

Local Firm Has Monuments In Several Cities

The Merrill Marble & Granite Works, located at 113 North Prospect street, at the intersection of Grand avenue, was organized and owned by the Coalgise Brothers, Hugo and William, in the year 1900, and successfully conducted by them for a period of years leading up to the year 1921, when the brother William, having been removed by death, the business was sold to the present operators, Mithauer & Anderson, both of whom are practical and efficient stonecutters and business men.

H. J. Mithauer, senior member, began his primary work at stone cutting at the age of 16 years, and has continued to follow that vocation practically, for the succeeding 26 years.

Alfred Anderson, junior partner, began the vocation of stone cutting at a comparatively early age, and has continued to follow that vocation up to the present time, barring the time he spent in the service of Uncle Sam, during the World War, having attained the rank of gunners' mate, and had charge of training the recruits at the Great Lakes Naval Station.

As evidence of the practical efficiency of this organization, may be mentioned by the fact of their handwork exhibited in the "Centotaph Monument," erected in "Centotaph Park," near the Badger Hotel; the mausoleums erected in the Merrill cemetery by the Stange Family, the Leidiger family, and the Van Hecke family, in memory of their departed relatives.

This organization has become well and popularly known throughout a wide section of country, and receives regular patronage from the district included within the counties of Lincoln, Langlade, Oneida and Price, and portions of Marathon.

The Merrill Marble & Granite Works claim to be equipped to provide and execute as fine a finished product in the monumental line as may be obtained anywhere in the state.

Fred Smith One of First White Boys Born In Merrill

Mr. Fred Smith, son of O. B. Smith, pioneer Lincoln County citizen, is one of the two first white male children born in Merrill. He and his brother Frank, now deceased, were twins.

Mr. Smith's whole life has been spent in Merrill. Here he went to school, here he courted his wife, here their children were born.

Mr. Smith followed in the footsteps of his father in the logging and lumbering business. Mr. Smith is a public spirited citizen. All his life he has been a booster for his birthplace.

CENOTAPH



This beautiful monument occupies the center of the smallest of Merrill's parks, the Centotaph park at the junction of Grand Avenue and Prospect Street. It was erected as a war memorial on a tract donated to the city by A. H. Stange. The monument itself was made by a local firm, The Merrill Marble and Granite Works.

Miles Swope Had Thrilling Battle Tales

Another old citizen who came here in 1858 deserves mention, Miles Swope. Mr. Swope was born in Herkimer County, New York state, March 28, 1831.

Mr. Swope engaged in the lumbering business, and built a dam and sawmill out on Pine River, and developed a farm as well. The sawmill be operated for several years.

Mr. Swope spent four years in the war of the rebellion, having entered in Company A of the 149th Pennsylvania Volunteers. He was at the front in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. In the battle of Gettysburg he was wounded; in fact, the company was almost extinguished. In the first day's battle at Gettysburg, out of a company of 66 men, the next morning only 7 reported for duty. The 59 others were either killed, wounded or missing. In the first volley fired by Lee's veterans, the two men standing at his side—one on either side—fell dead. Quite a shock, we should say, to a raw recruit.

City Concrete Street Paving Done Bit By Bit

The most recently-completed piece of paving in this city was done this summer, when the piece from Pophal's corner past the cemetery and out through the grove to the city limits was finished. All the other concrete was laid during A. R. Wittman's administrations.

The main job of concrete paving started with the portion around Centotaph park and on Grand Avenue, went down past the library, around Polk street to Second street, and down Second street to the city hall. The portion on Sixth street was paved at the same time.

Later paving was put on the hill

Old Greenhouse Occupied Site of Courthouse

The first greenhouse in Merrill was erected some forty or forty-five years ago on the site of the present courthouse. A small greenhouse, with two small houses, was run on this location at the time the county bought the tract in 1902 for the construction of the courthouse.

Niek Grievelding was proprietor at that time and had been for some years before. When the county bought him out he immediately built a new greenhouse on the location where Harry Green's business is now located.

Mr. Green entered the florist business with the Phillips concerning Wausau in 1913, after having been employed in a number of miscellaneous activities before that. In 1917 the Phillips people incorporated and Mr. Green was taken into the firm as Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1920, desiring to own his own business, Mr. Green came to Merrill and bought the Grievelding establishment.

At present Mr. Green raises about a hundred different varieties of blossom for Merrill people. He grows some 5,000 pots of geraniums for wholesale and retail trade.

In connection with the greenhouse, he owns an acre of soil near town that is always kept sowed in grass or legume crop and perpetually turned over to renew itself. From this soil he renews his beds, which, under the forced culture in the greenhouse, are soon exhausted. To enrich the soil in the beds for certain plants he uses ordinary and commercial fertilizers.

Five Employees
Five people besides Mr. Green and his wife are at work most of the time in the greenhouse, with sometimes two or three extra being employed. They fertilize the beds, clip, transplant and move plants, tie and brace stalks with wire and strings, fumigate the greenhouses once a week to prevent the inroads of diseases and insects, change the soil and make up bouquets and packages.

streets. Poplar street at Peterman's corner, the Mill street block from St. Stephens church to the Ford garage, and the portion on Genesee street from West Main to the Lincoln Mill, were paved as safety measures. Cedar avenue was paved at the time Highway

Mrs. Green came to work in the greenhouse as Miss Florence Secard, and was married to Mr. Green two years later. She still helps him in caring for the flowers.

The greenhouse is heated most of the year, and the cost in heat, labor, and supplies amounts to 70 cents per square foot of bed in the greenhouses. The other year the greenhouse used about 4 carloads of coal each winter, but during recent hard times Mr. Green has been burning locally-cut wood bought from farmers. He requires some 300 full cords of 4-foot wood. Two years ago he checked up the people who worked in getting him this wood, and discovered that his consumption alone provided work for fifteen men for two months.

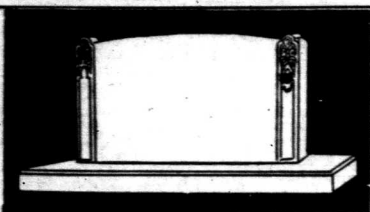
In summer, however, the temperature under the glass roof sometimes reaches 130 degrees, and the plants die.

Carnations are the most popular flowers in Merrill, Mr. Green has discovered. Next to them come chrysanthemums, which bloom from October to Christmas. Gladioli and primroses are other favorites, and the spring flowers are always popular in season. The daffodils, tulips, hyacinths, narcissi, and the rest are raised from bulbs imported from Holland. Snapdragons, growing to three feet high, form lovely decorations and are much desired.

Mr. Green is a member of the Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Florists' Association and of the Florists' Telegraph association. This organization enables florists to exchange orders by telegraph to any point in the country with 5,000 florists participating. Flowers ordered anywhere in the nation may be delivered within the day of ordering at the regular price plus the cost of the telegram. The florists maintain a Detroit clearing house through which accounts amounting to millions of dollars are cleared once annually. Similar organizations in other countries make this service almost world-wide.

51 was relocated and the bridge and viaduct were put in, in 1931-32.

The ornamental lighting system was discussed as far back as the Smith administration and later under the Reinhart administration, but was not put in until 1925.



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FLORIST