

years ago in a local paper, when his mind was as clear as a bell, Mr. Smith said:

"No, I did not come to Merrill in an automobile or a pullman palace car. I hoofed it the way from Chicago and it wasn't the best of hoodin' either. That was way back in 1844. I was working down an Illinois town for \$8.00 a month. I threw up my job and started out alone and on foot for this country. I took the way from Chicago and the trip, and what I saved on during that time wouldn't make a Sunday dinner for a small family. When night came on I wrapped myself in a piece of bark and laid down beside a log." Mr. Smith was born in Erie, Pennsylvania, Sept. 10, 1818.

"Wausau was little more than a logging camp. I struck a job with Peter Kelley at \$15.00 a month. That was in December. I hoofed for Kelley until next August. There were absolutely no houses here at that time. I made my headquarters at Wausau, where Merrill now stands was nothing but a wilderness.



WILLIAM REHFELD, is an old-time resident whom we still have with us, and whom in days gone by, has served both the city and county on the board of county supervisors.

ground extended north from Wisconsin Rapids to Lake Superior.

Marathon county was set off from Portage county in 1850.

In the winter and spring of 1872, an epidemic of smallpox raged in Jenny. Nearly every family in Jenny fell victims to the disease, and many died. A pest house was built upon the Champagne hill, with William Averill in charge, but the pest house soon got too small and nearly every house in town became a pest house.

When the village of Jenny was organized in 1850, the people voted to appropriate \$1,000 to build a school, which was erected on land where now Arveson's garage stands.

The taxpayers, O. B. Smith, George Strowbridge, Andrew Warren and Laut Norway, were opposed to building the school house, as there were only two children of school age here, but the sawmill hands, who paid no taxes, voted for the school building.

The first school to start in this new school house, was in the fall of 1860, with Kate Goodrich as teacher. The following are some of the names of the children who attended that first Merrill school: William Averill, Chilli Averill, Ella Averill, Albert Baldwin, Helen Comb, Allen Space, Etta Space, who became Mrs. M. H. McCord, and Miss Sarah Strowbridge, who married Walter Alexander of Wausau.

Etta Space became a mail carrier between here and Wausau, traveling on horseback. Miss Space became an expert equestrienne.

EARLY SETTLERS
Among the settlers in this region

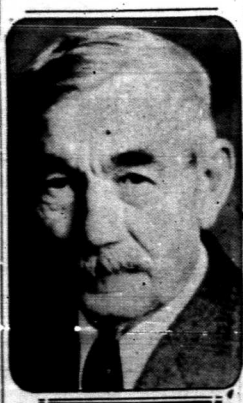
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OLE JOHNSON, now approaching his 77th birthday, came to America from his birthplace in Norway, in 1884, experiencing a delay of 15 days enroute, by reason of the vessel having been frozen in ice. He also claims the distinction of having been one who helped to unload the first load of logs that came to the H. W. Wright sawmill by train. He served as patrolman under the regime of Mayor Chas. Badeau.

gion in the early seventies can be named John T. Adams, Wm. Averill, Fred Baguhn, Aug. Boettcher, Herman Boettcher, Mrs. John Borne—nee Helen Combs—Ed Borthworth, Sr., Frank Chartier, Mrs. Frank Chartier, Peter Combs, Fremont Combs, Horatio Combs, J. N. Cotter, Mrs. J. N. Cotter, Denis Owen and John Derog;

Geo. Doering, Mrs. Geo. Doering, Andrew Donovan, Henry Dudley, Mrs. Henry Dudley, Mrs. Alex. E. Empey, Lou Edgerston, Chas. Fuller, John Green, Thos. Himes, Carl Holman, Mrs. A. D. Kim, Margaret Kathan, F. M. Kaiser, W. H. Kaiser, Mrs. Geo. Kollock, H. A. Kyles, Chas. Kyles, Noel Kyles, Francis E. Mathews, Thos. J. Mathews, Timothy O'Connor, John Posey, Sr.,

Jule Posey, Sr., Jule Posey, Jr., Robert Posey, Orin C. Russell, Mrs. Orin C. Russell, Henry Sales, Mrs. Henry Sales, George Sales, Fred Smith, O. B. Smith, Mrs. Sara L. Styles, Aug. Schuman, Ham Streeter, Chas. Snow, Robert Truax, Mrs. Robert Truax, Frank Weber, Mrs. William West, Jacob White, Clarence White, Miss Alice Young, Sam Young, and Walter Young.

Gibson Active In Public and Private Life

"Prominent logger, farmer and efficient public official," can be truthfully applied to the subject of the foregoing sketch, Mr. George Gibson, for a long time a well known resident of Lincoln county.

Mr. Gibson first saw the light of day on a Clayton county, Iowa farm, Nov. 9, 1858.

Like nearly all farm boys, Mr. Gibson was early in life made acquainted with the soil and toil of farm activity. As a boy Mr. Gibson attended the common school at Elkader, a nearby city.

When through with school days, Mr. Gibson started to explore some of the rest of the country, working for farmers most of the time.

In 1882, Mr. Gibson found himself in Stevens Point, and he also found his school mate sweetheart, Miss Kathryn Downie. On June 22, in 1882, they were joined in wedlock. In sunshine and sorrow, in sickness and health, they have happily walked hand in hand throughout the years.

"The newly weds did what many Stevens Pointers did at that time; they came to Merrill, where Mr. Gibson found employment with the Mihill Manufacturing company. Soon followed a home they built on Grand avenue.

Upon the adoption of the charter of the new city of Merrill, in 1883, Mr. Gibson was appointed the first policeman, his "star" being "No. 1."

Mr. Gibson had made such a fine record in the new police department, that the people of Lincoln county elected him sheriff in 1884.

After the expiration of his term as sheriff, Mr. Gibson was appointed chief of police and chief of the fire department, and was so engaged for a few years. By that time he had bought some timber land at Nigger Island and he engaged in logging. He continued buying his timber for several years. Later he logged on contract for the Goodyear Lumber company, of Tomah, the Geo. E. Wood Lumber company of Chicago, and wound up his logging operations with the Heineman Lumber company several years ago.

At the death of P. B. Champagne, July 3, 1891, Mr. Gibson bought the Champagne farm, now known as the Gibson farm, just outside the city limits, on Highway 63.

The years following Mr. Gibson combined his logging operations with the development of his 146-acre farm.

As a dairyman, Mr. Gibson was active in the organization of the Barnes Creek Co-operative Cheese Factory, about 1912.

In 1897 he joined the stampede for the Klondike, and spent nearly a year in the frozen north, but when the Klondike craze of his wife, he returned to the states, and resumed his logging operations.

Mr. Gibson tells some interesting stories about his experience in the



LESLIE WILLETT, farm and resort owner near Grandfather Falls, is an "old settler," and has participated in the rural development of this section. He has been chosen to various official town positions, and also served as sheriff of Lincoln county.

FOUND SKELETON
While doing some excavating in the vicinity of the handle factory some years ago, workmen unearthed a skeleton, but it was never fully determined whether it was the remains of a white man or an Indian.

Klondike. At that time, the only law which was recognized, was the old Mosier law, "an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth."

He attended a meeting once while there, at a hearing and decision of a disputed gold claim. About 75 men attended the "court," with every man with a rapid fire rifle by his side. Mr. Gibson says that, as sheriff and police officer, he has attended many court services, but the situation at the Klondike 'court' was so tense that it cannot be described in words. Nothing happened, however, and the decision of the 'court' was considered just and honest.

The "court" in this case consisted of several disinterested miners. Besides the official positions named above, Mr. Gibson was a member of the Lincoln County Board of Supervisors for twelve years. In 1901, he was chairman of the board.

As a member of the county legislative body, Mr. Gibson was foremost in everything pertaining to the advancement and development of Lincoln county.

The following lines fit George Gibson:

"For which the one great scorer comes
To write against your name,
He writes not that you won or lost
But how you played the game."

Mr. Gibson has played the game of life on the square.

In politics Mr. Gibson has been a life-long Democrat. At one time he served his party as chairman of the Lincoln County Democratic committee.

Due to failing health Mr. Gibson retired from active business four years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Gibson had one adopted daughter, whom they reared and educated: Miss Ann Downie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Downie, who became Ann Gibson, who through her short life was as dearly loved by her foster parents as if she had been their own child. Miss Ann Gibson attended the public schools in Merrill, was graduated from the Merrill High school and the Lincoln County Normal. She taught school at Tomahawk nearly one year, was taken sick, and passed away in 1914.

The Muskie Bit and the Scars Still Show

Here's one on Fred Smith, the logger, that he neglected to relate in his early experiences. "One day he was swimming in the Wisconsin river below the old bridge, in what on those days was called the "bean hole," when a big muskie came along and grabbed him by the arm, and hung on, until forced to desist. In a remembrance thereof, Fred carries the scars to this day. The retractor said that the fish was later caught by a local fisherman.

McCord Began His Spectacular Career Here

The Hon. M. H. McCord moved to Jenny in 1874, after Lincoln county was organized, and became an active participant in the development of Jenny and Lincoln County. Mr. McCord's former home was in Shawano, where he had been elected to the state senate.

He established the Lincoln County Advocate, the first newspaper published in the new county. He also became interested in banking and engaged in logging.

An one time he was in partnership with the late H. W. Wright. He also started to develop a large farm in the town of Pine River and cleared up about 250 acres of the 600 acres of his holdings.

In 1888 he was elected to congress, but as this congressional district was strongly Democratic he was defeated for re-election.

In 1892, he moved to Arizona, where he entered into the newspaper business in Phoenix. President McKinley appointed him governor in 1897. He resigned the governorship and formed a military organization on the lines of Teddy Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

Later President Roosevelt appointed him United States Marshall. Then he became collector of revenue at Nogales, Arizona, where he died. His remains rest in the Merrill cemetery, beside the late H. W. Wright, who was Miss Etta Space.

How M. H. McCord came to be named governor of Arizona is a story of human interest and may be briefly told.

When the congress convened in December, 1889, Mr. McCord was a member of the house of representatives.

Thomas B. Reed, of Maine and William McKinley of Ohio, were candidates for speaker of the house.

Mr. McCord was the only member of the Wisconsin delegation, who voted for McKinley. When the votes were counted and Reed was elected speaker, McKinley walked over to McCord's seat, Arizona, and wanted to tell McCord, "that if ever the time should come when he"—McKinley—"could do anything for him he would be delighted to do so."

Eight years after, McKinley was president, and McCord a citizen of Arizona, and wanted to be governor of the territory, though he had been a citizen of Arizona only three years. President McKinley promptly appointed him as governor.

But right by Arizona politicians to defeat McCord's confirmation by the senate ensued.

The New York World took up the cudgel against Mr. McCord, called him a "carpet bagger," attacked his personal character, the senate refused to pass the bill, and many other things the friends of McCord here had never heard of.

But what worried McKinley most was, that affidavits had been placed with the president that McCord had engaged in a saloon brawl in Phoenix, so the president asked McCord one day what were the facts.

McCord told him: "One day a friend of mine and I went into a saloon to buy some cigars. There were three or four other men there, and we got to talking politics. One of the men called you a vile unprintable name. I would not stand for that and hit the man and he crumpled down on the floor; but I only struck him once, that was enough."

The explanation satisfied the president. Naturally with a new administration in power, the president had many callers from senators. When the interview was concluded and the senator started to leave, McKinley, who was the senator, "you will vote to confirm my friend, McCord, governor of Arizona, will you not?" McCord was confirmed.

INDIAN BURIED UNDER PAVEMENT

Robert Posey tells of an Indian being buried in an early day on what was later the ground occupied by Thielman's slaughter house, through which the newly extended and concreted portion of East Main street and highway 64 passed. According to his calculation, the skeleton of the Indian today lies beneath a cement monument several miles in length.