



The old bridge across the Wisconsin river, known then as the Big Bridge, spanned the stream east of the present viaduct.



Early view of the Peterman building when it housed two stores, a bank, lodge club rooms, the Merrill postoffice, the land office and a number of other businesses.

First Church Bell Donated by Rail System Manager

The first church bell to ring in Merrill was in the Methodist church, located on the southwest corner of First and Park streets, which house Al Peterman built.

When the railroad came to Merrill in the fall of 1880, a committee from the Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church wrote a letter to several pages to S. S. Merrill, General Manager of the St. Paul R. R., stating that now the name of Jenny had been changed to Merrill in his honor, and, in view of this fact, would he donate a bell

to the church, and this would be the first bell to ring in Merrill. The letter was brought to Anna E. Anderson, who was teaching in the one room schoolhouse located on the southwest corner of the present Lincoln school grounds, for her to O.K. Miss Anderson counted the pages, and told them Mr. Merrill would consign such a letter to the waste-basket without even looking at it. So they asked her to write a letter, which she states was less than one third of a business sheet. Two days later she got a wire from Mr. Merrill to order the bell, and Miss Anderson states that she thinks Mr. Merrill paid for it, as the church never received a bill, but got the bell. This bell is now in the Scott M. E. church.



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To Many Years of Service To
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