

EARLIEST KNOWN PICTURE SHOWS JENNY OF SIXTY-THREE YEARS AGO

(Copyrighted 1902 by T. J. Malowes)

The accompanying picture, taken one bright summer morning in the year 1871, shows the business part of Jenny, now the prosperous city of Merrill, Wis. This picture was taken before Main street had been graded very much, and shows quite a hill in front of the Willard block, and the new court house, this is the lower end of that elevated plateau, which lies just back of Main street and the street car line. The photographer was stationed in front of where the Kheutz building now stands, which building was erected shortly after that time. The view is west from that point. Further back was what was then known as the "Poplar Grove," which was used for a picnic ground, and through which wound the road leading to the cemetery which was located about where the Collier and Larson residences now stand, a portion of it having been cut away when the railroad went north from here. This is the cemetery that contained most of the small pox victims, and considerable apprehension was manifested a few years ago when the occupants of that cemetery were transferred to the present cemetery, lest the plague should again attack the city. The small pox visited Jenny during the winter and spring of 1872, not entirely disappearing until into the summer. It left an awful trail of death and desolation in its wake; its ravages were so widespread, that at one time there were scarcely enough well people in the village to look after the sick and to attend the burying of the dead. A pest house was established on the site of the Truxa homestead, on the site of the Champagne mill, and those who could be moved were taken there, that being considered sufficiently remote to insure complete isolation of the victims. The pest house was in charge of William Averill. It was not long, however, until almost every house was a hospital, for only a few families



EDITORIAL NOTE—This is the earliest picture of Jenny in existence, so far as the Herald office knows. The article accompanying it was copyrighted thirty-two years ago by T. J. Mathews, who was personally acquainted with many of the people of whom he writes. Although the numbering referred to by Mr. Mathews in his article is almost obliterated on the cut, it is possible to follow his meaning.

completely escaped the disease. There was no doctor here then.

The lumber from here was sold to dealers down along the Mississippi river, usually bringing about \$16 per thousand delivered, but always bringing the highest price of any lumber reaching the St. Louis market. St. Louis was the great lumber market then, and the price of every board of lumber was fixed there just as absolutely as the price of every bushel of wheat in the world is now fixed by the price of that bushel of wheat on the Liverpool market. A few logs were banked on the ice at the mill, then railroads were built along the banks where the Advocate office now stands (now Arverson's Garage site) and Main

street was usually banked full from in front of Dr. Walsh's residence to the Patzer house, leaving only a narrow passage through the center. In the spring these logs would be put in the river at the mill, sawed into lumber and generally rafted at once so as to get as many pieces of lumber as possible out on the spring water and the regular June freshet into cribs just below the mill; these cribs were usually sixteen feet square, and about 21 courses deep, and were dumped into the river and floated down the eddies just above and below the bridge, and there coupled into what was called rapids pieces and loaded down with shingles; these rapids pieces were further coupled into rafts, and the expression "seven long, three abreast and 21 deep" was an expression often heard, and one that had a well defined meaning, representing as it did, a very common type of water craft seen floating down the Wisconsin river those days, or hung up on sand bars. On the lower river all the

rafts in a fleet were farther united in a Mississippi river raft, which when it got fairly started down the river, held the channel against all forms of water craft, and loud were the curses that greeted the crew whenever a steamboat had to dodge in behind an island, or hunt for a grass to escape the crushing greetings that was sure to follow if the boat met one of these rafts in the channel of the river. Coming back to Jenny again, back of the houses on the left there was a dense cedar swamp, and on the right side the forest came as near as Fifth street. Figure 1, in the picture represents the front yard of the property sold to the county by Grievelding when the present court house site was purchased. The house was occupied by Bill Sigagus, one of the early settlers here, and one whose whole family, with the exception of a daughter, Blanche, was carried away by small pox; those remaining subsequently removed to Colorado. This house was situated on First street, back of De Vall's carpenter shop.

Figure 2, represents what was at that time the best residence in the village. The house was built by Cy Strobridge in the year 1864, and was sold to Gid Young in the year 1866, together with a strip of land 100 feet wide extending across the west side of the block, the consideration was \$1,100. The lot originally belonged to William Wilson, of Wausau. Here, Mr. Young lived for many years, until the growth of the city made the property more valuable for business than residence purposes, when he sold the property and removed to his present residence. This building now stands on the right side of Court street.

Figure 3, represents the Eagle House, built by Z. Space, the front part in the year 1858, the wing some years earlier. Henry Sales helped Space build the main part. This house was then, and for a long time after, the principal hotel in the village. Just under figure 4, dimly outlined, stands the "town pump," famous for the abundance and purity of its water. Here was situated the public watering trough, here the stage from Wausau pulled up, and here the people congregated to receive the

latest news from the outside world, especially during the time of the Chicago fire, and the campaign of Grant in 1872. The third story of the Eagle House was used as a ball room at one time, and the dining room was converted into an opera house more than once to accommodate some itinerant show troupe or sleight of hand man. The main part of the building stands on the hill just back of where it originally stood.

Figure 4, represents what was then a store house and rafting shanty, only it was moved over and joined to the Jenny house and now forms the upright of M. L. Poirier's residence.

Figure 5, represents the Jenny House. At the time this picture was taken it was kept by A. C. Norway. Several people had a hand in the Jenny house, in the early 50s Alexander Watson started it, he sold it to Cy Strobridge, who added to it in 1856, and in 1864 sold it to Han Streeter for \$1,500. Streeter was logging at the time, and kept his men there. In the late 50s Streeter sold it to A. C. Norway, who added to it from time to time until it assumed the form it had when M. L. Poirier bought it. It was at this house that Jerry Evans and Andy Derog died of small pox, they being the first to die here of that disease as I recollect it. The man on the ladder painting is L. C. Tyler, one of the earliest settlers, here, the first painter to locate here. He lived here for many years, was sheriff of the county at an early date, and owned and occupied the property where John Landers now resides.

Figure 6, represents the Scott & Andrews barn; the projection out into the street was a wagon shed. This barn was built by Z. Space and Henry Sales and was burned at the time the first Lincoln House burned. The most interesting reminiscence in connection with this barn is the fact that Dr. Tanner's wonderful feat of living forty days on water, was surpassed by an old sow and two shoats belonging to Z. Space that stayed under this barn 84 days without either food or water. The old sow was the terror of the community and never failed to help herself to anything in the line of eatables that happened to be within reach. She would climb

Gruetzmacher One of Original Herald Force

Writing about an individual who was an employee of the Herald a quarter of a century ago, offers more than the usual amount of interest. Before the Daily Herald became the property of its present management, George O. E. Gruetzmacher, who is now proprietor of the Quality Print Shop, which is located at 726 Second street, was one of its original employees.

He came to the newspaper plant on June 3rd, twenty-seven years ago and worked for twelve years in various capacities of the plant. In 1916 he joined hands with H. C. Roemer as partner in the Quality Print Shop, which was at that time located just a short distance from the present shop on Second street. When war was declared, Mr. Gruetzmacher served his country for eleven months, enlisting with the 85th Division of the Infantry, and saw real fighting action on the Jos-Metz front. After the war he returned to his business and purchased the interests of his partner, and thirteen years ago he moved into his present location.

E. D. Mahon is a member of the present corporation. Mr. Mahon is a printer of wide experience and formerly published the Merrill News. He received his training on Wisconsin newspapers in Portage, Wausau, and Merrill.

It is interesting to note that the school supplies in which Mr. Gruetzmacher has now a most complete stock, are being supplied to schools in several of the counties throughout this area. In addition to supplying school supplies, the Quality Print Shop has a complete stock of office materials and other necessities for school and office requirements.

The printing plant is equipped to do almost any kind of job work, and color printing, also Litho set work. The plant is well equipped with a high speed Cylinder press and two platen job presses. There are also binding machines,

stitchers, perforators and other equipment, that makes it one of the most efficient plants in this section of the country.

One of the most interesting phases of Mr. Gruetzmacher's business is that he has a secret formula for securing printing orders from 37 states. The writer noted orders from Wyoming, Alaska, Idaho, Texas and New Mexico. It would be interesting to know just how a Merrill concern can compete with the thousands of printers located throughout the country and secure this business without solicitation—that, however, is the secret.

The shop also handles a very complete line of office machines, such as typewriters, having exclusive agency for L. C. Smith-Corona Portables, and the Underwood Standard. These machines are handled in both the new and rebuilt, and every facility is available to repair any make of typewriter. In the office supply equipment line, the shop also sells and repairs cash registers and adding machines.

Another specialty of this shop is the facility to do mimeograph work of every type, and in addition to this they sell mimeographs, both new and used, and there is also a stock of Parker Fountain Pens, which is considered the largest line of pens and pencils in the city, and full facilities for repairing fountain pens.

The staff consists of two people in the office and supply department, while the shop has three. Both Mr. and Mrs. Gruetzmacher, take an active interest in the business and it is of historical note that both are natives of Lincoln county. Mr. Gruetzmacher was born in the town of Pine River and came from a family of twelve children. Mrs. Gruetzmacher was born in the city of Merrill having been trained in public and normal school work and prior to her marriage taught school for a number of years.



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