

through Jenny when the lakes and trails were frozen in the winter time.

"Large droves of cattle were also driven through Jenny by Geo. Sturdevant and Starr Laport, which were destined to become fresh meat for the miners—and it would not be difficult to imagine what kind of beef they would make after having been driven such a distance, and fed only on wild hay along the way.

Eagle River Shows Down

"After a few years the parties logging up there, and who were stealing the timber from the government, found the expense of getting their

logs to Grand Rapids too great, (it required about two years), and the little village of Eagle River became dormant, and many built—were destroyed by fire, and it continued practically uninhabited until the Northwestern railroad went through about 1883, except for two old-timers, 'Old Kentucky' and Finn Lawler, both of whom died there a few years ago.

"Since the coming of the railroad, the town recovered, and has continued to prosper.

Early Settlers Mostly Easterners

"Most of the people who came here in an early new day, came from Pennsylvania and Illinois. The Warrens

all came from Kane county, Illinois, including my father. Alex and John Stewart came from New Brunswick to Kane county, but later, when they wanted to get further west and into the logging and lumber business, they followed up and came here.

"The first work they did in the woods was to chop and saw logs one winter.

"The next year they 'shaved shingles', packed them, and when the lumber was sent out in the spring, they piled them on the market. Their first shingle shanty was located near where the Heib plant now stands. The next one was built on the John

Nuttall farm, on the bank of the Wisconsin river, about a mile above Pine River.

"Having accumulated money, they bought Schepeter's interest in the McIndoe & Schepeter company, and the firm became McIndoe & Stewart. When McIndoe died his interests were turned over to Walter Alexander, which then formed the Stewart Lumber company.

More Indians than White Folks
"In an early day," continued Mr. Smith, "there were a great many more Indians in the country than white people."

"The Chippewa tribe, at one time,

The three pictures shown on this page show the development of Merrill during the past 76 years. They are all views of the east side looking west from the present courthouse site.

The top picture is believed to be the oldest picture of the community in existence and was taken in 1871. It shows such old structures as the Eagle House, Cy Strowbridge home, store house and rafting shanty, Jenny House, Scott & Andrews barn, Posey house, village school, old post office building, Hank Weller's blacksmith shop, Eagle House barn, old stage barn, and D. A. Kline residence. Note the pig pen at present site of J. A. Nusbaum's Furniture Store.

The bottom picture was taken at the time of the erection of the new courthouse, in 1900.

The middle picture was taken from the court house tower just a few weeks ago.

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This picture taken in 1900, is probably the first picture taken from the Court House Tower.