

shop and cabinet working shop at the present location of the Ted Leder Wm. A. Smith, C. C. Millenbach, E. H. Lang, Harry G. Doering and John Calton.

Can you remember when the Mike Dufek saloon and hotel stood behind what is now the Gleason Bowling Center and the Millenbach dwelling stood where the bowling alley now stands? Do you recall that Mike Dufek moved the tavern and hotel building to the corner next to the Ted Leder dwelling and then sold it to Joe Nowinski and he to Youmans and Booras and then Wm. Schielke took possession and was the proprietor at the time it was destroyed by fire?

Is it true that Chet Burt ran a store in the building now housing the Lapsenberg repair shop? Did Jack Lapsenberg open his shop in March, 1946? Was Dr. Meany's office in the present bank building? Did you know that he came here in 1915? Would you believe that there was a very strenuous effort made to incorporate Gleason in 1921? Can you locate the following streets in Gleason: Russell Avenue, Bradley Street, Prairie Avenue, West Street, Farmers Avenue and Lydia Street? They're all here.

Can you recall the following street: Levi's Livery barn; Hough dance hall, the Manthey brick house, Strobel's blacksmith shop, Ronis Brothers garage, the Schiefke tavern and hotel, the H. M. Wyant barn and the Gleason-Walton dwelling? I'll bet you can think of others, but can you recall the years when they all happened? I can't.

Gleason has a Commercial Club. It was organized in 1942. The members meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month. It now has a membership of twenty-five. Many worthwhile things have been accomplished through the concerted efforts of this organization. The Club has a national membership. Edward Smith is the present president, and Wm. Stein is secretary-treasurer. Past presidents are C. C. Millenbach and George Ronis.

Is it true or false that Roscoe Dayton operated a grocery store at the present location of the Gleason Electric Shop; that Otto Bergman has a modern machine shop just west of the Standard Oil Company bulk station; that there were restaurants in the buildings now occupied by Ralph Hopper and the Consumers Exchange feed store; Gleason's main street (Russell Avenue) was at one time a town road, then a county road and then State Highway 63 and now 17; that the first school house is now a hog house on the present Harold Patterson farm (it's that little log building); the Associated Co-op. Services first opened their store in Gleason in the Ratzburg building in October, 1944, and moved to their present location in January, 1947 and George Duley, Bernice Yonke and Arthur Brikowski have served as managers; that the Standard Oil Company bulk station was erected here in 1920, and Martin Henrich has been their local agent continuously since April, 1921.

Mail was brought from Merrill to Gleason by stage coach for many years. Some of these carriers were Henry Dudley, Hans Johnson, Oswald Gross, Peter Detjen and Jack Flynn. In the fall of 1946 Antonio Montanone opened a modern, six lane bowling alley and tavern in Gleason. The people in the community enjoy this recreation in the winter—five nights of each week were devoted to league bowling the past winter.

The Hackbarth Feed Mill is a comparatively new business in Gleason, having opened for business in 1946. It is managed by Erwin Hodgson.

The Prairie River Cooperative Dairy Co., a combined cheese and butter manufacturing plant, was established in Gleason in 1915. This is one of the few remaining plants of this type still remaining in the country. It enjoys a very liberal patronage and has several established milk routes throughout this vicinity. Last year this plant manufactured 700,000 pounds of cheese alone, and it did a quarter of a million dollars in business in 1946. It employs three cheesemakers and a buttermaker in addition to other lesser help. Wm. H.

Schenk has been manager the past twelve years, succeeding his father who passed away in 1935.

Ossie Gross is one of the older businessmen in the village. He has been local distributor of Watkins products continuously since 1923.

The Gleason Lunch building was built by Herb Krahn in 1945 and operated by him until 1946 when it was bought by Arthur Ranker. This is a very popular eating place which is attested to by the many transients who stay there regularly for meals when passing through Gleason.

A barbershop was opened in Gleason in 1919 by Wm. H. Mellin, and he has been succeeded by Milo Mos, Mrs. Alma Nainka, Harry Tubin, Leonard Smith and the present barber, Wm. Schielke. The shop was destroyed by fire when it was operated by Leonard Smith, but a better and more modern building was immediately erected at the same location.

Gleason has a very complete electric shop operated by Alvin Brist. This business came into existence in 1946. Another sign that Gleason has progressed with the times.

The two filling stations—Standard and the Gleason Super Service Station—managed by Merle Henrich and Kenneth Oldenburg and George Leder, respectively, do a thriving business. There wasn't much need for an electric shop or filling stations when Gleason came into existence forty-five years ago.

And as time and conditions have changed so have the business enterprises in the village kept stride, and today Gleason is as up-to-date as any little town in the state.

Our local cabinet maker, Ted Leder, is kept busy making bars and other fixtures for taverns and lunch rooms and ice cream parlors and the quality of his work has brought orders from throughout the northern portion of the state.

And that is the history of Gleason—ancient, medieval and modern.



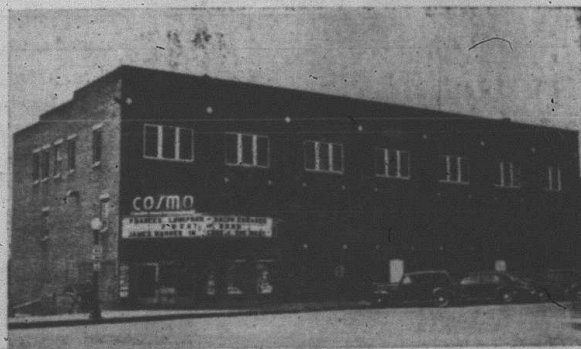
The senior Fromm, his six sons and one daughter, taken when Fromm Bros. was gaining national recognition as breeders of high grade silver fox furs.

Forest fires swept the territory east and south of Merrill in 1893, causing the loss of several lives and heavy property damage.

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