

# *Valentine* SNIPPETS of SALEM

## 673 – History of Town of Wheatland 1976

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**0-50 pages**

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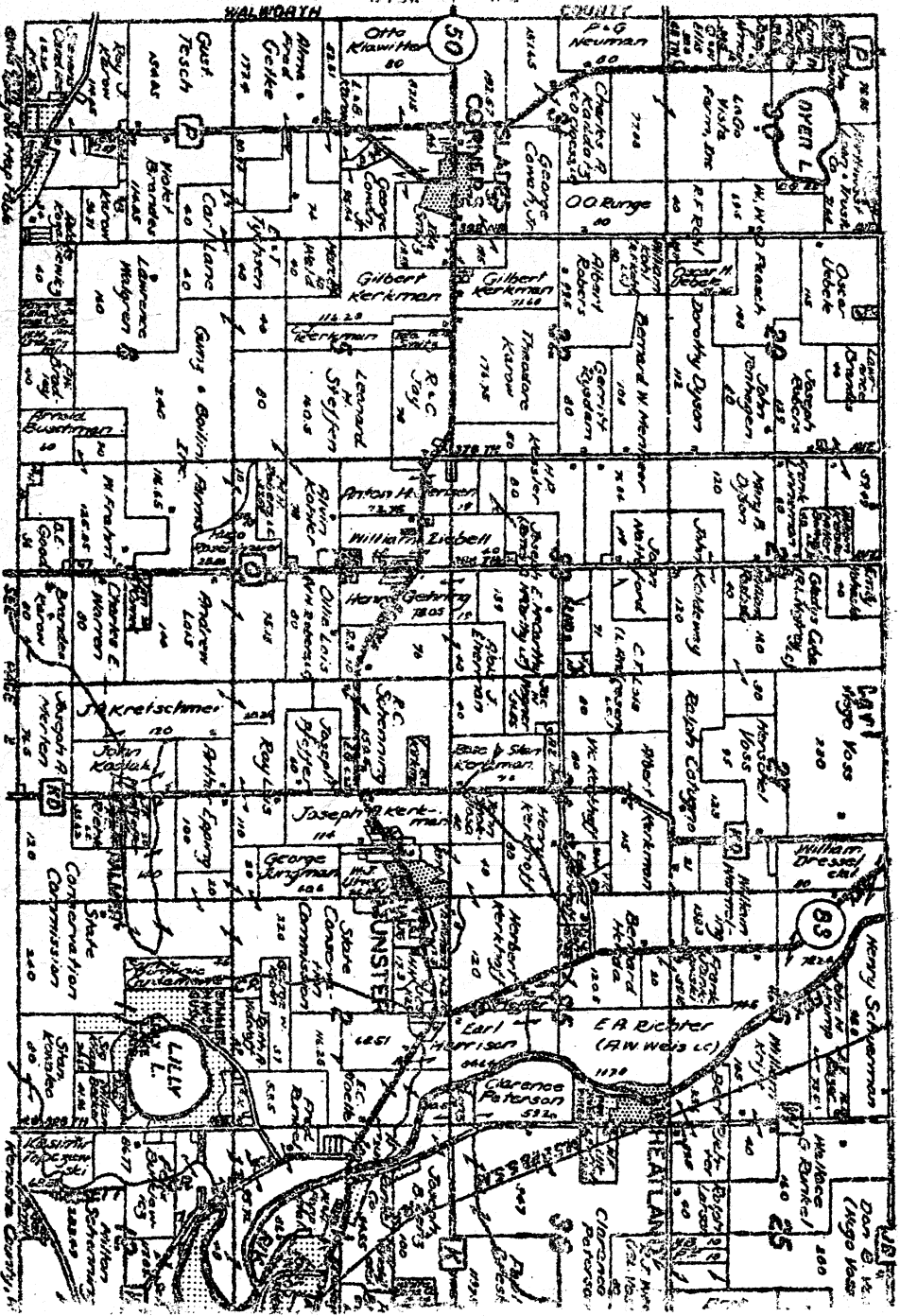
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# HISTORY OF

# TOWN OF WHEATLAND

For Bicentennial Program  
at  
New Munster, Wisconsin  
May 16, 1976



Town of Wheatland  
Bicentennial Celebration Program

May 16, 1976

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- Master of Ceremonies . . . . . Earl Floeter  
Wheatland Center School Administrator
- "Star Spangled Banner" . . . . . Mrs. Judy Kraschnewski  
Wheatland Center School Instrumental & Vocal Teacher
- Welcome . . . . . Jerry Luke  
Town Bicentennial Celebration Chairman
- Opening . . . . . Rev. Peter Grabauskas, St. Alphonsus Church  
Patriotic Address
- Introduction of Special Guests  
First District U.S. Congressman Les Aspin  
Aspin Representative Joe Strohl  
22nd District State Senator John J. Maurer  
66th District Assemblyman Russell Olson  
Kenosha County Board Chairman Francis J. Pitts  
25th District Supervisor Stanley Kerkman  
Wheatland Town Chairman Thomas Grady
- "America the Beautiful" & "America" . . . Wheatland Center School Band
- Presentation of "Miss Wheatland" and Court of Honor  
Miss Wheatland - Tina Wawrzyniak  
Court - Sue Sikac, Sandy Lois, April Fiegel, Denise Baumgartner
- Memorable Presentations  
Thomas Grady to Phil Sanders, Kenosha Co. Historical Society  
Thomas Grady to Western Kenosha Co. Historical Society  
Kenosha Bicentennial Committee to Thomas Grady  
Mrs. Catherine Puchalski, Wheatland Gardenaires  
Garden Club to Thomas Grady
- Musical Selections . . . . . Westosha Men's Chorus  
Director - Gerald Holte
- Presentation of Living Former Town Chairmen  
George Schlitz  
Elmer Scherrer
- Tribute to Oldest Living Couple in Town . . . . Joseph & Lena Kerkman  
Tribute to all Older Residents of Town 75 years & up
- Bicentennial Poster Contest Awards  
1st - Diane, Jacalyn, Joann, & Daniel Elverman
- Musical Selections . . . . . Central High School Madrigal Singers  
Director - Michael Cook
- Presentation of Memorial Design Winners  
Maryann Wawro  
Donna Roanhaus
- "America". . . . . Westosha Men's Chorus
- Memorial Unveiling and Dedication . . . . . Thomas Grady  
assisted by the designers
- Closing . . . . . Rev. Raymond Ziebell, St. John's Church  
Patriotic Address
- Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
- "Keep America Singing" . . . . . Westosha Men's Chorus  
Displays in Town Hall

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### Wheatland Bicentennial Committee

Gerald Luke, Chairman  
Earl Floeter  
Wayne Dyson  
Leroy Dyson  
Jerry St. Antoine  
Tom Stempien  
Doug Schaal  
Ron Runkel  
Mrs. Clayton Kretschmer  
Mrs. Robert Herda  
George Schlitz  
Joe Pfeffer  
Henry Kretschmer  
Alfred Smith  
Dean Luke  
Dennis Lois  
Don Puchalski  
Mrs. Wayne Volbrecht  
Mrs. Otto Schenning  
Mrs. Helen Franz  
Mrs. Lyle Wilson  
Mrs. Phillip Roanhaus

Mrs. Richard Luke  
Fred Koehnke  
Fred Beyer  
Dick Elverman  
Casimir Ryba  
Robert Quast  
Charles Toelle  
Ronald Gascoigne  
John Herda  
Homer Steffen  
Mrs. Alan Weis  
Glen Kerkman  
Erwin Pagels  
Eldred Schwanz  
Al Poepping  
Bob Cashman  
Al Kerkman  
Stan Lois  
Del Schenning  
Gerald Lois  
Dick Schipper  
Don Butler

# The Town of Wheatland

by Jerry Luke

The Town of Wheatland was organized in April, 1842 at the home of James B. Powers. Robert G. McClellan was the first town chairman. Some of the first roads in the "township" were formed as follows:

Wheatland - May 7, 1842

We the undersigned do hereby certify that we have caused to be surveyed, by petition, the following described highway to be four rods wide commencing at the Southport and Geneva Road where it crops the east line of section 5 hence north on the east line of said section and sections 29 & 32 to the north line of this "township." Said line to be the center of the highway (376th Ave., High Street Road). Other roads were added in this manner.

Wheatland was in the County of Racine up to April, 1850 when Kenosha County was formed out of the south half of Racine County.

In 1860, the Town of Wheatland was divided in half; the north half remaining Wheatland and the south half becoming the Town of Randall. (See article in "Kenosha Telegraph" in April, 1860 - "Division of the Town of Wheatland.")

"A special meeting of the County Board of Supervisors convened at the Court House in this city on Tuesday last to consider and determine upon application for a division of the Town of Wheatland. The following members of the board were present: Wheatland - R. L. Bassett, Salem - T. Stockwell, Bristol - H. S. Thorp, Pleasant Prairie - B. T. Hatch, Brighton - C. Miner, Paris - J. Russell, Somers - E. R. Hugemin, City of Kenosha - M. H. Pettie, P. H. Ward, and N. R. Allen.

Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday forenoon were occupied chiefly in hearing the arguments for and against the proposed division. A considerable number of the leading citizens of Wheatland were present who were interested in the proposed measure, some earnestly in favor and others with equal earnestness against it.

The vote on the question to divide the town resulted as follows:

Ayes - Thorp, Stockwell, Russell, Hugemin, Pettie and Allen (6)

Nays - Hatch, Bassett, Miner and Ward (4)

So the Town of Wheatland, after a pretty severe contest in the Legislature, and lately in the County Board, is divided; the north half remains the Town of Wheatland, and the south half is the Town of Randall. The two towns are now each 6 by 4 miles in size." (The area near Twin Lakes later detached from the Town of Randall to become the incorporated Village of Twin Lakes.)

Town meetings were held in private homes up to the time the first town hall was built at New Lunster in 1891. The contract was let to Charles Lubeno to do all the carpenter work at this new town hall for the sum of \$44.99. This building served as the Wheatland Town Hall up to 1959 when the present town hall was built. The old town hall with its small parcel of land was sold to Elmer Scherrer who used it for a short time as a warehouse and later tore it down.

Currently the new town hall and fire station is being considered for enlargement or replacement.

## Town Chairmen (From 1842)

Robert McClellan  
Uriah Monroe  
Preston Denton  
Calvin H. Bently  
Hamilton Cooper  
Don Herrick  
Gordin Gillett  
Reuben L. Bassett  
Elmer Brainerd

William Spiegelhoff  
Andrew Patterson  
Thomas Slade  
Henry Kersting  
Dwight Slade  
J. B. Lohaus  
John P. Runkel  
Henry Runkel  
William Luke

Anton Elverman  
John Kersting  
Joseph Toelle  
Joseph Kerkman  
Peter Epping  
George L. Schlitz  
Elmer J. Scherrer  
Thomas Grady

## Supervisors (From 1842)

Schuyler Bundy  
Walton Dickerson  
Ashbel Miner  
Jonathan Newbury  
A. Dayton  
P. Finch  
William B. Brower  
William H. McKnight  
James B. Carlten

Uriah Monroe  
James F. Dickerson  
Adolph Reitbrook  
Pliny Finch  
Joseph L. Williams  
James B. Cartter  
Morris Read  
Morris Wait  
Henry Wehmhoff

Ben Gibbs  
Don Herrick  
Henry Toelle  
William Dyer  
Sylvenus Brainard  
Francis Blank  
Reuben Bassett  
Lorenz Hess  
William Adams

Supervisors - continued

Belezar Carpenter  
Francis Haas  
Henry Kersting  
Henry Spetzman  
George Finke  
John Kerkman  
Ferdinand Vanderbeck  
John Runkel  
William Spiegelhoff  
Anton Hunsbusher  
Mathias Lenz  
John S. Rosenhauer  
Christopher Blanke  
Lyman Fay  
Joseph Voss  
Henry Lois  
William Meissen

Thomas Pennefeather  
P. W. Peterson  
Edward Rosenhauer  
August Hoelz  
Ferdinand Brener  
Henry Overcamp  
Joseph Toelle  
John Hunsbusher  
John B. Tanking  
August Neuman  
Erwin Spiegelhoff  
Theodore Lemmerhirt  
Frank Schmidt  
John Scherrer  
John Kersting  
Ben S. Lois  
Gust Ziebell

Joe Merten  
Charles Getka  
Alphons Richter  
Peter Epping  
Julius Steffen  
Joseph Kerkman  
Joseph Smitz  
Roland Beimer  
John Lois  
Henry A. Kerkman  
Paul W. Schatz  
Clem Kerkman  
Homer Steffen  
Robert Lenz  
Leon Lois

Clerks (From 1842)

Charles A. Naves  
Henry Bassett  
Esasmus D. Hall  
W. C. Dickerson  
Robert McClellan  
William B. Brower  
Sylvester Coon  
E. E. Maxson  
Lyman Fay

Alonzo McLaughlin  
Julius Miller  
Ernest Fimme  
George H. Fay  
John H. Roberts  
John P. Runkel  
Theodore Vanderbeck  
William Spiegelhoff  
James Pennefeather

John Hoelz  
John Scherrer  
Joseph Toelle  
Alfred Busch  
Erwin Spiegelhoff  
Joe Pfeffer  
Philip Neumann  
Thomas Grady  
Erwin Siegler

Treasurers (From 1842)

James F. Dickersen  
Thomas Slade  
John P. McIntyre  
Silas Slade  
William B. Brower  
Lewis Robertson  
James B. Powers  
Elmer Brainard  
David McComons  
Abram Dayton

Oliver Reynolds  
Henry Toelle  
Hugh McLaughlin  
Joseph L. Williams  
Simon Holz  
Henry Plate  
Philip Kessler  
Henry Kersting  
John Heggeman  
William Bartling

B. H. Schilz  
Herman Smith  
B. W. Kerkman  
Adolph Ganswindt  
Frank Schilz  
Elmer J. Scherrer  
Frank Hunsbusher  
Francis H. Kerkman

Assessors (From 1842)

Thomas Slade  
Schuyler Bundy  
Stanton D. Warner  
Uriah Monroe  
Jonathan Newbury  
Silas Slade  
John Freeman  
Hamilton Cooper  
Don Herrick  
William Wait  
Henry Kerkman

William Dyer  
Henry Toelle  
Lorenz Hess  
Ernest Fimme  
Henry Kersting  
Bernhard Bushmann, Jr.  
Elmer Brainard  
Ferdinand Vanderbeck  
Fred Kruckmann  
O. W. Eddy  
Fred Runkel

Bernard Lohaus  
Herman Hofner  
William Luke  
Charles Lubeno  
Harry Kerkman  
Henry Scherrer  
Ben Kaskin  
William A. Kohl  
Leon F. Lois  
Richard Kerkman

Justice of Peace (From 1842)

Gilbert R. Lindsay  
Robert McClellan  
Horace B. Bayer  
Charles Jones  
William B. Brower  
Edward L. Hyde  
Don F. Herrick  
Stanton D. Warner  
Gordin Gillett  
Henry Wehmhoff  
Henry Toelle  
Ralph Lord  
Albert Wait  
Jonathan Newbury  
James Wheeler  
Reuben L. Bassett

Henry Kerkman  
Sylvester Coon  
Joseph Williams  
Sylvester P. Belden  
Lorenz Hess  
Monroe Clark  
Francis Blake  
Simon Holz  
Theodore Vanderbeck  
John H. Roberts  
Conrad Weinmann  
Byron W. Crane  
John Dyson  
Ozro W. Eddy  
George H. Fay  
Frank Reihl

Herman Hofner  
Herman Kessler  
Herman Schulz  
Herman Seno  
Charles Ebbing  
Dennis Creedon  
George Hickman  
Jack J. Reyer  
Sherman Prindiville  
Fred W. Beyer  
Herbert W. Welch

Municipal Justice

Fred W. Beyer  
Gerald Luke

### Constables (From 1842)

James B. Powers	G. H. Fay	Joseph Smitz
Charles Nayes	James Woodhead	Frank Luke
Eliasar Davis	Daniel Newal	Ben Hofner
Caleb W. Cook	Fred Jahns	Roland Beimer
Abram Dayton, Jr.	Ferdinand Vanderbeck	Marcellus B. Schilz
James C. McHepen	Mathais Lenz	Martin Rossmiller
John Campbell	E. Pierce	Elmer Kersting
Hugh McLaughlin	Thomas Pennefeather	Joe Lenz
Elmer Brainard	William Bartling, Jr.	Tom Grady
Joseph Carpenter	Herman Kotz	John Koslak
John Bessey	Louis Kessler	Robert Kerkman
John Kerkman	William Luke	William Huff
S. P. Belden	Adolph Ganswindt	Paul W. Schatz
John Wing	Herman Smith	R. R. Scott
David McComons	William Spetzman	Chester Dejeski
John Heggeman	C. J. Worth	Roman Grueter
Phil S. Casson	David McKee	James McCarthy
Lyman Fay	Joseph Lenz	Leon Lois
John Woodhouse	Charles Steffen	Edgar Gilbertson
John Coon	Joe Quirk	Robert Herda
Theodore Lott	Ben Bieneman	Fred Briere
Wilson Newbury	John A. Raduenz	Paul Schaar
Andrew Paterson	Frank Kerkhoff	Ed Rossmiller
Stephen Dewitt	Joseph Smitz	Roy H. Smith
John S. Rosenhauer	Frank Arnold	Glen Kerkman
Henry Plate	William Elbert	Scott Bartz
J. Lewis	Egon G. Uhen	Dennis Pugesek
Charles Tower	Henry Sattler	Robert Quast
Orzo W. Eddy	Herbert A. Schwanz	

\* \* \*

### Highlights of Lily Lake

by Mrs. Marie Greil

Lily Lake is spring fed, on approximately 80 acres. On September 21, 1843, the east half of the northwest quarter and government lot No. 2 of section 11 was entered at the land office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory by Lars Christian Bundt from the United States. On November 18, 1895, this property was sold to Wisconsin Lakes Ice and Cartage Co. On August 23, 1922, Henry B. Heiderman, Lucy Heiderman, John B. Richter, Celia Richter (Henry Heiderman's sister) purchased this property and formed Lilly Lake Subdivision. The ice company reserved the right to cut, own, and harvest all ice with the exception that Heiderman and Richter could have and cut enough ice for personal use.

The icehouse that was used for storage is now owned by Mrs. Catherine Puchalski and is next to the public beach.

Lily Lake Subdivision consisted of thirty-four lake front lots on the west and southwest side of the lake.

In the Spring of 1929, Mr. Heiderman built a business on Lot 34 about a block away from the public beach. At the present time, it is "Bill & Marie's" tavern. Mr. Heiderman operated the business from 1930 to 1941. Bill and Marie Greil (Mr. & Mrs. Heiderman's daughter) bought the business in 1942 and are still operating. They have two sons, Gerald and Edward. At the time the tavern was built, there was only farm land across from the tavern and Jack Kersting used to cut hay on what is now Summerhaven Subdivision.

The property on the east side of Lily Lake was owned by Kerstings. The "Lily Lake Lounge" was, at one time, operated as a hotel. People from Chicago would come on the train to Fox River Station and spend their vacation at Lily Lake. The property on the east side was more or less sold in acre parcels. At one time, the Danish Brotherhood had Brages Camp, and the Victoria Club had property.

Summerhaven Subdivision was started by Austin Powers and Taylor. The property was bought from Vern Stockwell. Before that, it was a farm owned by Henry and Christine Lohaus. The two-story farmhouse is still being used. Also, the tool shed was turned into a cottage and the barn foundation still stands.

## Village of Wheatland

by Dick & Mary Luke

As a preface to this history of Wheatland, it might be of interest to mention the Indians who moved through this area.

There was a small Potawatomi village somewhere in the Town of Burlington and Big Foot's village was at the west end of Lake Geneva.

According to history, the Fox, Sac, and Potawatomi inhabited the Wheatland area. The land east of the Fox River was held by the Potawatomi. Their claims were ended by a treaty made at Chicago in 1833, but they were allowed to retain possession until 1836.

After the Black Hawk War of 1832, settlers began to arrive in this area. The early settlers were from two sources -- the nearer South and New England.

Today some of the ancestors of the early settlers still live in the vicinity and have some of the arrowheads and other Indian artifacts in their possession.

Wheatland is located on Wheatland Road eight miles south of Burlington. Some of the older citizens of the community say the name Wheatland came from the fact that wheat grew well in this area.

Today Wheatland is still a farming community and some of the farms have been in the family name for over a century.

### Wheatland School

The land on which the Wheatland School stood was bought by Elisha Kinney and William Bullen from the government and it was registered at the land office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory, on March 8, 1839. It passed through several hands and on February 24, 1881 Alphons Richter bought it. It remained under the Richter name until Richard and Mary Luke purchased the land and building from Bert Richter on June 28, 1957. It was then remodeled into a home.

It was in 1867 that the Wheatland Elementary School, District 11, was opened. The first teacher was Charlotte L. Remington. She had an enrollment of 20. There were 7 months of school in those early years. By the year 1896, the school year ran for 9 months. The teachers in those early days taught all eight grades and took care of the janitorial duties for twenty-five dollars a month. Basket socials were held at the school. Each lady brought a tasty box lunch and it was auctioned off to the highest bidder. The money was used to buy something for the school. In later years, there was a P.T.A. and programs and plays raised money. The school was closed in April, 1953 when the Wheatland Consolidated School was built. Mabel Siegel was the last teacher and at that time the enrollment was around twelve.

### Wheatland Store

The first owners of the land where the Wheatland Store stands were William Bullen and Elisha M. Kinney. They purchased it on May 29, 1839 at the land office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory.

The land was transferred six times by January 30, 1850. The owner in 1850 was David McDonald. He sold it to Catherine Peterson, September 11, 1871 and on June 30, 1892 she sold it to Wilkinson F. Worth. Kale and Wilks Worth built a store on this land. Many items were sold in bulk in the early days as is indicated by two items in "The Telegraph Courier," a Kenosha newspaper. "Worth Bros. have just received a carload of salt," October 16, 1902 and "A load of flour was received," January 15, 1903.

Worth sold the store to Joseph P. Quirk, May 16, 1904. At this time the store had a post office and a telephone office which were located in the southeast corner. An ice house stood where the garage now stands.

Joseph Quirk sold the store to William Linneman November 5, 1919. It then passed through a number of hands until Edward Boldt bought it July 25, 1921. During Prohibition, home brew was made in the basement and sold openly at a zinc bar on the main floor.

On February 15, 1933, Edward Boldt sold it to Bowling and Grace Jones. From July, 1933, George and Dorothy Schlitz operated it and on November 4, 1946 they purchased it from the Jones.

George and Dorothy Schlitz were the proprietors for forty-one years. Besides the usual grocery staples, dairy products, fruit and processed meat, the store carried limited supplies of hardware, sporting goods, toiletries, toys and many other items too numerous to mention. People over the years have stopped to pick up groceries and have a chat and

sometimes a beer at the little bar at the rear of the store.

The "brush pile" is one part of the store which sets it apart from all other general stores. The "brush pile" is what some people call the 139 sets of deer antlers displayed on three walls.

The Wheatland Trophy Club has used the Wheatland Store as its headquarters since 1945. Only two of the original members are still in the club. They are Walter Gores, 88, oldest member and George Schlitz. In 1974, Gores brought back a 14 point buck.

Today the club numbers 16, plus two junior members. They are: Walter Gores, George Schlitz, Hector Dedeyne, Phil Roanhaus, Gus Dedeyne, Richard Dedeyne, Ray Rasmussen, Leroy Schlitz, Bruce Jensen, Roman Schlitz, Roy Wilson, David Schlitz, Greg Dedeyne, Gary Dedeyne, Brad Rasmussen, Dan Roanhaus and junior members Del Roanhaus, and David Pruskauer.

The original aim of the club was, "congenial fellows who would hunt together and stick together season after season." Their main activity is one week of deer hunting each fall, usually in Northern Wisconsin.

Each year two members are elected as headmasters of the hunt and their only responsibility is to direct the hunt. They are absolute bosses and their word is law. Their authority ends when the hunt is over.

They have hunted near Hayward for some thirty years. The "Barren", as their hunting area is called, is thirty square miles in Douglas and Bayfield Counties. They always return to the same cabin and the men share the cooking and household duties.

The plaques on which the deer antlers are mounted were made in the beginning by Leo Barbian. Philip Roanhaus makes the plaques now. Each plaque tells where and when the deer was taken but the name of the hunter is purposely omitted. They do not attempt to glorify any one individual because one man may have pulled the trigger. The fact that he had a deer in his rifle sights was due to the group's teamwork.

There is one bear head on display. George Schlitz brought home this 319 pound black bruin. The largest trophy is a 23 point rack.

Jean and Art Peebles bought the store from the Schlitzs on March 1, 1975. They continued to serve the community in the same manner as the former owners. On July 24, 1975, Mr. Peebles passed away and Jean Peebles is now the sole owner.

#### Block House and Creamery

Joe Quirk bought a machine to make cement blocks and Roy Middleton came out from Burlington each morning on the milk train and built the house which stands next to the store. When it was completed, Ed Sheridan lived on the first floor and Mr. and Mrs. Werner Luke lived in the upper flat. Mr. & Mrs. Ben Gehring purchased the house in 1940 and in 1944 their daughter, Mary Gehring, purchased the house from the estate and lived there until 1965. Mr. & Mrs. Tim Bloss live there now.

Next to this elegant cement block house was a blacksmith shop and it was owned by Charlie Bergstrom. When he moved to Ridgefield, Illinois on March 14, 1901, he sold the shop and an acre of land to George Armour for \$250.00.

After a time, it was sold to Henry Rafferty. Edward Sheridan was the next owner. Around 1940, he bought the creamery and converted it into a blacksmith shop. Sometime in the 1950's Ossie May bought it and established Ossie's Welding Shop. After Ossie May passed away, Robert Lenz purchased the business and is the present owner. Elmer Richter has a picture of the creamery taken in the early days and it looks much as it does today.

Pete and William Peterson built this creamery in the 1880's. Butter was made there until about 1912. Joe Quirk and John Van Liere were butter makers.

According to the Kenosha newspaper, Van Liere Bros. took possession of the creamery on September 1, 1906, and it was called the Fox River Creamery Co. According to a news item in the "Telegraph Courier" of June 8, 1905, "Our Creamery is now handling 10,000 pounds of milk per day." Another item on August 1, 1900 said, "The Fox River Creamery Co. of Wheatland paid 88.65¢ per hundredweight for milk."

Two Chicago men, Murphy and Ward, bought the plant in October, 1912. They handled 20,000 pounds of milk daily and paid \$1.55 per hundredweight. They pasteurized the milk and shipped it in cans via milk train to Chicago. Near the creamery was an icehouse and it was filled each winter with ice from the river.

After the creamery went out of business, it was used as a warehouse for dairy feed until Edward Sheridan bought it.

Next to the creamery was a stockyard and farmers brought their

cattle to be shipped to market on the Wisconsin Central Railroad. There was also a feed store here near the tracks and it was owned by Ben Leach.

#### Pickle Factory

Around 1910, Budlong Pickle Company owned a building near the railroad tracks. When this company went out of business, Joe Quirk bought the building and used some of the lumber to build a shelter for his block machine. Sometime later, Vogler and Schiller built another pickle factory. The pickles were sorted and put in vats and then shipped via train to Chicago.

#### Milk Producers Co-operative

The Milk Producers Co-operative Marketing Association was built around 1922. Some of the milk was separated and both the whole milk and the cream were shipped to Chicago via train. Later it was sent by truck. This milk company went out of business. In the late 1930's Charles Wieland took over the company and used it as a receiving and cooling station. The Quality Carriers had two tank trucks at this time and transported milk to Chicago. This was the beginning of what was to become a very large trucking company headed by Pat Torhorst and Lee Barney. This factory burned down in 1944.

#### Burlington, Brighton, and Wheatland Telephone Company

The Burlington, Brighton and Wheatland Telephone Company line went through and was in working order on October 31, 1905. It was first located in the Wheatland Store and later moved across the road to the house now occupied by Mr. & Mrs. Henry Ketterhagen. The manager at that time was Frank Schumacher. Ben Leach was the next manager and during that time the switchboard was again moved. This time, to the last house on the west side of the road, then owned by Ben Leach. Catherine Luke was one of the first operators and received 12½¢ per hour. She was also one of the last operators when the company installed the dial system. She had worked for the company for over 50 years. Mary Gehring Pieters worked for the company from May, 1932 until the system was converted to dial in 1959. Some of the old-timers remember when there were up to twelve parties on one line. The charge was \$1.50 per month and it was 3¢ to call Burlington.

Alfred Busch was the manager for a number of years. He was followed by Fred Templeman and in 1945 Joseph Uhlenhake became the manager. He is now semi-retired but maintains the C.O. equipment for the company.

In August, 1959, the company converted to the dial system. At that time, there were 1-2-4-8 parties on a line. In 1965, the system was upgraded to a 1-2-4 party line. On October 1, 1975, it was again upgraded and this time to a one party line. The new switchboard is equipped for touch-tone dialing. As of January 31, 1976, there were 2,042 subscribers. The company is now known as the Telephone and Data Systems, Inc. It serves the areas of Wheatland, Bohners Lake, New Munster, Lily Lake, Shorewood Terrace and Slades Corners.

Nettie Karcher and Gilbert Karcher served as Secretary-Treasurer of the company for many years. The present officers are: Walter L. Kuebler, President and Director, Florence Koenig, Vice President and Director, and Richard F. Foltz, Director.

Merlin Haugstuen is the district manager and Don Kerkman is the service manager.

#### Railroads (Wisconsin Central-Soo Line)

After 1836, thousands of enterprising settlers from New England, New York, and Ohio, with the hope of improving their condition, started for the land of promise. During this period, the population of southern and eastern Wisconsin grew rapidly. In 1840, it was 30,749 and by 1875, it had grown to 1,236,729.

The early settlers soon discovered that railroads were an indispensable necessity. The "iron steed" as the railroad was called, would mean faster service, mail, transportation of goods and passenger service.

Judge George Reed, with the financial aid of Gardner Colby, established the headquarters on February 4, 1871 at the new National Hotel in Menasha for what was officially named the Wisconsin Central Railroad. It was here the contracts were let for its construction. The first train ran from Menasha to Waupaca, October 2, 1871. All operating offices and shops were transferred from Stevens Point to Waukesha by 1890.

All locomotives, after 1882, came equipped to burn coal. Boiler

domes, cabs, and headlights carried fancy gold stripping which was dutifully polished by the regular crews. Ornate brasswork was in abundance and a regular fireman would spend many hours each week polishing and cleaning until his engine shone. The oak and walnut cabs were washed with soap and water at least once a week.

The railroad line was opened to train service through Wheatland in 1885. It was called the Chicago, Wisconsin and Minnesota Railroad Company.

In 1908, the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie also known as the Soo Line, acquired the majority ownership of the capital stock of the Wisconsin Central Railway. The value of the Central, at that time, totalled about \$52 million.

Leonard H. Murray is the current president of the Soo Line Railroad.

Some of the older citizens of the community remember a post with a hook on it which was located near the tracks across from the store. Each afternoon, the mail was placed on the hook and an arm catcher picked up the bag and a bag of mail was thrown from the train.

According to an item in the 1905 "Telegraph Courier", "Theo. Urban and Chris Nelson had a narrow escape from being killed when crossing the railroad north of the store. They were struck by a freight train coming from the south. The horse was killed and the wagon was slightly damaged but the men escaped without being injured."

There was a depot and it was here that freight was stored and shipped. Some of the trains carried passengers and they were dropped off at the depot. In 1957, the depot was sold to Bert Richter and he moved it to his farm and it is now used to store grain.

A short way up the track from the depot there was a side track. In the early days, many things such as milk, cattle, pickles, popcorn, salt, flour, and sand were shipped or unloaded.

Passenger service was discontinued in the 1960's. There are between 18 and 24 freight trains passing through Wheatland now.

For some twenty years, a man locally known as "Eskimo Pete" was in the area. He often went door to door for food. At times, he made the depot his home. He had made his own violin and sometimes you could hear the strains of music coming from the depot. When he was leaving town, he would leave his violin in the hands of one of the Wheatland residents until his return.

Some of the older Wheatland residents remember a man who lived in a houseboat on the river. His name was Lingo and he later lived above the creamery. He spent many hours working on a perpetual motion machine.

On the spot where the first blacksmith shop stood, a new house was built by Theodore Pengryn in 1967. Mr. & Mrs. Robert Uhlenhake live there now.

The home on the next lot was built by John Van Liere in 1914. Mr. and Mrs. Van Liere lived there two years and then moved to Rochester. In 1919, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Luke bought the house and lived in it until 1974. In 1949, it was remodeled into a two family residence and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Luke lived in the upper flat until 1957. Mr. Gilbert Tietel is the present owner.

#### Fox River Pines

In 1886, Mr. and Mrs. William Luke moved to Wheatland. Mr. Luke, for many years, was chairman of the Wheatland town board. He also had a position on the county board for some years.

The Luke homestead was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Chris Anderson in 1950. They, in turn, sold it to William Ullrich in 1954 and he subdivided the land. The new subdivision is called the Fox River Pines and there are a number of homes along the river. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Carlson bought the Luke homestead in 1969 and remodeled it.

#### Fox River Winter Gardens

The Fox River Gardens was built in 1924 by Harry Gorden. There was a dance hall and a radio station called the Wisconsin Ideal Ballroom. Frank Barbian rented the building for several years. During these years, the hall was used for roller skating, receptions, auctions and wedding dances. Felix Rosinski owned and operated it for a number of years. It has been remodeled and is now known as The Top Deck East.

#### Wheatland Mobile Home Park

In 1955, when the Bong Air Base was under construction, Ralph Larson, Burlington businessman and former mayor started construction of a

mobile home park on what was the Eddy farm.

He sold the park to Robert Dunkin on September 1, 1969. At that time, there were twenty-four mobile homes in the park. He made a number of improvements and added twenty-eight lots. In 1971, a feasibility study was completed and at that time there were one hundred eighty-nine mobile homes. On September 22, 1974, Charles Edlebeck took over ownership and there are one hundred eighty-seven families living in the park at the present time. The park has its own sewage treatment plant and laboratory. There are laundry and recreation facilities and a central T.V. system. There is a softball diamond, tennis court, and playground equipment.

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Special thanks to all the older Wheatland residents who helped us with this brief history.

\* \* \*

#### Early History of the Fox River Area

by Mrs. Otto Schenning &  
Charles Toelle

Some years ago I gathered much of this information from Mrs. Louis Sandberg and Joseph Toelle. The Toelles came in 1846 and the Sandbergs did not remember when their father had bought the place but Louis Sandberg lived his entire life at Fox River. The Toelle farm was purchased from the government.

Most people of this community have forgotten that Fox River had a train before the Civil War. The Wisconsin Central, now Soo Line through the village of Wheatland, was not built until 1885, so all mail and freight came into Fox River from Kenosha and Harvard. New Munster and Wilmot received mail here. Ice, milk and cattle were shipped on this line. Charles Davis was the depot agent for many years. Charles Kohler had a feed store and small store. Beimer owned it first.

On old deeds I find parts of the land laid out in lots and it was called Erickson (later called Village of Fox River). Bullon was the first owner of the Schenning farm. The Dullons, Udells and Pattersons were some of the first to farm the land.

In 1930 I looked up markers on the cemetery just south of the Wheatland line next to the John Elverman farm. At that time, a few markers were still standing or against the fence. Mrs. George Higgins of Wilmot had paid the Harms, former owners, a small sum to care for it. Now it is all gone and the land is plowed up. One marker was Elizabeth, daughter of Adino Udell. She died in 1849, at the age of 19 years. Another, Louise Dullon, who died July 1846 at the age of 29 years. Cyrus, Lucy, Little Paul, and Adelle Udell died in 1851. There had been a smallpox epidemic. The other markers were too deteriorated to read.

Joseph Toelle said there had been a Halfway Hotel on the point back of the depot. The first school was built on the corner of highway "W" & 50 near Toelle's farm in 1865. It was taught by a Toelle son. After 15 years, the district was changed and the vacated school building was hauled across the field and attached to the Toelle barn and is still used as a repair shop. On one board, the name Louis A. Runkel is carved.

In 1880 the schoolhouse was built at Fox River where the Snyders now live and is now remodeled for a home. Francis Bernhoft, Mrs. Anton Schlax and Miss Karcher were early teachers. The first ones never went beyond the eighth grade.

The first road did not go up over the hill. It went straight past Walton's place. That accounts for a house off the main road now. Albert Schenning lived there at one time. He was the grandfather of Bert Schenning in Silver Lake. When the new highway was laid out, the Hoffman house was being built and was turned around after it had been started.

A large cucumber, "pickle", factory was north of the tracks. When torn down, Louis Sandberg used the lumber for the house now owned by John Anderson. Across the track was a small tavern. Green and Snell ran a general store on the bend where Waltons now live. They were sons-in-law of the Pattersons that owned the old Schwartz farm now owned by Tom Kreuger.

Kate Nuggen had a place back of the depot and had a dressmaking and millinery shop.

"Dan Patch," the fastest race horse of that time, was kept during the winter in the Patterson barn.

Runkels and Bernhofts were early farmers.

I landed at Fox River in September, 1914 when I came to teach at Wilmot. I took the stage driven by Cliff Pacey. Ben Hofner took the mail to New Munster.

\* \* \*

### Oakwood Shores Area History

by Mr. & Mrs. Erwin Pagels

The area in the east end of the Town of Wheatland, south of Highway 50 by the railroad overhead, known as Oakwood Shores and Horseshoe Point was not always a subdivision of many summer and year-around homes as it is today.

In the 1920's, this area was two farms. The Horseshoe Point land on the Fox River was a farm owned by Joe Toelle. Homes were built in this area first. One of the first homes here was owned by Clarence Johnson. He used to have cows coming up to his yard to graze.

The area nearer highway 50 was a farm originally owned by Joseph Quarles in 1838 and subsequently by Sereno Fisk in 1857, Bill Toelle in 1884 and Frank Lois in 1920. The original brick farm home, by the "overhead," is now owned by the Ed Mays.

The land west of the hayfield was a cow pasture with many large oak and hickory trees. Many of these huge trees still stand. Before houses were built, these woods were used by people from Chicago who set up tents for camping.

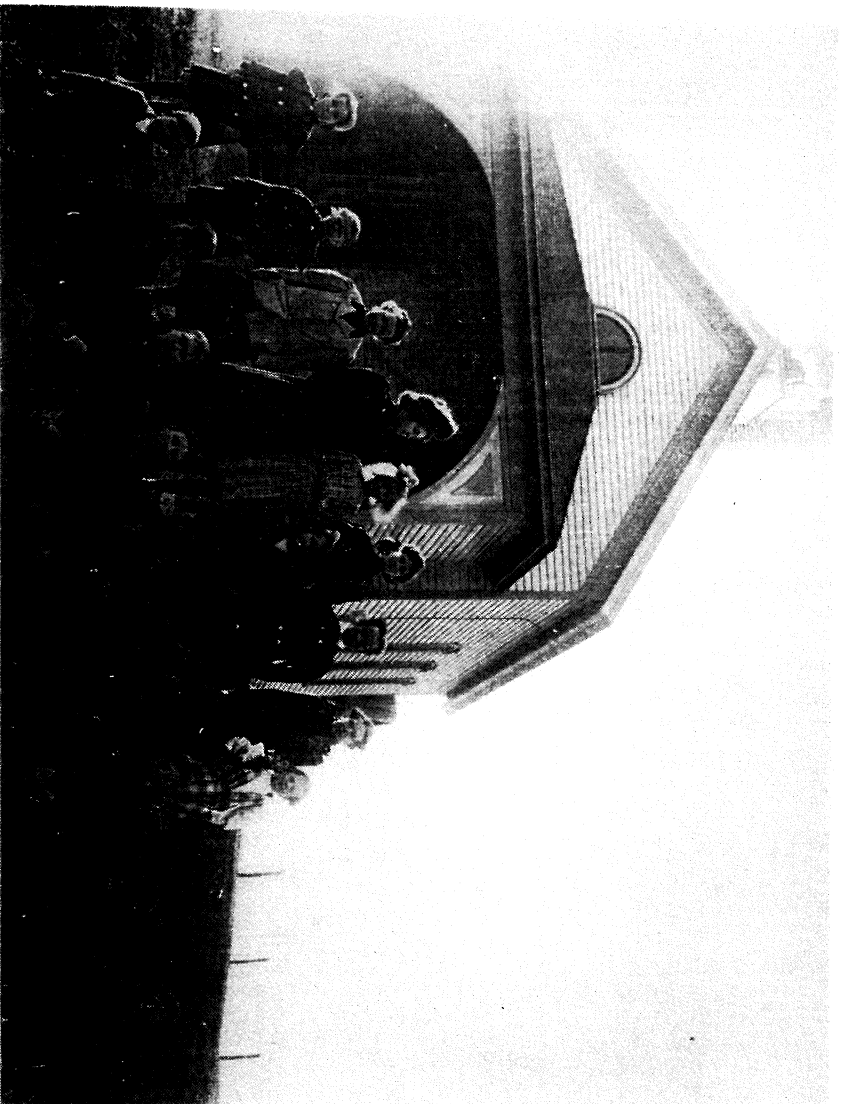
During the 1930's and 1940's, William Ullrich subdivided the area. Lots were sold with a "shell" house. People from Chicago bought these "shells" and fixed them for summer cottages; later many people winterized their homes and lived in them year around. Most of William Ullrich's sales were conducted on Sundays.

The first subdivision sales office was in the building which is now the Pine Oak Tavern. Later the office was moved across the road.

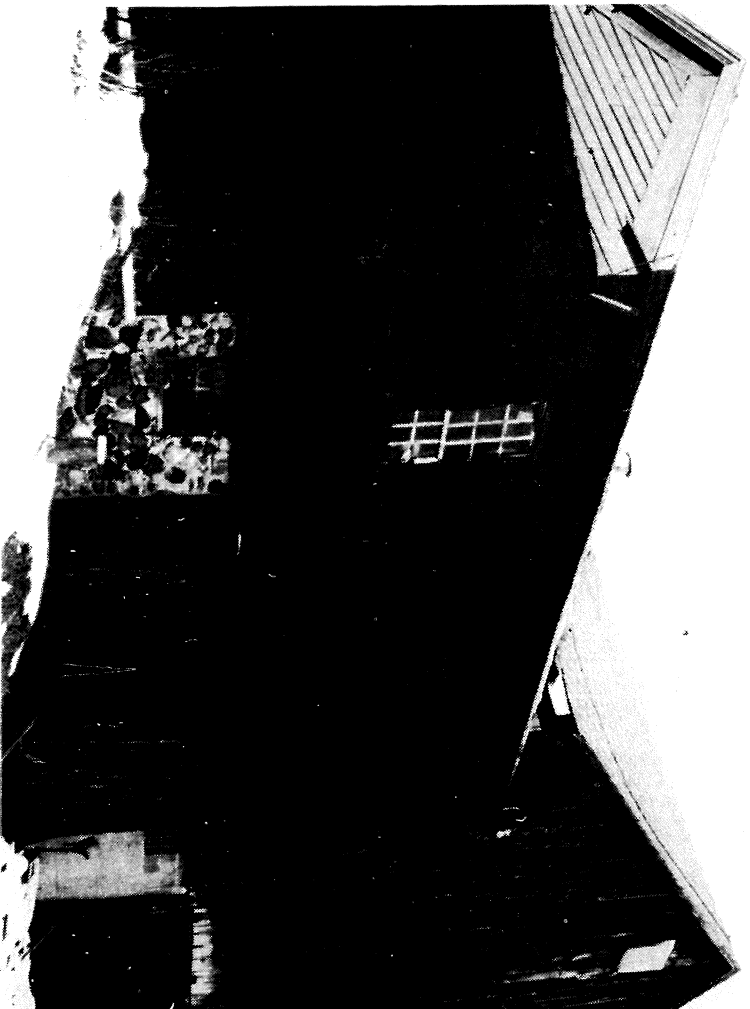
Pine Oak Lodge used to accommodate tourists in small cabins. The Pine Oak Lodge got its liquor license by purchasing a tavern in New Munster and moving the license out.

During the 1950's and the 1960's, there was an active Oakwood Shores Association that held summer picnics and organized to plan improvements for the subdivision. That organization later split into two groups.

Living in Oakwood Shores now are many young families with lots of children as well as many retired people. Oakwood Shores has many nice homes, fine roads, and a beautiful park along the Fox River. The businesses, besides a tavern, are a beauty parlor and real estate office. A large hardware store is in operation on highway 50. It is owned by William Popp.



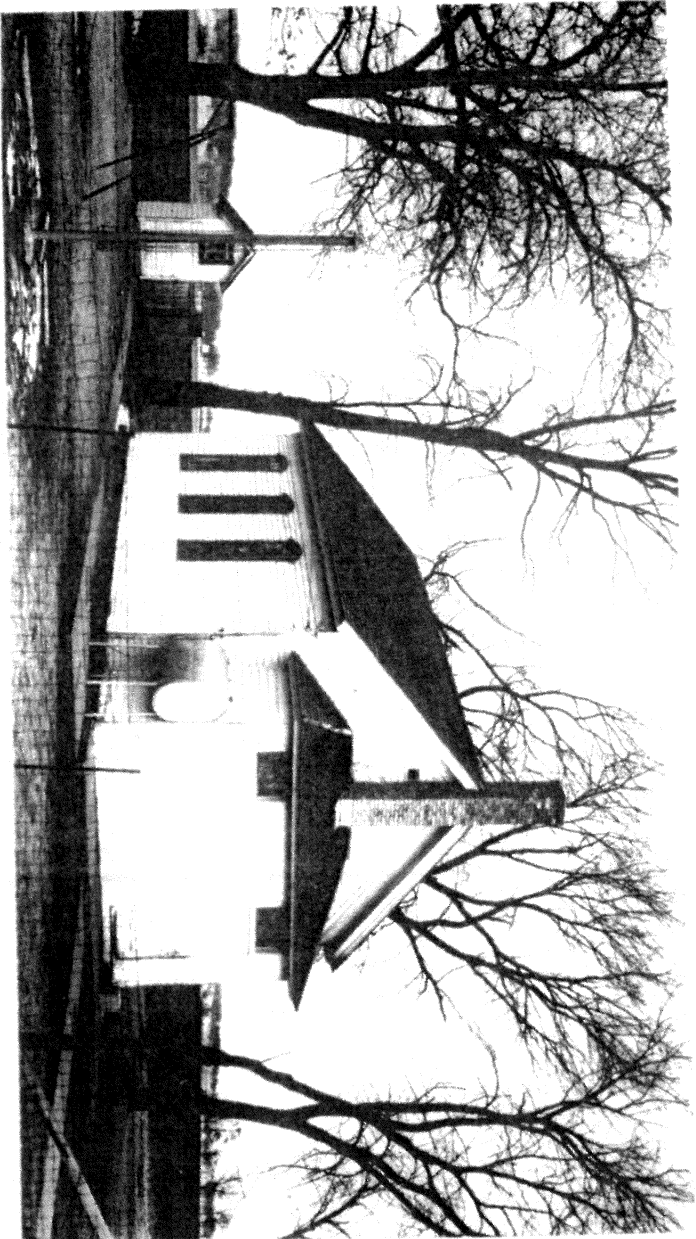
*Photo No. 1 - High Street School - 1908*



*Photo No. 2 - Fox River School - 1865*



*Photo No. 3 - Fox River School - 1952*



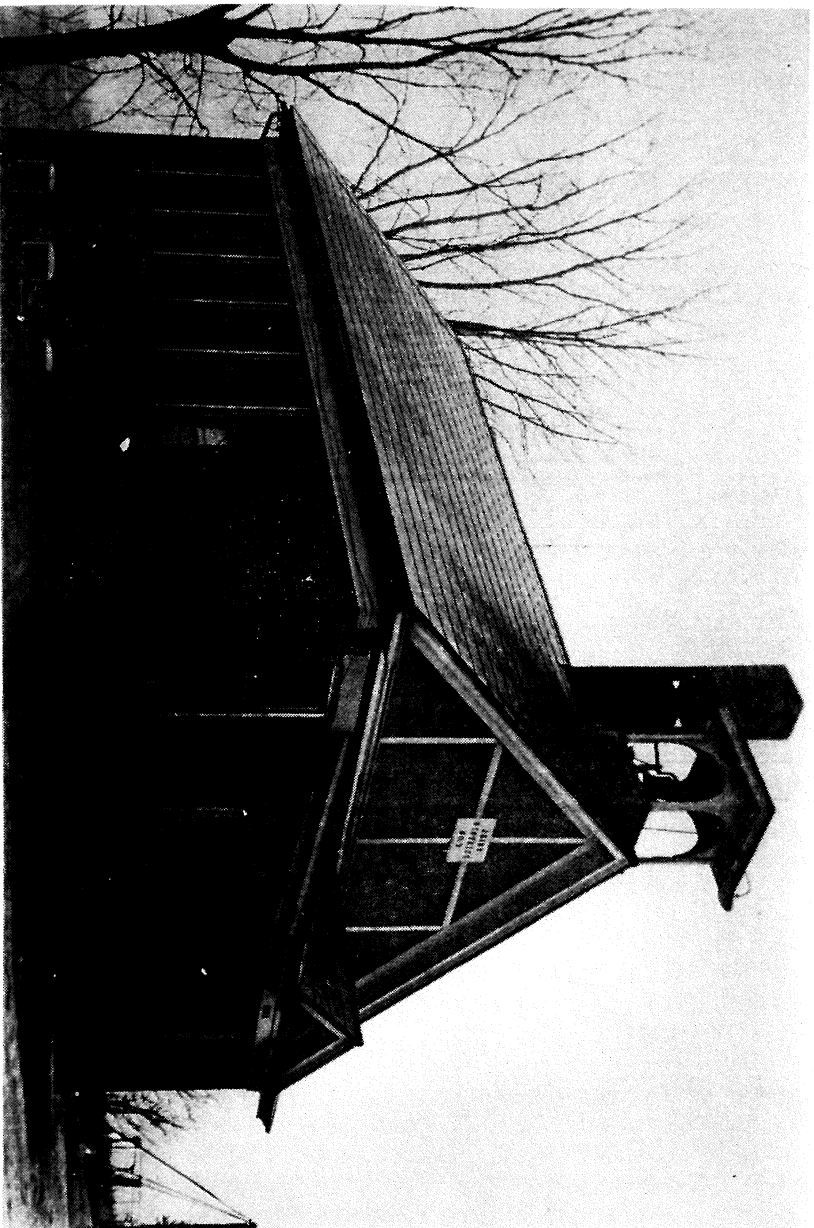
*Photo No. 4 - Wheatland School - 1952*



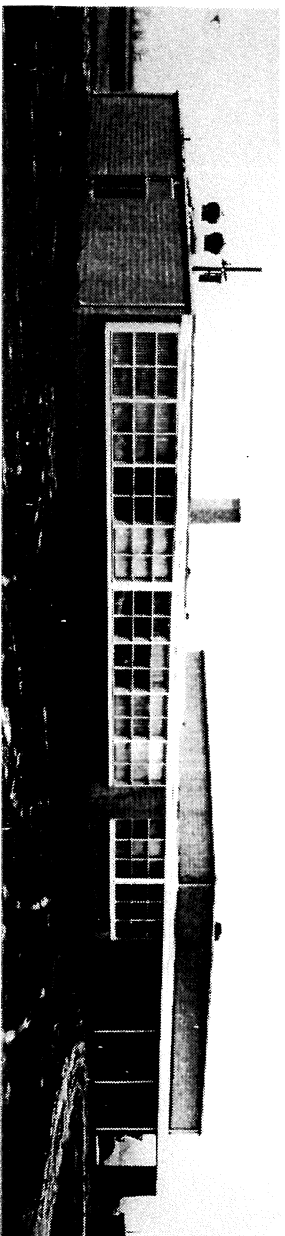
*Photo No. 5 - Slades Corners School - 1952*



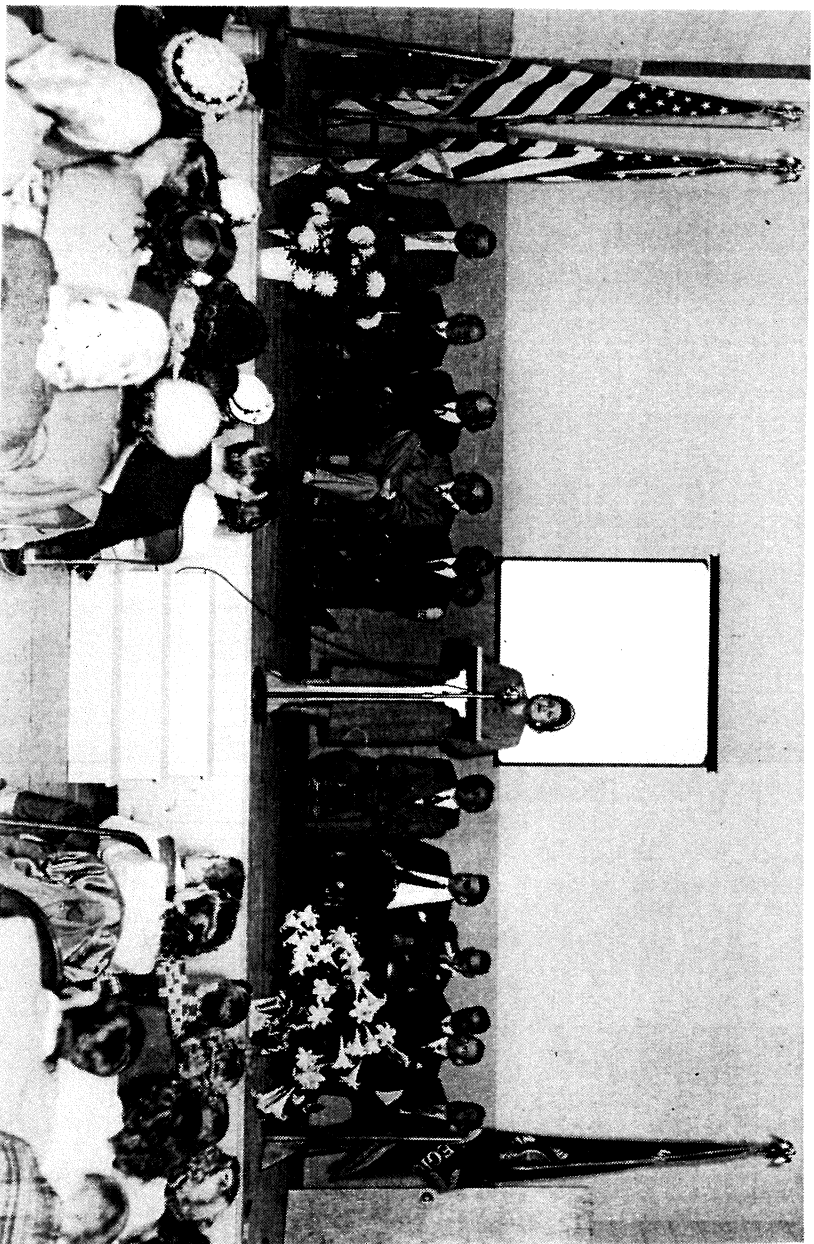
*Photo No. 6 - Oakdale School - 1952*



*Photo No. 7 - High Street School - 1952*



*Photo No. 8 - Wheatland Center School - 1953*



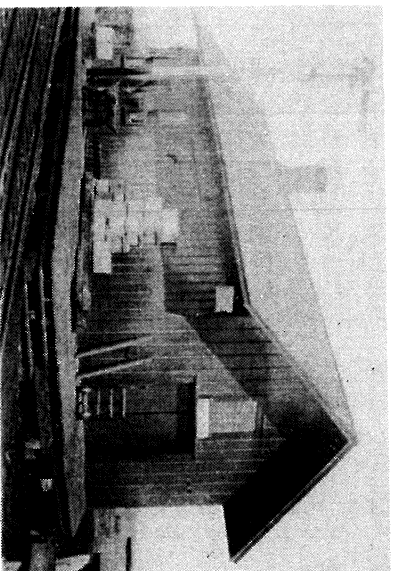
*Photo No. 9 - Dedication - Wheatland Center - 1953*



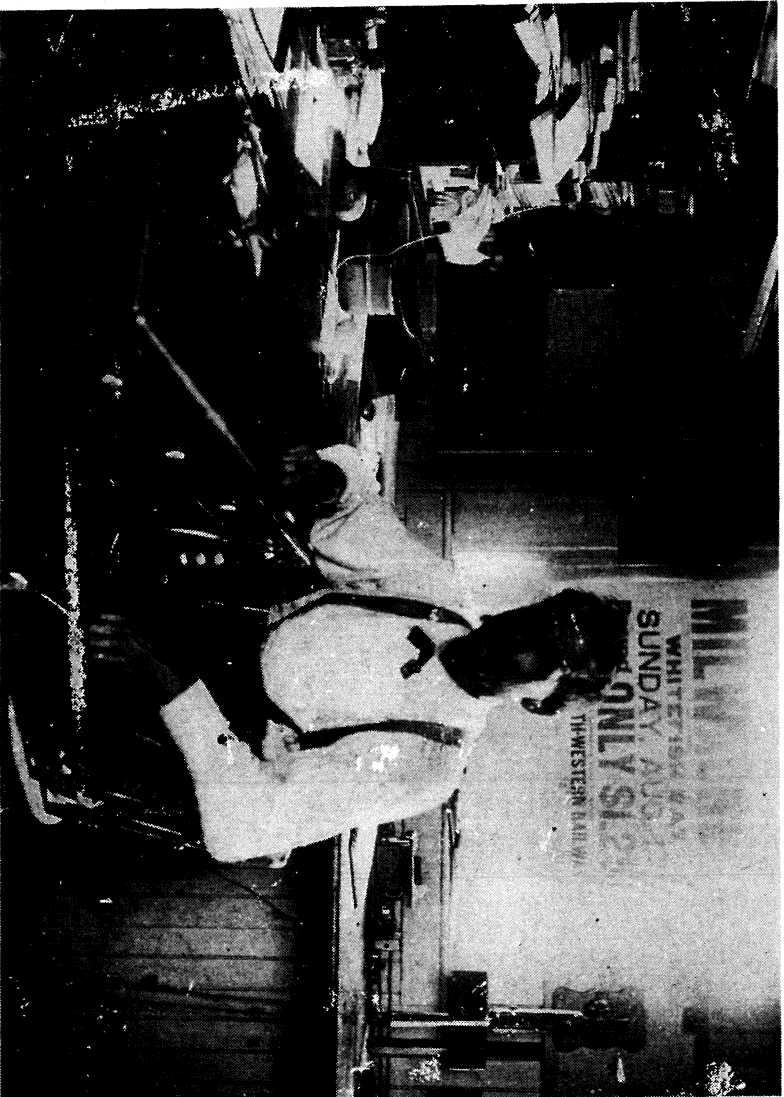
*Photo No. 10 - Oakwood Shores Prior To Railroad Overhead*



*Photo No. 11 - Pine Oak Lodge - 1938*



*Photo No. 12 - Fox River Depot - About 1890*



*Photo No. 13 - Charles Davis - Fox River Depot Agent*



*Photo No. 14 - High Street Mail Coach*



*Photo No. 15 - High Street Road - About 1913*



*Photo No. 16 - Methodist Church and Parsonage High Street - About 1915*



*Photo No. 17 - High Street Creamery - About 1913*



Photo No. 18 - Original Schuerman's Grocery Burned June 11, 1920



Photo No. 19 - Schilz Dance Hall Burned June 11, 1920

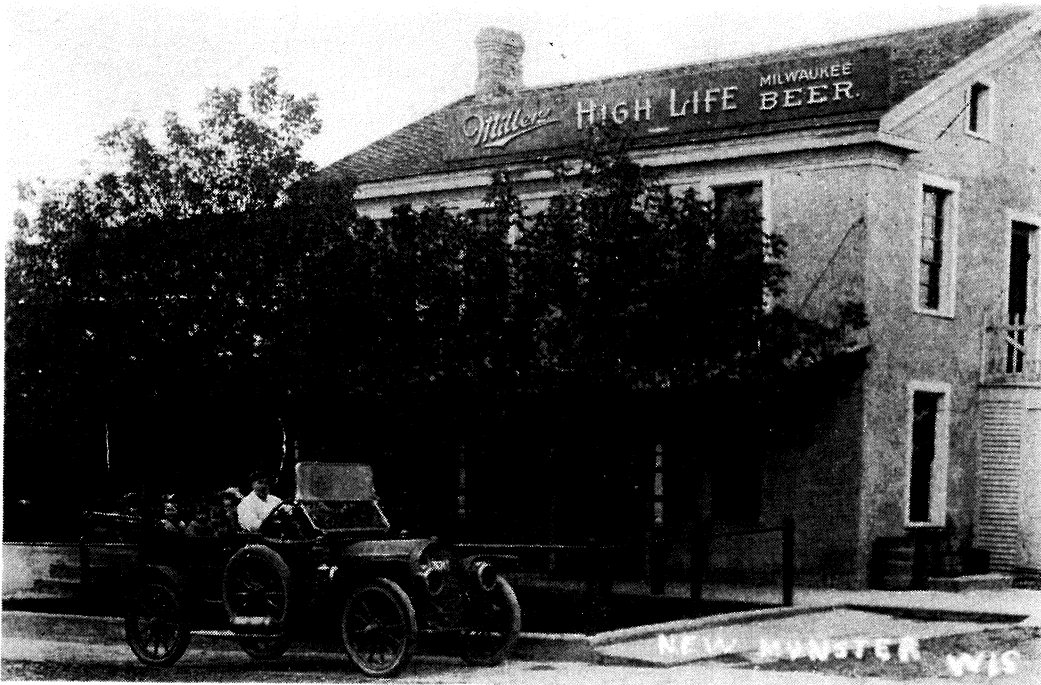


Photo No. 20 - Original Schilz Tavern - Burned June 11, 1920

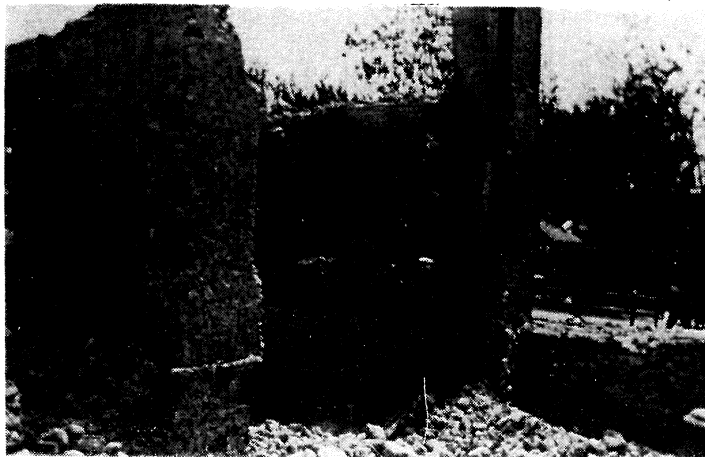
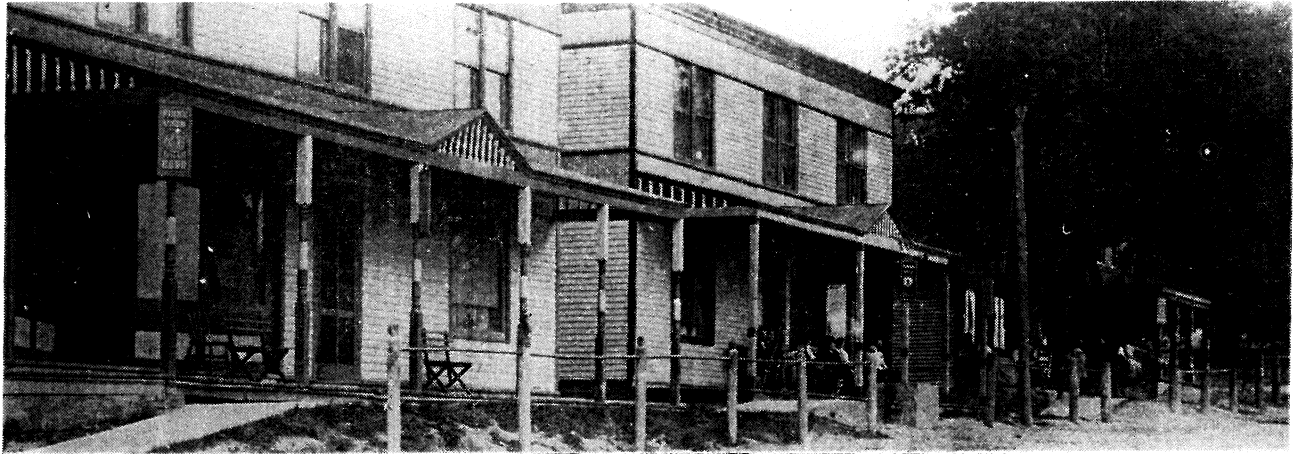


Photo No. 21 - Remains of Fires Above

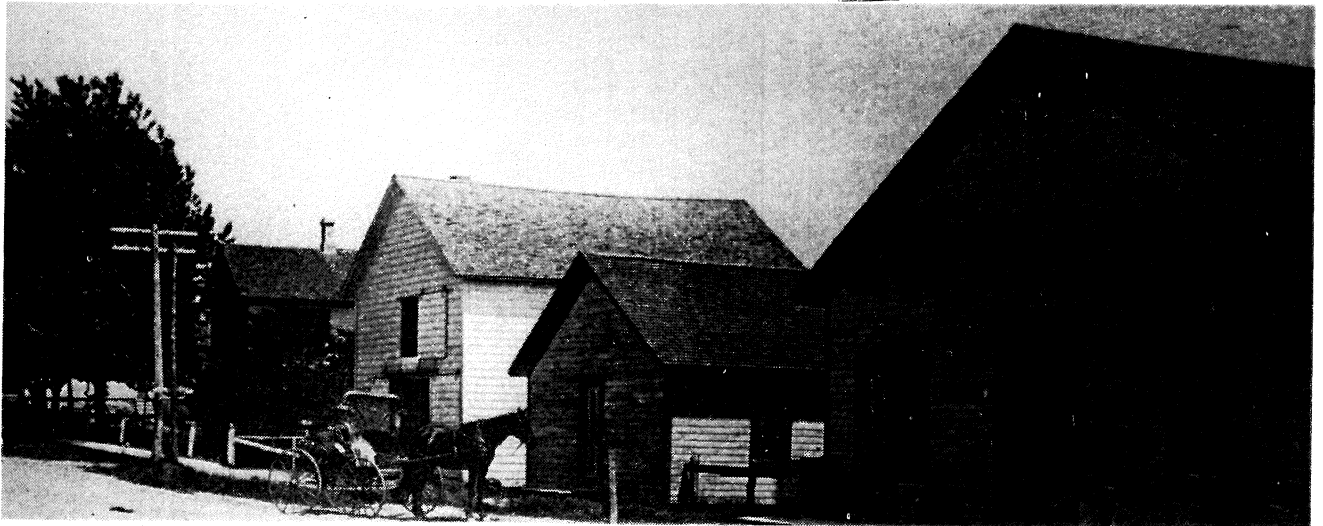
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*Photo No. 22 - Downtown New Munster - About 1912*



*Photo No. 23 - Mr. Egon Uhere - 1921*



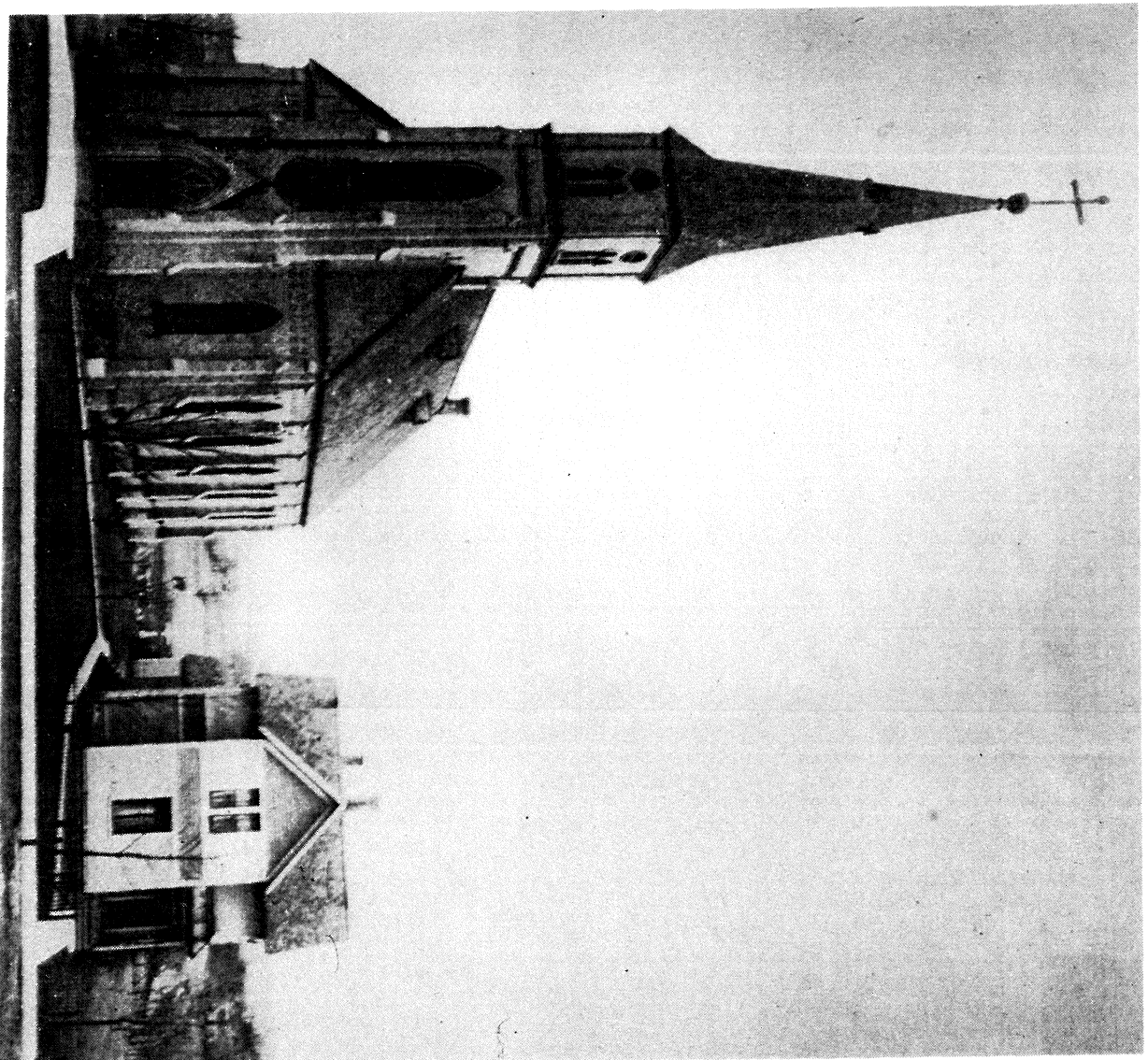
*Photo No. 24 - Center Building - Town Hall - 1912*



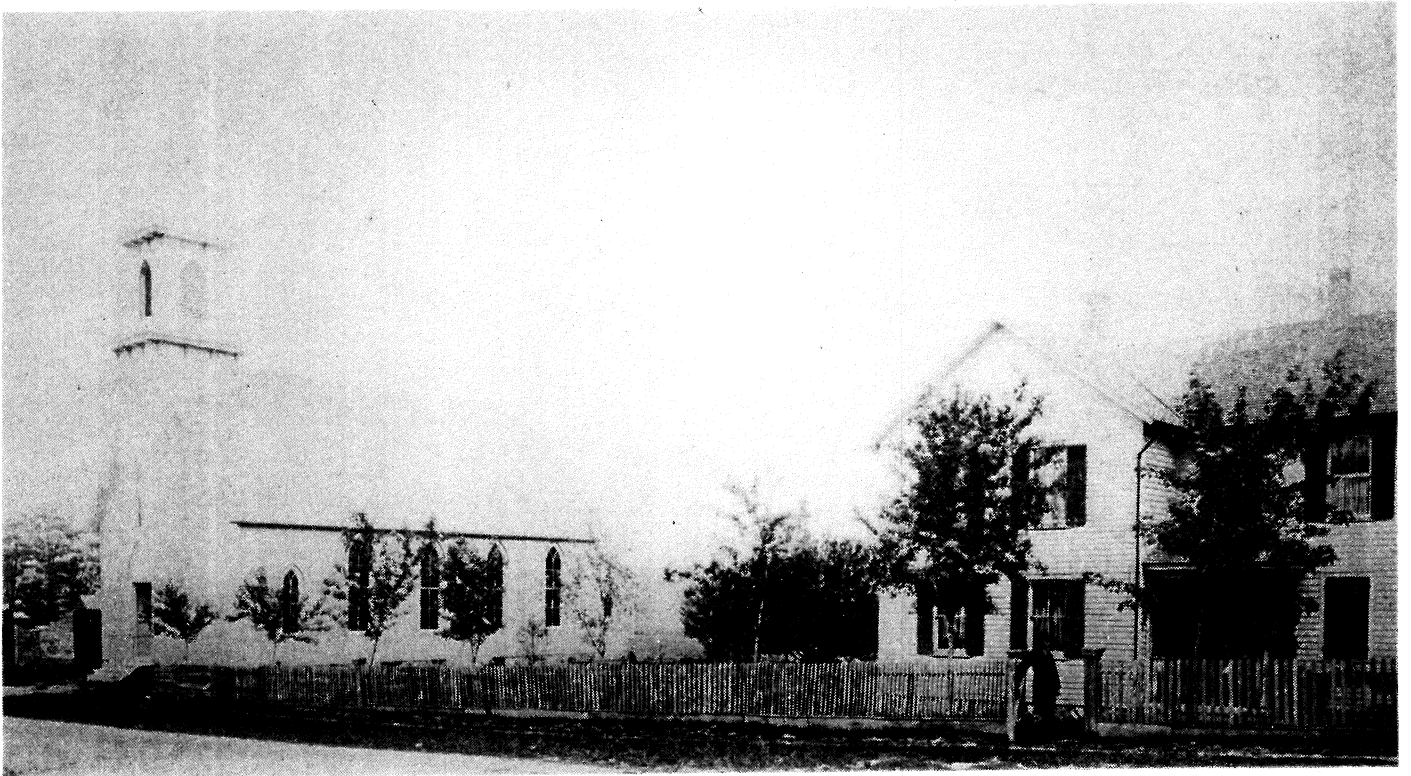
*Photo No. 25 - Old Post Office in New Munster About 1912*



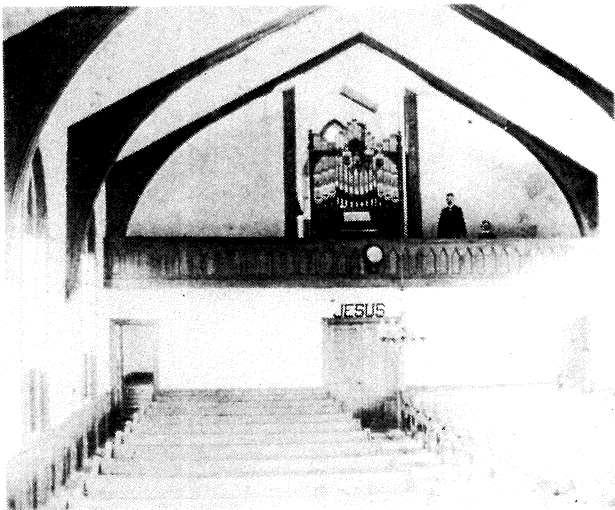
*Photo No. 26 - St. Alphonsus School - Late 1800's*



*Photo No. 27 - Second St. Alphonsus Church and Parsonage Burned 1906*



*Photo No. 28 - St. John's Church and Parsonage Slades Corners - About 1900*



*Photo No. 29 - St. John's Church Interior - 1894*



*Photo No. 30 - Paul Sauer's Store - Built In 1874*



*Photo No. 31 - Interior - Paul Sauer's Store*



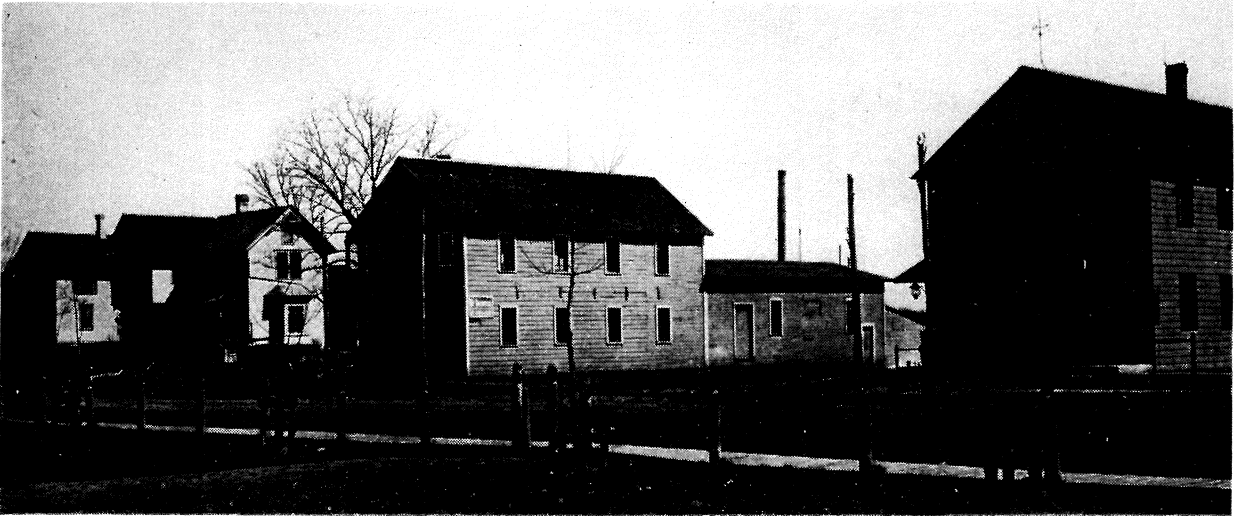
*Photo No. 32 - Paul Sauer's New Store*

Slades Corners Cubs  
B. B. Team 1911.



F. Ganswindt, C.F.; A. Ganswindt, S.S.-P. Tenhagen, 1B.  
F. Schaal, 3B.; Kessler, R.F.; Lemmerhirt, C.; Vollbrecht, Scorer;  
Neuman, L.F.; E. Schaal, P.; Meinke, Mascot; Sauer, Mgr.; Schwanz, 2B.;

*Photo No. 33 - Slades Corners Cubs Baseball Team 1911*

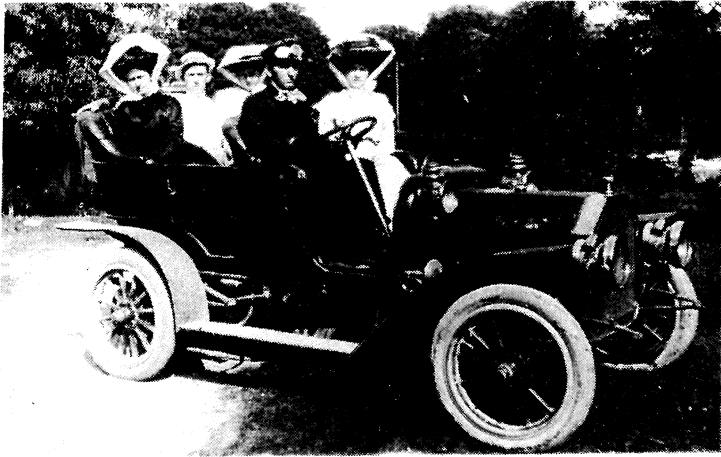


*Photo No. 34 - Downtown Slades Corners in 1911*

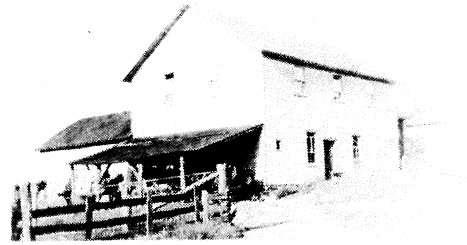


*Photo No. 35 - Paul Sauer's Parlor - About 1890*

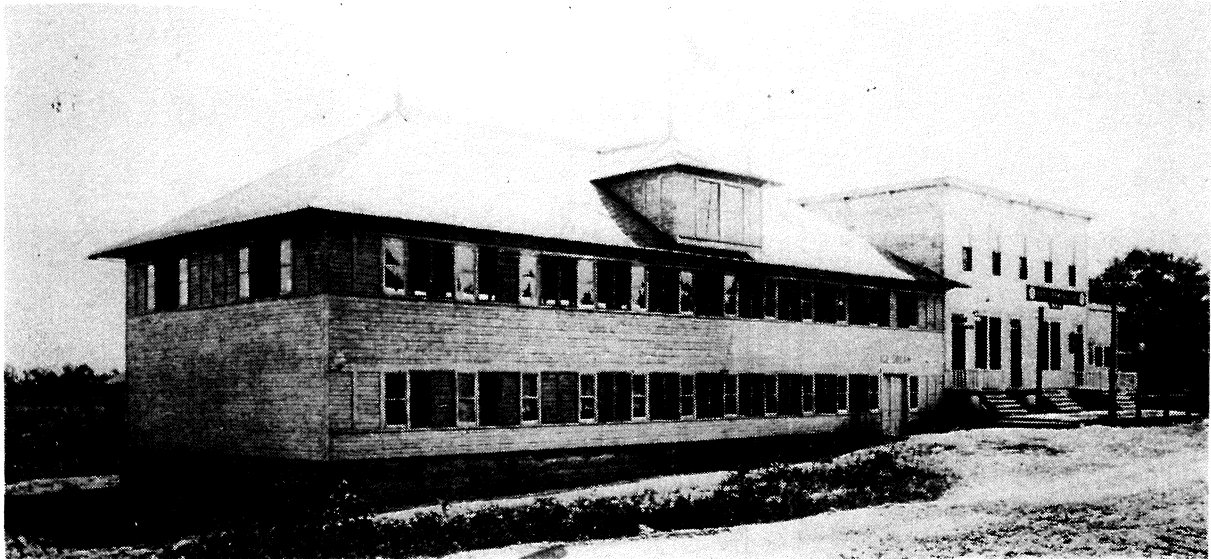
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*Photo No. 36 - Paul Sauer  
and Two Cylinder Buick - 1909*



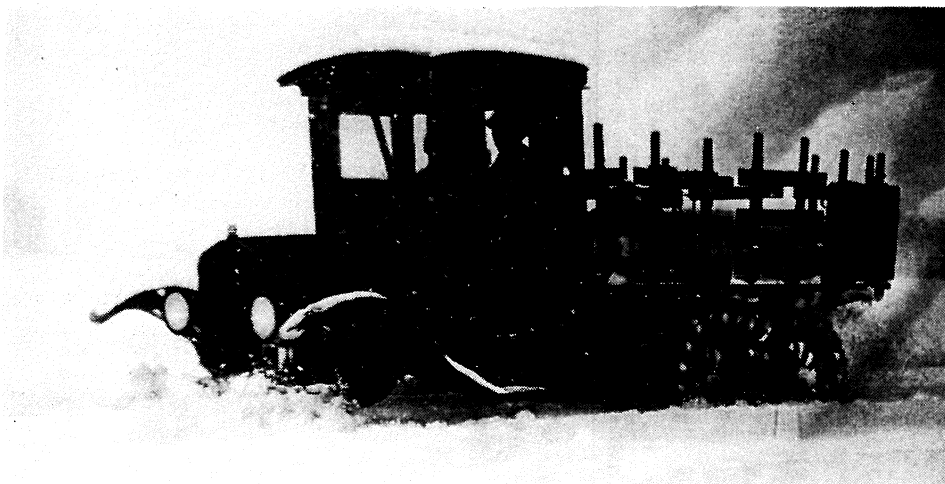
*Photo No. 37 - Slades Corners Creamery - 1911*



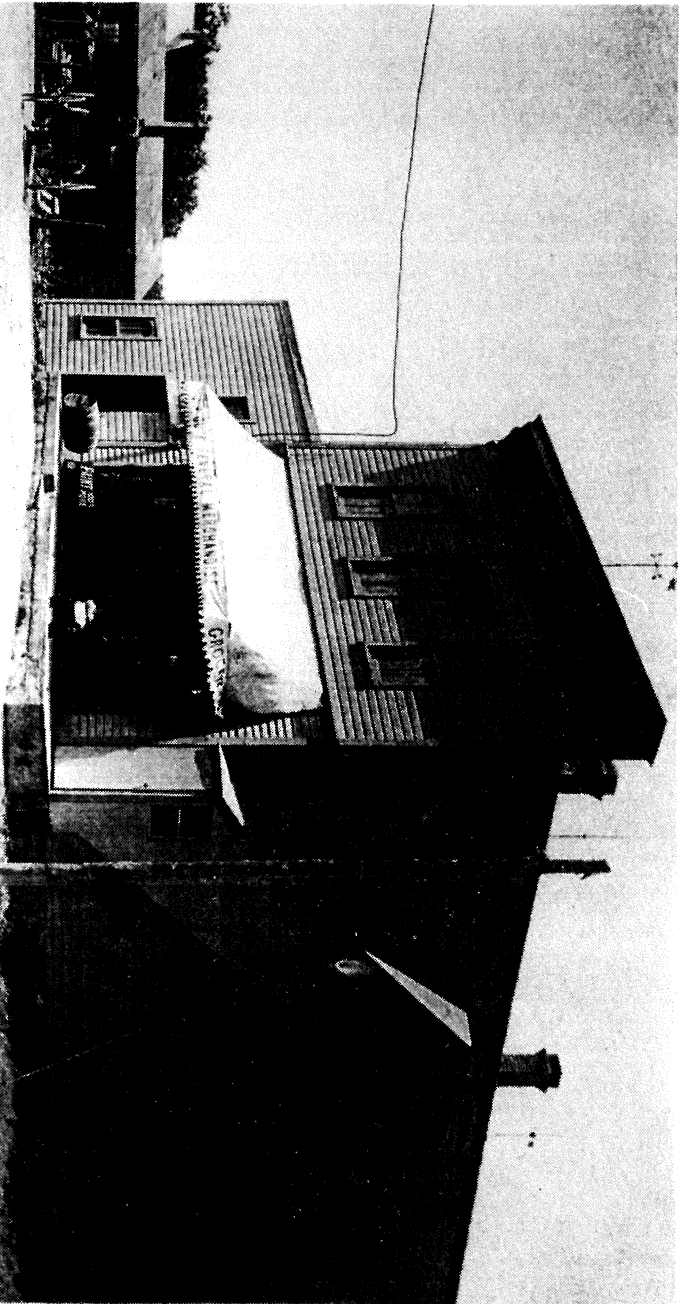
*Photo No. 38 - Spetzman's Hotel - Powers Lake - 1913*



*Photo No. 39 - Hotel Freundesruh at Powers Lake Presently Honey Bear Farm*



*Photo No. 40 - Early Snowmobile*



*Photo No. 41 - Wheatland Store - About 1909*



*Photo No. 42 - Village of Wheatland - About 1909*



*Photo No. 43 - Wheatland Creamery - About 1894*



Photo No. 44 - Wheatland School - About the Turn Of the Century



Photo No. 45 - Wheatland School - 1939

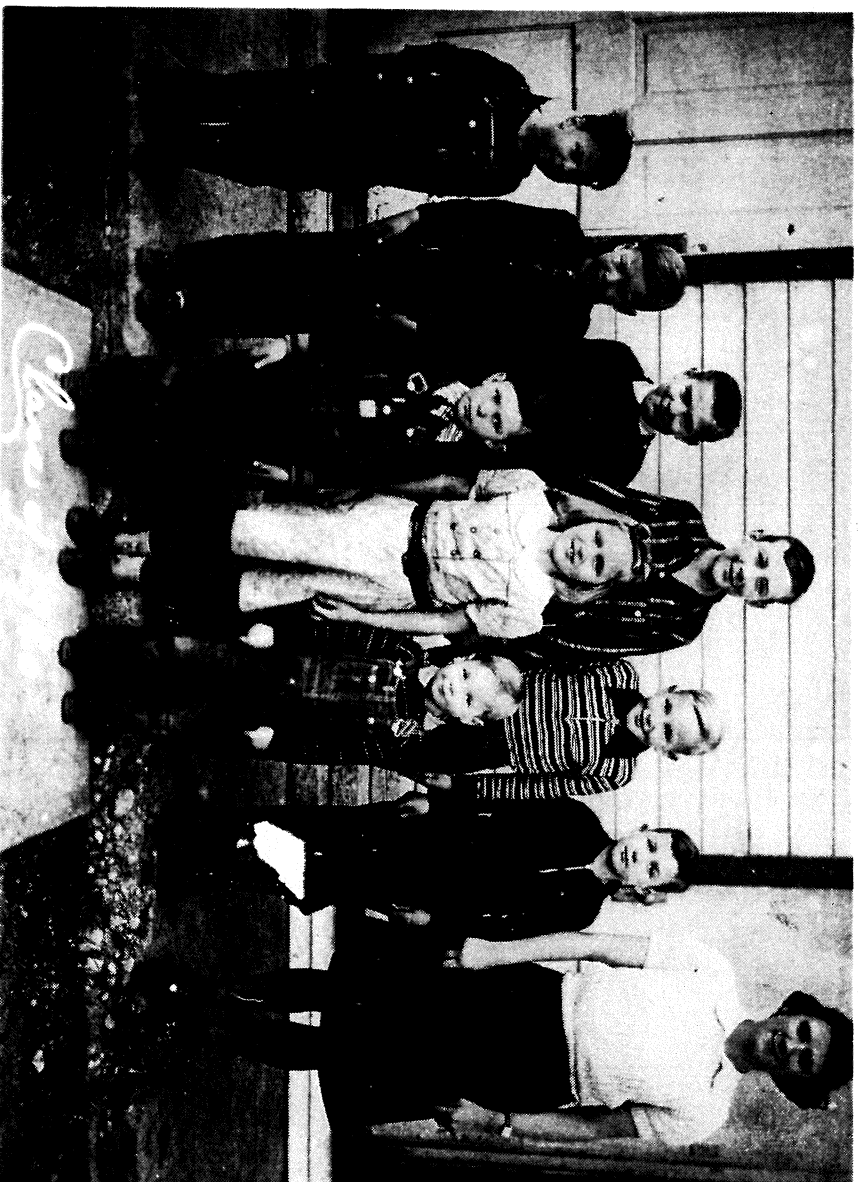
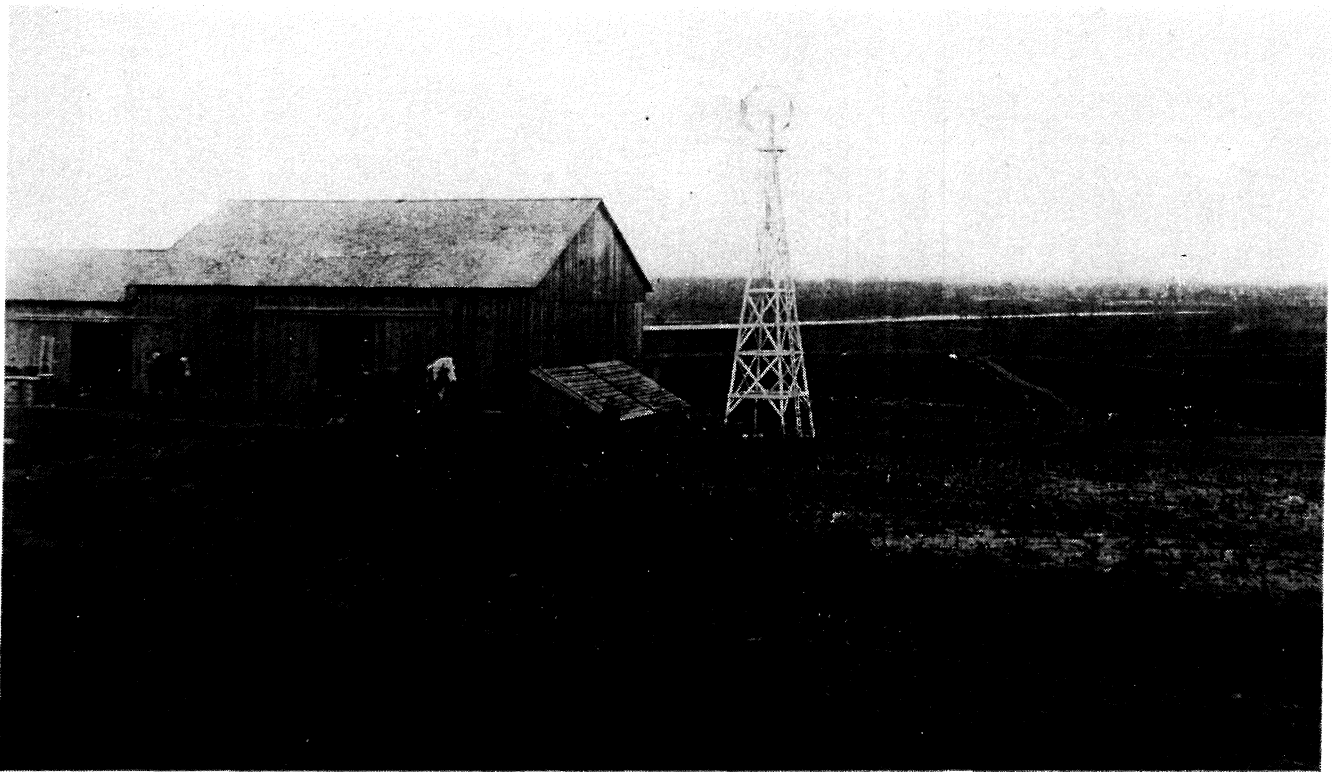
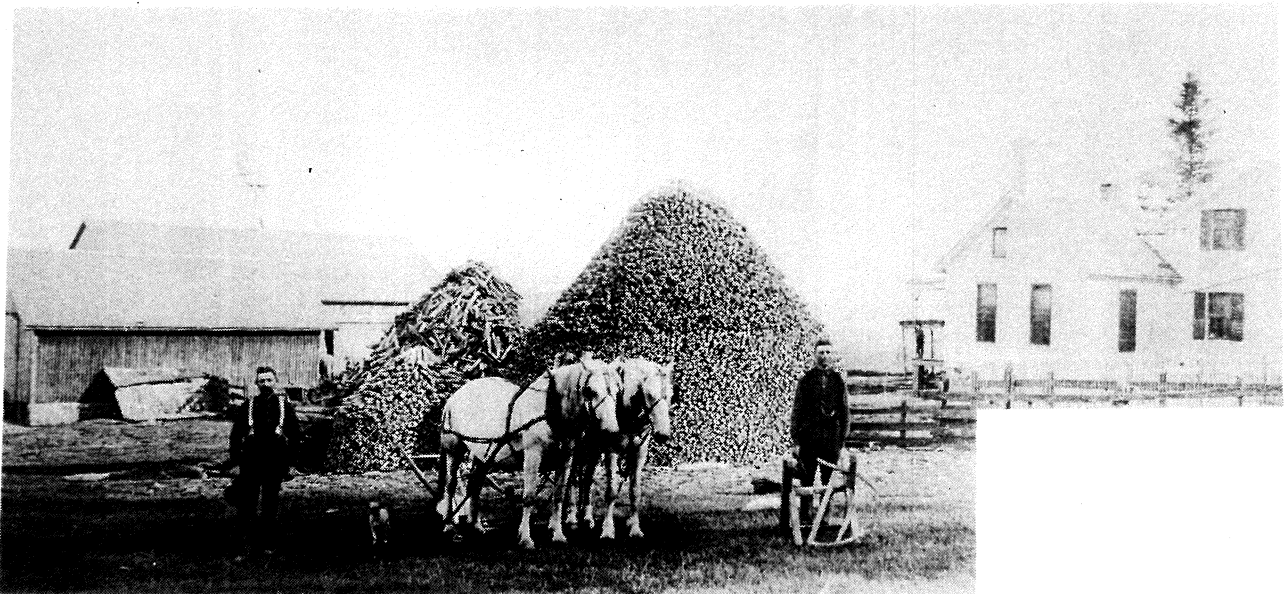


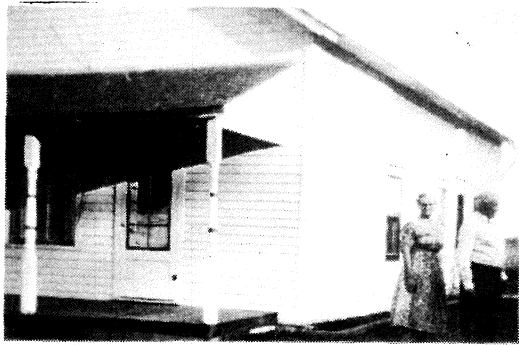
Photo No. 46 - Wheatland School - 1940



*Photo No. 47 - Schuerman-Weis Homestead - About 1890*



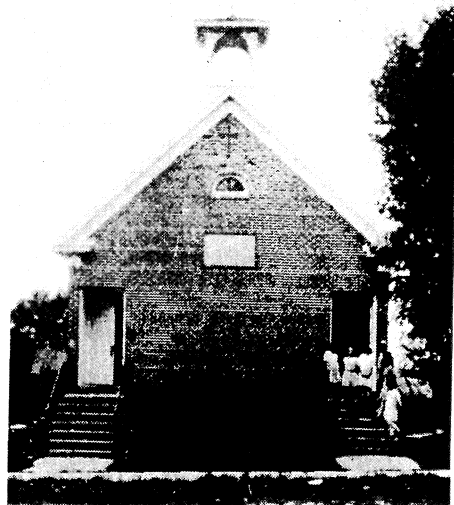
*Photo No. 48 - Wood Cuttings - About 1890*



*Photo No. 50 - Early School*



*Photo No. 49 - St. John's Church Centennial - 1958*



*Photo No. 51 - St. John's School*

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*WHEATLAND VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT*

*ROW 1: Hugo Vos, Joe J. Kerkman, Ben Kaskin, Martin Herda, Joe McCarthy, Al Kerkman, Charles Cook, Wilbur Mack, Ben Herda and Tom Grady.*

*ROW 2: Joe Lenz, Herb Kerkhoff, Matt Lois, Art Beduhen, Joe Lois, Dennis Creedon, Ervin Seno, Elmer Scherrer, Len Steffen, Harold Hagen, Harold Kessler, Otis Dyson, Herb Schwanz and Ben Schuerman.*

*ROW 3: Egon Uhen, Carl Ballwahn, Bob Kerkman, Clem Spiegelhoff, Roland Beimer, Paul Schatz, Bill Kaskin, Earl Welch, John Kerkman,*

*Gil Kerkman, Phil Newman, Al Vos and Bill Huff.*

*ROW 4: Bud Schuerman, Joe Robers, Cyril Kerkman, Art Epping, Hank Kretschmer, Wilbur Keucker, Norm Schulz, Walter Rasch, Joe A. Kerkman, Gus Neuman and Don Vos.*

*ROW 5: Homer Steffen, Bob Lenz, Otto Schoal, William Sherman, Lyle Wilson, Bill Rohn, Walter Brandes, Art Giesler, George Schlitz, Andrew Lois, Dell Schenning, Clem Lois, Ed Hunsbuscher and Hershel Vos.*



*WHEATLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE - NEW FIRE TRUCK - 1972*

*FRONT ROW: Chief Harold Richter, Robert Lenz, Tom Grady, Rodell Schenning, Earl Floeter, Roy Smith, George Schlitz, Erwin Seno, Francis Kerkman, Bert Richter, Harold Kessler, Joe A. Kerkman, Philip Neumann, Ray Lois, Leonard Lois and Albertus Schuerman.*

*SECOND ROW: Homer Steffer, LeRoy Smitz, Charles Elverman, Hershel Vos, Roger Runkel, Angelo Seno, Ronald Gascoigne, Ronald Runkel, Charles Schuerman, Robert Hofner, Alvin Weis, Harold Rossmiller, Dennis Lois,*

*Kenneth Kerkman, Richard Kerkman, LeRoy Vos, Norman Robers, Mark Weis, Jerry Kerkman, Dean Luke, Glen Kerkman, Jerry Luke, Alan Weis, Michael Smith, Henry Kretschmer, Donald Vos, Robert Quast, Jon Ludtke, Robert Herda, Richard Elverman, Fred Koehnke and Stanley Lois.*

*BACK ROW: Ray Cates, Richard Spiegelhoff, Wm. Uhen, Larry Smith, Ed Kretschmer, Jerry Lois, Danny Clebos, Charles Warren, Ronald B. Vos, Tony Zwirgzads and Wayne Chapman.*

## New Munster

by Joseph F. Pfeffer

We salute the forefathers of the Town of Wheatland who settled here in the 1840's. They were hard-working people determined to succeed. Being of German extraction, they chose to call this farming center of western Kenosha County in memory of their native German town of Munster, Germany.

It became a flourishing community in serving their needs. It also served as a stopover for the commuters of that time by stage coach. Having hotel accommodations and plenty of taverns, New Munster became known as "Whiskey Hill."

Today, New Munster could well be called the capitol of the Town of Wheatland. New Munster will never become a "ghost town," like so many others in the U.S.A. These descendants of the forefathers will not let this happen. They take great pride in their village. The location of the town hall on top of the hill with the town ball park and recreation field are well maintained, as well as the Fire Dept. St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, School, and Cemetery are a cornerstone of New Munster. The town has the cleanest garage in southeast Wisconsin which has been operated by the same family for over 50 years. There is also a well-known restaurant, patronized yearly by thousands who always come back for more.

Speaking of "Wheatland Township," the change has been dramatic in the last 40 years. Being part of America's Dairyland, Wheatland still has some of the state's leading dairymen with record-producing herds. With rising land prices and higher taxes due to urban sprawl, this poses quite a problem for many farmers, landowners and businesses.

"Wheatland Township" has great appeal to the future home buyer. This has changed it from being strictly agriculture. You will find homes going up in all parts of the "township." When will it stop? Some of the reasons for the people choosing homes and sites are the facilities which are available. We have good grade schools, public and parochial, well administered, as well as the high schools at Salem, Wilmot, and St. Mary's of Burlington. We have access to well-kept highways in winter as well as in summer. Employment and shopping are available in the area. We have beautiful communities at Powers Lake, Slades Corners, New Munster, along the Fox River, Wheatland and Lily Lake. If you name it, Wheatland has it.

Let us get back to the character of these pioneers. As you drive in and around the "township," you will recognize the names of third, fourth and fifth generation offspring of these pioneers. There is history handed down from one generation to the next.

William Luke, who was town chairman for many years and also served on the county board, was a very conscientious and determined man. He was instrumental in seeing that the people of the west end of Kenosha County should have a public park. Through his endeavors, today and year after year thousands of people hold family picnics and get-togethers and enjoy the pleasure of Fox River Park.

If these pioneer forefathers could only come back for just one day to see the results of what they started some 136 years ago, I'm surely certain they would be amazed and say, "Well done." This last generation will reply, "Thanks, but we have work to do." Join us and march on.

\* \* \*

## History of St. Alphonsus Catholic Parish

by Arlene Roanhaus

Organization of St. Alphonsus Catholic congregation in New Munster, began in Kenosha County in 1849. Catholics had begun settling in the community of Wheatland in 1840 and attended Mass in the Burlington area. Between 1847 and 1851, priests from nearby localities said Mass for the Catholics in private homes.

In 1849, Martin Schaefer donated over two acres as a site for the church. A stone church and parsonage were completed in 1851 at an approximate cost of \$5,000, and was dedicated October 14, 1851, by the Right Reverend Martin Henni of Milwaukee and placed under the patronage of St. Alphonsus Maria De'Liguori. Reverend Martin Weiss was the first resident pastor and remained there until 1854. The first congregation numbered 28 members. Trustees were Henry Toelle, president; Henry

Brueggeman, treasurer; and Henry Schuerman, secretary.

In February of 1855, Reverend Father Hauselbauer served as pastor until December of 1855. He was succeeded by the Reverend Father Berkman in April, 1856 who served until December, 1856, at which time he resigned. In December, 1856, he was succeeded by Reverend Charles Schrautenbach until February, 1857. The following served as pastors: Father Igedus Marschal, till March, 1858; Father James Stehle, who served until February, 1859 and Father Joseph Lutz who resigned in April, 1862. Father James Stehle filled the position of pastor until December, 1862.

In 1863, Reverend J. B. Hesselbauer attempted to organize a parochial school, at which time four acres of land and a dwelling house were purchased from Frank Krift. School was taught in this home by two laymen teachers, Henry Toelle and another pioneer named Lampe who taught there until 1872.

During this span of time, pastors who served the parish were: Father Henry Korphage, until January, 1866; Father Franz Deipreinbach, till July, 1867; Father Henry Korphage, who served again till July, 1870; and Father Marschal served again until April, 1872.

The first building erected as a school was constructed during the pastorate of Father Nicholas Zimmer, who was there from 1872 to 1874. The first school was staffed by the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

In May of 1874, Father Leonard Blum came to serve the parish. He remained as pastor until 1876. In 1876, Father Andrew Gestach was pastor of the parish which now consisted of one hundred families. Reverend F. Pfaller served as pastor from 1879 to 1882.

By 1883, the congregation had outgrown the original church. Father J. W. Blum undertook the building of a new church. This building, a Gothic style brick and wooden structure, 110 x 46 feet, with a Gothic steeple 136 feet high, was built at a cost of \$12,000. It was consecrated by Archbishop Michael Heiss, September 8, 1885. The old church was made over into a concert hall.

Reverend Henry Dreis became pastor in 1891, and was responsible for ornamenting the church with the beautiful Stations of the Cross. During this period, an addition was built to the schoolhouse with a chapel for Mass on weekdays during the wintertime. Father Joseph Zalakar was pastor during the year of 1894.

In the summer of 1895, Father J. H. Schiefen, then pastor, built a parsonage for \$2,000. The congregation numbered 110 families. The school had 71 students and the Franciscan Sisters of Charity from the convent at Alverno near Manitowoc, were in charge.

A golden anniversary was celebrated by the church in 1899, with parishioners participating in the festivities.

Fire destroyed the second church, January 13, 1907. About one hour after morning services had concluded, smoke was seen curling through the shingle roof. The sacred vessels, vestments, stations, and even some of the pews were saved. But the church itself and part of the contents burned to the ground. The cause of the fire was never determined. The total loss was \$20,000, with \$8,300 covered by insurance.

In May, 1907, Olaf Hoganson of Rochester contracted the job of building a new church for a price of \$17,000. Most of the material for the new church was hauled by parishioners with horses and wagons. Two bells for the new church came in April, 1908; one donated by the school children and the other by the St. Rose Sodality. At this time, new altars were erected.

The diamond anniversary of the church was celebrated November 25, 1909.

In 1915, Reverend Joseph Wurm became parish pastor. During his pastorate, a new four-room school of solid brick construction was built in 1916, at an approximate cost of \$10,900. It had dining and kitchen facilities and a chapel on the lower level, four classrooms on the main floor, and an auditorium above the main floor.

A new house, which had been provided for the sisters of the parish, was built at a cost of \$3,500, and was occupied December 16, 1921. Father Wurm was instrumental in having a pipe organ installed in the church. Reverend Wurm died in March of 1934.

In April, 1934, Reverend Joseph Pierron came to the parish as pastor and remained until 1941. During his pastorate, the pipe organ was installed in the church and the Sisters of St. Agnes of Fond du Lac came to teach in the school. The school enrollment now averaged 120 students.

On August 31, 1941, Reverend Joseph Michels served as pastor of the parish. Beginning in 1941, parish functions were underway to cov-

er a \$12,000 debt which was completely retired in a two year period. There followed improvements and repairs on the parish buildings.

In 1947, a fund of \$14,000 was built up for renovating and decorating the church. This work was completed in December, 1954.

On June 27, 1955, the church was solemnly consecrated by Bishop Roman Atkielski. This occasion also served to mark the centennial celebration of the parish. Solemn consecration differs from the consecration churches are given following their erection. It included blessing the outer walls, the tracing of the alphabets in ashes strewn on the floor, procession with relics, consecration of the altar, blessing of the inner walls, blessing of the 12 immovable crosses on the inner walls, and the celebration of Mass. The relics were those of St. Valentine, St. Benedict, and St. Boniface; all relics of the old St. Alphonsus Church of 1885. The church decoration featured a mural of St. Alphonsus in ecstasy and raised in the air while preaching, and a mural of St. Alphonsus as bishop preaching to the poor. St. Alphonsus Church is one of only three consecrated churches in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. Father Michels, shortly after these major accomplishments, died in August, 1955.

During the period starting August 7, 1955, a substitute priest, Father Albinger, served until Father Francis Kraus came September 15, 1955. During his pastorate, improvements were made in the school, including modernizing of the kitchen and cafeteria. In 1959, for the first time since 1872, a lay teacher, Mrs. Martin Herda, joined the teaching staff of nuns. The school lunch program was started in 1961 for the school children. Father Kraus retired March 12, 1964. Father Warren Abrahamson came to the parish March 12, 1964 until June 24, 1965.

On June 24, 1965, Father Peter Grabauskas came to New Munster to serve as pastor. In November of 1967, renovation of the church was completed by Potente Decorators of Kenosha. At this time, a new altar, pews and carpeting were installed in the church. Bishop Roman Atkielski consecrated the new altar in November, 1967. In the spring of 1970, the parishioners joined Father Grabauskas in celebrating his 25th anniversary to the priesthood. In June, 1973, the St. Agnes sisters retrenched from teaching duties in our school, and in September, 1973, our school became completely lay staffed under the principalship of Mrs. Phillip Roanhaus.

There are now 225 families in St. Alphonsus Parish and enrollment averages 100 students in the school.

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## History of the Wheatland Fire Department

by Mrs. Linda Pagels

The first fire department in the Town of Wheatland was organized in 1943. Prior to this, the city of Burlington provided some protection for the Wheatland "township" area.

At one time, New Munster and Slades Corners had a 50 gallon tank with buggy wheels and a 50 foot roll of hose. This was pulled either by hand or by a car. When the tank was turned upside down, acid would mix with soda water in the tank to produce pressure.

The first Wheatland Fire Department meetings were held in the old town hall. When the weather was cold, the meetings were held at Sonny Smith's or Bill Niederer's tavern. At present, the meetings are held at the town hall.

The first officials of the Wheatland Fire Department were Erwin Seno, chief; Dennis Creeden, assistant chief; and George Schlitz, secretary-treasurer.

The following men have served the fire department since its organization:

<u>Chiefs</u>	<u>Assistant Chiefs</u>	<u>Secretary-Treasurers</u>
Erwin Seno	Dennis Creeden	George Schlitz
Egon Uhen	Tom Grady	Kenneth Schuerman
Ossie Hay	Ken Spiegelhoff	Charles Schuerman
Chuck Dewitt	Robert Hofner	Elmer Scherrer
Johnnie Schilz	Dean Luke	Homer Steffen
Fred Briere		
Harold Richter		

Some of the major fires in the past were the barns of Hugo Vos, 1955; Bill Busch, 1956; and Hugo Rosenhauer, 1957. Other major fires

were Fred Kuebker's barn, 1965; Redman farm, 1966; Bradley farm, 1957, Felix Robers, 1940's; and also the Red Onion Dance Hall in Powers Lake.

At the present time, the Wheatland Fire Department has 50 active members and 61 reserve members.

The fire equipment now includes a 1948 Chevrolet with 1,000 gallon capacity which has a 250 gallons per minute pump; a 1968 3/4 ton four wheel drive Chevrolet with 268 gallon capacity and pumps 125 gallons per minute, used for grass fires; and a 1972 International truck with 1,000 gallon capacity and 1,400 feet of 2½ inch hose and 3 pre-connect of 600 feet 1½" hose. Other equipment includes two portable pumps, hose, six air masks, smoke ejector, and ladders. The newest equipment installed was the plectron system for alerting the members to fires.

Fire department equipment has been purchased with such fund-raising activities as poultry parties, dances, and carnivals. Currently, the department sponsors a two-day carnival in the summer with a dance, water fights, and many other events.

Donations by the department in the past have been \$1,200 in 1950 for land where the town hall and firehouse now stand; \$6,500 in 1958 toward building the firehouse and town hall; \$10,000 in 1972 for a new fire truck; \$4,500 in 1973 for 60 coats, boots and helmets; and \$8,037 in 1975 for the plectron system. Other donations of \$15,000 were received and used for miscellaneous needs over the years.

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## High Street

by LeRoy and Wayne Dyson

High Street was undoubtedly so named because it stretches over such hilly land for its entire two-mile length. It is now known as 376th Ave. Some of the earliest settlers were the Fays and the Newburys who took land from the government. Some of the other earlier settlers were the Dyson and Kessler families. Descendents of their families lived on their farms for over 100 years. Their first homes were small log cabins. The one on the Fay farm was about 18 x 22' and was built in 1841. It was taken down by Bernard Menheer in 1954 after he became owner of the Fay farm and Norman Wuttke built a house on that site. The nearest town was Burlington, then a small village. Wheat and grain were hauled to Burlington or Kenosha (then known as Southport) and exchanged for food or clothing and to have their wheat made into flour. Kenosha County was then a part of Racine County. There used to be a stone house near the Dyson-Fay line fence. The last person to live there was Seneca Clark. There used to be a log house opposite from Reihls' (now Nofrey's).

The first and only church on High Street was a frame building just south of the cemetery. It was built in 1861 on land bought from Charles Zelkie. Services were held in this church until September, 1921 when the congregation became too small to support a church. David Miller bought the church property from the M.E. congregation in 1922 and Wesley Miller took the building down in 1933. The parsonage house was used as a tenant house on the Miller farm until it was destroyed by fire in 1940.

The first factory on High Street was built in the winter of 1895-96. It was a frame building with a large icehouse which stood nearby. These were destroyed by fire in 1913. A new milk processing factory of cement blocks was built in 1913 on land donated by Fred Steffen. The first officers were Albert Karcher, president; G. Rosenhauer, treasurer; and Charles Dyson, secretary. There were three directors: Newton Newbury, David Miller and Fred Steffen. Butter was as low as 17¢ and milk was 80¢ per hundredweight at one time when this factory was in operation. The first butter maker was Allan Cooper and the last was Joe Bazal. The factory stopped taking milk in December, 1920. Mr. Steffen took down this building in 1931.

The first schoolhouse was a log building about 18 x 20' opposite the W. Dyson home. It was built about 1847. School was held in this building for only a few years as the space between the logs was filled with willows, mud and grass which did not prove very satisfactory. The first record of an annual school meeting for our district, then known as Lake District No. 5, Town of Wheatland, was held in 1849. It was voted to raise \$81 for a teacher's salary and each parent was obligated to furnish one-fourth cord of wood for each student attending school. At a special meeting in 1851, it was voted to raise \$200 for a new schoolhouse to be made of stone, 24 x 30', and to be built at

the same location as the log schoolhouse. It is reported that 41 pupils attended the last term of school. There were two terms, the winter term which started November 1, and the spring term which started about the middle of April. Wages were low, usually \$15 or \$25 a term. The teacher boarded at different homes, the time depending upon the number of pupils attending school. In 1880, the district became known as Jt. District No. 2, towns of Wheatland and Burlington. A new schoolhouse of wood was built on the county-line road about a quarter mile east of High Street. Teacher salary the first year was \$200. There were 53 school age children living in the district. The schoolhouse burned down in 1913. A new schoolhouse was built in 1913 on the same site, of red brick, with a basement and a furnace. (Now owned and remodeled into a house by Ray Spreckels.) Electric lights were installed in 1937. The school was closed when a consolidated school was built on Hwy. 0 in 1952 (Wheatland Center).

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Report of First Free Will Baptist Church & Cemetery of  
the Town of Wheatland

by Mrs. Idella Jensen &  
Mrs. Roy Remer

When it was first decided to use the space now known as the Baptist Cemetery, is not known, but there is a stone showing that a Frederick Diel, soldier, was buried there in 1846. This space was part of the land which was chosen by James Madison Williams and purchased by him with a Land Patent from the United States Government District of Lands Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin Territory, on March 3, 1843.

James Williams issued a Warranty Deed to Will Carpenter, Hugh McLaughlin, Sylvester Belden, Carman and James Williams, trustees of the First Free Will Baptist Church in Wheatland on December 29, 1856. Quotes from such deed are, "land to be used and occupied as a site for a church edifice and its necessary appurtenances and for no other purpose, and in case the church edifice aforesaid, shall be burned or shall cease to be occupied and used for such society for the space of one year, that then and in that case the said area shall cease to be the property of said Society and shall revert to the said property."

A church was built and services were held regularly. Some of the members came from as far as Geneva. They tied their horses with rigs to the fence posts surrounding the grounds in good weather, and in cold weather, Byron Crane tied the horses in a shed among the farm buildings.

The survivors and family of the decedent were expected to care for the cemetery grounds. There is no record of any fee charged for the lots but it is known that no person was denied a final resting place because there was no money to purchase the spot.

Somewhere around 1900, a tornado destroyed the church. In 1904, a group of people met and organized the "Baptist Cemetery Association of the Town of Wheatland." They contacted relatives and descendants of the deceased, in so far as they could trace them, and appealed for funds to improve the grounds and replace the fence. They received donations from local people and some from people in places as far as Kansas, South Dakota, and California; some having sent the appeal along to their relatives. The Association's first elected trustees were: George Pierce, Newton Newberry, Lewis Kessler, Will Crane, and Henry Runkel.

The Association was continued for a few years as long as they could get support and an attempt was made in 1930 to re-activate the Association and again in 1931. Mr. Harry Kull was the chosen organization manager-secretary-treasurer. There were no funds collected. From the time the Association was no longer active in the early 1900's, the Crane, then the Anton Jensen family, cared for the cemetery grounds without pay unless special arrangements were made for special duties, such as grave openings, etc. The last burial was June 20, 1936.

Veterans of military service buried in the Baptist Cemetery are: Francis Clark, Newton Fay, Morris Crane, Fernando Crane, Japheth M. Hunt, William Amess McFee, Frederick Diel, Oscar Eddy, Andrew Pierson, R. J. Roberts and two un-named soldiers in unmarked graves.

Information was assembled from records of land transactions, association papers, inscriptions on grave memorials, and descendants of Byron Crane, son-in-law of James Madison Williams.

There is an old cemetery located next to the Wheatland Center School property with graves dating from 1853 to 1940. The Town of Wheatland maintains the cemetery with the assistance of the Slades Corners 4-H Club.

## Powers Lake

by Douglas Schaal &  
Laura Schulz

Powers Lake was named after one of its early settlers, Mr. Powers, in the early 1860's. There were other farm settlers in the area before this, but Mr. Powers settled on the lake first. The early settlers did not want the land on the lake because it was of no use to them in the growing of crops. The area around the lake, being wooded, would have taken too much work to clear for crops; so, clear land away from the lake was settled and worked first.

One of the earliest Wheatland farms in the Powers Lake area is presently the Tesch Farm. Gus Tesch and sons have owned the farm since 1946. The farm was first started in June, 1841 by Edgar Dayton; later Fredrich Schulz in 1878; and Herman Schulz in 1910. Herman Seno then owned the farm until the Tesch family purchased it.

Another nearby farm owned by the Walter Brandes family was founded in the 1860's by the Lemmerhirt family, and passed on down through the years staying in the family.

In the 1870's, business came to Powers Lake in the form of an ice company. The Jefferson Ice Company, owned by the Russman family, built four icehouses. They would cut the ice in the winter with saws and use horses to move the blocks of ice into the icehouses. The ice was stored in these houses and used throughout the rest of the year in businesses and in homes throughout the area. There were four houses, all on the south side of the lake. House #1 was in the Knolls, #2 was in the Jefferson Island North Bay, #3 was located by the old Oakland Hotel, and #4 was on Lake Benedict. All the icehouses were connected by the Harvard-Kenosha railroad, and ice was shipped to these areas by rail besides to the local places of business and homes. Many of the men who worked cutting the ice were hobos off the railroad, and would work rather cheap; but had a tendency to spend their earnings for beer or liquor as soon as they earned it. Many of the men wore gunny sacks on their feet for warmth because they could not afford boots. Not all the men were hobos and many of the families in the area have old relatives who found steady employment in the ice business, either by cutting or delivering ice through the year. The old icehouses have been torn down, but the Jefferson Ice Company is still in operation and providing ice throughout the northern Illinois and Wisconsin area.

The hotels were the next business to come to Powers Lake. There were three in the beginning. One of the three was the Freundesruh; it was built on the land owned by another early settler by the name of Meuer. The hotel was owned and run by a man named Rothie. Later on, this hotel burned and in the 1920's a girls' camp, Wetomachek, was built on the site. In the early 1930's, the camp was turned into a chicken and turkey farm by a Mr. Clausen. Later, the farm was sold to the Kraft family and turned into a restaurant named Honey Bear Farm, still in operation today.

Another of the early hotels was the Belleview, owned by the Molter family. The hotel was built in 1880 on the north side of the lake about 200 yards northwest of the present post office. This hotel burned down in about 1901 and was never rebuilt.

The third hotel was the Harry Spetzman's Hotel, built in 1910. It was a hotel on the first floor, and a dance hall and restaurant on the upper floor. Along with the hotel, in the same building, was an ice cream parlor, a pool hall, a tavern, a post office, and the first grocery store in Powers Lake. This hotel was located just west of the present general store. Joe Kruduff ran the first tavern in the hotel. This hotel burned down twice, once in 1920, and the second time in about 1966. The second time it was rebuilt as a dance hall and tavern with a small restaurant below; and run most of the time by Earl Karow.

These hotels were vacation spots for many visitors from the Chicago area. The people would ride the Northwestern train to Genoa City and then ride by horse and buggy to the Powers Lake hotels. They would enjoy fishing, bathing, and the beauty of the area while on vacation. Dinners were often served from homes as the one owned by Laura Schulz.

In the 1920's, during Prohibition, beer was made in the local area; but little or no beer went out of the area. Most of the beer went for the local hotels, taverns and the farmers in near Powers Lake. The beer was made by the local farmers mostly for their own use.

The first post office was started in about 1905 by Mrs. Benedict on the south side of the lake on highway Z. Later, in 1910, the post office was moved to the north side of the lake into the Spetzman's

Hotel and run by Harry Spetzman. In about 1920, Mrs. Herman Buck took over the post office and moved it west, into where the Wayside Resort is now located. The Bucks ran a tavern, grocery store, and two alleys for bowling. In 1922, Mr. Bunge built the present general store and moved the post office to this location, along with a grocery-general store business. Carl Pretzman bought the store in 1924 and operated the store and post office until 1961. Carl no longer owns the store but still operates the old general store and gas station. In 1961, Mrs. Miller ("Fritzie" to the local people), took over the post office and in 1967 moved from the general store back to the old location where the Bucks had run it. This is presently where the post office is located.

There were four major elementary schools in the area. One was the Seven Oaks School which was located on Highway U, west of Powers Lake in Bloomfield "Township." Oak Dale School was located on Highway O and 50. The third school was the Slades Corners School, located just west of the St. John's Church parking lot. It was torn down in about 1954. The fourth school was the McKesson's School, later named the Randale School, located on the corner of Highway P and Z, on the southeast side of the lake. Randale School was sold in the 1960's and remains much as it was when a school. All of these schools were one-room elementary schools. In earlier years, students ranged in age from 5 to 18 years. It was not uncommon to have 30 - 40 - 50 and even 60 students enrolled in a school.

Today the old farms are still there, bigger and better as most farms are in the area. The old hotels have all burned down, but the vacation resort idea of the early settlers has not been forgotten. Now homes dot the lake shore all around the lake. The lake is a magnet drawing people for swimming, boating, water skiing, fishing and even snowmobiling and ice fishing in the winter. The old general store still stands on the main road through Powers Lake, with many additions, mostly taverns, motels, and boat and bait shops. All make a living, mostly from the vacationer.

The lake and the beauty of the area make this another asset of the Town of Wheatland.

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### Slades Corners History Highlights

by Eldred & Loraine Schwanz

It all began when Tom Slade acquired 640 acres of land from the government about 1840. Later on, half of it was sold to Bernard Smitz.

The first blacksmith shop was owned by Bill Maas. This is where Herman and Bill Seno took their apprenticeship and which they later owned themselves. It is now owned by Erwin Seno, son of Herman Seno.

Tom Slade leased the land for the school, torn down in 1954, which would be over one hundred years old now. In 1894, the enrollment was 45 to 48 children. The land on which the school was located was later given to St. John's Church in Slades Corners by relatives of the Slade family.

The present tavern, Butler's, was once a wheelwright's shop. It was then converted to a tavern by A. Ganswindt. It had two bowling alleys and a pool table with a barbershop in the back.

Sauer's grocery store was founded in 1874 as a wagon shop and then as a grocery store. In 1912, Sauer's furnished electricity for the few houses. Paul J. Sauer founded the newspaper called the "Mugwump," in 1892. It was printed weekly until the mid 1940's. It is currently a drapery and upholstery shop owned by C. J. Ryba.

The building behind Roger Seno's was a dance hall and also sold fresh meat when someone butchered.

Slade's Creamery was next to George Street's where John Meyer was a butter maker for 27 years.

Pat Kaddatz's residence was once the local stage stop.

Slades Corners Garage was built in 1922 and owned by Herbert Schwanz. It was later owned by Jack Wagner and his son, Ray.

Slades Corners was a crossroads village in early years. Traffic still goes all directions. As you go north on the Dyer Lake Road, you can see the remains of a railroad to connect Powers Lake and Burlington. It was never completed.

The earliest records found for Slades Corners School date back to

1853. The school must have been in operation for a few years since the clerks' and teachers' records show that in 1853 there were 51 students between the ages of 4 and 20 who attended school plus three under 4 and one over 20. Mary Shear was paid \$12 per month for teaching and maintaining the school. The district also spent a whopping \$6 for fuel, \$1.25 for a blackboard and \$1.50 for repair of the building valued at \$200.

In 1854-55, Elizabeth Conkey taught three months for \$10 a month and Betsey Stacy taught five months for \$10 a month.

On September 24, 1855, the annual meeting voted to raise \$15 to build an outhouse.

In 1859, there were 58 who attended school.

In 1862, Alonzo McLaughlin taught 61 students.

One hundred years ago in 1876, S. T. Slade taught 36 students.

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## St. John's Lutheran Church, Slades Corners

by Doug Schaal

St. John's was started in about 1853-1855, just four years before the Civil War, by a man named G. Rosenhauer. In 1858, Mr. Rosenhauer succeeded in procuring the services of Pastor C. F. Goldammer to be the first pastor. Mr. Rosenhauer started the church as the Reformed Church and Pastor Goldammer turned the people to the Lutheran Church. Pastor Goldammer served the church from 1858 - 1862 and again from 1876 - 1885.

The Civil War was tearing the country apart when Pastor C. Titze accepted the call to become the second pastor. Under his leadership, the congregation was legally incorporated and the congregation built its first church for \$1,000 on the property which is now our cemetery.

The congregation experienced steady growth and Pastor Stoerkel was called in 1867. His ministry is unusual, in that he promoted the false doctrine of chiliasm . . . a 1,000 year reign of Christ with His saints on this earth prior to Judgment Day. He published a book on this subject called '666'. He set 1908 as the year for Christ's return . . . and lived to see his error. Severing his ties with our Synod, he became Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Russia where he died in 1915.

Pastor J. J. Sauer was called in 1869. Due to existing conditions, it became his duty now to introduce sound and Scriptural Lutheran doctrine and practice. This, and the decision of the congregation to purchase the present church property, caused the "Reformed" element in the congregation to leave and build a church in New Munster.

In 1873, Pastor J. Meyer was called. When he accepted a call to Elkhorn in 1876, Pastor Goldammer returned a second time. In addition to the work in Slades Corners, these pastors also served congregations in Lake Geneva and Genoa City.

Pastor Aug. Graebner was called in 1885. During these years, numerous changes were made in the parsonage which had been bought together with the original property and which also served for school purposes.

Pastor H. Gleschen assumed the pastorate of St. John's in 1888. Mission Festivals now became an annual event and the seeds for a new church were sown. This dream was realized during the pastorate of E. Schubarth. Members brought the building material, hauled the stones for the basement, and the present church was built for \$2,825 by Herman Karow of Silver Lake, contractor. The basement cost an additional \$228.

In 1898, Pastor Korn was called. Under his leadership, the present constitution was written, a Daily Vacation Bible School was begun, and a large Sunday School was organized. Also, many repairs and improvements were made on the church. His ministry came to a sudden end when he died at the home of a member on Thanksgiving Day, 1902.

In 1902, the long ministry of Pastor R. Wolff began. He served our congregation for twenty-two years. During his ministry, English preaching was begun and the former brick school was built. Parochial School had previously been held in the parsonage. In 1917, the Ladies' Aid was organized and the present Cemetery Association was formed in 1923. The Cemetery Association has established a perpetual care fund and is in charge of care and management of the cemetery. A new fence and a wall on the west side were built about 10 years ago to correct the erosion to the farm field.

Pastor W. Huth was called by the congregation in 1924 and when he

accepted a call to Kenosha in 1928, Pastor E. Sponholz succeeded him. English services were now held regularly with German services only on every second Sunday. During his ministry, a garage was added to the parsonage; mixed communion was begun; and the new Lutheran Hymnal was introduced. Many of our members also fondly remember the active Young People's Society of that time. His very fruitful ministry was brought to a sudden close when the Lord called His servant home on December 22, 1942.

Pastor A. Lorenz was installed in 1943 and served the congregation until 1954. During these years, a new organ was purchased; the church was completely renovated; and new chancel furniture and appointments were purchased. When he accepted a call to Ontarioville, Illinois, Pastor D. H. Kuehl was called and served the congregation until August of the Centennial Year, 1958, when he accepted a call to Lake Mills, Wisconsin. During this time, the congregation saw the need of better and larger facilities for the instruction of the young and built the parish hall and pastor's office and study. Much labor was donated by the members so that the total cost, including furnishings, was approximately only \$46,000. In 1957, the congregation also voted to remodel the parsonage . . . more evidence of the willing spirit of the members.

In 1958, Pastor Barenz was called to serve our congregation. He stayed with us until 1964. Pastor Hellmann then came to serve the church. During his stay, a large amount of remodeling and building was done. The interior of the church was totally remodeled in 1968. In 1969, a new parsonage was constructed on the site of the old one. The former parsonage was sold to Loren Karow and moved away. In 1974, Pastor Hellmann retired and Pastor Raymond Ziebell came to serve the church. He is presently our pastor. The church has managed to prosper down through the years, and with the help of God will have many more years of bringing God's Word to the people.

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#### A Typical Century-Plus Family

by Mrs. Pat Smitz &  
Mrs. Lena Kerkman

One hundred thirty years have passed since Bernard and Wilhamina Smitz came to Slades Corners. The water no longer has to be pumped from the well outside and brought to the house. The plumbing has been brought inside. The cows no longer have to be brought through town every morning and evening to get to pasture land. The school bus has replaced 5 Charlie. The milk no longer has to be carried by hand; it is piped directly to the bulk tank, but the name of Smitz remains.

When Bernard and Wilhamina Smitz came from Germany and settled on farm land on the north, southeast, and west sides of Slades Corners, I'm sure they had no idea that one hundred thirty years later there would still be Smitzs on both the east and west side of Slades Corners.

Bernard and Wilhamina had six children: Henry, Joe, Mary, Josephine, and twins Elizabeth and Lizetta. Henry and Joe were to be the ones to see that chores were done which meant keeping after their sisters to get their work finished. Years passed and Joe married Josephine Watercott but remained on the farm. Bernard and Wilhamina were to become grandparents twice in the years that followed when Joe and Josephine gave birth to daughters. Bernard died in 1890 leaving his wife, Wilhamina, and two sons, Henry and Joe, to carry on for him. Life around the farm was not to be quiet in the ten years that followed. Wilhamina welcomed six more grandchildren onto the farm - children of Joe and Josephine. Wilhamina again saw death in the family when Joe and Josephine's daughter died in 1895, just a little more than a year old. In 1901, Wilhamina died leaving her two sons, Henry and Joe, to farming. Death was to come again, within a short year, to the Smitz farm when Emma, the first-born to Joe and Josephine, died at the age of 16. Life was not to stand still on the Smitz farm; life was to go on. Joe and Josephine found themselves busy farming and raising six children: Lena born in 1888, Ben in 1891, Lizzie in 1896, Joe in 1897, Frank in 1899, and Lucy in 1900.

Times were beginning to change, and as the kids began getting older, there was schooling to think about. The chores became harder to divide among the six. There was still the job of bringing the cows home through Slades Corners and as Lena tells, "we would have to make the cows get up a full head of steam so they'd hurry through Slades Corners." There was the chore of going all the way through town to the

pasture to pump water for the cows. Joe made it perfectly clear that they were to remain there until all cows had had water and then to fill the tank to the very top before heading home. Schooling became the thing you did in between the time you did chores in the morning and chores again at night. Fall time would find the Smitz children walking to New Munster to Catholic school and when snow and cold came they would go to the little school in Slades Corners. You would know when spring arrived by the Smitz children because they would again begin their walk to New Munster to school. Dad finally decided it was a long way to walk so \$5 Charlie took his place on the Smitz farm. But that again meant chores because Charlie would have to be fed and watered before school time. I am told it still beat walking.

Joe and Josephine's family were beginning to grow up. It was harder to find the girls at home and even harder to get the boys to get the chores done. As the family got older, Joe decided that another farm would give everyone more to do and keep everyone out of trouble.

The Buschman-Spiegelhoff farm, now known as the Gil Kerkman farm, was to be the answer since most of the land was adjoining. The Smitz family began doing chores and field work on both farms working both farms as one.

The year, 1914, was to bring a wedding onto the homestead when Lena married Joe Kerkman. Only two years were to pass and the Smitz family was to again see death when Henry died. Joe and Josephine now had the two farms to operate. Mind you, they had growing boys to help. Ben was to marry soon after Lena, and he and his new bride, Sophia Epping, took up residency on the Buschman-Spiegelhoff farm. Ben, renting it from his dad.

Joe and Frank were left at home, as the little ones, to help with chores. Little did they realize that only five years would pass and they too would have to take on the task of running the farm. In 1921, Joe Smitz died. Again, leaving a wife and two sons to run the Smitz farm.

1923 found the Smitz farm busy with weddings. Joe married Ida Epping and they moved off the farm to Volo, Illinois. Frank married Caroline Toelle and Lucy married Edward Toelle. Frank and Caroline were to make their home on the farm with Josephine. Little did anyone know in that great year of weddings, that only 11 months would pass and Frank would die, leaving Caroline and a baby on the way.

Joe and Ida moved back to Slades Corners to run the farm for his mother, Josephine. Josephine was to live long enough to see a granddaughter born, Irene, and life around the farm once again became busy. Christmas, 1925 came and went and, with the oncoming new year, it was a time for planting. All plans were to come to a halt on the last day of the year when Josephine died suddenly. Joe and Ida, with a new baby, were left with the responsibility of running the farm. Ben was operating the Buschman-Spiegelhoff farm. Within the next two years, Ben and Sophia were to move off the Buschman-Spiegelhoff farm, selling to Gil Kerkman. Joe Smitz, the second, and Ida had, by this time, decided to buy the Smitz homestead.

Winter turned to spring; spring to summer; summer to fall; fall to winter; and all the chores that went with the seasons were done and life moved on at the Smitz Farm.

December of '35, not only brought one of the worst snowstorms to the area, but also a son to the Smitz farm. Along with chores, Joe and Ida became busy raising their 11 year old daughter and her new brother. The winter of '35-'36 passed and spring of '36 came bringing chores for everyone on the Smitz farm along with raising a new baby. Things were becoming confusing with two Joes in the family, and it wasn't long before Joe, the third, was being called Don.

Three years passed and a month before Don was to turn three, a new brother, LeRoy, arrived. By the time Pearl Harbor was upon us, the two young Smitz boys knew well that when dad talked, they listened. Along with chores and school, time was found for fishing on Powers Lake. Don found out that having LeRoy in school with him was not as much fun as he thought it was going to be when LeRoy broke both arms and Don had to help him with almost everything.

1947 brought a wedding to the Smitz farm and the east side of Slades Corners was busy for days getting ready for the event. Joe and Ida's only daughter, Irene, married Bob Kirk.

Don and LeRoy were to find out about sickness early in life. Joe, with heart trouble, spent many months in and out of the hospital in the years '47, '48, and '49. Often, jobs for them to do were given out over the phone or by letter.

Thanksgiving of 1949 came and life around the Smitz farm began to get into the swing of the holiday season. The morning following

Thanksgiving came and jobs for the Smitz boys were given by their dad. Dad seemed a little more concerned and accurate about them than he had in the past but jobs were to be done as told. Shortly thereafter, it was understood. Not long after lunch, Joe Smitz, the second, had died.

History was repeating itself on that November day in 1949. Joe Smitz had died, leaving a wife and two sons (much younger than before) to carry on for him. Again, as in the past, life went on at the Smitz farm, as life must. It took longer to fill the emptiness, without husband or father, but Don and LeRoy, although only 13 and 10, knew that jobs did not stop nor did schooling. Jobs were split up as much as possible so that neither had to give up too many activities at school. Don started high school two years ahead of LeRoy and the boys split up jobs so Don had time for basketball. When LeRoy started high school, time was arranged so he could take time off from farm chores to be active in sports, also. Things were beginning to fall in place and the Smitz farm, Ida and the two boys, had carried on.

About the time LeRoy was to graduate from high school, Don, realizing that the draft would soon take him and that LeRoy was very capable of handling the farm for his mother, enlisted in the army. LeRoy was to take over farming for his mother at that time. But for a short time after his army days, Don did not return to work the farm other than to help out when needed. His life had become busy with a girl friend, Pat Dicklin, and within a year they had married.

Life was moving fast on the Smitz farm. There were always new jobs to be done even though some of the old ones were still not done. LeRoy found it hard to find time to sleep nights. Even though there were chores, there had to be time for fun and LeRoy could usually be found where the fun was.

1960 and 1962 brought new grandchildren to Ida Smitz when Don and Pat became parents of a daughter and a son. The Smitz name was to remain. Changes on the Smitz farm were beginning to take place and the old began making way for the new. Progress was being made. Land on the west side of town which had always been pasture was bought by the county for a new highway. The fences were taken down and were never again to be put back. There would be no need to go across town to pump water again.

LeRoy had decided, by this time, that it was time to finally settle down. The upper rooms of the farmhouse were converted into an apartment and in August of 1965, LeRoy and his wife, Midge Bair, moved onto the farm. LeRoy, by this time was managing the farm for his mother.

Life around the farm was to become very busy in the two years that followed. Ida became a grandmother three times. Don and Pat became parents of another son in November, 1966 and LeRoy and Midge a son in January, 1967, naming him Joe. Again, there was a Joe on the homestead. LeRoy and Midge were blessed with another son, Jimmy, in June, 1968. Little did anyone realize in those busy years, that for the first time in history, the Smitz name had been doubled.

Joe and Jimmy also found out early that Dad wouldn't always be around. Six months after Jimmy was born, LeRoy caught his arm in the self-unloading wagon. Many months were spent in and out of the hospital. With two small boys to raise and only little use of his right arm, LeRoy thought it about time to make plans for the tomorrows to come. It was at this time that LeRoy bought the farm from his mother. Life on the Smitz farm went on as before even though LeRoy was now the owner. The bills still had to be paid; the cows still had to be milked; the planting had to be done; and the crops harvested. Jobs just took a little longer.

LeRoy's tomorrows were not going to be as long as he had hoped and planned for. The morning of August 17, 1974 came as usual. LeRoy went to the barn to do what he had been doing for the past 24 years. Farm life was going on as always. Only hours were to pass before LeRoy died in the milk house. For a few moments, time again stood still and another Smitz had left the farm, leaving a wife and two young sons, even younger than he and his brother had been when their Dad died.

But, as in the past, life moved on. The minutes turned into hours, hours into days, days into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years. Midge took over paying the bills; seeing to it that the cows got milked; the crops planted and harvested; and the Smitz farm goes on.

Ida has moved off the farm and Midge and the boys have moved downstairs. Although off the farm, Ida has not moved from the farm land. Don built a home and lives on the land that was once pasture until the county built the new road. Ida has made her home with them. Walking into the family room at Don's, one would never think he had left the

farm some seventeen years earlier. Barn siding from the barn on the homestead covers two walls. It was one of the things Don saved when progress was made and new siding replaced the old. The picture of the homestead hangs in the Smitz hallway along with a tax receipt from 1846 for \$1.31. Although there are no longer cows around, you can easily get up steam on your bicycle to get through town in a hurry. Once on the other side of town, you are again at the farm.

Nearly two years have passed since life stopped for a moment on the Smitz farm, but as in the past, life goes on. Midge, Joe and Jimmy have gone on as Smitzs have in the past. There are chores to be done, cows to be milked, planting to be done, and all the things you do when you are boys of eight and nine. Did you ever watch Joe throw a football? You should.

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### Wheatland Willing Workers 4-H Club

by Mrs. Dorothy Lenz

In 1936, a 4-H Club was organized in Wheatland "Township" by Mr. E. V. Ryall, Kenosha County Agricultural Agent with the help of a Junior Leader, Louise Lauer. The leader of the club was Margaret Kerkman, who led the group of eight members. These members met in homes and their project work consisted of sewing tea towels, and doing craft work of braiding watch chains and bracelets. The name officially adopted by this 4-H Club was, "Wheatland Willing Workers 4-H Club."

In 1937, the club functioned under the leadership of Margaret Kerkman and the projects remained the same. Public exhibits were made at the Pavillion Building at Paddock Lake.

In 1938, the leadership was changed and Mr. Ben Kaskin served as general leader of the club and supervised the boys' projects, namely dairy. Mrs. Helen Schlax of Kenosha was assistant leader and was responsible for teaching girls' projects, mainly clothing. In this year, public exhibits were made at Wilmot, Kenosha County Fair.

From 1938 to 1948, Ben Kaskin and Mrs. Helen Schlax continued as leaders of the club. During most of these years, club meetings were held in homes of the members. Project meetings were also held in homes of the members, rotating weekly.

In 1943, the club, having had 100% achievement for three consecutive years, won the possession of the Achievement Silver Trophy Cup Award on a county-wide basis. There was no Kenosha County Fair this year, so all exhibiting had to be done on a local level. A club tour was held in which all members, parents, and leaders visited each member's home and viewed exhibits of all projects.

In 1944, our club had its first delegate to National 4-H Club Congress, Arlene Lenz, who was a state alternate for National Dress Revue.

In 1945, Doris Dekker represented the state in the National Dress Revue. Arlene Lenz won the first Kenosha County Safety Speaking Contest.

In 1946, Ray Toelle served as a leader to help with the boys' projects. Our club had its first float entered in the Kenosha County Fair parade, and won a blue rating. Club member, Arlene Lenz, won the Kenosha County Fair Queen Contest. Arlene Steffen judged Foods and Nutrititions at the State Fair Judging Contest.

1948 brought about many changes. Mrs. Helen Schlax moved out of the community, thus resigning her leadership. Ben Kaskin resigned, due to ill health. Ray Toelle served as general leader, with Mrs. Dorothy Lenz as assistant. Club enrollment increased to fifty-five members; so project leaders included Otis Dyson, Mrs. Mabel Kessler, and Arlene Lenz. Romaine Kessler represented the state in the National Dress Revue, and was a delegate to National Club Congress. The club achieved 100%.

In 1949, Ray Toelle, formerly general leader, was inducted into the army; so Arlene Lenz Roanhaus replaced him. New project leaders included: Cyril Kerkman, Phillip Roanhaus, and Charles Toelle. Two members of our club were selected for National Club Congress, Leroy Dyson for his work in Tractor Maintenance, and Ardell Lenz for his work in Safety.

New project leader in 1950 was Elmer Getka. The club had 100% achievement. Ardell Lenz won the first Kenosha County Conservation Speaking Contest, thus being awarded a trip to "Trees to Tomorrow" Camp at Eagle River. General leader was Mrs. Dorothy Lenz.

In 1951, two of our club members were the first in Kenosha County to demonstrate at the Wisconsin State Fair. Roberta Schlitz entitled her demonstration, "Romance Among Dishes," and Ardell Lenz called his, "Beautify Your Home - The 4-H Way." Mardelle Kerkman and Ardell Lenz participated in the judging contest, and Ardell sang in the State Chorus at the Fair. The club had 100% achievement and won two outstanding awards, National 4-H Recreation, and National Rural Arts Awards.

Two junior leaders served as general leaders in 1952, Roberta Schlitz and Ardell Lenz. Roberta judged at the State Fair in Home Improvement, and won a blue rating. Ardell Lenz was the first in the county to receive State Honor Recognition in the National 4-H Citizenship Program, and was presented with a scholarship to the American Youth Foundation Camp at Camp Miniwanca, in Michigan, being one of the highest awards to be earned in 4-H Club work.

In 1953, Mrs. Hazel Runkel served in the capacity of assistant leader. Project leaders, new to the club at this time, were Richard Luke and Beth Wilson. The club enrollment declined to 17 members. (Another club was formed, Slades Corners Lucky Clovers 4-H Club.) Ardell Lenz was awarded the State Citizenship Award, and was given a Savings Bond by the Bankers' Association.

In 1954, club enrollment raised to 29 members, and had 100% achievement. The club received recognition for outstanding work performed in Safety. Our club sponsored a candidate, Janice Lois, who was selected Kenosha County Fair Queen.

In 1955, one of our club members, Nancy Runkel, was selected as a court member in the Kenosha County Fair Queen Contest. Mrs. Hazel Runkel became general leader of the club of 29 members.

In 1956, Mrs. Arlene Roanhaus became general leader of the 22 member club. Nancy Runkel demonstrated the art of bread-making at the State Fair, and Roger Dankert was selected to play drum in the State 4-H Band. Nancy Runkel was awarded a trip to "Trees of Tomorrow" Camp for her outstanding work in conservation.

In 1957, new project leader was Earle Harrison. The club enrollment was 26 members with 100% achievement. Nancy Runkel attended National 4-H Club Congress for being outstanding Home Ec and Achievement Girl. Roger Dankert sang in the State Chorus. Nancy Runkel was the first to receive the Wisconsin Key Award.

Mrs. Dorothy Lenz was general leader in 1958, with the club enrollment of 25. Marvin Kaddatz was new project leader. Mary Ann Walton received a scholarship to attend summer 4-H Camp.

In 1959, Mrs. Joanne Walton and John Bieneman helped as project leaders. Club enrollment was 30 members with 100% achievement. Paul Bieneman demonstrated at the State Fair with his version of, "Honey, Are You Making Any Money?", and received a blue rating. The club received county recognition for their outstanding work in Safety.

Club enrollment in 1960 was 40 members. Two new project leaders were Francis Kerkman and Mrs. Ruth Schuerman. Kenneth Busch sang in the State Chorus and accompanied the State Band and Chorus on a concert tour throughout Wisconsin. Paul Bieneman was awarded the Wisconsin's Key Award.

In 1961, John Bieneman took over general leadership for one year, and new project leaders were: Mrs. Soph Lenz, Mrs. Marion Richter, Mrs. Rosemary Busch, Mrs. Norma Bieneman, and Robert Busch. Our club entered the first Kenosha County Musical Contest with a number called, "The Girls' 4-H Story," and represented the county at the district contest. Being the 25th anniversary of the club, a celebration was held with 200 people in attendance. At this event, a memorial plaque in honor of deceased leaders and members, was presented to Earl Floeter, Principal of Wheatland Center School, by Town Chairman George Schlitz. This memorial was to be kept in the hall of the school, as this was our meeting place, and is to be kept up-to-date with leaders and members to follow. On this memorial are: Ben Kaskin, general leader for 10 years; Otis Dyson, poultry leader for 1 year; Ardell Lenz, general leader for 2 years, electricity project leader for 4 years, and member for 11 years; Margaret Schenning, member for 7 years; and Fern Wilson, member for 8 years.

In 1962, Mrs. Arlene Roanhaus was general leader, with two new project leaders, Mrs. Dorothy Razor and Mrs. Birgett Jensen. A state pilot project was initiated into our club called "Little Leaders." Little leaders organized by the general leader were: David Richter, Donna Richter, Larry Wilson, Linda Schmidt, Joanne Kerkman, Linda Kerkman, and Dennis Jensen.

In 1963, the club participated in the county musical contest with

two numbers, "Springtime" and "Indian Pow-wow." Regina Lenz, Darlene Roanhaus, Linda Haag, Camille Kach, and June Schmidt became "little leaders." Mrs. Evelyn Kerkman became a new project leader. Jerry Luke and Earle Harrison served as leaders helping the boys with their projects.

In 1964, Mrs. Hazel Runkel and Alex Haag were project leaders. Our club won a State Conservation award, and received an award, an educational three-day tour throughout Wisconsin studying conservation. Representatives were: Regina Lenz, Linda Haag, Wally Harrison, and Ronnie Runkel, accompanied by Mrs. Arlene Roanhaus.

In 1965, Regina Lenz won a state award for her work in Foods and Nutritions. Judy Schuerman represented the county at the state fair in the demonstration contest. Lloyd Merrill served as a project leader. "South of the Border" was the musical number which won blue ratings in the county and in the district contests.

In 1966, Alex Haag accepted general leadership of the club. Our club presented its first play in the county contest, entitled "Little Prison." Mrs. Marilyn Lohodek led the horse project for the club. The musical entitled, "Winter Wonderland," won blue ratings in the county and district contests. Linda Haag and Marietta Luke won top honors in the first State Horse Show held in Madison. Regina Lenz won the top Home Economics Award in the county.

In 1967, a new project was introduced for nine year olds called Exploring, and was led by Mrs. Soph Lenz. Two new project leaders were Mrs. Myrtle Schilz and Mrs. Mary Richter. Linda Haag was awarded a trip to Canada for her outstanding club work, and a county Home Economics award in the county. Regina Lenz and Linda Haag were both awarded the State Key Award.

In 1968, Regina Lenz and Linda Haag, having graduated from club work, became project leaders. Mrs. Dorothy Sikac also became a new project leader. Two musical numbers included a girls' Triple Trio and a novelty, "Charlie Brown." Lead performers in the novelty were Dan Roanhaus (Charlie), and John Schenning (Snoopy). The club observed Rural Life Sunday with a Mass and breakfast at St. Alphonsus Church. The girls' Triple Trio were honored guests at the dedication ceremony of the Wheatland Gardennaires' Club memorial dedication at Lily Lake. Mrs. Dorothy Lenz was presented with a diamond pin for her twenty years of service to the club as leader.

In 1969, former members Mary Razor, Dorothy Roanhaus, and Barbara May became project leaders. Musical selection for this year was, "The Wizard of Oz." Lead characters were Dorothy (Dorothy Roanhaus), Lion (Joe Vos), Tinman (Daniel Roanhaus), and Scarecrow (Donald Lois).

In 1970, Miss Regina Lenz was honored at a Western Kiwanas Banquet for being, "Leader of the Month." For her outstanding work as a 4-H leader, she was awarded an inscribed plaque. Judy Schuerman won a trip to Washington, D.C., for her work in citizenship activities.

In 1971, new project leaders were: Mrs. Pat Smitz, Mrs. Carol McLaren, and Mrs. C. Carlson. Club officers were: Ruth Vos, president; Marie Vos, vice-president; Hilda Poepping, secretary; and Barbara Schenning, treasurer.

Junior leaders in 1972 were: Theresa, Marie, and Ruth Vos; Barbara Schenning; Daniel Roanhaus; Hilda Poepping; Donna Joerndt; Jeff Cook; Susan and Dorothy Breski; and Laurens Bitter.

In 1973, Mrs. Dorothy Lenz, "Leader of the Month," received a plaque and was a guest of Western Kiwanas at a banquet, for her outstanding achievements as a 4-H Leader. Club officers were: Deborah Roanhaus, president; Patty Epping, vice-president; Barbara Schenning, treasurer; Mike Epping, secretary; Dell Roanhaus, sergeant-at-arms; and John Schenning, reporter.

In 1974, Mrs. Evelyn Elverman served as project leader for Exploring. The musical number was entitled, "Singing Around the Campfire." Mrs. Arlene Roanhaus was presented with a gift from the club honoring her resignation as a 4-H Leader, after having served this club for 27 years as a leader and project leader. Athletics, including baseball, were introduced into the club by Richard Elverman, coach. Other new project leaders include: Mrs. Arlene Runkel, Lyle Wilson, Mrs. Pat Elverman, and the former Linda Haag, now Mrs. Moldenhauer.

In 1975, General Leader Alex Haag resigned and Mrs. Rosella Wilson accepted the general leadership with Mrs. Phyllis Epping serving as her assistant leader. New project leaders were: Mrs. Carol Kerkman, Mrs. Lorraine Warren, and Art Epping. Kyle and Kevin Wilson represented the county as delegates to the Winter Camp in Ozaukee County. Deborah Roanhaus was selected as Kenosha County's alternate for the State Dress Revue.

In 1976, Barbara Elverman, Mary Poepping, and Ellen Wermeling were selected to serve as camp counselors at Camp McClean. The present enrollment is 78 members, with 20 project leaders teaching our young people. New project leaders this year are: Mrs. Rita Vos, Mrs. Carol Wermeling, Roger Runkel, Mrs. Joyce Poepping, Mrs. Diane Schulte, and Mrs. Nancy Nienhaus.

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### National Catholic Society of Foresters

by Mrs. Dorothy Lenz

The National Catholic Society of Foresters, formerly named Women's Catholic Order of Foresters, is a Catholic Fraternal Society which offers insurance plans to interested Catholic individuals. The motto, "Love, Benevolence, and Charity," emphasizes these virtues in serving the community in religious and civic aspects.

This organization began in the community of New Munster in Wheatland "Township" in February, 1921, under the local chapter, St. Rita Court No. 1174. This court was organized through the efforts of Mrs. Mary Prasch and Mrs. Josephine Smith, with 27 members. From 1921-1923, Mrs. Josephine Smith served as Chief Ranger President.

St. Rita Court was led by the following Chief Ranger Presidents: Mrs. Rose Busch, 1924 - 25; Mrs. Mary Kretschmer, 1926 - 70; and Mrs. Dorothy Lenz, 1970 - 76.

In 1971, the Court celebrated the 50th anniversary with a High Mass in St. Alphonsus Church, followed by a dinner and program. Present were neighboring courts, officers of High Court, and Mrs. Mabel Albert, National Director. 200 people were in attendance for this festivity.

In 1976, there are 105 adult members and 36 junior members. Living charter members are: Mrs. Anna Schilz, Cora Schuerman, Mary Robers, Laura Sherman, Lucy Toelle, Agnes Robers, and Caroline Smitz. On January 1, 1976, St. Monica Court No. 936 disbanded, thus transferring these members into St. Rita Court. Present officers are: Mrs. Dorothy Lenz, president; Mrs. Mary Luke, vice-president; Mrs. Lucy Toelle, financial secretary; Mrs. Lucille Lois, recording secretary; and Mrs. Evelyn Uhen, treasurer.

### Junior National Catholic Society of Foresters

In 1959, a Junior Forester Court was chartered by the St. Rita Court, of National Catholic Society of Foresters. This Junior Court was organized on October 29, 1959, by Mrs. Josephine Weigel from High Court, under the direction of Mrs. Arlene Roanhaus.

The first officers to serve in this junior court were: Lynn Spiegelhoff, chief ranger president; Suzann Merten, vice-chief ranger; Darlene Roanhaus, recording secretary; Mary Ann Hrcirik, senior conductor; Barbara Lois, junior conductor; Donna Richter and Judy Schuerman, sentinels; Colleen Busch and Joann Richter, flag bearers; and Elisa Merrill, Patricia Richter, and Jacalyn Gehring, virtues.

Junior Director, Mrs. Arlene Roanhaus, served from 1959 till 1963. The first breakfast which followed a Mass at St. Alphonsus Church was held in 1963. The Junior Court presented a special musical playlet entitled, "Our Lady of Fatima," as the program for this event.

Junior Directors who served the Junior Court through the years were: Mrs. June Luke, 1963-65; Mrs. Rosemary Busch, 1966-67; Mrs. Armella Rossmiller, 1968-70; Mrs. Lucille Lois, 1971-74; Ms. Jane Uhen, 1975-76; and Ms. Deborah Roanhaus, 1976.

The Junior Court now has a membership of 36.

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### History of Wheatland Center School

by Earl Floeter

Wheatland Center School was built in the winter of 1952-53 and was dedicated on April 19, 1953 by members of Jt. School District #1. This area included all of the Town of Wheatland and parts of the Towns of Brighton, Randall, and Salem in Kenosha County. It also included an area south of Bohners Lake and an area north of the Village of Wheatland in the Town of Burlington in Racine County.

Records saved from earlier school districts show that one-room schools were in operation in the 1850's with enrollments of over 50

students.

Wisconsin was organized as Wisconsin Territory in 1836 and became a state in 1848. During this time, many land purchases from the government were made in what is now Kenosha County. The Town of Wheatland had the most rapid growth and largest population of all the areas of the county outside of the City of Kenosha. The population was greater in 1850 than it was in 1952 when our consolidated district was formed. Large families, and with school enrollments from ages 5 to 19, meant that these one-room buildings were really bulging with students. Most schools were operated with a winter term of 3 or 4 months and a spring or summer term of 3 to 5 months. In 1853, School District #12 (Slades Corners) of the Town of Wheatland received money from the Town Superintendent, in the amount of \$55.42 and a District Tax of \$53.82 for a total of \$109.24. Amounts spent were: \$96.07, teacher's wages; \$6, fuel; \$1.50, repairs; and \$5.34, library books for a total of \$110.16.

The outline of districts was not clear but the earliest schools were at Slades Corners, High Street, New Munster, Oak Dale (Hwy. "0" areas), and a school near the junction of highways 50 and "W" west of the Fox River. (See picture of school as a part of "Chuck" Toelle's barn.) Later, this area must have divided with a schoolhouse being built at both Fox River and at the Village of Wheatland.

There was a Lutheran Church and parsonage at Slades Corners, a Methodist Church and parsonage at High Street, a Baptist Church on highway 50 across from Jensens, and a Presbyterian and a Catholic Church facilities at New Munster. School was held in some or all parsonages. A Lutheran schoolhouse was built in 1917 and a Catholic schoolhouse has been maintained in New Munster since 1863.

Student enrollments declined in some areas and schools were closed. Fox River School was closed for a few years. New Munster was closed and the district was divided among Fox River, Oak Dale and Wheatland. By 1951-52, the average daily attendance had dropped to 68 students with a total enrollment of 85 in the five schools.

In the 1950's, County School Committees were active in meetings, hearings, and referenda calling for consolidation. Many of the votes were very close. Finally consolidation was passed on February 25, 1952 for Wheatland, Slades Corners, Oak Dale, and Fox River Schools. On March 3, 1952 at the Annual Meeting, Phillip Neumann, Wallace Runkel, Pete Epping, Norman Schulz, and Homer Morgan were elected to the school board. On March 31, 1952, High Street requested admission to the new district. This was approved at an election on April 14, 1952. At another Annual Meeting on April 29, 1952, Otis Dyson was elected in place of Pete Epping thus keeping one member from each area on the new board.

While the school board was visiting new schools for ideas, they met Earl Floeter. He had had 10 years' experience teaching in two rural schools where some of the earliest consolidations among low enrollment rural schools in the 1930's had occurred. In 1945-52, he was a teaching principal at Lowell, Wisconsin, teaching grades 7-8-9. A lunch program, transportation in district owned buses, and building a new school (through much community effort) were ambitious undertakings and must have prompted the board to seek Mr. Floeter as a teacher and principal. After the close of the County Superintendent's Office, the position of district administrator was added to the job. The school district now files all reports directly to the State of Wisconsin. Assistants, working as teaching principals, have been added to the staff in the past few years.

Two of the former districts, Wheatland and Oak Dale, owned property on which the schoolhouses were located. The Wheatland district purchased land of the Ben Richter farm, consisting of one-half acre in the community of Wheatland. The Oak Dale district acquired one-half acre of land from the Carpenter farm in 1860. It is of this farm, now known as the Ziebell farm, that the new school district property on County Highway "0" is a part.

The other three districts known as High Street, Slades Corners and Fox River were not owners of the land on which the schoolhouses were situated, but rather the use of the land was granted to the school districts for school purposes. At such time as it is no longer used for school purposes, it shall revert to the original owner's heirs. The High Street District reverted to become a part of what is now known as the Joseph Robers farm, and the district, together with Mr. Robers, sold the school building and one-half acre of land to Mr. Uhlenhake. The Slades Corners school property will revert to the heirs of S. Dwight Slade who are Alice Huse, a former resident, and the widow and son of her brother, Matt Slade. The Fox River school site is in land formerly a part of the Runkel farm, leased in 1880, and the sole surviving heir

of Mr. Runkel is one of his daughters, Emma Klare, now residing in California.

By correspondence received, she gave the land to the school district.

Plans were made to sell the buildings and sites of the schools at Wheatland, Oak Dale, and Fox River, and the building at Slades Corners. The sale was planned for the latter part of May, 1953.

After considerable planning, a building was designed in cooperation with the School Board and Building Committee and approved by architects, West and Anderson, that would incorporate the essentials of a modern grade school with facilities for complete community needs.

Finally the figure of \$85,000 was accepted by bidders. In order to get a building like ours, special obligations and responsibilities had to be assumed by the School Board. All bills were paid directly to the suppliers. Howard Lindvig, our general construction contractor, took the biggest gamble on himself, by agreeing to work for wages along in return guarantee of a building for our price of \$85,000 which would include a fee for his profit and expenses as a contractor if he provided us with a complete building. With this arrangement, we were able to make necessary changes where advisable, without being involved in a lot of extras. We realize that many extras were included in Mr. Lindvig's contract price.

Enrollments grew rapidly and an addition and borrowing was as follows: 1955 - \$20,000 (10 yr. 2½% note) for two classrooms plus a staff room and workroom - storeroom. While Bong Air Base was being built, we also felt another growth period with over 40 in some classrooms. Two more rooms were built with an additional 10 year 2.75% note for \$25,000. In the summer of 1962, we built another boiler room, kitchen, cafeteria, kindergarten, locker rooms, storerooms, additional bathrooms, and three classrooms. We had issued a \$120,000, 15 year 3.2% bond and followed with a \$35,000, 10 year 3.75% note in 1963. In 1966, we enclosed an outdoor court area for a gymnasium and stage and an area for twelve classrooms. Six were completed in 1966. In 1967, we joined with our neighboring districts in establishing two and later three special education classes. We had issued a \$180,000, 20 year 4.125% bond in 1966 and used other working reserve cash in 1967 to complete the six classrooms on the second story.

Although we owe \$99,000 in bonds, we have over \$1,000,000 of building and equipment plus 12.6 acres of playground and seven 66-passenger school buses. Wheatland Center is an example of community cooperation and effort from several organizations. From an active Mothers' Club (now Parent-Teacher Club) and from student-staff efforts, funds for numerous purchases were procured. We have been fortunate to have a school board dedicated to operate a good school. Homer Morgan and Wallace Runkel have served for 24 years; Norman Schulz for 20 years; Philip Neumann, 19 years; Stuart Kessler, 13 years; Russell Price, 6 years; Otis Dyson, 5 years; Donald Puchalski, 2 years; and Delores Wilfert, 2 years.

In 1960, the area in Racine County was detached and added to Burlington Area Schools, and Mound Center District (Hwys. 50 & "B" area) was consolidated with Wheatland Center.

At the present time, 486 students are enrolled.

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#### Slades Corners Lucky Clovers 4-H Club

by Mrs. Dorothy Dyson

The Slades Corners Lucky Clovers 4-H Club was organized in January of 1953. The first meeting was held at the Slades Corners Grade School, with subsequent meetings held in homes of members. Later meetings were held at Wheatland Center Grade School, as they are today. The club was named at the suggestion of member, Grace Periman.

First members were children of the Cowan, Karow, Gordon, Laudie, Periman, Rasch, Robers, Seno, Schulz, and Schenning families.

The members were encouraged to select and carry out project work in their own interests; to take part in meetings with emphasis on parliamentary procedure as well as recreation; and to participate actively in local, and county-wide events such as 4-H club window displays, and Kenosha Co. fair exhibits, booths and parades.

The first general leaders, Leroy and Dorothy Dyson, were assisted by project leaders, Gordon Periman, dairy; Mrs. Betty Guyer, clothing; Norman Schulz, electricity; Milton Laudie, poultry/rabbits; Mrs. Dyson,

foods and home furnishings.

During the second year of the 4-H club's existence, Mrs. Mabel Kessler became clothing project leader, in which capacity she still ably assists the club members.

Later general leaders for the Slades Corners Lucky Clovers 4-H Club included Mrs. Bernice Karow, Mrs. Mary Street, Mr. & Mrs. Wayne Dyson, and presently Mrs. Kay Kerkman. Mrs. Pat Rosenhauer has served as assistant general leader. Many project leaders have helped with club projects over the years.

Slades Corners 4-H Club members have won many local, district and state awards and trips. They are currently active in most areas of 4-H club work.

\* \* \*

#### Winners of the Bicentennial Poster Contest

by Mrs. Donna Volbrecht

I would like to thank everyone who made a poster. We will be displaying these posters in places of business in the area, and thanks again for your help in this project.

The winners are:

<u>5th grade</u>	-- Dan Elverman	\$5.00
	Angela Prueher	2.00
<u>6th grade</u>	-- Joanne Elverman	5.00
	Linda Wagner	2.00
<u>7th grade</u>	-- Jackie Elverman	5.00
	Patty Johnson	2.00
<u>8th grade</u>	-- Diane Elverman	5.00
	Theresa Lois	2.00

\* \* \*

#### Additional Photo "Notes"

- 1.) High Street School built in 1880 and burned in 1913. Students in 1908: back row, l. to r. - Edna Brandes (Jarvis), Sis Robers (Busch), Ethel Dyson, Bessie Rakow (teacher), Clara Newbury (Walbridge), Theresa Merton (Koldeway), Alice Reihl, Gertrude Newbury (Uebele), & Ruby Fay. Front row, l. to r. - Walter Brandes, Elmer Wehmhoff, Willard Olson, Harold Kessler, Len Robers, Erwin Thiede, Louie Robers, Joe Robers & Otis Dyson.
- 2.) "Schoolhouse" shop as part of Toelle farm. (See Fox River Area article.)
- 3.) Fox River School was built in 1880 and used until Wheatland Center was constructed in 1953. Present home of Ray Snyder family.
- 4.) Wheatland School was built in 1867 and used until 1953. Present home of Dick & Mary Luke.
- 5.) Slades Corners School was located just west of St. John's Church parking lot and used until 1953 as a school. Sold to Don Schmidt and moved in 1953.
- 6.) Oak Dale School was built around 1860 and used until 1953. Present home of Russell & Mary Ann Price.
- 7.) The High Street School was the third school built in that district, built in 1913, and used until 1953. Present home of Ray Spreckels family.
- 8.) Wheatland Center School original construction - 1953.
- 9.) Wheatland Center School Dedication in 1953. Front row, l. to r. - School Board Members: Homer Morgan, Otis Dyson, Wallace Runkel, Norman Schulz, and Philip Neumann; speaker, Margaret Diehl, county superintendent of schools; Earl Floeter, principal; Robert Hull, Wis. Dept. of Public Instruction; and Darrell West, architect. Second row - (behind School Board) The Building Committee members: Erwin Seno, Harold Kessler, and Fern Bloss. Absent - Del Schenning & Travis Turbett
- 10.) Ed & Gladys May's farm before the railroad "overhead" was constructed.
- 11.) The first subdivision sales office for Oakwood Shores was located here.
- 12.) Mail and freight arrived for surrounding areas twice a day at Fox River Station.
- 14.) Henry Cook was the mailman and William McKnight was the butter maker standing by the mail box.
- 15.) Looking south down High Street Road - Joe and Agnes (Toelle) Robers' (now Bert & Lillian (Russick) Robers') farm on left and Methodist Church, Cemetery, and parsonage on right.

16. & 17.) See High Street article.
- 18.) Ben and Anna (Kerkhoff) Hemmling in front of grocery store.
- 19.) This picture of the dance hall was taken before it was moved back from Hwy. 50. Frank & Anna (Hemmling) Schilz built a house with an ice cream parlor on the west side of the house in front of the dance hall in 1916 and this also burned four years later.
- 20.) Ben Hemmling in his "second-hand Rambler" with his grandchildren in back. Hank Althoff had the first car in New Munster and Ben, the second car. Necessary clothing "to be in style" included a light raincoat, hat with visor, glasses, and for women a heavy veil to tie around their hair to keep from getting dusty as they went "speeding" along.
- 22.) Left to right - Present Bill & Dorothy Niederer's tavern, old Koslak tavern, Laura (Vos) Jochem Sherman home and porch of building in far background was old Spetzman tavern, now Marino's Restaurant.
- 23.) Egon Uhen's first garage in 1921 was in a little shop (long torn down) between old Biemer Grocery and present Harriet Scherrer home.
- 24.) Left to right - Dr. Herman Smith's house and later Bill Voss' residence. He had a greenhouse & also sold honey. Anyone living here in 1967-68 remembers the "bee controversy." Bill & Marilyn Trefz, present owners, have moved the house back from Hwy. 50. The next barn belonged to Dr. Smith who was the local veterinarian. Center building is the old Town Hall built in 1891 by Charlie Lubeno who did all the carpenter work for \$44.99. Later, when the Fire Dept. was formed in 1943, it was also used as a firehouse. Sold in 1959, after new town hall & fire station were built, to Elmer Scherrer who tore it down after using for a warehouse for a short time. Last building on right was old Bill Biemer grocery. (See New Munster article.)
- 25.) Present Laura Sherman home west of Marino's.
26. & 27.) See St. Alphonsus Parish article.
- 28.) See St. John's Church article.
- 29.) Paul E. Sauer, organist at St. John's Church, Slades Corners.
- 30.) See Slades Corners article.
- 31.) Control Board where Electric Generator for electric power in Slades Corners was located at the east side of the store.
- 32.) Present Ryba's Colonial Furniture & Upholstery Shop.
- 34.) Oldenburgs, Neumans, & now Pat Kaddatz's house; Herman Seno's house; Blacksmith Shop, now Seno's Feed Mill' Ganswindt's saloon, Lanternier's and now Butler's Tavern.
- 38.) Spetzman's Hotel, built in 1910, and burned in 1920. This is the same site as the Red Onion which burned in 1966 and present Poor John's owned by John Stadnyk.
- 44.) 1900 - front row, l. to r. - Kathleen Rafferty, Fred Genens, Frank Luke, Elsie Luke, Laura Richter, Ben Richter, Elmer Richter, Mayme Richter, Bill Richter, Martin Hahn, Sofie Genens, and Jim Miller. Second row, l. to r. - Thomas Hahn, Frank Rafferty, Edmund Pennefeather, Frank T. Richter, Hugh Rafferty, Josie Hahn, and Frank A. Richter. Back row, l. to r. - Frances Luke, Mayme Eddy, Mary Coudy, Clara Eddy, Coudy, Henry Rafferty, Florence Runkel, Louis Hahn, Kate Luke, Ralph Eddy, and Mary Rafferty (teacher).
- 45.) 1939 - front row, l. to r. - Lyle Wilson, Jr. (1st grade), Gwendolyn Lois, & Dale Richter; back row, l. to r. - Laurence Rohodes, Florence Evans, Maynard, & Earl Burns (teacher).
- 46.) 1940 - front row, l. to r. - Dale Richter, Florence Evans, & Paddy Dunn; back row, l. to r. - Duane Templeman, Lyle Wilson, Jr., Donald, Glen Wells, Raymond Evans, Oliver Wells, & Miss Mary Margaret McManus (teacher) later Mrs. Dick Luke.
- 48.) Ben Schuerman to the left of horses and Henry Koenen on right.
- 49.) Church Council & Secretary of Congregation - front row, l. to r. George Kirchhoff, Art Kull, Elmer Getka; middle row, l. to r. - Erwin Seno, Earl Floeter, Sec.; back row, l. to r. - Stuart Kessler, Pastor Kuehl & Gilbert Amborn.
- 50.) New Munster Public School - Residence of Fred & Margaret Wilson shown on 1954 photo.
- 51.) St. John's School, Slades Corners (see article).

\* \* \*

#### A Sketch of New Munster in the Early 1900's

compiled by Mrs. Sheila Siegler  
with the assistance of Mrs. Anna Schilz, Mrs. Laura Sherman, Mrs. Dora Lenz, Mrs. Adeline Remer, Martin Herda, Joe & Lena Kerkman, & Mrs. Evelyn Uhen.

New Munster was settled in the late 1830's and early 1840's, most-

by people of German Catholic extraction. Ethnic & religious groups tended to stick together for self-protection and self-preservation. German was the spoken language. The most notable landmark, the church, which can be seen for miles around almost wasn't built here. It seems the most logical place now, but if a Joseph Vos would have won out, it would have been built on the Vos farm north of New Munster on hwy. KD. He said it wasn't fitting to locate a church in town with all those taverns and wanted to donate part of his farm land instead. A Mr. Kersting was a strong proponent for the present site and there was quite a controversy, so it is said. There is a building, now a part of a grainery, which served as a church before the first St. Alphonsus Church was built in 1849 on land donated by Martin Schaefer. This building was located west of the farm buildings in a grove of trees and was later moved and attached to the farm buildings.

Highway 50 was an original Indian Trail and was called Southport Road at one time. Concrete was laid in 1928. Up until then it was a dirt and gravel road and when it rained there were a lot of washouts especially in hilly New Munster. Railroad ties were used to shore up "soft" spots in lower areas. There wasn't much travelling in those years. As Lena says, "The horses were pampered and saved mostly for field work." If you wanted to go somewhere, the word was "walk." Going to Burlington was a big treat because it only happened once or twice a year. Annie says that buying bananas in Burlington was an even bigger treat. There might be an occasional trip to the doctor or dentist, of which there were several in Burlington, but such trips were rare. Lena says of Dr. LaHahn, a medical doctor, that it was rumored his medicine was so strong that only a half dose was needed.

People visited a great deal, especially relatives. If you went any kind of distance, you usually stayed a day or two. It had to be important business, usually at the Court House, or legal matters for people to travel to Kenosha. Though, the trip could be made in a day.

The annual 4th of July picnic at the church grounds was a big event. Kids worked at any job, hoeing weeds for 3¢ a row (4 rows a day was about the best you could do, if you worked hard) or pulling pigweeds for 1¢ or 2¢ so they could have a little spending money for ice cream and fire crackers.

On important Catholic feast days, taverns in New Munster served free lunches after Mass. (Boiled eggs, bologna slices with mustard, etc. were part of the fare.)

Shopping was usually done on Sundays by the farmers because they came to town for church and you didn't waste trips. Mike Schuerman and Frank Schilz delivered groceries and ice twice a week by horse and buggy. You could send a list and get the groceries next time thru, though they did carry a small supply of some staple items. Hank Althoff, a butcher, delivered fresh meat in his ice-refrigerated wagon twice a week, also.

Hemmling's and then Schuerman's was a general store with a little bit of everything - dry goods, shoes, crackers in big barrels, even fish bowls. Beimers also had a grocery and there was a shoemaker, blacksmith, wheelwright, barber, post office, shoe store, harness maker, butter maker, two churches, two schools, a ball park, and of course four taverns. New Munster also had two ice cream parlors and two dance halls, Spetzman's and Schilz's. The "50-50" Club and the "Oriole's" Club were two dance clubs where you paid \$1.00 a year membership and went to a dance every two weeks. One time Spetzman's had the dance and the next, Schilz's. The same bands usually played. Two of them were Henry Robers' band from Lyons and Earl Jack's orchestra from Lake Geneva. Alcoholic beverages and sandwiches were sold in the taverns and not in the dance halls, which were separate buildings. There were no set closing hours in those days for taverns. It must have been lots of fun because people would walk from as far away as Slades Corners dance all night and then walk home. There were stables or sheds for horses behind most or all of the taverns.

Fires were an ever-present danger and little could be done once a building was started. Even though caution was always the byword, there were many fires and in one case, lives were lost, as you will see as you read on.

Keeping food from spoiling was another big problem. Food was kept in the coolest part of the house, the basement, and there were a lot of trips up and down stairs. (It wasn't so easy to raid the refrigerator, then.) Butchering was usually done in the fall. Meat was heavily salted and put in crocks or smoked. Salted meat had to be soaked the night before in water to draw out the salt or milk if you wanted it to brown nicely. Smoked meat, cured in the fall, would be hung in the attic over winter and summer until it was all eaten. Canning of fruits and vegetables was all done "open kettle."

The following items are from Frank Schilz's 1916 ledger: 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ # sausage, 35¢; 12# ham, \$3.00; 21 $\frac{1}{2}$ # beef roast, \$3.90; 12-3/4# bacon, \$2.04; case of beer, \$1.20; 6 bottles of beer, 30¢; and  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt. whiskey, 25¢. But also, a man could be hired for a day's farm work for 50¢. In 1928, when the concrete roads were laid, men were eager to get any job on the road because it paid 75¢ an hour and they had to supply their own horse and a slip.

Food was cooked on a wood or later coal or kerosene stove. Baking a cake or bread was a real procedure. Written recipes weren't used and measurements were such as a scoop of lard as big as an egg. Batter was tested in the hot oven to see if it was stiff enough and to check the oven temperature. If the batter spread out too fast, more flour was added. Laundering clothes was "fun", too. White clothes were boiled and mothers instructed young daughters as to how many times to dunk the clothes in the rinse water so all the soap would come out. Some mothers even made their daughters count the exact number.

Church, school and plenty of work were the chief pasttimes. Radio broadcasting began in the early 1920's in the U.S. but radios were hard to come by. Telephones were available around 1905-06. The first ones were battery-operated. Batteries being around 10" long and 3" thick. Electricity arrived around 1920 or in the years just prior to 1920, but it was hard to use up the \$5 per month that was charged because except for lights, no one had much of anything electric to use this "marvel."

Many of the houses in New Munster were built by the early 1900's or shortly thereafter. The present Butch Daniels farm down the lane on the back street, was originally (around 1840) the Henry Roman farm. He settled there from Germany. His daughter, Catherine, married Theodore Kerkhoff and thus it stayed in the Kerkhoff family for many years. Up the lane toward New Munster, there was a small milk factory and the butter maker Charlie Tindall and his family lived in the house on the corner. The last owner was Mrs. Bieneman. It has since been torn down. The present Ruppert house belonged to the Hank Krome family. Pete Epping's brick house was built by Ben and Rose (Kerkhoff) Kerkman. In 1895, the old rectory of St. Alphonsus Parish was moved to the present site of the Bob Lois house. The old rectory had been located west of the school, about where the swings are now. Theodore Kerkhoff and his second wife, Genevieve Schwartz (who was Fr. Zalakar's housekeeper) built on to the back of this small rectory to make the house larger. John and Mary (Kersting) Kerkman bought a lot from Christopher Watercott and built a house and a harness shop west of the house at the site of the present Dale Ketterhagen home. He was a harness maker and also repaired them. The old Ben Hofner house belonged to Christopher and Magdalena (Schroeder) Watercott in the late 1880's. He was a shoemaker and would walk to Kenosha and back with as much leather as he could carry on his back. She sewed men's shirts for a shilling (12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢) and by hand, mind you. This property was sold to Alberts. He had cows one or two, and would carry the milk in pails connected by a yoke on his shoulders to the small milk factory. The present Bert Elverman home belonged to the Ebbing family and later Henry & Bertha Sattler.

There was a stone house west across the street from the rectory (long torn down) where Tony and Kate (Timmering) Elverman lived. There was also a George and Mayme (Bieneman) Wightman family who lived there. Tony and Anna (Timmering), his second wife, Elverman built the present Elmer Scherrer home.

William and Anna (Lois) Spetzman had a tavern and ice cream parlor and living quarters in a building along the road (Marino's Restaurant) and a building running north and south to the east of this. There was a barn below and a dance hall above. Frank and Anna (Hemmling) Schilz were operating the business when this burned in 1908. Annie remembers grabbing something and running out of the building. Dora Lenz says she remembers the Sisters taking all the students over to church to pray that their church wouldn't burn down again. The church had burned in 1907. The barn and dance hall were rebuilt along the back street north of the tavern with the building running east and west. There was also a small icehouse east of the barn this time. (By the way, those rings still in the barn foundation wall along Marino's parking lot were used to tie the horses.) Stalls were rented in the barn to people for leaving their horses and rigs while attending church or shopping. Children coming from Slades Corners like the Mangolds and Smitzs would leave their horses there while attending school. There was also a three-sided shed where animals could be sheltered. Bill Spetzman was a brother of Harry Spetzman who built the hotel and dance hall at Powers Lake. Roland and Alvina Beimer, who later had a grocery store sold this building to Lawrence Marino, Sr. in 1953.

William Spetzman was the constable and Herman Hofner who lived across the street was the judge; so, whenever there was trouble in the "township" the two would go out together and "take care of it."

Henry Weasing had a shoe store, repair shop and living quarters in the present Laura (Vos) Jochem Sherman home. He also had the first post office here. Matt Lois had a barbershop here for many years, later run by Larry Smith until he built a new shop in 1969.

The first tavern on the site of the former Koslak tavern burned in the early 1880's. Ben and Mary (Toelle) Schilz built the second building. Herman Epping and his third wife, Mary (Scherrer) Albert Epping operated a hotel, tavern and the first barbershop. Herman Epping and Bill Albert were barbers.

The present Bill & Dorothy Niederer's tavern was operated by Herman Hofner, Charlie Lubeno, Kolowski, Manny Gordon for many years, and DeWitt. The building in the early years had a shed to shelter horses in the back.

John and Alma Holtz owned the building where the general store was operated from in the middle 1890's. In 1910, Ben and Anna (Kerkhoff) Hemmling bought the building from Bill and Elizabeth (Hunsbusher) Hemmling, Lois. Bill and Anna ran the grocery and Frank and Anna (Hemmling) Schilz operated the tavern. In 1915, Frank Schilz bought the property where Larry's Barbershop now stands from John Kerkman. In 1916, they moved the dance hall back and built a home with an ice cream parlor on the west side of it, in front of the dance hall. They also had room for several boarders.

In the early morning hours of June 11, 1920, Annie was in the kitchen making pancakes for breakfast and she thought she smelled smoke. After looking around and not finding anything she went back to the pancakes. About 7:30, it was evident there was a fire under the floor at the outside wall of the building. Martin Herda, on his way to school, was one of the first there and remembers filling pails from the outside cistern and throwing the water on the smoking floor but suddenly flames were shooting out and everyone had to leave the building. It burned until late afternoon, and after the smoke had cleared the remains of the dance hall, Frank Schilz home, Hemmling grocery and Schilz tavern were visible. Fire trucks came from Silver Lake and Burlington. People carried water from cisterns in buckets and dumped the water in the pumper operated by the men but little could be done. Frank and Anna operated Lubeno's Tavern for the year it took to rebuild. Mike and Cora (Hemmling) Schuerman took over the Hemmling grocery business and operated from Bill Beimer's old store next to the Town Hall.

Luetten and Schwartz from Silver Lake rebuilt the tavern, hotel, grocery and living quarters as it is today for \$12,000. The old building had had carbide lights but electric lights were installed in the new.

The present Bob Herda residence belonged to Mrs. Spraener in the late 1890's. Jack & Rose (Hofner) Kerkman remodeled the house and made it bigger in the early 1900's. Frank Hunsbusher family lived there for many years.

Simon Bopp was the first blacksmith in New Munster. He had a house and shop on the site of the present Dayboll residence. (They tore down the old house in 1975.) His wife was Henry Kerkman's daughter and their land was part of that farm. Hank Nienhaus was a wheelwright in Bopp's blacksmith shop.

There was a tragic fire at the next place west of Dayboll's in 1906 or 1907. Joe Kerkman remembers working in the field, seeing the fire and running to help but it was too late. Will Kretschmer's wife and two children died in the fire. Laura Sherman tells of returning from a visit to Lyons and seeing the flames from KD but the building was burned and the bodies of the mother and two children laying on the lawn when they arrived. One daughter, Margaret, survived. Will later married Florence Holzheimer and the house was rebuilt.

The Ben Wermeling family built the house where C & C's is now located. It was used as a house until Ben and Anna Hessefort started "Hickory Inn" tavern with a small restaurant there in the early 1930's.

On the southeast corner of KD & 50 (Joe Kerkman farm), there used to be a three-story stone house that was a Halfway House. Beer kegs were dug into the basement floor to keep the beer cool. It was a lodging place and later used just as a home. Henry Kerkman sold the farm to Henry Braecker. John Kerkman married Katherine Braecker and was the father of Jos. A. Kerkman, present owner of the house on the corner of KD & 50, northeast. This home was built in 1904 using timbers from the old stone house. They slept in the barn while the house was being built.

The present Clayton Kretschmer home across the road from C & C's was built by John and Catherine Kerkman. Tony & Mayme Kerkman lived there for many years.

The Presbyterian Church west of New Munster was built as the Reformed Church by a group which broke away from St. John's Lutheran Church in Slades Corners. The church was built in 1874 by 16 families. The church was moved in 1958 to the Raymond Lane property in back of his house, the second house east of the cemetery. It is now used as a garage. Some of the names on the very old gravestones in the cemetery are Fink, Memler, Kerkhoff, Dean, Peterson, & Beimer.

Bill and Kate Beimer owned the present Bill Uhen home. They also ran a very small grocery store in the area between their home and the present Francis Kerkman home. After they moved the grocery business into the building next to the old Town Hall, this small building was moved east of New Munster, next to the New Munster Public School, to be used by Hank Althoff as a butcher shop. Bill & Kate had a son, Roland who also ran a grocery in the present Marino's Restaurant building.

The present Hastings' home was owned by John Tanking, Charlie & Carrie (Scherrer) Lubeno, Henry Overcamp family and Harold and Agnes Huff.

Bill and Elizabeth (Sorg) Kersting owned the present Dora Hunsbusher home.

The building that has been moved back from the road, east of Harriet Scherrer's present home was a dance hall in about 1903; Bill Beimer's grocery; Mike & Cora (Hemmling) Schuerman's grocery after the 1920 fire, for a year; and it was also made into a couple of apartments. When Elmer Scherrer moved it back from the road, he used it as a shop for his construction business. (See Photo 24)

The present Helen Briere home was built by Lizzie (Hunsbusher) Hemmling Lois. Hank and Sylvia (Hemmling) Scherrer and Frank Kresken also lived there.

Henry and Helen (Albert) Kerkman built the home west of the garage (present Bob Kemen residence). Ben and Rose (Kerkhoff) Kerkman and Ben and Emma (Roanhaus) Lois also lived here.

The first Uhen's Garage was owned by Ben and John Kerkman, brothers. It was New Munster's second blacksmith shop and also a feed mill. Egon Uhen began operating a garage there (his second) in 1923. The garage now standing, was built in 1954.

The first house east of Uhen's Garage was built by Bill & Elizabeth (Bieneman) Kerkman. Bill Kerkman was a butcher and used the cement block building in back of the house and across from the ball park as a slaughter house for calves. Ben and Elizabeth (Vos) Herda sold this building to Paul Trefz in 1948. This was the beginning of Paul's Paint & Varnish Co.

Bill Kerkman also bought and sold cattle. He drove them along the road to the Fox River or Bassett Station to be shipped to the city on the train. He paid boys 75¢ a day to run along with the cattle to keep them from going astray in fields along the way. Those young cattle were plenty wild and there were some mighty tired boys by the time they got to the train.

Judge Herman Hofner's house was the second house east of the garage and later owned by John and Rose (Hofner) Kerkman for many years.

The present Vin Scherrer home was owned by John and Mary (Kerkman) Scherrer and has been in the Scherrer name over the years.

The present Matt Lois home (second house east of firehouse) was owned by Henry Althoff who was a butcher and this is the property where Bill Beimer's first grocery building was moved and became a butcher shop. The New Munster Public School is the next building down the hill.

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The first Uhen's Garage was owned by Ben and John Kerkman, brothers. It was New Munster's second blacksmith shop and also a feed mill. Egon Uhen began operating a garage there (his second) in 1923. The garage now standing, was built in 1954.

The first house east of Uhen's Garage was built by Bill & Elizabeth (Bieneman) Kerkman. Bill Kerkman was a butcher and used the cement block building in back of the house and across from the ball park as a slaughter house for calves. Ben and Elizabeth (Vos) Herda sold this building to Paul Trefz in 1948. This was the beginning of Paul's Paint & Varnish Co.

Bill Kerkman also bought and sold cattle. He drove them along the road to the Fox River or Bassett Station to be shipped to the city on the train. He paid boys 75¢ a day to run along with the cattle to keep them from going astray in fields along the way. Those young cattle were plenty wild and there were some mighty tired boys by the time they got to the train.

Judge Herman Hofner's house was the second house east of the garage and later owned by John and Rose (Hofner) Kerkman for many years.

The present Vin Scherrer home was owned by John and Mary (Kerkman) Scherrer and has been in the Scherrer name over the years.

The present Matt Lois home (second house east of firehouse) was owned by Henry Althoff who was a butcher and this is the property where Bill Beimer's first grocery building was moved and became a butcher shop. The New Munster Public School is the next building down the hill.