1884	Rev. Guy Wilkinson	1929-31
Rev. P. G. Wagner	????	Rev. C. F. Spray	1931-33
Rev. James Churm	1886-88	Rev. J. K. Gardanier	1933-36
S. R. Williams	1889-1900	Rev. W. B. Petherick	1936-40
Rev. Clarence E. Weed	1901-??	Rev. Albert Tink	1940-42
Rev. E. J. Symons	1903-??	Rev. Theodore Runyan	1942-47
Rev. Edwin A. Folley	1905-07	Rev. W. Gordon Amphlett	1947-50
Rev. H. A. Justema	1907-08	Rev. Reuben J. Bailey	1950-56
Rev. Thomas W. Sprowls	1908-09	Rev. David Hinshaw	1956-64
Rev. J. C. Smith	1909-12	Rev. Marvin Rowe	1964-70
Rev. Charles Becker	1913-16	Rev. John Eldred	1970-72
Rev. Parker Hilbourne	1916-21	Rev. Arthur North	1972-79
Rev. J. B. Ross Murgy	1921-22	Rev. Vinton N. Scott	1979-85
Rev. Samuel E. Ryan	1922-24	Rev. Paul A. Ketterer	1985-Present
Rev. W. R. Conner	1924-29		

Jehovah's Witnesses
122 South Teut Road



Started in 1940, the Jehovah's Witnesses met in rooms in the former Hotel Badger and in members' homes until 1950.

In 1961, the group met in rooms on the second floor at 541 Milwaukee Avenue, then to 117 Lewis Street. About 1970, the group built their Kingdom Hall at 122 South Teut Road. There are no paid pastors.



Faith Chapel
141 Westridge Avenue

Significant Dates

Jan. 1973. A small gathering of Christians met at the home of Dave Stowell on Spring Prairie Road in Burlington to have a time of worship and praising the Lord. At that time, it was decided to meet regularly every Sunday morning.

Nov. 1973. The location of the fellowship was moved to the Zabler house in Burlington.

Spring 1978. The church moved to the Veterans Memorial Building.

Feb. 1981. The church purchased the Lutheran Church at Lyons.

In 1990, the church moved back to Burlington.

Pastors

Richard Barany	1973-78
Rev. Narwald	1978-81
Jeff Cebulski	1981-84
Rev. Dave Carlson	1984-88
Mitch Considine	1988-Present

Cross Lutheran Church
126 Chapel Terrace

Significant Dates

Date of Founding, May 3, 1883.

Sept. 1883. Building dedicated. A picture of the building, with its tower, appeared in the Standard Press 1985 historic section. The building was acquired by the Burlington Historical Society.

1923, Old Baptist Church (built in 1852) bought and renamed Luther Hall and used as school and social hall.

April 1940. Second church dedicated. In reconverting of Luther Hall into a church, it was at this time, that the kitchen was added to the first church and the basement dug and furnace installed.



Nov. 1962. Cornerstone laid for new church off Highway 11.

Oct. 13, 1963. New church dedicated. Could seat 300 people. The bell from the first church building was moved to Luther Hall in 1940 and to the tower of the new church in 1974.

Oct. 19, 1980. New educational unit dedicated.

Pastors

Rev. A. Liefeldt	1883
Rev. J. C. Himmler	1883-84
Rev. Fred Alpers	1884-89
Rev. F. W. Damrow	1889-1902
Rev. J. Reiff	1902-06
Rev. H. Lindemann	1907-10
Rev. August Kohlhoff	1910-15
Rev. E. V. Schroeder	1916-24
Rev. A. Degen	1924-41
Rev. Harry Rappath	1941-52
Rev. Robert Weinbender	1952-58
Rev. Leo Moench	1958-61 and 1962-71
Rev. V. Truman Jordahl, (Interim)	1961-62
Rev. Stan Hanna	1969-Present
Rev. Charles Larson, (Associate)	1976-87
Rev. Kathy Boadwine, (Associate)	1988-Present

Our Savior Lutheran Church
417 South Kane Street



Significant Dates

March 12, 1962. The first exploratory meeting for the formation of the congregation was held by the Rev. Bernard Raabe, missionary-at-large for the South Wisconsin District.

July 15, 1962. The first worship service was conducted by Pastor Raabe at the Veterans Memorial Building. Forty-four people attended.

Sept. 16, 1962. The Sunday School was opened with 28 pupils attending.

Jan. 6, 1963. Our Savior Congregation was formally organized and officers elected. There were 24 families, 46 confirmed members, and 89 baptized members. The first officers of the congregation were Phillip Reinfeldt, president; Robert Korn, secretary; Robert Bulgrin, treasurer; Duane Ehlert, John Peterson and Don Getka, elders; Warren Schenning and Harlan Billman, trustees.

March 17, 1963. Rev. Clarence Stradtman, formerly of Ebenezer Congregation in Milwaukee, was installed as the first pastor and served until February, 1969.

June 17, 1963. Our Savior Congregation voted to purchase the Waller property at the corner of Kane and Gardner streets as a site for its future church building.

Nov. 17, 1963. A temporary chapel in the Waller Mansion was dedicated to the glory of God. A parsonage was established on the upper floor of the building.

June 20, 1965. Ground was broken for the new church structure.

Oct. 24, 1965. The date stone for the church was put into place.

Nov. 13, 1966. The new church building was dedicated to the glory of the Triune God.

Feb., 1975. Twenty-six families leave Our Savior in a doctrinal dispute.

Nov. 14, 1976. The newly built parsonage was opened as a part of the 10th anniversary of the church dedication.

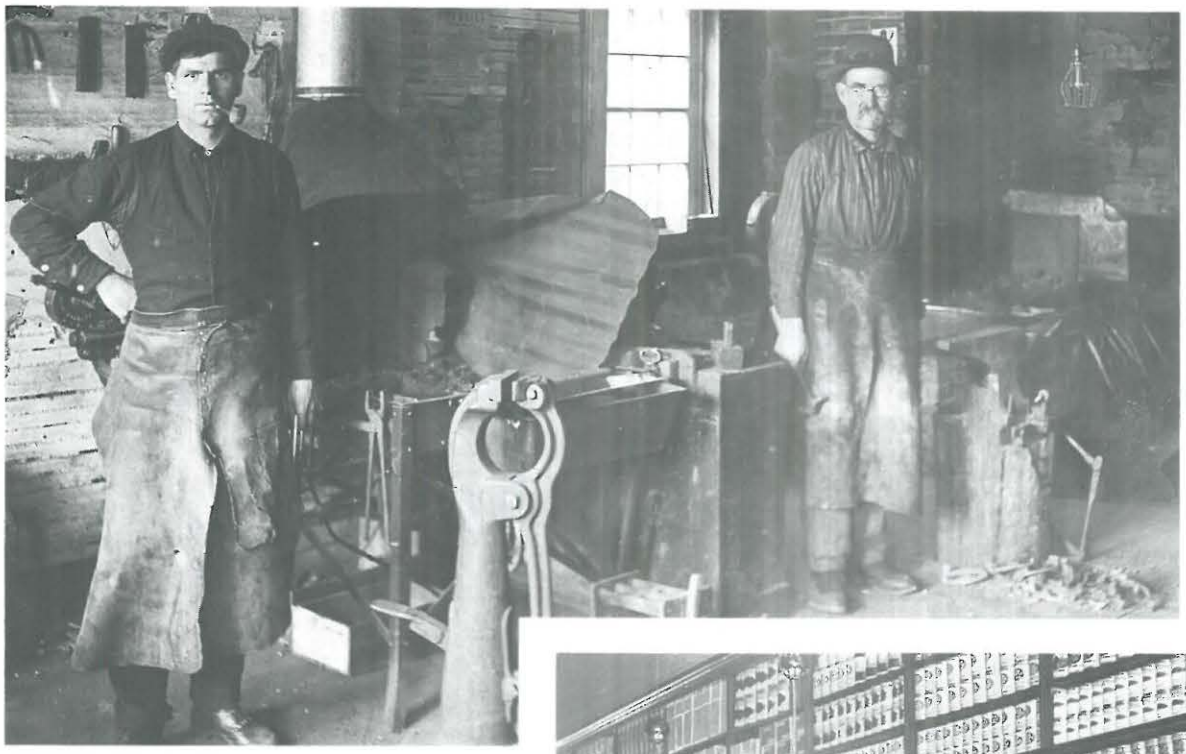
Oct. 4, 1987. The 25th anniversary of Our Savior congregation was observed.

Pastors

Rev. Clarence Stradtman	1963-69
Rev. Dennis Hickethier	1969-75
Rev. John Sells	1975-79
Rev. James Goehner	1980-87
Rev. Robert W. Billings	1988-Present



Installation of officers banquet of the Luther Crane Post No. 62 Relief Corps on Jan. 22, 1916.



Interior of the Gus Huening Blacksmith Shop on Chestnut St., Huening is at left and John Zick on the right.



Interior of the James Mathews Grocery Store. Mathews is on the right. The man with the black mustache is John Peterson, and the man with the sweater is Charles Stang. The fourth man is not identified. Note the ample supply of canned goods, the cigar boxes in the glass counter, and the candy jars.

The interior of the Burlington Blanket Co. plant in 1916, when the company was manufacturing the famous "Stay On" blanket.



Business Histories

First Banking Center

On April 26, 1920, promoters of the Burlington National Bank met at the office of the Security Lightning Rod Company. Those men were Henry A. Runkel, William Rosenberg, William H. Bushman, Albert Bushman, William S. Wilson, George W. Waller, William G. Rasch and Gustave C. Rasch.

They entered in a lease with William H. and Albert Bushman for the Bushman building at the southeast corner of Chestnut Street and Milwaukee Avenue for five years. Rent was to be $2,000 a year for the entire building.

That was the beginning of the First Banking Center.

On May 3, these men met and approved to set $100,000 as capital stock and Surplus Fund of $25,000.

At the first meeting of stockholders held on June 2, 1920, the incorporators appointed the first Board of Directors to serve until the first regular annual election of directors. They were H. A. Runkel, a retired farmer; William G. Rasch, secretary-treasurer of the Burlington Blanket Company (later becoming Burlington Mills, Inc.); Albert Bushman, a saloon owner; George W. Waller, an attorney; William S. Wilson, a farmer; Joseph H. Toelle, a farmer; and Leroy L. McDonald, a salesman for Worden-Allen Company, an ironworks and bridge construction firm.

Also that day, H. A. Runkel was named the first president. On June 28, by-laws furnished by the Comptroller of Currency, were accepted.

Since H. A. Runkel, there have been only five presidents of the bank. They were: George W. Waller, W. G. Rasch, H. J. Runkel, J. A. Mangold, and Roman Borkovec.

The bank stayed at that location until 1960 when, on October 8, 1960, an open house was held at the new bank at 400 Milwaukee Avenue.

In 1964, a lease was executed for the Lyons State Bank building from Alfred F. and Annie Robers. In December 1965, an application was made to the Comptroller of Currency to open a branch bank in Lyons. It was opened on April 1, 1968. That year, a branch bank was opened in a trailer at Wind Lake.

In 1976, the bank was changed from a national chartered bank to a state chartered bank and the name was changed to First Bank and Trust Company.

In 1984, the Federal Reserve Board approved the acquisition of the Bank of Albany, Wisconsin and the name of the Burlington bank was again changed, this time to The First Banking Center.

In 1989, a Kenosha County branch bank was opened and another at Lake Geneva.

Burlington Standard Press

Named simply as the Standard, the newspaper was founded in 1863 by Lathrop E. Smith, an abolitionist who was asked to start a pro-Lincoln newspaper. It is the oldest business in Burlington, having continued in operation since it was founded. Smith sold the Standard after the Civil War to H. L. Devereaux, who in turn sold it to James I. Toner in 1886. Toner changed its name to the Standard Democrat.

Toner published the paper for a brief three years when it was purchased by Henry E. Zimmermann, the first of a three-generation line of Zimmermanns to hold key positions with the newspaper.

His son Louis Zimmermann, became publisher in 1914 and the Standard Democrat forged ahead as one of the outstanding community weeklies in the United States.

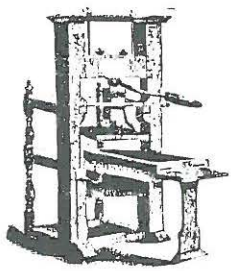
Upon Louis Zimmermann's death in 1953, William E. Branen, then a 26 year old University of Wisconsin journalism graduate, became editor. Branen had joined the paper in 1951.

Branen bought the Burlington Free Press in 1954 and the Standard Democrat became the Standard Press. It was incorporated in 1955 with Branen as vice president and co-publisher. In 1960, he became president and publisher. At that time, the Standard Press was the second largest community newspaper in Wisconsin. By the early 1960's, it was publishing a second shopper-newspaper which became the Mini.

In the spring of 1984, the paper vacated its 121-year-old home on Milwaukee Avenue and moved to 140 Commerce Street, former site of the Wisconsin Electric Power Company.

After his death from cancer in 1988, Branen's wife, Nancy, became chairman of the board of the newspaper group and his son, Robert, succeeded him as publisher, still operating under the corporate name of Zimmermann & Sons, Inc.

With Branen as publisher, the Standard Press won numerous awards and he himself, was named



Wisconsin Publisher of the Year on three separate occasions.

The paper is published twice a week in the Burlington-Waterford area. In addition, the corporation also publishes the Westosha Report in Kenosha County, the Westine Report in Racine County and the East Troy News in Walworth County.

Burlington Floral Shop

About the turn of the 20th century, Adolph Hielfrich opened and operated the Burlington Floral Company at the corner of Pine Street and Adams Street. In 1909, the store more than doubled its capacity with the construction of a large greenhouse.

At that time, the business was producing about 25,000 flowers and hot house plants a year for the local trade. In addition, the company supplied carnations to a Milwaukee wholesaler.

His assistant for many years, Frank Mueller, purchased the business in 1914.

Later the business was sold to Ward Nelson of Union Grove and he sold it to Thomas E. Pearce in January, 1949.

Pearce had been in the floral business in Chicago and Racine. He adopted the name Burlington Floral Shop, rebuilt several buildings and did extensive remodeling. After 17 years in the original location, the land was sold to become a part of the Pinecrest Shopping Center.

Pearce purchased the property owned by Mrs. Ed Lohaus at 201 South Pine Street, remodeled it into a floral shop and in 1989, celebrated 40 years of doing business in Burlington under the same management.

Schmaling's Country Market

It all began in 1983 when Max Schmaling was working at a supermarket at Delavan and Bob Schmaling was produce manager for Sentry Foods in Milwaukee.

A phone call to the Schmaling brothers from the Copps Corporation of Janesville asking them to purchase the Copps Food Center in Delavan. In three months, the two opened the store in Delavan.

Then came a big surprise, four months after they opened the Delavan store, they were contacted by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kolm who had operated a supermarket in Burlington since 1965. The Kolms offered to sell the store to the Schamlings.

In a span of 14 months, the Schmaling brothers owned two stores.

On May 29, 1989, the pair purchased 15 acres of land west of Burlington on Highway 36.

After plans were developed to construct a 40,000 foot IGA store, there were problems with annexation of the land to the city, but on October 25, 1989, Ralph Schmaling, father of the brothers, turned over the first shovel of dirt.

The new supermarket opened on June 19, 1990.

The old store on Jefferson Street was closed and sold to Hi-Liter Graphics, Inc.

Wisconsin Southern Gas Company

The first gas company in Burlington, the Citizens Gas Company, was formed in 1907. It produced manufactured gas from coal and distributed it to the residents of Burlington.

That company remained in business until 1926 when it was purchased by the newly incorporated Wisconsin Southern Gas Company. The new company expanded the operation, distributing both manufactured and liquid propane gas to Burlington and neighboring communities.

In 1946, the company, through contracts with Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, became the first Wisconsin gas company to offer natural gas to its customers. At that time, total customers numbered less than 6,000. The company's corporate offices were located at 349 Pine Street in Burlington and remained there until 1949 when they moved to Lake Geneva.

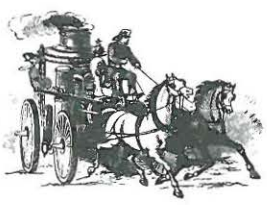
In 1990, the Wisconsin Southern Gas Company has 151 full-time employees who work out of its corporate offices and service center in Lake Geneva and in district offices in Burlington, Delavan, Elkhorn, Lake Geneva, Paddock Lake and Prairie du Chien. It serves approximately 43,500 customers over a 900 square mile area in portions of Kenosha, Racine, Rock and Walworth counties in southeastern Wisconsin and Crawford County in southwestern Wisconsin.

The company purchases gas from three main pipeline suppliers: Natural Gas Pipeline Company of America, ANR Pipeline Company and Northern Natural Gas Company.

Wisconsin Hi-Liter

On July 28, 1954, a shopping guide, known as the Wisconsin Hi-Liter, was started by an advertising salesman, Mr. Al Crosby, who soon sold it to Arthur Roesing and Glenn Hintz, furniture store operators, and Lee Herrman, a jewelry store owner. Crosby published only nine issues of the Wisconsin Hi-Liter, when he reached a point where he could no longer obtain credit or loans to continue.

After Crosby left the business, Glenn Hintz took over management of the paper on a no pay basis. The first office was above the old Lois Tire Shop at 209 East Chestnut Street.



In the fall of 1956, the Hi-Liter was moved to the lower floor of the Commerce Building at 132 Commerce Street.

In November, 1962, the company moved to its own new building at 256 South Pine Street and for the first time, the paper was printed on the company's own offset presses. Up to that time, the printing of the shopping guide was contracted out.

Taking what Glenn Hintz called, "a step backwards," the shopper went into competition with itself by publishing a weekly photo newspaper, the Pictorial News Advertiser. That didn't prove profitable and on September 30, 1967, the subscription list was sold to the Standard Press, and the Pictorial was laid to rest.

After the sale of the Pictorial, efforts were concentrated on increasing commercial printing and sales of Hi-Liter advertising.

This venture was successful and in late 1975, Hintz became sole stockholder of the firm. After that, the firm purchased the old Nestle Company can plant at 280 East Chestnut Street and remodeled it for a new printing plant and office, one of the most modern in the state. The firm changed its name to Hi-Liter Graphics, Inc.

The old Nestle Company can plant, which houses the printing plant and office of the Hi-Liter, was moved to that location many years ago by C. B. McCanna for a tin can manufacturing facility for the Wisconsin Condensed Milk plant. It had been the Veterans' Saloon building at the corner of Chestnut Street and Pine Street.

In 1985, the company purchased the Sears building on East Jefferson Street. After remodeling, it became a bindery plant to bind catalogues and books. In 1989, the land and building of Schmaling's Country Market, across the street on East Jefferson Street, was purchased and plans for remodeling the interior and exterior are in the making as 1990 rolls along.

With the addition of this property, Hi-Liter Graphics will be using about 80,000 square feet.

Jerome L. Hintz and James L. Hintz, sons of Glenn Hintz, became shareholders in late 1976 and continue to be active in the management of the corporation. A part of the third generation of the Hintz family also was employed as supervisor of pre-press operations.

Spiegelhoff's Pick 'n Save

Buggy whips and wooden shoes were items for sale when Albert T. Spiegelhoff, founder of the family business, joined Jerome Mutchler in the grocery business on Commerce Street in 1914. He purchased the grocery business from Mutchler in 1916.

"Farmers bought the wooden shoes to work in and buggy whips were a necessary accessory for a number of the customers," said Ralph Spiegelhoff, son of Albert, who became a partner with his father in about 1930. Paul, his brother, joined the firm as a partner in 1947. Later, their sons became the management team that operates Spiegelhoff's Pick 'n Save in the Fox River Plaza Shopping Center on Highway 36 North.

In 1920, the elder Spiegelhoff, finding a need for more space, moved to its location at 140 West Chestnut Street where it remained until 1982 when it was moved into the former Red Owl Store at 401 Milwaukee Avenue. On November 16, 1986, the business was moved to the Fox River Plaza Shopping Center.

Ralph Spiegelhoff was once quoted as saying he had to quit checking out customers because he couldn't believe the prices and the thought that he was making mistakes. "Fifteen to twenty bucks for a few items floored me," he said.

An advertisement of A. T. Spiegelhoff in December 1933, showed butter at 18½ cents a pound, sugar 10 pounds for 47 cents, and Chase and Sanborn's coffee at 26 cents a pound.

Another ad of February 14, 1941, listed beef pot roast at 23 cents a pound, rolled rib roast at 29 cents a pound, and rib end pork loin at 18 cents a pound.

Hansen Oil Company

John "Jack" Hansen started the company at Union Grove and in 1911, started a branch office in Burlington.

So successful was the business, that soon the Burlington branch outsold the Union Grove branch and the headquarters were moved to Burlington.

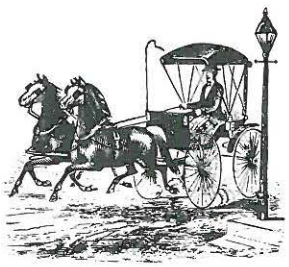
Of course, at that time kerosene was the main product sold. It was in 1915, the company was among the first in the state to start delivery with motor trucks. There were no tank trucks being made at that time, so Hansen mounted a tank from a horse drawn tank wagon onto a truck chassis for his deliveries.

In 1922, Hansen turned inventor and built an oil furnace using his own principals and judgment.

Reineman's True Value

It all began in 1906 after the San Francisco earthquake sent 23 year old William F. Reineman scurrying back to his home state of Wisconsin.

The earthquake occurred in April that year and young Reineman, who was in the automobile business there, saw his dreams vanish with the quake. A native of Cleveland, Wisconsin, he purchased the hardware store in Burlington from Herman Konst in September, 1906. He borrowed $4,000 from his father to buy the business.



He opened his store on Pine Street in a 20 by 40 foot space. Three doors away, at 516 North Pine Street, was the larger harness and farm machinery store of F. Banks & Son, which he rented. He purchased that property in 1927.

The store remained at this location until November 30, 1978, when it moved into the location in Burlington Square at 417 Milwaukee Avenue.

In 1937, his son Willis, took over as president of the store. William died in 1953.

In describing his father, Willis has called him a practical joker. He related that one time William and Louis Zimmermann, publisher of the Standard Press, were playing golf. " 'All around the course Louie,' as Mr. Zimmermann was called, was complaining how heavy his golf bag was. When the round was over, Dad retrieved a pair of sash weights he had secretly placed in Louie's golf bag."

After Willis retired in 1978, Fred Koenen took over active management.

The Burlington Square store expanded in 1987 to include the adjoining supermarket vacated when Spiegelhoff's moved to the Pick 'n Save store in the Fox River Plaza. The firm also opened a branch store at Paddock Lake in March of 1989.

Family Vision Center

The Family Vision & Contact Lens Center, 309 McHenry Street, was started by Dr. Larry Fait after his graduation from Illinois College of Optometry in 1947 in an office above what was at the time, the Burlington National Bank at the corner of Chestnut Street and Milwaukee Avenue.

At that time, there were two optometrists in the city, Dr. T.O.F. Randolph (known as Tuff) and Dr. Arthur R. Perry. Both were located on Chestnut Street. Previously, optical services were offered by Clarence Gleason from his jewelry store.

Dr. Fait was the first optometrist to offer complete optometric services in the area, including visual analysis and diagnostics, visual training and orthoptics and contact lenses. He was the first optometrist or eye professional to fit contact lenses in Wisconsin.

In 1957, Dr. Fait and Dr. Pippin, a dentist, purchased a vacant lot on McHenry Street and built a professional building with a parking area for patients.



In 1968, Dr. Robert Fait, Dr. Larry's oldest son, graduated from Illinois College of Optometry and joined his father's practice.

In 1984, Dr. David Ebley joined the practice and a satellite office, called Eye Site, was located in the Fox River Plaza. In 1987, Dr. John McKinney purchased the optical practice of Dr. W. Sorenson, who was retiring. In April, 1989, he became associated with the clinic and helped establish a second satellite office at Twin Lakes, also called Eye Site.

In 1989, the center purchased the former Albert Ebbers residence adjoining the McHenry Street center, and plans were announced for a new laboratory, dispensing and frame selection area, and enlarged clinical facilities.

Bank of Burlington

Jerome I. Case, the "threshing machine king of the United States" was the financial backbone for the beginning of the First National Bank, which later became the Bank of Burlington. That was in 1872.

Case served as the bank's first president until his death 20 years later. The area was scouted as a bank site for Case by Chauncy Hall, who became the bank's first cashier. Hall secured the support of two prosperous Burlington farmers, Luther C. Anderson and Maurice L. Ayers in launching the new venture.

When the bank opened on February 26, 1872 in the building at 113 East Chestnut Street, Burlington was a community of about 1,200. About that many more lived on surrounding farms.

Bartering for goods and services was so common that stores offered a 10 percent discount to anyone who paid cash. Paper money was widely distrusted in the wake of the Civil War reconstruction and government corruption.

The new bank laid out $2,300 for its hand-made cherry counters and other furnishings. A solid stone pylon in the basement supported a "thoroughly burglar-proof" vault on the street floor. Capital was listed at $50,000.

The bank was one of 40 national banks in Wisconsin that survived the panic of 1873. The First National reorganized in 1891 and became the Bank of Burlington.

Bank president from 1895 to 1892, Mrs. Eugene Hall, is credited with saving the bank from receivership. In the wake of another financial panic in 1893 she, with the help of her brother, Congressman Henry Allen Cooper, argued against examiner recommendations that the bank be placed in receivership. Bank management took control of the business affairs of the largest debtors. Gradually they were able to repay at least a part of what they had borrowed, allowing the bank to continue.

In 1902, the bank came under local control when Gustave C. Rasch, of the Burlington Blanket Company, became a major stockholder. After nearly four years, control went to D. S. McMullen of Evanston, Illinois, but nine months later Charles B. McCanna of Burlington, gained control.

It was under McCanna's leadership that the bank built the building at 500 North Pine Street where it remained until 1970 when a new bank was built

adjacent to Pinecrest Shopping Center. In 1914, C. Roy McCanna succeeded his father as bank president and he remained associated with the bank for 59 years. A branch bank was started at Paddock Lake and in 1990 another branch was opened at Twin Lakes.

Presidents after McCanna were Fred W. New, Elmer Ganswindt, Howard Harlow and Robert Wenke.

Edward D. Jones & Company Burlington Office

The firm, which was started in 1922 in St. Louis, Missouri by Edward D. Jones, a bond salesman, opened a Burlington branch office in February, 1986 with Richard J. Tinder, who had extensive training and was licensed as the local representative.

In September, 1987, he opened the first office at 132 West Chestnut Street and in July, 1990, it was moved to larger quarters at 141 South Pine Street.

The Edward D. Jones Company in 1990 had 1,584 offices in 44 states. Through these years of expansion, the company has maintained its commitment both to a conservative investment approach and the one-person branch office concept.

McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home

On October 10, 1898, 20 year old John L. McCarthy and Arthur McKercher purchased the Johnson and Swartz furniture-undertaking business that had been operating in Burlington for 18 years. That business move was the root of the McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home.

Though the furniture store is no longer a part of the company, the strange combination of furniture merchandising and undertaking was a common practice during the period. The connection stems from the time when furniture makers also made coffins.

The McCarthy-McKercher firm opened at 481 Milwaukee Avenue, with the funeral parlor upstairs and the furniture business on the ground floor.

A year after starting business, McCarthy attended the Barnes College of Embalming in Milwaukee. In 1901, when a state law required undertakers to be licensed, McCarthy became one of the first in Wisconsin to secure a license.

In many ways, that marked a significant change in the business, as prior to that time, death certificates were not required and records of death and burial were seldom kept.

In 1903, McKercher sold his interest to P. J. Strassen, who in turn sold it to Fred Itzin. With Itzin's departure in 1913, McCarthy became sole owner of the business for the next 14 years.

During that time, Robert Rueter, who had worked there as a boy, became a full time employee and in 1927, John Haas joined the firm. The firm was then known as McCarthy, Rueter & Haas. Haas died three years later but the firm retained that name until 1954 when it became known as McCarthy-Rueter.

In 1949, John R. McCarthy, John L. McCarthy's grandson, worked in the firm with his grandfather and Rueter.

John L. died in 1956, ending a 58 year career as a furniture merchant and undertaker.

When Rueter retired in 1968, John R. became president of the company. At the same time, Rueter's interest was purchased by Douglas Koenig. The business did not acquire the McCarthy-Koenig name until 1971.

Five years later, in 1976, the funeral home left its location of 79 years and moved to 101 East State Street, the building being the former home of C. Roy McCanna. The furniture store portion of the business was closed in March, 1980.

Just prior to the closing the furniture business, McCarthy and Koenig expanded their funeral home interests by purchasing an interest in the Mealy Funeral Home at Waterford. This move followed the death of Thomas "Spud" Mealy in 1978. In 1981, McCarthy sold his interest in the Waterford business to Koenig and in 1987, this business became Mealy-Koenig Funeral Home.

In January, 1990, John R. McCarthy retired from active involvement in McCarthy-Koenig Funeral Home and sold his interest to Douglas Koenig.

Schuette-Daniels Furniture and Funeral Directors

John F. Schuette started his furniture and undertaking business in Burlington in April 19, 1929.

He had graduated from the Goodman College of Embalming in Milwaukee in 1925. He received his license five weeks later and was associated with a Milwaukee funeral home prior to that.

Upon the suggestion of a salesman, he purchased the furniture store at 597 North Pine Street. Later, with Arnold Vorpagel, he formed the Schuette and Vorpagel Furniture and Undertaking Company. Vorpagel remained with the firm until 1940.

In 1931, Schuette purchased the Kerkman residence at 157 North Pine Street and converted it into a funeral home. Twenty years later, it was remodeled and enlarged.

Two staff members, Richard E. Daniels and Marvin Werth became Schuette's partners and the firm was incorporated in 1954. In April, 1975, Schuette and Werth sold their shares in the firm to Daniels and his wife Doris Mae, and the name became Schuette-Daniels. In 1986, their son, Matthew, bought shares in the corporation and in



1989, a son-in-law, Craig Hancock, purchased some shares.

Many changes have taken place since Daniels purchased the store.

The furniture store, which served Burlington for many years from its original location at 597 North Pine Street, was relocated at 425 North Pine Street in a 21,000 square foot building which had previously housed Rosenberg's Dry Goods Store, Montgomery Ward Department Store, and Rogan's Shoe Store. In 1986, a new carpet display department and sales staff was added and in 1988, a 5,200 Flexsteel gallery was added.

Bank One

The balcony of Bank One at 189 East Chestnut Street, has provided an overview of downtown Burlington since 1848 when it was constructed by Caleb Barns, a pioneer of the city, as a combination law office and bank building.

It is the oldest building in the State of Wisconsin built as a bank building and still used for that purpose.

Barns began his banking business with a capital of $10,000 and did an annual business of $300,000. As was common practice of the times, Barns paid 10 to 15 percent on deposits and loaned money at 20 to 22 percent. He carried on the business until his death in 1866.

Barns had tutored his nephew, A. E. Wells, in the banking industry. Wells was the uncle of Eda Meinhardt who, after working in Well's Bank in Nebraska, helped establish the Meinhardt Bank on January 2, 1891. Meinhardt Bank was organized as a private bank by Eda's father, Anthony Meinhardt, in that bank building built by Barns. It was incorporated as a state bank in 1897 with a capital of $25,000. Elisa Meinhardt, mother of Eda and Albert Meinhardt, was president. Albert had joined the firm eight months after it had opened. Eda was cashier and Albert was vice president.

Inadequate robbery and hold-up protection was a major problem in the early days of banking. The need for protection resulted in the first private telephone line in Burlington, a private telephone and alarm system installed between the bank and the Meinhardt residence. It consisted of a heavy gong which often sounded on stormy nights and always required a hurried trek through dark streets to verify the safety of the bank. Invariably, the storm had merely crossed the wires, but investigation was necessary. If too much cash was on hand to trust to the new concept of the screwdoor safe, the excess would be taken home to be slept on for safety.

Posting of accounts was done by hand, and the intercom system consisted of a speaking tube which connected the first and second floors. Bankers were frequently called upon to perform double duty, assisting Dr. Francis Meinhardt, a dentist, with his dental patients.

The bank operated as a closely held family corporation for the majority of its history. Sherman L. Dudley, whose wife was a niece of the Meinhardts, was employed by the bank in 1918.

The 50th anniversary of the bank on January 2, 1941, arrived with the original founders still active in the management. Albert Meinhardt was president, Sherman L. Dudley, vice president, Eda Meinhardt, cashier, and Robert Bayer and Ray Spiegelhoff were assistant cashiers.

By 1952, Dudley had reached the position of chief executive officer. He was a conservative leader and the bank flourished under his management.

In July, 1958, after an extensive interior remodeling was completed, the Meinhardt Bank became the first bank in Wisconsin to automate its posting system and the second to utilize an account numbering system.

In 1963, Dudley retired due to illness which claimed his life in 1964. Robert Bayer became president and retired from that position in 1971.

In 1969, the bank was acquired by the Marine Corporation and Harold Koch was named president until his retirement in 1972.

In 1985, the Marine Corporation purchased the Independence Banks, merging the Elkhorn and Williams Bay Independence Bank offices with the Burlington Marine Bank. In 1988, the Burlington Marine Bank became BANK ONE after the purchase of the Marine Corporation by BANK ONE.

Burlington Memorial Hospital

Burlington Memorial Hospital opened its door on June 14, 1924 as a 22 bed hospital, with two operating rooms, x-ray, laboratory, a kitchen and maternity ward.

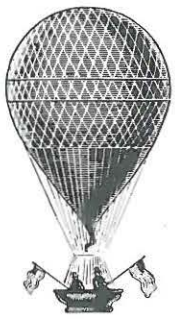
The first year of operation saw 504 patients admitted, 53 babies were delivered and 349 operations were performed.

The whole thing started with the end of World War I (1918) when the groundwork was laid and funds were made available that would establish the hospital. To a nucleus of $10,041 left in the World War I war chest from western Racine County, donations brought in a total of $80,000 for the hospital and equipment by February, 1923.

(Author's note: From June 14, 1924 to June 30, 1925, a patient could spend a week in a private room with bath in the newly-opened Burlington Memorial Hospital for $45. That year's total earnings were $23,073.75 and 14 employees were listed.)

Elizabeth E. Casey was the first of four registered nurses who were to serve as superintendent of Memorial until May 9, 1950, when Robert E. Griffiths was named administrator. Florence Koch, registered nurse and director of nursing between 1940 and 1972, was quoted as saying, "Elizabeth Casey gave anesthetics, too."

In 1941, Ruth Pilger became superintendent. She was followed by Elsie Rick who resigned in 1943. Lucille Rossmiller (Cooney) was named her successor. She became administrative assistant when Griffiths was appointed. She and Koch both were at Memorial until October 20, 1972, when they retired.



In 1945, while Cooney was superintendent, the need was seen for more room. She and Koch had seen the shortage of nurses during World War II and the evolving of nurses aides to take their place. Reflecting on the crowded conditions after the war, Koch, who died on July 31, 1988, said, "We had patients in the halls."

Because of the wartime freeze on building materials, construction of an addition was not begun until 1945 and dedication of the remodeled 60 bed hospital was in August, 1951. The addition included wings to the north and south ends of the building.

In 1955, Griffith left the hospital and Donald Kincade was named administrator. By 1959, still another expansion was needed. This included the east wing and the wing that would house the operating rooms on the second floor until 1989 and the obstetrics department which was there to at least 1990.

The most ambitious expansion until 1987 was undertaken in 1972. At a cost of more than $2.5 million, a two-story newly constructed west wing included a new power plant, laundry, maintenance shops, rehabilitation facilities, meeting rooms, management offices and space for 60 more patient beds.

Prior to 1972, the only specialty in the medical profession represented in Burlington was surgery. Specialists would come from other areas for clinics, but no one was a part of the community. Since that time, specialists have included those in 20 different specialities.

Memorial's intensive care unit opened in 1974. Until that time, seriously ill patients were attended by private duty nurses.

In 1977, Tom Knox was named president and chief executive officer of Memorial Hospital. During his tenure, Memorial Hospital became a member of Health Central, Inc., in Minnesota. Knox left Memorial in 1984 to become a part of that corporation, and Andrew Hetrick assumed the presidency in 1985.

During 1986, a state-of-the-art computerized tomography (CT) scan, a major diagnostic tool, was purchased by the hospital. The trend toward providing high technological services right in Burlington had begun. Also in 1986, the hospital severed ties with Health Central and resumed the independence it had maintained for so many years. The trend in health care was turning toward outpatient services with less need for beds for inpatients. Remodeling on the older east wing had begun and it was evident a larger hospital campus would be needed to serve those communities surrounding Burlington. The same day surgery unit was opened that year.

Hetrick left the hospital in 1986 and in June of 1987, Robert L. Brandt became the president and chief executive officer.

On July 28, 1987, a "wall-breaking" signaled the beginning of a massive renovation and reconstruction project, a project costing $5.9 million, including a new third floor.

On August 9, 1988, ground breaking was held for an office building adjacent to the hospital to house the Burlington Clinic.

In July, 1990, diagnostic testing was begun using the magnetic resonance imager (MRI) now housed in addition to the radiology department.

An initial staff of 14 employees in 1924 has grown to more than 400 in 1990.

Tobin Drug

Founded by Frank Tobin in 1915, the store has grown, expanded and moved several times.

He purchased the store from W. E. Flack and George Miller (Flack & Miller Drug Store) who established it in 1913. Tobin opened his pharmacy on Chestnut Street, across from the Meinhardt Bank. He operated it until the early 1960's when it was purchased by Arthur McCourt and Don Schultz. Later it was moved to the corner of Washington and Pine Streets where the Jackson Drug Store had been.

Tobin Drugs-Pinecrest was opened in the Pinecrest Shopping Center in 1965. In 1978, a second Burlington store was located in Burlington Square Shopping Center. That was closed in 1988.

Tobin Drugs-Twin Lakes first was a rental within a Twin Lakes clinic. The present building was built and occupied by the firm in November, 1981.

Present owners are: Dick McKinney, Jim Hipp and Greg Nelson. They purchased the business in 1981.

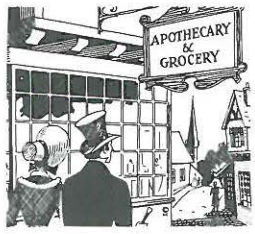
It is not just a "drugstore" anymore, it features merchandise in the areas of cameras, tot-to-teen clothing, jewelry, cosmetics and gift items, in addition to the pharmacy.

Richard G. Vos Business Consultant

On July 1, 1961, in the accounting business, Richard G. Vos opened his own firm in Burlington. That was located at the corner of Milwaukee Avenue and Chestnut Street in the old National Bank Building. In 1967, it moved to 440 Milwaukee Avenue in quarters rented from George Rider. In 1976, the building was purchased from Rider by Vos and attorneys Patrick Lloyd and William Phenecie. That group completely remodeled the building with the Vos firm on one side, the law office on the other.

Vos graduated from Burlington High School in 1946. He attended the University of Wisconsin in Milwaukee and completed his studies in accounting in 1949. His first employment was with the Wisconsin Electric Power Company where he worked in the accounting department for eight and one-half years. In 1957, he took a public accounting position with a certified public accounting firm in Lake Geneva where he worked nearly four years.

As the computer age arrived, it necessitated many changes in the accounting profession and in August, 1969, the firm installed its first computer. Since then, the computer system has been updated several times.



In 1990, Richard Vos decided to retire and his son Michael R. Vos, took over total operation of the business as of September 1, 1990.

Wisconsin Bell Telephone Company

The first telephone exchange was established in Burlington in 1886, but prior to that, the Wilbur Lumber Company is credited with being the first telephone user, as it had a private telephone line to its office in Lake Geneva.

This circuit was later turned over to the Wisconsin Telephone Company.

The Wilbur name was further recorded in the early telephone history of Burlington as George H. Wilbur was shown as manager in an 1888 directory. That directory contained the names of ten subscribers besides the Wilbur Lumber Company and Mrs. Wilbur. Those listed were W. J. Finke, Jacob Gill, Dr. Hicks, Jones House, Lincoln Ice Company, St. Mary's Island, the Western Union Telegraph Company and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

In 1890, the local exchange was managed by Miss Edith Storms and there were 20 subscribers. Other managers in the early history were H. L Jenkins, A. P. Hahn, Newton Bottomley, William Lawton, Carroll A. Goodman.

Later managers were Oswald C. Claus, Walter R. Whiting, Joseph Obertin who was manager when in 1956, Burlington received its first dial telephone service, and the familiar "number please" from an operator became history. At that time too, long distance charges between the Burlington office and the telephones of the Burlington, Brighton and Wheatland Telephone Company were eliminated.

The changeover to the dial system represented a $400,000 cost to the phone company. Some interesting facts showed some 265 miles of wiring were needed inside the new company building at the corner of Washington Street and Perkins Boulevard. Outside the building, 1,980 miles of wire in new aerial and underground cable were installed.

While installing the new dial system, the workmen had to battle some severe weather at times. On April 3, 1956, heavy rains caused a water back-up and knocked out telephone service to two thirds of the Burlington customers. After a quick emergency cut-over, and the hard work of several splicing crews and other line crews, and with the use of emergency mobile equipment, service was restored to most customers in less than 12 hours.

There also have been acts of heroism on the part of at least one telephone company employee over the years.



It was on September 22, 1922, while patrolling toll lines in the vicinity of Burlington, Emmett R. Brown, a toll repairman, noticed a fire on the farm of Hugo P. Kramer. At the risk of his own life, Brown entered the burning barn and rescued Kramer who had been overcome by the smoke and flames. After removing the man, Brown re-entered the barn and rescued three horses. After the arrival of the fire department, Brown took Kramer to a doctor for treatment of broken ribs and then returned him to his home.

For his actions, the telephone company awarded Brown the company's Bronze Vail Medal on July 24, 1923.

The Fashion Exchange

The Fashion Exchange was originated by Mary Ann Schiller in the fall of 1981.

The business was opened October 19, 1981 in her garage at 329 North Kendrick Avenue when she began accepting clothing for consignment sale. At that time, she used homemade wooden racks to store the clothing brought to her.

Shortly thereafter, a partnership was formed with Kathy (Mrs. James) Weis and the business was formally opened on November 3, 1981 at 116 East Chestnut Street, on the second floor above the Country Gentleman, owned by Eugene Rueter.

After operating the business for about one and one half years, the partnership was liquidated and on July 31, 1983, Mary Ann Schiller became the sole proprietor.

Larger space needs prompted a location change at 488 North Pine Street in a building then owned by Marge Kessler. The business began to thrive and on July 1, 1990, it was again relocated, this time to a downstairs location at 484 North Pine Street.

Wisconsin Electric Power Company

Electric power first came to Burlington in 1888 when the Burlington Electric Company used a steam-powered generator to produce power for a few local stores. In 1990, the Wisconsin Electric Power Company, which purchased the original company in 1916, provides power to more than 26,000 customers in Burlington and the surrounding area.

The history of Wisconsin Electric Power Company has been one of growth and expansion; today it serves more than 875,000 customers in Southeastern Wisconsin, the Fox Valley and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Burlington's first electric generator was owned by four local men. It operated from dusk to 11 p.m. six days a week with no power on Sundays. The old Teutonia Hall was the first commercial enterprise to receive electric power. The operator at the plant had to be bribed to keep the power on past 11 o'clock when special events were scheduled.

In 1916, the Wisconsin Gas & Electric Company, later acquired by the present company, purchased the original Burlington Electric Company and a period of expansion began. The construction of new electric transmission and distribution lines brought power to many small communities and rural areas. The introduction of the electric flat iron, range and refrigerator brought electric power into many Burlington homes for the first time. During the 1930's, intense efforts were made to bring electricity to the farms as well as the homes. Until this time, electric service was often limited to the immediate areas near the generating plant.

The efforts of Wisconsin Electric Power Company did not end when electricity was made available to every home and farm.

Throughout the years, the company helped customers use electricity safely, wisely and efficiently. In the 1950's and 60's, company personnel helped homemakers with recipes, menus, kitchen planning and by demonstrating the usage of new electric appliances. Others talked to school, 4-H and Girl Scout groups, demonstrating the ease and efficiency of modern electric living. Later information and education activities focused on a broad range of activities, including efficiency, environmental issues, education and career choices as well as other topics.

In 1987, the company launched the Smart Energy program, one of the largest energy-efficient programs ever undertaken by an electric utility. Customers receive rebates and loans toward the purchase of energy-efficient appliances. By promoting energy efficiency, Wisconsin Electric delays the need to build expensive new power plants. Smart Money began as a two-year, $84 million program, but the company extended the program due to its popularity with customers.

The number of electric company employees in Burlington has grown from one plant operator in 1888 to 45 employees in 1990, with an annual payroll of more than $1.7 million. Wisconsin Electric Power Company's annual construction budget in the Burlington area is about $2.5 million.

Wisconsin Energy Corporation, the parent company of Wisconsin Electric, has nearly 600,000 shareholders.

The Spinning Top Exploratory Museum 492 North Pine Street

The world's only Spinning Top Museum originated during Burlington's first annual Chocolate Festival in the spring of 1987 by Teacher Place and Parent Resources, an independent non-profit educational resource center.

The exhibit of 600 antique and modern tops was to be a one month exhibit beginning during the Chocolate Festival because of the festival theme, "Chocolate is Tops."

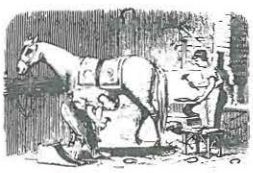
The exhibit offered 35 tops and top games to actually spin and twirl. The visitors were even more enthused than Judith Schultz, Teacher Place director, had expected and she heard requests to continue the "museum" throughout the summer months.

The museum exhibit was extended for three more months with frequent requests for school groups and tour groups to visit in the fall, so another extension was made. These extensions were renewed and renewed more than a year until the volunteer board of directors decided to make it a permanent museum.

The exhibit, which has grown to more than 1,000 items, is part of the private collection of Judith Schultz which exceeds about 3,500 tops, yo-yos, gyroscopes and moonwinders. Visitors come to a 75 minute program which includes seeing the exhibit, spinning 35 tops, top games to play, seeing a show and demonstration by the collector, and two videos.

The museum now publishes *"SPIN-OFFS"*, a small magazine about spinning tops, yo-yos and other related toys and devices.





Interior of the William Rein Blacksmith Shop on Commerce Street. Rein is at right.

Service Clubs

Rotary Club of Burlington

The basement coal room of the Hotel Badger was the site of the first meeting of the Rotary Club on April 24, 1924.

Charter night for the club was May 26, 1924, with the Waukesha Rotary Club as the sponsor. Fred Witter, a noted Burlington school superintendent, was the first president. Walter Kuebler was vice president and George Waller was secretary.

Meetings continued to be held at the Hotel Badger until 1951 when they changed to the Colonial Club at Brown's Lake. In 1959, the meeting place was changed to Dunkel's White Oaks until 1985 when a fire destroyed the meeting place. The club then moved to Brandy Bay until Richard Kiekenbusch rebuilt White Oaks.

The club sponsored the organization of the Burlington Rescue Squad and has continued to support it. Rotary raised the original $5,000 for the squad's first mobile unit. It was one of the sponsors of the Burlington Community Swimming Pool, has supported the Burlington Clean Program, and for years sponsored a boy to Badger Boys State.

Burlington Kiwanis Club

The Burlington Kiwanis Club was organized in early 1928 through the efforts of the Forest Park, Illinois club. It was chartered on December 13, 1928.

The group disbanded on December 30, 1935.

In 1937, John J. Wolf was the major mover for the reorganization and Harry O'Haire served as president for the 1937-38 term of office.

The modern period of that organization began in 1953 when expanding membership programs were undertaken. The annual Kiwanis Pancake Day started in 1953 to provide funds for transportation of area youth to and from Fischer Park. The club participated in the youth soccer leagues, baseball and softball, Badger Boys and Badger Girls programs, and the Kiwanis Civic Band. The club also was one of the sponsoring organizations for the Burlington Community Swimming Pool. The annual Farmers' Night program, started in the early days of the club, was continued after reorganization.

Burlington Lions' Club

The Burlington Lions' Club was organized in 1950 by Raymond D. Bieneman and Shafec A. Mansour, a professional organizer, after a group of men showed interest in 1949.

When the charter was granted in 1950, there were 34 members on the rolls. Early meetings were held in the Hotel Badger.

The first Lions' Chicken Barbecue was held July 22, 1959 and has been continued.

Projects have included scholarship awards, eyebank involvement and safety patrol contributions. The club also was an organizer of the Burlington Community Swimming Pool.

The female counterpart of the club, the Burlington Lioness Club, was formed in May, 1978, with the late Florence Hefty serving as first president.

The women have participated in the sponsorship of many programs including glaucoma screening, Blind Outdoor Leisure Development. The club also contributed to the safety patrol and St. Vincent's programs.

Business and Professional Women

On April 12, 1950, a group of businesswomen and professionals met at the home of Mrs. Marion Moussa to organize the club. When the charter was signed later that year, 58 women were on the rolls.

The group has sponsored adult education workshops and many civic projects.



A parade through the "loop." Notice the buildings still standing, the wooden sidewalks and the dirt street. The delivery wagon at the left was used by J.G. Mathews Grocery. Note the popcorn wagon on the other side of the street behind the white horse.

Appendix

Mayors of the City of Burlington, 1900-1990

Name	Date of Election
George C. Rasch	April 3, 1900
Edward F. Rakow	April 1, 1902
John Mutter	April 2, 1904
Edward F. Rakow	April 4, 1906
H.E. Zimmermann	April 9, 1908
H.E. Zimmermann	April 6, 1910
Edward F. Rakow	April 3, 1912
Edward F. Rakow	April 9, 1914
Henry A. Runkel	April 7, 1916
Henry A. Runkel	April 5, 1918
William H. Kruckman	April 8, 1920
William H. Kruckman	April 7, 1922
L.A. Forge	April 3, 1924
L.A. Forge	April 6, 1926
L.A. Forge	April 4, 1928
L.A. Forge	April 2, 1930
L.A. Forge	April 6, 1932
L.A. Forge	April 4, 1934
Henry R. Pruemers	April 8, 1936
H.J. Runkel	April 5, 1938
H.J. Runkel	April 2, 1940
H.J. Runkel	April 7, 1942
Roy A. Hoffman	April 4, 1944
Roy A. Hoffman	April 2, 1946
George W. Krueger	April 6, 1948
Dr. A.J. Ketterhagen	April 4, 1950
Dr. A.J. Ketterhagen	April 1, 1952
Ralph Larson	April 6, 1954
Ralph Larson	April 3, 1956
Robert Beix	April 1, 1958
Anthony B. Rewald	April 5, 1960
Anthony B. Rewald	April 3, 1962
Leo J. Warren	April 7, 1964
Leonard C. Rauen	April 5, 1966
Leonard C. Rauen	April 2, 1968
(Won recount over Clarence Black.)	
John Thate	April 7, 1970
John Thate	April 4, 1972
John Thate	April 2, 1974
John Thate	April 6, 1976
John Thate	April 5, 1978
Leonard J. Kitkowski	April 1, 1980
Martin J. Itzin	April 7, 1982
Martin J. Itzin	April 4, 1984
Martin J. Itzin	April 1, 1986
Steven David	April 5, 1988
Steven David	April 3, 1990

Population since 1900 when Burlington became a city. (From State Historical Reference Library)

Year	City	Town
1900	2256	1052
1910	3212	1129
1920	3626	1183
1930	4114	999
1940	4414	1257
1950	4780	2270
1960	5856	4780
1970	7479	4963
1980	8385	5629
1990	8855	5833

Burlington Postmasters, 1887-1989

Frank R. Reuschlein	Democrat	July 1, 1887 - June 30, 1891 — 4 yrs.
William A. Colby	Republican	July 1, 1891 - Jan. 31, 1896 — 4 yrs. 7 mos.
Edward Rakow	Democrat	Feb. 1, 1896 - Jan. 31, 1900 — 4 yrs.
Theodore Riel	Republican	Feb. 1, 1900 - Mar. 31, 1904 — 4 yrs. 2 mos.
Fred J. Buel	Acting	Apr. 1, 1904 - Sept. 30, 1904 — 6 mos.
Fred J. Buel	Republican	Oct. 1, 1904 - Feb. 20, 1911 — 6 yrs. 4 mos. 20 da.
Carrie R. Buel	Acting	Feb. 21, 1911 - Jan. 15, 1912 — 10 mos. 25 da.
Peter Jacobsen	Republican	Jan. 16, 1912 - Feb. 14, 1916 — 4 yrs. 1 mo.
Henry E. Zimmermann	Democrat	Feb. 15, 1916 - Feb. 29, 1924 — 8 yrs. 14 da.
Henry R. Pruemers	Acting	Mar. 1, 1924 - Feb. 28, 1927 — 3 yrs.
Henry R. Pruemers	Republican	Mar. 1, 1927 - June 30, 1935 — 8 yrs. 4 mos.
Henry Weygand	Acting	July 1, 1935 - Aug. 15, 1935 — 1 mo. 15 da.
Louis Reuschlein	Democrat	Aug. 16, 1935 - Nov. 1955 — 20 yrs. 4 mos.
Martha Folman	Acting	Nov. 1955 - July 1956 — 8 mos.
Walter L. Paepke		July 1956 - May 1972 — 16 yrs.
Frederick F. Forge		May 1972 - June 1973 — 1 yr. 1 mo.
Joseph Zelenski		June 1973 - present

Postal receipts:	
July 1, 1887 to June 30, 1888	$ 2,760.15
Jan. 1935 to Dec. 1935	35,738.86
Oct. 1, 1983 to Sept. 28, 1984	996,318.25
Sept. 26, 1986 to Sept. 25, 1987	1,412,683.85



An 1898 photo of a gathering in front of the businesses at the "bend" in Chestnut Street in downtown Burlington. Note the wooden sidewalks in front of the F. J. Buell hardware store and the C. G. Foltz dry goods store.

Business Directory — 1860

(The Burlington Gazette 3/13/1860)

Dry Goods, Grocery and Drug Stores

B. Foltz & Son — Dealers in dry goods and groceries. Capital invested, $8,000. Yearly sales $18,000.

Ulrich Schadegg — General dealer in dry goods, groceries. Capital invested $6,000. Yearly sales $12,000.

Parsons & Conover — General dealers in dry goods, groceries, clothing. Capital invested, $7,000. Yearly sales $15,000.

H. Cook — Grocery store. Capital invested, $500. Yearly sales $1,200.

Joseph Hamann — Dry goods, groceries. Capital invested, $3,000. Yearly sales $6,000.

Grassie & Darling — Grocery and provision store. Capital $2,500. Yearly sales $10,000.

A. Meinhardt — Dry goods, groceries and Yankee notions. Capital $800. Yearly sales $1,500.

Dr. J.H. Cooper — Drugs and groceries. Capital $3,000. Yearly sales $6,000.

E.D. Hall — Dry goods, groceries and provisions. Capital $3,500. Yearly sales $7,500.

Hardware Stores

Sheldon & Conkey — General hardware, tinware, stoves. Capital $4,000. Yearly sales $8,000.

Herman Thiele — Stoves and tinware. Capital $1,000. Yearly sales $2,000.

Boot, Shoe and Leather Stores

R. Wald — Manufacturer and dealer in boots, shoes, leather, hides. Capital $1,800. Yearly sales $2,500.

Henry Stang — Manufacturer and dealer in boots, shoes, leather, hides. Capital $300. Yearly sales $2,500.

T.J. Thompson — Manufacturer and dealer in boots, shoes. Doing good business.

Simon Kumpg — Shoemaker.

Wm. Deinberg — Shoemaker.

John Hegeman — Shoemaker.

John Ries — Shoemaker.

Henry Schemmer — Shoemaker.

Merchant Tailors

B.F. Kelsey — Merchant tailor. Capital $100. Yearly sales $1,300.

G. Duchman — Tailor.

Valentine Smith — Tailor.

B. Bohle — Tailor.

Jewelry

H. Neuhaus — Jeweler, clock, watch and Yankee notions. Capital $2,000. Yearly sales $5,000.

Mills and Manufacturing

Perkins & Pitkin — Flouring mill. Capital $20,000. Yearly business $18,000.

P.M. Perkins — Woolen factory. Capital $15,000. Yearly business $25,000.

James Scott — Flouring mill. Not yet in running order.

Sawyer & Barns — Plow manufacturers. Capital $4,000. Sales $9,000.

Scott & Nims — House builders and sash and blind manufacturer. Capital $3,000.

Foundries

Wm. Johnson — Iron foundry, house builder, farm implement manufacturer. Just commenced.

Wagner & Zwiebel — Machine shop and brass foundry. Capital $1,000.

Produce Buyers

E.D. Hall — Yearly business $20,000.

T.W. Blake — Yearly business $6,000.

Nick Warner — Yearly business $10,000.

Hotels

Burlington Hotel — George Jones, proprietor.

Kossuth House — Wm. Wettroth, proprietor.

Thurston House — J. McKenzie, proprietor.

Saloons, Restaurants, etc.

W. Miller — Liquor, flour, billiards and ball alley. Capital $1,000. Yearly sales $1,500.

Joseph Daring — Saloon.

M.T. Hayes — Billiards saloon. Capital $400. Yearly sales $1,500.

Daniel Detrick — Saloon.

M. Klingele — Saloon.

Fred Wallhoft — Restaurant.

Nick Warner — Saloon.

John Melcher — Saloon.

Wm. Bradshaw — Saloon.

Wm. Funk — Saloon.

Brewers and Distillers

C. Boub — Rectifier and liquor store. Capital $3,000. Yearly sales $9,000.

Jacob Muth — Brewery. Capital $2,500. Yearly sales $6,000.

Anton Fink — Brewery and saloon.

Fred Wallhoft — Distiller and rectifier.

Masons and Plasterers

P & J Wackerman
M. Bachmyer
Eustache Bregenzer
Christian Runzler
H.C. Conklin

Miscellaneous

C.P. Barns — Banking, collection and exchange office. Capital, $10,000. Yearly business $300,000.
Henry Martin — Saddle and harness maker. Capital $400. Yearly sales $2,500.
T.L. Blake — Lumber dealer. Capital $5,000. Yearly sales $10,000.
American Express office. Yearly business $500.
Racine & Mississippi Railroad depot, Thomas Dagget, agent.

Received for freight during 1858	$6,121.24
Received for freight during 1859	$3,268.24
For freight received during 1858	$7,619.74
For freight received during 1859	$5,430.55
Received for tickets during 1858	$2,186.75
Received for tickets during 1859	$2,231.02
Total amount received for freight and tickets for 1858	$15,929.73
Total amount received for freight and tickets for 1859	$11,229.81

T. Vanslycke — Livery stable. Capital $800. Yearly business $1,500.
Meat Market — Charles Arnold, proprietor.
Adam Klinkops — Barber and hair dresser.
H. Cook — Cooper.
Thos. Merakins — Jeweler, shoemaker and barber.

Religious Societies

Plymouth Congregational — P.C. Pettibone, pastor. Members 80.
Reformed Lutheran — Rev. Mr. Goldamer, pastor.
First Baptist — E.B. Law, pastor.
Roman Catholic — Rev. Michael Wisbauer, pastor. Members 1,000.

Temperance Societies

Washington Temple of Honor, No. 4. Members 70.
Martha Washington Social Temple, No. 2. Members 30.
Excelsior Order of Cadets of Honor and Temperance, No. 1. Members 30.

Masonic

Burlington Lodge, No. 28, F and AM.

I.O.O.F.

Burlington Lodge No. 11. Just being re-instated.

Military, Social, Fire and Theatrical

Turner Society. German.
Burlington Hook and Ladder Co. No. 1. Members 40.
Burlington Rifle Co. Members 25.
German Theatrical Society.
Teutonia Singing Society.

Carpenters and Joiners

Chas. Graham
Christian Erdman
Julius Lueck & Co.
Daniel Detrick
Jacob Prush
Henry Rodering
Christopher Haas
A. Amos — Millwright.

Milliners

Miss S.J. Howe, milliner and dressmaker.
Miss A. Fuller, milliner and dressmaker.
Mrs. Henry Miller, milliner and dressmaker.

Blacksmiths and Wagon Shops

Charles Wagner — Blacksmith.
E.S. Johnson — Blacksmith.
O. Stohr — Wagonmaker.
J. Wambold — Blacksmith. Capital $800. Yearly business $2,000.
Fred Keuper — Carriage Shop and blacksmith. Capital $2,000. Yearly sales $3,000.
Joseph Pieters — Wagonmaker. Capital $700. Yearly business $1,500.
William Lean — Blacksmith.
John Edmunds — Wagonmaker.

Cabinet Makers

Martin Scheller. Capital $2,000. Yearly sales $1,000.
Wm. Mucklisch

Physicians and Dentists

H.D. Knight — Dentist.
E.G. Dyer — Physician.
M.T. Darling — Physician.
Wm. Baumback — Physician.
J.H. Cooper — Physician.

Attorneys and Counselors at Law

C.W. Bennett — Doing a large and extensive business.
Royce & Cole — Capital $600. Yearly business $3,000.

Painters

E.N. White
Richard Wagon

Business Directory
(From a map published in 1875)

Dry Goods, Groceries and Drug Stores

B. Foltz and Son — Dry goods and groceries.
August Reuschlein — Grocer.
J.S. Crane — Dry goods and groceries.
Henry Neuhaus — Dry goods and groceries.
W.J. Rittman — Dry goods and groceries.
George Verhalen — General merchandise.
Francis Reuschlein — Notion store, general insurance agent.
T.M. Martin — Dealer in tea and coffee.
Nicholas May — Meat market.
Carl Arnold — Meat market.
Charles W. Wood — Drugstore.
H. Stoetzer — Drugstore.

Hardware Store

H.A. Sheldon
C.B. Wagner

Boots, Shoes and Leather Goods

Valentine & Stang (Sign of the Red Boot.)
M.T. Hayes — Harness shop.
Joseph Klingele — Harness shop.
R. Wald and Sons — Boots and shoes.
Frank Schemmer — Boots and shoes.

Tailors

E. Rakow
Valentine Smith and Son

Jewelry

E. Wehmhoff — Jeweler.
Charles Wells — Watchmaker.

Mills and Manufacturing

Perkins Bros. — Woolen manufacturers and millers.
F.W. Blake — Sash and blind factory, carpenter.

Foundry

H. Wagner — Foundry and machine shop.

Produce Buyers

John Adams — Meat dealer.
Henry Miller — Dealer in hides and sheep.

Hotels

Jones House — Charles J. Jones, proprietor.
Exchange House — J.P. Mather, owner; A.J. Hannas, proprietor.
Western Union Hotel — F. Jaucke, proprietor.

Liquor Stores

Lewis Konst — Wine, liquors, billiards.
Jacob Gill — Billiard hall, liquor.
William Laske — Wines, liquor.
John Dietrick — Baker, wines, liquors and cigars.

Brewers

Jacob Muth and Sons
William J. Finke

Milliners

Mrs. C.K. Miller
Mrs. E. Wehmhoff
Mrs. Charles Wells

Wagon Shops, Agriculture Implements

W.P. Goff — Agriculture implements.
McCumber & Kline — Agriculture implements.
Jacob Wambolt — Wagonmaker.

Dentist

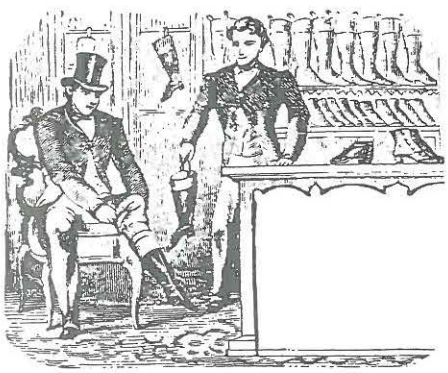
Dr. George A. Sherwood

Attorney

C.A. Brownson

Miscellaneous

H.L. Devereux — Publisher of the Standard.
L. Hess — Justice of the Peace.
G. Law — Photographer.
F. Willhoft — Furniture.
Chris Erdman — Lumber yard.
J.H. Melchers — Warehouse for lime, brick, salt and wine.
The Peoples State Bank — E.M. White, N.P. Randall, Ole Heg, J.P. Mather, H.A. Sheldon, Jacob Muth, J.S. Crane, Jacob Gill, Jacob Wambold, P.M. Perkins, R. Wald, Edmund Berger, C.G. Foltz, R. Billings, and Hon. John F. Potter.



Business Directory 1880

Manufacturing

Burlington Blanket Co. — Its product, the "Stay On" horse blanket, has an international reputation for quality. Largest factory of its kind in the country, with salesrooms in New York, Chicago and San Francisco.

Burlington Novelty Co. — Makers of rubber elastic goods.

Burlington Malting Co. — The old Jacob Muth brewery, Frank Schemmer, president; C.H. Edgerton, manager.

McCanna & Fraser Co. — Butter making concern, operating 15 factories in the Elgin or Fox River Valley district. C.B. McCanna, president; R.G. Fraser, secretary.

F.G. Klein Co. — Manufacturers of soft drinks. F.G. Klein, F.K. Klein, Mary Ann Klein, proprietors.

Burlington Canning Co. — Specializing in canning corn and tomatoes.

Finke-Uhen Brewing Co. — Capacity 1,500 barrels a day. John H. Uhen, president; W.J. Finke, secretary-treasurer.

Wisconsin Condensed Milk Co. — The only one of its kind in Wisconsin. C.B. McCanna, R.G. Fraser, Samuel S. Swarthey.

Zwiebel's Machine Shop — Joseph Zwiebel, owner.

The Multiscope and Film Co. — Makers of "Al Vista" panoramic cameras. G.C. Rasch, president; L.J. Smith, secretary-treasurer.

Ayres Flouring Mill — Former Perkins grist mill.

Brick & Tile Factory

Retail and Professionals

Barber — Louis Jacobs.

The Chicago Store — Men's clothing. Jacob Wein.

Hardware — George McDonald.

Groceries — Mathews and Bowers.

Notions — "City of Panic." Mrs. Mary Stang.

Lumber — Wilbur Lumber Co., W.M. Emmas, manager.

Tailor — John Haitz.

Furniture & Undertaker — George Dietrich; McKercher & Co.

Drayage & Transfer — B. Brehm & Son.

Bicycle Shop — Joe Dobster.

Liquor Store — John P. Gill.

Drugstore — G.C. Dennistor and S.M. Reinardy.

Dry Goods — C.G. Foltz and Son. Oldest business in Burlington.

Harness Dealer — H. Unger.

Horseshoers — William and Frank Rein.

Grocery — Jerome Mutchler; A. Aronson.

Blacksmith — Pieters & Edwards (John Pieters and Frank Edwards).

Wagonmaker — W.J. Pieters.

Boots and Shoes — A. Miller.

Lawyers — E.E. Mills, L.H. Rohr, G.W. Waller, Henry Madigan.

Wilbur Lumber Co., which was located on the site of the city parking lot on Chestnut Street.



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Team of horses and wagon such as was used years ago. Note string covering over the horses used to scare away flies.



Cigar maker, Ben Holmes, (second from left, with his cigar making crew.) Others in the photo are Mrs. Holmes, left, Mrs. Robert Fraser, the next three unknown, Ed Moe, John Karcher, Louis Wolf, George Rein and Ted Huenning. Dorothy Holmes and Happy are kneeling in front.

Pine Street looking north toward Chestnut Street. Note dirt streets, and horses, buggies, hitching posts, telephone poles and single light bulb as street light.

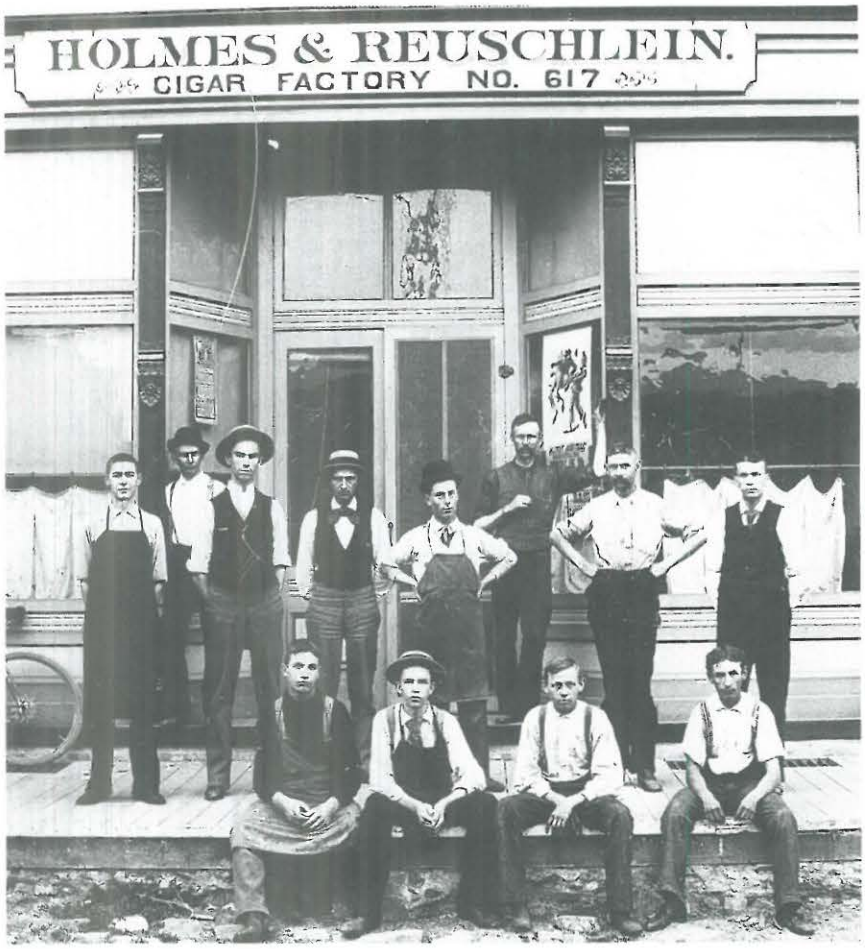




Ben Holmes who ran a cigar factory in downtown Burlington.



His brand was the Flor de Anson, a box of which is pictured.



The exterior of his factory which was located on Geneva Street, next door to the old Standard Press building. During the years 1909 and 1910, he employed 25 people at the factory.



Another cigar factory in Burlington, the Ted Huenning factory, manufactured the Voucher cigar.

Another parade of later years, note the brick streets and the single street light over the intersection.



Interior of the Itzin Harness Shop on Pine Street Identified from the left are William Itzin, Herman Lash and John V. Itzin. Founded in 1881, the store was in the family for three generations.







Apparently a successful hunt, five squirrels and one coon. Date and hunters unknown.

Standing at the site where the new Bank of Burlington was built, on South Pine Street, are, from the front, C. Roy McCanna, Patrick M. Lloyd, Thomas Burchard, Lawrence Murphy, Willis Reineman, C.B. McCanna, Elmer Ganswindt, Edward C. Johnson, Henry Heiderman and Howard Harlow.



Dress-up party at the Plymouth Congregational Church. Standing, left to right, are Mrs. Robert Wilson, Mrs. A.B. Rewald, Miss Olive Wilson, Mrs. Frank Stone, Mrs. Beatrice Rommel, Mrs. Phyllis Pella, Miss Diener, Mrs. Henry Schadeberg, Mary Dardis and Mrs. Carl Treichel. Seated, left to right, Diane Dykstra, Mrs. Ide, Mrs. Henry Rhodes, Mrs. Elmer Kitterer, Bess Caldwell, Mrs. Sherman Dudley. Little girl is Ramona Schadeberg.

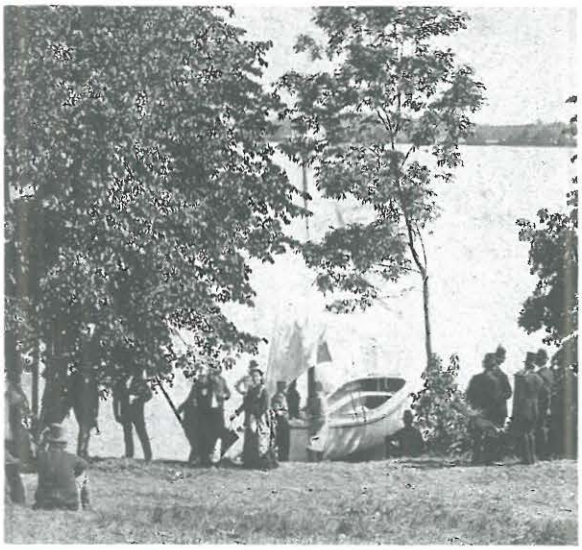


Senator Alexander Wiley of Wisconsin, left, greets Senator William Knowland of California, main speaker at the May Day U.S. Way festivities in 1955.



J.G. Mathews and his Shetland ponies in a parade on July 4, 1907. The photo is taken on Commerce Street at Mill Street. The Klein Soda Water plant is seen in the background.

A group of Gideon's Band members arriving at Island Wild, the island on Brown's Lake, in June 1875.



A yoke of oxen were used to help clean out Hoosier Creek in 1913.



The parlor of a typical home in the early 1900's. Note the overhanging light fixture and the decorative plate on the piano.



A portion of the work force at the Burlington Brass Works, probably taken in the 1920's.

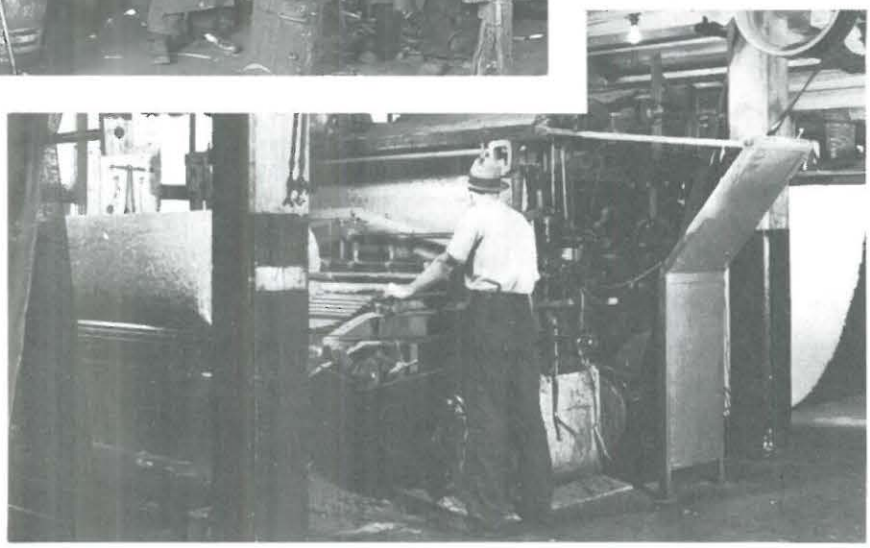


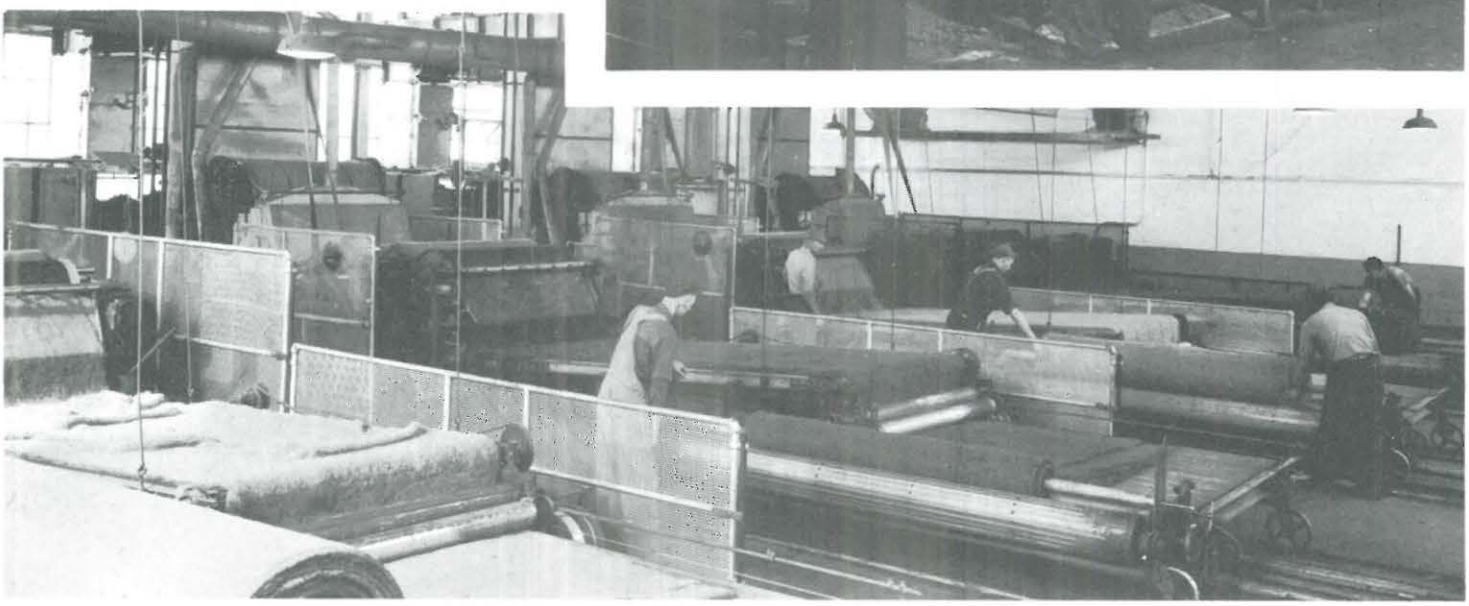
Interior of a blacksmith shop owned by John Pieters and Frank Edwards, location unknown.



Interior of the Burlington Mills plant, much later, when the company was manufacturing "Bur-Tex" material used among other things for insulation, padding, and sound absorption.

The punch looms that were used to manufacture the Bur-Tex material.





Cast of the dramatic club play, "The Stolen Twins, or a Debt of Hatred" held at Teutonia Hall on New Year's Eve., Dec. 31, 1895. All of the cast were girls.





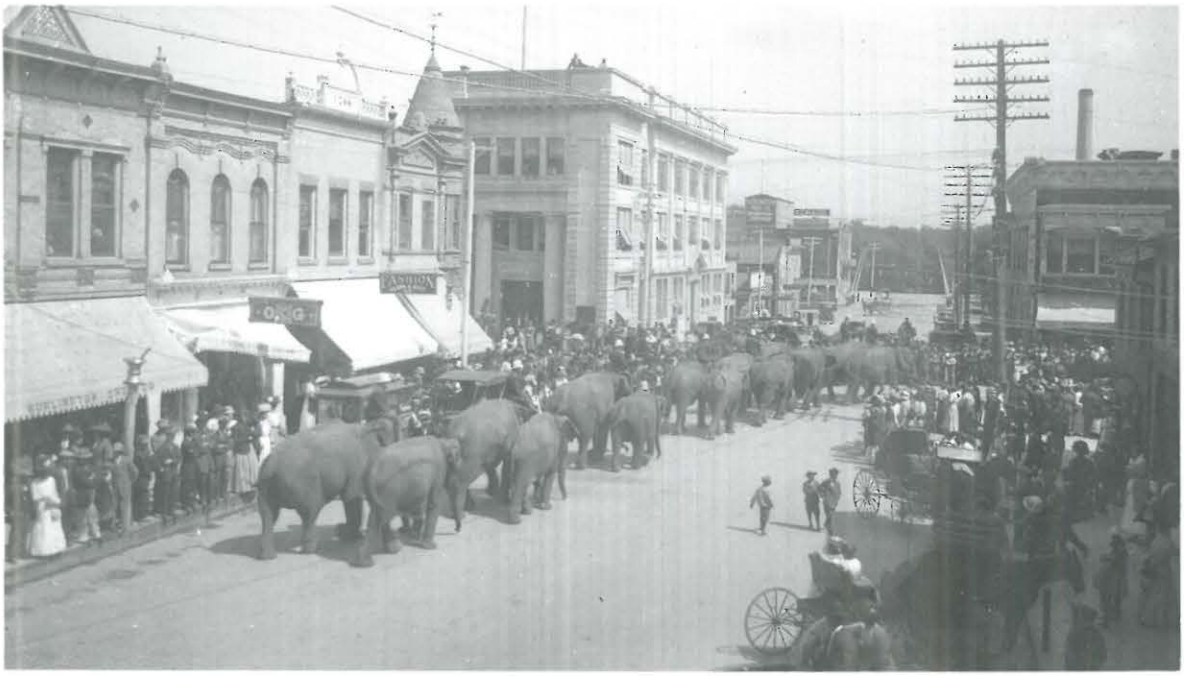
The malthouse when it was acquired by the Haylofters. They removed a great portion of the building that could not be used for their theater and was too expensive to repair and maintain.

"Womanless Wedding" with an all male cast was presented at the Burlington High School auditorium in the mid- 1930's. Gilbert Karcher, center, was the bride, and Grandpa Van Tine, at his left was the bridegroom. The remainder were members of the wedding party and guests at the wedding. Old timers of Burlington will recognize a number of the men. The event was sponsored by the Methodist Episcopal Church.



Interior of the Louis Rein butcher shop, with a side of beef and a butchered hog hanging. Rein is in white while Herman Potratz is standing alongside. The other two men are not identified, but the man with the overcoat on is probably a meat salesman.





A circus parade on Chestnut Street. Note the popcorn wagon behind the last two elephants and the mortar and pestle drug store sign.

More hunters and dogs than foxes, but the four foxes shown are not too bad for a hunt, conducted in March of 1944.





A navy band appeared in the 1918 Labor Day parade. Note the streets are now brick.

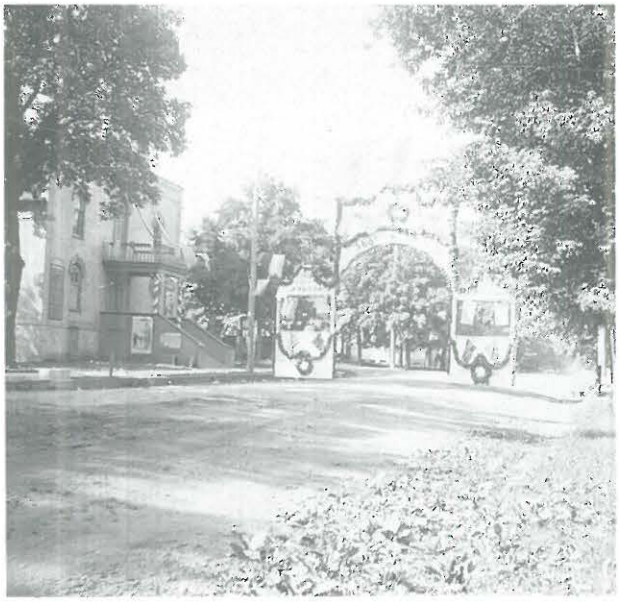
A Red Cross float that appeared in the same parade.



Lower Left
The Hotel Burlington Livery Stable, located in the alley behind the hotel.

Lower Right
Another view of the old Teutonia Hall. Camera is pointed toward the Hillside on Geneva Street (Milwaukee Avenue). Note the large trees, dirt street, and the gate across Geneva Street which may have been signaling a festival or a special performance.



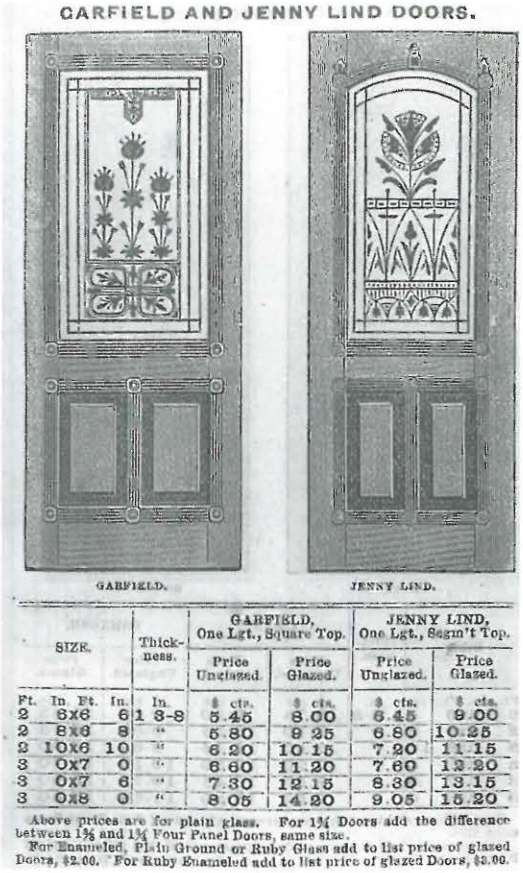




Probably the oldest stone house in Burlington is located at 508 E. Jefferson Street



Originally, the Prasch home at 565 W. State Street A version of the several cobblestone houses in the area.



GARFIELD AND JENNY LIND DOORS.

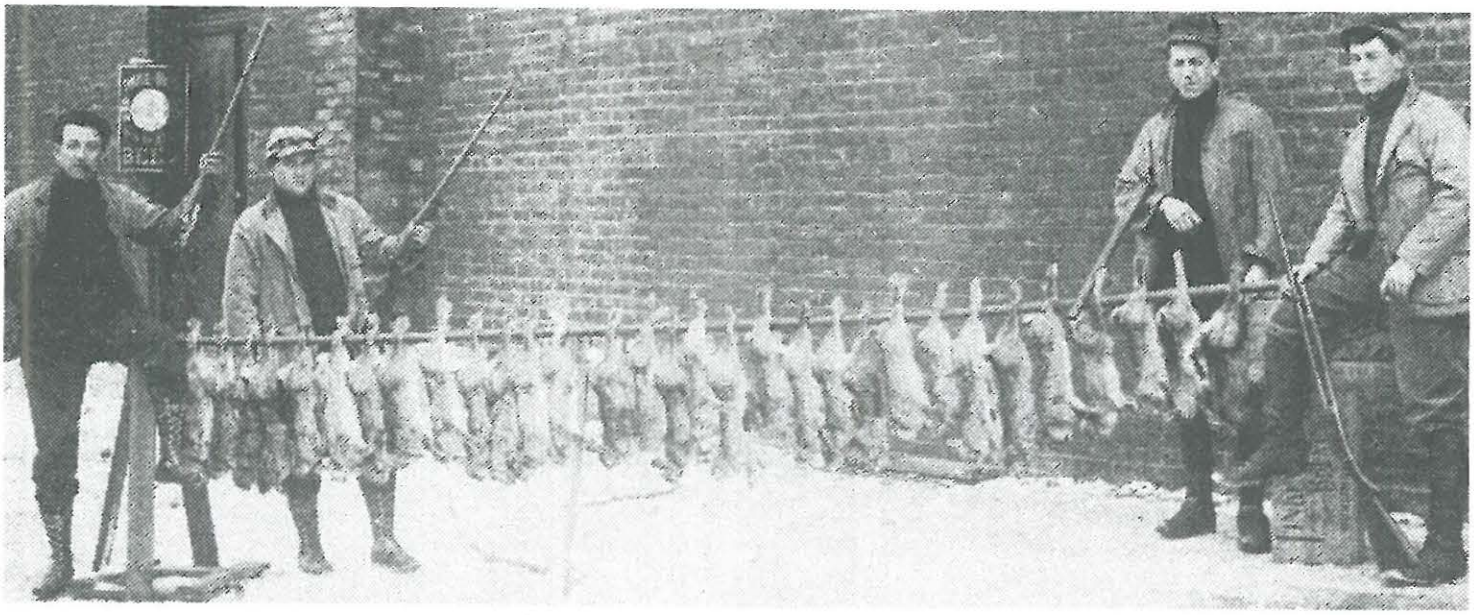
GARFIELD. JENNY LIND.

SIZE.				Thickness.	GARFIELD, One Lgt., Square Top.		JENNY LIND, One Lgt., Segm't Top.	
					Price Unglazed.	Price Glazed.	Price Unglazed.	Price Glazed.
Ft.	In.	Ft.	In.	In.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.	$ cts.
2	6	x6	6	1 3-8	5.45	8.00	6.45	9.00
2	8	x6	8	"	5.80	9.25	6.80	10.25
2	10	x6	10	"	6.20	10.15	7.20	11.15
3	0	x7	0	"	6.60	11.20	7.60	12.20
3	0	x7	6	"	7.30	12.15	8.30	13.15
3	0	x8	0	"	8.05	14.20	9.05	15.20

Above prices are for plain glass. For 1¾ Doors add the difference between 1⅜ and 1¾ Four Panel Doors, same size.
For Enameled, Plain Ground or Ruby Glass add to list price of glazed Doors, $2.00. For Ruby Enameled add to list price of glazed Doors, $3.00.

A look at some door prices of the early 1900's. Some difference by 1990.

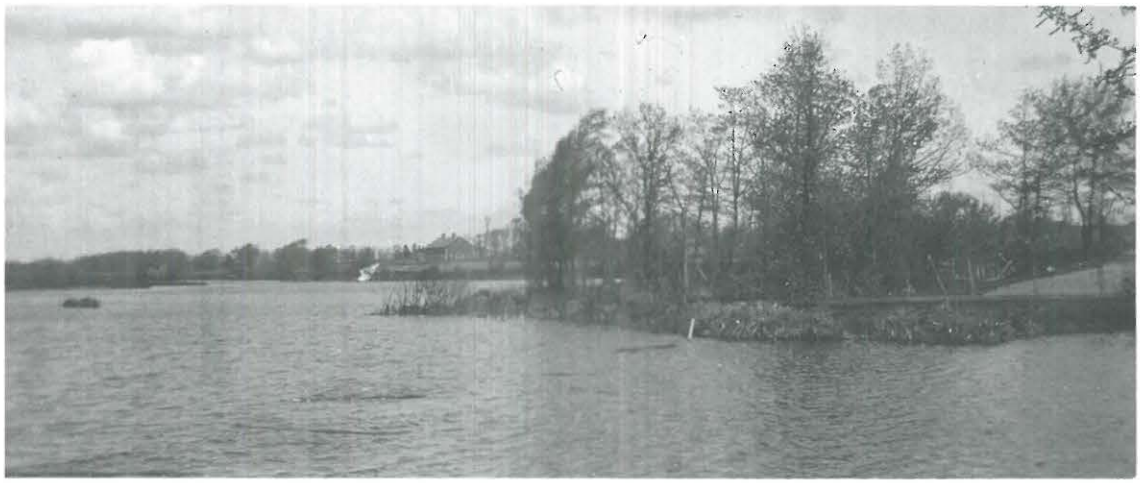
In December 1907 the men pictured, Howard and Clarence Coburn, George May and Clifford Ball, said they bagged 45 bunnies in a single day. However, there are only 33 visible in the picture.





Another blacksmith shop where E.C. Schwaller was apparently having the horse that hauled his tea wagon shod.

An early view, looking northwest over the mill pond (Echo Lake), showing the point of what became Echo Park.



A parade float of the Burlington Brass Works. On the side of the float are displayed all of the brass products made by the company. Note the wooden spoked wheels of the decorated vehicle.



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The parlor of Dr. and Mrs. Frederick Kords, shown in photo. Note they share the footstool and note the mounted sandhill crane.



Mayor Leonard Kitkowski, left foreground, accepts check from Robert Cerwin, for the restoration of the old water tower. Adults standing, left to right are Bernard Rausch, Thomas Reich, Lee Rausch, James Kayser, Mrs. Kayser, William Branen, Anna Marie Reich, Esther Porter, Mildred Cronin, Dorothy Kuebler, Walter Kuebler, Evelyn Meurer, Mrs. Walter Gabriel, Frances Meurer, Jean Ebert, R.J. Stibeck, Elmer Ebert, Harry Otter, Walter Gabriel, Tom Pringle, Henk Hasert, George Kitkowski and George Borgo. Seated is Mrs. Penny Torhorst. The event was in 1981.

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