

# *Valentine* SNIPPETS of SALEM

## 360 – 1976 Elkhorn Wisconsin Bicentennial History

### Contents:

A nice, pictorial booklet of the community with history, images, names, and advertising published by the Elkhorn History Club and the Elkhorn Bicentennial Committee.

This copy was made in order to provide a searchable document for use by researchers.

0 – 135 pages

### NOTES:

-Pages within the pamphlets may be out of sequence because of the scanning process.

-Numbering on these pages may include the date and sequence within each pamphlet.

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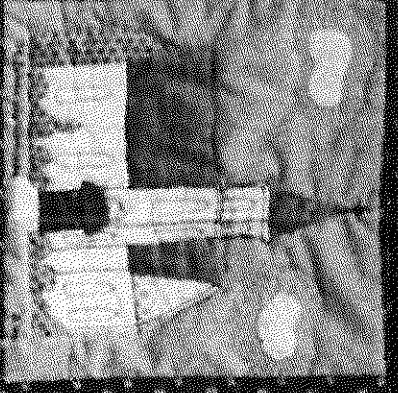
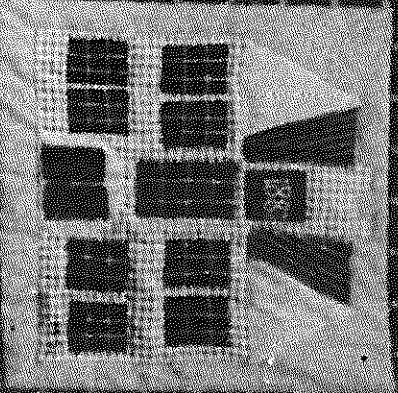
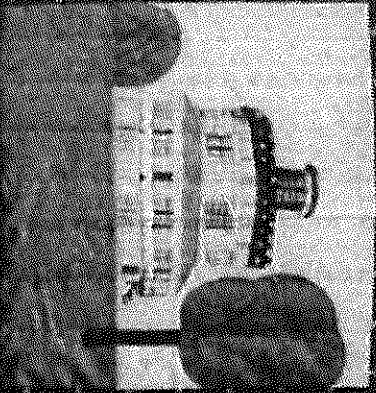
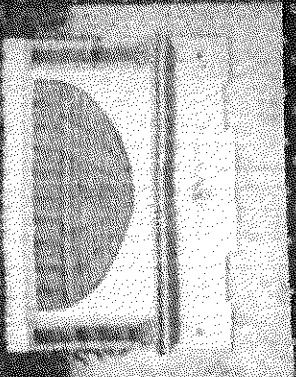
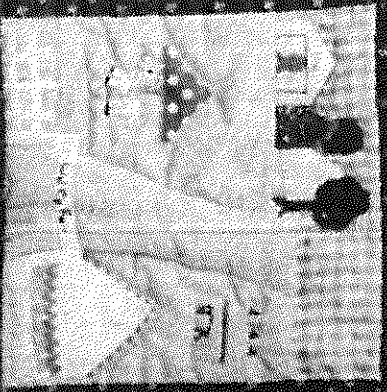
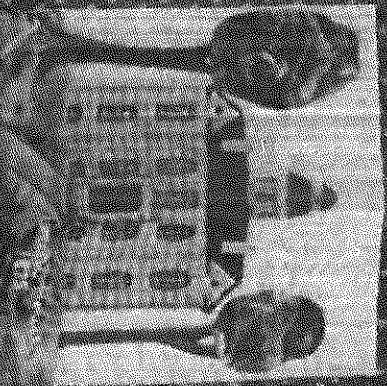
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# EXHIBIT





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**ON THE COVER:** Nine Bicentennial Quilt Blocks were chosen as representative of the city of Elkhorn's history. A wide diversity is noted in those selected. The Elk head represents the city's name as the first pioneers purportedly saw the antlers hanging in a tree. The old courthouse is what the city became--the Walworth county seat. A nearly equally lengthy history is represented by the County Fair block, now the largest such affair in the state. Elkhorn's musical interest is denoted by the band shell, the third such structure, hearkening back to the early Cornet Band, forerunner of the Holton-Elkhorn Band. Webster House Museum also is part of the music heritage, where composer Joseph P. Webster lived and worked. The Octagon House is just one example of the city's diversified and well-preserved homes. Education has been important with many residents having attended the former 1887 School Building. The Matheson Memorial Library is supportive of education and the second major library for the city. Spiritual emphasis has always been intertwined from the earliest settling of the community, which is represented by the oldest church, St. John's in the Wilderness Episcopal.



B



# **History Of Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

**Bicentennial Project--1976**



**Sponsored by Elkhorn Bicentennial Committee**

**Written by Elkhorn History Club**

First Edition

First Printing

**Published in 1977 by Elkhorn Independent**

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# Foreword

What began as a rather simple Bicentennial project in 1975, grew in a short time into an almost staggering effort to record the inclusive history of Elkhorn.

Never before had there been an historic account aimed at the exclusive story of Elkhorn, although the community had been included in two early Walworth County Histories, the 1882 effort of C. W. Butterfield, and the 1912 account by Albert C. Beckwith. Both of these histories were used to some degree in presenting Elkhorn's early history, while the period beyond was gathered from a variety of sources, including the Elkhorn Independent, covering more than the last half-century.

The fact-gathering and writing of the material was undertaken by the Elkhorn History Club members, upon the request

of the Elkhorn Bicentennial Committee. The special committee, appointed by Mayor Gerhardt Im-mega, was seeking to create a lasting project in commemoration of the United States' 200th anniversary celebration as a nation, which they believe has been produced with this book.

Initially the effort was envisioned as a brief and concise updating of history, but as the proposed chapters unfolded, History Club writers discovered there was a great wealth of important and interesting material, and so the history grew. Pictures came to light during the long Bicentennial celebration and were published in the Independent, resulting in a decision to include many of these as well as others, which will be published for the first time.

While the book has taken longer to produce than anticipated,

due to all volunteer effort and attempts to be as accurate as possible, there is the belief by those involved that the project will prove worthwhile and of benefit for present and future generations.

It could not have been accomplished without the help and support of the many citizens who contributed items; the Independent for its non-profit publication of the material; the Bicentennial Committee for its vision and financial backing, made possible through the Elkhorn Chamber of Commerce, and the History Club members for their arduous and sometimes tedious work in compiling the information. If there is any thanks due, it belongs to the citizens involved in this Bicentennial project of 1975-76.

With deepest appreciation,  
The Editors

# Bibliography

The following resource materials used in the preparation of the Elkhorn History Book account:

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Talks with descendants of early settlers and elderly residents  
Golden Thoughts at Ingleside--Mrs. Frank Leland, 1887  
History of the Territory of Wisconsin, 1836-1848, compiled by Moses M. Strong, Published 1885  
Elkhorn Independent

Elkhorn History Book Editors: Herbert Moering, Mary Bray, Doris Wise and Wilma Steffen.

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# Early Elkhorn And Its People

Elkhorn Prairie in the early 1800's must have seemed a natural paradise to three young land speculators who came looking for a likely site on which to found a village. Its rolling contours were thickly covered with oaks and its rich, black loam underlain with clay promised fertile farm acreage.

It was crossed by an army trail and had been surveyed a year earlier. Its name already had been given by Col. Samuel F. Phoenix who had spied an elk's antlers in a tree, perhaps placed there by earlier travelers.

The three men, LeGrand Rockwell, Hollis Latham and Horace Coleman, searched for and located the stake which denoted the center of the four central townships. Although seen at its worst in winter - being in the middle of a slough - the land in all directions was eminently desirable. It was located on a natural watershed and seemed an ideal location for a village, hopefully a county seat.

Mr. Rockwell's brother, John Starr Rockwell, was an enterprising young government clerk in Milwaukee. Through John's knowledge of available land claims, LeGrand Rockwell and several friends organized a syndicate for the purpose of land speculation. Consequently, in February of 1837, Rockwell, Daniel E. and Milo E. Bradley, came to Elkhorn Prairie and set up housekeeping in a tent in a poplar grove erected about a mile east from the center stake. They immediately filed claims and set about clearing the land for the future village.

The first house was a rude log shanty, completed in two weeks, into which they all moved along with their store of provisions. It was decided to set aside land for a dairy farm to comprise one square mile, so Rockwell left on foot for Indiana to purchase cows and other livestock for the venture. Meanwhile, settlers Albert Ogden and Hollis Latham arrived and took up independent claims.

While Mr. Rockwell is away prospecting for cows, let us look into the background of the territory which is now Elkhorn. The original town was one of five organized by an act of the territorial legislature in January, 1838, and included the four towns in the northwestern quarter of the county. These are now known as Whitewater, LaGrange, Richmond and Sugar Creek - an area of 144 square miles.

The first "town" meeting was held at the home of Asa Blood who lived on the bank of Silver Lake in Sugar Creek! In 1846 another act of the legislature established Elkhorn as a separate town. The act stated: "All that part of Walworth County comprised in Section 6 in the town of Elkhorn, Section 1 in the town of Delavan, Section 6 in the town of Geneva and section 31 in the town of LaFayette is hereby set off and organized into a separate town in the name of Elkhorn." Except for Section 36, the remaining part of Elkhorn was organized into a new section called Sugar Creek. This legislative act designated Elkhorn as a square of two miles embracing the geographical center of the county and as the county seat. So the hopes of its three earliest speculators were realized!

Meanwhile, the two Bradleys, Hollis Latham and Albert Ogden were enduring a bitter winter in the log shanty constructed by Milo Bradley. Although gener-

ously chinked with home-made straw-and-mud plaster, it was far from weatherworthy! Added to this, provisions ran low. Coon and wild chicken stew were added to their meager diet of corn meal and salt pork. These foods were brought from Geneva on a handsled devised by Bradley.

Despite these adversities, landclearing progressed rapidly and the first real house of sawn planks (from the sawmill at Geneva) was ready for occupancy by May, 1837. It was very pretentious for its time, being 18 by 30 feet and consisting of a story and a half. It had two outside doors, four rooms on the ground floor and one large room upstairs, used as a dormitory and divided by sheets for privacy. It had a dairy room and was unpainted.



WALWORTH COUNTY'S EARLIEST courthouse building was on an old stereoscopic picture. Pathways are in about the same location as now in Courthouse park, but the trees were much smaller and there was a fence around the square, perhaps to keep cattle from wandering into the area. The 3-D picture belongs to Mrs. Martha Williams, rt. 2, Lake Geneva, and was created by McPherson & Roloson, who located a "first class" photography gallery at Darien to execute all styles of work as can be procured in any establishment east or west. The firm also had a "fine" view wagon for doing all kinds of outdoor work within a circuit of 50 miles.

About this time LeGrand Rockwell returned from Indiana, driving 25 cows, three yoke of oxen and a horse. They were a poor lot but as there were no others for comparison, they were greatly prized. In early June, the families of the Bradleys arrived from New York and took up residence in the new house. Henry Bradley, the oldest of Milo Bradley's sons, later became Elkhorn's fourth postmaster.

The population of Elkhorn now stood at 14 - 5 men, 3 women and 6 children. The first land under cultivation within the town limits was by Ogden and Latham who raised corn and turnips. The Bradley house was also a hostel for travelers and remained so for many years.

There were many land prospectors around through 1837 but they did not take up claims, many going on to Delavan or other towns. Elkhorn's progress, populationwise, was slow as it was not on water nor on clearly-traveled transportation routes. The original land claimants split up and the dairy business just begun was abandoned. All claims filed by these first settlers were bought by the Rockwell brothers with the exception of 50 acres belonging to Daniel E. Bradley. When Milo E. Bradley moved away in the latter part of 1837 the population of Elkhorn stood at 9.

In 1838 Gen. Sheldon Walling, of western New York, and his two boys bought a few acres from the Rockwells and put up a log house. In 1839 he became the first sheriff of Elkhorn. He and his two sons were in a retail business and he was also a tanner. In 1838 Edward Elderkin arrived to practice law. Gen. Walling's home was near Elderkin's, the latter now known as the Octagon House, located at 127 South Lincoln St. Elderkin's wife joined him here in the fall and they were the only permanent settlers that year.

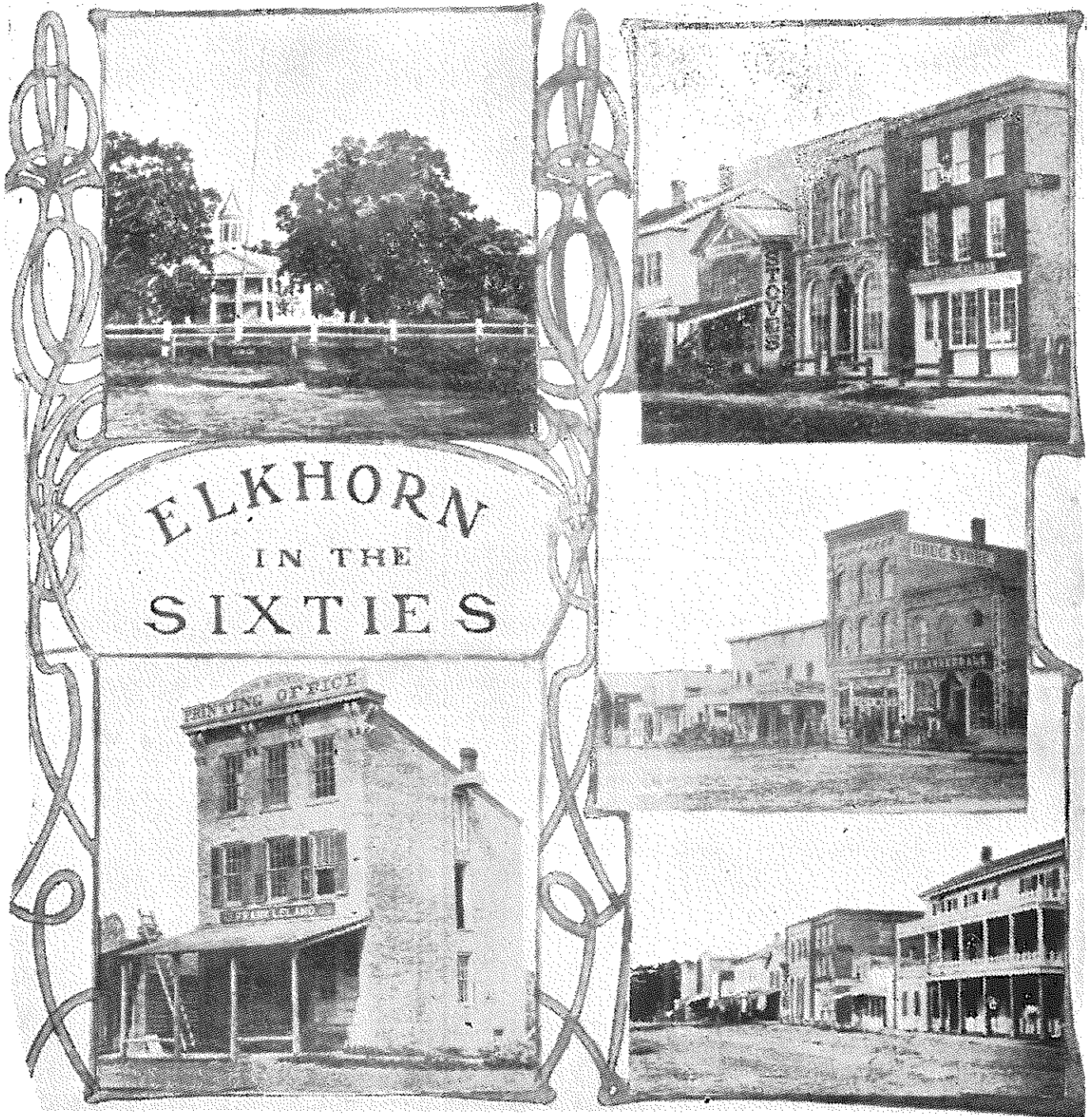
Two new buildings were added by Mr. Rockwell, one a house for his hired man, Daniel Bowen, and the other, an office on the east side of the park.



WALWORTH COUNTY'S third jail, built in 1878, was the first to be located on the northwest corner of Church and Walworth streets, costing a total of \$10,546 for the site and construction. It preceded a log jail built in 1840, and a second one, erected in 1852, which were both on the northeast corner of Church and Court streets. The windmill was dismantled prior to the razing of the building to make way for a new jail and jailer's residence on the site in 1911, which remains as an annex to the present jail at the west end of the courthouse building in the park. A "boneshaker" bicycle was being ridden along the street in the foreground, which had the big wheel over which the rider was seated.



A RIDE AROUND Courthouse park by horse and buggy was in vogue before the turn of the century. The buggy was headed north on Wisconsin street. The early courthouse stands to the left, while the first bandshell, built in the 1880s is to the right. The latter was a wooden, six-sided structure located in the northeast corner of the park, which was replaced by a concrete facility in 1915.



ELKHORN  
IN THE  
SIXTIES

BY THE 1860s the Elkhorn community was well on its way to becoming a thriving community with more than 200 dwellings, including a number of stores in the downtown area on Wisconsin and Walworth streets. Streets were unpaved, however, at the time and growth was checked to some extent by the Civil War.

This later became the first courthouse. H. S. Winsor and his family and the families of Bowen and Walling were the only new settlers in 1839, bringing the population to 23.

Not until 1843 did Elkhorn's population increase substantially. In August, 1842, there were 9 buildings, two of which were stores. There were 9 fami-

lies and a population of 53. In that year the village was platted, streets laid out, and lots reserved for a park, school and jail. In the years 1843 to 1849 the population increased substantially to 539 and the number of buildings to 80.

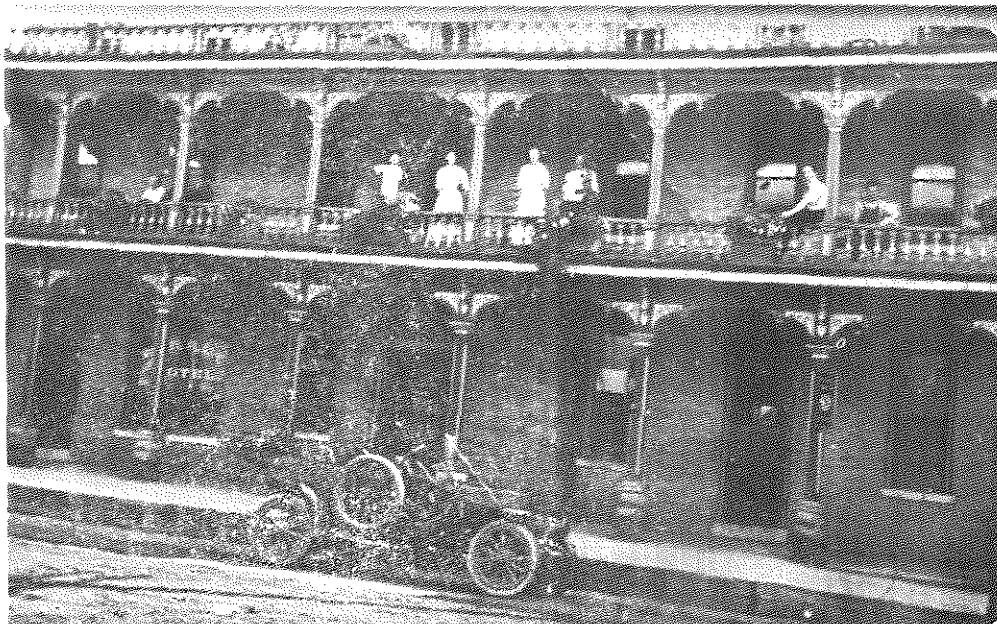
Then came the California Gold Rush and many left the village, with some returning in later years.

This checked Elkhorn's growth for some years. The railroad fever of 1854 gave it a fresh start as real estate increased in value and population grew. In 1857 there were 220 dwellings and the population 1,500. These expansions were diminished by the financial crash of 1857 and the Civil War a few years later.

The first marriage in Elkhorn was that of Hollis

Latham to Louisa, daughter of Daniel E. Bradley in April, 1838. Their first child, LeGrand Latham, was born in January, 1839. LeGrand Rockwell not only gave his name to the first child, he was also the first clerk of court, register of deeds, acting postmaster and founder of the first bank. The bank, post office and court were in buildings built by this remarkable man!

ONE OF THE EARLY FAMILIES in Elkhorn was that of Byron Ketchpaw, who had their picture taken along with some of the Huntress children, back in 1885.



THE NICKEL PLATE Hotel was an early building of the city, built in 1885 by P.H. O'Brien, who had also built the Elkhorn House. The picture was taken after the turn of the century as evidence of the old Staver automobile, which was used by the Fay Brothers to operate a livery service between the depot and the hotel, with many being driven to Lauderdale Lakes homes.

# Growth Of The City

The first town meeting was held April 7, 1846 with Levi Lee as moderator and Alonzo Platt, secretary. From 1846 to 1892 three supervisors handled the town business.

In May of 1892 election was held for a village president and six trustees. Harley C. Norris was elected the first president. The members were paid \$1 for each day's service.

At the first meeting \$20 was voted for building and maintaining roads, \$20 for the school fund, and \$5 for the poor fund.

The first five elections were for one-year terms. From 1902 on, the term has remained at two years. In 1894 Elkhorn became a 4th-class city with three wards and was divided from Sugar Creek Township.

While the local government was being formulated, civic affairs were keeping pace with the growing population. On February 21, 1884 the city bought a piece of land from the Congregational Society for erection of a city hall and engine house. A well at the back of the property supplied water for fire control, and the following year a fire company was organized.

By the turn of the century the automotive era was beginning and in 1905 Elkhorn had six automobiles. By 1911 the number of cars had increased to 40. The business streets were oiled for the first time. The population was now 1,707.

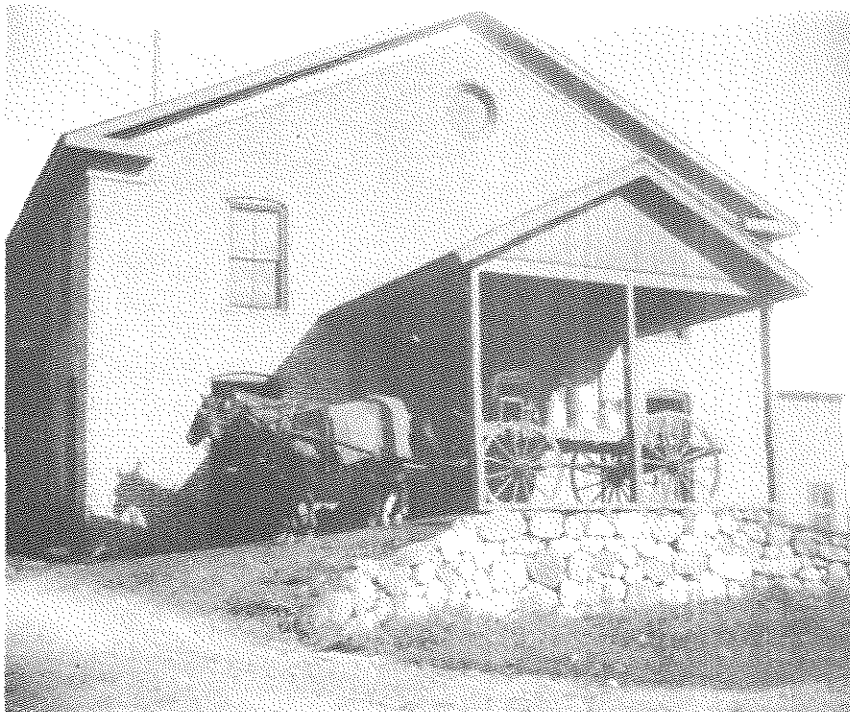
On July 11, 1912 a sewer system was proposed. The December, 1913 tax rate for the year was computed at 2.7 mills. On October 18, 1915 the Winsor Street pasture was subdivided into lots and added to the city.

An important milestone was reached in Elkhorn



A VERY EARLY picture of north Wisconsin street shows the location (right) of the First National bank's initial building, in what is now Walworth County Abstract Co. The next building is John Hare & Son grocery store, with its horse-drawn delivery cart approaching the store on the right. Stoves were available from the Harley Norris hardware store, while next to that was the Edwards and Preston Dry Goods store, which was later split in half and made into two duplexes and the site became the next home of the First National bank in 1916.

with the arrival of electricity, available at first only during certain hours. Twenty-four hour electric current illuminated the city in 1916, although it was not until 1937 that street lights remained on all night. Citizens were warned not to use the new light posts as hitching racks!



A CREAMERY was an important aspect of the city since the turn of the century, with horse-drawn wagons bringing in the milk cans each day. The Wisconsin Butter and Cheese Co. was one of the firms to operate a creamery in Elkhorn around 1920.

On January 3, 1918 home mail delivery was begun. Because of a large demand for residences in 1918, 15 new homes were built. A new State Bank and new stock-judging pavilion also made an appearance.

Factories and businesses gained fresh impetus in those postwar years. The Holton plant, established here in 1918, turned out 25 saxophones weekly. The "Independent" installed a new Model 14 linotype machine and Schmidt Bros. added a 5 horsepower motor to their ice cream factory.

The city council voted to buy an honor roll for the names of Elkhorn's soldiers. The attendance at the Fair in 1918 was 35,000 people, the largest in its history. On November 14, 1918, the city observed the signing of the Armistice "from early morning until midnight."

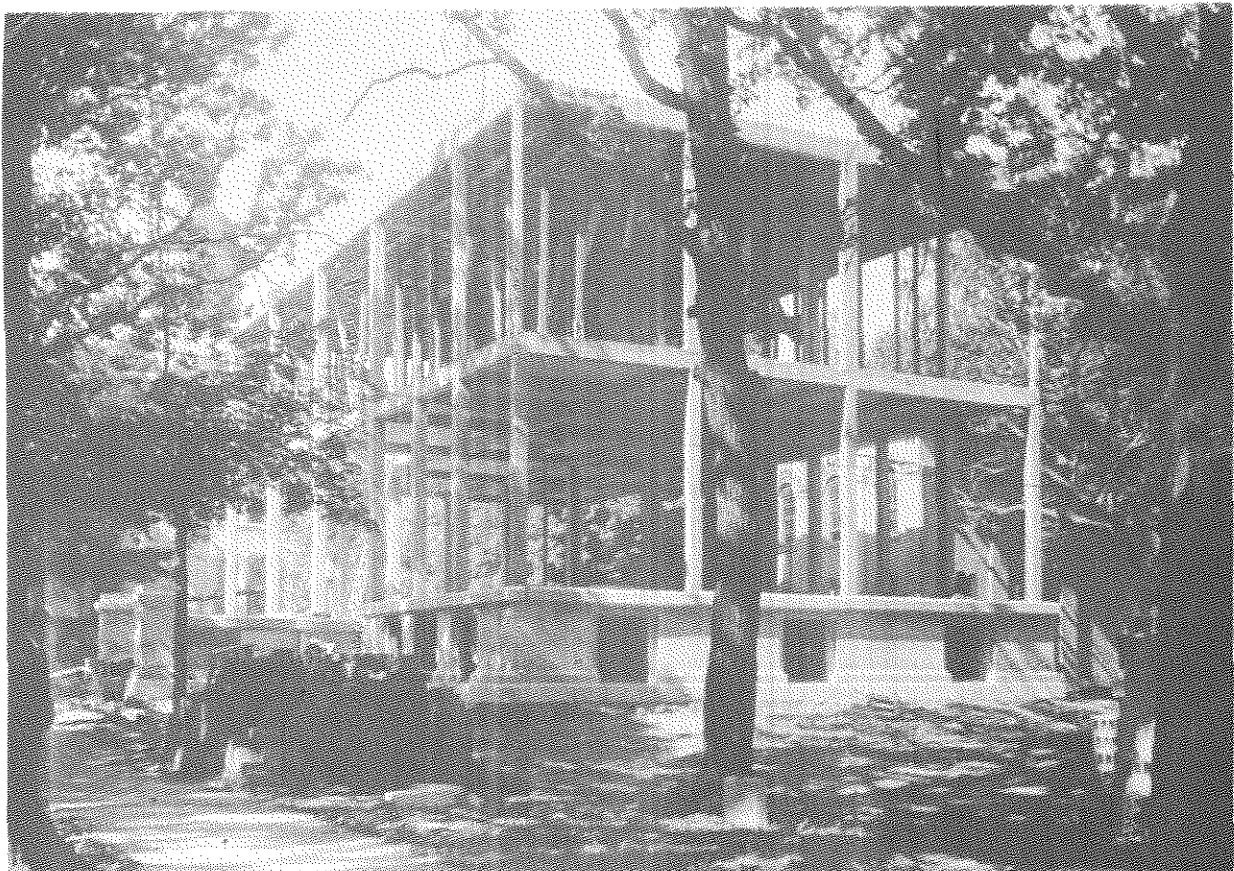
In 1919 the Wisconsin Butter and Cheese Co. received 34,000,000 pounds of milk at its plant here and expanded by buying the Troy Creamery. The city's tax rate advanced to 3 mills. Congressman Randall introduced a bill for erecting a federal building in Elkhorn -- the Post Office.

In April, 1920, the cannon ordered for the city park arrived and was placed in the southeast corner. Also in 1920 an uptown telegraph office was installed and the Elkhorn Community House dedicated.

The year 1921 saw concrete roads opened between Elkhorn and Lake Geneva, and between Elkhorn and



ONE OF THE EARLY locations of the Elkhorn Independent was at 35 North Wisconsin st., now the location of Redenz TV. Here a center of the room stove was part of the era between 1865 and 1914, where all type was set by hand. The cabinet at the left is still in the present plant on west Walworth street.



FOR BETTER preservation of county records, a new building was erected in 1905 adjacent to the courthouse in the park. It was also to house the register of deeds office for nearly 60 years before being replaced by the present courthouse.

**BUILDING AND remodeling** were taking place well before the turn of the century, including this brick building at 3 East Walworth st., which was adjacent to Druggist W. J. Stratton, who began in 1876. The building being remodeled also developed a long history as a drug store with both buildings later becoming the present Park-View Drugs.



Bethel. The city's first veterinarian, Dr. Robert Carmoth, opened an office. The new northside sanitary sewer system was put in service. A contract to extend the waterworks was arranged.

"Milk Week", held in early April of 1921, was considered a huge success with 100 gallons of sweet milk, 50 gallons of buttermilk, 3,200 cheese sandwiches and 4,500 ice cream cones being sold at the booth in the park. The will of Belle Mallory bequeathed \$30,000 to the city for a library.

In 1922 Miss Agnes Doyle was hired as a community nurse. She conducted an eye clinic at which 209 persons were examined. A concrete

road from Spring Prairie to Elkhorn was put into use that year. A semi-diesel engine to pump city water was installed, and in April the Wisconsin Drainage Co. began a sewer on West Walworth Street. A local inventor, Mrs. Harry Dunbar, was granted a patent on a curtain stretcher. The "Independent" newspaper observed its 70th anniversary.

An Elkhorn author, Carl Lindow, published a textbook on agriculture. Mr. Lindow taught this subject at Kentucky State Teachers' College in Bowling Green. Professor Lindow is a brother of Mrs. George Renner and Anna and Leona Lindow,



**EARLY PATRONS** of the First National bank carried out their financial transactions in this setting, starting in 1865, when the bank was first established at 9 North Wisconsin st. It remained here until a new facility was constructed in 1916 a couple doors north, which later was razed after the present bank building and plaza was constructed on north Washington street.

Elkhorn.

By 1924 the new city well was pumping 180 gallons of water per minute. Pure water had been found at 200 feet.

December, 1925, saw a reduction in Elkhorn's tax rate from 3 mills to 2-1/2 mills. In 1926 A. G. Olsen opened a subdivision on the northwest side of town consisting of one street, to be called Eames Street. The same year the stop and go traffic signal was placed in operation for the first time.

A new section of town, Holton Heights, came into being in 1919 when Frank Holton built 25 houses on the O. B. Rogers property. An editorial of the time refers to North Broad Street as "one of the most neglected streets in town" from West North Street to Holton Heights. The article states that the street is composed of "gravel, mud, and weeds." the purpose of receiving bequests and donations of money for maintaining the park. A new painting entitled "Hauling Up the Ammunition" was hung at the Legion Hall. This creation, by Mrs. J. Ed. Meadows, was presented by The Women's Relief Corps.

Also in 1928, a new Post Office opened in January with Dr. S. Clayton Goff as postmaster. In February a Boy Scout Troop was started under the auspices of the Harry Kelley Post of the American Legion. There was a 30 bed addition to the County Hospital that month. In March, 1928, William Matheson bought the A. J. Reed property for a city library. Charles Lindow circulated a petition for changing Walworth Street to Ogden Ave. but the name change did not materialize.

In June, 1928, the city council ordered curbs and gutters installed on six streets and a smoke ordinance was adopted. A movement was started in July for formation of a Chamber of Commerce. Fall real estate values increased nearly \$10,000. The Rockwell farm was sold to a Chicago manufacturer who planned a factory on the site.

By February, 1929, Elkhorn had gained a bankers' credit union and a YMCA. The newly installed "talkies" appearing at the Sprague Theater tied up traffic for blocks in their early weeks. A new water tower and outside water meters became realities in March. "Beslivered and smelling of Sloan's liniment" businessmen in June turned carpenters to erect a Girl Scout house on West Court Street. By October a new building for the Elkhorn Lumber Co. was in use.

Recreation needs were not being neglected. In October a city semi-professional basketball team, under Captain Merlin Davis, was organized. Shuffleboard was being enjoyed at the Community Hall.

In November, 1929, the postman's job was made easier with the establishment of street numbers for all businesses and residences. In December Harry Howe completed a new greenhouse at his home on W. Walworth Street. Dan Kelliher installed a new sound system and a porous screen which put Elkhorn's theater on a par with those of larger cities.

Early in 1930 four new buildings were developing: The Matheson Memorial Library, the Highway Building, the Christian Science Church, and the Municipal Building whose cornerstone was laid December 11. Holtons was now manufacturing a new "Collegiate" line of band instruments. The newly-formed Boy Scout troop received its membership pins and charter.

According to the January 7th "Independent", 1931 was "just another year" with completion and dedication of the Municipal Building and dedication of the new library as its outstanding achievements. The Legion and fire departments occupied new quarters in the Municipal building and a 200 volume book collection was given to the library. The old Methodist Church and Legion Hall were destroyed by fire in that year.

Among events of 1932 were: completion of the new sewage plant; the Holton Co. introduced a new bugle; the new Christian Science Church was dedi-

NORTH BROAD street had no boulevard as now when this picture was taken of the single lane of travel. In fact in 1928, the street was considered one of the city's most neglected, composed of gravel, mud and weeds.





A GREAT IMPETUS to growth came with the relocation of the Frank Holton Band Instrument Co. on the city's northwest side, with the construction of a factory on north Church street. The firm spawned a major industry for the city that became national

and international in scope, with other companies starting here later, such as the Getzen Co., Allied Music, and several case manufacturers.

cated; business of local firms appeared to gain as 40 former employees returned to work at Holtons and the Elkhorn Shoe Factory; the Sprague brickyard was demolished; the train carrying Franklin D. Roosevelt's entourage passed through town; and a new aerator system was installed at the water plant.

The Depression blues did not keep the people of Elkhorn from patronizing the WLS Barn Dance when that famous radiogroup appeared at the Sprague Theater before a crowd of 2,700 in March, 1933. Despite bank closings all over the country, Elkhorn banks remained open and deposits appeared to more than double withdrawals indicating citizen confidence in local banks. People were being urged to turn in gold certificates and gold coins to the banks.

The city, along with the rest of America, tried to recoup the losses suffered in the Depression. Although the economy was tight, Elkhorn continued to grow in small ways. WPA help from the government was available for some projects. Mutual aid groups such as co-ops and credit unions were formed. The Elkhorn Community Chest was begun in 1937 and became a continuing activity in the city. A new post office was in use by April 1, 1937 at its present site again. Street signs were in use on all streets and accurate property descriptions were begun in that year. A city water-softening system was voted upon in 1937 and became a reality the next year.

Early in 1938 the streets around the park were widened. Contracts were given for the construction of the new Walworth County Hospital. It was completed and opened for inspection in August, 1939.

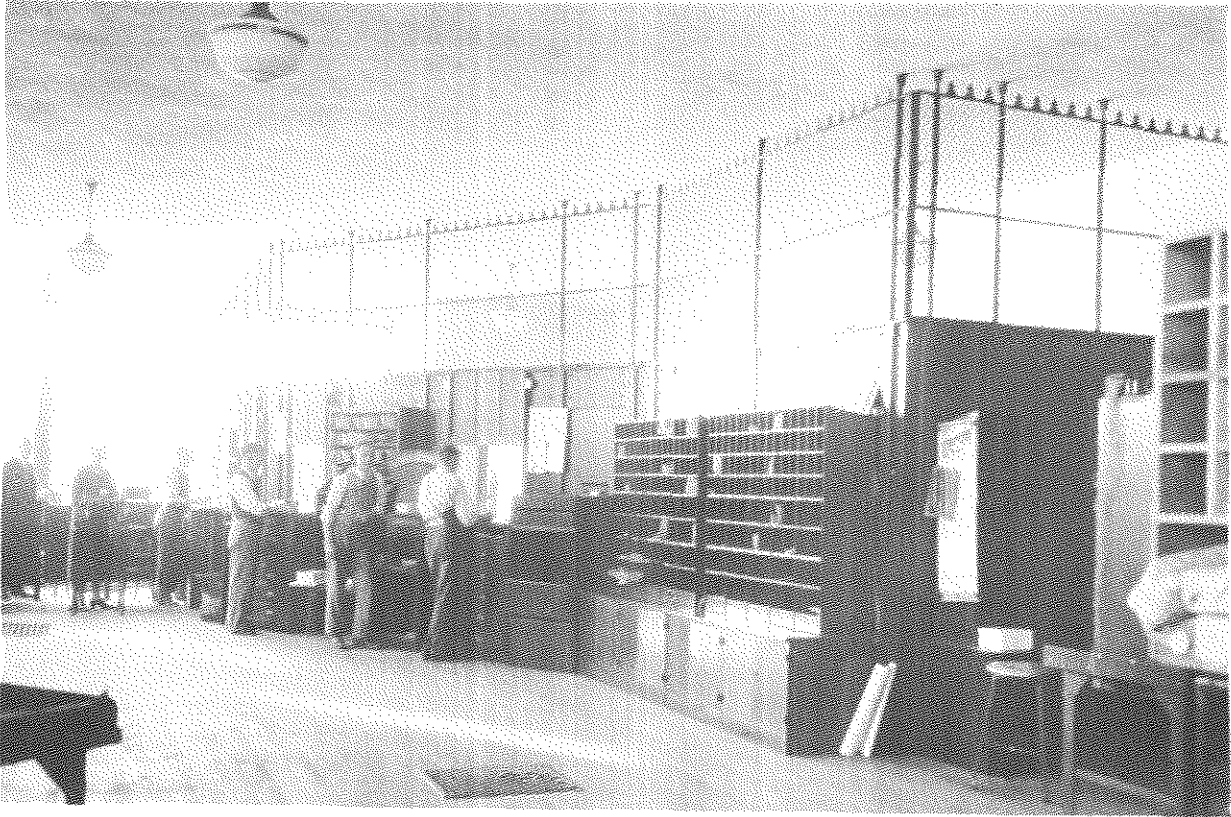
WPA labor accomplished 3 miles of curb and gutter and an addition to Elkhorn High School.

By 1939 the library boasted 7,000 volumes. A new permanent performers' building was erected at the fairgrounds. Elkhorn's first airport was established across from the Charles Flack farm near Highway 12. Race meets, school plays and concerts continued to flourish.

As Elkhorn moved into World War II years, selective service and draft notices were abundant in the news. Many drives were successfully handled



THERE WERE MANY customers who went to the Center Service station for gasoline and car repairs in the 1940's. The site, which is almost the exact center of Walworth county, is presently the location of the Super America station and retail outlet on the southwest corner of Lincoln and Geneva streets.



IN THE LATE 1920s the city had a new post office in what is now the Towne House restaurant to replace the burned out facility in the Sprague Building. Those working for the postal department included (from left) Postmaster Dr. Clayton Goff, Alice Morefield, Roy McCabe, Adrian Ague, Jess Jenkins and Arthur Hand part time and janitor. This facility was used until April of 1937 when the present post office was ready for occupancy.

with the city doing its utmost for the Red Cross, war bonds, paper collections, and tin can salvage. The park cannon went to help make up 500 pounds of metal obtained in one drive. Local industries lost many of their workers due to the draft. Refugees and women stepped in to replace them so the factories and businesses remained open.

In 1944-45 servicemen began returning home and a housing shortage was felt. The city bought the old railroad right-of-way skirting the fairgrounds with a view to erecting dwellings there. The tax rate increased \$2 for making permanent repairs to city facilities, neglected during wartime.

The results of a 20-year survey of Elkhorn by two government efforts showed the population and growth of Elkhorn's trading area. In 1924 the population of trading area was 3,682; in 1935 it was 4,365, and in 1944 it was 5,094.

The postwar years showed considerable growth. New businesses and renovation of old ones were commonplace. Elkhorn became more accessible as airline and bus service was established. Remodeling of big houses into apartments helped to relieve the housing shortage. The city tax rate increased in keeping pace with the new demands.

The Rockwell farm at the end of South Church Street was bought by the city in 1946 for the beginning of an industrial area. This 7-1/2 acre tract lured many small factories. A heading in the "Independent" of December 1946 remarked that Elkhorn was "back to normal" and further commented that the "lack of sensational news was

refreshing."

The church survey of that year showed 70 percent membership. Both cultural and essential functions flourished. A radio play by Mrs. Al



THE END OF WORLD WAR II and return of servicemen was celebrated for a number of years with VJ parades late in the summer, one of which was passing Courthouse park.

Stivarius was written on the Webster family. School population continued to escalate. Vapor lights, city-wide garbage pick-up, TV, and street widening were all activities of these post war years. A survey of 1950 revealed that 87 new homes had been built since 1947 -- 17 of them in 1950.

In 1951 Elkhorn received national recognition through Robert Conohan's idea of the "Liberty Bell Get Out the Vote" campaign. A home-town driver, Guy Crippen, won the Hambletonian, trotting's most prestigious race. Mrs. J. B. O'Donell won 2nd place in the National Pillsbury Bake Off contest with her prize peach shortcake recipe.

About 9 acres of land on the southwest side of the city, owned by Broer Immega, was purchased early in 1953 and made into a subdivision for 32 homes. James Jones was the builder. Another new factory, which was to employ many people of the area, began in August when the Oak Manufacturing Co., of Chicago, opened a branch here. The A. O. Smith Corp. welding division expanded its facilities also. The Frank Holton house was sold for a nursing home in August. A motel and supermarket were established at the north edge of town and the State Long Distance Telephone Co. building was expanded to house its dial phone equipment. There were 24 home permits issued in 1953.

With the advent of television, the reading of books fell into temporary disfavor, but Miss Mary Bray, librarian, reported a circulation of 21,746 volumes in 1954. James Matheson donated more first editions that year. A hot lunch program was started in the schools and a recreation group called Elkhorn Boosters, Inc., was formed for promoting events for young people.

The economy was picking up, with banks reporting \$10 million in resources. A new National Guard Armory near the fairgrounds was dedicated in August of 1955. A new factory on South Church Street, the Klebe-Mancini Co., opened and the VFW building was remodeled to house three offices. Bids for construction of a Walworth County Special School were opened March 1, 1955. The Bartelson subdivision was added on the northwest side of the city.

The biggest news in 1956 was the reorganization

of the Elkhorn school system. A common school district was formed and seven members elected to the new board of education. The next year, a referendum authorized construction of a new grade school on the west side of town. Tibbets and Bowers schools were soon to follow. Other events of 1956-57 were new locations for B. R. Reed Furniture, and Mann Bros. A gift shop, "The Pink Poodle", opened in the building which had housed Spragia's Candy Kitchen. A. K. Rubber Products established a factory here. A school contest resulted in the name Sunset Drive for a new street on the west side of town, which was proposed by Mary Conohan.

The Walworth County Historical Society bought the Joseph Webster house and opened it as a museum in May of 1957. Due to building expansion, a new transformer was installed to handle the city's increased use of electricity. A census survey showed 3,413 residents.

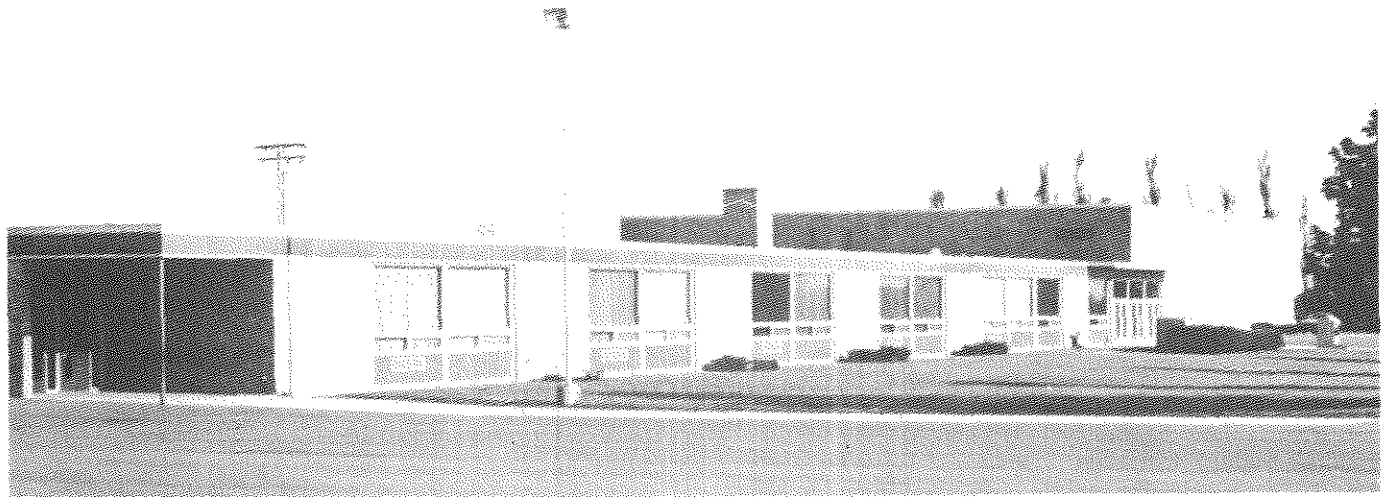
In 1959 a \$5 million bond issue was approved for a new courthouse, a nursing home of the aged, and additions to the hospital. St. Patrick's parochial school was dedicated in early spring by Archbishop Cousins. This year also saw 10 acres of land purchased from Mrs. T. T. Getzen by the Elkhorn Development Co. for future expansion.

In 1960 construction began on the new courthouse and the county home. After much discussion it was decided to erect the new courthouse on the spot where the two previous buildings stood. In this way fewer park trees would have to be sacrificed.

In May, 1961, Centralia Street was opened from the A. K. Rubber plant to Devendorf Street in order to reduce traffic congestion. Although the noon factory whistles were no longer operating, a new sound was on its way as the Elkhorn Titans Drum and Bugle Corps made its first appearance under the leadership of Ed Mills.

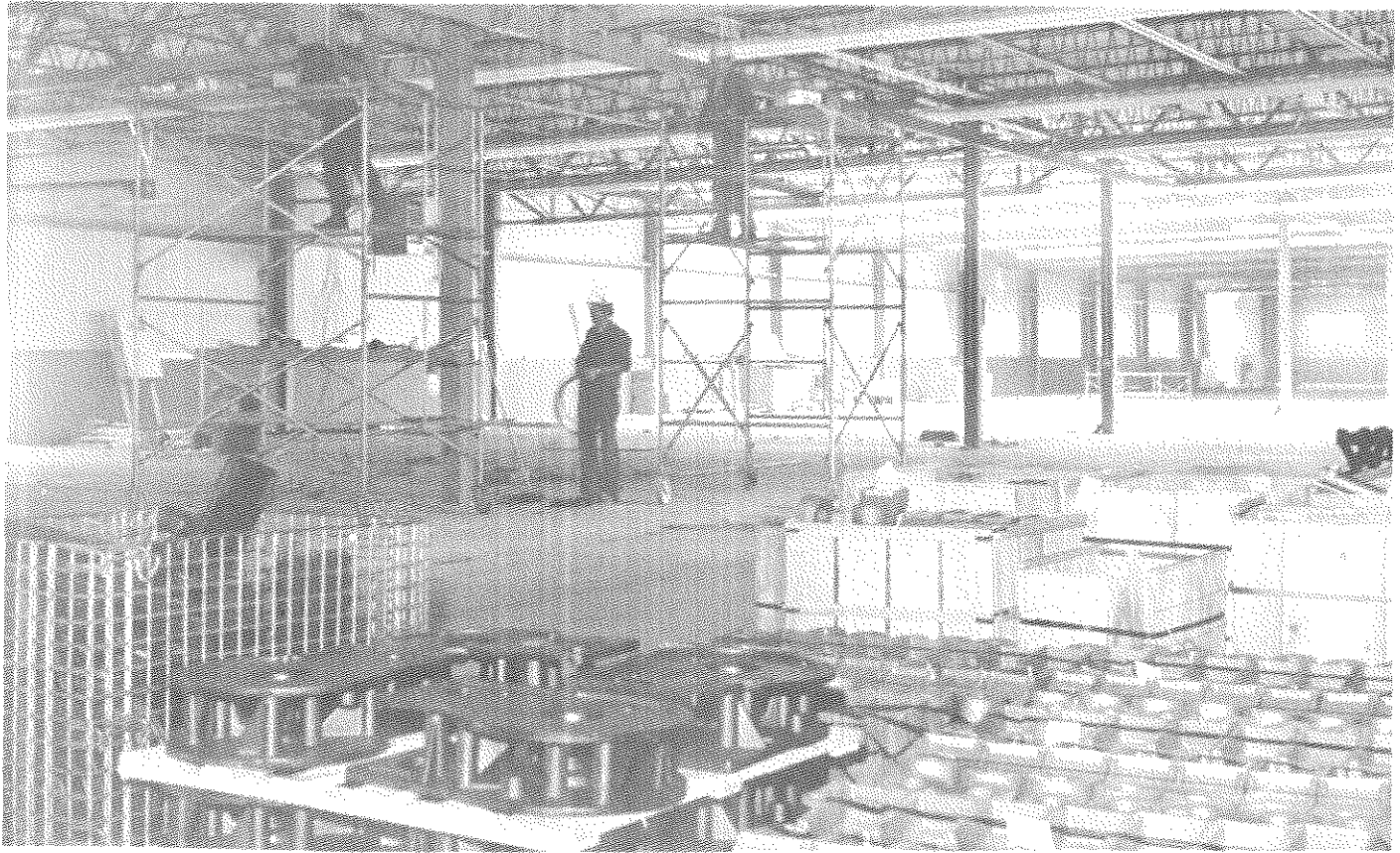
After much controversy, it was decided in 1962 to move the city bandshell to the new Sunset park on the west side of the city.

This was also the year when Elkhorn residents celebrated its 125th anniversary. Along with a parade, window displays, and a street dance, the dedication of the new courthouse was one of the high-



SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION also is an indicator of growth with a total of eight buildings ranging from primary to adult vocational. Among those is one parochial primary school, St.

Patrick's, constructed during the 1958-59 period and dedicated by Archbishop Cousins.



THE FIFTH ADDITION to the A.O. Smith Corp. plant in Elkhorn added 45,000 square feet of space for use in making Harvestore silo unloaders. Some parts were stored in the addition in late 1974 while electricians completed wiring. A.O.

Smith began its operations in Elkhorn in 1951 after acquiring a 10,000 square foot structure from the Sta-Rite Co., of Delavan.

lights of this occasion.

In this anniversary year, the Development Corporation purchased the 230 acre A. C. Desing farm on the east side of town for future industrial expansion. In the fall, work was started on a memorial chapel at Hazel Ridge Cemetery, funds having been provided by the Maude Groesbeck estate.

1963 was a great year for beginnings! New traffic signs were operating at the intersection of Wisconsin and Walworth streets. The jail in the new courthouse was placed in use. The Elkhorn Development Corp. selected the Skiff Woods location on the east end of town for a new high school. Another first was the conversion to offset printing by the "Independent" with the March 21 issue. The relocated bandshell was dedicated in Sunset Park June 28. Oak Manufacturing constructed two buildings to augment its plant and the Two Seasons bowling alley opened on the north edge of town late in December.

In 1964 the decision to erect a new high school finally passed after four referendums. The new building was to cost approximately \$2,145,000 and was to house 800 students. Other construction was the Getzen Company's new building which replaced one lost by fire, the Hi-Lo Supermarket, and Stuart Tank Sales. Traveler's Restaurant and Walworth Industries also were started. The Le Blanc Corp., of Kenosha, took over the Holton Band Instrument factory. The Methodist Church built an addition to seat 416 persons. Four new classrooms were

added to the West Side school as school populations continued to grow.

Ground was broken for a municipal swimming pool in August of 1965. The Junior Women's Club had been instrumental in bringing about this long time dream. Other events of 1965 were the dedication of the American Legion Post's new hall on West Walworth Street and the opening of a Sears Catalog order store.

The long-awaited pool became a reality in 1966. That same year the A. O. Smith Corporation's Harvestore Division doubled its capacity with a 30,000 square foot addition. The Special School, later called Lakeland School, was chosen on a national basis to pilot a physical education program geared to the handicap. Elkhorn senior citizens under Dr. Margaret Hatfield and Mrs. Ann King formed a permanent organization.

A year of unusual growth was recorded in 1967 as a new super highway at the east edge of the city, Route 12, was open to Genoa City. The new high school opened its doors in September. The Holton Company had an 18,000 square foot addition constructed on the south side of the main plant. Groundbreaking for the new State Bank building took place in late July and the Fort Atkinson Savings and Loan started a branch building here in late November. The Gilbert building was completed in December and the Getzen Band Instrument firm put up a new addition.

The Opitz Garage operated from a new building

### MAYORS OF ELKHORN

Harley C. Norris	1897 - 1902
John Dunphy (elected)	1898
DeWitt Stanford	1898
Dr. George H. Young	1899
Dr. William H. Hurlbut	1900
George Edmund Pierce	1901
Jay Wright Page	1904
S. Clayton Goff	1908 - 1910
Herbert Eugene Hartwell	1912
C. F. Graff	1914
James L. Stokes	1916
Dr. E. T. Ridgway	1918
Arthur Wales	1920
Arthur Groesbeck	1922
Arthur Wales	1924
Arthur Groesbeck	1926
E. T. Ridgway	1928 - 1930 - 1932
Harold Reed	1934 - 1936
Arthur Thorson	1938 - 1940 - 1942
William Seymour	1944 - 1946
Charles E. Wilson	1948 - 1950 - 1952
V. M. (Jack) Gunyon	1954 - 1956 - 1958 - 1960 - 1962 - 1964
Gail Platts	1966 - 1968 - 1970
Gerhardt Immega	1972 - 1974 - 1976

Offices that have been filled by appointment by the mayor with the consent of the council have included Health Officer, City Clerk, Street Commissioner, Weed Commissioner, Marshal, 6 school commissioners, and 9 library directors.

on the north side of town; the Wisconsin Southern Gas Co. had a new location on South Wisconsin Street, and both A. K. Rubber and State Long Distance Telephone Co. built additions. On the loss side -- marine mail service on Lauderdale Lakes was discontinued as lake residents were added to the rural postal routes.

Growth continued into 1968 as the Elkhorn Development Corporation designated a portion of the Desing acreage to be the location of a vocational school. Under the auspices of Kenosha Technical Institute initially, it now offers many educational opportunities to citizens of the area as the Elkhorn Campus of Gateway Technical Institute. An apartment complex on West Walworth Street was contemplated, as well as a license examiner's bureau on South Broad Street. Approximately 21 acres of land was left to the city by the late Paul Temnitz.

This was also the year for a big step forward in music with the first concert of the newly organized Lakeland Civic Symphony given in November. Mary Bray, Elkhorn's librarian for many years retired and Miss Valérie Lopicola took over the reins of the thriving library. The assessed valuation of the city was now \$10,116,080.

Expansion continued in 1969 with a school bus terminal built on part of the land obtained from Fred Proctor on highway 67 as the district turned trans-

### ELKHORN LIGHT AND WATER COMMISSION SUPERINTENDENTS

Fritz Ohlsen	April 5, 1907-1919
H. S. Ludden	1919-1924
Frank Gates	1924-1935
Neal B. Thayer	1935-Dec. 1, 1944
Warren Holsbo	Dec. 23, 1944-Aug. 9, 1945
Basil Miller	Dec. 1, 1945-Aug. 6, 1948
Arthur J. Wolff	Dec. 1, 1948-Dec. 1, 1969
Anthony F. Biba	Oct. 13, 1969-present

### ELKHORN POSTMASTERS

LeGrand Rockwell	1838
Edwin Hodges	1849
Lot Mayo	1853
Henry Bradley	1861
Wilson D. Lyon	1886
Henry Bradley	1890
Albert C. Beckwith	1894
Thomas William Morefield	1898
John H. Snyder, Jr.	1911
F. M. Porter	March 1915
Dr. S. Clayton Goff	October 1923
George L. Harrington	July 1928
Tessa Morrissy	August 1933
Helen Voss	January 1951
George L. Cain	April 1953
Carroll Connor	July 1954
Thomas Murphy	June 1973

portation over to a private contractor, Philip Jones. Sewer and water service was approved for the new industrial areas. Plans were underway for a shopping center to be constructed near the new interchange of highways 12 and 15 on land from the former Desing farm.

For some time the city water system had come under criticism and in 1970 work was started to correct the problem with a new aerated tank installed, chlorination equipment added, and \$400,000 allotted for further study and repairs. Elkhorn's first indoor pool became a reality at the Lakeland School. Further events of 1970 included an expansion plan for the library; a new parish house addition dedicated at St. John's Lutheran Church; and bids taken for a new fire station. A full-time city engineer began work. The Elkhorn Women's Club offered trees to help replace those lost to Dutch Elm disease. Because citizens felt too many old buildings had been lost to progress, it was decided to restore the 1887 school building and use it for administrative offices of the Middle school and Elkhorn Area district.

On April 19, 1971, an historical marker was dedicated at the Webster House, which designated the museum as an historical landmark. In July of that year, Elkhorn's population took a sudden spurt when more than 900 motor coach families attended

a convention at the fairgrounds. In September the Rescue Squad assumed responsibility for providing emergency ambulance service. With equalized valuation, the city's new value was listed at \$40,511,000.

Concern for its citizens characterized much of 1972. Telecare, a service for elderly persons living alone, was instituted in January and staffed by volunteers. Sunset Park's new shelter house, provided by the Elkhorn Lions Club and known as the Lion's Den, was dedicated June 11.

On February 3, 1973, a new children's library opened in the basement of the Matheson Memorial Library, due largely to the efforts of the Junior and Senior Women's Clubs. The proposed shopping district across from the new high school observed groundbreaking ceremonies Aug. 27 and construction started in October. The new First National Bank Plaza, on North Washington Street, opened December 17. The massive pillars on Wisconsin Street from the original building were left to mark the entrance to a walkup bank facility and a small, scenic plaza.

Continuing its concern for citizens, a child care center opened at the First Baptist Church in connection with Citizen's Opportunity Services for children between ages of 2 and 7. The next year, March, 1974, service to the elderly was begun when Meals on Wheels began food delivery to persons restricted to their homes. This continued for several years,

followed by a county nutrition program for senior citizens. On June 6, the Octagon House, formerly the Elderkin home, was named by the National Park Service as an historic site and one of the four best such structures in Wisconsin. The Matheson Memorial Library in September received a gift of \$1,000 and a set of presidential medals from Edgar Lawrence, former city clerk and resident. As part of the downtown restoration effort, framed certificates were awarded to business people who had completed exterior building improvements in keeping with the older architectural theme for the city.

In 1975 the city began preparing to observe the Bicentennial of '76 with downtown areas being refurbished and the city, in general, being "spruced up." The new Elkhorn Community Center was completed and an open house on Nov. 14, marked the occasion.

Many activities marked the Bicentennial -- a bicentennial quilt depicting Elkhorn landmarks, fireworks, a special band concert, hosting the cross country wagon train, to name a few. The compilation of the city's history is another part of the bicentennial.

As the book goes to press, the city's budget is \$1.3 million, the population is 4,357, the total acreage inside the city limits is 2,640 acres, and two major freeways intersect at the east city limits, promising a continuation of growth.



THE CITY'S GROWTH and change is mirrored in this Wisconsin street scene taken in 1973 looking north along the heart of the business district. A restoration project was underway

at the time to recapture an earlier era of the city's architecture with an accent on remodeling and painting store fronts.

# Significant Structures

## COURTHOUSE

There was much rivalry for the location of the county seat of Walworth County.

In 1838 Elkhorn, the geographical center of the county was chosen, and the park was located in the center of Elkhorn and the streets laid out from this point. The county purchased the land for \$1.25 an acre in 1842.

Earlier, Levi Lee had built an 18 x 22 foot one-story building as an office on the east side of the park and this became the first courthouse in April, 1842. It was considered the second best courthouse in the state then.

In 1853 a rail fence was erected around the park at a cost of about \$500, shared by Elkhorn and the county. In 1880 it was removed and sold for \$22. In 1874 the building was moved to the south side of the park to make room for a new one, and later it was moved to the corner of Broad and Walworth streets to serve for a time as an implement shop.

In 1875 a fire-proof courthouse was built at a cost of \$23,775. This building was dedicated on Sept. 20, 1875, and stood in the park until it was torn down to make way for the present \$2-1/2 million courthouse. In the 1875 building, the upper floor was used for

courtroom, library and jury rooms. The first floor had two safety vaulted offices, the sheriff's office, a poor-superintendent's office, and a supervisor's office.

Dedication of the present Courthouse-Jail took place on September 29, 1962. It was situated so as to preserve as much of the park site and as many trees as possible. The one-story east wing is designed with a future second floor in mind if necessary. Native stone, quartz, and pre-cast concrete were used for the exterior. It serves as a community center as well as for county administration and judicial functions.

## COUNTY JAIL

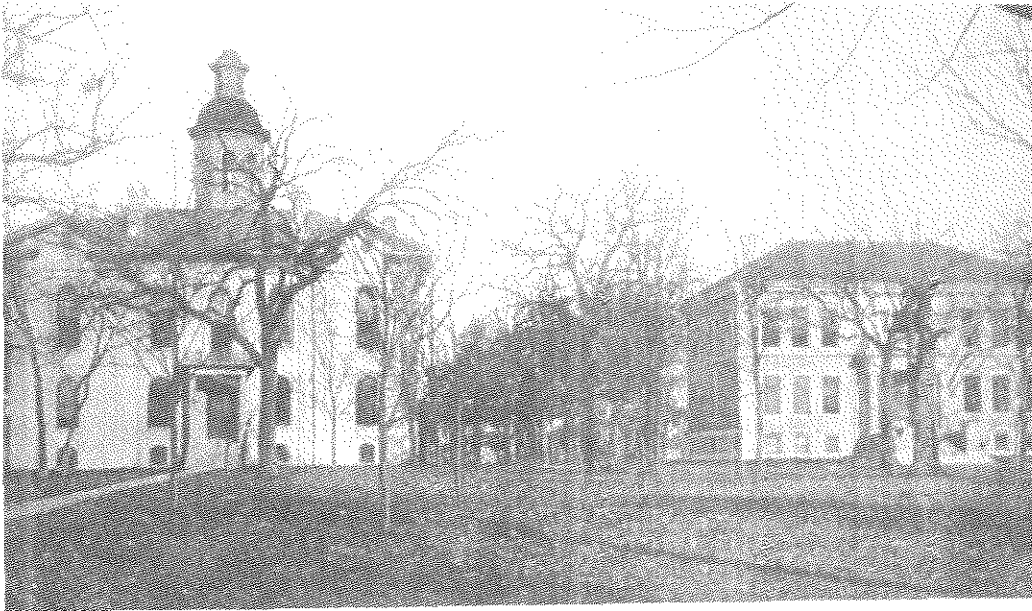
The first jail, built in 1840, was crudely constructed of logs, and during this period sparsely occupied.

After 12 years, it was condemned and a new jail was built on the northeast corner of Church and Court streets where in later years the telephone office was located. In 1878, this jail was replaced at the same corner by one that was in use until 1911. In that year, a building was erected on the northwest corner of Church and Walworth streets. In addition to the



THE PRESENT COURTHOUSE and attached jail facility to the left, was built in 1962, during a period when county offices were

located in various places throughout the city. Dedication of the award-winning structure came on September 29, 1962.



THE SECOND Walworth County Courthouse at the left, was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$23,775. Located in the park in Elkhorn, it was later joined by the register of deeds building, and both remained until the early 1960s, when a new complex was constructed.

jail quarters, there was a barn, a shed, and a jailer's home. It cost \$10,546, including the cost of the corner lot.

In 1962 the jail was included in the erection of the new courthouse and the old jail was used as offices for a period of time. It is now known as the jail annex, but used for storage only.

### COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Another county facility was the highway shop on North Washington street. The county board in 1911 elected the first county road commissioner, Herbert J. Peters, and appropriated \$9,500 for the work of the department for 1912.

There were few employees and very little equipment. The county started building roads in 1920, and the first shop was built in 1926.

The Dec. 30, 1943 Independent carried an item reporting that Herbert Peters said the winter was so mild that the snow plows had not been out and that the county maintained 23 truck plows and 3 tractor plows staffed by 33 employees. A total of \$20,000 had been appropriated for the removal of the snow for the year.

The office for the highway commissioner was located in the northeast corner of the old courthouse until 1958, when the office, adjacent to the highway shops was built. A shed across the street was also built that year.

These buildings served the department until a new multi million dollar facility was erected and occupied in February 1976, situated just to the south of county NN and adjacent to the complex of Lakeland Institutions.

The present staff, in addition to Highway Commissioner Wilmer Lean, includes three office employees, two patrol superintendents and 49 crew men. An almost unbelievable amount of equipment is required, including 25 small trucks and six large ones for winter snow removal primarily. In addition there are graders, rollers, oil trucks and a variety

of other pieces used in road maintenance and rebuilding.

Besides the two local commissioners noted, Jack Cusack, of Elkhorn, had also served in that capacity in between the two.

### LAKELAND HOSPITAL (formerly WALWORTH COUNTY HOSPITAL)

In 1917 Walworth county established the first hospital to care for the indigent and committed patients. In 1929 a new building was erected, which when vacated later as the hospital, became the annex of the Lakeland Nursing home.

The older part of the present hospital building was constructed and occupied in 1939. When additional space was needed, an addition was built on the west in 1963.

Miss Margaret Schloemer served as the administrator for nearly 40 years, retiring in 1967. She came from Janesville as a nurse for Dr. Munn, when he performed surgery in those early days of the hospital. She became the administrator following Mrs. Schumacher, who served only a few years. At the present time Eugene Kieffer is the administrator, and plans are being made for a new wing to enlarge the present facility. The hospital has a present capacity of 140 beds and a staff of 300 employees.

### LAKELAND NURSING HOME (formerly WALWORTH COUNTY HOME AND HOSPITAL and before that WALWORTH COUNTY ASYLUM)

It was in 1853 that the county board named a governing commission for a county house and farm and authorized the purchase of an 80-acre farm in the town of Geneva. Additions through the years increased the acreage until in 1912 the farm consisted of 408 acres with later additions making the total 563.51 acres in 1976.

In 1912 the yearly appropriation for the care of

the poor and insane was \$16,000 including \$1,000 for permanent improvements. The original house was expanded; however it burned in 1872. A new house was built for \$10,000, and was considered one of the best of the kind in the state.

Since that time buildings have been added and then razed and replaced with more modern and efficient structures and there is no resemblance to the "poor farm" and "insane asylum" of 100 years ago. The newest portion of this modern health care establishment operated by the county was opened in 1962. There are plans for an addition in the near future and the razing of part of the older building.

Fred Hemstreet will be remembered as one of the most dedicated and efficient superintendents of the Walworth County Home and Hospital from 1919 to 1943. After his death in that year his daughter, Miss Ellen Hemstreet, who had been assisting in the business administration, became the superintendent and served until July 1963, when the present administrator, Richard Coogan, took over the position.

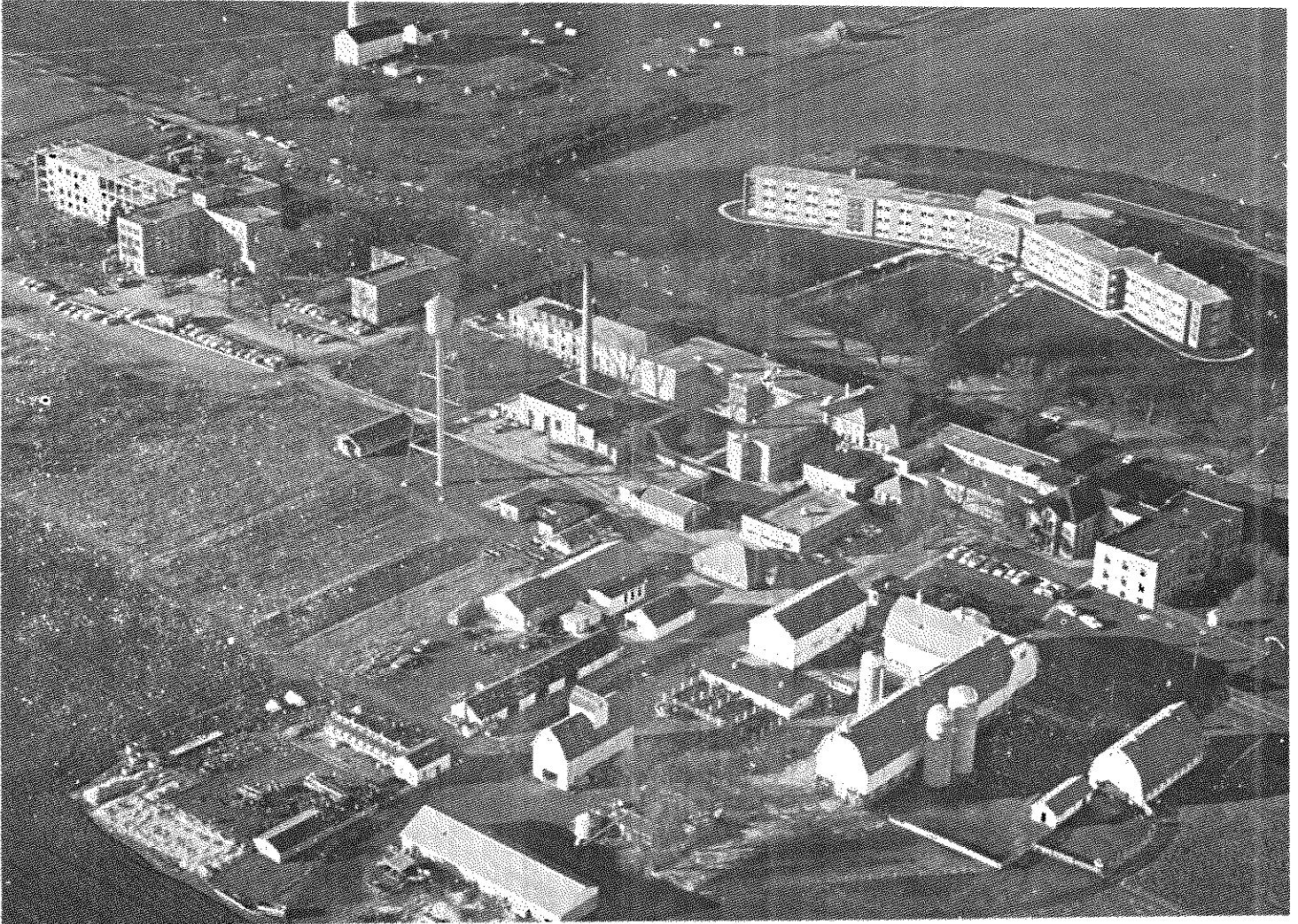
At the present time there are 335 residents in the home, and a staff of 257, with 225 of them full-time employees.

#### LAKELAND COUNSELING CENTER

The Lakeland Counseling Center opened in 1960 in the former Nurses Dormitory after a survey in 1956 recognized the need for such services. The offices were maintained here until the present facility was erected in 1971 and dedicated that November.

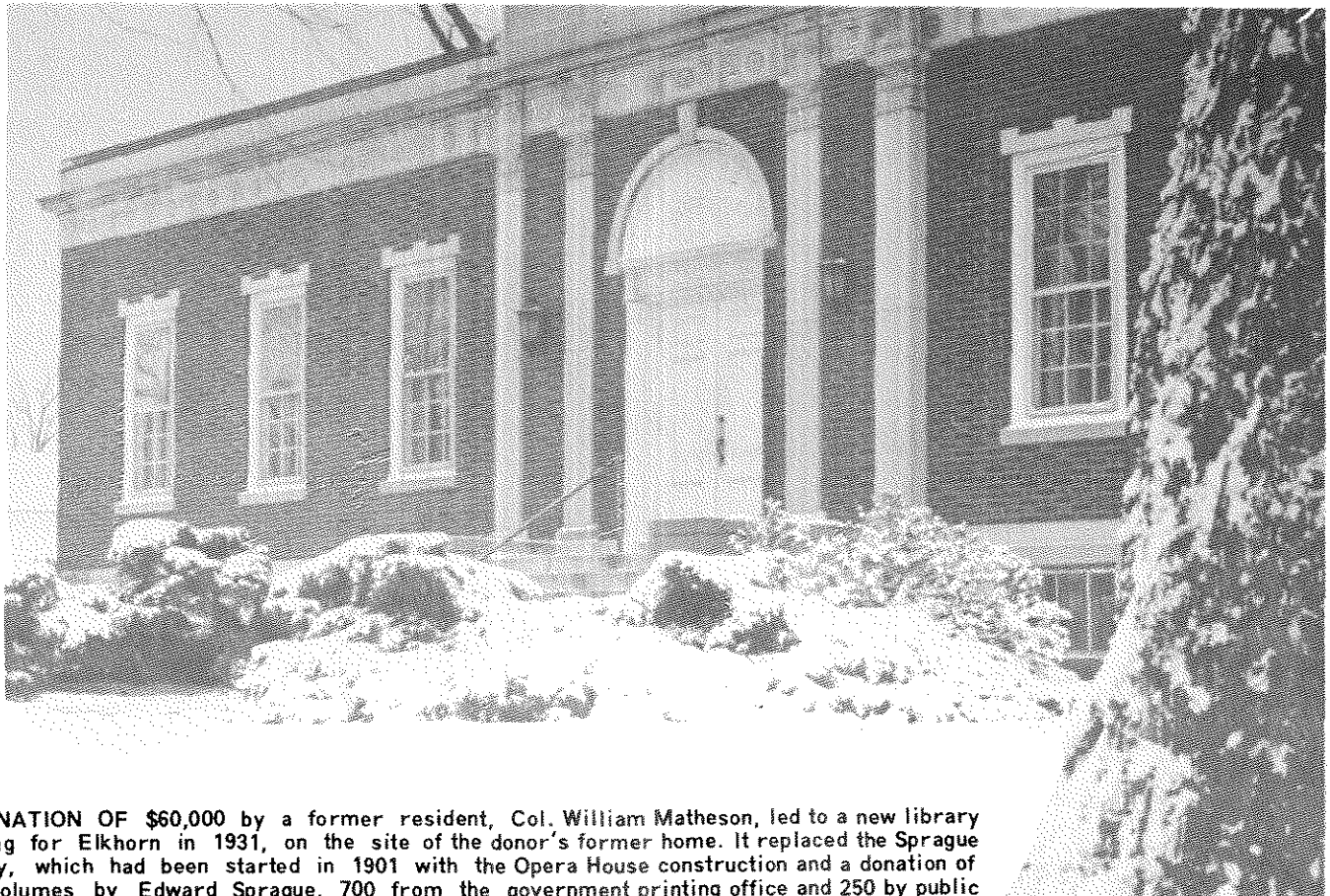
The emphasis is on crisis intervention and on preventative measures for those in need of individual or family counseling. This new building, designed specially for the counseling services, was erected just to the west of Lakeland hospital with Dr. Walter Gleason in charge.

The number of patients varies, but averages 7 to 15 inpatients and 700 to 850 outpatients. The 24 hour service is staffed by 100 employees.



THE LAKELAND COMPLEXES were known as the Walworth County Home, Hospital and Farm at the time the aerial photo was taken in 1963 with the Nursing Home north building (above right) having been constructed the previous year. The Lakeland hospital (upper left), had a west wing under construction. The

nurses home to the right of the hospital later became the Counseling Center until a new facility was built on the other side of the hospital, leaving the former dormitory for use as the Social Services office.



A DONATION OF \$60,000 by a former resident, Col. William Matheson, led to a new library building for Elkhorn in 1931, on the site of the donor's former home. It replaced the Sprague library, which had been started in 1901 with the Opera House construction and a donation of 100 volumes by Edward Sprague, 700 from the government printing office and 250 by public donations.

When the Counseling Center moved into its new quarters and vacated the Nurses Dormitory, the vacated offices were taken over by the Walworth county department of social services, as that agency was in need of additional office space.

### MATHESON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

A public library was one of the dreams of Judge Gale and others as early as the 1840's. For the next half century attempts were made to establish one.

Finally in 1900 Edward H. Sprague announced his plan to erect a practically fire-proof building on Walworth and Broad Streets, to serve as an opera house and a library room.

The city council contracted with Mr. Sprague for the use of a specially prepared second floor of the building for a period of 50 years. Mr. Sprague contributed 100 volumes of his own selection. The government printing office added 700 volumes. Public subscription netted 250 books of general interest. On Sept. 2, 1901, the Charles Edward Sprague library was opened to the public and was used until the Matheson library became a reality.

William Matheson was born in a humble home on the site of the library that bears his name. The home was later destroyed by fire.

Despite his early days of poverty and struggle, he became a scientist of international renown and a power in the business and industrial world. As

Col. William Matheson of New York, he offered the city of Elkhorn \$60,000 for a library with the stipulation that it bear his name and be in memory of his parents.

On July 18, 1931, a dedication service was held for the Matheson library at which time the heirs of the late donor presented the gift to the city of Elkhorn.

In 1963, the Walworth County Library Services project was organized with headquarters at the Lake Geneva Library to make all books and other library services available to all residents of the county.

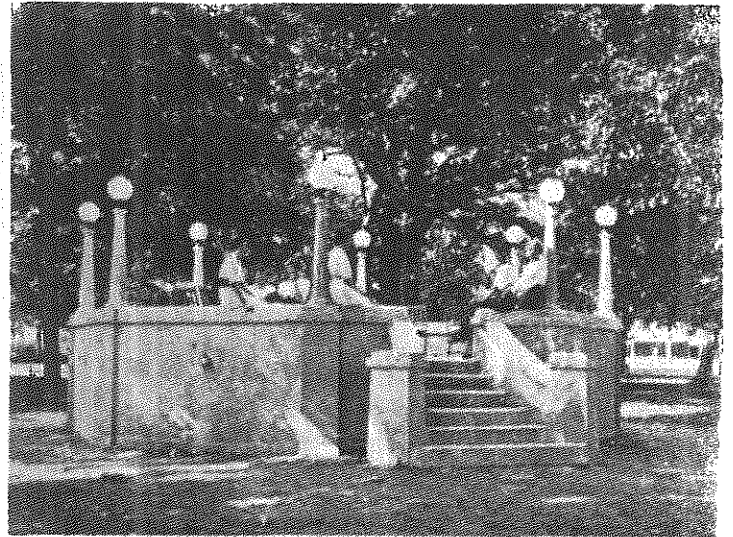
### POST OFFICE

The first mail service was established in Elkhorn in 1838. Mail was relayed from Racine to Spring Prairie and then carried from there by a horse back rider to Elkhorn.

The rider reportedly had the mail in his tall plug hat. This was portrayed in a mural, painted by a Milwaukee artist, Tom Rost, and was hung in the present post office in June, 1938.

The location of the post office has changed many times. In 1875 it was located on Wisconsin street at a site now occupied by the Morrissy, Morrissy and Race law offices.

In 1916 it occupied the front of the Sprague Building which was located at the corner which now houses the Elkhorn Light and Water Commission. When the Sprague Building was destroyed by fire, the post office had temporary quarters in



THE LONG TRADITION of music and its related instrument industry is marked by the even longer band music, associated with band stands or shells. The first, a six-sided wooden affair (upper left) was built in Courthouse park in about 1875, followed

by a concrete facility (upper right) in 1914, and finally the present shell, dedicated in 1926. The \$5,000 original cost shell was moved to Sunset park in 1962 where summer concerts continue to be presented by the Holton-Elkhorn band.



Columbus Hall.

A "new" post office was opened January 3, 1928, in a building built by John Harris and which is now the Towne House Restaurant. A picture in "The Independent" shows the lobby as of January 1, 1928, and describes it as having both "beauty and sturdiness" with its mahogany finish, partitions of steel, and lock box equipment.

The post office is now on the northeast corner of Walworth and Washington streets. It was built in 1936 as a WPA project, dedicated to then Postmaster General, James A. Farley.

No substantial improvements or changes, except for an interior painting job 15 years ago, were made until 1976. It is now undergoing extensive remodeling and renovating at a cost of \$107,320. The postal building itself will retain its well-known and classic look of an earlier era.

#### BAND SHELL

Music has always been an integral and absorbing interest to the people of Elkhorn, and so the history of the band shell, as it is usually called instead of band stand, had an early start.

The first one, built in 1875-76, was located in the northeast corner of the Courthouse park. It was a wooden, six-sided structure with railings and a roof. Being constructed of wood made it an irresistible temptation for youngsters to carve their initials on it. The Old Settlers Club had their annual meetings here. It was also used for visits of important speakers and for Fourth of July programs.

It was replaced by a square cement stand in 1914 and its first concert was held that same year.

On August 11, 1926, a new band shell costing \$5,000 was dedicated. The program, which was attended by 4,000 people, was arranged by the Holton-Elkhorn Band. The dedication address was given by Prof. Charles Jahr.

The shell was designed by G. Pheby of Phoenix, Ariz., who had gained national attention in the musical world through his invention which produced remarkable accoustical qualities. Elkhorn's band shell was rated by authorities as the finest in Wisconsin, if not the finest in the midwest.

When the new courthouse was built in 1962, the band shell was moved to Sunset park where concerts are held weekly during the summer months.

#### THE STEELE HOUSE

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Moore - 12 N. Church St.

The first school built in Elkhorn was on the west side of the park on a lot reserved when the land was plotted. It was built of wood, 20 by 20 feet, and was called the "Old Oak School House."

In 1850 it was replaced by a brick structure and this was used for 18 years. It was then sold to Dr. Reynolds who sold it to Belden Weed a year later. The building was remodeled into a residence and has been in the Weed family ever since. Mrs. Moore inherited it in 1962 from her mother, Mrs. Edna Steele who had been the owner since 1935.

This two-story home was built of yellow Elkhorn brick but later was painted red as it is today. It is a well-preserved and beautiful home of Gothic Revival style with elaborate scroll and fret work under the

Once the Second  
School House  
in Elkhorn



eaves and on the porch.

With walls of 12-inch thickness, no basic changes have been made in this home of 11 rooms. It has the original woodwork of walnut, including the circular stairway. Recently a room was added on the rear with floor to ceiling fieldstone walls and fireplace. This addition was designed and built by Mr. Moore.

**THE WEBSTER HOUSE**  
County Museum - 9 Rockwell St.

The Webster House is a small frame house painted white. Originally it consisted of only the center portion, a one-story building, 18 x 22, erected by LeGrand Rockwell on the east side of the Elkhorn city square. It was used as a federal land grant office for selling land to Walworth County pioneers.

In the 1840s Rockwell, one of Elkhorn's first settlers, moved the building to its present location on the street named in his honor. An east wing was added after the house was moved.

In 1857 Joseph Philbrick Webster settled in Elkhorn after some amount of travel. He originally left Manchester, N.H., where he was born in 1819, and went to Boston in 1840, the mecca of all music students. He later came to New York City and then to Madison, Ind., where he accompanied

the famous Jenny Lind at the piano, on to Racine and finally to Elkhorn. He was accompanied by his wife and four children, and moved into the house where he lived until his death in 1875.

The Webster family added a kitchen. The house now has a front parlor, a back parlor or music room, dining room, large kitchen, and three bedrooms upstairs. They are furnished as in the Civil War era. The only recent change in the exterior was the construction of fire escape stairs from the second floor on the west side.

The Webster House is valued not only because of its being over a century old, but because it was the home of Mr. Webster, composer of the famous song, "The Sweet By and By." It was published in 1868 and is still popular. It is included in hymnals and in a special book called "Hymns of Faith." He composed over a thousand ballads and many hymns. His first composition to be published was "There's a Change in Things We Love." One other song worthy of mention which was written the first year he lived in Webster House was "Lorena." It was popular with Civil War soldiers as they sat around the campfire. This song was chosen as the theme song of the movie, "Gone With the Wind."

In 1930, a son, Frederick, and his wife returned to Elkhorn. Together they began restoration and repair of the Webster House and its furnishings.



Webster House Museum operated by Walworth County Historical Society

He died in 1948 and his wife in 1951.

Relatives of Mrs. Webster were not interested in keeping the home, it was sold in 1955 to the County and then leased to the Walworth County Historical society for \$1 a year. After restoration, it was opened as a museum at the time of the County fair in 1956. The first official season was begun in May, 1957, with dedication services held on May 19.

On Aug. 8, 1970, the Webster House Museum was named a Wisconsin State Landmark and an official marker was installed.

The first curator was Frederick H. Young. He and Mrs. Helen Kluge are the present co-curators of the museum.

#### **LATHAM HOME**

**Harold Palenshus - 218 E. Court St.**

This attractive home is noteworthy, not only for its well preserved age, but also because LeGrand Latham, the first child born in Elkhorn in 1839, lived here after it was built in 1843.

His father, Hollis Latham, was one of the early settlers, having come to Wisconsin in 1836 from Vermont and to Elkhorn in 1837. While here, he was justice of the peace and held other offices. He was a delegate to the State Constitutional convention of 1847-48.

The house was constructed of Elkhorn yellow brick, as were so many of this period that have stood a long time. Originally it had a porch covering almost the entire front of the house except for the windows at each end. Today the porch covers only the front entrance, and the floor-to-ceiling-windows have been bricked in partially for sash windows. A number of years ago, this one-story house with brick foundation was converted into two apartments.

Jean Ketchpaw of Chicago writes that his father bought the house from LeGrand Latham in 1906, and the Ketchpaw family lived there until 1917, at which time his grandmother, Mrs. C. A. Hodges, became the third owner. It was sold to Fred Kehl in 1918 and his family owned it until 1970 when it was purchased by Mr. Palenshus.

#### **JAMES AND ANNIE TUBBS HOME**

**Dr. and Mrs. A. K. Stenstrom - 525 W. Court St.**

Dr. John Henderson was the original owner, through a government land grant deed, of the land on which this house stands. Samuel and Polly Tubbs purchased the property from him and then deeded it to James Tubbs, their son, in 1850. On Christmas Day, 1855, James and his wife Annie moved into their new home. They lived there the rest of their lives.

One son, Willis, had remained at home and in 1906, on New Year's Day, he married Nellie Harper and they remained in the Tubbs family home the remainder of their lives.

In 1953 the Stenstroms purchased the home from the Tubbs estate. Among the interesting hold-overs of an earlier era, were space heaters, French doors, a sink with a pump in the kitchen, a cistern, a well in the back yard, and an old wood shed. Then began

renovation, restoration, refurbishing, and remodeling, much of it done by the Stenstroms. The only addition made to the house was an extension of the back wall to modernize the kitchen area and to create a family room with windows that overlook the back yard. The simplicity of the design of a New England colonial home has been maintained and finely preserved.

#### **ISHAM HOME**

**Charles Murray - 16 N. Church St.**

This home was built in 1897 by Frederick Willard Isham who recorded in his diary, "Used \$2,000 matured life insurance policy to build our home."

It was built of Cream City Milwaukee brick with red mortar and stone sills. It has three stories above the ground and originally had 11 rooms. The first floor consisted of a library, sitting room, dining room, bedroom, two pantries, kitchen and bath. A large double stairway, built of walnut, leads to the second floor which has four bedrooms.

A. J. Reed purchased the home from the Isham estate. He owned it until 1955 and remodeled it into a funeral home. The next owner was John Wolf who sold it to Charles Murray in 1966. Mr. Murray has remodeled the home extensively, including an addition in the back, a parking lot, and an office area in the basement. The front porch has been retained in this substantial Victorian style home.

#### **REV. WEBSTER HOME**

**Harold Dailey Home - 300 N. Broad St.**

The house was built in 1857 on land purchased in 1839. The Rev. Henry D. L. Webster built an American Gothic style house of yellow Elkhorn brick, later painted white by the Dailey's.

He was a minister of the Universalist church, which had a limited survival in Elkhorn. He was a poet and collaborated with his friend Joseph Webster (no relation) in composing a poem for the song "Lorena", a very popular song during the Civil War.

In 1945 the home was purchased by the Daileys from the Maynard Stearns family. Only minor changes have been made, such as removing a fifth fireplace from the kitchen, closing up the Broad street entrance, and removing the large porches, no longer a necessity in these modern days of family rooms, air conditioning, and TV.

Remaining are the double brick walls throughout the house, the open staircase, the four-window cupola, the two very old pine trees near the entrance, and the basic plan of the house in the form of a cross, which can be clearly seen from the basement area.

#### **CHARLES WALES HOUSE**

**Elkhorn Clinic - 104 S. Wisconsin St.**

Charles Wales came to Wisconsin in 1844 and the following year settled in Walworth county. He was born in Plymouth, N.Y. in 1818.

He lived in the country on 160 acres of land for which he paid \$1,000 to LeGrand Rockwell. He engaged in many civic activities such as president



**The Octagon House**

**built by**

**Edward Elderkin**

of the Walworth County Agricultural society, The Grange, the Universalist church and Old Settlers club. He kept personal and business records and in 1864 wrote, "spent the Fourth of July in Delavan dining at the hotel, cost \$6". As school clerk for district number 7 that same year he recorded "one broom, 25¢, crayons, 50¢, one cup, 20¢".

In 1875 he built a home in Elkhorn and lived there until his death in 1903. His daughter, Ruth Eliza, sold it to Mr. White in 1921 for \$6,000. Jack White sold it to Dr. Sorenson and after extensive remodeling, it became the Elkhorn Clinic.

**THE OCTAGON HOUSE**

**The Leonard Gubrud Home - 127 S. Lincoln St.**

A beauty among Octagon houses is the one built by Edward Elderkin in 1856-57. He was a young attorney from Lawrence County, N.Y., who came to Elkhorn in 1839 and practiced law here for over 40 years.

The house was built of solid brick in contrast with many of wood which no longer exist. The walls were 15 inches thick, and today it stands as originally planned with its 16 foot tower without external additions or changes. Originally each of the 3 floors

was identical with four rooms and two fireplaces on each floor.

Any changes have been internal ones such as enlarging the kitchen by removal of a partition, altering the rear exits, installing gas heat, and reducing the six fireplaces to three, and at one time converting the four-room basement to a three room apartment. The apartment is no longer rented but is used now as a family room and extra bedroom.

After the death of the Elderkins, many people occupied the house for various lengths of time. It became very neglected and run down. In 1917, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kurick purchased the home and after much time and hard labor restored it to its original beauty. In 1947 the Maynard Stearns bought the house and in 1954 it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Johnson. In April, 1967, Mr. and Mrs. Gubrud became the present owners. In line with Elkhorn's face-lifting project, the house has been painted buff and brown.

As the Octagon House is listed in the "National Register of Historical Homes", the Gubruds have become adjusted to people gazing in admiration and taking pictures of this well preserved and unique example of an architectural style of well over a century ago.



Originally the

Levi Lee Home

#### LEVI LEE HOME

The Gillogly House - 312 W. Walworth St.

Levi Lee, the builder of the first courthouse in Elkhorn, was paid in land deeded to him. It consisted of a large portion of the west side of Elkhorn.

In the early 1850's, he built this home of yellow Elkhorn brick, now owned by Laurel and Edna Gillogly. It changed hands many times over the years with the price in 1868 of \$850, and by 1911 it sold for \$2,000 by Betsy Harkness to John H. Snyder, Jr. Other sales followed until the present owners, Laurel and Edna Gillogly, took possession on September 29, 1969.

As expected, the house has undergone changes and remodeling in room sizes and number, involving removal of partitions. For instance, a front and back parlor are now one large living room and a summer kitchen is now a family room. No longer is there a trap door in the vestibule leading to a cellar which contained a coal bin and a large cistern for rain water. The porch, however, is still there, a reminder of what used to be a very necessary adjunct to a home.

It remains one of the oldest and finest preserved homes of the 19th century.

#### THE LIVINGSTON HOUSE

John Pappas Home - 311 S. Washington St.

This Gothic-style home was built in 1870 by John W. Hayes, a depot agent for 54 years. He married Elizabeth Fleming, and they had three children -- Harry, Charles, and Carrie.

The two story house is constructed of buff brick, and all original windows have brick lintel arches and stone sills. The decorative corbels under the roof are of elaborately scrolled design. The porch which extended across the front of the house has been replaced by a semi-circular portico with pillars, but the original brick walk remains.

The front double doors lead to a vestibule which has a circular plaster bas-relief of floral design in the ceiling. At the end of the hallway a winding staircase of dark mahogany leads to the second story.

Carrie Hayes Livingston was born in the home, February 10, 1871; Dr. George Young was the physician present. With the exception of four years, she lived her entire life in this house. She died May 3, 1967 at 96 years of age.

She attended school in Elkhorn and after graduation, taught school for five years at the Jackson

and Fairfield rural schools. She married Justin Livingston November 3, 1914 and after his death, (September 3, 1929) she continued to reside here.

Later the house was purchased by John Pappas who renovated and remodeled it into apartments. The lovely 100-year-old brick home reflects the changes that have taken place in Elkhorn in the last century.

#### **THE GRADY HOUSE**

**Richard Pfeil Home - 210 E. Geneva St.**

This large Victorian yellow brick house was built by Mr. L. MacAroy, in 1893, the year of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Later it was owned for many years by the Grady sisters. In 1941, Richard Pfeil purchased the house.

He removed the porch across the front of the house, installed shutters at the windows, and remodeled the interior extensively. The ten room home is built with a fieldstone foundation and hip roof. The only beautiful hand-crafted floral bas-relief ceiling decoration that remains is in the front vestibule. The woodwork throughout the home is golden oak.

This home reflects the gracious, comfortable, and well-constructed homes of years ago, and the vine-covered exterior -- green in spring and summer and golden in autumn -- enhances the beautifully landscaped grounds.

Preserving a 19th century home such as this is keeping faith with both past and future generations. Jacob Bernard Bauermann was the carpenter-contractor for this home and it is an excellent example of his work.

#### **OGDEN HOUSE**

**Severt Sather - 426 W. Walworth St.**

Albert Ogden was the original owner of this yellow brick house, which is over 130 years old.

He was born in Walton, New York, in 1815, came to Milwaukee in 1836 and to Elkhorn with Hollis Latham in 1837. They are credited with being the first white men in Elkhorn.

Ogden and Latham broke the first ground in the area, planting mostly corn and turnips the first year. Ogden continued to farm most of his life. Along with others, they saw the county seat established on the site they had chosen.

The house Ogden built has a porch across the entire front. The brick windows are of the classic arched style. There are five rooms downstairs and four bedrooms upstairs. The back porch has been enclosed and paneled. There is a full basement and an attic.

The home was purchased by Mr. Sather in 1952 and his family is the present owner of one of Elkhorn's oldest homes.



**The Former**

**Residence of**

**Grady Sisters**

**Norton Family**

**Lived in Home**

**Many Years**



**NORTON FAMILY HOUSE**  
**David Ross Home - 206 N. Broad St.**

This was the home of the Norton family from 1888 to 1968. It was in 1888 that John and his wife, and his brother Abram moved from their LaFayette farm to Elkhorn. The home remained in the family until 1968, when Miss Irene Norton passed away at 96 years of age.

Her brother William Clarence Norton was a well known attorney in the city and was active in community affairs and in local sports. He also had beautiful peonies and roses and their flower

shows were well known to Elkhorn residents. Miss Florence Norton taught kindergarten for several years here, and married Francis Cory; their son John still resides here, but the daughter Nancy has passed away.

The home was sold in 1969 to Mr. and Mrs. David Ross and has been extensively remodeled; the large front porch was removed and shutters have been added. The golden oak open stairway has been retained and the original fireplace has been repaired. The leaded glass from the corner window has been adapted to fit into the archway between the present living and dining rooms.

# Education In The City

In February, 1837, a few years after the beginning of settlement in Elkhorn, a need for a public school was expressed by citizens.

Residents who were able to teach, had been doing it at home gatherings and early private schools were taught by Col. Edward Elderkin, Lydia Carr, Mary S. Brewster and Adelaide B. Beardsley.

In 1840, the first public schoolhouse, a 20 by 20-foot frame building was constructed on the west side of the park, on a lot reserved for that purpose when the town was plotted. The building was known as the "Old Oak Schoolhouse."

The first school district was formed on April 22, 1846, with school commissioners George H. Young, Edward Winne and H. S. Winsor in charge. The fund at the disposal of the committee at that time, was \$9 in the treasury, while the addition of \$20 was raised by a vote of the town to be applied to the use of District number one.

The population at that time was less than 200 and there were about 40 pupils. However, the little wooden building was soon outgrown and in 1850 a plain two-story native brick building was erected on the same lot, and is now the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Moore, 12 No. Church

street. The people took very good care of their school as it is noted that the building was occasionally painted, while the walls and ceiling were white-washed annually.

The number of children increased and the brick building was soon outmoded too. Doctor Reynolds bought the building and used it as a residence; building materials, particularly brick, were very scarce and one was fortunate to obtain a substantial schoolhouse to use as a home.

Consequently, a new schoolhouse was built in 1857, fronting on Jackson street, at the east end of Walworth street. Ample grounds were secured by vacating the street which extended further eastward and by the purchase of ground on either side. The structure was two stories, capped by a belfry and measured 60 by 45 feet. There were four classrooms, two on each floor, on either side of the hall. The lower floors were occupied by the primary and intermediate departments; those on the second floor were used by the grammar and high school departments.

It is interesting to note that to provide shade for the lawn and playground the school board had nearly a hundred maple trees planted around the school. Edward H. Sprague, whose name was later



**THE MAIN ROOM** in the now razed 1906 building portion of the present Middle school, could handle all of the Elkhorn high school students back in about 1910. The room was located on the second floor with desks for all four classes of students.



**THE ELKHORN SCHOOL FACULTY** got together for a picture in front of the 1906 high school building, probably before 1920. Those pictured were (front row, from left) Miss Dunlop, Miss Enteikin, Miss Case, Miss Wright, unidentified, Miss Hicks, Miss Buchanan,

Miss Stewart, (2nd row, left) Miss Vaughn, Miss Beckwith (Constance), Mr. Dixon, Miss Martin, Miss Derthick, Miss Beckwith (Mabel), Miss Maloney and Miss Francis.

used for the theaters, was a principal of this school for a while.

Squire Stanford did the carpentry work for this particular building, while Stevens and Dewing did the masonry. The total cost including the fence and furniture was \$14,994.37. It was built for a capacity of 200 scholars.

Because of an increase in pupils, a two-storied addition was built in 1882. The entire structure, addition and all, however, burned in 1886. For a time school was held in scattered sections of the city. The second primary and intermediate pupils met in the Village hall. The grammar room pupils held classes in the Universalist church. The high school was divided between the Bradley building and the YMCA rooms, while the first primary class met in Lyon's building.

The city immediately began to make plans for a new building and after some deliberating over the estimate which ran somewhat higher than anticipated, a large building was constructed for \$25,000. At that time, it was a combined grade and high school building. Now this building, known as the middle school, is used to house the various school offices.

The increase in the number of pupils and departments, arising from the admission of pupils from other towns, made a separate high school building necessary; and a red brick high school building was constructed in 1906, at a cost of

\$55,700. The county history notes that it was steam heated and electric lighted! So now the original building was used only for the grades.

Textbooks were loaned to the students for a moderate rental fee. In the high school, the following subjects were offered: practical arithmetic, grammar, geography, physiology, rhetoric, algebra, United States history and civil government, Latin, history of Oriental nations and Greece, history of Rome and the Dark Ages, history of France and England, studies in Dickens, Burns, Emerson, and Shakespeare, zoology, chemistry, state history and Constitution. This curriculum was sufficient to place Elkhorn high school on the accredited list of the University in 1884.

References to some of the salaries paid to the teachers in the "good old days" may be of interest to present-day teachers. In 1911, Miss Minnie Earnest, the fourth grade teacher, was hired for \$50 a month. The same year the eighth grade teacher, a man, was paid \$70 per month.

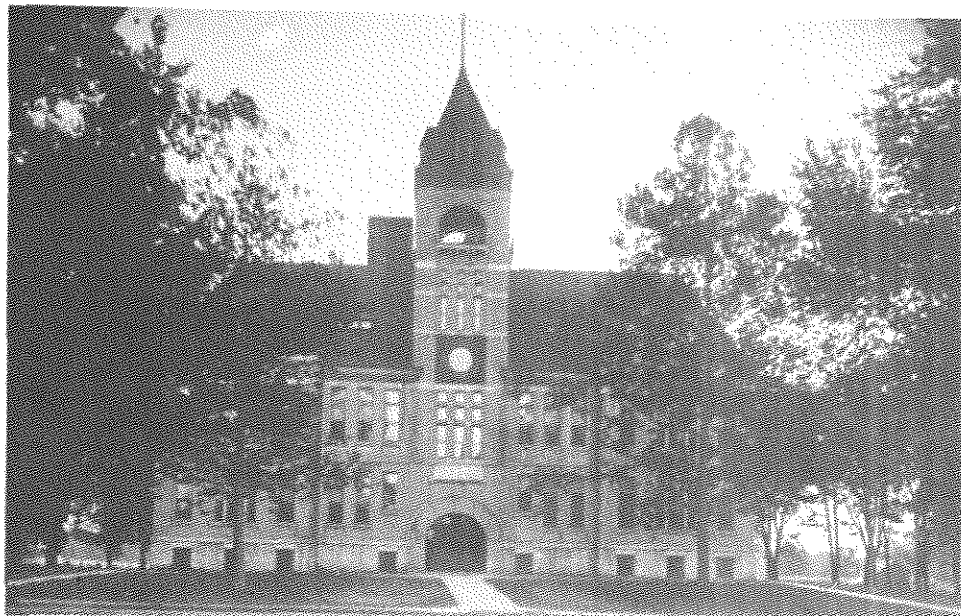
There were 32 graduates from Elkhorn high in 1911. Some other interesting facts found were:

On Feb. 7, 1918 the school was closed because of a fuel shortage.

In October, 1918, schools were also closed because of the flu epidemic.

In 1918, Elkhorn had 184 boys and 185 girls of school age, and 32 graduated from the high school.

On Dec. 11, 1919, a grade school band was or-



WHEN THIS PICTURE of the 1887 building was taken pupils in kindergarten through eighth grade were meeting in classes. The same two trees directly in front of the building still remain today, but all the others are gone.

ganized with H. H. Burch directing.

In 1920, there were 22 graduates from the high school.

On Sept. 22, 1921, 37 young people left for schools of higher learning.

On Nov. 3, 1921, a saxophone band, composed of 10 girls, was formed under the leadership of Mr. Kettlehut.

On Dec. 15, 1921, the PTA was organized at the school.

In October, 1922, Mrs. George Morris was given a surprise party by the other teachers who left her a beautiful gift.

On Nov. 2, 1922, the Elkhorn teachers formed a local teachers' association, with Charles Jahr as president. This became known as the Elkhorn Education association on Dec. 28, 1944.

On Nov. 23, 1933, 30 or 40 men from Elkhorn went to work on the new athletic field project on Wright street. The project included a football field, baseball field, two handball courts, two tennis courts and a playground, being constructed by unemployed labor as a CWA project.

This land was given from the estate of John Harris and the consulting engineer was Joseph Biagi.

On Dec. 14, 1933, Elkhorn high debaters, under Coach Henry Tall, debated the question, "Resolved that the U.S. should adopt a system of radio control and regulation similar to that of Great Britain."

On Dec. 28, 1933, The Federal Relief administration announced an opportunity for unemployed teachers to work; each teacher had to have at least 10 students in her class. Francis Hutton conducted a class in social studies and Frank Hoffman had a music class.

On Feb. 8, 1934, the Band Mothers gave a play to raise funds to send the school band to the state tournament at Green Bay in the spring. The newly organized school orchestra, directed by Mr. Dennis, gave an overture between acts.

In February of 1934, Elkhorn High was selected for study to determine to what extent TB was attacking students; this was in charge of Mrs. Ruth

Dunbar, the school nurse.

In March, 1934, Supt. Charles Jahr attended the NEA meeting in Cleveland, Ohio.

On May 24, 1934, the Elkhorn high chorus under the direction of Ella Kneller, was on radio station WHA in Madison.

In September, 1934, the kindergarten was closed on a Monday following a report of a suspected case of infantile paralysis in the city.

On Sept. 13, 1934, Supt. Jahr stated that there were 335 pupils enrolled in the grade school and 232 in the high school.

The first school board chosen by an election, held a meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 1935. Those elected were Dr. E. D. Sorenson, Miss Blanche Kinne, and Charles Lyon.

In September of 1935, a course in home mechanics was added to the manual training department for the first time.

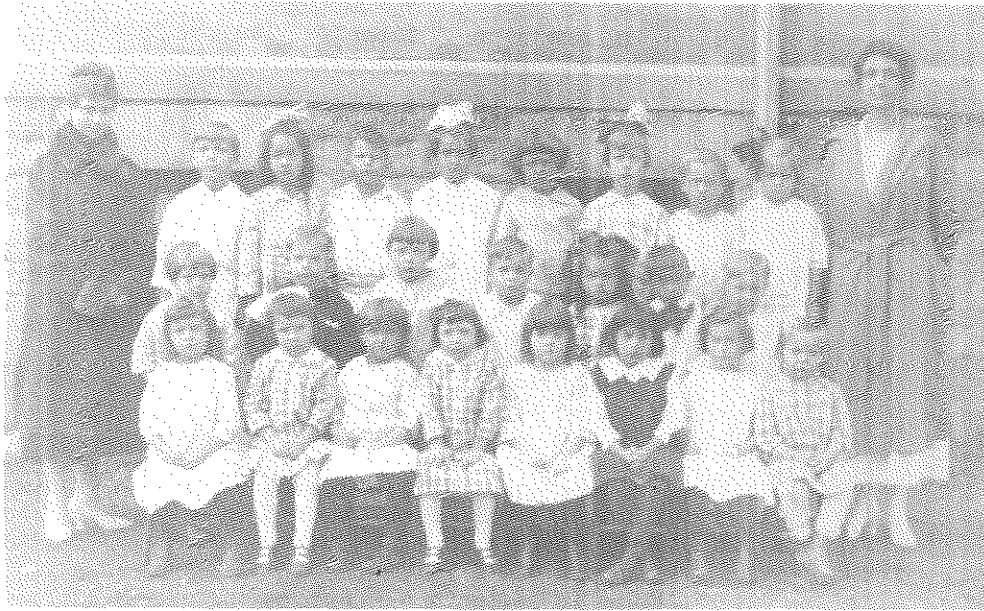
Local debaters under Coach Tall had a clean sweep of the Whitewater District tournament held on a Saturday in February of 1936 at Beloit high school. They captured four places while debating the subject, "Public Medicine." The anti climax came in returning home when they got as far as Janesville and were snowbound until Monday. All schools were closed for that day and the next.

In April of 1937, approximately 50 adults and children enrolled in music instruction at the WPA recreation center in Columbus Hall. Instruments taught were: piano, guitar, violin, cornet, and drums.

At the music festival held in Lake Geneva in May, 1937, local musicians took eleven first places.

An addition to the old high school, which included the Kinne gymnasium, was completed in 1939 at a cost of \$150,000. The Ford Construction company of Janesville did the work. A comment made about the new addition "It is surprising the amount of room which the new addition provides, and one is moved to opinion that surely this new addition will care for Elkhorn School needs for many years in the future. The gym is considered to be one of the finest in the state."

A total of 54 seniors received diplomas in May,



A KINDERGARTEN CLASS, which met in the 1887 building, now district administration offices, was pictured in front about 1917. The teacher was Florence Norton (right), with Orma Desing as her assistant.

1939, with the graduates dressed for the first time in caps and gowns for the exercises held in the Municipal building.

In 1954, an addition to house the manual arts department in the high school was erected, at a cost of \$120,000.

In 1955, the Elkhorn Area Common School district was formed by the consolidation of rural districts with the city's school system.

The West Side School was built in 1957 at a cost of \$343,000. In the same year, the addition to the Tibbets school was added at a cost of \$81,000, and the Bowers school was built at a cost of \$94,000.

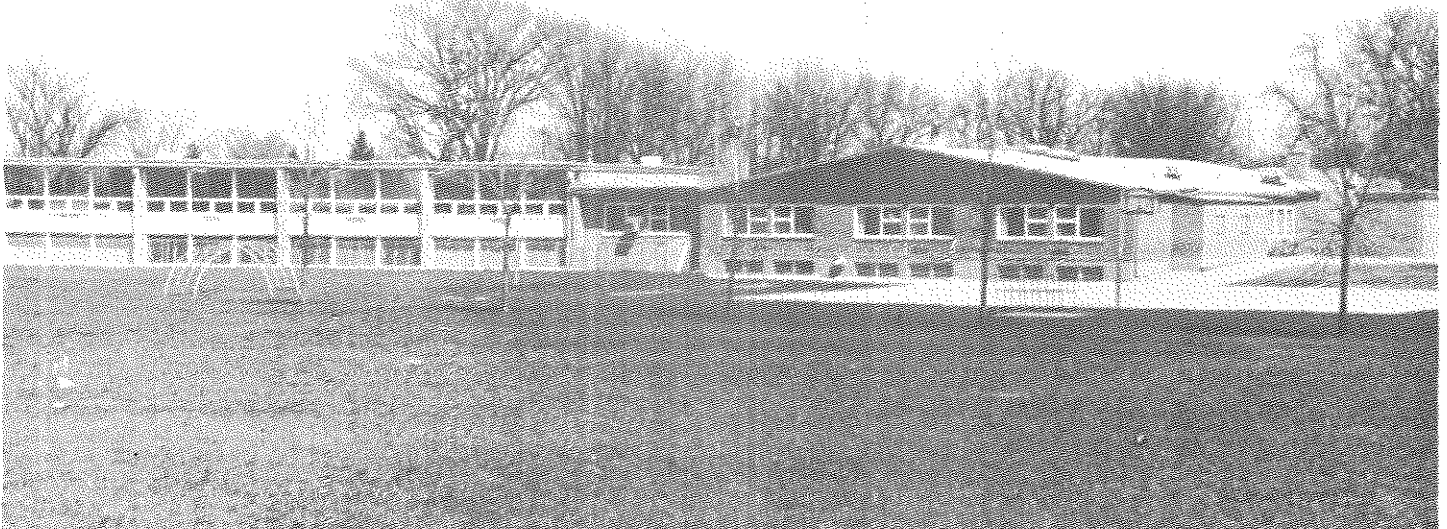
Four new classrooms were added to the West Side school in 1965, at a cost of \$76,000. On Feb. 14, 1959, the school building was a merit award winner in the state architectural contest.

Elkhorn's new high school was completed in

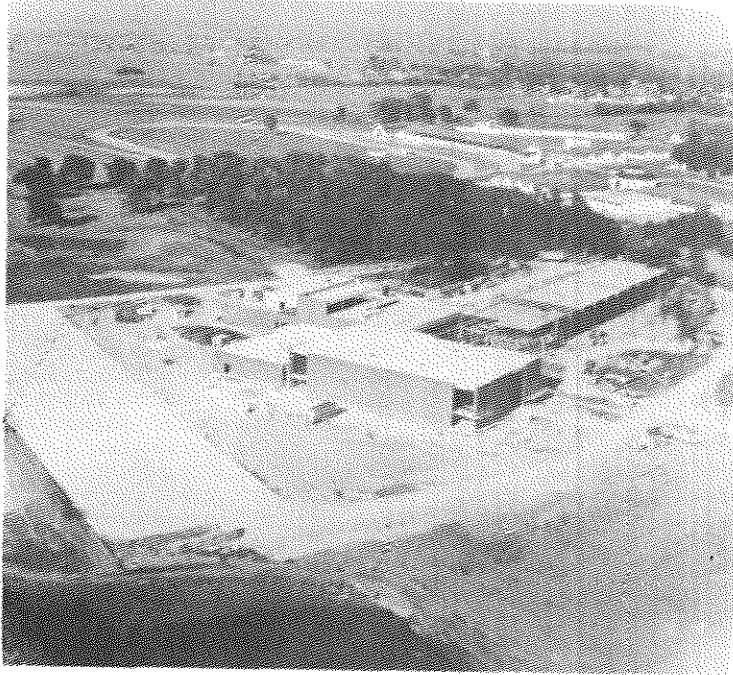
1967 at a total cost of \$2,599,304.76.

Razing of the former 1906 high school building began on March 31, 1972; the rubble was removed to Sunset park, where it was used in the construction of a hill for use in sledding and tobogganing during the winter. In its place was constructed a major addition to the Middle school.

Elkhorn had a "first" in the nation in September, 1950, when the first rural area class for the handicapped was started in a rented basement facility in downtown Elkhorn. Four years later there were two rooms in the rented basement. In 1955, a new three-room school was opened in Elkhorn for 47 pupils, three teachers and a custodian-cook. In 1957, three classrooms and a basement were added and in 1959, the basement was turned into an industrial arts and home economics area. In 1962, 10 new rooms and a gymnasium were added as the enrollment



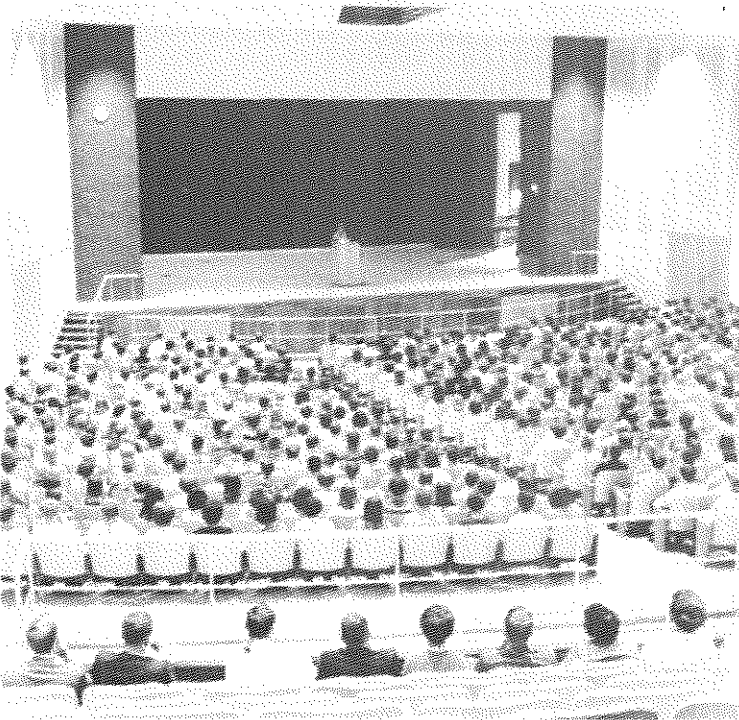
Lakeland School of Walworth County



**Elkhorn High School Under Construction**

increased to 225. Eight years later, nine new classrooms, industrial arts, a library, music room, swimming pool, five offices, nurses' facilities and a speech room were added. At present, 312 students from ages 3 to 20 are enrolled in Lakeland school. The school is under the Walworth County Handicapped Children's Education board.

St. Patrick's Catholic grade school opened its doors to more than 200 students on Sept. 22,



**1st Assembly in New High School Auditorium**

1958. It was staffed by three School Sisters of Notre Dame and three lay teachers. The first year only had accommodations for seven grades, so the first class didn't graduate from eighth grade until 1960.

Since that time it has been eight grades staffed by the three sisters, five lay teachers, a reading specialist and librarian. There has also been a group of volunteers who do clerical work.

When the school first opened several classrooms were not yet completed and the students had makeshift classes in Columbus Hall where work was done on card tables and books kept in paper bags.

The school has had an active music program, including three bands with more than 50 participants and also an athletic program with competitive basketball. A closer relationship was developed with the public school system in the 1970s for shared needs such as transportation of pupils and certain programs.

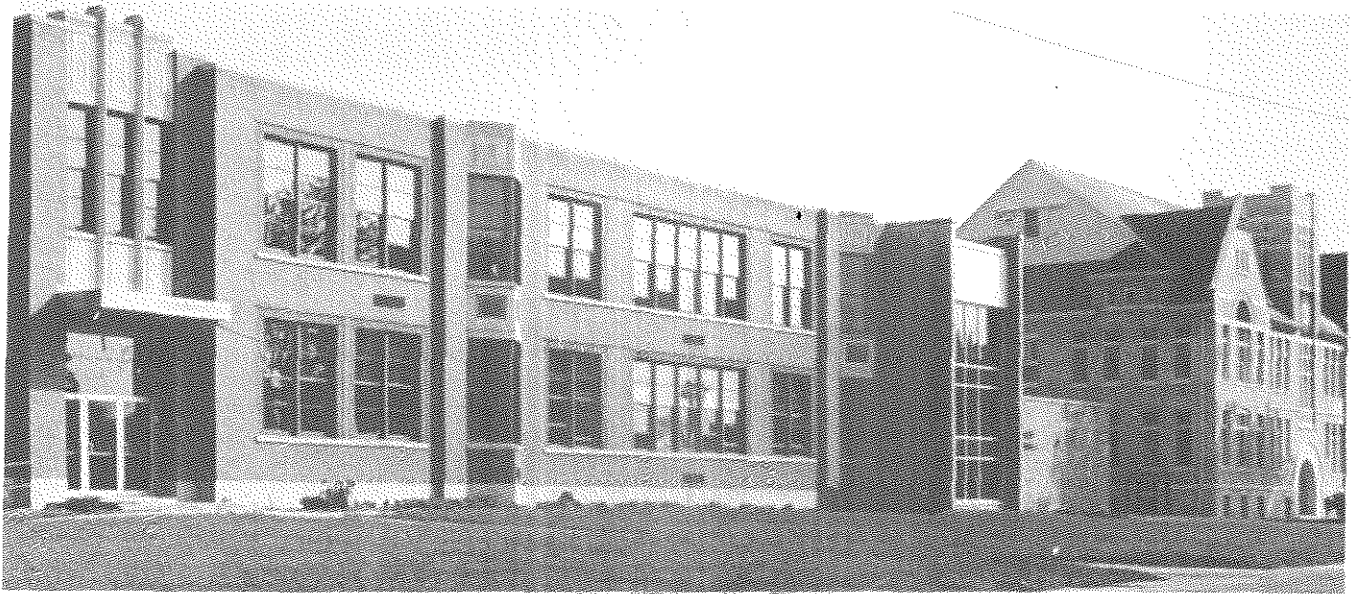
In the area of vocational and technical education, the Gateway Technical Institute (GTI) developed an Elkhorn campus on the city's southeast side in 1970 with classes first held Feb. 1, 1971. Walworth county had become a part of VTAE district 6 in 1968, joining Kenosha county.

Known as KTI initially, bus service was instituted to the Kenosha campus in the fall of 1969. The name change to GTI was made when Racine county joined the district in June of 1972. Among those involved with the VTAE board of governing directors since the start was Walworth County Supervisor Philip Morrissy, an Elkhorn attorney.

#### **PRINCIPALS AND SUPERINTENDENTS**

Administrators of Elkhorn Public Schools beginning with the first year in the Brick School House on the west side Court House Square:

James B. Tower	1850-1851
B. C. Rogers	1851-1852
W. C. Dustin	1852-1853
J. D. Waldenmeyer	1853-1854
M. D. Carrol	1854-1855
G. C. Plumb	
H. D. L. Webster	
J. J. M. Angier	1855-1856
R. M. McKee	1856-1857
O. S. Cook	1857-1858
O. M. Baker	1858-1860
E. Chamberlin	1860-1861
E. W. Peet	1861-1862
A. M. Case	
T. N. Wells	1862-1863
C. W. Cutler	1863-1866
A. J. Cheney	1866-1867
William Elden	1867-1868
C. W. Cutler	1868-1869
Charles N. Bell	1869-1871
W. A. Delamater	1871-1873
E. H. Sprague	1873-1877
D. H. Flett	1877-1879
A. I. Sherman	1879-1881
Howard L. Smith	1881-1883
F. G. Young	1883-1884



Elkhorn Middle School

D. D. Mayne	1884-1889
R. F. Skiff	1889-1890
J. T. Edwards	1890-1894
C. D. Kipp	1894-1900
T. J. Jones	1900-1907
John Dixon	1907-1914
L. F. Rahr	1914-1916
Charles A. Jahr	1916-1942
L. K. Forrest	1942-1945
H. G. Knutson	1945-1948 (Jan.)
Stanley B. Helms	1948-1954
Clarence Schacht	1954-1961
William Paton	1961-1963
Robert Houg	1963-1969 (April)
David R. Ross	1969-

**VICE-PRINCIPALS**

Henry Tall	1937
Donald Disrud	1944
E. Giese	1945

**HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

Donald Disrud	1948-1955
Jack Reffling	1955-1963
R. Deane Page	1963-

**ASSISTANT HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Frederick Suchy	1972-
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**PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

Merrill Dexter	-1945
Frank Grunseth	1945-1971

**PRIMARY SCHOOL Kindergarten through Grade 5**

Clifford Schiefelbein	1971-
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**MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

Frank Grunseth	1971-
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Gateway Technical Institute-Elkhorn Campus

# Transportation -- Then And Now

In the early days, travel in the Wisconsin Territory was difficult. Settlers who came to Elkhorn in the 1830's had to walk all the way from Milwaukee following Indian trails which had been beaten into the ground for decades. The more prosperous settlers sometimes had ox teams, but the narrow trails did not encourage their use. Many settlers used sleds or even wheelbarrows to transport their belongings.

One such Indian trail started at the foot of Delavan Lake, passed through Elkhorn and went on to Waukesha. This was used by many settlers coming to this area. According to Butterfield, an early historian, the first wide road was made by pioneers dragging an oak tree from Spring Prairie to Delavan. This became one of the main roads and highway 11 follows essentially the same path.

Even before statehood, the Territory of Wisconsin residents recognized the importance of good transportation. The towns on Lake Michigan furnished markets for the inland farms, and roads were vital to the success of communities like Elkhorn. Some military roads were in existence, but market roads were necessary too.

Plank roads became the favorite mode of meeting this need. The Territorial Legislature granted companies authority to construct plank or turn-pike roads and collect tolls. They were surfaced with 3-inch planks, 8-foot long, laid on 4 by 4 stringers. Plank Road school was appropriately named as it bordered on the plank road going from Burlington to Janesville, passing by the fairgrounds. Another plank road went from Elkhorn via Palmyra to Hustisford.

Once actual roads were established, four-horse post coaches made runs between the cities. Elkhorn residents in 1845 could board the stage at Troy and go to Milwaukee or Galena. Other stage lines could be boarded at Whitewater for three day trips across the state. Connections with supporting lines could be made, and inns or stage stops provided lodgings for the night at convenient intervals.

In the 1850's a new invention rivaled the stage coaches as a fast and comfortable way to travel. The railroad boom reached Wisconsin. Specu-

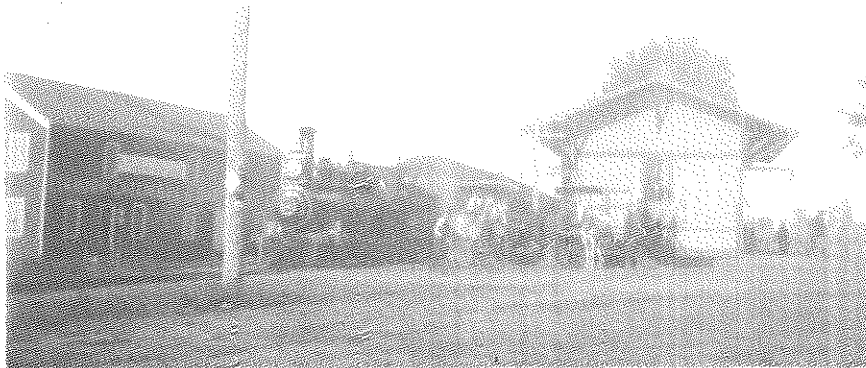
lators, business men, farmers, and home owners all believed that Elkhorn would become a railroad center. They had visions of Elkhorn being the hub of midwest transportation and fondly expected the little town which had a population of 539 people and 80 houses, to grow into a great and thriving metropolis.

In an effort to make their dream come true, Elkhorn citizens worked hard and spent much money persuading the various railroads to build their lines through Elkhorn. In 1852 the Racine, Janesville and Mississippi Railway Co. was chartered. Original plans were for the road to bypass Elkhorn on its way from Racine to Janesville. But the people of Elkhorn subscribed \$20,000 and thus persuaded the road to go through the city. This road later became part of the Milwaukee Road.

If Elkhorn was to become a railroad center, though, more than one road would be needed, and the residents were soon busy working for the organization of the Wisconsin Central Railroad, which was chartered in March, 1853. It was supposed to pass through Whitewater, Elkhorn, and Lake Geneva on its route to the state line. The "1857 Panic" caused the collapse of this company though, and the railroad was never built.

Before the "Panic", the Milwaukee and Beloit Railroad was chartered (1855) and this also was expected to go through Elkhorn on its way to Delavan and Beloit. This road failed, too, and was never completed. The struggle of the residents to obtain more railroads is evidenced in old stock subscription contracts which stated that the shares were purchased "upon the express condition that said Milwaukee and Beloit Railroad shall be located and constructed to some point within the corporate limits of the Village of Elkhorn."

The newspapers followed the progress of the railroads with tremendous interest, recording each mile of track laid as the road slowly approached town. In the June 1, 1855 issue of the "Independent" it was reported that "the parties having the contract for the completion of the work on the Central Railroad from the state line to Elkhorn have arrived at Geneva and will commence work next week. We hope the company will be able to procure iron



LONG DISTANCE travel was difficult in Elkhorn's early days, until the mid-1850s, when a railroad line finally reached here and then on to Delavan, where the line ended for a time. The passenger depot, erected in 1856 and used until 1915, still stands after having been moved across the tracks and now a storage shed for the Elkhorn Chemical Co.



THE RAILROAD in an earlier era, helped to insure the stability and growth of a community, providing travel for passengers and the movement of freight for local industries. For Elkhorn, the former aspect remained important until 1965 when Milwaukee

Road passenger service ended and in the early 1970s the depot in about the center of the photo was razed. However, diesel freight trains still move slowly through the south edge of the city serving industry.

and have the track laid the coming fall.”

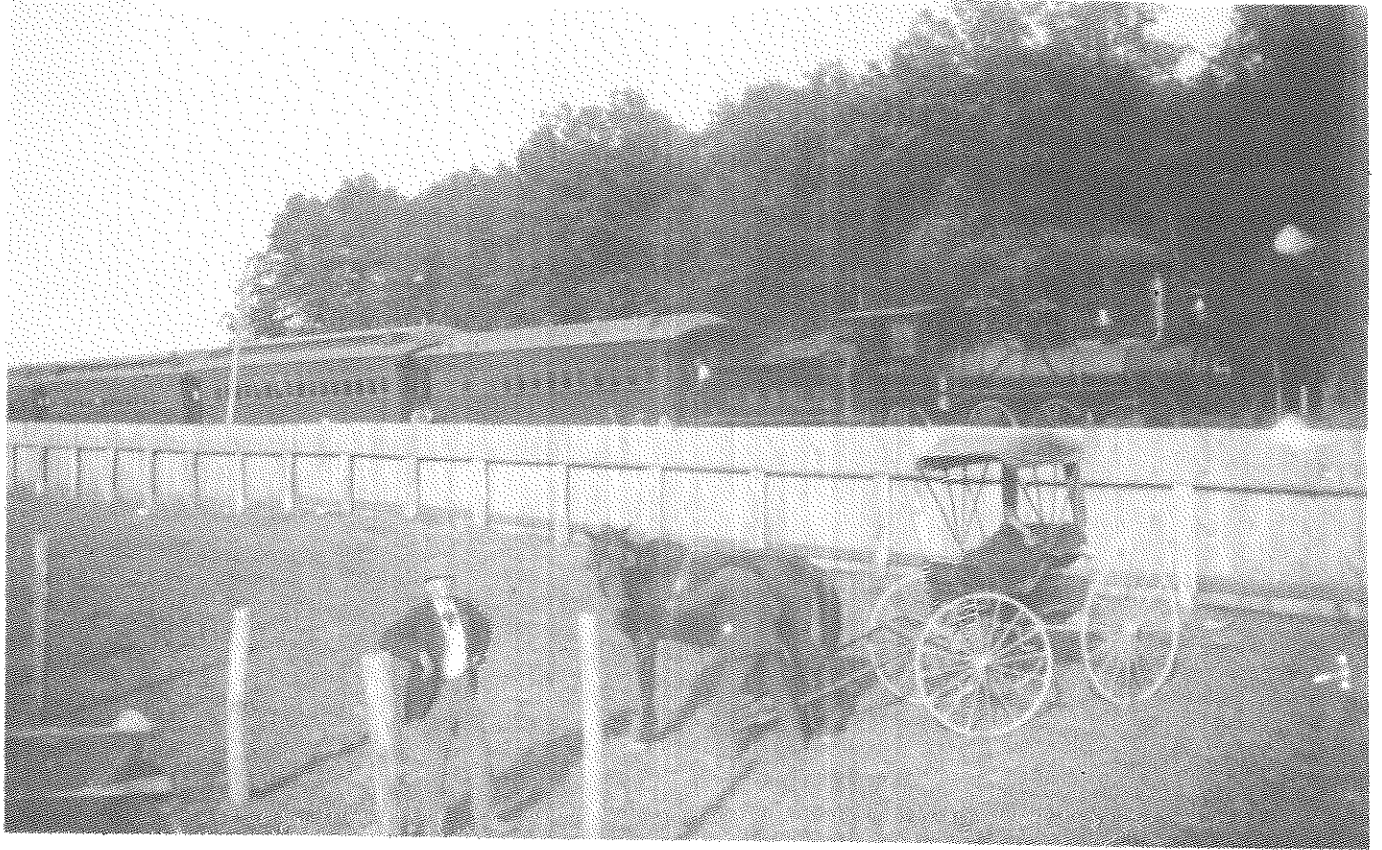
As pointed out earlier, this company never finished the track. Bad weather, lack of materials, and finally bankruptcy ended the laying of the rails far short of Elkhorn. Evidence of the graded roadbeds still remains, though, stretching across the fields -- silent testimony to the dreams of those early Elkhornites.

The one railroad that did go through Elkhorn, had its track completed as far as Delavan in 1856 and trains began to pass through Elkhorn. A big celebration was held at Delavan to commemorate the opening of the road. An excursion train carried people to Delavan and was greeted by the firing of a cannon and the playing of brass bands. A flag was presented to the president of the railroad with the slogan “Onward!” embroidered on it. A dinner and a ball followed the speech making.

A spur line, completed in 1869, also went through Elkhorn passing in back of the fairgrounds to Eagle.

The effect of just this one railroad on the growth of the town can be seen from these figures. In June, 1855, the population was 737. By 1856 the population increased to more than 1,000, and by 1857 there were 1,500 residents. Many buildings were erected and new businesses sprang up. Elkhorn was booming -- in the same week in 1856 two stores and a lumber yard opened their doors. Thus Elkhorn, although it did not become the planned railroad center, more than doubled its population as a result of the one railroad which did eventually pass through it.

This railroad served Elkhorn for many years. During fair time in “the old days”, special trains would be put on for those too far away to come by horse and buggy. The 1904 fair was so popular that



THE EAGLE BRANCH LINE was a spur between the city and the Waukesha village of Eagle, which also served as a place to park trains at the turn of the century for those attending the Walworth County Fair. The branch ran east of the fair-

grounds, and as many as 12 trains at one time awaited the return trip of fairgoers, who came from as far away as Chicago. The scene is near the present Activity Center building with the fair's woods in the background.

the train had to take one trainload of fairgoers to the grounds and then back up to pick up hundreds more who had been unable to find room on the packed train. Special crews and engines would be on hand two days before and two days after the fair for switching and handling the extra traffic. Chicago businessmen would charter a special train to make the journey to the fair.

In the summer the train brought the lake residents to the area. They were met at the depot by surreys and transported to the resort hotels like The Sterlingworth, which even then was a popular lake attraction.

Extra coaches were used on the Eagle to Elkhorn run on "Old Settlers Day", which was held annually at the fairgrounds for many years. It was a very big occasion, with prominent speakers, good food, and family entertainment. For the convenience of those attending, the "Eagle Flyer" would stop right at the fairgrounds. Many well-known Elkhorn names were listed among the Old Settlers organization. Some of those listed in the 1903 newspaper as belonging were: Godfrey, Morrissey, Seymour, Skiff, Isham, Opitz, Arnold, Amos, Babcock, Lauderdale, Mason, Dunlap, Devendorf, Derthick, Davis, Flack, Lean, Lyon, Carter, Kinne, Knilans, Ketchpaw, Spencer, Barr, Church, Loomer, Potter, Matheson, Merry, Eames, Ellsworth, Flitcroft, Featherstone, Bray, Brownlee, Hartwell, Harrington, Wiswell, Young, Whitmore, Webster, Welch, Waite, Robinson, Ward, Winsor, Tubbs, Ives, Meadows.

A modern train depot was built in 1915, which

remained in existence until the early 1970s when it was eventually torn down. During the earlier part of that period, train transportation was a highly important element. In 1926 through train service between Milwaukee and Kansas City was announced with regular stops in Elkhorn. For many years Elkhorn residents did ride daily trains to Milwaukee, and to Chicago by transfer. For those traveling towards Kansas City, the Southwest Limited had sleeping cars. Trains arrived and departed six times daily.

There had also been a special lake train from Chicago to Elkhorn, but that was discontinued in August of 1926 as lake residents were driving their own cars now. The Eagle passenger service ended in 1927, which ran on a spur line along the east side of the fairgrounds.

The hey day of train travel was closing, although passenger service to Elkhorn lasted until October of 1965 when the last Southwest Limited made its final run to Milwaukee. Now only freight trains rumble through the city, limited in speed because of poor track conditions. Public travel was left to buses, which provide transportation to Milwaukee, Rockford, Chicago and Madison.

As Elkhorn entered the 20th century, local travel was by horse and buggy or horse and sleigh. Streets in town were muddy in the spring and dusty in the summer. An important piece of maintenance equipment was the sprinkler wagon, used to settle the dust. Accidents seemed as frequent in those days as now

however. The weekly paper reported runaways, overturned buggies, and even collisions between buggies.

Pedestrian safety was aided by the installation of street lamps in 1886. For the comfort of horses, a horse trough was set up downtown in 1895. The deteriorating board sidewalks were being replaced in 1900 by new vitrified brick sidewalks. Three years later cement sidewalks began to be laid.

The importance of the horse at the turn of the century can be seen by reading the old ads which offered for sale the latest in surreys and harnesses. H. E. Hartwell advertised his livery and boarding stable opposite the Nickel Plate Hotel. Amos Brothers started the summer ice wagon run, pulled by a team consisting of a horse and a mule. In 1904 it was reported that 140 teams were hitched to the posts downtown as owners attended the horse auction on the corner by the Elkhorn House (Walworth and Wisconsin). Ed White, the local auctioneer, gave prospective buyers the opportunity to see the horses offered for sale by herding them on the street.

Fred Opitz's Carriage and Wagon Works was busily filling orders for all kinds of wagons and W. C. Rosenhauer's Delivery Wagon was operating.

Something new was on the horizon, though - the automobile. It was to bring about many changes in Elkhorn's way of life. The May 21, 1903 "Independent" made this important announcement: "Zwiebel and Griebel are the first Elkhorn residents to own an automobile. They purchased the machine in Milwaukee Friday and it was delivered to them here Saturday morning. It is made by the Olds Motor Works, of Detroit, and will carry four passengers."

This first car proved a popular way to go places. "Dr. George H. Young, George Kinne, and J. H. Derthick attended the Clinton ball game Tuesday in the height of fashion. The trip was made in Zwiebel and Griebel's new Oldsmobile which they chartered



AT THE TURN of the century, local travel was confined to horse and buggy on dirt roads and streets for 9 months of the year and by horse and sleigh in the winter. Such was a typical late fall scene in Elkhorn.

for the afternoon. Zwiebel was the chauffeur."

Dr. J. M. Marsh soon acquired a motorcycle, the first to be owned in Elkhorn. It was known as the "Mitchell" and was manufactured in Racine.

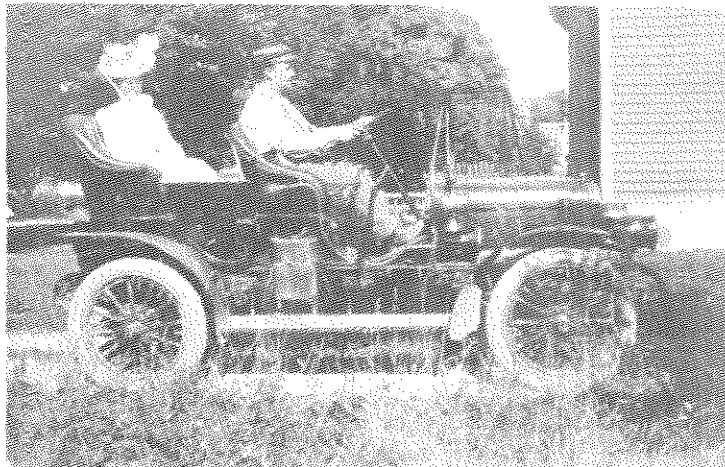
In 1903 many cities were finding it necessary to adopt ordinances limiting the speed of these new vehicles. The 1903 "Independent" was advocating that Elkhorn do so. Six miles per hour was considered a top speed within city limits.

As late as 1911 cars were so rare that each



HORSE transportation required blacksmiths and their shops, such as the one operated by Tom Morrissey at the corner of Washington and Court

streets where the Gilbert building stands. It was also a carriage works and next door was Osborne's farm implements.



**THAT'S A WINTON** automobile, one of many lines that faded in obscurity in time. It was Mr. and Mrs. Will Magill who were ready to take a drive when the picture was taken about 1910.

new purchase was recorded as news in the paper. For instance, "Fred Voss has purchased a Buick car. It is a five passenger machine with a removable tonneau."

That same year, A. J. Pierce, in a big touring car, made news by traveling from Elkhorn to his farm, a distance of over 9 miles, in less than 30 minutes!

Modern auto travel is a far cry from the experiences intrepid motorists had in the early part of this century. Citizens of Elkhorn were notified one week in 1911 that 20 cars of the Wisconsin Automobile Association would make an endurance run, going through the city at 9:30 a.m. People were asked to make a "strenuous effort to keep all livestock, dogs, and chickens, off the road, as

it is the desire of the promoters to do as little damage as possible, the tour being to encourage motoring and good roads, rather than to discourage it." Of course horned animals, except milk cows, had been restricted from running loose as early as 1871.

Dr. Ridgway was one of the first to have a Model T Roadster. However, he used it only in the summer. Winter snowdrifts made the horse and buggy essential. The horse was kept in Dick McCabe's barn on the property east of the Post Office.

In 1911 oil was beginning to be used on city streets to control the dust, but the increased use of cars made drastic street improvements necessary. In 1917 the downtown streets were being paved, causing cancellation of the summer band concerts because the torn up condition of the streets made attendance difficult and even dangerous.

By 1923 three more city streets were paved: the north end of Church Street, Winsor Street, and East Street (now Lincoln) from Court street to Jefferson. In addition new Highway 12 came through Elkhorn. Originally it was to have passed through the eastern end of town, but businessmen prevailed and persuaded the state to route it through the business section, following Wisconsin street.

Garages soon sprang up to sell and service the new mode of transportation. By 1924 Schmidt's Garage was selling Studebakers and E. A. Spinner was selling Fords. The Hup and Reo cars were for sale at 403 No. Wisconsin St. where the Van Velzer Motor Car Co. was situated.

1924 was the year when paving of highway 12 was completed from Elkhorn all the way to White-water. The East Troy-Elkhorn highway was also paved that year. And more cars came to Elkhorn! In 1925 Thomas A. Pope was the agent for Maxwell cars; Squires and Opitz's Garage was advertising



**BY THE 1930s**, the automobile had become an important mode of transportation year-round and neighborhood service stations appeared to provide gasoline and car repairs. The Standard

station at the corner of Wisconsin and Court streets isn't much different after 40 years.



BY 1956 THE TOP of the tower at the Loraine hotel, as it was now known, was gone along with the large clock. The hotel now had awnings over each of the upper windows and it was serving as a bus station.

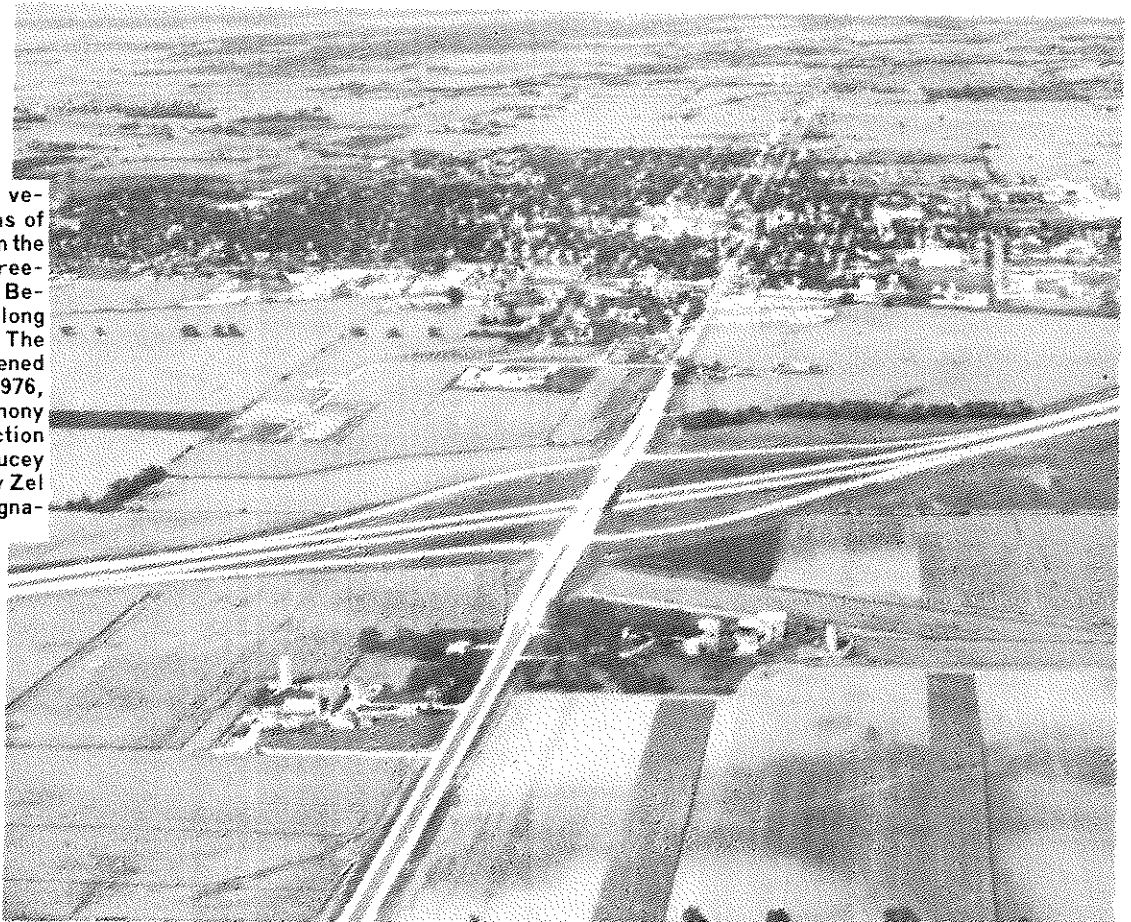
Buicks; and Zwiebel and Griebel's Badger Garage was operating.

By 1926 the county had two snowplows to clear the roads after a snow storm. People were beginning to use their cars all year round.

When World War II came, no new cars were built. The cars people had were carefully maintained, and driven on retread tires and rationed gas (3 gallons per week for ordinary persons without priority). A good deal of traveling was done by bus . . . three buses a day to Milwaukee, Racine, Beloit, and Janesville. Defense industries ran private buses to bring workers to their factories. The war ended in 1945 and in November, the car dealers of that day, Wales, Klitzkie, Last, Henderson, Melcher and Opitz, were happy to announce that the first new cars since the war were arriving.

Twenty years later, in October, 1965, passenger train service ended when the Southwest Limited made its last run through Elkhorn to Milwaukee. As the train passenger service ended, the era of super highways dawned and Elkhorn found itself in a favorable location for easy auto access to major cities via highways 11, 12 and 15.

Elkhorn residents also may envision the city as an area hub, a center where auto travelers will come. Will the cloverleaf intersection of routes 11, 15 and 12 do for Elkhorn what the nebulous railroads did not accomplish in the 1800s? Only time will tell.



THE DOMINANCE OF motor vehicle traffic over other forms of travel, is perhaps best seen in the aerial view of the Rock free-way between Milwaukee and Beloit, which passes Elkhorn along the south edge of the city. The final 28-mile segment was opened to traffic on Oct. 28, 1976, following an opening ceremony at this highway 67 intersection attended by Gov. Patrick Lucey and Transportation Secretary Zel Rice, as well as local dignitaries.

# Elkhorn In The News

Elkhorn is not only geographically located in the center of Walworth County, but has often been the "center of action" in many past news events.

It has been proclaimed the "Christmas Card Town", the subject of a TV "small town" documentary, and entertained the great and near great in the political field, including one who became President of the U.S. Washington papers and national TV coverage were focused on a local drum and bugle corps appearance in a President's Inauguration Day ceremony; the nation's heart was touched by the courage of a local woman afflicted with multiple sclerosis during much of her life, and several national publications carried the story about a race horse's tragic ending during a fairgrounds track event here.

On the sensational side was the capture of the Touhy gang from Chicago at the north edge of the city, as well as land eviction proceedings from area farms during the depression.

Elkhorn citizens have often been found newsworthy, some because they happened to be where the action was at an opportune time, while others made headlines because of their contributions to the world of art, science, movies or literature. The following incidents will help to illustrate the news

worthiness of Elkhorn, which has produced some notable items at various times in history.

A story with photographs featured Elkhorn in the March 26, 1952 issue of the Milwaukee Journal entitled "Why Elkhorn Is a Nice Town in Which to Be Living." In December of the same year a TV crew from the program "March of Time" came and filmed a story entitled "American Community" shown internationally during the holidays. About 235 local people were pictured in the half hour film! It was a story of the city's activities, and former Elkhorn residents who were located elsewhere viewed the program with pride.

In 1956 Mrs. Cecile Johnson and family, of Scarsdale, New York, were passing through the city and as an artist she was very impressed by Elkhorn's beauty. She returned in 1957 and painted several scenes including the Steele home, the Joseph Webster home, and several of the Christmas decorations in the park. These were reproduced in "Ford Times" and also on Christmas cards. One of the paintings hangs in the Elkhorn Light and Water Commission Office.

As the county seat, Elkhorn has been in the political eye many times. One has only to go to the Courthouse on an election night to be aware of the action.



SCENES SUCH AS the holiday nativity setting, painted by Mrs. Cecile Johnson, of Scarsdale, N.Y., brought Elkhorn the title of "Christmas Card Town." This scene and others of local homes and countryside in winter settings were later reproduced on Christmas cards and in the "Ford Times" magazine of December 1958.

Excitement runs high as the candidates and citizens await returns from all parts of the county.

Many nationally-known politicians have visited Elkhorn over the years during the campaigns for office, including many who were seeking the Presidency of the U.S.

In the early years, their visits were often the occasion for not only adults, but also for school children to come and hear them talk.

The LaFollettes, Blaine and Lenroot made rousing speeches, while William Jennings Bryan, the "silver voiced orator", held his audience spellbound in the 1920s.

Others who have come included Wendell Wilkie in 1944; Henry Wallace that same year; Estes Kefauver in 1952 followed by Robert Taft, Earl Warren, Harold Stassen and Joseph McCarthy.

In 1960, Sen. and Mrs. John F. Kennedy greeted many Walworth county citizens at a rally in the municipal building as he was on his way toward the United States Presidency. He was followed a few days later by Sen. Hubert Humphrey and his wife, Muriel, as they spoke at the Courthouse.

### COMMUNITY VOTE CAMPAIGN

An interesting and successful "get out and vote" program was conceived by Robert Conohan in the fall of 1950 and adopted by the VFW and American Legion groups throughout the county. It was known as the "Liberty Bell Plan" and worked as follows: 15,000 small Liberty Bells were printed with the message "I am in front against Communism--I voted in the election on November 7, 1950". Each person was presented with a bell after he had cast his vote. These were collected later by the Grade School children in a "house to house--friend to friend" campaign. The grade with the greatest number of bells was awarded a prize donated by the sponsoring organizations.

The Liberty Bell program was adopted by the National V.F.W. in September 1951 at their encampment in New York City. Robert Lehman, Post adjutant and delegate to the convention, accepted \$5,000 -- second place award for community service. In 1952, 20,000 bells were printed "I Have Voted" -- proof that the idea had spread and was effective. In 1956 the Boy Scouts hung similar bells on voter's doors instead of the previous method of acknowledgement. This bell program became Nationwide and 4-million Boy Scouts hung them on 35-million homes.

When Dwight D. Eisenhower was inaugurated on Jan. 20th, 1953 the V.F.W. Drum and Bugle Corps, which had been formed in 1946, was honored by an invitation to participate in the inaugural parade. The Corps consisted of 36 members and was led by Fred Platts, marshal of the Walworth County fair. He rode Lady, his dancing bay mare.

The parade, lasting several hours, was televised with schools closing at 10:30; the Post Office and business places also closed so that everyone could watch! However, Elkhorn didn't appear until 4:26 p.m., just getting under the wire as the telecast concluded at 4:30!

Also in the parade were two Elkhorn young people who were performing in other units: Eugene Frank, taking part in Purdue University's Varsity Glee club and Susan Hampel, a member of the Lubbock Texas



AMONG THE Presidential candidates to visit Elkhorn during campaign trail times was the late President John F. Kennedy, who came in 1960 with his wife, Jackie. His walk through the city was made with Harold Dailey, local Democratic precinct committeeman.



Hubert H. Humphrey



Joseph McCarthy

High School band.

In the Patriotic vein, the city has recognized and honored all those who served their country in a military sense. The American Legion was formed in 1919 and after World War II the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized in 1946 with Judge Roscoe Luce as its first commander.

Elkhorn not only sent its quota of men to serve their country but also sent two dogs. Tommy O'Keefe, who served in World War I, brought his dog, Denny, home with him from service and the dog took part in the parades and festivities of peace. After World War II, the annual VJ Day parades, attracted audiences from miles around. And who can forget the ration books for meat--sugar--gas--shoes?

In September of 1949 the V.F.W. was awarded first place in the nation as the organization which had contributed the most toward outstanding community service!

The nation was touched by the plight of Martha Jane Marsh. Marty, as she was known to everyone, became the victim of multiple sclerosis while attending college. Returning home, she worked in an office for four years--earning her own way in order to consult many specialists in the hope of finding a cure. In the meantime, she also directed the choir

of the First Congregational church and volunteered in many civic enterprises.

When no longer able to get around, she opened "Marty's Doll Shop" in 1946, using her artistic talents in making her own patterns and designs - thus giving her dolls an individual personality. She also restored many treasured heirloom dolls, costuming them authentically. Her shop carried many handmade gifts.

In 1947 she was confined to a wheel chair from which she conducted her shop's business. Marty read a magazine article in December of 1950 by Dr. Hinton D. Jonez who suggested a method for relief of MS. She wrote for information and learned that an entrance fee of \$200 was necessary, and also that a companion must accompany any patient coming for treatment in Tacoma, Wash. Marty began home treatments until she could enroll. The city opened its heart and Mrs. Herbert Wise, a longtime friend, offered to be her companion. Organizations and individuals raised \$1500.00 to defray expenses. They arrived at the hospital in February of 1951. She was a patient until May, returning in high spirits, confident of complete recovery, and walking with help! Home treatments were continued and Dr. Jonez was pleased with her progress. Marty often expressed gratitude for the generosity of the community which may have added several years to her life.

In the annals of the sports world the American Legion Athletic award given by the Kelley-Gardner-Katzman Post 45 is a coveted one for "all around athletic achievement". It was conceived by Will Foster in 1922 and was adopted by the national American Legion. The first medal was awarded to Willis Opitz followed by many others.

The 1974-75 record of Fred Suchy's basketball team of 19 consecutive wins and only one tournament loss was the best in a long line of outstanding seasons.

Volo Song was world champion 4-year-old trotter when injury and death brought an end to his career on July 16, 1944. The trotter, owned by Colonel Baker of St. Charles, Ill., won the Hambletonian race in 1943 and appeared destined for a brilliant career. However, in the early race meet in Elkhorn that career came to an abrupt end as Volo Song rounded the north turn leading the "pack", and suddenly broke stride. The others swerved around him as he stood with his left foot raised. The stunned grandstand audience watched as Harry Fitzpatrick, the driver-trainer, left the sulky and led the limping horse back to the stable.

Baker hoped to save the horse for breeding purposes and refused to have him destroyed. In spite of Dr. Ferguson's care, the seriousness of the broken leg made it impossible to save him. He was put to sleep the following Tuesday - thus ending his career. Volo Song was buried in the famous horse cemetery on Red Gate Farm near St. Charles.

Elkhorn has experienced its share of robberies, traffic violations, and even a major crime or two!

### TOUHY GANG CAPTURE

The capture of Roger Touhy and four members of his gang on July 19, 1933 attracted national interest. The incident began shortly after 9 p.m. when Hugh Squires received a call that a car had struck a

telephone pole at the Bethel church corner. Traffic Officer Harry Ward, a new man on the force and off duty was ordered to intercept the car at the city limits in order to get restitution for the pole.

Without star or gun, he hailed George "Spur" Wiswell to take him so he could stop the car. As the car came roaring into town Ward waved it down and the five occupants in the car were questioned regarding the pole incident. Though they denied any involvement, Ward spied a splinter of wood and then arrested the driver. Ward pulled him from the auto, shoved him into Wiswell's car, and ordered Wiswell to take the driver to jail for questioning. Ward rode on the running board as they drove to the park.

Chief Will Ward and Harry talked with the other four occupants thinking they were fishermen but became suspicious and escorted them to the jail but did not book them. They were later granted permission to go for a beer; and while they were at a local tavern Ward searched their car. Found were a machine gun, kidnapping tape, several small arms and ammunition. Deputies became suspicious when the men didn't return, and a search was begun for them.

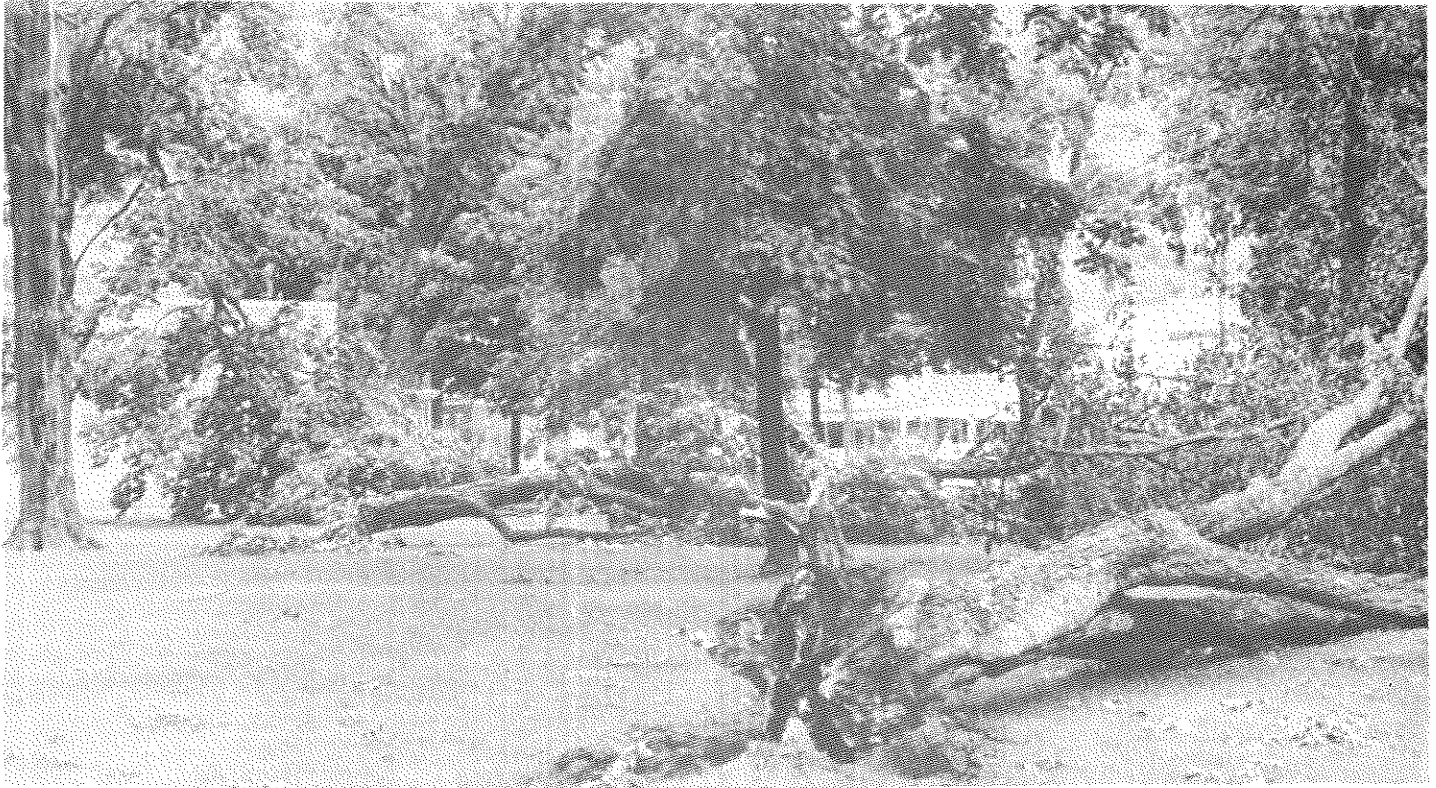
Two were found in a ditch near Dorr's Trailer court on east Geneva street; a third was in Lake Geneva making a call to the jail to learn the whereabouts of the driver and was picked up by Lake Geneva Police Officer Jack Cusack and brought back to Elkhorn.

In the meantime Tom Morrissy, local reporter for various papers, had called the Chicago Tribune crime reporter and given him a description of the men. He found out that the man Harry Ward had wrestled from the car was none other than Roger Touhy - wanted for the kidnapping of Jake Factor. The man who had taken the wheel and had driven the car into town was Willie Sharkey, a purported triggerman! Gus Schafer was Postal Department Public Enemy No. 1; "Father" Tom Mc Fadden was an alleged labor racketeer and "Poly-Nosed Cator", who had escaped in the night, was another wanted gangster. He, too, was later captured and all were convicted.

Twenty years after the capture of the Touhy Gang, Don Morrissey wrote the script for a "Big Story" radio program depicting the life and capture of Roger Touhy!

Hans Lindstrom, Elkhorn Motorcycle traffic officer, was shot March 12, 1927 while making a routine traffic arrest. He was found at the side of a country gravel road one mile northeast of town. He had been fatally wounded with a 32 caliber gun. Norman Wallis and Earl Williams, both of Delavan, were apprehended and convicted for this crime two years later. After serving their sentences at Waupun Wallis became a mechanic in a garage and Williams became a printer in Indiana.

Two Elkhorn women won national baking contests. Mrs. J. B. O'Donell won third prize of \$4,000 in the Pillsbury Baking contest for her entry "Plantation Peach Shortcake". She received her award at the Waldorf Astoria in New York City in December 1951. Will Foster, the Independent's reporter, was present as Margaret Truman, intro-



A THUNDERSTORM WITH near tornado winds, tore through Elkhorn on June 17, 1973, knocking down a number of trees

as well as large limbs and branches. A number of old trees in Courthouse park were extensively damaged by the high winds.

duced by Art Linkletter, presented the check. In 1959 Mrs. Fred Proctor won a Whirlpool range and a trip to California for her chocolate cake recipe which won acclaim in the National Grange Baking contest.

#### WEATHER MAKES NEWS

The weather often has been a newsmaker. In March 1913 it was recorded that with the disappearance of snow winter sleighing was spoiled and streets became impassable as they turned

into deep muddy ruts. But, on March 27 when spring had officially arrived the worst blizzard of the year occurred. By July, though, the city was wilting in 100 degree temperatures.

Wind has been a devastating factor at times. In march of 1961, winds of 75 mph. ripped through the city downing trees and knocking out telephone and electrical service. Again in 1973 there was similar damage and devastation. An intense night time storm caused flash flooding on April 20, 1973. Many basements were flooded as sump pumps failed. Yards were under water and some people



ONE OF THE best remembered snowstorms in the city's history occurred in the winter of 1946 when several feet of the white stuff accumulated, burying cars downtown and making it almost impossible for snowplows to operate for a period of time.



**THE MOST COSTLY** and crippling storm in the city's history occurred in March of 1976, when freezing rain coated the landscape, finally downing huge tree limbs and utility lines and leading to massive power outages in the city and throughout southern Wisconsin.

even rowed boats around in some of the flooded areas.

There is usually one extensive snowstorm each winter. Among the worst ones remembered were those of 1946 and February of 1974 in which traffic was halted entirely as the county highways were closed to vehicles.

Perhaps the most crippling winter storm in the city's history was March 2, 1976, in the form of a freezing drizzle. Two days later the city's electrical lines were a shambles as heavily ice coated tree limbs and branches came crashing down. The entire city was without power for 2-1/2 hours on March 4, which marked the height of the storm. Many homes, however, were without power for much longer periods of time as line crews worked around the clock trying to restore current on main lines. The cost of the storm reached \$100,000 in repair damage and cleaning up of fallen trees and limbs continued into the spring.

Fires have caused great losses of property. A fire of undetermined origin destroyed the grandstand at the Walworth County Fairgrounds on July 25, 1970. The structure was rebuilt in 1971 after a temporary grandstand had been used the previous year for the fair.

Another tragic fire at the Fairgrounds occurred on Nov. 30, 1975 when one of the horse stables burned and claimed the life of George Anderson, a groom, and 26 race horses.

An efficient Volunteer Fire Department has prevented considerable loss of property in other fiery incidents. Fires in homes have brought deprivation, but the compassion of Elkhorn's citizens has often eased the burden of loss.

A new fire house, located adjacent to the Municipal building, was erected in the spring of 1971.

Senior citizens still remember the great Sprague Opera House fire, which occurred July 2, 1925. An initial blaze caused by exploding fireworks in a variety store, had been extinguished by the fire department. Later it was believed the hot steel ceiling set fire to the floor timbers of the upstairs Sprague theater later in the evening. The entire facility went up in flames, including the Opera House, the variety store, post office and Christian Science reading room. Firemen concentrated efforts on saving the adjoining downtown buildings on Walworth street.



**A FIRE OF GREAT** emotional impact involved the loss of the old wooden amphitheater at the Walworth County fairgrounds on July 25, 1970, because arson was suspected at the time,

although never proved. A new grandstand was built in 1971, helped by donations from many organizations and individuals.



Remains of the great Sprague Opera House fire on July 2, 1925



The life of groom George Anderson and 26 harness race horses were victims of a fire Nov. 30, 1975, which destroyed a horse

stable at the Waiworth County fairgrounds, fought by Elkhorn volunteer firemen in bitter cold weather.

### MINI-HEADLINES OF MAXI-IMPORTANCE!

Nick Carter became the first Elkhorn resident to attend a national political convention. In 1892 he was working as an usher when Benjamin Harrison was nominated as the Republican presidential candidate, followed by Harrison becoming the 23rd President of the U.S.

In 1911 a new law was enacted limiting women's working hours to 10 per day. As a result the dry goods stores were forced to close three nights a week at 6 o'clock. These stores were then open on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday nights only.

Also in August of the same year Suffragists touring the state with speakers of the Equality League, held a meeting in the park on behalf of women's voting rights.

A big attraction at the 1911 County Fair was a Curtis biplane. Fair receipts reached \$14,000.

Will Lyon, son of Judge and Mrs. Jay Lyon, was a teacher in Tiensten, China under the auspices of the Chinese government in 1911. He taught high school science in that city.

Also in 1911, Mrs. Jay Page spent two days in Chicago during August and witnessed the landing of Harry Atwood, Boston aviator, who made a record trip of 286 miles from St. Louis to Chicago in only 5 hours and 43 minutes!

In 1917 a parade was formed of the draft selectees to go from the courthouse to the train depot. Led by the school band it also contained two Maxwells, Buicks, Overlands, and Studebaker cars.

In 1923 Bayard Lyon visited Egypt and witnessed the opening of King Tut's tomb. He was disappointed as the tomb contained nothing of intrinsic interest. However, other tombs nearby proved to have valuable treasures.

Sidney Smith, of cartoon Andy Gump fame, attended the American Legion celebration on July 4,



ALTHOUGH WORLD WAR I had started in 1914, it wasn't until April 6, 1917 that the U.S. entered the conflict. Later in the summer, a parade was formed of the draft selectees, who marched down Wisconsin street from the Courthouse to the

depot, with residents watching and accompanying them. The young men boarded a train, filling several coaches, which took them to Camp Grant near Rockford, Ill., for training.

1923 with his son, Chester, accompanying him in his Rolls Royce. He chose a young lad, Glenn Babcock, to draw the letter "B" which Mr. Smith later transformed into the face of a boy with the "B" forming the figure's lips.

In May 1924 Elkhorn was chosen one of two small cities in Wisconsin to be a part of a survey sponsored by three agencies: the Bureau of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., the Institute of Social and Religious Research, New York City, and the Department of Agricultural Economics of the Wisconsin College of Agriculture. It covered the areas of social-religion-educational aspects.

Clifford Snyder was one of Walworth county's most famous sons. He gained international fame with his paintings which were exhibited in some of the world's most famous art galleries. He was a dentist for several years in Berlin, Germany, where he served the Royal Family. He used to practice his dental profession half the year and his art work the rest of the year. Later a studio in Paris served as his art headquarters, at which he died in January, 1928. Six paintings by Mr. Snyder are on display in the Matheson Memorial library.

The Sperry Candy Co. of Milwaukee, formerly of Elkhorn and headed by Miles Sperry, sold the rights and formula of the famous "Denver Sandwich" candy bar to the Redel Candy Co., of Milwaukee. The rights and formula went for \$15,000 and royalties on all productions of the bar.

Adeline Bartelson was a 14-year-old sensation as she won the State math Championship in May 1927. The judges felt that her new records of speed and accuracy in computation would stand for a long time to come! Mrs. Warren Whaples was still working with figures in the office of Attorneys Eberhardt and Sweet in the 1970s.

Alfred Olsen was a versatile inventor. One of his greatest achievements was the origin and development of Densewood. In 1932 Rep. Thomas Amlie heard of the rapidity with which the Speaker of the House of Representatives, John Garner, broke his gavels! Olsen was informed of this situation and made a trip to Washington, D. C., where he presented Mr. Garner with two gavels of black walnut.

His brother, Theodore Olsen, created handmade knives which began as a hobby but spiraled into a business with requests from all over the country. His daughters, Thelma and Elma, are known for their rosemaking talents, and articles made by these talented women are enjoyed by many. They also teach the Norwegian art every year in several localities.

Another Olsen brother, Elmer, was also creative, and his son, Earl, owner of the West Side Machine Tool, Inc., is a talented musician. Earl has a treasured collection of hand-carved Prehistoric animals made by his father.

A well known hymn, "In the Sweet Bye and Bye" was composed by Joseph Webster. Another of his compositions, "Lorena", was the theme song used in the movie "Gone With The Wind."

Allen Ludden of television's "Password" fame attended Elkhorn schools while his father served as the Elkhorn Light and Water superintendent.

In 1955 Bob Carman, the former writer for the Independent, was made assistant vice president of Welcome Wagon Inc. He was also a member of NBC in Chicago and was a writer for entertainer Arthur



Kay Harris in the movie, "Tillie the Toiler"

Godfrey and later for Jack Paar.

Dan Kelliher, owner of the Sprague theater, was elated when Elkhorn was chosen for the world premiere of "Tillie, the Toiler", starring a local girl, Kay Harris. Kay, while working in Cincinnati, had been given an opportunity for a screen test by Penny Singleton. The premiere was a link to Hollywood for the city and its local star!

Marion Tubbs Lawson wrote several books including "Proud Warrior-Blackhawk", "Solomon Juneau - Voyager" and "Maggie - Flying Bird". Her mother, Helen Tubbs, was a prolific writer of poetry and prose.

Elkhorn boasted two women post-mistresses! Mrs. Tom Morrissey (Tessa) was the first woman to hold that office, serving from 1933-1950. She was followed by Mrs. John Voss (Helen) who served from 1951 until 1953.

Dr. Rolland Anderson was voted the state's "Veterinarian of the Year" in 1955.

Elizabeth Morrissy, now of Baltimore, received one of the highest honors of the Catholic church at the direction of Pope Pius XII in June, 1955. She was presented with the "Pro Ecclesia Pontifice" medal



Connie Platts—State Fair Queen 1967

for distinguished service in the field of higher education.

Dr. Carl Lindow, with the Kellogg's Research station and later as counsel to the food and feed industries, wrote several books in that field. He appeared in the "American Men of Science" and "Who Knows and What", both honorary organizations in the scientific areas.

Student Joe Morgan, of Elkhorn, was given several local awards and a state citation in 1967 for having rescued three members of the Joseph Jacobs family from a house on fire in late 1966. He used a ladder to reach an upstairs window and bring the three children down it.

Connie Platts, of Elkhorn, who reigned as a Walworth County Fair queen, also added the honor of being the first of Wisconsin's "Fairest of the Fairs" queen and reigned over the 1967 State fair.

National situations were felt in Elkhorn during the 1970s, such as a partial meat boycott in April of 1973. Meat buying dropped by 8 to 10 percent in Elkhorn stores as some housewives protested high prices across the nation.

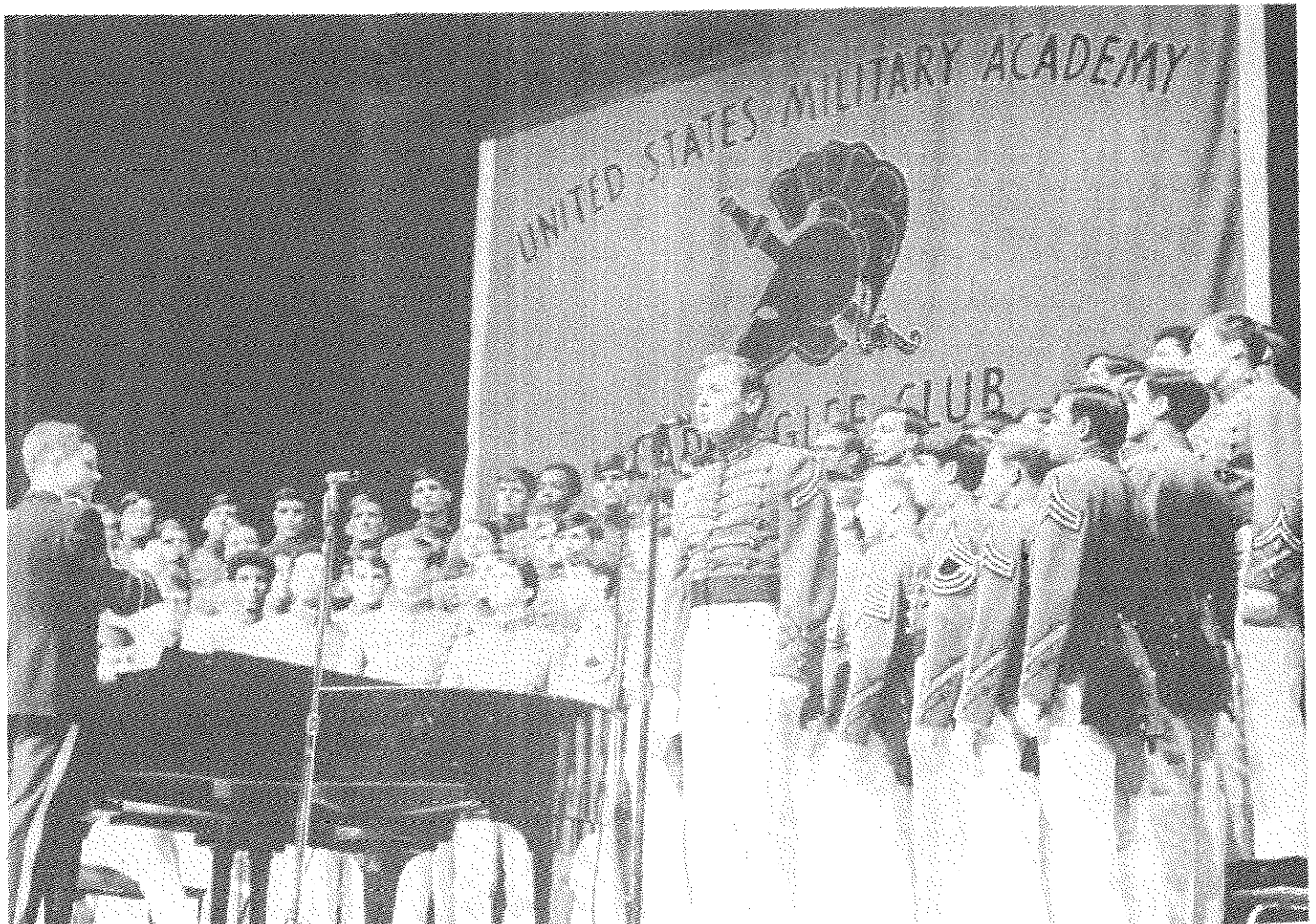
In February of 1974, truckers protested higher fuel prices and a reduction of the speed limit to 55 mph nationally, which had come about due to the Arab nation's oil embargo against the U.S. during part of 1973. The truckers strike limited gasoline and food supplies to some extent. The gasoline shortage, the second to be felt locally in the 70s, resulted in a couple of gasless Sundays as service stations simply closed.

A new "Brown Flu" hit Walworth county in mid-May of 1974 as Walworth County Sheriff's Deputies went on a work slowdown over stagnant wage negotiations with county officials. There was even a demonstration by deputies and their families, as a symbolic picket line was formed for several walks around the Courthouse here. A settlement brought an end to the "flu" epidemic, which while not of great severity, was similar to other strikes by public employees in Wisconsin and other parts



KNOWN AS THE "Brown Flu" epidemic," deputies of the Walworth County Sheriff's Department went on a work slowdown after wage negotiations with the county's Personnel

committee had bogged down in early 1974. The symbolic picket line at the Courthouse occurred in mid-May of that year.



A NOTEWORTHY VISIT to Elkhorn was provided by the 72-member West Point Glee club, including senior Cadet James Gruneth, an Elkhorn high graduate of 1969. The cadet was able to arrange for the concert here on March 25, 1974, as the Glee club toured the U.S. during their spring recess,

and was called upon to introduce a number before his many friends and neighbors in the EHS auditorium. The cadets stayed overnight in the homes of local residents before resuming their tour.

of the nation, that started in the 1950s and 60s.

There were disturbances on college campuses in the late 1960s, including one at the UW-Whitewater. Racial incidents on Dec. 15-16 in 1969, led to two black students being expelled and seven blacks suspended, following several weeks of formal hearings at the Courthouse here during January. The disci-

plinary action by university President Dr. William Carter came on the heels of a fire that destroyed the Old Main building on the UW-W campus. Arson was confirmed in the Feb. 7 blaze. There were also some campus demonstrations over the suspension of four teachers involved in protests, who were later reinstated and the furor died off.

# Recreational Pursuits

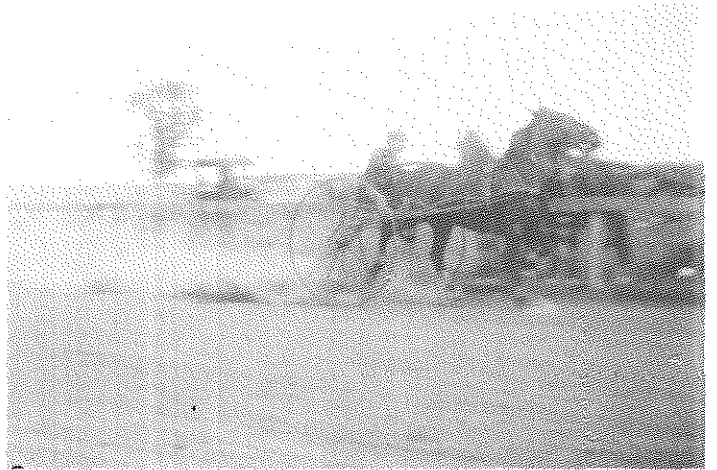
A great variety of recreation forms have developed in the Elkhorn area over the years, much of it associated with the popularity of the lakes for tourists in the summertime, which has been extended into winter as well with ice-boating, skiing, ice-fishing and snowmobiling.

The development of state and city parks has led to a lengthy period of baseball, a growing popularity of tennis, band concerts and leisurely family picnics, cycling and hunting add to outdoor activities, while bowling remains one of the most popular indoor sports.

Probably the first and most important recreation started in Elkhorn, was the Walworth County Fair, which was first held in the block to the southwest of Courthouse park back in 1851. It was most likely an exhibit of vegetables, corn and livestock, a project of the Walworth County Agricultural Society, whose constitution was adopted in 1842. In 1855 the original purchase of land was 6 acres at \$100 an acre; while today the Fair Association owns 85 acres and the city has grown around much of it.

Horse racing became an early and integral part of the fair. Since horses were used exclusively for riding and driving, transportation and hauling of freight, it is likely that owners strove to improve the various strains, thus ensuring a faster and more efficient means of locomotion. The races attracted horses of note because the purses were considered generous. Today the purse for each race is \$1,000, whereas most county fairs offer \$500, and five horses of the eight in each race come in on the money. There were more pacers than trotters, but the intention was (and still is) to keep the numbers even.

In the days before motor transportation, there frequently would be 100 horses here at once, and

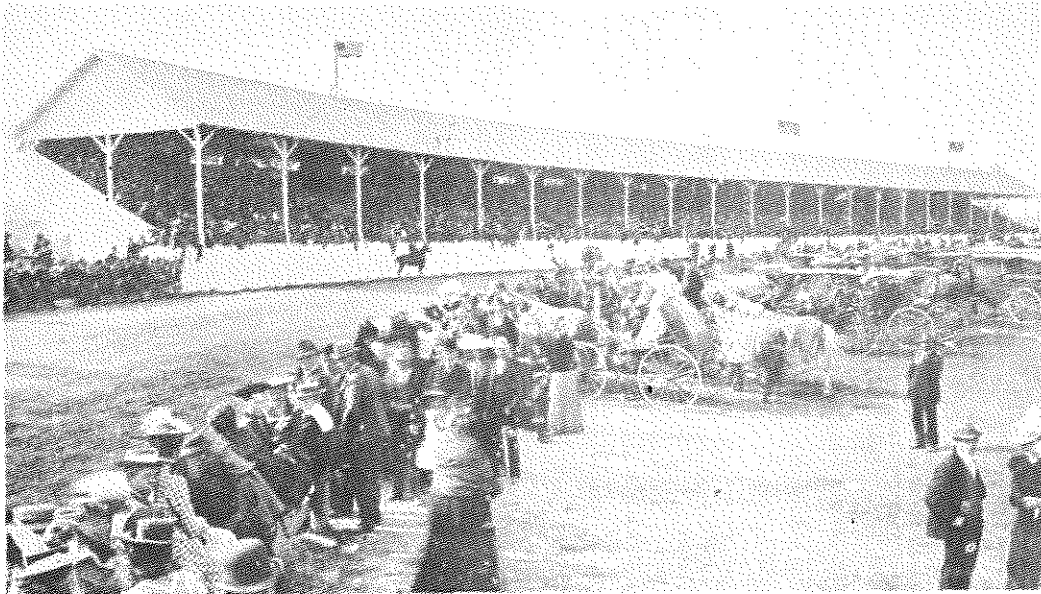


THE POPULARITY of the Walworth County Fair has been enhanced for a long time by harness racing. An early sulky raced on the half mile track, probably about the turn of the century.

their owners and trainers spent several days at the fairgrounds, during which time a friendly camaraderie was enjoyed.

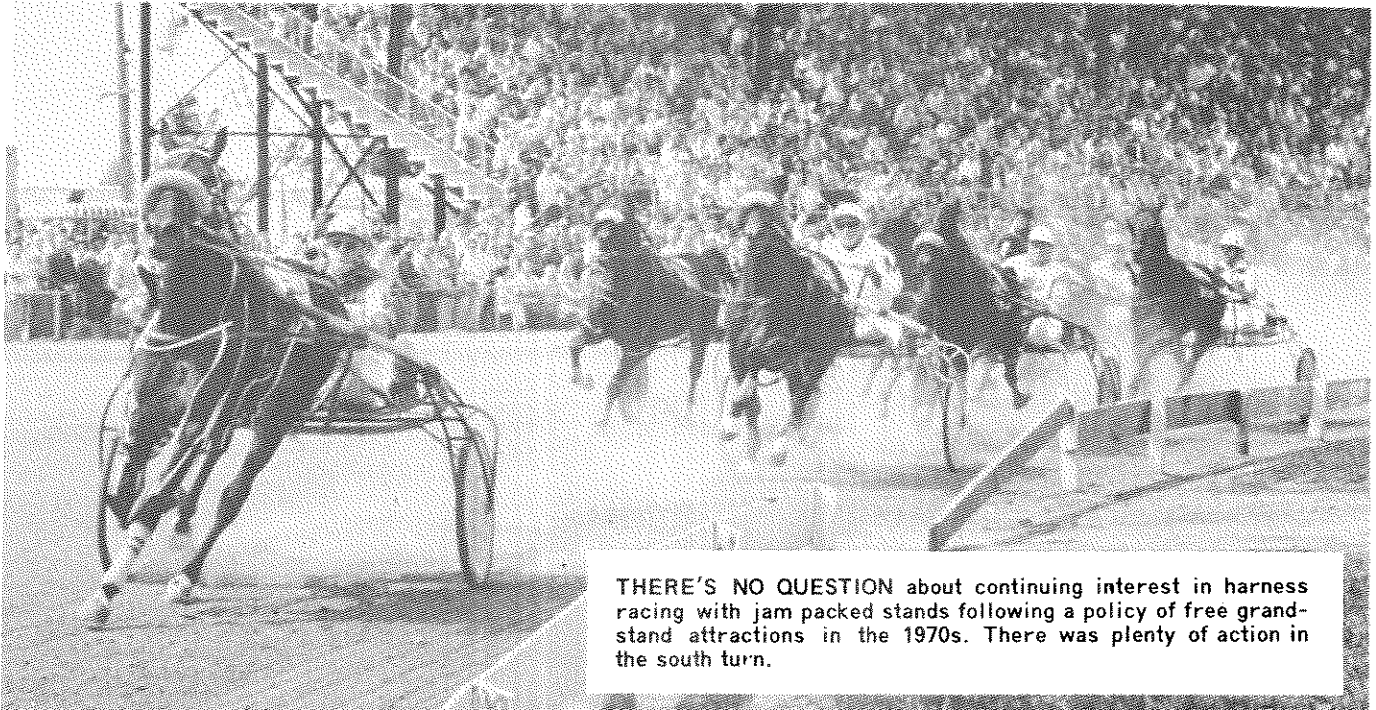
The track at Elkhorn is a half-mile oval in length and the heats are twice around. Some tracks are a mile around, but the visibility is much better with the smaller oval. The dirt track today is composed of limestone.

In 1913 the world Champion Shire Stallion, Dan Patch, was a distinguished visitor at the Fair. A "Shire" stallion was one of a large, heavy breed of draft horses, originally developed in the "Shire" or Midland counties of England. Dan Patch was a



TRACK INTEREST WAS evident in this late September County Fair picture taken in 1910 showing the old wooden grandstand which was finally destroyed by fire in 1970. The parade marshal appears to be situated in front of the old curved amphitheater.

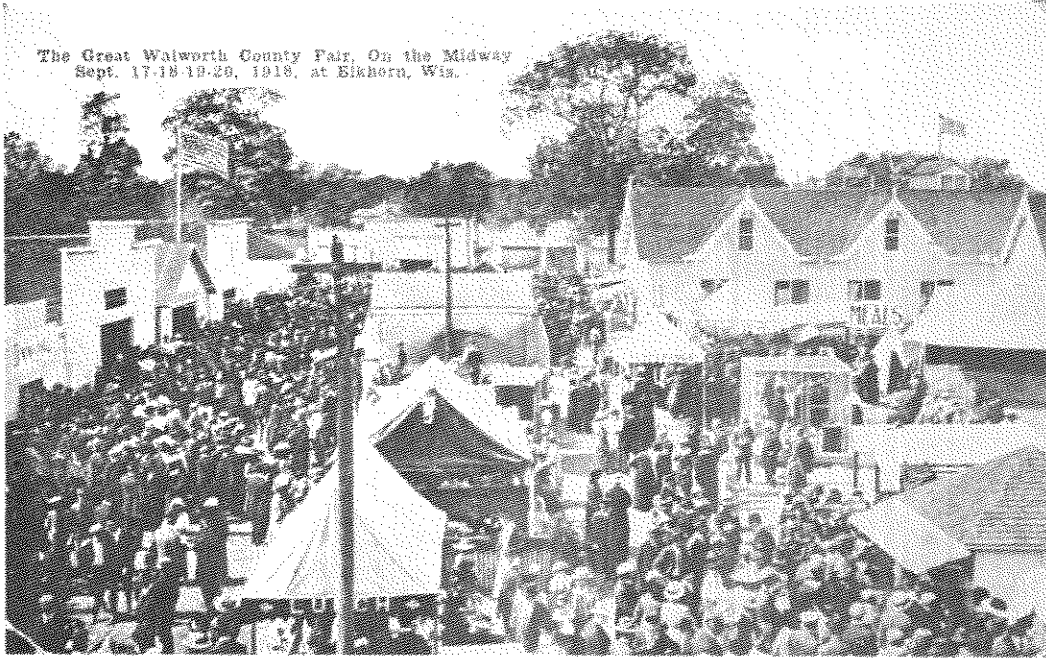
WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR, SEPT. 2-10, 1910, ELKHORN, WIS.



THERE'S NO QUESTION about continuing interest in harness racing with jam packed stands following a policy of free grandstand attractions in the 1970s. There was plenty of action in the south turn.



**OVER 141,000 ATTENDED RECORD SMASHING 1976 WALWORTH COUNTY FAIR**



SOME OF THE buildings at the 1918 Walworth County Fair are still recognizable on the left, although the midway has changed markedly from that of the 1970s. However, large crowds continue to flood the fairgrounds and its exhibits.

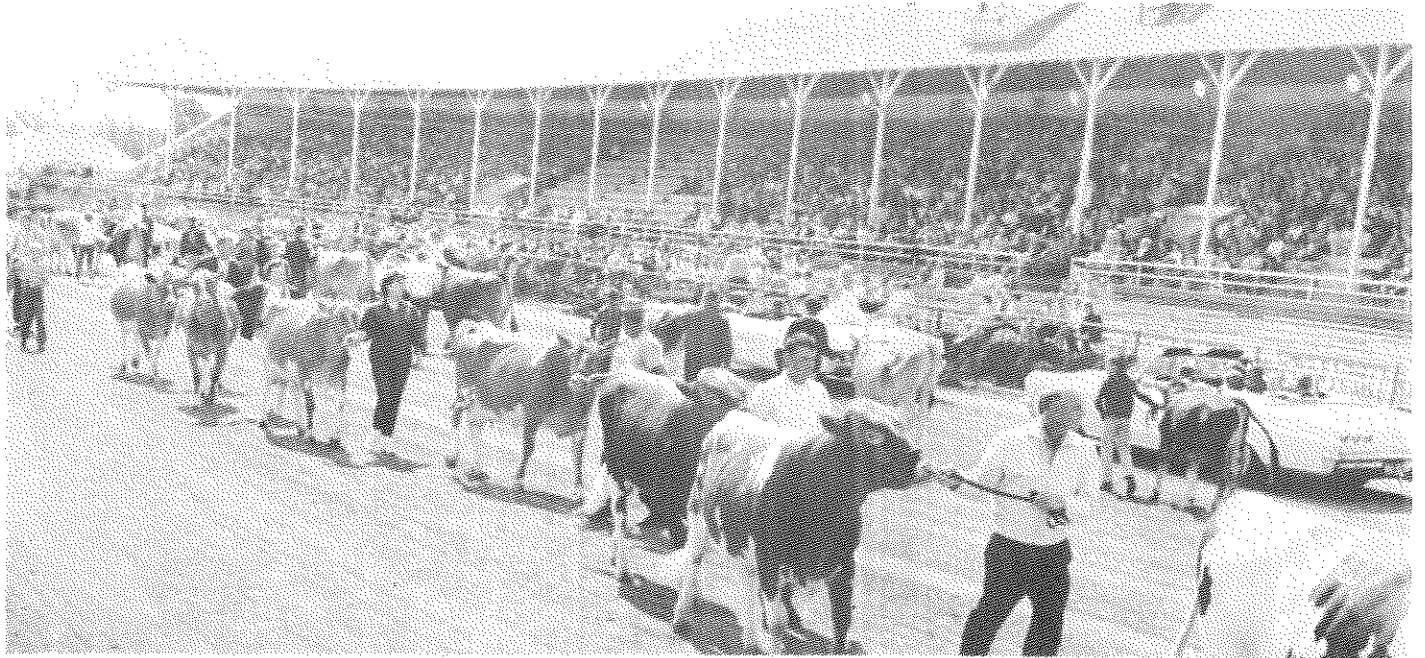
\$10,000 animal owned by J. J. Mitchell of Ceylon Court, Lake Geneva. Some years ago, a horse named "Volo Song", owned by the Bakers, of St. Charles, Ill., broke a leg in a race at the Fair and had to be shot.

The original grandstand was made of wood and was without a roof. It was later replaced by the amphitheater, which burned in 1970. The following year, the present concrete structure was built, a large portion of it paid for by donated funds of interested citizens and fairgoers.

At the turn of the century special trains were run

especially for the Fair, and people came from as far away as 90 and 100 miles. The "Eagle Track" ran diagonally east of the fairgrounds. In 1913, Thursday attendance was 26,000 and Friday attendance 20,000; all the excursion trains were crowded to the platforms. Recently Fair attendance has been estimated at over 120,000 for the five-day session, with the attendance for the 1976 six-day Fair of 141,471, the all-time record.

The Holton-Elkhorn Band traces its history back to the early 1840's; and during the Civil War, many members of the band joined the 12th Regimental Band.



ALTHOUGH THERE ARE many attractions at the County Fair, its original purpose of being a showcase for agriculture continues. The Parade of Champions included many queens in the

form of bossy in addition to those riding in the convertibles on Labor Day, the final day of the Fair in 1969.



INTEREST IN MUSIC arrived very early in the community with the formation of a municipal band in the early 1840s, which was to become known as the Elkhorn Cornet Band. Uniforms were definitely a part of the summer concerts, which received an infusion of talent when the Holton Company relocated its plant here. The present Holton-Elkhorn Band along with its predecessor is now the nation's second oldest municipal band.

There was a re-organization in 1883, and the Band was duly incorporated as the Elkhorn Cornet Band. In 1890 new music and a complete set of high-grade silver-plated instruments were purchased; and H. D. L. Adkins became director, a position he held for 28 years.

On June 20, 1912 the weekly Band concerts began on a Wednesday night, and continued until the middle of September. There were 20 players: Cornets--E. W. Cory, George Taylor, W. E. McGill, Cadmus Marsh; clarinets--Arthur Johnson, Francis Cory, John Renner, Addison Haugen; altos--Dr. J. M. March, L. Clifford Howe; French horn--H. D. L. Adkins; trombone--Charles Wales; tenors--F. B. McGill, John Wall; baritone--Dr. S. C. Goff; bass--Phil Stewart; baritone sax--George Renner; drums--Chris Nuoffer; tenor drum, traps, bells--Glen Sweet; director--J. H. Snuder, Jr. Mrs. Harry Dunbar and Mrs. Mabyn Howe were soloists with the band.

The Band received an infusion of new talent in 1918 when the Frank Holton & Co. moved its band headquarters and instrument factory to Elkhorn from

Chicago. A number of excellent musicians were included in the Holton work force, and they added greatly to the Bands improvement, making it one of the finest industrial bands in the country. Weekly concerts in Courthouse Park drew crowds up to 5,000, some coming from as far away as Madison and Milwaukee.

In July, of 1922, Carrie Jacobs Bond attended a band concert here. In 1926 the city built an acoustically perfect band shell in the park, which remained there until the new Courthouse was being built in 1962, then the band shell was moved to its present location in Sunset park, where the band concerts are still conducted on Friday evenings during the summer, making it the second oldest municipal band in the nation.

The band was over 100 years old in 1945, but there were no concerts that summer due to the lack of experienced musicians, as many of them were serving in the World War II armed forces.

On New Year's day of 1914 the Elkhorn Cornet Band held its annual dance. The school musical

A NUMBER OF DANCE bands have been formed over the years, with the Bud Wilber musicians probably the best known. The band, which was pictured at the Milwaukee Athletic club about 1960, was composed of (from left) David Beattie, Bobby Wilber, Barbara Mann, John Davis, Bud Wilber, Bob Dominiak, Ted Buenger, Dale VanDoren, Robert Reed, Phil Welsh and Lester Loehrke.



organization put a ban on the tango: "dances with obscene variations and naughty wiggles" were not to be tolerated! It was stated that "if the mothers of Elkhorn were not disposed to bar the disreputable squirm of the underworld", then the band or some other organization should ban it from local dance halls.

Other musical activities took the form of gatherings around the piano or organ on Sunday evenings for singing of all the old-standby selections, as well as the latest songs. Then there would be popcorn and cider, or perhaps mush and milk for the evening meal. Those were the days of the barbershop quartet, the community chorus and the family orchestra.

There were several Elkhorn musical organizations for the edification and benefit of those who enjoyed good music. They were started for the pleasure of the individuals concerned, and later branched out to entertain the public.

The Philharmonic Club of Elkhorn, probably the only organized singing group in the city aside from local church choirs, was going strong at the turn of the century, and for several years after. Membership numbered more than 50, and meetings were held at various homes, where programs would be arranged and presented.

Three 1903 printed programs furnished at the meetings have been preserved by the Elkhorn Independent and name soloists who participated; Mesdames Walter Lauderdale, Harley Norris, F. H. Eames, John Dunphy, Fred Schmidt, Edward Ellsworth, Bertha Medbery, Byron McKinstry, Fred Hubbell, Phil Stewart, Julia Dunlap, T. J. Jones, Grant Harrington, L. L. Medbery, Julius Edwards, Nad H. C. Miller; Misses Cora Harris, Edna Derthick, Linn Sprague, Lucille Damuth, Margaret Phillip, Helen Sage, Bertha Taylor, Lulu Matheson, Modjeska Martin, Mabel Morefield, Mabel Young, Eva Tubbs, Jessie Sprague, and Mary Chrystal.

This group presented programs which included patriotic songs, songs by American composers, songs and ballads of Scotland, and compositions by Joseph P. Webster. They presented the "Messiah" several times, not only in Elkhorn, but also in neighboring towns. Mrs. Fred Schmidt was the club's last president in 1932.

Those were also the days of the barbershop quartet, but as far as anyone can recall, no organized quartet sang with regularity in the era around 1903. In later years, Victor Johnson, George Desing, "Dusty" Rhodes, and Archie Morrissey comprised a quartet, and the group sang together for several years. In the 1920's and far into the 1930's, the Princess Quartet filled hundreds of engagements; its members were Victor Johnson, Paul Hughes, Kenneth Goodrich and Dan Kelliher.

In the late 1960's, barbershop was revived for a couple of years among men. Gene Ingersoll, John Henderson, Kirt Fiegel and Charles Bils formed a quartet and barbershop concert competition was held at the high school in 1969 and 1970.

A few Elkhorn women found harmony in the Southern Lakes Sweet Adelines chapter, headquartered in Delavan during this same period and into the mid-1970s. Patti Murphy became a group director, with Esther Derksen, Candy Cervenka and Maurine Walsh taking part in shows.

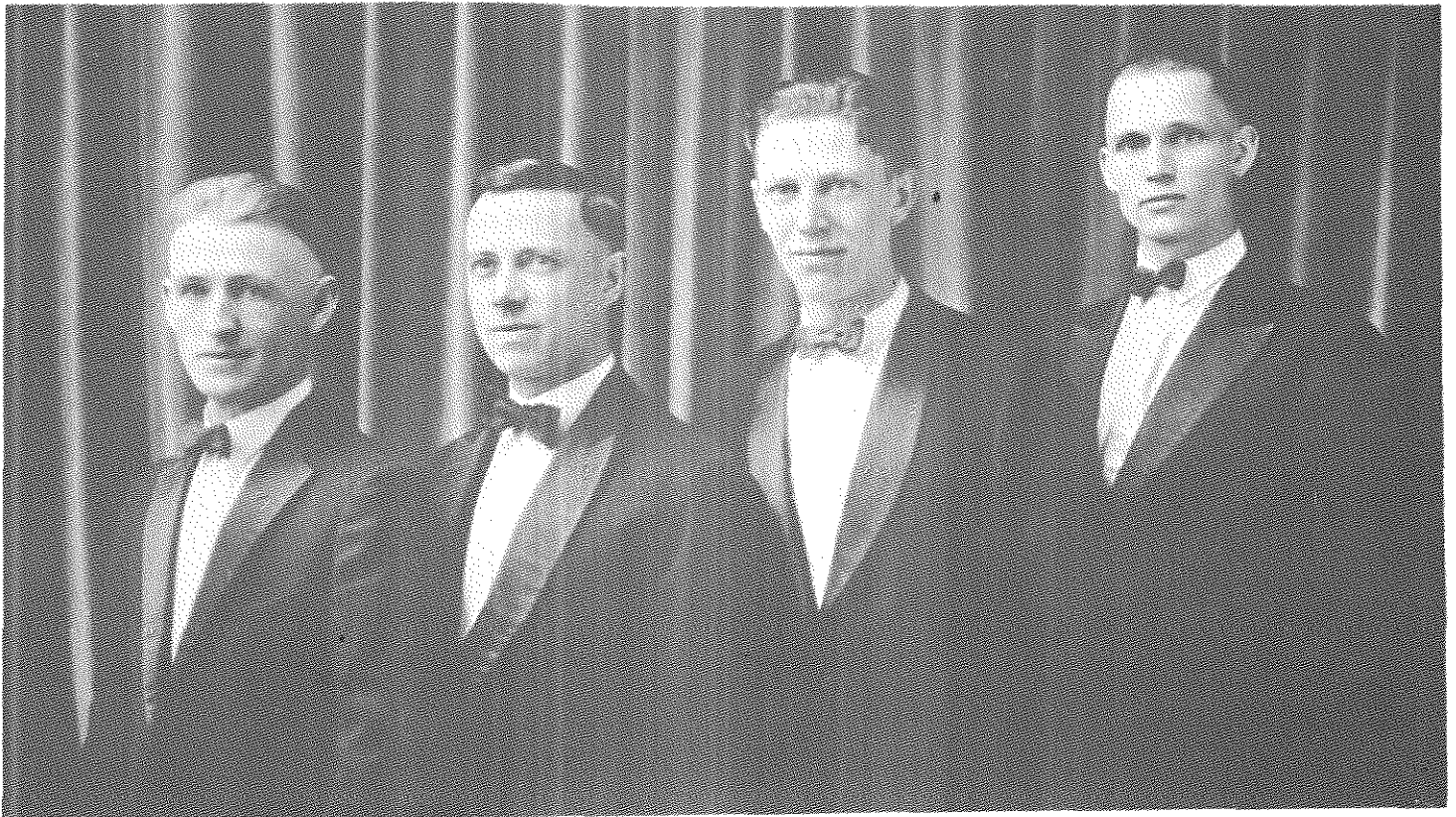
There were other local organizations that provided amusement for the participants as well as for the listeners. Dr. J. M. Marsh was famous for his family orchestra, and E. W. Cory had the same type of musical organization. The musicians played for fun, and were good enough to perform frequently in public. Both orchestras were in demand for entertainment and as "pit" orchestras at the Sprague Opera House.

With all the local musical talent, small groups could be found to play for dances. Many people re-



A CONTINUATION OF the city's music interest was the establishment of the Milwaukee Symphony Association of Walworth County in the 1970s, which brings a series of public

and school concerts to the area each year. The public ones are held at Elkhorn high school, which includes a full Milwaukee Symphony performance.



ONE OF THE MOST well known local barbershop groups was the Princess Quartet which sang for many years after starting

in the 1920s. The quartet was composed of (from left) Dan Kelliher, Paul Hughes, Kenneth Goodrich and Victor Johnson.

member the good times enjoyed in Warning Hall (above Lynch Interiors) and in Columbus and Wisconsin Halls. The George Hatch Orchestra, from Janesville, was sometimes called to play at Warning Hall and was a favorite band as George Hatch was a former Elkhorn boy. At intermission wonderful dinners were served in the Nickel Plate dining room. Local liveries stabled out-of-town guests horses without charge.

Then there were dances at Pecks Station and at Millard which were well attended by local dancers. It was great fun in winter to arrange a sleigh ride to a dance in one of the rural areas. And barn dances could be counted on to draw some of the local young people for summertime entertainment.

At the turn of the century, the Choir Boys Band of St. John's Episcopal Church was an outstanding young musical group.

An old-time fiddlers' contest, the first of its kind to be put on here, was a distinct success at the American Legion Hall in April of 1926.

After World War II the VFW Drum and Bugle Corps was organized and in 1948 was joined by Fred Platts and his horse "Lady"; their fine performances made them a popular demand in the area. The manager Edmund Mills and Mr. Platts built a trailer to transport "Lady" to the performances with the corps.

In 1968 another drum corps, The Titan Drum and Bugle Corps, was formed; it too was a fine group of young players and was directed by Gene Meadows and Elmer Scheiby.

Also in 1968, The Lakeland Youth Symphony was

organized; the group received an invitation and accepted to play at Hemis Fair in San Antonio, Texas, in August of that summer. Later the orchestra moved to Whitewater.

Dramatics have always been of interest both to those who participate and to those who are entertained. Elkhorn was fortunate to have the Sprague Opera House for the use of local and traveling groups until it burned in 1925. In those early days of this century the home town drama groups rehearsed and produced some memorable plays here, and then went to neighboring towns to perform for their audiences, while the dramatic groups from those towns would come to Elkhorn in an exchange performance. The fact that often the players were friends and well-known to the audience made the productions all the more interesting and enjoyable.

A so-called "Chautauqua" came to Elkhorn, and was held on the west side of the Courthouse. The performances were presented in a large tent in July and August. This was an outgrowth of the adult educational movement which originated in Chautauqua, N.Y., its home base. Lyceum bureaus of several grades of price range furnished the talent for small towns. It is thought that the longer-established Assembly Grounds on Delavan Lake rather eclipsed Elkhorn's in size and number of talented performers.

In July 1916 "The Birth of a Nation" was shown in the Sprague Opera House. A company of 25 people and two motion picture machines came to present it, with a 17 piece orchestra furnishing the music for the performance. In 1922 Elkhorn arranged for a Lyceum course, which was a kind of winter Chautau-

qua. In May 1922 a Masonic Minstrel show was presented for two evenings to packed houses.

A number of Elkhorn area and summer residents were involved with the famed Belfry theater near Williams Bay, which began in 1932 and lasted until its demise following the widening of nearby highway 67 in the mid 1960s. Its most illustrious resident-actor was Paul Newman in the 1950s. The former Mormon church still stands as part of a new theater building, which is used on occasion by a summer troupe.

The allegiance to the Belfry productions became transferred to the Lakeland Players, Inc., which was formed in Elkhorn in 1973. The local and area thespians specialized in Broadway musicals, first at the Elkhorn Cinema (Sprague theater)

and later in 1976, performing on the stage of the Elkhorn Area high school.

A team of debaters comprising Roy Lauderdale, Merton Wales, and Henry Brown, were matched with Beloit in the Sprague Opera House a number of years ago. Several hundred people attended the inter-city match.

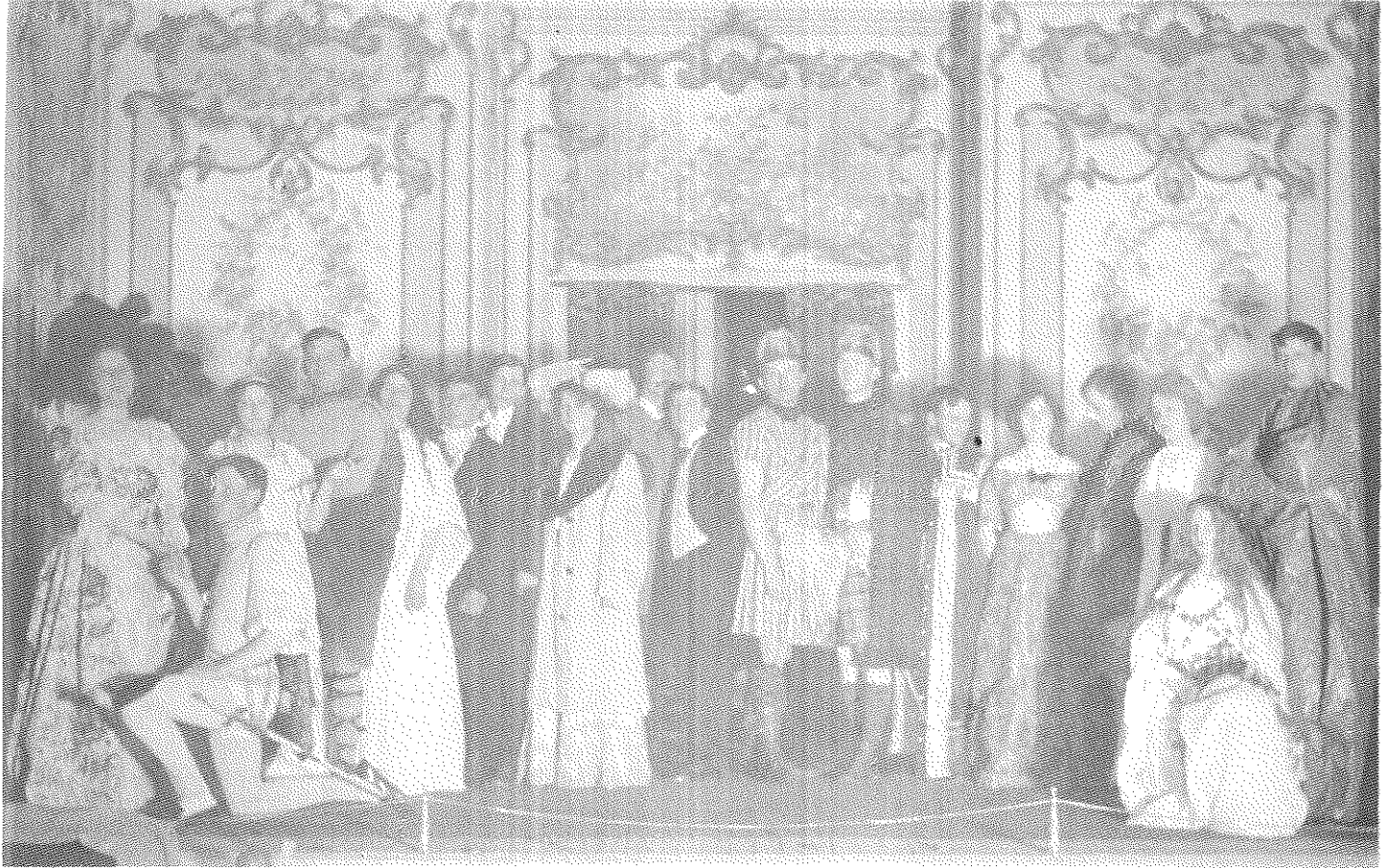
A history of recreation in Elkhorn would not be complete without a word about Dan Kelliher, who built the Sprague Theater in 1928. He was a public-spirited gentleman, and presented only "high class" movies; he loved children and gave them many free shows at holidays and other times.

His theater also was popular for staging shows as well as showing movies. The Ladies Aid Society of the Congregational church sponsored the



**DAN KELLIHER WAS KNOWN** throughout the community by young and old alike as operator of the movie theater for nearly 50 years. The building of the modern Sprague theater in 1928 was matched by the first-rate movies he booked as well as

community entertainment in the form of plays and other dramatic presentations. He often treated children to special free showings, such as this Christmas party in December of 1965.



THE SPRAGUE OPERA House frequently had shows on stage, ranging from traveling companies to high school productions.

One of the latter was presented in this early scene, featuring a large cast, probably about 1920.



ELKHORN RESIDENTS have had a long interest and involvement in drama, beginning with traveling troupes appearing in the Sprague Opera House. Later there was the nearby Belfry

theater and now a large number of residents appear in Lakeland Players productions, such as the "Music Man" that was given on stage at the Elkhorn Cinema in late 1974.



ONE OF THE MOST unforgettable dramatic events in Elkhorn history was the "Womanless Wedding," so called because 65 men made up the entire cast for the variety show, with the late Judge Roscoe Luce as the "bride". The extravaganza

was staged in October of 1928 at the new Sprague theater. Variety stage shows were received for a while by the Kiwanis Club in the early 1960s.

"Womanless Wedding" in October in 1928, which was seen by about 1,200 people. It featured 80 local men in the cast of characters, including the late Judge Roscoe Luce as the "leading lady."

In the late 1950s and early 60s, the Kiwanis club revived the stage shows, creating several musical revues, featuring instrumental and vocal home town talent. Probably the most memorable aspect of the revue was the men's chorus line of high steppers.

In 1869 an Old Settlers' Society was organized to give young and old of Elkhorn a new holiday, an Old Settlers' Picnic Day. The second Wednesday in June was established as the meeting day, and hundreds of people gathered annually with picnic baskets in Courthouse Park. There were domestic and imported speakers, and old Elkhorn was visible in its non-partisan, non-commercial aspects. Speeches alternated with a band playing and double-quartet singing.

The Soldiers and Sailors Reunion was held in the park in August each year. The Independent of Aug. 21, 1913 reports: "The Elkhorn Band played an unusually enjoyable concert last night, the program being made up especially in honor of the Soldiers and Sailors Association, which held its annual reunion on the park yesterday afternoon. Several hundred more than usual heard the concert from the extra seats placed in the park."

In 1920 the Community Hall was added to the north side of the Baptist Church, where it served

the townspeople as a center for recreation, for basketball, volleyball, handball and bowling, for many years. After it fell into disuse and disrepair, it was torn down in 1972. The addition had originally been the Unitarian Church which stood on Walworth Street.

Tent shows were frequent attractions in summer; in addition to the Chautauqua programs, there were Wild West shows, Medicine shows and Circuses which pitched their tents on vacant lots about town. Picture, if you can, a tent show in place of the First National Bank, or the National Food Store, or the True Value Hardware Store, or in the 100 block of West Court Street. Nowadays the circuses are apt to be on or across from the Fairgrounds.

Bowling has been popular in Elkhorn since early in the century. In 1942 a newcomer was told that if she wanted to get acquainted in the town, she would have to bowl.

The first alleys were in what is now the Arnold building and were operated by Phil Stewart. In 1938, six lanes were installed in the former Spinner Ford Garage, and were run by Kenneth Seelye, who was granted a beer license. This was looked upon with disapproval by the Methodists, many of whom never returned to bowl there. At this time the official name of the alleys was "Elkhorn Recreation", and mail came addressed thus, until new ownership took over. The business was purchased in 1948 by Verne Evans, who operated the lanes

# If You Can't Laugh Don't Come to See the "WOMANLESS WEDDING"

To Be Presented at the Sprague Theatre—Biggest Affair Ever Staged in Elkhorn  
Screames of Laughter—Sponsored by Ladies Aid Society of Congregational Church

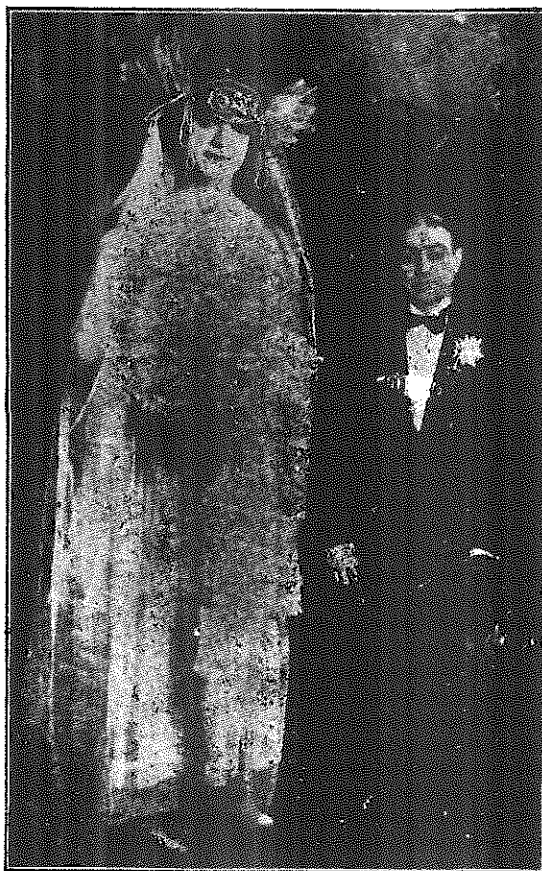
## 80 -- Local Men as Characters -- 80

By SYMPSON-LEVIE COMPANY OF BARDSTOWN, K ENTUCKY

### All Star Cast Featuring Judge Luce as Leading Lady

#### Cast of Characters

Butler—Geo. Harrington.  
Punch Girls—Willis Opitz, Bill Sheldon.  
Present Takers—Herman Schaffer, Bayard Lyon.  
Bride's Weeping Mother—Chas. Wilson.  
Bride's Comforting Father—Al Spinner.  
Bad Little Brothers—Hal Hubbard, Claude Eames.  
Old Maid Aunt—Donald Tryhall.  
Ikey Rosenstein—Geo. Meyers.  
Bride's Grandmother—Ora Taylor.  
Bride's Grandfather—A. J. Reed.  
Chas. Chaplin—Ben Bachhuber.  
Deaf Uncle and Aunt from the Country—C. A. Jahr, Reuben Lackey.  
Twin Sisters—Henry Tall, Dr. Gregerson.  
Fritz Kreisler—Glenn Vaughn.  
Mary Pickford—Dan Kelliher.  
Groom's Haughty Father and Mother—Alfred Godfrey, C. W. Schramek.  
Sis Hopkins—Art Desing.  
Sir Harry Lauder—Paul Hughes.  
Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller—Nick Carter, Harry Dunbar.  
Fashion Plate—Birdell Reed.  
Country Cousin—Oscar Desing.  
Pat and Rosie O'Grady—L. J. Merriam, Will Shaver.

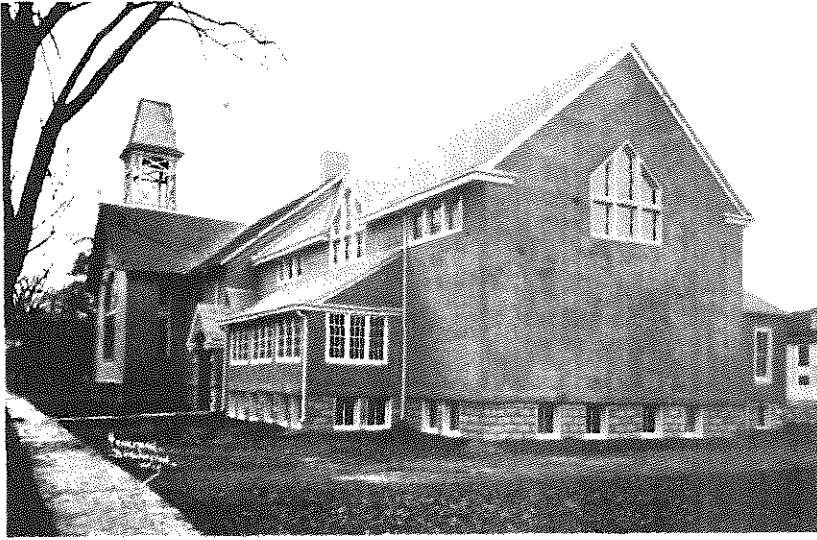


Madame Schuman Heink—Roscoe King.  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Ford—Harold Opitz, W. R. Brownlee.  
Annie Laurie—Chas. Bray.  
Henpecked Husband and his Devoted Wife—Ed House and Mr. Kidd.  
Flapper of 1928—Bud Meyers.  
Kentucky Colonel and his Lady—Frank Holton, Art Jones.  
President and Mrs. Coolidge—Burr Little, Elmer Ridgeway.  
Negro Mammy—Mark Potter.  
Baby Sister—Ernie Daskall.  
Rastus and Sambo—Harold Reed and Hilmar Desing.  
Village Schoolmarm—John Meadows.  
General Pershing—Chas. Lyon.  
Col. Lindbergh—Volney Lackey.  
Thead Bara—Jim Rosa.  
Irving Berlin—Kenneth Goodrich.  
Ushers—Mr. Steele, Rev. Barnlund.  
Best Man—Laurel Swan.  
Bishop—R. T. Wiswell.  
Ringbearer—Dr. Ridgeway.  
Maid of Honor—Dr. Sorenson.  
Bridesmaids—A. T. Thorson, Harry Cain, Walter Strong, Harry Howe.  
Trainbearer—Burton Wales.  
Flower Girls, Harry Shaffer, Clarence Bucholtz.  
Bride—Judge Luce.  
Groom—Guess Who???

## MONDAY AND TUESDAY, OCT. 29-30

Show Starts at 8:30 P. M.—Reserved Seats 75c; General Admission 50c; Children 30c

**Warning** This particular play was composed, is owned and produced by Sympson-Levie Company, protected by Copyright, No. 70971, U. S. Copyright Office, Washington, D. C. Any person or organization attempting infringement will be prosecuted to the fullest extent and damages collected.



ONE OF THE EARLY recreation centers in Elkhorn was the Community hall, which was added on to the First Baptist church in 1920. It had formerly been the Unitarian church here. The hall on the north side of the Baptist church provided activities in basketball, volleyball, handball and bowling for many years until no longer used in the 1960s, and was finally torn down in 1972.

during the next six winter seasons.

A frequent onlooker in late afternoons remembers that the following businessmen gathered there regularly: "Sprint" Howard Wheeler, Colon MacKenzie, Art Desing, Jim Mason, Vic Johnson, and Harry Frank. There was also a unique team of the five Flynn sisters: Leah (Jensen), Charlotte (Minette), Carol (Meadows), Phyllis (Gaber) and Pat (Wilber). They were sponsored by Breber Music -- and are still at it.

Bowling was especially popular at this time, and the alleys were often booked up Saturday for the following Sunday from 1 o'clock to closing time. Television had not yet come to Elkhorn, because of the high ridge north of Lake Geneva.

The problem of the time was in obtaining pin setters; farmers were happy to have their sons "set pins", and many were anxious to earn extra money, but the State Industrial Commission was greatly concerned and very arbitrary about it.

Harold Mishler purchased the alleys in 1954, mechanized and operated them until the present. Two Seasons Alleys were built and operated initially by Robert Reed and Phil Welsh, who later sold it in 1975 to Norbert Landreman.

The 1926 purchase by the city of Dan Corbett's pond brought to an end the joys of Elkhorn's "Ole Swimmin' Hole". Alas, this area which once echoed to the sounds of happy shouts, and where many local lads learned to swim, is to become -- a dump! Many a city father heard the high-pitched voice of old Dan shouting, "Be off, or I'll be havin' the law on yez!"

On the site of this loved spot there was once a gravel and clay hill which rose some ten feet higher than the surrounding land. The hill furnished material for many road and construction projects, and the resulting hole became Corbett's Pond. An ice house was built near it, and ice was taken from the pond to fill it. Now the ice house and the pond remain only as memories.

Swimming, other than for the boys at Corbett's Pond, was not easily available and necessitated an opportunity to go to one of the lakes. In the 1930's a Red Cross swimming program was instituted which bused the children to Williams Bay for swimming lessons. Later the city assumed the responsibility

for the swimming bus and provided leadership. After discussion for several years, a pool in Sunset Park became a reality in 1965, spearheaded by a citizens committee with Robert Getzen at the head. The committee raised \$36,000 in pledges. It has been a busy spot in summer ever since with swimming classes and competitions. The pool at Lakeland School and other school and resort-motel pools in nearby communities accommodate those who wish to swim in winter.

Ball games always have been of interest. During the summers of the depression years, a game called "kitten ball" became very popular. The ball used was a semi-soft ball about four inches in diameter. There were numbers of teams, and an inter-city league. There were four diamonds in Elkhorn, one east of Jackson Street in the south part of town, one where the Henderson garage is now located, one near the Holton Factory, and one at Harris Field, near the Middle School. Lights were installed at the latter, and there were bleachers at this field, so that two games could be played in one evening. During the 1930's, when corn sold for 30 cents a bushel and oats for 10 cents and when there was much unemployment, many kitten ball games were played, and much enthusiasm was aroused because of friendly rivalry between the teams.

Baseball teams for different age levels of boys and later for girls, became one of the popular summer activities, most of it sponsored through a city recreation program of Little and Pony Leagues, girl's softball and the growing interest in both men's and women's slow-pitch softball. For many years, up until the mid-1960s, there was a city hardball team of young men, but interest diminished with the advent of the slow-pitch leagues and tournaments.

Men's basketball has drawn interest in the past several years with two divisions playing in the Kinne gym of the Middle school, which was a long time site of Elkhorn high home games.

Tennis and golf have their devotees and have grown in numbers of players. Most Elkhorn golfers played at the nine-hole Lauderdale Country club or at the 18-hole Delbrook course in Delavan. Lake Lawn lodge on Delavan Lake, Hillmoor at Lake Geneva and later the Playboy club's two courses, have come into more public use. The latest course to



SLEIGH RIDES OF an earlier era have been almost totally replaced by winter rides on the popular snowmobile, which came into great prominence in the late 1960s. A class in snow-

open was the Evergreen Country club in the spring of 1975, a project developed by Mann Bros. Inc., of Elkhorn and located north of the city along highways 12-67.

Interest in tennis locally has grown at about the same rapid pace as its rise to prominence around the nation. When the three tennis courts at the Harris Athletic Field became too crowded, four new ones were built at Sunset park on the west side of Elkhorn in the fall of 1968 for public use. To meet the demand for teaching and competition, the Elkhorn Area school district added eight tennis courts and a

mobile safety was being conducted north of the city on county property.

“bounce wall” at the high school site in the fall of 1976.

While sleighing parties were in vogue in the early 1900s, which might involve many for a day or evening’s ride, these were gradually replaced by hayride parties and more recently by family snowmobiling, a multi-million dollar recreation enterprise. For those seeking the quietness of winter, cross-country skiing is a new hobby for quite a few as nearby downhill skiing areas have become crowded due to its immense popularity.



A CONTRAST TO the snowmobile of winter is the municipal swimming pool in Sunset park, constructed in 1965, which

draws hundreds of youngsters for fun, competition and swim lessons.

# Clubs And Organizations

The Elkhorn History Club is the oldest club in continuous existence in the city. On Oct. 6, 1893 five young ladies met at the home of Miss Jessie Lyon to organize a literary society. Then on Nov. 6 sixteen women organized the History Club, with meetings to be held on Monday evenings in their homes, and limited membership to 25. The ladies reviewed books, wrote poetry, studied short stories and current events, put on plays, did war work and Red Cross service in the two World Wars, bought bonds, kept records of war service in World War I, and donated a set of Shakespeare books to the library.

They sponsored exhibits and speakers on Indian relics, paintings, color etching (Pescheret of White-water), china and glass (Watts of Milwaukee). They even put on grand opera with Ruth Bradley Eames as Madame Butterfly. (She was Claude Eames' mother and had a lovely soprano voice.)

The club had joined the District & State Federation of Women's Clubs January 3, 1919. On their 50th anniversary, a luncheon was held at the Lor-

aine Hotel, with the Presidents of the District and State Federation attending. Two charter members were honored: Mrs. Morris Steele and Mrs. Granville Jones (nee' Jessie Lyon). Contributions of the History Club to Red Cross, Community Chest, Infantile Paralysis Fund, Indian Welfare, Camp Truax, etc. were noted.

At the Golden Jubilee program, roll call response was short biographies of women prominent in state and local history. Poems written by five club members were read: "The Inventor's Wife" by Mrs. Alfred G. Olsen, "Wisconsin" by Mrs. Henry Tubbs, "The Cycle" by Mrs. Bertha Weeks, "Plymouth" by Mrs. A.O. Stevens, and Mrs. M. S. Steele's poem in memory of Helen Martin. Mrs. Fred Webster told the story of the Webster home where she and her husband were residing.

The Elkhorn History Club today still meets on Monday nights, twice a month, and still belongs to the District and State Federations. The Club gives an award to the outstanding girl history student in Elkhorn High School each year.



THE OLDEST CLUB IN CONTINUOUS existence in the city is the Elkhorn History club, organized in 1893. Members of the club in 1903 were (front row, from left) Jessie Byington, Margaret Huribut, Edith Schmidt, Mabel Young Wiswell, Lutie Reed, Lin Prisk, (2nd row, left) Bird Cain, Ruth Wales Isham, Helen Tubbs, Emma Sprague, Sarah Francis, Mary Mills, (3rd row, left) Jessie Lyon Jones, Jessie Sprague, Irene Norton, Lucy Coman, Millie Johnson, Mamie Hoffman and Carrie Medberry.



AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS formed the Elkhorn Camera club in 1938, which continued in existence until 1942 as World War II was now underway. At a meeting of the club in the East meeting room (now Mary Bray room) of the Matheson Memorial library

were (from left) Mrs. Howard C. Strong, Mrs. J. Walter Strong, Miss Myrtle Mosher, Mrs. W. Allyn Strong, W. Allyn Strong, J. Walter Strong and Robert Robson.

#### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

History Club - oldest continuous existence. Begun in 1893. A women's club. Doris Wise was the 1976 president.

Booster Club - Elkhorn Business Men. Begun in 1920. Robert Riese was president in 1976.

Kiwanis Club - organized Apr. 27, 1922. Frank Holton was the first president. It has Monday luncheon meetings and is a service organization. Robert Getzen was 1976 president.

Chamber of Commerce - organized Sept. 20, 1945. William Sheldon was first president with Carroll Conner now the executive vice president. Richard Howarth was President in 1976.

Red Cross - dates back to 1917. Then Virgil C. Cobb's sorrel mare was sold for the benefit of Red Cross. Vera Davis was district representative for many years. In World War II and afterwards she was American Field Service Representative. Marlyne Seymour was Elkhorn's chairperson for the last decade.

Masonic Lodge, Harmony Lodge, organized June 17, 1848. Later disbanded when many members went to California Gold Rush. New lodge started in 1856 as Elkhorn Lodge #77. The Masonic Temple was built in 1915.

Eastern Star - a women's fraternal organization, is both a social and a service group. It supports the Shrine hospital and helps provide care for sick or orphaned children. The Elkhorn order was started in 1899 with East Troy as its mother chapter. Its Worthy Patron and Matron are Harry and Barbara Grabow.

Order of the Rainbow - is also a Masonic group, this one for girls between the age of 12 and 20. This is both a social and a service organization, supporting the Masonic Home at Dousman, the Shrine hospital, and locally the girls provide entertainment and services at the nursing homes. Each April Founder's Day is observed by attending one of the local churches in a group.

The Elkhorn Camera Club was organized April 12, 1938 with J. Walter Strong as president; it disbanded in the fall of 1942.

League of Women Voters operated in 1920. It disbanded in 1921 when women got the vote in Wisconsin.

Women's Club of Elkhorn - was an outgrowth of the Literary Club. Rosemary Hohfelder was 1976 president.

Junior Women's Club - it is involved in many community activities. Dixie Fiegel was 1976 president.

Kaklar Club - was organized by high school girls about 1915 as a sewing club; then became a card club with evening parties. It disbanded after Alice Murphy died as it had met there and she had served refreshments and dinners.

Hoo-Hoos - was organized about 1922 to meet in homes. At that time city lights were turned off at midnight. The hostess called the Power House on meeting night and asked that the lights be left on till 1 a.m. so the members could see to get home.

W.C.T.U. (Women's Christian Temperance Union) - was an early organization, but is no longer in existence here, having started about

1911.

The Badger Club - was organized in Feb. 1912 as a young men's social club. Walter West Jr. was first president.

The Garden Club - was organized in July of 1918, with 65 members. Mrs. Don Kunkel was 1976 president.

In December, 1918, the County Bee Keepers formed an organization with J. A. Travis president.

In 1927 the Girl Scouts were organized. Mrs. Carl Rieken was the 1976 community leader.

On Feb. 28, 1946, the V.F.W Post was organized with Judge Roscoe R. Luce as first Commander. The VFW (Veterans of Foreign Wars) Building was later built on South Broad Street

On Sept. 10, 1919 the American Legion Post was organized and its charter was granted Nov. 24, 1919. There were 15 charter members, later becoming known as the Kelley-Gardner-Katzman Post, which now meets in the Municipal Building. The 1976 Commander was Charles Gerlach.

The Rotary Club, formed in Elkhorn in August, 1969, is the city's newest service club. Earl Paddock was 1976 president.

The Elkhorn Senior Citizens, organized in 1967, meets in the Elkhorn Community Center on Thursday afternoons. Mrs. Ann King was 1976 president.

Boy Scouts - the 66th anniversary of the national organization was noted in February, 1976. Elkhorn Boy Scouts in several troops belong to the Sennisippi Council. Local leaders in 1976 were Leonard Brellenthin and Thomas Conway.

The Jaycees - as a service organization has a number of annual projects including a couple for children. Among their larger efforts were gifts for the Community Center and improvement of Harris Athletic field. Heading the chapter are James Beaver and Ken Meinel.

The Jaycettes - is a women's group assisting the Jaycees. Its charter president was Mrs. Charles Murray, while Mrs. Judy Landreman is now president.

Lions Club - is celebrating its 25th anniver-

sary with Harold Schuren as incoming president. Major community efforts have included gifts for the Community Center and municipal swimming pool, erection of the Lions Den in Sunset park and supporting delegates to Badger Boys State.

American Legion Auxiliary - members are involved in service to veterans through Poppy Day sales and helping with the Christmas gift shop at Wood VA hospital. Phyllis Wilkinson is president.

VFW Auxiliary - is also a women's group working closely with the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization by remembering the sick and bereaved. It was organized April 10, 1947 with a membership of 20, including women from Lake Geneva and Delavan. President is Mrs. George McCann.

Order of the Moose - fraternal organization promotes family togetherness through support of Mooseheart Home for Children and scholarships for needy children. Members also sponsor the 8th grade Middle school graduation party and allows use of its building for events. William Longmore is its governor.

Women of the Moose - is an auxiliary to the men's lodge with similar aims. Its senior regent is Barbara Sleeman.

Welcome Wagon Club - was formerly the Newcomers Club locally. It provides informative programs for new people in the community in addition to social functions in helping the newcomers become acquainted. Teresa Donnataria is the president now.

The Daughters of the American Revolution Elkhorn Chapter - was organized in January 1910 with 13 local women. The president at this time is Mrs. Frederick Young.

The Daughters of the Unions Veterans of the Civil War Tent No. 8 - was organized in January 1926 with 33 members. Mrs. Lawrence Kehl is the president now.

4-H Clubs - find many Elkhorn area children active. Professional leadership is offered by the UW-Extension faculty in the courthouse here. Support for 4-H programs is a joint effort of county government, the University of Wisconsin, and the

**THE CITY'S MEMORIAL DAY** observance has been a co-operative effort of veteran's organizations. Members of the American Legion post, which was started after WW I, and of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, begun after WW II, comprise the color guard and rifle squad leading the annual parade in Elkhorn.





ONE ASPECT OF THE Daughters of the American Revolution is patriotism, which the Elkhorn chapter demonstrated in the presentation of a Betsy Ross flag to the Webster House Museum in May of the Bicentennial year. Taking part in the flag pre-

sentation were DAR members (from left) Mary Belle Harris, Mrs. W. F. Uebele, Myrtle Bodden, Phoebe Ellsworth, Joyce Kimpel and Walworth County Historical Society Officials Stanley Schuren and Helen Kluge.

U.S. Department of Agriculture. Those enrolled in 4-H have a wide choice of projects, such as creative arts, personal development, science projects or home economics.

AARP - stands for American Association for Retired People. It is associated with the national association and it aims to help the elderly. It does this in many ways: educational or informational meetings, making insurance available and sponsoring a drug center where medicine can be obtained at less expense. The Elkhorn association meets in the Civic Center with Mrs. Mildred Leonard as president.

American Field Service - better known as AFS, helps students from other parts of the world become acquainted with the United States. Foreign students have come to Elkhorn to attend school for a year, residing with a local family and sharing its life. While here, students also are available to speak at club meetings so that Americans can learn about their countries too. In addition, this group also supports Elkhorn students who go abroad as part of the exchange.

Elkhorn Pistol Club - is a new club, organized only two years ago for people interested in competitive shooting. It meets in the county's

Hunters Safety Building on Hodges Road and is governed by a board of directors.

Knights of Columbus (Council 3464) - was organized here in 1952. Its principles are unity, charity, fraternity, and patriotism, all leading from and flowing back to their solid belief in Catholicism. The Elkhorn council is one of many such councils in the world concerned mainly with helping the church. David Nettekoven is Grand Knight of the Elkhorn council.

Lakeland Players Inc. - was begun in 1973 and is composed of amateur actors and actresses who have banded together to form a community theater. Its performances are given in the auditorium of the Elkhorn High School now. The Players have specialized in musicals. Linda Brabazon, Elkhorn, is the 1976 president.

Southern Lakes Business and Professional Women's Club - has members from the entire county, but Elkhorn women have, from its start in 1951, played an important role. Mrs. Wayne Jacobs is the current president of the club. The BPW Club promotes the interests of women through education, fellowship, service, and legislation. The club has provided scholarships for students at Gateway Technical institute.

# Remember, Remember

Do residents recall the delicious aroma coming from the popcorn wagon that was on the Chicago Store and former State bank corners and later on the Masonic Temple corner?

Or can a person recall when the city purchased a water sprinkler wagon in 1914 to cut the dust on the city's business streets?

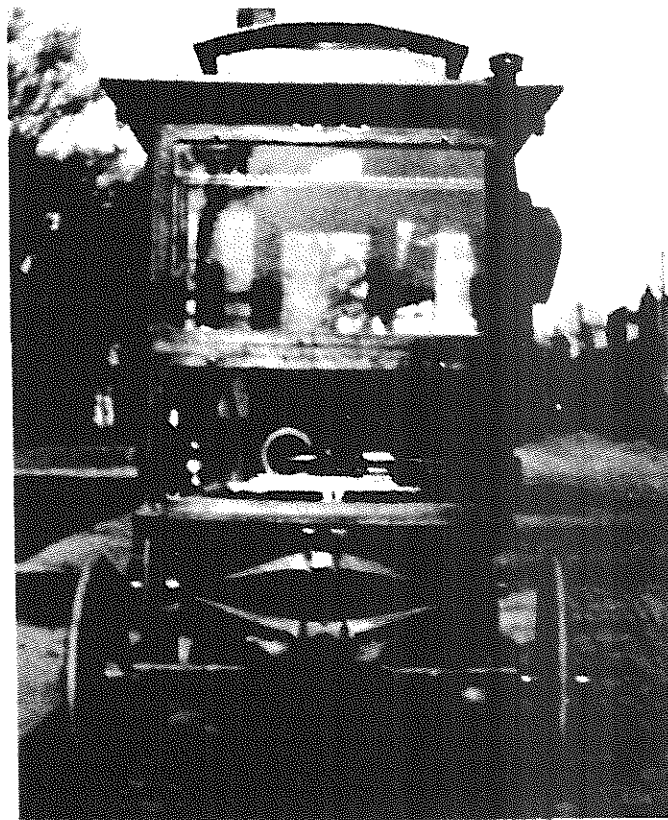
Who remembers when the school bell was rung to call the children to classes in the morning and at noon? Or sometimes when it rang a few moments late if Mr. Yahnke saw some coming tardy, but enabled them to be on time due to the delay. The school bell now is mounted in front of the Middle school as a decoration and a reminder of days gone by.

In 1905 there was a grand total of six automobiles in Elkhorn. Some may recall the Mitchell, Detroit, Studebaker, Ford, Cadillac, Reo, Overland, Chalmers, Hudson, Buick, Crow, Paige, Hup, Pierce Arrow, Dort, Stutz Bearcat and Stanley Steamer.

A billboard fenced off the vacant lot where now the Sprague Theater stands, and all sorts of auction and sale bills were posted there. There were knot holes that one might peek through to see if anything had happened behind the fence.

The Indianapolis Publishers of "The History of Walworth County" by Beckwith have notified the Elkhorn patrons that the books will be delivered on or about August, 1912. It was interesting to note how many Walworth County citizens "came across" with the \$75 for the privilege of seeing their faces in the biographical volume.

In 1912, Elkhorn's ironing day was changed from



Remember the popcorn wagon here?

Tuesdays to Wednesdays, and in 1914 it had been expanded to both days. With electricity available both days in the forenoon, electric irons became more popular despite the scarcity of power.

October 1913. A. J. Reed has a new rubber tired hearse.

"December 1913 - Some depraved specimen of humanity is responsible for the death of little "Dixie" the post office dog. He died of poisoning last night after he returned home from the office with Miss Morefield. The same fate met "Sancho", Fred Schmidt's black shepherd and the dog belonging to George Strode. The individual responsible deserves a coat of hot tar and feathers!" (An Independent item)

The Elkhorn Independent had sections of news devoted to Honey Creek, Darien, Delavan, Lyons, East Delavan, Adams, Springfield, Spring Prairie, White-water, Allens Grove, Heart Prairie, Bloomfield, Pecks' Station, LaGrange, Millard and German Settlement.

April 8, 1914 - Don Blanchard, of Chicago, suffered a fracture of his right arm cranking his car in front of the Nickel Plate hotel.

June 10, 1914 - Fourteen stalled autos were pulled out of the mire of Elkhorn streets last week. This was the record number, according to Street Commissioner Thomas Keefe.

## REMEMBER WHEN

Do you look at the peak of the Elkhorn House, now Mandell's restaurant, and remember the clock that used to be there?

May 8, 1913 Again sidewalk conditions in the city of Elkhorn have become a subject of heated debate. Stretches of the dangerous board walk which were condemned four years ago are still untouched, although notices were served the owners by the street commissioner for their removal.

Do you remember the sound of footsteps resounding in the still of the night as some passerby walked across the board walk?

Oct. 30, 1913 There is now a continuous cement walk on both sides of the street from the business part of Elkhorn to the depot. The last piece of the old board walk in front of Miss Nettie Smith's place on the west side of the street has been removed and a cement walk put in its place.

April 6, 1916 Local fire departments first call in several months was on Monday to a fire of unknown origin, which totally destroyed the Nick Burns barn near the depot. When reached, the fire was burning merrily, but not for long before three streams of water were turned on it. The horses had been taken out before the department arrived. The roads were in such a bad condition that the hose cart was taken down the sidewalk and everything considered, made good time. The fire drew a large crowd in much less time than either of the political meetings here lately.

Remember the lamp lighter who made the rounds at dusk lighting the street lamps, and in the morning went around again and put the lights out. His name was Mr. Smith, and he was a brother to Mrs. Pete Bauermann.

AT THE TURN OF the century, there were just buggies on Elkhorn's dirt streets. The new Elkhorn House hotel had been built on the northeast corner of what was to become the main intersection -- Walworth and Wisconsin streets. It had a clock on the corner of the building at the attic level, just below the roof line.



July 27, 1917 A. J. Reed now has one of the most modern and best automobile hearses in this section of the country, which he and his son Harold brought to the city last Friday evening from Grand Rapids, Michigan. It is finished in black with 6 cylinders, 16 horsepower motor driven by a worm gear which makes a quiet operation. The speed variation is from 2 to 50 miles per hour.

#### CHANGES IN THE PARK

There have been many changes in Courthouse Park over the years:

The watering trough which for years supplied water for the horses and dogs disappeared from the park many years ago. How many?

Sept. 6, 1917--The new fountain was in place "on a new fangled terrace" bordering the park on Walworth Street, directly opposite the intersection with Broad Street. There are compartments near the base for the use of dogs and squirrels, and a reservoir for horses and a bubbler for humans. This is a donation to the city by C. B. Williams.

How many years since the cannons from the Civil War and from the first World War graced the East side of the park and afforded a play thing for the children?

There was also a sign on the East side of the park marking the Indian Trail that once passed through our city. Long gone too.

And the band shells are only a memory there.

July 1913 The old stand in the park which for 45 years served faithfully as a band stand and speakers platform is no more. Since it was rotted beyond repair the park authorities decided it should be removed. It had cost \$120.

#### REMEMBER THESE PRICES

Nov. 7, 1907 The price of milk raised to 6¢ a

quart.

1912 Prunes 3 lbs. for 25¢, butter 1 lb. 31¢, towels 17 by 36 10¢, muslin 8¢ a yard, at the R. G. Hoffman Store, barrel of flour \$4.80, and gasoline 16¢ a gallon.

1913 Cheese 25¢ a lb., Christmas gifts - Chocolates 35¢, 60¢, \$1 and \$1.50 - Sperry Bros.; E. C. Hubbard Store 40 lbs. apples \$1, 20 lbs. best cane sugar \$1, Navy beans 5¢ lb., 1 lb. coffee 18¢, 10 lbs. salt 10¢.

The Ford touring car just received, come in and look it over, price \$570, Ben Bachhuber.

1914 Carload of apples and pears \$1 a bushel, call 246 for delivery; bread 6 loaves for 25¢, We bake every day but Sunday, Robinson's Bakery.

Aug. 1916 Real kerosene tractors. See them at work International Harvester \$725 and \$900 f.o.b. Chicago; Groesbeck and Son-Lard 3 lb. pail, 42¢, 5 lb. pail 70¢; Elkhorn Dry Goods Co.-buttons 2-1/2¢ a dozen, percale 8¢ a yard, lawn 10¢ a yard, tub silk 50¢ a yard, voile 50¢ a yard.

1918 A. J. Reed Sewing machines \$35.

April 1943 Oranges 40¢ a dozen, Lard 17¢ lb., Ham 38¢ lb., frankfurters 29¢ lb., eggs 38¢ dozen, bread raisin 13¢, rye 10¢, sugar 10 lbs. 66¢.

Dec. 14, 1916 Hereafter all meals at the Hotel, 50¢.

Dec. 26, 1916 Issue of the Independent quotes prices advertised by merchants in "1854" and notes that these prices are interesting in view of the present (1916) high cost of living. Eggs 14¢ dozen, butter 14¢ and 16¢ lb., potatoes 40¢ bushel, pork \$3.75 100 lbs., best flour \$7.50 barrel, ham 8¢ & 9¢ lb., cheese 9¢, 10¢, 12¢ lb.

John Meigs tin shop ad "Wheat, oats, barley, grass seed, butter, eggs, old copper, pewter, iron and rags taken in payment of cash prices."

In January 1918 a ban was placed on the purchase of wheat flour, the purchase of an equal amount of substitutes was required pound for pound; In August

of that year 2 lbs. of sugar per person was the ruling. And in March most local groceries discontinued delivery.

### READING NOTICES

June 8, 1898 - The Ladies of the Universalist Church will serve supper tomorrow evening from 5 to 7. Owing to "war prices" they have concluded to raise the price to 15¢, which is cheap enough for the supper they serve.

Sept. 28, 1911 - Wanted: a man past 30 with horse and buggy to sell stock condition powder in Walworth County. Salary \$70 a month.

Oct. 9, 1911 - Wanted: Practical experienced nurse from Chicago desires situation. Price \$12 a week.

Dec. 28, 1911 - I am prepared to do all kinds of furniture repairing, refinishing and re-upholstering. Anyone wishing any work done send me a card and I will call on you. Chas. Lindow.

Feb. 29, 1912 - Nine room house, good location. A bargain. Owner going West. This place must be sold at once. Price \$1,900.

May 23, 1912 - Pasturage - Have accommodation for one more cow in my pasture. I also have a garden for rent. Mrs. C. J. Latham.

Dec. 5, 1912 - Wanted: 20 cords of wood wanted for the county jail, call at the County Clerk's Office.

March 13, 1913 - For sale: 1 square box buggy \$3, 1 Stanhope buggy, leather quarter top \$15, 1 light wagon \$15, 1 light double harness \$5, pole and neck yoke \$4, E. W. Cory.

### CLASSIFIEDS

Jan. 28, 1915 - Notice: \$10 will be paid and no questions asked for the return of a ladies gold ring with small diamond setting.

July, 1915 - Classified Advertisements replaces Reading Notices 25 words or less one week 25¢.

Lost: A large black cloth covered coat button. Finder please return to the Independent office.

Lost: A fountain pen on streets of Elkhorn. Return to Elkhorn Dry Goods Co.

Lost: Sunday a large white Chinchilla covered coat button. Finder please leave at this office.

Sept. 16 - 1915 - Lost: Roll of bills in Elkhorn. Finder claim reward.

Feb. 15, 1917 - Wanted: Young lady for permanent position in our Elkhorn store. Must be intelligent and show aptitude both in selling and in taking care of stock. Salary \$5 a week to start. Advancement when ability is shown. Apply Friday in afternoon or Saturday morning at Brown Bros. Co.

Aug. 30, 1956 - In the "So it Goes" column of the Independent:

William Zwiebel and Henry Griebel took on the automobile shortly after the turn of the century and by 1910 they found themselves in the used car business. Here are a few excerpts from an ad which was headed "Bargains Used and Second Hand Automobiles" One cylinder Norther with top \$100. Two cylinder model F Buick, 5 passenger, top, windshield, 5 lamp, and gas tank \$250. (That was the model with the door out of the back of the car).

Other bargains included Waterless Knox, Autocar, Rambler, International, Hupmobile, Ford, Liberty, Brush, Kissel and Auto Cycle.

### CITY

May 27, 1897 First city election was held in Elkhorn. H. C. Norris was elected mayor.

Feb. 15, 1917 The high cost of living took another crack at the taxpayers pocketbook. These remain unchanged:

Treasurer	\$200 a year
Assessor	\$150 a year
Clerk	\$400 a year
Election officers	\$2 a day

These are raised

Health Officer and City Physician	\$50 to \$60 a year
Mayor	\$3 a meeting
Alderman	\$2 a meeting
Night watch and City marshal	\$720 to \$900 a year
Street Commissioner	\$2.75 to \$3 a day

April 5, 1936 City to have street lights all night, which didn't start until January 1, 1937!

July 19, 1956 40 Years Ago in Independent's "Backward Turns":

Electric fans are a luxury that Elkhorn people have not heretofore been able to enjoy. With day electric service established many are availing themselves of these comfort creating accessories.

### THE DEPRESSION

During the depression an Elkhorn farm was listed for \$2,000 in an advertisement in "The Elkhorn Independent". A 6 percent first mortgage with interest payable semi-annually was available. It was due in two years.

"The Milwaukee Journal" on January 7, 1975, said that a farm in Walworth county in the 1930's was listed for \$4,600. The price included buildings and the herd.

A local realtor said that there would be about 20-25 cows in a herd on an 80 acre farm. In 1975 each cow might average \$500.

Walworth county farm land would probably go for \$1,000 an acre now. That would make 80 acres and the herd and buildings worth about \$90,000 today.

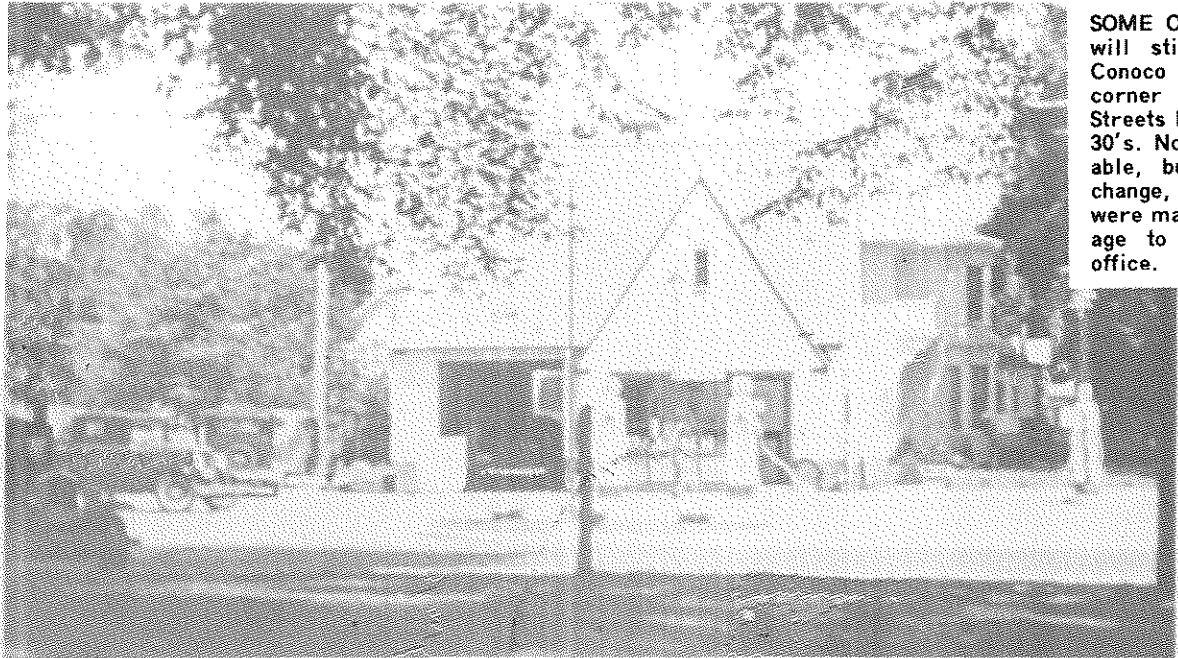
To make matters worse the May 12, 1932 issue of "The Independent" had an article stating that despite 11-cent a quart milk prices in Chicago the prices to the farmers were unchanged.

Kettelhut's Quality Market (phone 40) was selling rolled rib roast for 17 cents a pound, hamburger was three pounds for 22 cents and you could get butter for 21 cents a pound with a meat order. What was the price-per-pound to the farmer then?

If you preferred the city you were probably no better off. On November 24, 1932, someone advertised for a home in or near Elkhorn that \$2,500 would buy.

If that price included a garage fine but what if it didn't?

A one car wide 10 X 16 with side door, two windows, cement floor was built for \$115. A two car size 16 X 16 three window side door \$215.



SOME OF THE older generation will still remember when the Conoco service station on the corner of Court and Wisconsin Streets looked like this during the 30's. Not only was gasoline available, but one could obtain oil change, grease and repairs that were made in the single bay garage to the left of the station office.

James Chevrolet was advertising a Roadster for \$445 that could go on one side of the new garage. Perhaps an old one is all that the family owns. If that is the case and it needs fixing, there was a "non-squeak special" for \$2.

Anderson Super Service would completely grease the chassis for \$1.

A flat tire? No problem. A new Goodyear Speedway tire was \$3.95. Why not buy a set for a mere \$15.32?

It would be tempting to plan on eating out for Valentine's Day at Princess Anne Restaurant and have roast young turkey, Long Island spring duck or spring chicken and choice of other meats for 65 cents.

A new dress for the occasion would be just \$6.95 and hosiery for 69 cents at the Loraine Dress Shop in Elkhorn.

If the children are included it would be wise to pick up a coat for them at The Chicago Store selling for \$2.98-\$4.95 in 1932.

But dad hasn't purchased a suit in years? The Costello Clothing has nothing less than a Hart Schaffner and Marx for \$20.

If the outing does not come about because someone is sick or there is no money, whip out your 99 cent thick heavy cast aluminum saucepan and throw in your 16 cent a pound wieners in your boiling water. Cut a few slices of Wisconsin brick or Longhorn cheese for 15 cents a pound. And see if you have some 10 cent-a-bottle-ketchup in your \$99-\$139 refrigerator.

Make some cookies out of the finest sugar at 43 cents per 10 pound bag and your 49 pound bag of Pillsbury Best Flour for \$1.35. A 9 cent bag of gingersnaps would be easier.

If moving was in the plans most any home rented for \$20. It was even quite easy to spot a used bedroom set for \$50. And the "Independent" office had bundles of old papers "fine for packing dishes or furniture before moving."

In the January 3, 1935 Independent, an article

appeared about the use of the Municipal Building. In 1934 there were over 300 meetings held in the building by different organizations and for wedding receptions, school activities, musical recitals, minstrel shows and home talent plays. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holton observed their Golden anniversary in the auditorium.

Now when citizen band radios are common and allow communication with untold numbers of other CB owners, one is reminded of the thrill of the first short wave receivers in the 1930's. Those were "eaves droppers", because one could listen in on the conversations of police officers, and airline pilots and airports, and perhaps even hear from foreign countries.

The WLS Barn Dance program was a popular one on the radio, and people from the area enjoyed going to Chicago to attend the show. In June 1935 the WLS Stage show appeared at the Sprague Theater for matinee and evening performances with Red Foley, the Ridge Runners, Linda Parker, Karl and Harty, Slim Miller and others. Remember?

In January 1936 the thermometer registered 23 degrees below zero and the highway crews were working 24 hours a day, vainly trying to keep the roads open. In February the country was threatened with a fuel shortage due to the prolonged cold spell which broke 5 records. On July 14 that year the temperature soared to 110 degrees, the hottest day in 33 years.

Joe Dorr, when he was sheriff the first time between 1936 and 1940, set up the first two-way direct radio communication system in the state for his department, which was also one of the earliest in the nation. This system made it possible to check licenses, stolen car reports, wanted persons and make character checks in a way previously thought impossible. In fact, the county board considered it impossible and extravagant and called it "Joe's Folly."

January 11, 1940 - The Independent reported that the city's first Christmas party had been given at a



THE HOT STOVE LEAGUE, or as they sometimes called themselves, "The Society of the Tired, Again", met often in the 1930's at Gus Desing blacksmith shop to discuss the day's current topics. On hand for a session were (from left) George

Humphreys - standing, Albert Cadow, Sam Dike, Charley Forbes, Herman Miller and Desing, who kept on working while taking part in the discussion.

cost of \$321.58, which was contributed by the merchants, firemen, tavern keepers and the Community Chest. It provided the community with its first and very successful civic Christmas party.

August 1941 - Papers stamped "Special Delivery" were found in the mail boxes of Elkhorn citizens, sending them to the post office to pick up their special mail only to find there was none. New rubber stamps had replaced the old ones at the post office and the old discarded ones had been found by children who stamped slips of paper and peddled them house to house.

Cowboy star Ken Maynard and his wonder horse "Tarzan", a Palomino, appeared at the Sprague Theater on November 4, 1941 with a "veritable horde" of youngsters in attendance at both the matinee and evening performances.

Dec. 4, 1941 - Mr. Charles Jahr resigned as the principal of the local school after teaching 40 years

in Wisconsin, 25 of them in Elkhorn. Many are the escapades and incidents of those years that will be recalled by the many students who went through the system during the long tenure.

## WORLD WAR II

"WAR" was the subject in the news during the 1940's. Not the happiest of years, but some of the most important. There were the stories of the boys who served with bravery and daring in all branches of the service; some of them never to return home. There were items about war bond and salvage drives, civilian defense and home front activities.

Remember the ration books with their coupons, stamps and tokens to be used for the purchase of processed foods, meats and fats, sugar, shoes, fuel oil, gasoline and tires and a section in the paper



**WORLD WAR II** is remembered by many families because of the men who were in the armed forces between 1941 and 1945. As with many communities, Elkhorn had an honor roll of servicemen erected in Courthouse Park.

headed "Rationing." A curfew was placed on garages and filling stations effective February 3, 1942 which set their hours from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. except on Saturday when they could remain open until 9 p.m.

The local express office was swamped with old tires as part of the gas rationing program, a person who had more than five tires was to take the surplus to the express company to be consigned to Uncle Sam either free of charge or for payment. The Railway Express Agency bore the brunt of the tire business and was burdened with tires of every description, which bewildered the local agent, Ken Severson.

A section entitled "Mail Call" related news of the boys in service and kept the readers up to date on their addresses. The December 23, 1943 Independent carried a letter from Sgt. Carroll Connor written on the back of a label from a can of "Goldwyn"

brand Elkhorn peas. "I'll bet this little can of peas never dreamed it would get so far from home as this God-forsaken place. I was surprised and mighty glad to see a stack of good old Elkhorn peas setting in our kitchen, and it brought Elkhorn a little closer. Thought you might be interested to know that Elkhorn boys are eating Elkhorn peas somewhere in the southwest Pacific."

November 4, 1943 "Eat At Pete's" in letters 7 feet high were painted on the water tower by a courageous sign painter for Halloween. This gesture of good will toward Pete Langley, who went into the restaurant business at the Villa a few days before, was embarrassing to Pete, but didn't last long; as Neal Thayer's (Light and Water Superintendent) sense of humor prompted him to send Pete a bill for \$1,500 as rent for the tower as advertising space for a year. Pete by return mail sent a check

**SOME RESIDENTS** may remember the Civil War cannon that stood for many decades in the southeast corner of Courthouse park. It was probably placed there a few years after the War between the States as a memorial. Another big gun was added to the southwest corner following World War I. Both became casualties during World War II, when they were removed and melted down for use in the war effort.





CIRCUSES and particularly its music, had a special attraction for many local residents because Ringling's bass drummer, Rollin Sherbondy, lived in Elkhorn for many years, spending his winters here while the circus was in Florida quarters. Among the visitors to the Sherbondy home, was Merle Evans, the circus bandmaster for a long time, who became known to local residents and played one concert in Sunset park as a featured trumpet soloist. The band pictured was in Chicago in 1946.

for \$750 covering 6 months rent, but neglected to sign it. Mr. Thayer, Frank Tooke and Morris Rathbun climbed the tower and painted out the letters with aluminum paint, one of the scarcest items of the time.

Stories about Rollin Sherbondy appeared from time to time; he was the bass drummer with the Ringling Bros. Circus and spent his winters in Elkhorn. In January 1948, Rollin had been expecting Dr. Gregerson to stop in to see him, but Doc had not stopped before Rollin had to go on. So he told several of the fellows to watch for Dr. Gregerson and sure enough, they brought him back. Doc was surprised, said "seemed like everybody on the show knew me."

### SO IT GOES

The "So It Goes" section written by Claude F. Eames appeared on the front page and carried whimsical and clever anecdotes like these:

July 9, 1953 - "An Elkhorn man used to drive to the depot and take the train to Chicago. One day he telephoned from Chicago to ask the station agent to go out and shut off his motor. He went out but the motor wasn't running . . . the gas tank was empty."

July 30, 1953 - If you want a bargain, invest 15¢ in a train ticket to Delavan and take your grandchild on his first train ride. Eyes were big as saucers when the conductor scowled over his bifocals and said, "Where's your ticket?" He gave the right answer, "I'm too little. . . and I don't have to pay." The questions came faster than they could be answered. "Why does the man say, "Board?", How fast are we going? Where's the drinking water? Why do they have a washroom at both ends of the car?" It's a great experience, that first ride on a train . . . great for the child . . . and greater for the escort.

October 8, 1953 - Recall the early days during the transition from ice box to refrigerator.

Feb. 4, 1954 - Small town folks often assume an apologetic tone in giving the location of their home town. This is a mistake. Instead of saying, "It's a small town 80 miles northwest of Chicago", why not throw back your shoulders, give your questioner a withering glance and say, "Don't you know where Elkhorn is? Why, it's the center of the finest resort area in the United States. It's where folks from Chicago save their money 11-1/2 months of the year just to spend two weeks in."

April 5, 1956 - Forty years ago this week folks were getting ready to take the muslin cover off the family car, inflate the tires and remove the chunks of wood from under the wheels preparatory to launch-



WHEN THE ICE MAN CAME around in the summertime, the blocks he brought had been cut and stored from the previous winter. The scene is believed to be on Lauderdale Lakes, where the ice was cut from the lake and the blocks transported by a horse-drawn sled to packed in sawdust in a warehouse. Most of these blocks went to lakes residents, while those for Elkhorn iceboxes came from Williams Bay in the summer, with cards left in windows to tell the ice man how many pounds were needed.

ing the old bus for the season.

April 12, 1956 - This village now is in the worst stage of all prosperous, new, growing places. People crowding in rapidly and no dwellings to accommodate them. A dozen or two tenements in various parts of the village are being erected, but in the meanwhile a great many families are actually suffering for want of dwellings. The above item could be written about Elkhorn today, but it was taken from an Independent of exactly 100 years ago in 1856.

June 7, 1956 - Remember when the city health officer tacked a sign on your house every time a communicable disease was reported? Today only four diseases are placarded: cholera, diphtheria, plague and smallpox.

November 1959 - The bound volumes of the Independent were moved from the Claude Eames home

to the Matheson Memorial Library. These volumes contain over 100 years of history, and are the source of information otherwise unobtainable.

"Backward turns" section is again in the papers with items from years ago, and in December 1960 "Frontier Tales" became a regular feature. These articles written by Maude Totten, (Mrs. Lyman Totten), of Richmond, covered lives of early settlers in Walworth County.

At the Baptist Church Christmas program in December, 1960, a three year old boy who hadn't yet learned to read, memorized his lines well. Half way through the recitation, he glanced over at the prompter, stopped and said, "Anna, you're on the wrong page."

No doubt residents "remember" many other unusual and amusing incidents of the past.



THE FOURTH OF JULY was usually the time for a Tibbets-Bethel area community get-together of residents, relatives and friends. This particular event is believed to have occurred in 1909 at the home of "Uncle Jim Parsons", located near the intersection of county highways A and D at Tibbets. One of the early cars in the area is parked in the yard along with buggies. The photograph was taken by Howard Webb, an oft-time visitor who had a studio on East End avenue in Chicago. The picture belongs to Mrs. Mary Sheard, who is among the youngest children sitting in the front row.

# Doctors And Dentists

In the early years of Elkhorn, the settlers were few and the physicians were even fewer. Mothers could not send for their family physicians if the little ones were sick or their own health failed, but had to cope as best they could while fighting fatigue, anxiety and grief.

Elkhorn's first physician and surgeon, George Henry Young, came Sept. 3, 1843 from New York state. He served the people of Elkhorn and vicinity for 48 years, longer than any other resident physician could claim at that time. He died Dec. 28, 1891.

Dr. Samuel Wirt Henderson arrived here from Ohio in 1847 and he died at age 40 in 1857. His obituary stated that "a jump from a wagon to hard ground resulted in inflammation of the bowels and in death a week later. He understood his case from the first."

These two doctors came during a serious outbreak of typhoid fever which killed many people.

Dr. Bononie Orrin Reynolds also came from New York state and settled in Elkhorn in 1854. In 1857, he had as partners Dr. Mary J. Reynolds, his wife, and a Dr. Smith. Their office was in the Reynolds' new building which was one door west of Matheson's store.

Dr. Isaac W. Coman came in 1857 after having studied in medical school under Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, who later became one of President Garfield's physicians. Dr. Coman was never in the army, but prized a letter offering him a position on the surgical staff. In 1862, Dr. Charles S. Duncolme had his office in his residence, once the home of the Rev. S. Eastman, near that of Dr. G. H. Young, Sr. Dr. F. F. Cammark had rooms at the Bemis Hotel. By 1866, Drs. B. O. and Mary Reynolds had moved their practice to Lake Geneva.

C. W. Butterfield lists in "The History of Walworth County" the physicians of 1881 as follows: Dr. G. H. Young, his son Dr. G. H. Young, Jr., in partnership with his father; Dr. I. W. Coman; Dr. William Henry Hurlbut; Dr. D. D. T. Hamlin and Dr. Dow with office in his residence at the northwest corner of the square.

In 1882, Dr. Birney Hand opened his office over the Ferris grocery.

In August, 1889, a board of pension examiners was appointed to help Civil War veterans. The members were Drs. Reynolds, Hurlbut and Young, Jr.

Dr. George H. McCallister came in 1896, Drs. Young and Oviatt in 1897, Dr. E. C. Austin and Dr. G. Stewart McNeel in 1898. In 1900 Dr. J. M. Marsh was practicing from an office in his residence at the corner of Wisconsin and Geneva streets. Dr. J. W. Gething came in 1902 and opened his office over Howard's City Drug store in the Huntress building. Dr. Edward Kinne had his office and residence over Byington's store in 1903. Dr. William O'Malley had an office in 1905 over Clark's Drug store. In 1911, Dr. M. J. Kinney rented the office rooms formerly occupied by Dr. Hurlbut opposite Clark's Drug Store. Dr. E. T. Ridgway opened his office in 1912 over Ellsworth's store.

The Independent noted on January 18, 1912 that

Dr. R. A. Vorpahl had sold his practice to Dr. Arthur M. Tweedie, a graduate of Western Reserve University in Ohio.

In November, 1913, Dr. George Young, Jr., took his son Howard into partnership, with offices in the Bauermann Block. Dr. Gething returned in 1919 from Battle Creek, Mich., and was honored at a dinner held at the Nickel Plate Hotel on March 29th. Dr. E. T. Ridgway was nominated state senator in September 1920.

Dr. Isabel O. Barber was the first osteopathic physician, at first having her office in her home on east Geneva street and after 1921, at 116 No. Broad st. Harris and Harris, chiropractors, practiced in the Nickel Plate hotel in 1921, and R. C. Martin, chiropractor's office was at 19-1/2 S. Wisconsin St. in 1923.

The Independent of April 5, 1923, had a feature story headlined "Family Guards Health For Full Century" noting that "Dr. George Young, Sr., had given 48 years service, Dr. George Young, Jr., 42 years, and Dr. J. Howard Young had been in practice for the past 10 years."

In November, 1923, J. H. Tenpenny, a chiropractor, came to Elkhorn. The same month Dr. Ridgway took into partnership Dr. G. F. MacIntyre. Dr. MacIntyre sold his practice to Dr. E. R. Rickard in Jan., 1925, and in May of that year Dr. Ridgway bought out Dr. Rickard. A month later Dr. Ridgway was appointed county physician to succeed Dr. Kinne who had died the previous month.

Dr. Edmund Sorenson came to Elkhorn in 1924. Dr. Milan Helmbrecht was a dentist in Elkhorn from 1925 to 1929 when he left to go to medical school. He returned to practice medicine here in 1936. Dr. J. V. Herzog practiced for a few years in the 1930's.

In November, 1939, Dr. J. A. Rawlins opened an office in Elkhorn in the quarters occupied by Dr. A. R. Bellerue. A year later Dr. Ridgway, Dr. Rawlins and Dr. Sorenson opened the Elkhorn Clinic at Wisconsin and Geneva streets. Dr. Ridgway sold his interest in 1944 and went to California. He returned in June, 1945, and maintained an office in his home until his death in 1955. Dr. Henry Malin joined him in January, 1946.

July, 1940, Dr. Roger Johnson became an associate of Dr. Howard Young and in 1953 Dr. David Freed became Dr. Young's partner.

Dr. W. E. Christner, osteopath, came in 1941 and O. W. Babcock, chiropractor, in 1945.

Dr. Kenneth Bill joined the Elkhorn Clinic in 1949. He opened his own office in 1961, where he practiced until he moved to Florida in 1974.

Drs. Richard J. Rogers and Henry R. Mol located here in September, 1955, in the Godfrey Building. They opened Doctor's Clinic in 1963, and were joined by Dr. G. T. Petersen in 1965, and later by Dr. E. E. Carlson and in 1968 by Dr. Joseph Schrock. Dr. Petersen left in 1973 to practice in Florida.

The doctors practicing in Elkhorn in 1976 include R. J. Rogers, Henry Mol, Edward Carlson, Joseph Schrock, E. D. Sorenson and Milan Helmbrecht.



A LITTLE SPECIAL RECOGNITION was given to the doctors of the area by the Walworth County Medical Society's Auxiliary in the form of carnations in 1970. Receiving the flowers

at Lakeland hospital from Mrs. Irvin Bruhn were (from left) Drs. Joseph Schrock, William Woods, Irvin Bruhn, Kenneth Bill, Henry Mol and Harold Werbel.

### DENTISTS

Dr. Gerald E. Richards came to Elkhorn in February 1949 and took over the dental office of Dr. T. B. Kurtz, who had taken over the office of Dr. A. J. Hofstede in 1945. Dr. Hofstede had followed Dr. Frederick G. Taylor in the Kinne Building. Dr. Richards had served in the Navy as a dentist after graduating in 1946.

Dr. Norbert M. Sabin opened his dental office in July 1949 at 8 East Walworth Street and remained at that location until July 1973 when he moved to 104 S. Wisconsin St.

In December of 1953, a dental survey was announced for the city to check on the results of fluoridation, which had been in effect since April of 1948.

Dentists present at a meeting in school to discuss the survey with other health and school officials included L. B. Gregerson, N. E. Kvoool, G. E. Richards and N. M. Sabin.

Dr. Roger L. Schmetter came to Elkhorn and took over the office of Dr. N. E. Kvoool in 1956, but did not move here until 1960.

Dr. Bruno Schiffleger purchased the practice of Dr. Louis Gregerson in March 1962. Dr. Gregerson had bought the practice 34 years before in 1928 from Dr. M. G. Helmbrecht when he left to attend the University of Wisconsin to study medicine.

Dr. Kathy S. Truesdale opened her dental office in the fall of 1976 at 715 W. Walworth St., the West Side Clinic.

All the dentists but Dr. Sabin have offices at 715 W. Walworth St. in the West Side Clinic.

# County Seat's Lawyers

Edward Elderkin established an office in Elkhorn on Oct. 25, 1839, and practiced for 42 years. He was appointed register of deeds under LeGrand Rockwell and was also deputy postmaster for several years.

He married in 1843 and had three sons and four daughters. He also brought up several orphan children, relatives of his wife. He built the famed Octagon House on Lincoln street and Elderkin's addition was named for him.

Horatio S. Winsor, of the law firm of Winsor and Sprague, came to Elkhorn in 1839 and studied in Elderkin's office. He was elected district attorney, and served one term as county treasurer. In 1880 he formed a partnership with E. H. Sprague, while living on West Walworth street where the apartments now stand in the 200 block. Winsor street, a block south, was named for him and was once his cow pasture.

On July 14, 1887, Will Peterson and A. C. Graff, promising young lawyers, tried their first case before Justice Wales.

In the early days, lawyers did not always graduate from law schools in the middle west, but studied law in a judge's office and then hung out their shingle.

Elkhorn had Justice Wales in 1887 and in 1916 Jack Fuller was Justice of the Peace here. He

lived and practiced in the house on the northeast corner of Broad and Geneva streets.

County Judge Jay Lyon was the father of Charles E. Lyon, who had graduated from the Chicago Law school and had his office in the second First National Bank building on North Wisconsin street from 1922 until his death in 1968.

Judge Belden was Circuit court judge for Racine, Kenosha and Walworth County for many years.

On Aug. 3, 1916 Roscoe Luce and Charles Wilson opened an office in the First National Bank building. They both served during World War I, and closed their office while in the army; Luce as a sergeant and Wilson as a 2nd lieutenant. In January of 1919, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Wilson, newly married, arrived to make their home here. Luce returned in October from France and resumed practice. He later moved to the then new State Bank building (Now Stensby's Drug Store) on the southeast corner of Walworth and Wisconsin streets.

Attorneys in Elkhorn in 1919 were E. H. Sprague, Arthur Clohisy (also Justice of the Peace, 1898), Jay W. Page, and Robert Bulkley, who worked part time in Page's office.

The Elkhorn lawyers listed in the State Bar association in 1929 included Alfred L. Godfrey, William C. Norton, Roscoe R. Luce, and Charles E. Wilson.



**W.C. "DAD" NORTON** was a prominent citizen after the turn of the century, being known for his early basketball coaching of the Elkhorn high team and later as an attorney. He was pictured in his law office on North Wisconsin street, where the present Morrissy law firm is located.

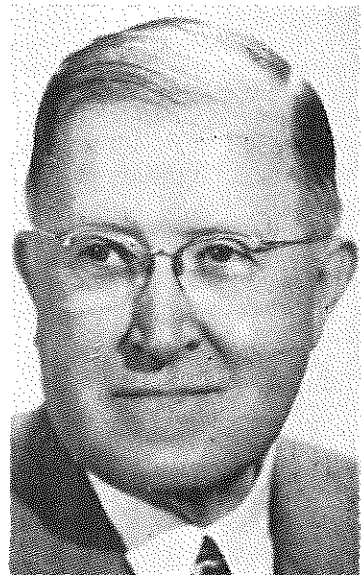
## *Some Prominent Lawyers*



**Judge Roscoe Luce**



**Charles E. Lyon**



**Alfred L. Godfrey**

Lawyers were not required to belong to the Wisconsin Bar association then, but later it became compulsory. Many also joined the active County Bar association.

In 1924, Jay W. Page, county judge for six weeks, died. More than 2,000 people attended his funeral services which were held in the County park. He was very much loved and respected.

In January, 1939, Sheldon and Freitag were a new law firm here and Walter Welch opened a law office here at 31-1/2 North Wisconsin st., over the White House restaurant.

Dec. 25, 1930, the obituary of Edward Harvey Sprague appeared in the paper, after the prominent Elkhorn attorney had died in Milwaukee. He had graduated from the University Law school in 1878 and returned to Elkhorn and opened a law practice here, first alone and then with Horatio S. Winsor. The firm name was Winsor and Sprague until Winsor retired after six years. Sprague erected the Opera House in 1898 and conducted it until the fire destroyed it in 1925. He provided the Charles E. Sprague library for the city as a memorial to his son Charles, who died of tuberculosis in 1892 at the age of 19. This library continued in operation until 1931, as it and Attorney Sprague's office were saved in the Opera House fire by a firewall separating the two parts of the Sprague property.

June 25, 1953, William Seymour Jr., a June graduate at law school joined Thorson and Lehman. His father had been an Elkhorn attorney and mayor of the city.

April 16, 1970 Alfred Godfrey, widely known attorney died. He came to Elkhorn as a partner of Jay Page. He had been the attorney in the appeal of the Eckman murder trial in 1926 at Madison. Clarence Darrow, the famous criminal lawyer from Chicago, defended Eckman, but Godfrey won for the state and Eckman was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Aug. 3, 1961, an Elkhorn man, George Young, who helped out at the University of Wisconsin Law school by taking a temporary teaching post and went on to become dean of the Law school, was honored. He was a son of Dr. and Mrs. J. Howard Young.

The Jan. 4, 1968 obituary of Charles E. Wilson, attorney here for 51 years, described his life since coming in 1916 as law partner with Roscoe Luce. He was alderman of the third ward from 1934-39, a two term mayor, 1948-1954, and County Court Commissioner for more than 30 years. He was honored by the County Bar association dinner in 1965 and given a desk set inscribed with his name and 50 years of service in the community and the country.

Other Elkhorn young men who became lawyers were Judge John Voss, Donald Voss, Thomas Godfrey, John Morrissy, George H. Young, William Seymour Jr., Philip (Pete) Morrissy, Robert Arnold, Rodney Thorson and Gilbert Church Jr. There is also the city's only woman attorney, Alice Morrissy, wife of Philip Morrissy, who practices law here and had kept the office running while her husband was in the service during World War II.

Also of note is Mrs. (Debbie Lehman) Barcz, admitted to the Wisconsin Bar and also admitted to federal court before Judge John Doyle, Madison, in 1976. Her father is Elkhorn attorney Robert Lehman.

Probably due to Elkhorn being the county seat, there has always been a large number of lawyers in the city. In fact, Courthouse park is literally surrounded by law offices. At the present time in 1976 lawyers represented in offices in the city include Arnold, Arnold and Knight; Seymour, Lehman and Kremer; Godfrey, Neshek, Worth, Howarth and Leibsle; Davies, Thorson, O'Brien, Johnson and Conover; Demipse and Harrison; Alfred Hansen; Morrissy, Morrissy and Race; Pfeil and Hardt, and Sweet, Eberhardt and Blanton.

# Churches In The Community

In 1841 the first church meeting was held in Elkhorn, under the mission auspices of the Episcopal church, making it one of that denomination's earliest in Wisconsin.

Other churches were organized within the next 20 years, including the Methodist, Baptist, Congregational and Catholic, all of which exist at the present time in the community.

The Universalist Society built a place of worship early in the city's history, but faded from the scene near the turn of the century and the congregation disbanded.

Since the pioneer years, Elkhorn has seen the founding and growth of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church (1870); St. John's Lutheran church (1898); Christian Science (1903); Jehovah's Witnesses (1930's), and the Emmanuel Baptist church, youngest and last, organized only ten years ago (December, 1965).

## ST. JOHN'S CHURCH IN THE WILDERNESS 110 So. Church Street

This was one of the oldest mission churches established by the Episcopal church in Wisconsin, and the earliest in Walworth county.

It was founded by three young men involved in missionary labor throughout the state, with headquarters at Nashota. The church was organized in 1841, and the first church service was held on Oct. 31 in an old school house.

Services continued to be held there until 1848, when the society was reorganized to conform to the statutes of the state. Services were then held in the Courthouse. The name became simply St. John's church. In 1849 plans were undertaken for building a church edifice. In September 1854 the cornerstone of the church was laid and in 1855 the first Episcopal church building in Walworth county was erected. It was a wooden building located on the site of the present church.

In 1856 the first church bell in Elkhorn was purchased in Chicago and is still in service. In 1858



Early Interior,  
Late Exterior Views of  
St. John's Episcopal  
Church

this building was enlarged and rebuilt of brick.

Early members, including priests who often traveled 40 miles on foot, found Elkhorn to be a virtual wilderness and modeled their society along that theme. The original parish had about 40 members, growing until the early 1880's when a decline set in. As a result, from 1883 to 1888 St. John's was a "mission parish" with Delavan rectors in charge of the services.

When new families moved to Elkhorn, a revival started and in 1893 the church building was enlarged and a Guild Hall erected. A pipe organ was first used in the services in May, 1901 and replaced in 1937 by a new organ.

In the 1930's the members decided to revert to the original name of the parish and it has been known as the Church of St. John in the Wilderness since that time; recalling its namesake St. John the Baptist, who in the Holy Scriptures is "the voice of one crying in the wilderness." Like St. John, this church was a pioneer Christian society in the wilderness of Walworth county.

Since the 1960's the church has been remodeled and enlarged and is the focal point for many activities of the membership and the community.

The Reverend John Bigler was one of the latest rectors at St. John's in the Wilderness starting his tenure in August, 1963 and finishing in 1976. The Elkhorn Senior Citizen's organization received an impetus from the church as did the "Tele-Care" telephone project to check on welfare of persons living alone.

#### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Court and Broad Streets**

From its founding and until about 1935, the Church here was called the Methodist Episcopal church, a name derived from its ancestry. Later the name became First Methodist, then in 1968 the First United Methodist Church.

The first Christian organization in Walworth

county was a Methodist group in East Troy in 1839. A short while later Elkhorn became a "mission" of that society and its own church was organized in 1841.

Church buildings were not then an immediate need and men and women met for religious communion in small groups at the larger cabins, and when schoolhouses appeared they were made doubly useful, an arrangement followed by this Methodist society. Each group met its share of the expense for "heating and sweeping" when the schools and courthouse were used.

The short pioneer period was followed by immigration at an increasing rate and the Methodist society had grown to such numbers that by 1856 a brick building was erected at the cost of \$5,000, located on South Broad street near the site of the city water tower. The church burned in 1859 and was replaced by a wooden structure on the same site in 1860. In 1890 the building was remodeled and in 1900 extensive repairs were made.

Once again the membership had outgrown its building, so in 1923 it was sold to the American Legion who later gave it to the city for a shoe factory when the Legion rooms were completed in the Municipal Building. Some years later this building burned.

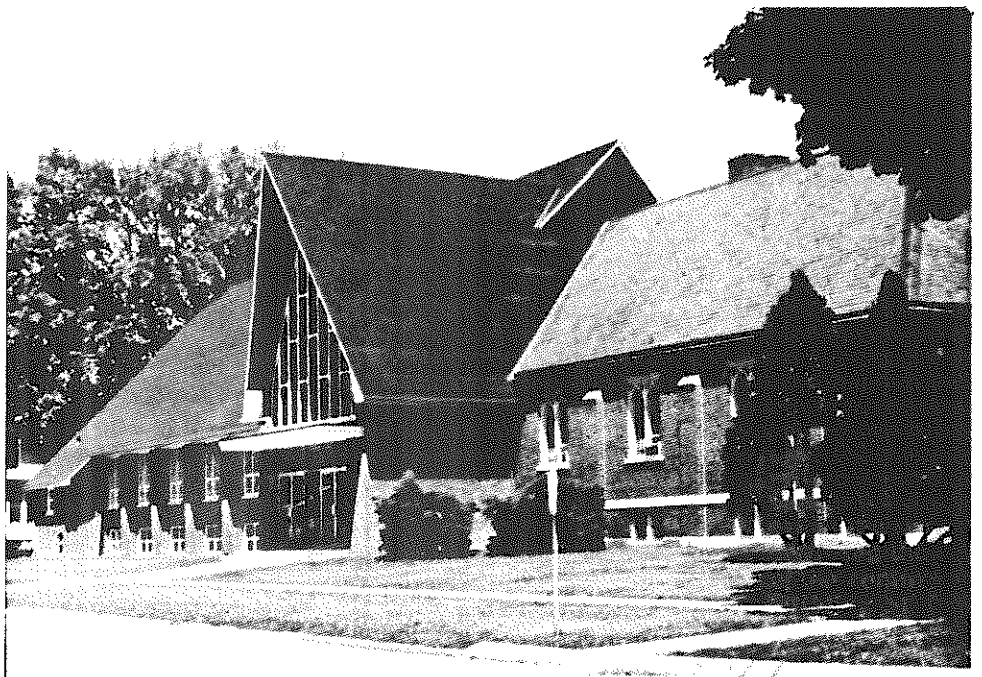
The present Methodist church site was purchased in 1923 and a red brick building was built on the south part of the lot.

In 1940 the members of the Church celebrated 100 years of Methodism in Elkhorn with a special program. On Memorial Day, 1947, a cross as a memorial to Pvt. Hollis Gunyon was first lighted.

In 1950 electric chimes became a mark of distinction for the church. Records and organ music are heard daily in the downtown area.

The latest addition and remodeling came in 1964 to meet increased needs. This new construction consisted of a new entryway, balcony, narthex, nave, chancel area, and Sunday School rooms. The older part of the building was enlarged and

## **United Methodist Church and Fellowship Hall**



remodeled into fellowship hall and kitchen.

The present pastor, a graduate of Western Theological seminary, is the Rev. Raymond Steger who came to the church in June, 1975, from a ministry in Waupun, Wis.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH -  
THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Geneva and Wisconsin Streets**

Four years after Elkhorn had been laid out in 1839, there were only 40 people. Eight Christian men and women met with Rev. Gaston on Dec. 9, 1843, in the old Elkhorn House to organize a church.

The Rev. Gaston, who became the first minister, was a circuit rider and missionary sent by eastern churches. He served Delavan, Darien, Sharon,



**Congregational-  
United Church of Christ**

Walworth, and Richmond, as well as Elkhorn.

Meetings were held at first in the courthouse and schoolhouse. By 1846 one of the two elected deacons contracted to heat and light the courthouse and give it needed care for religious services for one year at five dollars. The Society continued to grow and in April, 1854, a Sunday School was organized.

On Dec. 7, 1857, the Congregational Society and the Wesleyan Society formed a partnership to build a wooden frame building on the Geneva street lot where the Powell Antique shop is now located. Each society paid \$600 for the construction. This union lasted until 1878 when the Congregationalists bought the Wesleyan half. Little is known about the origin of the Wesleyans and eventually they were absorbed by other denominations.

The Congregational Society continued to grow and in 1882 the present brick church was built. The former Congregational building of 1857 became a

sort of penny arcade in the 1880's, and later, a skating rink where marathons were held. Finally the building was cut in two to make two structures and moved to other sites.

The present building at first had a steeple, but it was removed many years ago. This structure was financed in part by beef, chicken, and ham dinners served at the fairgrounds for 25 cents. The receipts were taken daily to the bank in a tin pail carried under a shawl. Then there were no automobiles, no movies, and none of the modern conveniences. The home, the school, and the church were the centers of interest in the community.

A new pipe organ was installed in 1915. In 1924 and 1925, and again in 1965, additions and remodelings took place. By 1969 the membership had grown to 242 persons and there were 110 pupils in the church school. The need for additional space had become crucial. A Christian Educational building providing Sunday School rooms, the minister's study, a church secretary's office, and space for church meetings was planned. Ground for the addition was broken Oct. 5, 1969. The building was completed for use and dedicated on Jan. 24, 1971. The addition is attractively tied to the present church for easy access from the sanctuary and from the basement.

The Rev. Charles Barnes, the present minister, came in mid-1975.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH (ABC)  
Court and Broad Streets**

The Baptist Society of Elkhorn was organized Dec. 4, 1852, at a meeting in the old county courthouse.

Articles of faith and a covenant were adopted by 24 constituent members. On Jan. 13, 1853, a council of churches recognized the new society. During 1853 the first church edifice (34 by 54 feet) was built at the corner on the present site at a cost of \$2,200. This is believed to have been the first place of worship built in Elkhorn. By 1857 a Sunday School was organized.

In 1885 this first church building was moved away and a brick church (34 x 60 feet) took its place on the same corner and was dedicated April 28, 1886. This second church was largely rebuilt in 1897; then partially destroyed by fire in 1907. While repairs and reconstruction took place, the members worshipped at St. John's Episcopal church. The repaired building was rededicated on Dec. 30, 1908. On Dec. 14, 1924, fire again struck and the loss was about \$30,000.

Previously, on Aug. 21, 1919, an older Universalist church building, located near where the Catholic rectory now stands, had been bought and moved to the rear of the Baptist church. This was first used as a Community House, but later it became the recreational hall of the Baptist Society. This building was not damaged by the 1924 fire, and services were held there following the destructive fire of the Baptist church.

In 1926 the present brick church was built and dedicated Sept. 15, 1927. This is the fourth house of worship for Elkhorn Baptists and is built on the same corner as the first three. The old recreational hall, used by many youth and young adults, however, was razed in 1972.

In February, 1958, a group of Spanish speaking



**First  
Baptist Church**

people used part of the church facilities for their church services. This group became a member of the Association of American Baptist Churches in 1967 -- now known as the American Baptist Convention. In 1971 the Spanish Baptist church moved to a schoolhouse on the Delavan Road.

In the fall of 1973, the Citizens Opportunity Service (COS) began to use the church basement for a children's Day Care Center, while parents, especially from low-income families, work.

The church now shares a pastor with the Honey Creek Community Baptist church.

#### **UNIVERSALIST CHURCH**

The only reliable information concerning this early movement of the Universalist Church is that they held services in the old Courthouse. The society flourished under the Rev. H. D. L. Webster, but following his pastorate, interest languished and the organization lost life.

Occasional services continued to be held and in 1874 a new interest was awakened. In 1875 a church was built near the present Masonic Temple. In 1878 the society was re-organized with 30 members in the parish. For some reason the organization was soon disbanded.

It was not until 1919 that the Universalist church building was bought by the Baptist congregation. It was moved to the rear of the Baptist church and first served as a Community House. Later it became the recreational hall of the Baptist Society until it was razed in 1972.

#### **ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH** Walworth and Church Streets

Though St. Patrick's Catholic church, named for the patron saint of Ireland, was organized later than the Protestant churches, mass had been celebrated in 1848 in the Elkhorn area in a home near Tibbets. These services were conducted by a circuit rider who came on horseback through the wilderness from Milwaukee.

By 1852 services were being held in a home in Elkhorn. The parish was a mission of St. Andrews' church in Delavan. Later, services were held in the courthouse.

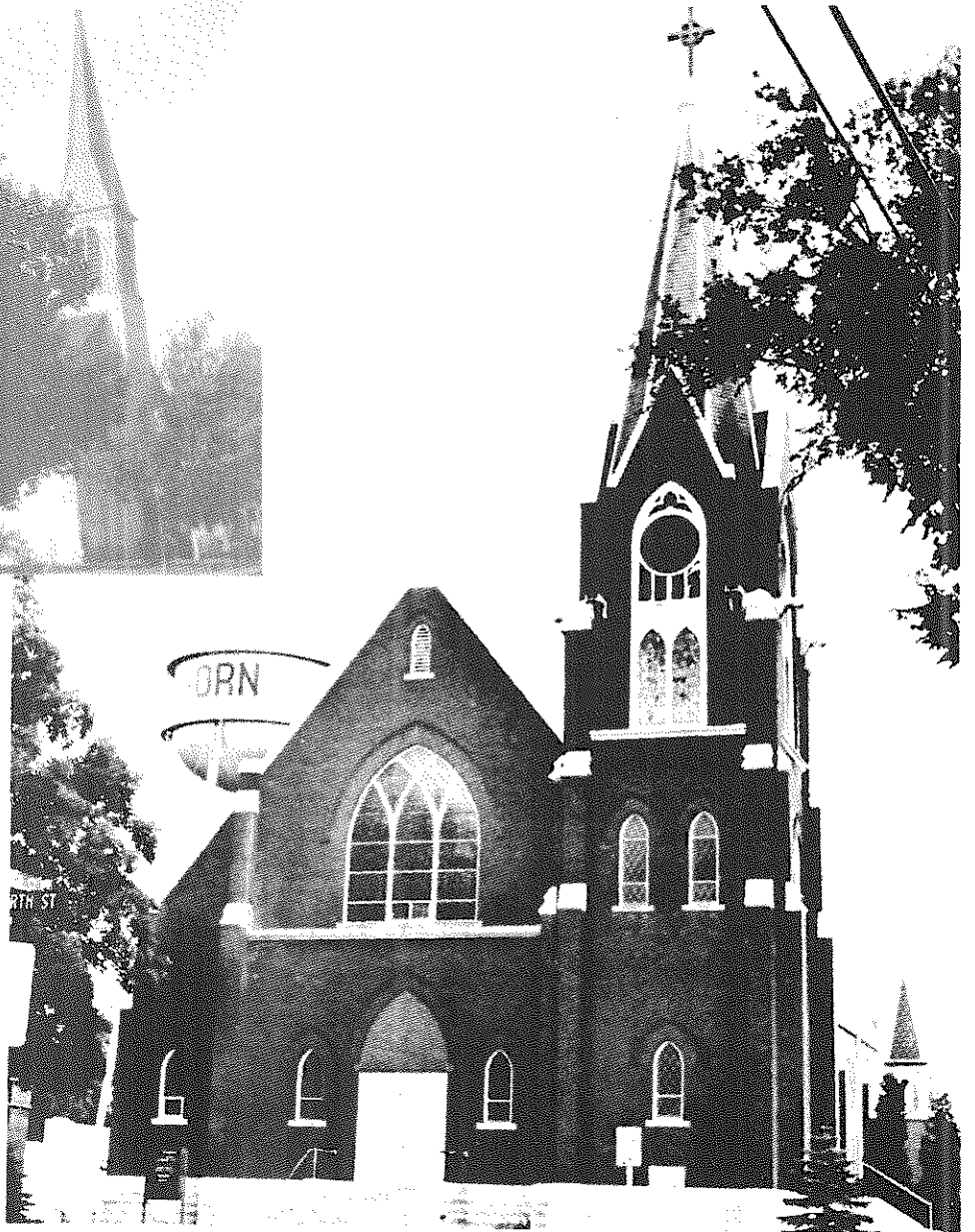
Because of the growth in population from 1845 to 1857, there was a marked gain in membership and in 1860 the church was officially organized. Soon an old tannery, standing on the NE corner of Lincoln and Walworth streets, was purchased and remodeled for a place of worship. This building was enlarged in 1865 and used until 1880. From the beginning, priests from Delavan conducted services here. There was no resident priest until 1878 when Father Vahey was appointed. In 1880 the church was incorporated under the laws of the state of Wisconsin.

Under Father Vahey's leadership, a church was built at the corner of Walworth and Church streets in 1880. The rapid growth of the parish necessitated a larger building, so in 1905 the present St. Patrick's Church, occupying the site of the original white brick edifice, was built. While the present church was being constructed, services were held in nearby Columbus Hall which had been built in 1897. Here church related activities are held by various organi-



Early Catholic Church and Rectory  
 -the Latter Now a Home  
 at 206 N. Wisconsin St.

## St. Patrick's Present Edifice



zations of the church. In addition to Columbus Hall, there is also a modern rectory erected just east of St. Patrick's in 1921.

Since 1905, St. Patrick's has been remodeled and repaired, and a more extensive program was undertaken following a fire which in 1957 gutted the building.

By 1950 more spiritual instruction for the children of the parish was wanted. At first several nuns from St. Mary's of Burlington came each Saturday morning to instruct the children. In 1955, to complete the parish unit, a campaign to build a school was begun. For this school 20 acres of land in the northwest part of Elkhorn were bought. The school, with three Notre Dame sisters, opened Sept. 22, 1958, with 199 students. Since then there has been a growth in the number of pupils to 230. The number of teachers (3 sisters and 7 lay) has been increased due to the enrichment of the curriculum and interest in athletics.

The St. Patrick Parish, since June 26, 1956, has been under the able leadership of Father Hanauska who is well-known both in his parish and the community.

### FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Centralia and Devendorf Streets

One of the later congregations to be incorporated as a church in Elkhorn was the First Evangelical Lutheran on Feb. 28, 1871.

Pastor Duborge was the founder, but in 1874 he was called to Chicago. That meant he could be present only one Sunday out of six and that laymen served five Sundays. To remedy this, Pastor J. J. Meier, of Slades Corners, was called to serve the congregation together with Slades Corners and East Troy churches. The year 1876 became an important milestone -- Rev. Meier was called to

be the resident pastor, the first parsonage was purchased, and membership in the Wisconsin Synod was established.

By 1884 the congregation had grown, and that year a new church, at a cost of \$2,800, was dedicated. The Rev. Johanne Dejung was serving for \$250 per year. By 1893 a parochial school of 30 pupils had been started, also youth choirs, and a brass choir. In 1894 the dual relationship with East Troy that had lasted 20 years was terminated.

From 1898 to 1968 First Evangelical Lutheran was served by four pastors. Membership grew and a building program for the Sunday School was completed. In 1959 need for more space became apparent and a planning committee was named.

On Aug. 4, 1968, the present pastor, Rev. Frederic Kosanke, was installed. Growth steadily continued in church membership and physical needs, which resulted in the purchase of a new parsonage, the establishment of a building fund, and the purchase of 3.82 acres for a new church building.

On Nov. 11, 1973, the cornerstone ceremony for the new church was held, and on June 9, 1974 the building was dedicated. Included in the new facility was a library, a cry room, a kitchen, Sunday School rooms, Fellowship hall, church offices, and nave.

Two significant features of the new edifice are the Cross Tower on the exterior, suggestive of the Trinity, and in the narthex the Ladies Aid Window from the old church on Geneva and Church streets was installed. It is of Christ knocking on the door.

The present pastor, the Rev. Frederic Kosanke, is the 10th in succession who have served this church and this community. He, his wife and family reside in the new parsonage at 500 West Centralia street, across from the new church.

### ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 104 So. Broad Street

In January, 1898, some members seceded from the First Evangelical Lutheran church after a doctrinal split. These assembled for worship in the former Universalist church, led by Pastor Kompflein, of Janesville.

A brick church, at a cost of \$3,500, in the same block as the Evangelical church was dedicated Dec. 4, 1898. The Luther League purchased the bell for the steeple. In later years, the majestic steeple and bell were removed when the steeple was struck by lightning.

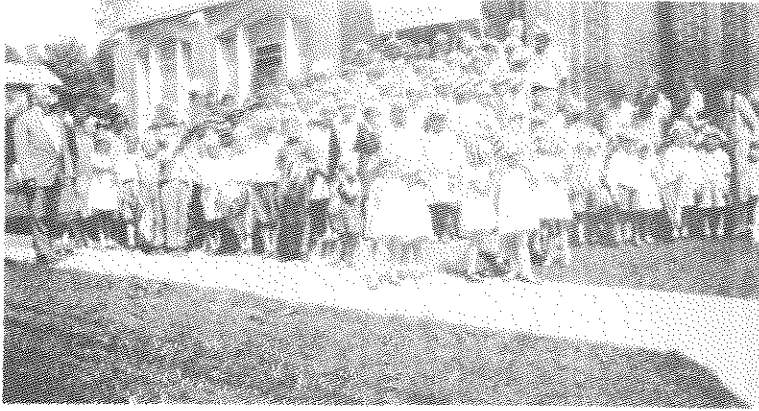
Services in these early years were in the German language exclusively, as were all business meetings and conversations. For 15 years the congregation remained an independent unit with no synod affiliation, until 1924 when they affiliated with the Synod of the Northwest of the United Lutheran Church in America. This is now known as the Wisconsin-Upper Michigan Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

From 1926 to 1945 four pastors served, and the growth in numbers was steady. In 1948 the congregation voted to enlarge the church building. A large brick extension was added on the church's west side and a complete redesigning of the old church interior was made. The work was completed in 1951 and on June 29, 1952, dedication services were held.

In August, 1961, the church acquired property adjoining the church to the south and plans for a new parish education building were made. In 1970 the building was completed at a cost of \$200,000 and was dedicated April 5, 1970. In that same year, Pastor Charles Burmeister was recalled to serve a second

## St. John's Lutheran Church





Summer Vacation Bible School  
for All Denominations  
at Baptist Church in Early 1930s  
with Rev. C. A. Jones in Charge

time.

The history of St. John's consists largely of 15 pastorates and building and remodeling of the church edifice from 1898 to 1976. The real significant story of St. John's related to its many faithful members through these years.

The first pastor was Rev. Hugo Stuebenvoll, a friend of the late German Emperor, Wilhelm. One of the heirlooms from this pastor's time is an autographed German Bible bearing Wilhelm's bold signature, sent as a greeting to the new church. A second autographed Bible was sent by the Archduke of Baden.

The present Pastor Burmeister is serving in a fashion peculiar to Lutheran tradition -- a second pastorate after an absence of 15 years. He first served from 1945 to 1955 and returned in 1970. One of the Rev. and Mrs. Burmeister's children, Jonathan, is a Wycliffe translator on the Ivory Coast, Africa.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY  
319 No. Broad Street**

The first recorded meeting of the Christian Science Society in Elkhorn was in 1894, but the formal organization of the group dates from April 2, 1903.

At first it was nomadic and had at least seven

meeting places before 1931. Meetings had been held in homes, in the former Universalist Church building, in the Sprague Opera House, the American Legion Hall, which had once been the Methodist church, the Baptist Community House, and in the second story of several store buildings.

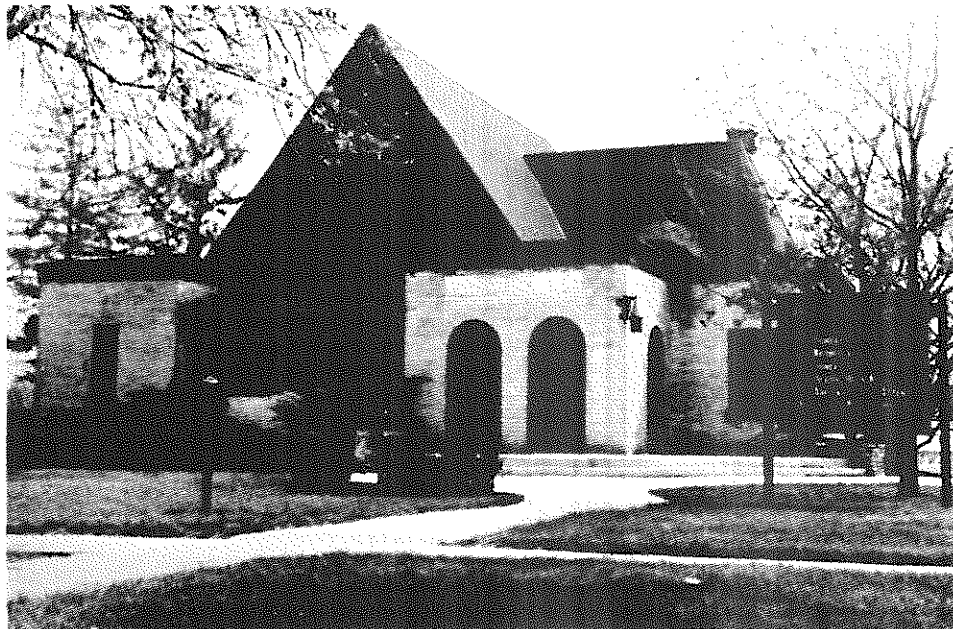
The present edifice on Broad street was built in 1931 and dedicated July 24, 1932, and is next to the newest in the history of Elkhorn religious organizations. The building is unique in some ways. The illumination is from behind amber glass panels in the walls at intervals around the auditorium. The ceiling is beamed and the area is open to the roof.

The Christian Science Societies have no ministers, but rely on the King James version of the Bible, the Christian Science text books, and on readers. All Christian Science Societies are uniform and are affiliated with the mother church in Boston.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES  
Schmidt and Cobble Roads**

The Jehovah's Witness organization was started in Pennsylvania in the 1870s, but didn't become established locally until the 1930s.

The members use the Watch Tower Bible and



Christian Science  
Society and  
Reading Room

Tract society as their governing body. The Society's magazine, "Watch Tower", first published in 1879, is printed in some 70 languages and is distributed in about 200 countries and colonies.

Beginning in the 1930's, the Jehovah's Witnesses first met in different private homes. Later, from 1945 until 1955, the meetings were at the Paul Dobbert home. The next place, Kingdom Hall on north Wisconsin street, was built and dedicated in 1956. The organization, now numbering about 115, outgrew this building, and in 1975 moved into a larger Kingdom Hall a few miles northwest of Elkhorn.

Jehovah's Witnesses are governed by elders, one of whom is a presiding elder appointed by the Jehovah Spirit in Brooklyn, N.Y. In each district, there are home study groups (7 in the Elkhorn area) for Bible Study on Tuesday. Sunday services are devoted to public talk and "Watch Tower" study. On Thursdays the ministry school and service meetings are held.

#### **EMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH County Trunk H and MacLean Road**

Organized only 10 years ago (December 7, 1965) the Emmanuel Baptist church is the youngest organization in the city.

The church founder and former pastor was the

Rev. Grant Rice. The church was started as a Bible class in January, 1965. Pastor Rice taught the class which was held weekly in the Municipal building. On Dec. 5, 1965, the church held its first regular Sunday services in a home on West Walworth street.

Growth necessitated larger quarters so during these growing years, services were held in the American Legion hall, a store-front building on South Wisconsin street, and the lower level of the Holton Manor Nursing home. On July 18, 1971 ground was broken for their first church edifice on county trunk H at the southeast edge of Elkhorn and later dedicated in April, 1972.

The congregation has grown in the decade from an original 15 persons at the first services to about 100 now. The average attendance at Sunday School is 120. There are 14 Sunday School classes which include a class for Spanish speaking people. There are youth programs for all ages, fellowship activities for adults, and a children's church. A bus is used to bring many of the members to church and Sunday School.

Ray Fessman was the lay pastor until Rev. Rice moved into the area in January, 1966. He served the church until August, 1968. In September, 1967, the present pastor, Richard Eckman, came to Elkhorn and worked as an associate with Pastor Rice. He later continued on as the pastor.



**Christmas Nativity Scene at Congregational-UCC in 1970s.**

# The City's Cemeteries

## MT. OLIVET

It was Oct. 31, 1895 that St. Patrick's Catholic church decided upon a cemetery for its own parish. Until that time, the bodies of those who had died, were buried in the Delavan and East Troy cemeteries.

In 1896, land near Hazel Ridge cemetery was purchased bordering the west end of Court street. Labor on the grounds was provided and donated by the men of the parish, including the landscaping and the building of an arched stone gateway. In 1956 a new entrance became necessary, but the stone gateway remains as a memorial to the early parishioners.

Over the years, additional burial space was acquired and landscaping of these new areas was carried out.

## HAZEL RIDGE CEMETERY

The first small burial plot in the hamlet of Elkhorn was in the neighborhood of Wisconsin street near North street. This area, however, proved to be unsatisfactory as the grounds were low and wet and it was later abandoned.

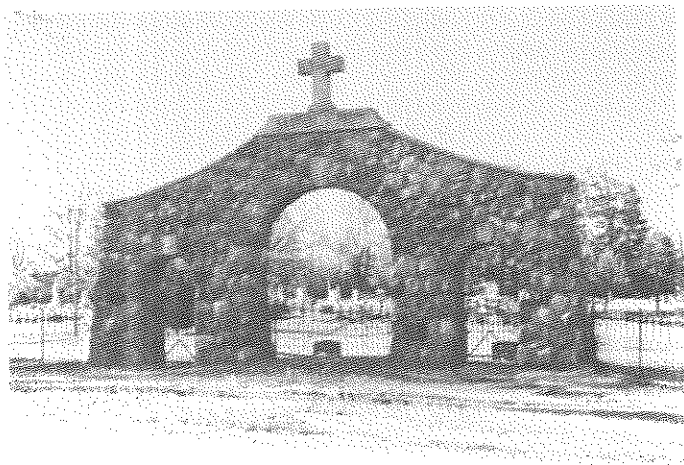
On May 28, 1850 the inhabitants of the town of Elkhorn and vicinity met at the schoolhouse for the purpose of forming a Cemetery association. Temporary officers were chosen until June 10, 1850 when permanent officers were elected. The corporate name, "Elkhorn Cemetery Association", was adopted, six trustees were elected for two year terms of staggered intervals and a committee of three was formed to draft laws and by-laws. The minutes of all proceedings were recorded with the State of Wisconsin as a transcript, signed, and sealed for the purpose of incorporation.

Between 1851 and 1854, inclusive meetings were held regularly as plans were made. By 1855 the Elkhorn Cemetery association trustees were able to purchase land and had resolved to print 150 to 200 blanks for titles to the association.

In 1856 a fence was built around the grounds and burials followed. This second site was at the eastern end of Court street near the Walworth County fairgrounds.

This also proved an unsatisfactory location, so on March 19, 1874, a dozen men met at the office of the clerk of the court for the purpose of forming a different cemetery association. Nine trustees were elected and the organization of this Elkhorn cemetery association was duly recorded on March 21, 1874.

Plans were begun to secure land located at the west end of Jefferson street "at the best terms possible" from Neal Brown. After negotiations, Brown sold "all land from the corn stubble on the south to the road on the north and east to the ditch or as near that as the Association may determine for the sum of \$150 per acre; the land now occupied as one-half of the public highway on the north of the above described lands for \$75.00 per acre."



THE CATHOLIC CEMETERY, Mt. Olivet, was established in 1896, which included the erection of this arched stone gateway by parishioners of St. Patrick's church. A new entrance to the cemetery in 1956 left this as a memorial to the early workers.

The association was to build all fences. Mr. Brown would furnish the association trees and shrubs for cemetery use at wholesale prices for a time of three years. The deed was delivered on May 1, 1874 and the trustees hired William Jones to plow and seed the ground preparatory to platting.

In the meantime by-laws were drawn up to include election of officers, a minimum price for lots, no granting of a deed for a lot not paid in full, removal of bodies to the Potter's field from graves neglected by their owners, the payment of no salaries, and the sale of no lots before the dedication of the cemetery.

This dedication of Hazel Ridge Cemetery was held on the grounds July 23, 1874. The exercises had been planned by the resident clergymen and consisted of an invocation, four musical numbers, two addresses, the dedication, and a benediction.

By March 1875 the front entrance had been graded, the ditch filled, 187 rods of fence built, 2,700 feet of drive and 300 feet of paths surveyed and graded, 351 lots surveyed, staked, and numbered, and 285 trees set. Already 37 lots had been sold at an average price of \$30 per lot. There had been interments, including 30 from the old cemetery, and it had become necessary to employ a sexton, but volunteers for labor on the grounds were used.

In 1876 maples and willows had been planted on both sides of Jefferson street from Church west to the entrance, with ornamental shrubs for the cemetery proper secured from Rochester, N. Y., and a landscape architect from Chicago hired to plan for the beautification of the cemetery grounds.

From 1876 to 1882 there had been 46 interments and 45 removals from the old cemetery.

In 1875 the indebtedness had been \$1408.45, but in seven years the debt had been decreased to

\$490.00 by "wise management and frugal spending" by the officers. At times the year end statement might show a balance on hand of 41 cents, \$1.52 or a similar small amount. By 1885 all interest-bearing debts had been paid.

Fencings, plantings, tiling continued in the following years. By 1891 a new gateway to the entrance was discussed. Also that year a special meeting of the trustees was called due to vandalism in the cemetery by two boys. The boys were reprimanded and a fine of \$1 was levied on each parent.

In 1892 it was voted to accept an offer from Barnum of Detroit to deliver and construct 50 feet of iron fence including posts, gates, and lettered arch for \$173 - 5% off for cash.

Need for more land had become apparent so acreage to the west of the cemetery was bought from Edward Amos in 1894. Lot sales increased and by 1896 funds were available to build a summer house for \$141.73 and a tool shed for \$27.27.

Additional land was bought in 1896, and the following year a plat was made of the new ground. Also the owner of lot 502 was ordered to pay within 60 days or the lot would be resold.

In 1902 the City Council was petitioned for water mains. A contract was let in 1903 to W. E. Magill for this work for \$197.23. Again in 1908 more land - 25-1/2 acres - was purchased and O. C. Simons, a landscape gardener, was hired. The land not platted during the years was leased "to the best advantage" or wood and hay were cut and sold.

By Oct. 30, 1915 Elkhorn cemetery walks were a reality after years of waiting. The street commissioner and his force of helpers had completed the walks to Hazel Ridge and to Mt. Olivet.

In 1931 a cannon was given by the Harry Kelly Post of the American Legion. In 1932 direction arrows so "certain preachers" could find their

way about the cemetery, were placed. In 1943 it was decided that no Sunday funerals were to be held, unless it was an emergency.

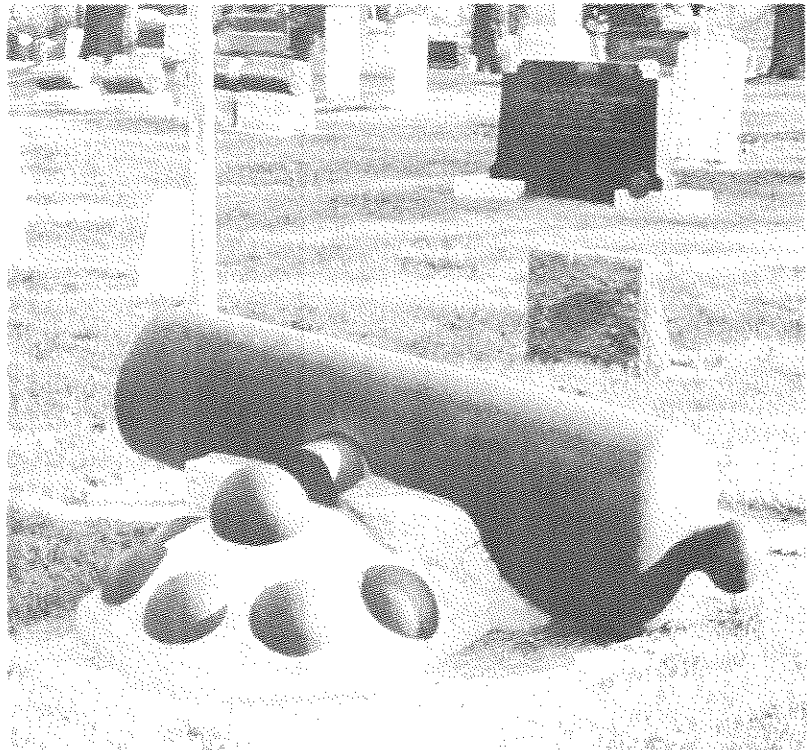
During these years while the Hazel Ridge cemetery was developing, the Walworth County Agricultural society had grown in interest and needed additional land. On Feb. 14, 1907 E. H. Sprague introduced a bill in the Wisconsin Assembly to vacate the old Elkhorn cemetery for fairground purposes. On March 21, 1907 this bill, vacating the old cemetery, was passed making it possible to turn the land over for fairground purposes.

On May 2, 1907 Secretary Norris of the Agricultural society was given charge of moving bodies from the old cemetery to Hazel Ridge. As late as 1911 while excavating for a dwelling, a human skeleton at the depth of about five and one-half feet was found. This property was located on the ground once used for Elkhorn's very first cemetery and it was believed that all bodies had been removed when the new plot was opened.

Through three locations Hazel Ridge cemetery has grown. Women of Elkhorn played an important role as Mrs. L. W. Swan became Vice President in 1927, and in 1932 she became president and served until 1940. In 1927 two women were also serving on important committees and in 1929 two were trustees. Perpetual care dates back to 1891 when through a will \$35 was left for care of the Parmelee lot. In 1895 five dollars were left for the care of lot 596 for five years (1895-1899 inclusive). The more generous amount of \$100 was also received in 1895.

As years have passed, the careful management of the Elkhorn Cemetery association saw Hazel Ridge cemetery enlarge and improve until it is now one of the most beautiful cemeteries in Wisconsin. The president presently is Lloyd L. Jensen and the secretary is George Grundmann, Jr.

OLDEST OF THE TWO cemeteries in Elkhorn, is Hazel Ridge complex at the end of Jefferson street, which was dedicated for that purpose in 1874. A cannon is located in the cemetery at the base of a flagpole, which was donated by the American Legion in 1931.



# Industrial Growth

Elkhorn as an industrial city might be questioned by larger cities, but light industry has provided products needed for consumption and services used for better living, not only locally, but for far reaching areas. These industries have given labor to its citizens and to those of surrounding communities; thus adding to a stronger and richer economy.

One of the earliest enterprises was the establishment of the brick yard in 1856. Tile and Brick making was a lively early industry here as bricks were in demand because of the desire for more permanent building materials than were afforded by wood.

Clay for bricks lay in the western part of the city where Levi Lee opened a pit and produced a product of fair quality. When railroad prospects hastened the village growth and men began to add another dollar each morning to yesterday's front foot price of their real estate, bricks were in demand.

Nathan Sexton leased some land along west Walworth street about two blocks south of Lee's operation and began his own brick firm. After a couple of years of operations George Burpee became a partner of Sexton and they operated the yard until 1876. In March, 1886 George Sprague and his brother, along with other parties, purchased the Burpee brick yard and installed the best quality equipment available for manufacturing bricks and tile. Coal burning furnaces, power mills, sleds and an engine house were added to the equipment. The production increased tremendously and within a few months the output was 10,000 perfect bricks daily. Doubtless most of the oldest buildings in the community were constructed of brick made by the early firms. Of interest is the fact that Sunset Park is on the location

of the Sexton-Burpee-Sprague brick yard.

In 1874 a wind engine mill was erected by D. M. Stearns and operated for 20 years at the north side of town.

A. F. Desing (Gus) came from a farm in Geneva township in 1879 and went to work for Nels Hanson and Fred Opitz in the blacksmith shop owned by the two men at that time. He started as an apprentice in the early 1880's and in 1883 purchased the Oliver Livingston shop at the corner of Geneva and Lincoln streets.

In 1886 the business was destroyed by fire and a new shop was constructed. He then took Charles Gaylord as a partner until 1897 when he bought out the Gaylord interest. The firm branched out into a woodworking business and was known as the Central Wagon and Carriage Works. Julius Ninast operated the woodworking end of the business and all types of wagons, buggies, and sleighs were manufactured.

In 1939 the shop was sold to Claus H. Ficken Oil Co. for a gas station! The invention and use of cars had made the blacksmith business unnecessary.

A silo and tank factory was operated by Arthur Waterbury in an adjacent building which had housed the blacksmith shop. That corner is presently occupied by the Consumers Co-op station.

The Elkhorn Lumber Co. has been in business since 1894, although fire destroyed the elevator and adjoining buildings in 1897, which led to rebuilding and the company was soon back in operation providing lumber and fuel. In 1914 the old depot was purchased and was used as a warehouse. In 1916 a new brick office was erected. The Lumber Co. was owned and operated by a father-son combination in Wells and Gilbert Church until 1975 when Gilbert,



AN EARLY INDUSTRY WAS tile and brick making, which was started in 1856 and led to two brick yards in the western

part of the city. This is probably the slightly later one established on the location of what is now Sunset park.



AMONG THE COMMUNITY'S early pictures is one taken about 1910, showing the entire crew of the Elkhorn Lumber Co. The building in the picture has since been razed, but those on hand at that time included (standing from left) John Dunphy, Gene

and Edwin Kinney, E.M. Waffle, Tom Ferguson, Arthur Burns and George White. In the wagon at the left is Otto Wolf and in the wagon at the right is Carter Grice, while in the doorway above are Theodore Nuoffer and Jake Bauerman.

now the sole owner, retired and sold the business. His father, Wells, had died several years prior to this time. The new owners are David Nickolette and Wesley Erskine.

Also in the lumber and fuel business was the Home Lumber Co., which was established by the late John Harris. It also provided service for grinding oats and corn for area farmers as cattlefeed. Other commercial feeds also were handled. It operated until 1963 when the Co-op purchased the property as a storage area.

The creamery in Elkhorn was started before 1900 by John Harris and was known as the Wisconsin Butter and Cheese Co. which were the main processed foods. In fact, Kraft cheese got its start in this plant.

The milk was hauled to the factory by team and wagon for many years. Gradually the plant was enlarged and evaporated milk preparation was added. In 1918 the milk was being shipped to Egypt, France, England, Italy, Belgium and Russia. In 1926 the United Milk Products Co. purchased the plant and continued processing powdered milk and concentrated

milk until the plant closed in the early 60s.

The Schmidt Brothers Ice Cream factory provided goodies for many and was notable in 1904 for having a new gasoline engine to turn the wheels in the factory. The factory is no longer in existence but the tasty memory lingers on!

The Olsen Cement Mixer Co. was another early enterprise which served the needs of the community. Established in 1914 it proved successful and the firm was invited to a Cement show in Chicago in 1916 to show its ability.

In 1918 a new venture came to Elkhorn - the Holton Band Instrument Co. It brought sweet music to town in the form of cornets, trumpets, trombones, French horns, baritones, and other brass. These sell under such trade names as "Holton Galaxy"- "Holton Al Hirt Special"- "Collegiate"- "Holton Artist"- "Holton Virtuoso"-and "Holton Revelation". More than 100 employees produce these fine instruments today as part of the Leblanc Corp. of Kenosha, and they are sold and played by musicians throughout the world. They are used in bands and orchestras

everywhere and many an Elkhornite learned to play on these prized possessions. In fact, Frank Holton, the founder of the Co., was a leading Trombone player for John Philip Sousa, Hi Henry, Ellis Brooks and others, often leading the parades.

In 1928, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the company, the workers were paid with silver dollars. During World War II a base detonating fuse was manufactured here as a part of the war effort. In 1945 the company reconverted to band instrument production.

In recent years a new lighting system has been installed to provide visual depth and to eliminate shadow, both important in the production of musical instruments. Temperature control was also added for greater comfort and improved assembly and testing conditions.

William Bublitz opened a music shop in 1923 and later a case factory for musical instruments. During the year of 1949 24,000 instrument cases were produced.

The W. and L. Case company also provides a similar function at the present time. Located on Centralia street it employs seven people. Joe Weber Sr. was one who worked at Case Mfg. for four decades, coming here with the Holton factory. General Wood Workers Inc. on highway 12 at the north city limits also manufactures cases of wood, plastics, and fibre and employs 15 workers. Thus, the valuable instruments made by Holtons are protected by these beautiful cases.

In addition to the founding and operation of the factory a beautiful home in which the Holton family resided was built. It is now used as a nursing home-Holton Manor.

In 1920 a pea cannery was built which provided work for many and encouraged the area farmers to

provide the products needed for its operation. After it closed, a new market was developed through the Libby, McNeill and Libby frozen food plant near Darien.

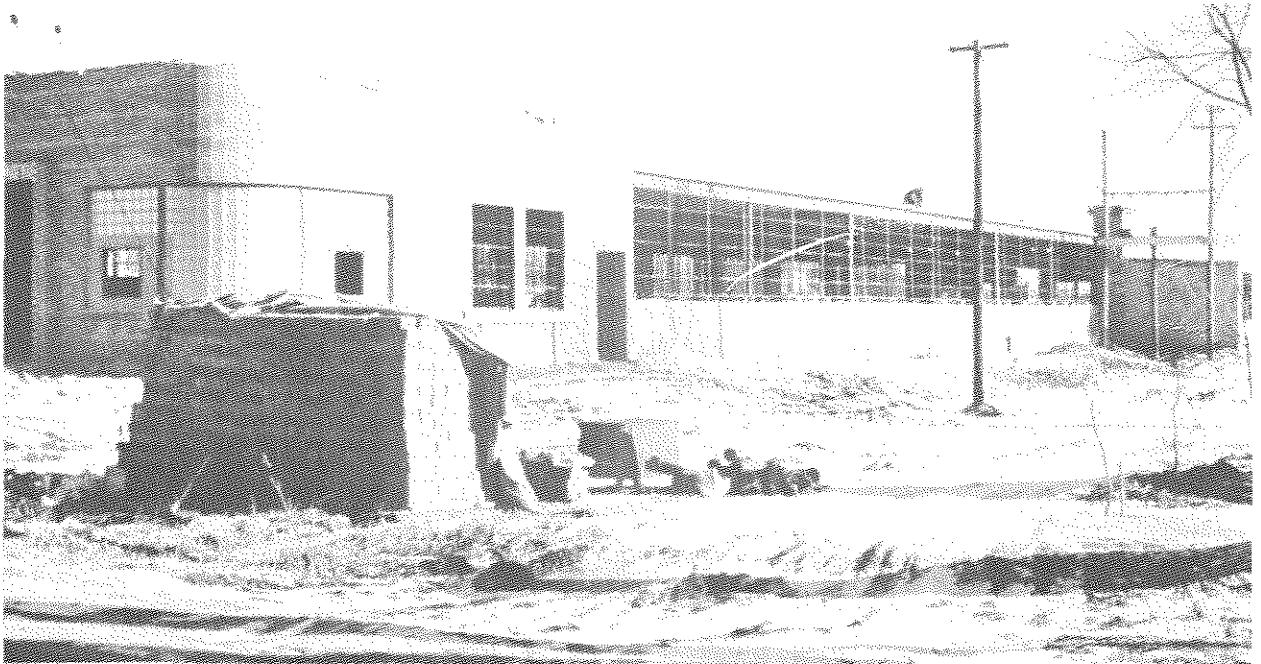
In 1930 a chick hatchery was in big production with a 52,000 Smith incubator installed shortly after the building was started. Four cents per egg was the charge for the hatching. The project has since been discontinued.

A factory making candy by the ton was started over the downtown Princess restaurant in 1930 by Miles Sperry and Ray Pihringer. It was later moved to the Hanson building; then to Columbus Hall before it was sold to the Redel Candy Co. of Milwaukee. The Denver Sandwich was a specialty and served many a sweet toothed citizen!

During the 1940's several new industries were started including Denswood mallets, made by Alfred Olsen in the laboratory at the rear of his home. They were standard equipment for U.S. arsenals. The Gerlach Manufacturing Co., of Racine and Milwaukee, opened a bowling pin factory. Gerlach later bought the Wales Paint shop on Adams street and continued work there for a time.

The Klebe Tool and Dye company opened on Church and Centralia streets. James Barr Jr. made burial vaults which were sold throughout the area. The Elkhorn Chemical Co. opened a firm which still makes and sells cleaning chemicals to industrial plants. Many products are sold in retail stores for home use under the brand name "Elko".

The Mann Bros. trucking business was established in this era. It was later expanded and moved north of the city and does diversified work on roads, driveways, with extensive gravel pits. The firm also developed the Evergreen Golf and Country club estates in the mid 1970s.



THE A.O. SMITH CORP. became part of the Elkhorn industrial scene in 1951 after acquiring a 10,000 square foot structure from the Sta-Rite Co., of Delavan. The Milwaukee based firm expanded its welding division in 1953 with this 16,000 square foot addition at its Elkhorn plant that was completed late in the year. The addition more than doubled the size of the plant here.



#### OAK MANUFACTURING CO. CAME TO ELKHORN IN 1953

Another trucking business hauling milk to several nearby states was started by William O'Donnell and is still in operation under the new management of LCL Trucking Co.

In 1955 The Duo Paint company was launched on south Church street. It mixes and sells paint and varnish products wholesale and retail.

A. O. Smith Harvestore Co., a subsidiary of the A. O. Smith Corp., manufactures glass lined farm storage units which have become an important facet of the Milwaukee firm's product lines. It recently added a 45,000 square foot building to the Elkhorn plant where Harvestore unloaders are made. This increase makes a total of 125,000 feet of space and will raise the labor force from 200 employees to a potential of 350 persons.

Another large industry which added to the city's growth is the Oak Manufacturing Co., headquarters in Crystal Lake, Ill., which came to the city in 1953. This Company produces basic converter products for use by the cable television market, an important and growing segment of the communication industry. It produces equipment especially designed for European cable systems. The Elkhorn production facility uses a completely conveyerized operation including sub and final assembly, tracking inspection, quality control, and packaging. It has provided employment for

as many as 500 southeastern residents during its peak production periods.

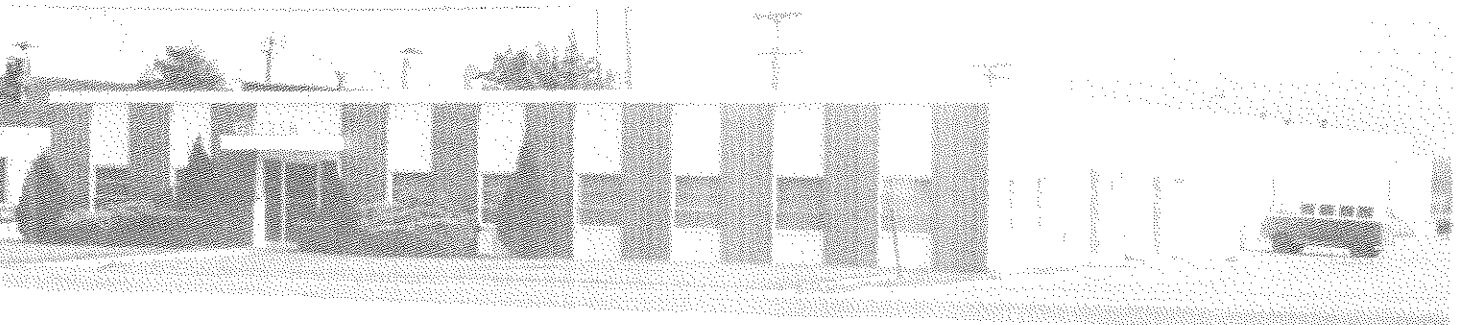
Another aspect of Elkhorn's industrial development is the father-son heritage of several enterprises.

The Reed Mink ranch on the outskirts of the city was originally started by Harold Reed and later operated by his son Robert.

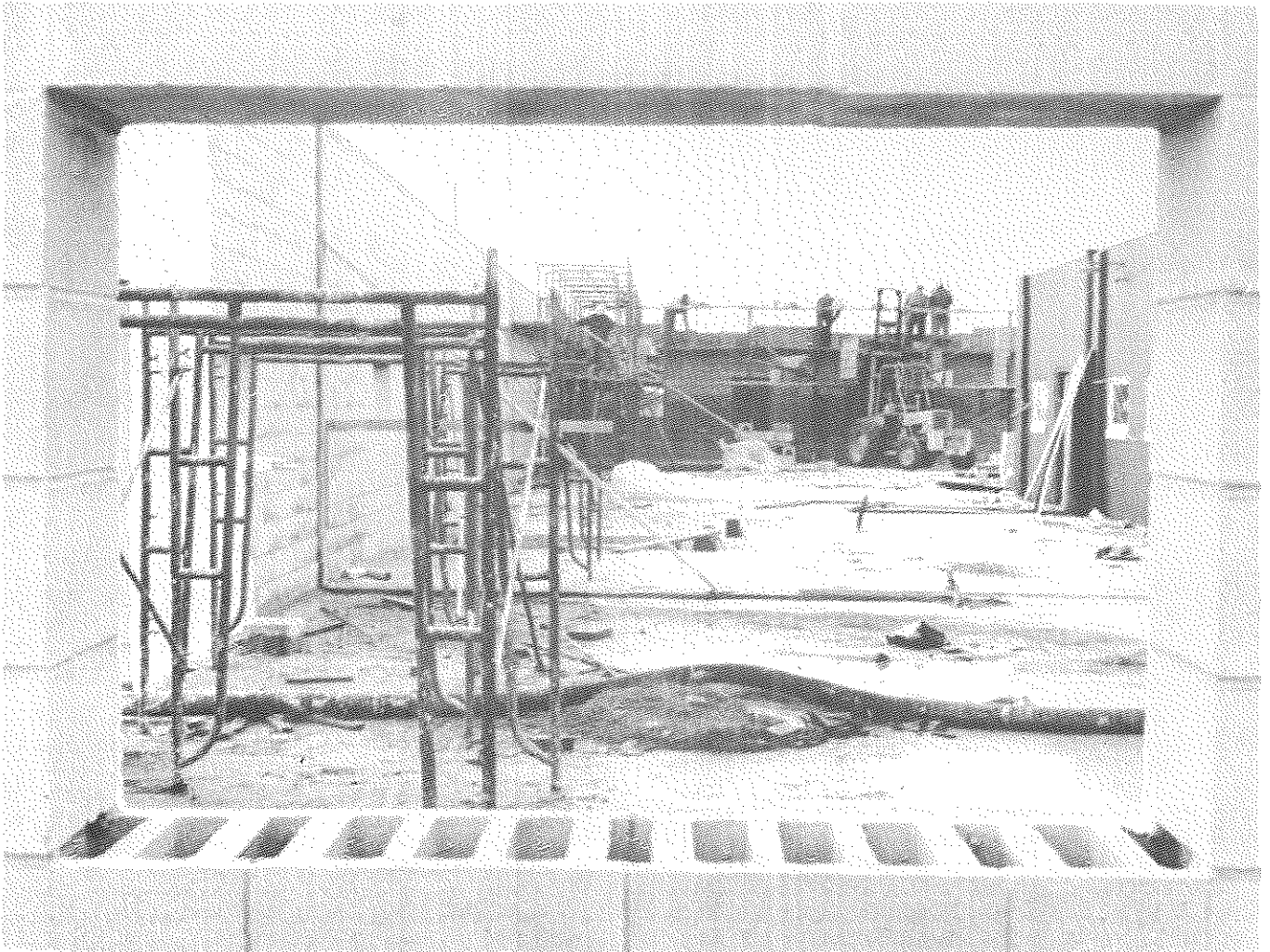
T. J. Getzen, a former employee of Holtons until 1939, opened his own band instrument factory in the barn back of his home in 1940 with two employees. In 1946 it had increased its employment to 30. The firm was later moved to a building on Centralia street where more than 80 workmen manufacture trumpets, French horns, cornets, baritones, fluegel-horns, and tubas.

Its products also have gained national and international recognition, with many drum and bugle corps having a complete line of Getzen instruments. Harold Knowlton has been president of the firm during much of the recent growth period.

The firm has a full clinician program with a number of well-known instrumentalists, headed by Doc Severinsen, a television entertainer who gained fame as featured trumpet player and then band leader on the Johnny Carson NBC "Tonight" show. Severinsen is now a vice president in charge of research



#### GETZEN CO. WAS THE 2ND BAND INSTRUMENT PRODUCER HERE



ALLIED MUSIC CORPORATION'S growth into the nation's largest band instrument repair and parts facility resulted in several expansions of the plant including the latest one in the 1970s.

and development for the firm, which features a horn under his signature.

The firm now operates out of new facilities, following a disastrous fire on Oct. 14, 1963, which leveled nearly two-thirds of the old building. In April of 1973, a second Getzen Co. plant was opened in Marengo, Ill., which was of some help when a fire on May 23, 1974, destroyed a third of the roof and part of the production facilities. But again, the firm bounced back in meeting the back orders that had accumulated during the repair period.

Robert Getzen, who worked with his father for a period of time, launched the Allied Music Corp., in 1959. His sons also are affiliated with him now in the instrument repair and parts business, which is the largest in the nation with a growing international scope.

Earl Olsen opened his own business in 1946 with a project of tooling for the development of the first Getzen trumpet. Today the West Side Tool company operates at 21 Adams St. where they moved in 1958. The building contains various types of machines such as turret lathes, engine lathes, automatic screw machines, milling machines, grinders, drill presses, and welders. The basic line of work is machine

tooling and manufacturing of higher precision parts.

Olsen helped to develop the first Helio-Arc welding guns for A. O. Smith Co. and later for the Harnischfeger Co. and Campton Co., of Charlotte, W. Va. His son, Don, is vice president of the organization and has been working with his father since high school. There are 7 full time employees rounding out the work force.

The A. K. Rubber Products Co., Inc., came to Elkhorn in 1956 from Walworth where it was started in 1952 by Victor G. Fiegel. Located at 248 West Centralia st., the company specializes in producing high quality custom-molded rubber parts for other manufacturers, ranging in size from tiny clock gears to large gaskets, which are shipped throughout the Midwest. The officers are Fiegel, president and treasurer; his son, Kirt, vice-president; and Mrs. Helen B. Fiegel, secretary.

Besides giving employment to many citizens in the city and surrounding communities one could find services and products available in the following sources of recently developed industries:

Bea Industries, Inc., on east Centralia street employs 12 persons and makes kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities under the trade name of



**A-K RUBBER PRODUCTS CO. PLANT**

“Lady Bea Kitchens”.

Elkhorn Plastics, Inc., is a larger operation, over 50 employees, making golf cart bags, hair dryer hoods, silencer pads, sound blankets, and other plastic articles. It is located at 315 South Church st.

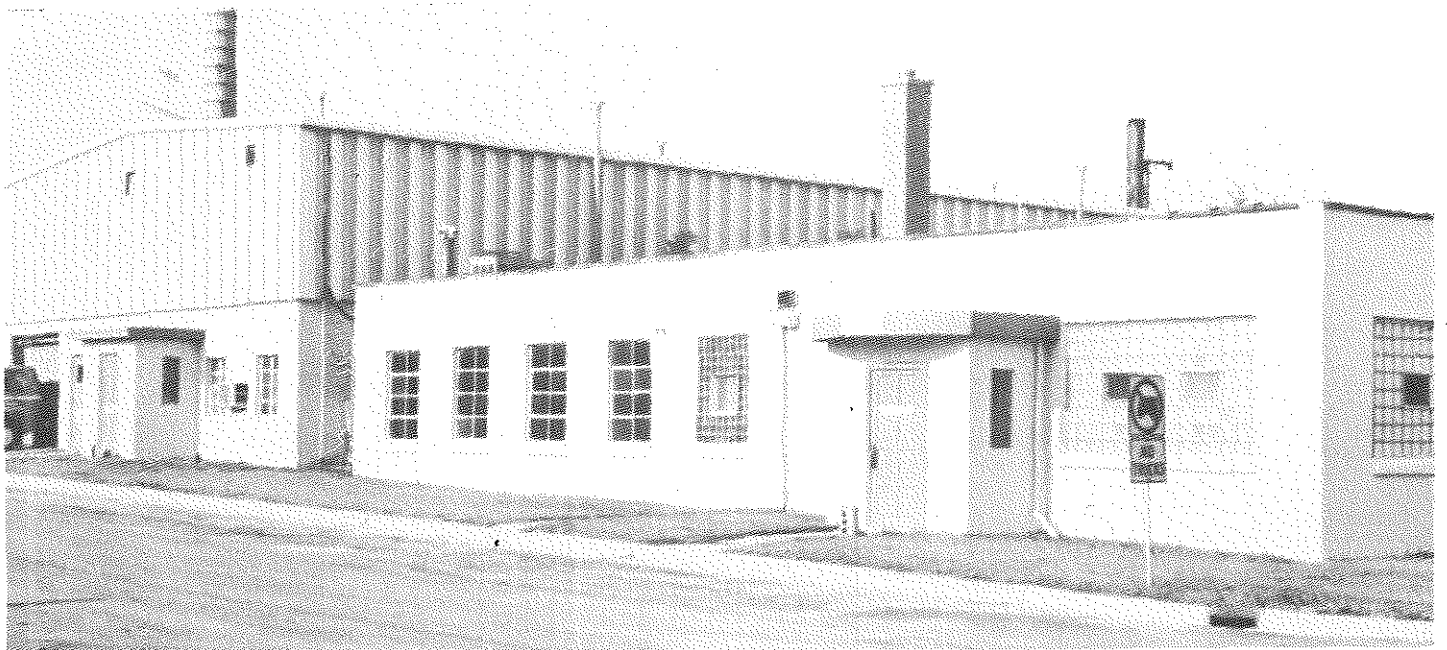
In the metal finishing business - in order to keep things bright and shiny - one finds Elkhorn Metal Finishers Inc., which provides electropolishing, chemical polishing, electro plating, and special metal and surface treatment. The plant is located at 205 Centralia st.

Midwest Polishing and Buffing Inc., at 219 South

Broad st. provided similar work.

At 431 East Geneva st. one may go to either Rite-Machine and Tool Co. for dies, jigs, and fixtures or to Walworth Industries Inc., Electric Coil Division for materials needed in this line of work.

Other new light industries are being developed in the city and outlying areas, such as LRP, Inc., one of the largest van conversion firms in the nation, offering luxury living on wheels along with unique paint jobs on the vehicles. It all adds up to an industrial growth for the Elkhorn area with a broadening economic base.



**ELKHORN PLASTICS, INC. FACILITY**

# Businesses And Stores

Business in Elkhorn began with the store of LeGrand Rockwell in 1838, followed in 1842 by Booth B. Davis and James O. Eaton who opened stores.

John Matheson came from Scotland and set up a tailor shop, followed in 1850 by his brother Finley Matheson, who besides caps and hats, could supply port wine and brandy "for medicine only."

Reuben Harriman was making boots and shoes, Walling and Son advertised harness makers goods and Levi Lee supplied bricks. In 1851 Otis Preston went into the general retail business with Horace N. Hay as a partner.

The stores and businesses of the early years were those that met the demands of the settlers, with many of them changing hands frequently as business was influenced by the war, the gold rush and the financial panics.

The records of the early business firms were recorded in the 1882 Butterfield and Beckwith histories of Walworth county, which remind one of the many milestones passed since buggies and wagons were manufactured at Court and Washington streets, or flour was ground across from the fairgrounds, when bricks were made in the city, and leather was tanned on East street, between Court and Walworth streets. Perhaps no one remembers that Lincoln was East street and Geneva was South street.

In 1975 it is difficult to trace the proprietors and buildings through the many changes in manage-

ment and businesses, but it is interesting to see how the changing times have made a far different society. The livery stables of those early days have been replaced by garages selling and servicing our means of transportation, the automobile. The friendly grocery stores and meat markets have felt the pressure of big business and have given way to the supermarkets in supplying many needs for daily living.

## MUNICIPAL BUILDING Corner Walworth and Broad St.

In 1874 the old Courthouse, which had served from 1842 to 1874, was moved to the south side of the park to make way for the new building. It was purchased by Col. Elderkin "for little more than the price of two sparrows." Elderkin moved it across the street to this location, where it was used for an implement business. When Mr. Sprague bought the lot it was being used for sale of second hand lumber and kindling.

Edward Harvey Sprague erected the Sprague Opera House Block on the corner in 1898 and operated until it was destroyed by fire in July 1925. The corner of the building was used by the U.S. Postal Service as Elkhorn's Post Office. Of course the mail also burned in the fire.

The July 2, 1925 issue of the Independent included this item. "A fire which started through the ex-



A PENNY POSTCARD mailed in 1907 includes the old Sprague Opera House at the corner of Walworth and Broad streets, where the present Municipal building is now located. The plush Opera House upstairs with a sloping seating arrangements and a balcony, was the scene of many traveling shows that came to Elkhorn including Elkhorn high operettas and graduation exercises before it burned on July 3, 1925. Also destroyed was the postoffice and dime store on the first floor of the Sprague building, but the building next door, now the Lehman and Seymour law office, was saved by firemen. The vacant lot in the block was where Dan Kelliher later built the Sprague theater in the 1930s after obtaining the land from E.H. Sprague, a prominent lawyer and city benefactor of the time. For three years, Kelliher operated the Princess movie theater in what is now the Arnold building, before seeking a larger theater that he named after Sprague. The present Elk restaurant was formerly the Princes restaurant for many years and upstairs was the site for the start of the famous Chicken Dinner nut bars, started by Miles Sperry and Ray Perring.



**WALWORTH STREET HASN'T** changed too much since this early picture was taken looking west, probably around 1913 or 1914. The old Loraine hotel and now a restaurant on the right, is just about the same except for some new siding and the removal of the top porch. The buildings across the street received new fronts except for the one on the corner, which was the Flack and Miller drug store. It burned in 1915 and was later replaced with the State bank building, now part of Parkview Drugs. Of course the Sprague Opera House in the next block also burned and was replaced with the municipal building. The only additions were the paving of streets and elimination of the horses and hitching rails.

ploding of a cap pistol in the Elkhorn Variety Store here Thursday evening destroyed the E. H. Sprague Opera House Block which housed the City Library, Post Office, Elkhorn Variety Store and Christian Science reading room. The loss is estimated at nearly \$100,000. You will discover the inside of your paper is blank. Your original paper was burned in the fire that destroyed the post office. In order to save time, we have run just the final press run of the paper in order to get the more important news to you as quickly as possible. We trust you will bear with us this week and pardon this half edition. We may give you two papers next week "if the Lord is willing and the weather permits."

The portion east of the Post Office occupied by the Elkhorn Variety Store and operated by Oleson and Last, had previously been occupied by the Brown Bros. and Co., a variety store, who came in January 1916 with a 5 year lease. Before that it had been the L. Clifford Howe Jewelry Store.

The blackened and scarred walls of the Opera House were later broken down to a height where there was little danger of their being a hazard, and they stood as a stark and silent memorial to the fire for some time, until the city bought the property and erected the Municipal Building. The Independent at the time said: "The new Municipal Building was dedicated Friday, Oct. 9, 1931. Elkhorn is justly proud of the building complete in every detail. Quarters are on the third floor for the American Legion; the Light and Water Commission facing Walworth street and to the rear of the Commission office, the Fire Department has a three stall truck

space, with firemens quarters in the basement. The main entrance is on the west facing South Broad street. The Council Chambers, Committee Rooms and Mayor's Office are on the first floor to the south. Across the hall is office space for city officials: treasurer, clerk, street commissioner and engineer, with a room for the police department. The second floor has a municipal auditorium seating 600 and a lounge with a kitchen between the two."

**NEW FIRE HOUSE  
23 So. Broad St.**

In May 1969 the city bought the Fred Schmidt property at 23 South Broad street, including the ice cream factory, house and garage for \$30,000 and the 1969 taxes; possession being given Sept. 1. In December the buildings were removed from the property preparatory to construction of the new building to house the fire department. This was built and occupied in 1971.

**LEHMAN AND SEYMOUR - Attorneys  
17 W. Walworth St.**

This building was erected by E. H. Sprague for his law office at the time he built the Sprague Opera House Block, and he occupied it until the time of his death in December, 1930. This building was saved from the blaze that destroyed the Opera House by a fire wall that existed between the two. The second floor was the Charles E. Sprague Library, a memorial to his son who died at the age of 19, in 1892, a victim of tuberculosis. It served the city as the



A NUMBER OF BUSINESS PLACES on west Walworth street can be seen behind the piles of snow that were left after the unforgettable storm during the 1946 winter. Included in the scene was the Chicago Store, Fleming's Drug Store, Spragia's Ice Cream parlor and Kandy Kitchen, National Tea Co. food store, Elkhorn Independent newspaper, Princess restaurant, Sprague theater and Production Credit Association office.

public library until the Matheson Memorial Library was erected in 1931.

The building was purchased by D. F. Kelliher and the Production Credit association occupied the first floor from 1933 to 1951; at that time they needed a larger office and moved to 108 W. Court St. At the same time the office rooms at the rear of the first floor were occupied by John Voss, Attorney, from 1946 until the time he became judge.

After PCA vacated their offices, the building was purchased by Thorson, Lehman and Seymour in 1951, and they moved their offices to this location in February, 1952. The upper floor has been used as offices since it was vacated by the library.

#### **SPRAGUE THEATER 15 W. Walworth St.**

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Kelliher came to Elkhorn in September, 1922, after purchasing the Princess Theater of Charles C. Hotchkiss. They made many improvements in the operation; the first was a pipe organ, that could be played either manually or from rolls and controlled by the ticket taker at the rear of the show house. (Remember those were the days of silent pictures. Chester Bickle played the organ here.)

Six years later the Kelliher's erected the Sprague Theater on the lot they purchased from E. H. Sprague. It had previously been vacant with a board fence along the sidewalk, known as "The Billboard" because it was posted with signs and handbills for auctions, circuses, meetings, road shows and coming events. The

grand opening and dedication of the Sprague was held May 30, 1928. Installation of "talking pictures" came to the theater a few months later, and the first talkie shown was "Broadway Melody" shown on May 8, 1929.

Mr. Kelliher always had a soft spot in his heart for children and gave them a party at Christmas and at Halloween each year, and often invited the school children to a special showing after school, if he had a unique or historical attraction he thought would be of interest to them. The Kelliher's pledge was "never to permit anything shoddy or cheap within the walls," which he always maintained. He sponsored a safe driving program for young people and was affectionately known as "Danny."

In January 1969 Dan Kelliher was honored by the Lions club for having been owner of the Sprague Theater for 46 years and for his service to the community.

The Kelliher's sold the theater to James K. Anderson and gave possession Nov. 1, 1968. In May 1975 the business, now known as Elkhorn Cinema, was sold to Towne Theaters, who have theaters in other places including Walworth, Watertown and Milwaukee.

#### **ELK RESTAURANT 13 W. Walworth St.**

A March 14, 1912 Independent item - Mrs. E. C. Austin purchased the Wales building occupied by Sperry Bros. and the State Long Distance Telephone Company, consideration being \$6,000. In the deal Mrs. Austin turned over her place of 6-1/2 acres in the west part of the city for \$4,200. The Austin place

will be occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wales.

A July item says Sperry Bros. did over \$100 worth of business the Fourth, a large part of which was through the sale of ice cream. Mention was made in January 1914 of the installation of candy manufacturing equipment and an expert candy maker from Chicago coming to instruct them in candy making. Sept. 2, 1915 the Independent carried an ad: "Sperry's the home of good eats. Have you tried our dinners or lunches, if you have never eaten with us, you have missed many a good meal. Dinners, hot and cold, lunches, ice cream, confectionery. At Sperry's the home of good eats."

In November 1918 Sperry Bros. sold their restaurant to Webster and Minett and in June 1919 when Webster and Minett dissolved partnership, Percy G. Webster continued in the Princess Annex with Miles Sperry, and George Minett took the Princess Theater.

In 1921 George Salimes purchased the property, which was occupied by Gus Leeman who ran the restaurant. Mr. Salimes came to Elkhorn in 1925 and continued the restaurant business until his retirement in September, 1946. He had been in that line of work

for 40 years, but not all of them in Elkhorn. He sold to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Kennedy, in 1946, and they continued until Dec. 1951, when they were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Bagnall who remained until Dec. 31, 1953.

At that time Mr. Kelliher who owned the building remodeled inside and out, and Mario A. Christiano came as the proprietor. At this time the name was changed to The Elk. He was followed by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Boutelle who remained until 1964, then Albert Koshudy took over until April 1971. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Wales were the latest operators after remodeling the building and have conducted the business since that time.

#### THE ELKHORN INDEPENDENT 11 W. Walworth St.

The Elkhorn Independent was established in 1853, and is now in its 123rd year of publication. It was then that Edgar J. Farnum, from a farm in the town of Geneva, put out the first number of the Independent.

The first paper published in Elkhorn and in the



THE FORERUNNER OF the Elk restaurant had a different type of soda fountain and a much larger candy counter, along with a magazine rack back in 1921. The Princess annex restaurant had its booths on each side in the rear along with tables and chairs in the center area. It was also the site for the start of the Sperry Candy Co. and their famed Chicken Dinner bars, which

operated upstairs above the restaurant for cooling and forming of the candy, and then in Columbus Hall for a period of time. Those working in the restaurant at the time included (from left) Henry Breidenbach, Jean Ketchpaw, Dude O'Keefe, George Ward and Nora Costigan (Mrs. Anthony Burns).

county was the Western Star, first issued August 8, 1845; edited by George Gale and Francis Utter. Gale later founded the city of Galesville and a college in that community. The Western Star was absorbed by the Independent, and the paper was at one time known as the Walworth County Independent.

In 1896 Francis H. Eames, from a farm in Spring Prairie, came to work on the Independent and became a part owner in 1899 with John Snyder. He became sole owner in 1912 and incorporated the business as F. H. Eames & Company. At his death in 1918, J. Walter Strong, who had been a newsman on the paper for six years, became the editor.

In January 1921, Clifford and Claude Eames took charge; Claude became editor in May of that year, and he purchased his brother's interest in 1928. Frank Eames, son of the Claude, became editor of the paper in 1960, and still holds that position along with presidency of the corporation.

The paper was published from 1865 to 1913 in the building at 35 North Wisconsin street; before 1865 it had been published in the second floor rooms of the Bradley building. The building on north Wisconsin st. was built in 1855 by Samuel Baird, a grocer, and in 1859 he sold to P. C. Gilbert who continued the grocery store. In 1861 Gilbert sold to Isaac Terry and in 1865 Frank Leland bought the property for the Independent. While the ownership changed several times, the location remained the same until the Independent moved to its present building on West Walworth street on Nov. 13, 1913.

In 1909 Benjamin B. Kraus bought the Freeley Hardware store, which occupied this lot; then on Dec. 12, 1912 it was destroyed by fire, causing an estimated \$7,000 loss. B. B. Kraus moved his business to the T. W. Morefield building, which in 1976 is the A. C. Oleson building on South Wisconsin street.

George Cain cleared the lot and built a new structure to specifications for a modern printing plant, which has been and still is the home of the "Letter from Home."

**ARNOLD, ARNOLD AND KNIGHT - Attorneys  
9 W. Walworth St.**

In February 1954, Lyman K. Arnold purchased this building, which had been vacant after the National Tea Company moved to the larger building at the corner of East Walworth and North Lincoln streets in 1949. Known now as the National Food Store, it had been in Elkhorn for 21 years. Mr. and Mrs. Tracy Davidson of Chicago were the owners who sold the property to Mr. Arnold. He completely remodeled the building and added a second floor; the front rooms are used as the law offices and the rooms at the rear on both the first and second floor are occupied as rental units.

For many years this building had been occupied as a bowling alley by Phil Stewart and he sold it to Percy Webster and George Minett. They started the Princess Theater here and opened it in 1915, discontinuing the use of their Family Theater at 18 South Wisconsin st. Later they sold the business to Charles C. Hotchkiss, who continued until D. F. Kelliher came to Elkhorn and purchased it in September of 1922. The Kelliher's continued the theater here until 1928, when they moved to their new Sprague Theater. In the old theater the Sound effects for the silent pictures

were provided by: Piano-Pearl Knobb, Mrs. Francis Cory, Mrs. Harry Wright, Mrs. Harley Wales, Mable Hare, Julia Wales Kenney and Mrs. William Kallenberg; Drummers-George Mitchell Sr., Glenn Sweet.

After remodeling, the National Tea Company occupied the building in 1928.

**PINK POODLE GIFT SHOP  
7 W. Walworth St.**

This location contains much history for it was Orlie Carswell's Store, which was established in 1862.

An item in the Nov. 13, 1913 Independent says: "Extensive improvements are being made in the pioneer store of O. Carswell. The old telephone booth which contained the first public telephone to be installed in this city is to be taken out. In March 1883, the county seat was connected by phone with the outside world. Mr. Carswell was manager of the exchange which started out with Dr. Young and the Lumber Company as subscribers. Waukesha relayed messages to this city, and that exchange repeated each conversation to Milwaukee, which was at the end of the line.

The excitement of election year in '84 kept the line busy as local voters were on edge with interest in presidential candidates Cleveland and Blaine. The exchange was maintained in the store until 1903, when rapidly increasing business made larger quarters necessary."

Carswell was willing to trade in running his business. Mrs. Nettie Ohl said when she was a child she traded Indian arrow heads to obtain a piece of dress material to give her mother at Christmas. The Oct. 14, 1915 Independent issue, reported that Carswell is selling out his stock after 53 years in business.

In 1915 Alex Spragia came to Elkhorn and bought the building, establishing Spragia's Kandy Kitchen, where he made his own candy until 1926, but stayed in business until 1946. His son, Alex Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. John Spragia did some remodeling and in January opened a delicatessen and gift shop, with the addition of a snack bar operated by Darrell Dunbar and Ray Dooley.

In 1958 the store was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. William Wolf and operated as a fine card and gift shop, with the business being sold in 1967 to Mary and Dean Matthews, who have continued with an assortment of gift shop items.

**FARM BUREAU SERVICE CENTER  
5 W. Walworth St.**

This structure was operated as a grocery store many years ago by C. N. Byington, and later by George Coombe. In 1914 Mr. Coombe sold the stock and fixtures to William Howe and his son, Harry, they remaining at this address for three years before moving to the 25 North Wisconsin st. location they occupied for a much longer time. Webster and Minett, owners of the Family Theater, bought the building in September, 1915 from the Byington estate.

In April, 1918 Flack and Miller moved their business from the Corner Drug Store to this location; later George Miller sold his interest to W. E. Flack



**AERIAL PICTURE OF DOWNTOWN IN 1966 LOOKING SOUTH**

and he continued as sole owner. The Fleming and Arnold Drug stores in 1933 took over the business from Mr. Flack, and in 1939 Garrett Fleming continued it alone as the Fleming Drug store. This business was followed Aug. 1951 by the Park-View Drug store with Jim Hayes as manager. In 1969 Arne Stensby bought the business and incorporated it into his present Park-View operation.

The Farm Bureau Service Center then moved in after extensive remodeling, holding an openhouse and ribbon cutting ceremony in August, 1969.

**ELLIOTT'S CHICAGO STORE  
1 - 3 W. Walworth St.**

Dry goods and ready-to-wear have been sold from the southwest corner of Walworth and Wisconsin streets since the business was established in 1838. The Chicago Store was established in 1927, when the Elkhorn Dry Goods Co. owned by A. J. Johnson was purchased by Louis Shaffer, father of Harry Shaffer, who was with the store until it was sold in 1975.

Mr. Johnson had operated the store first as the manager and then the owner from the turn of the century, after taking over from Harry Hemb, who had called it the Cash Saving store. H. Dobbins had operated the store many years prior to selling to Hemb, and Dobbins had taken it after C. E. Wing moved to his new store at 39 North Wisconsin st. now the Gambles store.

While the Shaffers owned the building they did a great deal of remodeling both inside and out. At one time the store had been only one story, but later it was given a second floor and an addition was built at the rear that eliminated the alley.

Elliott's of Janesville, bought the store in 1975 and called it Elliott's Chicago Store. They, too, carried out some remodeling and are selling ready-to-wear merchandise.

**DYKE SEWING CENTER  
10 S. Wisconsin St.**

Frank Kurick came to Elkhorn as a young man

from Czechoslovakia, and repaired shoes in 1913 in the Marty Shoe Shop. In 1918 he started his own business in the back room of the Slattery Shoe Store. September, 1925, he bought this building from T. W. Morrissy and conducted his business at the same location until his death in January, 1956. He had remodeled the building and added a line of shoes for sale in June 1953.

Before Kurick bought the building it had been the American Express Office, and also C. W. Reeth's tailor shop in 1906.

Mr. and Mrs. T. F. McArdle occupied the building as a surplus store known as Mac's Surplus Store in October 1956, followed by Elmer Scheiby with Elmer's Clothing Store in the 1970s. In March 1971 Dyke Sewing Center moved to this location with a wide variety of sewing machines and sewing notions and continues to serve the public here.

**DAVIES, THORSON, O'BRIEN AND  
JOHNSON LAW OFFICE  
12 S. Wisconsin St.**

The Howard and Buchta Drug store was established in the Elkhorn Hotel block in January, 1896, and moved at the turn of the century to this building known as the Huntress building.

After Carl Buchta left the business, T. A. Clark came as a clerk with Peter Howard and then bought the business in May, 1903. In April 1915, after 12 years as the third drug store, Mr. Clark sold to the Flack and Miller Drug store and the Woelm Drug Co., and they divided the stock between them.

Aug. 26, 1915 advertisement: "We have opened a restaurant and ice cream parlor on South Wisconsin street and are now ready to serve your wants, meals, short orders, confectionery, ice cream and soft drinks. Everything is cooked and served to please. J. A. Robinson, Elkhorn, Wis." In April the following year J. A. Robinson, who has been conducting a lunch room in the former T. A. Clark Drug Store, was closing out his goods and fixtures, and the building was rented to W. K. Suliver and O. H. Lee for jewelry and pianos, who moved in May, 1916.

After being in business for 37 years, Mr. Suliver died in July, 1953; his obituary said he had started his business in 1916 in the Warning building, possibly with O. H. Lee, for Mr. Lee had a store there a short time before the two of them moved to this building in 1916.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wolf purchased the business after the death of Mr. Suliver in October, 1953 and took possession Nov. 1. In 1960 they moved across the street to 11 S. Wisconsin st.

The building was extensively remodeled and given a new front and used as the City Traveler restaurant from March 1964 to 1972. At first it was managed by Gordon Kennedy and Darrell Wales, later John Mauer joined Kennedy in the operation with Wales leaving. Mauer then acquired the business when it was moved to larger quarters at 26 East Walworth st.

The building was again remodeled and taken over by the firm of attorneys now occupying it: Davies, Thorson, O'Brien and Johnson.

**SEARS  
18 S. Wisconsin St.**

In 1895 W. O. Coombe came to Elkhorn and con-

ducted a shoe store business in this building for 10 years. In 1905, F. J. Parliament of Chicago, rented the store in the Bentley block for a variety store which he continued until his death in June, 1917. In September, 1919, the business was closed out and the store was vacated in October.

It wasn't until 1922 that the A & P Food Store company moved into the building, remaining until 1946. They needed larger quarters and since none were available they left town. The first manager was Elmer Ridgway, who remained with them until 1939, then Valley Blakeley until 1941, Harvey Meyer for a few months and finally Harvey Welch from 1942 until the store closed in March, 1946.

This is the north part of the Bentley block that L. H. Buchholz bought in 1917. The store sometimes called 16 and sometimes 18 So. Wisconsin st. was combined with the building to the south, and with the partition removed, made the Schultz Bros. Store.

In 1970 the Sears Catalog Order Store, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Gail Platts, moved here from 26 So. Wisconsin st. and they still serve the public at this location.

The Oct. 22, 1925 Independent reported an incident about the Ridgways returning from Milwaukee to their home at 921 W. Walworth Street and finding that someone had been eating lunch at their kitchen table. They searched the house and found a man, rolled in quilts sleeping in the attic. When Mr. Ridgway awakened him and told him to get out, the man pulled a gun and shot him, sending him to Mercy Hospital in Janesville for treatment. After a search party failed to find the tramp and bloodhounds lost the trail at the railroad tracks west of town, it was concluded the man had made a get-a-way on a freight train.

**PLANTS AND THINGS &  
LAKES HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING  
18 & 18-A S. Wisconsin St.**

"Plants and Things" opened in November 1975, with Jean Wright selling plants and pots and things to go with them.

But back in January, 1912 Harry Wright made elaborate plans for the opening of the Family Theater here, and in April 1913 he had a new arched front constructed "Giving Elkhorn's popular picture show-house one of the most modern entrances in the locality." This was in the days of silent pictures and Mabel Hare played the piano and George Mitchell, father of the present George Mitchell, played the drums and devised many exciting sound effects. Later Webster and Minett bought the theater, and moved the business to the Princess Theater they constructed on West Walworth st.

In September, 1917, L. H. Buchholz bought the Bentley Block. Mr. Buchholz came from Fox Lake to Elkhorn in 1897 and bought the one chair barber shop of J. C. Ford, who had purchased the Tamblingson barber shop May 21, 1896. A couple months later Mr. Buchholz bought the M. W. Bovee barber shop that had been established by the Bovee Bros. Dec. 16, 1886. Mr. Buchholz operated his barber shop at the rear of the Corner Drug Store facing Wisconsin street, and when that building was destroyed by fire in 1913, he conducted his business for a short time in Gus Gall's tailor shop, until it was possible for him to return to his place of business. Gus Gall's tailor

shop was the location where years before the Bovee Brothers had started their barber shop.

In purchasing the Bentley Block, the Parliament Variety store was occupying the north half and continued to do so; the south half which had been vacated by the Family Theater, became the Buchholz Barber Shop. It also served the men of the community as a bath house (remember this was in the days before everyone had a bath room at home). Mr. Buchholz worked at his trade until 1936.

An item in April 1, 1948 Independent tells about the alligators in the window of the L. H. Buchholz Barber Shop, which had been brought from New Orleans in 1922. The three were a few inches long when they arrived here; one died soon after coming; "Rudolph" had died earlier but "Adolph" had just passed away when the article was written, after attaining a length of 4-1/2 feet. After the barber shop closed, the alligators were kept at the Clarence Buchholz home, in the basement in winter and in the yard in summer. One could never know how much interest those alligators gave the passersby, both young and old.

In October 1936 The Mason Supply Co. opened a store carrying automobile supplies. It was followed by a variety store. The Elkhorn Variety Store which began business with C. S. Kidd's Variety Store in the C. P. Hanson building in 1937, was sold to Kenneth Seeley, and he moved it to this location. Phil O'Neal purchased the business and then sold it to Eugene Mink in 1940. In April, 1946, Schultz Bros. bought the business of Mr. Mink, and leased the store next door, which had been the A & P Store for 24 years. The partition between the two was removed to enlarge the Schultz Bros. floor space; and the business was carried on here.

The Lakes Heating and Air Conditioning have an office in the same building at the rear and also use the basement for their business.

#### **ELKHORN APPLIANCE AND TV 20 S. Wisconsin St.**

From Harness Shop to TV the most modern means of communication, within the space of 93 years.

Pett's Harness Shop was operated by Harry and Walter Pett who sold harnesses, horse and cattle feed, whips, trunks, bags, and fur lap robes in this place from early 1886 until it was leased by Mike and John (Flicky) Slattery in 1915, with John buying out his father's interest in 1917, which involved a full line of footwear. In June 1936 the Kroger grocery occupied the building until Sept., 1949. In 1954 Frank Vavra moved the Gamble Store from the Warning Building and conducted the business until he sold it in 1956 to the John Johnsons. In 1959 the Johnsons moved to the A. C. Oleson building across the street.

After the Gamble Store moved out, H. L. Dinkheller moved his business from the Melcher building into this location. It was known simply as the Electric Appliance and TV, Inc. When Mr. Dinkheller retired in June, 1974, he sold the business to Donald and Richard Bushey, who still call it Elkhorn Appliance and TV, Inc.

Frank Kurick conducted his shoe repair business in the Back room of the Slattery Shoe store, before he purchased his place of business at 10 S. Wisconsin Street.

(In the 1920's when the Bayard Lyon family moved to Elkhorn, Mrs. Slattery displayed and sold Chinese merchandise that Mrs. Lyon imported.)

#### **JOB SERVICE 22 S. Wisconsin St.**

This is now the Wisconsin State of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, Department of Employment, Security Division, Job Service Office.

Years ago Edward Amos had established a billiard hall at this location, which he later sold to Albert Schroeder, who in May 1915 sold it to Webster and Minett. Then it was occupied by Glen Sperry, as Sperry's Pool hall, until May, 1935, when W. F. Dixon opened a 5¢ and 10¢ store at this location, which he sold in October of the same year to Fred T. Clifton. Mr. Clifton conducted his business here for many years, selling after 19 years to Elzy Cooper, Jr., in 1954. In a short time he sold it to Joe Bernhart who stayed only to the end of the year, selling to I. D. Pior in January. Mr. Pior held a grand opening event in April of 1956.

Since that time the building has been occupied by Western Auto, Robert's Second Hand Store, again by Western Auto, and had also been vacant for some time. In the summer of 1975 the Job Service Office moved here from its second floor location at 9-1/2 West Walworth st.

(In 1939 a girl who graduated from high school was employed at the Clifton's Variety Store for 18-1/2¢ an hour and was just thrilled to have the job. Sometime later the pay rate was raised to 21-1/2¢ an hour, and Mr. Clifton assured the employees that it was unheard of to pay anyone such a wage.)

#### **PAT'S PAINT STORE 24 S. Wisconsin St.**

In 1899 Frank and Fred Schmidt came to Elkhorn and bought the bakery of Otto Boloch, which they operated not only as a bakery, but also as a restaurant and ice cream parlor for six years in the building. At that time the baking was done in the basement. They sold the bakery to A. W. Robinson.

In 1911 Robinson's Bakery made 12,000 buns, 240 dozen doughnuts, 450 pies, 800 loaves of bread for County Fair business, all this in addition to a greater than usual town trade. In 1914 Robinson's advertised Extra fancy California Navel Oranges 20¢ a dozen.

In March, 1918, A. W. Robinson enlisted in the British Army and sold the bakery to John Meyers. In 1919 Mr. Meyers bought the Bauerman building that housed the bakery, and continued the business as the Elkhorn Home Bakery until he sold to Martin Peterson.

In January 1953, Robert Bolton purchased the bakery from the Petersons and changed the name to Bo-Dot Bakery. The Boltons stayed in business only two years and sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Kaplan, in 1955. The Kaplans remained in this location for five years before moving to 29 No. Wisconsin st. They changed the name to the Elkhorn Pastry Shop.

June 15, 1961 Pat's Paint Shop, owned by Mr.



**RICHELIEU FOODS WERE** featured at the Miller Grocery store on south Wisconsin street back in 1920. Ready to serve customers were (from left) George Miller, Glenn Sperry, Colon McKenzie and Hal Hubbard. The store was located where the Elkhorn Shoe Store is doing business.

and Mrs. Charles Koglin opened at this location where they still conduct the business.

**DONNELLY SHOE STORE**  
26 S. Wisconsin St.

The Donnelly Shoe Store moved here in 1970 from the next door south, where they had been since 1962. Before that time Mr. Donnelly had occupied one of the shops in the front of the bowling alley, which had been at 47 So. Wisconsin st.

In the early days this was the grocery of W. C. Rosenhauer, who sold it to William Ohl, who had been in charge of the grocery department at the Wing store. In April, 1915, Miller and Horch became the proprietors, but dissolved the partnership in April, 1917, afterwards being known as Miller's Grocery, phone number 66.

In April, 1935, Francis Cory became the owner and called it the Elkhorn Grocery Company, selling it in November, 1938, to Elmer Ridgway, who had been the manager of the A & P Store. The name was changed to Ridgway's IGA. In 1945 it became the Rubach Grocery, until Roger Rubach returned to Burlington to open a grocery store there.

Then Miss Elizabeth Burns moved from next door south, and after she bought the property from the Chet Williams estate, she enlarged and remodeled the store in 1948. She remained in business until 1964. The (J.) Brewer Dress shop occupied the building for one year, then the Sears Catalog Order store moved in April, 1965, and conducted their business here

until 1970, when they moved to 18 So. Wisconsin st. They were followed by the Donnelly Shoe Store.

(An item in the Dec. 13, 1917 Independent tells of an automobile collision Monday at the corner of Wisconsin and Walworth streets. The Miller Grocery Ford delivery car driven by Will Rafferty and a car driven by L. F. Dennis of Millard collided at the corner. Both cars were traveling faster than 12 miles per hour, when Dennis failed to pass to the right of the traffic post. No one was hurt, but the cars were badly damaged. Miller's car had a crushed radiator, broken windshield, cam, fenders, light, body front, and bent axle. The damage is estimated at \$50 to \$60.)

**JIM'S KARPET KORNER**  
28 S. Wisconsin St.

This location was the Harriman (R.D.) Meat Market, neighbor to the W. C. Rosenhauer Grocery at the turn of the century. Harriman had operated the business since 1876, then he sold it to Mike Welch, who in turn sold in 1904 to R. A. Widmayer. Widmayer had been in business 26 years, when he sold in 1930 to O. W. Kettlehut, which made the market at least 50 years old at that time. When Kettlehut left the market, it was taken over by Wesley Babcock from 1934 to 1938.

In 1940, Elizabeth Burns moved her dress shop to this building from the second floor of the old City Hall, which she had occupied from 1934. Miss

Burns started her millinery business in the A. J. Johnson's Store, Feb. 14, 1924, when she rented a corner and bought a stock of hats. She stayed two years after Mr. Shaffer purchased the business. In 1929, she moved to a shop in the Loraine Hotel, after it was remodeled by Mr. Nick Sklavenitis, and remained there five years before moving to the second floor of the old City Hall and then here in 1940. After she bought it in 1944 from the Chet Williams estate she remodeled, moved next door and continued business there.

In July 1954 Mr. and Mrs. John Rohleder opened a Children's Wear Shop here, and continued for some time, followed by Jacobsen's Teen Store. While the old courthouses were being torn down and the new one built, county offices were housed in buildings around town. Stanley Ihlenfeldt's University Extension office occupied this location. They moved from temporary quarters at 34 So. Wisconsin st., and were here from June, 1959, until August, 1962.

In 1962 Donnelly's Shoe store moved here from the repair shop across the street and remained until 1970, when they moved next door north. After the Donnellys vacated the building it was occupied by Jim's Karpel Korner through the present time.

**TOM PINTAR - ROY THOMS**  
30 So. Wisconsin St.

This property, as well as the double store building to the north, belonged to Chet Williams. In the early days there was just a small wooden building here.

In October 1921 Mrs. Elizabeth Sperry and Mrs. Roy Mahoney moved the "Hat Box" here; with Mrs. Mahoney later selling her interest to Mrs. Sperry, who continued for a time and then sold to Mrs. Kenneth Lean Sr. Mrs. Lean added needlework to her merchandise stock. A radio shop run by a Mr. Currie used it once and Charles Kreitman cobbled shoes here.

Merrill Ketchpaw ran a lunch room until October, 1933, then Burr Little moved from across the street and conducted his tailor shop until 1941 when Mr. and Mrs. Little and Mrs. R. F. Thomas were killed in an automobile accident in Greenville, Miss. The building was vacant for a time, and H. H. Melcher bought it, tore it down and erected the new one to replace it.

This new building was used as an appliance shop and Carl McCartie was the first manager followed by Ray Dooley in 1948 and Allyn Strong, who was the manager at the time of his death in March 1954.

Dale Cullen and his brother had opened Cully's TV and Appliance Shop in the Old Hanson Oil station building at the corner of South Washington and East Geneva streets in November 1953, and that business moved to this location in August of 1954 and was joined by H. L. Dinkheller. In 1959 they moved to 20 So. Wisconsin street.

Then the Fashion Flair Beauty Salon moved in and conducted its business here until 1962. The Westphal Pet Shop followed it, remaining until 1970.

Tom Pintar and Roy Thoms moved their insurance business here in 1970 and continue to share the office.

**MELCHER AMC JEEP INC.**  
32 So. Wisconsin St.

In May 1906 H. E. Hartwell sold his livery barn and business to Lund Land Co., who must have sold it to C. F. Graff, because he sold it in January, 1907 to the Fay Brothers, Michael and James. Fay Bros. Livery ran the omnibus that transported passengers from the train to Lauderdale Lakes. This was in the days before the road between Abell's Corner and Bethel had been built and it was necessary to go by way of Tibbets or Foster roads. Mike Fay also carried the mail from the post office to the depot and met the morning and evening trains for the incoming mail.

An item in the April 1913 Independent says that "Mike Fay and P. S. Stewart went to Chicago this morning for the new car which Fay Bros. have purchased for their livery. They will drive the car out, expecting to reach home tonight unless bad roads are encountered."

The livery business was sold about 1917 to Ed Hicks, and in 1922 he went into the garage business. The Ralston Chevrolet Sales, Inc., Tom James, manager, occupied the location from 1925 until 1933 when Henry H. Melcher took over the business. In 1934 he was named the Nash-LaFayette Agency in Elkhorn. Mr. Melcher has continued the business and added two lots on South Broad street to his property, thus expanding his area for used cars. The name of his operation has been changed since those early days to Melcher AMC Jeep, Inc. Mr. Melcher has been in business 41 years, longer than any other merchant in Elkhorn.

**GENE'S HOBBY SHOP**  
34 So. Wisconsin St.

August 1885, the City of Elkhorn bought this location from the Congregational Society to erect the City Hall and Engine House as they called it then. Through the years it served faithfully, until the city offices were moved to the Municipal Building in 1931.

It was here at first that the City Council met, the elections were held and the taxes were paid. The Elkhorn Cornet Band, also practiced in these quarters. After the school house burned in 1887, some of the classes were held in the building.

In May 1933 Nick Burns purchased the City Hall building for \$1,800, with his daughter, Elizabeth Burns, using the upper floor for her millinery shop and dressmaking parlor. Mr. Burns used the first floor for the Burns Transfer Co.

Jack White started his barber shop here in 1938 in the front of the first floor of the building, and Albert Mentz joined him in 1940. On the evening of March 27, 1947, Mr. White failed to return home to the Nickel Plate hotel and his wife became concerned about him. They discovered he had died in the shop after locking up for the night. Mr. Mentz continued the shop alone until November, 1974, when he retired. Jack White's name really was Edwin J. White; the White family had four sons, and they all had names starting with the letters Ed.

Emmett's (Woodford) Office Supplies occupied the cement block room in the rear from September 1948 to 1952, when he moved from 105 So. Broad street

where he had conducted his business since November, 1946.

From 1952 to 1955 the milk inspectors laboratory occupied the middle rooms of the building and the inspectors used the back room for their sleeping quarters. After they left, Gene Meadows moved into the back room with his hobby shop for a time, then he occupied the middle room and rented the back rooms to the Farm Bureau from 1961-1963. They were followed in the rear rooms by Evelyn's Sewing Machine Center, which moved in 1971 across the street, and at that time the rooms were rented by Quinn's Aquarium, for two years. Now in 1976 Gene's hobby shop occupies the entire building.

**OUR OWN HARDWARE  
47 So. Wisconsin St.**

In August, 1915, Smart Bros., of Eagle, bought the Graff residence on the corner of Wisconsin and Park (now Geneva) streets, and moved it to West Rockwell street where they sold it after remodeling. Smart Bros. occupied the corner for the Ford Garage with Roy Gillette as local manager.

In April 1916 they were advertising Ford touring cars for \$440. Before this Ford Agency was established, Ben Bachhuber had been selling Ford cars at his farm implement business on East Walworth street.

E. A. Spinner took over the Ford Agency from Roy Gillette and was in the Spinner Ford Sales and Service for 18 years before it became Elkhorn Motors, Inc., in October, 1934. The business of the Elkhorn Motors, Inc. remained at this location until it moved to East Walworth street in February, 1937.

In June 1938 E. A. Spinner's garage building was leased for one year to I. L. Cutting for a garage business, possession given June 25.

In 1939 Kenneth Seeley remodeled the building into the Elkhorn Bowling Alleys, which were popular during the winter months. The business was conducted first by Kenneth Seeley, then in 1944 by Harold Mishler, two years by Thorson and Seymour, sold to Clarence Hanson in August, 1946, and then in February 1947 to Edwin H. Kerl. The Verne Evans took it over and ran it for six winters, selling it to the Harold Mishlers in 1954. It was closed as a bowling alley when the Two Seasons, Inc. opened in November, 1963. Mr. Mishler worked with the new establishment for a time.

Shops had been built on the Wisconsin Street side in what had originally been the lobby, and they were occupied at different times by Kramers Real Estate, Donnelly's Shoe Repair shop, Jaynes Childrens Wear shop, Brebers Music Co., and the Donabedian Weber Expert Shoe Repair shop.

In 1964 The John Johnson's took over the building for the Gamble Store moving here from 23 So. Wisconsin st. They did a great deal of remodeling and continued as a Gamble Store for some time before changing to the "OUR OWN" brand of merchandise.

**CARL IVERSON - Consulting Civil Engineer  
45 So. Wisconsin St.**

Carl Iverson has occupied this location since Spencer TV and Appliance Inc. moved out on Feb. 1,

1974. He had previously had an office in the Elkhorn West Side Clinic.

Years ago this had been an alley way, then a building was constructed with a wall dividing the front room used by the Western Union and the back room used for playing cards. The back room could be entered only from the rear.

When Hilmar Desing returned from military service, he opened a radio shop in what had been the Ficken Oil Station at the corner of South Lincoln and East Geneva streets, about 1945, before buying the property at 45 South Wisconsin street in June, 1945. This was remodeled and the wall between the front and back rooms was removed to enlarge the shop. The front room was being used by the Thorpe Finance Company which moved to Elkhorn from Lake Geneva, Sept. 15, 1943 to be more centrally located. William J. Carroll was the manager.

The Desing Radio Shop was operated here until Mr. Desing retired in 1965; then Perry Spencer, who had been associated with him, took over the business in the same location, until he moved in 1974 to 7-9 N. Lincoln Street where his son has joined him in the business.

Before Mr. Desing went into service, he had been in the radio business, which he started at 14 East Walworth st. in 1925 and later moved to 35 South Wisconsin st.

**WISCONSIN SOUTHERN GAS COMPANY INC.  
41 So. Wisconsin St.**

The Wisconsin Southern Gas Co. Inc. opened its new office here in the spring and held its grand opening May 17, 1968, in the new building they erected that replaced the restaurant that had been destroyed by fire in 1964.

The earlier building had been the Graff Shoe Store, whose owner, Anthony Graff, had been a shoemaker for the Harriman Shoe Store, and then had his own business for 51 years. He sold to F. H. Marty, of Madison, March 1912. In February 1917, when the Graff Jewelry Store moved to its new building, Mr. Marty moved his stock of shoes to the vacated store at 21 South Wisconsin st. after being here for 5 years. In December, 1919, George Fuller bought this Graff building and Ralph MacDonald was in charge of a tire shop.

The Villa Restaurant, owned and operated by Norman Valentine for three years, was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jensen, who took possession November 1, 1933. The Jensen's conducted the business until October, 1934 when they sold it to L. H. Thomas of Antigo. In 1939 Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mishler took over the ownership until 1943. In June 1945 Clarence (Pete) Langley bought the Villa from Ralph Jacobs of Verona, and he sold it a year later in July 1946 to Henry D. Mullen. The Mullens kept it until September 1947 and sold to Alfred Brill who operated the restaurant for a longer period, selling it after six years to Gordon Saunders of Chicago. March 15, 1956 Mr. Saunders sold the business to Fred Clausen, who later sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Payne who were the proprietors at the time of the fire in 1964.

The lot was vacant until the Gas Company purchased it and constructed the new building.



RENOVATED STORE FRONTS greeted visitors to downtown Elkhorn in the fall of 1976. Businesses along South Wisconsin street included Park View Drugs and liquor store, Wolf Jewelry,

John's Bootery, Kullberg Jewelry, Dailey Clothing, Dooley Clothing, Fashion Flair beauty salon, Recreation center, Nickel Plate hotel and Fossum Photography studio.

#### **WRIGHT WAY DETECTIVE AGENCY 39 South Wisconsin St.**

This office is one of the newest in Elkhorn occupying a former stairwell to Warning Hall in 1964. It was first occupied by Tom Pintar's Insurance office at that time and until 1970, when he moved across the street. The Carpenters Union Local 290 occupied it until the fall of 1975, and the Wright Way Detective agency followed them, moving from 25 South Broad street, when that building was sold. The office is part of the building to the north owned by James Lynch.

#### **LYNCH INTERIORS 35 So. Wisconsin St.**

James Lynch came to Elkhorn with a cattle business in 1949, and in 1954 he established his interior decoration business. First he used only the north half of the Warning building and later, after the Model Market vacated the south half, he incorporated that into his carpet show room.

Fred A. Warning came to Elkhorn in 1855, built a wooden structure and brought his family from Racine in 1856, where he conducted a barber shop and a grocery in that building until 1873, when he built the substantial and spacious building at the present site.

The upper floor known as Warning Hall, was the recreation center and dance hall for the community in those early years, and later a roller skating rink, which recall happy times for many older residents. At 11 p.m. it was customary to adjourn to the Nickel Plate Hotel for dinner. Mr. Warning's daughters, Louise and Mrs. Lindow, played the piano for much of the entertainment. The piano is now a cherished possession of the Warning's granddaughters, Misses Anna and Leona Lindow. In the 1930's and later, the

Elkhorn Case Company used the hall for their case manufacturing factory for musical instruments. The early high school classes held their graduation programs in the hall, and the Elkhorn Cornet Band practiced here for a time.

The north side of the building was occupied by Mr. Warning's grocery, crockery and glassware store. In 1911 the Ideal Cafe managed by a Mr. Quigley occupied it, followed by O. H. Lee in February 1913 with a music store and piano business, which he moved May 1, 1916 to the building at 12 South Wisconsin st. Anderson Brothers came from Racine in 1926 and purchased the Walter Stark Tire and Battery Shop in the Warning building and operated it for five years. Hilmar Desing and Arthur Davis opened a Gamble Store in the early 1930's and continued until Mr. Desing went into service in 1943, when it was taken over by T. H. (Harvey) Lee, then closed for a time, and reopened by Frank Tooke in February 1944. Mr. Tooke became a radio operator with the County Sheriffs office in 1946, and finding it difficult to conduct the store too, sold the business to Julius F. Wetsch in 1947. Mr. Wetsch sold it to Frank Vavra in 1954, who moved the Gamble Store to 20 South Wisconsin st. Then Emmett's Office Supplies moved in until they moved to the Lorraine Hotel. It was then that Mr. Lynch took over this side of the building.

The south side had been occupied as a saloon with different managers, from time to time. John Plamondon was the manager who on July 1, 1913 sold to John Roach. In 1922 Alex Palenshus came to Elkhorn and established a meat market here known as the Model Market, which was run after his death by his wife until 1955. She sold the business to Walter Ferguson and Florence Schultz, a partnership, and it continued under the name Model Market. Florence Schultz sold her interest to Mr.

Ferguson in 1960, and he continued as sole owner until 1963.

When the market closed, Mr. Lynch took over the entire building for his business.

**PARADISE BARBER SHOP**  
32 So. Wisconsin St.

Walt Krueger worked in the Behlmer Barber Shop, and continued for a time after it was taken over by Pete Kelley. In 1956 he left and started his own shop at this location and called it the Paradise Barber Shop.

In April 1958 Mr. Krueger sold the business to Kenneth J. Johnson, who ran the shop until the time of his death in 1961. He was followed by Lowell Halvorsen who sold it to Robert Shepard who continued in the shop until 1971, when it was purchased by Charles Koerner, the present proprietor.

This had been a part of the Schmidt Garage and later the office of the Dun Well Cleaners, before becoming the Barber Shop.

**FOSSUM STUDIO OF PHOTOGRAPHY**  
33 So. Wisconsin St.

This building was erected many years ago by Charles Lindow, who operated a furniture store here and later it was taken over by A. Neuman and Son, who advertised in June 1913 a going out of business sale.

In the August 7, 1913 Independent, the following item appeared: "Dreamland" appears to be a new amusement institution for Elkhorn. Frank Schmidt has turned the double store recently vacated by Neuman & Son into a dance pavilion and last night the initial party was given. The music was provided by Glenn Sweet and Mabel Hare.

In the January 1, 1914 issue: The Auto Show with many exhibits and promoted by Frank B. Schmidt, will be held in the Schmidt building. Opens at 7 Monday evening with a concert by the Elkhorn Cornet Band, then will be open all week. Cars on display include Mitchell, Detroit, Ford, Cadillac, Cleveland, Chalmers, Reo, Hudson, Buick, Studebaker, Crow and Paige.

Later in January Mr. Schmidt opened a garage in the building and overhauled and repaired cars and carried a stock of accessories. When Frank Schmidt died in August, 1947, he had been the Studebaker dealer for 34 years. He also had sold real estate in 1905 and for a short time after, before becoming a car salesman. He was a bachelor and lived in the same room at the Nickel Plate Hotel for 48 years.

Frank Bonebrake, who had been associated with him, continued in the garage for a short time, selling Kaiser-Frazer cars. Then the building was vacant when Harold Fossum came to Elkhorn in April, 1950, and took over the location for his studio. The Fossums remodeled the building and gave it a new front, making it hard to believe it had ever been a garage.

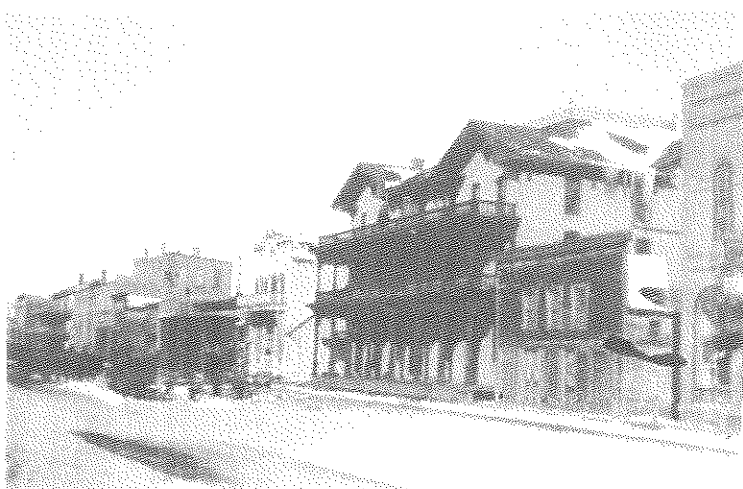
It was in the days before modern excavating machinery that Mr. Lindow constructed the building -- back in the days of picks, shovels and wheelbarrows. Each day when Mr. Lindow went home to dinner and home from work at night, he pushed

home his wheelbarrow loaded with dirt from the excavation to spread as fill in his back yard. For several years afterward that part of the lawn was sprinkled with lovely poppies, which came in seed from the lot at South Wisconsin Street.

**NICKEL PLATE HOTEL**  
29 So. Wisconsin St.

An item in the July 30, 1885 Independent said "New Hotel called Nickel Plate House opening September 1." It was built by P. H. O'Brien, who built the Elkhorn House and also the Chet Williams block across the street from the Nickel Plate House.

William O'Brien owned the Nickel Plate Hotel 20 years, operating it with his son Wallace, when he purchased the Elkhorn House in 1920, which he and his son, George O'Brien, operated. Before 1900, and that was before he bought the Nickel Plate, William O'Brien had operated both hotels at the same time for three years. Wallace O'Brien did some remodeling on the Nickel Plate building in 1928. He operated the hotel until 1955, when he sold it to George Breber, which was for 34 days only. In July 1955 Ed and Thelma Tillerts bought the hotel, but ran it only until 1956. The Nickel Plate, Inc. took over the hotel until August, 1973, when it was purchased by three brothers, D. - D. - R. Johnson, who still own it.



HERE'S A Winter Scene from a much earlier era in Elkhorn's history, sometime prior to the turn of the century. The most distinguishing landmark on South Wisconsin street is the Nickel Plate hotel with its vast expanse of porches on the second and third floors and a "widow's watch" on the roof. Other remaining buildings include part of the structure housing Lynch Interiors at the extreme right. A building that disappeared around the turn of the century and later became the site for Fossum Studio and Paradise barber shop is next in line. On the left side of the Nickel Plate is the building owned by Andy Oleson and formerly the Sewing center. The former State bank and now Parkview Drugs and the other former hotel are in the distance. Although a bit difficult to see, a pair of bob-sleighs sit in the middle of the snow-filled street, but without horses.

Many years ago the Nickel Plate was famous for the fine food served in its dining room. When there were social gatherings, dances and entertainment in Warning Hall, dinners were served at eleven o'clock to those who attended the events.

**BUILDING - PROPERTY OF A. C. OLESON  
23 So. Wisconsin St.**

In August, 1870, Thomas W. Morefield established his restaurant and store selling fancy groceries, gloves and mittens, and notions at this location.

An item in the May 14, 1896 Independent reports that: "T. W. Morefield has been in the restaurant business 26 years and has not been closed a day." He continued in business until December 1912, and when the B. B. Kraus Hardware Store burned, at 11 West Walworth street, Mr. Morefield altered his store to accommodate the hardware stock. Plate glass windows and a new brick front were installed soon after that. Ben Kraus continued in the store until he went to work for the lumber company, and he sold his business in September, 1919 to A. C. Oleson, who continued the hardware business until 1941, when he retained the building but sold the business to the Elithorpe Hardware Co., of Delavan. They employed Don Pett as manager until February, 1948, when Mr. Pett took over the business and called it the Community Hardware Company.

In September, 1952, Richard and Lucille McCormack bought the business and operated it as Mac's Hardware for two years, selling to Curtis and Dana McKay, of Lake Geneva, in September, 1954; who kept the Mac's Hardware name and employed Alan Vogel as manager.

In 1959, the Gamble Store, managed by the John Johnsons, moved into the building from across the street where they had taken over the Gamble business in 1956. The Johnsons ran their business here until 1964, when they moved to their present location at the corner of Geneva and Wisconsin streets.

Since the building was vacated in 1964 it has been occupied by Sperino's Recreation Center, a discount store, and in 1972 by Evelyn's Sewing Machine Center which closed in May, 1975. A new recreation center is being planned at the present time.

**THE FASHION FLAIR BEAUTY SALON  
21 So. Wisconsin St.**

The Independent for February 15, 1917 states that F. H. Marty moved his stock of shoes into new quarters vacated by the Graff Jewelry Store, so this is where the jewelry business started in 1885, and then moved to the new building in 1917.

After the building had been cleaned and proper shelving added for shoes, the Marty Shoe Store moved into it in February, 1917. In October, 1920, Mr. Marty sold his business to R. O. Thomas, who operated it until 1924, when Mr. Marty returned to the city, from Baraboo, and purchased Mr. Thomas' stock and conducted the business until 1936, at which time he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Lee G. Welsh.

In September, 1948, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kobelman purchased the Welsh Shoe Store and changed the name to Elkhorn Shoe Store.

The Fashion Flair was moved to this location

from across the street in 1962, being operated originally by Mrs. Phyllis Spangler and now owned by Mrs. Carol Latta.

**DOOLEY'S CLOTHING STORE  
19 So. Wisconsin St.**

This store is located on the land where Elkhorn's first clothing store for men and boys was established 124 years ago.

"The Shanty" was established by Otis Preston when he went out of office as sheriff of Walworth County in 1851. Preston later built a block of three stores which were destroyed by a fire in 1869. He rebuilt "The Shanty" and operated it with his son, Clark Preston, until it was purchased by J. J. Slattery, in about 1890.

Mr. Slattery built the present building in 1904. After his death the business was operated by his son, Frank "Toby" Slattery, until 1929, when it was purchased by Fred Opitz and Colon MacKenzie. It was subsequently owned by George Groesbeck until 1947, when George "Shorty" Cain and Elmer Nelson purchased the store. Cain later purchased the Nelson interest and formed the Cain Clothing Store. After the death of Mr. Cain, the business was taken over by Ray Dooley, who had been employed in the establishment.

**DAILEY CLOTHING STORE  
17 So. Wisconsin St.**

This location has seen 88 years of business in men's clothing. The building in which Dailey's Clothing Store is located, was built by C. F. Graff at the same time that J. J. Slattery built the building to the south, accounting for their architectural similarity.

The store has always been a clothing and/or dry goods store. The earliest was established by a man named Fischer. Then came A. C. McKinstry in 1888, was followed by Costello & Slattery in May 1915. Later Slattery sold his interest to Costello who continued the business alone until he sold it to C. F. Graff in January, 1916. Mr. Graff then sold to Lynch Bros., of Delavan, who conducted the business only six months before selling it back to Costello in July, 1916. Costello formed a partnership with Fred and William Opitz, with the firm known as Costello and Opitz. Fred Opitz Jr. had been associated with Mr. McKinstry in the clothing store before it was sold to Costello and Slattery.

The business was sold to George Cain and Homer Grant, and Grant later bought out Cain's interest when Cain went into a partnership with Nelson in the store next door in 1947.

In 1951 Mr. Grant sold the business to Howard Dailey who has continued the Men's Clothing Store at this location.

**WALTER O. KULLBERG, JEWELER  
15 So. Wisconsin St.**

From its beginning, this store has been a jewelry store. Frank C. Graff established his jewelry business in his building at 21 So. Wisconsin St., in 1885, and continued there until 1917, when he moved to this new building.



**EARLY SELF-SERVICE WAS** a feature of the Mart Christensen grocery store with a sign to the effect he was glad to have patrons wait on themselves. The IGA store with its familiar Heinz, Swans Down, Jell-O, Cream of Wheat and Ry-Krisp brands, was located on south Wisconsin street, now the site of Wolf Jewelry.

His son D. D. Graff took over the business in 1919, and when he retired he sold it to Walter O. Kullberg in 1945. So the store has a reputation through the years for quality jewelry and repair work.

**JOHN'S BOOTERY,  
13 So. Wisconsin St.**

This is the building that C. F. Graff sold in 1895 to William J. Bray and Edmund J. Hooper for the State Bank and was used for banking until 1919. The Elkhorn Light and Water Commission later moved in for a short time.

Ernest Daskal came to Elkhorn in 1920 and established his Eat Shoppe here, which he ran for 25 years, until 1945, when it was closed because of his illness.

An item in the Independent of December 9, 1926 tells that Ernest Daskal, armed with a disguise, dark glasses, a cup and with a hand organ, started making the rounds of the businesses in his neighborhood to check on the Christmas Spirit, in which he was quite successful.

After the death of Mr. Daskal early in 1946, Mrs. Daskal and her son, Jerry Konst, opened the restaurant after a year's closing. In December, 1946, they sold the business to John Atkinson, of Antioch. After Atkinson, Clarence (Pete) Langley took over the business until February, 1952 when the Langleys sold the business and fixtures to Peter Kargas. A July, 1953 ad in the Independent read: "Now open 24 hours a day. Langley Cafe, 13 S. Wisconsin St. Pete Kargas, Proprietor."

In January, 1954, Wendell and Vada Bagnall

took over the restaurant from Mr. Kargas and conducted the business through 1960, when they leased it for one year to Ron Schmidt.

In February, 1962, Mr. and Mrs. John Griebel took over the store and it has been John's Bootery since, carrying a top line of footwear.

**WOLF'S JEWELRY  
11 So. Wisconsin St.**

Food was sold at this address for 80 years or so, before it became the Wolf Jewelry Store, in 1960.

In the early days it was the Finch and Ellsworth Grocery, and later the E. P. Ellsworth Grocery. In June, 1925, E. P. Ellsworth sold to Mart Christensen, who moved his Mart's Grocery to this location from 5 East Walworth street. In 1931 Roy Cory took over the building for his IGA Store and continued until he sold it in 1946 to John Roherty, also a grocer.

In 1960 William Wolf purchased it, and after major remodeling opened the fine jewelry store of the present day. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf had come to Elkhorn and purchased the Suliver Jewelry store in November, 1953, and continued the business there until moving across the street.

**PARK-VIEW LIQUOR STORE  
9 So. Wisconsin St.**

Arne Stensby established the liquor store when he enlarged the Park-View Drug Store in April, 1969. It had been a tavern, and restaurant.

Mr. L. H. Buchholz came to Elkhorn in 1897 and to begin his business here, starting with the one chair barber shop of J. C. Ford, who had purchased the Tamblingson Barber Shop on May 21, 1896. In June Mr. Buchholz bought the M. W. Bovee Shop that had been established by the Bovee Brothers in 1886 at the rear of the Corner Drug Store. When the drug store was destroyed by fire, he moved his business to Gus Gall's Tailor Shop for a short time until his building was ready for occupancy again. It was in that building occupied by Gus Gall that the Bovee Brothers had operated their barber shop before the turn of the century. Mr. Buchholz continued his shop here until he bought the building across the street vacated by the Family Theater, and moved there in 1917.

In July, 1917 Charles W. Reeths received a liquor license for a saloon here.

Pat Garvin came to Elkhorn and began business in a cigar store here, later adding a restaurant, and after prohibition was repealed, he changed his business to a tavern, which he ran for many years. It was later taken over by Bruce Lannon, but continued under the name Garvin's Tavern. In June, 1956, it was moved to 27 No. Wisconsin St.

The building was vacant for a time, when in November, 1958, Angelo and Tony's Little Naples restaurant was established in the building, serving both American and Italian foods, including pizza. Angelo and Tony were the Odierno Brothers, who were followed by Mr. and Mrs. Gerard, with Casey's restaurant.

Then the building was vacant again before it was taken over for the Park-View Liquor Store.

#### **PARK-VIEW DRUGS 1-3 E. Walworth St.**

This property has had two different histories as the west or corner half served as the State Bank for many years, while the east half involved a long lineage as a drug store.

In the very early days, there was a small frame structure where Henry Eldred ran a fruit and confectionery business. That stock was later sold to Orlie Carswell and was the beginning of his long business career in Elkhorn. That old building was later torn down and a brick structure replaced it, built by Jacob H. Young, brother of Dr. George H. Young, and used as a drug store. Later it was called the Corner Drug Store and owned by W. E. Flack and still later by Flack and George Miller as partners. It was they who sold the building to the State Bank, and moved the business to 5 W. Walworth Street. The State Bank had originally started at 13 South Wisconsin Street.

The east half was the drug store of Camp and Isham in 1857, dealers in drugs, medicine and books. When Mr. Isham left the business to go to the First National Bank as cashier in 1890, he sold his business to Will Lyon and his father, W. D. Lyon. Later after the father retired, William Woelm became a partner of Will Lyon, and in 1903 Mr. Woelm became the sole owner. At one time Mr. Woelm sold the business to the Krahnke Brothers, but after six months, they sold it back to him, and he remained in the business until King and Morgan bought it in 1944. In May

of 1954, after they had been partners for 10 years, Mr. King sold his interest to William Morgan.

February 9, 1957, Arne Stensby bought the drug store business, and in April, 1968, he purchased the vacated State Bank Building. He also purchased the Park-View Drug Store at 5 W. Walworth Street and merged the operations under the Park-View name, owned by the Stensby Co., Inc. He also incorporated into his business the building south of the drug store, and it functions as the Park-View Liquor Store.

#### **GEORGE R. BREBER MUSIC CO., INC. 5 E. Walworth St.**

This business has been serving the community for the past 30 years as a retail music store. Brebers first opened over the Chicago Store in 1945, and later moved to the bowling alley building when that was remodeled and shops were built on the Wisconsin street side. In 1947 the Music Co. moved to their present location, which they remodeled and modernized in 1962.

The original building and the vacant property of E. B. Dewing had been purchased for \$4,000 by C. P. Hanson in July 1895. Mr. Hanson had a shoe store here for many years, until October, 1919. Then Mart Christensen came in 1920 and established Mart's Grocery which occupied the building until he moved around the corner after purchasing the E. P. Ellsworth grocery.

In September 1925, the Boyle Sisters ran an ad in the Independent announcing the grand opening of their new Variety Store. C. S. Kidd came in 1937 and took over the Variety Store and later sold it to Kenneth Seeley, who moved to 18 South Wisconsin Street. The building was then occupied by the Elkhorn Auto Parts until they moved to their new building in 1947 after being established in Elkhorn by Leo Lanser in 1937.

#### **KETCHPAW'S BARBER SHOP 7 E. Walworth St.**

Years ago this was the Brown Music Shop, as well as the drop-off station for a laundry.

The Elkhorn Light and Water Commission Office moved here from 13 South Wisconsin Street, when it was vacated by the Music Shop. In 1931 with the Municipal Building completed, the Light and Water Commission was moved to new offices there.

Fred Behlmer came to Elkhorn in 1920 and ran his Barber Shop at 14 East Walworth Street, until this building was vacated, moving across the street for the period of 1931 to 1956. He sold his shop in June, 1956, to Harold (Pete) Kelley, who moved to this shop from the Loraine hotel Barber Shop where he was associated with Albert Nicolai. Wallace Angus, who had been associated with Mr. Behlmer in his business, started a new barber shop at 33 North Wisconsin Street, and Mr. Behlmer worked for him until the end of the year. Walt Krueger, who had been employed by Mr. Behlmer stayed on in the shop with Mr. Kelley until 1956, when he left and started the Paradise Barber Shop.

Mr. Kelley continued the business at this location until 1974, when he left to join the Evergreen Country Club operation, and sold the barber shop to Gerald

Ketchpaw, the present proprietor.

As with other services and merchandise, costs have risen a bit since 1934 when Barber prices were: Hair cut, 50 cents and Shave, 25 cents. Electric razors also began to diminish the demand for shaves.

**DUNHAM'S TAVERN**  
9 E. Walworth St.

An item in the July 15, 1917, Independent notes that liquor licenses have been granted to five saloons: Ward Brothers, George Welsh, Charles W. Reeths, William O'Brien for the Nickel Plate Hotel and Mrs. M. C. Amos for the Elkhorn House.

So George Welsh was in business in 1917 and how long before that is uncertain. Mr. Welsh, who was known as Bully Boy Welsh, may have acquired it from Mike Slattery. Just before "Prohibition" the Wilcox Brothers, Gene and Allie, purchased the saloon of Mr. Welsh, and they conducted it as a pool hall until 1933, when it went back into the tavern business. They sold the business to Elmer Evenson about 1935, and Jack Dunham purchased it in 1962, who is the present proprietor.

In those early days of the 1920's and 30's Gene Wilcox drove the grocery delivery wagon on a route through town delivering orders of meat and groceries to the housewives.

**FUZZY'S PLACE**  
11 E. Walworth St.

Carl Riese Jr. purchased Ward's Tavern in 1974 from Hollis Ward, who had been in the business

since 1945. It was being operated by Joseph and William Ward in 1917, who were granted a city license in July of that year.

During the "Prohibition Years", 1919-1933, the building was used as a paint store by Hugo Bell; a Wear-you-well Shoe Store and shoe repair shop by "Dad" Hamilton, and as a Stevens Plain Price Store.

After 1933 the tavern was opened again by the Ward Brothers, and operated later by Will Ward and his son, Maynard, who were involved in the business at the time of the father's death in July, 1937. Later Maynard died and the tavern was taken over by Maynard's brother, Hollis Ward, who in 1974 sold it to Riese.

**BEN FRANKLIN FAMILY CENTER**  
17 E. Walworth St.

Early in Elkhorn's history, this site was the Henry McKay Livery Stable with the livery facing Walworth street, the corner being a lawn and the home to the south of that, facing Washington street.

In December 1907 F. C. Wiswell traded a farm in LaGrange for the livery stable, lot and dwelling. After a few years Mr. Wiswell was dealing in automobiles and in the fall of 1916 was building a garage. The January 18, 1917 issue of the Independent ran an item, "Livery stable quits business. Automobiles are forcing livery stables out. Fred Wiswell is selling all the livery stock on Saturday and will devote all his time to the auto business. Leaves only one livery in Elkhorn."

After 11 years in the Elkhorn Automotive Garage with Harold Opitz, Hugh Squires sold his interest in that garage to his partner Mr. Opitz, and pur-



**WHEELS OF SOME TYPE WERE** associated with this building on east Walworth street for many years. One of the early owners H. McKay, with his livery for the Elkhorn House hotel, as well as offering feed and stable for traveler's rigs and horses. The Elkhorn House carriage, which always met the

train at the depot, is at the left. The young girl with one leg over the hitching rail at the right, is in front of Ward's tavern. The livery was owned by Fred C. Wiswell after McKay. The building later became the Ford garage of Elkhorn Motors before being razed to make way for the new Ben Franklin store.

chased the Badger Garage, building and equipment at this site in January, 1930. The Badger Garage had been named the Chrysler dealer in Elkhorn in 1926.

After two years at the corner of Geneva and Wisconsin Streets, Feb. 1, 1937, Elkhorn Motors, Inc. moved to the Badger Garage, at which time the building had been used by the Elkhorn Shoe Manufacturing Co., but they ceased operation after the fire in July.

Mr. Squires remodeled the building for the Ford Agency and retained the second floor and 27 feet at the east for his repair and motor boat business. Erv Last came to Elkhorn in 1939 to run Elkhorn Motors, Inc. here until the need for expansion caused them to build and move to the north city limits, in September, 1971.

It was in the fall of 1971 that the new Ben Franklin Family Center construction was begun and erected facing on both Walworth and Washington Streets, which they opened to the public in March, 1972. A smaller Ben Franklin Store had previously been at 11 North Lincoln Street, which was closed when this one opened.

#### **ELKHORN AUTO PARTS INC. 23 - 25 E. Walworth St.**

Ground was broken for this new building on the corner of East Walworth and South Washington Streets on Aug. 14, 1947. It was built on what had been a part of the Wiswell property, by Leo Lanser. It was for his Auto Parts business, which he had established at 5 East Walworth Street in the C. P. Hanson building in 1937.

Joseph Lanser worked in the store during his high school days, and returned to the business after his years in the navy.

#### **STATE BANK OF ELKHORN 101 E. Walworth St.**

The new building that houses the State Bank now, followed two others for the banking institution, the first at 13 South Wisconsin Street, and the second at the corner of Walworth and Wisconsin Streets. The former was occupied starting in 1895 and the latter in 1919.

When the site across the street from Courthouse park was outgrown, bank officials purchased the Opitz Garage site, razing the old building and erecting a large spacious one-story structure with a large public meeting room downstairs. In moving from the old bank, a block away, in 1968, the money was trundled down the street in wagons and wheelbarrows.

The first building on this corner had been built in the early 1840's and was one of the oldest businesses in Elkhorn - The Fred Opitz Shop - a landmark, when it was razed in 1912 to make room for a two story structure that Robert Opitz built. This was first the Elkhorn Automotive Garage and later it was called the Opitz Chevrolet-Buick Garage. And it was the building that was torn down to make way for the bank's new facility.

The bank also added a branch facility at Wil-

liams Bay in April, 1968, and in the Tibbets area in February of 1974.

#### **ELKHORN TRUE VALUE HARDWARE 1 - 5 No. Lincoln St.**

The Harris V & S Hardware business was the first to occupy this building, built in 1960 on the Harris property, that had long been vacant. James Harris operated the store here until he sold it on February 1, 1971 to Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Thomas, who continued the business as owners until November, 1974, when Mr. and Mrs. Robert Woller purchased it. Thomas stayed on as manager.

Many years ago, in about 1860, the old tannery building had been moved from half a block away to this site and fitted for use as the Catholic church. This building served that purpose until 1880, when their new church was erected at the corner of Walworth and Church Streets.

Then the building here was used as a shop by William Allen Barnes until it was destroyed by fire in 1902. The area was vacant until this building was erected.

#### **NATIONAL FOOD SUPER MARKET 110 E. Walworth St.**

The National Tea Co. store had been in Elkhorn 21 years before it moved to this newly constructed building location in 1949, coming from 9 West Walworth Street.

Years ago this had been the east part of the Muzzy property, which stretched across the south side of the block. It was occupied by a hitching barn that could accommodate 300 horses at fair time. Andrew McCabe used it as a livery stable and sold hay and grain from the building. In the early days of his practice here, Dr. Ridgway kept his horse in McCabe's Stable for those times in winter when it was impossible for him to drive his Ford.

In January, 1922, Chase and Daniels established the Elkhorn Monument Co. where the Post Office now stands, and in February, 1925, the Jackson Monument Corporation, of Beloit, purchased the Elkhorn Monument plant and Arthur Jones took charge of it. It moved to this location in June, 1936, when the government took over the other corner for the Post Office.

In January 1954 Mr. Jones, who had come with the business as manager and part owner in 1925 and had been associated with it continuously, took over the Jackson Monument Company, and the name was changed to Jones Monument Co. Later the business was moved to the West city limits.

The parking lot to the north was the home and garage building for the Wheeler trucking business conducted by Howard (Sprint) Wheeler.

#### **POST OFFICE**

The first Post Office was at 23 North Wisconsin Street where Morrissy, Morrissy and Race have their law offices. From there it moved in April, 1896, to the building T. H. O'Brien built to house it at 10 E. Walworth St.

In 1908 a 10-year contract between the Post Office Department and Edward H. Sprague moved

the post office to the corner of Walworth and S. Broad Streets, where the Municipal Building now stands. The Post Office remained at that location until the fire of July 2, 1925, destroyed it, as it was part of the Sprague Opera House Block. Columbus Hall served as the office until the building James Harris erected on the northwest corner of Washington and Walworth Streets was ready for occupancy on January 1, 1927. It remained at this location until 1937 when the present building the government constructed across the street was ready for occupancy.

The present building was erected on what was known as the Muzzy property, which Mrs. Alex Kniskern inherited from her family. It stretched all the way across the block and had a scale for weighing wagons and their loads built at the roadside. The Jackson Monument Company later occupied the corner.

In 1916 the City Council started preparations for mail delivery in the city and street signs had to be erected at all the intersections, and the houses had to be numbered. When these projects were completed, delivery was established in November 1, 1917. Two carriers covered the city twice daily. When they were planning the street signs, the "City Fathers" changed the names of East, Park, South and North Streets.

In 1914 patrons on rural route streets had free delivery if they erected a regulation mail box.

The December of 1933 had unsealed Christmas cards being mailed for 1-1/2 cents. Penny post cards were raised to 2 cents at the end of 1951.

#### **TOWNE HOUSE 26 W. Walworth St.**

In 1928 John H. Harris purchased this lot at the northwest corner of Washington and Walworth streets and erected a building to be used as a post office since the post office in the Sprague Opera House block had been burned in the historic fire that destroyed that building, July 2, 1925.

Until these new quarters were completed Columbus Hall served as the post office. This building was used for eight years until the new government building across the street was completed and ready for use.

In March 1939 the former post office was remodeled and rented to the county for the use of the County Agricultural Agent, Soil Conservation, and County Surveyor offices, which had been in the Lorraine Hotel building. These offices remained here until 1943 and then returned to the hotel.

Charles Smith leased the building for an electrical appliance store known as Smith Home Service, and he did business until the time of his death in September 1958. Wally Babcock, who had been associated with him, bought the business the following June and carried on until ill health forced his retirement. Since that time the building has been occupied by Hagen's Sewing Basket, and two restaurants: first the Traveler and now the Towne House.

More than 60 years ago, O. H. Doolittle operated his livery stable on this corner. The horses were stabled on the second floor, which they reached



IN THE 1940s and early 50s, the City's Service station on the southeast corner of Wisconsin and Geneva streets was quite a bit different and much smaller than the present Firestone and Arco service station at that location. The Elkhorn Cab service vehicle was at the station near the Geneva street entrance when the photo was taken.

by using a stout ramp, and the rigs were kept on the first floor. He advertised that he had horses safe enough for women to drive. In January, 1906, R. H. McDonald bought the monument business of Charles Ohlendorf, of Burlington, which occupied the front of the lot. In May, 1920, F. W. Dailey opened a produce establishment in the stable building and in December, 1921, he bought the lot and erected a new building, where poultry was slaughtered, cleaned and shipped to the city.

#### **SCHOENBECK AND DE VRIES, INC. E. Walworth St.**

Ben Bachhuber sold Ford cars and International farm machinery at this location for several years beginning in 1911. At first he shared the building with McGill Brothers, plumbers, as they kept their equipment and supplies in the back of the building and Mr. Bachhuber used the front.

After he had been in business for 14 years, he went to the State Bank as cashier, and sold the business to Paul Schinke, who had been an employee since 1920, and to James Henderson. They became partners in the implement business known as Schinke and Henderson, in 1926. Later Mr. Henderson sold his interest to Mr. Schinke and he was sole owner until June 1954, when he sold it to Lloyd Fish, his son-in-law and to Karl Schoenbeck.

Mr. Schinke continued to work in the shop setting up the new equipment when it was delivered. In 1929, the sale of John Deere equipment replaced the International machinery with which Mr. Bachhuber had started the business.

In May, 1968, Mr. Fish sold his interest in the business to Frank De Vries and in March, 1969, Mr. Schoenbeck sold his share to James Jacobsen, who later sold it to De Vries. In March of 1973 the business was closed and the building is now vacant.

When the Band concerts were held in the Courthouse Park, one could find the farmers at Schinke and Henderson's looking over the new farm ma-

chinery. It was one of the few places that had service for wells and pumps, with Mr. Vant operating that department for 24 years.

**LAKELAND BAKERY**  
18 E. Walworth St.

For many years this was a laundry, which was noted in an item in the May 21, 1896 Independent, reporting that the roof was going on the new laundry.

Henry Brandt purchased the Elkhorn Laundry in 1909 from W. H. Goodrich, after he had worked with Will MaGill as a plumber. In 1916 an item said that H. J. Brandt installed a Troy Washing Machine that washed 150 shirts. In March, 1926, the Elkhorn Steam Laundry was sold to Fred Ellsworth, and Ed House took charge of the business.

In March, 1937, Peter Messe of Lake Geneva purchased the Elkhorn Steam Laundry with immediate possession. Mr. Messe also was the owner of Pantorium Cleaners and Dyers. The laundry was remodeled, and the Pantorium Cleaners office in the hotel was discontinued and the business was shifted to this location, and later sold to Albert Barth. In January, 1939, modern equipment was installed, and in 1949 the LaFrance Laundry was purchased by Joseph Reilly, of Williams Bay, from Stephen Borke, who had owned the laundry since 1944, when he had purchased it from Mr. Barth.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Smalter established the bakery here and opened for business July 6, 1951, and in August, 1954, they sold to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer. Mr. and Mrs. David Nettekoven purchased it from the Meyers January, 1958, and sold it May 1, 1961 to Robert Kowalski, of Waukesha, who had been in the baking business for 9 years. Mr. Nettekoven stayed in the bakery until the first of the year. In 1963, the Nettekovens returned to Elkhorn and to the bakery where they are still furnishing good things to eat.

**COLONY REALTY - STATE FARM INSURANCE CO.**  
16 E. Walworth St.

In 1972 Dr. and Mrs. A. K. Stenstrom bought this property and remodeled the former meat market into offices, which at the present time house the State Farm Insurance Office of David Anderson, as well as their own Colony Realty office, which has been located here since they moved in May 1973.

Amos Brothers had a meat market here, which they sold in October, 1905, to George W. Groesbeck and Son. It was continued by the Groesbecks until they sold it in March 1915 to E. C. Buehler, who a year later in July, sold the business to Ed Amos, who advertised that he would conduct the business on a strictly cash basis and that telephone orders would be collected on delivery. Because of ill health Mr. Amos sold the market back to Mr. Buehler. In February, 1917, the Independent says that E. C. Buehler was filling his ice house with ice from Corbett's Pond. In 1918 the market was sold to Charles Wales and in 1919 to L. H. Kurtz and Son.

Howard Pfaffenberger, of Racine, came to Elkhorn in 1919 and worked in the Robert Widmayer meat market. On February 1, 1921 Mr. Pfaffenberger bought the meat market and store fixtures of Kurtz and Son, and he operated the business as

the Palace Market. Groceries were added to the store in 1920, and in 1937 the Royal Blue line of products. In 1944 he sold it to Midwest Markets, and in 1947 Martin Brothers, Reuben and Lyman, purchased and conducted the business until 1954, when they opened the super market at the north city limits. This store was sold to Albert Voelkel and George Weitzer in April, 1954, with Wesley Babcock staying on in the meat department. Al and Bud's, as it was called, closed out the business in 1972, when Dr. and Mrs. Stenstrom purchased and remodeled the building.

**PFEIL AND HARDT - Attorneys**  
14 E. Walworth St.

This was called the law office building, when Kenney, Korf and Pfeil took over the building and moved their offices here in January 1949. This new building had been started by John Hughes, but he never occupied it.

Dr. R. Anderson, Optometrist, used the front office for his business, until he sold the business to Dr. Edward Slattery, who remained until 1968, when he bought and remodeled the unused filling station at 419 North Wisconsin Street; where he now conducts his practice with Dr. John Hall. The Thel Travel Agency conducts its business from the front office, and the law offices of Mr. Richard Pfeil and Mr. Hardt occupy the rear.

The Welch Brothers, Peter and John, operated their barber shop here for some time before selling it in 1914 to C. Day, of Beloit, with he remaining only three months, as the shop then reverted to the Welch Brothers. George Finley served his apprenticeship here beginning when he was 17. In 1917 when Albert Nicolai came to Elkhorn he started work in the Welch Shop. Fred Behlmer came to Elkhorn in 1920 and operated the barber shop at this location until he moved across the street to 7 East Walworth Street in 1931.

The old white frame building not only served as a barber shop for many years, but the East part, or it may have been a narrow separate building was the office of Wells Fargo, a tailor shop, and at one time a restaurant. It may have been the "Hat Box" which moved to 30 South Wisconsin Street from somewhere east of the hotel. When the building or buildings were torn down no one remembers, but the lot was vacant in 1937 because Elkhorn Motors, Inc. was using the vacant lot for their Trading Post in that year.

**STRONG AGENCY**  
12 E. Walworth St.

This is the office to which J. Walter Strong moved the Strong Agency in 1958 when he left the Walworth County Abstract Company location, where he had conducted the insurance business first for them and then as his own agency. The business grew so that it requires the additional office space of the 10 East Walworth Street location which was incorporated into the office in 1974.

From 1918 to 1933 this was the office of the Wisconsin Drainage Company which was the business of J. L. Stokes, and his associate Vibert Gunyon. James Mason established his insurance and real es-

tate business here in 1933 and continued at the location until he bought the 13 North Wisconsin Street building.

In March 1937 Lawrence Mason opened a typewriter service in the rear of his father's office; which he called Walworth County Typewriter and Supplies. He ran this for a time and then went to college, while the business was taken over by Azel Morris and later by Robert Hampel, before it became Emmett's Office Supplies.

About 1940 George Finley and Albert Nicolai moved into this building and operated the Loraine Barber Shop. Mr. Finley was taken sick in the spring of 1949, died in September, and the following year Harold (Pete) Kelley joined Mr. Nicolai in the shop and they continued at this location until July 1956, when Mr. Kelley purchased the Behlmer Barber Shop and moved across the street.

In 1956 and 1957 Milton Zwiebel had an electrical appliance shop here, and his business was followed by the Strong Agency.

#### **STRONG AGENCY 10 E. Walworth St.**

This is the office taken over by the Strong Agency in 1974 to enlarge their office space because of the increase in their business. The Army Recruiting office occupied it up to the time Strongs' occupied it.

In 1937 Mr. and Mrs. Harry Karp came to Elkhorn and established The Mode, a dress shop, at this location, which they had for several years. They were followed in the business by Mrs. William Gloede, who continued the business for a long time, and then left the store to Mrs. Elmer Hansen, who had worked for her in the shop. Mrs. Hansen continued until about 1970. After The Mode vacated the building, the Recruiting office moved in.

This is the building that was built onto the hotel by T. H. O'Brien in 1896 to house the post office, which remained until 1908 when the post office moved to the Sprague Opera House Block.

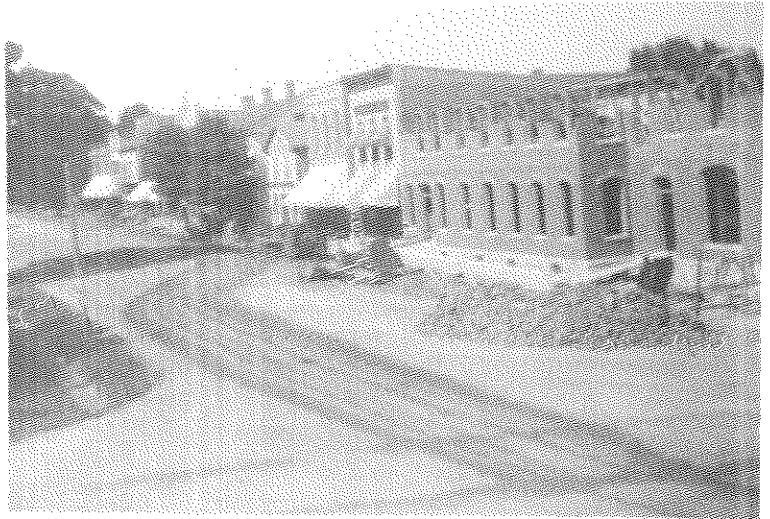
Independent item Nov. 1913 Wells Fargo will not occupy a portion of the old post office quarters in the Elkhorn Hotel Block with the Light and Water Commission. The hotel management has leased the north room for a barber shop. The quarters which were to have been used for the Wells Fargo will now be reserved for a sample room.

#### **PENNIE'S TOUCH OF BEAUTY 8 E. Walworth St.**

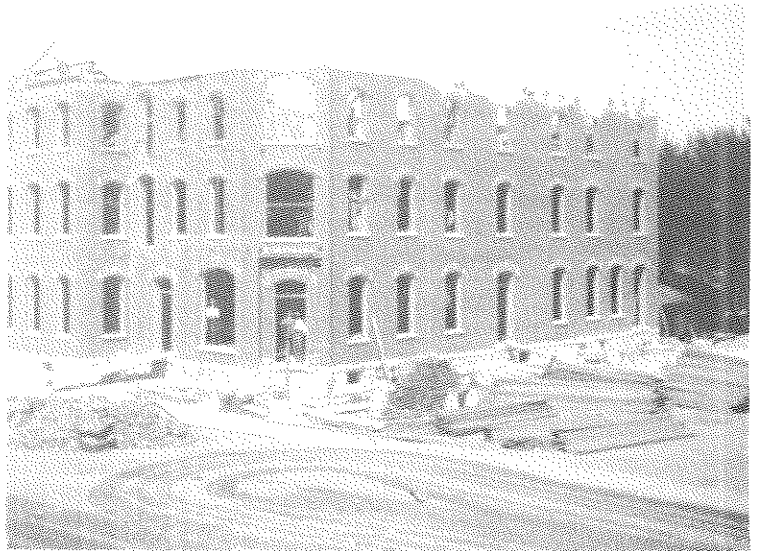
This location has been Pennie's Touch of Beauty only since 1973, the year Dr. Sabin moved his dental office to the Elkhorn Clinic building after he had been here since July, 1959.

From 1929 to 1934 Elizabeth Burns had occupied the building with her hat shop, after she left the Chicago Store and before she moved to 34-1/2 South Wisconsin Street.

The Walworth County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation offices occupied the building from 1936 to 1939, and then was moved to the old post office built by James Harris, when the post office was moved to its new building across the street. The county offices remained there only until 1942 when



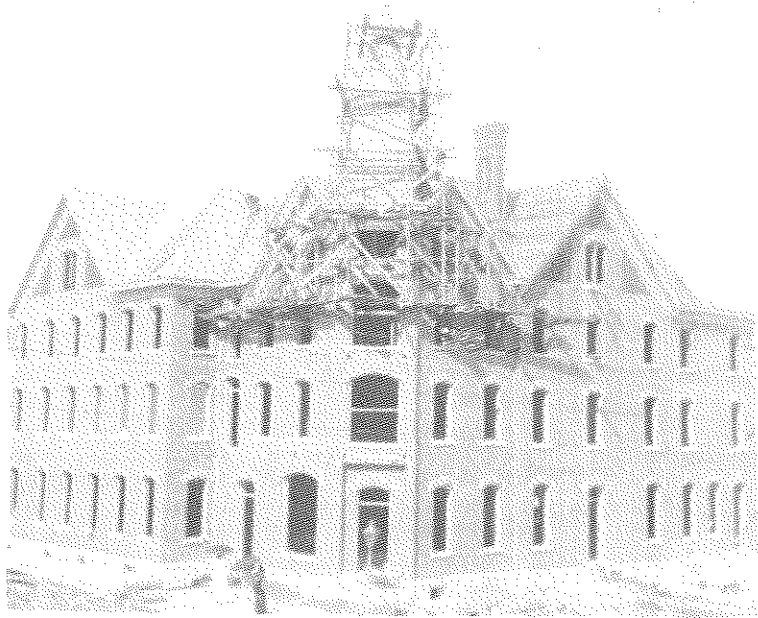
THE FIRST FLOOR of the Elkhorn House was already up with the second floor underway in the 1893 street scene of unpaved north Wisconsin street. The Elkhorn House, which replaced an earlier Central House, was to become one of the city's imposing landmarks. Later in 1929 the facility was known as the Loraine Hotel until its rented rooms could no longer be used in the mid 1960s which was followed by a string of solely restaurant operations.



A CREW OF MASONS were at work on the third floor on the right side of the building, while a couple of men on the left operated a block and tackle arrangement for hauling supplies to the floor. A couple of other men stood in the doorway and a front window of the lobby entrance on the corner.

they came back to this location until 1956. They were moved to the second floor of the First National Bank Building until moved to the new Gilbert Building at the corner of Court and Washington Streets, where they are now located. While the offices were located in the former post office, this building was occupied by the Elkhorn Beauty Parlor.

In 1956 Lawrence Baxter moved his Sport and Camera Shop to this location from 17 South Washington St. and remained in business here until 1959. It was then that Dr. Sabin took over the office.



**WORK ON THE ROOF** still needed to be completed along with placement of windows as several women carrying parasols walked by to the left of the main entrance. Scaffolding surrounded the tower, which crowned the new hotel being built for T.H. O'Brien.



**IN ABOUT 1925**, automobiles, primarily old Fords, were on the scene downtown, but held up at noon by a band performing in the main intersection for a road show that was probably playing the Sprague Opera House that evening. A number of persons stood at the Elkhorn House corner to watch, while others stood near the park, where there also appears to be part of a popcorn wagon. Other buildings now stood to the east of the hotel.

### **PART OF THE HOTEL 6 E. Walworth St.**

From 1929 to 1932 this was the Loraine Dress Shop with Marguerite Dickens as the proprietor, she lived in Delavan.

In 1933 the Krakofskys came to Elkhorn and they started their beauty parlor at this location, called the Vanity Beauty Parlor. Then they built the building at 25 North Wisconsin Street.

The shop became part of the hotel afterwards.

### **THE FORMER ELKHORN HOUSE - LORAIN HOTEL**

April 10, 1913 Independent item: J. H. Snyder was reminded that it was 44 years ago (1869) that he moved here from Mukwonago as the owner and proprietor of the Central House. He was living in the hotel again as he had broken up housekeeping.

The Central House was later razed, as T. H. O'Brien built the Elkhorn House in 1893 and operated it 4 years, then leased it to his brother William O'Brien for 5 years. He sold it in October, 1901, to Mr. and Mrs. Edward Amos who owned it until 1920. The Amos family conducted the business most of those years, though they did lease it for a part of the time.

Edward Amos had been killed by a train on the Eagle track, and Mrs. Mary C. Amos sold it in 1920 to William O'Brien who was also the proprietor of the Nickel Plate Hotel, which he operated with his son Wallace. He with his son, George, then ran the Elkhorn House also. In April, 1929, George (Pat) O'Brien sold the hotel to Mr. and Mrs. Nick Sklavenitis, who changed the name to the Loraine Hotel, honoring his wife. Mr. Sklavenitis completely remodeled the building, followed in 1931 by the private dining room construction, and in 1940, the remodeled and modernized coffee shop.

July 1, 1946 James Leeson purchased the hotel of the Sklavenitis and operated it for 4 years. He continued to own the building but sold the business to Mrs. Allie Hoyer in December, 1950. She was followed by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clarke, then Charles Jahr Jr., and later by Lex Samaras. And the name was changed to The Coach House.

In August, 1969, "Nine Inc." was organized and the building underwent major remodeling on the first two floors; the upper floors were no longer being used. The name was changed to Court Yard Inn for a time, until it became Bob Long's restaurant, a former Green Bay Packer player, and then Mandell's Steak House until it closed early in 1976 and is presently vacant.

### **WALWORTH COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY ADDITION 7 No. Wisconsin St.**

Years ago this was the Ellsworth Jewelry Store, and in 1896 it was leased for a drug store to Peter Howard and Carl Buchta by T. H. O'Brien the proprietor of the Elkhorn House. They operated their business here until just after the turn of the century, when they moved to the Huntress Building at 12 South Wisconsin Street. In 1898 they were advertising hammocks and croquet sets, largest stock in

the city.

George Finley and Jack White took over the building in 1913 as a barber shop, with the partnership dissolved by mutual consent in 1916 and Mr. Finley continuing in the barber shop. In 1919 George Goodrich, of Walworth, bought a half interest in the shop and stayed until he semi-retired in 1933. The barber shop moved around the corner on East Walworth Street.

The building was occupied by James Beattie when he was the Walworth County Agricultural Agent, and later it was a shop called Jaynes, in which Mrs. Krueger featured yarn and knitting supplies for five years in the 1940's.

Emmett's Office Supplies moved here from 35 South Wisconsin Street in 1955, and Emmett Woodford continued until Mr. and Mrs. Bob Clark bought the business in 1960. They remained here until the hardware store was vacated and moved to that location in 1965; where they are still in business.

The building was fitted for a beauty parlor and was occupied by at least three different managements. It was also a Wig Shop. Then it was vacant for a time, until the Walworth County Abstract Company expanded in 1975, and after extensive remodeling incorporated it into their office next door.

#### **WALWORTH COUNTY ABSTRACT COMPANY 9 No. Wisconsin St.**

The Abstract, Title and Guaranty Company was founded by W. J. Tubbs in 1899, in the C. P. Hanson building at 5 East Walworth Street.

In March 1915 he sold it to Henry D. Barnes and his sister, Miss Lovinia Barnes, and they continued in that office until the First National Bank vacated this building at 9 North Wisconsin street so that in May, 1916, after the rooms were cleaned, they moved to this location. In August of that year, Mr. Barnes became the sole owner, and then in November, 1921, Miss Barnes took possession of the business.

In 1898 Smith B. Morrison purchased the abstract books of Samuel Breese and continued the business of the Walworth County Abstract Co. at 23 North Wisconsin Street. He was joined in May 1915, by his son-in-law Paul Hughes, in the same building until the two abstract companies merged. Morrison and Hughes moved to the 9 North Wisconsin Street location, took over the business and retained the name Walworth County Abstract Company.

In 1932 a corporation of local people took control of the abstract company, and in 1935 J. Walter Strong became the manager of the insurance department and rented space in the office for the business. In January, 1958, the corporation sold the abstract business to Robert Lehman and William Seymour, who own both the building and the business now. At the same time the Strong Agency moved its business to the 12 East Walworth Street location where they are presently located.

In the fall of 1975 the offices were remodeled and enlarged by the addition of the north room of the hotel, and at the same time the building was given a new brick front.

An item of interest: B. B. Humphrey, proprietor of abstracts of title of Walworth County. First Abstracts by Henry Adkins and kept up by him to

1870; sold out to C. A. Noyce; continued to 1873 and then sold to Humphrey.

#### **GODFREY, NESHEK, WORTH, HOWARTH AND LEIBSLE - Attorneys 11 No. Wisconsin St.**

September 1, 1954, this building was sold to A. L. Godfrey.

The Slattery Grocery Store had been in business here, owned by the same family for 66 years. When it was sold to Mr. Godfrey, it was just 40 years to the day since the store moved to the 11 North Wisconsin Street location.

J. J. Slattery and T. E. Slattery established the grocery business in 1888, and a few years later J. J. sold out to his brother T. E. Slattery. In 1954 the third generation was active in the business. The business began in the days when "cracker barrels and pot bellied stoves were the favorite gathering places for the town historians." The first store was at 25 North Wisconsin Street in the building that formerly stood where the Walworth Security Title and Abstract Company is now located. September 1, 1914, T. E. Slattery moved the business to this location, and it was operated by his sons William T. and Charles and in the latter years by his grandson, John Slattery.

The old timers were mad in the 1920's when the stores began closing at eight o'clock. Slattery's Grocery was the first to deliver by truck, starting in 1914. In the early days deliveries were made by pushcarts, and later by horse drawn vehicles.

The E. C. Hubbard Store had been here before the Slattery Grocery moved in.

In 1955 the Godfreys remodeled and changed the old building; making it impossible to recognize it as the former grocery. Mr. A. L. Godfrey started practice in Elkhorn in 1922 and his son, Thomas, carries on the firm, both have had other attorneys associated with them. At the present time the firm is made up of Thomas G. Godfrey, Richard A. Howarth, Milton Neshek, Harry Worth, and Robert C. Leibsle, who joined in 1976.

#### **MASON AGENCY - Insurance 13 No. Wisconsin St.**

John Hughes built this office in what had been an alley way at 13 North Wisconsin Street for use as his insurance office. He and his mother had occupied it for a short time, until he sold to the Abstract company next door.

The Abstract company kept the insurance business and sold the building to James Mason for his office about 1940. Mr. Mason had established his insurance business in 1933 at 12 East Walworth Street.

When Lawrence Mason returned from the Navy in March, 1946, he became associated with his father in the office and has continued the business at this location since his father's death.

#### **CLARK OFFICE SUPPLY CO. 15 No. Wisconsin St.**

Hardware had always been sold at this location, until the store was occupied by the Clark Office



AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, the E.C. Hubbard grocery store was located in the present Godfrey building, 11 North Wisconsin st. The business continued to operate at that location until 1914, when another grocer, T. E. Slattery, moved his food store business to the site. Note the bowler hat apparently worn by the customer.

Supply Company in 1965.

The store was established by John Meigs, and he sold it to J. S. Norris in 1867. Harley Norris took over from his father in 1884, and at different times had A. Spoor and Will Cobb as partners. Mr. Charles Hotchkiss bought the business in March 1904, and continued with it until he sold it to Harry Cain and Charles Johnson in January, 1916, so that it became known as the Cain and Johnson Hardware Company. Cain purchased the Johnson interest in 1918 and operated as the sole owner until he sold it to the Platts Brothers in December, 1945.

Gail Platts sold his interest to his brother, Fred, in 1963 and they divided the business. Fred retained the hardware store and continued the business with his son, James, until the business was closed in 1965. Gail took the Sheet Metal Shop and moved it to the cannery building.

Then in 1965 the Clark Office Supply Company moved their business from 7 North Wisconsin Street to this location, and stocked a wide variety of office furniture and equipment as well as an assortment of office supplies.

**MORRISSY, MORRISSY AND RACE - Attorneys**  
23 No. Wisconsin St.

This site was the Edwards block and was built by Julius Edwards with brick from the old Sprague Brick Yard on West Walworth Street.

It has seen a lot of history and given a lot of service. The first post office was here, also the Stone General Store; then serving as the Walworth County Abstract Office conducted by Morrison and Hughes,

with a card table at the rear where J. Walter Strong collected the bills for the Elkhorn Light and Water Commission. W. C. (Dad) Norton had law offices in the rooms at the rear of the building.

The Real Estate and Insurance office of Glenn (Peggy) Vaughn occupied the building from 1924 until his death in 1938, when his wife operated it until 1944. Harold Dailey took over the agency and for a time sold real estate and insurance from this location.

Morrissy, Morrissy & Zastrow moved to the remodeled Edwards block, purchased from the Walworth County Abstract Company on January 1, 1945. At that time they used the front of the building and Mr. Norton continued to use the back rooms. The Walworth County Agricultural Offices and Dr. T. B. Kurtz, dentist had the upper floor. The agricultural offices later moved to the fairgrounds and Dr. Gerald Richards followed Dr. Kurtz as dentist.

The Morrissy firm has had several attorneys associated with them at different times. Beside Erwin Zastrow, there has been Lowell Sweet, Ralph Stowe, and at the present time, John Race.

**THE WALWORTH SECURITY TITLE**  
**AND ABSTRACT CO.**  
25 No. Wisconsin St.

This business was started by Robert Kenney and his father, John P. Kenney, with the copying of all records for the area. It began on the second floor of the building owned by Mr. Graff in what is now the Park-View Liquor Store and later was moved to this location which they now occupy.

The location had been occupied by the T. E. Slat-



**"LOTTIE" PULLED THE T.E. Slattery Groceries delivery wagon at the turn of the century from the location on North Wisconsin st., now home of the Walworth Security Title & Abstract. William (left) and Charles Slattery stood in front of the store from which the business was later moved to the present Godfrey building. Next door was the Charles Pieplow Harness & Trunk business.**

tery Grocery Store until it was moved to 11 North Wisconsin Street, and then the plumbing firm of W. C. Nuoffer and E. R. Keuper leased the building and occupied it for a short time. Later Mr. Nuoffer went to work as a tinsmith for the Elkhorn Hardware Co. In February, 1916, the Howe Grovery Store moved here from 5 West Walworth Street and Will Howe and his son Harry ran the business here, with Harry Howe continuing in the store after his father's death, until May 28, 1936, when he gave up the grocery business to concentrate on the floral and greenhouse business at 302 West Walworth Street which he operated until 1963.

The building was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Krakofsky (who later shortened their name to Kray). They build a new building for a beauty parlor, which they occupied for a short time. In June, 1948, they sold it to D. F. Kelliher and it was occupied by the Priscilla Beauty Salon for a short time.

In 1950 Robert Kenney purchased the building for his abstract firm, and in 1972 he built an addition on the rear to enlarge the office.

**THE DAILEY AGENCY  
25 No. Wisconsin St.**

In 1943 Harold Dailey became associated with the Vaughn Agency, which was located at 23 North Wisconsin Street, and after he took over the business, he moved to 27 North Wisconsin Street, into the remodeled building that had been the Pieplow Shoe Store. He conducted his business from this location

for three years.

The Walworth Security Title and Abstract Company moved to 25 North Wisconsin Street, which had been the beauty parlor, and remodeled it for their offices. They later divided the front of the building leaving an office that the Dailey Agency now occupies.

Originally Mr. Dailey sold both real estate and insurance, but in April, 1973, he sold his insurance business to the Strong Agency and now concentrates on real estate.

**TOY'S TAP  
27 No. Wisconsin St.**

In June, 1956, Garvin's Tavern moved to this location; it was operated by Bruce Lannon until he retired in 1971. Then it was taken over by Robert Shepard and the name changed to Shep's Tap. He continued the business here until 1975, when he sold it to Shirley Richardson and the name was changed to Toy's Tap.

Charles Pieplow came to Elkhorn in 1895 and worked for Russell Brothers and Curtis in the harness part of the business and moved next door to 29 North Wisconsin Street in what is now the Pastry Shop. He operated there for one year, then purchased the present location and ran his harness shop here. In 1915 he added shoes to his stock. In 1919 Breck Henderson became his partner until 1938, with Mr. Pieplow continuing alone until he retired March 1, 1945. He had been in business for 50 years when he sold the building to Thorson and Seymour.

October 26, 1911 ad in Independent: Horse blankets. Every horse should have one, all wool - remember \$1.50. Chas. Pieplow.

The Vaughn Agency with Mr. Harold Dailey as manager moved here from 23 North Wisconsin St. for a short time before going another door north, where the business is now located.

**ELKHORN PASTRY SHOP**  
29 No. Wisconsin St.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Kaplan bought the Bo-Dot bakery from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bolton in 1955, and continued at the 24 South Wisconsin Street location for five years before moving to this building, where they continue to serve the public with good things to eat. They moved in 1960, after Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence McCall sold out their stock and gave up the grocery business.

This had been a grocery store for quite a long time. In 1926 the Nevins Company established a Nevins Store here, which was managed by George Meyers. In February, 1945, Mr. Meyers bought the business and operated it as Meyers' Grocery until he sold it to Mr. and Mrs. McCall.

In 1913 this was Gus Gall's Tailor Shop. When the Corner Drug Store was destroyed by fire in that year, and Mr. Buchholz' Barber Shop suffered from the disaster, he moved his business to the Tailor Shop, until his place was ready for use again. When Mr. Buchholz came to town in 1897 he bought the M. W. Bovee Barber Shop which had been at this location in 1893 run by the Bovee Brothers, and owned by W. W. Byington.

**KAYLOUS RESTAURANT**  
31 No. Wisconsin St.

It was here that Mrs. J. F. Jenkins established her millinery store in 1908, which she ran until March, 1917, when she sold it to Mrs. J. M. Wells, who continued at this location until November 1919, selling it to Mrs. S. J. Carlson.

It appears that Mrs. Carlson must have sold the business to Mrs. Besecker, because an item in the May 6, 1926, Independent records that Mrs. A. J. Murphy bought Mrs. Curtis B. Besecker's stock of millinery and took possession on Monday. Mrs. Murphy had an art shop on East Walworth Street for nearly a year and moved that stock to 31 North Wisconsin Street, where she combined the two. Mr. and Mrs. Besecker moved to the farm.

In the early 1930's Lawrence Mason and Ollie Herr were operating the White House Restaurant here, and Mr. Mason sold his interest to Mr. Herr who continued alone. A good plate lunch was 35 cents and hamburgers were 5 cents and coffee 5 cents.

In March, 1941, George Ward bought Mr. Herr's business and he and his brother, Harry, managed it at different times. According to the Independent, Harry Ward resigned as chief of police to take care of the White House Restaurant in the fall of 1945. In the fall of 1948, George Ward carried out a major remodeling project on the building, and at the same time built the shop next door to the north in what had been a driveway for vehicles; The White House opened January 16, 1949, completely remodeled.

Later in the year, Harold Mishler ran the restaurant as Mishler's Grill. He sold the business to the Hanny Brothers in 1953, and Fred Clausen managed it for three years to begin with, then Mr. and Mrs. Louis Karbowski took over the management until three years ago, when they purchased the business. In July, 1974, they bought the building from Mrs. George Ward. The Wards had bought the building from the Adkins daughters, Jessie and Jean, after the death of their mother. It had previously belonged to Mrs. Adkins' parents, the Congers.

**ANGUS BARBER SHOP**  
33 No. Wisconsin St.

Donald Angus, a third generation barber, is the proprietor of this shop. In July, 1956, his father, Wallace, opened the barber shop at the location, after being employed for many years in Fred Behlmer's Barber Shop at 7 East Walworth Street, which Mr. Behlmer was discontinuing.

Mr. Behlmer came here to work for Mr. Angus until the end of the year. January 2, 1957, Donald Angus came to be associated with his father, and has continued the business since his father's death in March, 1971.

This location had been Maurie Hazard's Camera Shop, and before that it was Doebert's Shoe Repair Shop.

Many years ago it had been an alley for vehicles; but when George Ward did the extensive remodeling on the 31 North Wisconsin Street building, this new shop was built in the alleyway. The second floor of the building had been built over the area, which provided a shelter in a sudden shower.

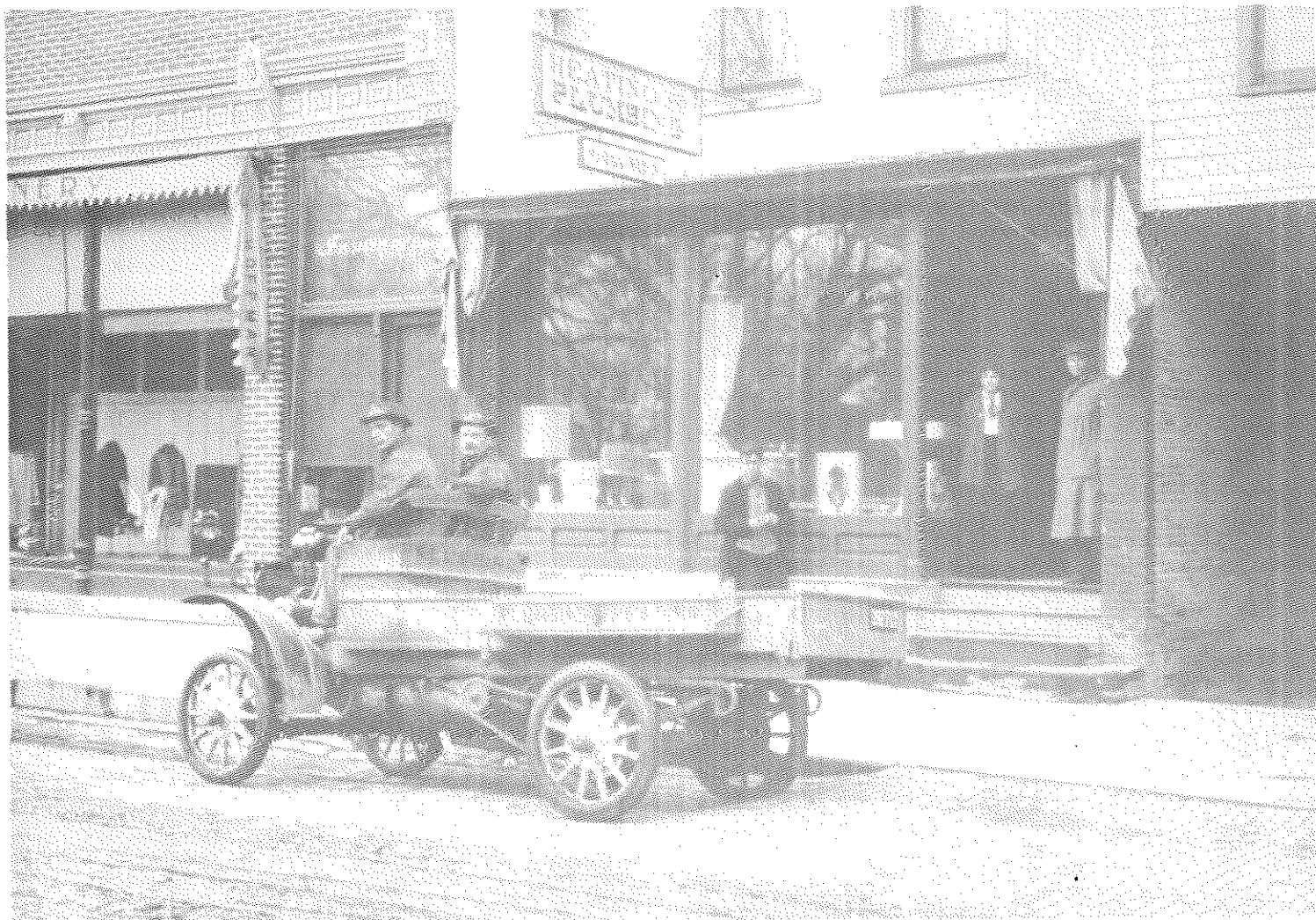
**REDENZ TV, INC.**  
35 No. Wisconsin St.

At this location in 1855, Samuel Baird built a grocery store, which he sold in 1859 to P. C. Gilbert, who continued the business. Gilbert in turn sold it to Isaac Terry, who was the owner when Frank Leland bought it for the Elkhorn Independent, which was published here until 1913.

In March, 1914, Bert Beach and Harvey Wolf leased the place for their windmill, pump, plumbing and tinsmith business and occupied it for a short time.

The McGill Brothers Plumbing and Heating business took over the property, after they had been using the back part of the building in which Ben Bachhuber conducted his implement business. For many years William and Fred McGill took care of the plumbing and heating work for a good part of the city and the surrounding area. Later Will and his son, Clayton, carried on the business, and after the death of his father, Clayton continued until his death.

Because the first floor was three or four steps above street level, extensive remodeling was required and both the ceiling and the floors had to be altered. Since then the building has been occupied by the Redenz TV, Inc. Glen Redenz moved into the building in 1959, after having worked for the Smith Home Service for twelve years as service manager.



**THAT'S A VERY EARLY** vintage truck used by the Magill Bros. Heating and Plumbing firm around 1916. Seated on the Winton panel truck were Lou Button (left) and William "Billy" Magill, while Fred Magill stood on the sidewalk and Myrtle Ellsworth and Charles Johnson were in the doorway of the shop. The latter two later married. The truck, about a 1916 model, had hard rubber tires and the steering wheel was on the right side. It also carried advertising of the firm's specialties, including windmills

and pumps, along with the Phone number, 172. The window display included (from left) a water closet, sink, tub and another sink. The store had previously been the Independent Office until 1913 after starting as a grocery store. It is now the Redenz TV store, 35 North Wisconsin st. Next door to the shop was the Calvin Barnes Insurance office and Hoffman's Dry Goods and Millinery store (respectively Modern Realty and Gambles now). The alley at the right was later turned into a barbershop.

**MODERN REALTY  
37 No. Wisconsin St.**

Calvin Barnes had operated his insurance business here from sometime in the 1890's until his death, and Mrs. Barnes carried on after that. In December 6, 1945, an Independent item noted that Mrs. Calvin Barnes, 84 years old, sold the business to J. Walter Strong of the Walworth County Abstract Company. Mrs. Barnes then ran the business from her home during the few remaining years she operated it.

In the early 1940's Howard Webb had a music store at this location. He paid the clerk 15 cents an hour for a 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. day with an hour off at noon and again at supper time, which made her pay \$1.50 a day. For the time she played the piano to accompany music pupils she received 25 cents an hour.

The Modern Cleaners, of Lake Geneva, used the

building as a drop-off station for several years.

In September, 1958, John R. Hughes opened an insurance office here, and in November, he was joined by John A. Spragia as a partner in the insurance and real estate business.

Since March 17, 1966, William Brownlie has occupied the building with the Modern Realty Office. From February, 1968, to September, 1974, Harley Rouse was associated with him in the business, but since September 1974, Mr. Brownlie has conducted the business alone.

**GAMBLES OF ELKHORN  
39 No. Wisconsin St.**

In October, 1886, C. E. Wing bought the Stafford lot, building and store and took immediate possession. Mr. Wing's new building replaced two old landmarks - those occupied by the "Little Market" and O'Brien's

Barber Shop. In February, 1887, the new store was completed and the stock was transferred from their former store on the corner.

In July of 1896, R. G. Hoffman became a partner of Mr. Wing and the business was known as Wing and Hoffman. Later Wing sold his interest to Mr. Hoffman and it was known as the Hoffman Dry Goods Store. In June, 1928, the store went out of business and Shaffer Brothers in the Chicago Store purchased the stock and fixtures.

The building became the Grand Leader Store and was operated from about 1930 to November, 1937, under that name, with Boris Kahn running it until October, 1934, and then Morris Begun, brother to the Mr. Begun, in Delavan, who was in charge until the store was closed.

The store was vacant for quite a long time before Montgomery Ward occupied the building from 1940 to 1953, after which it was vacant again.

The Barton Store was established here in July, 1954, and after major remodeling occupied it with a department store which made use of all three floors. Bartons continued their business at this location until the fall of 1975, when they moved to the new building they erected in the Lakes Area Shopping Center on East Geneva Street.

In November, 1975, the Gamble Store operation was returned to the city and moved into the building with a large stock of hardware and furniture.

#### **KUNKEL'S PHARMACY** 41 No. Wisconsin St.

This was the location of the Reed Furniture business, which had been established in 1865 and is one of the oldest businesses in Elkhorn - the fourth generation of Reeds remain in the business, Albert and B. R. (Mike) Reed. Harold and Birdell, third generation, are semi-retired.

The store was started by Albert Reed in a building on West Walworth Street near the location of the Pink Poodle Gift Shop. Several years later the founder and his son, also named Albert J. Reed, built the two story building here. At that time workmen were paid one dollar a day, but a dollar and a half if they also furnished a team. The business was situated here until it was moved to spacious new quarters it occupies now on Highway 67 at the north city limits. The Reeds also did undertaking (as it was called years ago) and later established the funeral home at 16 North Church St. which is currently the Murray Funeral Home.

When the building was vacated by the Reed's, it was taken over by Robert Gaiser in October, 1960, and operated as a drug store and pharmacy by him until his untimely death in April, 1968.

Then in August 1968, the business was sold to Donald Kunkel, who has continued in the same line, calling his business Kunkel's Pharmacy.

#### **MURRAY ELKHORN FUNERAL HOME** 16 N. Church St.

The inscription on the bronze plate on the wall says "This building was constructed by Fred Isham and later dedicated to funeral service by A. J. Reed who founded the funeral home in 1865."

A. J. Reed conducted his undertaking business (as it was called then) in conjunction with his Reed Furniture Store in the early days when hearses were horse drawn vehicles and funerals were held in homes or in churches, and a black crepe was hung at the front door to signify that there had been a death in the house. It was not until the 1930's that the practice of having funeral homes came to Elkhorn.

The Fred Isham home was purchased by the Reed firm in 1933 and was known as the Reed Funeral Home. Birdell Reed took over that part of the business with his father, and later Parnell Fredrickson, was associated with him from 1951 to July 1, 1954. At that time Mr. Fredrickson took over the Rohleder Funeral Home. In January 1956 John Wolf became associated with Mr. Reed and continued until Nov. 1, 1966, when Mr. Charles Murray purchased the business.

#### **DERKSEN FUNERAL HOME** 103 E. Rockwell St.

The Elkhorn Funeral Home was first opened in Elkhorn in the former Smith B. Morrison home at 110 North Broad Street. This was leased in 1931 to McCarthy, Reuter and Haas of Burlington, undertaker and furniture dealers and to John E. Rohleder of East Troy, licensed embalmer and funeral director.

In September, 1938 John Rohleder purchased the John H. Harris home at the corner of Washington and Rockwell Streets and took possession Nov. 15, 1938. After the building was altered and remodeled it served as the Elkhorn Funeral Home, conducted by Mr. Rohleder until 1954, when Parnell Fredrickson took over the business. Mr. Fredrickson came to Elkhorn in February, 1950 and was employed by the Reed Funeral Home and Furniture Store until he made the change.

Beginning July 1, 1968 Gary Derksen of Red Wing, Minn., took over the Fredrickson Funeral Home and continues to serve at that location as the Derksen Funeral Home.

#### **STATE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE COMPANY** 216 W. Walworth St.

Elkhorn telephone service started before the turn of the century when the community was served by the Walworth County Telephone Co. and the Wisconsin Telephone Co.

These companies served only people within the city; so on October 15, 1900 a number of farmers gathered and formed the State Long Distance Telephone Company for the purpose of serving the rural areas. Charles H. Wiswell was one of the organizers. The Walworth County Telephone Company was purchased in 1903 and the Wisconsin Telephone Co. in 1912. There was steady progress in the company and it outgrew its space, requiring new additions.

In March, 1955 the dial system went into effect after a large addition had been built the previous year to house the added equipment. In the early 70s a satellite office was built at Lauderdale and a spacious new building at 216 W. Walworth Street. The company moved into this facility in July of 1973

and at that time the single-party lines came into use as well as extended toll free service to Lake Geneva, Delavan and Williams Bay.

Second and third generations of the Wiswell family are in active management of the utility.

In 1911 the local exchange had 565 subscribers and residence 4 party phone rates were \$1 and one party phones were \$1.25. The business has grown so that in 1975 there were 2,920 subscribers in Elkhorn and 1,080 at Lauderdale. The rates for the private phones were set at \$6.20.

#### **ONE HOUR MARTINIZING DRY CLEANERS Corner E. Geneva and S. Washington St.**

This dry cleaning establishment is owned by Robert Wahlstrom, who became the proprietor July 15, 1975, following James Harris who had operated it from 1971.

The corner has served many businesses through the years; some may remember it as the Hansen Oil Station, others may recall when Joe Dorr sold trailers here about the time he took over the Land O' Lakes Mobile Home park. Still others will remember it in connection with food or refreshments, as it was once Dante's Pizzeria.

#### **LYLE'S TV & APPLIANCE INC. 17 S. Washington St.**

Lyle's TV & Appliance Inc. has been at home at this location since Lyle Schinke moved his business from his home, in 1956. The building had previously been occupied by Lawrence Baxter with his Sport and Camera Shop.

#### **THE PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION Highway 67**

This farmer-owned credit organization which started with seven incorporators, each putting in \$5 and with A. C. Peters as manager at a salary of \$50 a month, has made great strides since its inception on December 26, 1933.

Sept. 1, 1951 it moved into larger offices at 108 West Court Street, which had been the home of former Sheriff Joseph Dorr.

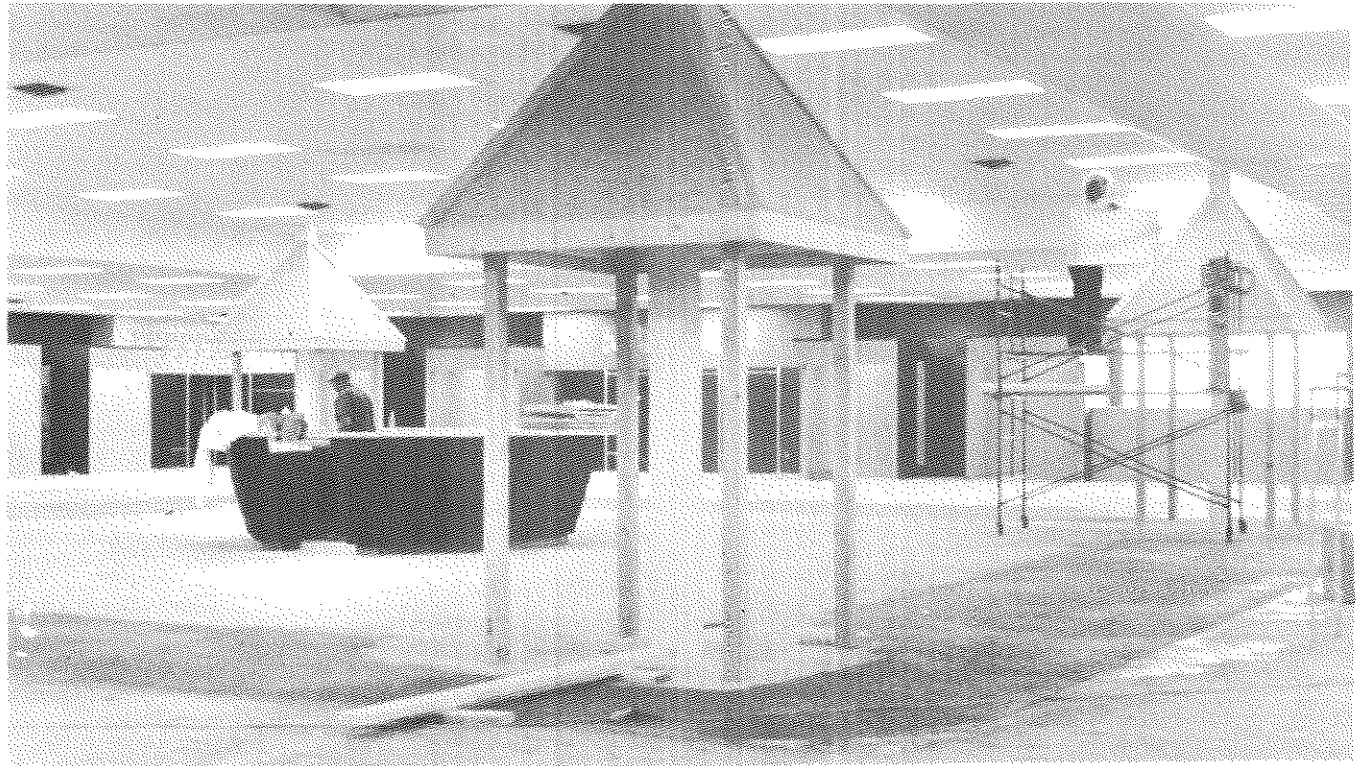
The business continued there until additional space was required, and the association built a larger facility on highway 67 at the north city limits and moved there February 2, 1973. Originally subsidized by the government, the organization had paid back its loan by June 30, 1950.

Lester Johnson, Elkhorn, is now the general manager, with William Baker, Delavan, as chairman of the board of directors. The association also has branch offices in Wales and Union Grove.

#### **OPITZ CHEVROLET-BUICK GARAGE Highway 67**

May 23, 1912 Independent item: "One of the oldest businesses in Elkhorn, the Fred Opitz shop is being razed this week to make room for a two story structure which Robert Opitz, the new owner of the property intends to build. The old building was one of Elkhorn's "landmarks" having been built in the early 1840's. It was the factory in which wagons were being made in 1856, and maybe in the 1840's.

The Opitz Brothers opened their new garage



INTERIOR CONSTRUCTION was being completed on the new Barton's department store, located in the new Lakes Area shopping center. The Barton store had first been established

here in 1954 at 39 North Wisconsin st., where it remained until the new construction was completed in the fall of 1975.

here in 1914.

An item in the August 12, 1948 Independent notes that Harold Opitz had been the Buick dealer for a quarter of a century, starting in January 1923, when he purchased the Howard Wheeler interest in the Elkhorn Automotive Garage and became a partner of Hugh Squires. In 1930 Mr. Opitz purchased the Squires interest, and in 1933 he began selling Chevrolet as well as Buick cars. Mr. Opitz was in the business at the time of his death and since then his son, Fletcher, and his brother, Wilfred, have carried on the business.

The garage on E. Walworth Street was vacated when it was sold to the State bank and razed to make way for their new facility. A new building was erected on highway 67 (N. Lincoln Street) and the business was moved to this location, in 1967.

**ELKHORN MOTORS, INC.**  
Highway 67

The Elkhorn Motors, Inc. moved to this location after the building was completed on September 1, 1971, and held an open house October 1st.

The sale of Ford cars in Elkhorn had started with Ben Bachhuber's implement business. In 1915 the Ford Garage at the corner of Geneva and Wisconsin streets was built by the Smart Brothers, of Palmyra, and managed by Roy Gillette. E. A. Spinner bought the business and conducted it as Spinner Ford Sales and Service for 18 years.

Taken over by Elkhorn Motors, Inc. in 1934 it remained at this location until it was moved to 17 East Walworth Street in February, 1937 under the management of Roy Kurtz, who with Leonard Kelm, of Milwaukee, owned the business after buying out the interest of Charles Dunham, of Delavan. Mr. Kurtz had worked in the Ford garage for 19 years.

In 1939 E. F. Last returned to Elkhorn and took over the management of the corporation and is now associated in the business with his son, Gerald. When the building on Walworth street was no longer adequate for their expanded operation, they built and moved to this new location.

**SPENCER TV AND APPLIANCE**  
7 - 9 N. Lincoln St.

Perry Spencer has long been associated with radio and TV work, starting with the Desing Radio Shop on South Wisconsin Street. On Hilmar Desing's retirement, he took over that business and remained in that location until he moved to this building February 1, 1974. His son James is now associated in the business with him.

This new building was the "Quick Clean Center", the laundromat which John Nigbor started here in 1962, conducting business here until 1972 when Mr. Nigbor took over the building vacated by the Ben Franklin Variety Store next door to the north.

**FAMILY PRIDE LAUNDROMAT**  
11 N. Lincoln St.

This building was constructed in 1962 for the use

of the Ben Franklin Company and occupied by them for a time, until a new Ben Franklin Family Center was built at 17 East Walworth Street.

This store was closed until John Nigbor moved from next door after some remodeling in June, 1972. He calls it "Family Pride" Laundromat. His former location was sold to Perry Spencer, when it was vacated.

**RAM BEVERAGE SHOP**  
41 N. Lincoln St.

The Ram Beverage Shop was established in May 1970 by Robert Marks, after he and William Carroll closed out the chick hatchery they had been conducting at this location. They had purchased it from L. Henry Noble in November, 1955, where Mr. Noble had been in the business for ten years after purchasing it from Ernie Mount in 1945.

The chick hatchery had been started sometime in the 1930's in the Morrissy Building, which occupied the corner lot where the Gilbert Realty business office is now located.

This building at 41 N. Lincoln Street was built by Charles Wales as a paint shop; later it was used as a garage by Merlin Fiske.

**B & B LAUNDROMAT**  
32 S. Washington St.

July 12, 1953 Lester Cole opened Cole's Laundromat here, after extensive remodeling. This business continued operation until 1959, when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. George Hart. They operated it until 1964 when they sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ingram, who changed the name to B & B Laundromat. The Ingrams later sold the business to Gerald Deabel, of Delavan, in 1971, and he sold it in July, 1973 to Mr. and Mrs. Archie Sanford who are the present proprietors.

Years before the cement block building had been used by Donald Burns and Stanley Wilson as a dry cleaning establishment called Dun Well Cleaners, and they had their office where the Paradise Barber Shop faces Wisconsin Street. It had been constructed just before the death of Frank Schmidt, who planned to use it for a body shop for his Studebaker garage.

**ROY'S SERVICE, INC.**  
324 N. Wisconsin St.

Roy's Service started on March 14, 1940, when J. L. (Roy) Henderson opened a two stall Shell Service station. The business grew rapidly and in 1945 he expanded the station to six stalls, and at the same time acquired the franchise for DeSoto and Plymouth automobiles. A year later he added the GMC truck line.

As the business grew there was need for additional space, so in 1955 the former dairy property across the street was purchased and remodeled to serve as a showroom. An addition on the back of that building serves as a body repair shop. With the increase in business it again became necessary to enlarge the service station, and a major remodeling in 1968 expanded the service station.

The business has developed into a corporation

with several members of the Henderson family involved in the organization. Henderson's son, John, now heads the firm.

**OLESON MAYTAG AND APPLIANCE SALES**  
411 N. Wisconsin St.

This business was established by A. C. Oleson in 1945, after he sold his hardware business in 1941. When his son, Donald, returned from service he joined his father in the store and they continued together for some time. Then Andy Oleson retired and Donald has continued to serve the community with electrical appliances, with his son, Jack, helping him part of the time.

**SKELLY'S SUPER MARKET**  
422 N. Wisconsin St.

In October 1936 the James Campbell family came to Elkhorn and Mr. Campbell purchased the grocery business of the Churchill Brothers, Herman and Loren, which they had established in 1928.

In 1942 L. K. McVicar took a three year lease on the North End Store, as it was called at the time, but he chose not to renew it, and Mr. Campbell was back in the business in March 1945.

James Cost bought the North End Store in March of 1946 from the Campbells and in January 1955 he remodeled the building and built an addition. Mr. Cost continued in the business until he sold it to Al Monson in May 1966, and the store's name was changed to Maral's.

Monson later sold it to Paul Skelly in May 1968, who continued in the business until December 1972, selling it to Robert Girard, the present owner. Mr. Girard had earlier established the Super Valu grocery at 15 N. Lincoln street. The name has been continued as Skelly's Super Market.

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK**  
N. Washington St.

This bank was founded in January 1865, when it purchased the building, business and good will of the Elkhorn Bank. There are only 12 First National banks that are older in the state of Wisconsin. This first bank building still stands at 9 North Wisconsin st.

In 1916 the business moved to a new building three doors to the north, which the Independent referred to as its "palatial new home." This building was built where a frame building originally housed the Edwards and Preston Dry Goods store. The wooden building was purchased by George Amos, who divided it into 2 duplexes and moved them back onto lots facing Washington Street, which Mr. Amos bought from J. E. Wheeler. This Wheeler property had garden plots and an area where traveling tent shows were operated at times. Years later the bank bought one piece of property and razed the structure for a parking lot. Later they bought and razed the other, using both lots for their new bank building which opened in December 1974.

In 1959 Jensen and Johnson had built their office on the corner of Washington and Court streets, after purchasing the Arp blacksmith property and the homes of Lloyd Arp and the Morrissey sisters. They

occupied this office until June 1974, when the First National Bank bought the property and used the area for a parking lot. The building was given to the city by the bank and moved to 109 N. Wisconsin st. to be used as a Community center.

The 1916 building of the National Bank was razed except for the pillars, which were left as a landmark, with the construction of a mini-bank and a mall where the building had stood.

The Bank also has a branch facility in Williams Bay.

**FORT SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION**  
17 N. Washington St.

The Fort Savings and Loan Association opened offices in Elkhorn Aug. 1, 1968, in a new building constructed at 17 North Washington st. The area they occupied had formerly been the site of two homes. The first manager was Richard L. Gilkey, who helped plan the grand opening on Sept. 7, 1968.

**GILBERT REALTY**  
101 E. Court St.

George Watson in 1852 built the brick shop at the corner of Court and Washington streets and made wagons and buggies. About 1855 Josiah W. Gaylord and Isaac Stoner, wheelwright and blacksmith respectively, occupied the building.

The panic of the period dissolved the firm and reduced successor Edward McDonald to repair work until 1870. Nelson Hanson then resumed wagon making with Fred Opitz, at first as his blacksmith and later as his partner. The firm passed away and the blacksmithy remained.

In 1884 John Morrissy bought the Old Hanson Shop and the family lived in the second floor until their home next door was completed. In November, 1887, George Scanlon, John Miller and Moses O'Connor fell from the scaffold and were injured while preparing to shingle the shop.

In the early morning of June 1, 1913: "Two horses were burned and Dan Ward's house on North Washington Street had a close call. The Ward barn burned and the house was heavily damaged; the second barn belonging to the John Morrissy estate was being used by T. W. Morrissy and it was his two valuable horses that burned."

John Morrissy continued the blacksmith shop until his death March 26, 1912, and then his son, Thomas W. Morrissy, took over the business and operated it as a blacksmith and wagon repair shop until 1920, followed as a Chevrolet Agency and filling station with the Westphal Hatchery in the rear.

T. W. Morrissy and Harold (Bing) Gilbert started in the real estate business in 1941 and then in 1953 Harold Gilbert took over that operation and in 1967 built the new building which houses not only the real estate office but other offices as well. After Mr. Gilbert's death the business was continued by Mr. Peter Kouzes who joined the firm in 1963.

**OTHER PLACES OF BUSINESS**

The Two Seasons Lanes opened November, 1963 on highway 67. This new recreational facility was operated by Robert Reed and Philip Welsh until

sold in December, 1975 to Norbert Landreman and his son, David.

720 N. Wisconsin St. In September 1967 this eating place was taken over by Sperino Maiale to become "Sperino's Spaghetti House", specializing in Italian foods. It had been operated by Mario Christiano as the "Slide Inn" for 3-1/2 years until he went to the Elk Restaurant in 1954. At that time it was sold to Martin Farrell. Mr. Maiale also conducts Sperino's Sandwich Hut on East Geneva Street which was opened in September, 1975.

635 N. Wisconsin St. The Martin Brothers, Reuben and Lyman, erected this building for a super market, which started here in 1954. Since then an addition has enlarged the area to accommodate all the items supplied for the Sentry Food Company store.

419 N. Wisconsin St. Dr. Edward Slattery and Dr. John Hall, optometrists, share the building where once the Sinclair Oil Station conducted its business. Dr. Slattery bought and remodeled the building, along with purchase of the lot to the north, and moved to this location from East Walworth Street in September, 1968.

401 N. Wisconsin St. The Spragia Agency and the Plaza Cleaners share this building, which for many years was a garage occupied by Benning Motor Sales. In succession, Wales and Klitzkie, Wales Motor Sales, Alex Johnson and Dean Matthews, Pope Overland Co. located there. Then it was used as a cleaning establishment by the Modern Cleaners before the present businesses occupied the structure. The Spragia Agency also conducts the H. & R. Block business in Elkhorn at this location.

640 N. Broad St. In August 1953 the Holton Home was sold for a nursing and convalescent home to Janet Ylvisaker, of Waupaca, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kohl, of Burlington. Open house was held on October 18 and 25th. Then in April 1970, the Elkhorn Nursing Home was sold to Mrs. Marion Mickey, James Mickey and Stanton Sornson. After the death of Stanton Sornson, the Charles Murrays owned the business for a year, before it was sold to Harold Woodhouse February 1, 1973. It is now known as Holton Manor.

In April 1954 the Thomas Motel of 8 units was opened by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thomas. They sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Turner Wilcox, who in June 1961 sold it to William East, who conducted it for some time. George Waholz, the present owner, purchased it from East's widow.

Kelly's Elkland Flowers and Greenhouse on Highway 67 were started in March 1951 by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Giddings.

Elkhorn Equipment, Inc., No. Wisconsin Street; Vets Steam Carpet Cleaning, No. Lincoln Street; Lakes Area Locksmith, 310 No. Jackson Street; Pump Drives Inc., 516 No. Lincoln Street; Dog N' Suds Drive In, 645 No. Lincoln Street; Elkhorn Webpress Inc., 550 E. Centralia Street; Modern Cleaners, 219 S. Broad Street; Consumers Co-op of Walworth County, So. Wisconsin Street; Elkhorn Locker Service, Inc., 406 So. Wisconsin Street; Schwans Sales Enterprises, 515 Getzen Street; Lakeland Studios of Fine Photography, 473 E. Geneva Street; Gosch's Cafe, 316 S. Church Street; Elkhorn Roof-

ing, Washington and E. Centralia Street; Bud Nass Tree Service, 229 Randall Place; Walbrandt and Associates, 433 E. Geneva Street; Sweet and Eberhardt, 114 No. Church Street, Attorneys; Land O' Lakes Mobile Home park, 473 E. Geneva Street, and Lakeland Motel, 450 E. Geneva Street.

Powell's Antiques and Collectibles, 14 W. Geneva, was started in July, 1945, by E. A. Powell and continued by his sons Allen and Howard.

"The Garden", Florists, 119 So. Lincoln Street, began in 1956 by Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hilton, and continued by Joyce Hilton after her husband's death.

Hedlund Realty, 461 E. Geneva Street; Kramer Realty, 303 No. Lincoln Street; Schulz Realty, 433 E. Geneva Street; E. Lunde & Chess, 314 W. 2nd Avenue.

East Side Repair Shop, 213 N. Lincoln Street, 24 hour wrecker service; Hansen's Garage, 304 N. Lincoln Street, operated for many years by Svend Hansen; Schultz Como Motors, 910 W. Walworth Street;

Albert's Friendly Oil, 432 E. Geneva Street; Carl's Service, highway 11; Cheker Service Station, 627 W. Walworth Street; Kickapoo Gas Station, highway 67; Consumer's Co-op Station, E. Walworth Street; Keith's Standard Service, No. Wisconsin and E. Court; Ketchpaw's Shell Service, E. Geneva and S. Lincoln Street; Superamerica, 109 E. Geneva Street; Cerwin's Firestone Inc., 3 E. Geneva Street; Conoco Service Station, W. Court and No. Wisconsin Street 1938 - closed now.

Ellsworth Electric Inc., 107 So. Getzen Street and Ward and Amann, 211 Van Buren.

Harkness and Hoxie, Inc., Plumbing and Heating, highway 67; Elkhorn Heating and Sheet Metal Co., 213 S. Broad Street; Thomas and Beaver, Plumbing and Heating, 314 E. Court Street; Newell Meadows, 325 W. Jefferson Street, Swanson's Pump and Plumbing Service, 521 Sunset Drive.

#### BUSINESSES LONG GONE

Feb. 1, 1917 A. Dostalek, proprietor. Groceries and Meat. Thomas Howard house, No. Wisconsin.

Jan. 19, 1939 Tony Dostalek came to Elkhorn in 1918 or 1919 more than 20 years ago. Worked for Widmayer - then operated a grocery.

March 14, 1946 Harry Enloe bought West End Store, 438 West Walworth Street, from Reiner Hinrichs, had been started by Mort Savory several years ago.

Sept. 1918 C. M. Crane sold the dray line to Nick Burns.

March 9, 1939 (Harold) Reed Mink Ranch in operation north of city on Highway H.

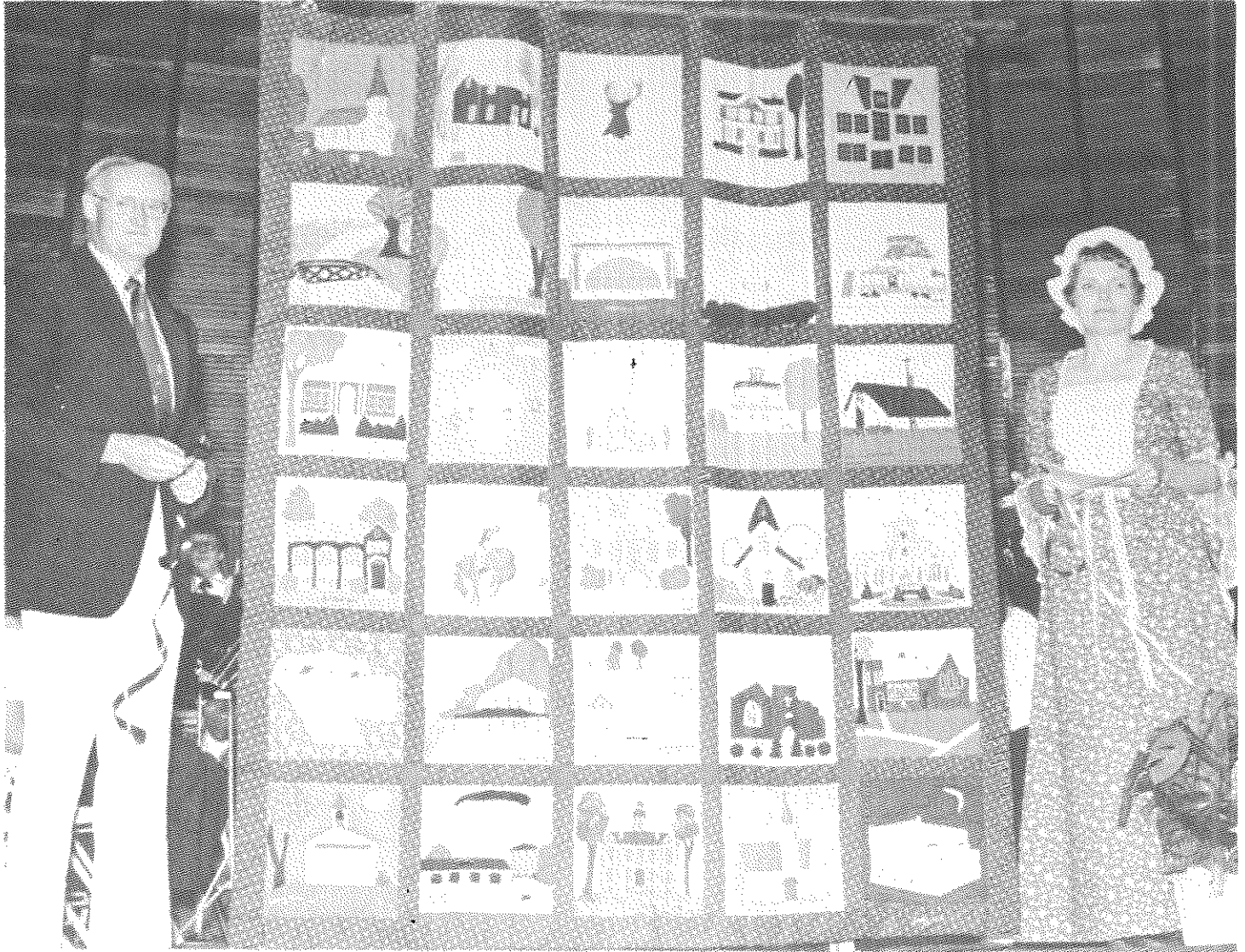
July 19, 1917 M. H. Booth succeeds John W. Hayes, who retired after long service. Mr. Hayes retired July 1, after more than 52 years of service. He took charge of the local Milwaukee office (Railroad) April 1, 1865.

June 25, 1925 Curio Collector, N. E. Carter.

Feb. 17, 1955 Justice Belton dead at 82. Justice more than 30 years.

June 15, 1922 Dallas Davis took over W. H. Smith's milk route. Later joined Alder and was called Urbandale Dairy.

Besides the blacksmith shops mentioned in connection with the businesses that replaced them, there was the Julius Opitz blacksmith shop, which occupied the lot to the east of "Our Own Store", which is now the parking lot. This smithy operated until about 1914.



A SPECIAL PROJECT BY Elkhorn women was the Bicentennial Quilt, which was finished and presented on the 1976 Fourth of July weekend of activities. The presentation of the quilt was made by Mrs. Marianne Cannestra, who coordinated the

project, during the intermission of the Holton-Elkhorn Band concert. At the band shell in Sunset Park to accept the Bicentennial project for the city on the nation's 200th anniversary was Mayor Gerhardt Immega.

SCENES DEPICTED in the quilt on stage and those responsible are in order of left to right starting with the top row: Sugar Creek Church, Valenda Jacobson; Tubbs House, Marie Kenney; Elk Head, Bonnie Borkhuis; Steele House, Jeanette Kudick; 1887 School, Marlyne Seymour; (2nd row) Jackson Creek Bridge, Phyllis Olson; Gillogly House, Merry Kay Opitz; Band Shell, Marianne Cannestra; Holton Co., Rita Barron; Funeral Home, Kathy Murray; (3rd row) Matheson Library, Elfrieda Matheson; Bethel Church, Anne Simpson; St. Patrick's Church, Dorothy Sprowl; Octagon House, Marie Neuman; First Evangelical Church, Hazel Borkhuis; (4th row) First Baptist Church, Della Isham; Wal-Co Rodeo, Delores Lundgren; Postoffice, Minnie Jacobsen; Old Lutheran Church, Barbara Walbrandt; UCC-Congregational, Marthe Mol; (5th row) Swimming Pool, Harriet Immega; Webster House, Helen Kluge; County Fair, Kathy Wedige; St. John's Lutheran Church, Helen Swan; First Methodist Church, Eldred Anderson; (6th row) Jackson School, Edna Olson; Old Milk Factory, Sophia Reinke; Old Courthouse, Myrtle Hoover; St. John's in the Wilderness Church, Doris Watson, and Sears Store, Millie Platts.



THE CITY OF ELKHORN received its official Bicentennial designation on Feb. 16, 1976 during a brief ceremony at the recently opened Community Center, which was later another Bicentennial period project. State Sen. Tim Cullen (left) represented the Wisconsin American Revolution Bicentennial Commission as the designating agency. He presented the special

flag to Mrs. Helen Swan and the official charter to Herb Moering, Elkhorn Bicentennial Committee co-chairpersons. They in turn passed on the flag and charter to Mayor Gerhardt Immega (right), who accepted on behalf of the city's citizens and council. The posters behind them were created by art students at the Middle School as another Bicentennial project.



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