

Pine City yesterday since 1895
By Minnie Ververka Neubauer

My father Joe Ververka started a Bakery & Restaurant here the Spring after the Hinckley fire. Our mother with us 4 daughters & an aunt from Chicago came to Pine City from Albert Lea on July 3rd 1895 & on July 4th we all took the train to Beroun for its opening. The first building was being constructed & the standings were up. Coming back on the afternoon train. The Northern Pacific limited at 4:30 p.m. The Robinson Park was here that Dick Robinson donated & it was lovely. With a white fence all around. The Hurley block, the old Court House & the Presbyterian church, which was the first church but at that time other churches were here. The brick school house was new. With the bell in the belfry. So in the fall my sister Fannie & I started school there with Miss Jennie Badger teaching. But not for long as there were too many children so we younger ones had to go to the old Village Hall & it was cold. That used to be the school house before that. The Court House stands there now. The town grew fast & people came & more children. Most families had 6 or 8 children or more. There seemed to be a saloon on every corner & they generally served rye bread with their sandwiches so my fathers business was very good. But after a year or two the whole main Street burned. Mr. Glasow had a large store on the corner & many other business people lived in the back of their stores. Then the next year the Hurley block caught fire & the wind switched to the east so both blocks burned.

And no fire engine at that time -
People were energetic & started to
build right away. As children we were
in all the parades & 4 of July parades were
very special. No cars but hay racks
took their place & every business man
had a float of some kind. Morris Edwards
a printer by trade but a good musician
started the band here & it was wonderful
for the Memorial Day services & all other
special features. There were quite a few
Chippewa Indians here & I have seen
many Indians paddling on the river
from Pokegama in their birch bark canoes.
The Indian women generally landed at the
old depot sitting on the west side on the
board walk watching the trains come in.
Some of the men had feathers in their hats
& also hair braids. One of the biggest things
were the big log drivers that come down
every spring with all the log drivers & their
heavy corked shoes. And the wanigans that
came along & cooked for them.

We children played by the river a lot
in the sand. Later a music teacher
came to Pine City from North Branch & some
of us children done fairly well. After about
14 years in Pine City we sold our business
& set type (8 point by hand) ^{for 1 year} & we moved
to Mpls. Must mention that Congressman
J. Adam Bede started the little paper of
2 pages called "Bede's Budget" printed by Morris
Edwards & later the paper was full sized
& called the Poker as J. Adam Bede said it
poked for all. Moving to Mpls was a different
life & rather hard to adjust ourselves but we did
after 1908 to 1919. I worked in stores & played
for the ~~club~~ ^{club} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~city~~ ^{city} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~Mpls~~ ^{Mpls} ~~for~~ ^{for} ~~many~~ ^{many} ~~years~~ ^{years}

I played for that & as Levi Hall was the president of his class I had the pleasure of dancing with him. He later became Judge Levi Hall for some years. So after that & leaving all my good friends & relatives I married a very fine & good fellow Albert Neubauer, a blacksmith that everybody loved & knew & have been here ever since. During which time I had 2 sons Joseph & Albert Neubauer & 3 grandchildren Joseph, Bernard & Robert & 2 lovely little great grandchildren Tina & Tami Neubauer. Also have 1 lovely talented daughter in law & 2 lovely girls that married my 2 grandsons. All pleasant memories in my 91 years of living which will be Dec. 25th

and Robert &

Minnie Neubauer.

