

*Bristol*

*Heritage*

BICENTENNIAL EDITION 1976



# *Bristol Heritage*

**BICENTENNIAL EDITION 1976**

COMPILED BY

Mable Glasman Engberg

SPONSORED BY

The Township of Bristol

and

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## INTRODUCTION

### WHAT IS AN AMERICAN?

What then is the American, this new man? . . . I could point out to you a man, whose grandfather was an Englishman, whose wife was Dutch, whose son married a French woman, and whose present four sons have now four wives of different nations . . . Here individuals of all nations are melted into a new race of man, whose labors and posterity will one day cause a great change in the world . . . The American is a new man, who acts upon new principles; he must therefore entertain new ideas, and form new opinions. From involuntary idleness, servile dependence, penury, and useless labor, he has passed to toils of a very different nature, rewarded by ample subsistence . . . THIS IS AN AMERICAN.

Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, 1782

He who looks with pride upon this history which his fathers have written by their heroic deeds, who accepts with gratitude the inheritance which they have bequeathed to him, and who highly resolves to preserve this inheritance unimpaired and to pass it on to his descendants enlarged and enriched, is a true American, be his birthplace or his parentage what it may.

### THIS IS THE

### BRISTOL

### HERITAGE

A very special thanks to all those who have made this book possible by their many contributions of pictures, articles, information and time. Because we would not be able to mention all the names, we are not printing a list of the contributors. We apologize for any inaccuracy in name spelling, etc. and also for omission of any important information that was not brought to our attention. Our hope is that this book will help us become more aware of our inheritance and thereby proud of the community we share.

## WISCONSIN HISTORY

### COVERS 300 YEARS OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Wisconsin's history is a mixture of many things - Indians, furs, French Canadians, lead mines, British, lumber barons, iron ore, cows, politicians, immigrants, paper mills, and on, and on.

The attempt to tell it all would, and does, fill volume  some key incidents by date, help to tell the main parts of the story.

The year 1634 marks the arrival of French Canadians to Wisconsin, claiming the land for France and remaining to trade with the Indians for their valuable furs. In 1666, Nicholas Perrot set up a trading post on the Mississippi River near the mouth of the Black River. Perrot, in 1690, discovered lead mines which later played an important role in the settlement and development of the state.

In 1763, after the French and Indian War, Wisconsin was among the land ceded by the French to Britain. By 1764, Charles Langlade established the first permanent settlement in Wisconsin at Green Bay. Then followed the Revolutionary War and, in 1783, the designation of Wisconsin as a part of the United States.

The ordinance of 1787 designated Wisconsin as part of the Northwest Territory. Later, it was included in the Indiana Territory, the Illinois Territory, and the Michigan Territory. In 1836, Wisconsin was granted independent territorial status.

In 1832, the last battle between white settlers and Indians was fought in Wisconsin as the Black Hawk War, so designated after the war chief who led the Indians. Only a few sharp skirmishes actually occurred, but the war firmly established the white man's domination over the land.

In the same year, lead mining began on a significant scale in the southwest corner of the state. It served to attract the first large number of white settlers; and by 1840, nearly 31,000 white people were counted in the Wisconsin territory. In 1848, when Wisconsin was accepted for state-hood, the population stood at 210,546.

The story from then on was growth and development. Mining, logging, and farming provided the major impetus. By 1870, there were more than a million people in the state.

By 1885, the Goebic iron deposits were discovered in upper Michigan and north-eastern Wisconsin, setting off a brief but intensive period of development. By 1900, the state's population exceeded 2 million. In that same year, Wisconsin elected its first native-born governor, Robert M. LaFollette, Sr. whose administration was marked by the enactment of a series of landmark legislative acts.

In 1915, Wisconsin established a conservation commission to oversee the protection of its natural resources and to encourage the restoration of those severely damaged in the orgy of development.

By 1940, the population of the state topped 3 million. During World War II, Wisconsin sent 375,000 men and women to serve in the armed forces.

### BRISTOL - YEAR BY YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

- 1816 In the year 1816 there were only two settlements in Wisconsin. Green Bay and Prairie du Chien were both French settlements. The territory of Bristol was a blank on the map as far as pioneer and early settlers were concerned.

In the east there was a great deal of talk and speculation concerning the Great Lakes region of the West and there were a few who were adventuresome enough to explore it.

- 1830 One of the first was Schoolcraft, who in 1830 started west. He kept a log of his travels which is still in existence. He came by way of Lake Erie, Detroit, Chicago and then proceeded north.

One night he camped 50 to 60 miles north of Chicago and 35 miles south of the "Milwacky" River, which is the location of Kenosha now.

When he returned east, he told of the wonderful land west of Lake Michigan. During the following years other explorers came, some to investigate the back country west of Lake Michigan, returning to tell of the wonders of the west.

- 1832 In 1832, after the Black Hawk War, the richness of the area was realized.

- 1833 In 1833 the Indians ceded their title to southeastern Wisconsin and almost immediately pioneers became interested in this country adjacent to Lake Michigan.

- 1834 Explorers were traversing this region. They already talked about Pike River, translating the Indian name "Kenosha". They followed the Indian trails. The most noted of these trails led from Chicago to Milwaukee, keeping the lake shore to Gross Point (near the present Evanston) then turning inland and crossing our county near the line of the present Milwaukee and Saint Paul railroad. This was called the Jambeau Trail from a French trader, Jacques Jambeau, who had his cabin on it at Skunk Grove, west of Racine. It was trodden, I am told, to an average depth of nearly a foot and made a welcome path for many an early pioneer. Another trail branched from this a little south of the state line and crossing the Des Plaines River took the direction toward Burlington.

In November 1834, Captain Gilbert Knapp, with two attendants, coming from Chicago along the Jambeau Trail, passed down to the mouth of Root River and there built a cabin, near where Miner and McClurg's planing mill stands in Racine. There his two men spent the winter. This seems to have been the first American settlement between Milwaukee and Gross Point and the only one in that year. Kenosha County at least claims no settlers in 1834.\* (1)

- 1834 In December of 1834 John Bullen of Hannibal, New York (Oswego County) invited a number of guests to his home for supper. They talked of the stories told by explorers of the country west of Lake Michigan, of the beautiful prairies, fair oaks, bright skies and its most productive soil.

Their enthusiasm increased as they decided to organize an association to settle a colony in the west. A meeting was called in the Masonic Hall in Hannibal. Many more people came than they had anticipated.

Organized in Hannibal, New York, Oswego County, the Western Emigration Company, a joint stock association for making a settlement. Articles of Incorporation were drawn up and shares were sold at \$10.00 each for funds to sponsor the foundation of the colony. Three men were appointed to explore and find a suitable location. They left Hannibal in March of 1835. They first went to Milwaukee, but found it already staked in claims.

Then they went south to Root River (Racine) but that too had been claimed. Then they proceeded south to Pike River (Kenosha), arriving in June of 1835.

These men had been instructed to find a good port on the lake with good "back country" for farming and they felt satisfied with their find. The pioneers followed and by the end of 1835, the Pike River boasted eight families who built their first homes of logs.

#### 1835 FIRST SETTLERS IN SOMERS

Early in 1835, the settlers began to appear in the area of Kenosha County. Mr. Hugh Longwell, now living in the Town of Somers, tells me that in March 1835, he and six other men came in wagons from Michigan and followed the trail to Jambaus. There Solomon Juneau was visiting at the time; and, to paint the manners more clearly, let it be confessed that Juneau with frontier courtesy, first loudly remanded the travelers to infernal regions and then straightway invited them to the hospitality of the cabin and the demi john. Thence they went to Root River, where they found Capt. Knapp. At his recommendation, they then crossed over to the head of Pike River to locate and there found Jacob Montgomery and his sons already occupying a log cabin. This cabin, almost exactly where Fred Ozanne's house now stands, seems to have been the first in our county and built at least early in March 1835. Mr. Montgomery remained there eight years or more, somewhat famous among pioneers as a hunter and then moved west to disappear from our history. So the honor of the first settlement in Kenosha County belongs to Jacob Montgomery and the town of Somers. \*(1)

- 1835 In 1835, in what was later to become Bristol Township, many trees could be found marked with the names for claims. The first claim was by Wm. R. Higgins (on Hwy. 50) and a second by Sereno Fowler west of Woodworth School, or the old Kellogg Tavern. There were no settlements west of this point at that time.

#### TUTTLE'S SETTLE IN BRISTOL

Rollin Tuttle and his family were the first settlers in the Town of Bristol.  
During their first four months here, Mrs. Tuttle saw no other female.

Their son was the first white child born in the town. The Tuttle farm (located on D north of AH) was the first farm opened and plowed in the spring of 1836.

Other settlers to come that year were George Nixon, Wm. Etheridge, (later the Dave Griffith farm north side of Hwy. 50, east of Hwy. 45) and Joel Walker.

- 1836 July 4th - Ask any old settler what was the great event of the year at Pike River and he at once replies, "The celebration of the 4th". It was not only Independence Day, but the inauguration day of the Wisconsin Territory. Let us picture to ourselves the condition of our county that famous morning just forty years ago.

The western half of the county could not then, I suppose, claim a resident settler. Claims had indeed been made in Salem by Alfred Butler and the Dodge Brothers and soon after we find Jason Lothrop surveying on Fox River and making several maps of something he calls "city" there. But the city never went beyond Mr. Lothrop's maps and up until the end of 1836, I cannot find that Salem had an actual settler. Paris may have already on the ground Patrick Malarky and a few others, though, the date of their arrival is uncertain. In Bristol, we should have found on certain trees the names of S.S. Fowler and W.R. Higgins, where they cut them late in the previous fall to make their claims. Other claims had, of course, been made, but the only resident settler of Bristol seems to have been Rollin Tuttle, who came that spring with his family and built near G.T. Vincent's present house. But Mr. Tuttle was doing what he could for the settlement of the town and we soon hear of a new boy in his house, the first birth in Bristol. \*(1)

#### 1835-1837

Among the first in Bristol, were Wm. R. Higgins, who had chosen his claim bordering on what is now known as Hwy. 50 east of Woodworth corner and Sereno Fowler west of Woodworth corner. Others were George Nixon, Joel Walker, Salmon Upson, Levi Grant, and Harmon Marsh. These were in the year of 1835. Just before they came, trees could be found marked with the names of farmers who had staked their claims. Rollin Tuttle and his wife were the first resident settlers. All the settlers had to go to Milwaukee for their land grant. Some who were fortunate enough to have horses rode horseback but the majority walked. Among the early settlers, were the three Jackson brothers who took up land on what is now Hwy. 50 and D, the four corners east of Bristol Corners. Andrew built a tavern, part of which is now standing and known as the Castle home. Frisbee built a store west of the tavern, and Northrup a house and blacksmith across from the tavern thus making the three business places. The settlers began calling this little settlement "Jacksonville". \*(2)

- 1837 This was an outstanding year. Pike River was changed to Southport, it being the port farthest south in Wisconsin. A road was surveyed west from Southport to Lake Geneva, called Geneva Road. Today it is Hwy. 50.

1837 MAIL ROUTE ESTABLISHED

In December of 1837, a meeting was held at the tavern of A.B. Jackson for the purpose of drafting a petition for a mail route from Southport west. Then the township had to be given a name and it was voted to call it Bristol for the Rev. Ira Bristol, one of the early settlers. A Post Office was established at the tavern and A.B. Jackson was appointed Postmaster. Later Rollin Tuttle was appointed Postmaster and he built the building on the corner for the Post Office thus adding another place of business at Jacksonville. Mail was carried by a postilion but was not heavy consisting mostly of letters from back east. The postage on a letter was 25 cents. \*(2)

1837 COMING OF SERENO S. FOWLER AND HIS WIFE LEMIRA TARBELL FOWLER

Mr. Sereno Fowler was a native of Massachusetts and a graduate of Harvard. Mrs. Fowler was born in South Hampden County, Massachusetts, a sister of Emerson and Henry Tarbell, and she was a graduate of a young lady's academy in South Hampden. Mr. Fowler came to land sales in the territory of Wisconsin in 1837, brought his bride to the land just north of the Woodworth road on Hwy. 50 in the township of Bristol. Rollin Tuttle brought them out through the prairie grass that was higher than the backs of the ox teams. The prairie was broken by groups of magnificent oaks called "oak openings" and Mrs. Fowler expressed her pleasure at such nice orchards. When a prairie fire threatened their cabin, while the men were hastily plowing a strip around a clearing to protect it from the flames, Mrs. Fowler beat out the flying sparks with her woolen petticoat.

When trees were cut and burned, berry bushes came up around the stumps, and the berries were dried for the winter. Wild crabs were preserved in maple sugar. Quail and prairie chicken were abundant. One winter, all the flour they had was buckwheat until the boat came in the spring with supplies. Mr. Fowler planted the first apple, peach and pear orchard in the county having brought the seedlings from his home in Hartford, Connecticut. Some of the trees are still living.

Then Indians looked in the windows but they were friendly and brought gifts of venison and game and expected a little sugar, tobacco or tea in exchange. For several seasons, the winters were mild and all the equipment for winter travel was a rude sled called a jumper and a fiery little Canadian pony which never stepped over a puddle or stream but jumped over. Indians camped in the woods between Woodowrth and Hwy. 50 during the winter of the deep snow and many died of disease and starvation. The little remnant never returned.

Mr. and Mrs. Fowler were people of fine ideals and an upward vision. His high ambition was a select boarding school and to this end in 1839 built the house and dormitory of Fowler's Academy. The lumber was sawed in a mill erected on land owned by Mr. Fowler now in the possession of Fred Stevens on the old plank road. With ox teams and neighborhood help they raised a dam and mill on the little stream that is the outlet of Neisons and Leeg Lake. The remains of these are still plainly visible. Mr. Henry Newbury was the carpenter

who constructed the academy and he built well and for posterity. Mr. Fowler was possessed of extraordinary executive abilities and the academy was becoming most successful when his health failed and in 1847 the school was closed. Mr. Fowler succumbed soon after to tuberculosis which disease is believed to have been contracted in his eastern home. The young widow was unable to carry on and the place was rented as a tavern. \*(3) The buildings of the Fowler Academy were the first frame buildings in the county. Among the Kenosha people who attended the school were the parents of Mr. Harry Baldwin, John Bullen, Mrs. Saunders, and Mrs. Kind, and Mr. Wattles. \*(3)

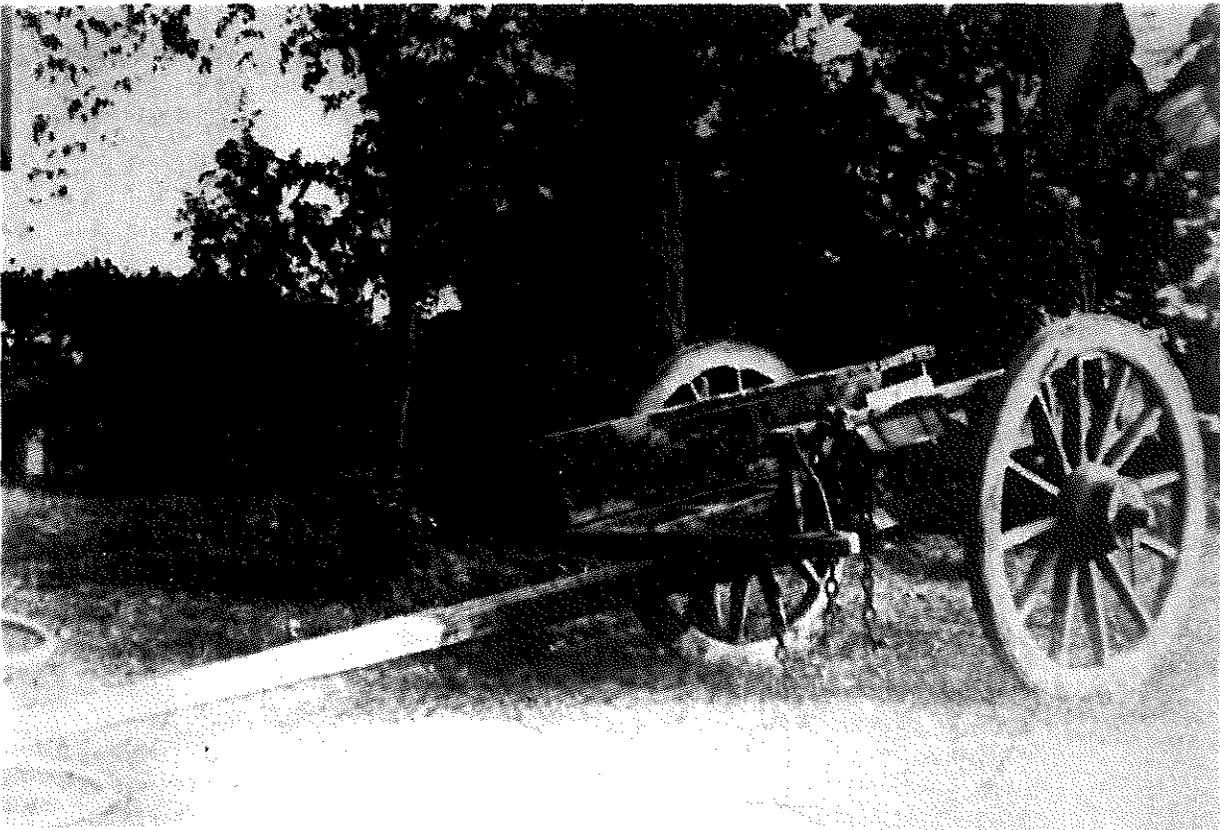


*Lemira Tarbell Fowler and Sereno S. Fowler*

#### 1837 SALMON UPSON VISITED WISCONSIN

Mr. Upson was born Sept. 8, 1803, at Wolcott, New Haven Co., Conn., where he engaged in farming and other pursuits; went to Pennsylvania in 1832 - 33 and sold clocks, then returned to Connecticut and worked on the farm. In June, 1837, he visited Wisconsin to prospect for suitable land, and bought a claim of 320 acres. On this visit he found only two families living in Bristol Township. In August, he returned to Connecticut, and was elected member of the Legislature for 1838. In June 1840, he returned to Bristol, settled on his claim and moved into a log house, built by Mr. Massey, of Indiana, who was the first owner of this land. He built his present house and barn in 1841. He married Miss Mary M. Jackson, of Wolcott, Conn., Nov. 26, 1835 and they had seven children - Julia, Mary, Salmon E., H. Amelia (who died as an infant), Lucy M., H. Amelia, and Ellen E. (who died at 19 years).

Mr. Upson was member of the Legislature for 1860, Assessor of Bristol one year, Chairman of Supervisors three years, Side Supervisor three years, Clerk and Director of School District several times, Pathmaster in turn.



*(Mr. and Mrs. Salmon Upson's Ox Cart, Dewey Slide No. 87)*

### 1837 COMING OF SAMUEL E. TARBELL

Samuel E. Tarbell, Farmer Section 3 and 10, P.O. Woodworth, born May 2, 1813 in Birmfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts, where he worked on his father's farm until the fall of 1834. Then he went to Seneca County, New York and was school teacher until the spring of 1837, when he came to Wisconsin, landed at Milwaukee and went in a schooner to Racine, from there to Pleasant Prairie by stage and followed the blaze on trees to Bristol where he claimed 160 acres of land. The land was the east half of the southeast quarter of section 3 and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 10. He returned to Seneca County, New York in the fall of 1837 and married Miss Caroline J. Squires of that county, on January 3, 1838. The same year he came back and settled on his farm and built a small frame house. In 1845, he erected his barns and in 1847 replaced his frame residence with the present homestead. He raises all kinds of grains and stock. His wife died November 22, 1847, leaving one child, William S. \*(4)

The following letter was found in the old Tarbell home when it was torn down. At the time it was torn down, the property was owned by Herbert Becker. This letter is in the possession of the Becker Family. It was copied as accurately as the condition of the letter allowed.

*Pleasant Prairie  
Wis Ter Sept - 1837*

*Ever Beloved Caroline*

*Yours of the 11th ult. I received in due time which caused a mingled sensation of joy and sorrow. Nothing could give me more pleasure than to hear from you but your ill health gives me much anxiety. My mind is riveted on you both in sleeping and waking hours, sometimes, that you are laboring under disease, then again you are enjoying yourself with good health and friends. Yes Caroline, often do I see you in my sleeping hours would it were a reality but I wake and find it all a dream. Yes I find myself in Wisconsin far away from the one I love, but I anticipate the time when all this will be a reality when I shall be able to clasp the hand and kiss the lips of her of my ever dear Caroline. The poetry often comes to mind, when shall we meet again, meet never to sever, When shall peace wreath her chain round us forever. 'Tis with happy emotions of heart that I anticipate the hour when we shall see each other again and be united in the everlasting bonds of matrimony.*

*You wished to know what kind of church we had here (as I wrote about attending church). I should correct the expression it was only a meeting at one of the private houses. We have no churches here. Wisconsin knows no churches yet except Catholic and only one of that kind. We soon I think shall have place to worship.*

*You wish to know what I am doing this summer. In short, I have been doing most everything since I came here. At present am at work at the carpenter business. Fowler is building a framed house and I am at work at that, shall soon get it done. He builds in pretty good style for Wisconsin.*

*I expected my brother here the last of this or first of next month. Before he comes I cannot determine when I shall leave for New York state. Nothing could gratify me more than to start today, but it is impossible to go at the present. Think of starting about the 20 or 25th of October possibly sooner but my business is such that it is impractical for me to leave so much before that time. Shall go by water think now shall take a vessel as the steamboats will stop running before that time. The most that concerns me about taking a vessel is, it might be delayed by head winds and take some weeks to go to Buffalo.*

*I commenced this letter a week ago and should have finished had I not been called to attend to the last rites due one of our fellow being. A Child died last Sabbath morn about 8 years old in the neighborhood. The child was well the night before, in the morning was a corpse. What caused its death so suddenly is unknown to any of us. It is the first death that has ever occurred in this town. The family had been here about a week and had hardly got settled before one of their children should be called by death's relentless hand to another world.*

*I hope you will not delay writing as I have a week after you get this. I know you will not. I long to hear from you. Oh, I wish you would write every week. I am sure you might, you cannot employ yourself better. I want you to be careful about exposing yourself so as to injure your health. I fear you are to careless. Oh you will excuse my plainness about it but I must lecture you a little as I do my sister. My health is good and in good spirits expecting, if my life is spared, soon to return to my beloved. Two months seems a great while but it will soon pass away, if my expectations are realized you will see me about the first of November and then our previous engagements, I trust will be fulfilled. My love to your Father and Mother and all the family particularly Adeline and Jane. I wonder if they can dance as prettily as ever. Tell Belding he had better sell in Indiana and come to Wisconsin. Now remember what I tell you about exposing your health and you will greatly gratify your ever true friend and lover.*

*S.C. Tarbell*

According to the biographical sketch Mr. Tarbell returned to Bristol with his bride Caroline Squires Tarbell in the year 1838. His wife died November 1847 only nine years later.

**1837 GENEVA ROAD OR HIGHWAY 50 SURVEYED**

In July 1837, Rev. Jason Lothrop, surveyed the road running west from Southport to Geneva. This was the first road running west from Southport to be surveyed.

**1840** During the year 1840, settlers from the East whose names are familiar to us, settled here. They are Jonas Bryant, D.B. Benedict, Mr. Eddy, Mr. Castle, Fremont Frisbie, John Kingman, William Packman, Gethen and Lavey.

**1842 FIRST BRISTOL TOWN MEETING HELD**

At a meeting of the legal voters of the Town of Bristol, Racine County, held pursuant to public notice on the first day of April, A.D., 1842, at the schoolhouse in said town for the purpose of an organization of the town under an act of the Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Wisconsin which entitles an act to provide for the government of the liberal towns in this territory.

Philander Judson was elected moderator, and the following resolutions were introduced and adopted:

1. That the election of the officers shall be by ballot.
2. That we elect two assessors.
3. That we elect three constables.
4. That we raise \$35. for roads and that the road commissioners furnish out of said sum four scrappers for the use of said town.
5. That all the officers employed by the town shall receive \$1. for each day's service except public days when they shall receive no pay.
6. That the town clerk of said town shall be paid for all necessary writing in the business transactions of said town at the rate of 4 cents per folio except employed by the day when he shall receive the same as provided for other town officers.
7. That the treasurer shall be allowed to retain out of the money recovered by him for the use of said town, 1 per cent for recovery and disbursing the same.
8. That the sum of \$121. be raised to defray the contingent expenses of said town.

The officers elected included Salmon Upson, Joel Walker and A.B. Jackson. \*(5), \*(6)

It is interesting to note that 102 years later, the grandsons of the first three town officers, Frank Upson, Joe Walker and Clarence Jackson served as town officers.

1842 BELOW IS PICTURED AN ENTRY INTO THE OFFICIAL TOWN RECORD. THIS PAGE WAS PICTURED AND IS ONE OF THE DEWEY SLIDES THAT ARE TO BE FOUND AT THE KENOSHA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM. (SLIDE NO. 646 FIRST ENTRY IN OLD RECORD BOOK OF TOWN OF BRISTOL.)

*Records of the town of Bristol  
County of Kenosha  
And State of  
Wisconsin.*

*Continuing with the organization of said  
town on the first Tuesday in April A.D. 1842  
under the Legislative Assembly of the Territorial  
Government of Wisconsin.*

1843 SECOND TOWN MEETING HELD

*The town meeting for the Town of Bristol was held at the house of Northrup Jackson on April 14, 1843.*

*It was further motioned to raise \$80.00 for the coming year and also \$30.00 for the purchase of three burial grounds in said town to be located by three different committees. The committee for the north part was S. Grant, E. Phillips and R. Bourne; the west part, U.S. Thorp, C.G. Coffey and D. Williams, and the south part, Ira Pierce, Martin Gurlott and J. Burl, The tracts were to be located one on the Plank Road, one on Geneva Road, and one at Hosmer Chapel.*

OFFICERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL

YEAR	CHAIRMAN	TREASURER	CLERK
1842	John D. Benedict		Levi Grant
1843	Herman S. Thorp		
1844	Uriah Wood	A.B. Jackson	
1845	Ira Pierce	A.R. Wilbur	Robert Nixon
1846	Samuel Upson		Frisbie J. Jackson G.E. Fitch[ Rollin Tuttle
1847	Ira Pierce		
1848	Ira Pierce		
1849	Levi Grant	Charles Jennings	A.B. Jackson
1850	Levi Grant	Peter E. Smith	
1851	Philander Judson	A.L. Barnum	
1852	Levi Grant	Samuel Spencer	F.J. Jackson
1853	Samuel Upson	G.W. Carpenter	
1854	Samuel Upson	S.D. Gethen	
1855	Samuel Upson	Addison Moore	
1856	Ira Pierce	Hiram Blakslee	
1857	Philander Judson	O.M. Ward	Hiram Blakslee
1858	H.S. Thorp		J.M. Leland
1859	H.S. Thorp	Peter E. Smith	Sam'l R. Leonard
1860	H.S. Thorp	O.C. Stonebreaker Hiram Blakslee	
1861	H.S. Thorp		
1862	S.E. Tarbell		
1863	S.E. Tarbell		
1864	S.E. Tarbell	William Kemp	
1865	Cornelius Williams		
1866	S.E. Tarbell		
1867	Sam'l R. Leonard		Wm. E. Roberts James Shumway Luther H. Pike S.E. Tarbell Sam'l R. Leonard
1868	Herman S. Thorp	J.F. Chase	
1869	Herman S. Thorp		
1870	Cornelius Williams		
1871	H.S. Thorp		
1872	Cornelius Williams		
1873	Cornelius Williams		
1874	Cornelius Williams	H.A. Tourtelotte	Ebenezer Nead C.I. Shumway
1875	James M. Ward		
1876	James M. Ward		
1877	James M. Ward		H.G. Tourtelotte
1878	James M. Ward		
1879	James M. Ward		
1880	H.S. Thorp		W.K. Packman D.A. Sovereign
1881	H.S. Thorp		
1882	J.D. Fowler		
1883	C. Williams		
1884	Alzo B. Pierce		
1885	Alzo B. Pierce		

OFFICERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRISTOL

YEAR	CHAIRMAN	TREASURER	CLERK
1886	H.R. Lavey		Arthur Devlin
1887-1890	H.R. Lavey	1887	C.H. Waldo
1891	George Curtis		
1892-1896		1896	Wm. G. Crosby
1897	C.E. Williams		
1898	C.E. Williams		
1899	C.E. Williams		H.L. Adams
1900	A.R. Cornwell		
1901	W.C. Bacon		
1902	A.R. Cornwell		
1903	F.W. Roberts		
1904			
1905	John Lane		
1906-1912	F.R. Shuart	1909	Willis Upson
1913	W.A. Upson		J.B. Edwards
1916-1940	W.C. Bacon	1918 F. Rowbottom	1924 E.E. Powell
		1924 Robert Pringle	1932 C.H. Jackson
1941-1944	W.J. Gleason	Jim Waldo	1944 James W. Waldo
1945-1961	C.H. Jackson	1926 Ed Powell	1945 Margaret Maleski
		1948 Fred Pitts	
1961-1975	Earl Hollister	1962 Al Reidenbach	1969 Fred Pitts
		1969 Doris Magwitz	
1975	Noel Elfering	Doris Mageitz	Fred Pitts

HOST OF LOCAL PUBLIC SERVANTS

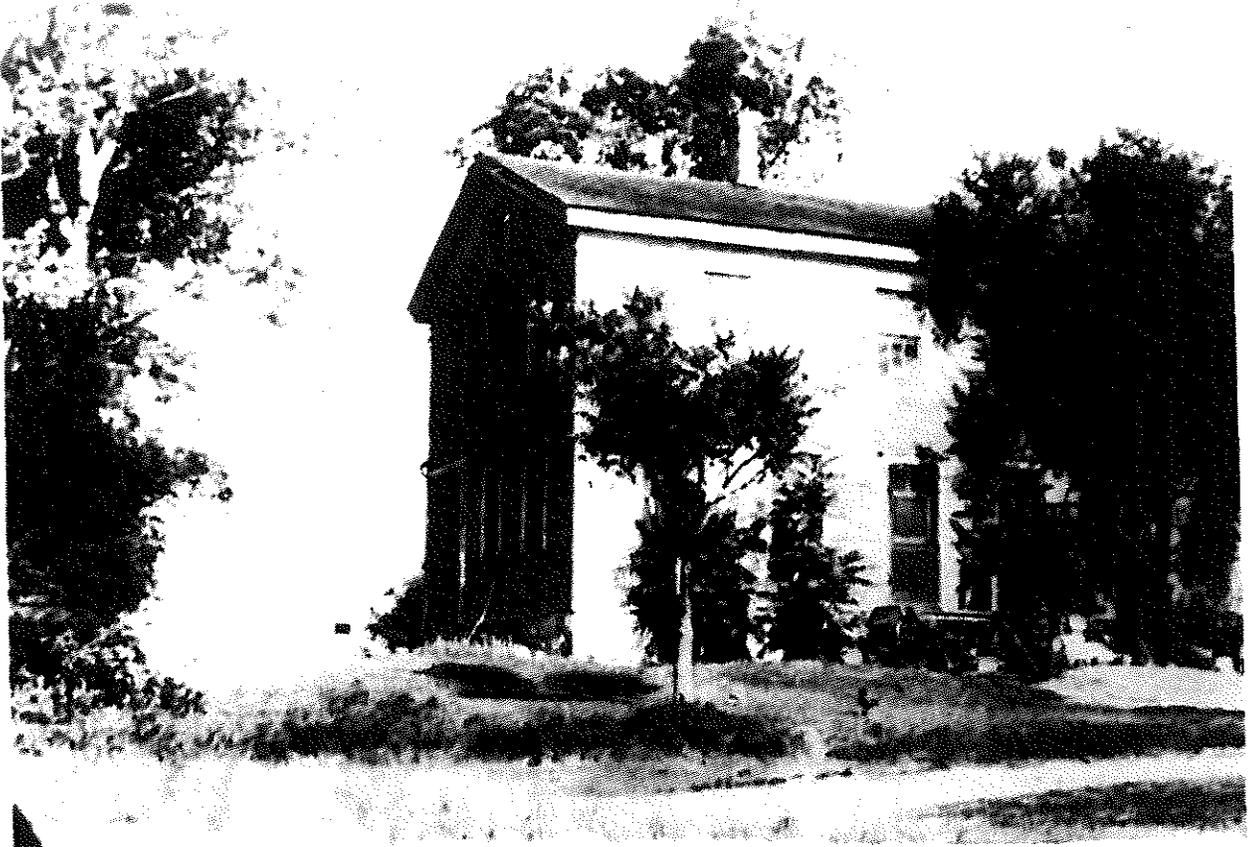
Bristol retains a host of local public servants as is shown by the retirement of two long-term officials in recent years. Fire Chief Fred Pitts retired in 1965 after 25 years of service. In 1932, when Pitts became a member of the volunteer fire department an old hand pumper and ladder cart were the sole pieces of equipment. After 35 years in the department and 25 years as chief, Pitts left behind one of the best equipped rural fire departments in the state. An article on the Bristol Fire Department can be found in this book on pages 42 and 43.

Mrs. Margaret Maleski left the town clerk's office in 1968 after almost 24 years. Mrs. Maleski's years as clerk witnessed changes in Bristol as well. The number of voters has increased from 400 in 1945 to over 1,000 in 1968. One room schools were replaced by a modern full-service school and a high school district. \*(5)

In 1849 Philo Curtis and wife Mary Hunt, came from New York and purchased 280 acres in Bristol Township, from Hwy. 45 west on JS about two miles. He built his home, now known as Royal Oak Farm. Mary died in 1865 and Philo returned to New York. His son Cyrus Curtis returned to Bristol later and cultivated his fathers land.

1840's ON THE CORNER OF HIGHWAY 50 AND COUNTY HIGHWAY D WAS A SETTLEMENT KNOWN AS JACKSON'S CORNER OR "JACKSONVILLE"

The settlement was formed by three brothers: Andrew, Frisbie, and Northrup. Andrew built a tavern (Castle farm, north side of Hwy. 50, east of D), Frisbie built a store west of the tavern, and Northrup built a house and blacksmith shop across from the tavern (formerly owned by Byron Gillmore and currently owned by A. Revers).



*CASTLE HOME - ASHBURY CHAPEL, JACKSONVILLE (DEWEY SLIDE NO. 377)*

1850 In the 1850's, came the Carmens, Gaineses, Laceys, Thorpes, Stonebreakers, Williams's, Bacons, and others.

Bristol Township was developing rapidly. Log cabins were replaced by frame buildings and orchards were planted.

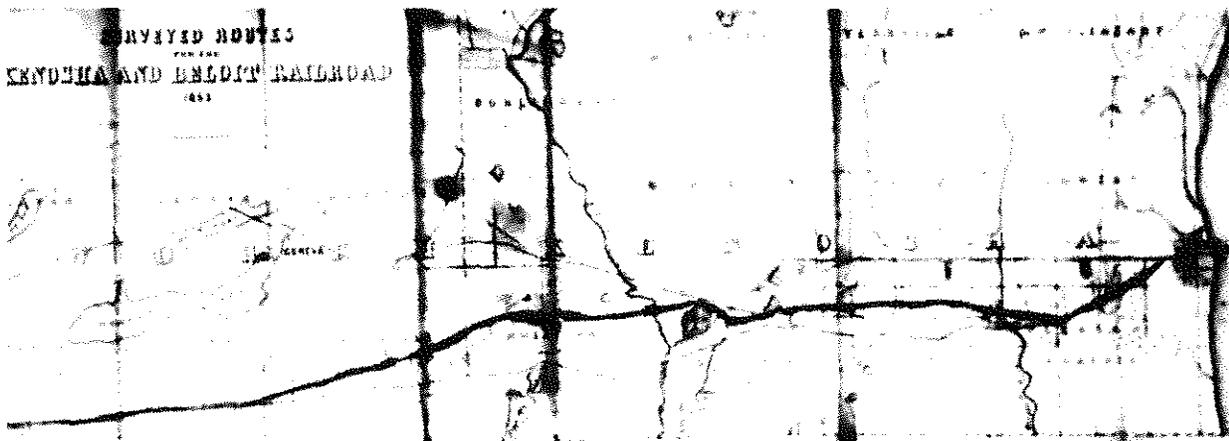
1853 CIRCUS CAME TO BRISTOL

The first showing of a circus, Barnums, in Kenosha County was in Bristol Township across the road from the Bacon Home, in 1853. There was talk at that time of a railroad through from Southport west. The name of Southport was again changed in 1850 to Kenosha, an Indian name for Pike.

### 1853 KENOSHA AND BELOIT RAILROAD COMPANY INCORPORATED

In 1853, the C. & N.W. Railroad built a railroad from Kenosha to Rockford and established depots named Bristol and Woodworth. The roads in those days were not graded or graveled and were impassable in the spring and in wet weather.

In order to get the wheat to market, some enterprising man built what was called the Plank road on what is now Highway K by cutting down trees, splitting the logs in half and laying them close together across the road (I believe this was a toll road). This was a bigger improvement than I-94. After the railroad came, people began building homes, business places and churches near the depot. \*(7)



*MAP OF THE KENOSHA, BELOIT RAILROAD AND THE PLANK ROAD  
(DEWEY SLIDE NO. 256) \*(9)*

*This picture shows the Official Surveyed Routes for the Kenosha and Beloit Railroad and note the date on the map is 1853.*

### 1853 KENOSHA AND БЕЛОIT RAILROAD COMPANY INCORPORATED

The Kenosha and Beloit Railroad Company was incorporated to build a road from Kenosha to Beloit. The name was later changed to the Kenosha, Rockford and Rock Island Road and the route changed to Rockford instead of Beloit. Kenosha and its citizens were the principal subscribers to its stock. By 1862, the line was constructed from Kenosha to Genoa City. Failing to pay its interest, the mortgage was foreclosed and the road sold to the Chicago North-Western Railroad in 1862. It was then operated as the Kenosha division and was completed to Harvard, Illinois. It was a cheap means of transportation for many years until the coming of motorized vehicles.

The story of this little railroad is closely connected with Kenosha and its effort to become more than a mere village. When the land company chose the site during the western land boom of the 1830's, it looked for a place that would have a harbor and a good back country. The only ready means of transportation at that time was the Great Lakes and the thought was to found a thriving lake port. The country to the West became a great wheat producing section. In addition, lead was brought from as far away as Galena for shipment from Kenosha. The long wagon trains carrying the lead would travel slowly along the poor roads. In wet weather, these roads became almost impassable and the dry weather following, they were rugged, rough and dusty. Leading citizens of the city watched this trade with the West anxiously lest some other lake city would entice it away. A plank road was constructed on the town line road between the townships of Somers and Pleasant Prairie. Then as various railroad projects began to threaten trade with the rich wheat lands to the West, the railroad project was promoted.

Col. Michael Frank, the first mayor of the city of Kenosha and a man prominent in city and state affairs for many years, wrote some of the story in his diary:

*January 26, 1853 "Chief topic of conversation, the road from here to Beloit."*

*February 25, 1853 "Agreement signed by Kenosha and Geneva committees in respect to the railroad west. Over \$90,000. worth of stock subscribed in the city for the road."*

*March 16, 1853 "Agreement made today with Mr. Irving to survey the Kenosha and Beloit Railroad."*

*April 9, 1853 "The prospects of the Kenosha and Rock River Railroad have considerably lessened in the past two weeks."*

*October 1, 1853 "Contract for the building of Kenosha and Beloit Railroad was let a few weeks ago."*

*July 24, 1855 "Nothing has been done on the western railroad since March of last. By this time three-fourths of the grading was now finished on the western railroad between Kenosha and the Fox River. The work was going slowly. Real Estate in the city is not in good demand as it was three months ago. The discouraging prospects of the western railroad is evidently causing buyers to look elsewhere to establish businesses. \*(11)*

The Kenosha and Beloit Railroad Company route runs through the County of Kenosha and crosses the state line near the Village of Genoa in the County of Walworth, a distance of 30 miles in the State of Wisconsin and there connects with a road in Illinois running to Rockford and with which it consolidated. \*(4)

Kenosha and its citizens were the principal subscribers to its capital stock. The company issued its bonds, secured by the usual mortgage on its franchises and property. Failing to pay its interest, the mortgage was foreclosed.

The road was sold to the Chicago and Northwestern Company and was operated by it as the Kenosha division in 1863. The line was constructed from Kenosha to Genoa in 1862. \*(4)

When the railroad built the railroad from Kenosha to Rockford, it established depots named Bristol and Woodworth. The roads in those days were not graded or graveled and were impassable in the spring and in wet weather.

The "Iron Horses" were a welcome sight to farmers, businessmen and housewives who anxiously awaited delivery of parcels from Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Wards.

The economic life of Bristol and Woodworth depended on the railroad. The trains carried away the milk, tile, and mail, and took their children to high school in Kenosha. The high point of the day was the arrival time of the several freight or passenger trains at the depot.

In 1930, trucks took over and the end of an era in transportation was seen in Bristol Township.

## AFTER 101 YEARS - RAILROAD SERVING COUNTY REACHES END OF THE LINE

1962 **BASSETT** - Ten days ago, a section crew for the Chicago and North Western Railroad, began tearing out the trackage of the North Western spur between this Randall Township hamlet and Genoa City.

It was 101 years ago, July 21, 1861, the day the first Battle of Bull Run was fought in the Civil War, that the first train passed over the rails, en route from Kenosha to Harvard, Ill.

THAT WAS A DAY of triumph for a Kenosha pioneer, Zalmon G. Simmons, Sr., and in the interim of slightly more than a century since completion of the Kenosha, Rockford and Rock Island Railway, the line soared to a prosperous operation as the main mode of travel and transportation between Kenosha City and the western resort sections of the county.

The slow death of the old railway started with the advent of the automobile and with the paving and improvements of highways which are now the connecting links with the "west end".

But before the death of the ancient communication line, many memories were formed. \*(6)

\* \* \* \* \*

The old railway is a cousin of the "Cog" road up Pike's Peak in Colorado. Simmons built that unique railroad 30 years after he fought through the Kenosha-Rock Island trackage. The line was started in the 1850's, with the building moving from Kenosha westward and from Rockford eastward, but before the final 20 miles of the road, in the vicinity of Twin Lakes Village, were installed, the company floundered in financial shoals of the ante-bellum days.

Z.G. Simmons, Sr., then a merchant and banker, came to the rescue. He poured funds and financing into the project and pressed it to completion. The money troubles persisted throughout the Civil War period, and after the stockholders quit in disgust, Simmons continued the operation in almost complete control.

BY THE 1870's, when the famous Kenoshan turned to manufacturing, the line was a prosperous business venture, carrying passengers and freight through Pleasant Prairie, Bristol, Salem, Silver Lake, Twin Lakes and Genoa City and on into Illinois.

When Hwy. 50 and County Trunk F were mere gravel roadways and in the days when the auto was a doubtful mode of travel, the old Kenosha, Rockford, Rock Island was a dependable carrier bringing summer residents, supplies and business into the resort sections.

With the rise of trucking, cars and other communications, the old glory of the line vanished and it became a part of a service system of the Chicago and North Western Railroad Co. Recent years saw it operate sporadically as a supplier of freight for the Al Lois Feed Co., here and for the Harbaugh Lumber Yard in Twin Lakes.

\* \* \* \* \*

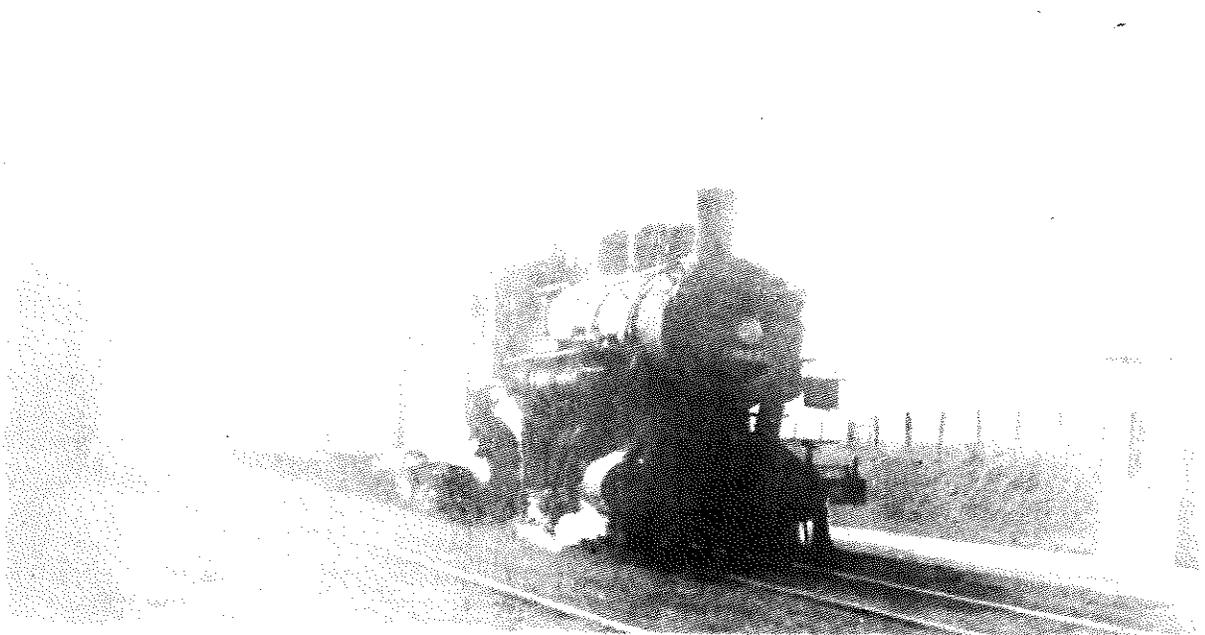
A flaming death knell came when the Lois Feed Co. was razed to the ground in a \$100,000. fire in the spring of 1961. The fire took a 30-year landmark building from this village and marked the end of the old railroad as far as Wisconsin is concerned.

Early this spring, an Interstate Commerce Commission hearing in Washington, D.C. decided that the North Western was right in its request to abandon.

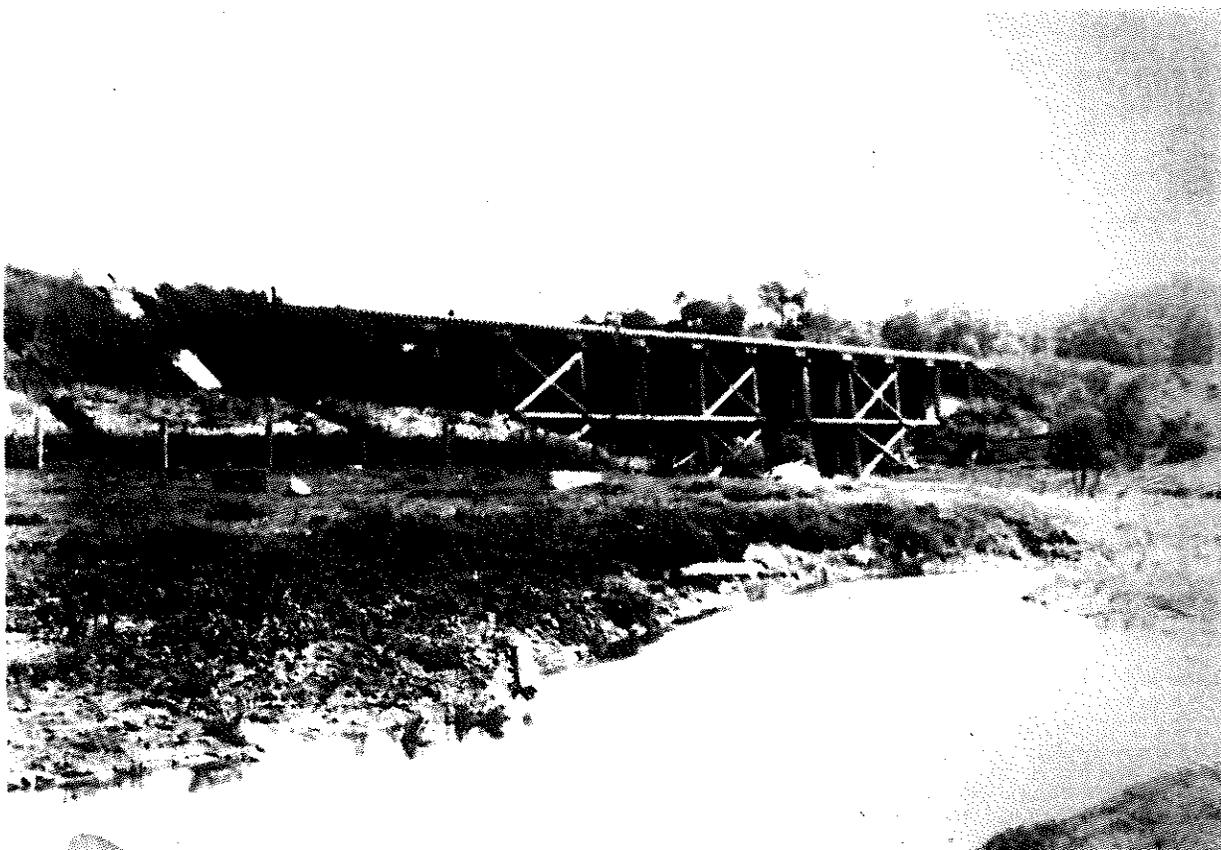
Already the trackage has been ripped out through Twin Lakes village and graders are eliminating the last vestiges of a century of travel.

(Article printed in the Kenosha News in 1961.)

*The last train went through Woodworth in 1939. Here is a picture of this last train through Woodworth. \*(9) At a much earlier time than this article, the other portion of trackage from Kenosha through the county had been torn out. Only here and there along the route does the railroad bed remain recognizable and stands as a shadow of past days.*



RAILROAD TRESTLE BRIDGE BETWEEN WOODWORTH & BRISTOL



*This picture is of the Railroad trestle bridge over the Des Plaines River and is located between Woodworth and Bristol.*

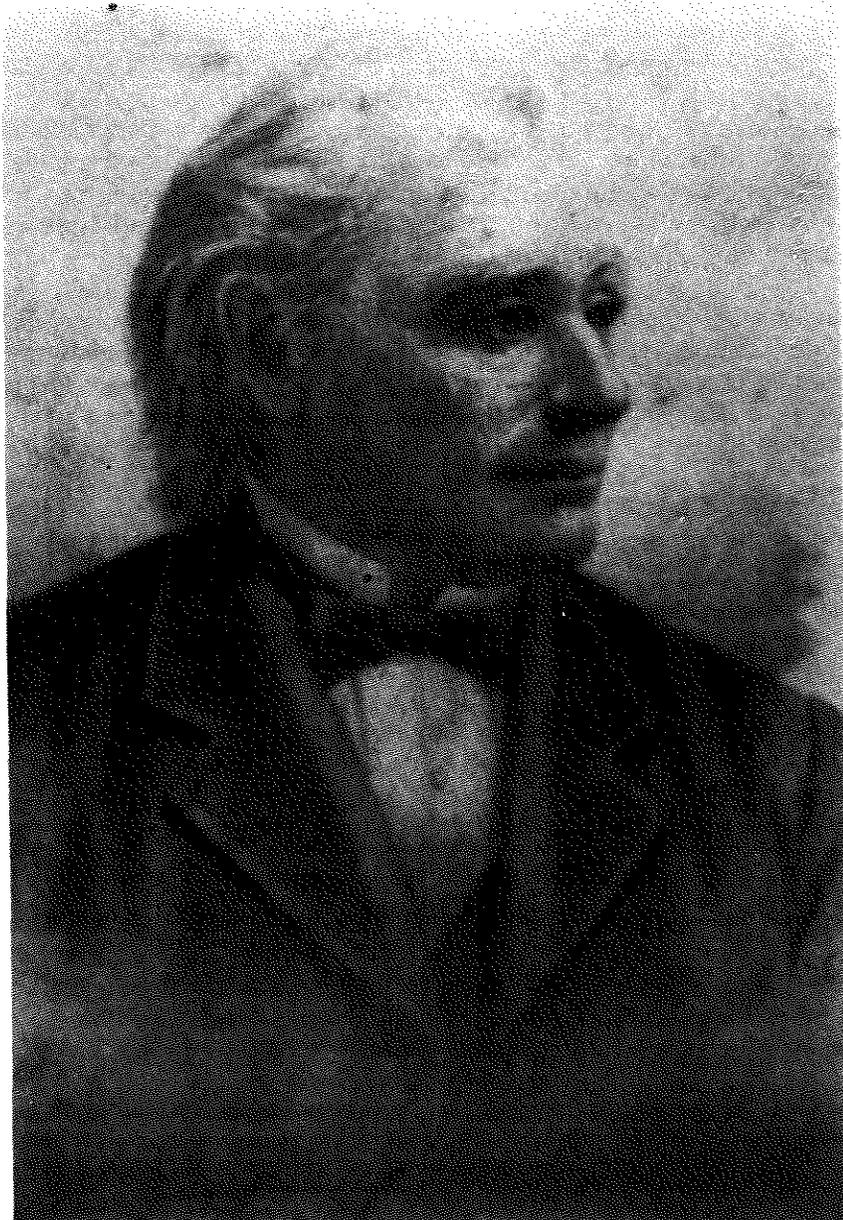
*Notice the pole supports under the bridge. This picture was dated 1912. The pole supports were torn down at a later date and replaced with concrete supports. All that remains now is the skeleton of concrete on either side.*

*The railroad bed from this bridge location going west to Hwy. D remains much as it was when the railroad was in operation.*

*This picture was given by Esther (Zuehlsdorf) Adamson. \*(8)*

1854 JAMES MADISON KELLOGG - THE KELLOGG TAVERN

(This property was located north of Hwy. 50, Section 3. It is now the location of Quality Controlled Egg Farm.)



*JAMES MADISON KELLOGG 1812 - 1887*

James Madison Kellogg came to Wisconsin in 1854 and while on a lecture trip which led him to southern Wisconsin, he met and married Mrs. Lemira Tarbell Fowler, the widow of Sereno S. Fowler.

Mr. Kellogg was born in Amsterdam, Livingston County, New York, on September 25, 1812. He was the youngest son of Seth and Naomi Parsons Kellogg, in a family of six sons and three daughters. Their father was a cabinet-maker by trade, emigrating in 1800 from Connecticut.

James' earliest recollection was of his oldest brother, Russell, returning from the war of 1812, and resting his old musket in the chimney corner. He recalled assisting his mother in grating potatoes from which she made starch, and of burning corncobs, from the ashes of which pearlash or soda was extracted.

He learned his letters in a little dame-school, and later attended the rural school in the winter. This must have been a rather turbulent academic course, for the first procedure of the school master in the morning was to season over the live coals some very long and wiry birch switches, and after this school opened with prayer and reading of the Scriptures!

One brother operated a sawmill and lumberyard on the Mohawk River. The father's family moved to Steuben County, and at the age of twenty, James went to Orleans County, where he taught school, had classes in penmanship, and read law. He returned to Steuben County, was admitted to the bar, and engaged in legal practice.

Another brother, Franklin Kellogg, had heard of the fertile prairies of the West, and in the summer of 1841 with his wife and two daughters, started for Chicago. Their goods were in two covered wagon. James had decided to cast his lot with his brother, and to the other goods he added his Blackstone's Commentaries and oddments packed in a cowhide covered trunk with his initials J.M.K. ornate in brass nails across the top.

James had a saddle horse and gun, and one of the party usually scouted ahead for a camp site, and shot small game for the evening meal. They were a month on the road, and it was the first of October when they reached Chicago, which was little more than a trading post at the stage when teams mired down on State Street.

The women were left in Chicago, and the men went land looking and selected a fertile section near McHenry, Illinois. Here they built a cabin and broke the prairie sod. Neighbors were not plentiful, and at first it was feared the newcomers might be "stuck up", as the women arrived from Chicago with the wagon and team of horses instead of oxen!

In New York, Mr. Kellogg had made a study of phrenology and for fifteen years during the winter months, traveled through Illinois and gave lectures in churches, schoolhouses, and cabins where ever a gathering might be held. For demonstration purposes in his lectures, he procured three skulls; one of a reputed pirate, one of an Indian, and one of a murdered white man. These skulls were carried in a pair of saddlebags, thrown over the horse's back.

These same skulls were for many years a matter of much concern to his household. When not "on tour", they were consigned to the farthest corner of the darkest closet, and at housecleaning caused considerable consternation among the women folk. They were finally given a respectable resting place. One of Mr. Kellogg's favorite stories was of examining the head of old S----, the friendly Indian of the Black Hawk War.

One summer, he spent with a naturalist in central Wisconsin, gathering specimens of wild life and flora for some institution in New York. His lecture trips led him farther afield in southern Wisconsin, and in 1854, he met and married Mrs. Lemira Tarbell Fowler,<sup>5</sup> the widow of Sereno S. Fowler.

The young widow was unable to carry on, and the place was rented as a tavern. Here, after their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg made their home, continuing it as a tavern, where they housed many a man and beast when long lines of ox-teams hauled wheat to Kenosha from the fertile prairies of Walworth and Big Foot. The charge for men and team was 50 cents and a stir-up cup thrown in to speed the parting guests. The old house was well equipped those days to care for a crowd and it was Mrs. Kellogg's pride that she always had her meals on time. There was a big brick oven with a fireplace and kitchen in the basement and the dining was above this on the first floor and on the second floor a large hall extended to the north.

In his capacity as Justice of the Peace, Mr. Kellogg presided over the occasional law suit here, and here Loeffle and Webster clashed forensics' opinions. In common with many other public spirited citizens, Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg gave their measure of financial assistance to the building of what is now the Kenosha and Harvard Division of the North Western Railroad.

The Post Office was in the Kellogg home when the mail was carried by stagecoach to Lake Geneva, but after the railroad was put through the stagecoach was discontinued and the Post Office moved to Woodworth.

The Kellogg house was at one time a station of the Underground Railroad, that assisted fleeing slaves into Canada. One evening while a dance was going on above, a wagon load of frightened negroes were brought over from Antioch. They were hastily hidden in the cellar kitchen, the windows were blanketed and the doors locked. They were warmed and fed and the next night taken to another station in Kenosha and no one was ever the wiser.

At the close of the war, Mr. Kellogg entered extensively into dairying, and in 1869, engaged in a co-operative cheese making business. The bar room was turned into a cheese room and William Bush, one of the sons of the pioneer family, became cheese and butter maker. He stayed with them for 8 years and the venture was so successful, a factory was built on the north road. Other cheese makers were Milton Hubbard of South Bristol, Fred Jones of Pleasant Prairie and Maggie Seavert. \*(3)

## WOODWORTH CO-OP CREAMERY



*(CREAMERY LOCATED NORTH OF HWY. 50 ON MB) \*(8)*

Early in the 70's, the Patrons of Husbandry were organized and Mr. Kellogg as state deputy, organized some 13 societies in the county. The hall over the dairy room became the home of the Bristol Grange. A stage was erected in the north end and the young people gave many entertainments there. Mrs. Kellogg conceived the idea of a circulating library, and Z.E. Simmons offered \$500. if the community would raise \$300. They responded with the will and by means of suppers, social dinners, entertainment, lectures and amateur theatricals, achieved their goal. The Rev. Lucieus Lee had just returned from a trip around the world and consented to lecture on one occasion. By the aid of pictures, he had taken, several young ladies dressed in tableau to show the costumes of different countries. I believe he brought some costumes with him, but there was much sewing of paper, cambric and draping of shawls. By these various activities, the FIRST CIRCULATING PUBLIC LIBRARY IN WISCONSIN was installed in the Kellogg house. It was of approximately 1,000 volumes. The Grange and the Library were discontinued and the last of the books were given to the Simmons Library in Kenosha.

Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg had no children but the child of their adoption was Emma, the daughter of Henry and Mary Cherry Hogle. Henry Hogle was an emigrant from England to Wisconsin in 1847, and he joined the gold rush to California with many others who crossed the divide and never returned. The young wife died, and the little girl was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Kellogg and later became the wife of Daniel Rowe. She died in 1874 leaving an infant son and daughter who is now Mrs. Herbert E. McFicker and author of this paper.

Mrs. Kellogg was a Congregationalist and Mr. Kellogg was a member of the Methodist Church. They retained their interest in young people, in church and school and public affairs, and as long as health permitted, visited school at least twice a year as a civic duty.

Mr. Kellogg passed away in February 1887 and Mrs. Kellogg in 1899. He was a Royal Arch Mason and a member of Washburn Lodge of Bristol. He had no political aspirations and his favorite quotation was one that ended "act well thy part, there all the honor lies".

The old house passed to the hands of strangers. It stood a neglected landmark for many years. Those who had lived in it were gone. It burned to the ground in September 1929, and the hand hewn timbers from century old oaks gave back to Earth their ashes and their memories. \*(3)

**UNDERGROUND RAILWAY** by Mr. Bryant Benson  
(Article from "Manuscripts Old and New of Kenosha County, Vol. No. 4)  
(Civil War 1860 - 1865) \*(2)

During the Civil War, the Kellogg's were very active in war work in the county. The Kellogg Tavern became one of the underground railway stations. It was said that Mr. Kellogg could hear wagons approaching from the west when a mile away. The northeast corner of the tavern cellar had been sealed up by a solid stone wall, the only entrance to which was a trap door in the pantry above. Over the trap door was a large cupboard. In this sealed room was a cot with blankets. Into this room through the trap door was dropped many an escaped slave to be sent on into Canada at the first opportunity.

A neighbor boy told in later years that at the first sound of an approaching wagon, he would run over to the tavern only to be sent home by Mr. Kellogg if the wagon turned into the driveway of the tavern. In those days, an approaching vehicle was an event.

The following is a story told by Capt. Theodore Fellows whose house was at Genoa City, then Genoa Junction. His father's farm was at the west end of the village. When the Civil War began, Theodore was too young to enlist so had to be content with working on the farm with his father to produce large quantities of wheat which was hauled by oxen to Kenosha a distance of about 35 miles. It took two days to reach Kenosha. The wheat was loaded the night

before in order to start early in the morning. Theodore had made this trip with his father several times. They always stayed over night at Kellogg's tavern. On one occasion, Theodore was to take the load of wheat alone. When helping load the bags, the night before, Theodore noticed that he piled the bags in such a way as to leave an open square in the center of the load. When he inquired the reason he was told it rides better that way. He started with the load before daylight the next morning with his dinner packed in a pail and there was a bag of grain for the oxen. His Father instructed him to drive to Fox River and just before reaching the bridge to drive off the road by the bank of the River and there to eat his dinner while the oxen were eating and drinking. He warned him not to speak to anyone unless necessary and then say nothing but yes or no. He was told to drive on to Kellogg's tavern and on his arrival it would be dark. He did as instructed and when he turned into the Kellogg driveway, Mr. Kellogg called, are you the Fellows boy? After being told he was, Mr. Kellogg told him to drive into the barn. After unhitching the oxen, Mr. Kellogg started unloading the bags of wheat from the back end of the wagon. Theodore was surprised to see Mr. Kellogg pull a man out from under the bags and hurry with him into the house. When Theodore stepped into the house, there was no man to be seen. He was later told about this system and was surprised to learn his Father had helped many slaves escape. The next year, he enlisted and in time was promoted to Captain.

#### THE KELLOGG TAVERN

(Article from the book STAGECOACH AND TAVERN TALES OF THE OLD NORTHWEST by Harry Ellsworth Cole, published in 1930 and an Article from "Manuscripts Old and New of Kenosha County, Vol. No. 1) \*(3)

Kellogg's Tavern a dismal looking structure, but holding much of human interest, stands about six miles west of Kenosha on the Geneva Road and was erected in the long ago by Sereno Fowler who was ambitious to have a college in the far west. These were the FIRST FRAME BUILDINGS IN THE COUNTY. In 1847, Mr Fowler died and only eight years after the school was established, and so the educational work was abandoned. Three years later, Mrs. Fowler married J.M. Kellogg and they opened a tavern in this building of 28 rooms. There was another tavern in operation at the same time only a short distance to the north and persons traveling from Woodworth to Kenosha had to go east and back again in order to get to Kellogg's tavern. Mr. Kellogg owned all the land north of the east and west road (Hwy. 50) so he promptly closed the road leading to this tavern and opened a new road thus putting the other house out of business. (This is the reason MB at Hwy. 50 stops and goes east and then north again about ½ mile farther east.) Mr. Charles Tarbell and his sisters owned this farm until the spring of 1927 when Mr. Tarbell built his home on Sheridan Road in Kenosha. He had hoped to have all the woodwork of black walnut from the trees on this farm, but the tenants not knowing their value, had destroyed them, so there was only enough for the dining room.

However all the rest of the house is furnished in oak, the lumber being made from trees on the place. The old door knocker is also on the Sheridan Road home and is as useful as it was in the '30's. The FIRST ORCHARD IN THE COUNTY was started here from seed Mr. Fowler brought from his Connecticut home.



*KELLOGG TAVERN, BRISTOL TOWNSHIP, KENOSHA COUNTY \*(9)*

*This building was built to be a girls school in 1839. It was later operated as the Kellogg Tavern as described in articles elsewhere in this booklet. The building was destroyed by fire in 1929.*

**1850 THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.** - The Agricultural Society of Kenosha County was organized at the house of A.B. Jackson, in Bristol, June 3, 1850, at which a meeting was held, when a constitution and series of by-laws were adopted, and the following officers elected for that year: Henry Johnson, of Somers, President; Thomas Slade, of Wheatland, and Lathrop Burgess, of Brighton, Vice Presidents; Thomas J. Rand, of Pleasant Prairie, and A.B. Jackson, of Bristol, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries; George S. Blackman, of Paris, Treasurer. \*(4)

- 1850 The first fair was held at A.B. Jackson's on the 10th day of October, 1850, and continued for several days. The sum of \$65. was awarded in premiums, and the effort met with an encouraging success. This was supplemented by an "Exchange Fair", which was held at Dutton's Tavern, on the 25th of February, 1851.



DUTTON'S TAVERN - PLANK ROAD \*(9)

*Mention is made of this tavern as the place the "Exchange Fair", was held in 1851 and also mention of a tavern north of Kellogg's Tavern which was put out of business when Mr. Kellogg moved the location of MB and this is probably the tavern referred to (Page No. 27).*

- 1851 The second annual exhibition was given September 21 and 25, 1851 at P.B. Woods; the third at A.B. Jackson's, in Bristol, September 30 and October 1, 1852; and the fourth in Kenosha, September 28 and 29, 1853.
- 1854 On the 8th of July, 1854, the fair grounds were selected and located at Bristol by the Society and the displays occurred there yearly until 1860, when a change of base to Bristol Village was made, eligible grounds being obtained at that point, contiguous to the railroad, which offered superior inducements to patrons and exhibitors.

The Bristol Village location was on the west side of the present Hwy. 45. This was a dense woods as far as 82nd St. and the remainder was a pasture. The land was owned by James Bryant. He donated his pasture for use as a fair grounds. Several buildings were moved from the former grounds and some were built. The fair was held for three days each fall. There was a race track, and the Ladies Sewing Society served dinners.

- 1856 October 26, 1856, a re-organization of the Society was perfected under the provisions of the law "for the encouragement of agricultural societies", and on the 1st of March, 1875, after years of deliberation, the association accepted a proposition made by the citizens of Kenosha, to establish their fair grounds at a location about one mile west of the city. The fair of 1874 having been held on these grounds; so well satisfied was the Society with the convenience and terms offered by the new site that a lease for ten years from 1875, was concluded.

The fair afforded the farmers, stock-breeders, horticulturists, manufacturers, dealers, etc., of Kenosha County, the fullest opportunity for an exhibition of their productions and evidences of skill. The premiums for the year 1879 amounted to \$1,500. \*(4)

When the fair was moved from Bristol, the buildings were sold to individuals. One building is part of the Holtdorf home. Another part was the telephone office (small tenant house on the east side of 199th Ave., 2nd house south of 82nd St.) Still another part forms the store building which used to be our old post office with Billy Turner as postmaster. (83rd E. of Hwy. 45). The building was owned by Mrs. Florence Jones.

- 1860 There were Indians passing through occasionally, but they were peaceable and caused no trouble. As late as 1860-1861, they could be seen paddling down the O' Plain River in their canoes.

Mr. Bacon recalled seeing them when he was five or six years old, when he was living on the Joe Walker farm.

On one occasion, when he and his younger sister were home with their grandmother in the evening, they suddenly saw an Indian face pressed close to the window, then another, and another. Their grandmother courageously opened the door and asked them what they wanted. They made her understand that they wanted food. She went to the pantry and gave them bread, butter and salt-pork. Then they left.

We can't realize the sort of courageous people these pioneers were to come west. They must have been strong and stalwart to have endured the hardships they were compelled to bear. They were ambitious and hard working to have hewn their farms from a wilderness and built and improved their homes.

- 1860 The Bristol Mutual Insurance Co. was organized. John F. Chase was secretary and Herman L. Thorp was President. You could insure your house and barn for 50 cents per policy.

1863 MASONIC LODGE A.F. \* A.M. WASHBURN LODGE NO. 145

This lodge received its Dispensation June 15, 1863, and was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Wisconsin, June 15, 1864. The Lodge Hall on Erickson Street, over the store of Curtiss & Shumway, is centrally located, neatly furnished and well supplied with the necessary Masonic implements and furniture. At present it numbers about fifty members, among whom may be found the best men in the country, and who may be justly called "bright" in Masonic knowledge and the work of the Order. Regular communications are held on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Elections on the third Saturday in December of each year, and Installations on the 27th of December. (St. John's Day.) \*(10)

The Lodge was given its Dispensation June 15, 1863 and granted its Charter June 15, 1864. Genem W. Washburn was Grand Master in 1864, and the Lodge was named after him.

The First Officers were William Lodd, Worshipful Master; G.W. Carpenter, Senior Warden; James Shumway, Junior Warden; J.M. Brown, Sec.; Wm.R. Higge, Treas.; Art Hinman, Sr. Deacon. James Bryant, Jr. Deacon; J.M. Kellogg, Steward; E.D. Robbins, Steward; J.A. Dittama, Tyler.

Charter Members include: H.R. Lavey, S.H. Harvey, J.H. Benedict, G.H. Delap, Wm. Kemp, Walter J. Haile, Horace Curtiss, T.L. Benedict, J.W. Kingman, Edward Mead, A.T. Drom, Silas Smith, Issac Brown, Samuel C. Tillotson, Michael Kingman, and J.F. Chase.

Officers in 1875 were the following: \*(10)

J.F. Chase, W.M.	T.L. Benedict, Treas.
J.W. Bryant, S.W.	H.R. Laney, S.D.
M. Growley, J.W.	F. Paddock, J.D.
C.J. Shumway, Sec'y.	H. Tourtelotte, Tyler

The present Temple was dedicated July 11, 1928. Presently there are 83 members.

Norman Krueger, W.M.  
Ronald Thomas, S.W.  
Donald Hansche, J.W. and Past Master  
Alex McAlonan, Treas.  
Chester Boyington, Sec'y. and P.M.  
Jerry Vojtech, Chaplin and P.M.  
Robert LeFebve, S.D.  
James Day, J.D.  
Harold Rodgers, S.S. and P.M.  
Jack Lynn, J.W. and P.M.  
Badger Ives, Organist

#### **BRISTOL CHAPTER NO. 164 ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR (1906)**

Nine residents of the Bristol area were initiated into a legally constituted chapter of the ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR at Union Grove, Wisconsin on the 6th of April, 1906.

New members: Sophia Cass, Jennie Witcher, Mrs. Herman Scheloske, Edith Murdoch, Mary Bacon, Margaret Bacon, Mrs. Wm. Bacon, Myrtle Scheloske and Helen McVicar. These secured demits on that day.

One week later, they met and petitioned the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin for a new chapter at Bristol, Wisconsin.

The Grand Worthy Patron, Max W. Heck, came to Bristol on May 4, 1906, to grant a dispensation and instituted a new chapter. He was assisted by the officers of Union Grove Chapter No. 71. During the proceedings, Kimball Cass, Mrs. Herbert McVicar, Mrs. Charles Witcher, Emma Castle, Margaret Gunter, and Irene Paddock were initiated into the order by a special dispensation granted by the Grand Chapter. These six, together with the nine petitioners became the Charter Members.

March 19, 1907, the chapter was constituted by Mrs. Ella Washburn of Racine, Right Worthy Grand Matron of the World. She was assisted by Mrs. Grant of Racine who acted as Grand Marshall, and Mrs. Frank Stewart of Kenosha acting as Grand Secretary.

The officers installed were: Sophia Cass, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Herman Scheloske, Worthy Patron; Jennie Witcher, Assoc. Matron; Mrs. Herbert McVicar, Sec'y.; K.K. Cass, Treas.; Edith Murdoch, Conductress; Myra Witcher, Assoc. Conductress; Mary Adams, Chaplin; Myrtle Scheloske, Adah; Emma Castle, Esther; Helen McVicar, Electa; Margaret Bacon, Warder; Mrs. Wm. Bacon, Sentinel.

In 1919, Margaret Maleski became the 100th member. The membership has remained at 100 to 125. The first meetings were held on the second floor of the Dixon Store. In 1928, the ORDER OF EASTERN STAR began meeting in the Masonic Temple.

1860-1865

#### **CIVIL WAR YEARS**

During the Civil War, men of Bristol volunteered to serve in the war. The women organized a society to sew garments for the soldiers. They sewed one day a week and were called "The Soldiers Aid".

### 1869 BRISTOL TOWN HALL

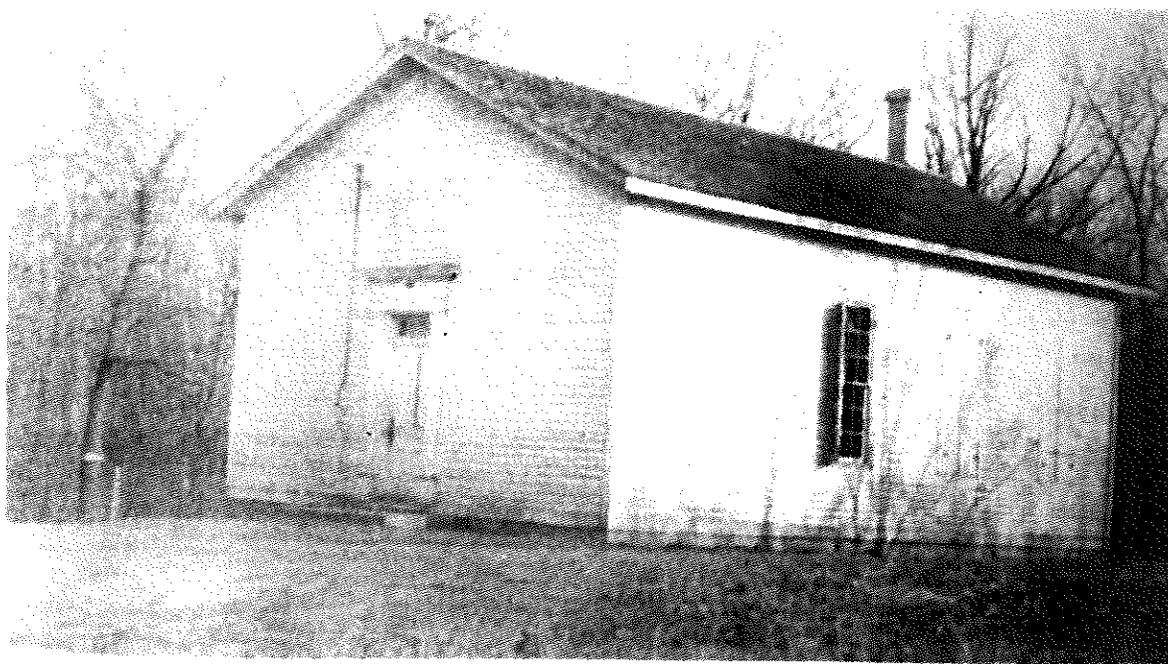
On October 15, 1869, a plot of land in section 21 of Bristol Township, and adjacent to the south side of highway C, was granted to the Town of Bristol, by Aaron and William Walker, for the purpose of construction of a Town Hall, and for the purposes, by the properly constituted authorities of Bristol or their representatives.

One pepper corn plus one dollar was paid the grantors, with the understanding that, when Bristol no longer wanted said land for such purposes, it was to revert to the grantors, or their heirs.

In 1870, the Town Hall was built and the following were appointed to superintend the building: C. Williams, N. Richtmyer, and S.E. Tarbell.

The town officers were elected soon after completion of the building. They were as follows: Chairman, Thorpe, with George Larabee and Hiram Bacon as supervisors. The clerk was Sam Leonard, the treasurer, J. Chase, and S.E. Tarbell as secretary. Constables were N. Jackson, William Walker and D. Pike.

*The original building was used as a town hall until 1967, when the town offices were moved to a building in Bristol. (Picture \*(9))*



According to the article in Kenosha News August 29, 1962, Bristol's annual town meeting in 1961, indignantly rejected a proposal to raze the old structure on County Trunk C and voted to retain the building erected in 1870, as a "possible polling place of the future". The April, 1962 annual meeting, changed the plans for the future of the ancient frame hall. The town's residents in April, 1962 adopted the following resolution:

*"Whereas said Old Town Hall has significant historic interest and value to the residents of Bristol, and Whereas, it may necessarily be used as a polling place, and Whereas, it is felt that some immediate use could be made of the Old Town Hall at the present time to benefit the residents of Bristol; Now, therefore be it resolved that the Town Board of Bristol take such action as may be necessary to retain the Old Town Hall of Bristol as the property of the town to be maintained, substantially in its present condition as a historical site."*

The resolution also authorized payment of restoration costs from town funds and requested establishment of a commission. The building was to be re-done to keep its original shape and decor and the projected improvements were to have included landscpaing by co-operating residents of the town and 4-H club members who planned to use the old building as a possible meeting place.

In 1973, the Kenosha County Parks Commission purchased the woods surrounding the Old Town Hall, to be developed into a Kenosha County Park. Soon after this, the first Bristol Town Hall was presented to Kenosha County, to be used as a historical building in the new park, and the heirs of Aaron and William Walker did likewise with the plot of land on which it stands.

(Article submitted by Adele M. Waldo.)

(The following is a paragraph from an article HISTORY OF TOWN OF BRISTOL by Robert Pringle.) \*(7)

The town hall which was situated on the N.E. corner of Section 21 in what was called the Town Hall woods, was the center of activity for the township and where all the public meetings and entertainments were held. Plays were put on there and probably dances, and I believe the old footlights for lighting the stage are still up in the attic of the hall. These consisted of candle holders fastened at regular intervals on two long boards with pieces of shiny tin for reflectors and tallow candles in the holders.

# GRAND BASKET BALL.

MAY 20, 1869.

A Social Party will be given at the  
TOWN HALL, BRISTOL,  
ON  
Thursday Evening, May 20, 1869.

Ourself and Lady are Respectfully Invited

Committee of Arrangements,

W. S. TABELL. C. C. VINCENT. J. H. BICKMYER. A. P. JOSLYN. H. H. HOLBROOK.  
C. COTTING. A. WOODWORTH. A. E. BOURNE.

Floor Managers,

A. P. JOSLYN. J. H. BICKMYER. H. H. HOLBROOK.

GOOD MUSIC WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE.

CARDS OF ADMISSION \$1.00.

Please present this Note at the Door.

TELEGRAPH PRINT.

1874 EXCURSION TO BRISTOL - FROM KENOSHA TELEGRAPH  
September 10, 1874 \*(12)

On Thursday of last week at 3:15 p.m., we took passage on the cars for Bristol intending to make a pleasure excursion through the town. Finding a horse and buggy at the station ready for our use, we started into the country, expecting to return in time to visit the people at the station before returning home. Being overtaken by a heavy rain Friday afternoon, we were obliged to cut short our journey and hasten our return, seeing but a few of the people, with my pleasure of our excursion very much lessened, and without time to visit the people at the station as we would have done under favorable circumstances. The rain being very much needed it was welcome notwithstanding its cutting short our journey and lessening the pleasure of our excursion.

There are about 200 inhabitants at Bristol Station. Of the business portion of them J.F. Chase, Station Agent is always prompt in attention to his duties. James Shumway, Postmaster, is faithful to his duties. Edward Jones, Jr. without encouraging litigation, discharges the duties of his office. Curtis & Shumway and Myseller & Co. provide the people dry goods and groceries at fair prices. Mr. Leonard manufactures buggies and carries on blacksmithing and claims to have the best horse shoe in the country. There is probably other business carried on in the place but we do not now remember what it is or do we remember to have met other business men.

From the station we went to the next road north, first calling at A.H. Stevens, and called on many of the residents from W.L. Dutton's on the west to A. Upson's on the east. Nearly all were busy on their farms or gone to market. Mr. T.S. Cotting was cutting up corn, Mr. C. Gibbs was returning home with his team, and next morning at his residence was ready to start for Kenosha. We had the pleasure of seeing Mr. R. N. Waldo, Cornelius Santel and others at the new parson's.

From the Geneva road we went south calling at L. Spencer's and several others residences and finally at O.C. Stonebreaker's. Mr. Stonebreaker was in his cheese house attending to his cheese curd. He milks 37 cows, makes cheese and has a fine cheese factory for making his own cheese. His cheese will average from 35-36 lbs. He has sold 90 cheese and has on hand 160. Next we called at S.R. Leonards and found him husking and his son and hired hand cutting corn. The chinch bugs, after destroying all the wheat within their reach had hurt his corn.

The Bristol Mineral Springs next claimed our attention. On arriving at the springs we tied our horse and entered the enclosure. Seeing no one, we went to the bath house and ascertained that some were taking baths and others attending to them. Soon Mr. James M. Eddy, the resident proprietor came into the enclosure and with him we visited the several springs and drank of their respective waters. The enclosure is 12 rods from east to west and 5 rods from north to south. In the enclosure there are 8 springs differing more or

less in their chemical composition, sensible qualities and medicinal properties. Tasting successively of water from 8 different springs, it is difficult to tell the different tastes and especially where they do not differ much from each other or from common water. The water of only one of these springs has been analyzed. The composition of the water according to the analysis of Professor G.A. Mariner of Chicago was found to be as follows:

In one gallon of 231 cubic inches of water there were

Bi carbonate of Magnesia	3.207 grains
Bi carbonate of Lime	4.361 grains
Iron Oxide	.494 grains
Soda	8.888 grains
Sulphate of Soda	7.739 grains
Chloride of Sodium	.435 grains
Silica	.802 grains

According to the analysis there is 1.2 grains bi-carbonate of iron in every gallon of water from one of the springs. Two of the springs near the east part of the enclosure are supposed to contain a considerable larger proportion of iron and to possess more decided tonic properties. That the waters possess medicinal properties there can be no question. Taken internally the more immediate effect of some, perhaps, all of them, is diuretic. In kidney and rheumatic complaints they have obtained considerable celebrity and people are resorting to them in effects.

From the springs we went to Mr. Eddy's residence and were there supplied with dinner and feed for our horse. Mr. Eddy does not keep a public house but accommodates all who visit the springs as far as he can. Mrs. Eddy sets a good table and supplies the necessaries for the well and the unwell. There were several visitors at Mr. Eddy's using the water. Some left when we were there. Others still remained. Visitors come and go.

There is considerable demand for the water to be sent away in jugs and barrels and this demand is filled on orders. The demand at the springs is larger than the accommodations. The reputation of the waters requires larger and better accommodations for visitors. These will not be supplies this year, but may be next year.

We had the pleasure of seeing Mr. N. Richtmyer on the road opposite the springs. He and we were going in opposite directions from there, our course taking us to Walker's Prairie. A very heavy rain coming up we found shelter at Mr. H. Husted's and also meeting Mr. W.B. Castle on the road. The indications of continued rain induced a change of our course from going farther south to a owner. Going past Woodworth Station without stopping we found shelter from a very heavy rain at Peter Devlins. (There was more to the article but we felt this covered the points of interest to us.)

1875 CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORY (10) INFORMATION ON BRISTOL

TOWN OF BRISTOL	TOWN ORGANIZATION
C. Williams, Ch'm.	H.A. Tourtelotte, Treasurer
J.M. Ward, Supervisor	Ed. Jones, Justice of Peace
F.R. Snyder, Supervisor	M. Marsh, Constable
Ebenezer Mead, Clerk	H.A. Tourtelotte, Constable
S.R. Leonard, Assessor	W.S. Carpenter, Constable

Town Hall situated on Sec. 21

Population, including Village of Bristol: Males, 553; Females, 551; Total Population 1,104.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Blacksmiths - S. Eddy, Geo. Larabee, R. Shotliff.  
Carpenters - R. Bourne, S.E. Hall, C.B. Santee.  
Cheese Dairy - N. Richtmyer, (established 1861).  
Cheese Factories - J.M. Kellogg, H. Tourtelotte.  
Dress Maker - Mrs. J. Vantleven  
Groceries, & C. - Mrs. J.C. Roberts.  
Manufacturers & Dealers-H.R. Lavey, Reapers, Farming, Tools, etc; R. Shotliff,  
Wagons, Etc.  
N.D. Edwards, Gloves, Mittens, Furs, etc.  
Physician - Daniel Benedict  
Sewing Machine Agent - R.F. Mills.

ASBURY CHAPEL ( METHODIST EPISCOPAL. )

Located on Section 4, town 1, Range 21 e. Church edifice built in the year 1842. Meetings held on Sundays of each week at 10:30 a.m., and on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., Communion, quarterly. Sabbath School on Sundays of each week at 10 a.m. Number of scholars, 75. Number of volumes in library, 200.  
Rev. Thomas T. Howard, Pastor  
J. Eddy, M. Johnson, C. Williams, C. Gibbs, C.C. Shephard and A. Upson, Trustees.  
C.J. Reeve, Supt. of Sabbath School

HOSMER CHAPEL ( METHODIST EPISCOPAL. )

Located on Section 28, town 1, Range 21 e. Society organized in 1844. Church built in 1857. Services on Sundays of each week at 3 o'clock p.m. Prayer meetings on Thursday evenings of each week at 7 p.m. Communion quarterly. No. Members, 55. Sunday School at 1 o'clock p.m. on Sundays of each week. Number of scholars, 50. Number of volumes in library, 200.  
Rev. Thomas T. Howard, Pastor  
William Ladd, S. Smith, E. Mead, W. Hale, F. Buck and C. Gaines, Trustees.  
C.B. Gaines, Superintendent Sunday School.  
P. Buck, Treasurer Sunday School.  
W. Tillotson, Sec'y. Sunday School.

1875 CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORY \*(10) (CONTINUED)

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Located on Section 31, town 1, Range 21 e. Society organized in the year 1860. Church built in 1866. Services on Sunday of each week. Mass on each Sunday at 9 a.m., and 12 N. Number of members, 100.

Rev. Thomas W. Fitzhenry, Pastor  
J. Moran, J. McAlister and T. Kelley, Trustees.

WESLEY CHAPEL ( METHODIST EPISCOPAL )

Located on Sec. 24, town 1, Range 21e. Society organized in 1850. Church built in 1872. Services on each Sabbath during the year. Prayer meetings, Thursday evenings of each week. Communion, quarterly. Sunday School every Sunday. No. of scholars, 50. No. of volumes in library, 125.

Rev. R. McBride, Pastor  
J.M. Ward, M.D. Burt, C. Shuart, W. Walker and E. Stannard, Trustees.  
C. Ward, Sup't. S. School  
S.J. Hill, Treas'r. S. School  
H. Fellows, Sec'y. S. School

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dist. No. 1. - Sec. 18; No. Scholars, 46; L. Stevens, Teacher.  
Dist.No. 3. - Sec. 5; No. Scholars, 30; Anna Rhodes, Teacher.  
Dist. No. 5. - Sec. 3; No. Scholars, 45; D. Mahoney, Teacher.  
Dist. No. 8. - Sec. 25; No. Scholars, 28; Lewis Turk, Teacher.  
Dist. No. 9. - Sec. 14; No. Scholars, 10; H. Woodowrth, Teacher.  
Dist. No. 11. - Sec. 26; No. Scholars, 16; S. Hill, Teacher.  
Dist. No. 13. - Sec. 33; No. Scholars, 40; Peter Fisher, Teacher.

R.R. STATIONS

Bristol - K. & R. Div. C.N.W. Ry., J.F. Chase, Agent  
Woodowrth - K. & R. Div. C. & N.W. Ry., J.C. Roberts, Agent

BRISTOL SOCIAL CLUB

Regular meetings held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Officers are elected and installed at the first meeting of each term. Number of members, 45.

L. Stevens, President.  
Etta Howard, Treasurer  
Anna Rhodes, Secretary

A.F. \* A.M. WASHBURN LODGE NO. 145, F. & A.M.

This Lodge received its Dispensation June 15, 1863; and was chartered by the Grand Chapter of Wisconsin, June 15, 1864. The Lodge Hall on Erickson Street, over the store of Curtiss & Shumway, is centrally located neatly furnished and well supplied with the necessary Masonic implements and furniture. At present it numbers about fifty members, among whom may be found the best men in the country, and who may be justly called "Bright" in Masonic knowledge.

1875 CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORY \*(10) (CONTINUED)

work of the order. Regular communications are held on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Elections on the third Saturday in December of each year, and Installations on the 27th of December (St. John's Day).

Officers:

J.F. Chase, W.M.	T.L. Benedict, Treas.
J.W. Bryant, S.W.	H.R. Laney, S.D.
M. Crowley, J.W.	F. Paddock, J.D.
C.J. Shumway, Sec'y.	H. Tourtelotte, Tyler

**BRISTOL SODA SPRINGS**

The discovery of a certain and sure cure for some of the many ailments and diseases with which mankind is afflicted, is hailed with delight by the suffering, and received with satisfaction by all Medical men. Whatever such a discovery may be, the afflicted and suffering are anxious to try its merits, having more or less faith in its curative powers. That all medical discoveries do not effect the cures which their proprietors claim they will, is true, and many invalids, being made worse by the use of them, condemn all discoveries as impositions and frauds. It is right, too, that such pretended discoveries should be condemned, and their proprietors published to the world as downright swindlers. But the discovery of a remedy or cure, prepared and compounded by the Great Creator himself, which is certain and sure in its effects, is truly the greatest blessing that can be conferred by an over-ruling and wise creator upon his poor, dependent creatures, and should be tried by all invalids suffering with diseases for which the discovery is said to be an effectual cure. Many such discoveries have been made during the past few years, foremost of which is the BRISTOL SODA SPRINGS. Although known for many years by those living within their vicinity, as possessing medicinal properties, they were not submitted to a thorough analysis until the year 1871. It was by mere accident that the great health-restoring properties of these waters became known. A Mrs. Phoebe Moore, (now of Rockton, Ill.), who had long been suffering with dropsy and which had reached its last stages, when upon a visit to friends living within the vicinity of the Springs, was by them induced to try them. After a free use of the waters for about two months, she was restored to perfect soundness. This led others to test their curative powers, and many sufferers were entirely cured of their diseases. By comparing this analysis with those of the celebrated Bethesda of Waukesha, and the Glen Flora and Magnesia of Waukegan, it will be seen that the BRISTOL SODA SPRINGS are far superior to either of them, in all the valuable health-restoring and health giving ingredients.

1875 CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORY \*(10) (CONTINUED)

**BRISTOL SODA SPRINGS (CONTINUED)**

The BRISTOL SODA SPRINGS are located in the town of Bristol, Kenosha County, Wisconsin, in a delightful section of the country, remarkable for beauty of scenery, splendid roads, and beautiful lakes, the latter abounding in fish and game, affording splendid opportunities for the pleasure seeker. They are located one and one-half miles from Woodworth Station, on the Kenosha, Rockford and Rock Island R.R., some seven miles from Truesdell Station on the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul R.R., twelve miles from Kenosha, on the Milwaukee Division of the C. & N.W. R'y., and fifty miles from Chicago, and thirty-five miles from Milwaukee via the C., Mil. St. P. R'y., leaving the Railroad at Truesdell Station.

There are in all, fourteen springs, the waters of which are perfectly pure and cold, and being comparatively free from lime, are very soft. There is a marked difference in the several springs, some being strongly impregnated with gases, and consequently disagreeable to the taste, while in others there is but little trace of gas and the water is pure and odorless, and will not offend the most delicate. A complete and commodious Bath House has been erected at the springs for the accommodation of invalids and others, and arrangements are being perfected for other and greater improvements during the coming season. It is expected that in a short time a suitable hotel with all the modern improvements, and affording ample accommodations, will be erected in close proximity to the springs. In the mean time visitors will be accommodated with board, etc., at the neighboring farm-houses, where no pains will be spared to make their stay pleasant and agreeable. Mr. K.S. Torrey, proprietor of the Pleasant Prairie House at Truesdell Station, will also accommodate guests, and run carriages to and from the Springs. The Hotel is beautifully located, and cannot fail to meet the wants of invalids or pleasure seekers, of a summer resort. All information relative to the Springs, accommodations, etc., must be addressed to Messrs. Benedict & Eddy Proprietors, Bristol, Wisconsin.

**PRICES**

Any quantity less than half barrel, per gallon, 25 cents.

For barrel of 32 gallons, including barrel, \$8.00.

For half barrel, 16 gallons, \$5.00.

Parties furnishing their own or returning the barrels, two dollars will be deducted from the above figures.

We furnish kegs, jugs, shipping cans, demijohns, & etc., at actual cost.

We ship in new, well made, iron bound barrels. To prevent water from tasting of the wood, all packages are charred before use. We make no charge for delivery to the Railroad or depot. A liberal discount from above prices will be made to Druggists.

## 1899 FIRE DEPARTMENT BEGAN

The Fire Department dates back to February 16, 1899 when the by-laws were signed forming the organization. The first Captain of the department was Sam Knapp; the 1st Lieut. was Donald A. Wicks; and the 2nd Lieut. was Frank R. Lavey.

In 1902 records show that F.R. Lavey was moved to 1st Lieut. and Archibald Murdock was elected to 2nd Lieut. Raising money to purchase the fire fighting equipment was done by subscription, since there was no town tax at that time. Some equipment the men made. A bell summoned the volunteers to the station.

The first station was located at the rear of Perrigo's repair shop. (Picture No. 66, 199th Ave., and 82nd St.). Some years later it was moved across the street in back of the blacksmith shop and next to the telephone office.

1933 In 1933 the men canvassed the townspeople and purchased the first electric siren to alert volunteers. The year 1935 saw the purchase of the town's first motorized fire truck from the Peter Pirsch and Son Co. at the cost of \$4,208.80. On May 12, 1936 the new truck and electric siren were moved to a room at the north end of Merten's Garage. John Runge was chief in 1930, Fred Pitts in 1938, Arthur Berg in 1959, Kenneth Johnson 1965 and Bill Bohn in 1967. On May 15, 1941 the dept. moved to what is now the town hall.

1943 In 1943 the town purchased a tanker. In 1949 another truck was bought for use as a tanker and in 1960 the dept. accepted delivery of a new 1000 gallon-750 gpm. G.M.C. pumper and a smaller G.M.C. truck for use at grass fires.

1966 The Krahn Garage was purchased in 1966 and after some renovating, equipment was moved across the street into the present fire station. An equipment van was acquired in 1967. This van was later converted into a rescue squad, which began service in late 1969. The Rescue Unit started with twelve men.

1973 A second engine was delivered on January 4, 1973 at a cost of \$48,907. A second rescue unit, an ambulance, was acquired in 1971. Five men have successfully completed the 80 hour Emergency Medical Technician course under the State of Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Social Services.

1976 Present officers are: Fire Chief, Bill Bohn; Assistant Chief, Richard Mazurek; 1st Capt. Donald Wienke; 2nd Capt. W. Glembocki; 3rd Capt. Wm. Niederer; 4th Capt. George Lentz; Lieut. Eugene Krueger; Treasurer, Lyle Krueger. Thirty-five men comprise the department today.

## 1964 THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY FORMED

The Women's Auxiliary was formed on August 19, 1964 to assist the Bristol Volunteer Fire Dept., and as of October 7, 1971, assist also the Rescue Squad in any way proper or beneficial. To assist, aid, and cooperate with the departments to bring a closer relationship between the home and community for the improvement and benefit of both. Members serve in emergency situations, preparing food, coffee and water to be served at lengthy fires. They also participate in social functions.

1962 BRISTOL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT (PICTURED BELOW)



*Pictured from left to right: First row - Marshall Bishop, Bill Kastens, LeRoy Horten, Kenneth Johnson, Anthony Eibl, Russell Horten, Walter Faber, Jack Westman, Art Schroeder, Charles Larabee, John Davidson. Second row: Stanley Jozapitus, Chief; Arthur Berg, Asst. Chief; John Kavanagh, Edger Foulke, Earl Hollister, Glen Hollister Jr.*

**THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY (CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)**

Progress Days, parties and picnics.

Thirteen women met at the Bristol Town Hall August 19, 1964. First officers elected were: President, Lois Johnson; Vice Prseident, Florence Wolfe; Secretary-treasurer, Delsie Keller.

1965 In February of 1965 the Auxiliary sponsored "Teen Nite", held twice a month at the fire house. Records, dancing, table tennis, hobby center and various games and gab sessions took place under the supervision of the Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary has served food at the Annual Turkey Shoot Dance since 1964.

Present officers are: President, Darlene Lentz; Vice-President, Ruth Radtke; Secretary-treasurer, Stacy Muhlenbeck.

1898 TELEPHONE SERVICE TO BRISTOL



The first telephone dates back to 1898. Joe Rowbottom and a man from Union Grove established a line from Bristol to Union Grove.

Alice Castle pictured on the left of this page is believed to have been the first telephone operator in Bristol.

With increased population, industry and recreational facilities, expanded services were required for the growing Bristol area. In 1967 telephones were connected with the nationwide direct distance calling network and a \$24,500. central office building was completed to serve the community.

New modern central office switching facilities and direct dialing equipment totaling \$140,000. and a \$65,000. investment in outside plant facilities were part of the modernization program.

The picture at the left shows the switch-board that serviced many homes in the Bristol are for many years.  
\*(13)

1908 The oldest orchard operation in Kenosha County is located on Hwy. C one and one-half miles east of Hwy. 45. Longbons orchard has been in existence since around 1908 when it was started by Lee Benedict, father-in-law of the present operator, Loren Longbons. With 15 acres in operation, Longbons features 34 varieties of apples which are sold on the Kenosha farmers' market and at the stand at home. The operation is a family affair, with some part-time help hired in season.



### 1903 DUTCH GAP CANAL DRAINS BRISTOL FARMLAND

The Dutch Gap Canal in Bristol has been in operation for about 67 years and had helped boost land values in its job of draining farmland. The seven mile canal begins above Lake George and empties into the Des Plaines River in Illinois. It drains over 10,000 acres and is maintained by assessments paid by participating farmers.

Mr. George Shields, a farmer that lived on the Wilmot Road just east of the now "South Bristol School" was the person responsible for digging a drainage ditch through his farm south into Illinois.

The town records show that in 1903 a survey was made for this project. It has been said that Mr. Shields had the approval of nearly all of the land owners in the water shed for this type of drainage. Before the digging could begin, the landowners that lived on the west side of Hwy. 45 changed their mind and would not go along with the idea.

A few years later Mr. Shields convinced the land owners in the area east of Hwy. 45 to go ahead and dig the ditch anyway.

The town records do not show what year the drainage ditch was dug but is thought to be 1916. The records do show that money was raised by taxes to build three bridges over the ditch that year.

Somewhere along the line, the name "Dutch Gap Canal" was put on this drainage system. It is thought because this type of drainage resembles that used in Holland, the name came about.

The canal was dug by a dredge on a floating barge. This machine started digging on the north end of the canal and worked its way south, into Illinois for about 1½ miles. It was a steam machine, and was operated 24 hours a day.

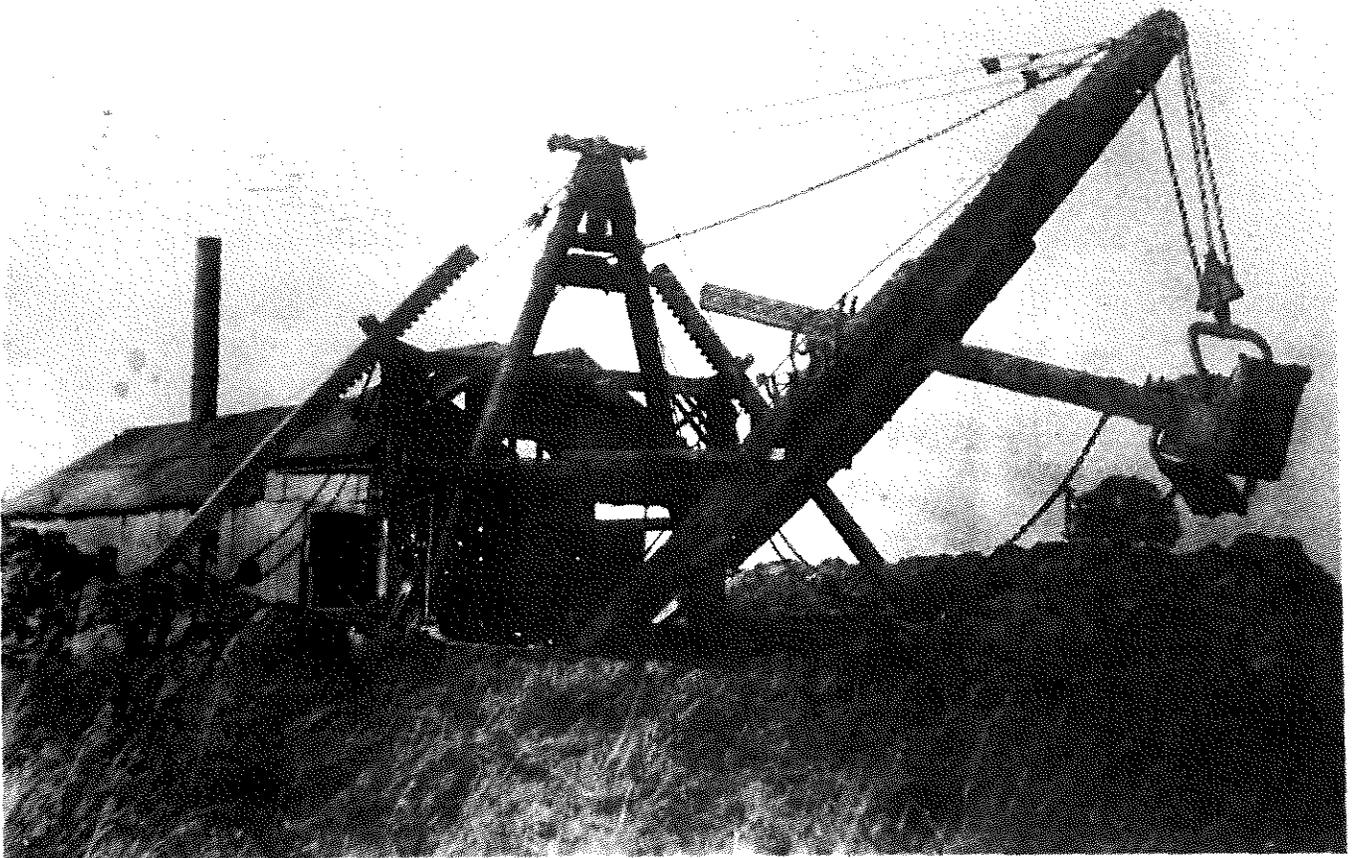
The story was told how a farmer in Illinois was not going to permit the dredge to go through his property. It happened that the workers came to his property line on a Saturday night. The next morning at 3:00 A.M. the "dredge crew" had a full head of steam on the machine and were digging through this farmers land. The only way he could stop them was to get a "court order" from the Judge in Waukegan. By the time he drove a horse and buggy to Waukegan and back on Monday the dredge was all the way through his farm and into the next farm.

The Dutch Gap Canal, for the most part followed a small creek bed. This creek is shown as the "Mill Creek".

After the canal was constructed, farmers were able to drain their land, thus making productive farm land out of land that was only swamp land before.

(Article from Charles Ling.)

## 1903 DUTCH GAP CANAL



*Pictured above is the dredge that built the Dutch Gap Canal.*

### DOCTORS AND DISEASE

Daniel Benedict was listed as a physician in the 1875 City and County Directory.

Dr. F.E. Stevens was the town's Health Officer in 1905. This was one of the years for an outbreak of Small Pox. Jack Rompesky came to his home in South Bristol suffering after working in the ice fields in the western part of the county. Sixteen cases followed.

On Dec. 18, 1914 the Board of Health met at the office of Dr. Stevens (George Otto res.) on account of the prevalence of Small Pox. Bristol churches and schools were ordered closed for two weeks and all public gatherings at the village were stopped and six families quarantined. A March 16, 1915 Board of Health report states meeting at Dr. Stevens and examining health officers account for disinfecting for the year. A total of \$88.00 was authorized, including an entry on Jan. 4, 1915 of \$5.00 to burn school books and disinfect balance and \$6.00 to disinfect school house.

*DOCTOR FRANK E. STEVENS AND WIFE, IDA MURPHY STEVENS*



Dr. Frank E. Stevens was born in Pleasant Prairie, July 11, 1851. He was the youngest in a family of seven and his early days were spent in the usual manner of farmer lads.

His early education was supplemented by a course in the State Normal School of Oshkosh, from which he graduated in the Class of '75. He was employed as a teacher for a year and as a principal for one year. Having determined to make the practice of medicine, his life-work, he began the study of the science in Bristol in 1877, under Dr. L.D. Scherer, and took his first course of lectures in 1878, in the Medical Dept. of the Northwestern University of Evanston, from which he was graduated in 1879.

He first hung out his shingle in Union Grove, Racine county, where he engaged in practice for four years, and in 1885 he came to Bristol and formed a partnership with Dr. Scherer until 1887, when Dr. Scherer left Bristol.

Dr. Stevens was acknowledged as one of the skillful and successful physicians of Kenosha County and had a large practice.

In 1880, Dr. Stevens married Miss Ida M. Murphy, a former classmate in the State Normal School. They were members of the Bristol Methodist Church and had two children, Alice and Mary.

## VETERINARY SERVICE IN BRISTOL TOWNSHIP

Veterinary service was provided by Dr. Thom out of Kenosha. Dr. John Evers was the Town's Dr. of Veterinary Medicine in 1925 and continued until 1955 when Dr. S. Waldo took over.

In 1972 Drs. F. Culbert and R. Borre formed the Bristol Veterinary Service for the treatment of large animals.

## 1920 4 H CLUBS FLOURISH IN BRISTOL

Mrs. Mary Fowler was the founder of the Bristol Challenge 4-H Club in 1920, charter members including George Price, Horace Fowler, Robert Johnson, Paul and Elenore Bruggess, Irma Hackbarth and Nellie Krook.

The club originally comprised the 60th St. area of Bristol Township and included many Paris members before the Paris Happy Workers 4-H Club was formed.

Mrs. Charles Ling is a member who has been with the club for 37 years and still is a sewing leader.

It is the only club in Kenosha County in full operation for 55 years. General Leaders today are Mrs. Francis Held and Mrs. Walter Skora.

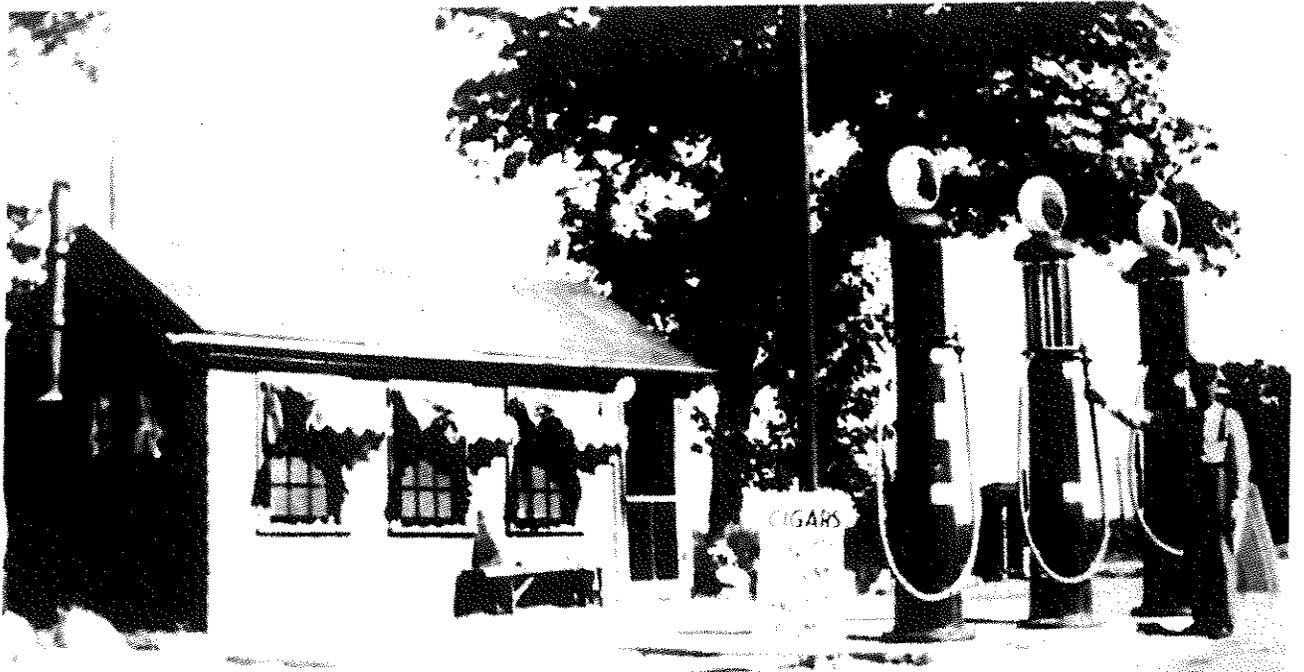
Bristol Strivers 4-H was founded in 1955 with Doris Magwitz and Edna Eckhart as leaders. Through the years this club has maintained a high standard of service to its community. Their efforts have been responsible for the forming of a new club, the "High Hopes".

Present General Leaders are Mrs. Audrey Gohlke and Mrs. Arlene Masnica.

The Woodworth 4-H Club was started in 1957 with Mrs. Alvin Reidenbach, Mrs. Walter Glasman and Mrs. Fred Zilke as leaders. President, Karen Glasman; Vice Pres. Gary Clark; Secretary, Margurite Wehner; Treas. Margie Mills; and David Anderson, reporter. Through the years this club has dedicated its efforts to community service projects. The present general leader is Mrs. Ralph Volk.

In 1972 the High Hopes 4-H Club was born. Mrs. Elaine Bloyer and Mrs. Pat Taylor became general leaders, with 26 children enrolled. With the approval of the Division of Natural Resources in 1973, they cleared the channel in Lake George of debris and planted several hundred seedlings received from the 4-H Extension. High Hopes also initiated several new projects: the dairy goat, bowling project, and a new art project offered by a professional artist, Mr. French, a member of the community. Enrollment today is 68 members.

1935 BENSON CORNERS : LANDMARK OF OVER 40 YEARS



*"POP" BENSON BY THE GAS PUMPS AT THE FIRST STATION AT THE CORNER OF HWYS. 45 & 50. \*(13)*

On land purchased in 1860 by their great-grandfather, Hiram Bacon, Bryant and William Benson have operated a grocery store since 1935. In 1934 the brothers built an 8 x 12 foot structure and leased it out as a gas station for two years to Fred McConnell, who raised ducks in addition to pumping gas; a Mr. Harrison of Genoa City; and finally to uncle John Swartz.

The corner looked quite different then than it does now - - - there was no Hwy. 45 and the Phillips company wouldn't install gas pumps because they figured the volume of business would never require it.

Additions were made to the original building to house groceries, and the Benson brothers operated a family store for many years.

The Bryant Benson home, located behind the store on Hwy. 45, was built by Levi Grant. Even today, one can see projections in each corner of the living room that hide the original hewn logs that compose the house's frame.

\*(5)

## 1937 RECREATION

The first Recreation Department was formed in 1937. Clarence Hansen, Joe Goff and Herman Zuehlsdorf were members. Baseball was offered in the summer with players paying 5 cents each to help defray the cost of the lights. Approximately 325 persons took part in the program.

The first ball diamond was on MB in Woodworth. From there it was moved to Hwy. 45 and Hwy. 50 on property donated for use by Bryant "Pops" Benson.

Bristol dedicated its Richard P. Hansen Memorial Park on June 25, 1967. Mr. Hansen had served on the Town Planning Commission and Recreation Board. Today Hansen Park has a picnic shelter, tennis court, and two soft-ball diamonds.

In 1969 a new five man Recreation Committee was established: Mrs. Charles Ling, Mrs. Wm. Glembocki, Donald Wienke, Clarence Hansen and Edward Gillmore were the decision makers.

## 1918 GIRL SCOUTS

The first leader was Katherine Noback Troop No. 1 in May 1918.

Mrs. Mary D. Bradford, Superintendent of Kenosha Schools started the Girl Scouts.

There were 20 girls in the first troop and the first camping was in 1921 at the Boy Scout camp site at Lily Lake.

The first meeting of the council was held in June of 1918. President was Mrs. J.F. Barden.

The first meetings were held in library park and were open to all girls of Kenosha County. Their first duties were to make up and send gift packages to Kenosha men serving overseas during the war.

## BOY SCOUTS

The only record we have found of scouting in Bristol was a troop in the 1940's.

Presently the Cub Scout pack 385 is located in Bristol with Mr. D.M. Pfeuffer as the Cub Master.

Mr. Edgar Foulke was Scout Master for about 10 years from 1952 to 1962.

## 1962 THE BRISTOL PLANNING BOARD

In 1958 - 1961, the Town Board attended many meetings and hearings which concerned many phases of regional planning. This gave the Town of Bristol an awareness of its position, the town lying virtually in the path of commercial, industrial and residential development areas which can be reached by over one and one-half hours drive. Recreational potentials as well as commercial and industrial development, not recognized before are now found to be true.

In 1962, the Town of Bristol instituted a Planning Commission after holding a series of meetings at which the Town Board attempted to explain some of the problems in the future, such as increased population, zoning problems, building regulation, desire for police protection, public sewers, and problems of increased enrollment in schools. The Planning Commission was endorsed by the residents of Bristol Township, and was initially instituted as an advisory board to the town officials and as an attempt to communicate with the residents of the township.

The last soil survey for Kenosha County was taken in 1917, so a study was started in 1963. Upon completion of the study, in 1965, a soil map was made for the town by the Soil Conservation Service with the cooperation of all officials of the County units of government. The map tells in detail the type of soil found in every acre of land in Kenosha County and can be used for agricultural, residential, commercial and industrial purposes. There are over 100 major soil classifications in the Town of Bristol and the soil is rated poor for sewage percolation.

1963 Industrial Park purchased 2/6/63, originally 70 acres. The first industry announced early in 1963. 50 acres were added in 1968. The entire acreage is complete with streets, sewer and water. There are 8 concerns in operation with additional building under construction.

1965 Bristol Oaks Golf Course began on 147 acre site, have an 18 hole course and spacious club house with beautiful views overlooking the Des Plaines River.

Bought I94 & Hwy. C property 1/22/65.

Utility District I started in 1965 with 120 users. District increased in 1971 with plant expansion to include George Lake area and an additional 140 users.

First annual planning dinner held at Howard Johnson Motel 9/30/65. Governor Knowles was the speaker.

1966 Dump Site opened in industrial park 1/1/66.  
Bought site of present fire house 7/5/66 and official open house held following year.  
Country Hen House opened on I94 Oct. '66.

1967 -Hansen Memorial Park dedicated 6/25/67. Shelter built in '72.  
-Quality Control Egg Farm 1967

1968 -Margaret Maleski retired 12/31/68 after 24 years as clerk.

1969 - Water utility started August '69. Tower completed.  
-Al Reidenbach retired 9/30/69 after 8 years as treasurer.  
-24 hour rescue service unit put into operation.  
-Beatrice Mfg. ground breaking October.

1970 -First Annual Progress Days 7/5/70.

-A country fair type community day was started in 1970. Mrs. Alvin Houtsinger won the "Name the Day" contest with her entry "Progress Days".

-A parade was held with a reigning King and Queen. All church and civic groups were invited to put up game and food booths at Hansen Park. A fireworks display was put on by the Fire Department.

"Progress Days" has grown to a 3 night, 2 day affair with a banquet opening the annual celebration. The King and Queen have been changed to Outstanding Man and Woman and a Miss Bristol was added to the royalty.

1970 Queen: Laurie Kempf  
King: Lennie Eibl

1971 Queen: Margaret Maleski  
King: Arthur Magwitz

1972 Queen: Marion Ling  
King: Donald Wienke  
Miss Bristol: Shirley Davidson

1973: Outstanding Man and Woman: Al and Florence Kroening  
Miss Bristol: Michelle Russo

1974: Outstanding Man and Woman: Alvin and Adelaide Reidenbach  
Miss Bristol: Charlotte Kozak

1975: Outstanding Man: Earl Hollister  
Outstanding Woman: Doris Magwitz  
Miss Bristol: Diane Hansche

#### 1970 SENIOR CITIZENS ORGANIZATION

On February 16, 1970, the first meeting of folks interested in establishing a Senior Citizens Organization in Bristol Township was held at the Bristol Town Hall.

Mr. Birch of the Walworth County Recreation Department, and also the Rev. Ed. Eschweiler of St. Scholastica Catholic Church and Rev. Wm. Janusch of the Bristol and Wesley Chapel Methodist Churches were with the group, which was composed of 39 senior citizens of Bristol Township.

A steering committee was advised and the following were elected for this position: Joe Romano, Ruby Elfering, Marie Risch, Aurora Gillmore and Margaret Maleski.

On February 22, 1970, the steering committee met with Mr. Brick at the home of Aurora Gillmore. At this meeting by laws were drawn up, a nominating committee of Fred Kibor, Leo Gillmore and Olive Williams was appointed and tentative programs for March and April were planned.

On March 23, 1970, a general meeting of the senior citizens was held, the by-laws were presented, revisions made and then adopted by the group. Officers were elected as follows:

President	Robert Pringle
Vice-President	Leo Gillmore
Secretary	Margaret Maleski
Treasurer	Mabel Petersen

Meetings were to be held the second and last Monday of each month at the Bristol Town Hall, which privilege was granted them by the Bristol Town Board.

1971 The First National Bank Bristol Branch opened 7/12/71

Developments: Kenosha Land Feb. '71      Oak Farms '71 Dike Johnsons  
State Line Camp Ground Feb. '72  
Lehman Court Sept. '72  
Rainbow Lake Court      Bristol Heights Feb. '74  
Chateau Lake George Jan. '74

1973 Esther Clausen retired 3/31/73 after 42 years as Woodworth Post-Mistress  
Wesley Congregation 100 years old 6/17/73  
New Pirsch Fire truck delivered 1/4/73 Town Pick up Nov. '73

1974 Street Lights 3/12/74  
New rescue unit May 14, 1974  
Kenosha Achievement Center 6/25/74

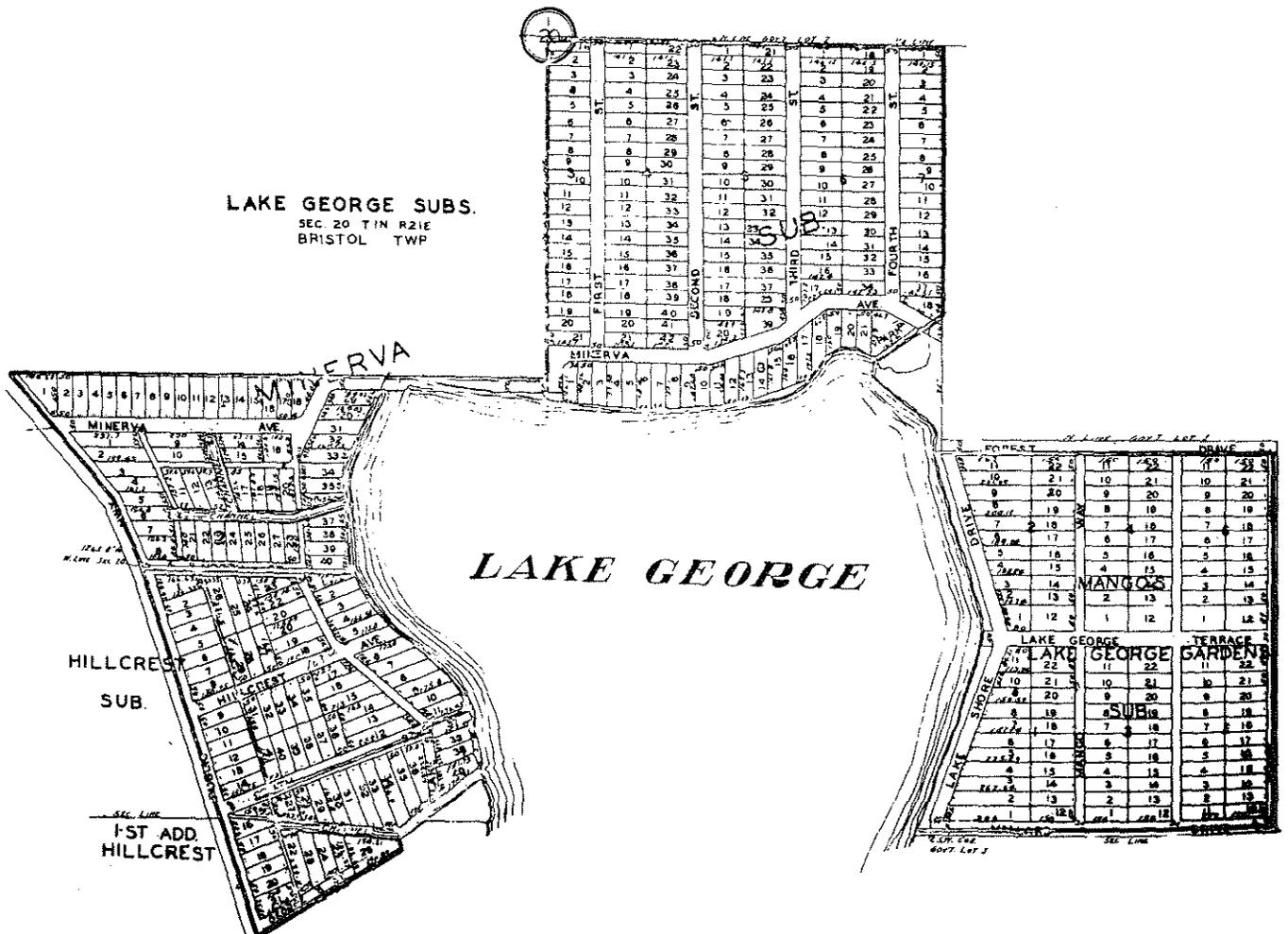
1975 Dump Truck 1/7/75

1976 Ground breaking for new First National Bank Bristol Branch building.

**LAKE GEORGE (SECTIONS 20 & 29 BRISTOL TOWNSHIP)**

- 1850 Five families owned land around the lake in 1850. These were: M. Kingman, P.E. Smith, H.S. Thorp, S. Curtis, and A. Shumway.
- 1860 In 1860 S. Kingman, J.W. Kingman, O.S. Head, W. Hunt, J.S. Voltz, J. Swain, F. Groat, G. Shulfelt and E. Mead had also purchased property.
- 1899 C.M. Bishop, H. Bryant, G.A. Shields, M. Kingman and M. Earing are listed as property owners in 1899.
- 1908 This year lists M. Hollister, Mrs. M. Kingman, G.A. Shields, H. Bryant and M. Earing. We have been told that farmers used to drive sheep across the area that is now the lake and that the slough land was then the lake.
- 1928 Mrs. La Verne N. Sears tells of being the third house on the east side of Lake George in 1928, with only one home on the west side. Farming was still prevalent in 1919. About this time, the sub-division plan was laid out.

Minerva Subdivision was on the north side of the lake, Hillcrest on the west and Mangos Lake George Gardens on the east.



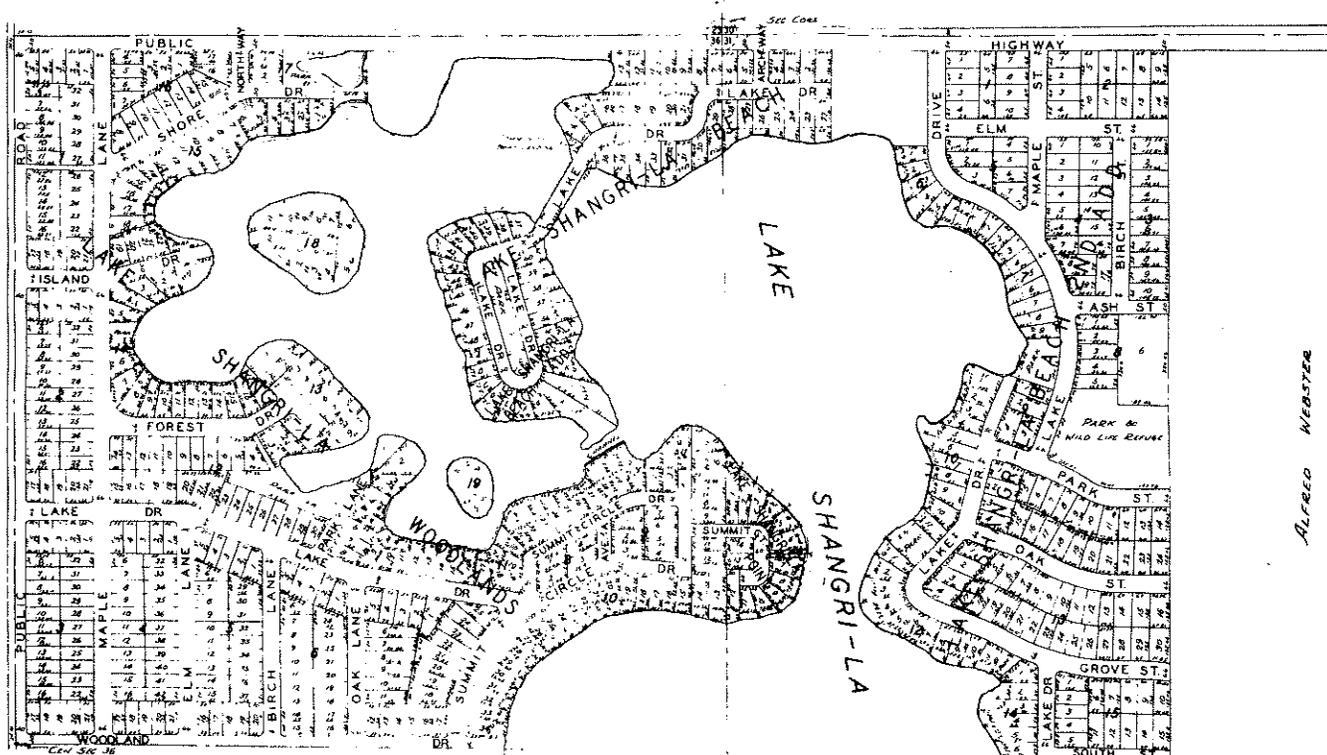
**SHANGRILA LAKE (SECTION 31 BRISTOL TOWNSHIP)**

Lake Shangrila was farm and wood land at one time. Mr. Coyne sold this property to Mr. Chris Passion. Mr. Passion built a home where the Benedictine Monastery now stands. He also built his own lake about 1936. Difficulties arose and the government confiscated this land and a real estate agency subdivided.

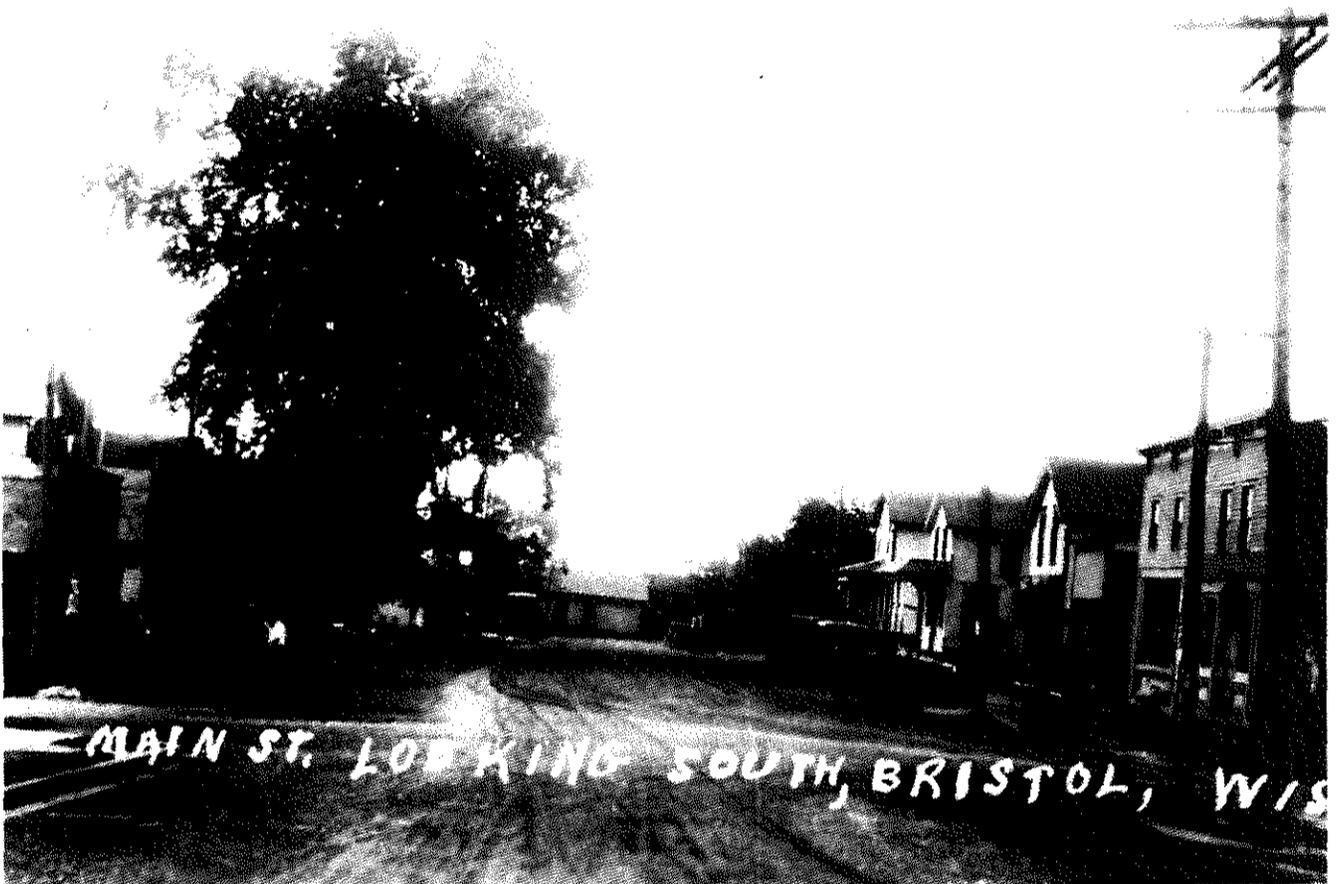
1945 The Benedictine Fathers established a monastery and seminary here in 1945. They owned the south half of the lake front property and some 500 acres of local land. The Benet Lake Post Office was established near the monastery and the lake took on the name.

When the monastery owners on the north end of the lake objected to the change of name they took it to the County Circuit Court. The case was not contested, and the judge decided the lake should have two legal names: Shangrila Lake for the north half and Benet Lake for the south half.

Mr. Albert B. Weber purchased his land, thirty years ago, from George Hoffman. There were only about a dozen homes in the Lake Shangrila area then.



# VILLAGE OF BRISTOL



BRISTOL - MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH FROM THE DEPOT \*(13)

*To the far left is the blacksmith shop, to the center of the picture is the depot and from there to the right is the Ice Cream Parlor, with only the porch showing, next the Dixon Grocery Store, next Abe's Barber Shop and Undertaker, next Nixon Millinery Shop, next Griffiths Grocery, next Pikes Harness Shop and to the extreme right is Murdock's Hardware Store. This picture is about 1926.*

DEAR ROMILDA:

*What are your memories of Bristol?  
How much do you recall  
Of this idyll of our childhood,  
That can still my dreams enthrall.*

*I remember the town as a picture,  
Painted in faded pastels;  
Three steeples reached to the heavens--  
We knew the sound of their bells.*

*How nostalgic the path going "crosslots",  
The cowslips, the meadowlark's call,  
The wild plums, the grapes and the berries,  
And hazelnuts ripe in the fall.*

*No one we met was a stranger,  
We called each one by his name:  
Abe and Minnie and Charlie,  
Genevieve, Edith and Mame.*

*The Gethens, The Pikes and the Murdocks,  
The Shotliffs: John, Polly and Ted;  
The Rowbottoms, Gaines' and Willetts,  
Maleski's: John, Jake and Fred.*

*I fondly remember your grandma,  
And the things in her attic we'd find,  
I can see her big bushes of currants,  
And the woods we loved, growing behind.*

*And perhaps the place most important  
Was the one at the end of your block,  
Home of Auntie and kind Doctor Stevens,  
And hired girl Miss Dora Zak.*

*We knew Edith Mitchell as "Central",  
Charlie Murdock was power and light;  
Our kerosene lamps were in order,  
When Charlie shut down for the night.*

*We dwelt in this place that enclosed us,  
Secure in familiar things all--  
The factory, the depot, the blacksmith,  
The bank, the churches, the hall.*

*The farmers brought milk to the factory,  
Then hitched their teams for a stop  
At the grocery store or the hardware,  
Or a shave at the barber shop.*

*The Stonebreakers, Garlands and Castles,  
The Hollisters adding their noise;  
Rich Jones and his brother Evan  
And the Wienke and Zuehlsdorf boys.*

*Summer vacations we wandered  
O'er the stile into Lacey's woods,  
Or walked up the track picking flowers,  
Exploring new neighborhoods.*

*We liked to peek in at the factory,  
Help ourselves to a small piece of ice;  
The men wore white caps and aprons,  
And the warm dairy smell was so nice.*

*Fred Thorne and Bill Long and Alec--  
Those names we will never forget;  
The place held a fascination,  
It was noisy and clean and wet.*

*Summertime brought the Chautauqua  
With performances held in a tent;  
The shows were lively and fun-filled,  
It seemed as if everyone went.*

*And sometimes a small troupe of players  
Stopped by in our town for awhile;  
The posters announcing their coming  
Brought people from many a mile.*

*The plays were sad and dramatic,  
"Ten Nights in a Barroom" was one;  
We thrilled to "Uncle Tom's Cabin",  
And watched Eliza run.*

*Don Hall was always the hero,  
We admired him from afar.  
He wore his hair long and flowing  
And lived in a railroad car.*

*The school masquerade brought together  
Almost all of the people in town,  
To join in the general frolic  
As farmer or hobo or clown.*

*I've searched in vain for the picture  
Of a miniature groom and bride;  
Of me in my father's derby,  
With a dark-eyed girl at my side.*

*Our make-believe wedding clothes won us  
A prize at our first masquerade;  
My mother, the costume designer,  
Was proud of the hit that we made.*

*Paddock's Lake meant Old Settlers,  
Swimming and Fourth of July:  
It took a good auto and driver  
To make Foster's Hill on high.*

*We were experts at roller skating,  
Down two cement steps we could jump,  
To get a drink of cold water  
And refresh ourselves at the pump.*

*The other hill where we skated  
Was steep and exciting too;  
We made side trips into Pofahl's,  
Which we weren't supposed to do.*

*We'd linger near Edith Murdock's  
And each pick a spearmint leaf,  
Then squeeze it to get its fragrance--  
Delightful beyond belief!*

*Sometimes a skate strap was broken--  
For help we knew where to stop.  
To this day the smell of new leather  
Reminds me of Pike's harness shop.*

*I can feel again the excitement  
When your father came home with young crows,  
Displaced from their nest by the phone lines--  
Dear "Spikes" was the bird that I chose.*

*As Campfire Girls we sold popcorn  
And financed a week's camping trip.  
Our rigorous schedule featured  
A six o'clock morning dip.*

*I remember the roomy cottage  
And the many things that we did;  
We thought we were Indian maidens  
At the tribe's Camp Astermid.*

*A special event of the season  
Was the ladie's bazaar in the fall;  
The aroma of hot food and coffee  
Met the chill musty smell of the hall.*

*Warmth was furnished by coal stoves,  
One standing at either side;  
The floor was smooth and slippery--  
(But Mrs. Stevens forbade us to slide).*

*School programs were something to plan for--  
With rags I curled every girl's tresses;  
And we felt like performers on Broadway  
In our tarlatan dancing dresses.*

*And also at these programs  
Our musical talents were heard:  
The trio, "Three Friends", was a favorite--  
Ruth, Eva or Mame made the third.*

*Always on Sunday mornings--  
We never questioned the rule:  
We put on our best shoes and dresses  
And hurried to Sunday School.*

*The little church made us welcome,  
It was homey and snug and small;  
Not awesome, imposing and gloomy,  
But a place that belonged to us all.*

*At times we'd make a decision  
To stay for church services, too;  
The Willetts would never enter  
Until the collection was through.*

*With the coming of Easter Sunday  
The Sunday school had a parade;  
In our pretty baskets we carried  
Hens' eggs that were freshly laid.*

*We marched down the aisle with our offering  
And at the altar we'd pause,  
To hand out our egg contribution  
For a worthy Methodist cause.*

*When Christmas came it was magic,  
The tree all sparkly and bright;  
We gave recitations in dialogs,  
And sang of that first Holy Night.*

*Then came the time of excitement,  
The moment we'd all waited for;  
When we heard the sound of the sleighbells  
And saw Santa Claus at the door.*

*His walk and his voice were familiar,  
It was always someone we knew;  
But in the enchantment of Christmas,  
We half-believed the myth to be true.*

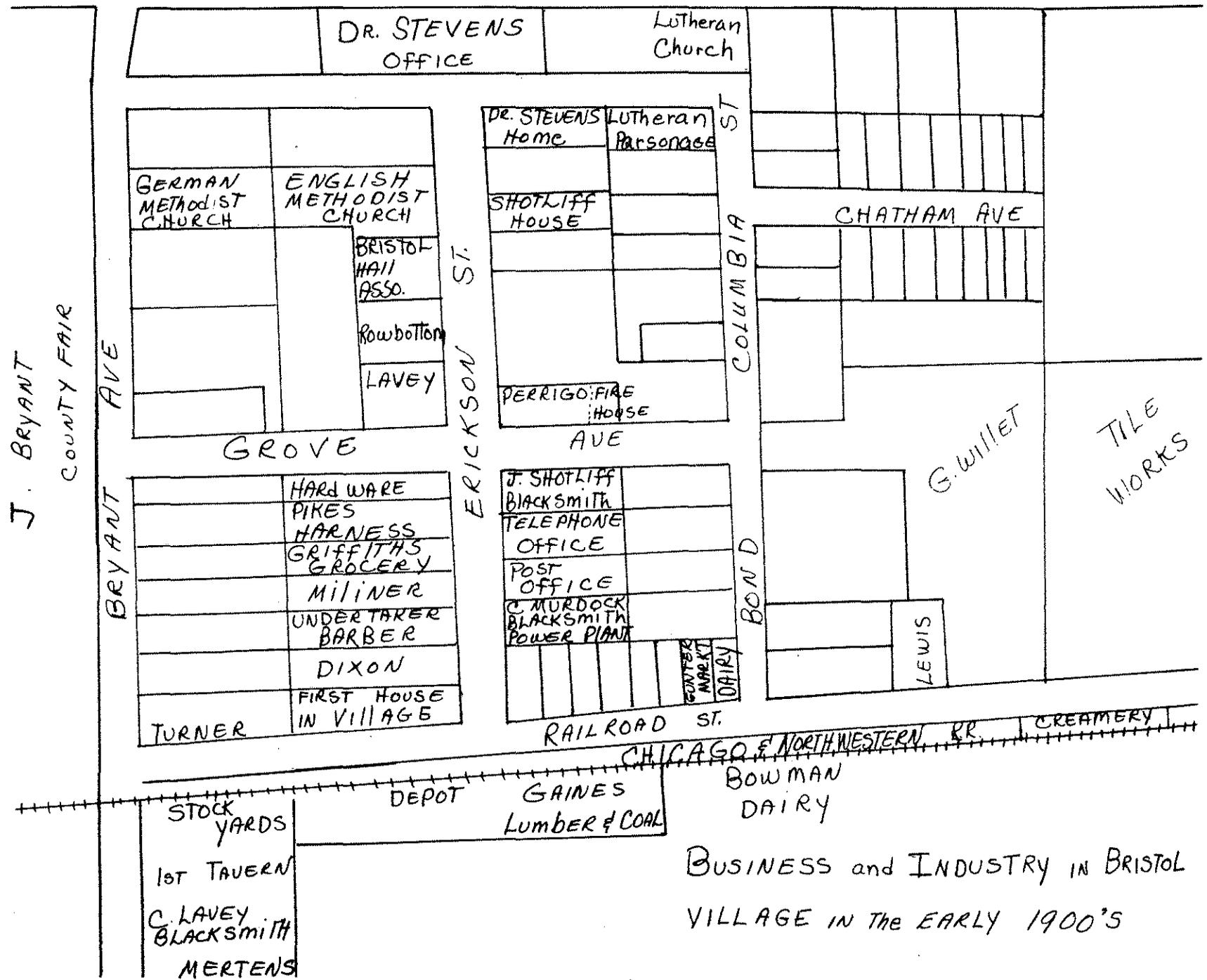
*There are many more things I could mention--  
The Boosters, the gypsies, the fairs,  
Or that quaint elevator at Lacey's--  
It was better to walk up the stairs).*

*We'd read the cartoons in your Tribune,  
Eat wormy old chocolate bars,  
Play Rook with Mary and Catherine  
And study the movie stars.*

*When listening to phonograph records,  
Two favorites we'd usually pick  
Were "The 26th of July March"  
And "The Story of Little Half-Chick".*

*Time's patine mellows the picture,  
And softens the times that were bad;  
But I'm sure as I sit reminiscing,  
'Twas a happy childhood we had.*

*So these are some memories of Bristol,  
Recalled as your birthday time nears;  
Remembrance has held us together  
And kept us in touch through the years.  
--Dorothy DeVuyst Vogl \*(5)*



BUSINESS and INDUSTRY in BRISTOL VILLAGE in the EARLY 1900'S

#### VILLAGE OF BRISTOL PLOTTED BY ALFRED GIDDINGS

In the early 1850's Alfred Giddings came from Connecticut to Bristol and invested his money in 40 acres of land. The village now stands on part of that land.

He built a store on the corner of 199th Ave. and AH. For a number of years it served as a store and later, when the railroad went through, it was the depot.

Later, Mrs. Shotliff and Sons purchased the building and used it as a hotel that served very good food. Then Mrs. Shotliff bought land farther north on the same street and built a new building. The Shotliff House also had a livery stable and barn where horses and buggies were for rent or hire and cutters with sleigh bells could be provided in the winter.



#### VIEW OF BRISTOL

*The church in the fore-ground is the German Methodist church (English). The building to the left center is the office of Doc Stevens, to the right of it is John Shotliff's home and to the far right is the Shotliff Hotel. \*(13)*

Mr. Giddings thought this would be a good location for a town, so he laid out some lots. He sold one to Mr. Nelson De Lapp, who built a home which was later owned by Gethen's and by J.P. Chase, who was instrumental in building up the town. The house is now owned by George Odell.

*This home is pictured below. This was the second oldest house in Bristol. It was the home of F.R. Snyder. He is in the buggy with his wife to the left of the buggy. In the center of the picture are Edith and Georgia Stonebreaker. \*(13)*



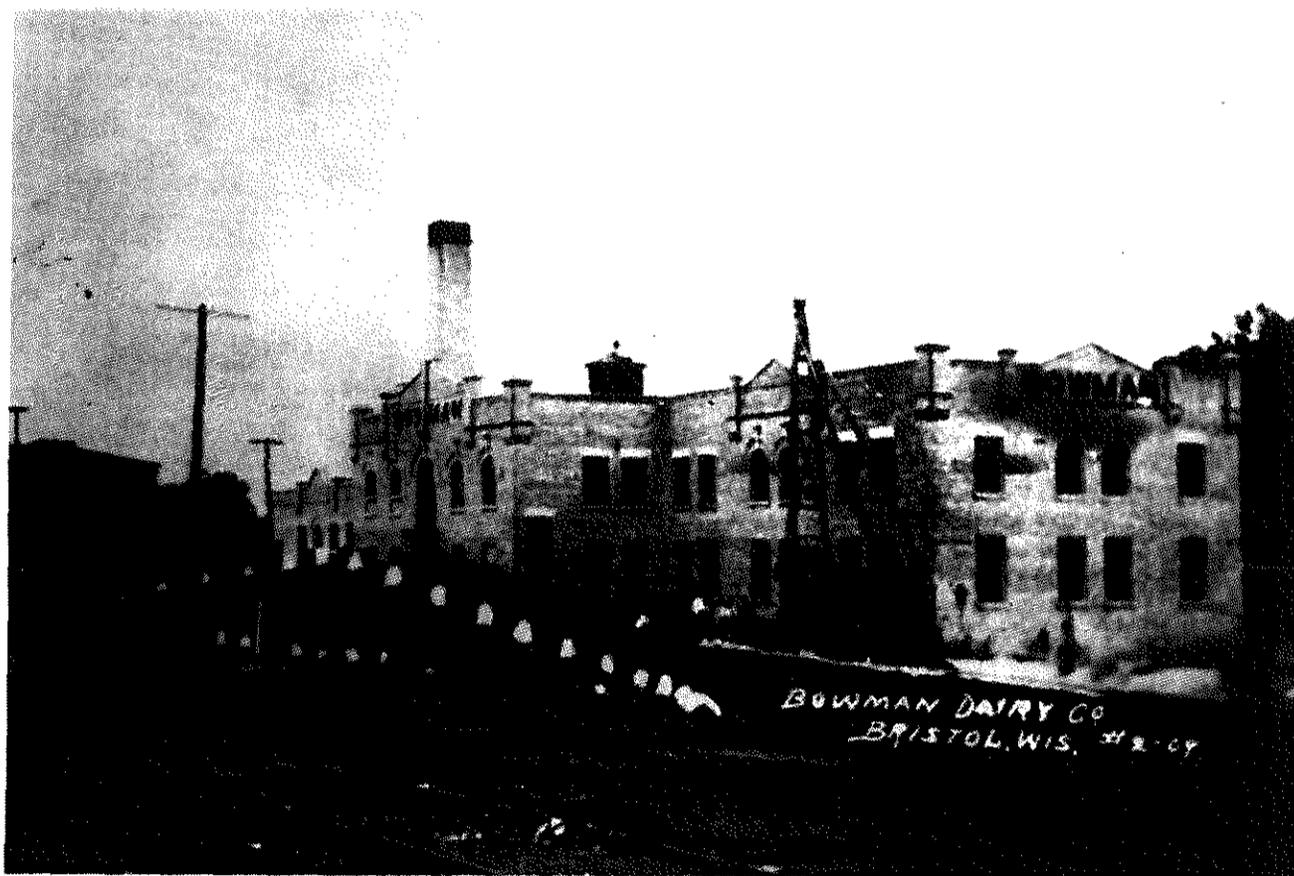
The third building to be built in the village was a house on the corner of Hwy. 45 and 82nd St. Another house went up on the opposite corner, and the Albert Wienke home and a store were built on the south.

## EARLY INDUSTRIES RECALLED

### THE BOWMAN DAIRY - BUILT A MILK BOTTLING PLANT

Raising sheep and wheat and finally, dairying were the big industries around Bristol in the early days, and the milk bottling plant reflects the importance of the latter. Farmers carried their milk in eight-gallon cans to the plant daily in parades of single wagons. The "milk" pool was the way to get your milk to market. Farmers would take turns carrying their milk and their neighbors' to the plant, where it was bottled and then shipped to Chicago by rail.

On their way into town the farmers would drop off their grocery list at one of the general stores, wait in line at the milk plant while the blacksmith did any repairs that had to be done, and then return to the store to pick up their supplies. All business was transacted on credit--a vestige of the past that still remains. \*(5)



*BOWMAN DAIRY COMPANY 1909*

*The dairy was in operation until 1936. Notice the steam powered well driller. The building was torn down in 1940. The site of this factory was just south of the present Fire Station.*

### ICE - BIG BUSINESS

Long before the day of refrigeration in every home, Kenosha County was the chief ice supplier of the city of Chicago. Ice was cut by hand and kept in huge wooden ice houses until shipped out by rail. Later on, artificial ice was made in large cubicles, with Bristol a pioneer in the new process. \*(5)

### ELECTRICITY

Bristol showed its progressive nature by being one of the first towns to introduce electricity. Charles Murdock furnished power with an electric dynamo and lines were installed across the ceilings of Bristol houses. Although the power was there, it wasn't very strong and the ladies had to alternate ironing days so the lines wouldn't be strained.



*MAIN STREET LOOKING NORTH FROM THE DEPOT.*

*The building on the right is Charlie Murdoch's blacksmith shop. The first electricity in Bristol came from a generator run by a gas engine. The new Post Office stands on this spot. To the left on the picture is the house which was the Ice Cream Parlor and along side of it, the grocery store now known as Harvey's Bristol Foods. These buildings still remain today as also the next building which was the barber shop run by Abe De Vuyst.*

RAILROAD COMPLETED IN 1860'S

The Railroad was completed in 1861 or '63. Then began another street which is now Main Street (199th Ave.).

The Bristol Food Store building was built by Mr. Tabor and Mr. Williams. This is the second building on the left of the picture on page 61.

The next building on this picture was built by Squire Jones. For many years it housed Abe De Vuyst's barber shop and pool hall. Abe's shop was the town meeting place during its 55 year history. Old timers regretted the day, not too many years ago, when the front of the residence, formerly the shop, was incorporated into the home. Abe came from Holland as a young man and charged 15 cents for a shave, 25 cents for a haircut "in the good old days".

The Iron Horses were a welcome sight to farmers, businessmen and housewives who anxiously awaited delivery of parcels from Sears, Roebuck and Montgomery Ward.



*BRISTOL RAILROAD DEPOT*

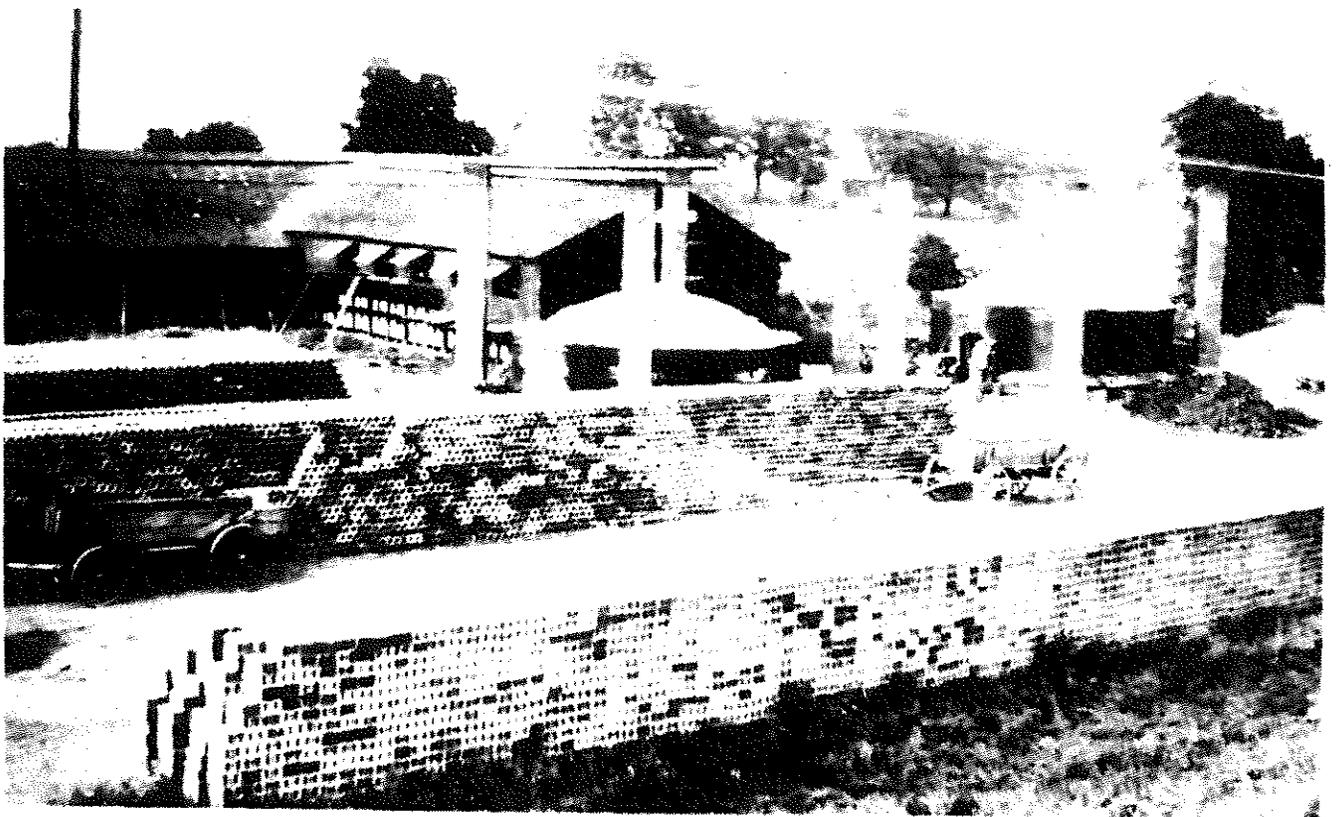
The economic life of Bristol depended on the railroad. The trains carried away the milk, tile, and mail and took their children to school in Kenosha. The high point of the day was arrival of one of the several freight or passenger trains at the depot. In 1930, trucks took over and the end of an era in transportation was seen in Bristol.

#### SHORT-LIVED SALOON IN VILLAGE

The village of Bristol had a short lived saloon. Frank Ervin decided that the town needed a saloon, since he was quite fond of liquor himself. He built, across the tracks from the Depot, a building which had one window on the north side. With a keg of beer and a gallon of whiskey, he announced a grand opening. However, Frank drank most of it himself by the time the customers arrived, so he didn't make a very efficient bartender.

The customers felt they had been rudely treated, so they tipped the building on to the door and left Frank inside. The next morning he was seen climbing out of the window and there has been no saloon in the village since.

1907 Bristol was a flourishing town in 1907. The two industries were the Bowman Dairy and a little tile factory. There were five stores that carried groceries and general merchandise, three blacksmith shops, a meat market, a harness shop, a hardware store, a lumber, coal and feed store combined, a post office, a telephone office, and a fix-it shop, where they made wagon wheels and did wood-working. It was operated by Wm. Perrigo.



*TILE FACTORY built in 1897 by Mr. Nelson, owned by Canadian George Willit. \*(13)*

*This factory closed down in 1932. The pond east of town was caused from digging out clay for making tile. The tile was manufactured for use around the Bristol area and for shipment out on the all-important railroad.*

1907 PERRIGO WAGON WORKS WAS ONE OF THE FLOURISHING BUSINESSES

Wm. Perrigo operated a fix-it shop where they made wagon wheels and did wood-working.



*PERRIGO WAGON WORKS - BRISTOL VILLAGE \*(13)*

*In this picture is a Model T Ford owned by Frank Lavey. The building in back is the Perrigo Wagon Works and it was located on the site the bank was built on in 1928. It is now the home of Merkt's Cheese.*

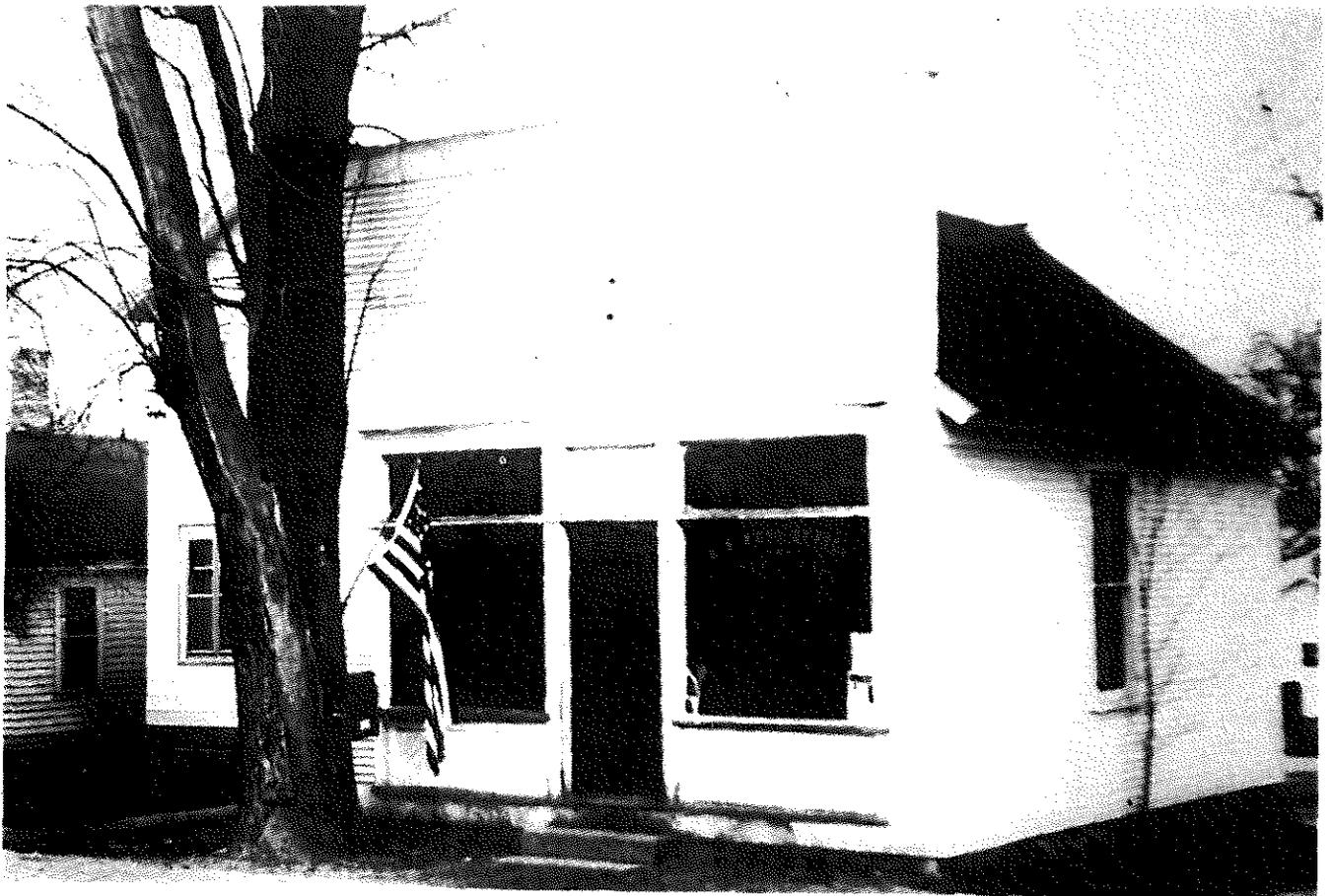
ONE OF THE BUSINESSES IN BRISTOL WAS A MILLINERY SHOP

James and George Nixon were to Bristolites numbered among the first class that graduated from Kenosha High School. They were sons of George Nixon, Sr. and they attended the University of Ann Arbor, Michigan. James became Judge of Probate Court of Appeals of Lebanon, Mo. and George was a milliner in Bristol, where all the ladies bought their Easter Bonnets. The hat shop and home of George was the store and house owned by Dave Griffiths. Chas. Pohlman operated a grocery store in this building for some time. Arthur Bahr made a speculative purchase of it when talk was strong of the Bong Base, but it sold through a sheriff's sale in 1965. The building, badly deteriorated from non-use, was purchased by Arthur Magwitz and torn down.

## BRISTOL MAIL SERVICE AND POST OFFICE

In July 1837, Jason Lathrop surveyed the road running from Southport to Geneva, being the first surveyed road west from Southport. In December of that year, a meeting was held at the home of A.B. Jackson, petitioning for a mail route from Southport to Geneva. Needing a name on the petition, the town was named Bristol for Rev. Ira Bristol, one of the first settlers. A Post Office was established in 1839 and A.B. Jackson was appointed postmaster. He built a building on what is now the North East corner of D and Hwy. 50. Mail carried a postillion or 25 cent stamp.

The Post Office came into the village with the appointment of F.J. Lavey as postmaster, and then W.m Turner was postmaster with the location of the Post Office in the building owned by Florence Jones (north side of 83rd St., east of Hwy. 45); then to the Dixon-Pitts Grocery (Harvey's Bristol Foods), then across the street into the old bank building and finally in 1962 into the new brick building we use today. It too is becoming cramped serving 809 families on the two routes plus 175 post offices boxes.



*BRISTOL POST OFFICE*

*This building was first a bank from August 16, 1907 until the new bank was built in 1928. This was last used as a Post Office on March 31, 1962. \*(13)*

1907 In 1907, a Mr. Zahn established a bank in Bristol. This was in the little wooden building on main street that many of you remember as the old post office. (This building was only recently torn down by Mr. Chudada.) In 1916, Mr. Zahn moved to Milwaukee, having sold the bank to a group of stockholders. The new bank building was built in 1928 on the corner of what is now 199th & 82nd St. The cost is registered at \$12,550.00. This bank closed during the depression and the building was put up for sale.

In 1942 the building was purchased and became a locker plant under the ownership of Mr. Veenstra. It was owned by the Ed Muhlenbecks from 1947 until 1959. The plant consisted of 400 lockers, a retail room, and processing, rendering and aging rooms.

June, 1959 the plant was leased to Bruhn's Freezer meats of Elkhorn, Nebr. and Geo. Merkts of Salem, Wisconsin also leased the basement at this time.

The building was sold to the Merkts in 1966 and has become the home base of Merkts Cheese. Two additions have been put on the building since its use as a bank.

Bristol again has a bank with the First National Bank Branch at Hwy. 50 & 45, opening July 12, 1971. A new building is now under construction.



\*(13)

## INSIDE OF LAVEY & SHOTLIFF'S STORE



*PICTURED ABOVE IS LAURA & FRANK LAVEY. \*(13)*

Perhaps to make this picture more meaningful we can share memories of Mrs. Ed Jorgenson, a lifelong resident of the town of Bristol. She recalls the days in her uncle's store, later known as Davidson's Grocery, when she sold bales of cotton for quilt-making and peppermint sticks from neatly-shelved glass jars. She can point out the China doll head pictured in the store that she still has. She remembers the day of her biggest sale when a customer bought the entire stock of white shirts -- because they were the "only kind he could wear".

Mrs. Jorgenson, formerly Genevieve Shotliff, recalls the evenings at the supper table at the Shotliff Hotel, run by her aunt, when the boarders would sit around the huge table and enjoy a family-style supper for 50 cents. In the morning after a 35 cent breakfast, the guests would pick up their horses at the adjoining livery stable and maybe stop to have a horse shod at the Shotliff blacksmith shop down the street. \*(5) (Hotel pictured on page 60.)

The outside of this store is pictured on the following page and is the large building in the center.

*VIEW OF BRISTOL IN 1908. (CORNER OF WHAT IS NOW 199th & 82nd.)*

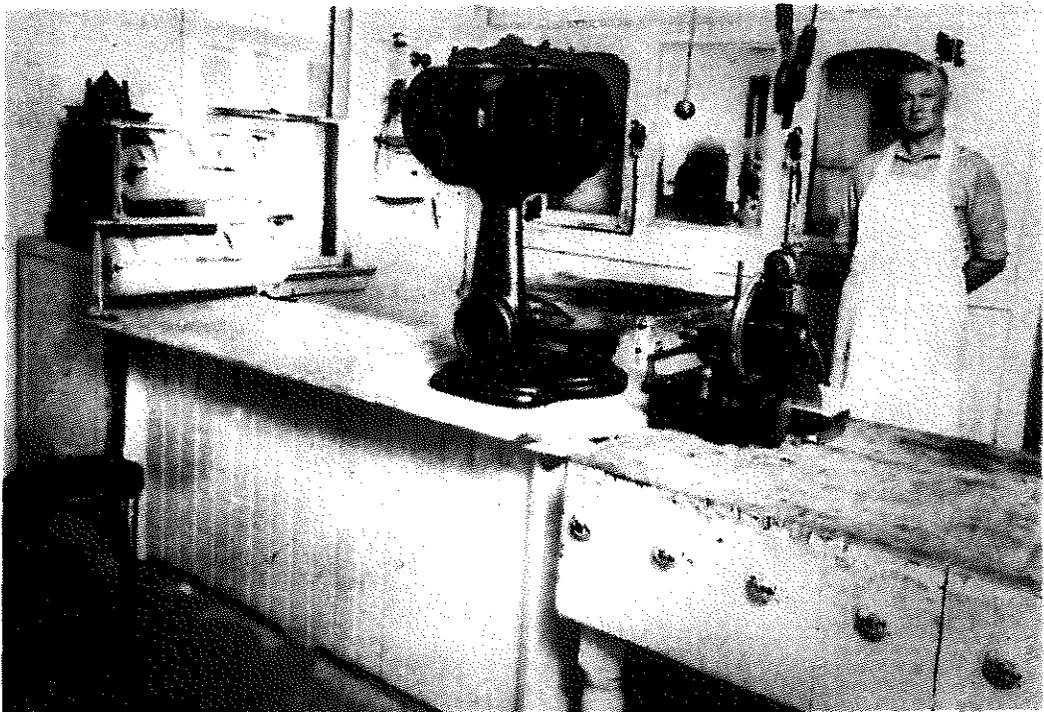


*Pictured above is a scene in Bristol looking south to the Depot at the far end of the street. The FOSTER MERCANTILE is on the right, the building in the center is LAVEY & SHOTLIFF'S STORE and to the left of this is MURDOCK HARDWARE, later Bristol Hardware, Inc. owned by Arthur Magwitz. \*(13)*

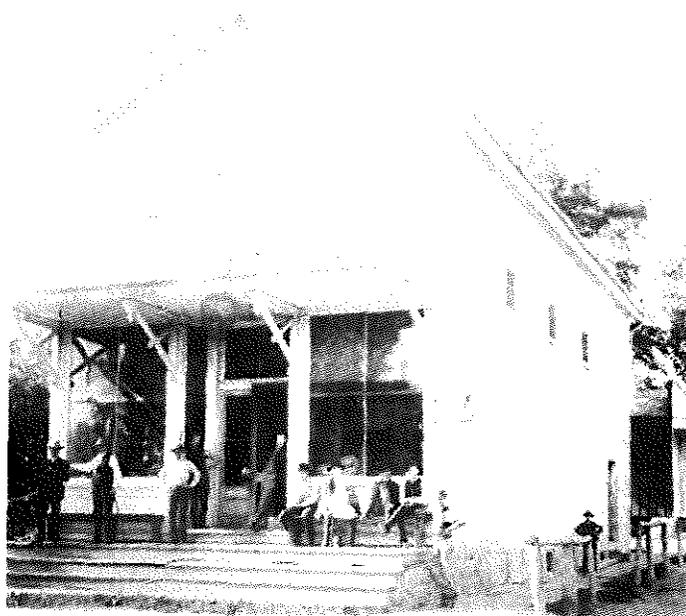
Picture for a moment a blustery winter day around the turn of the century in a small mid-western country town. Look through the hardware store window and see the grisly old-timers gathered around the glowing pot-bellied stove, swapping tales and waiting for mail time when the train will pull up to the depot. Maybe if you listen closely, you'll hear a heated political discussion or a little local gossip. If your imagination is creative and your TV watching of westerns is constant, you've probably pictured the scene in Murdock Hardware.

The store was the local social center and for that reason was dubbed "kangaroo court". Bull sessions moved out to the front steps during the hot summer months, but we can be sure that the humidity didn't dampen the spirits or the conversation that trademarked "kangaroo court". \*(5)

*PICTURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BRISTOL \*(13)*

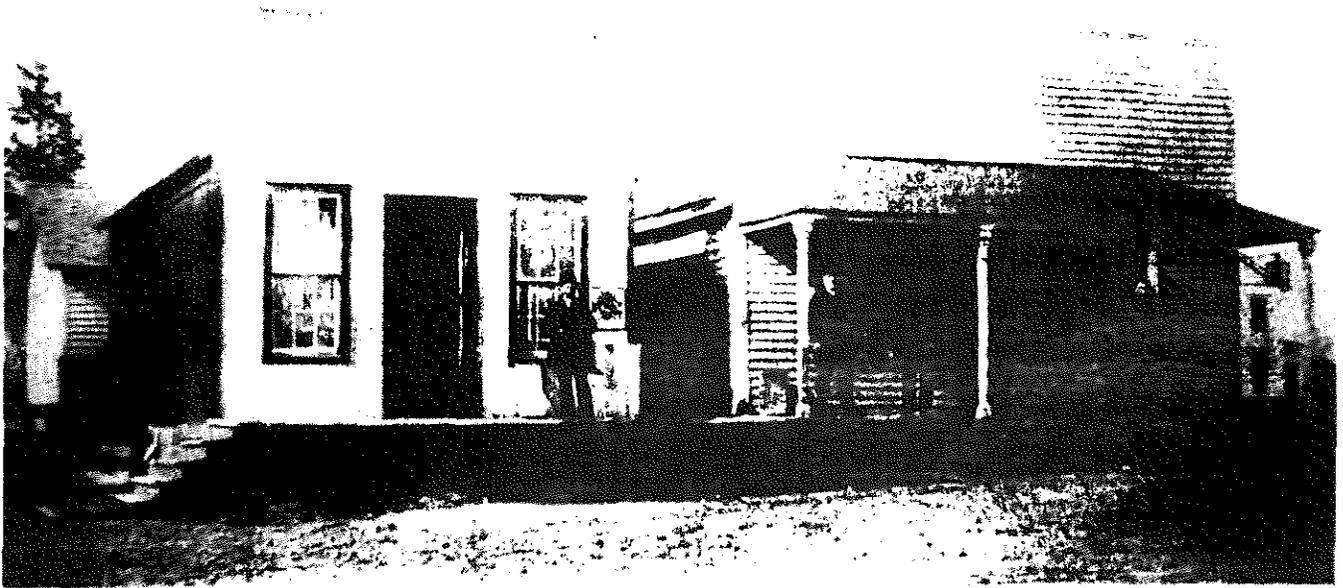


*INSIDE OF THE MEAT MARKET OWNED AND OPERATED BY CHARLIE GUNTER. THIS PICTURE WAS TAKEN ABOUT 1925. SEE BRISTOL PLOT MAP PAGE 59 FOR THE LOCATION'*

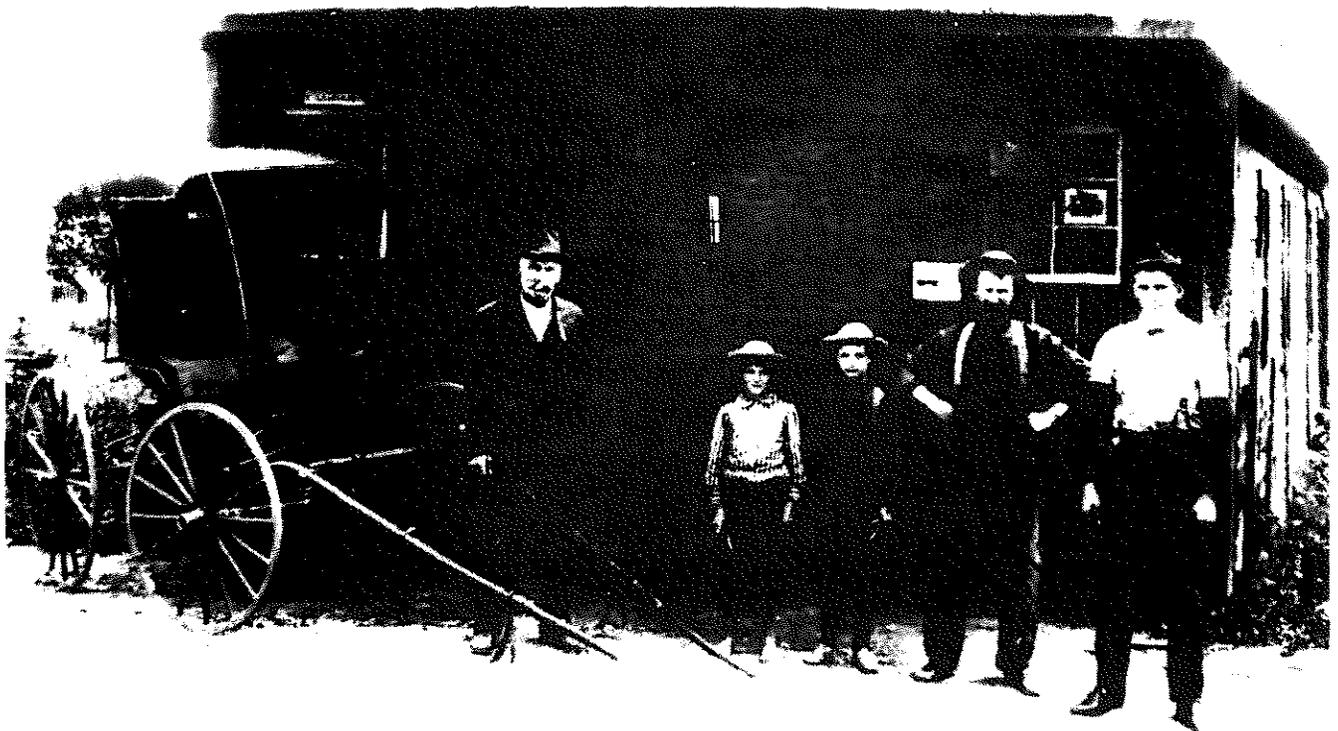


*FRANK LAVEY'S STORE. THIS PICTURE WAS PROBABLY PRIOR TO 1900. IT IS A MUCH EARLIER VIEW OF THE SAME BUILDING ON PAGE 70. THE INSIDE OF THIS STORE IS PICTURED ON PAGE 69.*

PICTURES OF THE VILLAGE OF BRISTOL \*(13)



TURNERS STORE - WAS THE POST OFFICE FOR A WHILE IN THE EARLY 1900's. THIS IS THE BUILDING ON THE RIGHT SIDE. THE BUILDING AT THE LEFT CAME FROM THE OLD FAIR GROUNDS REFERRED TO ON PAGE 29 & 30.

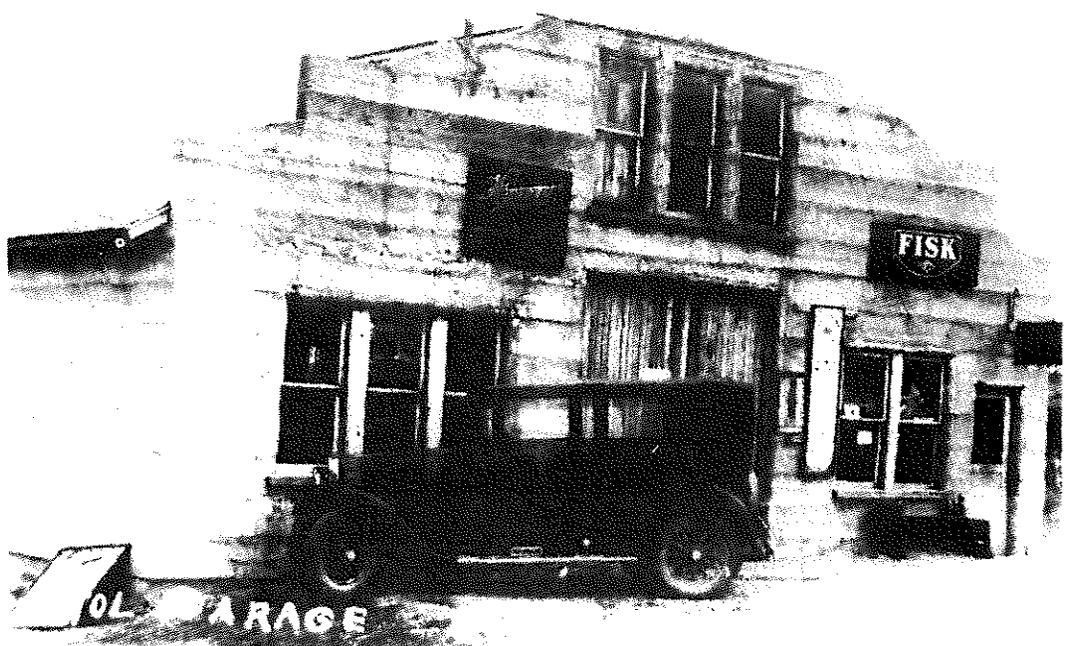


SHOTLIFF'S BLACKSMITH SHOP AT 199th & 82nd. PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: CHARLES MARSH, KENNETH CORNWELL, EDWARD & GILBERT, BLACKSMITH JOHN SHOTLIFF, AND ALBERT BOTTELMY. THE BUILDING IS NOW A HOUSE.

PICTURES OF BRISTOL VILLAGE \*(13)



*Train wreck about 1913 east of Bristol. The barn in the upper right is on Earl Hollisters' farm. Notice the ice cars in the lower right of the picture.*



*Merten's Bristol Garage pictured above in about 1926. Three generations of Merten's have operated this business. The business is located on Hwy. 45. The garage was built by Joseph Merten, Sr. in the early 1900's. His sons, Joe, Jr. & Fred worked with him. Later Fred bought out his brother and now the 3rd generation, Eugene Merten, is owner of the garage.*

# VILLAGE OF WOODWORTH



## *WOODWORTH - PICTURE COURTESY OF THE ELMER BENEDICT FAMILY*

This is a view of Woodworth, Section 10, Bristol Township, looking north on County Hwy. MB. The history of Woodworth dates back to 1839 when the land was claimed by Simon Lovett and recorded at the Milwaukee Territory land office. In 1847, the land was deeded to Linus Woodworth who was the owner at the time the railroad was constructed and the depot located on his property, thus the name of the Depot became the "Woodworth Station". In 1862, the mail service was moved from the Kellogg home on Hwy. 50 to the Woodworth Depot.

This picture shows the road through the village around 1900. Looking north, on the right side is the blacksmith shop, which was later moved to the other side of the road, and on the left side is the depot and at the top left of the picture is the Roberts' home.

### *THE ROAD BETWEEN WOODWORTH*

*Come walk with me  
Down the road between,  
Let your senses be dulled,  
But your memory keen.  
As time rolls on  
Ways and means may change,  
The people and places  
May seem even strange.  
Yet deep inside  
As we search our hearts,  
We share the same feelings  
Though years far apart.*

*From the very beginning  
Man's dream is his home,  
So these came from far places  
To find each his own.  
The past left behind them,  
Their eyes fixed ahead,  
They came with their families  
To their new home-stead.  
The beginnings were meager,  
The trials were great,  
But to fulfill all their plans,  
They did not hesitate.*

*The places of business  
Which once were so needed,  
Are gone and the land  
Where they stood goes unheeded.  
The dairy where farmers  
Brought milk to be sold,  
Is part of the past  
As we recall days of old.  
The flurry of selling  
In the ware - house and grainery  
Has long been replaced  
By new ways and machinery.*

*The blacksmith's shop  
With its anvil and fire  
Was used to make tools  
And shoe horses for hire.  
The railroad station  
And freight trains arrival  
Are no longer needed  
To bring things to survival.  
They are part of the memory  
Of times so far past,  
As we pause here today  
In our thoughts they still last.*

*Each day as the mail  
Would arrive quite on time,  
The Post Office was the place  
To greet your and mine.  
The store with its shelves  
Of good food and notions  
Was the center of meeting  
And at times some commotions.  
On Saturday evening  
When the days work was done  
Young folks came to dance  
And to share in the fun.*

*The school bells would beckon  
The children to learning,  
So down the road between  
They would come with much yearning.  
To worship their God,  
They would put on their best,  
And go to church with their families  
To pray and be blest.  
In sickness and sorrow  
All shared the concern,  
How to help one another  
Was a lesson to learn.*

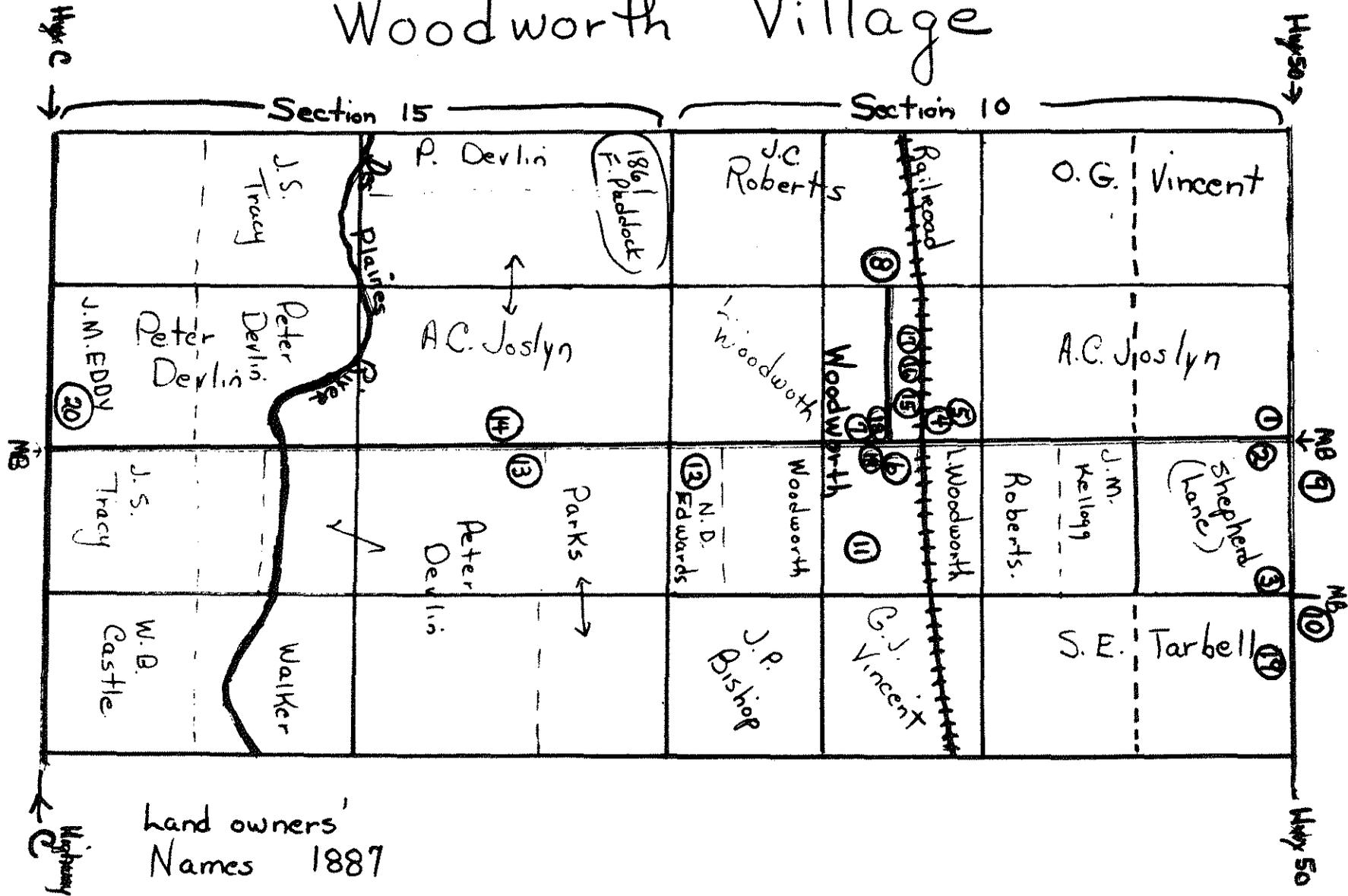
*Serums, Vaccines, Medicine products  
For health care,  
Were made at the Serum Plant  
By the people employed there.  
When cars and machinery  
Replaced cart and horse,  
There was need for a garage  
And mechanic of course.  
We remember the dump trucks  
That hauled gravel and sand,  
And the implement company  
That sold seed for the land.*

*The children, the families,  
The neighbors, the friends,  
Are now our forefathers  
So their life never ends.  
Their work and their dreams  
May each one of us cherish,  
They are part of this land  
Where freedom must never perish,  
Help us not to forget  
All the things now unseen,  
As our lives touch each other,  
On the road between.*

*by Mable Glasman Engberg  
1974*

*(The Road Between is County MB, between Hwy. 50 and Hwy. C)*

# Woodworth Village



**MAP OF SECTION 10 & 15  
WOODWORTH, BRISTOL TOWNSHIP**

1. Location of the first District No. 5 Schoolhouse on land owned by A.C. Joslyn.
2. Lane Homestead. Originally owned by Theodore Woodworth. Purchased by Sam S. Sorenson in the late '30's.
3. Home of Roswell Bourne, later home of J.B. Edwards, and in 1924, home of Martin Packman's.
4. Woodworth Station Depot.
5. Home of R.F. Roberts, then Frank W. Roberts, Thurston's, Berg & Jeske's, Archambault's, Almond's, today Goodman & Casper.
6. Woodworth Post Office.
7. Woodworth Garage.
8. "South Farm" original home of John C. Roberts.
9. Kellogg Tavern and today Quality Control Egg Farm.
10. Woodworth School originally built on land given by S.E. Tarbell.
11. U.S. Standard Products Company, today New Tribes Mission.
12. Edwards' Homestead today home of Guy Edwards.
13. Devlin Brothers Farm, today Woodworth Farm.
14. Site of windmill where Devlin Bros. Creamery stood, today farm of Rasmussen's.
15. Roberts Hardware Store and Feed Business, later apartment house and today nothing remains as the building burned last year.
16. Cheese Factory site, only well remains. Land owned by James Engberg's.
17. Renz Creamery, later Harry Hansen Implement Company, today property owned by Rick Varvil.
18. Original spot where the blacksmith shop stood east of MB, also later site west of MB, today owned by Helen Anderson.
19. Tarbell Homestead, today owned by Becker's.
20. Site of the Bristol Soda Springs owned & operated by Eddy and Benedict now owned by Dale Nelson.

## WOODWORTH

WOODWORTH is a tiny spot on the map in Wisconsin, Kenosha County, Bristol Township, Section 10 and the area immediately surrounding it. It was only land claimed by a farmer until 1862. As early as 1839 at least part of this parcel of land was entered at the land office at Milwaukee, Wisconsin territory by Simon Lovett. (March 12, 1839 Pre-Emption Duplicate Receipt Cert. No. 3431 Land Patent December 10, 1840 Recorded in Vol 6 P. 463, Washington, D.C.)

In 1847, the land was deeded to Linus Woodworth. According to the 1850 Census, the following statistics concerning this family were recorded:

Names	Age	Occupation	Land Value	Birthplace
Linus Woodworth	39 male	farmer	1,000	New York
Belinda	31 female			New York
Daniel	8 male			Ohio
Ansel	6 male			Ohio
Charles	4 male			Ohio

It was on the Woodworth property that the Depot was located when the Kenosha and Beloit Railroad Company constructed the Railway through this area and thus the name of the village was "WOODWORTH STATION".

The Post Office was in the Kellogg home on Hwy. 50 when the mail was carried by stage coach to Lake Geneva. This mail route was established in 1837. After the railroad was constructed, around 1862, the stage coach was discontinued and the Post Office was moved to the Woodworth Station.

Linus Woodworth sold his land to Robert Roberts in 1864 and the Post Office was located in the Roberts home for the next 50 years, from 1867 to 1917. In 1917 the Post Office was moved to the Yonk General Store and it has been in the same building continuously until now. Mrs. Clarence Yonk was appointed Postmistress in 1917 and served until 1929 when she was killed in an auto accident. Miss Esther Clausen was appointed Postmistress following Mrs. Yonk's death and served continuously for 42 years until her retirement March 31, 1973. Mr. Clarence Clausen was appointed Postmaster and holds that position at this time.

Woodworth has retained its identity and can be found on any official map primarily because of the presence of a United States Post Office for the past 113 years. The mail service to Woodworth as an area covers a period of 138 years.

1850 U.S. CENSUS - SECTION 10 BRISTOL TOWNSHIP WOODWORTH

FAMILY NAMES	AGE & SEX	OCCUPATION	VALUE	BIRTHPLACE
Amasa C. Joslyn	34 Male	Farmer	1,200	New York
Eliza	30 Female	80 Acres		Vermont
Harriet	7 Female			Ohio
Gustarus	1 Male			Wisconsin
Luther Woodworth	16 Male			Ohio
Gilbert J. Vincent	35 Male	Farmer	3,500	New York
Betsy	26 Female	160 Acres		New York
Lewis	3 Male			Wisconsin
Sylvina	2 Female			Wisconsin
Maria Taylor	39 Female			New York
James Taylor	18 Male	Farmer		New York
Alpheus Parks	24 Male	Farmer		New York
Maria Parks	15 Female			New York
Jabez Woodworth	64 Male	Farmer	600	Connecticut
Mahitable	60 Female	10 Acres		Massachusetts
Daniel	23 Male			New York
Edward B. Fay	26 Male			New York
Delila A.	18 Female			New York
Layfayette Woodworth	25 Male	Farmer	1,000	New York
Eliza	20 Female	80 Acres		New York
Frances	3 Female			Wisconsin
Mary	1 Female			Wisconsin
(Son Joel N. Born 1851)				
Roswell Bourne	42 Male	Farmer	1,400	Massachusetts
Mary T.	39 Female			New Jersey
Henry W.	15 Male			Massachusetts
Mary Ann	14 Female			Massachusetts
Charles	12 Male			Massachusetts
Lydia	10 Female			Massachusetts
Abby E. Bourne	7 Female			Wisconsin
Eugene	1 Male			Wisconsin
William Q. Reed	44 Male	Farmer	300	New York
Harriet	40 Female			New York
Harriet M.	16 Female			New York
Sally E.	12 Female			Indiana
William A.	7 Male			Indiana
Rhoda	5 Female			Indiana

1850 U.S. CENSUS (CONTINUED)

Linus Woodworth	39 Male	Farmer	1,000	New York
Belinda	31 Female	80 Acres		New York
Daniel	8 Male			Ohio
Ansel	6 Male			Ohio
Charles	4 Male			Ohio
Samuel Vincent	36 Male	Farmer		New York
Hannah	30 Female			
Pheoba Ann	14 Female			
John	12 Male			
Justus	10 Male			
Marvin	8 Male			
Daniel	3 Male			
Henry H. Tarbell	31 Male	Farmer	4,000	Massachusetts
Cynthia	28 Female	200 Acres		Massachusetts
Mary Adella	5 Female			Massachusetts
Samuel O.	3 Male			Wisconsin
Sarah A.	1 Female			Wisconsin
Raneseleai W. Heinman	21 Male	Laborer		New York
Samuel E. Tarbell	37 Male	Farmer	3,500	New York
Aurelia	40 Female	160 Acres		New York
Ann E.	15 Female			Pennsylvania
Selah	7 Female			Wisconsin
George W. Wheeler	22 Male	Laborer		

1850 The exact date of the coming of the Woodworth family to this area is not known. Very little has been found of their family history. According to the above census, Mr. Linus Woodworth lived in this area owning a farm of 80 acres. (No. 4, 5 on map.) He was born about the year 1811 and came here from New York. His wife was Belinda, born around 1819 also coming from New York. This family had three children Daniel, Ansel and Charles. As accurate as we can be, they had sold all their land in this area by 1879. Mrs. Woodworth passed away in 1882. At this time, Mr. Woodworth would have been 71 years of age.

In 1870, School District No. 5, children participating in a program were Christiana Woodworth and others. Mr. Linus Woodworth made some appropriate remarks on the part of the parents.

In 1918, Mrs. C. Lunn and daughter of Mitchell, South Dakota visited here. She was the former Christiana Woodworth and graduated from Whitewater Normal School 38 years ago or in 1880.

- 1853 John C. Roberts came to Wisconsin in the fall of 1849. He rented a farm in Bristol Township for 1 and ½ years and in 1853, purchased 80 acres of land from Charles M. Fowler.

John Roberts was born in England in 1809. He enlisted in the Marine service at the age of 18 years and his oldest son Robert and daughter Lydia were born while he was in service. His wife was Lydia Faulkner who was also born in England. He bought his discharge from service paying 25 pounds of sterling for it, or the sum over 100 dollars. The marine service gave him the opportunity of seeing many foreign countries and peoples. In 1844 he sailed for America with his wife and five children, landing in Quebec. His intention was to proceed to the United States but instead he was talked into settling in Canada and spent the next five years there. In 1849, he came to Wisconsin. During his life in England, he was a loyal unpaid preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Robert F. Roberts, the son of John Roberts came to America with his father at the age of 11 years. After his marriage in 1860 to Mary Ann Moore, he came to Woodworth to live on the farm. He owned the homestead property of 80 acres and added additional acreage until he owned 175 acres. In 1884, he erected an attractive residence on his farm near the Woodworth Station where he lived until his death in 1907. (Picture of home on page 84, map location No. 5.)

- 1861 According to a map dated 1861, Peter Devlin owned a farm of 80 acres in Section 15 of Bristol Township. The exact date of the arrival of the Devlin family to Bristol is not known but the son Lawrence Devlin was born at Woodworth in 1861. In the 1875 Kenosha County Directory, Peter Devlin was listed as owning 220 acres. In 1895, the Devlin brothers owned 250 acres. The Devlins' operated several creameries. One of these was built by Peter Devlin on Bulik's land which was on Kimball's corners just south of the Wesley Church. Another one of these was located on MB south of Woodworth, section 15 and at the site a windmill stands to this day. Lawrence and Arthur Devlin operated the creameries, farmed and also were in the feed and coal business at Woodworth.
- 1862 The Railroad line was constructed from Kenosha to Genoa City. This was an important time to the Woodworth area as it was at this time the Post Office was moved to the Woodworth Station.
- 1863 The Kenosha Beloit Railroad Company was sold to the Chicago and North Western Railroad Company.
- 1864 Linus Woodworth deeded land in Woodworth to Robert R. Roberts. Also land was sold by Linus Woodworth to Mary Devlin, in 1878 and to Robert Roberts in 1879.
- 1866 Frank W. Roberts and parents Robert and Sarah Moore Roberts, came to Kenosha County and took up residence on the farm in Woodworth known as the Roberts Homestead.

1867 Nelson D. Edwards purchased 20 acres of land from William R. Higgins. This land is still owned by Guy Edwards, the grandson of Nelson Edwards. In 1970, Guy Durell Edwards received his certificate given for family ownership of property for 100 years or more. See Map page 77, location No. 12. The following is an advertisement in the 1875 Kenosha County Directory:

**N. D. Edwards,**

**MANUFACTURER OF GLOVES, MITTENS,**

**AND LADIES' AND GENTS' FURS,**

**Woodworth Station, Kenosha Co., Wis.**

**Ladies' Furs Repaired.**

1867 The Post Office was moved to the Roberts Family Home and remained there for the next 50 years.

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF KENOSHA CITY AND COUNTY 1875 - 1ST EDITION**  
**GEORGE R. MILMINE, COMPILER**

Carpenter, Geo.		Own 1 Acre	Section 10
Devlin, Peter	Farmer	Own 220 Acres	Section 15
Eddy, James M.	Farmer	Own 161 Acres	Section 15
Edwards, Nelson D.	Glove Mfg.	Own 35 Acres	Section 10
Joslyn, A.C.	Farmer	Own 100 Acres	Section 10
Joslyn, A.J.	Farmer	Works A.C. Joslyn	Section 10
Parks, Mrs. E. Widow		Own 90 Acres	Section 15
Parks, Newell	Farmer	Own 5 Acres	Section 10
Parks, Silas H.	Farmer	Res.	Section 10
Roberts, John C.	Farmer	Own 20 Acres	Section 10
Roberts, Robert F.	Farmer	Own 140 Acres	Section 10
Shepard, Chester C.	Farmer	Own 40 Acres	Section 10
Tarbell, Samuel E.	Farmer	Own 157 Acres	Section 10
Vincent, Gilbert O.	Farmer	Own 80 Acres	Section 10
Woodworth, Linus	Farmer	Own 140 Acres	Section 10

**BUSINESS DIRECTORY**

Cheese Factory	J.M. Kellogg, H. Tourtelotte
Groceries	Mrs. J.C. Roberts
Manufacturers	N.D. Edwards, Gloves, Mittens, Furs, etc.

(Only those names were included here who lived in the Woodworth area of Sections 10 & 15.)

1882 Gottfred August Wienke came to Kenosha County directly from Pommerania, Germany. He came with his wife Wilhelmine Fromholtz whom he married in 1872. His family consisted of four children: Frank, Anna, Fred and Emma. This family has had five continuous generations living in Woodworth from 1882 until this present time, although they are not living on the same land.

1882 John F. Lane married Miss Sarah Smith. Following his marriage he resided in Kenosha for a short time, then moved to Woodworth where he bought the property known as the Lane Homestead. He lived in Woodworth over 40 years. The land was owned in order by Simon Lovett 1850, Theodore Woodworth 1850-1870, Shepard's 1870-1909, John Lane 1909 until his death in 1938. It was purchased shortly after that by Sam S. Sorenson who lived there and owned and operated the Sam S. Sorenson Sand and Gravel Co., for many years. (See map page 77, location No. 2.)

1884 The Robert F. Roberts home was built in 1884 according to an article in the Kenosha News. This home stands in Woodworth much as it was when it was first constructed. (Pictured below.) \*(8)

1862-1937 FRANK W. ROBERTS was born in Racine in 1862 but from the age of 4 years lived continuously on the home farm in Woodworth. He was the only surviving child of Robert F. Roberts. He attended common schools until the age of 17 years and then concentrated his efforts upon farming. He advanced to cultivating a farm of more than 300 acres in addition to which he conducted a hardware store and also dealt in lumber and feed. He began this business about 1907.

Frank married Maude Stewart Benedict and they only had one son, Charles Addison Roberts. In March of 1919, Charles at the age of 12 and Mrs. Roberts died of Scarlet Fever. This left no continuing family heir to the Roberts' property. The property was sold to David Thurston in 1940, Jeske & Berg in 1948, James Archambault in 1951, James Almond and now is owned by C & W Land & Livestock Corp.



1894 The August Zuehlsdorf family came to Woodworth and worked for R. Roberts until 1914. His son Gus worked for Frank W. Roberts until Roberts' death in 1939. The family lived for many years in the home known as the "South Farm" which was the original land owned by John C. Roberts.

1894 SCALE AND STOCKYARDS ADDED TO WOODWORTH RAILROAD STATION

*Kenosha News 1894: "We have at last been weighed on the new scale put in by the Railway Company for the benefit of the public at this place. We did not weigh a ton but we feel big with pride to know that a stockyard will be built here in Spring. Due credit is given the Devlin Bros. for the active part they have taken to bring about these improvements."*

1895 SMITH CITY AND COUNTY DIRECTORY

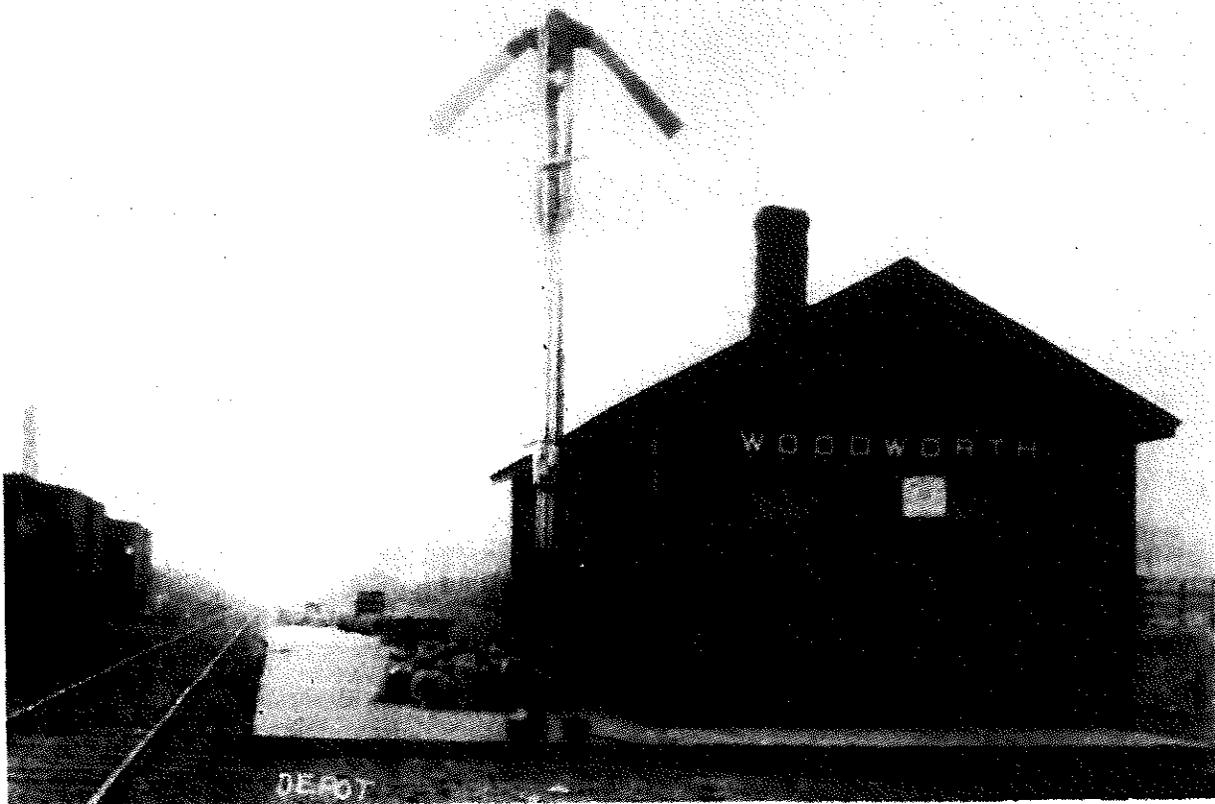
Castle, Jas.	156 Acres	Section 15
Curtiss, Clarence		Section 15
Devlin, Arthur (Devlin Bros.)		Section 15
Devlin Bros. Creamery	520 Acres	Section 15
Devlin, Mrs. Mary, Widow P.		Section 15
Devlin, Lawrence (Devlin Bros.)		Section 15
Edwards, Jay	4 Acres	Section 10
Edwards, Nelson D.	120 Acres	Section 10
Firchow, William	80 Acres	Section 10
Johnson, Chris	3 Acres	Section 10
Johnson, Hans	3 Acres	Section 10
Joslyn, Mrs. Eliza (Widow Chandler)	80 Acres	Section 10
Roberts, F.W. (Roberts & Son)		Section 10
Roberts, R.F. (Roberts & Son)	180 Acres	Section 10
Roberts, R.F. & Son		Section 10
Shepard, C.C.	140 Acres	Section 10
Shepard, Ed		Section 10
Vincent, Bert	271 Acres	Section 10
Vincent, O.G.	79 Acres	Section 10
Winke, William	102 Acres	Section 15

(Only the names of those who lived in Sections 10 & 15 are included in this list of names as they are those who lived in the area of the Village of Woodworth. Actually many others in the surrounding area claimed Woodworth as their address and received their mail through the Post Office in Woodworth.)

1896 Jay B. Edwards married Lillian H. Durell. Jay Edwards taught school for a number of years before he engaged in farming. He lived for several years on Hwy. 50 across from the Woodworth School. (Map page 77, Location No. 3.) This land was owned by Roswell Bourne 1858-1878, Lemuel Spencer 1878-2886, Edwin Shepard 1886, Rachel Spencer 1886, Jay B. Edwards 1893-1924, Martin Packman 1924.

The Jay B. Edwards' moved to the Edwards' Homestead and farmed for many years. He was a supervisor and treasurer-clerk of the Township of Bristol and active in many other organizations.

### WOODWORTH STATION DEPOT

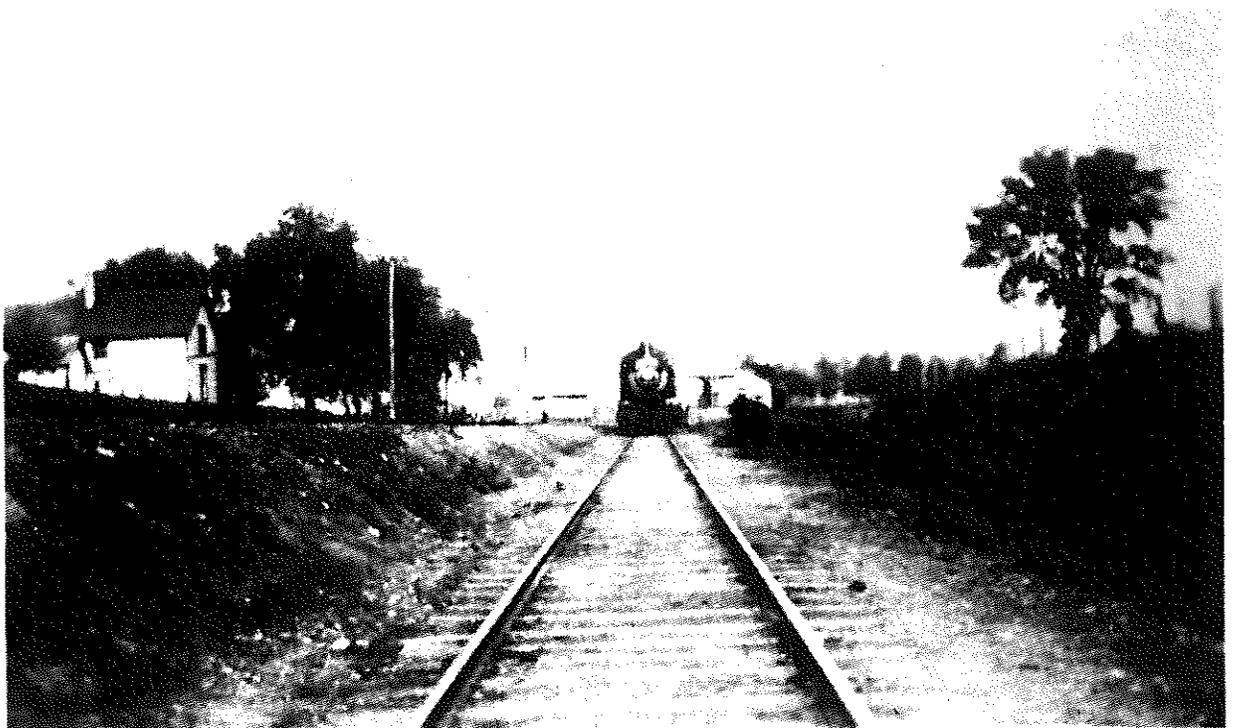


*PICTURE COURTESY OF ESTHER ZUEHLSDORF ADAMSON. \*(8)*

The land for the Railroad was acquired from the land owners in Section 10 of Bristol Township in 1856. The purchase was by the Kenosha and Beloit Railroad Company which later became part of the Chicago North Western Railroad Company. The line was completed from Kenosha to Genoa City by 1862 and continued in operation until the late 1930's. Pictured by the Station building is the train order signal for manual block.

In 1875, The Station Agent was J.C. Roberts. Some of the other Station Agents were Bill Livesy, Guy Yates, Clarence King (brother of Mrs. Gus Lantz), and Ray Shumway.

TRAIN STOPPED AT THE WOODWORTH STATION DEPOT



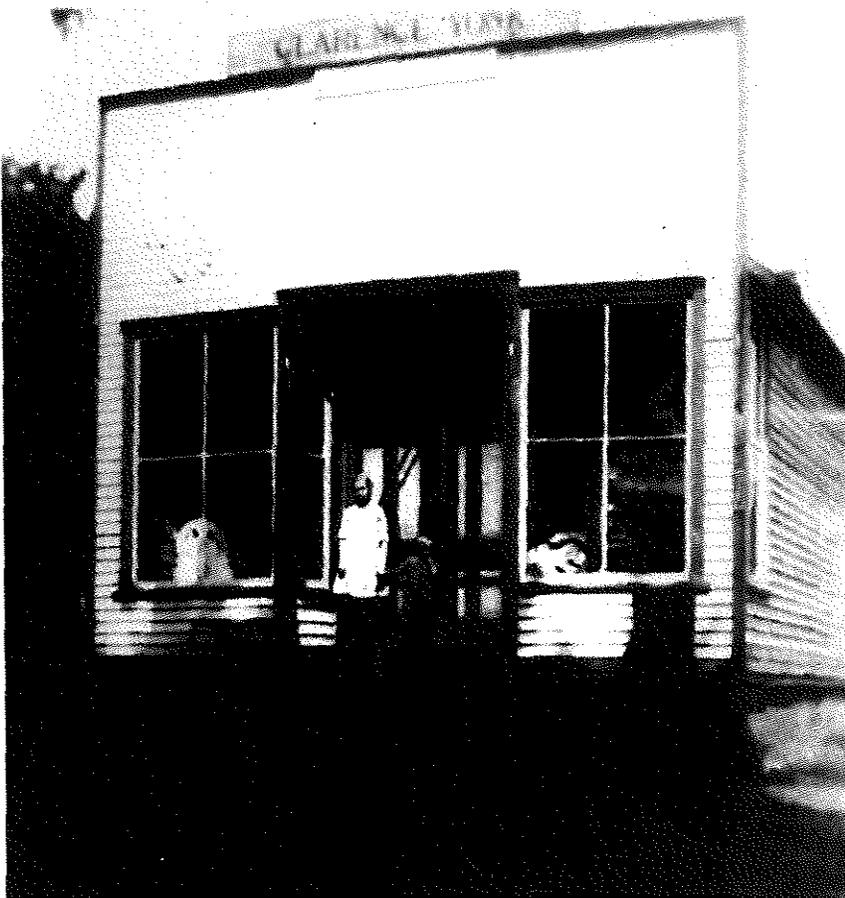
*PICTURE COURTESY OF MRS. ELMER BENEDICT.*

The 917 Train was called the Borden Milk Train and this train came through Bristol and Woodworth going to Kenosha in the morning. There was a milk platform at each place for loading the milk which was shipped in 8 gallon cans. This train also carried passengers and the children that wanted to go to High School in Kenosha.

The 905 Train came through going west in the evening and unloaded empty milk cans and also bringing the children home at night. Pupils from as far as Genoa Junction went to school on this train.

On the extreme left of this picture is the home of Clarence Yonk. To the immediate left of the engine is the Renz Milk Factory. To the right of the engine is the depot and immediately in front of the depot is the platform from which the milk cans were loaded.

YONK GENERAL STORE    WOODWORTH POST OFFICE



Clarence came to Woodworth in 1904. He owned and operated the Woodworth General Store for many years. He married Anna Caroline Linquist in 1893 and he farmed for about 11 years before coming to Woodworth. Mrs. Yonk was appointed Postmistress in 1917. She was killed in an auto accident in 1929. Shortly after that, Esther Clausen was appointed Postmistress and remained in that position 42 years until her retirement in 1973. Clarence Yonk passed away in 1937. Esther Clausen then became the new proprietor of the store.

The Post Office remains in the same building today and the Postmaster is Clarence Clausen. The General Store has not been in operation for many years.

*PICTURE COURTESY OF BYRON GILLMORE, Son-in-law of Clarence Yonk.*

Much of the Woodworth area is served by Rural Mail Delivery through Bristol but about 80 people still receive their mail through the Post Office. It also serves the New Tribes Mission as the place their publications are mailed through.

### BLACKSMITH SHOP OWNED BY GUS LANTZ - WOODWORTH



The blacksmith shop was built by Frank W. Roberts on the east side of MB. He brought Gus Lantz from Salem to run the shop for him.

This picture shows the shop on the west side of MB where it was moved when the property where it had previously stood was sold to the Serum Company.

Gus Lantz was born in Sewden in 1870 and came to this country at the age of 19. He came to Woodworth in 1910 and ran the blacksmith shop until he retired. He died in 1955.

This picture is the west end of the shop and the man on the left is Gus Lantz. This building was torn down a few years ago after many years of vacancy. The home is still on the property and owned by Helen Anderson.

1915 The land on which the blacksmith shop had previously stood was sold to the U.S. Serum Company. They made hog Cholera Serum for 1½ years and were idle one year.

#### U.S. SERUM COMPANY LOCATED AT WOODWORTH

- 1915 Charles Rice was responsible for the location of the Serum Plant in Woodworth. Mr. Rice owned a farm on Hwy. 50, Section 11 from around 1903. He lived in Chicago and spent his weekends at the farm.

Mr. Rice owned and operated Rice Brothers at the Chicago Stockyards and for eight years was President of the Chicago Livestock Exchange and for two years was President of the National Livestock Exchange of the United States.

At this time, there was an epidemic of Hog Cholera and they needed a place to make serum to inoculate the hogs. The Illinois Legislature passed a law requiring all hogs to be inoculated before they came into the Chicago Stockyards. As a result, they sent a man out to purchase the first suitable property across the state line. Mr. Rice being familiar here and also a friend of Roberts was influential in choosing this property for the "United States Serum Company". This location filled the requirements for the biological and pharmaceutical plant in that it had to be near good railroad facilities; it needed available animals for experimental purposes and therefore had to be well out in the country; and it would be advantageous to be near the good farming areas of Wisconsin where much of the hog cholera serum was to be used.

Mr. Rice at one time was one of the largest landowners in Kenosha County with more than 1,000 acres under his control. His holdings included a large "spread" on the south side of Hwy. 50 where he conducted a cattle feeder operation. He formerly owned a large tract surrounding Lake Shangri-la. He once owned the land now occupied by the Lothe showplace where prize-winning Holstein cattle are bred. Mr. Rice passed away in 1960.

- 1920 The original founders sold the company to 40 Chicago physicians who organized the U.S. Standard Products Company for the purpose of making and selling antitoxin and toxin-antitoxin. These physicians planned to sell their serum to the State of Illinois, from which they had obtained a contract to supply the state with diphtheria antitoxin. Toxin-antitoxin at that time was the immunizing agent used in the prevention of diphtheria.
- 1920- During this time, the company manufactured biologicals and serums for sale  
1929 to health departments of local states and communities. These consisted largely of two serums; toxin and antitoxin. The sales of the company increased moderately but no new buildings were added. The company remained rather unprogressive from a businessman's point of view.
- 1929 At this time they began to manufacture a small pox vaccine, which was obtained from treated calves, which were the property of the company. It was in 1928, Coleman was elected president of the company. Other officers were Dr. H.K. Nichols, vice president; and C.T. Conway, secretary-treasurer. Floyd H. Eggert, a bacteriologist, joined the company shortly after Coleman came.

In 1929 the firm only had 12 or 14 employees and in 1947 it had over 100 employees.

U. S. STANDARD PRODUCT COMPANY - WOODWORTH



*Pictured here is the main building of the U.S. Standard Product Co. \*(14)*

1932 Due to the more aggressive business leadership of the firm, they began to manufacture a few pharmaceuticals, glandular products, liver extract tablets, elixirs (liquids), vitamins, pollen extracts, etc. These were sold through retail drug stores, hospitals and physicians.

During the period of the 1930's, the company continued its expansion both in the field of new products and with new buildings which were added to the original factory in Woodworth.

A new building addition was added almost every two years from the period of 1930 to 1940. By 1947, the company extended to 70,000 feet of space as the demand for its products grew throughout the country. \*(6)

*U.S. STANDARD PRODUCTS COMPANY OFFICE BUILDING - WOODWORTH  
This building was one of the original buildings built. It had dormitory rooms  
for some of the workers in the back part of it. Later this building was used to  
house three families of employees. \*(8)*

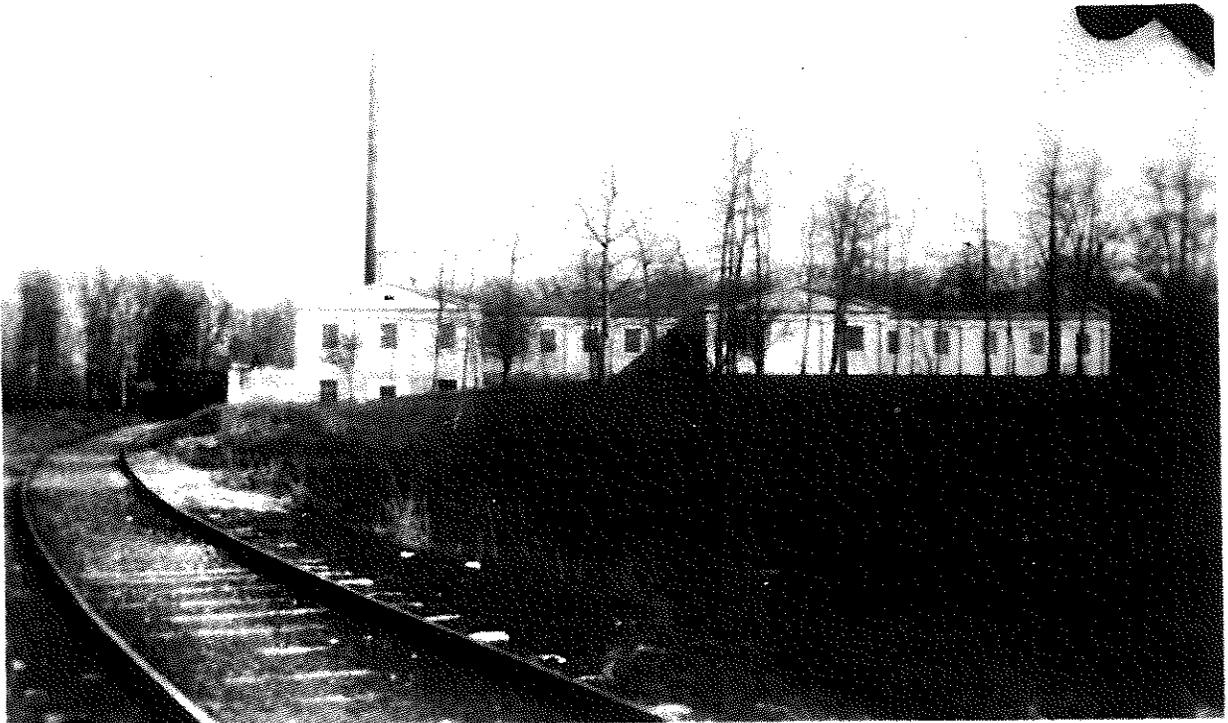


1947 The drug firm maintained shipping depots in Columbus, Ohio; Chicago and Dallas, Texas. At these centers, it maintained a stockpile of drug supplies.

The buildings at Woodworth, Wisconsin were all built around the original plant. Part of the structure is three stories high. It contained these special units: Bacteriological laboratory, Tablet unit, Hormone unit, Elixir unit, Ampule solution unit (injectibles), and small pox unit. Most of the company research is done at the Southwest Medical College in Dallas, Texas.

The drug company manufactured about 15 different products. These ranged all the way from a simple iodine tablet to an estrogenic hormone. The latter is made from pregnant mare's urine and is used for the treatment during the menopause and after. Some of the products include the following: Vitamin B complex, Poison Ivy Extract (Hypodermic), Liver extracts, Hay-Fever diagnostics, Vaccines for diseases like influenza, Sulphur therapy for arthritis. \*(6)

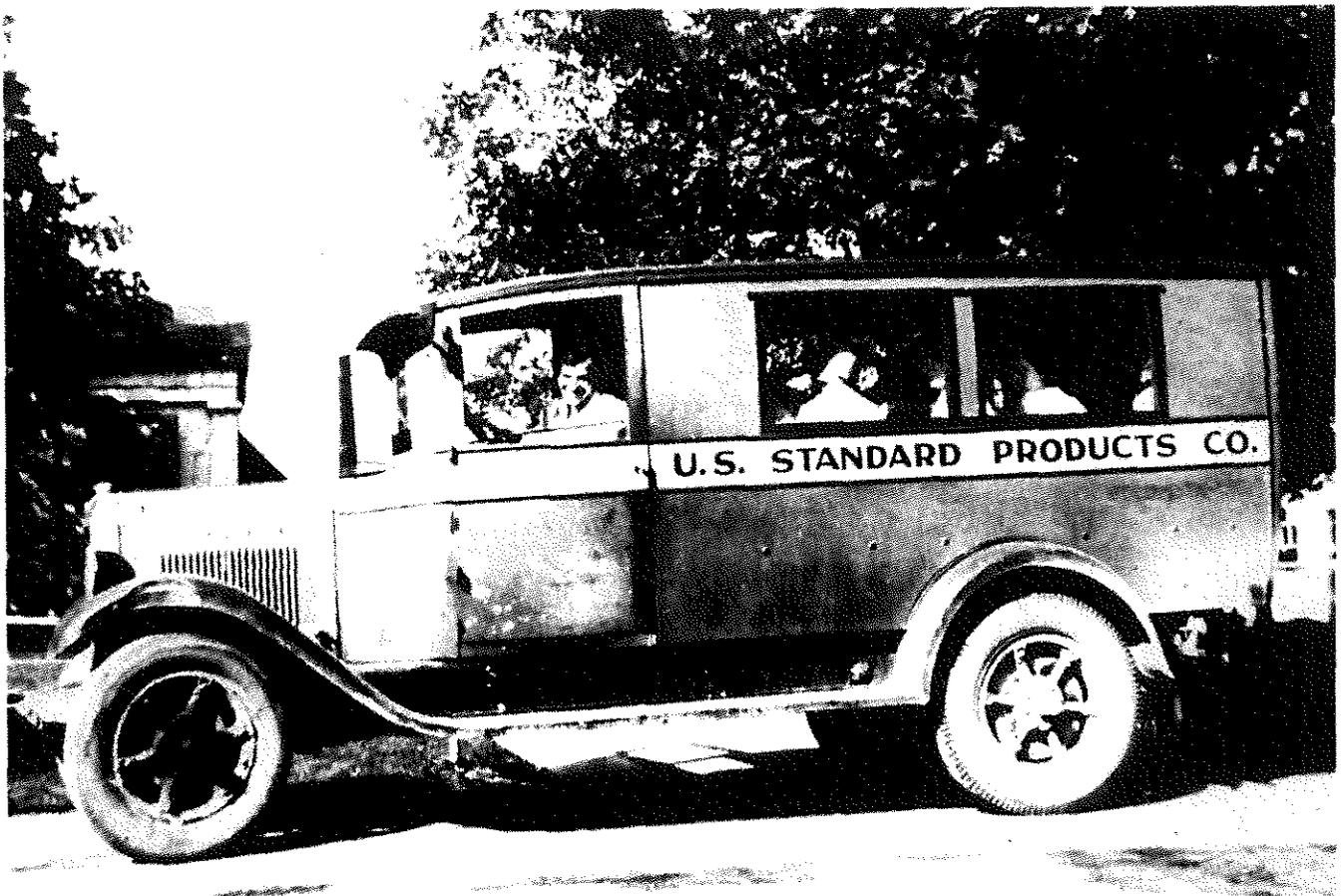
*FACTORY BUILDING AT U.S. STANDARD PRODUCTS COMPANY. This shows some of the expansion that took place at the firm as the company increased in size.*



1948 The U.S. Standard Products Company, Woodworth, is transferring all its operations to Mt. Prospect, Illinois. It presently employs 58 persons. The new home of the company will be a brand new, though smaller, laboratory. The buildings at Woodworth will be sold. One reason for the shift to Illinois is that the company's new program does not require as much space. Back when the company was making serums, as many as 350 horses were housed at the plant. New antibiotic drugs made the serums nearly obsolete, and their manufacture was discontinued. Now U.S. Standard Products concentrates on such things as hormones. Many of the employees have been with the company as much as 25-30 years.

Some of the company's key personnel will be shifted to the Illinois plant. Mt. Prospect is about 40 miles from Woodworth. The firm is beginning a new national sales expansion program. Robert J. Coleman, Jr. will continue with the firm in an executive capacity. \*(6)

*"THE OLD BUS" OF THE U.S. STANDARD PRODUCTS COMPANY*

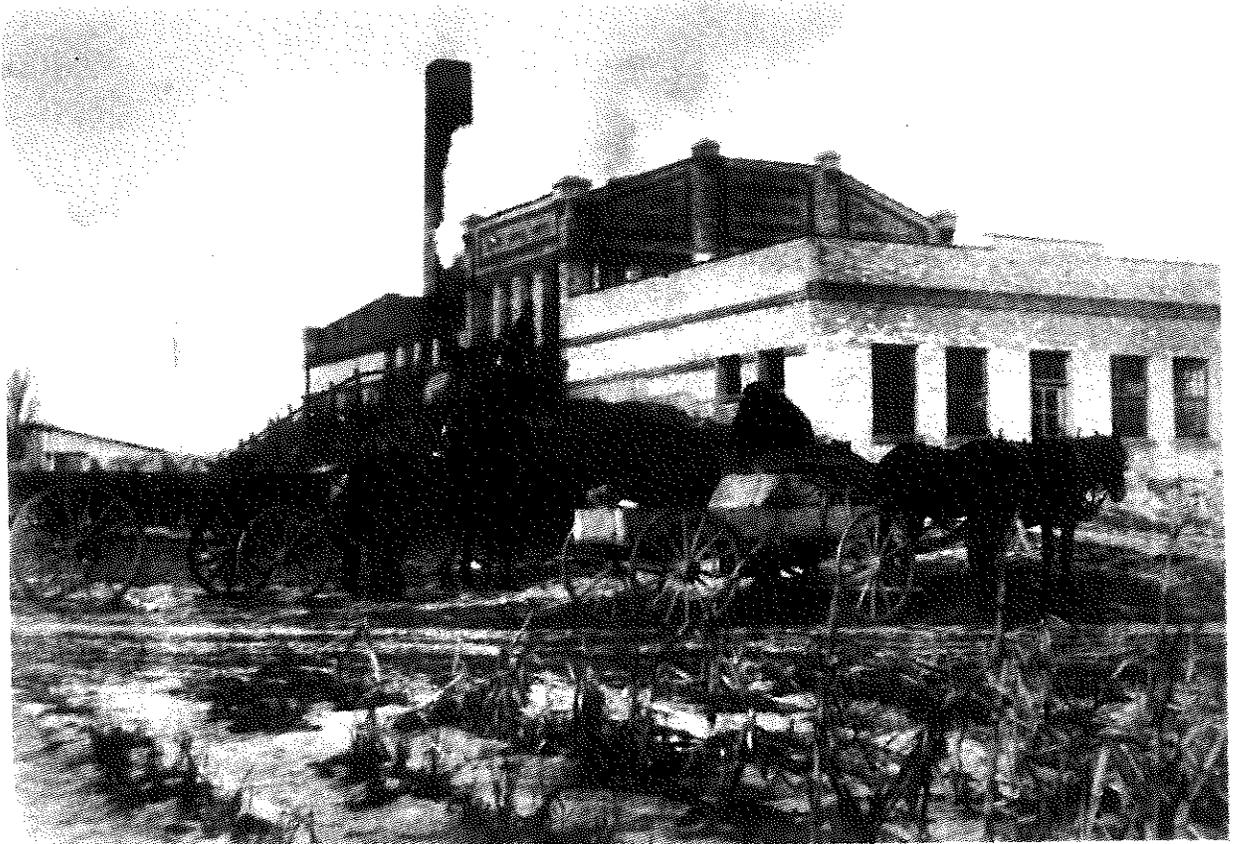


The history of this company and the memories of those who were employed there for many years would not be complete without the picture of the old bus. Untold numbers of people in this community were employed here for at least a time of their life and many happy memories are held by them of the times they rode to and from work on this old bus. Another bus finally replaced this one.

- 1956 New Tribes Mission purchased the former property of the U.S. Standard Products Company. It is the office of their international business and also the printing press of many of their publications. One of their publications is known as BROWN GOLD.

The property is owned and operated by this organization to this date and many families are housed at this location.

*RENZ CREAMERY - WOODWORTH, BRISTOL TOWNSHIP*



*Picture courtesy of Esther Zuehlsdorf Adamson.*

The land for this creamery was purchased from Mary Roberts by Theodore Renz in the year 1910 and the building was probably built about that time. Mr. Renz lived in Chicago and bought milk from the farmers in this area. The milk was brought by wagon and unloaded at the upper level of this building. The front part of the building was added at a later date. This creamery was used from the time it was built until about 1922 when it closed.

The building sat idle for some time and was then purchased by Harry Hansen around 1931 and was known as the Harry Hansen, Inc. Feed and Implement Company. He was a dealer for the "Oliver Tractor and Implement Company". This building was torn down some years ago and nothing remains on this property now owned by Rick Varvil.

In later years, Harry Hansen built a new building on Hwy. 50 and carried on the feed, tractor and implement business, etc. until his death in 1958. The building is now the home of the Quality Control Egg Farm.

1915 CHEESE FACTORY IN WOODWORTH



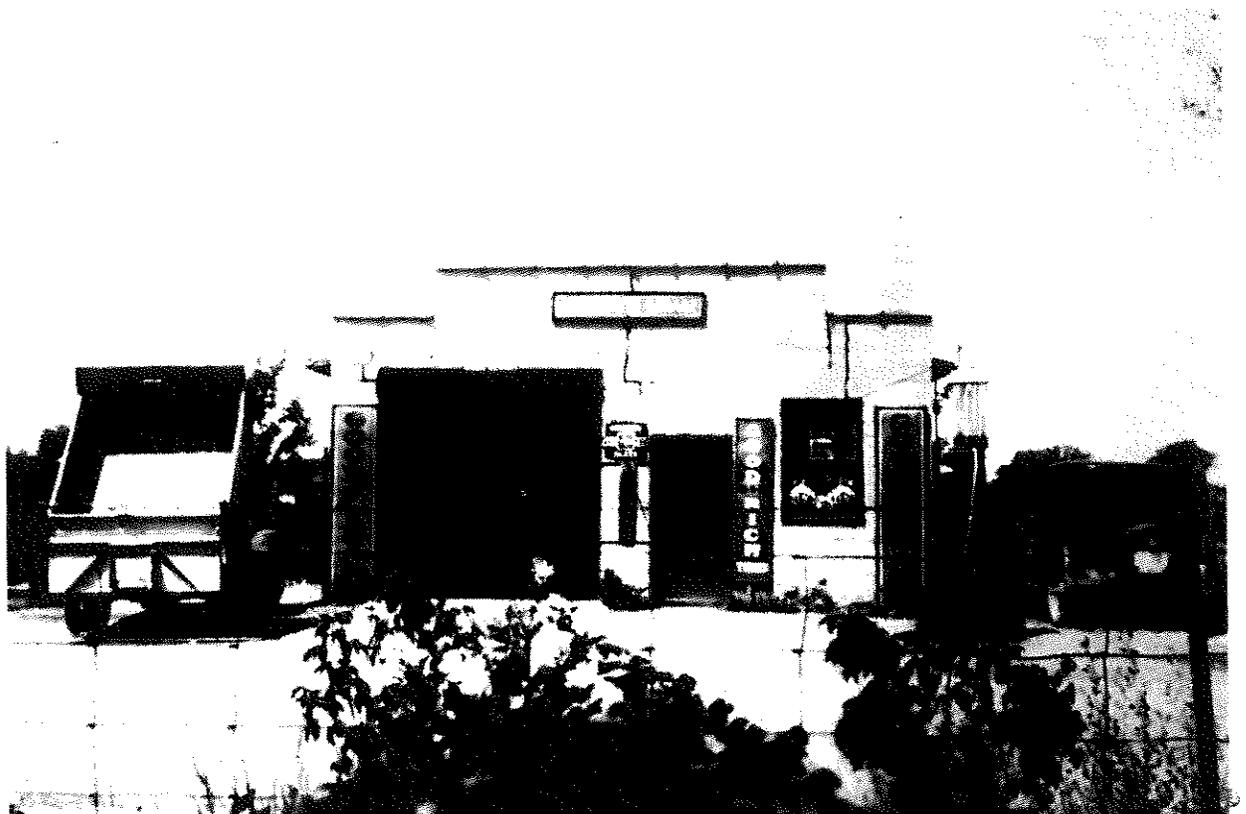
The farmers of this area bought shares in this business and put up a building to serve as a cheese factory. The land for this building was purchased from Frank W. Roberts by the Woodworth Farmer's Creamery Company in 1915. It was put up to fight the Renz Factory. Schultz ran the cheese factory 1917-1918. The farmers were told the cheese had to remain there to age for a year. When they came to claim their cheese it was gone and also the money.

This factory only was in business for one or two years. The building was also used as a boarding place for the workers who worked on Hwy. 50 when it was being paved.

The land went back to Frank W. Roberts in 1936 and it was purchased by Clarence Glasman that same year. The well house and well located at this site are still in use and serve several families with water to this day. The land is owned by James Engberg and wife Mable Glasman Engberg.

When the cheese factory building was torn down, the materials were used to build the George Lake tavern building.

1918- WOODWORTH GARAGE OBSERVED 50 YEARS IN BUSINESS  
1968

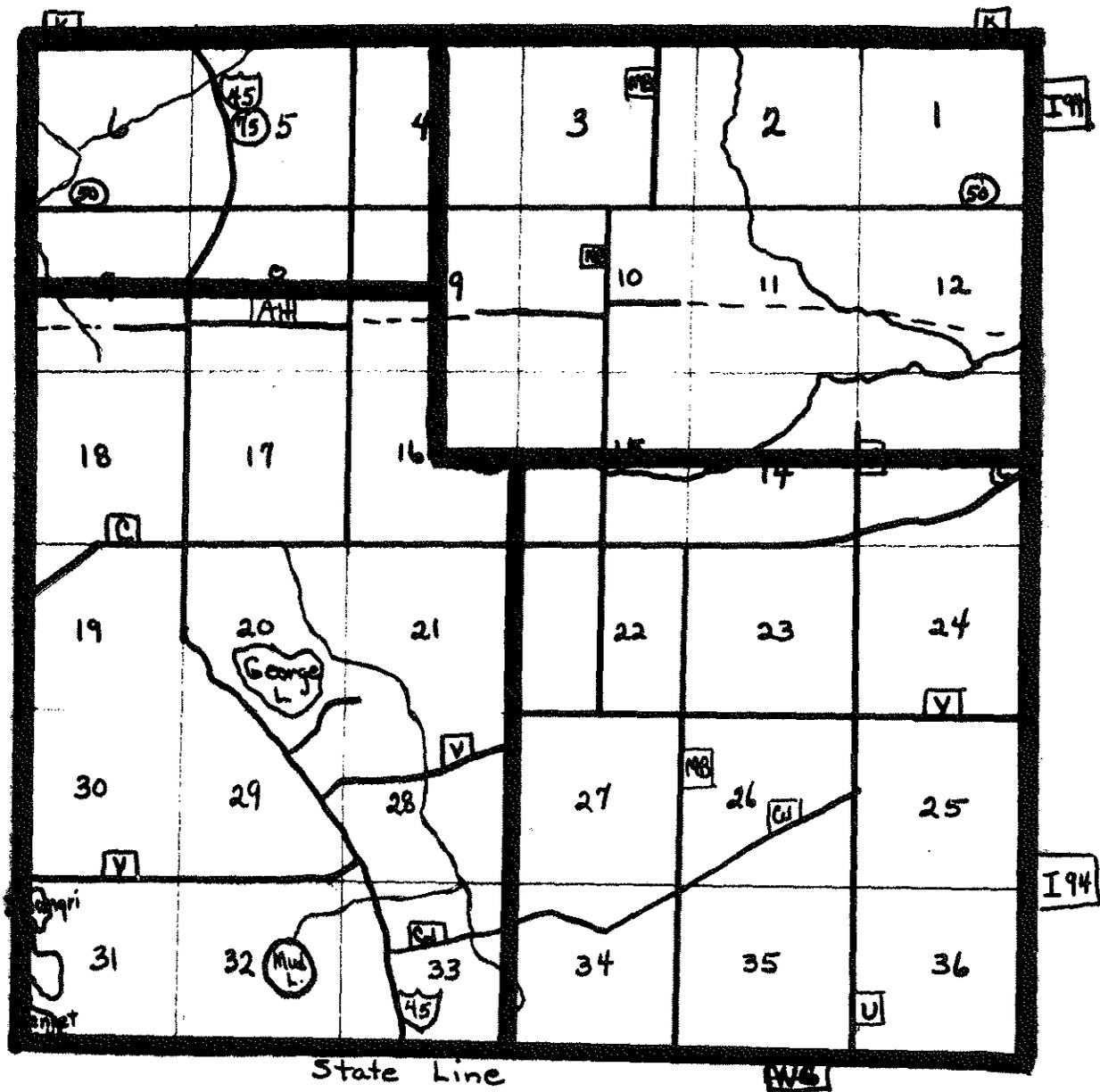


1918 Clarence Glasman spent most of his life in the village of Woodworth. With the coming of the automobile and motorized machinery, there also came the need for repairs, etc. Clarence worked as night watchman at the U.S. Standard Products Company, unloaded milk at the creamery and in the afternoon repaired automobiles, etc. In 1920 he purchased a piece of land with a barn on it. He tore the old barn down and built a wooden garage. When the milk factory closed he had to depend upon his repair business to make a living. As work increased, he built the cement block garage pictured above. This was built in the early 1920's and this part of the garage remains much as it was then. In later years, an addition was added to the south of this building and also to the rear of the building.

1968 In 1968, Clarence observed 50 years of being in the garage business. His son, David had helped in the business for several years and when Clarence passed away in 1970, David took over the business. The business today is still in existence and is owned and operated by David Glasman.

# SCHOOL HISTORY

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP - MAY 28, 1842



## SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

Ira Pierce  
 Philander Judson  
 Sereno S. Fowler

Met at the home of Levi Grant.

District No. 1 - Lower Left

District No. 2 - Upper Right

District No. 3 - Upper Left

District No. 4 - Lower Right

### SCHOOL HISTORY OF BRISTOL

- 1835 Bristol history dates back to 1835 when Wm. Higgins made the first land claim on the property now owned by Charles Thompson and occupied by the Nilsens.
- 1837 School history started in 1837, when the first "Little Red School" was built in the area opposite the Roland Benedict farm driveway on D about a mile and a quarter south of Hwy. 50. In 1837, Sereno S. Fowler and his wife, Lemira Tarbell Fowler arrived on the scene. Both were teachers, he a graduate from Harvard and she from a select young ladies school in Southampton, Mass. They soon established a private school in a part of their home. Many students were attracted and to take care of the growing business, the Fowlers built for their school the first frame house in Bristol. This building was on the north side of present Hwy. 50 on the land Fowler claimed west of Woodworth. This later became the Kellogg Tavern or the "Tarbell Place" known to you today as the Quality Controlled Egg Farm. (See pages 6, 7 and 28 for pictures and information.) Due to failing health, Mr. Fowler was compelled to close down the school in 1847. The Fowlers were among the organizers of the Bristol Lyceum in 1839 and the first library.
- 1842 Common school records start on May 16, 1842 when the commissioners met at the home of S.S. Fowler and examined Miss Jane Burgess and found her "qualified according to law for a school teacher".
- 1842 On May 28, 1842, the school commissioners, Ira Pierce, Philander Judson and Sereno S. Fowler met at the home of Levi Grant and divided the town into four districts. (See map on the previous page.)

This neat simple division was short-lived as by March 24, 1849, fourteen districts are identified in the township. This was a long time before cars or buses, so of need the schools were close to the kids. Today we think nothing of transporting our students miles to their buildings.

- 1844 Apportionment of school money for year 1844 was \$66.00. This was distributed in the following way:

	Dist. No. 1	44 schloars	\$23.40
Dist	Dist. No. 2	19 scholars	10.12
	Dist. No. 3	30 scholars	15.97
	Dist. No. 4	19 scholars	10.12
	Dist. No. 8	12 scholars	6.39

- 1849 On April 3, 1849, Samuel Leonard was elected the first Superintendent of the common schools of the Town of Bristol. There were fourteen districts of the common schools of the Town of Bristol, (see map on page 103), ten of which were regularly organized and reporting the number of children over age four and under twenty years residing in the district. The following are the records of September 1, 1849:

District No. 1: 27 Male & 21 Female for a total of 48. The district received

\$16.21 from the town. Orthography, reading, grammar, geography, arithmetic, philosophy and algebra were taught.

District No. 2: They had 40 evenly divided male and female and received \$16.32 from the town. \$150.00 was raised by tax for building a school house.

District No. 3: Total pupils were 66: 41 being male and 25 female. School was kept for seven months with three months taught by a male teacher with wages of \$42.00 and four months by a female teacher with wages of \$28.00. Public money from the town was \$24.00.

District No. 4: 44 pupils, 17 male and 27 female. Six months of school was taught by a female teacher.

District No. 5: 50 pupils, 28 male and 22 female. Three months school was held, wages being \$1.50 a week for total of \$18.00

District No. 6: Offered no report.

District No. 7: 20 pupils, 7 male and 13 female. Lois Wilson taught for \$1.25 a week, then Elisa Smith took over at \$1.00 a week.

District No. 8: 60 pupils, 35 male and 25 female.

District No. 10: 31 pupils, 20 male and 11 female. Two months were taught by a male at \$12.00 and sixteen weeks by a female at \$1.50 a week.

District No. 13: 34 pupils with 16 male and 18 female. School was taught six and a half months during the year. That district received \$18.30 from the town.

District No. 11: 19 pupils, 12 male and 7 female. Three months of school were taught by a female teacher at \$1.23 and three months by "a male approved and qualified at \$18.00 per month".

These fourteen districts underwent innumerable changes. Reasons are not mentioned in the record, but changes took place often by act of the superintendent or commissioners from petitions or gentlemen agreements.

Historical tracing of education in this district goes back to 1842 when there were four school districts; then to 1859 when there were 14 school districts: shortly after this period of time, these were reduced to 10 districts and in 1934 we find these 10 listed as the following:

No. 1	South Bristol
No. 2	North Bristol
No. 5	Woodworth
No. 6	Salem
No. 8	Maple Ridge
No. 9	Walker
No. 10	Newbury
No. 11	Hazel Dell
No. 12	Marsh
No. 13	Pikeville

*EXCERPTS FROM TEACHER CONTRACTS ON FILE IN THE SCHOOL VAULT:*

*March 29, Miss Doris Ganzlin nine months at \$135.00 per month to "teach, govern, and conduct common school of said district to best of her ability, keep register of daily attendance and studies of each pupil belonging to school and such other records as district board may require, make such reports as are required by law and endeavor to preserve in good condition and order the school house, grounds, furniture apparatus and such other district property as may come under the immediate supervision of said teacher." On Sept. 2, 1930, Miss Ganzlin contracted at \$140.00 per month.*

Many from Bristol remember Miss Jessie Bice. Her contracts are Sept. 2, 1929 - \$150.00 - Sept. 5, 1932 - \$145.00 - and Sept. 4, 1933 - \$120.00. This reflects the effects of the depression. Miss Janel Kreiman had the primary room for \$100.00 on Sept. 5, 1932 with "board to be responsible for janitor work and janitor will build the fires". Miss Kreimans contract on Sept. 4, 1933 was for \$95.00.

#### DISTRICT NO. 1 SOUTH BRISTOL SCHOOL

The 1st district school was started at Knoxtons Corners. The log school house stood about 40 rods north of the school known as the "Kingman School". Wm. Ethridge was the first teacher. This school was on the north-west corner of Hwys. 45 & C, but when larger facilities were needed land was purchased a half mile east of that corner on C. This building was started in 1953 and added to in 1957.



*SOUTH BRISTOL SCHOOL 1925*

*From left to right: Back Row: Mary lamb, Harold Hollister, Edgar Foulke, Fred Krahn, Pearl Zuehlsdorf, Edna Risch, Sara Jones, Hazel MacIntyre, Katie Rausch. Middle Row: Eugene Krahn, Rausch, Oscar Wienke, Brosia Williams, Marjorie Zuehlsdorf, Alice Jones, Lucille Maaske, Etta Williams, Alce Krahn, Gladys McIntyre. Front Row: Rausch, Raymond Maaske, Vernon Wienke, Christensen, Alice Jones, Katie Jones.*

## 1893 SCHOOL LIBRARY

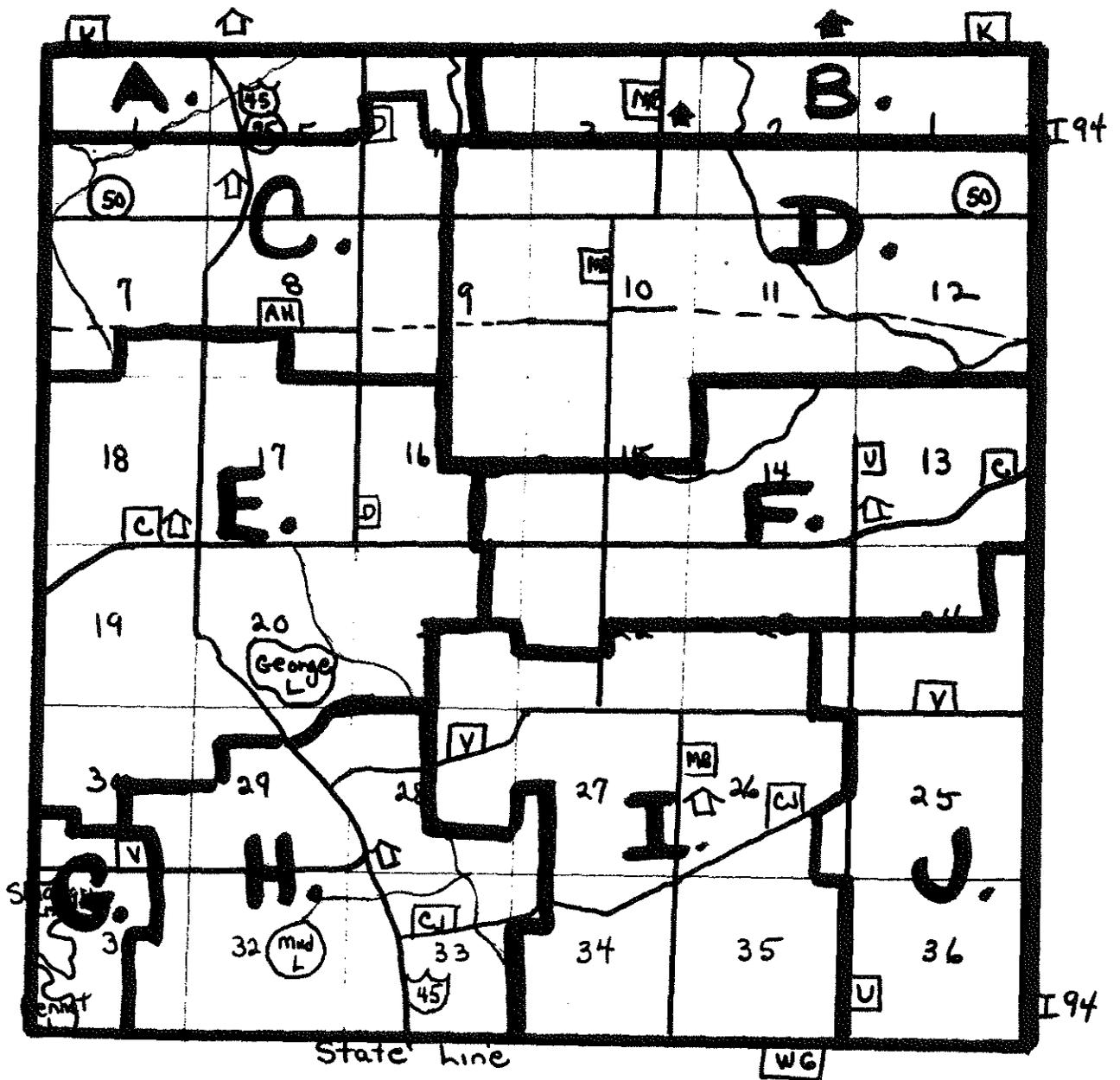
The first separation of school apportionments with amounts retained for library appears in the records Feb. 16, 1893. Each school had some books for a minimal library, including a dictionary and set of encyclopedias. This was later supplemented by the traveling county library mentioned in Bristol P.T.A. notes of Nov. 12, 1929. Following a talk on proposed free traveling library a motion was made and seconded that P.T.A. petition county board to vote for the library. Prior to this, mention is made Sept. 14, 1928 that Mrs. Witcher would transport this traveling library and on March 8, 1928 Mrs. Murdoch was to move the books. Quoted from a letter read to P.T.A.'s urging county library support is the following: *"Continue to support a county library plan thru series of book service stations and branches established in all villages, schools and cross road stores. A trained librarian would have charge of books at headquarters probably in the county court house. The book supply would be constantly shifting and any special book wanted would be sent from headquarters without extra cost. Such library service anticipated to cost the average family less per year than the price of good magazine."*

A traveling school library was put in use. Mr. Art Bohn, Mr. Ernest Kirchner and Pop Benson were some of the people who did this by bid contract with the county. Boxes were moved from school to school monthly, with supplements from the county Supt. of Schools office in the court house. This library was finally dispensed with in 1964 when a county Supt. of schools was no longer a part of the county educational system. The books were moved to the Salem Grade School, but when they needed that room for classes, the Hazel Dell building was rented for a year and the books moved there. The library dissolved when on June 30, 1967 the collection was sold to Paris and Brighton Schools.

Our district today has a good library including besides the usual reference and fiction books a good supply of film strips, tapes, charts and activity cards and professional materials for teacher usage. Families have the privilege of using the Gilbert Simmons or Antioch libraries for additional resource. The family pays \$10.00 and the township pays \$15.00 or the \$25.00 library card fee at either library. The township also contracts with the Graham library at Union Grove for the residents who prefer going north.

- 1916 The P.T.A. began when a meeting of parents and others interested in the welfare of the school came together.
- 1917 The entire school was organized into a Jr. Red Cross to do its best toward the winning of the war and every child was able to earn his pin by rolling trench bandages.
- 1919 The county nurse program began and in the scarlet fever epidemic of 1935-36 the pupils were immunized at the local serum plant, then located in Woodworth.

BRISTOL TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP 1934



- A MARSH SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 12
- B NEWBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 10
- C NORTH BRISTOL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 3
- D WOODWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5
- E SOUTH BRISTOL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1
- F WALKER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 9
- G SALEM JOINT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6
- H PIKEVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 13
- I HAZEL DELL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 11
- J MAPLE RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 8

## DISTRICT NO. 2 - NORTH BRISTOL SCHOOL



*NORTH BRISTOL GRADE SCHOOL ABOUT 1927*

The first North Bristol School building was on Nixon corner, presently Hwys. 45 & 50 where Bert Johnson's live today. The building was sold to Joe Rowbottom for a garage in 1905 and the usual tug-of-war took place when a new building was needed. The village wanted it located in the village and the rest wanted it left on the corner.

Finally, Mr. Whitcher offered to sell land mid-way and that is how the school was built where it stands today.

## DISTRICT NO. 5 - WOODWORTH SCHOOL DISTRICT

- 1849 November, Amasa C. Joslyn deeded  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre of land (S.W. corner of MB and S of Hwy. 50) to the school district. The original Woodworth School building was on the corner of A.C. Joslyn's place and the building burned in 1871. There was a division in the district. They wanted the school house moved to the east but it was voted down by Walden. The people compromised and put it where the school is now located. We boys were there on a Saturday afternoon playing ball and they claim we set fire to the building. The school burned down that night. \*(15)
- 1870 March: School Board: Selah Tarbell, Ashbell Upson, A.C. Joslyn. Teacher: Miss D.J. Schermerhorn, Participating children: Willie Packman, Josie Bush, Christina Woodworth, Clara Upson. Mr. Linus Woodworth made some appropriate remarks. \*(12)

DISTRICT NO. 5 WOODWORTH (CONTINUED)



1872 May: The School District deeded the land back to Amasa C. Joslyn. The school property location was moved to the N.E. corner of MB north of Hwy. 50 on the property of S.E. Tarbell, Section No. 3. The picture on this page is of the school building which was first on this property.

1894 October: Students at District No. 5: Mary, Annie, Tris and Andrew Hanson; Helen Gages; Grace Vincent; Roy Marsh; Amanda Schumuckel; Annie Krahn; Hugo and Roy Firchow; Wardie, Flora and Ruth Shields; Martin Packman and Maude Benedict. J.B. Edwards was the teacher. \* (6)

1925 October: Kenosha News: *The old school house in District No. 5 was sold at auction last Saturday night for \$290. Clarence Benedict of Kenosha was the highest bidder. The work on the new school building is progressing rapidly. It is expected it will be ready for occupancy by Dec. 1, 1925.* (This is the red brick building still used by the Bristol Consolidated School District for the lower grades.)

*PICTURE OF WOODWORTH SCHOOL BUILDING. THE GIRL IS MAUDE BENEDICT. PICTURE GIVEN BY MRS. ELMER BENEDICT.*

MEMORIES OF SCHOOL DAYS BY DORIS KIRCHNER MAGWITZ

*I attended Woodworth school for all eight grades, graduating in 1936. We walked to school in those days. There weren't so many cars on the road and they weren't so high powered. The trucks would be some farmer or the milk truck going to Kenosha. We did use a path on the south road bank from MB west to our driveway. (You recognize my home as the Plunkett farm immediately east of Bristol Oaks.) Mother could watch us the whole way to school from the kitchen*

*window, so she'd be assured of our safe arrival. We'd never expect to ride unless it was raining or we were having a blizzard and then we'd get a ride with the pony on the cutter or the team on the bob sled. (Roads didn't get plowed and salted on 24 hour schedule.) Teachers usually boarded in the district and it took a major disaster to call school. The one time I recall was for the big blizzard in Feb. 1936 and the scarlet fever epidemic. We carried our lunch and being the oldest, I also got the duty of carrying our jars of milk in my school bag. We'd eat our lunches quickly so we'd have a long noon hour for playing ball, pom-pom pull away, red-rover or annie-over the old wall from the old school house. We'd jump rope and do double-dutch. In winter we'd bring our skates and go to the pond north on MB to ice skate.*

*Schools were under the county superintendent and we and the teacher would shake in our shoes at a visit from Mr. Ihlenfeldt or Mr. Eggert and at least once a year the state inspector would come by.*

*We left our seats to go to class or to the library with permission. You went to the bathroom at recess and never whispered in school. We learned to read music in fifth grade and could sing alto or soprano parts as the teacher requested our row to do. Teachers could play piano, teach art or put us through our penmanship drills. Annual county music festivals were held at the pavilion at Paddock Lake where the beach house is now. County graduation exercises were held there, also. We observed annual Arbor Day and brought shovels and rakes and spent the afternoon cleaning up the yard. The day ended with a marsh-mellow roast over the fire that burned up the rakings. Trees were planted along the west fence at Woodworth while I attended. We had field meets with neighboring schools. We'd enter our best athletes in relay races, broad jumps, high jumps and the soft ball game. Having come through horse and buggy days to aero-space age without benefit of psychiatrists, psychologists or full-time school nurse, I don't feel my generation has been left totally educationally deprived.*

**DISTRICT NO. 9 WALKER SCHOOL PICTURED BELOW**



**DISTRICT NO. 9 WALKER SCHOOL (PICTURED ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE)**

The Walker School was on the north side of Hwy. C opposite the Richard Walker farm a bit west of Hwy. U. This building was used as a residence by Bill White before being torn down.

Changing education methods brought consolidations to the township, the first of these in 1944 with Walker and Maple Ridge joining to Woodworth. Busing and hot lunches were instituted at this time.

**DISTRICT NO. 8 MAPLE RIDGE SCHOOL (NO PICTURE AVAILABLE)**

This district was located in the south eastern part of Bristol Township in part of section 24, all of section 25 and all of section 36. Mrs. Rose Clark's home is on the site of the Maple Ridge School, but the old building is torn down.



**DISTRICT NO. 11 HAZEL DELL SCHOOL (PICTURED ABOVE)**

This school district is located in the southeastern part of the Township of Bristol. The school was first located across from E.J. Gillmore's, It was moved to the distance of a few rods of its present location. It was next moved to the north side of the road a few rods east of the cement bridge west of Pringles, and then to its present location. The brick school was built in 1926.

The school was named Hazel Dell in 1885 when Mr. Carpenter was teaching the school. They say that they were holding a Lyceum meeting at the school and the other teachers called it Hazel Dell because there was so much hazel brush growing around the school house.

SKETCH OF HAZEL DELL BRISTOL NOVEMBER 26, 1926 DISTRICT NO. 11

*We have met here tonite, to bid adieu  
To the old-fashioned school-house and welcome the new.  
The door and the treshhold is aged and worn  
For 'twas back in the sixty's, if I'm rightly informed,  
That it was moved here o'er highway and lawn  
For it formerly stood on the old Gates farm.*

*To it, then was added say twelve feet or more  
For children were increasing by the score.  
A fair damsel named Holbrook then paved the way  
For her niece's daughters, to follow her way,  
She was gentle, forbearing and carried a smile,  
Her pupils would run to meet her a mile.  
For youth is the time when impressions are made  
Whether right, or wrong, they are sure to remain.*

*The records will show you how many since then  
Have followed her footsteps, some women, some men.  
One who gained prominence, skill and fame  
Worked as a doctor, Ward was his name.  
Many as teachers have moved away,  
Their superiority, gains them wealth each day,  
Others, who left Hazel Dell and worked,  
Can prove by their business, that it pays not to shirk.  
Tho' some have gone to their home on high  
Their influence here, can never die.  
Only two are left in our township to tell  
Of varied experiences which they can recall.*

*How time has changed the now and the then,  
The things now enjoyed were unthought of then,  
The rod in those days was not spared as 'tis now,  
Takes them to tell it, the where, when and how.  
We now do agree that to win the goodwill is a far greater knack,  
Than using the rod, hair-pulling, or strap.*

*Those old wooden benches all painted sky blue  
Were filled to the limit with boys and girls too.  
Full forty or more were enrolled in the winter;  
The seatin' was cramped, but what did that matter;  
They were chuck full of glee, frolic and fun.  
So much so, that the teacher would oft make them run.*

*It used to be there, that eighth graders were grown  
To full sized women and also men.  
Diploma's were unsought for, just learning and fun  
Was all that they tho't of, in life's course to run.*

*New methods are here, they are here to stay:  
But which is better, the old or new way?  
The eighth grade pupil used to go 'till twenty,  
They now have diplomas at thirteen, or better.*

*The reading in those days and spelling so ran  
That 'twas done by hard study, not the hit or miss plan.  
Now, if the vision is clear, and the brain wide awake,  
The child knows all, just at one whack.*

*No alphabet used; he's too smart for that  
But he oft times says cow; when he ought to say rat.  
As time advanced, so did wages too  
A higher ambition sought thru and thru.  
A teacher was hired at fifty per month.  
He was a normal graduate and have him, they must.*

*Then came the winter of the big snow  
The fence tops and tree tops were all below:  
No roads were seen, not even a train,  
Until the 18th of April, the time for rain.  
The snow and the rain the bridges did take,  
So many were called hard tasks to relate.*

*The farmers got busy and hastened things through,  
For if any harvest, there wasn't much show.  
They say the old school-house will soon be away,  
But the things we learned there are here to stay.  
Backward, turn backward, Oh time in your flight,  
Make me a child again, just for tonite.*

*But why linger back and past mem'ry's unfold,  
Why not engage in new thot's, stead of old.  
Encourage the youth in this day and age  
To make of his life, one that any wise sage  
Would envy if he, the future could see.*

*The triumphs you win thru work and glee  
In baffling in-temperance, war and hate  
So it can be said - "Twas not too late".  
Just a word to the young folks, so gentle and gay,  
Who are so happy and joyous at the new modern way  
Of making a school-house convenient and warm  
It's made from the products of great-grandfather's farm.*

*Only thru hardships which they endured  
Would you be privileged your feet to keep warm.  
If they had not crossed the wide sea long ago  
You could not here this fine structure show.  
Their voices are silent, we hear them no more.  
Lets prepare to meet on the other shore.*

Written by Mrs. Frank Gethen

(Emma Holbrook - was Hattie Powell's Aunt, she was Mrs. Frank Hoyt. She was the first teacher when the school was moved to Hwy. MB. Her nieces daughter was the last one in the old school and the first in the new. Margaret Powell Gillmore)

In the spring of 1963, Pikeville, North and South Bristol districts, consolidated creating District No. 1, Town of Bristol (Bristol Consolidated). The district began operating as a new district in July on 1963 with the following board members: Grace Morris, Clerk; Stewart Herzog, Director; Duane Stiehr, Treasurer; Roland Benedict and Ray Bushing were members; creating the first five member school board in the district.

During the 1964-65 school year action within the district again took place. Agreement was reached through consolidation which dissolved the Woodworth and Hazel Dell districts. All of the area of the two districts in the town of Bristol joined Bristol Consolidated District No. 1. The area in the town of Pleasant Prairie became part of what is now Kenosha Unified District No. 1. This order became effective July 1, 1965. Board members of the new Bristol Consolidated District No. 1 were Myrtle Hollister, Clerk; Orville Winfield, Treasurer; Tom Krueger and Duane Stiehr, Members.

During the 1965-66 school year, three buildings were used to house 348 pupils in grades 1 through 8. By the 1966-67 year, the pupil population had increased to 399 making the existing facilities too small. The new building which was dedicated April 1968 is the result of that planning. In 1968, there were 427 students.

The Woodworth building has been retained for the primary grades, the South building for the intermediate grades, and the new building consists of 10 classrooms, a materials center, cafeteria, kitchen, multipurpose room and office space. Today we have a student body of 485 including kindergarten.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10 NEWBURY SCHOOL (PICTURED BELOW) 1905

*This school was located on 60th Street and is now the house of Arthur Johnsons.*



VALUATIONS OF DISTRICTS OF BRISTOL 1861

District No.	Valuation	Scholars	County	Town	State
1	78,618.	53	83.24	41.74	26.50
2	40,023.	32	50.25	21.25	16.00
3	51,670.	59	92.65	27.48	29.50
4	33,449.	26	40.84	17.76	13.00
5	42,127.	49	76.94	22.37	24.50
6	76.62	9	14.13	4.06	4.50
7	39,977.	26	40.84	21.23	13.00
8	37,685.	50	78.52	20.01	25.00
9	42,897.	45	70.66	22.77	22.50
10	21,269.	13	20.41	11.29	6.50
11	27,983	44	69.09	14.65	22.00
12	16,963.	14	21.98	9.00	7.00
13	30,582.	37	58.11	16.24	18.50
Totals	470,905.	457	717.66	250.00	228.50

This gave a valuation of \$1030.41 behind each student.

Today in District No. 1 we have an assessed valuation of \$60,510,780.00 or \$124,764.47 per student. The district tax levy for 1975 is \$586,539.85 or \$1209.36 per student. In addition to the levy the district receives \$113,870.00 in aids, aid to special education, trailer fees and interest. There are 21 regular and 6 part-time teachers, one administrator and one director of instruction, 4 janitors, 4 cooks and 2 helpers in the three kitchens used by the district, one regular and two part-time clerical help. Nine buses transport and shuttle children.

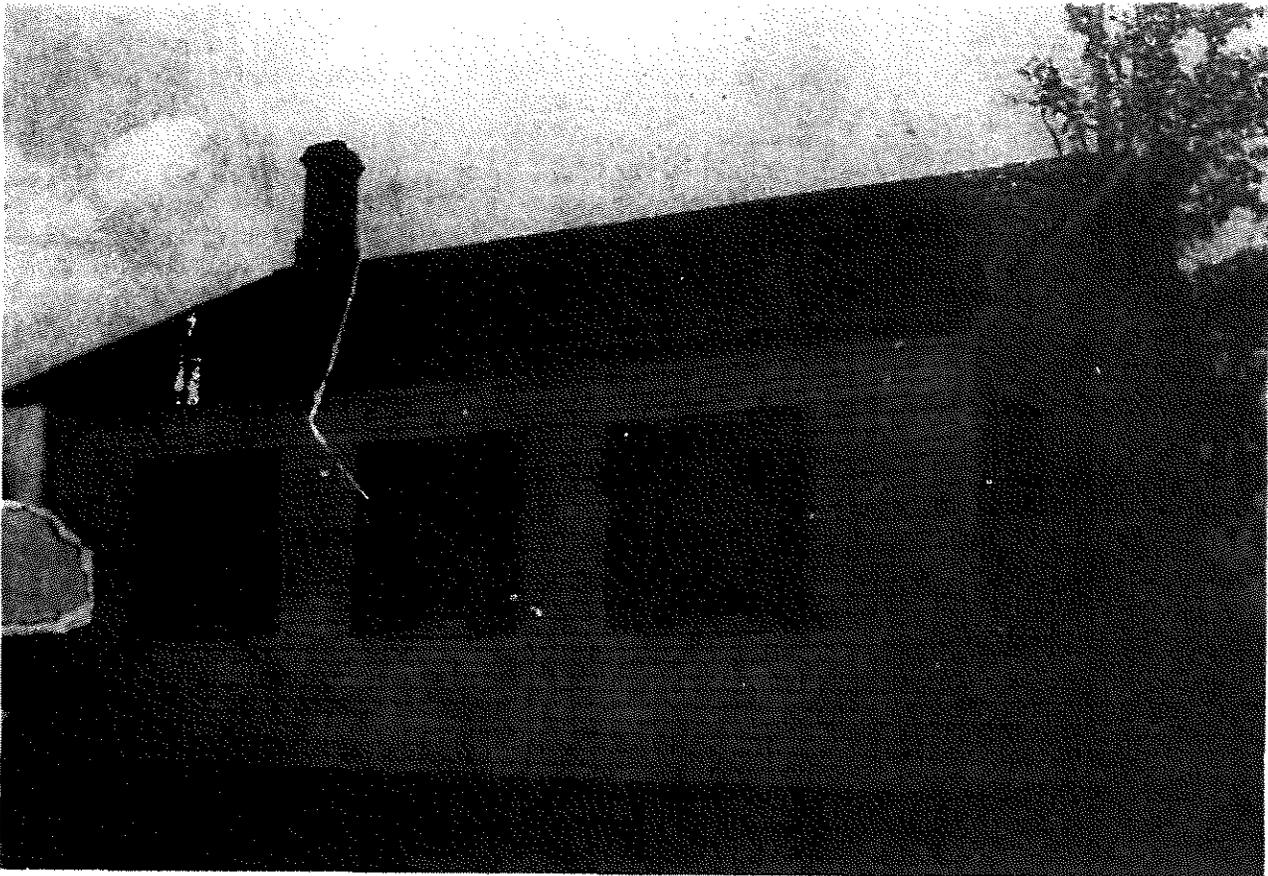
**DISTRICT NO. 12 MARSH SCHOOL**

*Pictured below is the last class at the Marsh School. The building is now the residence of Albert Klemko and it is located on Hwy. 45 just north of 60th Street.*



### PIKEVILLE SCHOOL HISTORY DISTRICT NO. 13

The original Pikeville School District No. 13 was at Pikeville Corners. The corner was named Pikeville, because of the three Pike brothers who had settled there. The school was on the farm known as the Howard Farm. The site was just across the road from the Tillotson residence. The Tillotson land was used for the playground. The school district at that time was a large one, too large for the children to walk to school. A meeting was called and decided to let Hazel Dell and South Bristol have part. A new school was to be built and Milo Britten offered the board a site on his farm. He deeded the land to the district in 1866. The old school was bought by Sam Tillotson for \$1800. and moved west from the corner and used for a Blacksmith Shop. The new school on the Britten site was built in 1866-67. The teachers did their own janitor work, being at the school early, building their own fires, and cleaning up after school hours for a wage of \$35.00 monthly. In 1938, when the state forced a more sanitary system, the school was remodeled at a cost of \$16,500. with a full basement, deep well and an oil furnace. On the school board at this time were Ellsworth Fox, Ray Winfield and Harry Tillotson. In 1963, the district was consolidated into the Bristol Unified District. The Pikeville School building is now the Red School Cafe.



## Church History Of Bristol Township

### SETTLERS ORGANIZED SEVERAL CHURCHES



WESLEY CHAPEL - 1938

1837 The first sermon preached in the area was at the funeral of a seven year old child, the daughter of Ira Phillips, who at that time lived east of the Herman Nielsen residence in a log cabin where a little clump of brush stands. The Rev. Abner Barlow preached on the words "But I say unto you brethren, the time is short". This was in the year 1837 and later that year he preached to fifty people at the home of A.B. Jackson when arrangements were made to have regular services every two weeks.

1842 The next year, A Methodist Society was formed. Asbury Chapel was built 1½ miles N.E. of the village in 1842, west of A.B. Jackson's home. In 1844, a society was organized and a church was built in 1857, south of the village of Bristol where the Hosmer Cemetery now stands. It was called Hosmer Chapel. The building was later torn down.

1837 The first "Meeting House" in the town of Bristol was known as Wesley Chapel on Walker's prairie. Before a church building was erected, services were held at different homes in the community. The religious organization was formed on March 7, 1837.

## 1837 HISTORY OF WESLEY CHAPEL (1976)

In the year of 1837, four churches were organized in the town of Bristol. The first meeting house in the town of Bristol was known as "Wesley Chapel on Walkers Prairie".

Before a church building was erected, services were held at different homes of of the community. There are records of them being held in the home of Abed Ward which at the time was a log house on the corner of the present U & U Hwys. The organization was from March 7, 1837. Father Sykes, a Circuit Rider, was the minister.

- 1852 The first Wesley Chapel building was located on the site where the present church stands. In a diary of Giles Holbrook, he first mentioned the chapel on May 30, 1852. The land for the building was donated by Abed M. Ward and his wife Sarah. The trustees at this time were D.O. Van Slacks, Edward Jones, Joseph Fellows and Ezra Conner. The deed for the property was drawn up and signed January 10, 1850 at 1:45 p.m. recorded in Vol. A of Deeds pages 543 and 544. Edward Jones, one of the members of the men who helped in the building of the church, settled one of the earliest claims in the neighborhood (1842).

When the church was ready to be dedicated some rough people of the community stoned the windows and broke everyone. The Ward's were grief stricken but Mrs. Ward hunted up a bolt of cloth called "factory" which was tacked over the broken windows so the ceremonies could be held as planned.

- 1873 There is no record of what exactly happened to the first building but it was probably torn down and replaced by a newer, larger one. The new one was erected in 1873. The name of the carpenter was Charles Matthews. The first windows of this church were donated by a Mrs. Howard of Chicago, a friend of "Aunt Burt" who lived on (Hwy. V) road south of the church. These windows were destroyed by the Powder Mill explosion in Pleasant Prairie, March 1911. They were replaced by the present windows. The horse sheds were also demolished at this time and were rebuilt by the men of the community. The basement was put under the church around 1902 by the men of the church who hired a mason to built the chimney.
- 1934 The old sheds were taken down in 1934 when additional land and an ornamental fence were donated to the church by Talford Powell.
- 1947 In 1947, a new kitchen with a Sunday School room above, was added to the church.

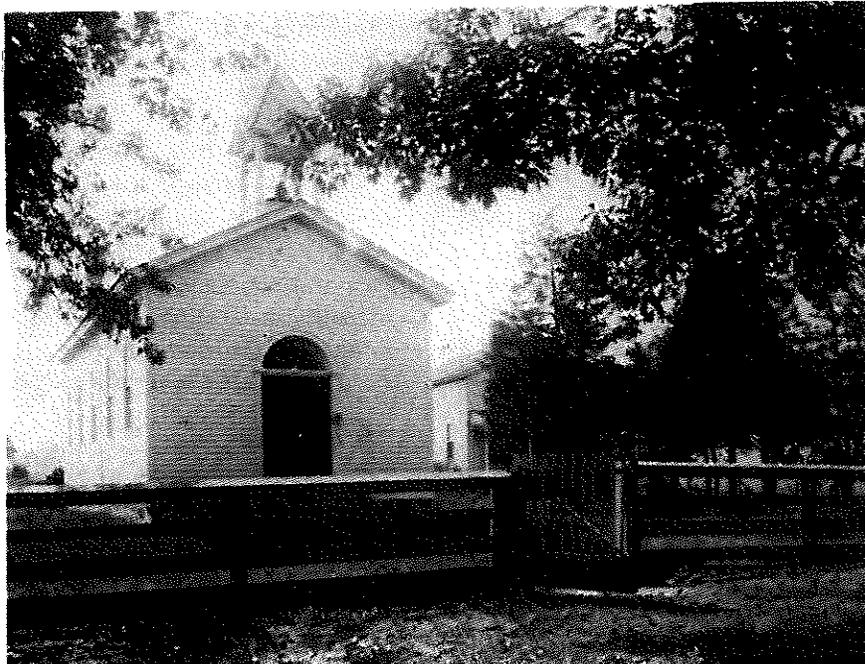
Rev. Joseph Yemm had a vision of enlarging the church when he was minister but he passed away before anything had been accomplished. On October 8, 1954, steps were taken to do something about the addition. In April of 1957, a drive was made to finance the plans and in the spring of 1958, work began with the members of the church doing a great deal of the work.

- 1967 In 1967 another addition of four Sunday School rooms was made possible through the generosity of Miss Fanny Pringle.

The Reverends Lounsbury, Parson, James, Lung Maeger, Roberson, Wilcox, Crawford, Lugg, Bethards, Brinton, Steen, Johnson, Olsen, Abel, Buxton, Smith, Baucher, Butekinst, Byedy, Bailey, Ransom, Wittenburg, Yemm, Wilcox, Stassel, Stilts, Frank, Lenard, Logsdon, Bloedow, Janush and at present Kanhai have served the church.

- 1973 The church celebrated their Centennial of the present building in 1973.

#### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH *(Pictured Below)*



- 1866 St. Mary's Catholic Church was built in 1866 west of Hosmer on the same road. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence O'Brien donated a plot of land to the Parish for the church and cemetery. This plot is located on the south side of Hwy. V about a mile west of Hwy. 45 where the cemetery remains and the old parish house still stands.

Father Thomas Fitzhenry served as first pastor. During those years, the pastor would offer one Mass in Holy Name Church at Wilmot and one at St. Mary's Church each Sunday.

Farm families of the area like Coyne, Haddican, Gleason, Hunt, McAllister, O'Brien were the first parishoners. Due to population shifts, the Parish Rectory was closed in 1927, the church building dismantled and the lumber hauled away. (The above picture was given by Mary Bolton.)

#### 1945 ST. BENEDICT'S MISSION PARISH

In 1945, St. Benedict's Mission Parish was established. Among those attending were members of the McGreal, Spaay, Andersen, Elfering and Bolton families.

- 1958 On July 24, 1958, the parish was incorporated at the direction of Archbishop Meyer as a diocesan parish and was named St. Scholastica.

- 1961 June 4, 1961, the first mass in the new church building was said by Father Augustine, OSB. and Father Eugene Bleidorn, Pastor, assisted as server.

BRISTOL METHODIST CHURCH 1908 (Pictured below) \*(13)



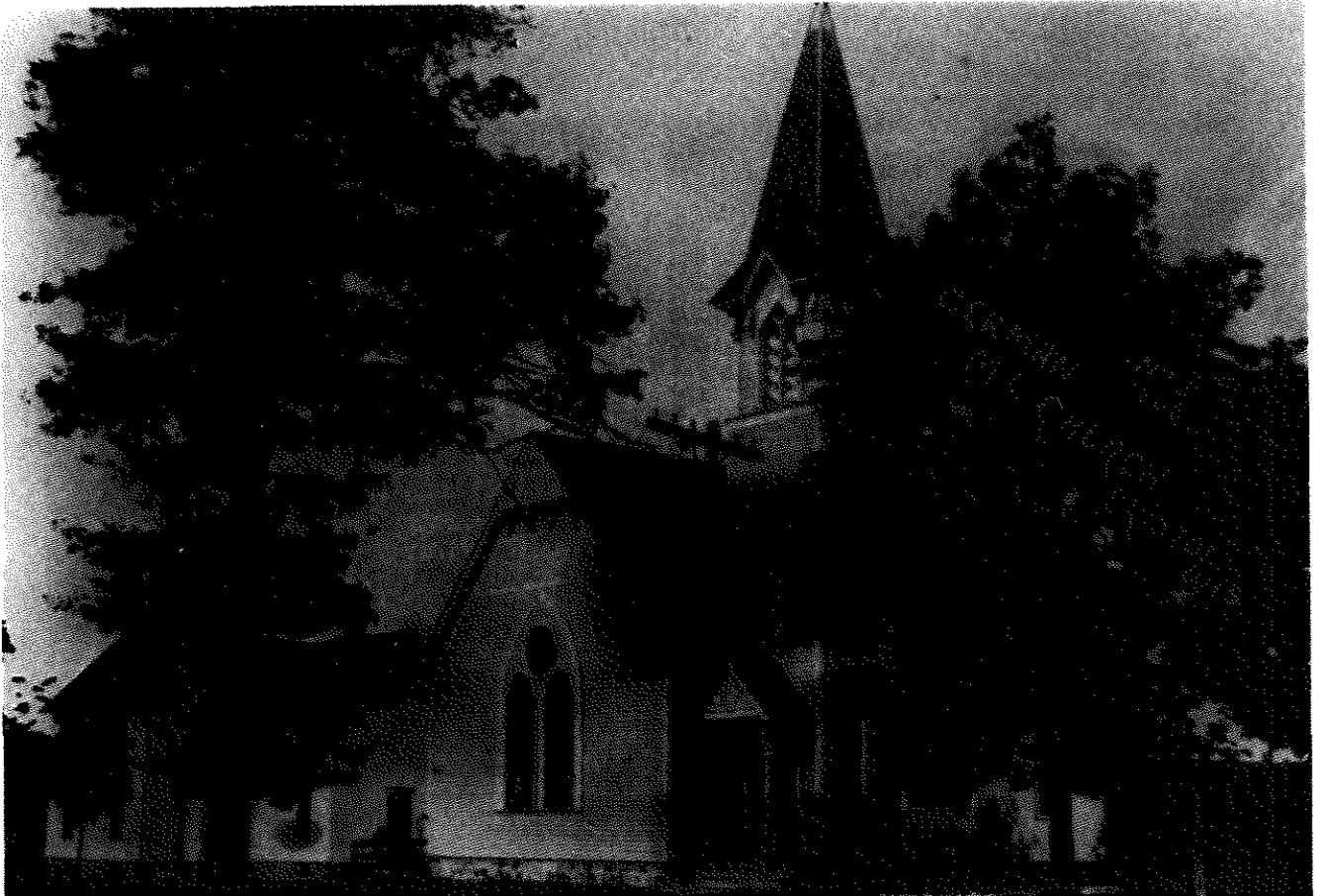
1880's Residents of the village attended services in the Asbury Chapel until the 1880's when the people thought it necessary to have a church in Bristol. Rev. E.C. Perry, Dr. Scherer, Chas. Whitcher, and Cornelius Williams formed the building committee authorized to erect a church not to cost less than \$2,000., whenever \$1,500. in subscriptions was received for the purpose. March 1886

A.H. Stevens and James Bryant were appointed to purchase a site which was at the extreme north edge of the village. The cost reached \$2,630. At the November conference in 1886, it was voted to hold the next quarterly conference in the new church, with a dedication to take place on a week-day, and a new carpet to be purchased.

A day long dedication for Bristol Methodist Church was held in November 1887 followed by an Oyster Supper served by the Ladies Aid Society.

The following year, a parsonage was built for \$900. Enoch Perry was the first minister.

GERMAN METHODIST CHURCH 1908 BRISTOL \*(13)



1879 As the years passed, many people from Germany came to Bristol to make their homes. In 1879, they formed a congregation and built a small church of Methodist denomination. This became too small, so it was used as a parsonage. Rev. Berg occupied this building on the east side of Hwy. 45 in the middle of the block between 81st and 82nd Streets.

A new church was built named "Bristol German Methodist Church". This building no longer stands today having been torn down when a new basement was put under the newer church building of the English Congregation.

The English and German Congregations later combined to form one group.

BRISTOL AND PARIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 1853



*This picture is from the collection of Dewey Slides No. 119, Kenosha Historical Society. \*(9)*

This church building was built in 1853 on one acre of land deeded by Justus Bishop.

The church closed its services in 1927.

The building was torn down in 1931.

The records of Clerk and Treasurer from 1851 down, were deposited with the Conference and these have been put with our other precious documents in the State Historical Library for safe keeping.

**PLANK ROAD CHURCH, BUILT 68 YEARS AGO, HAS INTERESTING HISTORY**  
(From Kenosha Herald July 8, 1921) by Mrs. George Shepard

*Woodworth, Wis., July 8 - The Plank Road Congregational Church of the old pioneer days, which has produced some of the sturdiest characters of Kenosha County, has been modernized to meet the present - day needs of the community, yet retaining most of the exterior lines that characterize it as a landmark, ten miles west of Kenosha on the dividing line between the towns of Bristol and Paris.*

*The church society dates back to the earliest settlers from New Englanders, the first of which was Seth Myrick, who in 1835 located in the present town of Paris, he having named it for his native town in New York. These early settlers encountered many hardships which they met with characteristic fortitude and faith. Their small ill-ventilated log houses have all given place to modern, homes surrounded with automobiles, milking machines, silos and farm implements unknown and unthought of by these hardy settlers whose only means of transportation was the ox-drawn lumber wagon and whose farming was done with a prairie plow and a drag lubricated with "back oil and elbow grease".*

*At that time, the Plank Road was the highway between Beloit and Southport (Kenosha) and over which residents now living have counted upwards of a hundred teams in a day, delivering their wheat, no corn being raised, as it was then thought corn would not grow so far north. Their mail address was Southport Wis. Ter.*

*In 1837, the first religious meeting was held, the Rev. Caldwell officiating. Under his leadership, a church society was organized and in the following year an old-fashioned revival was conducted in the home of S. Upson, which greatly strengthened the work.*

*Then followed years both lean and fat, until on Jan. 5, 1851, the Rev. Thomas Tenny, formally united in Christian covenant a number of families adopting its declaration of principle, which the church still reaffirms and follows. These adherents, now all dead, are as follows: Hammond Marsh, Katherine Marsh, Chas. M. and Emily Fowler, Misses Anna, Ellen, Jennie and Emily Fowler, Justice P. Bishop, Miss Lucinda Tibbals, Mrs. Maria Dutton, Mrs. Jedida Reed. In the meantime, money was solicited to build a church which was achieved in the summer of 1853, Samuel Burnell having deeded ten acres for a parsonage and Justus Bishop one acre on which the church was built, "where Mrs. Luman Marsh, unable to attend services might see the House of God from her window", Henry Newberry superintending the construction.*

*It was publicly dedicated to the worship of God, Dec. 27 of the same year. That year the cemetery was secured, Miss Emily Fowler being the first one laid to rest therein.*

*In 1855, the parsonage, a nine-room house, was built. It comfortably housed the succeeding ministers. It was recently repaired and improved for the present pastor, Rev. B.W. Cooley, over whose head it burned June 3, 1921.*

*An interesting revelation is had in perusing the "items of Expense" for the church, especially, "one gallon kerosene, \$1.25, one pair lamps \$1.00", such items, however, appear to be balanced by \$13.85 paid sexton for caring for the church for one year.*

*There appears also on the records of this liberty-loving body of believers, the following ante-bellum declaration of principles: "The church of Christ should bear distinct and practicable testimony-----especially against that organized system of wickedness-----slavery, now overshadowing our land, and leaving at the mercy of the worst passions of human nature 3,000,000 of our fellow men."*

*In 1874, the sweet-toned bell which still calls to worship was installed at a cost of about \$275.00. Later this bell was rocked from its holdings and fell to the west roof without injury to bell or person.*

*The organ and chimes were in the gallery at the rear of the church towards which the audience would turn to sing, until one minister rebelled at the idea of surveying the backs of the worshippers, when this custom went into history.*

*The church records also tell of four of its sons who gave their lives in the Civil War as follows: Frederick B. Taylor, Co. H 33 Wis. Vol., killed at Vicksburg; Benj. F. Wood, Co. H Wis. Vol. died at Danville, Ky., June 9, '63. Capt. J.F. Linsley, Co. H 33 Wis. Vol. killed in battle April 18, '63; John Gray, Do. E 33 Wis. Vol. died at Memphis, Tenn. Mar. 22, 1863. A glowing tribute of their democracy and loyalty as a community.:*

*Fruitful years followed and many splendid men served in a double capacity as preacher and physician.*

*In the year of 1902, however, the church was weakened by deaths and removals but at a meeting called to consider disbandment, it was voted that the church continue open, depending on "supply preaching" and later was served by a Methodist.*

*More recent events of the church require no historian, but will some day make equally interesting reading.*

*The church has a remarkable past, an efficient and active present and please God may it have abounding growth in the wonderful yet critical future that lies ahead.*

**WHEN A CHURCH COMES TO AN HONORABLE END from the CONGREGATIONALIST**  
Sept. 17, 1931

*Churches "DIE HARD" and yet they die. In this day of easy transportation for both families and furniture many congregations have found themselves without a constituency. How to die is really something of an ecclesiastical art. There are altogether too many abandoned church buildings rotting along our high-ways--like corpses from which life has departed but which no one has cared enough about to bury.*

## BRISTOL PARIS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND CEMETERY



*PICTURE COURTESY OF HORACE FOWLER*

When death comes for a church it is almost as sad an event as when an individual life ends. Yet one knows just as surely that the spirit of the church lives immortally in the lives of men and women who take their place in the growing Kingdom of God on earth. After 80 years, the Bristol and Paris Church is no more. It was organized with 12 charter members, Jan 5, 1851, as "The Free Congregational Church of Bristol and Paris vicinity".

The church closed its service in 1927. The following year a committee for the Association studied the field, and later Superintendent Faville had conferences with the officials. On Jan. 14, 1930, the Church held its final Annual Meeting, voted its funds of over \$500.00 to the local Cemetery Assoc. and a mortgage of \$1,400.00 on ten acres of land to the state conference.

Soon after the meeting, the trustees completed the business and the church organization was disbanded. The building and land were given to the Cemetery Assoc., and the former sold by them. The next summer, the building was torn down.

1895 ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BRISTOL (1908) \*(13)

In 1895, we hear of Pastor E. Dornfeld, of Friedens Ev. Lutheran Church, with Bible and hymn book strapped to his back, riding a bicycle out of Kenosha to Bristol, a distance of fourteen miles. He conducted divine services with a number of Lutherans above the carpenter shop of Wm. Perrigo. (Presently the NE corner of 199th Ave. and 82nd St.)

In the same year, on November 24, these Lutherans gathered in Lavey's Store for a special meeting to establish a Lutheran Church in Bristol. The names of those attending the first business meeting are Wm. Pofahl, Carl Schmeckel, Henry Gandt, Julius Weinholz, Wm. Krahn, Wm. Maaske, Ferdinand Otto, Carl Dau, Wm. Paasch, Herman Krueger, Wm. Schewe, and Mrs. Vincent.

1896 On March 29, 1896, a group of Lutherans from Paris, Wisconsin joined with the Bristol people and the Zion Ev. Lutheran Church of Bristol was formed. The second Sunday of October 1896, was dedication day.

1960 October, 1960, a new building was erected on the north side of the village on Hwy. 45. In the fall of 1974, an electronic Carillon which plays hymns each day at 6 pm was added to the church.





## 1976 BRISTOL TOWNSHIP DIRECTORY

### BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

Quality Controlled Egg Farm, Hwy. 50 - Chris Aralis  
Beauti-Vue Products - Victor Gumbeck - Bristol Industrial Park  
Becker's Guns and Reloading - Hwy. 50 - Ed. Becker  
Benson Oil Co. - NW corner Hwy. 45 & 50  
Bristol Oaks Country Club - Hwy. 50  
Charmglow Products - Hwy. 45 - Industrial Park  
Contact Rubber Corp. - Industrial Park  
Continental Oil Co. - Jules Dreher - I-94 & Hwy. 50  
Bristol Veterinary Services - Fred Culbert and R. Borre  
D & J Construction & Equip. - Dupons A.D. - I-94  
Dupons Construction Co., Inc. - A.D. Dupons - I-94  
Log Cabin Cheese - Harry Flodd - Hwy. 45 & V  
Quality Carriers - I-94 & C  
Woodworth Garage - David Glasman - Hwy. MB (Woodworth)  
Gluemaster, Inc. - Kenneth R. Moore  
Lawrence I. Gohlke - Hwy. D  
Gohlke Well Drilling - Wm. Gohlke  
Go-Tane Service Station Inc. - John Nave, agent - I-94 & Hwy. 50  
Hawkeye Turkey Farm - Kenneth Hayes - I-94  
Charles Horton & Son Feed - Chas. Horton - Hwy. CJ  
Harveys Bristol Goods - Harvey  
Illinois Range Co.  
Corner Cafe - James Taylor - Hwy. 45 & C  
Bristol Deep Rock - James Taylor - Hwy. 45 & C  
Interstate Farm Equip. Co. - Dyke Johnson - 60th Street  
Daves Interstate Service - Dave Kadlac - Hwy. 50 & I-94

BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY (Continued)

Koral Sales, Inc. - 12400 Wilmot Road  
Lentz & Bohn Automotive - Hwy. 45 & 50  
Bristol Plumbing and Heating - Arthur Magwitz - 82nd St.  
Beaver Transport Co. - G.E. Mallinger - I-94 & C  
1st National Bank of Kenosha - Hwy. 45 & 50 - SW Corner  
Master Aluminum Service, Inc. - E. Weoblewski - Industrial Park  
Valley Truck Stop - Elroy Meier - Hwy. 45  
Merkt Cheese Co. - Carol M. Merkt  
Bristol Garage - Eugene Merten - 200th Ave. & 84th St.  
Charlene's Coiffures - Charlene Myers - Co. Trk. U  
Bristol Radiator Service - Gerald Nash - Hwy. 50  
Mobil Bristol Motors - Richard Norman - Hwy. 45 & AH  
Bristol Carpet Service - Ben Patty - Hwy. 45 south of K  
Wes - Gor Service - G. Peaslee - 199th Ave. & 83rd St.  
This & That Shop - Anicetas Pinigis - 102nd Ave.  
Red School House Cafe - Elva Potter - Hwy. 45  
Bristol House - Edward Powroznik - Hwy. 50  
The Spa - Jean Radon - Hwy. 45 and State Line  
Brat Stop, Inc. - Gerald Rasmussen - I-94 & Hwy. 50  
Highway C Service - B. Schmitz - I-94  
Bills Auto Body Shop - Wm. D. Schutzen - 9124 176th Ave.  
Herbarium, Inc. - Nick Senchyshak - Hwy. MB  
Bristol Trenching Service - Robert Shannon - Hwy. C  
State Line Campground, Inc. - David C. Zenner, agent - Hwy. WG  
Sangrala Parlors - Stanley Szczerba - VW of Hwy. 45  
Texaco, Inc. - Robert Bland - Hwy. 50 & I-94  
T's Welding Service - John Tossava - 199th Ave. & 84th Place



**BRISTOL TOWNSHIP 1976**

Population 3,020

Registered Voters 1,699

**Town Officers:**

Town Chairman	Noel Elfering
Supervisor	Dale Nelson
Supervisor	Chester Boyington
Clerk	Fred Pitts
Treasurer	Doris Magwitz

**CENTURY FAMILIES OF BRISTOL TOWNSHIP**

Century Certificates of ownership have been issued to the following families: Six are still being operated by the family. This list is on file in the County Agricultural Office.

**FAMILY** **CERTIFICATE GIVEN**

**WALKER, JOEL & WILLIAM**

Original owner: Joel and Marinda (French) Walker came from Vermont in 1836 and purchased farm located on Hwy. C in Sections 14, 22 & 23.

Succeeding owners: William (son of Joel) & Josephine (Mead) Walker sons of William:

William & Mildred (Waldo) Walker  
Joel & Maude (Smith) Walker

Son of William:

Richard & Marie (Hansen) Walker

The farm has been sold but Richard still lives in the home.

**UPSON, FRANK**

Original owner: Ashbul Upson came from Connecticut in 1838 and purchased land on 75th Street in Section 1.

Succeeding owners: Salmon Upson

Frank Upson  
Dorothy (Upson) Durkin & Donald Upson

**JACKSON, CHARLES W.**

Original owner: Familie Richtmyer purchased farm on Hwy. C in Section 14 in 1844. She married Henry Husted. They came from New York.

Succeeding owners: Charles M. Jackson & Clara (Husted) Jackson

Clarence & Eugene Jackson  
Charles & Joan (Shuit) Jackson (son of Clarence)

**JACKSON, DAVID**

Original owner: Northrup Jackson came from Connecticut in 1839. He and Timothy Upson purchased land on 75th St.

Succeeding Owners: Herman & Emiline Jackson

David Jackson

The farm has been sold but Charles and Mary (Jackson) Butrick live on some of the acreage.

GILLMORE, CHARLES 1962  
Original owner: Giles & Laura (Robinson) Holbrook came from Checktowga, Erie  
County, New York in the spring of 1845 and purchased land located on  
104th St. sections 23 & 26.  
Succeeding owners: Harry & Mary (Sax) Holbrook  
Edward & Hattie (Holbrook) Powell  
Charles & Margaret (Powell) Gillmore  
Farm is now operated by Edward & Patricia (Odell) Gillmore.

JORGENSON, MRS. EDWARD  
Original owner: Michael Kingman purchased farm on Bristol Rd. or Hwy. 45  
in 1845. He came from New York.  
Succeeding owners: Mrs. John Kingman & Mary Bishop  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Jorgenson  
The farm has been sold.

FOWLER, HORACE 1948  
Original owner: Charles M. & Emily (Cook) Fowler came from Guilford, Connect-  
icut and purchased farm on 60th St. in 1849. Section 3.  
Succeeding owners: John D. & Lauraettie (Marsh) Fowler.  
owner Louis & Mary (Blackman) Fowler  
ow Horace & Selma (Lura) Fowler  
The farm is still operated by Horace Fowler.

BENEDICT, ROLAND 1956  
Original owner: Peter M. & Juliette (Reed) Stonebreaker purchased the land in  
Section 17 in 1856.  
Succeeding owners: O.C. & Ruby (Braman) Stonebreaker.  
E.L. & Cynthia (Upson) Stonebreaker.  
Roland & Emily (Stonebreaker) Benedict  
Farm is now operated by Everett & Pamela (Odell) Benedict.

BENSON, MRS. MARY  
Original owner: Hiram & Harriet (Coburn) Bacon came from Vermont in 1862  
and purchased land on corner of Hwys. 45 & 50, Sections 5 & 6.  
Succeeding owners: William C. & Mary (Bacon) Benson  
Bryant & William Benson.  
The family does not operate the farm.

BENEDICT, MRS. ELMER 1965  
Original owner: Ethel & Emma (Hoyt) Benedict purchased the land in Section  
11 and located on 144th Ave. They came from New York State.  
Succeeding owners: Addison & Laura (Scott) Benedict  
Ralph & Elizabeth (Davis) Benedict  
Elmer & Roxy (Cox) Benedict.

EDWARDS, MR. AND MRS. GUY DURELL 1970  
Original owner: Nelson D. & Naomi (Bush) Edwards purchased land in 1867 on  
Hwy. MB in Section 10.  
Succeeding owners: Jay Bush & Lillian (Durell) Edwards  
Guy Durell & Marcia Edwards  
The family still lives on the farm.

SHUART, EUGENE M.

McNAMARA, MR. & MRS. EDWARD 1969

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY AND SOURCES OF PICTURES AND INFORMATION

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- (2) Manuscripts Old & New of Kenosha & Kenosha County Vol. IV Article of Bristol by Mrs. Bryant Benson
- (3) Manuscripts Old & New of Kenosha & Kenosha County, Vol. I
- (4) The History of Racine and Kenosha Counties, Wisconsin 1879
- (5) Burlington Standard Press Bristol Pictorial November 13, 1969
- (6) Kenosha News
- (7) History of Town of Bristol by Robert Pringle
- (8) Pictures given by Mrs. Esther Zuehlsdorf Adamson
- (9) Picture from a collection of slides by Dewey obtained from the Kenosha County Historical Society.
- (10) Business Directory of Kenosha City & County 1875 - 1st Edition George R. Milmine, Compiler
- (11) Article "A Railroad That Nearly Destroyed A City". A paper at the Kenosha County Historical Society Museum, Written by Carrie Cropley.
- (12) Kenosha Telegraph
- (13) Picture contributed by John Davidson from a collection given by residents and friends of Bristol Township.
- (14) Picture contributed by Mrs. Ella Glasman Novelen
- (15) Manuscripts Old & New of Kenosha & Kenosha County, Wisconsin Vol. II by Willis A. Upson Feb. 1938 Article "Reminisces Relating to the Township of Bristol".

