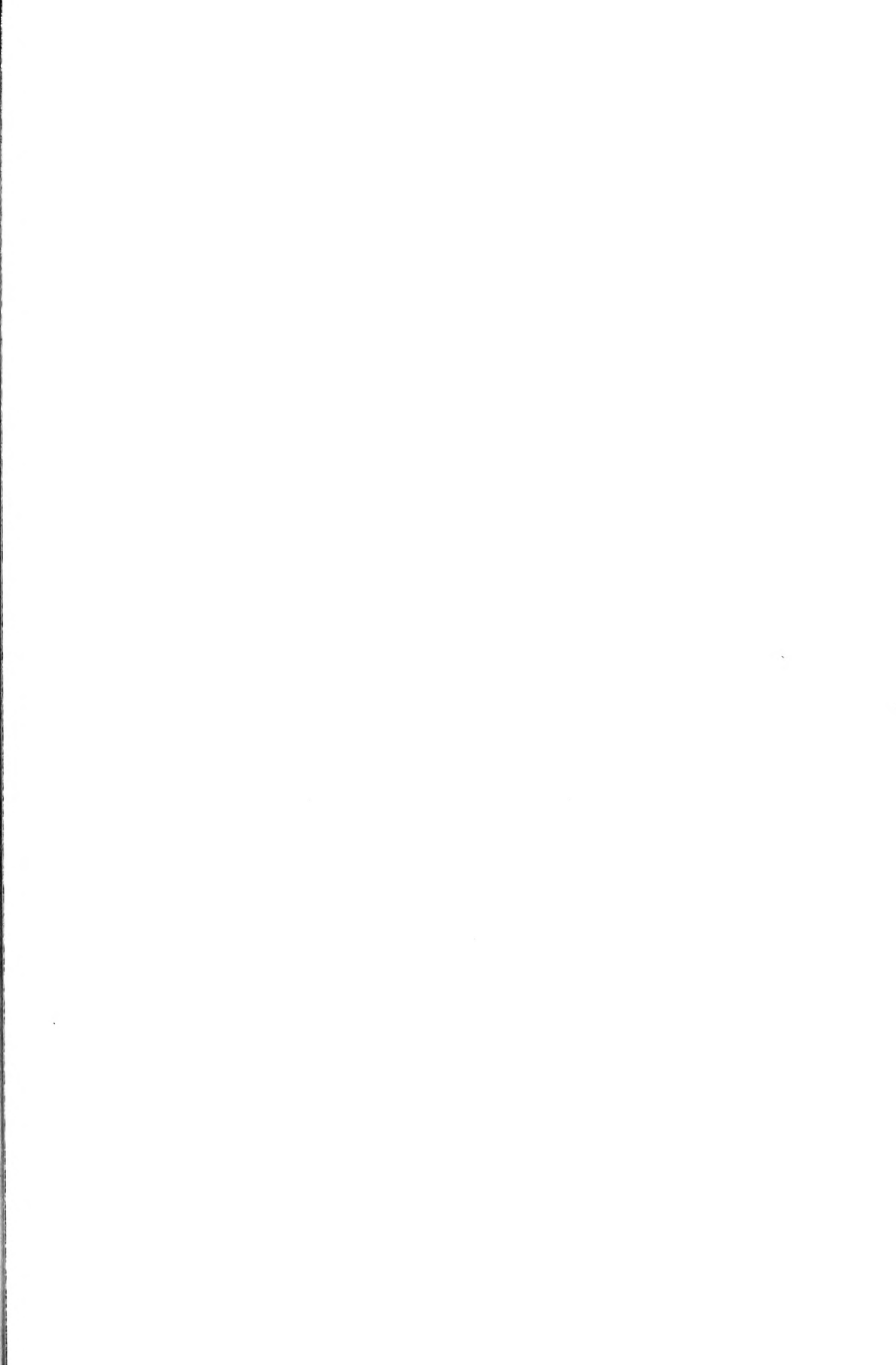


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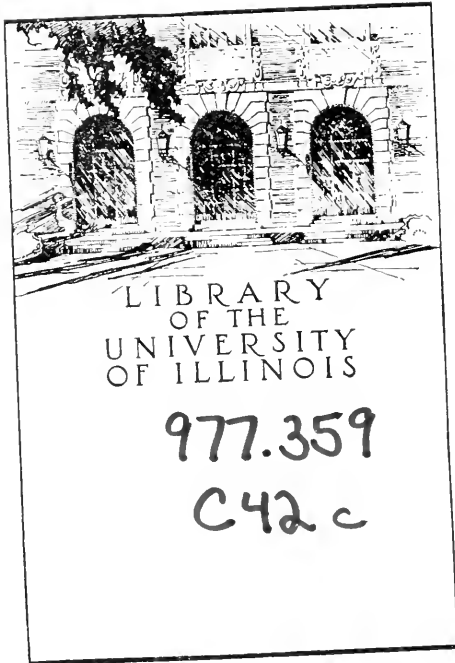
ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY





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ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY



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THE PRAIRIE

BY ALICE M. (FINLEY) MORROW
Chenoa Poet

*Oh, the beauty of the prairies!
Through primeval ages long,
Waving plain and wood-bound river,
Vibrant with the voice of song.
Wilderness of bud and bloom,
The solitudes in gladness smiled,
Wrapped in mists or bathed in sunshine,
Haunt of nature's children wild.*

*Oh, the anguish of the prairies!
When their virgin breasts were seamed,
Torn and trampled all their treasures,
Where the shining plowshare gleamed;
As the sturdy, plodding oxen,
Or the equine's agile strength,
At the brawny settler's bidding
Turned the furrows stubborn length.*

*Oh, the gladness of the prairies!
When the willing seed upsprang,
Yielding increase, bounteous, golden!
And loud songs of harvest rang
Where the pioneer's rude cabin,
Pledge of swiftly changing scene,
Guarded orchard, purple vineyard,
Broadening field, and meadow green.*

*Oh, the beauty of the prairies,
Now, when science hand in hand
With Agricola, goes toiling
To and fro throughout the lands
Plains with milk and honey flowing;
Corn and wine that all may share;
Can the jeweled mines of Kimber,
With our prairie lands compare!*

THANKS

No undertaking such as the writing of the Centennial History of Chenoa could be accomplished single handed. Many, many willing Chenoa people have had a part in writing our book. It would be impossible to list them all, but we do thank you for your ready assistance. It may be inaccurate in some spots, but the facts are printed as we read them in histories, old newspapers and as friends gave them to us. Time and space will not allow us to tell you more.

DEDICATION

We dedicate this book to our pioneer fathers and mothers who braved the hardships of an open prairie and paved the way for an easier life for generations who follow them.

THE KICKAPOO INDIANS

The Kickapoo Indians were a friendly tribe who roamed the prairie around Chenoa. They were very intimate with the Pottawottamies who had headquarters near LeRoy, but sometimes went over as far as Rooks Creek. They fished and hunted together at Chenoa and vicinity. In 1828 the Kickapoos had their camping grounds near Indian Grove in Livingston County. The Kickapoos were converted to Christianity and under the influence of a remarkable Indian chief named Ka-an-a-kuck, whose religion is still the religion of the Kickapoo tribe. A portrait of this religious Indian leader hangs on the north wall of the McLean County Historical Society in the McBarnes Memorial Building in Bloomington, Illinois. There is also a picture on the same wall of Machina, who preceded Ka-an-a-kuck. Ka-an-a-kuck is the son-in-law of Machina. Indian trails in the Chenoa vicinity were very distinct in 1845. Some of them were eight inches deep and fifteen inches in width. Some trails served as dividing lines between tribes. The Kickapoos were a typical American Indian with a copper complexion, black, straight hair and keen black eyes. The women of the tribe were more attractive in personal appearance than the average squaw in spite of the fact that upon them devolved all the drudgery of domestic life. They cultivated the land—after a rude fashion. They raised corn, beans and potatoes while the men devoted themselves to fishing and hunting. The squaws were expected to dress all game. In 1830 this tribe numbered 630 souls, counting men, women and children. Their leader was converted to Christianity prior to 1831. In 1832 a Methodist preacher named William Walker of Ottawa, Illinois, visited the Kickapoo tribe and established a mission. Soon they began to have great respect for the Sabbath. At whatever distance they were away from home they managed to get home to attend service on Sunday. Their prayer books consisted of walnut boards on which were carved Christian ideals. At the top of the board was a picture of a wigwam. These boards were uniform in size and were held very sacred. No Indian retired at night without first consulting his board. Each Sabbath they had a public dinner of which the whole Community partook. In the center of the ground on which their religious meeting was held a fire was kindled and over this the camp kettles were hung in line over the fire. The men were gathered on one side of the line and the women on the other side of the line of kettles. The children stood at one end and at the opposite end stood the preacher. Two men stood near the children to see that perfect order was preserved. No congregation, even in the days of our Pilgrim fathers, was more religious than these newly Christianized Kickapoos. The minister preached while the dinner was cooked. When the service was over the kettles were removed from the fire and the dinner was served into wooden bowls or long wooden plates using wooden ladels or wooden spoons.

The dinner consisted of venison, coon, opossum, turtle and fish cooked with corn, beans, and potatoes, all boiled together. These Indians remained around this locality until September, 1832, when they were removed by the government to lands west of the city of St. Louis. They finally stopped to camp in Kansas.

When Matthew T. Scott arrived on the prairie there were no Indians camping here. Evidences of them were found in the timber north of town. Eli Myer, who came here in 1850 and settled near the timber north of town, said he saw barked trees and traces of broken down wigwams that were made from tree bark. Flint was also found near there as well as arrowheads that have been found in various places around Chenoa. Therefore, Chenoa pioneers never experienced Indian raids as did many other pioneers in other localities.

INTRODUCTION

From the day the Red man left our vicinity and the White man arrived on the prairie, this place has shown a steady progress for better living.

Matthew T. Scott had great visions of what could be done with this untamed raw prairie. He saw in it not only nature's beauty of flowers, grass and animals, but also its possibilities for agricultural development. To the pioneer it was uninviting at first sight for he foresaw the hardships and hard labor involved in preparing the soil for cultivation. The top soil is a rich, thick, black fertile soil and is very productive compared to some other soils in McLean County.

The depth of the top soil adds greatly to its value. Underneath this is a subsoil of packed clay which holds moisture that allows surplus water to soak into the porous clay which will later soak up into the top soil when the season happens to be too dry. Chenoa has rarely ever had a complete crop failure since the land has been drained. Records show that in the years 1872 to 1876 there was too much rainfall. So much rain fell during those years that farmers could not sow grain ; if they did it was drowned out. So they raised sheep, hogs, cattle and poultry in order to have something to sell. Some raised flax which the women could use to spin into cloth to be used for clothing. A spinning wheel was found in most every home. The wool they had was made into yarn which they used in knitting. Women also molded their own candles and made lye soap. The men butchered their animals and salted the meat down. If they needed supplies they either walked or rode horseback long distances to town. Twice a year they hitched up the ox team to a wagon and purchased much in large quantities, such as a barrel of salt, several hundred pounds of sugar if it could be had, a bolt of muslin and several yards of calico. They purchased high top shoes and boots for the family without ever trying them on the person who was to wear them. The sewing machine was not in use until after the Civil War, so all sewing was done by hand. In 1880 women wore hoop skirts. The hoops were made of willow tree twigs. Many of the women of those days avoided being tanned by the sun so they wore sun bonnets for it was the fashion to look pale and delicate. In case they did get sun tan on their faces, some have been known to try to bleach their skin by applying lemon juice. Every woman wore long hair. In those days people dressed warmer in summer and winter than we do in our day. They saw colder winters and had less protection from the elements. The drinking water was a problem for them. Many died from malaria or typhoid fever. Not all drinking water from wells was safe, so many housewives kept a stone jar of boiled water for drinking water.

Rich is the person who lives around Chenoa as living conditions have improved and roads are nearly always open to travel. We can say with the Psalmist: "Our lives have fallen in pleasant places. Yea, we have a goodly heritage." Psalms 16.6

MATTHEW THOMPSON SCOTT

Matthew Thompson Scott was born February 24, 1828, in Lexington, Kentucky, of Colonial Scotch-Irish stock. His mother, who died when he was five years old, was the aunt of Mrs. Rutherford B. Hayes. His father, Matthew T. Scott Sr., was President of the Northern Bank of Kentucky. This bank never suspended specie payment throughout the many financial storms of those early days that wrecked other banking institutions, destroying the industries of the country. And this was done without missing payment of its regular 8 percent dividend. This was the background of the sound financial training of Matthew T. Scott Jr., who gradu-

ated at 18 at Center College, Danville, Kentucky. At 19 he took charge of his father's large land holdings in Ohio, of which he had been given a share. In 1852 he became interested in the possibilities of Illinois land and purchased several thousand acres for himself, relatives and friends.

During his lifetime Matthew Scott placed under cultivation for himself or friends 16,000 acres, built almost 200 houses on the Illinois and Iowa land and set out over 275 miles of hedge fence—a successful experiment which led to the rapid settlement and improvement of that part of the country and the passage of the “No Fence” law by the Illinois legislature. He made the tile drains for thoroughly tiling 5,000 acres and dug over 250 miles of ditch by plows, spades, horse scrapers and huge ditching machines, some of which took 40 oxen to pull.

His fertile business mind was never quiet. He put through the biggest timber deal made up to that time in Tennessee—the purchase and sale of 46,000 acres of forest and mineral lands. He furthered the development of the Galena Lead Mining District of Kansas, and after becoming a resident of Bloomington in 1870 was prime mover in organizing the McLean County Coal Company of which he was President until his death, May 21, 1891.

Matthew Scott was never a mere spectator, but a high-minded, far-seeing business man whose operations all tended to developing the resources and building up the prosperity of the community in which he was interested.

His widow, Julia Green Scott, with two daughters, Letitia Scott Bromwell and Julia Scott Vrooman, survived him, also one brother, Dr. Isaac B. Scott and three sisters in Lexington, Kentucky.

JULIA GREEN SCOTT

Julia Green was born February 14, 1839, and on May 12, 1859 married Matthew T. Scott, at Danville, Kentucky, where her father, Rev. Lewis Warner Green, one of the great scholars and pulpit orators of the Old South, was President of Center College. Both her father and mother were direct descendants of Mildred Washington, he through the Green-Warner-Washington line and she through the Fry-Walker-Washington line.

As a bride fresh from a finishing school in New York, Julia Green Scott proved herself a good pioneer, taking her place with her husband in the social and religious life of the newly founded prairie town of Chenoa, where they helped establish the Presbyterian Church, bringing many distinguished preachers to it. The original home of this church now houses the Chenoa Public Library.

Somewhat frail during her early life, Mrs. Scott's health improved in later years, allowing her to take on a variety of outside activities. Following her husband's death in 1891 she took over the management of his large holdings of farm lands and other interests.

An enthusiastic supporter of the Daughters of the American Revolution since the early days when her sister, Mrs. Adlai Stevenson, was its third President-General, Mrs. Scott became President-General for two terms from 1909-1913.

During her regime Memorial Continental Hall, one of the most beautiful buildings in Washington, was completed and dedicated and the financial affairs of the national society profited greatly as a result of her business acumen. In 1907, due largely to her untiring efforts, as well as her eloquent appeals to the State Legislature, extensive grounds at Metropolis, Illinois, overlooking the Ohio River, were

purchased by the state and dedicated as a State Park in memory of General George Rogers Clark.

Following World War I, as the dynamic chairman of a D.A.R. Committee, Mrs. Scott was instrumental in securing through the membership of the National Society, the "adoption" of 4,000 French orphans, the rebuilding of the devastated village of Tilloloy, France, and the purchase of large quantities of U.S. War Bonds. For this service she received a decoration from the French Government at a tea given in her honor by the French Ambassador in Washington.

Here life-long interest in the underprivileged mountaineer children of her native Kentucky led her to establish the Matthew T. Scott Collegiate Institute at Phelps, Kentucky, in memory of her husband.

On her death, April 29, 1923, she was survived by two daughters, Mrs. Charles S. Bromwell, of Palm Beach, Florida, and Mrs. Carl Vrooman, of Bloomington, Illinois. There are also two grandchildren, Matthew Scott Bromwell and Mildred Washington Bailey, widow of Admiral Sir Sidney Bailey of the Royal British Navy, five great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandsons.

CHENOA TOWNSHIP

The township, which according to the government survey, is Twp. 26N., Range 3E. of the 3rd P. M., was originally organized in 1858. It contained double the area that is now called Chenoa, as it included Yates Township until 1863. As there was no timber in this territory and no groves anywhere near, the prairie land was sufficiently rolling to be capable of easy drainage. The soil is rich and deep, adaptable to raising corn, grass, small grains, fruits and all crops for which the State of Illinois is noted.

Its settlement and agricultural development began in 1856. By 1870 very little of the land remained wild. Wheat at first was a very profitable crop, but this soon changed and the farmers decided it was not exactly in the wheat belt, and they soon turned to the raising of corn. At the present time, the farmers raise corn, oats, soybeans, hay, clover, alfalfa, hogs, cattle and sheep.

As there is no stream of water running through the township, early in the life of its farming enterprise mole draining was practiced by many. This, of course, proved to be only a temporary relief, and it was followed by a system of open draining by the use of road grades and ditches. This was cheap and during times of superfluous water seemed to answer the purpose, but all these machines left the excavated soil on the edge of the wide open ditch, forming a dam against the free escape of the surface water. Shortly after this tile draining became popular. Fencing was generally done with the osage orange hedge and in that day few farmers went to the expense of putting up board fences. Hedging with osage-orange became general before the farms of this township came under cultivation. Today we find many of the farmers pulling out the hedge rows and substituting wire. Many electric fences are also in use.

Very little of the land passed from the Government directly to the real tillers. When the pioneers began turning the sod, nearly all with the exception of the swamp land, was owned by those who were holding for a rise in price. The Scott family and their partners were owners of many thousand acres, some of which still remains in their names.

Whatever the railroad facilities the township has, it has never been called upon to bond the town in aid of railroad companies. Thus it has been able to

keep out of debt. The only debt the taxpayers have been called upon is the School District tax.

The earlier population found its way here largely from the States of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky, and New York, with a few from New England. Later there was an influx of those born in foreign countries, principally Ireland and Germany.

Today Chenoa Township can boast of its well improved farms, with their buildings modernized and well kept. In earlier years the farming was done by the aid of horses. Today all mechanical machinery is used and fertilizer is applied to the land so that better crops may be raised.

The first Supervisor to be elected was J. B. Graham. Other Supervisors were: John McMahon, Nathaniel Brown, R. C. Sallee, J. B. McKnight, Joel Hicks, C. J. Gillespie, E. M. Pike, Charles F. Churchill, John Morrow, George W. Scott, Charles Nickel, Jacob Moschel, Victor Nickel, and Thomas Weatherwax.

CITY OF CHENOA

The land upon which the City of Chenoa was built lay in Sections 1, 2, 11, 12 of the township. Section 2, as well as thousands of acres in this and Livingston County, belonged to the family of which Matthew T. Scott, who lived in Kentucky, was a member, and some partners; while he was not the owner of all of it he had such legal papers as gave him power to contract, sell, or do whatever he chose for the general benefit of himself and his co-owners.

The Chicago and Alton R. R. was constructed through Chenoa in 1854. Soon after this there was talk of a cross railroad being built. It was thought there must have been very little talk where there were no settlers, but by 1856 the line was being run out by engineers. It was then that M. T. Scott conceived the idea of starting a town in the unoccupied territory where the new road should cross the C. & A. R. R., trusting to future settlers to build up a town and its future trade. Mr. Scott said that before this new line had been run through the northern part of McLean County, he went east into Livingston County, where he heard the engineers were at work, which is thought to have been somewhere near Forrest. He did not tell the engineers party what he planned to do, but he saw the little flags or sticks which had been used to mark the new lines. He was enough of a surveyor to know how to run lines and could easily find section corners. He then went over into McLean County, to the present site of Chenoa, placed himself in the range line back east in Livingston County, and noted where the route would cross the railroad junction. He purchased land very near this point and began soon after to lay out blocks, streets and lots for a new town.

For some time after the station was made here it was known by the railroad officials and the trading public under the name "Peoria Junction." When Mr. Scott laid out the town he named it Chenowa, which he explained was the Indian name for Kentucky, having more or less remote significance in the original to some "dark and bloody ground" which he, a Kentuckian by birth, education and tradition, believed suitable, although it is difficult to imagine what there was in the treeless sunny prairie to awaken an association of his old Kentucky home. The government office left out the letter "W" and printed the name Chenoa. Mr. Scott protested and called the attention of the Post Office Department to the mistake, but he was never able to change the spelling to Chenowa. Mr. Scott no doubt

was correct, as there are numerous Indian names in the south whose last two syllables end in "owa" instead of "oa."

The junction of the railroad which was to be the center of the town was about 60 rods west of its eastern boundary. Along this boundary lay Section 1, a part of which was in the name of W. M. Hamilton, also a young man named Humphries had a part in the land, but he passed away shortly after in New Mexico. There was quite a rivalry between Scott and Hamilton: and Scott, seeing that Section 1 lay so near the business center of the future city, took steps, laying off his plat on the west side of the railroad and keeping as far away from the Hamilton land as possible. He offered every inducement he could to comers to his part of town. Finally he built an imaginary wall between them so high that the purchasers of Hamilton's lots could not get into town. This wall was a strip about 30 rods wide, upon which it was trespass to get to Chenoa. Mr. Hamilton, thus prevented from laying out an addition to Chenoa, called his plat "East Chenoa," and thus it appears on the records.

In the year 1854 or 1855 J. B. Lenney, who seems to have no rivalry in the claim to being the father of the town, living in Pennsylvania, made up his mind that there was a good opening in this locality and sent his brother-in-law John Bush Jr. forward to erect a building that could be used for a shop and store, so as to commence business the following spring. This was known as the Farmer's Store and was built before any houses had been constructed. It was about one block west of the Chicago and Alton Railroad and a dozen rods south of the new railroad then called the Peoria and Oquawka Railroad. This building served as residence, cabinet shop and store, if the collection of candy, clothespins, tobacco, saleratus, sugar, etc., which was displayed in the front window is an indication. Thus this was the first building erected on the site of the present active, prosperous city of Chenoa, if there is excepted the two little half sod, half board dugouts, which served as depot, freight house, and home for section hands. All Mr. Lenney now lacked of being a successful Western merchant was the goods and customers. The first he knew where to get, but the latter he must get on time. This building was put up before the town was laid out and Mr. Scott promised to give Mr. Lenney the lot it should be on, when the survey was made. Later when the survey was made, the building was found to be in the street and as the proprietor of the town had not proposed to give them an entire street they were obliged to buy a lot and move the store.

The next year Mr. Lenney bought a lot from Mr. Hamilton and erected a residence in which to reside. When the store was built, the only customers to be looked for were: Squire Payne, John St. John, and Bishop Young, who lived over in the edge of Livingston County to the Northeast, and Mr. Riley, who had broken the sod two miles southwest, also two or three men who worked on the railroad. Mr. Lenney had to drive to Peoria to get supplies, and as he drove over the country there was not a human being to be seen, and not a furrow plowed until he reached Washington in Tazewell County. The Pennsylvanian thought he was as far away from civilization as it was possible to get in that State.

In 1858 John Bush Sr. built what was known as the Bush House near the Farmer's Store. It was used as a residence and a boarding house.

In 1856 Mr. Lenney took in a partner, George Bettinger, from Kentucky who put in a stock of goods and remained in business here nearly ten years. He was a lawyer by profession and was a man of fine business and social qualities.

The "National Hotel"—the first public house in the town—was built in 1856 by John M. Bryant and his son-in-law, W. H. Levers from Pennsylvania. The block upon which it was built cost \$375.00. Even at this early date hotel business

was very active. The only all-rail route for Peoria and points west of there, to Springfield and St. Louis was by way of Chenoa and the travel was considerable.

About this same time Samuel Henry built a store and R. C. Sallee from Ohio erected a store and was an active business man here and thoroughly devoted to the best interests of the place. All of these were built west of the railroad. Mr. Sallee remained until repeated fires swept away the accumulations of an active and successful life, when he removed to Missouri.

J. P. McKnight, from Ohio, built a store about 1857 and John McMahan erected a house three blocks west of the "National" which stood until the terrible tornado of May 13, 1858 literally wiped it out of existence, scattering its material as it did that of many of the smaller houses. This storm of wind was the most severe ever known here.

In 1857 Dr. Stevenson, the first practicing physician, built a drug store back of the Bush House. He was a good doctor, but made a mistake when he selected his location. Dr. R. W. McMahan studied medicine with him and practiced here for several years.

In 1857 George Lounsberry built a blacksmith shop and the next year he and Louis Ziegler, a young wagon-maker, put up a wagon shop, which commenced the career of one of Chenoa's most enterprising citizens. Mr. Ziegler continued in the wagon-making business for some years until driven out by fire. Then he engaged in the milling business, until fire again swept away his business and property.

The first depot building was built in 1857 on the "Y" some distance north of the present one. It was a magnificent building, larger and finer than any other such structure on the line of the Railroad. It was built for hotel and depot, having a larger capacity than anything in the County. It was occupied by Sam Emery and finely furnished. Whether it would have proved to be a paying investment will never be known, for while preparing to partake of the first meal, a lighted lamp being filled by an employee fell, the fluid ignited, and the building was soon in ashes. Shortly after this, Emery built the Exchange Hotel and ran it for twelve years.

Lack of fuel caused much trouble and anxiety among the early settlers. The citizens had to depend on the Brooks Creek timber, five miles away, for the supply. During the great snow blockade of the first winter, railroad men were kept so busy trying to keep the communications open, that at one time death by freezing was imminent, but Peoria sent out a supply of coal, and later mines at LaSalle, Fairbury, Streator, and Bloomington were depended upon.

As we have seen, Chenoa was laid out by M. T. Scott, May 13, 1856. The first movement for town organization was made July 7, 1864. Nine years had now elapsed since the Farmers Store had been erected, and the people who had devoted their lives to this undertaking began to long for sidewalks, city police, and other signs of civilization. At this date a public meeting was called and an election was set for July 25th to vote for or against town organization. At that election 14 votes were cast for such an organization. An election was held for five trustees, one of whom should be elected president. Twenty-one votes were cast with the following result: D. Scharf 9, R. C. Sallee 17, J. B. Lenney 19, F. Ohmit 10, D. C. Mears 11, W. M. Fales 19, J. D. Moore 15, I. F. Phillips 2. At the first meeting of the Town Board held August 8, J. B. Lenney was elected president; Thomas Sandham, clerk; Nathaniel Brown, constable and street commissioner, and R. C. Rollins, treasurer, and the boundary of the town was fixed. It included all the original plots of Chenoa (Scott's) and of East Chenoa (Ham-

ilton's) and all additions which had been platted and filed in the office of County Recorder, and all the "vacant land lying between the two" first named. This last was the "high wall" Scott had erected.

In 1868 Chenoa was incorporated under "Special Charter." In that year Legislature gave Chenoa a new charter known as the Princeton Charter. It was done very quietly, without the fact of the change being generally known. In those days of special legislation such things were possible and grew into common practice. This Princeton Charter forbade the granting of license for the sale of liquor not only in the town, but for a mile or two outside. This actually took effect in the winter and was not known to the voters until after the following August election. Chenoa continued to act on this "Charter" until after the passage of the general incorporation act. In 1878 the place was incorporated under the general law for towns and villages which permitted saloons resulting in Chenoa having saloons for many years when other towns of the county were without them.

On August 5, 1872 or '73 an election was called to vote for or against organizing as a city. The whole number of votes cast was 169—150 for, 18 against. For minority in the City Council 89, against 76. Both propositions carried.

The first Mayor under the city corporation was J.R. Snyder. The aldermen were George Lounsberry, R.G. Jordan, E.D. Churchill, J.E. Wrightman, W.M. Fales, A.M. Crosby. The city was divided into three wards, and two aldermen were elected from each ward. C. H. Holbrook was elected Clerk; Thomas J. Hayes, attorney; and J. H. Work, Treasurer. The mayer received \$25.00 per year with one meeting per month. Chenoa now had a population of 2000, many good business buildings, and a fine school house.

Chenoa adopted the commission form of city government in 1916 and in April 1917, held its first election for commissioners. Park C. Gillespie was elected Mayor, and the commissioners were W.A. Chapman, C.F. Churchill, S.T. King and L.J. Schultze. In 1919 W.A. Chapman was elected Mayor, and the Commissioners were: Jacob Balbach, B.F. Elfrink, L.B. Silliman and T.W. Weatherwax. F. M. Powers was city Clerk, and V. L. Nickle, Treasurer. Police Magistrate, M. F. Quinn.

At present Chenoa is a modern city. Its streets are paved; it has a fine grade and high school. It has six churches, and one church at Meadows with none in Weston. Routes 66 and 24 intersect here.

Places on Early Map of Chenoa

- 1 Small building facing north used for farm machinery, etc.
- 2 Double two story building facing north. Wrightman and Stone had a hardware store on the west side. The Wrightman family lived upstairs. The East side was used for dry goods, wall paper, etc., run by Mr. Fuller; later by Mr. James H. Work.
- 3 A story and one half building surrounded by a fence.
- 4 A well with sweep. Mr. Harding and family lived there. Mr. Harding was the section foreman.
- 5 Seybolt Grocery. Two small buildings 15 or 20 feet apart, occupied as homes above, with a bridge from one upper floor to the other.

NORTH

WEST

C & A. R.R.

Wusley St.



VELO ST.

SOUTH

GREEN ST.



Places on Later Map of Chenoa

- 1 Crosby mill (burned)
- 2 Square building West side, Bastock Drug Store. East side, Mr. Sam Henry who built the flying machine lived here.
- 3 Munsell Hotel with a most beautiful yard of trees and flowers. It stood on the present site of the Catholic Church and Priest's home.
- 4 House occupied by Mr. Ashley. From his corner was a path to the school.
- 5 Anderson School House
- 6 Long narrow cabin home of Keegan, a section man who boarded other section men.
- 7 Two small buildings. One held the Post Office; Mrs. Ira T. Phillips, deputy in charge. The other contained a store selling ice cream, candy, etc.
- 9 Mrs. M.H. Plank's home. Rented the west half.
- 10 Fredrick N. Mertin, general merchandise
- 11 A long 1½ story building. May have been the Bush Hotel. Saltzmans lived there once.
- 12 Bakery
- 13 Armory
- 14 Coonley's; afterward Yeager's saloon.
- 15 Markey House
- 16 Turn Table on the switch
- 17 David Payne's Saloon
- 18 Emery Hotel
- 19 Peity Hill
- 20 Catholic Church
- 21 Stockyard
- 22 Graveyard

CITY STREETS

Both Mr. M. F. Scott and Mr. W. M. Hamilton laid out their own streets and sold land for lots in 1852, according to some Chenoa residents' abstracts. The street names are given in the abstracts. Both of these men were determined to make the business section of the town on their ground. Mr. Hamilton has his Main Street running east and west, just one block north of the T.P.&W. R.R. Mr. Scott's Main Street also runs east and west, parallel to the south side of the T.P.&W. R.R. It was so near the railroad it did not prove to be such a desirable place on which to build. One drug store was built there facing the rail road. It became confusing to people to have two Main Streets in town, neither one being close to our present business district. There are two Lincoln streets in town.(see map) Kentucky street has only one house which is 301 Kentucky. All the other houses on that street face either east or west, away from Kentucky street. The streets vary in width; some are 60 feet, others 80 feet wide.

NORTH

PIETY HILL

LETCHER ST.

DEPOT



T.P. & W.R.R.



C & A. R.R.



owsley st



SOUTH

Many years ago during the wet seasons of the year, some streets were almost impassible because of deep mud or mud holes. According to Mr. L.L. Silliman there have been times when a four horse team with the rider could hardly pull through some places. The intersection of Cemetery Avenue and Division Street is a good example of some places in town. Wagon wheels sunk to the wheel hub and the horses went down to their knees. Mrs. Lena Churchill Kee wrote that ground on which her father built his house in 1881 at 3221 Cemetery Avenue was about as low as the intersection of the streets. He did not dig down very far for his basement. He put up his foundation and filled the yard in around the basement so to-day the house appears to stand on high ground. Some of the streets are filled in and graded so that we do not find many bad places to-day. During the time that J.E. Wrightman was first mayor of Chenoa, Green and Veto Streets were terrible mud holes. He had these streets filled in with 8 feet of dirt .This was done before there was any thought of paving streets.

Large pieces of rectangular rock were placed at each crossing. These have been removed in order to make the streets more even for auto drivers. In early times most every resident built a barn on the rear of his lot. Nearly every one kept either a cow, horse, pigs or chickens. Often live stock got out and roamed about the city. This led property owners to put up fences around their yards. They put up a front yard gate for entrances into the yard. When Halloween night came it was great sport for the boys to remove the gate and carry it away to some distant place. When Mike Dillon was policeman it was his duty to keep stray animals off the streets and private property. As soon as he knew that any animal was out of place he took it to the city pound which was located across west from the C&A Railroad in front of the north elevator.

It was some time after the organization of the town before side walks were laid on either side of the streets. The first ones built were put down on the ground and made of wood. They soon rotted out underneath and became dangerous to walk on.(see wooden sidewalks) There were a few residents who put down square glazed brick. These are in use to-day. Some put down common brick. The first cement side walks did not prove to be satisfactory, later Jesse King laid many cement side walks which proved to be good. From 1905 to 1907, during the time Lawrence Beach was mayor, new cement side walks were laid in the business district. These too were built up high and braced with iron. Hitching posts were placed along the sides of the streets in front of the stores. Similar posts were put around the churches in order for the people to have a place to tie horses. It was quite common to see plain or fancy hitching posts in front of homes. In early days in Chenoa there were no street lights. Citizens carried kerosene or oil lamps at night. Some time later kerosene or oil lamps enclosed in glass were set on high poles at the corner. One of these was placed on the left side of the handsome Hickey building which was in the center of the business district. It was the street commissioners duty to go over the town each morning and put the light out, refuel the lamp and trim the wick. In the evening he made the same round to light each lamp. (see electric street lights.)

WOODEN SIDE WALKS

The side walks about the town were built of one inch boards laid over 2 by 4 stringers. In dry weather the nails were apt to work up exposing their heads to the annoyance of pedestrians. The city commissioner was kept busy going about with his wheelbarrow of tools and supplies in caring for the sidewalks.

The Clipper had advocated a water system at the same time they agitated for electric lights. In about 1890 the Lemont Electric Light and Power Company started an electric plant. Like many other progressive movements it was discouraged on the ground that an electric plant would not pay. Dispite the opposition

several enterprising gentlemen went ahead and helped Mr. Lemont to put in a plant. The Lemont plant had a capacity of 70 arc and 700 incandescent lights. The plant was operated by an Armington Simpson 125 horse power engine. For some reason the above electric company did not succeed. Mr. C.C. McDonald came here from Fairbury and built a small plant made of cement blocks on the T.P.&W. Railroad property near the railroad on Veto Street. He had to get a franchise to put in the electric system for Chenoa. When he secured the necessary papers for this project he proceeded to put up poles with a long arm that extended to the center of the intersection. On each arm he put carbon that had to be lowered every other day and replaced with a new piece of carbon. Mr. McDonald's father replaced the carbon then pulled it up in place again. The carbon was about one foot long and one inch wide. For some reason the carbon lights were better than ours to-day. They did not flicker or go out so easily. Mr. McDonald purchased the Hamilton Block which was just south of his home. In it he fixed a place where he could make his own cement blocks. Since his first plant was too small for his growing business he tore it down and built another on South Commercial Street south east of the elevator. With his own cement blocks he built a larger plant. Here he installed his new electric light plant. The first house he wired was at 617 North Commercial Street (Sophia Jeans.) The second house was that of J.E. Jontry's at the corner of North Commercial Street and at 102 North Second Avenue. After this Mr. McDonald wired many more places in town. He put a mocking bird whistle on his plant to be used in case of fire. The Power and Light Company purchased Mr. McDonald's plant. In 1913 they erected a well built brick substation in Chenoa. This is located on the west side of Green Street not too far south of the flatiron building.

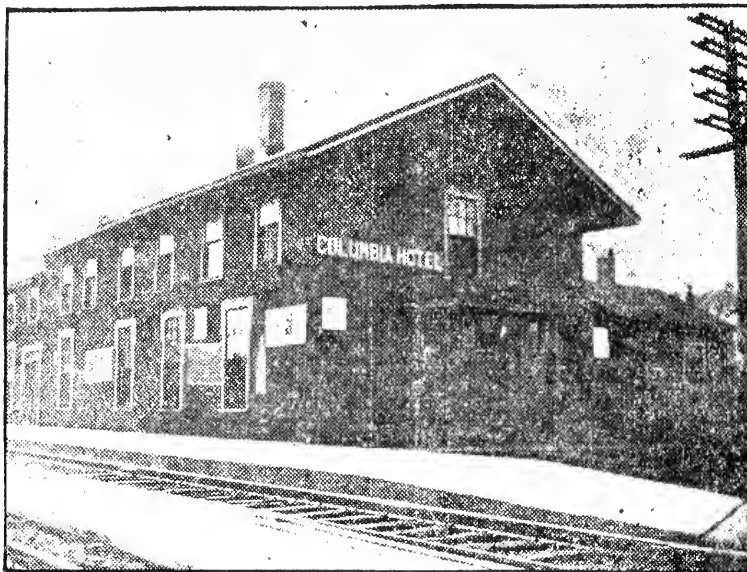
The first rural electric high line built out of Chenoa was put up in 1916-17. It extended 4 miles south then $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles east and $10\frac{3}{4}$ miles west. Soon after several high lines were built in other directions out of Chenoa. Electricity has been a great help for farmers in many ways. Those on the first electric line south of Chenoa were, Frank Jacobs, Ralph Jacobs, John Jacobs, Elmer Jacobs, John Heins, Rem Heins, L.P. Pils, L.J. Schultz, Frank Schultze and E.E. Cox.

TRANSPORTATION

Chenoa was fortunate in having a ready made city in the junction of the two railroads. The Chicago and Mississippi was built through Chenoa in 1854. They began building from the south up to Joliet. A Fourth of July excursion to Bloomington was run over the new road that summer. The Peoria and Oquawka arrived here February 2, 1857. One of the earliest mentioned workers on the C. and M. was Terence McCarty, who helped to build that road. He is the great grandfather of Mrs. Joe Powell. Another builder of railroad was John Keely, for the T.P.&W. as we know it to-day. He was the father of Mrs. Con Healy.

The first depot was a boarded up sod shanty housing a few workmen so the records say. That may have been the shanty where Terence McCarty lived which E. C. Silliman tells of in one of his articles. Mrs. McCarty was with him according to old stories. In 1857 a fine hotel and depot was built where the north "Y" now is with Sam Emery as proprietor. It burned the night it opened for business. A servant dropped a fluid lamp, starting the blaze. Records do not say just what was done next, but that may have been when a box car was used as a depot. But we do know that Sam Emery soon built another hotel, The Exchange, west of the C. & M. and south of the T.P.&W. and that was used as a depot. Later a two story frame building was put up by the T.P.&W. which was used by both roads, the C. & M. paid rent. That depot lasted a long time. It burned during an Armistice Celebration, November 11, 1918. Again The Exchange Hotel, Later known as the Columbia Hotel, was used as a depot. A new brick depot was built answering the

long and oft repeated requests for such a building. It opened for business October 19, 1919. Again the T.P.&W. was the builder with the C. & A. paying rent.



OLD COLUMBIA HOTEL.

Both roads have had several names and owners. By 1861 the C. & M. had become the Chicago and Alton, later the Alton Road, the Baltimore and Ohio bought it in July 1931. Now the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio has control of it. The Peoria and Oquawka became the T.P.&W. and as such we know it to-day even if the letters may have changed meanings from time to time.

The C. & A. was doubled track through Chenoa during 1890 completing the double track to Chicago in time for the World's Fair. Newspapers of that day say, "railroad travel will now be much safer." Safety has always been the policy of the railroads. Rails were made heavier and roadbeds firmer, automatic train controls were installed so that if a train should be stalled the following train would be stopped before colliding with the one ahead. The public has been protected by signal men at crossings. Mr. Conroy was the first one at the Owsley crossing, then Mr. Clooney took his place. Jackie Towmey protected the children crossing the T.P.&W. on Second Avenue, Frank Hill was the flagman at the Veto crossing. Gates are in use on U.S. highway No. 24, a flasher is now at the Owsley crossing while a bell and a wig-wag operates at the north end of Division Street as the train leaves town.

The telegraph came in with the railroads. For many years Western Union operated through railroad offices, now it operates through its Pontiac office telephoning its messages here through the Tronc drug store. The railroads have their own telegraph system installed locally in the tower which was built in 1900 and wrecked by a C. & A. freight leaving the track and ramming into it before it was occupied. It was rebuilt. That's where J.L. Missal, R.R. Schull, and J.F. Pilarski as first, second, and third trick men work. Relief men are Mike Sullivan and Wm. Thilking. Now railroad office workers put in only five days a week while only a short time ago they had no days off. That tower is to be "Lookout Tower"

for Civil Defense and in time of war if that should occur. The old freight house which stood east of the G.M.&O. and south of the T.P.&W. with the south "Y" at its back was torn down and the present one built over by the north "Y".

Passenger traffic was at its peak in 1911, 24 such trains arrived here daily. The C. & A. left chair and sleeper cars for the T.P.&W. trains to pick up, the latter did the same thing for the C. & A. Show troupes with special cars augmented this traffic. Passenger trains used the "Y's" almost as much as the freights. There were 36 freights through here daily. Traffic was especially heavy during World War I. All grain and livestock went to market by freight and much heavy freight arrived here daily. Perishable farm produce went by express. Ice cream and bread and much else came in by express, all very heavy. M.F. Quinn came to work in 1877 as a transfer man under J.S. Cotter whom he later replaced. The National Express Company did business over the C. & A. Later it became the United States, then the American Express Company came in over the T.P.&W. Mr. Quinn's daughters served as agents for that company. They did the book work for their father, also collections while he did the deliveries for them. The Express Office was built in 1883. It was torn down sometime after 1923. A part of the men's waiting room in the depot was made into an Express Office. Large and small trucks now carry much of our needs. Express business has dwindled until now it is only a part time job. Several young people have worked there since Mr. Quinn's retirement in 1923. For the past seven years Roscoe Wilson has handled the Railway Express.

Old newspapers carry railroad time tables, both weeklies and dailies. Weekend excursions to Chicago were almost weekly events on both roads for \$1.50. Now the T.P.&W. hauls only freight. Most of the passenger traffic at Chenoa is only on through trains. Only three passenger trains stop here. Deisel powered engines have mostly replaced steam ones fired by wood or coal.

Ever since this history project started we've heard, "Don't forget the T-rail shop! You know we had a T-rail shop here once?" That T-rail shop was a much mooted question untill we learned that John McCormick had been its foreman. That gave us a definite clue that brought forth this information.

Frank McCormick says his father, John McCormick was Equipment Inspector and General Manager of a T-rail shop located southeast of the Parry elevator. The shop was moved to Dwight where Mr. McCormick supervised the crews and repair work for the C. & A. branch then building between Dwight and Washington. After the Dwight shop was closed Mr. McCormick worked in Bloomington. Mrs. Agnes Towmey says her father worked in the T-rail shop here when she was born in 1873. Some residents question this story.

The T.P.&W. entered Chenoa from the west, the road on east was not completed so a turntable for the engines was installed over near north "Y". Another oft repeated tale is "how awful the Chatsworth wreck" and how Chenoa did her part in sending help and in relaying messages, also caring for the injured who had been sent here in passenger and box cars for that purpose.

Railroad workers come and go but a few are intimately connected with the community. A.H. Copeland is the earliest mentioned telegrapher and ticket agent on both roads. John Campbell an uncle of the Hancocks was the first baggage man and J.B. Lenney was the first expressman. Young men sought out the depot as a means toward a good job. M. and L.H. Thomas, brothers of Inez Thomas, were among the first trainees here. They went to southern roads as train dispatchers. Harry Callisle, brother of Mrs. J.W. Lenney, went from the T.P.&W. to the Chesapeake and Ohio where he became assistant to the president. Sam Warner worked as telegrapher and ticket agent up and down the C. & A. for several years

before going to Leeds, North Dakota on the Great Northern. W.B. Clooney stayed with the G.M.&O. and is now chief ticket agent in Bloomington. Frank Jontry (Shorty) was extra and relief man. He was at Weston from 1900 to 1910, came back to Chenoa, was with the C. & A. at the time of the fire. Ed. Jontry was telegrapher in the T.P.&W. office. There Raymond and Bert Cass trained under their father, Charles Cass. Charlie Duback spent his entire railroad life here in the tower. Dick Clark was transferred to Lincoln when the offices were combined in 1918. Harold Adolph, now with the G.M.&O. in Normal, started working under his father, Chas. Adolph, as did Emil and Ed Yarkee. Emil is with the G.M.&O. as freight traffic manager in Springfield, Illinois and Ed is in their Pontiac ticket office. G. W. Hulsizer became their superintendent of telegraphers and signal engineers, worked in the East for a while but returned to the Chicago area. Frank McCormick left here for the Illinois Central and retired at Sigel. Harvey Haushalter of Chicago trained as a telegrapher in the C. & A. office here.

Out on the tracks we find Wm. Cleary as foreman for the C. & A. in 1879, John Malady and George Wilder in the early 1900's Now Felix Hernandez and Wm. H. Sullivan have charge of that track. John Keely was the very first foreman on the T.P.&W., his son-in-law, Con Healy replaced him in 1886. Two years after Mr. Healy's retirement his son, James Healy took over. Three generations on the same job is something of a record. J.E. Grove now has that job.

None of the men in the office were retained after the Armistice Celebration. A new man came to work here, Sam Stockum. He is now at Washington. Don Bagby does the office work at present.

It is the firm belief of the T.P.&W. that aggressive and active communities are of value to their road, hence they give in such communities "Man of the Year" awards in the form of Tee Pee Willies. Merle Parry received such an award in 1953.

In the beginning Chenoa's streets were just paths until owners built board walks in front of their homes and businesses, some up, some down, very uneven. But by 1879 there were 12 miles of well cared for board walks in town. In 1898 when John Hickey was mayor the brick walks were laid. The board walks still did duty up town until 1905 when the concrete ones were put down during Lawrence Beach's term as mayor. Several sidewalks were laid at this time by J.R. King. To get completely out of the mud and dust up-town the brick pavement on Green and Veto Streets was laid while Lawrence Beach was mayor, 1917—1918. They also at that time constructed portions of Cemetery Avenue.

The country roads were laid out at the time of the original survey. These, either muddy, ruddy or dusty, rarely ever in a good condition, were cared for with a poll tax on every voter which could be worked out or paid in cash. For drainage the roads were built up by shovel, horse scraper, or grader. This didn't answer the need. Better roads were in demand as "gas buggies" were coming into use. Even before 1915 oil was being tried on a few country roads. By 1920 A. W. Stried and L. J. Shultz were spreading oil by trucks on key roads.

But still not the correct answer as the roads would break up after a thaw. In 1933 when C. J. Gillespie was Highway Commissioner the drainage was changed by installing larger tile or galvanized pipe in new culverts. After the

roads were well graded 33 miles of gravel were spread. For the past ten years Eddie Lavallier has been road commissioner. During this time five new concrete bridges have been built. In 1950 he spread 39 miles with rock, in 1952 an additional mile and a half was covered. Then in 1953 one-half mile of rocked road at Meadows, also three blocks in that village were black topped with asphalt. During the fall of 1953 four and one half miles south from Division street was rocked to be black topped by the spring of 1954.

In 1924 state highway No. 4 became the concrete U. S. highway No. 24. State highway No. 8 became U. S. highway No. 66, first laid in 1920. Some of it re-routed and widened the fall of 1944. These roads are kept in repair and clear of snow and ice by state highway crews. Ernest Smith and assistant, Cliff Pickett, make up the crew operating out of Chenoa. Wayne Sarver and Howard Skaggs have charge of keeping signs in legible condition. A bus service was inaugurated by Raymond Gadberry running between Wilmington and Bloomington. The Yellowway buses operated in the late '20's. Later the C. & A. ran buses, sold out to the Greyhound company in 1931.

Wouldn't the young people of the '90s have loved these roads for their bicycles, zimmies, and tandems! A zimmy was a high front wheeler, a tandem, a two seater. The fire edition of The Clipper reports that A. D. Jordan had purchased a zimmy and they expected a broken record or a broken wheel. The Elder boys, the MacDonalds, Fales, Mears and perhaps others had such wheels. Tandems were nice to take your best girl for a ride. Our children take these good roads as commonplace, the horse and buggy as antique. They wonder how people ever got anywhere. Back in those days they had very fine equipages, phaetons, sulkies, carts, and a rubber-tired buggy was something special! The family carriages were well cared for, only to be used on a Sunday for Church going. Other times the spring or the farm wagon did duty. The first carriage in town was owned by John C. McCune. It was in use for all the funerals. There was no undertaker nor hearse to be had in the early days. Caskets were home-made. Balbach's large open delivery wagon was used as a hearse. They would scrub it and put two plumes up on the front and be certain the big screw driver was in place. It was used to fasten down the casket cover. In an 1874 McLean atlas there is an "ad" offering coffins for sale and hearse service on request by J. Pence and Co. Later that company became Pence and Shober. C. E. Travis was the undertaker. Mr. Sholer made the coffins after he joined the firm. It was much later that they were called morticians. The first motor hearse was used on July 19, 1916 for the funeral of Mrs. Mary Wollenzien.

Motor traffic was definitely on its way in by the early 1900s. Before that the first cars here was in use by a Mr. Pritchard, the last engineer for the coal shaft. It would only travel 8 or 9 miles an hour. The first local citizen to buy a car was C. F. Churchill. It was a Rambler; then L. J. Schultz bought one. These early cars had one cylinder. V. L. Nickel purchased a four cylinder Ford in 1905. C. E. Kniffen in 1909 had a five passenger Stanley Steamer, also a runabout of the same make. Soon there were many cars in town. This made a new business, the servicing of them. The MacDonald brothers did do some such work, but it is L. J. Schultz who is remembered as the first garage man. Mike Hientz had the first car agency, for the Buick Company. In 1911 he put up that building at 282 Green street for that business. As these businesses developed, blacksmiths and horse shoeing became obsolete, also that thriving business of feed yards and livery barns began to wane. Hitching posts have now given way to parking meters in many towns.

A feed yard was the place to park your horse and buggy while you went elsewhere. You knew your horse would be fed and watered and hitched up for



LACE BLOCK

you on your return and all for a moderate fee. A livery barn was a place where you could hire a horse and buggy for whatever use you might need them. Early mention is made of Robert Hanna as having a feed and livery service. In the early 1900s Mike Yietz built the feed yard on E. Owsley street, north side of street. He sold out. Then the place had several different owners: George Balbach, Steward McNeil, Adolph Ehrhardt, and the Powers Bros. operated it as a feed and livery service until they went over to the Clayton Ballinger Barn on Veto street which they bought.

Livery service was offered by Jim Fike previous to the fire of 1894 in a big new barn which he had built at the southeast corner of E. Owsley and Weir streets. After the fire he rebuilt, later sold out and moved to Bloomington. J. T. Strickland and P. J. Richardson did business there. The old barn still stands. Ballinger Bros., also Clayton Ballinger, have operated a livery barn on Veto street opposite the Flatiron building. Here was to be found John and Tom Power doing business. Later Vaughan had a sale barn there, then finally motors caught up with the horses when it became the Lenington Garage. Another early livery barn was run by the Codlin Bros. Floyd Mason had a team for local dray work. Draymen of the past were Gayman, Lou Arnold, Downing, A. J. and Bert White-side and perhaps others. M. E. Osborn was the first Chenoa man to truck livestock to market. He has operated a daily trucking service between Chenoa and Peoria for 29 years.

A new mode of traveling is catching on fast—the airplane. But it isn't really new. Sam Henry thought of it back in 1860. He announced that he had made a flying machine and would fly it for the Fourth of July celebration. He started from the roof of his house, landed on his picket fence, breaking two ribs, also



THE BALLINGER SALES BARN

his plane. His home is the house at 203 and 205 W. Owsley which he built. No more airplanes until after World War I, where some of the young men learned to fly—Lt. Nyle Barnach was one of these. His father, Jake Balbach and L. L. Silliman bought a light plane and Nyle took them for rides. Silliman sold out his share to Balbach. During 1919-1920 Nyle did stunt flying for fairs and homecomings. At Tuscola he took up a 92 year old woman. As an honor he was appointed McLean county "Deputy Flying Sheriff." He had a hangar and landing strip out on the Elfrink farm at the northeast edge of town. His parents became concerned about that kind of a career so the plane was sold. The hangar became a machine shed until a small cyclone made kindling wood of it.

Girls, too, have chosen aviation as a career or as a vocation. Margaret Vaughan is with the United States Department of Commerce Aeronautic Administration, Washington, D. C. Frances Degnan Carnahan is in aviation as an associate in the administration work of the Carnahan Flying School. Her husband is its owner. Mrs. Karl Mays is director of Woman's Activities of the Illinois Flying Farmers, also for Prairie Farmer Land.

During the winter of 1945-46, the Prairie Farmer magazine sponsored the organization of Flying Farmers of Prairie Farmer Land which now has some 35,000 members. Alvin Dameron of Yates township was the first local member. Surplus army training planes also some new ones were available at reasonable prices. Men began banding together for their purchase. Thus the Chenoa Flying Club was organized in 1947. That summer the Pick brothers, Howard and Harry; built a hangar and airfield on their father's, Eliza Pick, farm southwest of town. About 50 received flying instruction there during their period of activity ending the spring of '49. Organized on a state and county basis, Flying Farmers have about 40 members in McLean County who own 20 planes. Karl Mays is

their president, also treasurer of the Illinois State Flying Farmers.

And we must not forget the balloon ascensions that Will Chapman thought were a necessity for a real Fourth of July celebration!!!

PAVEMENTS

During the wet season of the year most of the Chenoa streets were almost impassable. In summer they were extremely dusty. In order to keep the dust down the city purchased a large sprinkling tank drawn by two horses. The sprinkler was low on the backside of the tank. This of course laid the dust only for a short time. Park Gillespie was mayor in 1915 to 1919. It was during his time that the city decided to pave the business district and Cemetery avenue, now route 24. There was much opposition to this project because of the higher tax it would incur. Nevertheless the city council decided to have the paving done. Brick pavements were put down at a cost of \$28,000 in 1919. Concrete pavements were put down in 1926. The cost of which is unknown.

THE CHENOA WATER WORKS SYSTEM

In the pioneer days of Chenoa people got their drinking water from wells dug on their lots. Too much surface water from sloughs and ponds soaked into the wells so that too often the water was not fit for drinking. As a result typhoid fever became an epidemic. The Chenoa Gazette had agitated the question of a better water system both for health and fire protection. The first movement in that direction was made in 1870 when two large cisterns or reservoirs were built, one near the Hamilton block, the other in front of the Hickey block. Later a deeper well was sunk on the latter site. It was covered with a good wooden platform with a railing around it. A town pump was installed and plenty of public drinking cups fastened so they could not be taken away. A rectangular trough was placed on the north side of the platform. This was a place where people could water their horses. In 1886 a wooden tower with a water tank on its top was erected on the city lot back of the stores on Green St. This was put up mainly for the protection of the business blocks of the city. Underneath this tower was a triangular fire alarm which gave the alarm by hitting the triangle with a hammer. Water was pumped into the tank but since it was not always kept full it proved to be inadequate and to an extent useless for the purposes for which it was intended. This tank burned down during the big fire of 1894. In 1889 the city council purchased a small hand fire engine which also proved to be unserviceable. It was sent away for repair and was never returned. The great fire of 1894 which destroyed the entire business portion of the city brought the matter of a protective water system prominently before the people. At a regular meeting of the city council held in June, 1895, a special election was called on June 26 for the people at large to vote for or against the erection of water works and the issuance of special bonds to provide money to pay for the proposed public improvements in that direction. The voting was carried on at the city hall and was very quietly done. The final count stood 215 for and 44 against. The city council began immediately to issue bonds and arrange for a complete system at once. Advertisements were then issued for proposals for the work and the proposition of Mr. George Cadogan Morgan of Chicago was accepted to superintend the building of the entire water works system and the mayor, Mr. Charley Churchill, empowered to purchase by bid the necessary material.

It was decided to erect the water tower in the city park and the power

pumping house on land on the "Y" near the depot. The land was purchased from Mrs. M. T. Scott. At subsequent meetings of the common council bonds were ordered issued to the amount of \$7,600 bearing interest at 6 percent and which were sold to Maron, Lewis & Co. of Chicago. Bids were accepted from Gould Co. of Chicago for pumps and for a Lewis gasoline engine. Angus Augur of Chenoa for the erection of a power house. E. S. Porter & Son of Joliet for stone. Jesse R. King of Chenoa, mason work; Washington Steel Works, Chicago, for steel tank; J. A. Miller Bros., Chicago, for cornice; Anderson & BarClay Co. of Streator, brick; Gordon, Dexter Schmitt, Chenoa, lime, cement and lumber. The mayor was appointed to act on all minor matters with the construction of the tower.

Bids were accepted for laying iron pipes and specials, for hydrants, gate valves and boxes, for hose, spanners and nozzles and for a hose cart.

Alva Matheny of Chenoa was employed to sink the well on the "Y" and water was reached at a depth of 218 feet. The well, known as the old well on the "Y" was also utilized. Now the city has an abundance of pure soft water from the two wells—one 218 feet deep, the other 135 feet deep. Two pumps are made use of and at no time has there been less than 40 feet of water in the coal shaft well. Not too long after Henry Harms became mayor in 1937 the city purchased a well at the old canning factory at the north end of Division street. From now on the city should have plenty of water.

The foundation of the water tower is 9 feet deep and 25 feet square and is made of Joliet stone laid solid in concrete. The brick work is 14 feet in diameter at the bottom and 33 inches thick to the height of 28 feet tapering to 28 inches at the top of the brick work—67 feet. The steel reservoir is 12 feet in diameter and 60 feet high with a capacity of 50,000 gallons. It is made of the best quality of steel and consists of 60 four-foot steel plates riveted together and has a very handsome cornice at its top. Mr. Geo. Cadogan Morgan of Chicago, one of the best and most noted hydraulic engineers in the west, had the superintendancy and management of the entire work from its start in July, 1895 to its finish in January, 1896. Chenoa workmen, carpenters, painters, masons, bricklayers and laborers were employed. The cost of the pumping station, pumping machinery and water tower complete was \$7,132.99.

The work of laying water mains was begun in December, 1895 and completed in March, 1896. The work was delayed by excessive cold and bad weather. There are over 5 miles of mains consisting of eight, six and four inch standard cast iron water pipe. The cost of the pipeline including all mains, 53 fire hydrants, and valves with connections to the pumping plant was \$11,906.92. The entire system including Mr. Morgan's pay cost the city \$19,039.91. Since the completion of the original contract another pump has been added.

After water works was voted in the Chenoa Gazette came out with the oft repeated jingle composed by Ethel King (Lenny) who worked for the Gazette: "If it was not for the Clipper and Gazette, We would not have water works yet." After over 50 years, visiting engineers have remarked that our City Water tower is a wonderful piece of work. James Kelley also had an oft printed slogan: "Water Works is a Public Need."

During the water works election Schuirmann & Hops had a sign out at the city hall which read, "Free Soda tonight at Schuirman & Hops if water works win." They dished up sodas until late that night.

TELEPHONES

The first telephones in Chenoa were a single line to the office of Dr. Lord located in what was known as the Lace block, also about that time Dr. E. P. Holderness built a line from his home in the north part of Chenoa, to the drug store of Lenny & Banta, for his own use.

The first telephone switchboard was located in the rear of Chapman's confectionery store under the management of Frank Chapman. Operators were Nelle Thornton, Maude Schopp and Nellie Twomey (now Mrs. F. M. Power). Later the Central Union Telephone Co. purchased the equipment, moved in 1917 the office to the second floor of the Jordan building. Later Mr. V. L. Nickel purchased the telephone business and the office was moved to the present location, then known as the P. O. Thrane building. Mr. Nickel later sold to Mr. Ray Blaisdel of Pontiac, he to the Standard Tel. Co., then to the Illinois Commercial Tel. Co. The present company is known as the General Tel. Co. of Illinois. Miss Helen Hostler is cashier and chief operator assisted by the following operators: Mrs. Elva Gillespie, Miss Fern Jontry, Beryle Schnitt, Mrs. Martha Peters, Mary Newkirk, Melba Henline and Carolyn Spence.

Before telephones were put in Chenoa people could go to the Chapman Store and call long distance from there.

A good many years ago, what was known as the Farmers Tel. Co. operated a small switchboard on the second floor of the Flat Iron building, owned by farmers in the community and known as such. This was also purchased by Mr. Nickel and consolidated with the present office.

TREES AND PARKS

There was only one tree in Chenoa in 1863, according to the late Mrs. C. F. Churchill, and that a wild cherry tree just east of The National House where the St. Joseph Catholic church now stands. Cattle roaming at large destroyed the young trees. This happened often in the school yard. Even as late as 1867 no trees were there nor on the commons, now the City Park. Settlers brought young trees from the timber, about five miles north of town, where they obtained their fuel.

These conditions soon changed with the establishment of the Scott and Maxwell nursery. Frank Myer was one of the early managers. He supervised the setting out of those fast growing soft maples and box elders in the west part of town, some of which still remain west of the Todd Service Station, then known as Piety Hill. Several of those old trees were rooted out when the new 66 went through in 1944. During the early '60s Andrew Nevin also operated a nursery on his 80 acre farm at the south end of Sheridan street. He supplied many of the early plantings.

Many old trees have had to give way to city improvements. C. F. Churchill told in years gone by of scouting 'round as a small boy and finding two cottonwood sprouts. He cut one for a fishing pole and trimmed up the other. That became the immense cottonwood which stood at the intersection of Cemetery avenue and Maple street. Brumms had some difficulty getting rid of that tree, as it was an old landmark. But eventually it was cut down about 1917.

There's another famed cottonwood, the one the CWA cut down. It stood at the far end of the road going out Piety Hill way, where the road turns to the

north. That was a landmark to the Balbach family. Mrs. Elfrink tells how her father drove cross country sighting his way by trees, and that cottonwood was the first tree on their route. She hated to see it cut down.

Another old-time tree was a wide spreading soft maple which stood at the Veto-Lincoln corner. It was the meeting place on summer days of Dolittle & Co., who rehearsed the day's happenings and decided how the town and the federal government ought to be run. It was the loafers' paradise. That tree, called The Sanborn Tree, went when the Ford Garage was built.

Fads and fancies demanded the flowering and ornamental varieties: tulip, catalpa, flowering locust, magnolia, weeping willow, and mountain ash were planted. Larch, buckeye, hackberry, sycamore and Norway poplars have had their day. But the ash, elm, and hard maple are still the favorites. We regret that by 1953 a disease has almost denuded our streets of their fine elms.

The American Legion Park located near the junction of U.S. Highway and city route 66 was originally presented to the city by Matthew T. Scott for merely the fencing of it. The city fathers were for refusing this gift of what they considered "just more waste land." E.D. Churchill prevailed upon the council to accept the gift. It remained a cow pasture until the Highway changed its value. Then it became a free tourist park, also a delightfully shaded area for Legion activities. Electric lights, tables, and Dutch ovens are available on request.

The land for the city park was given by another pioneer developer, W.M. Hamilton. This land was a pond most of the time, wild ducks actually being shot there. Sidewalks nearing the northwest corner were on stilts. Near here was a rooming house known as the Island House, as it was always surrounded by water following a shower. Drainage has changed all that. The trees around the edge of the park are ash, grown in the W.J. Hester nursery one mile east of town. They were set out by him and his employees about 1890 according to a plan drawn by a Mr. Ballar, a landscape architect from Bloomington. R.G. Jordan was appointed park commissioner and under his care the trees thrived. A few years later Mayor J.E. Wightman and Mr. Hester marked several trees for removal which would have permitted better growth for the remainder, allowing them to branch out to give more shade, but the Civic Improvement Club objected. So the trees were left to grow as you see them today in 1954. Later some Box Elders were planted in the central portion of the park. These were removed while Dr. B.F. Elfrink was mayor, that space being used as an athletic field for the high school. That park has always served a useful purpose in the life of the community. Football, baseball, tennis, horse shows, community fairs, Fourth of July celebrations, evangelistic meetings, family reunions and Sunday School picnics have been held there. The CHAUTAUQUA tent was pitched there. In 1953 water fountains and tables were made available for public use.

During the late '80's, '90's and early 1900's two other parks were in use. One just north of the T.P.&W. track and west of city route 66 was the scene of some hotly contested baseball games. Here developed some exceptionally fine baseball players, Rube Sandham, Frank Barthel and Charles (Red) Hinshaw. These boys were asked to play in the Three I League but in a short time they decided they'd rather play ball for fun, not to make it a job. Wild West shows made their stand there. The other ball park was on some vacant lots west of the M.F. Quinn residence at 318 West Owsley St. Carnivals did business on this spot also.

CITY HALL

It is not known where the City Council first held its meetings, but records do show that before a City Hall was built they met in rooms at the Balbach store.

In 1994 a City Hall was built at 204 Weir Street which served its purpose well for 60 years. In back of it was a jail but in recent years the jail has not been used. Most offenders were taken to the Bloomington jail. In 1950 the City Hall was sold to Mrs. M.B. Gilbert which she uses for a dairy bar. In 1947 the city acquired the Dr. Kerr building he had started for his new office. It will be used for City Council meetings and for social functions. The following is inscribed on the bronze plate on the front of the building.

C H E N O A
 COMMUNITY CENTER
 CITY HALL
 In Memory of C.R. KERR MD
 1855 — 1942

MAYORS OF CHENOA

J. R. Snyder	1872 to 1873
DR. C. E. Elder	1873 to 1875
J. R. Snyder	1875 to 1877
*J. E. Wightman	1877 to —
*J. E. Wightman	1884 to —
* Records lost in fires	
W. H. Bennett	1893 to 1895
Chas Curchill	1895 to 1899
C. E. Kniffin	1899 to 1901
John Hickey	1901 to 1905
Chas Nickel	1905 to 1906
Lawrence Beach	1906 to 1907
J. E. Wightman	1907 to 1909
Dr. Elfrink	1909 to 1913
Dr. Burt	1913 to 1915
Park Gillespie	1915 to 1919
W. A. Chapman	1919 to 1925
L. J. Schultz	1925 to 1937
H. H. Harms	1937 to still serving

CHENOA LIBRARY

The Chenoa Public Library was made possible by a gift from a group of a former Congregational Church. This group being of such small numbers, was unable to maintain a church, so in 1912 the church building and grounds were offered to the city of Chenoa to be used as a public library. If at any time this property ceases to be used for library purposes, it will revert to the Missionary board of the Congregational Church.

The library board is to consist of one member from each of the different churches, three from the former Congregational Church and one to be selected by the board from the citizens at large. Those on the first board were the following: Congregational, E. M. Pike, S. E. Evans, Dr. Lillian B. Stump; Baptist, Mrs. John Ketcham; Presbyterian, Mrs. H. E. Monroe; Methodist, A. D. Jordan; Lutheran, Anna Klein; Catholic, Rev. Fr. Burk; and E. C. Silliman was selected.

The first officers were; President, Mrs. H. E. Monroe; Vice President, Mr. E. C. Silliman; Secretary, Mrs. John Ketcham and Treasurer, A. D. Jordan.

The library at first was financed by dues of the library association, benefit entertainment by various social and school organizations, popular subscription and tag day. Later in 1942 a tax levy was voted by the township. The library was open to the public in September 1913, with about 2000 books ready to be used. There are now about 10,000 volumes. The library is used extensively by the pupils of the community high school and grade school, which includes residents of Pike, Eppards Point, Yates and Chenoa townships.

In addition to the books shelved, which include high grade reference works and textbooks, the library offers about 72 of the best known magazines, a goodly showing of news papers and popular fiction. Most of the books and periodicals are purchased outright, others are gifts of friends and patrons.

The first librarian was Mrs Ida I. Lord, who filled the position for 16 years. She resigned due to ill health. The position was then taken by Mrs. Louise Myer Ballard, a local woman and trained librarian, who served until her death in October 1948. The present librarian is Mrs. Aldine Elliott, who has held the position for five years, her assistant is Mrs. Faye Gittinger.

The late Col. E. C. Silliman was a great friend of the library, donating many books as well as financial aid. A memorial shelf of nine volumes has been donated by the American Legion Auxiliary. Each volume is in memory of some Chenoa boy who lost his life in the service of his country.

Mrs. Etta Monroe also deserves special mention as she gave untiringly of her time and service in helping to organize the Chenoa Library.

The library building was built in 1862 by the Presbyterian Church and is now 92 years old.

Post office

CHENOA POST OFFICE

A post Office was established in Chenoa, McLean County Illinois on May 31, 1856. The following are names of post masters that have served in Chenoa.

John B. Lenney	May 31, 1856 to 1866
Ira F. Phillips	deputy in charge one year
George F. Coonley	Jan. 18, 1867
Charles W. Bovard	Sept. 1, 1874
Orville D. Sanborn	Feb. 26, 1875
Sylvenus S. Chapman	Feb. 22, 1875
Henry Scrogin	Feb. 14, 1891
Spencer Van Petten	Feb. 13, 1895
Thomas E. Ballinger	Feb. 20, 1909
Fredrick H. Ballinger	Feb. 20, 1909
A. O. Rupp	May 29, 1913
James E. Jontry	Aug. 1, 1913
Howard N. Gillespie	Sept. 30, 1926
John E. Jontry	April 1, 1935
Cecilia G. Missal	April 1, 1947 still serving

The first Post Office was on West Owsley Street as far as we can find. Later in the Hickey Building facing north on Green and Veto Streets, in Elmer Wahls building on Veto Street and Kaplan's facing east on Veto Street.

MAIL DELIVERIES

The four original rural route carriers were: Parke Gillespie, Fred Munsell Will Sweet, and Jim Bower. These were eventually replaced by Grant Sandham, Delmar Starkey, Sam Kramer, and George Waldron.

In May of 1911 Sam Kramer was replaced by Merlin Sandham. There was no further change in personnel until July 1915 when Merlin Sandham was transferred to Dwight and his route consolidated to make three routes out of Chenoa. In 1934 Grant Sandham retired and another consolidation was completed, now making two routes out of the previous three. The following year, 1935, Delmar Starkey retired. James H. Pierce was transferred from Cornland to fill the vacancy. December 1, 1944 Geo. Waldron retired. Then the Weston route was discontinued as such and added to the Chenoa routes. The Weston carrier, Clifford Stevens came to Chenoa to take over Waldron's place. In October 1946 James H. Pierce retired and Jared C. Gillespie served as temporary carrier until April 1, 1947 when John E. Jontry transferred from the position of postmaster to that of regular carrier of rural route number 1.

The original routes were approximately 24 miles, today Route 1 has 58 miles and Route 2 has 64 miles to cover. Together they serve about 346 families.

The city service was started December 1920 with William Wilder as carrier. On January 2, 1929 Leonard Baumgardner was added to the force serving as parcel post deliveryman in addition to regular carrier service.

MEADOWS HISTORY

Copy from Pantagraph Files

Pantagraph, Bloomington, Illinois, Monday, May 14, 1928

Meadows named for Eastern Owners of Land Nearby. The village was founded at the Railroad Switch and grain was elevated into big bins using blind horse for power.

Meadows is about 25 miles from Bloomington on the Toledo, Peorie and Western railroad, on route 8 and at the very north edge of McLean County. It has a population of about 75.

The village is situated in the midst of a wide expanse of prairie land and many believe this to be the reason for its name. This however is a mistake. The name Meadows came from a family who lived in the east and owned land in this vicinity. The station was first known as the Meadows switch.

In 1877 Thomas Grinsell came from northwest of the town. At that time there was only a grain elevator here. The grain buyer was Charles Klein who operated a store, sold tickets for the railroad company and was also school director. The store and family residence were located where the Gascho family now lives.

BLACKSMITH DENTIST

A blacksmith who was also a dentist and pulled teeth, established a shop where the David Claudon residence now stands. Charles Schaefer was this blacksmith-dentist.

TILE AND BRICK FACTORY

Julius Boshke and Henry Wingle started a tile factory and brick yard and were also carpenters. They made the first tile in the country by a machine and each time when a tile was finished it rang a little bell.

Three shoemakers found it profitable to ply their trade at the same time and

had a little shop where the Oyer store now stands.

Mr. Cole was the first Pantagraph correspondent from this community and farmed what is now known as the Joe Kuerth place.

In 1876 Andrew Vercler purchased from Mr. Applebee the tract now known as the Vercler farm which surrounds the village on the east and south. The Norris family lived just west of where the schoolhouse now stands in a grove but the residence and grove are gone long since.

FIRST POSTMASTER

The Post Office was in a store and has had several locations as each succeeding postmaster was appointed. At present it is situated in a neat little building that was formerly Farmers Grain Company office and Miss Pauline Gittinger is Postmaster.

Charles Klein who had the first store was father of John (Jack) Klein who lives here now. He sold his store to Mr. Atwood then a Mr. Petrie had it for a time and sold it to Charles Lahn. All these kept the store where the Gascho family lives. Then Chris Lahn built a store where the Oyer store now stands. Chris Lahn and Frank Rathbun had the first implement house.

WESTON

Dr. Holderness built the first drug store and practiced medicine in Weston until he moved to Chenoa in 1875. Other practicing physicians were Dr. Vincent, Dr. Crocker, Dr. Law and Dr. Shaffer.

George Hancock was the first blacksmith. Others were Warren Chamberlain, W. H. Loper, who was there many years, and George Hall.

G. W. Allison came in 1879 and was the first wagon maker.

There once was a Presbyterian Church in Weston but was dissolved in 1870. The Methodist and Christian Churches were built in 1873. The Methodist Church was a part of the Chenoa Circuit and had 50 members. D. H. Legerwood was the first pastor of the Christian Church.

The German Evangelical Church was built in 1875 or 1876. The Baptist and United Brethern were built later. In the year 1954 there were no active Churches in Weston.

The first Weston school was in the charge of David Vance Jr. with 50 pupils enrolled but only 39 as an average attendance.

In 1954 the Weston school is in the Chenoa Community Unit District School Number 9. The teacher is Miss Nellie Fitzpatrick who has taught there for some time. This year she has 6 grades and 21 pupils and is a very efficient teacher.

For many years Weston has had a community picnic in its park. These were discontinued in 1943.

Mr. Wells organized a bank in Weston in 1920 but it did not run very long.

Mrs. Ella Stevens is the oldest resident in Weston. She is 86 years old. Taken from the June 1895 issue of The Clipper.

We notice New Chenoa is to have a fourth of July Celebration. As you have been giving your town some notoriety, why not say something about our town and its people.



GRAVES ELEVATOR

run of stones to grind corn by steam. A. W. Atwood and C. C. Enslow ran a grain business for a time. C. E. Graves owned two elevators but one burned down. He also ran a lumber yard and hardware store. Finally the Inland Grain Company purchased Mr. Graves interest in the elevator business. The new firm ran it for a time then sold out to the Farmers in 1904. Then it became the Weston Grain Company.

WESTON GRAIN COMPANY

Managers of the Weston Grain Company

Henry Schoenfeldt	3 yrs.	1904 to 1907
R. J. Stauffer	1½ yrs.	1908 to 1909
D. M. Stauffer	2 yrs.	1909 to 1911
Walter Grosbeck	4 yrs.	1911 to 1915
O. O. Dillon	1½ yrs.	1915 to 1916
W. W. Luhring	31½ yrs.	1916 to 1948
C. L. Denker	5 yrs.	1949 to 1954

On February 2, 1904 on a stormy day, 20 farmers met at the Weston Town Hall and organized the Weston Grain Company with a capitol stock of \$8000. The first board of directors were elected and were as follows; President, W. W. Shedd; Vice-President, J. T. Green; Secretary, J. A. Hanna; Treasurer, O. O. Dillon; P. A. Pulsipher, Jasper Readle and R. J. Stewart. August 20, 1904 the capital stock was raised to \$10,000. The cost of the east elevator and office was \$10,000. In 1908 the company had a loss of \$20,150 incurred by the manager.

In 1912 an addition was made to the elevator for oats costing \$4,000. In 1915 the company bought a residence for the manager costing \$3,000.

In 1917 they purchased the lumber business and sheds of the Weston Lumber Company for \$12,500. In 1918 the Company erected an addition to the office costing \$1,500.

In 1918 all outstanding bonds and debts were paid in full the total being \$21,000. In 1919 the Weston Grain Company changed over to a co-operative company and was called the Weston Grain Company Co-operative and also declared a stock dividend of \$10,000 and increasing the capital stock to \$20,000 at 100 per share. In 1925 they bought two Grain elevators from Inland Grain Company paying \$22,500. During the last fifteen years a new coal shed, feed house, roofing and salt house were additions to the office, new motors and truck dumps costing around \$4,000 were also added. Total buildings built and bought cost \$51,800.

The Weston Grain Company Co-operative held business meetings transacting any old business or any new business that concerned the company.

On March 16, 1947 the Weston Grain Company suffered a fire of unknown origin. The east elevator with a capacity of 110,000 bu. of grain was totally destroyed. The elevator was about 40 years old. It had been kept in good condition. The insurance amounted to \$12,155.34 which was paid to the company May 6, 1947.

The Weston Grain Company Co-operative decided that it would be impossible to obtain material and labor necessary for the building of a new elevator of similar size and capacity right away.

January 1, 1949, Mr. Clifford Denker, a new manager, took over his duties. At the April 11th 1949 meeting plans were made to build a new elevator on the same ground. At a meeting June 7, 1949 the board voted to allow the president and

secretary to sign a contract and all necessary papers in connection with the building of a new elevator. A new concrete elevator was erected with a capacity of 95,000 bu. was completed in the fall of 1949. It was immediately used for the storage of corn for commodity credit. The company has stored soy beans and other grains when it had storage available.

The following are other Weston business men. Harry Green ran a lumber yard. The following ran stores, Arthur Farr, R. Purdy, Mr. Klein, Mr. Swap and others. George Busby and Perry Stevens ran peddling wagons into the country in the early 1890's. They carried staple groceries and dry goods etc. exchanging them for butter, eggs, and chickens. Mr. R. W. Johnson and Son ran the post office and store, followed by Earl Hanes who became post master and store keeper.

Donna and Glenn Gray are running a store and Webster Busby has a barber shop in 1954.

McLEAN COUNTY FARM BUREAU

The McLean County Farm Bureau was started as the McLean County Better Farming Ass. in 1914 with the following local people as members, Joe Elson, John Vaughn, Robert Vaughn, Charles Churchill, E. D. Churchill, M. B. Corliss, Ernest E. Cox, B. F. Elfrink, Park C. Gillespie, V. L. Nickel, John Streid, Edward Vercler, and Earl Wrightman. D. O. (Dave) Thompson was the first Farm Advisor beginning April 1, 1915. There is an interesting item in his first annual report December 31, 1915 that eight McLean County farmers were growing 52 acres of Alfalfa and only 5 farmers were growing soy beans. In 1916, two 4H Clubs with 17 members were organized. In 1919 the McLean County Better Farming Association became the McLean County Farm Bureau. Farm advisors following Mr. Thompson were: Harrison Fahrnkopf, Wilber H. Coultas, R. J. Liable, L. G. Rodman, Lloyd Welsh, and Eugene Mosbacher.

Farm Bureau in the beginning was primarily to help in better farming practices such as soil treatment and live stock management. About the time of the First World War it was evident there was a definite need for farmers help in legislature, in co-operative buying and marketing. Among the first of the buying and marketing were the live stock shipping associations. The Chenoa association was managed by Joseph Elson. The cream pools were another early co-operative marketing venture. The Chenoa ones were operated by R. H. Morris and Ernest Schirch. From these early beginnings grew the McLean County Service Company Petroleum Products, McLean County Milk Producers, Prairie Farms Creamery, Producers Stock Yards, Live stock marketing at the city terminals, grain marketing at city terminals, McLean County National Farm Loans Association, and Bloomington Production Credit Association for land and production financing. The Co-operative Insurance Companies Country Mutual Fire Company, and Country Life Insurance company, and the Producers Seed Company, corn and small seeds.

The Farm Bureau is the largest farmers' organization in the U.S. It has more members in the Chenoa community now than there were in the McLean County Bureau in the early days.

The Chenoa Unit of the McLean County Home Bureau

In September, 1917, Mrs. Spencer Ewing called the first meeting which was held in the McLean County Courthouse, and was open to all interested rural

women. She explained the purpose of the organization, and told of the work to be done before an educational program could be started. After intensive work, co-operative women were secured in each of the thirty townships.

By January 17, 1918, 375 women had signed. Mrs Frank Thayer, (first director of Chenoa township reported on the number of members signed. By June, 1918, there were 943 paid members, enough to assure organization. In April 1918, Mrs. Ewing was elected first president of the organization and Miss Clara Brian first county advisor.

On Wednesday June 19, 1918, in the Domestic Science room at Chenoa High School, what was then known as The Chenoa Branch of the Home Improvement Club, was organized with the following officers; Director, Mrs Frank Thayer; Chairman, Mrs. Fred Ballinger; Vice Chairman, Mrs. E. C. Chapman; Secretary Treasurer, Mrs. A. B. Heitt. At this time 20 members were required from town and country and three year membership cards were signed.

In May, 1921, the group was re-organized and known as the Chenoa Unit of McLean County Home Bureau, with the following officers; Chairman, Mrs. D. M. Stutzman; Vice Chairman, Mrs. F. M. Powers; Director, Mrs. L. L. Silliman; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Etta Erdman. By October 1921, Chenoa Unit had 47 members.

During the following years, as at present, the Chenoa Unit took interest and an active part in the County Farm and Home Bureau programs, assisted in pageants, hobby shows and McLean County 4H Fairs. It has also taken active interest in local civic affairs and provided instructive and interesting programs.

At one time, a child clinic sponsored by the local unit was held on the day of the annual community Fair, at which time Dr. Gerald Cline of Bloomington, gave physical examinations and valuable information to mothers.

The Chenoa Unit has prepared many banquets for different organizations and has organized both boys' and girls' 4H clubs. Many interesting tours and summer camps are available to Unit members and 4H club members.

The Chenoa Unit of the Home Bureau now has 72 members, with the following officers; Director, Mrs. Etta Erdman; Assistant Director, Mrs Francis Sullivan; Chairman, Mrs. Wm. Sullivan; Assistant Chairman, Mrs. Otto Seibert; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Joseph Augspurger; 4H Chairman, Mrs. Richard Jacobs; 4H Leader, Mrs. Virgil Morris; Unit Chairmen—Clothing, Mrs. Howard Gillespie; Family Living, Mrs. Ernest Schirch; Foods, Mrs. Calvin Jenkins; Handicraft, Mrs. Joseph Higgins; Health and Sanitation; Mrs Frank Miller; Historian, Mrs. Geraldine Tobin; Home Beautiful, Mrs. Jesse King; Home Furnishings, Mrs. Merle Traschel; Home Management, Mrs. H. W. Jontry; Music, Miss Lillian Nickel; Program, Mrs. Ray Winter; Recreation, Mrs. Harold Dearth.

Yates Home Bureau

Mrs. Charles Burns of Yates Township organized the Yates Home Improvement Association in June of 1918 with twenty six members. The officers were; Chairman and Director; Mrs. Charles Burns; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. H. L. Shaffer. Miss Clara Brian of Bloomington was the Co-advisor.

Most of the lessons given were on economizing in food preparation due to the scarcity of sugar, flour, etc., and also how to meet the problems that were confronting us at the time of World War I.

Later the name was changed to Yates Home Bureau and has been an active unit up to this year of 1954.

The Weston Community picnics held annually in the fall of the year in the Weston park were the source of part of the financing for the Home Bureau. The Home Bureau members had a lunch stand there until 1943 when the picnics were dropped due to the country being in World War II.

The following were the charter members of the organization and are still active in 1954. Mrs. Ed. Orendorf, Fairbury, Illinois; Mrs. Clara Erdman, Fairbury, Illinois; Mrs. Louis Heins, Chenoa, Illinois; and Mrs. Rem Heins, Chenoa, Illinois;

The officers for 1954 are: Mrs. H. Metz, Chairman; Mrs. John Larch, Vice Chairman; Mrs. Chris Koerner, Secretary and Treasurer.

EARLY SETTLERS

JOHN McCUNE was one of the early settlers in Chenoa Township. He was born in Cumberland, Pennsylvania. In 1848 when the gold rush was taking place Mr. McCune went to California, returning to his home in Pennsylvania in 1852. He brought with him a gold nugget which is still in the possession of one of his children. He was married to Miss Anna G. Kelly in 1853 and in the spring of 1855 came west. He came to Chenoa and purchased 320 acres of land at the southeast edge of Chenoa. While erecting a house on his land he and his family, which consisted of his wife and two daughters, lived in a house $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Chenoa, which was the only house between Chenoa and Lexington. At one time he was in the grocery business in Chenoa, but disliking it he moved back to the farm. Mrs. Frank C. Schultz, Mrs. Ray Brady and Mr. Jay C. Smith, all residents of Chenoa are his grandchildren.

THOMAS HERVEY was born in Ohio County, West Virginia, and married Miss Mary Hawcridge a native of Stockport, England. He was a farmer and stock raiser. He enlisted in 1852, and served until the close of the war. He participated in many battles, among them being the siege of Vicksburg. He moved to Pike Township, Livingston County in 1866 where he owned 160 acres of land. He bought land in Chenoa Township and moved to that farm in 1874.

WILLIAM KOCH a farmer and stock raiser was a native of Illinois. He came to Chenoa Township in 1867 and purchased a farm of 170 acres 3 miles southwest of Chenoa. He married Miss Lydia Groutsch who was also a native of Illinois.

JOHN MORROW was a native of Illinois. He entered the Union Army in August 1862 and was with Sherman on his famous march from Atlanta to the sea. He married Miss Margaret Hervey, who was born in Ohio County, West Virginia. In 1869 he bought a farm 2 miles south and $\frac{3}{4}$ mile east of Chenoa and moved from Peoria County to this farm of 160 acres.

FREDRICK SCHULTZE was born in Prussia and at the age of 14 was apprenticed to the trade of wagon maker. Upon completion of his trade he engaged in farming. He came to this country in 1858, living one year in Bloomington Township, then moving to Towanda Township when it was quite new. He married Miss Mary Elisabeth Schnerneka of his native town in 1845. He bought 160 acres 4 miles south of Chenoa and lived there many years

WILLIAM WIKOFF who lived in McLean County since 1852 was born in Adams County, Ohio. He came in a hack from Pekin to Bloomington then walked to Pleasant Hill where he engaged in carpentry. He assisted in building the first

house in Lawndale township where he had rented a farm of 176 acres. He married Miss Cleopatra M. Collins, who was born in Washington County, Ohio. He moved to Chenoa in 1876.

CHARLES WISE lived in McLean County since 1853. He was born in Boden, Germany in 1837. He enlisted in the Union Army and served until its close. He married Miss Paulina Barneck who was born in Austria. They had one son Frank Wise.

DAVID ZOOK was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Zook came to Chenoa Township in 1869 where he bought a farm of 106 acres. He was married to Miss Catharine Fink who was born in Fredrickstown, Maryland. They were the parents of nine children. Mrs. Ellen Marriott and Mr. Ira Zook are two of the children residing in Chenoa.

HENRY J. FORNEY, a farmer who settled in Chenoa Township in 1862, was a minister of the German Baptist Church. He served in the Civil War and was wounded in the battle of Middle Creek, Kentucky. He married Melissa Dull.

WILLIAM ARNOLD came to Illinois with his parents in 1857. He lived in Bloomington Township a short time until his father, John C. Arnold, purchased a farm of 160 acres in Yates Township. He married Miss Mary Vance and lived on the farm. Mr. Arnold had purchased 3 miles south and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west of Chenoa. Later Mr. Arnold and family moved to Chenoa, where he had a Livery Stable, later being in the hardware business with his brother Oscar Arnold. He was also a partner in the grocery known as Beach and Arnold, until he moved to Iowa.

WILLIAM LINDEN, born in Prussia, came to Bloomington and worked in the lumber trade until he bought a farm six miles south and one-half mile west of Chenoa. He was a farmer and stock raiser.

JOEL HICKS, whose wife was Hudessah McCune, was born in Pennsylvania and settled in this community early in its organization. Mr. Hicks owned 240 acres of land two miles west of Chenoa.

JOSEPH GRAHAM was one of the first to break ground and inclose a farm in this township. This was in Section 14.

WILLIAM T. BROWN was born in Knox County, Ohio, June 28, 1835. Mr. Brown was the oldest of ten children. In 1868 he came to Chenoa Township, where he purchased 160 acres of land and continued to operate this farm until 1864, when he removed to Chenoa to engage in the retail feed and coal business. After four years he formed a partnership with H. C. Dexter and established a coal and lumber trade, later selling his interest in the business to Arthur Gordon. He erected a house in the southern part of town, which was his residence. He retired from active business in 1894, but always took a deep interest in the moral and religious nature of affairs. He was deeply interested in the temperance question and was a delegate to the Prohibition Party state conventions upon several occasions. He enlisted in Company H, 11th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry in February, 1865, and was honorably discharged September 30, 1865.

He was married to Miss Sarah S. Oxley, also a native of Ohio, December 18, 1857. Before her marriage she was a school teacher. To this union were born three children: Jennie, wife of Ellison Hayslip; Hugh T., born June 14, 1862 and died September 4, 1863; and Joeletta E., wife of Samuel Carson. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Brown was married to Mary J. Hervey, who was born in Ohio County, West Virginia. They were married in Dunlap, Peoria County, January 30, 1878. He was a leader in the Presbyterian church, having been an elder in 1883.

ELI MYER came to this locality in the fall of 1850 and purchased land north of town. The squatters had taken up all the timber land, so he had to take prairie land. Later he was able to get some timber land from Mr. Eppard and others. (Mr. Eppard is the man for whom Eppard's Point is named.) After Eli Myer died, his son Charley inherited the land. Later, Charley's son, Harry, lived on it. The old state road from Chicago to Springfield went across the Myer farm. In earliest times Ottawa was the trading place for squatters and pioneers before other small towns came into existence. The Charley Myer family drove across the country to Pleasant Hill to attend church services, riding in a wagon. Eli Myer donated \$600 and ground for the Baptist church at Ocoya. Many of the Myer descendants live now in this locality and have a family reunion each summer.

FREDERICK BRUMM was born in Germany. He came to America in 1873, settling in Chenoa. He entered the employ and worked one year for Jacob Vollmer, who was a blacksmith and wagon maker. Mr. Brumm went into blacksmithing for himself and in 1876 he founded an implement business which became a great establishment, one of the largest and best known in this part of the country. His daughter, Mrs. John Heins, helped him in this business, and operated it for two years after his death. Mr. Brumm handled many makes of implements including International, Oliver, John Deere, and many others. There have been many blacksmith shops and implement dealers in Chenoa, but he survived all others up to the time of his death. Mr. Brumm's first implement house was two and one half stories high. When this burned down he built the next one only one story high. Mr. Brumm died in 1916.

PAUL G. BALBACH came to Chenoa in 1866 and located six miles northwest of town. There were very few houses on the prairie where he built himself a small two-room house. Later he put up a small stable. When the weather was fit he staked his cow out on the prairie. Mr. Balbach broke up his land with an ox team. It was hard plowing. Sometimes he turned over the sod and planted rye on it. The next year it plowed easier. There were no schools anywhere near the Balbach home. In 1889 he hired Mr. Wm. Brooks to build a barn and rebuild and enlarge his house. He raised eight children, namely, Annie, Mary, John, Paul, Louise, George, Lizzie, and Clara. John is now living in Chenoa. He has served his community well by serving as judge on the election board for 25 years.

MIKE QUINN entered the employ of the U. S. Express company at Chenoa October 1, 1877, and was connected with the express office here for 45 years. He started as transfer man at first, but in 1884 he was appointed agent. Mr. Quinn was born in Ireland in 1857 and came to America in 1858 with his parents. He married Miss Mary Walsh, also a native of Ireland. They had five children, all of whom have had more or less experience in the express office. The office system has been changed often and bears little resemblance to that when he started. Mr. Quinn had never had a vacation. He had served as alderman, member of the school board, and justice of the peace. During all his years in service he had never had an accident and had never been the victim of robbers. He remembered very well the lively times in Chenoa during the Civil War. At that time the Alton railroad was the only railroad running into Springfield from the north and all the soldiers from the northern part of the state went through here going to Springfield for training. He had been offered more important posts with the express companies, but he had his home in Chenoa and had no desire to change.

JOHN BRADY (a Chenoa farm paid for with gold)

Two miles east of Chenoa on route 24 is a 163-acre farm, which was paid for in cash minted from gold mined in the gold fields of California, Montana, Idaho, and Colorado. Seized with gold fever, John Brady and two brothers, Jim and Hugh, went west to make their fortunes. Riding ponies and each leading a pack pony,

they crossed the country from their home town, Waterville, New York, to the gold fields, enduring many hardships and some Indian encounters. Not being satisfied in California, they soon left there and worked their way through the mountains to Virginia City, Montana, where they operated a sawmill. Another venture was the freighting of merchandise from cities in Missouri to Montana by ox team. Four yoke of oxen were necessary to draw one wagon. Seven wagons were operated by the Brady brothers.

But the urge of the hour was gold and still more gold. They sold out their business and went on to Denver, a mining camp of tents only. John Brady built the first frame building that Denver had. Hugh kept a store there while the other two brothers went prospecting for gold in the mountains. Hugh joined them later. After eight years of wandering over the gold fields of the west, the brothers decided to turn homeward. Riding ponies and carrying their gold with them, they crossed the prairie to a railroad center and on to their home. Their gold was carried in buckskin sacks tied with buckskin thongs. After arriving at their home in New York they found that every dollar's worth of gold was worth two in greenbacks recently issued by the national government. Greenbacks were new to them. No one would accept a greenback out west. They demanded gold. They delayed selling or minting their gold until 1865. They took it to the Philadelphia mint, where they had it turned into currency. By then one dollar in gold was worth only \$1.50 in greenbacks.

Not content in the east or with eastern farms, which were too small and crowded, the three brothers turned westward, coming to Peoria. They inspected farm land near there. Finally they came to Chenoa, where they were shown land. They bought farms within a few miles of each other.

John Brady came to Chenoa in 1864 and purchased a farm with cash minted from gold mined in the gold fields of California. He could have bought land much cheaper, in fact for one third of the price he paid, but he wanted a well-equipped farm and a nice home for his sweetheart back in New York. Here was a fine 10-room furnished house, barn, granary, corn crib, and everything necessary for farming. He considered \$32 an acre reasonable, so he purchased it, as it was just what he wanted. He returned to New York and married Mary Gahan on October 3, 1865. John Brady had some of his gold made into an engagement ring which today is only a thread of gold. He also had a wedding ring made, which is now only one fourth of its original width.

Mary Gahan had come originally from Ireland with her mother, brother, and three sisters. Several years later they came on to New York state to visit an aunt. Here Mary Gahan became well acquainted with the Eastman family of Kodak fame, also with Dr. Cleveland, cousin of Grover Cleveland. Four days after John Brady was married, they came to Chenoa. Here they had to wait for the former owner, a Mr. Armstrong, to vacate before they could take possession of their new home. Here they resided many years, working hard, yet very happy. Eleven children were born to them. There were 35 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. They saw much sorrow in the tragic death of loved ones. Mrs. Brady was an active woman, doing her ownhousework and baking. She made her own yeast, and it was good yeast, too, which baked fine well-raised loaves of bread. She used to make her own candles. She could remember walking two miles to town, when she was younger, to do her own trading. The canning of fruit and vegetables is much easier than the old drying method.

H. G. Harmon was born in Straborg in Alsace-Lorraine in 1834. The family moved to this country in 1838, settling near Canton, Ohio. He was educated in the country schools of his time. He became a member of the Lutheran church when quite young. Mr. Harmon was married twice, first in 1858 to Miss Elizabeth Weaber,

who only lived 11 months, dying of quick consumption. In September, 1861, he married Miss Josephine Shafer, and 11 children blessed this union, of whom nine lived. Mr. Harmon moved to Illinois in 1867 and settled on a farm in Chenoa township, where he lived the rest of his life. He greatly prospered and owned 320 acres of land.

When he came to Chenoa, wild game abounded. There were geese, ducks, prairie chickens, wolves, and an occasional deer, besides snakes by the thousands. He said it was no unusual thing to find the mould board red with blood of snakes which had been cut in two by the coulter when plowing. He tells the story of having killed, in 1868, a rattler with a seed board only four feet in length. Nicholas Trimmer, who saw the venomous serpent, said he would not have tackled that snake under any circumstances, as it was the largest one he had ever seen, measuring six feet in length. Mr. Harmon was a public-spirited man and stood ready to do what he could to promote the welfare of the community. Clarence Gray now lives on this farm, which is $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Chenoa and has been in the hands of the same family since 1867.

John C. Arnold, an early settler of Yates Township, was born in Germany, and with his wife, who was a member of the Royal family of Germany, came to America in 1853 after a voyage of 40 days in a sailing vessel. They landed in New York and went by rail to Dunkirk, N.Y., then by boat on Lake Erie to Cleveland, Ohio. They crossed the state of Ohio to Cincinnati, where they resided on a farm for four years. Afterwards they removed to Bloomington and resided there until 1867. Mr. Arnold purchased a quarter section of land in Yates Township where Everett Wahls now resides. He, his wife and family spent the remainder of their lives there. The four oldest children — John, Mary, George Jr., and Maggie — were born in Germany. William, Minnie and Oscar were born in America.

George J. Arnold, son of John C. and Caroline T. Arnold, came with his parents to America in 1853. He moved with them to Yates Township in 1867. In 1881 he married Miss Cornelia B. McCune. After their marriage they resided on a farm he had purchased in 1880. His grandson, George E. Brady, now resides on this farm. Mr. Arnold served as supervisor, school director, tax collector, highway commissioner, and township treasurer for 10 years. He was very active in the organization of the Weston Grain Co. He moved to Chenoa and served faithfully as a trustee of the Presbyterian church until his death which occurred in May, 1910.

James Brady was born near Dublin, Ireland, in 1837. He sailed from Ireland with his uncle when he was 10 years old. They were six weeks on the ocean and landed in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. They went on to Quebec, Montreal, and Toronto, where his uncle bought him a jacket and jeans and gave him six pence. His uncle then left him with strangers and that is the last he ever saw of his uncle. He crossed over to Buffalo on a ferry. He worked on a flatboat for a while and received his education from sailors. He worked across the Great Lakes and came down to Granville, Illinois. Here he worked on a farm. He saved his money and later married Jane Boyd. He worked as a butcher for a little while. Later he purchased a team. He lived for a short time near Weston, then moved to his prairie farm south of Chenoa to make his home. Prairie fires were frequent. In the fall they would have had to move out or be burned out if it had not been for the advise of a 12-year-old neighbor boy who told him how to back-fire to save his place from burning. He hauled firewood and poles for a shanty from south of Fairbury in order to have a shelter for his team. One morning while hitching up his team two wolves jumped out of the prairie grass and scared his team. It was several days before the team returned home. Deer often jumped from one side of a trail to another as Mr. Brady drove along.

Mr. Brady found the plowing of the prairie was hard work because of numerous roots called shoe strings. He also carried a long handled hatchet to cut the roots when they stalled and could not go on. He also used this hatchet to kill snakes. The closest neighbor was six miles away. The first winter he lived here he helped a neighbor butcher a horse. The neighbor kept the best meat and gave the rest to the wolves. He offered Mr. Brady a nice roast, but he refused to take it. Mr. Brady helped survey Chenoa Township and a part of Yates Township. Sand cranes were very troublesome. They would fly into a patch of corn and soon pull all of it up. Prairie chickens were very numerous. It was no trouble to fill a tub full of them before breakfast. After the surveying was done, the pioneer planted trees and hedge for fences. The young hedge had to be cultivated and his boys were put to work pulling the big weeds out of the hedge rows.

Mr. Brady built the first frame barn in Chenoa Township. It was first built three feet off the ground; later it was put on a rock foundation. Hugh Jones and Jesse R. King did the mason work. The frame work is made of 8 x 8 timber mortised together and pinned with wooden pegs.

Drainage was a problem. Mr. Brady had an open ditch made across the farm by a ditching machine. Four yoke of oxen working a capstan furnished the power. The capstan had to be moved whenever the chain got wound up. This was slow work. The driver stood in the middle with a whip. Mr. Brady built his farm home about three rods from where Isaac Funk drove livestock to the Chicago market. (See "Cattle" in this book.)

Edwin Brady, son of James and Jane Boyd Brady, was born at Granville, Illinois. In 1864 he came with his parents to a farm 1½ miles south of Chenoa, where Mr. Brady resided until his marriage to Miss Fanny McKergan at Wenona, Illinois. They went to housekeeping on a farm 3½ miles south of Chenoa, where Eldon Wahls now resides. In 1918 he purchased a farm three miles west of Fairbury, where he resided until his death, March 5, 1945. Mr. Brady came to this community when there were few roads and the houses were far apart. He farmed for 60 years. He also served as assessor of Yates Township for 19 years. He and his family were members of the Chenoa Congregational Church. Later in life his membership was transferred to the Fairbury Presbyterian Church.

The Lawrence Power family settled northeast of Chenoa in 1866. They had 11 children, eight girls (who all became school teachers) and three boys. Mr. Power built a sod house and broke the prairie.

Thomas Power (son of Lawrence Power) and family came to live in Chenoa in 1878. They had 10 children, seven boys and three girls.

Frank M. Power, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Power, was born in Chenoa in 1883. He attended Chenoa schools, and has been in business in Chenoa for the past 52 years. He served as city clerk for 35 successive years under six different mayors. Any extra time he has from his insurance agency he spends adjusting insurance losses for a large insurance company.

Francis G. Power, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Power, was born in Chenoa in 1910. He graduated from C.C.H.S. and attended Bradley University, where he graduated with honors in 1932. He served for six years on the staff of Governor Henry Horner. Later he had charge of the Illinois Building at the New York World's Fair in 1939-40. He entered World War II as an Ensign in the Navy and retired at Lieutenant Commander. He was with the Chicago Association of Commerce, and is now owner and operator of the Power Motel at Princeton, Illinois.

Margaret L. Power, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Power, was born in Chenoa in 1912 and graduated from C.C.H.S. She entered Illinois Wesleyan Uni-

versity, where she graduated with an AB degree. She was awarded a scholarship to the National Recreation School in New York City, where she graduated. She received her master's degree at New York University. She is now with the Department of Hospitals in New York City, being student advisor at King's County Hospital.

Joseph Bear (grandfather of Joseph T. Bear) came to Chenoa with his five small children shortly after the death of his wife at Farmington, Illinois, in 1863. His father, Sebastian Bear, of Franklin County, Pennsylvania, came also. They bought farm land south of Chenoa. Joseph Bear built the Dunkard Church, which is now the residence of Miss Bertha Thrane. The kitchen of the present house was the "feet washing" room. The Dunkard Church is also known as Church of the Brethren and sometimes as German Baptist Brethren Church. Five generations of Bears have lived in Chenoa.

Joel Anderson lived in a sod house near the Wade stone quarry. The nearest neighbor was Mr. and Mrs. Pennel, who lived on the Luther Hayes farm before Mr. Hayes came there. The other neighbors lived five miles away. There were only two frame buildings in Pontiac — a court house and a hotel. The other four or five buildings there were built of logs. There was no railroad, no Chenoa, and only a few people living between Pontiac and Lexington.

Mrs. Alvin Potter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Anderson, was born in 1809. Mr. and Mrs. Potter moved in with her parents in 1850. Later they moved to Rooks Creek for a while. Near them there was a deep hole on the George Potter farm. It was called Potter's hole. It is to this place that they and all their neighbors brought their clothes to wash. They scrubbed their clothes on a rock, then rinsed them. In 1866 they moved back to Chenoa.

Mrs. David Whiteside, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Potter, was married in 1864. Thirty-six years after her parents were married she was married by the same minister on the same day of the month and the same hour of the day. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside came to Chenoa in 1870 and occupied the same residence the rest of their lives except for one year. Mr. Whiteside broke up the prairie on many farms northwest of Chenoa. He had a very fine mule team to pull his plow. Mr. and Mrs. Whiteside were the parents of 11 children (two sets of twins). Eight lived to maturity, among whom was Mrs. Ada Fike, who still resides here.

Andrew Jackson was born in Pennsylvania in 1825. After his marriage in 1854 he came down the Ohio River, then up the Mississippi to the Illinois River, and up to Peoria. He lived a while at Dunlap until he came to Chenoa in the fall of 1857. He purchased land from Matthew T. Scott. Mr. Scott had previously built a house on this place. The house is still standing and is now being used as a tenant house. Mr. Jackson lived here when livestock was driven over land to the Chicago Stockyards. Pioneers here had their corn and wheat milled at Pontiac for home use. There being no roads, they followed marked trails. Since there was no drainage here, farmers cultivated only the higher lands. When the ground was first plowed, the farmer always carried a club with him as part of his equipment. They never knew when they might come on to some unfriendly snakes.

Mr. Jackson purchased more land. There seemed to be more land than money. It took 320 acres to secure a mortgage of \$3000. The land tax in 1880 on 480 acres was \$67.58. In the spring of 1888 Mr. Jackson moved to California and his son Oscar Jackson took the farm over, running it as a stock and grain farm. In 1910 Mr. Jackson took his two sons into partnership with him. In 1916 he turned it over to his sons, Leigh and Lester Jackson.

CHRISTIAN JACOBS was born in 1833 in Germany and arrived in America with his parents in 1854. He came to Yates Township in 1856. He received his early training in his native country. He was 21 years of age when he came to live near Chenoa. In 1857 he purchased 160 acres of land in Yates Township, where he engaged in agriculture and cattle feeding pursuits. By his frugality and good judgment he prospered to a high degree. At one time he owned 900 acres of land, some of which he sold, the rest being given to his children. He purchased property in Chenoa at South Division Street in 1896, where he retired. He married and had six children, five of whom lived to maturity.

When J. B. Castle and son drove from Mendota across the prairie in 1867 they saw Mr. Jacobs' five children riding horses while herding a large herd of cattle on the prairie. According to his grandson, Raymond Jacobs, Mr. Jacobs Sr. burned off the old prairie grass each spring and by summer there was plenty of green grass for his herds. By fall some of the slough grass had grown as high or higher than the horses' backs. Sometimes when the children came home at night with the cattle they would bring as much as a bushel basket full of prairie chicken eggs. Mr. Jacobs' children were William Jacobs, Minnie Jacobs (Schwager), Elizabeth Jacobs (Seeman), Anna Jacobs (Nagel), and Mary Jacobs (Woolenzien).

HUGH VAUGHAN —

Brothers Hugh and Robert were considered the adventurers in the Vaughan family. Without a dollar in his pocket, but with prospects of working for his passage aboard ship, Hugh left Merioneth County, Wales, in 1858 for the United States. Robert followed two years later and he visited Hugh, who originally settled in Oneida County, New York. In 1860, Hugh came to McLean County and settled in Lexington Township in which he later purchased 80 acres of land. He built a four-room house which had plaster and weather boarding. His neighbors immediately predicted such a large and expensive home would result in his financial doom. Robert — a venturesome farmer, coal miner, frontiersman, gold prospector, rancher, and writer — followed, but he soon continued westward to settle the town of Vaughan, Montana.

Hugh continued to improve his farm and on April 8, 1865, he married Ellen Jones, who came to this country from Montgomeryshire, Wales. They were the first settlers in this vicinity to spend the winter months on their farm, as it was the common practice to move into the woods so as to have access to sufficient wood and to be protected against the icy winds, snow, and cold weather. Three years later he purchased an additional 160 acres in Chenoa Township and they moved to this site. A qualification for this transaction was the planting and tending of Osage hedge around the farm. It acted as a windbreak and helped in preventing soil erosion. Mrs. Vaughan often mentioned that it was impossible to have even a vegetable garden on the prairie, as the wind would whip the plants off at ground level. In cultivating this farm, so many arrows and arrow heads were uncovered that it was believed an Indian battle had been waged there at some previous time. There was a small house on the new farm and Hugh stated this house and one other small building were the only buildings on the prairie when he came to Lexington Township. It now is an ell in the present Vaughan home. Hugh raised large number of horses, cattle, and pigs and he had the first corn dump, tile ditching machine and riding plow for plowing corn. The latter two are still on the farm.

To this union were born eight children — Edward, Hugh, Viola, Mary, Grace, Robert, Margaret, and John. Viola married Kenneth McIver, rancher, Great Falls, Montana. Grace married Earl Starkey, farmer, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Mary lives in Chenoa. Margaret married Frank Thayer (deceased), farmer in Yates Township, but she now resides in Chenoa. Robert, farmer and stockman, married Grizolla

Elliott, and he lives in Chenoa. John, retired farmer and stockman, was united in marriage with Minnie Thayer. John still lives on the Vaughan farm in Chenoa Township.

Civic and political affairs held Hugh's interest and he acted as school director, participated in road improvements, and when the need for a church became urgent, he (and later his son, John) donated the use of the land for the Salem Community Church from 1870 to 1942. It was served by ministers of various denominations, but it was served predominantly by Presbyterian pastors. An avid Republican, Mr. Vaughan walked to Bloomington, Illinois, and back home for his naturalization papers, so that he would be able to vote for Abraham Lincoln.

THE THAYERS

The Thayer and Field families emigrated from England to the United States. They settled in Warren, Vermont, in the Green Mountains. Aaron Thayer, a farmer, married Esther Field and they had 10 children. After Mr. Thayer's death in 1863, the four younger children urged their mother to sell her property and move westward. Three years later, Mrs. Thayer did come west with her son Erastus (and his wife), twin daughters, Emma (who was married to Bass Gibson) and Emiline (who later married Robert Hopkins in Illinois), and her youngest son, Anthony. They came to Tazewell County in 1866 and settled for one year. In 1867, they moved to Yates Township, where each child purchased 80 acres of land and Mrs. Thayer purchased an additional 80 acres of land for each child and herself. Since Anthony was not married, she made her home with him. Although Anthony was only 18 when he came to Yates Township, he was very industrious, and with his mother's encouragement, he began to drain the land, build barns, enlarge the home, and fence the farm. Most of this work was accomplished during the winter months, but securing the supplies was a decided problem. The roads were so muddy the wagons sank to the axles and additional teams would be required to pull the loads. On December 20, 1870, he married Maggie Arnold. His mother continued to make her home with them until her death on July 13, 1879. She was a neighborly person and nursed many a sick child and aided many families in the canning season. Nevertheless, she did cause many a frown. Although she was a product of the best finishing schools in Vermont and her brother was Eugene Field, noted journalist, humorist, and poet, it never bothered her to be making soap on Sunday morning while the neighbors were going to church.

Anthony and Maggie had six children — George M., Ella M., Clarence E., Ida L., Frank E., and Minnie B. Clarence E. married Anna Moser. Ida L. married Michael Hientz. Frank E. married Margaret Vaughan and lived in Yates Township and Chenoa, Illinois. Minnie B. married John Vaughan, retired farmer and stockman, Chenoa, Illinois.

Anthony received a lung injury at the age of 33. He travelled to New Mexico for his health, and his wife, with the aid of her two sons, continued farming. Mr. Thayer returned to Yates Township the following year and died April 28, 1884. Although Mr. Thayer attended the Presbyterian church, he donated toward the construction of a Lutheran church which was built south of his farm. The roads were practically impassable and the members of this congregation offered their church for his funeral service. Mrs. Maggie Thayer accepted their neighborly gesture.

Mrs. Thayer continued farming with her son Frank. She was a firm believer that an education was a necessity. All of her children graduated from high school and attended business and trade schools. Eventually, she moved to Chenoa and made her home there. She purchased land in several localities, but at the time of her death in March, 1929, she owned 352 acres near Leesburg, Indiana. Frank E.

purchased the home farm and continued to farm it until his death. Mrs. Frank Thayer has this farm and it is being farmed by Mr. and Mrs. Thayer's niece and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Mays.

LOUIS LE DUC and family came to the Chenoa vicinity just one hundred years ago in the fall of 1854. Louis Le Duc formerly was an officer in the French army, a member of the French Royal Court, and a linguist, being able to read and write seven languages. When a young man he was sent to the French embassy in Rome and often came in contact with Pope Pius the Ninth and his famous Secretary of State, Antonelli.

Mr. and Mrs. LeDuc came to Illinois by ox team. They were on their way to the Kansas frontier, but one of their oxen having been bitten by a rattlesnake, and Mrs. Le Duc having contracted malaria, they could go no farther. They spent their first winter here in a dugout three miles north of Chenoa on what is known as the Hancock farm.

Mr. Le Duc started farming northwest of Chenoa. His first corn crop was eaten by wild geese before they could get it harvested. The next year a prairie fire burned their crop. Mr. Le Duc died in 1890 and his wife died in 1919. Their descendants now living within this community are A. C. Le Duc, Victor and Lillian Nickel, and Rudolph E. Vercler and family.

FRANK FISCHBACH came to Chenoa in 1866 and located on a farm five or six miles southeast of town. His farm was one of the first improved farms on the prairie. He built a nice five-room house and reared a family of 14 children, all of whom lived to maturity. He was a farmer, but a blacksmith by trade. He did blacksmithing for neighbors or any who wanted that work done. He dug the first open drainage ditch around here, using oxen to do the pulling. He was also the first pioneer farmer who tilled out his land. In 1882 he purchased another farm located near Weston.

JOHN KING

Mr. and Mrs. John King came to Chenoa from Ohio in a covered wagon about 1865. Mrs. King had woven much carpet in Ohio. She saved her money and continued to weave carpet here in Illinois until they had enough money to build a home, which was constructed across the street south of the grade school on Second Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. King were the parents of Mrs. Nettie King. John King was caretaker of the City Cemetery for some time.

OLDEST CONTINUOUS BUSINESS FIRM IN CHENOA

JACOB BALBACH, SR., was born in Gimmeldlengen, Bavaria, December 17, 1831. In 1849 he came to America and farmed nine years near Washburn, Illinois. He married Maria Beach in Woodford County and came to Chenoa in 1863. Mr. Balbach was a cobbler by trade, having learned this business from his father in his native land. When he came to Chenoa he pursued his trade, but seeing the need for a grocery and dry goods store, he decided to engage in such a business. After a time he saw he was prospering and continued in the same business. Mr. and Mrs. Balbach were the parents of 12 children, three of whom died in infancy. The others were Peter, August, Mrs. Anna Klein, Adam, Paul, Mrs. Mary Van Dolah, Mrs. Katherine Elfrink, Jacob Jr., and George.

His place of business was a spacious brick structure on the west side and north end of Veto Street where he occupied three spacious rooms, the corner room being devoted to dry goods, millinery and notions. The second room was used for clothing, boots, shoes, hats, and caps. The third room was used for groceries, fruits and country produce. He also had a creamery in the McDonald building.

The chief source of merchandise was Marshall Field and Carson Pirie wholesalers. He was associated in business with his three sons—Adam, Paul, and Jacob Jr.

Sunday was a busy day at the Balbach home. Friends and relatives came to their home. Many of them walked to town, carrying their lunch baskets and leaving them in the front hall of the Balbach home while they attended church services. They put on their Sunday shoes, which they had left at the Balbach home the previous Sunday. After church services were over they came to the Balbach home in a group for dinner and an afternoon of good fellowship. Jacob Sr. died on December 17, 1902; Adam died on September 10, 1906; Paul died on January 27, 1907; and Mrs. Balbach died April 16, 1914. Jacob Jr. took over the business, and his son-in-law, Vance Dorman, became a member of the firm. Following Mr. Dorman's death in 1934, Nyle Balbach became associated with his father. After Jacob's death, Ted Dorman, younger son of Vance Dorman, became associated with Nyle Balbach until Nyle's retirement. After Vance Dorman joined the business it was known as Balbach & Dorman. Since Nyle's retirement it has been known as Dorman's Food Mart.

FARM IMPLEMENTS

The earliest settlers of McLean County lived entirely by agriculture, and that of the crudest sort. The greatest difficulty they faced was the breaking of the sod. Most settlers had only wooden plows, and with these it was very difficult to break up the prairie sod. In fact, breaking of the sod in large patches was sometimes impossible, and the farmer resorted to digging a hole, dropping a few grains of corn into it, and covering it with his heel. As compensation for the hard methods of cultivation, the land was of little or no value, so the settler could take all he wanted. However, quarter acre tracts were the most popular, as this was about the largest section of land which could be farmed by one person. From the very first, corn became the chief product of McLean County. First, because it was the easiest grain crop from which to obtain seed, and second because its cultivation was a simpler process than that of oats or wheat.

Mr. Robert Vaughan, Sr., whose father, Hugh Vaughan, was one of the early settlers in Chenoa Township, has given an account of the early implements used in farming in this section.

PLOWS. The first plow to be used was a walking plow which was made entirely of wood except for an iron share. It had a standing cutter (a piece of iron which stands up to cut the sod and plowed only from two to four inches deep). This was usually pulled by four oxen or three horses.

SPIKE-TOOTH HARROW. This was the only implement the early farmer had to break the sod after it had been plowed. It was run over the ground time and time again and in the spots where long grass grew the sod was raked and burned. Mr. Vaughan remembers when his father bought a new 16-foot harrow, which was the largest then being made. This harrow had no seat, so a man had to walk along beside it. Most of the machinery at this time came from Ohio.

PLANTER. The first corn planted was dropped by hand on every third furrow as it was plowed. The first planter, a Vanderbilt, had a seat and planted two rows at a time. It had a dropping lever which was operated by hand. There was an attachment for it with a rope check which worked pretty well until the rope would break; then there was no way to splice it.

CULTIVATOR. The first cultivator had no seat. There were two shovels which

both threw the dirt the same way, so that the farmer had to go up a row one way and back the other in order to cultivate one row. They were in luck if the corn was cultivated once during the season. Wheat was sowed in the fall, which would rot the sod somewhat and enable the ground to be plowed about an inch deeper the next spring.

SEEDER. Mr. Vaughan remembers his father sowing oats by hand. The first seeder he remembers was about 16 feet long and the oats were cultivated in. The seeder was a long box with holes in the bottom which worked on the principle of a flour sifter. The end-gate seeder came later.

SHELLER. There were no corn shellers until around 1880. Up until this time the corn was cut by hand and put in shocks. Most of it was fed to the cattle, but a small amount was shucked and cribbed for the horses. A crib for 160 acres was about 10 feet square and nine feet high. The first sheller was a spring sheller which shelled two ears at a time.

REAPER. Mr. Vaughan remembers when cradles were used entirely. The first two reapers were the Kirby and the Wheeler & Wilson. They were pulled by three horses and had carriers which dumped the grain. Four men would follow each machine and tie the bundles by hand and shock it. It was understood that grain had to cure, so it was left in shocks for three weeks, then hauled in and stacked for three more. Finally, the threshing machine would come in and thresh.

THRESHING MACHINES. The early threshing machines were about the same as those which came later except they were run by horses and it took eight horses to run one.

WAGONS AND HAYRACKS. The early wagons were called "Lynch-pin" wagons, meaning the wheels were held on by pins. The first hayracks were made with poles instead of planks, and since there were no box wagons at that time the grain was put in sacks and hauled to the granary to be dumped.

DITCHING AND TILING MACHINES. In the early days, large areas of undrained land, known as swampland, existed. For the quarter of a century from 1880 the chief concern of the farmer was to get his land drained, and tiling was a big business in those days.

Underground ditches about three feet deep were made with a blind ditching machine or mole ditcher. This had an iron bulb about two or three inches in diameter at its lower end. This was fastened to a narrow iron blade set perpendicularly in the ground, which in turn was fastened to a stout wooden frame. This blade was forced through the ground by horses or oxen and cut a round tunnel two or three inches in diameter about three feet below the ground.

The first tile came from Fairbury and was flat on one side. It was laid flat side down, but was so uneven they began laying it round side down until all round tile was made.

Hugh Vaughan had the first ditching machine in this community and it is still in possession of the Vaughan family.

To give an idea of the value of land in the early days, a man named Jake Bess, who was a lumber dealer in Lexington, bought the 80 acres across from the farm which now belongs to J. P. Pils. The first spring he plowed the ground and in every third furrow dropped the corn. That fall he sold the corn in the field for enough money to pay for the 80 acres.

Mr. Vaughan also tells of a prairie fire which happened about 75 years ago.

It started on the farm where Otto Schuth now lives and spread to an area about two miles wide. It is thought to have been started from sparks from a train on the C&A, now the GM&O. When the fire would hit a slough, sparks would fly about 50 feet in the air. The farmers tried to bring it to a point to extinguish it, but it spread as far as what is now the George Brown farm in Yates Township before it was put out.

THE FIRST COUNTY FINAL AND CENTRAL EXAMINATIONS

Among interesting records, which are a part of the office collections of County Superintendent of Schools, is the first final and central examinations which were held in McLean County. The names of those listed as taking the first final examination March 13, 1886, from Chenoa were: Mary Vaughan, E. H. Dyer, Anna Martin, Florence Smith, Willie Rilen, Hattie Crandall, Clara Rilen, Genia Bush, Matthew Clark, Louise J. Myers, L. Warner, Maggie McCune, Edgar Colter, Lottie Berryman, Jennie Harris, Mary Brady, Iva Batrum, C. Scott Pike, Stella Wilson, Maurice Dooley, Mary Hunting, Nellie Whiting, David Claudon, David Balbach, William Dawson, Elbert Kirkpatrick, Jennie Brady, Owen Batrum, Agnes Dilly, Lillie Ketcham, Jennie Crowell, Katie Carlin, Hattie Clark, Myrtle Colter, Luella Edmondson, Leona Crow, and Mary Boyle.

Those listed from Yates Township were: Walker Mears, Mary E. Brown, James Mears, Cassie Hanna, Arthur Farr, Luella Chapman, Della Dawson, Robert Henning, Clarence Thayer, Edward Beachler, Ella McBroom, Nannie Hanna, Rose Burnett, Oria Brannen, Hattie Dawson, T. A. Hanna, Robert Muzzy, Alice Finley, and Susie Stephens.

SCHOOL

In 1856 a subscription or private school was conducted in the northwest portion of the town where Todd's Oil Station now stands. It was taught by Miss Mary A. Clapp, who later became the wife of W. E. Ketcham (well-known merchant) and mother of Mrs. Anna Evans. Miss Clapp came to Chenoa from Ohio to teach this school of 118 pupils.

Chenoa's First Schoolhouse

Among the early buildings erected in Chenoa was the Anderson Schoolhouse, which was built in 1857 a little west and south of the house now standing at 325 Crittendon Street. It was a two-room building and was approached by a high wooden sidewalk because it sometimes stood in water during the rainy season of the year. Benches were used for seats. Judge Sample and Martin Shepherd were the first teachers, so far as is known. Miss Sarepta Hamilton (Vawter) was the first lady teacher in this school. Squire Lenny was the first school director. The Methodists, Presbyterians, and Catholics held their first services and organized their churches in this schoolhouse since there was no other meeting place available at that time.

In 1867 a new schoolhouse was built at the present site of the grade school on Second Avenue at a cost of \$30,000. It was a structure 60 feet square, three stories high, with a basement and belfry. W. B. Fisk superintended the erection

of this building. The annual expense of this school including taxes did not vary much from \$6,000. Student enrollment was 275 on an average. The first superintendent was W. J. Glover; Board of directors: J. D. Moore, W. M. Fales, and Dr. C. S. Elder; teachers: Mrs. J. W. Glover, Miss Welling, Miss Murray, and Mrs. W. E. Ketcham.

John A. Miller became superintendent in 1873 and remained until he was appointed County Superintendent of McLean County Schools.

In 1884 two more rooms were added to the building on the east side and six teachers were employed.

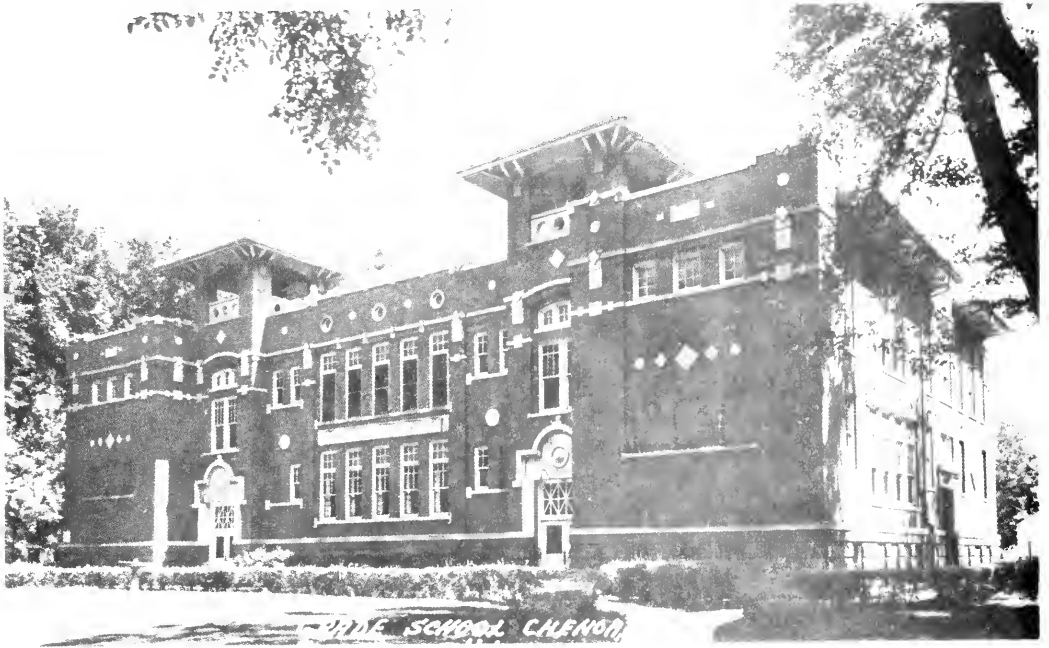
The first class graduated in 1881, among whom were A. D. Jordan of Chenoa



CHENOA SCHOOL
Built in 1867.

and Mrs. Belle Davis of Boise, Idaho.

In 1895 Prof. A. Middleton was principal and the following were teachers: Miss Mary Gordon, Miss Jennie Crabb, Miss Agnes Dillon, Miss Inez Thomas, Miss Jennie McCune, Miss Susie McGinnis, and Lena L. Krum. Total enrollment was 310. The school board was composed of E. M. Pike, Dr. H. F. Ballard, Mrs. J. Y. Martin, Miss Minnie Arnold, W. G. Abbott, J. C. Gerisch, and Henry Crabb. The building was sold in 1911 to a Chicago wrecking firm for \$5.00.



CHENOA COMMUNITY GRADE SCHOOL — Built in 1911

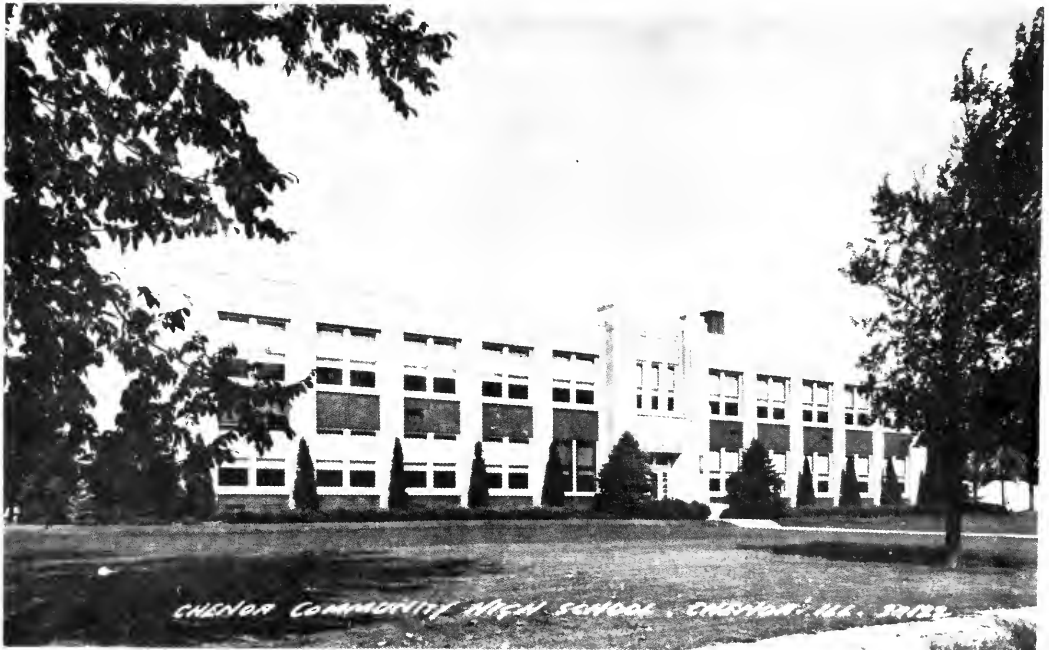
In 1911, due to increased enrollment, a modern brick building was built on the same site where the old schoolhouse stood. It cost \$40,000. This building housed both the high school and grades. The high school rented from the grade school. Members of the board of education were — president, E. M. Pike, Maurice Monroe, O. A. Sweet, P. C. Gillespie, G. E. Stump, Mrs. Anna Evans, and Mrs. Daisy Downey. E. M. Pike was president of the board of education for many, many years. He gave each year to the graduating pupil having the highest average for the four years in high school what was known as "The Pike Gold Medal." His daughter, Mrs. J. R. Kerr of Versailles, Illinois, continued this gift long after her father's death. Later it was taken in charge by the Ben Roth Post No. 234, American Legion.

Another award known as the "Kare Kaplan Award" was given annually to the student excelling in music, in honor of Carolyn Kaplan by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Kaplan. Other awards given annually were DAR Award, Silliman Award, and Babe Ruth Sportsmanship Award.

The community high school district was organized in 1920, with L. C. Smith superintendent. It was accepted as a member of the North Central Association of

Colleges and Secondary Schools in September, 1923. With increasing enrollment of high-school students from 1925 to 1934, it became necessary to have better school conditions. A temporary building was constructed in 1932 on a lot adjoining to the east, which housed the commercial department. Also, a building two blocks away was used for a gymnasium. Band instruction was held in the basement of the Baptist church. The board members at that time were the following: D. N. Claudon, B. F. Elfrink, John D. Klein, A. D. Jordon, and F. M. Power.

Among those who served on the grade school board with Mr. V. L. Nickel, president for many years, were the following: Samuel Evans, M. B. Corliss, Jacob Linden, E. B. Streid, Vance Dorman, Henry Masso, Marion Decker, Fred Gittinger, Don Schopp, and W. R. Winter.



CHENOA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL — Built in 1936

The Board of Education took advantage of Federal Aid to assist with their plans and in November, 1935, a proposed new high school building and site was voted on which carried with a large majority. The proposed new building was to cost \$112,200, with an outright grant from the government of 45 percent or about \$55,000. Members of the board were: D. M. Stutzman, president, who had been a board member since 1923 and president since 1926; L. E. Jackson; C. R. Gentes; G. C. Gundy; and L. T. Reany.

The high school faculty included Superintendent W. L. Davies, Mrs. Maude Henline, Miss Ruth Harrower, Miss Lela Barth, Miss Pauline Orr, George B. Ferree, Raymond E. Elson, Robert Walker, E. L. Meeker, and Miss Marcia Johnson.

Records show that more than 2,000 boys and girls are graduates of the Chenoa high school system; the largest class of 46 in 1936, and the smallest, one member each, 1897, W. B. Clooney of Bloomington, and 1898, Fred McMurray, father of movie star Fred McMurray.

The first school busses, privately owned, were operated by C. J. Gillespie and Lyndell Elson in 1946. In 1949, a unit district was formed which began to function in July of that year, known as Chenoa Community Unit School, District No. 9, with H. J. Seybold superintendent of the unit and high school principal. James Changnon was grade school principal. The following rural school districts are included in this unit: Ballard, Trimmer, Maple Tree, Center, Enterprise, Meadows, Bauman, Brady, Weston, Yates Center, Gray, Ogle, Cottonwood, Fairview, Hogan, Pike Center, Lommatsch, Hancock, Vercler, Gentes, Ocoya, and Turtle Creek. Weston and Yates Center are still open schools, teaching grades first through sixth. Hot noon lunch is furnished from the school cafeteria. The elementary school with increased enrollment and expanded program fully occupies the former high school and grade school building. The cafeteria is also located in the grade school building.

The present Board of Education: President Orland Kridner, Harold Esmond, Verne Erdman, Francis Vercler, Orville Asper, Gaillard Wagner, and Robert Roszhart.

Faculty: Harley J. Seybold, Superintendent of Unit System and Principal of High School; Milton Pokarney, Principal of Grade School; Donna Hirst; Virginia Tutje; Alwilda Ballinger; Ida Mary Ferree; Helen Phillips; Gladys Horney; Wilda Kennedy; Belle Kreider; Helen Tronc; Mildred Bacon; Mildred Stone; Charles Lucas; Lillian Ferguson; Magruerite Buracker; Clayton Evenden; Nelle Fitzpatrick, Weston; Esther Kinzer, Yates Center; and Ivetta Calhoon, music. High School: Russell Keller, Carolyn Florea, Anne Potthast, Priscilla Mall, Patricia Rebbe, Eleanor Koss, Owen Smith, Daniel Swanson, George B. Ferree, Lyle King, Don Daluga, Raymond Elson, Ruth Knox, and Dean Taylor. Secretary, Evelyn Reis.

Cafeteria staff: Mrs. Edna Sherrington, Mrs. Elsie Stuckemeyer, Mrs. Schenk, Mrs. Kathleen Kauffman, Mrs. Cleone Currin, Mrs. Mabel Cottrell, Mrs. Ethel Sievers, and Mrs. Hartzell Alpers.

Bus drivers: Robert Roszhart Jr., Dean Taylor, Claude Powell, Lee Newkirk, Alvyn Schopp, Ralph Wagner, and Paul Hallbeck. Relief driver: Jerome Schopp.

School Custodians: Grade School—Henry Watt, M. C. Clooney, Isadore Scanlan, Wm. Kramer, Wm. Brooks, Jack Statler, and John Harkrider (who was janitor for 30 years). The janitor is now Ben Stadick. The first high school janitor was Pete Meece, followed by Lawrence Bacon.

School Activities

The Student Council consists of 14 members who represent the different organizations in school, to secure the interest and cooperation necessary to promote school activities, and to lead the student body to realize their school, in a small way, plays a vital part in shaping the life of our community and nation.

The Council shall consist of the principal, two members of the faculty, one freshman, two sophomores, three juniors, three seniors, one member from the athletic association, one member representing all music organizations, editor-in-chief of the school paper, and one member each from other organizations with a constitution and regular meetings.

“The Chenowan”

The “Chenowan,” the yearbook of the Chenoa High School, is published by the annual staff. The Chenowan depicts the activities of the school year during which it is published. The staff is appointed by the senior sponsors and the principal. There is also a junior and senior staff.

Athletics

Chenoa is represented in interscholastic competition in football, basketball, and track. A regular schedule is made in each sport for the year. The coach is Lyle King and assistant coach is Don Daluge. The "C" Club was organized to promote better sportsmanship. To be eligible requires one letter for sports or two years for manager.

Music

The Music department of the Chenoa High School participates in the McLean County Music Festival at Illinois State Normal University each spring. This gives the students a chance to play in a large band or sing in a glee club. Chenoa has been represented by as many as seventy (70) students in this festival.

Each year the music department also enters the Illinois High School Association statewide series of music contests for all high schools in the state of Illinois. Music groups representing Chenoa in this contest are Boys' Glee Club, Girls' Glee Club, Mixed Chorus, Solos, and Ensembles.

The music departments of the high school under the direction of Russell Keller, and the grade school music department under the direction of Ivetta Calhoon presented the annual Christmas vesper at the high school for the parents and patrons of the community.

Future Homemakers of America

Any girl in high school who has one year of Homemaking may join the FHA with the purpose of improving individual and family living in home and community life. This department is directed by Miss Patricia Rebbe.

Future Farmers of America

The FFA is a national organization of farm boys who are enrolled in vocational agriculture with the purpose of promoting leadership, cooperation, and community service. Sectional and state judging contests are held for FFA members. Grain, poultry, dairy and fat stock teams represent our school in these contests. This department is directed by Owen Smith.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote worthy leadership and to encourage the development of character. The National Honor Society is an organization founded in over 3,000 high schools in the United States. The Chenoa chapter was founded in 1949. The high school faculty selects the membership.

Athletics

Chenoa High School athletics began in 1907 with a track and baseball team. The first coach was E. M. Davis, who was also the principal of the school at that time. He was followed by A. B. Hiatt (also principal) 1911-15, Lloyd Sarver 1916, A. B. Hiatt 1917-1919, Byron Moore 1920-21, Ted Scheid 1921-23, Ken Jennings 1923-25, Herb Fitz 1925-29, George Ferree 1928-29, Arthur Stephens 1929-30, George Ferree 1930-1942, Fred Ritchhoff 1943-44, Ray Sparlin 1944-46, George Ferree 1946-49, Lyle King, 1949-54.

Among the outstanding athletes were Ike Lennington, who placed second in the pole vault in the national amateur track meet and was also captain of the University of Illinois track team. Others and their sports were: Eldon Streid, track and football; Stan Albeck, basketball; Jim Shiflett, football and track; Ed Ferree, basketball and track; Emory Ebbert, football; Ben Clark, football and track; Charles Myers, football and track; Bill Sarver, basketball; Russell Dunham, football, basketball, track; Jim Elson, track; Hugh Jones, basketball and baseball; Jack Osborne, track; Francis Sullivan, football; Dale Miller, football and track; Murray Osborne Jr., track; Roger Ehrhardt, track, football; Marcellin (Buck) Kauffman, track, football, basketball; Bill Asper, football and track; and Robert Pickett, track, football, basketball.

Awards over a number of years have been: undefeated in football, 1951 and 1953; county track champions, 1929, 36, 37, 1946 through 1952; county basketball titles, 1939, 49, 51; won regional 1936; placed second in sectional 1946 and 1948.

The football roster for 1953 was as follows: Jim Stroud, Gene Jontry, Pat Asper, Harold Landrus, Dick Piercy, Larry Brown, Jim Cottrell, Lem Clark, Fred Gittinger, Bill Higgins, Dave Knopp, Russ Landrus, Don Mason, Bill Newkirk, Jim Rhoda, Bill Scott, Don Boles, Francis Chapman, Dell Dunham, Roger Koerner, Willis Landrus, Carl Rasmus, Richard Roche, Dick Wagner, Bill Brown, Deane Jacobs, Raymond Landrus, Tom Scott, Charles Shoemaker, and Dallas Wendling.

The 1953-54 basketball squad was as follows: Gene Jontry, Pat Asper, Dick Piercy, Lem Clark, Bill Scott, Fred Gittinger, Russ Landrus, Dave Knopp, Bill Higgins, Bill Roszhart, Jim Rhoda, Jim Cottrell, Larry Brown, Dell Dunham, Norman Linder, Richard Roche, Roger Koerner, Francis Chapman, Don Boles, Larry Goodin, Carl Rasmus, Donald Mullen, Tom Scott, Norman Aschenbrenner, Raymond Landrus, Bill Brown, Deane Jacobs, Dick Wagner, and Ronnie Corrie

Agriculture Department

The first agriculture class was offered in Chenoa High School in 1920. Then, in 1924 the Ag Club was formed, and in 1929 the Future Farmers of America was organized. In 1928, Adult Farmer Classes were first introduced in the community. In 1947, the Ag Advisory Council was formed to help with the Vocational Ag Program.

Since the beginning of the department, the Agriculture program has been among the leading Vocational Ag departments in the state. The high school classes, the Adult Farmer classes, the Future Farmers, the Advisory Council, and the Veteran classes have been noted for their success. Following is a list of the agriculture teachers, and some of the awards won by the department and individuals:

AG TEACHERS — A. B. Churchill, 1920-22; Frank Makepiece, 1922-24; J. A. Twardock, 1924; Roy Hammond, 1935; Harold Jensen, 1936; Robert Walker, 1937; Owen Smith, 1953.

STATE JUDGING TEAMS — 1929, Judging Champions; 1931, Grand Champion Judging Teams; 1932, Dairy Cattle Judging Champions (Russell Streid, Gaillard Gerig, and Alvin Oyer); 1935, Fat Stock Judging Champions (Donald Schultz, Donald Foster, and Charles Volland).

NATIONAL FFA CHAMPIONS (Selected on outstanding work by the Chenoa FFA) — 1944-45, Gold Emblem Winners; 1945-46, Gold Emblem Winners; 1946-47, Gold Emblem Winners; 1947-48, Gold Emblem Winners; 1950-51, Gold Emblem Winners; 1952-53, Silver Emblem Winners.

AMERICAN FARMERS (Highest individual award that may be won in FFA-Nat'l Recognition) — Charles Volland 1938, Kenneth Zimmerman 1941, Robert Walker 1944, Myron Erdman 1947, James Trachsel 1950, Jerome Rhoda 1952.

STATE FARMERS (Highest individual award on state level) — Charles Volland 1936, George Brady 1938, LaVerne Marlin 1939, Verne Erdman 1940, Kenneth Zimmerman 1940, Lynn Eymann 1941, Francis Vercler 1941, Earl Blair 1942, Lyndall Elson 1943, Robert Walker 1943, Jerome Schopp 1943, Robert Blair 1944, Ronald Gentes 1944, Joseph Sommers 1944, Franklin Rhoda 1945, Myron Erdman 1945, Ralph Kiper 1945, Roger Hemken 1946, Joseph Higgins 1947, Kenneth Dunabee 1947, Keith Kahle 1948, Edward Gentes 1948, David Zehr 1948, Marvin Vercler 1949, Wayne Eymann 1949, Dale Chapman 1949, Merle Chapman 1949, Jerome Rhoda 1950, Roy Trachsel 1950, Reldon Schirch 1951, Dale Miller 1952, Robert Gentes 1953.

CHENOA METHODIST CHURCH

Methodism blazed its way through the frontier in many places. Before the organization of the Chenoa Methodist Church, Christopher Hetherington and others held class meetings in the Anderson schoolhouse. In the fall of 1858 the Peoria District of the Central Illinois Conference sent Rev. D. Ackerman to Chenoa as its first pastor. At that time there was no church of this denomination at Gridley, Rooks Creek, Weston or Salem. A few of the people from these places became members of the Methodist Church at Chenoa. The following were charter members: Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hetherington and their two daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Nevin and children, Mr. and Mrs. Hazelbaker, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Wait, Mr. and Mrs. John Graham and son, Sallie McKnight and mother,



Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Henry, Mr. and Mrs. Plank, Milton Ohmit, Mr. and Mrs. Van Arsdale and daughter (Mrs. Wm. Hewitt), Mr. and Mrs. Umphenour, Albina McFaden, and Mr. and Mrs. John Kay of Pontiac.

In 1866 the Methodists were anxious to build a church of their own. That year Rev. A. E. Day was appointed to Chenoa to help build a new place of worship. Under his leadership the new church was erected at the northeast corner of Main Street and First Avenue. This location appeared to be the central location of the town at that time. The new building was to be 35 feet x 55 feet and cost \$4000. It was crowned by a steeple, upon which was placed a yellow ball. Boxes with planks laid on them served as seats until the new pews could be afforded. There was no organ, so the congregation sang accompanied by a song leader. Finally a new reed organ was purchased. Miss Mary F. Jordan was the first organist. This church served the needs of the Methodist congregation for 30 years.

Rev. Benjamin Applebee became pastor in 1874. Through his earnest labors the church was saved from both spiritual and financial ruin. Because of the constant rains that year farmers were unable to raise crops, therefore Rev. Applebee received very little salary. In some of his written prayers he pled with the Lord to save the people and give them food.

In 1894 Rev. R. L. Vivian was appointed to Chenoa. During his pastorate a new brick church was built on Division Street. The cornerstone was laid by Hugh Jones in 1896. The church was dedicated August 22-27, 1897, with more than one thousand people in attendance. The bell from the old church was removed and placed in the steeple of the new one. Through the untiring efforts of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Lackland, choir director and singer, enough money was raised by 1898 to purchase a new pipe organ at the cost of \$1600. Miss Alwilda Ballinger is the present organist.

During the pastorate of Rev. R. C. Myers it was decided to build a new parsonage on Division Street. The E. M. Pike heirs donated ground south of the church for the new parsonage. Mrs. Elizabeth Elson made the first generous contribution to the parsonage fund. After her death her children presented the church with a lovely communion table in her memory.

On January 1, 1949, the church presented a copy of the Discipline of the Methodist Church to Mr. A. D. Jordan and Mr. Ernest E. Cox in appreciation of their fifty years' service on the Official Board of the church.

In 1953 Rev. Elwin T. Palmer was appointed to Chenoa. His scholarly sermons are well received and he is active in all departments of the church. Mrs. Palmer, an accomplished musician and singer, is the present choir director.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

St. Joseph's parish, Chenoa, was founded in 1859. The Reverend Thomas Kennedy first attended the Catholics of Chenoa and vicinity from 1859 to 1865 in regular monthly services.

In 1865 Chenoa was attached to the newly organized parish in El Paso. The Reverend Francis A. Keenan of El Paso administered to them until 1868.

In 1869 the Reverend John A. Fanning of Fairbury was entrusted with the charge. During Father Fanning's pastorate, the first church, a frame building, was erected on the site now occupied by Sweney's Oil Station. The ground was donated by M. T. Scott. The first service was celebrated in the new church in 1869. On November 3, 1873, the church was dedicated in honor of Saints Malachi and Columbkil.

In 1881 Chenoa became an independent parish. The Reverend Joseph J. Scheuren was the first resident pastor. Father Scheuren served from 1881 until 1887. Block 22 on which the present church property is located was also acquired during Father Scheuren's pastorate. The old National Hotel which stood on the property was removed and the old church was moved to the new location. The Munsel residence was repaired and was used as the first rectory.

The priests succeeding Father Scheuren were: the Reverend C. Rimmels, 1887 until 1888; the Reverend H. W. Finch of Pontiac, from 1888 until 1892; and the Reverend J. Kelley of Ottawa served for a few months in 1892.

September 14, 1892, the Reverend M. J. O'Callaghan of Gilman was appointed pastor. Soon after his arrival, Father O'Callaghan began raising funds for a new church. On May 11, 1893, the foundation of the new structure was begun and on December 15, 1893, the present Gothic church was dedicated in honor of St.



Joseph. In the absence of the Right Reverend Bishop Spalding of Peoria, who was then in Rome, the Right Reverend Bishop Ryan of Alton, the Reverend O'Reilly, Vicar General of Peoria, and a number of visiting clergy participated in the dedication services.

In 1897 the old rectory, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Emil Masco, was removed and a new rectory was built. Father O'Callaghan completed his building program by erecting St. Mary's Church in Lexington in 1898. In 1910 he was appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Bloomington.

In 1910 the Reverend William P. Burke, now Monsignor Burke, succeeded Father O'Callaghan. While Father Burke was in charge, a parish hall, the Lyceum, was built. In 1919 he was transferred to Kewanee. Monsignor Burke is now pastor of Visitation Church in Kewanee.

The Reverend F. D. Hogben served as pastor from 1919 until 1934. During Father Hogben's pastorate the properties both in Chenoa and Lexington were repaired and redecorated. Father Hogben is now pastor of St. Mary's in Champaign.

The Reverend Ralph C. Lane, now pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Streator, followed Father Hogben. While Father Lane was in charge, repairs were made on the parish hall.

The Reverend Thomas A. Mulcady, the present pastor, succeeded Father Lane, in 1939. A fire badly damaged the rectory in January, 1940, and the present new rectory was soon built. In 1944 and 1946 the church property in Chenoa was renovated and the church at Lexington was remodeled.

The parish in Chenoa consists of 85 families, and the mission at Lexington 38 families.

Father John Healy — Priest

John Healy was ordained to the priesthood June 24, 1916, at Rockford, Illinois, by Bishop Muldoon and celebrated his first mass in Chenoa July 2, 1916. At present he is reassigned to work in Latysmith, Wisconsin, where he had previously spent 11 very successful years. John Healy is the only Chenoa boy who has entered the priesthood.

Sisters of St. Frances Order

Three of the sisters of Angela Etringer entered as Sisters of St. Frances Order, namely Katherine, Mary, and Elizabeth. Mary of Peoria is known as Sister Frances and is the only one of the three living.

Order of Dominican

Sister Mary Edna Mildred Dowling spent 15 years in Denver. She was in the Incarnation School for Nuns in 1929. At present she is in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Altar and Rosary Society

The Altar and Rosary Society is an active ladies' organization of St. Joseph's Church. It has been in existence since the founding of the parish. Their aims for the most part are spiritual, the care of the church, particularly the sanctuary, being an important part of their work. During the years they have sponsored most of the activities in order to provide for the adornment of the church altars and other necessary activities. The officers' at present are as follows: Mesdames Jos.

Higgins, Jos. Cleary, Melvin Feit, George Heuer, Donald Schopp, Mrs. Gerald Schopp, and Miss Nellie Fitzpatrick.

St. Joseph's Unit of the National Council of Catholic Women

Every lady of St. Joseph's Parish is automatically a member of the Parish Council of Catholic Women. The objects of the organization are as follows: (1) to unite all organizations of Catholic Women within the parish in order to form the unit for affiliation with the diocesan and National Council of Catholic Women; (2) to act as a clearing house for parish activities and provide a channel through which the pastor may reach all the women of the parish; (3) To further all spiritual and material undertakings which may be recommended by the bishop, pastor, or by the National, Diocesan or Deanery Councils of Catholic Women. To accomplish this there are the following committees: 1) Eucharist; 2) Shrines; 3) Organization and Development; 4) Press and Publicity; 5) Family-Parent; 6) Library and Literature; 7) Youth; 8) Retreat; 9) Study Club; and 10) Catholic Charities and War Relief.

St. Ann's Study Club

The organization meeting of the St. Ann's Study Club was held at the home of Mrs. Donald Harris, the general chairman, on January 15, 1951. There were 14 members present. It was decided that meetings would be held on the third Monday of each month. The purposes of our study club are: 1) to study all aspects of the Holy Mass; 2) to study the lives of the Saints; 3) to study and discuss current events pertaining to our Catholic religion and our everyday lives; 4) to become better acquainted with each other, which makes for a closer unity in our parish. At the present time there are 17 members belonging to our club. Our very able group leader is Mrs. Donald Harris, the president is Mrs. Marie Schopp, and the secretary is Mrs. Anne Higgins.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first Presbyterian Church was organized (new school) about 1860. It, however, soon disbanded, its members going by letter to the Chenoa Presbyterian Church (old school) which was organized on March 6, 1862, by the Presbytery of Bloomington in the old schoolhouse at a special meeting, the following being present at the organization: Rev. H. R. Price, Rev. John Elliott, Rev. S. H. Stevenson, Rev. R. Conover and Rev. I. A. Cornelison, who acted as moderator. Elders present were George Bradford of Mackinaw, R. J. Jones of Lexington, and John Bigham of El Paso. This meeting was duly called for the purpose of acting on a petition of the citizens to have a church formed here, and it was the first permanent organization.

The church was organized with 14 charter members as follows: Rebecca Bush, Nathaniel Brown, Mary Ann Gray, Hudessa Hicks, Edward and Margaret Rowland, Sarah E. Brown, Julia G. Scott, Margaret McCune, Anna Grizzella McCune, Jane Rowland, and Rosanna McCune by letter, and Martha Smith and Edwin F. Belden on profession of faith. Edward Rowland and Nathaniel Brown were elected "Ruling Elders" and duly installed.

The first meeting recorded was held March 20, 1862, in the old schoolhouse. At this meeting C. H. Wilburger, M. T. Scott, and Joel Hicks were elected trustees for a term of five years. The first members to be received into the church were Mr. John McCune by letter and Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Vanderbilt on profession of faith.

The first baptisms September 27, 1862, were three children: Laura Pease Muzzy, Julia Scott Hicks, and Mary Hicks. On September 29, 1862, two additional elders were chosen: Mr. Addison Muzzy and Mr. Albert Riggs.

For a short time after its organization, the church was temporarily supplied by Rev. W. T. Adams, Rev. I. T. Whittemore, and Rev. Samuel Stevenson.

The annual report to Presbytery the first year was 14 new members, three baptisms. The collection for domestic missions was \$3.25, for education \$3.00, congregational collection \$9.39, and miscellaneous \$7.85.

The first church building was erected in 1862 on a lot two blocks north of the present grade school. In later years it was sold to Congregational Society, which moved it to its present location. It is the building now occupied by the Chenoa Public Library. The first meeting held in this church building was on November 3, 1862. Rev. P. D. Young served as a supply for six months and the Deacons reported at this meeting that they supposed \$125.00 could be raised for Rev. Young for six months.

On July 5, 1863, the Sunday School was organized. Josiah Moore was chosen superintendent; Ray Campbell, assistant superintendent; and C. H. Wilburger, librarian.

In 1868 Rev. Travis was chosen to fill the pulpit and served for 17 years. Rev. Travis was the first regularly installed pastor of the church.

The first parsonage was built in 1868-69, and was located in the northwest corner of the city. The road past that house was known as "Piety Hill," as the folks who built their homes on that road were staunch Presbyterians.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

On April 5, 1873, a committee composed of William Maxwell, Mr. Fox, E. D. Churchill Sr., William Crawford, John Morrow, and Henry Crabbe was to circulate a subscription to secure funds for the erection of a new church building. On July 16, 1873, the plan of the present building was submitted. The location for the church building was decided upon November 18, 1873, and the building was erected during the years 1874-75 at a cost of \$18,000. The first service was held in the new church January 30, 1876. The church was dedicated November 26, 1888. Rev. C. H. Little of Danville delivered the sermon. Presbytery was entertained at this church April 11, 1876, and William Maxwell was elected as a commissioner to attend sessions of General Assembly.

The year 1876 was the nearest to a complete crop failure this locality had ever experienced. Land was not tilled and for years after that time all the farmers could raise was spent for tiling. A number of the best paying members died, moved west, or failed in business, so the church seemed to be at low water mark in every way. One winter, church services had to be held in "Red Ribbon Hall" because the furnaces were out of repair and money could not be raised to repair them. At this time the men decided to wear no neckties and the women went without their ribbons to have more money to put toward the church debt. Also the renting of the church pews was taken into consideration in order to pay the church debt.

The present manse was erected during the year 1880.

The first Christian Endeavor was organized during the pastorate of Rev. Frank S. Rice, who passed away during the first year he was here.

The pipe organ was installed March 2, 1899, at a cost of \$745.00. Minnie Gerisch Herrington was the organist.

On May 17, 1874, 12 women met and as charter members organized "The Woman's Missionary Society of the Presbyterian Church." Later a Ladies Aid Society was formed. In February, 1952, the missionary society and the Ladies Aid Society were combined into the Woman's Association of the Presbyterian Church. This group is divided into three circles.

Miss Virginia Jackson of Normal, Illinois, was a faithful and devoted worker in the Chenoa church as well as the Missionary Society in former years. Miss Jackson served a number of years in Yucatan, going as an assistant to Miss Eunice Blackburn of Normal, who was a missionary for many years. Miss Jackson did a fine piece of work while serving in Yucatan. Also Miss Jackson gave two Honorary Memberships to the Chenoa church in memory of her mother, Mrs. Oscar Jackson. These membership were each \$50, one for foreign work and one for national work.

Our present pastor is Rev. Dale O. Tutje.

District Sunday School Conventions

For a number of years District Sunday School Conventions were held. The District comprised the Evangelical and Methodist churches of Weston; Presbyterian, Methodist, and Baptist churches of Chenoa; Mennonite Church, Meadows; Methodist, Congregation and Christian churches of Gridley. These meetings were held in the spring and fall on Sunday afternoons and evenings. Some of the officers serving were: Samuel Baughman of Gridley, Dr. G. E. Stump of Chenoa, and Ernest Schirch of Meadows, acting as presidents; William Hawthorne and John Marriott as secretaries; and Mrs. Ray Brady as treasurer. Mrs. Joseph Roszhart was chairman of the children's division for a number of years.

HISTORY OF ST. PAUL'S

It was in the fall of 1864 that the Rev. C. H. G. Schliepsick was called to Yates Township to conduct a funeral service for the young daughter of Frederick and Dorothea (nee Jacobs) Meir, who was accidentally drowned in a rain barrel.

About five families attended this funeral: Frederick and Dorothea Jacobs, the bereaved parents; Christian and Sophia Wahls Jacobs; Frederick and Elizabeth Meir Jacobs; John and Dorothea Wahls Seeman; and John and Fredericka Meir Rhoda.

After the burial of this child these five families expressed the wish that Rev. Schliepsick visit them and preach once a month in their homes of evenings. As these families grew, they conducted their services in schoolhouses on Sunday afternoons. The members realized this was a hindrance to the growth of the congregation and resolved to build a church of their own on the present location. The one acre of ground was donated by John Seeman. Trustees at this time were Fred Beir, Fred Jacobs, and Chris Jacobs. In 1882 on November 7 this church was dedicated. There were 22 voting members and a school of 18 children.

The congregation now had its own house of worship and longed for more frequent worship, so Pastor Rev. Johannes Schliepsch, who was assistant pastor to his father, preached to them every four weeks. He helped his father for two years and was then called to Michigan. The father, Rev. C. H. G. Schliepsich, then served this congregation until 1889, also serving Bloomington, Cayuga, and two congregations at Dwight. He passed away at Cayuga July 24, 1894, and was buried in Chenoa Cemetery.



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH—CHENOA, ILL.

In June, 1889, Pastor Pflug was installed and served until the summer of 1901. Professor Streckfuss of Springfield Seminary, assisted by students, served during the vacancy until the spring of 1902, when a call was extended to Pastor Christian Brauening of Springfield Seminary, who was installed August 3, 1902. Before the young pastor could enter his charge, the church was destroyed by fire. Services were then held in what is now the Library of Chenoa. Soon after the fire, the congregation decided to erect a new edifice, the cornerstone being laid on August 10, 1902. On January 25, 1903 the newly built house of worship was dedicated. Our trustees and building committee at this time were: Mr. Wilbert Harms, Mr. John Wahls, and C. F. Wahls. Pastor Brauening served this congregation until September, 1907, when he accepted a call to Buckley, Illinois.

The next pastor was Rev. C. G. Mennicke, who was installed on November 15, 1907. Up to this time the parsonage had been in Chenoa. The present modern parsonage was built by the church, ground of one acre being purchased from Fred Seeman. Pastor Mennicke served this congregation until his resignation because of ill health, preaching his farewell sermon August 25, 1935. He lived in Chenoa until June, 1944, later taking up his home with his son Carl in Varna, where he passed away September 12, 1950.

His son Carl followed his footsteps in the ministry, was ordained on August 30, 1931; his first charge being at Redfield, South Dakota. He is now pastor at Varna, Illinois.

The Rev. F. A. Schole was the next pastor, coming from the mission station of Clinton, Illinois. He was installed November 17, 1935, and served until May, 1942, and is now pastor at Bethany, Fort Saskatchewan, Canada.

The Rev. K. F. Frankenstein was installed September 8, 1946, coming from Effingham, Illinois, where the family had taken up temporary residence during the overseas service of Rev. K. F. Frankenstein as a chaplain in the U.S. army. He served this congregation until January, 1950, when he accepted a call to Trinity Church at Decatur, Illinois.

The present pastor, Rev. C. H. Skibbe, came to Chenoa from Cissna Park, where he served as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church since 1947.

This year this church will celebrate its 90 years of worship with approximately 115 families and 265 communicant members. There is a senior choir of 32 and a Junior choir of 30, from fourth to eighth grade children.

Present officers are: Elders, Martin Alpers, Fred Jacobs, Carl Wendling; Men's Club: President, Irwin Heins, Vice President, Alvin Kohler, Secretary, Irvin Wahls, Treasurer, Virgil Nagel; Trustees, Louis Mehrkens, Alvin Kohler, Oscar Hammers; Secretary, Louis Heins; Financial Secretary, Marvin Wahls; Ladies Aid: President, Mrs. Chris Poppe, Vice President, Mrs. Verne Erdman, Secretary, Mrs. Lester Rhoda, Treasurer, Mrs. Orville Rhoda; Sunday School staff consists of 13 teachers with Paul Eilers, superintendent; Mrs. Klitzing, secretary.

THE FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Prior to the formation of churches in any community, people met in their own houses or available rooms for worship. The preacher was called a circuit rider. The people to whom he ministered covered an area from Springfield to Chicago. It took an average of four weeks to make one complete circuit. Among the early riders of this circuit was Peter Cartright, a good Methodist and also a relative of the Potter family, who were Baptists. Several from this community traveled to Ocoya for services led by this man, where the Baptist Church was

already established. Among those known to find fellowship at Ocoya was Mrs. Cora Hanks' father, who was a charter member there.

In 1865 several families moved into the Chenoa Community who were of Baptist faith. Then there arose a need for a specific class, namely Baptist. On March 11, 1866, the Baptist Class of Chenoa was organized at Rev. Bishop's home, where Mr. and Mrs. Walter Jontry's property is now located, with 22 charter members as follows: Rev. Samuel Bishop, Mrs. Ann E. Bishop, Solon A. Sweet, Mrs. Elizabeth Sweet, Mrs. Sallie Halstead, Mrs. Sarah Downing, Mrs. Ann Sweet, Mrs. Ann Bigelow, Ebenezer Dunham, Mrs. Catherine Dunham, Isaac N. Sweet, Albert Mably, Mr. Nichols, D. D. Caddy, E. Russell, Mrs. Russell, Henderson Peck, Mrs. Elizabeth Peck, Miss Susan McDonald, Mrs. Elizabeth Mears, Miss Sallee and Mrs. Sallee. Rev. Samuel Bishop helped with the organization and became the first Baptist preacher in Chenoa. The first deacons were Ebenezer Dunham and Solon Sweet, and the first trustees were Samuel Bishop, Henderson Peck, and Solon Sweet. The first prayer meeting was held in 1870.

In the year 1868 the First Baptist Church was erected at a cost of \$3,500.00. It was located on Second Avenue, facing east on what is now the southeast corner of our city park. Five years later the home at the corner of Lincoln and Second Avenue belonging to Dr. J. D. Carpenter was purchased, moved west on Second Avenue and converted into a parsonage. This now is known as the home of the late Mrs. Olive Scanlan. The church was moved in the spring of 1880 to the corner of Lincoln and Second Avenue, enlarged and improved. The women of the church raised money for a 560-pound bell, April 30, 1882. For lighting the building used kerosene lights. It was not until 1907 that electric lights were installed at a cost of \$4.00 per month. During this time there was only a small basement room used for the furnace room. In 1910 the basement was excavated. The duplex envelope system of giving was installed in 1911. In 1922 the church was rebuilt, choir loft added, and a number of changes made. The exterior of the church was now stucco. By 1937 the exterior of the church was covered with asphalt shingles. This occurred during Rev. W. Herbert Scott's pastorate. Several improvements were made in 1941 during Rev. Milo Nixon's ministry. New pews were purchased, the communion table now in use was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George Waldron in memory of her mother, Mrs. Olive Scanlan. Mr. Earl Dunham made the pulpit in use in the auditorium at present. In 1948 the interior of the auditorium was completely redecorated and new carpet laid.

The Sunday School was organized January 7, 1886, with the following officers: Superintendent, Mrs. W. H. Bennett; Assistant Superintendent, Mrs. H. F. Ballard; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Cora Sweet; Organist, Miss Edythe Ballard.

The young people's organization was originally called the Loyalists, later known as the Baptist Young People's Union, and is now called the Baptist Youth Fellowship. Some early officers were: President, Miss Beryal Darrah; Vice President, W. L. Sample; Secretary, Miss Louise Myer (Mrs. H. F. Ballard); Corresponding Secretary, A. C. Abbott; Treasurer, Charles Hostler. Miss Alice Landrus served as vice-president of the state organization of Young People during 1953.

The first Missionary Society was organized around 1889 during Rev. J. B. Brown's pastorate under the leadership of Mrs. J. B. Brown. She was president for a good many years. Mrs. Myrtle Ketcham was the second president, beginning in 1909. The first collection for Foreign Missions was taken February 3, 1872, for Home Missions March 4, 1872. This is the first mention of our Missionary giving and was a collection taken during the services. The Church paid a share of the salary of Rev. J. B. Brown as a missionary to the destitute in the Association starting in February, 1883. At present the missionary giving of the church is equal to one third of the church budget.



The first Bible School was held during Rev. Fred Johnson's pastorate in 1916. The school didn't really become a part of our church program until Rev. Bell came to us in 1924, at which time it was reorganized and has continued every year since. Under Rev. Bell all the boys and girls of the community attended with teachers from the Baptist Church. Later teachers from the other Sunday Schools helped. Today each church has its own school.

So far as records show, Mrs. Ada Fike holds the longest continuous membership of any living member today. Hilton Dunham is the only direct descendant of the original charter members who is a resident member of the First Baptist Church now. There are several descendants of later members still holding membership.

In all these years the Baptist Church has had a struggle to maintain services, but there have been very few times that there were no services. There was always the usual operating expense. As an added burden, when the pavement was laid on Second Avenue the church had assessments to pay for both the church and what was then the parsonage.

It isn't possible to relate the quality of work this church has accomplished. There have been several young people who have gone into full time christian service as a result of christian education and experience received in this church. A number of our former pastors have gone to pastorates in large fields and have become prominent in denomination. Rev. S. A. Perrine, who was pastor in 1887, later became a missionary in Assam. Sarah Jane Kiper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Kiper, is at present a missionary in Japan. Lucas Buttry studied to be a minister, was duly ordained, held a pastorate at Benson, Illinois, and is at present a chaplain in the Air Force. Mrs. Ruth Hester Larsen was educational director at

Delaware Avenue Baptist Church at Buffola, New York, prior to her marriage. She married a Lutheran minister and later worked in the Lutheran Inner Mission in Springfield, Ohio. Edward Landrus is studying to be a minister at Shurtleff College at Alton, Illinois. Vivian Shaffer studied at Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, does practical christian work in the city, and is secretary for the American Bible Society in Chicago.

Women attended services but didn't have an active part in the work of the church until 1879, when Mrs. Deborah Dyer was elected clerk.

Coming down to more recent years, let me state just a few facts concerning each pastorate. Rev. Kenneth Tyler came to us as a student pastor, then later was ordained and made full time pastor. The young people's organization and World Wide Guild (junior missionary society) were especially strong under the leadership of both Rev. and Mrs. Tyler. When Rev. Richard Barram came to us it seemed our church lacked in spirituality. He gave his efforts to the evangelistic phase of the work, had several missionary speakers, and a Bible conference. Missionary interest grew and all were inspired spiritually. Rev. W. Herbert Scott was here when we needed help with finance. He took care of us as a pastor and brought the finances out of a slump. During the pastorate of Rev. Chas. Mosher the interior was decorated, new pews, carpet, communion table and pulpit installed. Rev. Milo Nixon began his pastorate in 1941. In June, 1942, the property in the east part of town known as the Belle Kreider property, located at 318 Fifth Avenue, was purchased as a parsonage. During this pastorate our membership made a tremendous growth. Our present pastor, Rev. Earl King, came to us in 1946. Since he came to us oil furnaces have been installed in both the parsonage and church. A new roof has been put on the church, trim painted, and numerous repairs made. During these years the missionary society has been indeed active. The Sunday School has grown until there is a necessity at the present for more room. The nursery department of the Sunday School has been organized. During Rev. King's pastorate a school of missions has been organized which meets in the early spring and fall. The last two years teachers' training classes have been held. The first teachers training class to be held was at the mid-century under the leadership of Miss Clara E. Fisk.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

When Rev. H. G. Pendleton came to Chenoa in 1867, he found no Congregational Church or organization, so gave himself the duty of organizing such a denomination. By July 21, 1867, he had succeeded in interesting a small group of that belief in and about Chenoa, and a meeting was held at the Brady school, south of Chenoa.

Rev. E. Jenney, a representative of the Home Missionary Society, presided as moderator, and Rev. H. G. Pendleton as secretary, and the Congregational Church of Chenoa was organized. The organization of the church was perfected on the first Wednesday evening in October, 1867, and the following officers were elected: Rollin J. Jones and Constance Abbott, Deacons; D. C. Mears, Chorister and Treasurer; Henry Hamm, Roland Evans, and C. Abbott, Trustees. Rev. H. G. Pendleton was pastor of the church from its organization until April 1, 1872, when he resigned due to ill health.

In 1869 the meeting place was transferred from the schoolhouse two miles east of Chenoa, and services were conducted in Coonley's and Union Hall and in the Hamilton block. Weekly prayer meetings were held in the homes of members. In 1872 a project to erect a church building was delayed and in March, 1875, they



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

purchased the old Presbyterian church, located at the corner of Second Avenue and Main Street. Regular services were held here until May, 1876, when lots at the corner of Lincoln and Division Streets were purchased by Mr. Hamilton and the church building was moved to this location and placed in complete repair. In 1888 the congregation erected a comfortable parsonage on their property east of the church, now occupied by Mr. Robert Vaughan.

In 1895 the officers of the church were: pastor, Rev. J. B. Davies; deacons, G. M. Kirkpatrick, H. J. Jones, and Evan Evans; trustees, Wm. Fales, J. B. Kirkpatrick, E. M. Pike; clerk, Mrs. W. E. Ketcham; treasurer, Hugh Jones; chorister, W. M. Fales; organist, Mrs. J. S. Hedge; Sunday School superintendent, James Thomas. Later pastors were Rev. Cutler and Rev. J. P. Kern.

In 1912, due to the small group of members, the church building and grounds were given to the city of Chenoa to be used as a public library.

MEADOWS MENNONITE CHURCH

In the early 1870's there were a number of people living in the vicinity of Meadows who came from Alsace-Lorraine, France, and Germany. These folks were desirous of a place of worship, so started a Sunday School in the Meadows school-house and preaching services soon followed.

In 1890 a congregation was organized and the next year (1891) they built a church north of Meadows on a plot of ground donated by Mr. Jacob Rocke. Those

on the building committee were Messrs. Jacob Rocke, Jacob Engle, and Joseph Kinsinger. The contract was let to Frank Kent of Gridley, Illinois. The cost of church and furniture was \$1,379.25, which was raised by donations.

The church was dedicated June 21, 1891. Rev. Andrew Vercler and Rev. Joseph Kinsinger were the first ministers of the church and served continuously for 25 years. Rev. Kinsinger passed away in 1925 and Rev. Vercler in 1928.

Sunday School and church services were held regularly every Sunday. During the year 1908, the church building was moved to its present location south of Meadows, on a site donated by Rev. Vercler. The church was remodeled, built larger, and rededicated January, 1909.



MEADOWS MENNONITE CHURCH

In the year 1916, Rev. Aaron Roszhart accepted a call as associate pastor, but served only two years, as he died in 1918. In 1923, the church extended a call to Rev. George Gundy which he accepted and began his duties as pastor January 1, 1925. After 26 years of untiring service, he passed away, and Rev. L. E. Troyer became pastor of the church in 1952, which position he is now holding.

In 1950 the need of remodeling and enlarging the church building again became necessary and work was begun in the fall of that year. Most of the work was done by members of the congregation. Rededication services were conducted September 6, 1953. Rev. J. E. Hartzler of Goshen, Indiana, gave the dedication sermon.

Services are conducted both Sunday morning and evening, also each Wednesday evening. When the church was organized it had a membership of about sixty (60); the present membership totals about two hundred forty-five (245). There are three remaining charters members. They are Mrs. Catherine Eymann, Chenoa; Mrs. Marie Eymann, Pontiac; and Mrs. Barbara Mosimann, Elgin.

Present business officers of the church are as follows: chairman, Gerdon Gundy; secretary, Dale Rocke; treasurer, Willis Sommer; deacons, E. J. Raber,

E. Schrich, Jerrold Rocke; deaconesses, Mrs. Clara Gundy, Mrs. Lester Oyer, and Mrs. Orville Bertsche; trustees, Wilbur Noe, Arthur Bertsche, and Iris Bauman.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

At one time there was an attempt to organize an Episcopal congregation and for a time meetings were held in the homes of those reared in that faith. Later services were held in the Presbyterian Church, but it was decided the membership was not large enough to maintain a permanent organization, so it was discontinued.

NAZARENE CHURCH

In 1934 a small group of people under the guidance of Rev. Instone and Bert Huff organized a Nazarene congregation. Meetings were held in a building (now removed) west of the residence of Mrs. Ralph Martin. This group continued until 1937 when it was also discontinued.

GERMAN BAPTIST BRETHREN—DUNKARD CHURCH

The German Baptist Brethren, commonly called the Dunkard Church, was organized in 1878, at the home of William Lehman about four miles northwest of Chenoa in Livingston County, but there was no church building at that time. The group was organized under authority of Elder George Gish of Woodford County, and Phillip Moore of Roanoke. There were 35 members, two ministers



GERMAN BAPTIST BRETHREN DUNKARD CHURCH
Now the Home of Bertha Thrane

and two deacons at the time of organization, with regular preaching in school-houses every two weeks.

At the time of organization it was called "Pike Creek Church," and continued until the summer of 1888, when a church building was erected in Chenoa (now the home of Miss Bertha Thrane) and dedicated to the Lord on December 9, 1888, the dedicatory sermon being given by Rev. I. N. Gibson of Fulton County. Shortly after the dedication the name was changed to "Chenoa Dunkard Church," with regular services every two weeks until the spring of 1892, when the majority of members moved away. In January, 1893, the church was rented to the Christian denomination, who used and controlled it until the fire of July, 1894, at which time it was temporarily occupied by refugees from the fire. Thus the Dunkard church services and Sunday School were discontinued for some time.

In November, 1894, the church was again reopened by the Dunkards under a missionary board and held regular services once a month. In February, 1895, a Sunday School was organized with 45 present and services were held every Sunday with Rev. H. J. Forney, superintendent; Samuel Miller, assistant superintendent; Miss Emma Schultz, secretary; and Theo. Dunlap, treasurer. The church had two pastors, Rev. H. J. Forney and Rev. F. J. Schultz; one deacon, David Zook; and a full board of trustees.

A few years later the church again discontinued services and the building was purchased by David King, who remodeled the building into a residence, which was purchased in December, 1900, by O. P. Thrane and is still occupied by a member of the Thrane family.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

In January, 1893, Rev. O. W. Stewart, an evangelist of the Christian Church, assisted by Newton Bundy, a singer, commenced a series of protracted meetings at the Dunkard Church. At this time there were eight or 10 persons of this denomination. On March 2, 1893, the Christian Church of Chenoa was organized by Elder James Jewett, with 57 members. The officers were W. J. Hester and Martin Shepard, Elders; Josephine Pirkey and James Stewart, Deacons; W. J. Hester, M. Shepard, and Walter Pirkey, Trustees; and Josephus Pirkey, Secretary and Treasurer.

A young people's society was organized with Mrs. Ollie Ruger, President; James Stewart, Vice-President; Miss Mable Hester, Treasurer; and Mrs. S. Payne, Secretary; with a membership of 40.

Officers of the Ladies Aid Society were: Mrs. Francis, President; Mrs. Lew Arnold, Vice-President; Miss Lura Verry, Secretary; and Mrs. James Stewart, Treasurer. At this time there was no regular pastor or regular services, and was later discontinued.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (Evangelical)

The beginning of the Trinity Lutheran Church of Chenoa may be traced to November, 1901. At that time the Rev. F. B. Bess, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Peoria, came to Chenoa to hold church service at the invitation of Henry Ehrhardt and Frank Meyer of Chenoa.

Pastor Bess preached his first sermon at Chenoa in what was then the Congregational Church (now Chenoa Public Library). He effected a temporary or-

ganization with 26 heads of families signing the temporary constitution. Services were held at the Congregational Church every other Sunday at 2 p.m.

On the first Sunday after Epiphany, January 12, 1902, the permanent organization of the church was accomplished. The congregation adopted the name Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the constitution of the Iowa Synod was accepted.



George Gentes, Henry Erhardt, Frank Meyer and Phillip Klein were elected officers of the board, and Charles Nickel secretary. He was also organist until the new Lutheran congregation dedicated its own church building. On April 20, 1902, a Sunday School was organized with three teachers and a superintendent. The teachers were Mesdames Henry Ehrhardt, Fred Moschel, and A. Henning. The superintendent was Charles Nickel.

The building committee for the new church consisted of the following five men: John Klein Sr., Fred Schoenbeck, John Gentes, Pastor Bess, and Charles Nickel. On December 7, 1902, the cornerstone was laid, and the following September 6, 1903, the completed church was dedicated.

Not until after the church had been dedicated did the congregation have a resident pastor. Until that time it had been served by several pastors from Peoria. The first full-time pastor, October 11, 1903, was Rev. A. Harrer, who served five months.

Other ministers serving the church these past years have been Rev. Christian Rembolt; Rev. Paul Boer; Rev. C. August Decker; Rev. J. F. Lorch; Rev. Frederick

Suhuren; Rev. C. L. Ramme; Rev. F. M. Bunge, who served the congregation from 1923 to 1940. During these years he also served three other congregations, Forrest, Fairbury, and Lawndale, in connection with the Chenoa congregation.

Following Rev. Bunge came the Rev. Carl H. Amelung, and then the present pastor, Rev. William Wittig, who was installed July 10, 1949.

The first parsonage (now the residence of George Beach) was purchased in 1907. The present parsonage was constructed in 1916, on the lot south of the church. Building committee was composed of the following: John Gentes, Herman Degenford, and Wm. Sandmeyer. The fiftieth anniversary of the church organization was held September 6-7, 1952.

The present church organist is Charles Ballinger. Officers of the woman's organization of the church are: president, Mrs. Bernadine Gentes; vice-president, Mrs. LaVerne Shafer; secretary, Mrs. Grace Hepperly. Officers of the Luther League are: president, Mary Ann Hepperly; vice-president, Genevieve Gentes; secretary and treasurer, Nancy Helling; and reporter, Joyce Mehrkens. Trustee Jacob Schreck was elected in 1954; other trustees are Robert Shafer and Victor Gentes. Deacons Elmer Harms and Maynard Peterson were re-elected in 1954. Other deacons are Glenn Harms and Ronald Gentes.

SOLDIERS CALLED INTO CIVIL WAR

In the matter of patriotic reply to their country's call, the citizens of Chenoa were not behind their neighbors. The population of Chenoa was at that time small. Recruiting was almost continually going on between two county seats—Bloomington and Pontiac. Those living in Chenoa went to those places to enlist. During the earlier years of enlistment it mattered not where one enlisting was "credited," but in the latter days when drafting became first a threat and then a reality, those eligible to draft began to hurry around to find where the credits of their township were. In all, some 50 to 60 soldiers enlisted from Chenoa. Many went into the 94th (Bloomington), some into the 93rd (Normal), quite a number to the 129th, and some of the First Cavalry and to many other regiments.

Those who left Bloomington and Normal went southward with General Grant. There were times when they marched through six inches of mud. Some took the dread disease typhoid fever, from which they died. Many of the soldiers wanted to write home, but postage stamps were scarce and hard to get.

Officers of Chenoa GAR Post No. 185, in 1905: David Whiteside, Commander; George W. Harris, Senior Vice Commander; Samuel E. Miller, Junior Vice Commander; Charles S. Elder, Surgeon; Edward M. Pike, Chaplain; Samuel Bush, Officer of the Day; Alexander Bowers, Officer of the Guard; Thomas Y. Hervey, Quartermaster; E. C. Silliman, Adjutant. The Post met in IOOF Hall the first Saturday afternoon in each month at 2:30.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CHENOA POST

On the night of December 9, 1882, Joseph McFarland and James Drummond held a coference at the residence of the former, four miles east of Chenoa, and solicited the assistance of James Forder, E. C. Silliman, J. T. Howard, T. Y. Hervey, E. M. Pike, George Brown, and J. D. Rilea, who succeeded after several meetings in getting signers enough to obtain a charter. The GAR met in Silliman's Hall on the second and fourth evenings of each month. Comrade A. H. Mundt of Fair-

bury, being mustering officer for the district, was sent on the night of February 9, 1883, and organized Post 185, GAR, Department of Illinois, with 33 charter members. E. C. Silliman was elected commander. The commanders since then have been E. M. Pike, T. Y. Hervey, J. M. McFarland, T. J. Martin, Wm. T. Brown, John Morrow, J. Batrum, S. E. Miller, Thomas Ballinger, J. C. Aaron, A. B. Scrogin, G. M. Kirkpatrick, James Downie, George Sayrs, Geo. W. Harris, John Watt, C. S. Elder, G. W. Womeldorf, David Whiteside.

Number mustered into GAR, 95; in January, 1886, 55 members; in February, 1905, 30 members, 25 deceased.

The following is a complete list of the members of Chenoa Post 185 from its organization in 1882 up until 1905: J. C. Aaron, Wm. Alexander, Henry Aydelott, Ervin Baldwin, George Brown, A. J. Bowers, James Bell, W. H. Brooks, Paris Beach, James Colter, J. S. P. Carroll, John Dodge, W. H. Cornwell, Alonzo Adams, W. G. Abbott, Jacob Batrum, Samuel Bush, Wm. T. Brown, Jacob Ballinger, Thomas Ballinger, Fred Beier, Morris Conery, O. P. Crowell, James Cooney, James Downie, John Dillingham, Noble Dickinson, Thomas Edland, James Forder, James M. Floyd, Abram Gerber, J. T. Howard, W. S. Haynes, John Hancock, Wm. Johnson, G. M. Kirkpatrick, A. S. Livingston, Nathan Morrow, W. H. Mattocks, John Morrow, S. E. Miller, James McFarland, Wm. McDonald, E. M. Pike, Frank Rathbun, Thomas Rilea, Martin Rhinehart, G. S. Sayrs, Martin Shepherd, James Seery, Jacob Steiner, John Stewart, J. H. Thomas, E. D. Turner, Chris Teburg, W. H. Van Buskirk, David Whiteside, W. W. Womeldorf, John Wade, William Derick, C. S. Elder, William Fraley, Mark Golden, Lewis Gibbs, T. Y. Hervey, S. R. Hayes, George W. Harris, John King, Robert Lawson, M. M. Lord, J. T. Martin, William Murphy, John Murphy, Daniel Miley, O. McCullough, N. H. Pike, Wm. F. Peppard, J. D. Rilea, J. W. Raynor, E. C. Silliman, A. B. Scrogin, A. F. Southwick, W. R. Seaton, G. W. Starkey, John Tucker, J. D. Trowbridge, J. H. Tarlton, Philip Treohler, Frank Whiting, Charles Wise, W. L. Watson, John Watt, T. W. Tarlton.

E. M. PIKE GIVEN MEDAL OF HONOR

The records show that a medal of honor was awarded to Edward M. Pike, First Sergeant, Company A, 33rd Illinois Infantry for the following action: While the troops were falling back before a superior force of soldiers, assisted by one companion and while under severe fire at close range, Mr. Pike saved a cannon from capture by the enemy at Cache River, Arkansas, July 7, 1862. The records show that this medal was issued to him March 29, 1899. This was a Congressional medal of honor which few have ever received.

BEN ROTH POST No. 234, AMERICAN LEGION

Ben Roth Post No. 234 was organized in September, 1919, about 30 days after the St. Louis convention started the national organization of the American Legion.

Mr. Hertenstein and Mr. Mundt of Fairbury, Illinois, attended the St. Louis convention and on the way home changed trains here. While here they contacted Lloyd Sarver and D. H. Linden about forming a Post in Chenoa, and they called a meeting of all veterans of World War I to be held at the Lyceum Hall, with about 15 persons in attendance. As a result of this meeting the Ben Roth Post No. 234 was organized and a charter applied for, with Lloyd Sarver being elected the first Commander and D. H. Linden Adjutant. The Post was named after Ben Roth, the first overseas casualty in World War I.

Calvin Gentes had a chance to be a charter member of the original Legion in Paris, France.

The following are meeting places as used in the past. These are in the order in which they were used: Lyceum Hall, Busby's Hall (Kauth's Machine Shop), Schultze Machine Shop, Groesbeck building, Shober building, old opera house, old gymnasium, and the present building which the Post owns.

The Ben Roth Post No. 234 has an outstanding record in community service, having been recognized on several occasions by the national organization with Certificates of Merit. A few of the services sponsored by the Legion are: Presenting an American Legion medal each year to the student of the Chenoa Community High School with the highest four-year average; annually sending a boy to Boys State (all expenses paid); keeping a chart and seeing that each veteran's grave has a U.S. flag placed on it each Memorial Day.

AMERICAN LEGION PREAMBLE—BEN ROTH POST No. 234

For God and country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes—To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to defend law and order; to foster and perpetuate the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to include a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Charter members of Ben Roth Post: T. S. Dougherty, Wm. R. Rinehart, Frank Gillespie, Trevar L. Jones, Gardner Jones, William Wilder, William Shanebrook, Lester Hoselton, Sol Jones, Elbert Womack, Carl E. Masso, Melville Ballinger, Harry L. Good, Albert Chapman, Gilbert Phipps, Pierre Truck, Ralph F. Jacobs, Bertram Bauman, Shelby C. Small, Elmer Crabb, Lester I. Elson, Chris Burkey, Solomon Burkey, George D. Shaffer, Charles L. Stevens, E. L. Marlin, L. H. Sarver, Hester M. Durham, Calvin R. Gentes, Lawrence C. Wahls, Ambrose McCarty, Elzie H. Skaggs, Frank C. Baker, Jesse E. Newkirk, Harvey B. Downey, D. H. Linden, Frank J. Hogan, W. J. Hogan, Roy A. Jacobs, Thomas E. Higgins, Earl F. Schopp, Paul E. Masso, Joseph F. Bear, Samuel Jones, Eustac Hatfield, Fred C. Schroeder, William L. Wier, Elza N. Pick, Elmer E. Wahls.

American Legion Ben Roth Post No. 234 Past Commanders: 1918-19, H. Lloyd Sarver; 1919-20, P. R. Turck; 1920-21, D. H. Linden, 1921-22, C. R. Kerr; 1922-23, Bert Chapman; 1923-24, L. V. Daniels; 1924-25, C. R. Gentes; 1925-26, Joe Watchinski; 1926-27, W. R. Winter; 1927-28, Ola Huling; 1928-29, C. H. Johnson; 1929-30, O. V. Mongerson; 1930-31, Ambrose McCarty; 1931-32, Lester Elson; 1932-33, H. B. Downey; 1933-34, W. C. Wilder; 1934-35, H. L. Good; 1935-36, Mark Churchill; 1936-37, Ed Thompson; 1937-38, Herb Rathburn; 1938-39, Donald Harris; 1939-40, Lester Elson; 1940-41, Walter Pfeffinger; 1941-42, Merle Hewitt; 1942-43, Elza Pick; 1943-44, Elmer Wahls; 1944-45, Ralph Snyder; 1945-46, Harry L. Good; 1946-47, Ernest C. Smith; 1947-48, Kenneth D. Jordan; 1948-49, Leonard R. Bumgardner; 1949-50, Theodore V. Dorman; 1950-51, Russell Schneckenburger; 1951-52, Wesley Iftner; 1952-53, Harold Finefield; 1953-54, Lyle Chapman.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The Ben Roth Unit No. 234, American Legion Auxiliary, was organized March 1, 1945. The officers of the first year were Helen Bear, Ruth Ferree, Edna Sherrington, Cecile Higgins, Luella Harris, Elva McCarty, Rose Arnold, and Pauline Beckham. The following with the above officers made up the charter members: Mary E. Schopp, Pauline Graves, Esther Antle, Minnie Pfeffinger, Marie Stephens, Hazel Hewitt, Verna Newkirk, Harriett Good, Inez Gentes, Katherine Brady, Bonnie Daley, Gladys Elson, Minnie Wahls, Eloise McCarty Bowen; Lena Wahls, Zulieme Cable, Betty Daniels, Hazel Sarver, Mary McClellan, Marilyn McCarty Powell, Nelle Adams, Theodisa Adams, Rachel Fleener, Effie Grider, Dorothy Hall, Edythe Pick, LaVica Sandham, Harriet Fritz, Wiladine Hewitt, and Harriet Kauffman.

The following have served as presidents of the Auxiliary: 1945-46, Helen Bear; 1946-47, Edna Sherrington; 1947-48, Pauline Beckham; 1948-49, Helen Mundt; 1949-50, Carolyn Jordan; 1950-51, Ferne Yeitz; 1951-52, Edna Iftner; 1952-53, Marie Stephens; 1953-54, Ochla Jenkins and Cleo Rich.

The purpose of the American Legion Auxiliary is to assist the Legion at all times. "For God and Country," we associate ourselves together for the following purposes: to uphold the Constitution of the United States; to maintain law and order; to foster a 100% Americanism; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the Community, State and Nation; to promote peace and good will on earth; to uphold the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy; and to make right the master of might.

We have many committees working each year since our organization to assist in aiding the veteran and his family. We have donated to and aided the following hospitals: Dwight Veterans Hospital, Elgin Hospital, East Moline, Peoria State, North Shore, Cook County, Anna State, Menard, Jacksonville, Kankakee State, Danville, Downey, Norberry, Marine.

We maintain a yearly donation to the Rehabilitation Fund which includes donations to the Vaponefrin Fund, Isnulin, Veteran's Craft, Treasure Chest, Christmas Gift Shop, Easter Gift, Gift for Yanks, Carnation Fund, and Canteen Books.

Each year our Americanism Committee sponsors an essay contest in our local schools. Our Child Welfare Committee sponsors a cottage at the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School, Normal, Illinois. We send a girl from the junior class of the high school every year to Girls State. We aid veterans' children in getting scholarships.

We support the Community in all drives and each year work on a special project in betterment of community life. We study a different Pan-American country each year to help us understand their way of life and to assist in cementing a friendly relationship with them.

We sell veteran-made poppies each year to assist the disabled veteran. We sponsor poppy poster contests in the local schools.

We sponsor a Junior group each year. The purpose is to instill the principles of our great country in the minds and hearts of our growing girls.

Each year we honor our gold star members who have given a loved one for the service of his country. Our honored Gold Star Members are: Mrs. Esther Morris, Mrs. Edward Kahle, Miss Dorothy Kahle, Mrs. Harriet Borner, Mrs. Anne Shevokas, Mrs. William Tinges, Mrs. Helen Decker, Mrs. Frank Mason, and Mrs. Carl Spence.

With our splendid work toward the community, state and nation, we endeavor to keep alight our big purpose in life, "For God and Country."

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Chenoa Post No. 8350, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is one of more than 10,000 similar posts in this country. The purposes of this organization are: to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members; to assist worthy comrades; to perpetuate the memory and history of our dead and to assist their widows and orphans; and to foster true patriotism.

Membership is limited to those who have served honorably as an officer or enlisted man in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the U.S. of America in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition, which service shall be recognized as campaign-medal service and governed by authorization of the award of a campaign badge by the government of the U.S. of America.

The veterans who formed the local post held their first meeting on September 13, 1946, and were granted a charter by the national organization October 14, 1946.

Charter members of VFW No. 8350 are: John I. Adams, Jim I. Andrews, Hershel L. Augsburg, Carl E. Bach, Jesse D. Belflower, Wm. K. Birch, Clyde F. Boles, Richard J. Brush, Porter E. Brush, Leonard R. Bumgardner, John F. Cable, Mark Churchill, Paul R. Clendenen Jr., Glen O. Cooper, Robert B. Cooper, Jay E. Downes, Harvey B. Downey, Arthur Ferguson Jr., Berwyn D. Ferguson, Harold J. Ferguson, Lester Flesher, Alfred L. Hany, William Helbling, William A. Helbling, Elmer P. Henry, Paul V. Higgins, Thomas E. Higgins, Robert T. Jacobs, Stephen A. Karlov, Marcellin J. Kaufman, Paul Kaufman, Robert E. Kaufman, Charles E. Klein, Richard F. Klein, Edgar A. Kritser, Harold R. Kritser, Paul Martin, Norman L. Memken, Virgil E. Morris, Kenneth O. Myer, Ivan J. Pfeffinger, Howard R. Peck, James J. Pierce, Ervin M. Sandham, David F. Schieman, Russell E. Schneckenburger, Martin R. Schopp, Harry Sherrington, Paul W. Sherrington, Ralph J. Snyder, Doren E. Spaid, Delmar C. Streid, John W. Streid, Paul E. Streid, Robert E. Streid, Robert J. Travis, Raleigh P. Travis, Francis D. Vercler, John E. Vercler, Ralph C. Wagner, Isaac W. Weaver, Lorenz Winterland, and Marvin L. Zimmerman.

The first officers of this organization were: Commander, Paul Streid; Senior Vice Commander, Carl E. Bach; Junior Vice Commander, Arthur Ferguson Jr.; Quartermaster, John F. Cable; Trustees, Isaac Weaver, Robert T. Jacobs, and Porter Brush.

Sixty-three members' names appeared on the charter members list. Their meetings were held on the first and third Thursday of each month. From its beginning this post has admitted 129 members. Some are now deceased. Others have moved to new areas. There are now 66 members on the roll. The present Commander is James Looney Jr.

Since October 30, 1947, the VFW has given the children of Chenoa an annual Halloween party. More than 400 children of the community dressed in costume and competed for prizes. Following this they gathered in the city park for a wiener roast with food and drink furnished by the VFW. Among other events the organization helped sponsor the Veterans' Homecoming in Chenoa during September, 1947.

Besides helping with the conducting of funeral and memorial services for

departed veterans and others, the Post annually observes the Memorial holiday with appropriate ceremonies at the Chenoa cemeteries.

The Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 8303 was organized April 15, 1948, and the following officers were chosen: President, Mrs. Dorothy Streid; Vice-President, Mrs. Marguerite Weaver; Junior Vice-President, Mrs. Helen Streid; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Jay Downs. Ladies Auxiliary officers for 1953-54 are: President, Mrs. Bernice McIntyre; Senior Vice-President, Mrs. Lois Chapman; Junior Vice-President, Mrs. Mary Looney; Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Ilene Downs; Chaplain, Hazel Terrell; Conductress, Aletta Klomprens.

The Auxiliary does work for the Dwight Veterans Hospital and also for the community.

Counting all soldiers of all wars, there have been 300 servicemen from Chenoa go into the service.

WOMEN IN THE SERVICE IN WORLD WAR II

June Jeffers, Lieutenant nurse in the army corps. Entered January 5, 1943; discharged November 22, 1946. She was in England and in Paris, France, which is the largest army hospital in the world.

Katheryn Jeffers, WAC. Enlisted January, 1943; discharged October, 1946. She was a radio operator and was located at Air Base, Bovingdon, near London, and Versailles, France.

Mildred Hester enlisted as a WAAC January 31, 1943. Was transferred to Air Corps. Served as historian at Sioux Falls, South Dakota (AAF). Sent overseas May, 1945. Discharged as a WAC sergeant January 31, 1946, and served as a civilian with the WSFET in the history division until September, 1948.

Mary Jenkins, WAC-SFC, rank first class. She began her basic training November 5, 1943, at Daytona Beach, Florida, as S/Sgt. She went through a number of camps and hospitals learning to cook and prepare special diets. In 1946 she landed in Frankfurt, Germany. Here she was assigned duties in the WAC mess hall. She visited in Rome, Naples, Isle of Capri, France, Spain, Scotland, Holland, and England. In June, 1952, she came to Fort Benjamin, Indiana, then to recruiting duty in the state of Illinois.

Hilda N. Sievers joined the WAC in September, 1944, and received her release June 22, 1946. She took her training at Fort Des Moines, Iowa, and was sent from there to Washington, D.C., to the Pentagon. While there she carried secret papers. She was a Courier and was at the Pentagon until she was released.

Thelma Irene Yates, WAC, entered the service April 6, 1943. Discharged November 24, 1945. Her basic training was at Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. She served at San Antonio and Hondo, Texas.

Pvt. Bernadine Gibson, WAC, enlisted January 6, 1954, at Chicago, Illinois. She is in the medical corps at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

Joyce Jeanette Jacobs, WAC, enlisted in the medical corps. She entered service January 10, 1945, at Chicago, Illinois. Date of discharge unknown.

First Lieutenant Lois Streid was in the nurses corps. She was in service in

1945-46 and first stationed at Hammond General Hospital in Modesto, California. Later she was sent to Bibble Hospital, Melo Park, California.

WORLD WAR I CASUALTIES

Fredolin C. Lanzer died at Camp Dodge with pneumonia. He left Chenoa September 18, 1917, and was the first local boy to lose his life in the service of his country. He died April 15, 1918.

Ben Kaplan was born November 5, 1890. Entered the service October 1, 1918. Died at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, October 11, 1918, of Spanish influenza, just 11 days after leaving for service.

Ben Roth, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Roth of Chenoa, entered the service June, 1918. Died January 4, 1919. He became ill marching to the front a few days before the Armistice was signed. He took the flu, which later developed into pneumonia and caused his death. He died in a French hospital. Part of the time he was cared for by a Chenoa boy, Carl Heidewald. The Chenoa American Legion is named after Mr. Roth.

Charles Harrison entered the service August 1, 1918. Died August 11, 1918. He went to Camp Wheeler, Macon, Georgia, with a draft contingent. He was later transferred to Camp Mills, New Jersey. Here he took influenza and died in a hospital in Secaucus, New Jersey.

Ralph David Christi, corporal, died May 9, 1919, at Talence, Gironde, France. He was brought back to the U.S. and buried in Pike Cemetery on November 7, 1920.

WORLD WAR II

Elwood Fritz was in 91st bomb group on a B-17. He entered the service September 21, 1942. His ship blew up while he was on a mission near Erfurt, Germany. He went down in a forest November 2, 1944. He was attacked by 60 German fighters.

Robert Harold Morris entered service October 8, 1942. He died March 27, 1945, at Payamaw, Burma. He was on flight returning from escort mission. The plane he was flying in caught fire and fell away from the formation. His body was never found.

Lowell E. Kahle entered the service January 14, 1946. He died March 3, 1946, at San Antonio, Texas. He took pneumonia followed by measles.

Harold F. Burke, First Sergeant, entered service May, 1944, and died in camp December 13, 1947.

Kenneth Meintz — entered service not known. He was wounded twice and was finally killed in action in Korea on May 18, 1951. Buried in Chenoa Cemetery.

Kenneth Nylander, Corporal, entered service January 19, 1947. He was killed in action September 16, 1950.

Eldon Mason, Staff Sergeant, entered service August 10, 1943. He was discharged December 12, 1945, and re-enlisted for the Korean War. He died on November 15, 1952.

Leonard Shevokas died August 8, 1951, at Sendai, Japan. Hestepped on a high voltage wire after his truck overturned trying to avoid hitting a child on a bi-

cycle. Buried in Calvary Cemetery, Chenoa, Illinois.

Staff Sergeant Carl M. Spence, Air Force, presumed killed in action February 22, 1952, when his plane was last heard from. Declared dead by War Department December 31, 1953.

Staff Sergeant Eldon Mason died November 15, 1952, as a result of a fall during maneuvers at Hillsborough Bay, Tampa, Florida.

DR. CHARLES R. KERR — WORLD WAR I AND II

Major Charles R. Kerr, well known local physician for many years, was born in North Star, Michigan, January 10, 1885. He graduated from Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery in 1913. He located in Chenoa and remained here until he enlisted in the service September 13, 1918. He was discharged November 31, 1919. After his return to Chenoa, he was very active in officers reserve corps and also an active member of the American Legion and well known in Central Illinois.

The present Chenoa Community Hall at the corner of Green and Lincoln Streets was built by Dr. Kerr and was to have been used as his own office after the war. It was unfinished at the time he was called again into service in January, 1941. Dr. Kerr was the first medical doctor from McLean County to die in action in World War II. He was one of the victims of the infamous "Death March" on Bataan in the Philippine Islands. He died in a Japanese camp April 27, 1942, and was buried in the U.S. Army Cemetery at Manila in the Philippine Islands.

In 1948 his building was acquired by the city of Chenoa. It was completed and dedicated as a community building in memory of Dr. Charles R. Kerr. The bronze tablet placed on the front of the building was furnished by the Ben Roth Post of the American Legion and reads as follows:

CHENOA COMMUNITY CENTER
CITY HALL IN MEMORY OF
MAJOR C. R. KERR, M.D.
1885 — 1942

INDIAN BURYING GROUND

On the John Hancock farm three miles due north of Chenoa is found an unbroken piece of sod ground. On it are several mounds and one long low mound that is thought to be where Indians were buried many years ago. The Indians scraped out a shallow trench on the ground. This particular one is about 15 to 20 feet long. They then placed the dead in the trench lengthwise. The squaws carried dirt in their aprons and covered the bodies with a small amount of dirt. Originally Indians did not bury their dead, but hung them up in trees or elsewhere for the birds or animals to devour. When the white man arrived, he taught them to bury in the ground.

John Hancock came from Pennsylvania and located on this farm north of Chenoa in 1873. Not long after his arrival an Indian came walking across the prairie. He came to their house and knocked at their door. The Hancock family were frightened at his sudden appearance. He wanted them to know that there was an Indian burying ground on their newly acquired prairie land. He did not want them to destroy it. There were mounds here and there over the farm which the Hancocks thought might be Indian graves. At the present time there is 20

acres of unbroken prairie land which is located a short distance back from the road that runs in front of the house. This is where the Indian burying ground is found.

The Hancocks have a heavy brownish-red stone that is about three or four inches in diameter and one and one-half inch thick. It is hollowed down toward the center on both sides but there is no hole in the center of it. Indians smooth these down and use them to play a game they call "Rolly Polly." They were made in two sizes. The large ones were for the adult Indians to play with, while the smaller ones were for the children to play the same game. Hancocks have also found numerous arrowheads on the farm. This home is a very interesting place to go and the Hancocks are very cordial to all guests.

SCOTT GRAVEYARD

In the summer of 1858 nine young children died within a few weeks and nearly every home was in mourning. Among the first deaths in the new town was the little child of W. H. Leavers. This necessitated the securing and setting apart of a suitable place for a burying ground or a graveyard as such a place was called in those times. Mr. M. T. Scott had proposed to give ground for that purpose and he agreed to burials being made on the hill north of the National Hotel about one-half mile away, a little north of the east end of Piety Hill on the north side of the road. Burials were made there for a number of years, but for some unknown reason Mr. Scott revoked his offer and ordered all remains and markers taken away. Many of the bodies were reinterred in Payne's Cemetery, while some of them were never removed and the ground was plowed and nothing is left to mark the place of burial of such as remain.

SQUIRE PAYNE AND PAYNE'S CEMETERY

Squire Payne bought land in 1852 from Mr. Pennel. It is located two miles east of Chenoa and two miles north, then one-half mile east. At that early time there were no roads laid out on the prairie. An Indian Fighter was passing through the country near the Squire Payne place. He was taken very sick and died at the Payne home. Mr. Payne buried him on a little knoll north of his home. The American Legion places flowers on his grave each Memorial Day. In the year 1854 sickness appeared in a malignant form in the Payne family. Before long four of their children were consigned to an early grave. They were buried on the same beautiful knoll where the Indian Fighter was interred. Not long afterward Mr. Payne donated this ground for a graveyard. Later it became known as Payne's Cemetery. Early burying grounds were never kept up. After Mr. Payne's death it was taken over by a different management and is now well cared for. Today a sexton is hired to keep the grounds in good condition and the driveways are usable.

In order to have better roads for travelers, surveyors were sent to lay out roads running north and south and east and west. When they surveyed the road running east and west in front of the Payne home they found the road would run through the cemetery where graves and markers were. Some bodies had been moved from the Scott graveyard northwest of Chenoa. It was too much work to remove the bodies buried there, so it was decided to make a jog in the road and go directly in front of the Payne home. This jog is near the southeast end of the cemetery. There are 35 service men buried in this cemetery besides one Confederate soldier.

CALVARY CEMETERY

Calvary Cemetery was purchased during the years sometimes from 1881 to 1887 when Father Scheuren served as pastor at the Chenoa Catholic Church. Previous to this time, burial of deceased members was made in Catholic cemeteries of neighboring towns. Seventeen servicemen are buried in this cemetery.

BEEK'S (Now Pike) CEMETERY

Henry Beeks Sr. offered two acres of his land for a cemetery. It lays on a knoll far from any cemetery at that time. At first it was called Beek's Cemetery, but later the name was changed to Pike Cemetery. There are seven service men buried in this cemetery.

CHENOA CEMETERY

Chenoa was a small community of about 200 inhabitants when the Chenoa Cemetery was formed in 1870. Lots in the Cemetery sold for \$10. It served as a



**THE SOLDIER'S MONUMENT WAS ERECTED SOMETIME BETWEEN 1920 AND 1925
FOR THE GAR'S.**

burial place and that was all. Today the price has risen to \$80 for a lot 16x20 and \$50 for a lot 8x16. There are 1,907 persons who are buried there. The secretary keeps a record of all persons, showing the dates of birth and death, age and a diagram of the lot and place of interment on the lot. The perpetual care fund is now \$1,011.14. There are 76 perpetual care markers on various lots. Some of the caretakers who have worked there are John King, Matt Busby, T. H. Womack, and Tom Dodson. There are 110 service men buried in this cemetery besides one Confederate soldier. The Wm. Maxwell family purchased the first lot in the City Cemetery and removed the body of Mrs. Wm. Maxwell from Payne's Cemetery to the City Cemetery east of town.

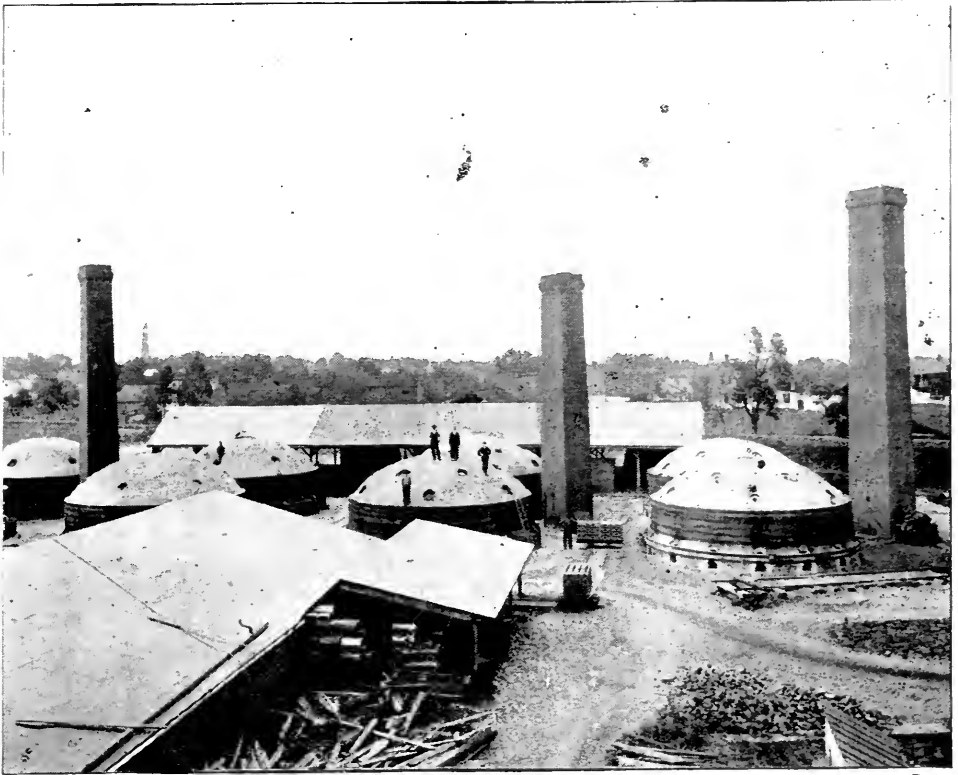
SNYDER BLOCK BURNS JULY 27, 1886

At 11:30 p.m. Marshal Sweet saw a light in the upper room of the two story building belonging to the Snyder Estate and occupied as a tailor shop by Fred Gaymann. At the time he thought perhaps Mr. Gaymann might be in there with a light sewing, but soon he discovered sparks or fire between that building and the next north and gave the fire alarm. The whole building was soon a mass of flames which soon spread to the wooden building on the south belonging to S. W. Besley of Council Bluffs, one occupied by Brumm and Ballinger as a storehouse for farm implements, the other by J. E. Wrightman as a hardware store and tin shop. The fire then communicated with the corner of the Masonic Temple known as the Snyder Block and soon smoke and fire burst out of the doors and windows forbidding all hope of its being saved from the fiery elements. This was considered the finest and best built edifice in the city. It was built in 1875 and cost \$15,000. At the time of the fire it was occupied on the first floor by J. E. Oehl druggist; Kelly and company, bankers; on the second floor by the Masonic Lodge. P. B. Grosbeck also had a suit of rooms on the north and east front. Charles Pinstre occupied the basement as a shos shop. At 2 a.m. the whole structure was a mass of smoldering ruins and nothing but the foundation walls and debris was left of what once was was the pride of the city in the line of business edifices. This fire was on the west side of Veto Street. Men worked bravely on Ballinger Bros. livery stable which checked the fire from going south and across the street onto the Crosby Block. John Driscoll again distinguished himself by mounting Crosby Block and putting out sparks that were igniting the cornice on the north of the building. All the wooden structures on the opposite side of the street, on the east were badly scorched, and the Union Hall building and Rugar and Rupps drug store were only saved by placing planks in front of the building and keeping them wet. This was Mr. Rugar's idea to save the building. George Lippoldt was badly burned in the face by the flames at the falling of the walls of the Snyder block. An attempt was made to pull out Kelly and the company's safe but hte heat was so intense that it was abandoned. Briggs Coonley was badly cut in the leg when he fell from a ladder. Charlie Travis fell down the cellar steps and was injured. The estimated loss was \$53,000 and the total insurance was \$26,000.

CHENOA TILE FACTORY BURNED IN 1889

The Chenoa Tile Factory was built in 1879 by Ellington and Castle. In 1881 E. M. Pike bought out Mr. Ellington's interest in the firm and the name was changed to Pike and Castle. The new firm bought E. M. Pike's large ice house, a structure 80 by 52 feet and moved it to the tile factory using it as an L for the building. They erected their main building 108 by 35 feet. The buildings were built of heavy timbers, shingle roofed, and with drop siding on the stone foundation.

This building was fitted up in four floors and they adopted what was called "stall shelving" for the storage of their tile. There were two sheds each 160 by 25 feet with 7000 feet of steam pipe running through the buildings. They had new tramways, two elevators, coal houses etc. Their engine and boiler were made to order and cost \$2,500. The engine was a 50 horse power engine. They also had a large clay mill and crusher, pumps etc. Everything was complete and adapted to the manufacture of superior tile and brick.



**TILE FACTORY — CASTLE AND PIKE
WEST SIDE OF CHENOA**

In 1883 the Toledo, Peoria and Western Railroad put in a switch at the factory for the accommodation of increasing business in receiving supplies and shipping manufactured articles.

In 1886 J. B. Schopp an employee invented a kiln which he named "The New Discovery Kiln." They built four of the new kilns for their factory. They were in constant use in their business from the time of their erection. In 1888 they built a nice business office made of hollow brick and roofed it with tile from Baltimore. The floors of the office were laid out in a very unique design of their own invention. This building was supposed to be fire proof but during the fire the excessive heat

of the burning tile sheds caused the windows to break and the inside was badly damaged.

Mr. Pike was President of the Illinois Tile Association and was thus honored for several years during which time he attended all its annual meetings in the Northwest and visited over three hundred tile manufactures. Mr. Pike thinks there is but one other tile factory in the U.S. that is larger than the Pike and Castle factory. In January 1888 their factory was shut down. They had about completed making improvements and repairs when the factory was destroyed by fire on February 8, 1889.

The origin of the fire was unknown and a mystery. Mr. Pike returned from Iowa that afternoon. He retired early to rest when Mr. Sanborn routed him out and told him that coal had been struck at the shaft. He went to the shaft and at midnight when he was returning home he cast his eyes in the direction of the tile factory and saw flames bursting out. Mr. Castle was at home in bed. A neighbor rang his doorbell furiously and informed him that there was a fire at his tile factory. Bells had been ringing and whistles blowing conjecturing that coal had been struck. Mr. Castle thought the factory fire story was all a joke to get him out of bed. He was of the opinion that they had found coal, so he went back to bed.

When he did look toward the factory and saw the flames he lost no time in getting to the Pike and Castle factory.

The destruction of the factory was a great loss to Chenoa as well as a great number of men who were employed there. The farmers were deprived of obtaining cheap tile. Many hoped they would rebuild again. The tile works cost in the vicinity of \$15,000 and was insured for \$5,000. The following are only a few of the men who worked at the factory. Jesse Strout, Dan Strout, Jack Twomey, Tom Welch, Ned Cleary, George Marriott, Will Twomey, Maurice Twomey, Rhody Twomey, Jesse King, Orville Spitler and other unknown to this writer.

CROSBY BLOCK APRIL 30, 1889

The Crosby Block was a brick structure two stories high with a basement and was built by A. M. Crosby and Ellis Shipman in 1874 at a cost of \$20,000. It stood in the center of the business portion of the town and was an ornament to the city. It was strongly built, conveniently appointed and was occupied by a number of the leading business firms of the town. The block was built in six divisions or business buildings one of which was owned by Captain John Hickey, two by Mr. W. A. Haynes, one by W. M. Fales another by Mr. Jewell and the last by O. D. Sanborn. Captain Hickey occupied his building with a saloon on the first floor and his office on the second floor. W. A. Haynes loss was \$5,500. Miss Hattie Castle's millinery stock was mostly saved. Mr. H. Lillies cigar factory was on the second floor. Mr. Haynes other building was occupied on the first floor by the Post Office, Mr. S. S. Chapman was the Post Master. He saved all of the mail. Mr. H. O. Hedge was over the Post Office. His loss was heavy. Mr. W. M. Fales general stock of dry goods was consumed. Above Mr. Fales was the Odd Fellows hall. In Mr. Jewells building was the firm of Nickel, Schuster and Bawden's hardware and implements. In Mrs. Sandborn's building were Carfield and Company's feed store. On the second floor was Dr. Anthony's office. He lost a very fine library and many surgical instruments.

All told there was a loss of \$44,700 with insurance amounting to \$23,810.

It is not known how the fire originated but there is a strong suspicion it was

of incendiary origin. The fire when discovered was near the center of the building and was under such headway that its starting place could not be determined neither could the flames be controlled. The entire building with most of its contents was reduced to ashes. Chenoa had no fire department at that time only a small hand engine that was capable of throwing but a small stream. The citizens organized a bucket brigade and did what they could to save other buildings. Luckily for the town almost a perfect calm prevailed during the time of the fire. While fighting the fire Mr. M. Quinn and J. B. Lenny were badly injured by falling walls. Mr. Lenny was not hurt as seriously as Mr. Quinn. Dr. Elder said Mr. Quinn had about one third of his scalp torn off and had only a fighting chance of recovery.

The Lace Block is on the south west corner of Lincoln and Green Streets and is still standing. Our present fire department equipment is now in the north part of the building.

LACE BLOCK IN RUINS SOMETIME ABOUT 1900

Thursday morning at 2:00 o'clock the fire whistle announced a continuance of Chenoa's fire program. It was the Lace Block in flame this time with the usual settings of high winds and inaccessible rooms. The main building is a total loss but fully covered by insurance.

Lee Kee the Chinese laundryman said the fire started in the rear of Dr. Lord's office. He was awakened by a window breaking and ran immediately with a bucket of water. The flames were too much for him so he summoned assistance. The fire spread with great rapidity and the whole interior of the main building was soon a mass of roaring flames. The fire boys were soon on the scene and had three hose streams playing on the east, north, south and west sides of the building. The outside walls were left standing. Later the inside was rebuilt.



ing. It was feared the entire block would go but the flames were confined to the north half of the building and the south half was let off with a good drowning. The outside walls are still standing but the inside was damaged.

L. P. Lacey's blacksmith shop, machinery room and feed room was a tangled mass and half of the roof fell in. Dr. Lord suffered a total loss. Not a thing was saved and he had no insurance.

W. A. Sweet suffered a total loss and had no insurance.

Lee Sing, Who recently bought the laundry from Lee Kee was drowned out with water. He had no insurance.

W. G. Fisher was on the second floor asleep at the time. He suffered a total loss having lost all his upholstering tools.

Mr. Johnson lost \$10 worth of carpenter's tools.

Henry Lillie, the cigar manufacturer, had \$500 insurance, but his loss was greater than what his insurance amounted to.

CHENOA'S 1894 FIRE

This fire was discovered by a colored boy tramp who was going along the railroad near Jackson's shop.

At 12 o'clock noon Tuesday, July 24, 1894, the beautiful business blocks of Chenoa were a monument to our city's wealth, prosperity, and enterprise, and two hours later they were a mass of blackened walls and smoking ruins — swept, as it were, by the touch of a magic wand in the hand of the blighting demon of fire. The conflagration started near the Jackson blacksmith shop.

About 12:25 the alarm rang out from the fire bell and word was quickly passed around that Ballinger's livery barn was on fire. Ballinger's barn was across the street and a little south of the present Flat Iron building on Veto Street. Only a moment later immense volumes of smoke and flame rolled skyward and in them, like the handwriting on the wall, was inscribed the doom of the business section of the city. A strong wind was blowing from the southwest, and in an instant the Hickey building caught fire. This building was owned by Capt. Hickey. In a few moments it became apparent that none of the business blocks could be saved, and there was a mad rush to save what could be taken from the buildings.

Willing hands were ready to help carry out what they could, but so strong was the wind and so fierce the heat that in less than 10 minutes everyone was driven off the street. Huge burning brands were carried for blocks and fresh fires were started in buildings two hundred yards from the main fire. Charred shingles were picked up at Lodemia, which was ten miles from Chenoa, as reported by Frank Churchill of Fairbury, who owned corn cribs at Lodemia.

There were 10 horses in Ballinger's barn, four of which were gotten out, while the remaining six met horrible deaths by burning. All the buggies and carriages were saved and a couple of sets of harness. Three horses and a colt were burned in the Vance barn; also a Shire stallion owned by Charles Davies, a trotting stallion owned by C. Augustine of Flanagan, and a mare and colt owned by Wm. Arnold. A stallion owned by G. W. Ayers of Gridley and one belonging to Schuster & Arnold were gotten out. A horse attached to a buggy and owned by Mrs. Codlin ran away from the north side of town and rushed into the street between two rows of burning buildings and was burned to death in front of Groesbeck's cloth-

ing store on the west side of the street. The animal seemed crazed with fright.

While the fire was raging strong in the west side of the Hickey building and the heat and smoke became unbearable, J. F. McKeever, the tailor who had a shop upstairs, appeared at one of the windows in Dr. Shinn's office. He jumped before a ladder could be brought. Luckily an awning broke his fall, but as it was he struck on the sharp iron points on the railing around part of the building. A cry of horror went up from those who witnessed the accident. He was picked up in an unconscious condition and carried on a stretcher to the residence of Frederick Seeman, where he was examined and found to have a frightful wound in his side and several punctures along the upper part of his leg. Mr. McKeever had taken out an accident insurance policy a week before the fire and he received \$8 or \$10 a week while disabled.

In the meantime the fire was eating its way in every direction except westward. Goods were carried to the south end of Green Street and then moved southward almost to Dr. Elder's residence at the south end of Green Street. Wightman & Son and P. B. Grasbeck on the west side of Veto Street could save but little. Other merchants on the west side of Veto Street — Marriott & Van Petten grocers, M. Warner men's clothing store, and H. E. Mattock's drug store — saved a portion of their goods by carrying them out the back way on the west side of the fire. The people on the east side of the street carried out a part of their goods into the alley, but before much of it could be removed to a place of safety the fire drove the workers away and their goods were burned.

In a very short time every business house on both sides of the street was in flames except the Balbach block. The roaring wind, the billows of smoke and flame, the fierce heat and flying brands converted the scene into a veritable inferno and people began to wonder if a place of safety could be found. Strong men broke down and wept. Women looked upon the scene in a dazed manner, while others of their sex wrung their hands in an agony of grief.

Early in the fire a flying brand set fire to the Brumm building on the northeast corner of Owsley and Veto Streets and swept northward on the east side of Veto Street to the railroad and back east to the next street, licking up everything before it and threatening the Churchill elevator and the residence portion of the city. People who were several blocks away from the original scene of the fire carried out their furniture. The grass in the park caught fire, and but for the timely aid of a few watchful ones, the school building and the entire residence portion in the east side of town would have been swept away.

Early in the fire, men got on top of the Balbach building and commenced pouring water on the roof and sidewalls. When the flames came nearer the heat became so intense it seemed impossible for anyone to live on the building, but the brave men stayed at their posts. The big plate glass windows cracked into many pieces as the heat grew more intense. The implement store of Wm. Ballinger & Son and a building on the north side of the Balbach block soon caught from the heat of the Brumm block on the east side of the street, and it seemed that the Balbach block was doomed, but the men worked like heroes and won the day.

The wind being from the southwest saved the Exchange Hotel (across south from the depot and the depot, although everyone prepared to move out.

When the fire had subsided, the weary and stunned populace sank down heartsick and exhausted. Only one store (Balbach's) and two saloons were all that was left in the way of business houses. In one hour's time 32 business houses were in ruins. Some people were made homeless. There were times while the fire was raging when it seemed there was no place of safety for anyone. There was

not a drop of water and no fire protection. All one could do was to save a few belongings and flee to a place of safety. No power on earth could have coped with the fire from the beginning. All the fire engines in Chicago could not have checked its mad fury.

Just how this fire started will never be known. The most plausible explanation was that a spark from a passing engine on the Alton railroad might have done the mischief. The noon mail train had just passed through a short time before the fire broke out. As the wind was blowing from the west, a spark from somewhere must have blown into some rubbish and started the blaze. Nearly everyone was at dinner at the time, but it was generally supposed that it started in the rear of the blacksmith shop. The insurance companies paid the insurance, then sued the railroad for damages, but lost the suit.

SPECIAL EDITION OF THE CLIPPER

The big fire had scarcely been brought under control before *The Clipper* went to work on a special edition, which was issued late Tuesday night and sold by newsboys early Wednesday morning. It was a great issue and was completely exhausted before noon, when another and more complete edition was printed and sold within a few hours. The was called "The Fire Souvenir of the Chenoa Fire."

Here are a few items of interest from it:

The little dog belonging to Miss Ella Chapman was burned in the post office. Two empty box cars on the Alton sidetrack near Ballinger's barn burned. A part of Mrs. Florence Silliman's household goods stored in the rooms above the State Bank were burned. Dr. Herbert Silliman had his dental office there. Charred pieces of wood were found three miles northeast of the city on the Luther Hayes farm, and also some on Mrs. Verry's farm a little southwest of the Hayes farm. Lawrence Jack's son lost his popcorn stand.

Miller & New put up a shanty on their former site and were selling meat Thursday morning at the same price as before the fire. Clay & Thayer supposed their account books were burned, but later they were found.

Capt. Hickey had just filled his coal bin with several tons of hard coal. By carrying water and wetting it a large portion of the coal was saved. Insurance adjusters were on the grounds less than half an hour after the fire started. A special police force was on duty for two days. Both drug stores in town were destroyed and no prescriptions could be filled. Telephone service was suspended until Thursday morning, when service was resumed on the west and south side; the central service being located in Dr. Lord's storeroom in the Lace building. Later in the day the east and north service was resumed. Most of those living in the second story on the east side lost much wearing apparel, namely, Mr. and Mrs. George lost a part of theirs; Mr. and Mrs. James Downie and Miss Katie Carlin lost nearly everything; Misses Mary Russell and Mary Connelly saved part of their clothing; John Carlin lost a suit of clothes, a gold watch and a new bicycle; Mr. and Mrs. Downie lost watches; Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Armstrong lost nearly all of their clothing, also Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Smith, the former not even saving a coat or vest; Dr. M. M. Lord saved a shirt and pair of pants, but he had them on.

After the fire, Marshal Beach was at a loss on what to do with his victims. There was nothing left of the jail but the iron bars and padlock to the front door. Luckily no one was arrested for any serious offense.

PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT

A meeting of the business men was held at the Congregational Church Thursday morning which proved a stormy one. W. A. Haynes presided. A motion to exclude all temporary buildings from fire limits caused a heated debate and was voted down. E. M. Pike volunteered his lots west of the Congregational Church on Division Street for temporary buildings and it was accepted. At this point the meeting adjourned without accomplishing much.

Some half dozen safes went through the fire and the contents of most of them were all right. The big safe in the Farmers Bank contained books, a large amount of currency, silver, and gold. The edges of some of the books were slightly scorched but the money was not damaged.

The city looked much like a typical western mining town the next day. Board shanties sprang up on every side; signs of all kinds lined the rows of new places of business. Some of these new signs were difficult to decipher. People walked up and down the middle of the street. There were no board sidewalks left. The postmaster, Henry Scrogin, was delivering mail from a dry goods box with a few boards across boxes as a railing. Most of those business men who were burned out signified their intention of rebuilding better and greater business houses.

The newsboys were pedding extras of *The Chenoa Clipper Fire Edition*. The way these newsboys were selling papers made Chenoa a lively place. People bought papers all day with great eagerness.

Mr. Fike, the liveryman on Owsley Street, lost his barn. He was one of the first to rebuild. He built a barn 32x100 ft. which was covered with corrogated iron. A field of rye belonging to the Canning Company about a quarter of a mile from town was set fire and came near burning a steam threshing outfit belonging to Bobzin Brothers, but about 300 bushels of rye in shocks was saved. W. A. Haynes was standing over the ruins of his grain office and fell into the hot embers and burned his left hand. Jesse N. King made a hole in the vault of the State Bank Wednesday morning and found everything cool and nothing damaged. Milton Ohmit and H. E. Maddock with many other were out with their kodaks taking pictures.

Postmaster Scrogin opened up in the Lace building Wednesday morning and sent out the first sack of mail on Wednesday night. Marroitt & Van Petten hauled what they saved to the Creamery building on Commercial Street across from the Churchill elevator. In less than two hours after the fire Wightman & Son had lumber at the Lace building at the southwest corner of Green and Lincoln Streets and were making benches for their tin shop.

Every passenger train during the afternoon brought scores of people from adjoining towns and many came in carriages and on bicycles. A number of those who indulged too freely of liquor after the fire was over were ordered out to a strawstack near the city and told to sleep it off. The mayor ordered the saloons closed. Each business man that was burned out sought a new place to locate. There were 12 firms doing a thriving business in the Lace building. G. W. Jewell had almost completed a sale of his buildings in the Masonic block for \$10,000, taking mostly land in payment. He said he would rebuild bigger than ever. Poor Lee Kee, the Chinese laundryman, lost everything. He seemed to be the happiest man in town because he had enough clothes to cover himself. Lee said "Belly big fire."

There was a strong pressure being brought to bear to change the location of the business portions of the city and lay it out in a different shape from the present. It was proposed to face the buildings on the east side of the street to

the east and build a row opposite on the site of Fike's livery barn and E. M. Pike's lot on Division Street, leaving a large vacant space between to be utilized for a park, band stand, fountain, etc., or as the city might see fit. The property owners of the west side, of course, have to be remunerated for their lots and also where the Crosby block and the Hickey building (Flat Iron) stood. Those promoting the plan could see many advantages in the change and enthusiastically promoted the new plan. The property owner who would have to change their sites were opposed to the new plan. Some thought this plan was good if a suitable disposition could be made of their lots. One disadvantage would be the loss of street improvements, but it would move the buildings away from the railroad to avoid danger of fire from locomotive sparks.

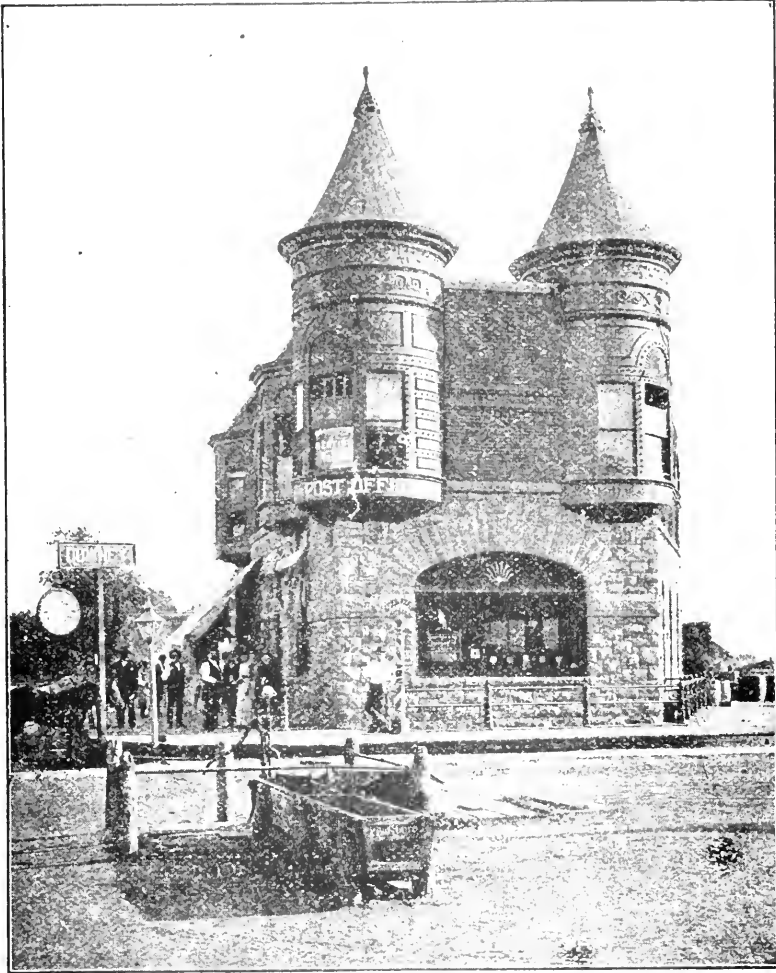
Carl Schuirmann and Henry Hops both narrowly escaped being burned to death, and as it was they were seriously burned. They remained in the store until both front and rear were on fire and on getting out, Mr. Hops was burned about his face and hands and had to be swathed in lotions and cloths until he resembled an Egyptian mummy. He was more seriously burned than anticipated. Mr. Schuirmann had to get down on his knees and crawl part of the way to the front door and when he reached the street he said it felt like crawling into a furnace. He finally got out of the range of the flames more dead than alive. His mustache was singed, his face scorched, and one arm burned.

The sparks from the fire set fire to a 40-acre field of oats on the D. S. Cox farm east of town, almost in the center of the field. It burned about eight acres before it could be extinguished. The hook and ladder outfit and hose cart were saved. It was the first time people had ever heard of a fire company running away from a fire. The chief said his men had stage fright. Who wouldn't, with such a fire raging and not much equipment and no city water. This had been the fourth big fire in Chenoa, so said *The Clipper*. Frank Ballinger had a check for \$591 burned up in the post office. It was sent in payment for horses. It was replaced.

HICKEY BLOCK BURNED 1894

The Hickey Block was known in early times as Shippman's Block, then later as Crosby Block, which burned. It was 24 feet wide at the north end and 80 feet wide at the south end and 120 feet long. History does not tell what happened to this building. Later this same ground was covered by a brick building from angle to angle known as the Crosby Block, which was destroyed by fire April 30, 1889. Capt. John Hickey purchased the site and built a two-story building with a basement which was known as the Hickey Block. It stood directly in the center of the uptown business district. It faced the north and stood on the site of our present Flat Iron building with Green Street on the east and Veto Street on the west side.

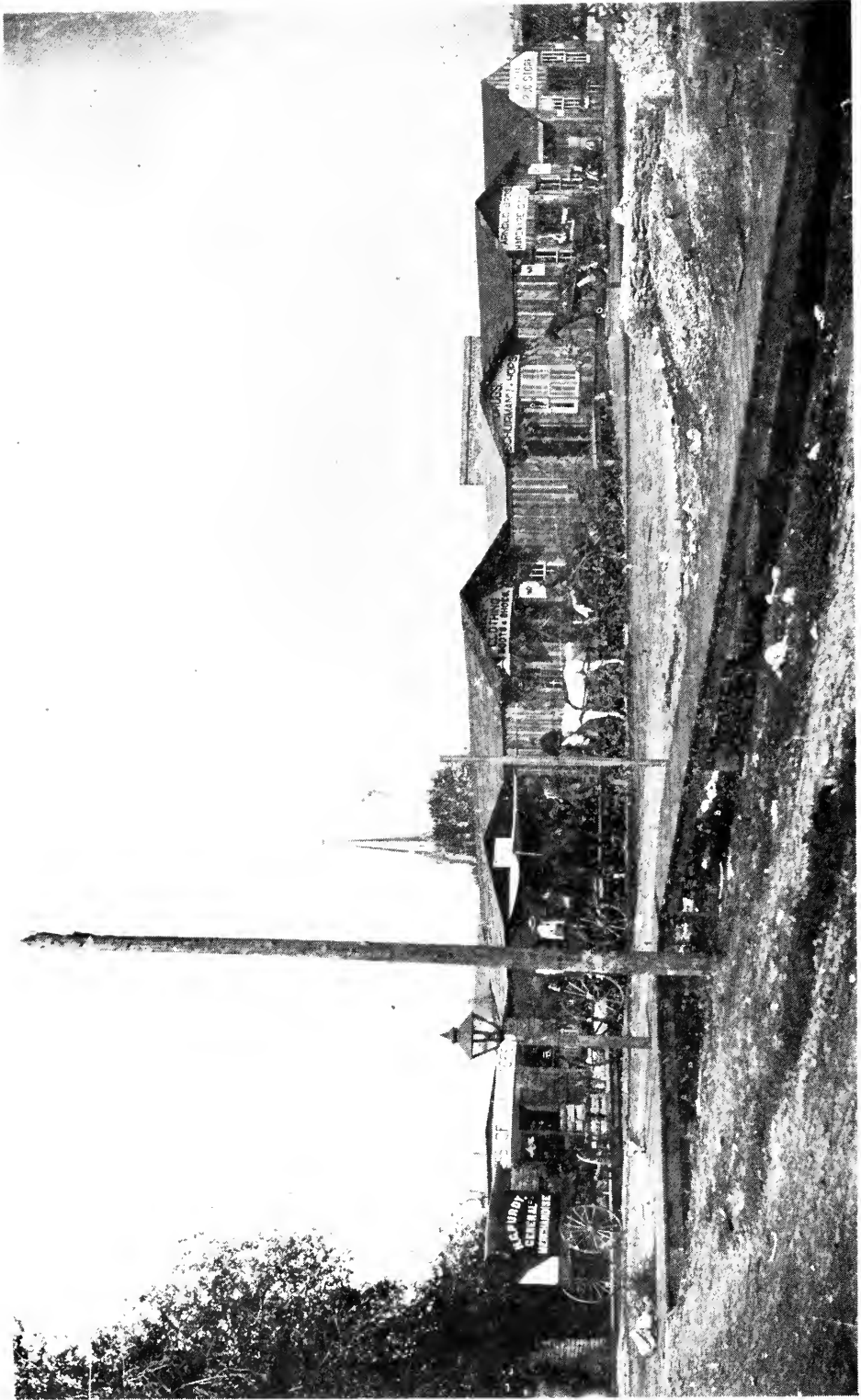
The Hickey Block was conceded to be the most artistic in an architectural sense and the handsomest of all the buildings ever erected in Chenoa if not in the county. Its owner displayed unusual enterprise in its erection and it was the pride of the town and its people. It occupied the most commanding position in the city. The first Hickey Block was erected in 1890 at an expenditure of \$12,000. It was reduced to ashes by the fire of July 24, 1894. The Clipper Publishing House and the Post Office were located in it at the time of the fire. When the Hickey Block was rebuilt, it was called the Flat Iron building that we have today.



**HICKEY'S HANDSOME BUSINESS BLOCK AND THE POST-OFFICE
BEFORE THE FIRE**

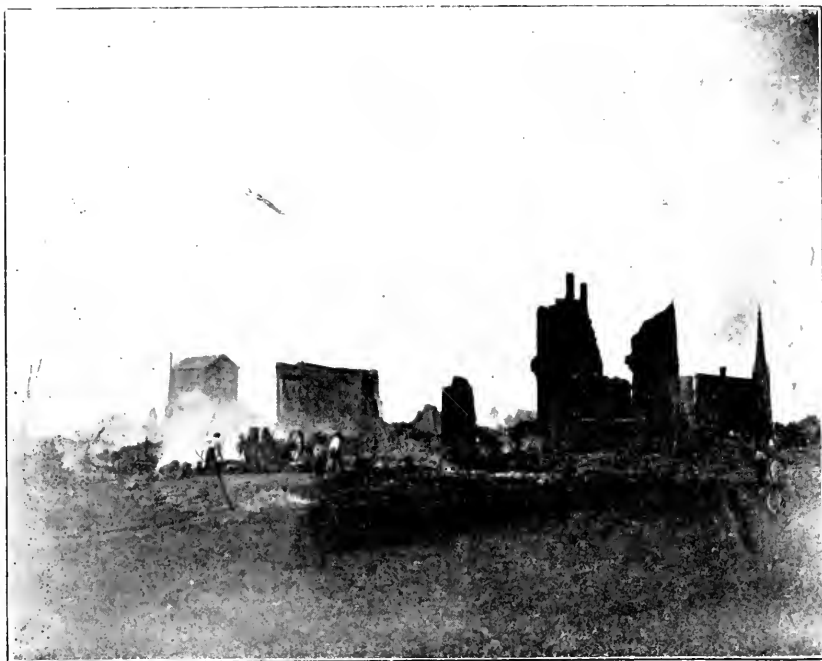
OKLAHOMA ROW (After the 1894 Fire)

One of the most striking and interesting circumstances of the burning and rebuilding of Chenoa in 1894 next to the permanent rebuilding was what was aptly termed "Oklahoma Row." It consisted of a row of awkward and yet picturesque shanties on the west side of Green Street, south of what is now the business center, closely resembling rows of plank and clapboard structures that were raised in boom towns of Oklahoma. The shanty stores were thrown together for temporary use until the brick and iron business blocks should be completed. Six firms were represented in this row, which was approached by an elevated plank walk. Here were the stores of C. R. Bailey and Edgar Purdy, grocery; S. S. Chapman, fruits and news depot; M. Warner, clothier; Schuirmann & Hops, drugs; Arnold Bros., hardware; and H. E. Mattocks, drugs. At other points were shanties



OKLAHOMA ROW — ERECTED JULY 25-29, 1894

in which Daniel Shober, furniture, and W. E. Ketcham, groceries, did temporary business.



FIRE RUINS — LOOKING FROM EAST TO WEST

No boom town in its most frenzied efforts, working night and day, ever equalled the pace or time in which this row of shelter structures was erected. Within two hours after the fire had spread over the business quarters, H. C. Purdy had lumber on the site of "Oklahoma Row," and the next morning was dispensing groceries to the exhausted people of Chenoa. "Oklahoma Row" was located on the northwest corner of Lincoln and Green Streets. The row of shanties ran north and south on Green Street and faced the east on the site where the Noe Garage is now located.

Copied from the Clipper, August 3, 1894

NEW CHENOA AFTER THE FIRE OF 1894

The Chenoa State Bank will build on their old site corner of Veto and Owsley Streets. It will be only a one story building this time. It is to be of Eureka pressed brick and front on Veto Street with plate glass and iron trimmed with red sandstone from Lake Superior and terra cotta handsomely carved, size of the building to be 24 by 60 feet. The vault will be repaired and the building will be substantially fire-proof and a substantial and handsome building. The inside will be fitted up in modern style with a ten foot basement. Mr. W. E. Ketcham builds a one story brick adjoining the bank on the south side for his grocery store. The size will be 28 by 80 feet. The front will be similar to the bank with basement. Mr. Sheeley of Joliet has the contract for both the Bank and Ketcham store.



CLEANING THE DEBRIS OF THE RUINS

The Masonic Temple will be built on the Coonley and Haynes lots south of W. E. Ketcham's. It will be a very handsome building 48 by 85 feet. William H. Haynes will build two store rooms and basement and Chenoa Lodge No. 292 A.F. & A.M. build the second stories over both of these buildings for lodge purposes. The stairway will be between the two stores. On the right at the head of the stairs is to be the ante-room 21 by 32 feet with a door into the lodge room proper 28 by 52 feet and 14 feet high. on the left of the stairway is a reception room 18 by 32 feet with a door into the preparation room which is 10 by 12 and a door from the this room into the lodge room. The banquet hall is 18 by 32 feet and has doors leading to the reception room, lodge room and into the kitchen in the rear, which is 10 by 18 feet. There will be windows on all sides of the building. The Lodge room will be well ventilated, airy, comfortable and more suited for Masonic purposes than any quarters the Masons have ever had before in this city. The front of the building is to be steel and plate glass, Eureka pressed brick, Bedford stone carved and trimmed with terra cotta. "Masonic Temple" will be carved on the stone with raised letters of one inch.

Schuirmann and Hop's store will be of Peoria pressed brick one story and a basement 30 by 70 feet. The front will be plate glass and steel with stone and terra cotta trimmings.

The Farmer's Bank, J. S. Kelly and Company erected a one story building and basement with a stone vault and fitted up in modern style for bank purposes. The front will be of plate glass and steel. It will be built of red and buff pressed brick made by the Central City Brick Company of Peoria, trimmed and ornamented with stone and terra cotta and will present a fine appearance.



NEW CHENOA AFTER 1894 FIRE — GREEN STREET, WEST SIDE

Mr. Fred Seeman will erect a one story and basement 23 by 65 feet of Peoria pressed brick, plate glass and steel front trimmed with stone and terra cotta and will be fitted up in modern style for Seeman and Hargadines meat market.

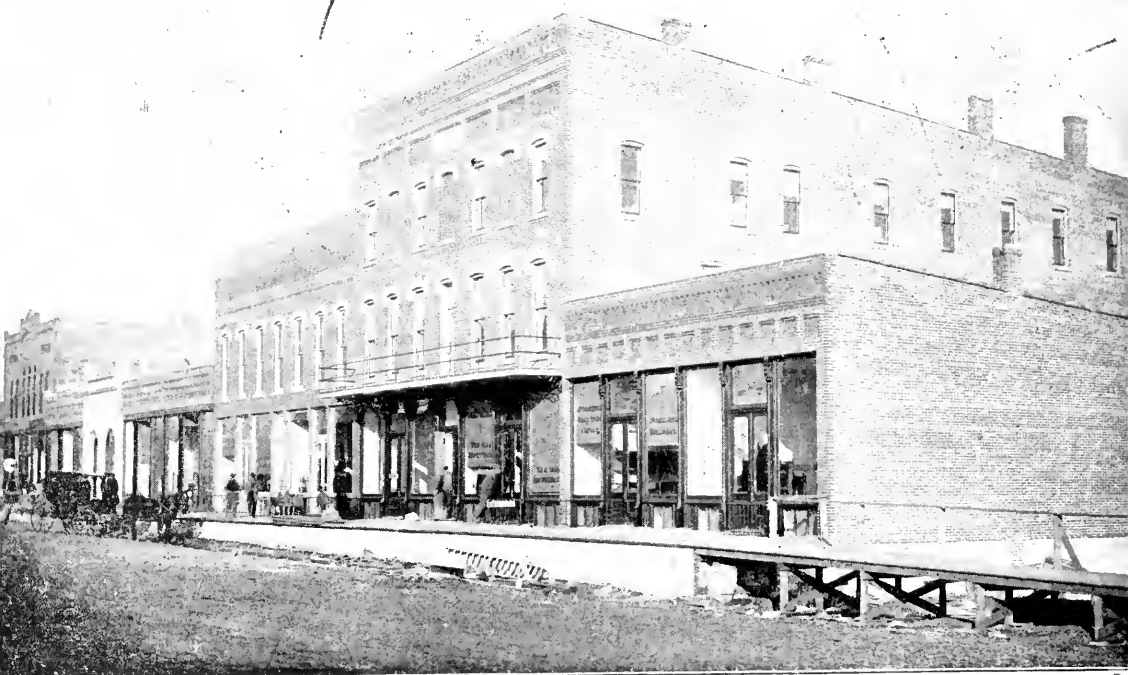
Joseph Bawden erects a one story and basement 23 by 60 of Peoria pressed brick, plate glass and steel front with stone and terra cotta trimmings. When the building is completed S. S. Chapman will purchase it for his news room and fruit store.

Mr. D. Shober and R. G. Jordan erects a two story and basement, plate glass and steel front of Eureka pressed brick ornamented with stone and terra cotta, each store 24 by 85 feet. Mr. Shober will occupy his building above and below for his furniture and undertaking establishment. Mr. Jordan rents the store room and fits up the second story for offices.

Mr. E. M. Pike's block will be a Chenoa building as he manufactures his own brick at his tile factory and the work on it is done by the day by Chenoa mechanics and workmen as far as possible under the supervision of Mr. Sypes. He will erect two stores two stories high and a basement 24 by 85 feet each, the front of plate glass and iron, with Bedford stone and terra cotta trimmings. The second story will be fitted up for offices with fire places in the rooms and water and other conveniences brought into the second story. The ceiling will all be steel. He will also erect two one story stores with basements 15 x 60 ft. with front similar to the two story block and of the same material. He has purchased five feet frontage on the south of Mrs. M. T. Scott.

Martin Shepherd has purchased of Mrs. M. T. Scott the lot south of him and will erect a new Shepherd House on the corner of Green and Lincoln streets. It will be a modern style for a hotel.

Miller and New will build a one story brick for their new meat market.



PIKE BLOCK REBUILT AFTER 1894 FIRE

Haynes and Kirkpatrick have erected a one story frame covered with White City cement for their grain office. This is on Veto Street.

Clayton Ballinger's new livery barn is going up rapidly. It is of brick one story and a half 60 x 100 ft. It is a little south of the old barn. It will be made as near fireproof as possible and inside will be fitted up in modern style.

John Jackson has built a new blacksmith shop on Weir Street which is to be covered with iron. It is larger than the old one.

Thomas Ballinger has built a new blacksmith shop west of the depot.

Wm. Ballinger & Son have erected an agricultural warehouse double the size of their old one. It is fireproof and iron covered.

Mr. Fred Brumm will erect a brick block on his lots corner of Veto and Owsley streets. It will be one story and contain five store rooms 24 ft. wide and varying in length from 50 to 100 ft. with basement to suit tenants. It will have plate glass and iron fronts ornamented with terra cotta and stone. The corner store will have a front on both streets. Mr. Brumm has erected a blacksmith shop on his old site back of this building and it will be covered with iron.

J. E. Wightman & Son will build on their old site on Veto Street. Two store rooms 24 x 100 ft. one story and basements for their hardware and furniture stores.

P. B. Groesbeck rebuilt his one story and basement store room 24 x 85 for his



NEW CHENOA — VIEW ON VETO STREET. LOOKING FROM NORTH TO SOUTH

clothing, boots and shoe store and has bought the two Jewell lots on Veto Street and will build two two-story brick stores. The lower story will be occupied by Marriott & Van Pelten and Clay & Thayer. The upper will be finished to suit whoever may rent it.

Mr. M. Warner has purchased of W. S. Haynes the lot where his clothing store was and will build a one story and basement brick building.

H. E. Mattocks has purchased of W. S. Haynes the lot corner of Veto and Owsley streets. He will erect a one-story brick building with plate glass and iron front on both sides with entrance to the basement on Owsley Street. It will be fitted up for a drug store.

Capt. John Hicky will build on his old foundation at the junction of Veto and Green streets a two-story basement block two stores, one of which will be fitted up for the post office. The second story will be fitted up for offices. The post office will have an entrance on the north and east. It will be heated with hot air. It will be built of pressed brick with a handsome plate glass front.

PIKE BLOCK IN RUINS AGAIN

Chenoa, Illinois, March 16, 1899.

Fire again wiped out \$75,000 worth of valuable business property, the pride

of our city. It extended from Dillon's to Cralin Bros. on the east side of Green Street.

Last Sunday morning J. C. Blackwell, who runs the Pike Hotel and who had been in Chicago the day before, alighted from the morning train at about 3 a.m. and went at once to the Pike House. When he entered the building the smell of smoke was very strong. He thought it came from somewhere in the hotel and started at once to investigate. Not finding fire there, he went down through the store buildings and upon opening the door to the Gazette office in the basement which was not locked he beheld a mass of smoke and flames that resembled a roaring furnace. He ran upstairs and dragged down the hose and turned it on the flames. In the meantime Dr. Weller and C. M. Rakow had run down to the electric plant and turned in the alarm. The shrieking whistle soon brought out the fire department and a number of other people. The fire department were the following men: C. E. Travis, Will Chapman, Adam Balbach, L. L. Silliman, W. A. Groesbeck, Wes Kanagy, John Ketcham, J. Balbach Jr., and E. Bowers. Mr. Silliman is the only one of these men living in Chenoa in 1954. The only other man now living at this time is Erastus Bowers, who lives in California. Hose was attached and three streams of water were playing on the flames, but it seemed the water was almost powerless because of the high wind. Almost a hurricane was blowing at the time and this caught the water as it came from the hose and scattered it into a spray.

After the flames had gutted the Gazette office and Miss Minnie Arnold's Millinery shop above it, they ate on through the building. In the meantime the flames had eaten into the "Hub" room and thence to the dining room and on upstairs. The fire also caught in the south windows of the Pike Hotel from the stores below. It swept across into Mr. Jordan's office and room above and into Oscar Arnold's store and ate up Mr. Shober's furniture below and above on the second floor. While the fire was raging in Mr. Shober's store, the firemen and others were fighting it from the front, rear and roof of the Chapman building. The north wall of the Shober building toppled over and crashed down through Chapman's store, carrying everything with it, and then the fire was brought under control. The flames did not reach into Chapman's store, but they suffered almost a total loss caused by water and the crash of the wall and falling brick.

There was a great deal of comment as to the origin of the fire. It is the popular belief that it started in the Gazette office. It is a known fact that two men who live here in town carried James Cain, a wandering printer, down into the Gazette office at 11 p.m. Saturday night in a drunken condition. They put him on a cot and he went to sleep. The men turned off the incandescent light before they left Mr. Cain. It is supposed he might have lighted a match for some purpose about 2:00 a.m. and threw the match on the floor. The floor was saturated with oil and gasoline which would soon be in a blaze. Mr. Dillon went into his store late most every evening to see that everything was all right in his place of business. He was in his store late that evening and everything was all right when he left it.

FATHER OF SAM ADAMS

When the fire was burning in the Shober building some of the firemen and Will Adams among others were standing on Chapman's fighting the flames. Some of them saw the wall tottering and called to each other and to Mr. Adams to jump. They all escaped but Mr. Adams, W. H. Kanagy and George Balbach. Adams was buried under four feet of brick and timber near the front end of Chapman's and Kanagy and Balbach went down near the rear door. The latter two escaped

out of a basement window. A number of men began at once to dig out Adams, whom all thought was dead. They soon found him sitting upright with one leg doubled up, but conscious. A large beam was lying across his head and another across his hips and legs. They soon pulled him out, but his head hurt and his legs were crushed. He was in great pain. They took him home and after being examined by a physician, he was told he could not live because of internal injuries from which he died on Tuesday night.

The merchants in the block north of Carlin Bros., Schuirmann & Hops, Vogel-sang & Hummel, McDonald & Downey all carried a large part of their goods out. They all suffered much loss. Mr. Kelley of the Farmers Bank did not move out as he thought the fire would be brought under control as soon as it struck the one story buildings.

The body of James Cain, the wandernig printer, who was supposed to have caused the fire, was found Monday forenoon in the same position and under the place where he was sleeping. The body was a baked, charred mass. His head and limbs were burned beyond recognition. Workmen were directed where to find him by Mr. Irvin, who also worked for the Gazette. Supervisor Charley Nickel impaneled a jury. The body was taken across the street west to Ballinger's barn. The verdict was brought in that this man died of suffocation caused by fire in the Gazette office. A pine box was made, as all the coffins had burned, and the remains were taken to the potter's field in the Chenoa Cemetery and buried. Later a sister of Mr. Cain's arrived from Indianapolis, Indiana. She ordered the body taken up and taken to the former's home in Indianapolis for burial. The family was respectable and well to do. They wanted him to remain at home, but he preferred a wandering life. He was a member of the typographical union in good standing but drink was his downfall.

C. C. McDONALD'S OPERA HOUSE (Hamilton Block)

On May 2, 1911, the grand opening of a New Opera House was a brilliant event in Chenoa. There was nothing that this city had needed so much for a number of years as a good place for all public gatherings. Mr. C. C. McDonald had now provided such a place. He commenced on this improvement a year before. It was located on Commercial Street across north of the elevator on the TP&W railroad. Mr. McDonald had made it a place for lectures, entertainment, graduation exercises, etc., to be held. He built it with an eye to beauty and comfort and the acoustic properties could not have been better. It was heated by steam heat, had electric lights all governed by switches from the stage, and an electric elevator.

C. C. McDonald's Opera House burned May 17, 1916. It was early Wednesday morning May 17, 1916, that fire destroyed the beautiful McDonald Opera House. It was located at the corner of North Commercial and First Avenue. The Opera House was located on the second floor of what used to be known as the Hamilton Block. Workshops, machinery and electrical supplies were on the first floor. The basement contained the Artificial Stoneworks. All were consumed in the flames. The fire was discovered at about 2 a.m. Two strangers came in on the train from the west due at 1:40 a.m. and were on the Chicago car that was left here for No. 6 of the Alton. They first saw it when the train pulled east preliminary to switching. They got off and told the Alton's night man, J. F. Jontry, who notified Mr. McDonald and the Central Union Telephone office. Mr. McDonald called Schultze's Garage where the fire whistle was located and the alarm was given. The fire company responded quickly, bringing all of their fighting apparatus,

but the fire had advanced so far that nothing was of avail. The structure with all its contents was soon a mass of ruins.

The city waterworks system and fire department saved much property. The flames would have spread to the houses east of the block across the street. The Carroll house was in danger. The roof caught fire in several places, but the flames were put out. The wind was blowing a gale from the southwest, carrying sparks several blocks away. Some fell on Delbert Whiteside's barn, but he put them out with buckets of water. The fire started in the southwest corner of the building and soon swept over the whole structure. How it originated is a mystery. The entertainment given in the evening closed at 9 p.m. At 9:30 Marion McDonald went over the whole building, as was customary after every show. All was well when the round was made. There had been no fire during the day or evening in the southwest room in which the fire originated. The room contained nothing of a combustible nature. The steam heat furnace was in the northwest corner of the building in the basement far from where the fire originated. Marshal Frank Hill passed the building at 12:05 and noticed nothing amiss. At 1:00 a.m. Mrs. B. F. Bower, who lived a short distance east, looked over at the building and saw nothing wrong. All these facts indicated that the fire might have been of incendiary origin.

There was no insurance on the building. The premium on Opera Houses was so high that Mr. McDonald did not take out a policy. The loss was estimated at \$10,000. Many sleeping people did not hear the alarm and were greatly surprised when they heard the news in the morning. The walls were pulled down to avoid danger of their falling and injuring anyone.

Roscoe I. Cox, who lived on a farm at the east edge of town at that time, recalls the Opera House fire. He did not attend the entertainment that evening. He remained at home and retired for the night. During the night he dreamed that the Opera House was burning and in his dream he saw it very vividly. When he awakened in the morning, he went about his morning farm chores. Someone called to him a little later and asked him if he knew the Opera House had burned that night. He turned to look toward town and could not see the top of the building as he usually could. It was then that he realized his dream was not altogether a dream.

When the schools were overcrowded in 1889-90, Miss Ina Haynes taught the first grade in this building.

FIRE ON EAST OWSLEY STREET AND NORTH SIDE OF STREET

October 29, 1922.

Chenoa residents were alarmed on Monday morning when large clouds of dense black smoke were seen rising from the business district of the city. It was easily discernible that a conflagration of much magnitude was raging. Minds reverted to the big fire of 1894, when the greater part of the business section was destroyed by fire with the exception of the Balbach block and the lumber yard. Many of the town women were washing, nevertheless a large crowd of people hurried to the scene of the fire.

The blaze was discovered about 8:40 when smoke was seen issuing from the building occupied by David Roszhart on East Owsley Street a little east of the Brumm Block. Before the fire department could arrive on the scene the fire had

gained such headway that the structures adjoining on the east and west were also ablaze. All of these buildings were frame structures and of many years' standing. Within the space of an hour the fire had spent itself, but in that short time much damage was done. The blacksmith shop conducted by D. W. Fischbach partially remains to show that for years these buildings marked the western boundary of the fire. Adjoining this on the east was the headquarters of P. Goldenberg, junk dealer, whose loss was heavy. He had a large amount of goods ready for shipment which could not be saved as well as almost five tons of hay. His horses and several head of hogs were driven out before the flames had reached them.

To the east of Mr. Goldenberg's buildings was the feed stable and yard conducted by Mr. Roszhart. This place was the first to burn and it was with difficulty that any of the contents were saved. By heroic efforts two valuable horses belonging to Mr. Roszhardt were released from a high board enclosure where they were kept during the day. It was impossible to get at the terrified animals except by sawing through the heavy timbers of the fence and several of the fire fighters were burned before a way of escape was made for the horses.

The last building to be destroyed by the flames was that which for years had been used by E. B. Lennington as a blacksmith shop. This building was covered with sheet iron, which accounted for its not being destroyed, as was its neighbor. Mr. Lennington had a large amount of machinery stored in the back part of the building, part of which was carried out, but his loss was heavy. No insurance was carried on any of the burned buildings destroyed. The age and poor condition of the buildings made a poor insurance risk. The value of the buildings did not rate high. As soon as it was seen that the fire had gained dangerous headway a call was sent to Pontiac for fire fighting assistance. Before they arrived in Chenoa the fire was under control. W. D. Alexander's lumber yard was directly north of the burned district. Some of the sheds were afire in various places. Streams of water were thrown on the sheds on the north and the Brumm block to the west which faces Veto Street. Across the street southeast of the fire was the old livery barn which was being used as a high school gymnasium, and east of that was the Woodman Hall, both frame buildings. The intense heat blistered the paint on the front of each of these buildings. Water was directed on them and they were kept from becoming ignited. As it happened, there was not much of a breeze that day.

The high school and grades had not yet commenced when the fire was detected, therefore there was no morning session that day. Many boys and girls helped in removing property and equipment from the burning buildings. There were very few injuries sustained outside of a few burns. There has been no spot in the business district where the loss was so small as in this area.

FS&W CORN PRODUCTS CO. PLANT BURNED JANUARY 28, 1951

(Housed in the Old Canning Factory Building)

Mrs. Roy Malcom turned in an alarm to the Chenoa fire department on Sunday morning January 28, 1951, after seeing a blaze at the FS&W Cob Products Co. plant at the north edge of the city. The fire was discovered at 6:35 a.m. The cob company was housed in three buildings. The middle three-story frame building, used for storing cobs, was destroyed, and a part of the south building where the main machinery was housed was gutted by fire. The north building was partially destroyed. The total loss was estimated at \$34,000, which was partially covered by insurance.

Seventeen firemen labored with the blaze until noon, when they went to work on three-hour on-and-off shifts until 10 p.m., when the fire was under control, three men staying there during the night. At the height of the fire, the roof of Howard Dill's residence, the barn on Sam Adams' property, and Miss Jessie Nicol's coal house caught on fire, a crew of firemen extinguishing the blazes. The Gridley and Pontiac fire departments responded to calls to the scene of the fire. A thick smoke screen hung over the surrounding area in the north part of town all day Sunday. This was the eighth fire alarm from the cob factory in three years, and the second within a week, the last call before Sunday's having been on the previous Wednesday night. The plant was engaged in manufacturing grit made from corn cobs to be used in cleaning machinery.

According to Ernest Cox, this cob plant building was erected during the spring and summer of 1890.

BIG CHENOA FIRES

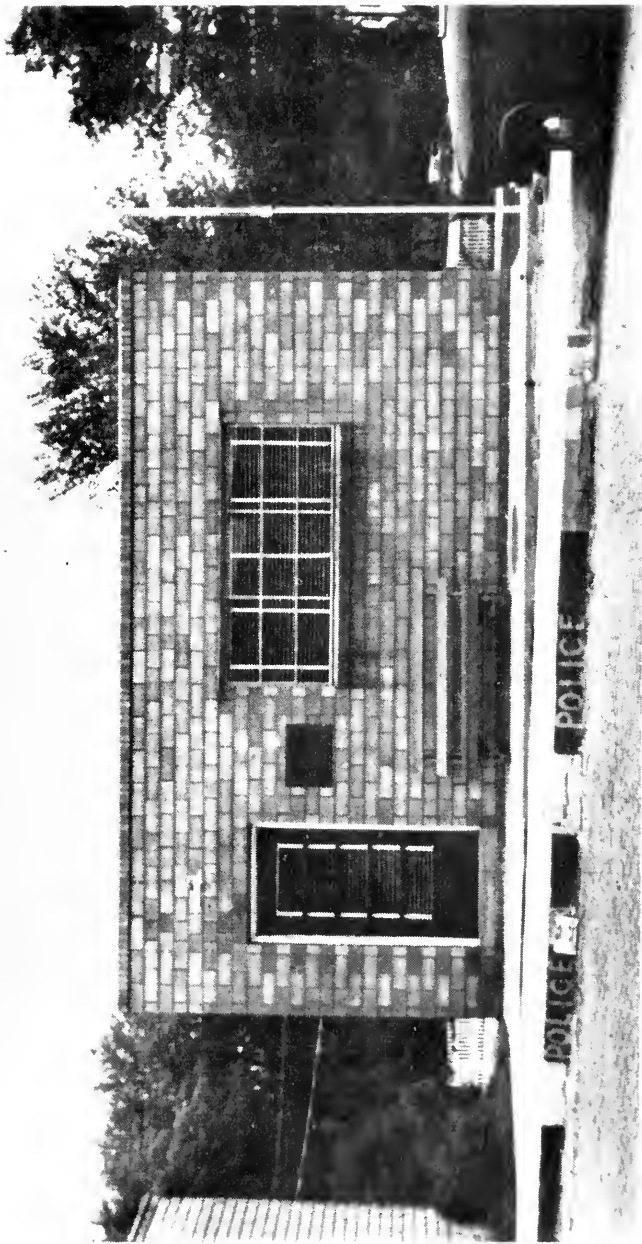
- 1857 — Fine large hotel run by Sam Emery.
 - 1861 — W. B. Hewitt's store in East Chenoa on North Commercial Street
 - 1870 — Zeigler's large wagon shop.
 - 1871 — Stores of R. C. Sallee, Ketcham & Seybolt, and Edmar's.
 - 1873 — Haynes, Jordan & Co.'s elevator with all the grain.
 - 1874 — Ziegler & Dehner's gour run grist mill.
 - 1874 — R. C. Sallee's two stores.
 - 1876 — Zeigler's second mill burned.
 - 1886 — July 27, Snyder Block consumed.
 - 1889 — February 18, Pike & Castle's tile factory.
 - 1889 — April 20, Crosby Block burned.
 - 1894 — July 24, Chenoa's 1894 big fire — Lace Block burned inside about 1900.
 - 1899 — May 6, Pike Block in ruins.
 - 1916 — May 2, McDonald's Opera House.
 - 1922 — October 28, Business section east of business section on Owsley Street.
 - 1951 — January 28, FS&W Cob Products Co.
- There have been many more minor fires.

BUCKET BRIGADE BOYS

Chenoa's Pioneer Alert and Active Young Fire Department

Some years ago Chenoa was supplied with a rude but substantial device for alarming the people when fire broke out. It consisted of two pieces of railway iron kept at a convenient point. One piece of iron was suspended from a rope on a post while the other piece was used as a hammer to strike the "wild alarm." When a fire occurred the citizen who reached this clumsy contrivance first seized the chained hammering bar of iron and vigorously belabored the piece hanging above his head. This operation evcked a doleful, scraping, and marrow-melting sound which reminded one of nothing so much as the dull, sickening thud which the villain in the play receives when he is brained for his rascality. Having no resonant quality, it could be heard only along the main street, and the merchants and the people in the stores poured out to see who was being killed, for the hair-raising clangor drove the fact out of the minds of those who had known this was a fire alarm.

Supplemental to this primitive fire alarm was a bucket brigade, numbers of residents living in various remote portions of the town. When it became known



CITY HALL



NEW FIRE TRUCK

that the two pieces of railway iron were being punished by pounding one with the other the members of the brigade hurried breathless to the town pump in front of the Hickey Block, where a long box had been erected to hold the buckets. On this there was a lid which was secured by a heavy padlock. But the key was invariably lost, and as the excited bucket brigade danced wildly about the box of buckets that may as well have been in India the fire kept on strictly attending to business. After the fire had burned up everything within reach, the key would be discovered and the buckets taken out and found to leak like so many sieves. They were put in order, carefully locked up, and the next time the railway iron rang out a "wild alarm" the bucket brigade would assemble only to find the key lost as before.

—from *Chenoa Clipper Souvenir Fire Edition*, March 8, 1895.

CHENOA COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT HISTORY

There is not too much available on the history of the Chenoa Fire Department prior to 1894. It was volunteer and apparently consisted mostly of a bucket brigade. A newspaper article of 1895 tells us that R. W. McMahon was chief engineer of the fire department and his assistants were W. E. Fales and A. B. Seybold. It also states that Hook and Ladder Company 1 was composed of 36 members under command of James O. Combs. His assistants were J. Wightman, J. Rolley, and H. R. Benson. Nothing is said about their apparatus, if any.

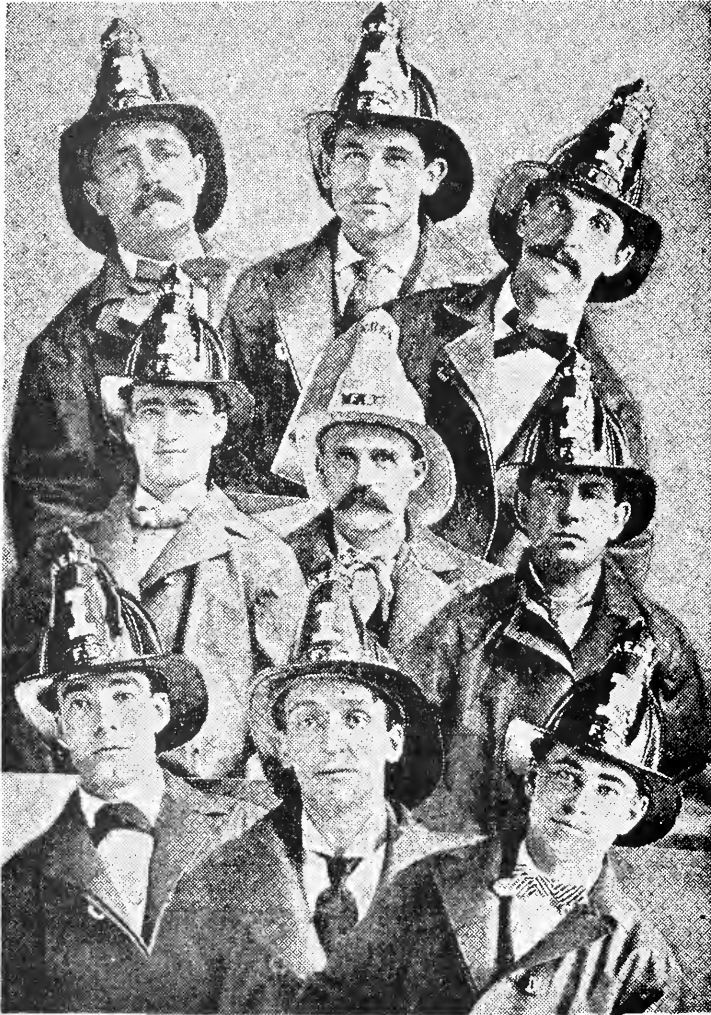
It is known that in the early '90's the town had some hand carts for fire protection. One was a hand pump cart and the other for hose and ladders. They were kept in a local livery barn and a prize of five dollars was given to the first man to get his team hitched up to them when an alarm was heard. All of the local delivery and dray men hurried around when the alarm was heard, as five dollars was quite a sum in those days.

The alarm system at first was composed of bells such as church and school bells and later a steam whistle was rigged up at the steam electricity generator plant that stood near where the Gus Schmitt residence now stands at the intersection of Veto Street and the TP&W tracks. Before the advent of the telephone a trip on foot had to be made to spread the news to the engineer at the power plant. Later a compressed air whistle was set up at the L. J. Schultze garage which for a great many years was fire headquarters for the community. For a few years after that the telephone was relied on directly for calls to firemen and during World War II a large electric siren was purchased because of the civil defense emergency.

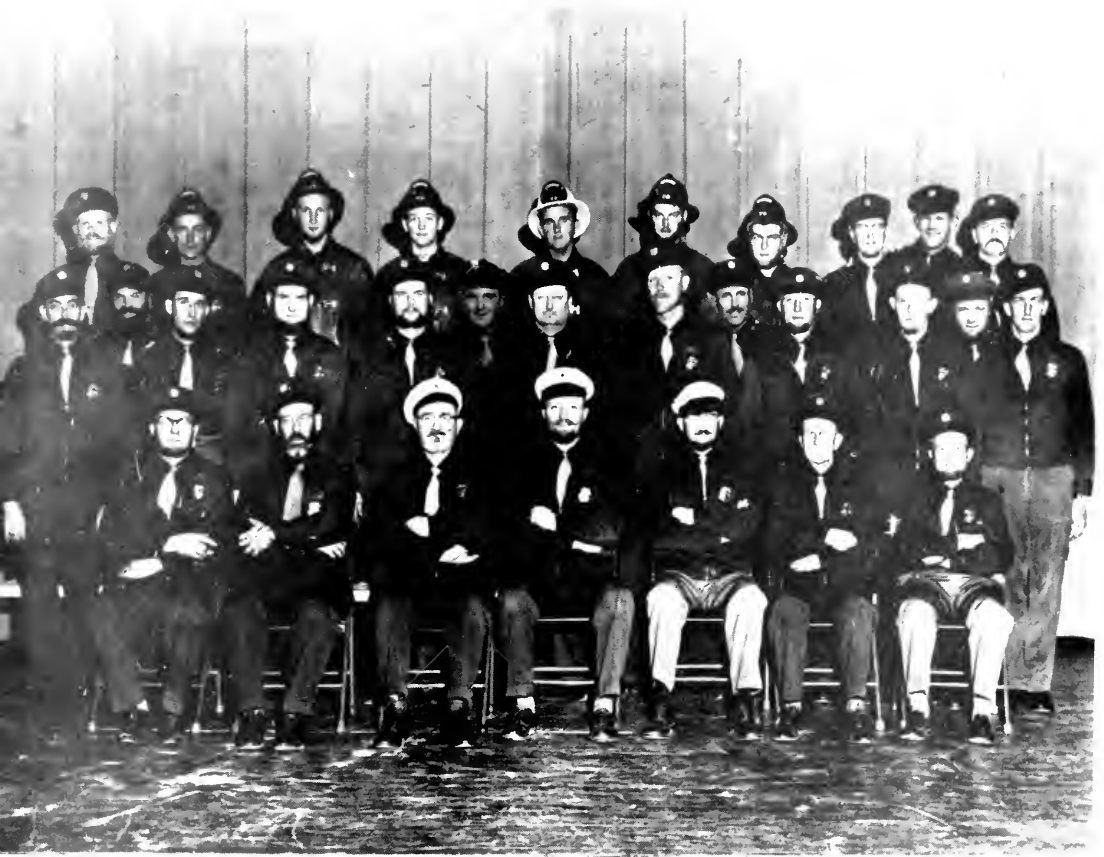
The story of the big fire of 1894 appears elsewhere in this book and the equipment at that time was probably the carts described above. Needless to say, they did not prove adequate to the job and since there had been at least five multi-building fires in the community in a period of about 10 years, it was decided that something should be done. In 1896 the city well was dug, pumping station and water tower erected, and water mains and fire hydrants connected up. After this the fire department was reorganized and became the forerunner of our present-day setup. Charles Churchill was mayor at this time and the fire department consisted of W. A. Chapman, Adam Balbach, L. L. Silliman, Wes "Stump" Kenagey, John Ketcham, Jacob Balbach Jr., and Erastus Bower. Walt Grosbeck was chief.

Chenoa

Firemen Professional



CHENOA—What the well-dressed firemen wore in the “gay nineties” is modeled by Chenoa’s first organized fire department. Today the volunteer department is said to be one of the best organized, trained and equipped in Illinois. Men pictured, starting at top and reading across from left, are C. E. Travis, Will Chapman, Adam Balbach, L. L. Silliman, W. A. Groesbeck, Wes Kanagy, John Ketchum, J. Balbach Jr., and E. Bowers. Only Mr. Silliman still lives in Chenoa.



Front row, l to r.: Harley Boles, John Gooding, Wilbur Nee, Clyde Boles, Virgil Morris, Albert Eyman, Lynn Eyman.
Second row: Leonard Bumgardner, Merle Traschel, Marlowe Augspurger, Hugo Reis, Merle Parry, Ed Gray, Jay Downes, Carl Klein, Clifford Gentes, Ray Jacobs, Elmer Harms, Daryl Wilson, Bob Klomprens.
Back row: Harry Barth, John Cable, Jerome Schickedanz, Dale Tutje, William Tinges, Jack Sievers, Merle Ringenberger, Ray Lenhardt, Joseph Miller, Wally Vilsoet.

A large hand-drawn, reel-type, two-wheeled hose cart was bought and equipped with new canvas covered hose. Fires were fought by the use of hydrant pressure. New helmets and coats were bought at this time. Five of these helmets are still in possession of the fire department, and two are in use.

A few weeks before his death, W. A. Chapman made some statements to the author of this story that are worth mentioning at this point. Mr. Chapman was a member of this first organization and later became chief. He also later served as mayor for several terms.

Mr. Chapman stated that the first alarm or the first time the new hose was pulled off the reel on the cart was at Fairbury where they were called to help because Walton Bros. Department store was being destroyed by fire. An east-bound TP&W train was flagged and the hose cart was lifted onto the tender of

the locomotive. The firemen climbed onto the coal with the cart, the engine was cut loose from the train, and a wild ride to Fairbury at about fifty miles an hour started. The long tongue of the cart was not long enough to catch on the telegraph poles along the track, so they let it stick out at the side of the engine. At a point two miles west of Fairbury there was a coal mine operating at that time. The slag pile is still visible. There was a tipple extending right down to the edge of the track to enable the engines to take on coal when they stopped there. Somewhere east of Weston, Mr. Chapman suddenly realized that the tongue of the cart would strike the tipple and sweep firemen, cart, and all off the tender. So at fifty miles an hour, standing on a pile of coal on a rocking locomotive, the firemen turned the cart and pointed the tongue out over the cab, and the day was barely saved.

Mr. Chapman also gave a vivid account of the big fire of 1899 which is described elsewhere in this book. This fire started in the location about where the telephone office is now, and swept as far as what is now Powell Bros. Grocery store before being stopped. A strong south wind was sweeping the fire along and a group of men were on the roof of the Chapman store, which is the location of the pool hall at this time. They had a hose line and were attempting to stop the fire. Suddenly the building now occupied by Fessler's Jewelry store, which is two stories tall, fell over on the Chapman Building, which is only one story. Several men were on the roof, including Mr. Chapman, "Stump" Kenagy and William Adams. Mr. Chapman, seeing the building begin to move, shouted to the other men and they tried to climb over onto the roof of the building where Powell Bros. Store is now. Mr. Adams, however, did not make it in time, and was caught in the falling debris. As the Chapman building collapsed with the added weight on its roof, Mr. Adams was carried to the basement, where he was found several hours later still alive. This was on Sunday morning and he lived until the next Wednesday, when he passed away. He is believed to be the only fireman ever killed in the line of duty in Chenoa.

Mr. Chapman also had a narrow escape during a fire in the machine shop where the Elliott machine works is now located. Mr. Chapman was in a building where a fire had just been stopped when the roof caved in completely to the floor, leaving a small tunnel-like opening all along the walls caused by a sagging of the roof structure. Eye witnesses had given him up for lost when he emerged from the building on his hands and knees, unhurt. It is believed that there was a Chinese laundry in the building at that time also.

During the early part of this century the hose cart was pulled to the fire by hand, sometimes by horses or as late as World War I by automobile. A soda acid chemical cart was also added to the department sometime in the early part of the century. Some of the other men who had served as volunteer firemen up to 1920 were: Ed. Hostler, Paul Balbach, M. F. Quinn and Ben Kaplan, who later died in an army camp hospital while in the service in 1918.

In the early 1920's the first motorized apparatus was built on a Model T chassis purchased by the city from the Burt Motor Co. A body was built on the truck and equipment such chemical tanks, hose, ladders, etc., was taken from the old carts and mounted by Ellis Lenington on the new outfit. This truck remained as the only apparatus in the community until 1935 and will be remembered by many persons. During these years Mr. Ketcham had succeeded Mr. Chapman as chief, serving the community in this capacity for a great many years. In the summer of 1935 a bad fire occurred in the building now occupied by Powell's Grocery store and at that time by the Schwitters meat market. Firemen were handicapped by bursting fire hoses caused by the advanced age of the hose. There were also several other equipment failures that same evening

which made it apparent that some new apparatus was needed. Later that same summer a bond issue was voted in by the residents of the city and a ton International truck was purchased from D. W. Fischback. It was taken to the National Fire Equipment Co. in Fort Wayne, Indiana, where a 450 gallon per minute Northern pump was mounted, along with all the other detailed equipment for a modern fire truck. This truck is still in service in the fire department and is well known to this community. The old Model T truck was stripped of all its equipment and turned over to the city street department for use as a pick-up truck. E. B. Streid was then superintendent of streets.

V. L. Nickel was named fire chief, with Henry Masso as assistant chief. At this time a gala firemen's ball was held and the proceeds used to purchase new coats and boots for the men. Among the men who served during the '20's, '30's, and '40's were Frank Downing, Elmo Schultze, Julian Phillips, Ray Winter, D. H. Linden, Nyle Balbach, Harry Good, Ted, Louis, and Les Hoselton, Victor Yeitz, Carl and Henry Masso, Carl Thum, and Gordon Gundy.

Up until 1948 the fire trucks were kept in the Schultze Machine Shop, which later became the Elliott Machine Works. Frank Downing, who was employed in the machine shop and lived in an apartment above it, was for many years the fire truck driver and engineer. During World War II, as mentioned above, the city purchased a new siren, which was mounted near the power station. It was used for civil defense warnings, blackouts, etc., and also to call firemen at time of fire. It is tested every day at noon.

Among men who served during the late '40's and early '50's were William "Box" Wilder, Harold Ferguson, Leonard Bumgardner, Emil Masso, Bert Stone, Claude Powell, Euce "Dunc" Powell, C. J. Gillespie, Boyd Wilson, Robert Hurt, Emmett Henline, Harry Sherrington Jr., Ronnie Tinges, Marcellin "Buck" Kauffman, Earl Dale, and Clair Miller.

In 1948 the department was reorganized and changed from a city department to a community affair, thereby extending protection to the surrounding farms. The following officers were named at this time: Harry Good, chief; C. J. Gillespie, Bert Stone, Virgil Morris, Henry Masso, assistants; Merle Parry, secretary-treasurer. At this time a fund-raising drive was held with a committee of farmers and business men making a door-to-door canvass. A total of \$17,585 was raised in about two months. With these funds the following things were done:

1. A new high pressure fog fire truck was bought. The chassis, a Ford two and a half ton truck, was bought from Noe Motor Co. of this city. The equipment was mounted by the John Bean Mfg. Co., Lansing, Michigan. The high pressure fog method of fire fighting is the newest method and was used extensively by the Navy in World War II. The system employs water, broken up into such fine spray that it is almost like steam, and smothers as it cools. This truck carries 450 gallons of water, which will last for twenty minutes of heavy fire fighting.

2. A used Ford chassis was bought and a 1100 gallon water tank was built on it by the Elliott Machine Works of this city. This truck is used for water supply only and follows the first truck to all fires.

3. A large two story building was purchased in the business district and fitted out for a fire station. The International truck mentioned previously in this article as belonging to the city is also housed in the fire station and operated by the firemen at all city fires, although it does not leave the city limits. In this building is a large detailed map of the rural district of the community (about ten miles square) along with a cross indexed file of all the farms, with each farm numbered. Farmers are encouraged to turn in alarms by numbers, so that the

drivers can find their farms quickly. This map and file system were set up with the able help of the local FFA boys and their advisor, Mr. Robert Walker. The boys conducted a door to door survey to get the information required to set up the alarm system.

4. Enough boots, coats and helmets were purchased to completely outfit fifteen firemen. This makes our department one of the best equipped in this part of the state.

In 1950 the local Rotary club assisted the firemen in raising the money necessary to purchase an E & J inhalator and the resuscitator. This was a \$600 machine and the firemen were trained in its use. It is to administer to asphyxiation and difficult breathing cases and is available 24 hours a day.

The department uses a chemical called wetter water which is added to the water used when a stubborn fire is being fought. This acts similar to the new detergent washing powders such as Tide and Surf and makes the water penetrate further so that it takes a smaller amount to fight a fire. This is very helpful in the rural areas where the water is not plentiful.

The department is financed three ways:

1. The city of Chenoa pays for all fires inside the city limits.
2. A home talent show has been sponsored every year for the benefit of the fire department.
3. The balance is financed through donations from the people served and from their insurance companies.

In 1948 the department was increased to twenty men. In 1950 ten additional men were named as auxiliary firemen in accordance with recommendation of the Office of Civil Defense. In 1953 these men were given full membership status on the department thereby giving the department 30 full members. Uniforms were obtained in 1953, the men paying for their own outfits.

No individual fireman receives any personal remuneration for his services. Everything received is put into a fund for the expenses of operation.

In 1953 the department purchased two "Scott air paks," these are self contained breathing masks which include a steel tank of compressed air which is carried on the back of the wearer and makes safe entry into smoke and fume filled rooms possible for rescue and fire fighting.

Ten members of the department have received one or more weekend training sessions with the Chicago Fire Department, where they rode fire trucks and answered alarms with the Chicago crews. Much valuable experience was gained in these activities. One group rode to 36 alarms in 48 hours!

During the last year the department carried on the following activities:

1. Held 12 regular evening meetings and 7 special evening meetings.
2. Answered 37 fire alarms and one inhalator call. Fire loss for the community was \$11,975 during this period and the activities of the fire department saved an estimated \$67,475 during this period.

Present personnel is as follows:

Clyde Boles, chief
Wilbur Noe, assistant chief

Virgil Morris, captain
Merle Parry, secretary-treasurer
Lonard Bumgardner, historian.

Engineers: Marlow Augspurger, Harvey Boles, Harry Barth, John Cable, Jay Downes, Albert Eymann, Ed Gray, Clifford Gentes, John Gooding, Elmer Harms, Raymond Jacobs, Bob Klomparens, Ray Lenhardt, Dale Tutje, Joe Miller, Melvin Ringenberg, Hugo Reis, Jack Seivers, Jerome Schickendanz, Merle Trachsel, Bill Tinges, Daryl Wilson, Wally Vilset.

CHENOA FIREMEN HELP SAVE THE DAY AT GRIDLEY

Friday afternoon May 3, 1901 when two business blocks in Gridley were burned. The fire started from a bonfire at the rear of Cohn's store. A strong wind was blowing from the southeast. In a short time part of two business blocks were a mass of flames. The Peoria fire department came out on a special train. The same train came on to Chenoa for their fire department with a hose cart and 500 feet of hose. For fire protection Gridley depended on 3 cisterns, Benedict's pond, a small T.P.&W. water tank and a small hand engine with 300 feet of hose.

The peoria Fire Department brought 7 men, engine No. 1 and 1,100 feet of hose. That was not enough to reach two blocks to the pond so, the special train came to Chenoa to get Chenoa's fire department and hose cart with 500 feet of hose. Without Chenoa's help they would not have been able to get enough hose to reach to the pond to secure the water they needed. Gridley feels very grateful to both Chenoa and Peoria for their assistance at this critical time..

CHENOA CREAMERY

Among Chenoa's industries it is of interest to know that a creamery was once located in the Hamilton Block on North Commercial Street early in the 1880's. The proprietors were various business men of Chenoa, changing hands several times. The factory was first in charge of Mr. Bordwell, an experienced butter maker formerly of Harvard, McHenry County, Illinois. It is said that his butter brought the highest price in the Chicago market. When Mr. Edward Davis, a grocer, took it over, Mr. Robert Johnston (son-in-law of R. G. Jordan) became manager.

The proprietors put in an 8-horse upright boiler, supplying steam for tempering the cream and for driving a 6-horse horizontal engine which furnished power for running the churn and butter-worker. The apparatus consisted of a two-hundred gallon revolving box churn and a Golden power butter-worker. The factory made 75 to 100 lbs. of butter per day. It would have made double that amount if farmers had had suitable tanks to set their milk in. The proprietors hoped to overcome this difficulty and make 100 lbs. of butter every day. They hoped to have from four to six men and teams gathering cream. At first they sold butter from 8 cents to 20 cents per pound. They expected to raise the price from 14 cents to 25 cents per pound.

CIGAR MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLSALE DEALERS

Henry and Amos Lillie were early cigar manufacturers in Chenoa. They were located at one time in the north basement of the Capt. Hickey building which faced north when Green and Veto streets join. Later the factory was known as the Henry Lillie Cigar Factory. In 1890 William Weishaupt came from Ohio to

work for Mr. Lillie. All the cigars they made were constructed by hand. They were handsome cigars — the pride of their makers. They used the highest grade of tobacco. Mr. Lillie gave prompt attention to mail orders. The brands they made were "Margurite," "Imperial," and "Lillie's Choice." After Mr. Lillie's death, Mr. Wm. Weishaupt took over the factory for himself until his retirement due to ill health. He worked in Chenoa for over 40 years.

BLOOMINGTON CANNING COMPANY

(Located at the North end of Division Street on the east side of the street)

In 1888 the Bloomington Canning Co. was incorporated with a capital of \$30,000 by Peter Whitmer, M. F. Burwell, and S. S. McCall. In 1890 the company bought a tract of land and erected a two line corn canning plant at Chenoa the First pack being canned in 1891. The first few years they canned corn from 600 to 800 acres grown by farmers of the community. As they were able to increase their capacity by new buildings and mechanical improvements, by 1914 their acreage had increased to almost 1800 acres.

Originally only steam was used for power which was generated by their own steam boilers. They installed an electric generator for their lights, dug deep wells for their own water supply, and furnished all the water for the city of Chenoa from 1907 until the city's present water plan was complete.

In 1908 the officers of the Bloomington Canning Co. were — President, Peter Whitmer, Vice-President, Ira S. Whitmer; Secretary, Charles D. Myers; Treasurer, J. Oscar Wilson; Superintendent, C. E. Kniffen.

At the local plant R. E. Ballinger was plant manager; Jacob Linden, farm manager; George E. Marden, chief engineer; William Wier, warehouse foreman. Many more persons served the company long and faithfully.

In 1913 the control of the plant passed to the Gibson Canning Company, Gibson City, Illinois, which they operated through the 1931 season, but no further operations were carried on until 1935, when the J. B. Inderrieden Canning Co. of Chicago operated under lease. E. A. Selk of El Paso was the general manager and Howard Gillespie was plant manager. The canning factory was operated under this management through the 1937 pack. In 1940 Inderrieden Company gave up the lease, at which time the factory was dismantled and some of the buildings were removed. The Union Roofing Company is the present owner of the warehouse. The City of Chenoa purchased a strip of land containing the deep well, which is now a part of the present water system.

The Chenoa Canning Company was a thriving industry in this community for over 40 years, furnishing employment for over 400 persons during the active season.

GRAY METAL PRODUCTS COMPANY

After scouting several locations, the Gray Stamping & Manufacturing Co. of Plano, Illinois, decided on Chenoa as the site of a branch to take care of increased business at the home factory. Two main highways, two railroads and a modern building were great attractions. Good labor relations in this area were also a deciding factor. This company feels that the people in a small community take a greater interest in their work and have an understanding attitude which makes for pleasant working conditions.

The new plant, Gray Metal Products Company, located at the east edge of Chenoa on Cemetery Avenue or Route 24. They began operations in May, 1953. It manufactures light metal stampings which are used in various other industries such as paper, radio, television and for national defense.

SEIBERT & SONS, INC.

Seibert & Sons, Inc., owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. O. R. Seibert and son Warren, originated in the basement of their home in East Peoria, Illinois, as a hobby shop in 1938. Later they moved into a double garage at the rear of their home. More machinery was bought, but there was not enough money available to buy a turret lathe which would be necessary to apply for war work. Mr. Seibert had had many years experience as a tool designer, so he began designing the turret, got the castings made, and bought gears, etc. Then the machine was assembled and put into operation. That machine is still in operation.

Soon war work was applied for and they were building airplane parts. As the work increased, it was necessary to hire more workmen. They quickly outgrew the building and purchased other property. They erected a building which was enlarged until the factory was 40 x 144 ft. with a 25 x 60 warehouse and a separate office building, 26 x 26 feet.

After the war, Mr. Seibert began tooling for making multiple spindle drilling equipment. However, Mr. Seibert realized that to get men and keep them it would be necessary to move to a new locality. He visited many towns, talked with business men and finally after one and a half years he decided to locate in Chenoa. Mr. Seibert was pleased to know that Chenoa was eager to have such a factory locate here. Ground was purchased and a building put up. Machinery from the East Peoria plant was installed a few at a time. The first production machine went into operation February 1, 1952.

Transportation facilities had to be taken into consideration. The company ships its products by parcel post, express and truck all over U.S. and parts of Canada. Next important was to find living quarters. It was also important to locate a town where enough help was available.

Transportation facilities had to be taken into consideration. The company ships its products by parcel post, express and truck all over U.S. and parts of Canada. Next important was to find living quarters. It was also important to locate a town where enough help was available.

At the present time the factory building is 81 x 120 feet, with a separate building 25 x 90 which houses the receiving department, warehouse, heat treating and power plant consisting of two 100-KW and one 30-KW generator sets which furnish power and lights and operate the burglar alarm system. Many improvements have been made in the last year which the public may see at open house during Centennial Week.

CHENOA COAL MINE (Coal Discovered in 1889)

In the days when coal mines were not so numerous, several attempts were made to develop a coal mine. The first shaft was sunk about a half mile west of the railroad crossing, adjoining the TP&W tracks to the south, which was not successful due to underground flow of water and quicksand. A second attempt, northwest of the depot, was not successful. This is now the city reservoir.

Later a third shaft was sunk in the north part of town near where the former Bloomington Canning Co. was later located — now owned and operated by the Union Roofing Co. This shaft was also unsuccessful. From the time the shaft was sunk in the north part of town in 1873 until the venture was doomed by the death of four men in a shaft accident in 1900, seven different parties lent finances in attempts to make the project a success. Two large mounds of shale, the familiar signs of mining activity, stand in the eastern part of Chenoa as a mute reminder of a former promising industry which cost a small fortune and four lives, but was never a success.

In 1887 a local company headed by E. M. Kirkpatrick and backed by local capital was successful in sinking a mine to a good vein, but less than three feet thick. Later attempts were made under ownership of Charles Davis to reach a second vein. Due to depleted finances the mine company moved into the hands of Albert Eddy, later to be owned and operated by Wm. Hewitt, and also by C. C. McDonald.

The mine was later sold to a group of promoters from Chicago, who sold stock but never operated the mine. After being idle a year, according to the terms of the original sale of land, the mine property reverted to the Hamilton estate. This mine was located at the extreme east part of Chenoa, south of the TP&W railroad. The first "pay" load of coal was taken from the mine in 1889 and sold at auction on Main Street, being purchased by the late P. B. Grosbeck, then a leading merchant. From 20 to 30 men were employed during the history of the mine company.

In the fall of 1900, a tragedy occurred which shocked the community and sounded the death knell of coal mining in Chenoa. A cable attached to the cage in which miners were lowered to their work broke one day and the safety clutches failed to hold. The cage pitched to the bottom of the 285 foot shaft, taking four men to their death.

CHENOA SHUFFLEBOARD FACTORY

One of Chenoa's later enterprises was the shuffleboard factory owned and operated in 1949 by Hugh B. Harrison. It was located in the building formerly occupied by the Bloomington Canning Co. in the north edge of town.

Mr. Harrison first became interested in developing a shuffleboard for indoor use, several years ago, while serving as chairman of a committee at Lake Wales, Florida. It was his opinion that club programs were short on indoor games.

Two sizes of boards were made, one 21 feet, 4 inches by 4 feet, and one 4 feet long for home use. They were well made of beautiful woods and material. Mr. Harrison was assisted by woodworker Mark Churchill and employed a number of other local people.

Bleachers were installed in the test room and many people from the local community and nearby towns enjoyed playing the game. Several tournaments were also held there. The factory continued to function for a few years, but is now discontinued.

ICE MANUFACTURING

There was a pond at the extreme west end of town north of route 24. This pond was made by excavating dirt to be used in the manufacturing of tile by

Pike & Castle. After Pike & Castle had no more use for it they sold it to A. K. Miller, who built an ice house nearby. When the water froze sufficiently thick to be cut for ice, Mr. Miller had it cut in large chunks and stored in the ice house for summer use. During the summer months Mr. Miller's son, Everette, delivered ice around town for the old type of ice refrigerators. When electric refrigerators came into use it did not pay to store any more ice. There were several ice houses in town. Balbach's owned one farther south on Veto Street.

Taken from the December, 1898, *Gazette*: The ice harvest this year is more than ordinary proportions. It is from 9 to 14 inches thick. Several Chenoa merchants are busy putting up a good supply from the tile factory pond.

In 1954 this pond is being filled with rubbish.

MARSDON CELLULOSE CO.

Marsdon Cellulose Co. was an eastern company which came to Chenoa in about 1897 and remained here for over two years. They built an office about 200 yards west of routes 24 and 66. They also erected two buildings 200 feet long to the north near the TP&W railroad tracks. In these buildings they shredded the stocks and took the pulp out of the stocks. Farmers hauled corn stocks into town and put them in stacks on the north side of route 24 west of the office building. Some of the stacks were 40 feet wide and one fourth of a mile long. The finished product was used in packing high explosives for packing in battleships.

SORGHUM MILLS

John Bush lived one mile north and one mile east of Chenoa. He operated a sorghum mill from 1880 to 1898.

John McCune also ran a sorghum mill in the 1870's. He was a relative of John Bush and lived on a farm a little east of the end of Sheridan Street in Chenoa. He raised cane and ran his own sorghum mill. The women of the family stripped the cane while Mr. Cune and his hired man made the sorghum. Much of it was sold locally. That sold at a distance was sent by the barrel.

Sol Durham ran a sorghum mill in the early 1900's.

CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ernest E. Cox, *Chairman*

Mr. Frank Abbott

Mrs. Harry Hester

Mrs. Ray Brady

Mrs. Merle Parry

Mrs. Geraldine Tobin

The Committee has made every effort, through diligent research and personal interviews with those who might furnish information, to give an accurate and authentic history of Chenoa. Any omission of events or names of persons has been unintentional, and due solely to the lack of information.

MRS. FRANCES C. SANBORN

Mrs. Frances C. Sanborn, a former teacher in the public schools of Chenoa, passed away Friday, December 30, 1949. She was born in York, England, on May 2, 1848. She was brought to the United States by her parents, who came as a part of the California gold rush of 1849. Landing in New York from a sailing vessel, the family proceeded by the Erie Canal to Buffalo, and from there by lake boat to Chicago, then a sprawling city on the mud flats of Lake Michigan. After a few months in Chicago, the family settled on a farm at Grayslake, Lake County, Illinois, where Mrs. Sandborn recalled having seen Indians pass her childhood home on several occasions.

Mrs. Sandborn attended high school at Rock Island, Illinois, and later taught in the public schools of Rock Island and Chenoa, Illinois. She married Orville Dearborn Sanborn, of Orange, Vermont, in 1877, and then made her home in Chenoa. She lived in Chenoa after her husband's death in 1901, but at the time of World War I she moved to Proctor, Vermont, to be nearer her children. She was survived by her four children, namely Sarah Sanborn Partridge, widow of Frank C. Partridge, former U.S. Senator from Vermont; Orville C. Sanborn, Town Attorney of the Town of Harrison, N.Y., and a practicing attorney of New York City; John C. Sanborn, member of Congress, representing the Second Congressional District, of Idaho; and Isaranda F. Sanborn, Assistant Dean of Becker Junior College of Worcester, Massachusetts. Five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren survived. Mrs. Sanborn was 101 years, 7 months, 28 days old when she passed away. She owned land while in Chenoa, and lived at 324 Third Avenue.

HUGH JONES

Hugh Jones was a native of Wales. He was born in 1841 and came to the U.S. in 1857. He was accompanied by his father, Roland D. Jones, and Mr. and Mrs. Evan Davies and the late Mrs. Hugh Vaughn. They came in a sailing boat and were six weeks on the water. They stopped at Ithaca, New York, where Hugh had a brother. Mr. Jones worked in New York state for several years as a stone mason, coming to Chenoa in 1877. He is considered the best stone mason Chenoa has ever had. He married Mrs. C. J. Kramer of Chenoa. They had two children, namely Trevor L. and Hugh Emlyn Jones.

He saved his money, and when he decided to remain here he purchased a farm at a low price, which he owned at his death. The influence of the beautiful christian character of Mr. Jones still lives, although he has passed away. He wrote poetry in the Welch language. Many of his poems were published in a Welch paper. Mr. Jones was a member of the Congregational Church and also a deacon. He never missed attending Sunday School or church services. He has two brothers in Illinois and one sister in Wales. He died at the Chenoa State Bank at Chenoa on October 28, 1905.

ALICE MAY FINLEY MORROW

Alice M. Finley Morrow was born May 27, 1868, near Eureka, Illinois. She was the daughter of Robert J. and Eliza Wiles Finley. She moved to Chenoa with her

parents in 1869. She taught school several years south of Chenoa. She married William Morrow in 1889. They resided on a farm south of Chenoa 16 years. In 1905 they moved into Chenoa. In 1926 the family moved to Long Beach, California, where she passed away May 26, 1933. Mrs. Morrow was a great reader and was especially interested in poetry. She published a book of her poems, "Songs of the Prairie." The poem "The Prairie" given in the front of this book is one of her poems taken from "Songs of the Prairie."

DR. EDWARD DELOS CHURCHILL

Dr. Edward Delos Church was born December 25, 1895, in Chenoa, Illinois, son of Ebenezer Delos Churchill and Maria A. Farnsworth Churchill. His grandfather, Ebenezer Delos Churchill, came originally from New York State and settled in the Middle West.

Dr. Churchill was educated at public school and at Chenoa High School. He entered Northwestern University in 1912 and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1916, and after a year of graduate study in the Department of Biology at Northwestern, received his Masters of Arts degree in 1917. He entered Harvard Medical School in the fall of 1918 and received the degree of Doctor of Medicine in 1920.

In 1927 he married Mary Lowell Barton and has four children — Mary Lowell Churchill, now a senior at Sarah Lawrence College; Frederick Barton Churchill, a junior at Harvard College; Edward Delos Churchill, Jr., a sophomore at Harvard College; and A. Coolidge Churchill, a student at the Hotchkiss School, Lakeville, Connecticut.

During World War I, Dr. Churchill was a Private in the Medical Section of the Enlisted Reserve Corps while completing his Medical School course. He entered graduate study of surgery at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, in 1920, serving two years as House Pupil and two years as Resident Surgeon. He served as part-time assistant in the Physiology Laboratory and Instructor in Surgery at the Harvard Medical School. In 1926-27, as Moseley Travelling Fellow, Harvard Medical School, he traveled to European Clinics, particularly in Munich and Copenhagen. He returned to the post of Assistant Visiting Surgeon at the Massachusetts General Hospital in 1927, and in 1928 became Associate Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, and Director of Surgical Research Laboratories, at Boston City Hospital. In 1930 he returned to the Massachusetts General Hospital as Associate Surgeon, and in 1931 was appointed John Homans Professor of Surgery, Harvard Medical School, and Chief of the West Surgical Service, Massachusetts General Hospital. In 1948 he was appointed Chief of the General Surgical Services at the Massachusetts General Hospital.

In 1943, Dr. Churchill was granted a leave of absence from Harvard University and the Massachusetts General Hospital, to serve as Surgical Consultant, North African Theater of Operations. He served with the rank of Colonel, from February, 1943, to October, 1945, as Surgical Consultant in the North African and Mediterranean Theaters of Operation. He was decorated with the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Service Medal, and the European Theater Service Medal with four bronze stars. He has subsequently served as Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of War; on the Armed Forces Medical Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense; and is at present serving for the second time on the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (Hoover Commission).

In November, 1948, at the invitation of the University of Liverpool, Dr. Churchill delivered the Mitchell Banks Memorial Lecture in Liverpool, and in October, 1951, while acting as Honorary Professor of Surgery, pro tem, at the University of Birmingham Medical School, he delivered the Simpson-Smith Memorial Lecture, in London, and a Hunterian Lecture for the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

In January, 1953, at the request of General Mark Clark through the Surgeon General of the Army, Dr. Churchill left on a consultant's tour of military medical installations in the Far East Command, stopping briefly at Tripler Army Hospital in Hawaii, and spending considerable time in Japan and Korea, returning via the Philippines, India, Thailand, with short stops in Greece and Italy.

Dr. Churchill performed the first successful operation in the United States for constrictive pericarditis, and by subsequent operations on a large series of such cases established the procedure used widely and successfully today. He is internationally known as a leading participant in the still growing field of surgery of the thorax, contributing to this field by laboratory investigation and applied operative surgery. He has demonstrated the safety of lobectomy in the treatment of intrathoracic disease, and in the development of surgery for cancer of the lung. He originated the operation of "segmental" resection widely used in surgery of the lung. His work with the surgery of the parathyroid glands has led to an understanding of the nature of the diseases caused by their disturbed function.

During World War II, the North African and Mediterranean Theaters of Operation were the proving ground for the surgical management of wounds, and Dr. Churchill was responsible for the development of policies in the management of the wounded and the methods of wound treatment. It was recognized in this Theater that for the successful resuscitation of the wounded, whole blood in large quantities was required, in addition to the widely used Red Cross blood plasma. Therefore a blood bank was organized in the Mediterranean Theater that functioned throughout the war, using service troops as donors. In this Theater there was also developed the concept of the reparative surgery of wounds which divided the management of the wounded into two distinct phases—the initial treatment, or debridement as known during World War I, designed to close simple wounds on or about the fourth day, and to undertake the precise surgical management of complex wounds. These methods greatly reduced the large incidence of chronic infection and later complications. These developments in surgery of the wounded, pioneered largely by Dr. Churchill and carried out under his direction, were used successfully in the Korean conflict.

Dr. Churchill has received innumerable honors and decorations, from this country as well as many countries of the world, and is a member of many national and international medical and surgical societies.

ROSCOE E. SCHUIRMANN

Roscoe E. Schuirmann, Rear Admiral USN (Retired) was born in Chenoa, Illinois, October 17, 1890. He entered Annapolis June, 1908; graduated in 1912. The first four years after graduation he served in battleships South Carolina and Louisiana and gunboat Castine, mainly in Mexican and Caribbean waters. In 1917 he graduated from Submarine school, New Ludlow, and was assigned as executive officer of submarine USS F-3 and subsequently to command of USS O-14. From August, 1919, to April, 1922, he served on the Asiatic station as gunnery officer and navigator of USS Huron, Flaship, U.S. Asiatic fleet. On return to U.S. he was ordered to the office of Naval Intelligence and upon completion of this tour of duty in October, 1924, was assigned to command of the light minelayer U.S. Mahan for three years period. In November, 1927, he returned to the office of naval in-

telligence for duty. Upon detachment from ONI in October, 1930, he reported to battleship USS Nevada for duty as gunnery officer. From 1933 to 1935 he served on a staff and was secretary of the Navy General Board. In 1934 and also in 1935 he attended Naval conferences in London as technical adviser to the American delegation. From 1936 to August, 1937, he was assigned duty as Administrative Aide to Chief Naval Operations, Admiral Standley and his successor, Admiral Tealy. For the following two years he commanded Destroyer Division Five, U.S. Pacific Fleet. From September, 1939 until August, 1942, he served in the office of Chief of Naval Operations as Director Central Division, the division charged with handling military political affairs for the Navy Department. From September, 1942, until February, 1943, he commanded the US Idaho. February, 1943, he reported to Admiral E. J. King, Commander-in-Chief of US Fleets for duty on his staff and in July, 1943, was promoted to Rear Admiral and assigned as Assistant Chief of Staff Combat Intelligence and shortly afterwards assigned additional duty as Director of Naval Intelligence. In 1944 he reported to Commander U.S. Naval Forces in Europe for duty planning for the occupation of Germany. On return to U.S. in August, 1945, he became a member of the Inter-American Defense Board, joint Defense Board U.S. Mexico, and joint Board on Defense Canada-U.S.

From July, 1946 — September, 1948, he served as Commander U.S. Naval Forces Germany with additional duty as Naval Advisor office of Government Germany, U.S. member Trepartite Naval Commission and Tripartite Merchant Marine Commission. He attended a Moscow meeting in 1947 meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers as Naval Advisor. On his return from Berlin he served for short periods as Assistant Chief of Naval Operations and in May, 1949, became Commandant of the Fourth Naval District with headquarters at Philadelphia until retirement on June 30, 1951. His freign decorations are — Honorary Commander, British Empire; Special Collar Order, Yen Hui (China); Abdore Calderon (Ecuador); Military Medal of the Fleets (Chile).

It can also be added that he married a great, great-granddaughter of Zachary Taylor (twelfth president of U.S.). Her name was Hardinia Pearce.

TREVOR JONES — CINCO FARMS

Trevor Jones was born in Chenoa in 1897 the son of Hugh and Jeanette Thurber Jones. He started his farming career south of Chenoa. The past 25 years he has been Agricultural Agent of the Chicago and Illinois Midland Railroad Company. He lives at Havana, Illinois. His principal job was the supervision of railroad experimental and demonstration of farms located in the sandy land area near Havana. Some of his experimental places were along the right of way of the Chicago and Illinois Midland railroad extending from Springfield to Peoria. He has done extensive testing of varieties of crops, fertilizers, rotations, new crops and promising farm projects. Every two weeks Cinco Fortnightly is published for the farmers in the area around Havana. Mr. Jones is the editor of this bulletin. He pioneered modern turkey raising in Illinois, starting in 1929 with 200 eggs.

For many years Cinco Farm has produced annually 12,000 to 15,000 turkeys. This activity has led to Mr. Jones taking part in several poultry organizations. At the present time Mr. Jones is president of the Norbest Turkey Association with headquarters at Salt Lake City, Utah; Vice President and Finance Chairman of the National Turkey Federation Chairman; member of the Board of Directors; and Vice President of the Associated Poultry Industries of the United States.

On his own farm of 320 acres near Havana he has produced 6,000 to 8,000 turkeys and around 70,000 broiler chickens a year. He also raises corn, wheat, soybeans, and alfalfa. Good yields are realized because of the large amount of poultry fertilizer that is spread on the ground. Mr. Jones is retiring this year from some of his heaviest duties at Cinco Farm, but will continue to handle the agricultural phase of the railroad business.

REV. KENNETH RAY WINTER

Kenneth Ray Winter graduated from Chenoa High School in 1944. He served in the Navy from 1944 to 1946. He also was on the U.S. Midway Aircraft Carrier. He married Jane Danhoff in 1949 and went to Green Bay, Wisconsin, in 1950. He served two Methodist churches, one at Advance and the other at Angelica, Wisconsin. He was transferred to Mayville, Wisconsin, preaching there and at Campbellsport. While in Wisconsin he attended the University of Wisconsin at Madison. In June, 1953, he was made associate minister of the Methodist Church in Urbana, Illinois. He has two children. Rev. Kenneth R. Winter is our only native son who has entered the ministry.

HELEN HIETT — TRAVELER

Miss Helen Hiett, well known world traveler, lecturer, writer and news commentator, was born in Chenoa, daughter of the late Prof. A. B. and Mrs. Hiett. She attended the local schools, later as a scholarship student at the University of Chicago, she majored in political science and won her degree in three years. The day after her graduation she left for Geneva, Switzerland, with a summer scholarship, then spent the next two years at the seat of the League of Nations, studying and working at the Geneva Research Center. She was also editor of "Geneva," a monthly review of international affairs. Her first published work was a study of international public opinion during the Italo-Ethiopian dispute.

From 1936 until the outbreak of the war in Europe, Miss Hiett studied and traveled extensively in England, France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and the Balkans, returning annually to the United States for lectures reporting her experiments.

In September, 1939, Miss Hiett was in Paris, where she took a war position. When Germany attacked in May, 1940, she joined the foreign staff of the National Broadcasting Co., as correspondent in France and reported successively from Paris, Tours, and Bordeaux, until the Armistice. She spent the next nine months as NBC correspondent in Spain and scored a world beat on the bombardment of the Rock of Gibraltar, which won for her the National Headliners Award, first to be granted to a woman.

In 1941, Miss Hiett returned to the United States and for the next eighteen months broadcast daily news commentary on NBC network. She has since traveled extensively in Mexico and the United States. She has been guest speaker at many colleges and national organizations, and has written a number of books, among them, "No Matter Where." She has recently been seen and heard on television.

Miss Hiett is married and has two sons; her home is in the east. Her sister Margaret lives in High Point, North Carolina, with whom her mother, Mrs. A. B. Hiett, makes her home.

MARGARET VAUGHN

Margaret Vaughn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Vaughn, took her first

training for flying in night school at Bloomington under Art Carnahan. She left Bloomington and went to Corpus Christi for further study. Then she went to Kansas City, Missouri, for three years study. Finally, she was sent to Washington, D.C., to work for the government. She has been away from home 10 years only for an occasional visit at home.

MARCELLIN (BUCK) KAUFFMAN

Marcellin Kauffman was in service during World War II. He was the only Chenoa boy at Pearl Harbor when it was attacked by the Japanese December 7, 1941. He spent three days after the attack picking up and bringing mangled and broken bodies of soldiers to shore. He has won seven or more medals and ribbons and will no doubt secure more. He took part in 6D days and was on the following invasions — Wake Island, African, Sicilian, Normandy, and others. He has traveled over 360,000 miles on water.

ARTHUR D. JORDAN

Arthur D. Jordan, prominent businessman for many years, came to Chenoa with his parents, Roscoe and Mary Dunham Jordan, when three years old, and was a resident for 84 years, until his death in 1950.

He was actively identified with all the interests of the community, having been for many years president of the State Bank of Chenoa, which ceased functioning just ten days before his death. He was also a real estate operator, farm manager, and large landowner.

He was a member of the Methodist Church and served long and faithfully as chairman of the official board of the church, had been president and member of the Chenoa library ever since its organization in 1913, and also served on Chenoa Community High School board. He was a graduate of the first class of the Chenoa High School in 1881, and also the valedictorian. He attended Wesleyan University almost four years.

An active member of Cheno Lodge No. 292, AF&AM, he received his 50-year pin in 1940. He also held membership in the Royal Arch Masons, the Fairbury Council No. 75, and the Royal and Select Masters.

Mr. Jordan married Miss Edythe Ballard December 30, 1896, and they had two sons, Arthur B., and Kenneth D., both of whom live in Chenoa. Mrs. Jordan died in 1919, and he married Mrs. Lillian Lord, October 3, 1921. She now lives in McGregor, Iowa.

DALE STREID

Dale Streid was born February 22, 1915, in Chenoa, Illinois. He graduated from the Chenoa High School, and from the University of Illinois in 1936 with high honors and a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering. He then went to Schenectady, New York, and entered the engineering program of General Electric Company. He has worked with them ever since except for three years when he was loaned to the Oak Ridge National Laboratory at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for a year, and two years at Richland, Washington, doing atomic research.

In 1946 Mr. Streid was awarded the Coffin Award, the highest award offered by General Electric, for his design of I-40 turbojet engine, which was the first jet engine.

He has been chosen twice by General Electric to study jet engine development

in Europe. He has seven patents and has three technical papers which are published in nine technical journals. He is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Engineering Society of Cincinnati, and of the Society of Automotive Engineers.

He is now the manager of the Engineering Jet Engine Department Aircraft Gas Turbine Division of General Electric, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

ANNA MAE SCHULTZ SMITH

Anna Mae Schultz was graduated from University of Illinois in June, 1941. She was in Home Economics School, but majored in dietetics. She was married in June, 1941, to J. George Smith, a graduate of the University of Illinois in Agriculture in 1940. They have lived on a farm near Oswego, Illinois, since then. She has been active as a 4-H leader, Home Bureau, serving as County Vice Chairman for three years. She also has helped in community and church activities.

She has taken many prizes on cakes and pies — in 1952 and in 1953 nine firsts on pies, five firsts on cakes, five firsts on serving, two firsts on cookies, five firsts on canning, and two firsts on bread.

Mr. and Mrs. George Smith were chosen to entertain the King of Greece by the University of Illinois extension staff, which took into consideration their farm, family, and ability to talk and meet people. The King and his party visited the Smith farm on November 7, 1953, and ate a chicken dinner with the family. On November 8 a private limousine was sent to the Smith home to take them to the Drake Hotel in Chicago to visit the Queen. The Smiths made numerous radio broadcasts and TV films. Their picture appeared in nearly every paper in the nation, also in a number of foreign publications. People have written to the Smiths from every state and a number of European countries. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have four living children — Nannette, Cheryl, Kent, and Lois. Darrel died in 1947.

MUSIC

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lackland came to Chenoa in 1895. They both were graduates of Illinois Wesleyan University. Being musically inclined, they were asked to take charge of the Methodist choir. They organized a 16-voice choir. Among some of the special events, two outstanding musical programs were given. The sacred musical cantatas entitled "Queen Esther" and "Belshazzar" were given two years apart. The choir rehearsed for months on these cantatas. They were given in the Chenoa Opera House two nights each to packed houses with many turned away. The performers drew no pay and all receipts were turned over to the church to purchase the pipe organ. The principal characters in the cantata were Mrs. Lackland, Mrs. Park Gillespie, Miss Inez Thomas, Mr. Lackland, Milton Omit and George Rulon, assisted by others.

There are five churches in the Chenoa community that have pipe organs. The following are the names of those churches, their organists and directors, if any: St. Paul's Lutheran: Lillian Woolenzien, organist, Ruby Pils, director; Trinity Lutheran: Charles Ballinger, organist for 25 years, Mrs. R. N. Shafer, junior choir director; St. Joseph's Catholic Church: Peggy Jontry, organist; Methodist Church: Miss Alwilda Ballinger, organist, Mrs. Elwin Palmer, director; Presbyterian: Lillian Nickel, organist for 40 years, and now director; Mrs. Ben Estes plays the piano for the Baptist Church services, and Mrs. Harold King directs the singing.

Blind Boone

Blind Boone appeared in Chenoa December 24, 1900, at the Opera House on Owsley Street. He had played in Chenoa before and always had drawn a large crowd. Boone's custom was to bring his own piano, shipping it wherever he appeared. Shipping a piano had no tendency to make it long lived and as a result he purchased a new piano every season. He always bought the very best. Reserved seats were 35c; general price 25c.

Chenoa Brass Band I

Chenoa's first brass band was organized before 1867 with eleven members, and Dr. Elder was the leader.

Chenoa Brass Band II

Chenoa seems to have never had a lack for musical talent. This was realized when the Chenoa Brass Band, which was organized in 1885, marched down the street on special occasions or heading parades. Their uniform coats were made of a very dark blue material trimmed with brass buttons and yellow fringed epaulettes on the shoulder. They wore a matching cap. Their trousers were made of a light gray material. The following were members of that band: Charles Skinner (Leader), Alvin Ballinger, Wm. Gaymann, Louis Lace, Ferdinand Jontry, Wm. Jontry, Robert Phillips, Sam Phillips, Charles McFarland, John Fraley, and Wm. Snyder.

Chenoa Quadrille Band

There is also another band, the Chenoa Quadrille Band, that played in Union Hall on November 28, 1872.

Chenoa's Cornet Band

Chenoa, March 8, 1895. From the Fire Edition —

Wherever people gather together in an aggregation of homes which is defined as a town, there you will find the cornet, the trombone, the piccolo, the little drum and the big drum, and all the wind and sheephead instruments that are comprised in the ordinary street musical band. Chenoa has a band and some of its neighbor towns flatter themselves that they have bands. But the Chenoa cornet company dispenses melody. The cornet band of this city demonstrates its claim to being a musical organization because its members are real musicians. The members play in harmony and the band always has a number of new and popular pieces in its collection of pieces. It is also generous in contributing music for the public benefit and its open air concerts have been the source of much pleasure to our people.

The present band was organized in 1891, and it was brought up to the musical standard for which it is noted by Mr. Job Armstrong, an experienced instructor and capable musician. He was its director and has spent much time with them practicing. The members of the band are as follows — John Mitchell, leader, and baritone; Job Armstrong, cornet; William Weir, B cornet; Olin Verry, B cornet; James McGinnis, alto; Harry Van Petten, piccolo; Charles McFarland, second alto; Alex Le Duc, William Matheny, first tenor; Sam Phillips, William Brooks, second tenor; Frank Downey, tuba; G. D. Chambers, bass drum; Walter Chambers, snare drum.

Mr. Burgess McGinnis, one of the most talented musicians around Chenoa, played tenor on special occasions.

The band in its blue and gold uniforms and dispensing artistic, inspiring music held the attention of large crowds of people.

The personnel of this band changed from time to time, so all the names of players cannot be given. Bands were organized after the fire. A municipal band was organized and played on various occasions until our school bands were able to replace the old bands of Chenoa. Among the players were workmen from out of town. E. L. Meeker was a band leader in Chenoa for a while.

Chenoa's New Band Stand

In the early 1900's our local bands gave midweek bands concerts during the summer months. They also played on other occasions. Every other weekend a hay rack was placed in the business district in front of the Flat Iron building. The next week the hay rack was put in front of Balbach's store. The band gave their concerts on this rack until in nineteen thirty one the city built a lovely brick band stand in the business district in front of the Flat Iron building. Here many fine entertainments are given.

J. G. SMITH

J. G. Smith was an early photographer in Chenoa. He had the reputation of doing very fine work for his day. He had the best improved lens, fine background and accessories. It is thought he was located on the east side of Green and Lincoln streets was on the south of his photograph gallery. The Anderson school house was moved from its site on Crittenden Street to this place after the new schoolhouse was built on Second Avenue in 1867. He occupied this building after it was moved.

GORDON LORD

Gordon Lord attended school at Bradley in Peoria for three years, and Carnegie Tech at Philadelphia. Following five years in the navy in World War II he became a commercial free lance photographer who is widely known. He specializes in child photography and in scenics. His pictures in color and in black and white have appeared in leading newspapers, magazines, and other periodicals throughout the country. Sometimes they are used on magazine covers. He has also exhibited in International Photographic Salons in U.S., England, Scotland, and Australia.

W. D. NEHER

W. D. Neher, accompanied by his family, arrived in Chenoa along about 1902, coming to Illinois from Arkansas. A photographic "car" was purchased, set up in the northwest corner lot at Green and Lincoln streets, where Mr. Neher plied his trade — photography. The new locale proved to be prosperous and the "car" acquired an addition. By 1911, the "car" was completely outgrown and Mr. Neher moved across the street, where he had built his own studio.

A photographer by trade, an artist at heart, Mr. Neher required more space, for by now he was turning again to an earlier medium, woodcarving. Of the more than 1,000 carvings, no two are alike and no models were used. One of the larger, and probably the most outstanding piece of this work — a carved reproduction of daVinci's Last Supper — was exhibited at the New York World's Fair. The figures in this carving are so expressive, the observer almost catches their conversation. A copy of this piece, on which he worked for three years, now adorns the altar of the Chenoa Trinity Lutheran Church.

Occasionally using his children as models, the artist also worked in water colors, crayon and oils. He had studied this work at the Russell & Russell Art Studios in Kansas City. A unique method of modeling concrete was perfected by this artist, his most unusual contribution of this type being the life-sized statue of a soldier.

Mr. Neher has always been most gracious in allowing people, even complete strangers, to view and examine his work. Some of his finest carvings have been given to his eight children and to friends. Many are still in his possession.

Before concentrating on his chosen work, Mr. Neher engaged in any number of occupations — professional baseball (Sunflower League), farming, selling, clerking, teaching, and preaching in the German Baptist Church, sometimes called Dunkard. He has always been an ardent fisherman and hunter. All have been reflected in his art work. In recent years, Mr. Neher has found photography a bit too hard on his eyes, and has turned to upholstery for a livelihood.

Mr. Neher was born in Piatt County, Illinois, moved to Kansas, then to Arkansas, and back to Illinois — full circle.

ART

Wesley L. Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Cox of Chenoa, Illinois, was born August 13, 1912. Wesley graduated from Chenoa Community High School in 1930. For the next two and a half years he was a student at the Art Institute in Chicago. In 1935 he married Miss Thelma Kritzer in Chenoa.

For the past 20 years he has been employed by the Myer-Both Studio in Chicago as an illustrator. Mr. Cox is currently doing some work in the field of fine arts, having exhibited at the Art Institute and also in other fine art exhibitions in the state. Mr. and Mrs. Cox now live in Homewood, Illinois.

ADVERTISING

John A. Weatherwax was born in Chenoa on Maple Street. He graduated from Chenoa High School. He then attended Art Institute for three years in Chicago. He moved to California in 1945. He and his partner, Joe Sperguson, operate an advertising agency in Los Angeles. John is married and has three children.

CHENOA MISSIONARIES

Miss Sarah Jane Kiper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hallie Kiper, is a missionary to Japan. She was born near Chenoa December 23, 1924. She received her education first in grade school in Yates Center; in Chenoa High School; in Moody Bible Institute; and Northern Baptist Theological Seminary College, receiving B.RE. and M.RE. degrees. She is a member of the Baptist Church of Chenoa. She sailed for Japan, her chosen field, on June 22, 1950, arriving there July 1, under the C.B.F.M.S. stationed in Yamagata area. She supervises the teaching of any age groups in their spiritual life. She took over the supervision of this area in September, 1952, when Margaret Smith came back to the States on her furlough. This past year she was secretary of the missionary conference. Being consecrated to Christian work, she has been greatly blessed. She will soon have completed her first term of over four years, returning home in September of the year 1954.

CHARLEY TRAVIS — A MISSIONARY

Charley Travis was once a superintendent in an Indian mission for the U.S.

government. He later came back to Chenoa, where his father was the pastor of the Presbyterian Church. He worked at Wightman & Sons. He finally became an undertaker and furniture dealer.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Years ago it was the custom for towns to observe Independence Day by having a Fourth of July celebration. Every town did not celebrate each year, but the ones that did observe the day invited others to come and have a good time. It was advertised that New Chenoa would celebrate the glorious Fourth in a fitting manner. This was also New Chenoa's first anniversary of the great fire of July, 1894. It was the custom to have a program with an out-of-town speaker and the reading of the Declaration of Independence by a young high school girl. Seats were placed in the school yard on Second Avenue, where all could go to hear the program and be comfortable in a cool place.

Mayor Churchill acted as president of the day. Messrs. V. A. MacGilvroy, W. L. Miller and S. Van Petten were the executive committee and to have general supervision of the day.

Program at the Schoolhouse Ground

Music	Chenoa and Gridley bands
Invocation	Rev. R. L. Vivian
Address of Welcome	Mayor Charles Churchill
Reading of Declaration of Independence	Miss Ella Chapman
Music	Grand Chorus of 100 Voices
Address	Honorable J. B. Bates

Dinner

AFTERNOON

Baby Show	Prizes to be given
Reading of Short Poem About Chenoa	By Chenoa Composer
Daylight Fireworks	
Baseball	Lexington vs. Chenoa at Chenoa Ball Park
Amusements	Greased Pig and Races
Night Free Fireworks	
Grand Ball at Masonic Hall	

Prizes were to be given to the best decorated store; also a prize for the best decorated residence.

Besides the above-mentioned attractions, there were to be two dozen balloons sent up with parachutes attached. On this day fireworks were a new attraction to be seen in Chenoa for the first time.

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATED IN ROYAL STYLE (1912)

July 4, 1912, dawned bright and clear and remained so throughout the day, although it was very warm.

The program began at 10:30 a.m. with a grand parade led by Burch's Band, then followed Mayor Elfrink, president of the day, and P. C. Gillespie, chief marshal of the day. Other marshals were E. H. Haushalter, Charles Hancock, and James Potter.

The float representing Columbus and a few of his party as he landed at the West Indies followed. Columbus, Ensign Roscoe Schuirmann holding the Spanish

flag, was surrounded by Vincent Healy and Ernest Bauman representing Fathers Perez and Boill, who accompanied Columbus on his second voyage to the new world, and sailors Clarence Churchill and Herbert Tomlinson. Harvey Downey, Walter Johnson, Theodore Bauman, and Hugh Emlyn Jones represented Indians gazing in wonder and awe at the pale faces.

Float Two carried a band of Pilgrims who were represented by Mr. and Mrs. Lee McFarland, Miss Lillian Nickel, Mrs. V. L. Nickel, Mrs. M. M. Heintz and son John Arthur, Lou and Lester Miller, Helen Moschel, Lewis Churchill, and Mrs. D. J. Slackey.

Float three represented the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Dr. E. V. Rice represented the chairman and other members of the committee present were Fred H. Ballinger, Harold Adolph, Ernest Cox, Scott Mears, and Charles Harrison.

Float four represented the committee appointed by the Continental Congress to design the flag for the new union. The characters were Betsy Ross, Jennie E. Arnold, Alice Brown, a member of the Ross household; George Washington, Rufus Mutchler; George Ross, Leigh Jackson.

Float five represented the complete union finished in 1912. Mary Fitzpatrick represented the Goddess of Liberty and the states were represented by a bevy of forty-eight pretty girls.

Dr. W. G. Du Four planned the foregoing floats and originated the ideas for them except the one representing the Goddess of Liberty and the states.

Next in the parade were the floats representing business houses. Those participating were John Brady, McEwen Bros., W. J. Thompson, Jacob Balbach, and L. J. Schultze. The Schultze float carried the Wienerwurst Band, which was out in full uniforms.

A few of the automobiles were prettily decorated with flags and flowers. George Bauman with his Warren "35" car won first prize, and A. C. Le Duc with his Overland car won second.

Hon. Louis FitzHenry of Bloomington delivered an eloquent and patriotic address at the city park immediately after the parade.

The ball game in the forenoon between Chenoa and Ocoya was won by Chenoa by a score of 4 to 2. In the afternoon a ball game between Chatsworth and Chenoa resulted in a score of 5 to 3 in favor of Chenoa.

There were acrobatic and trapeze performances, and a balloon ascension at 6:00 p.m.

In the evening a quantity of beautiful fireworks were displayed. The amount of money raised for the Fourth and by privileges sold amounted to over \$500.

COLT SHOW, 1914 DAY, COMMUNITY DAY, CHENOA DAY AND DOLLAR DAY

It has been the custom of Chenoa merchants since 1914 to set apart one day, preferably in early September, as a special day for everyone to come to town to trade, meet their friends, and have a general good time. Usually the merchants put on a bargain day called Dollar Day.

At first this special day was called Colt Show Day. Horses in the past have been faithful servants of the people, especially the farmer. Now they are fast

disappearing. Most farmers kept heavy horses that could do hard work. Some of them ranged in weight from 1400 pounds to 1900 pounds. The owners of these animals took great pride in caring for them and also in showing them. Prizes were offered and ribbons given to those who went to the work to bring them to town to show. Park Gillespie and Chid Hancock were marshals for the day in some of the past parades. They rode saddle horses. Among those who have headed the parades have been Albert Streid, Chid Hancock, Viola Vaughn, Mrs. Corrie, and others unknown.

Those who showed horses at different times in the parade were — Joe Streid, showed a beautiful six horse team of Belgians hitched to a wagon; Ray Brady received a prize on one horse; Jesse A. King, lovely team and decorated wagon which won some ribbons; Jim Blair showed three grand champion teams, and another team, Abolette and Lottie, hitched to a wagon, which won first prize; also a 2-year-old colt that won first prize; Everett Elson drove a nice team hitched to a decorated wagon; Edward and William Erdman showed teams which won prizes; William Erdman's sons showed ponies. These are only a few of the horses and ponies in the parade. There were others unknown to the writer.

They were followed by decorated floats representing different organizations in the school.

Now that there are no more Colt Show Days, the Community Day or Chenoa Day is carried on in much the same way. Recently Mrs. Corrie has headed the parade, followed by bands, floats, automobiles, farm machinery, etc.

The 4-H boys and girls showed pigs and calves in the city park, where pens were made for those who had stock to show.

SOCIAL LIFE — AMUSEMENTS — GAMES

Judge Davis of Bloomington said in speaking of pioneer days, "There were not so many people in pioneer days, but they had lots of fun." Life was simple in those days. They all dressed much alike, attended the same church, and neighbored with their own neighbors, often exchanging work with one another, especially at butchering time and at harvest time. They had very few books, a Bible, church hymnal, and an almanac. But while they were ignorant in books, they were learned in a thousand ways.

In the absence of theaters, clubs, daily papers, and libraries, they sought amusements out of doors when possible. Perhaps one of their favorite amusements was horseback riding. Most everyone owned or rode a horse. They loved horses. The women rode horseback as well as the men, frequently on the same horse with a man. Often they rode bareback. Some were fortunate enough to have a saddle. Some women rode on a side saddle, which is not often seen now. The side saddle was similar to the men's saddle only that it had two horns 4 or 5 inches high on the front of the saddle. The woman riding placed her right knee over the left horn and her left knee in a hanging stirrup. The women rode in riding habits if they owned one.

Another enjoyable gathering which was often held in homes or at a school-house was the spelling of words called Spelling Down. That was universally practiced. Sometimes they had music schools, too, where they learned to sing by note. Many people had a croquet set on their lawns where friends and neighbors could play. Chenoa once had a public croquet ground located on the half block east of the business district. Anyone could play any time of the day.

Another amusement was skating on the Pike & Castle pond. Young people

could also roller skate in the old McDonald Hall. The roller skating rink was run by Bill Lenney.

Sometimes a patent medicine show would arrive in town. They often brought their own tent and equipment. Usually they were cheap shows. The proprietor sometimes appeared between acts or at the close of the performance to advertise his patent medicine, which was supposed to cure anything from heart trouble to gout. In early days doctors were few and patent medicines were about all they could get.

SPORTS

On July 19, 1905, Chenoa had its greatest outing of all time. Chenoa had supported one of the best amateur baseball teams for years. The idea occurred to T. W. Weatherwax and L. L. Silliman that it would be a good idea to arrange for a ball game with the Chillicothe team, a club that was well thought of in their community. The more we talked about it, the better we thought that such an arrangement would not only produce a good ball game, but it would also give the people of this community a fine chance for a real outing. And so arrangements were made to hold the affair on Thursday, July 19, 1905. A special train of seven coaches was arranged for on the TP&W and the stern-wheeled steamer City of Peoria and barge Pearl were chartered for the occasion. Chenoa at this time had an outstanding baseball team dominated by one Frank Barthel, better known as Bart. This man was a natural pitcher, strong, rugged, with a curve that was good enough to fool the best of batters. He was backed up by good players in every position. We list their names as they came in the batting order: William (Bill) Turnipseed, left field; Charles (Red) Hinshaw, catcher; Herbert (Rube) Sandam, third base; Orrin (Mike) Hiser, second base; John (Polly) Power, shortstop; Dr. Emil Geiger, center field; William (Bill) Boleo, right field; Delbert (Dibbie) Whiteside, first base.

Six hundred tickets were sold for this trip, in addition to the ball club. The Chenoa Silver Cornet Band, twenty strong, in full uniform, were racked up right along with the ball club. The special train left at 8:30, with every seat occupied, connections were made in Peoria without any confusion, and we were off up the river on a beautiful day. Many of the passengers were taking a boat ride for the first time and how they did enjoy it. Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Silliman were really the guests of honor. The Sillimans came from Peoria County, Mrs. Silliman came from Chillicothe and Mr. Silliman was a native of Hallock. The Sillimans held a reception for their old friends on the boat, as Mrs. Silliman was confined to a wheel chair. Chillicothe was a town of 3,000, a fine little city, and the former home of Mr. and Mrs. Weatherwax, but Mr. Weatherwax was for his newly adopted town Chenoa against Chillicothe. The Chillicotheans, suspecting something out of the ordinary, had been loaded up for the game. Chillicothe went to bat in the first inning and the first man hit a home run clear over the fence and that from the great Barthel, but let it be known to all and sundry that was the only run the Chillicothe team made. The Chillicothe fans were eager to bet, and the boys from the cornfields gave them all they wanted. On the return trip, a stop was made at All Fresco Park north of Peoria. It was a great day, a beautiful day, a happy trip, a well fought game, no accidents.

The following year we repeated the trip without a change in any way, same special train, same boat, same band, and same results. On the second trip all the stores in Chenoa were closed, also Chillicothe stores closed. The second game was a much harder fight. The reason was that Chillicothe was determined to win. The final score for this second game was 4 to 3 in favor of Chenoa. Chenoa was so

chesty that we tried it for the third time. This time the weather turned again us or rather Chenoa still thinks that it worked in our favor. This time we were sure that we would have been skinned alive. But the rain came and it rained so hard that we did not get any farther north than Al Fresco in Peoria. That closed the chapter, but among the older people of Chenoa the name of Barthel still stands ace high.

January 25, 1954, a Chenoa man was given a lifetime membership. Members of the Old Timers Baseball Association of Peoria nearly scored on the 75th birthday of the man they chose to be honored this year (1954) with a lifetime membership in their group.

Charles (Red) Hinshaw was a widely known catcher 50 years ago. More lately he is known for his umpiring. The Association bestowed upon him a life membership certificate at its winter banquet in the Peoria American Legion building. Red lived in Fairbury, but worked in Chenoa. The Chenoa Crescents called upon him to stand behind the batter and catch the hurling of the late Herb Rube Sandham. Only three others of that team are still living, namely, Victor Nickel, Billy Weir, both of Chenoa, and Dr. Emil Geiger, a Canton dentist. For his second season at Chenoa the Crescents paid his board to induce him to stay with them. He recalls his board amounted to \$3.00 per week. For his hired talent he received \$4.00 and expenses a game. All the games were played on Sunday. He had his own team in 1912. They opened a new ball park north of Chenoa on the county line. His interest in other sports led him to be timer for Chenoa High School basketball games for 27 years and lineman for high school football games 26 years. He quit both tasks when he took pneumonia. He was a substitute rural carrier for 20 years. He was a painter and paper hanger by trade. — By T. W. Weatherwax.

LONE STAR BASEBALL CLUB

Chenoa people in those early days were fans for healthy entertainment. The Lone Star Baseball Club was organized on May 1, 1867. There were 35 members in it. The officers were as follows: president, J. D. Payne; secretary, W. E. Ketcham; directors, John Brown, L. B. Armstrong, W. Upp, and W. Work. They lost the first game but evidently they later became very successful and continued to play until 1895, when they did not have enough members to continue. Their suits were cream color with the name printed in blue on the coat and a cap of cream material with a lone blue star on the front of it.

OUTDOOR CROQUET

Outdoor croquet became very popular in the 1890's. Many people had a set on their own lawn. At one time there was a public croquet ground back of the stores on Green Street. At that time there were no buildings facing Weir Street. Anyone could come there to play.

SKAT

The time of this happening was back in the year 1910 when Fritz Ramsdorf left Germany under somewhat of a cloud — just what it was is not known. He settled in Chenoa, was elected Town Clerk, and held other offices. He was a large man, wore a size 8 hat. Mr. Ramsdorf brought to Chenoa the game skat, which is strictly a German game. According to Hoyle, the card authority speaks of it as the Chess of cards. Fritz taught the game to Noah Pike, Henry Lillie, Jacob Maschel, Park Gillespie, Louie Ackerman, and others. They in turn handed it down to a younger generation, but only four men took up the game seriously. They were

Jacob Balbach, L. L. Silliman, Fred Ballinger, and Tom Weatherwax. This quartet played skat on every occasion. We set aside Monday nights for the game and seldom missed playing. We played at our several homes. Mr. Weatherwax still has the scorebook of all the games played for a period of 30 years. It was their habit that whenever this group went anywhere they sat down and played a game when the affair was over. All through our record they never played for a consideration of any kind. Back in the year 1910 in the hot month of August Mr. Clarence Elson, a native of Chenoa, had an uncle died in the state of Iowa, who was brought back to Chenoa for burial. The funeral service was held at the Elson home and burial was to be made at the Payne Cemetery, a five mile drive north of town. This was in the time of the horse and buggy. No automobiles were used for an affair of this kind. The horses were not allowed to be driven at a trot as was the custom then. They did not believe in rushing their dead to the grave. Mr. Weatherwax did not believe in letting the whole afternoon go to waste, so these skat players conceived the idea of playing skat on their way to the cemetery. Mr. Daniel Shober, a fine old gentleman, was the undertaker in charge. He had a fine horse-drawn wagon with plate glass sides and the seats were placed lengthwise of the wagon so that our knees came together, just a nice cozy position for what these men had in mind. Mr. Weatherwax took an advertising heavy card board from the store, and with a skat deck of cards placed them in the funeral car so they could play after they got out of town. As usual in affairs that are off color, we counted our chickens before they were hatched, for just as we were to leave the Elson home, Mr. Shober put the preacher in the wagon with us. It is needless to say that the card game died right then, and from that day to this I have looked on Mr. Shober as an honest-to-goodness life saver or a reputation saver. So our record is clear in not being guilty of playing cards in a funeral procession.

RADIO

Crystal radio sets have always intrigued the youngsters, as has the amateur radio outfits as studies progressed. Even before the '20's Elmer Harms was playing 'round with them. He says even if crystal sets aren't supposed to pick up farther than 25 miles he has had stations as far away as Texas, Florida, and New York. Karl Mays says they often heard Atlantic City.

Elmer Harms began experimenting with amateur radio in 1922. He built his own receiver and transmitter from homemade parts, winding the coils by hand, and using storage batteries for power. With this set he made over 500 contacts from Canada to Texas and Florida, from New York to California.

His most thrilling experience was hearing Amiral Byrd at the North Pole — heard him several times. He received his license to operate in 1924 or '25, his call letters being 9BKI. At that time there were only two amateurs in Bloomington and one in Pontiac. Becoming busy with radio repair work, he let his license lapse in 1932.

Alvin Dameron, east of town, became interested in amateur radio in 1922. Had his own home-built receiver sometime before he built a transmitter. Tubes were the only things these early amateurs could buy, all else was homemade. He received his call letters, 9FCM, in 1927 or '28. He operated on 160 meter phone until 1930.

These boys received their licenses by having their sets inspected by a Federal Communications official, also a verbal examination at the same time. Now the would-be amateur must go to an appointed examination center and pass a stiff test before operations start.

Victor R. Roszhart became interested in amateur radio while still in high school; built several receivers and learned the International Morse Code. He received his first license by passing the Federal Communications Commission examination in 1932, and assigned the call letters W9IN Y, operating in code until 1936, when he received a class A license which entitled him to operate on 80 and 20 meters. He had already built a transmitter to operate by voice on 160 meters.

Radio proved of great therapeutic value to him during a long illness. That knowledge made him a Master Sergeant as communication chief in the Air Force in World War II. It has been the means of making a good livelihood. He says there can be no better hobby for the technical-minded boy. Many top officials in technical positions started their careers as amateurs. He still operates W9IN Y.

Keith Hester was assigned the call letters W9CSK when he received his class B license, January, 1948. He operated a 50-watt phone transmitter. He used the same "rig" while at Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio, using the call letters W8DOS. He received his class A license in July, 1949, with his old call letters, W9CSK. He built a 500-watt transmitter, which he used thereafter. He now holds an Amateur Extra Class license. He relayed messages during the cloud burst and flood of July, 1951. His amateur experience has also helped him in his Air Force work with the Military Amateur Radio System, Washington, D.C.

Harold Dearth received a class B license in 1950, his class A license in 1952, was assigned W9KAG as call letters. His receiver is out of a B24 bomber, his 125 watt transmitter is homemade. He operates on 75 and 40 meters by phone, on 10 meters by code. His most thrilling contact was with Capt. Carlson—three months before he became famous.

Rudolph Folts received his class A license in April, 1936, and was assigned call letters W9OBD. He has retained his license, as he is in the Army Signal Corps.

Jerry Gooding, now on Okinawa, holds a novice class license with call letters WN9PDI.

Bernard Neher studied radio at Valparaiso, Indiana, and is now radio engineer at station WHAS, Louisville, Kentucky.

Bob Pearson started studying radio while still in Chenoa High School, building and operating his set later at Kankakee with the call letters W9KKL. Bob now has a commercial license.

Bob Jenkins is a radio engineer with WJBC.

Robert B. Cooper is a graduate in electronics, and is now a radio operator with Station WQPC, an Illinois State Police station.

And last but not least, a former sports announcer over WJBC was Clark Jontry.

TELEVISION

Elmer Harms installed the first television receiver at his place of business in August, 1949. Claus Peterson of Lawndale bought a set in December, 1949. In March of 1950 the first television set was installed in a Chenoa home, that of Elmer Henry, 727 South Grant Street. The town now boasts several dealers, among them Elmer Harms, C. T. Hoselton, and Ron Hastings, so it isn't surprising to see antennae sprouting alongside many, many homes.

METHODIST SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Years ago boys and girls of the various churches looked forward to their annual Sunday School outings. In the summer of 1909, Rev. Ayling, pastor of the Methodist Church, helped plan a unique outing for the Sunday School. Picnics were popular in those days. Sometimes they went on hayracks drawn by a big

team of horses. This time they decided to go to the big timber north of town in a different way. They secured a steam threshing machine run by Jack Statler and two or three haybacks. All who were going were to meet in front of the church. What a gay time the children were having. When on the racks they sang songs, laughed, and told jokes, all the while moving about on the racks restlessly. Some of the dinners baskets were upset or jumbled about. However, that all goes with a picnic. These are some of the memories of those carefree days. There is a picture of the group showing Ernest, Frank and Roscoe Cox and Howard Gillespie and Truman Liston standing near by apparently supervising the arrangements of the group and getting all in readiness to leave.

REDPATH CHAUTAUQUA

The Redpath Chautauqua staged its annual program in Chenoa for several years around the year 1923. A big tent was pitched in the city park where a splendid array of talent gave entertainment for five days, afternoon and evening. Their excellent programs consisted of musical entertainments, lectures, popular comedy, and readings as well as entertainment on certain days for children. From 1912 on for sometime it was the fashion for ladies to wear large hats. Etiquette considered it bad taste for women to attend public meetings without a hat. So, in order for everyone to see the performances, the manager requested all ladies to remove their hats. This might have been one of the things that led up to women attending public gatherings without a hat.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM CHAPTER No. 114, ORDER OF THE EASTERN STAR

Star of Bethlehem Chapter No. 114 was first organized as Star of Bethlehem chapter No. 33, November 25, 1870, by H. G. Reynolds, Grand Patron, with the following officers: Mrs. A. H. Copeland, worthy matron; C. S. Elder, worthy patron; Mrs. Noah Pike, associate matron; Mrs. G. T. Coonley, secretary; Mrs. W. M. Fales, treasurer; Mrs. C. S. Elder, conductress; Mrs. Louis Zeigler, associate conductress; Mrs. Jacob Balbach, warder;; James Colter, sentinel. The chapter adjourned for the summer months of 1871, and in the fall the members did not convene. Thus, the original charter was recalled.

The Chapter was re-chartered as Star of Bethlehem No. 114 March 12, 1888, by Mrs. Hannah Livingston, District Deputy Grand Matron, and E. D. Bone, Worthy Grand Patron, with the following officers serving: Helen Pike, worthy matron; Charles Elder, worthy patron; Charlotte Fales, associate matron; Ella Chapman, secretary; E. J. Davis, treasurer; Belle Davis, conductress; Mary Lenney, associate conductress; Susan Chapman, Adah; Jennie Burnett, Ruth; Mary Hedges, Esther; Mary Elder, Martha; Lydia Abbott, Electa; Nancy Watt, warder; J. H. Watt, sentinel; H. O. Hedge, organist.

The officers serving the chapter in 1954 are: Martha Stutzman, worthy matron; Ralph Morris, worthy patron; Pauline Beckham, associate matron; William Millard, associate patron; Leola Scott, secretary; Lillian Nickel, treasurer; Josephine Vercler, conductress; Beulah Seibert, associate conductress; Christine Jacobs, chaplain; Dorothy Streid, marshal; Ruth Ferree, organist; Jeanette Hostler, Esther; Johnnie King, Martha; Dorothy Corrie, Electa; Orland Kridner, warder; Irvin Corrie, sentinel;; Roy Jacobs, colorbearer.

Eastern Star is the largest organization in the world to which both men and woman are eligible, with over a million members devoted to charity, truth, and loving kindness.

The Chapter has remained active since it was re-chartered in 1888. It has had the honor of having one of its members, Mrs. N. H. Pike, appointed District Deputy Grand Matron; and in 1953 the chapter had the honor of having its first and only official visit.
—March, 1954.

CHENOA FRATERNITIES

Chenoa Gazette, December, 1890.

Illinois Independent Order of Mutual Aid organized April 18, 1872. This lodge has for its object to relieve the distressed the visit the sick, help the widow and fatherless in affliction.

The following are the charter members: Dr. E. Holderness, J. A. Miller, O. D. Sandham, W. A. Miller, S. S. Chapman, John Bush, R. P. Hewitt, Jacob Moschel, J. W. Lenney, Chas. Fillmore, Adolph Lillie, and C. Gerrisch.

ROYAL ARCH MASONS

Chenoa Gazette, December, 1890.

Chenoa Chapter No. 143 Royal Arch Masons met under dispensation April 5, 1870, with Comps Louis Zeigler, A. H. Copeland, H. R. Perkins, W. C. Arnold, R. C. Sallee, A. Stephens, W. H. Boies, G. W. Stoker, and James Sample.

They lost their charter, regalia, robes, paraphernalia, furniture, etc., by fire March 5, 1871, in Sallee's Block, and again on the night of July 27, 1886, when Snyder's Block was destroyed by fire. The chapter lost everything but their charter and a few robes. Their present membership is 56.

A. F. & A. M.

Chenoa lodge number 292 AF&AM was organized under dispensation of 1858 by Harrison Dills, with the following officers and members: W. C. Carter, Worshipful Master; R. C. Sallee, Senior Warden; S. L. Payne, Junior Warden; James Sample, John Campbell, N. P. Coldren, R. McLeod, and G. W. Stokes. At the session of grand lodge the dispensation was continued and in 1859 they granted a charter to lodge 292, with W. C. Carter worshipful master. George Birch, senior warden; S. L. Payne, junior warden; James Sample, treasurer; R. C. Sallee, secretary; J. P. Colden, Daniel McLeod, G. W. Stoker, John Campbell, J. B. Lenny, R. W. McMahan, J. P. McKnight, Wallace Young, Abel Hays, John Cassidy, Asbury Miner, W. W. Wilson Freeman.

The lodge first met in the Durling building, which was burned, but the lodge had been moved to the Loansbury block. Previous to the fire it was moved to Sallee's Block which was destroyed by fire in 1871 and the lodge lost everything but the records and charter; then they occupied the Hamilton Block with the Odd Fellows, but soon fitted up a room on the east side of Hamilton's building, but when Snyder erected his brick building in 1875 they fitted up an elegant hall in that which was destroyed by fire in 1886 and they lost everything except their charter, including records. Consequently, we cannot get a perfect history of it.

Chenoa Lodge No. 292 AF&AM was chartered July 28, 1894. Charter members were: W. E. Carter, George Birch, James Sample, T. P. Coldren, S. L. Payne, Robert Campbell, Albert Haynes.

Officers of Chenoa Lodge No. 292 AF&AM in 1954 are as follows: Nelson J. Wagner, master; Fred Mall, S.W.; Wallace Helling, J.W.; Elvie O. Cooper, treas-

urer; Marion E. Decker, secretary; Delmar McIntyre, S.D.; Gaillard Wagner, J.D.; Chris Yoder, S.S.; Gilbert Brown, J.S.; Ralph Wagner, marshal; John N. Balbach, Tyler.

TRIBE OF BEN HUR

December 25, 1902.

Chenoa Court No. 252 of Ben Hur at their regular meeting Friday evening elected the following officers for the ensuing year: Chief, Samuel Evans; Teacher, Mrs. Frank Watson; Captain, James Bowers; Guide, Joe Arnold; Keeper of Trust, John Marriott; Keeper of Outer Gate, O. M. Arthur. No secretary elected at this meeting.

I. O. O. F.

Chenoa Lodge No. 287 IOOF was organized in February, 1866. There were 28 members. They meet each Monday. W. A. Miller, Noble Grand; R. P. Jewett, Vice Grand; M. W. Jacobs, Secretary.

THE BIG DIPPER CLUB

The Big Dipper Club is one of the earliest Chenoa clubs mentioned. It was the name of a very intelligent secret society composed of ambitious young ladies of the city. Ever since it was organized Chenoa citizens have manifested great interest in finding out their secrets, but with no success. Finally, a *Pantagraph* correspondent found out some things about the BDC and revealed some of their secrets through his paper. Its membership was limited to the number of stars in the constellation, The Big Dipper. Therefore it was composed of seven young ladies. If one moved away, her place was filled by some other popular young lady. There was one member who lived in Bloomington and one in Chicago. At a meeting early in the existence of each club each member was baptized and received a new name. The baptismal rite was administered by the president and was done by pouring water on their heads. Their new names were Misses Beuetnasch, Mezar, Alioth, Megrez, Thad, Dubhe, and Merak. At their meetings they sat around in the form of a dipper. They always kept a tin dipper filled with water extending from the ceiling in the center of the room. This dipper formed an important part of the initiation. The *Pantagraph* correspondent found out to his entire satisfaction one evening when the BDC had a meeting in his home. He walked into the room where they were. He hit his head against the dipper and received its contents down his back. Then the seven young ladies rushed at him with a big dipper of water. He was driven out of the room, but not before he had learned some of their secrets. They held their meetings in the evening and were quite elaborately dressed for the times. These young women delighted in preparing an interesting program and inviting guests to hear it. After this had been done a number of times they were requested to put on some of their best numbers at the Union Hall, charging a small admission to defray expenses. After this they gave other programs in the hall consisting of a humorous farce, "Maiden's Choice," a drama, "A Wonderful Cure"; a play, "Advertising for Help"; readings, etc. The cornet band furnished music for them. At one of their regular meetings at the home of J. E. Wightman's they held an election of officers, after which they were kept busy making red flannel nightcaps for Negro babies of Pontiac. At another meeting they voted unanimously to procure jumping jacks and chewing gum for colored children. And so The Big Dipper Club furnished entertainment at a time when Chenoa had few entertainments.

RED RIBBON CLUB

Red Ribbon Club was primarily established to carry on a temperance movement among the men. They met in Red Ribbon Room in the Crosby Building. It was organized May 18, 1878. Their membership consisted of men above 15 years of age. They drew up a constitution and bylaws and were required to sign a temperance pledge. Members were dismissed if they did not obey the signed pledge. The first officers were: president, R. W. Sill; secretary, H. D. Fisk; assistant secretary, Fred Munsell. They had a membership of 100 men. These were a few of the most active members: John Banta, Edgar Jenkins, Lester Snyder, Milton Omit, Phil Sandham, R. G. Jordan, E. M. Pike, A. H. Copeland, Samuel Foss, Wm. Maxwell, H. LaBar, and others.

WHITE RIBBON CLUB

Many of the ladies who belonged to this club were wives of the men in the Red Ribbon Club. This, too, was a temperance organization, a forerunner of the WCTU. At this time there were at least five saloons in Chenoa. Their first officers were: president, Mrs. Miller; treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Pike. They often met with the Red Ribbon Club.

Miss Frances Willard spoke in the Baptist Church in February, 1879. The children were dismissed from school to hear her. Miss Willard said this was the first time children had been dismissed from school to hear her.

There were also other clubs in early days of Chenoa: Violet Club, Rose Club, and the I.C.T. (I Can't Tell). Members of these are unknown to the committee writing.

THE CACTUS CLUB

The Cactus Club was a social organization which was organized in the late 1890's. The membership consisted of the following young ladies: Minne Thayer, Mable Kniffen, Bess Hancock, Beulah Kniffen, Lillian Nickel, May Scrogin, Blossom Gallihue, Lillian Ballard, and Charlotte Abbott.

SWASTIKA CLUB

The Swastika Club was organized in about 1908. Its membership consisted of teachers and professional women, namely: Bertha Thrane, Lena and Hattie Churchill, Maude and Grace Fairfield, Ella Evans, Gertrude Castle, Helen Monroe, Inez and Maude Thomas, Mabel Adolph, and Mina McCollister.

JOLLY DOZEN

The Jolly Dozen was a club which consisted of middle-aged married ladies who met at one another's homes every other Wednesday afternoon. This group limited their membership to a dozen ladies. They brought their fancy work and agreeably passed the afternoon. The following ladies were members: Mrs. Bird Travis, Mrs. Mary Lenney, Mrs. Martha Lenney, Mrs. Etta Monroe, Mrs. Emily Balbach, Mrs. Anna Adolph, Mrs. Lottie Silliman, Mrs. Edith Weatherwax, Mrs. Laura Dexter, Mrs. Laura Churchill, Mrs. Ruby Grosbeck, and Mrs. J. C. Blackwell.

SOCIAL LITERARY CLUB

One afternoon in August, 1901, 12 ladies were invited to the home of Mrs. Amanda Piester. She suggested that they organize a club. After much deliberation

the Social Literary Club was born, with Mrs. Piester being elected as president. The charter members were: Mrs. Piester, Mrs. Elizabeth Elson, Mrs. Hugh Jones, Mrs. William Brooks Sr., Mrs. E. M. Pike, Mrs. W. E. Ketcham, Mrs. E. C. Silliman, Mrs. R. G. Jordan, Mrs. H. J. Forney, Mrs. H. F. Ballard, Mrs. Thomas Strickland, and Mrs. D. S. Cox.

Their programs consisted largely of reviews of nonfiction books and magazine articles. Later, with much change of personnel in the club, a lighter type of program was presented and is followed at the present time.

The present membership of the club (1954) consists of Mrs. R. E. Ballinger, Mrs. Ray Brady, Mrs. Charles Elliott, Mrs. H. N. Gillespie, Mrs. J. A. Harrison, Mrs. H. N. Jontry, Mrs. Myrtle Ketcham, Mrs. Ray H. Morris, Mrs. E. L. Palmer, Mrs. Beryle Parry, Mrs. L. L. Silliman, Mrs. Ella Streid, Mrs. D. J. Starkey, Lillian Nickel, Miss Bertha Thrane, and Miss Inez Thomas. The officers for 1953-1954 are president, Miss Bertha Thrane; vice-president, Miss Inez Thomas; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Ray Brady.

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

The Friendship Circle was organized on a stormy day November 17, 1926, at the home of Mrs. C. Jeanette Jones. The charter members were Mrs. C. J. Jones, Mrs. Louise Hoffman, Mrs. Ella Sarver, Mrs. Emma Hayslip, Mrs. Maizie McNeil, Mrs. Ernest Cox, and Mrs. Sol Dunham.

The club meets once a month on the second Thursday of the month. Roll call is answered by each one in attendance giving a current event. Two members are appointed to furnish entertainment each meeting, followed by a reading selected by one member. Light refreshments are furnished by the hostess. The officers for the year 1954 are as follows: president, Mrs. George Brown; vice-president, Mrs. Fannie Lennington; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Mary Harrison; assistant secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Kittie Neher.

WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION

Many of the members of this organization were formerly members of the White Ribbon Club. Among the charter members of the W.C.T.U. were Mrs. John McCune, Mrs. Gallihue, Mrs. D. S. Cox, and others. By 1912 others joined—Mrs. Nettie King, Mrs. E. M. Pike, Mrs. Wm. Ketcham, Mrs. Sam Evans, Mrs. A. D. Jordan, and others. Lura Verry was Secretary.

In July 1901 the W.C.T.U. wrote a request to Mayor Hickey urging that no liquor be sold to minors.

Some of the W.C.T.U. meetings were held in Union Hall which was over Ketcham & Seybolt's grocery store on Green Street. Miss Francis Willard spoke for the W.C.T.U. in Union Hall. This Hall burned in the 1894 fire.

This union finally died out and another was organized April 15, 1937. Eight ladies met in the Methodist Church with two organizers, Mrs. Cavius of Danvers and Mrs. Irvin of Normal. They passed cards which were signed by the following ladies—Mrs. Mary Harrison, Mrs. Lillian Stump, Mrs. Anna Rolf and Mrs. Stella Anderson. Officers were elected as follows: President, Mrs. E. E. Cox; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Stella Anderson. Mrs. Irvin gave a very interesting talk followed by prayer. Regular meetings were held the third Thursday of each month. This organization continued until December, 1941. Some of the members passed away. The rest could not carry on alone. The charter members of this

W.C.T.U. were Mrs. E. E. Cox, Mrs. Mary Harrison, Mrs. Sam Evans, Mrs. Job Rolf, Mrs. Jack Statler, Miss Eva Cox, Dr. Ethel S. Larsen, Dr. Lillian Stump, Miss Ina Ballou, Mrs. Ada Fike, Mrs. Ray Brady, Mrs. John Pearl and Mrs. Ray Morris. Nine others joined later. The honorary members were Mr. A. D. Jordan and Mr. E. E. Cox.

THE 20th CENTURY CLUB

One of the meetings of the Twentieth Century Club was held at the home of Mrs. E. M. Kirkpatrick, South Division St., on Feb. 12, 1902. Among the Members besides Mrs. Kirkpatrick were Mrs. Lottie Silliman, Mrs. L. E. Lackland, Mrs. F. H. Ballard, Mrs. A. D. Jordan and others not known.

VIOLET CLUB

The Violet Club was a social club consisting of the following young ladies—Myrtle Ballard, Anna Ketcham, Edith Ballard, Lillian Ketcham, Anna Dillon, Ruby Chapman, Blanch Lord, Maude and Inez Thomas, Gussie Pike, Beryl Darrah, and Minnie Ballinger.

OZO CLUB

The OZO Club was organized in 1908 and continued to function until sometime in 1934. It was a social club that enjoyed good readings and some light entertainment. They met every two weeks on Wednesday afternoons. The following were members—Mrs. F. H. Burt, Mrs. A. W. Streid, Mrs. Emil Haushalter, Mrs. S. R. Kaplan, Mrs. Mose Kaplan, Mrs. Jacob Balbach, Mrs. Vance Dorman, Mrs. Victor Nickel, Lillian Nickel, Mrs. B. F. Elfrink, Mrs. C. E. Kniffen, Mrs. C. W. Parry, Mrs. Riley Ballinger, Mrs. Clara Hawthorne, Mrs. Leslie Stansbery, Mrs. D. J. Starkey, Mrs. Vance Dorman, Mrs. Charley Travis, Mrs. Arletta Sarver, Mrs. Hattie Churchill and others unknown. At the close of the meeting light refreshments were served.

The membership of this club was never to exceed over 12 members. As some passed away or left town others were added.

CHENOA WOMAN'S CLUB

Some years ago a Woman's Club was organized and carried on for a while. Finally one day in 1905 they held a regular meeting at the home of Mrs. E. C. Silliman. During the meeting she suggested that the women of the community keep step with the men who were furthering the interests of the town. A Civic Improvement Club was organized with Mrs. Lottie Silliman as President. In one of the Club by-laws you will find this statement, "The object of this club shall be to plan and carry forward such measures as shall tend to the improvement and beautification of our city." Any lady in this city is eligible to join the organization who has the welfare of the city and community at heart.

When the club was first organized one of the chief objects at that time was to build a concrete sidewalk from the city to the city cemetery. This work was done as soon as sufficient money was raised. A man was hired by the club to keep the weeds mowed along the walk. The total cost of the walk was \$1,630. Then the ladies planned to put out a flower bed in the street in front of the Flat Iron Building. In the fall they planted a bed of tulips in it. When they were gone they set out a bed of red geraniums. Another year they put out lovely red cannas which attracted the attention of many, especially those outside of

the city. In 1909 the women saw an open field for larger opportunities so they joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs. This gave the women a chance to branch out in different lines of work. The next spring it was suggested that they help to beautify the city by offering \$5 for a first prize and \$2 for a second prize in each ward for the best kept lawns and alleys. This was voted on and carried. No member of the club was allowed to compete for a prize. This was a success. The ladies also purchased flower seeds to give to one child in each family who wished to compete. Seventy-three children applied for seeds. The next year a motion was made and carried to erect a drinking fountain for man, horse, or dog. The next thing to do was to appoint a committee of three and present a petition to the city council. This was the proposition, that if the city would furnish the water the Woman's Civic Improvement Club would erect a fountain that would be a credit to the city. In the meantime, Charles E. Kniffen, Supt. of the Canning Co. of whom the city purchased the water, made them this offer; to furnish 10,000 gallons of water until May. This proposition was added to the petition that was presented to the city council. The city council voted un-animously in favor of the petition. Dr. B. F. Elfrink was mayor at the time the fountain was put up. The fountain committee was: Mrs. Samuel King, chairman, Mrs. Thomas Weatherwax, and Mrs. C. E. Kniffen. Bids and designs were received from different firms. The contract was finally awarded to John Merkle & Sons of Peoria, Ill. at a cost of \$400 including the plumbing and foundation. Several locations were suggested but Dr. Elfrink was in favor of having the fountain located in as public a place as possible. The ladies fountain committee agreed with him, but their chosen location was private ground. Dr. Elfrink was untiring in his efforts to secure this location. He himself raised one hundred dollars by popular subscription and the fountain was placed there. It was made of Pennsylvania Granite. The day the fountain was dedicated, Miss Martha Claudon, President of the Woman's Civic Improvement Club, gave a splendid address in giving the drinking fountain to the city of Chenoa. The mayor of the city, Dr. B. F. Elfrink, accepted the same in a fine address.

A few years after the fountain had been in use it did not work well and was useless. About that time a new law went into effect whereby public drinking cups were not allowed. One night when Mike Dillon was policeman someone knocked the fountain down breaking it to pieces. Some time later another modern drinking fountain was placed there, but in due time it would not work either. At the present time there is no fountain in the business district.

In 1913 the Woman's Civic Improvement Club helped start the Chenoa Public Free Library. Mrs. Maurice Monroe was very active in this project. She sponsored and trained for several local plays, besides conducting ice cream suppers and the gathering of old newspapers to sell.

This club existed until about the time of World War I when it died down and the women saw that more women were needed to help in war work. The Red Cross was making bandages and dressings for soldiers. They also put out yarn to be knit into sweaters and scarfs. Many of the women took up this kind of work and still carried on a good work doing for others.

WOMAN'S CLUB STATE FEDERATED

The Chenoa Woman's Club was organized in March of 1941 with twenty-four charter members. Mrs. Lynn C. Sieberns of Gridley, Illinois, President of the McLean County Federation of Woman's Clubs was present and presided at the meeting. The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. R. E. Mann; Vice-President, Mrs. Gilbert Pils; Secretary, Mrs. Wayne Downs; and treasurer, Mrs. Clark Jontry.

In the thirteen years of the Women's Clubs organization they have sponsored the Girl Scouts and at the present time have four active Girl Scout Troops.

During World War II they did sewing for the Red Cross, sent cookies to service men, and erected an Honor Roll recognizing our local boys in service. They also donated to the Greenhouse at Vaughan General Hospital and sent gifts to the Veterans Hospital at Dwight.

The club regularly contributes to the Red Cross Fund, Cancer Society, Polio Drives, and the Tuberculosis Association.

The Chenoa Woman's Club has also sent local students to the Egyptian Music Camp, and contributed to the Park Ridge School for Girls, the Trail Rangers of America, the Sister Kenny Fund, the National Federation of the Blind, Fund for band uniforms for the local High School Band, the Youth Center, the Community Chest, Dr. Kerr Memorial Building, the Nativity Scene, the Summer Recreation program, and more recently to the Centennial Fund.

They have also purchased chairs and tables for the city hall.

In 1948 some of the club members painted the meeting room at the Grade School which is now used as the Cafeteria.

In 1951 we gave the play "Take Your Medicine" which was well received and the following year we gave a "Minstrel Show" the proceeds of which were used to purchase drinking fountains for the City Park.

The following members have served as Presidents: Mrs. Richard E. Mann, Mrs. Gilbert Pils, Mrs. Fred Gittinger, Mrs. Raymond Elson, Mrs. Paul Clark, Mrs. H. D. Hartman, Mrs. Herbert Jacobs, Mrs. Merle Parry, Mrs. Verne Erdman, Mrs. Delmar Streid, Mrs. Jerome Schickedanz, Mrs. Hugo Reis, and Mrs. Robert Elder.

At the present time there are eighty-five active members.

ARTS AND TRAVEL CLUB

In the fall of 1906 a small group of young married women met at the home of Mrs. Edith Jordan and with the assistance of Mrs. Myrtle Ketcham organized a study club. They had worked together previously in various painting classes and were interested in the history of art. Their organization was very informal, with only six members and one officer. Mrs. Ketcham was president. There were no dues, and it was called The Art Club. For their study they bought individually, books and magazines about the Arts of various countries. Their programs were hand written. New members were added, and as time went on they decided to broaden their studies to include travel. From this small informal Art Club, the Arts and Travel Club was born. In the spring of 1908, at their first business meeting, dues were set at 50 cents, and it was decided that the club should have printed programs. The club was in its infancy and so progressed with caution. At the first meeting in the fall, Nov. 27th, held at the home of Mrs. Weatherwax, the first printed programs appeared, the cover of which bore the caption, "Arts and Travel Club, Chenoa, Illinois, 1908-1909, President—Mrs. Ketcham." The program for the year's study was given with the name of the hostess for each meeting which was held on Tuesday, bi-monthly. The membership was given as follows: Mrs. Blanche Ballinger, Mrs. Martha Claudon, Mrs. Anna Evans, Mrs. Stella Hiett, Mrs. Edith Jordan, Mrs. Myrtle Ketcham, Mrs. Gertrude Lackland, Mrs. Belle Shinn, Mrs. Lottie Silliman, Mrs. Jennie Thompson, Mrs. Edith Weatherwax. The first guest day was held at the Weatherwax home where a

turkey dinner was served at 6:30 p.m., the guests being the husbands of the club members. Five new members were elected in February, Miss Lillie Churchill, Miss Lena Churchill, Miss Clara Fisk, Mrs. Mina Churchill, and Mrs. Anna King. At the business meeting in late spring, two new officers were added to the club: a Vice-President, Mrs. Lottie Silliman; and a Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Lena Churchill. The membership list was limited to 25 members, and the Arts and Travel Club was off to a good start. In 1918-1919 there were no meetings, as the members spent their time doing Red Cross work during World War I. The club resumed meetings in late 1919 with 12 new members, and continued to prosper. In 1932 the wives of the ministers of Chenoa were made eligible for membership, no balloting being required. They were taken in as Honorary members, granted all privileges of the club except voting. The club is unique from the fact that no refreshments have ever been served at the regular meetings since its organization. In December, however, a Christmas party with a pot luck supper is enjoyed by the entire membership. The Annual Guest Day is the big event of the season, and is held at the closing of the year, (the second Tuesday in May,) and is looked forward to with much pleasure. The Club today is as active and vigorous as when it was first organized; has a full membership, and is in charge of the following officers: President, Mrs. Verne Erdman; Vice-President, Mrs. Joseph T. Bear; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Harold A. Esmond; Assistant sec.-treas., Mrs. Clarence K. Odom.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS OF AMERICA

Chenoa Camp No. 5889, Royal Neighbors of America, was organized July 21, 1909, with 20 charter members. They were Margaret Bauman, H. F. Ballard, Martha F. Bose, Kathryn Claudon, Frances Engle, Ellen Gladberry, Nettie King, Zoe King, Belle Klein, Winnie Lundquist, Edythe N. Liston, E. V. Rice, Elizabeth Steinbrenner, G. E. Stump, Lillian Stump, Mary Waldron, Delphia Whiteside, Ella Wiles, Fannie Wiles, and Elizabeth Zirkle.

Of these, two are still living and members of the camp, Mary Waldron and Zoe King Merrick.

Frances Engel, Margaret Bauman, Ollie Sheridan, Edna Sherrington, Teresa Jontry, Gladys Masso, Geraldine Kramer, Aldine Elliott, Violet Higgins and Thelma Boles have served as oracles of the camp.

The organization has always been very active, not only as good neighbors to the members and their families, but by contributing to till civic drives: the cancer fund, the Red Cross, the polio fund and others, and to the National Blood Bank.

The camp now has 124 members, 103 adult and 21 juvenile and officers are: Thelma Boles, oracle; Aldine Elliott, past oracle; Joyce Ringenberg, vice oracle; Sylvia Jordan, chancellor; Cecelia Missal, recorder; Mary Schopp, receiver; La Vica Sandham, marshal; Violet Higgins, assistant marshal; Rose Arnold, inner sentinel; Ruth Hicks, outer sentinel; Reba Masso, Anne Masso and Edna Sherrington, managers; Marilyn Kauffman, Faith; Teresa Jontry, Courage; Reba Masso, Unselfishness; Barbara Smith, Modesty; Winnie Myers, Endurance; Nancy Hiatt, flag bearer; and Vernice Dunham, musician.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 22, CORN BELT COUNCIL

Soon after the founding of the Boy Scouts of America in 1910, Mr. A. C. LeDuc became interested in the movement and organized Chenoa's first Boy

Scout troop. Although this troop was not registered with National Headquarters, Mr. LeDuc tried to follow Scout rules as closely as possible. His boys were around twelve years of age, as older boys at that time were needed for farm work. He often took a large group of boys to Jordan's timber northeast of town where they built a fire and cooked their meals. Here they often studied Scout laws and lore. After Mr. LeDuc retired from Scouting, Rev. George Davies took the troop. The only record until 1925 is the mention in several newspaper clippings of the Boy Scouts marching in parades and funeral processions.

The first Boy Scout troop from Chenoa to be registered with Corn Belt Council was led by Rev. H. W. Owen, assisted by Chas. Williams. This was in 1925. They met on Thursday at 7:00 p.m. at the Legion Hall. The troop committee consisted of A. D. Jordan, Chas. Roy Kerr, Sam Evans, and L. V. Daniels. The Scouts registered were: Leonard Bumgardner, Melvin Klein, Sylvan Yates, Russell Klein, Kenneth Mears, James Murdy, Gordon Lord, Lewis Chestnut, Richard Dorman, Robert Hostler, Lynn Nickel, Gilbert Brown, Gordon Brown, Stuart Howell, Howard Stockum, Merle Myers, Richard Myers, Dwight Bull, and Lyle Jontry.

From 1926 to 1929 the troop was led by Richard C. Myers. In 1930 Rev. Walter Ward became Scoutmaster, assisted by Mr. Twardock. In 1931 Robert Mitchell led the troop, in 1932 Rev. Kenneth Tyler, and in 1934 George B. Ferree took over, assisted by Gordon Lord. In 1935 Robert Streid became Scoutmaster.

John Whitmar tells of the trip nine of the local boys made in 1936, under the leadership of Gordon Lord. The trip was made in a rented bus driven by Mr. Lord and lasted for two weeks. Points of interest visited were the Wisconsin State Game Farm, and Fish Hatchery and a paper manufacturing plant. Camp was made on Lake Superior outside Ontonagon, Michigan. The nine boys were Junior Sherrington, Sidney Elliott, John Sherrington, John Whitmar, John Miller, Keith Phillips, Harold Morris, Donald Harris, and Philip Ward.

Each year since this time the Boy Scouts have camped at Camp Heffernan on Lake Bloomington for several weeks during the summer.

In 1937 Mark Churchill led the local troupe and in 1938 W. C. Wilder became Scoutmaster. In 1939 George Ferree again took over and remained until 1941 when William Arnold became Scoutmaster, assisted by Kenneth Jordan. During this period the Scouts were sponsored by Ben Roth Post No. 234 American Legion. In 1942 Gilbert Pils, assisted by Rev. Chas. Coleman led the troop and in 1943 Dr. Paul Clark became Scoutmaster. From 1944 to 1946 Merle Parry led the troop, which was then sponsored by the Chenoa Community Fair Association. They met on Monday at 7:30 at the grade school. In 1947 the troop disbanded and was re-organized in 1948 by Clyde Thomas, only to disband a year later. In 1951 Mr. Wallace Helling organized a troop, but it, too, lasted only a year and since that time there have been only Cub Scout activities in Chenoa.

Some mention should be made of the three boys from troop No. 22 who have become Eagle Scouts, They are Stanley Balbach, who received the Eagle Scout achievement in the spring of 1938 from the Arrowhead Council as a Lone Scout, Ronald Stadick and Richard Ferree, who received their Eagle awards in 1947 from Corn Belt Council.

A HISTORY OF CUB SCOUTING IN CHENOA

In 1933 it was felt that the time had come for promoting Cub Scouting generally, as a part of the Boy Scout program throughout the United States.

Mr. William Wessel was appointed the first Director of Cub Scouting in 1935.

Cub Scouting is "home and neighborhood—centered" and is built around "between-meeting" time activities. Cub Scouting has drawn upon the lore and lure of the American Indian for program background. The ages are 8, 9, and 10 year olds.

A charter was drawn up February 28, 1951, for a new Pack of Cub Scouts in Chenoa, Illinois. The Pack was called Pack 22 and belonged in the "Chief Pontiac" District and to the Corn Belt Council.

The P.T.A. of Chenoa Unit District 9 was the sponsoring institution. Pack 22 met monthly at the Chenoa Grade School.

The first officers were as follows: committee chairman, Euce Powell; membership, Elmer Harms, Gaillard Wagner, Ralph Wagner, Robert Streid; cub master, Ray Lenhardt; assistant, Paul Elliott.

For the first year of 1951-52 there were three dens and later another den was started. The den mothers were: Mesdames Walter Bumgardner, George Heuer, Ed. Aschenbrenner (assistant), Paul Clark, and Ronald Hastings.

The 29 charter Cub Scouts were: Keith Achenbrenner, Russell Bonn, Walter Bumgardner, Ronnie Burracker, Larry Clark, Gerald Christensen, Pat Cleary, Dick Dorman, Jay Downs, Richard Dunaway, Vernon Schiflett, Larry Smith, Ronnie Elliott, Roger Heuer, Ronnie Heuer, Mike Hoover, Jim Hunter, Jack Kauffman, David Landrus, Dick Lavallier, Bill Scott, Harold Sullivan, Mike Wagner, Pat Wilson, Gilbert Landrus, Charles Landrus, Delbert Ross, Jackie Skaggs, Gary Wyman.

The Weston Den was organized and came into the Pack in 1952-53. Mrs. James Kelleher was the Den Mother. Other Den Mothers for 1952-53 were Mrs. George Bumgardner, Mrs. George Heuer, and Mrs. Ted Dorman. The Den Mothers for this year (1953-54) are Mrs. Fred Robinson, Mrs. Heuer, assistant, Mrs. Robert Walker, and Mrs. Deen, Mrs. Kelleher, assistant.

The officers of the past year were as follows: committee chairman, Marvin Wahls; membership, Hugo Reis, Elmer Harms, Ralph Wagner, John Streid; Cub master, Warren Seibert; assistant, Delmar McIntyre.

The following Cub Scouts earned their Lion Badge for this year, 1953-54: Stephen Kelleher, Ronnie Elliott, Billy Scott, Rickie Robinson, Mike Wagner, Doug Mayes, Lindy Harms.

GIRL SCOUTS

The purpose of Girl Scouting is to help girls realize the ideals of womanhood as preparation for their responsibilities in the home and as active citizens in the community and the world.

Chenoa realized this need for their girls in 1923 when the first Girl Scout troop was established. At that time they were registered in New York as a Lone Troop, not affiliated with a council. Mrs. Helen Jennings organized this troop with Viola Vaughan and Helen Fifield as leaders.

The charter members were Constance Elliott, Lillian Evans, Mary Weatherwax, Valma Hinshaw, Ortha Sandham, and Pearl Busby. This troop was soon enlarged and became very active. They even enjoyed camping in the Humiston Timber on the Vermilion River near Cornell.

Troop Number I continued with changing of girls until 1941, when the Chenoa Woman's Club was organized. This worth-while organization took on their spon-

sorship. They appointed Viola Vaughan as chairman, who had been active in Girl Scouting since it originated. In March, 1942, there was seen a need for another troop to take care of the younger girls who were becoming interested. This younger troop was organized and Mrs. Ted Fessler was in charge of these 19 girls.

These two troops, I and II, continued on doing their worthwhile things and passing badges to broaden their interest in many fields. In 1945 a Brownie group was organized which prepared girls to be Girl Scouts and also to help them to enjoy group activity. By 1950 the second Brownie troop was organized and there were 64 Girl Scouts and Brownies registered from Chenoa that year.

Seventy girls were proud members of scouting in 1951, being divided into four groups, 1 Senior Scouts, 1 Intermediate Scouts, and 2 Brownie troops.

The girls at this time were also enjoying camping at Lake Bloomington. They had their annual cookie sales, which profits were used to help maintain this camp. They had many money-earning projects (many sponsored by business men.) All in all, they had really been doing their share in helping their town grow.

By this time many of the girls who were among the first members of scouting had grown up and had gone on to other communities to carry with them some of the ideas they had learned from scouting. Others had stayed on in Chenoa doing their part to further scouting here. Many moved into Chenoa with ideas of scouting they had gotten from other communities.

From 1923 to 1952 Chenoa Girl Scouts had been registering through New York as Lone Scouts. Finally, in the fall of 1952 Bloomington-Normal Girl Scout Council enlarged their area, thus taking Chenoa under their jurisdiction. That fall we had 23 Girl Scouts and 34 Brownies.

Registration for 1954 was 58; two Brownie troops and two Intermediate troops. Even though Girl Scouts of Chenoa are under Bloomington-Normal they are still sponsored by the Woman's Club of Chenoa, which each year has had a chairman and committee for them to depend on for any of their needs.

You see Girl Scouts and Brownies every day—do what you can for them and they will do what they can for you.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

In 1917, Mrs. Lyle Bennion (now of Streator) was largely responsible for the organization of a Parent-Teacher Association in the Chenoa schools and served as president the first two years. Other early officers were Mrs. R. E. Ballinger, Mrs. H. W. Jontry, Mrs. Earl Cunningham (now of Peoria), and Mrs. Ray Morris.

Among the many projects undertaken were the purchase of much playground equipment, supplying milk for the grade school children, and supervising parties and dances for the teenagers. Mrs. Bennion gave the organization its first flag. After many years of faithful service, the community lost interest and the organization was discontinued.

The present Chenoa High School and Grade School Parent-Teacher Association was organized in 1948, John Jontry being the first president. The present officers are: president, Rev. Lotus Troyer; vice-president, Harold Finefield; secretary, Mrs. Harold Ferguson; treasurer, Mrs. Harold Reiners.

With the guidance of good leaders, interested parents, teachers, and able committees, this organization has developed many worthwhile projects. A nutrition program has received much study.

Monthly meetings enable the parents to know their children's teachers, as well as teachers to maintain a much closer contact with their pupils and parents. Following each business session is a program of interest, a speaker, music, social hour, and refreshments. In accordance with the state charter, aims of the organization are to carry to constructive work for better parenthood, homes, schools, and communities, and to co-operate with the principal and teachers in promoting the best interests of the schools and community.

Finances to assist the organization are obtained by suppers, bake sales, rummage sales, and home talent plays.

TUESDAY BRIDGE CLUB

The Tuesday Bridge Club is probably one of the oldest clubs in Chenoa, having been organized in November, 1921, at the home of Mrs. Sol Kaplan.

The twelve charter members were: Mesdames Herman Foltz, Arthur D. Jordan, V. L. Nickel, Norval Chambers, Sol Kaplan, Lohr, Standly, F. H. Burt, Earl Cunningham, (Peoria, Illinois,) and Misses Bess Hancock, Irene Schuirman, and Lillian Nickel.

The meetings have been held the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the homes of the members with the exception of a few years when the club met for a one o'clock luncheon at the Pike Hotel, then under the proprietorship of Mrs. Wm. Boose (Marie Dahl).

In the 33 years of the club's existence, with the membership changing from year to year, there has been only one death, Miss Beatrice Streid having passed away in July, 1936.

The present members are: Mesdames Henry Masso, W. R. Winter, Louis Claudon, Myrtle Ketcham, C. W. Parry, Earl Cunningham, and Misses Lillian Nickel and Emma Schuirman.

HISTORY OF TAU DELTA BRIDGE CLUB

The Tau Delta Bridge Club was organized in January, 1940. The following were charter members: Mesdames T. V. Dorman, R. E. Mann, Ray Elson, Gilbert Pils, Clarke Jontry, Arthur Easton, Fred Gittinger, Wayne Downs, H. D. Hartman, Fred Bryan, Linden Currin, and Robert Keene.

All of the above are still members with the exception of Mrs. Arthur Easton, Mrs. Fred Bryan, Mrs. Linden Currin, and Mrs. Robert Keene. The present membership also includes Mrs. Donald Schopp, Mrs. Glen Kauth, Mrs. Herbert Jacobs, Mrs. Robert Walker, and Mrs. Paul Elliott.

CON BRIO CLUB

The Con-Brio Bridge Club was organized in October, 1950, at the home of Mrs. Richard Heflick. The original members were Billie Heflick, Lila Wagner, Buannah Clark, Violet Schopp, Jan Scoggin, LaVerne Shafer, Carolyn Parry, Marilyn Streid, Ethel Gray, Ellen Schultz, and Helen Vercler.

The name "Con-Brio" was chosen at a meeting in October, 1953, at The Heritage House in Pontiac. The club now has thirteen members: Helen Vercler, Marilyn Streid, LaVerne Shafer, Carolyn Parry, Ruth Finefield, Jeannette Brown, Marna Swanson, Vera Mae Wilson, Joyce Wilson, Johnnie King, Libby Wahls, Doris Lenhardt, and Maureen Gray.

THE LAFALOT CLUB

The Lafalot Club came into existence in 1928 when four neighbor ladies met each Monday evening for a friendly game of bridge. These four ladies were Mrs. F. M. Power, Mrs. J. L. Missal, Miss Nellie Fitzpatrick, and Miss Josephine Hartnett. Death in the home of Miss Hartnett in 1931 caused her removal to Chicago to live and the foursome was broken. Other members were then added to form two tables. This group now meets the first and third Mondays of each month. Members at present are Mrs. Lewis Schopp, Mrs. Cecile Higgins, Mrs. Alvyn Schopp, Mrs. Walter Jontry, Mrs. Jos. Higgins, Mrs. Henry Masso, Mrs. Bert Rathbun, Mrs. J. L. Missal, and Miss Nellie Fitzpatrick, the latter two being the only two charter members of the group.

THE PINOCHLE CLUB

The Pinochle Club was organized in 1939. Two times a month this group meets for dinner at the homes of the various members followed by playing pinochle. Special emphasis is given to Halloween, Christmas and New Year's parties as well as other special events. The members who comprise this club at present are Mr. and Mrs. Louis Claudon, Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Masso, Mr. and Mrs. Alvyn Schopp, Mr. and Mrs. John Missal, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Schopp, and Miss Nellie Fitzpatrick.

CHENOA SHIPPING ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Chenoa branch of the McLean County Farm Bureau was called March 26, 1929, in the Methodist Church with O. D. Center as chairman and M. B. Corliss as acting secretary. A Chenoa Shipping Association was organized, naming the following officers: president, Ernest E. Cox; vice-president, A. H. Chapman; secretary and treasurer, D. M. Stutzman. The following were named as directors for the following term of years: D. M. Stutzman and Albert Chapman, three years; Henry Harms and Ernest Cox, two years; and Ed Nagel, one year. A. C. Le Duc was named manager.

The association not only shipped livestock, but also handled coal, limestone, and phosphate. J. E. Elson became manager of the association in 1921.

In the year 1925 they shipped 39 carloads of livestock, comprising 284 head of cattle, 1947 head of hogs, and 145 head of sheep.

CHENOA DETECTIVE ASSOCIATION

When the Chenoa Detective Association organized on October 15, 1926, they met in the high school gym on the southeast corner of Weir and Owsley streets. They met once a month. Their first officers were: president, John Heins; vice-president, Joe Elson; secretary, Lester Miller.

Charter members were as follows: Joseph Elson, J. C. Heins, Remmert Heins, Edward Nagel, Rosel Spaid, D. F. Erhardt, Jacob Engel, John Engel, Raymond Jacobs, Ernest E. Cox, Lester Miller, Alvin Rhoda, Elmo Elson, E. C. Chapman, Ora Spaid, Elza Pick, D. M. Guthrie, Allen Schopp, J. P. Pils, Alvin Schopp, William Erdman, John Vaughan, Frank Klein, Jess A. King, Louis Chapman, A. H. Chapman, Allen Volland, Lester Jackson, Theodore Jacobs, Claus Mehrkens, Edward J. Wahls, William Ackerman, George Brown, and others.

HORSE THIEVES

In bygone days horse thieves were a plague to the early settlers. They seemed to have secret agents lurking around. So societies for protection were organized against thieves of horses. At first each member paid a one dollar to five dollar fee. It was also a plan to insure members against the stealing of horses. If a member's horse was stolen and not found, the unfortunate member was paid out of the company's funds.

Word was wired to Chenoa Saturday, August 28, 1909, that a man with a stolen horse was headed this way from Pontiac. Dr. B. F. Elfrink and Constable John Power started out and at the interurban grading camp they found a fellow who answered the description of the man. They arrested him and brought him to Chenoa. They locked him up in the city jail. The sheriff's office was notified at Pontiac and the deputy sheriff came down in an auto and took the fellow to that city. The young man had stolen a horse near Streator and ran it down on the road near Pontiac, where he left the first horse and took another one, which was a splendid animal. At Pontiac he drove into a telephone pole and broke the buggy, then borrowed a saddle and rode the horse on toward Chenoa. He was picked up by Dr. Elfrink and Mr. Power. He said his name was Frank Smith and that he lived in Pontiac. He was 22 years old.

CHENOA GIRLS 4-H—1927-1954

Girls 4-H club work was organized in Chenoa in 1927. The leaders were Dorothy Jordon and Irma Harms, both teachers. The name of the club was Four Leaf Clovers and there were ten members. This year Chenoa will have had Girls 4-H club work for 27 years. 4-H club work is celebrating its 40th birthday in the nation this year, but girls' club work was not organized that early in McLean County. There have been 559 girls 4-H club members in Chenoa since 1927. The largest club had 40 members in 1949, while the smallest had five in 1942. Average membership has been 15 to 20 members. Up to 1946 the clubs were known as: Four Leaf Clovers, Chenoa Cozy Corner Club, Chenoa Needlecraft Club, and Huppy Clubbers. Now the name of the club is simply Chenoa Girls 4-H.

The following people in chronological order have served as leaders: Charlotte Murray, Fern Darling, Mrs. Aldine Elliott, Miss Shuck, Mrs. Wilson, Miss Viola Vaughan, Josephine Jontry, Edith Elson, Geraldine Kramer, Helen Tobin, Miss Mary Cox, Miss Alice Jackson, Miss Imogene Schopp, Miss Belle Kreider, Mrs. Robert Vaughan Jr., Mrs. Frank Ackerman, Mrs. Doren Spaid, Mrs. John Spencer, Mrs. Charles Voland, Mrs. Elmo Gundy, Mrs. Alvin Rhoda, Mrs. Walter Jontry, Mrs. Harry Rosenberger, Mrs. Francis Vercler, Mrs. Gerald Schopp, Mrs. Marvin Wahls, Mrs. William Ray, and Mrs. Virgil Morris. Miss Viola Vaughan was leader for seven years starting in 1931-1938 and again in 1946, the longest time any leader has served. Mrs. Virgil Morris is next with six years, 1949 through 1954. All these leaders have given their time to help Chenoa girls gain the full meaning of 4-H, following the 4-H motto "To Make the Best Better."

In recent years the 4-H girls have been very happy with their rewards at County Fair time, among other things being the fact that we have had County foods demonstration winners who have gone to the State Fair for four successive years. We are especially proud that we were named 4-H Club of the Year in McLean County for our 1953 club work. McLean County ranks second in the state in girls 4-H club membership with 735 members in 1953, so we are justly proud of the gavel which we received as our award for being McLean County's "Club of the Year."

TRI-CITY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

(Chenoa, Gridley and Meadows)

Some time in 1947 the ministers of Chenoa were organized into an association, which was named the Chenoa Ministerial Association. Later, in 1953, the organization was extended to include the ministers of Gridley and Meadows, and the name was changed to the Tri-City Ministerial Association.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the various churches of the Association at 9:30 a.m., when matters of vital interest of the several communities and churches are freely discussed.

The officers of the Tri-City Ministerial Association for 1954-1955 are as follows: president, Rev. Earl H. King, pastor of the Chenoa Baptist Church; and Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Elwin T. Palmer, pastor of the Chenoa Methodist Church.

CHENOA'S ROTARY CLUB

The Fairbury Rotary Club sponsored the organization of the Chenoa Rotary Club. It was organized on Charter Night, which was February 20, 1950.

The charter members were as follows: Sol Kaplan, Hugh B. Harrison, Ralph Wagner, John Metzler, Wm. Hawthorne, Ralph Snyder, W. R. Winter, James Harrison, Wilbur Noe, Wesley Tronc, Ray Morris, Richard E. Mann, Merle Parry, J. L. Changnon, H. J. Seybold, Martin Myer, Harold Esmond, Rev. James Tucker, Virgil Stewart, Chris Yoder, Gilbert Pils, Clyde Boles, Elmer Harms, Fred Cooper, and Dr. H. Rogers.

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular to encourage and foster the following:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity of service.
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal business and community life.
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.

The officers for 1953 and 1954 are as follows: president, Gilbert Pils; vice-president, Orville Asper; secretary, Ray Lenhardt, treasurer, Paul Hallbeck.

THE FOOTLIGHT GUILD

On February 17, 1951, the Chenoa Woman's Club sponsored a home-talent play entitled "Take Your Medicine." The cast included Clarke Jontry, Ray Lenhardt, Elsie Mann, Doris Lenhardt, Dorothy Streid, Merle Parry, Evelyn Reis, Evelyn Gundy, Ruth Elder, Daryl Wilson, Dorothy Odom, Shirley Dorman, and Gilbert Pils. This cast, their husbands and wives, became the original members of the Footlight Guild which was organized in May, 1951, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Streid. The first officers were: Clarke Jontry, president; Ray Lenhardt, vice-president; Gilbert Pils, secretary-treasurer; Evelyn Reis, reporter. The purpose of the Guild is to present one play each year for a community bene-

fit. Mrs. Martha Stutzman is director. Open tryouts are held and anyone appearing in a play is eligible, with his husband or wife, for membership in the Guild.

On October 11 and 13, 1951, "Babies Night Out" was presented for the Chenoa Fire Department.

On December 9 of that year the Guild members enjoyed a presentation of "The Moon Is Blue" at the Harris Theater in Chicago.

Officers for 1952-53 were: Ray Lenhardt, president; Gilbert Pils, vice-president; Dessie Jontry, secretary-treasurer; Carolyn Parry, reporter.

"Finder's Creepers" was the play chosen for the benefit of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Choir, presented October 16-18, 1952.

The Fire Department again sponsored the play in 1953, which was entitled "Desperate Ambrose," presented on February 19 and 21.

The plays at Chenoa are presented on the stage of Chenoa High School. "Take Your Medicine" and "Babies Night Out" were also presented for the benefit of the Gridley Home Bureau on the stage of the Gridley High School. "Take Your Medicine," which was a comedy concerning hospital life, was also shown at the Veterans' Hospital in Dwight for the patients there.

On April 30, 1953, members of the Guild enjoyed a presentation of "Mrs. McThing," starring Helen Hayes, at the Erlanger Theater in Chicago.

Officers for 1953-54 are: Gilbert Pils, president; Lyle King, vice-president; Marilyn Kauffman, secretary-treasurer; and Libby Wahls, reporter.

The Guild is also responsible for writing and presenting the pageant in connection with the Chenoa Centennial.

CHENOA BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION

On June 3, 1952, a meeting was called of Chenoa business men to organize an association to advance the civic and commercial betterment of the City of Chenoa and community, by promoting industrial interests and extending the wholesale and retail trade, and to be known as the Chenoa Business Men's Association. The first officers elected were: Theodore Fessler, president; Albert Stoller, vice-president; Virgil Morris, secretary; Kenneth D. Jordan, treasurer. The second year officers for 1953 were: Albert Stoller, president; Robert N. Shafer, vice-president; David H. Stewart, secretary; Theodore Fessler, treasurer.

On January 17, 1953, the organization incorporated under the nonprofit corporation law of the State of Illinois, and elected directors as follows: Clyde Boles, Robert N. Shafer, Albert Stoller, Theodore Fessler, Chris Yoder, Harry E. Barth, David H. Stewart, Clarence T. Hoselton, Kenneth D. Jordan.

The third year officers for 1954 are: Chris Yoder, president; Wallace F. Lange, vice-president; Kenneth D. Jordan, secretary; Theodore V. Dorman, treasurer. The new directors elected for a three-year term in 1954 are: Wallace F. Lange, Wilbur Noe, Theodore V. Dorman.

THE MEADOWS MENNONITE HOME

The Mennonite Old Peoples Home was organized May 26, 1919, by the following: S. E. Baughman, D. N. Claudon, Joseph Rich, Dan Augustin, and Moses Roth. A location was purchased in the central part of the village of Meadows with 13

acres of land, a house and barn, for the sum of ten thousand dollars. In the spring of 1922 the building of the Home was begun. The plan of the building called for an administration building, the first floor to be used for the office and reception room, with an annex to the rear for the dining room and kitchen. The second floor was to be used for the living apartments of the superintendent and matron. There was to be a one story wing on both the east and west side to be connected with the administration building with a corridor. At that time only the administration building with the annex and the east wing was built. This building was planned to accommodate besides the superintendent and family about twenty persons. All the rooms have been occupied since the erection of this part of the building.

The Old Peoples Home was dedicated on Sunday, May 20, 1923. There were about two thousand people present. Mr. and Mrs. John Klassen were chosen as superintendent and matron. They continued their services until January 1, 1925, when the Rev. G. I. Gundy took charge of the work. In March, 1947, it became necessary for the Rev. Mr. Gundy to give up the work of the Home for his health's sake. Both Rev. and Mrs. Gundy did a valuable piece of work at the Home. Under their ministry the Home was freed from debt and set on its feet preparatory to expansion of the work.

January 10, 1947, the board of directors gave a call to Frank R. Mitchell, who was the pastor of Bethel Mennonite Church at Pekin, Illinois. The call was accepted and March 1st the Mitchells took charge of the Home as superintendent and matron. A year or so later the Home acquired a building across the road from the Home known as the Naylor property and this became the residence of the superintendent and his family.

April 1, 1951, the erection of the west wing was begun. The new structure was completed and dedicated June 15, 1952. A separate building for a new heating plant was also built at this time. At present there are 28 residents in the Home. The capacity at this time is 31, with room for a further expansion of eight, bringing the total capacity upon the finishing of rooms on a ground floor level to 40. On February 7, 1953, at the annual meeting of the delegates of the Home, the official name of the corporation was changed from Mennonite Old Peoples Home to the new name "Meadows Mennonite Home," which broadens the base of the service of the Home.

The Home has now been operating for more than 30 years. The institution has cared for 102 people, of whom 50 per cent have been non-Mennonite. The Home is a nonprofit organization and aims to be of service to the community.

THE SCOTT COTTAGE

The cottage to which Matthew T. Scott brought his bride in 1859 still stands at 227 First Avenue.

Upon the death of Dr. Green, Mrs. Green and their younger daughter Letitia joined the little circle at Chenoa, where Mr. Scott enlarged the modest cottage into a residence of quite spacious dimensions.

Frequent visitors in the Scott home were two young lawyers from Metamora, Illinois — Adlai Stevenson, later Vice-President of the United States with Grover Cleveland; and his cousin, James S. Ewing, United States Minister to Belgium 1894-97. Both these young men as students at Center College had been entertained at the President's home in Danville, Kentucky, and the early acquaintance between young Adlai Stevenson and Letitia Green soon ripened into a romance. Their mar-



THE SCOTT HOME

The back part of the house (not seen in this picture) was the part existing in the years described here. The front part of the house was added later.

riage in the Scott home on December 20, 1866, was a breath-taking social event in Chenoa. Caterers from St. Louis served the elaborate wedding banquet and many of the house guests remained from three to six weeks.

Another romance fostered in this house was that of James S. Ewing and Katherine Spencer, whose marriage in Bloomington was the happy outcome of their joint visits to Chenoa.

The new Stevenson home was in Metamora, but the young couple returned to Chenoa for frequent visits. Their first child, Lewis Green Stevenson, father of Adlai Stevenson II, Democratic nominee for President in 1952, was born in the Scott home.

About 1870, owing to Mrs. Scott's ill health, Mr. and Mrs. Scott moved to Springfield, and the Chenoa home was sold to Green Miller, later becoming successively the home of Dr. C. S. Elder and the Isaac Sweets, their son Will and daughter Cora Patton, until they moved to Idaho.

In 1913 the James Millers purchased the house and in 1924 it was bought by Mrs. Carl Vrooman, daughter of Mrs. Matthew T. Scott, and christened "Keepsake." For a number of years it was the home of the Hiram Vrooman family, and is now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hester.

PHILOSOPHER, REV. HIRAM VROOMAN

Rev. Hiram Vrooman brought his family to Chenoa to live in the old Matthew T. Scott home, Keepsake, the summer of 1924. His four children — Alice, Julia,

Scott, and Egmont—graduated from our high school. Chenoa was considered home, always his voting place. His headquarters were here during the farming years while managing the Vrooman Farms, owned by his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman. He spent some time in Chicago, where he was in attendance at the Swedenborgian house while he was president of Swedenborg Philosophical Society. He wrote many books dealing with Swedenborg and his philosophy of religious thought and was very persuasive on that subject over WMAQ 1931-1935.

Rev. Mr. Vrooman passed away February 24, 1954, at the age of 82.

SAM HENRY HOUSE

The Sam Henry house at 203 Owsley street was built in 1857 and it still standing in good condition. It is a square old fashioned house with high ceilings and windows in front which reach nearly to the floor. Mr. Henry was a carpenter and built it himself. He had a great ambition to fly. In his shop in the backyard he built a flying machine for himself. When it was completed he decided to go up on the Fourth of July. The story of his flight will be found under airplanes in this book. Most every home in town had a board fence around it to keep stray cattle or horses from trespassing. Mr. Henry's was a picket fence. According to Mr. Frank Power, the present owner, there was a palm fence built around the yard later to replace the picket fence. These palms were used on Palm Sunday at the Catholic Church. There was no street sidewalk in front of the house for many years, according to old pictures shown. Capt. John Hickey purchased it later and lived there a long time. Today there is an iron plate on the front door which reads "John Hickey." Finally, Frank Power purchased this fine old home and has made it into apartments.

ISLAND HOUSES

The Island houses were so named because they were often completely surrounded by water. In the early days of Chenoa our city park was a pond, having water in it most of the year. It was bounded by Second Avenue on the east, Division street on the west, and Owsley street on the north. Since the pond has been tiled out, water stands there only after heavy rains. Many trees were set out there and now it is a playground for schoolchildren or a picnic ground for tourists in summer. Years before it was drained, two or more houses stood on the northwest corner of it. These houses were built up on stilts high enough so the water never came into the houses. They were queer looking homes approached by a high wooden sidewalk with banisters on either side. One house was a story and half house occupied by a family by the name of Spangler with their numerous offspring. They lived there for some years. Mr. Spangler was quite a trader. The occupants of the other houses are unknown. It is said that a cyclone blew them down.

On July 9, 1951, a cloudburst fell on Chenoa. That night eight inches of water fell and the city park was again a good-sized pond. Children came the next morning with their swimming suits prepared to swim until the city officials ordered them out of the water. See elsewhere in this book about this heavy rain.

DOCTORS AND DENTISTS

By 1857 Dr. Stevenson had come to this community, built a drug store back of the Bush house, which we think is the one located at 222 West Owsley, or somewhere near. The alley back of Owsley street used to be a street running straight through town. H. W. McMahan read medicine under Dr. Stevenson and became his partner in practice.

Great physical endurance as well as education was a requisite for pioneer doctors. Miss Inez Thomas tells of hearing her father, Dr. James H. Thomas, tell about being called out on a cold winter night with snow blowing. His horse wandered off the trail, and they were lost until near dawn, when Dr. Thomas located landmarks. Upon arrival at his patient's home he had to treat his own frozen hands and feet before treating his patient. The Thomases came here in 1866. Dr. Constance Abbott and they were very dear friends. Dr. Abbott built his home at 303 South Fifth Avenue, and Dr. Thomas at 316 on the same street.

Dr. C. S. Elder graduated from Rush Medical College, Chicago, in 1863 and came to Chenoa that year. He raised his family in the Scott house at 227 First Ave.

We find certain other names briefly mentioned as doctors — W. E. Banta 1864, a Dr. Lamper, a Dr. Bostock, and a Dr. Fuller in 1867. But one man who receives brief mention was Dr. Leslie H. E. Keeley, who had an office in the Sam Henry home. He was the Dr. Keeley of Keeley Institute fame, Dwight, Illinois.

Dr. G. V. Ewing graduated from the Cleveland Medical College, Cleveland, Ohio, and came to Chenoa in 1869. A daughter became the wife of Oscar Jackson.

Dr. E. P. G. Holderness first studied medicine under his father, graduated from the Missouri Medical College, St. Louis, Mo., in 1861, and came to Chenoa in 1876. It was his custom to spend a few weeks each year either at nearby lectures or going east for post-graduate work in New York City to keep himself in touch with the latest in medicine.

Dr. W. R. Shinn was another student who kept abreast in his profession. A graduate of Rush Medical College in 1878, he took courses in the Illinois Eye and Ear Infirmary, went to New York City for such a course there in a post-graduate school. He came to Chenoa in 1888, practiced here until going to Albany, Oregon, about 45 years ago to establish a practice there, later moving to Salem, and finally to Portland. Deceased December, 1927.

Dr. G. F. Turner, here in 1901, is remembered for his great desire for a hospital because he saw so many bad accidents which needed immediate service. Dr. H. F. Ballard, a graduate of Rush Medical College in 1882, practiced in this community for thirty years. He is remembered for his success in treating children, came here in '82. Two other doctors of near that time were Dr. J. A. Anthony and Dr. J. A. Monroe, who are said to have been very good doctors but became very eccentric later in life.

Dr. B. F. Elfrink graduated from Rush Medical College as an honor student in his class of 1902. While in college he was on night duty for Hull House, interned at the Cook County Hospital, came to Chenoa in the fall of 1902, passed away in March, 1935. One would think pioneer happenings were gone by that time, but no, "Never," as mail carriers can tell you. Dr. Elfrink was caught in a flood at a bridge near the Jordan timber. He hoisted his feet up around the neck of the horse he was riding and got across, but had to wait for the water to go down before returning home. Those were strenuous times, dragging through mud, water, cold, and heat, but not too much better now with the hurry and bustle of

cars that take their toll on the nerves. Not weather, but fire was the enemy in a doctor's life. Many lost all their office equipment and libraries, not once, some even three times, while in practice here.

Dr. Fred M. Bryan took his internship at the Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, Iowa, and graduated from the Northwestern Medical College in 1932, coming to Chenoa in December of that year. He was in the armed forces, spending two years overseas, and was discharged with the rank of Major. He retired in the spring of 1953 for a rest before starting further desired study.

Drs. Sonnenshein and Shield were here while Dr. Bryan was in the army. One of the Dr. Scotts of Lexington practiced here for several months in 1941-'42.

Dr. Arthur Samuel took over Dr. Bryan's office in May, 1953, coming here from the Kankakee State Hospital. He is a graduate of the Friedrich Wilhelm, University of Berlin, Germany, where he afterward taught. He practiced in Berlin, but left there because of the Hitler regime, going by way of Italy and China, where he practiced for a time, arriving in the United States in 1947. Interned at Walther Memorial Hospital and passed his state examination to practice medicine in 1948.

Lt. Col. Lewis D. Churchill, son of Mr. and Mrs. Churchill, practiced dentistry in Aurora, served in the army during World War II, is now at San Antonio, Texas, studying, expects to go to Camp Stoneman, California, soon, and will then be assigned to the Far East Command. He expects to serve in the Dental Corps in Japan.

Dr. W. G. DuFour graduated in 1899 from the Northwestern Medical College, Chicago, interned at the Deaconess Hospital, Peoria, and in 1909 came to Chenoa where he practiced until 1916, when he moved to Batavia so that the family would be nearer to Chicago where they have better musical opportunity.

Dr. E. V. Rice was graduated from the Medical College of the Kentucky School of Medicine, Louisville. He practiced in Chenoa for sixteen years, beginning in 1905, retiring after that time because of a loss of vision.

Dr. Paul Clark, a graduate of the Kirksville School of Osteopathy, Missouri, came to Chenoa in 1942, practiced here 'til 1948, when he went to Colorado because of health reasons.

Dr. Rogers came in his stead and practiced here until he was drafted into the army late in 1950.

Dr. Paul Clark returned to Chenoa the fall of 1949 and resumed his practice in 1950. He was joined by his brother, Robert, in February, 1952. Later Dr. Paul Clark established a practice in St. Louis and was joined by Dr. "Bob" the fall of 1953, where they operate the Clark Brothers Clinic.

Chenoa young people, some graduates of the local high, some not, have gone away to study medicine, dentistry, or some phase of these studies.

W. Dexter Fales, class of 1885, worked in the United States Treasury Department while he studied medicine. He never practiced except as he assisted his wife, who was a physician.

F. C. Bawden, class of 1894, practiced medicine in Pontiac until his recent death.

W. B. Fisk worked his way through the Medical School of the University of Chicago, served a two-year internship at St. Luke's Hospital, became head physician and surgeon for the McCormick Reaper Company, later known as the International Harvester Company, also chief of the Medical Staff at St. Luke's.

He resigned both positions in 1936 or '37. He was head of St. Luke's Hospital overseas unit World War I. Deceased, 1942.

Ray Watkins, son of Mrs. W. R. Shinn, worked his way through Harvey College in Chicago and became a prominent physician in Portland, Oregon. He studied medicine at the University of Illinois and at Harvard and was admitted to the practice of medicine in Oregon in 1911, became a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics, later was made the head of the department of those sciences at the University of Oregon.

Clarence Fortier, class of 1913, became an Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist, practiced in Mendota and Kewanee, Illinois. Deceased. He had a brother, John, who was a dentist in Chicago. Deceased.

Edward Churchill, class of 1912, a graduate of the Harvard Medical School, is a famed surgeon in thoracic surgery.

Of special fame are the Dodge brothers: Walter, class of 1883, became a pharmacist, invented Tiz, a foot remedy. Fred, class of 1885, became a dentist, practiced for the Royal House of Austria.

George Jewell, class of 1893, was a practicing dentist in Lafayette, Ind., for many years. Deceased.

George Balbach, class of 1919, has a dental office in Waukegan.

The Clark brothers, John, Will and Matthew, practiced dentistry in Rantoul, Ill., and Omaha, Nebr. Matthew, who taught the Hancock school, resides at Rantoul. John and Will, deceased.

In times past, beginning dentistry was taught in actual practice with an outstanding professional dentist, then a year of study in a dental college fitted them for practice. Dr. J. M. Gallehugh conducted such a school. Selected from a list of his students (from Chenoa were H. R. Silliman, John D. Twomey, Ross Brady, George K. Bess, Fred Baker, Delbert M. Muzzy, Andrew Baecher, Fred E. Ehrhardt, Calvin N. Finley, and Wilber E. Stevens of Weston.

Other early dentists were A. E. Morey, also J. A. Carpenter in 1867. In the early 1900's there were three well trained dentists here: J. M. Gallhugh, L. A. Knapp and E. D. Geiger, who had his office with Dr. Holderness. He sold out to Dr. Knapp and went to Canton where he still has a practice. Near the 1920's Dr. Knapp sold out to Dr. Leo B. Daniels who passed away in 1938. J. C. Page practiced here in the early '30's in Dr. Gallehugh's old office.

The early dentist often suffered that great tribulation of fire, losing everything with very little insurance as compensation.

Dr. R. E. Mann bought out the dental practice of D. L. V. Daniels the fall of 1938. He had had three years of study at the University of Illinois and four years of training at Washington Dental College, St. Louis, Mo. Schooling for dentists is on the increase. Most dental colleges now require four years of college with a B.S. degree before matriculation.

Dr. H. A. Von Ruden came here from Pontiac in the fall of 1943. He is a graduate of Northwestern University, Chicago, 1918. He practiced for six years in Minnesota and spent about a year in the armed forces.

Dr. George G. Cuzner is a graduate of the National College of Chiropractic, Chicago, Nov. 1949. While in Chicago he served with the Sophomore Medical Service, practiced in Bridgeport, Conn., for two years before coming to Chenoa, Jan., 1954. His wife is the former Wanda Brachen, of Forrest.

Drs. G. E. and Lillian Stump and daughter, Dr. Ethel Stump Larsen were graduates of the Chicago School fo Chiropractic Healing. The elder Stumps passed away some years ago. Dr. Ethel no longer practices.

Dr. Fred H. Burt studied for one year at the Ontario Veterinary College, Toronto, Canada, before transferring to the Chicago Veterinary College from which he graduated in 1905. He came to Chenoa in April the same year.

Dr. Burt relates two experiences, one somewhat amusing, the other might have been serious. The first one occurred while making a call in Waldo township. It was a very dark, windy night. Something either blew, flew, or jumped into his buggy. It was a few minutes before he could summon courage to investigate. To his relief he found a ball of tumbleweeds four feet in circumference lodged against the curtain of the buggy. The other happened as he was driving his runabout to Gridley when a bolt of lightning, out of a clear sky, struck the magneto, burning out all wiring. That was a shocking experience.

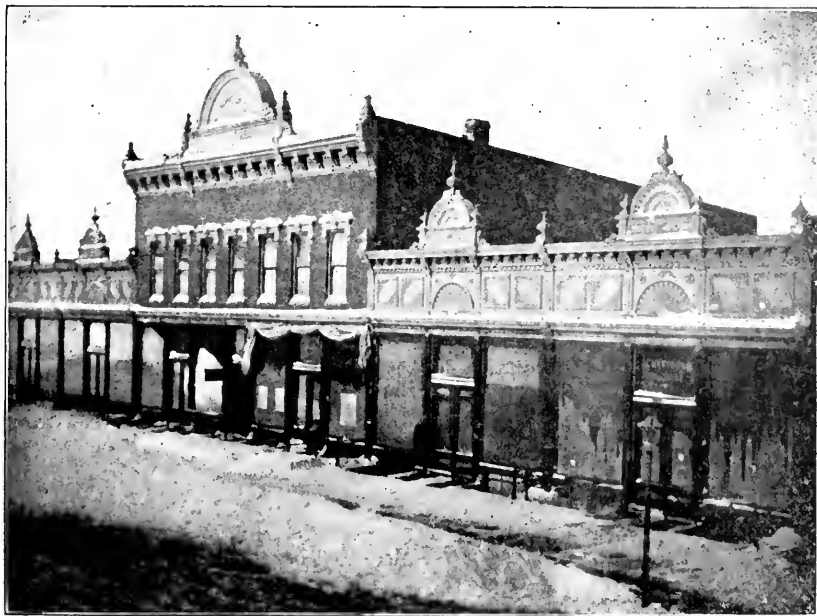
Two veterinarians preceded Dr. Burt: namely, W. H. Welch of Lexington, who had an office in Chenoa during the 1890's, and Dr. Weller, who practiced here in 1900. He was burned out in one of Chenoa's fires.

Some men studied chemistry and were able to compound certain standard remedies. M. M. Lord in his advertisement in the Holiday issue of the Gazette, 1890-91, offered such family medicines for sale. Such men filled a need in those early days.

NURSES

Stella Haynes Fisk was the earliest trained nurse from Chenoa. Her mother was also a nurse according to her well worded advertisement which appeared in early Chenoa papers. But Beryl Darrah of the class of 1893 was the first local High School graduate to become a trained nurse.

Now many young girls have taken up this useful profession.



JEWELL BLOCK — 1867

CHENOA BUSINESSES IN 1870 — FROM 1870 ATLAS

Jewell & Silliman—carriages, buggies, phaetons & wagons
Wm. Hewitt—insurance
Churchill & Abbott—lumber & grain
Warren Fales—dry goods, notions & groceries
Haynes, Jordan & Co.—grain & coal at Chenoa, Meadows, and Weston
R.C. Sall—dry goods
J.D. Payne—drugs
Thomas Sandham—township collector
J. Pence & Co.—manufactures and dealers in furniture, coffins
Scott S. Maxwell—nursery
Roscoe Jordan—merchant
Geo. Coonley—books, jewelry, toys, and news
C.C. Hutchinson—hardware, implements
Moore, John & Wheeler—agents for Lyons Sewing Machine Co.—real estate and insurance
J.O. Sweet—meats, hides
J.D. Moore—harness maker
M.M. Travis—Presbyterian minister
Henry Crabb—alderman, blacksmith
H.N. Crosby—retired citizen
Jacob Balbach—groceries
G.W. Moore—liquor, pool hall
F.N. Mertin—groceries
Besley & Wrigtman—hardware
Valentine Joerger—liquor, cigars, billards
Heiskell & Okeson—drygoods, groceries
James Walsh—dealer in hogs, cattle, and stock
S.M. Payne—physician
Chas. Klein—grain, dry goods, groceries, postmaster at Meadows

NEWSPAPERS

In June 1867, Silas T. Dyer, (a civil war veteran) came to Chenoa and together with Wm. McMutrie, started the "Chenoa Times," first issue July 2, 1867. Mr. McMutrie died soon after and Mr. Dyer continued with the newspaper until his death. Mr. Dyer was born in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, November 7, 1824. He came to Chenoa in 1867 from Bristol, Illinois. After the death of Mr. Dyer, his sister, Miss L. M. Dyer, a teacher in the Chenoa schools, assumed charge of the newspaper and continued until 1872.

It was then sold to C. H. King, who in 1873 sold to C. H. Shore, who published the paper about a year when it was purchased in 1874 by C. H. John, he sold to Bovard Brothers. They changed the name to the "Monitor."

In 1876, Mr. C. H. John again purchased the newspaper and in 1878 sold it to F. T. and J. R. Mann, who changed the name again to the "Gazette." Mr. Mann, great uncle of our local dentist, Mr. Richard Mann, later received much recognition for his work in the United States Government. Later that year (1878) the paper was purchased by C. H. Stickney.

Hedge and son purchased the paper in 1886 and in 1900 sold to E. Scott Pike, who changed the name to, "The Chenoa Clipper." Mr Pike also published the "Gridley Herald." "The Clipper" was sold to V. McGilvery in 1893, and again in November 1895, back to E. S. Pike who was assisted by Wm. McKenzie of Fairbury. On August 30, 1902, the paper was purchased by G. E. Stump.

In 1900, Beard Brothers, Ed Beard publisher, was publishing a weekly paper called, "The Chenoa Times," later published by Andrew Rupp.

In 1915 in partnership with his cousin L. O. Stansbury, the late Wm. Hawthorne of Granville, Illinois, purchased of G. E. Stump, "The Chenoa Clipper," and very soon also acquired the "Chenoa Times," which they consolidated as the "Chenoa Clipper Times." In 1918 they purchased the "Gridley Advance," and until December, 1953, the two papers were published in the Chenoa plant.

In 1922, Mr. Stansbury sold his interest to Mr. Hawthorne, who continued to publish the local newspapers, with the assistance of Mrs. Hawthorne and Marion Decker until his death on November 30, 1953. He was also assisted for many years by the late Marcus Rowley of Gridley.

In December 1953, "The Chenoa Clipper Times" was purchased by E. L. Gilbert of Pawnee, Illinois. On April 1, 1954, Mr. Xen L. Creek took over as publisher.

SOUTH ELEVATOR IN CHENOA

According to Mrs. Abbie Jordan, daughter of Mr. R. G. Jordan, her father was one of the early firm of W. A. Haynes & Co. Their elevator is along the C & A tracks and the office is on Veto Street. Haynes & Jordan had the first power elevator in McLean County. Later Mr. Haynes and Mr. Jordan opened a bank on the south east corner of Green and Owsley Streets.

The name of the next firm was, W. A. Haynes & company. The company consisted of W. A. Haynes, E. M. Kirkpatrick, C. E. Bates and L. E. Lackland with Mr. Arthur Abbott and his father W. G. Abbott as valued book-keepers. Mr Haynes soon moved to Chicago and Mr. Kirkpatrick to Idaho and Mr. Bates being a non-resident left the firm. So Mr. Lackland was left as full manager of the grain business at Chenoa as well as Ocoya and Ballard. They had a shipping business averaging for a period of thirteen years of 900,000 bu. per year.

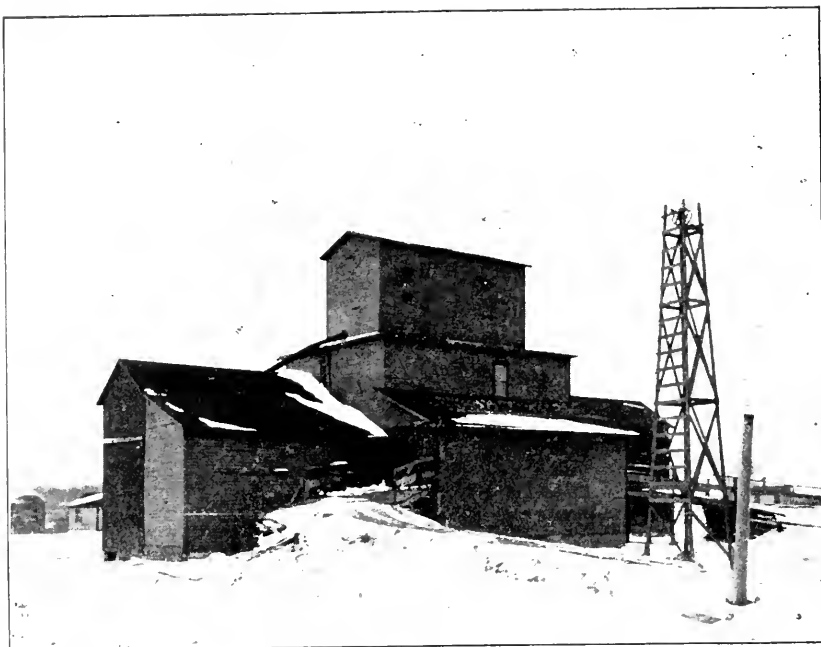
The three elevators had been built several years and were growing old. Mr. Lackland replaced them with new ones. He rebuilt Ocoya first but this one soon burned down from a spark from a passing train. This was at once replaced by a 90,000 bu. elevator. The second elevator was at Ballard of 40,000 bu. The third one was at Chenoa and holds 50,000 bu. From 1909 until 1954 these elevators are still giving service.

Mr. Lackland sold his elevators to Mr. Werner in 1909. He remained here only two years and sold out to Mr. L. L. Bennion, who operated here until 1919, when he sold to Boughton & Harlan who remained here until 1937. James Harrison came October 31, 1937 and with his son Hugh operate under the firm name "Chenoa Grain Company." They have enlarged their business and do a lot of trucking of grain.

NORTH ELEVATOR

Mr. Ebenezer D. C. Churchill, founder of the E. D. Churchill Grain Dealers, was born in Buffalo, N. Y. in 1822. When a very young man he went to Vienna, Ontario, Canada, where he lived for many years, learning the lumber business. Later returning to Buffalo, he married Miss Hannah Atkins. They returned to Canada where they lived for several years. To this union was born, Ann Elizabeth, Charles, E. Deloss, Jr. and Frank.

In 1858 the family moved to Chicago, then to Madison, Wisconsin, where they lived for eight years and Mr. Churchill operated a grist mill. In 1866, he came to Chenoa, (their home was on Piety Hill, the residence now occupied by Floyd Todd and family). Mr. Churchill embarked in the lumber, coal and grain business under the name of E. D. Churchill and Sons. (E. D. Jr. and Chas.) Charles Churchill retired due to ill health in the late 90's, and the business was



CHURCHILL ELEVATOR

conducted by Mr. E. D. Churchill Jr. and his son Frank, now of Seattle, Washington.

The Churchill Grain Company also operated grain elevators in several surrounding towns: namely, Meadows, Weston, Fairbury, McDowell, and Colfax.

In about 1909 the Churchill Grain Company was purchased by Harrison and Dorman of Dwight who after only a few years of operation disposed of the business to Clarence Elson of Chenoa.

In October 1919, the Elson Grain Elevator or grain business, was purchased by C. W. Parry of Beardstown, operating under the name of C. W. Parry Grain Company for many years, later changing to the name of C. W. Parry & Son Grain Company. Coal and fuel oil are also sold by this grain company. Since the death of Mr. C. W. Parry, his son Merle has continued to operate this grain company, one of Chenoa's oldest enterprises, in the same location.

Those assisting Merle are: Harold Finefield, office manager; Clyde DeVore and Loren Marion Yates, employees for many years.

LOCKER PLANT

The first locker plant in Chenoa was organized by R. B. James of Fairbury in August 1939. He obtained two store rooms at the north end of the Brumm block and installed a modern locker plant. Meats and produce were prepared for freezing and lockers were made ready for the public. Meat was also sold to the public.

In 1945 the plant was purchased by Towner and Satterfield of Lexington who continued operation until January 1948, when the locker plant was purchased by Chris Yoder of Fairbury, who operates the present modern plant in the original location.

WAHLS APIARIES

Bee-Keeping had been some what of a hobby of Mr. Elmer Wahls for some time before he organized his processing plant in 1945. Assisted by his son Marvin, this plant has grown from two colonies of bees to 500 colonies.

Most of the honey sold to-day is extracted honey and for the wholesale trade. Mr. Wahls has the latest processing and clarifying equipment to extract honey. Very little comb honey is produced.

In 1952, his son Marvin took over the industry and assisted by his father continues in a very worthwhile enterprise.

M. B. CORLISS APIARY

Mr. M. B. Corliss has also been interested in Bee-keeping and processing honey for many years. Mr. Corliss came to Chenoa from Maine when a young man, having previously been a teacher.

He became engaged in bee-keeping and fruit growing, later farming. He kept the local merchants supplied with honey as well as selling wholesale.

BANKS

Not too much information can be obtained about the first banks in Chenoa. We are told shortly after the organization of the town of Chenoa that in 1864 there were two privately owned banks in operation. One owned by J. H. Snyder located in a two story building at the southeast corner of Green and Owsley streets. It was a two story building and was destroyed by fire. Mr. Snyder seemed to have some difficulty with his bank and it was discontinued. A little later another private bank was opened, owned and operated by Haynes, Holder and Jordan, located in the same location.

THE STATE BANK OF CHENOA

The State Bank of Chenoa was organized in July 1892 and opened for business on the southeast corner of Green and Owsley streets. They had a capital of \$30,000 and 34 to 40 stockholders. W. H. Haynes was the first president; R. G. Jordan, vice president; Chas. Nickel, cashier; L. L. Silliman, assistant cashier. The directors were G. W. Jewell, J. E. Wrightman, W. A. Haynes, A. D. Jordan C. H. Marriott, Noah Pike and C. J. Gillespie.

Two years later the building was destroyed by the historic fire of 1894. During reconstruction the bank conducted business in the Balbach building where Jack Dwyer is now. and the Lace block.

In 1904 a tragedy occurred in the State Bank when early one afternoon William Le Duc entered the bank waving a gun. He shot and killed Mr. Charles Nickel and a customer, Mr. Hugh Jones.

The Farmers Bank was established in 1884 by James S. Kelly & Co. The firm comprising J. S. Kelly and A. G. Danforth. In 1890 Mr. Kelly purchased the entire business which he conducted alone for some time, later he was assisted by Maurice Monroe, asst. cashier and Miss Ella Evans, bookkeeper. The fire of 1894 destroyed the first business quarters on the West side of Main street. Then Mr. Kelly erected an elegant new stone building on Green street, east side of Green street (now headquarters of the Ben Roth Post of American Legion) one of the finest and most impressive business houses in Chenoa, and continued there until the bank was taken over by the Chenoa State Bank in 1925. Others assisting Mr. Kelly at different times were Mr. E. D. Churchill, Geo. Sandmeyer, Mr. Rankin and Miss Anna Sommer, bookkeeper.



BUSINESS BLOCK ON WEST SIDE OF STREET

An incident which provoked wide-spread attention by the press and townspeople was the robbery in 1925 of the Farmers Bank of Chenoa.

In the early afternoon of Jan. 13, 1925, David Blumenfelt and Harry Funk arrived at the bank and presented themselves to Mr. Kelly (president of the bank) as state bank examiners. Their credentials were in proper order and they handled their auditing and examining of the books in perfect style. They were not quite finished at closing time, and Miss Sommer left as usual and Mr. Kelly remained alone in the bank with them. In the meantime a third man, Wm. Evans, appeared posing as a mechanic. The three men bound and gagged Mr. Kelly and escaped with \$181,319 in cash and negotiable securities.

Funk was tried and convicted, Evans plead guilty, both were sentenced to the state penitentiary. David Blumenfelt had three trials and finally was freed on the strength of an alibi which proved his presence elsewhere.

The State Bank took over the bank at Meadows in 1926 when that bank became insolvent. Following the bank moratorium March 4, 1933 the State Bank reopened for business May 4th of the same year. There was no loss to any depositors. Officers at that time were: President, A. D. Jordan; vice president, L. L. Silliman; Cashier, Victor Nickel; assistant cashier, Frank Abbott; bookkeeper, Miss Inez Thomas.

A new chapter in the history of banking in Chenoa started when the State Bank of Chenoa announced voluntary liquidation and the newly organized National Bank of Chenoa opened for business August 1, 1950. As the State Bank prepared to close, it listed a capital of \$50,000 and a surplus of \$50,000 and

\$100,000 in undivided profits. Deposits have increased from 2 million to 3 million dollars.

Officers of the National Bank of Chenoa are; President, Merle Parry; vice president, Clifford Gentes; Directors, Wilbur Noe, Carl Klein, Merle Myers, Godfrey Mundt and Emmet Bauman.

Cashier, Robert N. Shafer; Assistant Cashier, Frank Abbott and Miss Anna Sommer; Farm Service Director, Robert Walker. Also employed there are Mrs. Clark R. Jontry, Misses Ruth Stried and Vauna Carol May.

CHENOA AIRPORT

McLean County's second commercial airport, the Chenoa Airport, officially opened Aug. 17, 1947, was organized by Howard R. and Harry E. Pick, located two and a half miles southwest of Chenoa, on land offered for this purpose by their father Elza Pick.

Others on the staff beside the Pick brothers were John Kearney, flight instructor and Lloyd Biddle, mechanic. Ten students were taking flight training.

A six plane aluminum and steel hangar was complete, also two 1,800 by 300 foot sod runways, equipped with yellow ball markings and an operations building. Two planes, Cessna 120, have been purchased.

Flight training was offered to both G.I.'s and civilians. Later training was discontinued and the airport is now privately used.

THE RITZ THEATER

The first motion picture theatre (silent pictures) in Chenoa, known as the Rex, was owned and operated by Dexter and Clagget of Lexington about 1909, at the present location of the Ritz Theatre. Among others who later owned or operated the theatre were C. D. Caster, A. M. Blake, Richardson and Broadwell, Mr. Hawkins and Arch Swan.

In August, 1919 the Rex was purchased and operated by John Pittman, now of Fairbury, who continued operation with the assistance of Lewis (Tubby) Claudon, until 1925. Mr. Claudon was closely connected with the motion picture industry here for many years. The first multi-reel picture shown here was "The Christian."

Later motion pictures were also shown at the Lyceum for many years, Les Twomey operating the machine.

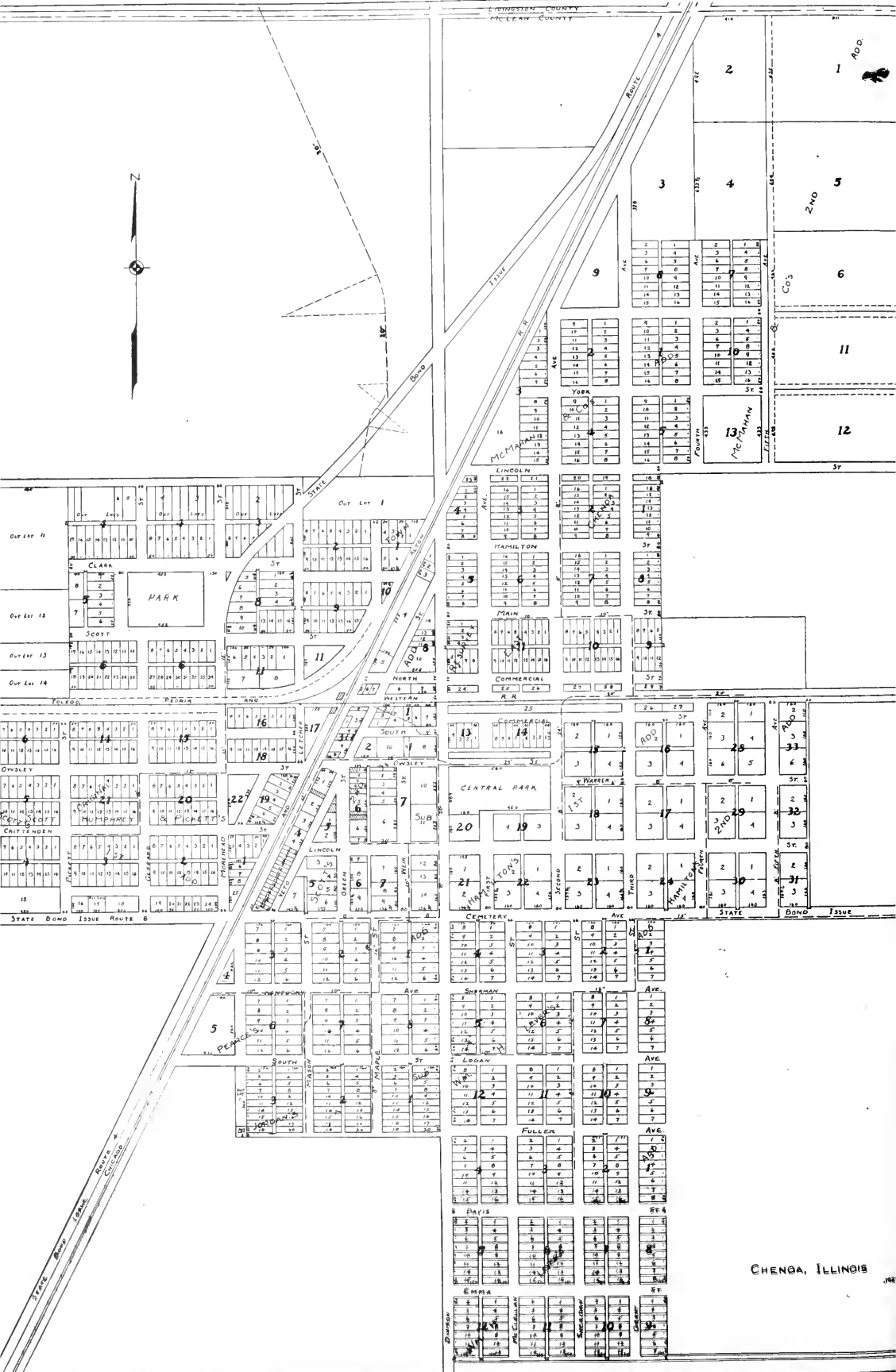
Music and entertainment was furnished at these shows by numerous local young people, among whom were Bernadine Twomey Elson, Clara Power Green, Myrtle Bower Winter and Georgia Green Power.

On Feb. 8, 1938 under management of Elmer Larsen, the Ritz Theatre, in the present location was opened, and we might add it was 22 degrees below on that day. In 1944 the building was remodeled as it is now and was the first to operate a "talking picture" movie theatre in Chenoa. The Ritz burned on Dec. 19, 1940 and re-opened in March, 1941, still under management of Elmer Larsen.

Mr. Tom Whetzell of Urbana, purchased the Ritz in May, 1951, which continues operations with Paul Hallbeck as manager and Ray Moore, machine operator.

FIRST STORE ERECTED IN EAST CHENOA

Mr. W. B. Hewitt built the first store in the fall of 1861 on North Commercial Street on the same ground W. M. Hamilton later built a fine brick building.



In this building there was also a modern apartment, newspaper office and Lee Kee's Chinese Laundry.

In 1908 this building was purchased by L. J. Schultze, who opened the first garage. He was agent for the Overland car. In 1920 Mr. Schultze enlarged the building on the west and opened a machine shop and paint shop. He later became a road oiling contractor, and made much of the machinery used in that business.

This building was purchased in 1940 by Paul Elliott of Cropsey, who conducts a modern machine and welding shop.

Also the Chenoa Fire department maintains space at this location for their modern fire trucks and equipment.

SALOONS—LOCAL OPTION

In 1867 a special act was passed incorporating the town of Chenoa under what was commonly known as the Princeton Charter. This charter prohibited the granting of licenses to sell liquor in Chenoa or within a mile of the corporate limits. Later this charter was revoked and Chenoa was allowed to have saloons. Most adjoining towns had no saloons, therefore a lot of the undesirable element of people flocked to Chenoa for liquor. At intervals there were as high as five to ten saloons in town. Later by popular vote Chenoa became anti-saloon territory.

In 1909 five Chenoa men were accused of selling intoxicating liquors in anti-saloon territory. Each one was proprietor of a so-called soft drink establishment in Chenoa. The interest in the outcome of these cases was of great interest not only in Chenoa but also throughout the county and entire state. It was a question in the minds of some whether local option territory could be protected against illegal traffic in intoxicating liquor. After the results of the Chenoa cases in court it was readily agreed that the will of the people must be obeyed and the law in the future must be kept. As a result of rumors that intoxicating liquors were sold in Chenoa a Law and Order League was organized and a large fund raised for the enforcement of the law and the punishment of any offenders that might be apprehended. Each of the five men plead guilty.

Local Option came in 1916. Prohibition came in during World War I in 1918. In 1932 the Prohibition Act was amended and saloons came back. The old time saloon has never returned to Chenoa. Rarely ever was a woman seen to enter a saloon. Soon the tavern took the place of the saloon and women are seen drinking with men. At this writing Chenoa has three taverns in the downtown district. Liquor may also be purchased at drug stores and is served at one restaurant in town.

AUTO DEALERS AND GARAGES

L. J. Schultze (first), A. Blake, Dr. F. H. Burt, Morrison Motor Co., Bert Streid, Ellis Lenington, Birch & Downes, Tinges Service, M. L. Bauman, Boles Motor, Mike Heintz (who built the large garage south of the Flat Iron Building), Herb Annis & Son, C. A. Gillespie, Wilbur Noe, Wallace Lange (1950), Bert Stone, Downs Motor Co., Henry Masso (1917).

AUCTIONEER

Col. Wm. Grimes

SERVICE STATIONS

Tinges Service Center
Tinges Sale & Service Filling Station
Steve's Texaco Service
Todd's Standard Service
Myer Service Oil
Moore Street Motel-St. Claire gas & oil
Miller Texaco—gas and oil
Noe Motor Co. Ford cars & oil
Downs Motor Co. Wrecker Service also dealer in Wisconsin Motor, Welding
and body fender work.
Boles - Hoover Motor Co.

CLEO AND BILL, ANTIQUE DEALERS

Mrs. Cleo Degenford started her Gift and Antique Shop in 1929. She has worked tirelessly over the years, increasing her knowledge by study, both from books and observation, until she is now known from coast to coast. She has been in the antique business longer than any other midwest dealer.

Cleo was the first small town dealer in the midwest to exhibit in a major show. When Chicago held its first Antique and Hobby Show, she was there. Among other things she took buttons, the first ever exhibited. They laughed at that. But buttons became big business at that show. She sold O. C. Lightner, editor of Hobbies, his first buttons at that time. He bought a peck! Now he has the greatest known collection of buttons on display in the St. Augustine Museum, Florida. Another "first" was her display of antique children's toys in the same show. That has now become a major field of antique collecting.

She has lectured on Old Glass, Period Furniture, Colonial Costumes, and kindred subjects in nearby cities.

Cleo says she is happier over their furniture venture than anything else. As the business expanded Bill deserted carpentry for cabinet work, repairing much of the old furniture that came their way. Then he began making reproductions of some fine pieces. Now he is designing furniture which has been well received. He makes it from wood accumulated at public sales. Old pine, poplar, and fruit woods are in much demand. Several examples of his cabinet artistry are now in the homes of the Hollywood elite.

Their Antique business is housed since 1937 in their home on Route 24, Cemetery Avenue.

BARBERS

Eb Taylor (1875) ran a barber shop in Chenoa for over 40 years. He was first under the State Bank building before the 1894 fire. Later he located at the north end of Veto St. on the west side of the street. Harold Schopp (1916-1938), H. E. Church (1938), W. H. Kanagy, J. Knight, Power & Cahill (1935), Wm. Penske, Charley Power, Jack Dwyer, Robert Delow, Ed King, Ray Arnold, and Linden Currin.

BOARDING HOUSES

Carroll House on N. Commercial St., still stands. Mrs. Isabell Shatto (burned out in 1894), Silas Baker, Harris Sisters, Cora Sweet and mother, Bush House.

BAKERS

Thomas Edwards (first bakery), A. G. Huling, R. E. Arnold, Mr. Blumen-shein.

MOM'S DAIRY BAR

On June 3, 1948, Mom's Dairy Bar was opened on the northeast corner of Weir & Owsley St. It remained here two years and then Mrs. M. B. Gilbert, the owner, purchased the Old City Hall on Weir street. Her daughter Gloria assisted her when not in school.

BEAUTY SHOPS

Before beauty shops opened most women wore long hair. They curled it by dampening it and rolling the hair up on rags if they could not afford kid curlers. Some used a curling iron that was heated over a kerosene lamp. Finally the electric curling iron came into use.

Pauline Beckham owned the first beauty shop. She came to Chenoa in 1916. She now runs her shop in her home on West Owsley Street. When she began she was not required to have a license until she had been working a year.

Mrs. Clifford Mears opened her beauty shop in the Balbach Building in 1934, later moving to the old meat market building on Veto Street. Finally she moved to her home at 802 Lincoln Avenue.

Mrs. Harley Boles came to Chenoa in 1945 and worked until 1950 when her daughter took her place for a while. Her shop was in her home at 206 Cemetery Avenue.

Mrs. Louis Tjaden came to Chenoa in 1948 and is still running her shop in her home at 500 South Grant Street.

Mrs. S. B. Stockum worked in her home in Chenoa at 302 W. Owsley Street from 1924 to 1946.

Mrs. George Powell ran a shop for a while in a downtown basement on the east side of Green Street from 1946 to 1948.

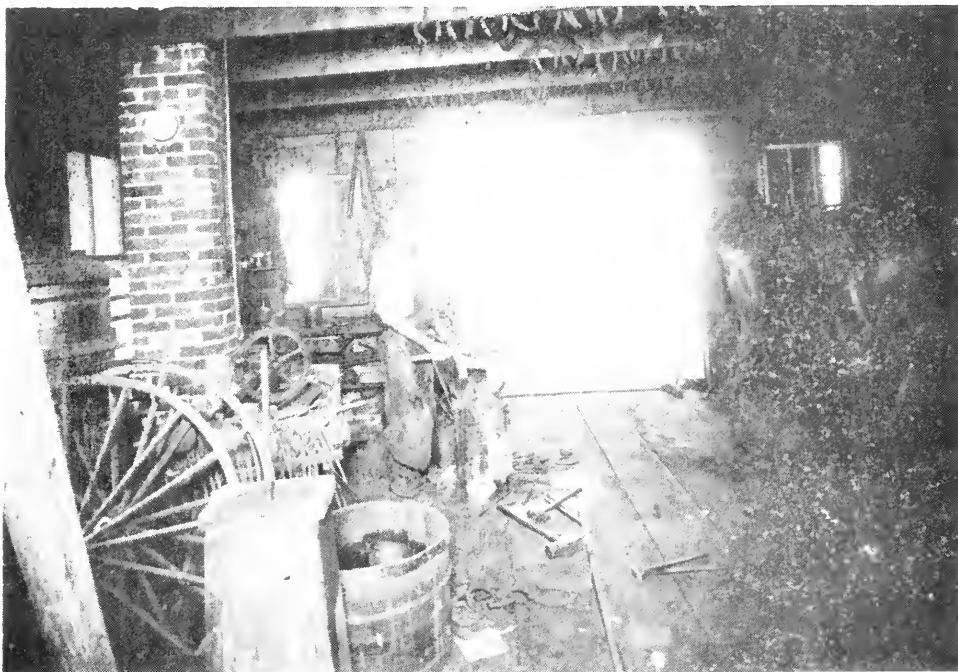
Crystal Womach Arnold operated a beauty shop at 200 Division Street.

BLACKSMITHS

George Lounsberry (1857) was perhaps Chenoa's first blacksmith. Others who followed him were H. Crabb, Thomas Ballinger, Jewell & Gibson, and McEwen Bros. The McEwen Bros. came from Scotland in 1894. John McEwen worked for Mr. Jackson but on Feb. 29, 1896 John and his brother William started a shop for themselves. It was on the east side of Veto street just north of the T. P. & W. R.R. track. John was a blacksmith for 70 years—55 of those years he worked in Chenoa.

Other blacksmiths were Frank Bower, Fred Heidewald, David Fischback, Jacob Vollmer, Fred Brumm, E. B. Lenington, John Jackson. Mr. Fischback quit blacksmithing in 1940 and went into the implement business. Glenn Kauth came to Chenoa in 1932 and worked for L. J. Schultze in his shop in the Lace Block. Mr. Kauth moved to Chenoa in 1934 and started a shop of his own in 1941. His first place of business was in the old McDonald electric light building on South Commercial St. At present he is located in his own building at the southwest corner of Weir & Owsley St. Here he does welding and repair of farm machinery. Fred Brumm came to Chenoa in 1873. He worked first at the blacksmith trade for Jacob Vollmer. Mr. Brumm later went into blacksmithing for himself.

Blacksmithing is almost an obsolete trade since the horse has been replaced by the automobile. Horseshoeing is sometimes dangerous business. The first step in horseshoeing is to have the horse tied securely. Often the legs are tied, too. Usually the blacksmith works on the front feet first, then the hind feet. The hoofs are cut down by snippers and smoothed down with a rasp. The shoe is fitted and nailed securely then trimming off the surplus hoof. The nails



BLACKSMITH SHOP

go through the hoof only. In winter sharp shoeing is done to prevent sliding on slippery roads. Occasionally a blacksmith was asked to put shoes on oxen. In early times blacksmiths made their own nails and shoes. Later modern equipment replaced the old. Today the electric arc and gas torch play an important part in shop work. Hand turned machines are no longer used. Cutting machines and power driven grinders, drills and steel saws are used now.

CONTRACTORS AND CARPENTERS

The earliest constructors were Omit & Ballinger, Dunlap Brothers, and Charles McFarland (who is still living.) In these early times Chenoa was booming and these men had all they could do. Most every building put up was a wooden frame structure. Other carpenters were, Squire Payne, James Finley and son, Wm. and Ollie Delmar Chambers, James Renn and son Earl, Thomas Hervey and son Charles, and Frank and Milton Omit. The latter father and son had a carpenter shop across the street north of the city park on Owsley Street. Others were Charley Matheny and sons Wm. and Alvin, George Rulon, Al Wilder, William Arnold, Charles Chaddon, George Harris, and Richard Cheatham. John Schmidt and his brother Gus did contract work along with carpentering. Herman Dengenford and sons Wm. and Alvin built some of the fine homes as well as cabinet work. Al Edwards, John Murphey, Renn Chapman, Albert Myer, Theodore

Dunlap, Jacob Moschel, Shelby Gibson, Hiram Henline, Harry Myer, Tom Elliott, and Charlie Elliott who did much of the finishing work on the new High School on Division Street. Others are Ralph Whittle, Alva Degenford, George Heuer, J. Schinckedanz, Tom Brady. (

STONE MASONS AND MASONS

Hugh Jones, Matt Bushby, Rastus Bower, Mike Carlin, Charles Masso, Emil Masso, Marcellin Kaufman.

DRESS MAKERS

Years ago dress makers had all they could do. There were no ready made dresses for women until 1890. It was much harder to make a dress in those days when the dresses were made to fit more snugly and made with stiff stays in the basque to the waist line. The following were a few of the first dressmakers.

Josephine and Margaret Murphey, Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Mary Bower, Miss Celia Greely (1935,) Miss Payne, Mrs. Edna Olds, Bertha Livingston Yarke, Mrs. Wm. H. Livingston, Louise Solbreg Streid, Mrs. Clem McDonald, Zona Wilson, Grace Estes.

DRY CLEANING

Miss Ina Ballou carried an ad in the May 16, 1901 Chenoa Clipper for dry cleaning by the French Dry Cleaning System. She could clean men's clothing and press them, also remove dirt from shirts, waist jackets, ribbon, silk, satin, and velvet.

PANATORIUM

Elmer Bull ran a dry cleaning place he called "The Panatorium" in 1906-7. He also had the agency for a tailoring company in Chicago.

DRY GOODS AND CLEANING

W. M. Fales, 1854 in the Hamilton Block, James W. Worth, R. C. Sallee, A. D. Keepers, Fales and Allen, A. W. Attwood, F. B. Prichard, Jacob Balbach, Vogels and Hummel (1899,) Evans and Price, Sam Evans, R. E. Ballinger, C. E. Thayer, Thompson's Dry Goods, H. C. Purdy.

VARIETY STORES

Calvin Gentes 1925 Hardware and Variety

John Metzler 1945—1951

C. V. Longman January 1, 1951—still here

DRAYMEN

Lewis Arnold, Arnold & Downing 1891, Ernest Cutter, Floyd Mason, all used horses for draying. Bill Lining now uses a tractor.

DRUG STORES

Drug stores of the past were for filling prescriptions, the sale of patent medicines, a few fine toiletries and a few other items. The Pure Food and Drug Act curtailed the Patent Medicine trade. No longer could excessive claims for cures be made. There were no soda fountains or lunch counters in the old drug stores. They sold more herbs for medicine such as, sarsaparilla, sassafras, camomile, senna, bone-set, etc. They also sold quinine, castor oil, calomel and sulphur. The doctors put up medicine in small pieces of paper and called it powders. Now most everything comes in capsule form or tablets. Years ago there were no soda fountains or lunch counters in drug stores. One Chenoa druggist says a drug store today is almost a department store.

Now prescription filling, the sale of tested drugs, insulin, and antibiotics make up the medicine side of the drug store. Prescription filling requires care and education. Druggists must have this. Locally, we have had three or more young men who have studied pharmacy. Fred Ballinger, Luther Stewart and Leo Augspurger. Emma Schurmann and W. N. Tronc have apprentice licenses. Herman Folts is a registered pharmacist.

The following are druggists or had a drug store in Chenoa: Miller & Bostock, Dr. Monroe Drug Store, William Arnold, H. E. Mattock, Lenny & Banta Drug Store, W. O. Rugar, Southwick & Lenny, Schuirmann & Hops, Fred Balliner, Schuirmann Drug Company, Joe Hare (1941), Everett Judevine (1943-44), Wesley Tronce came in November 1944 and is still here in 1954.

SCHUIRMANN DRUG STORE

Tido R. Schuirmann and Henry Hops bought the store from Ruger and Banta in 1888. Mr. Hops was associated with the store until 1909 when he sold his share to Mr. Schuirmann. Mr. Schuirmann was better known to his friends as Carl. He always took a deep interest in the community. Besides being a pharmacist he was interested in music and art. He helped sponsor what was known as lecture courses, the programs being a series of music and lectures. These were the main entertainment during the winter months. He organized the first church orchestra, which played in the Methodist Church of which he was a member. He was always ready to help when needed and more than ready to carry his share of the burden. Mr. Schuirmann died in 1930 at the age of 70. The drug store is now operated by his daughter Emma and son-in-law Herman Folts.

HARNESS MAKERS

S. A. Atwood, Fred Shearer and J. D. Moor were the first harness makers in Chenoa. They were followed by Charley Patton with Marion Jontry as assistant.

Other harness makers followed namely, Mr. Evas, J. C. Schugart, Louis Murphy, and Richard Mosher who came in 1902. He sold out to C. M. Patton. In 1913 Mr. Egolf came and finally sold to Marion Jontry who ran it until 1940.

The harness business was once a prosperous thing. As more and more pioneers arrived there were more horses that needed harness. All the work of harness making was done by hand since there was no machinery made for that kind of work

FEED AND LIVERY STABLES

Oxen were used by the pioneer for heavy work but the faithful horse served

his master in other ways. Towns were miles apart. The horse could travel faster and was most useful in carrying supplies from town to the pioneer home. While in town there was need for a place to feed and water horses. The livery and feed stables were equipped to take care of them by the hour or day. Also persons who did not own a horse or buggy could hire a livery horse and buggy for the length of time they needed its use. The following are some of the Livery and Feed Stables: Robert Hanna, James Fike, Mr. Menz, David Vance (breeding and importing Belgian, French and English horses), Frank Ballinger (sales barn), Roszhart, Clayton Ballinger, Tom and John Power, and Mr. Strickland.

FRUIT AND NEWS STORE

S. S. Chapman ran a fruit and news store for many years, located on the east side of Green Street in the downtown part of the city. He sold many papers both daily and weekly and some magazines. When he quit, his son Wm. Chapman conducted this business for some time until a fire destroyed the inside of the store. He then took up the insurance business.

CHENOA MILLING COMPANY

In the fall of 1926, Ray H. Morris came to Chenoa from El Paso and set up a mill in a building rented from John Ketcham located just east of the bank building, the old John Ketcham mill. This new enterprise was named Chenoa Milling Company and it started grinding feed for farmers on October 30, 1926 and has been open for business every week day since, with the exception of one week in February 1940 during the process of moving to the present location

On November 1, 1939 Mr. Morris started work on new quarters for the mill along the T. P. & W. railroad right-of-way two blocks east of the business district. On February 12, 1940, Chenoa Milling Company was opened for business at its new location. During the process of building this new mill, weather was so fine, there were only three days when work could not be carried on. Additional Warehouse space has been added at three different times, and an office building with a 34 foot Fairbanks pit scale weighing up to 45 tons have been added since 1940.

In 1940 the company began the Manufacture of Morris Best Feeds. At this time they employed one feed salesman to call on farmers. At present, they have three salesmen. They now operate four mixers and a pellet mill for pelleting feeds.

On December 1, 1948 a bulk Phosphate and Fertilizer plant located on the G. M. & O. railroad, 3 blocks north of the business district was opened to serve the farmers of Chenoa Community and the surrounding area.

In 1951 a quarter of a century of business in Chenoa was celebrated by a complimentary dinner for the farmers of this area.

In 1952 the business was incorporated. Active members of the firm are: Ray H. Morris, Virgil E. Morris, and Daryl G. Wilson.

Chenoa Milling Company now employs 10 men, including members of the firm, salesmen, mill men and an office secretary. They offer the following services to the farmers of this community; Grinding, Mixing, seed cleaning, Oat hulling and rolling, cob crushing, corn shelling and cracking. Fifteen types of Morris Best Feeds are manufactured and are made available to farmers in Chenoa and numerous neighboring communities.

FURNITURE

Wrightman & Son, Daniel Shober, Pence & Russel, C. E. Travis, Robert Keen.



J. E. WRIGHTMAN & SON FURNITURE STORE

FARM MANAGEMENT

Arthur Jordan now is a farm manager looking after his father's farms since his death.

GRAIN DEALERS

Haynes & Jordan, Jenkins Grain Company, Bradford & Carmichael, Haynes Elson, Harrison & Dorman, C. W. Parry & Son, L. E. Lackland, Lyle Bennion, Boughton & Harlan (1919-1937,) Chenoa Grain Company operated by James and Brothers, Haynes & Kirkpatrick, Hicks Brothers, E. D. Churchill & Son,, Clarence Hugh Harrison (1937-still in grain business.)

GROCERY STORES

Edward J. Davis owned a grocery store and creamery which was located in the Hamilton Block across from the east elevator on North Commercial Street. Mr. Davis ran this some time in the 1880's. C H. Marriott worked in the grocery store for Mr. Davis and Robert Johnston came in 1889 to manage the creamery. Mr. Davis later moved away for his wife's health then Mr. Marriott purchased the store. Shortly afterward Mr. Van Petten joined the firm and it was then known as Van Petten & Marriott. Mr. Van Petten died, then Mr. Marriott became the sole owner again. In 1914 David Linden began working for Mr. Marriott. In 1919 Mr. Linden became a partner and the firm was known as Marriott and Linden. A while afterward Mr. Linden was called into the service. They did not dissolve partnership when Mr. Linden left. When he returned from service he went back

into the store again. In 1949 Mr. Marriott retired from the grocery business and Mr. Linden carried on for a while and then retired from business also.

Other grocery stores were Jacob Balbach, Watt & Brown, A. W. Attwood, Snyder Brothers, W. E. Ketcham & Seybolt, John Ketcham, George Hall (Royal Blue,) Powell Brothers (Royal Blue August 5, 1945 groceries, meats, fruits etc. at 213 Green Street.)

DAVID ECONOMY GROCERY STORE

The David Economy store was established in Chenoa in 1923. The first managers were Mr. and Mrs. Edward Strasma. They were followed by Mr. and Mrs. John Pittman and then Allen Ackerman. The fourth managers were Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Harris who came June 29, 1931. The David Economy store was first located on the corner of South and Veto Sts. In August, 1935 the store was moved to Green St. next to the National Bank.

KROGER GROCERY STORE

Krogers opened their first store in Chenoa in June, 1927 at 215 Green St. Leo May was the manager. In June 1945 they moved to the corner of Owsley and Veto St. with Mr. May still as manager. He remained the manager until his death June 21, 1952. Then David Stewart came from Peru to take charge of the store and is still here.

HARDWARE

Alexander Holden, Beasley & Wrightman, Hanna, Lazell & Sickels, Wightman



WRIGHTMAN HARDWARE STORE

& Son, Arnold Bros. Fred Brumm, Wm. Ballinger & Son, Mr. Bruce, Calvin Gentes, Clyde Boles.

HOTELS

Bryants (first), Mackey House (John Mackey, first boy born in the new town), Emery Hotel later called Exchange Hotel, Munsell House, National Hotel



LEEDOM HOUSE

(destroyed by a tornado in 1858), Leedom House, Miller Hotel, Columbia Hotel, Pike House, DeWal Hotel (1954).

IMPLEMENT DEALERS

Lazelle & Sickles were the first implement dealers mentioned in Chenoa. Fred Brumm came to Chenoa in 1873 as a blacksmith by trade. By 1876 he had gone into the implement business. He founded such a business which became a great establishment. It was one of the largest and best known in this part of the country. His business was located on the northeast corner of Veto and Cwsley Streets. He sold International, John Deere, and many other makes of machinery. He remained in business until his death in 1916 when his daughter Mrs. John Heins carried on for a while. Other implement dealers were: McEwen Brothers, E. J. Ballinger, John Heitz, E. B. Ballinger, and David Fischback who sold to Virgil Andrews. Mr. Andrews came to Chenoa in 1944. His location is on the west side not too far from the north end of Weir Street. Mr. Andrews handles John Deere, machinery, also tractors and other farm equipment.

Mr. Stoller came to Chenoa in 1937 and operates under the name Stoller Farm Supply Company. At first he handled Allis Chalmers machinery. He built a new modern building in 1939 which is located in the west part of town on U. S. 24. Now he handles International Implements, stoves, washing machines, and many other useful farm appliances.

Virgil Andrews came to Chenoa in 1938. He is located on Weir Street on



BRUMM BLOCK

the west side of the street. He purchased his implement business from David Fischback and handles John Deere farm machinery, tractors, etc., besides paint and many other useful farm products. Mr. Andrews hires several men and does general farm repair work.

REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE

Thomas J. Haynes, W. B. Hewitt, Bennett and Jordan, R. G. and D. A. Jordan, Elvie Cooper (1938,) J. C. Heins, Jordan Brothers, William Chapman, Omer Yordy, Lewis Claudon and Kenneth Jordan.

FUEL OIL COMPANIES

Since many of the coal burning furnaces have been converted into oil burners, there are several men in the community who deliver fuel oil regularly, City Service, Dal Hartmann, Standard, Fritz Gittinger and Tom Higgins, McLean County Service, Delmar McIntire, and C. W. Parry and Son.

JEWELERS

W. M. Jenks, William Ellis, D. T. Morrow, Downey and Sample, Frank Downey (died 1914), Newell Brothers, George Coonley, Arthur Kath, Fred Newman (came in 1914, died 1938), Mrs. Newman ran his business for a while, then sold to Ted Fessler. He took possession May 1, 1939. He does jewelry repairs and sells various gifts besides jewelry.

KEE'S CHINESE LAUNDRY

In the early 1890's two Chinese men ran laundries in Chenoa. Lee Kee lost every thing he had in one of the fires. He was located in the Lace block part



LEE McKEE

of the time. Lee Sing saved his money but suddenly disappeared mysteriously. Some think he may have met with foul play as he and all his money were gone. His location was on Owsley Street at the end of Weir Street.

LAWYERS

Martin Shephard, Judge Lynch, N. J. Pillsbury, Owen Batrum 1906, E. G. Stump, James P. Grove 1909, Gamback and Sieberns.

LAWN MOWERS

Martin Schopp 1951—sharpens saws and sells lawn mowers and new motors. He also does general repair work in his line.

LUMBER YARDS

At one time there were two lumber yards in Chenoa. One was near the T. P. & W. rail road track east from Veto Street. Pike Brothers began in 1868 at the above site. Noah Pike lived in the second story of the office building which was finally moved southward on Sheridan Street. It was made into a dwelling. Later E. M. Pike sold out to his brother Noah. Later Noah Pike sold to LaBar and Gordon. Dexter, Gordon and Schmidt 1892, Dexter and Schmidt

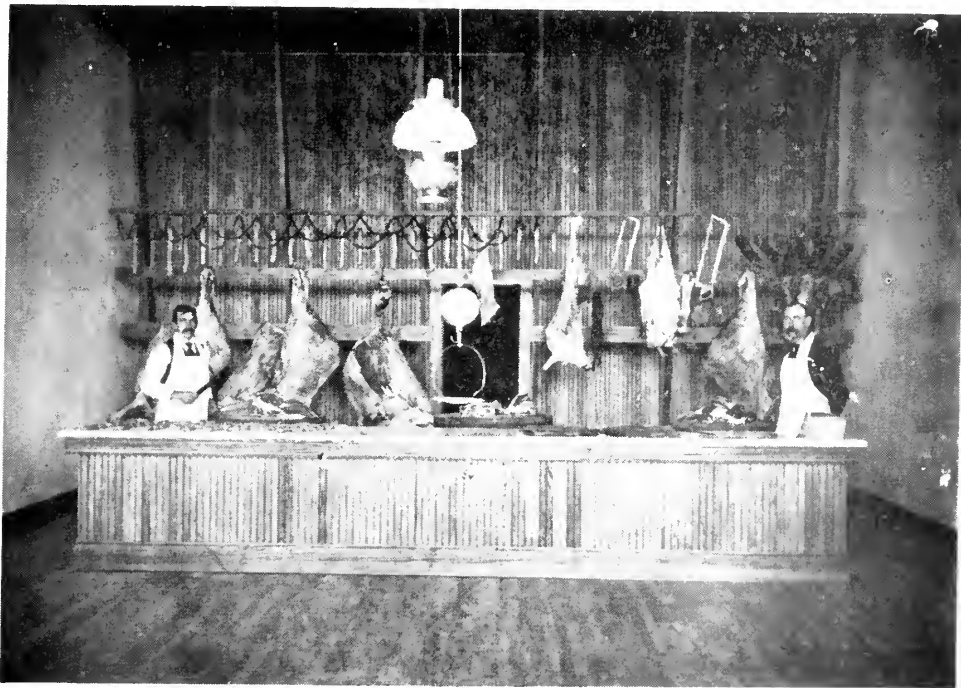
1889, Dexter, (John and Emil) Schmidt sold to W. D. Alexander & Company in 1912.

The south lumber yard on Veto Street at the south end, Herbert Dexter and W. T. Brown sold to Gordon and Hoffman 1899. Hoffman and Mutchler 1919--1920. Sold to W. D. Alexander and Company in 1929.

After W. D. Alexander got possession of both lumber yards they moved all the lumber to the site of the north yard along the TP&W railroad track. Here they erected a new one story office in December, 1948.

MEAT MARKETS AND BUTCHERS

The early butchers owned slaughter houses near the edge of town or on nearby country places. They butchered their own meat, cut it up and sold it from their shops. Since the health value of liver was not known then, some butchers, Mr. Gerisch especially, donated a piece of liver along with the meat purchase. About the time of World War I federal inspection of meat caused a change in the meat business. Now, all meat is shipped to the butcher after being government inspected and stamped. Much of it is weighed and packaged in cellophane paper. The following are some of the men who run butcher shops in Chenoa — Sweet Market, Gerisch Bros., Carson Market, Carlin Bros., Wm.



SEEMAN & HARGADINE BUTCHER SHOP

Sherer, Mr. Lynch, Seeman & Hargardine, Miller & New, L. Markland, and A. M. Miller & Son, Walter Thurber 1895, Wm. Scherer.

At the present time meat is sold in connection with the Royal Blue Store (Powell Bros.) and Dorman Food Market (T. Dorman). Chris Yoder who runs the Locker Plant, handles meat, cheese, chickens and renders lard for farmers.

The Gerisch Bros. were dealers in livestock and early proprietors of a

Chenoa Meat Market. They located here in 1864. John Adam Gerisch and John Christian Gerisch came from Germany and at one time they ran two meat markets here at the same time. They are said to be among the most reliable and respected business firms.

John Christian and John Adam Gerisch married sisters.

A. K. Miller has been a meat cutter for many years. He also purchased the tile factory pond and sold and peddled ice every summer.

MILLINERY STORE

The old fashioned millinery store is a thing of the past. These stores were usually a store in itself. Now, many millinery stores are found connected with a dry goods store. Years ago the proprietor went to a large city sometime previous to the spring or fall season. There she purchased the stock she needed for that particular season. While there she informed herself as to the styles of the season and hired a trained trimmer to trim hats for her for the season. In those days more hats were made and trimmed by hand. Ribbon bows were wired so they would stand up stiff on the hat. Now bows are made to look softer. Usually hats today have less trimming. Some hats were made of a wire frame which the milliner covered with velvet or horse hair braid. Some of the trimmings were lace, veiling, flowers, or stuffed birds. Finally, a law was passed whereby birds could not be used for that purpose. Anyone who could afford ostrich plumes for trimming was considered very well dressed. Now the hats are plainer and come ready trimmed. Now trimmers are not needed, and you can scarcely find a store that you can get any one to really trim a hat for you. Miss Bowen ran the first millinery store in Chenoa. She was followed by Mrs. George Coonley with her store called the Temple of Fashion. Others were Evans Sisters, Miss Minnie Arnold and Miss Hattie Castle. The two latter lost all their stock and fixtures along with Miss Minnie Shober who was burned out, but resumed her business running a millinery store for 15 years. Finally millinery goods were sold at the Balbach Dry Goods Store. Miss Winnie Johnson and Eva Whitmer learned the millinery trade and trimmed hats for Miss Shober.

MEN'S CLOTHING

T. B. Prichard, M. Warner, P. G. Grosbeck, Matthew & Weatherwax, Mose & Sol Kaplan, Mose Kaplan 1925-54, Ralph Wagner.

TAILORS

Fred Gayman came from Germany. He tailored here in 1905.

Theodore Lemke. Little is known about him.

Mr. J. T. McKeever ran a tailor shop in the second story of the Flat Iron building near Dr. Shinn's office. He escaped out of a second story window during one of Chenoa's big fires.

Mr. O. P. Thrane. Came to Chenoa from Kinmundy, Ill., in June 1900. He established his tailor shop in the basement of the Flat Iron building. Later he moved to a room joining the Pike House on the east side of Green St. In December of the same year his wife and three daughters came to Chenoa. The family moved into the home purchased at 217 Lincoln St. In 1907 Mr. Thrane moved into his newly erected tailor shop just south of the Pike Hotel on Green St. Mr. Thrane died May 21, 1918. His tailor shop is now occupied by the General Telephone Co. of Illinois.

TINNERS

Tinners—Alex Holden, Fred Munsell.



L. M. WILSON'S PLUMBING SHOP

PLUMBERS

Plumbers—J. E. Wightman & Son (first), L. M. Wilson, W. Hedge (1925), Harry Good, Clayton Rulon.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

O. C. Bessett, Wm. Sweet 1899, W. D. Neher, Elmer Larsen.

PAINTERS

C. W. Stickney, Edward Hendee, Norval Chambers, Eddie Strike, Adolph Reis, John Scanlan, C. Bacon, Chas. Hinshaw, Pierre Turch, and others.

PAPER HANGERS

Eddie Strike, Charley Hinshaw, Adolph Reis, Charley Bacon.

POULTRY

A man by the name of Bower bought poultry in early times; later Charley Marriott ran a grocery store and bought poultry too in 1912.

In the spring of 1911 A. Sarver opened a Produce Business in the Hickey Building located on Owsley Street. In this business he bought and sold poul-

try, eggs, cream, and butter. In the fall and winter, poultry was dressed and shipped to eastern markets. Mr. Sarver employed 18 to 20 men picking the chickens. The price on poultry at that time was from 18 to 20 cents per pound for roasting chickens and the same for heavy hens. Eggs were as low as 9c per dozen in the summer and up to 50 cents in the winter. At that time eggs were very scarce in the winter months.

In 1915 the firm name was changed to A. Sarver and Son. Lloyd Sarver was his son and at that time they were shipping two to three cars of live poultry per week to Boston and New York or 18,000 lbs. per car.

This continued until the early 1940's when the building which A. Sarver had purchased from the Hickey Estate burned. Then A. Sarver purchased a brick building back of the National Bank on Owsley St. Lloyd Sarver took over the business in 1940. Mr. A. Sarver passed away Sept. 22, 1953. The business is now carried on by Lloyd Sarver under the name of Chenoa Produce Co.

TURKEYS

In 1939 Mrs. Dameron began raising bronze turkeys by setting two hens with nine eggs under each. She continued setting under hens until 1941. The next year she purchased 100 White Holland poults raising them with a fuel oil heater. In 1946 she purchased 250 each of White and Bronze poults and in 1948 three hundred broad breasted Bronze and 50 Bellville white poults which she sold on the open market. In 1952 she got 350 poults just for home demand. It was this year that she used electric heating lamps to keep poults warm. In 1949 she bought a scalding tank to use while dressing the turkeys. Mrs. Dameron orders many of her poults from Cinco Farm at Havana, Ill. This year 1954 her order is for 50 White broad breasted and 250 Bronze broad breasted poults.

RADIO, TELEVISION AND ELECTRIC GOODS AND APPLIANCES

Elmer Harms had his first shop at his home at 409 Cemetery Avenue. In 1923 he moved into a back room in the Pike Hotel building. In 1935 he purchased a home at 310 Green St. where he sold radios and electric appliances and did repair work. In 1944 he moved uptown on the west side of Veto St. where he carried a larger stock of radios, electric goods and did general repair work. At present time he is very busy installing many radios.

RESTAURANTS AND CAFES

Frank Arnold ran the Bon Ton. Others were Ferd Jontry, Mrs. Ollie Gaines, Lena Schultz, Zirkle Bros., Verda Schmitt, George Hall, Steve's Cafe, Bert Winter, Ray Winter, Ted Hostleton, Fred Cooper Cafe, E. M. Streid, Mason's Cafe, Beulah Thompson ran Tommy's Cafe, Roberts, Mrs. Molly Piper, Thorntons, Chadden, James Cooney, Gadberrys, Lee's restaurant 1953.

SCRAP DEALERS

The first known salvage dealer in town was P. Goldenburg followed by Alex Airos. Mr. Airos had his first place of business near his home not far from the coal shaft on the east side of town. Later he moved to a location on the north side of Owsley St. where it faces Weir St. After he had been in business for a number of years he sold out to Matt Shevokas in 1937. Mr. Shevokas ran his business with the help of his sons until they entered the service.

SHOEMAKERS AND SHOES

John Jacob Jontry was Chenoa's first shoe maker. He learned his trade in Ohio at 17 years of age. He came to Chenoa in 1866. In his early days he made boots and shoes by hand. There was no machinery then for shoe manufacturing. He lived in Chenoa 55 years; much of the time he was the only shoe maker here. In his later years he repaired boots and shoes in P. B. Groesbeck's store. Later he repaired foot wear in Matthew & Weatherwax's store. He died in 1921 and was succeeded by H. T. Yarke. From now on all shoes were being manufactured. Mr. Phillips and Charles Penske repaired shoes, then John Smith came to Chenoa in 1937 as a shoe repairer only. He sold out to Harry Barth who began shoe repairing June 10, 1945. He also has the agency for dry cleaning clothes.

Some of the shoe stores in Chenoa were run by Mr. Danzener, E. Ekstein, H. W. Plank, M. Warner, P. B. Groesbeck, T. W. Weatherwax, Thompson's Dry Goods store, Kaplan Bros.

MOTELS AND TOURIST CABINS

The first tourist cabins were built in 1929 by Lloyd Sarver, located on old U. S. Highway 66, at what was then known as Tourist Park in the northwest part of Chenoa. In 1921 a filling station and lunch room was built on this location by Joe Watchinski of Bloomington which was purchased in 1926 by Lloyd Sarver. In 1929 Lloyd built four double cabins, enlarged the lunch room, installed outdoor lights and outdoor fireplaces and ovens on the grounds. In 1937 the lunch room and cabins were purchased by S. B. Stockum and later sold to Elvin Pearson of Chatsworth. He added more modern cabins and later with the assistance of Ray Dandrus, continued to operate until purchased by Ralph Wagner in 1953. This location is now called Legion Park.

In about 1931 tourist cabins were built by Mr. E. M. Streid who operated a filling station, restaurant and bus station near the intersection of highways 66 and 24. Also in 1931, cabins were built by the Sweeney Oil Co., to the rear of their filling station on highway 24.

Elvin Pearson purchased of Harry Merrick a filling station in the east part of Chenoa on highway 24 where he built cabins. This was later purchased by Mr. Roberts in 1950, who sold in 1953 to Rev. Moore of Forrest. Under the management of his son-in-law, Harry Gent, he plans to enlarge and build a modern motel known as Moore Rest.

In 1948, Isaac Weaver built the first modern motel of 8 units and a gas station near the present intersection of U. S. Highway 66 and 24, which is on the western edge of town. This was purchased by Ray Anderson in 1950, who enlarged the motel to 16 units and installed the latest equipment. This was purchased by Murphy & Florie of Chicago in 1952 and is now under the management of Mr. Murphy. It is well known by tourists as the Chenoa Motel and for its modern accommodations.

UNION ROOFING

Union Roofing Co. operated by C. T. Hostleton began his business in 1931. His company is located on North Division street just across on the west side of GM&O railroad on Division street at the north edge of town. Mr. Hostleton advertises several of the best television sets as well as radios, refrigerators, washers, dryers, water heaters, and deep freezers.

UNDERTAKERS

When death occurred in a family in the early days of Chenoa it was the custom to have some elderly women in the locality prepare the body for burial. Their work was done kindly but in a crude way. After the body was prepared, it was placed on a wide board surrounded by half gallon cans of ice. This was done especially in warm weather. They also made a solution of carbolic acid and cold water in which they kept pieces of white cloth. Every hour they wrung out a piece of cloth from the solution and placed it over the face of the corpse. This was done to keep the face of the deceased from turning dark. Then a sheet was spread over the corpse. It has long been the custom for friends of the deceased to sit up with a corpse all night. Many want a light kept burning, too. A lunch was prepared by the wife or friends in the home for those who were keeping watch all night. Many have wondered how this custom came about. There may be several reasons and the above mentioned may be one. Another might be to see that no rodent or cat enters the house during the night. In those days the homes were small and windows and doors did not fit securely. The pioneers did not have screens as we have.

J. C. Spence came to Chenoa in the late '50's and early '60's. He was an undertaker, but did not embalm. He prepared bodies for burial assisted by willing neighbor women. The wooden coffins were homemade. Mr. Spence served as undertaker until Daniel M. Shober came from Pennsylvania to Chenoa in 1868 or '69. He had learned the cabinet trade in Pennsylvania and made much of the furniture he sold in his furniture store. He was also an undertaker and made coffins. Soon after he came to Chenoa he went into business with J. Pence, the firm name being Pence & Shober. They started in business in the Hamilton Block on North Commercial street just north of the east elevator. At that time it was generally conceded this would be the business section of the town. Pence & Shober were the first undertakers in Chenoa who embalmed bodies. They carried on for three years, then Mr. Pence left and located in Fairbury. Mr. Shober took over the business himself and conducted it for 45 years. He lost heavily by a fire November 27, 1883, when his valuable horse hearse was destroyed. Later he moved his furniture and undertaking business to a brick building near the Pike Hotel. Again Mr. Shober was burned out in the big fire of July, 1894. His loss was estimated at \$4500. He received \$2500 insurance. Undaunted by bad luck, he again started his furniture and undertaking store a little farther north of the Pike Hotel. Once more, on March 12, 1899, he suffered a great loss by fire. Mr. Shober was up in years by this time, being 62 years of age.

In 1913 Charley Travis went into the undertaking business. Mr. Travis had studied embalming and how to conduct funerals. He conducted many of his funerals in the homes, as had long been the custom. Some few were held in churches. He continued in business until January 1, 1929, when he sold out to C. M. Easton. Mrs. Easton was his capable assistant. Not long after Mr. Easton came to Chenoa, he purchased a lovely home. This he made into a funeral home called the Easton Funeral Home. This was Chenoa's first funeral home.

On April 1, 1939, Gilbert Pils opened a second funeral home at his residence on Lincoln street. This was called Pils Funeral Home. February 1, 1944, Mr. C. M. Easton and Gilbert Pils consolidated and ran under the name of Easton & Pils Funeral Home. On September 1, 1953, Gilbert Pils purchased the interest of C. M. Easton. Now the only funeral home we have is the Pils Memorial Home. Mrs. Pils is an able assistant for her husband.

WELDING AND MACHINE SHOPS

L. J. Schultze, Paul Elliott, Glen Kauth.

WAGON SHOPS AND CARRIAGE DEALERS

There was a time when all towns large or small had a wagon shop. Since the days of automobiles there are more trucks and trailers used. Autos take the place of carriages. The following are business men who sold wagons or carriages — G. W. Richardson 1882 Chauncey Nickerson Samuel St. John R. C. Rollins H. Crabb Lou Lace made light wagons and cuggies J. B. Lemley Jewel & Gibson Zeigler wagon and plow factory Rollins Barnum & Wilder Otto Scherberth Fred Brumm, and Vollmer blacksmith and wagon maker

CATTLE

Years ago there were very few feeding cattle in this community. One of the main reasons for that was that people would have to go to the Western market and buy them by the carload. Feeders would have to ship the feed cattle in by the carloads and drive them from the railroad stock yards in Chenoa with saddle horses and extra men. After fattening the cattle they would drive them back in the same manner to the stock yards at Chenoa to be shipped by rail to Chicago. They had no trucking facilities in those days. Gradually they were shipping feeding cattle in and trucking fat cattle to market in Chicago. Consequently in time both stock yards in Chenoa became obsolete.

Owing to the volume of cattle that Mr. Harry Schwager was handling he saw this community could use a stock yards whereby the people could come in and buy the stockers and feeders by the volume they desired. With the cooperation of the TP&W railroad a siding was built two miles east of Chenoa on the TP&W railroad on one of his farms and became known as the Schwager Stock Yards. It is now Station #7 Schwager Siding Illinois and you will find it in the tariffs throughout the nation.

This gave the surrounding territory a good opportunity to buy just the quantity and quality they needed. The volume of feeders was greatly increased as the years went by. At the present time the Yards is leased to the Freehill Cattle Company.

MR. JAMES BRADY, FATHER OF EARL BRADY

Mr. James Brady lived on a farm about one mile south of Chenoa. He came to Chenoa when the land was an unbroken prairie. After his sons were large enough to work he started to buy stock. He covered a large territory and averaged five to eight carloads of cattle during the fall and winter months. At one time he had 17 carloads of stock on one train including 100 head of fat cattle he had bought. The stock cars in those days were only one-half the size of today's cars. He paid \$80 per head. One night he was loading cattle at a loading station south of Bloomington when the engine blew off steam and the cattle stampeded. Mr. Brady climbed the fence to keep from being injured. As the cattle ran by they broke down the gate and it was two weeks before he rounded them up again. There were no fences so they roamed at large.

Robert Cooper father of Fred and Elvie Cooper was a cattle buyer many years ago. He rode horseback all over the country rain or shine buying cattle. He usually took his son Elvie with him. He shipped his cattle from Weston to market.

HOG BUYERS

George Hayes was one of the earliest hog buyers. Mr. James Brady also purchased hogs and cattle. Emil Haushalter bought hogs and shipped them until

the farmers organized a shipping association and shipped their own. They hired a manager to do the work.

JOHN G. VAUGHAN, RETIRED FARMER AND STOCKMAN

John Vaughan was born to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Vaughan December 21, 1881, on a farm in Chenoa Township, where he still resides. He began raising Big Type Poland China pigs in 1906. Although he began raising Duroc-Jersey and Chester White pigs, Poland China is the breed with which he is associated. In 1914 he built a hog house which was advanced in design for that period. After other stockmen had much success in showing his hogs at fairs, Mr. Vaughan began showing in 1921. He never attended a show ring that he did not come out with a ribbon. He received several cups and won many champion ribbons. Professional people widely sought his advice regarding their problems in this field. He later participated as a judge in show rings.

Mr. Vaughan was a member and served in various capacities in the Poland China Recorder Association, Chicago, Ill.; National Poland China Association, Peoria, Illinois; and the McLean County Poland China Association, Bloomington, Illinois. Besides his participation in civic affairs, he was Governor from Chenoa in the McLean County Farm Bureau Association, and was a Charter member of the McLean County Detective Association, in which he has served as Deputy Sheriff for 30 years.

BLACK POLAND CHINA HOGS—MR. EDWIN C. RHODA

Black Poland China hogs originated in Ohio in 1862. They were a very small and chunky hog. In those days they were known as Hotbloods. In the early 1900's they changed and were called the Giantess type, which was a tall narrow type of hog. Mr. Rhoda purchased his first Poland China sow in 1924. These gradually changed from Giantess to the modern type of hog in 1925. The following are State Fair Champions shown by Mr. Edwin C. Rhoda in 1931-32:

World's Grand Champion Sow, Porto Belle Queen. Weight 865. This is a record that has never been equalled — the same sow to champion honors two years by the same owner.

1938 — World's Junior Champion Boar, "Diamond T."

1948 — Indiana Junior Champion Boar, "Top Reward."

1949 — Wisconsin Grand Champion Sow, "Model Miss."

1950 — Indiana Grand Champion Boar, Illinois Reserve Champion Boar, "Silver King." Weight 1065.

1951 — Illinois Grand Champion Boar, "Silver King." Weight 1065.

1951 — Illinois, Iowa, Indiana Junior Champion Sow, "Silver Dream." Mr. Rhoda showed "Silver Dream" to Junior Champion honors at the Illinois, Iowa, and Indiana fairs. This has never been equalled by a gilt the same year.

1953 — Illinois Junior Champion Boar, "Top Eagle."

1953 — Illinois Reserve Champion Boar, "Silver Eagle."

RIDING HORSES

Horses in general in 1954 are very uncommon compared to 50 or even 25 years ago. Modern cars and tractors have taken their place. Many farmers to-day have no work horses. There is one team of dray horses in town at this writing. They belong to Floyd Mason who uses them for draying purposes.

Occasionally we see a few saddle horses. The American saddle horse or

pony is popular in the horse show world both for riding and to show in the society classes. There are quarter horses that are used for pleasure riding and rope working. These are a heavier type of horse and usually have shorter legs. Showing saddle horses and ponies is Mrs. Ervin Corrie's hobby. She lives a little west of town on route 24. She has Hackney, Welch and harness show ponies. She trains and shows three or five gaited horses and exhibits them all over the states of Illinois and Indiana. She has shown her horses at the Midwest, at Springfield, Illinois State Fair, at Decatur, Illinois, Crown Point, Indiana, and other places.

She rides her horses on a flat English Saddle which compares with the side saddle of 50 years ago. They are driven in the show ring hitched to a low chrome wire wheeled buggy instead of the high wheeled ones we used to see years ago.

Three gaited horses are shown with chopped manes and tails. They have the three natural gaits, walk, trot, and a very spirited stylish way of going. Their action is high and well balanced.

The five gaited horses have long manes and tails, and five show gaits, walk, trot, canter, slow gait, and the rack. They have a flat footed walk, post, trot, and a rocking chair canter. The slow gait is a slow four beat gait with only one foot on the ground at a time. The rack is the same way only of a very fast speed. Their tails are set and carried high. These model horses of today are often driven in fine harness classes.

The Hackney Pony, originally from England, is driven to the four wheeled ViceRoy buggy. These ponies are very stylish with very high action. They are a very nervous type and also very quick. Their tails are all docked for showing.

Welch and Shetland ponies are used to drive and for pets for children. They are more of a pleasure type of pony and sometimes used in show rings.

The harness show pony is rather a new breed of pony. It is a Hackney and Shetland cross used mostly for driving. It is a miniature horse with a full mane and long tail. All horses and ponies are supposed to have high action in the show ring. For pleasure riding that is not so important.

Ponies and horses have to be spotless when they enter the show ring. Their manes are braided with bright colored ribbon. They make a beautiful picture while in the ring with their high action and spirited ways.

Mrs. Corrie wonders what will happen to these animals in another one hundred years. They too may be past history.

TORNADO OF 1858

The little town of Chenoa was in its infancy when a tornado struck May 13, 1858 unroofing and damaging houses. It was not a whirling tornado which passes along in a moment but a steady blow which lasted for hours and had a track seven miles wide. During the storm the rainfall was great. The cloud above was green in color. While the storm was raging everything appeared green. The new National Hotel in Chenoa was destroyed. Many other buildings and homes in town were damaged. The Nathaniel Hetherington home one half mile south of town on the east side of the road was completely destroyed. The family escaped injury but most everything they possessed was ruined. The only thing left intact was an old Seth Thomas Clock. It was blown out

on the plowed ground face down. This clock was still running in 1952. It is now in Pasadena California in the home of a relative of the Hetherington family.

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN IN 1869

A total eclipse of the sun occurred on August 7, 1869 in the locality of Chenoa. It was first noticeable at 4:06 p.m. Totality began at 5:02 and lasted for one minute and fifty six seconds. The end of the eclipse was 6:04. At 4:10 the human eye detected the first contact of the moon's southeastern margin with the northwest edge of the sun's disc. There was nothing remarkable for the first half hour. Then it seemed to be a little darker and gloomy. Prairies and groves were still distinct but there was no glow upon them. Ten minutes there was a lurid moonlight look in the sky which increased up to the moment of totality. Soon domestic fowls, pigeons, birds and other animals gave signs of uneasiness. Pigeons whirled in circles through the air and finally settled on the house tops with wings and plumage drooping. At 4:50 chickens began to go to roost and at 5 O'clock lightning bugs left their retreats beneath the bushes and were soon showing their tiny lights. About this time the sky overhead became of a dark gray color. But at the north it brightened with a sunset glow almost around to the northwest. From there around to the south and east it was perfectly colorless. When the moon was about to pass fully over the face of the sun, the unobscured portion appeared to flash like molten iron but with a color like that of gold. At 5:12 the eclipse was total. One minute and fifty seconds after the eclipse became total the sun flashed out on the northwestern margin with a grand explosion of light, wholly indescribable. Everyone was outside watching one of the greatest exhibitions of heavenly phenomena ever witnessed by many people in this locality.

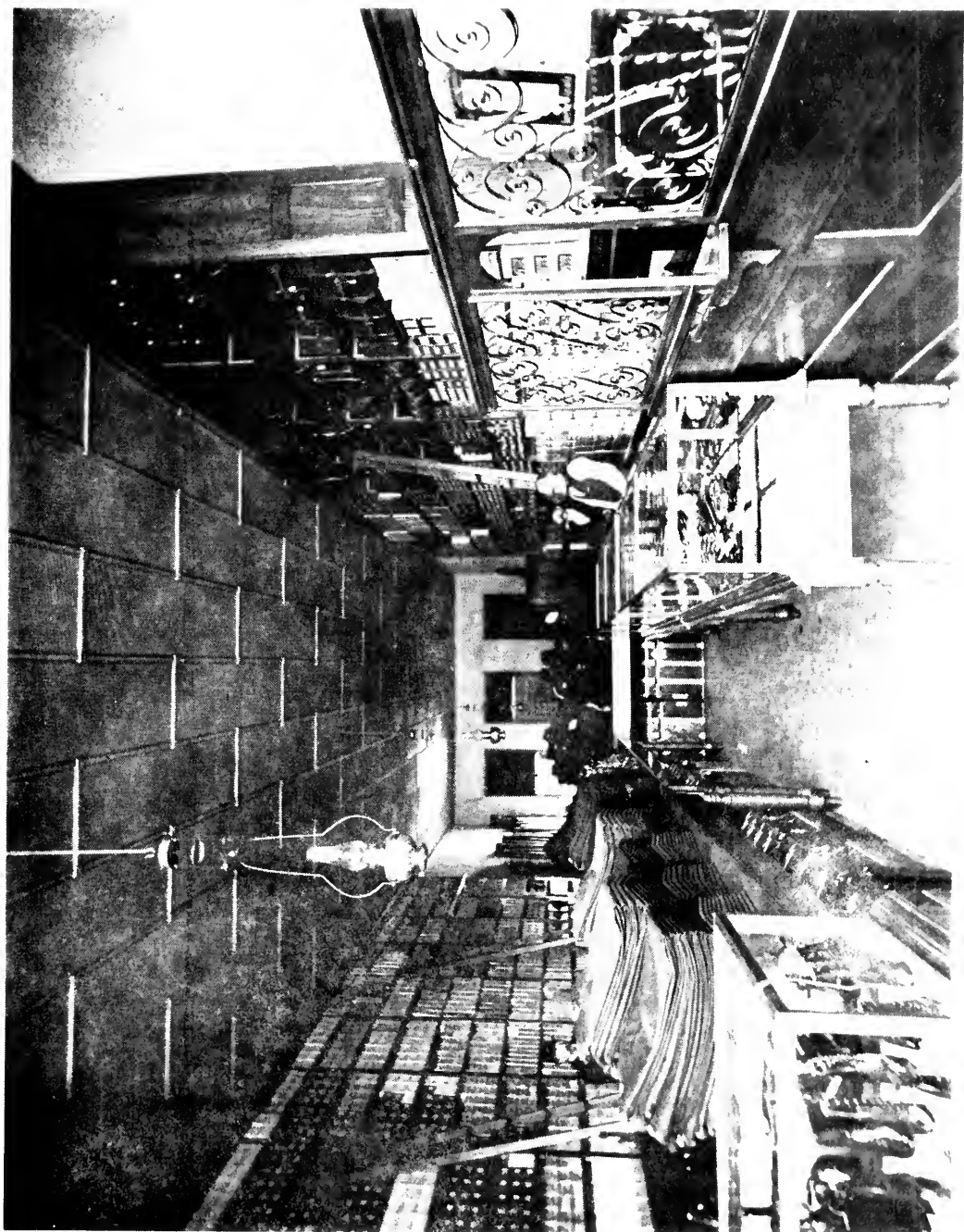
SLEET STORM AT CHENOA

One of the worst sleet storms descended upon Chenoa December 17, 1924. Chenoa had a similar sleet storm in 1869 but Charles Myer of Weston who lived to see the 1869 storm said the 1924 storm was worse. In 1869 there were no telephones, electric lights nor many large trees. The weight of the ice in the 1924 storm was tremendous. Trees went down to destruction carrying telegraph, telephone, and electric wires and poles with them. Streets and side walks were blocked. When trees went down they sounded like shots from a cannon. This storm was followed by an 8 inch snow storm. Then a cold wave followed. The next Sunday the thermometer dropped to 22° below zero at 6 O'clock in the morning. There was about two weeks that people were without electricity. Finally the current was turned on one Tuesday evening. Few people were aware of the resumption of electric service before Wednesday Morning.

FRAGMENT OF A METEOR FELL IN CHENOA

Copied from The Daily Pantagraph of December 23, 1876

Thursday evening about 8:30 p.m. the heavens were suddenly and very brilliantly illuminated. It was as light as day. Protracted meetings were being held in Chenoa and many near by towns. people rushed out of their homes and churches in amazement. They saw a large meteor passing in an easterly direction over the city. Many did not know what it was. It appeared to be about 30 feet long and shaped like a bow and composed of the colors of the rainbow. In about two minutes it exploded and a very large number of sparks descended toward the earth. Some said it looked like a rocket. Then a low rumbling sound was heard similar to an earth quake. It was said by many that it was the most



GROSBECK'S STORE



FLOOD SCENES IN THE CITY PARK — 1951



brilliant light they had ever seen. A fragment of the meteor fell on the ground in Chenoa on the south side of the Methodist Church. The first Chenoa Methodist Church stood a little back of the northeastern section of Main and First Avenue Streets and the north side of town. It buried itself into the ground and looked like a small ball of fire which was too hot to touch. The roaring sound of the meteor as it was coming was loud enough to shake the buildings. Everyone had a different description of the phenomenon. Mrs. Nettie King and her father John King was in attendance at the protracted meeting at the Methodist Church in Chenoa that night. The minister was a fiery orator and the church was crowded. Everyone rushed out of the church to see what was going on. It was judgment day to the unsaved or superstitious. Mr. Alvin Ballinger also recalls vividly the strange phenomenon. Mr. Alvin Moberly of Bloomington wrote recently about seeing the meteor and many answered through the Pantagraph about their impressions of it. Some thought the meteor fell somewhere in Indiana.

SOME SNOW STORM

Mr. S. H. Warner, the courteous representative of the C. & A. railroad at Chenoa recalls an exciting incident of a snow storm on the line in the early 1890's.

The snow had banked up on the the track until nothing could move. It was particularly bad between Chenoa and Odell. Supt. Richards made up a snow clearing train in Bloomington. It consisted of five engines, two cabooses, and a wrecking car. One hundred trainmen were in the cabooses and the wrecking car. Mr. Warner of Chenoa was taken along as an operator to open connections at any point on the snow bound line. This train pushed its way along until near Odell, when it was stopped by a train made up of two engines and some cars. This train was completely snow bound and immovably imprisoned. Operator Warner made his way through the deep snow and climbed a pole. He cut the wire and made contact from the snow drift north and south. Soon seven locomotives got up steam and by their combined power worked their way on to Odell.

Railroad men in this vicinity claim these snowdrifts were deeper than ever before known. It was not at all unusual in early days for snow to be deep enough to cover all fence posts.

CLOUDBURST IN CHENOA

On the night of July 9th 1951 Chenoa had an 8 inch rain during the night. Many residents did not realize the amount of water that had fallen until morning when they found their basements almost filled with water. In some places the water flowed into the cellars through the windows which were not too far above the ground. In church basements, song books etc. were floating and pianos ruined as well as furnaces. The city park was again a good sized pond with water flowing across Division street up to the front steps of the homes on the west side of the street.

Hard roads were overflowed, making travel on them hazardous. Many farm fields were completely inundated and crops injured by the great amount of water standing on them.

HAILSTORM

A severe hailstorm struck Chenoa Friday at 4:30 p.m. on August 1953. The storms path was 4 miles across and extended many miles from the southwest

to northeast. Farms located south and southwest and southeast of Chenoa were in the path of the storm. Windowpanes and tree branches were broken. Gardens were destroyed and roofs damaged. The hail destroyed many acres of corn and soy beans. The estimate of the latter crops was \$2,000,000. Corn was in the roasting ear stage. The corn soon moulded in spots on the ear where the hail bruised the grain. Hailstones were piled up along the road sides in ditches and along the sides of buildings for a long time after the storm. A heavy white fog hung over the area for quite a while after the hail had descended. Drivers were out in droves Sunday to see the damage done by the hail storm.

MISCELLANEOUS

The first church wedding in Chenoa was solemnized at the Anderson schoolhouse on Crittendon street on the west side of town. The Methodists were holding Sunday services there at that time. Mr. J. L. Moore, son of Josiah and Elizabeth Moore, married Laura Louise Nevin, daughter of Andrew and Delilah Nevin, on November 23, 1865. Rev. A. E. Day, pastor of the Methodist Church, performed the ceremony before a group of relatives and friends. They went to St. Louis on their honeymoon.

During the years from 1854 to 1860 Chenoa Township was more rapidly settled than any other half dozen years later.

The first ready-made ladies dresses ever sold in Chenoa were purchased at Balbach's Dry Goods Store on the northwest corner of Veto and Owsley streets in the early 1890's. These dresses were called "Mother Hubbards." They had a 6- or 8-inch yoke, long sleeves, and quite a long full skirt sewed on to the yoke. Thus they launched the profitable sale of Du Brock ready-made dresses.

David Whiteside plowed many acres of prairie north and west of Chenoa. He used a very crude plow and drove a fine span of mules.

From about 1890 to 1900 Jake Balbach ran a peddler's wagon in the surrounding country near Chenoa. Once he drove into a yard near Pleasant Hill and heard a child screaming. Looking about, he saw it in a hog lot. A hog was attacking it. Jake lost no time in rescuing the child. Ever afterward the mother of the child tried to purchase something of Mr. Balbach. He carried a few staple groceries and a little dry goods, which he exchanged for eggs, butter, or chickens. Those were the days when farmers did not have enough horses to spare from work to go to town.

Not many schoolhouses were seen on the prairie until after 1860 or '65. Parents who lived away out on the prairie were afraid to send their children to town or very far to school for fear they might be drowned in a slough or pond.

Mr. Jesse R. King sometimes worked in the Chenoa coal mine. He quit working there the day before the mine disaster when several miners were killed.

In 1867 the U.S. was on the gold standard. Many people then were afraid to accept paper money.

Pantagraph March 28, 1902. The original paper showing the organization of the city of Chenoa has been destroyed, probably in one of the big fires in Chenoa. City officials have received notice from the Secretary of State that there is nothing on file in Springfield to show that Chenoa is a legally organized city. The only record is in a history of McLean County, which states that August 5, 1872, an election was called to vote for or against organizing. It carried,

there being only 18 votes against. The first city election took place Sept. 7, 1872.

Aug. 21, 1876. Sunday morning as Dr. Charles Elder of Chenoa was returning in a carriage from Chenoa accompanied by his wife and family when about five miles north of Normal a bridge gave way beneath his horses, precipitating them in the stream below. One of the animals fell on its back, the other standing right over it. The carriage was not overturned or broken. Mr. Elder sprang out quickly and cut the harness, thus freeing the horses and saving the prostrated one from drowning. With the help of neighbors, the party reached Bloomington in safety with only a damaged harness and a good scare.

There have been several buffalo wallows near Chenoa. One was west of our present City Cemetery and south of the T. P. & W. R.R. Pioneers traveling through in covered wagons followed early trails which passed by this place near the City Cemetery.

After the Civil War was over, Confederate money was worth nothing. Mr. W. H. Loper, a Weston blacksmith, happened to have some so he decorated one wall of his shop with confederate bills.

John (Shorty) Jontry and his wife and Mr. Hensley both ran green houses in the early 1900's. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Vrooman ran a green house at the north-west edge of town more recently. They hired a manager to run it and to sell asparagus and tend their orchard there.

The first white girl born in Chenoa was Katie Dunn who was related to the McCarthy family. The first white boy born in Chenoa was John Mackey whose parents ran a boarding house not far from the depot.

Henry R. Kerr came from Maryland to Chenoa in 1854. He purchased prairie land $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Chenoa. Here he built a nice home with improvements within 80 rods of Chenoa. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Matthew T. Scott, John Lenny and others took refuge in his home until they could get suitable buildings of their own.

Spring rains in 1852 turned the prairie into one vast marsh. When the water went away and the prairie grass sprung up, it grew to the height of 10 feet in some places.

There was a depression in 1883. Cattle were \$5 to \$6.75 per hundred lbs., hogs \$5.25 to \$6 per hundred, wheat \$1.00 per bu., corn 51 cents and oats 27 cents. Coffee was 5 lbs. for \$1.00.

Newspapers in early times were filled with patent medicine ads. For example: "Merchants Gargle Oil, good for burns, scalds, chilblains, poll evil, toothache, rheumatism, fistula, mange, cracked heel, croup, and lame back. After the pure food and drug act was passed many of these were taken off the drug store shelves.

Ina Haynes taught first grade in the Hamilton building in 1889-90. The school house on Second Avenue was over crowded at that time.

E.E. Cox was the first man at Chenoa to own a Hudson 1914 seven passenger car. He was often called upon to use his car at funerals to haul the pall bearers.

Mr. John Jacob Jontry was the last person that was taken to the cemetery in a horse drawn hearse.

Mr. Frank Ohmit came to Chenoa in 1856 when there were only three houses and a shanty in town. His first experience on the C. & A. railroad is long to be remembered. He started from Chicago once at 6 o'clock in the evening and reached Chenoa at noon the next day. At times the road was so rough the passengers were obliged to hold on to their seats for fear of bouncing out of them.

Ketcham & Seybolt built the first store in the present business section of Chenoa on Green Street.

Ralph Vinton worked at the Balbach Store 55 years. He can tell some very interesting stories of early days in Chenoa.

CAR LICENSES

The State of Illinois began requiring that motor vehicles be licensed in 1907. For the first four years 1907-8-9 and 10 the state did not provide license plates, only a small metal tag. During that period some motor owners made their own plates, reproducing on the plates the number shown on the tag.

In 1911, Illinois began issuing license plates. That year the plates showed only the registration number and the letters "Ill." In 1912 the practice of showing the year was also started.

Total registration of motor vehicles in 1911 was 43,615, including 39,269 passenger cars and 4346 motor cycles. For 1953 the total registration was 3,061,387 including 2,580,678 passenger cars, 377,035 trucks, 72,636 trailers and semi-trailers, 23,637 motorcycles and 7,401 dealers.

Charles Carpentier, Sec. of State

CHENOA COUNTY

The Chenoa Clipper pushed vigorously for a water works and won. About the same time the Clipper was advocating that Chenoa Township be made a county called Chenoa County and that New Chenoa be the county seat. For some reason this did not materialize. Chenoa is still in McLean County.

Often the early pioneers had only a 2 or 3 room house and a large family. They made what was called a trundle bed which was a little less in width and length than the average bed. It was a very low bed that could be rolled under the large bed during the day and pulled out into the room at night. Trundle beds were used for children's beds.

Mr. Henry Copeland built a big horse barn across the street west from our city pumping station. He imported fine horses to sell. Mr. Copeland sold the barn to Frank Ballinger who bought horses to ship to eastern markets. This barn has recently been torn down.

The road drag was used as early as 1900.

Ada Maxwell, a former resident of Chenoa, is 92 years old. She formerly lived on Piety Hill in the northwest part of Chenoa. She and her sister are now living at Withers Home in Bloomington.

J. E. Wightman was mayor of Chenoa three times and a member of the board of education 17 years, being president of the school board 13 years. Mr. E. M. Pike served as president of the local school board for 18 consecutive years. David Stutzman was a member of the High School board for 24 years, serving as president of the board 21 years. Victor Nickel served on the grade and High School board 27 years, part of that time being president of the board. Since Chenoa Unit School Dist. No. 9 has been organized, Gilbert Pils served 3 years as president of this board and Orland Kridner has served as president the past 2 years. Frank Abbott has been school treasurer the past 40 years, having resigned this year.

Robert Vaughn Jr. took first prize with his 4-H calf "Whizbang" at the International show in Chicago in 1936.

Mary Kinsinger, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kinsinger, had the champion steer in the Chicago 4-H show in 1934.

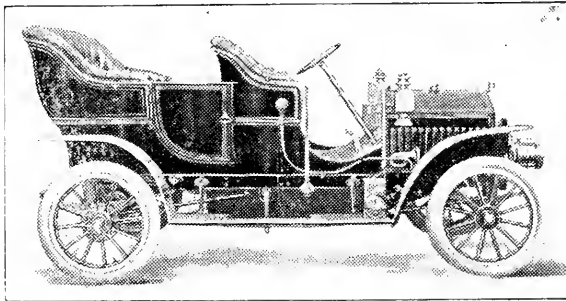
Alva Schickedanz had the Grand Champion Red Poland bull at the International Live Stock Show at Chicago in 1934.

According to Dr. Ethyl Stump Larsen her mother, Dr. Lillian Stump, was the first person to suggest at one of their congregational meetings that the Congregational Church be offered to the City of Chenoa for a Chenoa Public Library.

It was extremely dry in the summer and fall of 1953 up until the winter of



FIRST OILING OF CHENOA STREETS



C. C. McDONALD'S CAR — ONE OF THE FIRST IN CHENOA



ONE OF THE FIRST CARS TO MAKE ITS APPEARANCE IN CHENOA

1954. Many farmers hauled water for their live stock from the Chenoa city wells. There were 25 to 30 tanks of water hauled daily.

Miss Inez Thomas still possesses a combination knife, fork and spoon used by her father in the Civil War. It looks almost like a jack knife. When the blades are pulled out they are used for table service at a meal. Dr. James Thomas was a surgeon in the 117th Indiana Regiment.

The Churchills came to Chenoa in 1866. They owned elevators at Gridley, Colfax, Weston, Chenoa, Meadows, Ocoya, and Ballard. Frank Churchill had an elevator at Fairbury which later housed Honegger Feed Company at the time it was destroyed by fire in 1949.

Lightning struck the steeple of the Presbyterian church in 1897. It was never rebuilt to its former height.

1912 The people of Yates Township are to be commended for their promptness in paying their taxes. This township is on the honor roll for having no delinquent taxes on the tax books this year.

The Catholics held their first services in the Anderson school house on Crittendan Street. Mrs. Con Healy and eight babies were baptized one Sunday while the Catholics held services there.

Hance Marshall taught the Cottonwood school in 1876—77. During the summer vacation of 1877 he painted the outside of the school house receiving \$9 for his work. Afterward he studied law and became a judge in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr. Frank Rhoda of Chenoa still has a tax receipt given to his father in 1863. His father paid \$6.49 on 80 acres that is 4 miles south and 2 miles east of Chenoa.

In Bell County, Kentucky, near Pineville, Kentucky, is a small mining town of long standing that bears the name of Chenoa. Recently mail sent to Chenoa, Illinois, was missent to Chenoa, Kentucky.

Mr. McClintock, who formerly lived north of Chenoa near the McClintock bridge on the county line, was an engineer on the second bridge in the Chatsworth wreck August 10, 1887. The first engine crossed the bridge, but the second one went down and Mr. McClintock was killed. It is said that he asked the officials at Peoria to run the excursion train in two trains, but they did not see fit to accept his suggestion.

The population of Chenoa was 2000 persons in 1867. The town was booming at that time. Many newcomers stayed at Hotels or Boarding Houses until homes were built for them. (Taken from one of the first editions of Chenoa Times in 1867.)

In 1895 the population of Chenoa was 2500 people. This was when Chenoa could boast of three enterprises which employed help—the tile factory, coal mine, and canning factory.—March 8, 1895, Clipper Fire Edition.

Our Presbyterian friends are improving the streets and their church lot by planting trees as a centenary gift to the church.—Taken from a local paper dated April 27, 1876.

Jake Moschel and H. W. Jontry were born in Chenoa on the same day and the same year.

The following are some Chenoa people who have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversaries: Mr. and Mrs. N. B. Coonley, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Degenford, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lanzer, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Omit, Mr. and Mrs. David Whiteside.

Dr. F. H. Ballard and Daniel Shober went through three fires and lost everything.

Robert Cooper, father of Fred and Elvie Cooper, was an early cattle buyer from Weston. He shipped all his cattle from that station.

Pike & Castle's New Discovery Kilns gained a world-wide reputation. The kilns were built in Paris and other parts of France. Mr. E. M. Pike sold them in

many parts of the United States and Canada, where they were successfully used in the factories.

Chenoa had a rifle club as early as 1895. The Chenoa Fire Edition of that year says we have more expert shooters than might be imagined.



CITY WATER TOWER — BUILT IN 1895

At one of Chenoa's celebrations it was advertised that Professor Gander would fly from the city water tower at an appointed hour of the day. A very large crowd of people gathered at the park to see Professor Gander take off. When the hour arrived, the people awaited anxiously to see him. To their great amazement a big gray gander spread his wings and flew off of the tower.

Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Silliman celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary quietly at home on December 25, 1916. They had engaged the Rex Theater for the entire day with shows in the morning, afternoon and evening. Any child under 15

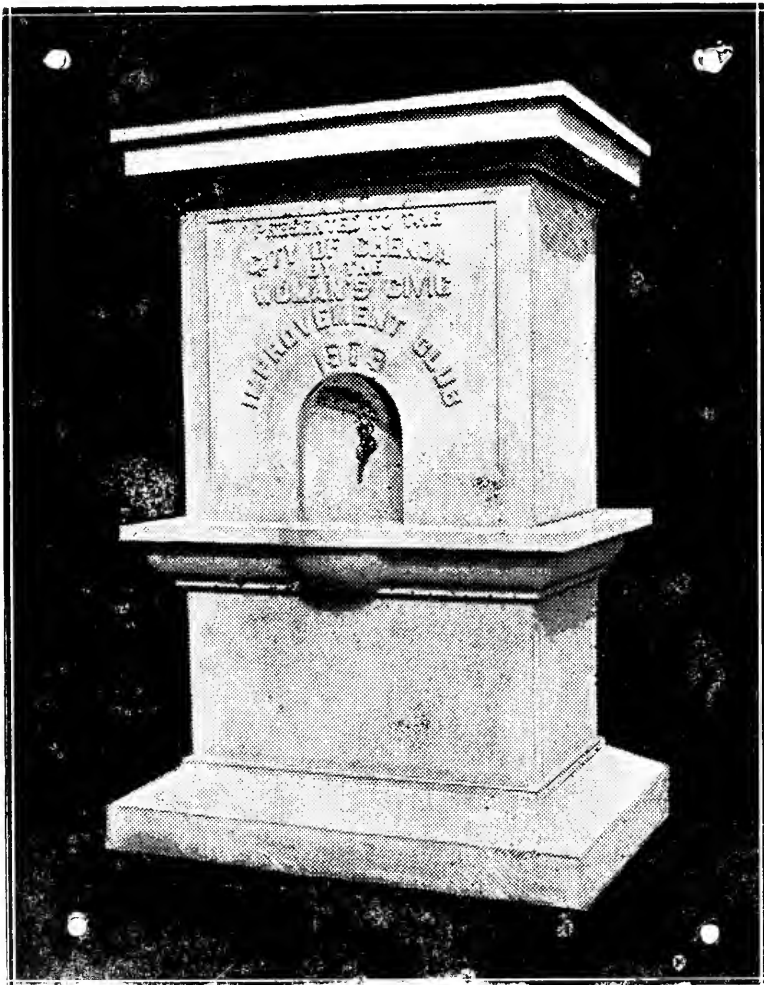
years of age had the privilege of attending without cost of admission.

Charles N. Hancock attended the Hancock school when he was a boy. There were 55 pupils in the school during the winter and 33 of them came from three families.

After the big fire of 1894, W. A. Haynes was standing over the ruins of his grain office when he fell into the hot embers and burned his left hand.

Chenoa's second Pike House was built in 1899.

Mr. R. G. Jordan was born in the state of Maine. He came to Bloomington in March, 1856, and was engaged as a night clerk at the Pike Hotel which was located on Front street (this building is still standing). Here he often met Abraham Lincoln, who usually put up at this hotel. Lincoln was a jovial fellow no matter how fatigued he might be. After his evening meal he sat in the hotel lobby



DRINKING FOUNTAIN IN FRONT OF THE FLAT IRON BUILDING

talking and telling jokes to those around him. Usually he went to his room at a reasonable hour. But before going he asked Mr. Jordan if he might have a cup of

hot tea before retiring. Mr. Jordan graciously granted his request by sending the hot tea at the requested time.

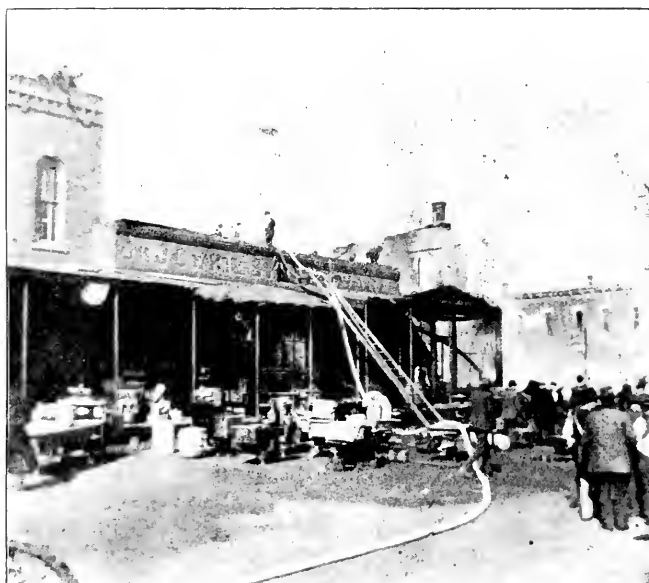
Chenoa put on some very nice parades in its pioneer days. The uniformed band was a special feature. Dr. C. E. Elder headed the parade riding his snow-white horse with a beautiful saddle and bridle. Dr. Elder wore his Civil War uniform. Usually his horse was a quiet animal, but when the band music started the horse became active and alert just as it did when he rode it in Civil War days.

In 1870 men's suits sold for \$7.50 to \$12 per suit. Blankets were \$3.00 per pair. Many businessmen closed because of the depression.

Mrs. Rudolph Remmers is in possession of the first edition of the Chenoa Times published in 1867.

Louis Lace made the first wirewheel carts in Chenoa. They were more satisfactory to use when the roads were muddy. The mud did not cling to the wheels as much as the large, heavy wagon wheels.

Henry E. Coonley states in his "Reminiscences of Chenoa" that the C&A railroad was the first railroad in the U.S. to ballast their tracks with gravel and also



SCENE FROM THE FIRE OF 1899

the first to have reclining chairs, which were quite a luxury, as Pullmans were not known at that time. When the C&A was built, workmen began at St. Louis and worked northward to Chicago.

Stanley Balbach, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nyle Balbach, belongs to the Sons of American Revolution in Champaign.

Andrew Rupp was the first editor of the Times.

Keith Phillips, son of Mr. and Mrs. Julian Phillips, was another Chenoa boy who was at Pearl Harbor. His ship, "Yorktown," went down. We have not learned enough about his experiences there only to say that he saw hard service while there.

Before the days of bed mattresses, featherbeds and ticks filled with straw were used. Most housewives preferred to use cornhusks instead of straw. When the elevators were shelling corn, boys in town earned money by gathering the

husks from the cob pile as they came from the chute. The usual price was five cents for the common gunny sack well filled and delivered.

Mrs. Terrance McCarthy of Chenoa is said to have been 101 years old when she passed away. Mrs. Lydia Abbott of Chenoa was 100 years, 6 months old when she passed away. Both of these women passed away in Chenoa.

Oldest residents of Chenoa: Mrs. Anton Winterland was 89 years old January 10, 1954; Mrs. Margaret Dwyer was 89 years old February 26, 1954; Mrs. Mazie McNeil will be 89 years old July 18, 1954.

Clayton and Alvin Ballinger had planned to go to Ohio for a visit and would have gone on the ill-fated Chatsworth wreck train, but for some unknown reason Alvin decided he did not want to go at that time. How lucky they were that they remained at home.

Miss Agnes Dillon taught school in Chenoa for 24 years.

Father John Healy will be celebrating his 65th birthday during the week of Chenoa's Centennial.

At one time all the business houses in Chenoa were wooden buildings. This may account for some of our big fires.

Opera Houses and Halls for entertainment: Red Ribbon Hall in the Crosby Building; Silliman Hall, above Jordan's office; Union Hall, above Ketcham's Store; McDonald Opera House; Hanna Hall; Lyceum; Opera House on Owsley street, north of Methodist Church; I.O.H. Hall, built from material of the old Catholic Church; Hibernian Hall.

Oldest native-born residents: Miss Inez Thomas will be 80 years old July, 1954; John (Shorty) Jontry will be 80 years old August, 1954.

The part of the town west of the C&A railroad was the original town of Chenoa and was the business section of the town. The portion of land lying between the C&A railroad and Division street was not platted out and hence was not on the market for sale. The objections of Mr. Scott were overcome in 1865. About this time Louis Zeigler built a large wagon shop east of the C&A railroad. Soon others built on this no-man's land where Mr. Scott had declared he would build a wall so no one could pass over into his part of the town.

In August, 1951, Mary Alice Kridner was chosen the first State Homemaker from Chenoa High School. She was also the only one who was chosen to attend the National Homemakers Camp at East Lansing, Michigan.

The road leading out of the northwest part of town was called Piety Lane many years ago. Now we hear it more often called Lover's Lane.

Gerisch Family: Mr. and Mrs. Christian Gerisch had three children, namely: Minnie Gerisch (Harrington), who was a musician and played the pipe organ at the Presbyterian Church about 50 years ago; Nettie Gerisch (Chapman), who worked untiringly in the Red Cross for many years, and also helped in many other civic enterprises in Chenoa; and Louis Gerisch, who married Vida Litchfield. He looked after the Gerisch farm interests and was agent for the Mid-West Phosphate Company and also the Eaton-Mann Phosphate Company.

In April, 1909, the businessmen of Chenoa met at the Opera House to consider the building of an electric railroad from Pontiac to Bloomington. Mayor John E. Wightman was chairman of the mass meeting. G. E. Stump was elected secretary. President H. A. Fisher of the BP&J Electric Railroad Company gave an interesting address, detailing the plans of the company for building a through line from Joliet to Bloomington. The grading for the railroad was made on the east side of the C&A railroad up to a point not too far north of Chenoa. For some unknown reason this road was never put through, but the grading still stands as it was left.

Mr. L. L. Silliman has an insurance policy which belonged to his father, which has a clause protecting them against Indian attack.

Mr. L. L. Silliman began working in the Haynes, Holder & Jordan Bank when he was 21 years of age at \$21 per month.

Vae Hogan entered service early in World War II and served as a registered nurse at Fitzsimmons Hospital at Denver, Colorado.

Doris Ann Balbach was in the Navy during World War II from 1943-1945. She took her boot training in New York and Boston. She was located at Norman Air Base, Oklahoma.

SPRINGTIME SONGSTERS

Just as we today watch for the appearance of the first robin in the spring, so the early settlers listened to hear the first frog croak. Frogs live in swampy places, hibernating during the winter. When spring comes they climb out of their winter quarters onto a leaf or rock. The first few newcomers sing somewhat timidly, but day by day more arrive and take up the chorus. As days and weeks go by, the croaking becomes one constant melodious chorus of high shrill sounds.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By Edna Hull Miller

*And now that years have thinned, I find the past has larger space.
The old home town is dear to me and round my heart a net
And now to me this town has a heart, a spirit, a soul, and a mind,
For every foot of our old town has something left behind.
Seems tightly drawn, encasing love and joy I can't forget.
A right of sale could not include the dreams that crowd the place,*

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