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Ethel Hargren

History of Stillwater in 1855

Chapter one

" Now it came to pass in the process of time. When John whose surname was Tyler ruled over the land- there spake a man of the tribe of Mac (McKusick) unto his fellowas, saying."

"Behold we be increased in numbers and this place is becoming too strait for size. Let one of our number report and seek ~~the~~ inheritance for us, - and spy out some pleasant part of our Land and when he has sent us word we will also go with our wives and our little ones, with out cattle, and with that ^{which} ~~which~~ belongeth unto us- and we will build us homes, and plant us gardens and dwell in the pleasanat land that may be found."

"Then spake John whose surname was Mac Kusick, unto his brethren and kinsfolk, saying, behold we have heard with our ears, and the fame thereof ~~has~~ come even to our midst, that towards the setting of the sun there lieth at the distance of many days' journey, a land which is fair to look upon, and of great value- a land flowing with mild and honey. Now therefore if it seemeth good unto you. I will depart and seek that land, and spy it out and ^{send} ~~send~~ word thereof. "

They came from Maine

" And his brethren and kinsfolks answered and said unto him, thou hast well said, thou shalt go and see this land which we have heard- and if it plessech thee pitch there thy tent and abide for a while. Now this John was a tall and staswart man- and his Father (same was # and they dwelt in the province of Maine, which lieth towardd the East, and is bounded on one side by

the waters of the great sea.

"Then John having bade adieu to his friends, and to his kindred, turned his face toward the setting-- A bland was left for the writer did not know of the sun, and traveled thitherward the distance of many days' journey---and with him there went Elam (Greeley) who was also from the province of Maine, and Elias (McKean) from the mountains called "Verd" and Calvin (Leach) from the land of Penn.

"Now these four men travelled together until they came unto a mighty stream which floweth from the North and ^{which} which is called the "Father of Waters".

"Now these waters ^{are} were deep so that a ship might sail thereon.

"Then these men consulted with each other, saying, let us pass up this river and find that goodly land, of which we have heard. Then they entered into a ship and sailed towards the North. Now the banks on either side were rocky and bold and the red man dwelt in the country.

"There were also wild beasts, even the wolf and the bear, beside the elk, and the deer, and many of the tribe clothed in fine fur.

" Now after many days' sailing they came to a place where two waters met, and behold the waters to the right were broad and quiet, while those to the left were narrow and rapid. Then counseled these men with each other even John and Elam and Elias and Calvin saying behold this broad bay that openeth to the right, the waters thereof are calm, and the shores thereof are fair to look upon. Let us sail in that direction, and spy

out the beauties of the land.

" Then they thrust the ship in through the narrow channel, and sailed into the waters which are called the Lake of St. Croix.

A Pleasant Place

" And behold the land upon either side was pleasant to the eye and lay in beautiful plains called in the language of France Prairies- and when they had sailed about 200 furlongs they came to a pleasant place on the shore westward where flowed a stream of water from the country that lieth back and which was on all sides but the East with high rocks and hills, that rose abruptly before them. Then said they one to another, behold, this is a pleasant spot and desirable to live in. Let us stop here and claim this goodly land. They all went and stood upon the shore and said, we now having joined ourselves together, do claim this land for our home and our abiding place, and here will we remain and build us houses and our wives and our little ones shall remain with us and immediately they erected a shelter where they might abide for a time, while they prepared materials to build a city.

" And when they saw the goodness of the place, and all its beauty and desirableness, they said one to another, what name shall we give to this city that we build? Then said one of them, Lo the waters of this lake, how still and quite they are, and our town lieth hard upon its bank.

They Called it Stillwater

"Wherefore let us call the name of the City, Stillwater.

And to this they all agreed, and behold it is known by this name.

even unto the present day.

" Now this was on the tenth day of the tenth month in the second year of the reign of John whose surname was Tyler, and in the sixty-eight year of the nation of America, that these men landed on the banks of the Lake of ST, Croix, and proposed to build there a city.

"Then they hired them cunning workmen in wood, and in iron, and artificers in all manner of machinery, chief of whom was Jacob whose surname was Fisher. And they wrought diligently through the winter and labored to construct a mill, by which they might change the log into boards; and saw them timber for the building of the city. And they build also a conduit to bring them water from the stream, at a distance above ground--and they constructed a large wheel to be moved by the water and to give motion to all, the machinery and to the saws.

The First Sawmill

"And on the last day of the third month of the next year they opened the gateway, and the water filled the conduit, and fell upon the large wheel, and it turned slowly around and the other wheels began to move, and the saw commenced to work, and behold in a short time a log had been transferred into boards, whereat all the workmen and the people of the place rejoiced with exceeding great joy. So this same mill is it not to be seen in our midst even unto the present day?

"Thus was laid the foundation of the City of Stillwater.

"Here endeth the first chapter." On different paper and apparently written at another time, is the second chapter of the "Book of Chronicles of Stillwater."

The Book of Chronicles

of Stillwater

Chapter Two

"Now it came to pass, after the saw mill was built, and the foundations for Stillwater were laid, that other brothers of the family of McKusick came from the East and settled in the new town. And the fame of the place went abroad through all the east country, and through the Province of Maine.

"And the inhabitants of Stillwater wrote letters and sent to all their friends throughout the land describing the goodness of the place, and setting forth its beauty and desirableness.

The First Hotel

"And shortly after, many people came from different parts to see for themselves the land of which they had heard so much. And so well pleased were those that came, that they prepared their habitations, and tarried, and became citizens of the place. And this did Stillwater ^{grow} and increase in size, and was numbered with the towns of the land. And as the people came from all parts behold, some place was needed for their accommodation, where they might lodge and find them victuals to eat, Then came Anson whose surname is Northrup, and build an Inn for the accommodation of man and beast, and for a tarrying place, for all who should come that way. And many people accepted the hospitality of Anson, and liberally recompenced him, for the same, But so ~~it~~ ^{it} was, that through carelessness of design, the fire kindled upon this house and destroyed it, and it was consumed, and nought but a heap of ashes was left of its greatness,

"Then arose Anson and said "I will even now build me an-

other~~th~~ house, greater and more disirable than the first." And so ^{he} did. And so he built another house in the stead of the one that was destroyed, and he called it the Stillwater house. So this house remaineth unto this day, and Isaac whose surname was Staples the man of business, hath purchased it, and resides there with hisfamily.

" And after that, Lo, other Inns arose, called the Minnesota and the Lake House, but of these it ^{needeth} needeth not now to speak, Are not thes Inns even at the present time!

The First Store

" Now shortly after the first settlement of Stillwater came Socrates, whose surname is Nelson, to trade with the inhabitants of the place, And he was the first merchant of the town, buying and selling, and trading in all kinds of merchandise, and joined with him in business was Churchill, a man of Missouri. And thesee men traded with the inhabitants of Stillwater for many years, and when they left off to do business, then (blank in MS) whose surname is Short, and John whose surname is Proctor and Oliver whose surname is Parsons entered into their place, and continue unto this hour. And Walter whose surname was Vail, and Peter called Poncin were also among the first who opened stores in the town.

First Lawyer

" And as the place grew and increased, came Morton whose surname was Wilkinson, a student of the Law, to conduct the quarrels of the people, and teach them justice according to the rules of Court. And after him came Moss and Ames. These also ^{were} were lawyers, and first practised that abtuse acience in the new town of Stillwater.

"Now the people of this place were remarkably healthy, neither said they often one to another "I am sick" for the minds were full of health, and the air was clear and invigorating, Yet the ills of mortal flesh sometimes came upon them, and the maladies of life found access to them.

"On this account therefore, they came to reside among them, A physician, to administer to them such medicine as they might need to heal their broken bones, and relieve their pains. And the name of this physician was Christopher whose surname is Carli, a native of the land of Italy. The same dealt in medicine, even unto the present day.

It might be in order to mention at this time that the worthy and good doctor's fees in the very earliest days were a dollar a year. this samll nedum remained the same regardless of the many visits he might be obliged to make.

"There came also another physician, a man whose name was Coyey and he practised the healing art, till sickness came upon him, and he died, and was buried and his sepulcher remaineth unto this day.

" Now the men who came hither came at first singly neither ~~came brought they~~ at first their wives and families with them.

Firt White Woman?

" Now there were many of the native inhabitants of the land, the red men of the forest, and they all had wivesn but there was no white wo^{woman}man in the townm till a man whose name was Allen brought hither a wife, and she was the first white woman in Stillwater. Then others of the inhabitants, went to the East country and brought hither, their wives, and grew, and the people multiplied exceedingly.

" Then it came to pass, that Sarah whose surname was Judd, a woman of intelligence and knowledge, gathered the children together and instructed them in wisdom and science, and this was the first school in the town, and was also the first in the whole country of Minnesota. And afterwards she became the wife of Eldridge, Lo, they dwell in our midst, even unto the present time.

" There came also in his travels, a prophet a man of God, this way, and he opened his mouth and prophesied unto the people and they all gathered with one accord in one place to listen to his teaching. And the place where they assembled was in the dining room of the house of McKusick, the owner of the mill, and the name of this prophet was William, whose surname was Boutwell.

" And shortly after came another of the prophets to take up his residence among the people, and he also prophesied in the name of the Lord and his name was Simon, surnamed Greenleaf.

Law office Opened

"Then sent the chief ruler of the nation, a governor to this land, to rule it and direct its affairs. And this governor was Alexander surnamed Ramsey. And at the same time chief ruler of the nation sent to Stillwater men to have the care of the public lands, and to sell the same to individuals.

" And these men were of Military renown Abram called also the Major to keep a faithful record of all that was done, and Nathaniel called the Colonel to be the receiver of Moneys

"But time would fail me to tell all the ^{men} men of note who came to this place, and of all the interesting events that have transpired.

"Behold the ^{story} of the history of Stillwater and all

the notable matters, its growth, its greatness, and its high renown, is it not all written in the hearts of the early settlers."

Mrs. Nichols' Letter

" Saturday Eve, March 4 (1854)

" When I sat down to write this letter I expected to finish it but was so lonely that I went to bed to pass the time in my husband's absence and I have not seen one leisure moment since, so here it is a week later. Well, It will be all the same to you when you get it. The last week has been beautiful in the extreme- since last week it has been as warm as in April, but clear sunshine all of the time till last Wednesday the sun clouded and we had one of the most refreshing rains that I ever witnessed. The first since November--then our sleighing commenced with about a foot or a foot and a half as near as I recollect and it has continued uninterrupted since, up to last Wednesday. It is now quite comfortable wheeling. Oh you mud enguophed' Yankees come to Minnesota if you want pleasant weather! They probably have more muddy traveling out to Chanhassan than here.

"Three weeks since we had a horse or sleigh offered us free of expense to go to St. Anthony to attend the dedication of the first Congregational church of that place. It was the finest sleigh ride that I ever had. In traveling the 30 miles we did not see one drift, it was a solid path all of the way. Well, we started Wednesday noon and got to St. Anthony about 5, stopping at St. Paul on the way to feed the horse an hour. I think we did not use the whip once going over. We have better horses than you do East. We were to be gone until the next week and in the meantime visit C's people.

We could have gone and back as far as St. Anthony by Saturday easily if Mr. N. could have made an exchange with any one to fill his pulpit, but failing in this we were obliged to return without our visit. I am afraid we will not have such another offer and it will cost \$10 to hire and we are poor so we will have to give it up. We hear, by the by, quite often from there, they are all well. ^{has} ~~CC~~ ^{has} not been so fleshy for years. I do want to see them and Oh, how I do want to see all of you.

"We attended another wedding Thursday evening another \$10, they do get up their ^{wedding} ~~weddings~~ and parties on the grandest scale, the first cost about \$100, the last a little less. They are married in church and then go to their houses, take supper, congratulate the parties, etc. There will probably be one or two weddings more this spring; none pay less than ten unless it be Irish or German, and they give three or five. I wish father could sell his eggs out here. They are 50 cents a dozen and in great demand. I have just out of curiosity been casting up our expense since we have been in Stillwater and find 'that we have paid in cash' \$369.69, that is debts and all, Mr. N. says that we are only owing 25 now in the Territory at that. The festivals, weddings, and parties, take all. Husband that this is the bluest letter that I ever wrote. I do not feel blue at all, good-bye, Your Sister loving and true, Nancy."

What They Ate in '54

But did you realize that Stillwater in 1854 imported most of its food from Iowa and other more southern states. This she tells us in the following excerpt:

April 4, 1854

"Butter is from 25 to 30 cents, they have been from 40 to 50 all winter; other things are in proportion. This must be for years

to come for people are flocking to this territory constantly, and the home market is not now supplied in the Territory. The most of our provision comes from the states below us--on the boats-- by the way a boat has just come from below, the first of the season. ^{The} prospect is there will be a great flood of immigration this year. This beautiful country is just being known and it only wants to be known to be appreciated."

"August 27 , 1854

"We have just had a missionary box sent us. Value \$85 garments mostly made, which brings the value to \$100 or more. Most of the articles I can use in my family such as sheets, and pillow cases, fine shirts, or cotton flannel shirts and drawers for Mr. N. and ^{muslin} ~~myself~~; cotton and woolen hose for all with a little alteration. Cloth for double gown for Mr. N--also broad-cloth for a coat and pair of pants--satin for vest with a neckerchief and four pocket handkerchiefs for me--three pair of drawers, and three chemises, three night dresses, delaine for a wrapper with lining, calico for dress-bonnet and collar night caps, etc. You would not care to hear all.

New Dress, Cloak, Hat

In any letter home Nancy ranged over a large field, so that her family might picture her exactly in the details of her new, and to Easterners, her very romantic new home among Indians and prairies! In this letter she jumps from the very feminine topic of clothes to the ^{education} deucation problem.

"November 27, 1854

"By the way I have just made a nice black silk; price \$1.75 a yard; it was mostly a present. The ladies have just brought in some

delaine for a dress. I heard that other ladies are getting me a large cape made of the ladies cloth for cloaks, to be trimmed and tasselled with a dress to match and some others a velvet hat, so you see we have friends here....

30 Going to School

"Well now in reference to schools; the Academy is in operation in this place, taught by Mr. Webber. He has now what he can make, has now 30 scholars and is now expecting five or ^{six} ~~se~~ more the last of the term. He is intending to make it a permanent affair--he will make from 800 to 1,000 easily with nothing but the common branches."

Even Mr. Nichols noticed that his wife was very popular among his parishoners. He writes on

"December 22, 1854.

"I am settled on a salary of \$700 to be increased in the future as the expenses of living may make necessary, and I have the privilege of absence four Sabbaths in the year, if I wish. The people are doing all for us that we could wish or expect. Almost every week furnishes ^{some} ~~some~~ new tie to bind us to them, in the form of presents. And that you may know how popular Nancy is among them, it is a fact that almost all the presents are for her.

"A few weeks since a splendid coat or cape of Ladies clothe was given her, which cost \$16 and yesterday a nice velvet hat all trimmed, was sent in, with the card of three ladies and two gentlemen "A Thanksgiving Gift". Two large baskets came in the other evening filled with all manner of groceries, a delaine dress for Nangy, a bonner for Louise, etc. And among all, nothing for me, except ^{my} ~~my~~ share of the eatables. Don't you think it is mean of them, I am positively getting jealous of my wife. But I don't think I could get one the people would like any better, and so I resign myself to

my fate as socially as I can.

"Nancy is enjoying herself finely this winter, and will undoubtedly have to brush up her literary ideas some. She has just been appointed one of the Editors of the Lyceum paper, and will probably have to read the same. We have a Lyceum in operation with a Debate, Ladies Paper and course of Lectures. Don't you wish you were here? We do."

"Of this Lyceum, Nichols' grandson, now a professor at the University of Minnesot, writes in an article published in Minnesota History last September:

"Another public service concerned a Stillwater Lyceum. On December 13, 1854, a meeting was held at the Minnesota House which was eloquently addressed by Rev. H. H. Nichols and others' and on motion of Rev. H. H. Nichols, it was unanimously agreed to take measures to organize a Lyceum. He served on the committee which drafted a constitution for its government, and regularly attended its meetings. St Croix Union (Stillwater), December 19, 1854.

"Nichols also worked to reorganize the lyceum and he presented before it his lecture on "Life" given a year earlier before the Minneapolis Lyceum. See his diary, December 31, 1855, January 4, 7. 1856.

"The lectures, some very good and some 'small affairs' were on all ^{kinds} kinds of subjects. He noted them down in his diary, and frequently praised or censured the speaker's delivery.

"Of special interest today, as examples of bygone manners and customs, are the ladies' 'Portfolios' of the lyceum course, always read by one of the women. On January 10, 1855, after a lecture by a Catholic priest, my grandmother read the 'Portfolios' and I find from her husband's diary, that she 'acquitted herself with grace

and dignity'. Some of these portfolios are before me now in my grandmother's delicate handwriting, excellent examples of mid-century style and badinage, I like the one which points out that 'A writer for the 'Portfolio' must be witty and sparkling that 'A Lady must be like a dew-drop in the sunlight, like the sun spangles on the Lake, like the ripple of the rill, like the foam of the cataract, like painted clouds, like the rainbow, like flashing icicles, like precious stones, like bright stars, like oranges, like ripe peaches, like anything that is bright, and pretty and enchanting.'

"Now Ladies", my grandmother went on 'I have none of the qualifications demanded for a writer to your paper. I am not witty, nor sparkling, nor brilliant, nor enchanting. Ah, No! not beautiful, I am not very youthful, I have passed the sunny-side of 30....I never dieted on angel's miles, or star-rays, or coquetted with the moonbeams, or lisped to the zephyrs, or sighed over love tales, or wept over yellow novels'.

"And furthermore I never tried but once to ride Pegasus, and then I was thrown....Oliver Wendell Holmes says Pegasus will not trot well under a side saddle. He is the ~~the~~ man who never cares to write as funny as he can--did he mean to be very funny when he wrote that?"

"But as yet the Nicholls family had no cow. The following letter by Nichols recounts how Bossy arrived very unexpectedly one day. He writes on June 1, 1855:

"A few days since a couple of boys came driving a cow up to my house, and gave me a letter from their father, in which was: Do

'Bro. N, accept this cow as a free gift from the Lord. I cannot see three or four cows in my yard, while my Pastor has none. I have an investment of a cow in the House of worship and now I want one in the Minister who preaches in that house'. Nothing in the shape of a cow here can be bought for less than \$40.

" Surely goodness and mercy are following us all our days. Nancy is pretty much at home with her cow, and about 40 or 50 chickens she has to feed every day. Now when we can keep these on our own place, we ought to be very much contented, Our city is growing very fast now. Over 20 houses are already built this spring or are in the process of erection, and as many more will undoubtedly go up this year, Four lumber mills are now in full blast, two of them with gang saws.

" People are pouring into the Territory at an awful rate, just about a thousand a day since navigation, Steamboat arrivals at St Paul have numbered as high as seven per day, and passengers on a single boat over 800."

" Other evidence of the warm place that Nancy and her husband held in the hearts of their Stillwater parishioners can be seen in this letter;

(From Mrs. H.H. Nichols, 1856).

" We have been a little unsettled of late, Mr. N. having received a call from the first Presbyterian church at St Paul. We did not know but we might go, but the ^{people} here will not consent on any condition, they would raise Mr Nichols salary to 1200 the same as there first. I think I never saw a people more attracted to minister.

" We can see very much good that has been done here. The Sabbath is observed better the moral tone of society has risen, many of our grog shops and gambling saloons are closed upon the Sab-

bath now:----- But this is not sufficient . We want to see the hearts of the people changed and brought to the knowledge of Christ then ^{only} ~~only~~ will society be truly reformed, Pray for us dear Parents that our faith fail not.

"For three months past Mr Nichols has been delivering a course of lectures to young men. Our church has been crowded through the whole. Last week they closed. The night before the last lecture Mr N, received a package containing \$300 in money, with a note saying ' A small present for Mr Nichols, from the young men of his congregation, as a slight testimonial of their affection and esteem, and as a thank offering for earnest and able lectures.'

"The week before I received a purse containing \$60 from the ladies of the congregation accompanied with much love and many good wishes. I must say the present was very acceptable, but the evidence of good feeling that it manifested was more so . It will help us very materially about paying for our lots, We have been enlarging our church and in the fall the trustees intend to build a new one if Mr Nichols stays, and I presume he will, They will raise his salary to \$1,000 our present income is not sufficient as the price of living is now higher and house rent etc, Mr N, thinks they are not able to pay more than a thousand, I never saw a people so willing to give for every object of benevolence as here, Our monthly collection averages from \$ 8 to \$10 our home missionary collection \$25 our sabbath school seveny five cents or so. I must say that the West makes a heart large, We have not a ten cent contribution in the congregation, none less than 25 cents."

*Taken from Post Messenger
of March 23-and 29*

Exchel Horgren

Stillwater of 1938

The Stillwater, of 1938, has long ceased to function as a lumber center. The call for the hardy laborer to the great colorful timber lands will never call again to the woodsmen, and lumber fareing men.

In its place however it shall have, so it is hoped, according to the "Stillwater Business Association," which is working on plans to develop the community and stimulate business activities.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations are cooperating for the progress of the city. The future looks very promising and inspiring, now that the completion of the nine foot channel on the St Croix river has come to being a reality. Than too the new water front on the St Croix, which borders the lovely picturesque "Lowell Park"

The long looked for dream has been relized- two new modern schools, which are right up to the 1938, minute mark, and of architectural beauty, convenience and comfort to both pupils and the teachers. Thus the art of learning may be presented on a higher scale or education taught in a modern way; within the walls of an equal modern school.

The object of the earnest workers is to make Stillwater a summer and winter playground center. The aim is to have it and outstanding residential city. The need to advertise the lovely old colorful picturesque city and the 'ST Croix valley.

The need for more factories and larger payrolls is extremely urgent. Also more highways are needed.

The city offers in addition to its natural scenic beauty, new schools, many splendid churches, and recreational facilities. Thus as a residential city it is ideal.

River Activities

" Each year, the association sends a representative to the annual meeting of the Mississippi Waterways association, held at St Louis. At these conferences, plans for the development of the St Croix and Mississippi rivers are discussed. The organization was very active in bringing about the completion of the nine foot channel."

Inspection Trip on River

" Army engineers and Washington officials were invited to inspect the upper St Croix river, early this fall. It was pointed out to these officials that there was a need for dredging on both the upper and lower River. "

Channel Marking

" A request has been sent to the lighthouse Division of the U. S. Navy department asking for more channel marking on the upper St Croix. As a result of requests made in former years, by the association, the lower river is well marked for boat navigation." Boat Owners

" Invitations are mailed to boat owners each spring inviting them to visit the waters of the St Croix. Each year there is an increase in boat navigation. We have encouraged boat owners to dock their boats in Stillwater during the winter months. This adds additional tax revenue to Washinton county tax receipts.

It is the sincere desire of the workers to bring about the following program.

" To develop a home building program. 2- Improve parks and river frontage. 3- Advertise the St Croix valley as a winter and summer play ground. 4-Complete a white way on North Main Street. 5- Arrange for parking lots in Business district. 6- Landscape and beautify ravines in city. 7- Work for construction of Stillwater-Taylor's Falls highway. 8-Work for completion of highway 36 to Minneapolis. 9- Work for improvement of highway to Withrow and Northwest. 10- Place more highway signs directing traffic to Stillwater. II- Develop commerce for river terminal. 12- Work for band stand on river at Lowell Park. 13- Have series of water events on river during summer. 14- Work for widening and elimination of curves on Highway 212. 15- Work on new industries."

For some years the need for modern homes has been great. During recent weeks a group of public spirited business men, and professional men have formed a corporation to sponsor the building of five new modern homes. These are being constructed under the supervision and co-operation with the Federal Housing Administration.

The purpose behind this being to interest people to buy homes and live in Stillwater. It is hoped that the attempt of this project will encourage people to build and remodel old homes that are now vacant. The new venture ought to raise the value on property and bring new families to the city beautiful---Stillwater.

New Dockage Facilities

"In the annual invitation for 1939 to boat owners, we shall arrange to have pictures taken of the new dockage facilities and water front. A picture showing this improvement will be enclosed in each letter to boat owners on both the St Croix and the Mississippi rivers. "

Restocking of Fish

"A committee is now working with the State Game and Fish commission for the interest of restocking fish in the St Croix river in the spring. We feel this will encourage people to come to Stillwater, for fishing."

New Lights for Athletic Field

"A group of public spirited business men financed the cost of the new lights at the Athletic field. Stillwater is one of the few cities of its size to have this lighting equipment. "

Highways

"A committee from Stillwater, Bayport, Marine, Scandia, Taylors Falls, Forest Lake and Almelund called on the state highway officials in an effort to bring about the construction of the Stillwater-Taylors Falls road. Every assurance was given this committee that surveys would be made and construction would be started in 1939. "

Mississippi River Scenic Highway

Letters have been mailed to Washington officials, requesting that Stillwater and the St Croix valley be included in routing of the new federal highway which will extend from New Orleans to Port Arthur, Canada. Close attention will be given

the routing of the highway when funds are appropriated for its construction."

Highway signs

A new fifty foot modern highway sign has been placed on the Wisconsin Highway 12, four miles from Hudson. Other signs are located at Hudson, on the Minnesota side of the Hudson bridge, Highway 12, the Anoka cutoff and Highway 96. All of these signs are maintained on a rental basis by the association."

Advertising and Publicity

The March of Minnesota broadcast was sponsored by the association. The broadcast over radio station WCCO direct from Stillwater, which gave the city considerable favorable publicity."

The work of the various civic organizations have *been* many and no doubt shall bear fruit.

Notes taken from

Stillwater Daily Gazette of

December 14, 1938

Stillwater Merchantile Company

Erhel Hargren
Recd. 6/16/38

In 1888, a company of four enterprising business men, who were alert to the needs of the fast growing community brought the entire stock off J. Schupp and Sons, who were than operating a wholsale and retail merchandise store, in a three story frame building on lower south Main Street. It has since been razed and passed on to oblivion..

The newly organized members named it the "Minnesota Merchantile Company," who were namely, president J. S. O'Brien, Fred Pennington, J. A. Deragisch, and A. G. Triebel as general manager. With fourteen other local and leading business men there were a total of eitgteen stock holders. Business continued in the original place for wone year after which it was moved to ^a new building specially conctructed for it, a four story brick building situated on Chestnut Street, near the St Croix river.

Facilities for receiving and shipping goods were not excelled in Sbylanytim the Northwest. The building stands adjacent to the railroad track thus ovoiding expense of ^{iv} dayage and other handling tax usually incurred by houses not so fortunately situated. Thus it became the fast growing firm for every known variety of food needed for mankind.

A brand of goods which received its name from the famous "Dalles" in Taylors Falls, carries to this day that trade mark, and one visiting the Falls may note the inscription on a huge rock telling of the inspiration that led to the naming of it.

At one time it employed as high as thirty people throughout the entire year. It has and still continue a steady properous growth, dealing fairly and justly with all its patrons and selling at the lowest price conceistent with quality. During the many years of its functioning numerous business men have been associated with it, and it has continued in demand with the local merchants. At ppresent it is headed by F. J. Schaffer, and maintains active in the same place and under the same name, "Minnesota Merchantile Company."

In 1850, when Stillwater's alert business men were getting established in various activities. One Norbert Kimmick, visioned his life work in the manufacturing of a stimulant which has long been known and excepted by mankind as a refreshing and invigorating drink.

Thus came in to being the first brewery on Chestnut and Third St. where the Armory now stands a commanding and distinguished building, with the low flat roof's blazing large letters of Stillwater, indicating to the modern mode of travelers, the airplanes, what town they are going through.

Let us go back to 1852, the brewery is being moved to lower Main Street, adjoining the property of Frank Aiple, who had in the meantime built a similar business. The site chosen was perhaps not selected for scenic wonder and loveliness but never the less it was a natural beauty spot. It was built on the stone bluff thus giving one a panoramic view of the beautiful waters of the St Uroix river, which often reflects like a mirror, the stately trees in their many hues, thus inspiring one on to dreamlike wonder.

Within another two years the firms^Q consolidated and became partners, thus manufacturing on a large scale, and as such they operated until the death of N. Kimmick, in 1857, when F. Aiple, assumed charge, and three years later he and Mrs. Kimmick were married; after which he took over the entire management of the thriving concern.

After eight years of profitable business a fire broke out which destroyed the buildings. Reconstruction work began without much loss of time and F. Aiple, who was at the same time building a beautiful and luxurious mansion on his premises near the brewery. He was naturally busily engaged in the directing of both his residence and factory. While he was on one of his many inspecting tours he met with a serious accident which resulted from a fall. Thus the magnificent home he built

was never graced by his presence, for he died before its completion.

His widow took charge and with competent helpers managed the now well organized and rebuilt business. But after a year she gave up the work and passed it, in the hands of F. Aiple's brother who took over the management and was successfully conducting the growing firm. When again a devastating fire brought it down in ruins.

It was again rebuilt stronger and sturdier than ever of huge stones and conducted by the deceased man's brother, and later consolidated with the Jung Brewery Company of Milwaukee and used as a branch of the company. Thus it operated for some years; when J. Wolf, took it over and continued business until prohibition or the "Volstead Act" came in to being.

Since that time it has lain idle, quite, and gradually gone the way of all old neglected buildings to ruins, decay with only the remnants of the strong and sturdy built walls, a reminder and relic of the past.

Hotel in operations in 1897-98

During Stillwater's height of prosperity and "Boom" there were thirteen hotels open to receive the many transients as well as those permanently residing and wishing to make their home at one of the houses.

The Sawyer House, was the leading hotel for many years or until replaced by the New Lowell Inn, in 1927. It was built in 1857 but was not opened to the public until two years later. It was a large rambling frame building, resembling somewhat the home of George Washington, in Mt Vernon.

It was centrally located near Main Street and was built by Henry Sawyer, and opened under the management of A. B. Whitcher, who during the two years of directing conducted it successfully. After which two brothers took it over Jacob and Albert Lowell, in the meantime eastern parties became the owners. The next two years again saw changes, when Isaac Staples, purchased it, he was one of the leading figures in the community and now doubt rested the minds of the people when he took possession of it. But it was again short lived and passed in to the hands of Dudley Hall.

In 1866, it went back to the Lowell family and was managed by John and Albert Lowell, who ran it with success and profit. The building was 90 by 100 feet and four stories high. Many of the gay and colorful banquets, balls, parties, and conventions were held in the Sawyer house. Later Albert Lowell, purchased it and did all in his power to maintain the dignity and yet have it pleasant and comfortable for those desiring to make it home.

It had accommodations for about seventy-five guests, and was as modern as it was possible to have it in that period. It was considered a high class hotel and prices were higher, thus it catered to a more select and refined people.

Though it was no unusual scene to have the whole family come to a ball, and here and there in the vacant seats would sleep an infant or a young child; amidst all the noise of laughter and music peacefully they slept on., and even when the parents carried them home they slept and dreamed.

Many elaborate wedding reception were held, as well as clubs and organizations that rented the ball room and dinning room for an evening. "The last Mans Banquet" of the civil war veterans which was held for years at the old Sawyer house and finally with the last survivor and the many other empty chairs draped in black the bottle of wine was opened and a toast drincken in memory of the comrades who had passed on to the ever seeming darkness of the unfathomable unknown.

In going back to the Hotel, we find it again changing hands, this time in the hands of the very able and capable bones of O. Ostrom, who had been a cook in the lumber camps in his younger days and had a great deal of experience in the art of feeding and making people comfortable. Thus he managed it till the old frame building was rather in much need of repair, and rather than to spend on the old structure it was considered best to abandon it ,; so for some years it rested in idleness and quite, When plans were made for its removal and the new plans for the Lowell Inn. which went up between the years of 1927-'28.

Ethel Norgren

Coal Oil Delivery in Early Days

The old residents of Stillwater may well remember the "tinkle of the bell" when the oil wagon made its regular trips around Stillwater.

Back in early pioneer days, the first tinkling of the bell was heard in the streets, when Will Hursey peddled the new product called "coal oil."

People no doubt had their cans and other recepticals ready, when at the sound of the familiar tinkle of the bell. They called to the busy oil wagon man.

After a short while he knew his regular customers and the quantity of oil needed. Thus it became a habit to stop at certain houses and fill up the empty containers.

This by the way was considered quite an advanced step over the old fashioned candles which were being laid aside rapidly for the modern coal oil. Lamps using oil gave off more illumination and were less messy to handlers.

It surely was considered a great and progressive advance by those old pioneers of days gone by.

We perhaps can never fully realize the happy and joyous expectation that the new modern trend of having coal oil must have meant to them.

They no doubt thought as people of 1939 often do. To use some of the 1939 expressions.

"It seems beyond my comprehension how the turning of a tiny switch can give such a brilliant and illuminating light".

"I'm so glad to be living in this modern age".

"It never ceases to be remarkable to me".

So too those sturdy and enduring ^{people} of long ago ~~that~~ ^{-thought} no doubt in some what the same vein; and expressed their appreciation and thanksgiving that they were living in such a modern and progressive age.

Though coal oil never reached the popularity and enormous turnover that gasoline has, yet it became a much needed and useful product.

Lamps, wicks, chimney and other manufacturing industries rapidly sprung up to supply the increasing demand for lamps. Thus grew the coal oil business.

As time went on the crude plain lamps gave way to more decorative ones. Fancy shapes and large ^{globes} ~~gloves~~ that gave off more brilliant light was a prize possession in many a front parlor. These special rooms were used of course on very rare occasions and only for company gatherings.

As we leave the long ago oil delivery wagonman with his nearly forgotten tinkle of bells, let us try to be more thankful and appreciative of what has transpired in the passed, and not lose sight of the fact that as time marches on, newer and more modern ideas are coming to the front.

We know what has been and we know what is now, but we do not fully know or can hardly comprehend what the future shall bring.

Notes from old copy
of Stillwater Gazette

Ethel Hagen

STILLWATER BOAT BUILDER

George Muller, 86 years old, has for six decades been a boat builder in Stillwater. He first began the manufacturing of boats with his father, Philip Muller, at the age of eight or nine. Their very first boat was made out of an old piano box. From that small beginning arose a concern that was later closely aligned with the lumber industry. From such firms as Doe and Folsem, McKusich, Hersey and Bean, Issac Staples and the Anderson Lumber Company. For those large concerns they constructed sculls--peavy stocks and bateaux.

In 1870 when George Muller was 18, he and his brother made boat-building their chief business. Though in the winters when business was slack they occupied their time in the manufacturing of furniture, but it was discontinued after a few years.

For the Alaskan gold rush on the Yukon, about 1889, Muller brothers built one steam boat and five bateaux boats. It was shipped up to the mouth of the Yukon, then, there, put together. Unfortunately, those having his boats came back without striking the great riches they had anticipated, but they did come back wiser, braver, and richer in the knowledge of human nature.

A boat shop was opened on lower Main Street, near the Commander Elevator site. In a 20x40 foot shop the young pioneer boat builder began manufacturing boats. The very first steam boat was the "Borealis Rex". Then came the "Columbia" and the "Ravenna".

He has in his possession some old manuscripts, among which are some old bills of lading, these date back more than 3 score years. One, a bill from Bronson dates 1874, which shows the company bought bateaux boats from the Muller Brothers at \$35.00 a piece.

A humorous incident of a christening of one of his boats was about a Northern Wisconsin business man, who at the last minute decided he would like his boat christened. On being informed of the usual procedure and that a

bottle of liquor was broken over the bow. He at once set out to make his purchase. But after several hours elapsed he hadn't returned, the men tired of waiting then launched the boat.

Finally the owner arrived with a bottle a champagne and finding the boat already in the water, refused to waste his precious and expensive liquor. He sat down promptly to drink it instead.

The most famous of all his boats was the Ravenna which went down in the wind storm in 1902. It was later rebuilt and finally burned several years later. It had been built for the Anderson and O'Brien Lumber Company in 1887. The naming of boats usually came from the owners family and was given without much formality.

The present plant is located on West Myrtle Street and is operated by his two sons, Roy and George Jr. A third son operates a boat livery on the St. Croix at Stillwater.

Among some of the big boats he built were namesly "Alice D"; "St. Croix"; "Land M"; "Baby"; "Edwin C" and the "Leroy", all of which were launched in the St. Croix River at Stillwater.

In addition he has raised many sunken boats. Now at the full and ripe age of 86 he doesn't say he's retired but 'just laid off for awhile, that's all'.

Reid. 5/16/38 Ethel Norgren

Battle of Champions

What we now call the "Friendly Valley," or "St Croix Valley" was anything but friendly during the early days before the white men came to make there homes here. The continual warfare between the Sioux, and the Chippewa Indians was bloody and fierce and seemed never to be at an end.

Stillwater, had been the scene of several of these savage conflicts, and the subject of a prophecy that has strangely been fulfilled. On the site of the Stillwater, Lincoln School, the battle of champions took place between a Sioux chief and Chippewa chief.

The school above mentioned was built in 1873, it is a lovely old stone structure three stories high, and in the early days the entire third floor was used for the High School Rooms. Surrounding it on all sides are spacious grounds giving the children ample play room.

Today it stands stately and solid, tho its future is uncertain for the fact that a new and modern school is being built within about six blocks., and shall be called the Washington School. Thus the old Lincoln building will either be turned in to a Historical Society, or some such other worthy cause.

Thirty years before the school was built, the Indians roamed free and wild in the entire St Croix Valley, and so the legend goes that a white man named Thomas Connors, wandered westward and became very much interested in the Indians. He settled in this territory and took as his wife a Chippewa maiden. The balance of his life was spent with the Indians and at his death he left a manuscript which told of his many experiences detailing numerous battles that took place.

Thus this story was handed down from his recordings. The battle that took place was for the means of settling once and for all the right to inhabit this beautiful and picturesque valley. Each

tribe was trying to drive the other out but without apparently much success and so the warfare continued until, one day they decided to try to come to some agreement and understanding. No doubt the white man himself had a hand in this peace making tho he does not mention it..

It seems fitting and proper to mention the fact that even as ^{and} wild, uncivilized as the redmen were, they realized to quite an extent both the value and beauty of the St Croix valley. In there numerous fights for the possession they must have been aware and at times touched by so much natural beauty. The entire valley was a scene ^{of} wonderment and awe, the rivers and lakes offered fish far beyond their capacity to use. Wild game too was easy to be had, pure springs of water flowed from hill and rock in profusion.

The winters tho extremely cold and often with a great deal of ice and snow didn't seem to effect the health and vitality. They found plenty of sport in hunting and fishing and unfortunately, in fighting.

Now to take up the threads of our story each tribe was to produce their best warrior and on where the Lincoln school, now stands was to be the ~~abattle~~ grounds. Thus the Sioux, and Chippewa, tribes gathered around to cheer and encourage the two fighters. For the agreement was that the victor ^{for his tribe} would settle the right to live here ever after.

The fierce and bloody ^{battle} began in earnest, the warriors seemed to be of equal strength, and for hours the grim, horrible fight went on with first one, then another, seeming to be winning. Each tribe yelled mad wild cries and cheers urging their chosen one to win, which of course did help strengthen and renew them to go. The battle went on with neither side winning.

When both were nearly exhausted the Chippewa with a stroke of his knife disemboweled his enemy,, then as the battle seemed to be about ended and the Chippewa the victor; the daring ^{and} courageous Sioux, even tho deeply wounded,, ~~was~~ with one hand holding his stomach; made a last wild

effort with his tomahawk, and completely slashed the Chippewa's head, leaving him minus an eye and an ear, thus inflicting an ugly wound.

The ^{now} two severely wounded men gropped around still clinging to one another, until they finally dropped to the ground. Each tribe took their dieing man to shelter nursing and caring for them, for it was now agreed that the one that lived the longest would be the victor.

The Sioux champion lived a few hours longer than the Chippewa, thus the ownership of Stillwater, and the surrounding country side seemed now to be settled and belonging to the Sioux tribe, which unfortunately was short lived, as they did not live up to their agreement.

Before the Chippewa chief died he called his people together and told them what a beautiful spot he was dieing on, and then went on and predicted the coming of the white man, who would take possession of and build many tepees, large and small such as a place to whorship the great spirit, to settle quarrels and not do as I have done today. He went on and prophesied the coming of schools, court house, industries, and dwelling homes. All, and more of his predictions have come to pass.

At one time the Lincoln School site was used as a grave yard by the Indians, the dates cannot be found, but it has been proven to be true by the many human bones dug up at the times ^{that} men have been at work in digging for the foundation, and for various other requirements for the school. It truly is a historical site and like many others in Stillwater, deserves mention.

Scalp Dance in Stillwater in 1850

Some years after the Indians had the ~~champion~~ battle they staged a frightful scalp dance on what is now Main Street. This took place ~~on~~ around and about where ~~the~~ ~~stands~~ the Hanson Meat Market ~~now stands~~.

A terrific battle took place between the Chippewa and Sioux, in the vicinity of Apple river. The attack took place at daybreak, while the unsuspecting Chippewas were sleeping off the effects of a long seige of drinking. Thus giving the Sioux a good opportunity and advantage. After the horrible massacre ^{when} the Sioux had killed and scalped all but a ten year old boy. The now thoroughly aroused wild Indians came to Stillwater to celebrate there victory, by staging a hideous, and gruesome scalp dance.

In some manner they obtained a large bell which they decorated with the fresh and wierd scalps of the father and mother of their little captive boy, and other of his relatives; and than forced him to stand in midst of them, ringing the bell as a means of furnishing music for their mad and blood curling dance. They were hideously painted and naked except for a breechcloth.

The fear and alarm of the white people can be imagined, they locked their doors and no doubt prayed and hoped they would not be attacked. As the dance continued they occassionally ~~went~~ ^{went} to one of the windows and yelled and whoop ^{ed} making a horrible face scareing the wits out of the white people. Strange as it may seem they did not harm the people and finally tired out they left. As told by a Mrs. Bowels, "it was the most terrifying experience of all the early days."

Later the white people returned the little survivor to the Chippewa tribe, but it was with much difficulty; for he was even more afraid of the white people, than he had been of the Sioux Indians, and preffered to stay with them even tho they had so cruelly murdered his parents, relatives and friends. It just goes to show that they were taught to fear the white people more than the enemy tribes.

Central School - now Junior High School in Stillwater

As mentioned before, the old Central School, has now been torn down and in its place, a rapidly progressing new structure is going up, which is to be called the "Junior High School" and expected to open in the fall of 1938. It will have ten regular classrooms with thirtyfive seats in each. Three general science rooms with storage space for equipment.

Opportunity room, Shop with facilities for woodwork, electrical work, and metal work, includes special recitation room, finishing rooms, tool rooms, offices, storages space, etc. A Mechanical drawing room to accommodate twenty pupils. Gymnasium, shower and locker rooms. Cafeteria to seat two hundred and fifty. Kitchen for preparing foods and cooking laboratory. Sewing room. Home-making experimental room. A gymnasium for remedial or corrective work in physical education. A music and art room. Students room for meetings conferences, reception and faculty meetings.

Library equipped to seat sixty five pupils, cataloging, and shelving. Study hall, Rest rooms for men and woman faculty members. Boys and girls toilets on every floor. Lockers for every pupil recessed into walls of corridors for room and sanitation,

"The Junior High school, is an organization of the seventh, eighth and ninth grades and will provide instruction and training suitable to the varied and changing physical, mental, social natures and needs of immature, maturing, and mature pupils."

It is expected that there will be about four hundred pupils in the building at first. It will be a twin school or double, because each five of the class rooms will be teaching the same subjects.

Leid. 12/20/37

Mrs. Ethel Nargren

Stillwater Bateau Boys of the '70's

The heroic, fearless and daring deeds of the sturdy and hardy Minnesota "Bateau Boys" along the St. Croix River are over. Their day was before medals were awarded for bravery. It was all in a day's work either to fish men out of the swift running, icy waters or to rescue them from under the fast piling logs.

These skilful and expert carsmen were quick to respond to any dangerous and difficult task. Their job was to transport the men to and from work, and to stay in their vicinity to aid them if they were in any danger, or to take them to quickly needed places of rapidly coming congestions. For instance, obstructions of logs can be caused by one of many reasons. It maybe a deadhead, a seemingly tiny speck ^{over that} from a distance, but ^{it} could cause many hours of perilous work. Then again it might be a large rock embedded in the bottom of the river, thus causing a mischievous jam. This also required patience, and very often grave danger to the men, on account of the terrific current playing around the blocked areas. Islands also added havoc, and it took much time and labor before it was cleared and the logs again flowing down stream.

The bateau boys may be likened to "Minute Men" who were ever ready for any emergency, unafraid of danger. They were young, healthy, strong, quick thinkers, and yet patient, as their work often called for hours of slow work, though seeming to make no headway. They would pursue their task, undaunted until it was finished. Often they worked from sunrise to sunset. As a whole the men liked their work and were satisfied, therefore unions and demands for shorter hours of labor were unheard of.

The bateau was a strong, well made, flat-bottom, wooden boat. The sizes varied, some were larger than twenty by four feet, while

These large work boats had a seating capacity for about twenty men. In addition to transporting men, were used for hauling tools, lines, poles, or any necessary and quickly needed implements. It was the most rapid and efficient way of getting about and of reaching dangerous places on the St. Croix river during the logging days from 1844 until 1915.

Each boat was handled by two experienced oarsmen known as bateau boys or crew. The more expert of these men were assigned duty in the center of the river, while the less skilled worked close to the shorelines. A large number of these were operating on the river, some companies had as many as fourteen, others had less, according to the wealth of the respective owners. Each logging company had all ~~its~~ bateau boats painted one color. One firm would have all red, another green, some white, and various colors of blue, black, etc..

Prior to the bateau boats, "Dugouts" as they were called, were in use. These were crude in comparison to the bateaus, though a few of them remained in use until the last of the lumber industry. The dugouts were made of straight, white pines, stripped of the bark and hollowed out almost to the shell, with the two ends pointed, and seated four to five men..

A number of these bateau boys are now living in Stillwater, Minnesota. Some have retired and are living on the fruit of their labors, while others are actively engaged in various business enterprises.

Thomas H. Maher, one of the famous bateau crew, is now sheriff of Washington County, and can date his residence in Stillwater from 1882. His birthplace was, Quebec, Canada, in 1866; his parents were natives of Ireland, Michael F. and Phoebe Ann (Fitzpatrick) Maher, as children moved to Québec, and some years

later were married there.

Thomas H. Maher is the only one of eight children residing in Minnesota. He was reared and educated in Quebec; school work was easy for him, he learned rapidly and was always ahead in his classes. At the age of fourteen he entered college, but it was not at all to his liking, so his college career lasted merely over night, and he started out in life for himself from that day on.

From 1880 until 1902 he was employed in lumber camps of Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota. He worked at various occupations pertaining to the lumber industry, and had an opportunity to become acquainted with all types of men.

In 1892 he was united in marriage to Miss. Mary Kent of Stillwater, Minnesota. They have one son who is actively engaged in pharmaceutical work, married and lives at *St. Paul*.

From 1902 Thomas Maher has been connected with the police department of Stillwater first serving thirteen years as patrolman, then promoted to night captain, and in 1915 as sheriff of Washington county. This office he has since held, having twice been elected without opposition. In 1937 he was elected chairman of the county unit of the Central Police Officers' Association.

During his years as sheriff he has discharged his duties in a thorough, prompt and fearless manner, never shirking a responsibility, and his friends are many.

One of his out-standing and thrilling experiences while working on the bateau boats was the time *Mac* and Tommy MacDonald went over the falls. Up to this time, no one with the exception possibly of the Indians had ever dared to try it.

Tommy MacDonald of Centuria, Wisconsin who is now in his ninety sixth year, was foreman for the same lumber company

that Thomas Maher was bateau man for; and very often in a spirit of fun and daring,, they, as well as many others, would participate in a race on the St Croix river.

The race here related happened at Taylors Falls before the dam was built. The names of the men whom they raced with have been forgotten,, but it is remembered that they were in a blue boat and were working for a lumber company of Chippewa Wisconsin.

The two men named, went over the falls in a red bateau boat and landed right side up, while the rival boat turned back, without going over the falls.

Lyman Sutton, one time bateau boy on the St. Croix river, ^{in 1937} is now one of the leading businessmen of Stillwater, Minnesota. He has attained a position of trust and wealth that very few men gain in a life time. He is the head of the Cosmopolitan bank, local and Minneapolis Bus lines, Theater Company, Lily lake Ice, and the Business Association. In addition he has an interest in the Friendly Valley Motor Company, and owns considerable real estate.

He was born and reared in Stillwater,, the date of his birth was 1867. His father, Thomas Sutton, was born in New Brunswick, and the birthplace of his mother was Ireland. His father was a lumberman,, and like most pioneers, had been attracted by the pineries and rumors of the valuable white and Norway pine that was available in the St. Croix Valley.

Young Lyman had every opportunity to get an education fitting a gentleman of those days, but he preferred the lumber camp to school. His dreams and visions were contrary to his parents, and after much pleading and coaxing he won,, and at the early age of twelve he went to work as a chore boy in the lumbercamp.

His parents had taken special care to make it difficult,

toilsome and unattractive as possible for him. It proved to be as they planned and hoped for, because at the end of one month he was ready to go back to school. Here he stayed until he was fourteen years of age; but by this time the call and urge of the woods seemed to be stronger than ever. Although he did sometime later take a business course.

After leaving school, his first work was as a "Cookie" A kitchen helper in a lumber camp. At fifteen he had graduated to teamster, and in this work he took much pleasure and delight. The faster he could make the horses go, the happier he was.

One day after overhearing the older teamsters relating experiences they had, he decided to try a method of theirs, whereby the horses would go faster. At the first opportunity he proceeded to put it to the test.

In place of using a spur, he jabbed a long, sharp gourd into the horse as hard as he could, without giving any thought of consequences. The surprised animal perked up and tore like mad down the road, and of course he got his expected thrill and delight; but it was of short duration.

For alas! He hadn't reckoned with the wound the poor beast received. The blood gushed and spurted from the now frightened and injured beast, and it raced at a terrific speed, so that it was with much difficulty before he finally stopped. He was pretty well cured of the desire to ever attempt to race a horse in such a manner. He didn't dare to tell anyone what he had done for a long time, and the fear and shame haunted him for many years afterwards..

In the next few years he tried many phases of the lumbering industry, and was fast forging ahead and already

becoming a leader. When he was twenty-one he assumed the responsibility of rearing his brothers and sisters,, owing to the death of his parents. To add to his already great burden, he undertook the care of his sister's and brother's children, and has remained father, mother, and friend throughout the years.

Lyman Sutton, felt the need more than ever that he had to make money. He longed had cherished the desire to be worth fifty thousand dollars at the age of fifty, and he lost no time in trying to achieve, and accomplish worth while things.

He entered the logging business with the Weyhauser Company without a contract or agreement of any kind; yet strange as it may sound,, there was no mistrust,, discord,, in harmony, or misunderstanding of any kind. Faith and trust continued for many years on both sides,, and an important factor was, that all concerned were prospering and making money.

He supervised the first railroad out of Stillwater,, while he was superintendent for J. ^{Sauntry} ~~Sauntry~~ He took a number of perilous trips to Canada to investigate timber lands and their prospects for lumber mills. He also made several trips to Mexico, for the Messers and ^{Sauntry} ~~Sauntry~~ interest to investigate prospective silver mines.

On one of his trips to Mexico he was obliged to stay stay one year instead of six weeks. In ~~that~~ community, there was ~~so~~ much discord and ill feeling among the workers and natives, that it became necessary for him to go about armed at all times. He took up target practice in earnest and became a crack shot. Later at a Fiesta he gave an exhibition of his marksmanship and skill.

On his return to Stillwater he became more valuable to his business associates, and gained trust and respect of all who knew him as being honest and dependable. This great confidence from his fellowmen has followed him throughout the years.

The first strike in Stillwater was at the Santry lumber Mill, located on the boom road, now called the "Marine Road". Several hundred men walked out for demand of ten hours work, in place of the eleven they were then working. Lyman Sutton was then superintendent of the striking mill, and the following morning started to his work as usual. The pickets had lined both sides of the road, letting no one pass, but Lyman Sutton. The leader of the gang called out, "Let him pass he's alright."

A touching little incident in his early life was the time he brought a shaggy, wiry, small dog home to his sisters. Though he himself had never cared for dogs, he tolerated it for his sisters' sake. They were delighted and happy beyond words with the playful animal, and loved it from the first. Not so with young Lyman, he had no time for it. Although he never abused it, he was secretly yearning and looking forward to the time he could get rid of it.

Some months later his sisters went on a vacation, and he very willingly offered to take care of the despised dog. Out in the woods he thought would be a good place to lose him. The first day at the camp the dog followed him around continually. When he sat down, the dog sat at his feet with an expression of hero-worship. You all know what a pleading, pathetic, soulful, look a lonesome dog can give.

note
(Lyman Sutton was married three times.)

Narurally, he felt a bit sorry for him.

The first night the dog slept at quite a distance from his bed,, on the second night a bit closer. Of course by this time Lyman was feeling very sorry for him. On the third night he was sleeping in the bed,, at the foot. For the balance of the time he stayed at camp,, the dog was with him day and night. The once hateful dog became a pal and companion such as he never thought could be possible..

When later he took the now cherished friend and pal back to his sisters,, it was with a feeling of sadness to part with it. You my reader, can imagine his grief and sorrow when a short time later,, the animal was run over and killed. No one mourned and felt the loss any keener than he did for the once hated dog.

Patrick Fitzgerald,, also a member of the "Famous Pateau Boys?" was born at Schenectady,, New York, in 1855. the son of Morris and Mary Fitzgerald. When about two years of age he came with his parents,, sisters, and brothers, to make their home in Stillwater, Minnesota.

The Fitzgerald family like many other early settlers had been attracted to the St Croix valley , because of the immense portion of fine and valuable timberland.

The family experienced the usual hardships of the early pioneers. In 1862, Morris Fitzgerald passed on, the mother continued to live in Stillwater, Patrick her son, at an early age went to work in the lumber camp, first as chore boy, and on up from lumberjack to camp foreman, bateauboy,

When the lumber industry ceased, he served on the police force for a number of years, and then as ~~guard~~ in the

Minnesota State Prison. In the year of 1894 he was married in Stillwaters; to Julie Burns, daughter of a sailor from Maine. Three children were born all of whom have passed on; their two grandsons, Parick, and Robert live in St Paul.

During his logging days he worked on the construction of Nevers Dam,, above Taylors, the first dam built across the St Croix.

At the time of his retirement in 1935, he was guard at the State Prison, and had lived on a beautifully surrounded garden spot; which he and his wife had developed. It is situated on a hilly slope overlooking the beautiful and picturesque St Croix river. Thus very often reminding him of early logging days, some joyous and glad happenings while others perhaps sad.

In 1937, he passed on, his few remaining pals of early logging days, The Bateau Boys of the '70's, all came to pay him a last farewell.

Recd. 12/27/37
Ethel A. Horgan

Stillwater Lumber Baron

James E. McGrath, a distinguished veteran lumberman. " His ancestors claimed kinship with Commodore John Barry, whose father of the American Navy," was born in Pennsylvania, in the year of 1861.

His coming to Stillwater, Minnesota seventeen years later, came about through a friend of his sister; who at the time was living here, and whose keen judgment and vision saw the great possibilities of the lumber industry. This friend lost no time in writing in glowing terms of the immense, and valuable timberland that was to be had here. At the time these tempting invitations were coming, he was working for his father, who also was engaged in lumbering.

He came here with hope, health, courage, ambition and a desire to work and win. For seven years he worked hard and learned a great deal about lumbering. From a lumber jack he gradually advanced to work requiring more responsibility.

Among the many well remembered incidents in his life, is his first day in Stillwater. Work was immediately offered to him, but it required five days to reach it, over bad, rough, snowy and hilly roads. He with about fifty men walked to the northern part of Wisconsin.

At twenty four he formed and operated his own firm. His greatest ambition was to own more lumber camps than anyone else, this he proceeded to do, working hard and faithful. While the industry was at its peak, he was for a number of years the largest individual operator in Minnesota, and had as many as thirty two lumber camps, employing as high as two thousand men.

A town called McGrath, in Minnesota is named in his honor. He built the town at White Pine,, in Aitkin county in 1909.. It consisted of a large sawmill,, planning mill,, Post Office,, general store and about thirty dwelling houses.

During his business in White Pine,, he had a fire loss of half million dollars; which came about after an unusual severe drought. ^{two.} Nearly wiped out the entire town, endangering many lives, ^{and} many thousand acres of his valuable timber was burned..

Mr. McGrath, tells of early days in Stillwater. "When the lumber industry was king,, all was lumber,, sawmills,, and loggers." Nearly all the men,, both young and old were in some way associated with lumbering.

The mode of travel for the "jacks" was by foot power," often averaging thirty miles a day.. The main stopping places were at Grantsburg,, and Taylors Falls. Each lumber jack carried their own "packsack."

Hauling was done by way of the oxen team,, at the rate of two miles an hour. Later horses were more used,, thus bringing the speed up to three miles an hour. In 1920 the caterpillar and tractor came in to being, these at the time were considered great improvements. But now with the motor truck, special type trailers, the lumber industry has been modernized.

When Mr. McGrath, first went in the woods the lumber jacks rarely saw their camps in daylight,, except on Sundays. The toil and hardships didn't seem to dampen their spirits any. The food they had was plain ^{but} they enjoyed it ; they were strong, ^{and} healthy, and had good appetites and seemed to thrive.

Now in 1937 the few existing logging camps in Minnesota have been modernized to quite an extent. The "bunk house" is a thing of the past, in its place they now have a steel made single

bed. Permanent camps are equipped with shower baths and recreational facilities, must be supplied. The old order of camp ^{life} is no more in existence. Operations are conducted by rigid state supervision.

Foods that were well satisfying in the early days have disappeared, in place of salted and smoked meats they now have fresh meat. Dried fruit has ^{been} replaced by fresh fruit, and vegetables are now considered important in the diet.

Since 1886 Mr. McGrath, has had logs on the below named rivers and brooks. "St Croix, Totgatic, Nimacogin, Snake, (also Ann river) Knife, Split Rock, Groundhouse, and Moose. Also the following streams; Crotty brook, Chase's brook, Chestly Brook, Popple brook, McDermott's brook and Bear lake brook." Along these brooks and rivers as well as other places he built lumber camps.

In 1891 he was united in marriage to Emma J. Chisholm, from Stillwater. She passed on in 1935, leaving six children who have distinguished themselves in their respective lines of endeavor.

A son Ralph W. of Stillwater is the city attorney and also engaged in the lumber business, and is married.

Herbert A. also is connected with the lumber business, and the manufacturing of ties. James E. the youngest son is secretary of the "Northwest Tie and Timber Company"

A daughter Helen E. is a private secretary to an executive of the Dupont Concern of New York City. Pauline, is manager of a Gift Shop in St Paul Minnesota. While Grace is better known as Mrs. Robert Sands of St Paul, Minnesota.

Mr. McGrath, in 1935 completed half a century in the logging and lumber business, and is still operating along the same lines. tho it has been for some years out of the city of Stillwater.

Ethel Hougren

leid. 1/11/38

Civic Leader and Art Collector

We wonder why some men can attain a goal of almost complete success, with all the accompaniments of material wealth and power. George H. Atwood, of Stillwater, Minnesota had that distinction and honor. He came from a stock of old New Englanders, who seemed to have "what it takes": a keen vision to see into the future, perseverance, and the intelligence and courage to act at the right moment.

His schooling which including a course at Bowdoin college, was completed in his native state of Maine. From cashier for a Michigan lumber firm, he came to Minnesota, then a state, of much valuable timberlands. In 1884 he came with his wife to Stillwater. His first connection was with the "Hersey and Bean Lumber Company," as clerk and cashier.

Two years later he became general manager, and in the next eight years, he had purchased part of the firm he had worked for, and with an addition of two more years he owned and operated two lumber mills in Stillwater. To distinguish them, they were called "A Mill" and "B Mill". These mills were both modernized, employed more men, and the wages were higher than any other lumber company in the St Croix valley.

He became associated with many other enterprises, and formed a partnership with some of the leading men in the lumber industry. During the great panic of 1894 his mills were kept in operation, thus helping the men and their families, through the stress of want and woe. His kindness and generosity were felt by many.

His home was one of the show places of the city, with its large and artistically landscaped grounds. A private gymnasium that surpassed any thing of its kind in the city. His hobby was collecting curios, antiques, rare books, pictures, in addition it housed many recreational apparatus. Also a luxurious pleasure launch was one of his prize possessions.

He entertained his friends, business associates, and employees in a lavish manner. To further prove his fame as an exceedingly charming host.

The story is told how one one occasion he entertained the late Theodore Roosevelt, who was then the president of the United States, and was touring through Minnesota. He was scheduled in the evening to give a talk in St Paul. Prior to his speech in St Paul, he was the guest of Mr. Atwood: and without any doubt or question was the cordial, gracious and perfect host to the president.

Now whether, it was the meeting of two such brilliant and intelligent minds- that the track of time was lost, or, well any way the story further states that the president of the United States, did not appear in St Paul, that evening.

Before, and during the World War he again started several plants in Stillwater. A Drop Forge, Steel Foundry and an Amunition Plant, for the manufacturing of shells for the United States, Government. This is just giving a part of his many and tireless efforts at trying to establish factories and keep business activities running in Stillwater.

His wife passed on some years ago, and she has since married. There are no children. He has no relatives in Stillwater. He lives very quietly in the lovely home he built in his earlier days. His age is Seventy seven.

Pioneer Journalist Historian and Author

Edith Morgan

A. B. Easton, dated his ancestors to the Puritans that came from England in 1632? He came of the hardy old stock that cleared a patch in ^{the} wilderness and then proceeded to build a home on it.

Leid
1/10/38

His birthplace was in a town of Ohio, the year 1828. Unlike many other youths of that earlier period, he acquired a ~~higher~~ ^{good} education, and at the age of eighteen was teaching in a country school. Prior to teaching he had clerked for a short time.

He married his school girl sweet-heart Julie Burke, in 1849. Eight years later he moved with his family to the rapidly growing city of Stillwater, which seemed to be teeming with employment for all classes. The lumber industry was "booming". Merchants dealing in various merchandise opened their place of business almost over night. Real estate too, was bounding upwards, land that had previously sold by the acre; ~~would~~ could hardly be sold at any price, now commanded a ^{good} price and sold as city lots. Perhaps further attraction was added by the fact that Minnesota was soon to be admitted to the Union.

In this type of a community thus came A. B. Easton, to give his service, which was the printing business, and he became associated with A. J. Van Vorhes, who was then proprietor of a weekly paper called the "Messenger." From typesetter, then foreman, later as manager and during the last years of the Civil War he was editor and ^{had} charges of the above named paper.

In 1870, the "Stillwater Gazette," came in to existence by A. B. Easton as publisher and assisted by others. One was his son ^{The} William. Thirteen years after its first edition, it became a daily as well as a weekly newspaper.

In the early days when printing presses like other machinery was crude and by no means easy to operate. The accurate getting of news was not as simple as today. But regardless of obstacles the papers had to go out.

Have you ever looked at an old copy, and compared it with a recent addition? If you haven't try it sometime,, and you will be rewarded in seeing the great progress made Than too by the interesting and some what amusing happenings of long ago. The odd and rather blunt way that the wants of the people were made known in the pioneer days.

An nearly copy carried this very good, and worthy motto; " Be just and fear not- Let all the end thou aim'st at,, be thy Country's, Thy God's and Truths." The type was some what uneven but not hard to read. The editors note on the left side, stating what probably might be, a good idea to use today. That if subscription was paid *within* six months in advance the cost would be fifty cents less.

Than further in describing the front page of an old paper there followed a few columns of advertisements fitting the period. A poem or two, followed by a complete short story, with a very good moral to it. No doubt the people, looked forward to that weekly story, with great interest, as you all know that books and magazines were few and far apart. Only the rich people could possess such luxurians.

The news of the week completed the ancient front page of the three sheet paper. Notices of weddings of socially prominent persons were quite detailed; often giving the entire list of gifts to the happy couple, which occasionally was a lengthy, but interesting, especially to the woman folks. Death announcements were given in eloquent and flowery words, seasoned generously with poetry.

A. B. Easton, the subject of this sketch wrote during his life time two volumes, which contains a history of important events occurring in the St Croix Valley. It covers a period of over sixty years. It was published in 1909, five years before his death. There are nearly two thousand pages in these two books, much of it was gleaned from old newspaper files.

One going to such books for reference would hardly realize, and I might add, appreciate the effort of the intelligent, educated, clear thinker who had devoted time, energy, a vast amount of research work and the many obstacles and delays, that we never could even begin to comprehend; unless we undertook such a task.

William E. his son, and now one of the veteran newspaper men of the state was seven years of age when he came to Stillwater with his parents. Like his father, he too has mastered the art of printing publishing and the executive ability to run a newspaper and printing office. He became a partner in 1876. Two years later he was united in marriage to Josephine A. McGowan, of Stillwater. Their two children are both connected with the Gazette, Ned the oldest has been employed for thirty three years, Florence too has for some years been on the staff.

They can well be called a pioneer newspaper family. The Easton family have filled an important niche in the history and growth of Stillwater. W.E. Easton, son of the founder of the Gazette has been with the same paper for over sixty seven years, and now in his eighty seventh year is still the first one to reach the office in the morning. He is one of the original members of Company K, First regiment, of the National Guards, organized in 1883. In his earlier years he served as postmaster in Stillwater.

He has seen periods of great prosperity, then a gradual let down until it was called a panic; in later years a depression, and now a time called "recession". He saw the entrance of the first street car in Stillwater, also its last departure.

Wellington C. Masterman, who was for many years associated with the Gazette, and for a time assisted in editing and publishing, the above named paper; he was the husband of Antionette A. Easton daughter of the famous journalist and author, A. B. Easton.
daughter

The modernized and well equipped Gazette office now stands where the Masterman residence had been. As a dwelling home it had extended to what is now partly the street; and in this home, W. C. Masterman was born in 1858. Yet strange as it may seem he met his death in almost the identical spot he had come in to the world in. A delivery truck hit him while he was crossing the street.

Recd. 1/24/38
Ethel Morgan

The Happy Journalist

Frederick Carl Neumeier, of Stillwater referred to in an article by the late "Larry Ho," as "Happy Heart"--a title that came to him through his optimistic outlook on life, his jovial and happy disposition, a great lover of the out-doors. His palling and understanding companionship with his children was an example to many who knew him.

As a journalist he had every opportunity to play up to good reports, stress the worthwhile things of life--rather than the hopeless, mean, and murderous news that only seems to grow more fear in the hearts of humanity.

It is said he was of noble ancestry. He was born in Germany in 1857. The original family name had been Von Sande. His father, Christian, had been a man of means, who had discovered and worked a copper mine which was of considerable value. He had a good offer to sell his mine to an English firm. This he was just about to accept when the Prussian War of 1866 broke out, thus interrupting the transaction and causing him to lose not only the mine but also all of his worldly goods.

A brother of Christian Neumeier was an officer of high rank, having received the title of "Ritter p.p.". He was a commanding officer of the Fifth Infantry Corps at Odessa on the Black Sea."

Getting back to Frederick Carl, the subject of this sketch, he received his education in his native land and, at the age of twenty-three, came to America. His first home was in Iowa, where he proceeded to master the English language. Shortly after, he came to Minnesota, and for six years he worked at various occupations--clerking and his trade of machinist.

In the next four years he turned his efforts toward newspaper work and became affiliated with J. Dud in the St. Croix Post, a German newspaper.

Within a comparatively short time, he and R. Lehmicke bought out the above-named paper.

His rise in the newspaper field--like many other honest, sincere, and earnest workers--was rapid. He bought out his partner and began

publication of another German paper in the interest of the "Sons of Herman".

An English paper called the Washington County Journal was started in 1893, of which he was a partner with N. A. Nelson. A year later he was married to Catharina A. Glade of Stillwater. Amid the stress of sorrow and grief he continued with his family in a happy life of contentment. Thus he was able to give to Stillwater something that not all of us seem capable of giving--a firm, friendly hand-shake with a sincere and encouraging smile to one who finds life hard and bitter. Frederick Neumeier was gifted with a priceless crown--a happy disposition.

He passed on at the age of seventy, leaving his wife, two sons, and one daughter; Mable is married to Sherman McKusick, Karl is a state senator, attorney, and leader in many civic organizations of Stillwater, and is married, Frederick follows in his father's footsteps in journalism and lives at home with his mother.

Echib A. Mowen
Recd. 2/2/38

Land Owner and Lumberman

In his native state of Maine, John E. Mower; the eldest of 13 children, had been a carpenter and millwright. The date of his birth was 1815, he came from good New England stock; who were decendents of Captain Martin Mower.

At the age of twenty eight he turned his thoughts toward the great north-west, which seemed like a new country, offering, untold wealth and opportunity. He first landed at St Croix Falls, where his line of work was greatly in demand, There ~~he~~ stayed for two years. During the time he lived in the above named place; the only great event was twice a year when the big steamers arrived bringing supplies. After the unloading all business activities closed including the mills, and the entire community turned to rejoicing and celebrating.

His next move was Stillwater, which ~~was~~ at that early date ^{was} scarcely budding. His ~~moving~~ with his family was rather unique; a large raft of logs, on which he, and his household floated down on the St Croix river. On arriving he immediatly started to build a dwelling house; this by the way was the second frame building in the city.

He engaged in his line of work for some years; after which he moved to Arcola. In the new settlement he turned his attention to other interests. Such as buying of lands, building a sawmill. general store. He, with a brother entered many business enterprises; and under the hands of these two bright and energetic men ~~there~~ every venture seemed to prosper.

The neighboring farmers, his employees were his customers. Across from Arcola, was a tiny French settlement called "Little Canada." These people too came to him; in addition the Indians, had their hunting grounds just a few miles above his fast growing little village. They came twice a years with game, moccasins and other trinkets which were exchanged for flour, pork and such foods as were available.

The Mower brothers were known for being honest and square in all their business dealings. Also the generous hospitality ^{with which} they entertained

their friends. Many an old pioneer shared in the kindness and thoughtfulness of these intelligent and wise men. John was of a studious^{ness} nature and ever a seeker for more knowledge. He was elected to serve on the fifth and sixth territorial council, and through his honesty, dependability, and trustworthy character, he was honored by having one of the counties named after him; namely Mower county.

He was married to Gratia A. Remick in 1841. One of the five children, Helen was married to Louis E. Torinus of Stillwater. In John Mower passed on in 1879. Now at this date - 1938, two grandchildren and several great grandchildren are living in Stillwater.

He built and owned the Mower block, which burned down in 1886, but was rebuilt again and stands today as a monument to a man who had truly earned and worked hard, to gain worldly possessions; and in addition had been able to win and keep the esteem of his fellow man.

Ethel Waigren
Sept. 2/14/38

Man of many Accomplishments

No one man perhaps contributed more towards the establishing, and later to further the growth of the St Croix valley, then William H. C. Folsom. His rise to fame and fortune came after many years of toil and deprivations.

He was the son of Jeremiah, and Octavia, (Howe) Folsom, and was born in St Johns New Brunswick in 1817. He dates his ancestors back to 1638, who came with a little colony from Hingham, England., and located in Massachussettes. Shortly after there arrival the little band of colonists named the little town Hingham, in loving remembrance of the city they left behind in England. The name Folsom, was originally spelled Foulshame.

When he was but six months old the family moved to New Hampshire. For some years there was quite a bit of moving but finally settling in Maine. His father dealt in various enterprises such as shipping, mercantile and logging.. Young William managed to get a bit more schooling then the average boy of that period. Although his parents were not wealthy, and it was necessary for him to help in maintaining the large family.

His first logging experience was during his first winter in Maine, starting as camp boy, then later as cook. This last work netted him a sum of fifteen dollars; which he as a loving and obedient son dutifully turned it over to his father, who promptly bought a cow thus suppling the family with milk.

His summers were spent working for different farmers, *earnings* usually were twenty five cents a day. Though he was not yet fifteen years of age he worked long hours, and very often for men who had no regard, consideration, or mercy for him. Then ~~as~~ his fathers health began failing a great share of responsibility rested on the strongest shoulder, which happened to be young Williams.

When the thought came to him to go west this is what he said

"I believed that by going west I would be better able to advance my own interests and assist my parents." You can gather from this my reader, that he was a first of all a thinker, then a doer, and was kind, considerate, not only of his parents, but of others as well.

His father paid his time or shall we say in more modern terms paid him in advance for five years work, in advance. With this little capital he started out in life. Wisconsin was for some little time his home, here he did farming, and in the winter went to the woods as cook and other kinds of work that was available.

Thus he was thrown in contact with many type of people; now and then he was fortunate to find a home in a pleasant and wholesome environment. But more often with families where principles and morals were lax. But young William, was the type that seemed to be able to "sift the chaff from the wheat" and only profit by even bad examples.

After many years of severe trials, toil and hardships he came in 1845, to Stillwater, Minnesota. With him was his young wife of three years who was in delicate health and whom they hoped would improve in our Minnesota climate.

This eventful trip was made by boat along the picturesque natural beauty of the St Croix river. On both sides the many stately trees, and as far as the eye could see it was trees of many kinds. Some were of great value while others less. Then there were the thousands of pure crystal like springs bubbling from the hillsides. It was a sort of a fairy land to make one gaze in amazement, awe and wonder.

The town itself boasted of very few activities. Stillwater, by the way had only received its name a few years back. Perhaps you would be interested to know how the town was so named. From one source it is said that the stillness and placidness of McKusick lake in-

inspired the great and worthy old lumberman, namely John McKusick, to suggest the name Stillwater, which was readily accepted by all those concerned.

To further tell you of the then tiny little town that William Folsom, came to so many years ago. There boat landed right in front of Nelson's store, further up a bit was the W. R. Vail, home and store.

Anson Northrup's hotel, Greely and Blake's post office and store. John E. Mower, who by the way built the second frame house in Stillwater. Other homes were A. Harris, W. Cove, A few shanty homes, the mill boarding house, John McKusick's sawmill, S. Stateler blacksmith shop, the old log court house, a log hotel, kept by R. Kennedy. That my readers was Stillwater in 1845.

No doubt the subject of this sketch had long realized and comprehended the full meaning of the following words "to labor and to wait".

This he must have done in earnest. He entered the logging business, became justice of the peace. While serving in that capacity he was once called to perform a marriage ceremony in Marine on the St. Croix. He walked the entire distance, united the couple, and stayed for the wedding supper which seemed to consist chiefly of a cold menu-- cold pork and beans, and cold water. He spent the night in Marine, but did not wait for breakfast; fearing it too would be of all cold foods.

Later he was elected sheriff. At that time five precincts held elections, namely St. Paul, Gray Cloud, Marine, St. Croix Falls, and Stillwater. In addition to his new work he maintained the work of logging and buying of timber lands and such. His name is linked in so many business enterprises it is almost impossible to name them all.

In 1850 he moved to Taylors Falls, and engaged in the mercantile trade, for some years a post office was also functioning from his store with him as assistant postmaster. The mercantile business occupied him for twenty four years. After which he entered the real estate undertaking,

He built a sawmill, thus giving employment to many man. He built the Union House for A. A. York, and was part owner of the famous Dalles House. His name is listed as one of the earliest settlers in St Croix Falls. He was register of deed for many years. He headed the St Croix Boom Corporation in 1851. Also the Taylors Falls Copper Mining Company.

One of ~~his~~ most outstanding contributions was the Chisago Seminary, at Taylors Falls. This School for higher learning was a public enterprise rather than a private school. It opened in 1858, with sixty students enrolled. The principal was A. A. York, assisted by his wife. When the war broke out and the young men were called away the school too suffered, for lack of students.

For five years he served as county treasurer, and he has also to his credit the writing of the very earliest history of Chisago county. Then of course his book entitled " Fifty Years in the Northwest". It has seven hundred and eighty eight pages of valuable information for those interested in the earliest pioneers of the St Croix valley. This great and noble man has endeavored to give an accurate account of there struggles, sorrows, disappointments, joys, progress, and short biographies of men who accomplished great things, as well as those who with less talents ~~gave less~~ *gave less* the birth.

He helped in selecting the name for Arcola, and also a saw-mill in partnership with John E. Mower. was built many years ago by them. He was truly a man that we in the St Croix might well be proud of.

He passed on in 1900, His wife passed on many years before him, they had two sons, none of whom are living in Stillwater, or any relatives

Emil Hougren
Oct. 2/2/38

A Man of Keen Intellect

Louis E. Torinus, was a man of keen intellect, he had a determined and receptive mind that could see in to the future. Though born in Russia, he was German decent. When but a youth he came to America; and with a cousin lived in Ohio. While there, he became acquainted with three young ambitious, and eager men, who no doubt had heard many reports of a haven, where advancement, fame and wealth awaited those willing to work.

In 1855, at the age of twenty one, the in company with his friends came to one of the great lumber centers, called Stillwater, which at that early date boasted of seventeen stores, two churches, no side walks. A building boom was in full force. The population was about one thousand, and there were about ninety dwelling houses. You can easily believe my reader, that the only idle men were those who did not want to work. Young Louis, and his friends did not belong to that class.

His first occupation was on a construction job, while at this work, one of the veteran workers; a William Chalmers, had watched him closely and secretly admired the ambitious young man who asked questions, and seemed so in earnest to learn the why and how of things. Neither one of them dreamed at the time, that a partnership would one day be formed between them.

He next went to work in the lumber industry and worked for two of the most noted pioneer lumbermen, namely, Isaac Staples, and John McKusick. After some time he again adopted a new line of work, This time it was as book agent. He again made a change after some time, this was in the field of merchandising. His preparation

From then on he seemed to make rapid strides, he became a builder and a civic leader. The Stillwater Hardware Company was built by him, and it today is operating under the same name. A meat market too was started by him, which today is still functioning under the same name of Hanson. A partnership was formed in 1867 between Nels Hanson and L.E. Torinus.

The Stillwater Water Company is another firm he helped to organize, and the Taylors Falls railroad. He also has the distinction of building the first brick building in the city. He was also director of the Lumbmans Bank, and later of the First National.

A beautiful Opera House was completed in 1881, of which building he was part owner. It was the last word in modernistic design, and was the pride and elegance of the city.

Bayport, which was then called South Stillwater, also benefited by Louis Torinus, The St Croix Lumber Company, where many of the tug boats were made. These were used to haul the logs on the river. The St Croix, Improvement Company, this was a real estate firm, This too was started by him, as well as the Flow Works.

At Lake Elmo, he helped with the organizing of a hotel. Had his health began to fail in 1879, she then began trips to California, reUnfortunately the most precious of all our possessions-- Health -- the great leader and organizer could not seem to get. He passed on in 1883, leaving his widow, who had been the eldest daughter of John E. Mower. She passed on in 1936, She was at one time considered one of the wealthiest women in Minnesota.

Living at the present time in the city are a son, and daughters, and several grandchildren.

Prominent Lawyer and Judge

Recd. 7/14/38

The call and urge of "go west young man, the country is new, opportunities many, you have ability, give of your talents-- they need men like you." and other words to this effect must have tempted John C. Nethaway to leave the state of his birth, Albany New York. Where he had received his education which included a law course. Later becoming a private secretary ^{to} Judge Lament, who was in the state senate.

During his spare time he continued with his study of law, and at the age of twenty one he was duly admitted to the bar to practice his chosen profession. In 1878 he came to Minnesota, and six weeks later to Stillwater, then blooming with prosperity. Buildings and ^mimprovements in the lively community were in the neighborhood of \$400,000. that year.

A few of them were the Gas Company buildings, City Engine house, City School district, Electric Light Company, Transfer Company, Bean Lumber Company, a large dry-goods store called the Bazaar, and several other business houses, also some lovely new and up to date private homes.

In relating more about the worthy gentleman of this sketch, His father had been a merchant in Albany, whose ancestors were from fine old Colonial families, who shared in the activities during the Indian, and British war.

On coming to Stillwater he allied himself with Levi E. Thompson, A noted attorney. In the course of few years he became a distinguished and eloquent lawyer, a very active politician-- then later district judge. For some years he specialized in criminal cases, and rarely did he lose for his client.

The story is told--- that on one occasion, after winning in a famous law suit, his client refused to settle the question of fee, claiming it an exhorbant price. As no settlement could be reached, the consequences was that he in turn sued his client, and won thus collecting his fee in full.

In 1884 he was elected to the municipal bench of Stillwater and in that capacity he served until 1894. After which he again opened a law office and went in to practice for himself. After winning another famous case he built a beautiful home on a very picturesque site, overlooking the scenic St Croix river.

He continued an active interest in politics. He served as campaign speaker, also acted as secretary to the congressional committee in 1890.

To further prove how politically minded he was, there is today in the possession of one of his friends a scrap book which has newspaper clippings of many years. Everyone tells a story of either defeat or victory in the political world. No doubt some made him happy and inspired him to go on, while others saddened and perhaps retarded him; Who knows?

In 1884 he was united in marriage to Cora M. Hall. There two sons now grown to manhood, are living in California. The oldest Clinton, is married and has one son; while Guilford, is single. They have no relatives in Stillwater. Judge J. C. and his wife have passed on years ago.

Judge C. Nehaway passed on in 1917.
Son did not marry in the Nehaway family.

Ethel Morgan

Rec'd.
7/21/38

Promoter and Leader

One of Stillwater's greatest leader, promoter, and organizer was Dwight May Sabin. Through his fearless, energetic, and brilliant mind he was able to convince many business men, the importance of building and organizing, the need for new industries and expansion of old ones.

Consequently new factories came in to being. Had all of his undertakings and enterprises been successful, Stillwater, would today in 1938, be a larger and far more prosperous community.

He was the eldest son of Horace and Maria (Webster) Sabin. His grandparents came to America in 1740, from Scotland, making their home between New Hampshire, and Connecticut. Later the family moved to Marilius, Illinois, where in 1843 the subject of this sketch was born. Both his father, and grandfather, were prominent farmers and land owners. His father aided and supported Abraham Lincoln, in abolishing slavery, and a warm, and lasting friendship existed between the two men. His father also had the distinction of being the first in the state of Illinois to raise full blooded cattle.

Owing to the ill health of his father he was forced to take on heavy responsibilities. This of course interfered with his schooling, but he managed at seventeen to further his education by taking a course in higher mathematics and civil engineering. At the out break of the Cival War, he was rejected for active service; but he did manage to get an assignment in Washington D. C. in the quarter masters department, and later he was given work as clerk in the auditor's office. He was next transfered to the "Commissary Department of Beaufort's Calvery Brigade," and he was in Gettysburg, where that long ago famous battle was fought. The sudden death of his father ended all his war activities, and he was called home, to resume the many responsibilities that needed his attention. In 1867,

In 1867, he was advised by his physician to go to a different climate. Perhaps in addition to its healthful and invigorating climate he knew of the many avenues of opportunity and success that Minnesota offered. Thus he chose to come and settle in the *fast growing* state. He with his mother and brother lived for about a year in Minneapolis, and busied himself with the lumber industry.

He next moved to Stillwater, ^{here} we may ^v say just why he chose to come here? Well it may have been one of many reasons, its beautiful locality, or its varied interests, the St Croix River offered an abundance of water supply for factories, the vast amount of valuable timberlands, Or he may have heard the boast of the early pioneers who called Stillwater "Queen of the St Croix," and was very near the geographical center of North America." Its abundance of pure spring water, which never seems to cease flowing from rock and hill. "City Beautiful," was another early name for Stillwater. No doubt many other inducements came to his attention.

Shortly on his arrival he went in partnership with G. Seymour, who up to that time was operating farm implements in conjunction with the Minnesota State Prison. They both continued operations under the old regime, but began expanding, for the purpose of manufacturing such implements as, doors, sash, blinds, tubs, buckets and ^Pcooerage. The inmates of the state prison were put to work, about forty, and an equal number of citizens were added.

The business grew and prospered, many new building were added, then they began to make threshing machines. These later were known as the "Minnesota Chief," and ^{became} world famous. In twelve years time the once tiny shop now employed over six hundred people. With D. M. Sabin, as president the ^{plant} seemed to fairly grow. The various shops were namely, Blacksmith, Wagon, Foundry, Farm Engine, Belt, Planing Mill, Pattern, Cooper, Cabinet, Boiler and a large fire department was part of

of the equipment,, which had a resevoir built on the hill overlooking the prison with a water capacity between four and five thousand gallons of water. At different point in the institution wer fifty hose-valves attachedd to fifty to one hundred feet off hose ready to be used at a moments notice.

In 1882, high hopes were held for the fast growing concern. It was merged in a corporation with a \$3,000,000 capital. After changeing about for a suitable name it was finally agreed to call it "The Northwestern Car and Manufacturing Company."

St Paul, and Minneapolis, both subsribed generously to this very worth while project. The capital stock had now reached a peak of \$5,000,000, It was expected that employment would be given to one thousand men.

The factories were now equipped for manufacturing six threshing machines two portable farm engines,, and twenty freight cars per day,, besides six passenger cars per month..

In that same year there ~~was~~ invested in new structures and improvements over \$780,000 in Stillwater, no doubt a great deal of this progress was due to the intelligence and hard work of D. M. Sabin.

Several years previous he had been the instigator for organizing a building association. A row of houses were built for working people that extended for many blocks.

After he allied himself with one of the flour mills he lost no time in increasing the daily production from fifty, to three hundred barrels in one day, Then the Stillwater Flour Mill. the second of its kind in the state to operate on a Hungarian, roller system for making patent flour. The trade names were " Bronson's Select,, " Porcelain Roller" "Bun Hersey," and Billy Boy,"

In addition he was interested and part owner of ^a ~~lumber~~ ^{lumber} concern with C. L. Nelson, and Company. The Water Company, ~~He was one of the~~ ^{and} organizers of the Gas and Light Company.

His many admirers and fellow citizens elected him to the state senate. From 1871-'73, he served the state in addition to his many other duties. He was no less interested in the affairs of state and country. Then from 1883 to '89, he was elected United States senator. He had the distinction of being the first man from the St Croix Valley, to have the honor of serving in such a high and exalted position. After his election he was tended such a hearty, joyous and noisy reception that perhaps Stillwater, never since has experienced.

His beautiful residence was one of the show places of the city and was called "Oakland Heights." On his return from Washington D. C. He met with many financial reverses and difficulties, and his health again began to fail. He died a lonely, sick, and forgotten man.

I -
Out- Standing Lumberman

Ethel Morgan

David Tozer's, ancestors were the famous Hunguenots, of France, who came to America, in the early part of the 18th century; because their religious freedom had been suppressed in their native land. During the Revolutionary War, his grandfather fought under General Washington.

Later the family moved to New Brunswick, where both his father and grandfather engaged in lumbering, along the St Johns river. In 1823, David Tozer jr. was born; the eldest of eleven children. Seven years later the family moved to Quebec. With this timber background, it seemed a natural thing for young David to learn the art of wood-craft, both of forests and rivers.

He too, like many other old pioneers, learned, through long hours of hard, and often dangerous work, self-reliance, unusual sound judgment, ^{he acquired} a shrewd, keen, alert visionary mind. At the age of thirty three, while yet single, and with some capital he turned his thoughts and steps to Minnesota, and located in the St Croix valley. He came because prospects were exceptionally promising for both talent and investments. No doubt he paused to think, as he looked on the beautiful and picturesque lands of fine and valuable timber, lands, and the rich fertile agricultural lands.

His first connection in Stillwater, was for James Roney, as book-keeper and manager who was operating a lumber mill. In 1861 he joined the firm of Durant, Wheeler, and Ellison who were operating a sawmill in South Stillwater, Now called Bayport, which is located a few miles south of Stillwater. Seventeen years later the firm was doing an enormous business. In addition he continued operations in the woods, for down-river mills and logging for Stillwater.

The manufacture of lumber during the year 1887, was valued at \$2,393,323. 51 steamers were busy towing logs and lumber out of the St Croix down the Mississippi. The amount of logs cut were 370,000,000

feet. To this vast amount [the mill that David Tozer was head of contributed enormously. In 1900, he bought out his partners and it became his individual property. The entire area covered seventy-five acres and was the up to date with the modern conveniences of that period. It gave employment to two hundred and fifty men, and had a saw^{ing} capacity of 250,000 feet in ten hours.

He also took an active interest in the affairs of the city and community, and for several years served as alderman. For nearly half a century he was an important factor in the building and developing of the city. His every move was a success.

About five years after coming to the city he was married. Two of the four children live in Stillwater. Fred M. who was following in his fathers footsteps and was showing marked ability to run the great business his father had made so successful; alas, he was accidentally drowned in Balsam Lake Wisconsin, one year after his fathers death, in 1907. Residing now in Stillwater are Mrs. Julie McCuish,, and Mrs. Olive T. Waldref; two daughters.

Julie Tozer McCuish's husband was selected for the hall of fame banquet several years ago and his contributions to Stillwater have been many, but he is of a shy,, modest and retiring nature, and does not care for publicity.

(In 1922, there was bequethed to the Stillwater High School a)
large sum of money, seventy five thousand dollars, and was used for a gymnasium. This money came through the death of Fred Tozers widow.

(But there was a stipulation till a lawyer had been employed)
She had made a will favoring that sum,, and later changing it ; she later married again,, and it was found after her death that the promised sum was not going to be forth coming. But after a lawyer took over the investigation, The climax was that the above named sum became a reality. The now lovely high school boasts the "Tozer Memorial.")

Warden Sullivan Noted Penologist

Ethel Norgren
Sept. 7/28/38

The late John L. Sullivan for many years better known as "Shaggy Jack" because of his heavy eyebrows and abundance of hair. He was born in 1874 and lived all his life in Stillwater, Minnesota. His father, Robert Sullivan, a lumberman, came from Nova Scotia in the very early days. His mother came from Pennsylvania.

Early in life he became an expert with the lumberjacks' large axe and peavy. He ~~was~~ a strong, rugged and fearless individual who worked with the great crews in the woods, which made the St Croix, the heart of the lumber industry.

In 1901 he left the woods and became a police officer, which was of short duration. He next became a guard in the old Minnesota State Prison. He walked on the walls twelve hours a day for 40 dollars a month.

Gradually, advancements came to him, and in 1927 he was given the highest position the Minnesota State Prison has to offer, which was as warden.

Under his wise leadership it became a more and lightened institution. He did his best to rehabilitate the inmates by means of fairer treatment. Educational programs, sanitation and discipline were being worked out. Facilities for education were extended for those desiring to further their schooling and learn a vocation, to enable them to earn an honest living when they are set free.

His many deeds of kindness and help will never be known. For the outwardly seeming stern and hard-hearted warden, often helped those ready to leave in obtaining a position. He had a good influence ^{on} many of the wayward, bitter and disillusioned men, and was ever ready to give them a helping hand to try and gain back courage and self respect.

He was regarded as one of the most outstanding penologist, and was president of the "International Prison Congress." Two years before his

death he was elected to the "Hall of Fame" an honor which is bestowed on only those who have served or rendered the most valuable services in Stillwater and the community. Far and wide he was known by all class-ess of people, for his temperance and noble and high character. He lived i

Thirty six years he was associated with the prison. His death occurred in August in 1937, just prior to the annual "Lumber Jack Celebration" in which he had since its commencement taken an active part. He was also one of the "Famous Bateau Boys."

His wife and daughter Helen, who is a school teacher, now live in St Paul. Two living in Stillwater are, Mrs. Rose Haefner, and Mrs. Martin Schaumberg.

Erling Naugren

Lumber Jack Experience

In the year 1878, at the age of fourteen a young lad decided that the only thing he could do was to become a lumber jack. Just as his brothers had done before him.

As was customary in those days he provided himself with a two bushel sealess wheat sack -- this to carry his belongings in.

After getting packed all he felt he would need, his good mother urged him to take more wollens along such as heavy socks + mittens.

Then one morning bright and early he threw the heavy bag on his shoulders and after kissing his mother good bye left for the railroad station about a three mile hike. This would perhaps be considered a days work now-a-days.

After a sixty mile ride, he with other lumber jacks left the train and walked another ten mile to camp. The roads were rough, uneven, swampy and partly frozen. But not enough to bear up the men with their heavy sacks. Every now and then they would sink down in the muck and mire to a depth of a foot or more.

Finally camp was reached and our young hero went to sleep, tired, discouraged. His first duty was as cook.

The first morning he overslept but his foreman being a kindly soul let him rest and get his bearings - so to speak.

On awakening he found he was in a rather untidy cabin. He thus proceeded to clean up, make a fire and get at the many dishes which needed to be washed. He was interrupted by his foreman.

Who informed him that a lunch would have to be fixed and carried in the woods to the men. The lunch prepared, ^{and} next a large tea kettle with water had to be hauled to the men,; as there was no water close by. This ~~was~~ ^{had to be} all carried a good three miles to the men in the woods.

On arriving at the place a fire was built, tea made and the hungry man sat around the fire to partake. The food consisted of pork and beans and of course bread, which the men had taken with them the day before.

Our hero encountered friendly Indians who were living in wigwams. Their young papooses were running barefooted on the ice and snow-- with ^{out} a stitch of cloths on. Those hardy young red skins seemed to be enjoying it too.

His work as a cook was short lived, for the regular camp cook came up after a few days. When hauling began he was given the job of rolling the logs on skids from the sleds. They used a cant hook and piled the logs as high as ten or twelve in a pile.

The hours were long and the hike back to camp long and tiring. Seldom did they reach camp before nine and even as late as eleven at night.

An incident that stands out in his mind was of the man who had not treated the Indians right. Who naturally were holding a grudge against him and were bent on revenge. One day

One day the long looked for opportunity came the white man was alone in his cabin in the woods. The Indians crept up to his home and pounced on him and cut him up, injuring him very badly.

When later found by his white friends he was able to name the three Indians who ^{had} attacked him.

The criminals were soon rounded up and after being tried at St Croix Falls, were sentenced to be hung. The method used for the purpose was by using a couple of empty barrels and have one of the Indians mount the barrel, ~~with a rope.~~ ^{around} A piece of strong rope had been previously tied around the neck of the Indian, ~~and after mounting the barrel~~ ^{and then} fastened ~~the rope~~ to a limb of a tree; then the barrel was kicked from under the redman. *That was the last of the murders.*

The young hero's father was one of the eye witnesses of the horrible gruesome tragedy. He was provided with a gun and told to watch the other two Indians while the first one was being disposed of.

Another time his father while working in his field saw a battle take place between the rival enemy bandits, the Chippew and Sioux. After the skirmish he went back to his house and found his wife and two children unharmed. The red men had not harmed any white people.

Next morning a number of Chippewas came to his house for food and after it was given them, they left without molesting any one.

Notes taken from notes
and interview with Charles Lammers
who was for many years city clerk.

Ethel Horgen
Rec'd July 4, 1939

" Stillwater Shores "

" Stillwater Shores " is a poem written by a former White Bear lumber jack, and steamboat captain. The poem was a contribution to the ^WAnnual Lumberjack celebration held at Stillwater. Captain H. M. Darling understood the life of the hardy pioneers well as he himself was one of them. Below is written the verses he wrote.

"Stillwater Shores"

" I am an old time Lumberjack,
I have worked many winters in the pines
I have rode those good old steamboats
Many thousand miles, in the good old summer time. "

" We have towed rafts of logs and lumber
and barges by the score,
And many of them were loaded
At the mills along Stillwater's shore. "

But the logs and mills are gone
And we will never see them more,
And we do not hear the hum of those good old ^{mills} mills
Along Stillwater's shore.

And we do not see the boats laying along the shore
Awaiting for their tow,
And the crew all ready to line up
And once more down the river go.

They were a jolly hard-working crew
And you could not wish for more,
And no matter how cold or wet they got,
I don't think they ever swore !

And they worked most night and day
As we towed along the shores,
Thinking of the good times they'd had
On old Stillwater's shores.

But when we got rounded to
And started home once more,
They were soon asleep in their bunks
And you ought to hear them snore.

But when we whistled for the Hudson bridge
The mate let out a roar,
saying "Roll out you lazy river pigs
For we're most home once more."

And the boys were soon up on deck,
And happy again once more,
For they knew they would have a good old time
On old Stillwater's shore.

But those happy trips are gone
Never to return no more,
But we made one sad trip have a good old time
And we will make that no more.

That was when we raised
The ill-fated "Sea Wing,"
That sank and lost one hundred and four
And many of them were friends of mine.
Who lived along the shore,
But they all crossed the Great Divide
To never return no more.

And no more can we ride these old time boats
Nor listen to the night's wind roar,
And youth has passed and gone
Never to return no more,
Leaving only memories of those happy bygone days
On old Stillwater's shore.

But I have made several happy trips
And hope to make some more,
That's when I meet the old time Lumberjacks
On old Stillwater's shore.

But there aren't many of the real old timers left
That I can find, no more than ten or eleven,
And I think that I am the oldest of them
For I have passed eighty-seven .

By Captain H. M. Darling

Last Indian Dance

Ethel Morgan

Rec'd July 4, 1939

A party of Chippewa Indians gave their last dance at Taylor's Falls in 1856. With furs and cranberries to exchange for "scootawabo" or whisky they came down the St. Croix river in birch canoes and made their trade with Samuels in St. Croix village.

For about a week they stayed, carousing and drinking in their frenzied and peculiar style. When they had sobered up somewhat after the wild revelry they gave a series of grotesque and extremely comical dances in the street of Taylor's Falls. The funny and rather wierd antics were given just opposite Folsom's general store.

When they had ended the series of laughable dances they called for gifts and presents as tokens of friendship and goodwill. After which they gravely and kindly shook hands and crossed the river. Back to their native village they went, perhaps a bit sorrowfully and ashamed. Maybe they realized that their days of savagery and unlawful ruling were over, ^{and that} Their power was fast fading.

The white people had come to stay and in place of wigwams and tents frame dwelling were being built. The old hard working pioneers were busy paving the way for civilization. Thus the swift footed arrow shooting Indians were becoming scarcer.

They perhaps didn't fully realize that their day was entirely over, for they made a few attempts to stage a comeback. But they only created more trouble for themselves.

and they

Thus their hilirious dance was ended, to be no more.

Notes taken from

Folsom's Fifty Years in the Northwest

Ethel Hargum

CITY HISTORY WRITTEN IN 1855

"This final installment of Dr. Grace Lee Nute's "History of Early Stillwater" tells of the building of the First Presbyterian manse, the picturesque house on Fourth and Chestnut streets now occupied by the Richard E. Erickson family. After Mr. Nichols left Stillwater in 1859 to accept a call to a Minneapolis church, the house was occupied by W.E. Thorne, for many years a Stillwater merchant. During the remodeling which Mr. Erickson did last year prior to occupying it, he discovered a board on which was written something like this: "We build and we tear down: W.E. Thorne, 1865". Mr. Erickson added a few words about the remodeling he did, signed his name and set the board back into the house wall where he says possibly some later owner may discover it in the year 2000. The Thorne's sold it to Mr. Erickson's father more than 40 years ago, but before they sold the house, it was occupied by several families, and at one time is said to have served as the Episcopal rectory."

"The account Dr. Nute quotes of the new house told of "the shutters, \$125"; which added much to the appearance of the house. They were still in excellent condition last year when Mr. Erickson had them stacked near the house while remodeling was going on, intending to use them again, but they ^{had} ~~and~~ the bathtub, a heavy copper affair plated with zinc and believed to have been among the earliest bathtubs installed in a Stillwater residence, were carried off by sneak thieves."

"This historical sketch of what was Stillwater in the fifties has attracted much attention and the publication of Dr. Nute's article has given pleasure to many local residents, judging from comments received in The Post-Messenger office. The publishers feel deeply grateful to her for the privilege of making the article available to the hundreds among our readers whose interest in local history is made keener because it refers to activities which were participated in by some of their own families."

Presbyterian Manual

"In the Nichols papers I find the manual of the First Presbyterian church of Stillwater. It contains: "The form of admission, the address of the new member, the confession of faith, the covenant, the address to the church, the response of the church, a history of the church, the names of the elders and other officers, and a list of members."

Not least interesting in this large and interesting collection of papers are the hundred or so sermons, some of which were preached in the East and in other parts of Minnesota, but most of which were heard in Stillwater. Accompanying them is a "Sermon Book" listing them by place, date, and text. Nichols' first sermon in Stillwater is there; also his last, or farewell sermon, preached October 23, 1859. In it, among other remarks, he goes back over his life in Stillwater.

Farewell to Stillwater

"Six years have wrought great changes in the place and in the congregation. Our population has grown from 600 to 3000 and the congregation, from 40 to 300. Noble buildings have arisen to grace our streets, the abodes of prosperous business, or the homes of our

enterprising citizens."

The Panic of '57

"Large plans for future growth were liberally devised, and magnificent schemes for public good, developed, but there came, all unlooked for by most, a sudden revulsion to this unexampled prosperity. Business collapsed, schemes and plans burst. . . . The crisis came upon us just as we had commenced the enterprise of building this house of worship. It was too late to recede without a greater loss, than to advance."

In this group I find the Thanksgiving sermon preached at Stillwater, December 22, 1853. Thanksgiving had not yet become a national holiday and was celebrated on different dates in the several states. Thus it had been celebrated in Massachusetts some weeks earlier, according to Nichols, who thus describes his first Thanksgiving in Stillwater:

"Yesterday was our Thanksgiving, a very quiet time with us. Service in the morning, and dinner at a friend's two miles out of town. Nothing like our old New England Thanksgivings. We thought of you all, but not as much as we did a few weeks ago at the time of the Massachusetts Thanksgiving. We pictured then the family gathering and the vacant places for the Minnesota children, and we began to ^{feel} ~~feel~~ --well, let that go.... We had even proposed to celebrate the day ourselves, in memory of the friends at home and thought of having a splendid dinner and sitting down to it, in grand state.... but then, we thought the visions of the circle at Belchertown and the dinner there at the same hour, would bring up too many choking feelings, and mingle too many tears with the food, so we just gave

it up, and behaved ourselves very soberly, not however, without some very ardent wishes when evening came, that we might run into the little red house, a few minutes. There it is, soft around the eyes again, let us turn over the leaf."

They Had Good Sermons

The next Fourth of July the new minister was given the honor of making the address. To us of today, how familiar is the message of the greater part of the address, for it is entitled "The Mission of Democracy".

One sermon is addressed exclusively to the young men of Nichols' congregation. All of them display smooth diction, originality, forcefulness, and a certain grace. They average about 20 pages, slightly less in size than ordinary correspondence stationery. All of them are formed into little books. They constitute an interesting part of Stillwater's early cultural history. It is small wonder that Nichols was a popular preacher and received many calls to other parishes. His wife wrote this of him: "He is known here as a great reformer, they send for him far and near to lecture;; the papers say of him that he is the most talented man in the territory and it is only wanted to be known that he lectures or preaches and there is a jam'. Allowing that some of that is *gas*, you can get an idea that he is appreciated a little. I can give you the reason. He courts favor from none, he tells them the whole truth without fear or favor, and feeling that he has God and the cause of right on his side, fears no one. If he is lecturing on temperance and knows that the most influential men of a place are there, and they are sure to be if they are rum-sellers, it only gives him more energy

and he pictures them out in the most vivid colors, then holds them up to the ridicule and contempt of all good citizens; they do not feel very easy, I can assure you."

Nichols was greatly interested in schools in Stillwater, In the following circular in his handwriting he not only gives a prospectus of a new school, but reviews earlier attempts at a seminary--we should call it a high school--in Stillwater::

(1856)

"Mr. Editor: It will be remembered by all who were citizens of Stillwater two years ago, that a good degree of interest was at that time manifested in the establishment of an Academy or High School in our midst. A Board of Trustees was appointed, at a meeting of the citizens called for that purpose, ^{and} ~~an~~ they entered at once upon their work, with a determination to put into immediate operation, an Academy of high character, that should be an honor to the place. They labored faithfully and in the course of a few weeks, the arrangements were all made for the opening of the ' Stillwater Academy'. A beautiful room had been prepared and furnished, and a teacher engaged. Three or four days previous to the time of opening, however, the teacher selected failed in his engagement. It was a fatal blow to the young institution, and though the Trustees labored hard to secure another teacher, ~~an~~ had at one or two different times, as they supposed a teacher engaged, yet their efforts all failed. The season passed and the Academy was not. The trustees then resolved to wait for a while and bide their time.

"In the Autumn of the same year the Washington Seminary was opened under the charge of Rev. J. S. Webber. It commenced under most flattering auspices and seemed to give promise of meeting the wants of the place, and being such an institution as we needed in our midst, most nobly was it encouraged and sustained by our citizens, in raising money for the building of a school room, the purchase of a Melodeon, and the commencement of a library. But in the third term the Seminary died, and the Principal moved from the place. Notwithstanding these discouragements in the past, many of our citizens have still kept alive the hope that we should yet have in our midst an institution of learning that should not only be an honor to our city, but should be immediately connected with its interest, and of such a character, that appealing directly to all our people, they would not willingly let it die.

"This which has been so long in the hopes and thoughts of ^{many} may, we are happy to say, is about to be realized. The arrangements have already been made for the opening of the "Saint-Croix Seminary" on Monday the 13th day of October next, under the care of Rev. James A. Russell, Principal, and Miss Deborah Wilson, Preceptress.....

"It is proposed to procure a piano, and the services of a first class music teacher will be obtained. All the branches useful and ornamental, which are usually taught in the Seminaries and institutes of the East will be taught in the St., Croix Seminary, so that none of our citizens will be under any necessity hereafter, of sending their children abroad, for an education.

"The Court House has been Obtained for use for the opening of the Seminary, and with the two jury rooms, for music and recitation rooms, will furnish most excellent accommodations.

"The financial interests of the Seminary will be in the hands of a Board of Trustees, which will be entirely composed of our own citizens, who will feel personally interested in the success of the enterprise, as belonging emphatically to Stillwater.

"No sectarian or denominational interest is to be promoted by this movement, but it appeals equally to all our citizens, and as such we doubt not will be fully responded to.

"In the course of the winter, arrangements can be made for the erection of a suitable Seminary building another year, and measures and plans more fully developed for the permanence and future prosperity of the Seminary. Our citizens as far as acquainted with this movement, ^{have} shown a commendable interest in it, and offers a pecuniary assistance have already been made. Something in this line will be needed this fall, to furnish desks and necessary apparatus, to procure a piano and melodeon if needed, and to commence the St. Croix Seminary library.

"People may rest assured that whatever is contributed for these purposes, and whatever property is thus obtained, will be the property of the Seminary, not to be removed by the teachers, but will be held intact by the Trustees, for the sole use and benefit of the pupils of the St. Croix Seminary.

We bespeak for this young institution the sympathy and the warm co-operation of the citizens of Stillwater. Let us put it into being with flying colors, and with commendable pride, ^{hold} upon this, our own Institution."

It is of the new seminary, apparently, that a letter in the childish hand of little Henry B. Nichols records::

Chestnut Street (1858)

"This is the street on which our school room is situated and

and it is a very pleasant street and is also one of the principal ones in the city. It ascends the court house hill where the water has washed it very badly. There is now a large culvert in progress in this street. There is a great deal of passing here for which the girls do not like it as well though I like it better.

"At recess and at some other times I think the street looks a great deal more lively than it does in school hours. The school room is situated in a very pleasant part of the street. The grade has been established to Fourth street and I hope for the sake of shoe leather it will be graded soon. It would be the best street in city to coast on if it was only graded down so as to make it passable with a sled. I will endeavor to keep you informed of the improvements as fast as they are made.

Henry B. Nichols."

The small author of this little letter, his mother and his father, as well as an uncle and two cousins were drowned in Lake Calhoun in July, 1860. Henry was then 12 years old.

Thus ended the careers of these interesting Stillwater pioneers. After many years their papers have come to rest here in the state where they died, gathered from descendants of their relatives in the East who treasured letters from distant Minnesota in the 1850's.

Ethel Mangren

Baytown now called Bayport

Baytown, as it was first called is a couple of miles from Stillwater; later it was called South Stillwater, and more recently named Bayport. In 1842, its first settler one F. Bruce, who built what was then called a block house, on what is in 1938, the Anderson lumber company offices.

The Bruce house was occupied by various parties who were engaged in the then very infant logging business on the river. At that early date another venturesome soul named Norman Kittson, who was in the employ of the "American Fur Company," erected a cabin. Animals which no doubt had little value compared to prices today were in great abundance; but trapping and shooting were more hazardous and dangerous than today. The new country was wild and desolate; then too the fear of savage Indians was one of the white man's fears.

In 1852, the block house was occupied by Ambrose Secrest, who came from Indiana, with his family consisting of his wife, six children, his father and mother, and three brothers. Hardly had the new family arrived when that most dread of all diseases visited the family---cholera. In three days his wife, one child, mother, two brothers, sister, and father were taken from him by the merciless hand of death. But the hardy old pioneer continued his pursuits, which were chiefly milling and farming.

The sad happenings, which have it seems, ever been since time began and will no doubt be till time ends; had little effect on checking the great tide of immigration that flowed

in the village and towns during 1855-6, to say nothing of the high birthrate; it could not fail to have a good effect on business conditons.

The honor of naming the tiny village fell to the lot of Socrated Nelson, who was the president of the first lumber mill in 1853, and was known as the "S. Nelson Company."

~~With the advent of the mill the little place took on an important institution in the community -~~ Five years later when the company dissolved Baytown, became the property of S. Nelson, and all the improvement it contained.

A grist mill was erected and operated by Secrest, and Booth; but after changeing ownership on numerous occassions it seemed unseccessful. The next ten years seemed to bring little changes and improvements; then in 1868, the Torinus, Staples and Company *bought* the original little town and all it appurtenances, with the intention of rebuilding the old Nelson mill."

The plans at this time were high and had they been carried out as envisioned there would even today be a large saw mill in Bayport as it is now called; and in St Louis, Missouri, a lumber yard which would have been supplied ~~from~~ *from* ^{by Baytown} the little town. Transactions often go awry- and so this one seemed never to mature. The mill was soon sold to the St. Croix Railway and Improvement Company, which consisted of a large body of men both from Stillwater, and St Paul.

Among the names were the famous lumber men-- General Samuel Hersey, Isaac Staples and L. E. Torinus of Stillwater. Horace Thomson, E. F. Drake, A. H. Wilder, G. L. Merriam,

Peter Berkey, A.B. Stickney, R. Blakley, of St Paul.

"This company then bought the additions known as Bangor, Middletown, and Secrest and Perro's; ~~was~~ surveyed and platted the whole purchase, and called the town South Stillwater. " A spur railroad track from Stillater to the town was built.

The " Red Mill" erected by Hersey and company was successfully operated, as was the Ellison and company saw mill.

After three years operations the St Croix lumber company mill was destroyed by fire; but it was again rebuilt with a larger capacity to produce. The cost was \$ 65,000.

Some of its busy and profitable enterprises were the " Stillwater Dock Company" which was organized in 1877, for the purpose of manufacturing and repairing boats, both large and small. A number of the once famous steamers were the "Pauline" H. R. Wheeler" and "Kit Carsen" these and many others came from the shop that sent out many ^Pspecimens of ~~at~~ architectural skill and perfect workmanship.

The " Baytown Flour Mill" was built in 1853, by Secrest and Booth, the ownership seemed to pass rapidly through many hands without gaining much benefit or ^Rprofit.

For several years a "Soap and Rendering Factory" was beneficially operated by E. Moore, and H. McKenzie.

The ~~first~~ post office was established at the office of the St Croix Lumber Company in 1872; with William Graves as post-master. Four years later the office was moved

to the store of the same company.

In the early pioneer days the population consisted mainly of Germans and Irish people, with a smatter of Swedes, and Norwegians, and a few Americans. In 1875, the population was 952, inhabitants, while five years later there was a suprisingly gratifying increase- the number had jumped to 1,254.

At this writing in 1938, ~~while~~ the great volume of the lumber industry has been closed for many years, still the little town of Baytown, then South Stillwater, and for many years called Bayport, continues to function.

The "Anderson Frame" a lumber industry which in normal times employs many men, It has an iron foundry also under the same firm. Through the vision and foresight of Mr Anderson, the town has continued to prosper, and coupled with his benevolence and greatness of heart, the town of Bayport, has come to life to function as a busy and enterprising little town; yet remainng serenly quite and peaceful.

It has a lovely scenic park and bathing beach with ample facilities made for those desiring to picnic or bathe. in the clear fresh sparkling waters of the St Croix river.

A modern public school building is provided for children of school age.

The "White Pine Inn," which is famous for its delicious food, as well as comfort and beauty is an apt standing and distinguished addition to draw visitors to the quite and lovely town of Bayport.

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A couple of churches are are also provided for those wishing to worship in the tabernacle of God.

Notes taken from

Neil's History of Washington County
and talks with people

Ethel Hargison

Pioneer Hotels of Stillwater

As the lumber industry increased people from far and near came to Stillwater; for the glad and happy news of the vast new rich timber-lands had reached the ears of many people, not only in the United States, but even from foreign countries. Who, no doubt repeated the good tidings in -- shall we say, a bit more exaggerated statements.

Human minds became excited at the prospect of great riches, glamour, color and romance was added to the fortune seekers. Maybe the hustle, bustle and rush to come to Stillwater, can be likened somewhat to a hurrying crowd, to get to a "Gold Rush," only instead of sands and nuggets of shining gold, the St Croix, valley offered the people immense virgin pine forests, which offered to the laboring man steady employment in a new country.

To the tiller of the soil it meant they would find fertile new unused ground, and the rich loamy soil would surely yield healthy, hardy and abundant crops. Then too the many great lakes and rivers must have had an enticing attraction for the man who wanted to earn his living by fishing.

Wild game, which was in great abundance, was to be had by those desiring to trap or hunt; thus a good living was to be had by that trade. All in all there were many inducements why people should come to the newly discovered timber territory.

It can well be believed that Stillwater, soon became the principle city of the progressive St Croix valley, and the reason why people from all walks of life came seeking to better there

lots. Naturally housing facilities, even shacks, for the fast increasing numbers were greatly lacking; so the next best and quickest way was adopted by a number of far seeing and visionary men and woman, in opening hotels.

It was often the case, that a new arrival wanted to "try his job before moving his family". Ofcourse boarding houses were provided for men by the company they worked for. But there were those who preferred to have a room by themselves or wanted privacy and quiet.

Conveniences were sadly lacking in the early hotels. They were crude and roughly put together not made to stand time and weather, such as the modern buildings of 1938.

In 1844, the very first of its kind sprang into being it was named after the owner Anson Northrup, who was a far seeing clever headed business man. He quickly acted on what was really a great need in Stillwater, so the "Northrup House" came to be the first public shelter.

It is gratifying to know that people who lacked the necessary funds to pay for lodgings were never turned away in those earliest pioneer days. But were invited to make themselves comfortable--- sometimes it was on the main room which was a combination of dinning hall, lobby, sitting room, office or "what have you". Thus the tired and weary traveler wrapped snugly up in his coat, or if fortunate enough to possess a blanket-- so much more benefit was added to his warmth and comfort.

In the morning if he desired food, which very often was the case it was given him with the understanding that he'd

have to repay for it by working perhaps in the kitchen or some such menial task as needed to be done.

Northrup house was also used as a community center, its four walls graced many a gathering of religious, civil, social and political groups. For three years it served and prospered; and would no doubt have continued for a longer period if it hadn't been for a treacherous fire which destroyed the entire building. Thus ended the life of the first Stillwater, hotel.

Directly across the once famous hostelry above mentioned on Main Street, Elam Greely, a prosperous lumberman, and business and civic leader, built in 1846, a private residence, which after its competition stood vacant for nearly a year. After which Judd, and Walker, two enterprising men purchased it and in rapid time rented it out for a hotel to Harley Curtis.

It became known as the "Minnesota House" which was considered pretty grand and as modern as it could possibly be at that early date in the then far and somewhat primitive and isolated Northwest country.

Until 1857, it housed many people and was often the scene of festive and gala occasions. During the eleven years of its operation it had been under various owners and managers. Strange as it may seem but it is a fact, that the structure was condemned as unfit for a public house, considered as too cold, and not in keeping for a hotel---after eleven years, it hardly seems possible "but facts are facts".

After it had been vacant for short time, it loomed into light as a store; after which it became the home of the St

"Croix Post," a German printed newspaper, the only one of its kind in the entire St Croix valley. In the next ten years another change took place to the old building---when the Minnesota house received the last change-- of being razed to make way for a two story brick structure. Drug store and office rooms comprise the replaced old landmark.

The St Croix house built by Amson Northrup, in 1848, was so named of the river St Croix. He operated it for only two years after which it passed through a series of changes, and finally came in the possession of John Booren, in 1874, he conducted for three years after which it was destroyed by fire.

The history of the Lake house, which was built in 1849, by John H. Brewster, for the purpose of operating as a hotel. Its owners and proprietors were numerous, but it finally took on the change of being a tenement house. The hand of fate again played unmercifully on the structure-- or was it carelessness in the building-- we shall never know, sufficient to say however that it too burned down in 1874.

The Liberty house, was built two years before the above named hotel burned down. Dr. John A. Ahl, built and operated it until his death. The name was however changed to Lakeside hotel. After passing into various hands it went back to the daughter of the original owner and builder. Its memory is now in the hazy past of long ago and forgotten by all, but the oldest living pioneers.

The famed and long lived old Sawyer house, of which much has been written was built in 1857, but opened to the public three years later. It too passed from one hand to another until

it was razed to make room for the beautiful Lowell Inn.

(In a previous article the history of the Sawyer house has been detailed considerably.)

In 1869, Peter Alderman, built a hotel calling it ~~after~~ honor of Stillwater. It was located on lower Main Street, and nothing spectacular was known of it except it served as a hotel. Later it became a dwelling house.

A Farmer's Home hotel came in existence in 1867, and after a short spell of business began to operate as a store; so for three years it functioned, after which the two owners dissolved partnership and the hotel came to be known as the St Louis House. When again it changed hands the new owner went back to the first original name of "Farmer's Home". But even then it was of short duration for it soon ceased to exist and passed into oblivion.

In the year of 1870, two new hotels were added, they were called the Williams house and Wexio hotel. Stillwater, was getting well established, people were coming to make their homes in the prosperous community.

Two years later the Keystone house was erected by Horace Voligny. It was a commodious and well-kept hotel. The cost was perhaps above the average, \$3,000, and was built away from the busy section of town on West Myrtle Street. Its operation continued until the logging industry waned; after which it too gradually ceased to function.

The same year the ~~above~~ mentioned hotel opened the Mansion house was open to the public. Mr. Disch, the owner and proprietor had accommodations for eighty guests.

Along in the spring of 1879, the Central house,

a brick building costing about \$8,000, was erected by A. Booren. Forty guests could be accommodated with rooms and meals. A saloon was an added feature of the rather modern "and up to the 1879, mark."

Mary Elliot, built the red brick building in 1890, that for years was called the Elliot house, Its location on Third Street was very centrally situated to the center of the heart of the city. It had thirtyfive rooms, gas, lights, baths and was conducted on the American plan of one dollar a day and up a per day.

Of the twelve hotels, there are in 1938, two in operation. The Central house has continued with a few interruptions.

The Mansion house is now called the Northwestern Hotel and it too has had a few trying times but seems to surmount them and go peacefully on serving and catering to the demands of the public.

The Elliot house, was changed into a modern and up to date flat a number of years ago, and now supplies small families with a cozy and convenient apartment.

The Mansion house, as before mentioned has been for many years called the Northwestern hotel, For some years it remained idle and seemed as if it would go the way of many other old buildings; but again and again it would stage a grand comeback, by having some enterprising people take charge of it. Though several modern conveniences have been installed it still lacks (by far from being called a "1938, stream lined hotel".

Notes taken from
History of Washington County
and the St Croix Valley
And talks with people.

Erling Holm

Forty Years on School Board

Andrew J. Holm, an old pioneer gentleman has been on the school board for over forty years- and is at this present writing in 1938, still holding the position as secretary on the same Stillwater, school board.

His birthplace was Smaland, Sweden, in 1857. His first educational training came through his mother, who taught him to read. At the age of seven he was entered in a school which was held in a neighboring farm house.

Under strict and rigid discipline young Andrew, studied and learned the three r's. The same year he entered school his father sent one of his older brothers to investigate conditions in America. Within due time a favorable report was sent back to the Holm family informing them of the feasibility of America, as a future home.

One year later they came to Stillwater, Minnesota, which was rapidly ^{and} ~~building~~ manufacturing interests of various kinds in addition to the vast supply of rich timber lands. Educational centers though meager, were beginning to branch out, so that children of rich and poor might have the advantages of education.

Our young studious natured Andrew, had a private tutor after coming here, and when entered in the "Little Red School House" near Scandia, it was found that instead of being behind in school work, he not only excelled in his class, but won prizes in various studies.

He later attended classes at Marine, and Stillwater. At the age of seventeen, after taking an inventory of himself

he concluded that he ~~was~~ well qualified to teach; so he set about to obtain the necessary teachers certificate, and at the same time was fortunate in getting the school of his choice.

Thus as a new teacher in a brand new little school house at the magnificent sum of twentyeight dollars a month he began his career as instructor of the three t's. The building of learning was at Vasa, now called Copas, a few miles beyond Marine, on the St Croix, district no. 67.

After two years of teaching he was given an increase of nine dollars and fifty cents, and for the next two years continued the work of instructor, and then proceeded to improve his knowledge of the English language by attending Carleton College, for about four years.

Within the next few ~~years~~ his worth was realized and he entered the profession of teaching in earnest, and when in 1897, he was being considered for the office of school director, he went about the business of learning about education in the schools; studied school laws, and became familiar with public school systems, until he became thoroughly versed in the subject.

After his election on the school board, he has since that early date earnestly and sincerely endeavored to fulfill what has been in his mind, the highest right to entire school system.

May we quote a few lines of his own statement, "that with all my weaknesses, short-comings, and mistakes, early and late, I have always been a teacher, with love for both teacher and children."

He helped to organize the present "State School Board Association" and is one of its charter members.

Today the pioneer teacher of eighty one years is still actively engaged in his office in the Stillwater High school performing his duty as secretary of the School Board. A truly remarkable man of much faith and vision.

Notes

after a talk with him
and write up in the Stillwater
Daily Gazette of Nov. 19th 1938

Elmer Lowman

Lowell Park

A beautiful landscaped park, which during the summer months has an abundance of shrubbery, green grass and a variety of choice and rare flowers; now, replaces the old levee, which during the earliest pioneer lumbering days was the scene of much excitement and rejoicing. When the great steamboats came down the river and docked at the levee, people from all walks of life, from the curious sightseers to the politicians in quest of election news, business men in expectancy of freight, -- some to meet friends or relatives from distant states; while others to see the boat and just to see the excitement, and the hustle bustle of unloading the large steamer.

Years later, in about 1911, a special committee was named by the city council for the purpose of preparing a plan whereby a park could be converted on the once famous old historical levee. The citizens association took part in the initial work also, with the result that a contribution of five thousand dollars was in readiness for the project; this sum was later multiplied by Elmer Lowell, for whom the park was named.

In 1915, the lovely park was finished and opened to the public. A year later plans went ahead to extend the park further northward from Chestnut to beyond Myrtle Streets. A large floating dock was installed and boat landing facilities for the many water loving people.

A generous bequest for the extension of the park was given by Miss Alice Murdock, daughter of Judge Murdock, and old worthy citizen.

and most generous pioneer.

A Very attractive and ornamental fountain was presented and duly installed; being the gift of one of the woman's clubs. During the war the park activities were somewhat curtailed, but the park proper was properly kept and cared for.

Elmer Lowell, the man who was the mainstay and father to his beloved park established a magnificent sum which was put in a trust fund for maintenance and extending the park project. In addition to the above bequest he was continually donating one thing or another.

In 1923, a Chinese pavilion was his contribution. The erection of a band stand was entirely assumed by him. Perhaps the entire extent of his generous donations can't be counted in dollars and cents, because, time and again, as he made his daily visits to the park; he'd conceive an idea whereby some beauty and improvement could be added. Maybe by a few trees or shrubbery or perhaps by flowers, and only when it arrived did it become known that the kind hearted and beauty loving man Elmer Lowell, had made the donation.

In 1933, when the new enterstate bridge between Stillwater, and Houlten, Wisconsin, was being built it greatly interfered and practically destroyed the prized park; as it is situated on the bank of the St Croix river. But on completion of the bridge, the hard working committee soon had the park more lovely than ever; and on par with the brand new modern steel bridge.

During the years of 1937-8, a cement retaining wall has been built, which protects the park in case of high waters. At one end of the long stone wall, in a conspicuous place a

(3)

memorial is being built in honor of the great and noble man who gave money and time unstintly.

He passed on several years ago making ^agenerous provision for the park; and his name shall ever be called blessed.

Notes from many interviews
and Scrap book at Library in Stillwater

State's First Electric Cars

Ethel Nugent

Stillwater, in its earliest stages of development was anticipated to be the leading lumber city of the region. The beautiful wooded valley at the head navigation of the St Croix, was laid out as a city in 1843. From the first sawmill a year later, the industry developed rapidly and surely.

Within the next forty years ten lumber mills were operating, and in addition there were many factories and various business interests. People from near and far came to make there home in the progressive and employment offering city.

In 1889, Stillwater, citizens were enjoying the distinction and privilege of the first electric line ^{to} running in Minnesota. A group of energetic and business minded men had formed the local "Street Car Line."

"The cars were manufactured in St Louis, and were modeled after the period of those days. They were twenty two feet in length overall, with platforms or vestibules at each end, of the dimensions of three feet, leaving about sixteen feet of actual car space. A small stove fitted into the opening cutting into one of the seats."

The outer appearance was quite attractive and somewhat showy. They were painted a bright yellow color. On the side in rather pretentious letters, the words of "Stillwater Street Railway" were easily deciphered. Seven cars were put in operation, and the fortunate streets that had the cars running along on, were anticipating a boom in real estate. The

owners of homes along the track lines; including the entire community were but for a very short time blessed with the new transportation service.

Problems for the members of the company loomed large and unsurmountable; and shortly passed in the hands of the receiver. Then after a hectic and stormy period the tracks were torn up and sold for junk. Its rather a skeleton, that old first street car service of Stillwater. As time goes by less ~~and~~ fewer people remember its history,

A grand come back was staged in 1899, when a new electric line was established. Again it was appreciated by the public, for we must remember that there were no modern bus services no! nothing but horse drawn vehicles; which moved along at a sleepy and slow gait.

The tracks now went as far as "Wild Wood" a summer amusement park, which ^{closed} ~~closed~~ in 1937. In a short time ^{had} ~~after~~ cars again came in to being, lines were laid to South Stillwater and St Paul.

Until 1933, the electric lines ran continuously and withing to a few years of its closing it was a financial success. With the increased advent of automobiles it became a problem to continue the electric line service would have been a total loss to the owners.

Thus again a younger generation witnessed the last car to leave the city, and somewhat regretfully and sadly see the tracks again torn up and hauled away for junk.

At this writing in 1938, Stillwater, enjoys bus service in and about the city; as well as St Paul, Minneapolis, White Bear and the surrounding towns and villages.

To look in the future of the next forty years of travel for Stillwatersciopopulation is amost impossible; but it is certain that it shall be ● progressive and even more modern than the present one-- perhaps planes will be flying and giving the service that our old "yellow street car" did in days gone by.

Notes taken from old scrap book
of Judge Lee, now in the Stillwater
public Library collection.

Edhel Norgren *Rec'd 8/1/38*

SPLENDOR OF 1906

--STILLWATER AUDITORIUM COMPANY--

In January of 1906, a very large, gay, happy, holiday-dressed crowd of people from all walks of life attended the grand opening and dedication of the Stillwater Auditorium, which is located on South Second Street.

Governor J. Johnson and his wife occupied one of the luxuriously furnished boxes. He and Mayor J. G. Armson of Stillwater took the leading part in the dedication ceremonies.

The play given on the memorial evening was a light, rollicking and gay musical extravaganza called "Piff-Paff-Pouff", and was received with an exceptionally generous and noisy applause.

The building is a huge stone and brick structure. A brief description will perhaps be interesting. The seating capacity was about thirteen hundred, with ample stage room sufficient to fill the needs of either opera, play, or concert.

Comfort, safety, and convenience had been specially considered. The main auditorium was magnificently fitted with beautiful rugs, paintings, and the very newest in lighting facilities. It was used for all kinds of gatherings, such as, graduation exercises, memorial days, amateur plays, Lyceum entertainments, and political meetings, or any special ceremony of a high grade, and elevating or educational affairs.

The acoustics, ventilating, heating, plumbing and lighting systems were the best that could be had in those days. The first and second floor arrangement of seats gave a fine unobstructive view of the stage. The two iron stairways leading to the balcony gave it an air of grandeur and at the same time it was a safety precaution, so that in case of fire the theater could be quickly emptied.

Re. II

A convenient stall or room on the first floor was built for the selling of confectioneries, ice cream, cigars, and cigarettes. The second and third floors were both for offices, club rooms, or lodge halls. The large basement was specially practical, being entirely above ground on three sides, it thus furnished another story to the building at a very small additional cost.

It was designed and arranged to give the most convenient and best lodge rooms in the city. Ante rooms, waiting rooms, a large banquet hall, dining room, or dancing hall were ready on short notices. Then, too, a spacious kitchen well equipped for cooking, etc.

A combination of rest rooms, retiring rooms, were at the disposal of both men and women. All in all, it far surpassed anything the city ever had. The down stairs rooms were often the scene of many gay festivals, and supper dances.

H. C. Robertson was appointed the first manager. Lyceum entertainments were to become a fixed feature of the new auditorium. The building cost thirty thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars, and the lighting system, heating plants, seats, decorations, and scenery came to nearly ten thousand dollars more.

Unfortunately, the splendor and glamour dropped off as the lumbering industry dwindled and finally ceased, so too, the famous show place came to a close. Thus, for a number of years it remained dark, silent, and deserted. Then in about 1921, it came back, though it wasn't as the old gay theater and glamour place of former days; but just a silent, quiet, moving picture show house. Even this was of short duration, for it again closed. Several years prior to 1938, a group of energetic local business men took it over, remodeled and fitted it for a Cinema or picture show house. At this writing in 1938, it still functions as the leading play house.

Re. III

Now, the auditorium is to become a "bright spot" again; the entrance is to be illuminated by a grand spray of two hundred globes in place of the old system of thirteen. An added new feature has been the installing of a modern air-cooling system.

It is told that where the building now stands, there had, in the very early days been a crude, roughly built frame building called the opera house. It was built, as was the custom of those days on a bizzare and showy type. It too must have been very short lived as no records can be found and the information is rather meager and hazy.

My reader, let us leave it with a firm feeling that as it has "staged a comeback", it shall as the years go on, reign, in a new splendor, progress, and glory--.

Notes taken from an old scrap book
at the library and Easton's book,
"History of the St. Croix Valley".

Recd. 8-15-38
Ethel Horgen

STILLWATER'S SPANISH ALAHAMBRA

J. Sauntry, an early millionaire pioneer lumberman who believed in enjoying and making the most of his immense wealth. In addition to having an unusually beautiful, lavish, and luxurious home, he built a magnificent Spanish Moslem in 1901. It was called by various names, such as gymnasium, Spanish Alahambra, Spanish Moslem. Although the family and intimate friends referred to it as the "Annex" it directly connected with the residence.

Mr. Sauntry was an energetic and extremely ambitious man. He was ever alert and ready to undertake heretofore untried, undared, and stupendous business ventures. From gold mines in Mexico to vast timber lands in Canada and Minnesota and railroad building also in Minnesota. These were just a few side issues of his enormous holdings. In Stillwater he owned and operated the "Sauntry Saw Mill" on the Boom Road now called "The Mississippi Scenic River Highway". This last named enterprise was one of his financially successful businesses.

When King lumber ruled mighty and supreme in Stillwater, he and his wife gave full vent to their desire of owning and maintaining a place where they could lavishly entertain their many friends. Thus a white stucco building quickly came into being. Experienced workers were given the task of building and painting with the best and choicest material. It was and is today a show place of beauty and color. One could hardly pass it by without giving it a wandering thought as to its origin and a backward glance.

At the entrance it had a reception room with imported oriental rugs and windows of colored glass so that in the daytime the sun could amply

play up to the glorious vivid hues. Then in the evening when the enormous chandeliers with their seven hundred globes were turned on, it was not only a brilliant sight but almost like an Arabian nights dream. The electric power company had to be notified many hours in advance before they could be turned on or the city would have been thrown totally in darkness.

From the reception room one entered the mirrored ballroom. The entire walls with the exception of the windows were covered with mirrors, thus; on festive and gay occasions a riot of beautiful colors left one spell-bound in amazement and awe. The floors waxed to perfection added to the already enchanted Moorish atmosphere. Seats of red plush were amply provided for guests desiring to relax and rest or just watch the colorful parade of gorgeously dressed ladies and men in their full dress attire.

On the southeast side a swimming pool made of tile, marble, and brass was an added feature that seemed ever to bring from the lips of visitors the words of "How lovely--gorgeous--magnificent--marvelous--and Oh, how beautiful!"

For those early days it truly was a unique, extravagant, a royal, regal, and pompous structure. To this day Stillwater has never had its equal.

For those desiring a different form of recreation and exercise, a bowling alley was provided. This too, was in line with the rest of the building in comfort, neatness, and order. With every beauty and convenience considered for the welfare of its occupants, regardless of cost, it was no doubt a heaven of rest and enjoyment for the many fortunate and chosen ones that were privileged to enter the fairy like atmosphere.

An open stairway leading from the ballroom to the balcony and connecting with a long passageway leading to the residence was an added conven-

Re. III

ience as it offered privacy and covered protection while making their exit to the living quarters.

It was built at a cost of seven hundred thousand dollars. The location on the north hill of the city was in the exclusive neighborhood of Maple and Fourth Streets.

A customary yearly function was a New Year's dinner party. Those fortunate enough to belong to their social set were thus entertained, win-
ed, and dined on a lavish scale. On these gala and festive occasions the guests, with their host and hostess would proceed to the Annex and further be amused at various pleasures and recreations offered.

Marriages of their intimate friends were often solemnized in the beautifully and specially decorated ballroom which would be banked with the rarest of flowers, ferns, and palms for the occasion.

Many indeed, were the social and lavish functions and ^{ties}festivals that took place ⁱⁿ the dream palace. For about fourteen years the brilliance and glory of its magnificence continued.

Its closing came about after Mr. Sauntry had met with severe financial losses. He, himself had a very sad ending. No doubt the great loss worried and disturbed him to the breaking point. He died of self inflicted wounds.

Then for about five years the splendid mansion lay enveloped in ^{dark}solemn gloom, and sadness. The well kept lawns, shrubbery and flowers no longer received the tender and efficient care of the experienced gardner. Obnoxious weeds dominated the once lovely garden.

Then in 1920 Mrs. M. Kaiser bought it and turned it into an apartment house. The exterior was left as much as possible as the original had been. The cost of alteration was five thousand dollars.

Re. IV

The connecting line or passageway between the residence and the annex were razed, thus it is no longer possible to go from one building to another.

It today, stages somewhat of a comeback, with its well kept lawns which perhaps is just as faithfully and tenderly cared for as ever by its present owner.

The once spacious and long silent ballroom, swimming pool, etc., are now divided up into living quarters.

No doubt many of the older generation in Stillwater living today, perhaps often like to reminiscence in the past history of that once gay and glorious splendor of that Moorish type, queenly castle that created so much beauty in the community.

From interviews of people who
had been entertained there.

Recd. 8/1/38

Ethel Hargen

CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Library Association began in 1859. It really started as an infant and the various stages of a baby can well be likened to the now well established, orderly and systematically run library at Stillwater.

The first ten years of its life was spent in chiefly receiving books from the government. These were stored in various places, such as: stores, court house, city council rooms, and even the jail was thus used. Among the many firm, loyal and staunch followers of the very worthwhile project the names of Judge McCluer and Judge H. R. Murdock stand out and have been particularly praised and appreciated.

After the elapse of ten years, a group of about twenty of the most prominent ladies started the cause for a circulating library. The very first meeting of those educationally minded women was held at the home of Mrs. H. C. Hemstead, on the corner of Myrtle Street and Union Alley. A committee was appointed to solicit funds, for which the citizens responded quite generously. With the one hundred dollars donated it was possible to buy books. By the way, many of those early purchased books are still in the Carnegie Library at Stillwater.

The first officers were Mrs. W. M. McCluer, as president; Mrs. E. W. Durant, secretary; and Mrs. John J. Robertson.

In the book store of S. S. Denton which was located near the post office the first circulating library began to function. His daughter acted as librarian. The fees were one dollar a year for men and fifty cents for ladies, or ten cents for one book, which would be loaned out for two weeks. There was an additional fee of three dollars, a membership dues possibly.

After a short existence of the library Mr. Denton closed his business. When, after some scouting around for new quarters, the drug store of Mr. Weaver, was selected. He then became librarian. But this new home too, was of short duration. The accustomed "traveling" books seemed to ever

be looking for a permanent home. They were changed about from a millinery shop, sewing machine^{and} store. All this time no rental had been required.

The next thirty years were a struggle, to maintain and support the library was ever a problem. Funds were mostly secured by giving various entertainments at different intervals. "Ice Cream Festivals, Oyster Suppers, Little Dances, Large Masquerades, Tableaux, Shakespearian Productions, Melo-Drama and the famous Jarley Wax Works".

When the war came on in 1861, and the young men naturally were turning their thoughts to "Arms instead of literature" they were reminded to spend their leisure time in educational and constructive recreation, "That they learned something, instead of drank something; literature instead of lager, shall be the chief attraction". A plea went out to old and young to cultivate good clean readings habits by reading the leading periodicals and papers of the day.

A rather novel party given in 1876 was a "Colonial Dress Ball and Martha Washington party". They displayed many old relics of by gone days. A set of blue china ware, over one hundred years old, belonging to Captain Reed, then Warden of the State Prison, were among the curios. Rare pieces of silver, jewelry and many other valuable ^{articles} ~~articles~~ were shown.

An affair that deserves apecial mention was given in 1898, and called "International Dinner". This great feast as you will soon learn was followed by entertainment. A Stillwater, newspaper add is quoted as follows: "The inner man will be fully and completely satisfied at either of the tables. Admission including dinner will be fifty cents."

The various nations represented were Colonial, English, German, French, Swedish, Italian, and Chinese. Each table represented ^{their} ~~a~~ nation in color, flowers and the choicest, tastiest and most elaborate foods of its respective country.

Just to briefly describe a bit of this very magnificent and generously supplied banquet, let us stop at the Colonial table. It is a large table, well laden and graced by the smiling, yet strong dignified face of George Washington, draped with the stars and stripes. The ladies serving wore colonial costumes.

The food, well judge for yourself, my reader; Cold roast turkey, cold ham, baked beans and brown bread, mashed potatoes, chicken pie, hot rolls, pumpkin pie, doughnuts, election cake, pound cake, pickles, tea, and coffee.

To give a full detail of that long ago dinner menu would perhaps tire you, but it may be added, without exaggeration that it could have graced the table of a king or most any of our outstanding and distinguished personages of any land.

No doubt that every bit of the food and all things needed were donated towards the various dinners and banquets, and they were able to realize a nice little sum toward buying books and the general up keep of the library.

Another long past and almost forgotten game given was "A Spelling Bee". The two best spellers of that long ago evening were H. R. Murdock, and L. Clark. A small admission fee was asked for the privilege of seeing and hearing people "Spelled Down". This little rather humorous bit of entertainment netted a little sum toward buying books and furthering the cause of the library.

A grand and glorious event came into being on May 16th, 1899. The City Council had voted for an adequate sum of money for the use of a free library. It was now housed in a place of its own; the hours open: Daily--from one 'Till six; Evenings from seven 'Till nine; Sundays--three 'Till five.

In 1901, when Stillwater was in the height of its lumbering prosperity it was decided to build a suitable place, so as not to have to shift around hither and yong. Mr. Andrew Carnegie, as it is well known, was one of the greatest benefactors and founders of Public Libraries. He was appealed to, and without much delay, that generous and great hearted man gave an additional five thousand above what was asked, thus making it twenty-five thousand dollars. His only conditions were that a suitable site be furnished and the library be supported.

After considerable deliberation a large piece of ground on the top slope between Third and Fourth Streets was chosen as an ideal and permanent place. Much to the joy and happiness of the many who had earnestly worked and supported the struggling and wandering library, it was completed in 1902, and officially opened December, 1903.

It seemed to surpass even what had been dreamed and hoped for. A modern stone and brick structure, convenient, beautiful, cozy, light, cheerful, well heated and amply supplied with books. It truly is a heaven of rest and relaxation to the seeker for beauty and knowledge.

From the artistically land-scaped gardens, the vine covered walls, and large well kept lawns, one commands a picturesque panoramic view of the St. Croix River, the new modern bridge crossing to Houlton, Wisconsin and the free public bathing beach. It is just one of the many lovely sights that await the sightseer and vacationist who visits the "Friendly Valley" in Stillwater.

From the infantile beginning--now in 1938 it has grown to full stature in sturdiness, character, beauty, and dignity.

Notes taken from old scrap book at
the Public Library by Alice Murdock
Secretary of the Library Association
for many years.

Rec'd. 8/1/38
Ethel Norquist

HOBBY OF STILLWATER DOCTOR

As a youth Dr. G. Linner had wanted to be an engineer but his desire seemed to go awry, for when he entered the University of Minnesota to register it must have been quite a surprise to find that after waiting in the long line it was for the pre-medical school.

The consequence was that he registered for the study of an M.D. and became greatly interested and determined to study, work, and conquer. He stayed on and finished the course and is today a successful practicing physician at the Minnesota State Prison. During the day he follows his profession, earnestly and sincerely helping to heal and save those requiring his assistance. He says "It is the finest profession in the world".

But his leisure time and evenings are spent in building miniature engines, airplane motors, inboard and outboard engines. The basement of his home is a well equipped workshop in which are housed many descriptions of his six years accumulation and work.

Among the finished collection are four model speed boats, three airplane motors, and several ice boats. At present he is working on several Marine inboard engines and an outboard motor.

After a demonstration on the St. Croix River he discovered that his model speed boat could make thirty miles an hour on four ounces of gasoline and will run for ten minutes. "He computed the speed on the small model boat by having it tethered to a pole and making it go in a circle, knowing the length of the tether and the number of revolutions the boat made in a given time. Dr. Linner was able to compute its speed of thirty miles an hour."

As yet he hasn't been able to compute the speed of his air-planes and ice boats. On one of his experimental tests his plane took a nose dive. Another time his sail boat sailed so far away that he was barely able to recover

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it. It was traveling at a speed of about seventy miles an hour.

In this vicinity he is the only man so occupying his leisure time and when out with one or more of his model crafts there are thousands of people watching and piling him with countless questions. He is of a rather modest and retiring nature and would prefer a bit more privacy while testing his handiwork.

His audience come from far and near. A young lad hitch-hiked from South Dakota to see his speed boat demonstrated. Thus his hobby has interested not only himself but many people as well. No doubt more than one young man after seeing his crafts demonstrated conceives the idea of doing likewise.

- In Gazette of July 2nd 1938 -

Ethel Vougren

STAPLE'S MANSION

One of Stillwater's splendid landmarks that recalls the early days of prosperity and grandeur is no more in existence. The once magnificent brick residence on North Second Street was erected by the late Hon. Isaac Staples, millionaire banker and lumberman. He was considered one of the wealthiest men in the St. Croix Valley.

His coming to the then small hamlet in 1853, added zest and new vigor to the budding community. Possessed of unusually strong character, great physical endurance, energy, and unflagging ambition, his unconquerable determination to win were coupled with a keen visionary business judgment, which made him a valuable acquisition to the city.

His business interests were many and varied: among them were-- vast real estate holdings of both improved and unimproved lands. He was principal stock holder and president of the lumberman's bank. He had vast shares in several St. Paul Banks. The Mercantile Establishment and Staples' Meat Market were among his possessions. His Elevator Mill had a capacity of three hundred thousand bushels. A flour mill that was operating day and night turned out one hundred fifty barrels of flour daily.

He engaged in farming on an extensive scale. "Maple Island Farm" was situated on the line of the Soo Railway; had three hundred fifty acres nearly all in a high state of cultivation. At the village of Maple Island were a post office, flouring mill, and various other shops.

"Oak Glen" or "Home Farm" consisted of eight hundred acres and was located on the western edge of the city. It had a small dairy; about one hundred cows, a creamery, several residences, buildings, shops, etc.

Then too, it housed some fine pure bred cattle. "Dutch Belt" cows were then famous and outstanding.

The "Twin Lake Farm" of two hundred acres, had all necessary buildings, equipments and a large green house. "Big Lake Farm" had four hundred twenty acres with required buildings, besides a club house where many invited guests both from Stillwater and elsewhere were royally entertained.

Then there was his "Carnilian Farm" of seven hundred acres. "McKusick Farm" with improvements. "Wisconsin Farm" of two hundred acres was devoted to raising grain.

There was a driveway park at Lilly Lake consisting of one hundred thirty acres; here some of his most valuable pure bred horses were tried out.

In 1871, he built a lovely mansion on a high spacious and picturesque site, that furnished a commanding view overlooking the business section of the city. It also furnished a panoramic scene of the St. Croix River.

It was noised about that his selection of that particular spot was chiefly for the reason that he could keep a watchful and guarding eye on his extremely large holdings. It was possible to see for several miles up and down the river. Thus, he could see his logs float down as well as his numerous boats and rafts.

Below his home or under the hill was his sawmill--a bit further on was the huge elevator in which he stored the grain reaped from his numerous farms. Further down on Main Street was his bank--business blocks--mercantile house, and scattered about him on all sides were his many dwellings. All were the reward of his uncanny, sturdy, energetic and thrifty mind.

We shall never know what his thoughts really were as he viewed the accumulation of his labor. Perhaps it may have been as quoted in the Bible: "He looked on all his labor that he hath done, and behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit."

The cost of his home was between forty thousand dollars and fifty thousand dollars. The exact expenditure was never known as much of the material was supplied direct from his own plants. The well known famous pine came from his northern Minnesota camps. These were sawed and planned in his mill in Stillwater. Most of the stone for the walls and foundations also came from his own quarries and these articles were figured at cost.

The house and grounds covered more than a city block. Over half of the beautiful grounds were terraced around to form a semi-circle or a tier of stone steps, and converted into a vineyard which skirted the bluff overlooking the St. Croix River. On top of the hill a little distance from the house was the orchard.

The residence proper was a two-story massive, stately, and dignified looking stone structure. Its outside walls were of Milwaukee brick. Every modern convenience and luxury giving device available in that early period was installed. Beauty, comfort, and ease were the first considerations, and no expense had been spared in making it one of the most attractive in the community. The interior was in keeping with the exterior. It had the choicest, costliest and the most lavish furnishings. Priceless oriental rugs--frescoed walls and ceilings were all the work of professional artists and expert workmen.

During his life time the house was often the scene of notable social functions. Isaac Staples liked gaiety and laughter and hospitality were all a part of his active life.

He was ever a friend of the laboring people or poorer class. Those who were seeking work either young or old were never turned away. His generosity was felt by many far and wide. Even, now, today one can hear the story repeated of his kindness and bigness of heart, to those who were weary of life, heavy laden, old, and down and out. When they sought his aid and help, it was always forth-coming.

Sometimes those applying for help didn't seem to have any qualifications for any line of work. He would ask in a brisk rather sharp way, "You can eat, can't you?", and off he'd send them to one of his many farms to be sheltered and fed.

In 1898, he passed on from the lovely home where many happy years of his life had been spent. His death caused a wide-spread demonstration of mourning by all classes of people--rich and poor, high and low, both in the community and surrounding country. All turned out to see his last remains put away forever. Nearly all of the business houses in Stillwater were closed during his funeral.

For some little time after his death the grand old mansion and grounds were taken care of. But gradually it became more and more neglected and less used. The expense of maintaining it as a private home was enormous and seemed to be beyond any of his heirs.

It was thought for a time that the state might consider it for the Warden's home. But nothing ever came of it. Next it was thought of as being an ideal place for a hospital or an educational institution. But as the mills, and hustle bustle of the city were too close by the idea was soon abandoned. Weeds which have a habit of growing enormously were topping off the once immaculately cared for lawns and shrubbery.

As the years went by it became more neglected. His daughter, Mrs. A. C. Hospes, was the possessor of the old Homestead but as her finances were inadequate to maintain such a pretentious home, she was at a loss as to know what wise procedure to take in disposing of the huge and expensive place. As time went on she sold the priceless furnishings for small sums. The once great beautiful mansion was the course of sorrow and it became more of a "Hoodoo" or hindrance.

Thus, nine years after Isaac Staples death the proud, stately castle was sold for one thousand dollars. Its finish was in the hands of the wrecking company with the exception of the fences and trees. Everything else was torn down. When the work was over it was a sad looking sight.

About six years ago a shoe manufacturer bought the lot, but he didn't seem to meet with much success. It then came to the minds of some of our wide awake business men and citizens to make it a public park. With whole-hearted cooperation it was managed and came to pass.

Three years ago a beautiful public park opened on the former Isaac Staples famous site. It is well named "Pioneer Park".

The stone terraced tier stands firmly and solidly as ever. Though of course the grape vines have long since died out. Its fine old trees still reign to give shade.

Picnic tables and benches are scattered here and there for the park has become very popular to both the community and outsiders. No doubt its history is known to some but for others its own worth is for the sheer loveliness, beauty, color, fine water--picturesque view and chance for relaxation.

Notes taken from Scrap Book owned by
Mrs. Eva Merry who is Isaac Staple's
granddaughter and interviews from
different people.

Ethel Norgren

STILLWATER LADIES' BAZAAR

In 1878, Father Murphy, a Catholic Priest, financed and built for his brother, Patrick, a large frame building on South Main Street. The city then, had great need for new business enterprises. The population was rapidly increasing; thus, the demands and needs of the people grew.

Louis Altenburg rented the building for a department store and it soon became very popular with the ladies. Thus, the first small beginning quickly expanded into a large ladies' ready-to-wear store.

After a short time the thriving business was leased to A. G. Shuttinger. The modest frame structure now furnished clothing for the early hustle, bustle pioneers who were beginning to devote more time to self and person. Five clerks were kept busy waiting on and catering to the public.

Twelve years later it had expanded to fifty by one hundred thirty feet. Two floors were equiped with merchandise and twenty-two people were employed to take care of customers.

It was no unusual sight to have people come from the Twin Cities to do their choice and select buying. Part of an early advertisement in the local paper read as follows, "It can equal anything bought in the Twin Cities." It became known as the "Ladies' Famous Bazaar".

A. J. Shuttinger, a true cultured gentleman, was fully awake to the desires and needs of the people. His concern was to please and satisfy. Beauty then, as now, was ever in demand and the keynote to buying. In hats, dresses, coats, shoes, dress goods, underwear, cos-

metics, and notions, mi-lady was offered the latest styles that period manufactured.

His many trips to New York, which was the leading fashion center of the United States, were always rewarded on his return by newer and more modern trends in clothing. The ladies eagerly accepted and bought things to magnify and enhance their beauty.

As the lumber industry flourished and reached its peak, the large masses of people from all walks of life enjoyed more prosperity and much more of the worldly goods offered them.

Mr. Shuttinger's untimely efforts were well rewarded for some years but as "Time Marches On" his competition grew more difficult and the logging business dwindled and finally ceased altogether. Thus for a short time the once "Famous Ladies' Bazaar" closed its double doors. A considerable portion of the merchandise was bought by M. L. Murphy who was operating a similiar concern in the next block.

Dr. W. R. Humphrey bought the building which was by this time in the hands of the receivers. Then in 1916 Louis Janda, a kindly thoughtful pioneer merchant of Mankato, Minnesota, leased the building and bought out the remaining merchandise and for a few years operated with, from six to ten employees. Under Mr. Janda's reorganization the name of the store was changed to "Louis Janda Department Store."

Many changes took place--such as remodeling. A fine quality of merchandise was offered to the public, with considerable service for its employees. The store gained in popularity and success.

Year after year more workers were added to take care of increasing sales.

In 1935, after Mr. Janda's death, it was incorporated and has

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since been known as the "Louis Janda Company" under the management of two daughters, Coletta and Marcella Janda.

Today the former "Famous Bazaar" is the leading department store in the city. Its past prominence and popularity are ~~again~~ *again in evidence.*

The two sisters are well trained along executive lines as well as the buying of large quantities of merchandise. They keep well abreast of the times and are keenly alert to the demands of the buying public.

What the next fifty years holds for the future of the store----- only time will tell.

Notes taken from "Neil's History
of the St. Croix Valley and In-
terviews from various people.

Ethel Hargren

A RUGGED--BUT NOT VISIONARY PIONEER

Charles E. Leonard was an early pioneer whose history has become outstandingly interesting because of the fact that he owned and disposed of land that later became one of the choicest pieces of property in Minneapolis.

To relate a bit of his early struggles, let us turn back to the year of 1847, and the rapidly sprouting city of Stillwater. He rented a tiny box-like bit of a place to operate as a general store. But the cruel merciless hand of fate began to play havoc ~~with him~~ *in his affairs*

A letter came from his wife in Prairie DuChien telling of a grave and serious illness of one of their three children. He at once locked up the new and barely operating store and set out on foot--for a two hundred mile journey. The only possessions he took along were a hatchet, tin cup, and a blanket that was laid on the snowy ground for sleeping at night.

His destination was Prairie DuChien--year-1847--time-winter--roads--my reader, there weren't any. Each traveler had to make his own pathway over the hilly, rough, wild, bleak, desolate, isolated, and dangerous country. Regardless of danger our hero forged on.

Encounters with the Indians were numerous and all of a friendly nature. After two days without food he met a Winnebago Indian who quickly sensed his need and by sign language assured him

of provisions and repidly disappeared, only to appear a half hour later with a large piece of venison.

His thanks and gratitude to the red man was an offer of a five dollar gold piece, but strange as it may seem the kind hearted generous Indian refused to accept it and quietly walked away.

The extremely hazzardeous and trying trip over rivers, lakes and valleys continued for ten days. When he finally arrived at Frairie DuChien---there wasn't any reception committee on hand to meet him--no feast or toast or even congratulations were forthcoming. Roughing it seemed all a part of the days work.

In the spring of the following year he and his family went back to Stillwater---by boat. His first move on arriving was to build a home, so on to Arcola he went. There he bought a large raft of logs on credit from J. Mower and B. Loomis.

Perhaps in his eagerness to get started on building--or whatever caused it, nevertheless, he made the grave mistake of going a mile beyond his destination, Stillwater, and only after a strenuous and hard grind did he get up river to Stillwater again. But he never wavered---just worked patiently and persistently.

The next task was the erection of his home. We must remember he had a store to operate so his time was limited to early mornings and evenings for building. A ten year old son was his only helper. Shingles were all shaved out of a large log bought from John McKusick.

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When it finally was finished the joy and pride in possessing a home were short lived. Again the "hoodoo" or hand of fate interfered in his progress. All his hard earned labor was destroyed during his absense by fire. Home, stone, and stock were all reduced to ashes.

With perserverence and determination he with his children and good wife continued to labor. He obtained work as a carpenter at two dollars a day and within a short time bought a lot from J. McKusick. This time it was high up on the bluff and again he began to build---without any calamity following this time.

Next came his appointment as Sheriff. He opened the first court of law held in Minnesota, with the very first court convening in Stillwater.

His next move after selling his Stillwater property was to move to St. Anthony. Again he held a responsible position and continued to prosper. Next he moved to Minneapolis and bought large pieces of land--seemingly valueless and just good for pasture.

One piece of grazing land that he owned and sold for a span of horses was where we now have the loop--the heart and soul of Minneapolis. The site of the Nicolett Hotel now an extremely valuable and choice piece of property--and has been for years, was sold in the early days for a span of horses by C. Leonard.

Hennepin Island too, was owned by him---and it went for a song, whether it could be called the hand of fate or not is beyond us to fathom why he couldn't vision and forsee the great growth and prosperity that loomed ahead.

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To quote from his words of later years, " I might have been a millionaire, but I presume I'm as happy as it is; I have health, my wife, sons, and my friends.

Thus as his earthly career was nearing an end he never grew bitter and resentful as the years came on--he only mellowed and sweetened. All the early hardships and deprivations he experienced only brightened, not saddened his last declining years. He passed on at White Bear Lake, Minnesota after having truly lived a full and contented life.

Notes from an old Scrap Book
at the Stillwater Public
Library.

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Ethel Morgan

Last Man's Clup of Stillwater

In the spring of 1861, at the out break of the Civil War, a large group of young volunteers from Stillwater, eager to serve their country, enlisted to perserve the Union.

The night befor their departure a dancing party was given at the old Sawyer house, which has for some years past been replaced by the beautiful "Mt Vernon" like Lowell Inn.

The men and boys marched away April the twenty first, eighty nine in number; Some of the young blades -- who were full of vim and vigor, and as the custom of those days wore side burns; could hardly understand the meaning of war, It perhaps meant adventure, excitement and thrills galore. They had all that, and more.

Arriving at Fort Snelling they enlisted in the "First Minnesota Voluntery Infantry, and became Company B." To go into the details of the war-- of which you are all no doubt familiar ~~with~~, isn't necessary.

At the close of the war only thirty four of the men returned to Stillwater. Again, of ^{the} sadness and grief of those near and dear ones who experienced the losses we shall not dwell on. sufficient, perhaps to write a little poem taken from a book called "The Blue and Gray, published by prof. J. Warren Gilbert". A history of the conflicts during the war.

Some fell on far-off fields of fame,
Some here sank down to rest;
And the dear land they love so well,
Now folds them to her breast."

Some few years later the returned men met and ^{celebrated} ~~held~~ the anniversary of the battle of "Bull Run". The famed old Sawyer house became the banquet hall and yearly meeting place.

The celebration of that long ago victory was faithfully preserved by the men. But the forming of the "Last Man's Club" seems to have originated merely from ^{an} happy and hilerous ^y incident.

The particular night when the ~~idea~~ ^{was} was born to organize a club. The year ~~was~~ 1885, the banquet as usual was held in the Sawyer house. There were about twenty five men present, the gala accassion was called a "Wine Supper." As the party was about to break up some one suggested that a club be formed. The boys cheered and seemed willing to accept the idea-- when again some one in the group -- on noticing one lone bottle of wine; ~~they~~ then and there agreed to form a club.

A voice cried out in the crowd ^{again} -- "Let's call it the Last Man's Club." and the last survivor shall toast his comrades with wine." When the organization was formed Louis Hospes, father of one of the members; presented the club with a bottle of Burgundy wine to be opened by the ~~last~~ living member, and a toast drunk to his departed comrades.

The liquor was afterwards to be presented to the public Library to be preserved. It is lodged there ^{as} ~~planned~~ -- but some years ago ~~before the last lone~~ comrade was to toast his departed friends; it was found that the wine had spoiled, the reason being that the cork had rotted and let in air.

Some of the earlier active members of the now dissolved club were namely; Capt. C. A. Bromley, ~~W.M. May~~, Myron Shepard, A.A. Capron, H. C. VanVorhes, Samuel Bloomer, R. G. Blanchard, Albert Caplazi, James Cleary, William Turich, A.C. Hospes, John S. May, George C. McNeil, Adam Marty, F. L. McKusick, Harlow McIntire, Andrew Peterson, Joseph Tenner Joseph Walsh all of Stillwater. G. S Goff and later Charles M. Lockwood, who was the last surviving member.

The years went swiftly by, the comrades slowly but surely dropped off in number; *called to the great beyond* until but one remained to grace the once happy and joyous banquet hall. It was Charles M. Lockwood, the grand old man who in 1930, sat midst the thirty three vacant chairs at the Lowell Inn, Each chair was draped in crepe, with a white ribbin on which had been written the name of the departed comrades.

At the lone and sad table with him sat Mrs Helen McCluer of Stillwater, president of the library board who was presented with the bottle of wine for safe keeping in the library. Also were present Mrs Nellie Bloomer, widow of the late Samuel Bloomer, a member of the Last Man's Club.

Many other distinguished men and woman were in attendance as well as spectators, who crowded the hall to hear the last man recite.

"Memories carried the aged old man as he said the poem.

Tears came to the eyes of all present and in sacred and solemn hush stood up, and with bowed heads heard the words.

"The ^Pcampfire smolders-- ashes fall;

The clouds are black against the sky;

No tap of drums, no bugle call;

My comrades all goodbye."

Thus ended the Last Man's Club; amidst a gorgeous and beautiful decorated banquet hall ^{banked} with flowers, and on the wall to the rear was the framed flag of the company known ^{as} the "First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Company B."

The worthy old gentleman passed on a few years ago. His birthplace was Prairie DuChien, the date August 16th, 1842. He enlisted from Stillwater, Minnesota, in Company B. He saw and weathered four years of service in the Civil War. He fought in the first battle at Bull Run, and took part in the last fight of the war at Bentonville, North Carolina.

Notes taken from.

Scrap book donated by Mrs Nellie Bloomer
now in Stillwater Public Library

Since the World War

Members of the war and the American Legion have formed the "Bully Beef Club" Meeting every month-- -- the last remaining member shall have the privilege of opening the can of beef.

Cliff Dwelling People

Evel Hargun

A great deal of research work is taking place about the lives of early Indians, pioneers, and their activities and mode of living. This information has been and is being gathered, and recorded for people of this generation and those to come.

Stillwater, or rather in its vicinity, has an unusual and outstanding contribution to add to the historical research work; because of the fact that traces of pre-historic men have been found close to the city.

Dr. Harvey a professor at the University of Minnesota, has the honorable distinction of making the surprising discovery. About three and a half miles north of Stillwater, he built an all year around residence, and about five years ago, his unique discovery was started.

"Various anthropologists and archeologists have been working on the Harvey farm," and have found evidence of at least three primitive tribes or types of people.

"A cliff dwelling sixteen feet high, fifty seven feet across the front, and going back into the cliff through which highway ninety five has been cut," seems to be conclusively true that it had been inhabited by human beings.

It so seems that that the beautiful and colorful St Croix valley had prior to the Indians, other strange beings. Whether cannibals or more civilized creatures, has not been fully determined, as yet.

But clear evidences have been found to indicate habitation.

ofcourse it is all very primitive and ancient, and dates back far before the Indians and white mans entrance to this territory.

Bones of human origin have been excavated. Crude and primitive objects such as stone hammers, knives, arrowheads and various others other tools have been found. Fragments of pottery in the ashes and earth of the long ago strange and little known of people were discovered.

Different cultures show that ages must have existed between the various settlers. This knowledge comes from the fact that more recent objects were unearthed, "baked clay bowls which are ^lclassified by their decorative patterns."

In Dr Harvey's possession are many specimens taken from his discovery and unusual find, and also the "Minnesota Archeological Society" have confirmed and sanctioned the findings. Scientists in various parts of the United States are making efforts to add the St Croix pre-historic collections to their museums.

Notes
Taken from Stillwater Post
messenger - October 6th 1938

Ethel Hargun

Plain Jo of Pioneer Days

Plain Jo's full name was Joseph Blackburn, it is believed that he came from the Southern part of Illinois, a little town called Egypt-- so named because it lacked educational advantages.

Perhaps he came to be called "Plain Jo" because he obeyed his own inclinations and dressed as primitive as it was possible in the early days. Cloths held no attraction for the husky burly Jo.

His first entrance in Stillater, was in 1847, - his work was in the various departments of the lumber industry, and ^{un}like many of his coworkers, he saved his earnings and entered in to other branches of business activities.

Being of a happy jovial disposition he had many friends, albeit he was unlearned and unused to the ways of civilization, he was faithful and tireless; people had confidence and trust in him.

The story is told that in the very earliest days he was assisting a mail carrier on his weekly route between Bayfield, and St Paul. In the village of St Croix Falls, he had built a home and was engaged to marry a white girl. But unfortunately an Indian maiden was very earnestly in love with him too; and was determined that he should marry her.

Somewhat like a story reading in a novel-- Plain Jo, spurned the dark maiden; but she refused to accept rebuff; and one day while he was camping with his mail, she waylaid him and stole his watch. He in order to get back his prized possession had her

arrested and brought to court.

The rather crude courts of that time found that though there was no marriage; still under the Indian customs the girl might be his wife, and therefore had a right to the property.

The new and unexpected development seemed to estrange his ^{brother}brother, and she firmly refused to marry him.

The white girl's parents were living in the house that Jo, had built. Whether in exasperation and shame; we shall ~~never~~ know, but any way he threw up his job of carrying mail, left the place and refused ever after to even go back. The rather strange part of it was that he wouldn't accept one cent of rent for his house, and the family lived in the free home for twenty four years.

He became an Indian trader and married one of the forest maidens, and much to his credit he treated her not only kindly but lavished many, crude though it was, luxuries on her. On one occasion he purchased twenty yards of silk from a Stillwater, store, -- yes it was for his wife Mary, and she no doubt was thrilled at the prospect of a new gown.

He had a shrewd and visionary head for business, for in his trade with the Indians he knew how to make money on a large scale. One of his tricks was a blend of his own to manufacture whiskey, or near whiskey. A ten gallon keg of his brand consisted of Nine gallons of the cheapest grade of tea obtainable, ^{or} Was made by steeping --- well, we all know how tea is made, Jo made his extra strong and than ^{was added} one gallon of gin or some such ingredient and sold it with a clear conscience and declared that it was better for the Indians than the fiery stuff they bought

Of less scrupulous dealers.

As before stated he cared little about cloths, and very often his suspenders were made from flour sack material. Than too he very rarely wore a hat, though he as the owner of a "Gaff- topsail" hat of finest texture, which was sported on rare accassions with his vauable gold watch.

One of his pecular obessions was to keep a large stock off supplies on hand at all times for his loggers and customeres . ~~One of the articles of~~ his cred was never to have less than 1,000 bushels of oats, 500 bushels of corn, 100 sacks of flour and five barrels of whisky.

To prove that he always bought in large quantities a little illustration will show of one of his buying trips. On this occassion he noticed a certian brand of tobacco marked, "P, S, OH-" said he, " I see you keep "Pat Sullivan" tobacco I guess I take some of that" When asked the amount he would want, he replied "O, I guess about the full of the sleigh."

Later on, in his later life he began to enjoy more of the cofortable and luxurious things of life, and as he had ample means he could well satisfy his every wish and desire,

His last years were spent over the tomb which he had built for his wife at her death. Her last remains were in a most lavishly furnished room , that contained brussel carpets, upholstered chairs and couches, tables and a bible. In the chamber of death he spent many hours studying and pondering the holy scriptures.

The top of his wife's coffin was of removable lead top, and when the lead top was removed a glass cover exposed her last remains. He no doubt spent many hours in silent meditation and searched the scriptures to investigate what was beyond the great divide--across the span of the great unknown darkness--called death.

An uncertain number of years later a very sad ending came to "Plain Jo," he was found murdered in his home; who the guilty culprits were was never found out, Although it was suspected that it was an Indian; but not much investigation took place.

His remaining large fortune was thought to have been dissipated in various ways and it remains a mystery as to what became of it. One thing is certain he didn't bring anything in the world and he couldn't take any thing out---even though he searched or tried to fathom --what was in the spirit world beyond.

*Notes taken from
Scrap Book at Stillwater Public
Library, and from the
Daily Gazette of Dec. 1910*

Ethel Narquon

PICTURESQUE BREWERY

A picturesque and rather stately and impressive building was built on North Main Street. The closeness of the St. Croix River added to the idealic loveliness and natural beauty of the structure. It was erected in 1853, by Robert Kripps to serve as a brewery. Stillwater then a rapidly progressing and enterprising lumber center, was experiencing new developments and business ventures were springing up almost overnight.

The one here related was just at the entrance to, what is called "Dutch Town," receiving its name because of the fact that nearly all of its inhabitants were German people and lived their lives close to the native custom of their old fatherland. They were a hard working, progressive, God fearing and law abiding group of people.

But as our story is chiefly on the history of the gorgeous old building, we shall leave the wholesome and hardy old stock that still inhabit the tiny center called "Dutch Town" and proceed with the history of the picturesque brewery.

The colorful old brewery was built of native rock with a wrought iron balcony, thus giving it an ancient Romeo and Juliet effect of romance and glamour.

Three full stories high, and a dormer windowed fourth story of frame construction added more quaintness and charm to the distinguished looking place.

Built rather close to the high sand stone bluff, and connecting with several huge caves which reached far back into the bluff and sand stone it afforded a source of great help and convenience for preserving and storing perishable things. We must remember that the modern re-

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frigeration systems were unknown or available to those earnestly striving early pioneers.

The brewery business was of short duration and no doubt rather unsuccessful, for we next hear of it as a pop factory or manufacturing of soft drinks. Then again quiet and isolation for a number of years.

In 1918, when the World War took place, Peter Newhouse took it over as a business venture. That end of town was a beehive of activities. The Twin City Forge and Foundry Company was running day and night so too, the Drop Forge and Ammunition Plants. All were running to full capacity. A cry went out for more homes. "We work here, we must have a place to live", was the plea of the people.

Mr. Newhouse remodeled and made an apartment house that amply took care of sixteen families of moderate means. The old building again became useful and contributed a bit to lesson the housing problem.

When the war was over and ammunition activities ceased, naturally many people left for other parts. Within the next few years the Drop Forge closed, forcing many people to move on. The colorful and capacity filled apartment became less tenanted and finally a few families of meager means remained.

The raising of chickens and selling eggs by one tenent was undertaken, growing muchrooms in the caves by another, and choice flower growing by still another.

The place became less attractive and more neglected. As time went on it was finally condemned as unsuitable for occupancy. Again it followed a period of isolation and silence. But in 1935 its death blow came for it was torn down and demolished.

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The caves have all been filled in and the highway department has widened the street leaving no mark of remembrance of the once colorful and outstanding structure.

Taken from the Post Messenger of Aug.1,1935
and interviews with people.
