

HERITAGE
EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2, 1982

11.25



101
years
in
PINE
CITY



Pine
City

PIONEER

From the Publisher...

Over one hundred years ago, city fathers incorporated an area of land lying west of Cross Lake on both sides of the Snake River. The basis of the city was a railroad depot that was to have been built on the Chengwatana side of the lake.

Chengwatana Township made the mistake of asking too high a price, believing the property was indispensable to the railroad, which ultimately decided to build the depot on the other side of the lake; hence the beginning of our city.

The railroad's location probably hasn't affected the development of our area greatly during the past 100 years. It seems it would have made little difference on which side of the lake the town grew up. After all, most transportation systems and area roads today have been built since the railroad.

However, there is an obvious message in all history studies, and in this single historical event we see just how important the railroad's decision on the location of a depot was to our community.

As was the case in the late 1880s, decisions of today will affect generations to come. That is why some towns grow, while others deteriorate and die.

It may be hard to imagine that as many changes will take place in the next 100 years as have occurred during the past century. The changes of the future probably will not greatly

affect the quality of life, as we are enjoying, even during these months of recession, a prosperity that is envied worldwide.

That prosperity is so often taken for granted, as Chengwatana took for granted the location of the railroad. We have generations before us to thank and recognize.

Should we make the correct decisions, generations to come will share the same prosperity.

In this edition, we've tried to feature the people and events that combine to form our heritage. Special recognition must go to Ann Vach, who has provided much of the historical basis for this publication, and Donna Heath, who, as she said just last week, "has never worked so hard on anything."

Both have been devoting a tremendous amount of attention to this effort for the past two months, and we hope you'll appreciate the results as much as we do.

On a negative note, however, we realize an inability to produce an historically complete publication. We ask for your tolerance. Research continues, and no doubt meaningful events and important individuals have been overlooked.

In any case, we hope you enjoy reading this edition as much as we've enjoyed preparing it for you.

Dennis Winkowski, Publisher



THE OLD CITY HALL AND COURTHOUSE in Pine City. Picture contributed by Ruth Ludwig.

A historical overview

101 years: A milestone

In this, our Heritage edition of the Pine City Pioneer, we have attempted to give a nostalgic review of Pine City throughout the years.

While family names have changed, and some that played an important role in the early settlement of the area no longer exist, the contributions the early settlers made will never be forgotten.

Today, the Pine City phone directory lists 32 Andersons, 60 Johnsons, 29 Petersons, 12 Smetanas, 21 Nelsons, 17 Carlsons, 10 Cummings, 12 Hansons, 11 Lindstroms, 25 Olsons, 13 Teichs, 18 Pangerls and eight Stoffels.

These names are just the tip of the iceberg. Also settling here were the descendants of the Czechs, the Germans, the Danes, the Finns and the Irish.

To do a complete history of the contributions ancestors of all these families made would take years. Once compiled it would be bound in a volume so large it would never find a place in the average home.

Instead, by researching old newspapers and historical documents and interviewing citizens who were a part of that history, we believe we have succeeded in providing an accurate reflection of all those rugged pioneers who helped make Pine City what it is today.

Included in this edition you will read about the history of Pine City. It is the story of men and women who dreamed the dreams and who had the strength, the courage and the vision to make them come true. They are the people who helped to build a new country that would change the world.

Pine County was officially organized on March 31, 1856 with Chengwatana as its county seat. A military road was completed linking St. Paul with Superior, Wis. and that road is still referred to as the "Old Government Road."

By 1860 the census reported there were 92 settlers living in Pine County and that the village of Chengwatana was the largest settlement north of Taylors Falls.

Suddenly, we were involved in a war between the states, and Minnesota, in the midst of the Civil War, suddenly found itself with a bloody Indian war within its own borders.

The railroad

When the Civil War ended the population of Pine County was down to 64. Chengwatana was destined to be the county seat until the city fathers made the mistake of setting the price too high on property they deemed indispensable to the railway company.

As a result the railroad company moved to a town that was just developing on the west side of Cross Lake and built their junction at Pine City rather than at Chengwatana.

In 1872 the county seat was moved to Pine City and the people followed.

Within the next 10 years the new village grew, offering jobs in a shingle mill, a stove factory, two hotels, two general stores, a school house and several saw mills.

Pine City's growth and progress in the early years was very dependent on the lumber industry. Situated as it was just north of the big woods of hard timber which covered the lower Mississippi and St. Croix valleys and at the southern edge of the great pine forests, Pine City found itself in an ideal location with access to a sizeable river that wound its way southward for 50 miles through some of the best pine stands in the state.

The rapid changes that were to be the 20th Century were forecast in the years between 1890 and 1900. It was the happiest, most prosperous, exciting decade of them all. It is no wonder that even today we refer to that time as the Gay Nineties.

It became obvious to many Pine City citizens that they would have to meet challenges brought by the new decade. This ability to meet such change, the ability to adapt, is probably the single most important trait of these people. It was a trait which bound them together as a

growing, industrious community.

Lumberjacks had to move on or switch their occupation to farming, which is just exactly what many of them did.

Barn raisings became common community cooperative celebrations as the land proved it could support farms once the pine stumps were removed.

During these years the village of Pine City grew. There were new names and new business and professional establishments each year. There were men who had started out in Pine City as lowly wage earners who soon became profession or business entrepreneurs. They were all willing to hold public office if that seemed to be the best way to serve their families, their neighbors and their own ambitions.

Founding fathers

Men like J. Adam Bede, who became a national figure when serving in the U.S. Congress, was one of them. Another was John Y. Breckenridge, who, with the help of his wife, established the famous Breckenridge Drug Store and held about every village office at the time.

Julius Dosey, the Prussian timber estimator, was a prominent figure and served as mayor 19 times. His daughter, Esther, still lives in Pine City in the family home he built at the turn of the century.

Douglas Greeley, son of the Chengwatana dam builder, was an early county auditor and bank official and Frederick Hodge served in the state Senate and was superintendent of the county schools.

W.H. Hamlin, farmer, teacher, county surveyor, was the man Pine City turned to when leadership in any good cause was needed. James Hurley was a business leader, community builder and leader of Pine City's outstanding baseball team known locally as Hurley's Barringtons.

A.R.W. Olson edited the Pine City Piker and kept his readers apprised of what was going on

Continued next page

Introduction...

Human nature seems to dictate that mankind concentrate the bulk of his energies on the present. The importance of today is the rule by which most men, women and children live.

Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow will take care of itself, if today lives up to our expectations.

During this year of Pine City's Heritage celebration we at the Pioneer have taken the time to

look back.

Our 1982 Heritage special edition gives readers a glimpse of what life in the area was like for those who came before us, and it reflects on the quality of life we enjoy here today.

We hope you will enjoy our Heritage edition and that you will save it as a reference for future generations.



DONNA HEATH, staff writer for the Pioneer, was responsible for compiling information and for writing the stories you will read in this special edition. Her written contributions have been enjoyed by readers of the Pioneer for several years.



ANN VACH, local historian, not only opened her extensive collection of historical facts to us so this edition was possible, she sorted through hundreds of old newspapers and documents to find items of interest which help make this section complete.

 **Pine City PIONEER**

Heritage Edition

Dennis Winkowski..... Publisher
Cindy Rolain..... Editor
Donna Heath..... Staff Writer
Ann Vach..... Historical Contributor

Overview

locally and nationally. Captain Elijah Seavey piloted the steamboats on Pokegama and Cross lakes and added his melodious tenor voice for all community programs.

Joseph Therrien, county auditor, had an abstract company and served in the State Legislature as representative from this district during the 1930s.

Robert Wilcox served as judge of county probate most of his life, and John G. Wilcox served as an officer in the Union Army, teacher in the Chengwatana School, Pine County superintendent of schools, judge of probate court, county attorney, registrar of deeds, and county surveyor.

These men were among the leaders of town, who, regardless of religious, political or ethnic differences, drew together in pursuing a common goal and in understanding that serving their community and their neighbors was indeed a rich and fulfilling achievement.

On Sept. 1, 1894, one of the worst disasters of early Minnesota history took place in Hinckley when a fire completely destroyed that town, Brook Park, Mission Creek, Sandstone and Askov. The fire consumed over 400 square miles of timber. Four hundred eighteen people perished, and 138 of them were never identified.

Pine City was set up as the official relief center, and the citizens supplied homes and lodging for survivors until Hinckley and other towns were rebuilt.

Turn of the century

The 20th Century will always be known as the era that

witnessed more changes than all the other centuries recorded throughout time.

People were singing "In the Good Ol' Summertime" and "Sweet Adeline." The Wright Brothers took their first powered airplane flight, and Henry Ford produced his first Model T.

Women were becoming daring, and the brave ones were wearing bloomers in the gym even though they contained over five yards of material.

The Mayo Brothers opened their Rochester Medical Center to the world in 1905, and Dr. Longstreet Taylor opened a private institution on Lake Pokegama for the isolation and treatment of TB patients. It became known as one of the finest sanitoriums of its kind in America, if not the world.

It was during this period that Pine City was fast becoming a thriving dairy center, and a creamery became part of the local scene.

Word spread that opportunity and the need for manpower was plentiful in Pine County, and immigrants from Europe took up roots in the area.

The Swedes bought land south of Pine City. Land north of the river was cheaper, and immigrants of first generation Bohemian families found they could buy a quarter section for a fraction of what land cost in the old country.

There were Germans, Irishmen, Danes, Frenchmen and Chippewa who established themselves in and around Pine City.

The Northern Pacific Railroad set about to encourage land purchase in the area and hired a Bohemian named Frank Karas as a field agent to sell thousands of acres of land the railroad had been given by the government.

The Chengwatana Dam controversy raged on during this period, and the farmers took

matters into their own hands several times and blew it up.

Attention was temporarily diverted when a \$5,000 fresh water pearl was found in a clam shell from Lake Pokegama. A button factory was established to use up the clamshells as clammers worked day and night hoping for instant wealth.

World War I broke out, and Pine City men were quick to volunteer for duty. By 1918 the war had ended and the boys came marching home. The future looked bright and prosperity was just down the road.

Roaring '20s

The Roaring Twenties were underway. Prohibition was nationwide. The law designed to end drinking seemed to encourage it. No one cared just what they were drinking just as long as it was alcoholic.

The Soderbeck Ferry provided a shortcut for Wisconsin people coming to Pine City, as well as for Pine City people going to Wisconsin. Magnus Soderbeck had a good idea back there in 1922.

Mary Pickford was America's sweetheart, and Clara Bow, the "it" girl, was beginning to gain popularity.

It was a crazy era. Red Grange had just turned pro and joining the Chicago Bears had drawn 72,000 fans to a single game in New York City. That same year 135,000 people paid more than two million dollars and sat in the rain to see Gene Tunney beat Jack Dempsey in 10 rounds in the World Heavyweight Championship.

In 1927 Minnesota's Charles A. Lindberg flew the Atlantic solo, and his book about the adventure was on the coffee table in many Pine City homes.

Skirts got shorter, waistlines

longer, hair was bobbed and tucked under cloche hats and the flapper was born. Her counterpart, the shiek, was wearing a raccoon coat and bow tie. Everybody was humming "Barney Google" and dancing the Charleston.

Overnight the bubble burst. Pine City along with the rest of the nation was engulfed in the Great Depression.

People struggled to survive widespread unemployment, but in those days there were no unemployment checks and little public welfare.

Mortgage foreclosures were commonplace, and people tried desperately to help one another, sharing whatever meager supplies they had.

Those were the days of clothing made out of flour sacks. Many a little girl was teased when her dress blew up and her underpants had Pillsbury stamped across the back in large, indelible letters.

A popular song of the era was "The Best Things In Life Are Free," and people made the best of things and survived only to have gained from their losses.

The depression

During the 1930s the radio was a popular form of family entertainment. Kids hurried home after school to hear the next adventure of Jack Armstrong, the All American boy. Beau Carter's newscast was a must, and shows like "Amos and Andy," "Jack Benny," "George and Gracie," and "Eddie Cantor" were rarely missed.

The Big Bands were recording songs that are still favorites today, and everyone was dancing.

It was during this period that Dr. E.G. Nethercott converted

the old Buselmeier home on Cross Lake into a hospital.

By the early 1940s kids were driving their parents' crazy with swing music tuned in full blast on their favorite radio station. The nation had begun to recover from the Depression and then came Pearl Harbor. Our nation was once again involved in a World War.

That was 40 years ago, but there is not a person who lived through the trauma of separation, loneliness and loss that does not get a lump in their throats when the flag passes by or a familiar tune from that era is played. Nor will they forget the day the whistles blew, signaling the war had ended. The country went wild.

Following WWII we were caught up in the fabulous 50s. Remember how scabble caught on, and 30 million hula hoops were sold in one year.

The 50s brought new people to the Pine City area. People were attracted to the area by the beauty, and property around the two lakes was developed into building sites.

The courthouse was struck by lightning on June 12, 1952. Through the heroic efforts of our volunteer fire department the county records were saved.

In 1950, when North Korea Communist troops invaded South Korea, President Truman ordered U.S. forces to help defend South Korea. Before the conflict was over more than 400 young men and women from Pine County were a part of that war. Little more than 10 years later over 500 young people from the county were fighting in Vietnam.

Pine City business and industry picked up during the

Continued next page

Congratulations Pine City, on 101 Years



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The early days

Glaciers retreat; man inhabits area

Once upon a time, in the location now known as Pine City, Minn., men hunted huge bison and an elephant-like animal which is now extinct.

The first inhabitants were hardly Indians known as "Big Hunters." Famous for their finely-made projectile points, these points from the Paleo Culture have been found on the shores of Cross and Pokegama lakes.

Although no real evidence has been found in this area to indicate those points are associated with animal kill sites dating back to the year 6000 B.C., a bison skull was found in a swamp one-half mile west of Pine City during freeway construction in 1969.

After the University of Minnesota treated the skull for preservation it was returned to the Pine County Historical Society and is on display in the museum at Askov.

As the early tribes advanced, their lifestyles and culture changed.

They developed stone implements, scrapers, knives and grooved axes. Their projectile points took on new and different shapes designed to increase their accuracy in the hunt.

Native raw copper was discovered by the Indians and used in tool as well as jewelry design. Evidence of the copper culture found around Pine City indicates the camps were small. Campsites were frequently moved so the Indians could take advantage of seasonal food

supplies.

Wild rice flourished in the swampy lowlands surrounding Pine City. This food source, combined with fish, wild game and berries, provided a continuous food supply for the various tribes which inhabited the area. It was no longer necessary for them to break camp and move on in search of food. The supply was all but inexhaustible.

Permanent villages were established here by the year 1600 A.D.

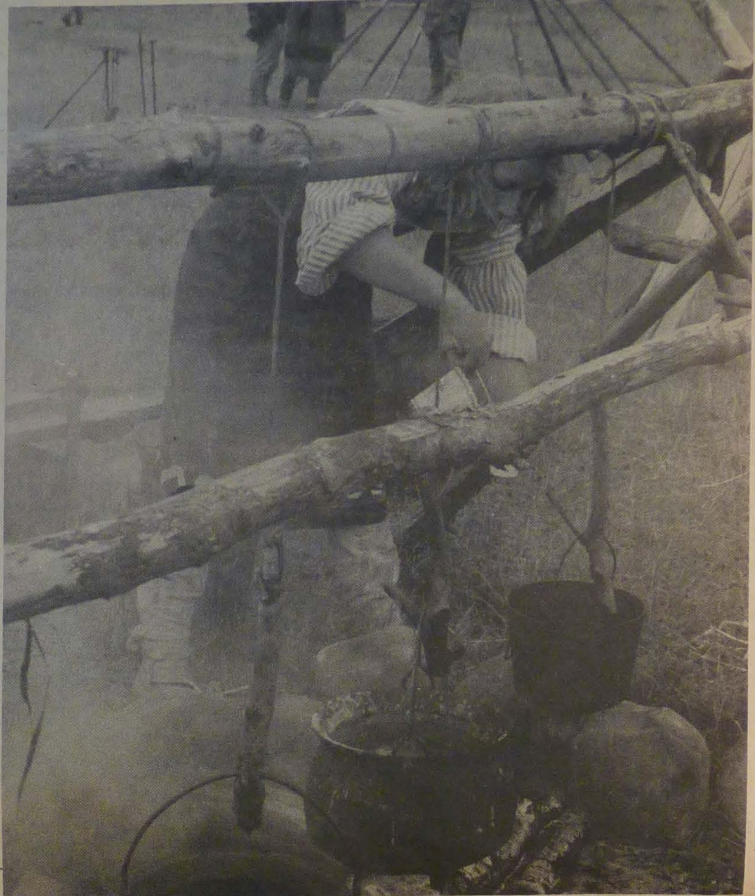
The Woodland Indian Culture discovered that vessels could be made by mixing the heavy clay soil, so prevalent to Pine City farmland, with pulverized granite. Clay pots were air dried and then exposed to the high heat of campfires.

Their first vessels were pointed at the base with very wide mouths. Later, shapes were changed and round pots with narrow necks were formed.

Agriculture was also an important part of the Woodland Culture. They were the forefathers of burials in earthen mounds.

It is estimated that Minnesota at one time had some 10,000 burial mounds. They rapidly disappeared as more and more land was plowed for agricultural use, roads were constructed and careless excavation took place.

Indian mounds around Pine City are considered important enough to have been preserved by the State Historical Society. They will never be disturbed.



THIS SCENE, taken last fall at the Northwest Company Fur Post, could well have come straight from the pages of history when the fur trade prospered in this area.

Indian mounds preserved

Pine City is surrounded by Indian burial grounds dating back as far as the year 1600 A.D.

Long before the white man laid eyes on our beautiful lakes, connected by the winding Snake River and surrounded by dark green forests, the Indians had established villages.

Their burial grounds took many forms. Some were circular, some dome shaped, small, large and linear resembling a railroad embankment.

Built in stages, the mounds became higher with each

successive burial. Pottery, jewelry and other artifacts were buried with the dead in the belief that these items would be needed by them in their journey to the next world.

An excellent example of an undisturbed linear mound group preserved as a state prehistoric site are the Stumne Mounds west of Pine City.

The area covers approximately 13 acres, and linear mounds range in length from 465 to 90 feet. They are two-to-four-foot high and approximately 18 feet wide.

Jeanette Stumne Nelsen remembers her dad, Paul's, comments when he plowed fields over the mounds.

"He was always curious about those humps in the ground and felt there might be a lot of history associated with our farm," she said.

"Dad had an eye for arrowheads and other Indian artifacts. He found them every time he worked in the garden, but all we kids could seem to pick up were stones."

Nelsen said it was exciting to watch archeologists from the university work, and she was fascinated by how much could be determined just from examining the dirt that covered the bones.

"A bundle burial was evident in one of the larger mounds. Many people died at one time, either from a plague of some kind or a battle," she noted.

"The knees were brought up to the chest and they were buried in this position. The people from the university were able to determine the age of the person

by examining the jawbone," Nelsen said. "Peace pipes and clay vessels, some in nearly perfect condition, were found in the excavation."

Nelsen's father pastured cattle over the site to keep it mowed. Originally, a road led back to the location.

"Now it is overgrown with brush, and it would be hard to spot even from the air," she said. "It's better that way for the time being because vandals tore around the site in four-wheel drive vehicles and could have done a lot of damage."

When the late Paul Stumne sold the site to the state, it anticipated tying it in with the Northwest Fur Post as a tourist attraction," according to Nelsen.

"Maybe some day they will have money enough available to do that. It would be called Stumne Park, after dad. I hope we'll live long enough to see that happen," Nelsen said.

Other Indian mounds are located on the east shoreline of Cross Lake. Several others were found right in town near the Old Armory and another on the bank of the Snake River and on what is now known as Woodpecker Ridge.

Many artifacts of the Woodland Culture have been found on the banks of Cross and Pokegama lakes and along the banks of the Snake.

Christy A.H. Caine, state archeologist, has several publications regarding Pine City area collections. They are available from the State Historical Society.

Romano studies Indian culture

Pine City dentist Dr. Anthony Romano is a man possessed of many creative talents and interests.

Perhaps his fascination with Indian lore led him to the hobby of duplicating authentic Indian artifacts.

"When I was a boy I would see Indian arrowheads on display in museums, and I always wondered how the Indians made them," he said.

That curiosity led him to studying how Indians fashioned the pointed arrowheads without modern tools and made them sharp enough to use in hunting.

An avid outdoorsman, Romano is constantly on the lookout for Indian artifacts. While on a trip to the Superior National Forest he discovered an original hammerstone and core, used by the Indians to fashion their tools, lying side by side in an old

quarry site.

"Obviously, they were left right in the spot where an Indian was using them hundreds of years ago," he said. "A person unfamiliar with the type of tools used by the Indians would have never recognized what they were."

Another prize in his collection is an ivory harpoon, about eight inches long, that was fashioned by the natives to be used probably in spearing fish.

Romano discovered the harpoon beneath a rock along the shoreline of Basswood Lake when he was on a fishing trip.

"I just happened to be looking down and I noticed this piece of a white object sticking out of the ground. It looked like the handle on a toothbrush. I moved the rock and picked it up," he said.

"The puzzling part to me was where did the ivory come from? I

wondered if it was from the tusk of some now extinct animal that was native to northern climates."

According to Romano, as his collection of Indian artifacts grows his friends accuse him of planting some of them in the area in which they will be hunting or fishing.

"If you know what you are looking for, those pieces of history belonging to the people who lived here hundreds of years

before the white man came are all over the area. Finding the original pieces and duplicating the original work is a fascinating hobby," he concluded.

Farming becomes industry

Chengwatana dam aids logging industry

The Chengwatana Dam, built by Elam Greely in 1848, was a great aid to the logging industry at that time.

Greely's farm was on the banks of the Snake River in Royalton Township. It was the first farm and supply station from Taylors Falls. Today, the location is known as the old Panghofer and H. Pangerl, Sr. farms. The Greely hay meadows are on the Henry Pangerl, Jr. farm.

Greely built the dam to facilitate floating lots from Kanabec and Pine counties to Stillwater. The original dam raised the water on Pokegama Lake several feet higher and backed the water into various streams in Kanabec County.

Many farmers with low lying

land were not in favor of the dam because it flooded their property.

However, the added depth was an asset to Pokegama and Cross lakes, and popular summer resorts sprung up along the lakes.

Large boats like the "Kate R" navigated as far as Millet Rapids in Kanabec County. Smaller boats like the "Woodtick" and "Dirty Bess" navigated the creeks to get the logs into the larger bodies of water.

Later, when the resorts on the lakes were built, the "Kate R" was converted to an excursion boat. The "Tuxedo Belle" was another popular excursion boat. Both boats could carry 50 passengers and made two trips daily around the lakes.

Neighborhood sawmill serves local farmers

Emma Pangerl, 82, widow of Joseph Pangerl, and Rudy Pangerl, 83, who is no relation, were having coffee together at Lakeside Nursing Home where they both live.

The conversation turned to the days when Emma and her husband operated a sawmill powered by a steam engine at their farm on the Brunswick Road.

"I was married in 1920, and my husband had worked the sawmill since he was 14 years old," Emma said.

The young bride automatically became cook for the sawmill crew. "I wasn't a fancy cook, but I cooked good plain food I guess," she said. "I always gave them plenty of meat, a vegetable and potatoes and dumplings."

"I can still remember the wonderful rye bread you used to make," Rudy chimed in.

There are 18 different Pangerl families listed in the Pine City area phone book. There were three different Pangerls among the original settlers, and they weren't related to each other.

"Almost everyone in town is related to a Pangerl either through birth or marriage," Emma laughed.

Rudy Pangerl was one of the neighboring farmers who hauled his logs to Emma and Joseph's mill to be cut into lumber.

"We hauled them with horses and a sled. After the logs were

sawed into lumber we sold them to Olson Lumber Yard in Henriette and a lot of it to a lumber yard in Grasston," he said.

When hard times fell during the 1930s, the Pangerl sawmill continued to operate.

"We didn't get rich at it, but we always made a little. My husband was also a blacksmith and could fix things himself. He even made his own cant hook to roll the logs with. After he got out of the sawmill business he gave that hook to Dr. Stratte," Emma said.

"Our prices for sawing were always a little bit less than other mills so that kept business coming in during the Depression," she added.

The Pangerl mill was set to open about March 1 each year. The severely cold weather was over, but there was still enough snow for farmers to haul logs in on sleds.

"At first we worked the mill from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.," Emma said. "We found that farmers who had a lot of chores to do couldn't get here until 9 a.m. and had to quit by 5 p.m. so we changed our hours to accommodate them."

The Pangerl sawmill was typical of many others that provided an important neighborhood service in addition to extra income for its owner.



DOWN ON THE FARM. This picture was taken about 1909 at Jim Clark's Pine City farm home. The W.W. Clark farm is in the background. Picture contributed by Jim and Hya Clark.

Dam creates problems

A report was circulated in July, 1902 that farmers in the area intended to blow up the Chengwatana Dam.

The rumor reached the governor's office, and he sent word to Sheriff Hawley to protect the dam. The sheriff immediately appointed five deputies to watch the dam. A number of concerned Pine City citizens also hurried out as rumor had it the dam would be blown in broad daylight on a warm Sunday afternoon.

Ed Madden, foreman of the Bear's Ear Crew, had also gotten wind of the planned blow-up and recruited his crew to stand guard duty.

When the farmers showed up there were too many people watching for them to carry out their plans so they went home defeated for the moment.

The controversy raged on. Quotes from a letter written by a man involved in the issue read as follows:

"After lumber companies were through, the dam was for sale. Enough stock was to be sold to finance the reconversion of the Chengwatana Dam for an electric power project to be known as the Eastern Minnesota Electric Power Company.

But things did not run smoothly. There were many who opposed the light company, especially the farming population. Those who were so opposed got together and sued the power company because the dam flooded their lands. They won their suit, and the court ruled that the Chengwatana Dam be moved downriver.

That was a dark day for the struggling little power company.

In order to cope with the situation, they were to float a bond issue. The little company plunged into debt to build a concrete dam on the site designated by the court.

Eventually, the bonds were paid off. By World War I the electric company became prosperous and things began to look pretty good for stockholders.

During the 1920s all sorts of pressure was put on the company. About 1927 a company from Chicago purchased the stock. That was the end of what was known as the Eastern Minnesota Electric Company.

Although it was the end of the local power company, it was not the end of the ongoing controversy over the dam. On

May 14, 1930, the farmers were successful in blowing up the dam.

The Dec. 31, 1909, Pine County Pioneer commented, "The whole question of the Chengwatana Dam is this: The plaintiff purchased land that was overflowed by water for little or nothing and now either wants the dam abated and taken out entirely or wants the village and the other defendants to pay a large sum of money for lands which he purchased, knowing that they were under water at the time and would be as long as the dam was maintained. The dam has been there for 61 years.

"What would be the result if the dam was taken out? What would become of the summer resorts at Pokegama? What would attract the thousands of people who come and go through Pine City every season? Whom would it benefit? Those who have purchased cheap lands and want something for nothing!

These are the only ones that the abatement of the dam has asked for in the complaint will benefit."

Long time residents recall what it was like before the dam was rebuilt after being blown up several times.

"During the 50s many acres and roads were flooded during the high water and no one could blame it on the dam as there was no dam in the early 1950s."

"Many times it was impossible to travel the Sanatorium Road west of Pine City as the road for about a mile would be completely under water. During that period many people blamed the railroad and sanatorium bridges for the flooding conditions. The fact remains that the Snake River is subject to easy spill over because of its low banks."

"Years ago Pokegama Lake was 10 feet higher than it is today. Yet, during the drought

Continued next page

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Our schools

First social center of our village

The first social center of the village was the school. In the early days church services and Sunday School were held in the public school building, as well as other social functions.

The first school built in Pine City was called the Webster School. It was completed in 1894.

It was located on the courthouse site, and after the new high school was built in 1914, it was used for the village hall.

Hans Grandt remembers working in the building when it was the village hall and recalls when it was moved out to the fairgrounds.

"It was cut in half and the ends were used as part of the only wooden structure remaining on the fairgrounds," Grandt said.

"There's talk of doing away with that building now because it's the only one out there with steps and ramps should be built into it. Really, that building is part of Pine City history and it would be a shame to destroy it," said the long-time Fair Board member.

In 1896 Pine County had 25 school houses in as many districts. That number had grown to 70 by 1906. There were 32 teachers employed in 1896 and 106 in 1906. Enrollment was 1,062 in 1896. By 1906 that enrollment grew to 4,431 and three high schools had been built in the county.

Pine City built its first high school in 1914. The band room and elementary addition came in 1954 and cost \$190,000. The elementary classrooms, library and lunchroom addition were built in 1962 at a cost of \$275,000.

In order to accommodate increasing enrollment, additional classrooms for kindergarten through grade 3 were built south of town in 1979, and a new athletic field was completed in the same location.

Early teachers were L.H. McKusick and Colonel J.F. Stone. Many others still living in the community can recall teaching in rural schools in the area and the difficulties encountered in the early classroom.

The old school from District No. 69 was preserved by the Pine County Historical Society and moved into town so this part of history can be remembered.

Once each year, during August, Esther Schmidt from North Branch teaches class in the school the same as it was done in 1900. Children dress in costumes of the era, play the old-fashioned games, are taught the same lessons that their grandparents and great-grandparents were and in a sense, re-live history.

It's a great experience for children who are accustomed to all the modern conveniences and they love it.

V.W. Ziebarth, superintendent of schools in Pine City

during the early 40s, was the first Pine County man whose name was drawn in the draft lottery for World War II in March of 1942.

While he was superintendent of schools in Pine City, Clarence Espeseth saw many changes taking place.

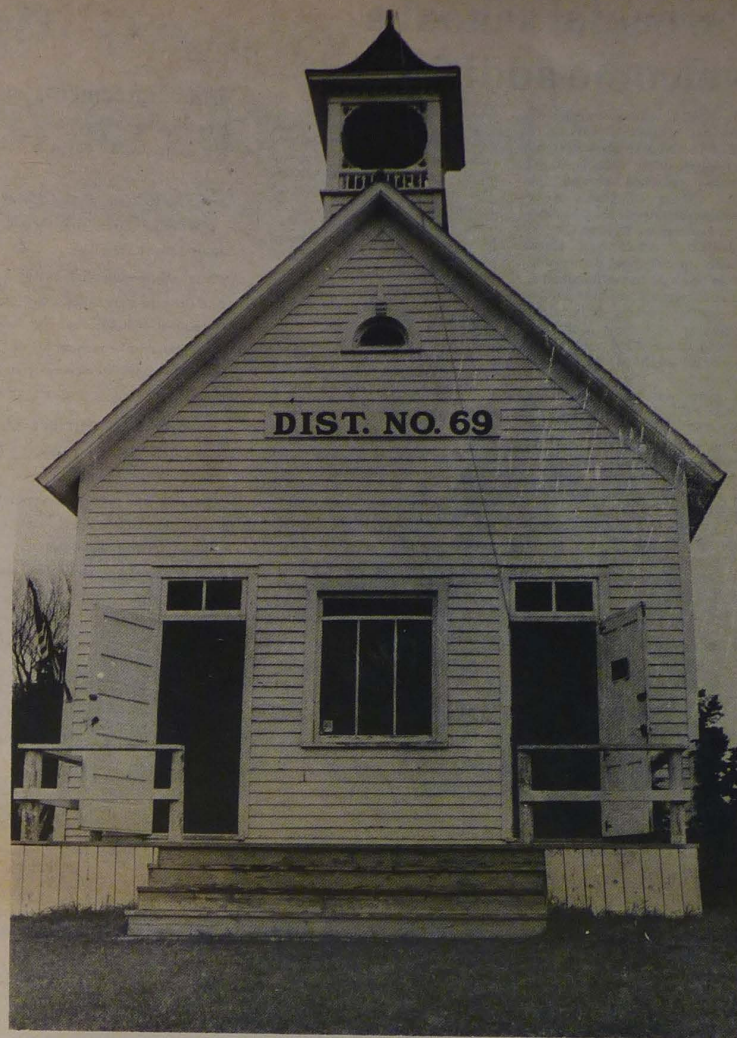
Espeseth, who retired last spring, was at the helm when rural schools were consolidated. Temporary buildings were put up in the parking lots at the rear of the school to house classrooms for the increased enrollment.

In spite of crowded conditions Pine City Schools continued to offer quality education.

Addition of Pine Technical Institute to Pine City's educational system brought students from all over the country to train in specialized fields not available to them elsewhere.

New Superintendent Joe Hobson believes education is one of a community's largest industries. He has committed himself to finding ways to better educate the community about the functions of the district.

He has set goals that promise to make everyone an active part of the local education system.



RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM. Youngsters have the chance to experience life in a one-room school-house each summer when the Rural School Museum is in session in Pine City. This photo was taken by Donna Heath.

Bard of Squaw Lake proud of roots

Jim Clark will be 90 years old on his birthday. As he looks out the window of his study his eyes settle on the tops of majestic trees. Fluffy clouds drift in the clear blue sky above them and their roots draw moisture from the small lake that Clark considers to be his own personal Walden's Pond.

He is at peace with the world as he talks about why he returned to the place of his birth to spend the final days of his life.

Clark was born on a farm three miles north of Pine City. He graduated from Pine City High School in 1911 and was awarded a teaching certificate.

"I got \$45 a month for teaching and janitor work and taught in my home school," he laughed.

The following year he was the best paid teacher in Pine County. "I was then getting \$65 a month for the same job."

He decided there was more in life for him so he left Pine City and went to the University of Minnesota where he received a degree in education.

During his teaching career he was superintendent at Elk River and taught courses at St. Cloud State College.

"I left the classroom in 1925 and became a representative for Scribner's Publishing Company," Clark said.

His second career led him into writing. He is the author of numerous textbooks, many of them including stories of Minnesota's heritage.

In one book, he wrote a chapter on Minnesota business and industry. In order to write that section of a textbook he had to be familiar with the state, with people and their problems. He had his finger on the pulse of small towns and understood what economic development was required if they were to grow and prosper.

It was this knowledge that brought him to the third career of his life.

"Edward Thye was governor and he appointed me to be the first person to head up the new Economic Development Commission," Clark said.

When Democrat Orville Freeman became governor he chose to retain Clark in the position.

Clark became the only political appointee to serve under six governors. That in itself is a testimonial to the quality of his job performance. His particular expertise could not be duplicated, in the opinion of governors of either political party.

After 22 years in that position, the educator, author and state executive retired and returned to the place of his birth, but his

work didn't end there.

"I helped establish the first Chamber of Commerce in Pine City," he said. "Clark Pennington was responsible for organizing the Industrial Development Commission and through his efforts and connections through my office at the state capitol we were successful in bringing the 3M plant to Pine City."

"Years ago, if a farmer had a barn big enough to store hay for the winter and milked 20 cows, we thought he had it made," Clark said.

"Now you can ride through the country and see that nine out of 10 of those barns are empty

just like the chicken coops. Farming methods have changed and one family can handle a much larger operation."

He has observed the growth and changes in Pine City since he was a boy.

"I always had a feeling of enthusiasm and loyalty for Pine City although I lived away from her for many years," he said.

"Nature has provided much to those who live in the area. We have good soil, good water, glorious scenery, a stimulating climate. Everyone who claims Pine City as home can do so with satisfaction and pride."

Tidbits

A sale of state lands in 1907 was considered a success in every respect. Of 10,000 acres listed for sale, 6,000 were sold. The highest price paid was \$11 per acre to \$5 per acre.

Postal employees worked hard to get out the Christmas mail years ago just as they do today. A notice in an 1899 newspaper said, "THE POSTOFFICE WILL CLOSE FOR THE DAY AT 1

p.m. SHARP ON CHRISTMAS DAY, MONDAY, DEC. 25, 1899.

In 1911 Postmaster J.Y. Breckenridge advertised that letters were waiting for Miss C. Fisher, S.J. Gilly, Ludvik Hanson and Alva Harper. Persons claiming the letters had to say where they saw it advertised and give the date of the listing.

Letters not picked up within a certain length of time were sent to the dead letter office.

Parochial school a welcome addition

In 1956 there were 10 parochial schools in Duluth, a city of 18 Catholic churches and only eight other schools in 67 Catholic parishes around the state. Most of them were considerably larger than Immaculate Conception in Pine City.

Building costs had risen sharply in the post-war years, but in spite of these handicaps, the congregation of Immaculate Conception parish, under the leadership of Father McEnery, decided it was time they had a parochial school for their children.

Construction was completed in April, 1957 at a total cost of \$180,400. This did not include school equipment and a convent to house the teaching nuns.

The school was dedicated on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Aug. 15, 1957 and was given the name of St. Mary's.

When school opened on Sept. 3, there were 127 youngsters enrolled in its six grades. The faculty consisted of Benedictine Sisters of Duluth with Sister M. Marcella as principal and Sisters M. Thomasine, M. Michelle and

M. Evarista as instructors.

In the fall of 1958 the seventh grade was added to the school curriculum, and a year later the eighth grade was introduced. The enrollment had jumped to 151 pupils.

A sizeable library was provided in 1962. Enrollment peaked in 1963 at 160 pupils. Grades seven and eight were dropped in 1966 and enrollment decreased to less than 100 students.

In recent years, St. Mary's students walk down the street at noon to take part in the hot lunch program offered at the public school as well as the band lessons.

When Sister Luella and Sister Lois Ann were transferred at the end of the 1982 spring term, it marked the end of an era in which Benedictine nuns operated St. Mary's School.

The school will begin operation this fall with a staff of lay teachers but will continue to offer the quality education that it has since it became an important part of the Pine City educational scene in 1957.

Education sees many changes

Almost everyone over 40 years old can remember sitting in a little circle with their classmates and learning to read.

The characters in those first grade readers were MOTHER, who was always dressed in high-heeled shoes and a white frilly apron; FATHER, in a business suit, shirt and tie; DICK in his knickers; and JANE, with a ribbon in her hair and a tidy dress.

And of course there was SPOT, the dog who romped through the entire series. The family represented white, middle class America.

Today's textbooks have more realistic illustrations. Every child can identify with them. Father is shown in many occupations, mother is not always all dressed up, the children wear play clothes and all races are represented.

Methods of teaching have changed along with the characters in the stories.

In the See-Spot-Run days, children learned to read by word recognition, one word at a time in the recommended series commensurate with their ability.

Teachers' manuals were not as complete in those days. A teacher wrote the words over and over on the blackboard and used flash cards as an additional aid.

There was not a lot of individualized teaching geared to both the slow and the advanced student. Children caught on or they didn't, and those who didn't struggled along until they reached eighth grade or until they were old enough to legally quit school.

Betty Ramsdell, recently retired reading director at the Pine City schools; Florence Kalenius, first grade teacher; Lillian Olson, sixth grade teacher and former librarian and Gloria Harwig have all been involved in education long enough to have observed the changes in the techniques of teaching reading.

"Far more is expected of the child in the classroom today than in the old days," they agreed.

"When a child stumbles over a word, we don't tell them the

word but encourage them to sound it out, to think about what word they would use if they were doing the talking, and we urge them to figure things out for themselves," Kalenius said.

The same series of books is used from first grade right through sixth so the children can fully understand what they are reading before they move on, even if the rest of the class is ahead of them.

The teachers are in agreement that children today are far more sophisticated than their parents were at the same age. Travel and television have exposed them to the outside world.

They are easily bored and teachers must introduce far more action into a reading program than they did years ago. In a sense, teachers must become actors and actresses, competing with television to get the child's attention.

"Television is often blamed for curtailing the desire to read," Harwig said. "This is not always true. The book 'Little Women' was never checked out until the story was on television. The next day all three copies in the library were requested and they have been in circulation ever since. The same is true with the 'Little House on the Prairie' and the 'Disney' series," she added.

In the old days of early education, outstanding scholars came out of rural schools where students sat three to a seat. Older children tutored the younger ones and many of the children learned the basics well.

Some old timers maintain that an eighth grade education in the old days was better than a high school education today because time spent in the classroom was devoted strictly to learning.

Before the consolidation of rural schools, many of the students in the entire school were related to each other. The cost of maintaining these schools became too great. It was cheaper to transport the rural children into town where they could all attend school under one roof.

Teacher's Contract.

This Agreement, Made this 2 day of October 1909
between School District No. 69 in the County of Pine and State of
Minnesota, by the board of Trustees or Board of Education, at a meeting called for that purpose*

and Augusta Engler a legally qualified teacher.

WITNESSETH, That the said Augusta Engler shall teach the school in said district for the term of 6 months, for the sum of Thirty Dollars per month, commencing on the fourth day of October 1909. And the said Augusta Engler agrees faithfully to teach the said school according to the best of her ability, and to keep a register of the daily attendance of each pupil belonging to the school, and make such report of the school as is or may be required by law or by the County Superintendent, or by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and to observe and enforce all rules and regulations established by proper authority for the government and management of said school.

And it is further Agreed by and Between the Parties Hereto, That the said Augusta Engler shall use her best endeavors to preserve in good condition the school house and premises connected with it, also the apparatus and furniture thereto belonging, and also all books and records provided by the School Board for the use of said school, and to deliver the same to the clerk of said district at the close of said term of school in as good condition as when received, natural wear and tear excepted. The said school district hereby agrees to keep the school house and premises in good repair, provide suitable and sufficient fuel, prepared for fire, and to supply the following articles as described, for the school room:

The district also agrees to pay the said Augusta Engler for the above described services the sum of Thirty Dollars each mo

In Witness Whereof, We have hereunto subscribed our hands this Second day of October 1909

School District No. 69 Pine Co. Minn.

Frank Runy Director or President.

By Anthony Harwig Treasurer.

Adolph Kubat Clerk.

Augusta Engler Teacher.

*NOTE—If the contract is with a teacher related by blood or marriage to any member of the School Board, add after the * in the above form the words, "with the concurrence of all the members thereof by vote duly entered on the clerk's record of proceedings."

SIGN IN DUPLICATE]

The duplicate should be a copy of the above made when the contract is signed. Such copy should be also signed by all the parties signing the above. It should be taken and preserved by the teacher for proof and for reference.

No teacher is required to teach school on January 1st, February 12th, February 22d, Memorial Day, July 4th, December 25th, the first Monday in September (Labor Day), the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in even numbered years (General Election Day), or Thanksgiving Day, and no deduction from the teacher's time or wages can be made when a school day happens to be one of these days.

THIRTY DOLLARS A MONTH. In 1909 that was the salary of a school teacher who was not only expected to be an educator, but a maintenance and custodial person as well. Kenneth Wiedeman contributed the contract.



SCHOOL TIME at the District 25 School east of Beroun. Picture contributed by Mrs. Richard Kubesh.

Eight decades of dedicated service & growth!

\$112 million in assets & 4 convenient



Now at the 80 year milestone, it is an interesting chapter of history to turn back to 1901 when Washington County Building and Loan was born.

Within nine years, the young institution outgrew their quarters and moved to a second floor location in the Lumbermans exchange building.

1936 brought a charter from the federal government and a name change to Washington Federal Savings and Loan.

Washington Federal has enjoyed consistent growth during those 80 years. The organization has sought three other communities, including Pine City, for locations of additional offices.

In 1977, the Pine City office officially opened. Washington Federal now offers area savers and home builders a new, modern facility with plenty of room to grow with the community in years to come.

Research began on the Pine City facility as early as 1973. Washington Federal discovered a growing, viable community for the services offered by a Savings and Loan. Washington Federal brought with it to Pine City the access the community needed to high savings rates that traditionally were only available from metropolitan

area institutions.

In addition, Washington Federal brought to the area a home mortgage specialist, plus the advantage of the increased lending power of a major financial institution.

Pine City has responded! In just five years, local assets have soared to over \$12 million.

Today, our commitment continues... Our Pine City office offers convenience to area savers and is entirely staffed by local residents. Washington Federal has maintained a strong position in the marketplace, ranking in the top 100 Savings and Loan organizations in its asset category during 1981. Washington Federal was one of only three savings and loans in Minnesota to show a profitable second half of 1981.

We're a mutual company, which means our savers are our stockholders. Management decisions are always made in the best interests of the saver.

As the community grows, Washington Federal has grown. Interest on Checking, & IRA accounts are just two of the many new services afforded our customers.

We're proud to be part of the Pine City tradition!

Since 1975
serving the needs of
Pine City & area savers!



Washington Federal

Free travelers checks to all SAVING, CHECKING & MORTGAGE CUSTOMERS
Offices in Stillwater, St. Croix Mall, Lindstrom, and Pine City

Those old school days

Mary Alex Pangerl's rich, full laughter filled the room as she compared returning to school in the 1980s with her experiences in the early 1900s.

Ads offering supplies and back to school clothing brought back many memories to the 84-year-old woman who received her education the hard way, partially in a one-room schoolhouse in Greeley and mostly from life's experiences.

"I wonder how kids today would make it if the clock were turned back three-quarters of a century. It would be quite a shock to them," she chuckled, as she mentally pictured the ultimate chaos.

In telling how it was in her day, the bright-eyed, energetic lady admitted that an unusual set of circumstances contributed to her childhood.

"Many kids in those days probably had it much easier going to school than we did," she said.

Born to Andrew and Mary Youngbauer, her father died when she was five years old. Several years later her mother, a young widow with seven little children, married Adolph Saumer, a widower with six youngsters. That marriage produced seven more children, making a total of 20 children, all about the same age, living in the

same household.

"To make things even more complicated, when mother remarried she had daughters named Lizzie, Katie and Emma and so did her husband. My name was the same as mother's, so that made two Marys also," she said.

"Maybe you think there wasn't confusion calling kids around our house," she added shaking her head.

Since the children in the family were all about the same age, getting them ready to go back to school in the fall was a tremendous task for the mother of a large brood.

"Mother was a beautiful seamstress and could make nice clothing for us out of almost nothing," Pangerl said. "I learned to knit real young. We all did, in fact, because we had to help make the long black stockings we wore in the winter."

First of all, they didn't just go in to the general store and buy the yarn. They produced the wool and spun it themselves.

"Mother would card the wool and spin it into yarn. She would knit the toes and heels of the socks, and we kids would take turns knitting the straight parts," she said.

Shoes for a family that size was another big back to school

expense. They were usually bought a little on the large side so the kids wouldn't outgrow them so fast. They were never worn around home when the weather was mild enough to go barefoot.

"We walked over a mile to school and never had rubbers or overshoes," Pangerl said. "Winter clothing was plenty scarce too, and I can remember getting so cold. One day my brother, John, picked me up and carried me home when I began to cry with the cold. I'll never forget that," she said.

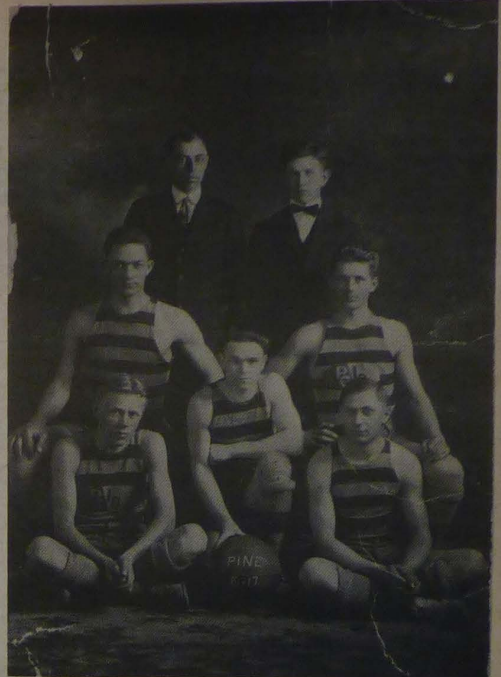
Thinking about the good meals offered to children in school cafeterias today, she said,

"We carried our lunches in syrup pails, and most of the time all we had were rye bread sandwiches with meat drippings. Cookies and fresh fruit weren't everyday fare in those days."

"We always ate well at home though," she added. "Mother canned enough food from the garden to last all winter. We had lots of fresh meat, and things like carrots and rutabagas and potatoes were stored in the root cellar."

According to Pangerl, many farm kids in those days had trouble getting to school for the required number of days in the term.

Continued next page



BILL KORBEL has been an avid sports fan in Pine City for many years, his interest continuing from the days when he played on some of the first high school teams. In this picture, which he contributed, Korbel is in the second row along with Emery Blanchard. In the first row are Snowball Eden, Frank Babeck and George Prachaska.

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Korbel boosts sports in Pine City for years

Bill Korbel moved to Pine City from Beroun in 1905 and has been a promoter of sports in the area ever since he can remember.

He played on the first basketball team Pine City High School ever had. There were six players on the team and no substitutes.

"It was something," he laughed. "We had to play in an old building with a dirt floor. After about 10 minutes the clay dust was so thick we could hardly see each other."

When the team went to other towns to play it traveled by train.

"We caught the 4:45 p.m. train out of town. That connection was pretty good, but getting home was another story," Korbel said. "We had to take the milk trains. They left Rush City at 2 a.m. and Hinckley at 4 a.m.

"I tell you, we were one tired bunch of athletes in school the next day," he laughed and shook his head.

When a game was scheduled in North Branch the team changed into basketball suits in the hotel and then ran three blocks in the cold to the school, where they played in a big room heated by a wood stove on either end.

"In Hinckley we played in the town hall. The room was divided with chicken wire. The crowd sat on one side and we played on the other," Korbel said.

When the Old Army was built the team played there. That was a big improvement, according to Korbel.

In the early days of Pine City High School there were no football teams.

"We had track teams and would travel to Mora by horse

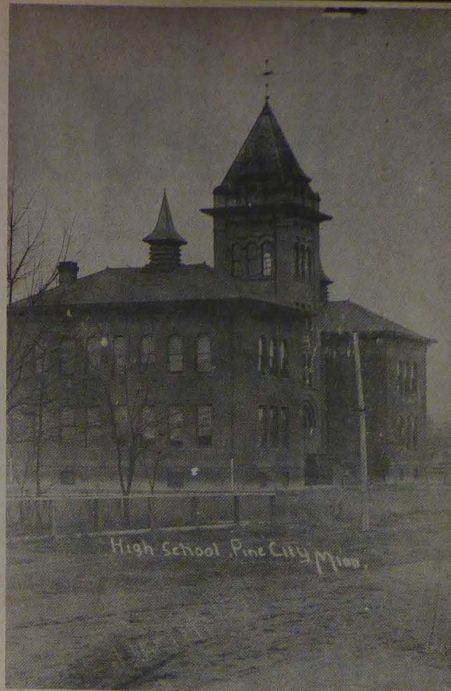
and buggy for track meets," Korbel said.

Ice skating was also one of his favorite sports. "I took my daughter skating. We would practice figure skating. We even got pretty good at figure eights," he winked.

Baseball was Pine City's most popular summer sport in the old days. The grandstand was packed at every game, and fans cheered their teams on to victory.

"The Hurley-Barrington Baseball Team made Pine City famous around 1912. Hurley was a distributor for Barrington Whiskey. He sponsored the team and five Hurley boys played on it," Korbel said.

"Teams even came up from the Twin Cities to challenge the Pine City team. They had the reputation of being tough competition."



THE OLD Pine City High School. Picture from the Vach Collection.

More tidbits

Old records in the county auditor's office indicate that townships were frequently named after the children of county officials, or prominent settlers in the county.

New Dosey Township was named after Julius Dosey, Arlon Township after Lois Arlon Hamlin, the daughter of W.H. Hamlin, county auditor, Wilma Township after an official's wife, and Barry Township after Edward Barry, heroic engineer who rescued nearly 500 people in the Great Hinckley Fire by getting the train through to Superior.

Welfare assistance is not new in Pine County. Records from 1871 show that the poor of the county were taken into consideration. It was moved to support

a woman and her children in the amount of \$35 per month. The chairman of the board was authorized to draw upon supplies from the store of Adolph Munch in that amount to be furnished to the family.

Mothers were also to be furnished with 15 cords of firewood cut to stove length.

Later, in 1873, it was decided to move a woman to the county poor house which was located east of Hinckley.

On May 25, 1904 the board resolved to purchase a site for a poor farm, known as the M.C. Dean farm, for the sum of \$8,400. M.C. Dean was appointed as overseer of the poor farm for a term of one year.

People who went to the poor farm turned over any property

they might have owned to the county.

Mary Alex Pangerl

"We had to attend at least 60 days out of the seven months of school," she said. "It was always hard for farm kids to start on time because it was right during harvest. Everything was done by hand, and the kids were needed at home to help get in the crops. In the spring it was the same story. They had to stay home to sow the crops."

She recalled how her parents

were always getting letters from the school superintendent reminding them their children were missing too much school.

"It bothered them, but circumstances beyond their control prevented us from attending on a regular basis," she said.

Looking at pictures of countless school supplies available for youngsters today, she recalled what her family had.

"The folks bought nickel tablets, and pages were torn out

one by one and passed around. We couldn't all have a tablet of our own. Pencils were only a penny each, but they were cut in half and shared.

"We would trade halves on alternate days to be sure everyone had a chance to use the eraser end," she said.

Work in the classroom was done on the blackboard and on slates at the desk. There were never enough books for everyone so the students shared.

Remember
1946...

ANNIVERSARY SALE

We are celebrating our First Anniversary by offering you the following bargains in furniture and bedding. We also wish to thank the people of the surrounding communities for the wonderful support our store has been given during the past year. THANK YOU! Take advantage of these special offers and make your Christmas Shopping easier.

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Five 10 inch records, our selection. \$57.20
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VORA, 5 tube, plays single records \$99.95
PA, 7 tube portable with record changer \$194.40
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Spring Construction better than pre-war. Good wearing fabrics and good selection of colors. Every couch on our floor Reduced
59.50 to 84.50
No Lounge and Matching Chair, upholstered with good grade tapestry. 2 sets only, from \$119.50 to \$169.95
Pillows, 21x27, 50% duck quills - per pair \$5.33
General Electric Percolator, limited quantity \$7.77
COTTON SHAG SCATTER RUGS
24 x 36 - \$2.95
24 x 48 - \$5.95
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3 JUVENILE ITEMS - heat finish \$9.95

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Five Minutes More
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I Guess I'll Get Papers
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FREE!! - New 2-piece living room units arriving daily. With the purchase of any sofa on the floor, we offer for no charge - 1 table lamp table and scatter rug. Act now and Take Advantage of this \$15.00 Saving!
NEW CUSTOMERS, WE INVITE YOU TO STOP IN. WE ARE CERTAIN YOU WILL BE SURPRISED BY THE SELECTIONS AVAILABLE.

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Each chair reduced . . . **5.00**

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Universal Automatic Electric Iron. Limited quantity \$10.95
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PINE CITY MINNESOTA

Media

A leading role
in community

Headline stories tucked inside old time papers

An attempt on the life of the president of the United States and his subsequent death would dominate the lead stories in all phases of the media today.

Margaret Holler, former Pine County auditor, recently came upon two issues of the Pine County Record published in July, 1881.

An assassination attempt was made on the life of President James Garfield on July 2 that year. He had been in office only four months.

Placement of the stories on the inside of the newspaper indicates just how far news reporting has come in the last 100 years.

The 1881 newspaper was called The Pine County Record and was published in Pine City by E.B. Robie. James Hurley was clerk of court at that time, and the papers, which contained long lists of delinquent tax accounts, were probably kept in county files.

Hometown newspapers were the only printed publications available to most of the settlers at that time. They contained both national and local news, as well as full length novels and short stories which were probably continued in subsequent issues to keep people buying the papers. Merchants advertised with gusto.

One hundred years ago a one-year subscription cost \$2, six months cost \$1 and three months 50 cents.

The front page of the July 9, 1881 Pine County Record carried an advertisement for Buckingham's Dye for Whiskers, Hall's Hair Remover, several other patent medicine remedies and a professional directory which included an ad for Mrs. L.E. Reid, clairvoyant and magnetic physician.

The Pioneer House, a lodging house owned by J.R. Stone, offered board from \$1 to \$2 per day, and the establishment was recommended as headquarters for sportsmen and tourists.

The remainder of the front page of the newspaper was filled with Harlequin Romance type stories.

Page two carried news from Washington. A story about a Catholic priest who had broken from his church to become an apostate lecturer was set in large headlines, and more fiction stories completed the page.

Both pages were probably set well in advance of publication of current news added to fill in subsequent pages.

The reader was on page three before he knew that an attempt

had been made on the life of the President of the United States.

The attack was described as, "A savage attack on our nation's Chief."

"President Garfield Twice Shot and Desperately Wounded While About to Depart for New York."

"Tragedy Enacted In The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Depot In Washington."

"Two Shots Fired—One Entering the Liver and the Other the Arm of President."

The stories continued, stating that a Chicago attorney, Julius Gitteau, was arrested as the assassin. He proclaimed himself a "Conkling" Stalwart and boasted of having made Arthur president.

"I am a lawyer, a theologian and I was born in America," he boasted, as the arresting officers hauled him away.

Chicago newspapers described the assassin as "more or less insane." They told how he "married a beautiful young lady, the sister of a leading Chicago attorney."

"When he betrayed evidence of being a deadbeat, he was virtually forced out of Chicago," Gitteau fled to New York where he wrote a book about the second coming of Christ which further confirmed his status as a lunatic, according to the old newspapers.

Coverage of the assassination attempt included interviews with the president's wife, medical opinions and more stories about the assassin's sanity. One paper was quoted as saying, "Gitteau was sane and there was method in his madness."

Publisher Reid, in a brief editorial, said, "Every possible act has been done to ascertain if there was a conspiracy connected with the attempt. It is one of the greatest outrages ever perpetrated in our free nation. It will always appear as a blot in our American history."

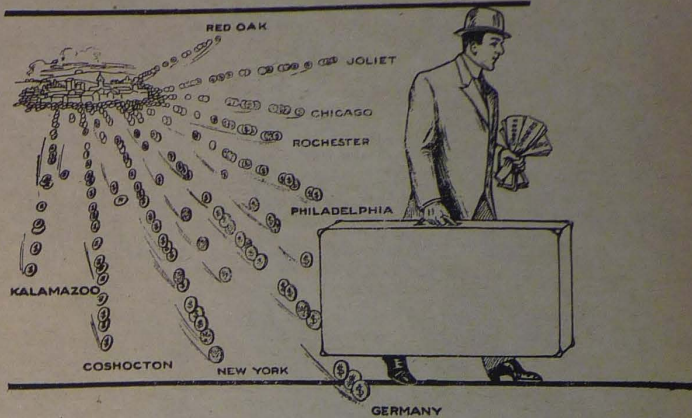
The July 16, 1881 issue of the Pine County Record reported on the progress of the president's recovery.

Distinguished medical men were quoted. Dr. A. Hayes Andrew said, "The absence of any further distension of the abdomen, the disappearance of pains in the legs and many other signs indicate the president's strong system is reasserting."

Readers today must remember that a century ago physicians did not have access to modern medical equipment when making their diagnosis. A lot of guessing

Continued next page

Keep the Dollars Home



About this time of the year a well dressed, affable stranger with a large grip, can be seen visiting the business men of every city in the country. He is taking orders for

1913 CALENDARS 1913

The calendars he takes orders for are made in various large cities of the United States. The stranger reaps a salary and commission too usually, and the dollars so spent are gone from the city.

THE PINE POKER

Has the largest and we believe the best line of Calendars on the market today. The calendars are printed right in our shop and this will require extra hands. We can sell calendars as cheap and cheaper than outside houses. Proofs of printing are submitted to you, and goods are delivered December 1, 1912. A telephone message will bring the samples to you. LET US HAVE THAT ORDER FOR CALENDARS.....

Keep the Dollars Home

SPEND DOLLARS LOCALLY. Those words are heard often enough today by anyone promoting Pine City and its local businesses. Times haven't changed much in some respects. The message was the same in 1913. Advertisement from the Pine County Pioneer.



**Celebrate
the past . . .
enjoy the
present**

Invest in the quality and
convenience of
Maytag Appliances

**WIEDEMANN
APPLIANCE**

Serving Pine City since 1948
215 E. 3rd. Ave Pine City 629-3522

*Maytag Appliances,
Plumbing, Heating &
Refrigeration
Sales & Service

Stories

was involved, and they depended a great deal on outward signs in their patients.

A Dr. Degross from Georgia was the first to propose what was referred to as the "heroic" treatment of opening the abdomen to search for the imbedded bullet. A London surgeon agreed.

Since operating was a risky business for a physician in those days, it was avoided at all costs. Dr. Agnew declined the suggestion to operate saying, "I inserted my finger into the wound as deeply as I could, reaching far past the broken ribs. I still could not feel the ball (bullet). I can surmise, but who would dare to cut a patient open on a mere guess?"

Wherever the ball is located there exists a clot of blood which nature or science must eliminate."

President Garfield lay in a critical state for nearly three months. His condition was carefully shielded from the public, and members of the press were only given brief, optimistic statements.

The president died on Sept. 19, 1881. An ambitious program of constructural measures died with him.

That story was also probably covered on the inside pages of small town newspapers, tucked in someplace between love stories and advertisements for patent medicines and threshing machines.

WCMP valuable community service

Sixty years ago the June 29 issue of the Pine Poker carried the following believe-it-or-not item.

"Harry Wegoner has installed a radio machine and claims he is getting concerts from all over the world.

"He was telling Cleaver about the wonderful piano solo he heard the other night but only to be heartlessly told by Cleaver that he probably just heard one of his neighbors playing."

Needless to say, radio in Pine City has come a long way since then. WCMP, the local station, has been serving the area for a quarter of a century.

Aside from entertainment, radio provides a valuable community service through public information programming.

Bob Schuller, Dewey Campbell, Joe Hunter and Rich Power first conceived the idea of a radio station to serve this area in 1957.

"No one figured a radio station in Pine City, population 1,700, could make it," Schuller, who was with a Forest Lake station at that time, said.

"We knew it would be a challenge and we would have to work hard to get advertising customers," Schuller said.

Dolan Chevrolet was the first sponsor to buy advertising time on WCMP, according to Schuller. Leonard Machart followed suit with an ad for the First National Bank, Hoyt Haycock from Pine City Drug and Cavallin Ford jumped on the bandwagon.

The Pine City mill, the Fair Store, Ed Edin's Hardware and a host of other businesses in the area soon became regular advertisers and WCMP was here to stay.

Lyle Nelson, Mitch Dupre, Larry Severson and Hank Mellum were part of the early staff.

Schuller recalls the day Jane Robbins called him to inquire about buying the station. The deal was set, the sale made and the Robbins became the new owners. Under their manage-

ment WCMP continues to grow and prosper.

On Jan. 29, 1979, Robbins extended their broadcasting capability to include FM programming.

"Basically the AM and FM stations offer two entirely different program formats," Jane Robbins said. "Our FM

station is on the air to midnight and has the option of 24-hour broadcasting. Music on the FM station is all country while the AM station provides a variety."

The station call letters identify the area covered--Wisconsin, Cambridge, Mora and Pine City and Pine County.



First Farm Energized

On December 23, 1937 the greatest transformation on the farm took place when electricity surged to the Carl Peterson & Swan Hammer farms.

Great elation was expressed by these folks realizing that from that day forth electrical service would be theirs because of unrelenting efforts by all interested persons in the Rural Electrification Program.

THOSE SAME EFFORTS CONTINUE TODAY AS WE AT EAST CENTRAL, WITH THE SUPPORT OF YOUR MEMBERS, FIND NEW WAYS TO ECONOMICALLY MAKE USE OF THIS PRECIOUS RESOURCE KNOWN AS ELECTRICITY.

Call today to inquire about our SPECIAL LOAD MANAGEMENT RATES Which can save you money!



Pine City, MN 55063
629-2002

WE ARE HERE TO SERVE YOU:
Glenna Reterson, Albin Skalicky,
Dennis Sundermeyer, Clifford Thelene,
Lee Williams

AMERICA'S NUMBER 1 TOP SELLER, CENTURY 21SM

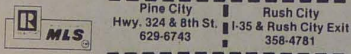
Century 21

RUSH REALTY, INC.

EACH OFFICE INDEPENDENTLY OWNED AND OPERATED. Equal Housing Opportunity

SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF Pine City, Rush City, Hinckley and surrounding areas.

OPEN SIX DAYS A WEEK 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



CABINS ON ACREAGE

- 58 1/2 ACRES with shell cabin in Brook Park..... No. 418
- \$27,000
- CLOVERDALE CABIN on 5 acres of birch groves..... No. 421
- \$13,500
- MOBILE HOME set-up near the Snake River 3/4 acre. No. 427
- \$8,900
- 4.4 ACRES NEAR St. Croix River and Slate land, cabin also. No. 428
- \$18,500
- CABIN WITH WELL, septic, electric, telephone and heat. 2 1/2 acres. No. 431
- \$18,900
- SHELL CABIN on 2.2 acres, wooded and private. No. 434
- \$9,800
- ASKOV CABIN on 3.2 acres is waiting for you. No. 436
- \$11,900

IN TOWN HOMES

- SPLIT ENTRY on 1 acre with all utilities and mostly finished. No. 556
- \$56,900
- STUCCO HOME with alot of nostalgic charm, many features. No. 557
- \$48,500
- LARGE FAMILY HOME at an affordable price. 3 bdrms No. 577
- \$54,000
- 3 BDRM. CEDAR siding, fireplace, garage and nice! No. 594
- \$62,000

ACREAGE

- PINE CITY LOTS with utilities in the street from..... \$6,900 \$9,500
- CUSTOM BUILT LOG home and 987 acres for the woodsman! No. 368
- \$199,000
- 2 1/2 ACRE BUILDING SITE on HENRIETTE Road. No. 382
- \$5,500
- 40 ACRES JUST EAST of Sandstone, wooded and ready for you. No. 389
- \$18,000
- ROYALTON TOWNSHIP boasts this 9 acre mobile home site. No. 395
- \$7,500
- \$7,000 BUYS THIS 40 ACRE parcel in Finlayson..... No. 301
- COMMERCIAL, AGRICULTURAL, or ??? 42 acres in Rock Creek. No. 304
- \$29,900
- PLANT YOUR OWN CORN on this 42 acres in Rush City. No. 306
- \$26,500
- HEAVILY WOODED ACREAGE parcels in Duxbury 39-41 acres. No. 327
- \$13,000-\$15,900
- 120 ACRES OF HUNTING LAND, wooded and little low. No. 332
- \$27,500

Call today for information on additional listings: Country homes, farms and hobby farms, as well as investment properties

HAPPY 101th BIRTHDAY, PINE CITY...

We're proud to be part of this area's Heritage... You can be too. Stake your claim to a Pine area property today!

WE'RE SOLD ON YOUR HOUSE, BEFORE WE SELL IT.

WATER PROPERTY

- IMAGINE--City utilities and Cross Lake frontage too! 2 plus bdrms. No. 261
- \$65,000
- 544' OF FRONTAGE on Pokegama Lake give this home a must see. No. 274
- \$79,900
- CUSTOM BUILT 2 bdrm. home with many extras and 97' of sandy beach. No. 293
- \$74,500
- CALL FOR INFO ON our Pine Lake homes if you like clear blue water..... No. 294 & No. 239
- ST. CROIX RIVER CABIN on large lot with 100' frontage lease. No. 218
- \$22,000
- SNAKE RIVER LOTS available from \$10,900 to \$18,900 next to..... Chongwatana Forest
- 135' FRONTAGE POKEGAMA LAKE, level to the water. 3 bdrm. mobile. No. 222
- \$39,900
- 620' ON RUSH LAKES, Labelle Isle. Wooded and buildable. No. 233
- \$15,900
- SNAKE RIVER CABIN with 100' frontage, wooded. No. 237
- \$15,900
- 11 PLUS ACRES on the Junction of Kettle and Pine Rivers-2 bdrm. cabin. No. 241
- \$39,900
- WHITE PINE LOG CABIN on Pokegama Lake, Cedar panelling, 100' lot. No. 242
- \$55,500
- SNAKE RIVER LOT, wooded and level. 100' frontage. No. 243
- \$16,900
- WOODED 3 ACRE lot with 2 bdrm. home with Pokegama access. No. 247
- \$35,900
- KETTLE RIVER, long creek and woods are the features of this 6 plus acres. No. 249
- \$21,900

Old advertisements interesting reading

A good overall picture of the business climate in a city can be sifted from the newspaper advertising if one examines them carefully.

Ads from old newspapers can be followed from decade to decade and reflect the changes that have taken place over the span of years.

Today we have real estate agencies offering long listings of properties for sale.

In the early 1900s they were called land companies. An ad in a 1914 paper said, "International Land Company, Real Estate, Farm Lands, Insurance and Loans. Carl Piffel, manager. Fine, cut-over, very easy clearing hardwood lands from \$12 to \$20. Improved farms at from \$25 to \$75 per acre on easy terms."

Potatoes were a big crop in the area, and Big and Little Giant Diggers, the best potato diggers made, were advertised by Adam Biederman. In small letters after his name it said, "He can give you some information that will astonish you."

"Mother of School Girl tells how Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound Restored Her Daughter to Health" headed the ad for the patent medicine. Letters of testimony as to miraculous healing powers of various compounds were common advertising copy.

SMITH'S HARDWARE ran an ad that took up one-fourth of the page and said, "GOING! GOING! GONE! We will close out our entire stock of dynamite at 10 cents per pound. All orders taken subject to stock on hand. Anyone who desires dynamite this fall cannot afford to miss this opportunity."

Smith's ad explained to his customers that his reason for offering this special price was due to the fact that the Village Council had ordered him to remove all dynamite outside the city limits. "We have no powderhouse in which to keep our stock, and it must be taken care of at once, hence the price of 10 cents."

J.Y. Breckenridge, the local pharmacist, ran an ad stating, "Local people are surprised at the quick results received from simple buckthorn bark, glycerine, etc., as mixed in Adler-i-ka, the German appendicitis remedy." J.Y. Breckenridge states that this simple remedy antisepticizes the digestive system and draws off the impurities so thoroughly that a single dose removes sour stomach and constipation instantly.

MADDEN'S FRUIT STORE told the readers that in the hot old summertime nothing is so cooling, so palatable, so easily digested nor so stimulating as our homemade pure ice cream. "Served in our ice cream parlor or you can buy it by the pint or quart to take home."

J.M. COLLINS, in his 1914 advertisement, said "Stop buying coal! Hot weather is here. Buy ice and keep cool. Also keep the milk sweet, etc., butter hard, etc. Buy ice, buy ice."

The PINE CITY MILLING CO. advertised Golden Key Flour to make the bread that satisfies.

PINE CITY MERCANTILE CO., The Big Store, offered

special prices on all summer goods while they last. Oxfords, pumps, millinery and straw hats, summer underwear and ladies, misses and childrens' dresses.

THE NEW BAKERY, with Fred Kushke as proprietor, sold bread tickets 24 for \$1.

A 1909 issue of the Pine County Pioneer ran an ad for the Farmer's Co-operative Mercantile Co. for American Beauty Corset Week. Their ad read, "Commencing next Monday and continuing for one week, we will give to every purchaser of an American Beauty Corset absolutely free a copy of the most popular pieces of music this year, the AMERICAN BEAUTY MARCH AND TWO STEP. This is one of those 'catchy' selections that one involuntarily beats time to when it's being played. Bands and orchestras are adapting it for their use in the metropolitan cities. See our window display of these corsets. The best that corset intelligence has yet produced."

Newspaper historical service

Newspapers have always been vitally important, for between their yellowed pages can be found historical information that cannot be gathered from any other source.

Not only do they contain current news items, but the advertising, human interest stories and ordinary doings of the local community provide a composite picture of any particular era.

When the early settlers received their newspapers all work stopped. Mother or father usually sat down and read aloud to the entire family. It was their way of keeping in touch with the outside world.

The first newspaper in Pine City was published on May 3, 1873. It was called the Pine County News, and Hial P. Robie was editor and publisher.

The Pine County Record, published by Robie, followed in

Continued next page

What is 3M doing in Pine City?



Helping to provide a better community

Industry is a vital asset to any growing community and at 3M it is the people who strive to help Pine City prosper.

14 years in Pine City.....

Pine City Plant **3M**
MICROGRAPHICS PRODUCTS DIVISION



Continuing a tradition of good food and freindly service.....

The name may have changed, but the restaurant on the corner of 6th Street and 3rd Avenue has been a gathering place in Pine City for over 40 years.



255 6th St. Pine City
629-9906

NICOLL'S CAFE 1982

PINE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rural School of Early 1900's



Free Admission
Located near I-35 Interchange, Pine City
Open Wednesday-Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Would you like to become a member of the Pine County Historical Society? Contact Mrs. Ethel Jackson, Hinckley 384-6229.

Upcoming '82 Events & Attractions

SEPTEMBER

Pine City Heritage Pageant—Pine City
Commemoration of 101 years of Pine City

Markville Community Fair

White Pine Engine Show—McGrath, Langenbach Farm
3 miles east of McGrath—Gas, Steam Tractor/Engines

Finlayson Sportsman Picnic—Pine River Hall
Northwest of Finlayson, at noon

Pine City WSCA Horse Show—Pine City, 9 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Labor Day Sale—Askov
Dinner and Auction

Northwest Fur Post Voyageurs Rendezvous—Pine City—Food, Music, Fur Trade Events

Chengwatana Riders Trail Ride—Pine City

OCTOBER

Northwest Fur Post Wild Foods & Crafts
Workshop—Pine City

Northwest Fur Post Closes for season

Hinckley Fire Museum closes for season

News

1881. Then came a publication called Bede's Budget, a two-page magazine type paper that contained political advertising, poems and jokes. It was published by J. Adam Bede, and Minnie Neubauer, who is now in her 90s, set the type for the early publication.

Ed Gottery published the Pine County Record beginning in 1884, and it was managed for many years by Walter Gottery and sons who later became owners of the publication.

A.R.W. Olsen became editor of the paper in 1911 and changed the name to the Pine Poker. Howard Folsom, editor and manager in 1914, retained that name. Many people in the area still refer to the local newspaper as the Pine Poker.

By 1927 the newspaper was again published and edited by the Gottery family.

The newspapers merged under the ownership of W.S. McEachern and D.R. Wilcox as the Pine Poker-Pioneer on March 10, 1932. It became known as the Pine Poker-Pioneer and Wilcox was president and editor.

In 1958 the Pine Poker-Pioneer was sold to Russell C. Mills of Cambridge. David G. Mills became publisher and editor. The name was changed to the Pine City Pioneer, and that name stuck.

In 1974 the newspaper was purchased by the present owners, Gene Johnson of White Bear Lake and Dennis Winkowski, publisher. Numerous news and sports editors have worked under the current ownership, the most recent being Wade Weber, Steve Lang and the present editor, Cindy Rolain.

At one time a man named Z.M. Edwards had half interest in the Pine County Pioneer. In addition to the newspaper business, his love was a band known as the Kid Band. Under his leadership this band reached a high degree of proficiency and became quite well known.

Early photographers dating back to the early 1900s were Will Poole and a man named Gray. In later years Bob Thiry, Doug Davis and Mitch Tollefson frequently took photos in addition to those provided by staff members.

The prize-winning publication has grown and expanded to include a weekly shopper called the TV Weekly, distributed free to the entire area in addition to the full weekly newspaper which comes out on Thursday.

Ads tell tale of early times

When the Pine County Pioneer came out on Friday, July 14, 1893, there were nine advertisers promoting their wares.

Close your eyes and imagine how the town looked at that time. Dirt streets, hitching posts in front of the business establishments and merchants getting ready for the day's customers.

The stores were hot on the muggy July day, and before the farmers loaded their supplies in the wagon for the homeward trek, the family was treated to cool drinks at the Breckenridge Drug Store.

J.Y. Breckenridge ran an ad that week for "Drugs, Paints, Oils, Fruit, Cigar, Cigarettes, Fruit Jars and Lamps." The canning season would soon begin and he could woo homemakers into his store for canning supplies.

W.F. Glasow advertised Dry Goods and Groceries. Women could amble into his store and anticipate what "piece goods" they would purchase for the new dress they were contemplating while they picked up sugar, coffee and other staples.

Miss Georgia Buttrick had a millinery store. A new hat was always guaranteed to make a woman feel like a new person, and Miss Georgia no doubt sold trappings for remodeling an old hat. A new flower and veil could do wonders and was a lot cheaper.

J.B. Miller advertised General Hardware. The man of the house could pick up machinery repair parts and other supplies here while he filled in on the local news.

Henry Rohlf sold produce and seed and William Tierney advertised dry goods, shoes and groceries.

General stores of this kind

were very popular in the old days because all purchases or at least most of the things on the shopping list could be picked up at one place.

Herman Borchers sold and repaired shoes and boots. He was advertising harnesses and whips as well as a variety of leather goods.

Perhaps one of the most important businesses on the avenue during this era was the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith was in many ways an artist. He could take a piece of steel, heat it in coals that made his small shop almost unbearably hot during the summer months, dip it in a barrel of water and shape any part or tool a customer might order.

Acrid fumes from the glowing coals and the barrel of water permeated the air that surrounded him and his leather apron was soaked with perspiration as his powerful hands worked swiftly to repair a part before the farmer had to go home.

Adam Biederman, blacksmith, advertised that he was having a sale on cultivators, mowers, plows, hay racks and other farm equipment.

The early settlers needed an attorney as much as we do today and S.G.L. Roberts hung his shingle offering his services as "Attorney-Counselor at Law."

The Pine County Pioneer ran an ad in its own behalf in an attempt to promote subscriptions for \$2 per year.

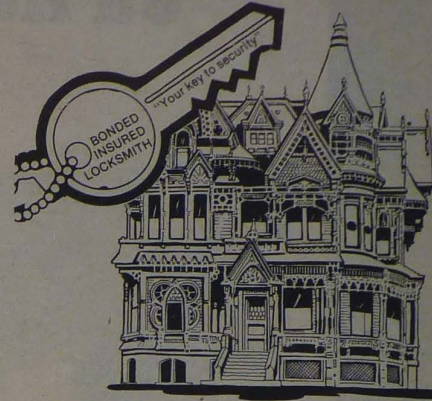
As the town grew more businesses located here, and out of town merchants found it was to their advantage to advertise in the Pioneer.

A later 1893 paper had 18 ads, 10 from local merchants and eight from businesses outside

Pine City.

By April 23, 1909 there were 27 ads from local merchants and nine outside Pine City plus 13 small ads in "Popular Specials." The newspaper ad reads, "Get

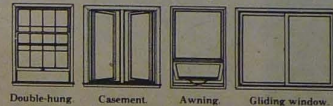
the Pine County Pioneer and LaFollettes Magazine, both one-year subscriptions, for \$2.25 in advance. Send in your order to Pioneer and not to LaFollettes Weekly Magazine."



We'll replace your problem windows now

We'll install snug-fitting, fuel saving Kolbe & Kolbe windows. Insulated wood core. Complete weatherstripping. Low-keep clad exteriors. Double and Triple insulated units. Easy, fast installation. Six styles available, call for free estimate or literature.

Patio Doors, Angle Bay & Bow



Double-hung Casement Awning Gliding window

Come in to see our displays. Expert advice available.

THE LOCK SHOP and PINE CITY GLASS

400 E. 3rd Ave. Pine City

629-2931

After Hours: 384-7562

More tidbits

A 1905 Minnesota law read, "It is the duty of children to support parents who are unable to earn a living, and unless this party contributes to the support of this mother, the county attorney of Pine County will be directed to proceed against this said party under the provisions of Section 1485."

On April 21, 1913, the county commissioners ordered the

county auditor to notify a certain person whose mother was receiving county aid that they must adhere to the above law.

On May 16, 1941, the county auditor was authorized to provide for a revolving fund for the purpose of purchasing food stamps. The sum was not to exceed \$15,000.

The good ol' days are gone, but...



The good times aren't!!

WELCOME TO
PINE CITY'S
101ST BIRTHDAY

INN TOWNE TAP

Downtown Pine City

Providing

"Great Pets"

in Pine City since 1975



the village emporium

Across from the park downtown Pine City

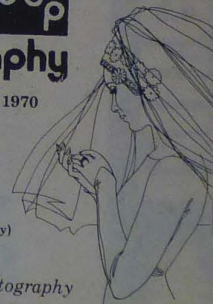
*Professional help for the health of your pet...
*Grooming products for exhibiting your livestock...
*House plants...
*Plant care products...

Shawn Davis
629-6190

doug davis photography

Serving Pine City Since 1970

*Quality professional photography
*Complete wedding service (Photography, wedding stationery)
*Family Portraits
*Instant passport photography



Across from the park, downtown Pine City, 629-6190

The Pine Plaza Merchants Congratulate Pine City on Heritage Days, 1982



Pine Plaza



Pine Plaza Shopping Center, Pine City, MN.

Law and order

Pine City designated official county seat

Pine County was officially organized by act of the Territorial Legislature in 1856.

Chengwatana, the old Indian village and trading post at the Cross Lake outlet to the Snake River, was designated as the county seat. Kanabec and Carlton counties were included as part of Pine County until 1858 when they were separated.

The first courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1870, and most of those early records went with it. In 1872 the courthouse, by popular vote, was moved to Pine City on the west side of Cross Lake where the Lake Superior-Mississippi Railroad had just been built, connecting St. Paul and Duluth.

A new courthouse building was erected on the site where Nicoll's Cafe now stands. A larger courthouse was erected in 1866 north of the present site, but only after the Richard G. Robinson house had been moved off. This house was later bought by Captain Seavey and is now occupied by Hank and Betty Larson.

The cost of the courthouse was \$10,000. It was heated by wood stoves in each room and lighted by kerosene lamps. It is rumored that the contractor failed to finish the job so James Hurley, as surety for him, had to take over and complete the building.

In 1915 an attempt was made to change the location of the county seat to Hinckley, but the majority voted to keep it in Pine City. The decision instigated a long-standing feud of sorts between northern and southern Pine County occupants. Locating the county hospital in Sandstone helped to ease the way to burying the hatchet, and once again Pine County residents joined forces for the betterment of the county as a whole.

Today, Pine City boasts a three-year-old municipal building which houses the city clerk's office, the library and a community room available for use by the public.

City Clerk Dan Kieselhorst is available from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday to answer questions concerning city services, and the city council meets on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the council chamber in the municipal building.

Keith Selleck is mayor. Jane Robbins, Ben Sauter, Fred Holstein and Dick Hegman serve as council members, and Howard Ledin is city attorney.

In June, 1911, in a campaign for better roads, a number of

representatives and good road advocates from Duluth and St. Paul met with Pine City's businessmen to talk over the prospects for securing better roads along the main highway leading north and south into the village.

At another village council meeting in 1911 a petition, signed by 102 citizens, was presented. A request for installation of four clocks for police patrol was received and a motion was made to have W.A. Sausser and F. Pofel get prices and report at the next meeting.

A complaint was aired that large horses and cattle were running loose at the north end of the wagon bridge (Woodpecker Ridge).

A 1911 village ordinance said, "Be it resolved that all saloon keepers are hereby notified not to sell to minors, in pails or otherwise, intoxicating liquors of any kind."

Proceedings of the county board in 1911 dealt with a much different type of business than today.

One item that year stated, "Considerable business of importance was transacted by the county board at their meeting. In the matter of the petitions of seven free-holders of district No. 67 asking to be set off with their lands to district No. 5, the petition of Dick Vork was granted. The petition of Otto Gobel for a portion of his land was also granted with the sanction and approval of all the petitioners. All other requests were denied."

OSCAR DICKSON was county treasurer for 28 years. At 82 years of age he recalls many changes in county government that took place during his term of office.

"I came to Pine City in 1931, and it was a tough time to begin anew anywhere," he said.

Dickson sold newspaper subscriptions to a Twin Cities' paper, and his work took him into the rural area where he had an opportunity to meet many people.

"I visited with them and always talked in favor of school buses to transport children from rural areas into school in Pine City," he said.

"When I ran for county treasurer I was elected. I had no experience in the office, but I had a good deputy and things went well."

Dickson also claims responsibility for being the first county treasurer to put county funds out on interest until they were needed.

"I wasn't very popular with the local bank at that time.



VOLUNTEERS HAVE PLAYED A LARGE ROLE in the successful development of many fine service organizations in the area. The Pine City Fire Department has always been run on a volunteer basis and has always done a very efficient job. This is the department in 1907. Photo from the Vach Collection.

Residents willing to pay for order

The construction of a new Pine City detention facility will begin late this fall. Pine County voters approved a bond issue to go ahead with the jail in an election last spring.

The new jail will be added to the present courthouse and will serve as a reminder that residents are willing to pay for law and order.

Pine City maintains a policing contract with the county sheriff's

department.

A March 22, 1884 edition of the local newspaper informed the public that John Cope and William Leonard were arrested for drunkenness and disorderly conduct. They were locked up in the Pine County Jail, a wooden structure at that time.

About 3 a.m. the jail caught fire. All efforts to extinguish the flames and rescue the prisoners were in vain. The cause of the

fire was never discovered.

The victims paid a stiff price for a night of revelry.

Another newspaper cited a Rock Creek murder. George Hathaway arrested a man by the name of Harris for stealing horses. Hathaway headed for Stillwater with his prisoner.

Five days later, Hathaway's body was found dead, either from stabbing or gunshot wounds.

Fire department grows

The first firefighting equipment was purchased in 1898 from the Waterous Company of St. Paul. It was a coal-burning steam engine and constructed so that the engineer, Fritz Johnson, could get up steam pressure in as little as four and one-half minutes.

The water supply for the main part of town, a cement-lined tank, was constructed on the southwest corner of the city hall and was filled by pumping from the river. The suction hose was put into the tanks. It could be used continuously for two and one-half hours. After each fire the tank was refilled before the engine was put away.

For fires in other parts of town the engine was placed on a dock and the water pumped from the river or lake. These docks were located at the end of Third Ave. and at the highway bridge. Another was located on the west end of town.

After city water was installed in 1913 and another type of

equipment was necessary, the old engine remained in the fire hall. It was later placed in the care of the Waterous Company, which kept it in repair and insured, although it remained city property.

Always a volunteer fire department, it was quick to answer calls and acted heroically in all situations.

On March 4, 1937, a fire at the Milgram store nearly destroyed the building.

It was discovered by Henri St. Hilaire while he was out on his usual early morning walk.

The contents of the clothing store were ruined. When the fire department arrived it was delayed in getting water as both hydrants at the bakery and Gillespie Corner were frozen.

Walter Blanchard, a member of the fire department, was badly burned on both hands, his nose and left side of his face, by a sudden blast of flames from the burning building.

A new city garage was built in

1980 to house equipment, including the fire engines. John Skuzacek serves as fire chief as well as heading the city maintenance crew. Other fire department officers in Pine City are Eldon Johnson, assistant chief; Harvey Lindstrom, captain; Royce Johnson, first lieutenant; Jack Miller, second lieutenant; Cary Rootkie, secretary/treasurer and Kurtis Rike, caretaker.

In 1931 the fire chief was paid an annual salary of \$25 plus calls, and the 30 volunteers were paid only for calls.

There was no fire resistant roof ordinance at that time and the alarm was activated by telephone. The men responded to the whistle. Today they wear beepers and are alerted no matter where they are.

In 1899 the department consisted of the chief and 39 volunteers, one steam engine, two hose carts, 2,000 feet of two and one-half inch hose.



Heritage Edition

Section II

September 2, 1982

Since 1896, you've counted on First ★



**PRESIDENT
DALE TEICH**

Since 1896, Pine Citians have counted on First National Bank for all their financial needs. During those 86 years, we've grown with the community and First National not only is the oldest financial institution, but also the biggest in this area.

First National was originally chartered as 1st State Bank of Pine County on Dec. 4, 1896. Initial Capital of the bank was \$10,000 and the original stockholders were Carrie E. Hodge, Fred A. Hodge and P.W. McAllen. Fred Hodge, the first President of First National, called the first board of directors meeting Dec. 26, 1896.

In 1920, First National applied for and was granted a federal charter that resulted in the name change to First National. First National has shown steady growth through

the years, and even during the depression, the bank's assets increased annually, until by 1939, deposits totaled over \$800,000.

From those feeble beginnings, First National has grown to over \$24.7 million in total assets, and has maintained a position of leadership through the years both in encouraging business and industrial growth to the area, and also in promoting and participating in community affairs.

First National Bank is staffed primarily by local residents who have experience not only in the field of banking, but also with you, our customers. We're proud that we're part of the Pine City tradition, and we congratulate the community this week as it celebrates its 101 birthday!

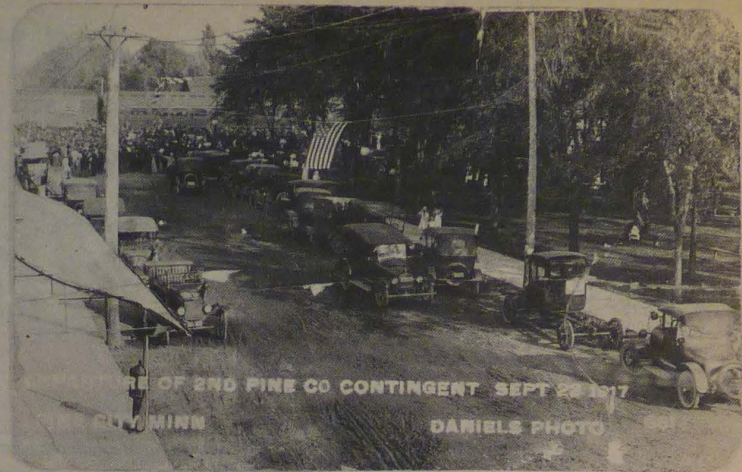
**You can count on First
in more than a slogan
It's a promise**



FIRST NATIONAL BANK
OF PINE CITY, MN 55063 - 629-2561

You can count on First ★

The War Era



THE SECOND CONTINENT OF PINE COUNTY men left for WWI on Sept. 22, 1917. This photo, taken in Pine City, was contributed by Archie Doran.

July 4 celebration honors boys who fought in World War I

(Editor saw it as time to bury the hatchet in County Seat location feud).

July 4, 1919 was a big day in Pine City. It was the date of the homecoming celebration for all the "boys" who had served in World War I.

A special edition of the Pine Poker, published on that date, was devoted entirely to stories of Pine County heroes. Every military man from the county was listed. The names of 39 who lost their lives in the war were set off by a heavy black border. Their father's names and place of residence were included, and the laud succeeded in setting the

tone for the entire issue.

Leon Heath, son of Sam Heath of Beroun, was one of the first from the area to be killed. The American Legion Post was later named after him.

Frank Novak, son of Casper Novak of Pine City, was also on the list. The VFW post bears his name.

The Brook Park Banner made reference to the Pine County homecoming celebration in the following editorial:

"We have always been a strong and consistent advocate of community spirit. Without harmonious cooperation much that is for the good and welfare of

the community is lost, while discordant conditions can cloud the peace and prosperity of the home, community and state.

"While we realize that conditions can often times be greatly battered by a stiff fight, we feel that when the fight is honorably lost, it is not best to continue a constant bickering. This is often caused by a wish for personal betterment rather than a truly generous desire to benefit all.

"Our soldiers, sailors and Marines left their personal affairs, often to protect all. They have learned the great lesson of "one for all" which we must all

learn if we are to get that which is really best in life.

"Now that these boys are coming home, throughout the entire nation it is being made a point to honor them on the Fourth of July in the county seat, the place of their departure for the front.

"This movement was started in Pine City many weeks ago. We are all in Pine County. Let us make our slogan, "A Better Pine County" and steadily and consistently work to that end. Personal or community disagreements should not color our actions, when by so doing, the county is not benefited. The

community spirit should extend in a constantly widening circle until all are embraced in a spirit of love."

Through his editorial the publisher of the Brook Park Banner tried to smooth out hard feelings among county residents that the county seat was located in Pine City. He saw the homecoming celebration honoring veterans from the entire county as an ideal time to bury the hatchet.

Rypkema among area men who received honors

Sergeant Hannes Rypkema, son of Reed Rypkema, was living in Sandstone at the time he left to serve in World War I. After the war he moved to Pine City and became sheriff of Pine County during Prohibition days.

The War Department awarded him the Distinguished Service Cross for heroism and gallantry in action. The Twin Cities' papers carried the following account:

"Sergeant Hannes Rypkema, Co. A., 320th Machine Gun Battalion, for extraordinary heroism in action near St. Juvin, France, Oct. 14, 1918. He went in advance of his section and unassisted captured and sent to the rear 13 German prisoners. With the aid of two infantry men, he later captured 28 more prisoners under heavy machine gun fire.

"When his platoon commander had been killed and more than three-fourths of his platoon had become casualties, he reorganized the remainder of the platoon and continued the attack.

George W. Carlson, Rock Creek, was awarded a Croix de Guerre (cross for bravery). Although Carlson was badly wounded he carried his supply pack and four boxes of

ammunition for a long distance, and when he had lost blood until he was so weakened he could go no further, he crawled into a shell hole and lay until he was given aid by comrades. Then he crept on from one shell hole to another, each move drawing fire from the enemy.

"After being picked up in the morning and taken to the field hospital he refused to be cared for until those around him were relieved of their pain.

Jess M. Ingram, son of Mr. and Mrs. O.H. Ingram of the Hotel Agnes, Pine City, bears the unique distinction of being the only Pine County man who enlisted in the ranks and rose to the position of lieutenant.

John Woodhead of Pine City won the Croix de Guerre for bravery during his service in France, but the 1919 newspaper was unable to give any particulars of the award.

The Good Times are still here

We haven't forgotten the past, when times were simpler. At the Alpine Inn, you can still come in, relax and enjoy old fashioned friendliness, tasty home-cooking and good service.



COFFEE SHOP
Open 24 hours
Luncheon specials everyday from 11-5



Visit our
DINING ROOM
Also serving off the regular menu



135 • PINE CITY, MN

629-6665



Enjoy
ENTERTAINMENT IN THE LOUNGE

War memorial erected after war

Following World War I there was a movement to construct a war memorial on the grounds of the Pine County Courthouse.

The memorial would pay tribute to those who served their country with honor. Funding of the monument became an issue, and the Pine Poker carried the following editorial:

"The matter of a memorial monument for the soldiers and sailors who left Pine County to serve their country in the various wars, the Civil War, the Spanish American War and the World War, has been more or less talked of in every corner of the county.

"Everywhere there is a firm conviction that the county should erect a testimonial of this kind to the memory of those whose sacrifices have given our land equal rights for all mankind and have carried our ways in human freedom to the unacquainted of other lands where absolutism has prevailed.

"Possibly, in a greater sense, such a monument would be a

memorial to the soldiers of all our wars, from Lexington to the Argonne, who have given our land the opportunity that it enjoys today, but it would specially carry down the names of our Pine County boys from 1861 to 1918 who went to war, linking their names in history with the men who fought with Washington and Scott and Taylor.

"Such a monument should be worthy in design and construction and in keeping with the wealth of our county.

"More than that, it should be a people's monument—a county's gift of grateful remembrance from every one of its residents. It should not be from any, few who can best afford to pay its cost, but should represent the thanks, sympathy and grateful remembrance of every man in the county. It should not carry an obligation to anyone for its construction, but should be purely a county matter, built by the county as a whole, rather than by any class or clique of the people."

Everyone wanted to do their part

Life on the homefront changed drastically during World War II. Everyone wanted to do his part.

Women who had never worked out of the home rode in car pools to Twin Cities' defense plants where they learned to rivet and weld. They listened to the music of Glen Miller, Stan Kenton, Duke Ellington and other musicians who will live on forever through their music as they traveled the highway during the wee hours of the morning.

The swing shift hours were probably the most disliked for the worker had no day or night hours to herself. The only gratification was the belief that they were doing their part to get the boys back home, and of course, wages were the best they had ever known.

Blood banks set up in small towns across the nation to receive donations of blood to be sent to the war zones.

People flocked to the centers in an effort to help out. Under the leadership of Mabel Donlin of the Pine City Red Cross unit, 2,257 pints of blood were donated and converted into plasma.

In the beginning, donors were transported to the St. Paul blood center by volunteers, but because so many were anxious to give, the unit decided it would be worthwhile to come to the source.

German prisoners of war were held at the Sandstone Correctional Institution and surprisingly a number of them were willing donors.

Ida Saxon, Melba Clementson, Myrtle Klicker, Mrs. Louis Volenc, Dick Kowalke and Grant Anderson were honored

for contributing most often — six times. The average donor gave two or three pints.

Donlin was one of two individuals who received the Army/Navy E award for outstanding war effort because of the success of her Pine County blood bank. She also received the Good Neighbor Orchid from Tom Brenneman's "Breakfast in Hollywood" radio show for her work.

From the mobile unit's calls at Pine City 681 pints of blood were received. Who knows how many lives were saved because of it?

Civil Defense wardens were assigned to neighborhoods, and frequent black-out drills, signaled by sirens, were part of the local scene. If America should be attacked by air the public had to be trained to respond.

And there was rationing. Sugar, butter and gasoline were probably the hardest items to do without. Rationing boards issued stamps by the month according to how many were in the family. People with babies had an advantage because the child's allotment was more than he could use. People with surplus often shared with their neighbors, especially during canning season.

Women wore rayon hosiery that bagged at the knees and ankles, and stood in long lines hoping to get a pair of nylons when merchants were lucky enough to get a shipment. The coveted nylons were kept sealed in glass jars in the freezer and saved for special occasions.

Cigarettes sold for 15c a pack. Since most of them were being sent overseas, there was also a shortage.

Company D honored

Company D, Pine City unit of the Minnesota Defense Force, had the honor of being the first unit in the second defense regiment to be mustered into service immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the United States into World War II.

Muster ceremonies for Company D were held at the armory with Major Earle Raymond of St. Paul from the state inspector general's department was the mustering officer who administered the oath.

Major Raymond commended members of the company for the fine showing they had made and especially complimented Captain Jesse Ingram and Corporal Stanley Wilcox, company clerk for the excellent condition of the company records which he had inspected.

M.B. Hurley, past department commander of the American Legion, made a few remarks.

City celebrates war's end

The announcement by President Truman at 6 p.m. on a Tuesday that Japan had accepted unconditional surrender was greeted in Pine City with a miniature celebration.

The whistle at the power plant was the first to go off, with the fire siren, police sirens and car horns following in short order. The din lasted for the better part of a half hour.

Immediately upon the broadcast of the news, all businesses in Pine City, except filling stations and cafes, closed until Thursday morning, Wednesday having been proclaimed a holiday. The post office and

other government agencies were given a two-day holiday on order of President Truman. Church services were held in local churches on Wednesday.

Soon after the announcement that peace had returned to the world a little German band made its appearance, continuing the merriment and celebration until late in the night.

When the official surrender terms were signed by Japan, President Truman would issue a proclamation designating the official V-J Day.

From the August, 1945 issue of the Pioneer.

HELPING YOU SAY IT RIGHT WITH FLOWERS



...The perfect gift of yesterday
...The perfect gift of today

THE FLOWER BOX

RICHARD & CINDY NOVY

½ block North of stoplight, Highway 61
Pine City 629-2045



THE NAME HAS CHANGED...



...But the same friendly, professional service is the same today as it was in 1946, when Wilbur Lilja operated the pharmacy in this building, on main street.

Rx Woll's Pharmacy & Gift Shoppe

PINE CITY

629-3460

BOB'S STANDARD SERVICE



Robert, Genevieve Olson, John Schumacher, Ed Schumacher, Dale Olson, Dan Carlson

Tire Sales and Servicing a Speciality

195 6th St. Pine City

629-9982



Genny, Daryl, Dan, Ed, John

Bob's Standard has been known for its friendly service and dependable work since Robert Olson purchased the station from Walter Teich in 1965. After Bob's death in 1981, his wife, Genevieve (Genny) Olson has operated the station and along with her expert staff, carries on the tradition of quality service.

Veterans band together after war

Two World Wars, Korea and Vietnam took their toll of Pine City's young men. They were quick to respond to their country's call, and many of them never returned. Others were wounded but recovered. Pine City had more than its share of heroes.

Following World War I in 1919, Pine City veterans joined the Minnesota contingency of the nationally organized American Legion and became known as Minnesota Post No. 51.

The first national convention was held in Minneapolis, and the original contingency had grown to 126,000 members statewide.

At first the post was named after Leon Heath, who at the age of 26 was killed serving in the Navy during World War I.

Following World War II the

name of Clifford R. Perkins was added. He died at the age of 23 serving his country in the Marine Corps.

The present clubhouse was once a restaurant known as the Streamliner. The building was in need of extensive repair at the time the Pine City Post purchased it.

Legion and Auxiliary members worked together, tearing out portions too bad to repair and raising funds to remodel the building to the fine facility it is today.

Working as a branch of the national organization, Post No. 51 is dedicated to promoting, at the local level, programs which fall under veterans rehabilitation, child welfare, national security and Americanism.

In 1948 and in 1982,

Minnesota Legion and Auxiliary members contributed \$50,000 as their share to the \$500,000 goal set nationally to be used for research to defeat heart disease and Rheumatic fever.

The American Legion claims credit for the present structure of federal and state veterans' legislation. It was instrumental in creation of the Veterans Administration, it conceived and sponsored the G.I. Bill of Rights, and has always been a leader in child welfare programs.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Novak-Milliren Post No. 4258 began in Pine City on July 15, 1945. There were 33 charter members.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars has the same goals and purpose as the American Legion, but is a more exclusive organization in

that members must have served their country on foreign soil.

The VFW clubrooms are in the log building that was once owned by the conservation department. It was built by the WPA in 1938.

Eighty-one-year-old Carl Meier hauled the logs for the building in 1937.

"The logs came from the east side of the St. Croix River in Wisconsin, about a mile north of the old Soderbeck Ferry on the St. Croix road," Meier said.

"We dragged them across the ice to the Minnesota side of the river during the winter and then hauled them to Pine City with a semi truck."

The building was completely remodeled by the VFW, including a new kitchen. The VFW also constructed a permanent building on the fairgrounds,

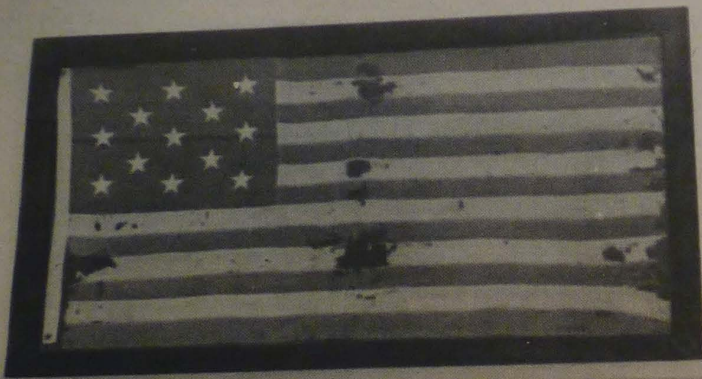
and their beer garden is a popular gathering place during the county fair and at other events.

"A membership in a veterans organization is the best passport a veteran can have to veterans hospitals," Dave Mansavage said.

The VFW has grown from the original 33 members to 167, and the VFW Auxiliary is actively involved in activities which benefit the entire community.

The post has had three all-state commanders, Bob Pierce, Dave Mansavage and Laurence Peterson.

Bill Anderson is the present commander of the American Legion, and Richard Hegman is commander of the VFW.



THIRTEEN STAR FLAG found at Royalton Township.

Thirteen-star flag may be authentic

A tattered, decrepit, moldy 13-star flag hangs on display in the rural schoolhouse museum in Pine City.

The flag was discovered in 1968, neatly folded and tucked away in the back of an old safe in the Royalton Town Hall.

"The question of whether that flag was authentic or a replica has always remained a mystery," Arnold Pangerl, Royalton town clerk said.

The Pine City Pioneer ran an article on the flag in January, 1968, in the hope someone might be able to shed some light on its origin.

Twelve years later, Pangerl came up with another piece to the puzzle.

"Carl Meier told me he thought it belonged to old Joe Davis, a Civil War veteran who was one of the first residents living on the Brunswick Road," Pangerl said.

When Meier was contacted for verification of the story he said, "I was a good friend of Harry Davis, Joe's son."

According to Pangerl and Meier, when a veteran of the Civil War was mustered out at that time he was given 40 acres of land and a team of horses by the federal government.

Harry Davis served as Royalton town clerk and kept the safe containing the town records in his home.

"I used to go to the Davis home to get paid a bounty for wolves I shot," Meier said. "I remembered Harry telling me about the flag

his dad brought back from the Civil War."

Davis' relatives were contacted, but none of them could add to Meier's story.

Albrecht Erhart, Royalton township farmer, initiated the original discovery of the flag. He remembered seeing a flag with 13 stars hanging over the hall when he was a boy. Accused by his friends of having pipe dreams, Erhart was determined to prove the flag was not a figment of his imagination.

Although people ordinarily think of the stars being arranged in a circle formation on a 13-star flag, research reveals this was not always the case at the end of the 18th Century.

It was not until almost a year after the Declaration of Independence was signed that the Continental Congress adopted an official design for the national flag that is still used today.

A close examination of the flag reveals neat and solid stitching all done by hand. This indicates the flag was carefully constructed by someone who took pride in their work.

Whatever the flag's origin, the frayed trailing edges and faded condition confirm the fact that it served its country well, proudly waving the colors in all kinds of weather.

Joe and Harry Davis are probably the only ones who could tell the exact story, and they took it with them to their graves.

Homemakers aid war cause

Today we might question whether all the knitting that was done for the Red Cross by women across the nation during World Wars I and II was really necessary.

One thing it definitely accomplished was to ease the waiting period for the women who were left behind. They felt they were doing the best they could to provide whatever comfort was possible for their men by knitting warm clothing for them to wear.

A Pine City woman, Minnie Woodhead, was named champion knitter in the December 1918 issue of the Northwestern Red Cross Bulletin.

The article said, "Beginning work on July 15, 1917 and working from five to seven and sometimes 10 hours a day, Mrs. Woodhead's swiftly flying fingers had completed, before Dec. 1, 1918, 102 helmets, 40 trench caps, 21 sweaters, seven wristers, two scarves, 12 hospital sponges,

45 pair of socks, 72 pair of socks topped with four inch machine knit, 145 afghan squares, six operating gowns, 10 sheets and pillow slips, besides which she wound 40 pounds of yarn for the knitting machine and sewed five afghans together and put a fancy edge on four with a flag center. In all, she has knit 75 pounds of yarn, every bit of which she wound herself.

Minnie Woodhead is a partial invalid. Yet she has found time to do this service for her country besides doing her usual housework.

Her only son was in the service in France, and his mother was anxious to leave nothing undone that she could to back him up.

She has received a complimentary badge from the national Red Cross in recognition of her services. Pine City and Pine County are proud to have the champion Red Cross worker in the entire region.

Through the years.....

Stahlke's has grown to meet the area's clothing and home furnishing needs.

STAHLKE'S CORNER STORE

Offering Quality and Value in Gifts, Home Furnishings, Crafts, Fabrics and Sewing Accessories.



John Stahlke, Dee Marth, Frances Oliverius

Stahlke's still offers friendly, old-fashioned service from a knowledgeable sales staff.

STAHLKE'S

DOWNTOWN PINE CITY



Sally Olson-Manager

STAHLKE'S DEPT. STORE

Providing the best in Men's Clothing, Women's Fashions, Children's Clothing, Shoes, Accessories.

Business and Industry

Logging industry attracts immigrants

America, the melting pot of the world, was drawing immigrants like a magnet draws steel. Rumors spread abroad that the streets of the new land were paved with gold, and prosperity was waiting for those who were ambitious enough to seek it.

Landing on the east and west coasts, the immigrants struck out to stake claims further inland. Settlements sprung up and soon became cities on the map.

Word spread that there was work available in Minnesota. Logging was a major industry, and lumberjacks were needed to clear the forests. The railroads needed laborers to help lay tracks to the new frontier.

Merchants opened stores to sell supplies to the settlers. Hotels and rooming houses were in demand, and new businesses flourished and folded as the need for specialized services came and went.

Logging and the lumber business were the first major industries of importance to the economy of Pine City.

History books tend to dwell on the large, commercial lumber camps, but very little is recorded about the lone logger who cleared much of the woods himself.

He didn't choose his job because of the reputation of the camp cook. He didn't sleep in a bunkhouse acrid with steam created by smelly, wet clothing hung to dry over the woodstove at night. He didn't have a large crew to help him skid his logs to the river where they would float downstream to the mills during spring thaws.

The very first loggers in the Pine City area purchased their supplies in Illinois or Missouri. The supplies came by steamboat to Stillwater, Minn., or the logger hauled them cross country over winding, primitive trails. Their

horses forded streams and rivers, often sinking in soft-bottomed muck, barely able to pull their own weight let alone their heavy loads.

When the logger reached Stillwater he had to load his supplies into canoes or flatboats and pole his way to Taylors Falls, Minn. where he portaged over the rocks to the head of the rapids, a distance of six miles.

His main concern was to reach his destination before the rivers froze over.

Upon arrival at the site where he would make camp for the winter, he had to cut and store hay for the animals, build a shelter for them and for himself and brush out a road to the river so he could drag the logs he would cut during the winter to the riverbank. There they would be stockpiled until spring.

The early logger led a lonely life. After working hard in the woods all day, he would huddle up before the fire in his humble shack, trying to dry out the clothing he would wear over and over throughout the cold, long winter.

He cooked his meals over a campfire in a blackened iron kettle and slept on the ground wrapped in buffalo robes for warmth. Months would pass before he saw another human being.

He had no guarantee that spring thaws would raise the water level high enough to float the logs he had cut to the mills. He didn't have a large crew to keep the logs moving so he was dependent upon the swiftness of the current in the river.

When the logs were finally marketed they didn't net the logger a fortune, as one might believe he deserved for his work.

Shoe store 100 years old

Herman Borchert Sr. immigrated from Germany to America in 1871 and settled in Lake City, Minn. where he worked at his trade of shoemaking.

Real estate ads in the late 1800s advertised Pine City as the "Home of Industry, Sobriety and Refinement."

They called it a city of wealth, push, solid banks, valuable newspaper, fine hotels, good churches, school buildings and pretty homes.

The population was growing, and the industrious German saw it as a good place to go into business. He moved to Pine City in 1881.

He began his business on a modest scale and rapidly built up a fine trade. In September, 1897, he moved into his new quarters on Main Street.

Borchert was well known as an enterprising and shrewd busi-

ness man, one of the most successful in this part of the country. He was always willing to promote Pine City and supported any project aimed toward progress.

After his death his son, Herman Jr., took over the business. In 1968 he sold to Carl Olson.

Olson operated the store in the same location and maintained the shoe repair business in the back room as Borchers had done. His brother, Andrew, joined him in the partnership. When Carl retired, Andrew's son, Bob, took over.

Eventually, Andrew retired and Bob and his wife, Lee, continue to give the fine service that has been a trademark of the shoe business in Pine City for over 100 years.



THE BUEMEIER BREWERY stood where Lakeside Nursing Home is now located. Here Joe and Ben Webber halt their beer wagon in front of the old brewery. Photo contributed by Mrs. R.D. Thompson of St. Paul.

Copper mines fizzle out

The copper mining boom around Pine City was brief, but while it lasted it was the subject of a great deal of speculation and hope.

The Indians living along the Snake River near Pine City noticed green deposits, caused by oxidation of the minerals, on rocks along the river. Sometimes the copper-colored metal appeared in veins in the rocks they used as tools. As early as 1838 they made their discovery known, but there was little response.

J. Bennett Smith worked as general agent for the Lake Superior and Minneapolis Railroad during the late 1870s. He claimed to have discovered traces of copper on the north bank of the Snake River.

With the aid of two associates, John P. Isley from Philadelphia, and John F. Porter, St. Paul, Smith formed the Chengwatana Mining Company on Nov. 11, 1880. Capital stock of the company was \$100,000.

The three men sunk experimental shafts during the next three years. Traces of copper were found but no large vein. The men always found just enough copper to keep them sinking experimental shafts.

The reports were good enough that by the end of 1899 Smith was considering starting a permanent mine. His partners, discouraged by this time, decided to abandon the project.

In June, 1899, K.D. Chase, Faribault landowner and financial speculator, joined Smith's company. In return for the money he poured into the mining enterprise, Chase received ownership of all minerals located on the property which was then being mined.

In the fall of 1899 a full-scale mining camp began to take shape on the property of the Chengwatana Mining Company. A road was built between the town of Chengwatana and the mine. A large boarding house for the miners, as well as other buildings, was erected on the site.

The Oct. 13, 1899 issue of the Pine County Pioneer stated mining machinery, consisting of a diamond drill, a steam engine to drive the drill, a boiler for the engine and an ore crusher would be installed "in a few days." The same report expresses the belief that "before long, copper ore will be shipped from here by the car load."

Stock was sold, and by May 1901 the corporation name was changed to the J. Bennett Smith Mining Company. The working capital was \$250,000.

During June, 1901 the miners began tunneling into what appeared to be two veins of copper ore. The June 14, 1901 issue of the Pioneer states that, "the J. Bennett Smith Mining Company is in pay dirt and there is a whole hill full of it." Ore veins were estimated to be from 15 to 30 feet wide.

Near the end of May, 1902, the first report on ore removed from the fourth vein was received by the company. The high concentration of copper found in this ore prompted the Pioneer to state, "the value of the J. Bennett Smith mine is now and henceforth surely fixed."

Copper mining boomed with other discoveries near Hinckley. New shafts were sunk and veins discovered that were to be at least 50 percent copper. A copper nugget weighing 100 pounds was on display in Pine City as an

indication of the success of the local mine.

The J. Bennett Smith Mining Company continued operations until at least the end of May, 1910. After that, attention was directed toward mines in Hinckley.

Long after the last copper mine shut down in Pine County the U.S. Steel Corporation conducted a mineral survey of the area involved in the early mining attempts. Perhaps they were searching for the copper which the earlier companies had failed to find.

The results of the survey showed that the copper mined by the early companies had been only float copper. Small pockets of ore separated from the main lode.

They also found that the famous Michigan copper lode did extend along the Kettle and Snake rivers but at a depth of 10,000 feet.

Apparently, the early copper prospectors had been in the right church but the wrong pew.

Pine city Mill originated 1897

The Pine City Flour Mill was built in 1897 by R.P. Allen and James Dewar under the firm name of Allen and Dewar. Later Dewar sold his interest to Allen and the plant operated under the Allen name.

Originally, the Pine City Mill was just a flour mill with a capacity of 100 barrels per day. Its output, besides supplying local needs, was shipped to eastern points such as New York, Philadelphia and Boston.

Foreign shipments of flour milled in Pine City were sent to England and Cape Town, South Africa.

The mill furnished the first cash market for grain in Pine City, and the operation of the mill and establishment of this market for farm products greatly contributed toward more from lumbering to agriculture as the prime industry.

At one time this company operated supply depots at Hinckley, Finlayson and Willow River.

According to 90-year-old Hen-

ry Broz, the original mill burned down in the early 1900s.

"Farmers used to haul cord wood to the mill to be sold for firewood. It was usually dead trees cut from the woods and very dry. Flour and wood combined make a fire that can't be stopped," he said.

The mill was rebuilt and sold to Dr. E.G. Booth in 1945. He sold it shortly afterward to Henry Broz who operated it until he sold it to his son, Ernie Broz, the present owner.

According to Ernie, the Pine City Mill was the first to start fanning grain and the first to put in a mechanical elevator.

An advertisement in a 1906 edition of the Pine County Pioneer says, "Flour, Feed, Bran, Shorts, Seeds and Poultry Supplies of all kinds. Big Stock — Price Right at Allen's Flour, Feed and Seed Store."

Another advertisement said, "Pine City Flour — Costs No More Than Others But It's Worth More. Sold By Leading Dealers Everywhere."

Lahodney dress, millinery shop was local landmark

Mrs. Joseph Lahodney was the name of the young widow who established a millinery shop in Pine City on March 2, 1898.

She had read in an eastern newspaper about the town in northern Minnesota that was just getting established. The advertisement gave glowing accounts of business opportunities available.

She was born in Czechoslovakia on April 14, 1872 and immigrated to Salem, Oh. in 1889 where she married Joseph Lahodney.

When he died suddenly in 1898 she was left with three young children, a son five years of age, and two daughters, one just an infant.

She left the two little girls with relatives and took off for Pine City with her five-year-old son. Later, when her business was established, she sent for the girls.

She lived to be an old woman and went to her shop every day. It was located where the new office building behind Nicoll's Cafe now stands. When she died on Oct. 17, 1947 all the business places closed from 9 to 10 for her funeral and in respect to her.

Her daughter, Aurelia, better known as Ella, was a popular and well known Pine City figure. When she retired from teaching she took over her mother's shop and continued to run it as it had been at the turn of the century.

The Lahodney shop prided itself in carrying quality merchandise. All the hats were designed and made by the owner.

Ella enjoyed visiting with the customers who came into her shop nearly as much as she enjoyed making a sale. A stop there was a must, especially for out-of-towners, for where else could one see elaborate hats of Gay Nineties vintage displayed on racks right along with current fashions.

Ella was extremely proud of her heritage and had clippings of her nephew, Dr. Buselmeier, and his accomplishments at the University of Minnesota prominently displayed on the walls of the shop.

She was proud of her mother, the little woman who was plucky enough to venture away from family and friends to go into business in a new territory all alone.

"It's a pity that hats went out of fashion," Ella would say, "but they'll come back, just wait and see. Nothing is quite as feminine on a woman as a pretty hat."

She was right. Hats are making a comeback. They are a woman's way of saying something about her style and personality without opening her mouth.

It was a sad day for Ella when she sold the property and closed her shop in the mid 70s. Collectors picked up dresses and hats from the 20s, 30s and 40s, many of which will be used in the Heritage Pageant this year.

Shortly after closing the shop, Ella's health failed. Today she is living in a nursing home in north Minneapolis.



THIS AERIAL VIEW OF Pine City was taken by Don Spickler in the early 1930s from the top of the water tower. Picture contributed by Mrs. R.D. Thompson of St. Paul.

Wm. Sauser, Sr. was pioneer in hardware trade

Michael Sauser is the third generation in that family to go to work each day in the same location that his father, his aunts and his grandfather did.

Sauser's Hardware has become a family tradition, and Michael, grandson of the late William A. Sauser Sr., founder of the organization, has preserved pictures and documents that provide a history of the 73-year-old family business.

Sauser's have seen it all, good times and bad, two World Wars, plus Korea and Vietnam. They survived the Great Depression, minor recessions and have witnessed changes in the needs and buying habits of their customers.

Raised as a farm boy, W.A. Sauser Sr. worked taking inventory for the railroad following his graduation from business college. He left the railroad and worked for a plumbing company for two years and in 1909 decided to buy a hardware store in Pine City from

J. LaPage.

The total purchase price was \$2,500. Young Sauser borrowed \$1,000 from his father to make the down payment. His original intention was to go into business for a few years in order to gain experience and then work as a traveling salesman, the dream of many young men in those days.

Frank Smith, Sauser's established competitor in the business, could hardly contain his laughter as he viewed the young upstart who lacked any retailing experience.

"I will give you six months to go bankrupt and then you can come to work for me in my tin shop," he joked.

Little did Smith realize that Sauser would prove to be a shrewd, hardworking businessman who would keep abreast of changes in the times, survive and succeed in establishing a business that would be family owned and operated two generations later.

According to records, the

original Sauser's Hardware was described as a "hole in the wall." Built in 1895 after fire destroyed the entire block, the store was very small by today's standards. Dim lighting was provided by the front windows, a skylight and a few hanging bulbs.

A cast iron stove provided heat in the old store and spittons were strategically located. Advertising banners hung from the ceiling.

Eventually, Sauser purchased the saloon next door and by removing a wall, the floor area of the store was doubled. In 1948 another major addition was added to the west side of the building.

In order to establish his store as "the place to shop," Sauser had to make many changes.

He began by increasing his inventory, adding heavy hardware, builders' supplies, farm supplies and machinery. One strategy he used was selling manure spreaders by volume.

Taking orders for the spreaders

Continued next page

Remember when groceries were cheap

Grace Challeen remembers when groceries were cheap — so cheap that in looking at old advertisements it must be concluded the profit had to be made in volume sales because the mark-up on individual items was so small.

Her husband, the late William Challeen, came to Pine City in 1909. His father owned the old Fair Store located where the Mora Medical Clinic stands.

"After he graduated from St. John's University and served in the Navy in World War I, Bill and his brother took over the store," Grace said. "Later on we bought the whole operation and were in the store from 1935 to 1960 when Bill retired."

Retirement was boring for Challeen so he got into local politics in 1962 and held a seat on the city council for 13 years. He served five terms as mayor of Pine City.

Challeen witnessed exciting

changes in Pine City during his terms of office. Among those changes were installation of a water treatment plant, new street lighting from incandescent to mercury vapor lamps, a new sewer treatment plant, building of low cost rental housing, a policing contract with the county, building of the new armory, adoption of a uniform building code, plans for the new water tower completed after his retirement and concentrated efforts to woo industry to the area.

He was also active in the American Legion, serving on the national committee of the Forty and Eight and as state commander of the organization.

Creamery begins operations

An 1898 notice in the Pine County Pioneer informed farmers that Simpson and Shrewburg would commence operating the creamery and would pay cash for milk every month.

"We would like to have all farmers who are tributary to this place bring in their milk," it said.

The owners guaranteed fair treatment to all and highest market prices for butter.

"There is at least 20 percent more butter taken from the milk at a creamery than can be affected by the old method of churning at home and a farmer will secure this benefit.

"No matter how small an amount of milk your cow gives, go with a neighbor and bring it in. You will help the creamery keeping going as well as reap a harvest for yourself."

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64.3 gallons hot water per day heated thru 90°
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GREAT
AUTUMN
SALE**

**SAVE
15%**

*On All Gas Appliances
during
Great Autumn Sale*

- *Hardwick Ranges
- *Jetglass Water Heater
- *Frigidaire Washer
- *Frigidaire Dryer
- *Frigidaire Ranges
- *Frigidaire Refrigerators
- *Empire Space Heater
- *Warm Morning space Heater
- *Maytag Disposals
- *Maytag Dishwashers
- *Maytag Microwaves
- *Maytag Ranges

N Peoples
Natural Gas
Company

Pine City 629-2533
Mora 679-1381

N. Branch, Hincley,
Sandstone Zenith 2533

Sauser

from farmers, he sold them for a fraction over his cost. One early photo shows the street lined with farmers displaying their new manure spreaders on delivery day.

These promotions made his store more attractive to rural customers, but Sauser was also sharp enough to realize that women apportioned much of the family finances. He needed something to attract women to his store so he stocked a line of jewelry and software. He also sold eyeglasses.

W.A. Sauser realized the value of advertising if his business was to become successful, and he placed full page weekly ads in the local newspaper. One ad boasted of having the largest, most complete line of jewelry in Pine County.

To complement the jewelry department he hired a watchmaker and stocked a full line of watches. He also added a tin shop and took business away from his competitor, Smith, by keeping his prices just a wee bit lower.

Michael recalls a story told to him by his grandfather.

"All of the stock came by railroad freight in the old days and was packed in barrels, kegs and wooden boxes. The merchandise was delivered to the store by horse and wagon, and the job of unpacking was tedious," he said.

"Many times traveling appliance salesmen were aboard the train. They stored a mule team, wagon and their new stoves in a freight car and would unload in some of the bigger towns and travel through the countryside trying to sell a new stove to farm wives.

"When old Bill saw them coming he would load a stove on his new truck (Sauser was one of the first in town to own a vehicle) and beat them out to the country. He would visit awhile with the farm wives, give the adults and kids a ride in his new-fangled machine and when he had them in the right frame of mind, make an informal sales pitch on his stoves.

"Generally they were impressed with the personal attention and as a result, the mule team salesmen lost a lot of prospective customers."

Other promotional stunts put on by Sauser were bean and biscuit feeds that lasted for an entire week. Pancake days were also popular. Sauser's theory was that anyone could serve coffee and cookies, but he put on a meal for his customers.

William Sauser Jr. and his sisters, Frannie and Willie, all joined their father in the hardware business shortly after they graduated from college.

Bill Sauser's older son, Paul, carried on the tradition and is now an executive hardware buyer for the Target chain. Like his brother, Michael started working in the family business as a young boy. For the moment, he has stepped in full time, to help run the store during his father's illness. He recently received an award as Young Businessman of the Year.

When asked about his personal philosophy in business, Michael gave this reply: "Recently, I had the opportunity to visit a number of hardware stores in Sauk Centre. One of the citizens there asked me if our policy was to order items that we didn't have. No, I said, our policy is to have it."

Blunk says clamming a pastime

Clamming for pearls was more than a pastime in the early 1900s, according to Frank Blunk. He and his brother, Henry, did a lot of it. For many, it was profitable.

There was a small button factory in Pine City. It was owned by J.J. Madden on the site where the Bill Korbel residence now stands. Melvin J. Cherrier had a small business in his home on Cross Lake.

"Besides clamming in Lake Pokegama, my brother worked in the factory," Blunk said. "At that time all buttons were made from pearl or bone, and the local factories cut what were called blanks from the shells."

The tool for cutting the buttons was about as long as a pencil. The cutter had to fashion a set of saw teeth into the steel. An average half shell produced eight to 10 blanks. These were sent to Japan to be polished and finished, according to Blunk.

"A button cutter was paid by the gross," he said. "Even a good worker could probably earn only around \$1 a day. The shells were soaked to soften them so they could be cut easier."

The profit obviously wasn't in working in the factory, but the pearls that were occasionally found in the shells were valuable. The fun of clamming was not in hauling full gunnysacks to the factory, but in looking for the

pearls.

"It was people from Iowa who started the craze," Blunk said. "They came in droves in the fall and lived in tents along the shores of Lake Pokegama."

Blunk recalls a family that camped near his home. "We were roofing the barn at the time, and the husband asked if he could help," Blunk said.

"We became good friends. Sometimes he and his family would eat with us, and other times we were invited to join them in their camp. I can still remember the good pie his wife could make over a campfire."

"Shells were harvested from Pokegama by the railroad carload," Blunk said. In the beginning they were only paid \$10 a ton, but later the price went up to \$25 a ton."

The clams were raked from the bottom of the lake with handcrafted devices. Blunk still has one old four-tined rake with a homemade wire basket fashioned around the head.

As the clammer pulled the rake through the water he would turn it over. The shells he had picked up would fall into the basket.

"You got so you could tell by the feel whether you had clams or stones," he said. "My brother made another tool for clamming."

His unusual tool was a rod about 16 feet long with treble

hooks dangling from it every four inches. The hooks were made of twisted telephone wire.

As the rod was dragged along the bottom of the lake the hooks caught in the slightest opening of the clam shell, and he was able to pull in many at one sweep.

Others went out in boats. One man would stand in the boat and rake. Another would dump the shells into a boat that was trailing behind.

When the clams were gathered they were heated over a fire in rectangular tubs. This made it easier to pry them open, but caution was necessary as the pearl lining could be destroyed by excessive heat.

"We dug the meat out by the pails full," Blunk said. "We never ate it but did feed it to the chickens and hogs."

"Henry was quite lucky at finding pearls," Blunk said. "He had one that sold for \$800."

The odd shaped pearls had little value and were referred to as slugs. Many tiny seed pearls were found. Sometimes they were pink colored which made them especially attractive.

"The ladies like them for necklaces, trim on gowns and purses, and the men often had them set into stickpins," Blunk said.

"My brother peeled and polished his own pearls. When he died in 1952 the secret of that

polish went with him.

"The clam shells, or mollusks that were found in Pokegama were considered some of the best in the United States for buttons," he said. "Some were called razor back, some maple leaf, and there were other names too."

According to Blunk, the pearls found in the Pokegama shells were not of the quality of those found in the Mississippi River.

"The ones found here were called peelers because they had to be peeled like an egg, layer after layer, to get to the pretty part.

According to local tales, a house was built from the proceeds of the sale of a \$3,000 pearl found in the lake.

Blunk said about three-fourths of the shells were cleaned out of the lake in a two-year period. An effort was made to restock them* but was unsuccessful. After the supply of clams was depleted, the state required a license to gather them. By that time it was too late.

It is almost unbelievable today that at one time the clams in Lake Pokegama were so plentiful they could be gathered by the pails full as they crawled along the shore.

"Most of the clams found in later years were dead," Blunk said.

The button factories closed and few people in the area remember how it was when pearl pickin' in Pokegama was at its peak. Frank Blunk is one of the few who does.

Buselmeier Brewery once part of local scene

The site of Lakeside Nursing Home was once the Buselmeier Brewery.

The brewery was operated with steam power fueled by wood. It produced about 4,000 barrels of beer per year and was equipped with everything necessary for the manufacture of fine grade beer.

The beer was delivered by horse and wagon to all the saloon keepers in town, and a ready market was available in neighboring towns.

To have Buselmeier beer on tap was to have the best, according to ads in the old newspapers.

Buselmeier was reported to pay the highest market price for barley and bought nearly all that

was raised in this part of the country.

Buselmeier beer was as good as any manufactured in Minneapolis or Milwaukee, according to those who drank it.

The Buselmeier property covered an entire block. The family home was one of the finest in Pine City. An underground line or pipe from the brewery into the house provided a supply of the popular beverage at all times, and the prominent businessman had easy access to it when entertaining friends.

The business was sold to the John Brass Brewing Company in 1911, and Ted Buselmeier purchased the Family Theatre in July, 1915.

Many attempts to install electricity fail

Several attempts were made to bring electricity to Pine City before the Eastern Minnesota Power Company was formed in 1911.

Modern improvements first began in the village when electric lights replaced the old kerosene street lamps which the village marshal tended.

Frank McCormick, an Irishman from Duluth, had installed a steam engine and small dynamo in a building on the west side of the street across from the Swanson mortuary.

There were three arc lights in the streets and the stores and a few homes were serviced. McCormick had hoped to sell the plant to the village. That proved unprofitable and it was partially dismantled.

Later, R.P. Allen purchased what remained, moved it and ran it in connection with his mill. It was later enlarged and placed where the power plant is located today.

After purchasing the Chengwatana Dam from the Munch brothers, the Eastern Minnesota Power Company was formed. At the time of its sale to the

Wisconsin Hydro Company in 1928 it was servicing more than 30 communities. This was perhaps the largest single financial transaction for the country.

The first telephones were installed in the village in 1900 by the Minnesota Mutual Company which had headquarters in North Branch. The first operator was Maggie Payne.

In 1918 the Northwestern Bell Company took over and in 1938 converted it to a more modern service. The main office and exchange, serving Sandstone, Hinkley and Pine City, was located in Pine City, employing about 18 people.

You don't have to be very old to remember picking up the phone and hearing a voice at the other end say, "Number please."

Rarely did a small town person actually know the number of the person they were calling nor did they need it. Central, as the operator was called, knew everybody and was often accused of listening in on all conversations.

Pearl Clamming popular business

"Best haul I ever seen was at Lake Pokegama at Pine City where they got \$7,000 worth of pearls out of seven carloads of shells," is a quote used in a 1910 issue of the Minneapolis Tribune.

Stories of clamming in Lake Pokegama are still popular as those who were part of it recall how it was done.

Camps of pearlers set up along the lake north of the Ausmus farm. One article from an old newspaper said there were 26 men and 16 boats at one camp. Five of them were equipped with engines.

The prize pearl was captured by the Cutler Brothers. They netted \$2,300 from one stone. Another find was estimated to have netted \$1,000 and others from \$250 on down.

Over \$5,000 was taken out in pearls alone by the party. It took 80,000 tons of clam shells to find that many pearls, but the shells also had a purpose. They were sold to H.E. Shute, representative of Harvey Chalmers and son of Amsterdam, N.Y. for \$20 a ton. Pokegama Lake shells were

considered to be of the very finest variety and were shipped to Germany where they were converted into ornaments.

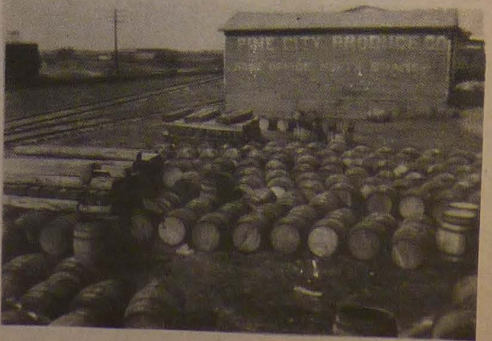
The Chalmers people had 11 stripping factories throughout the United States. Their finishing plant is located in Amsterdam.

Pine City supposedly had one of these factories located on the site where Bill Korbel lives. The clam shells were cut into rough buttons and then shipped to the Amsterdam plant for polishing and to have the holes put in.

There were no plastic buttons at that time and pearl buttons were very much in demand. After the buttons were cut, the waste material was ground up to be utilized in the manufacture of poultry food.

By the end of 1911 pearl clamming had all but ended in Lake Pokegama, and the commercial camps moved on to Lake Pepin.

Local people continued to rake in the shells, always in the hope of finding a rare and valuable pearl. Many did find nice specimens and had jewelry made from them.



KEGS OF PICKLES stood ready at the Pine City Pickle Factory. Picture contributed by Dave Keacher.



FRED (FRITZ) HOLSTEIN, JR. at age 10, standing by the gasoline pump at the Holstein shop in Finlayson in 1925. Picture contributed by the Fred Holsteins, Jr.

Master electrician taught trade to sons

Pine City Electric was founded on skills brought to this country by a German immigrant.

Friedrich Holstein came to America from Bramache, Germany in 1923. He landed on Ellis Island with other immigrants and got his first foothold in the new country working in the northwoods with his wife's uncles who had arrived earlier.

Friedrich had been a master electrician in Germany and was anxious to begin working at the trade in America. He began by going into the garage business in Finlayson, and within a year he was able to send for his wife, Mathilde Luse, and his sons, Friedrich (Frit) Jr., aged nine and Wilhelm, four. They arrived in America from Germany in December, 1924.

Eventually Friedrich Sr. got into the electrical business. He was one of the first in Minnesota to acquire a master's electrician license and also one of the first electricians in Minnesota to become an electrical inspector.

Working for himself, he did wiring and machine work for independent companies including Land O' Lakes. Electric motor rewinding, magneto and electrical repair were his specialties.

Holstein's sons helped him in the business from the time they were youngsters. Friedrich Jr., or Fritz as he is known, began working at the age of nine years, hurrying home from school every day to help his father.

After graduating from high school he studied A.C. and D.C. electricity at Dunwoody Institute.

Young Wilhelm (Bill), as soon as he was old enough, also worked side by side with his dad and brother. The trio built a reputation for being some of the best in their field.

After attending the University of Minnesota, Bill enlisted in the

Army in 1942 where he worked with the maintenance engineers stationed in the Persian Gulf command.

When he was discharged from the service he and his brother Fritz decided to become partners in Pine City Electric.

At first they rented a building from William Challeen just south of the Gehl Oil Company. In 1946 they decided to build their present shop.

Frit's father-in-law, Jesse Lindburg, was a brick mason. He came from Viola, Ia. with his son, Andrew, a nephew, Joe, and another man expecting to build the shop in about 10 days.

The job lasted nearly a month. Excessive rain and a mistake in the survey caused delays that had not been anticipated. After the footings were in the ground Fritz and Bill discovered the surveyor had made a mistake and they were building on 30 feet of somebody else's property.

They decided if they couldn't purchase the property they would forget the whole thing and move out of town. Fortunately, the owner of the 30 feet was Walt Schwartzwald and he sold to them.

In 1952 their father moved to Pine City to join them. Although he was almost ready to retire he stayed with the company for 20 more years.

Kaiser-Frazer automobiles were one of the most deluxe, luxurious models ever manufactured for the price, and the Holstein brothers took on this dealership from 1947 until 1952.

Another sideline included building hand trucks, cream can carts, ice cutters for fishing and 110-volt generators mounted on vehicles to operate 110-volt electric tools.

Since 1966 they have built electric motors for road equipment and fire trucks.



GEHL OIL COMPANY used to look like this. Cecelia Miska contributed the photo.

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Olson Shoe Store

PINE CITY, MN

Carrying on a Tradition of Quality and Service



Original Shoe Store 1888

While community businesses often enjoy long histories, owners and locations usually change over the years.

Olson Shoe Store of Pine City is an exception in one area—since at least 1867, a shoe store has always been situated at the present location on 5th St.

Bob and Lee Olson have owned the business for the past three years, purchasing it from his father, Andy Olson. Bob's parents continue to work part-time in the store.

Andy Olson owned the store for four years, after previously having a partnership with his brother, Dick. The Olson family has owned the store for 18 years, while the business was in the Borchers family since the 1860's.

Fire destroyed the original store building in the early 1900's, but the Borchers rebuilt on the same site, so the shoe business has continued in the same location for over a century.



Andy & Delores Olson, Bob & Lee Olson, Bernice & Dick Olson

SHOES FROM OLSON SHOE STORE. STEP OUT IN COMFORT WITH SHOES FROM OLSON SHOE STORE. STEP OUT IN COMFORT WITH SHOES FROM OLSON SHOE STORE. STEP OUT IN COMFORT WITH SHOES FROM OLSON SHOE STORE.

Pine City goes better with Coca Cola

Nelsons' soft drink bottling company located in Pine City in 1926. The business provided local employment and Pine City benefited by having a family of real hometown boosters living here.

How appropriate it is that Art Nelson was chosen Pine City's 1982 Citizen of the Year and his son Bill is heading up the big Heritage Celebration scheduled for the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 3, 4 and 5. Their family has been an important part of Pine City history for over half a century.

Coca Cola is probably the most popular and well known soft drink in the world. It can be found anywhere except Russia, and Americans traveling abroad drink it instead of water.

Albert Nelson had a soft drink bottling company in Wittenberg, Wis. As his sons grew up Albert wanted to expand his business so they could join him in bottling.

"It takes a considerable amount of experience to run a bottling company and dad was able to train us," Art said.

It was 1926 when Albert, accompanied by his sons Vern and Art, came to Pine City to take a look at a bottling company that was for sale. They decided to buy and moved here that same year.

Sharp businessmen, the Nelsons anticipated the boom in the popularity of Coca Cola when they bought their first franchise in 1935.

"We cover six and a half neighboring counties with our Pine City franchise," Art said. Other brothers picked up Coca Cola franchises in other states.

During the past 55 years the Nelsons and two of their long-time employees have seen many changes take place in the soft drink bottling industry.

"In 1926 our delivery system included one truck, and we operated within a radius of 10 miles," Art said. "Now we run

20 trucks and cover a large territory."

During the 1930s the plant was a much simpler operation than it is today. The family all pitched in to help run things and deliver. Vern's wife, Joyce, recalls a Fourth of July celebration when she was dating Vern.

"I came down to Pine City for the celebration," she said. "It was a cold, drizzly morning and a large crowd wasn't anticipated. By noon the sun came out and it turned terribly hot and humid. The town was filled with people."

"We started to run out of pop so Vern's mother and I had to hurry down to the plant, wash bottles with a revolving brush washer, bottle the pop with a foot-powered bottling machine and label each container by hand. We managed to keep pace with the demand," she laughed.

It was a far cry from the sophisticated bottling equipment in the plant today. There is special equipment for the 10- and 16-ounce bottles, and the big machine, in full operation, can put out 360 cases per hour.

Today, Art is office manager, his son, Bill, has followed in his father's footsteps and is plant manager which makes it a third generation business. Jerry Hoefler, an employee who has been with the company for over 30 years, became sales manager when Vern Nelson retired in 1973.

Many people don't realize that besides Coca Cola the Pine City plant bottles 7-Up, Dr. Pepper, a variety of diet drinks and all of the common pop flavors under the name of Sunrise soft drinks. Ol Smoothie root beer was developed right here in the Pine City plant by the Nelson family.

"We wanted to make a really good candy stick flavored root beer like the kind found at root beer stands," Vern said.

The Nelsons vividly recall what it was like trying to deliver and sell their product when the

roads were snowbound and spring mud made it almost impossible to get around.

"One time I got stuck in a bad storm on my way home from Grantsburg," Vern said. "I couldn't see; the snow was wet and heavy. I fell down and was so tired I just wanted to stay there but I knew I must get up and find shelter or I would freeze to death."

Vern made it to a farmhouse where he called Art for help.

"Art got out there with the little old rubber-tired, wooden-spoked truck that came with the original plant and he got me out. I wish we had kept that old truck," Vern said.

It was not uncommon in the old days for the Nelson brothers to make their deliveries with a sled.

Nelson finds success in switch from groceries to meatcutting

Connie Nelson was in the grocery business and in his mid 50s when he decided to go to meatcutters school and switch occupations.

In 1958 he converted the barn on his property on the Henriette Road to a modern plant and began custom cutting, butchering and freezing meat for retail sale.

By 1965 the business was established and Connie wanted to retire. His son, Gordon, decided to give up his job with the county highway department and buy the business from his dad.

Since taking over, Gordy and his wife, Adeline, have expanded and modernized the plant on four different occasions.

Their most recent addition, completed just this summer, is a sausage smokehouse featuring thuringer, old fashioned, skin-on wieners, polish sausages, bratwurst, country-style sausage and pork links.

"We use old-fashioned recipes, and the response to our sausage line has been excellent," Nelson said.

He has been a director of MAMP (Minnesota Meat Processors Association) for 11 years

The old frame plant was remodeled and expanded to the present brick structure, and what began as a family operation now employs over 40 persons.

The Nelsons debated making the move to Pine City at first.

"We've been really happy that we made the move. It has been a good life here," Art said.

and was president in 1979. He has served on the school board, in the Chamber of Commerce, is president elect of the Lions Club and is a member of the Pokegama Lake Sportsmen's Club.

Working side by side, Gordon and his wife have built a reputation for fine service and good products.

Their youngest son, Jim, joined them in the business in 1979. It looks like the silo bearing the lettering NELSON'S PROCESSING will continue to be a part of the Pine City area landscape for a long, long time.

Wiedemann starts refrigeration business at retirement age

The late Otto Wiedemann and his wife, Augusta (Engler), farmed east of Pine City all of their lives. They were about ready to retire when Otto launched a new career that is now a third generation family business.

"I came home from the service and became associated with Gary Hawkins who was selling Surge milking machines," Kenneth Wiedemann, Otto's son said.

"I was in the refrigeration end of it. We had our business in the front part of the building now occupied by the Flower Box. Another fellow had a little machine shop in the back room."

The business came up for sale and Otto, who was 60 years old at the time, decided to quit farming and try refrigeration. He bought the business and he and his son became partners.

Kenneth recalls that his dad was always mechanically inclined. They had electric power on the farm long before the Rural Electric Association brought powerlines to rural areas.

"Dad traded an animal for a 32-volt light plant. A gasoline engine automatically recharged two big glass batteries stored in the barn when they began to run down," Kenneth said.

"The system really worked well, but nowadays it would cost far more to operate it, plus the initial investment. Dad bought it

used and made a good deal. If electricity rates keep going up, a system like that might pay off," he added.

The biggest changes in refrigeration during the past 34 years have been in compressors, according to Wiedemann.

"In the old days they were all belt driven. Now they are all sealed units, but the principle is basically the same."

Automatic defrosting units are also popular, but they cost a lot more to operate," Kenneth said.

James Wiedemann, after returning from the military service, has now joined his father in Wiedemann Refrigeration. He is the third generation.

It will be an easier occupation than his great grandfather had.

When he homesteaded his Pine City farm he had to grub it out by hand. Until it was ready to produce a crop he also had to provide a living for his wife and children so he worked in St. Paul as a harnessmaker until a cash crop came in.

"We used to look at the remains of the original log cabin and grandmother would tell how she had to walk to town pulling a wagon to carry home supplies," Kenneth said. "Their lives weren't easy, but they made it, and now we can enjoy the fruits of their labor."

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Farmers join efforts in cooperative

It was in the spring of 1937 when a group of local farmers met at the Adolph Wanous home to discuss formation of a cooperative.

They needed a manager and Henry Sommer, who was just a kid at the time, agreed to take the job for \$50 a month on the condition that he made a profit.

Originally, the co-op sold only petroleum products, and it leased a gas station from William France for \$35 a month.

Sommer had never sold anything in his life when he arrived the first day on the job. Suddenly he was caught up in pumping gas, servicing cars and keeping books for the organization.

"I hired Herb Stumme, who had never been inside the cab of a truck, to be bulk delivery driver. We were sure quite a pair," Sommer laughed.

The first customer that day was Alfred Walberg. He drove up in a Model T Ford assuming he would be buying gas from his old friend, France. He looked surprised as Sommer measured the depth of the gasoline in the tank under the seat with a ruler. Sommer put three and one-half gallons of gasoline into the tank and charged Walberg 65 cents.

"He gave me a \$1 bill and I couldn't change it," Sommer laughed, recalling how tight things had gotten during the Depression years.

A natural born salesman and manager, Sommer never missed a payday, and it wasn't long before he received his first raise.

Inflation, the influx of people into the area, expansion of services and diversification are responsible for the success of the co-op venture. Piloted by Sommer the organization grew from a single gasoline station to a multi-building facility handling feed, fertilizers, lumber, hardware, propane gas and cattle hauling.

Sommer helped organize the Midland Cooperative Credit Union and served as manager during the years it was located in Pine City.

Midland Co-op is rated as one of the top 500 corporations in the nation. As secretary of the board of directors from 1967 to 1981 and a board member since 1949, Sommer was a part of the decision-making body of the organization for much of his life.

When he retired Eldon Johnson became manager of the co-op, and the organization has continued to grow and prosper.

"Our patrons really own the co-op," Johnson said. "They are stockholders who elect a board of directors and set the policies."

Law requires that 20 percent of the profits of a co-op must be given back to the patrons in cash.

"We give 30 percent cash and the balance is returned in the form of stock," Johnson said.

By joining forces when times were tough, Pine City farmers picked a winning number.

Old armory one of first ever

The Pine City Naval Militia Armory is significant as the first of two armories erected in Minnesota solely for use of the Naval Militia, an organization first founded in Duluth in 1903.

The Third Division was formed in Pine City in 1913 and the armory erected the following year.

When the new armory was built south of town several years ago, the old armory was bought by the school district.



A SMALL SEGMENT of downtown Pine City in the days of Breckenridge's Pharmacy and the gatherings in front of the local post office. Photo contributed by Ella Caroon.

First airplane lands at local port

The first airplane made a landing at the Pine City airport in June, 1963. Representatives of the State Department of Aeronautics flew in to make the first of three inspections of the nearly-completed project.

Aeronautics department construction engineer Carl Hansen and airport inspector Ray Brown were met as they touched down at 1 p.m. by Pine City Mayor William Challeen, Village Clerk Keith Selleck and Jack Ebensteiner, contractor, who accompanied them during the inspection.

Work on the 2,600 by 200-foot landing strip was approved as far as it was completed at the time of the inspection.

Construction costs, \$13,833, were borne by the state. The money came from aircraft license

taxes and aviation gas taxes and not out of the general fund, Brown explained. The village furnished the land and assumed responsibility for future maintenance once the strip was turned over to them.

The north end of the field is an 80x350-foot taxiing and parking area for planes. Flyers can lease tie-down space for their own planes and can construct their own hangers if they wish. Tie-down stakes and a wind sock were installed by the village.

The airport project was originally spearheaded by the Commercial Club and then was taken hold of by the village.

The airport was an important step for Pine City. It was and is a plus in trying to induce industry to locate here.

Efforts to move industry to town success

Industry provides jobs and jobs provide the cash flow that makes a community prosper.

Pine City officials have made a concentrated effort to woo industry to locate here. A special committee contracts at least one major company per month in an attempt to convince them that they should relocate or open a branch in a town that would welcome them with open arms.

The city owns several parcels of land both, north and south of town, that are suitable for industrial plants. The Development Association has 20 acres north of town. There are other parcels owned by private individuals that would be available for development.

Anticipating more industry in the future, the city made preparations several years ago to accommodate growth. The new water tower is one example. Holding 500,000 gallons of water, pressure will be maintained when lines are extended to industrial parks.

Atscott Manufacturing has been one of the major industrial assets to Pine City since 1963. The company employs between 55 and 60 people in its plant where precision machine parts and mechanical assemblies are produced.

Manly Norris, president of Atscott, has received numerous awards and plaques in recognition of the quality of the precision work produced in the Pine City plant. Pine City gave the company special recognition in October of 1966 for its contribution to the economic wellbeing of the community.

3M came to Pine City in 1968, and since that time has

undergone two major expansions. The 24,000 square foot plant provides employment for approximately 75 people. Microfilm products manufactured here are shipped worldwide.

Coca Cola Bottling Company located in Pine City in 1926. The Coca Cola franchise was picked up in 1935. In addition to Coca Cola, the plant bottles 7-Up, Dr. Pepper, a variety of diet drinks and Ol Smoothie root beer, a product developed right at the Pine City plant by the Nelson family.

Over 40 people are employed at the bottling plant, and 20 delivery trucks cover the surrounding territory.

General Fabrication came to Pine City in 1965. The company was founded by Allen Haglund and Joel Shaw in 1962, and they set up their operation in the old general store in Wyoming, Minn.

Haglund and Shaw figured there was a future in the computer subcontracting field, fabricating and assembling component, integral parts.

As a job shop General Fabrication assembles a wide variety of products, from hearing aid circuits to energy management systems. They do a good deal of prototype work and often do not really know what the part they are assembling will do for the contracting company.

General Fab employs approximately 40 persons in the Pine City plant, most of them women. Plant management is proud of the fact that both the quality and quantity of the work produced here is outstanding.

Land O'Lakes, another major employer, has been in Pine City

Land O'Lakes met need for dry milk

The year was 1946. World War II had just ended. To meet the tremendous needs generated by the war, for nonfat dry milk, Land O'Lakes opened a new drying plant on the banks of the Snake River in Pine City.

"The Land O'Lakes milk processing plant is a splendid plant." So reads the message on the back of the picture postcard which was used in promotion of the grand opening.

The postcard also states that the plant occupies about one square block and the stack is 150 feet high. The plant is operated by two 300-horsepower boilers which use 3,000 to 4,000 gallons of oil per day. The plant uses 250 gallons of water per minute. And plant capacity in 1946 was half a million pounds of liquid milk a day or 42,500 pounds of nonfat dry milk.

In the early years of operation, this Land O'Lakes drying plant serviced the needs of other creameries in the area, all of which held membership in the Land O'Lakes cooperative system.

About 13 member creameries delivered their milk to the Land O'Lakes drying plant for processing. The plant production was handled by a crew of 21 employees. Through the years, the smaller creameries gradually disappeared, some going out of business, others consolidating with one another. To meet the needs of the dairy farmers, Land O'Lakes adapted its procedures to a creamery operation.

This change of operation entailed a change in membership structure. With the demise of the

small creameries, the dairy farmers themselves were to become direct members of Land O'Lakes.

By 1969, membership at the Land O'Lakes Pine City plant was comprised totally of individual dairy farmers, about 700 in number. With today's trend toward larger but fewer farms, the plant currently services 420 dairy farmers in Pine, Chisago, Isanti and Kanabec counties, plus several counties in Wisconsin.

Other changes have taken place throughout the years. Although the plant occupies the same square block of land, equipment has been modified and updated to meet modern standards. A fleet of bulk-tank trucks and a giant-size cream separator were added for converting to a creamery operation. A warehouse was built.

Sixty people now are employed at the Pine City plant to pick up and process the increased production of 900,000 pounds of milk per day, a whole milk production which converts to 76,500 pounds of nonfat dry milk.

Current plant operations include shipments, on a regular basis, of whole milk to Dalbo for processing into Cheddar cheese; cream to Browerville for making butter; whole milk and cream to Mora for the preparation of ice cream; and Grade A milk to St. Paul for packaging as fresh milk product.

since 1946. This stable company has been able to keep pace with the times through production of what is marketable at any given time.

Today, they run 14 bulk trucks in a 70-mile radius of Pine City, picking up milk from farmers.

The milk is separated at the plant where the skim milk is dried and the cream hauled to other plants to be made into butter. It also provides fluid plants with cream, milk and ice cream products to go to branch plants.

Approximately 90 employees make products that are sold to consumers all over the United States and abroad, and the

surplus is bought by the government.

DAKA Corporation, owned by Kevin Anderson, is the most recent industry to locate in Pine City. The plant manufactures woodburning furnaces in numerous styles including one that can be added to existing home furnaces as supplemental heat. Daka opened in 1977.

It employs approximately 20 people and recently added another product to its line. Portable dock components for the construction of rollout docks are being built here to be sold by hardware stores throughout the nation.

Pine City 3M plant one of a kind

The clean, white building is scarcely noticeable to strangers, and only small blue signs on either side identify it to passersby. Yet, the 3-M plant is vitally important to the economy of Pine City.

"When the plant originally opened in 1968 it employed 38 persons," plant manager Matt Alexander said.

Five key men, Bob Bope, Alexander, Tim Elder, Jim Ryan and Len Anderson, were on hand to get things rolling.

Few people realize the Pine City 3-M plant is unique. It is the only one of its kind in the United States. It is a complete microfilm system supplier. The product manufactured here is shipped

around the world.

"One reason we decided to locate here is because there was a building with 12,000 square feet available. This was adequate for our microfilm card operations," Alexander said.

Large companies look toward rural locations because raw materials such as power and water are usually more readily available. Land costs are cheaper and usually taxes are lower. Labor stability is also a factor, and outdoor recreational availability for employees is a consideration.

3-M has a policy of making all of its employees feel like part of

Continued next page

Serving the needs of Pine City and area since 1946!

36 Years of Service

Pine City Fuel, under the ownership of Roy Teich, has been serving the needs of the area since 1946. Pine City Fuel has a heritage of over 70 years' of operation.

In the early days, Pine City Fuel was located near the railroad tracks on 3rd Avenue. Teich purchased the business from Louie Volnek in 1946 and in 1957, he became the Sinclair distributor in this area and moved the business to its present location on Highway 61 in Pine City. Recently, Roy received a plaque commemorating 25-years' of service with Sinclair.

In 1976, his son, *Doug Teich*, became a partner in the business.

Pine City Fuel has always been a provider of a variety of home-heating fuels. Today, it maintains its petroleum business through both full and self-service operations at the station, plus it is a supplier of home heating oil. In addition, Pine City Fuel is one of the few suppliers in the area for coal and kerosene.

Pine City Fuel is proud of its heritage and wishes a "Happy Birthday" to the community!

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ROY TEICH
PINE CITY FUEL CO.

Looking Forward to Serving the Needs of Our Community in the Future, as in the Past.

Pine City Fuel Company

Phone 208

Pine City, Minn.

Reprinted from Pioneer Files January 1957

Happy Birthday, Pine City!

WE'RE PROUD TO BE PART OF THIS COMMUNITIES TRADITION!



These scenes of Pine City Fuel were by the railroad tracks on 3rd Ave. in Pine City

PINE CITY FUEL

755 6th St. Pine City, MN
629-3560

3M

the organization. Attitude and enthusiasm bind them together with 3M men and women everywhere.

The Pine City plant is non-union, although other plants throughout the country are union. The local plant has a very small turnover in employees.

Since coming to Pine City it is estimated the 3M plant has generated over one million dollars to be spent in the community.

In 1973 the company purchased land to expand. The intention was to build a separate plant for film coding. The present building would continue to operate as it is. Due to the recession in 1974, a moratorium was placed on the building of all new plants and administrative buildings.

Alexander gave a brief history of 3M.

It all began in Two Harbors in 1902. Five enterprising businessmen, two railroaders, a physician, a meat market operator and an attorney joined forces to exploit the discovery of a mineral they thought was corundum.

It seemed just the thing to sell to eastern manufacturers of grinding wheels. Unfortunately, they found the mineral was not what they thought it was, but they also discovered there was a terrific market for sandpaper.

The firm moved to Duluth and converted an old flour mill into a sandpaper factory. A sandpaper-making expert was hired. The Duluth operation flourished. The man who financially saved them insisted the plant be moved to St. Paul where he could keep an eye on the operation.

Through experimentation and study, a new abrasive cloth made with an artificial mineral,

aluminum oxide, was developed. The result was Three-M-Lite, a coated abrasive that is still in the 3M line.

The company's most famous Scotch brand trademark is believed to have had its origin with an angry auto body painter in the mid 1920s who, having trouble with the adhesion of an early roll of masking tape, noticed the two-inch wide roll had adhesive only on the edges.

He told the salesman, "Take this tape back to your stingy Scotch bosses and tell them to put more adhesive on it."

Whether the first batch of tape stuck or not, the name certainly did.

What began as a quest for quality in one product line has grown to include an assembly of technical talent which could staff science departments at several good sized universities.

The famous Thinsulate insulation for thermal underwear was developed by 3M. Unlike foam or goose down which tends to compress and lose trapped air, the 3M product did not. The insulation also resists shifting, separating, balling and matting.

A 3M program called Pollution Prevention Pays was initiated to encourage and recognize individual technical efforts which eliminate or reduce pollution from manufacturing products and processes.

"In 1977 a share of 3M stock purchased in 1919 for 50 cents would have grown through splits to 384 shares and would have been worth \$19,000," Alexander said.

From Australia to Oslo, from Sao Paulo to St. Paul to Pine City, 3M people help set the rhythms of business, commerce and industry.

Back then Ford was leader

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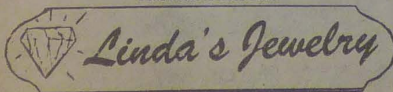
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Reprinted from 1946 Pioneer Files

Linda's Jewelry is carrying on the tradition of quality jewelry in Pine City. Just as people depended on Telstads in 1946, Pine Citians have learned to count on Linda's for quality & service at a fair price today!!

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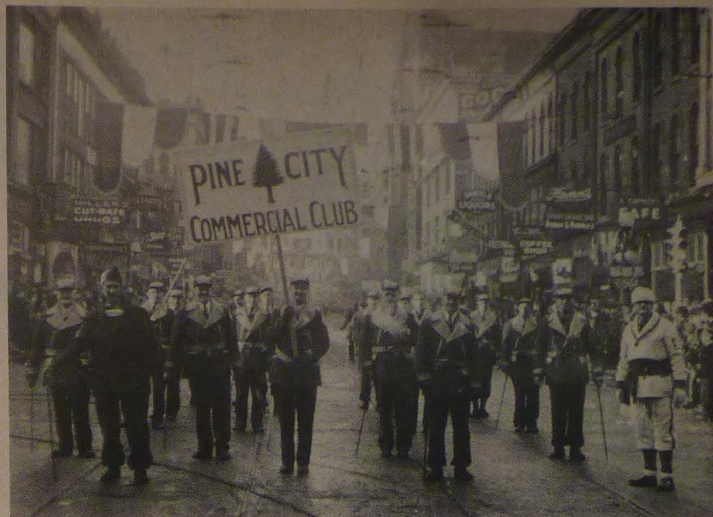
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Gary and Del Hawkinson, owners of Hawkinson Electric, are both professional electricians who believe in delivering a top quality job quickly and efficiently.

The Social Scene



PROMOTING PINE CITY was as important long ago as it is today. The Commercial Club turned out in force for a parade in the Twin Cities. Photo from the Vach Collection.

Area recognized as recreation paradise by 1900s

As transportation routes to the beautiful Pine City area improved, enterprising businessmen recognized the value of the area as a source of recreation for people from other cities and states, as well as for local residents.

An article in the July 6, 1906 edition of the Pine County Pioneer was headlined, "Where We Rest — The Summer Resorts At The Lake Are Now In The Spotlight — Campers Have Begun Flocking To The Woods."

The article read, "What is so rare as a day in June when any of the days during the summer season are as rare? Though the season has been very backward, it is never too late to receive summer boarders, and the resorts at Pokegama Lake are being steadily filled with pleasure seekers. When the Sol of us all commences to beat a tick tack on the hot air paves of the cities, then is when the inhabitants of those smouldering furnaces take to the trees and wonder why the founders of big cities ever left Mother Nature."

"Pine City and the summer resorts in close proximity thereto were never clothed more beautifully. Somehow or other Pokegama Lake is receiving the hugest slice of attention just at present, and it is there that we will confine our sketch. The varied assortments of green that clothe the lake fronts are beautiful to behold — imaginations need not be stretched in order to realize and appreciate the picturesque surroundings that abound."

"The latest addition to the lakeshore attractions is the Island Hotel and Summer Resort. The proprietor, Jos. Wilke, and his family are cordial folk, and it is a pleasure to be numbered among other guests. Their fine home-like hotel is a mecca for those who love informal treatment. The hotel is tastefully furnished throughout and lends an air of satisfaction to all who enter its portals."

This property today is known as Woischke's Island Resort and is still a summer retreat for people from the metro area as well as for local residents.

"Fritzen's Sanatorium, directly across the bay, is a place of rest and relaxation and all who go there are perfectly at home. It has long since been well instituted, and Dr. Minnie Fritzen chose wisely when she

located at the lake.

"Perhaps the most beautiful and at least one of the beauty spots of the picturesque haven is the ravine at the Fritzen location. It must be seen to be appreciated. A pathway leads from the house to the ravine at the base of which is a winding stream which courses into Pokegama Lake.

"A bridge crosses the stream and high banks on either side gives the scenery a weirdness that is most attractive. Seats of the 'lover's lane' type are set by the bye leading to the stream and they are guaranteed rest promoters."

Dr. Minnie Fritzen was recognized as a faith healer. Her sanatorium was on the property just south of the Pokegama Town Hall. John Meyer lives in the original house. Other homeowners on the land are Jerry Seeman, Gary Gahler and William Heath.

"As we go down the east bank of the lake we just can't help but stop at that exclusive watering place, St. Elmo. Here we find Breckenridge's cottage and another ravine o'er shadowed by dense foliage, south of which are the Holbert, Harte and Greeley cottages."

"After mounting the lookout at Holbert's you decide to have Capt. Inman propel his "Nvroca" across the lake to the Tuxedo Club, where you are agreeably accosted by Major Cooley or some of his assistants.

"The club is too well known for further comment. It is a delightful outing place as everyone knows who has been here. McAllen's "Kabin Kill are" adjoins the club grounds, and if Mack isn't out in the Knocker in an endeavor to effect a stiff breeze on the lake, you'll get a greeting that will thrill every sense in your carcass."

"Mall's cottage is to the north of McAllen's, and if you ever visit the lake, don't forget to step across the sandbar where lemonade and welcome are as synonymous as pumpkins in November."

Tuxedo Point is still a favorite swimming spot on Lake Pokegama as boats are beached and their occupants cool off. The old McAllen farm is occupied by the George Woods and was the site of recreational events covered in another section of this edition.

"BEFORE RETURNING TO PINE CITY a visit to the

Pokegama Sanatorium is in order. It is a delightful home for the care of sick people, and many already attribute their present health to the rest cure which they received under the guidance of Doctors Taylor and Wiseman. The Pokegama Sanatorium is the first place of prominence to be seen as one enters the lake from the trip away from Pine City.

"IT WOULD NOW BE WISE to take a trip across to Stumme's point after spending a few cheerful moments at Peter Engel's cottage where a choice friend now and then is welcome

as the rest of 'em.

"The point which we refer to here is to the right as the boat enters the historic Pokegama. Much is promised for this place in the future.

"F.L. McGhee, the prominent criminal lawyer of St. Paul has purchased frontage there and will build this summer, and the fact that U.S. Senator Clapp's summer home is just north of there should give it not a little prominence.

"The Pioneer aggregation of

printery artists also expects to locate in that whereabouts for their summer outing, and an ideal camp in the tall and uncut will be "Batcheler's Ruste" to which all our phyzzyzophzally friends have a straight tip invitation.

"To any who want to appreciate the freedom of out-of-doors life we would say take a hunch and come to Pine City for the rest cure, the simple life and all its accessories and you will profit thereby."

Pine City didn't lack for entertainment

"Five big days filled to the brim with music, oratory, fun and inspiration. The joy week of the year. Plan now to take a vacation from July 21 to 25 and hear these splendid programs."

That was part of an advertisement hyping a Chautauqua that was coming to town in 1919.

It was billed as the best American platform affords in good music, oratory and clean, wholesome entertainment. A season ticket made these splendid attractions cheaper than the movies.

Road shows always drew big crowds in rural communities. Often they included some local talent, and patent medicines were sold at intermission as well as boxed candies that held valuable prizes. Somehow, it was always a stranger who got the box with the watch in it, and he was suspected of being planted there to win.

Movies were big entertainment. For 10 or 25 cents the audience could lose itself in the "Perils of Pauline" or later, when the talkies came in, enjoy outstanding musical extravaganzas — Shirley Temple, Laurel and Hardy — and travel through the Canadian Rockies with Nelson Eddy and Jeanette McDonald, the singing duo who captured the hearts of America.

Kids grew up looking forward to the Sunday matinee, and there was no such thing as an R-rated movie. The Legion of Decency published a list of questionable viewing for children, but those films could be shown in church today.

During the Depression years, in order to draw a crowd, the theatre proprietor often gave

away dishes between the previews of coming attractions and the main feature. Amateur contests were also sure to be featured, especially if cash prizes were offered.

During the late 40s television began to catch on, and a TV set became a high priority for family entertainment.

"Howdy Doody," "Uncle Milte," and numerous sporting events could be watched right at home. We were first introduced to the Beatles on the Ed Sullivan

Show, and Elvis Presley wiggled his way into the hearts of American teens.

"I Love Lucy" and the "Jackie Gleason Show" were classics in comedy. People tuned in to early morning and late night news broadcasts.

Drive-in theatres sprung up as satellites of the local show house, and young families would

pop corn, make a thermos of Kool-aid, or nectar as it was called then and go to the drive-in movie.

Merchants promote weddings at fair

"Look the list over carefully, boys, and see if you can afford to let this opportunity go by. Talk it over with her and be married at the fair," an ad in a 1911 issue of the Pine Poker said.

"The following articles have been contributed to the couple that agrees to be married on the platform at the fair: Smith Hardware will give a steel range valued at \$60, Pine City Mercantile a set of dishes worth \$20, A.M. Challeen, a set of silverware for \$7, Asplund and Olson, lamp and water set worth \$7, R.P. Allen, a barrel of flour, W.A. Sausser, a mantel clock worth \$12, J.Y. Breckenridge, a wedding ring worth \$10, H. Borchers Shoes a pair of slippers for the bride valued at \$6, R.G. Harte, Hinckley, a pair of shoes for the groom, \$4, F.G. Rybak, a pair of wool blankets for \$6, Pine

City State Bank, a \$5 gold piece, W.P. Gottry, a three-year subscription to the Pine County Pioneer, R. Gray, one dozen cabinet pictures of the bridal pair, F.C. Ingleston of the boat livery will give the bridal couple and immediate relatives a launch ride on Cross Lake. Webster Furniture Company of Hinckley offered a cradle with the statement that they could think of nothing better when looking into the future than to offer the newlyweds a cradle for the day when there would be three.

And last, but by no means least, Rev. H.H. Parish of the M.E. Church offered to tie the knot free.

An advertisement like that was enough to make almost any lad who had been postponing the proposal because of a shortage of funds pop the question.

Ballrooms thrived throughout area

Pine City people love to dance. They have since the first settlers came and the furniture was carried outside to make room for dancing at neighborhood parties. The old folks danced, the children danced, and in between dances they ate delicious lunches referred to in old newspapers as "sumptuous repasts."

The Crystal Ballroom was built by Walter Schwartzwald in 1934 on the site where Montgomery Wards is now located. In 1938 a bowling alley was added, which proved to be very popular.

In 1945 Schwartzwald sold the property to Clem Gramer of Fairfax, Minn. and in 1946 Gramer made interior changes by installing 24 booths which encircled the dance floor. A service window was cut in the east wall to facilitate waitress service in the dance section and the name of the establishment was changed to The Topic Ballroom.

Eileen Connaker and Sylvia Hudak recalled good times they had dancing at the Topic.

"I particularly remember a big farewell party for all the guys in town that were leaving for World War II," Connaker said.

"In those days, the fellows bought a ticket to get in and the ladies were admitted free. That way, if the fellows didn't have a date there was always good picking at the dances," they laughed.

They also recalled dances at Pine Camp pavilion on Cross Lake where the music was always good and the floor

excellent.

The Leonard Pangerls will never forget the confusion created on their wedding day in April 1950 when the roof on the Topic Ballroom collapsed. That is where they had planned to have their dance.

"I will always remember 1950 as the year of the big snows," she said. "I was teaching school in the country and had to walk because the plows couldn't get through. A crust had formed on top of the snow, and as I walked with my students, we were even with the top of the telephone poles."

Their wedding was scheduled for April, and a heavy, wet, late spring snow caved in the roof on the Topic Ballroom. The couple wasn't notified until the day before the wedding.

"Leonard spent all day the day of our wedding running around trying to find another place for the dance. The roads were so bad we couldn't get out to Pine Camp either. We finally were permitted to have the dance at the armory, although it wasn't used for private parties at that time because of insurance problems," she said.

The free wedding dance was an event that was taken for granted. Many memories are associated with them for they were an important part of good, old-fashioned weddings. They were as common as a shivaree in the old days and a way of launching the young couple on the road to a happy marriage.

First golf course situated on McAllen land in early 1900s

George Wood lives on the old McAllen place. He can remember when it was a part of the local sporting scene.

"The nine-hole golf course was between the lake and County Road 13. It was a private course and people played here by invitation," he said.

Remains of the sand greens are still visible in level spots on the property, as are the raised edges of the racetrack that was also part of the old McAllen farm.

P.W. McAllen was a colorful Pine City character. He was vice president of the First National Bank in 1912, and his farm estate on Lake Pokegama was always the site of hospitality and good times, judging from what can be gleaned from old newspapers.

He built a half-mile long race track near County Road 13. Some of the best harness racing in the state took place there. Some of McAllen's own stock included horses that were descendants of the famous Dan Patch.

Frank Warfield remembers learning to golf on the McAllen course.

"It was a difficult course. I can still remember asking dad to take me golfing one day and he said no."

"McAllen has raised the green fees from 15 cents to a quarter and that's too much," Warfield Sr. said. Frank laughed recalling the incident.

Later on attempts to establish a golf course on the fairgrounds failed. It seemed Pine City would

never have this recreational asset that is so important to a resort area.

Through the combined efforts of a few hard working people the Pine City Golf Club first opened its doors in September of 1969, and play began on the course in the spring of 1970.

Promoting and building a golf course in a town that in former years rejected a hospital, would not approve a swimming pool and continued to vote down a new school building was classed as a minor miracle at that time.

It all began in 1962 when Ron Wanless read an article about a town in Wisconsin that was getting federal funding to build a golf course. He thought, "Why can't Pine City get in on this?"

Wanless approached the businessmen suggesting that a golf course could be an asset to the community and a selling point in recruiting industry to locate in the area.

At that time there were approximately 25 active golfers in all of Pine City and the surrounding area. The idea of a golf course was not new, but there was never enough interest to get private funding.

With the possibility of federal help, new enthusiasm was aroused. Together with Wanless, the original board of directors included Hoyt Haycock, James D'Aoust, Robert Carlson, John Nygren, Howard Ledin and Dr. L.W. Onken. They

Continued next page



SOKOL GIRLS DRILL TEAM about 1938. There are some identities in question, but as far as the contributor could tell the women are, back row: Mary Mack, Helen Peters, Albina Vacinek and Mary Stoletz. In front are Lorraine Peters, Clara Korbel, Rose Vojta, Josie Volener, Cecilia Skluzacek, Marie Vojta, Ethelyn Skramstad, Mary Kubat, Marie Schmidt, Rosalie Webber and Elsie Cummings. Photo contributed by Mrs. R.D. Thompson.

Pine City hotels famous

"You can always find a nice, clean room and a good meal in Pine City," traveling salesmen would tell one another.

In the days when they made their rounds by train, they agreed to meet in certain towns, and Pine City was one of their favorites.

The old Agnes Hotel was demolished in 1976. The landmark, which had deteriorated beyond repair, was gone forever.

According to old timers, it was the site of many social events in the old days. The dining room was staffed by waiters who carried white towels, European style, over their arms, and the food was the very best.

The Hotel Agnes was opened under new management in 1908. The grand opening party was a gala event, and the owner, Mr. Bryant, engaged an orchestra

from Minneapolis to play. Carnations were given to all of the guests. An excellent supper was served.

The new proprietor gave a brief address of welcome. L.H. McKusick made a few remarks touching on the life of Washington.

Bessie Lambert contributed a couple of vocal numbers which were roundly applauded. The hotel and lobby were beautifully decorated with national colors and flowers, and a large picture of Washington had a prominent position in the dining room.

According to early records in the Registrar of Deeds office, the property for the Agnes Hotel was bought from the government on Aug. 6, 1858 by Carl C.P. Meyer and later platted into lots.

Through the estate of James S. Petrie, the land was purchased by Western Land

Association and later transferred into the names of Adolph Munch, P.R. Metler and Joseph Couture. The Agnes was built at a cost of \$6,000 by James Hurley.

Other hotels in the early years were The Brackett House, Pioneer House and the Pine City House which was built by James Dudder and had 37 rooms and a ballroom.

The Inglenook Inn was located on the present site of the Ryan property on Cross Lake and was built by J. Adam Bede.

Ads for the Inglenook Inn read, "Get your Sunday dinner at the Inglenook Inn. Boats will meet at dock at Lower Main Street about 12:15 p.m. Dinner and trip both ways, 50c."

Congratulations Pine City!

HERITAGE DAYS
1982

Swirl 'N Curl Beauty Salon

Janice Nordrum
Styling hair in Pine City for 18 years
Cindy Rolf, Ruby Ann Rose
629-6481



Pine City Barber Stylist

Providing Haircutting and styling services
in Pine City for 5 years
Ed Montbriant, Terry Turnquist
629-3895



Golf

set out to investigate the possibility of making it go.

"We knew that without community interest and support it would never be possible," said Haycock, first president of the Pine City Golf Club.

"We held meetings with all the civic organizations in town, hoping to gain support from these groups. We could get FHA financing if we could raise 20 percent of the overall cost on our own," Haycock said.

"Estimated construction bids were around \$125,000. That meant that \$25,000 had to be raised locally, and that was a lot of money in a small town."

It was decided to sell stock in the Pine City Golf Club. Normally, stock in such a venture would sell for \$100 to \$200 per share, but at that price the committee knew they would not get the entire community to participate. They needed and wanted wholehearted community involvement.

The Pine City Golf Club from the very beginning was meant to create the feeling that everyone was welcome and it was to be everyone's club. For this reason it was decided to sell stock in a price range available to everyone, \$50 a share.

An option was taken to buy property off Highway 61, south of town, for the location of the new golf course. When it was time to close the deal there was not enough money available. Once again it seemed like a golf course in Pine City would not materialize. FHA cooled off and the issued died.

One day Representative Blatnik and Jim Oberstar were attending a meeting in the courthouse. Wanless, still convinced there was some hope left for the golf course, went to that meeting.

He asked the government officials what was holding up Pine City's application for funds to build a golf course. They told him they would check into the matter when they returned to Washington. Persistent, Wanless replied, "We've waited long enough. We have to know now."

Blatnik left the room to make a phone call. When he returned he assured Wanless the loan would be forthcoming.

With the money on the way new life was pumped back into the project. Jim Connaker solved the land problem. The freeway had cut through his farm and he offered his property on the east side of it at a fair price.

Jim D'Aoust, assisted by Wanless, spent countless hours designing the course. Their plans were presented to an architect who officially put them on paper. When the land was surveyed it was found to be unsuitable for the conventional layout of a clockwise course. Therefore, it was built in a unique figure eight design.

The architect estimated it would cost \$230,000 to build the course and clubhouse. By building a simple structure, and with the help of local contractors and volunteer help, the project was accomplished for \$103,000.

Businessmen became super stock salesmen. People who never golfed in their lives and never intended to bought stock. Farmers who formerly would never think of golfing during their busy season bought stock. Many of them took up the game.

Newcomers and summer people bought stock. Everyone dug deep when donations were requested for equipment, trees, decorating, supplies and FHA payments.

Golf teachers volunteered to give free lessons to people wishing to learn the game. Almost everyone was a duffer so no one felt embarrassed or not

good enough to play. That was one of the benefits of everyone starting together.

In those early days it was not unusual to see 75 to 100 men and women out picking up rocks on a Sunday afternoon, helping to prepare the course for seeding.

It was over a year before the grass grew hardy enough to risk playing the course. The first two years the payments and expenses were met by receipts from parties held in the clubhouse.

Alice Tollin Piotrowski, first club manager, looks back and laughs heartily at incidents that weren't very humorous at the time.

She and her husband had been retired just 10 months from the resort and restaurant business when they were contacted by Wanless with a proposition to move their mobile home out to the golf course and take over management of the clubhouse.

"We agreed to start them out," Piotrowski said. "I will never forget the first party if I live to be 100.

"The building was still under construction. Harriet Appleby asked if it would be possible to book a party for a group of 100 women on their way home to Rochester from Duluth following a bowling tournament.

"The clubwomen promised to help in the kitchen, and several of the men volunteered to tend bar. The party was scheduled for Sunday, April 19. They wanted to be fed and back on the bus within an hour.

"On Wednesday I went out to check to see how the kitchen was shaping up and I almost had a heart attack," Piotrowski laughed.

"The stoves were in the middle of the room, chunks of cement were all over, dishes were just coming in all packed in boxes. I couldn't see how we could possibly serve a meal for 100 people by Sunday."

She put out the call for help and as usual, help came from the members. The women washed and put away the dishes and the men scrubbed the floors and set up tables. Piotrowski prepared most of the food at home and carried it out in tubs of ice.

"The meal went off without a hitch, and the ladies said it was the greatest. They loved my homemade breads and asked to buy some if there was anything left to sell. At \$2.50 a plate the club rang up its first receipts."

Fortunately, during those first struggling years, the golf club was the only place in town that could handle large groups for private parties and weddings. The Lions and Christian Women's Clubs made it their regular meeting place. So many people came to the monthly steak fry parties there was scarcely room to dance.

"Right in the middle of one big party the cupboards fell off the wall," Piotrowski said. "They weren't braced to hold the load of so many dishes. Boy, did that cause excitement."

The Pine City Golf Club now has one of the finest courses in the area. Inflation has caused financial problems, and just last fall the community again rallied to help it keep its head above water. The club is operating this season with a lot of volunteer help recruited from the membership by Mary Haycock.

Almost everyone in town can look at the golf club with pride and know that somehow, some way, through their involvement either by donations of time and money, stock purchases, memberships and patronage, they became part of an impossible dream and saw it come true.



THE AGNES HOTEL was a respected resting place and eating establishment in Pine City for many years. This photo was contributed by Ella Caroon.

Roaring Twenties a colorful period

The era between 1920 and 1933 will always be remembered in the United States as the Prohibition Era, better known as the Roaring Twenties.

Women bobbed their hair and shortened their skirts. The flapper image was in, and women became assertive.

The Charleston was a popular dance, and words like hootch and oh you kid took on new meaning.

While no one argued that booze could lead to one's downfall if used to excess, it took more than a law to convince them that social drinking was unacceptable.

Spearheaded by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Anti Saloon League and other groups, the dry movement reached a peak of popularity not seen since the late 1800s.

The Prohibition Amendment was ratified by the necessary 36 states by Jan. 16, 1919, to go into effect one year later.

It was against the law to manufacture, import, export, transport or sell alcoholic

beverages in the United States and its possessions.

The law was basically unenforceable. Moonshine became a cash crop for farmers who were able to hide stills from the federal agents for years.

The word speakeasy was coined to designate an after-hours nightclub where one needed a signal to enter and spoke softly to the doorman who peeked through a hole in the door before authorizing passage.

The names of gangsters became household words. John Dillinger, Al Capone, Baby Face Nelson, Ma Barker, Bugsy Moran and Bonnie and Clyde all became legends during the Prohibition.

There was money to be made by the underworld running moonshine into Canada, and they fought each other viciously for additional territory.

Stories have been told by oldtimers around Pine City that the hardware stores did a big business selling materials to

manufacture moonshine stills.

"A lot of the farmers had their own still," one oldtimer said. "They would sell it (moonshine) to people, but not directly. Instead they would have a drop point. The farmer would tuck a bottle of moonshine in the hiding place and when he came back there would be money in its place. No one wanted to be caught making a direct sale for fear they were selling to a federal agent."

Another person who asked not to be identified said gangsters running moonshine between Canada and Chicago used Pine City as a resting spot.

"They took over a cabin on Pokegama Lake and threw big parties which included law enforcement officials from the Twin Cities on the guest list."

The era was one of the most colorful in our history. By the time the Prohibition law was repealed, America was well into the Great Depression.

Music provided Sandquist with passport to America, area

Herman Sandquist is one of those lucky people who was fortunate enough to make his living bringing happiness to others through his music.

He came to America from Husavarna, Sweden in 1923. He was able to pick up jobs immediately because of his ability to play the accordion by ear.

"I soon found out that playing by ear wasn't enough if I wanted steady employment with a band," the 84-year-old musician said. "I had to be able to read notes so I could follow a score."

He laughs as he recalls his childhood in Sweden as the baby of a very musical family.

"I was the youngest of six children. My whole family was musical, but I was referred to as the baby, always too little to do anything," he said.

"Mother had a small, two key row accordion more like a concertina. She would hide it from me, but when she left the house I would snoop in the closets until I found it."

Sandquist was only six years old when he began picking out tunes on the small accordion. He taught himself to play it without the rest of the family catching on.

"I longed to get my hands on

the big accordion my brother had," he recalls. So once again, when everyone had left the house, the little boy would sneak his brother's accordion and practice.

"I got caught once. Instead of encouraging me my brother gave me a licking that I didn't soon forget," he said. "I think it's funny now, but it wasn't so amusing then."

Finally, big brother and a fellow musician named Shogren bought a very expensive accordion together and formed a dance band. As a present to his brother and perhaps with the idea of softening him up a bit, Sandquist had a wooden box made for the instrument.

"The carpenter did a good job. He even put a lock on the box."

When the accordion was not in use the box was locked, foiling all attempts Sandquist might make to play the instrument when his big brother was not at home.

"One day he forgot the key on the kitchen table when he went to work," Sandquist said.

Desperate to the expensive accordion, the sly boy snatched the key, ran to the nearest locksmith and had a duplicate made. A year passed and Sandquist continued to practice

in secret. He became very good and no one in his family suspected.

One evening his brother was playing for a group of guests at a party.

"When he took a break to go the outhouse I seized the opportunity to play," Sandquist said.

Encouraged by the party dancers he swung into one polka after another, forgetting his brother would soon be back.

"When I heard his footsteps on the porch I got scared and hid under the table."

"Where's Shogren?" his brother called out as he entered the house. "He's not here," the guests replied. "He's got to be here. I just heard him playing the accordion," the brother said.

And that was how he discovered it was not his professional partner, Shogren, whom he heard playing, but his little brother Herman.

"Right then and there I became a member of the band," Sandquist said, grinning as he recalled his victory.

Each time he played he turned over half his earnings to his brother to help pay for the accordion.

Continued next page

Sandquist

"When I came to America my brother wanted to give me that accordion to take along because he said I had practically paid for it.

"At that time I believed money could be picked right off the trees in America so I declined his offer."

It was over a year before Sandquist got another accordion, and through a friend he met in America, he learned to read music.

"My first teacher was a very impatient man. I learned more than notes from him. I learned that you must have patience with a pupil," Sandquist said.

One day the impatient teacher blew up and suggested that Sandquist get a self-teaching book and learn notes by himself. He did, but he admits it was the hard way of doing it.

Sandquist and his wife, Bertha, came to Pine City in 1934 right in the midst of the Depression.

"At first I toured the country in a Model A Ford, giving lessons to pupils in their homes. My first student was in Beroun," he said.

Eventually, his students came to his home. He taught 70 in a week plus repairing accordions and playing dance engagements with his five-piece orchestra.

In his lifetime he has taught the accordion to over 1,000 youngsters in Pine County alone. He can tick off a list of those students who went on to be professional musicians themselves.

Among his keepsakes is a letter from Gary Kent thanking him for the influence he had on Kent's career in music.

"Gary started taking lessons from me when he was just eight years old," Sandquist said. "He wrote that letter when he was in college and began playing with Tony Jambor's Polka Jamboree Show on WTCN television."

Eddie Pangerl was another pupil of Sandquist's. He went on to become an entertainer with his popular Millionaires band.

"I taught Eddie, his mother and even his wife long before Eddie knew her," Sandquist said.

He is still teaching a few exceptional students. "I learned just as much from my students as they learned from me."

Many people his age complain they have outlived their contemporaries and young people

don't care to bother talking to them.

Not Sandquist. He says, "No matter where I go someone comes up to me and says, 'Remember me?' Then we have a good visit."

His wife keeps the coffee pot hot for the steady stream of visitors that drop in to say hello to their old friends.

A house filled with music is a happy home, and Herman and Bertha Sandquist intend to keep theirs just that way.

Although the children were usually fast asleep before the movie was half over, it was a family outing, that was a common form of entertainment during the 50s and 60s.

Many small town theatres closed when television came in, but the Family Theatre in Pine City continued to operate until it was sold in July, 1982 to be demolished so the site can be used to build the new Pine County Jail.

The drive-in theatre south of town continues to operate.

1930 Thieman wedding highlight of county fair

Each year at county fair time Richard and Mabel Thieman are reminded of one of the most important days in their lives—their wedding day.

Fifty-two years ago the Thiemans were married by Rev. Carl Steging, pastor of the Pine City Zion Lutheran Church, before a crowd of 2,000 people seated in the grandstand at the fair.

"I can still remember exactly how it all came about," Richard said. "My folks didn't know a thing about our plans until they read it in the Pine Poker and they were pretty shocked," he laughed.

Recalling the details leading up to the event he said, "Mabel and I and some of our friends were sitting around the ice cream parlor where Olson's Shoe Store now is when the secretary of the Fair Board happened to walk by.

"We were planning to be married that fall, and he dared us to have our wedding during the fair as the grand finale to the evening grandstand performance."

The Depression was in full swing, and the prospect of having most of their wedding expenses paid for by the Fair Board and local merchants appealed to the young couple. On the spur of the moment Mabel and Richard said, "Why not!"

At first some people were stunned by the idea of having a religious ceremony as part of the show at the fair. It seemed almost a sacrilege or a mockery, but the Thiemans remember it as a beautiful, meaningful ceremony that has stood the test of time.

An account of the wedding in the Pine Poker-Pioneer dated Aug. 21, 1930 said, "There was absolute stillness throughout the thousands of spectators, and all through the ceremony not a sound was heard except Rev. Steging's voice as he read the beautiful words of the Lutheran marriage service. It was very impressive and beautiful, and no church wedding could have been more dignified or formal."

Mabel was only 17 years old at the time, but the excitement of the event is still vivid in her memory.

"The whole community had a part in our wedding," she said. "That seemed to make it very special."

Mabel was outfitted, from the veil on her head to the white kid slippers with rhinestone buckles she wore on her feet, by a Sandstone clothing store.

A florist provided the wedding bouquet of roses, and Richard was issued a marriage license free of charge. Gillespie Auto Company furnished the new cars that drove the wedding party to the fairgrounds.

The grandstand and bleachers were filled. Fences on both sides

were lined with people straining to watch the unusual ceremony.

As the orchestra played the traditional wedding march, the chorus girls from the grandstand show known as "Miller's Jewels of 1930" joined hands and circled the platform. Wearing blond wigs, blue tulle gowns and large hats, they formed a human picture frame for the ceremony.

LeRoy Soderbeck and Ed Peil were groomsmen, Marie Thieman and Sybil Saum bridesmaids, identical twin cousins of the bride, Phyllis and Lois Stransky, were flower girls and Charles Riley was ringbearer.

Mabel ascended the platform on her father's arm in the traditional fashion. "It was really beautiful," Mabel said, "and all those people were there to share in our happiness."

Close relatives of the couple were seated in a special section close to the stage. "The stage was much bigger in those days. I think the whole crowd could have danced on it at one time if they wanted to," she laughed.

The young couple was paid \$25 for sharing their wedding with the public, and they used the money to honeymoon in Duluth.

Shaking his head Richard recalled an incident that almost cost him his job in the city following his return to work.

"My foreman came in and said he was married the same weekend we were and he was bragging there were 250 people at his wedding.

"Not to be outdone I piped up, 'that was nothing; there were 2,000 people at my wedding.'"

Richard was called into the office and put on the carpet for lying to his foreman.

"I had to bring in a copy of the Pine Poker to prove I was telling the truth," he said with a twinkle in his eye.

In 1980 the Thiemans were honored with a special plaque from the Fair Board for their 50th wedding anniversary. Their anniversary party was featured on WTCN television that night. Their wedding was news in 1930, and it was still news 50 years later.

Cakes a favorite throughout the years

MAGGIE'S YELLOW CAKE

1/4 cup butter
1 1/4 cups sugar
3 eggs
1 cup milk
2 1/2 cups flour
2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla

Cream butter and sugar. Add eggs one at a time beating well. Add 1/2 cup flour and milk. Sift remaining flour and baking powder together and add vanilla. Grease and flour a 9x13x2 inch pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes.

Mrs. Fred Holstein, Jr.

AN EXCELLENT FRUIT CAKE

6 eggs
7 cups flour
3 cups sugar
2 cups sour milk or buttermilk
1 1/2 cups butter
1 cup fruit syrup or wine
2 teaspoons soda
1 teaspoon each, cinnamon, cloves and all spice
1 lb. each raisins, dates and figs
1/2 lb. each currants and citron
1/4 lb. orange peel

Cut raisins, dates and figs in small pieces. Cut citron and orange peel in thin slices. Cream butter and sugar, add egg yolks and mix well. Add milk and fruit

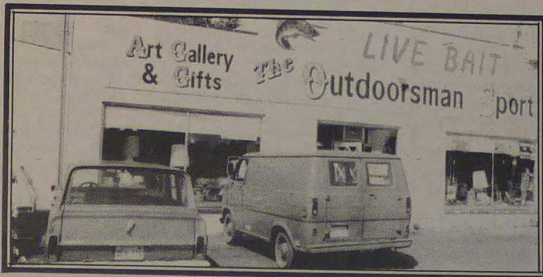
syrup. Gradually add 2 cups of flour, the spices and beaten whites of eggs. Dust the fruit with flour and add with the remainder of flour. Beat for 5 minutes and lastly add the soda dissolved in as little water as possible. Pour into well greased pan, cover with a tightly fitting lid and instead of baking steam for 6 hours. Then place in a quick oven (375 degrees) for 15 to 20 minutes to brown. By this method of cooking the cake is ready for use much sooner though if stored in a cool dry place will keep perfectly for months. May bake in loaf pans at 275 degrees for 3 to 4 hours.

Recipe taken from the Farm Journal in 1921.

I make this cake every year for Christmas. I use apricot brandy instead of fruit syrup. I put the raisins in whole. I also add the following candied fruit: 6 oz. red cherries, 6 oz. green cherries, 6 oz. pineapple, 1/2 lb. mixed fruit, 6 oz. candied apricots (seldom available). I steam the cake. The recipe makes two 10-inch angelfood cake pans. I steam one cake at a time in the large canner. Ready to eat in a week.

Mrs. Fred Holstein, Jr.

"If we please you, tell others... If we don't tell us!"



In 1973, Bob and Helen Foster opened the Outdoorsman Sport Shop on 3rd Ave. and in 1979 expanded, adding a Wildlife Art Gallery. Now they have grown again! In February of this year the Outdoorsman Sport Shop and Art Gallery and Gifts moved to its new location on the corner of 6th St. and 8th Ave. in what used to be Zimmerman Garage.

*Hunting, Fishing, Camping Supplies & Clothing *Live Bait *Gun Repair
*Wildlife Art *Wood Crafted Items *Gifts

The Outdoorsman Sport Shop

ART GALLERY & GIFTS
540 E. 8th Ave. Pine City, MN. 629-2066

Remember when...

1876 — Pine County found itself heavy in debt, possibly due to injudicious management and two county officers. The incident caused considerable embarrassment, according to the newspapers. The State Legislature bailed the county out with \$10,000 in 10-year bonds to be paid back at 10 percent interest.

1895 — The Stowe, a 50-foot long, 10-foot wide screw propeller steam boat built by Moatin and Riever of St. Paul for A.E. Webber was launched in May. The boat carried 80 passengers.

1897 — John Stockl, the new cigar man, arrived and settled in Pine City.

Dec. 18, 1899 — The M.E. Church Ladies Aid Society held its annual sale and supper at

Pioneer House Hall. Roast pork and beef, chicken pie, potatoes, corn, turnips, pickles, beets, mustard, beans, brown bread, white bread rolls, mince, apple, lemon and pumpkin pie was served along with tea or coffee. The price — 25c.

At the turn of the century business locations were referred to as the Rybak Block, Kowalke Block, Glasow Building, Main Street, Miller Block and Volence Building.

February 1906 — Home remedies were highly recommended by a New England physician. "Take six to 10 large onions, chopped fine. Put in large spider over a hot fire, then add the same quantity of rye meal and vinegar to form a thick paste. Stir thoroughly. Simmer

Continued next page

Remember when

for five to 10 minutes. Then put in a cotton bag large enough to cover the lungs and apply to the chest as hot as the patient can bear. This single remedy has never failed to cure this too-often fatal malady."

Feb. 6, 1908 — Gov. John Johnson was in Washington. He ran across J. Adam Bede from Pine City wearing a silk hat, according to the Chicago News. "I'm going to tell on you, Adam, when I get home to Minnesota," the governor chided. "It will be a hard blow to your constituents to hear you are wearing high silk hats and putting on airs."

"To tell you the truth, I have to do it governor," Bede said. "Down here in Washington you can't do business without one. I tried going around these departments in my old slouch hat for a long time."

"I went into the offices, removed my hat and handed the receptionist my card. They ignored me, and I never got to see the man I wanted to. Now I hand them this high silk hat and get immediate attention."

1915 — Summer Wood For Sale. Price, \$2.50 a cord. Delivered in the village.

The Kate R hauled both passengers and freight. Boat captain was Fritz Johnson. Dirty Bess was a tugboat on Pokegama used mostly for logging purposes, and the Victoria was an early launch.

Capt. August Bergman made regular trips to Pine City with the Tuxedo Bell where he met the trains that were bringing guests to stay at the Tuxedo Inn.

1945 — Jo Ann Neville won first place in an essay contest sponsored by the Federation of Women's Club and the Conservation Department.

1945 — Mary Zalaznik was crowned Fiesta Queen of Pine City and rejected a trip to Hollywood. She left for Stockholm, Sweden to be married to her high school sweetheart, Robert Andersen. Andersen had been transferred from military duty to a civilian position in the State Department and secured permission from Washington, D.C. to bring his fiancée to Sweden for the wedding.

1946 — The local National Guard Unit was federally recognized.

1947 — Lois Challen was crowned Fire Queen by King Boreau IX and took part in all of the St. Paul Winter Carnival festivities. Preceding the coronation a dinner was held for the 10 queen contestants and out-of-town judges, radio personality Clellan Card, Tommy Gibbons and Walter Zimm at the Ben Boo residence. A coronation ball was held at the armory that evening.

1947 — A hospital bond issue for Pine City was passed by a majority of the voters. There were 658 yes votes and 293 who opposed the hospital. It was seen as a fine addition to Pine City but somehow, it never materialized.

1948 — Helen Peters, secretary to the vice president of the Minnesota Federal Savings and Loan Association, was named the ideal secretary by the National Federation of Secretaries. The honor meant a trip to Los Angeles where she would represent the Minnesota unit at

the national convention.

1951 — Ruby Rydberg, (Mrs. John Kozisek) had a soliloquy which she had written, accepted and published by True Romance magazine. The title of the work was, "This is My Prayer." The story described the development of the romance between herself and the man who became her husband. It began with her interest in Johnny when she was only 12 years old, her prayers for him when he was in the army and in service overseas, and his return home to their wedding day.

1980 — Jean Lindig received the honor of being selected the state's Princess Kay of the Milky Way at the State Fair. The hometown folks honored her with a rousing reception and parade when she returned home.

1981 — Allison Rosati was named Minnesota's Junior Miss and went on to national competition where she received the Miss Congeniality award. This award was more important to the folks back home than if she had been chosen America's Junior Miss because she was selected by her peers.

Presbyterian Church first to be built in village

The earliest church to be built in Pine City was the Presbyterian. The Presbyterian first came to the Pokegama Mission, and later, in 1870, aided by a missionary from St. Paul, the petition of three Pine City women was honored and the church was established on Nov. 25, 1870.

The First Presbyterian Church was erected in 1878. When the congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary on Nov. 25, 1945, Mrs. George A. Robinson, who was received into the church in 1882, was able to attend the celebration and was honored as the oldest living member.

The first services for Catholics were conducted in the new Section House and in private homes until the Immaculate Conception Church was built in 1879 on the corner of Eighth Street and Sixth Ave.

In pioneer settlements such as Pine City in 1870, Catholics

usually had to get along without the sacraments and formal religious services unless they could get to a church in a more established community.

When their numbers increased the bishop of the territory arranged to have a priest from an existing parish visit them occasionally. Those visits were usually few and far between because of poor transportation.

In 1879 a frame church was constructed. The present church was built in 1910 for a cost of \$35,000, according to the late Christine Skluzacek. The present rectory was erected in 1919. A new enclosed entry was added to the original building several years ago.

A group of German immigrants felt the need for a Lutheran church in Pine City. Some missionary work was done here before 1882. Under the leadership of Pastor W. Braunschweig, the first business meeting

of Zion Lutheran was held Aug. 10, 1884. A building committee was appointed, and three lots were donated by Jennie McLean.

Articles of incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Zion Society were filed in Pine County on Jan. 25, 1885. The first church was built in July, 1887. The parsonage was built in 1891 and the members joined the Missouri Synod in April, 1895.

Most of the early records of Zion Lutheran are written in German. The congregation is presently having them translated. The first English service was held on Nov. 5, 1899.

The new church was dedicated in 1955 and the addition in September, 1979.

A committee is now planning the 100th anniversary celebration to be held Aug. 19, 1984. The theme of the celebration is "Planting and Harvesting: A Century for Christ." The church has grown from 14 original families in 1884 to 640 communicant members today.

Harold Kick who is on the anniversary committee said, "If anyone reading this is capable of translating the old German records to English we would surely appreciate hearing from them. The minutes of those early meetings are brief, but it would be nice to know what went on at them."

The Methodist Episcopal Society of Pine City was organized by Richard N. Avison in February, 1887. At that time there were only four members: Walter P. Gottry, Mrs. M. Warner, Mrs. Jennie Chubb and Lille Stephen.

Rev. Avison was acting minister in charge until the following October conference when the charge was left un-supplied. On April 1, 1888, Rev. S.W. Simonds was appointed.

On July 17, 1888 the foundation of the new church building was begun and was dedicated by Dr. Robert Forbes. The total expense of the building was \$1,550.

This building, with some repairs and alterations was used as a place of worship for 39 years until April 15, 1927. The old building was wrecked to make room for the present church which was built in the same spot.

The Ladies Aid Society and Young Peoples Group of the church always worked hard to raise funds. An advertisement in a 1907 issue of the local newspaper reads:

"Ladies Aid Society of M.E. Church will serve a 25c supper. After supper a 10c social will be given and a short program of music."

Maps in the Vach Collection indicate that a Seven Day Adventist Church was located on 2nd Ave. and 2nd St. east in 1899.

In 1947 Our Redeemer Lutheran Church was established. The old building was moved in from the country and remodeled. The parish was established by the members without the help of a resident pastor and through a great deal of volunteer work.

The congregation of Our Redeemer church grew so rapidly that the old church was sold and the congregation moved into its beautiful new church on Golf Course Road last year.

The Evangelical Free Church and First Assembly of God built fine churches during the 60s and 70s and the Victory Baptist Church is presently under construction.

Favorite Polish recipes

PIEROGI

2 eggs
½ cup water
2 cups flour
½ tsp. salt

Mound flour on kneading board and make hole in center. Drop eggs into hole and cut into flour with knife. Add salt and water and knead until firm. Let rest for 10 minutes covered with a warm bowl. Divide dough in halves and roll thin. Cut circles with large biscuit cutter. Place a small spoonful of filling a little to one side on each round of dough. Moisten edge with water, fold over and press edges together firmly. Be sure they are well sealed to prevent the filling from running out. Drop pierogi into salted boiling water. Cook gently for 3 to 5 minutes. Lift out of water carefully with perforated spoon.

The dough has a tendency to dry while you are working. A dry dough will not seal completely. We suggest rolling out a large circle of dough, placing small mounds of filling far enough apart to allow for cutting, and folding the dough over the mounds of filling. Then cut with small biscuit cutter and seal firmly.

Never crowd or pile pierogi. The uncooked will stick and the cooked will lose shape and lightness.

Varieties of fillings:

Cheese

1 cup cottage cheese
1 tsp. melted butter
1 egg beaten
3 tbsp. sugar
3 tbsp. currants
¼ tsp. cinnamon

Cream cheese with melted butter. Add other ingredients and mix well. Fill pierogi. Serve with melted butter and sour cream.

Cheese

1 cup dry cottage cheese
Dash of salt
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. sugar
1 egg
1 egg yolk

Force cottage cheese through sieve. Mix with other ingredients thoroughly.

Cabbage and Mushrooms

1 small head cabbage
2 cups mushrooms
2 tbsp. sour cream
1 small onion, chopped fine

Butter

Salt and pepper

Quarter cabbage and cook in salted water for 15 minutes. Drain, cool and chop fine. Saute onion in butter, add chopped mushrooms and fry 5 minutes. Add chopped cabbage and continue to fry until the flavors blend. Add sour cream and cool.

Sauerkraut

Two cups sauerkraut may be substituted for the cabbage. Rinse and chop sauerkraut. Proceed as above.

Mushrooms

1 cup chopped mushrooms
1 onion, chopped fine
Salt and pepper
2 egg yolks

Butter

Saute onion in butter. Add mushrooms, Season. Remove from fire, add egg yolks and stir well. Cool and fill pierogi. Serve with chopped onion browned in butter.

Mushrooms and Meat

½ cup cooked beef
½ cup chopped mushrooms
1 onion, chopped fine

Butter

Salt and pepper

2 tsp. sour cream

Run cooked meat through meat grinder. Fry onion in butter until transparent, add mushrooms and meat. Season to taste. Add sour cream and cool before using.

Prunes

1 cup cooked prunes
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. sugar

Soak prunes overnight. Cook with sugar and lemon juice. When cool, remove stones and fill pierogi. Serve with bread crumbs browned in melted butter.

Ripe Plums

Plums

Sugar

Cinnamon

Peel and stone plums. Fill

cavity with sugar and cinnamon. Dip in sugar. Cover with dough and seal edges with egg white. Serve with whipped cream.

Fresh Berries

Blueberries

Sugar

Cherries

Sugar fruit generously for half hour before using.

Cooked Fruits

The fruit preserves or conserve must be thick.

Apples

6 apples

½ cup sugar

¼ tsp. cinnamon

Peel and put apples through coarse blade of grinder. Mix with sugar and cinnamon. Cover the cooked pierogi with thick sour cream, buttered bread crumbs, sugar and cinnamon. Bake in oven at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.

By Johanna Kubinski Cox

Recipe from Ann Onken who is of Polish descent. Can be cut like doughnut with hole in the center or filled like bismark.

Polske Paczke [Polish Donuts]

1 pkg. dry or compressed yeast
¼ cup lukewarm water

1¾ cup scalded and cooled milk

4 yolks plus 1 whole egg

½ cup granulated sugar

½ pound butter or margarine

½ tsp. vanilla

Grated rind of 1 orange or lemon

About 7 cups flour

1 tsp. salt

Dissolve yeast in lukewarm water. When dissolved add 2 cups flour and lukewarm milk.

Let stand in warm place 30 minutes. Beat eggs, sugar, vanilla, grated rind and salt until light. Add to sponge. Add melted butter and 5 cups flour and mix into sponge mixture.

Cover and let rise until double in bulk about 1 hour. When light turn onto floured board and roll to ½ inch thick. Cut with donut cutter. Cover and let rise until light. Drop in deep hot fat (370 degrees) until brown.



Old Farmers Exchange Building. Now Pine City Cooperative Feed Mill.

Pine City Cooperative

45 YEARS OF
Service, East Central Minnesota



Aerial views of Pine City Cooperative's modern operation in Pine City.



From its beginnings in 1937, Pine City Cooperative has grown to over \$6 million in total revenues in 1981. Pine City Cooperative has, during those years, expanded its business & now operates offices in Hinckley & Rush City,

in addition to its diversified Pine City operation. Pine City Cooperative is a leader in supplying the area with feed, fertilizer, petroleum and lumber products! We're proud to be part of the Pine City Heritage.

We Salute the Original Stockholders

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A.M. Karas	President
Richard Downing	Vice President
Beauford Johnson	Secretary-Treasurer
Art Peterson	Director
O.R. Dickson	Director
Adolph Wanous	Director
Iver Stumme	Director

First Annual Meeting Election, 1938

A.M. Karas	President
Clair Shuey	Vice President
O.R. Dickson	Secretary-Treasurer
Joe Wurm	Director
L.E. Odendahl	Director
Adolph Wanous	Director
Arthur Hanson	Director

Directors 1937-1979

Albin Zastera	1937-1937	Henry E. Pangerl	1946-1958
A.M. Karas	1937-1962	Roy Sward	1947-1956
O.R. Dickson	1937-1942	Augustine Finger	1957-1981
Adolph Wanous	1937-1940	Kenneth Hawkinson	1959-1971
L.E. Odendahl	1938-1960	Leo J. Habrman	1960-1969
Clair Shuey	1938-1959	Walter Berg	1961-1973
Joe F. Wurm	1938-1973	Leo Gallik	1962-1976
Arthur Hanson	1938-1942	Wilfred Kraft	1969
Victor Hegstrom	1939-1944	Clarence Gimpl	1969
L.E. Larson	1943-1943	Vernon Kruse	1971
Albrecht Pangerl	1943-1944	Charles Spinler	1973
Edward Swanson	1944-1947	Kenneth Kotek	1973
William G. Erhart	1944-1944	James Sward	1977
Joe Hejny	1944-1947	Myron Behrendt	1981
John E. Johnson	1944-69		

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