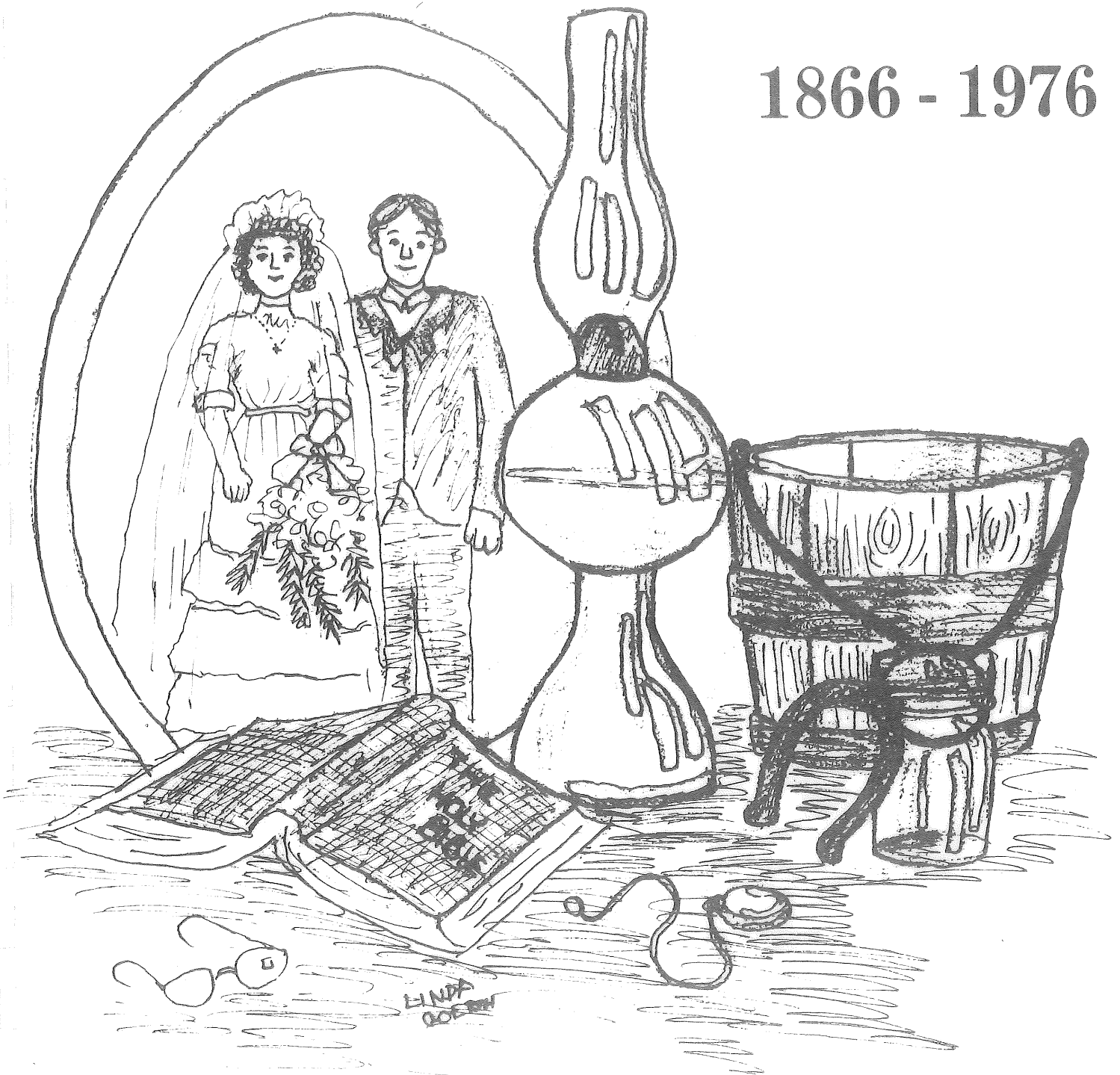


MAINE MIRRORS

"it's past and present"

1866 - 1976



AN OLD OAK REMEMBERS . . .

A gnarled old oak, bent but proud,
stands 'side a graveled walk.
What tales this mossy giant could tell,
if only it could talk.

Twas very small when an Indian brave
bent it to show the way
Through the trackless forest that was so dense
it hid the light of day.

Years sped by as oft they do.
The oak grew tall and stout.
And then one morn the forest woke
to a strange new kind of shout.

Timberrrr, was the cry that rent the air
as the majestic pines shuddered and fell.
The lumberjacks with saw and axe
to the pineries had come to dwell.

They sawed and they chopped, they cut and they slashed,
pine logs lay everywhere.
Some giants were felled and left to rot,
and nobody seemed to care.

Most logs were dragged to river banks
by plodding oxen teams.
When spring freshlets made rivers rage
they were rolled into the streams.

The river men with nerves of steel
would ride the stampede down
Through boiling rapids and frothy pools
to some new sawmill town.

The sawmills hummed in Big Bull Falls.
The lumber, fresh and clean,
Was cribbed, then rafted down the river
as far as New Orleans.

In a few short years a young pioneer
stood 'neath the old oak boughs,
And with a rough and grimy hand
he wiped his sweaty brow.

His yoke of oxen stood nearby
hitched to a wood-beamed plow.
They were breaking land on his little farm
for they had to live somehow.

He seeded grain between the stumps,
later cut and threshed by hand.
The work was hard and pleasures few,
but this was fertile land.

Yes . . . this was called homestead land,
promised to those who care.
If they lived on the land for several years,
the farm would then be theirs.

His wife and children shared his lot
and nere complaint would make.
For this their life they praised the Lord
as each new day would break.

Their house of logs, cracks filled with mud,
its floor was earthen still.
But a fireplace of stone and clay
subdued the winter's chill.

And their only cow searching for grass
would wander far and wide.
But a tinkling bell hanging round her neck
denied her a place to hide.

As years went by, friends came
and settled here and there.
Then more and more, and soon
their farms were almost everywhere.

The oak looked down on faces round
of children trudging to a one-room school.
Learning reading, riting and 'rithmetic,
not forgetting the Golden Rule.

The pioneers' sons and then grandsons,
improved both lands and homes.
Now finer farms are hard to find
where ere that one may roam.

Now this old, old oak could never have guessed
it would live midst fortune and fame.
For the place where this mighty tree still stands
is part of the town of Maine.

Elmer A. Seidler
July 4, 1976

COVER DESIGN BY LINDA GOETSCH

Linda is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Goetsch, Route 5, Merrill, Wis. She will be a freshman at Wausau West High and is interested in art and music. She wants to further her education in the fine arts.

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Forward

It is with sincere thanks that the Bicentennial Committee wishes to acknowledge the following for their assistance in compiling this record.

This history concerns the Town of Maine. Much research and time and effort made this publication possible.

"The History of Northern Wisconsin" - published 1881 by Western Historical Society.

"History of Marathon County" by Judge Marchetti.

Wausau Daily Record Herald.

Marathon County Historical Society.

Marathon County Public Library.

Town "Clerks Records and Books."

In addition to the above, many individuals furnished pictures, records and valuable information for which the committee is most grateful. We wish to ask your forgiveness and pardon for any errors, omissions or other data which should have been included.

We are indeed most thankful to the Wausau Paper Mill Company of Brokaw for their generous contribution to this publication. The paper used throughout was donated, thus keeping the cost at a minimum. We are indeed extremely proud of Wausau Paper.

We bow our heads in reverence and deep gratitude to

those town officials, who before our time, labored so diligently and preserved records so valuable that our rich heritage is a brief time capsule of our proud past.

We hope this book will preserve a small portion of the history of Maine Township beginning in 1866. Those early pioneers lived so vigorously, so dangerously, so willingly accomplishing with fortitude, willpower and faith this wonderful community we now enjoy in 1976.

May it preserve a reference for those generations to follow, that they may be reminded of the progress from wilderness to our modern environment, at whatever future date they choose to scan these pages.

Bicentennial Historical Committee:

Mrs. Irene Ellingson

Mrs. John Jorgenson

Mrs. Dexter Letto

Mrs. F.H. Ollhoff

Mrs. Ervin Saeger

Mrs. Gertrude Witter

Mrs. Edmund Woller

Assisted by:

Mrs. Clarence Utech

Mrs. Robert Schuett

Mrs. Kenneth Goetsch

Mrs. David Radtke

In The Beginning

MAINE TOWNSHIP

The Town of Maine was once heavily timbered with forests of pine and hardwood. It was settled by German emigrants who bought land from the government and speculators for as little as \$1.25 per acre.

The town was officially set apart from the then Towns of Wausau and Berlin on November 12, 1866 and was organized as a governing unit the following spring.

Things have changed since it was organized through a series of border changes. At first extending from the Lincoln County border through what is now the Town of Rib Mountain and parts of the Town of Texas, it had diminished in size to its present boundaries by 1892.

Town of Maine is technically known as township 30, range 7 east and lies west of the Wisconsin River. It also includes the greater portion of township 29 north of range 7 lying west of the Wisconsin River, being two townships long; bounded on the north by Lincoln County, on the east by the Wisconsin River, on the south by Wausau city limits, and on the west by towns of Stettin and Berlin.

This town was named for U.E. Maine, who was the first town chairman. He had the largest farm at that time. He was a native American and onetime county surveyor. His wife was of Chippewa Indian descent. They had a large family of very intelligent and industrious sons.

Other officers were Charles Riemer and Herman Goetsch, supervisors with Fred Dinkel, clerk, and August Zastrow, treasurer. There were also four justices of the peace, four constables, a sealer of weights and measures and an assessor.

During the first year of organization, a total of \$2,872.59 was collected in taxes as recorded in the flowing penmanship of Clerk Dinkel.

The present Clerk, Elroy Utech, reports \$530,271.80 in taxes for 1976.

The first farmer emigrant to this area in 1856 was William Thiele who settled in township 30, range 6, now Town of Berlin. Four brothers, Barteld, David, Gottlieb and Frank Roemer took land near Taegesville. That same year, John Kufahl, Gottlieb Stubbe, Gottlieb Bielke, C. Schueter and Carl Mollendorf settled on lands in the central and northern parts of the township. The southern part now bordering the City of Wausau was settled later.

David Barteld was probably the first surveyor. He farmed, erected a distillery and later opened a grocery store in Wausau.

Charles Monte started the first store near the

Lutheran Church at Taegesville in 1856. Other businesses and industries began operation which included a sawmill owned by Hackbarth and Laatsch in 1866.

A brickyard was opened in 1868 by Frank Mathie and later owned and operated for over thirty years by William Garske.

Five cheese factories were established which attested to the industriousness of those pioneers who cut trees, grubbed out the stumps and cultivated the land to begin the town's first major industry—dairying.

Land development continued and the State Agricultural Society established an experimental orchard on a ten acre plot of land now owned by Priscilla Steffke for the purpose of showing that soil and climate were suitable and profitable for apple culture. Some of the trees still remain after more than fifty years.

Five church congregations were organized. The first protestant congregation was German Methodist and began in 1859. The oldest Evangelical Lutheran Church was located near the post office at Taegesville. Another Lutheran parish was established in the northern section of the township with Rev. Joseph Fiehler as the first pastor in 1872. In 1868 another congregation organized in the southern part of the Town of Maine. Services were held in the school house until their building was completed in 1895. The fourth Lutheran group organized and erected its church in 1886. Prominent

members at the time of organization were John Kufahl, Edward Nass and John Strehlow.

Seven schools were established to meet the educational needs of families scattered throughout the township.

Five cemeteries mark the resting places of pioneers who passed this way before us and left a legacy to all who are here and to future generations. We inherit the fruits of their labors and in true respect and honor, we provide care for these established resting places at Maple Grove, Jehn, Faith (Zion), St. John's and we wonder what happened to the Iroquois Indians whose burial mounds are still visible today.

Other activities in the beginning will be discussed under such topics as Taverns, Transportation and Recreation.

Maine township had an illustrious beginning and developed into one of Marathon County's wealthiest and most progressive townships due to the industriousness of its people, their ingenuity and wise use of its natural resources.

Its close proximity to the Wisconsin River gave it the advantage of a natural means of transportation and aided in the development of industry. It has contributed much to the scenic and aesthetic value of Maine township.

FEB 23 1918
(Date)

This certifies That
Edward Zastrow
(Print name)
residing at *Wisconsin Lincoln*
(State) *Lincoln*
(County)
Merrill
(City, town)
P.O. 2869
(Street and postoffice)
whose photograph and signature, and / or other mark of identification, appear hereon, has registered at *Wisconsin Lincoln*
(State) *Lincoln*
(County)
Merrill
(City, town)
P.O.
(Street)
as a person required by law to register under the Proclamation of the President of the United States, dated November 16, 1917.

Ed Zastrow
(Signature by holder of registration card)
Richard S. Hinkle
(Registration officer)
Postmaster
(Official title, position or post office)



Alien Registration Card of Edward Zastrow, Feb. 23, 1918.

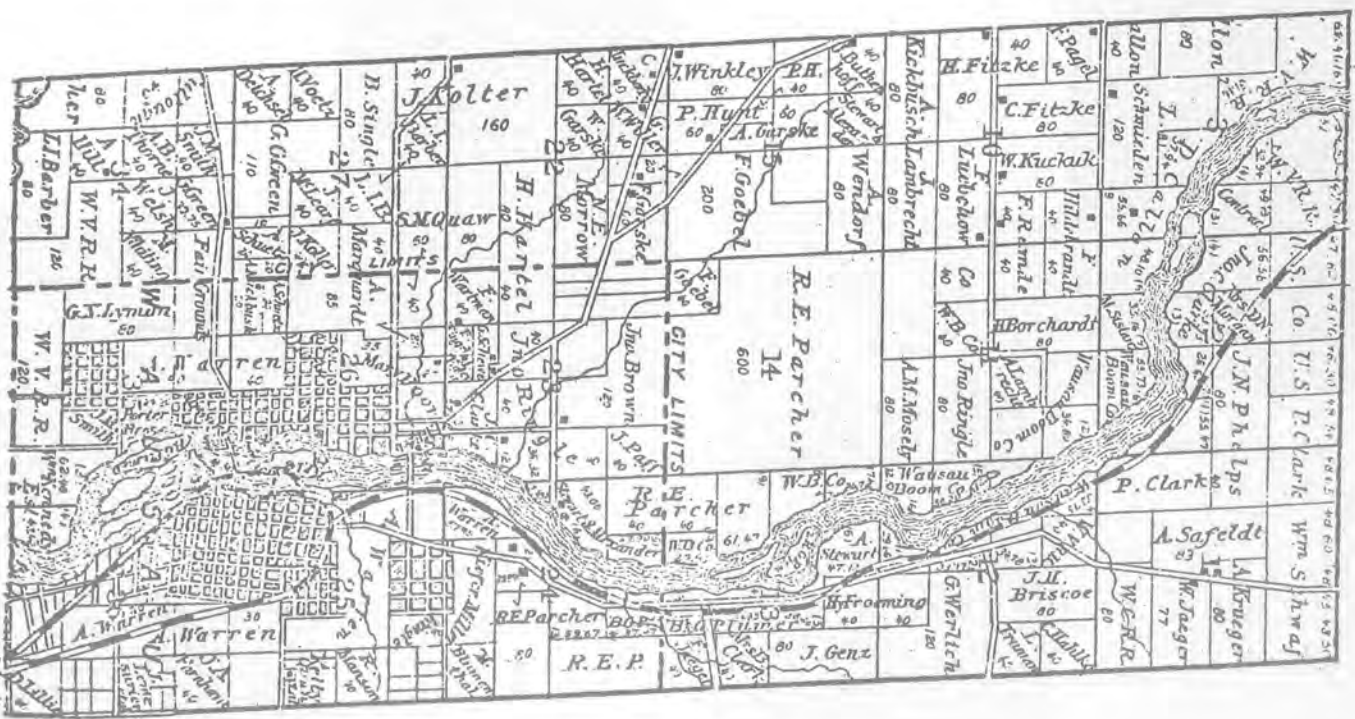
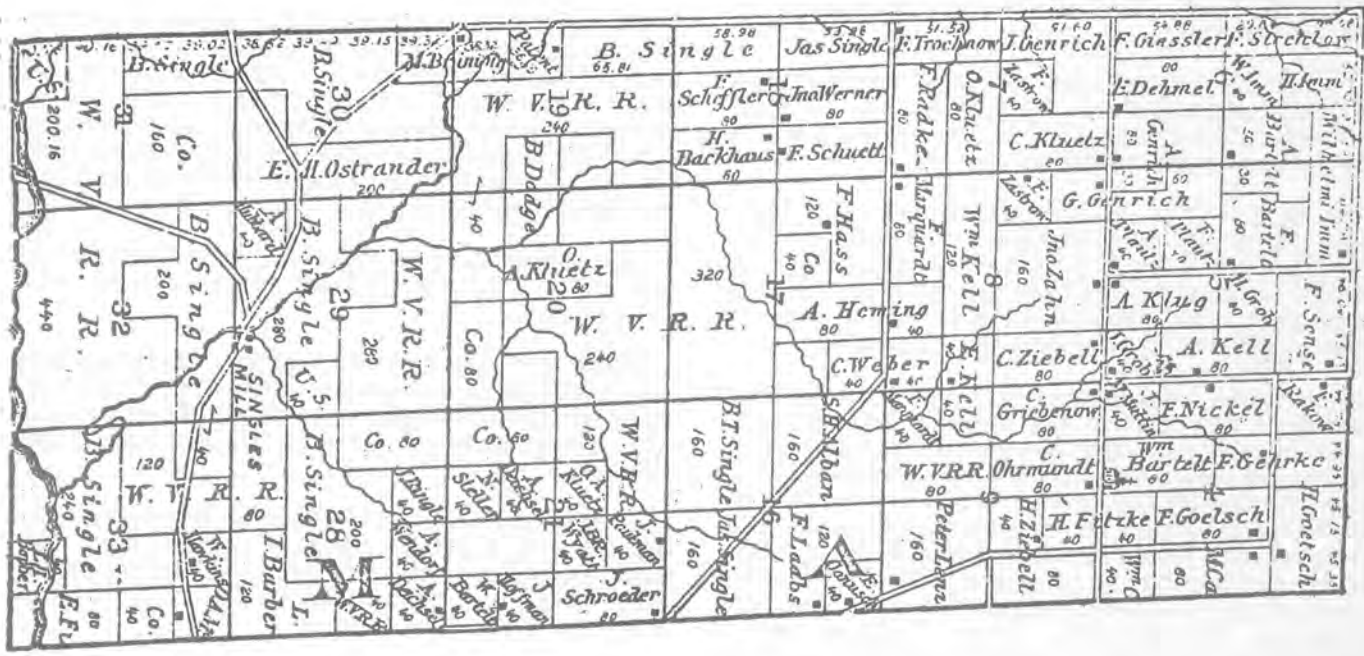
July 8 1918
(Date)

This certifies That
Wilhelmina Zastrow
(Print name)
residing at *Wisconsin Lincoln*
(State) *Lincoln*
(County)
Merrill
(City, town)
P.O. 2869
(Street and postoffice)
whose photograph and signature, and / or other mark of identification, appear hereon, has registered at *Wisconsin Lincoln*
(State) *Lincoln*
(County)
Merrill
(City, town)
P.O.
(Street)
as a person required by law to register under the Proclamation of the President of the United States, dated April 19, 1918.

Richard S. Hinkle
(Registration officer)
Postmaster
(Official title, position or post office)

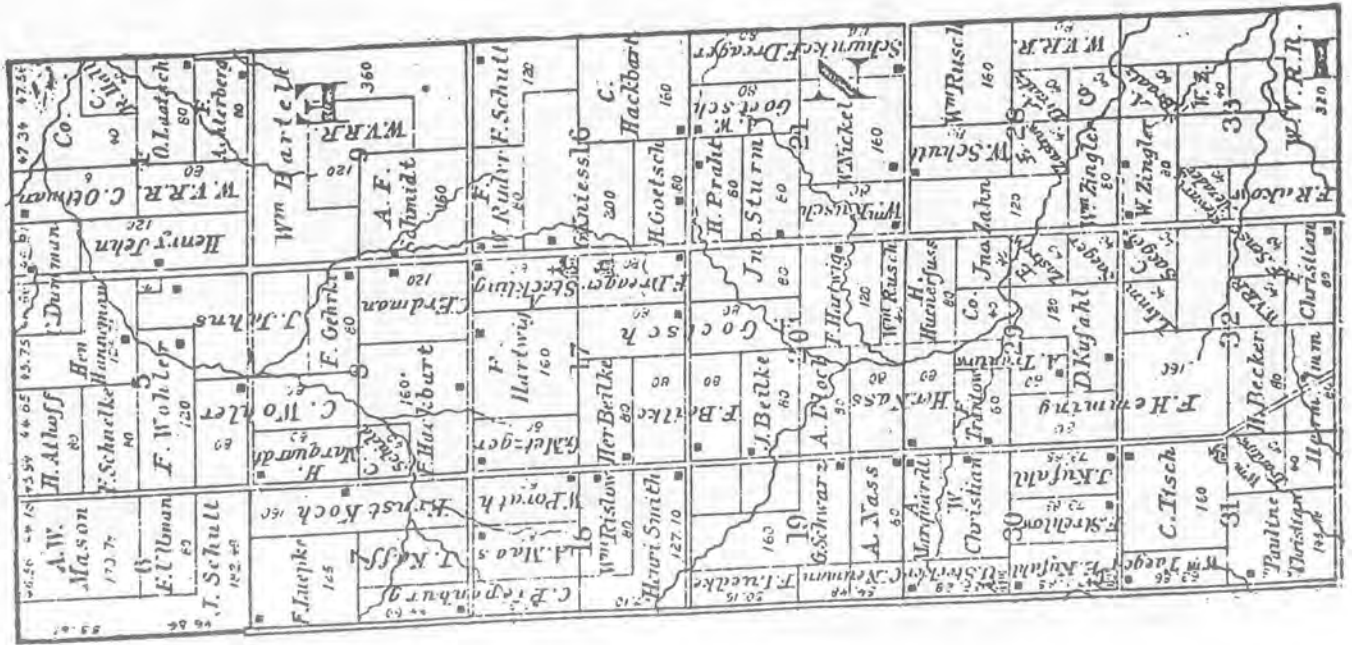


Alien Registration Card of Wilhelmina Zastrow, July 8, 1918.



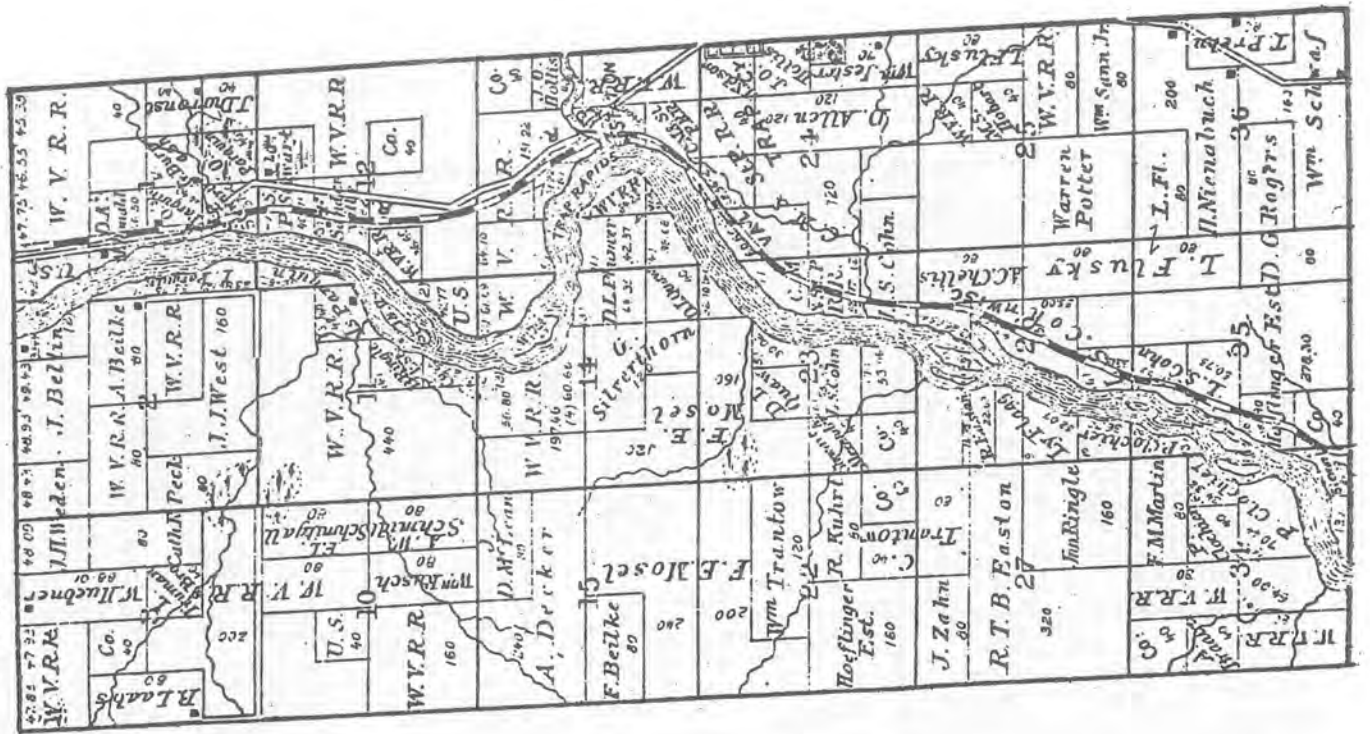
Township

No. 30.

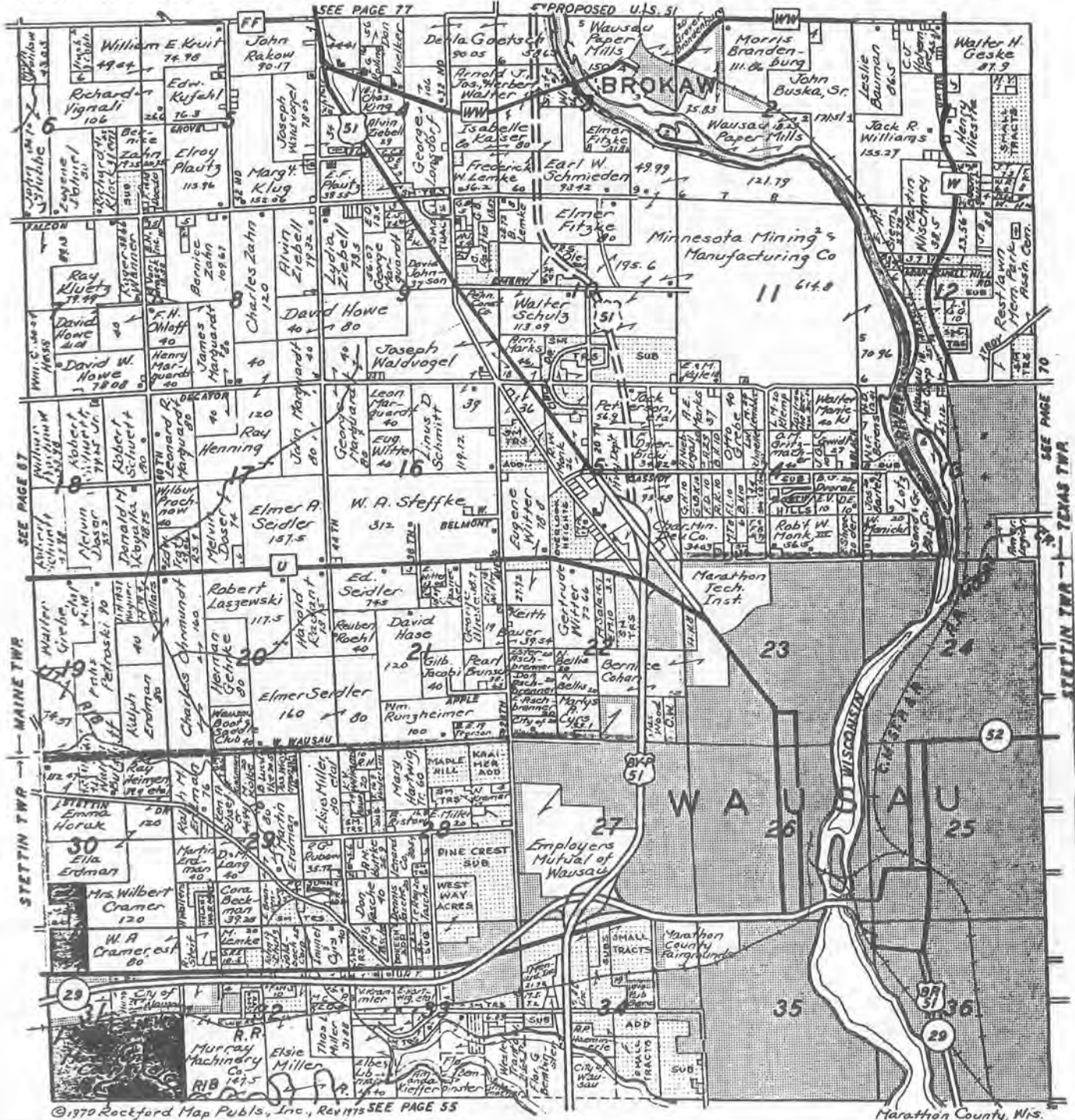


Range

No. 7 East.



SOUTH PART MAINE EAST PART STETTIN SOUTH PART TEXAS T. 29 N.-R. 7 E.



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PRIVATE FOREST CROP LAND
 OPENED FOR HUNTING & FISHING

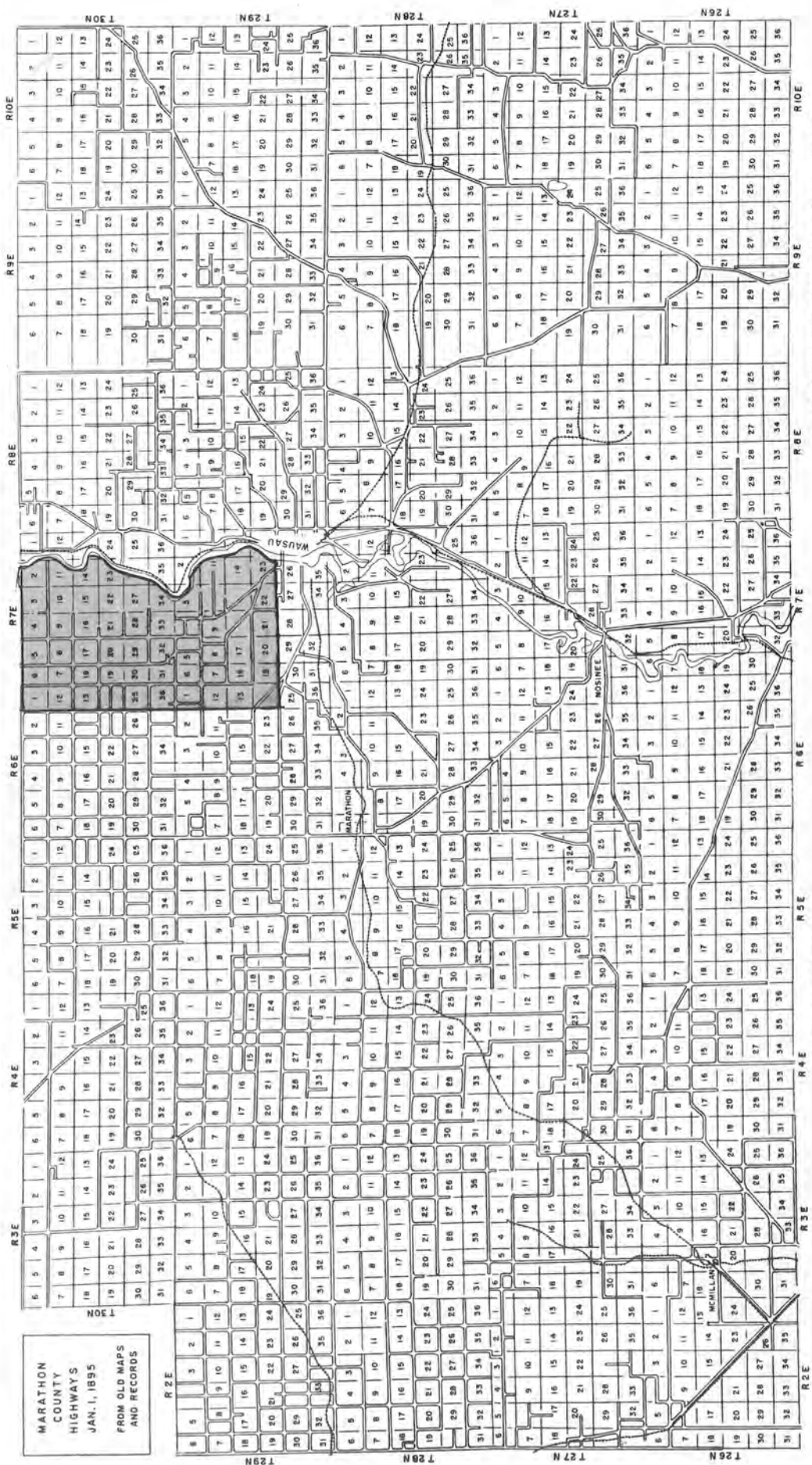
COUNTY OWNED LAND

STATE OWNED LAND

1895

MARATHON COUNTY
HIGHWAYS
JAN. 1, 1895

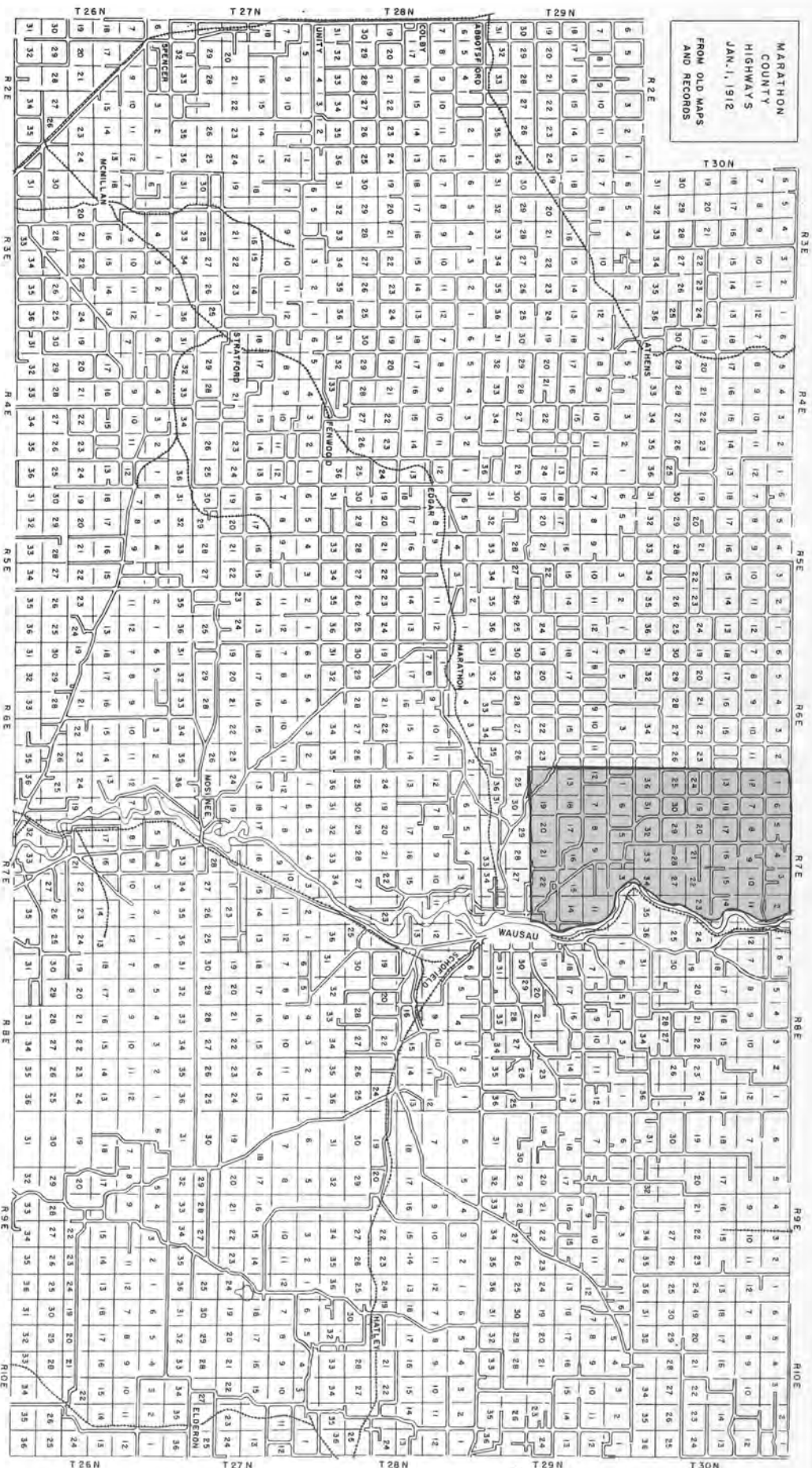
FROM OLD MAPS
AND RECORDS



SEE KRETLOW MAP 1895

MARATHON CO. HIGHWAY DEPT. - C.E.C. - 2-1963

MARATHON COUNTY HIGHWAYS JAN. 1, 1912 FROM OLD MAPS AND RECORDS

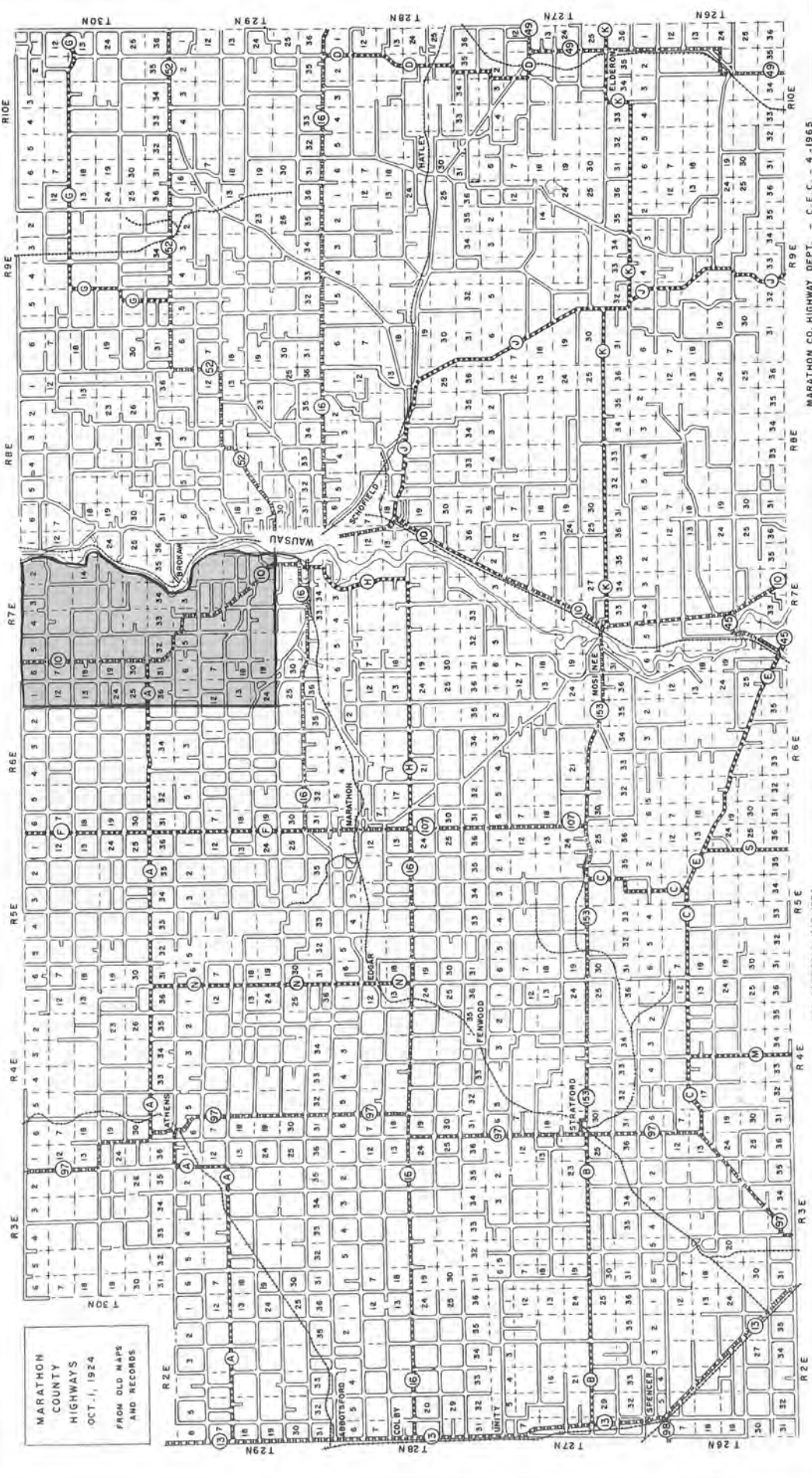


SEE KRETLOW & LANOMT MAP 1912

MARATHON CO. HIGHWAY DEPT. - C. E. C. - 2-1963

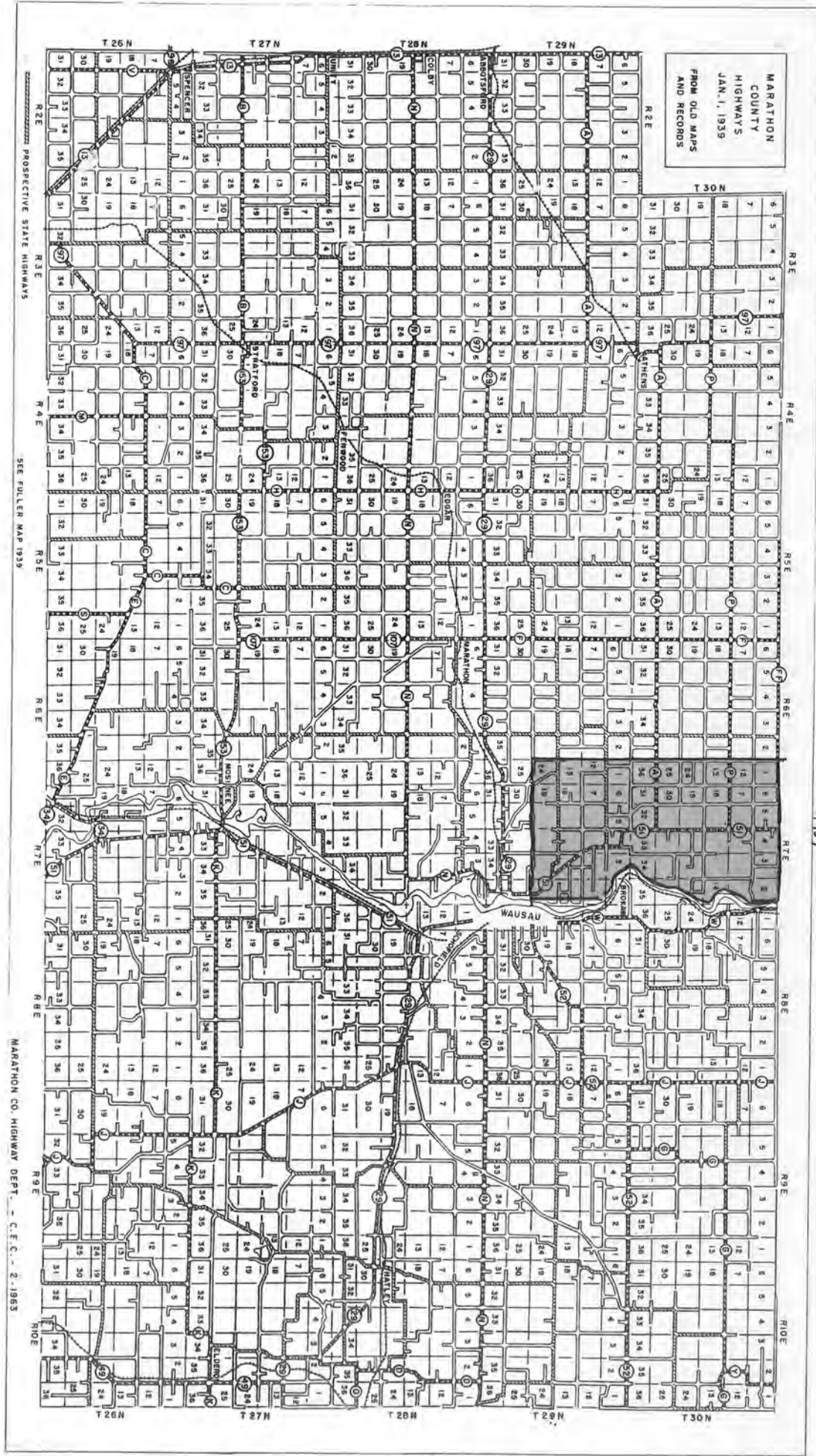
1924

1424



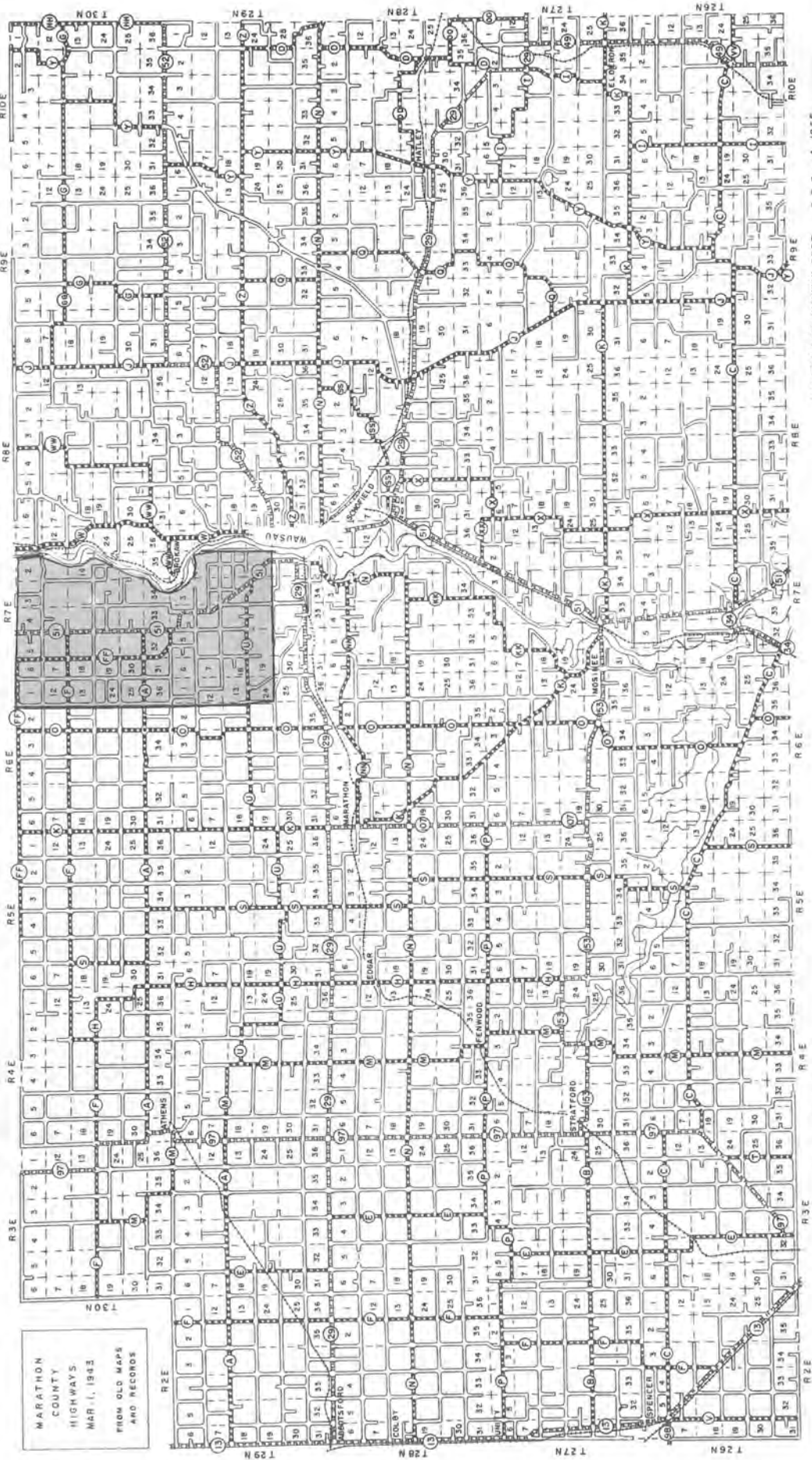
MARATHON CO. HIGHWAY DEPT. - C.E.C. - 4-1965

SEE PASTED MAP 1924



1943

1943



MARATHON CO. HIGHWAY DEPT. - C.E.C. - 4-1955

SEE FULLER MAP 1943



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Whereas, In pursuance of the Act of Congress, approved MARCH 3, 1855, entitled "An Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States," there has been deposited in the GENERAL LAND OFFICE, Warrant No. 39,803, for 160 acres, in favor of Ezekiel Flanders, Private, Captain Rudleton's Company, Massachusetts Militia, War 1812, with evidence that the same has been duly located upon the East half of the North East quarter and the East half of the South East quarter of section seven, in Township thirty, North of Range seven East, by the District of Lands subject to sale at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, containing one hundred and sixty acres, according to the Official Plat of the Survey of the said Land returned to the GENERAL LAND OFFICE by the SURVEYOR GENERAL the said warrant having been assigned by the said Ezekiel Flanders, to Ernst Kock, in whose favor said tract has been located.

Now know ye, That there is therefore granted by the UNITED STATES unto the said Ernst Kock, as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs, the tract of Land above described: To have and to hold the said tract of Land, with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said Ernst Kock, as assignee as aforesaid and to his heirs and assigns forever.

PRESIDENT

OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

In Testimony Whereof, I, James Buchanan, have caused these Letters to be made Patent, and the SEAL OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE to be hereunto affixed.

GIVEN under my hand, at the CITY OF WASHINGTON, the first day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty five, and of the INDEPENDENCE OF THE UNITED STATES the eighty fourth.

BY THE PRESIDENT:

James Buchanan, Sec'y.

Recorder of the General Land Office.



RECORDED VOL. 1521 PAGE 423

This is a land grant signed by President James Buchanan to Ernst Kock Sr. Ernst Koch Jr.'s sister Ida married August Saeger. Now the Ervin Saeger farm.

UNITED STATES TO JOACHIM E.F. JAHNS

The government made arrangements with the railroad to cut and clear pine trees, move them south down the river in preparation for homesteads as service men did not receive cash. Several plots were given by the United States Government to Joachim E.F. Jahns.

In pursuance of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1855, entitled, an Act in addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Lands to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the military service of the United States, there has been deposited in the general land office warrant No. 60,803, in favor of William A. Denton, Private, Capt. Mosely's Company Alabama militia, Cherokee removal, with evidence that the sale warrant has been assigned by the said William A. Denton to Joachim E.F. Jahns in whose favor said tract has been located.

This homestead became a resting place for emigrants coming to Wisconsin from Germany to check out their claims. Some stayed a week or more at the Jahn's place until land was found.

The following story is typical of family arrangements in those pioneer days.

December 3, 1885- Joachim Jahns and Johanna, his wife to Carl Jahns. The said Joachim Jahns and Johanna, his wife, hereby agree and covenant to and with the second party to set over and transfer to the above named Carl Jahns, their son, their farm property situated in the Town of Maine, Marathon Co., Wis., by a good and sufficient deed of said premises and deliver

over to him all their personal property of any and all description on said farm excepting only the household goods of the first parties.



The said Carl Jahns, party of the second part, in consideration of the agreements and covenants on the part of the first parties hereby stipulates and covenants to and with said first parties to pay to said first parties annually on demand certain sums of money, deliver to them certain articles and fulfill certain conditions during the natural life of the said first parties or either of them as follows, to-wit: 5 barrels of good wheat flour, 25 bu. of potatoes, 50 lbs. of beef 50 lbs. of mutton, 200 lbs. of pork, 20 dozen eggs, \$2.00 worth of sugar, \$1.00 worth of prunes, \$1.00 worth of coffee, \$1.00 worth of rice, 1 bu. of peas, the fleece of two rams, 100 lbs. of salt, \$25.00 in money, to furnish the necessary clothing for said first parties, one-half an acre of land fit for garden purposes to keep for the use of said first parties and sur-

vivor of them, one cow in fodder and when said cow is not in milk to furnish them sufficient milk from his own cows and give said first parties and the survivor of them the use of one decent habitable room in the house on said farm, to furnish the necessary firewood cut and split ready for stove use and should said first parties desire to live separately by themselves, the said second party agrees to build a decent house for them for their use on said farm.

The said second party further agrees and covenants to and with said first parties to Anna Jahns, his sister, the sum of \$600.00 when she becomes of age and bear the expenses of a decent customary wedding and give her at that time one cow and a wardrobe and one feather bed.

The said second party further agrees and covenants to and with said first parties to decently keep, maintain and support them for the remainder of their lives, his sisters, Minna Jahns and Alvina Jahns and agrees and binds himself to treat them kindly and brotherly and suitable according to his means, and it is further agreed and understood by the parties hereto that in case the said second party, his heirs or assigns, shall at any time be guilty of cruel or inhuman conduct towards said Minna Jahns and Alvina Jahns or do not suitably and decently maintain and support them, then he shall be obliged and the said Carl Jahns hereby binds himself to pay in such case to said Minna and Alvina Jahns or her guardian for her support, and said Carl Jahns further agrees

to give to each said Minna and Alvina Jahns a feather bed and a wardrobe.

The said second party further agrees and binds himself that should he at any time sell or convey said farm he will pay to said first parties and the survivor of them \$1,000.00 in cash down and also pay to said Alvina Jahns or her guardian the sum of \$1,000.00 and to pay to said Minna Jahns or her guardian the sum of \$1,000.00.

And for the faithful performance of each and every of the conditions and covenants of the foregoing articles and agreements the said second party sum of \$4,000.00 in which sum the said second party shall stand and be indebted to the said first parties in case of any failure or nonfulfillment of any of the conditions and covenants on the part of the second party.

It is ordered, that all of the terms, conditions, covenants and agreements contained in said certain contract, bearing date Dec. 3, 1885, by and between Joachim and Johanna Jahns, and Carl Jahns, have been fully and wholly satisfied.

The land was then farmed by his son Ernest, and his wife Elsa, who farmed it until May 1946. At this time it was sold and the north part of the house was moved to 1207 Hamilton Street, Wausau, Wisconsin. The south part was moved to 1905 Sixth Street, Merrill, Wisconsin. This leaves only a foundation on the old homestead 1976.

LOG HOUSES



Interior of Block Log House about 1886.



An axe and cross cut saw were the tools used by pioneers to carve the necessities out of the wilderness. First a shelter needed to be built to provide warmth and safety from the elements.

Log houses built by pioneers are still in use. Two such log structures in Main township are being used today. Both have been covered with siding to look like others now.

One such house first belonged to Frank Block and was built in 1886. In 1917 it was deeded to William Block. Mr. Henrichs owned it for a short time and then became the property of Sigmund Woller.

In 1936 the Sigmund Woller home was destroyed by fire and this log house became the temporary home for this Woller family until their new home was built.

Elmer Woller purchased the farm in 1946 and lived in the log house. The house became the home of Mrs. Woller's mother, Mrs. Martin Butt in 1966 and is located on Highway K, just north of (Zion) Faith Lutheran Church in Town of Maine.



The Block Log House many years later.

I Remember When...

Hugo Nass remembers coming from the Town of Maine from the Town of Berlin at age ten. He moved with his parents, Otto and Augusta Roeder Nass, his sister Erna, and brothers Max and Edward. The farm was purchased in 1901, from Daniel Kufahl. In 1903, Hugo's father died after a short illness. His schooling was cut short now that he had the responsibility of running the farm. His grandmother Roeder came to live with them and with the help of his grandfather, Edward Nass, and an uncle, Herman Schwartz, he learned to cut logs, take care of livestock, put in crops and make new land. Albert Trantow, a neighbor, taught him how to handle dynamite so he could blast out the stumps and large stones in the wooded area.

He planted wheat among the stumps. It had to be cut with a cradle and he remembers how adept his grandmother was at tying the bundles by twisting a sheaf of the grain so that it held the bundle together. The wheat was taken to a mill and made into flour. Three bags of wheat would make less than two bags of flour, one bag of middling and one and a half bags of bran which was fed to the cattle.



Nass home in 1905.
Left to right: Hugo Nass, William Schwartz, Erna Nass (Mrs. Harry Trantow), Augusta (Roeder) Nass and Edward Nass, on the steps.



The farm a few years later. The front porch has been remodeled. The room under the shed of the barn was used to store ice.

Most of the barns in this area were built in the early 1900's. All were built the same except the Bilke and the Tesch barns, which were round.

The Tesch barn was built by a man named Tisch in the 1880's. It had a silo in the middle with the rafters resting on it. This barn was very cold and the corn silage had a tendency to spoil easily. The Tesch boys had straw on the staging that had been left in the silo, when they bought it. They found this was a good place to hide. Often they spent the day there instead of going to school.

The Bilke barn had a chimney in the middle and was built of planks. It was used to store machinery and as a chicken and pig barn.

Most of the barns were built by Henry Neuman, Henry Wilde and Henry Ludholz crew. The other crew of carpenters was Robert and Ed Nickel and Mr. Dehnel. The foundations were made by Carl Krueger, William Schwartz, Adolf Paul and Henry Wilke.

The elm timbers were cut and hewed into a large shape with a broad axe. Field stone and granite waste were used for corner stones. Hemlock and pine were cut and made into lumber for the roof boards and sides.

In the spring, the dirt was scraped out with a horse and a bucket scoop. Sand would be hauled from the Hackbarth sand pit. Lime was hand slacked in a 8'x16'x1' box. Many barrels of water had to be on hand because the lime boiled. This was mixed with the sand for the mortar and a 2' wall was made. Most of the barns were 36'x82', 104' or 120'. The carpenters would drill the holes in the timbers and notch them, so that on the day of the barn raising, all the pieces would fit together perfectly. On the day chosen for the raising, usually before haying time, 40 to 50 men would come with pike-poles. These poles were 12' to 16' long with a spike and a hook on the end. The hook was used to raise the timber with a cry of "Yo-He" so everyone would lift together and the hook would hold the timbers so they could be slid together. No nails were used for the skeleton. The carpenters would finish nailing on the roof and side boards and putting on the wooden shingles. To wish the owner good luck, a wreath of evergreen would be hung on the top gable. This was accompanied by a speech.

Inside, the cattle were tied to a trough, with a chain. In summer, the cows were milked outside in the cow-yard. If it was raining, you moved under the open shed under the barn. You were lucky if you got a cow that stood still while you milked her. Sometimes you followed the cow around with your bucket and milk stool. Many farms had windmills to draw water for the cattle but many had to drive the cattle to a creek or spring once a day, in the winter, for watering.

Herman Tesch had come from Beaver Dam and had brought with him more advanced methods of farming. He planted corn and barley. The barley was sold to the brewery. Because he threshed so much more than the other farmers, he had to furnish two men to one for threshing in the neighborhood.

There wasn't much hay grown, so the horses got what little there was and the cattle were fed chopped straw. This was a Saturday chore, chopping "Hexel" for the cows.

William Single, who lived on the George Lonsdorf farm, wrote to William Taege, who lived in the southern part of the state, to come here—"it being a gold mine." So Taege and his family came and built the saloon at what became known as Taegesville. (At one time Taegesville was noted on the road maps.) Fred Nohl, who operated the blacksmith shop, loaned him money which he lost. He had the framed note hanging on the wall in

his shop. The first mail came on a stage from Wausau on its way to Hamburg, before 1900. A postoffice was established. Taege sold his business to William Neitzke, who started the store. A series of new owners followed: Theo. Goeden, Arnett, Gulke, Marson, William Christian, William Hintz and the Schmidts.

In 1902, the mail routes started and Otto Nass bought the first mailbox for 75c, which Hugo still has. Mail came from Wausau by horse or bicycle. All the mail boxes were at the corner of the Taegeville School. In 1910 the routes were laid out, so every one north of FF, got mail from Merrill. This brought the daily paper into the homes. An ad was run that said, "More camels are coming to Wausau than there are in Asia and Africa." It proved to be an ad for cigarettes, which sold for 10c a pack or 3 for 25c.

The telephone line was built past the school from Wausau to Merrill. Mr. Taege put in his own unpeeled hemlock poles to Taegeville and the company ran the line down to him. It was a pay phone for the public. The poles didn't withstand the weather and the lines went down, and weren't rebuilt. Herman Tesch had the telephone put in his house. It too was a public phone. A sign, on an elm tree in his yard stated that a call was 25c. He got free calls for having this service for the public in his home.

Arthur Kufahl and Hugo shared a secret for over 70 years. After Mr. Kufahl passed away, the story was told. On a morning, when it was still too damp to make hay, they went down to the Silver Creek armed with dynamite, fuses and caps. The dynamite was cut in short lengths and caps and fuses inserted. Then they were coated with axle grease and it was discovered that they had not brought matches. So Hugo hiked home and was met by his grandma Roeder, who reminded him that the hay needed turning. He convinced her that it was still too wet and he hurried off to the woods with the matches. Well, the dynamite went off but the results did not yield the number of fish they had hoped it would. His grandmother did wonder about the limp fish though.

When a boy reached his sixteenth birthday, he started to carry a fancy gold watch. Hugo got his in 1907 from the Otto Mueller Jewelry Store for \$16.00. He still has it. At this time, owning a musical instrument was the fashion. The Tesch boys got a cornet as did Hugo. The Imm boys got a cornet and violin. Leo Imm played the pump organ and in three weeks, without a lesson, they played for their first dance.

Weddings were home affairs. The dance was in the home, if it was big enough, or in the barn, after the nails had been pounded down and the planks planed. Many home parties were enjoyed. The young people walked for many miles to attend them. If they didn't have any place special they were always welcome at Ed Kufahl's near Taegeville. They had three parties at other places.

In summer, the biggest event was the Mission Festival, which was the Sunday before the 4th of July. The gala affair was held in Tesch's woods in those early years. A brass band from Merrill would be invited to entertain. An archway of evergreen was built over the entrance with an appropriate Bible verse on each side. Much food was brought by each family for the noon meal. First the meal was free, but then so many city cousins started coming, so a charge was made. There was preaching by guest pastors and much singing. Walter Krueger remembers the children marching to the woods, singing songs they had learned at summer church school. Seats were planks on blocks of wood and a platform was built and draped with sheets. Bouquets of garden flowers were brought to decorate the platform. Ice which had been made in the winter and stored in sawdust, was used to keep the milk can full of ice cream frozen. On the 4th of July, there was another picnic

with games and fireworks. Later the Mission Festival was held in the Walter Kilian woods.

The Methodists also had a picnic in the woods, across from the Taegeville School. They had stands that sold pop, ice cream, fruit and fireworks. It was a day for fun and games.

In 1915, before World War I, a crew of five men came to the Nass farm. They were from Canada and picked out 12 rock elm trees, paying a sum of \$200.00 for them. They were cut and a man from Rothschild came to hew them into a 21" square. They were loaded onto a pair of sleds and delivered to Wausau. There the 51' timbers were loaded on flat cars and shipped to the East coast. They were taken to England by boat, to be used for ship building.

Threshing was a cooperative affair. Grain bundles had been stored in the barn, after drying in shocks for days, sometimes weeks, if the weather was wet, waiting for a threshing rig to come. First horse power was used and then the beautiful steam engine that had to have water and wood to make the steam for power. The blast from the whistle, coming down the road to your house, was a welcome sound. Grain was measured in half-bushel boxes. These were hustled off to the granary by a crew of young men and boys. An older, experienced, man fed the bundles into the machine because they had to be fed slow and steady so as not to plug the machine and give everybody a break. It might also send a chill through the women, in the house, because it could mean another meal. Meals were hearty and looked forward to by the children, who got to eat with the cooks after the threshers had gone back to work. One time Clarence Gehrke hid the pies that were cooling on the porch and sent the cooks into a panic. Bologna and wieners were stored in crocks of salt water, in the basement. Some people would butcher a sheep and serve mutton. The lack of refrigeration made meal getting a chore. The dust was unbearable but some could stand it better than others, so they would get the jobs in the barn. They would come to the tables black with dust and really put rings of dirt on the white tablecloths. The yellow thistles were so bad that some yards had inches of fuzz when the machine left.

Some farmers raised flax that was used for weaving into cloth. Most was used for hand towels which were sewn together at the ends so it was a continuous towel hung from a roller. Some was used for trousers. This was dyed brown with a solution made from butternuts. Most families had sheep because they needed the wool for making yarn which they would spin and then knit into stockings and mittens. Another item of necessity was a scarf to wrap around ones face when walking or riding in the sleighs. Some men learned the skill of spinning and a few could even knit.

Tillie Knorr was a dressmaker who would come and live with a family while she sewed for them. Neumann's bought a bolt of wool material, of many colors, and she sewed winter jackets for the boys in the family. There was enough left over so she sewed a jacket for Hugo.

Mr. Prechel, who was blind, built a tread mill for churning butter. It was powered by a dog or a sheep walking on the tread.

William Christian Sr., walked to the river to fish every Friday or Saturday, so they could have fish for Sunday dinner. John Kufahl would go too, and he drove a horse and buggy. They never went together and they were next door neighbors.

An incident at church remains in his memory. A Pastor Rein, who lived where Maeward Christian lives now, would come to church in a pony drawn two-wheeled cart. He would gallop all the way and the boys would unhitch the pony and tether him. He played the violin for the children's singing and one day, when the

boys wouldn't sing, he broke the bow over Albert Tesch's head.

Hugo's greatest regret was that he never got to go to a logging camp in the winter. Many of the boys his age did. There wasn't much work on the farm in the winter and many families had many boys. They would go to a logging camp up north and bring back tales of fun and hard work.

There was much pine along the rivers and creeks that was cut. The stumps are still in evidence. Hemlock was very valuable for building, as was elm. The maple was cut for firewood and hauled to Wausau, where it sold for \$5.00 a full cord. Many times a load wasn't sold and would have to be taken back home or let stand and sold the next day.

Much loose hay was hauled to the city because every family had a cow and a horse.

After the timber was cut, berries would appear and many quarts were picked and preserved for winter eating. There were the chasers and the pickers. The chasers would always think the berries were more plentiful and bigger someplace else and the pickers stayed put and picked their pails full. Hugo remembers that Emil and Bill Christian were good "Pickers."

My father, Hugo Nass, age 85, told me these stories, for which I am very grateful. I would like to pass them on to my children and their children's children.

Ada Lois Jorgensen (Nass)



Hugo Edward William Nass
June 27, 1891
Age: 85

Depression Days

The great depression brought many hardships to the Town of Maine residents as it did throughout the United States.

Low prices, bad weather and the severely cold winter of 1936 caused crop failure and much misery. It all began in 1930 and lasted for about seven years. An "old timer" tells of his experiences while cutting oats. After cutting the first strip of an eight acre field, they stopped to pull one bundle from the machine. Hay was very poor and the corn was cut with a grainbinder because it was so short; then hauled into the barn and laid on the hay to dry.

Cattle found little pasture because of the draught. They often had to eat leaves from trees and bushes. Some farmers had to cut standing trees in order to provide roughage for their cattle.

Leo Bielke, another "old timer," told how he worked to make a living raising pigs, chickens, sheep, cows and horses and then had little or no feed for them. Sometimes only the hulls from oats were to be had. One month's milk check was \$30.00 and a cow could be bought for \$16.00.

\$800 was borrowed from the bank. When the crash came and banks were closing, the money had to be repaid in full. No money was available, but a kindly neighbor, named William Woller, loaned him the money.

On the Emil Rusch farm, trees were cut down and the logs were made into pulp. An attempt to sell the pulp failed. No one would buy it. It was hauled to Wisconsin Rapids but had to be brought back. Eventually it was cut up and burned as firewood.

At times, loads of wood were hauled to Merrill to sell. Sometimes people needing the wood would be waiting at the bridge and other times no one would buy it.

Herman Krause and Henry Genz worked in the woods

for \$1.00 a day and then boarded themselves.

Cleared land was still scarce. Eighteen acres was considered to be a good sized field even though many pine stumps remained. The stones picked from the field found value in foundations, walls and fences.

People living in the city could not earn enough money to pay for needed farm products. Often they went to the farms and worked to pay for such items as eggs which sold for 12c a dozen (25c a dozen at Christmas).

Oxen were used for farm work by William Rusch. Grandma Prebbnow (who lived in the Bloch house on Highway K), often drove her team to Merrill (then called Jenny) with her two granddaughters and a load of firewood.

The Edward Saegers had twelve milk cows and received 65c for 100 pounds of milk. Straw was disguised as feed by sprinkling a mixture of salt and molasses on it at feeding time.

Horses ate hay and "haxel!" These were bundles of oats which had not been threshed. The bundles were finely chopped by a gasoline powered engine. The selling price of a 350 pound pig was \$15.00.

After the drought, the lengthy rainy season followed. Grain had been cut and shocked. As the rain continued, the grain began to sprout. When the rain finally stopped, each shock of grain was carefully turned inside out to dry.

Repairs were needed on the house. The head carpenter charged 55c an hour. His helper received 45c an hour and other workers received 25c an hour. The mason charged 35c an hour to build the chimney and 50c an hour for plastering.

Victor Sturm threshed with the steamer. The one used was owned by Nickel and Sheppard. It was operated by a crew (Emil Rusch, Ed Rusch, August Rusch, Albert Rusch and Carl Sturm) that went from farm to farm un-

til all grain was harvested. The Gareott (name of the threshing machine) chopped the bundles and sorted the grain from the straw. When the oat harvest was complete, a clover huller was taken about from farm to farm to gather clover seed.

In 1915 a Case threshing machine was being used and still stands on the Emil Rusch farm on Rainbow Drive.

Two and one-half cents was the charge for threshing. If the crop was less than 200 bushels, the farmer had to pay \$5.00 for a set up. If men were hired to help, they were paid \$1.50 a day plus their board. Combines came into use in 1947.

People in the Town of Maine were very careful. They worked hard for what they had and saved whenever possible. Many invested their savings in stocks and bonds. A man named Mr. Runke resided on the former George Lonsdorf farm and dealt in stocks and bonds. Many people knew him and invested their savings with him. When the "crash" came, Mr. Runke committed

suicide because he could not tell all the people that their hard earned savings were gone.

Ben Doebe tells about helping farmers when he was running a cheese factory from 1931 to 1944. Farmers found it difficult to meet their obligations and mortgages and debts became so widespread that the government placed a moratorium on payments of this type. The moratorium was administered by the Farm and Home Administration. This program consigned farm earnings but "I would not take any money off the milk checks for the months of January through April," said Ben. From May on, a larger percentage was taken when the cows were once again on pasture.

One hundred years ago Mrs. Zelsch told Otto Fitzke that there would be a big plant down by the river and there would be a strip of ground on top of the hill where nothing would grow. The big plant is now Minnesota Mining Company and the strip on the hill where nothing grows is the new four lane highway.

Logging - Lumber



A.W. Hackbarth Lumber Co., 1912.



Laatsch Sawmill

White pine was abundant in the Town of Maine. It made excellent lumber. It, being a soft wood, soon found many uses. If a large square spike was driven into it, it would not split.

In the early days of the town's development, the railroad company had logging rights. They would cut trees next to streams and float them to the Wisconsin River when water was high in spring from melting snow. As the logs arrived at one of the many sawmills, they were sawed into lumber which was used in this fast expanding region. Sometimes the railroad company cut trees near streams that never swelled enough to float the logs. These were left on the banks of the streams to rot. Remains of these trees and stumps are still evident in some forests even though this happened well over 100 years ago.

White pine was in demand in St. Louis, Missouri. Yellow pine was plentiful there but would split when spikes were driven into it.

Pioneers performed as logging crews cutting and hauling logs to local sawmills. DeFennis sawmill was probably the first owned and operated commercially in the Town of Maine. It was located where Lotz Sand and Gravel used to be, just east of Billy Goat Hill on the banks of the Wisconsin River.

Rafts were built on the ice and the sawed lumber was piled on them. When spring came and the river ice broke up, these rafts were moved down the river.

One such raft crew consisted of Herman Goetsch, Carl Kniess and Carl Hackbarth. Big Bull Falls at Wausau

and the falls at Mosinee were obstacles, but once past, the rest of the trip to St. Louis was relatively easy.

Those loads of lumber were literally worth their weight in gold for these Maine lumberjacks were paid in gold. In the years following the Civil War, paper money had little value.

The long trip home from St. Louis to Milwaukee was by train but the rest of the way was tediously traveled on foot carrying their belongings in saddles strapped to their backs. The men never stayed in rooming houses as they were afraid of being robbed. Instead they slept in caves protected from wind and weather only by hemlock boughs. Food was purchased at boarding houses. The round trip took six weeks.

Before leaving on one of those river raft journeys, Carl Kniess met a neighbor in town and asked him to take a fifty pound bag of flour home to his wife so his wife would have something to bake with while he was gone. The bag of flour was never delivered so Mrs. Kniess' diet consisted of potatoes for six weeks.

There were "landing stations" located at strategic places on the river bank. Logs were brought and dumped on the skidways, then rolled into the river and floated to the sawmills after the ice went out in spring.

The logs were marked so farmers could go to the sawmills later and get the lumber from their own logs.

Many barns in the northern part of Maine township were built from lumber sawed in the Ollhoff mill located on 60th Avenue, just north of the Marathon-County County line.



Pictured above: Norman Marquardt, left, and Ervin Saeger, right.



Left to right, Harry Maahs, Walter Arndt, Lucille Maahs, Scaler.

SAWMILLS

Emil Schlag, William and Walter Steidtman built their mill in 1917. A steamer was used to run it, but a boiler soon replaced it. The steamer continued to be used by the threshing crew.

The mill was razed in 1940, then a portable mill was built and the steamer was again used to operate it. The crew moved from place to place to saw logs. Finally the steamer was sold to Mr. Weinkauff from the Town of Texas. The remains of the foundation of the sawmill are still visible.



Schlag-Steidtman Sawmill, 1916-17.



Foundation of old sawmill.



Gerald Strehlow Sawmill, 1967.

Farming - Agriculture

One of the newer slogans says "farming is everybody's bread and butter" and so it is. Everyone needs food, clothing and shelter. As we look over the countryside today it is hard to image how this area appeared to the pioneer settlers over 100 years ago.

As those early German emigrants found spots they wanted for their homes they began carving farms from the wilderness. These were trying times. The work was hard and tools were crude and scarce, often hand made to fit the task at hand. But these pioneers were strong, proud and determined. This new found freedom was very precious to them.

Changing the logged and burned over land to tillable productive fields was backbreaking work. Trees were pulled together and burned. How frustrated the farmer was when the basswood and butternut trees failed to burn. Stumps were pushed along sides of fields to form fences to keep cattle confined. Some stumps too large to remove were left to rot and the crops had to be planted around them.

When dynamite became available many stumps were blasted out. Split rails formed many fences. One lady recalls how some fences made from basswood which sprouted leaves and were very attractive. Stones were also gathered together and piled along the edges of fields. Some were used in building foundations for houses and barns.

By 1900 the earliest log structures were replaced with buildings of lumber. Timbers were hewn out of hardwoods and the siding and roof boards sawed from hemlock and pine. Cedar shingles were often hand hewn. All of the construction required many hours of hard labor.

Horses were very important to the progress of the pioneers. They were valued highly as they provided power and transportation, but inventions soon began to develop which lightened the work of both the farmer and his horse.

The early one and two cylinder kerosene and gasoline tractors were replaced with Fordson and McCormick-Deering tractors. Silos were erected and filled with the use of corn binders and silo fillers. The corn field chopper is a more recent improvement.

When electricity came to the scene in the early 1920's, many more changes took place. Cows could be milked by machine, milk cooled, water pumped, barns cleaned, silos unloaded, and cows were kept from straying with electric fences.

An 80 acre farm soon became obsolete. Farmers expanded by buying more land, increasing and improving their dairy herds. Many farmers in Maine township own fine herds of Purebred cattle today. Stumps and stones have disappeared. Fields are strip cropped, rotated and contoured to make wise use of the fertile soil.

We live in the heart of America's Dairyland and are grateful to our courageous forefathers whose ingenuity and determination has provided us with a rich heritage of the best in the agriculture business.

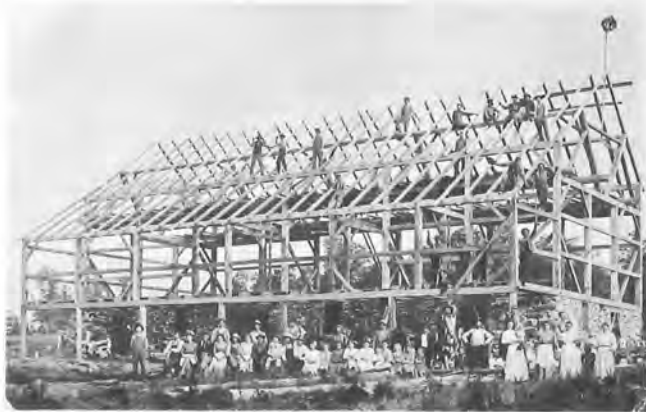
This complex business has never been easy but farmers are a determined group. They will continue to supply this nation with needed food and fiber so necessary to the factories and industries of our land.

Ervin Saeger was named Farmer of the Year in 1955 and John Stubbe merited this award in 1969.

Rose Skic, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Skic was named Marathon County's June Dairy Princess. She helps her family manage their 110 Holstein and large acreage of farm land in the Town of Maine.



Raising a log barn.



Barn raising which took place on the Fred Scharbius farm in 1901. This is now the Clarence Utech farm. Note the christening crown on top.



The same barn in 1912. Arthur Utech holding the horses. His wife Martha (Scharbius) and daughter Edna. His mother-in-law Wilimina Scharbius is nearest the buggies.



Note the leather thongs on the horses. Hopefully the switching would keep the horses from bolting with the load of hay, when the deer flies would bite.



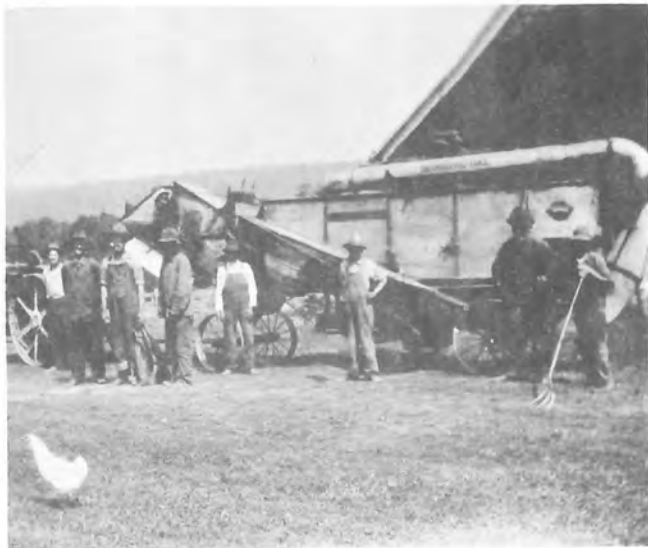
Emil Schlag with his steam engine and Red River Special threshing machine.



1913 Threshing Machine and Steamer



One of the first corn field choppers in this area, purchased in 1925. Clarence Utech driving the Fordson tractor and Robert Laatsch driving the team of horses to catch the chopped silage as it is delivered from the machine.



Victor Sturms threshing machine and crew.



Threshing Machine



A horse drawn corn binder, in 1942.



Threshing at Harry Sturms.
Left to right: Carles Bartelt, Victor Sturm, Mrs. Harry Sturm, Inez and Doris Sturm.



This baler, owned by Ervin Saeger, made round bales, in 1954.



Shocking corn.



Gerald Edmund Plowing Bee October 1961
October 28, 1961 - A day the Gerald Edmunds will long remember. Gerald had cut his leg with a chain saw, so the neighbors had a plowing bee and helped out. Carl Geau, Lawrence Neumann, Vilas Utech, Norman Marquardt, Walter Gutknecht (standing).

THE WITTER FAMILY

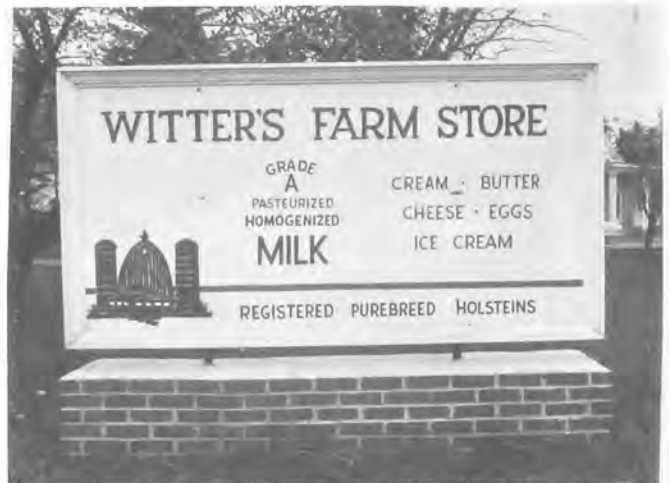
Five generations of the Witter family have lived in the Township of Maine. In November 1875, G.W. Witter, his wife and five year old son settled on land that was granted to him by the United States Government in payment for Civil War service. He had served as Second Lieutenant of Company "E", Forty Third Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer infantry. The first land cleared for farming was east of the present farm. The original house still stands.

About 1880, he started the first retail dairy business, delivering milk from a horse-drawn wagon. As he drove down the streets, ringing his bell, housewives came out and milk was measured into their containers. He taught school in the winter months, and was one of three teachers in the two classroom school that was built in 1880. He served as principal of Wausau High School from 1884 to 1886. G.W. Witter was not only a community leader, but a progressive agricultural man. In 1900, the Governor of Wisconsin, Edward Schofield, appointed him a delegate to the Farmers' National Congress held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He was one of the first to own registered cattle and to have a state tested herd.

About 1900, the present farm site was purchased from the Gorman family, and G.W.'s son, Harry and his wife Ruby, their six children, Jere, Earl, Pearl, Grace, Emma and Lawrence moved there. Pearl Witter Derbick still resides on some of the original land.

In the early 1920's, Harry's son Earl joined in the farm and dairy business. A dairy plant was built and operations were more mechanized. A truck had replaced the horse and wagon for delivery and glass bottles were used. In 1929, the dairy barn burned during harvest. The barn was rebuilt and is the one used today.

After Harry's death in 1931, Earl and his wife Gertrude bought the farm and dairy. These were depression years, and it took long hours of hard work to make the



farm pay. Earl was a graduate of the Marathon County Agricultural School. He helped area farmers sign up for the Soil Conservation Program and served as Town Chairman for many years. He helped organize a local cooperative and served on the Town School Board. There were four children, Eugene, Grace, Dolores and Clark. Because of Eugene's interest in the farm and dairy, a pasteurizer was installed in 1948.

In 1955, Eugene, the fourth generation, purchased the entire operation and moved to the farm site with his wife and family. There were three children, Christine, Scott and Tom. The farm and dairy continued to grow and modernize, and in 1964, city milk delivery was discontinued and all the milk was sold on the farm in a self-service store. Pasteurized and homogenized milk was being sold.

At the present, Scott and Tom are incorporated with their parents in the farm and dairy. They are the fifth generation of Witters to be active in dairy farming and milk retailing, and in this bicentennial year of 1976, their story has yet to be written.



Clar-A-Lin Vigo Gal Lori, is an example of the fine purebred cattle, in the Town of Maine. She is owned by Clarence Utech and was the Jr. Champion in the District Black and White Show, in 1970.



YOUNG FARMER — GOOD FARMER

Not a BIG farmer, but a good one.

That's the story of John E. Stubbe, named young farmer of the year October 16, 1969 at a farm-city dinner sponsored by the rural affairs committee of Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce. Choosing the young farmer of the year is an annual project of the Wausau Jaycees.

Stubbe bought 84 acres of land from his father in May, 1960, after holding several city jobs. He and his wife, Marlene, decided it would be better to work harder and longer now while they are young - and build for the future.

Changes on their farm came rapidly. First the barn was remodeled and 12 tie stalls added. A new milkhouse was attached to the barn with bulk tank and related equipment.

The Stubbes also added a barn cleaner and tore down two old silos, replacing them with a new 20 by 40-foot structure with unloader and feeder.

Most of the farmland is strip cropped with diversions and erosion control. Stubbe put up all corn silage this year. He buys corn and concentrates.

There is some woods on Stubbe's land, mostly pine and maple. He does selective cutting on recommendations of the district forestry office. His father used to cook maple sap, but Stubbe has not gone into this operation.

The Stubbes are raising future hired hands - they have four boys, John, Mark, , Joel and Michael.





DEBORAH MOSER PLOG
MARATHON COUNTY DAIRY PRINCESS
ALICE IN DAIRYLAND

In looking back several years I find it both difficult and exciting to try and encapsulate the memories of the year spent as Marathon County Dairy Princess 1971-72 and then later as Alice In Dairyland 1972-73. Though both positions demanded different responsibilities and obligations, their ultimate goals were very much in line with one another. As I consider it now - the year spent as dairy princess was to serve as an excellent mini-preview of what was to follow as Alice.

I feel the clearest and briefest way to share those years with you would be to show how one position varied from the other. This involved going from:

- Promoting dairy products only one month of the year to a full time year long promotion position.
- Traveling in only one county area to traveling extensively over a state, as well as nationwide promotions in such places as: New York, Boston, Portland, Phoenix, Tampa, St. Louis, Cleveland, and Chicago.
- Promotions basically taking place in only banks and grocery stores, to a vast range of media promotions involving TV, radio, newspaper, public speaking at all levels, parades and fairs, and a variety of other activities and events.

In both cases, the positions required a salesgirl with a crown whose ultimate purpose was to add charm, dignity, and prestige to agriculturally related events; to help stimulate greater interest and advancement of agricultural products; to give special emphasis to youth groups in Wisconsin; as well as giving speeches on the status of Wisconsin agriculture. On a more personal basis, the positions involved becoming an integral part of teams composed of warm and sincere people who were also out to promote Wisconsin's finest resources and agriculture products.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to briefly share the experiences that I did have during those two very exciting years. They have served to lead me on to broader areas of interest in working with and for people. But no matter where in this country that I will be living, there will always be a special place in my heart for that part of Wisconsin that I will always call home.

Sincerely Yours,
Deborah Moser Plog



ROSE SKIC
1976 MARATHON COUNTY DAIRY PRINCESS

Rose Skic, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Skic, Town of Maine, was named Marathon County's June Dairy Princess at a noon luncheon in June, 1976 at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge. She competed against 13 other contestants.

Miss Janet Hein, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Hein, Stratford, was named runner-up. She received a \$25 savings bond, presented by County Clerk Raymond H. Ott.

Miss Skic, who has just completed a two-year course in farming and industry at University of Wisconsin-Madison, will enter University of Wisconsin-Platteville this fall.

"I love farming," she said after being crowned princess by Pam Heeg, the former princess.

The Skic farm is a family corporation, with all children stockholders. The family, which includes nine children, holds monthly meetings to discuss their operations.

The family farm has 110 Holsteins. Rose has won honors as a judge of dairy cattle. She was a former member of the Lincoln County Cups and Buckets 4-H Club and president of Wausau West Future Farmers of America.

Miss Skic received a check for \$250 for a new wardrobe, presented by Norman Zarnke, president of the Greater Wausau Retail Council; use of a 1976 Chrysler Cordoba loaned by Brickner Motors, Little Chicago, and a month's supply of gasoline, courtesy of Cloverbelt Cooperative Services, Wausau. Jim Kryshak Jewelers supplied the crown.

T.A. Duckworth, president of Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce, parent organization of the agri-business group which sponsors June dairy activities in Marathon County, lauded the 85,000 dairy cows in the county. "If the county were a state it would rank 15th in dairying," he said.

Gordon Gunderson, chairman of Marathon County Board of Supervisors, explained that the new princess would have an important job to do.

Wien Wildcats 4-H Club, under the direction of Mrs. Lawrence Wirkus, presented a short musical program.

Roger Deffner, chairman of the coronation luncheon, was master of ceremonies, and Dale Heise, chairman of the princess committee, introduced the contestants with Mrs. Joanne Leonard assisting. Elgis (Al) Berkman offered the invocation and benediction.

SOIL CONSERVATION

On January 11, 1957 the North Central Conservation Association was organized at the home of Al Berkman. The first officers were President Irwin Voelker, Vice-President George Lonsdorf, Secretary-Treasurer Rheinhard Zahn, Vernon Bahr, Maynard Christian, Clarence Mielke and Elgard Grell, Directors. This group has been very active promoting soil and water conservation. The areas included are the Towns of Maine Stettin, Berlin, Hamburg and Scott in Lincoln County. Other activities are an annual meeting and farm institute, at the Maine Town Hall. A summer picnic at Herman Rakow's cabin and various educational tours, another is a conservation trail.

The name of the organization has since been changed and is now the North Central Watershed Association.



Placing of one Conservation Trail sign

CONSERVATION TRAIL

In 1967 Al Berkman, District Soil Conservationist, and formerly of the Town of Maine laid out a conservation trail in the rolling countryside north of Wausau which is the Town of Maine.

It allows the leisurely traveling motorist an opportunity to enjoy the scenery and at the same time observe farmland, soil and water projects. The trail utilizes the roads off the beaten paths of Highways 51 and K as it winds its way past watersheds, ponds, strip cropping, contour plowing and shelter belts. These practices are doing an excellent job of keeping soil and water where it belongs.

The trail is 15 miles long and gives one an extra special treat when traveled in the fall during Colorama time.



Map of Conservation Trail

Family Farms 100 Years and More

Twenty farms in Maine township have been in the family for 100 years or more. Since farming has been the leading industry in this area since logging days, it is with a great sense of pride and accomplishment that we list the names of these families.

ERVIN SAEGER FARM 1855-1976 - 121 YEARS



Ernest Koch Sr. purchased his farm from a soldier by the name of Ezekiel Flanders on March 3, 1855. A son Ernst Koch Jr. married Hulda Goetsch on May 28, 1889. There were three children, William A., Ella and Edward. They moved to Wausau in 1901, when the farm was then taken over by Ernst Koch Jr.'s sister, Ida, who married August Saeger on October 5, 1890. The five children that lived are: Willie, Edward, Paul, Martin and Alma. In 1920 Edward Saeger started to farm. He married Clara Steckling on July 3, 1920. Ervin, Reuben and Elmer were born to this union. In March 1950, Ervin Saeger purchased the family farm. He married Elvira Brunow on June 15, 1950. They are still living there at the present time. Their five children are: Marsha (Peterson), Lon, Debra (Lupton), Pamela and Todd. This farm has been in the family 121 years.

OTTO BEILKE FARM 120 YEARS



According to the Bible and gravestone John Gottlieb Beilke settled with his family in 1856. Gottlieb Frederick Wilhelm was married in 1879 when he was 27 years old and took the responsibilities of the farm. The house was built two years before he was married. The first barn was built in 1898 and the round barn was built in 1902. Leo Beilke took over the farm in 1918 and operated it until his son, Otto, bought it in 1953. Otto still farms with his wife and two children, Bobbie and Christine. The farm has been in the Beilke family for 120 years.

FRED HACKBART FARM 120 YEARS



In about 1856 Fred Hackbart purchased this farm. In 1894 it was bought by Henry Hackbart. Fred Hackbart bought the farm in the year 1934. They are still living there at the present time.

MARGARETTE KLUG FARM 119 YEARS



Records show that August bought his first 80 acres of land in 1857. He told his family and grandchildren of Indians still living in the area at that time. He later purchased another 80 acres from Mr. Lueck who lived east of him. Emil took over from his father, then his son, Martin farmed until his death. His wife, Margarete is still the present owner.

JULIUS GOETSCH FARM 118 YEARS



Henry Goetsch bought this farm October 9, 1858. His son Carl took over in 1892 and farmed until his son Julius purchased it in 1942. Julius wife Della and son Harley are the present owners. It has been in the family 118 years.

ROBERT SCHUETT JR. FARM 115 YEARS

Mr. and Mrs. Friedrich Schuett, Sr., of Milwaukee received the deed to the 80 acre farm October 15, 1861. They paid \$260.00 for the 80. The first deed was made out to James Single September 1, 1858.

On January 16, 1883, the land was deeded to their son Friederich George. He bought an additional 58 acres in 1902 from Henry Erdman.

On February 7, 1928, the farm was deeded to the son of F.G. Schuett and wife, Robert and Ruth.

Robert J. and his wife, Nathalie purchased the 138 acre farm December 31, 1961 and are the 4th generation owners. It has been in the family 115 years.



DONALD SMITH FARM 1861-1976 115 YEARS

George Schmidt bought his farm in Town of Maine. He changed his name to Smith, his wife never changed hers so when they died George was buried as Smith and his wife as Schmidt and that is how it reads on the gravestone today. Son Robert Smith was next descendant to the farm, then son Reno and wife Rose. At this time son Donald and his wife Darlene and family are farming.



EUGENE DEHNEL FARM 113 YEARS IN 1863



Ernest Felling sold his farm to Ernest Dehnel. His sons, Otto and Robert acquired it. Otto's son, Robert farmed until his son Ewald took over. Ewald sold to his son Eugene and wife Joan. They with their two children, Terry and Shelly are the present owners. It has been in the family for 113 years.

HANNEMANN ESTATE 1863-1970

Johan F. Beilke of Marathon County, Wis. to Henry (Heinrich) Hannemann, February 24, 1863.

Henry Hannemann died July 23, 1882, and willed it to his wife, Ernestine Hannemann.

August 25, 1890, Ernestine Hannemann willed it to William Hannemann. That he would furnish her with a

suitable dwelling room in his own dwelling house, also a little cellar, 1 sq. rod of garden ground near dwelling house, and deliver to her whenever demanded the following (certain food stuff), \$15.00, one (1) cow, and food for the same, and also household and kitchen furniture.

October 7, 1927, William Hannemann and Ida Hannemann willed it to Herbert Hannemann.

September 24, 1948, Herbert Hannemann died and on March 11, 1949 Dorothea Hannemann, his wife, was then full owner.

January, 1970, farm was sold to Eugene and Lucille (Hannemann) Fox, his wife.



ZIEBELL HOMESTEAD 112 YEARS



On Nov. 24, 1864 Friedrich Ziebell purchased a 40 acre homestead (located, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8, Township 29 North Range 7 East) from Herman and Sarah (wife) Miller at the cost of \$75. Approximately one year later (Dec. 30, 1865) he purchased an adjacent "40" (NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 8) from Charles Shuter for \$100.

Through the one hundred and twelve years from the initial purchase to the present, ownership of this land has remained under the Ziebell name - the progeny of Friedrich Ziebell. The transfer of ownership since Nov. 24, 1864 is summarized as follows:

Friedrich Ziebell to Carl Ziebell, April 23, 1878.

Carl Ziebell and his wife* Alvina to Erwin Ziebell, September 17, 1915.

Erwin Ziebell and his wife Lydia to Alwin Ziebell and

his wife Adeline, January 24, 1947.

Alwin and Adeline Ziebell, present ownership.

Also during this time (on April 8, 1903) Carl and Alvina Ziebell sold a small portion (3 rods x 13 rods x 3 rods) of the "80" to Robert Howe, upon which he constructed a home. Thereafter, this portion remained part of the Howe homestead, presently owned by David Howe (Robert Howe's grandson).

The buildings on the 1864 homestead were of log construction, later replaced by a brick home (in 1904) and other farm buildings of sawed lumber, mortared rock walls and log beams and rafters. The present two story colonial type house was constructed after the brick home burned in 1934.

Another event of historical interest was the leasing (on Sept. 26, 1885) of a "parcel of land" (approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ acre) by Carl Ziebell and his wife Bertha. This parcel was leased to the School District of the Town of Maine to be used for "school purposes only" over a 99 year period. On Jan. 2, 1886 Ferdinand Nickel was contracted by the Town of Maine (District No. 1) to construct a "28 x 40 ft. and 14 ft. high" wood frame school house. He was paid \$675 for labor and materials and \$5 extra "for moving the out house". Students came for classes in this Church Hill School until 1959. It was used for other school district purposes until 1974 at which time the land was transferred back to Alwin and Adeline Ziebell (under terms of the original agreement).

Alwin Ziebell purchased and disassembled the building (for lumber) in 1974.

This briefly summarizes the history of the Ziebell homestead from the time of purchase in 1864 to the present United States Bicentennial Anniversary year, 1976.

*Carl Ziebell married Alvina after the death of his previous wife, Bertha, in 1889.

GOETSCH FARM 111 YEARS

Herman Goetsch bought this farm in 1865. It was then purchased by Richard Goetsch in 1900. In about 1935 it was bought by Herbert Goetsch. Rodney Goetsch, a nephew, purchased the farm July 22nd, 1976. He married Barbara Gebarowski on April 28, 1963. They have three children. Rodrick, Richard and Raquel. This farm has been in the family 111 years.



Left to right; Herman Goetsch, Bertha Goetsch, Richard Goetsch, Bertha Goetsch, Otto Goetsch, Albert Goetsch, Emil Goetsch, Jacob Steidman, in buggy Alma Nuegent.

JAMES MARQUARDT FARM 111 YEARS

Under the Homestead Act of Congress of 1862, Fredrick and Carolina Marquardt acquired their home farm in 1865. Fredrick owned it for 31 years. Then his son Henry Marquardt, Sr., took over the farm in 1896 and owned it for 42 years. In 1938 Henry Jr. and his wife, Dora took over and owned it for 25 years. James and his wife Lynn took over the farm in 1963 and are the present owners. It has remained in the Marquardt family for 111 years.



DAVID RADTKE FARM - 110 YEARS



The great-great-grandparents of David Radtke, the Carl Dumman's left Pommerania, Germany for America in 1865. They arrived in Wausau, Wisconsin June 24 of that year.

Fred Boernke, who owned land near Tagesville, met the family and took them to his place. They stayed until the Kniess family invited them. They lived there temporarily helping neighbors Erdman's, Schmidt's and Schult's cut grain, thresh and do their fall plowing.

In the fall of 1866, Carl Dumman purchased 40 acres of land for \$50.00. Another 40 was purchased in 1867 for \$130.00 which lay on the west side of the road. A bridge which is over 100 years old still stands over the little creek just north of the present farm buildings.

An adjoining 80 was purchased next and was located east of the original piece but was later sold to Ollman's.

All the land was heavily forested. Trees were cut down for their log house and barn. Land was cleared and farming began by 1904 when the present barn was built.

Paul Radtke married Mary Dumman and they continued to farm with Carl. The present house was built in 1911. Carl and Mary had one son, Walter. He took over the homestead in 1938. He bought the first tractor to be used on the farm. He also had a large grain separator which he used to help the neighbors with their threshing.

In 1961 David and his wife, the former Bonnie Nass continued farming the land. They have 3 children, Donna, Donald and Daryl making it home for 5 generations.

RAKOW FARM 110 YEARS



United States Land Grant to Jonas Knight, a private in Captain Mahoney's Company of the Maine Militia, War of 1812, to Henry Maas, April 2, 1857. Henry Maas to Fred Rakow, February 1866, Fred Rakow to Lewis Rakow, May 1936. Former Wm. Sense farm acquired in 1944. Lewis Rakow to John Rakow, September 1969.

ALBERT STECKLING JR. FARM 110 YEARS

August and Agusta Steckling started farming in 1866. A son, Albert purchased the farm June 7, 1893. He married Louise Baumann. Their children are: Elsa, Flora, Ida, Harry, Hugo, Hertha, and Erna. Albert's first wife died and he later married Agusta Fritag on Nov. 1, 1914. Their two children are Albert Jr. and Adeline. Albert Jr. bought the family farm in the fall of 1936. On Oct. 11, 1941, he married LaVila Porath. Their children are: Beverly (Bauer), Joyce (Teeples), Lorraine, Carol (Floyd), Julaine (Laak) and Audrey.

The farm has been in the family 110 years.



ELROY PLAUTZ FARM - 106 YEARS

Albert Plautz and the former Charlotte Woller came from Germany, cleared land and built a log house on the present location. They had four children, Otto, Albert, Jr., Frank and Marie. Frank Sr. farmed until his death at age 56 when Frank Jr. and his wife Margaret worked the farm for the past 50 years., Their only son, Elroy, is the present owner.



STREHLOW

Johan Ferdinand Strehlow and Maria Wilhelmina Scharwz, both born in Wandhagen, Pommern, Germany in 1830 were married there on November 19, 1856. They came to America in 1865 to what is now Slinger, Wis., in the fall.

The spring of the next year, they came to Wausau and lived in a school house on the west side for a little while, before moving to a farm now owned by Walter Emmerich, in the Town of Berlin. They sold this farm in 1873 and moved to their present farm in the Town of Maine, in 1873.

Eight children were born, but only two, Johan Christoph Herman and Bertha Albertina, (Mrs. Carl Krueger), survived. Two children were buried in Germany, two died at about two weeks of age and are buried on the Emmerich farm. Twins are buried in the Fromm Cemetery in Hamburg.

Herman Strehlow and William Strehlow owned the farm. Now Gerald Strehlow and his son, Daniel, live here with William Strehlow.



DAVID BEILKE FARM

1873-1976 104 YEARS

Herman Beilke bought his farm May 18, 1872, for \$370 from Herman Greuel, Son Albert Beilke then farmed until son Alfred took over. At the present time son David is the farmer.



ARVIN CHRISTIAN FARM

1873-1976 103 YEARS

William Christian and wife Sophia (Dennis) bought their 80 acres of land on April 15, 1873. His son Otto and wife Emma (Kluetz) were married November 12, 1913, the farm was signed over to them March 22, 1920. They farmed until Otto's death. In 1960 son Arvin and wife Joyce became owners.

EUGENE WITTER FARM

1875-1976 101 YEARS

The Witter farm has been in the family since November 1875 which makes five generations of farmers. Today it is known as Witter Dairy. A complete story of a new dairy agriculture business is included with the agriculture story, also a picture.

The State of Wisconsin

Century Farm or Home Ownership Certificate

Mrs. Dorothea Hannemann Bergelin

HAVING PRESENTED PROOF OF PRESENT OWNERSHIP OF REAL PROPERTY LOCATED
IN MAYATHON, COUNTY, WISCONSIN, AND, WHICH PROPERTY WAS ACQUIRED
BY HENRY HANNEMANN IN 1863 AND HAS SINCE REMAINED

IN CONTINUOUS FAMILY OWNERSHIP IS AWARDED THIS

Century Ownership Certificate

BY THE

STATE OF WISCONSIN AND THE WISCONSIN EXPOSITION DEPARTMENT

DATED AND SIGNED AT MADISON, WISCONSIN

THIS 17th DAY OF AUGUST, 1965



James S. Sprecher
Governor, State of Wisconsin

Wm. J. Fester
Manager, Wisconsin Exposition Department

Diversified Farming

WHITE WING EGG RANCH



Our egg business got underway in January of 1963, with a barn of 3,000 chickens. That seemed like a lot but in the fall of the same year the demand was there for more eggs so we built another barn, housing 4,000 chickens. It wasn't long before we were again outselling our supply so another addition was put on to the house for another 6,000 chickens. Since then we've added on to the other barn so we now have a total of 21,000 layers.

We buy our pullets when they are twenty weeks old and they start laying eggs soon. They are divided into six groups and each flock is kept for a twelve month laying period. By rotating these six flocks, we are able to have a steady supply of eggs.

The chickens are fed with a feed cart once a day and the eggs are gathered twice a day, by hand, with a cart. An experienced worker can gather 2500 eggs an hour.

All the eggs are washed, candled for cracks, blood spots and graded according to size. They are then kept in a cooler until they are delivered. We sell all our eggs locally to several dairies, super markets, restaurants and individuals who come right out to our farm.

We have a liquid manure system. We scrape the manure once a week, into a holding pit. This pit is emptied out in the spring and fall, with a pump, into a tank truck and spread directly on area farms and is plowed into the soil immediately.

Besides my husband and myself, we have three part-time workers helping us during the week plus a high school boy who gathers the eggs week-ends. Our three boys also give us much help.

Mrs. Gerald Bauman

GINSENG



98% of the United States' cultivated ginseng comes from Marathon County. A portion of it comes from the Vondrasek beds, in the Town of Maine.



In the fall of the third year, there are sizable heads of red berries containing the seed.

History

Ginseng, otherwise known as shang, or seng was believed to grow only in Asia, however, when the early Americans pushed across the Appalachians it was found that wild ginseng grew in abundance, and was already being used as medicine by scores of Indians in America.

Ginseng was not dug for money in the United States until the depression in the 1930's at which time wild ginseng became rare from over-digging.

After this people found that ginseng could be cultivated if it had the proper conditions. Marathon County was found to be one of the likely places for cultivated ginseng. Today 98% of the United States cultivated ginseng comes from Marathon County, a portion of it comes from the Town of Maine.

The Growing Process

Ginseng is a perennial which when cultivated takes from 3-4 years to reach a diggable size. The seed of ginseng is first allowed to sit in moist ground for 1 year. After this it is planted in late summer to come up the next spring. When it does come up it must be weeded and sprayed to keep the ginseng from getting blight. Each year the plant dies down in fall and sends up more leaves each spring until at the fourth year the plant has about 12 leaves. In the fall of the third year there are sizable heads of red berries containing the seed. Finally the fourth year after the seeds are picked, the ginseng is dug, washed and dried. Then the buyers try to out due each other to get the prime ginseng.

Where, How, and For What Ginseng is Used

Ginseng is used mainly in China, however, it is found in most health food stores in this country and used to some extent in most foreign countries.

Ginseng comes in many forms such as powder, capsules, or as the whole root.

Ginseng is used for fatigue, to strengthen the appetite and to aide digestion, for stomach aches, and colic, as a poison antidote, as a stimulant to the human system, to regulate high blood pressure, for diabetes, for the eyesight, for headaches and for the back.

STATE ORCHARD

An experimental orchard was established on 10 acres of the Jacob Gensman farm in 1897. This land, rented by the state on a long-term basis, was planted to apples, plums and cherries.

Soil tests were made to help determine whether Marathon County soil was suitable for apple trees. The experiment proved that the soil and the climate were suitable for profitable apple growing. The farm, including this orchard, was later owned by Ed Gensman and is presently owned by Mrs. Wesley Steffke.

Mrs. Gertrude K. Witter

MAPLE SYRUP

There is much hard maple in the area. In the early days, there was a real need for the maple syrup to be used as a sweetener, to take the place of sugar.

The first sap buckets were made of hollowed out chunks of logs. The spouts were carved out of wood. The wooden bowl would be placed on the ground and when the season was over, it was tipped upside down by the tree and left. They would develop cracks and so a rag would be stuffed in the crack in the spring. Later a spout was made of metal and driven under the hole drilled in the tree. The buckets were made of wood staves and after they were soaked, held the sap pretty well. Many varieties of cast spouts followed as did the tin pail, which hung from the spout but rusted badly. The galvanized pail was a great invention.

First the cooking was done in a big iron kettle over an open fire. Later the long flat pan took its place and a stone wall was built to contain the fire.

After the highway went through and people were going north for the summer, a market was found for selling the syrup. Many farmers bought evaporators which could cook the sap down faster and a larger crop could be realized, if the weather cooperated. The selling of the syrup has proved to be an excellent cash crop and many do and many have taken advantage of this natural product.



Adeline Utech with team and barrel on skids, gathering maple sap.



Raymond Zastrow washing the cooking pan and Arvin Zastrow and the horses waiting to go home with a can of syrup.



Donald Nass, Allen and Arvin Zastrow getting water from the spring for washing pans.



Reno Zastrow putting another log on the fire to keep the evaporator steaming.

HONEY

John Marson kept 124 swarms of bees near his saloon, 5 miles northwest of Wausau. Bees do well in northern Wisconsin, if properly handled. Their food is abundant, coming from the white clover, basswood, buckwheat, and other flowering plants that produce pleasing nectar and pollen. The bees have to be kept in a house or cellar, in the winter.

Theo. Hackbarth kept many hives of bees and sold the honey commercially. He received many awards for his fine honey, at the local fair.



John Marson and his bee hives, in 1895.

FUR FARMING

Fox Farms

Mr. Herbert Wiedow related his experiences in the fox fur business. His business started with 4 pair of foxes in 1929 and increased until he had 75 pair. For 15 years his business continued until fur styles changed and fox pelts were of little demand.

250 fox pelts were sold during a good year and brought about \$50.00 per pelt. However, prices dropped to \$16.00 per pelt so raising foxes was discontinued.

\$25 to \$30 a year was the cost of feeding a fox. Horse meat was a necessity in those days for feed . . . using a "hog" or meat grinder to prepare the meat was some job, but this machine saved time and money as a whole carcass could be put through the grinder in 3½ minutes, pulverizing bones and all. Any surplus meat was sold to other fur farmers in the area.

On a memorable trip to St. Paul in a Model A Ford truck at 5:00 o'clock a.m. with a load of pelts tied under a white sheet in the back, there was motor trouble and the truck quit. Not knowing what to do, the pelts were unloaded and taken to a nearby field about 300 feet from the truck and again covered with the white sheet. A search for help was made. It was daylight by the time help arrived. The pelts were still covered in the field. Soon the truck was repaired and the trip to St. Paul's Fur Market completed. \$2,000 was received for the load.

Mink Farming

Mr. Lawrence Schult is the only known mink farmer in the Town of Maine at the present time. His business started in 1940 with a few pair of mink and has enlarged his operations through the years. He is employed at the Fromm Fur Farms in Hamburg township where his interest in the business began.

Cheese Factories

CHEESE FACTORIES BEGIN

Some farmers began making cheese as early as 1880. When cows produced more milk than could be used daily, it was turned into cheese. In a small building or basement area, the family went to work to produce the first cheese in this locality.

Fred Imm made cheese in the basement of his home, now owned by George Schafer. Martin Beilke made brick cheese at home also. Gottlieb Beilke may have been the first milk man in the Town of Maine. He had a route, selling his homemade cheese and butter. He expanded his business by purchasing milk from his neighbor, Robert Smith.

As his business grew, Beilke installed a vat, boiler, steam engine with a steam whistle and other necessary equipment. It still stands today on the Otto Beilke farm located on 60th and Naught Drive.



Building used for cheese making, still standing on the Otto Beilke farm, at 60th and Naught Drive.

CHEESE MAKING

In the early years, each farmer would haul his own milk to the cheese factory. This meant getting up early to finish the milking in time to get the milk to the factory by 8:00 a.m. If there were stragglers, the cheesemaker blew his steam whistle which could be heard for several miles. It was known to awaken any who overslept because of a wedding the night before.

As farmers drove their horses and wagons up to the intake, each unloaded his own milk into a large round tank. Those tanks held 500 pounds of milk. The milk was weighed and samples taken for butterfat content.

After that the milk was transferred to a vat which held four to six thousand pounds. Beneath the vat, a fire was built in a flue to heat water which was in a jacket around the vat.

A good fireman worked to get the temperature to 85 degrees and keep it there which was necessary to heat the milk for cheese making. Some factories had boilers that produced steam heat which circulated through pipes around the vat.

When all milk for the day was in the vat and had been heated, the "starter" was added. Starter was a raw milk culture needed to get the milk to turn more acid. The acid content was checked and rennet added to start coagulation of the curd.

Early cheesemakers had to make their own rennet which came from the stomach of calves. Next coloring was added.

By this time, the milk had turned to a thick mass and was then cut with curd knives and stirred with long handled wooden rakes. The curds separated from the whey which was drained off and stored in a large holding tank.

The curds were cut into slabs, washed and left to drain the remaining whey off, then were matted down to a certain acidity content and put through a hand operated curd mill.

The next operation was to spread the curd over the vat and work by hand until all excess moisture was gone. Salt was added and curds were placed in cheese hoops, dressed with cheese cloth bandages and placed in a press overnight.

The cheese was then taken to a curing room for aging and storing which was about five days. It was then

taken to nearby towns for sale by the farmers. They'd load the cheese, haul it by horse and wagon and return to the factory with supplies of cheese boxes, salt and cheese cloth. The patrons were required to do this for free.

Early cheesemakers had no electricity so all water needed had to be pumped by hand. Factories closed in winter as milk production dropped due to little more than families needed for their own use. So cheesemakers and farmers worked in the woods for needed cash. Before the winter closing each farmer had a five pound cheese made for use during the winter months. Farmers skimmed cream from milk during the winter and made their own butter.

The whey was often taken home by farmers and used to feed pigs and chickens. What wasn't used in this way often drained down roadside ditches and into creeks. It could be smelled a mile away. More and more patrons discovered that whey was excellent pig feed. Those who arrived first with their milk filled their empty cans with it. Those arriving later often received little or none so the cheesemaker solved this problem so each patron would get a fair share. Later a cream separator was installed which separated the cream from whey. This was sold to butter factories and other feeds replaced whey for pigs.

When electricity came along in 1926, the work load was lightened, but the boiler still needed to be kept in firewood. A huge wood pile was needed. Many rural factories went out of business or were purchased by larger city operators. Laws governing cheese production also changed operations. One law required cheesemakers to keep their cheese six weeks before selling. Storage space and refrigeration added to the expense.

As production increased, cheese making continued through the winter months on an every other day basis. Farming continued to expand and cheesemaking became a year around job seven days a week just like the milking process has always been.



Cheese factory located east of the Church Hill School.

CHEESE FACTORIES INCREASE

One of the earliest known factories to make cheese was located across the road from the old Church Hill School.

John Groff built his factory in 1895 on the corner north of the school where H. Behrendt now lives. Reno Zahn bought the factory in 1906 and moved it across the road where C. Nass now lives. Mr. Zahn operated the cheese factory until 1917 when he sold it to Kleinheinz who operated a dairy in Wausau. George Goeden and Robert Ott were cheesemakers.

In the year 1907, two acres of land were purchased from August Saeger for \$30.00 a acre. The foundation was made in the fall of that same year by Wm. and Ot- to Woller, who charged \$1.50 a day. Wm. and his father,

Julius Woller, hauled 2,000 feet of lumber to Merrill to be dressed. He hired a carpenter by the name of Mr. Borchardt at \$1.50 a day. May 8, 1908 was the big day that the factory went into operation with a grand total of 670 pounds of milk, which made three singles at about 21 pounds apiece. When September rolled around, the cheese making was completed for the year.



Cheese making was again begun on May 2, 1909. On that day, there was so much snow that the farmers had to bring milk on sleds. Then by October of that year, cows ran out of milk and cheese making was halted. Back to the woods for Wm. for extra cash. 1910 was a poor year, due to the lack of rain. As the production of cheese increased, everyone in the Woller family had to help. During the summer months, 10,000 pounds of milk were made into 1,000 pounds of cheese per day. The factory was closed March 1, 1946, when they began to haul the milk to Stueber's Dairy in Wausau.

Mr. Woller was treasurer for Valley View School and was also the treasurer for the Town of Maine for many, many years. Mr. Woller was born on June 21, 1885. He died November 8, 1971 at the age of 86 and was one of the Town of Maine's distinguished citizens.

Doede Cheese Factory - Mr. Herman Meyer made brick cheese in this cheese factory located on Highway K next to the Albert Stackly farm in 1914 and 1915. He sold the business to Fred Imm who later sold it to Herbert and Herman Wiedow. Their specialty was cheddar cheese. Herbert operated the factory for just over one year.

Other cheese makers known to have made cheese at this factory include Mr. Grundman, George Schilz, Frank Combs (father of Mrs. Walter Rusch). Ben Doede became the owner in 1928.

Farmers began shipping milk to larger factories so this factory closed. The building had to be torn down when Highway 51 was being widened in 1953. The site is now the residence of Daniel Dupius.



Hillside Cheese Factory - owned by Ben Doede and Sons.

There was another cheese factory next to the Emil Rusch farm on Rainbow Drive. It was built in April of 1918. Mr. Herman Golz was the cheesemaker. After several years, the factory burned. Mr. Frank Combs was the cheese maker at the time of the fire. This factory was never rebuilt.

TAEGEVILLE CHEESE FACTORY

The cheese factory at Taegeville was a summer time or 6 month operation. Farmers would haul their milk to the factory each morning, except Sunday, with a horse and buggy. Cheese was made and put in wooden boxes, which came from a box factory, in Little Chicago. The patrons would take turns hauling the cheese to a warehouse in Wausau. In the winter, most of the cows were dry and what little milk there was, was used at home for making butter and feeding the pigs. In 1926 Page Milk, in Merrill, had trucks on the road and the cheese factory went out of business.

LUTHERS CHEESE HOUSE

This business began in 1955 on what was then Highway 51, north of Wausau. It is still located in the same place, but since the freeway opened in 1975, some tourist trade has been eliminated. However, many people acquainted with Luthers still patronize them. They have handled wholesale and retail orders for both carry out and mail order trade.

They handle a large variety of cheeses and sausages. Other gourmet items are available as well as gifts and maple syrup from local producers.

CHEESE 'N' MORE STORE



The Cheese 'N' More Store was first located in the front of the Wisconsin River Valley Cheese Inc., factory. It opened in the summer of 1970 and had three display cases holding approximately 20 Wisconsin cheese and some spreads and sausages.

While shopping, visitors could actually watch the cheese being made in the factory. Also, factory workers

were happy to double-time as clerks, chatting with visitors and filling orders.

This little cheese store became the favorite of more and more people. Soon available store space and even parking space just wasn't enough. It was time for a bigger location so in the summer of 1973, the Cheese 'N' More Store as we know it today, was built. It is one of the most unusual buildings in the state - a giant 50 foot cheddar. People enter through a large wedge cut out the side. Uniqueness continues inside with barnboard walls, huge timber beams, knotty pine counters and wagon wheel light fixtures, replicas of pioneer days.

Over 102 varieties of cheese are sold here - some made in the factory just next door and some imported from the farthest corners of the world. Wines, candies, crackers, dairy goods, novelties, and gifts have all been added. Also, this store has developed a mail order system for filling orders from all over the country and has begun distribution of its cheeses to stores in the Central Wisconsin area.

In a very short time this store has grown from a small in-plant shop to an exciting, unique store with a wide variety of quality products, a strong tourist trade, a mail order system and a distribution system to other stores in the area.

INOFOOD CORP.



It was in 1969 when three area cheese factories merged to build a new plant on 80 acres on the corner of County Trunk A and now County Trunk K. It was known as Wisconsin River Valley Cheese Company. The new cheese plant was opened on May 1, 1970. Cheddar and Colby were the two types of cheese first made, followed by many other types of domestic cheeses.

In the fall of 1970, a retail outlet was opened in the front part of the plant which also gave tourists and local people a chance to see cheese being made.

It was January, 1972 that Anco International from Stamford, Connecticut bought the controlling interest in the plant. Research and development of a spiced cheese was begun and first marketed in July of 1974 and it became known as Rondele.

This plant now produces Rondele exclusively with distribution throughout the United States and Canada with shipments to Australia and South America and in the near future to Mexico. The plant is now known as InoFood Corp. A new retail store was built in 1973 to replace the one that was located in the plant. It is called the "Cheese 'N' More Store" Inc.

Villages

Taegesville began in Maine township January, 1871 when a post office was officially established. Three churches were located nearby, a tavern, blacksmith shop and cheese factory opened for business.

The post office functioned for thirty years having been discontinued three different times before the final closing, October 15, 1901. It was originally named Maine with John Kufahl as postmaster but was discontinued two years later. It reopened February 9, 1879 with Carl Rusch as postmaster.

Carl Erdman was appointed postmaster January 17, 1881 but the office was again discontinued a month later only to be reopened August 2, 1882 with William Taeg postmaster. Charles Tisch took over May 2, 1883 and held the post for five months. Then on October 26, 1883, William Kemrath received the appointment. Just one month later the office closed again and remained closed until May 29, 1884 when William Taeg received the appointment a second time.

The name was changed from Maine to Taegesville on June 22, 1891 because so much mail intended for the State of Maine was being mis-sent there. Anna Taeg was postmistress from August 21, 1901 to October 15, 1901 when the office finally closed with mail service coming from Wausau by rural route.

Brokaw - Even though this sleepy little village is not actually in Maine township, its history has had an impact on the lives of many who live in Town of Maine.

Since the new bridge crossing the river was completed in 1967 opening up the route W.W. to the west, Town of Maine feels even more attached to this village for many Maine residents work in the paper mill.

Opening the road to the west meant closing Brokaw School. There were over fifty students in classes by 1920 crowding into their three room school and overflowing into the Village Hall and library.

These students were bused to the Maine Elementary School in 1967.

The story of the beginning of Brokaw follows because it is typical of life in pioneer days throughout the Wisconsin river valley or wherever there was a paper mill. Brokaw had its beginning in 1899 when N.H. Brokaw, a prominent paper maker from Kaukauna, Wisconsin, heard of the excellent water power.

Ground was broken for the new factory July, 1899. Houses were built by the company and ready for people by November. Mrs. Raymond Opper was one of the first residents. Her father helped build the mill and occupied the first house.

On February 12, 1900, just seven months after construction, the mill turned out its first batch of ground wood pulp. The Village of Brokaw was incorporated and has been ever since.



Brokaw Paper Mill and dam.

Workers came from many places to work in the mill. They were of many nationalities. A large boarding

house and club house was built, including a barber shop, recreation area and rooms where men could live.

Frank Scholl bummed into Brokaw on a train July 4, 1910. He met a stranger who turned out to be a cousin whom he'd last seen in Europe. He took a job at the mill and continued there for over fifty years.

There were two saloons. One located across the river was called "Abe Liques Place". It could be visited by villagers only by walking across the dam. The stories told by old timers of those experiences might thrill or chill us. The other saloon was run by Simon Schaumburger. Prohibition closed them both.

About fifty company owned duplex houses and several small one family dwellings were set up on "Honeymoon Avenue". Once a year the company white-washed the houses and took the garbage away. Gardens extended to the cinder roads which ran by the front. Babies were born at home with a midwife assisting.

There was no fire or police protection. In March, 1914, the mill nearly burned to the ground. The only available truck was a horse drawn pumper from Wausau seven miles away.

On April 10, 1948 a fire destroyed the building housing the general store, library and village hall. A new one was built which included the post office.

The mill closed on Sundays for repairs and church was an important part of the day. The company built a Methodist Church in 1903. Lutherans held their services in the Village Hall. Much of the town was Catholic so once a month a priest from Wausau held mass for them.

Everyone from the country round went to Brokaw on payday. Sam Fox bought and sold rags, Mrs. Kemp sold apples, Mr. Koschman and Mr. Heigel, the butcher from Wausau, delivered groceries so everyone didn't have to buy from the company store. Another payday visitor was the Metropolitan Life Insurance agent who came to collect on the "nickel a week" policies that nearly everyone had.

The town had a jail, but it was never used. The same skeleton key that fit the jail, fit all the houses in town.

Brokaw was the first village to go over the top in the bond drive for World War I in 1918. A big parade with important state officials came to celebrate and erect a flag pole.

Things changed with the depression. By 1940, the Paper Mill Company began to install sewer and water. In 1948, the company sold the houses to the oldest person who lived in it. Many duplexes were converted to single family dwellings. Many people had to move out of town. Population fell from over 500 in 1930 to 380 in 1950.

The company ran a special two-car passenger train called "The Scoot" from Wausau to Brokaw to accommodate those workers on shifts. Passenger cars and good roads soon made that a thing of the past.

Now the company store is a modern office building. The church is a storage building and the school a print shop. Streets and alleys are paved. The library is a branch of the Marathon County Library system. A new village hall and fire station have been built. There is a park and playground for children.

Brokaw has moved from its quiet, secluded spot to a prominent place in the community of business and industry. The development and production of fine paper at the mill by an energetic company and people who are proud of their past and present. The new four lane freeway through Maine township has opened a whole new world to Brokaw and its future.

Industries

THE A B C's OF INDUSTRY

Maine Township

Bargain Bin
Birchfield Nursery
Bronsteatter's Carpentry Service
Cheese 'N' More Store
Corzalla's Service Station
Detjen's Body Shop
Fleet Farm Store
Furrer Motors
Goetsch Welding Shop
Henning Construction
Heritage Mutual Insurance
Housing Mart
Ino Foods
Joyce's Beauty Shop
Koenig's Certified Public Accountants
Lang Welding Service
Luther Cheese House
Lutz Sand and Gravel
Maine Super Market
Marathon Implement
Midstate Contracting, Inc.
Natraus Livestock and Shipping
Ollhoff Plumbing and Heating
Peninsula Construction
Polar Freeze Foods
Polka Twins (Kim and Phil)
Music for Anniversaries, Parties, Weddings
Russ Plumbing and Heating
Rhodes Enterprises
Urban Steel Building Construction
Valley Ford Farm Implements
VanDerGeest Livestock
Wausau Builders Lumber Company
Woller, James-General Contractor
Zastrow's Auto Pool

BLACKSMITHING

Gustav Stecklings Blacksmith Shop was erected before 1900. He made small tools for friends and neighbors. He sharpened saws and fixed any item that needed repair, sleds and wagons, even toys for children. He specialized in canthooks, a tool much in use during the logging days. Knives were also made from old saws.



Part of the shop was used for woodworking. Every spare minute was spent in making usable items for the home. Desks, chairs, pedestals and tables were needed and found a place of need.

Making walking canes was another one of his specialties. This required bending the wood and was done by first soaking it in hot water, then shaping it and fastening in the desired form. It had to be held in place securely until dry. This required much time and patience but provided chair rockers, sled runners, canes and other useful and decorative items for farm and home.

The original shop was torn down and a new one erected in 1909. It still stands today on the farm owned by Richard Gulke.

Karl Schield was born in Moetzelfitz, Germany in 1861. In 1852 he married Hannah Hackbarth. They came to America in 1856 and settled in Milwaukee.

He being a blacksmith by trade, started a shop there. In 1864 he was drafted to serve in the army the last 9 months of the Civil War.

He moved to Maine township in 1865 and purchased 40 acres of land from his brother-in-law, Fred Hackbarth where he started a blacksmith shop. He made his own coal from wood, horse shoes, cant hooks and many other needed tools and implements were made to supply the ever increasing demands of early pioneer people. He moved to Town of Scott, Lincoln County in 1873 and continued in the blacksmith business. The home of Dennis Woller on 60th Ave. now stands on the original site.

GRIST MILL

The foundation of an old grist mill, located on Rainbow Drive, close to the river, can still be seen. Little information is available except that it was owned by Julius Schmidt, whose granddaughter, now 76 years old, is Mrs. Harold (Goldie) Hanson who lives in Merrill.

This mill was known to have had a water wheel to power it. The tall building was moved to an adjacent farm and used as a granary.

The beams were purchased from Anthony Skic by Kenneth Goetsch and used as ornamental beams in the construction of their home in 1968.

Julius Schmidt was known as the "Sauer-Kraut King" because of the delicious sauer kraut he made and peddled with the help of his granddaughter from a four wheeled cart.

GARSKE BRICKYARDS

F.W. Garske came from Germany in 1860 looking for clay soil with which to make brick. He settled in the Town of Maine. Mr. Garske made brick until 1900, when his son, H.E. Garske, took over and operated the brickyards for several years more.

The old St. Michael's Church, the A. Kickbusch Company and the old Franklin School were made of Garske brick, as well as many area homes and taverns.

F.W. Garske visited Germany in 1863 and brought back with him Horse Chestnut seeds. The trees from these seeds are still growing on the original farm, now owned by Ralph Natarus, and also in the yard of his granddaughter, Ella Garske VanSlyke.

F.W. Garske died in 1932 at 90 years of age.

WAUSAU PAPER MILL

The Wausau Paper Mill came into being in 1899, when a prominent paper manufacturer, N.H. Brokaw of Kaukauna, Wisconsin, heard of the splendid water power available at what was then known as "Five Mile Dam" on the Wisconsin River. The great supply of wood suitable for paper making so close at hand also contributed to Mr. Brokaw's decision to secure an option to purchase properties for a mill site.

Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Register of Deeds on June 1, 1899. Capital stock was \$150,000. Work began at once to the surprise of the people in the surrounding area. This meant a ready market for wood being cleared from the land. Town of Maine property owners shared in the profits. Ground was broken July 12, 1899. Buildings were erected and just eight months later the first finished paper was turned out.

The paper on which this historical record is printed has been milled and donated by Wausau Paper Mill. The people of Maine Township appreciate this foresight, ingenuity and pioneering spirit that has so greatly contributed to the growth and prosperity of all of us.

Many people helped provide the labor. Business and industry have reaped untold benefits from this ever expanding enterprise.

In 1963 a new bridge crossing the Wisconsin River provided a west route to and from the Mill joining Highway WW to W on the east side of Brokaw and U.S. Highway 51 and K on the west. This route has opened the Town of Maine to expansion and a closer relationship to Wausau Paper Mill at Brokaw.

We sincerely thank you for your gifts and opportunities of service in making History happen here. .

Officers of Wausau Paper Mills for 1976

William V. Arvold-
President and Chief Executive of Officers
Wilbur P. Clarke-
Vice President Merchant Operations
Charles A. Hodgson-
Vice President Marketing
Wilbur W. Krueger-
Vice President Manufacturing
John L. Laughlin-
Vice President Administration
Malcolm M. Preston-
Vice President Finance and Secretary-Treasurer
Edward W. Karrels-
Controller and Assistant Treasurer



Brokaw Paper Mill

3-M COMPANY

Natural materials, from earliest times, have been used by man to put a roof over his head. Today's modern asphalt shingle combines some of man's oldest materials with advanced industrial technology.

For example, asphalt is one of the better waterproofing agents. Asphalt was used in building the Egyptian pyramids. Ancient records indicate Noah used asphalt in building the Ark.

But in historical terms, the 3M Company's entry into the home roofing market is just yesterday. Wausau is the site of the company's first roofing granule plant. That was in 1932. And the Town of Maine became important to the business about eight years later.

The granules had been produced from the quartzite out of Rib Hill near Wausau and processed at the downtown plant. But it became apparent this was not a satisfactory base rock. There was a need for a greater variety of colors and a more opaque granule.

Luckily, a satisfactory rock - called Greystone - was located about two miles north of the present Wausau city limits. A quarry was opened in 1940 and the rock was hauled to the downtown plant for crushing. It was a common site, to see the chain-driven Stirling trucks making their way between the plant and the quarry.

In the early 50's the crushing capacity at the downtown plant was being exceeded by the demand for rock. The solution to this problem was to build a crushing plant at the quarry site. Rock is reduced to about 1/4 inch which is then trucked downtown for final crushing and coloring.

The granules which leave the Wausau plant enter the asphalt shingle's manufacturing cycle at the third stage. Prior to that stage a felt backing has been soaked with asphalt. The backing is then coated with a heavier asphalt and finally, the granules are applied.

Thus the Wisconsin roofing granule facility has played a part in transforming America's drab rooftops of the early 1930's to a rainbow of 36 colors.

But color is only part of the story. Shingles with 3M's roofing granules protect against fire, wind, rain and snow. They're durable - as rugged as the quarry that gives them up to make a more secure, more comfortable home.

KOENIG & LUNDIN S.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

E.C. "Mark" Koenig started the practice of public accounting in 1951 having maintained offices in Merrill and Wausau.

The combined offices became a reality in 1972 when the present rural building in the Town of Maine was completed.

The land on the corner of "K" and Dixie Avenue was acquired from Peninsula Construction Company and is directly across from Luther's Cheese. The total facility, improvements and personality of the property amounted to approximately \$175,000.00.

The major portion of the building is used for public accounting practice and a smaller portion is being leased to Heritage Insurance Company.

In November, 1975, Fred Lundin joined the firm. The staff consists of nine people, with three being Certified Public Accountants. The annual payroll amounts to about \$125,000.00.

URBAN STEEL BUILDINGS, INC.,



Urban Steel buildings, Inc. has been in business in the Wausau, Wisconsin area for 25 years. It has been located at the present location in the Town of Maine for over 21 years. The business consists of selling and erecting Butler Pre-engineered Buildings and allied products.

George H. Urban is the president and founder of the business and Marian R. Urban is the secretary.

Congratulations to the Town of Maine on your Centennial.

FURRIER MOTORS VOLKSWAGEN

About eighteen years ago the Autohaus, Inc., owned by Mr. Walter Short, was located in downtown Wausau. It was moved to its present location a couple of years later. Bruce D. Furrer purchased the business in 1966 and changed the name to Autobahn Motors, Inc. Around 1969 the name again was changed to Furrer Motors, Inc.

In March of this year, Mr. Robert Durdik purchased a half interest in the corporation. Mr. Durdik was from Kenosha, Wisconsin and Mr. Furrer from Green Bay.



MID-STATE CONTRACTING INC.

Mid-State was incorporated Feb. 1, 1970. It started with 13 employees at 1719 N. Merrill Ave. In June 1976 it relocated at 2001 Highway U with 14,000 sq. ft. of fabrication area and now employs approximately 70 mechanics year round.

Mid-State is owned and operated by Clifford Anderson, James Fuller and Burnell Utecht. Mr. Anderson manages a branch in Marshfield.

The employees are skilled in industrial and commercial sheet metal fabrication, including stainless pipe fitting, air conditioning and mill wright work.

Through the years Mid-State has continuously performed services for paper mills throughout central and northern Wisconsin. They ship fabricated paper machine hoods to all parts of the U.S. including Venezuela.

They have done the heating, ventilating and air conditioning in many schools, hospitals and factories.

FLEET FARM



Fleet Farm, a farm oriented department store, moved to the Town of Maine, in 1966.

RED GRANITE WIS. STATE STONE

Quarrying for Wisconsin Red Granite in the Town of Maine, has come a long way since that first ledge was discovered in 1874. In 1895 this quarry (located on Maine Dr. off Hwy. K), was founded by Gustave E. Anderson, William N. Anderson and Charles E. Johnson. Today it is estimated to be about 5 acres in diameter and about 240 to 260 ft. deep. The stone in this quarry is known as Wisconsin Ruby Red.

There were several quarries in our Township, but as of today, there are only two in operation. The only other quarry being in operation was known as the Prehn Quarry, which is located at the end of Prehn Dr. off Hwy. K. The firm was established in 1925 by Arthur W. Prehn. After his death, members of his family took over the business until July 1, 1971, when Anderson and Johnson purchased this quarry. It is now known as the Rib Mountain Quarry. Though somewhat smaller, it has equally beautiful stone. It is about 1½ acres in diameter and about 150 ft. deep. The stone in this quarry is known as Rib Mountain Dark Red Granite.

Other known quarries were Renstum, Lake Wausau, Olsson (Milwaukee Granite), Deleno and Magnuson. These quarries were abandoned because they did not have the desired color.

It used to be an April to November operation, where now it is year-round one. Gone are the Striking Blast Crews where one man would turn a drill by hand while two or three men would alternately hit this drill with a large hammer. Wooden plugs soaked in water are no

longer installed in these holes so they would expand in the freezing temperatures and cause the rock to split.

Men who could put a hole in solid rock using a striking hammer in 4 or 5 minutes were professional drillers. Plugs and half rounds were put in the holes to split the granite. Today they can drill much deeper in less than a minute with little effort using their modern tools.

Air plug drills aren't around to freeze up in the winter. In the later years they had a boiler that sat next to the drill. This was moved about with the derrick so that they wouldn't have to use as much pipe to get the steam to the drill. Getting mill slabs to heat the air that would go through the pipes to the drill is obsolete. Air drills are still used today but are a lot more efficient. Hand powered drills are now replaced with automatic drills. Today chemicals are used in the air lines to keep the moisture from freezing. Steam drills were also used to make blast holes to be filled with powder. Electricity took the back-break out of many of these tasks.

The blacksmith shop too has changed. The forge and hammer were used to resharpen drills. The blacksmiths had to work with tempered steel. Today drills are sharpened with emery wheels and are made of carbide steel.

Loosening stones is now much faster; the burning method is used. Two men do this after working hours because of the noise the burner makes. Before they had the burner, they channeled openings into the stone.

Removal of the blocks was a laborious task. The horse that was used to walk in a circle to operate the winch, that would control the derrick, is no longer around.

A small portable tripod hoist, run by air, made the job of moving the chain of the derrick with its two large hooks, a lot easier. This job required the muscles of six men to move this chain about. To them this hoist was known as: "The Christmas Present."

Slow moving teams of oxen were used to haul the cumbersome stone blocks to the manufacturing plant. They were used only when the Wisconsin River was frozen solid. Their lack of speed made only one trip a day possible. Horses were later used to take the boulders down a steep cliff road to the river. Horses are no longer required to stop their work in the fields to get a rush order to the finishing plant across the river. Gone are the ferries that were large enough for two teams of horses and a wagon. So are the sledges used to carry the boulders over the frozen river.

river. The company first used their own trucks. In about 1926, Harry Maahs hauled the Granite to Wausau. (See Trucking). Today Radtke Transit speeds quickly along smooth roads to the Wausau finishing plant. The Rib Mt. stones are shipped by trucks from Minnesota to St. Cloud, a monument town.

In 1929 a saw shed was erected. Sawing the granite is one of the most important steps in the production of memorials. Right after the shed was completed, the Depression came and many men lost their jobs.

Radios have replaced hand signals to the men in the hoists. Each quarry now has several derricks to remove the stone and grout. 85% to 90% of the stone taken from the hole is waste.

Safety is always stressed. The walls are always checked for loose shelves and places where ice could form and drop on workers below. A slim man would be chosen to hang over the edge of the hole, from a rope around his waist. Said one man: "A lot of faith and trust was put in the men behind the bushes." (The men hanging onto the other end behind a large boulder). They now use a hoist and box where the men can stand in to do this type of work. Despite the hazards, some men have worked at the quarry for as long as 50 years.

A lot of work goes into a rock before it becomes a beautiful Memorial. Once it arrives at the plant it has to

be surfaced. Then comes the polishing, grinding, honing and glossing. Only flawless granite is removed from the polishing beds. Some granite is discarded even after polishing, as every piece of granite must be perfect. These memorials never fade, crack or disintegrate when exposed to the elements. Even after all these years, it is believed that the color or texture has never changed.

In 1971 the State of Wisconsin declared the Red Granite the State Rock. How fortunate we are that so much of this magnificent rock has been discovered and quarried in our Township. How proud we should be of the founders of these quarries, and of all of the men working at this hazardous occupation.

Sincere thanks to: Mrs. Arthur Beckman, Mr. Harry Sturm, Mr. Arnold Hartwig, Mr. Henry Laabs, and Mr. Arnold Goetsch for the information on quarrying.



Edmund Woller and Arthur Sturm oiling the derrick.



Bottom: Martin Mootz, Rudy Goetsch, Ed Kottke, Edwin Luedtke. Top: Sabatke, Harvey Sturm.



Left to right: Edmund Woller, Arthur Sturm, Otto Pagel, Edwin Luedtke, Ernest Luedtke.



Largest stone ever taken out in the history of Rib Mountain Quarry. About 4,000 lb., 12 ft. 6 in. long, 5 ft. wide, 2 ft. 6 in. in height. Note the drill holes.



Front row - left to right: Ervin Porath, Henry Goetsch, Elmer Goetsch, Wesley Sturm, Nailus Anderson, Arnold Goetsch, Henry Genz, Emil Laabs, Herman Krause. Back row - left to right: Martin Goetsch, Edward Genz, Walter Laatsch, Eric Krause, Harry Howard, Charlie Magnuson, Herbert Hartwig, Harry Sturm, Arnold Hartwig, Paul Beilke, Anton Swanson, George Treu, Henry Laabs, Walter Hoff, unknown, Martin Smith, Martin Gebhardt, Andrew Anderson, Gust Anderson (Boss), Founder, Emil Magnuson, Helmuth Krause, Fred Raddatz, Wm. John (General Manager).