

THE

PEKIN

CENTENARY

1849-1949

COMMEMORATING
100 YEARS OF
COMMUNITY PROGRESS IN
THE CITY OF PEKIN, ILLINOIS

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VIRGIL BOZARTH
1901 KARO PEKIN
The Pekin Centenary
1849-1949

A SOUVENIR BOOK

Commemorating 100 years of
community progress in the City
of Pekin, Illinois.

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FRANK

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PEKIN

The Frontier Community

Pekin became a city August 20, 1849, after its birth 25 years earlier in the rough and ready frontier tradition and its development as a community in that same atmosphere of violence and hardship.

The river valley was dotted with Indian villages and little else in 1824 when Jonathan Tharpe built the first log cabin ever erected on the site of the city of Pekin and began farming an area including much of what is now Pekin's principal business district.

Only 10 years earlier there had been organized warfare on both sides of the river between Indians and American troops and militia, ending in the withdrawal of the troops. Even Fort Clark, temporarily erected at the site of Peoria, had been abandoned and burned.

However, Tharpe had no trouble with the Indians that roamed the area and had camps and villages at Pekin, on Ten Mile creek near what is now East Peoria, and on the far side of the river, and others followed him promptly.

Just three years after he built his cabin, Mordecai Mobley brought in the first consignment of goods and Jacob Tharpe, Jonathan's father, set up the first store in his smoke house. That year, William H. Hodge, the county surveyor, made the original plat of Pekin. He had no surveyor's chain, and made his survey with string, a fact which accounts for the variety of measurements engineers still discover when re-surveying the original town properties and blocks.

One year later, in 1828, just four years after the first cabin went up, a Methodist mission was established here, and settlers began to move up to the "river landing." Absolam and Joseph Dillon moved to "Townsite", as it was called, and Major Nathan Cromwell came up from Sand Prairie where he had settled, and Gideon Hawley, William Haines and Dr. John Warner became Tharpe's neighbors.

The first steamship came chugging up the river, churning water, blowing off steam and tooting its whistle, so that

old Jacob Tharpe thought the end of the world had come and routed his family out of their beds and summoned them to prayer.

History records that one settler took after the monster with his dog and hunting rifle, and that it caused fear and consternation throughout the area.

And it was then, in 1829, apparently, that the settlers ceased to be "squatters" and obtained legal title to their lands here after a series of incidents which resulted in the first lots costing just 28 cents apiece.

The official plat was taken to Springfield in that year and an auction held to dispose of the property embracing much of what is now Pekin. The atmosphere of the land sale was typical of the robust pioneer tradition. The room was filled with men who were armed to the teeth, eyeing each other watchfully, and from time to time making threatening gestures and remarks.

When the sale opened on the final day, a man identified only by the name of Harrington, reportedly jumped to his feet with pistol drawn and offered a bid of \$1.25 an acre, adding that he would shoot the first man who raised that bid.

Major Isaac Perkins paced the floor in a threatening manner, guns prominently displayed, and the room was quiet and tense as the auctioneer proceeded but the lands were knocked down to Harrington without another bid being offered and without gunfire.

Harrington's bold victory was short-lived, however. Perkins permitted him to complete the regulations and acquire title to the lands, and then he and a group of Pekin settlers virtually kidnapped the interloper and forced him to convey the lands over to them in the original title deeds on which present ownership of most Pekin properties is still based.

History doesn't record who was with Perkins when they forced Harrington to release Pekin properties, but the lands turned up in the hands of Perkins, Gideon Hawley, William Haines and Major

History of Pekin's Water Service

The plant and distribution system of the Pekin Water Works Company was installed under a franchise granted by the City of Pekin to Charles A. Lamb, Chicago, Illinois, and Henry S. Raymond, Galena, Illinois, under date of May 24, 1886. A certificate of Incorporation was issued by Henry D. Dement, then Secretary of State under date of July 12, 1886.

The stock of the company was owned by Chicago interests and the drilling of wells, installation of steam pumping equipment, construction of a distribution system and erection of storage tank was engineered by E.S. Alexander, Chicago Engineer.

The original installation included 9 miles of cast iron mains 4 inch to 14 inch in diameter and about 5 miles of wrought iron mains from $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2" in diameter; 100 fire hydrants and 32 line-valves. The wells and pumping station were located on the same tract now occupied by the plant. By the end of the year 1886 there were 189 customers served from the system.

With a well capacity of 15 million gallons per day and a pumping capacity of 8 million gallons per day, the present plant is able to amply meet all demands with adequate reserves for future growth. More than 350 fire hydrants provide the necessary protection for the entire city and over 950 line-valves insure a minimum of uninterrupted service.

The Pekin Water Works Company has been a part of the history of Pekin for the past 63 years and has constantly adhered to a policy of quality, service and low cost. The owners and management have participated freely in the support of civic, educational and charitable interests and will continue to do so in the hope that such policies may contribute to making Pekin an even more desirable city in which to live.

In 1887 the company was purchased by the American Water Works and Guaranty Company, Ltd., of Muncie Indiana and Mr. Frank C. Amsbary was appointed local Superintendent. During this year, the company was at odds with the City Administration who claimed that the wells were not drilled to "second vein" water, as the franchise provided. The city ordered a well digging firm from

Chicago to drill a test well and a determination was made that "second vein" water was only a myth and that the company wells were located in a very desirable bed of gravel washed water.

During the year 1887, the company could not earn its operating expense and pay interest on bonds and in January of 1888 the owners offered the plant for sale, and the first local interest in the company was introduced when Mr. George H. Lucas and Mr. Henry Lautz purchased the controlling stock. From time to time thereafter until 1901, several Pekin business men invested in the company but withdrew support when their investment earned no return. Henry Lautz, however, would not accept failure and by 1901 he had purchased all of the company stock and it has remained the property of his heirs since that date.

In 1908 the company set its first meters and by 1918 all customers were on a meter basis. Prior to metering, rates were determined by the number of persons, horses and cows and the number of outlet taps for each service. Water used for sprinkling required a special rate application. Contracts were drawn with each customer in which the above data was included and a fixed yearly charge agreed upon. Contracts were effective for one year and billing and collecting was done door to door. In 1914 the Illinois Commerce Commission was established and all privately owned water utilities were required to establish rate schedules with the Commission.

During the year 1909 a destructive fire burned the roof off the pumping station but service to the City was maintained without interruption.

The water works plant serving Pekin today is a far cry from the early plant. Four 25" concrete wells have replaced the old 6" and 8" wells and modern electric pumps are now used in place of the old steam driven type. The circular stone tower that supported a steel tank holding 180,000 gallons of reserve water has been dismantled and replaced with a concrete covered reservoir located on the East Bluff, with a reserve capacity of 2½ million gallons of water. Nearly 75 miles of main are in service and over 6,100 customers are served.

Nathan Cromwell. When the deal was completed and the lands were laid out in lots by these pioneers in 1830, it was calculated that the lots had cost 28 cents each.

Perkins early sold his share to Thomas Snell, a newcomer who became one of the community's early builders.

It was then that Pekin was born AS PEKIN. Mrs. Nathan Cromwell gave the newly platted town that name, and is also responsible for the early naming of the streets and the unique designation of the east and west street series with the names of women.

Apparently the town was hardly platted before the first saloon made its appearance, for records show the county issued a liquor license that year to George W. Hinch at Pekin. This was 10 years before the appearance of a bank, and one year before the first school was organized.

In 1831, the first school house was built at the corner of Elizabeth and South Second streets, and John S. Snell, son of Thomas, became its teacher. Before the year was out, Pekin was designated as the county seat and the school also became the court house, replacing that which had been used at Mackinaw.

So, eight years after the erection of the first cabin, Pekin boasted a name, a store, a saloon, a school, and had become the county seat.

In addition to the white settlement, there were the wigwags and camp of Shaubena, one of the major chiefs of the Pottowatamie tribe located in what is now the city of Pekin. The chief's settlement was along the riverfront just south of the landing place in the vicinity of the old "Gashouse" hill and down toward the Farmers' grain elevator.

A year later, news came to the newborn settlement that Chief Black Hawk had crossed the Mississippi with a large force of warriors, and the organization of militia immediately began, with considerable suspicion and concern among the settlers about the many Indians in the neighborhood.

Unknown to the settlers, Black Hawk had sent a message to Shaubena here at Pekin, urging war against the whites, but Shaubena, who had fought beside Tecumseh at Tippicanoe and knew of the power of the white man's arms, resisted.

History records that Black Hawk told Shaubena, "If the Pottowatamie nation will rise, our warriors will number as the trees of the forest." And Shaubena replied, "If so, you will find that white man's warriors will number as the leaves on the trees of the forest."

Shaubena's decision came at the risk of his own life, and in fact, his son

was later killed by war-like and dissident Indians because of the charge that Shaubena was "a friend of the whites". At any rate, thanks to Shaubena, the Indians along the Illinois river valley did not take part in the Black Hawk war, and no unfriendly force of redskins penetrated closer than 50 miles from Pekin.

However, a militia company was formed in this county and formally mustered at Pekin, to march north against Black Hawk.

Here at home, the settlers hastily threw up a stockade "fort" around the Snell school which was also the Court house, and called it Fort Doolittle.

Several times, false reports of Indian activity caused the people to rush temporarily to the shelter of this fort, which after a time they discovered was aptly named, because little could have been done in its defense. Belatedly, the frontier settlers discovered that they had provided for no source of water within the fort, and any prolonged defense would have been impossible. Fortunately, Fort Doolittle never had occasion to be defended.

The men who marched north under Capt. John G. Adams, after being mustered at Pekin, were not so fortunate. They joined companies from Peoria Fulton, and McLean counties, and were joined by other Pekinites, including Major Isaac Perkins who played such a key part in the original sale of Pekin lands, Col. Daniel Bailey, W.S. Rankin, David Alexander, and a lieutenant named Alexander McNaughton.

They took part in the first clash of the war, the Battle of Sycamore, often called "Stillman's Run", because the bulk of the militia force simply broke and ran at the first contact with the Indians, and only a handful stood and fought and were killed.

It is significant that Capt. Adams was among those who stood, and is credited as the man who rallied the only real fighting force at the Battle of the Sycamore, and that he was killed in action there. His wife, after whom Jane street in Pekin is named, lost her mind when told of his death.

It is also significant that of the 13 men killed in that fight, nine were from the Tazewell county company that was mustered at Pekin, and the other four from Fulton, McLean and Peoria counties.

Major Isaac Perkins of Pekin was killed at Sycamore and his body badly mangled by the Indians, indicating that he had inflicted more than his share of damage on them. He was killed just two years after the mix-up over title to Pekin lands.

The militia company continued to serve through the three other more



ANOTHER MILESTONE IN THE PROGRESS

of the

CITY OF PEKIN

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for

PEKIN AND CENTRAL ILLINOIS

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THE OWNERS AND EMPLOYEES OF RADIO STATION W S I V SAY "CONGRATULATIONS, PEKIN" ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AND JOIN IN WISHING CONTINUED EXPANSION AND PROSPERITY IN THE YEARS TO COME.

W. Kenneth Patterson
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George C. Udry
and the entire staff

successful battles of the Black Hawk war, and returned home upon the capture of the chief. Half the original recruits from Pekin had been killed in the fighting. The remainder received a veteran's "bonus" of 80 acres of land from the government. They had been paid at a rate of 86 cents a day per man and horse.

It was during the return from the Black Hawk war that Abraham Lincoln first visited Pekin, landing by canoe, and having a meal of corn meal and fish before proceeding on his way.

A year later, in 1833, David Marks arrived in Pekin and built the first brick building in the city for business purposes at the corner of Second and Court streets. He was a very wealthy man, and he and his family were destined to play a big part in the development of Pekin, continued today in the administration of the so-called "Cummings estate".

However, the following year came an event more disastrous than the war. Asiatic cholera struck, causing not only wide-spread death and disease, but also terror. Families abandoned the town without even taking their belongings with them. Boats refused to stop. Travellers avoided the place.

The cemetery at that time was located on what later became the Douglas school grounds; and when it was dug up and bodies removed, it was found that many had been buried without coffins and a number either buried hastily before they were dead or else buried in such careless and fearful haste that they were interred face down.

At about this time, a group of wealthy Easterners laid out Tremont and offered \$2,000 and 20 acres for the county seat, which was promptly removed from Pekin and established at Tremont.

This was low tide for Pekin.

Yet, in July of 1835, the first township election was held with J.C. Morgan elected as president. The town early took over operation of the Illinois river ferry and has been in the transportation business almost ever since, but other ventures were not so successful or enduring.

The state of Illinois launched a railroad to go from Pekin to Bloomington but abandoned it shortly after the start of construction.

In 1839, the first newspaper, the Tazewell Reporter was founded at Pekin, and collapsed a few months later. In 1840, Col. Charles Oakley opened the first bank in the Mark building, but although Oakley was a success (he was the man after whom Oakley avenue in Chicago is named) the bank failed two years later.

The most enduring step taken during that period was the establishment of

the city's first church, the Methodist, at 121 Margaret street.

In the meantime, the energies of its foremost citizens were devoted to carrying on the county seat feud with Tremont, a running political battle carried on largely in the state legislature, and causing a series of changes in the size and division of the county.

It was while Pekin and Tremont fought bitterly, that Peoria was established and flourished.

Incidentally, it was just after the Black Hawk war that the first land sales were held for what was to become the city of Chicago.

Two more prophetic steps were taken in the early 1840's. In 1840, John Gridley, city clerk, was authorized to purchase one fire ladder and two hooks, and apparently this was to be the only protection from fire available for years- until disaster changed things.

The first township liquor license was issued April 21, 1841, to Lawrence Doyle and Henry Schwan for a fee of \$25. There were many more to follow quickly.

In 1843, with all its misfortunes, Pekin's population had grown to 800; and then in December of that year, another epidemic struck. Fifty-two persons died and 500 were ill during that plague, only 300 of the entire population escaping entirely.

Three years later came the Mexican war, and again Pekin citizens rushed to the colors, and again they served with special distinction.

A company was mustered at Pekin under Captain Edward Jones, and Lieutenants William Knott and William Tinney. They joined a division under General Frank Shields, and landed with Scott at Vera Cruz.

The entire force moved forward to assault the Mexican strong-hold of Cerro Gordo controlling the road to Mexico city. There the main body of the Americans faced the Mexicans and engaged them in combat while Shields division, including the Pekin contingent, made a wide encircling movement through difficult country and fell upon the Mexicans from the rear.

One group of Mexicans escaped the Pekin company, abandoning in their flight a buggy, a freshly cooked chicken, and a bag of gold. The Pekinites ate the chicken, turned in the gold, and one Sgt. John Gill of Pekin picked up in the buggy a wooden leg which proved to be that of the President of Mexico and General of the Armies, Santa Anna.

It was later confirmed that among the group who narrowly escaped the Pekin company was the Mexican president and general. His capture, so narrowly missed, would undoubtedly have

COTTINGHAM & SON

"Your Chevrolet Dealer Since 1916"



The firm of Cottingham & Son was founded way back when the automobile was just getting its start. In the early days O.L. Cottingham sold such makes as: Stutz, Glider, Apperson JackRabbit, H.C.S. Special, Cole 8, and Dixie Flyer. In the year 1916, Mr. Cottingham started with Chevrolet and the name Cottingham and Chevrolet in Pekin have gone down through the years together. In those early days the name Chevrolet was not so well known but its popularity has grown until for the past 18 years it has been America's LEADER in new car sales each year.



Cottingham's too have grown along with Chevrolet and this is evidenced by the upper photo as the firm appeared in the 1920's and then as it appears today in the lower photo. Today the firm employs seventeen people and offers, in addition to the new and used car sales departments, a complete stock of genuine Chevrolet parts and a mechanical staff to care for your every need, a body and fender department and a paint shop.



ended the war at once, and brought an undying place in history for the Pekin men.

Gill brought Santa Anna's leg back to Pekin after the war and later turned it over to state authorities. It is now displayed with other war relics at Springfield.

Meanwhile, the Pekin unit continued to storm the Mexican position at Cerro Gordo after their brush with the Mexican general. General Shields was wounded in the action and was rescued by Lieutenant William Tinney of Pekin, who was awarded a gold medal for heroism.

Shields' division, including the Pekin group, seized the Mexican artillery and turned it on the Mexican's main line and the battle turned into a rout with complete victory for American arms.

Tinney returned to Pekin where he held a long series of public offices and became an almost legendary figure.

The Mexican war veterans brought back with them an unusual prize, a church bell looted from a Mexican mission, which they turned over to the Methodist church here, and which became Pekin's first church bell.

In 1848, about the time the Mexican war heroes returned and 18 years after the first tavern in the community, the Sons of Temperance were organized.

The year 1849, just 100 years ago, was the turning point in Pekin's development. The Smith Wagon company, an enterprise which was to become one of the city's key enterprises and builders came into being at 301 Margaret street that year, and Jonathan Haines invented an improved mechanical reaper and built a reaper factory at Broadway and Ninth streets, the forerunner of the great steel and farm implement factories of this area.

The population grew. The first local census taken August 7, revealed a population of 1500 persons, so it was determined that a general election would be held to decide whether Pekin should organize under a city charter.

The voting in that election was unanimous, and Pekin became one of the first cities in the State of Illinois, at a time when the number of Illinois cities could still be counted on the fingers. That first election, 100 years ago, was probably the first and last unanimous election ever held here. Its date was August 20, 1849.

A month later, September 24, the first city election was held and Bernard Bailey was elected mayor. Aldermen were John Atkinson, David Kenyon, William Maus, and Jacob Riblet. Ben S. Prettyman was city attorney; Thomas Cloudas, city marshal; and John Gridley, city clerk.

One of the first acts of the new city was the construction of a city jail, which was built by John S. Boone that year, and which was apparently badly needed in the rough frontier town.

This was the birth of the city of Pekin.

In 25 years, the community had survived its violent origin in the land sales and transfers, two severe epidemics, an Indian war, the Mexican war, flood, and its long political feud with rich and aggressive Tremont.

Its population was a mixture of original frontiersmen, Indians, veterans of two wars, river men, farmers, and the first few hard-working, thrifty German immigrants who were to contribute much to its future growth.

Its reputation was that of a disease ridden, rowdy, and sometimes lawless river town, rough even in comparison with other frontier towns of the area.

Its population was 1500. It had more than its share of taverns, dirt, and violence; but there had just begun to appear a strong new element in the organization and construction of two churches, the organization of the Sons of Temperance, the organization as a city, and the construction of the city jail.

One anecdote, set down as an example of the way Pekin appeared to strangers at this period, tells of the landing by river steamer of a stranger who sought lodging in a hotel here.

He came first to the Eagle hotel. Proprietor Seth Kinman was sitting on the front step sawing out "The Arkansas Traveller" on his fiddle. The visitor looked at Seth, glanced into the door where there was dimly visible a scene of wreckage, and inquired if it was really a hotel.

"Sure", said Seth. "Jest throw yore freight on the floor. The boys had a little fun last night but if I kin find a whole plate and a table that'll stand, I'll rustle you something to eat after a bit."

The stranger beat a hasty retreat and next approached the Taylor house. Bill Tinney, the Mexican war veteran, was its proprietor, and he didn't like the strangers' looks. He said he looked "like a dam yankee come west to fleece honest folk", and without warning he accosted the newcomer with an open razor in hand and asked him if he wanted to be shaved.

The visitor made as hasty an exit as possible from the newly organized city of Pekin.

The principal streets then were much as they are laid out today, except of course, that they were wider, made up of little more than the native dirt and mud, and that buildings were far spaced.

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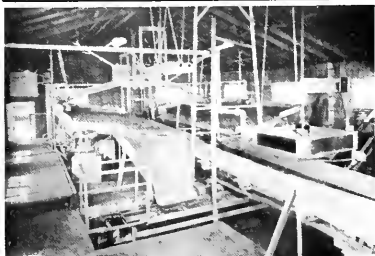
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503 MARKET ST. PEKIN ILL.



Pekin Coal Mine Washing Plant

The Pekin Mine was purchased by Mr. Fred Shaefer in May, 1939. It is located one-half mile east of Pekin on the Broadway road. The mine was opened by two shafts 100 feet deep and about 400 feet apart. It was developed in the Illinois No. 5

coal bed which averaged 54 inches in thickness.

The average daily production is about 325 tons which is cut by machines and loaded by hand into mine cars. All stoker coals are carefully prepared by one of the most modern coal washing plants in the middle west. The brand name for our stoker, lump, egg and nut coal is HOT-Test. The Pekin Coal Mining Company will continue to supply Central Illinois' coal needs with the same dependable service as they have in the past decade.

PEKIN COAL MINING COMPANY

More imposing homes were surrounded by extensive grounds and private lanes, and at the other extreme were rude, home-made log cabins surrounded by gardens and yards.

A scattering of Indian wigwams remained in the camp near the riverfront, too, and the physical appearance of the riverfront was far different. Besides the greater height and width of the undammed river, there stood a body of water in the south-west part of town known as Bitzer's lake.

It was so named after a shoemaker and tavern-keeper whose combination

shoe-and-grog shop was located on the banks of this lake at Third and St. Mary streets. From that point a stream ran northward along Third street and emptied into the river at Catherine street, passing through a 16-foot ravine along the present riverfront area. This was early spanned by a wooden bridge.

All of this made up the not-too-imposing picture of the city of PEKIN in 1849 when it first received its charter.

The future was not particularly bright.



THE NEW CITY

While the true picture of Pekin as it actually was in 1849 may be a disappointing picture of what is traditionally glorified as the "brave new world", this community with its mud, its series of business failures, its crude and boisterous life, and its reputation as a pest-hole of disease, had one priceless quality which it shared with the rest of America--freedom; and because of that it WAS a part of a "brave new world" which beckoned enslaved people everywhere.

Because of that one quality, muddy, sprawling, disease-ridden Pekin was a finer place than the neat, clean villages of Germany.

For, in 1849, Prussia was just starting to use the blood and iron which was to "unify" Germany in a series of shotgun weddings. In that very year, her booted armies ripped Schleswig and Holstein from the kingdom of Denmark, and the shadow of her spiked helmets fell across all the independent states of southern Germany.

Austria, as yet unaware that her master-to-be was appearing in the north, was busy making war on Hungary, and Russia was joining in to get her share of the spoils. The Balkans were all enslaved.

The British crown weighed heavily on Ireland, whose miseries reached new depths in a great potato famine in 1849, and there was bitter fighting in India where England was annexing new territories.

Garibaldi had fled for his life from Italy, and there was a new Inquisition directed against his Republican followers there.

It was a world-wide joke in 1849, when President Zachary Taylor, the rough old Mexican war general, said at his inauguration, "We are at peace with the world--and with all mankind!"

The fools who ruled the nations of the old world laughed that the new chief executive of upstart America should make a ridiculous repetitive sentence, revealing his cultural ignorance.

But the people of the world did not laugh. They were not concerned with whether the language was correct. America WAS then at peace, however the words might be said, and the war-weary tyrannized people of Europe longed to come here.

So, even in 1849, Pekin was not just a remote frontier town of 1500 souls completely cut off from the flow of world events. In fact, the policies of Bismark, Germany's Iron Chancellor, had more to do with the development of the city of Pekin, perhaps, than did the policies of President Taylor or the local decision to become incorporated as a city.

The builder of the German Empire did much to build Pekin. For it was the Germans mostly who came to Pekin in their flight from old world tyranny. There were a few Irish, and later a good many Italians, but first came the

MORE'S STORE

400 COURT ST.

PHONE 183

More's store, at the corner of Court and Fourth streets, cannot boast of growing up with Pekin, but it does look forward to an established future and continuous service to people of this community.

R.H. More came to Pekin in 1945 because he liked this size and kind of town. It compared with the town in which he had lived and raised his family. In Pekin he found that people were friendly and cooperative and that merchants couldn't afford to be anything except honest and industrious. The town was located in the heart of a prosperous farming area and here were varied industries necessary to keep a town growing.

At first, More's dealt mostly in auto supplies and tires with associated lines of hardware and housewares. As post-war production in-

creased, the store added new lines, always with an eye to the practical mindedness and thrift-controlled purse of the customer. The toy section was expanded to appeal to the youngsters, and the useful gift item stock was increased manifold.

Careful attention was given to displaying merchandise both in the windows and in the store, and Pekinites commented about the continual discovery of "new items" at More's. Customers learned to appreciate the layaway and budget plans that were installed.

Pekin lost a friend when Mr. More passed away in 1948, but his son and daughter fully intend to carry on his policies which include a fair mark-up, the same price to everyone, and a friendly interest in every sale, large or small, at More's.

GOLDEN RULE Shoe Store

317 COURT ST. PEKIN

ESTABLISHED 1933

KARL A. KREEB
Proprietor

Featuring
QUALITY FOOTWEAR
FOR THE ENTIRE
FAMILY

KREEB'S Men's Wear

317½ COURT ST. PEKIN

ESTABLISHED 1947

KARL A. KREEB
Proprietor

Featuring
HART SCHAFFNER and MARX
Clothing
ARROW SHIRTS
DOBB'S HATS
INTERWOVEN SOCKS

Germans, and in the years that followed they literally flooded the town.

But not all at once. There had to be an Abraham Lincoln, to phrase the philosophy of Freedom in words that no man could misunderstand, before the immigration reached flood-tide. There was a sprinkling about 1849 but there was much more to come.

Teis Smith, who came here early and had just started his Wagon shop, contributed mightily to the influx of Germans at that time. His friends, relatives and former towns-people came and were employed at the shop, in newer enterprises and in special crafts and trades.

His brother Henry Smith came over with him in 1849, and brothers Fred and Dietrich Smith followed, and the following year their brother-in-law, Luppe Luppen, came over from Germany. Luppen invented an improved axle for the wagons which made them among the finest built, and Pekin's first factory soon became a busy and prosperous enterprise.

In 1850, the legislature returned the county seat to Pekin from Tremont, made the action "perpetual", and a new Grecian style Court house was erected at the present Court house site.

In that single year, Pekin's population jumped from 1500 to 1840, most of the new Pekinites having come from Germany.

That year, the first theater, The Empire, was built. It was located at 327 Court street, the present site; but the theater was on the second floor, the ground floor being a dry-goods store.

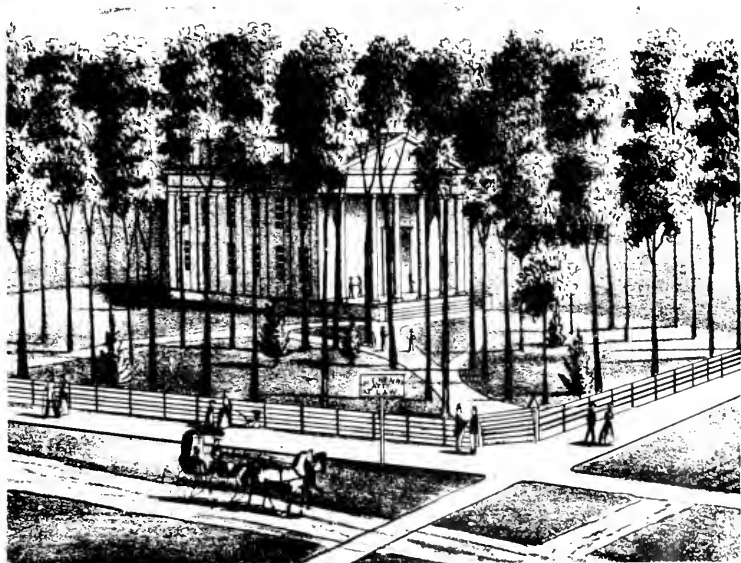
In 1851, the Velde lumber company was established. The growing German population organized the first Turnverein, and a year later the first German language newspaper, Der Wachteram Illinois, made its appearance.

Rupert and Haines started the Platte Valley bank, a "wildcat" operation issuing paper money, which was to survive nine years, and the Germans continued to invade the city.

Sunday, April 16, 1852, Pekin's population increased by a somewhat unusual method, when a large number of people literally "blew into town".

The Prairie State, a river steamer en route to St. Louis, was in the process of docking at Pekin when her boilers exploded. Many passengers were killed and maimed in the explosion, and others were scalded and drowned.

Pekin's people opened their doors to the injured, and almost every house in Pekin was occupied by some victim of the Prairie State explosion. Many of them remained after their recovery, among them the grandfather of Paul Sallee, the present Pekin trouper. He was on his way to St. Louis when the explosion scalded him badly, and he was



TAEWELL COUNTY COURT HOUSE PEKIN ILLS

C A R P S

THE STORE WHERE YOU CAN DO BETTER

337 COURT ST.

For the past twenty years, Carps Department store has been serving Pekin and its surrounding communities. In 1929, its doors opened at its present address, 337 Court Street. At that time, the store consisted of only the main floor and a balcony for ladies ready-to-wear.

To meet the demands of a fast growing community, Carps was in the process of remodeling and expanding when the building was completely destroyed by fire on February 9, 1944. Carps immediately began looking for a temporary location, and on March 9th business was resumed

in the building which now houses the Court Motors, on the corner of Capitol and Margaret streets. Work began at once on erecting a modern building at the old site, consisting of a main floor, an enlarged balcony, and a full basement.

Bernard Carp is well known in the Pekin community and his children attended the Pekin schools. His interest is always in the progress of the city.

J. J. Bottger, the manager, has been associated with the Carps for the past fourteen years.

Pekin Warehouse Company

The Pekin Warehouse Company, operated as an Internal Revenue Bonded Warehouse for the purpose of storing bulk or barreled alcoholic spirits, "In Bond" under the supervision of the Alcohol Tax Unit, U. S. Revenue Department, is located west of the 800 block South Second Street, adjacent to Daileyville and the former site of the old C. P. and St. L. roundhouse.

The Pekin Warehouse Company, at present one of the largest of its kind in the country, was established in 1936 and opened for business on November 10, under the management of Phil M. Kumpf, its present manager, with one warehouse having storage capacity of 20500 barrels. With the increasing demand for storage space a total of five warehouses were in operation by June of 1941 increasing storage capacity to

88100 barrels, or some 4,500,000 gallons of spirits.

The buildings, tied into one another, present the appearance of one large warehouse 675 feet long by 150 feet deep.

The company normally operating with a complement of 12 employees, along with two Government Officers, acting in behalf of the U. S. Internal Revenue Department, employs as many as 60 people during seasonal rushes.

Barreled spirits or whiskey is accepted for storage from any licensed Distiller or Importing Distributor. At present, the company has merchandise stored for customers throughout the whole United States.

The present officers of the company are Mr. Herbig Younge, President, Mr. Sidney Kessler, Vice-President, and Mr. W. L. Rutherford, Secretary.

some months recovering in the care of a Pekin family. When he recovered, he married here and made Pekin his home.

The march of progress which started with incorporation as a city continued, and was reflected in many ways.

An indication of the heavy immigration could be seen when there was an ice jam in the river at Cairo in January of 1854. It held up 14 steamboats loaded with some 2,000 German immigrants.

The Germans built neat homes, and were enthusiastic gardeners. They located in large numbers in the north-east part of Pekin. Their gardens gave that part of the city a character all its own, and it came to be called "Bohnen Fertel" in German, later called "Bean Town", for the same reason; and with the passage of years "Bohnen Fertel" became corrupted into Bonshe-fiddle.

Though the gardens are long since gone, Pekinites still refer to "bonshe-fiddle" and "bean town" in speaking of that part of the city.

Besides the appearance of the Germans in ever increasing numbers, the business growth, the industrial development, and booming trade, in part caused by the newly completed Illinois-Lake Michigan canal, there were other new elements appearing in the life of the city.

The stirrings of anti-slavery sentiment began to make their appearance, largely among the German settlers. Abraham Lincoln had succeeded in getting a court order setting free Black Nance, a slave of the same Nathan Cromwells who had named Pekin; and in 1853, Lincoln represented the city of Pekin in a lawsuit against H. Myers and company. In 1853, the Baptist church was organized and a building put up at the present Elizabeth street location. The Baptists were among the faiths who had abolitionist sentiments.

Dr. Daniel Cheever, living at the corner of Capitol and Court streets, was a leading anti-slavery man; and his home became a depot in the underground railroad by which slaves were stealthily moved north to safety and freedom.

Samuel Woodrow, an original Pekin settler, (Catherine street was named for his wife) and his brother Hugh Woodrow, (Amanda street was named for his wife) were also active in the fight against slavery and the business of aiding slaves to escape, but they moved their base of operations south of Pekin to Circleville.

In spite of the fact that there were these leaders in the movement, Pekin was a pro-slave city for years. Some of the original settlers had been slave-

owners themselves, and the overwhelming sentiment in Pekin was Democratic. Stephen A. Douglas, not Abraham Lincoln, was the local hero, although Lincoln was well-liked, and had some German following.

During this same period, the leadership of a Pekin man and a meeting held at 400 Haines avenue in Pekin, provided the seed of what was to become the present University of Chicago. About 1850, Pekin's Baptist minister, the Rev. Gilbert Bailey, summoned the Rev. J.C. Burroughs of Chicago and the Rev. H.G. Weston of Peoria to discuss the need for a Baptist college.

As a result of that meeting in Pekin, Stephen A. Douglas was contacted and he arranged a grant of 10 acres of government land which happened to be available at Chicago. There the Douglas University was started, which later was re-organized with a large Rockefeller endowment as the University of Chicago.

Meanwhile, Pekin's growth became faster and faster. In 1858, Bitzer's lake was drained to make right-of-way for the new Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville railroad (later the Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis, and today the Chicago and Illinois Midland). The depot was built up on piling where Bitzer's lake had been, and much of the track there was trestled. The 16-foot ravine cutting across the river front area was filled, and the bridge over it destroyed. The city had subscribed \$100,000 to get the railroad and other improvements.

That year Col. William Callendar built the Hamburg, Pekin's first distillery, which was the start of the great distilling industry in this area. A gas company was also formed that year, and the Velde-Roelfs hardware company was founded.

The biggest day in that particular era came on July 4, 1859, when the first train finally pulled into Pekin on the new railroad tracks in the midst of a city-wide celebration complete with flags, bands, and a parade.

In 1859, Abraham Lincoln won the presidential nomination of the Republican party, thanks to the efforts of David Davis, a former Pekin resident who headed the Illinois delegation. He was later rewarded by an appointment to the United States Supreme Court. Henry H. Cole, Pekin's pioneer photographer, who died in 1925 at the age of 92, was a visitor at that convention in the "Wigwam" at Chicago, and he, with hundreds of others, returned bare headed having lost his silk hat in the wild enthusiasm following Lincoln's nomination.

Lincoln and Lyman Trumbull had spoken before a good-sized crowd in

Getz & Swisher Agency

Herget Bank Bldg. Phone #35
Reliable Insurance Service

Dwellings - Furniture
Mercantile Buildings & Contents
Automobile - Bonds - Plate Glass
Business Interruption - Liability & Farm Insurance

A partnership by B.E. Getz and Nelle J. Swisher was organized in Sept. 1945 when the agencies of B. E. Getz and Robert S. Hornish were consolidated.

Mr. Robert S. Hornish died Aug. 28, 1945. He had operated his agency since Oct. 1, 1928 when he purchased the John L. Smith Agency. In Aug. 1937 he added to his agency the business of his brother Geo. B. Hornish and in April, 1941 he purchased the F.W. Soady Agency.

B.E. Getz commenced his insurance business Nov. 1, 1937 when he purchased the Chas. F. Holland Agency and in April 1939, he purchased the B.F. Waltmire Agency.

Miss Nelle J. Swisher was associated with Mr. R.S. Hornish in the insurance business since 1933.

As a result of the consolidation of the above agencies and the experience of the present partners, the Getz & Swisher Agency is proud of their contribution to Pekin's business progress.

Jones Bros. Jewelers

PHONE 286

EARL E. JONES ORVILLE R. JONES

517-519 COURT STREET
PEKIN, ILLINOIS

Jones Bros. Jewelers was founded March 4, 1939, by Orville and Earl Jones. It was started after many years of preparation and study in all fields of the jewelry business.

The actual start was in 1928, when Earl started to study at Bradley Horological Institute. A short time later Orville took up the study of Horology. There followed years of practical experience in all fields of the jewelry business. Their combined experience includes watch and jewelry repairing, jewelry manufacturing, clock repairing, diamond setting, engraving, and jewelry designing.

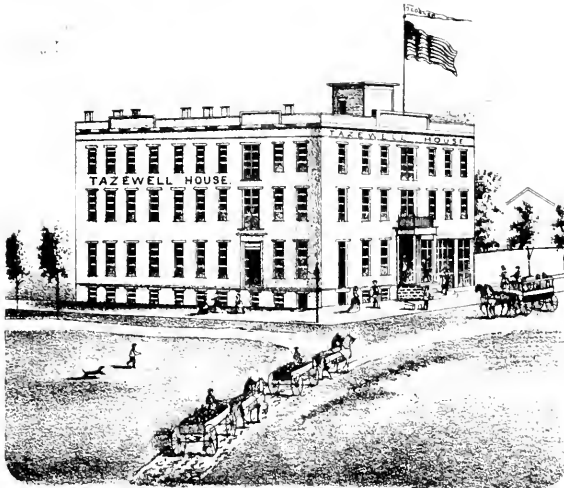
Earl Jones took up the study of Gemology, and in 1936 received the title of Certified Gemologist and Registered Jeweler of the American Gem Society. He was president of the Northern Ohio Guild of the A.G. S. and has served as instructor at their annual Conclaves for many years. At present he serves on the

Board of Governors of the gemological Institute of America.

Earl was working as designer and sample maker of Orange Blossom rings at the Traub Manufacturing Company and Orville was managing the watch repair department at Wm. Taylor Son & Company in Cleveland when they decided to combine their talents.

In 1942 the Town and Country Gift Shop was added, and 1947 the store was completely remodeled and enlarged to its present size. The remodeled store includes a large China and glass department in a separate room, a gift shop, a new silver department, and a much larger jewelry section. The repair department has grown to include four watchmakers and three jewelers. During the Christmas Season there are as many as 20 employees.

From a small beginning in 1939 their store has grown to the largest jewelry store and gift shop in Central Illinois.



TAZEVELL HOUSE W. A. TINNEY PROPT PEKIN ILLS.

Pekin's court house square, October 6, 1858.

In 1858, Peter Weyrich was elected mayor, another indication that the new German citizens were moving into the political as well as business life of the city.

Thus, the first 10 years of Pekin's existence as a city brought a flood of German immigrants who brought to Pekin its first factory, its first distillery, a number of new business houses, new churches, its first railroad, and finally a changing attitude toward slavery and a changing political philosophy.

In 1860, Pekin had grown from 1,860 people of the 1850 census to 5,023. There were 742 houses, 49 stores, four hotels, 26 industries and workshops, half a dozen drug stores and \$2,000,000 of taxable property. This year, George, John, and Philip Herget started a grocery store in Pekin.

There were also 11 churches and 12 schools, as compared with 25 saloons and five pool halls, but apparently that represented an improving condition. There were 503 children attending the schools.

After these 10 years of almost unbroken progress and prosperity came the city's first major disaster since its incorporation.

Fire equipment was apparently still limited to the single fire ladder John Gridley had purchased as town clerk a decade before, and on March 22, 1860, a fire broke out on downtown Court

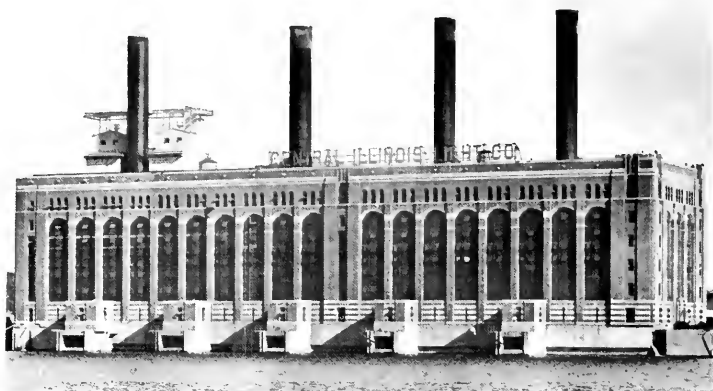
street in the E. Grodenburg grocery store. It swept unchecked down both sides of Court street and razed the entire block on both sides of the street from Third to Capitol streets, including the Tazewell Register building and equipment. The loss was estimated at \$150,000. However, that block was all rebuilt, and this time with brick buildings.

The fire had another by-product in that it created a fever for the organization of fire companies in the city, which, in turn produced new evidence of the growing size and strength of the German element and of the clash between the new and the old citizens of Pekin. A fire-fighting company was quickly organized after the fire and made application for a fire engine to be purchased for their use. Then a group of German population got together, and they too organized a fire company and made a similar request to the council. Both asked to be designated as the Number One company.

The arrival of the engines by steamboat was the occasion for a public celebration. All the townspeople turned out and the two companies donned their uniforms, fell in, and marched down Court street to the dock. There it was found that the engine designated for the German company had a big "No. 1" painted on it, and the engine designated for the original company was similarly painted "No. 2".

At this discovery, the original company fell into ranks again, announced that "Our engine isn't here", and

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO



POWER FOR PEKIN AND CENTRAL ILLINOIS

The city of Pekin is served with electricity and gas by the Central Illinois Light Company. Since 1865, when the first gas utility was organized in Pekin until the present day, advancement of utilities have been paralleled with the growth of the city.

To trace the history of utilities in Pekin, one must go back to Feb. 18, 1861, when an Act to Incorporate the Pekin Gas Light Company was approved by the General Assembly of the State of Illinois. It was in 1865, however, before the Pekin Gas Light Company was organized, with Wm. Stansbury as president. Mr. Stansbury served in this capacity until 1893, when this company was sold to H.G. Herget. In 1866, on Feb. 5, the first gas street lights were turned on in Pekin and the old lamp-light was a familiar figure until 1888 when they were replaced by electric street lights. In 1886, the first electric utility was organized and was known as the Ft. Wayne Electric Light Company. One year later, August 18, 1887, the Jenny Electric Light Company of Pekin was formed and acquired all the interests of the Ft. Wayne Electric Light Company. The City of Pekin Electric Light and Power Company was organized in 1891. This company continued operations until it was dissolved on March 17, 1900.

In 1899, the name Pekin Gas Light Company was changed to Pekin Light, Heat and Power Company, bringing together the gas and electric properties of the city. Gas and electric properties were again separated in 1902. Gas was supplied by the Pekin Light, Heat and Power Company and electricity by the Citizens Gas and Electric Company. This separation continued until May 1, 1913, when the Central Illinois Light Company was formed. This company acquired all the interests of the Citizens Gas and Electric Company and leased the gas properties of the Pekin Light, Heat and Power Company. In 1934, the Pekin Light, Heat and Power Company was dissolved and it was at this time that the Pekin Utilities became the Pekin District of the Peoria Division of the Central Illinois Light Company.

Much emphasis has been put upon the Pekin District in CILCO'S expansion program. New gas mains have been laid and old ones repaired. The generating capacity at its main power station has been more than doubled within the last ten years, to keep abreast with the increasing demand for its services. The Central Illinois Light Company will continue to grow to supply MORE POWER FOR PEKIN AND CENTRAL ILLINOIS.

Central Illinois Light Company

marched away, leaving the unwanted "No. 2" sitting on the dock.

However, three fire companies in all were organized and did operate shortly after the original conflagration. They were the Defiance fire company, the Independent fire company, and the Rescue fire company with a total membership of more than 200 men.

The fire companies proved to be more social than anything else, staging a grand parade once a year and a victory celebration after each blaze; and after a time these celebrations came to be a problem too. The city offered \$10 to the company that was first to reach a fire and douse it, and at that time this was about the right sum to stage a sizable victory party, with liquor about 25 cents a gallon.

Immediately, the city was visited with a record-breaking series of fires, many of which started in a suspicious manner.

It is said that a fire company that felt a celebration was due would muster its men, line them up at the ropes of their engine, open the door, send out a chosen member to start a fire, and then stand by, waiting for the alarm to come in. In this manner, the old companies sometimes reached fires in a remarkably short time. Facing this sort of practice, the city council withdrew the \$10 bonus, which was getting expensive in more ways than one, and the number of fires was promptly reduced.

It was in 1862 that the first fire station was built. B.S. Prettyman was then mayor.

The practice of independent fire companies setting their own fires is further proof that the flare for violence which was born in Pekin still remained after 35 years, and there was other evidence of it about that same time.

A murderer named John Ott, who had killed a woman and two children near Delavan, had been sentenced to be hanged in the Court house square, March 1, 1861. A stockade was erected around the new scaffold to provide a private execution.

The citizenry had a different idea about the thing, and they poured into Pekin the day before the hanging, and did a lot of pouring after they arrived, too. That night, rowdy, drunken mobs of people milled in the streets and tore down the stockade.

A lynching was feared, and three companies of troops were hastily brought into Pekin and martial law was declared in the city; but even with martial law the scene of the hanging proved to be a combination carnival and Roman holiday. An estimated 10,000 people jammed the streets of the city. Business men built platforms on their

properties and sold space. Troops surrounded the scaffold to prevent any interference with the grim business itself, but the crowd hooted at the condemned man and crowded every available point of vantage.

One platform collapsed, injuring a number of would-be spectators. Another over-zealous onlooker plunged right out of a second story window and was badly hurt. People not only crowded in to see, themselves, but many held small children high above their heads to let them see Ott hang.

Had they known it, most of the families of this area were soon to have all the violence they wanted for a long while, because it was only a matter of days after the disgraceful mob scene at the Ott hanging that the first shots of the Civil War were fired; and Pekin and this area were to feel the effects of that war as harshly as any subsequent conflict, and in many ways more so.

This era of Pekin's history closed with the city still much of a frontier town, with much of its business still transacted in the off-hand frontier tradition.

The law was administered, for example, largely without records and in the rough hewn style of the frontier. Attorneys needed little more than the recognition of the court to practice law, and many of the judges themselves had little or no legal qualifications. Juries were rounded up in a catch-as-catch-can manner.

It is recorded that during the term of Sheriff William Tinney (The Mexican War veteran) a newcomer from the East repeatedly challenged jurors in a case at law here. Each objection caused Sheriff Tinney the unpleasant task of scouring the countryside for another jury panel. The third time the newcomer lodged his protest, Sheriff Tinney knocked him unconscious with a chair, and the court simply adjourned because of the lack of response of the attorney--who incidentally left town after.

In spite of the evidences that rough edges remained, however, there was considerable physical change in Pekin.

The last of its Indian Population had been moved westward to a Kansas reservation during this period, and with them went a few Pekin men who had married squaws; and hundreds of Germans more than took their place, bringing with them something of the old world civilization.

A DIVIDED CITY

With the outbreak of the Civil War, Pekin citizens found themselves divided in sentiment, and those who fought for the Union found that this battle had to



CONGRATULATIONS

TO PEKIN ON ITS 100th BIRTHDAY

Commonwealth Edison Company is proud and happy to be a part of this progressive community. While it is true that we haven't been here as long as many of you, we still feel that we are a real part of the community and join in celebrating its centennial anniversary.

It has been a pleasure to be instrumental in this community's development and we look forward to many, many more years of pleasant association with its citizens.

Your neighbors at Powerton Station
COMMONWEALTH EDISON COMPANY

be fought here at home as well as on the many battle-fields of the war itself.

While Pekin soldiers marched, eventually, from Cairo to the Gulf of Mexico and eastward, with Sherman, "to the sea", the Union sympathizers at home had problems too.

The record shows that Tazewell county sent 3,000 men to the colors in the Union army in the Civil War, a shockingly high number of soldiers in proportion to the population of that day--a considerably higher percentage than served even in World War II.

Perhaps because so many Union enthusiasts immediately left with the Army, the secessionist element seemed to have the upper hand here at home during much of the Civil War. The "Knights of the Golden Circle", an outright secessionist organization, met openly, and were bold in their sympathy to the rebel cause; while those who believed in the Union spoke often in whispers on Pekin streets and were wary and often afraid.

The German domination suffered something of a blow in the face of the more aggressive and unprincipled policies of the secessionist group. They shied at first from violence and the threat of violence and gave way before the rebel sympathizers here at home.

The condition was tolerated only for a short while, however. On June 25, 1862, 11 men gathered secretly at 331 Court street for the purpose of organizing a pro-Union campaign AT HOME. The leaders were mostly those few "original settlers" even at that time, but the naturally more hesitant German element soon took an active part. This organization was called the Union League, and the idea behind it inspired a similar meeting a short time later at Bloomington, and later at Chicago, where John Medill founder and publisher of the Chicago Tribune took an active part, and soon the Union League, launched by 11 men at Pekin on June 25, 1862, swept the entire North and became a great and powerful instrument for propaganda and finance in support of the War.

In view of the great efforts to bring about a "negotiated peace", the Union League made a tremendous contribution to Lincoln's policy of continuing the war until the Union was secure.

The men who gave birth to that idea, and held that first organization meeting of the Union League were: the Rev. James Vernon, Methodist minister at Pekin; Levi Garrett, a Pekin Merchant living at 335 Caroline street; Charles Turner, Tazewell county's states attorney, a Pekin lawyer; George Harlow, a city alderman who lived at the corner of Fourth and Prince streets; Dr. Daniel Cheever, who lived at Court

and Capitol streets and had operated a "depot" on the underground railroad there; John W. Glasgow, a Justice of the Peace, who lived at Third and Margaret streets; Henry Pratt, supervisor from Delavan; Jonathan Merriam, Arlington stock farmer; Alexander Small of Deer Creek, and Major Richard Cullom of Deer Creek.

The importance of their action, and the prestige it gave them is reflected in the future of the founders themselves. Turner became a Civil War general; Harlow, secretary of State of Illinois; Merriam, a Union Colonel and a candidate for governor; and Cullom was the father of Illinois Governor Shelby Cullom.

It was also reflected in the endurance of the Union League long after the Civil War, although its character changed considerably. The Union League persists in larger cities like Chicago, New York and Boston, even today, although these leagues are now largely social organizations - wealthy, exclusive, and with strong Republican political sympathies.

In spite of the division in loyalty reflected in Pekin during the war, particularly in its earlier stages, the city made a great contribution on the battlefield as well. Hundreds of her citizens were among the 3,000 soldiers from Tazewell county, and at least two companies were actually formed directly at Pekin.

The 108th Regiment of Infantry, Illinois volunteers, was commanded by Col. (later General) Charles Turner of Pekin, the same Charles Turner who was a founder of the Union League. Company B of that organization was formed at Pekin under Capt. Richard B. Howell and later Capt. Wilbur F. Henry. They served under General Sherman, did heroic work at Vicksburg, and suffered terrific casualties both from disease and the enemy. Their long confinement on transports during the Mississippi river campaign by which Grant first cut the Confederacy in two caused the heavy disease casualties.

First Lt. Philo W. Hill of Pekin was among those who died. Other company officers were Garrett G. Ruhaak and Wilbur Franks and John J. Kellogg. Kellogg was wounded in action.

Here is a roster of that company: S. J. Bumstead; Benjamin Swayze (later became a lieutenant); Edward J. Davis; John Ledterman (later became an officer commanding colored troops); Harlan Gridley, Reuben W. Heyers (became prisoner of war); Stephen B. Sallee; J. W. Timbrell (drowned in service); M. B. Williams; I. R. Brown; Samuel Rankin (died in service); J. G. Stauffer; W. T. Masters; E. L. Brown (died in service); P. O. Bowers, (died); S. K. Bowers;

YARD ESTABLISHED 1851

VELDE LUMBER COMPANY

A CO-PARTNERSHIP

Building Materials

16 SOUTH SECOND STREET

PEKIN, ILLINOIS



In the spring of 1922 a Mr. Maus residing in the Tremont house, northeast corner of Court and Sixth Streets, told Donald F. Velde at our office that when he was nine years old (1851) and living on a farm near Tremont, he came to this corner with his father to purchase lumber and it has been a lumber yard ever since."

In the early days, we have been told, this site was a lumber yard operated by a Mr. Seeyle.

In 1890, D.F. Velde purchased the interest of Mr. Henry Feltman which changed the firm name of Velde & Feltman (C.L. Velde and Mr. Feltman), to C.L. Velde & Company. (The deed dated October 6, 1890 conveying Henry Feltman's one-half interest to

D.F. Velde was notarized by the Hon. Joseph V. Graff, Notary Public, and recorded by John Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Circuit Court.)

The firm was operated by C.L. Velde and D.F. Velde under the name of C.L. Velde & Company until April of 1922 when D.F. Velde purchased all the interest and the firm name was changed to Velde Lumber Company. D.F. Velde died in 1924 and since then the ownership of the Velde Lumber Company has been his widow, Emma S. Velde, and sons, Donald F. and H. R. Velde. -

On April 2, 1928, a fire completely destroyed the lumber yard, but it was immediately rebuilt as it stands today.

GOOD HOUSES DESERVE OUR GOOD MATERIALS

William Bloom; H.C. Barnes; Thomas Champion; Joseph Cockrell; Granville Collins; Samuel Campman (prisoner); H. L. Coggins; Leander Clark (died); Leander Fish; J.A. Goodwin (died); W.P. Goodwin (died); Jacob Holsopple; Edward Holsopple (died); William Heilman; George Heilman (died); J.R. Howell; John Hubbard; Samuel Iwig; John Jones (died in rebel prison camp); J.C. Jones (died); Henry Kohler; Chris Kress (died); John Kress (died); H. Ledterman (killed at Tusello, Miss.); Thomas McBride; G.W. McGinnis; Louis B. Musselman; Jonathan Neavar (died); Jacob Neavar (prisoner); Isaac Perkin; Thomas Potter W.F. Perdue; John Rausch (died); Samuel Rausch (died); W.H. Rich (died); G.A. Rausch (died); J.R. Riblet; T.B. Stewart (died); D.M. Stewart (died); Henry Sanders; J.J. Sallee; Isaac Stettler; W.H. Sipe; William Strickfaden; Joseph Shelton (died); C.T. Sloat; H.S. Tobey; Vitruvius Trew; J.G. Turner (died); C.S. Westerman; F.W. Wehrle; Levi Wilcox; J.W. Webb; Adam Bengal; J.H. Charles J.H. Castle; William Colburn (died); George Cottrell; J.W. Damon; J.W. Draper; Alpheus Dunnigan; Barnett Hoff; H.C. Kellogg; H.J. McGrew; Robert McQuality; J.H. Trumbull; Michael Wicks; and William Watson (killed at Guntown, Miss.).

Pekinites, in addition, were scattered through more than 20 regiments of Illinois volunteers. They served for the most part under Generals Grant, Sherman, and Sheridan, and helped give the Union that series of victories in the West which so much off-set the repeated defeats in the East, until these troops and their generals were taken East where they brought the war to a close.

The list of the battles of these units includes Fort Donelson; Shiloh; Pittsburgh Landing; Corinth; Vicksburg; Chickamauga; Atlanta; Mission Ridge; Missionary Ridge; Lookout Mountain; Belmont; Murfreesboro; Nashville; Kenesaw Mountain; Jonesboro; and various guerilla campaigns.

Several units containing large numbers of Pekin men marched with Sherman from "Atlanta to the Sea", the second great maneuver cutting the Confederacy in two from North to South as they had earlier helped cut it in two from East to West along the Mississippi.

Picked at random from these voluminous records are these names of Pekin men:

William Bogardus, died of wounds, serving with the 86th Infantry.

K.S. Conklin, an officer with the Eighth Infantry, which fought clear through five major battles of the Mississippi campaign.

Henry Pratt and John Reardon, captains in the 115th Infantry.

Jonathan Merriam, another of the founders of the Union League, a Lt. Col. commanding the 117th Infantry, and among his officers was Benjamin Hieronymus, and there was also a private named David Dempsey.

Dietrich Smith, brother of Teis Smith and co-founder of the Wagon shop, was a Captain in the 139th Infantry.

Joseph S. Maus, Captain, 155th Infantry, with Lieutenants J.B. Ketchum and Samuel Shellenberger. In that same company there was a bugler Frank Smith, who died of wounds, and a Fred Erlicher who was killed at Pea Ridge, and a private named L.L. Manker.

In the 11th Cavalry, which rode with Sheridan, fought at Shiloh and Corinth in the West, conducted a campaign against guerillas in the border states, and finally rode with Sherman on his march to the sea, there was a Pekin company captained by William Olmstead and Bernard Wagner. Lt. Richard Burns was killed at Shiloh, and other officers included David Cummings, John Backus, Charles T. Maus, and David Blair.

There was a Sgt. Sam Dusenberry, and Pat and Elwood Hapenny served with this company.

Other familiar names, enlisted from Pekin, serving in the 11th Cavalry, were Jonathan Boyer, Jonathan Sommers, Jacob Graf, Adam Nievar, James Watson, John Metz, David Edds, A.C. Powers, William Cohenour, Patrick Curran, Joshua Davis (died), Jacob Hays, Nathaniel Hudson, D.H. Harmon (died), John Kemp (died), George Miller, J.C. Myers (died), Daniel Nelson (died), Jonathan Slawbaw, L.A. Town, Joseph Wagner, Charles Cunningham, William T. Johnson, Edward McFarland, Thomas Powers (died), and George Hainline.

In addition to serving in the early battles of the war in the West and through the great campaigns that ended in Lee's surrender, Pekin troops were among the handful who fought in the last battle of the war. A group of Pekin volunteers fought the battle of Spanish Fort in Texas, the last battle of the Civil War, which took place long after Lee's surrender at Appomattox and considerably after Lincoln's assassination. Inasmuch as the Confederate cause was a rebellion, there was no treaty or formal peace made at the Close of the Civil War.

Curiously, the Union troops were beaten at the Spanish Fort!

The Civil War, together with the immigration which had preceded it, changed the character of the city of Pekin considerably.

Pekin had long been a Democratic stronghold before the war. The Knights of the Golden Circle had been powerful.



EARLY HISTORY OF THE RAILROAD

The Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway Company's present line through Pekin was originally constructed in two sections: One leading from the south, having been built from Virginia, Illinois (via Havana) in 1853 by the Illinois River Railroad, and the other from Peoria on the north, having been constructed about 1855 by the Peoria & Hannibal Railroad. In 1864-1868 both of these roads were acquired by the Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville Railroad which extended the south line into Jacksonville, Illinois.

In 1881 and 1882 a road known as the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific acquired the Peoria, Pekin and Jacksonville, as well as a line from Havana southward into Springfield that had been constructed between 1873 and 1878 by the Springfield & Northwestern Railway. Just prior to the purchase by the Wabash, St. Louis & Pacific, the ten mile connection leading from Pekin to Peoria on the west side of the river, was released to the Peoria & Pekin Union.

The well-known Chicago, Peoria and St. Louis Railroad entered the picture in 1888, when it acquired the property. This road expanded its operations until it had connections into Alton and St. Louis.

For ten years, 1926 to 1936, the Pekin-Springfield line was owned by the Springfield, Havana & Peoria Railroad and leased to the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway. Finally in 1936, the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway took over ownership and has owned and operated it since that time.

During the operation of the property by the present owner, the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway, the property in the Pekin area has undergone a complete modernization of its plant until it now is fully equipped to handle all local and through business in a speedy and efficient manner.

Among the facilities provided in the city of Pekin are:

Main track	3.20 miles
Sidings (43)	8.34 miles
Buildings: Passenger and freight depot, water and coaling station including concrete engine inspection pit, and dispatching office at Crescent Wye.	

Among the industries served are: Standard Brands, Quaker Oats, Powerton Generating Station, Corn Products Refining Co., Pekin Warehousing Co., as well as a number of gasoline and fuel oil distributing companies, Phillip Reinhard & Son, and Velde Lumber Col-material yards.

In the Pekin area the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway employs locally more than 50 men, with an annual payroll exceeding \$156,000.

The Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway originates approximately 120,000 tons of freight in the Pekin area and delivers, including coal to the Powerton Plant, some 1,750,000 tons. It operates 2 passenger trains each way daily in and out of Pekin and an average of 10 freight trains in and out daily.

Being one of the proprietary lines of the Peoria & Pekin Union, the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway has many outlets for through traffic via the Peoria gateway; and, with its Springfield, Illinois - Taylorville, Illinois, trunk line connections, the Chicago & Illinois Midland Railway is in an advantageous position for handling through traffic destined to any part of the nation.

In spite of its growth, development, and the influx of steady, hard-working, thrifty German immigrants, it had kept many of the marks of the frontier town.

Something of the change was reflected in its political life in 1865, the year the war ended, when William W. Sellers, one of the founders of the infant Republican party, was elected mayor, and his council included as Alderman, Peter Shaumleffel, Ties Smith, W. Von Maus, and J. F. Tucker.

SIGNS OF CIVILIZATION

After the Civil War, there came a new German immigration, greater even than the first, and Pekin began to take on more and more signs of civilization after its primitive beginnings.

Just before the war closed, in 1864, the Schipper and Block company was established at 304 Margaret street, also the Ehrlicher brothers drug store at 324 Court street, and after peace came there was a rush of new business and other development.

Gas lights were installed on Pekin's streets in 1866, bringing the plank walks and mud streets out of the complete darkness at night for the first time. That year the Smith bank was established at 331 Court street, the First National bank at 304 Court street, and at Fifth and Court was established the Foundry and Machine shop which was later moved and is now the Pekin Foundry at Third and Sabella.

The following year a Brewery and malt house was built at Broadway and Front streets, and the Pekin, Lincoln and Decatur railroad was built. It later became part of the present Illinois Central railroad system.

In 1870, the Herget building at Court and Fourth streets was built, and a race track was constructed on Broadway at the eastern city limits.

It was during this same period that Henry Westerman started the Crown distillery, and Daniel Reisinger also started a distillery. James Doheny and William Spellman built the Enterprise distillery, and Phil Herget built a malt house at the foot of Broadway, the start of expanded Herget enterprises which was to come.

During this period, starting in 1867, the Ladies auxiliary Library association was founded and the first steps taken toward the establishment of the present city library, and in 1866, the first Pekin high school had been built and put into operation at the corner of Washington and Sixth streets, where the Washington Junior high now stands.

These were signs of civilization, but only signs. Signs of the primitive nature of the still-new city, and of

the primitive passions of its people were still much in evidence, too.

For one thing, Pekin still seemed to be plagued by fire. The city jail burned in 1868, the Methodist church was destroyed by fire in 1870, and there was a rash of destructive industrial fires to follow soon after this period's rash of distillery building.



PEKIN'S FIRST HIGH school, built in 1866.

But the facts of life in Pekin of that period are not pictured accurately by recounting the growing business and industrial activity alone, or the record of natural misfortunes. There was also a great deal of lawlessness still in the area, and bandit gangs, operated almost without hindrance and apparently without fear in the area, with headquarters generally near Circleville, south of Pekin.

In 1869, a sheriff's posse attempted to serve a warrant on a member of the so-called Berry gang, an exceptionally bold undertaking as things went in those days. The party was ambushed by the Berry gang, and returned to Pekin badly shot up.

Sheriff Henry Pratt, a Civil War hero, was dead; George Hinman, the jailer, was badly wounded; and a constable named Copes had a bullet through his coat; in fact, the Pekin marshal, a man named Hinman, was about the only one of the group to escape completely. Their arrival caused a sensation on the streets of Pekin, and the news spread like wild-fire over the county. Immediately, people began to gather. That was Friday night, July 30th, 1869.

As evidence of the boldness with which this outlaw band had been accustomed to operate, the very next day, Saturday, Bill Berry, the bandit chief, appeared on the streets of Pekin with his customary swagger. He made a fatal mistake, however, that has often been repeated, and failed to learn a lesson that has often been taught. Men, organizations, and nations have proceeded on the principle that people who will take a lot of abuse will always

BUSINESS EQUIPMENT Co.

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For the Best in Coal Phone 153

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Electric Arc Welding

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HEATING & PLUMBING CONTRACTOR

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PHONE 736

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

EDDIE'S FLOWER SHOP

E. J. Dringenberg, Prop.

Funeral Designs, Cut Flowers, Wedding Flowers
Pot Plants

PHONE 672

ARCADE BLDG.

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

take a little more, only to discover that in America there always comes a point at which people seem to suddenly change, decide a limit has been reached and explode. Great leaders of great nations have failed to heed that peculiar American trait, so perhaps it isn't too strange that Bill Berry made the fatal mistake of appearing in Pekin that Saturday.

His gang had committed other crimes, other murders, some more barbarous in that they included helpless children, and the townspeople had simply appeared more frightened each time he made his appearance.

But a limit had been reached, and as if by plan, Pekin citizens reacted to his appearance this Saturday. Where he had walked before and men had vacated the sidewalk, he was suddenly covered by a dozen guns in the hands of men he always thought were afraid to lift a finger against him. The surprised Berry was hustled into the county jail, and the spirit of the townsfolk was the spirit of the entire area. The time had come to bring an end to Berry and his gang.

Posses sprang up without notice, knowledge or plan all over the area. Hundreds of men began scouring the countryside in Tazewell, Mason and Woodford counties.

Meanwhile, as the news of Berry's capture spread, victims of his raids, the families of victims, and the friends of victims began pouring into Pekin. One hundred men were called out to protect the county jail and forestall any lynching or lynch attempt.

But that Saturday night, the people came, and this was no drunken mob. A dozen men marched on the jail, and suddenly without warning hundreds appeared from the darkness where they had been stationed on every side and

completely overwhelmed the guards. They crashed into the jail, smashed down a series of iron doors and came to Bill Berry's cell and smashed it open.

But all of the attackers were not Bill Berry's enemies, for from somewhere in the crowd a knife flashed through the air. Berry caught it, and slashed out. He wounded several men before he himself was shot and wounded, and he was then dragged out of the jail and promptly strung up to a tree at the corner of Court and Fourth streets.

Bill Berry was hanged, and Bill Berry died, but that did not make an end. The various posses throughout the area persisted in their separate hunts for weeks. Ike Berry was captured in Mason county near Bath; Robert Britton at San Jose; Emanuel Berry, Matthew McFarland, Cornelius Daily,--one by one, the members of the Berry gang were captured in that man-hunt. Ike Berry was sentenced to life imprisonment, and other members of the gang got lesser terms of from 15 to 25 years.

This explosion of public violence, in the midst of all the peaceable signs of civilization, demonstrated that Pekin still carried something of the flavor of its primitive and violent origins into the post-Civil War period, and yet the lynching of Bill Berry was, in a way, a sign of civilization, too. It dramatically served notice, a notice served directly by the citizenry themselves, that the era of bold and open lawlessness was over, and that the rule of force by organized gangs preying on the public would not be tolerated.

The hanging of Bill Berry marked the end of the frontier atmosphere in which men made their own laws, according to their ability to shoot a gun.

It wasn't legal in itself--but it, too, was a sign of progress.



It was curious that a half dozen distilleries should make their appearance immediately after the Civil War, especially curious since Pekin had sustained only the Hamburg distillery in the days before the war when whiskey was 25 cents a gallon.

THE WHISKEY RING

In those days there were not only some 25 saloons in the city but it was a common practice to reverse the later "free lunch" system, and grocery stores often had a keg at the door so that customers buying groceries could have a "free drink". The war had changed all

CARPENTERS LOCAL No.644

312 Margaret Street
Chartered July 6, 1900

(Peoria Sunday Star - July 8, 1900)

Permanent organization was effected by union carpenters in Pekin Friday evening. Fifteen were initiated. Officers were elected and installed and matters of interest and importance presented and discussed.

The present is considered a most favorable opportunity to advance the interests of journeymen and contractors. It is proposed to establish trade rules in harmony with the Peoria Local as much construction of factories and eventually dwellings will be done between the two cities along the line of the Terminal railway.

Much benefit should be realized from the action taken and the outlook is very bright for a union of strength and activity. Quite as many more have given their names for membership and the charter will remain open for a few weeks at a very low fee for membership.

Meetings will be held weekly and the place announced when agreed

upon. Within a short time it is proposed to hold a public meeting which will be of interest to all. Addresses by men of national repute and knowledge should bring out those interested, either journeymen or contractors, for all may learn something, particularly that organizations of labor are not formed to distress the employers but to elevate the workingman, which is the result when the hours of labor are lessened.

It is realized that the craft of carpentry in particular is underpaid. Good results are hoped for from renewed efforts and for the permanency of the union.

May 27, 1949 Local 644, after 49 years of progress, dedicated their new building at 312 Margaret St., built by Ed Lampitt & Sons one of the oldest contracting firms in Pekin.

This building stands today as a memorial to those 15 courageous men.

EHRLICHER BROTHERS CO.

DRUGGISTS

328 COURT STREET
ESTABLISHED 1864

This is an exact reproduction of PRESCRIPTION No. ONE filled July 7, 1865, one year after the founding of our establishment. It was written by Dr. Samuel T. Maus for Mrs. James Haines Sr., two of Pekin's earliest pioneers.

We have just completed 85 years of continuous drug business in the same room. We feel we have a right to be proud of our record.

All prescriptions entrusted to our care are filled as written - no substitution - which has gained us the confidence of the physicians who wrote them. All ingredients used are pure and fresh, of the highest standard, compounded only by qualified full-registered pharmacists who know how.

To the people of Pekin and vicinity, for your confidence we say --

THANK YOU

EHRLICHER BROTHERS CO.
Ethical Prescription Service

328 Court St.
Pekin, Ill.

Dr.
Oil Kunkel
Organum
Tinct Capsicum
Aqua Ammon. e e z
Min
S. T. Maus
7/18/65
No 1

For Mrs James Haines

1864 - 1949

that. A heavy tax was levied on liquor and it remained in effect after the war, so that the tax alone was \$2 a gallon, eight times as much as the former retail cost of Whiskey. The multiplication of the cost of whiskey by tax hardly seemed like a signal for the big building boom in distilleries.

Some of the sudden popularity of the distillery business became a little more understandable in the 1870's, when the existence of a vast "whiskey ring" conducting bootleg operations to bypass the heavy taxes came more and more to the public consciousness. The power of the ring was said to be tremendous in a wide area with headquarters at St. Louis, and something of its potency here in Pekin is indicated by the incident in which a revenue man was reportedly arrested by local authorities and held in custody on a trumped up charge while a boat-load of whiskey was cleared off the dock and hidden away.

Officials were party to the secret alliances which made it possible for some whiskey makers to present false reports, with the effect of paying taxes on as little as one-third of their actual whiskey shipments. In 1870 the vast bootleg conspiracy received some attention, although it continued until 1874, using less bold methods.

On the other hand there was nothing bashful about the business of emptying the vast city cisterns built for fire protection here in Pekin, and filling them with highly inflammable bootleg whiskey instead of water. Liquor was also cached in corn shocks, and kegs were sealed and sunk in the Illinois river, here and at Peoria and other locations. Hundreds of those invaluable kegs were recovered by federal agents dragging the river later.

In 1874 and 1875 public indignation reached such a pitch that the break-up finally came with wholesale arrests all over the state. It is recorded that Pekin people at that time saw whole carloads of prisoners hauled through to St. Louis to face a Federal court. Actually, however, no one of importance was ever sent to jail, as only a few "mediocrities" took the punishment and the whole thing passed over; but at any rate the "whiskey ring" was broken and the millions of dollars being side-tracked from the U.S. treasury into private hands, while never recovered, was at least discontinued.

And so we find that while the lynching of Bill Berry in 1869 might be considered as the close of the era in which Bill Berry's kind of lawlessness was tolerated, another kind of lawlessness persisted, the big time lawlessness of the "whiskey ring" with all its political alliances and profits. And

while Pekin persisted in having its progress flavored with violence or lawlessness, while it continued to have its underworld as well as real business progress (sometimes the two overlapped) still progress did continue.

During the period of the whiskey ring's exposure and final overthrow, the Germans came to a position of almost complete dominance of the political and commercial life of the city. Their dominance was reflected in the city council where the aldermen in 1871, for example, were William Blenkiron, D.W. Umdenstock, George J. Webber, Habbe Velde, and John Wagenseller. All but William Blenkiron were Germans. In 1872, the mayor was John Stoltz. In 1873, it was John Herget.

During that same five year period between the discovery and the end of the so-called whiskey ring (roughly from 1870 to 1875) there was also an era of church building, forecasting a better city to follow.

In those five years were built the St. John's Lutheran church at Fourth and Ann Eliza; the Reformed church, which later became the Presbyterian church, was built at 305 South Fourth street; the German Methodist, later Grace Methodist church, at Fourth and State streets; St. Paul's Episcopal church, at Washington and Buena Vista avenue; and just two years later, the St. Paul's Evangelical church, at Seventh and Ann Eliza streets.

The 14-year-old depot, standing on "stilts" over what had been Bitzer's lake, was replaced by a new Union depot at Third and Broadway.

Lakeside cemetery was laid out in 1874, and that year J.B. Irwin founded the Pekin Times, a weekly paper following the Tazewell Register. William Bates published the Tazewell Republican and the German language "Freie Presse" was to come two years later.

The Illinois Hotel, then called the Sherman House, was built at Second and St. Mary streets. The Farmer's National bank was founded. The Winkel Brewery was established.

The Smith Wagon company burned to the ground in 1874, but the enterprising Smith brothers not only rebuilt it at once but a year later formed also the Smith Plow company which did a thriving business producing and selling an improved plow invented by Luppe Luppen.

The Weybrich Header Works at Broadway and Fourteenth streets became the second reaper factory in the city, and a fire station was built at Five points, which building is still standing, now known as the Old Library building and used primarily as a polling place.

LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS LIBRARY

Henry Birkenbusch & Son

"The Reliable Jeweler Since 1867"

Two years after the civil war, on May 23, 1867, Mr. Henry Birkenbusch became an apprentice jeweler to John J. Woelfle, from whom he learned the jeweler's trade, then continued as an employee until 1887, when he purchased the business.

Later, Mr. Birkenbusch's son, Louis, preparing to enter his father's business, attended Bradley Horological School in Peoria, and the Kandler School of Engraving in Chicago. He entered the business in 1898 and served as one of his father's jewelers and engravers.

In 1929 the firm became Henry Birkenbusch & Son. Mr. Henry Birkenbusch continued to take an active interest in the business until his death at the age of 95, which gave him the distinction of being, by far, the oldest active businessman in Pekin. After the death of Henry Birkenbusch, his son Louis became the sole owner.

Changes in Court street during the past century have been numerous but for 82 years the address of Henry Birkenbusch & Son at 420 Court

street has never changed.

Railroads have always demanded accurate time and require their engineers and other personnel to have their watches checked at regular monthly intervals by a reliable jeweler whom they appoint.

Henry Birkenbusch & Son has been the appointed jewelers for seven railroads in the Pekin area for many years. They have the distinct honor of being the oldest authorized watch inspectors for the entire Santa Fe Railroad system.

The large regulator, located in the west window of the store has served well to keep Pekin on time these past 82 years.

In addition to excellent watch inspection and repairs, you will find world famous precision tested watches. You will also find silver, china, and crystalware to compliment every distinctive taste; diamonds and precious stones to satisfy your every desire. Several generations of Pekinites have made Henry Birkenbusch & Son their headquarters for reliable jewelry.

1899



1949

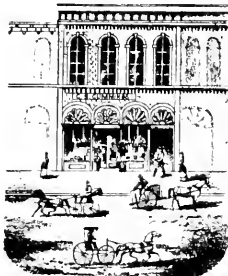
**50 YEARS of SERVICE
20 YEARS in PEKIN**

S.S. KRESGE CO.

335 COURT ST.

Thus, during the period of the whiskey ring, Pekin also saw the development and growth of its churches and its legitimate business community. Like the Berry lynching, the break-up of the whiskey ring, when coupled with the growing moral and social consciousness reflected in increased church life indicated that an era of careless consciences was coming to an end, paving the way for real progress.

So Pekin came to the close of its first 25 years of incorporation.



C. B. CUMMINGS DRY GOODS STORE
PEKIN ILL.

GOOD OLD DAYS

As the city of Pekin passed the milestone of its first 25 years, it found itself in a period of virtual stagnation in many ways. There was an end of the Bill Berry and Whiskey Ring brands of "free enterprize", and there was continued business development, but for a long time there was little PHYSICAL change in the city itself.

After its first flood, German immigration settled to a trickle. In the 70's, and particularly the late 70's, German was taught in public schools, and most city and legal publication was carried on in German in the Freie Presse. Persons, particularly trades men, without a knowledge of German found life difficult in Pekin, and some left the city for that reason. In 1870, the population of Pekin was 5,676; 10 years later in 1880, it was only 5,993. The German flood which had contributed so much to Pekin's sudden growth in the middle of the century was now to prevent its growth and freeze its development population-wise for decades to come.

Similarly, the Old World crafts and trades that the Germans brought, at first a tremendous stimulus to business activity, also exercised a conservatism that had its effects.

So there was little change in the city physically, as far as public improvements were concerned. The streets were just open areas of earth, inches

deep in dust during dry weather, deeper yet in mud when it was wet. Court street sidewalks were made of two-inch lumber, side streets of one-inch.

Apparently there was a sidewalk tax, because records reveal that in 1875, Fred Schaefer was granted exemption from the sidewalk tax inasmuch as his walk was examined and found suitable. Generally, the sidewalks were a source of constant trouble, and one of the principal occupations of the city council seemed to be approving claims against the city, many of them by persons injured on broken walks. Heavy rains frequently floated the plank sidewalks away just when they were needed the most, and there were no sewers and not much drainage of any kind. The sidewalks around the court house itself were at one time officially proclaimed unsafe.

Only a handful of the railroad crossings were actually "crossings"; most of them simply blocked the street effectively, buttressed by six foot drainage ditches along the right-of-way. There were some street lights, of a sort. As late as 1880 records show that there were 97 gas lights and 55 gasoline lamps on the streets of Pekin, but they did not throw enough light to keep the citizenry from falling over an occasional sleeping cow or horse--or what was worse, over something left behind by the cows and horses.

The city government's principal contribution to progress had been the earlier subscription of \$100,000 for the building of the original railroad into the city, and in the 70's the debt in bonds had grown to \$173,000, most of it at TEN PER CENT interest! The fashion seemed to be, for the most part, to let the bonds go until they became due, and then float a new bond issue with which to pay off the old one, this procedure being repeated many times. Sometimes special elections for this purpose were called twice in a single year. Each time there was a ceremonial burning of the old bonds as if the debt had really been liquidated instead of just postponed. City taxes then were double the school tax, a situation now reversed.

Politics in city government was often the politics of privilege. When a new administration took office, it was customary for a complete turnover of city jobs to be made forthwith, and not only of city jobs but of all the city's business. This was generally transferred to the business houses of the aldermen, and in some occasions when no alderman happened to be in the particular business of which the city required service, one of them got into that business temporarily.

LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS, URBANA

MARTIN

PAUL

MARTIN B. LOHMANN & Co.

516 COURT STREET

PHONE 746

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

INSURANCE
REAL ESTATE & BONDS

The Martin B. Lohmann & Co. Insurance & Real Estate is one of the oldest agencies in Pekin and Tazewell County. Martin Lohmann wrote his first insurance policy and opened his office in the Arcade Building in 1908. In 1914 he purchased the present location of the agency and as business grew, his brother Rudolph Lohmann, became a member of the firm. At the time of the death of Rudolph, or "Curly"

as he was better known, Paul was taken into the partnership and he and Martin have successfully developed the agency into one of the largest agencies writing general insurance in the city of Pekin. They specialize in Fire, Automobile, and Bond insurance along with a successful Real Estate Agency, and have been in the same location for thirty-five years.

Sommer Bros. Seed Co.

FIELD SEEDS

Wholesale and Retail

BREEDERS - GROWERS - SHIPPERS

Phone 2234

Pekin, Ill.

Sommer Bros. Seed Company of this city started in business in 1909. Incorporated as Sommer Bros. Seed Company in 1948.

Active in producing and processing wholesale field seeds of highest quality. News of the excellent quality of the Tiger Brand is getting around so that many truck and carload shipments of seed are being made to all parts of Central and Eastern United States.

Latest modern cleaning equipment both at Pekin and at the Topeka, Kansas plant enables Sommer Brothers Seed Company to furnish field seeds of an unusual high purity and germination.

Special emphasis is given to Alfalfa, Red Clover, Sweet Clover and other legume seed.

Latest cleaning installations at Topeka enables the company to process Bromegrass which has become so popular throughout the cornbelt.

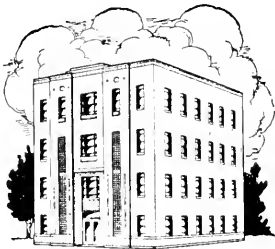
Pasture and Lawn grasses have been given a lot of study. A pasture of lawn sown with Sommer Brothers Seed Company - Tiger Brand seed always stands out as superior.

Funk's "G" Hybrid seed corn has also been distributed since 1936. The highest yields of good quality corn obtained during this time set these hybrids in a class by themselves - away out in front.

When Tiger Brand Seed is sown, you plant with confidence.

The Farmers Automobile Insurance Association

Pekin, Illinois



In April, 1921, more than a quarter of a century ago The Farmers Automobile Insurance Association was organized in Pekin, Illinois.

During that quarter of a century the organization has grown and changed in many respects, however the primary motive for its existence has remained unchanged.

The organization came into being as a means of providing automobile insurance for a preferred group of policyholders at a preferred rate. Originally designed to cover the requirements of farm people it now includes service to city dwellers as well.

The business of the Association was originally conducted with the help of one part time employee and had its office in the basement of the Court House Building. At a later date offices were maintained in the Arcade Building and later moved to the Farm Bureau Building. The activities of the Association are now carried on in its own modern four story office building located at 34 South Capitol Street in Pekin.

Activities of the Association are chiefly limited to Central Illinois with a great bulk of its operations in the close proximity of Pekin. These activities require the services of 72 employees in addition to a Board of Directors consisting of 9 men and an agency force consisting of 165 licensed agents throughout Central Illinois.

The Association is referred to categorically in the Insurance Industry as "The Pekin Company." While our history does not date back as far as that of the City of Pekin, we are proud to have a growing organization in a growing city. While our income is derived from many communities in Central Illinois a substantial portion of our expenses are paid out within the City in the form of payroll, operating expenses, and loss settlements.

The financial stability of the Association as shown by the annual statement as of December 31st, 1948, indicates total admitted assets of \$1,781,296.58 liabilities of \$1,257,157.81 and surplus to policyholders of \$524,138.77. Total premiums written for the year 1948 of \$1,631,335.00 made a favorable showing compared to the automobile premium written in the State of Illinois during that year.

The Board of Directors of the Association are: Wm. Freitag, President; B.L. Baird, Vice-President; Edw. Schrock, Treasurer; W.F. Donley, Thurman Scott, Fred Worner, W.W. Gingrich, Ivan H. Snow, and R.A. Hieser. Of these, Mr. Freitag and Mr. Donley were on the original Board when organized in 1921.

The program of direction of this Board has kept pace with the ever-changing conditions of company management, public relations, and modern coverage, while adhering to the original motive of organization.

TAZEWELL COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

John Fischer	W. F. Donley
Wm. Freitag	Edw. Heubach
E. F. Paine	Relda Rankin
Geo. B. Storey	John M. Goar
Bert L. Urish	Getz & Swisher
	Schurman Agency

“ Double Check ”

YOUR CAR

For safety's sake check these items today and at regular intervals . . .

- BRAKES . . . Do they take hold promptly and evenly? Will the hand brake hold the car?
- HEAD LIGHTS . . . Do both upper and lower beams burn? Are they aimed to avoid glare?
- REAR AND STOP LIGHTS . . . Do all bulbs work? Does the stop light go on with the brakes?
- TIRES . . . Are they properly inflated? Do you watch for worn out treads, cuts and fabric breaks?
- WINDSHIELD WIPERS . . . Do they wipe the glass clean? Do blades need replacing?
- MUFFLER . . . Is it tight so that no exhaust gas comes into the car?
- STEERING . . . Does the steering wheel have too much play? Are the wheel bearings tight? How about the alignment?
- GLASS . . . Is it clear and clean? Are cracks or stickers obstructing your vision?
- HORN . . . Does it work, in case you need it?
- REAR-VIEW MIRROR . . . Does it give the driver a clear view of the road behind?

YOUR DRIVING, too!

The most important safety device in a car is a safe driver.

- 1. Do you know the traffic laws?
- 2. Do you observe all traffic signals, signs and pavement markings?
- 3. Do you use the proper hand and mechanical signals for turns and stops?
- 4. Do you drive in and turn from the proper lane?
- 5. Do you give the pedestrian a break?
- 6. Do you watch for children?
- 7. Do you drive within legal and common sense speed limits?
- 8. Do you drive with extra caution in fog, rain or snow and on slippery pavement?
- 9. Do you refuse to drive after drinking?
- 10. Do you slow down at sundown?

CAN YOU SEE, STEER AND STOP SAFELY?

✓ check accidents



✓ check accidents ✓

The Farmers Automobile Insurance Association

Pekin, Illinois

JON'S
Quality
Beverages

T W A N G — ROOT BEER
Save Bottle Caps for Free Premiums

SPRINT
A Grapefruit
Drink

Pekin Bottling Works

Telephone 545 — SINCE 1864 — 114 Court Street
Pekin, Illinois



OLDSMOBILE
SIXES & EIGHTS

UPTOWN MOTORS CADILLAC AND OLDSMOBILE SALES AND SERVICE

317-19 Elizabeth St. ,

Phone 134

PEKIN, ILL.

PEKIN REFRIGERATOR COMPANY SALES AND SERVICE

W. J. COMISKY

Home Appliances
Commercial Units
Walk-in Coolers

Stokers - Oil Burners
Gas Space Heaters
Washers
Radios

Direct Draw Coolers
Dry Bottle Coolers
Home Freezers

17 S. SECOND STREET

1937-1949

TELEPHONE 223



MARKLAND MOTORS

211 St. Mary
PEKIN, ILLINOIS
Telephone 2242

The mayor traditionally controlled the location of the police headquarters and other city offices, there being no city hall, and this was customarily on property owned by the mayor for which he proceeded to collect rents from the city.

At times, the city business appears to have been pretty much of a closed proposition with the aldermen and mayor doing business almost solely among themselves. It is interesting, too, that each new administration was promptly greeted with a series of requests for tax rebates, generally from their supporters in the past election, and these usually received consideration.

There was one breath of possible progress in 1874, when the council provided that all moneys from saloon licenses would be paid into a special fund to be used only for the "purchase or erection of a city hall, calaboose and engine house."

The juvenile problem of that time consisted largely in the fears of the elders that the new "dime novels" were corrupting the youth, much as the comic books are accused today. Pekin citizens frowned on the ridiculous fiction which their children avidly read concerning such outlandish things as "flying machines", boats that would go UNDER the water, horseless carriages, and other fantasies bound to have an ill effect on impressionable youth. The elders DID believe in progress as long as it remained in what they considered the realm of common sense.

The council at one time formally admitted that "the only excuse for the dilapidated condition of the sidewalks is the dilapidated condition of the treasury". On the other hand, in 1879, when a group of Court street merchants petitioned for a cobblestone paving, the council rejected the petition. The council was "pleased to learn that the business men were willing to contribute for a pavement"; however, in view of the fact that Court street was in a bad condition "only a few months of each year", it seemed hardly necessary.

And as for the business of horses and cows running loose on the streets of the city day and night, after two years of badgering, the council decided in 1877 that action should be taken and passed a law that henceforth "horse and other cattle" would not be allowed at large on the streets AFTER NINE O'CLOCK AT NIGHT and until five in the morning!

It was during this period that Pekin lost one of its most successful citizens, a loss still felt today. Columbus R. Cummings, heir to David Mark (who built the town's first brick building) was a wealthy land-owner and business

man who was twice elected mayor of the city of Pekin in the 70's. With due credit, during his administrations, Pekin paid off all bonds on the due date--a rare achievement in those days.

However, when Mr. Cummings sought election to the third term (they were of one year each) he was defeated by A.B. Sawyer by the narrow margin of 33 votes.

Cummings was bitterly wounded by the defeat. The record shows that while he never had been absent from council meetings prior to that time, he never again appeared at the city hall as mayor. He did not preside at the vote canvass, nor any subsequent meetings of the council between the time of the election and the actual expiration of his term. It is said that he even felt so bitterly about the election loss that he shortly thereafter shook the dust of Pekin from his boots and moved to Chicago.

An Englishman in the more and more German community, Cummings may have had other reasons for his dissatisfaction. He was immensely wealthy, and became more so. The "Cummings estate" still maintains a regular office and staff in Pekin, administering holdings, and a large part of the growth of Pekin over the past 20 years has been from the subdivision of Cummings lands.

The Cummings people have been philanthropic through the years, and have made sizable endowments to many institutions--but Pekin institutions have not been the recipients of this philanthropy for it long since ceased to be the "home town" of the Cummings family.

Let it be said of the 70's, too, that the Hinners Organ company was founded here during that period--in 1879, to be exact, and the Celestial Guards; the first National Guard company, was formed in 1877. And let the record be complete:

The city council considered an ordinance to "restrain, suppress, and prohibit bawdy houses, houses of ill-fame and houses of assignation" in 1875.

The court dockets indicate that the most frequent charges in that period were "selling liquor to minors" and "riot", although Thomas Conaghan was charged with illegal voting in 1875, and Henry Hoerr accused of embezzlement by the grand jury in 1878. It should be added that a comparison of court dockets and city records indicate that it depended on which side was winning the election as to who were the police and who were in jail, and they frequently traded places.

Thus, the post-war period found Pekin changed from a typical American frontier town to a virtual German colony whose only growth was from its new-born citizens and whose adherence.

RUSSELL McCLINTICK

Jeweler

432 COURT STREET

July 20, 1931, the McClintick Jewelry opened for business in Pekin with one display case of merchandise and one watch repair bench. Since then the store has grown to its present size with a large stock of nationally known brands of diamonds, watches, jewelry and silver.

The business is completely owned by Mr. McClintick and the employees are all members of his family. Through the years shoppers have learned that they are always received in the same courteous and considerate manner, whether they are in need of quality merchandise, or guaranteed repair service for jewelry and watches.

PEKIN

AUTO MART

WE BUY, SELL

TRADE, FINANCE

WE WILL NOT

BE UNDERSOLD

Si Reed - Tony Simoncini

329 MARGARET ST.

PEKIN, ILL.

PHONE 2420

An old Pekin High School "Pekinian" of 1915-16 vintage says that "John Goar wants to sell real estate".

That prophesy came true. After spending some time in the U. S. Marine Corps in World War I the JOHN M. GOAR AGENCY was started on March 1, 1923 and has been in continuous operation and is now in its 27th year. To estimate in dollars and cents the value of the real estate sold thru this office in that period would be impossible. Nor is it possible to estimate the tremendous amount of monies paid thru this Agency in Insurance premiums in almost 27 years.

Too many times the owner of a business thinks he has made a success of his business without other help. However, the JOHN M. GOAR AGENCY takes this means of thanking its many friends in the fine City of Pekin for making our AGENCY the success it is today.

JOHN M. GOAR

427½ Court Street

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

ECONOMY SHOE STORE

321 Court

In 1926, Morris Severe became associated with the "Economy Shoe Store" and purchased the business in 1930.

In the nearly two decades of service to the Pekin Community, we have proved that we are, indeed, the "store of economy".

"Poll Parrot" shoes for children, "Rand's" for men, and "Trim-Tred's" for women are just a few of the brand names that are found at the "Economy".

The Economy Shoe Store joins with all in wishing for the City of Pekin many more years of successful and prosperous growth.

to the German tongue kept it static. While surrounding cities entered on their periods of greatest growth, Pekin remained a city without a cobble-stone, with dilapidated plank sidewalks, with loose cows and horses wandering at will in the dimly lit dirt streets, and with

"bawdy houses" and saloon "riots" still common occurrences. But there were changes coming, and the same qualities which slowed Pekin's growth gave solid foundations to some of the development to follow.

A DECADE OF PROGRESS



The 1880's brought ten years of great change to Pekin, although it remained a strong Germanic city and again for another 10 year period the population showed an increase of only about 400 persons, apparently just the increase accounted for in the birth rate itself, almost. However, the administration of Thomas Cooper, a fire-eating Democratic politician in Pekin, heralded the new spirit, and he was returned to office several times in the 80's and again in the 90's. Under Cooper, the first sewer was installed, the first curbs and gutters built, the present city hall constructed, street signs erected, and brick sidewalks introduced. On the heels of his administration came the first Illinois river bridge at Pekin, the first electric lights, the waterworks, mail delivery, and the public library. And during this same period Mineral Springs park was laid out, new schools were built, the telephone introduced, and the German-American bank, now the American National, was founded.

Pekin began to come up out of the mud right at the turn of the 80's when Cooper's street committee went \$5,000 into the red to build \$13,416 worth of curb and gutter on Court street from the river to Sixth street, and another \$5,976 was spent for a sewer from Third street to the river on Court. Extensions of the curbing and of sewers continued all through the period, as it has ever since, and the plank sidewalks were replaced with brick. Cobblestone crossings were later added at main intersections. Street signs were erected and for the first time the city undertook to number the houses and building establishments on the various streets. Telephone poles went up, with

only occasional objection, like that of Wendell Lutz, who just did not want one in front of his place.

The crowning achievement of the Cooper administration was the construction of the city's first and only city hall. That structure, which still stands at the corner of Margaret and Fourth streets and still houses, after a fashion, the city offices, council chambers, fire department and police, was built by Weiss and company at a total cost of \$6,500 in the year of 1884. No bonds were issued; apparently the saloon license fund set aside for that purpose built Pekin's present city hall. Surprisingly, it was during this same period of heavy expenditures and public improvement that the first big inroads, about \$50,000, were made toward paying off the city's bonded indebtedness. Most progress was made during the recurring years when Alderman John F. Schipper headed the finance committee. Others who served several terms during this period and contributed largely to the changing face of Pekin were Otto Wieburg, John R. Seibert, and Urban J. Albertsen.

Cooper was succeeded in 1885 by Mayor John L. Smith, during whose first term the first plank bridge was built across the river here at a cost of \$17,500, and at that the council passed over a lower bid of \$14,500 for a pontoon bridge. Electric lights were installed in Pekin, the city paying \$5,000 a year for street lights on the original contract, and a dual celebration was held for the bridge opening and electric lighting system.

Mayor Smith, himself, rode the first rig across the new bridge, in impressive ceremonies, but his triumphant opening was somewhat marred by the fact

LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS

PEKIN SHOE STORE

PHONE 232-J
421 COURT STREET

The history of the Pekin Shoe Store located at 421 Court St., dates back to the year 1929 when W. J. Eden became the owner in association with his son Vardner. Mr. Eden has had 46 years of experience in selling shoes. He first worked for the Weyrich Shoe Store in 1903 and for F.W. Stoltz from 1904 to 1922. He then became manager, taking over the ownership in 1929. He has seen style changes from high buttoned shoes to the present day toeless and heeless and even shoeless creations now in vogue. Eden's have always sold shoes of quality, carrying such well-known lines as Nunn Bush & Edgerton shoes for men; Tweedies, Vitality and Treadeasy shoes for women. Popular lines for children include Acrobat Simplex Flexies, Child Life & Trimfoot.

W. J. EDEN

VARDNER J. EDEN

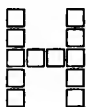
CHAS. SPLITTGERBER & SON

Phone 364J

Sheet Metal Work Wise Furnaces

The firm of Charles Splittgerber and Son was established in 1906 by Charles Splittgerber Sr. and his son Charles D. Splittgerber Jr. The first shop was located in the rear of 420 Ann Eliza St. in a small building 30 by 35 ft. Their mode of transportation in those days was by horse and wagon. The business grew, and in 1914 they built a new modern building at 419 Margaret St. In 1938 Charles Splittgerber Sr. died and the firm was continued by Charles Jr. In 1948 he erected a new building at 417 Margaret St. the present location of the firm. The shop is equipped with the newest of equipment and they specialize in all types of sheet metal work, heating and ventilating.

417 MARGARET ST.



AVANA



UMBER



OMPANY

WE HANDLE FROM THE SMALLEST TO THE LARGEST TIMBERS IN CENTRAL

ILLINOIS

920 S. SECOND ST.

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

LEWIS PONTIAC CO.

Second at Broadway Phone 425
PEKIN, ILLINOIS



YOUR PONTIAC AUTOMOBILE DEALER IN PEKIN

FOR OVER 21 YEARS

that much of the populace knew and the rest soon learned that Charles Holland had actually been first to cross the new bridge, thanks to a conspiracy with the workmen. The last of the planking was not to be completed until just before the mayor was to cross, but workmen labored through the night to lay the planking so that Holland could drive a carriage over the bridge at the crack of dawn, and then they hastily took up the planking again to be re-laid for the mayor.

The water works followed, built by a Chicago concern represented here by a Charles A. Lamb and Henry S. Raymond, and the city contracted to pay \$4,000 A year for 100 fire hydrants. Curiously on each of these three big transactions, bids were received and then all rejected, after which a contract was made by resolution. After all these public improvements, there finally came regular mail delivery. Meanwhile, construction of the city hall made it possible to turn over the engine house at Five points to the Library Association and it became the public library and reading room, and is still known as the Old Library building.

The Artesian Well company drilled a well in 1880, obtained sulphur water, and laid out Mineral Springs park which was then operated as a private concern. Three times during the 80's the city council voted to buy the park for \$6,000, and each time rescinded their action. The Cathedral Grammar school was built at Capitol and Park avenue (now the Jefferson school) and the East Side school (now Douglas) was erected at the present Douglas location, after the old Tharp cemetery there was partially removed. The city arranged for removal of the cemetery by contract with John E. Reed and T. J. Davis who charged \$4.48 cents each for 80 bodies, and for some reason only \$2.44 for 20 other bodies, making the total cost of the removal \$413.20. Alderman H. Zuckweiler supervised the operation.

It should be recorded that this was also an era of distillery fires. During this period the Enterprise distillery burned twice, and the Crown distillery and John Herget's new Star distillery were destroyed by fire. At least one of the fires was apparently of incendiary origin because the council urged the mayor to make a thorough investigation in an effort to learn who had set the Enterprise on fire the second time.

Thus, while Pekin stood comparatively still population-wise, it had begun to build its institutions on solid foundations, and during the 80's began the work of sanitation, schools, a library, a park, and many of the facilities in which special pride are taken now. It will be noted that the boom in churches preceded by a few years the sudden swelling of civic consciousness, cleanliness, and progress. While Pekin showed no more startling growth, it was beginning to show signs of becoming a good place to live, although there were still some "bawdy houses" calling forth occasional resolutions by the council, which at one point in the 80's took cognizance of the uselessness of legislating against "human nature" by turning down a petition to enforce a "Sunday law" on the sale of liquor on Sundays.

The decade ended with a rousing political campaign on "free bridge and free cows", remembered by many residents today. The issue of whether the new bridge was to remain a toll bridge or be made free to the public was placed on the regular election ballot along with the question of whether cows and other livestock were to be permitted to run free on the streets. Some working people got quite excited, charging that fees for use of the bridge, and denying the use of the streets to their animals, amounted to legislating "the poor people" out of existence, but the "free bridge" carried while free cows were forbidden.

THE GAY NINETIES

Perhaps the days of one's youth are always looked back upon as the "gay whatever-it-was", but the record bears out the claims of the older generation of Pekinites in regard to the "Gay Nineties". For it was in the nineties that the Santa Fe railroad ran shuttle trains all afternoon to Pekin's race track, the finest one-mile track in Illinois, where the greatest harness-racing horses of the era competed. And it was in the nineties that the big

Tazewell club building was built, and there the big event of the year was the Thanksgiving dance, after which the young men would take their ladies home and then catch a midnight excursion train to Chicago for the Big Ten football game that featured each Thanksgiving (at a \$2 rate for a three-day trip). There were boat excursions on the river, and there was Gehrig's band (although the city refused to pay them for band concerts as proposed). There

THE HERGET NATIONAL BANK OF PEKIN

363 COURT ST.



SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES

George Herget & Sons, a private bank, was opened on April 17, 1905. On June 4, 1910, this bank was changed to a National Bank under the name of The Herget National Bank of Pekin. The Officers at that time were: George Herget, President, W.P. Herget, Vice President, H.G. Herget, Vice President, C.H. Turner, Cashier, and W.A. Stockert, Assistant Cashier. Directors were: George Herget, W.P. Herget, H.G. Herget, George Ehrlicher, Henry Birkenbusch, and Flavel Shurtleff.

On May 6, 1943, after over one year of remodeling, open house was held so the public could view the complete change to an all new modern bank, enlarged officer's quarters, low type teller's cages, director's room, and private office on the main floor, and a new safe deposit vault with over three thousand boxes, customer's booths, record vault, and bookkeeping department all in the basement. The building was completely air-conditioned.

On June 30, 1943, after the above changes were made, the deposits were \$5,301,462.12 and on June 30, 1949, they had increased to \$11,192,366.94. Because of this increase in business,

it became necessary to move the bookkeeping department to the second floor, install an elevator, move the teller's cages back to increase the size of the lobby and the officer's quarters and install more booths for the safekeeping department.

Officers at the present time are: Mrs. W.P. Herget, President; E.M. Kumpf, Executive Vice President; George H. Ehrlicher, Vice President; C.V. Frings, Vice President; R.W. Heim, Cashier; E.W. Frey, Assistant Cashier; and A.M. Berner, Assistant Cashier.

Directors are: Mrs. W.P. Herget, C.V. Frings, George H. Ehrlicher, E.P. Reinhard, Theo. H. Ubben, E.M. Kumpf, and A.W. Ehrlicher.

Employees are: Tellers; Robert Stallings, John McGinty, Gaylord Shannabarger, Melvin Burling, Wilbert Boeck, Vera Crawford, Ella Becker, Frederick Timian. Bookkeepers, Maxine Parkin, Louise Berner, John Rinaldi, Doris Heitzman, Lois Ritthaler, Doris Romans, Merle Eskrich, Grace Renfro, Doris Russell, Vault Custodian; Mildred Mullins, Secretary; Verna Harms, Building Custodian, Emil Pask.

was the new Turner Opera house at Capitol and Elizabeth streets, later to become the Standard, then the Capitol, and finally the present Pekin theater. And there was the first Pekin high school football team with Fred Stoltz, Henry Schantz, Oscar Albertson, Ulrich Adams, Fred Bergstrasser, Abe Schaefer, and others.

There was excitement, too. There were spectacular fires that razed the high school building, the Hamburg distillery, Schipper and Block's, the Pekin Times, the Enterprise distillery (again!) and the Woodward hotel. And there was the Spanish-American War, and the "Little Mine" riots, and the Wallace hanging.

Thomas Cooper, mayor when the city hall was built and so many other improvements made, returned to the mayor's chair and started action which was picked up, resulting in the first brick street--Court street from Fifth to the River front. Extensions of brick paving continued all through the period. The Union Mission was founded in '95, and the high school had been rebuilt at a cost of \$25,200. There was a new county jail. The Franklin and Garfield schools were built, and the Citizen's Improvement Association, fore-runner of the Association of Commerce was founded with Everett W. Wilson at its head. Before the era ended, in '98, came the first in a series of spectacular street fairs in downtown Pekin.

New buildings were the American, Crescent, Globe and Hamburg distilleries, the Independent Cracker and Biscuit company, the Windsor hotel,



OPERA HOUSE

the Duisdicker foundry, and the Zerwekh building.

The gayety of the nineties was disturbed a bit in '94, when miners near Wesley city rioted over the introduction of electric drills, burned the mine plant and wounded two of the Little brothers who owned it. Two men were killed in the ruckus, and when leaders were jailed the rioters threatened to march on Pekin. Citizens volunteered as deputy sheriffs (among the leaders being Herman Frings, later a prominent attorney) and several National Guard companies marched to Pekin and stood guard.

Nine Pekinites died in '92 when the Frankie Folsom, an excursion steamer, sank in a storm in Peoria lake. Many others were aboard but escaped.

In '96 came the Spanish American War when Company "G" was mustered and organized with Capt. E.L. Conklin, and Lieutenants D.H. Jansen, E.H. Mullen and W.W. Sellers as officers, but Company G never saw action, although some Pekinites serving in other units did get overseas during the war with Spain. The story is told that Franklin



THE COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S RESIDENCE built in the mid 80's.

1933 FARLIN BUICK Co. 1949

312 Elizabeth Street

D. R. FARLIN

C. T. JEFFERSON

Incorporated August 1, 1945

*When better automobiles
are built
BUICK will build them*

BUICK CARS

USED CARS

Service on All

Makes of Cars

Smooth as a Bird's Flight

DYNAFLOW DRIVE

Pekin Prescription Laboratory

In the Tazewell Hotel Bldg.

Phone
2432

Phone 234-J
After Hours



THE PEKIN PRESCRIPTION LABORATORY
Established during the centennial
year of the founding of Pekin.

Features

The traditional points of service
of an apothecary.

DRUGS & SERVICE
ONLY

Pekin's only exclusive Prescription
Pharmacy

Member

American College Apothecaries
American Pharmaceutical Association

PROPRIETORS

J. F. Sams, R Ph
V. B. Sams, RR Ph



WASHINGTON SCHOOL built in 1890 for High School and grades.

Velde, who still practices law in Pekin, was one of the best shots in the Pekin company. However, he was left-handed. When this defect was called to his attention by army authorities, he protested that he was, nevertheless, one of the best shots in the company. "We have enough men here to lick the Spaniards RIGHT-HANDED", was the reply, and he was mustered out. As it turned out, there were enough men to lick the Spaniards without Co. C, and the surrender cancelled their sailing orders.

The last hanging in Pekin, which took place in '96, was almost a festive occasion, but a model of good order compared to the Ott and Berry affairs. People jammed roof-tops to look down inside the stockade, but otherwise things were orderly. The Post Tribune of that day gives an account of this affair under a head-line "Wallace Dies Game!" which reads, in part, as follows:

"Albert Wallace expiated his crime of murder on the gallows this morning. The trap was sprung at exactly eight minutes past 11 o'clock and at 11:22, fourteen minutes later, he was cut down, being pronounced dead by Coroner H. V. Bailey. The trap was sprung by Sheriff J. E. Stout, and the execution was a most successful one. The fall of five feet failed to break Wallace's neck and he died of strangulation."

The body was turned over to Kuecks, Wubben and company. Wallace had given himself up after the shotgun killing

of his sister Mrs. Belle Bowlby at Delevan.

His was the last hanging to take place in the city of Pekin.

And so, after only a few comparatively minor disorders in the '90's, the city of Pekin turned the corner into the Twentieth Century showing the world a far different town than that of the 70's and earlier.

Her 8,400 citizens now were mostly native Pekinites, born in the city, taught in its schools and in its churches. Many were now high school graduates. They walked on brick sidewalks, and rode (sometimes) on brick streets under electric lights, went to the Turner Opera house, danced at the Tazewell club, picniced at the park, and went to the harness races, and on excursions to Chicago, and they had discovered the sports of football and baseball, too. The store windows still had signs assuring potential customers, "German Spoken Here", and there were still "riots" in saloons at times, and arrests for "gaming" and "prize-fighting", and a good many for carrying concealed weapons--but the change was there and it stands out in the old records clearly and boldly.

Pekin was ready for the Twentieth Century.

In a book whose publishing is sponsored by the Association of Commerce, it is still necessary to confess that these most significant changes

A GROWING STORE IN A GROWING CITY

The 22 years that Cohen Furniture Company has been in Pekin, has seen the greatest period of expansion in the city's history. Our store has kept abreast of that expansion. Starting in 1927 in this same location with only 8 employees, there are now 31 in Cohen's Pekin store.

Through the co-operation and confidence of our many customers in this area, our business annually has increased to over four times the amount done in the first year.

In the years to come, we assure you that our efforts will be for the advancement of Pekin and toward better and happier living for the citizens of this community.



toward progress in Pekin came just before NOT AFTER the organization of the citizen's Improvement association--but those same progressive steps did not

come until after schools and churches had established firm foundations in the community.

THE NEW CENTURY

In the pre-war years of the new Twentieth Century, Pekin people learned a lot about living. In addition to the dances and excursions (both boat and rail) of the '90's, there came the era of sports, ice cream socials, the horseless carriage, the household gadget, and the nickleodeon.

Tom Cooper, the progressive former mayor, had taken over management of Mineral Springs park, developed it further, and that area, which had been turned down repeatedly at a \$6,000 price tag, finally became public property at a figure of \$22,500 with referendum approval, and a year later

the \$15,000 pavilion was built. A whole era of park recreation got started then. And at the other end of the entertainment picture, came the nickleodeons with their collapsible chairs and mechanical interruptions, starting all at once with the Dreamland at 302 Court street under W.E. Snodgrass, and the Unique and the Vaudette (where Lohnes Print Shop now does business). At still a third extreme, there came the establishment of the Pekin Country club at the end of this period.

The introduction of ice cream was somehow symbolic of this era, and it is said when it was once served at



THE COUNCIL CHAMBER 1905-1906: Mayor Dan Sapp, Chief of Police Chas. Fleming, Fire Chief Julius Jaeckel, City Engineer Ren F. Smith, City Clerk Jack Soldwedel, Aldermen Oscar Fogelmark, Henry Reuling, Creso Jansen, Heilo Rust, Dede Velde, Chas. Gehrig, Henry Schwartz Jacob TerVeen, Ben H. Smith, John Amsburg, Fritz Schaefer, Geo. Taubert, Reporters Chas Skaggs, W. G. Fair, R. E. Rollins.

ILLINOIS IRON & METAL COMPANY

Scrap Iron - Metals - Paper - Rags

THIRD AND ST. MARY STS.

PHONE 194

In October, 1917, Ted and Sam Kahn came to Pekin and leased the Illinois Hotel and grounds for a scrap yard. The brothers retained the first word on the hotel sign and thus established the ILLINOIS IRON & METAL COMPANY. This was the beginning of Tazewell County's only exclusive scrap dealer.

In order to be near a railroad siding for carload shipments, the company moved three years later to the present site on the corner of Third and St. Mary Streets. A large and complete warehouse and offices were erected by Ed F. Lampitt & Sons, for the handling of waste materials.

During the ensuing years, the company expanded the yard facilities in order to handle used structural steel, pipe, and other building supplies.

Ted Kahn purchased his brother's interest in the business in 1946. One year later additional yards were bought on the opposite side of the street. Surplus materials and used auto parts are housed on this property.

The ILLINOIS IRON & METAL COMPANY has conducted business in Pekin for over 32 years, and takes pride in servicing citizens, farmers, and factories in this area.

"TAZEWELL COUNTY'S ONLY EXCLUSIVE SCRAP DEALER"

SARGENT SHEET METAL SHOP

HEATING AND VENTILATING

PHONE 732

SHEET METAL WORK

619 COURT ST.

The Sargent Sheet Metal Shop was established by Walter A. Sargent in January 1926.

The first location was at 500 Court Street. A few months later the business was moved to 701 Broadway, operating there until April 1929 when it was moved to the present location at 619 Court Street.

Mr. Sargent had worked at the trade for twenty-eight years and had been in charge of sheet metal and heating business for some years before venturing in business for himself.

With this thorough knowledge of the trade and his managing experience he had built up a business that had enabled him to erect a new building and equip a new shop and office which conformed to his ideas of what a modern sheet metal and

warm air heating business should be.

The sheet metal industry has broadened in scope from installing gravity furnaces, gutters, spouting and tin roofs to include ventilating, forced air heating for coal, oil and gas as fuels, and air conditioning.

New materials have also made an appearance in sheet metal work. From tin, galvanized iron and copper - aluminum and stainless steel in dull and polished finishes are being worked in various phases of the industry.

Since Mr. Sargent's death in 1942, Mrs. Sargent has continued to operate the business with the capable assistance of former employees, one of whom has been in their employ twenty-six years.

Mayor Conzelman's home to a group of city officials, one alderman turned to another and said in German, "This is damned cold butter!" At the same time, there came the Stanley Steamers and other versions of the "horseless carriage", and court records show that young bloods here were occasionally fined for speeding at 20 miles an hour. The first gas heating company was founded then, and the gas stove was one of the first items besides piped water, in the kitchen revolution getting underway, on the threshold of an era of kitchen gadgets.

It was, above all, a golden era in sports. The Rainbows, with Jack Epkins and Harry White ushered in a great baseball period. The White Sox (football and baseball) with George Ehni, Elmer Neff, Deacon Miller and others carried on the tradition, and then came Pekin's own professional ball team in the Illinois-Missouri league, and the days when such luminaries as the great Grover Cleveland Alexander and Ray Schalk played in Pekin. As a matter of fact Alexander was "beaned" running for first base here at Pekin by a ball thrown by Chief Edwards and badly hurt on the very threshold of his great major league career. "Spider" Diehl played with the Pekin club. Joe Jenkins, and Si Forsythe went up to the New York Giants, and Ray Chapman, Al O'Hare, Windy Lottshaw, Bob O'Farrel and Jim Bluejacket, all had their major league flings. Many of the great ball players of the period lived in the "Bachelor Flats" over the present Westbrook restaurant at Fourth and Elizabeth streets.

Pekin competitors also claimed national recognition in the prize ring of the period when Herman "Weenie" Lohmann (Pekin Kid Herman) was a constant challenger to the bantam-weight crown, who fought three times against reigning champions, twice to "no decision" finishes. Stanley Everetts also faced championship competition at the lighter weights, and in the light-weight ranks, Harry Donahue climbed to the top ranks and faced the late great Packy McFarland, rated by many as the best of all time in that division.

Football also began to come into its own with the high school team playing at the old race track and using a coffin box borrowed from the Noel funeral home for their equipment. Rayburn Russell, later mayor and states attorney, was the team manager for a time. Among the players were Guy Donahue (later police chief and sheriff), Wilbur Bush, Walt Conover, Gene Hoff (now circuit clerk) Elbert Nolte, Roy Meisinger, Lee and Fred Eyrse and Roy King.



P.H.S. 1909 - Unbeaten and never scored on. Back Row - Lee Eyrse, Guy Donahue, Bert Kincaid, Elbert Nolte, John Strathman, George Ehrlicher, Leo Otho McCoy, Elmer Derrick, James Ross, Eugene V. Hoff, Walton Conover. Front Row - Wilbur Bush, Roy Meisinger, Fred Eyrse, Roy L. King.

Civic advancement in more conventional activities was also on the upgrade, for in this period were built the present Pekin library building, the Pekin post office building, the Pekin Public hospital, and the present Tazewell county court house at Pekin. The main wing of the Pekin Community high school by James field was built then and the Lincoln and Jefferson grade schools as they stand today. The old wooden bridge was replaced with an iron bridge as early as 1904, and before the era ended electric street cars were operating and had been taken under city ownership. Mayors of the period included E.W. Wilson, William J. Conzelman, Daniel Sapp, and Henry Schnellbacher. Charles Schaefer was city attorney for much of the time.

Private interests meanwhile had erected the Illinois Box Board and Paper company (now Quaker Oats), the Arcade building, the Times building, and had founded the Herget National Bank. The Corn Products Refining company bought the old beet "sugar house" of the Hergets.

It was then, too, that union labor began to play a major role in the life of the community, and Pekin early established itself as a pioneer city in recognition of organized labor. The city's unions had already begun to be among the leading agencies urging these various public improvements, and frequently at that time worked in concert with the Citizens Improvement Association. The Trades and Labor assembly staged great Labor Day celebrations on the downtown streets of Pekin which rivalled the equally famous street fairs staged by the Street Fair Association. As early as 1902, one of the first such pieces of legislation written anywhere, was an ordinance

LAW OFFICES OF
DUNKELBERG and RUST
THE TIMES BLDG.

IRVING L. ROSENBERG
ATTORNEY AT LAW
FRINGS BLDG.

DALE E. SUTTON
LAWYER
PEKIN FINANCE BLDG.

BEN L. SMITH
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ARCADE BLDG.

LAW OFFICES OF
BARNEY KAHN
STEINMETZ BUILDING

ALFRED W. BLACK
LAWYER
PEKIN FINANCE BUILDING

C. L. CONDER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
MARSHALL BLDG.

FRINGS & MILFORD
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
C. V. FRINGS
R. A. MILFDRD
FRINGS BLDG.

DEMPSEY & KUHFUSS
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
MARSHALL BLDG.

ABOUT THE LAWYERS

Lawyers and their offices come and go. The history of them is mostly unrecorded and fades with the passage of time. But much of their work is done in courts and in the court records, in the official tones of legal language not unlike that now used, we can get a glimpse of the activities of the lawyers of 100 years ago, which then, as now, reflect the times and the struggles of the people. These records also reveal the names of some of the lawyers practicing at that time.

In 1849, the Courts of this County were held in Tremont.

The Circuit Court held two terms, the April term and September term. Judge David Davis, who was later appointed to the Supreme Court of the United States by Abraham Lincoln, held both terms. Richard Gill was sheriff, David S. Campbell, prosecuting attorney, and John A. Jones clerk. The cases handled consisted principally of actions on contracts and obligations, i.e. assumpsit, debt, foreclosure, and judgments by confession, and cases affecting real estate titles, such as partition, ejectment, petitions to sell real estate to pay debts, bills to quiet title, etc. Only two divorces were granted during the year, one on the grounds of adultery, the other on the grounds of desertion. At the September term, 11 indictments were returned, 8 of which were for selling liquor without a license, 1 for gambling, 1 for larceny, and 1 for keeping a disorderly house.

The County Court first convened on December 17, 1849 with Judge Benjamin F. James presiding. Previously a Probate Justice of the Peace handled all probate work. In the ensuing year less than 35 estates were filed. In 1849 four wills were probated. The size of administrator's and executor's bonds, being twice the amount of personal property in the estates ranged from

RAYBURN L. RUSSELL

ATTORNEY AT LAW

MARSHALL BLDG.

VELDE & PRETTYMAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

IVAN YONTZ ASSOCIATE

TAMES BLDG.

\$100 to \$2,000. Rule 1 of the County Court entered February 8, 1850, required for the the first time that Petitions for Letters of Administration be in writing.

In 1849 there were 771 instruments relating to real estate filed for record in the recorder's office, of which 108 were mortgages.

By comparison, from July 1, 1948, to July 1, 1949, 438 cases were filed in the Circuit Court. 270 were divorce or other matrimonial cases. Approximately 60 arose from auto accidents. 1 grew out of an airplane accident. Others principally involved property. In the County Court 375 estates were filed for probate. 9015 instruments relating to real estate were filed in the recorder's office. Also considerable administrative law is now being practiced before federal and state administrative agencies.

Names of lawyers appearing in the court records 100 years ago, though undoubtedly not a complete record of those practicing here at that time, include the following: Halsey Merriman, William D. Briggs, B.S. Prettyman, John M. Bush, William B. Parker, George L. Parker, Samuel P. Bailey, M. Tackaberry, Holmes & Haines, and A.H. Saltonstall.

Lawyers whose offices are presently located in Pekin include: Franklin L. Velde who has practiced here more than 60 years; William S. Prettyman, John T. Elliff, Ralph Dempsey Charles Schaefer, C.L. Conder, George Brecher, T.N. Smith, Ben L. Smith, J.M. Powers, James P. St. Cerney, Frank Wilkins, Robert H. Allison, Harold J. Rust, Louis P. Dunkelberg, P.A. D'Arcy, C.I. Martin, R.L. Russell, Walter G. Cunningham, Alfred W. Black, Nathan T. Elliff, C.V. Frings, George Donaldson, Barney Kahn, Clifford C. Schmidtgall, Harold H. Kuhfuss, Roth S. Smith, Bernard F. Hoffman, Dale E. Sutton, R.A. Milford, E.B. Groen, W.J. Reardon, Robert V. Clevenger, Irving Rosenberg, Ivan Yontz, and Harold H. Velde, now a Member of Congress.

SMITH & SMITH

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ARCADE BLDG.

WALTER G CUNNINGHAM

ATTORNEY AT LAW

ARCADE BUILDING

JAMES M. POWERS

ATTORNEY AT LAW

403 MARGARET

C. I. MARTIN

ATTORNEY AT LAW

340 ELIZABETH

ROBERT V. CLEVINGER

ATTORNEY AT LAW

PEKIN FINANCE BLDG.

LAW OFFICES OF

GROEN,**HOFFMAN & REARDON**

201 205 PEKIN FINANCE BUILDING

ELLIFF & ELLIFF

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

326 ELIZABETH

ALTMANS

310 COURT

Altman's Jewelry, Gift and Luggage store, although but eight years old at the turn of Pekin's century, has grown from a small store at its beginning to an establishment of size comparable to others in the Pekin business district.

Altman's observes the one-hundredth anniversary of Pekin's incorporation with a profound sense of gratitude to the residents of this and nearby communities for the patronage which made its rapid growth possible.

Mr. Al Altman, owner, expresses a sincere hope that Altman's may continue to serve the city as it embarks upon its second century of growth.

J. LOGAN UNLAND INSURANCE AGENCY

12 SOUTH FOURTH STREET
PEKIN, ILLINOIS

The name Unland has been identified with the business life of Pekin for practically one hundred years.

E. F. Unland, uncle of J. Logan Unland was mayor of Pekin, and first president of the Tazewell Club. He was president of Smith-Hippen Grain Company and active in business.

J. Logan Unland entered the insurance business in Pekin in 1930 as district agent for the Aetna Life Insurance Company.

In 1941 he opened his present office at #12 South 4th Street enlarging his activities to include all forms of insurance.

In 1945 he was joined by his son, Captain James A. Unland, commanding officer of Company L, Illinois National Guard, as junior member of the firm.

The J. Logan Unland Insurance Agency is one of the leading insurance agencies of Pekin.

NEDDERMANN BAKERY

407 COURT ST.



Left: Reinhardt Neddermann
Right: John Neddermann

Half a century ago, two brothers, John E. and Reinhardt J. Neddermann, began selling bakery goods to Pekinites and neighboring farmers.

On March 22, 1899, the Neddermanns started in business at 407 Court. It was formerly owned by Mr. W. Wiemers. Their only machine was one used in making cookies, and the ovens were fired with coke. Nedder-

mann's bakery is still in the same location, and bake from some of the same recipes used before the turn of the century. The Pumpernickle bread which is a favorite of customers is prepared from the recipe that delighted purchasers in 1899.

In the days of the horse and buggy, Neddermann's was a favorite gathering place of farmers who came to Pekin to shop. Many customers of today are the third generation of their families to enjoy "Neddermann's" delicacies.

Reinhardt J. Neddermann passed away in September, 1939, and the business has been carried on by John and his sister Emma.

The Golden Anniversary of Neddermann's Bakery marks the progress of a successful business in Pekin, and they wish to assure their patrons that they will continue to serve the Pekin area residents with only the finest quality baked breads, rolls, pies and cakes.



POLICE DEPARTMENT 1905-1906: Henry Behren, Geo. Pfeiffer, Jack Soldwedel, Ben F. Smith, Henry Taubert, James McCoy, Squire Jake Rapp, Louis Reutler, John Oldman, One Arm Howard MacKee, Chas. Fleming, chief, Jerome Fisher, John Beetler.

adopted by the city of Pekin on the motion of Alderman W.F. Mefford, which fixed nine hours as the legal work day in the city of Pekin.

It was also during this period that the location of railroad shops on what had been farmland south of Pekin resulted in the development of the community of South Pekin, which was promptly laid out to attract the railroad men to be employed at this key spot.

Then, too, Pekin voted to abandon the aldermanic system of city government, turned its back on the "war of the wards", and installed the present commission form, which has now been operating since 1911. The last aldermanic mayor was W.J. Conzelman, and the list of aldermen read: Albertsen, Fogelmark, Graff, Hornish, Lohmann, Michael, Siebens, Smith, Van Horn, Fluegel, Johns, and Secret. After the commission form was adopted by a vote of 817 to 619, Charles Duisdicker was elected mayor (over W.H. Bates) and elected as first commissioners were C.F. Gehrig, J.W. Zuckweiler, H.J. Rust, and Ben H. Smith.

It was also during this period that the sizable Italian colony began to develop here in Pekin, with heaviest increases in the East Bluff area.



Pekin's first street car, shown on Derby St., ran from the industries to the Park. It was powered by batteries and had to be charged every night.

ED. F. LAMPITT & SONS

General Contractors

Phone 82

Dealers in Building Materials

217 Court Street

For sixty years the name of Lampitt has been connected with the construction of Pekin buildings, both public and private.

Founded in 1888 by Ed F. Lampitt who is still a member of the firm, they have built four of the nine grade schools in the Pekin Public School System. An achievement in which the firm of Ed F. Lampitt & Sons takes great pride is the construction of the original Pekin Community High School Building.

The Pekin Public Hospital is another prominent structure in the long list of buildings erected by Lampitts and used each day by residents of this community.

Other local buildings housing business, religious and fraternal enterprises and built by the Lampitt Firm are The American National Bank, Bristow Motor Company, Carpenters Union Hall, Farmer's Automobile Insurance Association Building, Pekin Finance Company Building, Pekin Loan & Homestead Association

Building, Pekin Water Works Office, The J.C. Penney Company, St. Paul's Evangelical Church Parish House, Schipper & Block Company and Vogel's packing plant.

The Lampitt builders have made additions and alterations at the following establishments; Altman's Jewellery Store, A Nu Beauty Salon, Arterberry Motor Sales, Bird Provision Company, Cohen Furniture Company, Ehrlicher Brothers Company, Jones Brothers Jewelers, Pekin Daily Times, The Toggery, and others.

Also contributing to Pekin's industrial development, the Lampitts have been contractors for building expansion at the American Distilling Company, Commonwealth Edison Company, Del's Dairy, Excel Brass & Aluminum Foundry, Pekin Foundry, Standard Brands Inc. and Quaker Oats Company.

Ed F. Lampitt & Sons consider it a privilege to have participated in the growth and development of Pekin during its first one hundred years.



Buehler's

PEKIN STORE OPENED IN 1949
CORNER FIFTH & STATE
PEKIN, ILLINOIS

Parking Lots
At
All Stores

Expressive of the times was the famous Jesse Black Flambeau club which marched in behalf of his political candidacy. The flambeau was a large brass object with a mouthpiece not unlike that of a musical instrument. At the top was a torch affair with a burning wick, and in the body of the machine was coal oil or kerosene to keep the flame, and also a quantity of powdered resin. Black's Flambeau club, dressed in colorful uniforms with special oil cloth protection, would stage an impressive marching performance topped by members blowing on the mouthpieces of the flambeaus. This action, blasting the powdered resin upward through the flame, would shoot

a sheet of fire 15 to 20 feet skyward from the top of each flambeau. Executed on signal, the effect of a block-long formation shooting out these tremendous flames was terrific. This improvement on the traditional torch-light parade marked a high in political enthusiasm and political showmanship in Pekin, and the leaping flames of the flambeaus helped mark this period of 16 years of uninterrupted progress in sports, recreation, transportation, business life and civic institutions -- all without a single outbreak of the old familiar violence or a single disaster of more than family scope -- until the advent of the first World War.

AN UNDIVIDED CITY

With the outbreak of World War I, there came a tremendous change in the city of Pekin. As in the Civil War, Pekin was in the early days a divided city. With its big population of German extraction, and it's long maintenance of the German language and other old world associations, there was naturally a considerable sympathy for the cause of Germany in the European War amongst many Pekin citizens, and some of the Irish still hated England worse than anyone else. However, by this time most of the Pekin people had roots 50 years deep and deeper in America and their own community, and their first loyalty was unquestionably to the United States. Pekin responded to the

challenge with hundreds of men, who served scattered through the U.S. forces. Many of them served with the A.E.F. on the fields of France where Roy King, the former Pekin high school football player, was the first to fall. (The local V.F.W. post is named in his memory).

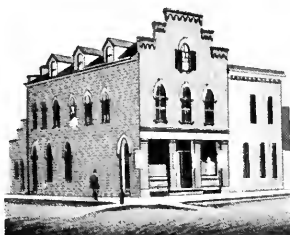
Here at home, the war also had a profound effect. Down came the signs "German Spoken Here" that had stood in store windows for 50 years. The Freie Presse, operated by the late Jacob Schmidt, became the Free Press, and the German type was thrown out and English type was purchased. The German-American bank became the American National, the German-Methodist church became the



1917-1918-- A Tazwell County group leaving for service in World War I.

CENTRAL HOUSE

333 Margaret



"The Original Central House"

Established on the principle that the laboring class in Pekin should be served with the best in quality at the lowest prices, the Central House at Margaret and Capitol streets was purchased in 1932 by Nello Rossi.

In a building 100 years old - as old as Pekin itself - the Central House soon established a reputation for excellent food, superior service and honest dealing.

Since the Central House was established by Mr. Rossi as the finest Italian restaurant in the community, his family has maintained it in the traditions in which early business was transacted.

Under the supervision of Nello Rossi, with Mrs. Rossi preparing the food, the Central house became the unofficial meeting place for the laboring men of Pekin as well as the farmers who had regarded the Central House as a gathering place even before it was taken over by the Rossis.

After the death of Mr. Rossi in 1943 his wife and three sons, Lawrence, Al and Italo, continued operation of the Central House. Today, however, Italo and Al are engaged in the management of the

hotel, having taken the reins upon their return from military service. Both of them were in the uniform of the United States navy.

During recent years the Central House has grown in size as well as clientele. In 1940 a new dining room, The Blue Room, was added to the original structure and rapidly earned a reputation for its excellent Italian and American Cuisine. Specialties, of course, are the Italian dishes - spaghetti, raviola, salads and anti pastos. Also on the menu are fried milk-fed chicken, steaks and fish.

Popularity of Rossi-prepared foods has resulted in the establishment of Rossi Food Products, Inc., which went into business on January 1, 1949. The new company has constructed a processing and canning plant adjacent to the Central House on N. Capitol street and the Rossi Food Products label is already visible in most of the grocery stores in Central Illinois.

On the growing list of Rossi Food Products are canned chili, spaghetti sauce, beef barbecue, beef stew, and the only green salad dressing on the market today.

Actual ownership of the Central House is still in the hands of Mrs. Rossi who actively supervises the preparation of its tasty dishes and, as has been her practice for many years, she examines each day's menu for, "Quality, price and appearance."

Concerning the future, the Rossis are looking forward to continued expansion of their Central House services and their Rossi Food Products production. They plan to do so by maintaining, to the best of their ability, their present high standards of food production and dining room management.

Grace Methodist church, and German ceased to be the language spoken from most of the pulpits in Pekin. The German language, still taught in some of the church grade schools, was abandoned as were the schools themselves soon after.

The months of World War I brought about the final cutting of the last ties between Pekin and the old country, more especially, the Fatherland. Since that time, children of all faiths and national extractions have gone through the same schools, played the same games and sports, and used the same public institutions, a practice which wiped out effectively any division along lines of national or religious prejudice.

Pekin, for years unique because of its clinging to the old German ways, had so changed that it was soon to be unique in that no firm line was to exist between its people on any ground. It was and remains unique, too, in the fact that there are no members of the colored race living in the city. Apparently, the militance of the early secessionist Knights of the Golden Circle, together with the long period when at least an understanding of German was essential to even moderate success in the community, combined to discourage any early settlement by colored people, and they have simply never become established here.

At any rate, the war with Germany brought a clean break from much of the German tradition, from which the newer generations were already pulling slowly away, and laid the foundations for the present homogeneous community.

All during the war, in contrast with World War II, the soldiers-to-be were mustered at the court house in groups of 30 or more, and these were escorted to the train bound for camp by a band. However, from that point on, Pekin men were scattered to various army units and not organized into separate Pekin companies as had so long been the practice.



The first trolley street car in Pekin.

Records at Springfield were destroyed by fire, unfortunately, but among those known to have died in service during World War I were Pekinites Roy King, William Schaefer, Harry Houston, John Duncan, Pearl Doren, George Grant, and William Fuller.

During the war years, specifically on July 5, 1918, Pekin was visited by the greatest single tragedy in its history, with the possible exception of the early epidemics. Eighty five persons, men, women and children, were drowned with the "Columbia", when the excursion steamer heading back downstream toward Pekin, struck a submerged log and sank in the Illinois river just off Wesley city. For more than a week, the entire city was absorbed in the tragic task of recovering the bodies of the dead, identifying them, and arranging for burial. The home guard unit took charge in this emergency and other relief agencies joined them, as impromptu morgues, identification rooms, and other facilities were commandeered, the Wesley city road was shut off to other than official traffic, and the grisly work went on.

The sinking of the Columbia, as much as the war itself, marked the end of the pleasant pre-war period of life in Pekin in the 1900's as the city rounded the corner and entered the "roaring twenties".



PEORIA PRESS PAYS TRIBUTE TO VETERAN PEKIN NEWS MEN

Peoria newspapers have given uninterrupted service to Pekin and the Pekin area for more than 70 years, a part of that time offering the only daily news service.

Pekin, in turn, has given to the area and to Peoria newspapers, some of the most distinguished newspaper men, and some of the most reliable newspaper service in the state. Any history of Pekin should certainly include a brief tribute, at least, to a few of these men.

Today, the dean of newsmen in Central Illinois are Louis B. Watson, formerly of the Peoria Transcript and for many years with the Pekin Times, and William G. Fair, formerly of the Peoria Star.

Still serving, after 43 years, and the dean of active newspaper men is Paul Massey, Pekin office manager

for Peoria Newspapers Inc., whose newspaper experience includes the Columbia disaster, the Corn Products explosion, the South Pekin tornado, and other stories of national scope.

Peoria's Brooks Watson, formerly of the Peoria Star, and now with Radio Station WMBD began his newspaper experience in Pekin, and is a son of Louis B. Watson.

Peoria area newspaper world is indebted to Pekin for the late Charles B. Smith, Abe Schaefer, Frank McGrew, R. E. Rollins and Charles Skaggs, veterans of the Peoria Journal staff for many years.

Principal newspaper historians for the entire area in later years have been two Pekin men, Louis B. Watson of the Pekin Times, and the late Charles B. Smith of the Peoria Journal and Transcript.

HYMBAUGH MOTOR SALES

501 & 900 SOUTH SECOND ST.



New Home of

*Hymbaugh
Motor Sales*

Established in 1946, one of Pekin's newest and fastest growing businesses, began operations at 900 South Second Street. Today, as Pekin closes its first century of growth, Hymbaugh Motor Sales is now conducting its business at the original location, but has expanded to include a new building under construction at 501 South Second Street. Jack Hymbaugh is presently the dealer for several lines of trailers including American, Travelo, Kozy Coach, New Moon, Vagabond, Schultz, Zimmer, Superior, Sparton, Ironwood, Pace-maker and Peerless. Since 1948 Mr.

Hymbaugh has been the authorized dealer for Willys Automobiles and the Willys Sales Service garage is to be housed at the new location at 501 South Second Street.

Hymbaugh Motor Sales also deals in quality used cars at 900 South Second Street and finances all lower priced autos.

Used parts have become a commodity of the Hymbaugh firm in connection with the operation of the Hymbaugh Junk Yard located on Prince Street where, Jack says, "We use the best and junk the rest."

THE ROARING TWENTIES

The 1920's looked troublesome right from the start, as they brought a mixed period of both progress and thwarted progress, all of which was colored by the lawlessness and changing social scheme of the prohibition era.



Kraeger Grocery, Ford delivery truck.

Pekin, like the rest of the nation, saw Ford's famous "Tin Lizzie" make us a people on wheels, and Pekin also saw the first widespread use of the cigarette, the appearance of candy bars, and the appearance of lipstick and rouge on women other than "entertainers" - using the word in its broadest sense. Fortunately, it was also to be the era of the airplane and the radio.

W.E. Schurman was mayor when the roaring Twenties began, and councilmen were C.G. Gehrig, H.J. Rust, M.B. Lohmann and J.G. Nedderman. Harm Smith was chief of police. The period started with a time of post-war inflation. Prices were ruinous, but silk shirts were more plentiful on Court street than ever before. Perhaps, the first sign of what kind of decade was to come was in the formation of Pekin Community high school district 303. In 1920, the courts declared the district had been illegally formed, dissolved it, ousted board members Charles Hilst, H.J. Rust, F.C. Gale, W.G. Pair, D.F. Velde and Ben L. Smith, and fined each of them \$1 for "pretending" to be a high school board. Jesse Black and Franklin Velde had defended the district officers or "pretended officers" and states Attorney E.E. Black launched the quo warranto proceeding that ousted them. The district had been thrown out because Pekin had been enjoying the benefits of a special school charter voted into existence exclusively for Pekin by the

state legislature in 1869, and this charter forbade taking in territory beyond the city limits. A year later the charter was abandoned and the present high school district and separate grade districts were organized much as they exist today.

In 1921 came the second sign of what the decade was to bring. The period of inflation passed and there came a depression or "panic". It hit Pekin like the rest of the nation, and among its by-products here was a run on the Farmer's National bank. The bank survived that run, partly because Mayor Schurman and the city council continued to deposit city funds there and made this fact public, along with urging the solidity of the banking house. The run was slowed to a walk and finally halted without breaking the bank, and the city officials were formally thanked for their assistance during the "bank alarm". This year, also, the iron bridge was closed to traffic as it was to be repeatedly, off and on, throughout that 10 year period.

In 1922, there was a small-pox epidemic and the city of Pekin stepped in to close schools and create the first vaccination ordinance making vaccination a requirement for school attendance. Also, in 1922, came one of the biggest "prohibition" stories, when a group of hijackers picked the day after Emil Neuhaus was sworn in as sheriff to blast their way right thru the main gate of the distillery here and escape with a carload of alcohol.

During this period, too, the Ku Klux Klan was strong in Pekin. It's meetings, policies and plans were front page news in the Pekin Times, where its "good works" were much praised, and Pekin was for some time district headquarters for the Klan.

By the mid-twenties the Klan had declined rapidly, and the Pekin Times, which had been controlled by the Klan organization, changed hands, eventually ending under the ownership of F.F. McNaughton, its present owner.

This period introduced for the first time the recurrent headlines of death and injury in motorcar wrecks (and Pekin hired the first "motor cop"), in addition to still frequent railroad and even street car fatalities. The old street cars apparently caused more

H.R. Mc Garvey

THE HOUSE THAT SERVICE BUILT

ENTERED BUSINESS, AUGUST 1928

LOCATED AT 509-511 COURT STREET

INSTALLED THE FIRST NEON SIGN ON COURT STREET

THE APPLIANCE BUSINESS IN RETROSPECT

BOOM 1928 - 29 - 30 -- BUST 1931 - 32 - 33 - 34

1934 BECAME PYROFAX GAS DISTRIBUTOR - FOR CARBIDE AND CARBON CHEMICAL CORP.

1934 - 35 - 36 - 37 - 38 - 39 - 40 - 41 ESTABLISHED ONE OF THE LARGEST BOTTLED GAS BUSINESSES IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS

WAR - 1941 - 42 - 43 - 44 - 45 NO APPLIANCES TO SELL-- NO CYLINDERS FOR NEW CUSTOMERS - NO NEW TRUCKS - RESTRICTIONS ON TRUCK LOADS - TIRES - GASOLINE - DELIVERY, ETC.

1941 BECAME DISTRIBUTOR - LINDE AIR PRODUCTS CO. - OXYGEN - ACETYLENE - CARBIDE - WELDING SUPPLIES

1942 INSTALLED OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE, 211 E. DOUGLAS, BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

1943 PURCHASED WATSON GROCERY BLDG., 423 COURT ST., PEKIN.

1944 PURCHASED HARRY MOORE BLDG., 418 MARGARET ST.

1947 PURCHASED BLDG., 407 FRANKLIN ST., PEORIA, ILL.

1948 JAN. 1st. OPENED PEORIA STORE FOR WELDING SUPPLIES.

1949 WE INTEND TO BUILD A PYROFAX GAS FILLING PLANT IN PEKIN

PEKIN HAS BEEN GOOD TO US.

WE HOPE OUR BUSINESS WILL ALWAYS BE A SERVICE TO PEKIN

423 COURT ST.
PEKIN

407 FRANKLIN ST.
PEORIA

418 MARGARET
PEKIN

211 E. DOUGLAS
BLOOMINGTON



PEKIN HIGH SCHOOL built in 1916.

serious injuries and deaths in a single year in the mid-twenties than have resulted during operation of the bus system in almost 15 years. In addition there came news of "poison whiskey" brewed as close as Creve Coeur, causing death and blindness to users, and there were a series of gun killings, and armed robberies in downtown Pekin, as well as elsewhere. There were recurrent "raids" on "speak-easies", recurrent charges of bribery against state and national "dry agents" several of whom were held in the county jail here for a time. There were hijackings of various kinds. In addition to the distillery hijack case, authorities at one time fought a pitched battle across Mineral Springs park from Court street to the railroad tracks north of the park, against a hijack gang raiding a train. In 1924, the Times announced that Sheriff Neuhaus had an airplane standing by and was going to try tracing bootleggers and hijacker's autos from the air and was even considering the use of bombs in taking action against them.

In 1924, shots were fired into the homes of attorneys W. J. Reardon and Jesse Black, both of whom were prominent in the prosecution of liquor law violators. The city council spread on its records at the time, January 7, 1924, this resolution:

"Whereas certain dastardly acts of lawlessness were committed in our city when unknown parties maliciously with murderous intent fired numerous shots into the houses of two of our respected citizens, and, whereas this council feels the city should do all in its power to prevent repetition of such occurrences and to assist in the apprehension and conviction of the parties guilty of the offense, therefore, be it resolved that the city of Pekin offer the sum of \$1,000 for the arrest and conviction of the party or parties guilty of firing shots into the homes of W. J. Reardon and Jesse Black on January 1 and 2, 1924."

The party or parties were never arrested or convicted, although many thousands including some \$5,000 for

special detectives was spent in an effort to run down the gunmen. Later, Justice of the Peace Walter Schaefer, (now a local reporter), was fired on from an auto on the highway. In 1928, hijackers raiding a freight car of liquor at South Pekin shot watchman Michael Murphy "to pieces" there. May 22, 1929, Police Officer Jack DeFrates shot and killed T. B. "Red" Storer at Storer's home here in Pekin, and a few weeks later, Deputy Sheriff Fred Gleich shot and killed Alvin Westrope under similar circumstances of resisting arrest. In 1929, Fred Spencer hung himself in the cell in the county jail, where he was waiting trial on charges that he cut the throat of Fred Wasmer at Washington, Illinois and So, the bloody record reads.

Trouble came in other forms. The Corn Products Refining company plant was ripped by a series of dust explosions followed by roaring flames in 1924, and 42 workers died in the inferno while hundreds of others suffered burns and other injuries. A worker was killed and several injured when a bridge span slipped here during construction. A worker was killed and two hurt in a dust explosion at the Super Power plant here. In 1924, the Hummer Saddlery burned with a loss estimated by plant manager E. W. Auferheide as \$300,000. In 1928, the Velde Lumber Company suffered a \$200,000 fire, and there were a number of blazes doing \$60,000 damages and less. In 1929, a record flood closed down Pekin's industries and isolated many homes and business houses, doing tremendous damage. And from a business approach the decade ended with an almost overnight collapse of the stock market and the start of the Great Depression.

But there was still another side to the history of Pekin during the 1920's, and while the trouble of the times has passed, the progressive things endure. It was a great era for school building, for one thing. The McKinley, Roosevelt, Douglas and Washington Junior High schools were all built during this span of years, and the newly organized high school district not only purchased the existing high school building from the old grade board but by the end of the decade were building the "new wing" onto that structure. In this period, too, the Super Power company plant, now operated by the Commonwealth Edison company, was erected at Powerton. The present large and attractive Pekin theater building was built in 1928, and "talkies" were first introduced a year later. The present Elks club building was erected then, and Jansen and Schaefer paved a huge area of Pekin's

STANDARD BRANDS Inc.

Pekin Branch



Standard Brands Inc. when it came to Pekin in 1926, was another factory on Pekin's famed "Industry Row" which linked the farmer and manufacturer by utilizing farm products for the manufacture of other commodities useful to the farmer and public. The "yeast plant," from its founding in Pekin, has converted grain into foodstuffs for both man and livestock. Yeast products were exclusively produced in 1926. The following year, 1927, the aggressiveness of the midwest brought about the expansion of Fleishmann's and a new yeast and diamalt plant was erected where the shambled buildings of a former factory stood only a year before.

Since 1927, the Pekin division of Standard Brands has continued to swell in size until today the plant is one of the most modern and best productive plants in this area. The factory operating normally today employs more than 300 persons, compared to the 100 employees of a decade ago.

Of the original buildings that were a part of the primary history of the Pekin division, only the feed house remains today. The Fleischmann Division at present boasts a group of up-to-date structures including a yeast, diamalt, and boiler plant, a store house and a modern boiler room.

Standard Brands also has contributed a complete and modern sewage disposal plant to the equipment of the steadfast Pekin Plant.

The principal raw materials used to produce the 35 or 40 malt and yeast products manufactured in the Pekin Plant include corn, malt, beet and cane molasses. The products are shipped throughout the United States to the West Coast, south into Texas, north into Minnesota and Wisconsin, and east to the east coast. The Pekin Plant also exports some products.

Standard Brands sponsors a basketball team in the industrial league of Pekin which brings honors to the plant. The local plant has organized a "Twenty-Year Club" which at present boasts a membership of sixty. Also Standard Brands has a "Quarter Century Club" with a membership of 1,000 employees with 25 years service or more. Each member receives a watch upon completion of 25 years' service.

The Pekin factory is one of many Standard Brands Plants in the United States, and there are also factories in South America and Canada.

Officials of the Pekin Fleischmann Division of Standard Brands Inc. are A.C. Litchfield, General Manager; E.J. Heim, Superintendent; and M.B. Prickett, Diamalt Superintendent.

north side in the first extensive use of cement for streets, at a total cost of \$264,531.20.

The Pekin Country Club acquired 50 acres of ground for future expansion of the present Country Club golf course. Finally, after 10 years of troubles with the Iron bridge, after the troubles with the old hand ferry and starting before the Civil War when the city first tried to build a bridge only to have the contractor back down after work was started - the bridge problem was solved. Martin B. Lohmann, who wrestled with the bridge problem as city commissioner in the early twenties had been sent to the state house of representatives where he introduced a bill calling for construction of a bridge at Pekin. In 1929, this bill which he guided through the house and on which he was aided by Ben L. Smith in the Senate, was signed into law and \$400,000 in state funds were made available. Both Tazewell county and a host of Pekin business people guaranteed payment of funds over \$400,000 and a contract was made for construction of the present bridge, with construction underway in 1929. The bridge job not only marked the end of almost a century of problems there, but marked the biggest financial assist ever given Pekin by any outside agency, and still does. During this period, Pekin's population took its greatest leap, from 12,086 persons to 16,129.

There is also the record of thwarted attempts made in this period. The high school district, after initial failure, finally came into being. The bridge problem, after initial failures, finally came to a successful conclusion. In 1924, the city submitted to a general election a proposal for a city-wide year-round recreation program

which was turned down by a close vote of 545 "yes" to 613 "no", and such a program did not come into being until 1946. In 1922, the council first tried to install a building ordinance, and about five years later, Commissioner Everett Dirksen tried again with a zoning and building ordinance which survived less than a month at which time the council unanimously rescinded it. The city is still struggling with that problem and a proposed zoning ordinance is now under study. In 1929, Commissioner Everett Dirksen proposed that the old city hall be replaced with a new city building at a proposed cost of \$140,000, and such replacement has come up repeatedly since, and is slated to be before the people again before the end of 1949.

The city was guided during this period, in addition to the council already named, by Mayor Ben Michael and commissioners Roy Preston (who later resigned and was replaced by A.N. Black, when Preston became Pekin's postmaster), Gerhardt Janssen, Louis Hoff, and Edward Messmer, who were in turn replaced in the late twenties by Mayor L.B. Kinsey and commissioners Everett M. Dirksen, Dr. P.J. Tobin, Oscar J. Hill and Edward A. Messmer.

Finally, the Twenties saw basketball come into prominence and football reach a "golden era" in Pekin, as the 1926 football team of Pekin Community high school roared through an undefeated season to win its first Big Twelve crown, led by Hank Bruder. Bruder later was a star at Northwestern university (and later with the World's Champion Green Bay Packers where he played eight years), and Nov. 24, 1928, marked a high point in Pekin sports achievement when Northwestern met Dartmouth. Dartmouth's Captain was Dick Black of Pekin,



WASHINGTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL completed in 1930 to replace old Washington School.



Reuling's in
the 1880's

N. Reuling Co.

THE STORE OF SATISFACTION
359 COURT

The year 1949 marks the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of N. Reuling Company. The original store, which was operated for a good many years by Nicholas Reuling, occupied the west room of the property known as the Herget Building. Previous to that time, Mr. Reuling had been in partnership with a Mr. Becker, in the first 300 block Court Street.

In the year 1899, the company was incorporated and enlarged to include an adjoining room, which had formerly housed a wholesale grocery. The dividing partition was removed, and a new front, modern for the times, installed.

In 1925, the building was purchased from the Herget Estate, and since that time, the business has expanded to occupy the second floor and basement, in addition to the spacious main floor.

In 1941 a modernization program was started and completed on the main floor, and the resulting increase in business proved very satisfactory.

N. Reuling Company has endeavored through the years to provide quality merchandise in leading name brands at moderate prices, and to live up to its motto, "The Store of Satisfaction".

PHILIP S. OLT Game Bird Calls

PEKIN FAMILY MANUFACTURING

GAME BIRD CALLS SINCE 1904

Philip S. Olt, who resides five miles south of Pekin, has been manufacturing various types of hard rubber Game Calls for the past 45 years and has developed a business which is world-wide. In so doing, the Olt's have helped to make Pekin known throughout the length and breadth of the land. Mr. Olt and his three sons, Philip Jr., Richard, and Arthur, operate the business together with three employees. They are kept busy the year round supplying the demand for game bird calls.

One necessary part of the hunter's equipment, as indispensable as his gun, is a Game Call to be used for the particular type game he wishes



to hunt. While every hunter has one or more Calls in his pocket during the hunting seasons, not many of them know that most of the Duck, Goose, Crow, Hawk, Turkey, and Squirrel Calls are made here in our own locality.

This business has grown steadily in years past until now thousands of jobbers and dealers in the United States and various parts of the world sell OLT'S GAME BIRD CALLS.

and N.U.'s sophomore sensation was Hank Bruder of Pekin (to be Captain there also). Black, suffering a knee injury, made only a token appearance in the game attended by hundreds of Pekin fans, but Bruder ripped to two touch-downs, both from outside the 20 yard line. Pekin's great 1926 team had also included Harry McClarence, later captain of the Bradley team, and was the first team to be coached by A.G. (Frenchy) Haussler, ushering in a period when he established the Pekin high athletic association and the great sports program that was recently brought to new heights under Athletic Director James Warren Lewis.

Besides seeing Pekin men skyrocket to national attention in football, the period saw the development of one of the most popular participation as well as spectator sports in the city today, as the Elks league introduced the game of "soft-ball" at Mineral Springs park, playing with a 16-inch ball under lights with dish-pans as reflectors. They laid the foundations for the present soft-ball diamonds and leagues here, as well as the night-lighting system for such sports. The soft-ball then was designed to restrict the game to the small area that could be lighted with the "dishpan lights". Postmaster Roy "Peach" Preston testifies that it was hard to get distance out of the 16-inch ball, "but if you got it past second base, nobody could see it, then."

Thus, in spite of the background of violence and lawlessness, so often a part of Pekin's history, the Twenties saw the bulk of our present system of



OLD MINERAL SPRINGS PARK POOL in the twenties.

schools built, our north side paved, and our industrial and business community grow, as the city's reputation in athletics, founded early in the century, also grew.

Having turned its back on the German language, after more than 50 years of clinging to that language, Pekin's population leaped by more than 4,000, the biggest gain in history.

Thus, the city turned it's back on the roaring twenties and entered what might be called the Roosevelt Era.



The Photogery

512 Court Street

"EVERYTHING PHOTOGRAPHIC"

Two veterans of World War II, renewing a lifetime friendship over a cup of coffee had an idea. Bernard W. Heberer and Egbert B. Groen, both born and raised in Pekin, put their hobby, ambition, energies and money together and on November 12, 1946, gave Pekin its first and only store devoted exclusively to the sale of photographic equipment and supplies. With quality merchandise and fair customer treatment as its standard, The Photogery has grown. Here, the expert and the beginner meet to talk over their photographic problems. All major lines are handled including complete stocks of Eastman Kodak, Ansco, Bell & Howell, Revere, Ampro, and many others. If it is used in photography, be it a roll of film or a sound movie projector, The Photogery has it.

PEKIN MACHINE & PARTS CO., INC.

524 Court Street

D. E. HEITZMAN
Vice President

N. L. HEITZMAN
President

In June 1945 this wholesale firm opened for business to give to Pekin's auto repair garages a complete machine shop service and to make available to Pekin's garages, service stations and fleet owners a stock of the finest auto replacement parts. On January 1, 1947 it changed from a partnership to a corporation and named N.L. Heitzman as its president. During four years of rapid growth its stock has increased and today it includes such nationally-known products as Thompson Engine parts, Ramco Piston Rings, Fram Oil Filters, AC Fuel Pumps, Dupont Paints, Raybestos Brake Lining, Dayton Fan Belts and Radiator Hose, Zerone & Zerex anti-freeze, Moog Springs and Front End parts, and many others.

PEKIN & HOME SERVICE LAUNDRIES, INC.

300 ELIZABETH STREET

PHONE 91

Clean Towel Service

W.F. Albertsen

Since April 1, 1947

Ice Liquor Store

404 COURT ST.
PEKIN, ILL.

INC. -
PHONES 250-251

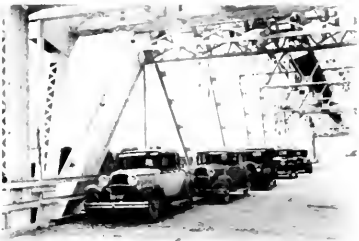
EVERYTHING
IN BEVERAGES

A RESTLESS CITY

The period of the 1930's could hardly be called a calm before the storm of World War II. It was not calm. Stormy activities throughout the world were matched by turbulent times here in Pekin, and much of what happened then was almost contradictory.

The stock market had fallen apart in 1929, and the Great Depression was underway in 1930, and yet the record shows that in this year the new half-million dollar Pekin bridge was completed, there was a \$150,000 subscription drive for the new hospital

in addition, and the long fight over a major north side paving project finally was ended with supreme court approval for the \$400,000 job. Three years later, incidentally, the hospital received another assist when a referendum gave approval by a vote of 1,111 to 630 for a one mill hospital tax. Completion of that bridge marked one of the biggest celebrations in Pekin history. Rep. Martin B. Lohmann, (now Senator) who led the fight for state funds, drove the first car across. It was Fred Moenkemoeller's car, and this time they



OPENING THE NEW BRIDGE, 1930--left to right--Jack Patterson, Ed Messmer, A. E. Severe, L. B. Kinsey, W. B. Lohman, Construction Engineer (unidentified), W. E. Schurman.

LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS

MERCHANTS DELIVERY

PHONE 4

We deliver anything but babies.

Bob Brown

Bob Davis

Nievar Drive Inn

1514 N. 8th

Complete Fountain Service

Hamburgers-Tenderloins-French Fries

OPEN 5:00 pm 'til 12:00 M

CLOSED ALL DAY TUESDAY

Since 1946

Bob Nievar - Prop.



CRAWFORD SHOE STORE

323 Court

Crawford Family Shoe Store was established September, 1919. Our policy all these years has been to give more for the shoe dollar. Huge buying power and low overhead does that trick.

Until 1937, W. J. Crawford was full owner but at that time John Crawford, Tresa Crawford and W. J. Crawford incorporated the business known now as Crawford Brothers' Shoe Stores.

We have always stocked nationally known name brands for the entire family such as Jolene, Life Stride, Teenage, Buster Brown, Robin Hood, Roblee, Pedwin and Freeman.

We have been in the same location for thirty years and have enjoyed a thriving business because we strive to give our customers service, quality, and price.

EHRETT Auto Supply & Service

WM. "MIKE" EHRETT

Distributor for
AUTO-LITE ELECTRICAL PRODUCTS
AND
CARTER CARBURETORS

- Trico Products — • Spicer and Detroit Universal Joints —
- American-Brakeblok Linings —

Rings
Gaskets
and
Bearings

WHEEL
BALANCING

We Make
and
Duplicate
Car Keys

Carburetor — Electrical Service
Battery Service — Generators
COMPLETE AUTO SERVICE
PARTS AND ACCESSORIES



200 N. 5th

Phone 189

PEKIN

forestalled any double-shuffle such as had taken place at the opening of the old bridge by having Charles Holland, now getting along in years, ride across with the others in the first car. It was Holland, the reader will remember, who had driven over Pekin's old bridge ahead of the mayor to be the first to cross, and make a joke of the opening ceremony.

On the basis of these events, the early start of the 30's would seem to have been promising, and yet we had the collapse of the grain market, and growing unemployment too. Five cent corn was a reality at the elevators here. The unemployed caused a crisis in local government affairs with inadequate funds for relief purposes, and there were regular meetings of farmers, unemployed, and regularly organized groups to cope with the severe economic problem. As the period of depression deepened it brought a record high in cooperation between the association of commerce and organized labor. Building trade unions slashed their hourly wage to a new low in a bid for work as the association of commerce launched a door to door campaign for "home improvement and building modernization" in an effort to find work for the union men. This program did result in a considerable amount of work and brief relief to those trades.

In 1932, the Farmers National bank closed its doors, not because of special crisis or shortage but because "it wasn't making any money", and the closure smashed at public morale, tied

up needed moneys, and took cash out of circulation for years although depositors did get back almost the full amount eventually. As a by-product, frightened depositors of other banks in many cases withdrew their savings and hid it elsewhere, thus taking additional moneys out of circulation.

And at the same time as all these things were going on, there remained the recurring thread of violence which refused to disappear from Pekin's daily life altogether. There were a wave of street hold-ups in the early thirties. Sammy Wade, notorious underworld figure from Pekin, was killed in a gunfight near Highland, in May of 1930. In January of the year, Pekin police officer George Ziebold shot and killed burglar John Miller of Canton after a chase across the Court street roof tops. There were a string of murder and manslaughter cases, several involving motor-car deaths and three convictions are recorded for manslaughter, while two people were given life sentences here for murder.

The discovery of the body of Martin Virant, a material witness, in the Tazewell county jail caused a storm which lasted for months. After the inquest there was a near lynching of accused deputies, who were later tried on manslaughter charges that Virant died under the "third degree". Even after their acquittal, there was an effort to impeach the entire sheriff's office on the part of the Tazewell county board of supervisors.



PEKIN PUBLIC HOSPITAL built in 1913 enlarged in 1931 and 1940



357
Court
St.



335 COURT ST.

We, of the Massachusetts Mutual, congratulate the city of Pekin on its Century of Progress. This Company was organized in 1851, and has continuously served the people almost a 100 years. During that time it has paid over one billion dollars to its policyholders and their beneficiaries of which Pekin residents were the recipients of substantial amounts. It is our desire to further Pekin's development over the next 100 years.

District Agent

Fred R Soldwedel.

1701 N. Eighth St.
Pekin, Illinois
for

Reuling & Williamson, Gen. Agts.

Massachusetts Mutual Life Ins Co.

Peoria, Illinois

Seymour Rosenberg takes pride in any part he and his father, the late Edward Rosenberg, have played in the growth of Pekin. The name has been connected with local merchandizing and real estate since 1899.

In addition to his dealings in the retail furniture business, at 208-210 Court Street, Edward Rosenberg built beautiful Rosenberg Court in 1925. His son, Seymour, joined his father at an early age in business, and is now proprietor of Seymour's Store, a combined sporting goods-clothing store. He has long been an avid sports booster and sponsor for local teams.

This store wishes to acknowledge the efforts of all Pekinites in molding a great little city -- one of which we can be justifiably proud.

Seymour's Store

210 COURT STREET

PEKIN, ILL.

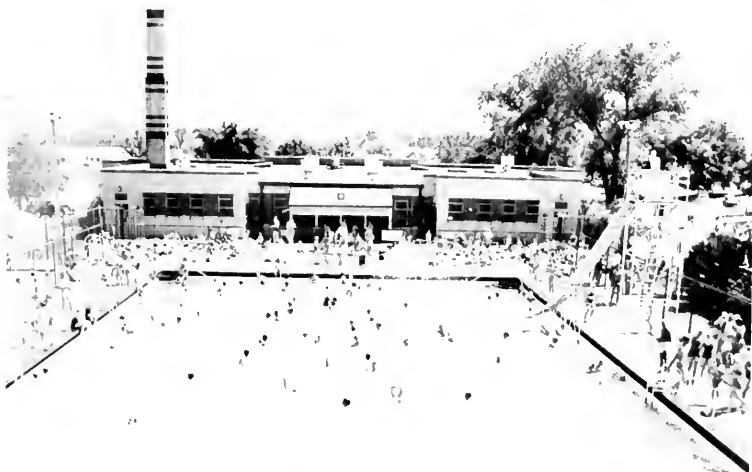
On June 9, 1933, machine-gun-carrying bandits robbed a Herget bank messenger of \$10,000 in broad daylight in downtown Pekin - on Elizabeth street just opposite the post office. A month later bank robbers broke into Reulings store, bored through a wall to the side of the Herget bank vault and finally abandoned their attempt there. In July of the following year, Pekin police acting on orders of Mayor Rayburn Russell and with the full approval of the council, chased a group of Communist organizers out of the city.

And there was still another kind of violence. Many Pekin workers were concerned in a state-wide war between the United Mine Workers and the Progressive Miners of America. There were even more serious events in some places, but the record shows that here in Pekin two pickets were shot when they appeared in front of a Fifth Street home Oct. 11, 1932; 450 miners at one time literally invaded the city; a home at 1308 Charlotte street was penetrated by gunfire Oct. 24, 1932; and almost a year later the home at 353 Ann Eliza street was bombed.

Meanwhile, after the period had gotten pretty well underway, there came the election of Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, with immediate effects here in Pekin.

The Bank holiday was declared, and all banks were closed, while their solvency was checked and a system for guaranteeing deposits was planned. When they re-opened, many hoarders filled with new confidence deposited moneys they had been afraid to put in the banks before. There came the NRA codes for Pekin factories which were credited with boosting payrolls at once by \$34,244.24 and creating 321 new jobs in Pekin. There came repeal of the prohibition laws and amendment and with it the start of a tremendous building program at the American distillery. The distillery started operation in whiskey production Dec. 4, 1933. The city council proceeded to license taverns and at the same time outlawed the use of the word "saloon". There came also the first corn loans for farmers paid at Pekin's banks, and other props for agriculture. The first time in the Thirties that wheat hit \$1.00 it brought a big black banner headline in the Times.

Depression or no depression, the Masonic temple had been erected in 1931, and the park board had completed and opened the Park View golf course. The Farm Bureau building was built in 1932, also. But with the New Deal also came PWA, and with its help in some cases, Pekin proceeded to build the new Franklin school, a series of sewer and paving



The new Mineral Springs Pool and Bathhouse.

ILLINOIS HOTEL

Since 1874

201 St. Mary

Open Everyday

Dining Room

Chicken-fish-steak

Seafood

Cocktail Lounge

Wines-Beer-Liquors

Bill & Bernice Rogers



March 1, 1922 - 1949

Pekin Floral Company
Cut Flowers
and Potted Plants
For All Occasions

MEMBER OF F. T. D.

N. 8th and Amanda Sts.

Telephone 108

Frank Geisert

Charles Geisert

Sam Benjamin, Jr.

J. C. PENNEY Co.

322 Court Street

The J.C. Penney Company opened its first store in Kemmerer, Wyoming in 1902. Today it has 1603 stores, in every state in the Union. The local Penney store was opened in Pekin in February 1931.

J. E. CONAGHAN

CONAGHAN CLEANERS

29 South Fourth Street

PHONE 271

Since 1939

improvements, the beautiful new Mineral Springs park swimming pool completed in 1935, followed by the bath house two years later, and the Pekin high school gymnasium building. The pool remains the best in central Illinois and now handles as many as 20,000 swimmers a month, while the beautiful modernistic bath house operates the year round. G. Graf Watson, then president of the park board, was publicly credited with the hard work and leadership which brought this project to a reality.

Meanwhile, the period proved especially stormy for city government. Even promising young Everett Dirksen stubbed his toe in the early thirties when the building code program which had been his special project was first voted into law and then rescinded a few weeks later in such a storm of protest that the council was unanimous in withdrawing it. In 1931, Ben Michael became mayor, and commissioners were Paul Soldwedel, Ed Messmer, Rayburn Russell, and A.B. Shacklette. Mayor Michael died a year later and Rayburn Russell became mayor while Jonas Larsen was appointed to the commissioner post. It was this group that faced the tremendous problems of depression and tremendous local organizational task brought by the New Deal.

However, it was the succeeding council which had an even more troublesome administration. In 1935, Mayor W.E. Schurman was elected and the commissioners became Thomas Dirksen, Charles Skaggs, Fred Diesing, and Henry Kluever. One of their earliest actions was to halt the street car operation and launch the new bus system. Within three months of their assuming office they had a bitter 3-2 split on the vote on new buses, the mayor and Commissioner Kluever opposing the acceptance of the bid of Johnson-Moody of Peoria at \$4,500 each for five buses. The mayor even refused to sign the contract after the bid was accepted over his opposition. The local press hammered at the "bus deal" week after week, when this happened, until finally at a meeting attended by the council, a special committee of the association of commerce, and the Johnson-Moody representatives, the company slashed \$1,000 from the price of each bus or a total of \$5,000, and the purchase was completed. In spite of which disturbing start, and early revenue losses in operation, the municipal bus system proved to be an outstanding success which piled up more than \$100,000 in the sinking fund 10 years later. It is interesting that at the time, former commissioner C.F.



In the heart of the Pekin business district, looking east on Court Street from Capital Street at a time when traffic was very light. In the twenties

LIBRARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

VOGEL'S

PROGRESSES

Watermelon Stand 1934

Shed, housing Service Grocery 1935

New modern Self Service Grocery SuperMarket 1939

Locker Plant 1940

Self Service Meats 1942

Manito Locker Plant 1945

Additional Convenient Superette location 1946

New Spee-de Check Out lanes 1948

*Vogel's will continue to give Pekin
Modern and low cost food merchandising*



Gehrig appeared before the council and urged that Court street not be paved down the center but the street car tracks should remain undisturbed because "we might want the street cars back."

A year later, the same council was squarely in the middle of another critical situation. On Jan. 19, 1936, a Sunday, 100 pickets appeared at the American Distillery gate on route 24 and built bonfires to protect themselves against the weather. Both they and the company were awaiting a decision by the National Labor Relations board on a matter in dispute, and after six weeks without action by the board the union men wanted action. They protested that workers were carried on a call list and were losing seniority while waiting for the NLRB decision. The pickets reportedly asked city busses to haul no more workers to the plant, and this message was given to the bus department head. He went to the scene in company of Chief of Police Harry Donahue and others, and police, after advising pickets to disperse, employed tear gas to cause them to disperse. Newspaper accounts of the time report that police broke up two other gatherings after advising men that peaceful picketing was legal but interference with traffic and massing on roads was unlawful.

There were a series of meetings between Sheriff Ralph Goar, Mayor W. E. Schurman, other officials, and union leaders Louis Cltman, Fred Hamann and Charles Copeland and others. At one point pickets were called off on one agreement, and then as disagreement followed, picketing was resumed.

On Jan. 23, newspapers reported a "mass meeting" and "back to work" movement on the part of a large group of workers. Sunday, Jan. 27, 1936, a National Guard observer was sent to the scene. Wednesday, Jan. 29, special deputies, county deputies and police joined forces and cleared the road using nausea gas. The following Monday six arrests of pickets were made on charges of throwing stones at busses entering the distillery.

Tuesday, Feb. 4, the Trades and Labor Assembly declared an all-union "holiday" to last until the city council dismissed Chief of Police Harry Donahue whom they charged with releasing nausea gas on unarmed men and women. The "holiday" brought nation-wide attention to Pekin as the nation's press dubbed it a "general strike", one of the first ever held in the U.S. The following day delegates went up and down Court street urging business houses and professional offices to join in the "holiday", and with the notable exception of the Nedderman bakery, Pekin was closed up tight by Wednesday night.

However, at noon, Thursday, the assembly called off the "holiday", and the taverns were the first to open their doors as the city bounced back to normal. Meanwhile, the council stood behind the police chief, but had agreed to withdraw Pekin police from use as deputy sheriffs. This ended the civic upset, and on Feb. 7, Friday, the issue at the distillery was also settled.

That same year a proposal to organize a Pekin sanitary district, which would have backed sewer improvement with the taxing power, was defeated in a special election, 668 for and 1,914 against.

That same year parking meters were first proposed, although they were not to come for another 12 years. The council ended the year deep in the red and borrowing from the Pekin banks. A Times article remarks, "All want economy with the most cuts in the other fellows departments." Troubles continued. Although the council and mayor had stood behind Chief Donahue in the "holiday" period, when re-appointment time came, the 3-2 split again appeared, this time Commissioners Dirksen and Dising voted against his appointment. The others carried his appointment successfully, and three weeks later petitions were actually circulated demanding a recall election for the entire council, but it never reached the voting stage. Later, when Donahue did resign after a dispute with Daniel J. Mahoney, the council unanimously appointed Guy E. Donahue as the new chief. This was in 1937.

The council was still getting a "bad press" in 1937, with headlines referring to the Derby street sewer as the "longest sewer in the world" (because it had no end). The uncompleted sewer was finally finished after the assessment was slashed in half in the county court July 30th, 1937.

In 1937, also, the new Hackler Brothers Drug store was opened at the corner of Court and Fourth streets, and following a fire at his market place, Virgil Vogel is quoted in the press March 13, 1937, as promising the market would be "bigger and better". Other side-lights on the period can be read into the news-story of the man who hauled a Carnival man into court here, not for putting on a lewd show, but on charges that the carnival girl show did NOT go "all the way" as promised without an extra charge. The accuser had asked for his original dime back and got a slap in the face. The carnival man got a \$3 fine for the slap. No reference was made to the show.

A few months earlier, it deserves to be recorded, that a 70 year old watchman for Texaco oil station in Pekin named George Slone Jr., opened fire on two bandits after they left the place. He shot four times. Two shots hit one

**"CATERPILLAR" SALUTES YOU, PEKIN,
ON YOUR
CENTURY OF PROGRESS!**



• To you, Pekin, a salute from your neighbor, Caterpillar Tractor Co. — on your Century of Progress. You can look back with pride — forward with confidence.

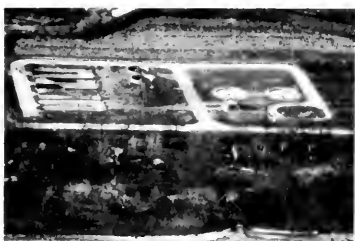
Today, 1332 Pekinites are valued employees of "Caterpillar" — and this company looks forward to having a real interest in our neighbor to the south, through the century ahead!

CATERPILLAR TRACTOR CO.

PEORIA, ILLINOIS

bandit, a third hit the other, and both were captured.

But already in 1938, Adolph Hitler's march across the map of Europe began to overshadow events at home, except such events as the South Pekin tornado, March 30, 1938, which virtually levelled the entire village, killing a dozen people and injuring hundreds. In that year also the PWA approved a \$139,500 grant for a sewage disposal plant at Pekin and the city voted another \$180,000 in bonds, and the plant was erected and put into operation. The Farmer's Automobile Insurance building (the first two stories) went up that year, too.



Sewage Disposal Plant on South River Road Built in the Late Thirties.

In 1939, J. Norman Shade was elected mayor, and commissioners were William Fair, Ed Egger, Fred Moenkemoeller and Paul Schermer. Shade was the first mayor who had actually been born in the city of Pekin. The council early voted for a six months trial on parking meters, but opposing petitions prompted them to rescind that action, which had been taken on a 3-2 vote in the first place. And, of course, Sept. 1, 1939, marked the assault on Poland and Sept. 3, a general European war broke out.

The principal events here at home after the war began and before America's entry, was the first adoption of Daylight Savings time in 1940, the draft registration beginning with 2,715 signers that fall, and the beginning of draft operations by unpaid ex-servicemen R. J. Mattheessen, Jonas Larson, and George Ehrlicher.

Commissioner Ed Egger died and Walter McClain was appointed to the vacancy.

In 1940, Communist party men seeking to give out literature were mobbed here in Pekin, two of their automobiles were turned over and burned and they finally

took refuge in the county jail. Ironically, a short time later they filed suit against Sheriff Guy E. Donahue who had actually saved them from serious injury or worse at the hands of aroused citizens.

Through all this confused period in Pekin's history, the one most consistent thing proved to be the city's general enthusiasm for sports. High school football and basketball attracted capacity crowds consistently. Literally thousands took part in bowling at various clubs and public alleys and in a dozen leagues. The city soft-ball league reached full bloom, and a series of youngster leagues operated in the summer periods. Swimming had become almost a universal sport in Pekin with only the smallest percentage of young people not taught to swim. Top performance of the period was that of the 1936 high school football team which again scored another unbeaten and untied record and emerged as Big Twelve champions. Ralph Ehni quarterbacked that ball club and went on to quarterback the Fighting Illini of Coach Bob Zupke. Rex Sherman started his great athletic career then, too, and Tom Maloney and Italo Rossi. It was then that Pekin started its habit of participating in the Sweet Sixteen in basketball, led there first by Chet Marshall, the great guard of the early thirties, and later by Rex Sherman. It was then that Tom Maloney set a new high in "money playing" when on two successive nights in state tourney play he bucketed winning baskets in closing seconds. Guy Ricci started his athletic career in 1939, and, of course, later went on to an outstanding three-sport performance at Bradley University. Carl Switzer was a football star in 1938 with Jim Von Boeckman the great line buckler. Dean McNaughton quarterbacked in 1940, with Johnny Rebuffoni starring on a Big Twelve and Illini conference championship team. Rebuffoni, too, became a college star at Bradley.

And so, the restless pre-war period came to a close, after a series of contradictory events, and a confused mixture of civic progress and civic difficulty, of depression and of growth, of sports achievement, an emphasis on youth, and yet closing with increasing numbers of young men leaving the city for the armed services either by enlistment or by induction, until finally the center of interest and life for Pekin switched from the city itself to the hundreds of places where these young men served after Dec. 7, 1941.



LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS



*Past Presidents
of the
Pekin
Association of Commerce*



Managing Secretaries
Through the years are:

*Phil H. Sipple, May 1916-July 1920
James H. Braucht, July 1920-July 1923
Leonard D'Ooge, Aug. 1923-Sept. 1925
Ormond F. Lyman, Oct. 1925-Apr. 1929
John S. Patterson, May 1929-Apr. 1938
Francis O. Neer, Apr. 1938-Feb. 1941
Ross E. Anderson, Apr. 1941-June 1945
Britt B. Blair, July 1945*



*Miss Maude M. Smith, Ass't Secretary
since May 1916*





Reading left to right across both pages

1st row - W.E. Schurman, 1916
 • James M. Rahn, 1917, 1918, 1922
 Franklin L. Velde, 1919, 1920, 1924
 • Wm. J. Reardon, 1921
 • Elmore G. Heisel, 1923
 • James J. Crosby, 1925
 Willis M. Beardsley, 1926, 1927
 Louis A. Birkenbusch, 1928

2nd row* - Arthur E. Severe, 1929, 1930
 Paul H. Massey, 1931
 Henry B. Koch, 1932

3rd row - George B. Stolley, 1933, 1934
 Irving M. Weimer, 1935, 1936
 E.M. Marshall, 1937
 Charles V. Frings, 1938
 Robert E. Bryan, 1939

4th row - Albert La Frenz, 1940
 A.B. Foster, 1941, 1942
 George D. Holman, 1943

5th row - Leslie L. Jones, 1944
 Arthur L. Grob, 1945
 E. Oscar Winkel, 1946
 Eugene P. Maurer, 1947
 • Karl E. Stoll, 1948
 Dr. D.W. Turner, 1949

*Deceased



LIBRARY U. OF I. ...

An idea >>>

When Peter Sommer was a tenant farmer near Tremont, Illinois, it took almost a week to split rails and build 40 rods of fence. It was hard work. But the cattle had to be fenced in . . .

"There must be a more efficient fence," thought Peter Sommer, "one that could be built easily, taken down quickly, and moved where needed." In 1889 he wove wires in the form of a "keystone". This made a satisfactory fence. To manufacture enough for his farm, he built a hand-powered machine. He and his sons put it together in the farm blacksmith shop using scrap steel, wood, and bolts. Its output was 10 rods of fence in 10 hours.

Wire fencing was almost unknown. Farmers came from miles around to see this "keystone" fence. They liked it wanted some for their farms. So Peter Sommer and his sons started making "keystone" fence for their neighbors on a hand-made machine in the farm yard tool shed. That's how the Keystone Steel & Wire Company was born.

started here



today is

KEYSTONE STEEL & WIRE COMPANY
PEORIA 7, ILLINOIS



A UNITED CITY

There was no war when Jap planes suddenly swooped out of the sun over Pearl Harbor, Oahu, Territory of Hawaii, the peaceful Sunday morning of Dec. 7, 1941, yet in a matter of minutes they left behind thousands of murdered American boys, huge fires, and a junk heap of what had been the Pacific fleet's main battle line, five battle-ships. They also left behind the body of P. F. C. Philip Tobin, U. S. Marine corps, from Pekin, Ill.

There was no war when the Jap planes on the other side of the International date line first swept down on Wake island and its tiny garrison of 400 Marines. It was their business to be ready, in peace or war, and the Marines were not so surprised and not so badly hurt in that first assault as was the naval base, but among the first murdered by an act of war in time of peace was Henry D. Nanninga, U. S. Marine, from Pekin, Ill.

Pekin was in the war from the first moment, from that time BEFORE it started when the sneak raids were struck, and after those attacks Pekin went into the war 100 per cent as it had never gone into either the Civil War or World War I. There was no noticeable division this time. There were a few who felt the whole thing might have been avoided somehow, that it might not have happened if we had not tried to prepare for it. Most people, however, cursed that we had not prepared ourselves better and addressed themselves to the task of winning it.

There were some, of course, who cheated on gasoline or sugar, or other rations designed to hasten the placing of adequate weapons in the hands of fighting men, and who violated price regulations designed to maintain some control on the cost of war overall, just as there were some in the service who dodged their duty and some, even, who were dishonorably discharged.

But the record as a whole, at home and abroad, is one of exceptional unity and effort. Before the war's close, literally thousands of Pekin boys (and girls) served in the actual armed forces. They were in every branch of the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Corps and Coast Guard. They fought in every major battle, and Pekin boys fell in action in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany on one side of the world, and across the Pacific from Okinawa to Hawaii, as well as on the oceans of the

world and in the skies over Germany and Japan.

There is no way to accurately measure the contributions and sacrifices made by Pekin people in World War II. It can't be measured by the clothes people wore. Some serving at home in civilian clothes gave all they had to the task, and some serving abroad in uniform proved more hindrance than help in the war effort. There is no sure, uncontradictable testimony except this one -- those who were killed in action against the enemy. Their's is the roster of supreme sacrifice, and the length of the list is a clear indication of the numbers of Pekin men engaged in actual fighting.

Tom Maloney, the basketball great, is on the list. Walt Maurer, former PCHS fullback, then a Marine lieutenant, was killed on the beach at Tarawa in the Gilbert islands of the Pacific. Carl Switzer, former quarterback, dropped to his death with the paratroops in Italy. Max Conn was killed piloting a fighter plane. Don Harris was killed in a bomber crash. So, the record reads. Pekin boys fell on the beaches bordering both oceans, in the skies over four continents, on a dozen far-off islands, and across the map of Europe.

No complete and accurate roster of those who died is immediately available, but among those who died are these Pekin boys whose deaths were reported in the files of the local newspaper during the war years: Henry J. Augsburg, Theodore Butts, Stephen Brown, George Owen Burroughs, Frederick Broers, John D. Beever, Edward L. Braasch, Dale Bonham, Andrew Bentz, Loren Buchanan, Bruce F. Brisendine, Joseph F. Binter, Ernest Bingham, James E. Bush, Leonard Cohenour, Max Conn, Edison Wayne Crull, Donald W. Conley, Francis W. Campbell, James Downer, Benjamin Dannan Jr., Frederick Madison Denning, Richard W. Ehlers, Paul V. Evans, Roger W. Fuller, Walter O. Fritz, Lloyd Elmer Flathers, Warren Fox, Carl Feely, Turner Graham, Robert Gum, Fred Guile, James Robert Harmon, George LeRoy Harrberts, Raymond F. Harris, Don Harris, James Hill, Elmer Hastings, Howard Hainline, Floyd W. Hurley, Robert C. Hofreiter, John Janssen, Doede Janssen, Elvin Jennings, Marlowe Kaufman, Robert J. Keefe, James W. Knowles, Rudy Klaasen, Robert C. Hochendorfer, Robert Klepfer, George Kettell, LeRoy Look, Clifford Lasley, Lawrence E. Lichtenberger, Robert Wayne Miener, Walter L. Maurer, Howard L. Murphy, Joe Weskimen, Jr., Ernest C. Miller, Leo F. Maston, Tom Maloney, Howard V. Martin, James T. McLeod, Henry D. Nanninga, Kenneth Notzke, Joseph Stanley O'Donnell, Harvey Gene Petri, Doyle Potts, Charles Arthur Patten, Arnold A. Rhoades, Richard L. Ripper, Edward Rentsch, James E. Roll,

**PEORIA AND PEKIN
UNION RAILWAY COMPANY**

*We Salute
Pekin, Illinois
On Its
100th Anniversary*

Our company, which carries PEKIN in its corporate name, commenced operation February 1, 1881, over 68 years ago. Therefore, we, naturally have always been closely associated with PEKIN and have prospered with PEKIN. We hope PEKIN'S growth and prosperity will continue and we salute this fine city on its centennial.

James K. Risen, Blaine Raab, Carl Milton Switzer, Albert Strange, Robert L. Smith, Ralph W. Saunders, Stephen Sangalli, Donald Matt Stumph, Robert D. Sprau, Earl Shaffer, Richard R. Sayers, Raymond Schoonaert, Homer A. Schaefer, Philip Tobin, Jack Orville Traub, William Homer Turner, Paul Towne, James Tammeus, Earl L. Taylor, Charles Vaupel, Ralph Veerman, Hollis Williams, Harold Weithe, Harold T. Wright, John W. Zimmerman, Edward C. Ziegenbein.

This incomplete listing yields up the names of 99 Pekin dead in the fighting of World War II. The decorations, the honors, the wounded, list into hundreds just from our own community.

The record is clear that the city was absorbed in the task of bringing victory in war from 1941 until the war ended at the close of 1945, and ushered in the post-war period during which this book is written.



THE WATERFRONT 1949--In the foreground the loading dock of the Pekin Farmers Grain Co., The Dewey and Norris elevators. In the background beyond the bridge, the Murphy & Walsh buildings, Kriegsman building and Conklin Lumber Co.

THE AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK

1887

1949



Building With Pekin

On August 10, 1949, sixty-two years had rolled around since this bank was founded. In those passing years many world-moulding events have taken place. Social and economic upheavals have changed the very character of our civilization.

The American National Bank is a veteran of three wars and no less than ten depressions. It is impressive to realize that the life span of this institution reaches back into an age which was entirely different from ours of today.

When this bank was organized, the population of Pekin was 6000; there were thirty-eight states in the Union with a total population of sixty million. "Big Business" had not been born. Public Utilities were in their swaddling clothes. Eighteen eighty-seven was the age of the horse and buggy, cigar-store Indians, high wheeled bicycles, and fire engines drawn by galloping horses. The automobile and airplane were still dreams of the visionaries. The telephone was just coming into use. Radio, moving pictures, talking pictures, television, and atomic

power were yet unheard of miracles.

The building of such a large financial structure as this institution today represents was not the task of a day nor the labor of a few, but it is the result of the long hours of many years, spent in an honest endeavor to aid progress.

This bank has always enjoyed the confidence of the public--the one absolute essential in the successful operation of any financial institution. A complete cooperation on the part of each stock holder, director, officer, and employee, working in thorough accord with one ideal, and that ideal was and is to provide for Pekin and vicinity an efficient and modern banking service backed by resources sufficient to meet the most exacting needs of a growing community.

The good name established by this bank during its sixty-seven years of outstandingly successful banking places us under an everlasting responsibility.

We must not--We will not--forget this.

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM
MEMBER FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE
CORPORATION

THE POST-WAR CITY

Since the close of World War II, Pekin has seen a period of unparalleled growth. In 1860 when the city itself was 11 years old and the community 36 years old, there were 749 homes here, but in the four years since the end of World War II, more than 800 new homes have been built, more than the entire city held in that first official census. As a matter of record, the assessor's report for Pekin township (which includes also North Pekin) records 450 new homes in 1948 alone.

Dozens of new business buildings have been erected both in the downtown area and in developing business areas along North Fifth street and Derby street.

Industrial expansion was reflected in a huge new office building at the American distilling company along with other construction and modernization; a \$750,000 construction and modernization program at the Quaker Oats company plant; four solid years of construction work under way at the Corn Products Refining Company, and similar activity after the war at Standard Brands Fleischman Yeast plant. In addition, Murphy and Walsh completed major rebuilding of their metal tank factory; F. H. Soldwedel and son added a big addition as they have continued growing into the largest independent dairy in Central Illinois; and Virgil Vogel's enterprises have developed into a string of markets throughout the area, and the new huge Bird Provision company, for slaughtering, deep freezing, and storing of meats.

A dozen light industries have sprung up in connection with the major factories of the city.

There has not been a major crime or disturbance in the city since 1940, and in spite of the increased number of autos, now more than 3500 along with 1300 children's bicycles, traffic deaths during recent years have been fewer than at any time since the streets were paved and autos made their appearance.

The former Farmer's Bank building (now the Pekin Finance building) at Capitol and Court streets, was badly damaged by fire which swept the entire second floor of that structure and the adjoining Hackler building in 1948, but in spite of higher building values, this fire did not reach the scale of damage that has warranted reporting throughout this volume in past history.

Three Pekin men, pioneer radio technicians, have built and are operating Pekin's only radio station, WSIV. They are Kenneth Patterson, George Udry, and Emil Prandoni.

And in the field of public building, the high school has completed its new huge 10,000 seat Memorial stadium, a big new cafeteria and class-room building, plus additions to the shop facilities in the gymnasium building. And the grade school system has just added the new \$600,000 Fearn Wilson school off Koch street at Messmer street.

A major portion of Willow park has been paved, and the BlenKiron Tot lot put into use since the war, along with the inauguration of a city-wide recreation program under the direction of the Playground and Recreation board, which now operates on half a dozen playgrounds and parks scattered through the city, provided free swimming lessons for about 400 youngsters each summer, and operates a series of contests, games,



THE NEW FEARN WILSON SCHOOL completed in 1940.

LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS

Schipper & Block Co.

Dry Goods and Clothing

328-330 COURT STREET

PEKIN ♦ ILLINOIS

PHONE 44



THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF
CAPITOL AND COURT STREETS

A Friend of the Family For Over 85 Years

In the year 1864, about the time Lincoln was being re-elected, and Sherman was starting his famous march to the sea, the Schipper & Block Co. first started supplying dry-goods and clothing to fill the needs of the families in this community.

Their first store was located on Margaret St., in 'Smith Row', on the land now occupied by Velde-Roelfs Co. In 1875 a move was made to 302 Court St., 'one door west of the post office', as was advertised in the newspapers of that day.

Later the store was moved to its present location at Court & Capitol Sts. It was wiped out by fire in 1898 and again in February 1922. The present building was completed and ready for occupancy by December of the same year.

Yes, since the days of the Civil War the Schipper & Block Co. has been acting as purchasing agents for their customers, foreseeing their wants and needs in clothing, dry goods and household items----- being a friend of the families in this community.

PRESENT OFFICERS

Geo. H. Ehrlicher, President
Arthur W. Ehrlicher, Vice-Pres.
& Treas.
Melvin D. Leach, Secretary

DIRECTORS

I. John Schipper
Mrs. Louise Himmelheber
Mrs. Walter H. Meyer
Arthur W. Ehrlicher
Geo. H. Ehrlicher

various sports leagues, square dances, handicrafts and other activities the year round.

There are half a dozen television sets in the city now, but they are troubled by "snow" and other problems because as yet we are beyond the practical range of the nearest television stations at Chicago and St. Louis

Pekin is still a rabid sports city. The new stadium was jammed to overflowing three times in its first five football games last year, and each year twice as many fans seek seats as can get them for the basketball games.

The year 1948, incidentally, was the all time tops in Pekin sports history. The basketball team in the 1948 season was rated by sportswriters as the best in the state for most of the season. They made a clean sweep of the Big Twelve, Illini and Greater Peoria conferences, grabbed district and sectional titles, and went to Third place in the state tourney at Champaign - bowing only to the winning team, Pinckneyville. Herb Gerecke, Chuck Busby, Bob Watson, Jay Nelson, Pete Vetter and Howie Harris were the kingpins of that ball club. And then came the Fall of 1948, and Pekin's football team came through with a clean sweep of the Big Twelve, Illini and Greater Peoria conferences, led by Quarterback Bobby

Watson. The teams were both coached by Athletic Director James Warren Lewis, who this year also saw his basketball team journey to the state tournament for the fifth time in his five years at the helm.

The future prospects so far as projects now underway, include possible addition to the Pekin Public hospital, for which the state has just set aside moneys, providing Pekin raises half the cost. And the city council is having plans prepared for a new city hall to replace the \$6,500 structure erected in 1884. A major program of street resurfacing and paving has been launched, expected to cost \$500,000 in all. It has begun with paving on North Second, blacktop resurfacing of South Fourth, and projects are underway to pave a large section along Fifteenth and Eighteenth streets from Sheridan road to Broadway, blacktop Park avenue's boulevard, and widen and resurface a state route from the bridge to beyond the East bluff. A South Side trunk line sewer project, designed to make a sewage outlet available for 3,000 more pieces of property is scheduled for another attempt, after earlier trys failed to find contractors willing to bid.

J. Norman Shade is serving his third term as mayor, and Fred Moenkemoeller and Walter McClain are still commissioners. New commissioners since the



CITY COUNCIL - 1949. Mayor J. Norman Shade, Commissioners Charles L. Dancy, John McGinty, Fred Moenkemoeller, Walter J. McClain City Clerk Wm. Jansen Behind McGinty.

HARRY J. McCLARENCE

MEMBER MILLION DOLLAR ROUND TABLE

1602 N. EIGHTH STREET
PEKIN, ILLINOIS
PHONE 2137

NEW YORK LIFE INSURANCE CO
1107 JEFFERSON BUILDING
PEORIA 2, ILLINOIS
TELEPHONE 4 8134

The New York Life Insurance Company opened a branch office in central Illinois in 1849 and started doing business in this area. In that same year Abraham Lincoln is defeated in his campaign for Commissioner for the General Land office and returned to Springfield to practice Law. Zachary Taylor is inaugurated as the 12th President. The gold rush to California is in full swing. Amelia Jenks Bloomer starts her paper, the Lily; she introduces the Bloomer costume for women - open-fronted jacket and loose full trousers gathered at the ankles.

Today, 100 years later, the New York Life Insurance Company has become one of the largest and strongest financial

institutions in the world with nearly 10 Billions of Life Insurance in force. Serving on its Board of Directors have been such famous names as Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Nicholas Murray Butler, Al Smith and many others.

"The Corner-Stone of man's financial security is Life Insurance."

The New York Life is represented in this area by

Harry J. McClarence

1602 N. 8th Street

Phone 2137

TAZEWELL MACHINE WORKS

1411 NORTH SECOND ST PEKIN, ILLINOIS PHONE 101

An infant in the Pekin family of industries, but a fast growing one, the Tazewell Machine Works was founded only four years ago on July 15th, 1945

Originally established by Henry F Cakora as the Excel Machine Shop for the Excel Brass and Aluminum Foundry in 1938, the Tazewell Machine Works became an independent institution when it was moved to its present location at 1411 N. Second St, from the corner of Fourteenth and Ann Eliza sts.

The Cakoras, there are five of them -- Mr. & Mrs. Cakora and daughters Oralle and Marilyn and son Henry Jr. -- came to Pekin from Chicago.

At the present time, the plant has a working space of 12,000 sq. feet, and is equipped to manufacture parts or castings, completely machined or rough, on a jobbing or production basis. It has its own non-ferrous foundry, which supplies

bronze or aluminum castings.

Looking to the future, however, the Cakoras are now completing additional construction to expand working space in the foundry.

Currently employed in the machine shop are: William Roberson, Geo Sangalli, Harold W. Barney, Edward Augsburg, Clarence Davis, Oliver Wittfoht, Lloyd A. Thomas, Henry C. Strubhar, Gene M. Doan, and Richard L. Fisher.

In the foundry are: Nelson Lord, Guy G. Farrow, Fred Hackney, Harold Stockert, Pascal J. Batavia, Ed. Davis, Harry S. Robertson and Richard Tindall.

Office workers are Misses Oralle and Marilyn Cakora, and Mrs. Blanche Cakora.

Tazewell Machine Works is proud to have been a part of Pekin's industrial growth, and will strive to contribute to Pekin's future development as a great city in which to work and live.

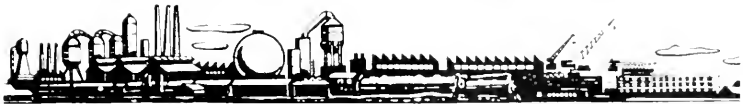
war are John McGinty and Charles Dancey. C.B. Smith is starting his 27th year as superintendent of the Pekin grade schools, and F.M. Peterson is now prin-

cipal of the Pekin Community high school.

Pekin statistics are listed in detail elsewhere in this volume.



New Business Section on Derby Street

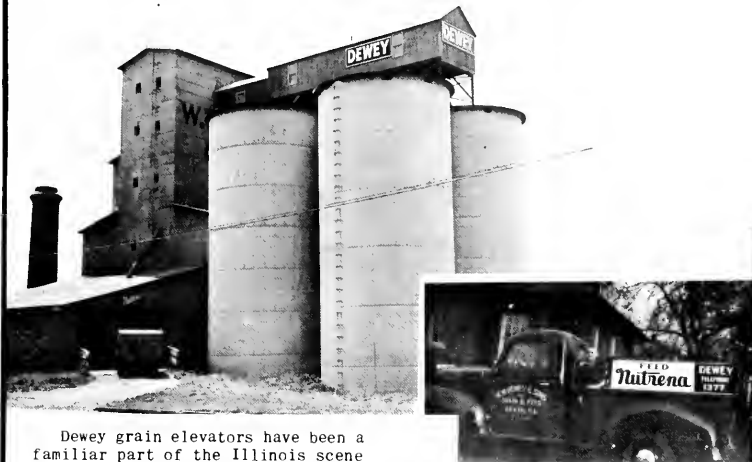


LIBRARY U. OF I. COMMERCIAL HISTORY

W. W. DEWEY & SONS, INC.

GRAIN AND FEED

TELEPHONE 1377 _____ PEKIN, ILLINOIS



Dewey grain elevators have been a familiar part of the Illinois scene since 1880, a span of sixty-nine years that have brought experience and know-how that enable us to serve our patrons for their best possible interests.

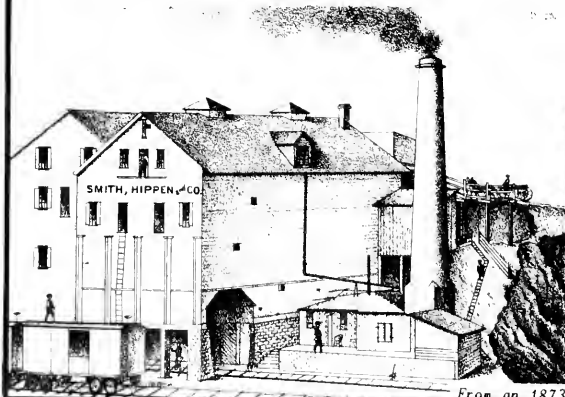
Our Pekin plant, purchased in the middle 1930's, was formerly the Smith, Hippen Co. elevator, which had served this area since the early seventies.

Then shipping was mostly by rail, but today you see huge grain barges loading at our river dock in addi-

tion to our facilities for rail shipment.

We believe in, and are an example of, "The Independent Free Enterprise American System". We take pride in being the home-operated, independent, complete Grain and Feed Company. You will find our knowledge and experience always available to serve you in a prompt and efficient manner.

WM. W. GARDNER
Director



Grain Loading 1949

From an 1873 Tazewell Co. Atlas

PEKIN '49

Another year, 1950, will produce accurate census statistics on Pekin's population, business life, and many other things. A cross section of its business and industry and other activities at the present time is available in the contributions scattered through this book, just as are some of the vital statistics, but what makes up the NATURE of a city? How is that determined? What sort of a city is Pekin today?

Over 100 years ago, Pekin community was Anglo-Saxon and Indian, dirty, but roomy and new, living in the rough tradition of the frontier. Later it became a new kind of frontier town - peopled more than two-thirds by foreign-born who mostly came from Germany. Then came the second (and third) generations of those original immigrants and gradually became a strange mixture - a German-Irish-American community with each old country tie imparting a special flavor to the American city, and with a certain amount of pushing and pulling among the different groups. Finally came immigrants from Italy with their bocci-ball, spaghetti, ravioli and another whole nation's habits and tastes to add to the blending of present-day Pekin.

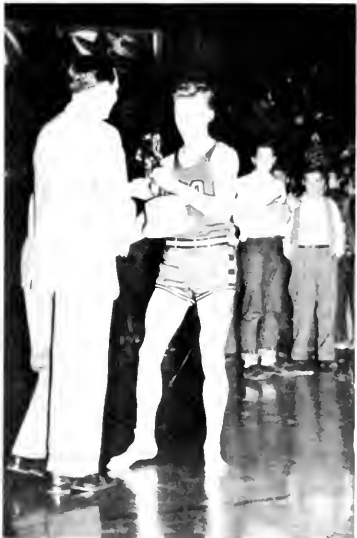


economic division in Pekin, either. No impregnable aristocracy exists, such as is found in many places, and there is no automatic special privilege or favoritism attached to any group. Politically, there are no separately represented wards under the commission form of government, and no political division by wards exists. There is no "rich district" school in the system, and no private school, and in fact, the finest and most expensive school in Pekin is located on its southern boundary in a newly developed area.



The Everett M. Dirksens at home.

There is no longer any sharp division between peoples of different nationalities in Pekin, as is still found in many cities. There is no sharp social or



Mr. Peterson presents the sectional trophy to the 'Chinks'.

LIBRARY U. S. I. I. I. I. I.

American Distilling Co.

PEKIN, ILL.



In the year 1858, Col. William Callendar built the Hamburg, Pekin's first distillery. Next came the Westerman distillery, and after the Civil War came the Enterprise, Starr, Crescent and Globe distilleries. In 1892, the plant of the American Distilling company was erected, and it has become the distilling industry of Pekin.

For more than half Pekin's 100-year-span, the American has contributed to its growth and prosperity. When the first plant was built, the city was about one-third its present size. Streets were mostly dirt, institutions undeveloped. As a major industry, the American played its part in the improvements that have come, modern schools, Mineral Springs park, and the public hospital.

The American converted to making industrial alcohol for World War I, and then came prohibition, but the American preserved its plant at Pekin distilling industrial and medical alcohols. Thus it was possible upon repeal to lead Pekin back to prosperity.

On Dec. 4, 1933, the American resumed whiskey production, after starting a building program. The record reveals that during the critical mid-thirties, this return to production created more jobs and payroll moneys than did the NRA code and provided more local construction than did the PWA.

The American is proud of that contribution, and proud of its place as a key war industry during World War II, again making industrial alcohol and other vital war materials. And, the American is proud, today, of its place as one of the back-bone industries in Pekin's economic life. Besides the jobs created, American swells the grain market by processing as much as 12,000 bushels of grain a day (on occasion 16,000), and besides distilled products, this grain produces each DAY almost 100 tons of feed especially suited for dairy cattle. The American pays 48 millions of dollars in taxes each year.

The American Distilling company has a big stake in the community of Pekin and a corresponding interest in the city's continued prosperity and progress.



LIBRARY U. OF ILLINOIS



DEDICATED TO GREATER SERVICE



ABTS MORTUARY

◊◊◊◊ *Pekins Modern Funeral Home* ◊◊◊◊

FIFTH AT PARK AVE. - PHONE 42

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

Fifteen years ago John and Gladys Abts came to Pekin after 11 years in Chicago as licensed embalmers and funeral directors. From a modest beginning in the old Schenk home at Sixth street and Broadway, the Abts Mortuary has grown to its present prominence in the Pekin community.

Today in the comfortably quiet and dignified atmosphere of the converted E. W. Wilson residence on S. Fifth at Park avenue away from the congestion of the business district Abts Mortuary offers the best in funeral service. It's high ethical standards, modern equipment and dignified handling of final rites, maintained since the inception of the business here, has earned the confidence of the community and firmly entrenched the establishment in the pekín business family.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Abts give personal attention to those whom they serve, and supervise the conduct of each funeral themselves. To enhance the quality of their services they maintain the finest in equipment--a hearse, an invalid coach, limousine, air conditioning of the funeral home and a recently purchased Baldwin organ. A preparation room, modern in every respect, is open for inspection at all times.

Concerning the future, the Abts mortuary proposes to continue its policy of dedication to greater service in all details of its operation. Mr. and Mrs. Abts extend their congratulations to the community on its centennial anniversary and hope for the privilege of serving and growing with Pekin.

Pekin's expensive homes are not lined up side by side, but are scattered from Park avenue to North Eighth street. You cannot tell by merely looking at an address whether the resident at that address is rich or poor, German or Italian, Protestant or Catholic. There are no special neighborhoods in Pekin, either social, economic, religious or racial.

It is this Democracy or Near-Equality which frequently first impresses strangers in our city.

The pioneering spirit also survives, and if anything, is greater. A simple example lies in the fact that hundreds of Pekin homes were built by the owner and occupant himself, a feat incidentally, which requires a great deal more of skill, ingenuity, work and effort than is required in the construction of an old-time log cabin. While conservative and skeptical of

high-pressure promotions and "boom" projects, Pekin has developed its normal facilities and continues to develop them to an exceptionally high degree, and that includes its parks, schools, churches, and sports and recreational facilities.

Pekin, today, we believe, is principally distinguished by the quality of moderation. There are no extremes economically or socially. There are no "blue laws" and yet Pekin's mild liberalism is more restrained than have been surrounding communities over the past 10 years. There is constant progress, but the progressiveness is marked with a skeptical both-feet-on-the-ground attitude.

Pekin, today, is a peaceful, prosperous, progressive, democratic community. The rest of its story will have to be left to the future.



PEKIN FARMERS GRAIN CO.

209 SOUTH FRONT STREET

The Company started in business in 1914 with a 25,000 bushel elevator. In 1929 new storage tanks were added which held an additional 20,000 bushels. In 1934 the wooden elevator was destroyed by fire, and a new concrete structure was built on the old site. This structure held 70,000 bushels.

About 1938 a new loading dock to the river was erected, giving the Company a river outlet. We are now building a new storage annex that will hold 50,000 bushels more - together with a new drier.

The first year the Company handled 180,000 bushels of grain. They now handle over 2,000,000 bushels per year.

There are over two hundred stockholders. The business is handled by nine directors who hire a manager to run it for them. The present directors are Edward Schrock, President, John Rothberger, Fred Heisel, W.E. Naffziger, P.J. Bailey, Adam Weyhrich, Ernest Shopp, F.J. Rahn, and Edward Strickfaden. Mr. Schrock is the only living member of the original Board of Directors. Carl Porter is the manager, assisted by Floyd Sours and August Stoltz in the office, Louis Friedinger, Louis Woodworth and Gerald Pfeiffer in the elevator. Grain sales for the year ending September 30, 1948, were \$3,559,667.98.



LOOKING FORWARD

The Second Hundred Years
By F. F. McNaughton

Pekin, Illinois, in its first century as an incorporated city, has done far better than the average city.

What of the next century?

There seems to be sound reason to expect vigor in the second century. Pekin has been growing at a rate of some 20% each census. Another 20% increase would give Pekin a population of 23,288 in the 1950 count, and Polk's city directory counts since 1940 indicate the 23,288 figure will be reached or surpassed in 1950. Should the rate of growth drop to only 10%, Pekin would be a city of some 60,000 at the end of its second century.

Why should Pekin continue to prosper? Two factors make a city grow.

One is economics; the other is the will of the city's leaders.

Pekin has many economic advantages. It is in the middle of one of the nation's richest states. It has a sound agricultural foundation. The whole area abounds in farms that produce abundantly of grain, meat, and dairy products, with important undertones of melon, fowl, fruit and canned goods production. No city that has such riches in the soil can be poor.

But Pekin has other natural advantages. It has, for one thing, a layer of unusually cold water close to the earth's surface which affords important economies to certain types of industry. Pekin has layers of coal over wide nearby areas. And Pekin is on the Inland Waterway System. This latter situation added to the important fact that Pekin is either on or has switching connections with 14 railroads, gives it a tremendous shipping advantage. Agricultural or manufactured products can leave Pekin by rail or water for all Great Lakes or down river or Gulf points, and by fast freight into the East or West. And up or down stream into this area come bargeloads of oil, coal, and other bulky products. This all has resulted in making Tazewell county one of the top manufacturing counties of America.

All this means growth for Pekin.

And growth commands "keeping up with the population."

Churchwise, present plans indicate the churches will keep stride.

Schoolwise, Pekin has always done well. The grade school board, having recently bought 10 acres, changed its mind and bought 10 more. Many more

areas will have to be bought, and wise school boards will look forward and acquire title to key blocks and plots. The new stadium will fill Pekin's needs for a generation; but demands for a new gymnasium are already pressing. Pekin's Mineral Springs park, now one of the busiest (and loveliest) in America, will have to be enlarged in some manner; and the Park Board not only will have to enlarge its present golf course onto the already purchased acres for another nine holes; but it will have to provide a second municipal course, and should be watching for a bargain in nearby picturesque acreage.

A project that won't be delayed too long is a junior college for Pekin.

Improvements in city buildings are being accomplished. No. 1 on the list is a new city hall, with new fire stations and equipment to match; and surely the new century of Pekin's life will not be too far along before some kind of auditorium is erected here. An adequate auditorium can add much to both the civic and cultural life of the city.

If Pekin is to grow only half as swiftly in the second century as in the first (and thus become a city of 60,000) there must be a place for the new 37,000 to live. WHERE will they live? This is no insurmountable problem. For one thing, Pekin surely will have some modern apartment houses as soon as building costs make the venture profitable. But there are acres of room to the south (all the way to South Pekin) for expansion, and there is uncrowded and almost unlimited high ground to the east.

Pekin, as it starts its second century does well to be thinking in terms of planning. The city council is thinking in terms of a building and zoning ordinance that will give forethought to the city's growth in the second century. The school boards are "counting babies" and projecting population trends to guide them in planning future schools. The park board is thinking in terms of "Where will they swim?" and "Where will they play?" and "Where, under cover, can they picnic when there are twice as many?" And churches, social and civic groups are thinking in terms of greater social and cultural opportunities for the "Pekin of the Second Century."

KRIEGSMAN TRANSFER CO.



Front row, left to right--John C. Kriegsman, Ronald Schilling, Weldon Meyer, Russell Sorenson, Merel Hammond, Philip F. Kriegsman, Albert Jarrett, Marvin Brown, Arthur T. Kriegsman.

Back row, left to right--Phyllis Frampton, Florence Kriegsman, Charles Hinkle, Philip J. Kriegsman, William Meyer, John Meyer, Floyd Quick, Arthur Lichtenberger, Charles Fahnders, Thomas Frampton, Philip Schwinn, Roy Thomas, Barbara Kitchell, Zillah Kriegsman.

Founded in September 1913 by P. J. Kriegsman with 32 horses and about 20 wagons located in a large red barn at the corner of Henrietta and North Capitol Streets. The horses delighted in getting out at night and eating up the neighbors lawns.

Furniture was stored in the 100 block Court Street until 1921 when the two story warehouse located at 109-11 North Third Street was constructed.

The First World War saw the beginning of the use of trucks and gradually since that time the truck has taken over the duties of the horses. In 1926 the barn was moved to the old Brewery building and the big red barn was torn down. This building is still used as a garage for the trucks and is located at 309-13 North Second Street.

In 1927 the present office was built which is located at 231 Margaret Street.

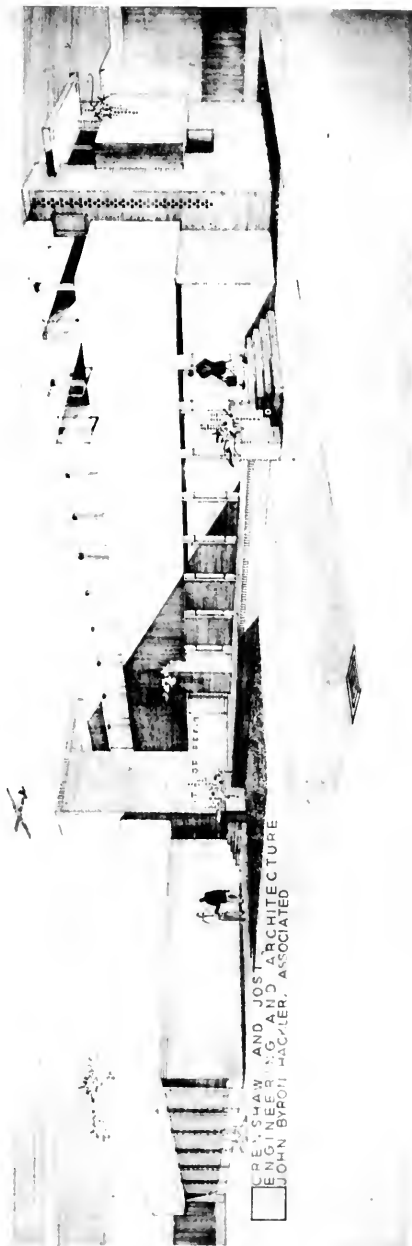
Then came the complete transition from horses to trucks and in 1946 the old Pekin Leather Products Company building at 1101 Margaret Street was purchased for the warehousing of merchandise.

In 1948 the warehouse at 278 Koch Street was constructed, during the 35th anniversary year of the firm.

Also in 1948 the business was incorporated and following are the officers of the corporation: Arthur T. Kriegsman, President; Philip J. Kriegsman, Vice President; Florence Kriegsman, Vice President; John C. Kriegsman, Secretary; Zillah C. Kriegsman, Treasurer.

The employees of the corporation are: Phil Schwinn, Charles Hinkle, William Meyer, John Meyer, Roy Thomas, Weldon Meyer, Merel Hammond, Arthur Lichtenberger, Albert Jarrett, Floyd Quick, Ronald Schilling, Thomas Frampton, Marvin Brown, Arthur Snyder, Charles Fahnders, Philip F. Kriegsman, Barbara Kitchell, Russell Sorenson, Phyllis Frampton.

Proposed City Hall, 1949



CREW, SHAW AND JOSEPH, ARCHITECTS
ENGINEERS AND ARCHITECTS
JOHN BYRON HAZLER, ASSOCIATED

As the centenary went to press, Pekin's city council was studying preliminary plans for a new city hall to replace the 65-year-old structure still standing in 1949. Whether or not the newest proposal for a new city building, latest in a series which began 20 years ago, will become a reality will depend on a special election bond issue expected to be called before the close of the centennial year.

Meanwhile, architects prepared a line drawing to show what the proposed building will look like, and that is reprinted above.

Plans call for the new structure to be built around the original city hall building, and then the older structure would be torn down after removal of city departments to the new one. This would leave an open corner for the double entrance from Fourth or Margaret street.

At press time, the election had not yet been formally called, but authorities assured that the matter will be offered for a public decision as soon as detailed plans and accurate estimates of cost become available.

The wing on the left of this picture would house the fire equipment and police garage, the wing to the right would include offices of the city clerk and city treasurer with the council chambers in the second floor.

Forward March

In 1890 an industry was born in Pekin--an industry that was to place the name PEKIN before the people in many States of the Union. That was the year Miles Murphy started the Pekin Boiler Works. This firm manufactured steam boilers and contracted for boiler repair work.

In 1900, ten years later in the Forward March of Progress of our Company, Robert Walsh joined Miles Murphy as a partner. Boiler manufacture and repair was still the business of the Company and we became known among the residents as "the boiler works", a name still applied by some of the older citizens.

1904--the start of a new product. Miles Murphy and Robert Walsh foresaw a field that had unlimited possibilities. A tank designed to supply fresh water to farms. The firm name was changed to Murphy & Walsh and the PEKIN pneumatic tank was on the market. The PEKIN pneumatic tank is still a product of this Company.

1909--a tank to store hot water for homes and industrial use. Again, Murphy & Walsh marched forward with the PEKIN hot water storage tank.

1923--A new process of fabrication was becoming popular throughout the country. Forward again with PEKIN welded tanks.

1925--1926--1927--Oil tanks for the storage of home heating oil and underground gasoline storage, steel burial vaults, steel septic tanks for sewage disposal---- Always forward for Murphy & Walsh and the trade name PEKIN.

From Maine to California, from Canada to Mexico and over-seas through Exporting Companies----Murphy & Walsh and PEKIN products always Marching Forward.

**MURPHY & WALSH, INC.,
100 Caroline St.
Pekin, Ill.**

PUBLIC OFFICIALS - 1949

Federal Government

Congressman from 18th U. S. district
.....Hon. Harold H. Velde, Pekin.

State of Illinois

Senator from 30th state senatorial district.....Senator M. B. Lohmann, Pekin.
State representative, 30th district
.....Robert H. Allison, Pekin.

Tazewell County

Chairman, Tazewell county board
...Edwin J. McClarence, Pekin.
Circuit Clerk, Eugene V. Hoff, Pekin.
County Clerk pro tem,.....
William Beardsley, Pekin.

City of Pekin

Mayor J. Norman Shade, Streets and
Public Improvements.
Commissioner John McGinty, Public
Property.
Commissioner Charles Dancy, Public
Affairs.
Commissioner Fred Moenkemoeller, Fi-
nance.
Commissioner Walter McClain, Public
Health and Safety.
Clerk.....William Jansen.

Corporation Counsel....Alfred W. Black.
Treasurer.....Claude Smith.
City Engineer.....Jack Crenshaw.
Fire Chief.....Roy Weinheimer.
Police Chief.....L. Roy Brees.

Pekin Township

Supervisor, A. H. Casper. Assistant
Supervisors, Vardner Eden, George Saal,
Edwin J. McClarence, Al Schilling,
Edgar Hild, Nelson Sheppert Sr., Arthur
Kriegsman. Town Clerk, Henry Heiken.
Town Highway Commissioner, Carl Noard.

Pekin Community High School District

President, I. E. Wilson. Members, Louis
Hackler, Paul Massey, Al Martens, Lewis
Doren. Principal, F. M. Peterson.

Pekin Grade School District

President, Fearn Wilson Sr. Members,
Melvin Leach, Bernard Hoffman, George
Bishop, William York, Morris Severe,
John Abts. Superintendent, C. B. Smith.

Pekin Park District

President, Tim Soldwedel. Members,
Charles Grossweiler Sr., William Knier-
iem, Edward Oberle, Charles Kelly. Sec-
retary, Henry Ailts.



Tazewell County Court House built in 1914.

MIDDLE STATES TELEPHONE COMPANY OF ILLINOIS



Interior scene of Pekin traffic office 25 years ago. All of this equipment has been replaced and more than \$150,000 worth added since 1939, \$65,000 of it in 1949 alone.

Pekin is one of approximately 12,000 communities in the United States served by independent telephone companies.

In 1901, the Citizens Telephone Company was organized with James W. Barrett, President, to compete with the Central Union Telephone Company.

The Citizens Company also established an exchange at East Peoria and had exchanges at Havana, Manito, Green Valley, Delavan and Lacon, connected by a system of company owned toll lines.

The history of the Citizens Company provides one perfect example of what larger scale operation can accomplish over what is generally possible for local groups to accomplish alone in furnishing such a highly complicated and capital consuming community service.

The continuous growth of the community necessitated expansion of service - meaning more management, more legal, engineering and accounting help and most important -- much additional capital.

When the expansion following the first World War started, the situation was discouraging for the Citizens Company, as there were two sets of telephone lines in town, and many people were wanting service with no chance of receiving it until most of the old plant could be replaced.

The Citizens Company was sold to W.S. Green and associates who had

formed a new company, traded East Peoria and Delevan to Central Union Company for the "long distance phone system" in Pekin and brought in hundreds of thousands of dollars of new capital, to replace the mass of bare wires in town with one of the most extensive underground cable systems to be found in a similar sized community in the world.

The depression years of the early thirties, however, provided a serious blow to the new company. Since January, 1938, the Central Telephone Company has had the responsibility for operating the Middle States Company property and raising the ever increasing amount of capital needed for the fast growing communities being served.

The amount of new capital required to extend the plant since 1941 has exceeded the value of the plant then in service. Now, a ten year program of conversion to dial is underway which will require capital totalling several times the value of plant in service in 1940.

Max McGraw of Chicago, Chairman of the Board of the Central Telephone Company, is also head of McGraw Electric Company and the record of his work in the enterprises with which he has been identified is such as to inspire confidence of the subscribers in Middle States Telephone exchanges who want this essential service to continue to keep pace with community demands and needs.

A CENTURY OF PROGRESS IN PEKIN

The history of a city is the story of the efforts and accomplishments of its citizens in establishing homes, churches, schools, growing industries and organizations, and other activities. From its beginning, 100 years ago, Pekin has had civic and cultural-minded citizens of vision who have built within its confines beautiful churches and schools, substantial homes, and prosperous business establishments; and who have provided opportunities for cultural advantages and wholesome recreation.

And Pekin citizens today, proud of their heritage, are continuing to carry on the tradition, building for an ever greater tomorrow.

A STATISTICAL REVIEW OF PEKIN TODAY

Form of government -- Commission
 Population -- about 22,500
 Population totals from earliest census:

1949 (est.)	22,500
1940	19,407
1930	16,129
1920	12,086
1910	9,897
1900	8,420
1890	6,347
1880	5,993
1870	5,696
1860	3,467
1850	1,678

Area -- 7.5 square miles
 Altitude -- 482 feet above sea level.
 Trade Area -- 25 mile radius with population of 75,000
 Railroads -- seven. Santa Fe; Big Four; Chicago and Midland; Peoria and Pekin Union; Illinois Central; Peoria Railway Terminal; Gulf, Mobile and Ohio.
 Highways -- on State routes 9 and 29 and connecting with U. S. 24 across Illinois River.
 Bus Lines -- six. Jacksonville Trailways; Continental Trailways; Illini Coach Lines; Bartonville Bus Lines, Inc.; Illinois Highway Transportation Company; Greyhound Lines.

River Traffic -- Barge Service operated on schedule by government and private lines.

Financial Data -- Three loan companies - Pekin Loan and Homestead Association established in 1882; American Saving and Loan Association in 1883; and Pekin Mutual Building and Loan Association in 1893. Two Banks - The American National Bank, and the Herget National Bank.

PEKIN BANK HISTORY

The first bank in Tazewell County opened in Pekin under the name of the Shawneetown Bank in 1839. was short-

lived, closing its doors in 1842. Therefore, the first firm to do regular banking business in the city was that of G.H. Rupert and Company who established in 1852 the Platt Valley Bank which existed under one firm or another until it was sold to the organizers of The First National Bank of Pekin in 1866. Also in that year was organized the banking firm of Teis Smith and Company, popularly known as Smith's Bank, which did business until the early 1900's.

After the liquidation of the First National in 1875, the private banking firm of Leonard and Blossom took over and for a number of years ran a banking business in Pekin. Also in 1875, The Farmers Bank was incorporated, doing business in the building at the corner of Capitol and Court streets until the early 1930's.

Today Pekin has two banks -- The American, organized as the German American Bank in 1887; and the Herget National Bank, founded by George Herget and Son in 1905.

FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION

It was not until May 1860, after a disastrous fire had swept the business district, destroying over 30 buildings, almost paralyzing business, and involving a loss of over \$150,000, that a city fire department was created. This consisted of four cisterns with a capacity of 300 barrels each - located at Margaret and Third; the Court House; St. Mary and Fourth; and at the German Methodist Church, Fifth and Caroline - two fire engines of the crane-neck style, and 1,000 feet of hose and ladders with carriages for each.

The following November saw the formation of Pekin's first fire companies: Rescue Fire Company No. 1, with 16 men; Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, with 23 men; and in December the Defiance Fire Company with 20 officers and members. The latter name was changed after



Mr. John H. Shade

It was way back in the fall of 1890 on an extremely cold and disagreeable day, that John H. Shade came to Pekin after a colorful career in Oklahoma and Kansas. It was those early experiences in life such as taking part in the land rush in the opening of the Oklahoma territory; the settling of the Cherokee Strip; the publishing of a newspaper in Wellington Kansas; the teaching of a rural school; the hardships of making his own way, that built up in Mr. Shade a character of friendliness and sympathy which made him beloved by those who knew him.

In Pekin, Mr. Shade edited the "Post Tribune" later sold to the "Pekin Daily Times"; and for several years published a magazine filled with kindly philosophies, which was known as "Shade's Monthly".

In the year 1912, a friend called upon Mr. Shade to handle the new Garber's Addition which was being platted in the new community of South Pekin, and this experience brought out a strong desire to see everyone own a home; and revealed Mr. Shade's ingenuity in devising plans and ways whereby a person could own a home of his own.

So John H. Shade became a pioneer Pekin realtor; dedicated to the "old school" -- belief in doing one thing and doing it well! For that reason his agency never took on any sidelines and handled real estate exclu-

sively. For that reason, too; although interested and active in politics, Mr. Shade on two occasions refused proffered nominations for Congress, as well as offers of the Postmastership and nominations for County Superintendent of Schools.

In 1920 he was joined in the real estate business by his son, J. Norman Shade (the present Mayor of the city of Pekin) who, at that time, was employed by the P. Steinmetz and Son Habberdashery. It was then that the trade name, under which the firm still operates, was adopted -- the JOHN H. SHADE REAL ESTATE AGENCY.

Mr. Shade had a genius for devising means of making it possible for folks to secure homes, and it was through his agency that additions were successfully platted and lots placed on the market for sale as low as \$1 down and \$1 per week -- with permission given people to build thereon before the lot was fully paid for. This type of selling was especially appreciated by purchasers during the depression years of 1930-1934. Many, deprived of homes through foreclosure, were able to buy a lot, build a shelter for their loved ones; and, thus, become an asset to the community, instead of a liability.

Some Additions which were handled in their entirety or a large portion are the Edds, Taaks, Rosedale, Alfs, Pekin Gardens, Rees, Lick Creek Lane, Buff, Briggs Heights, Lakeview, Linkville, Normandale, S. Normandale, Midway and N. Midway Additions.

Mr. Shade, Sr. always contended that no individual's problem was too small to give patient adherence; and during the many years of his active life, his kind philosophy, and his willingness to assist others, showed the way of securing a home to many---many who are respected and substantial Pekin citizens of today.

On June 5, 1948, at the age of 82 John H. Shade passed away. His business is being continued by his son, and operating under the same trade name so familiarly known throughout Pekin and Tazewell County as the

JOHN H. SHADE REAL ESTATE AGENCY

several years to Young America, No. 2.

In 1868, a new steam fire engine, Young America, was purchased and the old hand fire engine sold to the town of Canton.

In his first annual report in February 1869, Chief Engineer John Berry revealed that the Pekin Fire Department consisted of "one steam fire engine company - Young America, with hose-reel and hose attached; one hand fire engine company with hose-reel and hose attached; and one hook and ladder company with truck wagon, axes, and ladders complete".

The department was motorized in 1916 when the city bought a Seagrove Truck. Later in 1926, a second truck, an American Le France was purchased. Pekin now has adequate fire protection with two American Le France trucks, one 1000 gallon capacity and the other 500 gallon, manned by a force of 12 regulars, under Fire Chief Roy Weinheimer.

The first elected city policeman in Pekin was Thomas Cloudas, who served in the dual capacity of "City Marshall and Street Commissioner". The job must have been a difficult or an extremely unpopular one, for records show that it changed hands yearly for the first few years in the city's history. John Durham, Marshal in 1850, had the additional job of taking the first census of Pekin.

In 1855, two night watchmen--Thomas Shepherd and N.C. Flood--were added to the police force for night duty during the months of January and February only; and in March of that year, the city Marshal's office being declared vacant, Samuel P. Higginson was elected at a salary of "\$313 per year, and the privilege of an auction license free of charge." In 1856, the marshal was authorized to appoint a deputy.

And as Pekin grew, the police force grew also until at present it consists of 15 men, 3 pieces of motor equipment, and 3 police radios. Roy Brees is the present chief of police.

ILLINOIS RIVER BRIDGES

Situated as it is, with the Illinois River for its western boundary, Pekin early faced the problem of a river crossing. The earliest accounts date back to 1829, when a ferry "made and operated by William Clarke to carry pedestrians and rigs" plied back and forth from the foot of Harriet Street. Made of logs and puncheons, the ferry was propelled, frequently assisted by the passengers themselves, with long poles during low water and with oars during high stages.

The ferry was privately owned by one person or another, until April 1839,

when one Lucretia Mount, widow of a recent ferry owner "released to the town of Pekin all her right and interest in the ferry across the Illinois River", and this important franchise became town property. Seven years later, June 1847, the Board passed an ordinance to keep a free ferry and to defray expenses by public subscription. By the 28th of August, however, the free project was deemed impractical and ferriage was again charged: "Twenty cents for two-horse wagon for trip; man and horse, ten cents each way; footmen, five cents each way, etc." Before the end of the year, the ferry appearing to be an expense to the city rather than a benefit, was sold to B.S. Prettyman for \$1,575.

In 1840, the town contracted with a Mr. John Sleeth to build an "up-to-date" ferry boat which was to be rented to the highest bidder; and in March 1842, the ferry was rented to Whitlow and Durnell "for the term of one year for the sum of \$50.00."

In the meantime, a committee had been appointed to solicit subscriptions for "building a road across the Illinois River bottom" from "the river bank to the bluff on the west side of the Illinois River opposite Pekin; that said road to be opened 20 feet wide by cutting down and removing trees and other obstruction and an elevated plank road constructed"--a road so defective that it was abandoned as a thoroughfare shortly after being completed.

On June 1, 1885, the city finally contracted for a pontoon wagon bridge costing \$17,500, to span the river. This was a toll bridge until 1889. In 1904, the pontoon bridge was torn down for an iron structure which served until 1930, when it was declared unsafe and replaced by the present bridge, built at a cost of \$533,823 and formally dedicated and opened in May of that year.

PEKIN'S CHURCH HISTORY

The many beautiful churches in Pekin today indicate a religious interest which manifested itself early, for religion came to Town-Site with the first settlers. The first preaching service in the new community was a sermon by the Rev. Jesse Walker, an itinerant Methodist frontier missionary, in the log cabin home of Jacob Tharp in 1826.

Soon after this was organized a congregation, which about in 1830, erected a "little brick church" known later as the "Foundry Church", located near the present site of Franklin School, and installed as their first minister the Rev. John T. Mitchel, a



**THIS IS THE FASHION STORE
AT 343 COURT STREET, PEKIN**

THE FASHION STORE opened in Pekin in September, 1934. With the passing years it expanded to meet the demands of an ever-growing number of satisfied customers.

In the Fall of 1948 the new store, pictured above, was completed - a modern store throughout - completely air conditioned.

THE FASHION STORE has built up its enviable reputation by featuring nationally advertised fashions and accessories for the entire family, plus the convenience of their extended charge account plan.

Today, thousands of the thrifty-minded people of Pekin are enjoying the many and modern shopping conveniences that THE FASHION STORE offers.



A QUARTER OF A CENTURY

For a quarter of a century the ROHRS INSURANCE office has served Pekin under its own firm name. Together with its predecessors, the Geo. Lucas and Lena Schaefer-Hinners Agencies, they have served Pekin since 1870 with complete kinds of insurance from the horse and buggy days to the automobile and jet plane age. From hand written policies to the typed policy of today, the ROHRS INSURANCE office has continuously improved its facilities to handle your insurance requirements. We cordially invite you to visit our office. See our FIREPROOF SAFE for safe keeping of duplicate copies of your policies and our system of records for the safeguard and efficient handling of your insurance.

Rohrs Insurance

George and Howard

520 Court

Pekin



NOEL FUNERAL HOME

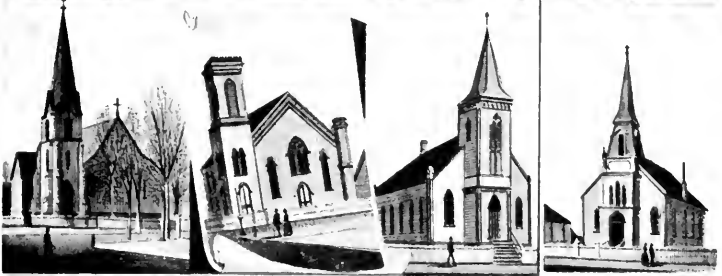
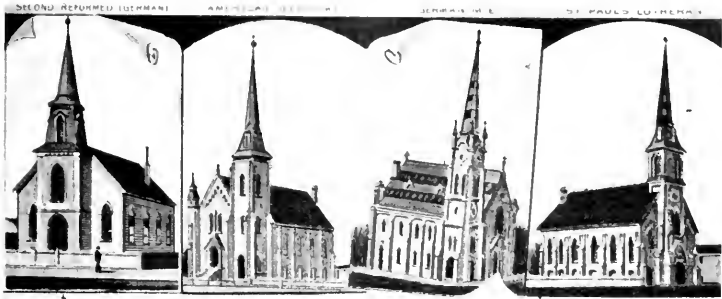
420 Walnut St.

Owned and operated by William L. Weimer

The Noel Funeral Home was established in Pekin, Ill. in the year 1900 by the late Orville W. Noel.

In the year of 1923 the partnership of Orville W. Noel and William L. Weimer who was in his employ for many years was formed and was operated under the name of Noel Funeral Home until the death of Mr. Noel in 1946. At this time the interest of Mr. Noel in the firm was purchased

by William L. Weimer who is carrying on the business under the first name. Noel's has served the citizens of Pekin and surrounding territory for 50 years. In 1937 we deemed it wise to move the business location to 420 Walnut St. so that its patrons would be better served in the quiet, homelike atmosphere and beautiful surrounding of its present location.



ST. PAULS EPISCOPAL

ENGLISH M E

CHURCHES

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

fiery, plain-spoken man. Presumably it was in this church that Pekin's first church choir, consisting of seven male voices, was organized.

In the winter of 1843-4 nearly half the village population died from an epidemic of "black-tongue" sore throat. This tragedy resulted in a revival known as the "sore-throat" revival during which practically all the survivors joined the church. The congregation having outgrown the old brick building, constructed in 1847 a new frame church on the corner of Capitol and Margaret Streets and the old brick building became a foundry. In 1867 the congregation erected the present edifice at the corner of Fourth and Broadway. Thus came into existence the First Methodist Church.

The German Methodist Church, today's Grace Methodist, seems to be next in time of organization - in 1842 with meetings held for the first few years in homes of members. It was not until 1850 that a building was erected, "with the help of the original English Methodist Church, which donated old church seats to the new frame building," and the pulpit was filled by missionary preachers from St. Louis.

With the influx of many Germans about 1850, the membership outgrew its quarters and erected in 1854 a new church which in later years was used as

a warehouse for the Pekin Plow Shop after a new church was erected at State and Fourth in 1873. This was burned in 1911 and replaced with the present edifice in 1912.

In the meantime, a First Reformed Church was begun in 1843 with a nucleus of ten members in a "little building down by the river" and for the first several years thereafter meetings were held in homes of members while a building was in process of construction. This was completed in 1847 at a cost of \$6,000. In 1873 was erected at 307 South Fourth Street, the original part of the present building which was modernized and enlarged in 1939. About 1910, a group of members from this church founded the Congregational Church in Pekin and soon thereafter erected the present building at Elizabeth and Broadway. On April 29, 1914, it was voted at a congregation meeting to change the First Reformed Church to the First Presbyterian Church of Pekin and thus it exists today.

During the next few years, from 1850 on, many churches were founded - among them the St. Paul's Episcopal, admitted as a parish in the diocese of Illinois in 1851, although Episcopal services were held in Pekin as early as 1837. The foundation of the present St. Paul's Church was laid in 1870 and completed in 1874. Recently it has been



MAURER AND HARRIS REALTORS

408 COURT ST.

PHONE 130

PEKIN, ILLINOIS



Home ownership is one of man's first considerations for the protection, happiness and contentment of his family. Because of the early establishment of savings and loan associations and frugal characteristics of German families who first settled in Pekin, we have today an unusually high per centage of families who now own their homes. In the year 1937 an up-to-date home financing plan known as the direct-reduction plan was introduced to Pekin with the opening of an office at 408 Court Street by Eugene P. Maurer, who for thirteen years previous to this had been employed by a local bank. Immediately, this type of home financing was accepted by the people of this city, and as a result, many millions of dollars have been loaned to Pekin people to help them own their own homes.

As an additional service, and a natural growth, a complete insurance and real estate brokerage business was added to home financing, making a complete one-stop package in home ownership service.

In 1946 Thomas H. Harris returned to his native Tazewell County after four years of service in World War II, and assumed complete charge of home loans and insurance and along with Mr. Maurer expanded the real estate department. The firm name was changed to MAURER AND HARRIS under which management the general public of this city can attest to fair and honest dealings. Many homes have been built and two subdivisions developed, making it possible for several hundred families to be started on the road to home ownership in Pekin, A GOOD PLACE TO LIVE!

modernized and improved mainly through the legacy of the late Miss Anna Blenkirin.

St. Johannes Evangelical Lutheran (now St. John's) built a church at North Fourth and Ann Eliza in 1854, later replaced by a new building in 1871. In 1902 the congregation erected a parochial grade school adjacent to the church, a school attended by many Pekin Lutheran young people, until it was discontinued in June 1942 and the building later sold to and now occupied by the Pekin Trades and Labor Assembly.

The First Baptist Church was founded about 1851. Their original building, completed in 1855, since enlarged and remodeled, has the distinction of being the oldest brick church building in Tazewell County still occupied by the congregation which erected it. W.H. Bates in an appendix to the 1916 Pekin Directory tells an interesting story in connection with the building of this church. It seems that Elder Gilbert S. Bailey, on a visit to Springfield, met his old neighbor Abraham Lincoln, who "on learning that Bailey was soliciting funds to complete the Pekin church, cheerfully subscribed \$10."

A Universalist Church, too, was organized in 1851, but about 23 years later was disbanded and the building sold later to the Free Methodist congregation.

Then came St. Paul's Evangelical, organized by 12 men, with 30 original members in 1858, at the corner of Seventh and Ann Eliza. In its early year, a school was connected with the church.

The first authentic record of Catholicism in Pekin tells of a baptism on November 11, 1860. In 1863 was built a Catholic Church on the corner of Second and Susannah, the beginning of the present St. Joseph's. In 1904 was dedicated the present edifice at the corner of Seventh and Broadway. The story is told that the old bell, now no longer in use, was captured from a convent in Mexico by two of Pekin's soldiers in the Mexican War and sent to the church here. A second Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart, organized for German Catholics in 1872, was later absorbed by the St. Joseph's Church.

In 1876 was organized the First Christian Church when one, William Hiatt, a student at Eureka College was called here to preach at a Saturday service near Leslie Station, a Sunday service at the Town House, and another service on Monday at the county home. During these services five converts were baptized in Dillon Creek, and from this began the Church. In 1883 the present building was erected at Broadway and Elizabeth.

The German Baptist, now Calvary Baptist is another church organized in early Pekin with preaching services held as early as 1870, although the congregation was not formally organized until 1877 with 16 members. The present building at Tenth and Caroline was erected in 1892.

Thus were founded Pekin's pioneer churches. And with the growth of the city has come an ever increasing number of churches, until today there are 26 protestant and one Catholic, many of which have recently carried on or are planning extensive building programs. A Union Mission established in 1895 and a Salvation Army also aid in ministering to the religious needs of the community. A list of present Pekin churches and their location follows:

First Baptist.....	...Fifth and Elizabeth Streets
Calvary Baptist.....	...Caroline and North Tenth Streets
First Congregational.....	...Elizabeth at Broadway
Christian.....	...Broadway and Elizabeth Streets
St. Joseph's Catholic.....	...300 South Seventh
First Presbyterian.....	...Broadway and Fourth
Grace Methodist.....	...601 North Fourth
First Methodist.....	...Fourth and Broadway
Free Methodist.....	...412 St. Mary
Second Reformed.....	...Sixth and State
St. Paul's Episcopal.....	...Washington and Buena Vista
St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed....	...Seventh and Ann Eliza
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran.....	...Court and Eighth
Seventh St. Gospel Tabernacle.....	...South Seventh and Derby
Church of the Nazarene.....	...Third and Franklin
Assembly of God, Pekin Full Gospel Church.....	...1215 South 13th
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran.....	...702 South Fourth
Normandale Reformed.....	...2001 South Second
Pentecostal Church of God.....	...1448 South Second
Apostolic Gospel Tabernacle.....	...325 South Sixth
Seventh Day Adventist.....	...1305 Messmer
First Baptist Chapel.....	...Derby and South 14th
Church of Christ.....	...229 Court

RUSHED TO YOUR GROCER

Over Fresh



A & E BAKING CO.
PEKIN, ILLINOIS

WEYRICH HARDWARE

330 Court St.

Phone 282



The Weyrich Hardware Store was established in 1864, just 15 years after the incorporation of Pekin as a City, in the same building in which it is presently functioning.

The original owner was John Weyrich, who with his son August Weyrich enjoyed a successful business during their life times. The business is now operated by Nelson A. Weyrich, grandson of the founder.

This store has served the community for 85 years and the success of the business is due to the satisfaction of the customers.

Our booth at the First Street Fair in 1898

Jehovah's Witnesses.....	...322 Court
Bethel Tabernacle Assembly of God.....	...1208 Maple Street
Southern Baptist.....	...Normandale
Re-Organized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.....	...Court and Broadway
Salvation Army.....	...239 Derby
Pekin Union Mission.....	...203 Court

PEKIN SCHOOLS

Pekin citizens have always taken a keen interest and pride in their excellent schools, and today both grade and high school systems are among the finest to be found in the state.

The first school in Pekin's history dates back to 1831, 18 years before the city was organized. This was a one story building erected on the west side of Second Street, between Elizabeth and St. Mary, by Thomas Snell and taught by his son, John. Then followed within a few years what was known as the Cincinnati school on Broadway, across the street from the old Dutch Reformed Church.

Sometime in 1840, according to the Bates 1887 Directory, the basement of the Methodist Church was "leased by the Board and put in repair for a school room for the benefit of the corporation of Pekin". Sometime, too, between 1840 and 1850, a two story brick building was erected on Margaret Street, between Third and Capitol, by the "Sons of Temperance", the upper floor being used for the lodge meetings and the lower occupied for many years as a "pay school". After the adoption of the state free school system, the entire building was occupied by the free schools of Pekin. For many years older residents of the community referred affectionately to "the old Brick".

Meantime it is recorded in 1852, Elder Gilbert S. Bailey, assisted by his wife, took charge of a newly organized Pekin Academy "for young ladies and gentlemen"; and that for several years this was acknowledged as one of the leading educational institutions in the state. Bailey, by the way, was later transferred to Chicago where he became one of the prominent workers in inaugurating the University of Chicago. Five years later, William Blenkiron established a school in the old Episcopal Church, then located west of the Tazewell Hotel. There were other schools established, too, for the census of 1860 reports for Pekin "12 school houses with a total of 503 pupils".

In 1865 was begun a large brick building on Washington between Buena Vista and Sixth Streets (the site of the present junior high school) to cost about \$20,000. When this was completed in 1867, all the various buildings which had been used for school purposes, with the exception of the Sons of Temperance building, were vacated; and the school system of Pekin was reorganized with William Blenkiron as superintendent.

The first Pekin High School graduation occurred in 1873 with six graduates: Josephine Goodheart, Caesar Roberts, Eunice Sage, Addie L. Turner, Hannah Turner, and Sarah Turner.

An interesting story goes that some time about 1880, at the insistence of several members of the city board, a resolution was made to teach German in the Pekin schools. Thereupon the Irish members of the community rose to arms and circulated a petition that the Irish language also be taught. This however, was finally deemed inexpedient and the matter was dropped.

On the night of December 2, 1890, Tragedy struck; and the large brick school of which Pekin was so proud was completely destroyed by fire. The story goes that during the conflagration many spectators gathered bits of metal from the melting bell and wore these as watch fobs for years thereafter.

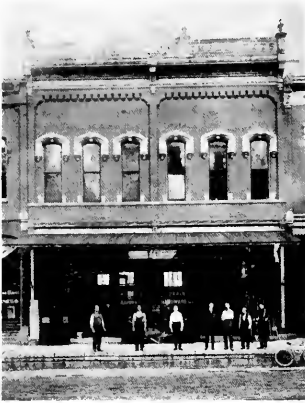
The School Board immediately launched a program for rebuilding on a "much larger and more modern plan" resulting in what became known for many years as Washington School. Completed the following year at a cost of some \$28,000, this modern brick structure contained 18 rooms in addition to high school recitation rooms and the superintendent's office. It was this building which became the old Washington Junior High School when the Community High School district was organized and the new high school building completed in 1916.

PEKIN GRADE SCHOOLS

In the meantime the East Bluff building, known then as Allen School, was erected in 1869, and before long increased population of the city necessitated the erection of two other buildings--Lincoln School in 1876, later remodeled and enlarged, and Douglas in 1882 on the site of the old Tharp burial ground. Douglas, earlier known as the Old East Side School, was later razed to make room for the splendid modern structure which now occupies the old site. There was some time before 1880, too, on the corner of Buena Vista and Broadway, the Peger House, more commonly known as the "Baby

PEKIN HARDWARE CO.

341 Court Street



THE EARLY DAYS

The Pekin Hardware Co. has been serving Pekin and the surrounding community for nearly 51 years. In December 1898 Mr. Phillip M. Hoffman and Mr. Ernest R. Peyton purchased the business from Henry Roos and from that date it has been known as the Pekin Hardware Co.

The store is now being operated by Ernest P. Hoffman and William J. Hoffman, sons of Phillip M. Hoffman.

Identified in the picture of the early days of Pekin Hardware Co. are left to right: Ernest R. Peyton; Martin Larkin Sr.; Frank Weber; a salesman; Phillip M. Hoffman.

Interior
Decorators

Lutticken's Inc.

Fine
Furniture

305 COURT STREET • PEKIN, ILLINOIS

As Near As Your Telephone — Phone 48

Lutticken's Inc., was started in 1919 after World War I. Upon arrival home from overseas, Robert J. Lutticken, the founder, started this venture with the P. A. Bergner & Co. of Peoria, Ill., Furniture Dept. In 1924 along with his regular Home Furnishing Merchandising, a complete Interior Decorating Service was added. In recognition of the quality of Merchandise and Services being rendered, he was appointed the exclusive Grand Rapids Furniture Makers Guild Dealer for the Central Illinois area in 1926; also our present Pekin Store was opened then as a branch.

After start of World War II, the Peoria Branch was sold, and our complete service is now being given from the Pekin location until larger quarters are completed. Also after discharge from services Robert W. Lutticken, son of the founder, completed his courses in interior de-

sign and art, also special courses in Grand Rapids Guild school of Interior Decorating. He has now been actively engaged in this enterprize since May 1948---

The Grand Rapids Guild Decorating Service insures the finest in quality and design. The special Guild colors give perfect harmony, and are available in Drapery Materials, Upholstery Fabrics, Carpets, Lamps, Mirrors, Pictures, Art Objects--also Paints and Wall Paper.

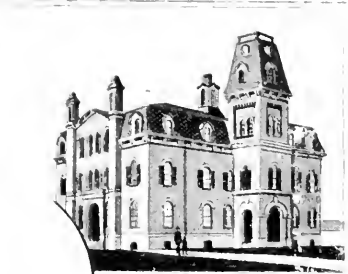
Finest quality merchandise and skilled mechanics are assurance of that desired result.

Furniture	Art Objects
Carpets	"Norge"
Linoleum	Refrigerators
Rubber Tile	Gas Ranges
Asphalt Tile	Electric Ranges
Lamps	Washers
Pictures	Freezers
Domestic Sewing Machines	

EAST SIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL



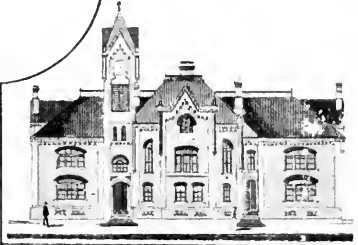
EAST SIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL



"The Old Schools"



NORTH SIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL



NORTH SIDE PUBLIC SCHOOL

School". However, this was short-lived. There followed, in turn, Garfield, Franklin, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and finally, to be occupied for the first time this fall, Pekin's newest half-million dollar ultra modern Fearn Wilson School, a one-story 12 room structure of steel and concrete containing a fine auditorium, an up-to-date gymnasium and excellent kindergarten facilities.

THE NEW JUNIOR HIGH

In September, 1930, the beautiful new \$350,000 Washington Junior High School was completed on the site of the Old Washington Junior High which had been razed to make room for the new building. This contains besides 35 class rooms, a modern office room for the city superintendent of schools, an auditorium, and a gymnasium.

And thus has the Pekin grade school system grown to include 8 modern grade school buildings and the Washington Junior High School, representing a total investment of some \$3,500,000 and an enrollment of approximately 3,000 pupils. Mr. C. B. Smith is city school



"The New"

superintendent, and members of the Board are President Fearn Wilson, John Abts, George Bishop, Bernard Hoffman, Melvin Leach, Morris Severe and William York.

BRISTOW MOTOR COMPANY

710-716 Court Street



Mr. L.R. Bristow and Mr. V.A. Grandia acquired the business August 3, 1934, from James and Gerald Conaghan, when it was located at the corner of Court and Sixth Streets.

In the fall of 1936, ground was broken, on land acquired from the Haas estate, for the new 100' x 160' Bristow Motor Company building at 714-16 Court Street. It was the most modern garage building in the Pekin area at that time, and on May 10, 1937, the grand opening was held.

The senior partner, L.R. Bristow,

passed away on November 4, 1937, and on January 1, 1938, V.A. Grandia became sole owner of the business.

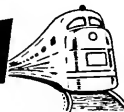
In July of 1938, the lot adjacent to 714 Court was acquired by V.A. Grandia, which now makes the establishment 160' x 150'.

Mr. Grandia was 32 years old when he became sole owner, is married and has two children, Gloria and Luther. Luther is learning the business and eventually will become a partner.

Bristow Motor Company has one of the most modern and complete service departments in Central Illinois.



ADVANCEMENT



During this post century, many advancements have been made in the Funeral Director's profession.

Today, the memorial service is regarded not only as a tribute to the departed, but as a source of comfort to the living.

The public will find every convenience for its comfort in our Funeral Home. Appointments here are modern and in keeping with solemnity, but never depressing.

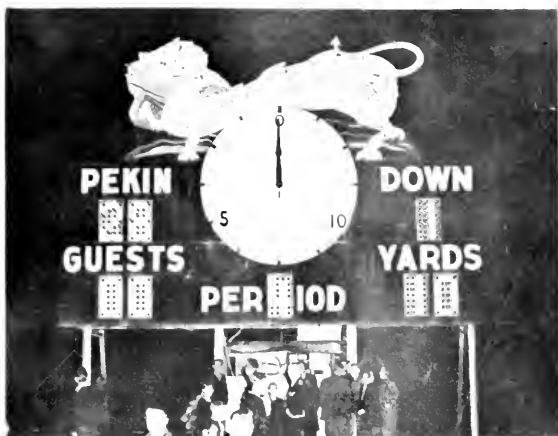
SINCE
DEC. 31,
1934

24 HOUR
AMBULANCE
SERVICE

R. A. PRESTON
C. L. PRESTON



Preston Funeral Home
Phone 59 • 337 ST. MARY ST.



Pekin's Memorial stadium saw an added touch as the 1949 football season opened, with the erection of a 20-foot-long Dragon, symbol of Celestial City athletic prowess, atop the big scoreboard. The beast was created at the high school and outlined in neon light for gridiron patrons. It made its first appearance, with darting red neon tongue, as Pekin beat Carlinville 28 to 0 in the season's opener, the occasion of the picture shown here.



A new cafeteria for the Pekin high school was completed in 1949, and as school got underway began feeding an average of 1,000 students each noon-day. One of the first "line-ups" inside the new structure was snapped by the Pekin Times, and is reprinted here.

PEKIN DISTRIBUTING CO.

James J. Viviano, Owner

108 COURT

PEKIN 43

Among the outstanding business firms of Pekin today is the Pekin Distributing Company, distributors of Old Style, Stag and Hyde Park, "The tastiest beer we know".

We believe that by handling good products and giving good service a firm can become successful and we have followed that program ever since being in business.

Along with Old Style, Stag and Hyde Park beers, the Pekin Distributing Company also handles Nesbitt's Orange, O-So-Grape, Cliquot Club and high quality sodas in all flavors.

The operators of the Pekin Distributing Company have always been ready and willing to aid any project that was for the public betterment.

DAVIS IMPLEMENT CO.

Formerly
Auto Electric
And
Brake Service
225 Elizabeth St.

INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER

Trucks

Tractors

Farm Machinery

Refrigeration

GOOD YEAR

Tires

Batteries

WESTBROOK'S FINE FOODS

16 So. 4th St.
Pekin, Illinois

A convenient place, efficiently operated.

"Our desire has been and will continue to be to give the best in food and service in quiet and refined surroundings."

GEORGE WESTBROOK
and

PAULINE WESTBROOK
Owners

Since 1945

BEERS WINES LIQUORS THE COLONIAL CLUB

South of Pekin on route 29

FAMOUS FOR

Chicken in the basket

Fish dinners

See television

Hear Clyde Bryant
The Blind Organist

PEKIN COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Pekin Community High School represents an investment of approximately \$1,225,000 not including a \$540,000 bond issue for a new building program at present under construction.

To the original main building facing Broadway between Eighth and Ninth Streets, completed in 1916, have been added in 1926, a west wing containing additional class rooms; in 1929, an east wing with more class rooms and a modern auditorium with a seating capacity of approximately 1,000; and just being completed this fall, a cafeteria with a maximum capacity of 1,800 in shifts of 600 each. In 1936 a new gymnasium building, containing also facilities for shop classes, band, and other classrooms, was constructed on Ann Eliza Street just across from the Main Building. To this has been added, ready also for use this fall, a west wing annex for additional shop facilities, including a farm shop. Also part of the school plant, in keeping with Pekin High's expanding athletic program is the half-million dollar Memorial Stadium, dedicated in 1948, with a seating capacity of 10,000. This is located just east of Mineral Springs Park and is one of the finest high school stadiums to be found anywhere.

Pekin Community High School is

accredited by the North Central Association and the University of Illinois; and is recognized by the State Department of Education. It holds membership in the Big Twelve Conference of Central Illinois High Schools, the Illini Conference, and the Greater Peoria Area Conference. The estimated enrollment for this fall is 1,300 or more. Mr. F. M. Peterson is superintendent, and Community High School Board Members are President I.E. Wilson, Lewis Doren, Louis Hackler, Al Martens, Paul Massey and Allen Farmer, secretary.

THE PEKIN PUBLIC LIBRARY

A group of twenty-three Pekin women on November 24, 1866, feeling the need for a library in the growing city, formed "The Ladies' Library Association" and appointed William S. Prince as the first librarian. A city council grant of \$100, along with citizen donations and subscriptions, provided backing for the project which was first housed in one room of the Frederick Building with library hours Tuesday evenings from 7-9 and Saturdays from 2-5 and from 7-9. Patrons paid 25¢ for six weeks' library privileges, 50¢ for six months, or \$1.00 per year. Shortly after this, Mrs. Eva Hammond was appointed librarian at the magnificent salary of \$8.00



Pekin's Carnegie Library Built in 1902

The Friendly FREDMAN BROS. HOME FURNISHINGS

326 COURT STREET.

PEKIN, ILLINOIS



Harry Abel, manager of the Pekin store, has been with the Fredman Brothers since 1935, and is exceptionally well qualified to give customers the benefit of his furniture experience.

Strictly adhering to their policies of friendly service, the Fredmans have thousands of friends. Dave and Harry Fredman opened their first store in Collinsville, Illinois, in 1914. Back in 1934, they came to the Peoria-Pekin area, with twenty years of furniture experience. At that time they were operating six stores. Today the firm, "Fredman Brothers", has expanded to include twenty-three widely-scattered furniture stores in Illinois.

They employ approximately 270 persons; have 58 vans on the highway, besides small service cars and trucks; and they have two major warehousing points... in Peoria and Granite City.

Pekinites can find what they want at lowest prices at Fredman's, for Fredman's benefits from manufacturers by buying in carload lots for the 23 stores. Fredmans' buyers are constantly in the markets, seeking to make best selections at low prices, which are immediately offered to their customers.

PUBLIX GREAT STATES THEATERS

PEKIN - EMPIRE - RIALTO

Theaters have played a part in the life of Pekin since 1850's when the original Empire theater (second floor over a dry goods store) opened at the Court street location of the present Empire. It was almost 50 years before the old Turner "Opera House" became converted into the Standard theater in competition with the Empire. Later, Chris Dittmer operated both for a time. The Standard later became the Capitol theater, which came to be operated, along with the Empire, by Mrs. Anna Fluegel.

The first moving pictures, the nickleodeons, came in 1906, the Vaudette, the Unique and the Dreamland, of which only the Dreamland survives as the present day Rialto. The Vaudette was first, located where the Lohnes Print Shop now operates.

In addition, during the earlier days of the century, there was the Court Theater at Court and Fifth streets and the Idle Hour where the Telephone Company is now.

In 1928, Mrs. Fluegel caused the Capitol theater (the old opera house building, to be razed and she erected the present \$250,000 Pekin theater building, constructed in the Chinese motif.

PUBLIX-GREAT STATES theater corporation assumed management of the Pekin theater and of the Empire in 1937, and in 1949 re-opened the Rialto.

Today, PUBLIX-GREAT STATES is carrying on the great theater tradition in Pekin, and has become an active and interested part of the community.

per month, and in 1887 she was succeeded by Mrs. Kate Skelly, who served for the next 12 or 13 years.

In 1889 the library was moved to the old city Firehouse, still standing at Seventh and Court Streets. Ten years later, having again outgrown its quarters, it was moved to the second floor of the Steinmetz Building and was open every week day afternoon and evening.

Not until 1896 did it become city property. About this time Miss Mary E. Gaither, member of the Library Board, succeeded in interesting Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who promised \$15,000 for the erection of a permanent building provided that the city give a satisfactory site. Mr. George Herget donated the present site at Broadway and Fourth Streets.

Mr. Carl Herget, in the meantime, gave \$1,000 for the purchase of books on condition that citizens raise a like sum. Later, Mr. Carnegie increased his original offer to \$25,000; and thus were laid the foundations for the Pekin Public Library which today has over 33,000 volumes with a yearly record of some 9,000 borrowers. An excellent children's department was added about 1930, and the most recent project is a record lending department containing at present some 35 albums.

The library is governed by a board of directors, currently headed by Mr. Ralph Dempsey and has a staff of five persons with Miss Jane Coons, acting librarian.

PEKIN'S NEWSPAPERS

The story of Pekin newspapers goes back to 1839 when The Tazewell Reporter, the first weekly, supplied news for the county. Then followed during the years The Pekin Weekly Visitor established about 1845; The Tazewell Whig and Pekin Commercial Advertiser, 1848; and The Tazewell Mirror, which in 1860 became the Tazewell County Republican; then The Pekin Post, which finally died as The Pekin Post-Tribune. The Illinois Reveille, about 1850, apparently was the first Democratic paper to be published in Pekin.

The Pekin Plaindealer, established in 1856, was later succeeded by The Tazewell Register, which about 1880 changed its name to The Pekin Times, which is the only surviving Pekin publication.

The Tazewell Register, The Pekin Bulletin, and The Legal Tender, a greenback weekly, also were published during the middle '80's.

In 1852, the first German newspaper, Der Wachteram Illinois was started but ceased publication after a few months.

Then in 1875 or 1876 John Hoffman established The Pekin Freie Press, a German weekly catering to the many German citizens. This was later sold to Albert Weiss, and again in 1914 to Jacob Schmidt who, with the war, changed it to the English language. Free Press, and published it until his death in 1934 when it ceased publication.

The Pekin Daily Times is today a growing publication of which Pekin is justly proud, having served Pekin and surrounding communities for almost 70 years. F.F. MacNaughton is the present publisher and owner.

PEKIN'S PUBLIC BUILDINGS

CITY BUILDINGS

The first city jail, listed as the Calaboose, was contracted for in 1849 at a cost limited to \$48.00, and remained the city lock-up until the summer of 1868 (when it was destroyed by fire). Although, according to the W.H. Bates History, "it was long considered, especially by evil doers, a noisome pestilential nuisance!"

Just what was done with such evil doers within the city's confines in the meantime, no one seems to have taken the trouble to record, for there is no account of another jail built in Pekin until 1876, when Heren Brothers were awarded the contract "of building a brick calaboose on Capitol Street."

In 1858 the city voted against the erection of a City Hall, apparently feeling that Council meetings could continue in homes and offices of members and that other city business could be transacted without benefit of a special building. The city did purchase however, in 1866 an old brick warehouse on Second Street to be used as a fire-engine house.

However, by 1884 the citizens had changed their collective minds, and plans for a City Hall and engine house were approved. This project completed in 1886 at a cost of \$6,000 is the present City Hall, fire engine house, and city jail, at the corner of North Fourth and Margaret Streets.

COUNTY BUILDINGS

Soon after the county seat was moved back to Pekin from Tremont in 1848, a local committee appointed by the Legislature made plans for the erection of a court house which was immediately begun and finished that same year at a cost of \$8,000, funds having been contributed almost entirely by Pekin Citizens. Many materials in the new

JANSEN & SCHAEFER

The present firm of Jansen & Schaefer was incorporated in 1915 when D.H. Jansen and Fred Schaefer, Jr. bought out the old building firm of Jansen & Zoeller which had been in the building construction business under various names since 1889.

For many years the office and shop were located at 212 N. Capitol St. but with a gradually expanding business, it was found necessary to acquire more working space. Land was purchased on East Broadway in 1933 and the final move into the new office was made in 1946. A modern ready-mix concrete plant was erected at the new location in 1947.

Jansen & Schaefer have always been interested primarily in street and highway construction and built their first state highway in 1919. This was followed by many projects located in practically every part of the State of Illinois.

Although primarily interested in highway work, the firm has done a considerable amount of building work, including such local projects as the Pekin Park Swimming Pool, Pekin High School Memorial Stadium and the Kriegsman Transfer Co. Warehouse.

The present officers of the firm are Fred Schaefer, Jr., President; Norman R. Jansen, Vice President; James N. Jansen, Treasurer, and H. R. McNally, Secretary.

PEKIN READY-MIX CONCRETE CO.

PEKIN NEWS AGENCY

WHOLESALE & DISTRIBUTORS
SINCE 1930

PEKIN NEWS AGENCY is an authorized agent for magazine and newspaper subscriptions. We offer a complete mail subscription department for all types of magazines in order to give Pekinites the advantages of buying

in one's own community where you are assured of safe, ethical and reliable mailing service.

Mr. Maurice B. Smith, the manager, is the wholesale distributor of magazines, newspapers and merchandise for the entire Pekin Area.

THE KAMEL KORN SHOP 522 Court Street

Karamel Korn	Blades
Pop Corn	Supplies
Novelties	Greeting Cards

522 Court Street

PHONE 2016



Pekin Post Office and Federal Building

building were local products -- sandstone for the foundation having been quarried about five miles northeast of Pekin; and brick made on East Bluff.

Abraham Lincoln, Stephen A. Douglas, John A. Logan, and Robert G. Ingersoll were among the famous persons who practiced law within its walls during its 60 or more years, until the early 1900's.

County offices, "large, convenient, and fire proof throughout" were built in 1856-7 opposite the present Tazewell Hotel. These were torn down at the time the present court house was built.

A new county jail was built in Court House Square replacing one erected ten years previously. This was a two story brick structure, containing offices and stone cells capable of holding 15-20 prisoners, with sheriff's family quarters located above them, and cost \$7,000. It remained until 1892 when the present county jail and sheriff's residence was erected.

In 1913 Tazewell County needed a new court house, and a resolution was introduced at a meeting of the County Board of Supervisors providing for such, and a bond issue of \$250,000 to defray the cost. Having received the unanimous approval of the Board, the issue was voted upon and carried at a special county election called for October 20, 1913.

Corner stone ceremonies were held

November 14, 1914; and two years later, in 1916 was completed Pekin's beautiful new County Court House at an entire cost of \$212,964, including walks and grading of the grounds.

FEDERAL BUILDINGS

The location of the Pekin post office during the early years seems to have had nothing on the proverbial rolling stone, for one early chronicle tells us that "it is impossible to name all the locations". We do know that about 1866, it was located on the south side of the 300 block on Court Street about three doors from the railroad.

Then after being moved to the middle of the Mark's block west of the railroad, it remained there until 1897; when it was again moved to the Flynn Building -- in the new Boston block. The first postmaster appointed in 1832, was Robert Alexander. First city free delivery of mail was made in 1886.

In 1892 an appropriation of \$70,000 was made "with additional appropriations up to \$80,000 for a Federal building for Pekin." Finally, after much heated controversy, the site of the former Prettyman Homestead at Elizabeth and South Capitol was chosen and purchased for \$15,000.

But when local bids, based on plans and specifications submitted by the

PEKIN AUTO BODY CO., INC.

15 NORTH SECOND ST. PHONE 73

Mr. Elmer Saylor opened the Pekin Auto Body Co. at the corner of Fifth and Ann Eliza streets in 1930. This business of repairing wrecked automobiles and twenty-four-hour wrecker service expanded so quickly in the next six years that a new location became necessary.

In 1937 the business was incor-

porated. Present stockholders are Elmer Saylor, Harold Saylor and Bernice Saylor.

This reputable company, that gives reliable service, has grown from a one-man shop to a business employing twenty people.

As Pekin reaches the completion of its first century the Saylor's offer heartiest congratulations.

WEGHORST

Nash



SALES & SERVICE

TELEPHONE 368-M

D. C. WEGHORST, OWNER

BROADWAY
AT
THIRD
PEKIN, ILL.

ROWE & SON TRANSFER

412 BROADWAY

Daily Service Between Pekin & Peoria

AGENT FOR MELVIN TRUCKING CO.

PH. PEKIN 449

PH. PEORIA 43171

SINCE JAN. 1, 1945

WALTER SCOTT LOHNES

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

402 S. Third St. Phone 818



One of Pekin's early homes, the log cabin still standing at the corner of S. Third and Fayette streets, was discovered inside a frame residence that was torn down a few years ago at this location. As far as known it is the only one left in Pekin. Before long it will be razed to make room for a modern J.P. Office.

supervising architect of the Treasury Department in 1904, were forwarded to Washington, they were all rejected because they were not within the limits of the contract price; and new bids had to be submitted. Consequently, it was not until several years later that the splendid Pekin post office building was completed.

Besides the post office, the building houses, on the second floor Pekin's Home Bureau, the Army recruiting offices, and the offices of the Treasury Department.

The Pekin office at present employs 34 regulars and 8 substitutes under Roy S. Preston, postmaster. Postal receipts for the fiscal year 1948 were \$139,908.24.

PEKIN HOTELS

To Gideon H. Hawley goes the credit for starting the first hotel in the village in 1830, shortly after Townsite had been renamed Pekin. How long this hotel operated or how well apparently was not recorded. But we do know that 1839 saw the establishment of the Columbia Hotel, which so far as can be ascertained, was the forerunner of the present Windsor Hotel on Margaret and Fourth.

The year 1848 witnessed the establishment of two so-called "first-class" hotels -- the Eagle, kept by Mr. Seth Kinman and the Taylor House, run by William A. Tinney. This afterwards became the Mansion House.

However, according to the Bates history, the two most prominent hotels of early Pekin were the American, torn down in 1874 and rebuilt as the Planters House; and the Tazewell House, which in 1859 was purchased and operated by William A. Tinney and had the reputation of being "the most commodious and best-kept house in the city", catering to such guests as Abraham Lincoln, Stephan A. Douglas, and other notables of the time. It retained its name until it was purchased by Mr. T.K. Bemis, who renamed it the Bemis House, the name by which it was known until it was abandoned and torn down in the early 1900's and the site converted into the present Bemis Park at the west end of Court Street.

In the summer of 1879, a Mrs. E. Barber added a third story to the building "south of the county buildings," converting it into a hotel, which later became the Woodard House. This was destroyed by fire in 1899.

Reference is made, too, in the Bates 1887 Directory and History, of the erection in 1881 of the Union House at Court and Second by Leonhard Dietrich, and of the Sherman House by John Weber

in 1874 at the corner of Second and St. Mary Streets; and the same directory lists seven hotels operating in Pekin at the time of its publication: Bemis House, 101 Court; Central House, 401 Margaret; Planters House, 423 Court; Sherman House, 201 St. Mary; Tremont House, 501 Court; Union House, 130 Court; and Woodard's Hotel, 424 Elizabeth. We next hear that it was destroyed by fire in 1899, at that site, on which later was built the present Tazewell Hotel. The address is now 350 Elizabeth due to the fact that at that time we had only one 300 block.

When the Tazewell was erected, we are told that it was extremely popular and was usually crowded, especially on Sundays, by traveling men, who preferred its accommodations to those offered in Peoria and other neighboring towns.

Today there are four hotels in Pekin: The Tazewell at 350 Elizabeth Street, with 42 rooms, being the largest; The Illinois, 210 St. Mary; The Windsor, 101 North Fourth; and Central Hotel, 333 Margaret.

PEKIN BANDS

Older Pekin residents recall with pride the days of Gehrig's Famous 7th Regiment Band, an organization which became known throughout Illinois in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. But starting at the beginning, the first Pekin band was organized in 1865 by Edward Gehrig, Sr., a civil war veteran cigar maker.

Before moving to Pekin, Mr. Gehrig had organized a band and an orchestra in Peoria. At that time, there being no orchestra in Pekin, the Peoria music makers were often hired to come down the river to play at dances and other functions. Finally, liking both Leader Gehrig and his enthusiastic interest in music, Pekin lured him away from Peoria to establish his cigar factory here in 1865 -- and, incidentally or otherwise, to organize a community band. In 1880 this became known as Gehrig's 7th Regiment Band, and continued as such until 1925. In 1901, at Leader Gehrig's death, his son, Charles F. Gehrig, took over and continued as leader for 20 years. Thus, for 56 years, Pekin's city band was under the direction of a Gehrig.

In the meantime, in 1870, Roehrs and Dietrich Union Band also furnished music for city and other affairs. In 1885 was organized the Pekin Opera House Band; in 1925, Bauer's Military Band; and in 1925, the Pekin Municipal Band, which was incorporated in 1929 by Karl A. Zerwekh, L.C. Toel, and Dr. G.C. Cleveland. This band today serves

Manufacturers of

F. H. Soldwedel & Sons



301 Elizabeth Street

Phone 28



Timm Soldwedel - 1880

Over eighty years ago Timm Soldwedel moved with his wife and four daughters from Germany to a farm near Manito. With hogs selling at 2¢ a pound and corn at 18¢ a bushel, farming was unprofitable, so, with the offer of some financial backing and the cooperation and help of his family, in 1880 he bought the herd and dairy business from the Zimmerman estate of Pekin and moved to the farm on east Broadway road.

Four sons, all born in America, were too young to help much, so the chores fell to the girls, with Dora taking the milk route, making the daily deliveries for eight years, rain or shine, sleet or snow. In the winter the milk froze in the cans and in the summer two deliveries a day were necessary to deliver the milk sweet. It was hauled in large cans and the customers, on hearing the milkman's bell, brought pitters, pans or pails to be filled at the wagon for 7¢ a quart.

DAIRY PRODUCTS



*Herd on Soldwedel Dairy Farm
36 years ago*

The Soldwedel milk wagon in those days was as popular and well known on the streets of Pekin as are the modern Del's trucks today. Many of Pekin's older residents who were customers in the early days are still having Soldwedel milk and products delivered to their doors today.

The Soldwedel dairy herds were blue ribbon winners many times at the Illinois State Fair, often being driven there on foot. In 1893 they were entered in the Missouri State Fair in St. Louis and practically "won everything" as Hine wired home.



The first auto truck delivery



The Modern Plant

After the death of the father, Timm, it was Fred (now president of the firm) who carried on. He moved the business to a farm on the north edge of Pekin at the end of Capitol street. There with the help of his wife and family, five were boys, Paul, Carl, Fred Jr., and twins Tim and Henry, the business was developed and expanded from the early type of dairy to a modern dairy business.

The next move was to a plant at No. 9 N. Fifth St., where pasteurizing equipment was added. As they outgrew that plant the present location on Elizabeth Street was purchased and the manufacture of butter and icecream was added.



Fred H. Soldwedel, President of F. H. Soldwedel Co. 1949



Deliveries have been going to this home since the days when Miss Dora drove the milk wagon.

As constant growth demanded more and more working space, more buildings and ground were purchased and improved to handle the increased manufacturing and as garages for the many Del's trucks that may be seen on the streets of Pekin, on the highways and in surrounding towns.

During World War II Del's milk and cheese and other products were shipped to army camps near and far.

Today Fred H. Soldwedel is president of the company, with sons Tim and Henry in active management. Growth and progress still go on, new ideas and products are developed and the F. H. Soldwedel Co. keeps pace with the times and grows with Pekin.

SCHWARTZ ELECTRIC CO.

104 N. Seventh St. Phone 743

Domestic, Commercial & Industrial Wiring

50 Years Electrical Experience in Pekin

Knud Svendsen

● General Contractor

*Estimates
Cheerfully
Furnished*

OFFICE AND SHOP 712 DERBY ST. PHONE 1402-J

→ All Work Covered by Workmen's Compensation and Public Liability Insurance

BUILDER OF FINE HOMES SINCE 1940

Colonial ICE CREAM

621 S. Third Phone 2070J



Colonial Ice Cream is so named because of the old fashioned method of manufacturing process used. It's being frozen in an old fashioned tub with salt and ice. Just the way gramma used to make it years ago.

Started by Mr. and Mrs. Ross E. Dickson in September 1947, after Mr. Dickson's release from the Army Air Corps. It is located in a residential district one block south of Washington on Third. A little hard to find but well worth the effort.

"Give me Gitts"

CENTRAL DIST. CO.

Johnny Monge, Prop.

623 So. Second - Pekin, Ill.

Phones - 655 - 1758-W - 92

NEHI

Beverages

Schlitz
The Beer That
Made Milwaukee Famous



the community at public concerts and parades and is directed at present by Harold Beach.

Pioneer band members still living in the community include: Karl A. Zerwekh, Rudy Haake, Ed Joerger, and August W. Lauterbach. Mr. Lauterbach at one time was organizer and director also of an old German Band, "The Hayseed Band" which used to play for Turner dances in the old Standard Theater mentioned elsewhere.

SCHOOL BANDS

Also in Pekin today are three excellent school bands. D.L. Costa directs the Pekin Community High School group; and James A. Keith is director of two grade school groups -- the first band composed of approximately 90 grade and junior high members who have had some musical training and the second

band composed of about 100 members, which acts as a feeder for the First Band group.

THE PEKIN PUBLIC HOSPITAL

A project of Pekin's more recent years, the Pekin Public Hospital, at 14th Street and Park Avenue, has a capacity of 90 beds and 20 bassinets and is equipped to handle all types of medical, surgical, pediatric, and obstetrical cases -- a single exception being communicable diseases; and thus is qualified to give a well-rounded health service to citizens of Pekin and its environs. A non-profit community institution, it is staffed by physicians resident in the community. Equipment includes a blood bank, laboratory, X-ray, incubator bed, iron lung, and other special services.

To the original 18-bed capacity



The beautiful, modernistic structure above represents the plans submitted by George Poppo Wearda, Pekin architect, for the proposed addition to be built onto the west end of Pekin public hospital on the Park avenue side, at an estimated cost of one and a quarter to one and one-half million dollars. The new addition, which will move the hospital entrance from Fourteenth street to Park avenue, will increase facilities from the now-present 92 bed capacity to 150 bed capacity. It also will provide a completely-equipped, top-floor surgical department, and the cost will cover all equipment, including the dishes. Of the estimated cost, \$750,000 must be raised locally, with the larger area industries being counted upon to assume the bulk of the load. With Pekin being given an A-11 priority for hospital expansion in the state, at least 18 percent of the amount has been guaranteed by the State of Illinois, to be made available sometime between three months and a year and one-half, depending upon how soon Pekin will be determined next in line. The new addition will require 15 months to two years to be completed. The original Pekin public hospital was erected in 1913, and the first annex was built in 1930.

Pekin Foundry & Manufacturing Co.

MANUFACTURERS OF

CASTINGS

GRAY IRON
SEMI-STEEL
ALLOY

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

Do you remember way back when the foundry was located on the corner of Court & Fifth Sts., the present site of the Arlington? It was then the Duisdieker foundry owned by Mr. Duisdieker who moved it to our present location in 1893. Since 1926 it has been known as PEKIN FOUNDRY & MFG. CO.

It Lasts a "HOUSETIME"



Yes, an Eagle-Picher Certified Insulation Job actually lasts a "housetime". Water repellent and chemically and physically stable, Eagle-Picher Mineral Wool Insulation will not settle or break down when installed in your house.

Get the comfort and fuel economy that every house needs.

**Order an EAGLE-PICHER
CERTIFIED INSULATION JOB**

Call us for a Free Estimate

EAGLE INSULATING COMPANY

112 COURT ST. TELEPHONE 1770 PEKIN, ILLINOIS

brick building, completed and equipped in 1913 at a cost of \$50,000, was added in 1931 a \$90,000 four story brick south wing annex. Again, in 1940, it was expanded to its present capacity through the addition of a fourth floor to the original building and other improvements; and at present further expansion plans are in the making.

The hospital is a member of the American Hospital Association, the Illinois Hospital Association, the Blue Cross Plan for Hospital Care, and is registered with the American Medical Association. It is governed by a board of nine members and the city mayor, ex-officio member. Bernard Hoffman is president of the Board.

HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

Cooperating with the executive board in securing help and money for hospital needs is the Pekin Hospital Auxiliary, organized in 1941. This group of some 1,000 women, with Mrs. Vernon Heckman, president, pay membership dues of \$1.00 each and carry out two annual projects -- a card party and a bazaar, with bulk profits going to the hospital for special equipment and other needs.

PEKIN PARK SYSTEM

One of the commendable community enterprises of Pekin today is its

splendid summer recreational program. Carried on in the several city parks whose size and location are ideal for such activity are projects including free swimming lessons, supervised games and hobby classes, and fishing derbies for youngsters; an open air nursery for the tiniest members of the family; square dancing for Pa, Ma, and even Grandma; and swimming and boating for everyone.

The Pekin Park District was organized in 1902. However, a Pekin park goes back 20 years previous to the spring of 1882, when a citizens' meeting was held to organize a company, purchase ground, lay out a park, and drill an artesian well. A charter was procured from the Secretary of State, a company organized, and \$5,000 worth of stock issued and sold.

Then a 990 foot well was bored to provide mineral water for Park use and from that the park received its name. In the report of an analysis made by Dr. Emil Pfeifer, head of the Wiesbaden (Germany) Sanitorium, we find that he compared the water to that produced by the spring of Baden-Baden and added: "it will produce the same effects of Baden-Baden or Wiesbaden, especially in gout, rheumatism, stomach troubles or sick headache." A chemical analysis made April 1896 by the University of Illinois showed the water to contain a total of 179.44 grains of mineral matter.

Three thousand trees were soon set



B & H SHOE STORE



The 1880's, left to right: Gus Jahn, Bart Jost, Jr., Bookkeeper (un-identified). Wm. J. Lohnes, Bart Jost, Sr., John G. Heisel.



The same location 1949, left to right: Henry Penno, Dick Ball, Ed Bowman, Mort Bowman.

320 Court St. has been a shoe store location for almost sixty-five years. The original store was known as Ehrlicher's Shoe Store and in the 1880's was operated by Fred W. Ehrlicher (an uncle to George and Arthur Ehrlicher of Schipper & Block Co.) and John J. Fink, partners. A picture of the original store appears on this page.

It was later sold to John G. Heisel and Wm. J. Lohnes and the name changed to Heisel & Lohnes. It remained under their management for fifteen or twenty years when Mr. Heisel bought his partner's share and dropped the name Lohnes from the firm name. (Mr. Lohnes subsequently joined with two business men from Peoria and bought the P. Steinmetz Dry Goods Store which became Lohnes, Merkle & Renfer, where he established a shoe department.)

In its early years, when the repair department was part of the shoe store, Bart Jost, Sr. was the shoe maker and his teenage son Bartlin Jr., who through the span of his life spent over fifty years as a shoe salesman in the 300 block on

Court St., was also an employee of Ehrlicher. To this day old customers reminisce about "good old Bart" when they shop at the B & H where he spent the last active years of his life.

The John G. Heisel Co. continued and after World War I it was remodeled and the present attractive front installed. Quality shoes were featured then as today.

About 1924 it was sold to Sam Sandler, an old shoe merchant from Peoria, who shortly after sold it to two brothers-in-law, Ed Bowman and Sid Herman, who changed the name to the B & H Shoe Store, the name it has carried for the past twenty-three years.

Ed Bowman bought out Herman a few years later. A short time after, his son Mort joined the firm and took over active management. The store has tried to establish a reputation for honest dealings in business and a quality line of merchandise at all times, while keeping pace with the times in modern conveniences and methods.

B & H SHOE STORE

A Good Place to Buy Good Shoes

320 Court Street

Phone 831

PEKIN THEATERS

out in the newly purchased 40 acre tract, a lagoon scraped out, and in 1883 a bath house was erected. During the next years were constructed a swimming pool, a pagoda, and roads and fountains; and the people of Pekin were happy to have a fine park without cost to the citizens. But a cyclone blew down the bath house, the pagoda, and a band stand; the company found itself in arrears, and finally Thomas Cooper, president, paid the bills himself, bought up the stock, put up a new modern building east of the lake, and repaired the bath house. Before this he had offered the park to the city for \$6,000, but his offer was rejected. Some time later he sold the park to Fred and Henry Schnellbacher and Henry Saal for \$9,000. Soon afterward a fire destroyed the club house and the owners again offered the park to the city, this time for \$13,000 -- and again were rejected by a vote of the citizens, showing that the people of Pekin apparently did not want a park. However, in 1902, it was voted to purchase Mineral Springs Park for \$22,500 and thus it became city property. Plans were immediately made and a contract let in 1903 for the erection of a pavilion and a palm house costing approximately \$15,000. The next spring the lake was deepened and improved for use of pleasure boating.

In the summer of 1935, after a second sulphur well had been sunk to a depth of 1,080 feet to establish an adequate water supply, a new 532,000 gallon capacity outdoor pool was constructed, the second largest in the state and one of the finest in the Middle West. In May 1937, the pool project was completed with the opening of a splendid new bath house at a total cost of \$150,000 including the pool. The new bath house has 15,000 square feet of floor space, 12 individual tub rooms, 13 private dressing rooms for women swimmers and hot and cold mineral water for tubs and shower baths.

Besides the pool, Mineral Springs Park, with its 92 acres, contains baseball and soft ball diamonds, 3 concrete tennis courts, a dancing pavilion, outdoor ovens, bench and picnic tables and a lagoon for boating and fishing in summer and ice skating in winter. Pekin also owns 4 other parks: Willow, 2 acres at Willow and North Fifth; Bemis, 1 acre at Front and Court; the Blenkiron Tot-Lot, 1 acre at Park and South Sixth, bequeathed to the Pekin Park district in the will of Miss Anna Blenkiron, May 1945, as a playground for children from 2-6 years of age; and the Park View 9 hole Municipal Golf Course of 118 acres adjoining Mineral Springs to the north and east.

Indoor public recreation in the "good old days" of Pekin's history seems to have been centered mainly around Opera Houses or halls, one of the earliest and most popular having been the Old Empire Hall located on the second floor of a building in the 200 block Court Street. Although the exact date is indefinite, the Old Empire seems to have come into existence some time in the early 1850's, and to have been used for dances, shows, entertainments, graduation exercises, and what not.

The Turner Society, a German organization in Pekin's earlier days, also opened a hall for social recreational purposes about 1867, when they purchased the Old Cincinnati School building on the south west corner of Third and Franklin. In 1890 the Turners built a "grand new Opera House" on the corner of Capitol and Elizabeth, and the popularity of the Old Empire declined in favor of the newer, more commodious quarters.

But about the turn of the century, with the organization in Pekin of a Y.M.C.A. (said to be an Americanization of the German Society), the Turners gradually passed out of existence and the once popular Opera House was converted into the Standard Theater. This was later remodeled into a motion picture theater and renamed the Capitol Theater, which it remained until 1928 when it was razed to make room for the present beautiful \$250,000 Pekin Theater building, erected by Mrs. Anna Fluegel.

But before the time of motion picture theaters, an interesting transition from Opera House days was taking place. The first motion picture theaters, called electric theaters, opened in Pekin in 1906; three of them at approximately the same time, all with most interesting names -- The Dreamland at 302 Court, later changed to the Rialto, which by the way, is the only one of the original three still in operation; the Unique at 9 South Capitol in the Arcade Building; and the Vaudette at 24 South Fourth. The title "electric theater" was soon changed to "Nickelodeon." Others were the Court at 431 Court and the Idlehour where the Telephone Company is now.

Apparently attendance at these early "movies" in Pekin, as well as elsewhere, offered some interesting experiences for the "nickel" fee. Patrons sat on collapsible chairs, facing a sheet draped at one end of the room opposite a projecting machine with the operator mounted on a box. Early patrons here recall with amusement that it was a common practice for the



ROY T. RAU TIRE & APPLIANCE COMPANY

TIRES—BATTERIES—ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES

521 Court Street

Phone 13

The Roy T. Rau Tire & Appliance Company was formed just five years ago. In those five years, this firm has lightened the burdens of Pekin's housewives who have purchased Westinghouse Appliances, and has given Pekin car owners many thousands of carefree driving on Good Year Tires

and Tubes.

Besides the famous Westinghouse and Goodyear name, Rau's sells lighting fixtures, a complete line of electrical supplies used in all home building, Ironrite Ironers, "The World's Finest Ironers," and complete service on all Westinghouse appliances.

EXCEL BRASS & ALUMINUM FOUNDRY

Fourteenth and Ann Eliza Streets

Charles E. Robison started the Excel Brass and Aluminum Foundry from scratch about seventeen years ago. At that time there was one small building and just one employee. Since its beginning there have been eight additions to the Foundry and besides keeping a dozen men busy in two machine shops and

the pattern shop, the business employs about forty workers.

Excel made castings are shipped around the world in the great machines built by Caterpillar Tractor Co. and at the present time they are making parts in all types of non-ferrous metals.

"good castings---good service---honest prices."

JOE OZELLA

COMPLETE FOOD MARKET

Corner Ninth & Derby Streets

PHONE 1805

Joe Ozella has been a groceryman for just ten years, but in those few years his gross yearly business has increased more than ten times. This has been due to diligent work, an amiable personality and fine foods and service.

After working as a coal miner, Mr. Ozella opened his first grocery store in 1939 at the corner of Seventh and Derby Streets, and later built the modern market which now serves hundreds of families in Pekin.

WE LIKE PEKIN

Ten years ago, when we were looking for a permanent home for our Rex Insured Gas and Oil System, we chose Pekin. We liked its friendly people, its cooperative business, its community spirit.

We have been happy to work and grow with this good community, from which we operate our friendly and progressive system of Rex Insured service stations.

And, just as we're proud of our city, we're proud of the fine quality of our products and our service.

-Rex Klump-

REX INSURED GAS AND OIL SYSTEMS

MARGARET STREET AT SECOND

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

machine to break down several times during a show and time taken out for repairs while spectators waited.

At present there are several modern auditoriums and places for dancing available in Pekin schools and other buildings, as well as three motion picture theaters -- The Pekin at Capitol and Elizabeth Streets; The Empire, 327 Court; and the Rialto, 302 Court.

Also there is at work currently a planning committee of teen agers with two adult advisers, attempting to formulate plans for the establishment of a Teen Age Center where Pekin's young people may congregate for recreation purposes.

PEKIN CEMETERIES

The first group burial ground in Pekin was Haines Graveyard, given by Joseph Haines prior to 1830. His daughter-in-law, Jane Adams Haines, was the first tenant of this cemetery.

This was followed, about 1830, by City Cemetery, on the approximate site of the present Quaker Oats Company plant. Here were buried some of the oldest and most prominent citizens of earlier times. However, later it was abandoned as a burial ground except for paupers who were interred there at the expense of the town.

Because of the cholera and malignant typhoid epidemics in the fall of 1834, need for more burial space became imperative and Tharp Cemetery, the present site of Douglas School, came into existence. Later this, too, was abandoned; and when the school was contracted for, the bodies were moved to present Lakeside Cemetery.

We find no more records of cemeteries in the city until 1857, when the Sons of Temperance Order purchased land for burial purposes near the Bluff school. Shortly thereafter the trustees of that order also plotted a cemetery north of town and named it Oak Grove.

To D. Gilman Bailey and his wife is given the credit for platting the original Lakeside Cemetery about 1873. This and Oak Grove and Schillings addition were incorporated in 1901 as the present Lakeside Cemetery, following the formation of a cemetery association in 1898.

A beautiful mausoleum, built at the south end of the cemetery, was dedicated Sunday, June 23, 1929. This is a \$252,000 structure, perpetually endowed containing 11 private family rooms, 944 single crypts, and 90 niches for cremation urns. In December 1948, an electric phonograph system was built for the mausoleum and installed as a memorial to Mrs. P. J. Kriegsman by her

family.

While Lakeside Cemetery was being developed, a Catholic cemetery was being laid out adjoining it to the north; and within the last decade another Catholic Cemetery, St. Joseph's has been established south of Pekin on the South Fifth Street road, outside of the city limits.

As increased population created a need for more space for burials, the new Lakeview Cemetery was laid out on North Eighth Street across from Lakeside, with Frank Rosenberg, Inc. holding the controlling stock interest. To this were transferred the bodies from the abandoned City Cemetery.

The last cemetery to be established in Pekin was the veteran Memorial, also on North Eighth Street, south of Lakeview, a one and one fourth acre plot centered around a memorial shaft dedicated to Pekin's World War II dead. Congressman Dirksen dedicated the Memorial on Sunday, May 18, 1947.

Serving also as a burial ground for Pekin, but outside of city limits, are the recently established Glendale Memorial Gardens, located east of town on the Tremont road.

PEKIN ASSOCIATION OF COMMERCE

The Pekin Association of Commerce had its origin in The Citizens Improvement Association, almost 60 years ago when a group of civic-minded men banded together to go about a systematic activity to secure new industries for Pekin. Everett W. Wilson was president of the group.

Ten years later, in 1900, The Pekin Retail Merchants Association was organized with Ferd Pauley, president, and Fred Helm, Secretary. The purpose of this organization was to promote better business practices and systems. In 1904, the previously organized Citizens Improvement Association, with E. L. Conklin, president at the time, changed its name to the Pekin Commercial Club, and later in 1911 merged with the Retail Merchants Association, retaining the name of the Pekin Commercial Club.

The Pekin Association of Commerce as it is today was reorganized under its present name in April 1916, with William E. Schurman, President; Phil H. Sipfle, association secretary; and Miss Maude M. Smith, assistant secretary, a position in which she is still serving.

Through the years, the organization has grown with the community which it serves, numbering among its members the leading business, industrial, and professional men of Pekin. It is an active organization through which business units cooperate and coordinate their

PEKIN DAIRY

415 S. Second St.

Phone 278

The Pekin Dairy, located at 415 S. Second St., was 10 years old when it was purchased in 1945 by J. Carl and Frieda Law. Their partnership during the past four years has been eminently successful.

Indicative of the growth of The Pekin Dairy are certain startling statistics both in increased production and sales of which Mr. and Mrs. Law are justifiably proud.

For instance in 1945 there were four home delivery routes operated from the Dairy. Today there are seven routes in all. The route salesmen include John Cash, Edwin Lewis, Harold Bastian, Harold Hoyle, Harry Allard, George Epkins, George Deppert and Alma Noard. One relief driver is employed - Norman Morrison. Presley Bastian is employed as the sales manager.

Within the past two years Pekin Dairy has installed its own homogenizing equipment and is now furnishing residents

of this community with Vitamin D homogenized milk containing 400 U.S.P. units per quart of Vitex Natural Vitamin D.

Pekin Dairy is now a "Grade A" plant having met with the rules and specifications set up by the State of Illinois.

Installation of new refrigeration equipment and a larger ice cream freezer has increased the ice cream production to four times what it was when purchased by the present owners.

Today plans are being drawn for extensive additions and remodeling, to include a new store front and greater working space to accommodate the widespread acceptance of Pekin Dairy's products--butter, cottage cheese, milk, chocolate milk, ice cream and orange drink.

Pekin Dairy is adding to the progress of this community both with its building program and with the employment of thirty of its residents.

HINES BROTHERS FARM CHEMICAL STORE

800 South Second

PHONE 824

Joe Hines

Roy Hines

Hines Brothers Farm Chemical Store is not only one of the newest enterprises in the Pekin area, but is also one of the most unique. It was begun in February 1949, and is the only exclusive farm chemical store in Central Illinois.

Chemicals to kill weeds, hoppers, stock insects, household bugs and chicken mites are sold by Hines Brothers, and a complete spraying service is offered.

This new service for Pekin and the surrounding country wishes to congratulate the city on its 100th Anniversary.

HINES OIL COMPANY

800 South Second

PHONE 824

Ten years ago, in February 1939, the Hines Oil Company was founded by Joe Hines, and in those ten years, the company has expanded with Pekin.

Wholesale and retail gasoline

and oil are dispensed from the station at 800 South Second Street, where the slogan is: "I have no quarrel with the fellow who sells for less -- he knows what it is worth."

efforts toward community improvement and prosperity; and as an organization it has been a large contributing factor to the progress of Pekin. The program of the organization covers a wide scope of community activities including the Melon Festival, 4-H Club Show, Santa Claus Parade, Fourth of July Celebration, etc.

Dr. D.W. Turner is current president of the group with Britt B. Blair, association secretary.

EARLY STREET FAIRS

Fairs and festivals are not new to Pekin, for records show a county fair



Pekin's First St. Fair, 1898

held here as early as 1870. However, the city street fairs, held first in 1898 and for several subsequent years were highlights in entertainment with elaborate booths, erected by Pekin merchants to advertise their wares, down the middle of Court Street. A program advertising the second annual Pekin Street fair for October 11-14, 1899, describes the first fair in these glowing terms:

"The first Street Fair in Pekin was witnessed by thousands who went away charmed and delighted. Booths with rich, elaborate, and bright colored decorations were as a feature from Fairyland, and the flower parade was a dream of beauty."

The 18 page program then goes on to advertise the second fair, mentioning singers, dancers, acrobats, bands, and free shows from 16 or more elevated platforms. Wm. J. Conzelman was president of the planning committee; John Shade, Secretary; and Henry Birkenbush, Treasurer.

Included in the program is a list of places of interest to visitors, including Kuhl's Green House, "among the largest and best equipped in the state;" the new Tazewell Club house, and Mineral Springs Park. Railroads offered lowered rates to fair visitors who came from miles around to join in the fun and festivities.



Melon Festival Crowd 1948



THE KUPBOARD

Second Best Place to Eat
11 North Fourth St.

I came.....and Pekin took me in. I closed my place of business in Peoria, Ill., during World War II when I joined the United States Navy. Upon my return to the U. S. A. at the conclusion of hostilities, I came to Pekin and started anew.

The reception I have had here makes me realize that the things I had to do in time of war were worth while!

Therefore, I wish to say to the people of Pekin

Thanks,
Harry Sarnes

Automatic Heating Equipment Co.

901 COURT STREET

Phones 126 and 1935-W

The Automatic Heating Equipment Company became a part of Pekin's business life in 1937, when Alva H. Nash, Ray Stranz and Orval H. Nash began handling Iron Fireman stokers. Seven years later, the company expanded to include heating equipment of all kinds, and the present office was opened, Ray Stranz, who was formerly in the installation and service department, is now the sole

owner of the business, having purchased it on July 1, 1949

Zero water softeners, Bryant gas stoves and electric water heaters, Coleman gas and oil furnaces, Monarch ranges, Jacuzzi water systems, and rock wool or blanket insulation are also sold by the Automatic Heating Equipment Company and they offer day or night service on any type heating equipment.

Norris Grain Company

Grain Merchants

Pekin branch

operating elevators in

Pekin - Manito - Chillicothe

Henry - Hennepin

13th and Derby **DALE B. CORNICK** Phone 1564-M
PUMICE BLOCKS **CONCRETE PRODUCTS**

Dale B. Cornick, concrete block manufacturer, is interested not only in Pekin's past but also in Pekin's future as a city, housed and doing business in well-built, long-lasting structures.

Cornick concrete blocks and bricks, now made in any color or size, are manufactured to last. They are as strong as Gibraltar, and will endure as long. The finest of insul-

ation is assured by use of the new light-weight pumice blocks.

Since 1938, when Mr. Cornick established his factory in Pekin, 2,000,000 durable blocks have been manufactured, but he is constantly seeking, testing and experimenting with the newest designs and materials in order to supply Pekin with the best concrete products obtainable anywhere at any price.



Tazewell County 4-H Club Show 1949 in Mineral Springs Park

Of special interest to Pekinites today are names of present day business firms found among the pages of advertising -- such names as Weyrich and Velde & Roelf, hardware stores, Birkenbush Jewelry, Ehrlicher Brothers' Drugs

and N. Reuling and Schipper and Block, department stores.

The street fairs were discontinued sometime during the early 1900's, to be replaced in later years by homecoming festivals and, beginning with 1947, the annual Watermelon Festival.

THE PEKIN DAILY TIMES

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER — TAZEWELL COUNTY'S ONLY DAILY



Daily, thru the Pekin Daily Times presses (pictured above), flows the news of the great and rich county of Tazewell--its agricultural, industrial, educational, religious, governmental and social news. Information streams in, timed to the great moment--the climax of each day, GOING TO PRESS. Then out it flows thru hundreds of newsboys to tens of thousands of readers.

NOBODY KEPT THE HISTORY

Probably because of the tendency of newspapermen to regard yesterday's events much in the same light as yesterday's oatmeal, nobody has kept a history of The Pekin Daily Times. Started Jan. 1, 1881, by Joe Irwin, some fine men have had their hands at the helm and have contributed of their wit to the Daily Times during these 69 years.

There came, however, unhappy days in the first quarter of this century when the Times passed from this hand to that, and became an organ, first for Tom, then for Dick, then for Harry. Files and records were lost. Finally the skilled and strong hand of McGiffin of Iowa got it. He quickly turned it to Gundersen of New Jersey; and with equal alacrity Gundersen peddled it to McNaughton of Indiana. Having taken it "for better or for worse," McNaughton stuck with it; and altho at first it was "worse," it took a turn for "better" and in the 22 years since, the Times circulation has doubled and doubled and doubled until now it has become one of the strong papers of Illinois and a powerful factor in the life and growth of Pekin and three mid-Illinois counties. The Times is keeping "one jump ahead" of Pekin, and looks forward to greater expansion.



Tazewell Club

THE TAZEWELL CLUB

One of the landmarks of Pekin is the Tazewell Club house, corner of South Fourth and St. Mary's Streets, built at an expenditure of approximately \$12,000 and dedicated February 12, 1896. Records tell us that the dedicatory gathering "probably marks the most notable social event in the history of the city." That the dedicatory program was an elaborate one is attested to by the fact that it included, besides President Henry Herget's address of welcome, two other addresses, a long recitation, and several musical numbers, including selections by Gehrig's Band.

The Tazewell Club was organized in 1893 with Judge George C. Rider, president, and O.F. Weber, secretary of the organizing committee, to "promote the business interests of the city of Pekin and for the social enjoyment of its members," with headquarters where "the professional man, the business man, and the clerk may congregate, during leisure time, to enjoy a few hours in wholesome recreation."

Christened "The Tazewell Club of Pekin", the new organization established headquarters on the second floor of the Friederich Bldg. at the corner of South Fourth and Elizabeth Streets. Here, according to early reports, members "enjoyed the pleasure of a cozy parlor and pleasant reading room, an attractive billiard hall and card room -- all of which were furnished with a taste that was highly commend-

able." And here the club remained until the new club house was completed.

The principal source of revenue then, as now, was a membership fee and annual dues -- at that time \$20 fee and \$18 dues. Soon after organization, the group extended to members of the Pekin Woman's Club and the "Litta" Society the use of club rooms for their semi-monthly afternoon meetings, and the club auditorium still remains the meeting place of the Pekin Woman's Club.

Currently there are some 200 members including both senior and junior memberships, with John Velde, president, and William Conkel, Secretary.

THE "LITTA" SOCIETY

One of the early woman's cultural organizations which flourished in Pekin during the late '90's was the "Litta" Society, organized in January 1892 at the home of Miss Martha Herget, later Mrs. George Steinmetz. Twenty young ladies formed the organization, "for musical and literary instruction, and entertainment for the benefit of friends and members."

In 1898, the "Litta" group joined the 14th District Federation of Woman's Clubs and was active in Pekin's Club history until the early 1900's when it was disbanded.

ARTERBERRY MOTOR SALES, INC.

DeSoto • Plymouth



Telephone 1850

1300-6 Court St.
PEKIN, ILLINOIS

E. E. Arterberry, President
M. J. Arterberry, Vice-President
W. A. Metcalf, Treasurer
Juanita Early, Secretary



Arterberry Motor Sales is pictured above as it appeared on February 23, 1939, when we began supplying DeSoto and Plymouth automobiles to Pekinites.

Arterberry's was like any other small business--it had a struggle to survive. This was accomplished through the confidence of the people of this community and the fine products of Chrysler Corporation. Not only have we survived, but we have grown. Today the most modern equipment, larger facilities and a group of skilled mechanics and personnel are offered.

Each one of our mechanics is a trained technician, and most of them have completed the three-year mechanic G. I. training course. This

schooling has enabled our men to do a "big job for less money," as they know where to look for trouble and how to find it quickly.

We are appreciative of having gained the confidence of many fine people in Pekin and Tazewell County. We like to serve you and your community, and we hope that we may continue to enjoy the same friendly relationship in the future as we have in the past. We still have the Chrysler products. Remember us when you think of DeSoto or Plymouth.

As pictorial proof that we have grown, and will continue to do so with our community's support, here is Arterberry Motor Sales, Inc., as it appears today.



PEKIN WOMAN'S CLUB

One of the oldest community organizations, the Pekin Woman's Club, began as the Columbian Club, organized "to study objects and countries in connection with the 1893 Chicago World's Fair." However, in October 1893, the group decided to make their purpose a literary one and changed the name to The Pekin Woman's Club, with Mrs. W.G. Bailey, first president. The group today has on its roster three charter members of the original twenty-three: Mrs. Franklin Velde, Mrs. Ernest Peyton, and Mrs. Henry Herget.

One of the major projects undertaken by the club during World War I, was the production of "The District School" under the presidency of Mrs. John Shade. This netted a sum of over \$400 which was donated to the Red Cross. Also at this time was organized The Tazewell County Federation of Woman's Clubs.

Membership has grown to about 200, with Mrs. Harry Apfel current president. Bimonthly programs are organized around four topics: The American Home; Art, Drama, Literature and Music; Civics; and Science and Education. The local club is affiliated with the General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

THE JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB

Organized in 1935 with 26 charter members, the Junior Woman's Club, young Pekin women whose ages range from 18 to 30, has grown to include 85 members. Mrs. John Yock is now president of the group, one of whose purposes is community betterment. All profits from club activities are donated to local charity projects.

The club's most ambitious project to date was last year's "Follies" production which netted a profit of \$1,700, set aside by the club for the establishment of a Pekin Teen-Age Center.

PEKIN COUNTRY CLUB

Starting with 98 members, the Pekin Country Club was organized on March 24, 1916, at its present site on East Bluff, on land purchased from the Lemuel Allen estate. William S. Prettyman was its first president.

The farm house which occupied the site at the time of purchase was re-modeled into the attractive modern club house in use today. About ten years ago, the club purchased an additional 50 acres, making an approximate total of 95 acres on which it maintains a nine hole golf course for

use of its some 300 members from Pekin and surrounding Tazewell County towns. Myers Mayberry is the 1949 president.

THE PEKIN Y. W. C. A.

Women of Pekin are justly proud of their efforts in founding and directing a community Y.W.C.A., which came into existence in 1929. To Mrs. Martha Steinmetz belongs much of the credit for its organization.

Always interested in young people, Mrs. Steinmetz had, a number of years prior to 1929, organized and sponsored a Girl Reserve group which held regular meetings in the old barn at the Steinmetz home on Washington Street. Out of this grew the organization of the Y.W.C.A. when a group of Pekin citizens met, formed the preliminary organization, and purchased the John Stoltz property on Broadway to house the newly formed association. Mrs. Mary Holmes Watt was chosen to serve as secretary. Soon, having outgrown its original quarters, the organization purchased the Otto Koch residence at 310 South Fourth Street, where it now actively serves the community.

Shortly after organizing, the local group became affiliated with the National Association of the Y.W.C.A. The Pekin Y.W.C.A. is governed by a board of women directors, headed at present by Mrs. S.O. Cox, and is financed largely by member fees and annual subscription drives and other donations. It carries on an extensive program, sponsoring a number of clubs meeting regularly at the Y for women and girls; directing activities of junior and senior high school Y Teen group, including the sponsoring of summer camp activities; and each winter sponsoring an extensive educational program of classes in various subjects and activities open to Pekin citizens.

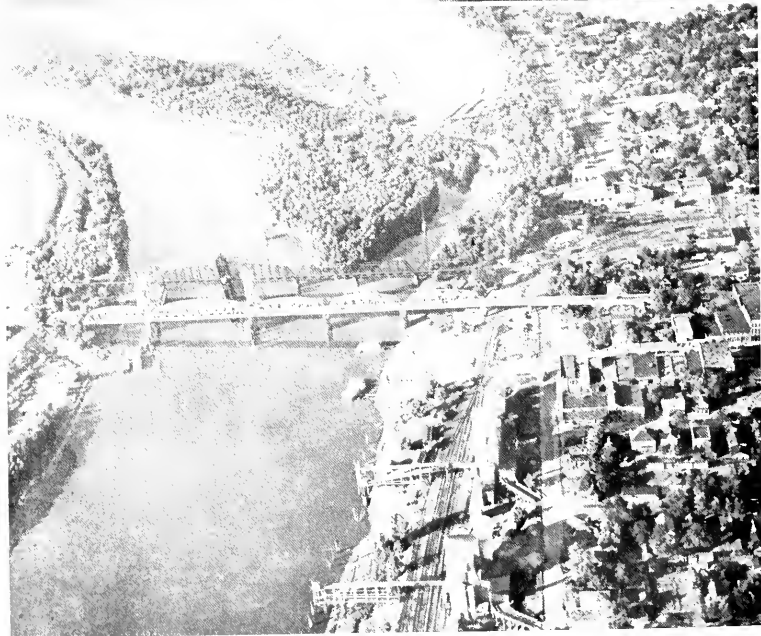
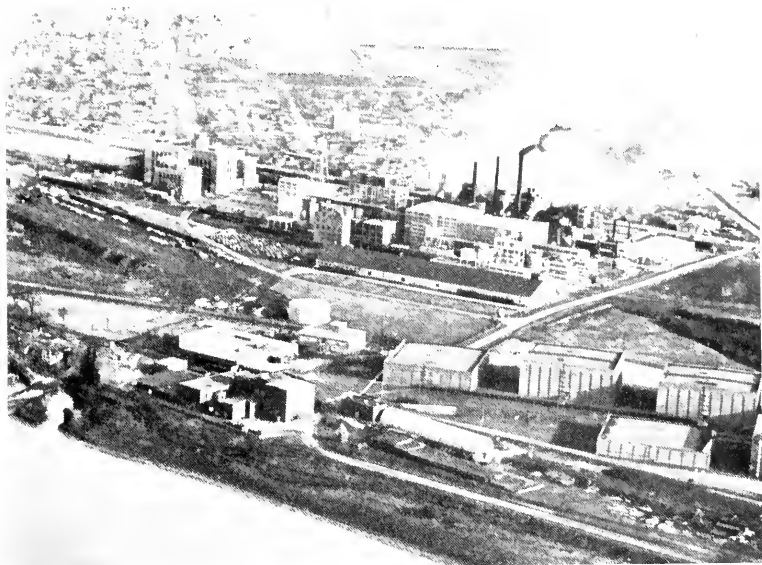
Miss Rose Mary Ebrie is at present the executive director; Mrs. Maude Rupert is house matron, and Miss Pat Stranz is office girl.

PEKIN COMMUNITY CONCERT ASSOCIATION

The newest organization to bring cultural enjoyment to Pekin music lovers is the Pekin Community Concert Association, organized in the spring of 1947, for the purpose of securing outstanding talented artists to present a series of winter programs. Any member of the community may belong by paying the membership fee, which in turn, admits him to the winter concert series, the first of which was held during the winter of 1947-48.

Mrs. O.W. Johnson is now president.

PEKIN'S RIVER FRONT



PEKIN ORGANIZATIONS

Service Clubs

Pekin's seven service clubs all with national affiliations, are concerned primarily with promoting city betterment. The two oldest are the Rotary and Kiwanis organized in 1920. Louis C. Moschel was first president of Rotary, which is now headed by Clarence Preston. Current president of Kiwanis, organized later in the same year, is R. A. Milford. Judge Jesse Black was its first president. Altrusa Club, a woman's service organization with classification similar to that of Rotary, began in 1929. Miss Fern Haning is president now.

The five youngest of the group so far as organization in Pekin is concerned are Cosmopolitan, organized in 1930 and presided over at present by Robert Planck; Exchange Club, 1937, with Walter Schlagel current president; Lions Club, 1940, Mort Bowman, president; and Optimists, 1946, with Ed McClarence now presiding officer.

Latest to have been organized is the Junior Chamber of Commerce, begun in 1946 under the direction of Willard Thompson. Urban Albertsen, Jr., is now president of the some 30 members. All of these groups, composed of business and professional people, carry on yearly projects of civic and philanthropic nature.

Patriotic Organizations

G. A. R. whose auxiliary is the Women's Relief Corps -- organized after the civil war; now extinct in Pekin.

Spanish American War Veterans and its ladies' auxiliary -- begun after Spanish-American War.

American Legion, William Schaefer Post No. 44 -- organized in 1919 and named after first Pekin service man killed in World War I. Oscar Kaufman was first commander of the Post, which now includes veterans of World War I and II. A number of organizations have grown out of the Legion, including 40 and 8, which by the way, has recently erected a beautiful chateau on Bastile Lake, North Pekin; a woman's auxiliary, and two junior organizations. The Legion is at present constructing an American Legion Home at 718 Court Street.

Veterans of Foreign Wars -- Roy L. King Post -- another veteran's group organized after World War I exclusively for men who served on foreign soil. There is also a woman's auxiliary.

Clubs that grew out of World War II

The Tobin-Nanninga Detachment of Marine Corps League -- named after the two Pekin boys who lost their lives at Pearl Harbor. There is also a ladies' Auxiliary.

Pekin Navy Club -- and its Ladies' Auxiliary.

Other Clubs and Organizations

There are at present in Pekin some 200 other clubs and organizations -- social, semi-social, philanthropic and professional in character which lack of space prohibits listing. Pekin also has local chapters of American Red Cross, Tazewell County tuberculosis Association, and American Cancer Society, as well as active groups of Boy and Girl Scouts, affiliated clubs of the Farm Bureau, and various fraternal organizations.

Many other clubs and organizations,



The Chateau, home of the Pekin 40 & 8

VELDE, ROELFS & CO.

INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES
TOOLS - BUILDERS' SUPPLIES - PAINTS
BLACKSMITH SUPPLIES

303-311 Margaret St.

Pekin, Ill.



In 1865 Ties Smith and John Velde formed Smith and Velde, which was the fore runner of the present company. In 1894 John Velde, Jacob Roelfs & Dietrich Velde incorporated as Velde, Roelfs & Co. In 1909 Dietrich Velde purchased the business from his partners.

During these early days of the company, the principal sales effort was directed to supplying the blacksmiths and carriage makers. Felloes, rims, hawns, fifth wheels were among the large selling items that would be unfamiliar to the present generation. The salesmen used horse and buggy to call on accounts in a hundred mile radius of Pekin.

Today the company is actively supplying industrials, mines, utilities and contractors with steel, bolts, chain, wire rope, mechanical rubber products, grinding wheels, electric tools, precision instruments, hand tools and many other allied products.

The corporation officers at present are J. Ernest Velde, President and Treasurer, who has been with the company for 49 years. John E. Velde, Jr. Vice President and Karl B. Velde, Secretary.

We salute Pekin on its steady growth and are proud to have been part of that growth.

then as now, sprang up, flourished for awhile, then gradually died out. It is impossible to mention all these, even to find records of many; but perhaps two of the more influential should be noted -- The Turners, a German social organization which was in its heyday during the latter half of the 19th Century and the Union Club, the story of which is given in the historical account earlier in this publication.

EARLY INDUSTRIES

When older life-long residents begin reminiscing on the "Pekin that was", they invariably recall the ice industry, a giant one in "those days." In fact, Pekin used to be one of the major supply sources for southern markets, especially St. Louis; the ice being shipped on large barges down the river.

Pekin Lake shore, oldsters recall, was practically lined with ice houses, built along Gravel Ridge -- huge affairs, we are told, capable of holding some 20,000 tons each -- owned by the W.A. Boley, Inc. Company who had purchased the business from John Lowmy in 1866. In 1873, the Boley Company bought the lake for \$5,000 and still retains exclusive rights. Most of the lake now belongs to the Otto Koch estate, except the upper part, which is the property, along with Worley Lake, of Pekin Rod and Gun Club. All of these ice houses have since been destroyed by fire.

On Bailey's Lake was the Grant Brothers ice house, with a switch track leading from the lake to the New York Central line. During the height of the season, it is said that the Grant Company sometimes employed from 200 to 300 men to harvest and load the ice.

Coal mining, too, was an extensive industry, which helped develop Pekin, some seven or eight mines having been in operation at one time or another. Although these mines are now closed, such names as Old Hope Mine, north of the present County Club grounds; Champion Mine on Broadway; Bohlander Mine on Court Street near the Country Club entrance; and Ledterman Mine near Bailey's Lake, are still familiar to older Pekinites. A more recently closed mine - in 1938 - belonged to the Ubben Coal Company. Situated near Bailey's Lake, it had been formerly owned by Grant Brothers.

Today, Pekin Mining Company on Broadway, and Lakeside Mine, northeast of Pekin on the Morton Road are the only two in the immediate vicinity still operating.

Until the early fifties, Pekin was known as the "largest and best grain and hog market on the river north and

above Beardstown;" and in a record written years later by Mr. James Haines, one of Tazewell County's earliest pioneers, he recalls that from 30,000 to 36,000 head of hogs were bought and butchered here annually during the thirties and forties; and that "large river boats from New Orleans and the Ohio River came each spring in high water time and lay for days together near the pork and grain houses, bearing away from them, to southern markets mostly, the large accumulated stocks of fall and winter." Mr. Haines tells too of selling his corn in Pekin for twelve cents a bushel and his hogs at \$1.50 per hundred pounds, dressed and delivered at the pork house here. As a by-product of this early grain business, Pekin built large flour mills, another important early industry.

Earlier among prominent grain and produce buyers in pioneer days were Crain, Kellogg and Co., established in the early thirties and generally known as Pekin's first large traders and dealers in "all kinds of merchandise." At their store, located on the north side of Court Street, one "could buy, sell, swap, barter, or transfer."

The distillery trade, too, brought much prosperity to the city. References are made to a distillery established several years prior to 1849, and again to "the well-known McIntyre Distillery purchased in 1867 by the Hon. David T. Thompson and destroyed by fire in 1871." There is on record, too, a notation that in 1886, "the Enterprise Distillery was destroyed by fire but the work of re-building was begun while smoke yet issued from the remains."

From 1870 through the nineties a number of distilleries and breweries were opened -- in 1870 the Phillip Herget Malt House, and in 1871 the Pekin Distilling Company. The Star and the Crescent in 1891 and the Globe (later the Standard Distilling and Distributing Company) in 1892 were founded by George and John Herget; and The American Distilling Company, 1892, by John Wilson and Son, the only one still operating today.

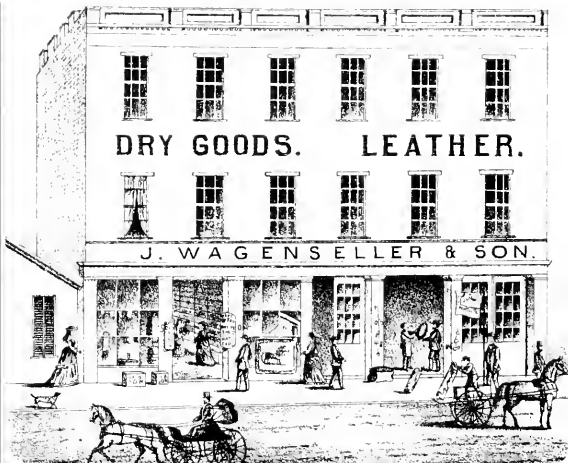
There was also the Winkel Brewing Company established about 1870 at the foot of Caroline Street. In connection with this was a large storage cellar located at the foot of the Country Club hill. To this was taken in barrels, from the brewery, beer which was run by hose into large hogshead for aging. This was later abandoned when a spring broke through and flooded the cellar.

Another thriving business, now non-existent, was the livery stable trade--Stickley's, Kelly's, De Vore's, Crittenden's, and the Palace having been among the popular ones in Pekin's pre-

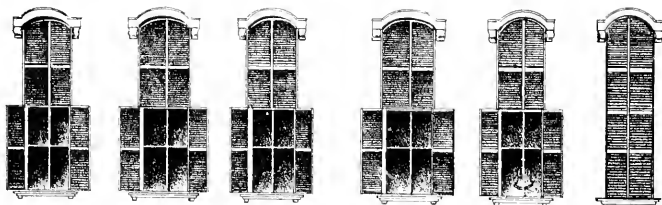
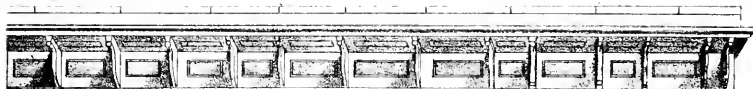
PEKIN
BUILDINGS

IN

1873



VIEW OF J. WAGENSELLER & SON'S BLOCK 48 AND 50 COURT STREET PEKIN ILLS.



OFFICE OF THE PEKIN DISTILLING CO. N. 4 COURT STREET PEKIN ILLS.

WHITFIELD'S BILLIARD PARLOR N. 5 COURT STREET PEKIN ILLS.

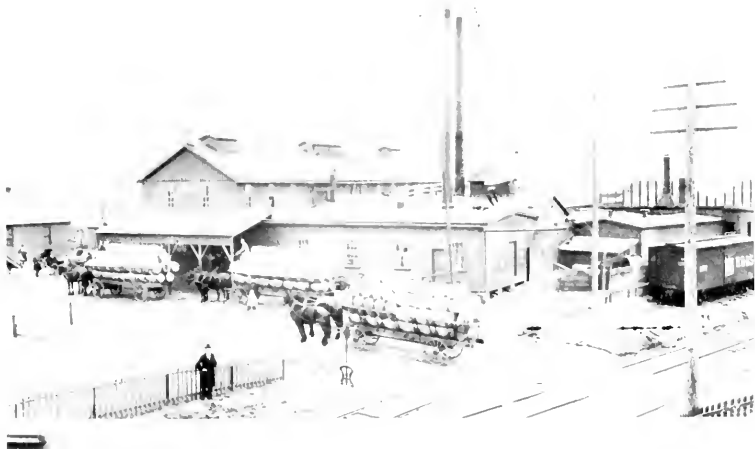
auto days. All of these included as a large item in their services the furnishing of funeral coaches and horses to pull the hearses.

Also outstanding among pioneer industries were the "Smith Shops," the first being the T. and H. Smith Company, manufacturers of plows and wagons, founded in 1849 by the Brothers Smith -- Teis, Henry, and Frederick, and a brother-in-law, Luppe Luppen. By these original partners, together with others, followed the organization of these firms: Smith, Velde & Company, hardware, in 1858; Smith, Hippen & Company, grain, in 1862; Smith Feltman & Company, lumber, 1866; Teis Smith & Company, banking house, 1866; and the

Smith Plow Company, 1876. These industries also made a large contribution to the prosperity of Pekin.

For years, too, the Hinners Organ Company, founded in 1879, was one of Pekin's leading factories, producing thousands of Hinners Reed and pipe organs, sold to all parts of the United States, Europe, and other parts of the world.

The Cooper Shops, a natural companion of the distilling industry, were a block of buildings between Margaret and the railroad from 11th to 12th and employed many men until prohibition put them out of business. In 1919 Montgomery Ward bought the block and opened the Hummer Saddlery which burned out in 1924 and a



*The Cooper Shop and its employees - operated by Tom Edds and Son.
Corner Margaret and 12th Sts.*



DODGE AND PLYMOUTH
PASSENGER CARS
DODGE TRUCKS

COURT MOTORS, INC.

Capitol & Margaret Sts.

Phone 168

Tom O. Cassidy
Your Dodge and Plymouth Dealer
Since 1939

Serving Pekin the Last Twenty of
Its First 100 Years

Complete Car and Truck Service, including
Body Repair and Painting

The Dodge franchise for selling Dodge cars, Dodge trucks and Plymouth cars has operated under the name of Court Garage and Court Motors, Inc., for approximately 27 years, first at 500 Court Street and then at Capitol and Margaret, its present spacious quarters.

On July 22, 1939, Tom O. Cassidy, became the owner and has carried on through the years. Quoting from a statement made at the time of its acquisition, Tom O. Cassidy said: "I have chosen Dodge-Plymouth and Pekin as permanent connections, because mutually they offer me the



The Service and Parts Departments on the Margaret Street Side.



The Sales Department On the Capitol Street Side.

greatest opportunity to successfully serve the motorist; Dodge and Plymouth cars and Dodge trucks are, without doubt, the best values in today's automotive market, and I feel fortunate indeed, to secure this distributorship. Moreover, the excellent and unsurpassed facilities of Court Motors make it a pleasure to invite the motorists to avail themselves of our service. I am deeply gratified with the opportunity to own and operate this business in Pekin, which I believe is the finest city in the United States."

During the war it became necessary for Court Motors, in lieu of no car production, to reduce the organization to a service set-up, which was under the fine and capable management of Cecil Burling. Also, because it was necessary to heed the call of duty, Tom O. Cassidy served in the armed forces in the air corps for four years and eight months and returned to his dealership as Colonel Tom O. Cassidy.

At the same time that Dodge and Plymouth owners were being serviced through Court Motors, the following men served their country during the war: Clement J. Cassidy, five years,

Naval Aviation Lieutenant Commander; Robert F. Cassidy, three and a half years, Flight Officer; Leo Matthews, three and a half years, Technical Corporal; Charles Aby, three years, eight months, Corporal; Clifford Graffis, three months, Seaman first class; Elmer Bastonero, two years eleven months, Private first class.

At the conclusion of the war, in March, 1945, Court Motors, Inc. moved to a much larger and more suitable building at Capitol and Margaret streets, and increased the organization from one of service only, to one of sales and service. In consequence, Tom O. Cassidy proudly presents to motorists of Pekin and vicinity, an organization dedicated to the highest ideals in selling and service.

It is our opinion that the organization is highly versatile because of the fine new personalities we have added and the fact that we are employing a high percentage of ex-service men.

We feel that the history of Court Motors is above reproach and that the present organization has a record of service to Dodge and Plymouth owners second to none.

U. S. TIRES

RADIOS

WIEBURG'S
FINEST AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE
SINCE 1901

5TH AND MARGARET STREETS

In 1901 Mr. Louis Wieburg opened a harness shop in the 200 block Court Street. As time progressed and as the auto replaced the horse Mr. Wieburg foresaw the need of a tire shop and moved to the 300 block Court Street and from there to the 400 block Court, branching out to automotive accessories. Expanding with each move, he purchased the building at 5th & Margaret and added an automotive repair shop to his already established business, which has served car owners of Pekin and vicinity for over 48 years. Mr. Wieburg died in 1946 leaving the business to his son Wilbur L. Wieburg who now owns and operates the business at this same location.



HORTON'S

PAINT & WALLPAPER
STORE
RETAIL - WHOLESALE
431 Court St.
For 12 Years
PEKIN'S MOST COMPLETE
STORE FOR DECORATORS'
SUPPLIES

IMPERIAL
Washable
WALLPAPERS

COLONIAL GIFT SHOP

Giftware - Home Furnishings - Linens
Broadway at 10th Pekin, Ill.

Auto Upholstering - Seat Covers

Glass Cut & Installed

HAROLD V. ANDERSON

Since 1945

Bus. Phone 2128 305 N. Fifth St.
Res. Phone 1574-M Pekin, Illinois

PEKIN CLEANERS

Harold & Elaine Ledrich
Phone 252 513 Court Street

Congratulations to Pekin

ALLENS VOGUE

Dress Shop 313 Court Street

HERBIG'S

Delicious Sandwiches
Homemade Ice Cream
900 Court Street Phone 1829

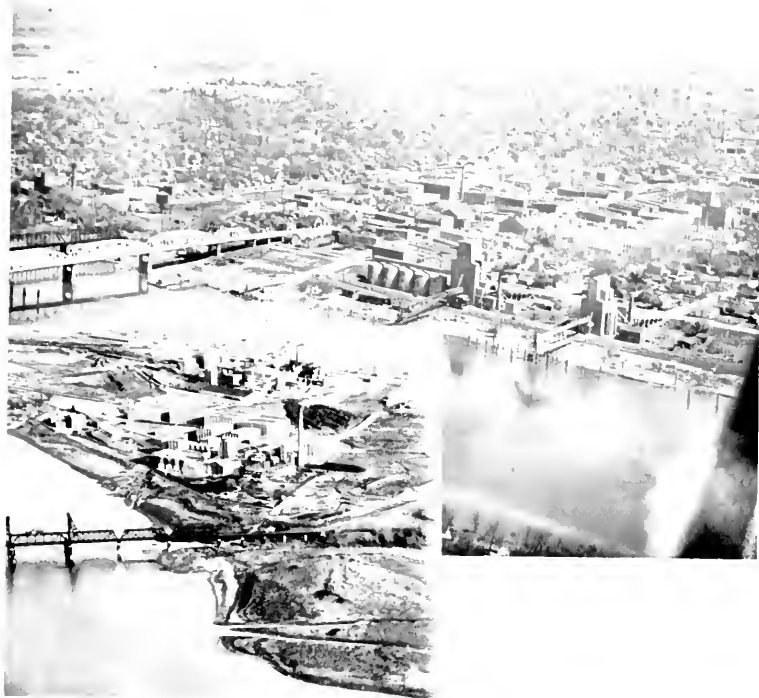
PEKIN SANITARY SUPPLY
Heating Electrical Materials
Phone 2296
206 Court St. Pekin, Illinois

PEKIN AIR SERVICE

P.O. Box 548 Phone SP 58
Pekin, Illinois

PEKIN SANITARY SUPPLY
Plumbing Materials Phone 2296
206 Court St. Pekin, Illinois

CRENSHAW & JOST
Engineering & Architecture
512 Court St. Pekin, Ill.



year later it was bought and rebuilt by the Pekin Leather Products Co., a local corporation headed by Ed. Aufderheide. It operated until harness making declined with the motorized age and the buildings are now used by Kriegsman as a warehouse.

The Hodges Header Works which later became the Acme Harvester Co., occupied the area between Broadway and Court Streets from 8th to 10th, now the James Athletic Field and a large residential area. In the early 1900's the Acme moved to Bartonville.

Two brick yards, several foundries, a gun-stock factory, and a furniture factory are also listed among prominent industries operating in Pekin in by-gone days. Interesting is the fact that early furniture dealers did undertaking on the side, and Mr. Adolph Fehrman, long time Pekin resident, recalls the days when he, as a hoy, trimmed coffins made in Pekin's three story furniture factory.

So much for early industries, all of which have paved the way for industrial Pekin today with its some 50 manufacturing and service establishments, employing over 4,500 workers. Its ample

water supply, and the availability of raw materials, including coal, gravel, sand, and grain have attracted many industries, manufacturing diversified products including starch, sugar, corn oil, yeast and malt products, liquors, chipboards, grey iron castings, brass, copper and aluminum castings, steel tanks and burial vaults, structural iron, electricity, artificial ice, washed gravel and sand, cement blocks, ice cream, butter and other dairy products, greenhouse products, cabinet and woodwork, and other various products. Pekin is still a leading grain market, having three elevator warehouses, with a total capacity of 385,000 bushels.

Because of lack of space, no attempt has been made to list specific industries and services in this section, however, most of these are included, in individual advertisements, in this publication.

As one compares the classified listings in the 1948 City Directory with those in the Bates 1887 Directory, he is interested, not only in changes in terminology such as undertakers for funeral directors, maltsters, saloons,

<p style="text-align: center;">SIEG PEORIA COMPANY AUTO SUPPLIES 405 Elizabeth</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Season's newest styles first Lofthouse Dress Shop 436 Court Street</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">SOUTH SIDE CLEANER 804 Derby Street Phone 2262-J</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DENISON INDUSTRIAL CORP. Supplier of component machine parts 14th & Broadway</p>
<p>Pick up & delivery service Jim Hill Leo Bennett</p>	<p>ROXY'S - a good place to eat 304 Margaret St. Phone 961-J Farischon Bros. Proprietors</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GEORGE POPPO WEARDA Architect 335 Court Street</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">LITTLE STAR Cleaners & Dyers Since 1912 Ph 350</p>
<p>A NU BEAUTY SALON B.C. Payne, Prop. 412 Court Street</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">For over 22 years CENTRAL BOOK & TOY STORE 345 Court St. Opposite Court House</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TAZEWELL HOTEL 350 Elizabeth Street</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CLUB FLAMINGO Streamline Bar - Dine & Dance Tremont Road, Rt. 9 - Ph. 1703</p>
<p>GEBHARDT BROS. Maurice & Andy Poultry-Eggs-Hides-Dressed Poultry Since 1915 - - - - - Phone 1080</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WALTER C. DIEHL ELECTRIC COMPANY Electrical Contractors Since 1932 366 S. Capitol St. Telephone 306</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">TAZEWELL HOTEL DINING ROOM Serving Home Cooked Food New in '49 Velma Albertsen, Prop.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREGERSEN'S GREENHOUSES 1300 North 2nd. Phone 934</p> <p>In 1932, Arthur I. and Edna M. Gregersen purchased the Haase Bros. Greenhouse. Mr. Gregersen has since then originated a geranium known as "Gregersen's White" which received favorable mention in the National Florist Magazine.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BARTONVILLE BUS LINES INCORPORATED 613 Court OPERATING BETWEEN PEORIA & PEKIN FOR A QUARTER OF A CENTURY</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">OLT'S Poultry Market Geo. Olt - Since 1947 - Len. Olt 422 Margaret Phone 238</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Since 1932 TAZEWELL PAPER, CANDY and TOBACCO CO. WHOLESALE JOBBERS</p>

wood turners, etc., but also in the present day products and services not listed 60 years ago -- radio, air conditioning equipment, airplane school and airport, ambulance service, automobile agencies, beauty shops, cleaning establishments, diaper supply service, electrical appliances, etc., and he wonders what interesting changes the 2049 directory will show!

Many other points of interest could and should be elaborated upon, were space not limited -- attractive well-kept homes and public buildings, thriving industries, well-kept streets, splendid recreational facilities in-

cluding city soft ball leagues, horse back riding, skeet shooting, bowling (Pekin is noted for the fact that it has the highest per cent per capita of bowlers for its population of any town in the United States) and a variety of others mentioned previously in connection with city parks -- these and the ones already discussed in this section along with a strong sense of community interest and pride on the part of Pekin citizenry point back to a 100 years of splendid achievement and predict a future of unlimited possibilities built on the heritage of today.

This Edition of the Centenary, as published, is actually a "first draft" of such history. Time has not permitted the usual checking, editing, corrections, additions and deletions or any professional polishing of the material after it was somewhat hastily assembled.

Undoubtedly, as a result, there will appear some errors and oversights. Nevertheless, it is felt that this represents the most complete overall assemblage of history and information on the city of Pekin available, and is unlike any other approach to the city's past.

An endeavor was made to prepare an "honest" history without any attempt to color or glorify the city, but just to tell its story as accurately as it can be pieced together from records, presented by existing firms and agencies, and depicted in pictures suitable for reproduction.

It represents a heavy burden of work crowded into a comparatively short time, and the Association of Commerce is indebted not only to the workers formally credited herein but to the host of advertisers and friends who volunteered pictures, information and aid.

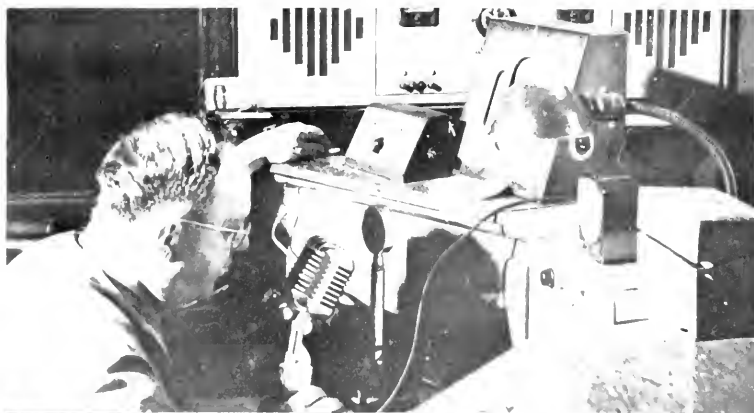
<p>1931</p> <p>EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE in the heart of Illinois</p> <p>1949</p> <p>AFFILIATED COLLECTION AGENCY</p> <p>218 Arcade Bldg. Pekin, Ill. Bonded National Affiliations</p>	<p>BUENA VISTA FLORAL SHOP</p> <p>350 Buena Vista Ave. Since 1948</p> <p>Gertrude Skaggs Floral Arrangements</p>
<p>KUECKS HARNESS & REPAIR SHOP</p> <p>1891 1949</p> <p>In the "Gay Ninties" Mr. Wm. Kuecks purchased the Charles Stickley Harness Shop at 345 Court St. and in 1899 moved to 411 Court, where he continued selling and repairing harness for forty years. Now located at 611 Ann Eliza, Mr. Kuecks has the only harness repair shop in Pekin or Peoria. His wife, Matilda, still assists in the long established business.</p>	<p>MONROE' S HANDEE HOUSE</p> <p>Webb & Louise Monroe</p> <p>DRIVE-INN OPPOSITE STADIUM - NEW IN '49</p> <p>THE SCHURMAN AGENCY</p> <p>Insurance in all branches</p> <p>406 Court St. Telephone 161</p> <p>Serving the public for more than 50 Yrs.</p> <p>L. C. SCHURMAN</p>
<p>CRAWFISH BUFFET</p> <p>Beer & Liquors 300 Margaret</p> <p>"Amos" L. Stolin</p>	<p>DeKEUSTER -12 N. Capitol...Since 1932</p> <p>for 38 years a shoe repair man</p> <p>Shoe Repair Dry Cleaning</p>

J. M. STEGER PAINT COMPANY

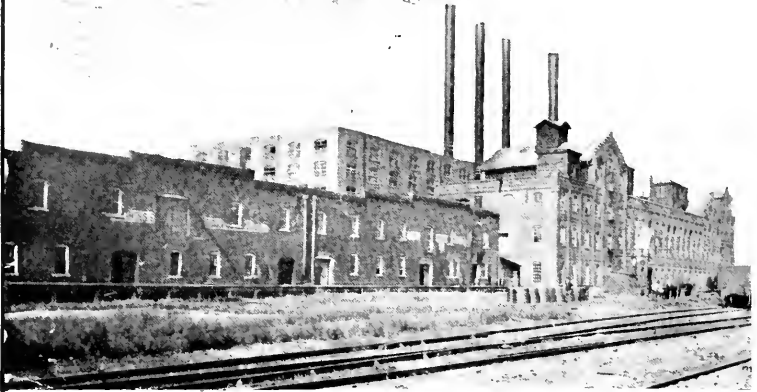


Washington Junior High School

PEKIN HAS AN ACTIVE CITY GOVERNMENT



CORN PRODUCTS



IT is just after the turn of the century. It is 1906. Pekin is 57 years old. Teddy Roosevelt is in the White House. One of the most popular automobiles is the Maxwell, probably the same model as Jack Benny's.

The Chicago White Sox on August 1 were at the top of the heap. Marshall Field and Company in Chicago were advertising women's corsets for 38¢ each. A French Table d'Hote dinner at a fashionable restaurant was 50¢.

And the price of corn was 50¢ a bushel.

In that year Corn Products Refining Company was formed and the Pekin plant became one of CPR's properties.

Back in those days -- sometimes erroneously called "the good old days" -- there were about 350 Pekin plant employees. The minimum rate was 16 2/3 cents an hour.

In 1906 all employees worked 12-hour shifts and when the shifts changed it was customary to work 18 hours. And at straight-time pay.

Today, approximately 1250 employees - 900 new jobs for Pekin area men - operate our plant. The minimum rate is \$1.20 an hour. Eight hours is a standard day and forty hours a standard week and overtime is paid for hours worked over the eight and the forty.

In 1906 the Pekin plant ground 13,000 bushels of corn a day.

Today, Pekin plant is the second largest corn grinding plant in the world. We have the capacity to grind 65,000 bushels of shelled corn in a 24-hour period. In other words, it takes about 2,000 acres of farm land to supply our daily need.

Behind the Pekin plant's tremendous strides in 43 years is a story. And it began the year Corn

REFINING CO.

Products took over the plant. The story is told in the words "modernization" and "expansion". Each modernization project brought better working conditions and increased production which in turn meant more jobs and higher wages and greater job security.

Down through the years CPR has added to the security of its employees by offering many benefits beside their pay. Group Life insurance, sickness and accident benefits, hospitalization insurance, retirement payments, paid vacations, up-to-date medical and first aid service, and canteen service. In addition, the company sponsors and contributes to recreational activi-

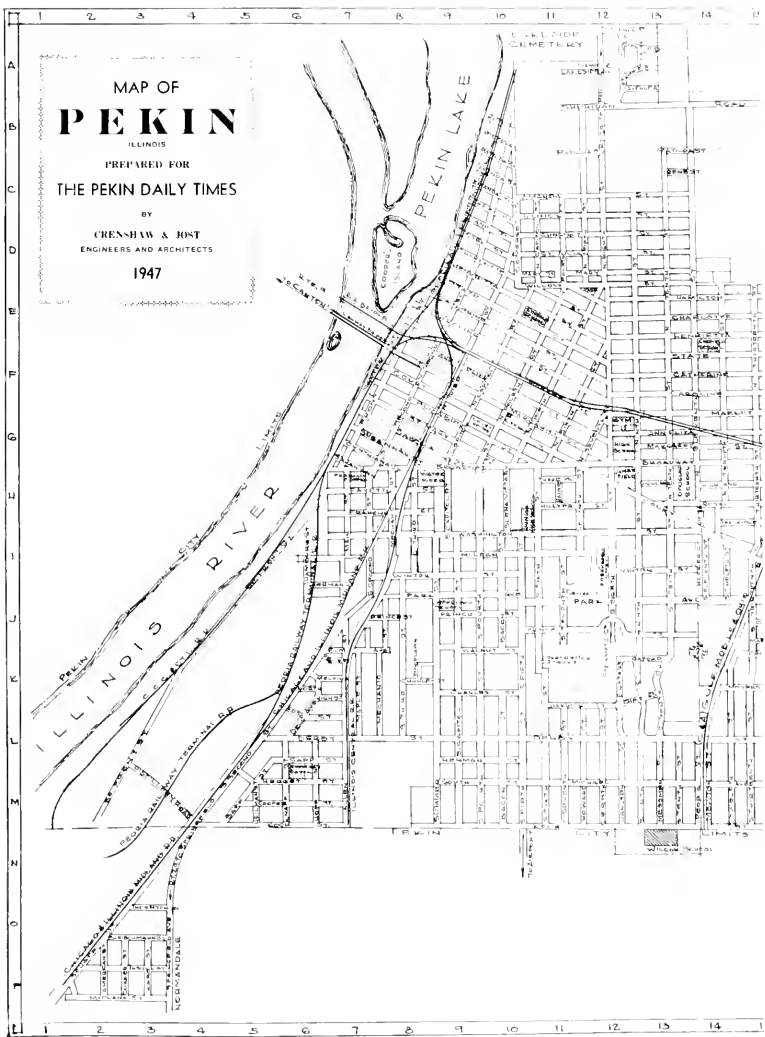
ties for employees.

And what has made this possible? Corn Products' decision to plough back into the business a portion of each year's earnings is one factor. The other factors are the growth of the community and the type of people - many of them future CPR men and women - attracted to Pekin.

Also, feeling it has a responsibility to the community in which it is located, Corn Products contributes to local civic and welfare organizations.

Growing right along with the city, Corn Products is pleased to be a business resident and to pay its respects on the 100th birthday of Pekin.





CONKLIN LUMBER CO.

From 1858 to 1949, 91 years, the name Conklin has been identified with the corner of Second and Ann Eliza streets.

Major Ketcham S. Conklin came to Pekin in 1858 from Greenpoint, Long Island, now Brooklyn, N. Y. Four years later he joined Co. F, 8th Ill. Volunteer Infantry, Lincoln's first call for 90-day men to put down the Rebellion of the South. Civil war was not to be ended so soon. He then enlisted for three years or term of war. He served as Orderly Sergeant and then Lieutenant. Could have been captain of a colored company but preferred to stay with the Pekin boys.



E. L. Conklin

In 1864 while on furlough, he married his sweetheart of before Civil War. She was Martha Doolittle who was born in Waynesville, Ill., near Atlanta. Benj. Doolittle, her grandfather, lived in a log cabin at Second & Court streets. One block south was a stockade, named Fort Doolittle after him, dating from the period of 1832 during the Black Hawk War, when Abe Lincoln was Captain of a company in that war.

Mrs. K.S. Conklin's father was Rawley Doolittle. He bought cattle in central Illinois and was very well known. He was a good man and admonished his two daughters to speak evil of no one and while on witness stand he answered "That Man" and said no more.

Major Conklin at 12 years worked in a grocery run by Mr. Holmes. Later he went to Vermont and worked two years for Mr. Rankin and his sister on their farm which produced the year around. Turkeys were raised and bought far and near for holidays. Maple sugar was made and razorback hogs raised. Going home he got homesick to see his brother Asa, in business in Chicago, so there he went at 16 years old. He had a good father and mother and respected highly the grocer Holmes and Mr. Rankin the farmer.

Major Conklin was a very public-spirited man in many ways. He was a strong Republican, with very little schooling but a great reader of the Chicago papers. He learned much of political history and was ever able to champion Republican cause from Lincoln down to his death in 1918. Mr. and Mrs. Conklin celebrated their golden wedding in 1914.

E. L. Conklin in boyhood days, was with his father after school and during vacation days. It was a pleasure to hear him talk of business, politics, economics and of his war days. E.L. Conklin being crazy to earn his own living, lost three years of High School by going to Chicago at 16. Went to Bryant & Stratton business college. It cost my father \$250. This I paid back at age 30 with compound interest on Thanksgiving Day with bldg & Loan stock of \$462 value. He was offended but soon got over it.

My first job on finishing six months college was Wabash R. R. at \$30 per month. Not liking being a mere cog in a big machine, went into a large Real Estate Co. at \$6.92 per week, which is \$30 per month. Was offered a job at \$10 per week which W. A. Merigold & Co. wouldn't meet, so went to Edison General Electric Co. This was one of eight districts. Worked up to \$70 per month and again realized I was a part of a big machine, and decided to learn hardware business. Met Mr. Hibbard of Hibbard, Spencer & Bartlett who told me they started boys in at \$3 per week, they lived at home, and that I

Corner Second and Ann Eliza Streets

couldn't live on that. I did admire his attitude and kindness.

Finally I went into the lumber firm of Crandall, Schultz & Co., Wholesalers, at \$50 per month, after 30 days hunt for a lumber job. Mr. Crandall after my being with them two years, had a nephew who came from Montana to room with me. Mistaking his bright gabby nephew for ability I felt I had no future there, so informed both members of the firm I was going home. They begged me to stay at \$70 a month. I couldn't say why I was leaving as they were fine people.

It was a coincidence that father and son both went to Chicago at age 16. In Chicago I learned much and read Chicago papers and library books, so had no difficulty in earning my own living and never asked for a penny from home.

It was my privilege and honor to have been associated with my father in business from 1893 until his death in 1918.

Conklin Lumber Co. built many residences and public buildings and have always enjoyed good trade. To mention some still existent, are: the City Hall, Tazewell Hotel, Tazewell Club-for \$10,000, Franklin School, Old Opera House, Park Pavilion and Palm-house, American Distilling Co. large barrel rack warehouse. Remodeled the Lemuel Allen farmhouse for Pekin Country Club. Architects were called to plan how to remodel, without result. Finally Conklin Lumber Co. showed the way and did the job as it is now. The half-pitch roof was not disturbed.

The old original school was built long, long ago. E. L. Conklin at seven years old attended it. It was of old architecture and quite large. It was the school I left in 1886 to go to Chicago. It served as the only school from about 1865 till it was destroyed by fire in 1890.

The new High School was built shortly after at \$25,000, by this firm. Plans were received from architects from many towns, Lincoln, Decatur, Bloomington, Peoria and others. My uncle John D. Handbury, draftsman and foreman of this concern, submitted plans which were accepted. It was built in shape of a St. Andrew's Cross. This large 8-room structure gave the daylight at side and back of pupils and served around forty years, until Junior High School replaced it.

Coming back to Pekin in World Fair year, 1893. I brought along Chicago ways. Feeling that one laudable thing a year would be good for town and business, I collected \$400 and secured the famous Gehrig's Band for 13 Saturday afternoon concerts to bring the farmers to town. We were in the Grover Cleveland times of free trade by too low a tariff law. It allowed manufactured goods and agricultural products to flood the country. And did we go to the bow-wows? Our country sunk to its lowest level since Lincoln's administration. As it was, the tariff wasn't low enough for Cleveland. He wouldn't sign it and declared it an Act of Perfidy and Dishonor. It became law without his signature.

1895--Joined the Citizens Improvement Association, composed of leading citizens. Its purpose was to secure factories for Pekin. Most of the ones we have now are due to Henry G. Herget, E. W. Wilson and V. P. Turner. I later became president and changed the name to Commercial Club, the dues to six times the old rate and secretary to 23 times the salary. Several years later the name was changed to Association of Commerce with plural memberships, the largest institution taking eight and Conklin Lumber Co. four.

We Aim to Satisfy

CONKLIN LUMBER CO.

Organized Co. G, 5th Ill. Nat. Guards, Mustered in Feb. 1896. In 1897, thru Co. G committee, had every organization in town to name a committee to participate for a 4th of July celebration. Calling a meeting in April or May at Turn Verein Opera House, we had nearly 200 present. Organization was effected; Conklin made president; W. J. Conzelman, Finance; Lieut. Sellers, Amusement; Col. J. M. James, Treas.; V. P. Turner, railroads. Submitting long hand letters to Mr. Turner for railroads, stating what we were going to have as a celebration etc., and asked for a \$1 round-trip passenger rate from Springfield, Decatur and other towns, which we got.

A committee for funds consisted of Conzelman, Franklin L. Velde and Conklin. Mr. Conzelman was busy so much, it devolved on Velde and Conklin. Highest amount given was \$20, but few of them \$10 and \$5s. It was a big job to get \$1500 and took lots of time going again and again to secure what we felt should be given. Those days were ones of little business and people were hard up.

Under the arrangement we had six companies of militia for parade and competitive drill; bicycle races; balloon ascensions and many other attractions. The immensely large crowds from many towns were very pleasing to Pekinites.

As president of the Retail Merchants Association, much was done by many leading merchants to correct the loose credit situation and very much time and thought was devoted to a rating book.

Was charter member of Tazewell Club, 1893, and served as president some years after. Still a member.

President McKinley declared war on Spain Apr. 25, 1898. Spain had a war vessel in New York harbor which wasn't molested. The battle ship Maine was blown up in February in Cuban harbor. April 15th Conklin got a letter from Col. J. S. Culver of 5th Ill. Nat. Guards, to recruit Co. G up to 100 men with little noise. Monday night the 16th, we had 74 volunteers and went into camp at Springfield Apr. 27 with 103 men. Mustered into U. S. service for 2 years or term of war. From there we moved to Chicamauga Park, Tenn., thence to Ringgold, Ga., and up to Newport News, Va. Our commander, Gen. Fred Grant, Son of President Grant, left for Porto Rico on Yale transport. James Boling was our Co. bugler and detailed to Gen. Grant so he went to Porto Rico. We were to follow on the Obdam which was dirty and foul smelling. Our Major and Co. G were the only ones who didn't sleep on it. We slept on concrete in warehouse. Next morning, in Aug. Peace Protocol had been signed.

Admiral Dewey fought the Spanish fleet and had won Manila, P. I. and Cervera's fleet at Santiago Harbor was licked by Admirals Sampson and Schley. It was a bitter disappointment to 5th Regiment boys not to get away. But it was for the best. Yellow Fever was in Cuba, which Gen. Wood cleaned up. Our chief trouble was dysentery and typhoid fever. Our regiment moved from Newport News to Lexington, Ky., and to Springfield. Mustered out of U. S. Service Oct. 16, 1898. Arriving home we marched to Court yard where many tables were set for eats. Welcome home speeches were made, followed by Gehrig's Concert while we ate.

The two-mile grade road, across the river a long time ago, was built with tarvia surface by we Pekinites money. Later on it became so vile with ruts and holes five miles per hour was best speed obtainable. The present concrete road is the result of raising \$15,000 before the state would do anything. Thirty business men met

Corner Second and Ann Eliza Streets

and each signed a note for \$500. Conklin was handed the job to collect by subscription to reimburse the thirty signers. I asked Carl G. Herget and Phil A. Siple to help me. We secured close to \$15,000. McElwee & Rogge, after two years delay by them, built the present road. The city donated \$5000 and Pekin township \$5000.

Uncertain as to how much could be collected after such a delay, we collected the list as it was, two years old. Notes at bank of thirty signers were paid and cancelled. We closed this chapter by issuing dividend to donators of 52%. Conklin Lumber Co. gave \$150. Also gave money for old tarvia road, bluff road and Second St. road.

Pekin had many Street Fairs and I was a worker in a large way. They brought lots of people from a large area. Conklin Lumber Co. always had a very creditable booth.

Member of German Maenerchor. Sang in concerts at Opera. At St. Paul the Northwest Sangerbund had four concerts. Peoria Concordia and Pekin went there for \$5 a round trip. Four practice mornings gave us \$4. Lodging and meals were furnished. 3000 singers sang to audiences of 15,000 each concert.

My father was a member of Empire Masonic Lodge. I joined fifty years ago. The former was a Knight Templar, the latter a 32nd degree Mason. We both became members of Mohammed Shrine. I am a charter member of Pekin Country Club and Pekin Rotary Club.

My father passed thru four depressions. I passed thru six. Chronologically, they were: 1873, 1893 to 1897, 1907, 1914 to 1916. These four my father experienced. My six were: 1893 to 1897, 1907, 1914 to 1916, 1932, 1937, 1949 now under some apprehension.

Our country should come back if we do not give all our taxation money away. Cut out a lot of needless expense and also the wanton waste. Thereby we can assure ourselves of keeping it a republic.

Conk' in Lumber Co.'s policies are a reflection of the character of the individuals who run the business. Reputation is well defined by recent president of Packard Motor Co., who said "Reputation achieved is a tyrant. It whips you on to retain it."

Our motto of 45 years "We aim to Satisfy" is explanatory in many ways. It is so worthy there have been many imitations in Peoria and elsewhere. We have always tried to give good grades at reasonable prices.

Our service has been of the highest and free from ulterior motives and the desire of mere greed.

The outstanding members of this concern were: Wm. Weiss, K. S. Conklin, Ernest Schurman, Robert Schurman, Albert Hippen, P. V. A. Reuling, Robert Hornish, Roscoe Hill and Fred Meyer.

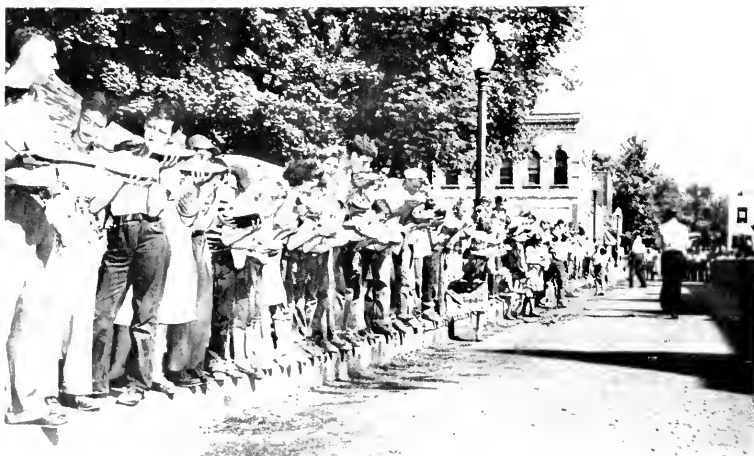
Our present organization consists of Mrs. Clara Cranwill, Tilford A. Olsen, Mrs. E. L. Conklin, Mrs. Martha Olsen and

Yours Sincerely
E. L. Conklin
President

CONKLIN LUMBER COMPANY
Cor. Second and Ann Eliza

We Aim to Satisfy

THE YOUNGER GENERATION





EUGENE F. LOHNES
PAUL P. SCHERMER

LOHNES PRINT SHOP

24 S. FOURTH STREET

TELEPHONE 557

1923-1949

Selling needles to the neighbors when a very young boy, earned for Eugene F. Lohnes the reward of a very small hand printing press with which he started "learning the trade" as a hobby. As his interest and experience grew with the years, larger hand presses were acquired. After finishing high school, working several years in factory offices, a period of war service and the establishment of a family, he finally set up the Lohnes Print Shop in the Arcade Building in 1923.

Business prospered and help was soon needed. It was then that Paul P. Schermer, who was an apprentice at the Free Press, was hired and being a good workman was soon given an opportunity to become a partner in the business as he has been ever since. Today you will find him in the shop turning out quality work,

both letterpress and offset, with the help of another experienced printer, Walter F. Petzing who commutes from Peoria, Ill. In the office can be found Olive M. Lohnes (Mrs. E. F.).

In 1925 the Lohnes Print Shop bought the job printing department of the Pekin Daily Times and moved in with the newspaper at 26 S. Fourth Street. After Mr. McNaughton bought the newspaper in 1926, in spite of the crowded conditions for both growing organizations, we continued in that location until 1941 when the newspaper bought and moved to its present corner location and rented to us the connecting building, which was part of the Zerwekh building and during its history has housed Pekin's first movie, an undertaker, a garage, a tavern, and for the past eight years the Lohnes Print Shop.

"SPEAKIN' FOR PEKIN"

MARGE BRENNEMAN, 320 South Fourth

Phone 2327

JUNE WIEBURG, 1500 S. Capitol

PEKIN, ILLINOIS

For the first time in Pekin's century of growth, newcomers to the Pekin trade area are welcomed to the "Celestial City." This welcoming service was inaugurated in October 1949 by Marge Brenneman and June Wieburg, two native Pekinites.

Recognizing the need for acquainting new residents in this area with Pekin's shopping facilities and the advantages of trading with its merchants, Marge and June organized "Speakin' for Pekin."

Through the cooperation and enthusiastic support of Pekin's business men, each newcomer receives pertinent information about the community and a basket of gifts.

Although "Speakin' for Pekin" is a small enterprise, its founders believe that during its brief history it has served the community well by offering a welcoming hand for Pekin's businessmen to 400 families in the past eleven months. However, their efforts can be effective only when the community cooperates by aiding them of the arrival of newcomers.

Plans for the future envision Pekin's continued growth and prosperity in which "Speakin' for Pekin" hopes to play an important role in extending to our new residents the hospitality of Pekin's business, social and professional population.

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THE PARK PROVIDES RECREATION FOR ALL



PEKIN HAS ACTIVE VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS





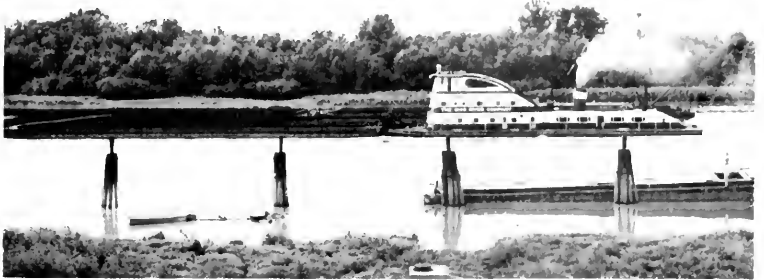
EVERYBODY LOVES A PARADE





CORN COUNTRY





A STREET IS RESURFACED, ANOTHER IS CLEANED AND DEAD ELMS IN THE PARK ARE REMOVED





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