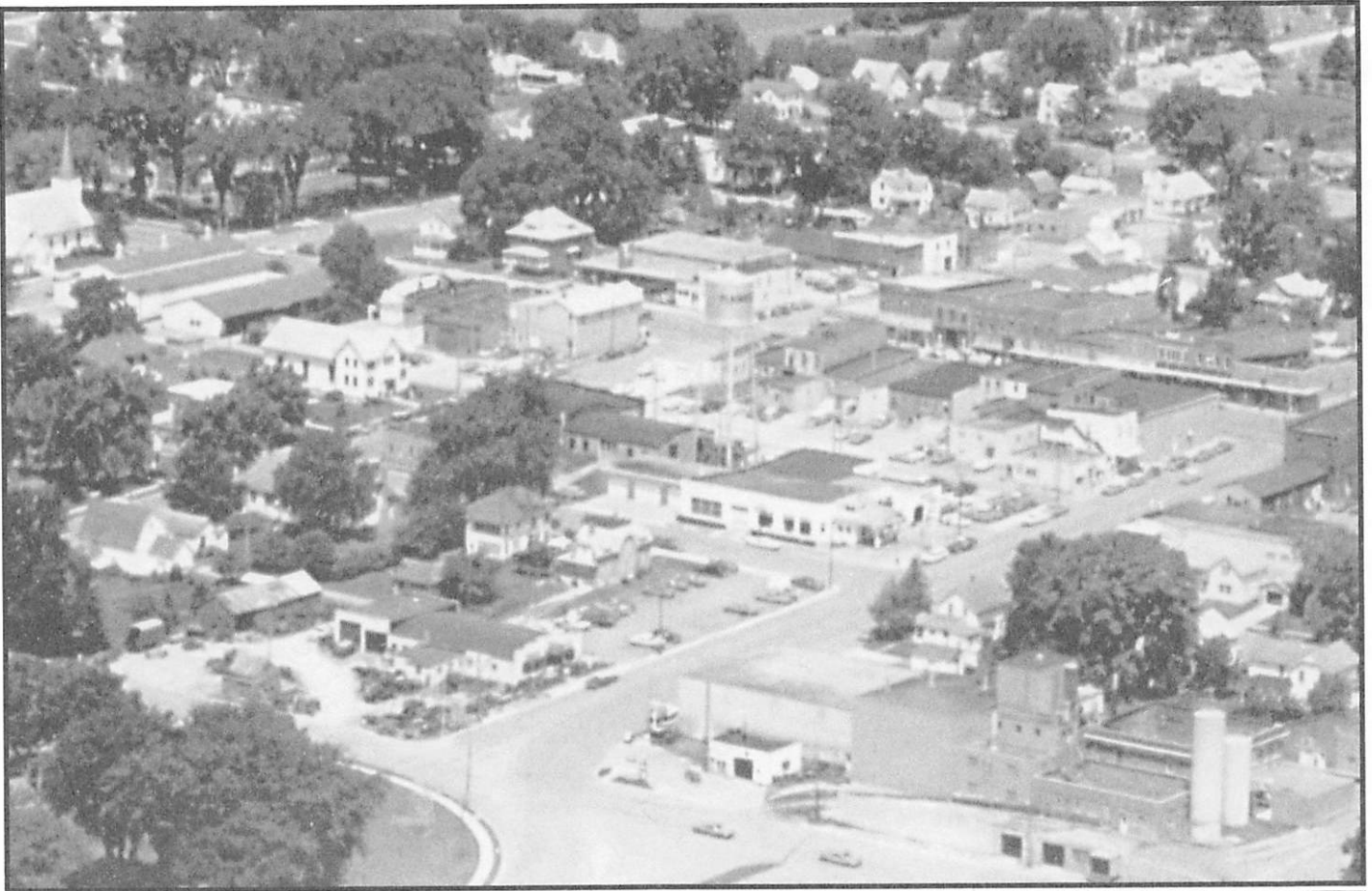


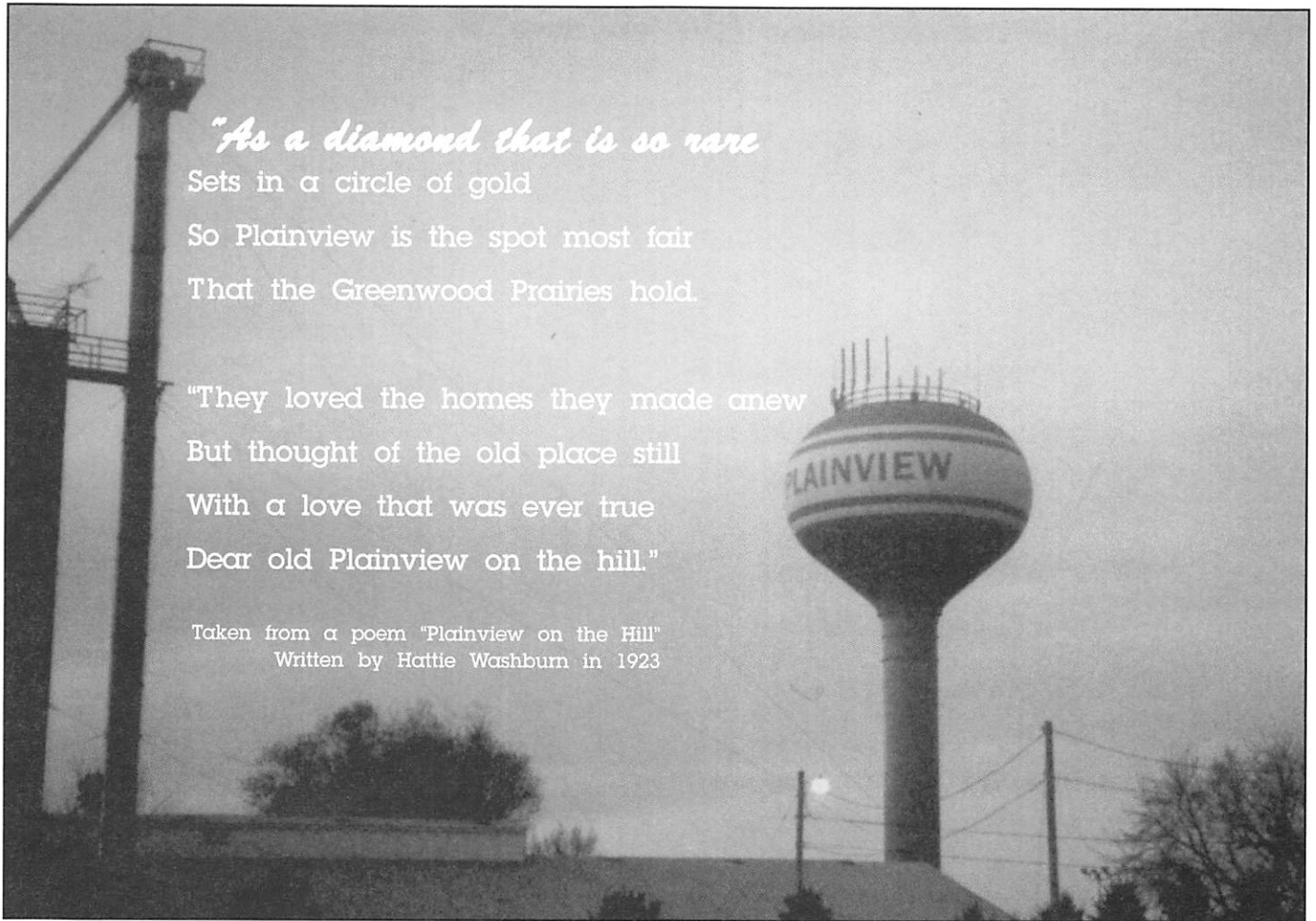
*Celebrating 150 Years*



**1856 - 2006**

*The Heart of Greenwood Prairie*





*"As a diamond that is so rare  
Sets in a circle of gold  
So Plainview is the spot most fair  
That the Greenwood Prairies hold.*

*"They loved the homes they made anew  
But thought of the old place still  
With a love that was ever true  
Dear old Plainview on the hill."*

Taken from a poem "Plainview on the Hill"  
Written by Hattie Washburn in 1923

*Without the resources* of the Plainview Area History Center, this booklet could never have been compiled. It is meant to be a companion to the 1956 Centennial "Plateau of Plenty", expanding on histories contained within that publication, including stories that were omitted in the former booklet, and showcase the last fifty years of Plainview history.

Plainview's rich and interesting past is recorded on the following pages in pictures, stories and maps. It is hoped that it will become a valuable research tool for future historians, and in the same "breath" be an enjoyable, readable history for everyone interested in Plainview's past.

Plainview is truly the heart of Greenwood Prairie. May the stories of the next fifty years be as rich and varied as the last, and may Plainview continue to grow and prosper as the community embarks on a longer journey towards the two hundred year celebration yet to come!

THE PLAINVIEW 150<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

sponsoring

***1856.... Celebrating 150 Years.... 2006***

## Celebrating 150 Years of History

### THE SURVEY

Before the early settlers came to the region, five nearly forgotten men dutifully arrived to carry out the order to survey Township 108 North Range 11 West of the 5th Principle Meridian of the Territory of Minnesota.

The date was June 10, 1854. Led by Deputy Surveyor Michael G. Karrick, the men, consisting of Simson Rockwell and Edward Palmer, chainmen, Thornton Bowlin, axeman, and Alonzo Foster, flagman, spent until June 14 traversing back and forth across the township that would someday be named "Plainview".

Karrick was instructed to note each stake location as well as to document existing trails, land forms, and vegetation. He was to rate the land "first rate", "second rate", etc. This he did, and his original survey journal (*shown on page 3*) was preserved and gives us a glimpse into the first detailed look of the area through the eyes of a surveyor.

Plainview Township was covered with groves of oak—black oak, burr oak, and Jack oak. The land was rated as "rolling first rate". At the end of his survey notes Karrick wrote the following:

"The east part of this township is well supplied with timber and water. The Whitewater (River) which runs through the southwest corner, waters that part of it. Numerous groves scattered over the entire township render it a valuable farming track... Wet bottoms or marshes unfit for cultivation are so described. All other bottoms are dry."

On the map drawn up by Karrick, he notes the timbered portions as well as an Indian trail in a northeast section leading from the Mississippi River bottoms.

The final report was submitted to Warren Lewis at the land office in Dubuque, Iowa on July 7, 1856.

### THE FIRST SETTLEMENT-GREENVILLE

The first organized group of settlers intent on establishing a community in the newly opened territory were Ohio natives A.T. Sharpe and Ezra and Jane Eddy. Little is known about Sharpe, but the Eddys were a couple in their mid twenties, Ezra the son of a Methodist minister and Jane the daughter of a hotel keeper.

At LaCrosse they met up with a group from

Indiana, the William Boatman family consisting of eight children, and Thomas Todd. They traveled north to the Reads Landing area and probably followed an existing Indian trail to the prairie.

On May 21, 1855, they arrived in Section 10 and there, as they emerged out of the oak groves and caught their first glimpse of the wide prairie lands, stopped and settled, naming their new found community Greenwood. This name would later be changed to Greenville when applying for a post office and discovering there was already another Greenwood in Minnesota Territory. But the original name "Greenwood" stuck, labeling the area as "Greenwood Prairie" to this day.

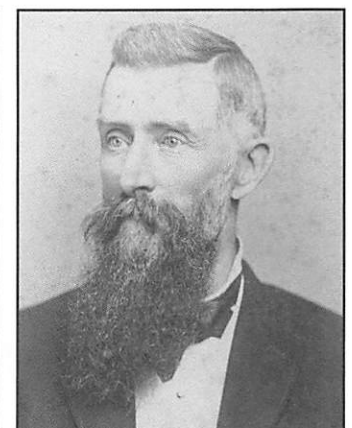
The town was platted the following year by A.T. Sharpe, F.S. Richards (a storekeeper from Reads Landing who financed the opening of a store in Greenville, but who never lived there), William Boatman, and A.P. Foster (a settler who arrived 10 days after the original party).

The town had great ambitions, and although the original plat map has been lost to time, it included an ambitious "college square" and other air castles. At best it was never more than a four corners with a small school house (the first one in the county south of the Zumbro River) also used as a church, and two stores operated by the Rodman Burchard and T.J. Wadleigh families and a few dwellings.

The death knell to the community came when they discovered they were on the "Sioux half-breed tract", which was land set aside in an 1830 treaty for the mixed-blood descendants of French fur trappers, who were first to settle in the Mississippi River



Mrs. Jane Eddy



Mr. Ezra B. Eddy

'It is out on the prairie where everybody can see it. Call it Plainview.'

Nobody here liked the name at first, but in their hurry to have a post office, it was accepted. And when the township system was adopted, the name was all right for the township."

The name was originally two words: Plain View. It wasn't until the 1880s that it was combined to Plainview, its present usage.

### SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

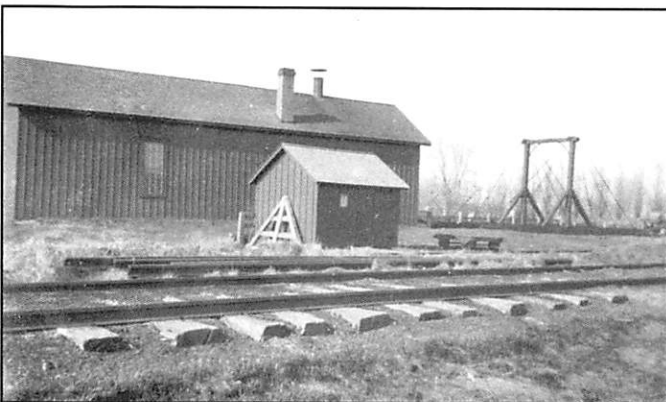
Passed down through local folklore is the misconception that Plainview used to be Greenville and later moved to the present site. This is not true. Each town had its own founders and each was platted by different individuals. After the failure of Greenville, some of the buildings from that settlement were moved to Plainview and perhaps that is where the misconception occurred.

So for the record, Greenville and Plainview (originally named Centerville) were TWO different towns!

### THE EARLY DECADES OF PLAINVIEW

With a new name, Plainview was ready to grow and expand. Mail was now delivered to the city and stage routes crisscrossing the prairie made the village one of their stops. More substantial business buildings sprung up and the citizens were proud of their tiny community.

The outbreak of the Civil War brought the call for soldiers. A 16 foot "Liberty Pole" was erected by the citizens to show their patriotism. Meetings for filling draft quotas were held in the schoolhouse on the public square, and many "war widows" cared for their families alone while their husbands were off to war.



*Roundhouse and Turntable*



*J.R. Watkins house*

Wheat dominated the agricultural scene with more and more of the prairie succumbing to the plow. Hundreds of loads of wheat were hauled each season to the river and on to the thriving markets in the East. Wheat was king!

1866 saw the first church building erected in Plainview by the Methodist Society. And just two years later a large two story school was built on the town square on land donated by James Butts several years earlier. The building towered high above the rolling prairie and could be seen for miles.

Few realize that Plainview was home to the beginnings of the giant Watkins Corporation. In 1868, J.R. Watkins settled into his residence on Broadway and began bottling his Dr. Wards liniment in a barrel in his kitchen (*house shown above*). Using door to door selling strategies, his business grew. He left Plainview in 1885, moving to Winona where there were better business opportunities.

The first serious attempts at securing a railroad for the community came with the formation of the Lake Pepin & Omaha Railroad company in 1867. Their efforts would end in failure several years later.

Rounding out the 1860s were several huge Fourth of July celebrations hosted by the village. An annual gopher count and the new baseball craze filled out the social calendar.

The 1870s brought a decline in wheat production. Thirty to forty bushels per acre wheat dropped to a mere ten due to soil depletion and lack of fertilizers. Despite this fact, wheat continued to dominate the land with thousands of field hands flooding the area during harvest, turning Plainview into a regular metropolis. Local pastors even held Sunday afternoon street services to lure the men to worship.



*Oliverson & Woodcock Clothing and Grocery Store, January 1, 1896. A photo studio was located on the 2nd floor. A.C. Woodcock is shown standing in the street.*

Plainview's second church building was erected in 1871 by the Congregational Society. In 1876 fire destroyed the hotel but it was rebuilt on the same site bigger than before. That building still stands, the only Plainview business to remain on the same location throughout the city's 150 year history.

The first two brick business buildings were constructed by A.Y. Felton in 1876, the one-story Lawton's Grocery (currently J.T. Variety) and across the street a two story general store (currently the post office). It would be ten more years before other brick buildings would be added to the Broadway business district.

In 1878, the railroad finally arrived in Plainview in the form of a branch line from Eyota (*roundhouse and turnaround, page 5*). A group of local farmers challenged the way bonds were used to finance the construction and after a 14 year court battle leading all the way to the US Supreme Court, they were vindicated. The railroad continued to serve the community for over one hundred years until 1996 when the railroad bed was abandoned. Today the Great River Ridge Bike Trail has taken its place.

The end of the 70s also saw a large migration of people from the Plainview area to the Dakotas where the promise of fertile soil and new beginnings beacons many. Those that stayed behind realized that they had to abandon their wheat crops for better farming practices. As a result A.Y. Felton

opened the first creamery in Plainview in 1881. Through his efforts, farmers were persuaded to engage in dairy production, raise more livestock, increase crop diversification and practice better fertilization.

Destruction came to the area in 1883 with cyclones in Elgin and Rochester. Despite the tragedies,



the following year Plainview's first roller skating rink opened, matching the roller craze sweeping the country. The rink also served as the town's meeting hall, being the largest space in town. The "Three Three's Dancing Club" held many gatherings there, serenaded by the Plainview Comet Band (*shown above*).

In 1890, Civil War veterans answered the call of the community for a better meeting place and constructed Plainview's first "opera house" (*shown right*).

Organizations within the church include the Dorcas Club, Men's Club, Parent-Teacher League, Walther League now known as Youth Group, Family Group, Senior Citizens' Group, formed in 1959 and later renamed Young at Heart, and the Lutheran Church Women (LCW), formerly the Ladies Aid, Helping Hand Club, and the 4th R. Club. Immanuel Folk Group was initiated in 1988 to provide a contemporary worship service once a month and is currently known as the Praise Team. Senior Choir was renamed Immanuel Choristers and the Think Tank Group was formed in 1993.

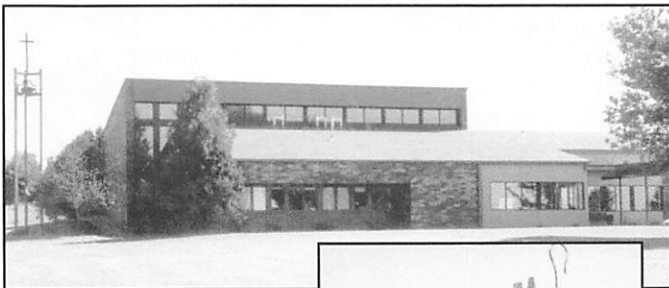
Currently there are 1,050 baptized members with approximately 460 family units and 854 communi-

cants. Congregational sons in the ministry include Paul Brunner, Donald Ginkel and Richard Wehrs. Former teachers who have entered the ministry are Evan Schiller, Terry Timm and Jerome Leckband.

Pastors who have served the church since 1956 are Rodney Riese, Donald West, Keith Schneider, Roger Klemz, Gerald Peterson, David Frederickson & Scott Hirssig.

Vicars have been F David Seip, Ronald Schutt, Theodore Mueller, and Scott Hirssig.

Sunday Worship services are 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM with Sunday school and Adult Bible Study at 9:10 AM.



### GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

The beginnings of Good Shepherd Church go back to the fall of 1976 when about twenty people gathered at the home of Earl and Anita Gransee to discuss the need for an American Lutheran Church (ALC). By June of 1977 the proposed congregation was approved by the ALC and on September 11 of that year, 130 people worshipped at the first service held in the Elgin Elementary School with interim Pastor Howard Sortland.

On April 9, 1978, the congregation purchased land between Elgin and Plainview adjacent to Highway 42. Shortly after on April 16 the first constitution was adopted with forty families joining the church.

Richard C. Hegal became the first pastor in May of 1979. In May the following year, ground breaking was held for their new church building with the structure dedicated November 16, 1980.

As part of a national merger of three Lutheran Church bodies, in January of 1988 Good Shepherd



joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

An addition was added to the church building in 1995 with the dedication February 11, 1996. It included a fellowship hall, eight Sunday school classrooms, a kitchen, music room, nursery, larger bathrooms and an addition to the sanctuary. A meditation garden was established on the church grounds in 2004-05.

In 2005 the congregation united on a shared vision to guide their future ministry, describing their characteristics as energized, gifted, blessed with the spirit of youth, claimed and called by God to move in exciting new directions.

Popular sponsored events include a fall bazaar, Ed Scheuneman and Rod Hanson Golf Tournament, Vacation Bible School at Whitewater State Park, December Cookie Walk, Harvest Ho Down, Chicken, Pork Chop or Salmon Dinners, and local Garden Tours. Ministries and outreach of Good Shepherd included Sunday services on local Cable TV, sponsoring two families in Mississippi, Prayer Team praying daily for well-being of those in the community and the world, and supporting the local Food Shelf. The youth went on a mission trip to West Virginia in 2005.

Pastors of Good Shepherd have been Howard Sortland, Richard Hegal, Dwight DoBell, and Kevin Woestehoff with interim pastors including Greg Zajac, Carol Hill, Lynn Zafke, and Pastors Solberg and Leif.

Currently Good Shepherd has worship services at 8:00 & 10:30 AM Sunday with Sunday school at 9:15. Summer worship service is at 9:00 AM. Good Shepherd has a membership of 650 with 150 families.



### TRINITY EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH 1989- 2006

In 1989 thirteen families began meeting in a home prayer group. They later expanded to Sunday morning services in one of the family's homes. Bob Johnson was called as the first pastor on April 13, 1989. The tenants of faith, a purpose statement and a constitution were written and adopted, with elders, deacons and deaconesses elected. In June of that year the church began holding Sunday services at the Plainview City Hall.

Ground breaking on their present site adjacent to Highway 42 was held August 26, 1990. The group literally built its own church as people with construction skills joined the congregation. The first service in the new facility was held on Easter Sunday, March, 1991. Under Pastor Bob's leadership, the church grew to forty families. The Johnsons left in 1996 due to family care needs.

Pastor Dale Carlson served from 1996 through 2001, continuing to lead the church forward, improving the church's organizational structure, devel-

oping an administrative council, streamlining the constitution and creating job descriptions.

Pastor Tyrone Spenst came to Trinity in 2002. With the hiring of a new pastor, the church began to grow. Youth group attendance increased and AWANA for the younger age children became an active part of church ministry throughout the school year. Vacation Bible School drew upwards of sixty children.

Members participated in an overseas mission trip to Peru with Global Expeditions Ministry and youth teens have gone to Mexico to help build homes. The church paid off their mortgage in 2005.

As attendance from Wabasha increased, Trinity felt the need to start a church in that community. In the fall of 2004, the church began the first steps of planting this church.

Pastors serving the Trinity Evangelical Free Church of Plainview have been Pastor Bob Johnson, Pastor Dale Carlson and the current Pastor, Tyrone Spenst. Youth pastors have been Brian Looney and Gordon Gathright. The church has seventy families attending.

Current Sunday schedule includes Sunday school for all ages at 9:30 AM followed by Sunday worship at 10:30 AM. Youth Group meets Sunday at 6:30 PM and AWANA youth meet Wednesday at 6:30 PM.

### ST. JOACHIM'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

St Joachim's has seen many changes in the last fifty years. 1956 began with the construction of a \$92,000 education building on the former Dickman property (*Shown right*). It was completed the following year with 415 children enrolled.

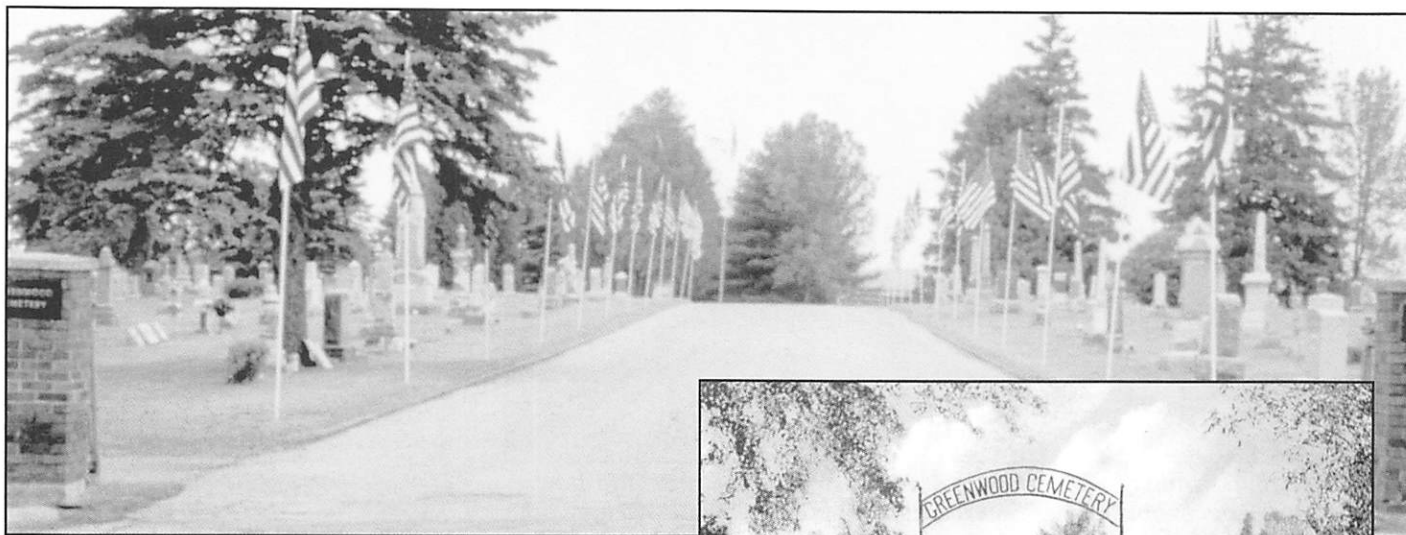
It was dedicated June 5, 1958 by Bishop Fitzgerald. That same year the church hall was remodeled with new hardwood floors and kitchen equipment. A new entrance to the church from the parking lot was added and the lot surfaced.

Many liturgical changes came to the church. In 1964 liturgy and church practices were altered following the Second Vatican Council. Mass was spoken in English instead of Latin for the first time, the altar railing was removed and a portable altar installed to face the people. In 1971 laypersons were au-





## Greenwood Cemetery



### GREENWOOD CEMETERY

Plainview's cemetery was originally referred to as the "Plainview Cemetery". Although called "Greenwood Cemetery" many times in early newspaper accounts, it wasn't until June of 1898 the city council took official action to change the name. It was called "Greenwood" after the nickname "Greenwood Prairie", given to the area by the first settlers (*entrance shown right*)

Early cemetery records are incomplete, containing only lot owners names, making it difficult to identify unmarked graves. This is partly due to the fact there was no separate village government from 1878 to 1892 when the village was governed by a township board due to a pending railroad bonding issue. It wasn't until the 1890's that detailed burial records were kept.

Early control of the cemetery varied, with the care of the cemetery being battled back and forth between several groups. In 1891 supervision of the cemetery was placed in the hands of the Township Board of Health. Through the various groups, the ladies of the community took the most active ongoing interest. By 1921 the Ladies Cemetery Association, headed by Lillian Washburn, had formed. The group officially incorporated that year and the city council turned over the care and responsibility of the cemetery to them. Among the first improvements was curbing around the boulevard of the main driveway and graveling the roadway.

On November 27, 1951, the Greenwood Cemetery Association transferred all of its assets to the

Village of Plainview who currently maintain the grounds

The first celebration held in the cemetery was "Decoration Day" in 1884. Eleven soldier's graves were decorated, including ten Civil War soldiers and one veteran of the War of 1812. It would become a yearly event now known as Memorial Day.

In 1886 the cemetery's largest monument was erected by TG Bolton and AP Foster. The gray granite stone, imported from Scotland, stands thirteen feet high on the foundation with a ground base of four feet square. Costing between six and seven hundred dollars, it weighs about six tons.

A speaker's platform was added to the cemetery in 1984 and in 1998 restoration work was begun on deteriorating monuments. In 2005 the City Council budgeted monies for continued restoration work.

Annual events held at Greenwood Cemetery include Memorial Day Services and a Cemetery Walk, organized by the Plainview Area History Center. Donovan Timm currently serves as sexton, having held the position since June 1, 1971. City Hall is beginning the process of putting cemetery records on a computer program.

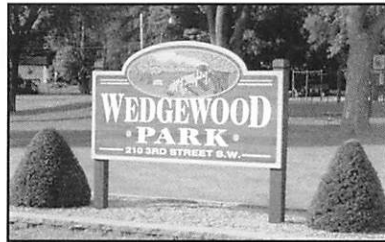
## Municipal Parks in Plainview



*Money from the municipal liquor store was used to purchase the new handicapped accessible playground equipment installed at Wedgewood Park in 1998.*

### WEDGEWOOD PARK (210 3RD ST. SW)

Plainview's oldest park, it was established in 1921 on land donated by the Wedge family. Originally named "City Park", it is uncertain when the name change to Wedgewood took place, honoring Henry and Effie Wedge. In the 1920s it was the site of many autos and campers as a camping craze swept the country. In 1925 Plainview's first school house was moved to the park as a museum. The school house/museum later fell into disrepair and was torn down by the park board in the 1940s.



Over the years Wedgewood Park has hosted many events. Among them were the Obrecht Stock Company, a vaudeville troupe who set up their heated show tent in the park twice a year through the 30s and 40s. There was even a sheep sheering contest held there in 1941!

At some point playground facilities were added to the park. The Miracle Whirl Wheel was added in 1946. A 1954 newspaper article commended the park board on their "wealth" of new equipment with an ac-

companying photo showing a large slide, swing set and a smaller slide.

In 1954 Well No 1 was drilled in Wedgewood Park. The 419 foot well was used until 1995.

In 1964 the Jaycees led a drive to construct a band and picnic shelter. Through the efforts of many volunteers, it was completed and dedicated June 11, 1965. In 1998 new handicapped accessible playground equipment was installed with money generated from the municipal liquor store.

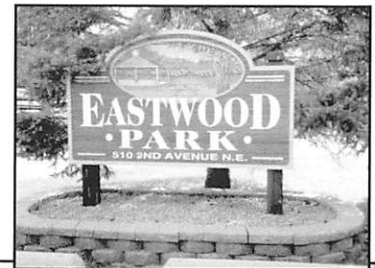
The park is used primarily for family get-togethers and picnics. It hosts the community's Corn on the Cob Celebration and is used for other special events.

### EASTWOOD PARK (510 2ND AVE. NE)

As Plainview grew, demand for more park space brought the development of Eastwood Park in 1979. The purchase agreement had been made in 1970 when the park board set out with the goal to make it attractive enough to draw park goers away from the overburdened Wedgewood and Fairview Parks.

A 20 X 40 foot gazebo-like picnic shelter with restrooms was erected in 1979. The park has a softball field, two double tennis courts with practice

*Eastwood Park was improved with the addition of a 20 x 40 foot picnic shelter with attached restrooms and warming house in 1979.*



**DR. MUIR 1894-1898**

Born in 1871 in Berlin, Minnesota, Dr Muir graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School and immediately located in Plainview in 1894. Two years later Dr. Muir took on Dr. J.A. Slocumb as a partner. The two bought the controlling interest in the Plainview Potsdam Telephone Company and expanded lines to Beaver and Elba. The telephone lines improved their practice by allowing patients to contact them quickly by wire. Muir became president of the newly formed Plainview Telephone Company. He left his Plainview practice in 1898, moving to Winona where he became known as one of the most skillful surgeons in the area. He was also twice mayor of that city. A martyr to his profession, he died at the age of 48 from overwork.

**DR. JESSE SLOCUMB****DR. JESSE SLOCUMB  
1895-1940**

Born in Reads Landing, Dr. Slocumb grew up in Winona and graduated in 1895 from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Chicago. He associated with Dr. Tefft that same year and later with Dr. Muir. He went into practice on his own in 1898 and continued until his

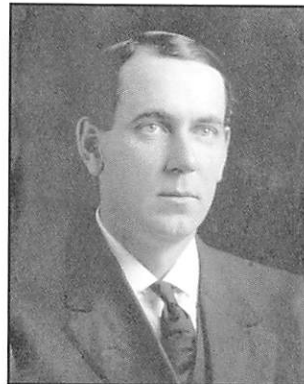
death in 1940. His unbounded energy and ability to diagnose medical difficulties made him one of the area's top notch physicians. He was an exceptionally fine cometist and music was his form of relaxation. He played in the Plainview Band, served many years on the Plainview School Board and Commercial Club and took an extremely active part in community affairs.



*Dr. French's office was used by several Plainview doctors.. The office space now holds Tom's Beauty Shop.*

**DR. HYERDALE 1899****DR. EDWIN FRENCH 1900-1908**

Son of Plainview native Corwin French, Dr. Edwin French opened his practice in 1900. In 1904 his cousin Ernest joined him. In 1908 he sold his practice to Ernest and moved West. He later moved to Canada.

**DR. ERNEST FRENCH****DR. ERNEST FRENCH  
1904-1926**

A Plainview native, son of Jacob French, Dr. Ernest French graduated from the University of Minnesota Medical School in 1903. He practiced medicine in northern Minnesota for one year before returning to Plainview where he partnered with his cousin, Dr. Edwin French. He bought the practice from

him in 1908 and continued a very successful career, with offices first located in a portion of the Bolton Drugstore. In 1920 he remodeled the former Reifkogel house on Mechanic Street into a home/office. This building was later used by several other doctors. Dr. French left Plainview in 1926 to take up residence in Oregon. He died of appendicitis en route.

**DR. CHRISTI MCKENZIE  
1918-1965****DR. CHRISTI MCKENZIE**

Dr. McKenzie received her training at Kirkwood, Missouri. She came to Plainview just prior to the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic that devastated the area. She was credited with saving many lives with her osteopathic skills. She had an office above Oliverson's brick store on North Broadway for a time and later worked from her home. McKenzie practiced up to the time of her death.

**DR. W.R. LONEY 1926-1928**

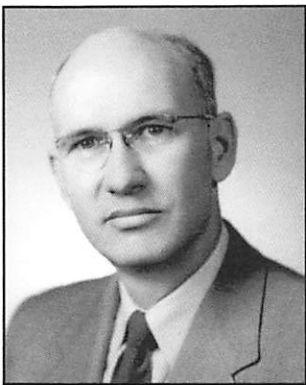
Dr. Loney opened his practice in Plainview in 1926 and left in 1928 to join the Mayo Clinic obstetrics unit.

**DR. WILLIAM STRYKER 1928-1934**

Dr Stryker came to Plainview in June, 1928, opening his practice in offices over the Schad Mercantile store. In August of that year he purchased the home and practice of Dr Loney. He left Plainview following his appointment to the U. S. Medical Corps in Pennsylvania in December, 1934.

**DR. H.T. SHERMAN 1935-1940**

Dr. Sherman took over Dr. Stryker's practice, renting the office that had been previously used by Dr. French. Dr. Sherman moved from that location in 1936 when Dr. Mahle started his practice in that facility. Relocating in the Church of Christ parsonage on Broadway, Dr. Sherman remained in Plainview until about 1940.

**DR. DON MAHLE****DR. DON MAHLE 1936-1965**

After interning at Minneapolis General Hospital for a year, Dr. Mahle came to Plainview in 1936 and bought the office/house from Dr. Stryker that Dr. Sherman had been renting. Besides maintaining a flourishing practice, Dr. Mahle participated in community affairs, serving

as president of the Commercial Club, a member on the City Council and School Board, and was active in boy scouts and church activities. After closing his Plainview office in 1965, he continued working for the Wabasha Clinic while living on Sand Prairie. He retired from medicine in 1976.

**DR. ROBERT A. GLABE****DR. ROBERT A. GLABE 1938-1958**

Coming to Plainview in 1938 as a partner in Dr. Slocumb's practice, Dr. Glabe bought out the practice after Dr. Slocumb's death in 1940, continuing in Dr. Slocumb's office on Broadway. He practiced in Plainview until 1958 when health problems forced him to discontinue. He then moved to Oronoco.

**DR. RICHARD CASTILLO 1965-1967**

In 1965 the Plainview Area Improvement Corporation secured the medical services of Dr. Richard Castillo, providing him an office in a home on 6<sup>th</sup> St SW. He terminated his practice in March of 1967, leaving Plainview without a doctor for the first time in the history of the community.

**DR. ROBERT MATHISON 1968-1970**

Dr. Mathison came to Plainview after practicing in Minneapolis, Annandale, and Kimball, opening his practice in the vacant Dr. Mahle office. In 1969 he moved into the Quiram building. On July 1, 1970, he was appointed to the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine, leaving Plainview without a doctor for the second time.

**MAYO HEALTH CARE FACILITY 1971-1979**

In 1971, Rochester's Mayo Clinic undertook a pilot study offering medical services in Plainview staffed by Mayo doctors. It was a first in Mayo history. The facility opened September 7 in the former George Risley house on 1st St SW. This service was discontinued in 1979, leaving Plainview, for the third time in its history, without a doctor.

**COMMUNITY CLINIC-1983-PRESENT**

After three years without a doctor, the W a b a s h a

Community Clinic opened a medical facility in the basement of Hillcrest Nursing Home. In 1991 this facility moved into the Burke building on Highway 42, near Snyder Drug. The Mayo Clinic of Rochester acquired the Community Clinic in 1993 and it continues today.

**OLMSTED MEDICAL CLINIC- 1999- PRESENT**

This clinic opened in Plainview in 1999 with a new facility constructed at the corner of Wabasha and 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. It is one of two medical facilities currently serving the community.



## Celebrations

### Corn on the Cob Day

Plainview held its first "Corn on the Cob Days" celebration on September 27, 1970. LaVeme Boyd and Richard Schultz served as co-chair and Dr. Jim Heibert was parade chairman. All were members of the local Jaycees, the organization sponsoring the event.

Two thousand people attended the one day celebration, consuming two tons of free sweet corn and nine hundred barbecued chicken dinners. A twenty-one unit parade featured clowns who distributed candy and gum to children along the route.

An air cushion, kiddie rides and games sponsored by the Mrs. Jaycees were all part of the carnival held in Wedgewood Park. A free dance at the American Legion hall was attended by two hundred fifty people.

The Jaycees picked the corn early Sunday morning and husking was done by Lakeside's sample husker. All the silk had to be cleaned off by hand. The corn was then placed in cloth bags and pillow cases and taken to the Lakeside cookers. This method of preparing the sweet corn was used for the first six to eight years. Lakeside supplied the corn, Plainview

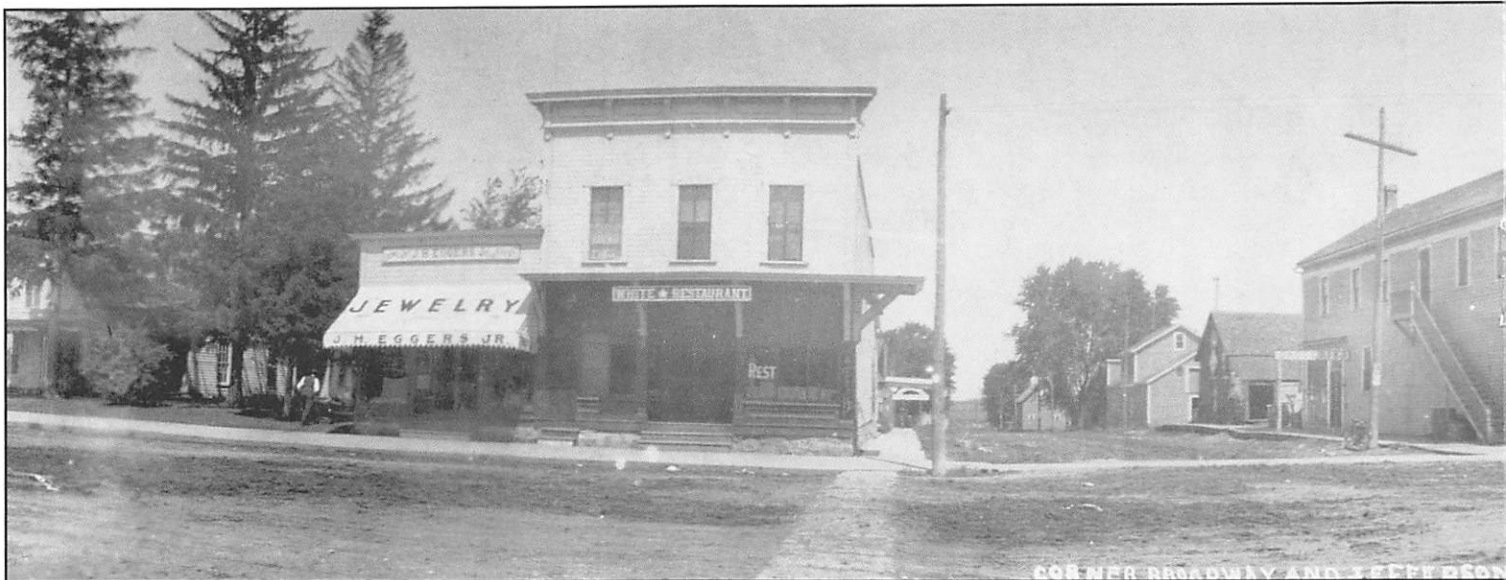


Milk Products supplied the butter and later Lanning's supplied the salt. This arrangement continues, except Lakeside now picks the corn and steams it in the husks.

The Jaycees sponsored the event through 1978 when they began co-sponsoring it with the Lions Club. The Lions took over sole sponsorship in 1986.

The event has expanded to include a Wednesday Church night, crowning of a King and Queen, an open air band concert, a golf tournament at Piper Hills, a street dance, city wide garage sales, 4 mile Corn Cob race, and of course free sweet corn and the huge Sunday parade.





# Organizations

## PLAINVIEW JAYCEES

Although the Jaycees organization is no longer active in the community, over the past fifty years they have played a major role in local service.

The earliest reference to Jaycees in Plainview was in 1939 when Alton Bergh, a local lawyer, organized a Junior Chamber of Commerce. Their service projects included Lakeside Day, securing lighting for the athletic field and establishing a safety committee to study traffic problems. They were active through the 40's

In 1958 the Plainview Jaycees were re-chartered. The group would remain active until 1983. Major projects included securing local door-to-door mail delivery, implementing a street & house numbering system, tearing down the city jail, erecting a directional sign on Highway 52, helping with the construction of the band shelter at Wedgewood Park, playing an active part in the swimming pool project, establishing the Miss Plainview Pageant, supporting street improvement, getting Carley State Park started, initiating an ambulance study and operating the Corn on the Cob Day festival.

Other projects included a Christmas Lighting Contest, Christmas tree pickup, Civil Defense project, Punt, Pass & Kick, Parade of Homes, Easter Egg Hunt,



*Jaycee Exhausted Roosters - (l. to r.) David Marshik, Dick Schultz, Terry Dennis and Merlin Bratberg, May, 1977*

defensive driving courses, gun & bike safety, Teen Road-e-o, and Honey Sunday.

An annual Awards/Community Banquet was held, honoring local people for community service.

In 1996 the local Jaycees were re-chartered by the Lewiston Chapter. They would continue until 2002. Some of the additional projects of the organization included sand box fill, supporting the food shelf and spring school carnival, Parks for Kids, adopt a highway and Halloween Hayride. They re-introduced the Welcome Wagon. The organization also produced a game called "The Great Game of Plainview" featuring local businesses and sold as a fundraiser.

## MRS. JAYCEES

The Mrs Jaycees was originally chartered in 1959 by the Wabasha Mrs Jaycees, but initially did not affiliate with the state organization. In 1962 they were re-chartered by the Rochester Jaycees.

Local projects included introducing babysitter clinics, child safety project selling ID bracelet, establishing the Candy Strippers at Hillcrest Nursing Home, starting the Welcome Wagon and vision & hearing testing for four year olds.

In 1973, the group took over the Miss Plainview Pageant they had previously assisted. In 1978, their name changed to Jaycee Women of Today. In the 1990's women were allowed to join the Jaycees.



*Winner of the Mrs. Jaycee Shopping Spree at the Red Owl Food Store in 1975 was Leona Schad (right). Mrs. Jaycee Carolyn Stelling is shown presenting the prize.*

Projects of the Mrs. Jaycees included working at Crazy Days stands, local style shows, Cystic Fibrosis Bazaar and garage sales, organizing the local Red

Cross Blood Doners program, bake sales, and association with the Outstanding Woman Award presentation.



Plainview Boy Scouts. They also funded eyeglasses for needy citizens, Leader Dog for the Blind, Minnesota Special Olympics, Peace Poster Contest, Hearing Foundation, Children's Eye Clinic and Youth Exchange.

Fund raising events include Ladies' Night Out, Good Friday Fish Fry, Pork Chop Dinner, July Chicken Feed, Lions Club Golf Tournament, Corn on the Cob Days Festival and Halloween Candy Sales.

The club's activities have changed as the needs of the community have evolved and as the talents

and desires of the members have changed. While fundraising is necessary to support the community projects, the main focus is on service. The club also has a social side with an annual spouses Christmas dinner and summer picnic meeting at Carley State Park.

The club motto is "The Get It Done

## PLAINVIEW LIONS CLUB

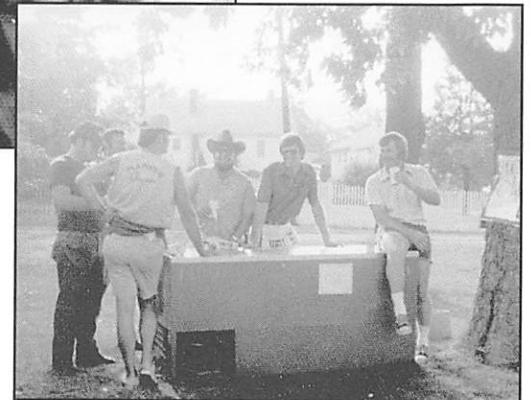
On November 29, 1967, twenty-three prominent citizens of Plainview were sworn in as charter members of the Plainview Lions Club under the sponsorship of the Winona Sunset Lions Club. Dan Cavanaugh was elected the first president.

The Plainview Lions are part of the largest community service organization in the world. They share a vision of helping others through community service activities. These activities include Christmas tree pickup, Corn on the Cob Day parade, Adopt a Highway Program, annual scholarship sponsor, Carley State Park Cleanup, Full Service Day, Old Fashioned Christmas Sleigh Rides and Camperships to Camp Winnebago.

The Plainview Lions raise funds in order to sponsor youth-oriented programs such as the



*Lions Club members organized Corn on the Cob Day events. Left - Hank Simmonski (left) and LaVerne Boyd (right) take a break. Center - (l. to r.) Dave Marshik, Merlin Bratberg, Colin Aune, LaVern Boyd at the beer tent. Right - Club members relax during the day (right).*



Club". They meet the second Wednesday of each month at the Plainview American Legion. Current officers are Denny Ranta-president, Al Raygor- 1st VP, Troy Munsch- 2nd VP, Randy Shindelar-3rd VP, Dirk Ranta- secretary, Dan Schmitz- treasurer, Rob Ebin-Tail Twister and Donavon Timm- Lion Tamer.



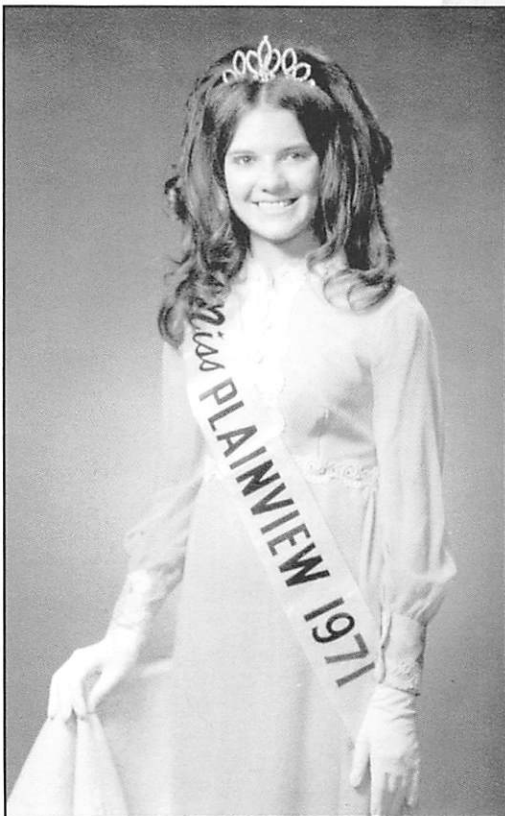
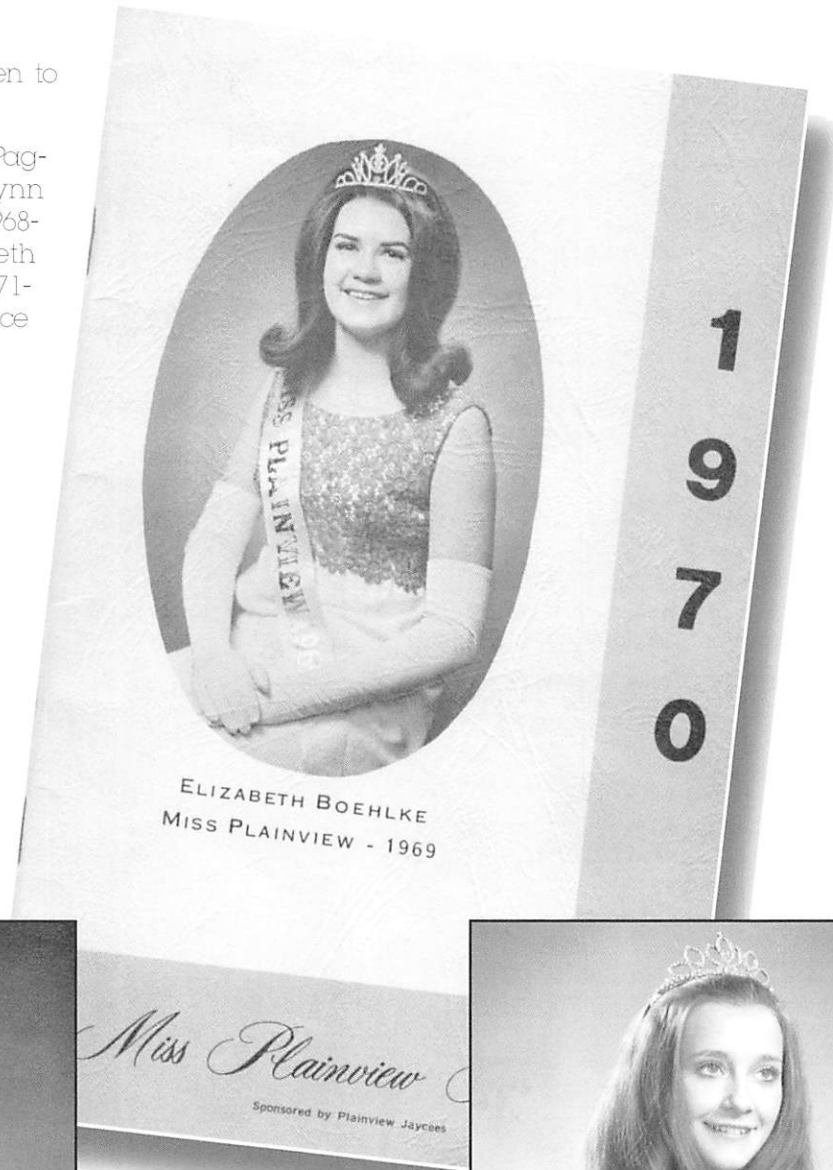
high school gymnasium and open to the public.

Winners of the Miss Plainview Pageant were as follows: 1966 Lynn Robertson, 1967- Jeanette Zabel, 1968- Cheryl Ferguson, 1969- Elizabeth Boehlke, 1970- Becky Markus, 1971- Cindy Klassen, and 1972- Constance Dittrich.

*Elizabeth Boehlke*  
*Miss Plainview 1969 (right)*

*Cindy Klassen*  
*Miss Plainview 1971 (bottom left)*

*Constance Dittrich*  
*Miss Plainview 1972 (bottom right)*



# The Centennial

1856-1956



Lester Craig (left) purchases a "Brother of the Bush" pin from Centennial Scribe Lee Baldwin



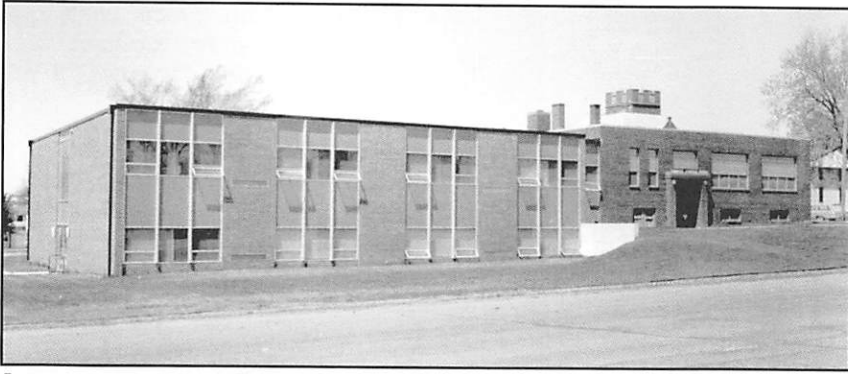
Kiddie & Pet Parade (above)

Vera Walch gives husband LaVern a trim for the Centennial Beard Contest (below)



Lila Feldman (left) and Gen Mack (right) get ready for the Centennial Style Show





*Immanuel Lutheran Church school addition, 1964*

**1965**

Village council purchases Binder property on Broadway. To build new Municipal Liquor Store on the site with grand opening in November. Plainview Area Improvement Corporation secures Dr Richard Castillo to open medical practice here. Swimming pool fund drive begins to raise money to build new pool using the "Do It Yourself" method incorporating volunteer labor to cut costs in half. After 20 years, Mat & Carol Eischens sell their Coast to Coast store to Jerry & Phyllis Hall. Dr Christie MacKenzie dies, ending her osteopathy practice that began in Plainview during the flu epidemic of 1918. Work is completed on new city well at Wedgewood Park. Pierce Auto Electric moves to its new location on North Wabasha.

**1966**

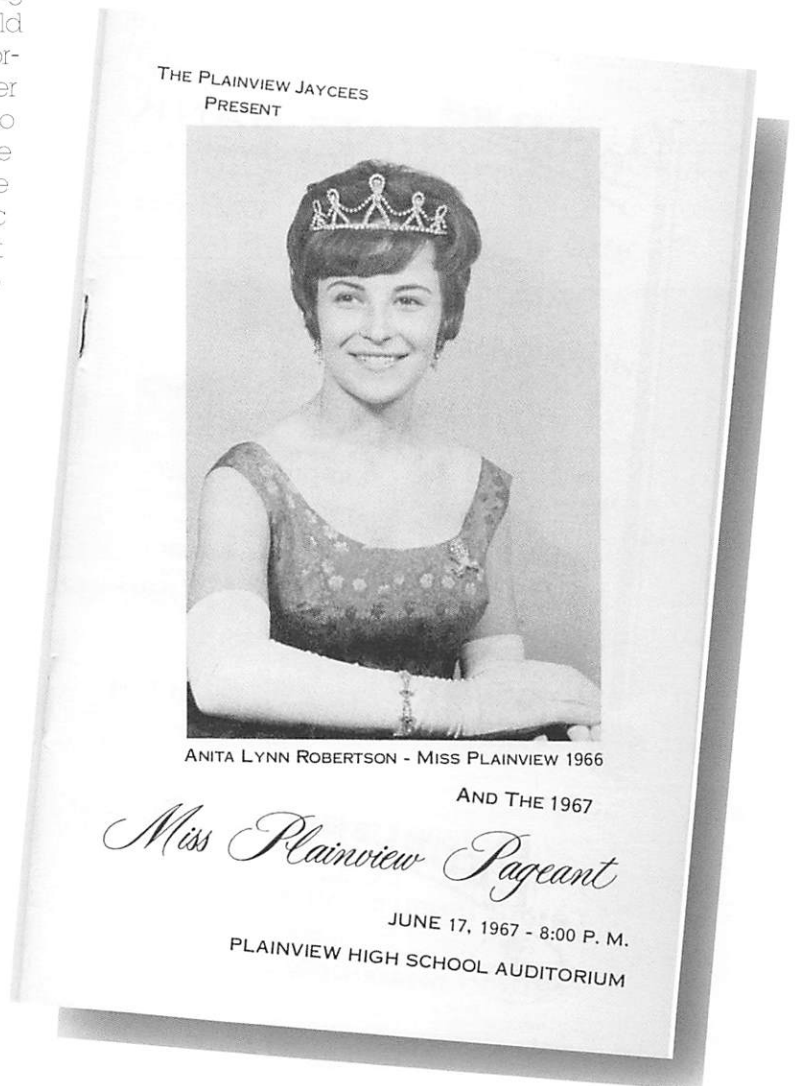
First Miss Plainview contest, sponsored by local Jaycees, held February 26 crowns Lynn Robertson. Saturday afternoon blaze destroys Dill Elevator with estimated damages as high as \$125,000. Old 65,000 gallon wooden water tower tank replaced with steel at cost of \$12,000. Grand Opening held for Christgau & Douglass enlarged and remodeled drugstore, occupying the former municipal liquor store building. Dr DG Mahle discontinues medical practice in Plainview after over 30 years. Ernest Goetz ends 53 years as Plainview businessman selling his shoestore to Lyle LaCroix. New swimming pool opens in August with 305 students enrolled in Red Cross swimming instruction. Highway 42 paved with concrete from Plainview to Highway 14 near Eyota, ending reconstruction project.

*Program for the 1967 Miss Plainview contest, 1967 (right)*

**1967**

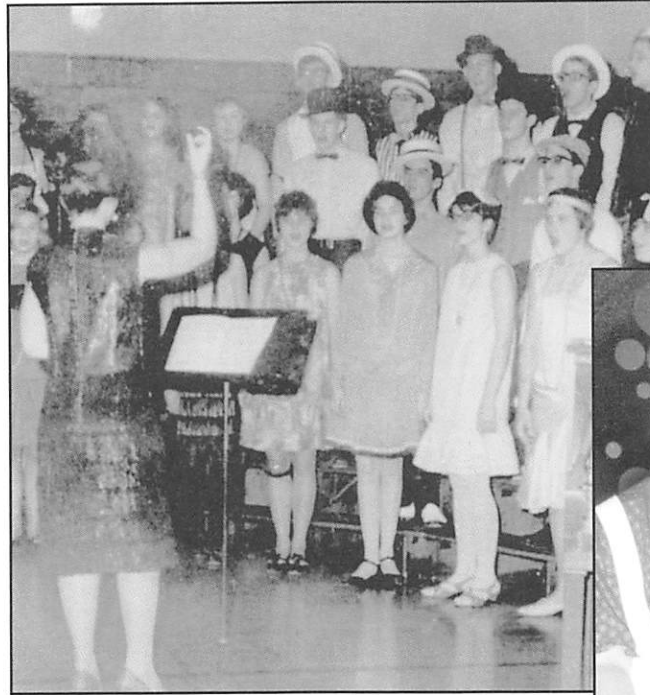
Voters approve nursing home bond issue by 5 to 1 margin with construction costs estimated at \$440,000 providing beds to 70 residents. No more Texaco station after 18 years in Plainview with death of operator Herbert Brueske. Dr Castillo discontinues medical practice leaving Plainview without a doctor. Johnson & Schriever Funeral Home discontinues ambulance service in the Plainview area due to growing government regulations.

Nettehoven family sells Plainview Hotel to Roy & Ruth Mussell, having operated it since 1912. Plainview's second drive-in, the "Wheel-In" opens with owners Joe Maringer and Junior Polikowsky. The Elgin-Plainview Golf Corporation begin construction of a nine hole course on the Sylvester Klassen farm south of Mason Livestock Yards. Lions Club organizes.



## 1968

Plainview school music department, under the direction of Don & Jan Fiskum, stage Plainview's first pop concert "The Roaring 20s"...First annual Fellowship Banquet held with Masons, Odd Fellows, and Knights of Columbus attending... John Peterson buys interest in Christgau & Douglass drugstore business...Plainview's first coin operated car wash opens on Broadway...Hillcrest Nursing home opens with first patient Mrs. Carl (Flora) Houghton of Elgin and Mrs. John Elgin as resident nurse... Mack Publishing Company moves into new quarters, the former GEM Theater... First Plainview United Fund drive collects \$4,136... Plainview News switches back to full sized broadsheet with computerized typesetting...Two school construction bond issues fail for proposed \$244 million senior high school.



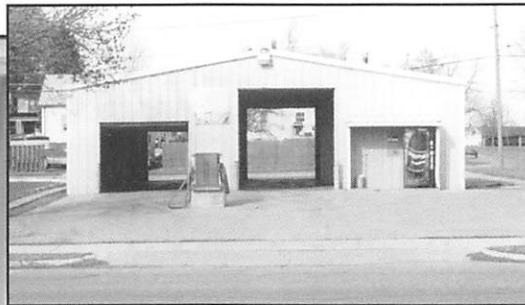
*Jan Fiskum directs choir during first Pop Concert, "The Roaring Twenties," 1968 (left)*

*Jan and Don Fiskum in costume for "Come To The Mardi Gras" Pop Concert, 1969 (below)*



## 1969

Lakeside eliminates corn silage stack and updates irrigation system...Plainview is only area village to fluoridate water...Piper Hills Golf builds two story clubhouse and will employ many...Overcrowded school forces third grade into St. Joachim school plus portable classrooms...Astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin walk on the moon...Grace Kruger, postal clerk, retires after 26 years in the Plainview post office...Public school to bus parochial students under new law.



*New car wash, 1968 (above)*

## 1970

After 33 years, Jack Magnussen sells the "Men's Shop" to Wesley LaBare...School \$1,350,000 addition bond issue passes by 91 votes...Mary Senst buys Village Department store from Heinen's... Renames it Senst Department Store... After 19 years in Plainview the Dominican Sisters at St. Joachim's return to Switzerland...Plainview's first "Corn on the Cob" celebration is held September 27 attracting 2,000...Peoples State Bank replaces familiar bank clock with modern time/temperature clock readable two blocks away... New business "Plainview Disposal Service"

*Frank Mrachek (left) closed March Studio after 34 years. New owner William Sillman (right)*

