

City's Banks Date Back To Early Days of Merrill

The Citizens American Bank of Merrill is the successor of the first bank organized in the city. The earliest bank located in the present Peterman building. J. W. Laid was its president, H. E. Howe its cashier and Chas. Stephens the collector and messenger boy. It was known as the First National Bank of Merrill.

In 1892, Stagers, S. Heineman, P. P. Niemi, H. H. Foster, L. N. Hanson, A. H. Stange, John Van Hecan, R. O. Kingsley and George A. Foster organized "The National Bank of Merrill."

The new bank was located at the corner of East Main street and My street, the present location of the Citizens American Bank, in a building built by Mr. Heineman.

In 1894 the National Bank took over the private bank of George Haywood and in 1897 took over the business of the First National Bank.

The first officers of "The National Bank of Merrill" were S. Heineman, president; P. P. Niemi, vice president; and George A. Foster, cashier.

In June of 1934 the Citizens American Bank and the American State Bank were consolidated.

The Lincoln County Bank celebrates its 50th anniversary this year. It was founded August 1, 1897 by A. H. Stange and operated as a private bank until the passage of the law prohibiting private banking corporations. Since that time it has been operating under a state charter.

When it began operations it was located in the building now occupied by Styza Bros. West Main street. To meet expansion needs it was soon moved to a new building erected for the purpose on the corner of Main and Prospect streets.

Having outgrown its quarters again, in 1912 it moved to its present location in a new building adjoining the old.

In its fifty years of history it has had but two presidents. A. H. Stange, its first president, and Win. J. Tesch, the present president.

A. B. Nelson, A. H. Stange and C. J. Kinzel were members of the original board of directors when it began operations as a state bank.



A picture of Merrill's volunteer fire department taken 60 years ago in front of the west side barn.

Volunteer Fire Department In The Early Days

The first regularly organized fire department in Merrill was started in 1887 with Julius Theilman as chief. Previous to this there had been a semi-organized department for a short time: H. W. Wright was chief of this, and chemical apparatus was purchased about 1884. After the installation of the city water works in 1887 the department was reorganized with Fred Stroud as chief and after a short time it was regularly organized as a volunteer department with Mr. Theilman as chief. Besides Theilman, the members of the department were: Edward J. Crawford, Robert Truax, George Haywood, Jr., Jesse Sipes, Frank H. Skinner, F. Moffat, G. F. Koshler, C. Goodwin, Alex Black, J. W. Mathers, R. C. Collie,

A. H. Stange, James Coon, L. C. Tynner, John W. Cotey, Burton Crown, H. R. Fehland, E. F. Hanf, Thomas De Vall, T. R. Newell, Joseph Downie, P. Berard, L. A. Harrison, M. W. Sweeney, Jens Ballschneider, F. W. Stroud, Herman Zipf, H. R. Skinner, O. E. Byington, H. Littlejohn, David M. Phinney, W. H. Cannon, Willie Gambien and F. H. Hutz.

Only one engine house, that on the west side, was erected at first. This was built on Grand avenue in 1884 and has since been added to. The east side house was erected in 1890.

In 1890 or 1891, two hose-carts, each drawn by one horse, were obtained to supplement the hand drawn chemical and hook and ladder apparatus, and in 1892 a horse-drawn hook and ladder truck was added. A paid driver for this apparatus was employed in 1894.

Julius Theilman, after serving as chief for two years, was succeeded by Richard King and four years later, John Cotey took charge. Mr. Cotey also served for four years and was followed by Owen Love, who occu-

pled the position for three and one half years, at the expiration of which time, in 1901, Andrew Millsaugh took the office. The change from a volunteer to a paid department was made about 1898.

Andrew Millsaugh started with the department in 1894 when he went in as the first paid driver on the old hook and ladder truck. He served as chief from 1901 until his death on December 15, 1938. Adford Talbot became chief in 1939 and following his death in October, 1941, was replaced by Otto Wala, who held the post from the beginning of 1942 until October 16, 1942, when the present chief, Walter N. Johnson, took over.

OLD KOLLOCK HOUSE

The Louis Fried stables used to be on land now occupied by the Lincoln county jail.

The old Kollock House was also on this land and was later moved to the corner of Court and First streets, now owned by Alfia.



1847-1947

WE PLEDGE OURSELVES TO

Serve our patrons and community well with our new and modern equipment. We are proud of the New Hotel Merrill the part it is playing in the growth of our city and of the citizens of our fine community.

MERRILL'S "March of Time"

Our city has grown since the fall of 1847 when the first permanent community was established here. . . new and assorted industries have replaced the many lumber mills and Merrill is continuing to move ahead.



HOTEL MERRILL