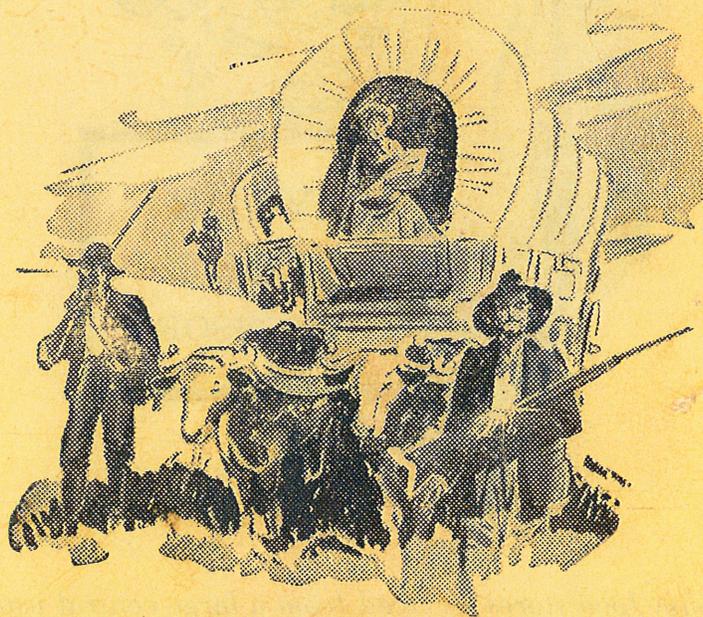


EVANSVILLE'S

**CENTURY
OF
PROGRESS**



A Souvenir
of the City's Centennial
Celebration
July 2-3-4, 1939

Price 25 Cents

CARR'S

INCORPORATED

ADOLPH CARR

JAMES CARR

PETER CARR



OPERATING ten busy food stores serviced from a large central warehouse . . . Big enough and strong enough to assure patrons of reasonable prices . . . Small enough to assure personal, pleasant local supervision . . . Serviced with ideals so that quality is paramount to price in dealings . . . Friendly atmosphere throughout toward all whether patrons, employee, or owner . . . Featuring Nationally advertised grocery items with the assurance of satisfaction demanded by successful advertising.

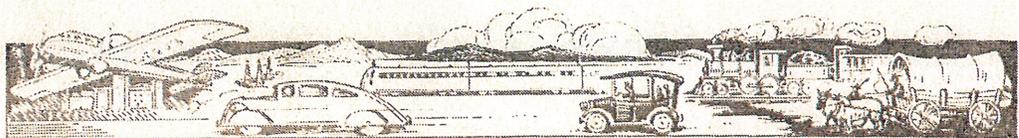


A view of Main street in 1910.

EVANSVILLE'S CENTURY OF PROGRESS

Published in 1939 by the Evansville Review on the occasion of the One Hundredth Anniversary of the arrival of the first settlers at "The Grove" where the Evansville of today is a monument to their courage and their initiative. This book is issued as a supplement of the Evansville Review and is distributed as a feature of Evansville's Centennial celebration.

1839 . . . 1939



EVANSVILLE'S CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

DAILY PROGRAM

JULY 2-3-4, 1939

SUNDAY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:30 a.m.—Union Religious service at Leonard park. The Rev. Oscar Adams, Madison, guest speaker. | 5:00 p.m.—Concert by Rock County 4-H Band |
| 12:00 noon—Picnic dinners at Fair Grounds | 6:00 p.m.—Picnic supper on the grounds |
| 1:30 p.m.—Baseball Game. Albion Tigers vs. Colored Piney Woods Collegians | 7:00 p.m.—Concert by Evansville Band |
| 4:00 p.m.—Free Attractions | 8:00 p.m.—Centennial Pageant: "The Romance of a Century" |
| | 10:00 p.m.—Free Attractions accompanied by Evansville Band |

MONDAY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10:00 a.m.—Kittenball: Bernie's Barbers vs. Porter Towners; Butts' Cornermen vs. Unionites. | 5:00 p.m.—Concert by United American Shows Band |
| 12:00 noon—Dinner | 6:00 p.m.—Supper Hour |
| 1:30 p.m.—Baseball game: Janesville vs. Footville | 7:00 p.m.—Concert by the Evansville Band |
| 4:00 p.m.—Free Attractions | 8:00 p.m.—Centennial Vaudeville Show |
| | 10:00 p.m.—Free Attractions. Accompanied by Evansville Band |

TUESDAY

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 a.m.—Grand Civic and Industrial Parade | 6:00 p.m.—Supper Hour |
| 11:00 a.m.—Novelty Children's Races and Contests at Fair Grounds | 7:00 p.m.—Concert by New Glarus Band |
| 12:00 noon—Picnic Dinner on Grounds | 8:00 p.m.—Centennial Pageant, "The Romance of a Century" |
| 1:30 p.m.—Baseball Game: Albion Tigers vs. Colored Piney Woods Collegians | 10:00 p.m.—Free Attractions |
| 4:00 p.m.—Free Attractions | 10:30 p.m.—Stupendous Display of Fireworks |
| 5:00 p.m.—Concert and Drill by Brooklyn Drum and Bugle Corps | 11:00 p.m.—Automobile Given Away Free |

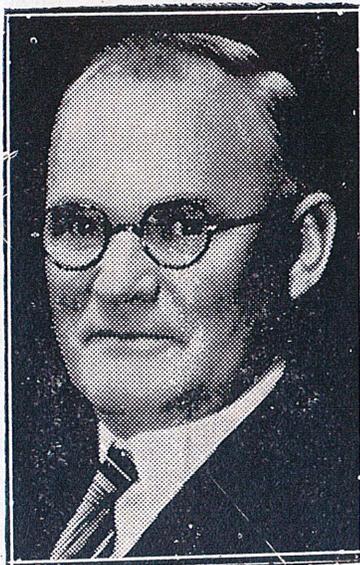
—ON THE MIDWAY—

THE UNITED AMERICAN SHOWS

Spectacular Shows—Thrilling Rides—Novelty Concessions

THE ROMANCE OF A CENTURY

A PAGEANT DEPICTING THE BUILDING OF OUR CITY FROM THE VIRGIN PRAIRIE SOD TO ITS PRESENT HIGH STATE OF DEVELOPMENT



*The Rev. Grant V. Clark,
the author*

Presented at the Centennial Celebration of the Founding of the City of Evansville, Wis.

SCENE I—An Indian scene near the Grove.

SCENE II—Coming of the first settlers.

SCENE III—The first marriage.

SCENE IV—The first Grove school-house.

SCENE V—The Township of Union is organized.

SCENE VI—Dedication of the first church.

SCENE VII—The arrival of Dr. John Evans.

SCENE VIII—Six Spencer Brothers of the Forties.

SCENE IX—The first day of the Old Seminary.

SCENE X—The Grand Ball at the Spencer House Opening.

SCENE XI—The boys march off to the Civil War.

TABLEAU—Reveries: Looking Back seventy-five years.

SCENE XII—The railroad comes to Evansville.

SCENE XIII—Evansville's first newspaper.

SCENE XIV—The Baker Manufacturing Company is organized.

SCENE XV—Evansville's first graduating class.

SCENE XVI—Col. George Hall's Circus parade.

SCENE XVII—The return of the World War Soldiers.

SCENE XVIII—The gift of the Nations.

Accompanied by the Evansville Band

A CITY IS BUILT

In June, 1839 a small group of men started from La Porte, Ind., with a view to making themselves homes in the West. After traveling five days, the pioneers reached Janesville from where they followed the Janesville-Madison road to a point three miles east of Evansville which later became known as the Ball tavern.

They left the highway at the tavern and proceeding west made the first wagon tracks to what is now the city of Evansville. Crossing Allen's creek the men continued two miles west to a spring on the site of the Byron Campbell estate which is now owned and operated by August Lange.

It was here that the first furrow was plowed in the town of Union. Five of the home seekers were Hiram Griffith, Boyd Phelps, Steven Jones, Erastus Quivey, and John Griffith who selected farms in the immediate vicinity. Phelps and Jones were Methodist preachers. Later arrivals were Charles McMellen, John Rhinehart, and Samuel Lewis all of whom were married and were accompanied here by their families. Mrs. McMellen was said to have been the first white woman to arrive.

Union Settled

Another party of young men followed the first pioneers to this locality. The second group, comprised of Allen McMichael, Alanson Smith, Captain Turner, John Parmer, and James and Charles Empy, spent the winter of 1839 and 40 in what was afterwards known as the village of Union.

The first settlers' cabin in this part of the country was built in the fall of 1839 by Charles McMellen near Union. One by one other cabins were built in the region which was abundantly supplied with fish, game, deer, wolves, raccoons, prairie chickens, and partridge.

During the winter months of that year a large number of the Winnebagoes with their chief, Little Thunder, made a visit to the settlement camping near Butts' corners. Their visit was friendly, for according to old timers they seemed merely curious

and did not molest the settlers or their property. After making their visit, the Red Skins broke camp and continued on their journey the destination of which no one knew.

The first religious service in the locality was held in the log cabin of Erastus Quivey in a room 16 by 18 feet, which was filled to capacity by the neighbors. Dr. Quivey, then a youth, was compelled to sit on the wood pile with a number of other young men. After closing the service with "Praise God From Whom all Blessings Flow," the congregation was dismissed, but everyone remained for dinner.

In the spring of 1840 many more settlers arrived including the Rev. John Griffith, Ira Jones, Jacob West, John T. Baker, Willis Hazeltine, Levi Leonard, David Johnson, Daniel Johnson, John Cook, John Adams, Washington Higday, Hamilton Higday, and John Sale.

Erect First School

A special meeting was called in 1840 for the purpose of planning a school house. Erastus Griffith, Ira Jones, John Griffith, Hiram Griffith, Boyd Phelps, Steven Jones, and John T. Baker responded to the call. It was decided to erect the building on the land now owned by John Higday, two miles northwest of what is now Evansville.

The date of the raising was set and each man promised to furnish his quota of logs. Upon the appointed day, the builders, materials, and tools were on the spot and within 24 hours the project was about completed, with the exception of the roof which was put on the next day. The roof was made out of white oak shakes cut from neighboring timber. Miss Mary Jane True, who resided on the east side of Rock river, taught the first term.

The population of the locality was increased considerably in 1841 and 1842 when many others arrived from the South and East among whom were Ebenezer Temple, Peter Aller, James Towne, Eli Root, and Amos Kirkpatrick. In the meantime a second school house had been built in the town of Union.

With an increase in population it was deemed wise to erect a third school in 1842 at The Grove, now known as Evansville, and another raising was appointed. The same men who erected the first school played an active part in building the Grove school which was located just north of where the Farmers' and State bank now stands.

"The Grove"

Evansville was first called "The Grove" because west and north of the corners was a beautiful grove of timber extending down to where the Hotel Central was later built. Levi Leonard was the first teacher in the Grove school which served families from long distances.

A sister-in-law of John T. Baker, a widow with five daughters, all of school age, had moved into the locality. Levi Leonard had been engaged for nine months to teach in the school house on the Higday farm, but consented to finish out the time in the new building at the Grove. He received a salary of \$14 a month and boarded around the neighborhood.

In that the new building was to be used for church as well as school purposes, it was built more elaborately than the other schools. Its completion was delayed and the schoolmaster was asked if he would lend a hand to expediate the project. The teacher replied that he would assist providing the time spent on the building could be applied on his contract. When the school was completed Elder Keyes and Elder Ash taught biblical subjects on Sundays and Levi Leonard conducted the regular school classes during the week.

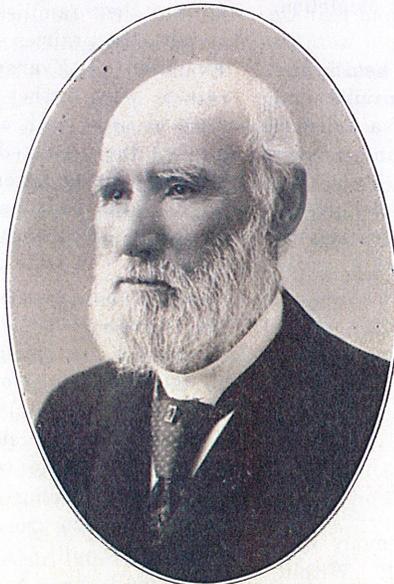
Builds First House

The first house in Evansville was built by Amos Kirkpatrick in 1840. It was a double log cabin located on the south side of Main street near the present site of the Heffel Chevrolet Sales. Kirkpatrick owned a quarter section of land extending west to what is now Madison street. The area west of Madison street and south was then owned by Lewis Spen-



*First School House In Evansville.
As Remembered By J.H. West.
Built 1842.*

Evansville's first schoolhouse built of logs in 1842.



Levi Leonard, Evansville's first school teacher for whom the park was named.



Dr. C. M. Smith Sr., pioneer Evansville physician.



Dr. William Quivey, village physician in Evansville's early days.

cer and that north of Main and west of Madison by Henry Spencer who also owned land east of Madison street.

The year 1842 was memorable in that it was the one in which the town organization took place on April 1 at the home of Charles McMellen. Hiram Griffeth acted as chairman of the meeting with Isaac Andrews serving as clerk. The township in those days had wider borders than our present ones extending as far east as Rock river including part of the present townships of Fulton, Magnolia, and Porter.

The first board of officials was composed of Ira Jones, David R. Bent, and Allen Miner, supervisors; John T. Baker, clerk; John W. Sale, David R. Bent, and David Johnson, assessors; William Webb, Isaak Andrews, and Washington Higday, commissioners of the highway; Isaac Andrews, Levi Leonard, and Lemuel Warren, school commissioners; John Griffeth, treasurer; Adam W. Uline and Hamilton Higday, collectors; Ira Jones, Allan Miner, and David R. Bent, fence viewers; Joseph Osborne, sealer of weights and measures; and Charles McMellen, overseer of roads.

The town meetings were held in the Ball tavern east of Evansville and took on the atmosphere of a holiday. Everyone from far and near attended the day's festivities which included the playing of baseball, the pitching of quoits, and wrestling.

The village of Union, three miles north of Evansville, was the half-way point on the stage route from Janesville to Madison and soon became a thriving village with a tavern and five general stores leaving Evansville far behind.

The first couple married in the town of Union was Peter Aller and Eleanor Temple which ceremony was performed March 28, 1841. Within ten years Union was prosperous enough to support a brass band and an orchestra. P. T. Barnum showed there with Tom Thumb and a big elephant, "Hannibal," as two of his attractions.

Another nearby village of importance in the middle of the last century and even down to the present century was Cooksville, settled in 1842. During that year and the following as part of the influx to that hamlet were the Cook brothers, Allan Hoxie, the Porters, J. P. VanVleck, and G. E. Newman. A little later the Gillies and Richardsons came many of

whose descendants reside in Evansville today.

To the south a few miles pioneers settled in Magnolia as early as 1840. These communities are mentioned because each one made its contribution to the growth and development of Evansville.

Log Cabins

Small log cabins were the universal type of homes built in the forties. They were erected hastily, and some of them had no floors except the virgin soil packed hard by the footsteps of the occupants. Others were without glass in the window openings, which were covered with blankets to keep out the cold. The houses were also poorly furnished for two reasons; namely, because money was scarce and the market was far away.

A few household furnishings could be purchased in Janesville, but anything like tables, beds, and chairs had to be secured in Milwaukee a return trip to which city required a week.

What a race it was that came from New England, New York, and Scotland. They came to establish homes, and rear their families. By such people were the prairies subdued and the foundation of Evansville laid. The prairies were rather broad, fringed here and there with woods. Some of the pioneers predicted that the prairies would never be entirely subdued. The average early settler selected land near a grove and along the banks of a stream of water.

Village sites were chosen, whenever possible, near streams. Consequently the first pioneers of Evansville chose "The Grove" skirted by Allan's creek and flanked by a beautiful prairie that stretched away to the south. The stream was soon set to work by the building of a dam about 12 rods from the present Main street bridge. The mill pond thus formed was a small one. A tiny chair factory was built by a Wibur Porter, but the life of this venture was short.

Saw and Grist Mill

In 1847, two years after Wilbur Porter had built his make-shift dam, a much larger dam was built further up the stream. The water from this pond was conveyed through a mill race to a saw mill built by Erastus Quivey. Timber sawed in this mill could be seen in the 80-year-old Hotel Central here until it was razed a year ago. A grist mill was later erected and it is significant that there was sufficient water in Allen's creek 85

years ago to drive the machinery of both a saw and grist mill.

The mill and the mill race are things of the past. However, a few years ago the city of Evansville purchased the flowage rights of what was once the old mill pond and built a concrete dam on the site of the old earthen dam. The new pond was christened Lake Leota. It skirts beautiful Leonard park where thousands come every summer to picnic and enjoy the recreational facilities.

Pioneer conditions still prevailed 25 years after the first settlers drove their wagons to the banks of Allen's creek. The log cabins of the earlier days were still used at the outbreak of the Civil war though they were being supplanted gradually by frame buildings. There was little money to be had. Farmers were poorly paid for their produce—one account states that dressed pork sold at the low figure of 75 cents per hundred pounds and eggs four and five cents per dozen.

First Church Erected

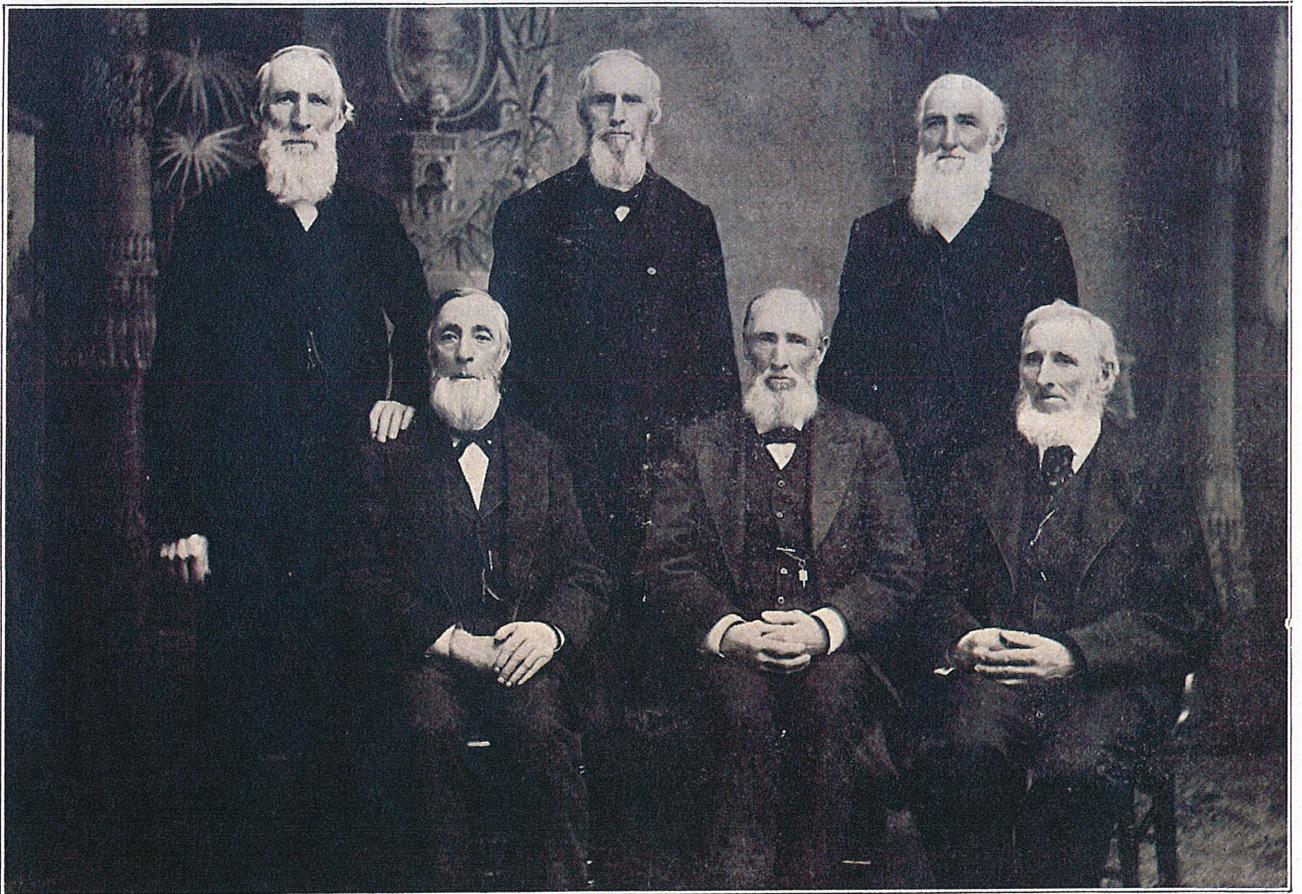
Despite the adverse conditions in pioneer days, the cultural phases of life were not neglected. The first house of worship, with the exception of the school where Sunday services were held, was erected by the Methodist Episcopal congregation in 1846 on the present site of the Ben Franklin store. It was a frame structure painted white. The service of dedication must have been a notably joyous occasion for the God-fearing people of the little hamlet. Other denominations soon erected houses of worship.

Ten years after the dedication of the first church or in 1856 the building was used on week days to house the classes of the newly organized Evansville seminary while the first seminary building was to be erected. The heroism, loyalty, and sacrificial spirit of these early pioneers makes a deep impression. They were erecting churches and seminary buildings during one of the most serious depressions that our country has ever experienced—the years of 1856 and 1857. In fact, they were not only heroic and earnest, but they possessed vision.

It is almost impossible to estimate adequately the cultural value of the old Evansville seminary beginning as it did in 1855 and continuing down to a recent date. Its first principal was a Yale graduate. Thomas Robinson mortgaged all he possessed to raise \$3,000 to lend to the trustees without



Byron Campbell who in 1915 compiled Evansville's first history.



The Spencer brothers—Pioneer Evansville settlers. Top row, Lewis, George F., and Henry G. Spencer. Bottom row, Fletcher, J. H., and Hiram Spencer.

security. A. C. Fish, who lived on the outskirts of Evansville, mortgaged his farm for \$300 to buy shingles that the new building might have a roof. At one time—in the middle eighties, the enrollment reached 135 students.

The late Robert M. LaFollette was one of the students in the early seventies. The late President Charles Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin continued his education in the seminary following his graduation from the Evansville high school in 1873 with the first class to be graduated. The late Justice Burr Jones was not only an Evansville boy, but received his preparatory training in the Evansville seminary. At one time the course of study was so extensive that it was known as a junior college, and its graduates passed from the seminary to the sophomore class of the university.

First Railroad

The first railroad was built into Evansville in 1864. It reached the city from Beloit via Afton and Footville. Before many years it was extended to Madison. This marked the beginning of a new era in the development of the city. It likewise marked the beginning of a rapid decline in the larger village of Union which was not touched by the new railroad with the result that many Unionites eventually moved to Evansville.

In 1886 the so-called "cut off" was constructed from Janesville to Evansville and in time the railroad was double tracked from Evansville to Elroy putting Evansville on the main line of the Chicago and Northwestern railway from Chicago to the Twin cities affording unusual transportation facilities.

Evansville was incorporated as a village in 1866 and as a city 30 years later. Dr. J. M. Evans, for whom the city was named, was chosen its first mayor.

With its incorporation as a village following closely upon the advent of the railroad, Evansville began to "put on airs." The first newspaper was The Citizen published in 1866 by I. A. Hoxie, a native of Bangor, Maine, who had come to Evansville in the fifties. His paper received the generous support of the community and a long felt want was supplied. Nevertheless Mr. Hoxie sold his paper three years later, but entered the field again in 1870 when he founded the Evansville Review, a publication that has had an unbroken existence.

Evansville thus grew from year to year until soon it became rated as the largest wool shipping point in the state, one of the largest livestock shipping points, and the largest lamb feeding center. It became the home of the Baker Manufacturing company, the originator of the profit-sharing plan for employes, and soon boasted of the fact that it supported the largest department store in Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee.

CITY'S "OLD JUG" OF HISTORIC INTEREST

Nearly a century ago when Evansville was only a village policed by village marshalls, "The Old Jug" was an interesting essential, but not often occupied public building.

The village jail was built by Isaac Brink and Herman Taggart on the southwest corner of the lot where the city hall now stands. It was a small stone structure with a sheet iron floor containing two cells with a little hallway in front where stood the old stove which furnished heat for the building.

The list of marshalls from the time it was erected some 80 years ago until 1892 when the present city hall and jail were built, contains many names at once recognized as pioneer stock. Among them were James Ballard, Henry Hamilton, Walt Tullar, Charles Brink, and W. F. Williams, an old pioneer who was later elected county clerk.

Evansville was always a law abiding community, but one event connected with the history of the Old Jug stands out clearly in the old settlers' minds. It was the escape of an insane man who frightened nearly everyone in town before he was finally overpowered by three men who put the maniac in a wagon and hauled him to the jail where he was safely locked up.

MAIN STREET ONCE TERRITORIAL TRAIL

Memories of the late F. M. Ames, the grand old man of Brooklyn, extended back to the time when there was no Evansville and the place where Evansville now is was called "The Grove."

Prior to his death several years ago, Mr. Ames could remember when

the road called "The Territorial Trail" extended down what is now Main street and was the path over which pioneer farmers hauled their produce to Janesville.

One of the outstanding farm products was the annual hog crop which was butchered, allowed to freeze, and then hauled to Janesville to sell on the market at about \$2.25 per hundred pounds. Often the trip was made with a team of oxen and the old Lynch pin wagon with wooden axle.

Mr. Ames could also remember when his father brought the first thimble skein wagon to this locality in 1854. Neighbors gathered around the vehicle as though it were an astounding curiosity.

According to the old timer, a farmer who would purchase a Rolls-Royce today would not be more severely criticised than were Reuben Boyce, Seymour Smith, and Potwin Chapin when they bought the first family carriages which came to their neighborhoods.

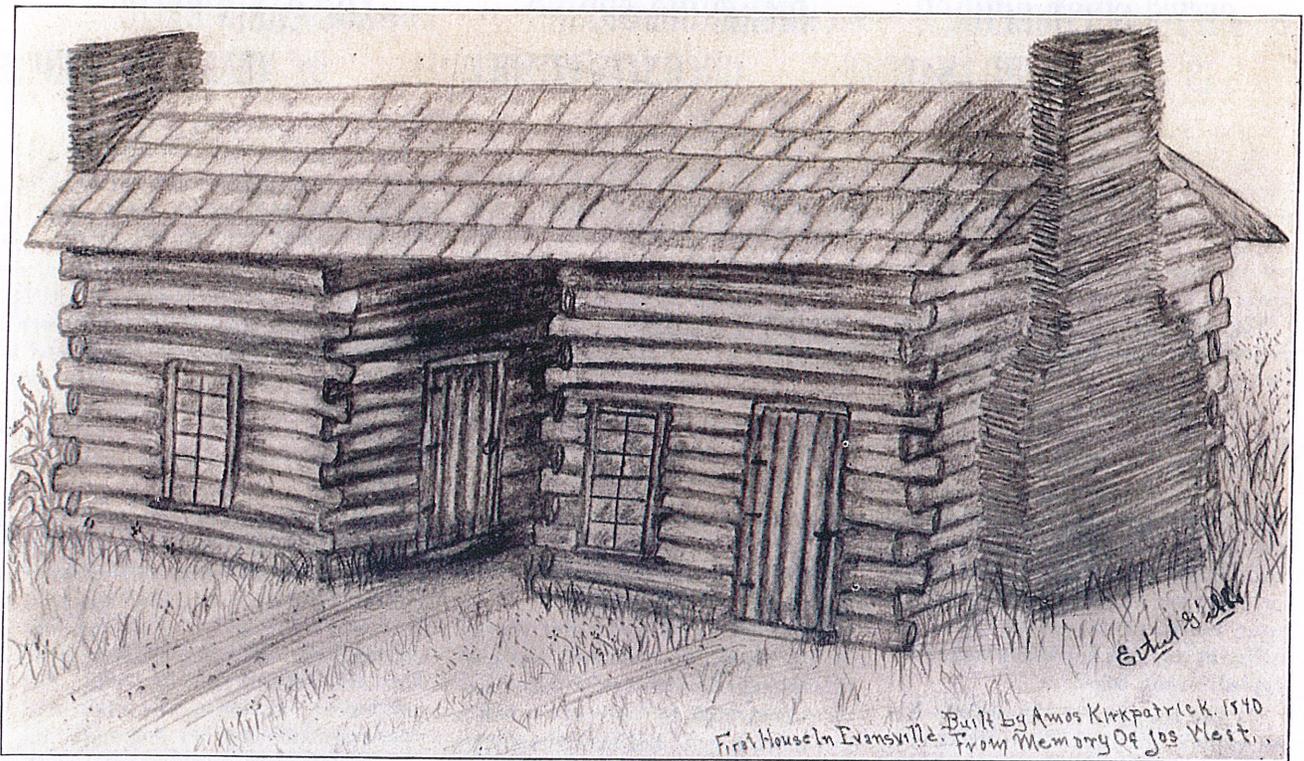
The carriages cost \$400 each and were the envy of every woman in the neighborhood. The initial price of the vehicle was a considerable sum considering the fact that wages in those days were about 50 cents per day.

CROAK SETTLEMENT FOUNDED IN FORTIES

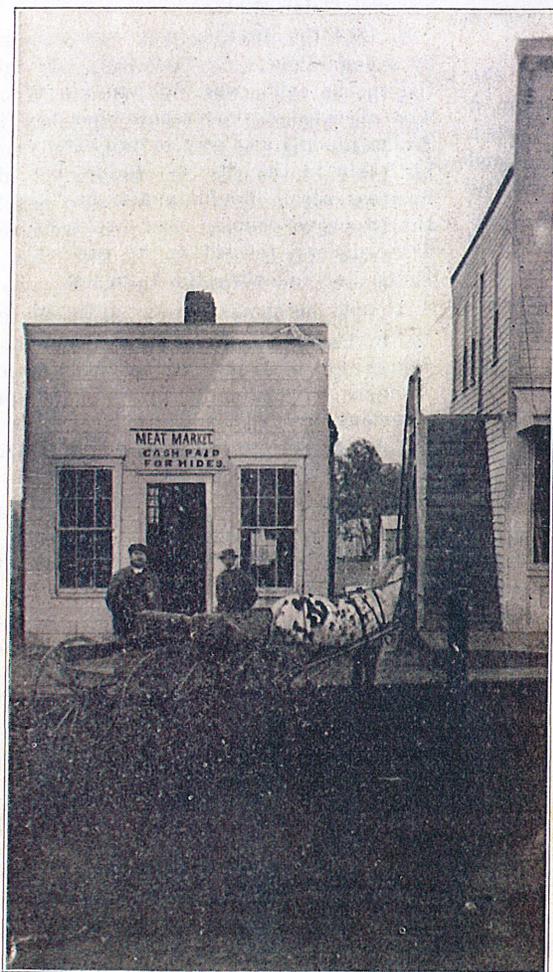
Just across the line into Green county about six miles southwest of Evansville is a neighborhood of farmers known as Croak's settlement though some of the Croaks claim that in this day and age their clan is far outnumbered by the Dunphys.

However, back in the early forties there was a settlement of Croaks under the leadership of James Croak, one of the earliest settlers who located there in 1843 and who was known as "Jimmy, the king of Ireland" to distinguish him from another leader of the Welsh and English settlement nearby.

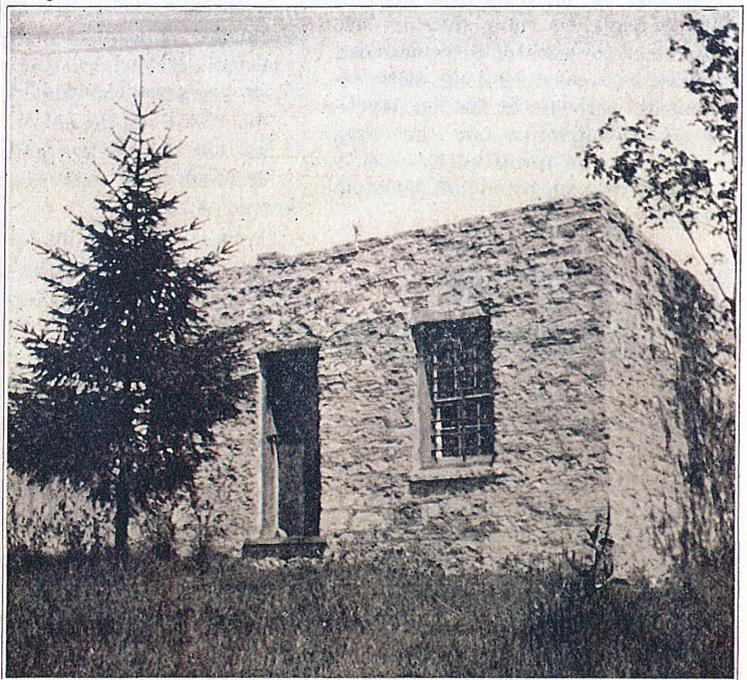
Farmers of that time hauled their flour from the Albany mills to Milwaukee and when the first railroad came to Evansville several settlers of that locality brought wood here which they sold to the Chicago and Northwestern line to be burned in locomotives.



Evansville's first house built by Amos Kirkpatrick in 1840.



Evansville's first meat market owned by Cora M. Campbell



Evansville's first jail—"The Old Stone Jug."

CITY'S FIRST CHURCH IS ERECTED IN 1846

The religious side of Evansville's early pioneers asserted itself when the Methodist congregation erected the first church here in 1846 on the present site of the Eager block in the heart of the business district.

The old church, a frame building painted white, was a source of pride to the early settlers who considered it quite a pretentious building compared to the log cabins and the log schoolhouse nearby.

Only a few can remember the old high back seats painted lead color, the four enormous posts through the center, and the one big stove which provided the heat for both the northwest corner of the room where the girls sat and the northeast corner occupied by the boys.

At the rear of the church was Evansville's first cemetery which extended from Main street south to Church. When the church became merged and swallowed up in the business block, the cemetery was moved to its present site on Maple Hill.

The Methodists held their first camp meeting in the summer of 1847 in a grove of timber on land now owned by Mrs. M. M. Ware near the present Country club. On both sides of the camp were rows of tents occupied by families who came long distances to remain throughout the ten day meeting. Illumination for the evening services was furnished by wood fires placed at each corner of the camping grounds.

W. C. T. U. PIONEER ORGANIZATION HERE

Evansville for many years was known and advertised as "The Imperial Anti-Saloon City of Wisconsin" and along with this reputation came the organizing of the Woman's Christian Temperance union which celebrated its fiftieth anniversary here six years ago.

The union, which now has a membership of about 50, was organized in February, 1883 with Mrs. Ellen Backenstoe as its first president.

The group meets the second Friday of every month in the homes of its members and is active in temperance, missionary, and welfare work.

PICKERING SPRING ONCE SITE OF MILL

Back in the days of the late forties and early fifties, when county and township lines did not mean as much as they do now, just across the line in Green county on land taken up by John Pickering and Miles Tullar was a grist mill, the one overshot wheel of which was turned by the controlled waters of an immense spring which became known as Pickering's spring, though the spring itself is said to have been on the Tullar land.

Here, below this immense spring boiling out of the rock in many places was built a small dam of large logs faced with earth covering an acre or so from which the water was carried to the wheel. No flour was made at the mill, but the settlers of those days were contented to have good home-ground corn meal and buckwheat flour made from grain raised among the stumps of their early farms, harvested with a cradle, and threshed with a flail.

The mill for many years was the center of industry for this locality, a gathering place on rainy days when political issues were discussed and early history made. There were no telephones, radios, daily papers, nor rural mail deliveries at that time. All of the news was handed by word of mouth. So it is not to be wondered at that the settlers gathered and associated with each other more than they do today.

The mill was built by John Pickering in the early fifties with William Libby, father of Ex-mayor E. H. Libby, in charge of the construction work. Today there is nothing of the old mill remaining, but right at the spring itself where the cold waters could be pumped into the cooling room and tank was later built a residence by a Mr. Jenks who later turned it into a cheese factory.

The factory was later operated as a milk skimming station by C. J. Pearsall of Evansville with Robert Steel as manager. Here the milk from the farms was separated and the cream hauled to Evansville where the Pearsall creamery was located.

The old skimming plant still stands and the basement cooling room is now used as a summer resort for horses in the McDermott pasture.

LOG CABIN RELIC OF YEARS GONE BY

Every country has its relics of its pioneers days—its monuments of the sturdy men and women who first blazed the trail through the woods.

Standing on the Lange farm, seven miles west of Evansville on the Belleville road, is an old log cabin weather beaten and minus its doors and windows. Many of its logs have decayed and it stands a tottering wreck holding memories of many who spent the happiest days of their lives under its shelter.

At the time it was built, the cabin was, perhaps, the finest home in the neighborhood. From its narrow doors and windows on many occasions, it is said music has told of weddings and christenings. Happy birthdays have been celebrated within its walls. According to old timers, the cabin was originally built farther down the hill to the southeast from where it now stands by a Scotchman whose name was Peter Bertrand.

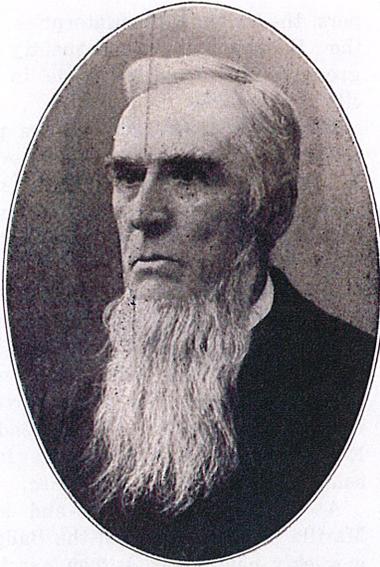
In 1864 the dwelling was occupied by a John Pope. Another early settler in the cabin was William Wood who operated a shoe repair shop in Evansville and who walked daily from his cabin to the city to conduct his business here. Tradition also has it that a negro couple, just released from slavery, resided in the cabin a short time following the Civil war.

The old log structure was purchased by George Lange, father of Ferdinand Lange, in 1884. The pioneer settler brought his family to America from Germany and lived in the cabin until his death. His wife continued to reside there for several years.

In the early days the building was much more pretentious. It had a lean-to on the west, and a summer kitchen on the south.

The Lange family had three beds on the second floor and it was nothing unusual in the winter for children to be compelled to dig out from under the snow on the bedding where it had been driven through the cracks in the walls during the night.

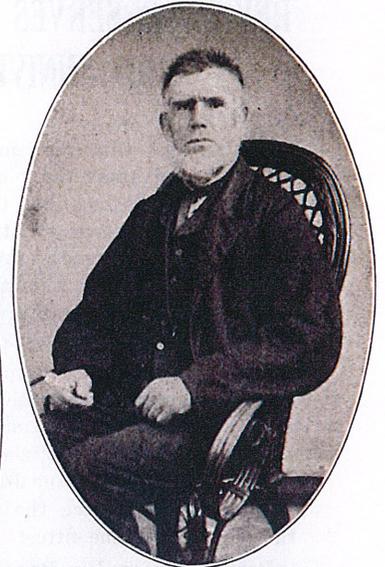
Many pleasant neighborly gatherings were held in the old cabin when the young folks would assemble in the evening and with the fiddler providing the music, trip the light fantastic. On one occasion, about 50 years ago, a double wedding ceremony was performed there for Minnie and Amelia Lange and Gust and Herman Schultz.



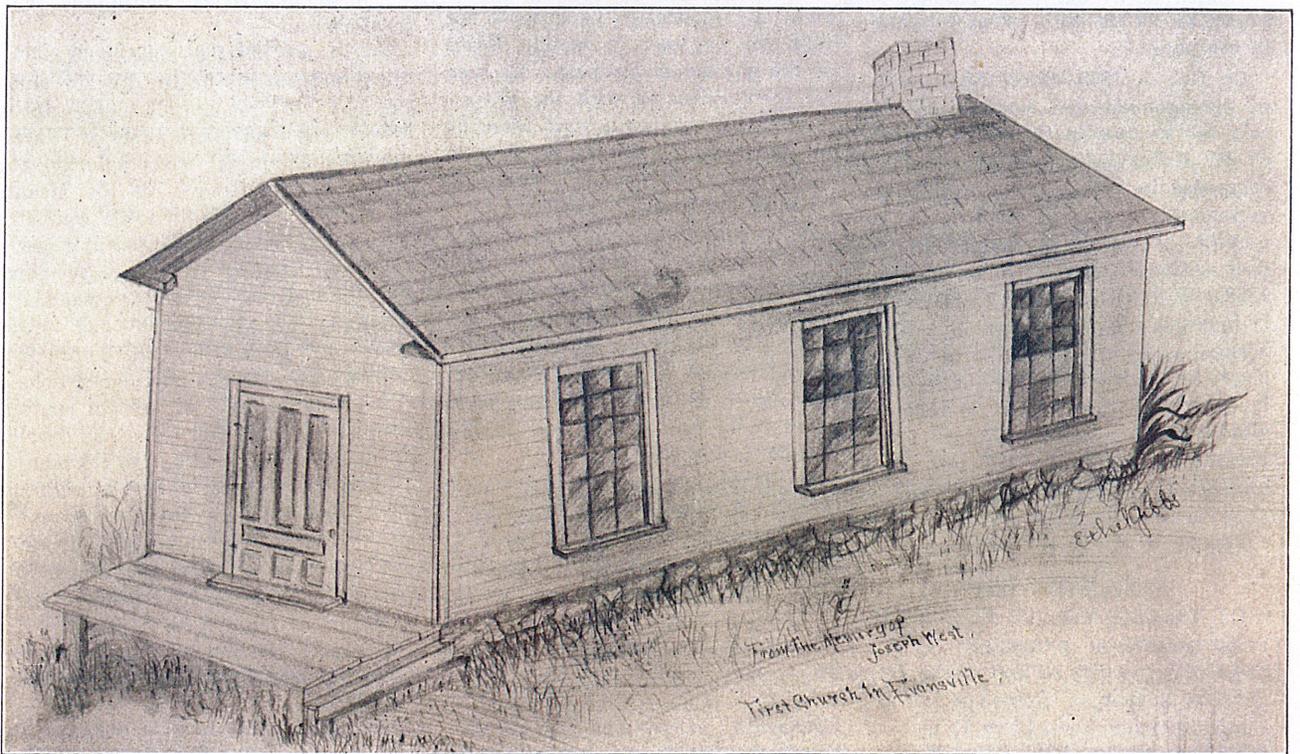
I. A. Hoxie, founder of Evansville's first newspaper, "The Citizen" in 1866.



Mr. and Mrs. John Rhinehart, charter members of Evansville's first church erected by the Methodists in 1846.



Jacob West, charter member of the Methodist church and its first class leader.



Evansville's first church erected in 1846.

REVIEW OBSERVES 73RD ANNIVERSARY

January of this year marked the seventy-third anniversary of the Evansville Review, one of the oldest newspapers in Rock county. R. M. Antes, who has served as its publisher for the past 43 years, is this month observing his 57th year in the printing business in Evansville.

In analyzing the history of the Review it is interesting to note the historical features of five other newspapers; namely, the Citizen, the Tribune, the Enterprise, the Journal, and the Badger, of which the Review is the survivor of the fittest.

Born and reared in Bangor, Maine, I. A. Hoxie came to Evansville in the early fifties. He was a carpenter by trade and had previously had some connections with a newspaper at Stoughton, Wis. In 1866, with less than \$500 capital, Hoxie founded the first newspaper in Evansville, the Evansville Citizen.

His editorial office as well as his press and composing departments were crowded into a single room above a drug store located on the principal street of the village. The Citizen, which was a weekly newspaper published every Wednesday, consisted of a four page blanket sheet 17 by 23 inches with seven columns to the page.

On Oct. 7, 1868, after three years of management and control, Hoxie sold the Evansville Citizen to Major C. W. Baker believing that he had succeeded in his aim to publish a newspaper for the good of the community. Major Baker published his first edition of the Citizen on Oct. 14, 1868. With complete files lacking, it is impossible to determine just what became of the Citizen after its purchase by Major Baker, but after all its later history has little bearing or significance on the history of the present Evansville Review. A few scattering extant issues do, however, show that it was once owned and edited by Henry S. Ehrman.

Again Enters Field

On Tuesday, Mar. 15, 1870, Hoxie again entered a newspaper enterprise with the first edition of the Evansville Review, a four-page, seven column blanket sheet, 17 by 22 inches, issued every Tuesday. The Evansville Journal, another competing newspaper in the city, had not been in operation a year before Hoxie em-

ployed one of its editors, C. W. Kimball, as his assistant.

After editing and managing the Review for nine years Hoxie rented his business including its good-will to J. Boyd Jones who published the newspaper for only one year returning its management to Hoxie with the issue of April 21, 1880. Hoxie continued publishing the Review alone for only 13 weeks when he drew a partner, J. W. Bird, to aid him in his task.

The two men edited and managed the paper for a year, Hoxie in the meantime devoting part of his time to the retail clothing business. After this partnership had been dissolved, Hoxie was again sole manager and owner of the Review, but for scarcely a year and a half. Then Cliff M. Wells and Wot Warren purchased the paper and assumed full management beginning with the issue of Feb. 17, 1883.

Warren, however, continued with the Review for only three weeks when he sold his share to Wells. At this stage of its history it was competing with another newspaper, the Enterprise.

Wells Fails

Like his predecessors, Well's attempt to publish the Review ended in a financial failure. He had not received the support he had expected when he first engaged in the enterprise. Consequently Wells could not fulfill his contract in paying Hoxie for the newspaper business. He then had been connected with the Review for little more than a year when he was obliged to return the business to its former proprietor and founder, I. A. Hoxie on March 15, 1884.

Hoxie continued publishing the Review until late in the fall of 1893 when, for the last time, he sold it to George Magee and William Lawton. Hoxie's career as a practical printer and newspaper publisher had at last come to an end and he retired never again to pick up the pen, stick, and rule as a profession.

Mr. Magee, at the time of purchasing the Review, was a farmer who was desirous of trying his hand at the newspaper publishing game. William Lawton, his partner, on the other hand, had previously had some newspaper experience, for he had leased the Tribune and the Enterprise, two other papers published in Evansville. Magee and Lawton published the Review for two years but as a money making project, they found it fruitless. Evansville at that time was supporting three other pa-

pers, the Tribune, the Enterprise, and the Badger, and consequently no great profits could be made in the city's newspaper field.

Finally in 1896, R. M. Antes purchased Lawton's share of the Review and the paper was published with Antes and Magee as its publishers. Antes had come to Evansville in 1882 from Rockford, Ill., where he had learned the printer's trade. Previous to entering the Review's enterprise, he had conducted a job printing plant in the city at one time and with Harry Blackman as his partner, founded the Tribune, an independent Republican paper which was later sold to its rival, the Enterprise.

At another time Antes and Miss Marilla Andrews founded the Badger, a weekly newspaper, but on purchasing half interest in the Review, Antes sold his share in the Badger to his partner.

Antes Sole Publisher

At the time Antes and Magee were its publishers, the Review was a six-column, eight page paper with a patent inside. For the first time in its history it published display advertisements similar to those appearing in newspapers today. Antes and Magee published the Review and conducted a job printing office for nearly eight years when in March, 1903 Antes purchased his partner's share in the business, and is still continuing the enterprise.

Antes started and continued his improvements on the Review until he made it first an all home-print six-column eight-page paper and later an all home-print seven-column eight-page publication. In the meantime he reduced the Review's competition by purchasing at different times the three existing rival papers; namely, the Tribune, the Enterprise, and the Badger. The Journal had already ceased publication long before Antes' venture into the newspaper field.

Starting in 1882 with a capital of less than \$3,000, Antes has developed in connection with the publishing of the Review, one of the largest printing establishments in the state of Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee. Making a specialty of fine catalogue and book work, he has published for some of the largest firms located not only in Wisconsin but in several of the neighboring states and in foreign countries.

At present the firm is engaged in the printing of state publications for the Wisconsin Historical society, the University of Wisconsin, and the nine State Teachers' colleges.

COLONEL HALL BRINGS CIRCUS FAME TO CITY

Throughout the world of spangles and sawdust Evansville is known as the home of Col. George W. Hall, veteran showman who for many years maintained his winter quarters on a farm at the south end of Madison street.

Col. Hall accomplished many difficult undertakings during his career as a showman among which was the chartering of a sailing vessel on which he took his entire circus including menagerie to the islands of the sea, a project no other showman had attempted.

After beginning his career selling pop corn which gave him the name of Col. "Pop" Hall, and traveling with a number of circuses throughout the country, the veteran showman organized his own circus in 1886 taking it into the south where it remained for 25 years.

Col. Hall saw many ups and downs, but was always equal to all emergencies. He was considered one of the leading showmen of his day and is still remembered in the circus world as an outstanding leader in the portable amusement field.

COL. HALL'S CHILDREN CARRY ON TRADITION OF VETERAN SHOWMAN

Evansville's circus history had its origin in the founding of Col. George W. Hall's shows, but was continued by the veteran showman's sons, daughters, sons-in-law, and grandchildren who have "put Evansville on the map" as a winter quarters and showman's center.

The Colonel's descendants who from children took an active part in the world of sawdust and spangles included his son, George Hall Jr., who first entered the business at the age of four when he traveled with his father and who later founded his own show, a wagon outfit consisting of 52 wagons, two elephants, four camels, and several cages of wild animals.

Other descendants who carried on the circus tradition of the family were another son, Charles, also of circus fame; his three daughters, Mrs. Ida Hall Blair, Mrs. Jessie Hall Gollmar, and Mrs. Mabel Hall Campbell, all of

whom were prominent in the show world as performers and wives of executives; two sons-in-law, Walter S. Gollmar and William Campbell, both of whom owned their own shows; and three grandchildren, Mrs. Grace Hall Bruce and Frank and Russell Hall. The latter is still in the business and continues to winter his animals and equipment in Evansville when not exhibiting the year around.

Perhaps the most prominent member of the Hall circus group was the late Walter S. Gollmar who was one of the four brothers who founded the famous Gollmar Bros. circus and whose wife and son still reside in Evansville.



Walter S. Gollmar

Mr. Gollmar was born in Baraboo and after traveling with the Ringling Bros. circus for one season, started the Gollmar circus in 1891 with a 12-wagon show consisting of two cages of animals, a leopard, and a bear which were exhibited in a 60-foot round top with two 30-foot middle pieces constituting a tent which seated only a few hundred.

Each year the circus was enlarged until it ranked the fourth largest in the United States at the time it was sold in 1916.

RETIRES AFTER 47 YEARS OF SERVICE

After 47 years of faithful service, E. E. Combs, pioneer local photographer who has used the old trick of "watching the birdie" on three generations of Evansville residents, retired Feb. 16, 1936 closing his studio at

18 North Madison street which had been the scene of many a family gathering.

During his career as a photographer, Mr. Combs finished more than a million pictures from 86,000 negatives which he moved to his home for reprints when he closed the studio. In addition to this number he has another 10,000 negatives made by his predecessors, Beals and Wise, the first to enter the business here.

HORSE AND BUGGY DAYS GONE! OLD LANDMARK RAZED

Over a half century old, the former Morgan buggy factory on Maple street, a half block south of Evansville's business district, was torn down this year to supply material for the erection of additional homes in the city.

Long a landmark in Evansville, the old two-story frame structure was owned by Joel Morgan, a pioneer settler who was born in Palmyra in 1844 and came west with his parents when a child first settling north of Evansville in Rutland township.

The factory was recently purchased by N. A. Bryan, Ripon, who has built eight houses here, four of which were erected just outside the city limits on the south side of Walker street in the last few years.

Evansville residents who still remember the days of the horse and buggy say that the Morgan buggy was one of the best vehicles made in the entire country and that even the coming of the automobile for long did not affect production of buggies in the Morgan factory appreciably.

The factory, which was always a busy scene of industry in Evansville, operated for 50 years and employed ten skilled mechanics, they recall. Morgan himself was the carriage maker. James Gillman, uncle of Nay Gillman, was his assistant. A. M. Latoure was the trimmer.

Many Evansville residents remember the time when they as children went to the factory to buy wagon bows which they used for hockey clubs.

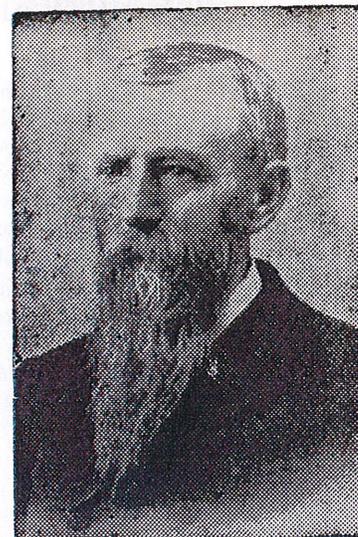
Among Evansville men who bought carryalls, carriages, surreys, phaetons, pony wagons, and other vehicles from the Morgan factory were R. M. Antes, C. J. Pearsall, and the late O. C. Colony, Dr. C. M. Smith, and George L. Pullen.



Dan Finnane, pioneer Evansville auctioneer, who has sold merchandise over the block for more than half a century.



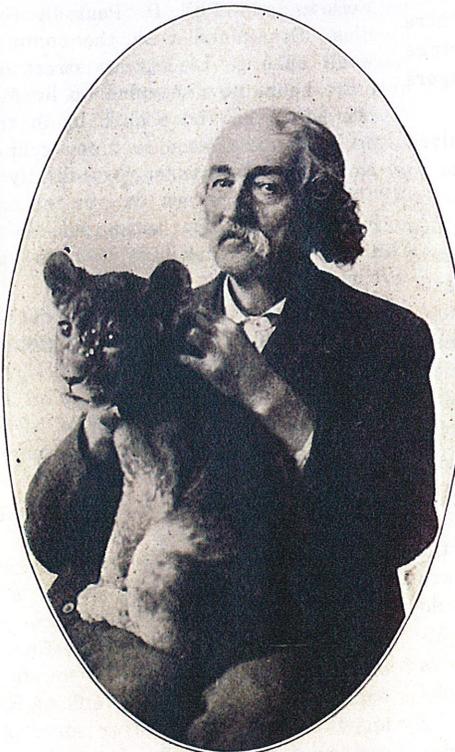
R. M. Antes, Evansville's oldest business man, who for the past 43 years has served as publisher of the Evansville Review. He started his newspaper career in 1896.



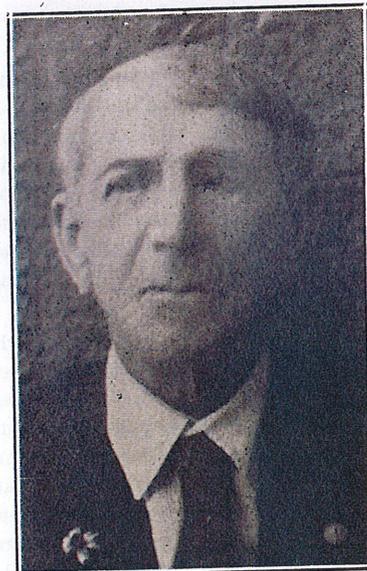
Until his death four years ago, W. H. H. Johnson was the oldest native born citizen of Union township.



Joel W. Morgan, pioneer Evansville carriage maker whose original old buggy factory on Maple street stood intact until only a few weeks ago when the building was razed.



Col. George W. Hall, veteran showman, who for many years maintained his circus winter quarters in Evansville.



At the time of his death May 9, 1930 Melvin Ingraham was one of the five surviving members of Evansville's G.A.R.

HISTORIC LANDMARK DESTROYED BY FIRE

Fire of unknown origin breaking out at 4:30 a.m. Aug. 6, 1934 completely destroyed a granary and hog house on the Thomas Frusher farm, three and one-half miles northwest of the city, which at one time served as the local hotel in the town of Union.

Built nearly 100 years ago of solid hewn oak, the building represented one of the first log structures erected in this locality and was a popular spot in the town of Union when pioneers were coming to this locality from the East.

The old hotel was located at the four corners in Union on the corner north of where the store now stands. It was wrecked many years ago and the part which burned five years ago was moved to the Frusher farm where the upper story was used as a granary and the lower as a hog house. The building was 18 by 32 feet.

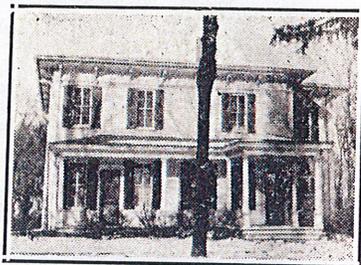
Known as the Union Inn, the structure was located on the old territorial road that led from the mines near Mineral Point in the southwestern part of the state to Milwaukee. It also served as the station house where horses were changed for the stage line which carried both passengers and mail.

Among the early settlers who lived in the hotel when they first came to this vicinity from the East were the Elwood, Gillies, and Johnson families who were among the first to settle here. Owen Whaley, grandfather of Mrs. Frusher, stayed at the hotel some 83 years ago when he came here from New York, and many old timers here can remember when they had to call for their mail at the Union hotel.

In the days before the railroad came to Evansville, Union was a flourishing town inhabited by the early settlers of this region. W. H. H. Johnson, the oldest native born citizen in the township who died a few years ago, could remember when P. T. Barnum exhibited his show in Union and recalled as one of the show's feature attractions a team of 40 white horses driven by one man—then advertised as the 40-horse hitch. He also remembered seeing Tom Thumb sitting in the village hotel, which burned on the Frusher farm, and Indians and wild animals which roamed the countryside at that time.

ANDREWS HOME ONE OF OLDEST IN CITY

The Andrews residence, one of Evansville's oldest homes located at 262 West Church street, was built by Jacob West and sons in 1864-5. It was not entirely finished when, in the spring of 1868, it was purchased by John C. Andrews, a stock breeder from Argyle.



The Andrews Residence

Mr. Andrews, a native of Ohio, was of Maryland parents. His wife, Sarah Wright Andrews, was an English woman who came as a girl with her father and mother to America in 1848.

The house then stood quite alone, the nearest dwellings on the east being the homes occupied by the Asa B. Fellows and Phil D. Pearsall families. South and west the commons were all open to Liberty street and only the house now occupied by Miss Myrtle Green had been built in that entire block. The home, now occupied by the Ralph Breckenridge family at 310 West Church street, was the only house west, and the south side of Church street was still an open pasture or garden.

The family as it arrived was father, mother, grandfather, William Wright, and five children, Byron, Cassian, Eleanor, Jerome, and Marilla. The latter, the last surviving member of the family is still residing in the old homestead.

The pioneers sought Evansville for the purpose of education and four of the five children attended the Evansville seminary. The oldest son and both daughters received diplomas.

Mr. Andrews was one of the founders and was a member of the first board of directors of the Bank of Evansville. The two younger sons, not caring for professional education, turned back to farming, and their father gave them each an Iowa farm and went with them to launch the new undertaking.

The old fashioned Andrews residence attracts the younger people who

have heard of its old fashioned furniture. Its value rests in the family associations. There is a bedroom suite of black walnut which was bought when the family outgrew the log cabin trundle bed days. Associated with this suite is the center table which did duty as a study table for the entire family as with a large kerosene lamp in the center, it provided room for every member to read. These pieces were hauled by wagon from Janesville to Argyle and then to Evansville. They are highly prized family possessions.

There is also the black walnut parlor set covered with black hair cloth. It too was bought in Janesville and brought by team over the old stage route in easy trips in comparison to getting into Lafayette county with the necessary fording of streams.

Mr. Andrews was reared in the densely timbered part of Ohio and his wife on the estate of the Duke of Rutland where her father had charge of timber. The members of the family all loved trees and planted many in the yard here.

They transplanted maples from the Sugar river vicinity and pines from northern Wisconsin. They also planted willows, elms, apple, walnut, and butternut trees. When the first settlers arrived here they called the village "The Grove" and the first school house was known as "The Grove School." For these reasons the old Andrews residence has been named "The Grove."

GONE ARE THE DAYS OF THE STAGE COACH

A striking contrast to the old stage coaches operated through this locality in pioneer days when many a passenger had to alight to help the driver pry the vehicles' wheels from the muck of frontier roads, are the automobile trailers now being manufactured in Evansville by the Badger Coach company.

The trailer firm, established here in 1935 by Howard Bruce and son, Mark, has enjoyed a steady growth until it now ranks as the leading house trailer manufacturing plant in the state.

The models shown at the national trailer shows have won high approval with the result that Badger coaches are to be found in practically every state of the union.

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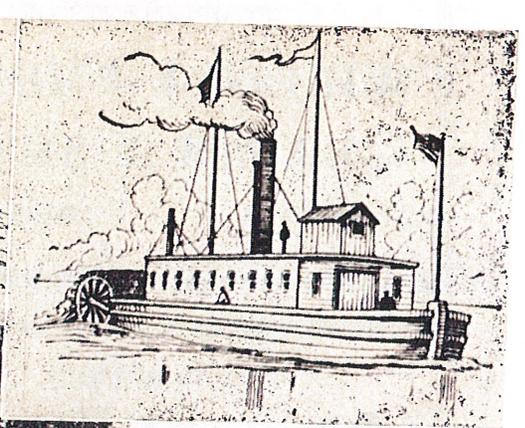
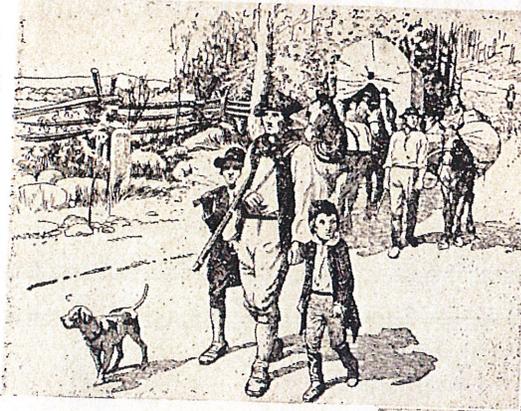
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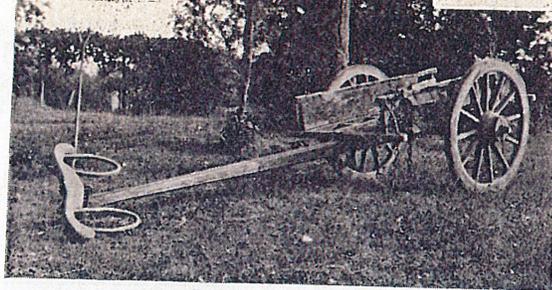
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EARLY MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



A little idealized, perhaps, but interesting are these old cuts illustrating the early modes of travel prior to the coming of the railroad in 1864. Many an Evansville settler had his first glimpse of his future home from the deck of a Frink and Walker stage coach while others coming from the East and South traveled in prairie schooners, ox carts, and a part of the way in river boats.



The early stage coaches left Janesville for Madison and Madison for Janesville every morning arriving at their destination the same evening after covering a distance of 40 miles.

Leaving Janesville the coaches came west diagonally over the prairie striking the present highway one mile east of Leyden which was the first stop. The second station was at what is now the Fellows Brothers' farm and the third at the Ball Tavern which is still standing. From there the road continued diagonally to the Half Way house at Union where the horses were changed.

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P.T.A. OUTGROWTH OF CHURCH MOTHERS' CLUB

Evansville's Parent Teachers' association, which sponsors the city's monthly preschool health centers through its annual sale of Christmas seals, was organized here 29 years ago growing out of a mothers' club known as "The Wee Folks Band," a part of the missionary society of the Congregational church.

Headed by Mrs. Wallace Short, the band continued to expand and increase in numbers until in 1909 it became known as the Mothers' club then holding its meetings in the school kindergarten with Mrs. D. Q. Grabill, now of Fort Atkinson, as its president.

Mrs. Walter Green at that time served as chairman of the executive committee which drew up the constitution and prepared the program for the first year.

In 1916 the club changed its name to "The Mothers and Others Club" including in its membership teachers and all women whether or not they were mothers. The group was one of the first organizations to join the State Mothers' congress, in fact, at the time it joined the state organization only three other Wisconsin cities were members; namely, Milwaukee, Oshkosh, and Racine.

The Mothers' and Others club met in the grade school here monthly, classes being dismissed at 3:30 p.m. on the days of the club's sessions to allow teachers to attend.

Following eleven years of existence the club became known as the Parent Teachers' association in 1919 and was affiliated with both the state and national organizations.

The group started its anti-tuberculosis campaign work in 1912 when Mrs. Walter Green was instrumental in securing for the city one-half of the proceeds from the annual sale of Christmas seals to be used for local health service work.

Since its organization, the Parent Teachers' association has sponsored and promoted fly, clean-up, and better backyard campaigns, art exhibits, health clinics, and milk lunches for undernourished school children, and in addition bent all its efforts toward securing the services of a county and city nurse.

EVANSVILLE LOSES PIONEER LANDMARK IN OLD MILL FIRE

"The Old Mill by the Stream," which has been the inspiration of poets in all times, has gone! A treacherous fire of July 24, 1930 destroyed the last link which bound us to the early history of Evansville. It was the old mill located at the north end of Railroad street. While the city of Evansville was still a tiny village with only a few of the earliest business establishments supplying the needs of its few citizens and the farmers of the surrounding countryside, Erastus Quivey built the dam and saw mill in 1847. Although it doesn't look now as though there ever was any use for a saw mill, at that time there was considerable timber in this vicinity.

Mr. Quivey built the grist mill in 1848 and at that time there was sufficient water to operate both mills during most of the year, but as the supply of logs decreased, the saw mill went out of use and was torn down. The first water wheel used in the grist mill was called an overshot wheel. The flume carrying the water from the race passed over and fell into buckets that surrounded the wheel thereby causing it to revolve. This furnished the power to operate the machines.

The owners later thought they could save power by taking the wheel out and installing what they called a breast-wheel 12 feet in diameter carrying buckets around the outside. The water struck about midway or breast of the wheel. These were the first wheels used in milling. More improved types were installed later.

The local mill had many owners in its day and of these only two are said to have reaped any profits. One was Harvey Prentice who purchased it very reasonably and sold it at a "good" price. Prentice made most of his money in buying and selling. The other owner was Fred Wolf, a practical miller who rented the mill for a few years. Wolf made a fair profit at first, but as the springs began to dry up the water failed until the mill became a losing proposition. In the later years of its operation there were times when the water became so low that operations would have to cease until it rose.

The late Eugene Williams who had used the mill for 18 years before its

destruction as a waste paper warehouse, had in his possession two of the axes used in hewing out the timbers when the building was erected. The timbers were hewn and the studding sawed by hand. The frame structure was of oak.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE HAS UNIQUE HISTORY

Since the memorable day when the Wisconsin Telephone company installed the first telephone in Evansville in 1890, the telephone industry in this city has experienced steady growth. The first telephone was installed in the drug store operated by Carl Snyder. It was a long distance station, connecting with Albany, Brodhead, and Janesville.

It was not until eight years later, however, in 1898, that the Evansville Telephone company was organized and the first exchange opened in the Bank of Evansville building, located at the corner of Main and Madison streets. The central office equipment consisted of a 50-line switchboard which initially served 24 stations.

Among the first subscribers were A. S., Frank, and Fred Baker; S. E. Barnard, W. H. Carpenter, James Gillies, A. C. Gray, M. J. Fisher, L. B. Lees, C. J. Pearsall, G. L. Pullen, R. M. Richmond, and P. C. Wilder.

Additional subscribers were secured during the first year, and the small switchboard soon became inadequate to handle the constantly increasing use of the telephone service. In 1899, an additional switchboard section of 50 lines was installed. This met the requirements of the telephone service locally until 1909 when a larger switchboard and more extensive associated central office was provided.

Lec... B. Lees was the first manager here, and Miss Lily Lees holds the distinction of being Evansville's first telephone operator.

In 1912 the Evansville Telephone company's equipment was purchased by the Wisconsin Telephone company. When the latter firm started operating the exchange, 541 subscribers were being provided service. At present there are 759 telephones in use locally. More than 735,000 calls are completed annually for the users of telephone service. Long distance calls originating here and completed through the local switchboards average 1,600 monthly.



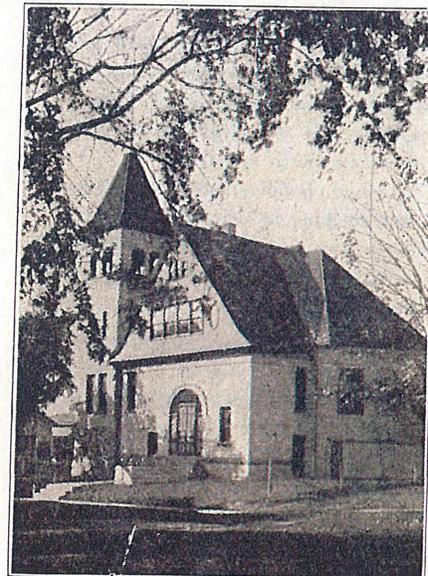
A relic of Evansville's pioneer days still standing on the Lange farm, seven miles west of the city.



Evansville's historic old Central House, the scene of many pioneer social events, which was razed last year for the erection of a proposed new hotel. Many of the timbers in the old building were hand-hewn by the early settlers.



Nay Gillman, who for 52 years was an efficient and faithful member of the city fire department until he turned in his resignation last March.



*Evansville's city hall erected in 1892 on the site of the city's first jail—
"The Old Stone Jug."*

DOLLAR DAYS RECALL OLD FASHIONED SALE DAYS IN EVANSVILLE

Evansville's modern Dollar days recall to many of the older residents of the city the extensive spring and fall sales which, until about 20 years ago, were sponsored here regularly by the Grange and Economy stores with Leaver's Harp orchestra, Beloit, and Neff and Hatch's orchestra, Janesville, furnishing the music for the occasions.

Seated on high platforms in both of the stores, the musicians would present varied concerts throughout the day and evening while throngs of shoppers invaded the stores in search of the many bargains. Another feature of the old time sale days was the serving of sample refreshments in the grocery departments where farmers would purchase a whole season's supply of staple groceries on that one day.

To say that Sale day in Evansville was a banner day for the city is not an exaggeration for during those events the streets were lined with horses and carriages belonging to farmers who drove long distances to secure the worthwhile bargains.

And Evansville housewives were kept busy too on those days for relatives from far and near came to Evansville to spend the day and incidentally have a meal with the home folks. No, a county fair, circus, or any other exposition could not have attracted a larger crowd to Evansville than the old fashioned sale days.

HISTORIC MONUMENT IS MOVED TO PARK

The historic old cannon donated to the T. L. Sutphen post, No. 41 of the Grand Army of the Republic at an impressive ceremony held here Aug. 16, 1900 during the reunion of the sailors and soldiers of Rock county, was moved last August from the city hall lawn on South Madison street to Legion point on Lake Leota at the city park.

The cannon, a gift from the United States Naval department in memory of the heroic dead, was moved from the original location in order that the city hall lawn might be graded, seed-

ed, and improved. It was mounted at the park on the same stone foundation on which it was installed in 1900.

A 30-pound parrott gun, the cannon was originally used for both naval and fortification service. Among the articles found in the galvanized box imbedded in its foundation were a record of the gift from the United States Naval department; copies of the Tribune, Enterprise, Badger, and Review, which newspapers were published in Evansville at that time; and rosters of the local post of the G.A.R. and Woman's Relief corps.

Through the cooperation of the late E. P. Colton, who was at that time agent here for the Chicago and Northwestern railway, and that of L. M. Sonders, agent of the Milwaukee Empire line, free transportation was furnished the trophy from the Brooklyn Navy yard to Evansville.

The fire arm was given to the city by the government with the provision that it must not be fired due to danger to life and property, and that if it should be fired the gift would be forfeited. Evansville's city council serving at the time of its dedication was comprised of Perry C. Wilder, mayor; C. J. Pearsall, E. J. Ballard, M. J. Fisher, John Wilson, and William Smith, aldermen; and J. H. Potter, clerk. Of this group C. J. Pearsall is the only surviving member.

ONLY ONE LEFT OF FIRST FIRE CREW

Just 61 years ago there were 50 members of the Evansville Volunteer Fire department. Today only one of the original firemen is left.

A. M. Barnum is the only living member of that group of men who at the time of their service were the leading physicians, bankers, jewelers, and business men of Evansville.

In 1877 Evansville had its first fire brigade. Its equipment consisted of the Deluge, a hand pump, and 250 feet of two-inch hose which was fed from a water system laid in the ground. The fire company derived its name, the Deluge, from the hand pump.

Ray Gillman, father of the city's present fire chief, Fred Gillman, was chief of the Evansville volunteers at that time.

According to the present Chief Gillman, the first fire department pre-

sented a striking contrast to that of today, but it accomplished its work effectively with the equipment available.

A roster of the members of the first Evansville fire department as listed in 1878 follows:

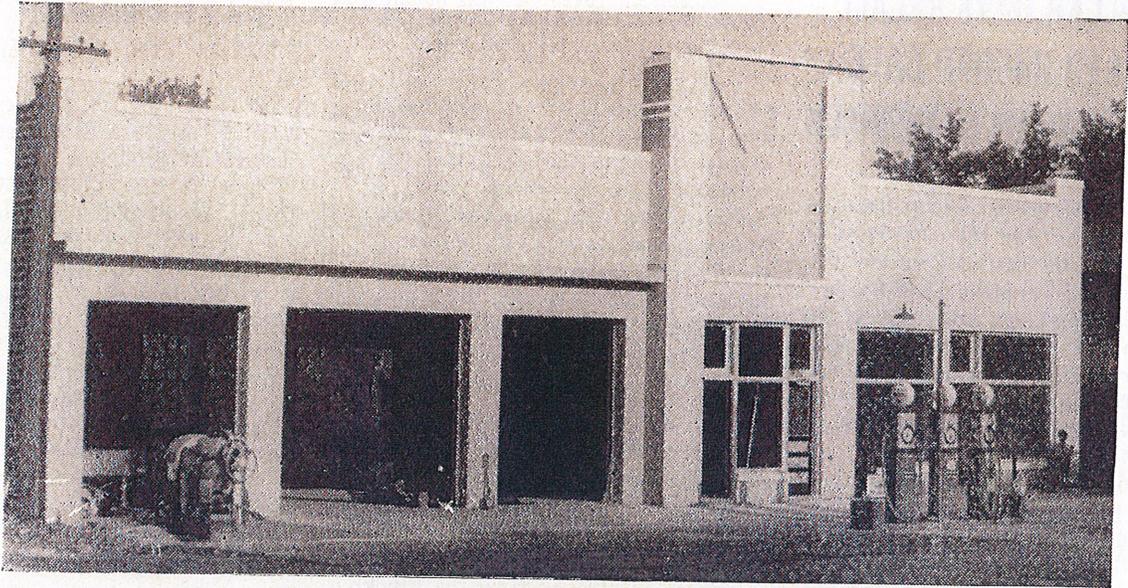
James S. Powles, Ray Gillman, W. Quivey, Frank Springer, John Frantz, John Reilly, George W. Hayward, W. W. Garfield, I. A. Hoxie, Tom Wallis, C. S. Wilder, Fred W. Tolles, Duane E. Jenkins, Wilbur T. Hoxie, W. Stearns, Dean Burgess, C. M. Smith, Emmet Reilly, C. K. Landon, R. Griffin, F. N. Shurger, B. McKenna, R. Rowley, Spencer Ide, William Roesch, Charles Bakenstoe, Edgar Fellows, Frank Hubbard, Fred Springer, John Kelsey, Luther Frantz, Joe Mills-paugh, E. J. Ballard, Wm. Horne, John H. Donahue, T. F. Shurrun, Daniel Johnson, Henry Monshau, John Lemmel, Charles L. Burnham, C. H. Spencer, D. C. Griswold, E. H. Potter, C. M. Clifford, Homer Potter, S. J. Baker, A. M. Barnum, and Tom Donahue.

MRS. MARTHA WOLF ONLY LIVE CHARTER MEMBER OF W.R.C.

On Sept. 15, 1885 Mrs. Martha Wolf, Madison, a former Evansville resident, with 22 other ladies as charter members, united in forming the Evansville women's auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, known as the Woman's Relief corps, to work in harmony with the T. L. Sutphen post, G.A.R., which at that time had more than 200 members.

The charter members initiated at that time were Flora West, Harriet Knight, Frances Campbell, Nettie Frantz, Dorcas Cogswell, Delia Fish, Alice Edwards, Julia Rodd, Olive Wilson, Sarah Hubbard, Theodora Casler, Harriet Patterson, Lucille Libby, Sylvia Beebe, Martha Wolf, Agnes Reeder, Lizzie Shurrun, Nancy Hyne, Julia Snow, Emma Johnson, Ann Hayward, Amanda Taggart, and Addie Morse. All of these charter members have answered the last roll call with the exception of Mrs. Wolf.

Following the organization of the order, the first new member to be initiated was Mrs. Flora Hubbard who joined March 15, 1886. Since that time Mrs. Hubbard, who resides at 17 Water street, has been a faithful member of the order and has held numerous offices.



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PIONEER A FOOT BEATS TEAM TO MILWAUKEE

A legend is told in the McCarthy family of Porter township that in 1843 Dennis J. McCarthy, the first of the family to settle in this region, actually beat a team and buggy in a race to the land office at Milwaukee to file homestead papers on what is now the C. W. McCarthy farm north-east of the city.

McCarthy had settled on the land which belonged to the government, but had not filed his claim. Hearing that a man by the name of Lyons of Dunkirk township was planning to "jump the claim" and was going to Milwaukee the next day to file on it, young Dennis started on foot for the land office.

It is said that he reached the office before closing time and saved the claim by filing his papers. Lyons, never dreaming that a man on foot could beat his team, had taken his time and enroute to Milwaukee met McCarthy returning home with the papers in his pocket.

Although it would be impossible now for a man on foot to beat a team in a race of nearly 100 miles, at that time the country was new with a scarcity of roads and many rivers to ford giving the pedestrian the advantage.

GIBBS LAKE REGION INDIAN CAMP GROUNDS

Hidden away among the wooded hills in Porter township is a small pond called Gibbs lake which for many years was a favorite camping place for the Indians on their semi-annual tours back and forth from south to north. It was named after the man who first owned it in the pioneer days.

That the lake shore was a favorite camp site for the nomads is shown by the fact that even at this late day many flint arrow heads are plowed up on the farms surrounding the lake. In the early days the pond was surrounded with timber and was noted for many years as the home of the pickerel which were so large that many a fisherman remembers his trip to the lake by the tackle he lost in attempting to coax some of the largest into his boat.

H. C. Hadley, whose farm borders the lake, can remember the thieving

propensities of the Indians and an incident wherein one of his sisters had a doll house looted by the squaws who were seeking playthings, "Alle same white folks," for their papooses.

The vicinity of Gibbs lake is said to have been held back for many years with a debt incurred through giving notes for the building of a railroad which was surveyed through that region from Janesville to Madison. The road was partially built but the route was finally changed via Edgerton and Stoughton omitting Fulton, Footville, and the town of Porter.

The notes, however, averaging about \$1,000 to the quarter section, were collected in full and many were the privations endured by the early settlers in order to pay the notes and save their farms.

MODEL OF FIRST AUTO IS WELL REMEMBERED

When Ben Mapes, supervisor from the third ward, purchased the old Andrew Larson home and blacksmith shop at Stone, seven miles north of Evansville, about 13 years ago and cleaned up the buildings in an effort to dispose of the refuse which had accumulated since 1871 when Mr. Larson settled there, he unwittingly destroyed what residents of that community claim to be the model of the first automobile ever made and put into practical use.

The car was said to have been invented and later built and operated by Mr. Larson who was a mechanical genius. Built like a buggy with a floating axle similar to that of present automobiles, the vehicle was powered by a one cylinder engine installed in front of the dash board.

Old settlers can remember when Larson tried to get neighbors and friends to ride with him in the contraption but to no avail as the noise it made could be heard for miles distant. It is said that whenever the gasoline buggy approached a team of horses on the highway, the animals vanished through fences and over fields.

Nevertheless the machine worked and its owner made several trips in it to surrounding towns. Arthur Devine, local farmer who was one of its first passengers, can remember the time he traveled down the old Stone hill in the machine at a tremendous rate of speed and without the use of brakes which the buggy lacked.

WOMAN'S LITERARY CLUB IN 45TH YEAR

Exactly 45 years ago, come next September 30, a group of Evansville women assembled in the home of Marilla Andrews at 262 West Church street to organize the Woman's Literary club, one of the oldest organizations now in the city, founded to become a living force in the community for cultural public welfare, philanthropy, and civic betterment.

Among the club's early workers who diligently strove to foster in the community the love of good literature and the desire to be conversant with it, was Flora Winston to whom Evansville owes the location of its present library. She refused to sell her lot for any other purpose than a public library.

Other pioneer club women were Flora West, Mrs. James Hoskins, Mrs. Byron Campbell, Mrs. Vie Campbell, Mrs. Ada Johnson, Mrs. May Standish, Minnie Savage, Eva Spencer, and Mrs. T. C. Richardson all of whom have passed on.

At almost the first meeting of the new club arrangements were made for a course of lectures by Prof. Freeman of the University of Wisconsin which was presented free to the public. This community service was at once the keynote in the establishment of the Woman's Literary club. The next year found the club sponsoring a course of lectures on social economics.

It is interesting to note that in 1900 the club passed a resolution recommending the closing of the stores at 6:30 p.m. every evening except Saturday and that in 1898 the records show the appointment of a committee to confer with aldermen in regard to park improvements. During the same year an initiatory movement was started toward a public library in which the club organized a library league with the Afternoon club, the Epworth league, and the Christian Endeavor sponsoring a book carnival at which \$60 was raised for the purchase of library books.

Through the untiring efforts of the club, Evansville's first library was established in one of the high school recitation rooms. The club women subscribed \$100 for the purchase of books, \$75 of which was raised by personal subscription and the remaining \$25 taken from the group's treasury.

In 1900 the Literary group united with the Afternoon club, a child of the Evening club, in presenting a business carnival in Magee's opera house at which another \$300 was raised toward the payment for the lot on which the present library is now located. The late T. C. Richardson had previously loaned the club a sum toward the purchase of the property.

A personal contribution from one of the club members together with \$65 from the treasury enabled the literary group to place a \$200 clock in the library in 1913 as a memorial to Eva J. Spencer, a pioneer member of the group. The portrait of Theodore Robinson, noted artist, was placed by the club in the library in 1926.

Among the other civic projects adopted by the club was the placing of the first picnic table in the city park in 1914 which example has since been followed by many other societies.

It would require a volume to list all of the efforts for well doing and varied interests with which the Woman's Literary club has cooperated, initiated, and to which it has contributed. It has been known to contribute in one evening \$5 to the Y.W.C.A., \$5 to the war relief, \$5 to the Dousman Home School for Boys, and \$5 to Armenian and Syrian relief.

PORTER BAND HALL MUSICAL LANDMARK

One of the outstanding landmarks of the pioneer days in this locality is the Porter band hall located about five miles northeast of Evansville on the Tolles farm.

The town of Porter band was organized in the late eighties before the hall was erected and a tenement house on the Tolles farm first served as the practice hall for the musicians.

The band was organized by William Tolles who served as its manager from its birth until it ceased to function some 25 years ago. In 1893 the band had become so popular that it was decided that it should have a home for rehearsals and public entertainments.

A constitution and by-laws were drawn up and signed by a group of neighboring farmers who agreed to assist in erecting the new hall with Mr. Tolles furnishing the materials. The building was started Aug. 19, 1893 and completed and dedicated at a public concert in November of that year.

The Porter band, one of the first musical organizations in southern

Wisconsin, competed in band tournaments at Rockford and other cities with the best bands of the country and in 1898 won the second prize at a Woodman picnic in Rockford.

One of the outstanding features of the hall today is the hard maple floor which is as smooth and perfect as it was the day it was laid. Evansville through carelessness has lost her first log residence, but thanks to the Tolles family the old band hall will still stand for another 50 years as a landmark of the community's first musical organization.

THIS YEAR MARKS 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF D. E. WOOD FIRE

According to Fire Chief Fred W. Gillman, May 25 of this year marked the thirty third anniversary of the D. E. Wood Butter company's fire which was one of the most costly, disastrous, and stubborn fires Evansville ever had with the exception of that in 1896 when an entire city block was wiped out.

Originating from tar being placed on the roof of the building, the fire broke out at 4:10 p.m. and was not entirely under control until 10 o'clock that night.

The Janesville fire department was summoned and assisted Evansville firemen in saving the plant. The loss was estimated at \$15,600, most of the damage being done by smoke.

According to Chief Gillman, the city fire department answered two calls that day, the first at 2 a.m. when the firemen were summoned to the John Wilson residence on Almeron street. The fire loss here during May of 1906 totalled \$17,100.

Evansville's present fire equipment with its modern trucks, chemicals, booster pump, and other apparatus presents a great contrast to that of 30 years ago and has been most beneficial to the city not only in preventing great losses, but in reducing local insurance rates.

EASTERN STAR NEARS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Among the older organizations in the city is Columbia chapter No. 29 of the Eastern Star which will observe its Golden anniversary in February, 1942.

Of the 33 charter members of the lodge two are still members of the order and one surviving is demitted. The surviving charter members are Mrs. Margaret Baker, Evansville, and Mrs. Eva Emery, Gilroy, Calif., who are still members, and William Campbell, Madison, demitted.

The lodge books show that nearly 500 persons have been members of the Evansville chapter during its 47 years of existence. The present membership is about 175. The first officers of the lodge were as follows:

Mrs. Belle Lee, worthy matron; Dr. George Spencer, worthy patron; Mrs. Cora Budlong, associate matron; Mrs. Ellen Spencer, treasurer; Mrs. Franz Campbell, secretary; Mrs. Hattie Spencer, conductress; Mrs. Gertie Campbell, associate conductress; Mrs. Lucy Clifford, chaplain; Mrs. Margaret Baker, Ada; Mrs. Hattie Kendall, Ruth; Mrs. Sarah Cummings, Esther; Miss Eleanora Andrews, Martha; Mrs. Annis Gibbs, Electa; Mrs. Elizabeth Evans Griswold, organist; Mrs. Mary Lewis, warder; and Izaak Clifford, sentinel.

CHAS. FULLER VETERAN MAIL MESSENGER HERE

Among Evansville's old timers who watched the city develop from a wide spot in the road to a thriving miniature metropolis was the late Charles Fuller who as mail messenger and bus driver gained the reputation of never missing a train here in more than 40 years.

Until his death in 1936 Mr. Fuller was busy from 5:30 in the morning until late at night transferring mail bags to and from the post office, hauling baggage about the city, and running a taxi for the residents of the community.

During his long career as bus operator he never failed to get his passengers to the depot in plenty of time to catch the train even though many of the calls were hurried last minute errands.

At one time Mr. Fuller kept 22 head of horses for draying in Evansville and had in service five hacks which were used for funeral purposes. At the time of his death he was acclaimed to be the oldest messenger in the state.

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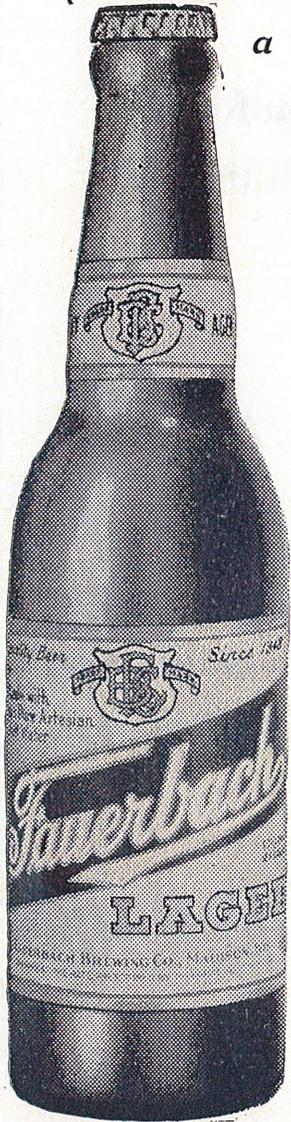
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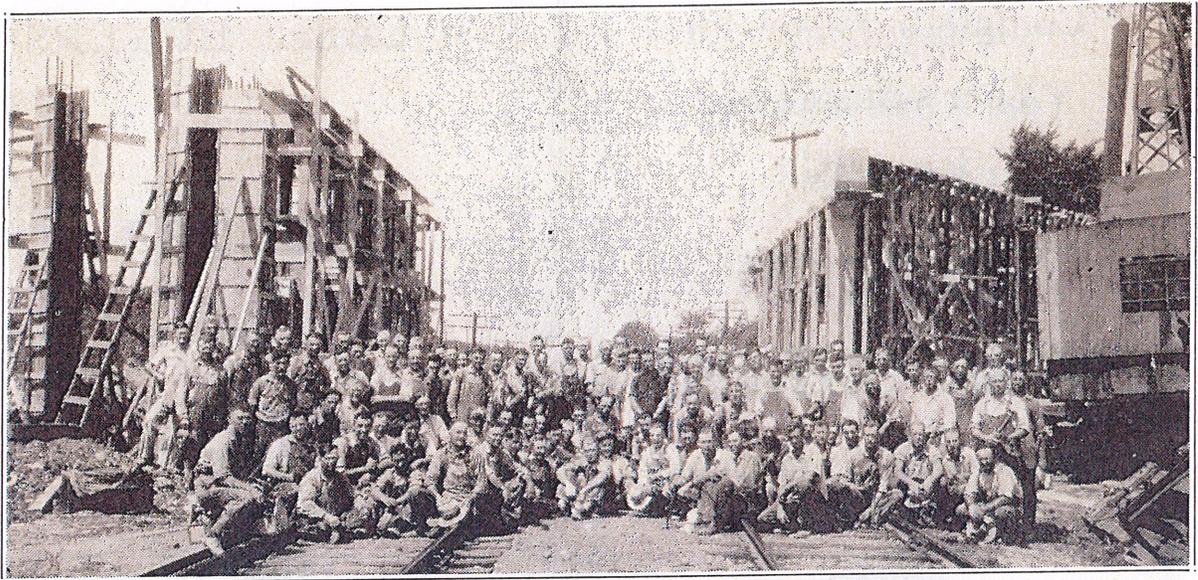
Centennials don't merely happen . . . 100th milestones are an accomplishment of true American heritage—civic pride, sound governing forces and an untiring willingness to succeed.

Every Evansville citizen can point with pride to this honorable achievement . . . an honor that we at Fauerbach's duly respect, and rightly so, because Evansville citizens, past and present, have been a vital factor to our 91 year success. Since 1848 when Evansville's first store was opened by William Winston and C. R. Bent, and a year before the first postoffice was established, Evansville and Fauerbach's have endured together . . . in a friendly, neighborly manner. Since that year Evansville's loyalty to our product has been most gratifying to us.

So, we salute you Evansville, with our "hat's off" in acknowledgement to a great little city.

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"FOLKS GO FAR FOR FAUERBACH'S!"



A view of Evansville's \$135,000 viaduct taken in September 1931 while it was under construction. Pictured are the morning and afternoon crews which were at work on one of the longest overheads in the state.



Campus of the old Evansville seminary established in 1855 by the Methodists. It was later controlled by the Free Baptists and the Free Methodists, and is now operated as the Wyler School for Boys. The third building now housing the gymnasium and primary department is not shown in this early view.



A view of Evansville in 1910 showing the Grange store, Eager Free Public library, and what is now St. John's Lutheran church.

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FRANK'S CAFE

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EVANSVILLE ONCE HOME OF WORLD RENOWNED ARTIST

Here and there upon the leaflets of Evansville's past appear the names of those who have by their talents or genius become illustrious in the world's annals and in some measure illumined the city by the reflection of their brilliant achievements.

One of these gifted sons of Evansville was Theodore Robinson who has made Evansville famous in the artist world. It was Evansville that nurtured the childhood and youth of the artist and now guards his mortal dust.

Born June 3, 1852 at Irasburg, Vermont, Robinson came with his parents to Evansville in 1856 when he was four years of age. His father was the officiating minister of the Methodist church here and resided in the Methodist parsonage located at that time on the corner of Main and Third streets.

Theodore's artistic faculties were early developed and manifested themselves in numerous sketches upon all subjects, many of which are still treasured here by relatives and friends. He studied art in both the United States and Europe and gained a world-wide reputation as one of the outstanding artists of his time.

The artist died in New York city April 2, 1896 and was buried here in Maple Hill cemetery beside his parents on April 6 of that year. His pictures are highly treasured in art museums throughout the country and are an inspiration to the artists of our present generation.

HOW JUG PRAIRIE RECEIVED ITS NAME

Although there is a difference of opinion as to how Jug Prairie received its name, tradition has it that the early settlers of the rural community northwest of Evansville in pioneer days sent their jugs with the oxen teams to Milwaukee to have them filled with sorghum.

Sheldon Hickok, one of the early settlers who made regular trips to the Cream City hauling grist to be ground, was continually asked by the women of the community to carry along their jugs for refilling. Thus the locality soon became known as Jug Prairie.

G. A. R. HAS ONE SURVIVING MEMBER

Memorial day of 1939 found Evansville's G.A.R. post with a membership of only one, a striking contrast to the days when there were more than 200 names of Civil war veterans on the roll.

The T. L. Sutphen post, No. 41, Grand Army of the Republic, was organized here Aug. 24, 1882 with James R. West as first commander and W. F. Williams as adjutant. At one time the post had a membership of 212 all of whom have answered the last call with the exception of John Gardner Babcock, who, despite his age of 94, is in good health and plans to attend and participate in Evansville's centennial celebration this year.



J. G. Babcock was born in Johnstown, Rock county, Oct. 14, 1844 and enlisted in the Civil war at Janesville July 31, 1861 in Company D of the Thirteenth Wisconsin infantry. He was mustered out Nov. 19, 1864 at Nashville, Tenn. He became a member of the T. L. Sutphen post Aug. 23, 1883 and will hold the charter of the post as long as he lives.

Awarded Banner

On July 28, 1892 more than 200 assembled at the G.A.R. hall here to witness the presentation of a prize banner which the local post won for making the largest gain in membership in the state. The banner was made of extra heavy silk with hand-worked stars, bullion fringe, and a pointed staff, and inscribed on the banner was "T. L. Sutphen Post, No. 41, G.A.R. Evansville, Wis." The inscription, "Presented by citizens of Madison July 1892" was engraved on the plate of the staff.

The banner was presented by General Rogers and was accepted by Post Commander Dr. L. B. Beebe. Most interesting and stirring remarks were made by Department Commander Welton and others from Madison and by Commanders James R. Bown, James R. West, H. W. Hamilton, and others from the local unit.

Refreshments of ice cream and cake

were served by the Woman's Relief corps and the meeting closed with the singing of "Marching Through Georgia."

Several years ago with only a few remaining comrades, and they too feeble to conduct business affairs, Miss Cora E. Harris was appointed their secretary by the state department commander and has since conducted the work of the Evansville post. Shortly after that the comrades turned over the property of the post to the Woman's Relief corps.

Charter Members

The 32 charter members of the Evansville unit were James R. West, company F, 16th Wisconsin infantry; Henry W. Hamilton, company C, 11th Wisconsin infantry; William F. Williams, company D, 13th Wisconsin infantry; S. J. Baker, company D, 13th Wisconsin infantry; A. C. Thorpe, company F, Second California cavalry; A. C. Gray, company D, 58th Massachusetts infantry; J. M. Evans, surgeon, 13th Wisconsin infantry; C. M. Smith, surgeon, 13th Wisconsin infantry; and C. B. Morse, company G, 141st New York infantry.

Others were Josiah W. Blake, company D, 9th Illinois cavalry; E. B. Mifflin, company D, 1st Colorado infantry; W. W. Eastman, company F, 33rd Wisconsin infantry; James N. Patterson, company E, 13th Wisconsin infantry; D. H. Johnson, company I, 5th Wisconsin infantry; H. V. Jones, company D, 23rd Wisconsin infantry; James R. Brown, navy; Morris E. Waite, company F, 3rd Wisconsin cavalry; Joe H. West, company D, 13th Wisconsin infantry; George W. Hayward, company G, 9th Vermont infantry; Harrison Thompson (no record on file); William H. Wainwright, company F, 80th New York infantry; and C. A. Libby, company D, 40th Wisconsin infantry.

The remaining charter members were George W. Dibble, company F, 16th Wisconsin infantry; George M. Bidwell, company F, 16th United States regulars; Martin B. Cray, company B, 20th Wisconsin infantry; William W. Wiggins, company E, 5th Wisconsin infantry; Patrick McGlenn, company K, 96th Pennsylvania infantry; Wendell Powers, company F, 33rd Wisconsin infantry; William Burk, company D, 13th Wisconsin infantry; William Wilcox, company D, 2nd Wisconsin infantry; J. E. Gleave, company F, 13th Wisconsin infantry; and E. S. Casler, company B, 37th Wisconsin infantry.

APRIL 1, 1939

Marked Our

*First
Anniversary*

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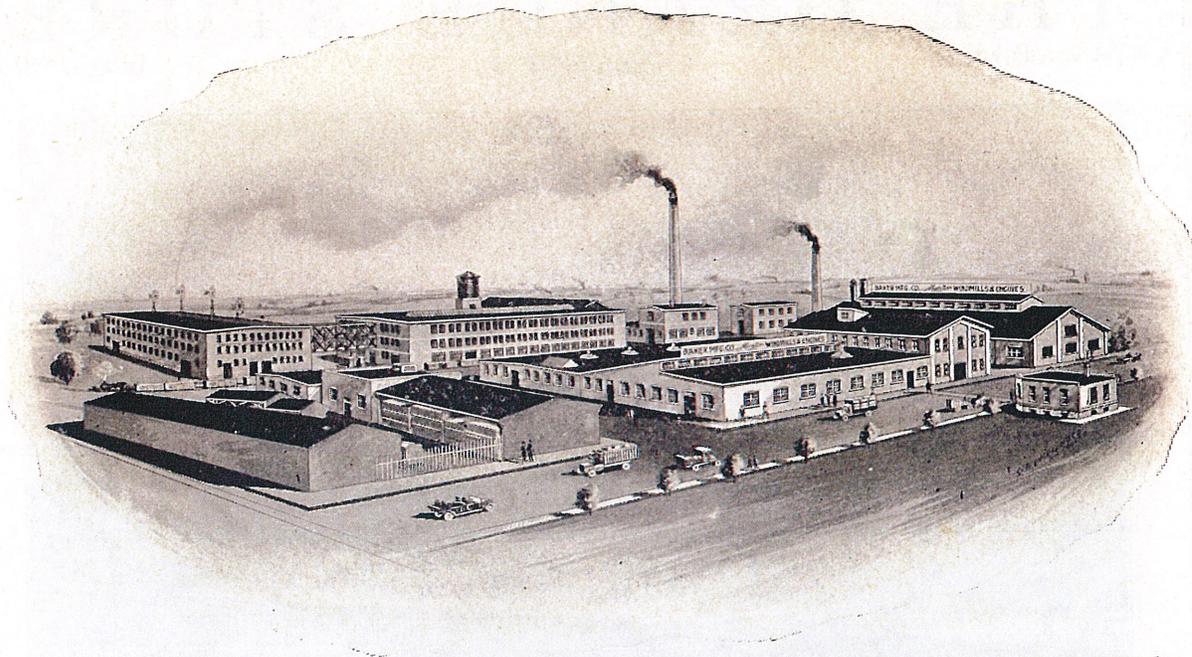
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SALES**

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An early view of the plant of the Baker Manufacturing company which firm originated the profit-sharing plan for employes and represents Evansville's leading industry.

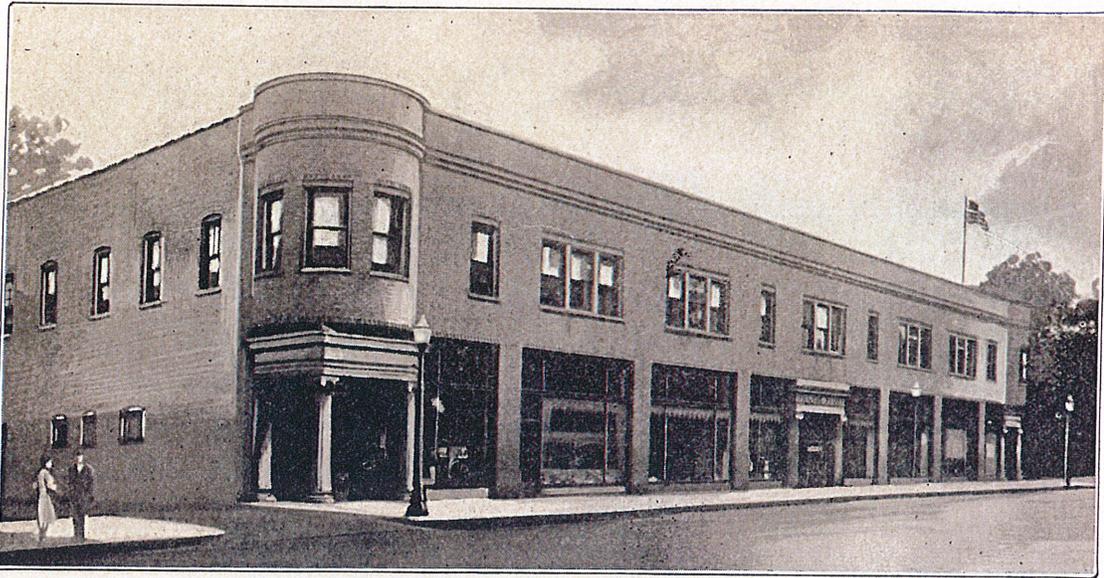


Reprint From The Milwaukee Journal

The Old Stone schoolhouse, four miles southwest of Evansville, which is nearly 100 years old. It was erected in 1854 replacing a log building. Miss Mary Frances, New York state, was its first teacher.

THE GRANGE STORE

EVANSVILLE Since 1874 WISCONSIN



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 Lyell Richardson, Hattie Richardson, Harold Spersrud, Anton Cole, Otto Sells, Hazel Chapin, Dorothy Schrader, Fred Franklin, Tom Johnson, Lula Van Patten, Robert P. Richardson, Lillian Gibbs, Genevieve Taplin, Ella Brown, Anna Dake, Edward Butts, Olga Knudsen, Albert C. Holmes, Martin Anderson, M. D. Fish, Leroy Scoville, Ralph Breckenridge, John Hockett, Roy Smith, Ole Peterson, Laura Hile, Betty Hyne, Clara Reese, William Wood, Sydney Benway.



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Butter Milk

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PIONEER DESCRIBES EARLY DAYS HERE

Among the most interesting letters describing early days in Evansville written for Byron Campbell's book, "Pioneer Days of Evansville and Vicinity" published in 1915, was that of the late Joseph H. West, who was born Jan. 21, 1842 and shortly afterwards located with his parents at "The Grove" which later became Evansville.

"Father built a log cabin near the marsh by a large spring inside what is now the city limits on the east side. I first attended school in the old school house and can remember Miss Duncan, Miss Wells, Mr. Stevens, Lucretia Chapell, and I. M. Rowley as among my first teachers," wrote Mr. West.

"Like all buildings in this country at that time our school house was a primitive affair, built of hewed logs with a puncheon floor. The benches were made by splitting a log through the middle, smoothing off the flat side with a broad axe, and putting in pins for legs.

Backless Seats

"There were no backs to the seats. The only desks for writing were arranged around the room and were made by driving wooden pins in the logs and putting boards on them. We had to stand up to write. Our pens were made by the teacher from goose quills.

"Heavy timber stood to the west of the school house down to where the Central House was built, and south of Main street was a beautiful little prairie.

"Two or three events which transpired while I was attending school here are strongly impressed upon my mind. At one time the leader of the boys, Richard Phelps, led us up the creek to a deserted Indian camp near where Evansville's old mill dam was located. We went to get some buck skin string which the Indians used to tie together the bows of their tents.

Game Plentiful

"Wolves, deer, prairie chickens, and quail were very numerous at that time. My brother, James, used to trap prairie chickens in great quantities so that we had them to give away. The Red men also roamed



at will over the country and used to call at our place for food.

"My mother was always afraid of the Indians though they never did any harm. We had our garden some 10 or 15 rods from the house and father used to raise a good patch of water and musk melons. I have known mother to make molasses out of water melons and pumpkins.



"In that wolves and foxes frequently came to eat the melons, father finally set a steel trap for them and soon had one of the thieves by the foot. It proved to be a good sized fox, but because the animal had a chain around his neck and appeared quite tame, he did not kill it. A few days later we learned that it was a tame fox belonging to one of our neighbors.

No Conveniences

"People in the early days had little with which to work. Think of building a house with nothing in the way of tools but an axe, a saw, hammer, and a draw shave, and no material but the native forest for there were no saw mills at that time. There were no nails with which to put the home together. The roof was made with shakes and fastened on with a binder pole.

"The early settlers made their own furniture. No sooner had these new pioneers provided comfortable shelter over the heads of their families than they went about erecting a home of worship. The structure was completed largely of oak, even to the lath which was sawed out of burr oak and split with a hatchet. The cost of the church was about \$800 and it was acclaimed to be the best, if not the only church edifice, between Rock river and the Mississippi in this latitude.

ONE TRAIN A DAY IN PIONEER TIMES

When the first railroad came to Evansville the villagers were provided with only one passenger train a day, according to Byron Campbell's gleanings in his "Pioneer Days of Evansville and Vicinity."

The train left here at about 9 o'clock in the morning and did not return until evening. The engine burned wood and the baggageman was obliged to pile up sufficient wood beside the track to last 24 hours.

The track was built of timbers upon

which a strap of iron was laid and the little four-wheel drive, wood-burning engine pulled only four or five cars. However, it was a railroad and opened up a market for produce which in preceding years had to be hauled by team and wagon to the larger market centers.

GRANGE STORE BUSY CENTER SINCE 1874

The Grange store, which for years held the distinction of being the largest department store in Wisconsin outside of Milwaukee, was organized here in 1874 by a group of stockholders from the Grange lodges of Evansville, Albany, Brooklyn, and Dayton.

The store was first located in the building now occupied by H. A. Langemak and two years later was moved to the present Fisher building housing the Reese Billiard parlor.

The business was conducted at that location until 1904 when the present building, one of the largest in the city, was completed.

The late T. C. Richardson, pioneer Evansville merchant who was closely associated with the store from the time of its organization until his death in 1931, used to relate how farmers back in the eighties and nineties came to the store and bought their winter supplies all at one time, while in this age, with the modern means of travel, they shop regularly three or four times a week.

Evansville residents at that time made their own dresses, underwear, overalls, in fact, most all of their clothing apparel and bought the materials by the bolt rather than by the yard as they now do. The store in those days carried a relatively small stock of ready made goods, but a much larger stock of yard materials than is on display at the present time.

Mr. Richardson could remember an incident wherein a lady asked him to sell her some "frock timber" meaning dress material and he sold her a complete bolt of blue denim now only fit for the making of overalls.

The merchandise shoppers purchase now as necessities were at that time luxuries. For example, the Grange store never carried silk hosiery for it was too much of a luxury. Today, clerks cannot sell hosiery unless it be silk.

300 MEMBERS

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For Every Farm and Every Crop

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BABY CHICKS

Handling a complete line of
**FEEDS, POULTRY EQUIPMENT,
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OLD TIMES REVIEWED AT PIONEER REUNION

One of Evansville's first midwinter early settlers' gatherings was held Jan. 14, 1908 when some 75 pioneers all of whom were more than 60 years of age assembled to exchange reminiscences.

Among the most interesting discussions was that of Mrs. John Tullar,

who listed the early recreations as singing and spelling schools, debating societies, and donation parties.

"Union was the metropolis of our part of the country at that time and nothing was thought of walking there after a day's work in hopes of getting a letter from the loved ones left in the old homes of the East, and if fortunate enough to find such a letter, 25 cents had to be paid to get it as postage was not prepaid in those days," she said.

"If the settler had butter or eggs to sell, they were, as now, as good as money, although not worth as much as they are now. I recall an incident of a man named Rice taking some 40 or 50 dozen eggs to Union and because he could get only three cents a dozen refused to sell them, carried them back home, and threw them at a mark when his family needed every cent he could possibly bring in.

DO YOU REMEMBER WAY BACK WHEN?



Above is pictured the automobile population of Evansville in 1905 which was composed for the most part of the old Ramblers then manufactured at Kenosha. Of the 13 cars seen in the picture, 12 are of the one and two-cylinder type with chain drive, driver's seat on the right hand side, and shifting gears on the outside. The Ramblers later developed into the Jeffris which was manufactured until the factory was purchased by the Nash Motor company.

Among the local owners, many of whom can be seen in this picture, were Dr. C. M. Smith, Lou Fellows, Ed Smith, George Pullen, Clarence Baker, Mrs. Gertrude Eager, Clint Schofield, Homer Sholts, C. J. Pearsall, Fred Baker, Dr. Fred Colony, and Harvey Sykes. Clarence Baker was the Evansville agent for the Rambler.

With but few garages in the country at that time, motorists were obliged to drive to the factory for repairs and parts, and often contended with flat tires and engine trouble enroute on their journey. One who made a satisfactory trip of 200 miles with no car trouble at that time was praised highly, but usually had to have his car overhauled at the factory at the completion of his journey.

Motoring in those days was considerably slower than that of today. The cars could not average more than 20 miles per hour due to the condition of the roads, and were equipped with patching kits rather than spare tires. Travel was again held back by a state law which required every motorist to stop his car when meeting a team on the road to avoid accidents caused by frightened horses.

CONFIDENCE - -

No Community can endure without the confidence of its citizens. Nor can any business stand without the confidence of its patrons. The Wisconsin Petroleum Company established its service in Evansville in 1924 with the determination to build and retain confidence on the part of every person it is privileged to serve. To achieve this we have chosen our products with utmost discrimination

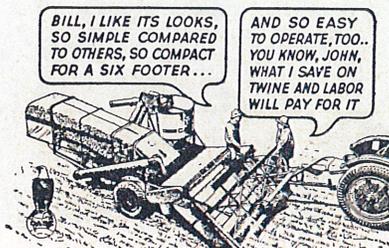
WISCONSIN PETROLEUM CO.

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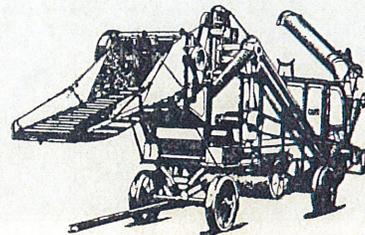
Other Stations in Stoughton, Oregon, Edgerton, and Brooklyn

IT COSTS LESS TO FARM WITH CASE



NEW CASE SIX-FOOTER
Straight-Line COMBINE

You can thresh hay and sorghum nicely with the A-6 Combine. Compact—easy to set up in a barn. It has all the time-proven threshing principles which have made Case Threshers so famous.



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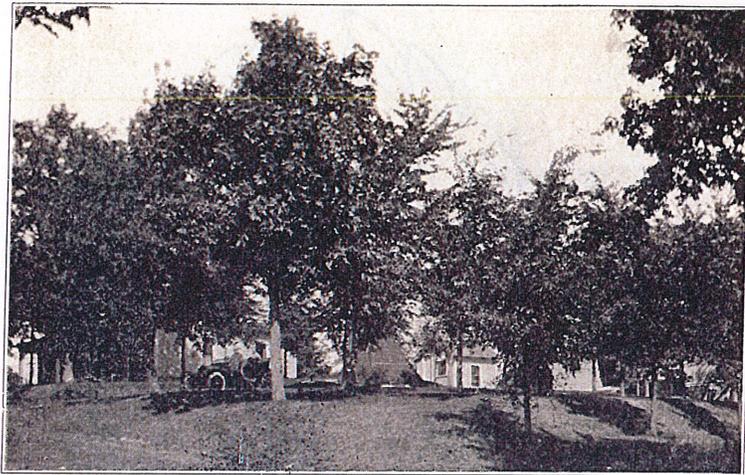
Big capacity, wide mouth feeder. All steel cylinder and concaves. Steel slated "grid" straw-rack. "Air lift" cleaning fan—steel shoe. Outside ball or roller bearings. Unusually simple—only five belts.

UNION IMPLEMENT COMPANY

Evansville, Wis.

H. F. BRUNSELL

A. P. RASMUSSEN



The old estate of the late Dr. F. E. Colony who was one of the first to invest when the introduction of the automobile gave a new spur to the practice of medicine as a first aid to the injured. Dr. Colony's car, an early model, can be seen in the accompanying picture,



W. M. Tolles who organized the pioneer Porter band and served as its manager until it was disbanded some 25 years ago.



F. R. Holmes who purchased the Evansville Steam laundry in 1905 and is this year observing his thirty-fourth anniversary in the business.



Locating in Evansville in 1893, R. M. Richmond was one of the first to serve as city attorney. He remained active in civic affairs until his death December 15, 1934.

COLVIN'S *Quality*

47 YEARS SERVING

THE PEOPLE OF EVANSVILLE AND VICINITY

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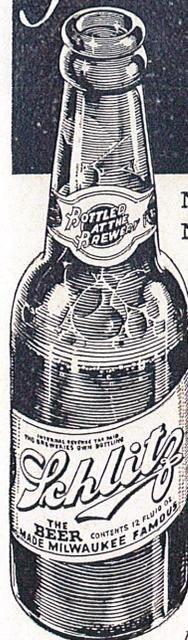
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NOT SWEET
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Join the millions who enjoy
that famous flavor! Schlitz
has true-beer tang and
goodness, yet it is neither
sweet nor bitter. The secret
is in the blending of the
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**THE BEER THAT MADE
MILWAUKEE FAMOUS**



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ROCK COUNTY FAIR BANNER EVENT HERE

The days of the old Rock county fair in Evansville stand out, especially in the memories of the old timers, as the red letter days of the century.

The county expositions were first held in Janesville as early as 1852 though at that time they were not a financial success.

An interesting incident is told which occurred at one of the early expositions in Janesville. As the story goes a group of ladies were to ride their horses in a race around the track once

and the best rider was to receive a prize of an attractive side-saddle and bridle.

One of the seven racers fell from her horse when about half way around the track and being sympathetic with the unfortunate contestant the judges presented her with the prize regardless of the fact that the other six completed the race.

Due to the fair's financial failure in Janesville, the grounds were sold to private parties and Rock county was without a fair until the expositions were transferred and resumed at Evansville in 1898.

Nine young men of Evansville had previously met and voted to stage a Rock county fair here. They elected officers and deposited \$10 each with their treasurer. With this small amount they went to work starting a successful fair program in Evansville which continued until about 12 years ago when the county charter was sold to the Board of Supervisors and the expositions were again returned to Janesville.

The fair, however, was short lived in Janesville and was soon replaced by the annual county 4-H expositions which are still in progress.

OLD FILES REVEAL POST OFFICE HISTORY

Interesting historical facts concerning the old Union post office which for many years served the pioneer settlers of what is now Evansville were revealed a few years ago when

the basement of the Evansville post office was renovated.

Among the documents found by A. C. Holmes, who was postmaster here at the time, was a postal account book kept by Mrs. E. P. Coggon, postmistress at Union, which shows that she received \$13.35 for her services from July 1 to Sept. 30, 1887.

Another old book showing the registered mail that was dispatched from Union during the years 1879 and 1880 reveals that W. H. VanHise, Union storekeeper and father of the late Charles VanHise, former president of the University of Wisconsin, was one of the leading business men of the community.

Other names appearing in the book are those of George Rogers, Joseph Benway, Frank R. Tolles, Asa Pierce, Mrs. Esther Bent, Joseph Williams, C. Devine, Harris Hostley, Melvin Ingraham, George Alberti, W. C. Richardson, James Gillies, Laura Seeley, W. W. Gilles, George Banham, William Leedle, M. J. Anthony, Fred Franklin, and Mrs. Jane Murray.

The postal guide of 1884 which was uncovered also is of great interest in that it shows that the rate of postage on first class mail at that time had just been reduced from three to two cents for each half ounce. Today it is 3 cents for each full ounce. The guide was issued before the days of parcel post and consequently limited the weight of a package to four pounds with a rate of one cent per ounce.

Since the issuing of the 1884 guide a total of 15 post offices have been discontinued in Rock county. They are those of Cainville, Center, Cooksville, Magnolia, Union, and West Magnolia all of which are now served by the Evansville rural free delivery, and those of Emerald Grove, Fairfield, Fulton, Indian Ford, Johnstown Center, Leyden, Rock Prairie, and Stebbinsville now being served from other offices.

An advertisement was also found concerning bids to carry the mail from Evansville through Union, Cooksville, Stebbinsville, Fulton, Indian Ford, and to Edgerton and return, a distance of 19 miles each way six times per week. The schedule, according to the advertisement, was to leave Evansville at 6 a.m. arriving in Edgerton by 12, noon; returning to leave Edgerton at 1 p.m. arriving in Evansville by 7 p.m. No information could be found as to the amount of the contract.

CITY'S FIRST FACTORY FOUNDED IN FORTIES

Evansville's industrial program was inaugurated as early as 1845 when a chair factory and turning lathe was operated by water power in a two-story building about three rods north of Main street and in the center of what is now Railroad street. The life of the factory, however was only about two years in that the early settlers had but little money with which to buy and were deprived of many of the bare necessities of life.

Other pioneer ventures included the establishment of match and tack factories, grist mills, saw mills, a buggy shop, a coffin factory, and a plant manufacturing disc sharpeners. The latter industry, which was founded about 40 years ago by the late A. E. Durner, is now operated by Leroy Lewis who is also proprietor of the Evansville Produce company.

Although the Baker Manufacturing company remains as the time-tested pioneer venture, Evansville has a number of other thriving factories including the plant of the Columbus Food corporation which employs 150 workers during the canning season maintaining eleven viner stations in the community; a Swiss cheese factory which is completing its first year of operation; a branch of the Pet Milk company which provides milk outlets for many local farmers; and a potato chip shop recently established by William Helgesen.

The Pearsall creamery which was later operated as the D. E. Wood Butter company, a branch of the Cudahy Packing company, has been closed for the past several years due to excessive state taxation on oleomargarine. During its operation here, however, it played an important part in Evansville's agricultural and industrial development with C. J. Pearsall, veteran butter manufacturer, at the helm.

Other industries which have aided materially in the building of Evansville are the William Smith and Son and Libby tobacco warehouses, the Evansville Ice Cream company, the Evansville and Triangle Dry Cleaning companies, and the Antes Press. These firms are providing employment for many Evansville families and have been most valuable in industrially advertising the city.

\$5 FIVE DOLLARS \$5

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CUT FLOWERS
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Free Delivery

THIRTY YEARS

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THE ROYAL BLUE FOOD STORE

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**COMPLETE ONE-STOP
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Prompt—Efficient—Courteous

Our Sixth Year in Evansville

INMAN'S STANDARD SERVICE

Battery Charging—Polishing
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VISIT

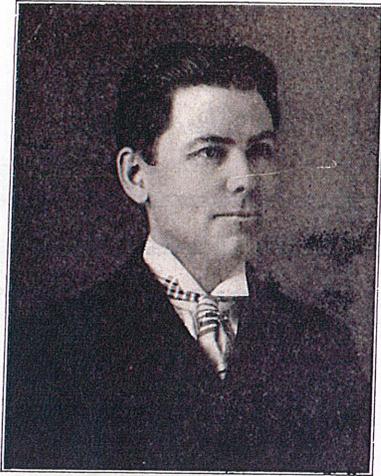
THE UNION STORE

The last landmark of the Village of Union

ERECTED IN 1846

Now operated by

MRS. FRANCES MILLER



Fred L. Janes as he appeared when he first started to practice law here back in 1896.



For many years Dr. Charles S. Ware, pioneer veterinarian, operated a veterinary hospital and livery on Main street.



H. A. Langemak and V. A. Artell who with their partner, the late J. W. Calkins, operated the Economy store here for many years.



An old fashioned sale day in Evansville.

**WEBER'S COOKSVILLE
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Serving the historic community of Cooks-
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Thanks to our many satisfied customers.

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Evansville, Wis.

HOW THE BUSY CITY ACQUIRED ITS NAME

Evansville, originally known as "The Grove" acquired its present name from the late Dr. J. M. Evans who upon locating here in 1846 was the first physician and later the first postmaster of the village.

The village was not platted when he became postmaster with the result that the postoffice assumed the name of Evansville. When the village was later organized and platted it derived its name from the postoffice.

Then too, residents of "The Grove" realized that the village must have a name that would not disappear with the sound of the woodman's axe so after the usual proceedings the village was organized and given a more permanent name and one which would honor its first physician and postmaster.

Tradition has it that the villagers considered naming "The Grove" Smithville for its other pioneer physician, Dr. C. M. Smith Sr., who was also a popular citizen of the community.

When Dr. Evans arrived here in 1846 he first boarded with the Henry Spencer family maintaining his office on the second floor of their home. In conquering the intermitting fever and plague which spread about the locality with the breaking up of the sod and the consequent rotting of the grass, Dr. Evans is said to have ridden night and day about the country getting what little sleep he could in his buggy guided by his driver.

When the disease reached its height, the physician was unable to secure sufficient quinine, the fever medicine, to go around and he was further handicapped by the lack of enough well persons to care for the sick.

UNION STORE LAST VILLAGE LANDMARK

The last landmark of the village of Union still standing in its original location is the Union store which since its erection in 1846 has changed hands 52 times.

The abstract of title, which is now in the possession of Mrs. Frances Miller, present storekeeper, is written, for the most part, in long hand and lists the names of all those who at

one time owned the property and conducted the business.

The only typewritten copy in the abstract are the transfers made after 1894 when the late Charles Fairbanks left the property to his infant heirs, Frank and Flora Fairbanks.

The village, according to the papers, was platted by Ambrose Arms May 14 1846 and the store plat was recorded in the office of the county register of deeds on that date.

When we look at Evansville's business district today with its well-stocked stores, modern theatres, shops, and office buildings it is hard to realize that one hundred years ago the only store in these parts was located three miles north of the city in Union.

It supplied the pressing needs of the pioneers, if they could pay for them. Money was scarce, but the early settlers all had to eat. The problem was often solved by the cutting of cord wood which was exchanged at the store for much needed articles.

Across the highway from the store is the old Union postoffice which is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chris Johnson. The village blacksmith shop can still be seen on the Wiechman farm nearby though it is not in its original location.

LEOPARD HUNT IS MEMORABLE EVENT

Undoubtedly the most thrilling, dangerous, and perhaps the most discussed adventure of pioneer days in Evansville was the hunt conducted by a local posse for a leopard which had escaped from Col. George Hall's circus winter quarters here in September, 1901.

The account of the animal's capture as related in the issue of Sept. 12, 1901 of the Tribune, early Evansville newspaper, has been saved by Mrs. Walter Tullar for her grandchildren. It reads as follows:

"The leopard has been captured and killed at last and the people of the community can again go about in safety as far as that animal is concerned. Children, who have been very scarce on our streets, can again venture out in perfect safety and play.

"After several days of unsuccessful hunting for the leopard, word came from Mr. Hess, living near Lee's creamery about four miles southeast of this city, that the animal had killed two of his sheep that morning, and was then in hiding in a small wood near by. Immediately after this information was imparted, a large num-

ber of hunters started from here about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, going by team.

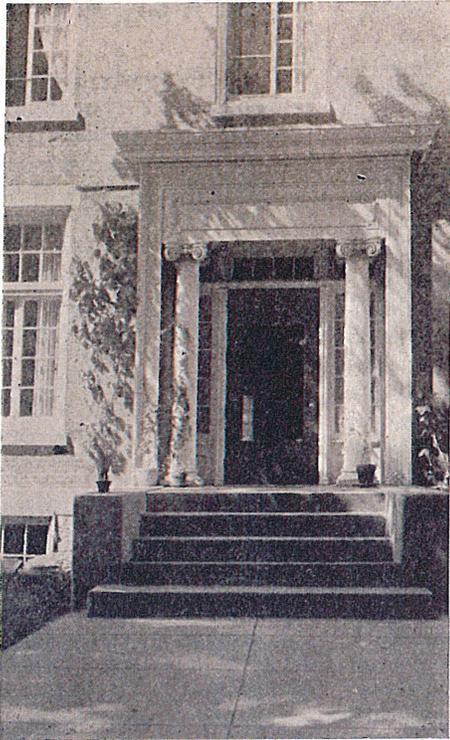
"When the party arrived at the hiding place of the leopard, they were joined by Mr. Hess and a few others. Some of the hunters were stationed in a cordon near the edge of the woods for the purpose of shooting the animal if it should escape those that were hunting it on the interior. Mr. Hess, who had been looking into a clump of hazelbrush and was just turning to go in another direction, was pounced upon by the leopard, who buried his teeth and claws into the man's shoulder and arm causing severe and painful wounds.

"Mr. Hess shook off the animal, and as it bounded away, a couple of shots struck it. It then came face to face with Walter Tullar of this city who fired at it. The animal then jumped on him, driving its teeth into his arm. With his right hand Mr. Tullar raised his gun and bringing the muzzle on range with the animal's jaw, pulled the trigger. The animal dropped, and then a fusillade began from the other hunters, who had gathered around him by that time. The life of the leopard was soon ended.

"The animal was loaded on top of one of the rigs and all returned to this city where large crowds gathered to view the dead brute which had been hung to a lamp post on the corner by the Pioneer drug store. The leopard had been a very savage animal during its life. It was the property of Col. G. W. Hall and escaped from a cage some time Sunday morning. It was eight years old and measured about six feet from tip to tip.

"Messrs. Hess and Tullar received medical assistance as soon as possible, and it is hoped no serious results will follow although Mr. Hess has his shoulder badly lacerated, and both men will carry the marks of the encounter through the remainder of their lives. Mr. Tullar left for Chicago in the evening to have his wound treated.

"Everybody seems relieved of the anxiety that has been felt since Sunday of the possibility of meeting the leopard face to face, and the farmers stood in danger of their stock being attacked in the pastures as several sheep have been reported killed during the time it was enjoying its liberty."



WYLER SCHOOL

A Semi-Military Boarding School for Boys. Located on the beautiful grounds of the former Evansville Seminary
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100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

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**Hampel's
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Your Home Town Product

Buy it at your
HOME-OWNED GROCERY

HYDE & HYDE

FOOT CULTURISTS

Beloit, Wisconsin

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565 East Grand Ave.

WHY EVANSVILLE LOST LAKE LEOTA

Lake Leota, which each year attracts thousands to its bathing beach during the summer months, had its origin in 1847 when Erastus Quivey built a dam which formed a pond. It was a beautiful sheet of water covering about 40 acres of land.

Before building the dam, Mr. Quivey secured a lease of the land he wanted to flow. The lease was to continue in force as long as property was used for milling purposes. In after years, however, the mill ceased to be profitable and was abandoned.

The flooded land then reverted back to the original owners or their heirs. About 35 acres came into the possession of one person and five acres went to another. It was then reported that the city was to lose Lake Leota.

Pleads With Council

The party owning the 35 acres went to the mayor and council pleading with them to save Lake Leota, explaining that the annual ice crop would pay the interest on the money if borrowing was necessary. He also cited the pleasures and benefits to be derived from skating, boating, and fishing, and the possibility of completing the park.

The owner offered to sell to the city the entire tract of flooded land together with the dam at only \$800. No action was taken, however, and the matter was dropped. Wanting the use of his land, the party owning the five acres removed the dam and destroyed the lake.

For years afterwards the restoration of Lake Leota was agitated but it was not until 1923 that the city issued bonds to the amount of \$20,000, erected a dam with two spillways, and restored the lake.

ANTI-HORSE THIEF GROUP ORGANIZED

One of the early organizations in this locality was the Union Anti-Horse Thief society which in 1908 elected V. C. Holmes as president; W. W. Gillies, vice president; and W. H. H. Johnson secretary and treasurer.

The vigilance committee was composed of C. F. Jorgensen, George Emery, A. G. Franklin, J. C. Ellis, Sylvester Purinton, Virgil Hopkins, W. M. Tolles, L. B. Fellows, and R. H. Harney. The society at that time had about 60 members.

FOUR SERVICE GROUPS STAGING CENTENNIAL

Fostering a spirit of high business ethics and genuine civic pride Evansville's four organizations sponsoring the city's centennial celebration have played an important role in the community's development.

The organizations are the Lions club, the Booster club, the Waucoma grange, and the American legion all of which have striven for a high type of city advertising and for general civic good.

The Lions club was organized Friday, Dec. 18, 1925 when a group of nearly 15 young professional and business men of the city met in the old Central house with 21 Stoughton visitors to discuss the advisability of forming an Evansville club. Officers elected at a breakfast meeting the following Monday were as follows:

P. D. Pearsall, president; Bruce H. Ford, vice president; Dr. J. P. Guilfoyle, second vice president; Dr. J. W. Ames, third vice president; E. J. Cook, secretary; Fred W. Hansen, treasurer; R. J. Antes, Lion tamer or fine collector; and Fred Graves, tail twister or social chairman.

The directors were the Rev. O. W. Smith, D. B. Baird, John Cummings, and A. C. Johnson. The club started its career with a membership of 20 business and professional men.

The present officers are J. G. Weber, president; Forrest Durner, first vice president; E. A. Butts, second vice president; J. S. Pullen, third vice president; W. S. Spratler Jr., secretary; William C. Schneider, treasurer; William Dixon, lion tamer; W. M. Bewick, tail twister; and R. L. Collins, Dr. J. W. Ames, and R. J. Antes, directors.

The Evansville Booster club, composed of members of the Odd Fellows lodge, was organized in 1938 with Charles Shelby as president and Roy Sarow, secretary and treasurer. The present officers are Ward Nordquist, president, and Carroll Bly, secretary and treasurer. The club is decidedly a service organization.

A group of Evansville farmers organized the Waucoma grange here in May, 1929 electing the late Lyman Gillies, master; Warren Porter, overseer; Mrs. Harry Spooner, lecturer; Lloyd Porter, secretary; and Lloyd Hubbard treasurer.

The present officers are Edward Turner, master; Leroy Lewis, over-

seer; Mrs. Harold Klusmeyer, lecturer; Gilman Spersrud, secretary; and Morris Gilbertson, treasurer.

Evansville's American legion was organized in 1920 with 26 ex-service men as charter members. R. L. Collins was chosen commander; Roy Reckord, post adjutant; Loyal Baker, vice commander; and Dr. George Spencer, historian. Ben T. Green is now serving as commander with R. J. Antes, adjutant, and E. B. Libby, financial officer.

CIVIC LEADERSHIP IN AFTERNOON CLUB

Evansville owes much to her women's service organizations which have been responsible for many of the forward steps taken and for many of the welfare and civic projects carried on in the community.

Among the most outstanding of these groups is the Afternoon club which was organized here April 8, 1897 at the home of Mrs. Minne Savage with Miss Marilla Andrews, Mrs. Ada Johnson, Mrs. Hattie Boyd, Mrs. Helen Richardson, Mrs. Mae Evans, Mrs. Eva Snashall, and Mrs. Savage as charter members.

Miss Marilla Andrews, now Mrs. Buchwalter, served as the first president and was later assisted by Mrs. John Porter and Mrs. Margaret Baker as secretaries. Before selecting Library hall as the monthly meeting place, the club met in homes and later in the Baker and Odd Fellows halls.

Successful accomplishments of the club include the promotion of the library building project, the furnishing of the library hall, the hall's redecoration, assistance in the purchase of its piano, and the promotion of Evansville's chautauqua for two years.

The club joined the District and State Federation of Women's clubs in 1903 and was represented at the first meetings by the late Mrs. O. C. Colony who held several district offices and was honored as district president in 1917-18.

An outstanding by-product of the Afternoon club has been its splendid democratic fellowship; here differences in religion, politics, wealth, age, or character are forgotten and a fine friendship deepens with the years' associations.

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Dr O. G. Libby

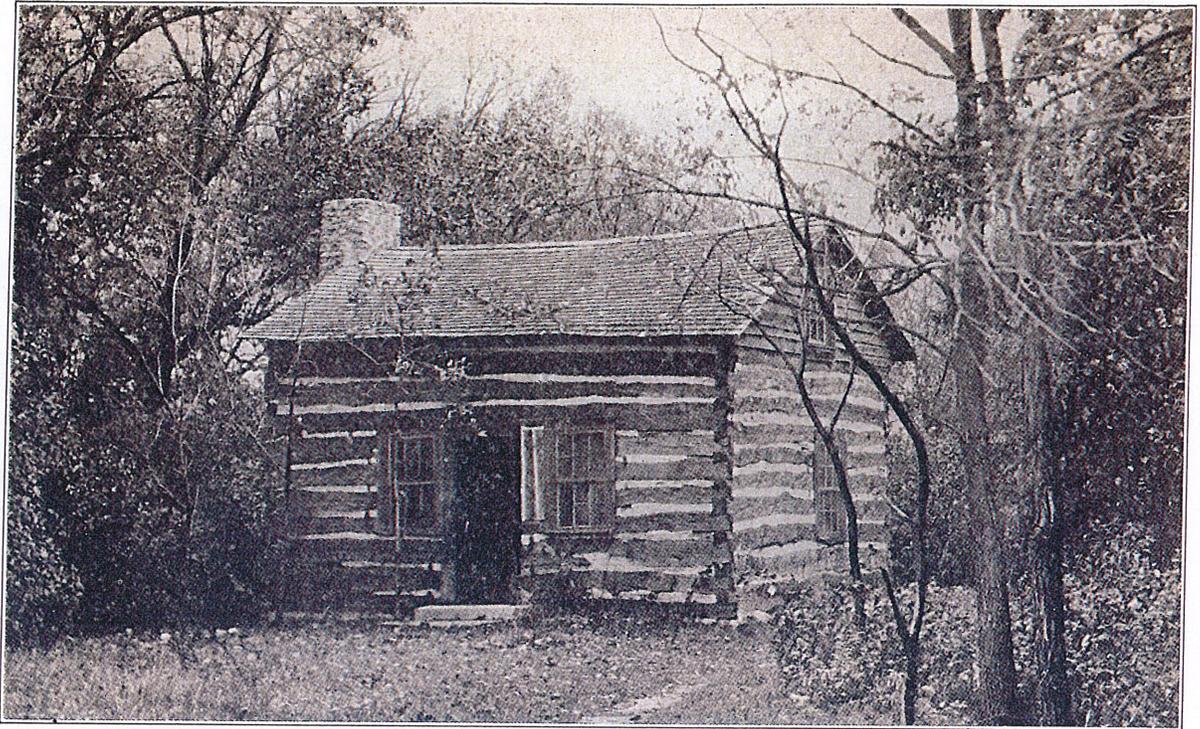
DENTIST

Evansville, Wisconsin

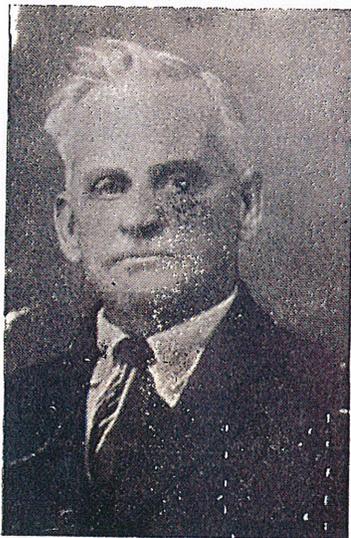
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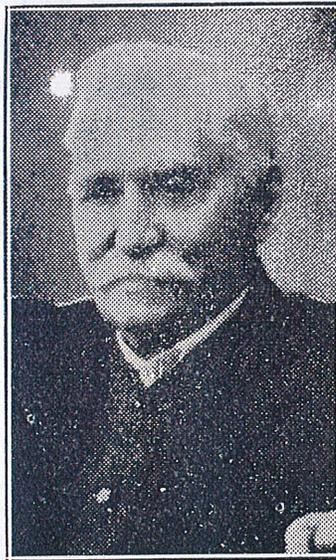
BURR JONES, Proprietor



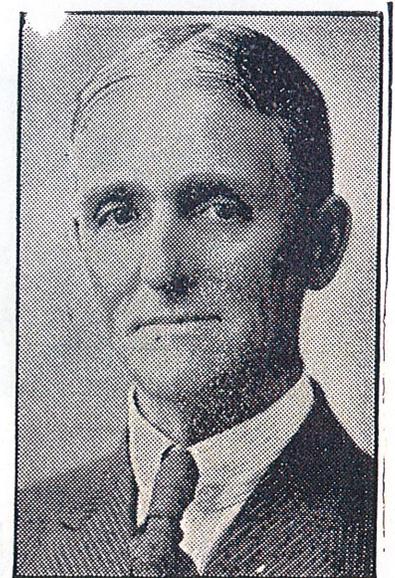
An early home erected in the late forties.



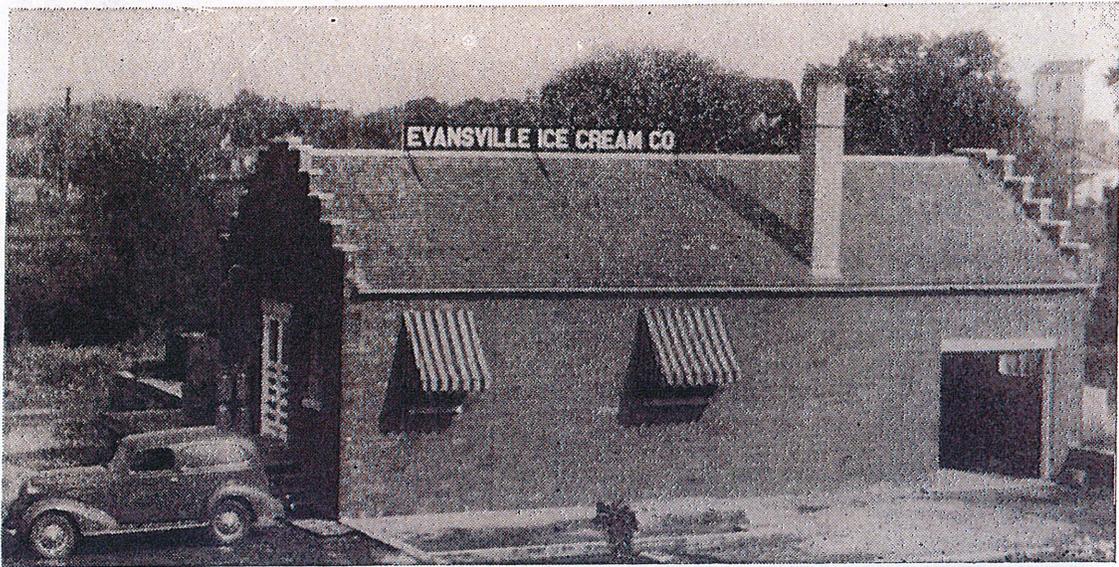
For nearly half a century Smith Jameson tilled the soil south of Evansville in Magnolia township and continued his love for agriculture until his death in 1935.



Enos Baldrige whose death in 1934 left John G. Babcock Evansville's only surviving Civil war veteran.



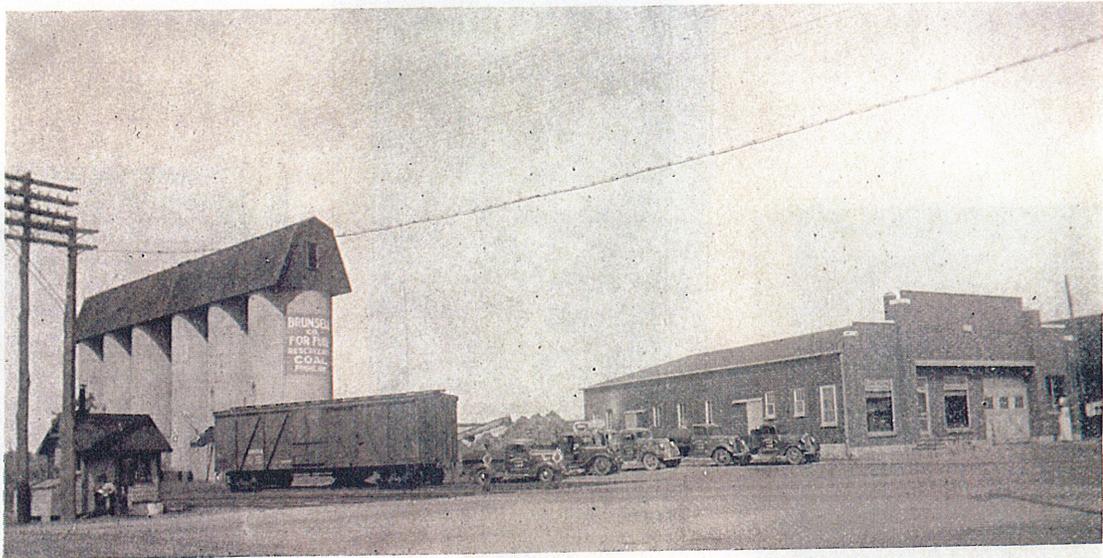
John C. Robinson, husband of the fields and master livestock breeder, who devoted a lifetime to the development of farms and herds in this locality.



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Evansville, Wis.

SEMINARY PRODUCT OF NEW ENGLANDERS

The Evansville Seminary established in 1855 was the logical product of New Englanders who located here ahead of the colleges. These pioneers were unable to send their children East to be educated so founded a college in Evansville. They burned the bricks one year and the next year put them into the attractive colonial building still in use.

The seminary was conceived by the Rev. Asa Wood. In 1846 a congregation worshipped at the Methodist Episcopal church which stood upon the present site of the Eager block. In those days it was called the Grove church for there was no Evansville. The village of Union was the market center of the country.

The Rev. Mr. Wood came as an itinerant pastor filled with the zeal of the pioneer circuit rider, and declared that the only thing that would ever make the little Grove church amount to anything was to start a school.

Nothing was done, however, at this time and some years later Mr. Wood returned, now a superannuated preacher and still full of the seminary idea.

Organized in 1855

The result of the pastor's agitation was finally the holding of a meeting in the Methodist church in June, 1855 when an organization was effected.

The first trustees chosen were E. A. Foot, W. W. McLaughlin, Henry G. Spencer, William C. Kelley, Ira Jones, the Rev. Asa Wood, D. L. Mills, and Nelson Winston. Mr. Foot was elected president of the board; D. L. Mills, secretary; and the Rev. Mr. Wood, financial agent. D. L. Mills gave the land for the site of the school to be forever dedicated to educational purposes.

Prof. R. O. Kellogg, graduate of Yale, was engaged as principal. He was detained, however, by illness. School was opened in the Methodist church in November, 1855 by his assistant, Miss Minerva Gilbert. Prof. Kellogg arrived in time for the winter term of 1856. During the winter and spring terms of 1857 Prof. Martin VanBuren Shattuck was principal and he was succeeded in the fall of 1857 by Prof. George Smith who remained until the spring of 1860.

The liberal gifts through which the residents of Evansville and vicinity established this seminary involved sacrifices unknown at this day. This

was a pioneer country without railroads, telegraphs, or factories, but there were plenty of dishonest state banks with elusive issues of wild cat money. Those were literally hard times, yet the farmers and villagers did not hesitate to put down their names for hundreds of dollars to accomplish the erection of the first building.

At one time when all looked dark and hard times incident to the panic of 1857 made it impossible to collect the subscriptions to go on with the work, Thomas Robinson and his wife mortgaged everything they owned for \$3,000 to lend the trustees money without security, for the property itself could not be encumbered.

Mortgages Farm

At last when all was completed but the roof, A. C. Fish, who resided on the outskirts of Evansville, mortgaged his farm for \$300 to buy the shingles. David L. Mills, who donated the land, was also a great benefactor.

The Evansville seminary property passed into the hands of the Free Methodists in 1879. The school was opened by Prof. J. E. Coleman Sept. 15, 1880 with 16 students. The next fall the enrollment was 75 and by the fall of 1885 the student body numbered 135. The old building could no longer accommodate so many students and accordingly in the spring of 1888, the erection of another building was started. It was completed in the early part of January, 1889.

Prof. Coleman resigned in 1894 and was succeeded by Prof. C. N. Bertels. If space permitted a long list of illustrious students and graduates could be given, among them a chief justice of Wisconsin, a governor of Wisconsin, a president of the state university, a senator of New Mexico, two United States senators, a president of the state board of education in Nebraska; an internationally-known artist, Theodore Robinson, founder of the school of impressionists, and many highly educated musical artists as for years this locality was noted for its highly developed choral work.

When the old Grove schoolhouse was supplanted by a modern up-to-date fireproof building supported by public tax, it became evident that private institutions, unless endowed, could not flourish. For years the seminary offered advanced and special training, but gradually the state-supported large institutions made it impossible for it to continue. The

school consequently was closed on several occasions.

Name Dropped

About ten years ago the old time honored name, "The Evansville Seminary" was officially dropped and the institution is now known as the Wyler School.

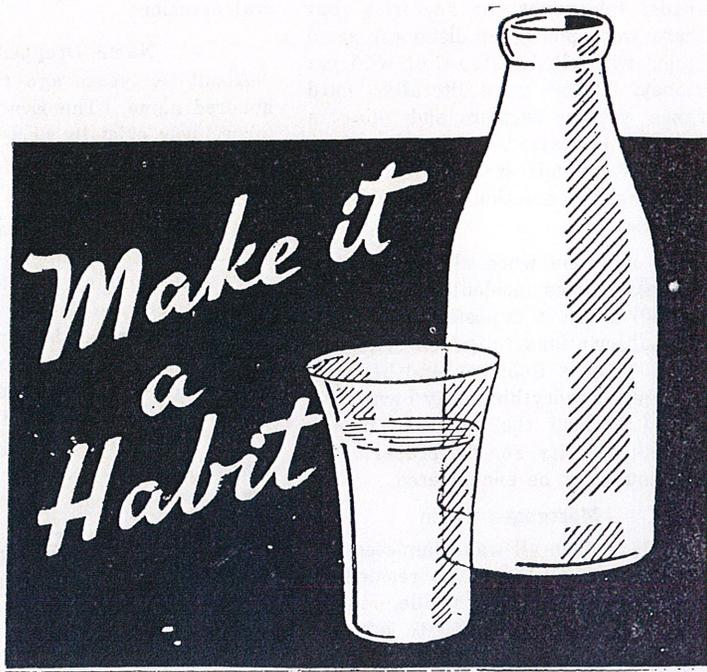
In the newest of the three halls are housed some 20 primary pupils who occupy the building as their exclusive home. There are also between 50 and 60 boys living in the old colonial building. They are organized for both grade and high school work as their needs demand. Mr. and Mrs. Karl Griffin have been connected with the school as executives for the past seven years and the administration of affairs has been signally successful. Evansville deems itself especially fortunate in having the present administration in charge.

PRESENT LIBRARY ERECTED IN 1908

The Eager Free Public library, a memorial to Almeron Eager who in his will made provisions for a new \$13,000 building, was opened April 22, 1908 with Mrs. W. T. Boyd as librarian and was dedicated at a ceremony held in the local opera house June 9 of that year.

The dedication ceremony in charge of Attorney R. M. Richmond included a prayer by the Rev. L. E. Sealey, vocal solo by Marc Webb, addresses by Burr W. Jones and H. E. Legler, state library secretary; instrumental music by Miss Genevieve Day, now Mrs. Gates of Milwaukee; and fitting remarks by A. S. Baker who turned over the library building and grounds to the fostering care of the city. The building was received by Mayor T. C. Richardson who spoke in behalf of Evansville.

The sum of \$2,030 was subscribed by the citizens of Evansville of which \$1,950 was paid for the location. The dwelling house on the grounds was sold for \$250 which with the \$80 remaining after the purchase of the lot was placed in the library fund. The amount left by Mr. Eager for the library was \$10,000 and \$1,000 for the city park. City officials, however, did not accept the conditions relative to the park and that sum was added to the library fund.



DRINKING MILK . . .

is a habit that can do no harm; on the other hand it will do you all manner of good.

It's nourishing, healthy goodness will build you up, pep you up, and keep you fit.

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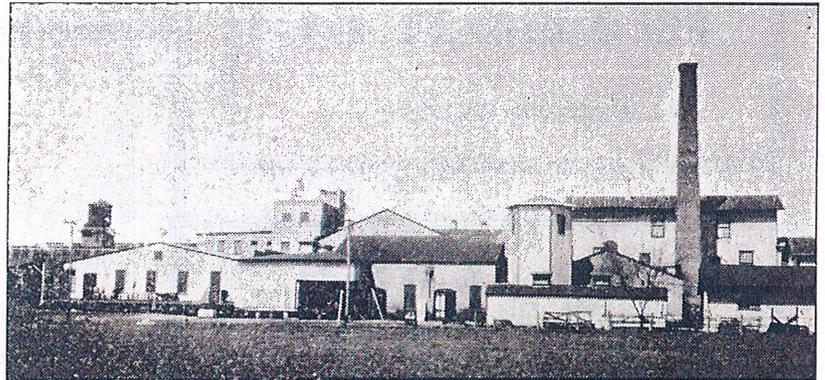
We are proud of our prescription department where a registered pharmacist is on duty at all times—no unnecessary waiting

R. L. Collins

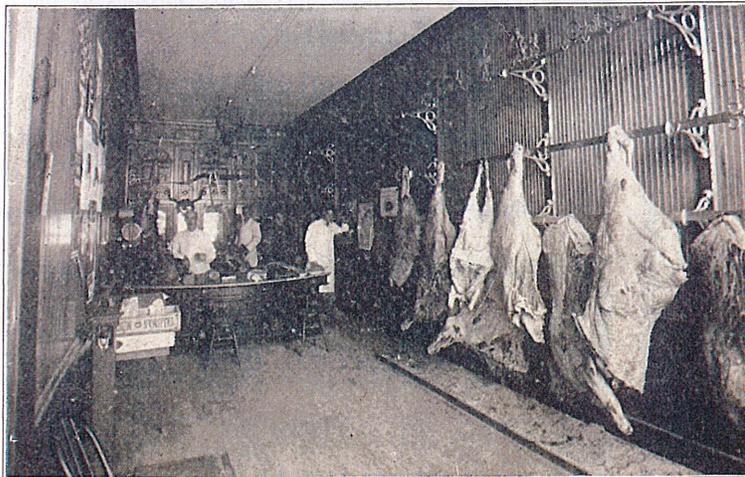
R. E. Baird



Horse and Buggy days in Evansville.



The plant of the D. E. Wood Butter company, a branch of the Cudahy packing concern, which played an important part in Evansville's agricultural and industrial development.



A view of an early Evansville meat market operated for many years by William Lee.

*We enjoyed having a part in the
last seventeen years of*

THE FIRST HUNDRED

We are sorry to have missed those earlier
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serving the

MATERIAL NEEDS

of the community, and taking part in her
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THE FIRST CENTURY

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GAMBLE STORE

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Friendly Service

FLOYD MILLER, Proprietor



A scene at Leota park, Evansville's foremost amusement center, which attracts large crowds of outdoor enthusiasts during the summer months. At the right can be seen the water slide donated by the Evansville Lions club a few years ago, and in the background beyond the spillways can be seen the North Madison Street viaduct. Note the picnic table in the foreground and the rustic appearance of the entire area which makes Evansville's park a natural beauty spot.

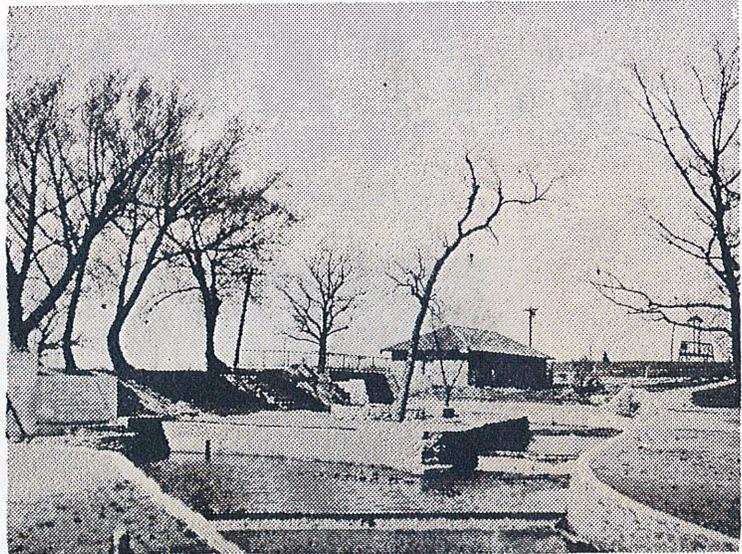


Courtesy Janesville Gazette

Mrs. Barbara Hough, Evansville's oldest resident, who celebrated her ninety-third birthday May 2 of this year. When Mrs. Hough accompanied her mother to Evansville from Batavia, N.Y., in 1863 the railroad ended at Magnolia and they were obliged to make the remainder of the trip by horse and wagon.



Mrs. Martha Wolf is the last surviving charter member of the Evansville Woman's Relief corps. She and her husband, the late George Wolf, operated the old Central House here for many years.



The above view of Leota park shows the stream rip-rapping which was first started as a CWA project, continued under the FERA administration and is being completed by the WPA. The brooks from each of the spillways join in a series of waterfalls and continue through the park in one stream with rip-rapped walls. Note the bridge in the background extending over the north spillway, the store and bathhouse, and the stone gold fish pond in the center of the rip-rapped island.

SERVING FARMERS IN THE EVANSVILLE AREA SINCE 1874

65 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO THE FARMING COMMUNITY

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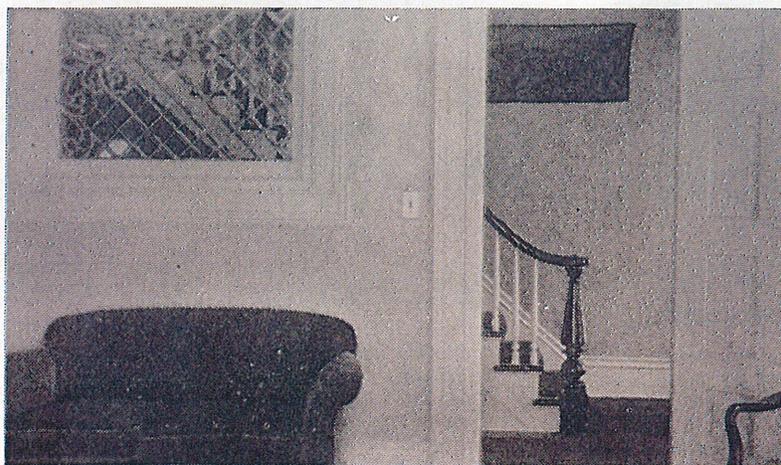
RISKS IN FORCE DECEMBER 31, 1938—\$6,129,887

From 1939 Report of Commissioner of Insurance

D. G. WHITMORE, Secretary

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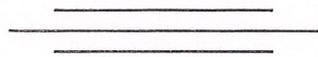
Evansville, Wis.

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The Men's Store

I take this occasion to express my sincere appreciation to the people of this community for their loyal patronage and friendship

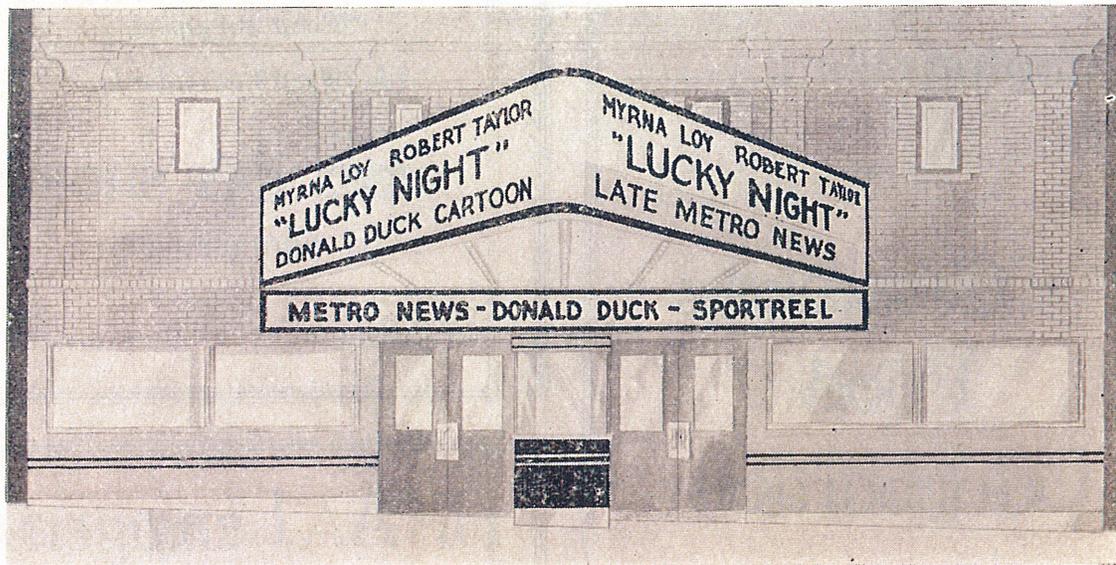
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PICK 'O THE PICTURES

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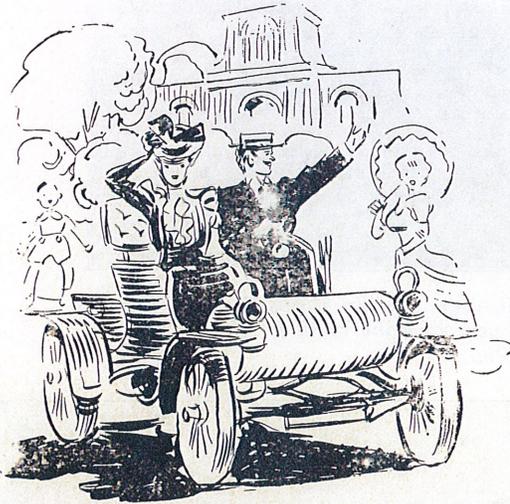
PIONEER DAYS



*Crack Drummer of the Town
of Porter Band*



*Lady Lou ready for
the ball at the opening
of the Spencer
House—later the Ho-
tel Central.*



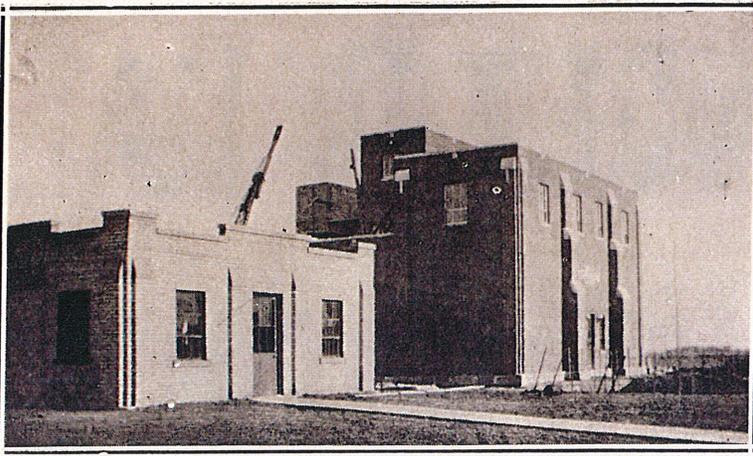
Andrew Larson and his first automobile



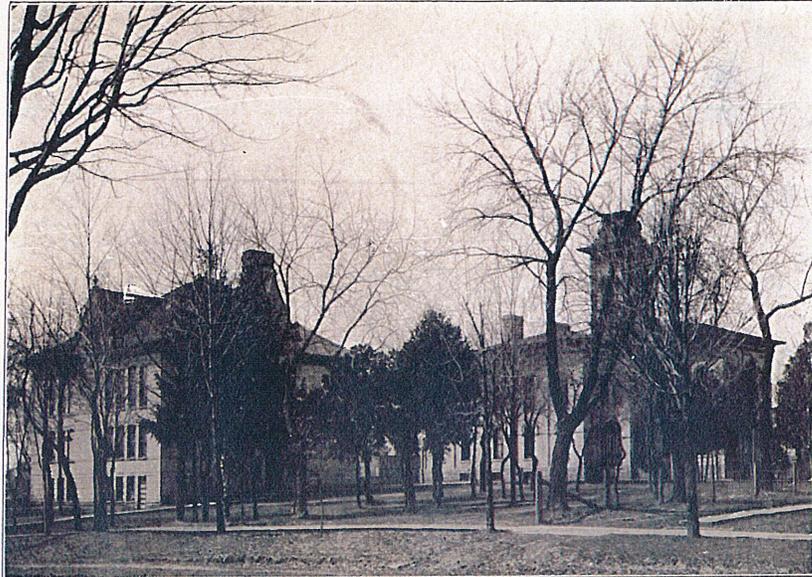
First Croquet—Now golf!



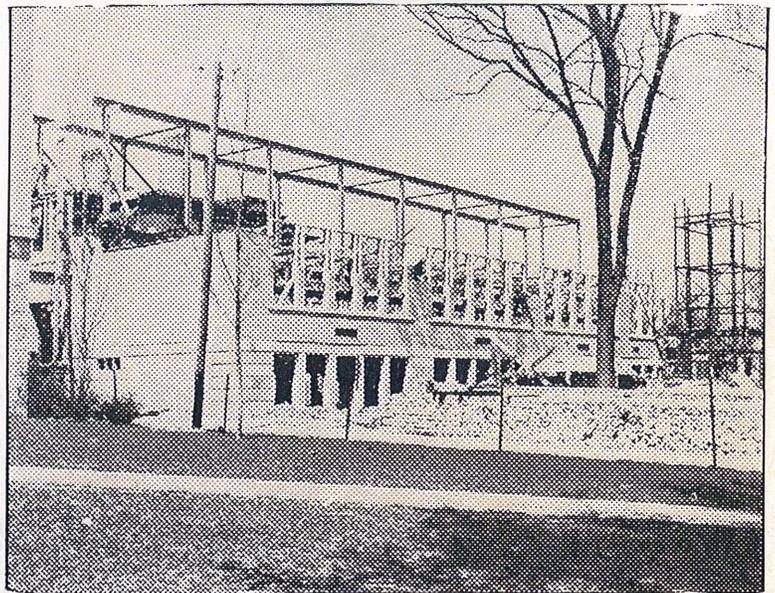
Days of the old Methodist camp meetings.



Erected at a moderate cost which sum was paid from the accumulated earnings of the Water and Light commission, Evansville's water softening plant was built entirely by local labor as an unemployment relief measure in 1933. It softens approximately 130,000 gallons of water per day or about 57 gallons per day per capita.



After serving the community for many years, the old high school and former grade building were razed this year to make room for the city's new building project.



Evansville's new \$220,000 high school building now under construction as a WPA project. The program includes the erection of an academic unit, gymnasium, and kindergarten addition, and the remodeling of the present gymnasium into a modern auditorium. The academic unit will be ready for occupancy in September.

INDUSTRY BUILDS THE BUSY CITY

When industrial activity in Evansville was at a low ebb in 1873, forward looking business men and manufacturers determined to bring to the city a new industry which would give promise of growth and expansion.

Their determination resulted in the founding of the Baker Manufacturing company which firm was organized under the name of the A. S. Baker and company in April, 1873.

The partners were Caleb Snashall, L. M. Mygatt, W. S. Smith, Almeron Eager, L. M. Shaw, and A. S. Baker each of whom contributed \$1,000. This was the entire capital of the firm.

The business undertaken was the manufacture of windmills and iron pumps. L. M. Shaw retired from the business during the first year taking in payment for his share goods manufactured by the company.

In that the business did not pay expenses, assessments were made at different intervals until early in the year 1876 the total cash invested amounted to \$12,500. Up until this time the business had been managed by the members of the firm. Snashall and Mygatt did the buying and selling, Smith and Eager the bookkeeping and collecting, while A. S. Baker managed the manufacturing and shipping.

Baker Named Manager

At a company meeting in January, 1876 it was found that the business as conducted in the past was not a success and had been a continual tax on its members. This knowledge created dissatisfaction and plans for closing were freely discussed. It was thought best, however, to change the business methods and as a result the entire management fell into the hands of A. S. Baker with a distinct understanding that no more debts were to be contracted and that the business must be run in the future without calling upon the individual members for another dollar.

The firm was operated in this manner until Jan. 1, 1879 when the total net assets were found to be more than \$20,000. At a meeting of the firm Feb. 1879 it was decided to incorporate the business under the name of Baker Manufacturing company with a paid up capital of \$20,000 consisting of 200 shares of stock at \$100 each.

The officers elected were Caleb Snashall, president; L. M. Mygatt,

vice president; W. S. Smith, secretary; and A. S. Baker, treasurer and superintendent. Almeron Eager and the officers comprised the board of directors each of whom owned \$4,000 of the stock of the company. The capital stock was increased to \$100,000 in 1883.

Pays First Dividend

A dividend of one per cent on the capital of the company was declared at the annual meeting Jan. 12, 1891. This was the first dividend declared. Previously the shareholders had consented to allow all the profits to be applied to paying up in full the capital stock of the company.

At a meeting Dec. 23, 1891 it was voted to declare the company's stock fully paid up as the assets exceeded the capital stock. It was later decided to pool 30 shares of the stock to be offered to the employes as an investment and a six per cent dividend was declared.

As early as 1896 plans were discussed to interest employes in taking stock in the company and it was decided to increase the capital by \$10,000 provided the stock could be sold to the working men. Additional stockholders were taken in during the following years including M. V. Pratt, A. I. Taggart, George W. Smith, E. E. Smith, and W. S. Smith.

It was in 1896 that J. S. Baker, son of A. S. Baker entered the firm as engineer and developed a new windmill which had been patented. He was elected a director to fill a vacancy the following year along with C. J. Smith who was chosen a director and secretary of the company. A new office was built during this year and several other new buildings added to accommodate the company's increasing business.

A special dividend of ten per cent was paid in 1898 in addition to the regular six per cent dividend which had been paid each year since 1892. A dividend of six per cent was also paid on the \$7,750 invested in the electric plant which furnished Evansville electricity.

The subject of profit-sharing which had been under discussion for some years was again brought up at a stockholders' meeting in 1899 and a plan was submitted but not approved. A committee composed of A. S. Baker, J. S. Baker, and C. J. Smith was appointed to complete and submit another plan at an adjourned meeting of the shareholders to be held later.

Profit-Sharing Adopted

The adjourned meeting was held Feb. 7, 1899 when the committee reported and submitted a plan of profit sharing which was adopted by a vote of 653 to 321. It was unanimously decided to pay each man who had been in the company's employ during the past year ten per cent in cash of the wages earned. This included salaries men. The amount paid was \$2,905 50.

Another meeting of shareholder was held Feb. 24, 1899 when the capital stock of the company was increased to \$300,000 of which amount \$200,000 was to be known as preferred and fully paid up and \$100,000 as common stock to be paid in profit sharing to capital and labor in proportion to the earnings of each. The earnings of capital were to be five per cent on the preferred stock and the earnings of labor the amount earned by each employe in day wages or salaries during the year.

Each year ten per cent of the preceding year's profit was set aside as a sinking fund and the balance divided in profit sharing, part paid in cash and part in the common stock of the company. No one participated in profit sharing before being in the company's employe two years.

In 1903 A. S. Baker was elected president and treasurer of the company. During his presidency with his son, J. S. Baker as general manager, the Evansville plant continued its expansion with the erection of the present three-story brick warehouse and three-floor gas engine machine shop.

Sales of stationary gas engines and windmills continued to increase until the company found it necessary to establish sales branches throughout the country.

J. S. Baker who was chosen president, treasurer, and general manager in 1916 not only introduced the present windmill design and electric water system, but through untiring efforts put the business on a sound financial foundation capably guiding the company through the recent depression with uninterrupted operation and a continuation of dividend payments to all stockholders.

Continuous Growth

Thus it was the pioneer business-minded and forethinking men of Evansville who laid the foundations for the continuous growth of the city's largest industrial enterprise which since its small beginning is now operating branches and distributing points in Fort Worth, San Angelo, Lubbock, and Amarillo, Texas;

Enid, Okla.; Hutchinson, Kans.; Kansas City, Mo.; Omaha, Nebr.; Fort Dodge, Cedar Rapids, and Fredericksburg, Iowa; Minneapolis, Minn.; Memphis, Tenn.; and Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

The plant manufactured the airplane beacons that first lighted the airways between New York and San Francisco and furnished a crew from its factory in Evansville to install the towers. Products now being turned out at the plant are electric water systems, pump jacks, engine jacks, gasoline engines, pumps, cylinders, wind mill towers, well supplies of every description, and airplane and radio towers.

Today the Baker plant is headed by C. S. Baker and J. G. Baker, sons of J. S. Baker and grandsons of A. S. Baker, one of the original founders. C. S. Baker has succeeded his father as president, treasurer, and general manager and his brother, J. G. Baker, is serving as vice president in charge of engineering. Walter S. Spratler Jr., is the present secretary.

EPIZOOTIC HAMPERS

EARLY DAY TRAVEL

Transportation to and from Evansville and in the community was seriously hampered in 1872, according to Review files, by an outbreak of the epizootic, a horse disease. Quoting the Review from its issue of Nov. 27 of that year "business of nearly all classes was interrupted and oxen were substituted to do the work of horses.

"The Albany and Stoughton stage coaches were suspended for a day and the mail was transported by private parties and passing teams. Ray Gillman, local liveryman, had his entire stock of 13 animals down and Mr. Case's stable was in like condition. Nearly all of the private teams were unfit for use."

CARD OF THANKS

William B. Antes, editor of the Review and author of this souvenir book, wishes to thank the many business men and manufacturers of the locality whose advertisements herein made it possible for the historical facts and illustrations to be published on the occasion of Evansville's One Hundredth birthday. Thanks is also extended to Mrs. Blanche Devine who was untiring in her efforts in scanning the old Review files to secure the interesting and authentic information herein published.

VILLAGE OF UNION FOUNDED IN 1838

The village of Union which was once the metropolis of this locality was settled in 1838, a year before any settlement was made at "The Grove" which is now Evansville. The first Union settlers were Samuel Lewis and Charles McMillan.

Two years later in 1840 Mr. and Mrs. David Johnson and three children came from Indiana to Union in company with Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Cook, and Mr. and Mrs. John Cook and their families. The Adams family settled near Union and the Cook families, for whom Cooksville was later named, made their home in that locality.

When the settlers arrived they found but two houses in the vicinity of Union, only one between Union and Janesville, and one on the road to Madison.

Janesville at that time consisted of several houses and one general store where the stock was valued at about \$300 and to replenish which the proprietor walked to Chicago as occasion demanded.

Daniel Johnson was commissioned to assist General Worth in the removal of the Winnebago Indians from this locality to a new reservation across the Mississippi river. In those early pioneer days part of the settlers lived in tents and part in wagons till log houses could be hastily constructed. At first the houses were occupied without floors, doors, or windows, but as soon as possible they had shaped doors, oiled-paper windows, and puncheon or split-log floors.



Wild Country

The prairie wolves howled about these humble homes at night and the deer were often seen in the day time, while poisonous snakes gave the mothers anxiety for their little ones. The early settlers had the "Fresh air" fad in those days without knowing it for their houses were so small and their families so large that the children spent most of their time out of doors, and the great fireplaces made excellent ventilation in the winter.

Later arrivals at Union were Allan Miner, Peter Aller, and Ebenezer Temple. Deacon Howard, grandfath-

er of the late Mrs. Vie Campbell, also came with the others settling in Cooksville. The Howards came all the way from Maine by wagon with a family of eight and Mr. Howard's oldest son, who was a mason, built the first brick building in Cooksville.

Soon afterwards came the Stebbins family and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Porter. Mrs. Porter, who was then a bride, had the first piano in the community, an object of great curiosity and interest. When Mrs. Porter sat beside her husband in church instead of sitting on the women's side as was then the custom, the children of the community were amazed.

During the winter of 1840 and 1841 Mrs. David Johnson felt the great need of a school for Union children with the result that she opened her home and became their teacher, a generous act which was greatly appreciated by the pioneers for they were people who valued education.

Log School Erected

The next year a log schoolhouse was erected and Mary Baker, cousin of the late Allen Baker, became the teacher. Money was a scarce commodity in those days and for her services she received a salary of \$1 per week and "boarded around." There was no public money for school purposes at that time so she was paid by tuition.

In that schools and churches invariably go together, as early as 1843 the settlers had formed a circuit and religious services were held once a month at Janesville, Leyden, The Grove, and Union. This was the beginning of the Methodist Episcopal church.

The first church at Cooksville was organized in 1842, a Free Will Baptist church with 12 or 15 members, who held their meeting in Mr. Cook's log house. Their pastor was Elder Low who preached without a salary. He had a small farm where he made a living like the other settlers.

The first yearly meeting was held in a saw mill that Mr. Cook had erected and was largely attended. Elder Cary, great grandfather of E. S. Cary, superintendent of Evansville's present light and water department, preached the first annual service. His text was "Is not the Arrow Beyond Thee."

In the early days the farm produce was hauled by wagon to the pinery where it was exchanged for lumber as very little cash could be secured and the expenses were almost as much as the proceeds of the sale.

Butter brought only 5 cents per pound and browned peas were used

for coffee which, perhaps, equalled the granos and postums of today. Residents had no fruit, but plenty of milk and vegetables. They missed the apples of the East on the long winter evenings and often scraped turnips and ate them in place of the apples.

Home Spun Clothing

The winter clothing was spun and woven from the wool of the sheeps' back, and the summer dresses were made of heavy cotton cloth which was colored with oak bark, while for real dress occasion calico gowns were worn.

The brooms were made of bass wood split into fine fibers which were also braided into hats. After the first harvest, however, straw was used in place of the fibers. Both boys and girls knit their own stockings as well as many a pair to be sold in the pinery.

Women in those days kept themselves busy around their homes making butter, sewing, and spinning and occasionally helping with the milking and other outside farm work. In spite of all these obstacles Union and Cooksville grew steadily.

Union became the half way place between Janesville and Madison and its hotel often lodged as many as 30 guests. Twice a day a four-horse stage carrying mail and passengers stopped there for meals and change of horses.

In her most prosperous era, Union boasted of one hotel, a millinery shop, a shoe shop, postoffice, schoolhouse, four general stores, a cabinet shop, three blacksmith shops, two grain warehouses, and three churches; namely, the Welch Presbyterian, the Methodist Episcopal, and the Baptist. The latter remained on its original site until a few years ago when the building was razed.

Cooksville, though never as large as Union, was a prosperous and thriving village. The death knell was sounded for both villages, however, when the railroads were built through Evansville and Stoughton, but beautiful fertile farms have taken the place of the would-be cities.

In pioneer times when physicians were at a long distance and trained nurses were unknown, the helping hand was always extended from one neighbor to another. Love and sympathy were cemented in those times of need.

CONSTANT GROWTH IN CITY UTILITY

Not long after the city of Appleton installed its first generation station said to be the first in the United States, Evansville provided its few citizens with electric service in 1891 which was in line with its present policy of keeping abreast of the times.

Electricity in those days was generated at the plant of the Baker Manufacturing company which firm was granted the franchise of furnishing current for sixty-four 16 candlepower street lamps and a few residences.

The service was furnished by the firm at a flat rate of 75 cents per month for each 16 candlepower lamp which at that time required only 80 watts for operation. Today an 80-watt lamp will furnish 150 candlepower.

Lights Out at 11

The Baker plant was operated only from dusk to 11 p.m. and after it closed down for the night residents were either obliged to retire or get out their kerosene lamps which were always kept at hand for emergencies.

The village board at that time was headed by William H. Boyd, president, with W. W. Young, W. J. Smith, J. P. Porter, L. B. Beebe, and J. C. Phifen as trustees. W. R. Phillips was the clerk.

In 1901 J. M. Brown organized the Evansville Water, Light, and Power company which built the old part of the present plant, dug two wells, and installed the first water system in the city.

The electric distribution system was rebuilt and 25 arc lamps were installed in the business district leaving the outlying residential sections lighted by incandescent lamps installed on short poles only at sidewalk intersections.

At a special election Feb. 7, 1902 Evansville citizens voted to purchase the property of the Evansville Water, Light, and Power company at a cost of \$51,000 which sum covered the amount paid to the Baker Manufacturing company for the original plant. To make the necessary appropriation, the city floated 4 per cent 20-year bonds to pay for the property. Of this amount \$41,000 of the bonds were retired in part from the earnings of the utility and the balance from a general property tax.

In 1922 Evansville voted to issue \$10,000 of refunding water and light

bonds to pay the last of the original bond issue. All of the refunding bonds had been paid from the earnings with the exception of \$500 which is still outstanding and not due until 1942. The \$500 bond is owned by the cemetery permanent care fund.

Today the book value of the present plant is nearly a half million dollars or \$320,651.48 to be exact with an outstanding funded debt of only the \$500.

Two Man Job

The history of the plant from the time of its purchase by the city to the present has been one of continuous growth. When it was first taken over by the city only two men were employed; the superintendent, Clarence Baker, who was succeeded in 1907 by E. S. Cary, present incumbent; and one assistant.

The assistant worked from 2 p.m. until 11 p.m. when the plant shut down. The superintendent read the meters, did the billing, collecting, line work, ran the pumps for a few hours in the morning, and did house wiring when he had a spare moment.

The city now employs five men full time at the plant together with a night operator and an office clerk. At the time the plant was purchased only 75 customers were served as compared to 1,200 customers today.

Among the first improvements made on the plant after the city assumed control was the installation of a new engine during the time William Campbell was mayor. Shortly after E. S. Cary became superintendent in 1907 new generators and switchboards were installed and the system was changed from a 133-cycle 1100 volt primary to a 60-cycle 2300 volt system.

The electric distribution system was also rebuilt making the Evansville plant the last word in modern utilities. About 15 years ago the system was again rebuilt with the installation of high poles to avoid excessive tree trimming in the city. To eliminate a dual system of poles in the streets, an arrangement was made with the Wisconsin Telephone company wherein both firms could utilize the same supports.

The utility improvement program was continued in 1912 when new boilers were installed together with a new radio brick chimney towering 100 feet. At about this time the need was felt for a new building with the result that the present two-story warehouse and coal storage building, 50 by 65 feet, was erected.

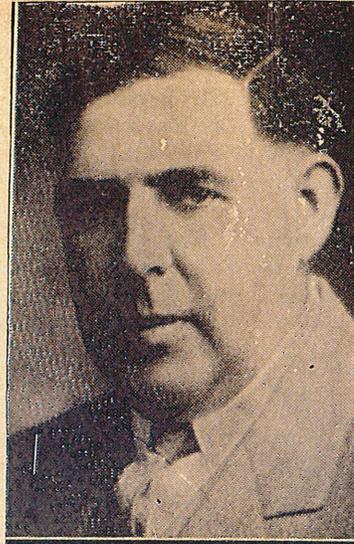
New Well Drilled

In 1929, due to the unfavorable condition of the original wells built by Mr. Brown, it was found necessary to drill a new well 1,000 feet deep to secure sufficient water and adequate fire protection. The building program included the erection of a new modern pumping station and the installation of a municipal pump with a 750-gallon per minute capacity together with other pumping equipment for forcing water from a new 400,000 gallon surface reservoir into the distribution system and to the stand pipe on North Fourth street.

The city was given a new insurance rating when the improvements were completed reducing the insurance rates \$1 per capita.

Due to the iron content of the water from the new well the city next installed an iron removal and water softening plant in 1933 the first municipal plant of its kind in the state. The station is now softening approximately 120,000 gallons of water per day or about 57 gallons per day per capita. The maximum capacity of the plant is 500,000 gallons of water per day.

AT THE HELM



A. M. Winn who is serving his third year as mayor of Evansville has extended a cordial invitation for all to join the city in celebrating its one hundredth birthday.

CITY'S FIRST BANK FOUNDED IN 1870

Evansville's first banking institution, "The First National bank," was organized here in 1870 with Isaac Bennett, L. T. Pullen, Nelson Winston, William T. Hall, and Harvey Prentice as the incorporators.

According to the Review's issue of Oct. 5, 1870, the charter called for a capital to the amount of \$100,000 half of which had to be raised before the stockholders could proceed to organize. The bank was formed at a meeting held in the counting room of Winston and Bennett.

In the intervening years Evansville has had three other banks; namely, the Bank of Evansville, the Grange bank, and the Farmers and Merchants State bank which have been merged into one banking organization, The Farmers and State bank.

MEMORABLE DATES IN THE HISTORY OF EVANSVILLE

- 1839—Arrival of first settlers.
- 1840—First house built at the Grove.
- 1841—First marriage in Union.
- 1842—First settlement in Cooksville.
- 1845—First factory established in Evansville.
- 1845—Building of the first dam.
- 1846—First church erected at the Grove.
- 1850—Organization of Union lodge F. & A.M.
- 1854—Old stone schoolhouse built southwest of Evansville.
- 1855—Founding of the seminary.
- 1857—Congregational church erected.
- 1864—Railroad comes to Evansville.
- 1866—First Evansville newspaper published.
- 1866—Evansville incorporated as a village.
- 1867—Present Methodist church erected.
- 1869—Erection of St. John's Episcopal church.
- 1870—First bank founded.
- 1870—Evansville Review founded.
- 1873—Baker Manufacturing company organized.
- 1874—Grange store organized.
- 1875—Old grade school building erected.
- 1877—City's first fire brigade formed.
- 1882—T. L. Sutphen post of G.A.R. organized.
- 1883—Organization of W.C.T.U.
- 1885—Organization of Woman's Relief corps.
- 1887—Modern Woodman of America organize.
- 1907—First Evansville Chautauqua.
- 1888—Porter band organized.
- 1888—Organization of Knights of Pythias.
- 1889—Odd Fellows lodge organized.
- 1890—Installation of first Evansville telephone.
- 1891—Electric light service established in Evansville.
- 1892—Eastern Star organized.
- 1892—City hall erected replacing old stone jug.
- 1894—Woman's Literary club formed.
- 1896—Evansville becomes a city.
- 1897—Organization of Afternoon club.
- 1897—Organization of Royal Neighbors lodge.
- 1898—First county fair in Evansville.
- 1898—High school building erected.
- 1900—Dedication of historic war cannon on city hall lawn.
- 1901—Organization of Evansville Water, Light, and Power company.
- 1901—Digging of first municipal wells.
- 1902—Water and Light plant becomes property of city.
- 1902—Stand pipe erected.
- 1903—Baptist church erected.
- 1906—St. Paul's Catholic church erected.
- 1908—Erection of Eager Free Public library.
- 1908—Organization of Tourist club.
- 1909—Parent Teachers' association organized.
- 1910—Installation of city's first sewer system.
- 1914—Free Methodists purchase home of Free Will Baptists.
- 1914—First pavement laid in city.
- 1917—Rebekah lodge organized.
- 1920—Harry McKinney post of American legion organized.
- 1920—Organization of Evansville 4-H club.
- 1921—New grade school building erected.
- 1922—Erection of Masonic temple.
- 1923—Lake Leota restored.
- 1925—Lions club organized.
- 1929—Waucoma grange organized.
- 1929—Organization of Magnolia 4-H club.
- 1932—American Legion auxiliary organized.
- 1932—Completion of Evansville's \$135,000 railroad viaduct.
- 1933—Building of city's water softening plant.
- 1934—Christian Scientists purchase church home.
- 1937—Purchase of Episcopal church by Lutherans.
- 1938—Evansville Booster club organized.
- 1939—Little Theatre club organized.
- 1939—Erection of new high school building.

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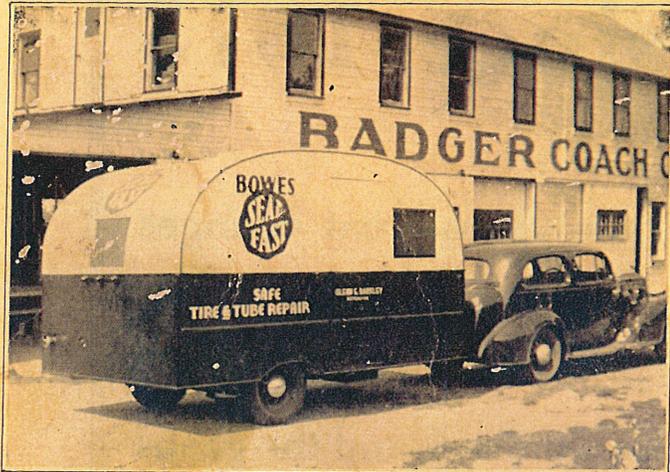
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