

MAIN STREET FIFTY YEARS AGO

By W. R. & Joe A. Chilesen

When we were youngsters and took trips to the West Side from our home in the First Ward, the first place of business we would pass would be Matt Neubauer's First and Last Chance Saloon. He had a sign which read from the east "First Chance" and from the opposite side it read "Last Chance." Back of it on the tracks was the W. R. Bryan Feed Mill now run by the Consumer's Co-op.

The next business place was the Schroeder Saloon, now Green's Hotel, then the Borchardt Saloon, the present Co-op grocery. Across the street, west, was J. G. Pomeroy and Charles Rusch's Farmers Home, The German Newspaper office and then "Tubby" Klaus Home on the south-east corner of Park and Main. Across the street was the Patzer saloon and hotel, Muehlger's shoe shop and Neubauer's Cigar Factory.

The next block we passed Fehland and Hanf's Hardware store, Butt's Hotel and Saloon, The Kollock's Store, Thielman's Branch market, Luedke's Tin Shop, Korslake's Restaurant, Kanke's saloon, The Jenny House and Dente's Bakery.

On the Court House Square was Greveling's Green House and Mrs. Willard's Candy Store. Across the street was Dan Kline's home, the Chapman building, the Russell residence and J. Ber and Stank's meat market, now the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation office.

The next two blocks had King and Kluetz's Drug Store, Atkin's Saloon, The Poirier's Saloon and Liquor store, Livingston's store, the Chinese

Laundry, the two banks, Dave Pinner's Insurance Agency, C. E. Esari, the jeweler, the expense office, Schmidt Sisters Millinery store, Dan Cullen's pop corn wagon, Drinker and Fowler's Drug store, Cannon's Book store, George Strickland the jeweler, the post office, the Boardman House, Trantow Paint store, Peterman's Grocery and the Scott Lumber Co. office.

The Lincoln House stood on the site of the Hotel Merrill and back of it was Dr. Collier's office. Across the street was the Littlejohn Furniture store and Undertaking parlors, the Willard building and the Advocate office.

On Mill street was Compton's Grocery, Roth and Sturm's Grocery, Shafer's Jewelry store, Brassard's Saloon, Eagle's Drug store and on First street was Nordlund's Studio, Steadling's Grocery, York's Hotel and Rex's Saloon.

Then came Zion's Grocery, Whitten's Store, the City Hall and City hospital, then the depot and Millenbach's Saloon and Stattebo's Saloon, and beyond the depot, Jensen's Grocery and Hans Hansen Store.

The Scandin House or Hotel, across the street was a Norwegian Methodist Church built by John Martinson. Where the high school stands was the Central Mfg. Co. then on up to the West Side we remember, the Boyer Laundry, C. M. Howard, Gus Onet, August Sukov, Frank Montgomery and Billie Whittaker.

Our trip from one end of town to the other meant a visit to the Seim family on Wisconsin street and well do we remember the big Champagne Mill with its huge slab burner.

Robert Posey Has Been Resident Of County Since 1864

By Robert Posey
409 Scott Street

I was born at Grandfather Falls on December 20, 1864. My father, Julius Posey, had a station there, which was a stopping place for teams and mail going north as far as Eagle River. Other stations between Merrill and Tomahawk were Jim Ingersoll's at Grandfather Falls, Gilbert's at Gilbert, and Bouchard's at Tomahawk.

Dad came to Wausau about 1849 and when he came north from that village he built the log house which stands about two miles below Pine River on "W". He built this as a camp and later McDonald purchased the house and land. Paquette had not yet built his place on the knoll near by.

When dad first came to Wausau in 1849 his first job was cutting timber where the courthouse now stands in that city. He built the first Lincoln Hotel in Jenny. The first one was built about where King's tavern is now located in the year 1866. Then he built a larger one, taking part of the old hotel and adding to it. This building was located on the site of the present Hotel Merrill. This burned down in 1878 and a new one which he built on the same site burned down in 1898. The first hotels were called the Posey Hotel, which name was later changed to the Lincoln Hotel.

My mother's maiden name was Anne MacDonald.

I was five years old when father moved to Merrill. I went to school at a building on Streeter Square and one on the bank of the Wisconsin near Main and Scott streets. I remember two teachers named Beckwith and Smith.

I worked in the woods as a timber cruiser and estimator for the government, the railroad company, and lumber companies.

I logged for myself on the Tomahawk River.

In 1891 I was married in Merrill to Josephine Alery, daughter of Ed Alery and Alvina Peachett Alery, whom I had met at Grandfather where Mr. Alery was a trapper and carpenter. Mrs. Posey's folks lived in Merrill for a time and had moved to Grandfather five years before her marriage. She was born in the province of Quebec, Canada, as was her father.

Our son, Leslie, is a sculptor and makes his home at Sarasota, Florida. When dad came to Jenny there were no houses on the West Side except one occupied by a family named Edgerton. This place stood where the Kinsel Mill was later located. A little later another family by the name of Truax moved in. I think this was the father of Bob Truax, who later was a policeman and was shot in the shoulder by Handler on New Year's Eve, 1890.

The first sawmill in Jenny was the



Mrs. Robert Posey

Robert Posey

There was a big fire in Merrill in 1881.

Some of the old Indians were Jack Bates, Melakosch and Potaquah, all Chippewas. A Frenchman, Joe Nohun lived near the Parrot farm. The Indians used to camp near his place.

Some of the early loggers were Hank Saba, Bill Averill, Merritt Stinson, Dan Kline, Louis Bousher, logger and timber cutters, Robert Young, logger, and Pat Smith and Fred Smith.

Several Bridges Across Wisconsin

There have been several bridges across the Wisconsin River. The first that I can recall, consisted of several spans, constructed of wood. I believe there were four or five spans. Later a wooden two-span bridge was built. This really was a masterpiece, only two spans, and all wood, except for some iron support rods. This served for many years, and then in the winter of 1892-93, the Milwaukee Bridge and Iron Works built an entirely iron bridge. This used the same supports at each end and in the center that the two-span wooden bridge had used. Then this was replaced by the present viaduct, and the north approach was changed from Park street to Center avenue.

A School Report For Year of 1880

A School Report, made by M. G. Porter, principal, and Alice M. Coar, teacher, appeared in the March 5, 1880, issue of the Northern Wisconsin News. It listed the following as students:

Class (A)

Jennie O'Neil, Claudia Dorn, Adie Dorn, Jared Mathews, Thomas Mathews, Charles Strobridge, James Posey and Rudolph Schulz.

Class (B)

Isabel Whiting, Jessie Young, Florence Streeter, Frank Strowsbridge, Annie Schulz, Chose Sturdevant, Sarah Mathews, Cora Robertson, Nora Kiegan, Susie Deering, Elfrida Frazier, Stephen Compton, Will Frazier, Oscar Frazier, Will Wolff, Herman Kluetz and Amil Rottinghausen.

Class (C)

Martha Mathews, Belle Kline, Katie Kinsball, Kittie Wiley, Maud Tyner, Mattie Robertson, Lajah Coffron, Myron Wiley, Will Compton, Robert Swinehart, George Sales, Herman Rottinghausen, Gustiff Schumann and Clayton Dorn.

Andrews Mill, Walter Smith and Andrews and, finally the T. B. Scott Lumber Co.

One of the early buildings in Merrill was the Eagle House, which stood at the present site of the A & P Store. The Norway Hotel stood where the telephone building is, and parts of it are now built into the Poirier apartments. The Warzink home, corner of Second and Court streets, is part of the old Eagle House, as is the Alfth home, located back of the A & P store.

The railroad came to Merrill in the fall of 1890. F. A. Hanover was the first agent.



J. W. Scott Livery Stable, corner of First and Mill streets, present site of the Oldsmobile garage. The spire of the old St. Stephen's church can be seen in the background. Next to the stable is the residence of Mrs. J. W. Meunier, probably the oldest residence in the city.



Prospect street, north from the Lincoln County B. Ann, around 1910.