A-B

Valentine
SNIPPETS of SALEM

88 - Kenosha, from Pioneer Village to Modern City 1835-1935 by Carrie Cropley, 1958

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Contents:
General history of Kenosha Village, between 1835 and 1935. It includes images which, over time, will be scanned SOS88 will be included the description of the image.There is an index but the book is filled with names and subject material that is not included in the index. And, there is an appendix covering an additional period to 1957.

From the book in the WKCHS archives

A-K plus 1-190=201 pages

NOTE:
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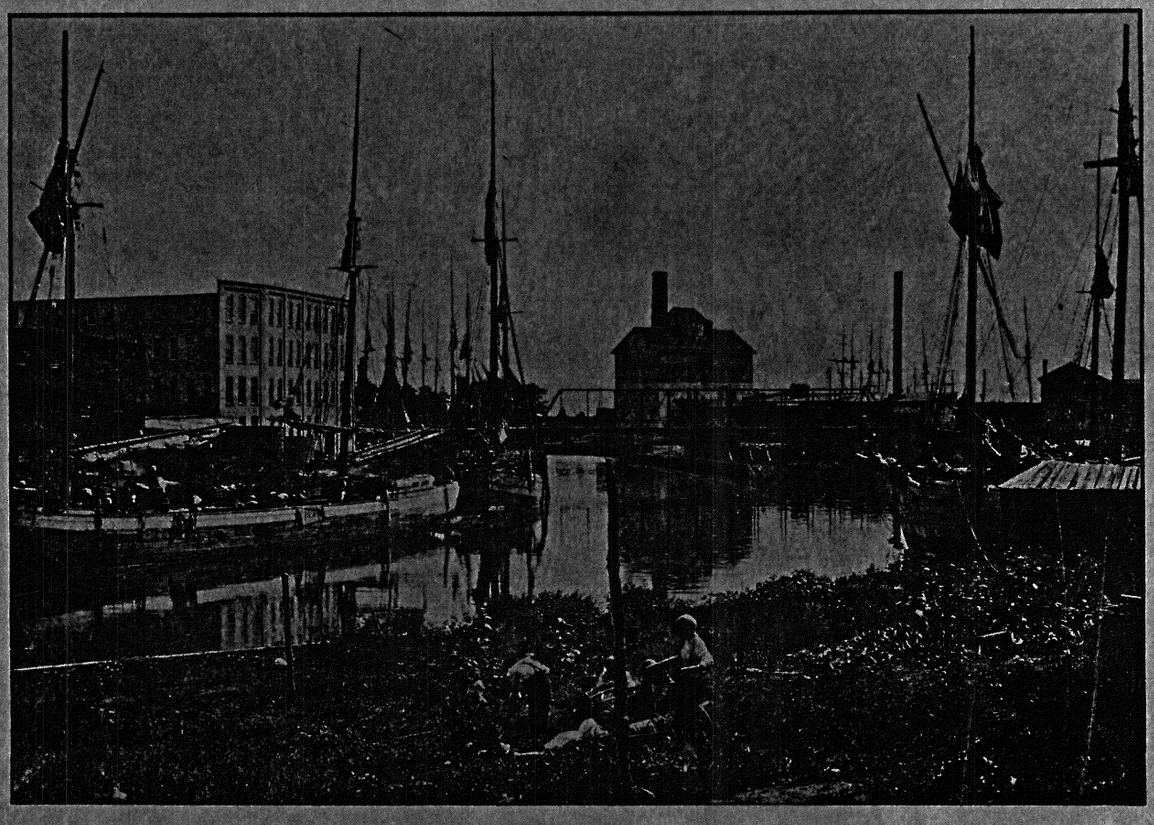
KENOSHA

From Pioneer Village to Modern City

1835 - 1935



CARRIE CROPLEY,
CURATOR, KENOSHA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

A

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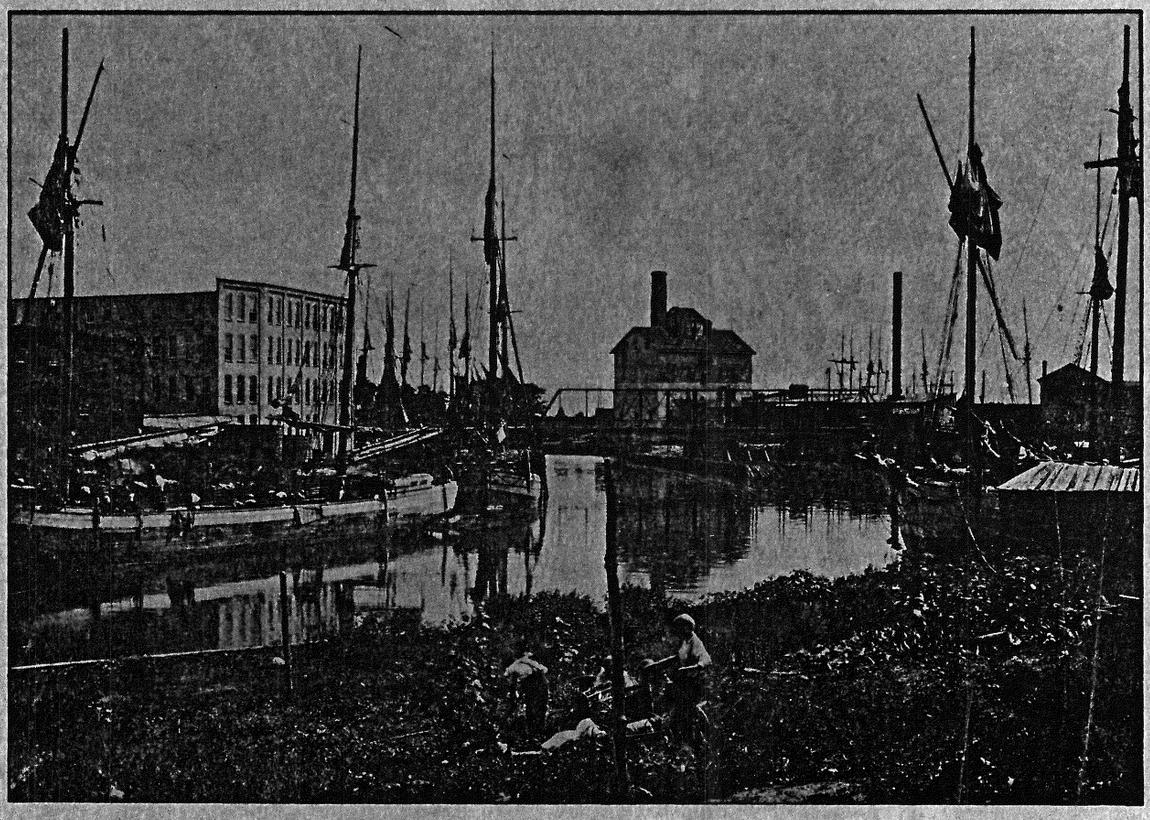

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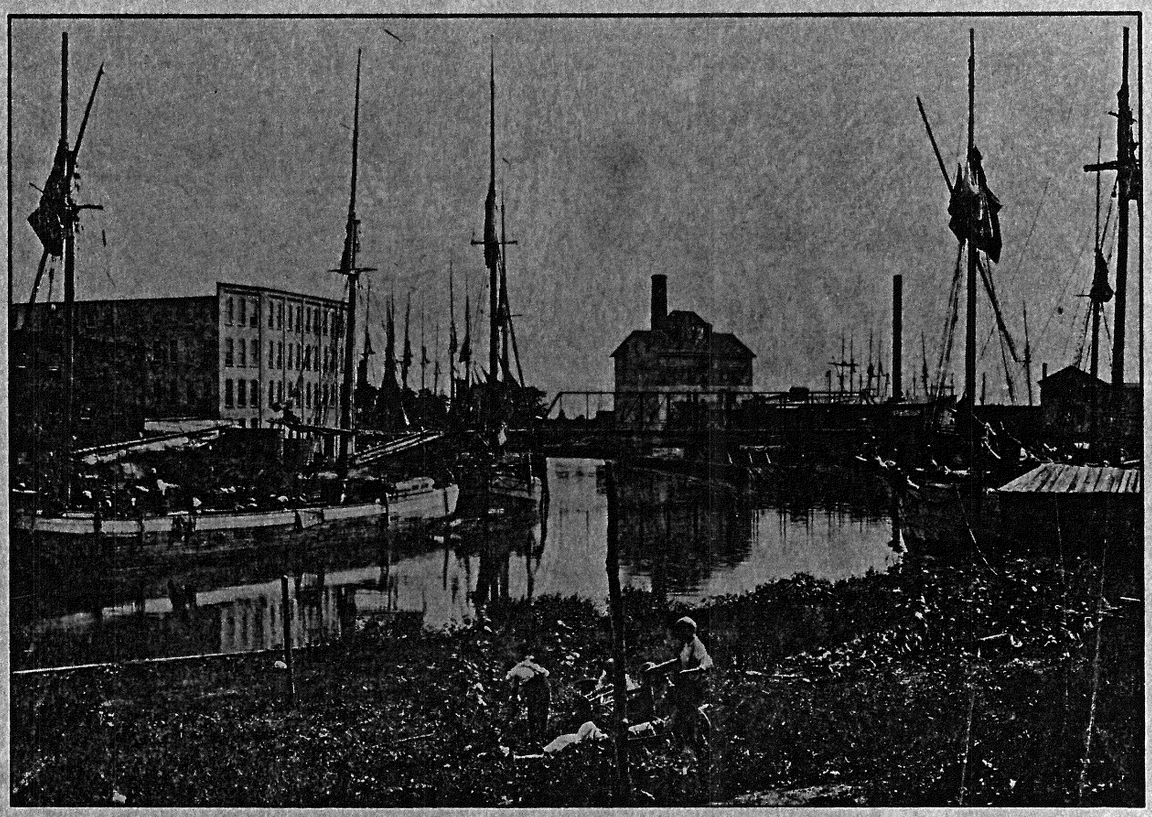

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KENOSHA

From PIONEER VILLAGE to MODERN CITY

1835 - 1935

Carrie Cropley,
Curator, Kenosha County Historical Museum

Second Printing, 1958

FOREWORD

This does not pretend to be a formal history, it is the story of Kenosha, as it grew from year to year, with a mention here and there of SOME of the people who contributed to its development, told simply that it may be suited for school use. The selection of much of the material herein was indicated by requests for information that have been answered at the Historical Society museum through the years, and appeals for help that have come from students and others doing research. It is hoped that the stories of Kenosha's achievements, blunders and successes may serve occasionally as a help or guidepost in some of the problems that challenge its citizens and officials from time to time.

Industry has been lightly touched upon. It is possible that some of the wealth of material on hand may be used at a later date in a companion booklet covering this subject only.

Carrie Cropley,
Curator, Kenosha County Historical Museum
Kenosha Co. Wis. Court House

November 1957

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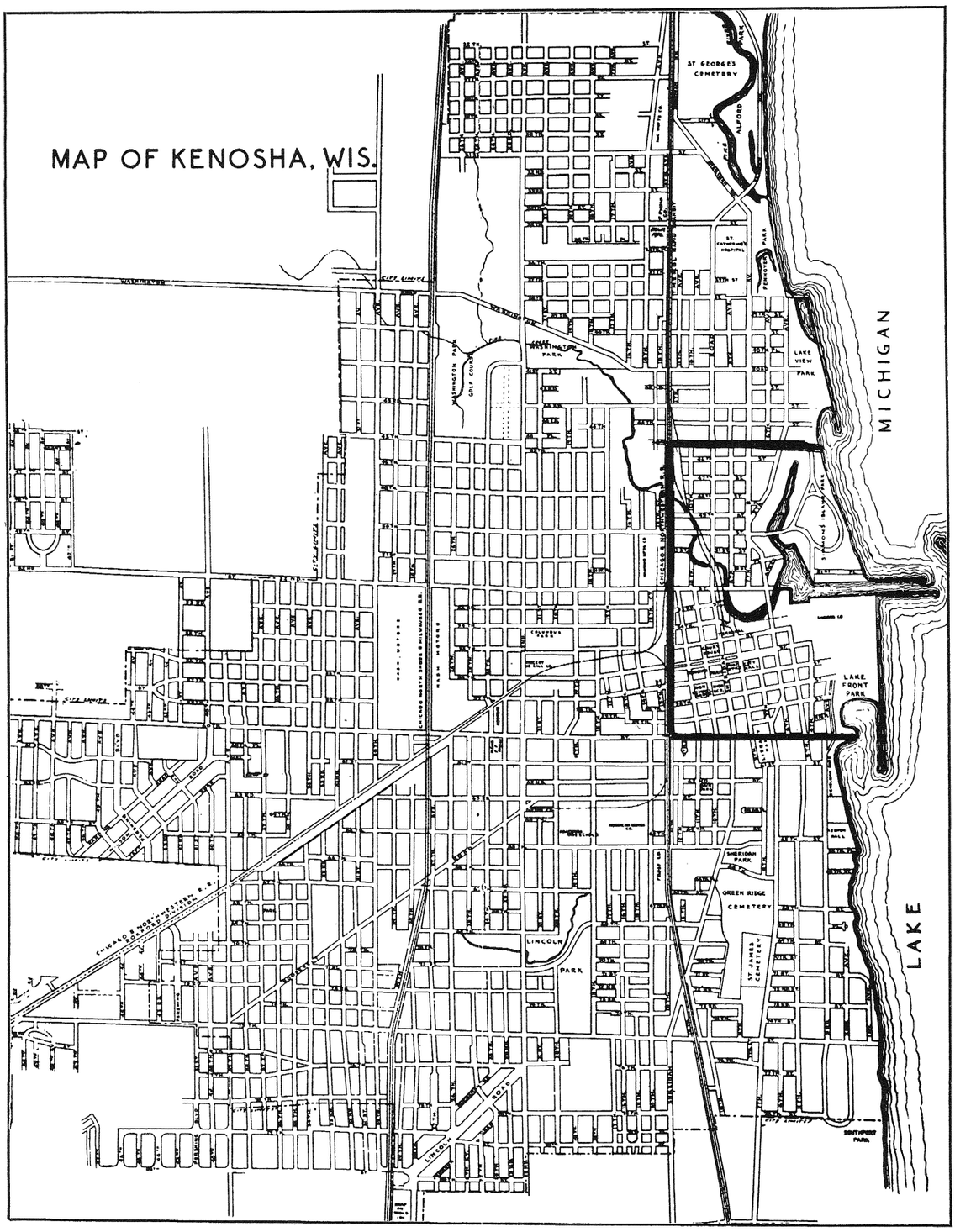

KENOSHA CITY OF INDUSTRY

PART I

OLD SOUTHPORT DAYS

1835-1850

I

WHAT THE PIONEERS FOUND

What would a traveler have found here, had he come in 1834?

Old letters and other writings of that time tell us that it was a very pretty spot, but with no inhabitants. There were no houses, no schools, no churches, no factories, no movies, no lights, no streets, paving, sidewalks, wells nor waterworks, - none of the things that we think we need today. Except for one family of hunters and trappers with a cabin near Petrifying Springs, who soon moved away, there were no white people. Even the number of Indians was small, (1) those still here remained hidden in the forests along creeks or around the inland lakes much of the time. Not long before this, there had been three Indian villages in or near what is now Kenosha, but these were gone in 1834; only Indian graves and old camp sites were left, marked by the many arrow points, other stone and bone artifacts and traces of camp fires. It is said that these villages, this vicinity and the creek and river were known as Kenosha ("pike") by Indians and traders because the pike were plentiful in the waters of the lake and river. (2)

Many other things were different. The shore line was much further out in the lake. Since then the lake has washed away a street once located a block east of the present 3rd Avenue, also a block of land beyond that street (old Lake St.) The present stadium and some of the Simmons Company factory buildings are on land that has been rebuilt in recent years to replace that lost ground. Simmons (or Washington) Island was also wider than at present.

Pike Creek was a much wider, prettier stream, with clear, clean, deep water - deep enough to float the ships of that day some distance inland. Trees, bushes and flowers grew along its banks. Other streams joined it, some not far from the harbor. One ran through what is now the St. James Church property, across a part of the high school land and the ground where the city hall now stands. Another ravine flowed through the tract a little east of the present Chicago & Northwestern Railway depot. An arm of Pike Creek also entered the lake at what is now 45th Street, although sand bars would occasionally close it for a short while. That made Simmons Island a real island. A sand bar in the lake near the entrance to the harbor gave the settlers much trouble and expense before the harbor could be of use. Another fairly large creek, later called Jerome Creek, (3) came from the west and entered the lake near the present 68th Street. The lagoon in Lincoln Park, now flooded to replace the water shrinkage through the years, is all of that early ravine that remains in sight.

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(1) In Southern Wisconsin the Indians had given up their land and been moved away after a war between the white people and Chief Black Hawk and his warriors. The local tribe was the Potawatomi. Their shelters were probably structures of bark or skins over poles with rounded top and were fairly permanent although at certain seasons the Indians wandered far afield in search of game or vegetation used for food and medicine. The coming of the white men brought suffering as land was cultivated and the hunting grounds disappeared. Without the huts that formed their homes, living was less comfortable. Some early settlers reported cases where Indians starved to death.

(2) See Longfellow's "Hiawatha", part 8. "Hiawatha Fishing". There the name of the pike is spelled Kenozia, and so the name was sometimes spelled here at first.

(3) Named for a family of that name, who had a cabin on its bank near the lake.

Lincoln Park (formerly Bond's Woods) was then a heavy growth of trees, untouched by man. There were sand dunes or hills near where 6th Avenue now crosses Pike Creek. Many low, marshy places where cat-tail rushes grew, were in what is now our down town area. Great oak trees grew where stand the high school, library and many other houses and buildings, and also further west and south. These were oak glades or openings, that is, great trees with stretches of grass and many beautiful wild flowers growing between them. A few still stand, one in the civic center and some on the Methodist Church grounds at 60th Street and Sheridan Road; although these were probably very small, young trees then. However, heavy forests did grow on a strip of land from five to ten miles wide along Pike Creek where it ran out through the country. This strip of timber extended north to Milwaukee. In the prairies to the west and south, there were fewer trees and grass grew tall, sometimes nearly as high as horses. (1)

There were no towns nor farms west of the lake, and only a few people in Milwaukee; a family or two had just settled at Root River, now Racine. The only roads were old Indian trails, possibly two or three feet wide. Two of these trails are the present highways 31 and 50. For centuries Indians going north toward Green Bay had traveled that which is now 31, until the track was worn deep in the soft ground by their moccasined feet. Indian hunters and trappers used a track along or near highway 50 when they went to and fro between Lake Michigan and the small lakes to the west and to Lake Geneva. There were Indian villages at Silver Lake and elsewhere before 1832.

II

THE FIRST SETTLERS AND HOW THEY CAME

In the early 1830's, many families from the eastern states were moving into what is now Wisconsin, - at that time a part of Michigan Territory. Some came through the influence of men who hoped to become rich by purchase of land cheaply from the United States Government, it to be resold to settlers at a profit. This was especially true in the central part of the state. (2) Others, particularly in this southeastern section, came to take up Government land directly, because they wished to make better homes for themselves and their children. However, a land company had as its members the first settlers in what is now the city of Kenosha. Thus each method had a part in its settlement.

In a small New York town named Hannibal, (3) John Bullen, one of its residents, entertained some friends at supper in December, 1834. During the afternoon and evening the company began to re-tell the stories they had heard from travelers about the land west of Lake Michigan. (4) These stories pictured the country as very desirable, both because of its beauty and for the richness of its soil. Mr. Bullen and his guests became so enthusiastic that they decided to form a land company and through it obtain land along the western lake shore on which to build a city. They dreamed that this city might bring them riches when its growth and increased trade had made it a great lake port.

Later the group met at Rev. Peter Woodin's study in Hannibal, drew up a constitution and by-laws (largely the work of Rev. Jason Lothrop) and organized the Company, called the Western Emigration Company. Shares in this were sold to many people both men and women, some of whom had very little money and not very good jobs, but who hoped to find a better living in the new country.

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(1) Mrs. Bradford - Memoirs, p.6
(2) M. M. Strong, Smith "Doty" p. 199
(3) Hannibal still exists, probably little changed. Many familiar names are found in its old cemetery. See letter from A. J. Tanck.
(4) Lyman p. 10 History of Kenosha Co.

In the early Spring of 1835, men were sent out, with John Bullen, Jr. as leader. They were instructed to find a place suitable for a city site and were allowed $1.00 per day expense money. (1) They were to look for two things: (a) a good harbor and (b) a good farming country back of the city, whence produce would come, to be shipped back east, via the lakes. In those years, traffic and travel were always by water if at all possible; roads were poor -- when there were roads, -- and railroads still very experimental, with only a few short lines anywhere in the country.

Warters Towslee, Sydney Roberts and Chas. W. Turner left by boat for Detroit on March 25, 1835, then walked overland to Chicago. There they found only Indian trails leading north (2) and started to follow the lake shore, but were soon able to board a small sailing vessel bound for Milwaukee. At that place they saw that no land near by could be taken for such a plan as theirs. They then followed the lake shore again for quite a distance, only to find the site of present-day Racine occupied by a few people with whom no bargain could be made. They continued south until, when they reached Simmons (Washington) Island and the crescent shaped mouth of Pike Creek, they thought that here they had found the right spot. They arrived on June 5th, 1835, the first white men to remain permanently at what is now the city of Kenosha. The following day they marked off claims with cuts on tree bark. Because they traveled on foot, walking along the lake shore or through trees and underbrush, since there were no roads, they were unable to bring much with them. They probably had a gun or two, a hatchet, a frying pan and some other articles that they could carry in their pockets or in a small pack on their backs. Thus their first meals here, cooked over a campfire, were eaten from dishes that they cut and hollowed out from pieces of wood.

The appointed leader of the party was John Bullen, Jr. However, at the time set to leave Hannibal, he was detained and could not leave with the other men. He soon followed on horseback and rode along the lake shore from Chicago until he came upon and joined the group on June 14th, 1835, (3) a date sometimes given as that of the original arrival.

On June 21st two wagons with several more settlers came. One was drawn by horses, the other by oxen. It had taken them many days to follow along the lake shore from Chicago until they found the camp. The sand did not make a good roadway and there were no bridges across the creeks that flowed into the lake. At that time of year these were probably high and not always too easy to ford. But the travelers knew that as the explorers were also following the lake shore, the two groups must meet at some point. One woman, Mrs. Gardner Wilson, was with this party. Here at Southport she slept in one of the wagons for two weeks, until a crude log shelter was built; the others slept under the wagons or on the lake shore. All of Mrs. Gardner's cooking for the group was done over camp fires, with an old-fashioned tin oven and a kettle hung on a pole. They ate at a table made from split logs.

Word reached the east that a place had been selected, then others came through the summer. Sailing boats on the lake, three of which stopped here that first year, (4) brought some. However as there were no piers, a sand bar blocked the harbor entrance and no lake soundings had been made as yet, these ships anchored a long way from shore. Passengers and merchandise were brought ashore in small boats or Indian dugouts. Later, A. D. Northway built three large boats or "lighters" for this use. If the lake was rough, the transfer from ship to boat was difficult, and once a small child was almost lost when it became necessary

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(1) Lyman History p. 34-35
(2) Smith Ibid p. 405 note 13.
(3) Obituary of John Bullen
(4) There was no regular schedule for shipping for some time.

to toss it to the parent already in the boat, because waves made it impossible for the boat to come closer to the ship!

One Sunday evening in early August, 1835, a boat put the Austin Kellogg family, with five children, ashore. For shelter, they were provided with a log cabin as yet without doors, windows or floors. At that time about 28 people were here. A little later that August, Elder Jason Lothrop with a son and daughter, and accompanied by several families, among them Dr. B. B. Carey (1) and wife, also arrived by boat. Nathan R. Allen (2) walked in from Chicago, as did others. The population of the village that first year was given as 32.

Many also came who did not belong to the land company. They wished to find farms, therefore did not stop long in the little village, but went further on and took up farm claims. Among these was the Henry Williams family. Mr. Williams' son afterward wrote the story of their coming to Wisconsin. The father walked from Chicago to Pike, then returned with two wagons so that he might bring his family and supplies. They apparently arrived quite late in the season, when, after a number of settlers had traveled north, the trails had become slightly more passible. But the loaded wagons came slowly and encountered much difficulty (3).

Austin Stone, who came overland with team and wagon, all the way from the East, wrote a letter dated April, 1836, that tells of his journey. Fortunately, he left Cleveland, Ohio, late in the winter of 1836, while the ground and water were still frozen. He tells of one large "slew" (slough) or marsh after another almost all the way to Chicago. And Chicago was a very marshy, muddy little town then, so bad that teams almost mired in its streets, while the way from Chicago north was also exceedingly muddy, with many marshes to cross. (4).

The experiences of another band of pioneers was told many years afterward by Wm. Edwin Smith, class of 1861, Kenosha High School as recalled by the reminiscences of his mother and grandmother: (5)

> "In the early winter of 1835-6, the main colony, including the families of some already on the ground, were ready to start on their long and perilous winter journey. It was a severe winter; four to six feet of snow covered the ground; comfortable covered spring wagons with sleeping accommodations and each with a stove, were provided for the women and children. All the wagons were mounted on sleds. (6) The men, roughing it, in turn drove the wagons or tramped with rifle on shoulder, and stood guard at night, - not only were there bad roads that often had to be cut through snow banks in advance of the teams, but there were wolves and other wild animals in the woods and prowling gangs of Indians or evil white men bound on pillage. Snow storms and cold weather impeded their progress.
>
> Crossing Niagara River into Canada at Lewiston, on through Canada to Detroit and thence through the Michigan wilderness, loading the sleds onto wagons when snow was gone, they arrived here about June 1, 1836, a

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(1) Lothrop was one of the Company organizers, and a Baptist Minister. B.B. Carey the first physician here, soon moved to Racine.
(2) Mr. Allen was to develop the largest tannery in the world for the manufacture of sole and harness leather.
(3) See story in Mms. Old and New, Vol. I in Museum Library
(4) Letter is in files of Kenosha Co. Historical Museum
(5) In Telegraph Courier, June 29, 1911.
(6) These were possibly runners that could be attached to a vehicle to replace wheels when snow so required, and vice versa. Two are in the Historical Museum collection.

journey almost unparalleled for suffering and privation, Their supplies held out and their rifles provided meat from abundant game.

In this company were Alfred Foster, his wife, two sons and five daughters with their families, - three generations, my mother, a girl of 13 years being of the third generation. There were also three generations of the Bullen family, Ann (1) (Caroline?) Bullen, mother of Joseph and Charles Quarles being of the third generation of that family.

The hardships and perils of that journey can hardly be described. It was almost a constant warfare from start to finish."

III

THE FIRST YEAR - 1835-1836

The old map of the town shows that it was located on land that lay between Lake Michigan and W. Main (13th Ave.) St. and from Broad (45th) Street to Town Line St. or Prairie Ave. (60th St.). The original plan was changed somewhat in 1839, with smaller lots and narrower streets, otherwise that section of Kenosha remains quite nearly as planned by the men of that early day.

It was fortunate that nearly all of the first settlers were young. Life was very difficult that year, and it needed the strength of youth to survive. Very few had money. One, of whom we read much, David Crossit, arrived with six cents in his pocket.

First of all, shelters had to be provided. Log cabins were built, the first of these were little more than stacks of poles. The cabins were built rather far apart, on different claims. In July, 1835, four were built north of the Creek. Later, the Kelloggs and Turners went further north, beyond the village limits, to build. Mr. Bullen built south of the Creek, where part of the Simmons Company buildings now stand, as did Warters Towsley. Others built here and there, as new settlers came. During the summer of 1835 some lumber came from a settlement further north, some writers say by boat, others that it was floated down the lake. At least it arrived and Bullen and Allen used it to erect a frame building for a residence and store near the cabin first built by Mr. Bullen. That frame building stood for nearly fifty years.

It required much effort to build any kind of a house. If it was merely a log cabin, trees had to be cut down, then the heavy logs of proper length were sawed off, squared with a broad axe, dragged to the cabin site and lifted into place after notches were properly cut at the ends, to hold alternating logs. The space between logs were "chinked" or filled with clay mixed with moss, straw, etc. If it had a waterproof roof, hand-split shingles were used, otherwise bark. Some had no floor except the hard-packed earth, others had hand-split plank. For awhile, in those first cabins, the crude door had leather hinges, and closed with a wooden latch to which a string was attached by which it could be raised from the outside. Sometimes a blanket or leather curtain served as a door for a time. The window was a square hole about 7" x 9", with cloth or skin covering, rarely glass. The fireplace and chimney were made with stones gathered from field or shore, or with handmade brick. Possibly some of these cabins were poorly built because the owner expected to build a better frame house as soon as he could, and besides,

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(1) According to other sources there seems to be a confusion of names here, - Mrs. Francis Quarles' name was Ann, while Joseph V. Quarles I married Caroline Bullen.

hands were few to help with the difficult labor of handling the heavy logs. Some of the better built cabins were used for years. Perhaps a pile of branches covered with bedding lay in one corner as a temporary bed. Because of lack of transportation it was exceedingly difficult for the settlers to bring many things at first.

If a frame building was to be erected, often logs were cut, then sawed into boards at a crude sawmill; several of these were in operation along the Creek northwest of the village in 1836. Any excavating was done with pick and shovel. The heavy frame work was notched to fit together, then secured by round wooden pegs about an inch in diameter, called dowells. Before rooms were plastered, thin boards were split to form lath and nailed into place. Even the nails were hammered out in a blacksmith shop. If ornamental frames for windows and doors, or panels were wanted,they too were made carefully by hand. Often stair rails were hand carved. The few tools used were heavy and clumsy compared with those of today.

Mr. Williams told that their family was forced to stay in one of the crude log huts - a poor one, about two miles south of Pike Creek, while the excellent house, that still stands, was being built early in 1836. Because of the hardship of that winter, the wife and mother did not see the new home completed, but died, leaving a tiny baby daughter. Mrs. Austin Kellogg, who lived north of town, was often badly frightened by Indians forcing their way past the leather curtain door to demand the whiskey that they thought the molasses barrel contained. Another family who arrived late in the Fall of 1835, tunnelled a cave into the high bank of a creek and there managed to survive the winter, but never fully recovered from the hardships. (1)

Not only shelter, but food became greatly needed. Because no one arrived until June, many later, they were not in time to break the tough prairie sod (that required a huge plough and four or five yoke of strong oxen) and raise a crop. Hay alone was plentiful. The three ships that stopped that summer and fall probably brought some supplies. Families who came in wagons also tried to bring enough supplies for several months. One account tells of the loading of a quantity of potatoes, three barrels of flour, a barrel of salt and large quantities of groceries before they left Chicago.

In September, 1835, canoes carrying a large band of Indians who had been in Chicago to receive a payment for their land, were driven ashore on Washington Island by a bad storm. The weather compelled the Indians to stay there for three weeks or longer. Their necessary hunting resulted in a scarcity of game for the settlers, who also had to share some of their scanty supplies with the needy Indians, both out of pity and to prevent trouble.

That Fall, large quantities of nuts were gathered, - black walnuts, hickory, hazel and butternuts, not as luxuries, but as a welcome addition to their food supplies. They found wild plums and crabapples, the latter described as "large and yellow". These were used in puddings to add flavor to the meat and starch diet, and were probably kept as late into the winter as possible. They undoubtedly found many wild berries as well, some may have been dried for winter use. Quail were snared and eaten.

Josiah Bond helped drive some cattle in from Illinois, and thus some families may have had milk, possibly butter. But one who was a small girl that year remembered that a stockade had been built "around the precious cow and calf that bawled with terror because of bears and wildcats that prowled outside." (2)

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(1) This man later was a member of the Wis. Territorial Assembly when the state constitution was formulated. D. Harkin, listed in "Fathers of Wisconsin".
(2) Mrs. VanAlstine's Memoirs.

Wolves howled at night on the main streets. (1)

During the Fall a fire swept the prairies to the west, and some families were compelled to beat back flames to save their homes and few possessions, even the treasured blankets were soaked with water and used to fight the fire. One woman beat out a starting fire with her woolen petticoat.

With the coming of winter, all lake traffic stopped and no supplies could come by water. Although that first winter was not too severe, it is doubtful if a trip could have been made to Chicago other than by horseback, and supplies if any, came by pack horse. A severe snow storm came on November 20th, to hide the trails and make travel even more difficult. That Fall one family with two loads of goods and supplies traveled but 15 miles out from Chicago the first day, stayed in a crowded cabin with a French and Indian family that night, by the third day they were in this county but did not reach the village until the fourth day. At some places along the way, both teams were hitched to one wagon at a time in order to get through the bad stretch of trail. When thaws came in late winter and spring, it was even more difficult to travel.

By spring many people were suffering from hunger, and a heavy run of fish in Millers Creek south of the village was a godsend to them. And when in May a ship, the Van Buren, that belonged to the Bullen families came with supplies, it was felt that the worst was over.

Then land was plowed and seed sown. Wheat grew where the Shirley Apartment building now stands at 60th Street and 10th Avenue, "but the deer ate the grain and the wolves harried the young lambs", and life was not very easy after all. Some could not stand the hardships and returned east during the first few years, among those was the Gardner Wilson family, some felt the bad effects of that first winter through the remainder of their lives. Others seemed to survive without much hurt, to have long and useful lives.

And with spring came excitement and change as more people came - one man said, "like bees", to take up land and build homes. Then came many demands on the village for supplies and there was a beginning of the lake traffic for which the settlement had been planned.

IV

LAND OWNERSHIP DIFFICULTIES

As on many frontiers, problems of land claims and law enforcement arose almost at once. C. W. Turner, who came West as a representative of the Emigration Company, disagreed with some of its plans, left his companions and took up a claim north of Pike at the mouth of Pike River. He surveyed a part of his claim into a village site that he called Pike River. Several cabins and a store were built there and for a time it was enough of a rival to cause the residents of Pike quite an amount of fear and worry - particularly when the question arose as to which river mouth the government of the United States might decide to name as the proper one for the expenditure of a harbor development appropriation.

Samuel Resique and John Noble, both experienced in land claim and squatter methods (2), came in July, 1835. They saw furrows plowed through the woods around Pike, these told them that there was not much opportunity of "squatting" on that land, that is, to take possession of a piece of land without any legal claim to it,

(1) Mms Old and New. Vol. 1 p. 144
(2) Smith, Dr. Alice P. 177 - 80 "Doty"

and to erect a building on it, etc. But when they reached the Island, then considered the most valuable part of the village, there were no signs that it had been "proved up", that is, no plowing had been done, no shack, however poor built, and no one was living on it. Resique and Noble immediately began to build a log house. Members of the Emigration Company tried to force the two men to leave, but without success. Resique went to Chicago one day for supplies and Noble was left alone at the cabin. When he saw a party of men with axes coming to the Island, he was frightened, but they did not hurt him, they merely cut down several trees, split them into rails, then built a fence around the unfinished building. This completely enclosed it, with no place of exit. When Resique returned with provisions, there were a number of men with him. After that, the fence began to disappear, a little at a time, especially at night, until soon there was none left, and the two men kept possession of the Island. The building was first used as a tavern or hotel, later a store was added. It was said that Resique could give shelter to an unbelievably large number of people in this building, but that he always served good food.

The Bullen family claimed and had planned to hold the Island, and finally an agreement was made between John Bullen and Resique whereby each kept a portion of the land. As a matter of fact, an agent of the Emigration Company had made claim to the Island as well as to other property. However, it was the practice of the Government at that time not to grant claims to Companies, but only to individuals. This policy was a cause of other land disputes. In a few cases at least, this difficulty was met by David Crossit of the Company, who would take up a claim, then transfer it to others upon arrival or when they had the small purchase price required by the United States for frontier land. (1)

"The Woodbridge quarrel" was another of the land disputes, the result of the farm claim of Mr. Woodbridge overlapping some of the Emigration Company plat. There were other cases in the vicinity of the village caused by the eagerness of some men to acquire much more land than was their reasonable share. These tried by many ways to get possession of land already rightly claimed by another. One story tells of a piece of land now in the down town section of Kenosha. The owner, when walking over it one morning was surprised to find a part of it fenced and corn growing inside the fence. He called in others to help investigate the matter. After a little, someone had an idea as to what had happened. He tore down a part of the rail fence and found the grass fresh and green beneath it, this proved that it had been built within 24 hours. Further investigation showed that the corn had been transplanted from a field in the country within a short time. Thus the squatter's scheme was defeated and the owner kept his land.

There was much quarreling and threatening with clubs, fists, etc., but no bloodshed nor killing. The only record of a gunshot wound near Southport was that of Dr. B. B. Carey, who had moved to Racine soon after his arrival here, and that was in a dispute that took place on Root River. There was also trouble within the Emigration Company itself when some members became dissatisfied. Settlers outside of the Company disliked it and were jealous of it and its holding. It did not prove to be a successful venture and the organization disbanded in December, 1836.

Although there was so much quarreling and dispute over property rights, there was no law enforcement body anywhere near, to which disagreements could be taken. There were no local police, nor a sheriff; the territorial government was far away in Detroit, Michigan, during the first year, since this was still a part of Michigan Territory. (2) But there were some attorneys among the early comers and the settlers organized into Claimants' Unions, so called. Members from these Unions

(1) Mms Old & new Vol 1, p. 129
(2) Smith, James Duane Doty, Chapter 2, especially p. 28ff.

in a number of settlements met in Racine and formed an organization, The Milwaukee Claimants Union, for Milwaukee County, which then reached the Illinois Line. Disputes over land could be taken to this Union for the appointment of an arbitration committee. This committee would hear the complaints and decide which claimant was right, much as a jury does now in a court trial.

One early writer stated that no one who really wanted a piece of land for a home, who tried to raise crops and build a house for his family, ever lost his claim here. There were others who did not respect another's claim and attempted to get too much land, who were forced to surrender some of the tract they tried to hold. Settlers came in rapidly and it was not many years before claims could no longer be found, - all of the land had owners.

V

POPULATION GROWTH AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The settlement continued to grow. In 1836 eight additional families from the Western Emigration Company came, also others who did not belong to the Company. Some of the latter became very active and influential in the town affairs. Among these, in May, were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Durkee, from Vermont, who were on their way to Milwaukee. After they left Chicago by boat a terrific storm arose and Mrs. Durkee became so ill that they asked to be put ashore here. They were well pleased with the place and decided not to go on to Milwaukee.

About that time, Samuel Hale and Orlando Foster walked from Chicago. Dr. David Walker and Dr. D. P. Stryker arrived a little later. George Kimball came from Canada. He and Mr. Durkee took up land on the south edge of town. Accustomed to "commons" in the cities back home, at an early date Mr. Kimball gave the north half, Mr. Durkee the south half of one for the new city. It is now known as "Library Park."

At first Mr. and Mrs. Durkee stayed at the Resique Tavern, later they built a log cabin in the southwestern part of the land soon to be given for the Commons, - only a log cabin for temporary quarters, but it was made of solid oak and black walnut timbers that would cost almost a fortune today. That summer Harvey Durkee, a brother, and Reuben H. Deming, a brother-in-law, with his family and Martha Dana, a sister of Mrs. Charles Durkee and Mrs. Deming followed from Vermont. Frederick S. Lovell, an attorney, who became an active civic leader, came some months later.

During that summer the men of the village worked on Main St. (6th Ave. now). As the beautiful old oaks were cut to make way for streets and homes in the town, many of the logs were dragged to the swampy land south of Park (57th) Street to make a solid road bed. Then dirt from the hill by the Creek was hauled in by men with teams of horses or oxen from the farms to cover the logs. (1) If this was to be a large lake port, its citizens thought the main street must be near the harbor.

Wisconsin became a separate territory in 1836, and Mr. Charles Durkee was the representative from Milwaukee County when the first territorial legislature met at Belmont, Wis. on October 25. He also represented this County at Burlington, Iowa - then a part of Wisconsin in 1837. On December 3, 1836 the large county of Milwaukee was divided, and Racine County (which then included Kenosha County)

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(1) These logs, deeply buried in the mud, were found over 50 years later when the street was paved.

was made from a portion of the southern part, (1)

At first mail facilities were almost non-existant. Alexis Clermont, a French Canadian of DePere was a pedestrian mail carrier between Chicago and Green Bay, with a pack of blankets on his back and a mail pouch at his side. He traveled with an Oneida Indian after the close of the Blackhawk War, but not after 1836. The trip took about a month, a distance of 240 miles. He followed a track near the Milwaukee Road (Hwy. 31). Each was paid about (2) $60.00. When a stage line to Chicago began operation, mail routes were opened also, in 1836. It passed along the present highway 31. Mail for Pike was left at the Willis Tavern or the Maxwell house, which stood where 60th Street now intersects that highway, from there it was brought to the village by horseback - when there was any to bring. It then cost 25¢ to send a letter, the one to whom it was addressed paid the postage. Money was scarce and letters few in those years!

During the year 1836 the population grew to 84, by 1840 it was 337. In 1837 the name was changed from Pike to Southport, as this was the southernmost port possible in Wisconsin. A severe, nationwide depression occurred in 1837. It continued for a few years and times were difficult. (3) Nevertheless, a number of new buildings, some of them stores, were built.

As yet the harbor could not be used. In 1837 the first preliminary survey for a harbor was made by United States Engineers, who figured costs at the present location at Southport, at Pike River and also at Racine. It was $87,000 here or at Pike River.

As lake traffic steadily increased, so did the need for a harbor. In 1837 Mr. Charles Durkee and others were sent to Washington in an effort to persuade Congress to appropriate money for the necessary work, but without success. When another attempt was made in 1840, there were many anxious days in Southport while people waited to learn the decision. Racine had also asked for aid and at first they were fearful that it might receive the appropriation. Then when it was known that it was to be used here, there were days of worry lest the north mouth of the river at Pike River might be selected. There was great rejoicing when the dredge came here, for upon the harbor depended the growth of the city. (4)

In the meantime, certain men had observed that poles driven deeply into the lake bed were able to stand the northeasters. The idea met with ridicule at first, but a pier was built through the efforts of R. C. Otis, who also built a warehouse, Mr. Cahoon doing the work. This proved successful and two other piers were built later. After that, the voice of Samuel Hale was no longer heard shouting "Man the lighter", when a ship appeared, and men could continue with their work.

Mrs. Charles Durkee died in 1839. Mr. Durkee then gave several acres at the north end of the present Greenridge Cemetery, and there the first grave was that of his beloved wife, who had loved that spot and once remarked that should she die, she wished to be buried there.

In 1840, the people decided that Southport should incorporate as a village, and

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(1) Prior to 1834, Brown Co. extended to the Ill. line. In 1834 Milwaukee Co. comprising several of the present counties separated from Brown Co. See "Wisconsin Historical" Collections, Vol. 4, p. 198.
(2) Telegraph Courier, Oct. 13, 1892.
(3) See letters of Austin Stone and Martha Dana in Historical Museum files.
(4) There was then a tremendous demand everywhere for Federal Aid, especially for harbors and canals.

the necessary Acts were passed by the Territorial Legislature. Michael Frank, who came in 1839, became the first village president. The citizens loved and were interested in their community, thus its men spent many long evenings over public affairs. They held frequent meetings, with much discussion. These often lasted until nearly midnight, with only candle lights, and in the little log school building at first.

At first, nearly all of the business places were south of Pike Creek on Pearl (55th) Street and Lake Street (later washed away). In 1839 most of the business moved to the north side, to be moved back a little later. In 1842, the settlement at Pike River ceased to exist and many of the buildings were torn down and moved to Southport.

By then, many good houses were being built, a number of them still stand. Among these is the lovely white house at 5926 - 8th Avenue, built about 1839 by Oscar and John Dana, that was then called "the little white house in the woods." Many trees stood around it and in the Commons, through these a path led to the home of Harvey Durkee, that stood at 8th Ave. and 61st Street where the Masonic Temple is now located. Mrs. Durkee had been Martha Dana, thus there was much visiting back and forth between the two homes, till a path was worn. Other houses built at about the 1840's are at 6018 - 8th Ave., 6003 - 7th Ave. and 6208 - 7th Ave. Others have been torn down recently.

In 1842, one boat put ashore a group of 60 settlers, this included many who were to become important in the development of the town. Among them were Ezra Simmons, Sr. with his four sons, one, a lad of 14 was Zalmon G. Simmons, later founder of the great Simmons Company; Fred W. Lyman and family, the Baldwin family, and others who were to help develop the town's business life.

During the 1840's, as the town continued to grow, Irish and German settlers came, in addition to people from the Eastern U. S. and from England and Scotland. These were a part of the great migration from Europe caused by the Irish famine and the political unrest in Germany. In the 1840's there were a number of cases of cholera, then the cause of many deaths throughout the country. This was chiefly among these newcomers, but the epidemic did not last long.

In 1845, another $15,000 was appropriated for the harbor by Congress. After that, the village did work on the harbor from time to time, with money borrowed, then raised by taxation. In 1847, $5,000 was borrowed. The citizens early realized the need for a lighthouse in addition to a harbor. The first was the stump of a large tree cut about 12 feet above the ground. A layer of flat stones was placed upon the top, on which a bonfire was kept burning at night. This was replaced in 1840 by one made of four posts 24 feet high, which held a sash lantern three feet square. Two or three years later a Government lighthouse was built, much to the relief of Southport residents.

Candles and fireplaces, together with somewhat primitive methods of starting the fires, were the only means of lighting, heating, cooking or doing industrial work at first. Frame buildings caught fire from time to time, with only bucket brigades to fight the fire. In the 1840's the men decided to purchase a fire engine - but this was a very weak and poor protection when compared with modern equipment. (1) The men of the village manned it quickly at work of a fire, but it was necessary to draw it and the hose cart by man, not horse, power!

In 1848, Wisconsin became a state, and Charles Durkee was elected as a member of the United States Senate, where he was active through the troubled years preceed-

(1) See letter quoting prices on fire fighting equipment, 1846 in museum files from L. Button & Co., Waterford, N. Y., also early equipment.

ing the Civil War. He had been a Free Soiler (1), now he was the first Wisconsin Senator in the newly organized Republican party.

By 1850, the population of Southport was 3,437, and its citizens had, for some time, considered the possibility of becoming an incorporated city.

VI

WORSHIP SERVICES AND CHURCHES

In much of the earliest planning for the town, Southport had close association with the church. The constitution of the Western Emigration Company was written by one minister, Elder Jason Lothrop, and adopted at the home of another, Rev. Peter Wooden. But for two months after the first settlers arrived there apparently was no public worship service of any kind.

When the Austin Kellogg family arrived on August 5th, 1835, their first act was to kneel and give thanks for their safety - since travel by lake was perilous then. That week, Mr. Kellogg met another pioneer, Jonathan Pierce and during their short conversation a religious service was planned for the following Sunday. There was no minister in the group as yet, therefore this was probably a service of song, prayer and testimony. It was held in the Warters Towslee cabin, the one built by John Bullen on the south side of the harbor.

Worship services were held regularly after this, but it is not certain who preached the first sermon. Rev. M. Robinson was in Milwaukee that year, and Rev. John Clark was traveling between Chicago and Green Bay (both Methodists), one of these may have stopped for a service. (2) Abner Barlow, apparently a lay preacher, was in the vicinity. On August 15th Elder Lothrop, a Baptist, arrived, but one record says that he did not preach until November, 1835, others credit him with the first sermon. The settlers all agreed to hold services together the first few years instead of attempting to start a number of very small church groups.

Reuben H. Deming came in the Fall of 1836. He had been a minister in Vermont, but seemed to serve here only as a lay preacher, that is he could preach but he could not administer communion nor perform a marriage ceremony. The day after he and his family arrived in Southport, a man knocked at the door of the unfinished cabin, told him that they were intending to hold a service at his- Deming's - house the next Sunday and that Mr. Deming was to preach. Then the man went on his way to invite the people. There were then about 100 living in the village and within a distance of four miles in the surrounding country - of these about 60 came. They sat on blocks of wood, on nail kegs, on the few chairs, and many stood, while Mr. Deming, standing in their midst, delivered his sermon.

When homes became too small, services were held in the log schoolhouse. A worshipper in that little log building in May, 1838 wrote to a friend back home in Vermont: "I attended church today. We had two sermons, a Sabbath School, and now they are holding a Bible class. Our log schoolhouse was exceedingly uncomfortable, crowded to overflowing. I don't know what will be done this summer to accommodate our congregation - the pressure of the times is such that people think it doubtful whether we get a chapel this season." (3) When the school was outgrown,

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(1) The Free Soiler Party strongly opposed any extension of slavery as new states and territories were formed.
(2) History of Methodism in Wis. Rev. P. S. Bennett.
(3) Letter from Martha Dana, later Mrs. Harvey Durkee.

the academy auditorium was used. In 1837, when there were 144 people in the town they continued to hold the Sunday services together, with perhaps a Congregational, a Baptist, an Episcopalian or a Methodist clergyman speaking to all on alternate Sundays. But by then, the various denominations began to form their own little groups, with week day evening meetings in the homes for worship or business.

When the town was planned, a lot was set aside as a gift for the first denomination to erect a church edifice. This went to the Methodists, who in 1840 decided to build and who may have done some of the excavating that year. Times were hard and members few, these probably gave work as they were able. Martha Dana, a member of that congregation wrote "Oh, it's terrible times here, no money in circulation but "wild cat" and counterfeit, people who have hundreds of dollars in Michigan money are really suffering for plenty of provisions." It was June, 1842, before the little church was ready.

At the same time, the Episcopal church was under construction. There is a record that the men of the church went into the woods, cut down and squared the heavy timbers needed. This was ready and dedicated on October 15, 1842, and was called St. Matthews.

Neither of these churches stood on the site of the present day buildings. The Methodist Church was built on what is now 6th Avenue between the Dayton Hotel and the flatiron building. When the street was extended some years later, the church was moved to the northeast corner of 7th Ave. and 60th St. St. Matthews at first was on what is now the civic center, midway between 10th Avenue and Sheridan Road. It was later moved to the southeast corner of 56th Street and Sheridan Road.

The Methodist and Congregational groups continued to meet together, at times the Baptists joined with them, but in October, 1842, the Congregational group began to plan for a building. In September, 1844, after some delay, their church was completed. This stood north of the Creek at the northeast corner of 50th Street and 8th Ave. It was later moved across the Creek to a site on what is now the Civic Center.

There were a number of Irish families here by that time, and they too, were anxious to have a church building. They were given the use of a house at the northeast corner of 58th Street and 8th Avenue owned by the first Catholic settler, Bernard McLaughlin. This stood until a few years ago. In 1842, Rev. Fr. Martin Kundig was transferred to Milwaukee from Detroit. He soon found his way to Southport and the 32 families here, whose only opportunity for religious services had been when Father Bondieul came from near Fond du Lac. Soon after Father Kundig's visit, the land on which St. James Church now stands was acquired. The men cut the required timbers in the woods, brick was brought from Racine by farmers, who gave the use of their ox teams, and the church building was started. The basement was used for celebrating Mass in the Fall of 1844; the building was completed in 1845. It faced Sheridan Road and was called St. Marks.

Baptist services were held in the log schoolhouse for a part of the time before its sale in 1840. They then met from place to place. They too, attempted to build in 1840, but for some reason could not go ahead with the project. Finally, Mrs. Ann Quarles gave the lots at 59th Street and 8th Avenue for church use only, and building began about 1844. The work went slowly for several years. Each one did what he could, gave work if he could not give money, the record reads. All other churches, Protestant and Catholic, helped, and the church was dedicated July 11, 1849.

The very fine co-operation that existed between all denominations for many years is shown by a record of the old St. Marks Church. At a business meeting it was resolved that they "tender their most grateful acknowledgment to their Protestant

fellow citizens for their liberality in subscribing toward the erection of our church"; then followed a list of names of many members in all of the other churches. And when in the Fall of 1843 the Episcopal rector, Rev. F. H. Hatch, presented St. Matthews church with a bell, it was hung with a general gathering of the village, "people of all denominations lending a willing hand," and the record says that the "same willing hands rang it continuously the first 24 hours!"

Thus through mutual good fellowship and co-operation all of the five downtown churches were erected and in use during the period that the town was known as Southport.

There was another church organized during this period that met from place to place, sometimes in public halls, occasionally in the village hall, but which did not erect a building. This was known as the Excelsior Church (1) and was attended by some very prominent families, the Charles C. and C. Latham Sholes' among others, people who wished to attend church, but who were somewhat more liberal in thought and did not care to go to any of the other five.

All of these churches required hard work and sacrifice from their people, because congregations were small and money scarce indeed. Some of the salaries of their pastors were met by means of donation parties. For these, the congregation would meet at the parsonage, when each family would give a quantity of food stuffs, wood for heating, etc., probably not too satisfactory for the pastor's family, but then quite a necessary way of contributing toward his salary.

VII

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

Many of the earliest settlers were quite well educated for that day; they enjoyed reading and a refined way of living. Therefore, it is not surprising to find that "keeping schools" were among their first activities. With at least one group, school began before the village was reached. There were ten children among the families who came with Elder Lothrop in August, 1835, including Mr. Lothrop's 15 year old son and 11 year old daughter. The sailing ship took four long weeks to make the trip from Buffalo, N. Y. to Pike, Wis. During those weeks, classes were held every day, with Sunday School session on Sundays. (2)

That winter Elder Lothrop taught 27 pupils at a private school in his log cabin - it must have been crowded and uncomfortable. (3) All of these did not come from the village, some were from farm families near by. The Kellogg children skated the three miles down frozen Pike Creek. A record tells us that Mr. Lothrop ordered two dozen English Readers, Smith's Arithmetics, and six Kirkham's Grammars that Fall, those were undoubtedly used in the school. Elder Lothrop was evidently a very well educated man, well qualified to teach, not only English, but Greek, Latin, German and French. (4) After a little time, he had his library of several hundred volumes here in his frontier home.

In the winter of 1836-37, Mr. Lothrop moved into the township of Pleasant Prairie (now within the present city limits). There he held school for the children of that neighborhood. A Miss Maltby had a private school at the north edge of the

(1) This was perhaps the forerunner of the Unitarian church in Kenosha.
(2) Lothrop in Kenosha Telegraph, May, 1869.
(3) Lyman History, p. 18.
(4) Michael Frank Diary.

village. In 1837, the first schoolhouse was built - of logs, - and was known as the block school. It was near the site of a building now known as 5617 - 6th Avenue, and a Mrs. Allen was the first teacher there. This was not a public school, as we know it, but a rate school, each family paying according to the number of its children attending. Families who had no children of school age, or whose children did not attend, paid nothing, of course.

This little log schoolhouse was described as follows: It was made of logs hewn on the inside, a floor of unmatched boards, a door with wooden hinges, and a ceiling of loose boards. A row of writing counters ran around the room against the wall. These were used for elevated seats on public occasions when the room was filled with a larger number of persons than could be seated on the benches. The room was about 20 x 20 feet. As there was no public hall, it was used about every night for some gathering of business, worship or amusement, and for church services.

Reuben H. Deming was much interested in education, and when Michael Frank arrived in 1839, both men worked, spoke and wrote in an effort to have a better school system. Mr. Frank and C. Latham Sholes (1) became joint editors of the local paper after 1840, and thus had a good opportunity to keep the cause of good schools before the public, not only in the village but also in quite a large surrounding area. Newspapers were few and Southport was a trade center.

About 1838, William Bullen erected a large frame building near the creek, somewhat north of the site of the present Vocational School building. That year, Rev. Martin P. Kinney, a brother-in-law of Mr. Frank, opened a select school there. This incorporated as the Southport Academy in 1839, was probably the first incorporated academy in Wisconsin. (2) Louis P. Harvey, a newcomer, who had taught for two years at Woodward College in Ohio, was the next principal and supervised it until 1844. The pupils who attended were probably about the age of our Junior High school students now, some may have been older. The books they studied were very different, although the subjects were: reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, geography, chemistry and natural philosophy. The charges were $3.00 per quarter for higher branches, $2.00 for common school studies.

Another select school or academy was kept for a time by George Stebbins in the basement of the new Methodist Church, in the early 1840's. Later a Mr. Adams also had a small academy in a house that stood at the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and 59th Street. This seems to have eventually merged with or taken the place of the Southport Female Seminary, an institution toward which the leading men of the village began working in 1843, when a constitution was adopted. According to some records, its classes began the next year. (3)

Wisconsin became a separate Territory in 1836, and a representative was sent from Southport to the Territorial Legislature. Col. Frank's newspaper campaign for free schools came to a test when he was the representative in 1844 and introduced a bill providing for the establishment of free schools in Wisconsin. The bill failed to pass, but in 1845 he did succeed in securing the passage of a bill that permitted free public schools only within the limits of Southport, when agreed upon by a majority of the legal voters. This caused a great deal of excitement in the little town. Many did not wish "to pay for the education of other people's children." There was so much discussion and disagreement that the first meeting broke up without a vote

(1) He was later the inventor of the typewriter.
(2) Wisconsin Historical Collections Vol. 5, p. 347.
(3) This eventually became Kemper Hall.

being taken. But at a second meeting, the bill was accepted and a free public school opened that summer. It is said to have been the first free public school west of the Allegheny Mountains.

Vacant rooms were sought for the school, Father Kundig offered the use of the St. Marks Church basement and the first sessions were held there. John Bullen Jr. equipped the room. He hewed logs and fashioned furnishings. Elder Jason Lothrop was the first teacher, with only eight pupils at first - people feared there was a "catch" in it. (1) Reuben H. Deming was so busy in a school at about that time that he was absent from an important meeting elsewhere, and it may be that he did at least some of the teaching. (2)Mr. H. Spurr was also a very capable teacher there.

This free school continued more or less regularly; later, in 1848, Wisconsin became a state and its statutes provided for a free school system everywhere. When these statutes were written, Michael Frank, one of a committee of three appointed for that purpose, was chosen to write the portion concerned with free school laws.

There were two school houses built between 1840 and 1848; the little white schoolhouse, that stood on the site of the present St. Matthews Episcopal Church, was probably a rate school at first. The other, according to J. H. McMynn, was built on the north side of the Creek, about where the Weiskopf School now stands, and was the first free public elementary school building erected for that purpose. A high school building was built in 1849. This brick building cost $5,500. It was 70' x 43', two stories in height, with room for 400 students. It was dedicated July 20th. The Wisconsin press heralded it as one of the most modern structures in the conception for the free education of our children. There was more pomp and ceremony at that function than ever before in Southport. Josiah Bond, Charles Clement and Z. C. Graves, the first principal, spoke. The Southport band provided the music. The site was the gift of Sereno Fisk, Sr. but did not comprise the entire block, along 11th Avenue between 57th and 58th Streets, only the western part. (3)

Figures show that Col. Frank and R. H. Deming were right in their campaign for more and better schools. Of 653 children between the ages of four and sixteen, only one-third were in school. There were two districts, but only one schoolhouse which occommodated about 50 children, although there were 350 in the district. There were many small private schools in homes, where children were taught for a fee, Mr. Deming said there were 11 in 1845. Many of the children attended these, otherwise they would have had no school training. Those who maintained these private schools generally had good educations and excellent characters. J. G. McMynn (4) taught a private school during the winter of 1848. In June he took charge of the public school in the North Ward, Professor Z. C. Graves taught in the South Ward. These two men worked together to organize graded schools in Kenosha, their plan in many respects became a model for other graded schools in the state. (5)

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(1) Kenosha Telegraph. Leo Peter Johnson "Stuffed Saddlebags". Lyman, P. 127, quoted from Frank's Diary.
(2) Kenosha High School Annual, 1903.
(3) Kenosha High School Annual, 1903, p. 9. The remainder of this block was purchased little by little through the 1860's, '70's and 1880, until the city owned the entire block except a lot in the south east corner. This was purchased in 1893 for $2,200.
(4) John G. McMynn later became Superintendent of Public Instruction for Wisconsin.
(5) Wisconsin Historical Collections, Vol. 5, p. 346.

Not only were the residents of Southport interested in schools, they also believed in good reading material. A few had excellent libraries in their homes. The little Methodist Church found it difficult to support itself, but it built up a Sunday School library of 500 volumes, other churches also had libraries. A small public library was opened in the 1840's with Mrs. and Miss Duff for librarians. It had about 750 books by 1850, and grew to nearly 1100 volumes before 1852. Many of the books were gifts from citizens of the town. (1)

A letter written by Mrs. Martha Dana Durkee in 1836 tells of her hunger for something to read here on the frontier, -anything, no matter how heavy or dry, - that was perhaps characteristic of many of the settlers. Some of their activities indicate this.

VIII

PRINTING AND NEWSPAPERS

Elder Jason Lothrop was one of those fortunate people who know how to do many things. When the Claimant's Union was organized, some printing was needed, but there was no printing press in Wisconsin except the one at Green Bay. About March, 1836, the Elder built a crude press, using a box placed on a stump; he made type and ink also, then, with a ball and roller to distribute ink, and press the paper upon the type, he printed the Proceedings of the Union, both as a large single sheet and as a pamphlet of about nine pages. He later did other printing, according to his own statement. His was undoubtedly the second printing press in the state, the other was the one used to print a newspaper, The Green Bay Intelligencer, as early as 1833.

With little knowledge of world events except when word was brought by travelers or by occasional letters, the people were eager for a newspaper. In 1840, C. C. Sholes bought the old Green Bay press, decided that Southport was the best place in which to start a new paper, and shipped it here. He did not edit the paper himself as he was busy with newspapers elsewhere, but employed his brother, C. Latham Sholes, to do this. A little later, Michael Frank became associated with Sholes on the Southport Telegraph. (2) Thus our first newspaper was started by the inventor of the first practical typewriter and by the man who is known as the "father of Wisconsin education". The first issue was on June 16, 1840.

Both the north and south sides of town wanted a newspaper, and when one was published on the south side, the north soon followed with another, the Southport American, in September, 1841. For a time after 1843, Louis P. Harvey, later governor of Wisconsin, was connected with the editing of this, which added a third to the group of capable men editing newspapers in so small a town. This paper ran until October, 1849, when it was discontinued.

A copy of Volume 1, Number 1, Southport Telegraph, W. I. is still in existence. It was a small four page paper, published weekly, terms, $2.00 per annum, payable one half yearly in advance. Advertising cost $1.00 per square, 17 lines, for first inserting, 25¢ each additional insertion. The paper contained mainly national and world news, with very little about local affairs - everyone probably knew what was happening to his neighbors before the paper came out, anyway! A marine record of the number of ships arriving and departing at Southport was given for the 10 days

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(1) A catalog of this library is in the Kenosha Co. Historical Museum files.
(2) From the 1850 census, and obituary records, C. C. Sholes was 23, C. Latham Sholes 19 or 20 and M. Frank 33 at that time.

previous to June 16, - thirteen ships in all. The mail schedule, also given, tells how seldom this was received or sent out. South and east mail departed on Mon., Wed., Fri. at 3:00 p. m.; arrived Sun., Tues., Thurs., at 6:00 p. m. Western mail departed Thurs., 7:00 a. m., arrived Sun., 5:00 p. m. Northern mail departed Mon., Wed., Fri. at 4:00 a. m., arrived Sun., Tues., and Thurs., at 6:00 p. m.

The advertisements are the most interesting items in that paper for us today. These occupied a large portion of it in comparison with its size, and included part of the front page. They tell us a great deal about the town, what the people bought and sold, also what many people did. We learn who were the attorneys and doctors, real estate dealers, etc. One doctor, Jas. S. Munson, stated that he had had "much experience with fever and ague and bilious fevers generally," and that he would at all times be moderate in charge and lenient with those not able to pay. This indicates something of the diseases most common in the new country, and of the financial situation.

In 1842, Edward Young began the publication of a literary magazine, The Garland of the West. Agents for this were listed for all of the larger cities of Wisconsin, from Green Bay to Mineral Point, and from Chicago to Princeton, N. J. The subject matter was very much like that in many magazines of that day, heavy and dry, very few today would be tempted to read it. Only six copies are said to be in existence today, and they are collectors' items. Edward Young was somewhat of a poet, or at least a rhymester, and if his disposition was like one of his rhymes, he did not let the lack of success of his magazine make him bitter:

"My purse is light, but what of that,
My heart is light to match it,
And if I tear my only coat,
I laugh, the while I patch it."

IX

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

In this community both business and industry began in the summer of 1835. As noted before, there was the Bullen and Allen store, and Resique maintained a tavern and store. Sawmills were built along the Creek, a cooper shop quickly went into operation because tubs, pails, barrels, etc. were needed, all made of wooden staves, and by hand. As soon as a few cabins were built, the occupant of one near the lake shore began the manufacture of hand pressed brick. Blacksmith shops were needed and opened at once.

Soon shoemakers were busy, later on, hats, caps and probably gloves were made by hatters. Wagons, also other farm implements were made as well. Today they look very rough, heavy and difficult to use. At first a harness and saddle shop was in the same building in which window and door frames were worked from the native timber, later other harness shops were opened. Frontier cabinet makers built the required furniture, also coffins, since they also served as undertakers. A tailor shop made men's clothing. By 1838 there were four stores in operation, all on Pearl (55th) Street east of Main (6th Avenue). Others were opened latter on Main Street.

As early as 1843, there was a bakery, the Southport, owned by Wattles and Irish, where bread, sea biscuit, common, fancy, water and Boston crackers, rusks, ginger bread and cake were made and sold. A brewery, operated by A. Spicer, provided beers and ales that year. Founderies were very necessary for the manufacture of many things in common use, such as sleigh shoes, fire dogs, cauldron kettles, and many household and farm implements and articles. Gradually, many other small

industries were started, until there was a busy little shop on almost every corner of what we now call the down town section.

In 1847 an Artisan's Guild was organized, called the Mechanics' Protective Association, that foreshadowed organizations yet to come. It was a secret society, its members subscribed to an oath of secrecy. Its announced purpose was "to establish a library, create mutual interest and a friendly feeling among mechanics, elevate the tone of our morals and excite an interest in each others' welfare, and to make a provision in case of sickness and distress." In reality, it was to protect its members from financial loss through poor financial practices. (1)

This county and the counties to the west were raising great quantities of wheat. In 1840, Whiting & Co. had a warehouse at the wharf, and offered cash for 15,000 bushels of wheat. This also served as a storage place and headquarters for the sale of farm produce. It was taken over by C. I. Hutchinson & Co. in the spring of 1843. The Durkee family and others also had warehouses for this purpose. The Durkee warehouse held about 1500 bushels. At first the flouring mills were all further west, but about 1842 these began to operate in Southport as well. The latter not only supplied the local trade but made flour to ship elsewhere.

There were a number of taverns or hotels. At first Elder Lothrop and the Crossits kept a boarding house in a log cabin during the first winter. The American House, Deacon Whitney's log tavern, the Kenosha Ceepee House, later the Mansion House and the Wisconsin House were some of these. In 1848, the Durkee House, a large brick building located where the Bode Furniture Company building now stands, - 5431 - 6th Ave., was built and was one of the best hotels in Wisconsin. At that time, hundreds of families were moving west and many travelers stopped at Southport, some to locate permanently, others to continue on their way further west or north. About the late 1848's or '49's, another brick building, the Runals House was erected at the northeast corner of Wisconsin and Main Streets (58th and 6th Ave.).

As the country became more settled, the town became a busy place, a trading center for a stretch of country that extended as far west as Rock River. Sometimes wagon trains brought lead from mines as far west as Galena, Illinois, when it was destined for some lake port or was needed here. Business places became somewhat larger, although much of the business was still by barter, that is, by exchange of articles instead of by money payments.

When new goods arrived, it was a newspaper story, and was indeed an item of interest to many. An account of the Great Western, a boat that brought a shipment of goods, gives us an idea as to what the stores kept for sale then; the ship left black, blue, claret and brown broadcloths, black, drab and mixed casimeres, moleskin, Penn Jeans, Coaguanock Cassimere, bleached and brown sheeting, English and American prints, brown and white linens, dress and bonnet silks, Swiss and book muslin, cambric, blond thread Bobt. (2) edgings, black lace and crape; Pic nic China and kid gloves; fancy handkerchiefs, shawls, cotton & worsted hose; Leghorn and straw bonnets, etc., etc. In foods it left teas, sugar, molasses, coffee, pepper, spice, ginger, rice, raisins, dried apples, 250 bbl. salt at $2.50 per bbl., etc.

Things became more plentiful and living was better than at first as Southport village life neared its close. And its citizens still watched hopefully as new families arrived, new houses were built, and business places and industry increased,

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(1) The record book with oath, membership and minutes is in the Kenosha County Historical Museum.

(2) Probably an abbreviation for Bobinette.

but their hopes and ambitions still were centered on the city's becoming a bigger and busier lake port.

X

RECREATION AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

It is good to be alone occasionally. In fact, a little loneliness may be very good for one at times. But in the early settlements on our frontiers, people were often too lonely. They were separated from relatives and friends, with wide stretches of uninhabited country around them. With no telephone, no movies, no television, poor roads and no boats from November to April, no newspapers, or, after 1840, only a four page one weekly, they were far from contact with everything but their own little community or similar ones some miles distant.

We can imagine that those people were glad to do things that would bring them together. Recreation and some laughter were necessary if they were to endure the first few hard years. Therefore, they made their own amusements. After long hours of hard physical labor, they undoubtedly were better satisfied to do things that did not call for too much bodily activity. Those were intelligent people who apparently endeavored to find something that would occupy their minds.

There was a singing school, led by Nathan Dye, who was a shoe maker by trade, but who loved music so much that sometimes he would forget his work as he called children into his shop from the street and taught them to sing. The lyceum was another favorite entertainment. People would meet in the little log schoolhouse to listen to debates by some of the well educated leading men of the village. We would think some of the debated subjects queer today: "Is Phrenology (1) of any Service to Mankind?" and "Ought Females to be Tolerated as Public Lecturers?" There were several Lyceums under different names and leadership at times. A Mozart Society met at the school house on Fridays "at early candle light" for several years.

Another evening amusement was a spell down in a contest to see who could remain on the floor the longest without misspelling a word as increasingly difficult ones were chosen from the quaint old spelling books. Or a writing school taught style and gave practice in the beautiful penmanship of that day.

At times, groups of women would meet together for an afternoon to sew, quilt quilts, prepare apples for drying, or do other work together, for one another or for a church society. Occasional the men came later for supper and to spend the evening. Parties were given in the homes, though at first the refreshments were perhaps scanty or queer. One account tells that raw turnips were passed, together with a knife with which to scrape them for eating. It might have been that, with the unbalanced diet of the first winters, those turnips provided some food quality or vitamin required by the body and so were really satisfying and a treat. (2)

The Fourth of July always called for a big open air celebration, with songs, a long patriotic or political speech, and of course a dinner or a picnic meal. Christmas also meant visiting, with as good a dinner as could possibly be cooked and much fun, although it was much simpler than today. The few gifts were usually of a practical and useful kind. Rooms and trees were not ornamented with the beautiful trimmings that we have today, but evergreen boughs were placed around windows, doors and fireplace mantles. If there was a tree, a few home made ornaments or strings of popcorn were used for decoration.

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(1) This taught that character and ability were indicated by the shape of the skull.
(2) In the play "Tobacco Road" the craving for turnips caused a murder.

On farms outside the village, there were evening husking bees, where, in a lantern lighted barn, or if warm, by moonlight, both men and women worked at stripping ears of corn free from the dried husks and stalks. If an ear with red kernels was found, it gave the privilege of a kiss to the young couple working together.

Story telling, spiced with humor and exaggeration, often characterized a gathering of men. Abraham Lincoln, of course is the outstanding example of that phase of frontier life. For a few years, the light at these evening gatherings was provided by candles. The effect must have been dull and gloomy at times, but wit and laughter helped to make the affairs cheerful. Later, kerosene lamps and lanterns provided better lighting.

Church meetings were a source of pleasure as well as of worship because they, too, brought the settlers together. There were picnics, with the lunch cloth spread on the ground and the picnickers seated around it on blankets. Men frequently pitched horseshoes during an afternoon visit, or at picnics. Many did not approve of dancing, but after some of the better homes and public halls were built, balls or dancing parties were given occasionally for friends.

In addition to these, the pioneers also found many things to be active in, and about which to get excited. And they frequently became very excited over the events of their daily life. Mr. Frank once wrote that "the value of property in Southport does not depend so much upon its worth as upon popular excitement," that is, for example, when they thought a harbor appropriation was to be made by Congress for this community, there was excited buying of land, if they feared the Bill would not pass, land did not sell.

Slavery still existed in the South, and that was a subject that awoke deep feeling and much discussion. A Liberty Association was organized about 1840, and its Convention met here in 1844. Temperance was another movement in which there was great interest. A Temperance Society was formed shortly after the first settlers arrived, later others were organized. As better communication was established and a paper published, politics became a very serious question and arguments became frequent and heated.

A County (1) Medical Association was also formed as early as 1840, and was active. The majority of the officers were from Southport. A year later an Agricultural Society was organized, with some of the meetings in Southport, others in country taverns or villages. R. H. Deming and Michael Frank took an active part in this movement also.

The decade of 1840 was a period when many little communities or groups, some religious, others not, were formed with the hope of creating an ideal and perfect mode of life. One of these originated in France, and was called the Fourier Movement, from the name of the man who started it. Southport people became much interested, and a group called a Phalanx, was formed here. Apparently nearly everyone in the town was interested and contributed time and money, even if he did not actually join it. At one time, 30 men went from here to the settlement near Ripon, Wisconsin, called Ceresco, to prepare the place for their families, who followed. This was somewhat communistic or communal, not quite in the sense that we use that word today, but in a finer way, with an attempt to have a perfect, entirely unselfish community. This was the only one of such communities to really succeed - it succeeded so well financially that it defeated itself, the property was divided among the members and the communal system ended. (2)

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(1) This included what is now both Racine and Kenosha Counties.
(2) Quaife, M. M. Lake Michigan

There were other new movements or fads that swept over the country and Southport residents gave time and attention to most of these. One was the study of Phrenology - the supposed index to character and indication of the type of work one would best succeed in by the shape of the head. Mesmerism (1) was new and that "must be investigated" wrote one man. Spiritualistic meetings with rappings and other happenings received a share of interest as well.

Then when far distant events led to a war with Mexico in 1846

"At wagon bench, at anvil
Men heard the battle cry,
To farm, to forge, to girls they loved
They said a long good-by.

No time now for laughter,
No time now for tears,
Gone the bright and gleaming hopes
Of brave young prairie years

Thru chaparral, thru pedregal
Men marched to meet the foe,
Toss your hopes behind you!
Toss your youth behind you!
Santa Ann's waiting
On the heights of Mexico!" (2)

Wisconsin was still a territory, thus was not expected to furnish troops. But in 1847 the Territory was called on for a company. Each recruit was to receive $12.00 upon enlistment, $7.00 a month while in service and either $100 or 100 acres of land at the end of his term.

In May, 1847, over 100 soldiers under Captain Augustus Quarles from Kenosha became Company E, 15th Regulars, U. S. Infantry. The company left by Lake steamer from Milwaukee for Detroit. There they received uniforms, and passed down the Toledo Canal to Cincinnati, where arms were issued. Then on to Vera Cruz by way of New Orleans. (3) In about a month they joined Gen. Winfield Scott on the march to Mexico City. This company was under terrific fire at the battle of Churubusco, where one third of the company fell, dead or wounded. Among them was Captain Quarles, a brilliant young man of 26, who was shot while leading his company in a difficult charge, the first American officer to die. Later his body was returned to Southport and a monument erected by the Legislature of Wisconsin Territory, the Village of Southport and his family.

The decade closed with the intense excitement of the California Gold rush, and many from the county were swept westward by the lure of wealth. And by the close of the period, theatrical troups were presenting entertainments and plays. Circuses, as well began to appear during the summer months, the first in 1845.

With all of the activities and all of the work of development, here as in almost all frontier settlements, there was one thing that was foremost, and that was a sense of neighborliness and helpfulness that brought aid and comfort in times of illness, loss or trouble. This was freely and cheerfully given, without thought of recompense, when there was need.

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(1) Hypnotism
(2) Line o' Type , Chicago Tribune.
(3) A boat the Southport, carried them across the Gulf of Mexico. See Wisconsin Magazine of History Dec. 1943.

PART II

NOW THEY CALL IT KENOSHA

1850-1935

XI

SOUTHPORT BECOMES KENOSHA AND BUILDS A RAILROAD

1850 - 1860

The year 1850 brought many local changes. A realization of the need for certain advantages and a growing pride brought a request for a charter as an incorporated city to the State Legislature. This was granted on February 8, 1850. When the town assumed the status of a city it took a new name, really its original name, Kenosha (Pike).

Upon petitions of L. G. Merrill and others, William Tucker and 99 others, presented by Mr. Hale, and of H. Rogan and 122 others presented by G. M. Robinson, separation of Kenosha County from Racine County was asked. There was some opposition, especially from the Board of Supervisors, but the bill was passed with a provision about public buildings, on February 8, 1850 also, when the Indian name was taken for the new county.

The Southport village government, W. S. Strong, president, continued until after the April election of 1850, when Michael Frank was elected the first mayor of Kenosha, and Charles C. Sholes its first city clerk. There were new aldermen from each of the three wards, while four trustees from the old village organization took their places with them to form the new council. On April 5, 1850, the first meeting of the new city government was held, President Strong administered the oath of office to Mr. Frank, who then swore into office the other city officials; his inaugural address followed.

The second meeting of the new Council took place the very next evening, to decide how to meet a crisis that had arisen, the so-called "wheat riot." C. I. Hutchinson, operator of one of the large wheat warehouses, had met with financial difficulty and failed in business. He had issued receipts to farmers for wheat received for storage, evidently with some inaccuracies. When a writ from the U. S. Circuit Court ordered him to deliver 1900 bushels to an Ohio man, the wheat owners became suspicious and alarmed lest they lose their property. Many came into the city armed with clubs, pitchforks, axes or anything at hand, gathered around the warehouse, or met in angry groups on the streets. Serious trouble threatened. The city had no ordinances giving anyone power to act, no police force nor any other provision for such a situation. At the April 6th meeting, a Resolution was passed that empowered the mayor and city marshal, Jacob McKinney, a man of advanced years, to do all they could to prevent disturbance of the peace and destruction of property. It instructed Mayor Frank to issue a Proclamation that would impress upon citizens and others the importance of observing the law, and also assure the farmers that their legal rights would be preserved; that the removal of wheat under a writ from the U. S. Court did in no way impair their means of legal redress. Mr. Frank was called upon several times to address the men and reassure them as best he could.

Upon Mayor Frank's first visit to the middle warehouse, the scene of trouble, he was met on the way by a number of business men who advised him to select several strong men, arm them with clubs and forcibly expel the men engaged in carrying away wheat. He knew it was unwise to attempt to control such a body of excited men with clubs, and declared also that he would not have his first act as mayor one of violence if other means were possible, that he would go to the warehouse unarmed and see what reasoning could do. He and Mr. McKinney approached the warehouse where about 20 men were filling bags with wheat and carrying them to wagons outside. His courage rather failed when he looked in at the door, but an Irish friend saw his hesitation and called out to him, "Come in, Col. Frank, not a hair of your head shall be hurt." He asked for attention, the men stopped work, he expressed sympathy for those who were suffering, pledged that the city authorities would do all they possibly could to secure the rights of those wronged and begged

for delay. The men threw down their bags, vacated the warehouse, and Marshal McKinney fastened the doors and nailed boards over the windows outside. Saturday there was much threatened violence, one man even counseled the burning of the warehouses. Again on Sunday violence and fire threatened and the Mayor was summoned from a church service. Wheat, claimed to be the property of a buyer from Cleveland, was being removed to a vessel. The Mayor could only once more appeal to reason. The work of removal by the farmers was stopped, the more willingly because it became known that U. S. Judge Miller of Milwaukee had ordered two companies of militia to Kenosha to protect property and restore order. For in the meantime, a messenger sent to Milwaukee had given an excited account of the event. Then people came in from all parts of the county and excitement ran high. The militia remained in Kenosha for a day or so until quiet was restored and the men had returned to their farm homes. Quiet was gradually restored, but the ill feeling provoked lasted months and years. (1)

Upon separation from Racine County, Kenosha had no public buildings except a rather poor frame one, used for a city hall, and practically no money. In February, 1850, the citizens met at the Durkee Hotel to discuss erection of a county building. The permission for the division of counties given by the Legislature contained a provision that, because the residents of the southern part, or Kenosha, had already been taxed to pay for the Racine County Court House, they could not be again taxed to provide money for the erection of another; that if Kenosha was to have a court house, it must be built by subscription. A site was given by Sereno Fisk, and the first court house was built by private subscription, which probably included labor and material as well as money. The site was that of the police department building today, at the N. W. corner of 8th Avenue and 56th Street.

By June the construction of this combined courthouse and jail was started. It was of brick, measured 40' x 60', three stories high, with a dome in the center. The basement was used as a jail, the second floor was the sheriff's living quarters and office, the third floor was a court room. This building was completed by the Fall of 1850. (2)

After the April 6th meeting, the City Council met frequently to work on its many problems. There were a few needy families who must be cared for, roads and bridges were badly in need of repair, furniture was required for the city hall, ordinances that would give the city government power to act in various situations as they arose, were necessary. Fire and health protection, all demanded attention. Apparently very few or no sidewalks had been built as yet. Now these were laid, little by little, over a period of time, the first piece decided upon by city action seems to have been along the north side of 58th Street from 6th Avenue to the then new high school. Walks on 6th Avenue followed. These were of plank, with occasionally a short stretch of brick walk.

Sewers, so-called, were discussed, and some were put in, though they were evidently little more than drains or even open ditches, with perhaps some field tile laid, to drain the rain water off the muddy streets and from stagnant pools. One, from a hotel on 55th Street east of 6th Avenue to the lake was of better construction and covered, with drains from other buildings connected, the first attempt at real sewer service.

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(1) Mary D. Bradford "Memoirs, Lyman History p. 98ff. Kenosha Telegraph and Frank's Diary.

(2) Another building, now the police department garage, was built in 1870 for the county clerk's and register of deeds' offices, much later it became the municipal court. It was not another court house but an unattached addition to the first.

A building was destroyed by fire, after that, church bells were rung as a fire alarm, and an award of $1.00 was offered to the first person to do this in case of fire. New fire fighting equipment- an engine, undoubtedly hand operated, with 300 feet of hose, was purchased in July, 1850, in August a brick reservoir 15' in diameter, 14' deep, located at the northeast corner of 56th St. and 6th Ave. was built for fire use. Early in 1851, a request sent the Legislature for permission to incorporate a volunteer fire department was granted and companies were organized. Many prominent business men were members.

In July, 1853, a platform on the bank of Pike Creek, large enough to permit an engine to draw water from the Creek was authorized by the Council. Additional reservoirs were built near 46th St. and 7th Ave., at 8th Ave. and the Creek; at 56th St. and 11th Ave., at 10th Ave. and 59th St. and at the S. E. Corner of the public square. In May, 1854 the worst fire yet to occur in the city showed how necessary these were. The Durkee Hotel barn, David Crosit's wagon shop, Yates & Chisholm's washboard factory and Glover's lumber yard were burned, the result of children playing with fire. "Thanks to the skill and energy of the firemen" (1) the fire did not spread farther. The following spring, a cupola with a fire alarm triangle was added to the city hall, and a new and larger reservoir, 25' x 12' built at 56th St. Gradually more equipment, and housing for it, was provided.

Today we smile at some of the Ordinances passed by the City Council in those early years. Some compelled restraint of cattle, swine, geese and horses within the city limits, very necessary when people depended on gardens for fresh vegetables and fruit, and the enforcing of cleanliness on streets was a matter of health. Once 16 hogs, the property of one of the most prominent men of the city were impounded when on the streets, and he was forced to pay a penalty to recover possession of his swine.

A Gambling Ordinance was passed. A Board of Health composed of the Mayor and one member from each of the three wards was appointed at a very early council meeting. Cholera cases occurred again that summer (1850). (2)

In July, 1850, an effort was made to find a building for a temporary city jail, and an Ordinance was being drawn that would permit the city to provide police protection, when an exceedingly brutal murder occurred. It happened in the then better residence section, near the Mayor's home. With Mayor Frank's assistance, the murderer was arrested before he could leave the yard where the crime was committed. He was in the Racine County jail for a time because that of Kenosha County was still under construction and there was no place available.

This man, John McCaffary, later faced trial in the new court house here, was convicted and hanged. The gallows was erected about half a mile out in the country, near the present 67th St. and 14th Ave. The morbid excitement of the great crowd that watched the execution, (3) the burning editorials and articles in the local paper, and the efforts of C. Latham Sholes, then state assemblyman from here, and others, brought about a Statute in 1853 that, ever since, has prohibited capital punishment in Wisconsin. (4)

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(1) Kenosha Telegraph
(2) Frank's Diary, also newspapers.
(3) Tradition says the death took eight minutes.
(4) Wisconsin Magazine of History Summer, 1952 and Local Circuit Court records.

Shortly after this murder, a basement that seemingly had been used for a store, was rented as a city jail, and six watchmen were appointed - with no pay except when allowed by the Council. The City was then paying its bills with scrip (notes to be later redeemed with cash, as and when money was obtained from tax payments). With the exception of Milwaukee, Kenosha had been the most prosperous, fast-growing place in southeastern Wisconsin, then came a change. There were several years of crop failures, added to the feelings of ill will from the Hutchinson affair. The town stopped growing, business slowed, people moved away, some stores and houses were unoccupied.

In August, 1851, the city almost lost its city hall. The owner of the land upon which it stood failed in business and the land passed into the hands of a creditor. The new owner not only refused to renew the lease, but threatened to bring suit for $1,000 for trespass. It was decided to move the building and, tradition says, its removal from the old lot was done during the night, when it was placed on a part of Market Square (56th St.) which at that time was only half its present width.

The harbor's usefulness was still limited. Early in 1851, the harbor debt was $4,228. The citizens voted to levy a tax of $10,000, that the work might continue. City script was issued for this purpose in 1851, bearing 12% interest. By 1855, the city was beginning to turn to the Simmons family for aid when help was needed. Several times loans were obtained from Mr. Simmons when money was required to continue work, -without remuneration, it is said, other than the payment of the loan. There were also Government appropriations occasionally, but newspaper sources suggest that these were not always wisely spent- the money was not turned over to the city, but was used to buy materials at excessive prices, which left little for salaries. In 1857, in addition to a $5,000 tax for the harbor, bonds were issued for $10,000 with 10% interest, for a ten year period. By then, the "highway" of sand, 10 to 12 feet wide, originally at the entrance, had been removed to a depth of five or more feet, much clay had been removed from the bottom of the harbor, two good piers built of piling filled with stone, also sheet piling driven down on the inside of the harbor, but dredging continued. By 1859, a channel 11 feet deep had been dredged along the north pier, this would admit the largest vessels then on the lake. That year it was necessary to levy only $1,000 for the harbor. But time after time the question of an additional tax or loan had been presented to the vote of the people and it had always received a large majority in favor.

By 1854, lake erosion was eating away land dangerously; owners attempted to build breakwaters in an effort to save their homes, and the city was asked to do the same at the ends of streets. Later, piers were built out at the ends of 58th and 59th streets, as it was believed that they would stop the erosion. In 1859, Senator Durkee built a breakwater along his property, now a part of the Kemper Hall grounds, that cost $6,000.

Some years after Kenosha's founding, railroads, that had first been built in the East about 1830, began to push westward. Finally, in 1852, two reached Chicago. Soon sections of the lake states were experimenting with them until it seemed that almost every little city wanted its railroad. Kenosha was no exception, and when there was prospect of a lake shore railroad, it immediately became very interested. Traffic, commerce and good mail service continued to slow greatly when winter stopped the boats, but it was still generally thought that waterways were the main means of transport, and that railways would only be feeders for them.

In 1852, the city council was asked to take immediate steps to secure the completion of this road; the citizens voted to give the credit of the city to raise (1) $5,000 for the harbor, (2) $5,000 to pay on present city indebtedness and $100,000 for the Green Bay, Milwaukee & Chicago Ry. By December, Col. Frank noted that the prospect of a railroad inspired some business confidence, also the preliminary

steps toward the establishment of a bank. (1) A conference held in Milwaukee that month gave a good financial report, the contract was let to Wm. Wright and Jas. Mallory for the portion from Milwaukee to the Illinois line, completion to be by January 1, 1854, the cost $18,000 per mile; already a charter to the Railway Company had been granted by the state.

Then followed a period of impatient waiting for work to begin, and of fear lest Illinois might not build its part from Chicago to the state line, although it, too, had received a charter. In August, 1853, ground was broken on 13th Avenue south of 60th Street. The city gave the railroad the right to build through and across its streets and to occupy streets for the maintenance and operation of its road, the grades to conform to established city grades. By December, 1854, the road from Chicago had reached Waukegan, and on May 18th, 1855, Mr. Frank wrote:

> "A great day on West Main St. (2) Besides more than 100 workmen on the road, large numbers of spectators filled the sidewalks.
>
> May 19, 1855 - The ceremony of laying the last rail on the Lake Shore Road was performed this A. M. at 10:30 o'clock. A short speech was made by the Mayor of Chicago, also the Mayor of Milwaukee. Flags were raised, cannon fired and bells rung. A large crowd in attendance. At 11 A. M. seven passenger cars from Chicago, containing a large number of citizens of Chicago and Waukegan, started for Milwaukee. Over one hundred went from Kenosha, myself among them. The ride was a free one, invited guests went. The excursion returned from Milwaukee at 6:00 P. M. without accident."

In October, 1855 the Road began the erection of a depot, near 52nd Street.

In the meantime, Kenosha people became worried about the trade from the west, especially so because other railroads were in prospect: one from Janesville to Chicago, another from Racine west, etc. Business was watched anxiously, any additional families in town noted, and it was a period of tension and fear lest the city lose in the race for commercial success. In March, 1852 at Kenosha's request, the Legislature gave authority for it to aid in building the Kenosha and Beloit Railroad running west. A referendum election asking for a bond issue of $150,000 for that purpose had but one dissenting vote. In May, 1853, the Council Resolved that a first mortgage be placed on the railroad, not to exceed $10,000 per mile. In August the Railroad directors agreed to this for the first 15 miles, to include all depots, warehouses, etc. located in Kenosha. There was some opposition voiced, especially by farmers, as the county was also pledged to help. The newspapers did all possible to awaken and keep alive enthusiastic support of the road.

In November, 1853, work began near Fox River, with 270 men employed, but it was not until November, 1854, that ground was broken inside the Kenosha City limits. The dirt removed from the roadbed within these limits was used to fill parts of the ravine (3) near the present down town section. Locally, business had improved, now there was a good harbor, new buildings were under construction, old ones were repaired, manufacturers had enlarged, shops had been refitted. At one time in May, 1854, -a busy time on farms, -104 teams were counted on Main St. (6th Ave.) at one time. The fact that conditions throughout the country were

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(1) A bank was opened as soon as the State banking law went into effect. In March, 1855, a second bank opened. These were known as the Kenosha City Bank and the Kenosha County Bank.
(2) Now 13th Avenue. From Diary.
(3) This was probably the one enclosed as the Bailey Canal.

better might partly explain this.

But by March, 1855, work on the railroad had slowed, and finally stopped entirely. A feeling that prospects for the road were bad threatened to bring about a local depression. A meeting in July endeavored by volunteer effort to raise $50,000 in the city and $100,000 in the county but failed. Then a referendum election was held, that proposed the levying of a tax of $150,000. The city vote was 212 for and 22 against the tax. The amount of voluntary subscriptions, $84,000 as yet unpaid, was to apply on the payment, which left $66,000 to be raised by tax. In April, 1856, orders on city credit of $22,000 each, for one, two and three years bearing 10% interest, were delivered to the Railroad officials. But more money was needed, there was difficulty in securing the iron necessary for construction. To procure this, thirty or forty of the principal business men of the city gave their individual notes for $30,000, payable in six months.

By the Fall of 1856, the laying of tracks in the city commenced, by the end of the year, these had been laid for two miles west from the harbor. The Company then owned three locomotives. After 12 miles were completed, the supply of iron was again exhausted.

Taxes began to go higher and higher. Those of one man rose from $18.00 to $57.00 in one year. Prospects of still higher taxation slowed real estate sales and "discouraged many people in respect to the future of the city." In 1857, a local census was taken, the population was 4,065 and it was decided not to publish the figures as they fell so far below expectation. There had been some improvements-Quarles' new warehouse, Kimball's new block, (1) and a dwelling, but no enterprise of importance.

One of the worst periods of money scarcity in the history of the country thus far came in 1857. Money nearly ceased to circulate, old companies failed, business became stagnant, trade almost impossible. The Kenosha merchants appealed to farmers who had full granaries, to permit these local merchants to forward the wheat to eastern markets and account back to the farmers for the proceeds. (2) The merchants were to make no charge for their service, but would use the receipts in payment of the farmers' indebtedness. But in 1858, a crop failure added to the distress.

In 1857, the Railroad consolidated with the Rockford and Mississippi Road, henceforth it would be known as the Kenosha & Rockford Road, with a goal of building to the Mississippi River. The Kenosha Mayor was authorized to take the Road's first mortgage bonds at 65¢ on the dollar as security for payment of railroad script, it was also decided that principal and interest on bonds numbered from 1 to 70 in a new issue, amounting to $35,000 would be paid by the city.

Early in 1858, a suit for payment of railroad script due in 1857 was commenced against the city. It was also forced to make an interest payment so that the city's credit record might be kept up to its standard. A. B. Smith (3) of Kenosha, who was on the Board of Directors, went east in the Spring of 1858 and succeeded in procuring the iron needed to enable the work to proceed. First mortgage bonds amounting to $120,000 were turned over toward its cost, the payment of interest for the first three years was guaranteed by 50 Kenosha citizens! The road was completed nearly to Genoa City, then work stopped again because of lack of iron.

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(1) The building now known as 5628 - 6th Ave.
(2) Up to 1857 about 6,000 Wisconsin farmers mortgaged their farms to help build railroads. Derleth, the Milwaukee Road, p. 25ff.
(3) This man was in some way connected with the laying of the Atlantic cable. Letters from family.

Kenosha citizens were despondent because of poor business prospects, many predicted the ruin of the city "on account of taxes to pay for a railroad that does no business." The Railroad committee report in March, 1858, gave the entire amount of script issued as $79,000, some had been redeemed by the 1856 tax, but about $60,000 was still outstanding. About $7,000 due a year before was then unpaid, and over $26,000 in principal and interest should be paid soon. Over $15,000 and nearly all script to become due in 1859 was pledged by the Railroad Company as collateral and was not in circulation. The first mortgage bonds held by the city amounted to $85,000, with the additional interest - $6,000. And the road was not yet completed: the last twelve miles remained. Rockford had completed its part to Harvard, Illinois, by the end of 1859. When the two roads joined, it would give the people living further west a direct connection with Lake Michigan.

Then the taxpayers began to hold meetings to discuss the railroad taxes levied, and mortgage holders met also. An additional reason for worry were the decisions of certain judges, who held that mortgages issued for Railroad stock were void, that Companies had no power by charter to exchange stock for anything but money.

Early in 1860 came an injunction suit in regard to harbor and railroad tax, a bit later another suit for $5,000 was filed in the U. S. Court. The City Council then voted to employ a city attorney to handle these and other suits. F. H. Head was chosen,-the salary - $100 per year. Another action in the U. S. Court gave a little hope - the decision was that the Racine railroad bonds were valid, and Kenosha's bonds were similar.

Someone burned the railroad bridge at Bristol and a pile of lumber at Woodworth, this added to costs and delays. The road gave some service. Trains ran, but irregularly, or for special events. Those who attended a Republican meeting in Pleasant Prairie, July 3, 1860, and others who took part in the Fourth of July celebration in Kenosha were given half rate fares. An excursion to Genoa City was for many the first visit to that place. One excursion is described thus:

> "The train was made up of flat cars with seats of plank arranged along the side, shade being afforded by oak and poplar saplings from the woods nailed to the edge of each car. The ladies on the excursion went dressed in their prettiest clothing, many wore white dresses. In the open cars, with the wood burning engine belching smoke and cinders, those dresses were in a deplorable condition on their return."

For some time the road received little mention, then in July, 1860, a newspaper headline read: "AN OLD SUBJECT REVIVED." This announced that through the efforts of its President, iron had been secured for completion of the road and paid for, including freight charges; ties contracted for; a little later it stated that 500 men were wanted for steady employment. Soon the iron began to arrive by boat, the engine depot at the wharf was enlarged and cars began to run on regular schedule- one into Kenosha in the morning, returned west at night, this gave the passengers the day in the city.

In late November, 1860, a special train to Genoa City carried the principal bond holders, mainly from New Jersey, and several Kenosha Citizens, to examine the work and see the country. They left at twelve noon and returned a little after 3:00 p. m., very fast traveling for that period. They were highly pleased with the road and delighted with the country. But winter came and slowed or stopped the work on that last stretch of road so that it could not be completed that year.

At last in May, 1861, the road was done. The news article commented in announcing this that before the first division of the work was completed years before, a financial crisis had swept over the country, that Kenosha was small and not over-

stocked with capitalists, (1) but its citizens had taken hold and carried it out, when many other railroad projects died. A year before this, Z. G. Simmons was elected president of the Railroad Company. He disposed of his mercantile and other businesses that he might devote his entire energy to this. He had the assistance of men like C. C. Sholes, A. B. Smith, F. W. Lyman, Josiah Bond and others.

Soon it was said that the road was already doing a "snug freight business." The first passenger train finally went all the way to Harvard, where passengers were served dinner at the Ayer Hotel. (2) The first run to Rockford was on July 4, 1861. By midsummer, long trains of lumber and other freight went out over this road.

During the years changes had come. Records suggest that a spirit of irritability, fault finding and quarrelsomeness had crept into public affairs; the city council meetings were stormy, other organizations were likewise affected. People had become pessimistic. In an election in the Fall of 1860 the question of raising money for harbor work was voted down. Some began to see that if Kenosha was to grow, other than lake port business must have a part, industry must develop.

And industry had not been at a standstill. In 1854, investigation showed that there were 26 industries, with yearly business that ranged from $1,000 to $40,000. Two or three industries that had begun in a small way were thriving and growing in spite of all handicaps.

The Congregational Church had been moved across the Creek on the ice, and a German Lutheran Church erected on its old site. St. George Catholic Church had been erected. The free congregation first known as the Excelsior Church continued, and Rev. Jason Lothrop preached there quite regularly.

The town had not lacked for newspapers. There was a short-lived Kenosha Democrat in 1850-51, another in 1859-61. (3) The original Telegraph continued publication and merged with another, the Kenosha Tribune in 1853, a few months after the latter started. The Kenosha Times was founded in 1857 by D. C. McVean and Isaac D. George.

Interest in education had not lagged. The Sister of Charity school on 58th St. near St.Marks (4) was open in 1853. Lectures on educational subjects were given in various school houses under the auspices of the Kenosha Co. Teachers' Association. The city leaders visited the public schools frequently and always at examination time. Examinations were evidently largely oral. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction came to conduct these at times. At the close of each term there were special programs, speeches, etc., sometimes a banquet at the High School. In 1859 twelve teachers were employed for all the city schools. A Normal Course was given at the high school, this included the theory and practice of teaching, higher arithmetic, physical and descriptive geography, analysis of language, algebra, geometry, natural, intellectual and moral philosophy, English literature, vocal music, elementary sounds (5) and calisthenics. The requirement was that anyone must be

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(1) Those were not yet very wealthy as we count wealth today.
(2) The Ayer family had been early Southport residents. A son, Edward E. Ayer became very wealthy. One hall in the Chicago Museum of Natural History bears his name and was financed by him.
(3) For a time the editor was Sylvanus Cadwallader, whose diary served as the basis of the book, "Three Years with Grant."
(4) Now St. James.
(5) Phonics

16 years or older and pass a good examination in the elementary branches to take this course.

A new building for elementary work was erected on the high school lot. One year Senator Durkee not only sent 56 volumes for the public school library, but, with a colleague, visited the school and addressed the students. He advised character building and praised the free schools. An illustration of the interest in good instruction was given when a dispute arose between the high school principal and the superintendent of schools, the latter a former pastor, not trained in school methods and work. The School Board decided that it was easier to get a new superintendent than a good teacher and voted to ask the former to resign at the end of the year, with the understanding that the Board expressed no opinion in the controversy. As the high school grew, the old academy closed and the buildings were used for a "Water Cure" (1), with good medical attention.

Further disaster struck the city in the Spring of 1860. A fire that started in the City Hotel barn burned the Hotel and contents, the inmates barely escaped. This spread over the section north of 56th Street, until 26 buildings were consumed, not including barns. Less than two months later, another fire started in the barn on the east side of Sixth Avenue near 58th Street when there was a strong east wind. This burned almost the entire down town section south of 58th Street. The Racine Fire department came to assist. It was thought that both of these fires were started by someone, and not long afterward the proprietor of a hotel was caught while attempting to start a third fire, probably with the view of destroying his competitors. The two fires had destroyed almost the entire business section, and little of their contents had been saved in many instances. However, most of the business men began to rebuild at once, better buildings and many of them more nearly fireproof.

Though there had been troublesome days, everything had not been gloomy during the years. The Young Men's Christian Association held regular meetings, with debates. St. Marks Church organized a literary society. There were concerts and lectures, a chess club, a Turn Verein. The fire companies and the Kenosha City Guards gave balls and suppers; many circuses came. Before the fire that destroyed the Runals House (2) occured, soiries were held there. When money was scarce and business dull, there was more leisure time and more activity socially. There were balls, parties, hops, benefits, etc. Sleighing parties were followed by Oyster suppers. Church socials, benefits and donation parties occurred.

Political interest increased as the presidential election neared in 1860, with Abraham Lincoln a candidate, and the feeling between the northern and southern states increasingly tense. There were many meetings and much speech making.

An editorial comment on local affairs that year is still worth thinking about. (3)

> "If leaders do not furnish any evidence of superiority in business and intelligence, more honest regard to the rights of neighbors, a more earnest interest in the welfare of the city, then their claims to public favor and their willingness to assume the government of the city are not entitled to more than ordinary consideration."

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(1) The Pennoyer family were in charge.
(2) A Hotel at the northeast corner of 58th St. and 6th Ave.
(3) Kenosha Telegraph

XII

SHADOWS AND WAR

1860-1870

In Kenosha, as throughout the Nation, the year 1860 cast shadows of troubles and suffering to come. Anti-slavery meetings continued in city and county, but it is interesting to note that the city's leading newspaper made less outcry against it than it had in previous years. Although it still condemned slavery, the editors apparently saw in occasional southern events a slight indication of a weakening of its hold- the judgment of some present day historians. However, they did see and were greatly concerned about, the threat of secession and the breakup of the Union.

About the middle of October, 1860, Senator Douglas, Lincoln's opponent, spoke from a train at the Kenosha depot. An unintentional interruption caused him to lose his temper, rebuke a local organization and probably injure his own cause. The Wide-awakes a group of young Republicans, were standing near the front of the train and could not see that the Senator had stepped onto the rear platform and was speaking. When someone beckoned to them, their little band struck up a march as they moved down the platform, thus drowning out the speaker. Mr. Douglas "gave them a piece of his mind," and remarked that it was the first time he had ever been insulted while speaking.

Upon Lincoln's election in November, 1860, articles concerned with disunion and secession filled the newspapers. A German paper was then published in Kenosha. It brought news to the newer German citizens who did not read English readily. These new-comers held a No secession, No Compromise Ball at Wilden Hall on the northside, in early February, 1861. But during that month secession and the new Southern Confederacy became a fact.

In Kenosha, the flag was raised, a cannon brought out and a salute of 34 guns fired for the Union (1) on Lincoln's inauguration day, March 4, 1861.

April 13, 1861, Fort Sumter was fired upon by Southern guns and war began. April 15 a telegram to the Legislature in Madison announced that the Park City Grays were ready to leave for service on three days notice. When this message was read from the Speaker's Chair it was received with bursts of applause both from the Legislative Assembly and from the crowd in the lobbies and galleries. The Grays was composed chiefly of high school boys who had been in training under Capt. Donald C. McVean. Other volunteers were accepted to make up the required number for a company.

April 19, 1861 a meeting "to take measures to meet the crisis" was called at the court house. The City Council voted to give $500.00 and in an hour $3,543, a large sum then, was pledged for the fitting out and equipment of troops. That first Sunday, martial music played all day, the streets were thronged, and patriotic sermons heard in all of the churches. And immediately the ladies were busy preparing bandages, lint and necessities for wounded men. They also worked day and night to make a beautiful silk flag (2) that was presented to the Park City Grays (3) in a ceremony in Library Park, April 27th, the day they left for camp at Milwaukee. Attorney F. S.

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(1) One for each state, including those seceeded.
(2) Now hanging in the Mary D. Bradford High School.
(3) Kenosha was known as the Park City for many years, probably because while it was yet very small, there was the park now known as Union Park on the North side and Commons or Library Park on the South.

Lovell, an older man, and W. W. Reed attempted to form another company, the Kenosha Union Guards, - 60 joined but later the effort was given up and many of the men entered service elsewhere. Later such a company was formed.

Now Kenosha's problems were heavy indeed, as it, like all the nation, faced a terrible war and at the same time struggled to meet its own financial difficulties. The city owed heavily on bonds and script, a debt that had been entered into in good faith, and that few of its citizens wished to repudiate. One holder of $40,000 had offered to settle for 50¢ on the dollar, other holders would not. It seemed that some adjustment would be necessary, because currency had so depreciated. To make matters worse, army worms were in the wheat that summer and it was necessary to cut it when only half ripe. Grasshoppers followed the army worms.

In spite of these difficulties, war activities went ahead. The doctors of the city offered free service to the families of men in service. Ladies made up boxes of supplies for the army and for hospitals.

In August, the Park City Grays, who had been a part of the 1st Wisconsin Regiment, came home when their three months' term of enlistment was over. They had been in a battle at Williamsport and seen other service in Maryland and Virginia. Thus the young lads looked worn and weatherbeaten. Over 1,000 persons attended a picnic in their honor at Twin Lakes. Then the Company, under Capt. McVean, began filling up again with recruits. Some of the original group rejoined, others returned to high school. In September, another Union Defense meeting was called, 60 or 70 men enlisted in the Park City Grays. These encamped here for a week, they named their camping place Camp Simmons.

Another company (1) was under enlistment for a German Regiment. An Irish regiment was also recruited. This was Co. B. of the 17th Wisconsin that was known as the Irish Brigade. Prof. H. J. McMynn was commissioned a major and young Dennis Hynds (2) became a 2nd Lieutenant. Rev. J. McNamara of St. Matthews Church went with the 1st Wisconsin Volunteers as a chaplain.

Also on the roster of Kenosha men is found the name of Elmer E. Ellsworth, Colonel of the Fire Zouaves. Col. Ellsworth, a very picturesque character, who accompanied Lincoln to Washington, recruited and trained this company. He lost his life, the first officer of the Union forces to do so, when he tore down a Confederate flag from the roof of a hotel at Alexandria, Va. (3) on May 21, 1861. This aroused country wide excitement at the time.

In August, 1861, Capt. Daniels of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry came to Kenosha seeking volunteers. In Nov. 700 or 800 cold, tired, hungry men of this Company under Capt. T. H. Marrs arrived and received a warm, hearty breakfast at the Durkee House. Many were ill, suffering from measles and exposure. Most of the sick remained at the Durkee House with local Dr. A. Farr in attendance. This regiment camped on elevated ground south of the city, now a part of Green Ridge

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(1) Many of these were in Co. C. of the 26th Wis. Infantry. Among battles, they had a part in that of Peach Tree Creek, one of the bloodiest battles before Atlanta where 27 men were lost in less than 45 minutes. Kenosha Tel. June 25, 1864.
(2) He became in turn 1st Lieut., Capt. in 8th Ill. Cavalry then on staff of Maj. Gen. Sumner and Maj. Gen. Pleasanton. Later he was made Brevet Col. of U. S. Vol.for meritorious service. He saved the lives of two or three high ranking officers.
(3) Rebellion Record. Mms Old & New Vol. 11, p. 125.

Cemetery, where the sandy soil helped to avoid mud and dampness. It was named Camp Harvey in honor of Wisconsin's governor, a former Kenosha teacher. (1) Captain Thos. Conatty, principal of the High School endeavored to raise a company of teachers and students as a part of this regiment. The men were housed in patent Sibley tents, that held 15 men each. These were heated with cast iron stoves. A good quality of food was provided.

Although there were eight full companies and two not quite completed, they had only 200 horses at first, brought by the men, and only part of the uniforms needed. In February a benefit ball was held for them at Simmons Hall. By Spring the Company had 1,150 men uniformed, armed, equipped and well drilled. In March, 1862 it left for St. Louis, Mo. It saw service in Missouri for many months, and later took part in Sherman's march through Georgia. Six young Kenosha boys, Horace Baldwin, Charles Dana, Henry Lines, Douglas Newell, William Shepherd and Walter Stebbins enlisted in Taylor's Battery in Illinois. These were in the battle of Belmont, the capture of Forts Henry and Donaldson and the battle of Shiloh. (2) In May, 1862, in an effort to aid the soldiers who were suffering from exhaustion, exposure and need of supplies after the battle at Shiloh, Gov. Harvey of Wisconsin lost his life. Some of the boys were also at the siege of Vicksburg and in the Red River campaign, as were other Kenosha County men.

In Sept., 1862, Att'y. F. S. Lovell received a commission as Lieutenant Colonel. Messrs. Cook, Stetson and Scribner were busy recruiting. F. Newell recruited Company H, 33rd Regiment, of which Joseph Linsley of Paris, this county, became captain. He lost his life in action later.

In July, 1862, Mayor Robinson called a mass meeting to raise $3,000 for bounties- $3,416 was given. In addition to this Dr. A. Farr gave 160 acres of land, and Jos. V. Quarles 80 acres. Mr. Hinsdale gave $100 to be paid to families of recruits at the rate of $2.00 a week. The newspaper comment was, that men felt freer to go after that gift, as they knew their families would be cared for! Z. G. Simmons, prior to this, had given each volunteer $5.00 in gold. Kenosha's quota of men at this time was 742. An effort was made to fill each call by recruits instead of by draft- a matter of patriotic pride.

Now Kenosha began to realize the toll of war as lists of casualties began to come, and boxes of clothing that had belonged to the boys lost in the 1st Wisconsin Regiment were sent home. Reports told that this company had shown great gallantry in action. Scott, Tibbitts and Capt. McVean came home suffering from wounds. Time soon brought casualty lists and wounded men from other regiments.

All through 1862 and 1863 came calls for more men, more money needed for bounties. The townships as well as the city were contributing both. Lectures, benefits, citizens' balls, military concerts, all contributed to this fund.

In May, 1864, following another call for men, a war meeting was again held in Simmons Hall, when many leading older men gave freely of money for bounties and 47 men enrolled as a result. A few days later more money was raised in the county and men were called to serve for 100 days, 75 responded. Joseph V. Quarles the 2nd, now of military age, drilled a group of high school boys and led them as volunteers, into service, the largest group of high school youths in any company. Mr. Quarles was commissioned 1st Lieutenant, Robert Graham, county superintendent of schools became captain and Horace Gaylord, principal of the grammar school, 2nd lieutenant. They left for Tennessee the middle of June and were in action in

(1) A boulder in the cemetery marks this place.
(2) See letters of William Shepherd, in Kenosha Co. Historical Museum Library.

Mississippi by the 14th of August.

There was recruiting, drafting and money raising all that summer. Many volunteers were needed to replace the men in camps who were sick and dying of scurvy. During the war, as news came of the very bad conditions in army sanitation and in army hospitals, particularly around Knoxville, people sent box after box. These contained not only clothing and old soft cloth, but also food stuffs. The latter were mainly pickles, sauer kraut, fresh vegetables, canned fruits and jellies, so badly needed to combat scurvy, the result of a diet too largely composed of hardtack, beans and salt pork. Dr. P. S. Arndt, from Kenosha, was in constant service from the Spring of 1861 until March, 1863, with but 8 days lost, before he received his first furlough of 15 days. Mrs. Louis P. Harvey, widow of the late governor, also a former Kenosha woman, Cordelia Perrin, did so much to ease the suffering of the wounded and sick soldiers, including a direct appeal to President Lincoln, that she became known as "the Wisconsin Angel."

But all the people at home were not helpful nor even loyal. There were many who were in sympathy with the south. These, in some localities became a real menace to the northern cause. The nickname for these was "Copperhead", and there were some in the County. At one time the National flag was pulled down and dishonored in a community in the western part of the county. As time neared for the presidential election again, these became very active in an effort to defeat Lincoln.

Finally, in the Fall of 1864, the 1st Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment returned to Milwaukee and was mustered out in October. It had served three years and had lost 450 men out of 1,000.

The year 1865 began with more calls for men and money. But at last came the day when Richmond, the capitol of the Southern Confederacy, fell. John T. Shepherd, long a colorful figure of the city, drove down the main streets with an extra flag on his express wagon, hurrahing as he went. Men left stores, offices and shops, ran into the streets swinging their hats and cheering. All the flags in the city were up, all the bells rang, all the steam whistles of the factories screamed, everything that would make a noise was used. Public schools were dismissed, poems were written. Kenosha had sent all of her musicians and martial music, all her artillery and artillery men to war, so it had to use bells and tin pans. In the evening bonfires were burning, stores and houses were lighted, there were torch light processions and a quickly planned party was held at Simmons Hall.

In writing of this great news, one local editor added this comment:

> "The lesson of war is that eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, the safety of the Republic lies in the intelligence of the masses."

Shortly after, came word of Lincoln's death. There were no newspaper headlines, but there were heavy black lines down every column of the papers. The paper told the story thus:

> "All business was suspended, stores and offices were closed, all public buildings were draped in black. Many residences hung flags at half mast, bells tolled for an hour. Sunday all churches were draped in black, most of them held commemorative services. Sunday evening a union meeting was held in Simmons Hall."

On April 19th, in keeping with the proclamation of the Governor, a meeting was held at Simmons Hall at noon. In spite of the pouring rain, a great procession formed on 56th St. marched about the down town section to the Hall where a service was held. Many could not find room in the main hall and the halls and stairs were crowded. The bells tolled from 12:00 to 1:00 o'clock.

In June, 1865, more veteran regiments came home. These soldiers were the special guests of the 4th of July celebration, and brought three battle stained flags, one, of the 1st Wisconsin was pierced by about 40 bullets. Another with a broken staff, had been carried by L. N. DeDiemer of Kenosha until he was wounded three or four times and lost an arm. These men related stories and told of conditions that caused horror in their audiences.

During the war the city had raised $50,950, had filled every draft and had sent an additional 200 men. For soldiers' aid, the final report showed $3,448.38 spent and in addition to clothing and other supplies, it had sent 140 barrels of pickles and vegetables to aid in combatting disease.

Although the war was over, feeling did not become normal for a long time. In the United States Congress feelings were tense and this was reflected here as the citizens took sides in the stormy controversy over President Johnson, likewise in the attitudes toward the negroes or "freedmen".

In 1866 at least two Kenosha men attended the Philadelphia Convention- I. W. Webster and J. H. Kimball. Two representatives had been sent to this from each state and territory, the first meeting since 1860. The mid-term election was very important in this time of controversy between Pres. Johnson and Congress. On the President's behalf this convention was called in Philadelphia, where safe leaders from both north and south could fraternize as reconciled brethren. With Dixon and Doolittle of the Senate as co-speakers, the National Union Convention as it styled itself met Aug. 14th; Sen. Doolittle of Wisconsin was the presiding officer. The report of one of the Kenosha delegates stated its purpose as "To consult together how best to cement and perpetuate that Union which is again the object of our common love and thus secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

In 1866, C. C. Sholes submitted a report to the Wisconsin Legislature in favor of a vote at the next election on the question of universal suffrage irrespective of color or creed (but women were not included!). That year six colored citizens did vote in Kenosha, this was permitted through action taken by the State Supreme Court in 1849. And all military service did not cease. In the Spring of 1865, Kenosha men went with the 30th Regiment against Indians in the northwest. Again came reports of inadequate food- the only vegetables obtainable were said to be wild onions! In 1867 Capt. E. G. Timme received his commission as Brevet Captain because of gallantry in action at the battle of Chickamauga, Ga. Sept. 19-20, 1863. A Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) post (#73) was formed here in 1868.

As time for a presidential election approached, many became warm supporters of Gen. Grant and Grant Clubs were formed in both City and County. Others, of course, were as strongly opposed. Locally, Dennis Hynds, youthful hero who had engaged in business here upon his discharge from the army, was elected mayor in 1866. By 1867 local politics were becoming less partisan, party lines were ignored and three Republicans and three Democrats were elected to local offices. By then the negro question was fading into the background and the discussion of temperance and Sunday observance was again coming to the fore. Also, interest was kindling in regard to woman's right to vote.

With war at an end, attention could again focus upon other matters. Few improvements had been made for several years. In the Spring of 1866 many houses were improved and repaired, manufacturing increased and there was some demand for new houses. As frequently happens in time of war, schools had become overcrowded. In 1865 the school enrollment was 841, but the average attendance only 600. In 1862 Miss O'Niel's room had 70 to 80 pupils, and a little later she was given an assistant. In 1867 there were 15 teachers in the public schools. In 1866 attention was called to the substitution of female teachers during the war, apparent-

ly with surprise that they had succeeded so well in government as well as in education, and compared well with the former schools taught by men. For years from a column to a half page of the newspaper was given to the use of the county superintendent of schools. There were also several private schools in operation. Kate Wheeler and Frances Baker were two who conducted such schools.

The former Female Seminary had evidently been discontinued for a time. In 1865 an effort was made to re-establish such an institution and money was raised under the auspices of the Episcopal Church. The large house on the lake front, erected by Sen. Chas. Durkee, was secured and that Fall it opened, filled to capacity. It was called St. Clair's Hall at first and incorporated; by 1867 it was known as Kemper Hall. Soon another building was erected.

By 1868 the newspapers began again to stress the value of free schools and to pay tribute to their service. There was also much comment about the large groups of youths who lingered on street corners, became rowdyish, delinquent and dangerous, instead of attending school.

The Unitarian Church erected its first building, that was dedicated in 1868 on the site of the present Boys and Girls library. The German Catholic congregation erected the St. George Church on its present site, and the German Lutheran group had a building on the site of the first building of the Congregational church.

The City had other pressing problems. Commerce might be good on the lake, but the local harbor needed additional work. Congress responded to a petition for an appropriation with $75,000 in 1866. With this the north pier was extended 192 feet and the south one 352 feet, with dredging between to the depth of from 11 to 12 feet. The harbor business doubled between 1866 and 1867, and the Goodrich steamers were giving service. The Government built a new light house in 1866.

Attention was again given to other local conditions. Streets needed improving, especially on the north side, where new walks, etc. were necessary. Hay stacks, gardens and other obstructions were ordered removed from the streets. An ordinance was passed in 1866 for the purpose of restraining a citizen from plowing on 58th Street. One comment reads: "Mud is the prevailing ingredient on our streets, on our crossings, on our sidewalks and in short - everywhere."

The city hall, so-called, had long been an eyesore. It was described as " a dark, forsaken, portentous looking structure, apparently standing almost directly in the public thoroughfare. It once bore the high sounding title of city hall, but what might be its appropriate name now is questionable. It may have its uses, but these could be quite as well retained if thrust less conspicuously upon our gaze." In 1866 a council room was rented in the County Bank building for $50.00 per annum. Finally, in 1868 the old building was moved from the center of Market Square (56) where it had stood since its removal from the Kimball land in 1850.

On the social side, life was not entirely drab and sorrowful during these years, many of the usual recreational activities were continued, in addition to the war meetings. As the boys came home, baseball increased in popularity, many circuses came, an amateur dramatic club was formed, a dancing academy was opened. Dramatic and musical programs came to the city, a Horticultural Society was formed. Agitation began for a circulating library.

Fire continued to take its toll. In August 1865, the buildings on the east side of 6th Ave. from 5611-15 (Simmons Hall) to 56th St. and thence east on 56th where there were many frame structures, burned. The reservoir on 56th St. was exhausted and the firemen were helpless. In June, 1866, the Allen Tannery burned. The firemen could not save the frame building but did save the hides and also prevented

the fire from spreading to adjoining property. Two days later the Park City Match factory burned, though two drying houses were saved. The firemen did not have sufficient hose to save the rest. And in Nov. 1868, Vogel's steam fire mill burned, in building, grain and machinery a loss of $7,000.

As early as 1863 came an urge for more manufactories. The Bain Wagon Shop had almost attained the leading place in the state, and there were still other wagon shops in the city. Founderies were busy, the Whitaker company especially so. Of the several tanneries, the Allen had become the largest and after the fire erected more and better buildings. Agricultural implements and other machinery were made here, and several flour mills were in operation. There were other growing businesses, the owners were local men who had gone ahead in spite of the town's financial difficulties, and upon these its future was to depend to a great extent.

At that time Kenosha County led the state in the manufacture of cheese, and in 1865 the report stated that 137,713 pounds of cheese had been shipped. Up to that time cheese makers in the western states, including Wisconsin, had to send east to Buffalo, N. Y. for the necessary cheese boxes. In the Spring of that year, Sammons and Son began the manufacture of these boxes, using a 10 H. P. engine that would enable them to turn out 200 boxes a day. They soon sold the business to Z. G. Simmons and by 1870 the latter had moved the plant to the lake shore and enlarged it to the point that enabled him to ship them by the carload in addition to numbers used on his and other farms of the county.

Mr. Simmons also developed the Northwestern Telegraph Co. in which he had purchased a half interest some years before, until there were 2,358 miles of wire in Wisconsin, northern Iowa, Minn. and the Lake Superior Peninsula. Its chartered capital was $1,500,000, with 250 men and women employed. Its headquarters were in Kenosha.

The Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co. purchased the Lake Shore Road between Milwaukee and Chicago in 1864. Its first serious accident on this Division occured in Kenosha June 9, 1864 when the noon express ran off of, or fell through, the high bridge over Pike Creek. The engineer, John Durf, and fireman, Louis Warren, were killed, the only loss of life. Many 100 day soldiers home on furlough, were in a car that hung at a 45 degree angle, but escaped any serious injury. A carload of emigrants enroute to Minn. were nearly crazed by fright but not injured to any extent.

The Kenosha-Harvard railroad had created Kenosha's greatest problem, although the war years had seen some changes. In April, 1864, the Chicago & Northwestern Ry. Company purchased this road also, from the bond holders. Then, as usual when changes occur, wild rumors were heard and people became worried as to what would be done with it. Nearly everyone had paid something toward the road and thus were interested. Some adjacent property owners offered to give one half and sell the balance of their holdings to the road, others advanced their price. Anyhow, the result was that the city owned no railroad but still had the debt to pay. One editorial stated that the rolling stock was worth all that the C. & N. W. Co. paid for the entire road. Another editorial urged consideration and cooperation in meeting the financial burden.

In May, 1866, a Summons from the U. S. Circuit Court was read to the City Council and showed the threat of another suit. In Feb. 1867, some 1st and 2nd mortgage bonds were passed over to the officers of the K. D. division for something over 2%. In May, 1867, a large number of tax payers met to consider future action, as a ruling of the U. S. Supreme Court had reversed some rulings of the Circuit Court. A committee of five was decided upon, they to work on some plan of adjustment. Many felt that the road had retarded instead of aiding the city's pros-

perity. The debt hung over the city, paralyzing every interest. The Judiciary Committee of the Council was instructed to investigate the problem in all its bearings and to employ such council as was necessary to defend all suits against the city.

One newspaper article indicated that there was discord because of the opposition of a few who, because of an additional tax, were against progress. Others wished to have harbor improvements, a compromise on the debt, etc. Chicago men had come to think of the Kenosha debt as such an incubus that no newcomer would think of investing here, but if harbor work continued and the debt was compromised, it would be possible for a new prosperity.

In Aug. 1867, an effort was made to defend the city in the second suit of A. Campbell for railroad script payment, and in other pending suits. However, judgment was decided in favor of Mr. Campbell in an amount between $18,000 and $19,000.

Another meeting was called for Dec. 20, 1867 to plan for an adjustment of the debt. The debt and interest were estimated as so nearly the assessed valuation of the city that it was practically bankrupt. Two alternatives were suggested:

1. The Racine method - secret association of citizens that united means and funds to purchase such portions of the debt as could be bought to hold as a check on others who want to press claims and compel a sale at reduced valuation.
   Objections:
   (a) Secrecy makes it subject to distrust; (b) the fact of purchase will leak and make it impossible to purchase a large portion of stock (c) bring to judgment a large body of citizens; (d) No interest paid will look like repudiation and make it subject to litigation and expense for a long period.
2. Compromise with creditors, offer to pay such portion of obligation as it is able....as approved by creditors in a fair showing of population and resources.

Another suggestion was a petition to the Legislature for authorization to issue bonds, 7%, to cover entire indebtedness submitted to three largest holders for approval, also authorization to levy tax to pay interest and such part of bonds as possible, to absorb debt over a period of 20 years, and to have Council, with consent of citizens, appoint a standing committee (3 members) known as a funding committee to act as an executive committee in all matters relating to the payment of the city debt, plus the electing of a comptroller to keep records of the management of the debt. Those at this meeting apparently did not reach, or did not announce, any definite decision.

By the Spring of 1869 it was felt that Kenosha, like many other cities with railroad debts; was now making a final and last effort to adjust, after careful consideration. The city had set about it in good faith, and wished to avoid all future litigation and extreme defense measures. It was hoped that the creditors would meet the people in the spirit with which they went to them, take a just view of the situation and of the prospect of forcing the collection of over $800,000., out of a poverty stricken population of little more than 4000. This hope was seemingly a vain one, as about a year later a special council meeting was called to provide means to defend suits against the City before the U.S. Supreme Court. The City Attorney, F. S. Lovell, was granted $50., to defend two suits to be heard within a few days. (The same meeting appropriated $100. for use in a 4th of July celebration!) By Fall, four suits were pending, in amounts ranging from $1007.30 to $16,065.90 with costs, for some which a tax levy was voted.

The year 1870 closed with another meeting of citizens to hear proceedings of the City Debt Association, that had been formed. It was thought that this was the only means of proceeding.

XIII

THE DISCOURAGED YEARS

1871-1880

In addition to the usual course of Kenosha's development, two events marked the beginning of 1871- one in cultural progress, the other a physical disaster. In January, Z. G. Simmons, Sr., gave 1000 carefully selected books to the residents of the city. These, housed in the new Unitarian Church building, were for loan, one volume at a time to a borrower. Someone connected with the congregation kept a record of these, (1) and books were added, apparently, from time to time, as four years later 1200 books were listed.

On January 31, the Halliday, formerly the Durkee Hotel burned. The blaze spread rapidly when three or four gallons of kerosene exploded. About 25 persons, undoubtedly all asleep, were in the Hotel; fortunately a man from Chicago, in passing, saw the fire, entered the building and gave the alarm. Soon all were endangered as the house filled with dense smoke, and fire barred the exits. This had started at the head of the stairs entering the hotel, and since this was before the day of required fire escapes, those on the third floor escaped with difficulty. Many jumped from windows; high snow banks from a recent severe storm broke the fall of some, but nearly all had burns and several received other injuries. Osborn Capron was blinded. However, all were not able to escape- two employees were burned to death, while Mrs. J. B. Merrill with her four small children became bewildered, lost their way and returned to their room where they were suffocated and burned. To add to the tragedy, the wife of one injured man who came from Maine to aid in nursing him, died shortly after her arrival.

The heavy debt continued to embarrass the city. A special meeting of the City Council was held in February to confer over the financial situation. The city clerk was authorized to issue new script, at 10% interest, to any person presenting script issued in 1870 or 1871.

That Fall four aldermen and ex-aldermen were taken before the United States District Court in Milwaukee and fined $100.00 on a charge of contempt of court because they had not obeyed the mandamus to levy taxes sufficient to pay certain judgments against the city. The Council was puzzled and perplexed as to what action to take.

Someone who signed himself only as McG. described the city's plight poetically:

"The men on the corners stand in crowds,
Stand on the corners and fret,
You ask the cause of this talk so loud?
Why, of course it's the city debt.

The old men walk with a solemn mien,
Stern care on their brows deep set,
Even the young are seldom seen
To laugh at the city debt.

(1) The record book of these loans is in the Kenosha Co. Historical Society file.

The merchants stand in their stores and sigh
For the custom they do not get,
For the goods high on the shelves must lie,
Till we pay the city debt.

A man has a house which he cannot sell
For half that he ought to get,
Men won't buy in the place where we dwell
For fear of the city debt.

Oh, a joyful day it will be for all,
When some one whom we shall have met
Shall grasp our hand with the welcome call:
We're rid of the city debt."

One example of individual suffering resulting from the debt was that of a well known owner of a small blacksmith shop and foundry. He had always been sober, industrious, kindly and somewhat of a civic leader, but in August, 1871 he was imprisoned for drunkenness and abuse of his family. This was thought to be the result of his financial losses. He was one of those who had signed notes to provide money to forward the completion of the railroad and had been more conscientious than some in meeting the payment when the notes became due and the Company could not pay. (1)

Then this problem seemed to fall into the background for a time, while other matters received attention. A Citizen's Gas & Coke Co. was formed, a building erected and mains laid (of wood). The Company could furnish about 5,000 cu. ft. per day. Soon some buildings were lighted with gas. Oil lamps lighted some streets, others had gas lights. The latter were far from satisfactory, apparently, as there was much bickering over the charges and there were long periods when they were unused, either when a dispute had occurred or for the sake of economy.

Sereno Fisk gave land to double the width of Market Square (56th from 6th to 8th Ave.) and finally, in 1875, the ravine across the Square was filled in and a culvert 125 feet long installed, with John T. Yule supervising. This cost $500.00, but $300.00 of it was contributed by individuals. This filled ravine, a continuation of that from the west, known as the Bailey Canal, was declared a public drain.

In July, 1871, a state committee on public charities, three men and one woman, visited Kenosha. They found conditions at the poor house satisfactory, but those at the jail were severely condemned. It was low, damp, dark and unsanitary. Insane people were kept there indefinitely. But evidently there was little change, as in 1875, six of eleven prisoners were insane. By 1878 the courthouse was in such exceedingly poor condition that there was a growing demand for a new one.

In November, 1872 a free reading room for the public was opened above a store building that is now a part of the First National Bank. There were the leading daily and local papers, also a dozen and more of the most popular magazines. It was open from 10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. daily, Sundays included. Apparently this was discontinued after a time, but in 1880 J.A. Killeen, new owner of the Kenosha Telegraph, opened another in a room adjoining the printing office. Games were added, but the rules required no gambling and no smoking.

The erection of the present St. Matthews Episcopal and the Congregational

(1) The train on the western road was apparently as leisurely as the payment of the debt. One passenger train stopped in the country while several of the passengers and trainmen went into the field to pick wild strawberries, according to one report.

church buildings, also a new chapel for Kemper Hall began in 1875. January 15, 1875 the St. George Catholic Church, school, Sisters' house and two wood-houses were burned, with a loss of about $20,000.00. Rebuilding began almost at once, in the meantime, the North Side Public School accommodated as many of the children as possible.

The Durkee School site was purchased in May, 1877 and building began, but it proceeded rather slowly. Walls were condemned because of poor workmanship, torn down and rebuilt. It was ready for use in early 1878. Later, in 1880, the basement was fitted up for election and other ward uses. The building was paid for by the use of $5,000 given the city some years previously by Senator Charles Durkee. This sum was diverted to school use and the building named in commemoration of the donor.

For several years, as more workers in business offices were required, it had been necessary for Kenosha young people to secure their training in Chicago. In May, 1875, a business college opened in the Simmons Block,(5611-15 - 6th Ave.) with about 25 enrolled at first, and others in prospect.

Public school lessons began with the first grade. In 1879 Mrs. M. B. Dunning (nee Baker) a local writer and poet, opened a private kindergarten; soon there were demands for a public kindergarten.

A High School debating society held debates regularly, usually with a boy and girl on each side. Subjects such as these were debated: "The Home Influence Outweighs all Others"; "Should Beards be Worn?"; "The Lawyer is more Beneficial to Society than the Doctor"; "Which Causes the Most Misery, Ignorance or Intemperance?". In 1877 this Society adopted the name of the High School Athenaeum.

In 1871 and probably for several years after that, the examination of each of the high school classes was conducted by three business and professional men of the city. That year there were but two graduates. That Fall a class of 45 promised a larger number, however during those years, only a few completed the four years of high school work. In 1880 there were six graduates, four girls and two boys.

Perhaps that accounted, at least partly, for the high percentage of rowdyism and vandalism that prevailed in the city. Groups of young men and boys lounged about on street corners and around public halls and churches, with conduct that would not be tolerated today. Fighting, drunkenness and crime among older men was prevalent in some sections and order could not be enforced- a city marshal was not sufficient. The usual breakdown and disorganization that follows war, lack of work at times, and unassimulated immigrants in a poorly policed situation all contributed to this lawless condition. Arson seemed to be a common occurence, barns and other buildings, country school houses, haystacks, even flax outside a flaxmill were burned.

Growing industries required a drawbridge across the river at 6th Avenue, and one 40 feet wide was erected in 1871, this permitted vessels to pass some distance up the river to unload tan bark, timber, coal, etc. By 1879 a swing bridge replaced this.

The harbor was not quite adequate in 1872, but the presence of 24 vessels there in October, 1874 indicates some improvement, also how much it was used. Freight rates had been discriminatory toward Kenosha, but when an arrangement was made whereby the Goodrich Line steamers were to stop here, exports were given the current rate. In the summer of 1877, Government engineers removed 6,000 cu. yards from the harbor basin and the sand bar, giving a depth of 15 feet; the city was to do additional dredging. Twenty lake craft from Milwaukee were here that year

for winter quarters. When the northeast storms of 1877 formed a new bar across the entrance that prevented the Goodrich steamers from stopping on the up-trip, an additional impetus was given to the work. Toward the end of the decade, a demand arose for dredging west of the bridge, to permit the unloading of larger ships bringing materials for business and manufacturing.

In July, 1874 the Council received a letter from the United States Government saying that life saving stations were under development on the Great Lakes and that a life boat would be provided for Kenosha. In the Fall of 1879 a Life Saving Station was under construction, and the first life boat was here on October 9, 1879.

In 1874 the city purchased a street sprinkler 16 feet wide to somewhat allay the dust of the streets- paving was still in the future. In time of rain, 6th Avenue became liquid mud. Sidewalk construction continued extensively, but these were still mostly of boards. Sewers were few and poor. In the Spring of 1877, Jerome Creek which then flowed through the present Sheridan Park, flooded, washed away the Sheridan Road (then Ann Street) bridge, and filled the basements, and in some cases the first floors, of houses on 7th Avenue with water.

Fire fighting equipment was in poor condition early in the decade. In 1875, when a fire demonstrated the need, a new Silsby Fire Engine was purchased and a fire house built on the North Side. There was a demand for artesian wells because of fire hazards, but there was no money available in the city treasury. Eventually a private water company, The Park City, was formed, and in 1880 an excellent well was sunk on the South side. This was greeted with great enthusiasm. Water mains were laid on 56th, 60th, 57th streets, on 61st east of the park, 10th Avenue south of 60th Street and on Sheridan Road as far as the Durkee School. Water was installed in the High School building. In addition, it was voted to drain the High School cellars immediately! That year another company, the North Side Water Co., sunk a very satisfactory artesian well. Hydrants supplied by these companies were rented by the city. (1)

Telephones were still a matter of wonder in 1877.

The ancient oaks in the park were dying, the fence was dilapidated, and the place was badly neglected. The ladies of the city formed a Park Association, did numerous things to raise money. Permission was obtained to have the fence torn down, the park was somewhat cleared of brush, weeds, etc., and considerable other work was done. Cows had once been pastured there, but were no longer. However, boys continued to lead or drive the family cow home through the park, to the despair of the workers. It was thought that a pond or pool would beautify it and work was begun.

The depression of the mid '70's hit the city severely and there was much need. A group of ladies and gentlemen canvassed the city to determine the necessity and decided to start a soup kitchen similar to those in Chicago and elsewhere. Several of the ladies on 7th Avenue and vicinity took charge. Soup was furnished for 4¢ a quart at first; 167 quarts were sold to 11 families- 31 persons, later 210 quarts were provided at 2-1/2¢ a quart. This was apparently a good, rich vegetable soup.

The year 1874 was a difficult year in the county, when all grain crops in Paris township were damaged by cinch bugs, wheat and barley were completely destroyed, the oats also hurt. Wheat was a failure throughout the county. This, of course, was reflected in the city's business.

Erosion increased, and the Lake, once the hope of the city, now became a trial. As the trade upon it grew less, its harmfulness increased, for some reason. Be-

(1) Proceedings of Audit Board, June, 1880.

cause of dependance upon water transportation, the early buildings and industries clung along the lake shore. Now, when northeasters swept down, the wild waters tore away great pieces of the shore, until it almost seemed as if the entire village was threatened. As early as 1875, four rods of bank had disappeared and buildings were in danger along 3,000 feet of shore between the Cheese Box factory (1) near the harbor, and Kemper Hall. There, the breakwater built by Senator Durkee, stood firm. The next year land continued to wear away at 57th, 58th and 59th streets. It was evident that much of the real estate east of 5th Avenue, five blocks inland from the original shore line, was threatened unless a breakwater was built.

Faint efforts at shore protection at the foot of 56th Street were made in 1876, but in 1877 the northeasters were still working havoc along the lake front. That Fall the newspaper commented: "Lake Michigan,during its recent bender, shortened the distance from Main Street to the water's edge about two rods. At the rate of land consumed this week, soon the residents of Main Street can fish from their back windows." Breakwater or no breakwater became a burning question. In the late winter and early spring of 1878 the inroads continued.

But the debt was always in the background, and again in 1875 it threatened to bankrupt the city. Soon payment of large claims in the hands of a Milwaukee law firm was demanded. By 1876 the debt had been reduced somewhat, but it was still heavy. The City Council was "torn by dissension and grave fears oppressed the members." Then beginning November 5, 1877, the Minutes of the Council meetings contain only the notation: "There being no quorum Council adjourned to meet at the next regular meeting if not sooner convened by Mayor's order." This continued until February, 1878. After that date there are records of the meetings of an Audit Board, beginning March 29, 1878. This was in accordance with Chapter 138 of the Laws of Wisconsin for 1878, to amend the Act to incorporate the city of Kenosha, Chapter 133 by adding a section, the gist of which was:

The Mayor was empowered to appoint annually one alderman from each ward to constitute a committee to be known as the Auditing Board whenever for any reason vacancies should occur in the Common Council so that there were not enough Aldermen to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. This Audit Board was empowered to audit and allow accounts against the city for current expenses and claims for damages awarded by commissioners upon condemnation of land for public purposes. The votes of four members were required to pass any measure involving an expenditure of money, but in other cases a majority of the Board was sufficient. It could also canvass votes, use powers relative to the police and fire departments, nuisances, pauper, streets, excise and public health. But it could use none of these powers when there was a quorum of the Common Council.

The Audit Board had no power to levy a tax for any purpose whatever. When a final judgment was rendered against the city, it was the duty of the Common Council to levy the tax with which to pay the judgment and interest and place it upon the taxroll. In other words, city business could be cared for without a meeting of a city council, but no notice of a suit against the city that would require a tax levy to meet it, could be filed except with the Council. If the Council did not meet, such legal papers could not be served.

In conformity with this amendment, Mayor Farr appointed an Audit Board on March 29, 1878. A City Debt Association had been formed in 1868. This held a meeting in June 1877, wherein it voted to close its books July 1st, 1877, and gave such notice to those who had failed to join or to pay. Perhaps this Association had, in some manner, persuaded the State Legislature to pass the above amendment. Other Association meetings were held from time to time.

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(1) Now Simmons Company - this was its beginning.

Upon F. W. Robinson's election as mayor in 1878, he called the Council to order, found that there was not a quorum present, and appointed an Audit Board: N. G. Backus, Leonard Lee, Chris Schend and Henry Williams.

To add to the city's difficulties that year, both the County Treasurer and the City Treasurer defaulted and resigned. The County Treasurer died shortly thereafter. The County was without funds, the shortage was $6,000, of this $4,000 was raised by the personal bondsmen of the former Treasurer. The City Treasurer was arrested for embezzlement later, the trial was postponed from time to time, and he had moved to another state (Michigan) before a decision was reached. This case was not settled until 1885, when a judgment was entered against his bondsmen, who paid $1400 each. The defaulter paid nothing. (1)

In July 1879, the Mayor and Alderman Williams met with a Milwaukee law firm in regard to the city's obligation. They tried to explain that this was so great that the city was in no condition to meet its indebtedness and was powerless. This had little weight, apparently, as the aldermen elected at the Spring election were served notice by the United States Marshal from the District Court of the Eastern District to attend all meetings of the Council, and when taxes were levied for city purposes, to levy the amount named in the notice - $110,000. This did not have the desired result.

At three meetings in 1879 even the Audit Board had no quorum. The city council was to meet on September 22, 1879 to levy a tax, but two aldermen resigned on September 17. The Audit Board ordered a special election to replace the two resigned, also two aldermen who had removed from their Ward and four who had failed to qualify. At a meeting October 16, 1879, the Audit Board gave a report of election, appointed committees, and as one alderman was present in addition to the Board, a council meeting was held, and a tax levied for city use.

In the Spring of 1880, A. Sinclair became mayor. There was no quorum at a special Council Meeting called for April 15th, and an Audit Board, M. O'Brien, Chris Schend, Henry Williams and J.P.Glover, was appointed. Only routine business was transacted until, on November 15, 1880, the purchase of a horse drawn fire hose cart was authorized and a special election ordered for the purpose of electing two aldermen in each ward in place of those who had failed to qualify. Few knew of this election on November 17 and no votes were cast in the 2nd Ward. That evening the council met, a quorum was present, state, county and school taxes were levied, a pound established, and some other business transacted. But by the December 6th meeting, William O'Brien had removed to another Ward, others did not qualify, so again there was no quorum and the previous Audit Board was reappointed.

Politically, Kenosha men attained some important public offices. Ex Mayor M. H. Pettit became Lieutenant Governor in 1871, but died in 1873, before his term expired. E. G. Timme, Cival War Veteran who had given an arm in his country's service, was elected Secretary of State for Wisconsin in 1878. When Judge J. J. Pettit died in August, 1877, it was recalled that he wrote the first petition to the United States Congress for the abolishment of slavery in the District of Columbia.

And despite its difficulties, the town was not a sad and dreary place. Various types of recreation and amusement flourished. There was a growing enthusiasm for baseball and Sunday games were played west of the depot in 1872. Horse racing at the Kenosha Driving Park was popular and premiums were offered for trotting records -- too popular perhaps, as the Council had to forbid racing on the principal streets of the city. Many circuses came summer after summer.

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(1) This man froze to death near his home one severe winter a year or so later.

Velocipedes were coming in, and "becoming a dangerous nuisance, hitting pedestrians and frightening horses."

There were band concerts in the park, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" and other plays came, and a growing demand for an opera house brought the erection of one in the Fall of 1880 by G. Hinsdale. Among good lectures by authorities in the subjects were some on Wisconsin geology, others on flowers, novels, sociology, etc. At the suggestion of Dr. Cleary, the Kenosha Philharmonics was formed to give training to those musically inclined. A chess club had many prominent men for members in 1873. Oyster suppers and festivals were given frequently. The Kenosha Sporting Club was organized in 1872 for the purpose of protecting game birds. In 1876, the Centennial Year of the U. S. the city held an elaborate celebration on July 4th.

Then there were balls, masquerades, New Year's calls, etc. In September 1872, three hundred guests were invited to a ball given to entertain out of town visitors. Shortly before Christmas, 1876, it was announced that Simmons Hall had been thoroughly scrubbed and cleaned so that ladies could "wear their toniest toilets to the ball Friday without fear of injury." Toward the end of this period, a number of citizens had become quite well to do, and these toilets became correspondingly much more elaborate. Accounts of balls and parties describe these costumes in some detail and indicate that a number were imported.

And the situation in the city was gradually growing better. Although the population had increased only 730 in the decade, (1) there had been considerable building- in one year 100 residences, business places, etc. It was now realized that the city must grow through industries. In 1872 "business was brisk for those who had any business at all." An editor then commented:

> In passing through Main Street and counting up the grocery stores thereon, one could almost wish some of the money invested in coffee, tea, pepper and starch could be applied to manufactories. Grocery stores do not erect workshops, neither are they instrumental in advancing the practical arts, but when workshops are erected and steam engines, forges and the like are creating the music of industry and causing an influx of mechanics, then grocery stores will be called into requisition."

By 1878 and 1879 through the slow, steady growth of a few industries, things looked brighter; production was running unusually high in some shops, additions were contemplated and it was felt that a strenuous effort should be made to open some of the unused factory buildings. Among the larger industries, the Bain Wagon Works had greatly increased its output. Its wagons were particularly in demand in our mountain and desert west because of their proved suitability through their rugged strength and endurance. At the start of the decade, Z. G. Simmons had turned to manufacturing. He leased the Northwestern Telegraph Company to the Western Union, became a director of the latter and the offices were combined here. Mr. Simmons then devoted his outstanding ability to the furtherance and development of his manufacturing interests. The growth of the wagon industry, Bain and others, had increased the demand for the Andrew Leonard Patent Wagon Skeins, and the production of these, together with other foundry work, had given an impetus to the R. B. Whitaker Company. N. R. Allen's and other tanneries were growing, the flour mills were busy, the Kupfer Bakery had sold 225,000 lbs. of crackers and 24,500 lbs. of cookies annually. Other small industries were in operation. To accommodate some of these industries a switch track was laid to Lake Street (eroded) in 1878, under protest of the property owners along the line, and another down 8th Avenue to the Malt House (between 57th and 58th) in 1880, also under protest.

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(1) Population of Kenosha, 1870 - 4309, 1880 - 5093.

In the Autumn of 1879 the Telegraph commented twice in one issue that business was increasing, that the city presented an appearance not seen before in a long time, new buildings were in process of erection and old ones were being repaired and enlarged. With 1880 a new era began for Kenosha.

XIV

AT LAST - RELIEF

1881-1889

For many years the winter of 1881 was known as "the winter of the deep snow." This affected the business life of the city. So much fell that the train to Harvard did not run from February 26 until April 26 and for weeks activity from the west was nearly at a standstill. It was said that some of the snow banks remained well into the month of May.

Now the place of Party in polictics again loomed large, and before elections great effort went toward the success of either the Democratic or Republican candidates.

The beginning of the decade saw an increase in lawlessness and disorder- bands, ranging from boys of 12 to men of 50, terrorized sections of the town. Women were insulted on the streets. Many men, especially the old and frail, were beaten and robbed; obscenity and profanity filled the air as these gangs lounged along the streets.

In the 1870's and before, many of the earlier settlers, or their sons and daughters, began to move west and north, to new and promising frontiers. This exodus increased in the early 1880's, many going to the Dakotas and elsewhere- a loss Kenosha could ill afford.

Early in 1881, on the initiative of J. H. Kimball, a citizen's meeting was held. This formed an organization, ostensibly for the purpose of encouraging manufacturers and other business, called the Citizen's Improvement (or Citizen's Loan) Association. O. M. Calkins (1) served as temporary chairman, until Z. G. Simmons was elected president, Patrick English, vice-president, George W. Warvelle, Secretary and Daniel Head, treasurer. C. C. Brown was chairman of an executive committee of ten. It apparently began raising money at once.

At about the same time the City Debt Association met, elected Attorney Edward Martin, later judge, as president, F. Robinsin, a druggist, vice-president, S. Y. Brande, abstractor, secretary, and E. G. Hazelton, dentist, treasurer. The Association appeared to be doing everything possible to meet its perplexing problem.

An Audit Board continued to transact the business of the city, under the newly elected mayor, Henry Williams. The latter advocated attention to sewers, in order to drain cellars where dampness had been detrimental to health. This very necessary work had been neglected because of the financial situation, which now began to look less serious. In the Fall of 1881 a sewer was put in Main (6th Ave.) Street, so that it would be "less of a cess pool, breeding malaria" and cellars could be dry. Harbor improvements needed to continue and the fire department to be improved. When M. O'Brien resigned, a new Audit Board was appointed, W. P. Wright, Chris Schend, E. VanWie and G. Gillett. This Board decided that the police force should be increased a little and ordered a guard stationed near the depot where assaults and robberies took place frequently.

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(1) The donor of the Lincoln statue in Library park.

In the Spring of 1882 when six aldermen resigned, an Audit Board was appointed: E. Hazelton, Peter Jacobs, E. VanWie and P. Lentz. James O'Brien and Jos. Newhouse were appointed as night policemen. Soon after, an officer was attacked by two ruffians. These received a severe penalty instead of the customary low fine that had become a matter of ridicule.

Then in March, 1883, a notice went out to the voters of Kenosha, that a meeting would be held at the Court House. This summoned every one interested in a discussion of the evils that existed and the reforms that conditions demanded. It was further suggested that, because of the increasing indebtedness, it would be well to elect an administration at the approaching election that would be more interested in the welfare of the city than in the triumph of any political party. The final purpose of that meeting was to nominate good men for all offices of the city. (1)

That Spring, 1883, O. S. Newell was elected for mayor. Again at the first Council meeting there was no quorum, and the usual Audit Board was appointed. That Fall it passed an Ordinance that prohibited lounging on street corners, hindering or obstructing passage on streets, public buildings, business places and churches, annoying or insulting any person, the use of obscene or vulgar language and begging on streets, with a penalty therefor. (2) Other ordinances required saloons to close at 11:00 p. m., prohibited the killing of birds, and required the restraint of dogs. Market Square (56th) was made a public stand for the sale of hay and wood, with regulations governing correct weights. Other Ordinances applied to the care of the cemetery and of public parks.

The following Spring, 1884, a call was made by petition for Z. G. Simmons, Sr. to permit his name to be placed on a people's ticket, for mayor. This contained the names of a long list of business, professional and other men of the city, headed by the names of Rev. Fr. Cleary and Rev. Fr. Wenker of St. Marks (St. James Now) and St. George Churches. The signers felt that some personal sacrifice should be made in the interest of the future growth and prosperity of the city, especially in the line of political preferment. This call was accepted by Mr. Simmons. In opposition, a threat was made to elect a full council, which would hamper the work of the Debt Association. This question was settled when a heavy vote elected the people's ticket with a big majority.

At a special council meeting on April 14, 1884, there was no quorum and an Audit Board was appointed: Samuel Reynolds, Peter Jacobs, Charles H. Bain and Edgar Pennoyer. In July, a local paper commended this Board for the enforcement of laws and for placing the streets in better condition than for many years. Two special police were appointed, without pay, and H. H. Tarbell, as health officer, was instructed to inspect the city.

In October, 1884, a special election was held to fill the vacancies caused by the resignation of seven members of the council. Then the Audit Board ceased to function, a full board was elected by order of the mayor, and a council meeting held. This action was preparatory to the proposed issue of 5%, 20 year bonds, not to exceed $200,000. to cover all indebtedness of the city, including the railroad debt. The City Debt Association and its representatives had the entire debt in their hands with a few trifling exceptions, and they were ready to meet and settle those. "Once more the citizens of Kenosha may breathe freely as a new era of prosperity dawns upon them. For the first time in 25 years we know where we stand." (3) The holders of City Debt Certificates were requested to present them at once and receive

(1) Kenosha Telegraph Mar. 23, 1883.
(2) Audit Board minutes, Nov. 11, 1883.
(3) Kenosha Courier, Oct. 16, 1884.

the city bonds in exchange. The new ones were worth par and could be exchanged for cash.

A local paper wrote: "It took shrewd financing and material assistance to extricate the city from its judgment creditors. Many were unwilling to fix a price for which they should settle until assured the money was ready for them. Some held for the full face value of judgments and interest, which it was impossible to pay--it took shrewd business tactics and stratagem to bring these within the bounds of reason. Mr. Simmons paid for judgments with his own money when he had no assurance of getting the money back, traveled thousands of miles at his own expense for which he was not reimbursed, and gave besides valuable time..... Other citizens, scores of them contributed liberally in proportion to their means and others stood shoulder to shoulder in lifting the burden of the city and carrying it for these years." (1)

But, as too often happens, there were misunderstandings and accusations. An attempt to have a great celebration over the adjustment of the debt failed through a disagreement over the participation of one man, who had expressed political preferences from a pulpit during an election. This brought a comment that the difficulty in advancing Kenosha's business interests came from that same lack of unanimity: "Some kicker knocks all projects into pie!"

The Mayor (2) was aware of wrong impressions regarding his services in the purchase of old bonds and the readjustment of the debt. He gave a sworn statement to the Council at the meeting on January 5, 1885, the gist of which was: In 1868 a City Debt Association was formed and later supplemented by a Citizen's Loan Association. He acted as their financial agent. The claims then amounted to $1,750,000, now to $200,000. in 5% bonds. There were over 500 members in the two associations, which were managed by the officers. Every cent was used for the sole and only purpose for which it was paid, not one cent was taken by any citizen for service or expense, save one bill of $50. made in organizing the Association. There was no profit nor gain by any citizen handling this large aggregate of indebtedness save $200. exacted by a banker on the purchase of one small judgment. He (Mr. Simmons) paid out $3,000. in travel incidental and commissions. If he had charged commissions, it would have amounted to over $40,000 at 2 1/4%. He handed the Council a receipt in full for all demands against the City Debt Association, Citizens' Loan Association and City of Kenosha. (3)

For a city of 5,000 and less, this had been a tremendous undertaking through the years. Kenosha was not alone in having contracted a hugh debt from the railroad building flurry of the earlier years, but it did see its railroad project through to completion. Many small railroads defaulted when there had not been a shovelful of dirt turned on the proposed lines, some were coupled with frauds and scandals, (4) of which Kenosha was free. It had duplicated the experience of many other towns and followed methods begun by other roads. The railroad out of Milwaukee, the Milwaukee & Mississippi Ry., now a part of the Milwaukee Road, began somewhat earlier, but did not fare better. In 1860, that Company defaulted on all mortgages and a receiver was appointed on foreclosure proceedings. Its cost per mile increased until its debt was immense. In 1856, its officers censured the State

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(1) Kenosha Courier, Nov. 13, 1884.
(2) A letter written by a Kenosha woman Oct. 20, 1875, indicates that some knew how much to heart Mr. Simmons took the city debt: "I am sorry to write that Mr. Z. G. Simmons is lying dangerously ill- It will be a dark day for Kenosha if he is taken at this time. He is a man of great benevolence and possesses real public spirit. Before his illness he remarked that he wanted when he died to feel that the town was free from debt- he has exerted himself unusually of late to serve the city Debt. His recovery is not impossible but his symptoms are bad." Mrs. Martha Dana Durkee. In Kenosha County Historical Museum Files.
(3) Council Proceedings, Jan. 5, 1885.
(4) Cf. August Derleth, "The Milwaukee Road" p. 57 ff

Legislature for chartering other roads to the Mississippi, thus giving it competition- but the Kenosha road had had it as a competitor to some extent.

The city was relieved of the great debt, but its menace from the lake continued. A log breakwater built in the early days to protect the warehouses had been ineffectual. Some of those old logs were found in good condition under 10 or 12 feet of sand in 1902, others even later. A petition and subscription list for protection was presented to the Audit Board; the Judiciary Committee reported in its favor, but had no legal right to proceed further. The breakwater put in by O. M. Calkins in 1879 appeared at first to make land, but in 1882 a storm washed out both land and breakwater, the crib pier at Kemper Hall was also damaged. More of the Calkins land went later and Mr. Calkins thought of moving his house, then decided to rebuild the breakwater.

On May 5th, 1883, about 12 feet of lake shore were washed away, and by the next night the occupants of a dwelling moved out when part of the property went into the lake. Part of the hay press building of the Durkee family was undermined and the lake was but a few feet from the Harrison planing mill which later disappeared beneath the water. In August, 1885, an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Palmer who lived in a cottage on a large lot which contributed greatly to their living, were made homeless by the wind and water, and eventually died in the poorhouse. For years traces of former industries were to be seen beneath the water, until reclamation projects buried them. (1) Property in that section of the city became so depreciated that a good brick residence (2) with two large lots were offered for sale at $200. but there were no takers.

Early in 1883 a Business Men's Club was organized. Its purpose was to promote both the business and the social life of the city, and it was soon to take an active part in many projects. When a petition, bearing the names of some of the heaviest taxpayers, asking the Council to take steps to protect the lake front, was presented, that Club appointed a committee of three, Edward Bain, Z. G. Simmons and Daniel Head, Sr. to confer with the city authorities, to determine the best course of action and one that would secure as much unanimity as possible in case such work proceeded.

The result was that bids were advertised for in June, 1886. A contract went to C. Schend Co. of Kenosha. Sager & Co. of Chicago also did a portion of the work. The Schend bid was $7.40 per lineal foot, their bond was for $2,500. This work was nearly completed by the summer of 1887- the original shore line of the Southport days was then 300 feet further east, under 15 feet of water! This breakwater extended from the harbor line to 58th St.

That summer the City annexed the land east of Durkee (3rd) Ave. to Vermont St. (now vacated). A little later B. Eichelmann and wife gave part of Block 1, this to be added to the park and used for that purpose only. The Council then voted to continue the breakwater to protect the park.

To further harbor work, the Government made an appropriation of $6,000 in 1882. An opening through the sandbar at the north mouth (at 45th St. now closed) was advocated. That would permit ingress and egress of boats at that point which was the original plan, as it was thought that the usefulness of the harbor would be increased. In 1886 another appropriation, of $10,000 was made. The Business Men's Club were in touch with their congressman regarding a further appropriation in 1888. That year the Government dredged 25,000 cu. yd. of dirt, giving a 15 foot

(1) Council proceedings May 17, 1886. F. W. Becker recollections.
(2) Ibid Aug. 8, 1886. English family history.

depth along a channel 125 ft. wide the entire length of the piers and 150 ft. wide toward their end. The sand bar outside the harbor was dredged to a depth of 16 ft. The city was also doing work - in July 1889, the Council voted $400 for dredging west of the 6th Ave. bridge.

In 1884 the Business Men's Club informed the County Board that it believed the bills of the sheriff and justice of the peace should be contested. Its representatives appeared at a stormy session, in which the sheriff's bill was cut about $4,000. and a strong sentiment expressed that a fixed amount should be paid thereafter. During those years tramps and vagrants roamed the countryside and became a nuisance and a danger, particularly in Racine and Kenosha counties, possibly because of their nearness to Chicago and Milwaukee railway terminals. Under state regulations, these men could be committed to the county jails as vagrants and the sheriff paid for feeding them while there. The Justice who charged them with vagrancy also received a fee. This practice came to be badly abused in both cities. The situation was particularly bad in Kenosha because the jail was very poor and one of the dirtiest in the state, perhaps the latter condition was because 961 tramps had been jailed here during 1882, and other years were probably as bad.

In 1883 the State Legislature passed a vagrancy law under which any tramp or vagrant was subject to imprisonment for 15 days with only bread and water as a diet. No sheriff nor jailor could receive, nor any County Board grant, recompense for food. A tramp might also be committed to the state prison as punishment for vagrancy. This was evidently an effort to correct the abuses, in these two cities in particular. One tramp did receive a sentence to Waupun for three years. In Kenosha, the sheriff's bill had been $10,114.63 and the Justices' fees $3,560. for part of a year, these were largely tramp charges.

For some time the need of a new court house had been pressing, but money was lacking. The condition of the jail was revealed more strikingly by this overcrowding and abuse. The large mass meeting held in the court room prior to the mayoralty campaign in 1884 made the old building snap and crack, until the sheriff's family left in fear, and emphasized the fact that the structure was in a dangerous condition and should be condemned. It was unsafe to hold court there. The building was erected at the time when the yard from which the brick were procured was not making a good product, now they were watersoaked and crumbling. The construction work was poor, partitions were not properly supported, and floors had dropped several inches in places. Finally it was condemned.

The Business Men's Club advocated a building that could be used jointly as a county building and a city hall. Mr. Simmons offered to sell the site where the post office now stands for the new court house, the old site to be used for a new jail and sheriff's residence. Edward Bain, of the Bain Wagon Co., donated $1,000 and Mr. Simmons $2,000 toward the new buildings. Times were very dull in the county then but the city was flourishing (1885). The old courthouse was torn down and a temporary jail made in the old engine house - not a very satisfactory one, as prisoners could escape without much effort. The present police station and a brick courthouse were erected. The City contributed $5,000 toward it, the County appropriated $23,000 in addition to the Bain and Simmons gifts. The County hesitated, fearing the building could not be completed for that amount. Mr. Simmons took the contract to complete the building according to plans and specifications, but did more than the plans called for.

The State Board of Charities and Reforms, that had been so critical of former conditions, approved the new buildings and the condition of the jail. The first meeting in the new court house was a charitable ball sponsored by the Ladies Charitable Society. And that year the mayor donated his salary to the pauper account of the city.

At first the lower floor was used by the city, but there was criticism about the care of the building. Doors were left open, letting in many flies, and sometimes they were not closed at night. The County said the city must look after the lower floor, since it had the use of it. Finally the County terminated the arrangement by purchasing the City's interest. The City offices were moved to rooms over the Robinson Drug Store at a rent of $7.00 monthly. When a telephone was placed in the Courthouse, it drew newspaper comment.

Law enforcement problems continued, although the situation was better for a time. In the Spring of 1885, by Charter amendment, the office of city marshal was abolished and its duties conferred upon a chief of police, he to be appointed by the mayor. At an election in September, 1885, the citizens voted in favor of a high licence fee for saloons. It was hoped that this would eliminate some of the more objectionable places that were breeding places of crime and delinquency, which was again increasing. Burglary and robbery were, and continued to be, frequent. In 1887, in addition to spots along the south shore, Washington (Simmons) Island became the resort of "Bums" and was a place of wild carousals.

That Summer a Citizens' Committee or League was formed to work for the enforcement of liquor laws, as liquor was thought to be the source of much of the evil situation. Among those most active were Mayor C. F. Stemm, A. H. Lance, John Yule, Z. G. Simmons, Att'y. Jas. Cavanagh, E. L. Grant, Rev. Fr. Cleary, Judge VanWyk and Charles Quarles. Mr. Harkins was appointed agent of this League to enforce laws regarding Sunday saloon closing, sale of liquor to minors and to habitual drunkards. This League put out a pamphlet giving its objectives, and the laws and ordinances of the city regarding saloons. District Attorney Munson Paddock actively co-operated. Shortly after Harkins was made a special police without pay, he made three arrests in two days for furnishing liquor to prohibited persons, the offenders were jailed when they could not pay fines. The Council voted down a motion to add one man to the police force, but the conduct of loafers in the vicinity of 59th St. and 6th Avenue and around the churches was so bad that the Mayor appointed a special policeman for Sunday evenings. In 1889 there were many arrests for selling liquor to minors.

Experience had proved the worth and efficiency of the new artesian water system in fire fighting, but all patrons of the Park City Water Co. were directed to close faucets at the sound of the fire alarm to give the full force of the water to the fire apparatus. In 1883 the Company was given permission to sink another well. But consumers' waste of water interfered with some of the new industries that were coming, and the public was asked to use as little as possible so that the shops might operate. Another well was sunk, and by July, 1887, all wells were on one system of mains with uniform pressure. By October of that year two more artesian wells were under way.

The ladies continued their work in the park begun in the 1870's, doing as much as funds that they raised themselves would permit, but cows were still driven through. This was ordered stopped. The pond was completed and was used by skaters during the winter of 1881. But by the summer of 1882, bullfrogs moved in, and their croaking became an extreme annoyance to the residents around the park. It was filled in during the summer of 1884, when permission was given to erect a platform where band concerts were given regularly that year. The city appropriated $75. toward it, the citizens were to subscribe $25. This was completed as a band stand in 1886. Appropriate walks were laid in 1884. In 1887 the ladies were still struggling with the park problem, were asking for subscriptions, and giving entertainments to raise money in 1887.

Through the earlier years, the small population was located largely along a tract lying between the lake and 13th Avenue, where all drainage tended to sink into the

sandy soil and houses were not too close together. But now population was increasing, the settled area enlarging and proper sewerage was required. Many old city ordinances testify that for years property owners constructed their own drains or sewers, and their right to the exclusive use of these was given by the city as one way of avoiding the responsibility of constructing a sewage system.

As early as 1884, an investigating committee recommended that the Bailey canal and the drain from the Malt House be connected with the 56th Street sewer, the connection to be of stone. In 1885, the 6th Avenue sewer caved in to such an extent that a horse fell into the hole! The conditions were worse when, in September 1887, the St. George Church and the public school were given permission to extend their drainage to empty into the river, and others received permission to empty drainage into Jerome Creek. An open ditch on 13th Avenue received other drainage.

Many illnesses are recorded during this period. Scarlet Fever and Diptheria were especially prevalent, the latter frequently wiping out almost an entire family.

The Council was still affected by the inertia resulting from the bad financial situation of former years. Some new equipment and repairs were needed for the fire department, but at the same meeting that voted to purchase a site for a city hall facing 56th St. the fire chief's request that shafts be attached to fire equipment so that a horse could be used when necessary, was denied, in 1887. The purchase of some rubber clothing for the men was allowed, however. Could this have any bearing on the resignation of all four companies of the volunteer fire department a short time before? These were the Hook and Ladder Co. #1, The Star Hook & Ladder Co. #2, the Independent Hose Co. #3 and the Active Hose Co. #4. The Council immediately called for volunteers when the city was thus left without a fire department. Men responded and the companies were again filled up.

Some new streets were opened, among them one along the north side of the cemetery in 1884, later called Bain St. Harvey Durkee opened 63rd St. through his property to 14th Avenue in exchange for some concession in taxes. Salem, now Roosevelt Ave. was vacated at the easterly end. Early maps show that it extended to about one block north of 60th St. But streets were not well lighted. The Business Men's Club appointed a committee to work with the Council in promoting better lighting. Light became the subject of another large public meeting, and petitions for and against electric lights went to the council. (1) The Council in turn recommended the installation of electric lights- many other Wisconsin cities had them. By the end of 1888 the city was moderately well lighted by gas through an outside contract. But a new difficulty developed- the hydrogen gas was cutting the foul matter collected in the old wooden mains and 15 men were busy putting in new iron ones. (2)

Equally strong was the demand for paving, especially on Main (6th) St., but a new sewer was required - the original one had been a failure from the first. The bridges in the city were always in need of repair or replacement. A contract was awarded for the 50th St. bridge but subscriptions were received to defray its expense, (1883). Should the 52nd St. bridge be a turn or a swing one? Boats with cargoes passed beyond it up the river then, and the newspaper was advocating a higher tax to build a permanent in place of a wooden bridge. It apparently was made to do awhile longer by means of repairs, but by 1888 it was unsafe and unusable and a new bridge was built. A bridge at Ann (Sheridan Road) and Jerome Creek also had to be kept in repair.

The veterans of the Civil War reorganized a GAR Post and named it the Fred

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(1) Kenosha Union Jan. 12, 1888. Incandescent lights were invented in 1878, thus Kenosha was fairly abreast of the times. New York city got hers in 1882.
(2) Ibid Dec. 5, 1889. Some old wooden pipes are in the Historical Museum.

S. Lovell Post in 1887. At their request the Council voted to set aside Blocks 114, 115 and 116 of the S. E. division of Green Ridge Cemetery and to vacate an alley between these blocks. This was known as The Soldiers Lot, and a monument was erected thereon. There, any needy veteran might be buried, also others who might so desire. As early as 1884 a meeting was called at the Simmons office to organize an association whose object was the erection of a Soldiers' Memorial monument in the city.

People began to ask for a public library. The reading rooms were not a success and more books were needed than those found in school and church libraries. This want continued to grow. The books at the Unitarian Church were recatalogued and were free to all, but were limited in number and probably had little new material. An addition was built to house the books.

Interest in education continued. A kindergarten opened in a room over the Western Union Telegraph office, with a charge of 25¢ per child to defray expense. Many prominent young women of the city helped, and a number of children were present at its opening in May or June, 1881. In the winter of 1882, Mrs. M. Dunning reopened her kindergarten and a kindergarten cottage was built with funds raised by social events and programs by 1884. As an innovation at that time, (1886), it had gray instead of black, boards. Mrs. Dunning also held an evening school, at a charge of $1.00 per week for each student. Another private evening school was opened where bookkeeping, penmanship and business forms were taught. In the Spring of 1881, an evening school in a room over a store, held for the benefit of working men and boys, apparently was well patronized.

But the city schools were overcrowded. The Durkee School required an extra room and an additional teacher, and new departments were necessary at the north side school. The old high school building was in poor condition, unhealthy and overcrowded. After 1887, so many new families came that there was not room for the students and it was necessary to rent space. It was decided to put one-half of the cost of a new building into the 1889 tax levy and to build the following year . Z. G. Simmons appeared before the City Council and protested the erection of the new high school building on the present site, as the center of population was beginning to move westward. (1)

The Methodist Church burned in 1883, but was rebuilt at once. A new German Lutheran Church was completed in November, 1883. The present St. James church building was begun in the Fall of 1882 and a parsonage built in 1885. The Danish Baptist Association organized a church which occupied a hall over the First National Bank, in June, 1886. The Danish Lutheran Church had been organized and planned to build at the 10th Avenue and 52nd Street location in 1882-3.

In July, 1886 the organization of a YMCA began. By October this had progressed so far that rooms were occupied over the First National Bank. Gideon Hammond became its executive secretary. A series of entertainments were given during the winter of 1887. Later (1888), a reading room, with papers and monthly magazines, was open to all men.

Local baseball teams competed with teams from other cities, including Chicago and Milwaukee, the Kenosha Regulars was one team that competed. Roller skating grew in popularity during the earlier years of the decade. At first Simmons Hall was used, in January, 1882, a large building 40' x 140' was erected at 10th Ave. and 56th St., where skaters contended with one another. Some of the young men who had been among the lounging gangs became outstanding skaters, and the complaints against delinquents apparently grew much less after this facility for amusement

(1) Council proceedings, Dec. 1, 1889.

opened. In 1885, it was voted to license skating rinks, and this building was later torn down. Walking matches in the various halls were also popular. In December, 1886 the Kenosha Boat Club built a toboggan slide for the public at 10th Avenue and Pike Creek. Yacht races, and later bicycle races interested many. Bicycle clubs took young people further distances than they had been able to go on pleasure jaunts hitherto and other young groups came here from Racine and elsewhere on bicycle trips.

The local opera house brought productions of more or less worth. A better opera house was needed to draw better productions and larger audiences. People were as interested in theatrical productions then as now - twenty young people met at Josiah Bond's in Nov. 1887, to form an Amateur Theatrical Club. The Apollo Club continued to give pleasure to those who enjoyed music.

In the Fall of 1887 the Business Men's Club sent out a circular giving information about the city with a view of attracting more industries. That Spring the Club had again taken an active part in politics, and recommended that the mayor and aldermen be once more elected irrespective of party, and favored men who would make annual payments on the principle of the old debt, and also work for harbor improvements.

Prior to 1887 a local group of the Knights of Labor had been formed, there were evidently some other labor organizations also. A mass meeting of working men was called at the court house in March, 1887, to discuss the political situation. The election was a surprise: the labor candidates won, this was the only city in the state where this was true, but labor here was not as radical in its attitude as it was elsewhere. Fred Stemm, Sr. was elected as mayor. (1) But the mayoralty campaign was not the greatest sensation of that spring election. The law of 1885 gave women the right to vote for school officials. In the 4th Ward a number of ladies took advantage of this, went to the polls to deposit their votes and almost caused a riot! (2)

In 1889 another attempt to select candidates irrespective of party lines, (thought necessary when the town was just beginning to grow and new industries to come) failed and the election lost.

What brought about the increased growth and activity?

Very soon after the adjustment of the city debt various branches of industry began to make progress, and each year saw some extensive addition or improvement in almost every line of manufacture. It was hoped that there were more new ones to come.

In 1881, Peter Jacobs opened a match factory; a furniture factory also came that year. A butterine establishment opened in the Kimball block. Dairying had grown extensively in the county and used this as its shipping port. To one city alone, Worchester, Mass., 13,000 pounds of butter was shipped by refrigerator car in the early summer of 1882, and more went elsewhere. (3)

The Simmons Company was growing rapidly. Mr. Simmons had many interests in addition, - he was one of the directors of the Edison Electric Light Co. that "furnished lights for buildings superior to anything then known." (4) Through his instrumentality a new company, the Chicago Brass, came here and its buildings were

(1) Courier, April 1887
(2) Courier, April 7, 1887
(3) Ibid July 13, 1882
(4) Ibid Oct. 20, 1882

under construction in 1886. Josiah Bond gave three acres of land for its use, the city extended water mains. The Davy Clay Ballast and the Domestic Organ Companies opened in 1884, two other industries came from the east a little later. The Bain Wagon Works enlarged rapidly, as did the Allen Tannery. The latter was engaged in a lawsuit with the old Pennoyer Water Cure, to which it had become extremely obnoxious on account of odors and river pollution. In the meantime the Pennoyers purchased 50 acres of land on the lake shore and planned to erect new and better buildings.

A special edition of the Courier June 7, 1888 gives a resumé of the Kenosha of the late 1880's: Its headlines declare her to be

A BUSY THRIVING CITY

A Review of her natural and acquired advantages:

Superior Shipping Facilities
Desirable Residence Location
Rapid Growth of her Manufacturing and Mercantile Interests
Solid, Substantial and Secure

10 Churches - Congregational, Episcopal, Methodist, 2 Catholic, German Lutheran, German Methodist, Baptist, Danish, Unitarian

1 Central School, 3 Ward Schools; 2 Catholic, 1 German Lutheran, Parochial Schools; Kemper Hall

4 Artesian Wells 4 miles of mains
4 Volunteer Fire Companies - 3 hose, 1 hook & ladder

Planing Mill
Adams Pump Co.
N. W. Wire Mattress Co. (1)
Bain Wagon Co.
Tanneries
Andre Cigars
And Others.

Pettit Malting Co.
Chicago Brass Co.
Kenosha Crib Co.
Kressin & Jones Harness
F. W. Lyman & Son, Shoes
Sheet Iron, Tin & Copper Kitchen Ware

XV

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

1890-1910

By now it was evident that Kenosha had been drawn into and had a part in the vast industrial change that had taken place in much of Europe and in Eastern America, that the old dream of riches and growth through a shipping port alone was completely shattered. During the decade from 1880 to 1890 its population had grown from 5093 to 6532, the largest increase of any ten year period after its incorporation as a city. Heretofore little more than a country village with the usual public conveniences- or lack of them - characteristic of that period, it suddenly found it vitally necessary to provide some of the then modern improvements. Because there had been no need for such training, few of its workmen had experience in the skills required for such installation, while at first, assistance from elsewhere, measured by today's standards, often left much to be desired. But attempts were made, and though these were probably adequate for a brief time, they sometimes brought results that led to greater

(1) Now the Simmons Co.

problems later. And industrial developments were in the making that would greatly transform the old life of slower pace and harder work (but perhaps of more serenity) and create some unthought of and hitherto unknown perplexities.

The background of the long, hard years of the pioneer, the Civil War effort and the nagging demands of the huge debt had a considerable influence on public affairs without doubt. In those years men were forced to spend little because there was little to spend. Also, for years it had been necessary to petition the State Legislature for permission before many projects could be started. Perhaps these reasons may account for the hesitancy in undertaking any work that meant a large outlay of money, or an increase in taxes. But by the turn of the century, a change seemed to come in the attitude toward public improvements, also the public began to demand better facilities. And generally, throughout the country, a greater development in the arts and sciences and an increase in education had effects on lives and thought. Coupled with these was a change in the contact with the State government. Commissions and inspectors added their influence or insistance on reforms and betterments. The trend was toward newer ways, easier methods and greater expenditures.

The Industrial expansion, begun in the 1880's, increased steadily as some plants grew larger and larger. As the years went by, the Bain Wagon Works became one of the greatest in the country, with more and more buildings required, until parts of streets - 7th Avenue north of 56th Street and 55th Street east of 7th Avenue, were vacated by the city at the company's request and were occupied by the plant, (1908).

The N. R. Allen Sons' Tannery made even greater strides, until it became the world's greatest producer of harness and sole leather. In Feb. 1890, disaster struck again. Fire destroyed two large, six story buildings and spread until the old water cure building, the German Methodist Church and parsonage, the McDermott tannery buildings, nearby houses and barns and the approach to the 52nd Street bridge were burned. For a time it looked as if the entire north side of the city might be destroyed. The Tannery began to rebuild at once, with expansion after the purchase of the water cure property. The latter was rebuilt on the recently purchased site. In March, 1906, the Tannery became part of the Central Leather Co., in the great leather Trust.

The Simmons Industries advanced rapidly. With the farsightedness that has characterized the plant, its products were changed or increased to meet- or anticipate- public demands and comfort. In April, 1892, it too, became a victim of fire. The entire plant with its large lumber yard, the nearby Bain Wagon Co. lumberyard's 40,000 feet of dry timbers, the Head Sutherland (1) lumberyard with 35,000 feet of lumber, the Kenosha Crib Co. and the Baldwin Coal Co. were all completely destroyed. Both factories rebuilt at once and were in operation, at least on a small scale, by Fall.

Some other plants were less fortunate, The Little Scotford and Lane plants did not survive fires but were gone by 1893.

The Chicago Brass Co. added to both output and buildings. In November, 1901, it was sold to the Coe Brass Co. of Connecticut. The Pettit Malt Co. grew until its large plant occupied the greater part of the block on which the Elks Club Building stands. Excitement and enthusiasm marked the opening, in October, 1891, of a mattress factory owned by the George Perrin Associates or the Chicago Bedding Co., located on lots provided by the Kenosha Land & Improvement Corporation in then open country north of the city, now at 13th Ave. and 35th St.

This company was soon in financial difficulties. By Dec. 1892, the property was

(1) Now the Kenosha Lumber Co.

sold by Court order, but reorganized and continued in business. Suddenly, on June 23, 1895, it burned. An exciting arson trial resulted. Many outstanding criminal lawyers of Chicago, retained by the accused men, were pitted against the youthful district attorney, A. E. Buckmaster and Attorney Jos. V. Quarles. (1) Several men were convicted and served terms in the penitentiary.

In 1892 the Chicago Rockford Hosiery Co. took over the plant of the Kenosha Watch Case Co. and soon became a large and growing concern. About 1900 Milwaukee men began to make the Sholes or Visable typewriter here, an invention of Louis, son of C. Latham Sholes, but without success. The plant operated off and on from 1900 till 1909, when the owners became bankrupt. The Cooper Underwear Co. came into operation about 1902.

A number of other industries were started by local men. Among these were the Badger Brass Co.(2)The Windsor Spring Co., the Frost Co., The Whitaker Foundry, the Lippert Foundry, the Frank L. Wells Co., the Arneson Foundry and others. Peter Pirsch, who had been associated with his father in a wagon company, began to experiment successfully with fire fighting equipment.

In 1895, through the efforts of local men, two new industries came: The Sterling Bicycle Company, and the Sieg Walpole Co. also makers of bicycles. By 1898 the Sieg or Windsor Bicycle Co. was in financial straits, and closed under a receivership. About the turn of the century the Sterling Company became a part of the great Bicycle Trust and was moved elsewhere. Thomas B. Jeffery of Chicago purchased its buildings for experimentation with automobile manufacture. This proved successful and the plant speedily increased in size and production.

For 45 years the stockholders' meetings of the Northwestern Telegraph Co. were held in Kenosha, but now its stock was being bought up largely by eastern men and the headquarters moved east. Z. G. Simmons was president and A. H. Lance, secretary, treasurer.

In July, 1901 factory owners and managers formed an association designed to bring workmen to Kenosha. Part of this plan was the provision of low priced houses that could be purchased on an installment basis. When the leading manufacturers of the State met to organize the Wisconsin Manufacturers' Association, Kenosha firms took little interest. The Chicago Brass Co. was the only one represented at the Milwaukee meeting. Instead, the industrial managers here met to work on the previous plan of helping secure better working conditions for the workers.

Later the manufacturers did become a branch of the organization that was forming in all manufacturing cities of the country. It included the Simmons, Jeffery, Chicago Brass, Allen Tannery, Chicago Kenosha Hosiery, Frost, Badger Brass, Kenosha Crib, Bain Wagon, Windsor Spring, F. L. Wells, Cooper Underwear and Earl Motor Companies. Conrad Shearer Sr. became its secretary.

As the factories grew, help became more and more scarce. Foreign workmen began to arrive, among these in the 1890's and early 1900's, were many Italian families- 300 persons in one year. In 1904, nine Polish families, 67 persons, came, it was said that there were 1000 Poles in Kenosha then. In the Fall of 1908, it was necessary to send agents to Chicago for workmen, 100 were needed.

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(1) Mr. Quarles, a Kenoshan who moved to Milwaukee, later became U. S. Senator and Judge.
(2) The man at the head of the Badger Brass was Richard Welles, father of the actor, Orson Welles.

In February, 1905, a new industrial map showed that factories had doubled since 1900, with Simmons and the Allen Tannery in the lead; that the city limits had been extended and more than 1000 houses erected. In 1907, the State Factory Inspection Department reported that employed in 56 Kenosha establishments were 6,130 males, 1,020 females and 316 boys and girls under 16 years of age. But Kenosha ranked third in the state in unemployment in the Spring of 1906.

Early in 1908, the Kenosha industries were given space in Calverts Monthly, a magazine published in Chicago in the interest of manufacturers. This said in part:

> Kenosha is essentially a manufacturing town of the first class. The best evidence of the locality's value as a manufacturing point is - that the largest industries of the city have grown to a million dollar capacity from beginnings of the most modest character. Their growth is natural and healthy.
>
> It has preserved its identity as a residential city. The parks and streets are well kept, the schools of a high type; there are 16 churches of the larger denominations and a YMCA.
>
> The harbor was practically undeveloped and had capacity for handling considerable tonnage. At present the shipping consists of about 10,000,000 feet of lumber, 25,000 tons of coal and 10,000 of bark. With the present dockage facilities (1908) this capacity can be increased 20 fold.
>
> Wages:
>
> | | |
> |---|---|
> | Labor, common | $1.50 - $1.75 per day |
> | Skilled mechanics | 1.75 - 3.00 per day |
> | Electricians | 1.75 - 3.00 per day |
> | Office help | 1.25 - 3.00 per day |
>
> Tax- assessed valuation $16,000,000. Tax rate 1% on $100. There are openings for factories in many lines.

And many industries did consider locating here, but other cities overbid in granting sites or in financing.

All of this rapid growth put a heavy demand on every phase of life and, coupled with the fear of municipal debt and of heavy taxation on the part of the older population , posed a real problem. Party politics did not simplify the situation.

Water was one of the first necessities in this rapidly growing city, not only for household use and for the various industries, but the disastrous fires of 1890 and 1892 emphasized the requirement of a better system for fire protection.

The Park City Water Co. received permission to sink another artesian well east of 5th Ave. but the wells on the north side were no longer able to supply customers. Feb. 3, 1893, the Council voted to employ George R.Benzenberg of Milwaukee as a competent engineer to submit plans for a better system.

Water was the main issue in the city election that Spring and the choice of O. M. Pettit for mayor was a victory for those who desired a new system. By May, 1893, three propositions for such construction were received. The investigating committee recommended the acceptance of the proposal of W. S. Reed, Chicago, and the Council approved it. A Chicago bank failure made the Reed Company unable to proceed with the contract, and again all plans lay dormant for a time, but not forgotten - Kenosha was not going to let a bank failure elsewhere stop this enterprise.

The old plans were not entirely suited to the needs of the growing city and the Reed Company offered to draw up new plans and specifications for the sum of $600. This offer was accepted and bids were advertised for in March, 1894. On the 19th those of five different firms were submitted to the City Council:

> J. G. Glaver & Co., Chicago, $134,900.; N. F. Reichert, Racine, $129,000.; J. A. Williams, Kenosha, $112,000.; McArthur Bros., Chicago, $112,211.; I. W. Newcomer, Cleveland, $99,308.40.

On March 29, a public meeting was held at the Rhode Opera House to discuss Kenosha's then most absorbing interest. Details of the plan were given, intake pumps, pipe system, hydrants, standpipe, etc. and the proposed system of payment whereby the City would become the owner through use of revenue over a term of years. Dr. Hazelton, head of the Park City Water Co. thought the probable revenue was over-estimated and said that his company would remain as a competitor. But he also added that the Company would gladly sell to the city at a very low price.

Again the election hinged on water works, Dr. William Farr for, and Peter Jacobs against the construction that year. Dr. Farr won by 36 votes! An excited crowd celebrated the victory with cheers, singing and a street parade that ended at the newly elected Mayor's home.

In May, 1894, the Kenosha Water Company was incorporated by E. G. Hazelton, Lewis Bain and D. Conway Lloyd. The city was given the privilege of purchasing the complete system at a slight advance on cost. In June the Committee on Water-works reported favorably on the Newcomer proposal, for a system with intake 5,000 feet from the intake well, using pipe at least 24" in diameter. This was accepted with three dissenting votes. July 18, 1894, it was decided that the power house should be located at the foot of 56th St. When Mr. Newcomer experienced some difficulty in getting the bonds onto the market, his contract was assigned to W. H. Wheeler of Beloit.

In February, 1895, an ordinance was presented to the city Council that granted the city the right to purchase and maintain the water works. On August 15, 1895, six days after the Works were accepted the system was taken over by the City. Rules, regulations and rates were drawn up soon after and a Board of Water Commissioners appointed. The first members were J. B. Kupfer, John O'Donnell and O. M. Calkins. Shortly after this the Commission purchased the systems of the Park City Water Company and the North Side Water company for $20,000.

The Kenosha Water Works were of interest to other cities and on August 14, 1895, a special train with representative business men from Beloit, Janesville, Ft. Atkinson, Wauwatosa, Edgerton, Berlin, Oconomowoc, Watertown and Racine came to watch an exhibition test.

The total cost was $137,000 for a system composed of 13 miles of water mains, 102 fire hydrants, the pumping station and grounds, with 4,000,000 gallon per day capacity, also the seven flowing artesian wells. At the close of 1896 there were 416 artesian water consumers, 337 lake water consumers, total 735.

After water inspection and tests in 1898, people were advised to boil all drinking water, and many filters were installed - one in the Durkee school. That year the Water Commissioners requested authority to plan for a filter system. They were backed by the saving of $11,424. in two years through the ownership of the water works. The authorization was not given.

Meters were installed in 1901. By that time the water supply was again becoming a problem, and the City endeavored to stop the use of water for sprinkling. The small

plant did its utmost but it was not adequate in case of emergency.

Part of the bonds were called for payment in 1902. In Sept. 1903, the last of the second series of 2nd mortgage bonds were also called. But although the Department was making money, there was a suspicious drop in revenue and all meters were ordered sealed. The income rose again! In November, 1904, land adjoining the plant was purchased to permit future development. Jan. 1, 1905, a profit of $20,000 was shown with more than 27 1/2 miles of pipe and many more patrons.

A standpipe was a part of the plan and in Sept. 1905, lots for this were purchased. These were at 54th St. and 19th Ave. In April, 1906, arrangements were made for the erection of the structure. It was to have a 300,000 gallon capacity, to be placed on steel standards 40 feet high. The Water Department had put aside $15,000 out of its profits to pay for this some time previously (1906). A new pump with a capacity of 6,000,000 gallons was installed at the plant in Feb. 1908 to better meet water requirements.

In 1907 there was some agitation for the rebuilding of the old artesian system. Many doctors supported this, saying the water was better for table use, but by 1909 some of the old artesian mains began to break, brass pipes were required.

Then the Council ordered the department to retire its bonds at the next interest payment time. That required the money on which the Department depended to carry out its plans for improvements and extension, also there was not sufficient to retire the bonds. However the formal call was sent out for the payment of the bonds on Oct. 15, 1910, although it might be necessary to borrow money for that purpose.

Other water commissioners during this period were E. R. Head, Matt Greenwald, James Charles, James Barr, James Gorman and George Higley.

Fire and Police; The 1890 tannery fire evidently prompted one of three important actions taken by the City Council that year. On February 3rd the purchase of a new fire engine was decided upon, a month later a Clapp & Jones steamer engine was ordered, also 1,000 feet of rubber lined cotton hose. Soon afterward it ordered that trucks and hose carts be prepared for the use of horses in hauling, although it was September, 1895, before horses and harness were purchased and a man hired to care for them. Previously all hauling was by contract, and the contract for hauling the hose cart was still let. The Council also gave the Silsby Company a contract to rebuild the old steamer.

Plans and estimates were made for a new engine house on the city lot on Market Square (56th) and bids received in 1890. Wallis & Symmonds received the contract, the price: $6,680. About March 1, 1891 the building was completed. The city made an event of this. It is now the Central Fire Station just east of and adjoining the city hall. At that time there was no city hall, the council chamber was in this new building and each councilman had a desk. At the end of the decade it was still shared with the council, but the desks were rearranged in 1899 to give more room and also to enable all members of the Council to hear the proceedings. The old fire station on 56th St. was sold in 1890.

To meet the water shortage, the Chicago Brass Co. sank its own artesian well, and after some minor fires, the Pettit Malting Co. purchased its own steam fire pump and 1,000 feet of hose. The City still depended on volunteer firemen and in appreciation for their services the latter company gave each local fire company $30!

A fire alarm system was requested and a system was obtained from the New Gaynor Co. in 1899. Later an addition was made. In July, 1896 the Clapp and Jones

Fire Steamer was exchanged for a Chemical engine that was named the G. M. Simmons. The old fire bell was presented to the Frank school in 1897.

Changes come slowly: The new hook and ladder truck made by the Pirsch Company was horse drawn in 1898 but the hose wagon still was hauled by contract. But newer methods did come. When, in 1900, the Department asked for the purchase of a team to haul the hook and ladder truck because the rental service was poor and they had missed four fires, they strengthened their plea by saying that the team could be used for other near-by work, there was room for it and the teamster could sleep in the engine house. Then the City Clerk was instructed to advertise for bids.

The old chemical wagon that had been used for eight years - so heavy that three horses could scarcely move it, was ordered retired (1903) to be replaced by a combination chemical and hose wagon. The low bidder was the local firm of Peter Pirsch, to whom the contract was awarded for $1,360.

Rules for applicants were adopted by the Police and Fire Commission early in 1903, but a petition to the Council to reorganize the fire department on a paid instead of a volunteer basis with 60 members met no consideration.

When part of the fire apparatus was sent to the 3rd Ward in 1904, the Chicago Brass Co. loaned a building for storage. The Council voted to purchase a lot on 62nd St. 50 ft. W. of 18th Ave. for the erection of an engine house and plans were ready. The contractors were Parks & Glerum. Z. G. Simmons gave a combination chemical and hose wagon, made by Pirsch. The Fire Department was to purchase a horse and buggy for its own special use - a real innovation!

After the Iroquois Theatre fire in Chicago, schools were inspected and fire escapes ordered, four had been without such protection. By 1905, local conditions were such that the Advisary Insurance rates of Milwaukee gave a good report on Kenosha fire protection even though the hose wagon was used as a patrol wagon at times.

The 58th St. lot on which the engine house had stood was sold for $1,735 in April, 1905. Two men were added a little later, also a new alarm switchboard. Chief Barr retired that year and Henry Isermann became chief. Mr. Barr's retirement apparently ended the volunteers as a working unit of the city.

A new pay schedule for fire and policemen gave $50. monthly the first year, $55. the second and $60. the third. Again citizen's generosity was displayed when Thos. B. Jeffery sent a check of $500. in appreciation of efficiency and aid given at a fire in his home.

When Market Square was to be paved, citizens' protests were required before the old reservoir at 56th St. and 6th Ave. was filled up in 1909 although it had not been used for 20 years and was of little use for fire protection.

Those who wanted a cleaner city had an ally when the State Fire Marshal joined local officials in the demand that rubbish that was a fire hazard be cleaned up. The Police and Fire Commission urged the employment of more firemen but the council held that there was not sufficient money. A new north side engine house was wanted. When Mr. Simmons offered aid in this if more men were added, the offer was accepted and three men hired. Some systematic sprinkling of dirt streets also aided in cleaning fire hydrants.

Like many another city, Kenosha failed to increase its police force in proportion to its population growth. The few men employed lacked adequate equipment and a suitable headquarters. For a time the latter was over the Schend saloon, but moved

to the Gonnermann Block, 56th and 6th Ave. in the Spring of 1901. Agitation began for a police patrol wagon, but even a bicycle was not procured until the summer of 1903, and that for the use of the night man. The plea was then used that a patrol wagon could also serve as an ambulance, and a call system was asked for. In 1907 a contract was given the Signaphone Co. for 16 boxes and a four circuit switch board. Headquarters were moved to the Central Fire Station in May, and the long wanted patrol wagon was built by Peter Pirsch a year later, again, however a case of pay by public subscription, in part at least.

In 1898 there were six policemen, Marshall Barber was chief. When the residents and merchants near the Northwestern depot petitioned for better police protection, Charles Steinbach was appointed as special police, without pay. That there might be a man at the police office during the entire night an additional officer was appointed in 1902, this proved to be a valuable move. Again in 1905 the Council was asked to increase the force. A desk sergeant and a night man were wanted but it was difficult to get applications for either fire or policemen. By 1908, all applicants were required to pass an examination for both regular and special police officers. At that time the Police and Fire Commission, then in control under the State law, called in all special police stars.

The Commission required both discipline and performance of duty. Breaches of discipline brought an investigation of every member in 1904, and some were discharged because of neglect of duty. It was probably necessary, not only was there dangerous vandalism by boys, especially around the railroad and depot, but there was an epidemic of robberies. Six plainclothes men were put on. These and the police were ordered to arrest every suspicious character in the city and hold them in jail until they gave an account of themselves and their activities. The order went further - all hoboes were to be driven out and kept out, all saloons closed tight at the time set by law, and the streets to be freed of "saloon bums." If necessary, the officers were to shoot at sight. Within a few days two burglars were caught, three girls arrested for stealing dolls and boy chicken thieves rounded up. But for years hoboes continued to be insolent, a nuisance and sometimes dangerous.

Toward the end of this period, the city was visited by disreputable men from elsewhere. This resulted in the shooting and wounding of the chief of police one night, who required a long period to recover.

Three men were added to the force in June, 1910. The automobile law had to be enforced then - it was 12 miles an hour in the city. It also required each automobile owner to provide a horn or bell on the car and to sound it at every intersection. A white light in front and a red light on the back was also mandatory.

Sanitation and Health; Locally, the decade of the 1890's began with much illness and many deaths. This was so serious that schools and factories were closed during January, 1890. Diptheria and scarlet fever took a heavy toll of life, and there were other illnesses. That a possible cause was at least partially realized is indicated by the last of the three important acts (1) of the City Council referred to before.

This Resolution called attention to the fact that: (in brief) 1st. because of the sandy soil and natural drainage, failure to use proper sewers by a scattered population was possible, with fair sanitation for the past 50 years, but it no longer was adequate - that a general sewer system under the direction of a competent engineer should be adopted to fit the needs of the entire city; 2nd. it should be completed as fast as the wants of the people and public health demanded; when built, sewers should be of sufficient size to permit flushing from suitable manholes; 3rd. to afford every citizen an opportunity to drain his premises under suitable regulations by connecting

(1) Council Min. Mar. 27, 1890.

with suitable manholes; 4th. they were willing to be taxed to provide their lots with sufficient sewerage constructed in an economical manner. If taxation should reach its constitutional limits, the authority of the Legislature should be invoked to enable the Corporation to borrow money for sewerage purposes; 5th. the opinion of the meeting was that the proper way to reimburse the city for the necessary outlay was to tax each proprietor desiring to connect with the sewer a reasonable sum for the privilege, or in place of borrowing money, order the whole or part of the expense met by special assessments on the lots benefited. 6th. If necessary, because the present Charter was not adapted, to reorganize the city under provision of Chap. 326 of the Wisconsin statutes which provided a specific sewer plan. 7th. The present plan of permits by Council for property owners to build their own sewers was of doubtful legality. 8th. Consideration of public health peremptorily required that discharge of sewerage into open ditches and ravines should be absolutely prohibited until proper sewers were provided. 9th. That the authority of the city authorities was directed especially to the condition of the Bailey Canal and the Main St. (6th Ave.) sewer, the open ditches on W. Main St. (13th Ave.) and certain other described ravines as particularly menacing to public health in view of the hot, humid weather of the present season. 10th. The chairman was to appoint three citizens interested in the present drainage, with power to call future meetings of citizens for the purpose of forwarding the accomplishment of the desires of the present meeting.

Unfortunately these Resolutions were not carried out in as ideal a manner as they might indicate, but they did give the City Councils a certain amount of authority.

The city finally decided to pave 6th Ave. and ordered all underground work - water, sewer, gas, etc. put in. A standard datum plane for the city was established as well. The sewer contract was let to Jas. Markey of Milwaukee, the paving to J. B. Smith and Company of Chicago. In March F. F. Foote was engaged as city engineer to supervise the new sewer and paving work. This paving was completed and accepted by the Council Dec. 6, 1892, the first paved street in Kenosha.

Paving and sewer work continued from that time, but usually in short stretches, when property owners petitioned for, or consented to, the work. The bad panic and money stringency of 1893 caused the postponement of improvements, but an ordinance that year did provide for the hiring of a city engineer. Another Ordinance (1892), somewhat earlier, had forbidden other than licenced drain layers to construct drains.

Another step forward was the organization of a Board of Health in 1895, with Mayor Farr, a physician, chairman and the Chief of Police the Public Health Officer. This Board soon reported on the dangerous condition of Pike Creek, into which the Tannery was dumping refuse. It recommended dredging at once. The Tannery offered to dredge along its own property and to contribute $200 toward the remainder of the work, for which the city appropriated $400. The open ditch east of the Northwestern depot was ordered replaced by a two foot tile sewer (1926).

The perplexing question as to a way to proceed with the needed improvements met a partial solution when the Council found a method of legally spreading special assessments over a term of years. When paving plans were considered, the Mayor urged that broader streets were necessary on account of the many bicycles then coming into use. In the Spring of 1896 a scraper was ordered to begin work immediately so that streets might be usable by wheelmen.

In 1898, Dr. J. T. Cleary was appointed as Health officer with a salary of $200. per year, but without bids. Shortly before this, the physicians of the city and county re-organized and planned to hold monthly meetings when matters of professional interest would be discussed. One of their first activities was the appointment of a

committee comprised of Doctors Cleary, George Ripley and Helen Harbert, it to appear before the City Council and request a change in the method of selecting a city physician and president of the Board of Health. They felt that the health officer should be a regular practicing physician.

More stress was now laid upon health and sanitation. A pure milk ordinance was adopted (1898), this required a license, provided for stable inspection and prohibited open delivery, and the skimming and adulteration of milk, with 9% cream the standard. It fixed a fine of $50. for violation. In addition, Dr. Cleary advised better sanitation and garbage disposal. He also had the city water tested, then boiling was advised because it showed contamination. In Nov. (1898) a Health Ordinance recommended by him was passed.

When, the next year, the city again called for bids for a city physician, five doctors representing the Medical Association appeared to protest.

By 1901 the problem of garbage disposal had increased. In June the Council provided for a man and a place (near the city poor house on the Island) two days a week. This man was to work in the parks the other days. Eichelmann Park was then full of rubbish and garbage.

In 1909 the habit of receiving bids for the position of city physician still persisted. But a system of medical inspection of the schools under the direction of a regular physician and the Medical Association began in May, 1909, the doctors to serve without pay. Dr. George Ripley with six aids, one for each school, checked each pupil. Each doctor was to serve for one year. Frequent notices were given that each child must provide a personal drinking cup. Toward the end of the year the Mayor suggested a special health officer. The citizens again took a hand and demanded better health measures for the city. The Council ordered garbage dumping on Washington Island stopped.

The physicians of Racine and Kenosha Counties favored the building of a joint tuberculosis sanatoria (1910). The crusade against T. B. began in earnest here about 1908. Many stamps were sold in 1910.

Mrs. Mary D. Bradford, Superintendent of Schools, led the effort to have better cooperation from parents in contagious disease cases. Many of them rebelled at fumigation. The school buildings were put into better shape and the sanitary conditions improved. Other health measures were crusades against flies and rulings that all food stuffs displayed outside stores on sidewalks must be covered.

With the large influx of population, tenement houses sprang up and many were overcrowded. Some were in very bad condition. Mayor Pfennig ordered these investigated by the Health Department.

In the meantime, the sewer situation worsened. The Sewer Committee held nightly sessions to wrestle with one of the hardest problems to come before the Council. A complete reorganization of the system might be necessary, this would cost about $100,000. City Engineer Robert Moth suggested many plans- one, the use of Jerome Creek as the main sewer, but a water hazard from storm water was feared. The city attorney was kept busy with the legal points (1903). Prior to 1891 there was no sewer district, then a system was laid out. Its authors thought it would be adequate for years, but they had failed to count on a rapid population growth that almost doubled in the ten years previous to 1903. Also, the Council had granted permits for sewers outside the district and allowed others without protest. Now a halt was necessary as the present system was becoming overtaxed and the city might be liable for damages. New portions of the city were demanding service.

The committee was authorized to hire a consulting engineer to aid the city engineer if necessary. The work was not to be rushed as it was necessary to raise money for this costly project. W. S. Shields, a consultant engineer and sanitary expert from Chicago was employed. He recommended a main sewer and drainage district much larger than planned for, with relief sewer and an intercepting or trunk sewer. This would extend beyond the then city limits (1904) to provide for future needs.

This led to much discussion. Sewer service was impossible for those on the south and west sides. It lost the city two large industrial plants that had considered locating in Kenosha. Some members of the Council wanted to adopt part of the plan, others all, finally with a vote of 12 to 4, the council adopted the plan, subject to a special referendum held August 30, 1904. The referendum vote was against the plan, 1052 to 478.

The only course left was to repeal the Ordinance accepting the plan. The ones who had voted against it were the first to demand sewers. A new plan provided for the Jenne (53rd) St., Garden (54th) St. sewers and others to dump into the river, 8341 feet at a cost of $11,837. and for another with an outlet into Jerome Creek at Congress (10th) St., 6165 feet, this possibly to carry only storm water, to cost about $6,325. Immediately there were many protests from those living near Jerome Creek. Action was delayed when more protests and petitions with threats to take the matter to the courts were heard. Hisses and cat calls enlivened the meetings, while the "ghost of the trunk sewer persisted."

Finally an emergency plan was adopted (1905) that would permit the city to go ahead with the work, - to build an outlet from Main St. (6th) to the lake on Park St. (57th), a job the Council thought too big for local contractors. They decided to advertise this new sewer work in a way that would reach out of state contractors.

The river also posed a problem. It was dredged again by the Tannery Company on request of the Kenosha Board of Health. The next year the State Board of Health ordered the discontinuance of all sewers from the Tannery that emptied into the river.

Finally, after John W. Alvord, a Chicago sewer expert was engaged to act as consulting engineer on a new trunk sewer, a plan for all territory within the limits of the city except Washington Island was drawn up and open for public inspection (1909). His report recommended an 8 1/4 foot diameter drain from the Lake to Pleasant St. (18th), a slightly smaller one west along the line of Jerome Creek; the plan should drain 5000 acres, with a drainage ditch to Barnes Creek. Another sewer south of Selma Ave. (75th) would be needed later on, but the entire system should be revised. The outlet of a trunk sewer had been the great problem, this was solved by a plan for a concrete bulkhead 30 or 40 feet from the end of the sewer. An ordinance, to take effect in Nov. 1909, that prohibited outside water closets and gave the city the authority to order the abandonment of present structures, was passed. Then the need for sewerage became imperative.

It was impossible to proceed with any proposed work without a decided raise in taxes. Alderman Marlatt proposed a bond issue - the city bonded indebtedness was less than $300,000. This time (1910) the referendum was not voted down and the city could begin work. This was probably speeded up by citizens' protests over sewerage in Jerome Creek and the threat to appeal to the State Board of Health. This forced acceptance of the trunk sewer plan that the north side aldermen opposed. As the plans were adopted, the only questions were: as to the right to close Jerome Creek, and whether an 8 1/2 tile to 18th Ave. and six feet continuing west would be large enough. Releases had to be secured from adjoining property owners and that work proved to be slow.

Schools: When population much more than tripled in 20 years (6,532 in 1890 - 21,371 in 1910), school demands increased so fast that they could not be met. In 1891 the teaching staff was 19, an increase over former years. A new parochial school building erected by the St. James Parish absorbed some of the growing student body, but by 1893, the Board of Education could no longer defer making a request for money with which to purchase a building site for an elementary school. In one building the attendance in the 5th grade was 78, in the 7th grade, 81, with one teacher each. In 1893, the Superintendent received an increase in salary, he then received $400. a year. When that office became vacant the next year, E. L. Grant a scholarly, university trained business man of the city was chosen for superintendent. That year the Board purchased land on 57th St., plans and estimates were obtained by the committee on grounds and buildings, and those of J. C. Clancy were accepted. The contract was let to John Belting. At the June, 1895 meeting the Board decided to name this the Michael Frank School. On Dec. 26, 1894, Col. Michael Frank, "Father of Wisconsin public education" had passed away at the age of 90. A memorial service was held at the High School on June 28,1895, at which J. V. Quarles, Col. John McMynn and Mrs. Mary D. Bradford were speakers. (1)

In June, 1893, Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Trenery opened a business college soon to be called the College of Commerce which probably absorbed a few of the older students of the High School. For a time, this occupied the lower floor of the Court House, and by 1895, crowded conditions in the public schools necessitated the rental of a room in the Court House also, for pupils from the Central School.

Although speed was so necessary, there was delay when it developed that the architect had not provided for a central heating plant and a side wall had to be torn down. In the meantime, crowding was so acute that two grades occupied one room, one attended in the forenoon, the other in the afternoon. The school opened Jan. 6, 1896, Eva Riley was the principal, Sara Adamson , Frankie Stewart and Isabelle Bond were the teachers. The cost was $9,720.64, or with furniture and fixtures, $10,969.15.

In the Spring of 1896, the Superintendent advised that some provision be made for the smaller children because of the crowded conditions. That Fall attendance increased. In 1897 came another increase, and enlargement of the Frank School was necessary. In the Spring of 1898, the Board of Education purchased a lot at 61st St. and 18th Ave. for another new school. A graded salary schedule was adopted. And that Spring the North Side School was so crowded that it was necessary to use the second story of the North Side engine house. (2)

In July, 1898, bids were opened for another new building, again the contract went to John Belding. The Board decided to name this the Deming School in honor of Father Reuben H. Deming, who for years labored long and faithfully with Col. Frank and others to establish public schools. In January, 1899, as soon as they were ready, two rooms were opened for the 6th and 7th grades from the Central and the 2nd and 3rd from the Frank School. The formal dedication took place Jan. 20, 1899.

In Aug. 1897, Mrs. Stron of Lake Forest addressed the Board of Education, urging the teaching of music in the schools. Its importance was recognized and, after consideration, it was decided to try the experiment in September. The books

(1) Mr. Quarles later became U. S. Senator, Col. McMynn was State Supt. of Schools and Mrs. Bradford, for whom the H. S. is named, was becoming widely known as an outstanding educator.
(2) Kenosha Union Apr. 14, 1898 - Account of former pupils.

were purchased from Ginn & Co., the Company sent a teacher one day each week throughout the year. If this trial proved successful, it was agreed that a regular teacher would be employed another year. It must have been satisfactory,- in June, 1898, Mrs. Mamie Muller was engaged to teach music and drawing. In 1899 the High School students organized two literary societies, one the Castillian, the other the Athenaeum, each with over 100 members.

In the Spring of 1899, the Board of Education voted to purchase property at the corner of 43rd St. and Sheridan Road for a school site. C. A. Dickhaut drew plans, and funds were requested from the City Council. The new school, named the Gillett for Mr. Gillett, president of the Board of Education, was opened and dedicated early in March, 1900. The first teachers were Julia Portwine, Ella Toner and Miss Adamson.

But again, in May, 1901, the Board was forced to secure a school room on the second floor of the North side Engine House to relieve crowded conditions, and reported in favor of erecting another north side school the following year. Included with the report was a request for money. This new north side school was named Weiskopf in honor of the late Dr. Anton Weiskopf, a pioneer resident who had worked in the interest of education for 40 years. It was accepted in November, 1902 and formally opened early in 1903. The old frame building of years ago was sold and moved to the northwest corner of Sheridan Road and 45th Street. Arithmetic and spelling lessons were still on the blackboards as it was moved down the street. (1)

South side children needed more school room, west side schools too, were crowded. The children at the Deming were compelled to give up two play rooms because they were needed for classrooms, and the children played in the halls and corridors. No action was taken toward the purchase of more land.

The old Durkee School, where rest rooms were installed in 1895, was too small, poorly arranged and ventilated. A new school would be necessary a little later, as the old building must be abandoned because of its condition. In 1904 came a decision to replace it by a larger building that would relieve the High School congestion by making room for some grade students. T. Gaastra was the architect, the contractors were Peters & Steward of Janesville. The cost was $41,000,- higher than anticipated, and more ground was necessary. That the Board kept good watch on the work is indicated by the comment that John T. Yule ordered the work stopped once because inferior brick was being used. The School was ready and accepted by the Board in January, 1905, although fire escapes were yet to be built.

During this period the University School at 60th St. and 8th Ave., a private institution, was a popular school for older boys of the city. For three years in succession the graduates won annual University of Chicago scholarships granted to candidates who passed examinations with the highest grades. This excellent school closed in the Spring of 1909.

Kemper Hall struggled with a breakwater problem, thus must have been very appreciative of a gift of $5,000 from Mr. Simmons toward a new gymnasium in 1901. The College of Commerce Building, later to become the School Administration building, was erected in the Spring of 1901. Small private schools still existed, a Miss Weeks kept one in 1892, Edna Farr another at her home in 1902. Herman Martin, son of a pop manufacturer, had come to know many Italians. He used a small store building for a school where he taught English to Italian boys for $1.00 a month. There was other educational work outside the public schools. The YMCA night school for men opened with 52 in attendance in Oct. 1907. The Chicago Brass

(1) H. L. Hastings.

Co. had night schools for its foreign employees. St. Casimir's Parish erected a parochial school.

Changes were taking place in public school operation. In June, 1901, the Board of Education voted to open the school grounds to children after 8:00 A. M. and during the noon hour, but not after school was dismissed in the afternoon. Another let-down of rules was the use of the corridors of the High School for a basket ball court. This was a "new fad" in 1902.

In 1904 the High School was placed on the accredited list of the North Central Association of college and secondary schools. That Spring, many new teachers were engaged for the system, and almost an entirely new list of principals. The Board decided not to hire women principals in the future and they were barred that year.

A room was rented in the Tarbell building to provide the city superintendent with an office. (1)

In the Fall of 1904 a proposed issue of school bonds met with considerable opposition from the Council. Some aldermen objected to the "promiscuous building of schools" possible under the charter. The Council preferred to borrow the money and pay it off gradually. Some of the wealthy men of the town approved and would make the loan. The Board was given the right to borrow $25,000. for expenses for the remainder of the year, it to pay the interest.

That Fall schools were again so crowded that a 7th grade room was fitted up in the auditorium of the High School. Pupils were transferred from the Weiskopf to the Gillett school, which was not quite so crowded. And a fire drill was instituted in the schools probably as a result of the Iroquois Theatre disaster in Chicago.

Superintendent Zimmer not only put in a new, improved bookkeeping system, he recommended the use of the truancy laws to prevent so many boys from idling on the streets. Shortly after, the police chief ordered that no boys of school age be permitted to loaf about town. One small boy was taken to school from a bowling alley by a police officer! A highly trained man who served briefly as a substitute in the schools said he found earnest, competent and enthusiastic teachers who aimed to make the schools the best in the State, the Board was enthusiastic, the Superintendent efficient and the outlook favorable. Ahead of his time, this man advocated the same pay for women as for men.

In the Spring of 1905, Thomas B. Jeffery, interested in having manual training in the schools, notified the Board that a gift of $1,000. was ready for purchase of tools and materials if the work could be started within a month. It was planned to use one of the basement rooms of the Durkee for the 5th to 8th grades of the school for this purpose.

The Board of Education in its June, 1905, meeting recommended the purchase of future sites for schools, and a number were considered. An addition to the High School was also recommended, but by Sept. they discovered that the building was unsafe and repairs must be made at once. A little remodeling was done, but it did not help the overcrowding very much.

That June it also decided to adopt a kindergarten system for the city, influenced perhaps by the recently formed Kindergarten Association that used private kindergartens, also by the fact that, prior to this, some teachers had divided their time between the primary and younger children in their rooms, where there were over 40% of the latter in some instances.

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(1) This building stood at the rear of the First National Bank bldg.

Once more, in 1907, money for a building was requested. In Dec., 1908, the Council voted to issue $60,000 in school bonds for the erection of a 12 room school in the 3rd Ward. This, begun in 1909, was named the Columbus School. It was completed in 1910 and opened to 600 pupils April 18th, with 12 teachers and the principal, Marie Keating. The crowding was so reduced that no teacher was to have more than 50 pupils!

In Dec. 1909 desks were ordered for a Commercial Department to be added to the High School. It opened in 1910 with 60 students but only one teacher- it had been possible to secure the two desired. There were to be no 7th or 8th grades there to make room for this Department. The 8th Grades were in the Durkee, Bain, Weiskopf and Columbus, with a kindergarten at the Columbus. The public night school had seven times its former enrollment.

The Board gave attention to other duties than those of the erection of buildings and hiring of teachers. In Jan., 1910, it investigated the conditions in all buildings as to fresh air and temperature, and strict orders were given that these be properly maintained. It endeavored to further manual training, with a class under Frank Karnes' direction. Drawing was added in all schools and the science work improved, but there was no room for Domestic Science at the High School. A room was requested for backward children.

In the Spring of 1910 Superintendent Zimmer resigned and Mrs. Mary D. Bradford was elected to that position. The Fall of 1910 again brought crowded schools. Basement rooms were necessary at the Durkee and Columbus schools. Kindergartens were opened at the Bain and Weiskopf. The Board again asked for a bond issue for either a new school or an addition to one now in use. The Council decided to borrow $10,000 again for school use.

With the coming of Mrs. Bradford, a steady program of publicity, education and propaganda began, to enlist better public support and understanding of the city's school program. The Board apparently soon recognized her value, as it voted to offer her a three year contract to aid her in carrying out her plans for the good of the schools. Not long after, the new High School Principal and Mrs. Bradford rearranged the Course of Study so that it would offer subjects that would meet the demands of all students better.

The Spanish American War: Nationally, relations between the United States and Spain became more and more strained as the 1890's passed, which culminated when the U. S. battleship Maine was sunk off the coast of Cuba. Headlines April 21st, 1898 announced: "WAR DECLARED." (1)

Locally, at 2:00 p. m. April 22, all factory whistles were blown, bells were rung, guns were fired, and the life savers' cannon boomed to tell people that we were at war. Flags were raised immediately, and there was great excitement. A meeting was held at Simmons Hall April 23rd in response to the call of Col. Wm. Strong for volunteers. The President's Proclamation was read and announcement made that the meeting was called at the request of many citizens. William W. Miller of the Sterling Bicycle Co. was introduced. He called on all patriots to form in line and give in their names; 109 signed a paper declaring their readiness to volunteer and tendering their service, agreeing to enlist if needed and to hold themselves in readiness to respond to any call.

All others were requested to leave the hall and a company was organized. Col. Farr, the chairman, suggested that the roll be closed to all intoxicated persons and one name was stricken. William W. Miller was elected captain, Harry B. Thomas,

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(1) Ultimatum that resulted in war was sent to Spain Apr. 20, 1898 final action came April 25, 1898.

1st Lieutenant, John Washbish, 2nd Lieutenant, Capt. Miller had had eight years service in the National Guards, Lt. Thomas three years in the regular army and Lt. Washbish had also been in the army. Later 24 others volunteered. April 25th a letter from the Adj. General's office for Wisconsin expressed appreciation but stated that the company would not be called until the existing Guard had been mobilized and sent to the front. The Kenosha Volunteers were mustered into the National Guard of Wisconsin as Company E in August 1898.

Men began to leave the city to join companies, other boys joined the U. S. Army. The county gave the use of grounds for drilling and there were many flag raisings in the city. Three Kenosha boys were on battleships, David Theleen on the Massachusetts, Emil Monson on the New York and Jack Hill on the Texas. Later there were others.

In the ensuing months and years many were to give their lives. Edward Newhouse died at Ponce, Porto Rico. There were other deaths at various places, and much illness. Capt. Charles Symmonds did good work in Puero Principe, Cuba, until malaria forced a transfer to the United States. Col. Wm. F. Farr accompanied the Governor's staff to California to be present at the christening of the U. S. Battleship Wisconsin in November, 1898.

Kenosha boys were still in the Philippines several years later. Robert Brown came home in 1904 after six years of service there. He had lost an arm in battle and later received a thigh wound. The bodies of Walter Tanck and John Orth were returned to Kenosha and given a military funeral in 1901.

Library and Soldiers' Monument: The Kenosha public library did not come, full-grown, as a gift from a benefactor, but was to some degree the natural culmination of long-standing influences. As an early writer has said, the Kenosha pioneers were people of education who brought their books with them. There were lyceums, debating societies and cultural clubs through the years. The Woman's Club of the 1880's and 1890's was quite "high-brow" with programs that required breadth of reading and much research. And as we have seen, the Unitarian and other churches had small libraries.

Thus it was not strange that, in the now rapidly growing city, agitation for a public library began in 1895. A quoted plea made the point that "A public library was necessary to remove the stigma of being illiterate," that people cannot read without books. And "the sentiment of the citizens on the public library matter is growing to an amazing extent. One would hardly realize the extent of that demand without actually sounding it." (1) By November, 1895, the movement had gathered momentum to the extent that a meeting was called for Nov. 14th at the Grant House parlors. (2) Although the law permitted a one mill tax for such a purpose, that would bring a sum sufficient to maintain a very good library, it was decided to form a corporation of those interested.

The Articles of Incorporation were signed and properly filed. The name of the new Corporation was the "Kenosha Public Library", its purpose the "establishment and maintenance of a lyceum, library and gymnasium", there was no capital stock. Any person of "good repute" in the county might join by paying the annual dues of $2.00 and signing the Constitution and By-laws. "No dividends or pecuniary profits ever to be made or declared by the Corporation to its members" said one Article. The lyceum and gymnasium were included as the Corporation might, at some time, want these activities, but they were not the first consideration.

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(1) Ibid Nov. 11, 1895.
(2) The city's best hotel, corner of 58th St. and 6th Ave.

The first meeting of the new Organization was held January 6, 1896, with about 30 present and 57 names on the voting membership. C. C. Brown, H. S. VanIngen and Mrs. E. N. Kimball were appointed to select the officers and board of directors. The following board was named: James Cavanagh, W. W. Strong, E. L. Grant, E. C. Thiers, G. W. Johnson, Jos. Bendt, Z. G. Simmons, George Yule and John O'Donnell. The first officers elected were: Z. G. Simmons, president, George Yule, vice president, G. W. Johnson, secretary, and Jos. Bendt, treasurer. A committee composed of G. W. Johnson, C. C. Brown and James Cavanagh was appointed to confer with members of the Unitarian Church (1) in an effort to secure that building and library. The purpose as outlined was to provide a free public library. The membership fee gave a right to vote in its management, the money was to be used to buy books and pay maintenance expense. Later the city council would be asked for a referendum in a city election to make the library a free city institution under the State library laws. In the meantime, the use of books was not restricted to members only.

The Unitarian Church refused to part with the property, but its excellent library was given to the new Corporation. At first the library was located over the Redeker & English store, 171 Main St., now a part of the 1st National Bank. Mr. Simmons, who owned the building, fixed the rent at $5.00 per month, including heat! with a year's lease. E. C. Thiers, Jos. Bendt and John O'Donnell were appointed to arrange for cleaning the room, installing shelves, procuring furniture, etc. Mrs. Clara P. Barnes became librarian, the hours were from 12:30 to 9:00 p. m. each week day.

Gifts began to come - the first a check for $6.00, another for $1,000. both donor's names to be kept secret! Jos. Bendt and L.M. Thiers donated large tables, F. H. Lyman, a table and librarian's desk; E. H. Hollister, with his usual sense of humor, gave a lease for 99 years for his chandeliers placed in the room. Mrs. Z. G. Simmons gave an oak table, Mrs. Borkenhagen a rug; the Gas company, gas fittings; Pitts and DeBerge gilded the chandeliers. Edward Bain sent a check for $1,000. Feb. 22 the DAR gave a lecture, the proceeds, $50., were donated for the purchase of books on American history. The room opened Feb. 3rd to receive books, the formal opening was set for Feb. 22nd, but when Mrs. Barnes went to Milwaukee to study methods, she came back "with mingled enthusiasm and despair" at the work involved, and the opening was advanced to March 14, 1896.

Gifts of many books and magazines came, in addition new books were ordered, thus by popular interest, the library grew. Circulation increased, 555 books went out the first two weeks. Anna Hawley became assistant librarian. The December circulation was 2,122 books.

In January, 1897, it was apparent that the city was not yet ready to take over the library and that the 1896 method should be continued. George Yule gave $500 to start a subscription list to raise operating funds, and E. R. Head donated the library left by Michael Frank. By the close of 1898, George Yule had given $2,000. and Edward Bain $1,500 toward library operation. The quarters were so overcrowded that the Directors saw that the securing of a building would be imperative.

At the Directors' meeting in January, 1899, Z. G. Simmons offered to erect a building in Central Park, to place the park in such condition that it would make a beautiful setting, to install in the building a carefully selected library, and to present it to the city with the provision that it be called the Gilbert M. Simmons Library in memory of his deceased son; provided further that the city would levy a one mill tax, in accordance with the Statutes, to be used for the support of the library. Prior to this, the city had agreed to contribute $1,200 yearly, and it now heartily agreed to accept Mr. Simmons' proposal. The library, without a book, cost over $150,000. The interior of the central hall, of white Sienna marble brought directly from Italy, cost over $50,000.

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(1) Now the beautiful Boys' and Girls' Library.

At the same time Mr. Simmons also gave the Soldiers monument in this park. The contract was given to a local firm - the W. H. Morse Granite Co. The GAR held a service when a copper box, the gift of C. A. Dewey, with various articles therein was put in the base.

The monument dedication took place on May 30, 1900. As the day neared, the town showed unaccustomed activity. Following a decision to have such a camp, the Z. G. Simmons Sons of Veterans' Camp was formally mustered into service about a month previously.

The Monday prior to the dedication, Mayor Gorman announced that the streets would be swept, and put in first class condition. Individuals were urged to take an interest in the cleanliness of the city and endeavor to have the alleys near their homes cleaned up. The Jas. S. Barr Hook & Ladder Co. were at work arranging for the unveiling of the monument. Three large banners were hung about it, to remain until Tuesday.

The County Supervisor from Pleasant Prairie, S. B. Cropley, a Civil War veteran, was selected to represent the County Board at the presentation of the Soldier's Monument and to make the acceptance speech on behalf of the people of Kenosha County.

The merchants of the city vied with each other in decorating their buildings. A notable collection of relics were in the Dewey Hardware store window. A flag, then the property of James Stebbins, that had been purchased in 1860 for the use of the "Lincoln Wide Awakes" was brought out for use. At the outbreak of the war it was turned over to the enlisting officers, and all enlisted men of the city marched under it. This banner "Tattered and torn but full of memories" was carried on the 30th. F. H. Lyman displayed his costly collection of war relics - old muskets used by the forefathers of Kenosha citizens in the Revolution, the Mexican War and the then recent Spanish American War. George Hale had a collection of tattered battle flags carried in the Civil War- in one window those carried by Kenosha regiments; in another, the old flag of the Park City Grays, and other relics. This latter flag had been returned to Kenosha from Wm. McPherson's home in the East. He now presented it to Kenosha. (1)

The unveiling and dedication, with appropriate ceremony, was witnessed by an immense throng.

The library was not opened to the public until July, 1900. The first Library Board appointed comprised: Z. G. Simmons, George Yule, E. L. Grant, W. W. Strong, E. C. Thiers, John O'Donnell, C. C. Brown, Jos. Bendt, James Cavanagh, and the Superintendent of Schools, ex officio. An ordinance providing for the maintenance and support of the library was read at a council meeting March 19, 1900.

Mrs. Clara Barnes continued as librarian, Cora Frantz became assistant librarian in January, 1902. And in 1902 the placing of branch stations for school use was considered and the experiment tried, the first was on the north side, where about 300 books seem to have been placed. This move was probably a little too soon (1903), as a comment indicated that there was little circulation in the west side branch and the time was evidently not yet ripe for branch work. Otherwise, the story of the library for the rest of the decade was one of ever increasing use and circulation as more books were added from time to time.

Hospital: As the city grew and many came who had scanty or no facilities for care when ill, it became more and more evident that a hospital was needed. In the

(1) See Lyman, F. H. History of Kenosha Co. page 222 ff.

summer of 1898 a hospital was proposed, money was given, also an entertainment, to raise money toward the purchase of a house for this purpose. In 1899, several doctors offered to give free service when needed. Mr. Simmons thought that a new building was best and plans were drawn for him as he might build one. (1) But with a lull in interest and no definite decision as to a site, this plan did not materialize. One factor was the lack of a society or organization to assist in the very necessary future maintenance.

In 1903, the project was revived, and Mayor Pfennig suggested the organization of a society to further it. The death of a Harvard, Illinois, man in a doctor's office here emphasized the need of an emergency hospital. The Mayor took official action and called a meeting at the YMCA on April 24, 1903. A general invitation was given through the newspapers and the doctors took an active interest. The meeting was enthusiastic. Att'y. James Cavanagh was chosen chairman, W. T. Marlatt, secretary. No money was asked for, but a committee was to secure new members. This committee consisted of Dr. E. J. Elton, Mrs. W. R. Cheever and S. S. Simmons. The first to pledge aid was the Trades and Labor Council, who gave one-fourth of the proceeds of a fair given by them - $126.62.

This Kenosha Hospital Association secured a charter immediately, the incorporators were: G. Windesheim, MD., John O'Donnell and Att'y. James Cavanagh. A Board of Directors was to be in control of the proposed hospital. The Association was soon organized for work, there were 200 signatures on the membership roll, and others promised. A Board of Directors was selected by a committee: Dr. W. Cheever, W. Purnell, P. Fisher, Sr., Mrs. O. S. Newell, and Mrs. James Cavanagh, for three years; Chas. F. Cooper and Z. G. Simmons, two years; John O'Donnell, one year, they to elect a president and secretary, draw up a constitution and bylaws and appoint committees.

A suitable house was sought. The Tipton house, at 18th Ave. and 54th St., that cost $27,000 was offered for $15,000 or less, together with a large lot. The Kupfer house at 56th St. and 10th Ave. was decided upon but neighbors opposed. Next, the Eichelmann property at 5th Ave. and 61st St. seemed the best choice, with a large house, a small one, also a barn. The gifts of four people secured the hospital: Mrs. Frances Bain Newell, $5,000., Mrs. Carrie Bain Hoyt, $3,000., George Yule, $2,000., Mrs. Edward Bain, $1,000. Others gave $1,000. In Dec. Mrs. Hoyt gave an additional $500. The Danish Societies, the Catholic Order of Foresters, the Royal League, the Knights of Pythias and the Elks Lodge all gave.

The purchase was completed on August 14, 1903, and repairing and remodeling rushed. The house was replastered and everything done to give perfect sewerage and sanitation. The first floor was for offices and men patients, the second floor for women. There were four wards, the small bedrooms were private rooms. It was not to be a free hospital. The Directors fixed the rate at $6.00 a week in wards, a small private room was $10., a large one $12.00. Miss Hall was the first superintendent. The Tannery sent the first patient. By Nov. 19, there had been two operations, one birth and there were then six patients. The Kenosha Medical Association appointed a hospital advisory committee: Drs. Wm. R. Cheever, G. Windesheim and A. VanWestrienen. Soon that Association was discussing plans for a new building.

After the tragic death of Pres. Chas. F. Cooper in the Iroquois Theatre fire, Mrs. O. S. Newell became president (1904). Familiar with Chicago hospital work, she was exceedingly well qualified. That year, 1904, the hospital opened a training school for nurses, but the number had to be limited to three or four. There were

(1) The Simmons Co. had an emergency hospital for injured men, the first in Kenosha, Kenosha News, July 28, 1909.

11 operations in August, by September it had had 29 patients. Five new beds were added to the wards.

Gifts continued to come in 1904-5 from Mrs. Nathan Allen, Thomas B. Jeffery, C. W. Allen, with additional sums from George Yule, Mrs. Hoyt, the Chicago Brass and others. Thomas Hansen loaned the use of his finely equipped ambulance. The Medical Association gave a modern oxygen outfit. But although patients and operations increased, the hospital was not self supporting.

Miss Hall resigned in Feb. 1906 and Mrs. Helen Armstrong became Superintendent. Four nurses were then employed. That Spring a regularly incorporated nurses training school, giving a three year course, and diplomas, was started. At least a dozen nurses were badly needed (1906). Money and gifts continued to come, especially at Christmas. Miss Maloney was the next superintendent.

It was soon found that this building was far too small, with only five private rooms and overcrowded wards. The first thought had been that the hospital would be for the poorer residents only, but now everyone was using it. A gift of George Yule in 1909 of $5,000 was on hand for use in building. The Medical Association appointed a committee from its membership to work for a new building. A meeting of the Hospital Association considered plans for the erection of a building. It was realized that the wealthy citizens and the manufacturers would have to bear most of the load, but all were invited to contribute so that the entire city would feel an interest in the project.

In the summer of 1909 bids were received, but the contract was not let, as there was not sufficient money on hand or in sight. Then, in November it was announced that the hospital could be built as the fund had grown to $50,000. This was contributed by George Yule, Mrs. Hoyt, Thos. B. Jeffery, Simmons Mfg. Co., C. W. Allen, Nathan Allen and the N. R. Allen Sons Co. Other gifts were expected, but work was delayed as $27,000 additional was needed. That month Mrs. Moore became superintendent.

In June, 1909 there were two graduates from the Nurses Training School. The physicians wished to provide a more formal organization of the training school along the lines of leading colleges.

Early in 1910 the Kenosha Hospital Association incorporated, with a capital of $100,000. The incorporators were: Z. G. Simmons, Thomas B. Jeffery and Mrs. Nellie Cavanagh. That Spring, ground was broken for the new building. Thomas B. Jeffery, Mrs. J. Hoyt and George Yule had given $10,000 each, Nathan and Charles Allen $5,000 each, Mrs. Julia Durkee $1,000, the Simmons Co. $25,000, C. Booker for the Chicago Brass Co. $5,000., F. L. Wells, B. F. Windsor, F. H. Hannahs and the Frost Co. each $400. The old building was an additional asset. By August the building was nearing completion. People were asked for contributions to apply toward furniture, linens, dishes, etc. In Sept. a gift of $20,000 was announced also many other gifts. E. S. Newell sent a check for $3,000 and Moyca Newell an endowment of $10,000 (1). The building was completed March 1911.

Relief or Welfare: When the panic of 1893 brought much suffering and continued need, a group met in Judge VanWyk's office to form a society for relief purposes "without regard to color or nationality, this to be known as the Associated Charities of the City of Kenosha." (2) The officers were: O. M. Pettit, president, John C. Slater, secretary, C. C. Brown, treasurer; the executive committee: Samuel

(1) Son and daughter of Fred S. and Frances Bain Newell, grandchildren of Edward Bain.
(2) Dec. 26, 1893. See Union Dec. 28, 1893.

Reynolds, Fred C. Stemm, George Yule and Jos. Bendt. A subscription list was started and people were asked to contribute, the articles were to be left at the city hall (1894). This work continued until some time in 1895, both money and clothing were required. Tramps were still housed in the jail- about ten each night, these were a better class of men than those of former years, indicative that theirs was a more or less forced wandering through lack of employment.

Permanent relief cases evidently were rather poorly cared for, as the State Board of Control named the local poor house one of the worst in the state and a fire trap. Thereupon, in 1899, the pauper committee asked the council to make an appropriation for a new poor house. Nothing was done immediately, but in 1902 the Council decided to purchase a poor farm outside the city limits, in Somers. The details of this purchase of the Henschen farm were finally completed in Feb. 1903, and by March it was ready, with everything plain, neat and clean, with room for about ten people. The office of poormaster was done away with, all matters were to be handled by the chairman of the pauper committee.

When the committee notified the paupers that they must either occupy the city institutions or be struck from the rolls, the number on the rent roll decreased from 20 to 2 (1897). They seemed to live without any difficulty and it was felt that Kenosha was so busy that most cases were unnecessary. By the Fall of the following year, the city poor farm was found to be self sustaining.

For years about 60 children from Chicago were brought to Kenosha for the benefit of a few weeks' life on the lake shore. The camp was located south of the Kemper Hall grounds at about 69th Street. The Sisters of St. Mary put up a temporary home for these children. Gifts of food and transportation were made by Kenosha people.

In the Fall of 1910, when she found children unable to attend school because of hunger, and that others were compelled to work to help buy food, Mrs. Bradford started a movement to unite the charity organizations of the city. During the preceeding years, a number of private, club, and church organizations had carried on some charitable work, and it was largely these that she hoped to see combined to avoid duplication and imposition.

Politics and Reforms: Men took politics very seriously. Too frequently personal or civic interests were sacrificed to "What was good for the party." To the credit of voters, at times the best man won in elections and party was placed second. In the main, the Mayors were successful businessmen, but the smoothness and efficiency of the council meetings seemed to depend greatly upon the personality of the mayor - or was it whether or not he was acceptable to certain members of the council?

This was a period of change. New people poured in, not only native born, but many from overseas, who were brought here for cheap labor. Many of the latter were of different race and background from that of Kenosha's population heretofore. They differed in education - if any-, in speech and custom. Too frequently our citizens' attitude was one of avoidance and dislike. But as we have seen, efforts were made to train these newcomers for citizenship.

As time went on, politically, this influence became more evident. There were some who were ready to exploit this foreign vote for their own ambitions. Since men could then vote after they had received their first papers (1902), they were urged- and helped- to do so. The report was that some were told that they should vote in every Ward. Unfortunately, at times, it was decided not to have a registra-

tion of voters as a means of saving several hundred dollars. (1) The poll lists became badly padded and voting was corrupt. The new voters were more or less helpless until they became more familiar with their new country and its language, and could do little other than follow the instructions given them, - too frequently by the wrong people for the good of the city.

Laxness in law enforcement had become general, officials permitted violations of the State laws, particularly in allowing saloons to sell to minors and to remain open at prohibited times. Gambling and slot machines were prevalent. Eventually a Citizens' League was formed, with the purpose of compelling saloon keepers to observe the state laws. Soon after, an attempt by slot machine men to bribe Dist. Att'y. A. E. Buckmaster resulted in the arrest of the briber. But after awhile the machines were back, and again ordered out by District attorney Baker.

In 1902, Charles H. Pfennig, then a young man, was elected Mayor, followed by an almost entire change in the appointive offices in the city. For the first time in 15 years, the town was dry on Sunday night after 8:00 p. m. on order of the chief of police. New rules went into effect for saloons, wine rooms and gambling dens, and were enforced. Minors, many of whom had been drunk, were protected. Most of the saloon keepers were well pleased with the new order. The supervisor of assessments was instructed to have assessments made at full value, even if it meant extra help.

An effort was made to have a curfew law because so many small boys roamed the streets. The city council ordered a curfew ordinance prepared, but it was killed when it came to a vote.

Temperance had become more and more an issue all over the country. The Anti-saloon League was at work in Kenosha and sought to have the license question submitted to voters in 1905.

In 1906 a Civic Federation was formed, the incorporators were: H. H. Maddock, Frank Symmonds, J. H. Karnes, Dr. J. L. Cleary: the trustees: A. E. Buckmaster, John T. Yule, Frank Symmonds, J. H. Karnes, Charles H. Goodman, Dr. Cleary was vice president, H. H. Maddock, secretary, T. T. Parker, treasurer, Christian Heide, president. It announced that it was in favor of a campaign of education through which people would be instructed in the laws and would urge a better enforcement. Soon some arrests were made on complaint of this organization.

In 1909 it engaged in a new fight on gambling. And some of its members or friends were suggesting a change to a commission form of government for the city. About the close of 1909 this organization was involved in a case that met the opposition of the mayor. This endeavored to force a revocation of license of a saloon because of selling liquor to a minor. This brought about an agreement among the saloon men not to plead guilty in such a case lest their licenses be revoked.

Early in January, 1909 the city council appointed a committee whose duty was to draft a building ordinance, which was more and more necessary as the city grew. The committee consisted of D. J. Harff, F. F. Foulke, Fred Larsen, H. J. Clark, John Priddis and C. H. Goodman. In Feb., 1910 this committee presented such a code to the council- 90 pages of closely written matter, this provided for a building inspector. No decided action was taken on it.

By the end of the decade, a mayor, elected partly at least, through the influence of the new voters, headed the city. This man was of a different personality, or business, and viewpoint, from most of his predecessors. Apparently he was impul-

(1) Another saving was the discontinuance of the publication of Council Minutes in any paper.

sive, argumentative and given to flights of oratory, which had the effect of disturbing rather than controlling the council. The latter was divided, part somewhat sympathetic with the mayor's stands, the others, who had the support of the Civic Federation and its friends, decidedly opposed. The result was a series of stormy, at times almost ludicrous meetings, where hard words were spoken and personalities indulged in, to the detriment of the transaction of the city's business.

Unions and Labor: Through the years some effort was made to form labor organizations, but most of these, unchartered or loosely connected with larger groups did not prove lasting. One of the early groups was the Order of Union Mechanics, No. 12, who voted to name their group after Col. Michael Frank in 1895. But working conditions were leading to a dissatisfaction that made the time ripe for further organization.

Men were working 14 hours a day for $1.40 as the depression continued in 1894. But hours for store clerks were improving: they closed at 7:00 p. m. except on Monday and Saturday during the summer. Strikes and labor troubles occurred during the summer of 1895. The Chicago Mattress Makers Union sent a committee of three to investigate a strike at the Perrin Co. factory. Other strikes, usually of short duration, took place at the Chicago Brass, the Simmons Mfg. Co., the Allen Tannery and the Kenosha Novelty Co.

The first charter to an organized labor group in Kenosha was issued on Nov. 21, 1895, when metal workers formed the Metal Polishers & Buffers Union #45. This charter from the Polishers' International Union marked the real beginning of the labor movement here. The printers or typographical Tradesmen, Local #116, were issued a charter June 8, 1896, which bears the name of two women, Kittie Ward and Maggie Burns, also that of Dwight House, who had been a Union man for almost 18 years prior to the issuance of this charter. Among the earlier organizations was: The Bicycle Workers' Union Local No. 1 that filed articles of incorporation in May, 1896.

In January, 1897, a small group of musicians conversing in a rehearsal room on 57th St. decided that the musicians of the city should organize. They were chartered as Local #59 on Jan. 22, 1897. In those days the Windsor Band, the Stemm Bros. Band, the Jacoby Band and Local #59 Band were active in providing a high type of concert music.

The Carpenters' & Joiners' Local #161 was organized through the influence of of the Metal Polishers' Union. David Shosted, one of the first to join, later held nearly every office. The iniation fee, at first $1.00 was lowered to 50¢. This was very successful. It was then raised to $2.00 and Dec. 1, 1899 to $5.00. In April, 1899, the wage scale was 25¢ an hour for a 9 hr. day. Feb. 1, 1902, it rose to 30¢ an hour, with time and one half for overtime; in 1903, it was 35¢ with an eight hour day. It has continued to rise. This Union affiliated with the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor April 15, 1898. It has had very few strikes, the one real struggle was with the Tannery in 1908-9, when many men were idle for a long time.

The Machinists' Union is one of the oldest, chartered as #34 on June 8, 1897. For a long time the Simmons Co. was the only one to recognize it, now it has members in almost every shop. The Lathers' Local No. 225 was also organized in 1897.

A Teamsters Union was organized early in 1898 and through their efforts, a resolution was adopted by the city council to employ only Union teamsters. They apparently organized a new Union in 1905.

When paid $7.00 per week instead of by piecework, the girls at the Hosiery struck. They were replaced and lost their jobs. A Malsters & Brewers Union was

here in 1898. A Brass Mill Labor Union filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State in Oct. 1896; T. P. Hansen, Walter H. Blood and M. J. Brady were the incorporators.

In 1898 the Masons & Bricklayers Union requested that only Union labor be used on city contracts, this was granted. When work on the Soldiers' Monument in Library Park began with non union labor, an objection was raised. The Union wanted Contractor Morse to have the base of the monument laid by Union labor and he agreed to use only such labor thereafter.

A charter for the Barbers Local #37 was issued in 1916, but it received its first charter in 1904. In the days when individual mugs and brushes were used, with tea kettles for heating water, hours were long and pay low. A shave cost 10¢, a haircut 25¢; the hours were from 7:00 a. m. to 9:00 p. m. except on Friday, when the shop closed at 11:00 p. m. and on Saturday, when closing time was after the last customer left. Life began to improve after the Union was chartered. Wages were then $10.00 a week. On April 23, 1907, a new agreement made the Wednesday closing hour 8:00 p. m.; Saturday, 11:00 p. m. February 25, 1908, wages were raised to $12.00 with 50% commission on individual business over $18.00.

The Painters' Union was organized in 1898, but charter #934 is dated March 30, 1904. The men received 28¢ an hour then. The charter for cigar makers, Union #30, bears date of October 20, 1904, but that organization first received its charter in 1898.

Mrs. Emma Lamphere endeavored to organize a retail clerks' Union here early in 1902. She apparently had some success, for in July, 1902, a demand was made for shorter hours. A milk dealers union was formed at the creamery in 1902. The price of milk was raised to 6¢ a quart, as milk was scarce. This was also to protect the members from the "dead beats of the city", and was evidently more on the order of a Guild.

Other unions were those of the bakers, dock wallopers, tanners or leather workers, and bartenders. April 25, 1902, the American Federation of Labor chartered the newly organized Trades & Labor Council. Those that made applications were: Metal Polishers & Buffers, Carpenters & Joiners, Machinists, Musicians, Retail Clerks and Cigar Makers.

The demand for cheaper labor brought many emigrants to the city. Probably as a result of this, the Unions began to lose their hold, and for some years only a few remained strong. When the Typographic Union #116 asked that all county and city printing bear a Union label in November, 1903, it was refused. In October, 1907, the Badger Brass Company declared for an open shop, and a strike followed. A few months later, the Master Builders' Association also declared for an open shop followed by a strike. In the latter strike, a Board of Arbitration consisting of M. J. Bode, T. J. Dale, Jas. Gorman, Wm. Barden and M. J. Isermann, awarded a raise in pay that was accepted by both organizations.

Lights and Electric lines: By August, 1891, about 60 electric lights had been installed by the Western Electric Co. of Chicago and an "electric ball" was held. But the Police Committee of the Council was ordered to purchase lanterns for the policemen, so many corners still must have been dark. And almost immediately, a boy was arrested for tampering with those new lights! About this time Peter Rhode, Sr. erected a new opera house, and the old gas lights were discarded for electricity. This undoubtedly happened in many buildings.

By 1897, the local electric light company had enlarged enough to take care of demands. In the Spring of 1900, the Kenosha Gas & Electric Light and Heating Plant consolidated

under the name of the Kenosha Gas & Electric Light Co. and filed Articles of Incorporation, the incorporators were F. W. Bowen, Mrs. Emily Kimball and Att'y. James Cavanagh; it was practically a Kenosha Corporation as most of the stock was owned here. An Ordinance in 1899 permitted the W. H. Schott Co. to construct, maintain and operate a system of heating works to supply the city and its inhabitants with heat for a term of 50 years. The way was opened for a future lawsuit when the city accepted new lights under a contract with the Kenosha Electric Railway Co. instead of the Kenosha Gas & Electric Light Co.

But soon the city became involved in a veritable maze of transactions, ordinances and franchises with light and railway companies until it is difficult to tell just what was accepted or in force. Injunctions, charges of, and suits for, bribery that involved both contractors and some officials followed.

Finally the electric railway from Milwaukee through Racine (MRK) reached the North City Limits at the end of Milwaukee Ave. (7th). It brought a band and a small cannon from Racine, also the congressman and the postmaster. The cannon was fired several times along the way. But passengers had to use busses and hacks or walk to reach downtown Kenosha. Soon cars began to run every hour. The fare to Racine was 20¢, less for a round trip. Buses carried passengers to the car stop for 5¢.

In the early 1900's, the Chicago & Milwaukee Electric Line was also endeavoring to obtain a franchise in the city, but trouble developed with John Beggs of the MRK line. The former opened its line for traffic from Chicago Nov. 30, 1905. It planned to complete the line north the next year, although condemnation proceedings were necessary through the Jeffrey property. The city officials still struggled with a local street car problem. In addition to the legal tangles, it was found necessary to build a new bridge over the river at 6th Ave. before cars could cross. While the old bridge was down and construction going on, a ferry was used to conduct passengers across the river. Finally, after delays, the bridge was done, and in order to get transportation started, the Kenosha Gas & Electric Co. gave permission for the installation of the dynamo at its plant. Some factories had also offered this. But before the first car ran on the streets, the power house of the Gas & Electric Co. burned. The use of the cars was deferred, while all the lights of the city were completely off. People were requested to place lamps in the windows to aid pedestrians. The first car finally ran Sunday, Feb. 1, 1903. Willis Russell was superintendent of street car service. Mayor Charles H. Pfennig paid the first fare and was among the first passengers.

All of the line was not yet complete and trouble dragged on. In July the Council threatened to oust the railway if it did not adhere to the conditions of the Franchise. The first cars were evidently the open ones then used for summer traffic. Three second-hand cars were ordered for winter use, as it was impossible to get new ones until some were built the next year. The cars came from Coney Island and Brooklyn, and gave quite a metropolitan air to the city until they were repainted!

The Company asked for a franchise extension but the Council tried to force better service before granting this. The complaints were that no schedule was kept and no transfers granted. A fight developed over the transfer question, the Company was defiant until the Mayor, Mr. Gorman, stopped all cars and they were left standing on the Square pending the use of transfers. This was soon compromised. Finally, in November, 1905, the last rail of the street car line was laid, the end of a ten year fight, but difficulties of past years were not all settled and kept reappearing because of what was known as a "boodle franchise."

Considerable effort was required to bring about the installation of underground wiring. In March 1910, an Ordinance passed that required much of this to be done

within a period of ten years in the down town section.

Churches: The churches grew with the influx of population and some soon had building programs under way. The Immanuel or German Methodist congregation rebuilt at another- the present site; the church was dedicated in Nov. 1890. The Baptist Church also erected a new building, and held its services in the court house while the work progressed. Its corner stone was laid October 21, 1890, the dedication was Oct. 4, 1890, its cost $11,205.50. George Yule, of the Bain Wagon Co. subscribed heavily toward this.

Both of these faced new projects in 1901. An addition was needed by the Immanuel Church. The new Baptist church burned, although firemen fought bravely. Will Schend and Henry Isermann faced the flames on the roof until their ladders caught fire. (1) The Congregation began to rebuild at once. It was dedicated free from debt in Feb. 1903 through gifts from Mrs. George Yule.

St. Matthews Episcopal Church, after many years of work, as money came to meet the cost, at last completed the present building and in 1890 purchased the A. Farr house at the corner of 7th Ave. and 59th Place for a Rectory, the barn was remodeled for a temporary Guild Hall. The latter was dismantled and the new one begun in October, 1901, the dedication was the following April.

Early in 1891 the Salvation Army held street services for a time, unfortunately, these had to face disturbances and ridicule. The YMCA re-located at the corner of 59th St. and 6th Ave. where it owned a frame house and lot. Plans were drawn with a hope of building later on. The organization was active in the meantime.

The German Lutheran Church was ready for rededication in May 1897. Peter Jacobs gave the Polish Catholic Church two lots on Division St. (Washington Road) on which to build. The corner stone for St. Casimirs Catholic Church was laid in 1902, and the church opened with much ceremony in April, 1903.

The Swedish Lutheran Church on 3rd and Pearl Street was dedicated Nov., 1898. To enable it to be dedicated free from debt, Mr. Simmons gave $500 plus half of its remaining debt. The corner stone of the Norwegian-Danish Church at Bond and Pomeroy Streets was laid July 1, 1899 and the church dedicated Oct. 29th. In July, 1903, ground was broken for the Grace Lutheran Church on 60th St. The Friedens or German Lutheran Church rebuilt, and the church was dedicated Sunday Dec. 19, 1909. They had also erected a school building. In the Spring of 1910, the Slovak Lutherans organized as the St. John's Congregation and purchased the old Howe home on 38th St. for use as a church.

A contract was let for the St. George Hall in May, 1899. In 1902 an addition was made to the St. James convent. The corner stone of the Holy Rosary (now Mt. Carmel) church was laid in Nov., 1905, and the church dedicated in August, 1906. In 1909 the Lithuanian Catholic group held their first church service in the old German Lutheran building, which they had purchased. The St. Thomas parish was organized late in 1909, with Father Malone as pastor.

The Swedish Baptist congregation purchased a site and dedicated a chapel in 1904. In 1909 the church building at 63rd St. and 24th Ave. was erected, and dedicated Oct. 2, 1910. The building of the Holland Christian Reformed Church was dedicated June, 1905. And that year Z. G. Simmons gave $15,000 toward a new Unitarian Church in memory of Rev. H. M. Simmons, a former pastor. (2)

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(1) Telegraph Courier Nov. 21, 1901.
(2) These men were not relatives, just good friends.

The Park Avenue Methodist Church outgrew its building and erected a new brick structure at the corner of 60th St. and 7th Ave. in 1906.

The Salvation Army formed a regular congregation here in 1905, and opened a reading room for homeless men. In 1903 the Jewish people of the city formed a congregation, and planned to build a synagogue. The Bahaai group was formed in the summer of 1901, when Muza Assed Ullah held successful meetings in Kenosha.

Parks: Eichelmann Park (1), so called in honor of Ben Eichelmann who gave part of the land, suffered from the bombardments of the Lake, and 70 cords of stone were advertised for use for the breakwater protection (2).

The will of Edward Bain, deceased, gave the land in Block 10, adjoining 63rd St. and 10th Ave. to the city for a park. This was accepted but by the Fall of 1900 it was largely grown to weeds. For some years the Bain family cared for its upkeep but in the Spring of 1906 this was turned over to the city. And in 1905, 50 residents petitioned to have Eichelmann Park cared for and improved.

In Feb. 1909, Orla M. Calkins offered to erect a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln, to cost about $6,000 in Library Park. Needless to say, this was accepted by the Council. All plans were made for the unveiling of this fine statue by C. H. Niehaus of N. Y., which were to include a big celebration, when Mr. Calkins suddenly died. The statue was unveiled with simple ceremonies as the body of the donor was carried past on the way to the Cemetery.

In 1910, the Council began to discuss the purchase of Bonds' Woods (now Lincoln Park) for park purposes. (3) The Woman's Club members joined in an effort to bring this to pass. They wished it to be used as a playground as well. A playground movement had started some years before. The first effort was the leasing of the Orphan Asylum grounds (now Columbus Park) to the YMCA for an athletic field and playground in 1902. It was open to all every day except Sundays (4). The lessors were: Mrs. A. H. Lance, Mrs. O. S. Newell and Elizabeth Fisk. It had been a gift of Newton Fisk, Sr. for an orphan asylum site but was never used. The Trustees later asked for a court ruling as to its use, for it could be of benefit to children as a play place (5). The Board of Education also urged that it be converted into a public playground.

Many residents wanted to have a good park system and the Spring of 1905 saw the organization and incorporation of the Kenosha Park Association. Through the influence of this group, perhaps, an ordinance for the establishment of a Park Commission was presented to the Council in August, 1908. Mayor Sholey was opposed, thus its passage was delayed until it could be considered by a five man committee.

In 1909 money for playground support was raised by a tagday, and Columbus Park again was used for that purpose. That same year, a free public bath house was opened on Washington (Simmons) Island. This was under the leadership of Charles T. Jeffrey, and most of the money was raised by private subscription.

Hundreds of children attended the opening of this bathhouse in 1910. Rev. E. T. Farrill of the Congregational and Rev. Florence Buck of the Unitarian churches and Mayor Scholey spoke. The members of the life saving crew kept watch. A collection was taken to defray expenses and plans made for a street carnival later

(1) Council Min. Oct. 24, 1898.
(2) Ibid Nov. 28, 1898
(3) Tel. Courier July 7, 1910.
(4) Ibid June 6, 1902
(5) Ibid Sept. 29, 1904.

to raise funds (1). A few days later, a council committee drew up rules for bathing costumes. Men's costumes must reach to the shoulder, women over 16 were to wear hose. This simply conformed to the customs and ideas of that period.

The playround movement continued, and another tag day held in the Fall of 1909. Prominent women and girls of the city took part, with the men loaning the use of automobiles. By the summer of 1910, the Playground Association had arranged for playgrounds in various parts of the city. (1)

Public Buildings, etc.

The City Hall: As we have seen, the Central Fire Station combined its real purpose with that of a city hall (of sorts), at least the council meetings were held there for several years. But with a paid instead of a volunteer Fire Department, some other arrangement became necessary. The firemen and equipment would require most of the building. It was also an unsatisfactory arrangement because there was no vault for valuable papers and no proper offices. The Mayor, Mr. Scholey, suggested that the old County Building, (now the Police Garage) be rented until finances were better, as it was little used by the county. A committee conferred with the county board and were given a five year lease on the building at $200 rental per year, the city to improve and repair the building. The city had already made plans for this and work began at once (Jan., 1905).

Shortly before, a special Government agent said that Kenosha had the poorest set of books in Wisconsin (2), possibly this was the result of no permanent or suitable building. A new set of books were opened after the Council building was leased, and an expert accountant, H. M. Angus of the Bain Co., was employed to put the old set in order. A new and modern system was adopted. When the work on the books was complete, Mr. Angus charged $200! Now no bills for supplies would be paid without proper vouchers. Previously, the Aldermen gave orders without authorization. There was now a vault for records and the city clerk and engineer had offices in which to work. Another modern step was the passing of an ordinance requiring an annual audit of the books of both city and Board of Education (1908).

After a year or so, city finances were in good shape, and a new city hall was again a matter of discussion. Only a 1% tax was necessary then.

When Mr. Scholey became mayor in 1908, he asked that a small room be rented for his use in one of the down town office buildings. He felt that the city's business could not well be handled at his place of business - a saloon. One was secured in the Tarbell building (3).

In March, 1909, the State Legislature passed a bill creating a Municipal Court in Kenosha. The bill was prepared by Att'ys. Buckmaster and Slater of Kenosha. The city was then notified that its lease would not be renewed as the building would be needed for the Municipal Court.

The first session of the Municipal Court was held in that building in May, 1909, before Judge Clifford E. Randall, first Municipal Judge of Kenosha. The room was filled with the desks of the city council. These were soon rearranged to give more space, the offices of the City Engineer and the Water Department were moved to the Tarbell building rooms then occupied by the Superintendent of Schools' and the Mayor's offices. The City Clerk's office remained in one room of the County build-

(1) Tel. Courier May 12, 1910.
(2) Tel. Courier Nov. 24, 1904.
(3) Ibid May, 1909. This was on 56th St. Part of 1st Nat'l. Bank now on its site.

ing and the Council had the use of the large room rent free until March 1, 1910. To compromise with the Mayor for taking away his room, a committee room was rented in the First National Bank Building.

Then suddenly, after years of talk, with a ten minute discussion the Council decided to build a city hall. Alderman Stemm led in the movement. When mayor many years before, he had had the city obtain the land for the site. Soon five architects were working on plans. The Council planned to erect a building that would cost from $35,000 to $45,000, the Mayor said it should be larger, to cost about $60,000. Mr. Z. G. Simmons later filed a protest, and said he would give $10,000 toward one that would be more adequate and an ornament to the city. He felt that the city should expend about $75,000. Many other citizens felt likewise. But the plan of architect Lindl was accepted for a building nearly fireproof.

Some citizens wanted a civic center and suggested remodeling the jail to conform to the style of the post office. They felt then was a good chance for such a center, with the city hall, post office and jail so near together, with probably a new court house later.

As we have seen before, it was impossible to build the city hall and put in a trunk sewer without an increase in the tax levy. Alderman Marlatt proposed a bond issue, and it was decided to erect the Hall with a $45,000 bond issue. Two sets of bids were asked for, one for union labor only, the other with a clause, "Kenosha labor preferred." The contract was awarded to the General Construction Co. of Milwaukee; piles were to be driven where necessary and the engine house resurfaced to conform with the new building. The corner stone was laid Sept. 5, 1910, the attendance was "noteworthy", there was a big parade and the Hon. Thomas Kearney spoke. Soon a charge was made that the construction was faulty, the contractor demanded a test, and tremendous weight was put on the floor, which proved that the work was excellent.

Postoffice: In the more than 65 years of its existance, Kenosha had never had a post office other than a corner partitioned off in some store, or in one of the store rooms rented in the down town section. In 1902, Postmaster Charles Frantz urged Congressman Cooper to work for a post office building here because the increase in the volume of mail had been so great. Help also was needed badly and one man was added in March, 1903. When Mr. Cooper apparently had done all possible, Mayor Pfennig started a movement for a building by sending a petition to Washington, while Mr. Cooper continued to work for it.

Receipts so increased that two new sub-stations were authorized, one at 22nd and 61st Sts. another at 13th and 57th Streets. The first Rural Route was established Oct. 1, 1903, through Pleasant Prairie; Robert N. Lauer was the first carrier. J. B. Maloney became postmaster when change of administration occurred.

Finally the Government recognized Kenosha's need and $10,000 was appropriated for a site (1905), Mr. Cooper asked for a large building appropriation as well, but failed. This in spite of the fact that the Post Office Inspector found the building unfitted for the work. The office was not moved, only improved a little.

When the Calkins Building was gutted by fire, the post office was also damaged, but in a day or so continued to function elsewhere. Men were working when the fire started and Postmaster Maloney ordered all Government property carried to a place of safety. There were $600 in stamps, envelopes, cash and money orders. Sightseers also helped. As a result there was no loss of Government supplies. The office later moved to the N. E. corner of the Meyers Block (1) until the new post

(1) Now replaced by Gas & Electric Bldg.

office building was completed.

At last a site was selected- at the corner of 56th St. and 8th Ave., the price was $13,500. The next year bids were asked for. The post office had by then achieved a first class rating. By May, 1909, the building was under construction, and formally opened on May 1st, 1910. The cost was $80,000. But increased receipts continued to such an extent that a branch was asked for before the summer was over.

Court House and Jail: By 1898 these were failing to meet public needs. They were inadequate, required modernizing and remodeling. The county housed the city prisoners because of a lack of facilities on the part of the city, thus needed more jail space. But in November, 1909, the County Board decided to remodel the present jail and repairs were made the following Spring. Undoubtedly the erection of the city hall had much influence, -it contained a city lockup.

Recreation and Amusement: With the coming of the bicycle and then the automobile, there came a change in the use of leisure time. At first the poor, frequently impassable roads prevented anyone from going too far afield. But there was more use and enjoyment of the out of doors in many ways.

Picnics were popular. In August, 1896, Dr. Pennoyer and Peter Jacobs built a small steamer for use on Pike River. It was 35 ft. long, 9 feet wide and would carry about 35 passengers, and named the "reyonnep". It conveyed many picnickers to the Island known as Jacob's Island now part of the Alford Park north of the city, where picnics were held free of charge.

Early in the 1890's, the Kenosha County Wheelmen were active. Organized in July, 1898, and affiliated with the League of American Wheelmen, they took an active part in obtaining the construction of a bicycle path between Kenosha and Racine. Many bicycle races took place, one was featured for Labor Day, 1907, a day that was enthusiastically celebrated, with 700 in a parade.

The Windsor Band gave two concerts a week during the summer of 1897. Football had become popular, also indoor baseball as well as regular baseball. Different industries and other organizations had teams. There were the Kenosha Athletes, the Mudlarks and others. Douglas Newell introduced golf at the Wayside Club in 1896. In 1899, Mr. Sill, a Scotsman and golf man, taught golf. The Country Club developed from this Wayside Club.

An athletic meet at Athletic (Columbus) Park in 1902 drew a large crowd, especially after Mayor Pfennig offered a gold medal for the best all round work. Later the Kenosha News sponsored road races. Horse racing was very popular, and at least two famous trotters were owned and trained here - Alix and Dick Welles. A driving park was located north of 52nd St. near 25th Ave. Here there was not only horse racing, but later stunt flying by some famous early "barn stormers", as the airplane came into use.

The Rhode Opera House burned in 1896, but was soon rebuilt. Here the Kinodrome, with an early type moving picture machine as early as 1901 showed Pres. McKinley at the Pan American Exposition, his funeral service, and also other pictures. Good stage shows were given frequently. Vaudeville came in 1909, as well as at the Bijou, a theatre in what is now the Leader Store building, 611 58th St.

Buffalo Bill visited Kenosha in July, 1909. It was said that he played to 10,000 at night, a larger crowd in the daytime. The Auditorium skating palace at 56th St. and Sheridan Road, now part of the Court House site, opened in February, 1909.

On the more serious side, there were several history clubs meeting in the winter

of 1898-99. In the Spring of 1905 an outdoor art association was formed - object: to organize children for work toward a cleaner city! A Kenosha Choral Society brought noted artists here for at least two concerts a year, while in 1910 the Woman's Alliance began to bring famous scholars here for programs.

In General: Kenosha suffered the loss of three of its greatest builders and benefactors during these years. Edward Bain died in California in December, 1898. February 10, 1910, Zalmon G. Simmons passed away. His death was soon followed by that of Thomas B. Jeffery in Pompeii, Italy, April 4, 1910. The loss to the city was not only that of their generous giving, but even more, from that of their outstanding creative business ability.

Many and varied occurances took place during these years. Fifth Ave. (Exchange St.) had not extended South of 61st St. A commission was appointed to settle this problem, its members: O. M. Calkins, George A. Yule, J. S. Barr, John B. Zeivers and Thos. Hansen. After two years of work, the street was opened in July, 1896. But 64th St. (Julius) between 7th Ave. and 8th Ave. was not, because the city did not have funds with which to purchase the necessary lot.

Bridges were constantly in need of repair or replacement. A swing bridge was constructed over the Creek at 6th Ave. A bridge tender was constantly necessary to swing the bridge when ships came in with supplies for the Tannery and the Bain Wagon Co. A good structure leading to the Island was built.

The harbor still required work, but the city was compelled to obtain some of the land along its edge before the Government would do more. Simmons Company offered to give theirs, but the city bargained for and finally obtained the Mygatt Brothers piece(1898).

There was much excitement when President McKinley stopped and spoke briefly to about 5,000 or 6,000 at the depot in 1899.

The Kenosha Retail dealers organized as a branch of the National Organization in 1902. The avowed purpose was a more rigid enforcement of the pure food laws, and better business relations between local retail merchants. Charles H. Pfennig became the first president, C. F. Meiser, secretary.

The Kenosha Building & Loan Association organized in April, 1902. Also, 25 of the leading business men met to reorganize the Business Men's Association.

The lake did terrific damage to the shoreline and breakwaters for several years, and created a new demand for breakwaters. After waiting for years, the 3rd Ave. residents between Park and Kemper Hall let the contract themselves for $12,000 (1905). Later Thos. Donley offered to build a breakwater from 60th St. north 500 feet and advance the money until after the taxes were collected (1909). His offer was accepted.

Kenosha had two telephone companies, with considerable rivalry. One, the Citizens, passed out of existence in 1909 after some efforts at merging as the Home Telephone Co. The old Pettit home at the S. W. corner of 56th and Sheridan Road became the exchange for the Wisconsin Telephone Co. where "the girls were to have every comfort." (1)

Kenosha began to lose prestige as one of the great shipping ports on the lake. Only a few vessels were coming, among these, three owned by the Allen Company. In 1903, it seemed to be largely a yachting center. But the following years saw other

(1) Tel. Courier April 12, 1905.

business in the harbor picking up, and later the Hill Boat Line made stops here.

The Iroquois Theatre Tragedy in Chicago took a heavy toll of Kenoshans. Charles and W. W. Cooper, prominent manufacturers, lost their lives. Five children from the Henry VanIngen family died, and Mr. and Mrs. VanIngen were badly burned. A number of others from Kenosha in the building were fortunate enough to escape with minor injuries. Frank Slosson played a heroic part in the catastrophe.

Dr. H. A. Robinson erected the first modern apartment building in the city at 5925 6th Ave. A in the summer of 1904. The YMCA erected the building at the corner of 6th Ave. and 59th St. but failed to secure the adjoining land in the rear that would have permitted expansion.

The Kenosha Chapter of the Humane Society was organized in 1905 but not much interest was shown, although the need was greater then than now. The Cemetery was turned over to the Kenosha Cemetery Association by the city with an appropriation of $2,500. Nine men were put to work at once to clean it up and make improvement (1907). The ornamental gateways and fence were begun.

An auto bus experiment was started by R. H. Welles in 1909.

The Juvenile Court was established, with Clifford Randall as Judge. He volunteered to aid the schools in their truancy cases. A new Industrial Association was formed. Its purpose was to do every thing possible for the advancement of the city. Peter Jacobs offered to turn over to it four acres that had been set aside for industry (1909). The Organization decided to purchase land and offer lots for sale as a means of raising money for operation, and 18 were sold before the close of the meeting (1910). We shall see that it succeeded in its purpose.

It has been said that with the opening of the 20th Century there came a feeling that mankind was beginning a new epoch. Hope was strong that peace would continue, social and working conditions improve and the world generally would be a better place in which to live.

We have seen that here in Kenosha there was a gradual improvement during this first decade. The one to come, although darkened by a terrible war, was to reach what perhaps is the peak in the development of the city, with a height of idealism and devotion to advancement all along the line not attained before or since.

XVI

WAR CLOUDS AGAIN

1911-1921

The bandying of hard words and the rattling of swords in Europe had begun. This then meant little to the average Kenoshan. The City had moved from the 18th in population ratio in Wisconsin in 1900 to the 9th in 1910. It was struggling to meet the requirements this rapid growth entailed, and to assimulate its new citizens. Housing, health, educational and other problems were acute and the population continued to increase rapidly.

The city hall was completed, and the Council accepted it on March 28, 1911. Furniture from Bode Bros. Co., a local firm, was purchased and the building was opened to the public about the middle of April. The majority of the people viewed it and felt that in this edifice they were getting the worth of their money. The old records were gone over and those of no value destroyed before it was officially occupied. Invitations to attend the dedication were sent to about 75 mayors and

councils in cities of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin. A dedication community dance was given at Germania Hall (1) under municipal auspices. The City Hall was formally dedicated on Saturday afternoon, April 22, 1911, with a reception in the evening, but the celebration was a much quieter, more formal affair than at first planned, possibly because of disagreement among officials.

Industry on March 9, 1911, provided Kenosha with almost a surfeit of excitement. The Laflin Rand (later Hercules) Powder Co. had had a plant in the town of Pleasant Prairie for many years. That day a terrific explosion wrecked the plant, with a loss of nine lives. This did much damage over a widely surrounding territory. Kenosha suffered, with splintered glass, crumbled masonry and damaged buildings. For the first time the local telephone exchange could not handle the toll calls which poured in from every direction.

That year, 1911, the Kenosha Industrial Association, after endeavoring for some time to bring more industries to Kenosha, was negotiating with a wire rope manufacturing plant. The Company signed an agreement to locate here immediately, when D. O. Head and R. N. Kimball, president and secretary of the Association met the officials in Chicago in May. The Macomber Whyte Rope Co. required 100,000 feet of floor space, and would employ 125 men at the start. They were offered a site, and lots were sold (2) to provide the $37,500 necessary for the erection of the plant. The latter was under construction before the Fall of 1911.

After securing this very desirable firm, the Association sought new projects, and a dozen other companies became interested, but for some reason failed to come. The Association also sought better transportation for the city (3).

Local factory changes took place. The Vincent-Alward Co. was organized; the Kenosha Crib Co. took the name of the Hannahs Manufacturing Company in 1911. The Specialty Brass Co. received articles of incorporation in 1912. The Yule family took over the Bain Wagon Works. Roger Kimball retired from the Gas Co. thus ending the Kimball interest in the public utilities of Kenosha. J. H. Kimball was head of the company when the first gas mains were laid sixty years before.

The Pettit Malt House, another old, profitable institution, burned March 17, 1914, with a loss of nearly $150,000. Firemen were busy at the plant for days after the fire and it was well into May before the ruins of the elevators and two burned railway freight cars were finally cleared away. This was never rebuilt (4).

A number of plants came that survived for only a short period. In June, 1915, a Kenosha Home Coming Celebration marked the 80th Anniversary of the City's founding. A feature was an industrial parade that was very outstanding.

Some of the figures given at that time were: Kenosha had the largest manufactories of iron and brass beds, pleasure and commercial vehicles, harness leather, brass and copper sheet and roll in the world. There was no labor trouble. The assessed value was $32,000,000 and bonded indebtedness $400,000 (5).

Business increased, as did production. Plants were enlarging and the telephone company was extending service. There was a slowing down for a time shortly prior to 1914, but with the start of war in Europe came an upturn. At first, this was not because of war orders, but was to supply requirements in the United States. The

(1) Now PYC, 1715 52nd St.
(2) Tel. Courier June 15, 1911
(3) Ibid Jan. 25, 1912
(4) Site of Elks Club
(5) Tel. Courier June 24, 1915

1914 census of manufacturing indicated an increase in Kenosha of 22.3% over 1909; in salaries and wages an increase of 27.1%; and in the number of wage earners 10.9%; in salaried employees, 57.8%. By January, 1916, employment passed the 10,000 mark, and factories ran at more than normal operations. (1) The assessment toll of 1917 showed a $3,000,000 increase over 1916.

Safety of workmen became more and more a matter of consideration. By 1915 the Safety Round Table met regularly in the interest of safety promotion. The State factory inspectors gave Kenosha a high rating. When in the summer of 1916 nearly 1,000 boys and girls between 14 and 16 sought permits to work in factories, these were granted and the factory men cooperated to see that they received the right kind of jobs.

Certain new laws began to affect industry. A rigid enforcement of the Workmen's Compensation Act caused the discharge of many older men. And there were vigorous protests over the Corporation Income rates.

The Jeffery plant had established a fine record by 1911, it had never closed on a working day since 1900 despite the depressions of 1903-4 and of 1907-8. (2) It did more than produce automobiles, it continued to work toward good road programs by starting a fund for that use in Kenosha County. It gave $1,200 toward the improvement of Sheridan Road, then in poor condition, especially south of town.

The Jeffery Quad - a new and advanced idea in motorized trucks, made a new world record in motor truck construction of two tons or over. When many of our boys were sent to the troubled Mexican border, many of the new Quads went also. A number went as Quad drivers. By March 1916, 108 were in service there and their value in war was being proved. (3)

By mid-summer, 1916, the Jeffery Co. was sold to Lee Higgenson & Co. and Charles Nash, but the Jeffery name was retained for a time. In Sept. 1917, it was dropped and that of Nash adopted when the new line of Nash cars was announced. With this country's entry in the World War, the Nash production was put on a "win the war" basis, with certain types of output limited. Mr. Nash went into Government employ for four months in 1918, in charge of production and engineering in the aircraft department. He returned to his own industry with the close of the war in Nov., -to optimistically proclaim at the end of 1919 "Good times are here to stay." But by the spring of 1920 the plant was slowing down and some of the men were on short hours. A year later the Milwaukee plant was enlarged and Kenosha lost the distinction of being the company's largest plant.

The first break in the progress of the Bain Wagon Co. came in the summer of 1913. Heretofore the Company had expanded, now, instead, it disposed of 80 feet frontage on 56th St. to the Isermann brothers and Walter Burke, who erected a two story mercantile and office building, and a small movie theatre thereon. From then on, the Company declined. War orders from France for 2,200 wagons gave it the last big spurt before the coming motorization of vehicles rendered its products almost obsolete.

Although the Allen Tannery continued to bring in supplies by boat, a part of the river apparently occupied land that it desired,- at least in Feb. 1912, it proposed the closing of the river by a 14 foot sewer between 50th St. and 52nd St. The company offered to pay 60% of the cost if it was not over $50,000, otherwise it would pay a flat $20,000. E. C. Thiers of Kenosha became president of this company in

(1) Ibid Feb. 1916.
(2) Tel. Courier Nov. 23, 1911.
(3) Ibid March 30, 1916.

Dec., 1912.

The Central Leather Co., a part of the great leather trust, purchased this plant in 1912 and it passed out of local ownership. It, too, gradually declined when no change was made in its type of product to meet the changing requirements of the changing world. Harness leather followed the fate of the wagons.

The Simmons Manufacturing Co. forged steadily ahead, but it too, underwent changes. In Dec. 1915 it incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware as the Simmons Co. Those laws made it easier to carry on business and helped the tax situation. The officers remained the same and the plant remained in Kenosha. Its products also changed - gradually keeping up with or being in advance of new public demands, this meant survival and growth. Growth necessitated land for buildings, and in 1916 stub ends of streets no longer used were vacated by the city for the use of this Company. (1)

In 1916 a plant organ- "the Simco News" was published. (2) A little later the Simco Club was formed. It was said to be neither a workingman's union nor a millionaire's club, but both were eligible to membership and it was hoped that both might be included; 144 leading employees signed the charter. In 1920 work began on the development of the Simmons Playground on S. Sheridan Road designed for employees.

This plant was busy during the war. In 1919 Mr. Simmons stated that five new lines had been added and there were other projects in view that should bring the number of employees up to 5,000 or 6,000. That year the Company shared its earnings with its employees.

In 1912 the Chicago Brass changed its name to The American Brass Co. It had been sold to that Company some time previously. The Company distributed $30,000 among its employees in 1915 as a recognition of their services. With the growth of the plant, land holdings and buildings increased.

George S. Whyte became the sole owner of the Macomber-Whyte Co. in 1915. By that time the Coal City, Ill. and the Fostoria, Ohio, plants had been combined here, and growth was rapid. Its output was 100% war material during hostilities, with a big increase in the number employed. Housing was a problem and for a time it was necessary to pitch tents for its workers while company houses were under construction. These houses were sold to employees at actual cost and on easy terms. A large "hotel" and store building, with living rooms above was also built.

The Black Cat Textiles Co. also incorporated in the State of Delaware, for the manufacture and sale of hosiery and underwear, with a $3,000,000 stock. This also included the Cooper plant at Bennington, Vt. and the Chicago-Sheboygan Co. Policies and men remained unchanged. In 1920 it became the Allen A and planned to expand. The Allens had purchased a controlling interest in 1912 when the Tannery was sold.

A new automobile firm, incorporated as the Winther Truck Co. purchased a site along the C. & N. W. Ry, on land then located just outside the city limits. It leased a building at Winthrop Harbor for use until its own plant was ready. Operations began in 1917. That Spring it received a large order from the U. S. Navy Department, and motorized equipment was sold to France for civic as well as war use. Its own new, modern building was under construction in 1918. The city agreed to annex the land and to provide sewers. Following an order to hurry, the Winthers made a record in the development of a new design for a 4-wheel drive truck. In two weeks time, the

(1) Council Min. Sept. 6, 1916.
(2) Tel. Courier Oct. 12, 1916.

first one plowed its way through the mud and slush of unpaved Sheridan Road between Winthrop Harbor and Kenosha on the worst day of March, 1918, and presented itself for the inspection of the Ordnance Department officers, with a resultant large contract for motor trucks. The first of Jan. 1919, the company began moving to the Kenosha location.

In 1917 the Badger Brass Co. was sold to the C. M. Hall Co. of Detroit, Mich., but remained in Kenosha for a time after the sale. Its lights were used for the United States motorcycle soldiers in France during the war.

The Census report of 1920 showed Kenosha second in factory gains in Wisconsin. Superior ranked first because of the shipyards, and Milwaukee third.

Early in 1921 the Hill Boat line purchased the VanIngen property along the harbor. This was part of a plan for Trans-Atlantic trade, which it was believed would come later.

As a means of obtaining labor, immigration from Europe was encouraged. By 1920-21 much of this was from Italy, nearly 100 came in 60 days. Most of the newcomers had relatives here and sought citizenship, many had won high honors in the World War.

As the summer of 1921 approached, employment slowed. There were no vacation jobs for children as heretofore, because these were given to men and women. At a meeting of factory superintendents, it was agreed that preference in employment would go to men with families or ex-service men; non-Kenoshans would not be employed. A public registration listed 500 names of unemployed, the American Legion one-fourth that number.

Relief: As a continuation of the effort to have a systematized, organized tool to assist those in need, a meeting at Guild Hall Jan. 12, 1911 had the Superintendent of the United Charities of Chicago as guest speaker. This was the first meeting of the Associated Charities held under its constitution. Advancement came rather slowly because of the realization that this was the basis of an institution that would probably serve Kenosha for many years.

Sixteen directors were elected a little later, officers and committees appointed and some contributions received. Miss Louise Cottrell of Chicago became the executive secretary, she to be assisted by five groups of local ladies. The first headquarters were at 214 Wisconsin St. (618 58th St.), with two clients the opening day. Meanwhile, money was being raised for the Society. A card file listed all who received aid, to avoid duplications. About 500 families were represented, and these cards, not open to the public, contained the case history of every member of a family, the purpose was to avoid any misunderstanding on the part of contributors.

As work and money became scarce, problems increased. To add to local difficulties, a "hobo convention" occurred in Milwaukee, men came from as far away as St. Louis. Consequently, the Kenosha Co. jail gave shelter to 100, scores were turned away because of lack of space.

By Fall, the Associated Charities were appealing for contributions of milk, groceries to help feed the hungry, also fuel. Jacob Saftig, chairman of the pauper committee of the Council requested aid in cutting down expense. Applications for aid had to be signed by two freeholders, these, he urged, should investigate carefully before signing. Mr. Saftig not only saw that sick and needy were cared for, but he taught some irresponsibles to be self-supporting. He also appealed to the police for aid in forcing men to support their families in cases where they were able-bodied, but the family was working, instead of receiving city aid. When work continued slack,

women asked the Council to employ men on street work to avoid relief.

All facts about the inmates of the poor farm were sent to the State for use in administering the pension law. A free employment bureau was maintained here. The Mayor's office was also used as an employment office, whence men were sent to the ice fields on the small lakes to the West (1),- 500 men were wanted. A supply depot at the city hall was in charge of Mr. Saftig. As industry picked up, there were fewer on relief in 1915. Commissioner Saftig kept in touch with the factories and thus men with families were put to work and made self-supporting. Those who had received aid had been told that they would be expected to repay, and now many were doing so voluntarily though in small amounts.

The first mother's pension ($40) was issued to a mother with three children. She refused it because of the method of handling. The first two cases had not been on relief previously and both refused the pensions because of publicity.

When the Associated Charities were out of funds, many contributions came in from all classes - $1,200 in two days. Then with the added problems from the World War, Miss Cottrell was drafted for work with the Red Cross, but later returned for a time when her successor left. Louise Hinchley was visitor, but left in 1917. Miss Elizabeth Timme replaced her, then became head of the association. An innovation under this Organization in 1915, was that of the Friendly Visitors, with Mrs. Oscar Silberschmidt assisting.

The year 1917-18 was one of the busiest of the Organization since its beginning, 293 families or 1,600 persons were aided, visits made to 600 families. Help was obtained from churches, various societies, relatives or employers, and benevolent individuals, also some from the city health department. Many special problems were handled, some of these came from lack of Americanization. Less actual relief was then given through the Associated Charities than previously, the work became largely that of prevention of charity. By 1919, this Organization became so in need of help that its services must be ended if aid was not forthcoming. The name was changed to the Kenosha Service League at about this time. It endeavored to find homes for orphans and unfortunates, and to show applicants how to become self-supporting. In a drive for funds to aid this, the Salvation Army, hospitals, and like organizations, the methods that were successful during the war years were used.

The high cost of living increased the cost of relief work, while the slowing of industry added to the need in 1920. There were 158 calls for aid as against 48 the year before, but only about ten inmates at the poor farm. This continued into 1921. Some of the aldermen wanted public work done to give employment to many who were in danger of losing their homes. It was pointed out that this would not solve the problem even if $200,000 was used, because much of the work was now done by machinery and only a few could be employed. Early in the year the Patriots' Fund Committee used over $1,500 to aid unemployed service men on the Legion's application, the fund was handled through the Red Cross. The Kenosha Advancement Association gave aid, the Good Fellows and others aided the Christmas giving project.

Reform and Social Service: The urge and need for amusement began to create problems as population increased and industries grew. Unfortunately the town had little to offer newcomers from other or small communities, or to those with an

(1) Before the days of electrical refrigeration in homes, ice cutting at the small lakes and streams was a regular employment after severe cold rendered the ice sufficiently thick for cutting into blocks. It was stored in large icehouses where marsh hay was one of the insulating materials.

alien background. Kenosha at that time had more girls among its factory workers than any other city in Wisconsin, and there was a great need for recreational facilities. Many found their way to the numerous dance halls, frequently attached to saloons. Following complaints, the police chief and officers escorted girls under 18 from these halls and warned the owners that the halls would be closed if the ban on minors was not obeyed (1911). The halls were ordered to close on Sunday and at 12:00 M on Saturday nights. The Chief of Police decreed that indiscriminate drinking by women and young girls in saloons must stop, that women must be accompanied by their husbands. The police tried to keep unprotected young women off the streets and out of saloons and certain hotels. Civic organizations proposed the licensing of dance halls.

A constructive effort to aid young girls was made when the Big Sister Association started with Mrs. Newell Matthews as president (1912). Somewhat later, Miss Rosalie Lyman was named to head this work. She was trained in social work and had had experience in both Chicago and Milwaukee. In the Fall of 1913, a club for girls from the Continuation school was started, with 50 members. They met in the school building on through the summer, with singing, dancing, games, and counciling by women leaders. Some anonymous philanthropic women of the city helped finance this (1913). Later it had headquarters on 12th Ave. near 62nd St., then moved to 1306 60th St. In January, 1914, Miss Pasha, an Armenian girl educated at Roberts College, Istanboul, became house mother.

Society women and prominent business men made the Girls Club possible as a home for working girls, who came to Kenosha. For a time it occupied the house at 5912 Sheridan Road. Mrs. Martha Winans was in charge; only those earning $8.00 or less a week were received.

Many women were then active in the City Club, that was interested in public welfare. Mrs. E. S. Jordan, chairman of the protection committee presented a resolution that stated that Kenosha badly needed a probation officer to care for juvenile and young women delinquents- preferably a woman (1915). The Club passed this unanimously and sent a copy to the County Board. The Board was interested, and District Attorney A. E. Drury "vigorously showed" the need for a better method of dealing with wayward girls than then possible. He stated that the Industrial School in Milwaukee gave satisfactory service, but he believed that a better plan could be worked out here.

By 1917, the city was fast becoming mindful of bad conditions, and members of the City Club asked the Mayor and Council to appoint a committee on delinquency, to investigate home problems. Through ignorance, some were a menace to children, although often the public called social workers inhuman when they sought to remove a child from such an environment. A resolution was presented by the mayor, Mr. Pfennig, that provided for the appointment of a committee of nine: the County and Municipal Judges, District Attorney, Commissioner of Health, Chief of Police, Superintendent of Schools, County Agent, Secretary of Associated Charities and the Superintendent of Poor, all to serve without compensation. (1)

Perhaps because of war activities, the Girls Club was to be abandoned in the Summer of 1917. The City Club made an effort to pay its debts and retain its quarters, but it closed temporarily in October, 1918, because it seemed that interest had died. It was eventually re-opened with Miss Georgiana Allison as the new director. It was then under the War Camp Community Service, of which it was the legatee. Soon it was striving for 500 members in its supporting organization and set a high standard.

The demand for a probation officer continued, but with considerable opposition. In April, 1919, Miss Laura Hahn was appointed. She had been active in the organization of the Girls Club and in continuation and evening schools. One of her first activities was to call a meeting of all mothers who received aid from the state, since

(1) Council Min. May 21, 1917

the Widows' Pension Fund supervision was part of her duties. She explained the bill and offered help and advice when it was needed.

In November a drive under her direction asked for welfare workers and aid from PTA members in various sections of the city, in an effort to secure better care for delinquent and neglected children. She asked, in vain, for a detention home as a substitute for the county jail (1). This first venture in the employment of a probation officer was not wholly a success, and she was removed by the Judge of the Juvenile Court in the Fall of 1920. For a time there was no successor.

The old saloon and the liquor problem came more and more into public attention. In April, 1912, saloon keepers were warned that they must obey the laws better, that barriers must be removed from windows so that the interior was in view. Alderman Kisten of the License Committee had the license of a disorderly saloon revoked.

The growing sentiment of the country against liquor was felt here, and petitions asked for a referendum on the liquor question. The towns of Pleasant Prairie and Somers voted out saloons, but in Kenosha only the 2nd ward had a majority against them (1917). The license committee used detectives to get the records of many saloons, 27 licenses were held up because of a bad record for permitting gambling, prostitution, etc. When Congress voted in favor of a "dry" United States and the Amendment was to be submitted to the states for ratification in 1918, a drive was started in Kenosha to help enlist Wisconsin on the dry side.

The effect of the temperance movement became more apparent - bottle sales were stopped, or the contents must be drunk on the premises by order of the Chief of Police. In June, 1918, saloons closed on Sunday for the first time in 30 years, 91 saloon men agreeing to this. The day passed without an arrest or a phone call for police (2). Soon the proprietors of saloons prepared to close entirely on July 1, 1919, as the amendment was ratified.

A great deal of lawlessness and disorder continued among some foreign groups. A prominent man closely in touch with these criticized the American treatment of the immigrant- saying that only two doors were open to them, the saloon and the movie house,- that in many ways they were given a wrong impression of America.

Up to this time the city had not been in line with shortened working hours, but in April, 1918, an eight hour schedule was adopted for city employes and the city hall was to close on Saturday afternoons during the summer. Edward J. Sullivan was father of this movement. However, on account of war work and the lack of help, many hours of overtime were given by city employes gratis.

The war brought inflation of prices and housing problems because of the slowdown of building through lack of materials and labor. As a result, some living quarters were unsanitary, overcrowded and high priced. There appeared to be so many abuses that Mayor Joachim appointed a Rent Board, with Conrad Shearer, Sr., chairman. This board found many problems and difficult situations. Some abuses were alleviated or corrected (3), and it had a restraining influence on rent profiteers.

Difficulty with the enforcement of liquor laws followed almost immediately after the Prohibition Amendment went into effect. Close to Chicago and Milwaukee and also near a state line, this vicinity was perhaps one of the most troublesome sections of the country. Liquor was "bootlegged" to a great extent, stills, some huge ones,

(1) County Bd. Min. 1918-19 page 85.
(2) Ibid June 27, 1918.
(3) Tel. Courier Oct. 9, 1919 - Council Min. Oct. 6 and Dec. 15, 1919.

were found and destroyed. State and Federal men raided various places and found liquor on sale. Kenosha was called the "booze center" of the traffic. (1) For a time armed guards patrolled the Illinois side of the state line to guard against "beer runners". Locally, District Attorney Fisher said he had secured investigators and laws would be enforced. But a threat of Mandamus proceedings seemed necessary to force him to proceed with hearings of men charged with selling liquor (2). A new law required druggists to have a license to sell liquor with alcoholic content, to sell only on doctors' prescriptions and to file these with the city clerk. But none were filed by March 1921, although permit blanks had been sent to all, and the district attorney was required to give approval to each permit. The regulations went further and required all soft drink parlors to remove screens from windows and standing bars.

Soon came a demand for a Grand Jury investigation. The Federal Grand Jury in Milwaukee was calling in Kenosha men, among them two aldermen, a local attorney and prohibition commissioners on bribery charges. The Chicago Grand Jury also indicted four Kenosha men. Some were liquor cases, others were connected with an automobile ring with stolen cars. Before long, the local Grand Jury indicted six on liquor charges. The County Board backed the Grand Jury and appropriated $5,000 on a bill for the employment of detectives (1921). The District Attorney resigned under a cloud and the Chief of Police asked to retire on pension, to take effect within a week (3). Both were indicted. A former sheriff and his undersheriff were also indicted for bribery. Many others, not officials, were tried and indicted.

The city council denied 18 applications and held 32 for investigation before licenses were granted for "dry" saloons, but then changed its mind. The new chief of police, Thad Logan, closed all probation saloons regardless of the vote of the council. The law was read to the council and police were busy serving notices. In one month 44 raids were made and many pled guilty. A suicide followed a probe into a mysterious death. Court fines ran high, over $28,000 that year.

Health and Sanitation: The attention was now directed to the control of tuberculosis. Miss Ryder, visiting nurse from the Anti-T. B. Commission told of terrible conditions in Kenosha and showed the need for a health department ready to do everything possible to prevent the spread of infectious disease. She stated that conditions were very bad in many foreign homes,- a story of squalor, poverty, ignorance and neglect. People who were dying of TB spread it to their families. She said that Kenosha was like a young girl who had outgrown her clothes. The health ordinance was very well in 1883 with village conditions, but not for a city of 22,000, with factories that brought in large groups of foreign-born. It fitted Asiatic cholera, yellow fever, and small pox but not the so-called childish diseases of scarlet fever, measles, diptheria, whooping cough, etc. The rapid stride of medicine had made a great difference, the city needed a good health department. One doctor took exception and said they did fumigate when there were contagious diseases. The reply was that this was useless in TB, a sanitarium was needed. People asked for the passage of a sanatoria bill, as under the law at that time, the county could not appropriate funds for that use (1911).

Doctors were notified to check carefully and report illnesses among foreigners in an effort to avoid cholera spreading, as there were many cases at the seaboard among those coming from cholera infested countries (1911).

Attention also turned to foods, and the Council was asked to appoint a food and milk inspector. Milk in particular was handled in an unsanitary manner. Meat and

(1) Ibid Feb. 3, 1921
(2) Ibid May 12, 1921
(3) Tel. Courier June 30, 1921

chickens sold by peddlers on the outskirts of town were sometimes diseased. Several solutions were considered, one was to combine this with the work of the commissioner of health and do away with the health officer as money was needed (1). Influence also came from outside, when the state organizer of the Anti-TB Association asked the Council to employ a visiting nurse, who would be of great benefit, and would aid the city in reducing the number of dependents as well as helping prevent the spread of disease.

Later, in the winter of 1911-12, another scarlet fever epidemic came. Health officer Spaulding went to Chicago and secured equipment for a laboratory to be opened in the city hall basement. A new health ordinance was passed. This provided for the complete reorganization of the health department. It created a commission of five, two to be physicians and not more than two of the members to be of the same political party. It provided for a municipal nurse, as the State Board of Health was demanding a betterment of conditions. It had been necessary to have police assistance in the maintenance of quarantines. The outgoing mayor, M. Scholey, appointed Jerry DeCou, M. G. Boerner, Dr. M. A. Bernstein, Dr. George Pugh and Dr. G. Windesheim as a temporary Board until May 1st. The incoming Mayor, D. O. Head, appointed a permanent health board made up of Dr. George H. Ripley, 1 yr., M. J. Isermann, 2 yrs., Chas. H. Pfennig, 3 yrs., Jerry DeCou, 4 yrs. and Dr. G. Windesheim, 5 yrs. This board set up strict rules that governed quarantine, fumigation, etc. and the enforcement of cleaned-up back alleys and yards. Clean-up Day became a regular institution that was much stressed for several years. Streets were sprinkled in conformity to state law, and residents were urged to clean up the city. Citizens in turn requested an ordinance to enforce the covering of meat when hauled to markets through the city streets (2). Water was tested in an effort to avoid a typhoid epidemic such as was occurring in a neighboring city.

The health department had a hard fight against scarlet fever and diptheria in 1912- for a time it seemed that a temporary isolation hospital would be necessary. Dr. John McShane, appointed June 19, 1914, as health commissioner, and sanitary inspector M. Barber, found deplorable housing conditions among some of the new comers and endeavored to better them, but it was difficult because of lack of housing facilities. By December of that year the sanitary inspector reported that there had been 399 quarantines in eight months, those homes were visited regularly and some arrests had been made to enforce orders. Homes had been ordered cleaned up, 17,680 loads of garbage and rubbish collected. At first there were 97 uncovered dumping grounds, these were now limited to two properly cared for; 690 feet of Jerome Creek had been filled up, 68 cess pools drained and filled, many stray dogs, cats and goats killed. But city garbage disposal was still undecided. Dr. McShane, the mayor, the health and fire departments all united in a campaign for better conditions, clubs and societies were asked to help and an attempt was made to interest children. Fly extermination was a part of the plan.

When in the winter of 1913 the Council decided to spend $1,000 to prepare the old house on Washington Island, formerly used as a poor house, for an isolation hospital, the U. S. Government objected because it was too close to the life saving station and the home of the lighthouse keeper.

In May, 1913, when there was a possible case of smallpox, the city children were vaccinated free of charge. That Spring scarlet fever appeared to be almost eradicated. Another smallpox case, a child from the country in a parochial school, resulted in hundreds of vaccinations, both adult and children. Another case in November brought more vaccinations.

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(1) Telegraph Courier April 12, 1911.
(2) Telegraph Courier April 25, 1912.

The health department was working for purer milk; an examination of the farm sources showed some improvemnt (1913). An ordinance required all bread to be wrapped in waxed paper.

The county board was still considering the erection of a TB sanatorium. At that time such patients were sent to various sanitariums in the state, but this was costly and some patients had been refused. But Kenosha ranked second to Milwaukee in the fight against the disease.

In the Fall of 1913 the Council started a movement to have the city collect garbage and to secure a city reducing plant. Ald. Hegeman announced that the city would begin such collection if private collectors did not observe rules in regard to dumping, covering, etc. The Tannery planned for a sewerage system with a septic sedimentation plant at the north end of the huge plant, near the river.

Prior to all this, the council and the city engineer's office were working on the plans for underground installations so necessary if a city was to be healthful and sanitary. By 1911 these men had realized that this was a general city and not a sectional problem, and that some work previously done must be rebuilt. (1) By Spring an Ordinance was passed that provided for trunk sewer bonds and bids were advertised for: the plan provided for future sewer districts to service all property not then in the district and property annexed after April 1, 1911.

This contract for the south side trunk sewer was the largest piece of work ever undertaken by the city at that time. It called for 5,000 feet of concrete sewer 99" in diameter, 1,200 feet, 72", and 1,200", 66", specifications to follow the last word of experts in this type of construction (2). The low bidder, the Reichert Co. of Racine, asked to be relieved of the contract. It was then relet to Cleary, White & Newman of Chicago, for $97,200, the work to begin June 1st and the city to make double inspection.

Soon the dirt began to fly, when a force of men with plows, picks, and shovels began to dig the big ditch. The council voted to relieve Engineer Moth of everything else so that his time could be devoted to this project, all other work was turned over to assistant city engineer Brennan and others (3). But before the month was over, Mr. Moth resigned because of ill health, and Mr. Brennan assumed the supervision of the sewer work, while August Baltzer, an achitect, was elected city engineer.

The sewer work was watched carefully, inspector Thomas Hoban stopped the work soon after the start because stone used was not up to specification. This type of supervision continued and material was condemned if not up to standard. Later Mr. Hoban and councilmen Jos. G. Rhode and fire chief Henry Isermann went through the sewer and announced the inspection was satisfactory (4).

The work proved rather more difficult than anticipated. There were places where dynamite was used to break clay deposits, and 200 men were necessary in an effort to reach the lake before winter. Part of the work was tunneling. Difficulty was encountered with water in Jerome Creek where the bed was soft. As the work reached further west quicksand was found. Work on the receiving well was postponed. Some changes were found necessary that would raise the cost and again the problem arose: where to get the money? Also, it was feared that the outlet would leave sewage on shore, engineer Wisener said it should go into the lake until entire-

(1) Telegraph Courier Feb. 22, 1911.
(2) Ibid May 4, 1911.
(3) Ibid June 8, 1911.
(4) Telegraph Courier Jan. 4, 1912.

ly submerged. Then the people of Pleasant Prairie protested that their wells were dry. Permission was given the water department to extend water mains. In the Spring (1912), bids were received for many auxiliary sewers from the big trunk sewer in newly annexed territory.

A contract for the receiving well and the top of the outlet at the lake was let to John Green & Co. By August 1912, the receiving well at 18th Ave. was completed, but difficulties arose over the settlement of bills for extras with Cleary, White & Newman. Suddenly an acceptance signed by the former mayor, Mr. Baltzer and an alderman came to light among some old papers of the city engineer. This was not valid,- it had not been acted upon by the council and was signed by the old officials after new ones had taken their oath of office.

Care was still taken to see that this work was well done. In Oct. 1912, another engineer, the contractor and the city engineer went through all parts of the construction. By the spring of 1913 the contractor and the city were not yet together on the settlement but finally the claims were settled, and $3,500 allowed the firm Aug. 4, 1913, who claimed they had sunk a fortune in the work. A formal acceptance was made in May, 1913. Many property owners along the line of the sewer had made claims for damages, and later the committee visited all claimants.

The completion of this work did not end the city's problems with underground work. Property owners started suit to end the giving of permission by the city for sewers to empty into Pike Creek. Another trunk sewer was proposed to take care of the north side. A referendum for bonds to cover a trunk sewer from the northwest side of the city and for breakwater bonds carried (1913), and the city engineer began work on a plan for a trunk sewer to follow Pike Creek, but which would leave the creek open to take care of storm water. However, the council decided that it was impossible to carry out the trunk sewer plans at once - a new sewer district had to be outlined, and plans and specifications prepared before a bond issue could be made.

When a part of Racine (14th) Ave. was annexed, this added to the problem. A sewer was laid in this street and in July, 1913, bids were received for a 42" one on 17th Ave. from the Creek to 39th St., a 36" along 39th and 38th St. to 14th Ave., thence north to 35th St. to connect with the 14th Ave. sewer (1). This completed the north end of the main sewer on the north side, which emptied into the Creek temporarily. This work was mainly done by local contractors, but there were difficulties over the final settlement here also; extras were charged, but the contractor lost the court case. In the meantime, while city engineer Brennan completed the plans for the north interceptor, the city was at work securing easements along the line before the contract was let, a lesson learned from the experience on the south side. This started at 57th St. and the Lake, ran diagonally to 55th St., thence to 8th Ave., thence northwest and west along the river to the junction with 17th Ave. It was to be 60" to 50th St., 42" between 50th St. and 43rd St. and 40" thence north, also 60" connecting with an interceptor running west along 50th St. to the city limits and 48" on 23rd Ave. from 50th St. to 52nd St., with other smaller sewers also.

Work on the north side easements dragged on for several years, when several property owners proved very difficult. In some instances it was necessary to compel owners to permit the sewer to go through (2). But the work proceeded slowly, a contract was given for the major part of the work to the J. F. Kennedy Co. of Fargo, N.D. A bond issue of $75,000 was voted in 1915 to provide money.

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(1) Tel. Courier, July 31, 1913.
(2) Council Min, Aug. 7, 1916.

As the territory to the west was subdivided and new homes built, that district west of 27th Ave. became desperately in need of improvements. At times it was flooded until water ran into the doors of houses. (1) Then the city engineer was asked to prepare plans for the extension of the south side trunk sewer to relieve this situation (2). There was a bond issue for $60,000 for this work, bids were received and the contract awarded to A. H. Prange of Grand Rapids, Mich., the low bidder (1915). This contractor found the work much more difficult than anticipated, failed to meet requirements and asked permission for an extension of time, the work to be sublet to the Kennedy Co. But finally it was necessary for the city to take over the work for which Prange held contract, to readvertise and collect the excess expense from the Company and its bondsmen (1917) (3). Edward Prange was low bidder on the work but later notified the city that he could not continue work on some of the west side streets unless the contract price was adjusted. Some of this work had awaited completion for two years. The Kennedy Company had completed part of the work on the assigned A. H. Prange contract, but they too had lost heavily and the city requested creditors to file bills with the city as the time came for final payments (4), that both city and company might be protected. It had been a hard, discouraging, money-losing project for all companies. The war prices and shortages, quicksand and bad soil conditions had all worked against them.

Nor was the interceptor work uncomplicated. It became necessary to drive 5,000 ft. of piling and lay a concrete foundation when 185 ft. of concrete sewer slipped into the river (5), an accident for which no one was at fault. Lack of manpower almost stopped the work at one time. Lake shore property owners appeared at the council meeting to protest against the outlet of the sewer at 57th St., as a menace to public health. The solution was to have the sewer outlet extended to go through the outer breakwater, some distance from shore (6).

By 1915, Clean-up Day was observed as an annual event especially stressed by the Kenosha Retailers Association, then a strong organization. That year was especially active. The parks were cleaned, the city street men were at work in alleys, yards and basements, extra wagons were provided and legal notices were sent out from the Health Department to those not observing rules. People who were able to do so were expected to pay toward this work. The period lasted for three days, one of which was a "fire protection" project. The Retailers also urged the opening of the river to the north of 45th St. to restore the natural flow as a means of purifying the water in the Creek. Dr. Evans, in the Chicago Tribune, cited Kenosha as an outstanding example of how a city can change from a bad record to an exceedingly good one in a short time, as regards health conditions (1915).

The council committee and the health board discussed garbage disposal. Dr. McShane's report showed Kenosha behind other Wisconsin cities in this. The City Club was interested in other affairs as well as reform,- 35 members, together with husbands and brothers, attended a council meeting to tell how they felt about garbage collection. Each Ward was represented by some woman. Mrs. Allan Cole was the spokesman, and gave the result of much research. This was placed in the hands of Ald. Conrad Shearer, who had previously prepared an Ordinance providing for collection. The chief problem was disposal, but the council was preparing the way for collection.

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(1) Tel. Courier Apr. 2, 1914.
(2) Council min. Aug. 3 and Sept. 21, 1914.
(3) Ibid Dec. 3, 1917.
(4) Council Min. Sept. 16, 1918.
(5) Ibid March 5, 1917
(6) Council Min. Sept. 5, 1919.

A new council committee studied means of preventing water pollution from sewage. This was a start toward the ultimate plan for a reduction plant somewhere at the extreme south limits.

The council voted to experiment with garbage collection in 1917. A special truck and 2,000 cans were ordered. The garbage was dumped at the north end of 5th Ave. to replace eroded land under the supervision of the Streets and Alleys Committee and workers, and was to be properly covered. People purchased the cans. Collection started in August, by Fall 570 homes had this collection, and the council ordered the purchase of an additional truck and equipment. Slowly but surely a method was worked out. Horses were found not to be satisfactory. It was difficult for them to haul the heavy loads over dirt streets, and motorized trucks were to replace them.

Dr. McShane, who had done much for Kenosha's health program, moved to Ohio and Dr. H. L. Wright replaced him. Henry Miller of LaCrosse was named laboratory assistant and nuisance inspector for the Department. He was to make a survey of the city and enforce law as to removal of nuisances. W. E. Nelson was to help. Milk was to be examined. Dr. McShane's last recommendation was for more care in the milk supply to avoid typhoid. Mr. Miller advised pasteurization but an ordinance demanding this was laid over for a time then killed. State inspectors found 25% of the farms in bad condition. Later the council joined with the health department in the war on dirty milk, the inspector was to take drastic action. An amendment to the new Health Ordinance required a license but not pasteurization nor clarification. It gave the Health Department Committee power to revoke licenses when milk was under standard (1). By 1919, progress had been made- there was only one unclean sample, but the struggle for clean milk kept up continuously through the 1920's. By 1921 the Kenosha Health chemist's report showed all milk clean and pasteurized (2).

In 1916, Mrs. Stickel, health nurse, found uncared for cases of TB, scarlet fever, measles, etc. Mothers were asked to aid the city health department. 714 babies were born in the city the preceeding year and many mothers did not know the best ways of caring for them in regard to food, flies, etc. Mrs. Stickel, the only nurse, could not do all required. Dr. Wright urged a "fly swatting" campaign as one means of guarding against infantile paralysis (polio) that had been prevalent elsewhere. Now it reached Kenosha, Jean Parker, 8 years old, became a victim but recovered because of her mother's care under a doctor's instructions. Soon another victim died.

Disease increased during the summer, 1917. Quarantine either was not strictly enforced or diseases were not reported. By Fall scarlet fever spread rapidly; as the contagion spread the fight started to clear up bad conditions. In Sept. the School Board agreed that the school nurses should operate under direction of the Board of Health.

In an effort to save babies who did not have proper care at home, the large Joerndt house on the Island was used as a baby hospital that summer of 1917. Kenosha women formed an Infant Welfare Society to furnish the home, this was backed by the city council. One dairyman offered to furnish pasteurized milk. This nursery was open from 8:00 a. m. to 6:00 p. m. under care of Mrs. Thomas Whitaker, matron, and Margaret Kewenig, nurse, a specialist with infants. Everything needed was provided by the city council and private contributions. Other nurses offered assistance, among them Rosella McGinn, Anna Burg, Mate Kinney,

(1) Tel. Courier June 6, 1918.
(2) Ibid July 7, 1921.

Edna Coughlin, Grace Muller and Mrs. Eric Coughlin (1). The babies throve under this care and a drive was started to equip a free clinic on the Island (2).

In the summer of 1918, a baby welfare campaign started, 6,000 were registered, and many reported perfect. The Women's Department of the County Council of Defense gave courses of lectures on "The Child" in seven languages, Italian, Russian, Yiddish, Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian and English (3). About the same time the Wisconsin Anti-TB offered a new course in health study.

When Dr. Wright resigned, Dr. Windesheim was appointed to fill his position as head of the health department.

The Spanish Flu epidemic raged in 1918. The Simmons Company brought a doctor from Chicago to help at that plant, and Great Lakes offered a hospital corps if necessary. There were more than 6,000 cases by the end of October, with from four to twelve deaths daily through September and October. The undertakers reported 287 funerals in Oct. The Kenosha Hospital called for help and women volunteered. They washed dishes, took over maid service, did invalid cooking, cleaned, cooked. Fruit juices, jellies, etc. were contributed. They aided the health department and the council of Defence, with Mrs. A. H. Lance in charge. Churches closed, there were no shows, music programs, etc. Lodges, clubs and all public assemblies were banned. Schools were closed and teachers loaned cars for use in the distribution of food to those who were ill, others investigated cases, still others worked with the draft and exemption boards. Louis Grosvenor, active in civic work, was an early victim. The ban was lifted Nov. 4, and normal activities began. Early in December a new flu warning came and children were given messages of care and instruction to carry home.

A flu epidemic threat came again in 1920 and people were cautioned. In addition to that, a smallpox case developed at the Weiskopf School, 40 children were vaccinated and the room ordered closed. There had been 71 cases of smallpox during 1919. Flu cases spread rapidly, 60 were reported in one day, and it became a problem to find places to care for patients from hotels and boarding houses (4). Other contagious cases were bad- there were 154 cases of scarlet fever, but in a mild form with only two deaths; 49 cases of diptheria with five deaths, also chicken pox and measles. The health nurses prevented worse conditions by quarantine. But in spite of all this, the city health board was cited as a model and ranked first in the state by the U. S. Health Service in Wisconsin (5). In 1921 there was another diptheria epidemic, but not as bad, only 27 cases. A free clinic under the Service League helped many patients by the 1st of August, 1918. Many physicians and dentists gave aid.

Police and Fire Departments: 1911 brought an increase in salaries of the chiefs of these departments to $1,350 annually, assistant chiefs, $1,080; Captains, electrician and desk sergeant, $80 per month, others $65 the first year, $75 thereafter (6). Additional policemen were added in 1912.

Following a bad fire in the old Wolff building, at the corner of 58th St. and 7th Ave., Fire Chief Isermann asked the Council to limit the rebuilding of old structures in the down town area because of the fire hazard. The council ordered the city attorney to draft an Ordinance that would give the city power to do this, and to

(1) Tel. Courier July 16, 1917.
(2) Ibid Sept. 13, 1917.
(3) Ibid Aug. 22, 1918.
(4) Tel. Courier Jan. 29, 1920.
(5) Ibid July 1, 1920.
(6) Tel. Courier Feb. 23, 1911.

condemn buildings now standing.

A bad windstorm in 1912 rendered the west side engine house unsafe, and the mortar therein proved too poor to permit repairs. Architect Lindl drew plans for a new building, that were accepted (1) and the contract let to Ludwig Klemme. Shortly before this, Peter Pirsch offered to build a high powered hose wagon, using the body of an old hose wagon, and to completely equip it and two other wagons owned by the city, for $2,500 (2). The offer was accepted, and Kenosha became the first city in the state to install all motorized fire equipment. Men from other cities came to observe it (3). A little later, C. C. Allen and C. T. Jeffery presented the central engine house with a pulmotor of the very latest type, and drills in its use were started immediately. Every member of the force was to become expert. In August, 1913, a new motor hook and ladder truck was tested and proved satisfactory. The horses were sold.

Looking to future needs, Mayor D. O. Head presented the city with a site for a new engine house on W. 52nd St. near 26th Ave., bids were received for the new west side engine house on 63rd St., but they were too high and the work was re-advertised. This building was then erected.

In the Spring of 1914, (4) Chas. T. Jeffery offered a motorized truck if the city would build an engine house on the 52nd St. site. Chief Isermann also asked for this house and six more men (5). The Council asked for bids but it was a year before this building was erected by Julius Hoffmann.

Fire losses were heavy in 1914 and five men were added to the Department. An Ordinance made the fire chief the chief electrical inspector. In August, 1916, the Council voted to purchase modern equipment for all fire houses, triple combination apparatus for two houses and to add one fireman and one police officer for each 1,000 population. Nearly all of the prominent manufacturers of the city were present to urge this. In May, 1917, a new booster pump with fullest modern equipment was added. This could throw a stream over the highest building in the city. It was the joint work of the Pirsch Co. and the White Co. Later in 1917, the Council voted to get bids on two new booster pumps, one for the north side and one for 63rd St. The new fire truck by the Winther Co. and equipped by the Pirsch Co. was accepted in April, 1918.

Following the death of Chief Isermann, John Schwartz was appointed acting fire chief. In 1920 the fire alarm apparatus was ordered moved from the second floor of the central engine house.

Kenosha was in the main a peaceful community. But a few newcomers, some from other lands, occasionally caused disturbances that had tragic results, usually to others of their own nationalities, but occasionally to police officers. One case was that of John Cyzak, a policeman who was wounded in a fight between some of these new citizens and police(6). Policeman Cyzak had before this arrested half a dozen dangerous characters. Fortunately, he recovered from the wound. Tramps, many from the worst districts of Chicago, were still a problem, when 40 to 60 of them entered town every morning to ask for handouts from the homes of the city, and required police surveillence (1914).

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(1) Ibid Oct. 3, 1912 Council Min. 1913-14.
(2) Ibid Nov. 21, 1912 - Council Min.
(3) Ibid Jan. 30, 1913.
(4) Tel. Courier April 23, 1914.
(5) Ibid Jan. 8, 1914 Council Min March 18, 1915.
(6) Tel. Courier Sept. 4, 1913.

In line with the new social thinking, President Z. G. Simmons of the Police and Fire commission suggested a police woman, who, he felt, could do much to better conditions. Women had already served as aides but had no power to arrest or to serve processes (1914). This was not done, but the next year there was some reorganization of the police force. Five men were added, one for desk work- this was no longer an assistant chief's position. In 1917, the Police and Fire Commission moved to revise the rules. These had been adopted 20 years before, when the Commission was first organized, and there had been no change.

In the aftermath of the war, when unemployment increased, the police were ordered to pick up all suspicious characters, to prevent, if possible, the city's becoming involved in the crime wave that was sweeping the country (1920). The Bertillion system had been adopted before and now the equipment was made more complete. The chief of police urged the legislature to pass a law requiring a license for all gun carrying.

When Thad Logan became acting police chief to replace Owen O'Hare resigned, he asked for a complete reorganization of the force, that all men be fit for service in all ways, for a new police alarm system like those in larger cities, an armored car, uniform revolvers and better equipment for the central office. The men were to be inspected twice a month, and must be well groomed (1921). He also stated that he wanted a flexible police force that could be easily enlarged, and a new station. Later he told the men to "walk chalk", and made formal charges against one, demanding a resignation.

Even then, police were on guard against what was later to become a more certain cause of alarm. Two men were arrested in July, 1921, for the distribution of "red literature." A Milwaukee attorney attempted to have them released, but was foiled when the police arraigned them on the charge of anarchy. It was thought that they were part of a nation-wide organization.

Parks: In 1911 a park system was practically non-existant. After the erection of the library and soldiers' monument, central or library park was cared for and developed. The other small parks: Union, Bain, Eichelmann and the Orphan Asylum grounds (Columbus) made up the remainder of the system. Beyond the mowing of grass and the most necessary cleaning away of rubbish, these probably received little attention.

Two neglected, unsightly lots faced Sheridan Road somewhat north of the cemetery. Sentiment for the use of these and additional land as a park and children's playground began to develop. The plan included the purchase of property north to 65th Street and east to a point 120 feet east of 8th Avenue, together with the creation of a boulevard along the south side that would connect 7th Avenue and Sheridan Road. C. C. Brown, C. T. Jeffery and Z. G. Simmons took over the property needed (1). Plans were made by the cemetery association, who were to pay for the work, to grade and plant the new park and lay sidewalks. President of the Association, Simmons agreed to finance this so that the cost would spread over five years with about $3,000 needed annually. This was to include the playground (2).

In the meantine, demand increased for the resurrection of the Park Commission ordinance. This had been drawn in 1908 but never acted upon by the city council (3). The library board agreed to turn over surplus funds for developing a park system in the city, they of course, were interested in furthering the park commis-

(1) Tel. Courier Dec. 21, 1911.
(2) Tel. Courier July 20, 1911 - Council Min. May 25, 1915- final pmt.
(3) Tel. Courier Apr. 11, 1911

sion (1). In May, 1912, the ordinance creating such a commission was given the first reading. This was said to be one of the best ever proposed in the state. The Commission would have charge of all public grounds, with the expectation that it would do away with the abuses of the past and bring about an intelligent management of the city parks and public grounds. Its powers were wide but advisory financially, -it could not spend funds without the council's consent. All work in Columbus Park, where much money had been spent with little to show, ceased until the Commission could be appointed.

Mayor Head appointed A. H. Lance, Ben Eichelmann, C. C. Allen, Rev. Carl Buenger and Joseph Funck, then he and the new Commission rode about the city to view parks and public grounds. The Rev. Carl Buenger was chosen as president, city engineer Balzar was to act as secretary. This was confirmed by the council. Permission was requested to hire John Schwanke at $100 per month, he to use his own horse and wagon. The plan included the opening of a greenhouse in Columbus Park. The city engineer drew plans and the building was completed at a cost of $1,475.31, by Nov., 1913. Commissioners Allen and Lance each gave $50. for the purchase of bulbs. Other plants were saved and slipped.

Soon the Park Board began to plan for a park system that would include parks on all sides of the city. The purchase of Bonds' Woods (now Lincoln Park) was considered first of all, also the enlargement of Eichelmann Park (1915). An ordinance (1914) permitted the Board to furnish and supervise the planting of trees and shrubs in front of property where the owners requested such service.

In after years Dr. E. F. Rowell, John Barber, Adolph Epstein and Conrad Shearer were appointed to the Board as members resigned. Mr. Lance and Mr. Allen continued on the Board until it was discontinued. Also J. R. Gottfredsen.

Another plan, that of a North Lakeside Park, progressed very slowly. This included a breakwater and some reclamation of land. Lack of interest and an attempt to buy or hold land for speculative purposes by a few caused deferment of action in 1913 (2). Later Alderman Gundlack of the north side revived the plan and secured some of the necessary easements for a park 900 feet in length (3).

When H. L. Bullamore, realtor, opened the new Highland View Subdivision in the southwest corner of the city, he offered to set aside an entire block in the center of the plat for park use, this was sanctioned by the Park Board, and after some agreements regarding improvements, accepted by the Council.

The Commission made great advancement in 1915. The City Attorney proceeded with the work of closing up the purchase of land for the North Lakeside park. The Council voted to lay out a north side breakwater assessment district for the 1,600 feet of breakwater needed and $30,000 was voted for this purpose (4). An outer breakwater with reclamation of land was also under consideration. This extended from the Simmons property south.

The Commission secured options on Bonds' Woods, also on the Hastings and Bain property to the Northwest (now part of Washington Park) and intended to start condemnation proceedings on the Ludwig tract. A referendum was submitted to the people for the issuance of a bond issue of $125,000 for park purposes with the vote favorable. No organized effort was made to influence public opinion, the

(1) Tel. Courier July 20, 1911.
(2) Council Min. July 7, 1913.
(3) Ibid Aug. 16, 1915.
(4) Council Min. Dec. 6, 1915, Apr. 3, 1916.

record showed that the vote was largely that of property owners (1). Immediately the council passed an ordinance providing for those bonds in an effort to have the money available when the option was about to expire (2).

When a jury decided that the Ludwig property value was $900 per acre, the Council, on the recommendation of the Park Board, voted to take only a small portion of the tract - 3.17 acres. This would connect the other pieces purchased and permit the laying out of a beautiful little park along the Burlington Road (Hw. 43) (3).

The Council refused to back the Park Board when some of the neighboring property owners protested against the plan for a children's playground for Sheridan Park, so called. Mr. Simmons countered with a protest that it was a part of an old brick yard in the rear, was bought for a specific purpose, and that much money had been spent on the road between it and the cemetery. It was finally formally named the Sheridan Park and turned over to the Park Board's control.

Work on the Lakeside parks was delayed through a ruling of Judge Parish in the case of Mrs. Mary Wright, that the early owners (or their descendants) of land eroded by Lake Michigan had title when such land reappeared. This meant that the city must secure riparian rights to such land - that is, have such people sign over their right to any remade land, or obtain it through action by the Legislature. Such a bill was passed by the Assembly, that granted the city the riparian rights to submerged lake land bordering these lakeside parks, the city to pay the State $500.

The Council and Park Board acting in conjunction condemned the VanIngen and Friedrick property on Lake Ave. that could not be obtained at a reasonable price (4). The Council voted for an extension of the outer breakwater, the contract was given to Greiling Bros. Of this extension, 600 feet were on the north side; 760 on the south, to protect a part of Eichelmann Park. A southside breakwater district was established. Eichelmann Park was enlarged when the Calkins property was purchased for park purposes (1920).

The heirs of Z. G. Simmons, Sr. turned over to the city all their property on Washington Island for park and playground purposes in 1916, together with $100,000 for its improvement (5). This was to be in memory of Z. G. Simmons and renamed Simmons Island. Some of this money was used for the purchase of additional Island property and for improvement of the bathhouse. This was partly an expression of appreciation also of city action vacating ends of certain streets, used almost entirely by the Simmons Company.

The Park Commission immediately stopped the sale of sand from the beach, and made restrictions thought to be for the public welfare. One was an order for the arrest of all who remained at the beach after 9:30 p. m., the closing time.

Condemnation proceedings were required to obtain property in the northeast corner of Sheridan Park, required to complete the plan (6). A contract was made with Ernest Schroeder for a shelter house in Lincoln Park. This came within the $10,000 appropriation made by the Council, a plain substantial building that conform-

(1) Tel. Courier July 22 and June 21, 1915.
(2) Council Min. Sept. 7, 1915, Aug. 7, 1915.
(3) Ibid July 17, Aug. 7 and Nov. 13, 1916.
(4) Council Min. Mar. 18 and June 3, 1918.
(5) Tel. Courier Aug. 3, 1916.
(6) Council Min. Feb. 7 and 21, 1921.

ed to the plans and specifications of the State Sanitary Engineer (1). Concession privileges were let for that and Columbus Parks. Lincoln Park was flooded for a skating rink for the first time in the winter of 1920, and a temporary shelter provided for the use of skaters. Flowers and plants were provided for schools, parks and other public places from the greenhouse.

Adolph Epstein became president in 1920, when Rev. Carl Buenger resigned. The salary of the park superintendent was raised to $2,000 per annum and he was authorized to purchase a horse for use in the parks.

In the summer of 1919 the Welcome Home Committee turned the $1,617 remaining in their fund over to the Park Board to use for public concerts, but in 1920 the Council refused to appropriate the $2,000 requested to continue these concerts. A German howitzer and carriage, a memorial of World War I, was placed in Eichelmann Park, together with the old Spanish Amer.War cannon, formerly on the Square.

The Island use increased when in July, 1921, T. R. Gibson, director of the city playgrounds announced that on Wednesday afternoon of each week he and his associate, Myrtle Westlake, would take all children who met at Lincoln Park, to the beach for play and supervised water games.

Late in the year of 1921 the VanIngen land south of the city was offered for sale for park use, this was declined by the Board. Jacob Ludwig reopened his sale proposition at Washington Park, a tract ideal for golf links, etc. He stated that the price of land was increasing in that direction and offered easy terms.

Hospitals: With the Kenosha Hospital erected and so organized that it was of service to all, attention turned to the need of proper places in which to care for tuberculosis victims and for cases that needed quarantine or some method of keeping disease from spreading. In 1912, $2,000 was appropriated toward the erection of such a building. The poor farm was suggested as a site, but, although it was to be far from any building, much protest was heard.

At the Fall session of the County Board in 1914, money was appropriated for a County Tuberculosis sanitarium. Louis Grosvenor, J. J. Barrows and Hubert Schwann were appointed as a committee on sites for the building, - 25 were offered. The Wisconsin Anti-T. B. Association sent several sets of plans used in other counties. These were easy and cheap to build and economical to administer (2). Soon the Willowbrook Farm site was selected. This, the home of the Runals Family, early settlers, had been purchased by the Jeffery family and was sold by them for the sanitarium (1915). The County Board gave full power to the building committee - Louis Grosvenor, W. A. Upson and George Strangberg, and final plans were made. The corner stone was donated by the Wm. H. Morse Co. and laid by John T. Yule, twice chairman of the County Board in June, 1915.

The County Board named three trustees for Willowbrook Sanitarium: William T. Fisher, Thomas Fleming and Walter T. Marlatt, all actively connected with the fight on T. B. Dr. G. Windesheim, vice president of the State T. B. Association was named house physician later.

The building was completed in Feb. 1916, and formally opened on March 8. Three patients arrived at once, Messrs. Cumisky, Pennefeather and Evans. They came before the Board of Control had made its inspection, but were received.

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(1) Council Min. May 19, June 2, 1919, Feb. 16, 1920.
(2) Tel. Courier Dec. 3 & 31, 1914; Jan. 7, 1915. County Board proceedings.

Miss Constance M. Hayes, a trained worker in tuberculosis cases became superintendent (1916). She had had wide experience. The staff consisted of Miss Hayes, Dr. Windesheim, a registered nurse, a practical nurse, cook, serving maid, second maid and janitor. The book dealers of the city presented a library.

The Sanitarium soon ran into financial difficulty. It cost nearly $2,000 to operate the first four months and it was apparent that rates must be raised. Patients were there from other counties as well as from Kenosha. In 1917 the report showed a good record and the Board voted to erect an administration building.

Training of nurses continued at the Kenosha Hospital. In 1912, there were eight graduates. That year Mrs. Ella F. Allen gave a $10,000 endowment as a memorial to C. W. Allen. The nine graduates of 1913 were the last before the two year course was discontinued and replaced by three years of training. Many were turned away because of lack of room and it was apparent that a larger building was required. Rooms outside the building were rented for the nurses because of crowded conditions. In 1915 there were 1,156 patients and the plant was taxed to its limit. A nurses home for 24 resident nurses was also needed. But in spite of the number of patients the hospital was showing a deficit of $1,500 or $1,600 a year. And though there were many gifts there was a continuing deficit because it was impossible to collect in some cases.

Mrs. Moore resigned and Mrs. Harriet J. Robinson was employed as Superintendent in Sept. 1914. At the end of her first year she also resigned and Mrs. Millicent Northway succeeded her.

The need for an isolation hospital continued, and Sheridan Park was suggested. This brought much opposition and the Council building committee refused to locate it there (1914). A $3,000 appropriation was made for a temporary isolation hospital on the poor farm. People continued to resist quarantine and some were arrested.

In 1916, Z. G. Simmons gave the Kenosha Hospital the house and the lot, 60 x 132', south of the hospital building. As yet the plan for a building on the poor farm had not been carried out, and now instead of a poor building outside the city, $20,000 was appropriated toward the erection of a modern isolation hospital on the hospital grounds, this to be under the direction of the Board of Directors of the Kenosha Hospital Association. In addition $10,000 to $20,000 were to be raised by subscription (1917). The contract was awarded to the Immel Construction Co. and the work started at once (Oct. 1917).

When the "flu" epidemic came in 1918, the isolation hospital was nearly complete. More money was appropriated and it was soon partly in use, when the regular hospital space proved inadequate. The former George Yule home on 7th Ave. was also made into a temporary hospital for influenza sufferers.

In March, 1918, a baby clinic was conducted at the Hospital, with Dr. S. M. Murphy, who specialized in children's diseases, in general charge. There, mothers received advice in regard to the care and treatment of infants. This was a part of the war program. As other war activities, the nurses and doctors' wives held a bazaar, the money realized went to war relief; the nurses who graduated in 1917 decided to forego the usual banquet, that the money might be used for the Red Cross.

In 1917 the Sisters of St. Dominic secured a large house on 60th St. at 22nd Ave., since torn down, and opened a small hospital. This was incorporated without

capital stock and as a non-dividend paying organization (1). The Pennoyer Sanitarium north of town was secured in 1919 as a result of the need for more room. A campaign for funds followed that summer. The building was officially taken over on October 8, 1919, and the patients moved in. It became St. Catherine's Hospital. Its dedication was July 1, 1920. In 1921, P. J. Moohan was elected head of the St. Catherine's Hospital Association. A drive began for 5,000 members, the objective was to lift the debt on the property and to purchase an X-ray machine.

In May 1919 Dr. Windesheim announced that Federal aid was to come to the Kenosha hospital training school because of its splendid work.

When the Patriots Fund effort was discontinued after the close of the war and community chest drives began instead (1920), a service fund for the Kenosha hospital and St. Catherine's Hospital was included because of their need. George S. Whyte was at the head of the drive.

Schools: Shortly after the advent of the new year, 1911, announcement was made that Kenosha had won first prize for the sale of Christmas stamps, - the equipment for an open air school. In addition, it had won the service of a visiting nurse for one month, she was to work through the month of February (2). The equipment consisted of 30 mackinaw coats, knitted caps, sitting out bags, heavy mittens, resting chairs, shoes, socks. The kitchen equipment included a range, two soup kettles, a teakettle, 30 soup bowls, cups and plates. Thirty children were named who were considered suitable candidates, but place and money for them and the equipment was lacking. Lumber companies gave part of the needed lumber, and the Board of Education built a shack to house this first outdoor school (3). In April, it was felt that the school had proved its value the first month; there were 18 in attendance, who showed increase in weight; pulses and temperatures were nearer normal. Hot lunches were served daily. The object was: to show the benefit of sunshine, fresh air and food for physically sub-normal children.

The school continued, though at times it was necessary to close during severe weather (1912). Children needed warmer coats. Benefits and other money raising projects brought some funds. Horlicks became interested (1911) and gave malted milk.

Another type of private school opened early in 1911, when Prof. Edwin Lamb became the instructor in the Kenosha Institute of Wireless Telegraphy. Edward Jones and Lloyd Driver completed courses and in the Fall of 1912 were operators on ocean liners and had passed government examinations. Edward Tabbert was with the Atlantic Coast division with expenses paid by the Marconi Co. (4).

In the Fall of 1911, 3,000 children were in school. The school office began to check records that it might be certain that all children attended the required 32 weeks(5). Those records also showed that:

12.3% of all between kindergarten and high school were foreign born.
53.5% from homes where one or both parents were foreign born.
27.4% had one or more grandparents foreign born.
13.7% were fourth generation native born (6).

An addition was needed at the Frank School, and there was the usual financial

(1) Tel. Courier Oct. 15, 1917
(2) Tel. Courier Feb. 2, 1911
(3) Ibid Feb. 23, 1911
(4) Ibid Oct. 3, 1912. School was approved by U.S. radio inspector who examined a class of 9. All stations and operators licensed after Dec. 13, 1912.
(5) Tel. Courier Nov. 5, 1911
(6) Ibid Dec. 9, 1911

problem. Money was to be provided by a $25,000 bond issue but when the cost was determined it mounted to $40,000, work was to start at once. A joint meeting of the Board and the City Council brought out the fact that the City Council faced difficulty in raising money as so much was taken by fixed amounts that nothing was left for running expenses, the bonded indebtedness had doubled in four years and the usual 13 mill tax was not sufficient. The school request for over $120,000 was the largest in history. Finally a harmonious meeting of the finance committees of both groups made an adjustment and $25,000 was cut from the school demand. Again there was a petition out demanding that the charter be amended so that the school board might ask for but not demand funds.

Other problems vexed the Board of Education. The roof of the high school needed repair before the auditorium could be used. A new law raised the child employment age to 16, thus increasing attendance. In the Spring of 1912 redistricting freed the high school building of grades in order that adequate work room could be provided. The High School endeavored to maintain and improve its commercial department, with a two year commercial course for those who could only attend two years. Letters to industrialists requested the use of students for summer or part time work.

Night schools were busy. One at the Weiskopf was for all nationalities. The YMCA opened one expressly for Italians, with tuition $2.00 a month, also classes for boys who worked in factories (1911) (1). The American Brass Co. maintained a night school for employees and expected 100 aliens.

Kenosha was again highest for a city of its size in the sale of Christmas seals and won a vacuum cleaner (1912) - it was placed in the Central high school. Teachers reported that hygienic conditions were better - they were lived, not just recited, that courses in ethics brought improved behavior and that all work was better generally. In the Spring of 1912 women principals(5) were appointed in all but the high school, Bain and Durkee. Women were urged to vote for school board members.

In the winter of 1912-13 the open air school was in the Dewey building with 16 children who received proper food and plenty of milk. In the Spring a census was taken of children to find those crippled, deformed or suffering from diseases that might result from neglect, etc., with the thought that the State Board of Control might assist with the open air project. The Anti-Tuberculosis Society had suggested aid with building, if the Board would furnish a site, to permit continuation of the work begun in 1911.

In 1912-13 the Bain and Gillett schools were so crowded that even cloak rooms were used for class rooms, and a contract was made for an addition to the Bain building, and land southeast of the Durkee was purchased to enlarge the grounds. Rooms were rented at St. James, St. Thomas and the German Lutheran Schools, also a store building on 19th Ave. There was a manual training department at the Weiskopf and domestic science at the Weiskopf, Frank and Durkee (2). The Open Air school was to open in the Bain in Feb. 1913, and women held a Christmas sale for its benefit. It was again at the Bain that Fall with Esther Melaas in charge. The school board, headed by A. J. Tanck, soon decided to erect a building, but when bids were received, they were found to be high. It continued in the Bain or Gillett Schools for a number of years.

The Industrial School had an enrollment of 450 in late 1912. In June, 1913, a new board was placed in charge of Industrial education: W. J. Frost, J. W. DeCue

(1) Tel. Courier Nov. 5, 1911.
(2) Tel. Courier Apr. 10, 1913.

and Herman Mueller. In the summer of 1912, the Industrial Board had asked for $10,000 to establish, maintain and equip a commercial or industrial continuation school. It was to be held in the auditorium of the Frank School and every boy and girl who worked was to have at least five hours a week there. Superintendent of Industrial Education, R. W. Tarbell, was in charge. By Oct. 1912, this school was busy, girls attended classes every morning, boys in the afternoon. Laura Hahn was the teacher and equipment was purchased as fast as possible. By November there were 125 in the continuation school. In 1913 Kenosha was one of six cities in the state with a continuation school.

The Board of Education faced a new difficulty in 1912 when the YMCA building was to be sold, and its night school work discontinued. It had rendered real service. It had held two classes for men and boys, one in grade school subjects, the other mechanical drawing. Its educational work had served many nationalities, among 124 men enrolled were 26 Lithuanians, 24 Poles, 28 Italians, 23 Russians, 6 Austrians, 6 Hungarians, some Armenians, Danes, Hollanders, Finns, Norwegians, Swedes. Classes had been in three places besides the building. It had taught American history and civics required for naturalization , also the natural resources of the country and their uses; geography, grammar, letter writing, simple arithmetic, etc.

In June 1912, the Board voted to purchase a large tract in the southwest part of the city near Bonds Woods for a site for a new school building. Plans were made by H. H. Hahn and accepted; the Board asked for a bond issue. Some questioned the wisdom of a 20 room school on the south side, and thought it would be many years before it would be filled, that two smaller schools would be better.

A rigid inspection of school buildings took place before school opened in 1912, and the replacement of the high school had to be considered. These repairs made the erection of a school on 68th Street impossible. Various plans were considered. Some advocated new wings with the final removal of the condemned part of the old building, others the removal of the third story at once, still others suggested a new building on 300 feet of Columbus park using the old building for an industrial school. Many protested the tearing down of the present building, among them Mr. Simmons who reminded the Board the "We are building a new city and rebuilding an old one, both at the same time. Kenosha tax payers have shown a fine spirit of go-aheadism, my plea is to keep this spirit among our people." (1) A joint meeting of the Board and the Council favored a new high school on a different site (2). The Board appointed S. C. Newman, Wm. J. Threinen and Chas. A. Tarbell as a committee to recommend a new site and requested a bond issue of $300,000 for site and building, this to be submitted to a referendum. The vote was against the bond issue.

In 1913 a stereoptican for school use was given as a result of Kenosha's Christmas seal rating. A department for deaf pupils was in project at the Bain, it to receive state aid in maintenance. A vacation school for backward children was opened at the Durkee School in the summer of 1913, with Hugh Murphy of the Bain in charge. School houses were open for social center purposes, and the grounds were used at all hours. The women of the PTA were to visit and censor movies. They also demanded that the Durkee school rooms be cleaned,- then an examination of all schools was ordered by the Board. Mrs. R. H. Welles was chairman of the committee.

When land at the north was annexed, the Board purchased the one room building formerly used by District No. 13 of Somers, together with equipment, for

(1) Tel. Courier July 10, 1913
(2) Tel. Courier Nov. 20, 1913

$3,000, this to be paid for by tuition from children in Somers. The first portable building was set up at the Durkee, to provide additional room (1). In the Spring of 1914 five more portables were erected, two at the Durkee, two at the Columbus and one at the Gillett. In the winter of 1913-14 night schools opened with more than 300 foreigners entered, and it was necessary to seek for additional teachers.

At the Spring election in 1914, Mrs. Beatrice Ives Welles was elected to the Board of Education, the first woman to hold an elective political office in Kenosha (2). In 1915 when Michael Sullivan resigned from the Board, Mrs. Una Slater White was appointed his place by the Council. Prior to this, Sarah R. Devlin announced her candidacy for county superintendent when the suffrage workers wanted a woman candidate, and Mrs. S. S. Walkup ran for school commissioner in the 9th Ward (4). Neither were elected.

In 1914, Kenosha's forensic talent was winning honors - Kenosha ranked second in the High School - Lawrence College debating teams that included nine schools.

More territory south of the city was annexed, this added more children to the already crowded conditions, and the fall term of 1914 brought another big increase in attendance. The Board decided to proceed with the 68th St. school. This time the referendum won - 157 to 993, many women voted (5). An ordinance provided for $100,000 of school bonds. The new school, completed in 1917 was named the Lincoln. Feb. 1, 1917 the 7th and 8th grades were admitted. When later it was thrown open to the public, 783 children were already using it.

Sites were purchased on the north and west sides of new territory to save greater cost later. School officials aided in the stringent enforcement of child labor laws. School enrollment increased from 5,713 to 6,648 with nearly 700 foreign born during 1914-15. The Bain, Weiskopf and Frank schools were used as social centers and David Fogwell, recreational director reported that 8,660 people used them in a brief period. The State fire marshal warned teachers to observe fire drills; the local fire chief reported the schools were safe.

Junior high schools were started in 1916. Failure to complete the Lincoln building in time made it necessary to crowd all into the Frank when school opened in Sept. 1916. Miss LaMaude Yule was the teacher. As this included the 7th, 8th and 9th grades from all the city, it was necessary to use auditorium and class rooms one-half day each, with shop, and kitchen also exchanged.

Other changes came in 1916. A physical director was employed, also Miss Kate Kinney as a school nurse. Sub-normal children were to be segregated with a special teacher. A card list of all children in schools gave a check on withdrawals. The school officials endeavored to stop the sale of cigarettes to minors and some arrests were made. The School board joined the city club in protest against the abnormal and sensational in moving pictures. The University of Wisconsin maintained a man at the library for consultation on school work.

The building committee recommended the purchase of a new school site west of the limits in the Hannan Subdivision. It also voted to erect a new building on the north side to relieve the Gillett, that would then be used for special school purposes. The latter was the most crowded in the city, with ten teachers in a four room building, with two classes in the basement, one in a cloakroom and three in portables.

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(1) Ibid Nov. 27, 1913.
(2) Bradford, Mary D. Memoirs
(3) Tel. Courier Sept. 25, 1915.
(4) Ibid March 11, 1915
(5) Ibid April 8, 1915

The council finally decided to put the school building problem up to the voters at the April election with a choice between two methods, bonds for $75,000 or a two mill tax levy. Bonds won. Howard Hahn was chosen architect for the new building. Reisen Bros. of Milwaukee were the low bidders in June, 1917. The council threatened to stop building at the price bid as there was not enough money. The bonds were only for $75,000 the bid was $150,000 but decided to submit to the vote of the people the question of a bond issue for $165,000 for a building adequate to take care of the Junior High and relieve the grade school congestion. The referendum was deferred.

In March, 1917, the school board had opposed the erection of a new high school because the junior high program was still experimental and more time was needed to fully decide. The Council decided that the public should vote on a $280,000 bond issue for new schools. The bond issue won by a good majority and the Board wanted to start at once. A committee was to select an architect and proceed with the north side school immediately, the one on Norman Ave. (32nd) would have to await the completion of the city sewer. The latter was to be known as the McKinley school. Plans were accepted in July, 1918. It had been decided in April 1917, that the North side school should be named the Washington. These were to combine elementary and junior high work.

In the summer of 1918 the old College of Commerce building on Sheridan Road became the administration office of the school system, and the commercial department was moved back to the high school.

Progress of the work on the Washington school was slow and not very satisfactory, six more portables became necessary. Work began on the McKinley School in June, 1919 but was soon delayed because the sewer work was not completed. It started again in October. Finally the Washington School was ready; also the McKinley, in July, 1920.

The theory of free text books was presented to the Board in Feb. 1917, but no action taken. In May, 1917, the decision was against this plan. The Board also voted not to employ any additional married women as teachers and decided against summer schools. It voted to purchase property on Fairfield Ave. (35th St.) as a site for a building to be known as the Grant School, and another site on the southwest side was asked for. Three rooms were set aside at the Deming and Bain for sub-normals. These groups were to be kept small, with hand work, simple games, rhythm work, etc. and were partly supported by the state.

With the rising cost of living after the war, teachers' salaries came in for a readjustment and after some discussion with these affected, a minimum wage was set at $100 monthly for 12 months, with automatic changes provided for. There was to be a possible increase in the supervisional force. Later the teachers started the "Kenosha Plan" for salary advancement by filing intention of additional university work.

In the Spring of 1920 the council was requested to purchase the remainder of the block for use of the Frank School. Many new portables were provided, some were placed on the Roosevelt Road site, others were necessary at the new McKinley school. Schools had increased 1,500 in enrollment in a year. Soon there were 600 crowded into the old high school building (1921).

The Board of Education began a movement for a new, modern high school building. A special committee was appointed: Chester Barnes, chairman, Threinen, Chester, Wallis, Ottati, with Jay Glerum, president of the board. It was to make a survey to determine needs, examine sites and confer with other cities and educational experts, and would probably recommend a site near the population center. The old high school would become a junior high. A campaign started for a high

school on the Bonnie Hame site on 52nd St. with large grounds (1920). Early in 1921 the Board of Education asked for $800,000 for the erection of two new junior high schools, but had no sites as yet. A referendum on a bond issue was suggested.

President Glerum of the School Board appealed for better school privileges for Kenosha children, and told of overcrowding, some could only attend one half day. He gave a resumé of the school system at a Deming PTA as follows: there were 29 portables, one country school house, 9 basement rooms, one rented parish hall, 12 makeshift rooms, 2 store buildings, 10 regular school buildings, 195 pupils on half time, the Board was badly in need of funds, there was a deficit of from $400,000 to $500,000 that had been climbing for the past ten years. The State threatened to withdraw the $3,500 contribution to the school fund; the Deming, Frank and High School were in bad condition.

On the other hand, the Mayor told of the present depression, with work scarce, people hungry and the city without money. He suggested more portables until the present stringency was over.

Other things had happened in the school picture during the years. When the Lincoln School opened, the American Brass Co. gave $1,000 to equip a print shop. Modern machine shop equipment was installed in the high school. Harry Kirn was in charge of constructing desks for the drawing department while the other equipment was made ready. Mrs. Bradford advocated a subway under the Northwestern tracks for children who attended the McKinley school. The Wisconsin Gas & Electric, on request of the Wisconsin Railway Commission placed a bus in service exclusively to transport teachers and pupils to the McKinley school.

Public playgrounds were active that summer (1917) at Bain, Durkee, Gillett, Columbus and Bonds Woods with tennis at the high school and at the corner of 60th St. and 13th Ave. And with the war begun, high school boys and older junior high school scouts were asked to farm vacant lots to aid in food production, Mr. Fogwell in charge. Many who owned vacant lots turned them over for this purpose.

The use of school buildings was curtailed in winter during the war because of the coal shortage. A long Christmas vacation was necessary, and some schools remained closed even longer because coal was delayed in transit.

During these years the Board of Education had been purchasing parts of the Bonny Hame tract as a site for future school use.

As war continued, boys and girls were organized into groups to assist in war work. Mrs. Bradford gave much extra time to this, but instead of a salary raise she was tendered a gift of $300 which she refused. The freshman class at high school made crutches for the Red Cross to send to hospitals as a part of the manual training work under Harry Kirn.

Kenosha's population growth percentage was estimated as the highest in the state, thus schools were still overcrowded, some children had only part time schooling, because there had been nearly 500 increase. Two new portables were to go up at once. But some parents were arrested for keeping children from school. The Board of Education reported hundreds of children without proper school facilities.

When Mrs. Bradford was forced to ask for a leave of absence because of illness, there were many applicants for the position of Assistant Superintendent. G. F. Loomis was recommended, to serve while Mrs. Bradford recovered from an operation. (1) She returned for a brief time, but resigned, it to take effect June 1, 1921.

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(1) Tel. Courier Jan. 26, 1921.

One story tells of vandalism: Some boys of the High School broke into the building and left a trail of vandalism. Before they were brought to the Municipal Court, Com. C. D. Barnes held a session with them. They, after conferring together without Mr. Barnes, brought in a proposition for their own punishment: To pay for all damage, to remain at home three nights a week, to remain after school 40 minutes until such time as the Board withdrew its jurisdiction, to be deprived of part in school activities and to remain away from poolrooms for the time stated.

During these years there had been crowded night schools regularly. But in spite of this, Kenosha was shown as the most illiterate in the state! This was because of the large number of foreign born: 4.9% or nearly five out of every hundred over a ten year period. Green Bay and Sheboygan ranked next.

However, an item in a local paper read: "Kenosha is distinctly interested in the praise that has been given to the night schools of the city by the Federal Immigration officials. If the night school can make 100 good citizens out of 100 aliens, the price that it cost to support those schools is not too high."

Water Department: Difficulty in supplying sufficient water for the city continued. Sixteen new hydrants were provided for the outlying districts, but a rule went out that the water would be shut off if used by a consumer on a flat rate except during the hours from 5:00 to 8:00 a. m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p. m. (1911).

The members of the Waterworks Commission were making plans for extensive additions to the mains to the South and Southwest. The plan also included the placing of money, as it accumulated, with the Northwestern Loan & Trust Co. to be held for use in the installation of a new intake which would be necessary in the near future. The first of the year (1911) the Trust Company gave a release of the trust deed on the water works property when the last of the mortgage was paid off.

From then on the Commission worked toward a new and better plant. Water plants elsewhere were studied. The cost of the filter system at Evanston indicated that such an installation would mean a decided increase in cost of water to consumers, but the Board did not stop there, five other filter plants were visited and studied (1912).

Frank Grasser was named a Commissioner at the close of 1911. George Higley replaced James Gorman for a year, to be in turn replaced by John Hegeman. A little later John Milligan became a commissioner - these three gave long hours and fine service, without remuneration, in the interest of a better water supply for Kenosha. In Oct. 1912, Lew Heller was named superintendent of street water works construction.

In 1913 the filtration plant plan was still delayed. There were two reasons - the then site of the water works was too small and the cost too high for such construction. When the State water analysis along the shore showed no uniform current, it indicated that zoning for pollution would have to be at least seven miles out, and that the lake water was not at all times a safe source of supply, the use of chlorination was considered, as it would be cheaper than filtration. Tests were started, with no complaints! The city tested the water, Dr. McShane of the Health Department making the tests. That and the State tests showed better water (1913).

However, the city water was called a shame to Kenosha, it was full of sand and dirt caused by storms, and again the Commission began a thorough study of filters and of the types fitted to Kenosha's needs. The consideration of a change of site was also reopened.

By one vote the Council carried the vote for a referendum for a bond issue for

a filtration plant - $100,000. Mr. Hegeman wanted it to cover a new intake. The water department already had a large amount on hand toward a filtration plant and about 48 miles of mains. The value of the property was estimated at $300,000 this without aid from the city proper. The schools were provided with free water, also the Fire Department and the city hall (1914). A temporary plant was used to chlorinate the water for two months, this showed a big benefit, but the water was still dirty.

The referendum voted down the filter plant bonds. Then the manufacturers became alarmed at the small amount of water available for fire protection. Besides, a fire at the Simmons plant would endanger the water works as well. There was then more talk of a new site elsewhere in the city. The commissioners decided that immediate steps toward a new intake were necessary, probably one that was 1 1/4 miles long (1). Samples of water were tested regularly in the city laboratory and it was found that water further north was purer than that near the intake. In 1914, the water rates to consumers were raised somewhat, without any protest, - it was understood that the additional money would be used toward a better water system.

The Commission undoubtedly was aided when the State Fire Inspector became critical of the pressure at the plant, and of the hazard from fire at that location (2). Shortly afterward, the Simmons Company offered to purchase the old plant and the council authorized the sale. The water commission then went to work on plans for a new plant on the Island, where the Simmons Company offered land as a partial payment on the old plant. Filter plans were considered as possible in connection with the new intake, since such a plant would reduce greatly the needed length thereof. (3).

In the 1915 Mayoralty campaign Charles Pfennig promised to see that Kenosha had the best water in the state. He was elected!

In the Fall of 1915 bids on a new pumping station, filtration plant and equipment were advertised for - to be opened Dec. 20th. The Council was asked to issue bonds for $250,000 for the new plant and intake since it would be difficult to sell bonds on the assets of the water department alone. The Council voted to issue such bonds. The Council also took formal action on the vacation of parts of Lake St. and 56th St. (of little use except to the company) as a part of the sale of the old water plant to the Simmons Co. The Company was to pay $25,000 and deed land on the Island for the new plant (4).

Now the World War affected Kenosha in another way - it became impossible to obtain the hypo that had been used in the water. War also affected the cost of pipe for the new system, bringing it up considerably. There were more than 100 contractors present at the opening of bids for the plant. The filter figures were unexpectedly low.

The brick and steel pumping station contract was awarded to the Klug & Smith Co. of Milwaukee. The pumping station building, boiler room, raw water and suction wells cost $48,525.00. The 42" intake pipe that extended 4,700 feet into the lake with 35 ft. depth at intake, was constructed in 1915 by Greiling Bros. Co. of Green Bay at a cost of $73,320. The radial brick chimney, built by R. R. Heinecke Co. of N. Y. cost $2,308.92. The pumping engines (three) and other plant equipment from Allis Chalmers Co., Milwaukee, cost $89,700. The buildings for the filtration plant east of the pumping plant were constructed by the Sterling Engineering & Construc-

(1) Tel. Courier July 9, 1914 & Council Min.
(2) Tel. Courier March 8, 1915
(3) Tel. Courier June 11, 1915, Council Min. 1915 p. 151
(4) Council Minutes 1915, p. 310, 353.

tion Co. of Milwaukee, the equipment for 8 filters was installed by the Continental Jewell Filtration Co. of N. Y. at a cost of $92,727.79 (1). The filtration plant had a capacity of 8,000,000 gallons per day.

The plant was put into operation May 9, 1917, but the filtration plant was not in good working order until June 15. Unfortunately a dock cave-in on Government property Aug. 14, 1917, caused a break in a pipe close to the new plant and forced it to close (2). The old plant now owned by the Simmons Co. was put back into operation until repairs could be made. By the middle of September some filtered water was in use, through use of smaller pipe installations. Work was delayed by war shortages and because of absence of city engineer Brennan and Assistant engineer Smith. Greiling Bros. laid a new 24" cast iron main from the Island across the bayou to the mainland and the plant was again in operation by Oct. 7, 1917.

Now, with this new and model plant in complete operation, Kenosha had one of the finest examples of a modern water works system, one that ranked with the best in the entire country. By 1920 there were 67.9 miles of mains, 484 hydrants.

In May, 1918 the Railroad Commission fixed the new water rates, these were about the same as those set by the Department. The hydrant rental as fixed by the Commission would amount to about $14,000 per year. Later a loan of $30,000 for 8 months was granted the water department by the council to enable it to do the necessary underground construction prior to the start of the big paving program of the city.

Many people preferred the artesian water of the earlier days and a request to the council brought about the laying of some pipe for the artesian well at 45th St.

In 1921 bonds in the amount of $100,000 were again issued, to be paid by the earnings of the water department, to enable it to greatly extend water mains into new territory now in the city.

War: Kenosha, like the rest of the country, had thought in terms of long continuing peace, and directed its efforts accordingly. In the Fall of 1913, when the Fourth American Peace Conference was held, with at least 19 nations co-operating, five Kenosha men were appointed as delegates: Charles T. Jeffery, H. B. Robinson, Z. G. Simmons, W. W. Strong and E. C. Thiers.

But the next Spring, when war with Mexico threatened, many Kenosha boys were eager to go to the Border. Several from here were on the battleships (3) which were sent to Vera Cruz, and helped to take that city. Herman Roloff gave conspicuous service there (4). As we have noted before, the Jeffery Quad was tested along the Border and attracted the attention of experts (5).

Mail carriers were asked by the Federal Government to send lists of young men who might be interested in army service; later a company of the State Guard was (6) formed here, one of eight new companies in the state. Two dozen men left to join companies in State Militias called for service in case of possible trouble with Mexico. (1916). Gov. Philipp called for volunteers who would be ready to meet any emergency, and soon followed with an executive order for an organization for the promotion of military training in Wis. Letters were sent to the Kenosha manufacturers regard-

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(1) Water department records.
(2) Tel. Courier Aug. 16, 1917 and water department records.
(3) Tel. Courier April 23, 1914
(4) Ibid June 11, 1914
(5) Ibid July 30, 1914
(6) Ibid Sept. 30, 1915

ing this plan as it was thought a company could be formed here. Martin Winther, who had gone to the Border sent back a message: "Kenosha can be proud of her boys in Mexico." The women also prepared to aid our soldiers should the Mexican situation make it necessary. For a time it seemed that war could not be avoided.

The war that began in Europe in August, 1914, soon affected the city in various ways. Some domestic orders for locally made goods were cancelled or delayed, and deliveries of foreign orders became uncertain. Many Kenoshans were abroad and experienced difficulty in returning to America. The price of drugs went up almost at once. By the end of the year a revenue tax on deeds and also a war tax on marriage licenses was in effect (1). Aliens who had been well satisfied with only their first papers, immediately became anxious to receive their second papers as a means of avoiding a draft into European armies. But they were required to swear that they would serve in the U. S. army if necessary. They said they were sympathetic with the U. S.

A peace demonstration was held in Kenosha on Sept. 19, 1914, in which 10,000 took part. Chicago cooperated with this at the start, but failed to follow through. It had only 50 automobiles in the parade. Others started but could not brave the dust of the unpaved roads. It was the largest demonstration in Kenosha since the unveiling of the Soldiers' Monument in 1900.

By 1915, orders began to come for Jeffery trucks for use in "the blood soaked battlefields of Europe". Other factories felt the war in a different way - items needed could not be obtained. The Hosiery found a method for making its own dye stuff, prior to that, Germany was thought to be the only country that could produce it.

Women of the city were busy preparing supplies for the wounded in France. They met at Guild Hall regularly to carry on this work, hospital nurses aided, and much was shipped in the summer of 1916. Kenosha women sent sweets to the men who went to the Border with trucks, and who reported that they had plenty to eat but that it was plain fare.

When there were not enough volunteers to care for the work, a National Red Cross Unit was organized through the efforts of Mrs. Z. G. Simmons, Mrs. A. H. Lance and Mrs. E. L. Grant. Robert Allen of the Hosiery sent 46,000 pair of Kenosha made stockings from tiny tots' to men's to aid the suffering in France. Kenosha women aided in a big Allies Bazaar in Chicago with ten women at work on "Kenosha Day."

Eight men were appointed to take charge of the campaign of the Navy League in Kenosha: W. L. Grosvenor, Clifford J. Hackett, James J. Hoyt, A. H. Lance, J. H. Lichtenberger, A. H. Quigley and H. M. Vale. These were to represent their district in an "active, aggressive campaign for adequate preparedness against invasion and disaster." (2) In March, 1916, a big mass meeting was held at the Rhode Opera House with Capt. Jas. V. Martin, USA as speaker. Men were recruiting for the navy. At a meeting at St. Matthews, Gen. Chas. King stressed our need for military preparedness. He cited our weakness from the Revolutionary war on, with consequent loss of life (3). On the other hand Sen. LaFollette, speaking on "Neutrality" declared that we, as a people, were most unneutral.

With 1917, the danger of the United States being drawn into the European conflict became more and more apparent. Prominent men in many lines of work gave support to a movement for military training for the boys of the U. S. to "maintain peace." (4)

(1) Tel. Courier Dec. 17, 1914
(2) Ibid Jan. 20, 1916
(3) Ibid April 13, 1916
(4) Tel. Courier Jan. 11, 1917

Men were urged to enlist for summer training in Civilian training camps. Enlistment for army service was taken by the postmaster, and Secretary of the Navy Daniels made a direct appeal for navy recruits by means of a telegram to the Kenosha News.

When a break with Germany came, flags were flown all over town. Almost immediately after our formal entry into the conflict, a new cavalry troop started with 30 volunteers, and was soon nearly filled. Shortly after, a volunteer infantry troop was organized Company M. Early in May the Cavalry troop was sworn in with its Captain, J. S. Coney, the first to be sworn. This was the first military organization Kenosha contributed since the civil war. Mobilization orders came for this Troop as a part of the National Guard in May, 1917, named Troop E, of the 2nd Squadron.

Other than military activity took place. March, 1917, the Black Cat Textiles offered the entire output of its great plants to the U. S. Government in case it was needed. The doctors met and organized a committee for medical preparedness: Doctors G. F. Adams, J. P. Hastings, G. Windesheim, J. B. Holm, P. P. M. Jorgansen, H. H. Cleary and W. J. Hasley announced that they would go if needed. The Dentists Association offered free service to recruits. The suffrage group, the Elks, Kiwanis and other clubs offered aid. Another movement was the teaching of thrift and economy with a saving of food through the development of gardening and home economics. Public meetings and addresses gave the necessary publicity.

As gifts began to come in, a Red Cross work room was opened with Mrs. E. C. Thiers chairman of the local branch. Madam Thiers, at 102, was knitting for the French soldiers. A tag day was held in May, 1917, girls who acted as "taggers" were carefully chaperoned by prominent women seated in nearby automobiles. These girls had special uniforms that were worn at a military ball afterward. May 23, was set aside as Patriotic (tag) Day and $3,000 was raised for the Red Cross and the Cavalry and Infantry Companies. May 31st there were about 10,000 in the line of march. The Italian White Club composed of Italian born, marched from the west side of town, gave patriotic talks and paid tribute to the civil war veterans.

Polish and Lithuanians in Kenosha were aiding war sufferers in Europe. On a call for aid for Jewish sufferers all Jewish people here were sending ably administered help. Three and a half million were near starvation, homeless and in distress.

Prior to this, some Kenoshans had joined Canadian regiments and gone over seas. Z. G. Simmons III and Lucian Lance left school to volunteer as ambulance drivers. Theresa VanDerWee also enlisted as an Ambulance driver, a new departure for women. Gertrude and Lillian Isermann R.N. went to France. Within a month many young men had either enlisted in the army or navy or had volunteered for officers' training.

A County Council of Defense was organized May 1917, headed by Charles H. Pfennig, with headquarters in the Mayor's office at the City Hall.

Aloyseus Gross was the first casualty of the war, he was drowned in the Canal Zone, where he had been stationed for some time. His body was interred in St. George cemetery.

Soon the papers for the draft arrived. About 60 men volunteered to serve as registration workers, without pay. By formal order, post office employees were asked to search for disloyal residents, but most of the foreign-born were evidently loyal (1). The Registration Board named by the Mayor included Dan O. Head, A. E.

(1) Tel. Courier May 3, 1917.

Davies, Dr. George Adams, Mayor C. Pfennig, Chester D. Barnes, James Cavanagh; (1) 4,500 men had registered by the end of June. Many claimed exemption. The police were ordered to arrest anyone not registered; bartenders were to demand sight of the registration card of any thought under age, and saloons were warned against selling to men in uniform (2). A naval patrol had been here for some time on guard on Kenosha streets to prevent sale of liquor to recruits (3).

Capt. Edward Dayton and Asbury Vale recruited men to complete the two companies. By the middle of June this was completed and Capt. Dayton went to Camp Douglas. The Kenosha Infantry Co. M was well equipped and made up of men of ability. Troop E and Company M were called as soldiers in the army to go to France.

Thus early in the war women began to fill positions heretofore employing men. By May 1918, women could be mail carriers, Mrs. Eva Lloyd was the first woman rural carrier here. They served as conductors on the North Shore line as early as May, 1917. They were urged to co-operate with the County Council of Defense, and girls asked to become nurses. Nash employees were asked to enlist in the fight on food shortages, and 25 acres were turned over to workers for garden plots, free of charge. Herbert Hoover asked that the last Sunday of June be observed as Food Saving Day.

In May, 1917, the campaign opened to sell Kenosha's quota of $600,000 in Liberty Bonds. This was over subscribed to a total of $900,000.

Bruce Eastman was named recruiting officer for the Army Officers Training Camp. President Wilson appointed Mayor Pfennig to head the exemption board. The county list was then ready for the draft. There were 1,375 aliens subject to deportation, but most of them were applying for permits to remain here, 200 made application in one day. Foreigners were forced to take out first papers and be liable to draft or to chose deportation. On the first call for draftees, 148 were taken, 40 received exemption because of dependents, 108 went. About this time City Engineer B. C. Brennan and Assistant Engineer Robert M. Smith, who had volunteered for Officers Training some time before, were called to leave on August 26, the former received a captain's commission, the latter that of Lieutenant. Many of the Kenosha boys who had gone previously were by now commissioned and assigned to duty. Dr. Randall, now a captain, closed his office, he was to serve in the Canadian Army. The second call for draftees came on August 23, 1917.

Troop E and Company M, while in Kenosha found temporary quarters, the latter in the Washington Island skating rink, the former in the then vacant Refrigerator Company Building. They began training here but soon left for Camp Douglas with a great "send-off" from citizens. The last of August, the Simmons Island became a camp again- for draftees, who left for Battlecreek Sept. 1.

When the second Liberty Loan call came, Kenosha's allotment was $1,000,000. The City Council voted to buy $100,000 Liberty Bonds on a wait till later basis for civic improvement until the war was over. This was the first city to buy from public funds. It transferred $18,000 from river purification funds to meet the bond purchase. Kenosha County subscribed $350,000 to the loan. To aid in the sale of bonds, a Four Minute Man plan was developed, with good and rapid speakers to spread information and arouse enthusiasm. Kenosha took honors of the nation and the campaign ended with a big celebration and patriotic music. Ten thousand people crowded the Square and nearby streets.

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(1) Ibid May 31, 1917
(2) Ibid June 14, 1917
(3) Ibid Sept. 25, 1916

When only $400,000 was raised, Z. G. Simmons gave help and tireless work. Mrs. L. M. Thiers and Harriet Bain led the work with women as the hand of the clock moved from the maximum allotment to $3,500,000, an over subscription.

Red Cross activities increased. Laura Hahn became general manager of the local work rooms; Marie Farley, secretary of the Kenosha County chapter, Mrs. E. C. Thiers, chairman of the committee on supplies. An infirmary for women and children was to have the benefit of $2,500. in the American Fund for French Wounded when it disbanded to join the Red Cross.

To increase excitement, a Deputy United States marshal brought charges of seditions talk against an Alderman. The other council members voted to try him when he refused to resign.

Food production and conservation was encouraged. Fuel administrator W. W. Hammond and his deputy Frank Isermann had a difficult task. Later Walter Burke was made fuel administrator here and all coal yards were taken over. Lack of coal became serious - factories were closed for five days, and schools were on vacation by order of fuel administrator Garfield. The American Brass Co. provided bakeries with coke. Even the water works went on short coal rations. The amount of coal on hand in the city one day did not amount to 50 tons. The American Brass almost periled its own business to help keep Kenoshans warm, some other industries did likewise, with the statement "we just want to do our bit." In May 1918, the city purchased a coal yard on 14th Ave and 63rd St.

Through war necessity the Government asked for meatless days and lightless nights to conserve supplies. H. L. Bullamore was named local food administrator for the county. All bakers, hotels and restaurants that used more than 10 bbl. of flour or meal per week required a government license. The sale of sugar was limited. Families were asked not to send food to service men, who were well supplied. Dealers objected to the "cash and carry" plan suggested, accustomed to make delivery, they thought they could not carry on their business in that manner, but they fell in line in the effort to keep prices down when the Secretary of State and the Council of Defense threatened the use of food cards, and reminded people that lack of food caused the Russian collapse. About 40 promised real cooperation. There were wheatless days and meatless days in 1918, cereals were mixed as a substitute for wheat flour. People were asked to save on candy and desserts and use the money for baby bonds. The only real disturbance in all this arose when men, mostly from Chicago, working in the ice fields, were misinformed by IWW agents and demanded meat on meatless days or they would quit.

Many Austrians arrived just prior to the opening of war in 1914. Now when the U. S. entered the war against Austria, most of these wanted to become citizens, but were forced to wait. The Kenosha Italians responded to the need of Italian refugees and by Dec. 1917, raised over $2,100 for that use. The Chief of Police was ordered to register all alien enemies (from enemy countries) and to watch for men wanted on the delinquent lists. There were barred zones for aliens (1), - there were over 350 unnaturalized Germans in the city. Some foreign born sought to reclassify as late as Jan. 1918 and were told that they must either enter service here or return to their native land. Feb. 4, 1918, was set as a date for aliens to register: 100 women registered these with help from members of the Americanization Committee of the Council of Defense.

A Kenosha Provisional Battalion was formed, and equipped with uniforms sim-

(1) Tel. Courier Dec. 20, 1917.

ilar to those of the army, 65 were enrolled in State service out of this group. Thomas Temple, a Spanish War Veteran, was chosen to head the State Guard Co. into which 39 men had been mustered and stationed here.

What came to be known as "the Kenosha Plan for War Relief" work went into effect at 11:30 A. M. Nov. 22, 1917 with blowing of whistles at various plants. Earners were asked to subscribe one-half hour of work per week, this pay to go into a fund known as "The Patriots Fund". Many paraded on Sat. night, 3,000 subscribers were indicated by the clock on Market Square the first day the plan was in effect. Every subscriber to this fund was made a member of the Red Cross (1). By Jan. 1918 (2), this fund had collected $21,000 in the city, with County included, $30,000. $5,000 went to the Red Cross, the YMCA and the Polish Fund also received contributions.

Two hundred soldiers were sent here for a 30 day course in the use of the new Nash Quad trucks. A barracks 50' x 150' to house 120 was under construction on 30th Ave. called Camp Herring (3). Just before its completion the building burned. Quarters were loaned and the Simmons Co. provided army cots, while it was being rebuilt. This made Kenosha an army training center on a small scale. The soldier students came from various parts of the U. S. Its officers were stationed at the Elks Club. $900 was taken from the Patriots Fund for the entertainment of these and other soldiers to help morale. Saloon men were told to restrict sales to soldiers or the town would "go dry."

In the draft, by Jan. 10, 1918, the last of the registration blanks were mailed out. Three lawyers formed a legal advisory board, shifts were provided for. These had charge of all questionnaires.

Anxious days came when word was received that the Tuscania had been torpedoed in Feb. 1918. Kenosha's own Company M were on board and people haunted the telephone office, until it became known that Corp. Arthur Junker was the one man who had lost his life in the disaster, then flags were flown at half mast.

Col. Charles J. Symmonds from Kenosha was at the head of the great supply depot at Guivres, France and was doing an outstanding job.

In April, 1918, the clock of the 2nd Liberty Loan on the Square was replaced by the flag of the 3rd Liberty Loan, onto which the stars were to be added. Liberty Day was the anniversary of our entrance into the war, and was marked by ceremonies to launch this 3rd drive. A whirlwind campaign for a three day period later finished this work. Secretary McAdoo sent a telegram thanking Kenosha for sales in the amount of $2,340,050. This won the double honor flag. In addition, war savings stamps were on sale and people were urged to buy. Meetings at the schools gave workers the opportunity to stop and register for these between April 17 and June 28, thus making it easier and saving time. Over $133,000 were sold by the middle of July.

The demand of men for service accelerated as time passed. At the end of May, 1918, 200 were called. When 300 left for camp, there was a great patriotic demonstration, thousands marched as three bands played. Those who had become 21 during the year then registered. The newspaper stated that one man was registered every two minutes all day. In addition, a steady stream of automobiles carried men to Great Lakes Naval Station to enlist, - 225 citizens and 92 aliens (4). Eight

(1) Tel. Courier Dec. 20, 1917
(2) Ibid Jan. 3, 1918
(3) Tel. Courier Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 1917
(4) Tel. Courier June 6, 1918

Kenosha doctors were in service: Drs. Hanley, H. M. Ripley, Eastman, Randall, Thompson, F. Andre, Adair and Robinson. Others went later, Dr. Murphy and P. P. M. Jorgensen. There were many Kenosha men on the battle front. The last of June, 422 county men were called up, this drained the Class 1 registration. Men from farms were taken in May, 1918, prior to this, they had been deferred until some work was done. (1)

The toll of war was felt as news came of boys killed or wounded in action, or of others sick in hospitals. Some were winning decorations and honors for bravery. The demand for men continued, 300 went the last of July, many were enlisting: 25,000 nurses were called for, and women were asked to work at the exemption board. There were many volunteers. Others were wanted for canteen work. Some went into Government work away from Kenosha - to Chicago and Washington, D. C., 32 went into the student nurse reserve. Judge Belden took a three months' leave of absence and gave his entire time to YMCA work with the army. Glen Huff resigned his work at the Exemption Board to go into service. Sacrifice was asked for everywhere - farmers were requested to work longer hours during harvest. All use of pleasure cars on Sunday was stopped. Even the doctors walked or used bicycles when possible, to save gasoline. No ornamental electric light signs were in use, Mon., Tues., Wed. and Thurs. were "lightless nights." Recruiting began for men not in the regular age limit, - those from 18 to 21 and from 32 to 41, both married and single. Several thousand were registered Sept. 12, 1918, the factories helped, with 100 volunteer workers. Men between 19 and 36 were to be called first.

As an example of the Patriots fund use (2), $35,000 was disbursed to the Jewish War Work Council, the American Relief Association, to the YMCA and KC funds, Red Cross, Polish Relief, National Allied Relief Commission, Belgian Children's Milk Fund, Fatherless Children of France, War Children's Relief, and to the Boy Scout Organization that had done much for the Liberty Loan Drives. Through this fund 100 French War orphans were adopted.

The Cooper Underwear Co. brought a cutting machine to the Red Cross workroom which greatly facilitated work. Wool was needed for the army and for Red Cross work and the U. S. Government requisitioned all that was available. Sentiment was strong against the use of liquor. A formal notice was given that no saloon could be opened within five miles of any army camp - this applied to Camp Herring, locally. A protest against the use of foodstuffs for the manufacture of liquor, signed by 25,154 in Kenosha and Racine Counties went to the President (3).

In the Fall publicity for the 4th Liberty Loan began. There was a tremendous sale, the total for one day was $25,000 and workers were swamped (4). Kenosha was again ahead of other counties with $3,454,100 subscribed, and again it was honored.

Other activities increased. Labor was to be drafted for war industries on Oct. 1. War Camp Community Service, in which Kenosha was to have an active part, was completing its organization for Wisconsin, with Judge Rosenbury of Madison, chairman. Prizes were given boys and girls who had raised the best thrift gardens. All of the schools were represented. The Court term was postponed because the attorneys were all too busy and Judge Belden was still at camp. A call came for girls who were through the 8th grade to take nurses training. Children collected nut shells for use in the manufacture of gas masks.

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(1) Ibid May 9, 1918
(2) Ibid Mar. 14, 1918
(3) Ibid June 20, 1918
(4) Tel. Courier Oct. 3, 1918

Then big mass meetings were held throughout the county. Four were called in Kenosha by the Mayor - at Union Park; Market Square; 22nd Ave. and 63rd St.; and 52nd St. and 22nd Ave. People brought large flags and stood to show they favored an unconditional surrender by the enemy. The Nash and Simco bands played. A bugler stood on the post office steps daily and blew taps in honor of the boys "over there." (1) Something of the high tension that existed was revealed when Kenosha staged a false peace celebration, only to be bitterly disappointed. It was caused by a telegram from the Chicago Herald Examiner to the Mayor that announced that Germany was looking for peace. "Kenosha almost went crazy" for a brief time (2).

A bad flu epidemic broke out in camps in late September. A call came for 500 pillows for Camp Logan and 250 were taken from beds and were on the way to camp by night. News came of many deaths.

As the Fall of 1918 approached the ban on the use of autos was off, but men were still being called to service; 65 left in late October, 400 were ordered to be ready in ten days and some were in line ready to be sworn in on Nov. 11 when the news came that the President had ordered all drafts cancelled. There were "cheers and chagrin." Peace had come. That was a "wild day and wilder night. Thousands marched in a big parade, bedlam prevailed, there were few accidents. It was orderly but noisy. The saloons were closed, many voluntarily, others by order of the police in the afternoon."

While the armies strove in Europe, the Patriots Fund of Kenosha had proven itself "the greatest benevolent fund ever raised here, the greatest co-operative effort, and the greatest example of the attitude of our people toward those less fortunate, and done with enthusiasm." Kenosha had adopted 3 1/2 times her quota of French orphans.

Then came a readjustment toward peace, although there was a new drive for army nurses. Later in the month the local Italians staged a big Victory parade and mass meeting. They had proved themselves good and loyal citizens. Out of the 3,000 residents, 800 had been in the allied army, 400 before the U. S. entered, and 400 later. The Kenosha County Provisional Battalion was mustered into the State Guard Reserve. The Mayor was requested to have a city estimate of labor conditions to aid in placing returning soldiers, and the Council of Defense outlined a program for work. This Council was demobilized early in January. A Red Cross membership campaign began. Practically all bans were lifted by the first of the year. The Minute Men who had given good service, were to help later with the coming bond drive.

Nurses began to return from France. Lillian Isermann was home after eight months service near the front lines in Base Hospital #22. For the purpose of intelligent service in time of emergency, it became the policy that nurses must register as a part of nursing survey work. It would have saved lives, if properly organized, during the flu epidemic. An effort was made to enlist boys for farm work, 18 bronze medals were given for work in producing good crops, - one girl insisted in joining the "Boys Working Reserves."

The Patriots Fund continued. A letter from the National Investment Bureau said that Kenosha was the first city in the nation to employ this plan, and suggested that it be continued as a "Community Fund". (3) At the final meeting every need was met as far as possible. Tons of garments were requested by the Red Cross.

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(1) Ibid Oct. 10, 1918
(2) Ibid Oct. 10, 1918
(3) Tel. Courier Jan. 30, 1919

Posters with a V for victory announced a new and final loan drive March 1919. A large tank from the French battlefields was sent to help boost it and war exhibits were shown. This too was subscribed in full.

Then plans were started for the "Welcome Home". The service flags were not to be taken down until a certain designated day. Finally a day came when Mayor Joachim, Iner Turkelson, Conrad Shearer, Sr., W. T. Marlatt, Sr., and N. J. Werner as a committee of five went to Camp Grant at Rockford to meet the men of the 340th from Kenosha. George S. Whyte was in charge of the reception here. All Kenosha was at the depot to meet the 340th. The Simco and Nash bands played, sirens sounded. The formal reception was followed by a banquet. Mr. Simmons was the speaker. A few days later a gathering at the Elks Club began to plan for an organization of American War Veterans.

About 20 Kenosha men were still serving in the Archangel region in Russia in 1919 (1). The last of May Units began to leave that sector and a telegram told that Kenosha men were among those.

Another great crowd met the special train when Capt. Coney with Battery E returned. Work was suspended, bands played and flags were everywhere. The Red Arrow was much in evidence. Eighty Stevens Point boys with them were entertained at a dinner at the Maywood Hotel, followed by an informal dancing party at the Army and Navy Club. They, with 50 of Co. E who were to join in a parade, left late in the evening. About a week later a formal city reception and dinner with 150 covers, was given them at the Elks.

The County appropriated $5,000 for the welcome of returning soldiers, and early in June the decorating of Market Square began. Twenty-eight decorated columns capped with the figure of Victory, connected with long streamers of flags of the allied nations were installed as The Victory Way. A memorial to the boys who had fallen in war service was at the east end, to be flower decked during the celebration.

When Co. M came home, few met them, but as they marched down town, sidewalks filled, bands played and enthusiasm rose. Later 65 men were dined at the Elks Club. At a small table were four empty chairs, with roses and daisies and the names of the four who did not return: Corp. Billie Ball, Sgt. Bertram Marsh, Corp. Arthur Junker and Pvt. Jacob Metten. Again George Whyte was toastmaster and chairman. Capt. Edw. Dayton received an ovation.

Later, with ceremonies, the service flag of the High School was placed beside the tattered flag of the Park City Grays of Civil War days.

July 4 - 5 - 6 was set for the official Welcome Home. Thousands were down town with confetti and multicolored paper ribbons. Great crowds attended all gatherings. There were concerts, street shows, bicycle races, airplane stunts and street dances. On Sunday afternoon a great Memorial Service was held. Gold brooches were presented to gold star mothers. Some of these were to go over seas. Governor Philipps was the chief speaker. The Victory Way was to remain several months (2).

As the boys from the Russian Sector returned in small groups, a welcome and dinner was given them (3). The Welcome Home committee was to give a feast in Sept. to all men in the overseas army who had not been here to attend a Welcome

(1) Tel. Courier Jan. 23, 1919
(2) Tel. Courier July 10, 1919
(3) Ibid July 17, 1919

Home dinner. Of the $4,000 balance in the fund account, $3,500 was to be put in interest bearing securities and used to aid worthy but unfortunate soldiers (1).

The American Legion was organized and Sgt. Leo Blanchard became the first commander. Later Claudius Pendall of Kenosha was elected state commander. Soon after the Legion's charter banquet, it began a war on Red literature. In 1921, men who were in active service during the war were still being mustered out, others were yet in Europe. Deaths, illnesses and insanity, the result of war, continued among the returned men (1921). Post Office employees who saw active service received credit in their standing at the office, this meant back pay to six or more men here.

In the Fall of 1919 the war time Red Cross officials resigned from a job well done. (2) The Patriots Fund officers held a final meeting and disbanded. The Spanish War veterans formed a local unit - Camp Dewey Aug. 1920.

Kenosha was on the Nation's honor roll as one of the places where one or more citizens had been granted one of the three Congressional Awards for war service. Col. Chas. J. Symmonds had received the Distinguished Service Medal for work at Gievres, France; Mrs. Edna Coughlin Quinsler the Distinguished Service Cross for service under fire as a Red Cross nurse.

Troop E Cavalry Troop became a part of the 6th U. S. Army Corps and was soon housed in an armory south of town on Sheridan Road. This was named Camp Williams in honor of the youngest Wisconsin man to lose his life in service. (1921) For a number of years this Troop received first honors and had an active part in the annual meetings at Camp Douglas.

During 1921, 180 alien enemies were working toward admission to citizenship, many had waited a long time for their second papers, fifty were admitted at a time as there were 377 in the class. Men were back in industrial jobs and the women who had helped keep up production in war days were back home, few children were working.

Six tribute elm trees were donated as a living expression of gratitude to men of the army, navy and marine corps and dedicated on Arbor Day, 1919. The Junior and Senior High Schools united in the exercise. Mrs. Harriet Yule gave over 80 elm trees to serve as memorials to the men who died in the war. Some were planted in the city parks, others were given to relatives for use on their own premises. When the Park Board offered space, some were planted on either side of 5th Ave. at the lakeside park. Others were used along the Illinois-Wisconsin state line. The gold star mothers took part in ceremonies as these trees were planted.

Sidney Maddock, a former Kenoshan who had rendered excellent war service in Washington and later spent some time in the Orient, on a visit to Kenosha in Sept. 1921, proved himself a prophet when, in a public talk he foretold trouble between the United States and Japan. He said that Japan was aware of this and did not ask if but when it would occur; that it was necessary for the United States to whip Japan to give the Chinese a chance to develop their resources and democracy. But he added that the United States would face a grave problem in taking an army to fight Japan. This also applied to the other allied countries (3).

Churches: At first the Jewish population of Kenosha was small. As it increased, it felt the need for a synagogue, and this was completed after a 12 year struggle, by the members of Congregation of Bnai Zedek, led by Emanuel Epstein, descendant

(1) Ibid Aug. 21, 1919
(2) Tel. Courier Sept. 25, 1919
(3) Tel. Courier July 14, 1921

of brilliant rabbis in Russia, who laid the corner stone in August 1911. Other leaders were J. Stern, L. Plous, Adolph Epstein, J. Rose, J. D. Rosenblum, L. Rosen. This synagogue, at the corner of 56th St. and 16th Ave. was dedicated August 11, 1912, Rabbi J. Rappaport of Chicago gave the opening prayer and the service followed the old Jewish tradition. More than 400 from Racine, Milwaukee, Waukegan and Chicago attended. The honor of opening the door the first time went to Mrs. Harry Goldberg, and the honor of lighting the everburning light to Soloman Fox of Racine. Emanual Epstein said in his remarks: "When we look seriously at the progress of civilization, we can see we are nearing toward a period of universal brotherhood and the worshipping of one God- that the God of Israel." Following the dedicatory service another, a social celebration followed at Carpenters Hall, with Judge Clarkson as speaker. The building cost about $12,000 most of which had been raised.

That same year Guild Hall at St. Matthews was remodeled, and the Park Avenue (now first) Methodist Church took a religious census of the city in an endeavor to reach children who were not in touch with any church. Its new church was already outgrown, the required addition was dedicated March 11, 1913.

For some time the men of St. Matthews Episcopal Church worked on a project for the western part of the city. The corner stone was laid in May 1915; in October the St. Andrews Mission, then completed was given as a 75th anniversary gift. During the World War, Guild Hall, in its entirety was turned into a canteen for the men in uniform with the Red Cross in charge. The Girls Friendly Society was organized at this church in Sept. 1919.

The growing congregations made other Catholic churches necessary. St. Thomas at 63rd and 26th Ave. was dedicated in May 1912 by Archbishop Meissmer. Rev. Fr. J. M. Cleary gave the dedicatory sermon. An influx of Polish citizens brought the erection and dedication, (in Dec. 1912) of St. Casimir's Church and St. Joseph's, erected on a site given by Anton Westerhoven. It was blessed May 4, 1919.

At the close of 1914, a frame one story church and school building for St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran congregation was under construction. A German Baptist Church was erected at Avery and Huron Streets and dedicated in July, 1917.

A number of Russians were here, and their first Russian Greek Orthodox service was held at St. Matthews Episcopal Church, with a monk, sent here from New York to organize a church, in charge. Their Easter service was held in Guild Hall. In 1919 the St. Nicholas Russian Church was erected, built entirely from the resources of its members. Some of the highest officials of the church in this country came to bless the building, the first Greek Orthodox church in Wisconsin. It celebrated its first anniversary in August, 1920. It was located at the corner of Pleasant and Bronson Sts.

The Salvation Army accomplished much with a very little money and its efforts continued.

The purchase of a site for an old people's home by the Carmelite Order was a new movement for Kenosha. This was on Sheridan Road between 58th and 59th Sts. A 17 room building was erected, a number of old houses were used as well. A couple of years later the Carmelite Sisters erected a $35,000 home for the aged, known as St. Joseph's at a site south of Kenosha, at Bain Station on the North Shore Ry.

During the influenza epidemic of 1918, ministers held special services at many

churches without congregations present. By order of the Archbishop, no midnight masses were held at the Catholic Churches.

Recreational: Changes in the type of recreation and amusement continued during this period. One night performances of some very fine programs were given at the Rhode Opera house, with excellent talent. Maude Adams appeared in "Peter Pan"; "Il Trovatore" and "Carmen" were among other numbers on the legitimate stage there (1). Moving pictures (silent) were shown, views of the war scenes in Belgium in 1914 (1); in 1918, "Tarzan of the Apes" was new and popular, as well as other pictures. But it could not long survive competition and was sold, to be torn down to make way for another ornate movie theatre.

In the summer of 1912 the Majestic Theatre opened - for pictures. It was one of the prettiest in this section, had a seating capacity of 800, Charles Pacini was manager. As movies became more popular, the Butterfly Theatre was built at 4902 7th Ave. Earlier the Bijou at 611 58th St. was remodeled and renamed the Princess. It had the exclusive right to a Kinemacolor machine. The Elks Club then occupied the upper floor.

Varied events and amusements were housed in the old Coliseum at 56th St. and Sheridan Road. After the sentiment against them died down somewhat, boxing shows were presented, but soon were barred because of the disorderly and greedy manner in which they were conducted.

The Kenosha Lyceum Co. brought fine talent to Kenosha - for example Madam Schuman-Heinck sang in the crude, barn-like Coliseum, later Sousa's Band played there. Dudley Crafts Watson gave his program elsewhere.

Another entertainment at the Coliseum featured music and physical training as taught in the schools, hundreds attended. Prior to this, some improvements were made in the building, and although it was leased for three years as a roller skating rink, conventions, high school plays, basket ball, etc. found a place there. It had a large seating capacity.

For a number of years the Retailers Association gave an annual picnic at Central Park, about half way to Racine. All stores were closed and large crowds attended, estimated at 5,000 at times.

When in 1916 a carnival was stationed at Anderson Park (2), two Aldermen, Bounsall and Thomey, policed it and declared against permitting such traveling shows in the city to "bunk the people."(3) Afterward an ordinance forbade these carnivals inside the city limits.

In 1916 an attendance of 8,000 at the bathing beach showed a need for better equipment. The automobile club was very active, many social trips were made and the club worked for better roads.

By 1917 the propaganda against the use of intoxicating beverages was reaching a high point, and New Years of 1917 was "dry" but noisy. There were many parties, people attended late theatre shows and many midnight church services. That winter there were Assembly Balls at Guild Hall, the annual Elks Charity Ball, later a benefit ball at the Coliseum for sailors in service, also other dances, sales, ball games, etc. to raise money for service men and for the woman suffrage movement. A Red Cross Liberty Ball occurred in the Fall. The Elks Jollies was a special attraction.

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(1) Old Rhode House Programs in Historical Museum files.
(2) Now the site of the St. Joseph High School.
(3) Tel. Courier May 25, 1916.

That year the Yacht Club became more active and purchased a site on Washington Island.

During the summer of 1918, the Nash and Simco bands gave concerts at Library Park and elsewhere. Again there were many and elaborate balls, one a military ball by the provisional battalion, a Victory Ball at the Coliseum; a large and beautiful affair at Christmas time, and many parties as well as many smaller dances. A 'ospital 'op was one.

For a number of years Mrs. Z. G. Simmons brought excellent talent to Kenosha by various lecture series.

But that summer 1921 a depression began to be felt, and the attendance at theatres dropped until only three out of seven were in operation. The baseball teams that had formed a factory league some years before were very popular. A rivalry existed between the Nash and Simmons teams, and well attended games were played at both Company parks, handicapped when in October, 1921, the large stand at Simmons Field on Sheridan Road burned.

Benefit ballgames at Simmons Field between the Simmons and the Fairies teams gave the proceeds toward the amount needed to help the Boy Scout movement out of financial straits.

Unions and Labor: Through much of this period, labor unions were not very active. In mid-period the entry of the United States into World War I, the induction of so many men into service and the strong sentiment toward throwing every effort into winning the war were undoubtedly retarding influences. However, Kenosha did take part in a nation-wide crusade for the advancement of trade unionism. Four big meetings were held during February 18 to 23, 1915, in an effort to build a stronger sentiment in favor of the Union label and to show that the Union was a protection to the consumer as well as to labor. The coming of a six hour day was foretold (1).

One Union, the Iron Molders received a belated charter on April 8, 1916. It had organized in 1899. Another, the Theatrical Stage Employee and Picture Machine Operators Union, #361 was an indication of changing times and customs. This encountered but one instance of trouble, at a south side theatre. Union members who owned cars offered to convey customers to theatres where Union men were employed (2).

The Brick Layers and Masons Union led the way for labor to cooperate in the Kenosha plan for war time relief. Local #4 voted to contribute one hour of labor each week to support patriotic work- twice as much as the amount asked for. This was the first labor organization to act on the Patriots' Fund proposal. It also voted to assist the families of five members in service, if necessary.

During this decade the "jitney (private cars that carried passengers for a 5¢ fare) was in operation as a means of transportation. It met with some opposition, largely because of certain abuses of privilege. For some time the city did not act, but finally endeavored to put some degree of restraint on routing and methods. A meeting of operators was called at the Socialist Hall (3) and a Jitney Drivers' Union, with 25 members at first, was formed. This planned to affiliate with the Milwaukee Union. In May, 1918, Utility workers struck and street cars were tied up. Then the Street Railway company wished to surrender its franchise. The

(1) Tel. Courier Nov 18 & 25, 1915.
(2) Kenosha Labor
(3) A brick building at the southeast corner of Sheridan Road and 60th St.

Chamber of Commerce appealed to the workmen to start the street cars and the jitneys were brought into the discussion. The Company wanted to have the Council backing, but ordered the cars to resume operation. The jitneys were ordered to follow a prescribed routing to avoid competition, in addition the Council required a $5.00 fee. The drivers became defiant and police began to make arrests. However the jitney service soon passed out of existence.

The Tinners' Union had grievances. Fifteen struck on May Day, 1917. The following March, ten men from about five shops struck. A 7 1/2 cent an hour increase was requested. The employers declared for an open shop, although saying that they preferred to have Union Men.

The barbers' difficulties with wages and hours continued. In the Fall of 1917, journeymen barbers struck, the Kenosha Trades and Labor Council pledged them its support. The proprietors were in touch with strike breakers, but it ended in victory for the strikers. Again, in 1920, four barbers at the Buhler shop in the Chamber of Commerce building walked out after new rules were laid down. This was the result of a request by the journeymen barbers for a half holiday on Thursdays. They also asked a guarantee of a wage of $25.00 with 60% of all over $32. Buhler was willing to give consent to these requests but demanded that the men be on time or be docked for coming late; that there should be no smoking while at work on a customer; that courtesy, cleanliness and service be observed. White shirts, trousers and black ties were required. The walk-out was the result. In January, 1921, the Barbers Union again took action to force non-union shops to sign up within two weeks or be picketed. The claim was that there were five non-union shops that did not live up to hours and standards. In March, 1921, there was still trouble, and a Board of Arbitration was named: E. J. Getmann, Bank cashier, C. E. Burke, machinist and labor man, they to choose a third member.

In Feb. 1918, the Transfer, Team & Truck Owners' Association sent a communication to the City Council asking recognition and demanding employment of members of the Organization as against outsiders, otherwise they would leave the employ of the city. The city attorney ruled that the City had no right to ask a man to wear an Association badge before he could be employed. The petition was withdrawn for amendment.

The Trades and Labor Council voted unanimously to favor the seating of Victor Berger as a member of Congress, on the basis that he was entitled to a seat under the Constitution. It also voted to give support to a new National Labor Party; $25.00 was given for this. Plans were announced for the coming of organizers of a National Boot & Shoe Workers' Union.

In April, 1920, 25 men struck at the Arneson Foundry, but returned to work after ten days. At Nash, 79 trimmers walked out that Spring. The Bakers Union was to present a new contract on May 1, 1920, but expected no opposition from the master bakers. However, there was evidently a little difficulty at one bakery.

Women associated with the Women's Trade Union Label League held a large and enthusiastic meeting, they were interested in candidates' records, but did not prepare a questionnaire. A labor paper was proposed by the Trades and Labor Council.

1920-21 saw other labor demands - painters threatened to strike, carpenters demanded an increase, a building trades agent said the reduced scale of pay set by the master builders would be rejected, but the brick masons and plumbers accepted the scale of $1.00 an hour. Conferences of trade organizations and master builders were held, confusion resulted, but no work was stopped or begun. Many from here attended minimum wage hearings at Madison.

The first International Workmen's picnic was held at Central Park under the auspices of the Kenosha Branch No. 127 of the Workman's Circle, 2,000 attended. Victor Berger, who was to speak, sent regrets and a representative, the editor of the New Day spoke.

In General: This period began with innovations as well as problems. Aviation arrived - in the form of stunt flying and "barnstorming" at first. This was at the Bain Race Track north of 52nd St. An aviation show brought two outstanding flyers, Dixon and Ward. This was the first view of airmen for many, but the show lacked thrills because of trouble with the planes. There were over 4,000 paid admissions (1). Other famous flyers also came, but that flying field was soon to go, - the land was subdivided for residences. In 1914 the Retailers Association sponsored a three day celebration July 2-4. A feature was the coming of the first hydroplane boat, that "flew 100 feet above water with almost the velocity of a fleet winged bird," Charles Witmer of Chicago landed at the foot of Wisconsin (58th) St., a stunt witnessed by crowds of people.

In 1911, Richard Welles, head of the Badger Brass Co. promoted autobus cars here. These were under construction in a Chicago factory. They were soon operated by the Motor Transportation Co. The big cars held 20 people but could carry 30. They ran as far as 68th St. from the Northwestern station and gave service to Kemper Hall and the Country Club. Trips were made regularly for 18 hours daily. They began at 6:00 a. m. and ran three or four times an hour until midnight, along 3rd and 5th Avenues. There was no conductor, but a "pay as you enter" method. Mark Hansen was one of the men in charge of operation.

President Taft visited Kenosha. He was given an enthusiastic reception at the Coliseum with a great crowd in attendance. Every factory whistle in the city was tied down, people cheered, the Kenosha band played the Star Spangled Banner, as the president left the train. He was greeted by Ald. W. T. Marlatt, and taken to the Coliseum in an automobile parade. Boys supplied with red fire burned it all along the line around library park and down town. The President spoke for 30 minutes. Later, Theodore Roosevelt spoke for one minute, as he passed through the city. Again there was a large crowd. And in 1916, President Wilson made a short stop at the Northwestern Depot, and a brief speech in which he urged preparedness. The ladies gave Mrs. Wilson "suffrage snacks".

A petition was presented that asked for an electrical inspector, this was covered by the building ordinance prepared some years before but never acted upon. The defective work at the High school and at the Columbus showed the need and the old ordinance was brought up for reconsideration in 1913. In 1916 it was again under consideration, and was finally adopted. It had taken ten years. For its enforcement Warren T. Hamlet was appointed as plumbing inspector and J. M. Albers building inspector. They were educated in building trades.

In 1913 the city prepared and passed an ordinance for the first residential district in the city under a new law. This included 3rd, 5th and 7th Avenues between 61st and 68th St.

After some delay, an examination was held for the position of city sealer. A new and needed officer, Felix Mayor was appointed, and was approved by the state. An office was equipped for him in the city hall but much of his time was spent in calling at business places to check scales.

The struggle for the right of women to vote, that had begun years before, accelerated, Kenosha women, of course, were in action. Mrs. Bradford was a leader,

(1) Tel. Courier Aug. 27, 1911

her friend Jane Addams of Hull House, Chicago, spoke here. A county-wide League had 1,200 members, and sent delegates to a Convention in Milwaukee. A meeting was held on Dollar Day in an effort to get good attendance. A quiet campaign along educational lines was conducted. Miss Harriet Bain was president and Mrs. Bradford Vice president of the Kenosha Equal Suffrage Association, that worked diligently to advance its cause. These women were keenly disappointed when the Amendment permitting women to vote was defeated in the U. S. senate in 1918 but continued to work. But many Kenosha women were not in favor of this. Some gains had been made - women were admitted to post office civil service employment for the first time that year. Finally, in 1919, this Constitutional Amendment was ratified, and, with the struggle ended, the effort was turned toward educating women to vote wisely and well. The League of Women Voters replaced the suffrage group and were soon organized here.

As early as 1915 the women of the city began to dream of a woman's building to house the Woman's Club and other women's activities. Mrs. O. L. Trenary advocated the addition of a room for an historical museum to any new building the women might erect.

Men of the city were also active in organizations. The Retailers Association was formed and Gustav Theleen elected secretary in Feb. 1912. A part of his work was on credit ratings. This did excellent work, but it was not long before some thought that the city should extend this activity and have a Chamber of Commerce. That year the Retailers and Manufacturers had held the first "made in Kenosha" show, with great success. Soon a newly formed Chamber of Commerce obtained a charter. The incorporators were Z. G. Simmons of the Manufacturers Association, W. H. Robinson for the Retailers Association, Jas. Cavanagh of the Bar Association, Dr. L. Kaltenbach of the Kenosha Co. Dental Association, Dr. George Adams of the County Medical Association, Russell H. Jones, of the Automobile Club, and Charles Goodman, chairman of the Organization Committee. Many applications were in for membership, but a campaign started with a goal of 1,500 members. John Lind of Chicago was the first secretary, that Fall 875 members met to complete the organization. In January, 1917, Mr. Theleen resigned and Horace Maddock became secretary of the Retailers Ass'n. Mr. Lind resigned because of ill health. Richard Francis Kaiser of EauClaire replaced him.

Later the Chamber took an active part in a move for a good hotel, and in the work of the city plan commission, also in transportation.

The difficulties with the MRK continued. In 1911 the Industrial Association sought to have these cars brought into the city and to have the state give the street railway company a franchise. The latter was done in March. Although the property owners did consider permitting the big MRK cars to proceed down town, the bridge posed a problem. Just when the matter seemed adjusted, Ald. Jacobs, Mr. Saftig and W. F. Threinen, of the Board of Education, filed an injunction suit to stop these interurban cars from operating within the limits. The Company filed a long answer as to why the cars did not stop inside the city. The Railway Commission ruled that the interurban cars were to make four stops in the city, its average was 600 passengers each way daily. An ordinance to clear up matters in the railway dispute was published many times before the final action. And as late as the summer of 1919 the north side residents found ways to block the big cars. Finally, with the aid of the Chamber of Commerce, these did come, following a decision to permit them to run as far as the public service building on the square even if a fight should develop. This did not happen. Judge Belden killed the injuction against the TEMRK.

Difficulties with the street railway company had not been settled and the Mayor and council endeavored to force the company to keep its agreements, or cease to operate. One item - a gentlemen's agreement with a former council, was that it

should pay for paving repairs. At last, in Jan. 1914, a settlement was reached. Later the street car company put the cars on an 18 minute schedule, and made other changes that did not please the public. Then the jitney competition started and was well patronized. The railway company returned to the 12 minute schedule in an effort to win back patronage. It suffered a big loss, as Kenosha was second only to Milwaukee in the number of jitneys. The Gas & Electric Co. planned to spend large sums to improve local service; at the same time the jitneys began to violate necessary regulations that had been imposed, -at one time 23 were under bond to show right to use other than the prescribed routes. There was also dissension with the Public Service Company over gas rates and service. In Sept., 1919, there was a special election to decide whether or not the city should take over public utilities as recommended by the C. of C. Less than 50% of the people voted, therefore it was left for the council to decide the issue. The Mayor asked for a proposition from the Chicago Motor Bus Co. to reach parts of the city without transportation. The people on Roosevelt Ave. cheered when the busses appeared on the streets.

In 1911 street lights were still poor, they were 200 candle power and many intersections were without lights. Finally in June 1915, new ornamental lights were placed on 6th, 56th and 58th St. This was a feature of the opening of the Home Coming Celebration that marked the 80th anniversary of Kenosha's founding. Many visited the city, there were fine displays and parades. The historic flag of the Park City Grays was returned to Kenosha and placed in the High School.

Lights were extended to the new territory annexed during 1914- 1915- 18 arc and 19 tungsten lights.

More trouble developed with the gas company over the old heating system when the company wished to discontinue it. The Railroad Commission was appealed to and decided it could not discontinue but must give better service. Then the gas became so poor that it endangered health and the citizens appealed to the Railroad Commission again. By 1920 the old city heating system was in such poor condition that the Commission sanctioned its discontinuance.

In 1912 business was slow and a depression threatened. The city attempted to reduce expense, the engineering department came first with stenographer, rodman, several inspectors and street men laid off. Shortly before, the Mayor had been under fire for hiring an automobile when the rest of the city walked or drove horses.

Many citizens appealed for citizenship, when a new law made second papers necessary if one wished to vote. The year 1912 was a record one in naturalization work. In 1914 the Federal Emigration office pronounced more than 100 first papers invalid, some issued more than 7 years previously. Over 800 faced loss of second papers. Many who had been here for over 50 years obtained second papers, some had served in the Union army, some had held office.

As early as 1911 the county began to plan for a new court house, as the present one was overcrowded. The Civic Center (the ornamental parkway in the center of Market Square) was developing. The war slowed this, but with its close the Board voted to build, $100,000 to be appropriated, with a tax levy of 20 mills to cover the 1919 program. It proceeded to obtain options on a site. Some advocated a beautiful municipal center between 8th Ave. and the C. & N. W. Tracks, with street widening and track elevation. Mr. Simmons said of this "The people of Kenosha must have a loyalty that transcends individual comfort and even touches the pocketbook of its city" before the progress that all desired could be accomplished. Thomas Flemming was chairman, Richard Dowse secretary of the county building committee. There were many bids, but they ran over $1,000,000. The Board voted 10 to 6 against building at this time, and notified the architects that the plan was aban-

doned. The court house became so crowded that rooms were rented in the Taylor building on 6th Ave. to provide 13 rooms for 9 officials. And Market Square, given by Serene Fisk for a "hay market", now with an ornamental parkway with flowers and grass, was "in danger" of becoming a parking place for automobiles.

Roads were unmarked and frequently in horrible condition, -either from mud or dust. In 1912 the newly formed automobile club put up 25 road signs in the county. It also raised $5,000 for the improvement of highways in the county during its first year. Some of the road signs posted showed automobile routes, others warned as to speed, railways, limits, etc. Russell Jones represented the local club and was one of a committee of five to aid in drafting new bills for the benefit of automobile owners. The next year many donated to the campaign for good roads. The property owners on the Geneva Road (50) raised $6,600, the Burlington Road (43) owners ranked second in fund raising. The next year when the state highway department forbade the use of private contributions for roads, the club had $6,000 on hand. The purpose of the club had been that of building good roads or of making bad roads good, and had worked to forward regulations in regard to automobiles. About 200 members raised more than $15,000 for road improvement.

In spite of need for economy, the city council decided to again have the council minutes published, and 50 copies bound for a permanent record.

The Mayor advocated the repaving of 6th Ave. The brick was not up to modern standard, it had been laid on a sand foundation and frequently torn up until it was in bad condition, but this was postponed for some years. Nearly three miles of paving was done in 1912. Later the city decided to pave under the amended charter of seven years before, that permitted it to do so without petitions from property owners. This was the start of a program that was to change the city's thoroughfares from mud-laden or dusty roads to our modern paved and more cleanly streets.

When Charles H. Pfennig was elected mayor again in 1916 he began a systematic plan of office hours daily at the city hall.

This continued through his and the first term of John G. Joachim's administration. Then in 1919 the Council voted to fix the mayor's salary at $3,500 a year, he to give full time to the office. That amount was to include clerk hire. A year later an allowance was made for clerk hire for that office.

Newly developing sections sought annexation to the rapidly growing city. After petitions for and remonstrances against, a large section to the south extending from the Lake to 39th Ave. and south to 75th St., also a portion of the Town of Somers to the north, were annexed by ordinance in 1914. A little later the Homewood Subdivision and the Mary E. Morin Addition were made part of the city. In 1917 small subdivisions to the south and also to the north were annexed, and in 1918 a large section lying east to the Chicago and Northwestern right of way and extending north to 25th St. was added. These of course also added to the demands upon the city for utilities, schools and police surveillance.

As early as 1913, the necessity for straightening Main St. (6th Ave.), and for a new and better bridge was stressed. It was also apparent that Ashland Ave. should be opened to connect with Caledonia St. to make the present Sheridan Road. The Allen Tannery Company agreed to deed the required land, the City in turn to deed to the Company ends of streets already used by it. The bridge there also needed repairs. This land for the opening was formally dedicated June, 1913, and the name changed to Sheridan Road, Jan. 1915. A committee was appointed to study the situation when 40 Main St. and North Main St. property owners petitioned to have a new lift bridge built and the street straightened. The citizens had decided

that the "old Mason Dixon line" must go. From the time that John Bullen founded the town, the streets had needed to be straightened so that there would be no longer a north and south Main St. Exchanges of property were made with the Tannery to widen the curve and make it straighter, prior to building the new bridge (1). The next year this was voted upon as a part of a proposed bond issue: $125,000 for the bridge, $300,000 for schools and $100,000 for a filtration plant. The bond issue was defeated. Soon over $3,000 was needed for bridge repairs at 6th Ave. With the end of the war, the project was revived. The engineers' office was at work on surveys and estimates. Again the people were asked to vote. Speakers at theatres advocated the change. That Spring the whole city united in putting over the bond issue for the bridge and for the McKinley school. Boats with supplies for the Allen and Bain factories were then using the river west of the bridge, but on account of the cost there was further delay, more information and specific figures were secured, more speakers gave this information to the public. The industrial leaders favored the bridge, and Iner Turkelson, chairman of the streets committee asked for another referendum. The contract was given Greiling Bros. Co. for erection of the bridge and straightening of the street. Difficulty arose, and to aid in the street straightening property owners signed a petition again. 2,600 ft. of property of the Bain and Allen Company were involved, also other land. The street car company was also affected as it lost money while the bridge was in construction and there was only a foot bridge to serve people. By 1921 the difficulties were largely settled and work on the bridge rushed to completion.

It was 693 feet long, with a 45 foot roadway and had 10 ft. walks on either side. It could be opened and closed in one and one half minutes. The War Department demanded a movable span and a clean channel of 80 feet, and fixed the minimun height of the steel span. The Department held that the Creek was navigable for some distance west of the bridge, and photographs show fairly large craft that made deliveries for the Tannery and the Bain Wagon Co. at least as far inland as Sheridan Road. There had been many problems involved. The grade crossing of the Simmons Company switch track had to be eliminated; the Railroad Commission decided on the height of the bridge and the limit of the track lowering. For the new bridge at least 250 piles were placed under some piers. The river bottom on the south side was extremely treacherous; 450 carloads of material were shipped here for the bridge. The cost was $471,000. A considerable amount was paid to adjoining property owners as damages in addition to the actual cost of the structure.

At last it was ready for use (Nov. 1921) when the mayor at the north end, the city engineer and chief of police at the south, started to cross in a contest to see who should drive the first car over. The mayor won but took a wild chance to achieve this. He also drove the first street car that crossed over the bridge. The acceptance by the Council was made early in January, 1922.

The old narrow bridge, set at an angle with the street as it crossed the river, would be a real hazard today. Even then the traffic congestion was becoming a problem, so much so that a little later the police chief asked for a spur onto 55th Street for use by the local cars when the Simmons men came from work.

The old 6th Avenue bridge was moved down the river to 50th St. to replace the bridge there. A bridge at 50th St. to Washington Island was under discussion. A report from the War Department did not forbid a fixed bridge but neither did it set aside its right to open up the stream for navigation at any time. The residents of the north side felt that a bridge was required because of fire hazards as well as other reasons.

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(1) Tel. Courier Oct. 9, 1919.

Officials were alerted to future lake traffic possibilities when the coming of an all water line from the eastern seaboard to Kenosha became feasible through the co-operation of the Inland Marine Corporation, the Merchants & Manufacturers Transit Corporation, the Chicago Steamboat Line and the Hill Boat Line, in a traffic agreement that covered barge, canal, freight and other transportation. The Council voted $35.000 for the dredging of the channel at the north end of Washington Island (45th) and for building piers. The City engineer was to report on the practicability of opening the channel to open the river and the council voted to do so.

Up to 1914, three city assessors had been employed, with three clerks. That year Finance Chairman Conrad Shearer protested that this was not only expensive, but inefficient, and thereafter one was at the head of the office, with clerical help.

A plan for opening Bain Ave (30th Ave.) was considered, with a subway a possibility. Commissioners were appointed to study this. Many felt that seven tracks made the street dangerous for traffic.

The year 1916 was one of the most noted for the city since the granting of its charter. Industry showed great progress, as did the municipality, with liberal provisions for parks and play grounds, growth of schools and other improvements. New water works, sewer, breakwater and big paving programs had begun. The city was in the front rank in the adoption of automobiles for city use.

The Council decided on completing the paving of a number of stub ends of streets. It and the Chamber of Commerce favored city planning; the new post office project was held up until further action on this could be taken. Also it was thought that the fund for the opening of the 45th St. channel might be used instead to extend breakwater along the north beach.

Mayor Head worked strenuously for the elevation of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad tracks. An ordinance was passed that provided for some necessary rearrangement of switch tracks in preparation, then business fell off during a short depression and further work on the elevation was postponed.

And then the war interfered with these programs. At first Engineer Peter Hurtgen of Burlington came three days a week during the absence of the engineers in the army. Later he was elected as a full time city engineer, but Capt. Brennan's position was to be held open for him. The council felt that there was room for two high grade engineers.

The council had entered into a contract with Greiling Bros. for 1,400 feet of breakwater, to cost $58,000. Work began Sept. 16, 1918. The chamber of commerce aided the city in checking bad streets in a crusade for better streets. The city assessment committee adopted an elaborate plan of paving, with a view of "opening the gates of the city" by including ends of Roosevelt Road, Sheridan Road, 22nd Ave. north and south and a number of other streets. Some contracts were let in an effort to begin the work that had been postponed because of war. About 4 1/2 miles were decided upon and ordered done without action of property owners. This brought protests about the widening of 58th, 57th and 13th Ave. advocated by Council and Chamber. Judge Belden ruled that the law invoked was unconstitutional.

With some paving and sewer work uncompleted, the winter of 1918 brought a serious condition when an exceptional snow storm blocked streets and roads and the ciy workmen had to fight floods as well as mud as the snow melted. All property owners were asked to help open channels for water to reach catch basins wherever possible.

Another breakwater contract, this for an additional piece, was let to McMullen

& Pitts of Manitowoc, pending Government consent, this to be 950 feet east of the present shore line to add 30 acres to the park. At this time the valuation of the city had increased from $30,000,000 to $37,000,000. A 16 mill tax was levied that year (1917).

Before the outbreak of war a Kenosha Homes Association planned to erect 400 houses to furnish homes for its residents. President, Chas. Pfennig; secretary, G. Cook; treasurer, Roger Kimball; assistant sec'y.-treasurer, Conrad Shearer. These were to be real homes with no profit to the holding company. The Kenosha House Building Co. was also to erect houses, D. O. Head, was president, Walter Burke, secretary, treasurer. These projects were also slowed because of the war. With its close, the program was given first consideration by a committee on city planning. It combined with representatives of the Manufacturers Association to form a building corporation that would advance capital to those who desired to build houses. At a meeting with 100 members in attendance, President George Whyte said "THIS IS NO MEAN CITY. WE HAVE A SPLENDID START BUT IT IS UP TO YOU TO SAY WHETHER KENOSHA SHALL GO AHEAD AND FULFILL HER DESTINY OR STAY WHERE SHE IS." Dr. Windesheim described the terrible conditions in which many were living. There was enthusiastic planning. An announcement by Mr. Nash that his plant might build elsewhere hurried the housing project and the committee report advising the building of 5,000 homes in three years was adopted. Mr. Bullamore advised less speed, but urged 600 houses at once. He noted that values placed on lots were excessive, with items for taxes, water rents, and depreciation not adequate. Nash and Simmons urged more if industry was to expand.

About that time a real estate board was organized. A committee was selected to sell stock in the building program. Chin Poy, a Chinese, bought the first stock in the housing corporation.

Again, a report showed that 1919 had been a banner year: 47 streets paved, and more started; sewers constructed in 47 streets 1 1/2 as much as in entire history, $142,000 spent on breakwaters that reclaimed 37 and 50 acres of land, over 4 miles of water mains laid, Middle street bridge rebuilt at cost of $9,000. Main St. bridge laid over because of tax; a big program projected for 1920.

The demands of World War I stopped the track elevation project and it was not revived until early 1919. Then the city began to urge progress, especially as this would affect the paving of certain portions of streets. But President Finley of the Railroad company said there was little hope for the elevation, the rising cost of labor and material gave reason for the delay. The next year the company obtained ownership of certain needed property while awaiting action from the Wisconsin Railroad Commission. The Company officials notified the ciy engineer that the Company would take charge of work necessary to depress the industrial tracks south of the projected Sixth Avenue bridge. Other work was again postponed.

As early as 1913, a group of citizens advocated a change in the form of city government. A referendum for a commission form was defeated by a large vote in the Spring of 1914. In late 1917 Ald. Edward Sullivan and others advocated the city manager plan. Later the Kenosha Voters League held its first meeting, it was to work for an improved civic government. A committee was appointed to work on this: Att'ys. Lewis W. Powell and A. E. Buckmaster, with Charles Goodman. That Fall the city manager form was again studied. A petition was circulated asking for a commission-manager form.

The organization of a Kenosha Bar Association began in August and was formally launched at a dinner in September, 1915. James Cavanagh was chosen for president, John C. Slater, vice president, James E. Tully, secretary and Henry

Hastings, treasurer.

The YMCA building was sold to Fred Larsen and converted into stores, offices, etc. (1913). A new and larger Y was planned but little was done toward it. A new secretary, Frank Hathaway, was to come in Feb. 1917, and revive the organization if possible. Here,too, the war interfered. Later the land at 59th St. and 8th Ave. was sold, because it was deemed too small a site. Later Ray V. Sowers did outstanding work with a Hi-Y organization of teen age boys.

Dan O. Head and Joseph G. Rhode were active in promoting a city plan, and secured an appropriation of $5,000 for use in a survey and toward making a plan. Wm. C. Blizzard, a noted city planner, and E. M. Bennett, one of the greatest city planners of America conferred with local men; the latter spoke at a Chamber of Commerce dinner (1919).

The city was shocked by a brutal murder in March, 1919, when three men robbed the American Brass offices and shot police officer Tony Pingatore. After the arrest of three innocent men that almost threatened tragedy from an angry crowd; the real criminals were discovered and arrested. One, Earl Loveday, was one of the most dangerous criminals in the country. C. E. Carlson and August Blank were also arrested. Carlson confessed and was given a life sentence, Blank received a 30 year sentence. Loveday wormed his way out of the city jail shortly after his arrest (Nov. 1919), but was soon recaptured in Detroit and given a life sentence (Feb. 1920).

Later another crime, one that was never solved, was the murder of Charles Pacini, owner of a movie theatre. A confession was made, under stress, the man adjudged guilty, then a question arose, as attorneys suspected a miscarriage of justice and demanded a new trial. The man was later freed for lack of evidence.

Sixth Ave. was in so bad a condition that two petitions were presented asking that it be paved from the bridge to 59th St., regardless of cost of labor and materials. Work finally began the last of June, 1921.

The amount of improvements made and the increased prices resulted in a 35 mill tax in 1921, but it was reduced to 30 mills the next year.

Another great tract, the Sunnyside Subdivision, sought annexation in 1920. During the Summer and Fall of 1921, the old golf links tract south of 68th St. was subdivided, the property then became known as Allendale. The owner, C. C. Allen, joined in the cost of extending the street transportation south along 7th Ave. to 75th St.

During the Summer of 1920, the Council attempted to limit the parking in the down town section, this met opposition from the Retailers' Ass'n. The street cars added to the traffic difficulties. A 15 minute parking limit was attempted, but this was unsatisfactory and the time limit was raised to one hour. Street car fare was raised to 7¢ in spite of the Council's protest, then weekly passes were given and 300 were sold the first day, the cost - $1.00. More busses were needed on Milwaukee (7th) Ave. as only one car was in operation and people had to walk down town from 52nd Street. The car ran to 35th St.

The Elks and Eagles had erected buildings. The North Side merchants started a club to boost Kenosha, and to install lights. West side boosters were also organized.

Women had been urged to register that they might vote after the 19th Amendment was ratified. When election day came in the Fall of 1920, they voted - the largest

vote in the history of the city, and the ballot counters were swamped (1).

The Government Engineers notified the Mayor that the city must provide terminal facilities for the harbor if the U. S. was to make any more improvements there (1919). City funds were low, so much had been spent on public improvements.

Daylight saving had been in effect during the war. In April, 1921, thousands signed for its continuation and it was adopted.

Women were summoned for jury service in the fall of 1921. Clara Carter was the first woman drawn on a panel of 12 in Kenosha.

The officials were urged to change street names, the old names and numbers seemed confusing to newcomers.

In the summer and Fall of 1920 many liquor men were arrested and held on bond. This, together with the Pacini murder, increased the demand for a Grand Jury investigation.

And when the census returns for 1920 were released, Kenosha had moved up from 10th to the 3rd place in the state during the ten year period. The population was 40,472.

XVII

SPECULATION AND DEPRESSION

1922-1935

In 1922 and for a time afterward something of the drive, the spirit, and the will to achieve, carried over from the recent war years. But there was a change, that was to become more pronounced as the years went by. A writer of the '30's said that World War I cut the thinking of the world in twain and created a chasm which now and for centuries to come will separate the years after 1914-1918 from all that had gone before. The 1920's perhaps more nearly resembled the period of the 1850's than those of later years. There was an expansiveness, a gambling with what the future held, a willingness to spend, almost recklessly, at some points, coupled with a great speculative plunge into the stock market on the part of nearly everyone. This was followed by the start of a deep and long depression after the stock market broke with a crash that tumbled many paper fortunes tragically.

When the boys returned and the American Legion was formed, it became exceedingly active in civic work and led in many projects that were for the betterment of the city. First and foremost, of course, was Americanization work and work with the youth of the city. It offered school awards, with emphasis on both character and scholarship. It encouraged hobbies as wholesome interests for the young - and older as well. It was one of the leaders in the establishment of Education Week here and led all posts of the nation in its Boy Scout and Sea Scout activities. It was also interested and active in the child welfare program in the city. Among other things, it promoted the formation of the Civic Council, a non-political organization designed to work for the betterment of local conditions, this in the Spring of 1924. It began with 16 members, Jessel S. Whyte the temporary chairman. It was composed of two delegates from member organizations, and practically all except political groups were eligible. For many years this was cited widely as an outstanding example of what can be accomplished by such an organization and it was influential in many events that developed during the years.

(1) Tel. Courier Sept. 9, 1920

But generally speaking, there was no longer need for the crusading or reforming spirit that had brought first the 18th and then the 19th Amendments to the Constitution. Prohibition was here, and women could vote! Education along these lines lagged, particularly in regard to the former. The law would take care of the situation, it was thought, and individuals settled back with relief, or reversed their standards. As frequently happens after a war, the let-down of outlets for initiative and emotional stresses swept many into organizations that had been started by individuals with prejudiced or selfish goals, disguised by a seeming idealism. There was also that feverish speculative spirit that had led men of an earlier age into the Western Land and Mississippi Bubble urges, and like those, the end was near disaster.

Among the younger people there was a spirit of daring, a change of standards, coupled with a new freedom of movement that came with the automobile age. Fashion in women's dress was perhaps the most atrocious in the history of the country. Depression brought a sudden sobering, - where and how was the way out? With changing times there was not the possibility of a thrifty eking out of a sufficient but unimaginative way of life as their forebears had done, -perhaps the spirit to do so was dormant and would have found a way. But a solution new to America was tried. The future will judge this more wisely than is possible thus soon after the event.

Industry: Kenosha labor conditions became much better in the Spring of 1922. Census figures released showed Kenosha's production increase: In 1919 manufactured products were valued at $103,726,000, five years previously, $28,341,000 and in 1909, $23,182,000. The city now had 84 industries, the value of annual production of 13 was $500,000 or more, of 10 was from $100,000 to $500,000. There were 20 with production value of $20,000 to $100,000, 27 from $5,000 to $20,000 and 14 that ran below $5,000 (1).

But now there came a break in the old, stable industries that had contributed so largely to the development of the city. The Bain plant was sold to a Los Angeles firm; George A. Yule was to remain as president. The firm was founded in 1840, with Mitchell & Quarles partners until 1852, when it was sold to Edward Bain.

About 1925 a mercantile building was constructed on 6th Ave. and 55th St. that occupied a space 90' on 6th Ave. and 76' on 55th St. That provided space for four stores. The old building, once the Bain Co. office, later used for storage, was wrecked. Then, as farmers became more prosperous, the Company had more work than there had been for five years. The orders were chiefly from the south and southwest, and ran at about two-thirds the normal capacity. It came through small, steady orders.

The Company's limited charter for the manufacture of wagons was amended to permit it to purchase, hold, subdivide and sell real estate; 55th St. was reopened. It was widened, filled in and paved. In the Spring of 1926 the Bain Wagon Co. moved to Illinois in a consolidation with the Pekin Wagon Co.

The Union Tanning Co., formerly the Allen Tannery, was one of the companies against whom the U. S. Government filed an anti-trust suit. Later, the tannery, business, and machinery were moved to Grand Rapids and the Kenosha plant was closed April 1st, 1927. The buildings were sold at public auction, together with 22 acres of land (2). In 1926 this was assessed at $1,061,240. One of the buildings became the streetcar barn.

During the winter of 1922, the Simmons Co. made the first showing of steel furniture, that included beds, chairs, dressers and tables, a revolution in furniture

(1) Tel. Courier Nov. 2, 1922
(2) Tel. Courier Jan. 10, 1929

manufacture. But the city was dismayed as many important personnel of the Company began to move to New York. This included Z. G. Simmons, Grant Simmons, Z. G. Simmons III, Lee Alward, F. H. Truax and G. H. Milne. Later the Company moved a plant here from Virginia, and the purchasing department also returned to Kenosha. Part of the office also returned from Chicago and Mr. Simmons announced expansion. Grant Simmons became president. Z. G. Simmons died May 3, 1934. The city paid wide tribute.

The first of 1923 found the Winther plant in financial difficulty, but in hopes of resuming operations. The Company began again at the bottom and by 1925 was building up a widely known business. Its fire trucks were ordered by many places. It changed the name and was known as the Kenosha Fire Engine & Truck Co. Fire engines comprised about one-half its line of products.

By the beginning of 1925 all big industries were growing and employment was good. Many industries were enlarging or rebuilding.

Nash increased its preferred stock and quadrupled the common stock in the Fall of 1922. C. B. Voorhis resigned and E. McCarty replaced him. The Nash plant in 1921, announced that it would expand facilities here to enable it to manufacture cars then made in Milwaukee. Mr. Nash became president of the Board and E. H. McCarty president of the company. When the millionth car came off the lines, there was a celebration.

The American Brass was receiving large orders in 1925. The Tri-Clover was a growing industry and increased its capital stock. In 1932 Snap-on, McWhyte and Pirsch Companies were awarded United States contracts. The Pirsch Co. was given two big contracts in Oahu, Hawaii and Memphis, Tenn. because of innovations and ingenuity of the equipment (1933). The company made a 100 foot ladder, the longest on a fire truck in the United States (1935). The Hall Lamp Co. was busy, but later this company left Kenosha.

The Specialty Brass Co. needed room for expansion and purchased a part of the Winther plant (1925). A flood on the south side hastened its moving. The company prospered. It brought a branch factory here from Albion, N. Y. and consolidated (1929).

The Snap-on Wrench Co. came in 1929. This was made possible by a loan from W. H. Alford. Other cities had offered larger inducements. The Badger Ice Cream Co., a $100,000 industry, and well organized, was formed here in 1928. The Ford Company was interested in dock facilities, and investigated Kenosha, but nothing came of this eventually. Another new industry was an artificial ice plant erected by J. C. Nielsen at 13th Ave. south of 52nd St. The machinery was of the latest type that would make cakes of ice weighing 400 lbs. Accuracy in cutting was insured by a scoring machine. The plant cost $63,000.

Robert Allen headed the Allen A Company. It planned to double the capacity of the big industry. This would add 700 employees. Ground was broken and a new building erected. But in 1929 changes in personnel suggested a change might be in prospect. John Brine, vice president in charge of production, disposed of his interest and resigned, he had been there 34 years. Wm. Mewse resigned to go to Iowa (1927). The secretary and vice president resigned to join a firm elsewhere. Mr. Palica, sales manager resigned as did Allen J. Rodgers, Douglas K. Newell, advertising manager, also resigned. Herman Appel combined advertising with sales (1935). Arthur Thayer became president of the Company.

Local industry vigorously protested the state stand on taxes. In 1923 Nash urged voters to stop the exodus of Industry from Wisconsin. He said "We need

more industries and less tax." In 1924 Kenosha was affected by the general slump in industry throughout the country. Employment continued to decline throughout the summer. That the city realized that the Simmons office move meant a big loss to Kenosha was revealed by a letter from Senator Shearer to a Madison paper.

In addition to regular wages, many factories gave cash bonuses at Christmas in 1924.

Indications that Kenosha might be again a port was given when a Norwegian ship picked up cars, the first direct shipment to London, in Oct. 1935.

Reforms and Public Service: As the Grand Jury ground out the evidence day after day, convictions resulted, largely for liquor violations. Nine liquor men received prison sentences. Despite a strenuous fight, the sheriff and undersheriff were also convicted; a little later three more men were sent to prison (1922). In the midst of this the City Council passed a resolution to petition for a modification of the law, to permit sale of light wines and beer, Feb. 20, 1922.

That Spring the City manager form was endorsed by the voters with a majority of 872. Use of jitneys was snowed under.

Soon two Kenosha men were sentenced in Chicago because of participation in an automobile ring that dealt in stolen cars. Locally, evidence told against a local attorney, a leader in many fields, who became involved in the liquor traffic, and he received a long prison term. A revenue collector and a banker were fined, two men were sent to the house of correction, 12 others to prison, a hotel man was fined. Next, the district attorney, a member of an outstanding family, received a three year sentence. Then Judge Clarkson, the assistant district attorney resigned, he was worn out from work and needed a rest. He died a short time later.

The former chief of police received a three year sentence. He was accused of diverting money from the pension fund, and there were other charges. Every cent of the $1,255 from the Fund was returned by him. There were other, mostly liquor cases on the calendar, some policemen were removed that summer for purveying liquor, or for drunkenness.

Soon the state officials reported that Kenosha was much "dryer", and the Family Service said that cases asking for help had decreased from 83% to 2%, where drink had been the cause. Milk was furnished to 90 families with children, with resultant improvement in health. It was said that the fact that there were more arrests and more fines here for liquor violations than in any other county in the state except Milwaukee showed that the effort at law enforcement was also great (1).

Judge Slater felt that the new probation officer should be a woman - with training (2). He appointed Miss Sybil Campbell, who had had special training. For a time an old house at the corner of 10th Ave. and 56th St. was used as a service house, with offices for Police Woman McNeil, and Elizabeth Timme, of the Service League, with a waiting room, on the first floor. Upstairs, Probation Officer Sybil Campbell had an office. The other rooms were living quarters for the caretakers (1923).

The Infant Welfare department did excellent service in families unable to give proper care to babies, through Elsie Nelson RN and others.

With so much litigation, Judge Slater requested the Supreme Court to hand

(1) Tel. Courier May 22, 1924
(2) Ibid July 20, 1922.

down a decision of Search and Seizure which would affect many cases. He later ruled that police must have search warrants before articles seized could be held as evidence. (1)

In 1922 the Grand Jury completed its work but cases and appeals were still in the courts. Many barriers were encountered. In January, 1923 the circuit court was crowded with 100 cases, 40 criminal, some from the Grand Jury. The county jail was so full there was no room for women prisoners.

The Police Chief and Police Woman checked all dance halls, and the city began to close any that ran contrary to the city ordinance, or were in any way inimical to the health and morals of the community, and especially those where liquor was sold. The Women's Clubs of the city united in a demand for a strict dance hall ordinance. Other activities were watched. The downtown business men's Fall Festival had games of chance, these were stopped by order of the district attorney (Sept. 1923).

In 1925 some citizens were still demanding a cleanup of conditions. The sheriff requested an ordinance that would establish a closing time for roadhouses. A dance hall ordinance was passed. A mass meeting endorsed a move by the ministerial association for a clean up of vice in city and county. The Resolution that had been sent to officials was read and endorsed by all but four or five of the several hundred in attendance.

There was a steady fight to enforce the prohibition law. One trial followed the Parker tragedy when T. T. Parker and daughter were killed in an automobile accident, with seven women on the jury. Federal men promised any needed help and said they were ready with padlocks, when a padlock war was started on saloons. The district attorney sought a permanent injunction against two as nuisances, six licenses were revoked. But the council finally granted all licenses after hearing all pleas. But there were many court cases involving padlocking, gambling and vice raids.

As lawlessness continued, petitions were again out for another Grand Jury investigation. The County Board included a levy of $4,000 for the purpose. But the Attorney General wrote Judge Belden that he could find no authority to appoint a special prosecutor to look into alleged lawless conditions in Kenosha, that a Grand Jury was necessary first (Dec. 1928). Judge Belden sent out a call for a Grand Jury to meet before him in Feb. 1929. The Attorney General ruled that the County Board erred in appropriating $4,000 for that purpose. The Grand Jury met the morning this word came in, but it was said it did not mean the end. However, Attorney Vilas H. Whaley resigned as a special prosecutor in the investigation of unsolved crimes in Kenosha, lack of funds was given as the cause (Aug. 1929). Then the Senate killed the Shearer bill that would permit Kenosha Co. to spend $10,000 for a Grand Jury; there was lobbying against it.

An attempt was made to have Judge Belden impeached on grounds that he approved some allegedly illegal expenditures incurred by private detectives during the Grand Jury investigation eight years before. The Kenosha Bar Association adopted a Resolution of Confidence and sent a committee of five to Madison for the hearing. A number of Kenosha men were called in this trial, some testified for him, others against him. The Bar Association continued to back him. Then a bill was presented aimed at the Judge's salary, it would prohibit raising a judge's salary by county boards of counties of from 40,000 to 50,000.

Finally the Grand Jury impaneled on Feb. 28, 1929 to investigate the crime situation in the county was discharged on petition, it had been unable to do anything

(1) Tel. Courier Jan. 3, 1924.

because of lack of co-operation and interest generally (March, 1930). And Judge Belden voluntarily suggested that the County cut his salary by $1,500, as the depression began. The State had raised its portion (Nov. 1930).

The Kenosha Red Cross Chapter that was mustered in on June 27, 1917 was mustered out June 8, 1922, after five years of service. It had been one of the most active in the state and one of the few cities to continue work after the close of the war. It had aided every service man whenever possible, and thousands of cases were settled through its agency.

A Community Chest Association was formed in 1923, with 15 men and women on the first Board. One was Clark Judd who was active in the organization of the Patriot's Fund. The new Community Chest was to follow the same lines. C. H. Voorhis was at the head, Mr. Judd the first assistant.

It was reported that charities cost Kenosha less than in any other city in the state, because it avoided duplication of aid (1). The Service League had a different problem, that of cases of mental deficiency. There was no expert here for such a need, a psychologist or psychiatrist was a much needed requirement. This was taken up and forwarded by the Civic Council that appointed a special committee. Slow but steady progress was made toward that goal over a period of years. Rev. Carl Buenger and Dr. Margaret Pirsch were leaders in this.

A movement was under way by the State Board of Control to license foster homes (2). This Board worked through the Service League, Probation Office and schools to reach foster homes, they were to be licensed through the first two. The Service League was very busy with service as well as relief; of 110 families, 85 required other aid, not money. When the old court house was vacated, the Service League occupied some of its rooms. Gertrude Langlan replaced Mrs. Nidey (1925).

Raids on stills, and other prohibition problems continued into the 1930's. One speaker explained the problem thus: Kenosha cannot escape the crimes of Chicago, those spread over the entire nation. The automobile had brought a new set of complications in robberies (3), etc.

Chief of Police Sullivan was brought to trial on charges of misconduct by Emil Meissner, a policeman of several years' standing in 1931. The trial brought a crowded courtroom. When the City Manager, Wm. O'Brien, acting as the police and fire commission, refused to suspend him, Attorney Symmonds cited the statutes that required a police and fire commission, and claimed that the city manager had no power to take over as such a commission and render a decision (4). It was asked that a commission be established which was done. The case dragged on and in February, 1932, the city council instructed the city attorney to report on the legal steps necessary to hasten a hearing on the charges. Attorneys disagreed as to whether or not it was necessary to wait, because of an appeal to the Supreme Court, to present the case to a five member police and fire commission. Meissner was demoted on Aug. 15, 1931, without a hearing. In September, 1935, he filed a mandamus petition for reinstatement as sergeant. The Judge took this under advisement and denied the plea on the claim that he waited too long.

The police and fire commission ruled that the charges against the Chief were not definite enough, must be specific and established by evidence, but that any citizen may make such charges. The commission was interested in law enforcement. No formal meeting was held. A petition two weeks before had asked for action culminating in the resignation of the Chief for laxity in law enforcement. This caused

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(1) Ibid Feb. 7, 1924
(2) Ibid Feb. 6, 1930
(3) Tel. Courier May 15, 1930
(4) Ibid Oct. 16, 1931

a sensation in the council meeting. One councilman demanded more rigorous enforcement. Charges against Sullivan were served on the secretary of the Police and Fire Commission. A hearing was set for Oct. 30, 1933. The Chief deplored the damage to the city's name. Judge Stewart ruled against evidence obtained by police on liquor sold to them when in plain clothes, according to an old law. The witnesses testimony was weakened and the charges in the Sullivan case were withdrawn. The commission vindicated the Chief.

In the meantime, nine Kenosha County roadhouses faced padlocks after an August, 1931, raid and seven actually were padlocked in October. The police squads raided soft drink parlors and filled the municipal court rooms with defendants. Fifteen warrants were served. The city sought to limit the number of tavern licenses, the Attorney General's opinion forced a change of ruling, the license could not be refused if all regulations were met. Then came a gradual let down on liquor restrictions, but arrests and convictions continued. It was decided that bonds were not necessary for Class A soft drink parlors, 66 permits were granted (1932). Federal men raided stills in six places north of the city, eleven men were arrested and taken to Milwaukee. The Morgan Club House and nearby barn yielded 3,500 gallons of beer! (1932).

In 1935, tavern owners petitioned to have an ordinance passed that would close taverns on Sunday evenings.

In Feb. 1934 Mrs. Elinor Snethen became the new executive secretary of the Service League. Mrs. Longden resigned to head relief administration in Florida. Violet Fischer also resigned and Marda Newton was appointed probation officer to succeed her. Soon Mrs. Snithen resigned and Marjorie Orth replaced her.

The Police and Fire Departments saw a number of changes. The Fire Department adopted a two platoon system, each having 21 men plus the officials or 45 in all (1). A contract was awarded Ludwig Klemmefor the construction of a new station at 24th Ave. and Roosevelt Road (2), the old 63rd St. station was leased.

The police department was increased somewhat, this was needed in view of the demands of the fight on the liquor traffic. But some laxness evidently remained; another officer was suspended for conduct unbecoming an officer - he was found sound asleep in a poolroom when he should have been on duty. There was to be a hearing by the fire and police commission when it was named by the new Council, as the old commission resigned to clear the way for the new city manager form of government (3). More men on the force were under fire that summer. Two men went to Milwaukee to study the finger print and Bertillion system.

When the City manager was appointed, he assumed the duties of the Commission. He wanted a motherly lady as a policewoman for the better protection on women and girls. Mrs. Beulah McNeil was appointed March 1923, she to study methods in Detroit, Mich. for a short time prior to assuming duties. An allowance of $140 per month was made for her salary. Some slight raises in salary came later to make distinctions in rank of members, and as reward of merit, the increase for the Department to be $2,400 a year.

By March, 1923 twenty young men had been added to the force since 1920, but two police officers again were in trouble in August and September, 1923, one forfeited a vacation, the other was suspended. Chief Logan ordered all night auto patrols to report every half hour. This patrol made 67 arrests in a month. Mrs.

(1) Tel. Courier Jan. 5, 1922, Council Min. Nov. 7, 1921
(2) Council Min. Mar. 6, 1922
(3) Tel. Courier Apr. 20, 1922

McNeil's work grew to such an extent that Chief Logan appointed Elsa Dietrick, a teacher from Neenah, as her assistant. There was much youthful delinquency.

When the new county buildings were completed, the police department moved into the old county jail and sheriff's living quarter (1925). This was done at night that the city hall routine might not be disrupted, and its own routine and activities as little as possible. A regular switchboard was installed, with a recall system. The police force had increased to 47 men, most of them new since 1921.

Many arrests were made, largely for liquor violations. Some tragedies occurred. A drunken driver struck and killed Coroner T. T. Parker and his daughter Jean, a fine high school girl in Feb. 1925. One of the car occupants slashed his throat as a result - it was said that moonshine drove him to it. In 1924, $20,975 was paid as fines, the result of police raids, and there were many jail sentences. Federal men joined local police in making raids on liquor sellers. The city was to defend police if suits were brought because of arrests. When the accidental discharge of a gun killed a soft drink parlor operator in a scuffle during an inspection by a special police officer, a jury exonerated the officer.

The Department ranked as one of the best in the top 69 municipal departments in the United States, (U. of W. Survey). The Merit system was adopted at the request of the city manager in 1926. John Burns was appointed to the Merit Board. When the Council voted to restore the Police and Fire Commission, Jos. Josephson, Emmett Farrell, Fred W. Hermans, John Niederprim and Samual Block were appointed. John Wallig replaced Mr. Niederprim when the latter became County Clerk.

Police Chief Logan resigned in 1928 after 14 years of service to become Chief at Two Rivers. He was given leave with and without pay for 18 months to establish his pension status. Labor protested a rumored demotion of the Chief, prior to this.

As the depression continued, the police department authorized the city clerk to deduct 23 1/4% of monthly salaries to be diverted to the police department maintenance fund to save the pension fund from reduction (1933).

The police and sheriff radio system was confirmed and a bid accepted for a broadcasting station. The Federal Radio Commission granted a special permit for additional power Aug. 1934. The first tests showed the reception good and the first regular service began Dec. 1934.

After robberies in 1935, this police radio system had a demonstration of its real use. Voluntary finger printing for identification became a new service offered by the department in 1935.

As early as 1923 the fire department began a war on faulty wiring, now that the earlier hazards from accumulations of rubbish was corrected. Twelve men were to work on this until every building had been checked and the owners notified of hazards, some of which were found to be very bad. In another fight on fire hazards, Feb. 1929, a city-wide inspection was made in a two day campaign, with 55 fire prevention experts and 30 local firemen at work. The Service Clubs supported this, also the Woman's Club, the YMCA, the American Legion, Manufacturers' Ass'n., Civic Council, etc. Hazards were marked with a red tag. But only 31% of the fire and safety hazards pointed out were eliminated, the schools and churches were the worst offenders, but as a result of the inspection and propaganda, the number of fires dwindled that year. The State Firemen's Association met here, with 100 delegates.

Chief Schwartz was badly injured by falling down a blind stairway when the Burke Theatre and office building was gutted by fire, in Oct. 1925. He and Lt.

Harman retired at the end of 1932, F. J. Moeller was named chief, Wm. J. Brady, assistant chief.

In July, 1928 a new Pirsch-made pumper was purchased, the first all Pirsch truck, but all others had Pirsch equipment.

The year 1933 began with a bad fire when the Block Bros. store, at the corner of 6th Ave. and 58th St. burned on New Years Eve. Four firemen were injured in a 14 hour battle with the flames.

The next year rescue squad work was extended to use the volunteer first aid corps of the Red Cross and additional first aid equipment was requested (1934). Then a safety squad and new apparatus were added to the fire equipment, with six men in two shifts assigned for rescue work (1935). All were given intensive training. A first aid truck and supplies were obtained. Two new fire stations and one entire new company were requested, for the northwest and southwest sides of the city.

Health and Sanitation: The fight for clean milk continued. In the Spring of 1922 chemist Henry Miller urged pasteurization of all milk used in the city, but by Fall only five dairies were fairly clean and there were still charges of unclean milk (1). A new ordinance was requested that would demand a license that could be revoked if milk was not up to standard and would also carry a penalty. Under the old system raw milk could be sold from unhealthy herds or might be dirty and dangerous. But a year later, milk from three dairies was not more than fairly clean.

Later four milkmen were served warrants by the health department to enforce the new ordinance that required a license. Then the steady campaign began to show results. Kenosha milk was claimed to be the purest and safest of any north shore city, with the ordinance strictly enforced (2).

Other food requirements were also enforced. Grocers were arrested for selling eggs not up to the standard represented. Three men driving for local bakers were fined because they resold defective bakery goods taken from stores as a private enterprise (3).

In August, 1924 Dr. C. J. Morgan was appointed health inspector. When he resigned in 1927, Dr. K. A. Trish was appointed as dairy and food inspector. Dr. Windesheim was again head of the State Board of Health. Many new regulations were adopted by it that affected restaurants and public sanitation (4). The Kenosha health department laboratory led the state in the number of specimens examined in the germ disease search (5).

Efforts in the protection of children continued. Miss Aimee Zilmer of the Wisconsin Health Commission was here for a week to confer with girls' groups on health and sanitation. Child clinics were held, with six in operation, at McKinley, Lincoln, Bain, Washington, Grant and Roosevelt schools. Special efforts were made to get mothers interested in the daily clinics in the school buildings, where there was much emphasis on the care of babies.

Visiting nurse service was started April 18, 1927, under the direction of Miss Stella Fuller, superintendent of nurses of the health department, with Sigrid Jorgensen the nurse.

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(1) Tel. Courier Oct. 4, 1923
(2) Ibid Aug. 20, 1925 Council Min. Nov. 16 - Oct 4, 1926.
(3) Ibid July 25, 1929
(4) Ibid Feb. 5, 1931
(5) Ibid Sept. 17, 1931

The city decided to license soda fountains. This enabled the health department to enforce sanitary regulations: rooms must be clean, dishes and utensils sterilized and food in proper containers.

The Medical Society invited the city council to meet with it to talk over various matters pertaining to the betterment of sanitary and social conditions of the city. It suggested a child welfare bureau, comprised of the city poor commission, service league and city health department. The city manager and council were to meet in a conference to discuss better development and cooperation of various lines of work of these bodies.

The chief difficulty still seemed to be with communicable diseases, and the enforcement of quarantine. The city physician said "two murders were committed" when two children under one year of age died of whooping cough because someone would not obey a quarantine. There were 150 cases in the city.

In the Spring of 1924 there were a number of diptheria cases and an epidemic of mumps. Small pox was recurrent, with eight cases in April, 1923, and again in 1928, when St. George School was closed for two (1) weeks . When two children at the Lincoln School became ill, all children were asked to be vaccinated - free. More cases occurred in the Bain, St. Casimirs and Washington schools, with three cases in one family later in the year and others in December.

Dr. Windesheim asked the cooperation of parents during vacation in 1925, to uncover contagious diseases (2), as there was much whooping cough and measles in the city. Prosecution was threatened for violation of quarantine. In 1931, the communicable disease record had fallen greatly. Kenosha was nominated as an "Honor Health City" classification on a nation-wide Chamber of Commerce health conservation contest in April, 1932. But with the depression, the examination of pre-school children was eliminated to cut expense, and with regret the clinic was discontinued. The Junior Woman's Club gave financing that enabled the examination of 45 cases at the Orthopedic clinic by Dr. Schumm in April 1933.

Garbage and sewage disposal still posed a problem. The Council voted to purchase the 25 acre Hathaway tract south of the then city limits on the lake shore for $75,000. This was as a site for a proposed modern sewage disposal plant and park. (3) The State Board of Health approved the disposal plans drawn by a Chicago architect, but the city must act in two years or get other plans. Later a vote on garbage incinerator bonds was lost by 86 votes, with only one-third of the voters represented (4).

Then the residents between 38th and 48th streets served an injunction to stop the dumping of garbage, and the city was to fight it (5). Next a petition was filed asking that garbage dumps at the north end of 5th be discontinued (6).

Collection was motorized, four new 1 1/2 ton trucks were purchased and routes set. A WPA grant for the incinerator was approved, this would solve an old problem, and the city took an option from the Wisconsin Gas & Electric Co. for $2,000 (7) on land at 50th Street west of Sheridan Road for a site. A telegram from the District WPA said funds were available.

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(1) Tel. Courier March 1, 1928
(2) Ibid June 25, 1925
(3) Ibid Feb. 24, 1927 Council Min. March 21
(4) Ibid Oct. 15, 1931
(5) Ibid May 10, 1934
(6) Tel. Courier June 21, 1934
(7) Council Min. Nov. 12, 1935

A suit brought against Albert F. Prange for failure to live up to the terms of his contract for the trunk sewer on the West side was at last settled. Prange agreed to pay $9,000 and to sign a release of claims approximating $27,000. The contract was made in 1915, afterward assigned to the Kennedy Co., then the contract was re-let to the brother of the original contractor, Edward H. Prange. Finally Peder Frandsen finished the job, when they seemingly could not compete with the difficulties encountered (1).

The American Brass and the City cooperated to install a bigger and better sewer down Strong (65th St.) and Quinton (19th Ave.) Streets to the Selleck Ave. (67 St.) sewer, the Company to pay the greater part of the cost. (2)

In 1926 the city passed an ordinance that permitted it to construct sewers when unsatisfactory bids only were obtained. The law permitted this (3).

Perhaps as a part of the conditions that arose largely from the depression, and the availability of government loans came a drive for better housing, with a county-wide, city-wide canvass. The report showed a tremendous need for repair work and modernization of homes (4).

Relief: After the stock crash in 1929, work slackened, then slowed to a point where conditions became serious. Kenoshans joined representatives from four other cities at Madison in a discussion of unemployment (5). The cost of relief jumped to $147,000 in a year; in 1929 it had been $31,958.72. (6) The city also suffered by loss of revenue from income taxes. As the depression worsened, Kenosha was to receive $128,603 from state relief funds. The Kenosha welfare store was cited by President Hoover's unemployment relief organization. It was in a vacant building at the corner of 56th St. and 7th Ave. and was organized by the Chamber of Commerce and the Community Chest. Clothing was given (1932). The 1930 census showed that Kenosha was the hardest hit by unemployment in the State.

The unexpected and unprepared for situation resulted in some suffering, some hardship, and some impositions while everyone hoped to find a way to prevent the situation from becoming desperate. A petition asked that a relief committee not connected with a newspaper, civic organization or administration, composed of three men and three women, review the work of the relief department.

A city-wide charity ball to raise relief funds was held in four different dance halls, the Eagles, Moose, Elks and Italian American in Nov., 1931.

Many endeavored to aid. The American Legion began a drive to find jobs. Major Mellum, of the Nash Co., was named on the Advisory Committee on unemployment insurance of the Industrial Commission. Kenosha began to boost Kenosha-made products with a view to provide more employment (1932). City Engineer R. M. Smith was named by the State on a committee of ten to study unemployment. The Kenosha Medical Association offered wide service to the city under an economy plan that included medical, surgical and obstetrical service, to replace the free clinic, eliminate the city physician, the Service League and American Legion service, for $9,000 yearly (8). As the relief load increased through 1932, the physicians had

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(1) Ibid Jan. 17, 1922
(2) Tel. Courier May 24, 1923
(3) Ibid Sept. 23, 1926 Ibid Sept. 20, 1926
(4) Ibid Nov. 29, 1934
(5) Tel. Courier Sept. 3, 1931
(6) Ibid Sept. 24, 1931
(7) Council Min. Oct. 19, 1931
(8) Tel. Courier March, 1932

treated over 4,000 patients and given $44,270 worth of service at a cost of $4,500 in a six months' period (1).

In August, 1932, 2,688 families were helped. More persons per capita received aid from the city here during November than in any other community in the state. Severe cold and snow added to the problem. The Bain warehouse on 8th Avenue was leased for relief office use at $150 a month for a year. The Red Cross provided flour by the carload. In time this, and clothing, were given one family in every three, to the value of $86,000.

A request came from Community Builders that a new relief plan be adopted - to purchase from Independent grocers at wholesale plus 10%, this was under advisement. Later the Council adopted a new plan of controlled vouchers. The county cut salaries 5% to 10%, there was also a voluntary cut in the board members' salaries. The Civic Council studied relief, and suggested that relief clients be put to work on public improvements in exchange for food, fuel and clothing. Plans were made to join a national program against hoarding, for financial reconstruction, J. T. Wilson, chairman, C. C. Brown, vice chairman, R. Kingsley, campaign chairman (1932).

A reduction was made by 15% of all city salaries, including schools and library. Private charity organizations had exhausted resources,and it was now a tax problem. The city was preparing claims for Federal aid under the Wagner Relief Bill, and later accepted $63,000 from Federal funds to be used only for direct relief measures and not to replace used funds.

Rental costs constituted a problem. A plan to have rents apply on taxes for the next year drew a protest from property owners, as did rent cuts later. The city paid rents. Rentals in many cases could not cover taxes and repairs, buildings depreciated and property owners suffered.

A local mediation board was established to aid those in danger of losing their homes April, 1933. There was a big delinquent tax list, and the interest penalty was cut from 12% to 10%.

The state allotted Kenosha 270 jobs in the forestry project, over 700 were wanted for this work, April 1933.The State Industrial Commission made a survey of the outdoor relief department. Dr. Thos. Dobbin had been made director of RFC funds, 70% of relief so financed to be effective May 15. Roy B. White replaced him.

By 1933 the Federal Government made relief funds available to cities. Mrs. Gertrude Gates of the Wisconsin Industrial Staff was sent to Kenosha for six months to organize the relief department, according to the rules for Federal relief funds. Kenosha, Somers and Pleasant Prairie accepted the unit relief plan to secure 70% Federal aid. Mrs. Viola Miller was appointed director and Jacob Saftig named director of institutional care and indoor relief activities (1933).

The city asked Government aid in eight projects to the amount of $100,000, some at once, - sewers, standpipe, and incinerator to come first (1933). It was ready to proceed at once; 30% was an absolute grant, 70% in name of loan to be paid back after five years. This to provide work.

A U. S. Federal Unemployment office was opened, 600 reported the first day. The relief department was moved into the old tannery office to save expense and labor. A woman's job employment bureau opened and 2,500 applications of unemployed persons was available at short notice. By October there was a reduction

(1) Ibid Dec. 8, 1932

in relief costs when 1,200 were off the rolls and several workers were laid off.

Kenosha was listed as one of the first in response to the call for cooperation on the National Recovery Act. Cooper's and Allen A agreed to accept provisional codes, as did the American Brass, Specialty Brass, Wells, Frost, Snap-on, Mac Whyte, Simmons and others; Nash gave a 10% increase.

The Kenosha projects that won approval of Federal Funds included the extension of storm and sanitary sewers, surplus water intake and water main extension, garbage incinerator, standpipe and booster pump,

When the city asked for a share of U. S. Civic relief, the Civil Works Administration appointed Hans Guttormsen, chairman of the County Board, Viola Miller and R. M. Smith, city engineer as a local Board. Hundreds accepted work on park and sanitation jobs. Kenosha was the first place in the state where men were actually put to work. John Langen was appointed civil works director, and the quota was increased by 1,000. Kenosha was allotted $19,464 or 20,100 hours. The Council voted to discontinue relief funds. The county added $10,000 to the old age funds.

Alien workers were not eligible to the CWA lists. Some thought that an army discharge was sufficient, 131 were laid off, others were found to have applied (1933). Payrolls soared and the state director ordered a cut in jobs and payroll (1934). Locally there was a 10% cut. C. H. Holderness became director of the Kenosha County relief unit April 1934. CWA was cut from time to time and the city was warned that it was about to close; it applied to continue the projects. Nine were authorized for completion, among them a bathhouse, park improvements, and moving the old post office building.

Then all CWA work was to end at once, $750,000 had been paid out here. Then Kenosha led in FERA work in Wisconsin, this was a partial successor to CWA.

The Home Owners Loan Corporation established an office here and clients flocked in for refinancing. Kenosha ranked third in the number of these loans made in the state. But by August, 1935 foreclosure on delinquents was threatened by the HOLC.

In 1934 there were 144 old age pensions, an estimated 2,126 in the city were eligible under the old pension plan, but this was declared unconstitutional and a new plan was worked out. In 1935 many applications were made under this.

The NRA compliance board was mustered out and commended for its efficient work (June, 1934). At that time there were new highs in work relief. The relief load kept increasing, many young men were sent to the CCC camps. The report on the Fox River Park CCC work, Karl Zander superintendent, was cited as the best received in the nation.

By the middle of November, 1934, $1,689,776 had been spent on local relief. By Fall the Federal Government made a cut in FERA that affected Kenosha; state funds were cut, but the case load went higher. The County Board voted a one half million relief bond issue and refused to raise salaries. The bid for these bonds was above par. Federal funds were granted for widening and paving Sheridan Road south of 50th St. (1935). Federal aid was requested on the C. & N. W. Ry. track elevation, and were allocated.

In January, 1935, the first issue of baby bonds was made, this to restore pay of city and school employees.

Kenosha was one of three Wisconsin cities chosen for a Federal Relief Survey (1). A Survey showed that Kenosha had the highest proportion of relief population actually working on non-relief jobs, but the pay was so low that it must be supplemented. In 1933-34, 62% of experienced workers were able to find jobs; in 1934, 34% of experienced workers on relief, were working on non-relief jobs as compared with an average of 16% in seven cities (2).

The Hospitals had busy years. Housing for nurses was provided when the Kenosha Hospital Association purchased the Bain home at the SE corner of 7th Ave. and 61st St. It was obtained at a very reasonable price because of the use intended (3).

A meeting of physicians and friends convinced them that St. Catherine's Hospital must remove from Kenosha unless financial help was secured. The quarters then occupied were declared unsuitable for continuance of their work by State Officials. Either remodeling or a new building was necessary shortly. The mortgage was soon due and there was a deficit in operating expense (1924). The hospital had operated on the basis that no one was rejected for lack of funds. Kenoshans were asked to help. The Board of St. Catherine's Hospital began a campaign for a building fund of $300,000. for a 96 bed hospital. The old Pennoyer building was a frame structure, not fire proof, and not suited for a modern hospital. The building in view would incorporate new ideas for hospital use.

An addition for the Kenosha Hospital was also necessary. The Manufacturers Association and physicians held a conference in regard to these additions to hospitals. A new unit for this hospital was started at once upon the decision of the general hospital association. The addition was opened to the public April 1, 1926. It had cost $365,000 with equipment. It was a five story brick building that added room for 80 beds and had the last work in construction and equipment. George S. Whyte was general chairman, Faith Collins, superintendent. Public subscriptions brought in over $250,000 (1926). C. F. Brooker, chairman of the Board of the American Brass Co. left the Kenosha Hospital $20,000 in his will (4).

The contract for the first unit of St. Catherine's Hospital was let in Sept. 1927, and the corner stone was laid on Sept. 25th, 1927, with the Knights of Columbus in charge. The Pope sent a piece of mortar from the holy door in Rome for the corner stone.

The American College of Surgeons approved both of these hospitals. They were well equipped and met standard requirements.

St. Catherine's First Unit was dedicated May 13 - 20, 1928, with an open house for the new $150,000 structure. Bishop Messmer was here for the dedication. Many Kenoshans gave room and operating furniture and equipment. There were impressive ceremonies at the dedication. The medical men of the city were entertained at supper.

Prior to this Kenosha was in a serious situation as regards hospital facilities. It had equipment for 105 patients at one time (1/2 of standard), and patients were constantly turned away for lack of room.

The Kenosha Hospital had graduated excellent nurses but was handicapped by lack of space. The visiting nurse service cooperated with it and brought fine service into homes in all sections of the city. The growth of this movement had been rapid (1933).

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(1) Tel. Courier Jan. 24, 1935
(2) Ibid Feb. 7, 1935
(3) Tel. Courier Sept. 27, 1923
(4) Ibid Jan. 6, 1927

In June, 1935 a Deep X-ray machine therapy was installed at St. Catherine's, and the business men of the city put newspapers into hospital rooms for the use of patients that Fall.

The Willowbrook Sanitarium was so crowded, it was hoped that an addition could be built by PWA facilities.

Unions and Labor: Whatever unrest may have developed, there was little open difficulty throughout the depressed labor conditions of the 1921's. However, two or three garment companies moved here from Chicago, perhaps for the purpose of avoiding Union demands there. A lower scale than that in Chicago was paid by the Kenosha Garment Co., located at 2320 63rd St. The rate of pay was from $9.00 to $16.00 per week. Half of the workers walked out when a request for a new scale was refused. Representatives of the International Garment Workers were here and maintained an office at 209 Wisconsin (611 58th St.). The owners refused to deal with the Union representative, who said they had called no strike, but that the workers were dissatisfied. The Standard Garment Co. also refused to deal with the Union representative on the claim that he did not represent their employees. Later, an independent commission investigated the charge of a worker at the Standard Garment Co. who said that she was discharged because she had joined the Union. She told of long hours and low pay. Then 38 women workers at the Marquardt Kenosha Dress Co. at 6320 20th Ave. struck for higher wages and Union recognition. They asked for $16.00 as a minimum instead of $9.00 for apprentices and $13.00 for skilled workers, weekly. The Company said it was paying out $800 a week in salaries. J. Zuckerman, representative of the International Ladies Garment Workers was here to organize the Company. It was under the direction of Korach Bros. of Chicago that was then idle because of a strike there involving 10,000 workers. The Company here closed, but the Union tried to have the plant reopened (1935). It wanted arbitration.

A petition signed by 2,000 asked that a clause be inserted in all public projects asking that home labor be employed as much as possible.

The Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Local No. 511 organized in September, 1925, and soon was represented almost 100%. This became almost inactive between 1926 and 1928, when it reawakened and wages were stabalized.

In the Fall of 1925, Kenosha labor organizations planned to build a temple for business meetings and social activities, and looked for a suitable site. Nothing definite was done, seemingly, as in 1929 labor groups again organized for the same purpose and seven trade locals filed incorporation papers with the Secretary of State, this to be known as the Kenosha Labor Temple Association. Among these were the Carpenters and Joiners #161, Electrical Workers #127, Lathers' Local #225, Plasterers Local #473 and the Sheet Metal Workers #153. The cost of the building was to be subscribed by the membership. The eight incorporators were John A. Leichem, Edward Weston, Lester E. Thompson, A. H. Troke, Francis W. Erickson, Roy E. Shaw, Felix Olkives and Charles Lubick.

As the death toll at railroad crossings in Kenosha increased, the Labor Council condemned the existant grade crossings and urged that the railroad elevation proceed at once. And when the Forward Movement for Kenosha that was to work for a bigger and better City developed, the Trades and Labor Council endorsed it and had part in the campaign with all Kenosha groups.

In June, 1925, a Barbers' strike again threatened, but was settled with an agreement on the wage scale - $25.00 a week with 55% of all over $55.00. The old scale was $25.00 with all over $34.00. The journeymen wanted $30.00 with 60% over $40.00. The half day closing was changed to Thursday instead of Wednesday.

Then early in 1928 came the worst labor dispute that ever developed in Kenosha. With the installation of new machines, the Allen A management asked workers to operate two machines in place of the one, as was customary. The knitters protested, refused to yield and struck. Soon Harold Steele, vice president of the American Federation of Full Fashioned Hosiery Workers and Louis Budenz (1), editor of The Labor Age, came; F. A. Canfield, a representative of the United States Department of Labor was also here. A parade took place in the midst of a blizzard, and workers were picketing in the snow (2).

Soon a situation developed unlike any other that has occurred in Kenosha. It is difficult to untangle possible threads thereof . The major part undoubtedly was the result of the strike, but mingled with it might have been reprisals connected with the liquor and gambling problems of the day, with gangster elements reaching out through the country from Chicago. Also, the strike may well have served as a cloak for the just plain vandalism of some of the youthful delinquents of the city. But whatever the causes, the city was in the grip of violence for months. Bricks and missiles were thrown at houses and automobiles, gunshots employed, pepper was thrown in crowded gatherings, despite warnings against violence from the district attorney and the police.

The Trades and Labor Council and City Manager, C. M. Osborn conferred several times relative to a settlement. Four representatives of the Union went to Governor Zimmerman: Budenz, Att'y. Padway of Milwaukee, Henry Ohl, President of the State Federation of Labor and Harold Steele of Milwaukee.

An injunction was served against picketing and disturbances, followed by arrests and court trials before the Federal Court in Milwaukee, for violation of the injunction and for assault and battery. Six ministers of the city offered services as mediators if they could be helpful on any occasion, the offer was accepted by the Union. Budenz' writings were flayed by an attorney. The Company wanted an open shop and to deal with workers on an individual basis. The City Council directed city officials to enforce the law. The home of the district attorney was bombed, endangering the life of several small children. This was the first of a long drawn out series of bombings in various parts of the city and county. Bricks, shots, stink bombs, egg throwing and other damage went on for months.

Local law enforcement officers tried to put an end to the sabotage and violence. By the end of June, 1928, seven new police officers were added to the force, and on county board action, the sheriff added more deputies, as ten were to be stationed at the Allen A plant. The Deputy United States Marshal came with 26 summons for 26 former knitters, that ordered them to appear in Milwaukee to show cause why they should not be cited for contempt of the Federal injunction against picketing and be charged with conspiracy to violate the injunction subsequent to the arrest of 19 persons several weeks before.

A huge parade one council meeting night demanded that workers be not housed in the manufacturing plant. That session of the council was colorful; bricks were thrown outside, some struck two policemen.

Gustav Geigis, president of the American Federation of Full Fashion Hosiery Workers came and conferred with both sides. Officials of the Wisconsin Federation of Labor interceded for 36 locked out workers and sympathizers and pledged a guarantee to use influence to avoid further demonstrations (3).

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(1) In the 1950's Budenz was involved in National Security investigations and repudiated the Communist Party, of which he said he had been a member.
(2) Tel. Courier Feb. 23, 1928.
(3) Tel. Courier July 19, 1928.

A local paper said that after they arrived the issues involved were more clearly defined in the differences between employers and employees, that the strikers were ready to present a program of cooperation on the two machine system. The officials of the Company said that other issues were also involved, they were ready to confer with their own workers, but not with outsiders. The Company found an ample supply of workers willing to accept their offer of training for employment.

Violence continued and dynamite was used. Damage to the extent of $10,000 was done to one of the older Allen A buildings. There was a kidnapping and tarring of a worker. Then other tactics were tried. Budenz brought suit against Roger Kimball for slander in the amount of $100,000. A damage suit was brought against the Dayton Hotel where Budenz had roomed. Efforts were made to have Judge Belden and the District attorney disqualified for conduct unbecoming their office. Demonstrations ran well into 1929. The strike went on for over 18 months. At last Budenz departed, time, and the depression brought peace.

The Barbers Local #144 voted to advance prices on May 1, 1929: haircuts advanced from 50¢ to 65¢, shaves 35¢; 50¢ for a child's haircut except on Saturdays and the days preceeding a holiday. The closing hours adopted were; 8:00 p. m. on Mon., Wed., and Fri.; 6:00 p. m. on Tuesday, Thursday at noon and 9:00 p. m. on Saturday. June 1, 1931 rates were reduced to 50¢ and 25¢. In 1934 an award was offered for information regarding anyone who was violating the State Barbers' Code.

The Union Painters and Contractors #934 adopted a five day week, while an increase of 5¢ an hour was agreed upon. The carpenters also agreed upon a new schedule, a 5¢ an hour increase and a 5 day week, the negotiations took from Nov. to April, 1929. Later 75 painters struck after the refusal of 12 major contractors to make wage increases. The carpenters met to consider joining them. The painters were paid $1.30 an hour, they asked $1.37 1/2, the carpenters received $1.30 they asked for $1.50 (1930). But soon the depression began to affect wage scales. Contractors agreed on further reductions to take effect May. Electricians were reduced from $1.37 1/2 to $1.20 for a 7 hour day in 1936, carpenters' wages fell from $1.30 to $1.12 1/2. Painters voluntarily reduced the scale from $1.30 to $1.05 an hour and a 40 hour week. Bricklayers, masons, and plasterers received a drastic reduction, also plumbers.

The master builders recommended a cut in wages. The building trade unions turned down a suggestion that it would stimulate building as material costs were down. They refused a cut.

In 1932 the school janitors organized as the Association of Public School Custodians, with a membership of 38, George McGill, president.

The Gas & Electric Co. cut wages 10%, 165 workers were affected.

A labor dispute closed the Kenosha Theatre from March 25 to April 15, 1932, when differences were settled at a day and night conference in Milwaukee. The employees agreed to another cut, this made 43% since August.

The Trades & Labor Council obtained a writ to force permission to speak at Columbus Park.

A wage protest at Nash by the UAW was settled by conferences and an agreement was reached for the reopening of the plant Nov. 23, 1933, after a shut down on November 9th when the assembly department walked out. Dr. John A. Lapp and James Muhlenbeck of the National Labor Advisory Board were here.

In March, 1934 the auto workers again struck, to shut down all branches. They delayed 24 hours on the plea of the Labor Board. Representatives of the Federal Labor Board were here. The demand was a 20% increase on the basis of a minimum 60¢ per hour. The Union claimed it was then 47¢. There had been an increase in the Nash payroll. Mr. Nash awaited the Labor Board hearing in Washington, an offer of a 10% increase had been offered. The answer charged that there was an evasiveness in regard to the section on collective bargaining. Then after a conference, night picketing was abandoned. The State Labor leader was here. The strike was settled April 17, and the men were to go back to work as fast as possible.

A Union was organized at the Vincent McCall plant on Sept. 27, 1933. A strike started, it asked for a wage increase and recognition of the Union: 50¢ an hour for day work, 60¢ for piece work and only Union men employed. A donation of $150 to the Vincent McCall Union was given by the Simmons Union at a banquet. Other Unions took charge of the picket line during the banquet. The strike was settled by compromise, effective immediately, with a wage increase for all.

In the meantime, the American Brass Co. and the MacWhyte Co. announced a 10% increase in wages.

About that time the Unions staged a demonstration with over 7,000 in the line of march. Mayor Hoan of Milwaukee was the speaker.

The Dunnebacke's 18 truck drivers struck for a raise to 80¢ an hour and recognition of the Union. They were offered 60¢, a 20¢ increase. This strike tied up two Federal road building projects as no material was delivered. There was picketing but no disorder. After 10 days the strike ended on a six week's truce, the Union was recognized and men got a 30% increase, to 50¢ and 65¢.

The Wisconsin Federation of Labor adopted a plan submitted to the Kenosha Labor delegates asking for adequate cash relief. A parade of 13 local Unions and many unemployed led to a mass meeting at 58th St. and 8th Ave. where cash relief and workman's Compensation for WPA workers was demanded.

Other new Unions were forming. The City Firemen, with 63 members was one. Edward Stange was the first president. The Frost Co. Union with about 80 members received charter 19985 in April, 1935. The United Textile Workers local 2268 organized in 1934. The Cleaners, Dyers, and Helpers Union Jan. 11, 1936. The Blacksmiths, Drop Forgers & Helpers #62 was chartered Sept. 27, 1933, the International Union Teamsters Chauffeurs and Stablemen and helpers, chartered Oct. 5, 1933 with over 350 members, the Kenosha County Employees Union #1097 in 1936, the Electrical Workers of the Gas & Electric Co. organized September, 1934. The Musicians Union had increased until it had nearly 300 members in 1936. The Machinists' Union, increased with the depression to 400 members, secured a 40 hour week with overtime.

Again an argument arose at the Nash plant. The local workers rejected the AFL automobile program and agreed to stand by its collective bargaining agreement with the Company. The arrangement here had received national citation by the Russell Sage Foundation as an ideal working agreement between employees and employer (1).

Another brief strike occurred at the Vincent McCall plant, but was soon settled. The National Labor Conciliation Board helped. A banquet for labor and management followed.

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(1) Tel. Courier March 2, 1935.

The milk drivers four hour strike ended with an agreement reached through a board of arbitration; some raises and vacations were agreed upon (1).

The Frost Co. had a one day strike of 120 men who demanded a closed shop. Paul Smith, special representative of the American Federation of Labor came, conferred with leaders and ordered the strike ended (2).

Schools: The year 1922 began with a survey of the city by a committee of 15 citizens, who were appointed to work on a 10 year school program. Their report recommended the acceptance of a school building plan during the ensuing five years (3).

The next year a referendum vote approved the plan for better schools: a high school, the Grant School, and one near Albers St. (45th), a new Lincoln Junior High School, the purchase of more ground for the Durkee, and a site for a McKinley Elementary building. That year however, L. W. Powell, board president, and his committee managed to keep the school budget down 4% below that of 1922. And in 1923, the Board decided on more portables rather than put children on part time enrollment.

Contracts were awarded for two new elementary schools. The new buildings were named the Jefferson and Grant, in preferance to the use of local names. Money was needed. An Ordinance was presented for $500,000 school bonds. It was necessary to condemn to procure land for the new Junior High near Lincoln Park because the price was too high (1923). In 1924, when the Jefferson school was opened it was filled beyond capacity (4). School enrollment for the city was up nearly 500.

In 1922 the Board decided to refuse employment to married teachers, over Mrs. Bradford's protest. The Board also voted to reduce its membership to seven, this had been advocated by Jay Glerum since 1918, but a referendum was necessary unless the legislature passed a contemplated bill. One member asked if a seven member board would serve without salaries as the old board had done. The Board was reorganized on the city manager plan, that made Superintendent Loomis manager of the school system, with authority to handle business as well as educational branches, but under the school board. The proposal for a seven member board was lost, less interest was shown than at any election in years (5).

The open air school at the Gillett now had two teachers, the opportunity school for "slow" children and subnormals had three, and two were to be added when the new buildings were done, there were 100 on the waiting list; two teachers cared for special correction work, there were teachers for the deaf at the Frank, special help teachers for foreign children from 8 to 16, for incorrigible boys, and physical education. Health instruction was given in all grades, manual training and domestic science from the 6th grade up.

Schools were open for adult activities evenings, there was a special director for playground activities in summer, medical inspection in September. The open air school pupils showed a marked improvement. The city planner praised the city's recreational system as better than par.

In 1922-23 the schools cost $78 per capita. The budget for 1924 showed a 20.4% increase, this included the building fund (6).

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(1) Ibid May 30, 1935
(2) Ibid Sept. 5, 1935
(3) Tel. Courier June 15, 1922
(4) Ibid July 11, 1924
(5) Tel. Courier Feb. 22, 1923
(6) Ibid Dec. 6, 1923

Building required money and the Council took action on the passage of a $300,000 bond issue for the high school, but informed the Board that the city could not exceed $1,250,000 for the years 1924-25-26 for building purposes. The question of site had been settled by the city plan commission, and work on the high school had begun by September, 1924. Madsen Petersen Co. of Minneapolis were builders of the high school also of the heating plant. The corner stone was laid Nov. 21, 1924; Mrs. Mary D. Bradford was an honored guest. J. B. Glerum, Wm. Threinen and Mrs. Rose McCluskey were the committee in charge, L. W. Powell, president of the Board. In the parade before the formal ceremony, 2,500 junior and senior high school students marched. Mrs. Perdita Dewey Pope told the history of the school. Architect Chubb prepared the plans.

The Board met for the acceptance of the high school on Feb. 27, 1926, but the formal opening came later as the auditorium was not yet quite complete. The dedication program was in the new auditorium April 13; a week's celebration had been planned, with churches, service clubs and other clubs to have part; students were to provide music. The Superintendent of the Chicago schools gave the dedicatory address to 1,800 Kenoshans. The last block of bonds were voted by referendum just before this.

Prior to this, in Feb. 1925 the city council had voted the second bond issue, for $400,000. Another referendum had resulted in a victory for a seven member Board, winning by 80 votes. (Oct. 1925) Thus the 18 member Board concluded its work with the dedication of the new high school, April 27, 1926, and was replaced by the smaller Board.

A new junior high school was organized to use the old high school building. D. T. John, principal at the McKinley School was transferred to become its principal. But the old building was a problem, new facilities were needed, also repairs, the cost was estimated at $22,600 and funds were also needed to meet a deficit on the new building.

In the Spring of 1924, two houses at the corner of 57th St. and 10th Ave. had been turned over to the Board of Education for one year for school purposes, this had helped to meet the need while the new building was under way.

The residents on the southwest side asked for a permanent building on the site of the Salem (Roosevelt) Ave. portables. Mrs. Rose McCluskey and her committee made a careful investigation. After their report, the Board recommended a 24 room school as soon as funds were available, as this was one of the most rapidly growing sections (1). The school census that year showed a 660 increase in the city.

The Board of Education asked permission to erect an open air school on the northwest corner of the Jefferson School grounds adjacent to Washington Park. This would encroach somewhat on the park. The Council gave permission at the July, 1924, council meeting. However, a meeting at the Lincoln School (Oct. 1925) brought out the need for a more extensive service- there were many deformities among children and much need for physical education and care. Miss Dorothy Schackmuth, herself a cripple, did great service in forwarding this movement. The Optimist Club petitioned for such a school, in a special building (2). A legal opinion ruled that the city might provide physical facilities only, that is room, etc. for crippled children, but not a physician nor transportation. The State Association was asked to cooperate in the work, and while a survey of the city to determine the extent of the need was under way, an effort was started to get a bill passed to make it possible for the Board of Education to provide facilities and equipment for the

(1) Tel. Courier July 23, 1925
(2) Ibid Dec. 30, 1926

education and training of disabled children. H. J. Mellum, president of the state association represented the Optimist Club, the Rotary, Kiwanis and American Business clubs were active in urging this. The Woman's Club and PTA were interested and the endorsement of the County Medical Association was requested, and doctors were asked to aid in the examination of crippled children. A Chicago specialist had part in a clinic where disabled children were examined, in the Court house. The survey had shown that there were over 150 such cases.

As necessary legislation had been passed the Board then seriously considered the erection of a building with additional room to provide for orthopedic class rooms as well as for the open air work, this the first of the kind in Wisconsin. It voted to put an appropriation for this in the budget (Nov. 1927). Plans were prepared and bids received in July, 1928, when the problem of funds loomed. The $60,000 available included the $20,000 appropriated two years previously for an open air school, the low bids amounted to $79,000. There was a little delay and a suggestion that rooms in the new Roosevelt School be used, but Aug. 2, 1928 the general contract was awarded to Wm. M. Christensen of Racine, for $57, 202.00 and contracts for heating, plumbing, electrical work, etc. to other low bidders, and work began.

By the middle of June, 1929, the school received the first consignment of disabled children for examination and diagnosis. The Kenosha Medical Association gave fine cooperation, and brought Dr. H. C. Schumm, Milwaukee orthopedic specialist here, when the first 25 children started treatment.

On Nov. 5, 1929, the school was dedicated. The building was packed, educators and medical men from other cities were here, also Charles Broughton, editor of the Sheboygan Press and member of the State Association for the Disabled, together with other members of that Association. Among the speakers were John Callahan, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Marguerite Lison, Secretary of the Wisconsin Association for the Disabled, H. J. Mellum, President of the Association, Sidney M. Jones, Chairman of its local chapter, L. W. Powell, President of Board of Education, City Superintendent Guy Loomis, and Dorothy Schackamuth who expressed thanks in the name of the disabled children of the community.

Superintendent Callahan said, during this service that:

> "It is particularly appropriate that Kenosha should be the first to have such a school building in the state of Wisconsin. Kenosha had the first free public school and the first free high school in the State, and again Kenosha takes the leadership in education."

In the meantime the contract had been awarded to Peterson Bros. of Minneapolis (June, 1927) and the Roosevelt school, on the site of the old portables, was under way. It was opened with the start of the school year in September, 1928, with a $300,000 modern building replacing the dozen portables, for the 600 boys and girls of that vicinity.

In 1929 bids were asked for on the new Lincoln Junior high building, after plans had been accepted. The price was thought too high and the Board delayed action for a time, but the contracts were awarded late in April, 1929. It was opened to students before it was entirely completed. The portables from the site were distributed among elementary schools.

But with all this building, there were still enrollment problems. The capacity of the high school was 1,500, its enrollment, 1,439, with 80 to graduate in 1931, but 265 graduates were completing work in the junior high schools. By 1932 the elementary schools and kindergartens showed some loss, the junior high schools a small increase, but the high school had increased 400 in two years. The school census dropped 104 in the year 1932.

By 1933 the high school enrollment had grown to 2,000. The central junior high school was abolished and the old building was used to house the overflow from the senior high building. The 500 pupils were to attend the McKinley, Lincoln and Washington junior high buildings. Mr. John was to remain as an assistant principal of the senior school. Portables were wanted and necessary at the McKinley school.

The Vocational school wanted and needed a new building and asked for an appropriation. This was put in the budget, but with the depression lengthening, nothing was done for some time.

Other things besides increased attendance and new buildings had taken place in the school system: In 1926 the Spy Annual was chosen as one of nine in the all American publications from the 48 states, District of Columbia, the Canal Zone and Hawaii. The winning of speech records continued (1933).

The school board had given the use of 5 1/2 acres on the North side of the Bonnie Hame tract for the Troop E armory. It had granted permission for the use of the Hannan School building by the County School system although it was inside the city after the annexation of the surrounding territory.

The depression necessitated retrenchments. The Board cut over $160,000 in 1932, by using old text books, cuts in painting, repairs, etc. and by reorganization of the work of the janitors. The number of teachers was reduced as lower grade attendance decreased. Finances brought the abandonment of interscholastic sports for the 1933 season, local athletic sports were planned to replace this somewhat.

Kenosha's spirit again came to the fore. The teachers donated 10% of their salaries to the relief fund during 1931-2, but the Board was preparing to repay it. Physicians gave free service in school examinations when this had to be done away with because of lack of funds. Eight playgrounds set a record in attendance. The University of Wisconsin cited Kenosha for the attendance at night school under the state education relief act. The attendance at the Vocational School led the State outside Milwaukee (1933). Evening classes in Aviation gave certificates for the work done, 104 hours were required (1932).

As time went on, the school budget reached a low mark, teachers' salaries were cut, and finally paid in "baby bonds" as restored pay.

By 1934 the high school enrollment was the highest in history, 2,003, with 495 graduates. In 1922 there were 88! Kenosha ranked 4th in the state in school population although the school census indicated a drop in population of the city.

During the city centennial of 1935, the schools held a centennial pageant on June 5, 6 and 7. School training in settings, costumes, etc. was used. The final act of the centennial year was the unveiling of a bronze tablet in memory of Michael Frank in the high school building in December.

Library use had increased. There were two branches in 1922, one on the north side at 260 Bronson St. (706 43rd), the other on the west side at 457 Howland Ave. (6108 22nd Ave.). These were handling all the work that was possible, other branches were needed on the south and west sides. Service to the county was also advocated, but did not materialize.

In 1925 branch libraries in connection with the schools were endorsed by the Council and school officials, and $14,000 was voted to provide for three branch libraries at the Washington, McKinley and Lincoln Junior High Schools. The school system was to provide heat, light and janitor service, the library system to equip them and provide a librarian. These were to be used by the people of the community

also. Kenosha was in advance of the rest of the state in this.

The beautiful new brick building on 63rd St. replaced the former branch on 22nd Ave. Mr. Z. G. Simmons came from New York for its dedication and for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the opening of the main library.

By 1925 branches that aided in giving service to the city were:

The West branch at 1021 Elizabeth St. (2419 63rd)
The Lincoln branch at 18th Ave. and 69th St.
The Washington or North branch at Sheridan Rd. and 43rd.
The McKinley branch at 32nd Ave. and 58th St.

In 1928 the Unitarian Church building on 8th Avenue was sold to the library for a Boys and Girls Library, the first library of that kind in the state. The cost was $17,000.

Then in the stress of the depression an economy program was adopted. The fine course of public lectures was discontinued, this saved $700. The Board hoped to save 10% of the budget, the money to be turned back to the city. With more leisure time, and less money for amusements, the library work increased greatly, but by good planning and rigid economy, $20,000 was returned. Circulation had mounted, and many foreign books were added.

Although its services increased in all six libraries, the Board reserved $3,000 for CWA improvements, and returned $19,000 to the city in spite of a lower appropriation in 1934. Records indicated that 40% of the population had cards. Library hours for the west side branch were extended, it was then open mornings.

Miss Cora Frantz, librarian, announced an increased circulation.

Parks: The Park Board continued to work toward an improved park system. Work began on a municipal golf links at Washington Park for which many had petitioned; a foot bridge over the Lincoln Park lagoon was authorized, and $500 was appropriated for additional playground apparatus for the various parks in 1922.

When the mayor was replaced by a city manager, the Park Board was the first to hand in its resignation, this to give Mr. Osborn a free hand in any readjustment he might desire. The Board then included Adolph Epstein, C. C. Allen, Conrad Shearer, A. H. Lance and Rudolph Gottfredsen. In the meantime, it decided not to proceed with the erection of a new shelter house at the golf links, as it would add to the cost, and might interfere with future plans for a structure. It did advertise for bids for concessions at Lincoln Park and Simmons Island in April, 1922.

Floyd Carlson was appointed as director of parks, under the City Manager. He said Kenosha was behind in park land and should get tracts on the north shore for a boulevard and park system.

The city councilmen visited Madison in an effort to obtain permission to grant the reclaimed land south of the Company's holdings, (where the stadium now stands) to the Simmons Co. to permit its expansion in 1923. Since the State granted the riparian rights to this for park purposes, it was necessary to receive its permission. There was a probability that the Simmons Co. would give the City the Grant farm to the North of 100 acres and $100,000 for improvements in exchange, and this would be used for parks. The State refused permission.

By 1924 the disposal of rubbish and garbage had reclaimed many acres, the value of this was more than the cost of disposal. There were few complaints on the

South side, many protests on the north where residents were badly affected by odors, etc.

An ordinance was asked for, to control tree planting, after the park department had made a survey of all trees in the city between walks and curbs. It said that only one street in the city had correct planting, that was 66th St. between Sheridan Road and 7th Ave. The trees elsewhere were largely of the most undesirable kind, poplars, soft maples, catalpas and box elders.

The plan to extend the system continued and more land was wanted. In June, 1924, W. H. Alford bought the Simmons tract north of the city to resell to the city for parks later, this was the land previously offered by the Simmons Co. in exchange for the land south of the plant. Because of the use intended, Mr. Alford was given a reduced price - $60,000. This would be the amount charged the city, plus the ordinary rate of carrying charge. Jacobs Island was next purchased by W. H. Alford and A. H. Lance, for $30,000 also to be held for the city (1).

The Pennoyer tract of 35 acres was purchased by the city, as it would aid in widening 7th Avenue. The Pennoyer Park was dedicated on Labor Day, 1926.

Work on the sunken gardens at Lincoln Park was rushed. Roses, shrubs, and plants were planted and walks built. This was ready for the public and was a real beauty spot by June, 1925. For years Charles Findlay gave devoted care to this garden.

In 1925 a report stated that Kenosha had 1 acre of park land for each 193 people, there were 17 parks. The early nickname of Kenosha had been the Park City. It now ranked 3rd in the amount of parks and 4th in the amount of improved parks in the state, but had no boulevards or drive ways.

In Nov., 1925 tragedy hit, when three Lincoln School boys were drowned in the Lincoln Park lagoon. A smaller child had also drowned there two months previously. After other drownings occurred in 1932, the safety council investigated safety measures for all year round use of parks. Skating rinks were opened in the city parks and playgrounds and 10,000 used them during the Christmas vacation weeks. The school Board asked the park department to take charge of laying out and planting shrubs, bushes and trees on school grounds. A playground at the end of 61st St. was offered and accepted.

In 1927 the County Board, with great vision and foresight, voted to buy the Petrifying Springs and Fox River Park tracts, and used the surplus money on hand as the result of a budget plan, for this. These are two of the beauty spots of the county. During the depression, a municipal golf course at Petrifying Springs was developed with FERA funds.

In 1927 Mr. Alford purchased the Ludwig Tract of 51 acres for $110,000. After his death Mrs. Alford gave 27 acres of the lower land lying between Washington Park and the Municipal Golf Course if the city would assume the $5,607.89 tax that had accumulated (2). She also gave a strip of land 400 feet long from 75th St. south and lying east of 2nd Avenue, with riparian rights, the city assumed the taxes accumulated, $2,437.87. This connected with the park formed from the Hathaway tract.

Work was done with CWA and FERA funds during the depression. A new play area and athletic field was developed in Columbus park. Petitions requested a

(1) Tel. Courier, June 12 and 29, 1924.
(2) Council Minutes June 6, 1935.

bridge to extend 7th Avenue into the new Lake Shore Drive, and for a bathing beach on the south side.

A new building for a bathhouse was erected on Simmons Island. This was designed by Borggren, and was dedicated as part of the city centennial in 1935. The service was conducted by the Kenosha Advancement Association. A tribute was paid to Z. G. Simmons and his descendants; and a memorial plaque was placed at the foot of the flagpole.

Trees were planted in the Civic Center, replacements in Lincoln and other parks. Work began to clear the beaches from stones. The park director had charge of the municipal garden plans of the depression, when many lots were offered and there was a great demand.

The park area in the center of 56th St. was extended to 13th Ave. as the street was widened, and the council held that parking space was not needed. The North side Advancement Association demanded improvements in Washington Park and appointed a committee to work on their futherance, in 1933. The Alford Parkway was dedicated with a parade and other features, in Aug. 1934. The cost: $157,567. 24. A. H. Lance had helped with the purchase; Federal funds and some cost to the city were involved.

Water Department: In 1922 the old water commission management was discontinued and this came under the direction of the city manager. That year Mr. Osborn reported that about 27% of the water pumped through the mains could not be accounted for, and asked to have the Pitometer Co. make a survey, the cost to be limited to $5,000 and he was given power to act.

Council action in Nov. 1924, provided that the department be given $1. per capita for fire protection service. During the intervening years, the demand for water had increased to such an extent that Mr. Osborn was given authority to have plans and estimates prepared for additions to the plant. These were drawn for a clear water storage basin underground with a 2 1/2 million gallon capacity, adjacent to the pumping plant, this to increase the reserve capacity for water. O'Dea & Shafer of Madison, Wis. were awarded the contract.

At about the same time, Mr. Osborn again asked to employ the Pitometer Co., this time to make a survey to determine the size of mains, the survey to cost $2,800. He was authorized to employ them.

No addition to filters had been made since the plant was erected, but it was needed, and in 1927 the City Manager asked to have Alvord, Burdick & Howsen make plans, and that a plant be erected in 1928. Authority was given, and the contract was let to the Universal Construction Co., the Roberts Filter Mfg. Co., and, for the tank and tower, to the Chicago Bridge & Iron Works. This added a unit with a capacity of six million gallons, which then gave a daily capacity of 14,000,000 gallons, with a total of 12 filters: 5,187,360 gallons were pumped daily. In 1929, City Manager O'Brien asked for the purchase of a low lift pump. The bid of E. E. Lee Co. representative of the Manistee Iron Works, was accepted. The cost was $4,825. A little later he engaged Alvord, Burdick & Howsen to prepare plans for a mixing and settling basin.

In 1931 a question arose as to the location of the water tower for emergency storage west of the city. The School Board gave permission for its location on the northwest corner of the Hannan School site, on a space 85' x 85', and 25' back from the street. It was decided that this was not sufficient space and Mr. O'Brien recommended the purchase of .72 acres for $720, on the Hannan farm to provide a site for the 2 3/4 million gallon standpipe. A further conference was held with the school board to see if more land might be available on the Hannan School site.

As a result, the Board dedicated to the city of Kenosha a tract from the School site 95' on 58th St. and 150' along the west line of the school property for the water tower and booster pump, with the proviso that when a school is built on the site an ornamental fence shall be erected around the plot.

The contract was let and R. J. Eckenrode Co. constructed the standpipe foundation and the booster pump station; the Graver Tank & Mfg. Corp. constructed and erected the standpipe; the Aurora Pump Co. manufactured and delivered a motor driven centrifugal pumping unit. This standpipe was approved and accepted May 20, 1935.

As a part of the PWA project, permission was granted Willowbrook Sanitarium to connect with the city water system.

In 1935 there were 4 pumps, 12 filters, 122.3 miles of water mains, 977 hydrants. The valuation was fixed at $2,151,417.

The Churches grew with the growing city, not only those that had been a part of its life for many years but also others. The Presbyterian denomination had remained away from Kenosha because of an old agreement with the Congregational church, now it came, formed a congregation and erected a small building that later was to be replaced by a better brick structure. Small groups were formed or developed from earlier beginnings, - the Seventh Day Adventists, the Bahais, the Four Square Gospel and others.

The Park Avenue (now First) Methodist Church had the largest congregation of that denomination in the State and rebuilt because of need for room. The Simmons homestead at 60th St. and Sheridan Road was purchased and the present structure erected by the Immel Co. in 1928. Mrs. Z. G. Simmons gave $50,000 toward the building in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emory L. Grant, long-time devoted members. The building was dedicated Dec. 29, 1929. The west-side mission or Church School plant on 32nd Ave. built about 1917, also grew.

In the Spring of 1923 St. Paul's Swedish Lutheran Church erected a building at 26th Ave. and Roosevelt Road. At first it had met at various places in the 1890's, then at 55th St. and 16th Avenue.

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church was dedicated Oct. 9, 1927, at 6704 30th Ave. St. John's Slovak Lutheran Church, 3833 8th Ave. was formally dedicated in a week long ceremony on the 30th anniversary of its founding.

The St. James Parochial school burned in December, 1923. A new building was erected at once. In May, 1925, a fire occurred again that threatened to destroy the school building, and did great damage. The corner stone for an addition to St. Casimirs was laid in Sept. 1925, this provided an auditorium and classrooms. Bids were received for St. Anthony's Church at 5116 22nd Ave. and the church erected.

The Holy Rosary rebuilt at 45th and 22nd Ave. as the old church was in the path of a street widening project, in 1929. Mrs. Alford gave the site, 450' x 200' from the Ludwig tract previously purchased by the late Mr. Alford. In Nov. 1931 the corner stone was laid, with Archbishop Stritch there and was dedicated in August, 1932. The street was not widened and the old church is still in use as Mt. Carmel. St. Mary's Catholic Church and school were also dedicated by Archbishop Stritch.

The Salvation Army Citadel was dedicated in Nov., 1925. The organization was doing a great work under Field Major Williamson. It had a class of over 600 boys and girls "who were instructed in the care of body and soul". Hundreds were given aid and helped to find employment. The Community Chest made much of this work possible.

The Beth Hillel Temple and Young Men's Hebrew Association purchased the E. Simmons property at 8th Ave. and 61st St. as a site for building in 1925, and it was soon completed. The Christian Scientists also began to work for a building on 8th Ave. a short distance north of 61st St., in 1927.

The old Russian Church, built in 1912, was no longer adequate and plans were made for a new one at 4304 17th Ave. The St. Nicholas Russian Church celebrated its completion in May, 1924. Another group of seven families organized in 1918, rebuilt an old building at 6634 16th Ave. as the Russian Christian Church. They gave over 2,000 hours of volunteer labor. It was dedicated in Nov., 1931.

The churches of Kenosha celebrated the city's 100th anniversary in 1935 with services in their own buildings. This culminated with open air services at Simmons Island Park on June 27th, in commemoration of the first religious service here; 20,000 attended the two services, the one Protestant, the other Catholic.

Varied recreational and amusement features changed somewhat during this period. Some local groups brought outstanding talent at times. Fine concerts with nationally or world known artists continued, sponsored by Mrs. Simmons and Mrs. Lance. Sir Harry Lauder, Dusolina Giannini, Alfred Cortet, Albert Spaulding, Tito Scipa and others came. Forum series of several numbers were brought by interested citizens, with talent like Admiral Byrd, MacMillan, Amelia Erhart, Lloyd Douglas, Norman Thomas and others who discussed topics of general interest. The Simco Band not only gave fine programs but also brought excellent outside talent, as did the Ke-Nash-a Club. A Chautauqua was here for five days in 1929, brought by the Optomist Club. Its large tent was located at 75th St. and 22nd Ave. (Former ones had been on the old High School grounds.) The Haresfoot Club from the U. of W. was popular for a number of years. A hobby show was an annual and well patronized event at the KYF for several seasons.

The Community players were organized as a kind of Little Theatre with Fred Congdon, director, in 1923.

The American Legion provided a variety of popular amusements, such as an historical pageant of the community's story. Later, a Midway with a carnival and novelty features as part of a water frolic, was held at the bathing beach during the week of July 4, 1927, with dancing and fireworks. These Frolics became annual affairs. One year, old automobiles were featured, another year, aviation, with 60 planes. In 1935, an aerial show, with stunts, was sponsored at the local airport.

Baseball gained in popularity. A plan for a semi-professional baseball team was proposed by Nash, a field and support was offered. The bicycle track at Washington Bowl was dedicated with a big parade and bicycle races early in July, 1927. Soon the Kenosha Advancement Association was hard at work to get the National Bicycle races here in 1930.

But perhaps the greatest activity centered around the movie theatres. The Saxe Amusement Co. purchased the Rhode Theatre property, wrecked the building and erected a half-million dollar structure, the Gateway, thereon in 1926. The Burke Theatre, later the Cameo, (now 618-20 56th St.) that had been gutted by fire, was rebuilt in the Spring of 1926. The Gateway, beautifully decorated was opened with a big celebration in Sept. 1927. Talking movies were an innovation that year. In addition to the Majestic at 5709 6th Ave., the Butterfly, 4902 7th Ave. and the Orpheum, completed in 1922 at a cost of $500,000 that were erected prior to this period, there was the Columbia opened in 1922 at 908 63rd St., the Vogue, at 1820 52nd St., in 1925; the Lincoln at 6921 14th Ave., The Roosevelt at 2900 Roosevelt Ave. built in 1927-8 and the Kenosha, another costly structure, also built in 1928. But the depression hit these theatres and many including the Kenosha, the Gateway

and the Orpheum, were closed by March, 1933. The Orpheum reopened in April, however.

The Kenosha Recreation Department played an important part when the depression stopped many amusements. Under its direction a play program was organized for CWA workers, schools were open three nights a week. A Music Festival was held for city and county in May, 1931, and was so enthusiastically received that the Kenosha News Organization decided to sponsor a Civic Chorus.

In General: The Council planned to go ahead with the extensive paving program that had been started. But when the election brought a change in government, contracts were not given the low bidders on the work prior to the election. The Mayor opposed any last minute action by the old council, but chose to leave the new one free to act without embarrassment. And now, after the delay caused by the war, the city could go ahead with the practice of laying gas, sewer and water in advance of the paving.

The five man council elected that Spring (1922) was composed of W. H. Alford, H. E. Barden, John Burns, Robert Nicoll and Otto Scholer. At the organization meeting, Mr. Alford was unanimously named as president of the Council. At that meeting, the outgoing Mayor said in his farewell speech when he turned the administration over to his successors, that his ambition had been to put Kenosha on the map as a progressive city. He called attention to some of the recent achievements: the Main Street Bridge completed, the outer breakwaters built, miles of underground work and paving done, and a balance left in the treasury. The Council accepted resignations of four Boards, The Water, the Park, The Health and the Police and Fire. These Boards had rendered the city most excellent service, but resigned to give the incoming city manager a free hand. The five man council carried on the city's business until September before they appointed a city manager. A flock of applicants (28) wished to come, but one by one failed to win consideration until C. M. Osborn, city manager at E. Cleveland, Ohio, was chosen.

Prior to that the Council had fixed salaries for the incoming officials. The City manager was to receive $8,000, his clerk $1,800, the director of finance, $3,600, deputies $2,500; director of public works, $4,000, city engineer, $3,000, inspection department $2,400, health department directory $3,300, Outdoor relief director, $3,000, parks superintendent $2,700, laboratory chemist $3,000. This was in the main something of an increase over former salaries. When later on the salary of the city manager was raised to $8,500, he was rated as the highest paid head executive of any city in the state.

The avowed object of the government was a financial saving all along the line, one method, the avoidance of interest charges by discontinuance of bond issues. Some changes were made in requirements, etc. and paving was done at a lower figure than formerly. That summer the city assessor raised property valuations 12 1/2%.

City Engineer Brennan resigned to go into his own private business. R. M. Smith, the assistant engineer, replaced him.

The city plan Board was active and stressed a civic center. This soon became one of the main projects. The plan had changed from the earlier idea of, as a beauty spot, an ornamental grass, tree and shrub planting down the center strip of Market Square, for an approach to well planned public buildings. Harland Bertholamew, famous planner from St. Louis, was engaged to direct city planning and at once advised devoting an entire city block to this purpose. Block 34 of the Original Plat of Southport was the one selected, then mainly residential. The County Board by this time had decided to erect the new courthouse on the block to the south, had

options on property, and plans were nearly completed, but it agreed to cooperate with the city and defer action. The school board was investigating sites for the much needed new high school building. It sought a site further west, thus nearer the center of population. On the advice of the city planner, it was decided to place the new school on the block proposed for the court house. Mr. Jornt of the Board objected, he felt that the high school should not be confined to one block of land. The city was to procure the block north of Block 34 for the courthouse, at the northwest corner of Sheridan Road and 56th St. Widening of Sheridan Road and 56th St. were part of the project. The school and courthouse were to be of the same style and color.

It was a "boom time" or the cost might well have staid the plan. The city then had to go to court and condemn property for the new court house; - the old coliseum and three houses cost $56,000, one home $17,000 the entire cost of the block was $279,800. The sale price showed an increase over the assessed valuation of from 179% to 355%. The block designed for the school cost $94,450, there was about $10,800. salvage from sale of the houses. The civic center block proved to be almost equally as costly (1924). One lot facing Sheridan Road brought $35,000, the old house, then occupied by the telephone company, at the corner of Sheridan Road and 56th St. sold for $65,088.38, one adjoining for $61,000, another for $21,000, and there were several that proved less expensive.

In addition, the city offered to buy the old jail and sheriff's quarters and the municipal court building (now the police department building and garage) to keep for the civic center plan. It also acquired the oil filling station to the west for use in the municipal site, this was appraised at $91,017 the city offered $60,000, and eventually obtained it for less.

Sheridan Road, from 60th St. north to 52nd and 56th St. from 8th Ave. to 13th Ave. were widened as a part of this project, which of course required the removal or destruction of some buildings. Many property owners protested.

The County Board had agreed upon a $500,000 bond issue in March, 1922. When at last the County was ready to proceed with building, bonds sold at a premium (Oct. 1923). Lindl, Lesser & Shutte prepared plans for the building at the new site. The Hutter Construction Co. of Fond du Lac was awarded the contract, but work on the section for the jail and sheriff's offices was started first as the entire site was not yet secured. The first earth for the new courthouse was turned by A. H. Lance at 11:00 a. m. March 5, 1923, with 200 onlookers. William E. O'Brien was appointed to superintend the construction.

Commander Boyington of the GAR placed the corner stone. It contained the history of the new buildings, pictures of Civil War and World War I veterans of the county. Judge R. V. Baker presided as master of ceremonies; E. T. O'Brien of the U. S. National Bank gave the address at a dinner preceeding. Over 40 officials and leading men from Racine attended (Nov. 1923). Work on the building had been delayed until September because of the failure to secure the land sooner, then the Contractor asked $54,000 damages because of the impossibility of proceeding on time.

The Court house was dedicated August 25, 1925. The moving from the old to the new was done on Saturday and Sunday, although some offices had partly moved prior to this. The city took over the old buildings as fast as they were vacated. The design of the beautiful mural painting "In Memoriam" on the third floor landing by W. DaLefivich was on display at the Brooklyn Museum, N. Y. in Feb. 1924.

The County Clerk, Charles Holderness was appointed postmaster and the deputy, Miss Iva Russell, became his successor by appointment.

A Zoning Ordinance was proposed. In a city-wide check-up, 129 buildings that failed to conform to this were listed, but many were old and would not be molested (April, 1923). Hearings in regard to the Ordinance were held and in Dec. it was passed. It included 30 pages. An arterial plan for the city was adopted (July, 1923).

It was possible that Kenosha might be included in the zoning plans of the Chicago Regional Planning Association that was to include about 4,000 square miles in three states. The County appointed a committee that, with Kenosha city delegates and officials, attended the meetings. Robert Kingery, secretary of the Chicago Regional Plan Association in charge of this movement to coordinate zoning movements in the great industrial district around Chicago in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana reported that Kenosha's rules and regulations suggested a pattern and paid tribute to J. M. Albers, Kenosha building inspector and secretary of the city plan commission, who represented Kenosha at a regional meeting (July, 1925). Later, H. Lawrence Hastings was elected vice president of this Association in 1925, and Judge Randall in 1927.

A big building program by private interests began. The Dayton Hotel was completed by 1925. The Moose Club awarded the contract to Lindl & Shutte for plans of their projected building at 56th St. and 10th Ave. (March 1926) and this was erected. The Kenosha National Bank Building was built in 1927. More property was annexed to the city, on the southwest, the O'Niel Subdivision and other land west of 39th Ave., also the Stahl & Farrell Subdivision (1925). This made possible the first link for the 120 foot boulevard projected by the Plan Commission.

Kenosha was still in need of a new post office. The city hoped to use the block where the post office and old courthouse stood, this would make possible the street widening project of 56th St. As Mr. Simmons was a personal friend of Secretary Mellon, he was asked to act as an emissary to urge the carrying out of the city plan (Jan. 1923). The Civic Council started a campaign for a new post office in Nov. 1925; the city manager was also working for it. The postal record was broken and the growth constant. Finally an agent of the U. S. Treasury Department, A. A. Packard, met with the city council regarding the site. He gave official notice that the Government was ready to proceed and the city was to secure the entire block at once, the city to share in the expense of the site, approximately $125,000. There were several dwellings and apartment buildings on the south half of the block (July, 1928). Again it became necessary to condemn two pieces of land (May, 1929). At last all was secured, and a building in keeping with the others facing the civic center was under way. This post office corner stone was laid Nov. 23, 1932. In the interest of economy the old equipment and furniture was to be used when possible (March, 1933).

Some postal stations were closed, under protest. A petition for the retention of the Hub Station brought information that it would be replaced by a postal station when the new post office was complete. In August came moving day at the new building. It was dedicated August 26, 1933. K. P. Aldrich, inspection chief of the Post Office Department spoke at the flag raising ceremony (1).

When the Courthouse was planned, a room was designated as a Relic or historical Room. The long talked-of organization of an Historical Society was then proposed and Director Joseph Schaefer of the State Historical Society came to Kenosha; the city manager became one of the organizers and the county board heartily cooperated (2). When the old post office became vacant this Society, with Mary D. Bradford, Rev. Carl Buenger, C. E. Dewey, Fred Becker, A. J. Tanck, H. M. Baldwin and others on its Board, requested that it be not wrecked, but moved to the west side of the civic center, to serve as an Historical Museum, as the room in the court

(1) Copy of speech on file in Historical Museum.
(2) Minutes of Kenosha Co. Historical Society. Tel. Courier, Dec. 16, 1926 and Jan. 6, 1927.

house had been outgrown long since. This was approved by the plan commission, and a group was named to devise ways and means of moving the building. The council adopted the plan to move it as a civic works project. The cost was estimated as about $12,000 to include the first payment on a site. An expert mover from Chicago supervised the moving; a citizens' committee advanced money in exchange for improvement bonds of equal par value. The Siebert Bill amending the Statutes was passed. This permitted cities of all classes to appropriate money for museum purposes.

Petitions from the Historical Society and a communication from the Civic Council that recommended the use of the old post office as a County Historical Museum were presented to the Council. Later four women's groups, the Woman's Club, the Catholic Woman's Club, the Business & Professional Women's Club and the College Club, the Board of the Congregational Church School and many others filed like petitions, hundreds of names appeared. A little later other petitions asking for this use of the building were filed. The building was moved successfully, but it was not given for the requested use, but for an Art and Natural History Museum, under a different board. The large collection in the Courthouse remained there.

In 1923 the Citizens Bank became a National bank known as the United States National Bank. The next year another, the Commercial Exchange Bank was organized, the older Merchants & Savings Bank and the United States National united, and the Brown National Bank was opened on west 63rd St. The First National took over the Commercial Exchange Bank in Oct., 1931. Then suddenly, in the Fall of 1932 the United States National was closed and a receiver named. Efforts were made, but in vain, to have this bank reopened. In March 1933 all banks were closed briefly by Government order.

As early as 1923 the Council favored the renaming and renumbering of streets and buildings. This was recommended and worked for by the Civic Council and the American Legion, the latter suggested a plan, An Ordinance regarding this change was submitted in 1925, and a public hearing held. The plan was to give names alphabetically. Very little interest was manifested. Later another method, whereby streets would receive consecutive numbers as names in both directions, won more approval, was adopted and all streets were renamed. Houses were also renumbered, through the city engineer's office, which was swamped!

The city planner came again in 1924 and recommended plans for recreation, etc. for the next 25 years; also that new factories come. He declared the present harbor to be inadequate, and advised that it be developed. An appropriation of $70,000 was asked for the harbor. There had been a revival of shipping during the preceeding five years. The U. S. Government was willing to cede back a 15 foot strip deeded to the Government in 1899 when the city wanted to lease a dock to a shipping concern, but the appropriation apparently was not made. In 1925 only $8,000 was asked for, and that was not given. But the following year $5,000 was given as the harbor appropriation. In 1928, $6,000 was given. A light put into commission on the north pier and a pier marker built at the South pier. In 1923 the city dock was leased to the Tri-state Steamship Co. and big steamers were to stop twice weekly on the way to Buffalo.

In March, 1934, a Harbor Board was created and appointed: R. S. Kingsley, W. W. Vincent, G. H. Buenger, Capt. W. G. Barnett, A. C. Grosvenor, Howard Dennis, Floyd Carlson, and R. M. Smith, ex-officio. It had membership in the Great Lakes Harbor Association. In 1934 Julius Goldstein was president. The harbor plans were revised, and a new concrete super-structure at the south pier completed by G. A. Green Construction Co. The Government appropriated $6,000 for harbor maintenance, A yacht basin was dredged north of the 50th Street bridge, and a new coast guard station built to replace the one that had been in use for 54 years. In

the Spring of 1935 a harbor appropriation of $31,000 was made for the purpose of widening the harbor to 200 feet, dredging to 21 feet, and deepening the turning basin below the 6th Ave. bridge to 21 feet. A soil slippage rendered the 50th Street bridge to the Island unsafe. It was closed to traffic, and the 45th St. crossing used until repairs could be made (July, 1935).

Traffic and transportation troubles increased. Petitions were received for more bus service, and the city street car service was to be extended, the interurban service improved and fares reduced in 1923. The North Shore Road ran a bus line to Lake Geneva. It was estimated that 50,000 persons rode the busses weekly, but the company laid off six cars and 15 employees in 1924 because of the heavy fall off of use for several months, their records showed a drop of 2,800. A new Ordinance permitted the 58th Street car loop and relieved the congestion of 59th St. (1926). As a bit of the modern trend - an Ordinance was passed to regulate air traffic - at least it forbade trick flying over the city! (July, 1927) And a survey was made for a municipal airport. The city manager and civic leaders urged this. The MRK purchased a private route and planned to elevate its tracks inside the city, thus removing them from the public highway (1930). In 1931 fire swept the local airfield with a loss of $21,000. Six planes and the hangar were burned. No water was available (Jan. 1931). It was rebuilt in 1931.

Work was started on trackless trolley lines, and poles were being set in 1931. Busses were to replace the trolleys on some streets. The first trolleys were here in Feb. 1932.

As early as 1923 business men petitioned for the removal of grass and flower plots from the center of Market Square to make room for automobile parking. The plan commission advised retaining these. A new parking area was established at the foot of 58th St. Petitions also asked for grass plots in the center of 56th St. from 8th Ave. to 13th Ave.

There were many accidents along the Chicago & Northwestern right of way. Several points were termed "Death crossings" as these continued. In 1929 five young people were killed and several others injured at the 75th St. railroad crossing. All were members of prominent families of the city, and leaders in high school activities (1929). Pressure on the Railroad Company for elevation finally resulted in its endorsement of the plan at a hearing. The order to elevate had been given in 1919 and there were some changes necessary in street openings (1930). In 1931 some work was in progress, but the Railroad sought to delay the elevation and hearings were held (1932). The city fought against any further extension of the delay (1933) but the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin granted a two year delay in the completion of the elevation. The contract was awarded for the elevation at the close of 1935. The President of the Company offered to build a subway for foot passengers under 30th Ave., the city was to erect approaches. No easements could be obtained at Norman Ave.

In 1924 the Wis. Conference of Social Work sponsored a year long contest for "The Better City" of Wisconsin. The Civic Council of Kenosha entered into this heartily and the city won first place among the 14 cities that contested for the title. It ranked first in recreation, city planning, library, public adminstration, individual health, social welfare, but only third in education, second in religion and eighth in rural relations. It has prided itself on the title "The Better City" ever since.

In addition to its work on this contest the Civic Council organized a public safety council, with a safety drive that appointed a citizen member in each ward. It held a series of talks on Civic Betterment, and recommended more play (or recreation) in life. It also asked that the city be redistricted into twelve wards (1925). In 1926 this was done, with two precincts in each ward. The Civic Council later began a

campaign against the amount of smoke in the city (1926).

In 1927 Dr. N. A. Pennoyer donated property on 7th Ave. as a home for the aged, and a corporation was organized to handle it. And about that time C. F. Brooker of the American Brass Co. willed $10,000 to the YMCA. After this a well organized YMCA Board had a survey made that showed a great need for work. Soon Mr. Nash offered a conditional gift for a building - he promised a gift of $400,000 if a similar sum be raised by all other Kenoshans for that purpose, a building that must be open to all. Teams were named for the drive, four in number, labeled Y and M and C and A respectively, and an option was taken on property facing Library Park. The drive raised $407,285 (May, 1928). In 1935 Mr. Nash gave $35,000 for this project to clear the capital debt that had arisen from a failure to collect pledges and from an increase in building costs, etc. The new building opened with great crowds attending during the fifteen days' activities, November 15 to November 30, 1930.

The street widening projects went forward. The council traded tracts of land with the Bain Co. and received two valuable pieces in exchange for the old Cudahy property near the bridge. This saved expense in the Sheridan Road widening (1926). The 56th St. widening was completed in 1931 with a formal opening and the widening of 7th Ave. from 56th St. to the river was under way. In spite of protests the street widening project for 22nd Ave. had gone forward, hearings were held and reviews asked. By 1929 the street was widened to 60 feet between 60th St. and 64th St. and the contract awarded for repaving. Later the Circuit Court fixed damages on this where cases had been appealed to the Court after the findings of the commission were known.

In one of the wildest storms to occur on Lake Michigan the SS Wisconsin sank off shore Oct. 29, 1929, with a loss of 16 lives. The lake shore was strewn with debris. Shortly before the car ferry Milwaukee also sank off shore, of it only bodies and wreckage were left. And again waves eroded great pieces of the shore line to the south.

All had not gone smoothly with the new form of government - there were some who wished to return to the older form and in the Spring of 1926 filed a recall petition with 2,450 names. Debates were held on the issue and the election resulted in a defeat of the recall by 872 votes. Another recall petition came in 1928 and open meetings were held. This time the city manager was retained by 1,267 votes. Next there was an attempt to change the council to 12 members, one from each ward. Another recall petition was filed in 1931 and another in 1934, that had an insufficient number of signatures - and irregularities were charged. Additional papers were filed, then a headquarters was opened and a campaign started to keep the manager form. This time it won by a small majority - 215. A petition for another recall was granted in 1935.

In the meantime there had been changes in personnel. Mr. Osborn resigned in 1928, and William E. O'Brien, a local man, succeeded him. In 1933 Mr. O'Brien resigned to take a position with the State Highway Department. Harold Laughlin, a former Simmons Company employee who had been Director of Finance for the city was named to replace him, and A. E. Axtell became director of finance.

By the end of 1935 finances were at a low ebb. Taxes had been high, now people on relief could not pay. It had been necessary to issue bonds through the years to finance school and water department enlargements, the new court house, etc. There had been a two million dollar drop in tax valuation (1932). In 1933 the city issued $174,500 in refunding bonds to raise funds to retire the bonds due that year. The county board authorized a $500,000 bond issue because of lack of tax money (Aug. 1933). And any end to the depression was not in sight! At the close of 1935 the

city issued corporate purpose notes as a means of restoring reductions of salaries for city employees. A seven member industrial board was established to endeavor to bring industries here.

The Centennial celebration was a bright spot that year, with various features under the planning committee consisting of Mrs. Mary D. Bradford, C. E. Dewey and J. D. Rosenblum. A pageant, prepared by the Samuel B. Rogers Company was the outstanding feature. About 20,000 attended the opening at Washington Bowl. Governor Phillip LaFollette was the speaker on Centennial Sunday.

The 1930 census gave the Kenosha population as 50,262 an increase of 24%; with county, 62,951, number of foreign born 20,520.

APPENDIX

THE LATER YEARS

1936-1957

(In Brief)

Kenosha began to see a slight improvement, its wage scale was still the highest in the state, but work was not plentiful. Just how much the city had been affected was indicated by the 1940 U. S. census. The population was 48,765, a loss of 3% - the first time in the history of the city that it had not shown some gain each ten year period.

It lost some of its good industries. In 1938, facing difficulty in competing with southern industries, the Hannahs Co. closed. Later, the Samuel Lowe Company occupied its plant. Roger Kimball had planned for enlargement of plant and increased employment at the Allen A, died suddenly in 1934. The plant soon seemed to operate with diminishing profits, and in 1938, it too, left Kenosha to join with its Bennington, Vt. factory. A Citizens' Committee endeavored to reorganize a company to keep the factory here in operation. The RFC would advance $400,000 provided that $150,000 was raised locally. This was done and work began to some extent. Cooper's changed styles and types of products from time to time and now have a world-wide market. But super-heated homes and warm automobiles have affected both plants as people have changed from a maximum to a minimum of clothing worn the year round.

With the death of Charles Anderson the Specialty Brass discontinued. The Tri-Clover, Wisconsin Oxygen-Hydrogen Co. and the Dynamatic have become branches of other, larger concerns that have tended to draw many men of executive calibre away from Kenosha.

With the beginning of hostilities in World War II factory wheels began to speed up, as demands came for products, the story of World War I was repeated, with a tremendous demand for help, an acute housing shortage and the throwing of all energies, both of production and manpower into the will to win after the United States became involved in the conflict. Later peacetime production was almost as heavy to meet the demands created by years of scarcity through the depression, followed by the deflection of industry into war production. All of the larger plants and many small ones were engaged in the making of war materials nearly 100%.

During the late 1930's many forfeited their homes because of inability to keep up monthly payments on the HOLC loans with resultant foreclosures. Following the war, a great building program tried to meet the demands of the long period through depression and war when practically no building was done. As new streets filled with homes, the city was busy with the necessary improvements. To meet the demand, additional filters were installed for the water department. These now number 16, with 1,436 miles of water mains and 1,180 fire hydrants. A new fire engine house was erected on the edge of Washington Park, on Washington Road and 22nd Ave.

Schools were again swamped and a new building program began. Additions were built at several of the older schools. New buildings are the Sunnyside, Southport, Wilson and Forest Park. The Holy Rosary and St. Marks built parochial elementary schools, and the St. Joseph's high school, a huge building, should serve the city for many years to come. The Recreation Department continued to do excellent and expanding service. The Mental Hygiene program was finally adopted. The Simmons Co. gave the city a part of the Simmons ball Park on S. Sheridan Road. Both hospitals enlarged, then enlarged again. The YMCA became the KYF.

Unions grew through the busy war years and the hard days of the depression from a small organization of six unions to a strong one with 40 locals in 1936 and 54 in 1948. Of these 46 were A. F. L. and 8 C. I. O., the Nash being the merger of both. The two worked together in cooperation and harmony. The avowed purpose was to organize and educate the workers and secure for them social and economic independence.

In 1941 City Manager Laughlin resigned, under pressure, and LeRoy Wolfe, who had taught in the Kenosha High School for 10 years, and who was also an attorney, replaced him for a year - a stormy one. There were factions among the populace and dissension in the city hall. For the first time in the city's history, the city employees struck and the Hall was picketed. Mr. Wolfe resigned at the end of a year, and James Wallace, a graduate engineer, who had had ten years experience as a city manager, replaced him, with varying success.

In 1946, a local man was again appointed, A. E. Axtell, who had won popular acclaim in his work with the National Guard both during and following the war. Again there seemed to be corrupt politics, and again there was a Grand Jury investigation. It did not result in many convictions, but there were resignations, among them that of Mr. Axtell, and some cases that just drifted into oblivion without further notice.

In 1952 Richard H. Custer, a young man well qualified was brought here from the East to assume the difficult and responsible position, to find that again the city employees were threatening to strike. This was averted. Other changes were made, an improved Milk Ordinance was passed, a full time physician became head of the health department, the zoning ordinance was revised. The health department received the highest score in the state for its milk inspection program. Free polio shots were given. A section of the large storm sewer south of 75th St., that had been foretold as a necessary part of the system adopted many years ago was built along 80th St. Benjamin Seal, experienced engineer, became city engineer.

The Kenosha Housing Authority was moved and segregated financially from other city funds to build up a city hall fund which has now reached a considerable amount. Some years ago following the recommendation of the Civic Council, parking meters were installed. The revenues from these are now segregated in a special fund.

A year of high taxes brought about another recall election - this time it won by a small majority. In the Spring of 1958 a mayor and alderman will be elected once more.

Now there is a question in regard to Kenosha's future. Changes seem to be taking place, or about to take place, in some of its vital industries. There are dissensions among different groups, there is a trend toward a promotion of higher educational facilities. What lies ahead, only the future can tell. World problems have so altered, that minds are bewildered and standards are giving way everywhere.

Kenosha has met many problems, many have been well solved, others not so well, many are still to find solution, others loom ahead. The very life-stream of the city may depend upon a wise and sound development of its social, economic and industrial opportunities. If unwisely met - What? If wisely, the words of Z. G. Simmons in 1925 may well be a prophecy for the future:

"You can't down Kenosha. The old home town is bound to rise and rise so rapidly that we old timers will marvel all the more. The progress and growth of the city in the past few years has been remarkable, and it will continue to grow and progress. May the blessings that have been brought to the community by a public spirited citizenry continue to be showered upon you forever and ever."

VILLAGE PRESIDENTS, CITY MAYORS AND MANAGERS

Presidents

Michael Frank, First president, 1841		
William Bullen	1842	
John W. McKoy	1843	1847
Sereno Fisk	1844	1845
Theodore Newell	1846	
Michael Holmes	1848	
William S. Strong	1849	1850 until April election of Mayor

Mayors

Michael Frank: 1850 - 51 Newspaper editor, member of territorial and state legislatures, held many public offices, pioneered in free public schools of Wisconsin.

David C. Gaskell: 1851 - 52 Commission dealer in coal and wood.

Charles C. Sholes: 1852 - 56 Member of Territorial and State Legislature, active in obtaining passage of law prohibiting capital punishment in Wisconsin.

Volney Hughes: 1856 - 57 Brewer

George H. Paul: 1857 - 59 Postmaster, Publisher Kenosha Democrat, 1853.

Asheal Farr: 1859 - 60; 1864 - 65; 1871 - 74; 1877 - 79. Physician and surgeon. Owner of Union Drug Store, member of State Assembly, 1872, of Senate 1876, president of Board of Education several terms.

Isaac W. Webster: 1860 - 61; 1868 - 69; 1874 - 75. Attorney, County Judge, Editor of "Kenosha Union", a Kenosha newspaper.

Milton H. Pettit: 1861 - 62; 1865 - 66; 1867 - 69; 1870 - 71. Owner Pettit Malting Co., State Senator, Lt. Governor of Wisconsin.

Frederick Robinson: 1862 - 64; 1869-70; 1879 - 80. Druggist, member of State Legislature, County Board, Alderman.

Dennis J. Hynes: 1866 - 67. Colonel in Civil War. Erected and operated cooper shop. One of Park City Greys. Made Brevet Col. for bravery.

O. G. King: 1875 - 76. Merchant, Alderman, Postmaster.

J. V. Quarles: 1876 - 77. Lieut. in Civil War, Attorney, Dist. Att'y., Supt. Public Instruction, Pres. Board of Education, member State Legislature, U. S. Senate, Judge.

A. C. Sinclair: 1880 - 81. Railroad Conductor, Pres. Board of Education, Supt. of N. W. Depot, Chicago, Ass't. Supt. Wisconsin Division C. & N. W. Railroad.

Henry Williams: 1881 - 83; 1889 - 90. Inventor and manufacturer of agricultural implements and croquet sets.

O. S. Newell: 1883 - 84, 1889 - 90. Quartermaster's Dept. under Gen. Grant, Merchant and industrialist.

Z. G. Simmons: 1884 - 85. Refinanced city debt. Industrialist, philanthropist, Head of Simmons Co., Northwestern Telegraph Co., with interest in other industries. Became nationally known.

Emory L. Grant: 1886 - 87. President of Kenosha Lumber Co., Supt. of City Schools.

C. F. Stemm: 1887 - 88. With Bain Wagon Co., Chief of Police, Alderman, known as "Father of City Water Works".

John B. Kupfer: 1890 - 91. Owner Kupfer Cracker Co. Alderman, Board of Co., Supervisors and Board of Education.

O. M. Pettit: 1891 - 94; 1898 - 99. Vice Pres. Pettit Malting Co.

William M. Farr: 1894 - 97. Physician, local surgeon for C. & N. W. Railroad.

Frank C. Culley: 1897 - 98. Editor of Kenosha Daily Gazette, author of novel popular in its day.

James Gorman: 1899 - 1902; 1904 - 08. Owner barber shop, alderman, water commissioner, postmaster.

Charles H. Pfennig: 1902 - 04; 1916 - 18. President Pfennig Grocery Co., Real Estate & Insurance, sheriff, state assemblyman.

Mathias J. Scholey: 1908 - 12; 1914 - 16. Liquor dealer, member of State Assembly.

Dan O. Head: 1912 - 14. Pres. Kenosha Lumber Co., Club leader, school commissioner.

John G. Joachim: 1918 - 22. Liquor dealer, alderman, later real estate.

City Managers

C. M. Osborn: 1922 - 28. Graduate and experienced engineer, had served as city manager, just previously at E. Cleveland, Ohio.

William E. O'Brien: 1928 - 33. Local man, graduate Marquette University, Engineering Dept. Had been ass't. city engineer, county surveyor, supt. for Co. on courthouse construction, member city plan commission.

Harold C. Laughlin: 1933 - 41. Local, accountant Simmons Co. Had been accountant other industrial firms, Director of Finance under Mr. Osborn for city.

LeRoy Wolfe: 1941 - 42. Teacher in local high school for 10 years, also attorney, part time. Graduate Ohio Wesleyan and Wisconsin Universities.

James Wallace: June 1942, Nov. 1, 1946. Graduate Engineer employed by industrial firms, was city manager, Bangor, Maine, 9 years, Wilmington, N. C. 1 year.

R. V. Baker: City attorney, was acting city manager from Nov. 1, 1946, to March 1947.

A. E. Axtell: 1947 - 52. Local man, commanding officer Headquarters Battery 126 Field Artillery, National Guard, World War II and after, Director of Finance of city for several years.

Richard H. Custer: 1952 - 57. Degrees from Amherst and Chicago University in Public Administration. City Manager of Windsor, Conn. and Fort Fairfield, Maine.

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Kenosha County Board Proceedings. Also in Pamphlet form
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Mms Old & New, Vols I and II
Crosit, D.
Kellogg, George
Ozanne, Mrs. M.
McVicker, Mrs. H.
VanAlstine, Mrs.
Williams, Henry
Ellsworth, Col. E. E. - Various writers' accounts
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Button & Co. on Fire Fighting Equipment, 1847
Dana, Martha 1836 ff
Shepherd, William 1860 - 64
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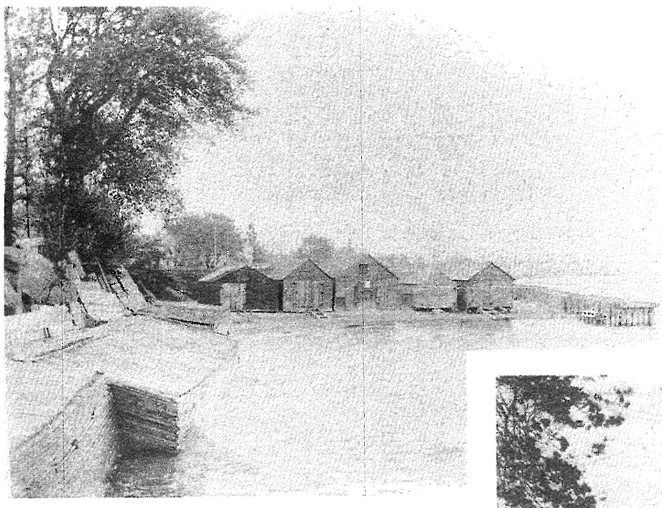
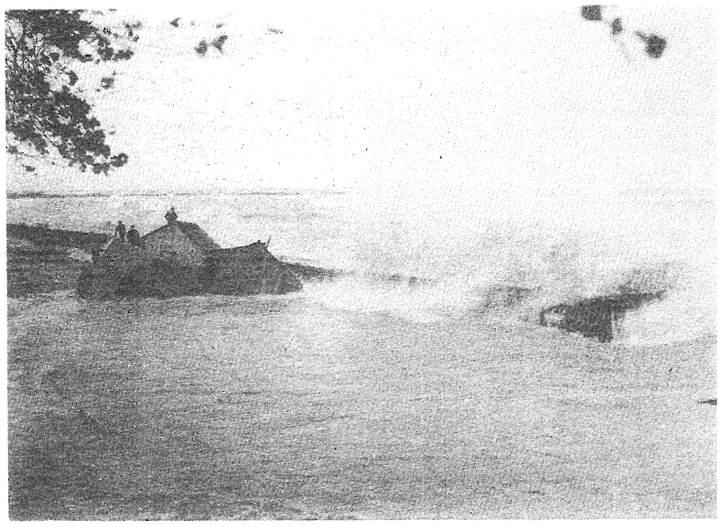
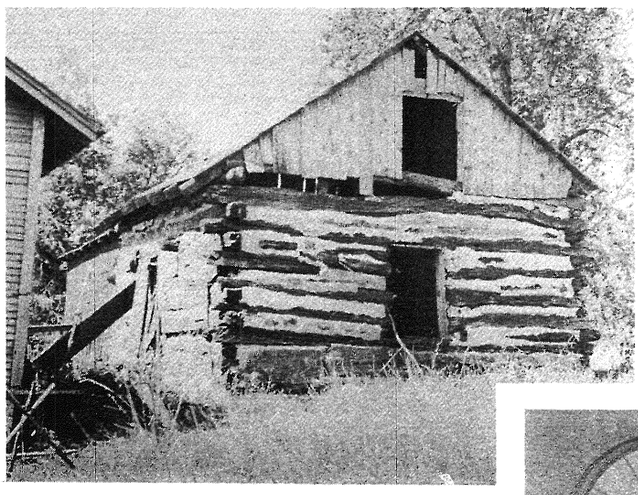
Kenosha Democrat
Kenosha Gazette
Kenosha Labor
Kenosha Telegraph
Kenosha Telegraph Courier
Kenosha Union
Rebellion Record 1861
Southport American
Southport Telegraph
The Courier
Wisconsin Magazine of History, Dec., 1943
Wisconsin Magazine of History, Summer, 1952



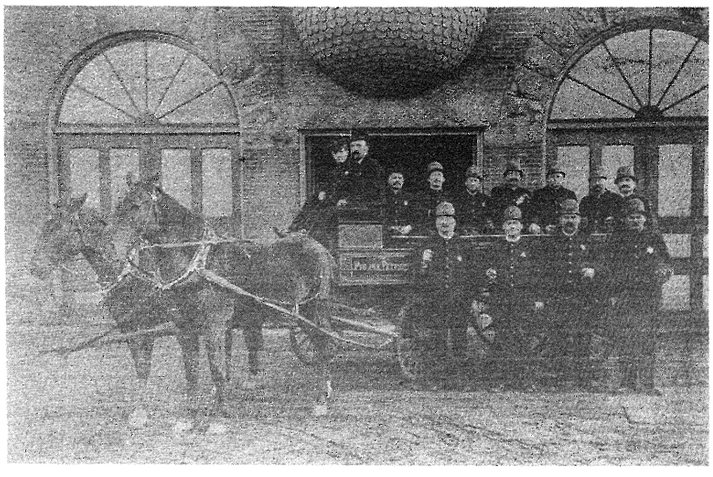
Before a Northeaster October, 1898

and After



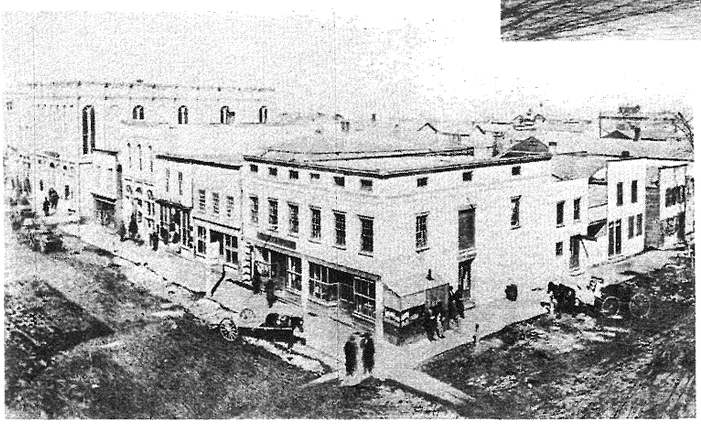


Pioneer Cabin



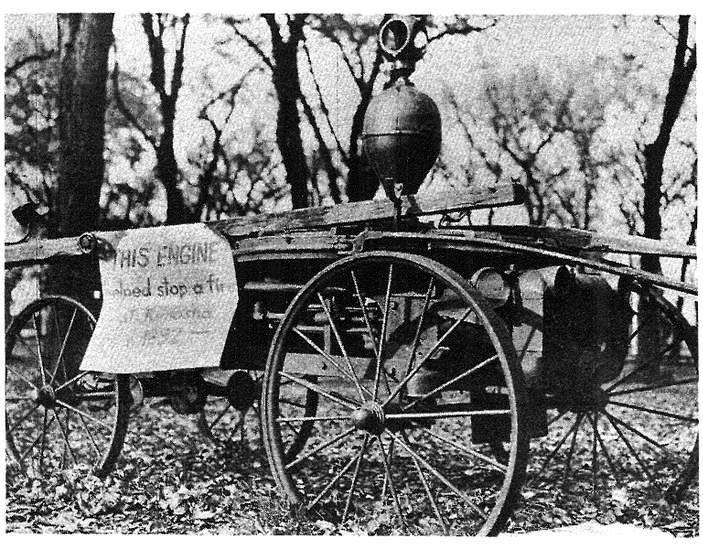
Early Fire Fighting Equipment

First High School Building - 1849

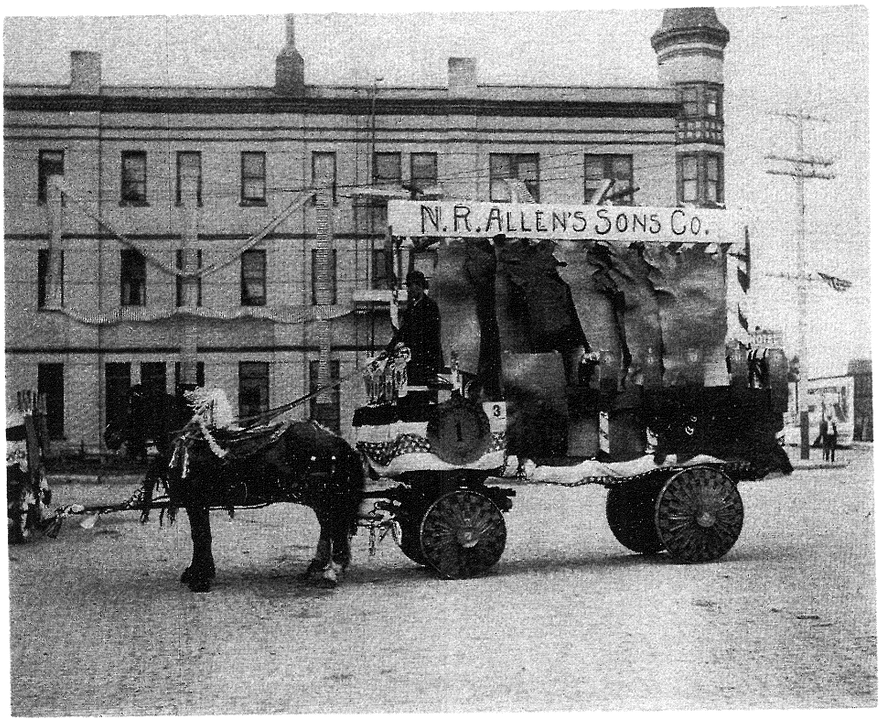


Downtown Kenosha - 1866

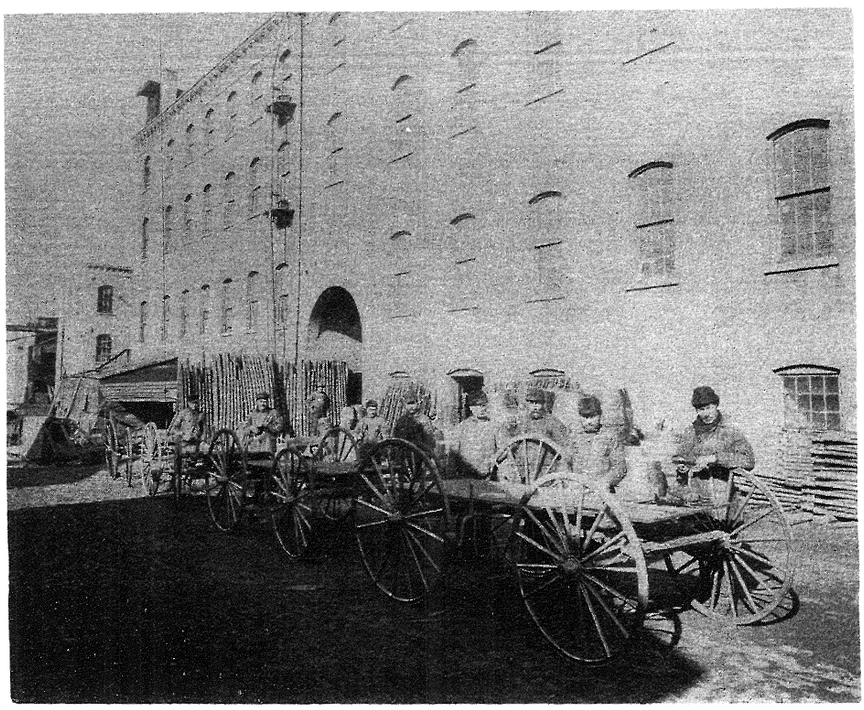
Durkee or Halliday Hotel after fire - 1871
(Site of Bode Bros.)



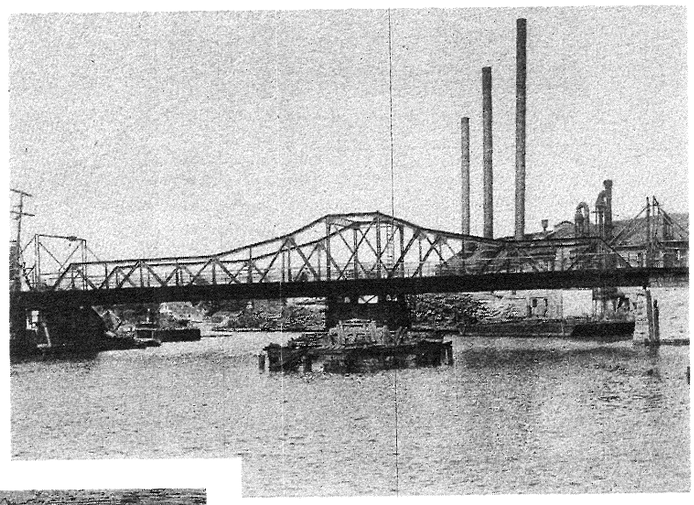
Early Fire Fighting Equipment



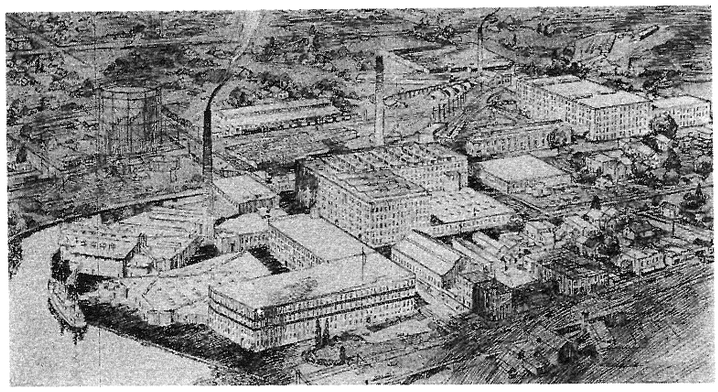
Product display - N. R. Allen's Sons Co.



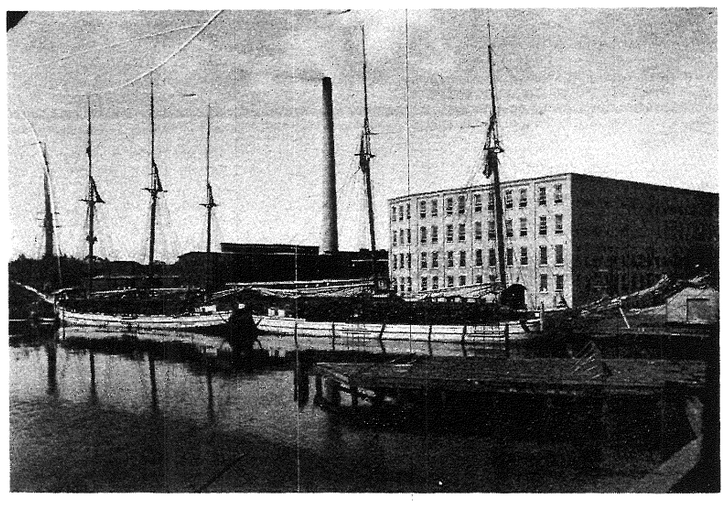
Bain Wagon Co.



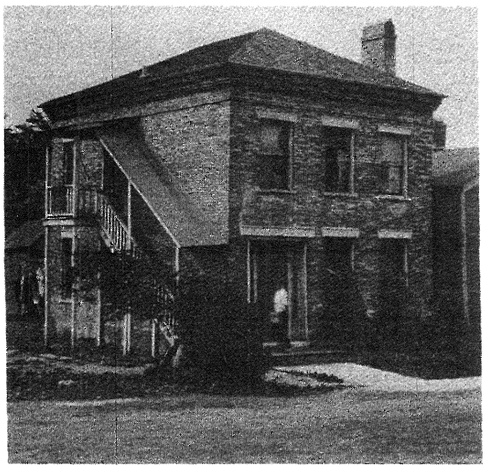
Old 6th Avenue Bridge



Birdseye View of N. R. Allen Tannery

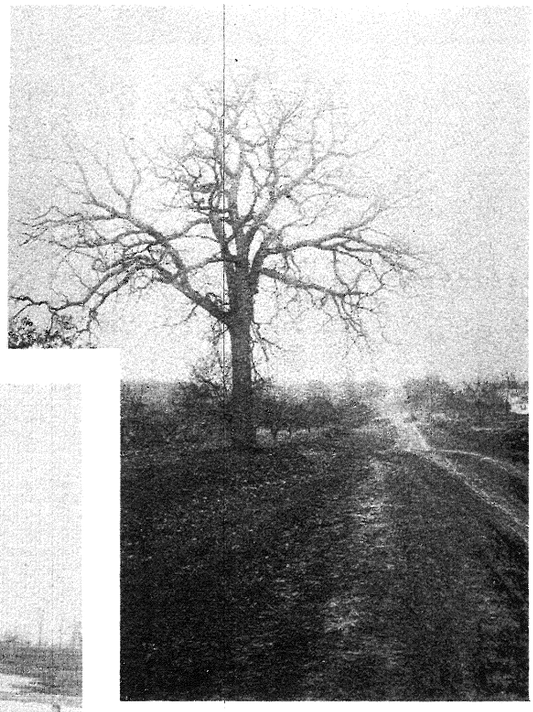


River West of 6th Avenue Bridge

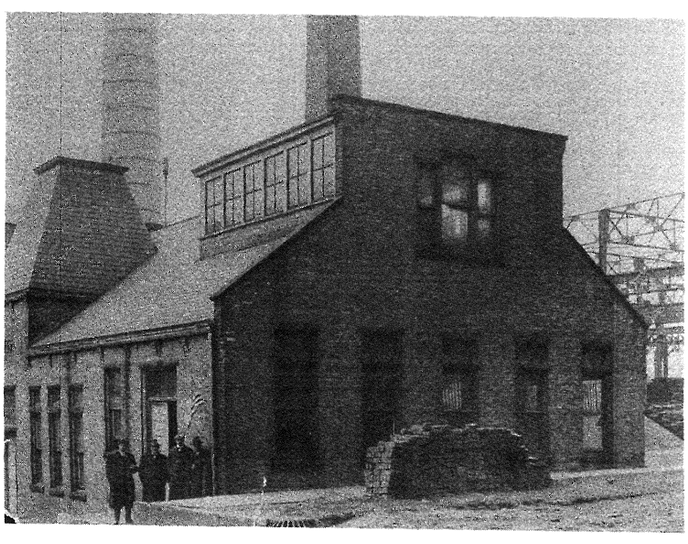


McCaffary House

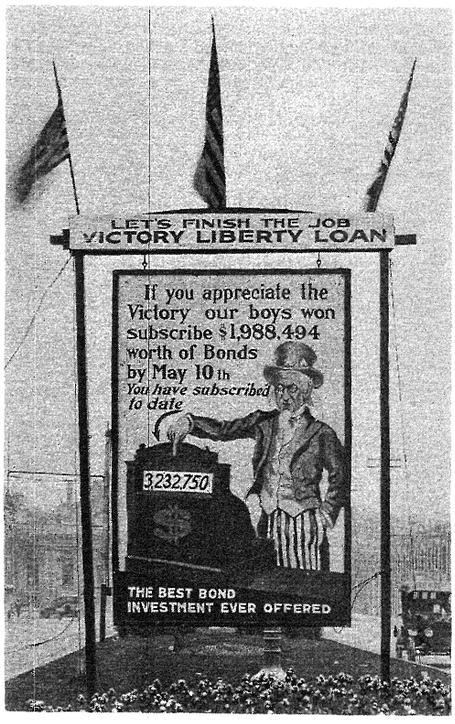
Burlington Road near Willowbrook - 1910



A Country Road of Yesteryear

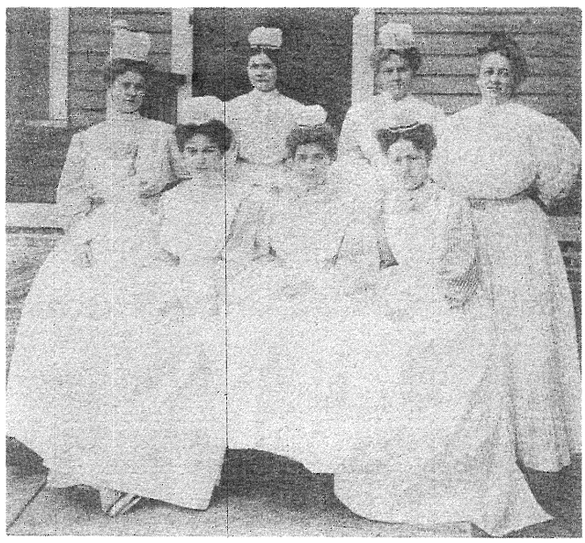


First Water Pumping Station



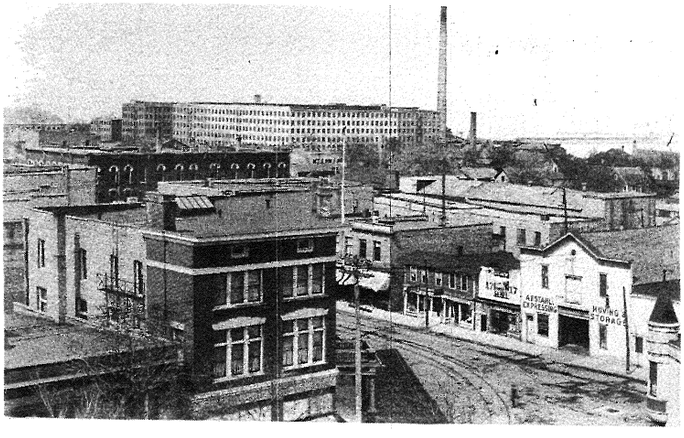
Last Liberty Loan World War 1

First St. Catherine's Hospital

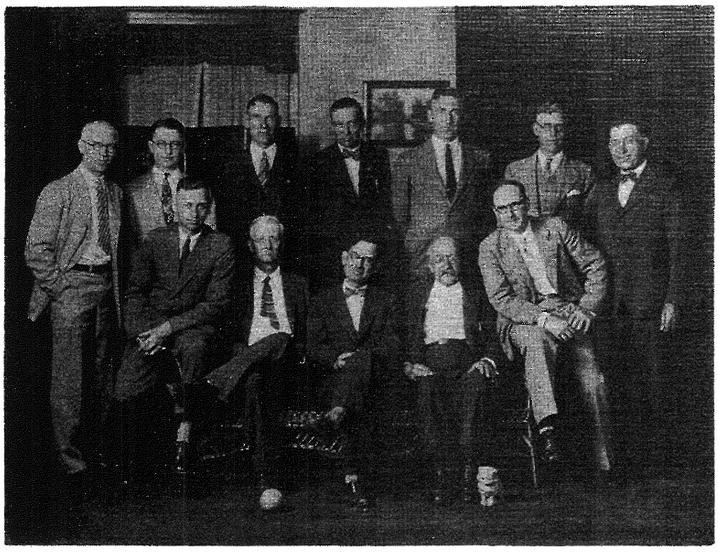


First Graduation Class
Kenosha Hospital Nurses Training - 1909

Fire Department Equipment about 1906



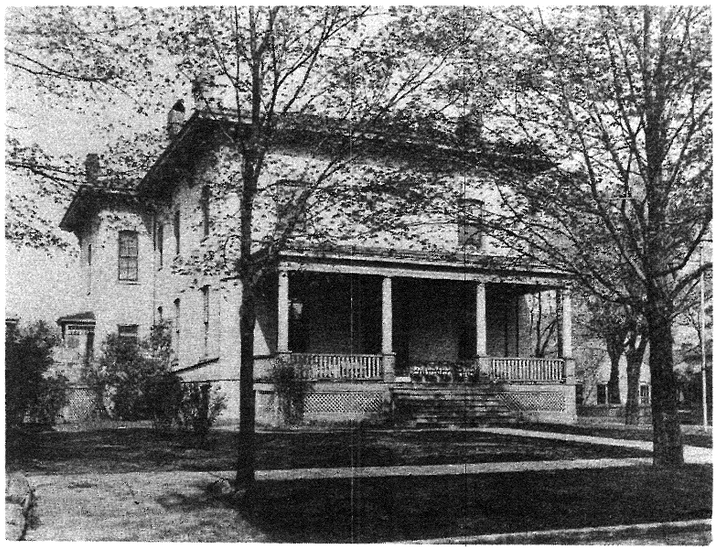
59th Street and 6th Avenue about 1914



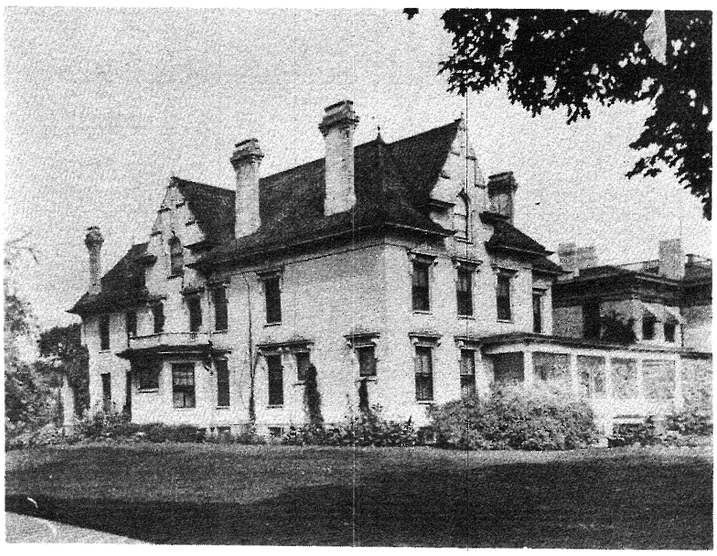
The first City Manager and

Administration Officials

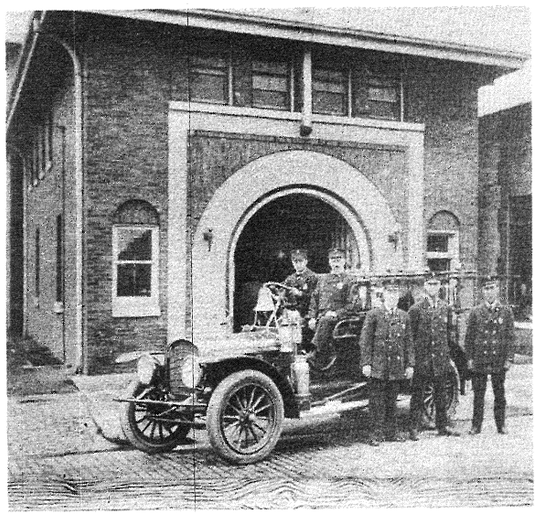
- 1928



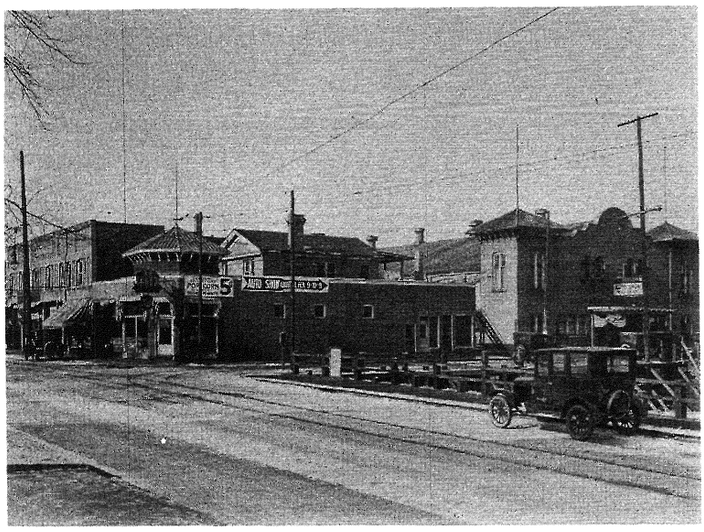
Built about 1840 Now I. O. O. F



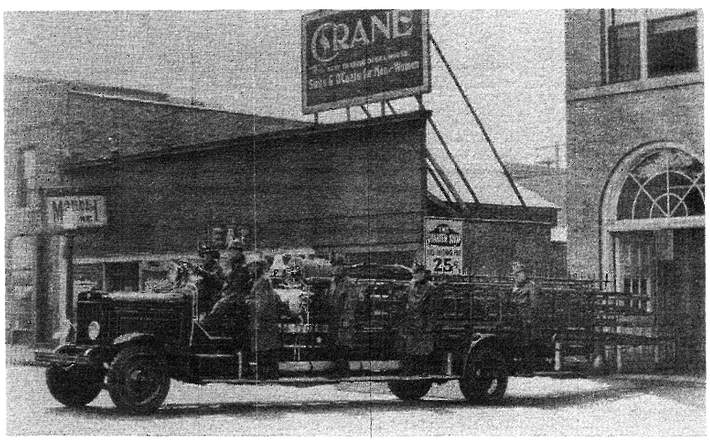
Built about 1850 Now Woman's Club



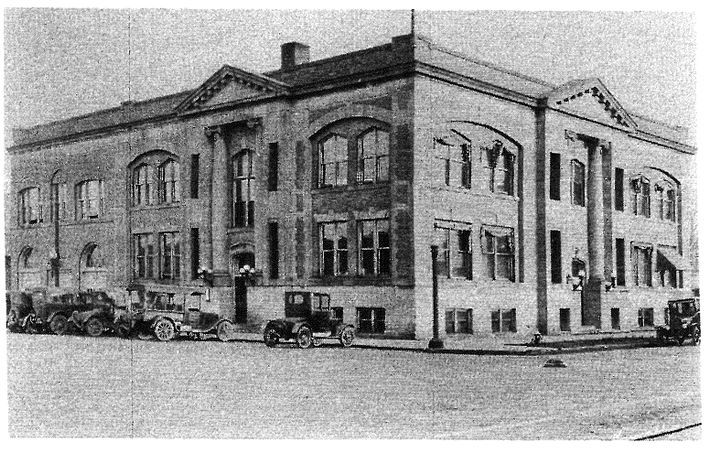
First motorized fire equipment



Site of present Court House about 1920



Fire equipment about 1930



City Hall about 1920

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