



# **I Thought You'd Like To Know**

**by Gladys Mack**

**compiled from the  
PLAINVIEW NEWS**



Gladys Mack- a Collector of History

She was a "transplant" from Cresco, Iowa who came to Plainview as a teacher of art and music. A graduate of Bradley University located in Peoria, Illinois, she had taught at West Union, Iowa for a time and then headed north. Little did she know that Plainview was about to become her "home".

In 1919 Gladys married Robert Mack, whose family published the local PLAINVIEW NEWS. And although Gladys and Robert were away for a time, in 1943 they became associated with Will Mack in publishing the PLAINVIEW NEWS and moved back to Plainview. By 1946 Robert and Gladys were co-editors of the paper.

It was during this year, 1946, that Gladys began writing a column for the paper called "I Thought You'd Like To Know" in which she featured historical tidbits from the area. Starting out with how various towns got their names, she later expanded into collecting and retelling the history of local churches, businesses, school, as well as specific topics such as the boys scouts, library, and Fairview Park.

Each weekly article was loaded with data to make today's historian drool. And the best part was that many facts were related from local "historians" who remembered actual events. In short, the articles were a treasure trove of history.

During the one year run of her articles, Gladys took a brief vacation from her column. She gave the following "excuse".

"The compiling of this type of column, while one of the most interesting in the newspaper field, is one of the most difficult and strenuous any one of our writing staff is required to produce. The writer has a wealth of interesting historical facts which she intends to publish.

The NEWS has no intention of permanently discontinuing the "I Thought You'd Like To Know" column. For the next week or two Mrs. Mack is being given a sort of motorman's holiday during which she will hunt out new facts and information for use in later issues of this paper."

It also happened to be just before Christmas and there was a hint that unless Gladys got a short break, there might not be any presents under the tree that year!

In one short year, Gladys Mack had collected historical data that would be used nearly fifty years later as a resource to help "fill in the cracks" and tell many of "Plainview's stories". For her work, researchers are indebted. And most of all, thankful for publishing them in a format to help so many.

August 1, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

--- by GLADYS MACK

### **WHERE DID ELGIN GET ITS' NAME?**

The recent finding of two tombstones buried in the yard of an Elgin resident, investigation following and the final clearing up of the mystery brought to light interesting facts concerning early Elgin history which might be of interest to our Elgin readers and others.

Four men of Vermont, George and Curtis Bryant, Henry Atherton and George Farrar landed by steamboat at Winona, came up across that country to what is now the village of St. Charles and found their way to the borders of Greenwood Prairie. They planted their stakes, gathered faggots from a nearby grove, kindled a fire spread their blankets and laid down to rest on the virgin soil of the beautiful valley of the Whitewater with no trepidation concerning wild beasts or prowling Indians.

The little encampment was destined to mark the beginning of a settlement later known as Elgin village.

The next day they proceeded to cut logs to build a shelter for themselves. The days following were busy ones for these pioneering men. George Bryant returned to Vermont to bring back his family. Leonard Laird and his family of Vermont came back with them. Mrs. Laird and Mrs. Bryant were the first women in the settlement. Other settlers came. Henry Stanchfield, E. L. Clapp and their families and Wm. D. Woodward, John

Bryant and his wife, parents of George and Curtis came along. Orvis and Irving Rollins came from Plainview to join the settlers.

The following year did much to satisfy the high hopes of the pioneers, cabins were built rapidly, shacks for cattle were put up. The rich soil of the broad acres gave forth abundantly.

The first log cabin, shingled in elm bark was built by George Farrar in 1856 and became a shelter or hotel for many settlers as well as a home. In 1860 this tavern closed and Zebina Weld built another hotel.

The pioneer folks called their little settlement "Paradise" because of the happiness and opportunities they had found there. But for many miles around the settlers referred to the settlement as "Yankee Settlement."

On May 11, 1858 a meeting was held at the home of John Pell for the purpose of village organization and election of officers and choosing a name.

Each voter placed a name on the back of his ticket. The whole number of votes cast was 54 with 50 in favor of the name Elgin. How the name happened to be suggested and why is problematical. Research fails to reveal any information on why this name was chosen. If anyone has any information concerning the name we would appreciate very much if they would bring or mail it to the News office.

August 8, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

- - - by GLADYS MACK

### **RAILROAD COMPANY GAVE KELLOGG ITS NAME**

The little neighboring village of Kellogg had its beginning way back in 1870 when John Huddleston came from New York and built the first building. In 1871 Clement Brass arrived and built a hotel and John Mealey, a blacksmith shop. These pioneer gentlemen saw great possibilities in this rich and beautiful farming country and could foresee how it could be developed into an important shipping point.

The railroad they dreamed about came and things began to happen in the little hamlet. It rapidly became a shipping center for grain, livestock and farm products for a large territory to the southwest.

A bank was organized by John Costello, Linn Whitmore and Charles C. Hirshey. A newspaper called "The Enterprize" carried the news of current happenings to the outside world. A creamery, saw mill and grain elevator were added to the other industrial projects.

The railroad company adopted the name Kellogg in honor of Mr. Kellogg, a gentleman from Milwaukee who provided the station signs. The village likewise adopted the name.

In 1877 the village was incorporated. Village officials elected were J. E. Gage, Joseph Ginther, John Schouweiler, Calvin Potter, E. A. Tupper, J. O. Junken and C. H. Coleman.



August 22, 1946

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

- - - by GLADYS MACK

The authentic facts of this story were told to the writer by Mr. Ralph Read, a resident of Millville for over a half century.

Millville village, nestled down in the picturesque Zumbro Valley affords so much of beauty and historical interest.

The story of its beginning centers around a pioneer gentleman Colonel Charles R. Reed, father of Ralph Reed. With the decline of Read's Landing Colonel Read homesteaded near Wabasha and engaged in the real estate business, buying and selling land from the Indians.

The rolling prairie of Oakwood township was cut by the rocky cliffs of Zumbro Valley, covered with oak, hazel, cottonwood and maple. Before civilization began to rear this wild, beautiful country these cliffs were dotted with wigwams of the Sioux Indians of Wapasha's tribes who came to hunt and make their homes. Deer roamed in the gorges and underbrush. Beavers made their homes in waters of the creeks winding through the valleys. Grey wolf and cunning fox prowled about. Animals and Indians ran riot in these hills.

In 1856 the ox team and covered wagon came bringing prospectors. Among these earliest settlers were Matthew Kinsella and son Matthew, David and James Foley, Patrick and Lawrence Tracy, Henry Powell, Bernard McNulty, James McPike, Michael Campbell, Patrick McQuigan and sons John and James Henry Martin, Patrick Flemming and John Pell. The township was named Pell in honor of the latter. Later the name was changed to Sherman and finally to Oakwood, its present name.

Mr. Read purchased a 160 acre tract of land where the village of Millville now stands from an Indian named Joseph Labatte on September 15, 1857 for the sum of 400 dollars. He hired Patrick Nolan, who lived about three miles distant to watch over his holdings. James Nolan, son of Patrick Nolan now lives on this farm.

A post office was established at the home of Ole Christopher in 1867 with Charles Read appointed postmaster, June 4, 1867 by postmaster general Alexander Randall.

In 1870 John Huny opened the first store and the post office moved to his store. J. B. Miller and Mullen and Leonard opened stores. John Belurns built the Midland hotel. A wagon shop, grain house, another hotel built by a Mr. Plath, a depot, Peter Holteins blacksmith shop and others were added.

The Minnesota Midland Railway came in 1878 giving new impetus to the Village.

A New York gentleman came prospecting. He saw the possibilities the Zumbro river afforded as a fine site for water power, just waiting to be occupied and planned to build a mill. The villagers in their enthusiasm named the village Millville. However the mill never materialized.

Charles Read built a home in Millville in 1895 which is now occupied by Charles Springer. The old Midland hotel barn still stands and is owned by Ralph Read. The Wadley home built by a blacksmith is occupied by Matthew Wadley. Andersons log house of pioneer days is now occupied by Alfred Bussa.

August 29, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

... by GLADYS MACK

### **"HOW THEILMAN GOT ITS' NAME"**

River country is ever fascinating and beautiful and especially so are the valleys and forests on the cliffs skirting the Zumbro river on both sides. These cliffs tower to great heights topped with trees that seem to lean against the sky.

It was way back in 1855 that pioneer men found their way from Scotland, Germany and Ireland to the hills of the Zumbro river valley. William McCracken the first settler came from Scotland. He was followed by Charles Foreman, Hugh McGowen, Hugh and Robert Cochrane, Fred Bernhart, Wm. Stowman, Henry Smith, John and Wm. Cochrane, Hugh McGinnis, The Ring brothers, Henry Ash, J. B. Roane, and others who settled in the valley and uplands and engaged in farming. The soil was a blackish loam with clay subsoil which was very high in fertility. The good earth gave forth abundantly. The pioneers built huts and sent for their families. The epoch however is not entirely one of prosperity. Many and trying were the hardships enduring by those brave souls.

The pioneers discovered a 15 acre plot of ground called "Indian Field" where the Indians had buried their dead and used the rest of the plot as a corn field. One could picture these hills dotted with wigwams, smoke pour-

ing from the camp fires, fleet footed Indian braves dashing through the thicket in search of deer. How the hills must have resounded with Indian war whoops in those pre-civilization days.

A township was established in 1855 and was named Glasgow after Glasgow, Scotland. The first post office was set up at the home of Boyd Fetzer who was made post master. Robert Cochrane and A. T. Lansing erected a saw mill and Herman Wing, a blacksmith shop. The first white child was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh McGowen. Both, Mother and baby died.

Villages were established. McCracken village was named for the first settler, William McCracken.

In the southwest corner of the township, Christian Theilman built a huge grain house in 1878 and began buying grain. The narrow gauge railroad was built and the Wabasha elevator company put up an elevator with William Foreman in charge. Peter Hall built a two story house and stocked it with general merchandise. Nicholas Reil built a home, Henry Sommerhilder, a wagon shop. A post office was established with Peter Hall its' first post master. The villagers chose the name Theilmanton for their village in honor of Christian Theilman and the name was later changed to Theilman.

September 5, 1946

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

... by GLADYS MACK

### HOW HAMMOND GOT ITS NAME

The facts of this story were authenticated by Mrs. E. N. York, 93, and her son Walter, life long residents of Hammond and by Mrs. Fred Ableitner a resident of the village since 1902.

The rich woodlands on the cliffs of the Zumbro Valley, the rolling prairies with high fertility and the water must have lured the pioneers to the southerly bend of the Zumbro river. Many of them came from Germany.

In 1850 a pioneer named Lyman braved this wild, beautiful country, built himself a cabin near an easy ford of the Zumbro river where the village of Hammond lies and engaged in wood cutting. Others followed and the little settlement was named Lyman's Ford.

In 1856 Joseph Hammons settled in the valley and in 1857 Simon Garlitz came. Mr. Hammons built a house, moved his family into it and stocked it with \$300 worth of merchandise. Thus began the first store in the hamlet. The Hammons home still stands and is now occupied by the Carl Theis family.

The name of the village was changed from Lyman's Ford to Hammon's Ford.

In 1878 Anton Kruger and Michael Dossdall built the first ware house to take care of the bumper crop of 1877. In 1879 Mr. Kruger determined that the village should be located near his warehouse built a home there. Mrs. Ferdinand Dickman of Hammond and Peter Kruger of Plainview are grandchildren of Anton Kruger.

Grading for the railroad was begun in 1877 and it opened for traffic in 1878. About this time the wooden bridge was built.

About this time Wilhelm Bartz opened a hotel and the post office was established there with Mr. Bartz as Postmaster. The hotel was later taken over by Charles Kruger as a home. Mrs. Fred Ableitner, grandchild of Charles Kruger came there to live when a young girl.

In 1880 Mr. Hammons built a store and rented it to Benjamin Young who opened a store. The post office was moved to the store. The store still stands, now occupied by the Hammond Hardware.

In 1881 Edward N. York opened a store in the Hammons building and continued to operate for 11 years. The melting snows of a winter of many blizzards swelled the Zumbro river and flooded the hamlet. The York store was inundated with 4 ft. of water.

Mr. York later joined a partnership with William Kruger who sold to Adam Funk. The E. N. York Merchantile Company was organized as the E. N. York Co. with E. N. York, Adam Funk and A. R. Haggerty as owners. They built a new store. This store still stands. The name E. N. York Co. almost obliterated by the hands of time, Mrs. E. N. York and son Walter live at the old York home during the summer months.

The villagers later changed the name Hammon's Ford to Hammond its' present name.

September 12, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

... by GLADYS MACK

### **THE NAMING OF JARRETTS**

In 1855 pioneers from Maryland and Northern Pennsylvania of mostly Irish and English descent, in search of homesites migrated by the Zumbro Valley. They were attracted by the rolling rich farmlands so suitable for agricultural pursuits and by the wooded cliffs covered with oak and hazel and by the water.

In their search they came upon an easy ford of the Zumbro river in the southeast section of Hyde Park Township and settled there. The tales that are told of the hardships of that bitter cold winter of 1855-56 are almost unbelievable. What hardy folks they must have been to survive that winter. Spring came with it's hope and it's promise and these good people took heart, planted their fields with wheat oats, and barley and the gardens.

Mr. Jarretts was the first settler and they named the hamlet Jarretts Ford in his honor. It was later changed to Jarretts it's present name.

The land was varied, rough and hilly with dense forests of oak and hazel where in those pioneer days the fox, wolf and deer darted in and out of the brushes and Indians made their home on the cliffs. The uplands were the rich rolling praries, pride of the pioneers.

It was not until 1878 that the little hamlet began to flourish. The narrow gauge railroad was built that year and a flouring mill run by water power from a race-way on the Zumbro river was built by Mr. Kimball and Mr. Kitman who operated it for two years and sold to Mr. J. L. Owen, who later sold it to Fred G. Colburn. Mr. Colburn continued in this beehive of industry for many years and eventually took his son in as partner.

An elevator with a capacity of 5000 bushels was built in 1878 and was used as a feeder to the flouring mill at Mazeppa. F. W. Shaw, also established a general store at this time.

September 19, 1946

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

... by GLADYS MACK

### HOW ZUMBRO FALLS GOT IT'S NAME

The writer spent a pleasant hour Sunday afternoon in the beautiful Zumbro Valley at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Sprenger, life time residents of rural Zumbro Falls. This elderly couple, both keen in mind and enjoying good health recalled many interesting stories of pioneer days in Zumbro Falls area. Mr. Sprenger was born in 1867 and came to live on a farm near Zumbro Falls with his parents when about eight years of age and lived all of his life there.

His farming career was interspersed with magazine writing and composing lovely poems. His columns, "Philosophy from a Milk Stool" and his poems were published monthly by Hoard's Dairyman magazine for many years. The writer enjoyed reading a few of the clippings and looks forward to another visit with Mr. and Mrs. Sprenger.

Way back in 1855 Mr. David Tibbetts pioneered to the Zumbro Valley where the village of Zumbro Falls now lies, built a log house and established a ferry. His brother Abner came along and built a cabin. In 1858 John Van Smith arrived and built a home in which he opened a hotel. Other Pioneers from Pennsylvania, New York and New England in search of homes found their way to that area. Edwin Beeman built a shoe shop, Orrin Pencille a blacksmith shop, Uriah S. Whaley bought out Mr. Tibbetts, moved into his house and began operating the ferry. These pioneers settled on the south side of the river. The flood of 1858 covered the flat and brought extreme hardship to the settlers.

The railroad was soon built giving impetus to the village. Many new businesses were started. Charles Bryant established a blacksmith shop, David Willard a harness shop. John Dale a wagon shop, Perry Card a hotel, Fidel Sugg a general store, Mathias Bright a harness shop, Dr. Rogers a drug store and E. A. Harridan a general store. Benjamin Clark built a dam at the rapids and erected a grist mill and Mr. Irish also built a mill. Both were run by water power from the Zumbro river raceway.

Mr. Whaley platted the village on the north side of the river which was called Whaley's addition. E. B. Doty erected a hardware store and Wm. Churchill a drug store. The post-office was established in the Fidel Sugg general store.

The cyclone of 1883 did extensive damage to the south side. Folks became very discouraged and many decided to move over to the north side of the river. Whaley's addition grew rapidly. Rivalry between the two sections was keen. Mr. Sprenger recalled that the north town was called Frog town and the south section Hog town. Mr. Sprenger, then a lad of 15 years was in the church during the cyclone when it was ripped from it's foundation.

The bridge across the river, a pontoon structure of 5 flat boats strung together with an iron rod was carried away in the cyclone and Mr. Sprenger and another lad rowed a boat across the swollen river.

The name Whaley's addition was changed to Zumbro Falls. A small village up the river with that name died away and the villagers of Whaley's addition decided upon that name.

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

... by GLADYS MACK

### ABOUT THE NAMING OF MAZEPPA

Mrs. O. G. Nichols of Mazeppa found among her treasured newspaper clippings just what was needed to authenticate the facts of this story.

In previous stories you have been told of pioneers coming to the Zumbro valley. This story is also about pioneers who came from England and New York and pilgrimaged to the Zumbro valley, followed the Zumbro River to the area where the village of Mazeppa now lies. When they arrived they discovered a cave at a point where a large brook, now called Trout Brook emptied into the Zumbro river. This cave was 15 ft. high 12 ft. wide at the entrance and 70 ft. deep. Pictures of birds, animals and some hieroglyphics were crudely carved on the rocks. The pioneers thought the cave was a great blessing and made their first homes inside. The horses and other animals occupied the back of the cave and the pioneers made themselves comfortable in the front. Later they built cabins.

An Englishman, Ira O. Seeley was the first settler to arrive in this area. He came from New York in 1854. Joseph Ford and his son Orville came the following year. Mr. Ford and his son and their families had traveled from New York to Illinois where relatives lived. This part of the country was not to their liking, however. They had heard much about Minnesota and thought they must see for themselves what that wonderland offered. They left their families in Illinois and came by boat to Read's Landing, walked from there to the cabin of Ira Seeley. Tired and hungry were these pioneer men when they arrived. Mr. Seeley prepared food for them and a bed of prairie grass on ice covered ground.

After days of exploration, Mr. Ford and his son climbed to the brow of a hill overlooking the valley and viewed the combination of rolling farm lands, the heavy wooded timber land and the Zumbro river. The elder Ford said, "Son, we will go no further, this valley shall be our home." He could foresee the prospect of health, wealth and happiness that was sure to come.

Orville Ford returned to Illinois, purchased a team of oxen, a cow and provisions and with his mother, wife and baby son set out in a

covered wagon for Minnesota. The journey was long hard and perilous but came to a happy end when they were met at their destination by Joseph Ford and George Maxwell who had prepared comforts for the weary travelers.

Other pioneers came and settled in the valley. The little settlement grew and prospered. Isaac Nichols, father of the late O. G. Nichols who died in 1941 built the first saw mill and in company with Wm. Armsbury built the 1st grist mill. He sold this and built a flouring mill which was washed away by the flood. Alexander and Rhoderick Sommers built a saw mill which was kept busy day and night sawing timber for the settler's shanties.

There were unspeakable hardships for these fearless men and women. The bitter cold, the lack of food and the floods all had to be endured.

J. E. Hyde built a home where the Mazeppa bank now stands. The first hotel was in a house built by N. B. Smith. Stages passed there bi-weekly. Orville Ford built a home and opened a hotel. This building is now occupied by Ami McDonough. Joseph Ford and his son, Orville opened a store where the new Locker Plant now stands.

Nellie Seeley was the first white child born in the village. She married John McCellan.

In these early days Indians largely outnumbered the whites. They camped in the valley cultivated the prairie lands and raised corn. They were friendly and often stopped at the homes of the whites to shoot at marks with them. The pioneer ladies bought beaded articles and baskets from the Indians.

A survey of the settlement was made. Ira Seeley was asked to choose a name for the village. He chose the name "Mazeppa" because of his love and admiration for Lord Byron's immortal poem, "Mazeppa". George Gordon Byron, 6th Lord of England and a brilliant poet wrote this poem of 20 cantos in 1819. "Mazeppa" the hero of the poem was a soldier who fought in the Swedish monarch's ranks in the war between Russia and Sweden. The poem itself has no bearing upon the naming of the village. It was just that it was a great favorite of Mr. Seeleys.

October 3, 1946

The village of Minneiska is rated, next to Wabasha as the oldest village in Wabasha County.

In 1851 Michael Agnes came up from St. Louis, settled in the southeastern corner and built a shanty. He engaged in cutting wood for the making of steamboats. Louis Krutely came and settled near Charles R. Read of Read's Landing purchased a claim about four miles up the river. These early settlers lived mostly on game and fish and would trade these for flour from the stewards of the steamboats. They climbed trees and watched and waited for long hours for steamboats which in those days only came about once in two months.

Abner Tibbetts, E. C. Baldwin, Joseph Schurb and B. H. Reppe were among the arrivals in 1852. They laid out a portion of their claim into a townsite and named it West Newton. This name was chosen because of a steamboat that had been sunk in the river. The pilot house of which was in shallow water and the name Newton in clear view.

A postoffice was established in B. H. Reppe's store and West Newton seemed to be on the road to becoming quite a place. Elabor-

river kept wearing the banks away until the village was finally forced to surrender. Much of that early village was buried in the river.

Mr. Agnes laid out the village of <sup>NEW</sup>Minneiska in 1854. Minneiska is the Dakota Indian name for Whitewater. Minne is white and iska is water. The village was named after the Whitewater river which ran through the township and entered the Mississippi near the townsite.

In 1856 Pliny Putnam built a hotel, S. A. Houck, H. B. Slater opened general stores, Bigelow and sons erected a sawmill and Mr. Bentley and Gale built a large grain house. In 1859 Timmerman and Swart built a large warehouse, A. P. Foster of Plainview drew the first load of wheat to that warehouse.

Mary Schurb, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schurb was the first white child born in the village.

Elder Mallinson began to conduct religious services in the village. In 1851 Father Fissot of Wabasha conducted mass in the cabins of the settlers for several years. In 1867 Michael Agnes donated a lot and the settlers were assessed \$1100 to build a little church. This church served the village of Minneiska for 44 years.

October 10, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

... by GLADYS MACK

### **HOW THE VILLAGE OF WEAVER GOT ITS NAME**

In 1851 Andrew Olson a pioneer from Norway who had been in the East for some time prospecting on a homesite came to the area where the village of Weaver now lies, cut some logs and built a cabin. Two brothers George and Christopher Abbott followed him and built cabins nearby. A little later William Weaver arrived from New York State, built a cabin and engaged in farming. The village of Weaver platted in 1871 lies on the north side of this farm. It was named in honor of this pioneer.

When the railroad ran through this section the village began to grow and prosper. W. H. Hopkins erected and opened a store, stocking general merchandise and machinery. The post office was established in this store and Mr. Hopkins was made postmaster.

Wm. Weaver erected a large hotel. Warehouses for grain storage were built when the bumper crops of 1871 had to be cared for. The school house was built in 1872. Services for the Methodist and Norwegian Lutheran Congregations were held in the school house.

John and Mary Callahan emigrated from Ireland in 1837 and settled in New York. A

son Michael was born to them. He came to Weaver when a very young man, became station agent and telegraph operator. He married Eliza Hitchcock of Weaver and they had one daughter, Mary Agnes.

These early settlers saw their share of hardship and privation, but bitter cups were often sweetened and dark hours lightened by the merry gatherings of the settlers. They were a friendly lot and used to hold singing and spelling schools, and give sleigh and hay rides.

The land around Weaver has always been high in fertility and the wheat and other crops were bountiful. In the early days there were times when the pioneers had to resort to johnny cake or potatoes when supplies were low but they managed. There was usually an abundance of prairie chicken, grouse and a few deer to increase their slim bill of fare.

Indians lived on the plateau and the pioneers spent many wakeful nights as rumors of hostilities reached their ears. However, but very few scalps were lost. The friendly Indians would often drop in at the cabins of the pioneers in the evenings to play cards and shoot at targets.



October 24, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

... by GLADYS MACK

This story completes the series as to how the various towns in Wabasha County acquired their names. The compiling of the facts used in the series has taken many hours of research and many miles of travel. That the time and effort has been worthwhile is evidenced by the many favorable comments we have received. While this week completes this interesting series of historical stories about Wabasha County towns, Mrs. Mack, who originated and wrote them has promised to start a new and different series in the very near future which I hope you will enjoy as well as the one just completed.

The Editor.

### **ABOUT THE NAMING OF WABASHA**

Wabasha, the beautiful town built on a terrace overlooking the Mississippi river and surrounded by towering bluffs, ranks as the oldest town on the Mississippi. It had its beginning way back in 1826, almost 30 years before all of the other towns in Wabasha and adjoining counties were established. The story is an epic of the changing of the hunting grounds of savages into cultivated farms and homes.

Augustin Rocque, a French Canadian fur trader came to this area which was then a wilderness covered with underbrush and trees and inhabited by Indian tribes, one of which was Chief Wahpashaw or Red Leaf and his band of Sioux Indians. Mr. Rocque settled in the extreme western part of the present town of Wabasha across the slough. He named the site Rocque's Landing.

Duncan Campbell, a native of Scotland also came to this area. They engaged in fur trade with the Indians. In 1838 Oliver Cratte, an Englishman who had emigrated to Canada from England when a young lad found his way to this territory, built a house on the levee and named the spot, Cratte's Landing. Joseph Buisson, another Canadian also settled nearby and engaged in Indian trade and farming. Francois LaBatte, a half breed nephew of Wah-pa-shaw established a post at Wabasha in 1841 which he later sold to Alexis Bailly. LaBatte was killed in the Indian massacre of 1862.

These early traders lived a very primitive life among the Indians in this Mississippi river wilderness. They built shacks of logs, on the levee, clinking them with mud and sand. Indian teepees were everywhere. The Indians would peak in the windows of the whites or stalk into their cabins demanding food or coshpop, the Indian term for a dime. They were peaceable, however and uprisings were few.

Duncan Graham, a native of Scotland came to Wabasha in 1834. He had been carrying the mails between Prairie du Chein and the Red River of the North traveling in most of the Northwest states and finally locating in Wabasha. His daughter married Joseph Buisson.

The town of Wabasha was in 1843, a mere trading post and stopping place for traders and voyagers passing in steamboats up and down the river and around the lakes. The little group of traders decided to name the settlement Wah-pa-shaw. Mr. Duncan Graham wrote the name and an account of the transactions on a sheet of paper which he placed in a bottle and buried. He placed a post at the spot with the sign Wah-pa-shaw written in large letters on it. He then broke a bottle of Whisky on the post to celebrate the christening. It has been said that this ceremony took place where the First National Bank was built in later years.

A story is told that Chief Wah-pa-shaw,, living with his tribe at Sand Prairie was invited to a council of the troublesome Winnebago Indians. After listening to the Winnebago chiefs telling of what they proposed to do to the whites, old Wah-pa-sha arose and pulling a hair from his head and blowing it away said. "If you harm a single white man I will blow you from the face of the earth just as I have blown that hair away.

In 1849 a bill was passed organizing the territory of Minnesota. It was not until 1855 that the town of Wabasha was surveyed and laid out by A. S. Hart, Oliver Cratte,, Joseph Buisson and Philo Stone.

From then on the story is one of rapid progress. Stores, hotels and warehouses were built. A postoffice was established with Alexis Bailly as postmaster. A newspaper called the Wabashaw Journal was first printed in 1856. Churches and schools were built.

In 1856 the name of the village Wah-pa-shaw was changed to Wabasha. The first agricultural Fair was opened in 1859 in an building erected for a warehouse. Mr. S. L. Campbell was the first Secretary of the Fair Ass'n and H. C. Simpson, Treasurer.

Wabasha became a wonderful market for wheat and large mills, warehouses and elevators were built. Congress constructed a military road of 75 miles from Wabasha to Mendota. The branch of the Minneapolis-St. Paul and Milwaukee railroad was completed in 1871 giving added life to this flourishing village. The Indians and halfbreeds had gradually disappeared. Civilization had reared this wilderness in that short space of time into a busy prosperous village.

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## "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

... by GLADYS MACK

In my browsing around throughout the country, obtaining material on how the various towns of the country derived their names I found an unusual number of our readers interested in historical events and places. For that reason "I Thought You'd Like to Know", the history of some of our business institutions, the people who originated them and their progress since their early day founding. The Plainview Creamery drew my attention for the first article because of its phenomenal progress in the past few years. Its early history is equally as phenomenal. I hope you'll enjoy reading about its early and present day pioneers.

### SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT PLAINVIEW'S FAST GROWING AND PROSPEROUS CREAMERY BUSINESS

The first creamery in Plainview was built by A. Y. Felton in 1881. Mr. Felton came to Plainview from Vermont in 1861 and was employed as clerk in the Ozias Wilcox Store. In 1866 he purchased the drug business from Crowley and Company and operated that until 1874. He was elected County treasurer in 1867 and served until 1871. Was elected member of the school board and served until 1878. He became president of the first Telegraph Co. operating a line between Plainview and Minneiska.

In 1875 he purchased land from P. S. Danforth a part of the property now owned by George Dickman and Otto Karsten and built a home. The beautiful home built so long ago by Mr. Felton, of the finest materials procurable at that time was purchased by Mr. George Dickman and has been the family home of the Dickmans ever since. In the spring of 1881 he built a creamery on this land near his home on the property now owned by Otto Karsten. That was Plainview's 1st creamery. It was established for the purpose of making butter. He started out with 4 teams of horses and 2 inside factory hands. In the fall he purchased 2 more teams. The teams were all used to haul cream from the neighboring farmers to the creamery. From 500 to 600 inches was the average daily collection with occasionally as high as 700 inches. The cream cans had a narrow glass strip on the side where the amount of cream could be computed.

Butter was sold to markets in St. Paul, Minneapolis and other parts of the Northwest with the balance going to Eastern markets. Then as now "Quality" was the outstanding

feature of the Dairy products of this area. At a state Fair held in Rochester, Mr. Felton was awarded Englands silver cup contributed by Higgins and Company of Liverpool, England for the best creamery butter salted with their salt.

The creamery was destroyed by fire and a new creamery and cheese factory was built by Mr. Gerber and C. Bitter on the property owned by Wm. L. Schultz, now owned by his son, O. W. Schultz. Gerber and Bitter sold out to Mr. Kirch who operated for a short time and this creamery too was destroyed by fire.

In 1899 a board of directors was organized for the purpose of organizing a Cooperative Creamery in Plainview. Serving on this board were Wm. Reiter, L. D. Colby, W. P. Baldwin, Andrew French, Peter Lamprecht, O. Stoltz and George Burnham Jr. They voted to erect a new creamery and bids of W. A. Gorrell in the amount of \$979 were accepted and the bond of the contractor fixed at \$1000 with \$1900 for machinery. The main buildings 24x40 ft. with engine room 20x20 ft. and an ice house 18x18 ft. were erected on a lot purchased from the Weigel property at a cost of \$200.

The first buttermaker was A. R. Lund whose salary was \$60 per month with milk, cream and butter for the family for a year thrown in. Salaries of buttermaker increased each year. In 1909 the buttermaker received \$105 and in 1920 \$225. Buttermilk was first sold for \$10.00 for the year. In 1921 it was sold for \$405 and in 1930 for \$1075. Ice was put up by voluntary work of the Creamery association. In 1909 however they voted to buy ice at 15 cents per cake.

New improvements were added each year. A

new churn, a butter printer and a new Beam Scale. Creamery receipts in 1908 were \$55,093.51. In 1918, \$126,899.37 and in 1922, \$133,030.18. The building was proving more inadequate from day to day to take care of this increasing volume of business.

In 1923 a board of directors, George Christison, Michael Pletch, Ed Holzer, Rudolph Stoltz, R. L. Irish, W. F. Lamprecht and M. D. Melendy called a meeting for the purpose of voting on building a new creamery. The Association purchased the property, (the site of the present creamery) from Amy R. French for \$2500 and work was begun in June 1923. Plainview's new \$21,000 creamery was ready for occupancy Nov. 23, 1923. The two story structure of brick concrete and tile has a 4 ft. glazed tile wainscoting. The interior was finished entirely in white. There were specially constructed rooms for processes, power was obtained from individual motors with an aggregate of  $33\frac{1}{4}$  horse power. The steam engine used in the old creamery was installed to be used as an auxiliary in case the current failed. There were 5 cream vats, 2 storage refrigeration rooms, a laboratory room for tests of butter and cream. Individual shower rooms. In 1928 a buttermilk dryer was purchased for \$5600. A new boiler room was built that year with a sky light built later.

The salary of the buttermaker again increased until in 1930 he received \$375.00 per month. Buttermilk that year sold for \$1075. Gradually a buttermilk dryer, refrigerator, butter scale, butter printer, cooling system, butter milk powder grinder, 2 new vats and 2 new barrels for churns and a stoker were added. Old equipment was turned in on the purchase of new. In July they started to ship

butter by truck alternating for many years with railroad shipping. Feed had been added to the industry. The old creamery was sold to the County in 1931 for \$450.

A prediction in the Plainview News of Nov. 23, 1923 stated that with this fast growing industry it was believed that in 25 more years even this new building would be inadequate to care for the business and that prediction has proven true. As predicted by the News the growth of the creamery reached the point of necessary expansion in 1944. At that time a remodeling job made the building adequate for this concern to convert from exclusive butter production to the handling of whole milk and several of its bi-products. This expansion has continued since the 1944 conversion. In 1945 a new boiler room and boiler were added. At the present time an additional building program is in progress which will add 7500 feet of floor space. The latest expansion will more than double the whole milk receiving capacity and will also make it possible to produce additional products from the milk and cream received.

The original drying plant was built for a capacity of 60,000 lbs. of whole milk per day. During the past year the low point in daily receipts exceeded 40,000 lbs. and a high of 90,000 lbs. was reached. The estimated peak expected is from 110,000 to 120,000 lbs. daily, double the present plant capacity. The construction and installation of new equipment will be completed in about five months.

Serving on the board of directors at this time are Mead Vermilya, Ed Schultz, Wm. Drysdale, Lewis Dickerman, Judson Wentworth, Kenneth Steffen and Arthur Olin. The present manager is Mr. Peipper.

November 7, 1946

## 'I Thought You'd Like To Know'

... by GLADYS MACK

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### *Decoration Day in 1891 - - -*



A note on the back of this picture gave the information that it was taken on Decoration Day 1891. It was taken from the balcony of the T. J. Wadleigh Furniture store which was located in the building now occupied by Lemon's Cafe. Credit for much of the early history information obtained about the occupants of the various business places and their owners goes to John Puetz, Geo. Dickman and A. C. Woodcock. The original picture was obtained from Mrs. Alida Finch.

Great changes have taken place on the village street since that commemoration day in 1891 when folks dressed up in their Sunday best, paraded the board walks of Plainview's main street and paused for friendly chats. One can almost visualize this scene. The wagon step on the corner for ladies to use in getting in and out of the buggies and wagons proved that even in that day things were provided for the comfort of shoppers. The kerosene lamps on the posts which served so well in that early day would seem unbearable to us who enjoy the comforts of our electric lights.

The first building to the right is the harness shop of John Reifkogel, a German emigrant who came to Plainview from Boston in 1865 and established a harness shop. In a short while he was doing the largest harness and leather business in the county. His son William became his partner and eventually succeeded him.

Along the line is the meat market owned and operated by Wm. Weigel and his sons, Harry and Fred. The latter is still a resident of Plainview. The Lawton Grocery is next in line, followed by Harry Austin's jewelry store. The Bolton Drug Company, Al Drydale's barber shop, Herman Thom's shoe shop, Maggie Lambie's millinery and dressmaking shop, the hotel, and across the street the C. C. Cornwell Hardware store. On the left hand side of the street in the building now occupied by the Eggers Grocery the C. O. Landon Drug Company did a thriving business. The Cornwell dry goods and grocery was next and following along the line was the Pencille music company.

Interesting historical facts about Plainview's pioneer business houses were revealed in the search for material for this story.

Thomas G. Bolton and his widowed mother and brothers and sisters migrated from New York to Wabasha in 1855. He got a job as cabin boy on a Mississippi river steamboat. In 1861 he began to work for James Crowley, a Wabasha druggist. In 1863 the Crowley Drug Company opened a drug store in Plainview with Thomas Bolton as proprietor. Thus began the first drug store in Plainview. He operated that business for two years and then opened a drug store in Eyota returning to Plainview in 1874. In 1880 Mr. Bolton became

a partner in the Plainview Drug Store now owned by George G. LaRue, a former apprentice in his first store. The firm continued until Mr. Bolton's death when his sons John and Miller became owners and managers. Thomas Bolton had many and varied interests. He was agent for the Laird-Norton lumber company of Winona. His farm was stocked with super breeds of blooded stock. He was an outstanding leader in the business and social life of the village.

F. J. Cornwell, a native of Savannah, Georgia, came to Plainview in 1865 and became a clerk in the Ozias Wilcox general store. In 1876 following the illness and death of Mr. Wilcox, Mr. Cornwell became proprietor of the store. He moved the merchandise into the spacious new brick building built by A. Y. Felton and in 1881 purchased the building. This same building is now owned and occupied by Dave Leonard and Elmer Koepsell.

The proprietor of the hotel was the genial Ezra Fellers, "Uncle Ez" to everyone and his good wife who purchased the hotel from A. Y. Felton in 1881. A. C. Woodcock worked in this hotel from 1889 to 1901. The hotel was noted for its scrupulous cleanliness and conduct of management. The building still stands although additions and alterations have been made throughout the years.

In 1874 C. O. Landon, C. D. Burchard and S. E. Case purchased the drug store owned by A. Y. Felton of pioneer creamery fame. In 1877. Mr. Burchard bought out the Case interest and the firm became Landon and Burchard and George Landon, son of C. O. Landon assumed his father's interest.

Dr. Taber, the dentist, occupied an office in a little frame building standing on the lot now owned by A. C. Woodcock. He directed the brass band, led the Methodist Choir and the singing school. He was an expert marksman and held medals for championships in five counties. He held the enviable record of shooting eleven out of twelve running deer.

Looking at this early day scene makes one more conscious of the tremendous progress that has been going on in the past half century. Many fine new buildings have been erected, improvements of all kinds have been made. Plainview has kept and will always keep in step with the fast moving hands of Progress.



## 'I Thought You'd Like To Know'

... by GLADYS MACK

"Freedom of Worship" which was the desire of those sturdy pilgrims who established the Thanksgiving which we will celebrate within a few days was exemplified in the early establishment of religious groups and houses of worship by those pioneers who picked Greenwood Prairie as their home in this new country. The oldest church in our community is the Methodist, established in the summer of 1857. Next in line for years of religious endeavors is the Church of Christ, established in 1861.—The Editor.

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### METHODIST CHURCH FIRST CHURCH TO ORGANIZE IN PLAINVIEW

The village of Plainview was platted in the summer of 1857 by J. Y. Blackwell, Ozias Wilcox, T. A. Thompson, Lloyd Yale and Dr. Gibbs. In August that same year the first religious organization of any kind was established in the village by Rev. O. P. Crawford of Forest Mound. Among the early settlers comprising this group of Methodists was J. Y. Blackwell, Guerdon and Saphronia Town, Mrs. S. Lattie, Matilda Todd and Mrs. T. A. Thompson. Out of the group developed the Methodist Episcopal church society of Plainview. The meetings were held in the homes of the sett-



lers until 1860 when this group, which had added many new members built a new church at a cost of \$4000. The church, a one room structure built on the lot facing Jefferson St. and about a half of a block from Main Street is Plainview's oldest landmark. It was the auditorium of the present church. The following year this group built a parsonage at the cost of \$1000 which later was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Ira Fisk and became their

family home for many years. It still stands on the corner opposite the creamery where it was erected 85 years ago. It served as a Methodist parsonage until the present parsonage was built in 1890 on the lot adjoining the church.

Among the members joining the group about this time were Hiram and Phoebe Allen, Edwin L. Sylvester and his brother, George W. Sylvester, Hattie Alice Sylvester, Herbert Yetter, S. M. McLaughlin and the oldest member, Mrs. Jane Rock. The pastor conducted services in many nearby churches, Beaver, Elgin, Woodland and others. The first Sunday School was organized in 1861 with Franklin Sylvester as Superintendent. Among the early class leaders were George W. Sylvester and Samuel McLaughlin.

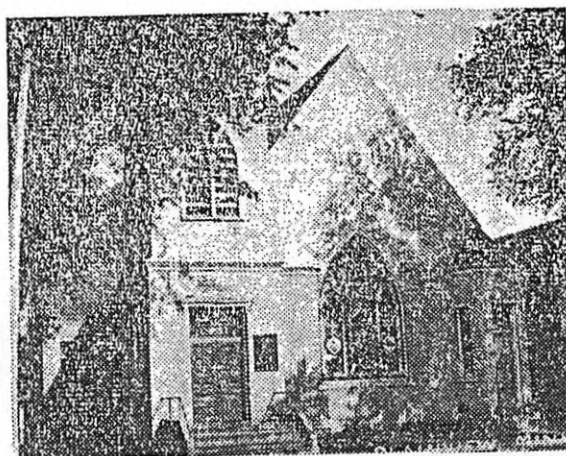
In 1891 the church was remodeled during the pastorate of Rev. Gillis. A large front room, a room upstairs and the belfry were added. In 1916-1918 new hardwood floors and a furnace were added. Memorial windows were placed in memory of pioneer members T. G. Bolton, Arthur J. Carroll, James Lynch, Samuel McLaughlin, Rev. W. M. Gillis and the Van Dyke Chapter of the Epworth League. Many new improvements have been added to both the church and the parsonage as years have gone by.

Plainview's oldest landmark has well withstood the ravages of the past eighty-five years. It presents today a pleasing, neat, well kept appearance. Plainview residents can well be proud of this fine historic church and its parsonage.

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## THE CHURCH OF CHRIST SECOND TO ORGANIZE IN PLAINVIEW

A group of pioneer men and women led by Brother and Mrs. Abraham Shoemaker organized a religious group in 1861; the second religious group to organize in the village. This group included Messrs. and Mesdames. W. Freer, Edward Chapman, C. Ackley, Hiram Butts and Mrs. James Butts and held meetings in Wilcox Hall, the upstairs room of



the building now occupied by Eggers Grocery. They named the group "The Society of Christians."

A little later arrangements were made to use the school house which they purchased in 1866, moved to the lot where the Chicago and Northwestern Depot now stands and converted into a church. In 1883 the Railroad purchased the property and the "Chapel" as it was then called had to be moved.

The Society of Christians had been given a charter of incorporation in 1874 and the name changed to "The Church of Christ". The following were trustees at this time, Daniel Clough, S. M. Stockwell, J. R. Watkins, Henry Horton, N. W. Freer, E. Clough, Dewight Leach and John Truax.

In 1883 the Church purchased the site of the present Church of Christ on Main Street with lots adjoining on both sides and moved "The Chapel" to one of the lots facing Church Street where it was used as a meeting house until 1895 when the present church was erected.

A building had been previously moved to the corner and was used as a parsonage. This building was moved away so that the ground could be clear for the erection of the new church.

Upon completion of the new edifice the Chapel was remodeled for a parsonage and was purchased with a part of the Church lot by Mr. C. W. Martz, pastor at that time. It was later sold to other parties. In 1918 the congregation repurchased the Chapel and moved it to the lot on Main Street adjoining the church to be used as a parsonage. Today the parsonage of the Church of Christ enclose what was once Plainview's pioneer school house and the first house of worship of the Church of Christ.

Many new improvements have been added to this church in the past fifty years. Today Plainview's Church of Christ stands, a neat, well kept, homey church, and both the Church and the parsonage are a credit to Plainview's ever improving Main Street.



# "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

... by GLADYS M

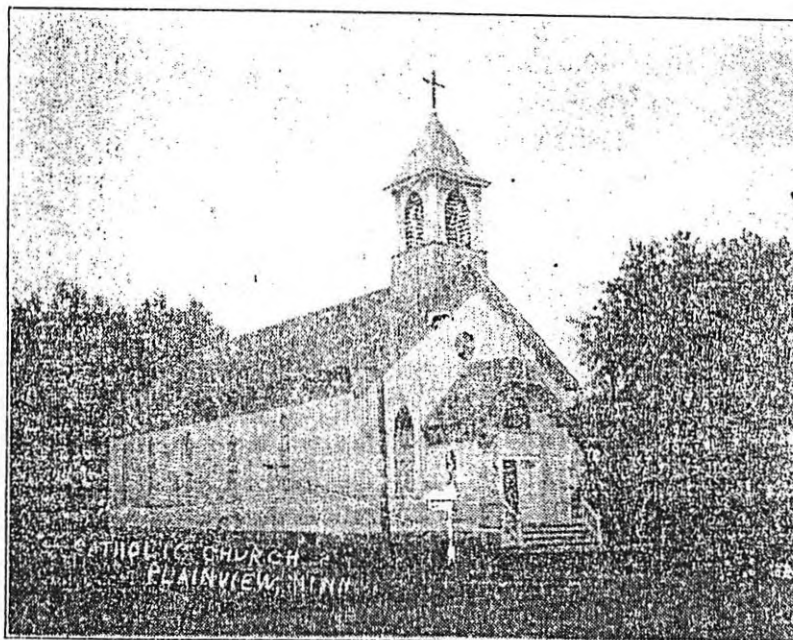
This week's story of the history of The Church of St. Joachim completes the series of the early formative years of all of Plainview's houses of worship in order of their dates of inception. The research required to obtain all of this material has uncovered many interesting incidents of Plainview's growth not only in regard to its religious life and progress but also of the lives and activities of the early pioneers who picked this garden spot of Minnesota for their home and the home of their descendants.—The Editor

## ABOUT PLAINVIEW'S CHURCH OF JOACHIM

In early days Catholic families gathered at private homes for mass. It was through the instrumentality and devotion of Mrs. Mary DeWitt Schaughnessy, wife of Richard Schaughnessy that the first Catholic service was held in Plainview. A few Catholic families had been attending mass held in the Oakwood Church conducted by Rev. Trobec of Wabasha. Mrs. Schaughnessy asked Rev. Trobec if mass could be held in Plainview and offered her home as a meeting place. This small home stood on the lot where the John Jostock home now stands. Her request was granted. She arranged an altar of a table spread with a spotless white linen cloth, two candle sticks and a crucifix. A small room adjoining the dining room was used as a Confession room. There being but few chairs in her home the people knelt upon the floor. Among the families attending the masses were those of Michael Melvin, William DeWitt, Andrew Kuehn, John Mulligan, Nicholas Petit, James Lahey, Michael Foley Sr.

Rev. Trobec had charge of the mission parishes of Oakwood, Conception and Wabasha. He rode to Plainview on horseback and people came to mass with teams, lumber wagons and sleighs. Jeremiah Foley was baptized and Mr. Charles Bedeau and Mrs. Elizabeth Kirch, (aunt of Felix and John Annuman and Mrs. Herman Stephan) were married in the Schaughnessy home. Thus began in this humble home a Catholic Church destined to become one of the most magnificent churches in the Winona diocese.

In 1887, Rev. P. B. Murray came to Plainview, sought out these families and became their pastor. Many new families joined the group and the Schaughnessy home became very crowded. Rev. Murray foreseeing the need of a larger place in which to hold services, appointed Michael Melvin and William DeWitt to locate property on which to build a church. They found that the broad expanse at the terminus of West Broadway and as far north



Above is pictured the first Church of St. Joachim built in 1887. Twenty-four years later this religious group had outgrown its home and the new house of worship shown at the right was built.

as the corner of North Street could be purchased from James Buttes for the sum of \$3000. Rev. Murray purchased the property as a gift to the people. Each family was assessed \$35.00. Rev. Murray donated for those who were unable to pay. The church was erected that year. It had an altar made by Rev. Murray. There were no pews so the members knelt upon the floor. A story is told that Mrs. James McNallan brought a clean blanket each Sunday for the children to kneel upon. The first baptisms in the new church were those of Bernard Lahey, Trix Pendergast and Richard Melvin. The first marriage that of Daniel Judge Sr. and Delia Maher. The first funeral was that of the infant daughter of John Waste. The first confirmations were those of Edward and Margaret Melvin, (Mrs. L. E. Ryan). In 1889 the site of the present Catholic Cemetery was purchased. Each family was assessed \$35.00 to help meet this expense. A parsonage was also built as a home for Rev. Murray.

During Rev. Murray's pastorate the con-

gregation grew rapidly. Rev. Murray's health began to fail and in 1900 he was forced to retire. A young priest, Rev. John Parkinson, often was referred to by Father Murray as "The boy", became pastor. He and his grand-

mother lived in a house across the street from the church built by Clark Champine and now occupied by the Wm. Goede family. Rev. Parkinson served the parish until the fall of 1908 when Rev. D. J. Lavery was appointed to the Plainview parish. The Oakwood church was destroyed by fire which greatly increased the attendance at St. Joachim's as the people flocked there for masses.

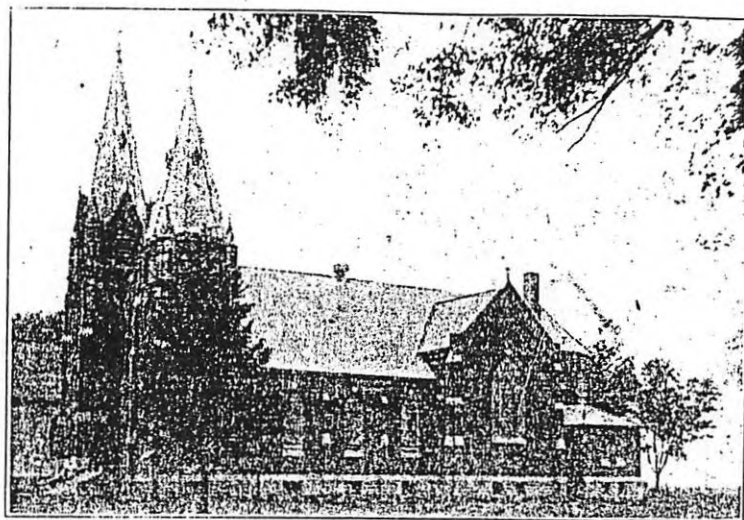
The little church became more and more inadequate. To meet the need of this enlarging congregation plans were being formulated on the building of a new church. These plans took shape and the construction of the new church was begun in the summer of 1911. The old church was moved across the street and remodeled into a 2-room parochial school. It was sold in later years to the Greenwood Prairie Farmers Club and moved to its present site to be used as a Club House and it is used for that purpose today.

The new church, a magnificent red brick structure 62 ft. wide and 122 ft. long trimmed in white cut stone with its front elevation surmounted by twin towers rising 80 ft. and 110 ft., topped by gilded crosses was erected at a cost of \$25,000. A wide expanse of cement leads to its doors. The interior of the church which seats 600 persons is finished in maple and red oak woods. The ceiling ornamented elaborately in Gothic design rises 30 ft. at the nave, transept and sanctuary.

The corner stone of the new church was laid August 9, 1911 with elaborate ceremonies. Hundreds of people came to witness this historic event. The ladies of the parish served a dinner at noon to several hundred people. The afternoon was given over to sports events including a water battle between two men of the Plainview Fire Department and two men of the Millville department. The prize of ten dollars went to John Cunningham.

In January 1911 the ladies of the parish held a great Bazaar at which one thousand dollars was cleared and added to the Church building fund.

The beautiful Church of St. Joachim was dedicated on a joy-



ful summer day, Thursday June 27, 1912. A special train and many automobiles brought hundreds of visitors. The Plainview band met the train and escorted the visitors to the crowded church. Bishop Heffron of the Winona diocese delivered the dedicatory address. The ladies of the Church served a dinner to hundreds of visitors.

In 1918 the congregation decided to erect a new parsonage. The old one had been divided and moved from the lot in 1911. The front was moved to the lot North of the Church and is now occupied by Mrs. Feehan. The rear was moved South and is now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Wright Yetter. The new parsonage was built of the finest wood and materials obtainable at that time and in the modern style of architecture of the time.

In 1930, Rev. Lavery was assigned to the Lake City parish and Rev. T. F. O'Connor was appointed to succeed him at St. Joachims. Rev. O'Connor has faithfully served this congregation for sixteen years. Many improvements in the amount of \$33,000 to church, home and grounds have been made during his pastorate here. The membership has increased steadily. The church and its parish house represent a value today of about \$80,000. They stand as majestic monuments revealing the abiding faith and love rooted deep in the hearts of the two hundred and fifty-five families now on the membership list. Plainview people both Catholic and Protestant point with pride to the beautiful Church of St. Joachim.

December 12, 1946

## **"I Thought You'd Like To Know"**

... by GLADYS MACK

### **THE WRITER OF THIS COLUMN IS GOING ON A MOTORMAN'S HOLIDAY**

The compiling of this type of column, while one of the most interesting in the newspaper field, is one of the most difficult and strenuous any one of our writing staff is required to produce. The writer has a wealth of interesting historical facts which she intends to publish.

The News has no intention of permanently discontinuing the "I Thought You'd Like To Know" column. For the next week or two Mrs. Mack is being given a sort of motorman's holiday during which she will hunt out new

facts and information for use in later issues of this paper.

With Christmas so close at hand we are releasing her from the job of writing her column. We're quite sure that unless given a little shopping time we'll celebrate Christmas without a beautiful new tie or something.

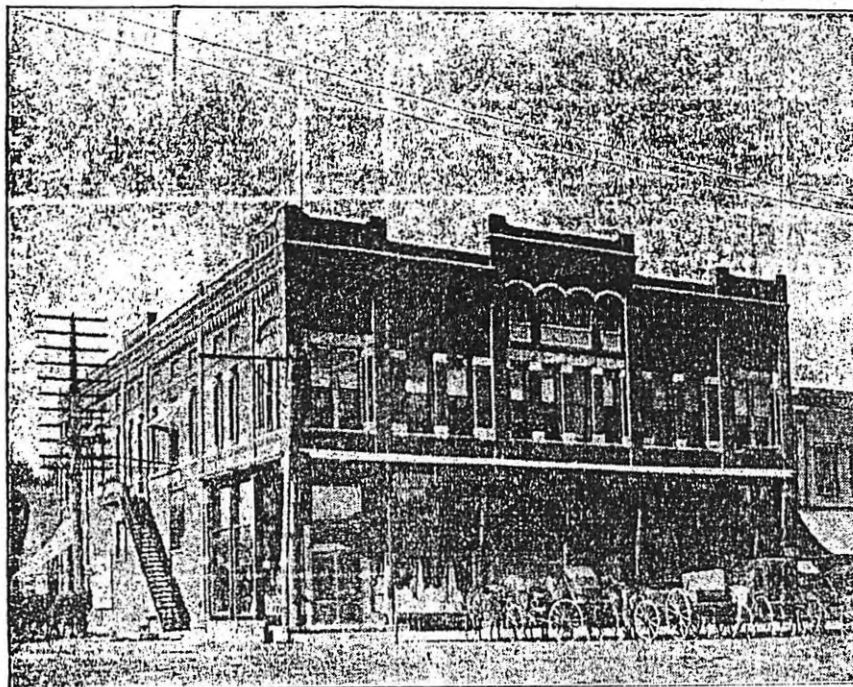
Whether she has a enjoyable vacation or not we assure you that in a very short time her "I Thought You'd Like To Know" column will appear with many new and interesting historical facts of Plainview's buildings, business institutions, and people.

I'm sure you'll welcome the return of the column as much as we'll enjoy giving it to you—The editor.



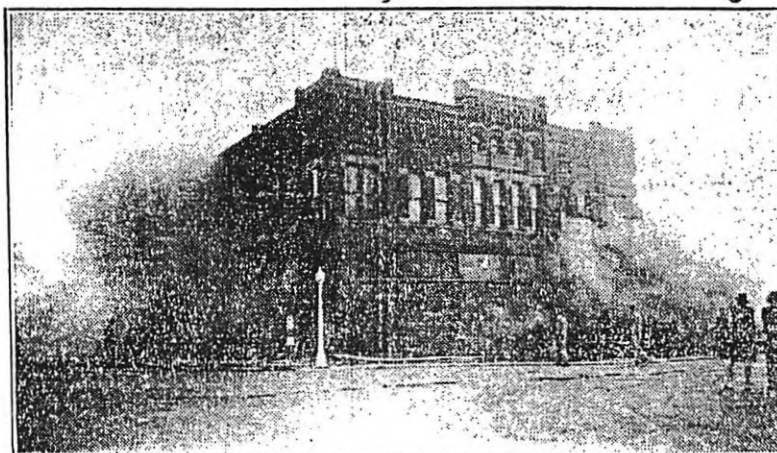
## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

After several weeks the News resumes its "I Thought You'd Like to Know" column. While the main object in abandoning the column was to give its creator a bit of a vacation, we doubt that Mrs. Mack has spent many spare minutes without having her column on her mind. During the weeks of supposed vacation she has spent many hours in ferretting out new ideas, new data and pictures. We hope you'll enjoy the return of the column as much as we enjoy giving it to you —The Editor



This fine two story brick building 66x110 ft. built in 1900 at a cost of \$12,000 was the scene of great merchandising activity for thirty-nine years.

Firemen from Rochester, Elgin and Plainview Companies poured 250,000 gallons of water into this burning building in a desperate effort to save it from ruin.



### ABOUT A BIG GENERAL STORE THAT ONCE GRACED PLAINVIEW'S MAIN STREET

Among the pioneers who migrated to Greenwood Prairie in the dim and distant days of 1863 were Mr. and Mrs. William Koenig. Both were born in Germany and were married in Brooklyn, New York. Following their marriage they took a train to LaCrosse, Wis., then a steamer up the Mississippi to Minneiska and came overland to Greenwood Prairie to cast their lot for better or for worse in this area.

Mr. Koenig learned the shoemaker's trade in Germany and engaged in that trade in New York and Pennsylvania previous to his marriage and coming to Minnesota. In 1867

he opened a little shoe makers shop in Plainview in a little wooden building where the Erding Barber Shop is now located. He later moved his shop to a larger building which was located where the Goetz Boot Shop now stands. He conducted the shoe-maker's shop there until 1875 when he purchased a 14 ft. x 20 ft. frame building from A. J. Felton on the corner where the King's Grocery is now located and continued to engage in the manufacture of shoes. Later he decided to try his fortune in Winona in this same business but in a short time he returned to Plainview and established

his shop in the same building he had left. It was then that he added stock purchased from A. Y. Felton which included buffalo coats, gloves, groceries and dry goods. This was the beginning of a retail merchandising enterprise that was destined to become one of the largest and most prosperous retail stores in all of southeastern Minnesota.

The store with its dim kerosene lamps. Its open barrels of pickles, sugar, dried prunes and apples, tobacco, smoked fish and other items was a virtual beehive of industry where pioneers vied with each other in trading and visiting and where latest reports on current happenings were passed around. Mr. and Mrs. Koenig and small children lived up stairs over the store. In those early days wholesale goods were shipped by water to Minneiska and Weaver from large cities and were brought overland to Plainview by team. Farmers would bring their grain to market and return home with wagons or sleighs loaded with groceries, machinery, dry goods etc. A tremendous amount of buying and selling was done at the Koenig store.

An interesting page of wholesale purchases from one of the Koenig ledgers dated 1876 contained the following list of items 500 lbs. of bacon, \$.00; 221 lbs. of sugar \$23.48; 1295 lbs. of prunes \$73.97; 193 lbs. dried apples \$20.27; 291 lbs. currants; \$22.55; 6 pair hip boots \$20.00; 113 yards sheeting \$8.76; 53 lbs. cheese \$5.57; 50 lbs. smoking tobacco, \$15.00.

George Dickman clerked in the store from 1883 to 1887. He recalls an advertisement Mr. Koenig put in the "Plainview Record" which read as follows. For Sale—One suit of clothes, one white shirt and one pair of suspenders all for \$5.00 and Money to Loan, Signed Wm. Koenig Sr.

This business outgrew its quarters and in 1881 he moved the building to the back of the lot to be used as a warehouse and erected a large two story frame building in its place.

When his sons matured Mr. Koenig took them in as partners, Wm. Jr. first, then Arthur and in 1892 Albert joined the company. A great many items were added to the stock as years went by including bugies, wagons, windmills and other items. Mr. Koenig had many other interests outside of the merchantile business. Among them a grain elevator, real estate, and cattle buying. Much of the bookkeeping for

these enterprizes was "done in his head." One of his employees recalls how an important transaction was figured on the side boards of his wagon with a nail substituting for a pencil. He gradually retired from the store and his three sons assumed most of the responsibilities of the Company which was called "Koenig Brothers and Company". This store, too, outgrew its quarters and the Koenig brothers decided to build a new building. In 1899 they moved the old building to the lot East and used it for a warehouse. The building still stands and is now occupied by the Marshall Wells store.

They then erected a large brick building 66x110 ft. at a cost of \$12,000., one of the most modern stores in this section of the state, not surpassed in size and magnitude of stock by any store in any city of 25,000 or more inhabitants. The store was lighted throughout with acetylene gas lamps and heated by steam. Harry Evans of Wabasha was the contractor.

In 1904 the Company was incorporated and conducted with Arthur Koenig as President, A. E. Briesse as Vice-President and Frank Schad as Treasurer. These men were all progressive young business men filled with ambition and ripe with experience in the merchantile business gained from the stout hearted, determined pioneer Wm. Koenig who had met with success in almost every undertaking since coming to Greenwood Prairie. Later Wm. Jr. and Albert went to Sioux Falls, S. D. where they engaged in the wholesale grocery business and real estate with marked success as years went by.

The Plainview store had grown rapidly and expanded in all of its departments. In 1919 Arthur Koenig's interest in the company was taken over by the newly organized firm of Frank, Edward and Will Schad and Paul Johnson. Arthur went to Sioux Falls to join his brothers in their business enterprizes. Paul Johnson had been with the company for over 18 years and Frank Schad about 15 years. Both were experienced in all phases and departments of the company. They named it "The Schad Merchantile Company." After putting on a big sale the store was thoroughly scrubbed, fixtures and shelves were varnished and everything was brightened up. Old lights were replaced by new and modern drop

Lights. The commodities stocked included men's furnishings, dry goods, shoes, ladies ready-to-wear groceries, hardware, millinery, etc. The store operated with great success until 1924 when it was taken over by the Plainview Merchantile Company who operated for two years. In 1926 the Schads bought it back and operated until 1930. From then on the building housed the Farmers Store of Eau Claire Wisconsin, owners of Minnesota stores with the nearest one at Red Wing. The Farmers Store was succeeded by the Cohen Economy Store. The fall of 1939 marked the end of a merchandising business that had grown from its humble beginning to an expansion beyond the fondest hopes of the pioneer who came to this country with but little money and made his fortune from the natural resources of Greenwood prairie.

Harlan Holzer and Pat Griffin purchased the building in 1940 and remodeled it for a skating rink and bowling alley which became a very active place for a few months. In the early hours of Thursday morning July 4, 1940 when Arthur Walch was going down to his Motor Company he discovered smoke seeping from the windows of the Koenig block, and immediately put in the alarm. When firemen arrived they found the entire basement a mass of dense smoke. Fire had started in the furnace room at the north end of the building which made it very difficult for the firemen. In a short while in spite of efforts of the Plainview, Elgin and Rochester fire departments with three engines going full blast, it was impossible to save the building. Brigades of onlookers carried out merchandise from the Men's shop. The Vollenweider Motor Co. and Dr. Kavanaugh's veterinarian office.

The fire raged for many hours and the building lay a mass of ruin. In the fall of that year Harlan Holzer built a new and ultra modern one story brick building there equipped with the very latest in fixtures and built of the finest materials obtainable. It is built in five units all connected by halls and doorways. It first housed the I.G.A. grocery owned by Clarence Knutson, The Men's Shop, The Tip Top Restaurant and the Lanesboro Produce Company. Later the Ladies Shop replaced the I.G.A. Store then Clate's grocery store was housed there for about two months until it was sold to Vincent King. The Nathan Langhum Co. replaced the Lanesboro Produce Co. and Mr. Spooner, the present owner of the building has an Income Tax office in the building.

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

Probably one of the most valuable and necessary products for the welfare and health of community life is the easiest to obtain and the least expensive to buy under present day modern distribution systems. That product is water. Our early pioneers, while spending but little for this necessity of life, had no end of inconvenience to obtain this product. The story which follows is divided in two parts, the first of which gives the early history of our present-day water system.—Editor

### *Pre-Faucet Days . . . .*

The source of our drinking water since the beginning of time has been found in Mother Earth. One of the first problems the early day pioneers had to solve was that of water supply.

As early as 1854 two men, Nels Oleson and Andrew A. Halverson migrated from Norway to this area, the first white men to break the sod. They were followed soon after by Messrs. A. T. Sharp, Wm. Boatman, David Campbell, Thomas Todd, E. E. Eddy, David Ackley, Edwin Chapman, A. P. Foster, Rodman Burchard, Benjamin Lawrence and others. Mr. Eddy and Mr. Boatman were the first pioneers to bring their wives although others soon followed. We wonder if (to quote Hal Boyle of the Minneapolis Star Journal) the pioneers brought their women along because they needed someone braver than themselves.

These first pioneers gazed about at the area of luxuriant verdure, the forest of oak, and undulating prairies of rich soil and decided that here, indeed, was the haven they were seeking. They were content to pitch their tents and begin the work of building homes and carving out fortunes. They settled in the area East of the present village of Plainview where the August Schultz farm is located and established a village and named it Greenville. A name chosen because of the freshness and greenery of vegetation. This area was four miles from Whitewater river, the nearest water supply which was quite some distance in those early days especially if the roads and weather were bad. The pioneers decided to dig a well. This proved to be a hard and disappointing task. They reached a depth of 18 feet and still no water appeared and a tired, discouraged lot of settlers they were.

A humorous story is told that our older readers will recall but for those recent comers to Plainview village and for the younger folks it bears repeating. One of the pioneers Mr. A. T. Sharp received a note from an Eastern Capitalist saying that he would soon arrive in Greenville to look the place over. This caused the wily Mr. Sharp much anxiety. That dry well wouldn't look too good to the capitalist. A happy thought struck him. Why not put water from the river in the well to impress the visitor? This proved to be a laborious task but he was satisfied and awaited with eagerness the arrival of the visitor. When he arrived Mr. Sharp escorted him about the town site and elaborated on it's wonders, told him about the wonderful well with it's abundance of clear sparkling water and took him to the well so that he might see for himself. When they gazed into it's depth much to the Easterner's amazement and Mr. Sharp's embarrassment the water had leaked out and the well was as dry as a bone. Among Mr. Sharp's other elaborations to his guest that were minus veracity were a proposed railroad that had been surveyed through the village coming all the way from Dubuque, Iowa, a Seminary that was to be erected and last but not least a beautiful lake (near the Melendy farm). This latter proved to be just an old swimming hole with plenty of mud. The capitalist left in a huff.

A ride over beautiful Greenwood Prairie today with it's wealth of prosperous farms is convincing proof that here on these prairies that gentleman from the East might have found the source of wealth he was seeking.

The settlers of Greenville were rewarded by reaching water in their next attempts at well digging. The small shallow wells,

however, caused them endless trouble as they would so often go dry. That was among countless other hardships endured by the pioneers. When one of the pioneers was asked in later years how they endured the hardships of those early days he replied, "Well, everyone was a sufferin' the same way so a person didn't seem to mind it so bad."

During the summer of 1856 a group of pioneers laid out a village on the site of the present village of Plainview and named it Centerville. Many new settlers arrived from the East and folks from Greenville drifted into the new town site, built homes and dug wells. These shallow wells served as the only source of water supply for many years but not without hazards. The inferior quality of the water found in the surface wells, its liability to pollution and failure in dry seasons gradually led the villagers to decide to dig a deep well. They began digging on the south east corner of the present school grounds. When they reached a depth of 150 feet they struck a wind vine. When the wind blew in one direction the well would suck in paper and in another direction would blow out. Mr. Pomeroy, the janitor at the school made the discovery that the well would play a mouth organ. Taking a tin pan he placed a mouth organ in it and set it down in the well. The mouth organ played night and day. Folks congregated at the well to hear it play and brought their own mouthorgans to experiment with.

The idea of having a well on this spot was abandoned and they began to dig a few feet North of this well. Their efforts were well repaid for water gushed forth from this well. What rejoicing there was when their determined efforts were crowned with success. The good earth gave forth in abundance. The next step was to erect a small tank and a windmill. The wind well as it had begun to be called was closed as children were throwing articles into it and then of course it was a hazard.

Not much was needed for many years as far as water supply was concerned. As the population grew, however, the supply would

become threateningly low. A group of villagers organized into an association and called it "The Plainview Water Supply Association." In April 1893 they sold the wind mill and fixtures at the town well to the village of Plainview for \$140.70, this amount being the balance due on the windmill and fixtures. The Village assumed the debt and promised to control and maintain the transferred property to the best interest of the citizen's of the village.

In June 1893 R. R. Damoude and Albert Koenig were appointed to see to repairing the well and putting in a new casing. This cost the village \$51.59. In 1894 a new water tank was erected at a cost of \$45.00. Water from the tank was not to be used for any purpose except for fires and for sprinkling of streets.

In December 1894 Messrs F. L. Meachum and R. R. Damoude were appointed to go to St. Paul to secure all of the information possible in regard to a system of water works for Plainview village and on their return to look up a site for a new deep well and pumping station. At a special election held in June 1895 at Grand Army Hall, citizens of Plainview voted to issue bonds not to exceed \$10,000 due on or before ten years from date issued at an interest rate of 5 per cent for the construction of a water works in the village.

Bids for the construction were received Monday July 8, 1895 by the village council at one o'clock p. m. at the office of the village recorder. The bids called for a two thousand barrell tank on an 80 ft. steel lower, a gasoline pumping engine and two miles of water mains with valves and hydrants.

At a special meeting of the village council, July 8, 1895 the bid was accepted from Fairbanks and Morse Company at \$11,800. A new well for Plainview would be a reality in the near future.

Because of the length of interesting material this story necessitates to be issued in two parts. The next part will be published in next weeks issue of this paper.



February 18, 1947

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

The history of Plainview's water system reveals the sound judgement and confidence in the growth of this community of those early pioneers who engineered its planning. While the city's present water demands have reached a consumption running into thousands of gallons above the early needs our wells, tank and distribution systems were so laid and planned that it has not been difficult to adapt the system to new and modern requirements—The Editor.

### *Pre-Faucet Days Cont. . . .*

The site chosen for the new well was the site of the present Plainview Waterworks. The new well was drilled in the fall of 1895. The well was eight feet in diameter with a tube down to the rock and a six inch hole in the rock to the underlying strata. A gasoline pumping engine was installed with a capacity of 31 gallons to the minute. A wooden tank was erected on an 80 foot tower. About two miles of mains were run and valves and hydrants were placed.

A pump house was erected. The front room of the pump house was used as the Village Hall and the city jail was in the rear. Plainview's new Waterworks system was the pride and joy of the villagers especially the housewives who reveled in the stream of water pouring from the faucets and thought of how easy their work would be now that they didn't have to pump and carry water.

In 1896 about 3300 feet of 4 inch mains and three hydrants were added to the system. In October 1897 the Council decided to establish titles for village offices. The person caring for the Waterworks equipment was given the title of "Engineer of Waterworks". P. J. Feisheim was the first person holding that title. The person in charge of the Waterworks service was given the title of Waterworks superintendent. Arthur Koenig was the first one to hold that title. Salaries for both were set at \$275 per year. Records show that Arthur Koenig served that year (at his own request) without remuneration. Both officers put up \$500 bonds.

In October 1898 due to difficulties in and expense of pumping the council decided to change from using gasoline to steam in pumping the water. The pump and engine for the change over were purchased from the American Well Company and installed. The gasoline engine was retained to use in case of emergency. The water in the well on the school grounds was turned into the

mains and the well sealed. This proved a great help to the supply at that time. The supply was found to be inadequate at this time and was a constant problem to the Village Council. At times it would be alarmingly low and there was always the fires to worry about. In 1898 the Council detailed C. D. Burchard to go to St. Paul and other points to find out all the information possible on the well problem.

In 1899 the supply of water was considered definitely inadequate. Something had to be done to relieve the situation. The council voted to drill a new and deeper well and advertised for bids. The bid of Banks and Keenan Company of Wykoff was accepted. The company commenced work in the fall that year. It took three months of constant effort to drill the well and there were many set backs. The first delay was in getting through the 70 ft. of clay. The dirt caved in so badly that 70 ft. of 12 inch casing had to be inserted before work could be continued which proved to be a very difficult task. Drilling was then resumed and the well was sunk 120 feet farther through sand rock. After getting through the sand rock, Trenton lime was reached and 180 ft. of this had to be drilled through. The next step was going through St. Peter sand. When completed the well was 650 feet deep with 300 ft. of water furnishing ample supply for private use and for fires.

The new pipes were laid and connected with those running into the tank. The steam pump formerly used was used to run the new deep well. Early in December, Geo. Wedge, president of the village council reported the new deep well was thoroughly tested and an abundance of water found. He accepted the well on behalf of the village of Plainview. The sum of \$600.00 was paid to the Company upon completion of the contract.

The following year a pump house was erected which is the Paimona Pump house used today. A Kenion and Hubbel pump

jack and connections were also added to the equipment at a cost of \$406.00. In 1902 the council spent \$2400.00 in extending and placing new mains. In 1903 the Council voted to change to the use of electricity in pumping the water and obtained the power from the Plainview Electric Light and Power Company.

The writer found in reading through the files that Plainview's dirt streets were watered regularly and that A. C. Woodcock was the first person in Plainview to see to it that this job was done. He rigged up a cart with a 15 barrel tank he had made and a sprinkler he had purchased; hitched a team of horses to the cart and to the delight of all proceeded to sprinkle Main street and other streets as long as the supply of water would permit. In later years, the city purchased a sprinkling wagon with a large tank. What a boon it must have been to have the dust settled. A device such as that wouldn't be a bad suggestion for our present day dust on Main Street.

For some time past the problem of a sufficient supply of water has been troubling the village fathers. The revenue for the water had not been sufficient to cover the expense incurred in keeping up the pumping station. The consumption had had a decided increase and the revenue had not increased in proportion. When the first pump was installed it was run but a few hours a day and in 1917 it required almost continuous operation of two pumps to keep a sufficient supply. A new ordinance went into effect to conserve the water supply. If waste continued the city would have to find the way to furnish a larger supply. New rates were established. The theory that water is as "free as the air" was definitely exploded. Water is free at its source but not when delivered to the faucet under pressure from a deep well.

A special village election was held May 31, 1917 for the purpose of voting to issue and sell bonds in the amount of \$11,000 for improvements to the village water works. 82 ballots were cast for the issue with 14 opposing. In March that year a 60,000 gallon capacity wooden tank was erected on the steel tower to replace the old tank that had rotted away so badly that it was considered a hazard.

A new Hannegan two stroke deep well pump with capacity of 146 gallons per minute was purchased from the Union Machine Company of St. Paul at a cost of \$3,042.00 with 25 per cent more pumping

capacity than any other pump on the market.

In 1921 a cooling system was established at the pump station. In the years following much difficulty was encountered in water supply. In 1932 a check on the pumps showed them to be working inefficiently. Both had had hard use and capacity of both had diminished. Should one of them break down during the summer period it would be difficult to supply ordinary water needs. The greatest hazard of course would be fires and Plainview had many fire trap buildings. The need of a new pump was demonstrated when the fire truck was used about four hours to clean the streets and the tank was nearly empty. Both pumps were running at full capacity.

The council advertised for bids for an electrically operated Turbine pump. The bid of the Pamona Company of California was accepted and the pump purchased for \$3,144.50. August F. Johnson and son, Arvid went to Chicago to get the five ton pump. The old pumps were removed and the new pump installed on a concrete setting. The new pump required twice the power of the old pumps but operated at five times more efficiency. The new Turbine pump was put into operation for the first test on Tuesday afternoon, June 7, 1932 at five o'clock. It required 25 seconds for the pump to draw the water to the surface. During that time the well went down 10 feet. Many folks congregated at the well to watch the test and marveled at the ease and quietness of the mechanism that operated with almost no vibration, yet a six inch stream of water poured steadily from the pump. At last the pumping problem was solved and today the Turbine pump pumps the water you use.

In 1933 the council made extensive repairs on the tank. The cement bottom of the tank caused serious rotting of the lower part of the staves. In April 1937, an emergency existed in the water supply system and it was deemed mandatory that a new tank be purchased. The contract was let to the Mississippi Valley Tank Company to furnish and erect a Red Wood tank. The present tank of the Plainview Waterworks system. The steel frame work holding the tank was reinforced at this time. In 1944 a new Auxiliary head was purchased from Crane and Company and installed in the pump at a cost of \$1345.00. The hoops on the tank were tightened and the tank painted. The well shaft was pulled that year and workmen found it to be slightly scored; repaired it and replaced it in the well.

March 6, 1947

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

### ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

The writer of this column had an interesting experience pursuing the pages of an old ledger dated 1865, containing the minutes of the meetings of the Plainview Library Association and is indebted to Miss Grace Wright for locating the ledger for her.

From earliest days the residents of Plainview have always shown a very definite interest in culture. That was exemplified when those first pioneers began to build a school house immediately after establishing their homes that their children might have the advantage of an education.

The Plainview Library Association was organized in January 28, 1865 at a meeting held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Foster. A set of by-laws and a constitution were drawn up and adopted. The object of the association was to promote literary, social and moral culture. Any person wishing to promote these virtues could become a member. The membership fee was one dollar per year for men and 50c for ladies with dues set at 25c per month. Officers of the association were a President, two Vice-Presidents, a Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian and a standing committee of three members. Meetings took place on Monday evening of each week at various homes, churches and at Wilcox hall over the Oziah Wilcox General Store.

The President with the assistance of a standing committee planned literary programs, including lectures, tableaux, discussions on important questions of the day, music, plays, dialogues, recitations, debates etc.

Among the 150 members joining the association were Messrs and Mesdames T. G. Bolton, J. J. Butts, J. Burton, H. H. Butts, Wm. Baxter, G. Carroll, E. S. Case, S. P. Danforth, Rodman Burchard, A. P. Foster, A. Y. Felton, C. O. Landon, B. Lawrence, Dr's. and Mesdames Gibbs and Tefft, Misses Etta Washburn, Emily White, Lizzie Hawley, Ella Foster, Etta Washburn and many others.

Officers were elected as follows: Dr. Tefft, President, Darwin Stuart and Mrs. N. P. Manley, Vice presidents, Secretary, D. E. Gale, Treasurer, T. G. Bolton. Miss Lizzie Hawley and Mrs. Darwin Stuart were named as the executive committee. A committee consisting of Dr. Gibbs, Hattie Gibbs, Mary Yale, Delia Clark, Josie Burton, Josephine Lawrence and Wm. Roome were chosen to solicit members.

Robert Smith, grandson of the pioneer, James J. Butts was chosen as librarian. A fee of ten cents was charged at each meeting. The first book purchasing committee was Dr. Tefft, Rev. Wm. Wild, Rev. Schocmaker, Rev. Walker, H. P. Wilson, A. P. Foster, T. A. Thompson, J. Baldwin, Mrs. B. Blain and Mrs. Henry Willard.

Among the topics discussed at the Monday evening weekly sessions were, Railroads, Compulsary School attendance, Temperance problems, adoption of a uniform set of school text books and other vital issues of the day. Among the drama offerings were "A Storm in the Family", "The Drunkard," "John the Baptist" (a tragedy in 5 scenes) Books were purchased and exchanged among the members.

In 1879 the first real step in establishing a Plainview Library was taken when the Association rented the front rooms of the Oziah Wilcox Store, located where the People's State Bank stands today. Rent on the room was \$5.00 per month. Carpeting, tables, chairs, a stove, book case, etc., were all furnished by various business firms. T. J. Cornwell and Dr. Tefft donated the carpet, B. T. Leninger, the clock, William Koenig the curtains, Rodman Burchard the kerosene lamps, E. C. Cornwell other fixtures, Wadleigh and Company the chairs. Many others donated labor and cash donations amounted to \$149.50 to be used for the purchase of books and periodicals. Members were taxed 50c per quarter. Plainview's first Library was the pride and joy of the villagers. The Library was the scene of many, entertaining and instructive gatherings of people with a keen interest in intellectual pursuits and a flair for entertain-

ment and conviviality. These meetings were continued for several years, and folks enjoyed the new books, magazines and papers in the Library. As years went by, however, funds were depleted and were hard to replace, interest began to lag. Librarians were difficult to find and other difficulties arose.

At a meeting of the Association Committee E. A. Paradis, W. A. Pell and Dr. Telft at the Plainview Bank on March 6, 1882 the proposition of selling the furnishings of the library and turning the books over to the Plainview Public School Library was submitted and acted upon and Plainview's first Library passed out of existence.

For several years the possibilities of another Library was being discussed. No one seemed to take the initial step, however, until 1905 when a group of residents organized again the Plainview Library Association and began the task of accumulating funds to organize the second Library in Plainview. A committee composed of Mesdames, A. M. Weeden, C. D. Burchard, G. F. Sylvester, Miss Zora Lyon and Miss Mary Lahey were appointed to solicit for memberships to the association. Dues were set at one dollar per year. Through application to the State Library Association, fifty volumes were accumulated. Because of lack of a place to house the books they were kept in Dr. E. E. Smith's dental office and were loaned out from there with Dr. Smith in charge. Plainview's second Library was thus established in Dr. Smith's office.

In 1906 a room in the Koenig brick block was secured and the books were moved over there. Etta and Netta Gorrell were telephone operators at the Greenwood Prairie Telephone Company, also located in the Koenig building. They were librarians in conjunction with their work at the switchboard. At that time there were sixty-one books on the shelves and 120 borrowers \$287.24 had been accumulated in the library fund. Later another room in the Koenig building was used as a reading room.

Early in 1908 there was a total of 416 books in the library 353 adult and 17 children's books. During that year 85 adult volumes and 60 children's books were purchased and one book presented as a gift to the library making a total of 516 books. The library was open 306 days that year. Hours were from 10 a. m. to 11 a. m. and from 4 p. m. to 5 p. m. every day and from 7:30 p. m. to 8:30 p. m. on Saturdays. The Reading room was open all day and evening

during the week. There were six periodicals on file and \$90.00 in the library fund.

When the new City Hall was built in 1910 the East front room was designated as a library and the books were moved over. Abba and Bessie Gilbert were librarians. Serving on the library board were Dr. E. E. Smith, J. A. Carley, G. F. Sylvester, C. D. Burchard, Mrs. Emma Askew, Misses Amy R. French, Mary Lahey and Grace Wright. At this time a tax of one mill was levied for Library purposes. Miss Kate Biers was librarian from 1912 to 1921 when Mrs. Mary Belsheim became librarian.

In 1925 the need for a larger room and a reading room was great and the association secured the large room at the back of the City Hall for the library and reading room.

A report of March 1939 showed a total of 4,230 books, 1793 borrowers, 22 magazines with a five year file. The association had formed State Library connections where material could be obtained on any subject. A Readers Guide had been added periodically listing all magazine articles giving titles, authors and magazines where printed and page on which it appeared. The Library had a good reference section including, history, biography, Bible, religious books, poetry, philosophy, ethics, sociology, literary classis, 3 sets of encyclopedias, children's books with selections monthly from the Literary Guild.

The 1946 report showed 5085 books loaned for home use, with 813 borrowers listed. Volumes at the beginning of 1946 were Adult 3,055, Juvenile 1,639, Total 4,694. At beginning of 1947, Adult 3,218 Juvenile 1,702, Total 4,920. Twenty-eight adult books and 24 Juvenile books have been removed. The library has two newspapers, 20 periodicals. A three year Periodical file, a Rental collection and a new set of Americana Encyclopedias, Mrs. Mary Belsheim is the Librarian and serving on the board are E. H. Lindsey, Bruce Oxtan, Mesdames Earl Harrington, Louis Mundt, W. R. Zabel, C. A. Venables, L. E. Ryan, Helen Mirise, Grace Wright and Mary Lahey.

In December, 1946 a fire in the City Hall caused considerable damage to the Library Room. The floor was taken up, new timbers placed and the flooring replaced and sanded. The wall were cleaned and painted.

The Library in its neat and pleasant surroundings stands a lasting tribute to those pioneers who 81 years ago determined that Plainview should have a Library.

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

The progress of handling the mail from the early days to the present time is probably as phenomenal as any of the great studies that have been made in this great country of ours. And yet, today, we look forward to even greater progress in the speed and types of service rendered by this governmental communication system. Today we are as anxious for a new postoffice building as those early pioneers were for a little corner in someones home or store where they could send and receive their mail.—The editor.

### ABOUT PLAINVIEW'S POSTOFFICES

Among the many paradoxical hardships endured by the pioneers coming to this area was that of getting their mail. They had to go for long periods of time without letters, messages and papers. In 1845 a postoffice was established at LaCrosse. On certain days of the week mail bags were brought up from LaCrosse by boat and left at Wabasha Prairie, (now the city of Winona) where they would be picked up by settlers who happened to be going that way. We can well imagine the thrill of those pioneers when long awaited mail arrived. In 1849 a postoffice was established at Read's Landing with Mr. Richard's as postmaster.

When the settlers first arrived at Greenwood Prairie they were so intent on building homes and getting themselves safely under cover that the problem of getting mail didn't worry them. As months went by however they began to long for letters from home. There wasn't much they could do about this but wait patiently until some one happened to be going to Read's Landing or Wabasha Prairie.

In 1852 two postoffices were established. The first one at Minnesota City with Robert Pike Jr. as postmaster and the second at Wabasha Prairie with George Barber as postmaster and Byron Viets of LaCrosse as deputy postmaster. The name first given this postoffice was "Montezuma" but this was later changed to Winona.

In 1856 the pioneers of this area succeeded in getting a postoffice at their little settlement called Greenville. Alonzo P. Foster, one of the first settlers coming to Greenville and one of the group that platted the settlement was made postmaster. The postoffice was set up in the first store in Greenville. This store was a branch of the Richards General Store at Reads Landing and Mr. Rodman Burchard was proprietor and partner. The Burchard family lived up-

stairs in the log cabin store. They also ran a small hotel in this building to care for the few strangers who happened to come to Greenville. The cabin proved much too small, so Mr. Burchard built a larger one to be used for the store.

Mr. Foster was formerly a preceptor at Troy Conference Academy in the East. Although an educator he was determined to try his fortune in the agriculture fields in the Northwest. His wife passed away in Vermont in 1851 and in 1855 he came with his little daughter, Anne to Greenwood Prairie. Anne grew to womanhood here and married to Thomas G. Bolton. Among Mr. Fosters possessions was found a description of the country to which he had come to make his home, which we quote in part. "Fanned by the gentle breezes of that summer day, it's easy grass and fragrant flowers that God Himself had planted there when no vandal plow-share had yet dared to poke its practical nose beneath an inch of that virgin soil. The broad, fertile unclaimed prairie was all around us and we thought we had found the Garden of Eden with the serpent left out. We built a school house, 20 ft. square, the boards were sawed out by hand by Mr. Boatman and E. E. Eddy made the shingles. Miss Anna White answered the call for a teacher and Rev. Cochran, a Congregational minister held services there. We established a postoffice and I became postmaster."

In 1856 Mr. Foster moved with the rest of the pioneers of Greenville to Centerville and assisted in platting out that village. The postoffice was moved to Centerville in 1858. There was a postoffice in Winona County called Centerville and this caused much confusion in the mails so the name was changed to Plainview.

In 1857 our first postmaster Mr. Foster sat as a member in the last territorial legislature. In 1866 he sold his property here and moved to Winona. While there he plat-





Pictured above is one of Plainview's first postoffices, with the postmaster of that day sorting the mail. This picture was obtained through the courtesy of Mrs. Charles Venables, whose father, Dr. John Pratt Waste, was the postmaster from 1898 to 1906.

ted an addition to that village called Foster's addition. In 1878 he returned to Plainview, and platted an addition here also called Foster's addition. Both sections are still known by that name. Mr. Foster purchased a large farm here and devoted all of his time and attention to the breeding of Jersey cattle and Norman Percheron horses. At one time he owned one of the finest Jersey herds in the state and sold prize stock throughout the Mississippi valley. He took prizes for his stock at state fairs and at the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Mr. Foster was a real pioneer, town builder, educator and farmer. His work was of lasting benefit to this community.

A postoffice was established at Wabasha with Alexis Bailly as postmaster. Mail facilities were irregular until 1856 when arrangements were made with the boats to carry the mails and a tri-weekly mail was the result. In 1857 the boats brought daily mail and Mr. H. C. Burbank put on a line of stages from St. Paul to LaCrosse carrying the mails as well as passengers, thus affording a daily mail both up and down the river. In 1858 the name of this postoffice was changed to Wabasha (leaving off the "w") so that the Indian name became extinct. Mails from the Wabasha postoffice were brought by stage coaches to Green-

ville and Centerville. The Plainview Hotel located on the corner where the present hotel is located became a lively place with stage coaches bringing mail and passengers arriving daily. The postoffice was in the Ozias Wilcox store in a frame building across the street from the hotel where the People's State Bank is now located. Among the stage coach drivers were Barney Reilly, Mart Jenks, Ira Finch and Brainard Wasburn.

In 1867 Lawton's Grocery Store was established and the postoffice was located there. A. B. Norton was the first postmaster. He was succeeded by Simeon Wright in 1867 and Dr. Gibbs in 1869. In 1872 Hattie Carroll was appointed postmistress. It was during her term of office that mails were first brought by railroad. In 1878 the railroad was completed from Eyota to Plainview and mails were brought daily by train.

A. J. Carroll succeeded his sister as postmaster in 1889. He served only one year. Frank L. Meachum was appointed to that office and served until 1893 when Franklin Welles was appointed. The postoffice was then moved to the rear of the building now occupied by the Bates Variety Store, then occupied by the Thomas G. Bolton drug and grocery store. Mr. Welles purchased his own postoffice fixtures and arranged them V shape with boxes on both sides. Dr. J. P. Waste succeeded Mr. Welles in 1898.

and served for 8 years until his death in 1906. His eight year term was nearly finished when he became critically ill. The appointment of a succeeding postmaster was delayed due to his serious illness. When Dr. Waste became postmaster he purchased the old fixtures used in the Lawton Grocery store. The postoffice was then moved to its present location. The building was built by J. H. Davis Jr. in 1886 who also built the adjoining bank building. It was through the efforts of Dr. Waste that rural routes were established. An old schedule of mails from that day reads. Arrives—7 a. m.—12 m. via railroad—2 p. m. via stage. Departs—7:40 a. m.—12:55 p. m. via railroad—3:15 p. m. via stage coach.

George Hall was appointed postmaster upon the death of Dr. Waste. Miss Lena Underwood became clerk and later Miss Bertha Thom became a postoffice employee. Both continued for many years. In August that year the postoffice underwent a face lifting operation. The workroom was enlarged by moving the partitions forward. The walls were painted and wood work cleaned and varnished.

In 1913 mail cars No. 6 and 7 were taken off and all mail arrived on the noon train.

Harry Smith became postmaster in 1913 and served until 1922. It was due to his efforts that new fixtures were purchased and installed in 1916. The new arrangement gave a large lobby 13 ft. by 17 ft. equipped with new all steel fixtures in mahogany finish. Two writing desks were placed on the East wall. On the West wall 312 patrons boxes, 96 small boxes, 80 larger ones and 16 large drawers. Window arrangement and doors were made just as they are today. Above the fixtures a steel net work divided the open lobby from the work room which had been enlarged and arranged with a systematic arrangement of drawers and labor saving devices, a new office desk and parcel post cabinet were supplied. Rural carrier tables with changeable pockets with 136 compartments were added. The divisions between the pockets were so arranged that each pat-

rons name could be inserted beneath the compartment for convenience in distribution. A stamping table, letter case, sack racks, new safe, cloak and toilet room and a vault were among the new improvements. Previous to this time all money and stamps were kept in the bank and the postmaster and clerk would have to rush to the bank when they were needed. The new vault in the postoffice was a great boon to the postmaster and his helper..

Everything was in good condition for the rapid handling of the mail. In October 1922 the long sought for bus mail service from Kellogg to Plainview and Elgin had finally been granted and the new route put into operation Monday October 10 and was scheduled to continue under the contract until June 30, 1923. C. R. Quiglen of Kellogg was the successful bidder. The new service carried first and second class mail 7 days a week. Mail from Wabasha previously requiring two days to reach Plainview was received the same day mail with the new service. This service is still in force today carrying all types of mail.

In 1931 all mail service to Plainview and other towns on the C. and N. W. railroad was carried by bus. Myron Phillips of Wabasha drove the bus from Wabasha making two trips daily except Sunday. The first to Elgin and back and the second to Rochester and back. The morning bus bringing all afternoon and night mail. The new service gave Plainview three incoming and outgoing mails where there were formerly only two and three parcel posts both incoming and outgoing, where there were formerly only one.

W. G. Mack was the next postmaster. Mr. Mack was succeeded by Chester Gallagher. Upon the death of Mr. Gallagher in 1941 Mike Lenoard was appointed active postmaster and in 1942 received his permanent appointment to the position he now holds.

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April 17, 1947

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

This history of Fairview park shows well the foresight in long range planning and the will to do, of Plainview's business men of 1927. Without doubt those whose names have been mentioned in this story and many others who worked equally as hard in their efforts to make Plainview the progressive village it has always been had their critics and scoffers. As in 1927, those who favor a construction of this progress are beset by critics and scoffers. Let it be our fervent wish that a few years hence a rewriting of this story will include a completion of this beautiful park—so well planned.—The Editor.

### ABOUT FAIRVIEW PARK

With the idea of accumulating funds for a much talked about and hoped for athletic park for Plainview the Commercial Club undertook a large project in 1927 and due to their efforts on that memorable day Plainview now has one of the finest athletic parks in this section of the state.

On July 4, 1927, the town of Plainview under the sponsorship of its Commercial Club entertained one of the largest crowds in all of its history at a celebration held at the fairgrounds. Over 7000 people attended. The gate receipts showed 5000 paid admissions. Children were admitted free. A constant stream of cars poured into the town from morning until night.

A parade of beautiful and cleverly designed floats was one of the features of the day. The First National Bank float will be remembered as a huge birthday cake with twenty-five candles in honor of the twenty-fifth birthday of that institution. Carpenter and Goetz, Margaret Appel. Millinery and other companies also drove outstanding floats.

The school and town bands and the American Legion Drum Corp played and marched in the parade. There was an elephant, giraffe and clowns to please the children. A program of sports, horse and mule races, a baseball game between Wabasha and Kellogg were included in the events. The drum corp started the evenings entertainment with an exhibition in front of the grandstand.

A gigantic pageant under the direction of Miss Arvilla Murray with all of the talent of the whole town taking part was presented. Starting with the history of the country before the arrival of the white man the scenes carried the history on through the arrival of the first white settlers to the Boston Tea Party and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The gorgeous costuming, stage settings and beauty of the pageant will always be remembered.

Mike Leonard as Abe Lincoln, Ed Lindsey as the village blacksmith with John Keough and others bringing in the horse to be shod, Mrs. Loney riding on the white horse singing the "Indian Love Call" all contributed greatly to the humor and beauty of the show. A tableaux "The Spirit of '76" was presented. T. G. Burton played the drum and Spen Dickerman of Viola the fife. Both dressed in colonial costume marched to the old time fife and drum melodies. The program concluded with the whole cast forming the American Flag. Fireworks and a dance concluded a jamr packed day of festivities.

Lunch stands and other concessions were conducted all day and evening by the various organizations of Plainview. One stand used over 200 lbs. of weiners. Profits of the celebration went to the Commercial Club with amounts given to the City Band and the Drum Corp. The crowds so far exceeded expectations that folks were almost at their wits end to secure supplies to carry them through the day. When final accounting was made the Commercial Club was richer by well over two thousand dollars.

This fund was set aside for the purchase of an athletic park and remained intact until March 24, 1939 when the search for property for the park came to an end. The commercial club purchased a seven acre plot of land located north of Freemont street. The property was formerly the C. H. Ritter estate. A. C. Woodcock had previously obtained an option on this property and he made his option available to the park board and the purchase was made. The park board consisting of John Keough, A. C. Woodcock and Dr. Mahle presented the property to the Village Council and a levy was made by the Council to pay the small balance due. The Village Council and the Commercial Club thus united to provide this much needed improvement to the town.

C. A. Faunce, Minneapolis engineer made



a map of the project. The dimensions were shown 625 ft.x532 ft. with an additional lot of 60 ft.x127 ft. The football field 360 ft.x160 ft. with width across the running track 288 ft. The baseball diamond 90 ft. square with outfield. A space 42x108 ft. for tennis courts and a space for a swimming pool and bath house were provided. These latter projects have never been developed as yet but it is hoped that some day they too will be a part of beautiful Fairview park.

Under the direction of Mr. Faunce during the spring and summer of that year the whole field was graded and leveled, requiring a cut on the south side of nearly ten feet at its highest point, the deepest fill required was about ten foot in the northwest corner. A shelter belt of fast growing trees was planted along the West and North sides. In the fall extensive work was done on the Park. John Keough served as chairman of the park board committee developing this project. A draining system was installed on the athletic field, 2500 ft. of pipe were placed, 3000 square yards of dirt were spread, 120 lbs. of Kentucky blue grass was planted. Top soil was laid to a depth of six inches over the entire area. More than 33,000 cubic feet of dirt was handled in leveling the center of the field and filling it in with the top dressing.

The football field and track, two kitten ball diamonds and a baseball diamond were all laid out and marked.

When all of these projects were completed in October the next step was to secure lighting for the fields. A meeting of the Park Board and committee, Arvid Johnson, chairman, Howard Zabel, Wayne Lance, Peter Rogers, James Mulligan and Myles Peterson was called for the purpose of finding the most economical way to light the football and diamond ball fields. They studied the problem and made observations of other fields. Thomas Roach of Interstate Power Company supplied information and together they worked out a plan whereby the expected \$800 cost of lighting the fields might be reduced.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce established a fund for the lighting project by donating one hundred dollars.

A committee of five members, Arvid Johnson, Don Harrington, Howard Zabel, Francis Taylor and Peter Rogers were given full authority to work out the necessary details of financing and buying the equipment. Plainview business men pledged \$585

to be paid back in yearly dividends. Supt. S. L. Johnson pledged the proceeds of the Maroon and Gold Ball, to be held September 20, the basketball game, Plainview vs. Rochester, and a donation from the schools activity fund combined totaling \$100. He further pledged the school's support in co-operating to the fullest extent in activities to raise additional funds should they be needed.

A group of five members, Jay LaRocque, Glenn Richmond, Donald Pille, Milton Volenweider and Walter Briese volunteered to aid A. C. Woodcock in correcting some erosion on the new field. In August 1940 night football and kitten ball games became nearer to a reality with the playing fields laid out and positions for light poles marked. A crew of J. C. members dug the holes and with the assistance of the Interstate Power Company set up the poles.

The J. C.'s sponsored a contest to select a name for the park with a prize of two season tickets to the home football games as inducement. Among all of the names suggested the name Fairview sent in by Everett Anderson was chosen.

Everything was in readiness for the dedication ceremonies and the initial football game under lights, Friday evening, Sept. 20. In spite of an all afternoon rain and showers almost up to play time scheduled events took place.

Plainview's High School Football team met Zumbrota. Both teams playing under lights for the first time. The team under Coach Shirley Held consisted of nine letter men. Pat Carpenter, leader, Michael Mason, Arthur Gessner, Dalton Kroening, Henry Wischow, William Nettekoven, James Kruger, Eugene Erding, Leslie Carpenter, other players were Kenneth Kroening, Tom Lyons, Joe Markus and Halvor Wischow. The score was 9-0 in favor of Zumbrota.

The dedication ceremonies took place at the intermission period. In the glow of the new and perfect lighting system the F School Band marched down the field playing the National Anthem. Marching to their own music they formed the letter Z and P. Joyce Berger, as majorette gave a clever display of baton twirling. John Keough, presided at the dedication ceremonies and presented the new lighting system to the town in behalf of the Park Board, the Commercial Club, the J. C.'s and the local school board. Mayor A. E. Becker accepted the gift in behalf of the citizens of Plainview.

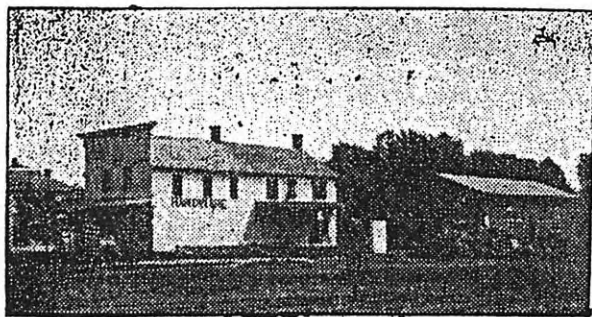
Sam Buron of the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce addressed the assembly. Mr. Keough speaking on behalf of the Commercial club spoke in commendation of the fine work and generosity of Engineer C. A. Faunce who was present at the ceremonies. Mayor Becker officiated at the naming of the Park.

On Sunday, May 25, 1941 the first baseball game was played on the new and completed diamond. Since then hundreds of games have been played and enjoyed and many athletic events of all kinds have taken place at Fairview Park. This past summer archery targets were placed and considerable interest shown in that sport. Night kittenball games also were played and it is hoped these activities will continue again this year.

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May 1, 1947

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK



### ABOUT THE CORNWELLS

This story takes us back to 1865 when two men, one a Yankee from Connecticut and the other a Confederate from Savannah, Georgia, both named Cornwell but bearing no relationship migrated to this area and established themselves into business enterprizes that grew and prospered for over a half century.

The first part of the story is about the pioneer Chauncey Connecticut Cornwell. He was born in Erie County, New York, April 13, 1812 and moved with his parents to Middleton, Connecticut when an infant. He grew to manhood there, learned the shoemakers trade and engaged with his brother, H. D. Cornwell in the manufacture of boots and shoes for two years. He then went to Willoughby, Ohio and opened a similar factory there which he operated until 1849. Due to ill health he was advised by his Doctor to seek another climate so with his wife and children came to Lovell Township, Dodge County, Wisconsin where he engaged in agricultural pursuits. His health improved and he continued farming there for about sixteen years. In 1867 he brought his wife and family to Plainview. His children were Harvey, Alfred, Elijah and Elizabeth. In partnership with Mr. E. B. Eddy he built and opened a hardware store on Main Street where the present Plainview Hardware Store is located. Mr. Eddy established a small bank in connection with the hardware business. In 1867 Mr. Eddy decided to devote all of his time to the banking business and Mr. E. Dodge replaced him as partner in the Cornwell hardware store. The Cornwell family lived in the rooms over the store. Mrs. Cornwell was a tailoress and made all of the garments for her children. Mr. Cornwell was so tall and large that garments for two children could be made out of one of his

Pictured here is the first home of the Chauncey C. Cornwell store which was later replaced by the present home of the Plainview Hardware. The building on the right is that of the Purvis blacksmith shop. The residence on extreme left was built by Fred Gregor, as his home. This building was later moved to the Gibbs addition and is now the home of Herman Werner and sons.

suits. They were a fine industrious family, determined and destined to succeed. When Elijah was seventeen years old he enlisted in the 39th Wisconsin Infantry in 1864 and served at Memphis in the exciting days of the Civil War. He contracted typhoid fever and ill health resulted. In 1865 he returned to Plainview. Later he became a partner of Henry Horton in a little wagon shop near his fathers store. This partnership dissolved and in 1867 he became an employee in his fathers store and in a few years was made partner. The store operated under the name of E. R. Cornwell and Son. He married Adell Burchard, daughter of the pioneer business man, Rodman Burchard and reared a family of seven children in a home two doors west of the community Church now occupied by two of his daughters, Mrs. Francis Dewitt, Mrs. Maude Cornwell and Mrs. Dewitt's son, Donald and family, who live upstairs. The Cornwell children were Florine, (Mrs. Patton, druggists wife at New Richmond, Wis., and mother of Mrs. Wayne Doane of Plainview, Charles Cornwell, druggist at Villard, Minn. Florence, Mrs. B. E. Roweder of Rochester; Francis, Mrs. Charles DeWitt and Miss Maude Cornwell at Plainview and Glenn

Cornwell of Wabasha; Nellie Cornwell died in infancy.

The hardware business grew and prospered and finally outgrew its quarters. Mr. Cornwell was having difficulty taking care of his large stock. New items were constantly added to the stock and with the prospect of furnaces, bathroom fixtures, etc. as items the need for a larger store was imperative. In 1901 Mr. Cornwell and his son built the new store, a beautiful brick building on the site of the old store which was moved to the lot East. Business continued in the old store until the new

building was read for occupancy. The Chauncy Cornwell family moved from the upstairs in the old store to a little home east on Main Street. When the new building was completed the old building was moved to the lot where Kruger's Pool Hall is now located and torn down when that structure was erected.

The new building, 30 ft. x 75 ft. was completed late in 1901. The two story building of brick was modern in every detail and built of the finest material obtainable at that time. The ware house at the rear was also built at this time. East main street assumed a metropolitan appearance with the new hardware store, Koenigs large red brick store, Duerre's large store and the new Erding building. The village had every reason to be proud of its splendid advancement. Plainview had forged ahead until it had become one of the principal trading points in Wabasha and adjacent counties. Wooden structures were disappearing and being replaced by modern brick buildings. In 1901 over \$34,875 was spent on buildings and improvements. The Koenig, Duerre Cornwell and other stores carried immense stocks of good, more than was carried in towns two or three times as large as Plainview.

Alfred C. Cornwell, brother of E. R. Cornwell was tinsmith and plumber at the store and Mr. Cornwell's son, Glenn was also employed at the store. Clerking at the store at various times were Charles Marshall, Geo. Stoddart and Robert Crary.

Mr. Chauncy Cornwell lived only a few months after the new store was completed. He died in 1901. Following his death Elijah became sole owner of the company and carried on a prosperous hardware business there for over sixteen years. The upstairs was rented by the Masonic Lodge for Lodge rooms.

In 1917 Mr. Cornwell sold out to Ralph Murray who operated the store until 1923 when he sold it to Leslie Carpenter and August Goetz. They operated it until 1936 when Arthur Becker purchased the building and business and continued in this prosperous enterprise until 1944. His health failed and he was forced to retire. Clarence Cook is the present proprietor and operates under the name of the Plainview Hardware Store.

# "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

## *About The Cornwell's Big General Store*



Pictured above is a reproduction of one section of the dry goods and ladies ready-to-wear departments of the big store. The picture was taken some time during the years between 1887 and 1901. The photographer was one of Plainview's early pioneers, Theo. Saxe. The picture from which this reproduction is made will be on display in the News office window for the next ten days. We'll give a fine box of personalized stationery to the first one able to identify the entire sales force. Judges will be two of the employees of the company still living in Plainview and appearing in the picture.

Once more we have proof of the vast resources of Greenwood Prairie as we review the history of Plainview's big Country Store The F. J. Cornwell Company.

In 1836 at Savannah, Georgia a boy was born who was destined to come to Greenwood Prairie and make a fortune in a merchandising enterprise. His name was Frank J. Cornwell. When three years of age his parents died and he was cared for by relatives. In his young manhood he clerked in his brother-in-law's store in Burk County Georgia for a few years and then returned to Savannah and clerked there until 1856. When twenty years of age he decided to join the "Go West, Young Man" movement and together with his brother, George came to Dodge County, Minn. Later he went to

Cordova, Illinois where he worked for the L. E. Casey Dry Goods Company. In 1858 when that Company opened a branch store in Winona. Frank Cornwell was sent there as clerk. Hannibal Choate also clerked there and later established his own store, the present Choate Company. In 1863 Mr. Cornwell went to St. Charles and clerked for the J. Himsted Company and in 1865 came to Plainview where he operated a store as a partner of the Himsted Company. In 1866 Mr. Himsted sold his interest to John Taylor and the firm continued as J. Taylor and Company with Frank Cornwell as partner. In 1872, Mr. Cornwell sold out to Mr. Taylor and became bookkeeper for Oziah Wilcox in his general store in a two story frame building where the Peoples State Bank is now located. Mr. Wilcox became at-



tached to this young man from the South and could foresee that he would make a successful merchant. His health was failing and he depended more and more on Frank. In the summer of 1875 Frank became dissatisfied and longed to return home. He went to Georgia and remained there for a few months. In December he was called back to Plainview because of the serious illness of Mr. Wilcox. A few days after his return Mr. Wilcox died. On January 12, 1876 Frank re-opened the Wilcox store and operated it in the interest of the Wilcox family. In June that year he purchased the business. The thriving business grew rapidly under his management and in 1881 he rented and moved into the spacious brick building (now Leonard's Grocery) built by A. Y. Felton in 1879. Frank Cornwell could truly be called a self made man. He came to this area with but little money and in a few years was well on the road to financial success.

The beautiful new store, neatly arranged carried a fine stock of merchandise, dry goods, men's wear, ladies and men's shoes, lace curtains, dishes, carpeting, groceries and hundreds of other items. A little frame building on the west side was used as a grocery department. Mr. Cornwell built a wooden ramp connecting the two buildings. In 1898 Mr. Cornwell tore this building down and built a large brick building in its place, (the present Gamble Store). The new building connected with the older one with a large opening making one grand big store. Dry goods were placed in the west half and crockery, shoes, etc. were on the east side. In 1899 Mr. Cornwell built a large warehouse at the rear of the first building, greatly enlarging the grocery department. Rugs and carpets were upstairs on the rear west side. A stairway at the rear west side led to the upstairs rooms. Mr. Cornwell had a large billiard table in the west front room and many a game was played there. Among those enjoying the Sunday afternoon games were Mr. Cornwell, Charles Hamlin, H. C. Oliverson and Jack Storey. The rest of the entire second floor was used for storage. A large crockery department was on the east side of the store and what a department it was. Dozens of sets of dishes in various patterns could be found there. Mr. Cornwell bought the very choicest merchandise the markets afforded. Many homes in Plainview

and area have cupboards stocked with dishes from the Cornwell store. In those days good dishes, were given away as premiums and were stamped with the name E. R. Cornwell Company. The basement under the entire building was used as storage. A tremendous amount of merchandise was stored in the Cornwell store. George Dickman was buyer in the dry goods department from April 1887 to Sept. 1901.

In the early days farmers made many of their store purchases in trade for butter, grain, cordwood, poultry etc. Mr. Cornwell would remarket the grain and resell the other products. The lot in the rear of the Cornwell store was usually stacked with piles of cord wood. Mr. Cornwell, although a bachelor was always interested in the children of the community. In 1900 he presented a drawing book to each child in the Plainview School. The children were to color the pictures and return them to the store. Prizes were given to those whose books were found to be the neatest work and most pleasing colors used. The first prize was a two pound can of Chase and Sanborn Seal Brand Coffee and the second prize a one pound can of Chase and Sanborn "Buffalo Chop Tea." We doubt if the children enjoyed the coffee and the tea but no doubt their parents did and the children had the fun of participating in the contest.

Frank Cornwell died July 27, 1912 at the age of 76 years. The death of this successful pioneer merchant was a distinct loss to Plainview. His personality was woven into the very fibre of the town. He played an important part in all civic affairs. Even today many early day civic projects in which he took leading parts stand as monuments to the good he contributed to this community.

In 1913 the Cornwell store underwent great changes under the management of Mr. Thomas A. Askew Sr., husband of Mr. Cornwell's neice (Emma) who still makes her home in Plainview. New glass floor cases were installed, new window arrangements, a bookkeepers office was built in the center of the store and a managers office in the rear. A ladies dressing room was built and three way mirrors graced the room. Ladies read-to-wear garments were being manufactured and added to the Cornwell merchandise. The ladies reveled in the

new garments that they did not have to make themselves and the mirrors. Seats were built around a large post in the store with mirrors above them. Arno Hahn became manager of the large shoe department. The crockery department was moved to the basement, enlarged and an attractive display room was arranged.

The Masonic Lodge rented the upstairs west rear rooms and used them for lodge rooms.

Following World War I, Thomas Askew, Jr., returned to Plainview and later took over the management of the Company. After a few years he discontinued all departments except the grocery which he operated for a while and then sold out to Dave Leonard. This marked the end of a vast merchandising enterprise that was carried on for over a half century. Mr. Leonard remodeled the store and stocked it with groceries. A. A. Bartz's electric shop and a small Gamble Store were housed in the other building.

In 1945 Dave Leonard and Elmer Koepsell purchased the building. The former operates a grocery store and the latter a large Gamble store. The Koepsell family live upstairs over the Gamble Store and the American Legion Rooms are above the Leonard Grocery.

June 26, 1947

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

### *About The Bolton's Drug Company*

A Diary written by a young school boy during the winter of 1855 is the impetus prompting the writing of this story. It was written by Thomas G. Bolton, pupil at the first district school in Wabashaw in painstaking boyish script. The pages recorded happenings at the school, church services, debates, etc., attended by him. Almost every day's cronology ended with "Chopped some wood tonight". One page ended with "We had a good school today. It was very pleasant. I hope I improved by it." The final pages of the Diary were written in short hand.

Wabashaw at that time was a mere trading post and stopping place for fur traders and voyagers. The surrounding area was a vast wilderness. Dakota Indians were numerous and their teepees scattered in every direction. They were quite peaceable with the whites but intense hatred existed between the Dakotas and the Chippewa's in the north.

The diary revealed that one could not be sure of the Indians. Two men were passing in a boat just as a Sioux Indian aimed to fire at them another man passing by grabbed his gun and broke it on a stump. Thomas witnessed the hanging of the Indian to a tree. Dusky forms of Indians might be expected to walk in on the settlers at any time or be found peering in the windows of the cabins. They usually came begging for food or cash-pot, the Indian term for ten cents.

The school was the first district school in Wabasha County. It was taught in a log building located on "The Point". The building had been brought down the river from Mendota in 1842 by Father Augustin Ravoux of St. Paul to be used as a Catholic Chapel. It was also used as the school house and the first newspaper in Wabasha County was printed there. Thomas wrote in his diary that the school house was so cold that the pupils and their teacher, Mr. H. B. Potter had to huddle near the wood stove to keep warm.

Thomas Bolton was born in 1843 at Logan, Ohio. Following the death of his father

Graham Bolton, his mother, Nancy Miller Bolton and her children, Ruth, Martha, John and Thomas moved to Cleveland where they lived for a short time and then she decided to take her little brood and go West. In these days of modern comforts it is hard to realize how that pioneer mother and her small children could withstand that long perilous journey by oxen team and boat. They arrived in Wabasha tired and worn from the hardships of the trip and decided to settle there. When Thomas was fourteen years old he thought he should seek employment and help out with the family finances so he hired out as a cabin boy on a steamer on the Mississippi. While working on this job he made the acquaintance of a Mr. Crowley, pioneer druggist of Wabasha who became his good friend and benefactor. At sixteen years of age, Mr. Crowley hired him as druggist's helper. After four years employment there Mr. Crowley opened a branch store in Plainview and Thomas was hired as manager. That marked the beginning of the drug store business in Plainview. All newspaper records of that period were lost in a fire and happenings of that day are beyond the reach of memory for Plainview residents so we cannot state just where the Crowley Drug Store was located on Main Street. Thomas operated the store for two years, returned to Wabasha and a short while later purchased a store of his own in Eyota. In 1874 he married Ella Foster, daughter of a prominent Plainview pioneer and in 1878 returned to Plainview and became a partner of George LaRue in his newly established drug store in the building where the Eggers Grocery Store is located. In a short while he bought out Mr. LaRue and became sole owner and proprietor of the Bolton Drug Co. He moved the goods to a building on the lot where Arthur Holst now has a grocery store.

The shelves of the store were lined with patent medicines of every kind and description. Cure-alls for all types of ailments. Some of the medicines were manufactured by Mr. Bolton. He wished to advertise these products and as there was no newspaper in the village he decided to start one.



He rented a room on the second floor of the Grove Machinery Company, a building occupying the block from the lot where Rosenbergs Shoe Shop is now located South to the street intersection. This immense building was destroyed by fire and Mr. Bolton then erected the present Rosenberg Shoe Shop to be used as his print shop.

The newspaper was called The Plainview News. It's columns were devoted mostly to advertisements of patent medicines and their miracle curings. The bulk of its news were testimonials of cures obtained by people taking the medicines. There were bits of local news, business changes, obituaries and weddings but the paper was largely devoted to patent medicines.

Mr. Bolton had various interests other than the drug store. He became Plainview agent for the Laird Norton Lumber Company of Winona and operated that Company for many years. He purchased a large farm near the abandoned village of Greenville and stocked it with blooded stock. This marked the beginning of scientific farming in this area. He was the first farmer to undertake raising purebred stock on Greenwood Prairie. He believed that farming and lumbering go hand in hand to lay the foundations of civilization and develop it's sources of wealth. Much credit for securing an Electric Light Plant in Plainview goes to Mr. Bolton. Throughout his life he worked for the betterment of Plainview. His vital personality was fused into almost every undertaking in the village. His beautiful red brick home, now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kruger, was the scene of many educational, religious and social gatherings. He was a member of the Masonic and Oddfellow Lodges, an ardent member and worker in the Methodist Church and the Greenwood Prairie Old Settlers Association.

In 1908 the Bolton Drug Store underwent a great change. New hard maple flooring replaced the old wide boards and new fixtures, the old shelves. Cases with sliding doors were installed. A new prescription case with large glass mirror, side mirrors and ornamental shelves for display were added. Bolton's newly remodeled Drug Store was a nice addition to the village. Many new and amazing products were placed on the shelves. His sons, John and Miller returned from College and took their places as clerks in their father's store. Gradually old Mr. Bolton retired from the store and devoted his remaining days to his other interests and to his home. His pioneer mother, who blazed the trail with him from Ohio to Wabasha County and endured hardships far beyond our imaginings lived her retrospective years in the comfort of her son's home. Mr. Bolton died in 1917.

# **"I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK**

## ***About Our Boy Scouts . . .***

Over 2,000,000 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Senior Scouts observed the 37th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America this past week with dinners, special church services, Courts of Honor and other events. Plainview Boy Scouts will present a Court of Honor at the School Auditorium on Monday evening, Feb. 24 followed by an informal feed. 1947 marks the beginning of the Thirty-second year of Scouting in Plainview.

Great changes have taken place since those early days in the nineteenth century when Scouting was first begun in America but the principles of Scouting, resourcefulness, self control, thrift, courage, and all virtues that make for better manhood remain the same.

In 1905 Daniel Carter, Beard organized a group of Boy Scouts and called the group the "Sons of Daniel Boone". Each officer was given the title of a famous scout, Daniel Boone, Davy Crockett, Kit Carson and others. About this same time Ernest Thompson Seton formed an organization and called it "Wood Craft Indians". In 1910 this organization joined with the "Sons of Daniel Boone". At this time Lord Baden Powell, an Eng. Army Officer in South Africa had been concerned for some time at the complete ignorance of newly arrived soldiers on such basic necessities as personal hygiene self reliance and simple observation of nature. To correct this he organized groups to meet after regular tours of duty and taught them basic principles of Scouting. The organization of Scouting has been attributed to Lord Powell but he denied that he was the father of the movement saying that the ideas came to him after reading American articles on the subject. He stated that he wished to be called an uncle of Scouting and not its father.

Much credit for organizing and promoting the movement in America goes to William D. Boyce, a Chicago newspaper man. The movement which adequately met the needs of both youths and

parents spread rapidly in America, Italy, France, Germany, Australia, China and South American republics. Troops were organized with amazing rapidity.

The first troop was organized in Plainview in 1915 when Rev. Burton L. Hoffman, pastor of the Church of Christ, Ross P. White and a Scout Committee composed of G. H. Dickman, C. D. Burchard and F. D. Washburn organized Plainview Troop No. 57. Rev. Hoffman became Scoutmaster and Mr. White assistant. The troop, made up of boys aged eleven years and older was organized into three Patrols. Members of Owl Patrol were Paul Venables, leader; Paul Jacobs, assistant leader; Frank Mulcahy, troop scribe; Byron Smith, Harold Oliver, Arthur Holst, Louis Boehlke and Lloyd Arnold. The Silver Fox Patrol, Harry Larson, leader, Malcolm Smith, assistant leader, Harry Nunamaker, Geo. Nelson, Malcolm Weigel and Caleb Schriber. The Pony Patrol was composed of boys 11 years old. Glenn Carpenter, Edward Hostettler, Lloyd Bennett and Royal Nunamaker.

The troop held an Ice Cream Social on the School Grounds Saturday evening, July 31, 1945 to supply working funds for the troop. They took their tenderfoot tests and made plans for their first camping trip at Camp Schmoker.

On February 25, 1916 the Scouts and their Dads enjoyed a banquet on their first anniversary. The tables were decorated with the National Colors. Place cards were bronze tenderfoot badges inscribed with the motto, "Be Prepared". Favors were small American Flags. A program followed consisting of speeches by Rev. Hoffman, Mayor T. G. Moore and the members of the Committee; Violin Solo by Joe Graner; Reading by Wm. Reifkogel; Address of National Scout President. Colin H. Livingston, read by Lyle Swanson. Humorous reading by Alfred Burkhardt; Report of Summer Camp, Malcolm Smith; Demonstrations of First Aid work, making stretchers bandaging, etc. Nine scouts formed a pyramid with Louis Boehlke, the littlest scout topping and waving the Flag. Cock

fighting and leg wrestling concluded the demonstrations.

A total of \$410.25 had been accumulated during the year through ice cream socials, a movie, basket socials, and county fair projects. Expenditures buying suits and other equipment totaled \$401.90, leaving a balance of \$8.35 in the treasury.

In September 1916 the scouts inaugurated the gathering and selling of waste paper to provide funds for summer camps. Rev. Hoffman entered the service in 1917 and was sent to the Great Lakes. This was a serious loss to the troop as he had been a wonderful leader. Under his efficient and understanding guidance the troop had made great progress. Mr. Hardin took over the troop for a few months and in the fall, Rev. H. J. Hill pastor of the Church of Christ became Scoutmaster.

Scouting in Plainview became inactive for a few years. They let the charter lapse and all ratings were lost. In June 1924 Scoutmaster Rev. H. D. Bossuet, pastor of Methodist Church with C. W. Erlandson reorganized under a national charter. Funds were depleted during the inactivity and Plainview businessmen came to the rescue providing funds for the summer camp at the State Park. Everyone enjoyed the outing in spite of the scare of the near drowning of Milton Schwantz.

In October, Mr. Mau became assistant Scout Master, replacing Mr. Erlandson. The troop camped at West Indian Creek near Appel's mill. Henry Nedrelow gave three prizes for tests which included K. P. duty, conduct in camp, and interest in Scout study. A fountain pen was won by Francis Taylor for being the best all round scout. Reed Greethurst won an eversharp pencil for having the best general knowledge of scoutwork. A gold faced pocket comb was the prize for the best essay on nature study. We were unable to find the name of the winner of this prize.

Once again Scouting became inactive until 1929 when Rev. Martin, pastor of the Church of Christ reorganized the troop. Members of the troop were John Boehlke, Lester Boehlke, Samuel Sloggy, Woodrow Toner, George Fisk, Donald Harrington, Orlando Johnson, Kenneth Nunamaker, Roscoe Carpenter, Cecil Heron, Leslie Lance, Millard Boie, Bruce Peck, Norman King, John McFarlin, Rob-

ert Zabel, Franklin Washburn, Stanley Allen, Donald DeWitt and Charles Christison.

In 1933 Mr. Bornemann, Superintendent of Plainview School answered the call for a Scoutmaster. Donald Harrington became his assistant. A program was inaugurated designed to develop in the boys greater responsibility for providing for his own wants, proper attitude toward work and appreciation of values. An out door camp under the leadership of their own officers was established. The Plainview Commercial Club took over the sponsorship of the troop. Julius Westby, High School Athletic Coach was camp supervisor when the scouts camped that year at Lake Emily near St. Peter.

In 1936, Frank McGough became Scoutmaster with Neil Lance and Gordon Allen as assistants. James Keough, Eugene Lehnertz and Allan Harrington were Patrol Leaders. They organized the Fourth Patrol. The troop camped at Kamp Kahler near Rochester with expenses again paid by the Plainview business men. The troop of thirty members under Frank McGough's leadership became one of the most active in this area. They camped at Frontenac, Crystal Springs at Ebow's resort at Faribault. Boys had to await vacancies to become members. Older scouts were reluctant to leave the troop to make place for younger ones. The five years under Frank's leadership were the brightest spots in all of Plainview's Scouting history. The troop enjoyed many outings on the Mississippi and made rapid advancements. When Frank left to study for the priesthood. Alton Bergh, a young Plainview lawyer succeeded him with Neil Lance again as assistant. Mr. Bergh efficiently served the troop and carried out the principles established by his predecessor until 1940 when he went to St. Charles to begin private practice of law. Plainview's Scouts lost another fine leader.

Dr. Race came to the rescue and with George Gessner as scribe served the troop faithfully for about a year and a half. The Scout committee consisted of D. M. Ferguson, S. L. Johnson, J. E. Keough and Arthur Wempner.

The troop was inactive for a few years and in 1945 was again activated with Neil Lance, Wm. Bates and Charles Dickman assistants. Ervin Schrieber, Junior assistant, Dale Wood, Senior Patrol

Leader, other patrol leaders Eugene Goetz and Don Schoewe and Robert Montgomery as Scribe. The troop enjoyed overnight hikes, afternoon jaunts, practicing wood craft, fire building, cooking etc. Among the successful projects of the troop so far have been securing a room of their own in the City Hall, and collecting scrap paper and a Dart Stand on Lakeside Day.

They will hold a Court of Honor at the Plainview High School Auditorium on Monday evening, Feb. 24 with parents of the scouts and members of the Commercial Club and their wives as special guests. Mr. Eckstrand, area scout executive will be the speaker of the evening. Rev. Stratton will give the benediction. A. A. Burkhardt will speak in behalf of the troupe committee. Lyle Spooner, commander of Wm. Allen Post of the American Legion will present the troop with a large American Flag with the compliments of the Post and Orin Denzer will present the troop with a troupe Flag, the gift of the Plainview Commercial Club.

The Band will play. Awards and merit badges will be presented by Ted Zabel, Wm. Bates, Charles Dickman and Neil Lance. James Goetz is the troop bugler.

# "I Thought You'd Like To Know" . . . by GLADYS MACK

## *About Annual Poppy Day*

In the spring of 1919 World War I was devastating the world and our soldiers were falling by thousands among the poppies that blossomed in crimson glory and abundance on the battle fields of France and on the graves of our loved ones. Returning soldiers brought back visions of these crimson fields engraved indelibly on their hearts. The little flower spontaneously became the memorial flower for World War dead.

Colonel Joel McCrae of the Canadian forces composed a beautiful poem that will live forever in the hearts of all mankind.

### "In Flanders Fields"

In Flanders Fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly,  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.  
We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders Fields  
Take up our quarrel with the foe;  
To you, from failing hands, we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders Fields.

Miss Moina Michael of Athens, Georgia who had served overseas on the Y.M.C.A. staff distributed hand made poppies to men attending the 25th Conference in New York City in 1918. She was later decorated for war services with the distinguished Service Medal of the American Legion Auxiliary. Hand made poppies were sold by American Legion Posts of Milwaukee just before Memorial Day, 1920 for the purpose of securing funds for disabled veterans.

The poppy was adopted as official memorial flower of the Georgia Department of the American Legion Auxiliary in August 1920 and Georgia delegates were instructed to present a resolution to the American Legion National convention in Cleveland to be held in September that year to make the poppy the official memorial flower of the national organization.

To Mrs. Mary Hanesy of Milwaukee goes the honor of originating the idea of selling poppies as a means of raising funds for World War Veterans rehabilitation work and in 1932 she received a certificate of

merit from the American Legion Auxiliary for originating the sale of poppies for welfare work.

At the American Legion Convention in Cleveland, September 27-28-29, 1920 a resolution was passed to adopt the poppy as memorial flower of the American Legion throughout the nation. The American Legion Auxiliary was organized in 1921 and one of its first official acts was to make the poppy its official memorial flower and at the first National Convention of the Auxiliary in Kansas City in October, 1921 promoted the sale of poppies for the sole purpose of veterans relief work.

The Saturday previous to Memorial Day was set aside as national poppy day and the nation-wide sale of memorial poppies began in 1921. At first silk poppies made in France by French widows and orphans were used. In 1922 a decision was made to give the work of making the poppies to American veterans in the veteran hospitals and to pay them for their work. The first poppies made by American veterans were made in the hospitals of Minnesota. The fabric poppy was eliminated and the crepe paper poppy adopted.

The American Legion gave the Auxiliary complete charge of the national poppy program. Late in the fall each year the manufacture of poppies is begun by disabled veterans in 80 government hospitals all over the United States and in special convalescent workshops maintained by the Auxiliary and is continued through the winter and spring months. On National Poppy Day the sale of poppies takes place on the streets.

The work of making poppies is a God send to hundreds of disabled veterans. They are paid for the flowers they make and if not too badly disabled can earn a fair day's wages without harmful over-exertion. For many veterans it is the only possibility of earning money during the year. They are happy to be self supporting rather than dependent on charitable donations. A visit to one of the poppy work rooms at a veterans hospital will convince one of the intrinsic value of this project. Here we find men happy at their work. Long worried hospital hours are turned into hours of pleasant and

remunerative work. They laugh and sing and flying fingers fashion thousands of poppies that you and I will wear in remembrance. As they work the veterans gain a new interest in life, one of the basic needs in the long process of rehabilitation.

Veterans with any form of communicable disease are not permitted to make poppies. In some cases this work is given to their wives. Special work rooms being established outside of the hospital. The money they earn helps keep their families together until their husbands again can become wage earners. Then too poppy work rooms are often established outside the hospitals for veterans who have been discharged from hospitals and cannot do regular work. All materials for the poppies are supplied by the Auxiliaries who also promote the sales. Each unit conducting the sale of poppies order their supply from the National department.

The sales are conducted entirely by volunteer workers and every penny received goes into direct relief for the disabled men and dependents of the disabled or dead. The bulk of the poppy funds remains in the community where it is raised and is expended by local Auxiliary. Units in relief work throughout the year and to pay the veterans for their work in making the poppies. A small percentage of funds goes to the department and National organizations for use in the Department and National Relief and rehabilitation program.

Profits from poppy sales are entirely spent upon welfare relief for service men and women and their families. Over 25,000,000 poppies will be sold by the American Legion Auxiliary on Saturday, May 24 by over 125,000 volunteer workers in the United States who receive absolutely no compensation for their work. Over \$300,000 is paid annually to needy and disabled service men for making the poppies. Over \$2,000,000 in proceeds is devoted to the gigantic task of rehabilitation.

A movie short will be shown at the Gem Theater in the near future so that we may all see our disabled veterans at work. The Ladies of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary will be on our streets Saturday, May 24 with handfuls of poppies to sell. Buy one in remembrance and wear it in silent tribute to America's heroes.

1947 marks the 26th annual Poppy day sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. National annual VFW Poppy Day is Saturday, May 17 but it is being observed here on May 24 so that the two local Veteran's Auxiliaries may make collections on the same day.

Both organizations are working for the same worthy cause. The care of our veterans and their families. Poppies will be sold by volunteer workers in both organizations who will give freely of their time that this mighty task of rehabilitation can continue. The VFW workers will also sell poppies in Elgin and Kellogg the same day, Saturday, May 24.

Over 21,000,000 silk poppies will be sold this year by V.F.W. Auxiliaries throughout the United States. One cent from the sale of each poppy goes to the support of the VFW national veteran orphans home at Eaton Rapids, Michigan and the bulk of the funds stays in the communities where it is raised to pay for local veterans relief work, to purchase materials for poppies and pay the veterans for making them one and one-half cents on the sale of each poppy goes to National headquarters for aid and relief of disabled veterans and their dependants and for relief to veterans of national disasters.

The first sale of poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization was held prior Memorial Day in May 1922 when only French poppies were sold. Due to difficulty in getting the poppies the idea evolved in 1923 which resulted in the VFW Poppy fashioned of silk by disabled veterans who were paid for their work as a practical means of providing assistance for these needy comrades. This plan was adopted at the 1923 encampment at Norfolk, Virginia. The name "Buddy Poppy" was given to the flower by the Veterans themselves as they made them. The Buddy Poppy was adopted as the Memorial Flower of the VFW at their National Encampment in Seattle, Washington in August 1922 following the national sale in May 1922 and the name Buddy Poppy was copyrighted in February 1924 granting the VFW exclusive right to the name. Remember to "Buy a Buddy Poppy and honor the dead by helping the living."



# "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

... by GLADYS MACK

Even as today, the school children of yesterday—those who attended school in that first early (and in that day modern house of learning), frame building—looked forward to the day they would be walking from it's doors, a scroll tucked under their arm, for the last and final time. And even as we, of the old school, look back on those childhood and young man and young womanhood days we realize the happiness we enjoyed in those formative years. It is with that thought in mind that happy reminders of Plainview's educational progress is recorded. It is our wish that it brings back as many happy memories to our older readers as it does to the editor as one of it's students.—The editor.

## ABOUT PLAINVIEW'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

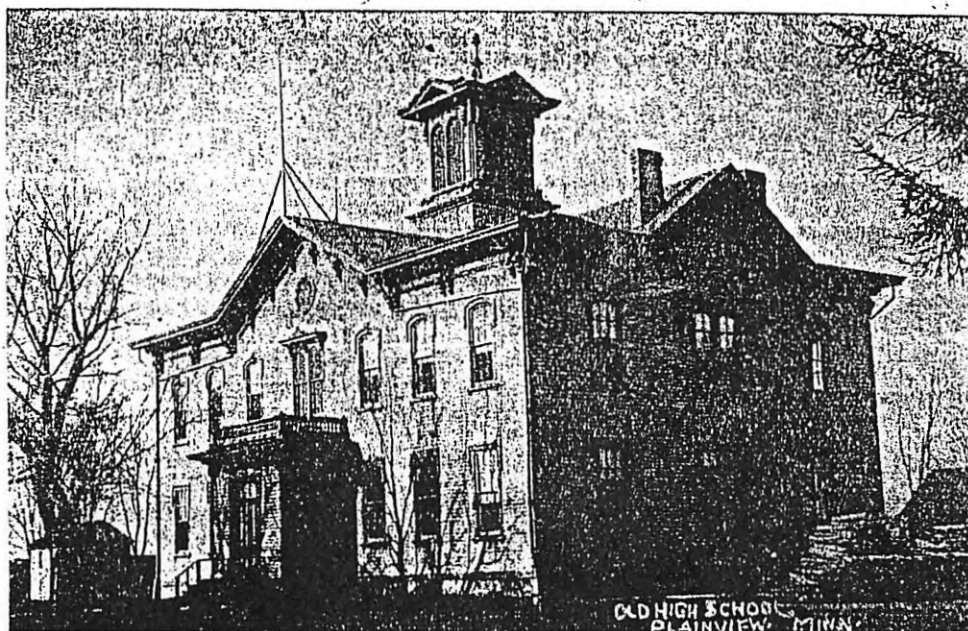
The first school in Plainview was established in the rear room of Van Wort's carpenter shop in 1858. This was the only room large enough and warm enough to be used as a school room. Mr.

Hale, a young man from Vermont offered to teach and his offer was eagerly accepted. The room was used for two years. In 1860 the pioneers decided to use a little one room building on High Street located where the residence of Clifford Goetz now stands. This building was formerly used by Dr. Gibbs as an office and drug store. About twenty pupils attended school there Miss Anna Wright was the teacher.

After a few years this school room be-

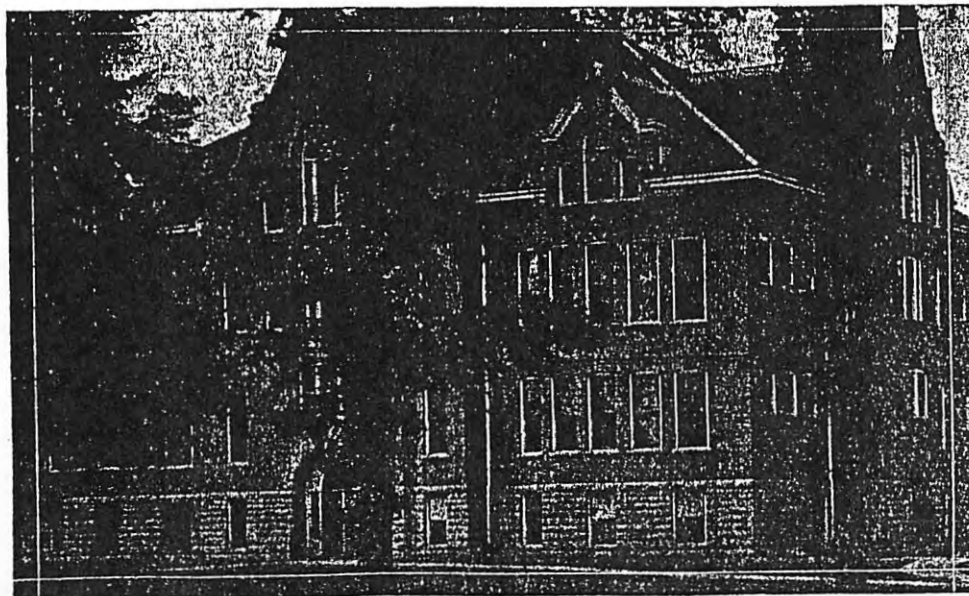
building should be purchased and kept as a memorial and a decision was made to purchase the building and move it to the City Park.

On Friday evening, Sept. 4, 1925 Plainview's first school house was dedicated as a



The first forward step in modern educational building construction was made in 1867 when this building was erected on the public square. This school was moved to the back of the lot in 1903 and a new and larger one erected in it's place.

memorial to the pioneers and old settlers of Greenwood Prairie at ceremonies at the City Park. A fifteen cent lunch was served, a program given. Proceeds of which was used to finance the remaining expense of the memorial. Folks were asked to bring relics to be added to collections in the building. Mrs. Washburn sent a picture of her father, Oziias Wilcox, pioneer merchant of Plainview and Mrs. Ezra Fellers sent a

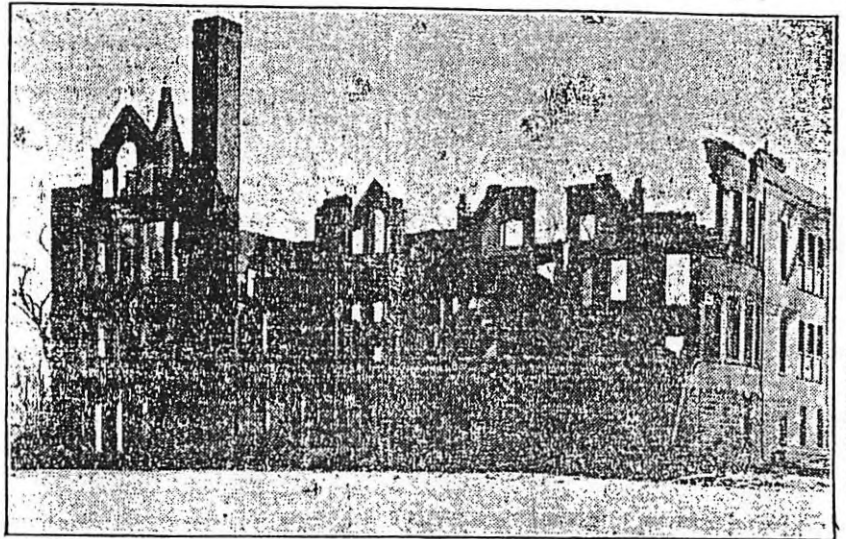




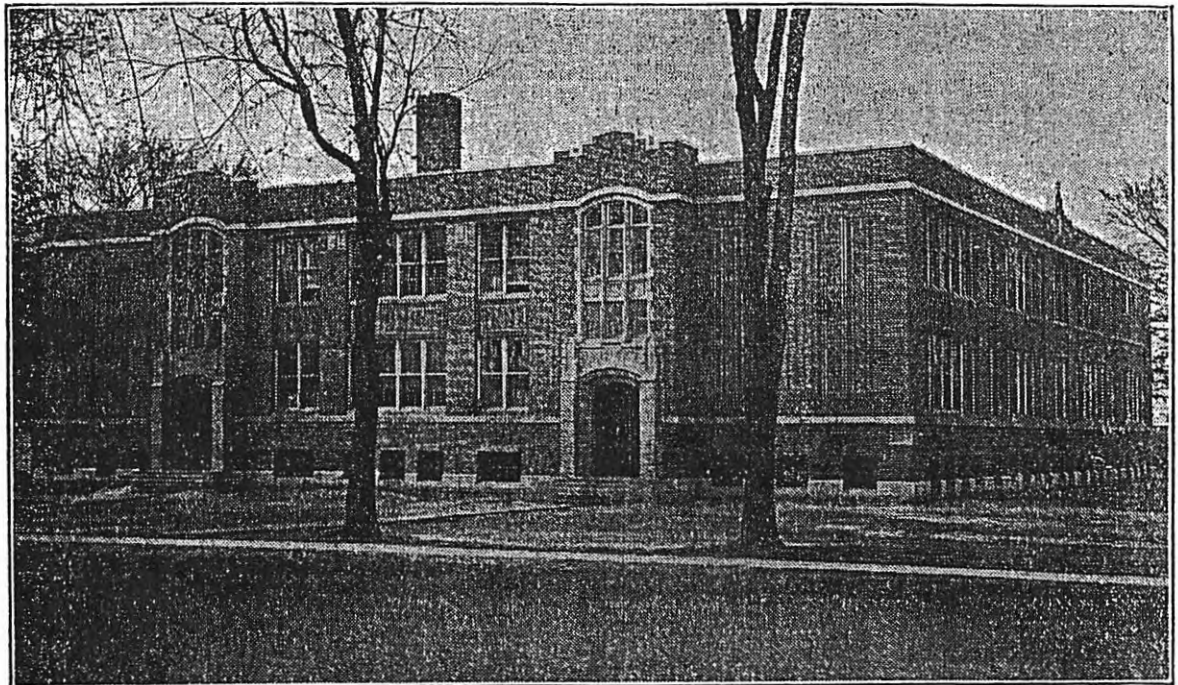
came too crowded and the pioneers began looking for another building. They purchased a larger one room building, moved it to the lot east of the residence of Rodman Burchard, (grandfather of Mrs. J. A. Slocumb). These lots were later purchased by the railroad company and the Burchard home became the Chicago and North Western Depot. The building moved here became Plainview's 2nd school house. The first school was then moved to the lot north of where the Cooperative Oil Company now stands. August Johnson, father of Paul Johnson purchased it and moved it to his home located on the site of the present Standard Oil Company and used it for a summer kit-

In 1903 Plainview citizens, mindful of the need of educational progress sensed the inadequacy of this old frame building. It's citizen's voted in favor of a bond issue to finance this three story red brick school house pictured above.

picture of her genial husband, "Uncle Ez", pioneer proprietor of the hotel and livery



The historic fire of Feb. 12, 1924 completely destroyed this school house which had served the needs of this community for twenty-one years.



The large building pictured above built in 1925 of ultra modern styling is fast reaching the point of inadequacy to meet the needs of Plainview's rapidly growing educational system.

chen. Paul was tearing it down one day in 1924 when Mrs. Minnie O'Connell happened along. She stopped to inquire what was happening to Plainview's first little school and when informed that it was being torn down she asked him to wait for a day or so before continuing in the dismantling job. She immediately set about to convince people that the

barn. We are told that some of the relics and pictures have been destroyed in years past by vandals.

The second school house was used until 1866 when it was purchased by the Church of Christ, moved to their church property on Main Street and became the parsonage of the Church of Christ. It was in this little school

## "I Thought You'd Like To Know"

- - - by GLADYS MACK

It was the editors intention to give the writer a few weeks respite from her "I thought you'd like to know" column. Like all women she has a perfect right to change her mind. And no organization in our community warrants a place in the historical column of this paper more than the Plainview Firemen Relief Association. For that reason Mrs. Mack relinquished her rights to a vacation in preparing the "I thought you'd like to know" column to give you the history of this association on the celebration of it's 50 years of service to this community.—The editor.

The fiftieth anniversary of the Plainview Firemen's Relief Association occurred on Monday, Dec. 16. That date marked the close of fifty years of efficient service to this community by the Plainview Volunteer Fire Department. During these years many lives homes, places of business, and other properties have been saved by the Department.

In early days when houses, stores and other buildings were constructed chiefly of wood, heated by coal stoves, and fire proofing, extinguishers and insurances were unknown. Hundreds of families were made homeless and often times destitute because of fires.

In 1896 a group of settlers mindful of the great need of means to fight fires held a meeting for the purpose of organizing a Firemen's Relief Association with memberships in the State Relief Association. They organized into two companies and held their meetings in a building which they called the Engine House. This building still stands on a lot East of Edwards Machine Shop.

Members of that first Company I were Captain Arthur Koenig; Lieutenant, F. . Weikel,

caps were purchased for which the village paid two hundred dollars and the firemen paying the balance. A bridge was added to the engine house so that the carts could be hauled in and out easier. A tool box was added to one of the hose carts and the firemen secured Petit's barn, North of the Langhum Produce Company as a place to store the hose carts.

In 1903 the firemen's equipment consisted of two hose carts, 31 men, water supply from the elevated tank, 800 feet of hose, a steam whistle placed on the roof of the electric light plant with power attained from the steam boiler at the plant. Two long and three short whistles designated a fire.

In 1904, 500 more feet of hose were added and in 1905 a hook and ladder were purchased and the new equipment was named Hook and Ladder Company No. I. At this time a new cut off spray and nozzle adorned Cart No. II.

The first finance committee was organized in 1899. Initiation dues were raised to one dollar. When a member would miss three meetings he would have to pay one dollar. If he wished to be reinstated he would have to be voted upon and would have to pay one dollar



Pictured above are the two trucks used for the protection of the village and surrounding farm area from loss of life and property by decaded fire. Members of the company who have given Plainview one of the outstanding volunteer fire fighting units in the state are left to right (front row) Ray Wood, Harlan Fortun, Ralph Edwards, A. A. Bartz, Captain Earl Lehnertz, Alfred Gusa, Wm. Murphy, Lyle Spooner. On city truck at left (left to right) Kenneth Briggs, Vern Wentworth, Alfred Schuchard. On country truck (left to right) Nathaniel Pierce, Kit Thomas, John Allen, Louis Boehlke, Joe Cook. Two members of the company were unable to be present for the picture they are A. F. Johnson and Vern Smith.



Harry Smith, J. J. Erding, A. C. Woodcock, H. A. Weickel, W. R. Peyton, J. H. Eggers, August Hanson, Charles Richmond, George Purvis, Adolph Briesse, Albert Koenig, Wm. Riefkogel, H. G. Austin and R. D. LaRocque.

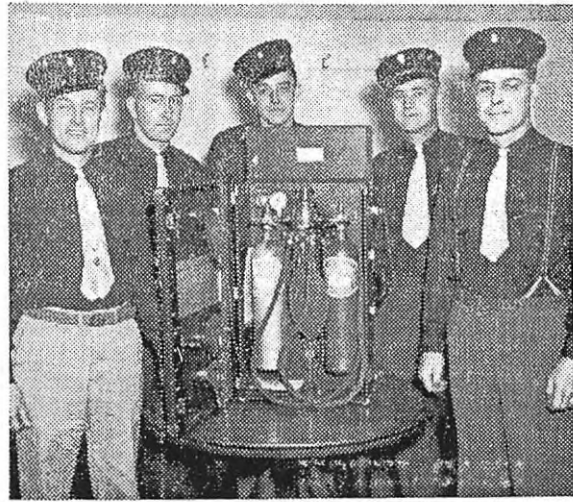
Members of Company II were Dan McFarlin Captain; Will Hutchinson, Charles Ritter, Arthur DePuy, Iley Grove Jay Copeland, L. Sundquist, R. Burckhardt, Steve McClaren, Mart McFarlin, Charles Gorrell, Guy Marshall, Henry Deardorf, J. P. Waste Jr., Otto Huney, Alfred Grove, George Miller and Harry Evans.

Ten members of Company I are still living. They are Harry Smith, J. H. Eggers, F. A. Weickel and A. C. Woodcock of Plainview, Arthur Koenig of Portland, Oregon, Will Peyton of Grand Meadow, Minn., August Hanson of Lewisville, Minn., Adolph Briesse of Rochester, Albert Koenig of Des Moines, Iowa and R. D. LaRocque of Minneapolis. Only two members of Company II survive. They are J. P. Waste Jr. of Plainview and Harry Evans of Rochester.

These two companies were given the name, "Plainview Firemen's Relief Association" C. H. Ritter was elected president, W. R. Peyton Vice-president, Arthur Koenig Secretary, and H. G. Austin, Treasurer. A committee composed of Arthur Koenig, Arthur DePuy and C. H. Ritter was appointed to draft by-laws for the association. A committee composed of Dan McFarlin and Arthur Koenig were appointed to attend a meeting of the village council and petition them for assistance in getting a fire alarm and supplies. The board of trustees was organized with Arthur DePuy, Charles Richmond and H. D. Smith serving. Initiation dues were set at 35 cents.

First equipment consisted of a hose cart of the push and pull variety. The church bells were used to sound the alarm. The key was placed in a small box with a glass door and access to the key was attained by breaking the glass. Following the fire the key was returned to the box and the glass replaced.

In April 1897 a dance was held at the G.A.R. Hall to raise funds for needed equipment. Proceeds of that first dance were \$34.00 with \$28.00 in expenditures leaving a balance of six dollars. In 1899 with the assistance of the Village Council 500 feet of hose, purchased at 80c per foot were added to the equipment and a fire bell placed in a tower built on the engine house. In 1900 25 coats and



One of the volunteer services promoted and financed by the local Firemen was the purchase and operation of respirator equipment. The squad detailed and qualified in the use of this equipment are left to right, Lyle Spooner, Nathaniel Pierce, John Appel, Earl Lehnertz and Squad Captain Ralph Edwards.

again. Funds were raised by foot races and dances and donations helped to swell the budget. Money donations were seldom given by grateful persons following a fire. They usually gave cigars, lunches, etc.

The new City Hall and Fire house were erected in 1910 and the company moved in. The first Firemen's Easter ball was given in the hall that year and has been an annual event ever since.

Two chemical carts had been added to the equipment and in 1928 a new Motor fire truck was purchased. The truck was equipped with a small storage trunk for water, booster pump nozzles, hooks and ladders, hoses and other equipment. At this time Companies I and II joined into one Company. In 1929 a siren was placed in the city hall, gas masks, smoke masks, helmets, raincoats and other equipment were added.

Country fires throughout the years were in many cases futile tragedies as there was no means of fighting them. Due to insurance laws requiring the new truck to be available for town fires at all times the truck was not used for Country fires. The question of rural fires was brought up at meetings many times and in 1936 the Company purchased a rural Motor Truck with funds donated by farmers. In 1938 the Company also purchased an Inhalator and latest addition to fire fighting equipment in Plainview is a new Resuscitator, a combination of Resuscitator, Inhalator and Aspirator purchased