

Scenic Effect Was Not Appealing in Jenny Back in '74

By Charles McCord

Jenny in 1874 could not be called beautiful or picturesque. Its buildings were either frame or log, its which no artistic touches had been given. The scenic effect was not at all appealing. Big sties, barns, and swamps were much in evidence. They smelled strongly to high heaven, but were complacently accepted as unavoidable and a part of the prevailing atmosphere. There were no sewers, no waterworks, and few sidewalks. But there was, most decidedly, a spirit of good fellowship and a large measure of brotherly love. There was no class distinction. All were equal and ideally democratic in behavior.

Jenny was a long, irregularly straggling line along the east bank of the Wisconsin river, and seemed to be going haphazardly westward and anywhere like a drunken lumberjack. The town's cemetery was situated at the head of East Main street, not more than a block or two west of Posey's Hotel, now the Merrill. A few years later the bodies were removed to the present cemetery.

There were five falls within a radius of approximately forty-five miles, and above all, named for the Bull family. Just who the Bull family was, no one knew. Anyway, it was a matter of indifference. First came Grandmother Bull, about twenty miles north of Jenny. Then came Grandfather Bull. Then followed successively Jenny Bull at Jenny, Big Bull at Wausau, and Little Bull at Mosinee.

As late as the late seventies, lumber was rafted from Jenny to lower Wisconsin, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri points.

The method employed was extremely interesting and held a wondrous appeal to the adventurous spirit of the pioneer lumberjack.

Floating down the broad bosom of the "Old Wisconsin," with its ever-changing, ever delightful scenery he experienced an elation and exhilaration hitherto unknown; and afterwards he was eager to repeat that most delightful experience. So much so, in fact, that there was always many more applicants for that rafting job than could be accommodated.

Barney Hurd always took great pleasure in narrating this one experience—as well as that of others—on those joyous rafting journeys. Getting back home was usually an unpleasant and often terrifying experience, which left the lumberjack broke and far away from home. But, like all other difficulties mentioned in his strenuous life, he overcame them, although he might have to walk a few hundred miles in the doing.

But, however unpleasant his previous experience may have been, it never deterred him in the least from repeating it. Yesterday was to him a thing of the past and it were best to forget it. The future always looked bright and he was eager to meet it. His happy-go-lucky nature impelled him to believe that "sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof" and that tomorrow is always another day that might never come.

The Lincoln County Normal school opened Sept. 2, 1907, with 16 students enrolled. A. H. Cole was the first principal.



Gustave Koehler, now deceased, is another of Merrill's early artisans and respected citizens. He conducted a wagon-making and blacksmith shop on lower Center avenue, just west of the present bridge.



men

loved the way girls dressed in bygone days . . .

but those days are gone forever. Although men still love the way women dress styles have changed and you, our customers, are the ones that have changed them. In opening our new store in Merrill we have selected the newest and finest merchandise . . . we hope you stop in and see us.



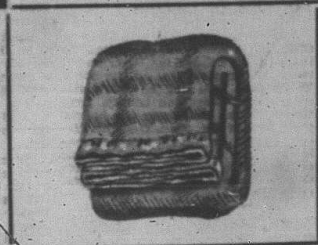
MARGARET KROSTUE
DRESS SHOP

THEN AND NOW
100% VIRGIN WOOL



1847

1947



100 years ago when great, great, great grandmother was alive, there were 100% virgin wool articles of wearing apparel just as there are today . . . but things were different then. She hand-sheared her own sheep . . . spun and wove and knitted mittens, sweaters, blankets, etc., for her own family. That was 100 years ago.

TODAY 100 years later, 100% virgin woolens are still available, but . . . new inventions . . . new methods, and scientific breeding of sheep have made possible the manufacture of woolen garments that by far excel those made 100 years ago.

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