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Version 3
August 20, 2018

[Vermilyea family]

VERMILYEA FAMILY

HISTORY OF THE VERMILYEA FAMILY AND REMINESCENES
OF JAMES I. VERMILYEA

OLMSTED COUNTY QUINCY TOWNSHIP, MINNESOTA

The history of the Vermilyea family has been traced back to the 15th century (1460-1485) and the province of Perugia, Italy, where Stephano Vermigli lived at that time. His son, Peter Martyr Vermigli was ordained to the Priesthood and obtained rapid promotion in the Roman church. At the age of 30, Peter Martyr came under the teaching of Savaronola, whom he heard preach at Florence and became a convert to Protestantism. He married and on account of his religion was obliged to flee with his wife to Switzerland. He was called to Oxford, England by Archbishop Crammer, with whom he collaborated in compiling the first English Prayerbook. Driven out of England on the accession of Queen Mary to the throne, Peter Martyr returned to Switzerland. His wife having died he married a second time. On the accession of Elizabeth he returned to Oxford and resumed his labors. In 1560 he returned to Zurich where he died in 1562.

The grandson of Peter Martyr Vermigli, Isaac Vermeille, was baptized in the Wallon Church in London in 1600. His son Johannes was born in Leydon, Holland in 1632 and came with his father, brother and two sisters to New Amsterdam (New York) in 1662 on the ship Pumberland Church. The original receipt for the passage money of the family is in the

Lenox Library in New York City. The family settled in the N. W. Corner of Manhatten Island (subsequently known as Harlem).

Johannes Vermilye married Aeltje, daughter of Resolvert Waldron, the leading citizen of this section, Aug. 27, 1670. From this couple descended those bearing the name in America whether spelled Vermilyea, Vermilya, or as it is now spelled in New York City, Vermilye.

Rickers Revised History of Harlem published in 1904 contains a great deal of historical interest of this family. Johannes and Aeltje's Vermilye's son, John, married Sarah Odell on Oct. 29, 1713. There wer 12 children

Abraham, son of John and Sarah, married Mehitable (?). There were 6 children. Abraham died in 1784.

William, son of Abraham and Mehitable married Phoebe Husted, There were 10 children.

Abram, son of William & Phoebe, married Charity Molineaux, who was a great niece of Ethan Allen. There were 8 children. Abram died in 1822.

Avery, son of Abram and Charity was born Sept. 20, 1820. He married Fanny Mead, March 20, 1844. There were eleven children.

1. David M. b. June 9, 1845, died Oct. 20, 1887. married Catherine Walters. No children.
2. Abraham, b. Dec. 2, 1846. Married Mary T. Benner. There were 4 children.
3. James I. b. Nov. 30, 1849, married Mary Hinton (b. Jan. 4, 1857)in 1876. 4 children.
4. John K. b. Sept. 12, 1852. Married Alice Whitney.

5 children.

5. Joseph, b. Sept. 29, 1853, married Martha Chamberlain. 6 children

6. Josephine, b. Sept. 29, 1853, m. James Putnum of Granite Falls.

7. Samuel E. born May 28, 1858, married Minerva A. Doyle, 1 child.

8. Orville, born April 25, 1861, married Samantha Morrow. 8 children.

9. Jessie C. born June 26, 1863, married Anna T. Wideman. 2 children. Married Grace E. Hontoon. 3 children.

10. Eulila, born Nov. 5, 1866, married N. A. Frost . 8 children.

11. Reuben, born Jan 5, 1869, married Rose Hontoon. 2 children.

The family of James I. Vermilyea:

James I Vermilyea born Nov. 30, 1849, in 1876, married Mary Hinton who was born Jan. 4, 1857, in Olmsted Co. There are four children.

1. Cora, born Feb. 22, 1877. Married John Stocker. They have 1 child, a son, Kenneth born Nov. 21, 1907. He live on a farm in Quincy Twp. Graduated from Elgin H. S.

2. James Mead, born Feb. 17, 1884. Married Anna Peterson of Dover. No children.

3. Ransom Ervin, born Aug. 9, 1891. Married Mary

Boteman of Quincy Twp. There are 3 children:

1. Hugh, b. Sept. 2, 1919. Graduated from Plainview H. S. [illegible]
2. Doris Elaine, b. Sept. 26, 1921.
3. Betty Jean b. Oct. 29, 1923

4. George, born Dec. 5, 1894, married Leona Davis of Plainview Oct. 25, 1917. There are 2 children.
   1. Shirley, born Oct. 30, 1918. Attended McCalister College.
   2. Caryl Marion, born Mar. 11, 1921 Attending High School in St. Paul

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Mr. Vermilyea:

"I was born Nov. 30, 1849 in Troga Co. New York about 4½ miles back from the Susquehanna River and 5½ miles from Owega. The country was all timber then. When I was 7 years old James Buchanan ran for President and defeated John C. Fremont. A barbecue was held and impressed my childish mind. I was 11 years old when Lincoln was elected first.

My first memories are of big timber. The branches were high and we drove between the trees. The leaf mold was 8 to 10 inches deep and acted as a sponge to the melting snow and rain so that there were no floods. This is natures outlet and when it is interfered with, floods result. There was much lumbering on the Nanticook Creek (This ran to the

Susquehanna River) and mill dams were built one below the other. There were 7 mills in 2½ miles. This is now a dry run. Eighty-three or four years ago the water that settled through the leaf mould came out in Springs to the creek. Floods couldn't have happened then but now nature has been robbed of all protection. The land is now practically worthless--and the pity is that when nature was being robbed timber was often sold for less than the cost of getting it to the river. Conservation has been talked of for 50 years--but no one state can ever do much. There's too much jealousy and expense.

When I was 7 years old, I started to school. I walked 1½ miles to school past the saw mills. Just below the last saw mill was and old distillery. Whiskey sold for 25¢ per gallon. Let me tell you the old pure whisky was just as full of the devil as that of today. Lumbermen are noted for drinking. My first teacher's name was Mary Green. Later we moved to another school district and the teacher's name was Mary Ferguson. When I was 12, there was a contest. The one who had most credit marks for the term (3 months), for lessons and behavior was to have a prize. That prize is now in the hands of my grandson, Hugh. (He's been to the show with a fat calf for the last 7 years and this year was in the money). The prize was to be a testament. The teacher, Mary Fergeson, showed me a pocket knife--but suggested a testament, however, I used to get the school together and lecture to them and I guess she thought I was going to be a preacher. I maybe inherited it for my grandfather was a

hard shell Baptist preacher in Duchess Co., N. Y. His name was James Mead. That was about the end of my schooling. After coming to Minnesota, I put in three months at the Crawford District, 6 miles West and ½ mile north of Plainview. I'd never had fractions but I whipped Robinson's Practical Arithmetic in those three months. The teacher's name was Utter. He was the grandfather of Will Mack of Plainview. I was 17 years old then.

After Lincoln was elected, when I was eleven, patriotism ran high in the school. The boys organized companies--had captains, drills and fife and drum. The north was a blaze of patriotism. Boys older than I from our school got into the army. They were supposed to be 18 years old but got in much younger. They enlisted and got into the camp at Binghamton, 20 miles up the Susquehanna.

The word "bully" began to be used in 1862. Someone would say "How do you like that beef?" "It's bully."

In the winter of 1863 (January) my father sold his lumber interests and other property and we left the town of Owego on Mar. 30, 1863. These were the darkest days of the war. The old wood-burning engines were slow and there were so many sick and wounded soldiers and so much war material to be moved that all trains were behind time. We were in Toledo April 1 and 2, and I got my first sight of the horrors of war. Trains coming in from the south brought the wounded who were laid on the floor of the depot with their knapsacks on their heads. They were taken out

on the next train bound for their homes. This is all I know about war--but a sight never forgotten.

We arrived in Winona, April 4. This trip now takes 30 hours. We came by boat from La Crosse to Winona. We got as far west as Rollingstone, April 4th. A man by the name of Denser had a log house where he kept travelers. We sta yed there the night of April 4th. On April 5th we came through to Olmsted County and Quincy township. On April 7th, I hired out for the Spring work to Jotham Holland. He was a very fine man. He sold his land to Chris Amos after the crop was in and left. When I worked for Mr. Holland, I drove Oxen the first day but after that the team of horses. Mr. Holland sowed and two men followed to cover the seed before the pigeons came. (I was 13 and the other "man" 15). When I was paid, I handed my father all I had earned. Boys did not keep their pay then. We were all trying to get ahead. The country was so full of wild pegeons that the sun was often excluded in the morning and evening. Their food was mostly nuts. In 1863 they nested in the big wood near Faribault and flew southeast in the mornings on the Root River to eat acorns. (If they lit on a field of new sown grain they would clear 160 a. in 3 minutes. The ground would be covered with pigeons). In the evening they flew back with their crops full of acorns. When one went--all went. When they were in the east, all were there. When they were in the west, all were in the west. The last heard of them, they were on the N. E. coast of the United States and flew east. Never seen again.

We left New York with $300 and got to Minnesota with $125.00. I went to work on the 8th of April and Father bought a squatter's claim and cabin on Sec. 18 for $100 in the Spring of 1863. I have been a resident of Quincy Twp. ever since.

In the summer of 1863, the Indians moved to the Indian Territory.

After Chas. P. Logan was killed, Charles was studying to be a preacher and the other two boys wanted to go to school, so they wanted to make a sale Mar. 10, 1881. The old auctioneer, Leach, was a radical republican. Logan's were republicans--everybody was. Horace Greely was a statesman and Gen. Grant a soldier. Logan was a Greely man and it was a break from the old Republican party and from the old Demijohn. Gen. grant was a drinking man. The manufacturers of liquor were anxious for the government to take over the care of liquor while it ripened and one of the main questions that came up was bonded warehouses. Grant gave it his support and when it became a law, the liquor interests in St. Louis sent Gen. Grant the finest team and buggy that could be bought. Grant was a great lover of horses.

I don't know how many million gallons were in those warehouses when prohibition became a law. It was kept five years and the government cared for it and was responsible for it to the owner. The owner paid the government for caring for it. How much was in those warehouses, I dont know--nor what became of it. Right here I'll say I never drank liquor nor smoked tobacco--I never ate any either. This is my re-

cipe for long life: Cereal for the evening meal, eat a good meal for breakfast, never drink intoxicating drink, leave tobacco alone have but one wife and be true to her. I believe the last is the most important.

To get back to the Logans and Mr. Leach: Mr. Leach met Mr. Logan and said, "Mr. Logan, I understand you voted for Horace Greeley." "I did," said Mr. Logan, "and I'm proud of it." Leach's answer was, "I want you to know your a ---- fool." After Mr. Logan's death his son's said, "Mr. Leach called our father a "---fool" for voting right and we've got to have a sale and we want you to make it, Jim." I said, "I'll make that sale under one consideration. If I make a success of it you give me $10, if not, nothing." The sale was held Mar. 10, 1881. About two o'clock in the afternoon a gentleman laid his hand on my shoulder and said, "I want one minute of your time, I want a sale a week from today and I want you to make it, can you?" "I can, if I make a success of this one." "If this isn't a success, one was never made of a sale," Mar. 17, 1881 was the date of Gustav Schmidt's sale. While at Schmidt's sale a gentleman stepped up and said, "I want a sale the 28th." So Mar. 28, 1881 was the date of Sam Russell's sale. From that day on for 47 years, I had no competition in the auction work. The last year I had my license, 1928, I sold $115,000 worth of farm property (machinery, horse, cattle, dishes, etc.). Then I got so I couldn't hear so good and had gotten well enough off farming that I wanted to quit. When Hoover went in I was well fixed financially. Had the bank in Plainview and

through failure of people to pay notes etc., we soon had 10 farms on our hands. They wouldn't sell for what the buildings were insured for. No depositor lost a dollar in our bank. No stockholder was assessed and at one time it was the only bank left beween Wabasha and Rochester, I was chairman or director in the bank for 21 years.

Minnesota was anxious for railroads and a bill was passed by the territorial legislature to loan credit to companies to assist in getting railroads built. A company was formed for the Winona and St. Peter R. R. The state signed credit the same as a note and contracts were let for grading and rails at a certain amount per mile. The grading was done from Winona to Stocton Hills, and a short distance west of Eyota to Chester. A short distance was also graded on level ground west of Rochester. These pieces of grading were near the road where they could be seen. The commission that examined the mileage was taken to see these pieces of grading and took the whole distance as graded. Money was collected for the whole distance and work ceased. The men who worked near Chester were Irishmen. The contractors did not pay the men. The government to assist the railroads gave every odd section so that the R. R. would own in fee simple ½ of the land within 6 miles on each side of the R. R. if no land had been taken. If some of the land had been taken, land was given to the R. R's over the 6 mile limit. Government land taken under the Homestead Act now had doubled in price making up for the land given to the R. R'ds.

These Irishmen left near Chester took land under the Homestead Act or bought it from the railroad, and now there is an Irish community there.

After the bonds were signed they drew interest. The bonds were presented to brokers in the east who said they were not worth the paper they were written on. Our state wanted railroads. Teams were hauling produce to LaCrosse etc. A bill was brough before the legislature asking the state to give states rights to a company to finish this railroad. The state had signed for something she didn't get. The legislature donated states rights to any company who would finish the railroad. The contract bonds were given to the same company and made the land bonds valid. The company finished the railroad and sold the land on each side. After the bonds were made legal the cry was "pay your debts," because the same company completed it as started it when the bogus bonds were settled the permanent school fund was used and as far as I know interest is still being paid on that fund. The first cars on this railroad went through St. Charles in the fall of 1864. I want to add that after the railroad got the land they set their own price on it. Land that was worth $600 when they got it, was sold for $2,000.

I want to tell you how men got rich. Suppose a cargo of sugar comes into N. Y. and we'll suppose tarriff is $10,000. The importer goes up to Wall St. and has to have $10,000 in gold or silver to pay for cargo. Greenbacks are at a premium of 2½ so he had to take $25,000 in Soldiers pay to get $10,000 in gold to pay the government. The banker takes $25,000 and exchanges it for government bonds. The government pays 6

mo. interest in advance in coin on the bond under the National Banking law. He drew back 3% --got it in coin. Now he can borrow 90 % on his government bond which would give him $30,000 to do business with. He can buy another government bond for $25,000 and start over agin with $5,00 left over from the first transaction--all from the original investment of $10,000.

I have paid money loaners 15% to borrow money to buy my first farm. The legal rate was 12% but I had to pay a premium in order to be able to pay it back at will. I could get it for 12% if I'd take it for 5 years.

In Feb. 1871 I bought a farm in Sec. 20, Quincy Twp. My brother John was my partner. We paid for it in 4 years. In 1875 we mortgaged the farm and bought a hardware store in Eyota in partnership with W. Dixon. I was in partnership with him until 1878 when I sold to C. S. Ricker. I took a small stock of hardware at Dexter in 1877. I went there in 1878 and stayed until August. There was no grain harvested in Mower County in 1878 on account of the wet weather. (There had been a big crop in 1877). I traded that stock of goods for my brother John's share of personal property on the farm and his share of the grain in the stock. I had a wife and one child at that time and owed $635 and it took longer to pay that $635 than to pay for the farm in the first place (which was $2,000 at 15%). I have lived on a farm in Quincy Twp. ever since.

I earned the first horse I ever had quarrying rock, before I was 21 years old. A man wanted some rock quarried and had a horse, so offered the horse for it. I've built 7 barns and

quarried rock for all of them.

In the early days there was plenty of timber and settlers all built log houses. The stoves in uses in the "fifties" were made 2 back legs long and 2 front legs short. The fire box was in front over the short legs. The oven was over the long legs with a sheet iron lining---when it burned out, it was relined.

Mrs. Vermilyea's family came to Quincy Twp, July 9, 1856 from Ohio. She was born about 100 rds. S. W. of her present home.

History of Vermilyea Family and Reminiscences of James I. Vermilyea.

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The history of the Vermilyea family has been traced back to the 15th Century (1460-1485) and the province of Perugia, Italy, where Stephano Vermigli lived at that time. His son, Peter Martyr Vermigli was ordained to the Priest hood and obtained rapid promotion in the Roman church. At the age of 30 Peter Martyr came under the teaching of Savaronola, whom he heard preach at Florence, and became a convert to Protestantism. He married, and on account of his religion was obliged to flee with his wife to Switzerland. He was called to Oxford, England by Archbishop Cranmer, with whom he collaborated in compiling the first English Prayerbook. Driven out of England on the accession of Queen Mary to the throne, Peter Martyr returned to Switzerland; his wife loving a second time. On the accession of Elizabeth he returned to Oxford and resumes his labors. In 1560 he returned to Zurich where he died in 1562.

The grandson of Peter Martyr, Isaac Vermeille (Vermigli) was baptized in the Walloon Church in London in 1600. His son Johannes was born in Leydon Holland in 1632 and came with his father, brother and two sisters to New amsterdam (New York) in 1662 on the ship Pumberland Church. The original receipt for the passage money of the family is in the Lenox Library in New York City. The family settled in the N.W. corner of Manhatten Island (subsequently known as Harlem).

Johannes Vermilye married Aeltje, daughter of Resolvert Waldron, the leading citizen of this section, Aug 27, 1670. From this couple descended those bearing the name in America whether spelled Vermilyea, Vermilya, or, as it is now spelled in New York City, Vermilye.

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Johannes and Aeltje Vermelye's son, John, Married Sarah Adell on Oct 29, 1713. There were 12 children.

Abraham, son of John and Sarah, married Mehitable (?). There were 6 children. Abraham died in 1784.

William, son of Abraham and Mehitable married Phoebe Husted. There were 10 children.

Abram son of William & Phoebe, married Charity Molineaux, who was a great-niece of Ethan Allen. There were 8 children. Abram died in 1822.

Avery, son of Abram and Charity was born Sept 20, 1820. He married Fanny Mead, March 20, 1844. There were Eleven children.

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5. Joseph b Sept 29 1853 married Martha Chamberlain. 6 children
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The family of James D. Vermilyea:

James D. Vermilyea born Nov. 30, 1849. in 1876 married Mary Hinton who was born Jan. 4, 1857 in Almstead Co. There are four children

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2. James Mead, born Feby. 17, 1884. married Anna Peterson of Dover. No children.

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   1. Hugh, b Sept 2, 1919 graduates from Plainview H.S.
   2. Doris Elaine, b Sept. 26 1921
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Mr. Vermilyea

"I was born Nov. 30, 1849 in Tioga Co. New York about 4½ miles back from the Susquehanna River and 5½ Miles from Owega. The country was all timber then. When I was 7 years old James Buchanan ran for President and defeated John C. Fremont. A barbacue was held and impressed my childish mind. I was 11 years old when Lincoln was elected first.

My first memories are of big timber. The branches were high and we drove between the trees. The leaf mold was 8 to 10 inches deep and acted as a sponge to the melting snow and rain so that there were no floods. This is natures outlet and when it is interfered with, floods result. There was much lumbering on the Nanticoak Creek (this ran ~~from~~ to the Susquehanna River) and mill dams were built one below the other. There were 7 mills in 2½ miles. This is now a dry run. Eighty three or four years ago the water that settled through the leaf mold came out in springs to the creek. Floods could not have happened then but now nature has been robbed of all

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a testament. The teacher, Mary Fergeson, showed me a pocket knife - but suggested a testament, however, I used to get the school together and lecture to them and I guess she thought I was going to be a preacher. I maybe inherited it for my grand father was a hard shell Baptist preacher in Dutchess Co. N.Y. His name was James Mead. That was about the end of my schooling. After coming to Minnesota I went in 3 months at the Crawford Dist 6 miles West and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Plainview. Id never had fractions but I whipped Robinsons Practical Arithmetic in those 3 months. The teachers name was Utter. He was the grand father of Will Mack of Plainview. I was 17 years old then.

After Lincoln was elected, when I was eleven, patriotism ran high in the school. The boys organized companies - had Captains, drills and fife and drum. The north was a blaze of patriotism. Boys older than I from our school got into the army. They were supposed

to be 18 years old but got in much younger. They enlisted and got into the camp at Binghamton, 20 miles up the Susquehanna.

The word "bully" began to be used in 1862. Some one would say "How do you like that beef"? "Its bully".

In the winter of 1863 (January) my father sold his lumber interests and other property and we left the town of Owego on Mar 30, 1863. These were the darkest days of the war. The old wood-burning engines were slow and there were so many sick and wounded soldiers and so much war material to be moved that all trains were behind time. We were in Toledo April 1 and 2 and I got my first sight of the horrors of war. Trains coming in from the south brought the wounded who were laid on the floor of the depot with their knapsacks on their heads. They were taken out on the next train bound for their homes. This is all I know about war - but a sight never forgotten.

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Roar River to eat acorns. (If they lit on a field of new sown grain they would clear 160 a. in 3 minutes. The ground would be covered with pigeons). In the evening they flew back with their crops full of acorns. When one went - all went. When they were in the east, all were there. When in west they were all in the west. The last heard of them, they were on the N.E. coast of the United States & flew east. Never seen again.

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In the summer of 1863 the Indians moved to the Indian Territory.

After Chas. P. Logan was killed, Charles was studying to be a preacher and the other two boys wanted to go to school, so they wanted to make a sale Mar. 10, 1881. The old auctioneer, Leach, was a radical republican. Logans were republicans - every body was. Horace Greely was a statesman and Gen. Grant a soldier.

Logan was a Greeley man. and it was a break from the old Republican party and from the old Demijohn. Gen. Grant was a drinking man. The manufacturers of liquor were anxious for the government to take over the care of liquor while it ripened. and one of the main questions that came up was bonded warehouses. Grant gave it his support and when it became a law, the liquor interests in St. Louis sent Gen. Grant the finest team and buggy that coules be bought. Grant was a great lover of horses.

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meal for breakfast, never drink intoxicating drink, leave tobacco alone, have but one wife and be true to her. I believe the last is the most important.

To get back to the Logans and Mr Leach: Mr. Leach met Mr. Logan and said "Mr. Logan, I understand you voted for Horace Greeley." "I did", said Mr. Logan. "and I'm proud of it." Leach's answer was "I want you to know you're a — fool." After Mr. Logan's death his sons said "Mr. Leach had called their father "a — fool" for voting right and we've got to have a pale and we want you to make it. Jim." I said "I'll make that pale under one consideration. If I make a success of it you give me $10, if not, nothing." The pale was held Mar. 10, 1881. About 2 o'clock in the afternoon a gentlemen laid his hand on my shoulder and said, "I want one minute of your time, I want a pale a week from today and I want you to make it. Can you?" "I can if I make a success of this one." "If this isn't a success, one was never made of

a sale." Mar. 17, 1881 was the date of Gustav Schmidts sale. While at Schmidts sale a gentlemen stepped up and said: "I want a sale the 28th". So Mar 28, 1881 was the date of Sam Russells sale From that day on for 47 years. I had no competition in the auction work. The last year I had my license, 1928, I sold $115,000 worth of farm property (machinery, horses, cattle, dishes etc.). Then I got so I could not hear so good and had gotten well enough off farming that I wanted to quit. When Hoover went in I was well fixed financially. Had the bank in Plainview and through failure of people to pay notes etc we soon had 10 farms on our hands. They would not sell for what the buildings were insured for. No depositor lost a dollar in our bank. No stock holder was assessed and at one time it was the only bank left between Wabasha and Rochester. I was Chairman or director in the bank for 21 years.

Minnesota was anxious for railroads and a bill was passed by the territorial legislature to loan credit to companies. to

assist in getting rail roads built. A company was formed for the Winona and St. Peter. R. R. the state signed credit the same as a note and contracts were let for grading and rails at a certain amt. per mile. The grading was done from Winona to Stocton Hills, ~~and~~ a short distance west of Eyota to Chester. A short distance was also graded on level ground west of Rochester. These pieces of grading were near the road where they could be seen. The commission that examined the mileage was taken to see these pieces of grading and took ~~Lo~~ whole distance as graded. Money was collected for the whole distance and work ceased. The men who worked near Chester were Irishmen. The contractors did not pay the men. The government to assist the railroads gave every odd section so that the R. R. would own in fee simple ½ of the land within 6 miles ~~of~~ on each side of the R. R. if no land had been taken. If some of the land had been taken, land was given to the R. R's over the 6 mile limit. Government land taken

under the Homestead act now had doubled in price making up for the land given to the R. R's.

These Irishmen left near Chester took land under the Homestead act an bought it from the railroad, and now there is an Irish community there.

After the bonds were signed they drew interest. The bonds were presented to brokers in the east who paid they were not worth the paper they were written on. Our state wanted railroads. Teams were hauling produce to La Crosse etc. A bill was brought before the legislature asking state to give states rights to a company to finish this railroad. The state had signed for something she didn't get. The legislature donated states rights to any company who would finish the railroad. The contract bonds were given to the same company and made the land bonds valid. The company finished the railroad and paed the land on each side after the bonds were made legal. the cry was "pay your debts", because the same company completed it as started it. When the bogus bonds were settled the permanent school fund was used. and, as far as I know, interest

is still being paid on that fund. The first cars on this railroad went thro' St. Charles in the fall of 1864. I want to add that after the railroad got the land they set their own price on it. Land that was worth $600 when they got it, was sold for $2,000.00

I want to tell you how men got rich. Suppose a cargo of sugar comes into N.Y. and we'll suppose tariff is $10,000. The importer goes up to Wall St and has to have $10,000 in gold or silver to pay for cargo. Greenbacks are at a premium of 2½. So he had to take $25,000 in Soldiers pay to get $10,000 in gold to pay government. The banker takes $25,000 and exchanges it for government bonds. The government pays 6 mo. interest in advance in coin on the bond under the National Banking law. He drew back 3 o/o — got it in coin. Now he can borrow 90 o/o on his government bond which would give him $30,000 to do business with. He can buy another government bond for $25,000 and start over again with $5,000 left over from the first transaction — all from the original investment of $10,000.

I ~~have~~ paid money to a nero 15 o/o to borrow money to buy my first farm. The legal

rate was 12 o/o but I had to pay a premium in order to be able to pay it back at will. I could get it for 12 o/o if did take it for 5 years.

In Feb. 1871 I bought a farm in Sec 20. Gurney Twp. My brother John was my partner. We paid for it in 4 years. In 1875 we mortgaged the farm and bought a hardware store in Eyota in partnership with W. Dixon. I was in partnership with him until 1878 when I sold to C. S. Ricker. ~~Then~~ I took a small stock of hardware at Dexter in 1877. I went there in 1878 & stayed until August. There was no grain harvested in Mower county in 1878 on account of the wet weather. (There had been a big crop in 1877.). I traded that stock of goods for my brother John's share of personal property on the farm and his share of the grain in the stack. I had a wife and 1 child at that time and owed $635 and it took longer to pay that $635 than to pay for the farm in the first place. (which was $2000 at 15 o/o). I have lived on a farm in Gurney Twp. ever since.

I earned the first horse I ever had quarrying rock, before I was 21 years old. A man wanted some rock quarried

and had a horse, so offered the horse for it. Ive built 7 barns and quarried rock for all of them.

In the early days there was plenty of timber and settlers all built log houses.

The stoves in use in the fifties were made 2 back legs long and 2 front legs short. The fire box was in front over the short legs. The oven was over the long legs, with a sheet iron lining — when it burned out, it was relined."

Mrs Vermilyea's family came to Quincy Twp July 9, 1856 from Ohio. She was born about 100 rds. S.W. of her present home.

WALCOTT, MINNESOTA. WALCOTT MILLS.

The Walcott Mill was built by Donald Grant and Edward Le May, In February, 1871, it was reported that Grant and LeMay contemplated building a mill, on the Straight River, about four miles south of Faribault. Notice was given to Marth Walcott and other interested parties that a commission would meet at the site of the proposed dam on March 16, 1871, to decide on the amount of damage that this dam would cause to lands owned by others than LeMay and Grant.

When it was assured that the mill would be built on the Medford, a new road was laid out from the mill-site to the east prairie. The town of Walcott voted $2500 for a bridge across the Straight River at this point. The contract for this bridge was taken by LeMay and Grant. A bridge that would otherwise have cost #5000, was built by them for half this figure, as the abutments of the bridge were also used for the mill dam. The bridge had a hundred foot span. The abutments were twenty-seven feet from the foundation. Eighty-four yards of stone were used to build them. The dam had a rise of twenty-seven feet from the foundation and was built of logs and plank, filled with stone. The cap timbers of the flume were twelve by fourteen inch oak. The race was planked twenty feet below the wheel pit and the sides were riprapped with boulders.

The mill was thirty-five by forty-six feet upon the ground and sixty-six feet from basement floor to peak. The

foundation walls were of stone five and a half feet thick. The remainder of the building was of wood. The girds nine by twelve and the joists three by ten, placed one foot apart. There were four run of stones in the first story above the basement, with room for another, if needed. The height of this story is eleven feet. Wheat received here and dropped into the bin in the basement, from where it is elevated to the second story which is twelve feet high and will contain one custom and one merchant double bolt, and a smutter. A granary at one end will supply the stones below. The third, or attic story will be used for the storage of machinery. Of the four stones, two are for the merchant, one for custom and one for feed. The flour, as it comes from the stones, will be elevated and cooled by a blast elevator. 325,000 feet of lumber, exclusive of that used in the dam, were required to build this mill. The machinery was built by O.A. Pray of Minneapolis. The Superintendent in charge was M.G. Rawlins, who built the Ames Mill in Northfield. The cost of the mill was over $32,000. The mill was in operation by November 1, 1871.

About a year later a storage elevator thirty-five feet square and as high as the mill, was built. The lower story was nine feet high and provided storage for many barrels of flour. Above this were six bins for wheat, each twenty-two feet deep, with a capacity of about 20,000 bushels. An E.M. LaCrois's Middlings Separator was installed, only four Minn-

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During the year ending August 1, 1872, a total of 137, 524 barrels of lour were milled in Rice County. Of this tatal 3,500 were milled by the Walcott Mill. The value of Mills to a farming community may be seen from the fact that the average price of wheat for the year in and around Faribault, where there were several mills, was one dollar twenty-six cents. In Owatonna paper asks, "why don't we have mills?"

In 1873, the capacity of the mill was eighty barrels of flour daily. Power was supplied by the Straight River. This same year, LeMay and Grant sold a two-thirds interest in the mill to G.E. Skinner and Mr. Henry Chaffee who was superintendent of the mill. During the same year a ninty horse-power steam engine was installed. Steam was furnished by two boilers. This was now one of the finest mills in the state.

At this time the flour milled here was exporting, mostly to Scotland. It was packed in number two hundred-eighty burlap bags for shipment. The story is that the Scotch objected to paying transportation on the barrels, as they took more space and also weighed more. It is believed that this is the first mill to pack flour in bags of this size. Picking up a few sacks, while at the mill, was considered to be quite the thing

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J. Clark was engineer; Joseph Dent, first miller; O.H. Larson, second miller; and Seth K. Humphrey, office employee. Two or three new dwellings for employes were built, and a store built and opened by J.B. Grant. Improvements were being constantly made and a new packing house was built in 1892. Repairs were not carried everywhere, and when a cylinder head blew out, also breaking the other head, Mr. B.B. Sheffield had to go to Milwaukee for repairs. There were thirty cars of wheat on the tracks, and as there was no place to store it, one dollar per car had to be paid until repairs were made. Shortly after this mishap, Jones and Chappuis were awarded a contract to enlarge the elevator to a capacity of 40,000 bushels. By this time quite a village had grown up around the mill.

The Mills were now in excellent condition and had five double sets of nine by twenty-four Allis rollers and reels to match. Mr. Sheffield had seventeen elevators in the Dakotas and Minnesota, for the buying of grain. The capacity of the mill was 1,000 barrels daily, and the furnished freight for twelve cars daily. The biggest run of flour in one day was 1,066 barrels. Over $2,000,000.00 was paid the railroad by the Walcott Mill in fifteen years. The flour was of a very good quality and was known in many places. An inquiry and request for samples was received by Mr. Sheffield, from a buyer in Constantinople.

The mill shut down, after a full week run, at five O'clock in the morning, Sunday November 3, 1895. The customary repairs and overhauling were in progress. Shortly after ten O' clock in the morning, second engineer Hubert Pirkl and fireman Nels Borgman were in the boiler room and saw smoke coming from the pump room. Louis Dassa, Millwright closed the iron doors leading to the pump room and was overcome by smoke. He was rescued with great difficulty. Within fifteen minutes the roof fell in. Only two buildings north of the mill, the dwelling of Walter Scott, chief engineer and that of W.B. Adams, the grain buyer, were saved. Besides the mills, elevators, warehouses, packing houses, office buildings, several hundred cords of wood, three dwelling houses, and two or three barns, the boarding house managed by Thomas Moffat, the store and Post Office owned by L. Knudson, the swelling occupied by Mr. Knudson, and owned by Joseph Kent, the house owned by A.J. Grant, and occupied by Martib Green were burned. Edward Thatcher, head miller, who lived one quarter mile from the mill, lost two barns and several small buildings and some feed. The house owned by Thatcher and occupied by James Ritchie, was also destroyed. The straw stack of Ole Torgusson, half a mile from the mill, also caught fire from the flying embers and his machine shed, some machinery, a buggy, some fodder and nine fat hogs were burned. The books of the Walcott Creamery, which were in the mill office, were destroyed. It was with great difficulty

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The buildings remaining in Walcott were moved to the Polar Star Mill in Faribault. The buildings were loaded bodily on two Minnesota wagons and uplled by eight or ten horses. The moving of these buildings ended the village.

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Lester Blais. June 1936.

WALCOTT, MINNESOTA. Miscellaneous WALCOTT MILLS.

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Lester Blais. June 1936.

[Waldecker, Henry C.]

BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY C. WALDECKER

MOWER COUNTY AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

Henry Waldecker was born in Illinois in 1858. Both his parents were German, his father born in Germany in 1811 and his mother in either 1812 or 1813. Mr. Waldecker does not know the date of their arrival in America but they came singly and met and were married in Illinois.

Henry Waldecker started an apprenticeship at the age of 13 at Freeport, Illinois, under a German-Polish army gun-smith, named Rudolph Felk. All work was done by hand but he maintained a library in connection with the shop and assidiously gathered all books containing new innovations in the art of forging and tempering steel thereby combining theory with practice. All work turned out in this shop was actually manufactured from a raw material base.

After serving an apprenticeship of five years, Mr. Waldecker struck out for himself working for different people, always picking out someone who did outstanding work in tempered steel, especially men who pioneered in new methods.

Up to that time guns were bored by a draw-boring process. H. J. Drew of Dixon, Illinois, advertised what was called the "patent Shoot", that is what is known today as choke boring and is done with reamers. There Mr. Waldecker worked for some time at repairing and manufacturing guns.

These are not to be confused with the general run of guns, each gun being an individual product and targeted. An ice house built of planks was used for this purpose the targets being drawn upon its walls, each gun tested in every manner for performance in actual use. Among the guns manufactured by Mr. Dixon, many were winning pieces in high class shooting matches.

In 1877, Mr. Waldecker went to Decateur, Illinois, to learn mass tempering of steel. This method was introduced by a German named Miller, who tempered steel springs by putting thousands of them in a case. Up to this time the only method known was to temper each individual spring. Naturally, this made spring steel or any kind of tempered steel very expensive. Young Waldecker perfected himself in this art with such success that as a matter or record very few States do not have guns with high standings in competitive shooting made by Waldecker. Some guns even went to foreign countries and for example two sent to Florida and one to California were national prize winners. One special order job went to China. Another order was filled for a gun of special design and was taken to Germany for the purpose of obtaining a sample of the choke-boring method. None of these guns were in any sense "assembled" as all parts were made by him and only the tubing for barrels were directly imported from England in the rough. Mr. Waldecker is the proud possessor of a gun into which he worked all the ideas which had come to him in his long

years of experience. This gun is deserving of a story by itself, particularily so because he worked on it for over fifty years in spare time and only completed the work a few months ago upon retirement from active operation of his shop.

Henry Waldecker came to Austin in 1879 and soon after opened a shop on the north side of the Court House Square, east of the First National Bank Building and he says that game was so plentiful then, there never was a time when he was really caught up with his work.

In this shop he worked as he had been taught, taking the raw material and transforming it into the finished product, always taking a justifiable pride in his work, his main ambition being to excel in his line and to give honest value. Later he moved his shop to a location on east Mill Street which he occupied until the cyclone in 1928, when, the building being badly damaged, he built a shop in the rear of his residence at 508 West Bridge Street. This same shop is now conducted by a former apprentice, Charles Barr, who is a very capable man and in effect carries on the business in which he had been associated with Mr. Waldecker so the only noticeabe change is in the name of the firm. Austin is well provided with a gunsmith and machinist specializing in fine steel work. All the original equipment remains there much or nearly all of it was made by hand.

Henry Waldecker was married in 1881 to Elizabeth Andrews of Austin, daughter of Professor Andrews, leader of the second high ranking regimental band of the State.

According to many old settlers, this band was a factor in making Austin well-known musically. In order to enter this band, Mr. Waldecker, joined the militia company. The band led the regiment at a reception at the Twin Cities celebrating the completion of one of the Northwestern railroads to the Pacific Coast. (Mr. Waldecker does not remember the date but beleives it may have been either the Great Northern of the Northern Pacific.). Among the notables present were General Logan and General Sherman. Mr. Waldecker had drilled this band in the national signals and salutes. On this day they were paid $100 extra for outstanding performance. Mr. Waldecker, today, is the only surviving member of this famous band of bygone days of which Austin and the State were so justly proud.

Mr. Waldecker served on the School Board, Library Board, Charter Board and on many early grand juries. He helped to promote many civic projects of all descriptions. He now lives by himself in a neat and pretty home which he purchased shortly after his marriage and which he has occupied continually since. His wife died in 1936. Mrs. Waldecker was an outstanding musician. She was and organist and leader of choirs all her life until a few months before her death. They had no children but a niece was a frequent visitor. Mr. Waldecker greatly misses his wife but busies himself in caring for the home and surrounding grounds. There is a tree bearing a hybrid apple developed by himself, the result of grafting; the fruit is of a pleasing flavor and not like any other known apple.

Recipients of this fruit claim it has distinct medicinal properties. Mr. Waldecker does not confirm this.

Mr. Waldecker says that he never sought political office nor does he wish to intimate that any office ever sought him. He does not like the use of the personal pronoun. He wishes to be remembered mainly through his various achievements, his famous guns, his work at the Mayo Clinic at Rochester and his several inventions.

Austin,Mower Coumty,Minnesota.

Subject:Pioneer business and personal history of Henry C.Waldecker
(Proprietpr

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H.J.Drew of Dixon Dixon,Illinois advertised what was called the 'patent Shoot',that is what is known today as choke boring and is done with reamers.There Mr Waldecker worked for some time at repairing and manufacturing guns.These are not to be confused with the general run of guns,each gun being an individual product and targeted. an ice house built of planks was used for this purpose the targets being drawn upon its walls,each gun tested in every manner for performance in actual use. Among the guns manufactured by Mr Dixon many were winning pieces in high-class shooting matches.

In 1877 Mr. Waldecker went to Decater,Illinois to learn mass tempering of steel.This method was introduced by a German named Miller who tempered steel springs by putting thousands of them in a case.Up to this time the only method known was to temper each individual spring .Naturally this made spring steel or any kind of tempered steel very expensive.Young Waldecker perfected himself in this art with such success that as a matter of record very few States do not have guns with high standings in competition shooting made by Waldecker,some going to foreign countries for example two being in Florida,one in California which were national prize winners.One special order job going to China.

One order was filled for a gun of special design and was taken to Germany for the purpose of obtaining a sample of the choke-boring method.None of these guns were in any sense'assembled' as all parts were made by him only the tubing for barrels being directly imported from England in the rough.Mr W.is the proud possessor of a gun into which he worked all the ideas which had come to him in his long years of experience.This gun is deserving of a story by itself particularly so because he worked on it for over fifty years in spare time,though how he managed to have any spare time is hard to visualize,and only completed the work a few months ago upon retiring from active operation of his shop.

Henry Waldecker came to Austin in 1879 and soon after opened a shop on the north side of the Court House Square, east of the First National Bank Building and as he says game being so plentiful then there never was a time when he was really caught up with his work.

In this shop he worked as he had been taught, taking the raw material and transforming it into the finished product, always taking a justifiable pride in his work, his main ambition being to excel in his line and to give honest value. Later he moved his shop to a location on east Mill St. which he occupied until the cyclome in 1928, when, the building being badly damaged he built a shop in the rear of his residence at 508 West Bridge St.. This same shop is now conducted by a former apprentice, Charles Barr who is a very capable man and in effect carries on the business in which he had been associated with Mr. Waldecker so the only change noticeable is the change in the name of the firm. Austin is well provided with a gunsmith and machinist specializing in fins steel work; All the original equipment remains there much or nearly all of being made by hand.

Henry Waldecker was married in 1881 to Elizabeth Andrews of Austin daughter of Professor Andrews, leader of the second high ranking regimental band of the State. All th local old-timers will testify that this band was a factor in putting Austin on the map, musically.

In order to enter this band Mr. W. joined the militia company. This band led the regiment at a reception at the Twin Cities celebrating the completion of one of the northwestern railroads to the Pacific Coast. (either G.N. or N.P., Mr. W. does not remember the date) when among other notables Generals Logan and Sherman were present. Mr. W. had drilled this band in the national signals and salutes. On this day they were paid $100.00 extra for outstanding preformance. By the way Mr. waldecker, the narrator is the only surviving member of this famous band of days gone by, of which Austin and the State was so justly proud.

How such a busy man found time to take part in so many activities is beyond understanding but he did serve on the School Board, Library Board, Charter Board and served on early Grand Juries. His name also appears in many lists of people taking part in pushing worthy civic projects of all descriptions. He now lives by himself in a neat and pretty home which he purchased shortly after his marriage and which he has occupied continually since. His beloved helpmate died during 1936. She was an outstanding musician being organist and leader of choirs from childhood until a few months before her passing. They had no children but a niece is a frequent visitor.

Needless to say Mr. Waldecker greatly misses the partner of his joys and sorrows. He busies himself in caring for the home and grounds which show loving care. There is a tree bearing a hybrid apple developed by himself, the result of grafting, the fruit being of a pleasing flavor, not like any other known apple. Neighbors, who have been recipients of this fruit claim it has distinct medicinal properties. Mr. Waldecker does not confirm this.

Mr Waldecker wishes to state that he never sought political nor office nor does he wish to intimate that any office ever sought him. He does not like the use of the personal pronoun; this made it somewhat difficult to get a story from him and this was only possible because the writer had some information concerning different achievements such as the famous gun, work done by him in the shop maintained by the Mayo Clinic at Rochester for the making of surgical braces, etc., also several inventions of which we will learn in a separate story as Mr. W. wishes it so.

[Waldecker, Henry C.]

INVENTIONS BY HENRY C. WALDECKER

MOWER COUNTY AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

When electric lights first came into general use, the arc light was used wherever there were electric street lights, also in some business houses and factories. These were not the light we know today as they did not produce a steady light but flashed and therefore were really damaging to eyesight. Mr. Waldecker made and patented a contrivance to correct this condition and sold the patent rights to a banker named Harry Batchelder from Miles City, Montana for $10,000 cash, retaining ten per cent royalty rights. Mr. Waldecker voluntarily reduced this amount to 2½ per cent as upon investigation it seemed excessive. Waldecker and Batchelder took this contrivance to New York City and demonstrated it in the store of Charles, Broadway and Rouse, and also went to the shop of Thomas Edison with it. At that time the electric light business was controlled by Thompson and Houston of New York and they were interested to the extent of making Batchelder an offer to buy his interest for $20,000, double his money. but he refused.

They went to Chicago and made ready to manufacture their light, Mr. Waldecker making the machinery for the manufacture of the parts. They made and sold a goodly number of their lamps but being inexperienced in the commercial field they could not compete with the combination which had been formed by Mr. Edison and the Thompson-Houston interests

so Mr. Batchelder eventually was out his investment but being a wealthy man took it in stride. Of course, Mr. Waldecker's dreams of royalties went glimmering. It was just simply impossible to compete with the inventions of Mr. Edison.

To the inventive genius of Mr. Waldecker may be given the credit for the idea of the so-called safety doors in use in all school rooms and publice buildings today. His second invention was a safety device to prevent jamming of doors. There was a time when in case of a fire or any cause for quickly evacuating a room there was always the danger of being trampled and crushed against doors. Mr. Waldecker patented a device which was the fore runner of the self opening door upon pressure being applied, a device which has been improved upon since and in some form is in general use today. This time he took a partner to push the commercial end. However, someone else manufactured a similar device and having unlimited financial backing covered the field pretty thoroughly so the inventor's venture into the field of business was a failure financially.

Being a manufacturer and repairer of guns, naturally suggested the inventing of a safety catch for guns, and to him is due the credit for these now in general use on all automatic pistols and guns. He offered his invention to the Smith & Wesson people but they professed not to be interested and kept putting him off until he became convinced of his inability to realize any financial reward

Finally a man appeared who as it later developed was an under-cover man for the fire arm firm. He bought the patent rights from its inventor for the trifling sum of $300 after agreeing with him that perhaps it would never be of any financial value but saying that he was willing to pay a small sum just as a gamble.

In connection with the accounts of Mr. Waldecker's inventions, it is well to mention some work done by this amazing man at the Mayo Hospital at Rochester. About twenty years ago, Mrs. Waldecker was taken to the Mayo Hospital to undergo a very serious operation. Her husband closed his shop at Austin and went with her, staying during a tedious convalescense. Time hung heavily upon this normally busy man and as he says he puttered around until he discovered that there was a shop operated in connection with the hospital for making many of the braces and forms for casts used there. He obtained permission to make a frame to hold the weight of the bed covering off his suffering wife thus adding in some measure to her comfort. There he became acquainted with a kindred spirit, the mechanic in charge of the shop who discussed his perplexities with him. First, as Mr. Waldeker relates, the metal frame used in taking X-Ray pictures had always given trouble so our genius set to work and with a little experimenting got it to working perfectly. He was given a free hand with authority to purchase anything he wanted for improving the equipment of the shop and an offer to remain in charge of this

department. He did not accept this offer but improved the equipment greatly perfecting the method of milling and fitting the trepan and fastening same with a screw made of live bone among other things which would be hard for the layman to adequately describe. (Details may be had at the Mayo clinic in their records of the year 1917).

It would seem as though Mr. Waldecker had done enough to round out a good long active life but he is at present engaged in the study of astronomy and is making a chart for his neice who is a teacher, depicting the relative size of the five largest planets, their distance from the sun and from each other. This is as yet only a sketch.

Few people knowing this unassuming, studious man have even a remote idea of his achievements and ability.

Austin,Mower County,Minnesota

Subject: Inventions by Henry C.Waldecker

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They made and sold a goodly number of their lamps but being inexperienced in the commercial field they could not compete with the combination which had been formed by Mr Edison and the Thompson-Houston interests so Mr Batchelder eventually was out his investment but being a wealthy man took it in stride. Of course Mr W's dreams of royalties went glimmering.It was just simply impossible to compete with the inventions of Mr Edison. .

Safety Device to prevent jamming of doors.

To the inventive genius of Mr.Waldecker may be given the credit for the idea of the so-called safety doors in use in all school rooms and public buildings today and which we accept as a matter of course. There was a time when in case of a fire or any cause for quickly evacuating a room there was always the danger of being trampled and crushed against doors. So Mr W.pat ented a device which was the fore runner of the self opening door upon pressure being applied,a device which has been improved upon since and in some form is in general use today. From the royalties accruing from the manufacture Mr W, the inventor, realized more income than from his regular business. In this he took in a partner to push the commercial end. Someone else manufactured a similar device and having unlimited financial backing covered the field pretty thoroughly so the inventor's venture into the field of business was a failure financially.

Safety device on automatic guns and pistols.

Next page

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This is as yet only a sketch.Few people knowing this unassuming studious man have even a remote idea of his achievements and ability.

[Weling, John]

JOHN "BARNEY" WELING, PIONEER

WILKIN COUNTY MC CAULEYVILLE, MINNESOTA

John "Barney Weling came to Wilkin County, McCauley-ville in 1866. He was born at Jefferson, Missouri, in 1850. In 1858 his family drove an ox team to St. Cloud, Minnesota. Mr. Weling tells his own story of his trip and early day life.

"We procured an old Virginian Mover Wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen and in June our caravan, leading six cows, started northward on our journey. We crossed the Missouri Pacific Railroad and then headed straight north for St. Paul, Minnesota. At that time St. Paul had a population of 3000 people and Minneapolis had less. The entire trip took us forty-two days with never a roof over our head at any stop. In all that distance we crossed and saw only one railroad, the Missouri Pacific.

From St. Paul we moved to a farm in Stearns County. On the road to Stearns County we met queer looking wagons, two wheeled outfits. They were wider than our wagons, the wheels much larger and higher and each drawn by donkey or oxen and driven by Indian or half-breed who were generally connected with the Hudson Bay Company. They came from all over Canada and were heavily loaded with furs of all kinds including Buffalo robes; the carts were all headed for St. Paul where the fur would be unloaded and other goods hauled back.

We remained here on the farm until 1862. This was the

time of the Indian Massacre of the whites at St. Cloud. In June 1866, McCauley hired me to clerk for him at Fort Abercrombie, later called McCauleyville, at $25.00 per a month including board and room.

The distance from St. Cloud to Abercrombie, 160 miles, we covered in three days by stage coach. The stage, a four wheeled affair, driven with four horses, carried U. S. Mail, light express and six or seven passengers at ten cents a mile.

There were stations every fifteen miles where fresh horses were gotten, and passengers could get something to eat. The meal would consist of bread and good butter, pork and beans, potatoes, tea or coffee and brown sugar and for desert we had dried apple sauce. The price was 50¢.

A bed could also be had at the same uniform price of 50¢. The bed would be a few 2 x 4's, a few boards nailed to the same wooden slats in the bottom of the frame instead of springs, straw tick with hay, pillows the same, and a Buffalo robe. Such a bed accomodated two or three persons and were given only to the best looking of guests. Whenever the ranch was crowded the rest slept on the floor at the same rate of 50¢ per a bed. We met hundreds of carts bound for St. Paul where the furs were exchanged for tea, sugar, coffee, tobacco, powder, lead, rum and blankets. To make two trips a summer season was hard and considered good work. The road was continually lined with these carts.

I reached Abercrombie, June 30, 1866. About a month before, Company D and F of the U. S. Infantry under Major Hall releived the volunteer soldiers who had been stationed

there under Col. Adams. I went to work at once in a store built of green elm logs, such as grow along the Red River, covered with shingles and elm bark. The floors were one inch boards not matched or planed, counters and shelves the same material. Customers were soldiers, freighters, trappers, hunters, half-breeds and Indians. Most of the Indians were Sioux but at times some Chippewas would drift over from Ottertail County which was at that time entirely devoid of white settlers.

Most of my customers could not talk English, so I had to learn to get along by signs and motions as best as I could until I picked up some of the different languages. My greatest trouble with customers was they all wanted Whisky. We had lots of it, the fighting kind, on hand. It sold for $8.00 to $12.00 per a gallon according to the customer and cost very little. It was a worse business than blind-pigging in North Dakota, for law in Dakota would not kill you for selling whiskey. Since our whisky was the fighting kind we had to watch out lest they use some weapons on us. The soldiers were the worst to get along with. Most of the time they were broke and had no money but wanted whiskey.

The three days journey to the Fort had broke me, so I was not surprised at the bill of fare. After supper my boss, a Mr. Parker, said to take some buffalo robes and fix my bed on the counter and I slept there for two years. The bill-of-fare was the same here as on the journey except for cat-fish. The river was full of cat fish weighing between 15 to 25 pounds. All that had to be done was to

put a frog on a line. When winter came meat changed from pork to Buffalo. All of the territory west of the Red river was inhabited only by Indians and buffalo and in 1866 I saw herds of Buffalo between the Red River and Wild Rice River.

The first winter here, I bought and traded over 1800 buffalo hides and all kinds of other furs. I also bought and handled great stacks of Pemican.

In 1876 the first Post Office was established here. Mr. Parker was appointed Post Master and I was deputy. When the mail went further it was carried on horseback in the summer and in the winter by dog sleds made of thin pieces of oak or ash board turned up in front like a cutter runner with buffalo leather tacked all around in place of a box. Two or three large Esquimox dogs could travel sixty to seventy-five miles a day.

In the summer of 1867 the goverrment began to build the forts of Ranson on the Sheyenne River and Totten at Devils Lake. That was the end of the buffalo and Indians at Fort Abercrombie.

In 1868, Mr. McCauley associated himself with some men from St. Paul and sent a crew to Pine Lake, Ottertail County, to get out pine logs and built a large saw mill at what is now McCauleyville. Next summer the logs were floated down the river and were sawed into lumber, later sold to parties at Winnipeg and moved to that place on rafts floated down the river.

In August, 1868, there came a strange looking man wanting to buy some 8 x 10 window sash with six lights.

We fortunately had one. It was such a surprise to me that I had to find out what he wanted with one. He said that he had located on a claim where the Ottertail and the Bois De Sioux rivers came together and that some day he was going to have a town or city there. I had a good laugh and went to tell about the town-site man and we all had a good laugh. The stranger was Morgan T. Rich the founder of Wahpeton and his calculations came true.

At that time I quit the employ of McCauley and went to St. Cloud and since I was not old enough myself to file on a claim, I had my father who was 65 do so for me. We bought two yoke of oxen and started for the Red River Valley. I broke up a small peice of land and sowed it to oats, barley and potatoes. Everthing grew splendidly. The crops looked fine till harvest then the grasshoppers came in great swarms and ate everything but the straw. This kept up till 1876 when they left us. I had to haul freight, put up hay and do anything that came along to make a living.

In 1872 the St. Paul & Pacific reached Breckenridge. For a number of years it took two days to run from Breckenridge to St. Paul and the fare was 5¢ a mile.

In 1874, at the age of 24, I became tired of batching and began to look around for a wife. At that time most girls around here were half-breeds and Indian blood did not appeal to me so in the fall of 1874 I went to St. Cloud solely to get a wife. I finally succeeded but it took me

the whole winter. On the 30th of March, 1875, I, John Barner Weling, married Anna Robbens and on the same day started for the Red River Valley.

Nothing of importance happened to us, we settled down to farming and thanks to the splendid Red River soil for 39 years it has not failed us."

They have eight children. Mr. Weling died in 1917. The old Homestead is still in the Weling family.

JOHN BARNEY WELING, WILKIN COUNTY PIONEER.

John "Barney" Weling came to Wilkin County, McCauleyville in I866. He was born at Jefferson Mo. I850. In I858 they drove ox teams to St. Cloud Minn. Mr. Weling tells his own story pretty good and am enclosing a writing by him telling of his trip and early day life.

Quote " We procured an old Virginian Mover Wagon drawn by two yoke of oxen and in June our caravan, leading six cows started ~~XXX~~ northward on journey. They crossed the Mo. Pac. R R and then headed straight north for St Paul Minn. At that time St. Paul had a population of 3000 people and Minneapolis had less. The entire trip took us forty- two days never a roof over our head at any stop. In all that distance they crossed and saw only one railroad the Mo.Pac.

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In June I866 McCauley hired me to clerk for him at Fort Abercrombie later called McCauleyville, at $25.00 a month and Board and Room.

From St. Cloud to Abercrombie, the distance is I60 miles, which we coveded in three days by stage coach. The stage was a four wheeled affair, four horses, carried U . S . Mail , light express and driven with six or seven passangers, at ten cents a mile.

There were stations every fifteen miles where fresh horses were gotten, and passangers could get something to eat. The meal would

consist of bread good old butter, pork and beans, potatoes, tea, coffee, and brown sugar, for desert we had dried apple sauce. The price was .50.

You could also get a bed at same uniform price .50 cents . The bed would be a few 2 X 4's, a few boards nailed to the same, wodden slats in the bottom of the frame instead of springs, straw tick with hay , pillows the same, and Buffalo robe. Such a bed accomodated two or three persons and were given only to the best looking of guests. Whenever the ranch was crowded the rest slept on the floor at the same uniform rate of . 50 cents a bed. We met hundreds of carts bound for St. Paul where the furs were exchanged for tea, sugar, cofee, tobaco, powder, lead, rum and blankets. To make two trips a summer season was hard and consider ed good work. The roar was continually lined with these carts.

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The old Homestead is still in the Weling family.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. WEST HOTEL.

The site of the West Hotel was purchased in 1881, from S.H. Mattison for $46,000. The plans were drawn that year by L.S. Buffington, and work on the excavation began in 1882. The foundation was laid that summer and fall and work on the superstructure was begun in the spring of 1883, and the last brick was laid in December of that year. The hotel, not entirely finished, was opened to the public July 21, 1884, for the National Grand Army of the Republic convention. Four hundred guests were registered; seventy-five of them were forced to occupy cots. The formal opening occurred the night of November 19, 1884, when a fine banquet was given in honor of the event.

The West Hotel stands today as among the first enduring monuments to northwest enterprise to attract more than passing attention to Minneapolis, nationally. The celebration of the completion of the Northern Pacific railroad the year before the hotel opened , had put Minneapolis on the railroad map of the country. The holding here of a good sized industrial exposition the year following and the National Republican convention in 1892, were events that caused passing comment. But the building of a hotel that cost a million dollars, which compared with any in the country in point of size and elegance created real astonishment. Large and finely appointed hotels were not as common in those days as now. New York had only the Fifth Avenue and the Windsor that were remarkable. Chicago, the Grand Pacific and the Palmer House; Philadelphia, the Continental and Girard; Boston, Youngs and the Parker House; Cincinnati, the Burnett; St. Louis, the Southern and the Planters; Pittsburgh, the Mononghahela and the Henry; San Francisco,

the Palace; St. Paul, which ranked Minneapolis in population, had the Merchants and the Metropolitan, which were greatly outclassed by the West.

It was a wonderful thing then for a frontier town with a population of less than 100,000 to have a hotel eight stories high with a lobby that could hold a thousand people; a dining room, that could hold five hundred and with four hundred guest rooms. Yes, a regular palace too of marble and pressed brick and a wealth of ornamentation in the way of mahogany, imported marbles, bronze, brass and stained glass.

A hotel too that was richly furnished and lighted by electrity; turkish baths in its basement, a New York manager and a French chef, together with such elegancies as private baths and finger bowls was something to cause talk the country over.

The thousands who came to the G.A.R. convention carried its fame to all points of the compass. Minneapolis, itself was the least surprised of all. You can turn back to the newspapers of that year, even to the month, week and day of the opening of the hotel and find scarcely more than a mention of it. The Tribune of July 21,1884, had only this notice the day the hotel opened: "The opening of the West Hotel occurs at 2 o'clock this afternoon and will do a regular business after that hour . Some have thought that after the rush incident to the encampment that the hotel will be closed until hotel is absolutely finished, but such is not the case. Dinner will be served in the grand dining room at 5 to 8 P.M. and during the course of the day, a number of representative citizens will lend their presence to the occasion. The manager requests that during the morning hours the workmen and employees will be left alone as much as possible. Doubtless the crowds that would visit the magnificent structure will take

the hint and stay away".

This was the sole advance notice of an event of real significance which even to the larger Minneapolis of today would have received columns of newspaper attention. The opening of the hotel received this slight attention from the Tribune, the next day: "The opening of the mammoth West Hotel occurred yesterday afternoon. For days work has been pushed with a greater energy and zeal than can well be imagined and last Saturday experienced hotel men declared that the house could not be ready for the time announced, but at 2o'clock the hour appointed, guests were admitted from that time until midnight."

Throngs of visitors crowded the lobby and looked upon the magnificent work before them. Hundreds applied for rooms, and while accomodations were furnished those who had previously engaged them, hundreds had to be turned away. Dinner was served in the grand dining room between 6 and 8 o'clock, to several hundred people and the service being as prompt and efficient as if the house had been running for months. The Danz orchestra furnished the music.

The first man to register was M.E. Ingells of Cincinnati with the family. Minneapolis was represented by George A. Pillsbury, John S. Pillsbury, W.B. Washburn, George A. Camp, L.S. Buffington, William S. King, John De Laittre, J.F.R. Foss and hundreds of other prominent citizens.

A very elaborate menu of imported foods was served for $1.00 table d'hote which indicates considerable difference in the cost of living at high class hotels with the present time.

The Tribune also had a local paragraph concerning the scene at night as follows: "At 2 o'clock this morning,fully five hundred ladies and gentlemen were collected in the rotunda of the West

Hotel waiting to be assigned rooms. The ladies were sitting on the stairs and about the floor on their baggage until their male escorts could get to the front and register. So far as it could be learned all of these guests seeking accomodation had spoken for rooms in advance and expected to find them in readiness. Some complaint was made at the failure of the West Hotel management to keep their promises both as to rooms and prices. Adjutant General Pease of Missouri, was one of the complaining guests and expressed considerable indignation. There was also a police story printed that when manager C.W. Sheppard undertook to rebuke some Chicago plumbers for making too much noise, he was very roughly handled."

Of course, the leading citizens, especially those owning real estate, who were keeping an eye to the development of the city were vastly pleased to have such a hotel given to Minneapolis, without a bonus being asked or any exertion on their part. They turned out that opening day in large numbers and registered in the Morrocco, bound and gilt edged book to be preserved as a souvenir.

But it must be said of the people of Minneapolis generally that they did not enthuse greatly and were rather luke warm. Some of them rather sniffed at the proposition and declared that ~~the~~ it was fully twenty five years in advance of the town, and they were right too as history proved. Some seemed to actually resent the West as being "too high toned".

After the first flush of curiosity had been satisfied and the echoes of the G.A.R. convention had died away, when every body of much account had either enjoyed a meal or had a drink at its bar, there developed an atmosphere of almost chilly indifference as to its prosperity. This, the proprietor, Colonel John I. West was quick to resent and there were bitter years before him when he saw but few days of profit and many of losses.

Colonel West as the proprietor of the Nicollet Hotel, a smaller hostelry had been making money at a gratifying rate for a number of years, and the change was not pleasing. He had a proud and impetuous nature and was not slow nor mild in expressing his feelings. Still he had an abiding faith in Minneapolis that sustained him and he stood the grind of disappointment, worry and chagrin with a fortitude that was really quite heroic, even if he did at times let his pent up wrath have free reign. Fifteen years later he died just a time when the struggle was about over and the future looked rosy. To his credit it can be said that he never lowered the standard of the hotel, that he spent money when he had to borrow it for repairing its wear and tear and even making of improvements. He had a pride in its good name and fame and that kept him on his mettle when a weaker man would have collapsed.

He did not lack for friendships and there were those who made his cause their cause. Either that or they realized what an advertisement the West Hotel was to Minneapolis and what a calammity it would be should it fail. Chief among those was the late Thomas Lowery, whose magnetic personality, boyancy of spirit and optimism turned many a forlorn hope into success and kept many a project for the good of Minneapolis from wobbling and falling down.

How the West came to be Built.

Charles W. West of Cincinnati, a bachelor had made a fortune of several million dollars in milling and railroad deals. He became very much interested in his nephew John I. West, who, born in Philadelphia, raised at Baltimore and after serving in the Confederate army, during the Civil War, had become a railroad conductor finally locating in Minneapolis, where he had leased

the Nicollet Hotel, and was making money very fast. Mr. West visited Minneapolis and liked the looks of the growing town. He thought it had a future, also that his nephew was a fine hotel man who deserved encouragement. He kept an eye on his nephew who occasionally visited him when on eastern trips and with the result that he finally agreed to furnish the financial backing necessary for the building of what should be the finest hotel in the west.

Colonel John I. West was to invest $125,000 which he had made from conducting the Nicollet House, together with what he had realized from some real estate speculations.

The site decided upon was then occupied by the residence of S. H. Mattison, a retired capitalist. Mr. Mattison agreed to take $40,000 for the property one day and the bargain was closed, all but signing the deeds. The next morning he said his wife wouldn't let him sell for less than $46,000. The raise was met and the deal was closed.

L.S. Buffington, the leading architect of Minneapolis, prepared the plans during the year 1881, going to Cincinnati and presenting them in detail to Mr. West and also making a tour of the country to study the architecture and arrangements of leading hotels. The result of his work is the hotel as it stands today, with the exception of a tower which was to surmont the Fifth Street side of the building, a combination of the Queen Anne and Colonial styles of architecture, occupying a ground space of one hundred seventy-five feet on Hennepin Avenue and one hundred ninety-six feet on Fifth Street, height two hundred feet: eight stories.

Its distinctive feature was to be the largest rotunda, or office lobby, with the exception of possibly the Planters at St.

Louis and the Palmer House at Chicago, occupying the center of the street floor with entrances twenty-five feet wide from Hennepin and Fifth Street, its dimensions 70x90 feet, height, thirty-seven feet with a broad promenade encircling three of its sides on the second floor and framed in large panels of plate glass.

Joliet marble and red pressed brick with terra cotta ornamentation were to be used for exterior construction. Tennessee, and Marie marbles for the rotunda, mahogany and cherry for the wood work with bronze and brass for metal ornamentation and the floor of white marble tiling.

The hotel was to be conducted on the American plan and the grand dining room was located on the second floor without any provision for the restaurants and cafes necessary for a hotel on the European plan, which is the prevailing style of hotel management today. The dining room was to be twenty-eight feet in height and of moorish decoration. Like the rotunda it was to be unbroken by a single supporting column from wall to wall. Some other dimensions are interesting as indicating the generous scale on which the hotel was laid out. There was to be a ladies' room, 40 x 50 feet; kitchen; 50 x 84 feet; billard room, 50 x 80 feet; besides parlors, club rooms for private parties, and four hundred seven guest rooms, some of them twenty feet square. There was to be a great basement the full size of the building, sixteen feet high with rooms for turkish baths, heating and refrigerating plants, drying and store rooms etc.

The hotels of America today are not built with such prodigal disregard for the economies of space. Everything about the hotel was to be roomy and comfortable.

It required 37,000 yards of carpet to cover the floors of the rooms and corridors. The plans were finally approved and the foun-

dation was laid during the summer and fall of 1882, and the superstructure was finished in December of the following year.

Mr. Buffington, the inventor of steel construction in America, made partial use of this new idea in supporting the domes of the lobby and the grand dining rooms with girders of steel. So thorough was the work of construction that today the West Hotel, since its weight has been adjusted by settling, is as strong and enduring as it was when built without a crack or a break, its wall being capable of supporting several more stones if desired.

Mr. Buffington also attended to the furnishing, buying its furniture and rugs and installing the kitchen, heating plant etc. The totel cost was in the vicinity of $1,000,000 but would be nearly twice that today as for instance the lot costing $46,000 is worth over $500,000 as over $3,000 a front foot is possible for Hennepin Avenue today.

The cost probably exceeded Mr. West, anticipation and unfortunate speculations for a while at least cut down his resources and there was for a little time, doubt that the hotel's construction might continue. A mortgage for $400,000 was placed upon the building and the construction of the ornamental tower was abandoned, although the steel was bought and lies today in the hotel.

Mr. West died before the hotel was entirely finished, September 11, 1884. The suite of rooms on the second floor fitted up for him especially and occupied for a number of years later by Lee Spafford, he never even saw.

It is known that the hotel gave Mr. West considerable worry before his death. It is said that a very large grain deal went against him and he placed the mortgage on the property. On his death he left $75,000 to his nephew for completion of the hotel's tower.

The extending of the glad hand, the welcoming of the coming and

departing guest fell chiefly to Colonel West, who had his private office to the left of the clerk's counter, and he made it a point to be out in the lobby shaking hands and visiting.

Colonel West was somewhat above medium in height and was a good figure with almost military outlines. He stood erect and was very careful about his personal appearance. He wore generally a silk hat, either a Prince Albert coat or long cutaway with a flower in his lapel, a white vest and light trousers. He was very fussy in his habits to preserve his health, took long horse back rides in the morning, afternoon walks at stated times and was particular about his bed time. In the dining room with his family he occupied a table in view of the whole room and was apt to bow a welcome to acquaintances when they entered.

The rates were $3.00 a day and up, which included room and meals and the price of the evening meal was one dollar which could not be duplicated at a la carte price for three times that amount.

The formal opening of the hotel November 19, was marked by a banquet at ten dollars a plate, a seven course dinner with wine. The table was graced with pyramids of game, a horn of plenty, a mineature race track and a hunting scene. The menu included canvas back duck and pheasants, pompano from New Orleans at seventy cents a pound, and terrapin from Baltimore at thirty-six dollars a dozen.

At this occasion, Minneapolis was represented by its prominent business men and city officials. Governor Hubbard was present, Mayor O'Brien of St. Paul and Mayor Pillsbury of Minneapolis. The speakers responding to toasts included General W.D. Washburn and E.M. Wilson who presented Colonel West with a very handsome silver vase, beautifully engraved which stands on mezzannine today.

James J. Hill, P.H. Kelly and president Northrup were speakers besides Colonel West.

Times began to tighten, people began to have their parties at the Nicollet House again where the cost was comparatively low and the West suffered.

The second winter the losses averaged $100.00 a day. A donation party was planned and $3,000 was raised instead of $30,000 expected. This was not enough to pay one months coal bill. Times gradually improved and just as the ledgers were growing black again and the hotel was able to stand on its own feet again, Colonel West died, March 1, 1901.

A.W. Bronson, husband of the elder daughter became manager but disliked hotel work and sold out at a sacrifice July 1, 1903, to Colonel Charles H. Wood, one of Nicollet Houses propietors, besides assuming the $400,000 mortgage Colonel Wood is said to have paid less than $100,000. He conducted it with profit till February 24, 1905, when he died. Miss Helen Wood, his daughter without experience, managed it successfully. She spent over $200,000 in improvements and changes and yet make a good profit.

Wednesday, January 10, 1906, a fire which started at 7 o'clock in the morning burned its way up the elevator shaft on Fifth Street side. Twelve persons lost their lives or received injuries (?). The heroic death of Captain John Berwin, a fireman was carrying an aged woman on his back when his belt broke and he fell from the pompier ladder but managed to throw her to safety in a third story window before falling to his death. $30,000 was ~~all~~ the damage.

Some of the notables who have stayed there are General John A Logan, General W. B. Sherman, General P.H. Sheridan, General L. Fairchield, Dr. John Hall of New York and Howard Crosby. In 1892, all the politicans coming to the national convention which nominated Benjamin Harrison stayed there and it was crowded night and day. William Mc Kinley, Chauncey M. Depew, (who claimed bath-

tubs were too small). President Grover Cleveland spoke from the balcony accompanied by his young bride. Some noted theatrical people who stayed there are Nat Goodwin, Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Sarah Bernhardt and many others.

On February 16, 1925, Harry A. Sodini purchased from Miss Helen E. Wood the West Hotel for $1,150,000.

[Winkley Artificial Limb Co.]

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. WINKLEY ARTIFICIAL LIMB COMPANY.

One of several companies but perhaps the most outstanding in its trade is the Winkley Artificial Limb Company. It should be recorded that this business was invented here, patented from here and the first business of this kind in the world was right in Minneapolis.

Mr. Lowell E.Jepson, president of the company, and also president of the Association of Limb Manufacturers of America tells this story. He says: "I had been educated as a physician, but in the eighties it was much more remunerative to buy and sell fast-stepping buggy horses. Early in 1887, I had some business dealing with a Mr.Winkley of Faribault. At the completion of our business the conversation turned to Mr.Winkley's affliction, an amputated leg. Mr.Winkley told me that he was experimenting and making for himself a new type, double slip-socket, artificial limb. This limb was completed and patented. During the year, 1887, Mr. Winkley made six of these new type limbs. In 1888, I bought out one-half interest in the patents and a partnership was formed. We moved to Minneapolis and located at Nicollet and Fourth Street where Maurice L.Rothschild is now located. This was the start of the artificial limb business in Minneapolis." Now located at Fourteenth Avenue North and Washington Avenue and is the largest of its kind in the United States.

Mr.Jepson is a congenial talker and willing to show anyone through the plant. His products are sold throughout the United States, Mexico and Central and South America. The building is forty feet by one hundred feet and two stories in height.

Source of information: Personal interview.

F.Boobar. October,1936.