

Wagon Shop Was On River Street Many Years Ago

By Charles W. Kuehl
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I was born December 15, 1871 and came to Jenny about 1875 with my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kuehl. We came from Wausau by stage coach.

We lived in a shanty near the present Green Hotel where father, who was a carpenter and mechanic, built a house northeast from where the Co-op store is now located.

Father started a furniture store on River street which he later sold to Littlejohn. Then he built a big wagon shop on River street where the Weiss Wood Products plant is located. He did a big business here and had his own blacksmith and wagon makers. They made sleighs, buggies and lumber wagons. I recall that P. B. Champagne ordered two dozen lumber wagons at one time. Anson & Gilkey Co. used many made at father's place. When the auto came, father built the present Weiss plant and window frames, door and window screens and rough boxes were made there. One room was reserved for carpenter work, both new and repair.

Father logged near where the county home now stands and also had a farm there. When the water works was established he took a contract to supply 1,600 cords of fuel wood. We had our own teams and I helped father skidding in the woods. I had a camp on Dudley Road at Big Spring cutting fuel wood for dad.

I ran the mill from Dudley, Bloomville, Gleason, Chat, Pine River and Merrill. Cannon was postmaster at Merrill at that time.

I drove stage from Merrill to Dudley. The stage was a three-seater, drawn by a team of horses and carried mail, passengers and freight.

When the first mill was built at Harshaw, I helped father. It burned down and father rebuilt it. Indians were still around and I remember that Indian Pete worked at times for father around the house or in camp.

Langley & Anderson had a camp store where the Merrill Candy Co. factory is now located. I managed this store for ten years and helped establish camps for lumberjacks at Sawyer, Long Lake, Irons, etc. The company had seven or eight camps and I would hire the lumberjacks, buy hay and other supplies, and attend to furnishing the camps with all the equipment, such as dishes, cooking utensils, stoves, etc.

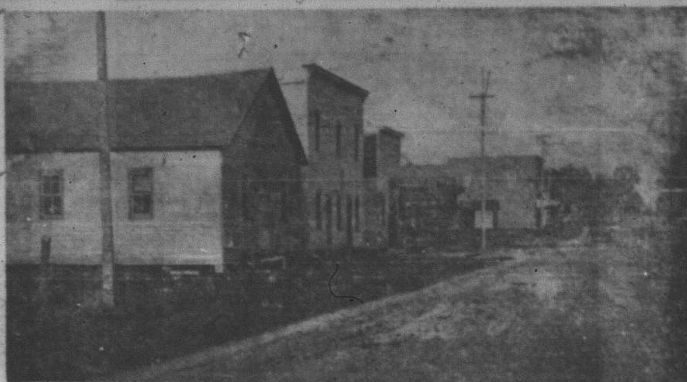
When I was a boy I went to a one-room school where the Second Ward school is now located. Then I went to the Second Ward school. Judge Porter was the teacher. Among the boys I knew at that time were Fred Runge, Charles Runge and the Kuehl boy.

The first cemetery in Merrill was near where the Milwaukee Road Water tank stands.

I have been sexton at the Merrill Catholic cemetery for 15 years.

Sixty Years Ago

The Wenzel Hardware Store was founded sixty years ago by Gustav Wenzel and at that time was located on Grand avenue. Some years later A. B. Nelson erected the present building at the corner of West Main and Genesee streets.



A picture of Doering, taken many years ago.

Alex Fellows Rated Among Best River Men In This Area.

Alex Fellows, who makes his home in the Sixth Ward, was 88 years old this June. He is an old time lumberjack and riverman and in his day was rated among the best.

Alex came to Jenny as a young man and worked in the woods and on the drives, including the last drive on the Copper river. He also worked on the boom under D. D. Tarr.

Alex, though an expert on logs, could never swim. Asked recently what he did when he went off a log he replied that he "walked to shore." He recalls going down into some 20-odd feet of water below the dam on one occasion and walking along the river bottom to the shore some 50 feet away.

Men working on the drive, says Alex, would sleep in tents along the river bank, breaking the ice to get at the logs, working in water up to their waists all day and never removing their wet clothes. Work would start at 4 a.m. and continue until dark.

Alex would handle the dynamite used in breaking ice in the spring and freeing the rollways.

He worked for H. H. Wright, L. N. Anson, Stange and Champagne on the Wisconsin, Tomahawk, Copper and other rivers. Logs piled up, he recalls, some 200 feet high during the big jam at Grandfather. Alex was married in this city and has three children living. Mrs. Agnes Radke, Ben, at home, and Mrs. Dorothy Green.

Mr. Fellows is one of the oldest survivors of that great race of lumberjacks and river men who contributed so much in the development of this community and who, in spite of all hardships and dangers, saw that the logs got to the mills.

Dan Kline Saved Kegs of Whiskey Instead of Powder

About 1882 we had a big fire in Merrill, in the block where the Lueck Hardware Store, and Merrill Candy Co., are located. There was a wooden building that housed a hardware store, and several saloons, and the S. Heinenyan store was located in this block. Naturally there was very little fire protection equipment, and the Station Agent, F. A. Hanover, wired to Wausau for help. They loaded their steamer pup on a flat car, and made the run to Merrill in 45 minutes, remarkable time considering the condition of the road bed. But, when they arrived here, they did not have enough hose to place the

pumper on the bridge, and reach the fire. Dan Kline, one of the old characters kept carrying out kegs of whiskey from the saloons, yelling "Gang-way," this is powder from the Hardware store, and it might blow us all up; people scattered in all directions and Dan had a clear path. Not for several days did they finally find out that what Dan was carrying was whiskey, and not powder.

Had Fine Team

P. B. Champagne, who operated a sawmill in Merrill and also owned a fine team of good horses. He generally drove a team of shiny black horses, and there seemed to be no prouder man than when P. B. was in the carriage with the reins in his hands.

Best Wishes To
MERRILL
on its
100th BIRTHDAY



HELEN BRITT SHOP

Join in the Celebration July 3, 4, 5, 6

CONGRATULATIONS



1847 - 1947

We extend our congratulations to Merrill on its Hundredth Birthday... and we hope that in the years to come Merrill will continue its growth and progress.

MERRILL BOX CO.

Dr. Michael Ravn, who established the Ravn hospital here nearly half a century ago. He was succeeded by his two sons, Drs. Bjarne and Erling Ravn who now conduct the Ravn Clinic.