

his followers gathered at the old Alexander hall for a political rally.

And, they were happy times when I practiced with the Episcopal church choir at the Askew home. Three other choir boys I remember were Bryant Kimball, Claude Bundy and Fred Slippy.

Every summer I went berry picking with the older boys in the woods beyond the old Howell park. Picking around the hills I was the watchdog of the berries.

Always enjoyed the summer visits to the Tom Himes' homes in the northwoods to visit my boyhood pal, Forest Himes. The senior Himes was the walking boss at logging camps, first for Langley & Alderson and then the A. H. Stange company. Remember how afraid Forest and I were to go on the boat on Manson lake, on the south shore of which lived the Donnerstags, because two of their boys were counterfeiters and served time at Fort Leavenworth. Up near the state line we'd catch frogs, and Cook Zeb Vachreau fried them for us. It was a dish fit for a king. Then, out at Cassin, we'd hear the timber wolves howl at night.

Always, our school dances at Tockley's hall, W. Main St., were pleasing. They were promoted by the "Big Four", Max Van Hecke, Bill Elsen, Ray Hoock and W. Del Curtis.

Only news writer I ever saw assaulted in the valley was in October, 1904, when the MHS players did not like what Ernest E. Curtis wrote in the Merrill News (under the First National bank), Main and Mill streets. They grabbed Ern one night, took a couple of healthy pokes at him, and for some days the editor sported a black eye.

Saw the volunteers of Merrill in 1898 leave in a special train for camp. I can remember only Captain Henry W. Boyer, Frank Wiley, Gay Dorn and Hans von Kaltenborn.

Teasing the "tough" Tom Himes about prize fighters. His idol was Bob Fitzsimmons. I'd always say he was lucky to win from Jim Corbett.

Hallow'en pranks. No cement walks but wooden planks were used for sitewalks. The purse and string were used. We crawled under the sidewalks to laugh at those who bent down for the purse.

I was a member of the class of 1905, MHS. When we were juniors the members met in the north-east basement room in the building to discuss entertainment for the gradu-



A load of logs ready to go, the mill way back before the turn of the century. These logs were cut in the Kleinschmidt settlement southwest of the city.

ates. Johnny Rex, Chick Empey, Shortie Long, Litz Schroeder spoke warmly for the hop. It was later held, and since has been a regular feature of commencement days.

Taking some wine from his parent's cellar Chick Empey brought it to the fair grounds to drink after we had practiced track and field events. Most of us fell asleep after drinking, and we did not wake up until the stars winked at us. No more wine, always water to drink after practices.

It is funny how those little memories of boy-hood days can fit through your mind in a short time. Anyway, I fell asleep and enjoyed it. I had a brisk "good morning" for ever since I met that day.

Dorn's Cordial

How many old timers remember Dorn's Anodine Cordial, the remedy that everybody in and around Merrill took when they had a "lummy-ache"?

This remedy that was prepared by

Dorn, father of Mrs. E. H. House, and grandfather of Mrs. B. P. Gippe was a must in every household for many years. It was a strong peppery prescription. A few drops in a spoonful of sugar, and it warmed your stomach. In a few minutes you were in the pink of condition.

Mr. Dorn, as we remember him, was a tall fur-whiskered aristocratic gentleman. He distributed his remedy to the drug stores, grocery stores and saloons and it retailed for 25c.

After Mr. Dorn's death, the remedy was manufactured and sold for several years by Mrs. House.

It's probably thirty years since we saw a bottle of it.

Many is the time that our mother administered a dose of Dorn's cordial to us kids.

The first road into Merrill, coming up from Wausau, was opened in 1854 by O. B. Smith. Miss Etta Spare took the job as mail rider between the two towns, covering the route in all weather on horseback for the first postmaster, Cyrus Troubridge.

The Dancing Age

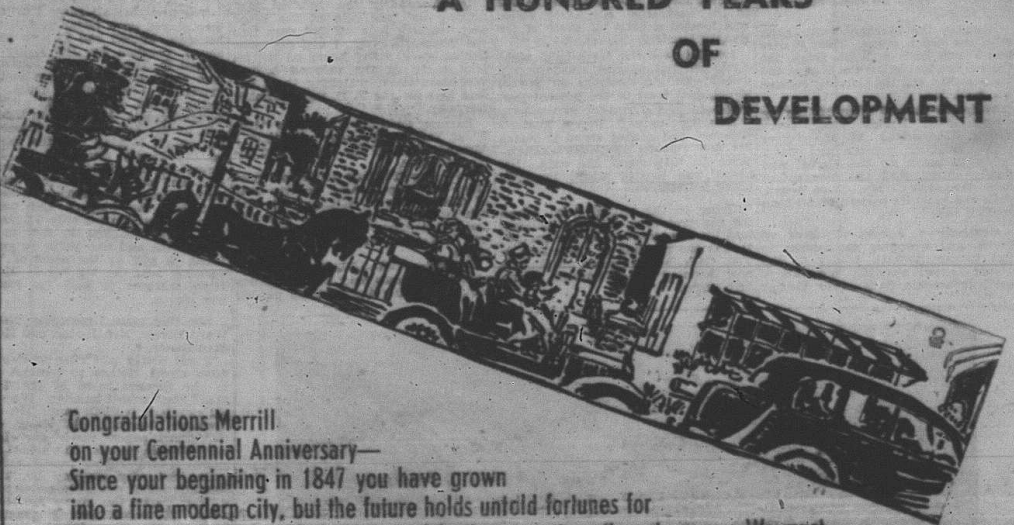
The main diversion of teen agers when we were young, was dancing. It was not unusual to go to a dance every night in the week.

Nell and Mable Shupe had a dancing school in Barrett's Hall on Monday nights. The Shupe family lived in the apartment next to the hall and kindly Mrs. Shupe would not object when the young folks would gather in the kitchen and enjoy a tasty sandwich prepared for us by her daughters.

Tuesday nights a lodge organization would give a ten cent dance at Tockley's Hall. Wednesday and Friday nights there usually was a dance either at Barrett's or Tockley's. Saturday night there was dancing at Rankin's Hall and Sunday night following a picnic in the afternoon at Brant's Park there would be a dance in the pavilion.

Miss Tenn Clark was the first telephone operator in Merrill and handled the first long distance call out of this city in 1882.

A HUNDRED YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT



Congratulations Merrill on your Centennial Anniversary—Since your beginning in 1847 you have grown into a fine modern city, but the future holds untold fortunes for the citizens of Merrill. Industries and business must continue to grow—We must continue to work for the betterment of our community.

We are proud of the part we have played in the development of the city. We have maintained a modern up-to-date shop and fine courteous service. In the future we will continue to serve Merrill with the finest equipment and personnel available.

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