

CHALLEEN'S ACTIVE IN BUSINESS AND POLITICS

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

Her husband, the late Wm. Challeen came to Pine City in 1909. His father owned the old Fair Store located where the Mora satellite 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 too boring for Challeen so he got into local politics in 1962 and held a seat on the city council for 13 years, and served five terms as mayor of Pine City.

Challeen witnessed exciting changes in Pine City during his term 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; the new armory; adoption of a uniform building code; plans for the new water tower which was completed after his retirement; and concentrated efforts to woo industry to the area.

Challeen was also active in the American Legion and served as national committee of the Fourth and Eight and state commander of the organization.