

Resource People

WE THINK THERE SHOULD BE A LIST OF
RESOURCE PEOPLE.

DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS ?

Michigan Reader

Mrs. H.

McHIGBEE

READER
MAY 9-13 1983

MILL RACE VILLAGE

Lorenz Rexall Pharmacy

Formerly Gunsell Drug Store

On May 11, 1934, Mr. M. C. Gunsell took over the store from Mrs. Cora Horton, widow of the late C. R. Horton. Prior to ownership by C. R. Horton it was owned by A. E. Stanley. The building was owned by A. M. Wheeler who operated a grocery store there for many years. The building was passed on to Mr. Wheeler's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Blackburn.

In December of 1945 Mr. R. Douglas Lorenz joined our staff as a part-time employee while continuing his education in pharmacy. Upon graduation with a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy and completion of state board exams he was employed as a full-time registered pharmacist and has continued in this capacity.

In 1951, because of space needed for other merchandise we removed the fountain and remodeled the store with the present fixtures.

In 1969 Mr. R. Douglas Lorenz changed the store name to Lorenz Rexall Pharmacy.

In 1934 when the Northville Record's owner was Mr. Richard Baldwin, Miss Virginia Anderson was an employee and encouraged Mr. Gunsell to use "Toby" in his advertising.

Toby was scrawny, ill fed and wearing a not too glossy coat of fur. When Mr. Gunsell signed the papers and took over the place some four years ago, it was understood that Toby went with the business.

In his youth Toby kept the basement clean of mice and did such a good job of it that neighboring merchants approached Mr. Gunsell on the possibility of borrowing Toby for the night in order to rid their

shops of similar pests, but this assignment he took without love of labor in his heart.

"Toby's been a good employee, we don't ask him to do any work at all any more," says Mr. Gunsell.

Toby's suggestions for bargains at the corner drug store have appeared in The Record at frequent intervals for the past four years, since Toby was released from his task of keeping the basement free of mice and promoted, because of his age, to the advertising department. When he was only two months old Toby attached himself to the drug store then, owned by the late C. R. Horton. He stayed on when Mr. Gunsell bought the place. Among his favorite haunts was W. H. Corrin's back fence and Tom Carrington's insurance office window when he had his office on South Center street.

Many's the time that neighboring store keepers borrowed Toby for the express purpose of ridding their stores of mice. Customers, too, looked forward to seeing Toby as they made their way inside the corner drug store.

Toby, who knows the stock better than anyone in the store is going to keep The Record readers informed about what is best to buy and when.

In fact life is being made very easy for Toby these days. Because of his age, even his meat is bought for him each day and served by Miss Leone Moffitt, chief sandwich maker for the noon-day luncheoners. With an occasional snack of mackerel, Toby eats hamburger exclusively — a whole five cents worth daily.

These many years Toby has distinctly disliked red dogs — this dislike dates back to the day that Orlow Owen's big red dog chased him into the basement.

Sundays, when the store is noisy with children who come to buy the funny papers and ice cream cones, Toby retreats to the basement and is not seen until the regular Monday trade begins.

Any medical attention that Toby needs must be administered by Victor Lumley of the prescription department. "Vic" has a way about him and when Toby has an ache or a pain he hunts him out for soothing and relief.

Toby's silhouette appears in this week's advertising columns and will be seen there frequently in the months to come.

TOBY

"Military rites" were held Friday for Toby, 15 year-old feline, who after years of faithful service as a mouser and bargain hunter at the Gunsell Drug store, died early that day.

Final resting place for this beloved cat was beneath a crabapple tree in Bloom's woods. Officiating at the funeral were Rusty Lock, Charles Freydi, and Dick Gunsell.

As Toby's body was lowered into the grave, a 21-gun salute (cap pistols) was fired by the three young pallbearers.



Adventurous Pioneering Years Recalled by Northville Settler

Editor's Note: The following history, written by David Clarkson, was published in the Record on July 12, 1874.

I have often thought that some incidents in the early settlement of this place, would be interesting to your readers, and being one of the Pioneers, I propose to commence by giving something of the history of the first settlement here, in hopes that someone more competent will continue the subject:

In the Spring of 1831, several families, in the vicinity of Ovid, Seneca County, N. Y., concluded to emigrate to the then Territory of Michigan. They concluded to go in company, and included Robert Purdy, and family, Capt. Wm. Dunlap and family, Henry Waldron, Samuel Blackwood, Peter Larkins, and their families, and Wm. Smith and two sisters.

As there were no railroads then the only public conveyance being the stage coach, or canal and steamboat, they thought best to take the latter. Accordingly they made arrangements with Robt. Purdy to take him on board of his canal boat, the "Shark", at Sheldrake Point, Cayuga Lake, and thence to Buffalo, by the Erie canal.

About the first of May 1831 with all their luggage, and provisions to last them through, they embarked on the "Shark", and having engaged a man with a span of horses to tow them to Buffalo, they started on their journey to the promised land, in search of a home; none except Mr. Purdy having made any arrangement, purchased or had any idea of what part of the territory they should settle in. Mr. Purdy had previously purchased some land, some five or six miles west of this place, on the Base-line, near where J. K. Starks now resides, and had a piece shipped off, and the body of a log house put up, and came with the intention of settling there. He would of course recommend to his companions that part of the country as a desirable place to locate.

Capt. Wm. Dunlap, in addition to his own family of two girls and two boys, brought two other boys with him whom he had taken to bring up and

help clear up the wilderness, Lewis McCormick, aged 18, and the writer, aged 14. The company traveled by day-time and "lay up" nights. They were about a week reaching Buffalo. They then transferred their families and puppy dogs (of which there were several in the company) and luggage, to the steamboat "New York," for Detroit, and we said good bye to the old "Shark", Mr. Purdy having sold her to parties in Buffalo. We were nearly three days on the lake to Detroit, and many of the company were sea-sick. This was the most disagreeable part of the journey.

We landed in Detroit on the 18th day of May. Detroit had then a population of a little over 2,000. "Ben" Woodworth kept the largest Tavern in the city, called the "Steam Boat Hotel", located somewhere on Atwater street, and "Widdow McMillan" kept the "Yankee Boarding House", near where the Franklin House now stands which was in the outskirts of the town.

In Detroit Henry Waldron and family, parted with the company and went towards Pontiac, where they had acquaintances, and where they located permanently. The rest of the company procured teams to bring them to the Township of Plymouth, the woman and smaller children riding, while the rest had to walk.

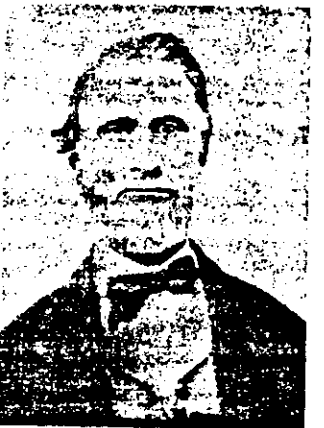
The streets in Detroit were one continual mud hole, and the roads through the country were worse if possible.

We came out through Spring Wells, across the river Rouge, at "Salsbury's tavern," on the Chicago road, by "Tenyek's," through the "Bucklin Woods," and across "Togish Plain" to Plymouth.

Mr. Purdy and family went to his brother's, James Purdy, near Plymouth, and from there to his farm and future home. Mr. Larkins settled west of Northville, and cleared up the farm he now owns and lives on. Mr. Blackwood settled in Novi and remains where he first settled, an honored citizen of the town, and has raised a large family of children. Mr. Smith and sister settled, with the rest of their family who

followed them, on the Base-Line, west of Mr. Purdy's.

Capt. Wm. Dunlap bought of John Miller, 160 acres, being the center of the north half of section three, on which Northville is located, which was partly improved, with the "Northville Mills," then a small grist mill, with a pair of rock stones, which Mr. Miller and Israel Nash had made out of a large Boulder found near the site of said mill, a work of patience and perseverance, not to be thought of in



DAVID CLARKSON
Author of Early Northville History

these days. He moved his family into a small log-house, with a "stick chimney", on the outside, that stood near the mill, and commenced work in earnest.

The first thing needed was a team. So he went to Detroit and purchased out of a drove of cattle, from Ohio, a yoke of oxen, and two cows; yoked the oxen to his wagon, which he had brought from York state with him, put on a load of his goods at the warehouse in Detroit, and then started on the way for home, driving the cows ahead. Oh! how the boys laughed when they saw him coming, for being a left-handed man, he made a very awkward ox-driver.

The oxen I shall never forget, for I drove them several years, and became

attached to them. The nigh one was a large brindle, white-face, very kind and of good disposition; the off one a large black ox, very heavy before and light behind resembling a buffalo more than an ox, and of an ugly disposition. They made a very servicable team in logging and plowing the new grounds. We commenced work immediately, putting in some corn and repairing the grist-mill. We planted six acres of corn on the west side of the road, or where is now Center street, from Miss Wheeler's millinery store now stands north of Dr. Hueston's, and west to Wing street, the 6th day of June, and it ripened and yielded well.

In a few weeks after settling Lewis McCormick, the young man before spoken of, was taken sick with chills and fever and in few days died. Dr. Emery attended him and everything that could be, was done to help him. He was the first one buried in the place. His grave was located south of the road, back of where Waterman's meat market now stands, and afterwards removed to the new cemetery.

The country was very new then and settlers few and far between. Daniel L. Cady lived in a log house near where the Cady hotel now stands. Pitts Taft was on the Taft farm; Chauncey Reynolds on the Base line west; grand-father Joseph Yerkes east on the line; H. S. Bradley a mile south, and John Welch farther east. Hiram Robinson owned the farm and saw-mill south and A. B. Markham next on the south.

There was no village here then, Northville had not been thought of. Father Hickox had a little shop and turning-lath, near the mill, and repaired and made spinning-wheels, grain cradles, rakes, etc.

J. M. Mead and his brother Samuel had a board shanty on the corner right where Hungerford's store now stands, and kept goods and groceries to sell to the few settlers who came to mill.

Lewis Clark lived in a log house south of Cady hotel corner. He was a very zealous methodist; a very loud praying man, and could be heard all over the neighborhood.

Settlers came very fast. Every day some new comers were heard of.

Daniel Johnson started a blacksmith shop near the mill, and soon after some of our neighbors and acquaintances from Seneca Co, N.Y., settled in the vicinity. Robert Blackwood, Clinton Johnson, James DeMott, M. Hughston, and others.

People came here to trade, and for lumber, and this began to be a business centre. Mr. Sterling sold his farm (now the C. I. Leonard farm) to J. DeMott and came here and built the first public house or tavern. The same house is now owned and occupied by Capt. Dunlap.

A post-office was established here, and J. M. Mead filled the position of post-master - the first one here. The postage on letters then was twenty-five cents.

The citizens held a meeting in Mead's store to decide on a name for the place and "Northville" was the name decided upon.

The Pioneers were men and women of intelligence, stern integrity and good moral character, and their influence in this community is seen and



OLD STONE SCHOOL? Not so, insists Fred Wendt who operated a garage business in the stone building that stood at the northeast corner of Hutton and Main Streets where the A&P supermarket is located today. The old stone school, says Wendt, stood on the east side of Hutton near Dunlap Street.

now Ford Field. This picture, insists Wendt, is the Palmer Blacksmith Shop that stood on the north side of Main, between Center and Wing streets. That's old Jarvis Palmer on the right. One of the men in the center of the picture is Peter Barley, who operated the business with Palmer.

Settler Recalls Pioneering Days

Continued from Page J-C

felt to-day.

Forty-three years have passed, and what a change has taken place! Here is a beautiful, thriving village of nearly a thousand inhabitants, in whose streets I have seen many a wild deer and turkey not to speak of an occasional black bear.

Many of the first settlers have passed away. Capt. Dunlap is living in Northville, a hale, hearty man. Peter

'I have seen many a wild turkey . . . and an occasional bear . . .'

Larkins and Samuel Blackwood occupy the same farms they first settled on and improved. Henry Waldron is living near Pontiac, and Wm. G. Smith lives near Langsborough.

That little company of pioneers have obeyed the scriptural injunction, "multiply and replenish the earth." They have all raised families of children, some of which, in these days, would be considered very large families, many of them men and women grown, honored citizens, and valuable members of society.

A great many incidents might be mentioned in connection with the settlement and growth of Northville, that would be interesting to those in this locality.

I write this in hopes that some one better qualified will be induced to give us something better regarding the early history of this part of the country.

(August 15, 1874)

In a former article headed "The Pioneers," I gave some incidents of Pioneer life in the first settlement of Northville, and vicinity, in hopes that someone better qualified would take up the subject, and as no one seems inclined to say anything, or find fault with what I have written, and as I have been requested by several to continue the subject, I will therefore continue to give some of my recollections.

As some have asked about my journal, I will say I have kept no journal but depend upon memory for the facts and incidents related.

The first frame dwelling house in Northville, was built by Wm. Dunlap in the fall of 1831, and stood on the corner where Doctor Hueston's house now stands.

The next house was built by J. M. Mead, and was located on the corner of Main and Center streets, where the Cady house now stands. Daniel Johnson put up a building on the opposite corner and used the lower part for a blacksmith shop and the upper part was used by G. H. Wilcox for a shoe shop.

John Waterman purchased the tavern of Mr. Sterling, and kept a first class public house, also a tailor shop in one room, and cut and made garments for those who could afford to wear good clothes. Wheat was worth fifty cents a bushel, and a days work for a able bodied man, five shillings (62½ cents). In church matters the Presbyterians seem to have been the Pioneers here, as a church was organized in 1829 at the house of Joseph Yerkes, by the Rev. Mr. Prince. There were eight original members. Joseph Yerkes, Mary Yerkes, John Yerkes, James Purdy and Deacon

Hiram Fuller was of the number.

Mr. Prince was the first Preacher. Meetings were first held in Mr. Yerkes' house, and occasionally in the Barn, afterwards in the log school house that stood on the bank near C. A. Griswold's.

The Methodist circuit rider and saddle bags, made his appearance about this time and a class was formed here. Father Hickox was the first class leader. The first circuit Preacher I recollect was the Revd. Mr. Colchzer. The first presiding elder was Revd. M. Gilruth. The first quarterly meeting I attended was held in Rufus Thayer's barn. Elder Gilruth preached. Any one who could get in sight of the barn would have no difficulty in hearing the sermon.

Methodists in those days were sincere, honest, zealous, hearty and noisy in their profession. The Methodist became the largest and most popular church in Northville and numbered among its members many of our most prominent citizens.

They built the first church edifice in Northville in 1836. The same original church around the corner, now owned and occupied by the Methodists in Northville.

Of the original founders of the Methodist church here, there is but one living that I know of. Paul W. Hazen lives on the same farm he commenced on over forty years ago, the same consistent earnest methodist, not quite as noisy.

A majority of the Pioneer settlers of this place and vicinity seem to have been church members and their influence predominated in the settlement and had an important bearing upon the character and morals of society and the good reputation of the place.

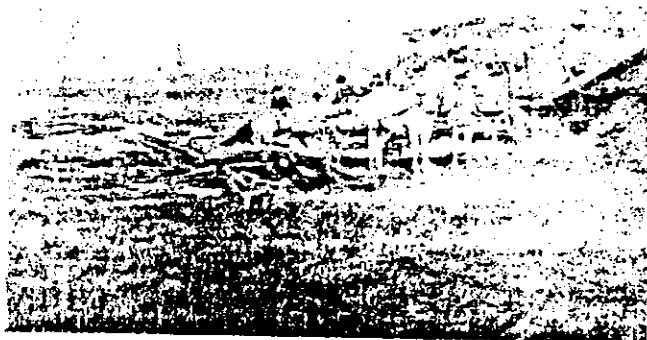
But the settlers were not all of a religious or pious turn of mind, some were given to mischief.

I recollect a circumstance that happened about this time, that was

See 'Rowland' on Page 6-C



HORSEPOWER — Horse power meant just that a century ago when The Record was launched. These two pictures reproduced from old glass negatives are believed to have been taken on the old Griswold farm at the eastern edge of Northville.



Rowland Builds One of First Stores

Continued from Page 5-C

strongly impressed upon my mind, and I thought was an awful wicked action and went to show that the influence of the majority did not restrain the bad ones.

The Methodists used to hold meetings in a log school house on the corner of Benton's farm, opposite where Newton Johnson now lives, called the "Benton school house." A meeting was appointed to be held at the above named house on a certain sabbath. I with several other boys and young men went to attend the meeting on Sunday morning. We were early, and what was our astonishment to find that during the night, some persons had torn the house down, by prying the logs out of the sides, and ends, and letting the roof down over the ruins. They then shot a large bull belonging to Mr. Benton, and placed the carcass on the ridge of the fallen roof, set it up in a position natural as life, and before it on a board placed a bible and hymn book.

This created quite a sensation at the time, and the community were much excited. This went to show that although good influences predominated they were not sufficient, to restrain the evil minded.

The meeting was held that day in the house of Gannett Ramsdell across the corner, who kindly offered the use of and opened his doors for the occasion.

The only store in Northville was J. M. Mead & brother. About this time H. Rowland came and built a store in the corner of Main and Center



13678A1 Northville Main Street, Northville, Mich.

streets, where Miss Wheeler now is, and commenced business. He entered into partnership with Arthur Edwards and kept a country store. The firm name being Rowland & Edwards. He afterwards bought out Edwards and continued in business himself in the same store until his death.

Mr. Rowland was a very prominent man in Northville, a local methodist preacher an active member of the church, an ardent politician, a ready debater, carried on several branches of business at the same time. Intelligent

and progressive, he took a lively interest in all important questions of the day; was elected a representative to the State Legislature from this district, a man of great influence in this community, and done as much or more, towards building up and improving the village of Northville, than any one man that ever lived in it.

I will stop here for fear of being tedious. I am in hopes that some one else may be induced to give us some recollections that will be interesting to your readers.

July 18, 1874

John Young and "Bill" Pitts, dressed the first beef butchered in Northville. They were Englishmen and very English in their manners. They were prominent among the Pioneers,

owner of the Northville Hotel in 1835, and with his brothers Lewis, William and Phineas, became citizens of Northville. Lewis taught our school. William and Phineas kept the hotel after Michiel. Phineas was a very popular landlord, social, genial good hearted, charitable, friendly and liked by all. Every Pioneer will remember "Phim. Thompson."

Sizer came about this time and built a Hotel about where Ezra Thornton's house stands. He was a gun smith, a good marksman, hunter and sportsman, and became a prominent character, here among those he associated with. He was accidentally shot and killed by a comrade, while watching a "deer-lick" out west one night. The buckshot entered his breast. I saw his shirt afterwards with the three

'John Young and 'Bill' Pitts dressed the first beef butchered in Northville ...'

and noted around the country, buying up all the fat cattle, sheep, pigs, etc.

John Darling was the first carpenter, and David Gould the first mason. He was called "King Gould" a name given him in consequence of a little incident that happened here. Mr. Gould was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a Deacon, I believe. At a meeting in the old stone school house, among those in attendance was Savi Aldrich, the Pioneer Quaker who used to speak in meeting whenever the spirit moved, an not always to the point, or edification of his hearers. after the sermon Savi looked a moment and said in a loud voice, "David who made thee King and ruler over Isarel"; after that he was called "King Gould."

Pennell and Sha started the first wool carding, and cloth dressing establishment, where the school seat factory now stands. Leander Ferguson was the first founderman and made the first plow and point here, and afterwards with Pennell built the Argo mills, and carried on quite an extensive mulling business in the name of "Pennell and Ferguson." He was an active member of the Methodist Church, justice of the peace for many years an energetic, enterprising business man.

shot holes in it.

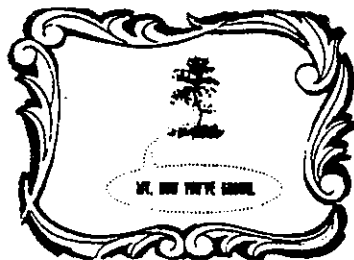
This community was shocked by the incident and a great deal of sorrow manifested by his friends.

Joe Tyler came about this time. He was a shoe maker, a zealous Methodist and one of the sweetest singers ever heard. He became associated with D. H. Rowland in the boot and shoe business, was leader of the Methodist choir, taught singing school, (then we used the Buck notes) was a light hearted, jovial good natured honest man, full of jokes and could take a joke kindly, and was one of our best citizens. Theodore and Peter Phillips, deserve notice here. They came as "jour" shoe makers and worked a number of years as such, became "boas" shoe makers here; both married in Northville and lived here a long time. Peter kept the hotel a short time near Hutton's blacksmith shop. He and his wife started to go to California over land. He died on the way and was buried on the plains. His widow afterwards returned to Northville. Theodore is now living in Ionia. Though young they had much to do with building up the place and society, and will be remembered especially by the younger Pioneers as participating with them in many social gatherings and sports of the times.

D.C.

Michal Thompson became the

See Editor on Page 7



THANKS, THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS ARE ALWAYS THE HAPPIEST.



NORTHVILLE CAMERA SHOP

200 SOUTH MAIN ST.,
NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN

Early Northville Was Part of Plymouth

Continued from Page 6-C

January 16, 1875

The Territory of Michigan was surveyed off into Towns six miles square, and numbered north and south from the Base line, and in ranges, east and west from the Meridian line.

The early settlers, for convenience in the political organization of Townships, frequently included two or more of these squares into one Township.

Plymouth as originally organized included Towns one and two south of range eight east. The name Plymouth, was suggested by William Bartow, who located on section one Town one south in 25 or 26 and who was afterwards elected the first supervisor. The first Town meeting in Plymouth, for the election of Township Officers was held at the house of John Tibbitts. Wm. Bartow was chosen moderator and after being duly sworn, to discharge the duties of inspector of elections according to law, by B. F. H. Whitherel, a justice of the peace in and for the County of Wayne, made proclamation accordingly and the polls was declared open.

There is no record to be found of the number of votes polled.

William Bartow was elected supervisor, Allen Tibbitts town clerk, Roswell Root, Henry Lyon and Erastus W. Starkweather, assessors, A. B. Markham, collector, Luther Lincoln, overseer of the poor, G. P. Benton, Rufus Thayer, and Benjamin Slocum, commissioners of highways, Anariah Bradford and A. B. Markham, constables, Henry Lyon, Henry Ward and Morris Andrews, pound masters.

Paul W. Hazen, A. B. Markham, Rufus Thayer, John Tibbitts, James Taft, Philander Bird, and A. Bradford, overseers of highways.

It was resolved that hogs be permitted to run at large in said Township.

Resolved that the next Town meeting be held at the house of John Tibbitts.

The first tax roll for the Township of Plymouth is now in possession of A. B. Markham dated October 1827.

The amount of Town tax then levied was \$66.90, and the county tax \$57.50.

Some of the old tax payers now living in this Town assert that it was harder for them to raise the money, to pay the small tax then levied, than it is now, when the Town and county taxes amount to many thousands.

A. B. Markham the collector, says that the Town then being twelve miles by six, he had to travel on foot, and follow the sections lines by the blazed trees to find his way to the settlers houses, and the sums so small that he had to collect from each, that he split rails at fifty cents a day and earned the money, and paid some of the taxes himself, it being easier than to travel so far to collect of the settlers.

Justices of the peace were then appointed by the Governor and council and April 7th 1828 the Town clerk was instructed to petition the Governor and council to appoint Wm. Bartow, Philo Taylor, and J. D. Davis, justices of the peace for the Township of Plymouth and County of Wayne.

An examination of the old records show, that the old Pioneers had the ability and intelligence to transact the business of the Township, with wisdom and dignity, full equal to that of their successors of the present day.

March 13, 1875

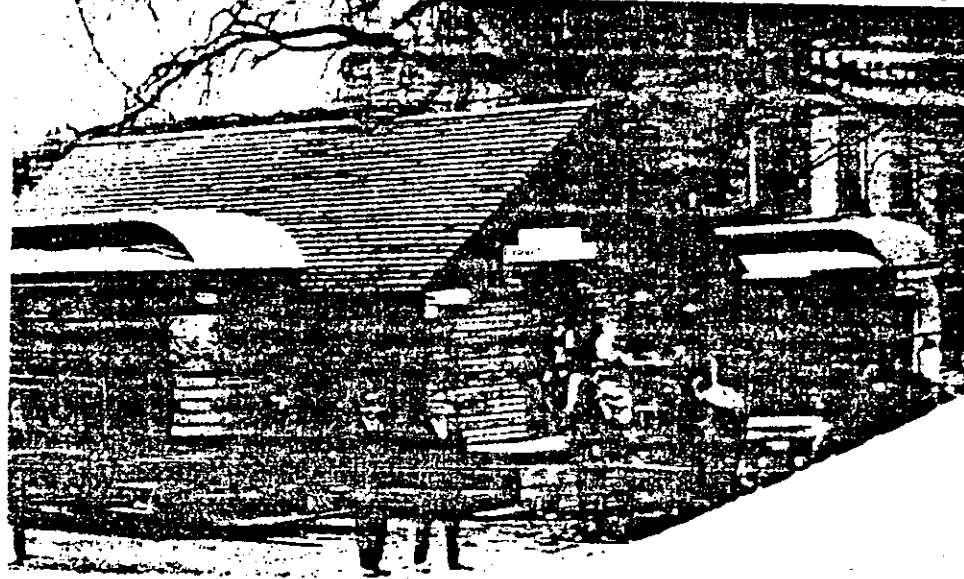
A post office was first established in Northville, in 1831, and Jabiah M. Mead was the first post master. The mail arrived once a week. The principle mail route in the Territory, was from Detroit to Chicago. Detroit was a small village on the west bank of Detroit river, a few miles below Lake St. Clair, and Chicago was a stopping place at the head of Lake Michigan where there was a tavern and two or three stores. The mails were put into small leather bags and securely locked with large iron padlocks: each postmaster had a key. The Michigan stage company had the contract for carrying the mails. They used large heavy coaches hung on leather springs with a seat in front of

the outside for the driver and the mail bags, and a large boot behind for the trunks and seats inside for eight to twelve passengers. They were drawn by four horses. The driver had a whip, the stock of which was made of tough Michigan hickory, and a long lash of buckskin, with a skein of silk braided on the end, for a cracker, and when he wanted to wake up his leaders, he would crack his whip, which sounded like the firing of a pistol.

Whenever the stage approached a post office the driver would blow a tin horn so as to give notice of his coming. He would drive up to the post office, throw out the bags which the post master would take in and unlock, empty out on the floor or table, sort

out what was directed to his office, place the rest back in the bag, lock it securely and throw it back to the driver. No driver, or other person was allowed to handle the mails without first being sworn to support the constitution of the United States &c. After J. M. Mead, H. M. Perrin was post master for a while, then David H. Rowland, held the position some time, when Wm. H. Ramsdell was appointed, after him D. H. Rowland again. Then Wm. H. Ramsdell a second time, afterwards David H. Rowland was appointed again and held the office a long time, when W. D. Whalen took the office, after Whalen our present popular post master Edward S. Horton

See "Post Office" on Page 8-C



DUR DEPOT - This picture of the old DUR depot, which stood at the northeast corner of Griswold and Main streets, was taken from an old glass negative. It is believed to have been taken about 1899. In the background is the Union Manufacturing Company building, previously the Dubuac Manufacturing company site. The building was later used by Henry Ford before he built a new

plant on the site. DUR cars ran north on Griswold to Eight Mile and from Eight Mile to Farmington. Others ran north on South Main to Plymouth. Cars traveling west on Main to Center stopped there and then backed up to Griswold and the depot, oldtimers recall. A DUR waiting room was provided in an old building just north of the present Record building.



STAR LAUNDRY - This building, located between Wing and Center streets on the north side of Main Street, was owned by George Northrop and there I. H. Webster operated a laundry business

about 1900. Later, about the year 1913, Archie Bradner and his father reportedly manufactured cigars in this same building.

Post Office Established Here in 1875

Continued from Page 7-C

who has served the citizens in that capacity.

When the office was first established, the entire receipts, would not pay the post master for the time he had to give to the duties of the office. Now the receipts of the office pays the government a large sum of money and the salary of the post master is several hundred dollars.

At first the postage on letters was from 6 1/2 to 25 cents according to distance and it was not required to be prepaid. Those that received letters then, had to pay the postage, and the post master frequently trusted those who received letters for their postage.

What a contrast between then, and now. Then we could send dunning letters and make the victims pay the postage to the amount of twenty five cents. Now we can send letters any distance for three cents and we cannot dun a man and make him pay the postage.

Then we had to wait a month to get an answer from a letter to New York or Boston, now we can do so in forty eight hours.

Up to 1800 letters and newspapers was the only available matter in this country. In 1861 maps, engravings, seeds and cuttings not weighing over eight ounces, and books not over thirty two ounces were included.

Now we can send by mail any thing, not exceeding four pounds weight. This is considered a great convenience by the people, and a great

nuisance by post masters.

February 9, 1878

The first land located in this town, was the west half of northwest 1/4 of sec 3 in 1824 by Alanson Aldrich. Soon after the east half and the west 1/4 of the N.E. 1/4 was taken by a man from the state of New York who sold them to John Miller. Miller came here in 1825 and commenced chopping on the east side of what is now Center street, and north of Dunlap street. He built a log house 12x16 feet on the land just

filled it with water, brought it in to house and set it on the bench, taking up a dipper he drank. It happened there was a small fish in the dipper and it went down his throat. He threw the dipper down and told me he had swallowed a fish. I said I had heard of a fish swallowing a man, and he spewed him up without doing him any harm, and perhaps he could serve the fish in the same way. Sure enough he began to be very sick at his stomach and very soon up came the fish, and as he struck the floor he bounded a foot

purchased Miller's farm, and all his interest in Northville, took immediate possession and moved his family into the log house by the mill. Abram Lamunyon and family occupied the first house built on the west side. He was hired to work for the season. Dunlap commenced immediately to repair the mill and put in a second run of stone.

In 1832 the first plot of the village of Northville was made by William Dunlap and recorded in the County Registers' office.

There were but few settlers in the Town at that time. Roads were merely underbrushed out, and went winding through the woods and around the "cat holes" wherever the best track could be made. Central and Northern Michigan was then one almost unbroken forest. Throughout here and there a clearing thickly covered with blackened stumps.

Plenty of fever and ague, and as much oddity of life as will be seen among those who come together from different parts of the earth.

The new comers frequently became heart-sick the first few days.

The wife of one of the Pioneers said to her husband a few days after their arrival. Well! You have got us all here, but you haven't got a board to make us a coffin, or a spade to dig us a grave.

The first school house built of logs, stood near where C. A. Griswold's barn now stands. The floor was made of split logs the flat side up, and the seats were of the same material with legs. In 1833 the stone school house was built, the walls of which are now standing near Barley's wagon shop.

February 23, 1878

The first Northville mill was very cheaply constructed: the gearing, or machinery being made mostly of wood. Compared with mills of modern construction, it was a very primitive affair. I remember well almost every wheel and shaft and pulley, for I have set up with it a great many nights. The water-wheel was 12 feet in diameter and buckets 6 feet in length and were on the outside of the mill building, one end of the shaft going through a hole in the wall into the mill pit. On this end of the shaft was the pit-wheel ten feet in diameter, with a row of wooden cogs, about two inches apart around the side of the rim like teeth. These meshed into the wood rollers of the crown-wheel on the lower end of the upright shaft. Above on the same shaft was the spur wheel, which turned the pinion on the spindle that turned the mill-stone. This was all there was of the main machinery. The belt was run by wood shifting connected with the upright shaft.

The old rock mill stone was a very heavy one, and it was a difficult and dangerous job to take it up and turn it over when it needed pecking. For this purpose there was a very heavy oak crane, with two wood screws like cider press screws. Holes were drilled in opposite sides of the stone for iron bolts; the wood screws were hooked on to these bolts and a man at each screw to turn evenly would raise the stone and turn it over.

We were not very particular about dressing the stone, to put in a hundred cracks to the inch, but we sometimes pecked out an inch at one crack.

See 'Old Mill' on Page 9-C

'At first the postage on letters was from 6 1/2 to 25 cents according to distance and it was not required to be prepaid . . .'

north of where Wm. Banes house now stands. The fireplace was in the north end, just as wide as the house with a stick chimney on the out side. This was the first house in Northville. I have often been in this house, when we first came here. It was occupied by a Frenchman and his family by the name of Abram Lamunyon, an old specimen of humanity. He worked for Captain Dunlap the first year after he came. I shall never forget an incident that took place in this house, which I will relate. I very often of an evening went to have a social chat and hear him tell stories. One evening I was there and his wife asked him to bring a pail of water. He took the pail went to the spring at the foot of the hill, dipped the pail in,

high and we all had a good hearty laugh over it.

Miller also chopped and cleared on the west side of Center street up to Main street and west 30 or 40 rods. He built another log house on the east side of the stream, very near where the Northville mills now stand.

In 1826 he began to make preparations to build a grist mill. It was located a little south of where the Northville mill now stands. This was raised in the summer of 1827 and the first grist was ground in the fall of the same year.

It was a difficult matter in those days to obtain the necessary machinery for a grist mill, and especially "imported french burr" mill stones; they were not to be had. But Miller made up his mind he could get along without the "French burr" he would make a pair out of a Michigan boulder.

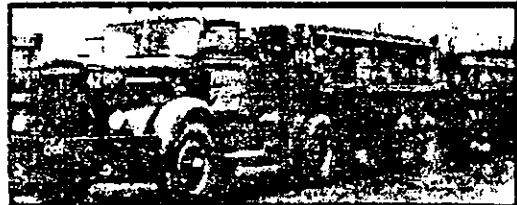
He selected a large rock which he found near where Wilkins' copper shop now stands, and commenced by making an equatorial line around the stone, drilling holes on this line a short distance apart he drove an iron wedge in each hole letting them remain in and driving them occasionally, the rock split in two pieces, these he faced and fashioned, one into a bed stone and the other into a runner. They were four feet in diameter, and proved to be very good, and made as good flour as any "French burr" ever did, and were used many years. Afterwards they were sold and taken to Detroit and put into French's plaster mill, and used for grinding plaster.

People came to this mill to get their grinding done for many miles around. A blacksmith shop was started near the mill, and this was the beginning of Northville, and John Miller was the Pioneer.

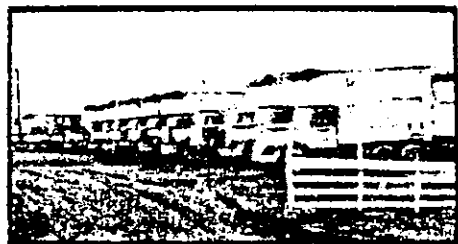
Father Hickox came in 1827 and built a little shop south of the mill, had a turning lathe and made wheels, grain cradles, racks &c. In 1830 the Mead brothers Marshall and Samuel started a store near the mill, and in the spring of 1831 put up a building on the corner of Main and Center streets where D. B. Northrop's hardware store now stands, and moved their goods in, where they remained for several years.

Daniel L. Cady located on the southeast 1/4 and Hiram Robinson on the southwest 1/4 of section 3 and a Mr. Page the east 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 which made up the whole section and which is now included in the corporate limits of the village.

Captain William Dunlap came in May 1831 with his family and



The Zayti Trucking business was established in 1946 with one truck at 118 W. Main St. in Northville.



The present modern fleet of over 45 trucks may be seen at Eight Mile & Beck Roads.

J. J. ZAYTI

TRUCKING, INC.



J. J. ZAYTI

Community Centered Around Old Mill

Continued from Page 8-C

Father Hickox was the first miller under whom I took lessons in the old mill. It did not take a long time, or require a great deal of skill to run the old thing, or keep it in repair. All the tools it required was a saw, axe, square, hammer, argur, and a few nails. Although the water wheel was enclosed and roofed over, yet in the winter the ice would gather on the wheel to such an extent that we had to cut it off, and sometimes the wheel would freeze fast and it had to be cut loose.

Father Hickox told how Miller got caught one day in the wheel and liked to have lost his life.

One morning he raised the gates and turned on the water to start the mill, but it wouldn't go. He then let down the stone, shut the gates and went down into the wheel with his axe to cut the ice off and loosen the wheel. After chopping until he thought it was loose, he came up, raised the stone, opened the gate and let on the water, but it did not start. He then went into the wheel again without shutting off the water, and commenced cutting when the wheel started. The lining was covered with ice and as the wheel turned he would slide around, hallooing as loud as he could. No one being in the mill he was not heard, and so had to slide around until finally he got hold of an arm of the wheel and sliding down to the shaft he clung to that until some one happened to come into the mill and stoppe^d it and got him out, nearly used up and almost frozen.

I remember very well a few days after coming here I caught a mud turtle, the first one I ever saw. He was about as large as a common tea saucer. I cut the initials of my name, and the year 1831 on his back and let him go. Six years after a man brought that same turtle to the mill. He had found him near Walled Lake, 6 miles up stream. The letters and date (1831) was plainly seen on his back, and he had grown to twice his former size.

In the fall I had my first shake of ague and fever; every other day about nine o'clock the chills would come on,

then I would climb the ladder, pile on all the bed clothes I could find and crawl in, shake for an hour or two and then the fever would last for several hours. The next day I would be around and able to do some chores. And so it continued for weeks, until I was so weak that I could scarcely get up the ladder to go to bed. The medicine given me was peruvian bark and brandy. One dose was a large table spoon full of ground bark in half a tea cup of brandy, three times a day on the well days, and a good big dose next morning. Almost every body who came here at that time had the ague and

'Butter and eggs were fine money; ashes, maple sugar and wheat, paid the storekeeper . . .'

fever. Some would have it very light, others had what they called dumb ague. They had the bones ache and chilly feelings, but did not shake, and the fever was terrible. Some men would work every other day and have the ague until they wore it out. Sometimes however, it wore them out. No pen can tell what the early settlers suffered from this terrible disease. Whole families would sometimes be all shaking or burning with fever at the same time.

Afterwards Quinine came into use, and doctors learned how to treat ague. Then it was not so bad.

March 9, 1878

The pioneers were actuated by one idea, and that was to make homes for themselves and their families. They were generally men of small means; frequently with just enough money to buy the land and get the family on-to-it. Sometimes he had means to build a log house, and get provisions; a yoke of oxen and a cow. But more frequently he had to depend upon working out by the day to obtain means to get provisions, and necessary articles for his family, until he could raise his first crop, and have something

to sell in exchange for what he needed.

We look back to those old times we will not call them hard times; although there was hard work, and plenty of it, full hearts and empty purses. Shivering ague, and burning fevers, was the common lot of nearly all; yet we had our share of good times too; we were free from the fashions and follies, the heart burnings and inflations of the present day.

Greenbacks or silver, the taxation of bonds or incomes, were not debatable questions. Butter and eggs were fine money; ashes, maple sugar and wheat, paid the storekeeper. Trade

was the necessity of the times, and so we traded and exchanged products, and helped one another.

One of the most prominent characteristics of pioneer times, was the universal hospitality that abounded everywhere.

The latch string was always on the outside, and the belated traveler was sure of a welcome. Everybody was ready to help in case of an accident. Teams were hitched together for breaking up the new grounds. In harvest-time, neighbors cradled and raked and bound for each other. If one went to mill he went for the whole neighborhood. Raisings, logging bees, husking bees, and quiltings were considered play spells.

But, bees and raisings and quiltings and the evening frolic and games have departed. We are not as dependent and generous in these days, as were the pioneers. Whether this be so or not, the hospitality, the generosity, the helping hand, and kind heart that seemed to make all akin in these days are worth remembering and imitating.

Questions of domestic economy, that worry the best of us now, gave the pioneers but little trouble. The fashion plates did not reach the woods then. No dispute could be got up about the cut of the dress or coat. Garments were worn until they were worn out, and then turned and made over for the younger children. "Pull backs," were not the style then. The only "pull backs" they had, were the little pioneers that hung onto the mothers' skirts.

Who called first, or who called last, or who owed calls, were questions that did not trouble the pioneer mothers. They visited when they had time and wanted to. None endures more privations and hardships than the wives and daughters of the Pioneers.

The labored early and late, with a patient endurance, and application, never excelled and they should not be forgotten.

Every Pioneer, in making his will, should remember these companions of his trials and struggles, and triumphs, and be sure and give them the benefit of the property they have aided to earn and save should they outlive him.

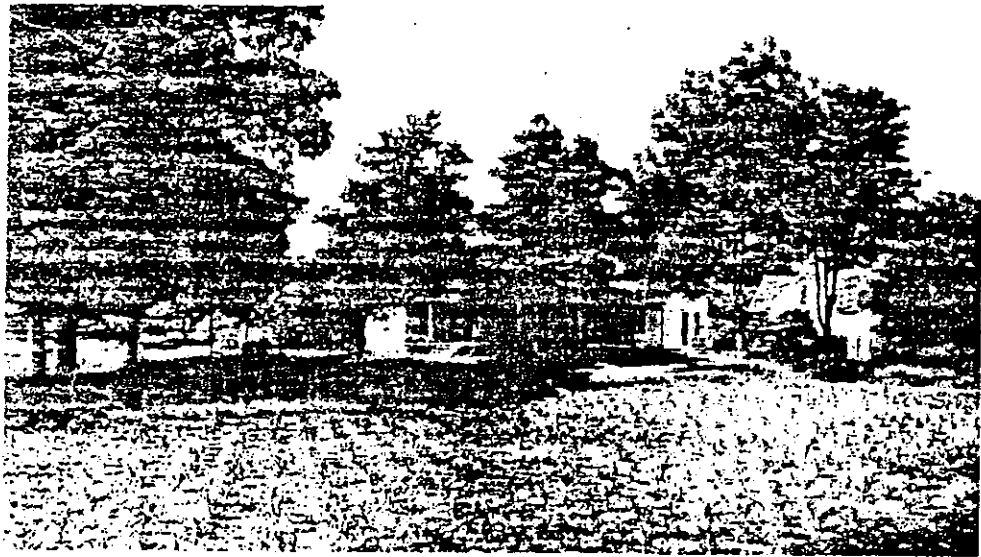
People always seem to readily adapt themselves to the circumstances in which they are placed. A small population with honest hearts, and cheerful tempers, and simple manners, found no necessity for vast and complicated machinery of life, without which the world could hardly exist at

the present day.

The pioneers were not troubled with life insurance agents, or improved lightning rod peddlars. Melodious or parlor organs had not been invented. The whip-poor-will and the frogs, the orial and the owls made music enough for them. They were perhaps not generally as well read, as a majority of the people of the present day, yet they were intelligent and honest, and with their simple unostentatious habits, could enjoy life more rationally than we. None but a pioneer can fully comprehend the trials, difficulties, privations and triumphs of those who left comfortable and pleasant homes in the Eastern States to take a long journey to the far west (as Michigan was considered forty-seven years ago) to make for themselves a home in the wilderness. Though these sketches may not be of much interest, or of historic value, yet I thought perhaps they might awaken more important reminiscences in the minds of others, who like myself have lived in this vicinity more than forty years.

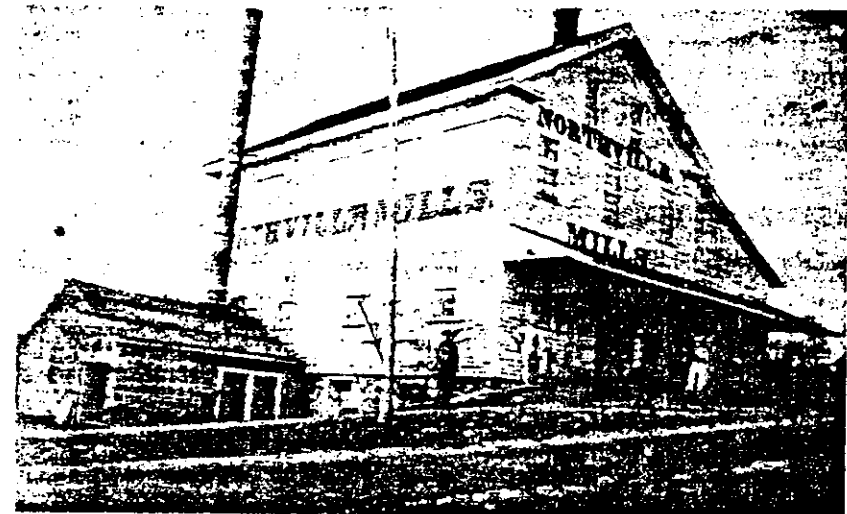
This will be the last Pioneer sketch that I shall furnish for the Record. If they have been of interest to you; readers in this locality, I am content.

Frank Harmon Writes History For Northville's 100th Birthday *Does*



OLD CADY HOMESTEAD — Some say this is the old Cady homestead that once stood where the parking lot of the Northville Downs is located on the east side of Center Street. The house, so goes

the story, was moved closer to Center and today is the apartment building of Harley Cole on Center, just north of the Downs property line.



NORTHVILLE MILL — One of the first businesses in Northville was this old Northville Mill, later changed to the Yerkes Mill, that was located on the west side of Griswold Street, north of the Ford

Motor Company parking lot. An alert eye can still see traces of the mill race that fed the mill's water wheel.

by Frank S. Harmon

AUG. 26, 1927 — After the organization of the township of Plymouth, two communities gradually developed, which later became the village of Plymouth in the south part of the township, and the village of Northville in the north part. There existed from the very first, friendly rivalry in growth of building, population and general development, which continued until it was deemed expedient and wise to divide the township in the center. This was done in 1898 — the south half Plymouth and the north half Northville, each three miles wide north and south and six miles long east and west.

In each have developed the villages of Plymouth and Northville in their respective townships. Thus the name of Plymouth passes from the picture on that date from this record.

The town is justly entitled to the name, "Versatile Northville." Its list of able and honorable business and professional men would be a long one and its industries many and varied. It is a long way from pottery to pipe organs, from bricks of clay to auto valves and aeroplanes, from carding machines to church furniture, from old-fashioned boots to new-fashioned bells. Yet all of these and many more have been on the list of Northville products.

Boots and Shoes

Previous to the Civil War, Northville held high rank locally in the manufacture of hand-made boots and shoes. At one time as high as 38 men were employed with peg and awl on the old-fashioned cobblers' bench, to supply the needs of the people covering a wide section in this part of Michigan. The leather scraps were used to pave Main Street, where they were dumped and later covered with gravel. When the new grade was established about 37 years ago, leather scraps were uncovered from 6 to 8 inches deep over a distance exceeding 100 feet on East Main Street near Center.

Pottery and Tile

Between 1845 and 50, a two-story stone pottery was erected on the ground where the U.S. Fish Hatchery now stands. This was owned and operated by Asa Harmon and son, John

Continued on Page 12-C

Citizens to Ask for New Northville Railroad Depot

MARCH 10, 1892 — The citizens of Northville have decided to ask the F. & P.M. railroad company to construct a new depot in place of the old concern which has done duty here for so many years. The citizens will promise, on their part, to have the old mill pond near the depot transformed into a place of beauty, which can easily be done. To this end the following petition has been drawn up and will be at the council rooms Monday where every voter is requested to sign it after which it will be forwarded to headquarters.

To the Honorable President and Board of Directors of the Flint & Pere Marquette Railroad.

Gentlemen:

"Knowing that the prosperity of our village is largely dependent upon your road, and that in a measure the converse is true, we therefore, with hope of success, appeal for the construction of a new Depot at this station, feeling that it will not only add to the appearance of our town, but will also induce some to cast with us their citizenship. That we may also do our part in this improvement, it is the intent of the citizens to cleanse the mill pond adjoining your property here and to transform it into a place of beauty.

"To this end we the citizens and voters of Northville humbly petition your honorable body."



Women have been spinning and sewing for many hundreds of years.

BEST WISHES

Spinning Wheel Fabric Shop
146 E. MAIN STREET NORTHVILLE

Frank Harmon Writes History

Continued from Page 11-C

V., both of whom were potters by trade and their wares sold all over northern Michigan.

The first drain tile made in Michigan were produced by them in a yard adjacent to the pottery, by a tile machine invented by John V., and from choice clay taken from the opposite side of the road, where the present fishery residence stands.

The pottery business was discontinued in 1963, and the tile works sold to Isaac Slight, who continued to operate 20 years, until suitable clay became exhausted.

Cooperage

The making of apple barrels was extensively engaged in for approximately 50 years — up to about 1900. Several cooper shops in varying locations employed many men. Thomas B. Filkins was engaged in this occupation many years, and became known as the "Big Cooper" for the reason of the vast quantity of barrels he made and his own physical largeness.

Bricks

Several brick yards have operated at various and varying lengths of time. One of the earliest was on the plot of ground east of Leo Lawrence's home on Fishery Road (Seven Mile). Another on Fairbrook Avenue north of the Ambler-Ford mill pond and east of Rural Hill Cemetery road, by Alex Tinha, the father of John and the late Will Tinha, the postmaster and predecessor of the present incumbent, Frank S. Neal. Another yard was sited on the ground now occupied by the Gordon-Pagel Condensery.

Lumbering

Lumbering was always constituted an important industry in this community up to the death of J. A. Dubuar in 1919, after which his mill, the last, was sold to and became part of the great Ford Motor Company.

Mr. Dubuar's operations covered a period of about 30 years, and included the cutting of millions of feet of the choicest of Michigan's hardwoods. The J. A. Dubuar Manufacturing Company and its successor, the Union Manufacturing & Lumber Company, were both organized and managed by J. A. Dubuar. As manager he was a large employer of labor, and the company occupied an important industrial position in the community. Its business, in addition to the manufacture of lumber, included at various times mast hoops, pulleys and pulley blocks and even air guns. Pulley blocks were made by the millions for years, and largely shipped to the great ship chanderies of Boston, Mass.

Auto Valves

On the death of J. A. Dubuar, his factory was purchased by the Ford Motor Company, and remodeled into a motor valve plant, giving employment to from 300 to 400 men, making all valves for Ford cars and Fordson tractors. For the past seven years the operation of this plant, giving employment to so many men, has been an unquestioned stimulus to the rapid growth of the community. This plant was under the successful management of Harry Marburger and Carl Bryan.

School and Church Furniture

Along in the 60's, Charles G. Herrington operated a foundry in connection with which he developed about the first school seat ever made



DUNLAP HOMESTEAD — Years ago the building at the northwest corner of Dunlap and Center streets faced Center Street. The home of Captain William Dunlap, it was eventually moved and today faces Dunlap and serves as the American Legion headquarters. Part of the original structure (right) was moved west on Randolph Street and still stands on the northside of the road, just west of High Street. The latter purportedly is the oldest building in Northville.

that became a general commercial commodity. In 1879, this business was organized as the Michigan School Furniture Company, and the first folding school seat was produced. The business developed rapidly under the skillful management of Francis R. Beal, with Charles Booth as the chief assistant, and soon became known as the largest manufacturer of school seats in the world.

It was re-incorporated in 1884, under the name, Globe Furniture Company, with a capital of \$75,000, increased from \$30,000 from the profit of the business. After adding the manufacture of church furniture, refrigerators and church bells. In 1898,

Newton and Fredrick Hedge, managers.

In 1903 the Globe company went out of business, and a new Globe company was organized by R. C. Yerkes and associates. Mr. Yerkes continued as manager until 1923, when he disposed of his interests to C. A. Dolph, who became president and manager, assisted by M. J. Murphy as vice president.

Fish Culture

Along in the 70's came Nelson W. Clark from Clarkston, Michigan, and established a private fish hatchery a few feet west of where the present one stands. It was a long wooden building about 30 x 100, and built on springy ground that in spots was unsafe to step

'Lumbering was always constituted an important industry in this community up to the death of J.A. Dubuar . . .'

on, unless one desired a mirey grave. This enterprise was undoubtedly the greatest novelty that ever came to Northville up to that time. The artificial propagation of fish was a new feature brought about by the eminent American naturalist Professor Spencer F. Baird of Smithsonian Institute of Washington, D. C. The Northville hatchery, through the efforts of N. W. Clark's son, Frank N. Clark, passed to the government by lease, and in a few years full ownership, after which Professor Baird was a frequent visitor. In 1897, the present buildings were erected and the plant became known as the largest fish propagation station in the world. It is still operated by the government under the supervision of William W. Thayer, grandson of Rufus Thayer, one of our earliest pioneers.

Pipe Organs

In 1884, Mr. F. R. Beal decided Northville needed another industry, and he induced Granville Wood and son, William, to come to Northville and make pipe organs. A company was organized with Granville Wood, superintendent, and William M. Osband, president. The business only continued about five years, during which time several handsome instruments were erected, some to the value of \$5,000 each. The wooden factory later became the brick factory of the Globe Furniture & Manufacturing Company. At the time

of Mr. Osband's death, a few years ago he was the owner and editor of the Ypsilantian. He was also earlier the first superintendent of the Northville school after its entry in the first new building on the present grounds, erected in 1865.

Banking

The first bank was founded by J. S. Lapham, and operated by his daughter, Dr. Mary E. Lapham. In this bank, E. H. Lapham became an assistant, serving his apprenticeship and received his abbreviated cognomen, "Ed," which has stuck to him ever since. After the death of J. S. Lapham, his son, W. G., became the owner, and E. H. the cashier. A new brick bank building was erected and operated as J. S. Lapham & Company, until it was purchased by the present Northville State Savings Bank, which had been organized in 1892, by and through the efforts of Louie A. Babbitt. This bank has been a success from the start under the conservative management of Mr. Babbitt, first as cashier and now as president. During Mr. Babbitt's cashiership, three commanding figures filled the office of president, Dr. J. M. Swift, William P. Yerkes and L. W. Simmons. In 1926 the present building was completed and for beauty of design and general convenience cannot be excelled in Michigan.

The Lapham State Savings Bank was organized in 1907 by and through the efforts of E. H. Lapham — "Ed" — and the assistance of several citizens. Mr. Lapham was elected cashier and general manager, and through his personal attention and exceptional business acumen, has developed into one of the strong banks of western Wayne County. In 1908, the northeast corner of Main and Center Streets site was purchased and the present building erected. On this sight stood the present Record office building, which was the first frame building in Northville, date 1830. The 20th anniversary of the bank was held in February, 1927, at the Meadowbrook Country Club, at which were present 75 stockholders and guests, including three of the original directors still on the board. The land on which this bank stands was taken up from the government by Alvah Smith in 1825, and 82 years after his son, Asa B. Smith, was elected the first vice president of the bank.

Milk Condenseries

In 1832, Charles T. Rogers experimented with a machine for condensing milk, at Beech, Wayne County. It was so successful that the next year he erected a plant on the east side of what is now the Northville springs on Fishery road or Fairbrook Avenue, and moved the Beech machinery into it. This became the first plant in America, if not in the world, to successfully condense milk and sell it commercially. Later another plant was built at the rear of the old Northville Mills, and in 1902, C. T. Rogers & Sons erected a large plant, which was sold and operated by T. G. Richardson and the late Governor Warner for several years, then sold in 1922 to the present owners, The Gordon Pagel Company. It serves as a great market for farmers and has made this an important milk producing community.

From this humble experiment in condensing machinery, C. T. Rogers & Sons, followed by C. E. Rogers & Sons,

Continued on Page 13-C

Harmon History

Continued from Page 12-C
 have taken first rank in the manufacture of milk condensing machinery on the Western Hemisphere. We can still count Charles E. as one of our citizens, who has aided materially in placing Northville on the map and keeping her there.

Grist Mills

The Northville Mills, which Mr. Yerkes advises was built in 1828 had during life a score or more of owners and for many years had a saw mill in connection. This mill served this section for 92 years. Its last owner, Don P. Yerkes, Sr., sold it to Henry Ford, who shortly after razed the faithful old landmark in 1920. Don P. erected his new mill on the Bass Line and PMRR, following the disposal of the old mill.

The Argo Mills were built and came into use in 1837. It was a part of the ground now owned by the Bell Furnace & Manufacturing Company on lower Cady Street, and was dismantled and razed by the American Bell & Foundry Company in 1908, after almost constant grinding for 70 years.

Water Supply

Nature did much for Northville when the water supply was passed around.

Her charming hills abound with springs of the purest water to be found anywhere.

It might be interesting to relate that in any early day water was conveyed through wooden pump logs from one of these springs, then known as the Taft springs, to the inhabitants, and this constituted Northville's first water system. The project was promoted and financed by a Mr. Plumstead. Some of the pump logs may still be seen as originally laid. No record of the extent of this system seems available.

The present system was projected and built during the village presidencies of M. A. Porter and W. H. Yerkes in 1891 and 1892. Water comes from the Thompson and Hills springs by gravity, with an auxiliary supply from the village springs on Fishery Road by pumping as required.

The springs east of the P.M.R.R. depot also supplies hundreds of gallons of purest water daily to the city of Detroit. The large bottling plant adjacent to the springs is an interesting point for visitors. The business is owned and operated by the Silver Springs Water Company.

Electric Lights

The 16th day of November, 1889, was a bright day and brighter night for Northville. The first electric lights were turned on that night. Thirty street lights of 20 candle power each for streets, and 100 lights of 10 candle power each supplied the stores. House lighting was a problem for the future.

The system was owned and operated by the Globe Furniture Company, with Samuel W. Wilkinson as chief engineer, master of equipment, supervisor of lines, solicitor of extension and collector of bills, on duty day and night until his name, Sam, became synonym of both "trouble and fix".

In 1899 the destructive fire of the Globe Furniture Company put the town in darkness for a time.

The village took over the system in 1900, and erected a new plant on the north side of Beal Avenue, west of Rouge River. The Detroit Edison

Company leased this plant, taking possession on November 16th, 1914, exactly 25 years after the first lights were turned on. Later the Edison Company purchased the plant, thus releasing the village from the heavy burden of operating under municipal ownership.

The ramifications of the Edison Company are so vast that the Northville plant became a mere cog in the wheel of a huge system, greatly to the benefit of the community. S. W. Wilkinson is still a duly recognized and valuable part of the system with his 38 years of experience. The affairs of the company in this district are under the direct charge of Edward Millis.

Telephone

The first public telephone booth was placed in the store of B. A. Wheeler now occupied by the A & P Company in 1882.

This was done by the old Bell Company, and at that time the company had only two other phones in the village. Since then telephones have become more numerous than autos, which in turn are so numerous that danger waits at every street crossing for the pedestrian.

The first typewriter (a caligraph) was brought in by the U. S. Fish Commission in 1886, and used in its office over what is now the Northville Drug Company's store. It was considered a curiosity, and many called to see it operated.

Aeroplanes

The newest industry to be established in Northville is the manufacture of airplanes by the Stinson Aircraft Corporation, in the buildings formerly occupied by the Stimpson Scale and Electric Company. The corporation is headed by Edward Stinson, an internationally known flier, as president and general manager.

The factory is an exceptionally busy place and rapidly increasing its volume of business to meet the heavy demands.

A flying field has been secured on the Starkweather-Ponsford farms, and everything points to the success of the most notable enterprise Northville has ever contained.

At this writing (July) it is announced that a project is on foot for Stinson monoplane to be flown around the world. This will be sponsored by men of means and well to do, and places Northville in an enviable position. A Northville pennant flying on a Stinson monoplane would be the consummation of a glorious century of her existence, as well as the opening of a new one, demonstrating over again her will to live and that her living had not been in vain.

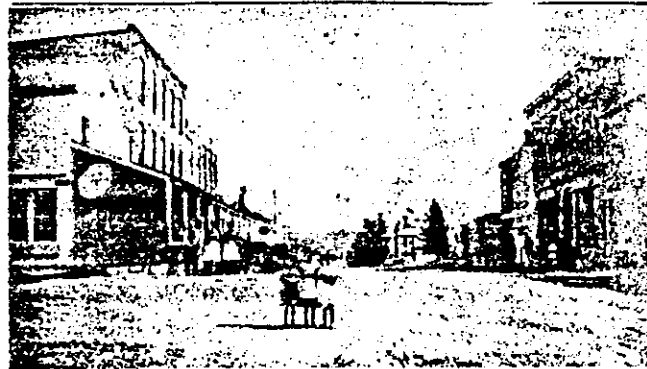
Churches and Schools

It is not the purpose of this article to go extensively into the development and progress of our school and churches. To do justice to them would require more lines and space allowed. Our school has been notable for the production of many able men and women. For 60 years beginning with its real organization it has had many eminent teachers at its head, and its present organization is up to, if not indeed, at the top of its existence.

The churches have been the power for good in the community. What better could be said?

Their records are complete in

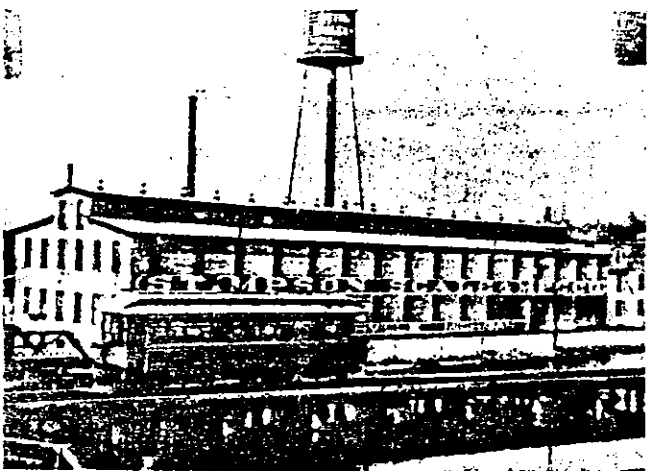
Continued on Page 14-C



DOWNTOWN Northville looked considerably different before the turn of the century as this picture of Main Street, looking east from Center Street, indicates. The building at the extreme left purportedly was the first "downtown" office of The Record.



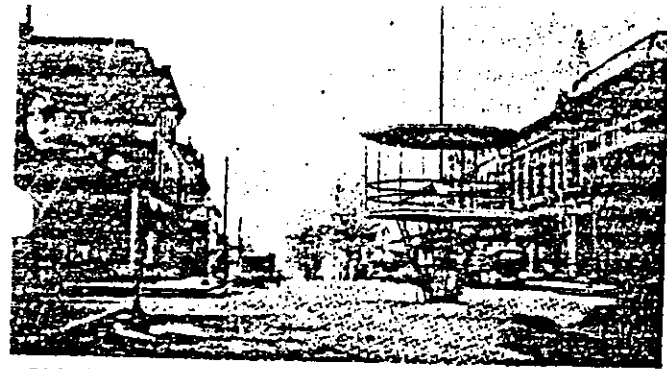
FISH HATCHERY - The building in the foreground is the old fish hatchery office facility, razed in 1968 after the city purchased the property for a park site. The building in the background is the old "haunted house" that burned to the ground many years ago.



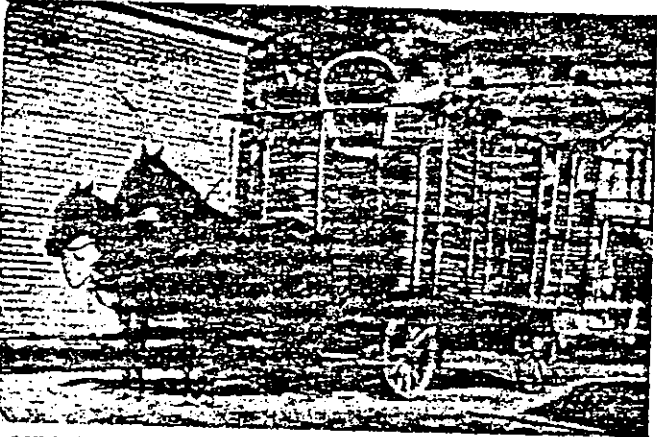
DUR CAR - An old interurban car crosses over the pond that stood at the foot of Main Street, east of the railroad depot. At the extreme right is part of a building that still stands.



MAIN STREET ABOUT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY.



CROW'S NEST - Located in the center of the Main and Center street intersection, this band platform was called the "crow's nest". From here Northville's famous old "city band" performed. Some say political rallies centered around the landmark which disappeared years ago.



LUMBER WAGON - This 19th Century picture shows a wagon load of products manufactured by the Dubuar Lumber & Manufacturing Company - but just exactly what's being transported is anyone's guess. Dubuar manufactured a wide variety of products including oden hoops for ships.

Harmon History

Continued from Page 13-C
themselves and accessible to all.

Newspaper
No article concerning Northville would be complete without reference to its newspaper, The Northville Record. Established about 60 years ago by Samuel H. Little, as a newsy little village sheet, few people thought at the time it could survive the first enthusiasm of its founder. It did, however, and through several changes in ownership has held its head high, progressed, always a little ahead of the times until today a real city paper is printed and published in the country.

Eminent Personalities
No record of Northville would be even remotely complete without particular reference to at least four men, outstanding personalities, having vast influence in every detail of community affairs, all high powered, intellectual and successful.

As it is not the purpose to class one above the other, they will be referred to in alphabetical order.

Francis R. Beal was born in Northville in a building on the ground now occupied by the brick store containing Moffitt's pool room, on east Main Street, in 1836. He was an interesting personality. A large, commanding, powerful man physically, a six footer, an entertaining talker on or off the platform when he could find time for it. A great developer of young men whom he was always on the lookout for, either to enter his own employ or aid in bettering their condition with others. The largest builder of houses Northville ever had, and at the same time the principle owner and manager of its greatest business. He was a fine French scholar and of a strong literary turn of mind, which coupled with a fine memory served him well in his great manufacturing enterprise. He was overtaken by sickness at nearly 70, and retired, but his iron will carried him through to the advanced age of 87.

J. S. Lapham first became widely known in this section as a merchant and wool buyer, occupying the present three-story Elliott building, and later established the first bank in Northville in the same building were Lovewell & Smith now have their office. Later in life he became an extensive grain broker, and a prominent figure on the Detroit Stock Exchange.

In personal appearance he was a very noticeable personage - short, thick set, full short beard, and a very large head, which was full of quick

sharp wit. He was an exceptionally entertaining political speaker, showing hard-headed common sense, driving home his arguments in short sentences and plain language that the most humble understood.

His death in 1893, at the age of 71, removed Northville's wealthiest citizens, as well as the most forceful man it has contained.

Dr. J. M. Swift came to Northville, a young man, about the beginning of the Civil War. He, with Dr. James Houston, were the two outstanding physicians in this section for a generation.

It is difficult to do the doctor justice on a single page. He was notably daring, commanding, brilliant, a real student, which in this case a real scholar. He was not only a doctor in and of the community, but an inspiration to the community. He was one of the best orators in Michigan. In

politics, religion, medicine or history he was always ready with a myriad of fine thoughts and facts let loose in a voice of thunder with lightning rapidity with a beautifully selected vocabulary

rarely conceived by even the most profoundly educated. He was also a most remarkable tenor singer and put

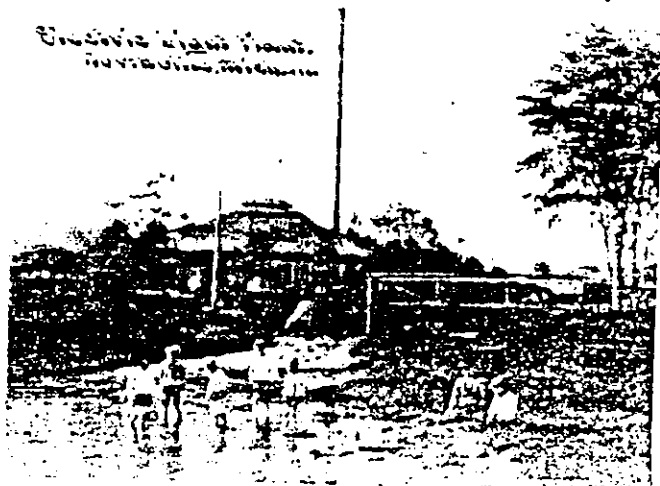
his musical talent at the disposal of the community in every possible way. He would conduct a singing school of 50,

60, or 80 pupils all winter, weekly, without price, solely to develop the latent talent that it might be of future use of its owner and possibly the community. The writer attended one winter, and you can imagine his surprise when the doctor tapped him on the shoulder one night and ordered him to appear in the church choir the coming Sunday. This meant something to the green country boy, who looked upon the doctor as almost superhuman.

He became a merchant in the same building originally occupied by J. S. Lapham. He was always interested in school, church and village of which he became president in 1896, and died the following year at the age of 65.

The last of these four notable men was **William P. Yerkes**. Any community would naturally be proud of such a character. He, too, was a six footer, with mustache and goatee - a true northerner who would pass anywhere as a typical southern colonel. He was a profound student, brilliant lawyer and just judge, being on the probate bench in early life. As a platform orator he was more than splendid at a 4th of July celebration of political gathering.

Concluded on Page 23-C



Harmon History

Continued from Page 14-C
in the hectic times following the Civil War.

He lived to the ripe old age of 82, having been born in 1820, and coming to Northville with William Yerkes, his father, in 1826. He lies at rest in beautiful Rural Hill, where also are buried the preceding three who, with him, formed the "Great Quartette" contemporaneously connected with every action for good in this community during the last half of the 19th Century.

It has been demonstrated for generations, over and over again, that no single individual is essential as the supreme guardian and indispensable manager of community affairs.

The collective force of numbers representing public opinion is in this day and age of the world the controlling element of advancing civilization.

So he who is not mentioned may be the king pin for some event today and a new one for another tomorrow.

The four men named could not be a town alone. It required hundreds of others to help make the field for them in which to operate. So all are essential even though they do not get on the front page or in the list of Who's Who.

Northville was incorporated a village in 1867, with W. P. Yerkes its first president. In the sixty years

following it has had 35 different men in the office — 16 of whom are still living. None have died a natural death nor been assassinated during their term of office, so that up to date the office has not been considered extra hazardous. None have been impeached in office, and all have given freely of their time and energy to serve the Village of Northville faithfully and well.

Our present dynamic president, Elmer Smith, is holding his own with any of them, and as long as such men can be induced to accept the office, merely for the good of the community, the taxpayer and citizens all need have no fear of things going wrong.

At present (July) the formation of a new charter is in the hands of an elected commission consisting of M. N. Johnson, A. C. Balden, E. H. Lapham, L. A. Babbitt and C. A. Dolph.

It is unquestioned that this Commission will be able to develop a charter that will be a decided improvement over the present methods under which officials are compelled to act in the administration of village affairs.

The citizens should be especially thankful for three recent and highly beneficial acts of its officials — viz., the purchase of the springs on Fishery Road, the Lapham property and the fire engine. Such wise moves should be publicly commended.

'96 Census: 435 Homes

AUG. 25, 1893 — Our spare time during the past two weeks has been busily engaged in taking a census of this village. The canvas has been very thorough and carefully made and is correct.

We find there are just 1,721 persons who make their home in this village. There are 458 families and they occupy 434 residences, 23 containing two families and one sheltering three. There is but one vacant house — the small Collins house way up on Rogers Street and that doubtless will be occupied before this item appears in print.

The average falls a little short of four to a family.

In Bealtown there are 50 families with a population of 203. Northside, known to most as Cabbagetown, has 83 families with a population of 324. The balance of the village contains 326 families with a population of 1,194.

The U.S. official census of 1890 gave Northville 1,573.

Along Underground Railroad

Slaves Hid in Northville Barn

Nov. 21, 1963 — They came into the area hidden in wagons, secreted in barns, homes, stores and then spirited away toward Detroit.

It is estimated that 40,000 run-away slaves, fleeing from their "masters" of the South, were smuggled into the Detroit area where they were transported across the St. Clair and Detroit rivers into Canada.

One of the several communities in southern Michigan which served as "stations" along the so-called Underground Railroad was located in the Northville-Salem area. And one of the barns in which these slaves hid before moving on towards Detroit still stands (it has since been removed).

Once part of the Starkweather homestead but now standing weatherbeaten in the center of the Thomson gravel pit between Six and

Seven Mile roads west of Beck, the barn is presently used as a storehouse for Thomson company equipment and parts.

According to Mrs. Ruth Starkweather, whose late husband was a grandson of the original owner of the property, Samuel Starkweather, the story of how slaves were passed on down through the generations following.

"My husband's father — King Starkweather — used to tell how he and his father would lead slaves back to the barn when they'd bring them here by wagon. It was all hush-hush. Not many knew about it.

"They'd bring them from the Ypsilanti area, down Seven Mile Road — it was just a dirt trail then — to the farm. (Mrs. Starkweather, past president of the Northville Historical Society, still lives in the original

Starkweather farmhouse now more than 130 years old.)

"The barn was way back of the house, used for quartering sheep.

"King Starkweather was just a young man then. Later he fought in the Civil War. I remember him saying right here in this room how he'd carry food back to the barn at night."

Like the house which still stands, the framework of the barn is hand-hewn. Solid black walnut timber, held together with wooden pegs, stretches across the entire length of the building. Some of the boards are 18-inches or more wide.

There were other "stations" in the area. The Ambler building, located in what is now a vacant lot at the southwest corner of Center and Main streets in Northville, and homes in the Reservoir drive area off what is now Cass Benton Park drive reportedly were used for housing slaves.

Some of the Negro families living today in Salem can trace their ancestry back to the era of the Underground Railroad.

The Lewis family, for example, recalls that John Lewis grew up in Virginia years before President Lincoln issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation.

Little is known about his parents, except for sketching accounts in the memories of grandchildren. His mother reportedly was set free by her "white master" shortly before his death. His father, who was a slave, worked in the Virginia coal mines.

Whether they married in Virginia or in Ohio is unknown by the Lewis survivors now living in Salem. And although the Lewis grandchildren cannot be sure, they suspect that their

grandparents and father fled to Ohio to escape enslavement during the period that slavery was reaching a boiling point in the United States.

According to records kept by the family, Lewis and his parents fled Ohio shortly before the Civil War "because kidnapers were roaming the Ohio territory waiting to seize Negro youths and carry them into the deep south and sell them."

Lewis was 14 at the time. He and his parents reportedly followed the route of the famous Underground from Ohio into or near Salem, and then on to the Detroit area and across the river into Canada.

About two years after the family's escape to Canada, Lewis "ran away from home" and returned to Michigan, where as a teenager he enlisted in Pontiac's first Negro division during the Civil War.

The Lewis family probably took the northern route of the Underground Railroad which ran from Ann Arbor to Northville, Farmington, Birmingham, Rochester, Utica and Romeo to either Richmond or New Haven, and then across the St. Clair River.

According to historians, each of the so-called "stations" were about a day's journey apart.

After entering Michigan at Niles, White Pigeon or Morenci, the slaves were guided through Cassopolis, Schoolcraft, Vicksburg, Climax, Battle Creek, Marshall, Albion, Jackson, Grass Lake, Chelsea, Dexter, Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, to Detroit and then to safety in Canada.

Slaves brought into the state at White Pigeon were linked with the Niles route at Schoolcraft or Vicksburg.

Sarah Ann Cochran

She Traveled in Arms of Mother

Sarah Ann Cochran, for whom the local Daughters of the American Revolution chapter was named, was one of Northville's most famous women of the past. Born July 28, 1832, she died on July 10, 1917, and was buried beside her parents and brother in Rural Hill Cemetery.

Her father, who represents an important page in Northville's early history, founded "Vermontville Colony" — a then tiny community near Lansing over which he was its religious leader.

A collection of her papers came into the hands of the Burton Historical Collection and were published in January, 1923. Miss Cochran, incidentally, was a member of the Detroit Public Library staff from 1883 to 1906. Excerpts from her papers, probably written during the last few months before her death, follow:

The Detroit Public Library contains a series of publications, by the Pioneer and History Society of Michigan, in Vol. 28 of which may be found a history of the Vermontville Colony, by E. W. Barber, the son of a first settler and a boyhood chum of my brother, the late Judge Cochran. This account, in treating of my father as the prime mover and active participant in the establishment of the colony, makes mention of some of the family as connected with the colony and as related to him afterward, but declared that "of Sarah, the daughter, nothing is known." Immediately upon my discovery of this Barberous lack of

information, I mailed to Mr. Barber's address a copy of the annual report of the Detroit Public Library, placing a mark against my name in the staff list. This at least disproved my utter nonentity and brought out a "correction" in a subsequent volume of the series.

My father, Sylvester Cochran, was born in Antrim, N.H., May 8, 1796; my mother Hannah (Symonds) Cochran, in Hancock, an adjoining town, February 12, 1796.

When, after a few years, the

'Roads on the route were simply appalling and break downs and consequent delays were frequent . . .'

prevailing "western fever" grew hot in his veins, and the spectre of change and adventure beckoned and entreated him to "hitch his wagon to the star" of westward emigration, the germ of discontent was planted and his aspirations were changed to what he devoutly flatter himself would be a noble mission, a broader, a grander field of service for the Master. The project of choosing and planting a colony of exemplary Vermonters in the far western "land of promise" became very alluring to him and was undertaken with boundless enthusiasm and superb faith.

Young travellers in these days of fine steam cars, automobiles and "improved roads" cannot conceive the

discomforts, privations and actual suffering which, 50 or 75 years ago, attended a journey "overland" by horses and wagon. Our wagon could carry only the barest necessities for prolonged travel through a country where we could not depend upon frequent replenishment. The route was through Canada, from Lewiston re-entering the U.S. at Detroit. (The present boom in prices of real estate here, has reminded me of an accredited story of how my father, while halting here in Detroit came near investing a few of his spare dollars in some "town

more legs between the loose logs, their extrication proving to be a serious problem, if no fence rail or other means of leverage was at hand. We bipeds could sometimes leap the gaps or make more or less of a circuit through the adjacent field or forest.

Sometimes a "break-down" occurred in the heart of a forest and if the resources of the wagon could not furnish temporary repair, my father walked back, or forth, or rode one of the horses to the nearest point of relief.

But this chapter of trials at last came to an end. Upon reaching Vermontville after about five weeks travel, we were kindly entertained by Deacon and Mrs. Church (who, with other "settlers" had preceded us) while our own cabin was being prepared. Help was hard to get and progress of building very slow. The picture of our first "at home" in the new house is clear in my memory today.

That first winter in the Colony was, to every one of the settlers, a period of more or less suffering. In our own case, lateness of arrival had prevented the raising of anything for food, and the horrible condition of the roads resulting from an "open" winter rendered passage to and from Bellevue, the nearest (13 miles) point of any purchase, next to impossible. Sturdy ox-teams drawing heavy lumber wagons, the only available means of transportation attempted some excursions across the country through the solid forest, consuming at least one day going, and another returning.

See 'Pioneers' on Page 23-C

lots" in the vicinity of our present Grand Circus Park. It is thrilling to contemplate the possibilities which might have grown out of such an act.)

It goes almost without saying that the roads on the route were simply appalling and "break downs" and consequent delays were frequent. For days, we walked more miles than we rode, my mother carrying me on her hip with one arm while with a long pole in the other hand, she tested the depth of the mud before each step. My father was often obliged to lead his team over "corduroy" roads where the logs floated and rolled in liquid mud. The poor horses frightened by the unstable footing, plunged and floundered, and at times sank one or

Pioneer's House: Logs, Moss, 'n Bark

Continued from Page 22-C

sometimes being obliged to "camp out" over night, one, or both, ways. At times, starvation threatened. In fact, the noble span of horses which had brought us safely through the memorable journey, found no pampered reward for their service. One died by actual starvation, under his diet solely of "browns" the other was sold for eight bushels of wheat, hoping thus to help ourselves over the danger line.

After the first five years (1837-42) which covered our residence in Vermontville, we stopped about a year in Howell, this was only a cipher in our experience. The status of the town, at that time, made it undesirable as an abiding place and gave little promise of success for a minister. So, when, in the course of months, an opening at

church was forced to disband.

After two or three years living in Northville what seemed to be a favorable opportunity for opening a school induced my father to venture the purchase of a suitable property just then for sale and thus was founded what soon became broadly known as the "Northville Academy" (the building stands today, 1969, as the home of the John Casterburys).

The school flourished in numbers and popularity, and many young men there imbibed a stimulus which inclined them to a higher education in the state university at Ann Arbor. During some of the earlier years, my brother and myself assisted in teaching, according to our time and ability, my brother, while a member of the

weeks of father's death (March 14, 1860) my own health had utterly collapsed, and I never again resumed teaching.

Following is an excerpt of a letter written by Mrs. Sylvester Cochran to a sister from Vermontville, dated October 3, 1838, describing their log home - probably a good deal like the original homes of Northville:

The main body of the house which is 24 feet by 16 is constructed of logs covered with bark and much of their original moss still dangling in all its varieties - the walls three logs high above the chamber-floor - in the inside of the house strips of wood are driven between the logs to fill the crevices - on the outside they are filled with a plaster of mud - (The Architects of this country call it mudding and chinking). A door out each way north and south a window in front with 12 lights - one in the west end of the same number. The floor "above and below" made of plank split out of ash or basswood, with berris and wedges and is far from being level or smooth, and clatters finely when walked over. And now comes the chimney which is made of tiles about three inches wide and one inch thick - laid up oob house fashion and plastered with mud within - a hearth of mud pounded down and paved with stone. (So you see that we contrive to make a good use of our sperabundance of mud).

The roof is covered with long shingles reaching from one rib to another to which they nailed, with no other covering. The shingles are split

out of oak are not shaved and are called shakes. On the back side and the whole length of the house is a "Linter", one half of which is inclosed for a bedroom and a study. The other half open with only a roof covered with bark and a floor. This is the place "Where barrel, swill-pails riddle, shovel, rub pigin corn-bag all together, are put to keep them from the weather." For the want of room I shall fill to give you an account of our nice accomodations in the house. You can guess them.

'And thus was founded what soon became broadly known as the Northville Academy...'

Northville presented it was readily accepted. The village was past the pioneering stage and quite attractive, and the community of excellent repute. A new Presbyterian church of the "new school" variety had recently been formed (an "old school" organization was already established) and to the charge of this church my father though nominally a Congregationalist was invited.

The young organization flourished for a time, a neat edifice was built (standing today, 1969, as the Northville Township Hall) and minister and people were satisfied, but as time passed, the burden of support became too heavy for the few able and responsible members, and the young

university, occasionally absenting himself therefrom for the purpose, on condition of keeping his place in his university class studies. My father had been in failing health for some time, when, in 1857, with sorrow and regret he gave up the school, but continued preaching, the scene of his clerical labors being the Presbyterian church in Plymouth.

In the season following his retirement from teaching, having lately graduated from Monroe Female Seminary I re-opened the school, but on a different plan, making it exclusively for girls. This was continued satisfactorily to all attendants and with pecuniary advantage to me, until within a few



RECORD OFFICE AT RIGHT
(East Side of Center Street)

Ford Brings 'Village Industries' To Northville with Valve Plant

Fifty years ago, in 1919, the late Henry Ford purchased the Northville Valve Plant and added it to his list of "village industries." Each plant could be identified by its water wheel.

Dotting the countryside throughout southeastern Michigan, these plants were known for their high standards of craftsmanship and for friendly "hometown" atmosphere.

It was Ford's idea to bring the plants to the farmers so they could work in them when they were not in the fields. The "village industries" were an attempt to tie the rural areas in with manufacturing.

The first building on the site was a saw mill built in 1825. It purportedly was the first building in Northville.

In 1896 a wood-working shop, operated by the J. A. Dubuar Manufacturing Company, was built. The three-story brick plant turned out wheelbarrows, beet cutters, wood pulley blocks and other wood products until more modern competition forced its closing.

Much of the original woodworking equipment can be seen today at Greenfield Village in Dearborn where Ford moved it during renovation of the Northville plant for valve-making operations.

During the winter months of 1919, motor valve making machinery from Fordson plant, and one complete Model T valve production unit from Highland Park, were installed.

On March 20, 1920, valve production began at Northville. During the next 16 years, 181 million valves were produced in the original building.

By 1936, a more modern plant was needed and the present building of

steel and brick was constructed. In the early days of the new plant, a Fitz overshot water wheel, powered by water piped from a small nearby lake, was used to drive a 30 horsepower electric generator.

In recent years the generator has not been in operation, but the water wheel is kept in operating condition to preserve the "village industries" atmosphere.

The plant is active in the production of intake and exhaust valves.

Exhaust valves produced at the plant begin, as in the past, at the Rouge Plant in the Dearborn Specialty Foundry. Single piece nickel-chrome alloy exhaust valve castings are shipped to the Northville plant for a series of grinding operations.

Intake valve manufacturing was begun at the plant during the early 1950's and in 1956 the plant was expanded to enable the building to handle the increased production.

On February 1, 1957, the Northville functions were assigned to operate under the jurisdiction of the Dearborn Engine Plant in the Engine and Foundry Division of the company.

Today, 300 employees are involved in the production of 150,000 valves daily. The valves are used in all the cars of the Ford and Mercury lines except the Continental.

The valves are shipped to Ford engine plants where they are assembled into the car engines.

The Northville Valve is the only one of the original "village industries" still in operation. Though it began making valves for Model T cars fifty years ago, today it produces the valves for the latest models.



NORTHVILLE FORD VALVE PLANT IN 1936

Richardson Buys Clover Condensery

JAN. 3, 1908 - On New Year's day the Milk Condensing plant of the Clover Dairy Co., known as the Rogers Oakland Plant, located in the north part of the village (Base Line) was sold to the Northville Condensing & Cheese Co., of which Governor Warner and T. C. Richardson are the proprietors.

At the transfer of the property Wednesday, The Clover Dairy Co. was represented by President Albert Albright and Director W. C. Glines, both of Detroit.

Mr. Glines called in the patrons of the condensery and explained the situation:

"We have sold this plant" said Mr. Glines, "to Warner & Richardson or rather given it away. Since operating it our company have lost upwards of \$40,000 and we thought the quicker it was disposed of the sooner our loss would stop. It has been a losing investment from the start for our company, but we thought it our duty to call in the patrons and explain the situation and assure them that they would be paid in full before the 10th of the month for all that was due for their milk."

"Warner and Richardson will operate the plant in connection with their other plant and will be pleased to receive your milk the same as we have in the past."

The history of milk condenseries in Northville during the past dozen or two years has been a "rough and hilly" one. The old Clover Condensery, with an expensive plant, located near the fish hatchery, hummed along for some years and at last went to the wall carrying along with it a severe loss to the farmers.

A milk station existed at the P.M. depot for awhile and finally quit business. Then the Northville

Condensing Co. was organized, building a plant near the Yerkes Mill (on Griswold). It was not a financial success, and later it was bought for less than half what it cost by Warner & Richardson and has been operated by them for some years as the only successful condensing plant in this part of the state.

Then came the Rogers Oakland, which less than two years ago was reorganized as the Clover Dairy Co. Plant above referred to and which has now been sold as indicated in the opening paragraph of this article.

Warner & Richardson assured the patrons they would operate the Clover plant and would be pleased to receive all the milk they could deliver and for

See page 5-E
for story
on Richardson

which they would at all times pay the highest price possible and still be able to operate the business without a loss.

Mr. Glines stated that at times his company had been paying a higher price for milk, including the expensive manner of getting some of it to the factory, then they had been able to sell it for in the city.

The price paid by Warner & Richardson for the plant was \$5,700, hardly more than one-fourth of its original cost. The plant is one of the most complete and modern ones of the kind in the state and the new owners will endeavor to operate it to its fullest capacity.



BERT PHILLIPS INSIDE FISH HATCHERY LAB



CONDENSERY - WHERE WARREN PRODUCTS STANDS TODAY

Private Golf Course Once Stood On Northville Racetrack Site

Just plain old swampland 80 years ago on the edge of a small village transformed later into a small private golf course.

That's just part of the story of the fabulous growth of the Northville Downs as it celebrates its 26th season of night harness racing this year.

The idea of night harness racing was pioneered at Northville, with the first evening racing in Michigan held at the Downs on September 1, 1944. Admission to the 8:30 p.m. races was 60 cents.

History of the track, however, goes back more than 26 years. In fact, the first roots are buried at the beginning of the 1900's.

It was at the turn of the century that a now forgotten industrialist bought the tract at what is now Center Street and Seven Mile Road and installed a private nine hole golf course. A few years later, a group, which included the late Ed Starkweather among others, raised \$1,000 to purchase the land and started what is the racing plant of today.

The group spent weeks and weeks filling in the land, hauling huge boulders from every spot within distance of a horse and wagon and then fill dirt by the ton to form the base of the present track.

After that came days of scraping and work to develop a track suitable for matinee performances. There wasn't any grandstand but picnic tables were brought in and it was a Sunday gathering place for the families with the standardbreds performing on the track.

The Northville Fair was organized a few years later. The fair grew and grew until it was rated one of the best in Michigan. It attracted thousands of visitors who made the trip to the six-day affair.

A wooden grandstand was erected and served in good stead for years until it burned down in the early 1920's. There were a few years when the track was without a grandstand but then in 1926, the same group of investors held a stock sale - 300 shares at \$10 - to build a new grandstand with a capacity of more than 3,000.

It was a tremendous thing for that era and all but paid for itself with the additional attendance at the annual fair and the matinee racing programs.

It was also during the stock sale that the Northville Driving Club began to play a major role in the start and eventual rise of parimutuel wagering and night racing. The stockholders were members of the Driving Club which owned the grounds and the grandstand.

Dr. Linwood Snow, retired but still a Northville resident, was a prime mover in the events leading to the start of night racing.

Dr. Snow, one of Northville's most colorful and beloved citizens, was a leader in politics as well as one of the city's top physicians. He was interested in everything that would help Northville, especially the Northville Driving Club of which he was a charter member.

During the late '30s and early '40s, "Doc" was manager of the Michigan State Fair, where he worked hard to uphold the State's reputation for



BIRD'S EYE VIEW - Looking past an old Northville power house on Beal Street towards the "Athletic Park", once called the "Fairgrounds" and today the site of Northville Downs harness track. The picture, taken sometime before 1908, shows a part of Northville prior to construction of River Street.

Sam Brader Founder

Clothing Store Started in 1924

Familiarity and a long history of loyal employees have car-marked Brader's Department Store the Northville clothing department store. For nearly 50 years now their range of merchandise, managed by Northville clerks, have been servicing this community.

The business was launched in 1924 when Sam and Mary Brader came to Northville. They opened a clothing store on North Center street, immediately next to the old Northville Opera house. In 1928 they moved the business to its present location on 141 East Main. There it stands today, slightly altered by continued expansion.

Shortly after the move to Main Street Brader took on a partner, nephew Harry Himmelsteib. He came from the city having previously worked in several Detroit clothing stores. The two managed the store together until 1945, when illness forced Brader to sell out.

The Bradens then moved with their two daughters to Tucson, Arizona, where they are still living.

Throughout the years, Brader's has continued to increase its range of merchandise. It has expanded its selection of girls' and women's clothing while maintaining its steady supply of shoes and men's clothing. Every student of Northville Junior High has been to Brader's at least once to purchase a gym suit.

After the departure of Sam and Mary, Himmelsteib continued managing the store alone. This lasted until 1963, when illness forced him to sell. He then traveled South where he lived until his death in 1965.

Like his predecessor the new owner, Aaron Gellerman, was a clothing merchant from Detroit. Under his direction the interior of the old store was completely remodeled, but

the original building remained the same. The most major change was the removal of a center partition, which for years had divided the men's

F. L. West Opens Cheese Operation

MAR. 10, 1892 - The Northville cheese factory will be in full operation April 1. The Kator building owned by A. B. Smith on Main Street is now being fitted up for that purpose. The factory will be under the management of F. L. West, an experienced cheese maker. We believe some Northville capital is also interested in the concern and it promises to be a valuable industry for our village.

department from the women's side.

Unlike other stores, Brader's has had a relatively slow turnover among its employees. Indeed most of its help are Northville people who have watched the store grow and change with the town. Miss Mazzie Markham has been a clerk in the woman's department since 1935. Mrs. Maxine LaRue, secretary and bookkeeper, has worked there on and off since 1945. Other women with a history of faithful service include Ellen Modos, Janice Hammer, Veronica Roberts and Donna Biss.

Among the men Maurice Giles, manager of the shoe department and Dennis Wilkie, a clerk in the men's division have worked for Brader's a number of years.

Condensery Owner Dies in Northville

JULY 3, 1936 - T. G. Richardson, 87-year-old Northville businessman, civic leader and a business associate of former Governor Fred M. Warner, died at his High Street home early last Friday, following an illness of several weeks.

Born in Lincolnshire, England, February 22, 1849, the boy Thomas George crossed the Atlantic at the age of three and came to live in Holly. Moving to Northville more than 50 years ago, he set himself up in the men's clothing business, and his store was one of the first of any size in the village.

As he took his place among Northville's most prominent citizenry, his interests came to include almost every civic enterprise the village engaged in - banking, the fair association, the cemetery association,

Instrumental in forming the association that built Rural Hill Cemetery, Mr. Richardson always had an interest in it. In 1929, he constructed a pool in the cemetery as a memorial to his wife, who died a year before.

He was always a leader in activities of the Northville Wayne County Fair, and he personally supervised the construction of some of the buildings now on the fair grounds.

He early became associated with Governor Warner in the milk condensing business, and the Richardson-Warner Condensery was one of the largest, and best known in the state. He remained close to Warner when the three-term governor was in the executive's office and always remained a close friend of the Warner family.



AERIAL VIEW OF NORTHVILLE DOWNS LOOKING NORTH PAST SEVEN MILE AND EDWARD HINES DRIVE

Downs Pioneered Night Horse Racing

Continued from Page 5-E

having the most outstanding state fair in the nation.

While he was state fair manager, "Doc" toured the State and visited many of the county fairs, especially Ionia County Fair, which had developed its harness racing into a popular event.

In 1940, when Dr. Snow left his position with the State Fair, he was asked to take the presidency of the Driving Club and the management of the Northville Fair.

His first Northville Fair was the biggest financial success in history.

Then came World War II. Fairs were more or less forgotten during the war until 1944, when Dr. Snow and members of the Driving Club board of directors were approached by a group of Buffalo, New York, businessmen.

The group from Buffalo wanted to discuss the possibility of holding night, pari-mutuel betting programs at Northville Downs.

The directors agreed that harness racing under the lights at Northville would never be a success. Pacers and trotters had never raced in anything but daylight and who would ever come out to watch them race at night?

They also wondered where anyone would get horses to compete under the lights. The proposition was unheard of and seemed extremely risky from a financial angle.

But Sam Wiedrick, Harold Dennison and John J. Carlo, representatives of the Buffalo group,

wanted to give it a try. After months of talks and negotiations, they finally received an affirmative reply from the Driving Club Directors.

Today Carlo is executive manager of Northville Downs.

After some difficulty, the poles, electric wires, lights and other things necessary for night racing were assembled and the track was ready. Then, the grandstand needed repairing.

The Buffalo group, which included Max Brock, Abe Goldberg, Earl Reed, Wiedrick, Dennison and Carlo, was able to find steel girders to reinforce the grandstand. It was not considered safe enough to support capacity crowds.



DR. L. W. SNOW

Carlo, an attorney, led the search and procurement of the much needed steel.

With the track problem resolved, another problem faced the men. They had to convince horse owners and trainers that the pacers could race at night under lights, something that had never been done before in the Midwest.

One of the sport's greatest racing secretaries, Edward Keller, was named racing secretary at the Downs. He immediately began visiting the county fairs to sell night racing. Keller has had a hand in the development of almost every race track in the United States.

The great experiment at the Downs finally became a reality in the fall of 1944.

Everything was ready — the track, lights, operators and Driving Club — but less than 30 horses were on the grounds.

There was a bit of financing involved in getting that many horses. Keller and Wiedrick scoured the county fairs. The winners would share in the purse, and in addition, every owner would receive a flat \$100 for each horse entered in the race.

Night harness racing was started in Michigan that September 1.

A touch of county fair was still in the program. The field for the first race came back for the fourth and seventh; the horses in the second were back for the fifth and eighth; and the starters in the third were back in the sixth. There were eight horses entered in each of eight races.

A total of 24 horses were used each night. The same horses raced for four or five nights in a row before additional pacers and trotters were hired to the track by the \$100 per race offer.

There was considerable doubt in the minds of the Driving Club directors

about the success of the race venture when the nightly handle averaged only \$20,000. There were many "I told you so" pessimists.

The season lasted 20 nights and plans were immediately laid for the following spring races.

The 1945 season looked very promising. Horsemen knew the pacers and trotters could race just as well at night as in daylight. Applications for stalls came from Michigan and many surrounding states.

Orlow G. Owen of Northville was breaking into racing as an announcer. It wasn't long before he became known through the nation. Owen is still active in the sport and is now vice-president and general manager at Wolverine Raceway.

Ed Keller moved East to participate in the opening of a track in New York. Johnny Daley was named racing secretary. His young assistant was Bill Connors, who was new to the game. Connors still directs racing at Wolverine and Hazel Park.

The scene at the Downs was a colorful one in those early days. The fans were just beginning to warm up to harness racing and there were many horses that kept the crowd buzzing.

The handle at the track started to climb upward and before long soared over the \$100,000 nightly average in the spring. By fall it had passed \$175,000 a night.

In 1946, harness racing had an astronomical rise due to the efforts of one pacer, "Dr. Stanton."

"Dr. Stanton" was a green pacer brought to Northville from Ontario by Lindy Fraser. The horse was to become one of the all-time greats.

Continued on Page 27-E



POLITICAL RALLY AT 'FAIRGROUNDS' IN THIRTIES

*It's time to say
Congratulations
to
The Northville Record
Noder's Jewelry
-Since 1962-*



Schraders Open Northville Store

This is how it all began some 67 years ago when Nelson C. Schrader Sr. and his brother, Fred, founded their furniture and undertaking business in Plymouth.

They opened a second branch in Northville after buying the old M. A. Porter Furniture and Undertaking concern in 1907. Nelson operated this store, which is still in the same location at 111 North Center Street.

During the early 1900s undertaking was done entirely in the home, except for the caskets which were upholstered inside and out at the store.

In 1925 the partnership dissolved and six years later Schraders of Plymouth discontinued their furniture line. The funeral home is now owned and operated by Fred's son, Edwin.

Meanwhile, Schraders of Northville continued to grow and became a leading name in the field of home furnishings in this area.

A year after his father died in 1936, Nelson Jr. completed studies at Michigan State and took over active management of the store. His son, Nelson C. Schrader, III, also a graduate of MSU, is now learning the furniture business and will one day take over the operation for his father.

Ironically, Schraders again has furniture stores in Northville and Plymouth. They bought their original

building on Penniman Avenue in 1963.

Just as business has grown, so has the size of the stores. They now have some 42,000 square feet of display area — as compared to less than 4,000 square feet in both stores half a century ago.

Records prove that there have been single days in recent years when the volume of business was more than the entire year of 1933.

Brass beds, china closets, tables and chairs of yesteryear are now sought after and cherished by collectors. "The variety of goods has certainly changed," adds Nelson Jr. "Why in those days upholstered furniture used to have one cover and a suite consisted of a davenport, chair and rocker."

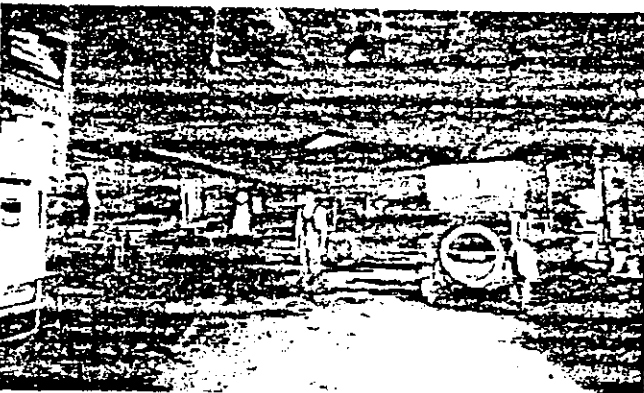
Today there are 13 employees with Schraders. Manager Harry Sodan has been with the Northville store since 1936. Nelson remembers when they had only three people running the store — "and we were operating an undertakers business too," he recalls.

"Carpet Land" was developed in 1965 when they moved their goods into what was the Northville Post Office. The business was incorporated in 1968.

Schraders maintains a tradition of operation that is unchanged — quality merchandise, fair prices and two furniture sales a year.



NORTHWEST CORNER — A hardware store was located in the building where The Record office is located today. Earlier, the Northville Savings Bank was located here. Where Shafer Electric is shown in the picture was John McCullough's cobbling shop and next door to it was the DUR waiting room.



STONE GARAGE — Fred Wendt operated the "Main Street Garage" in the stone building located at the northeast corner of Hutton and Main streets. "That's why I know the building on the corner wasn't the old stone schoolhouse that everyone says stood there. That's Fred on the left with Paul Gaffield."



WARE'S RESTAURANT — Mrs. Ina (Walters) Ware poses in front of her store that stood where Brader's department store stands today.

1908



Mrs. Bruno Freydl and her pet dog, Biff.

*The same face but how
it has
changed*

1925



Nell in the doorway—Betty outside.

Since 1894

Freydl's

NORTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN

1969



'Freydl The Tailor' Arrives Here in '94

"My grandfather started out as a tailor in Germany," said 71-year-old Charles Freydl, himself the grandfather of five. "The entire family, even the women, have been in the clothing business ever since."

Bruno Freydl, father of Charles, arrived in semi-cobblestoned Northville in 1894 from Mt. Vernon, Ohio. It was here he established his shop "Freydl the Tailor" in a room over what is now the Old Mill Restaurant.

He fashioned hand-made suits and other garments piece by piece until his eye-sight failed him, then he brought in the made-to-measure line. In the earlier years he was assisted by his young sisters Mary and Emma, who helped make vests.

Bruno married in 1896, Charles was born in 1898 and the shop was moved across the street to larger quarters. An antique dealer presently occupies the spot, which is next door to The Little People Shoppe.

"We shared the building with Carpenter & Huff," recalled Charles. "They were in the hardware line. Dad's father-in-law, Charles Joslin, owned the building then."

Saturday night was a swinging time in the village. Before the "Crow's Nest" was built at the intersection of Main Street and Center Street, the band played in a huge wagon. As a teenager Charles played the Alto Horn with the musicians for one dollar a performance.

"Those were the days - we had wooden sidewalks, streetcars, hitching posts for the horses, and I remember an old fella was paid 25 cents a day to clean the cobblestones," he continued.

"Before the street was paved they used those stones to build the George Alexander house, but it was lost in a fire some years ago."

When Bruno added dry cleaning to his business in 1911, Charles started helping after school. "We sponged and pressed everything by hand," he said. "One day there was a bad train accident and old Doc Henry rushed down to lend assistance. He brought his blood-caked coat in later but dad said it couldn't be cleaned. I asked if I

could try, and with a stiff brush, cleaning solution and elbow grease I succeeded."

Although he could tailor and mend, it was then that Charles decided to concentrate on the cleaning end of the business.

Bruno made his second move when he bought the building now housing the Freydl Ladies Shop from William Ambler. "While dad had his men's shop up front, my wife, Velma, and I ran our cleaning business in back," said Charles. "Those depression years were lean ones. Not too many people wanted dry cleaning when they could scarcely feed themselves."

Meanwhile, Bruno's daughter, Nellie Barry, came into the store with him and managed a ladies line of goods. When he passed away in 1936, she ran the shop by herself.

Charles purchased the little shop now occupied by the Hartley-Powers Gallery from Ambler's son, Sherril, in 1937. The gallery was previously William's office as justice of the peace, and before that, an alley-way.

Two years later, Charles bought out Nellie's men's line and included it with his cleaning business.

By 1943 the Freydls had outgrown the little shop and decided to expand to the location which is now their men's shop. The building, which housed first, Cohen's Dry Goods, Edwin White's Dry Goods, the A & P Grocery Store and Walker's Pool Room, was bought from Lida Richardson Murphy.

"Our press shop was moved downstairs," added Charles, "but the cleaning system remained where it is today, out back in a cement block building."

"We bought Nellie's ladies line in 1961 and Velma, 'Ma' as we call her, took over and developed it into what it is today. Our son, Robert, owns this building now, and Charles Jr. manages the men's store."

So it was, the humble beginnings of "Freydl the Tailor" grew into a large, family-owned business - and now they are starting on the fifth generation.

Two Tin Cans, Cord Carried 'Phone' Calls

APRIL 17, 1931 - "I'll tell you a story about Northville's first telephone," said Charles Sessions, leaning back in his big chair when another story was demanded from his wealth of knowledge of the early history of our village.

There was no telephone connections between houses or towns when he was a boy. In those days folks walked to visit with their neighbors (the women then had time to knit socks. About 70 years ago there lived on Cady Street a man named James Evens who ran a harness shop in a small building standing on the site of the present fine theatre building.

Evens found it necessary to run back and forth on sundry errands all

too frequently for his comfort until the thought occurred to him to make a simple telephone connection with his home over on Cady so that he could tell his wife now and then to put his plate in the oven to keep his dinner warm while he finished mending the harness for some old Dobbin.

Two or three poles were erected and a stout cord was stretched between these with a tin can at each knotted end of the cord. Through these cans he and his wife carried on amicable conversations at the "remarkable distance" of one block.

This was Northville's first telephone. Some years later a local telephone company was organized with Marion A. Porter as manager.

First Schoolhouse Built of Logs Three Miles East of Northville

The history of Northville's schools goes back 143 years, to 1826 when the first schoolhouse was built of logs.

The building was located on the William Barton farm, three miles east of Northville. To the 10 students who attended the school, the sight of wolves emerging from the surrounding woods was not uncommon.

In 1829, two other district school houses were built. One was located on Griswold Hill, east of town, and the other in the western part of Northville,

on the southeast corner of Taft farm on Base Line Road (Eight Mile Road). Both were built from logs.

In a few years the residents of Northville realized the need for a larger school. On August 31, 1833, a meeting of school district number two of Plymouth Township was held at the home of Samuel Sterling.

Daniel C. Cady was elected chairman and trustees were William Dunlap, Samuel Sterling, J. M. Mead and A. Watson.

The members voted to erect a schoolhouse for 100 students on Hutton Avenue near Main Street.

The school was built of cobble stone, laid in lime mortar, and remained standing until 1923.

In those early days the wages for teachers were from \$1 to \$2 per week. School was in session six days each week with only an occasional Saturday afternoon holiday.

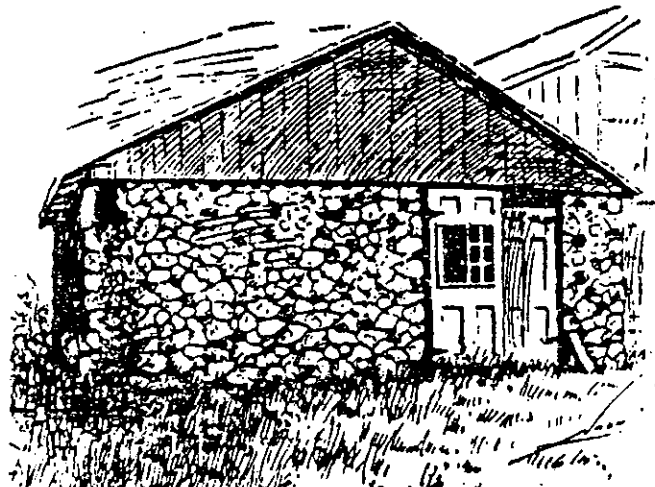
There were several private schools operating in the Northville area from 1840 to 1890. Betsy Shea conducted a "Select School", which was attended by Northville children. The Northville Academy was perhaps the best known of the private schools.

"Unlike those of the common district school," wrote T. R. Beal, former Northville Academy pupil, "its patrons were confronted each term with a 'rate bill' computed by adding all the items of expense for the term and dividing it by the total number of days his children had attended, a process which involved some perplexing fractions of a cent per day."

By 1849 the population of Northville had increased and another larger school was needed. The New

Site Chosen For Amerman

May 17, 1956 - The Manning & Locklin property west of Oakwood subdivision and adjoining the Amerman Elementary School on the South and West has been recommended by Eberle M. Smith Associates, Inc., architects and engineers, as the most desirable of four suggested locations for the proposed new Northville High School.



STONE SCHOOL - Built not long after the arrival of the first settlers to Northville, this stone school was built on a site overlooking what today is the Ford Field.

School Presbyterian church (now the Northville Township offices) was purchased for \$837 and converted into classrooms.

In 1850, the old stone school was sold to David Barnum for \$67.

In 1863 it became apparent that a still larger building would be needed. The school board members passed a resolution to raise \$5,000 for the purpose of building a new schoolhouse. At this time the number of trustees was increased from four to six, and the name was changed from the common school district to a high or graded school.

The board decided to construct a two-story brick building east of where the Main Street Elementary School stands today. The cost of the building was raised to \$7,000 and when finally completed reached \$11,000.

The school was finished in September, 1865.

The new structure was known as the Northville "Union School," and became the first high school in town. It was organized under the direction of Professor William A. Osband.

Students were taught the "three

R's" along with Greek, Latin, French and German. There were four teachers employed for the 100 students. About 50 to 60 students were enrolled in the grade school.

The school was available to students from the surrounding area, those from outside Northville paying tuition.

For one term the fee for an academic course was \$5.20; for the junior course, \$4.50; intermediate, \$4; and primary, \$2.60.

See "Union School" on Page 12-D

Dubuar Honored At Dedication

MAY 7, 1937 - Charles L. Dubuar, present at the grade school dedication April 22, was the first ex-board member to be asked to stand for public recognition.

In paying tribute to Mr. Dubuar, Dr. A. B. Wickham told of the 32 years of consecutive service Mr. Dubuar had given the village of Northville when through the years he sat on the board of education.

Fire Rips School

Here In 1936

JANUARY 17, 1936 - Fire completely destroyed the eight room brick veneer grade school building here early Monday morning. It is believed that sparks from the chimney caught in the cupola on the roof and caused the conflagration which could not be controlled in the high winds.

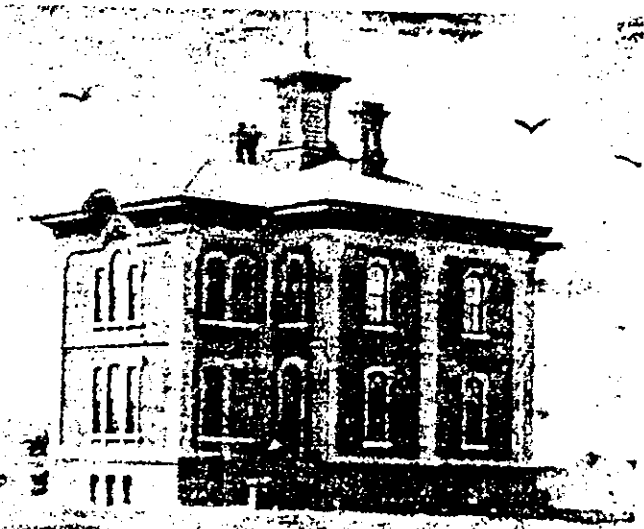
Flames from the building were discovered at 5 a.m. by Miss Constance Lee, a nurse at the Sessions Hospital, who immediately notified the fire department.

Although the amount of the damage has not been determined, Superintendent R. H. Amerman is of the opinion that the \$41,000 insurance protection carried on the building and equipment will cover the loss. Only a few black boards, desks and chairs were salvaged.

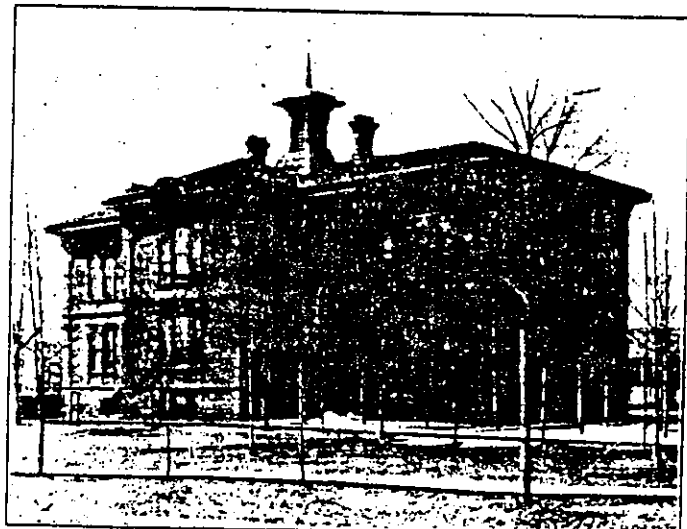
The building which was built in 1907, has long been looked upon as a fire hazard.

Mr. Amerman and members of the school board have spent much time this week in making arrangements for the continuation of classes which have been interrupted. All of the local churches offered rooms which might be used. It was finally arranged to place the pupils in the American Legion hall, the Lapham State Bank and the Richardson building on Main Street in an effort to centralize the grades as much as possible.

The Legion hall and the bank building are to be used without rental charge.



UNION SCHOOL, NORTHVILLE'S FIRST HIGH SCHOOL



NORTHVILLE'S 'GRADED SCHOOL' OF 1910

Union School: Our First High School

Continued from Page 5-D

There were extra charges for music, drawing and penmanship. Students were advised they could obtain good room and board in private homes for \$3.50 a week.

There were three terms to the school year during the early days. The fall term began in September and closed at the end of November. The winter term began the first of December and ended in mid-March, a two week holiday observed for Christmas. The spring term began in late March and ended in June.

The rules and regulations were strict and had to be followed. A few included in the catalogue were registering of names before entering recitations; strict observance of the study hours as announced at the opening of each term; attendance at morning exercises in the chapel; proper respect towards the officers of the institution, and courtesy towards each other; three studies required each term unless a good excuse was given.

In 1869, four years after the formation of the "Union School," Alice M. Beal was awarded the first high school diploma, hand-printed on parchment.

The first alumni organization was formed in 1881. Eight years later it was disbanded and reorganized later under the direction of John D. LaRue.

Under LaRue a school bank, course in agriculture, installation of electric lights, telephones and fire alarms were initiated.

After a tour of the public school in March, 1896, a staff member of The Record wrote, "The remedy for the over crowding must be soon forthcoming; and the parents, voters and taxpayers should think of the best way to meet the question when it comes up. The school building is not adequate to the needs of the town."

"The worthy people who planned the school and secured the present

'For one term the fee for an academic course was \$5.20; for the junior course, \$4.50; intermediate, \$4; and primary, \$2.60 . . .'

location, could not have foreseen the growth of the village in the opposite direction. There are many children, who should be regular attendants of the first grade this winter who are not quite old enough to be trusted so far from home during the inclement weather of the winter term, and spring will bring an influx of these youngsters and some who are real beginners to the already overcrowded first primary. The only way to do these children justice is to place a school where the distance will not deter them from daily attendance."

In 1907, a high school was built to ease the overcrowding. The building

located West Street (now closed) between Main and Cady. The old "Union School" became the elementary school.

Fire destroyed the "Union School" in 1916. A new school was built for \$75,000. It was the first school in Northville to have a gymnasium. The elementary school was moved to the old high school and the high schoolers attended classes in the

new building.

January 13, 1936, fire struck the elementary school. The blaze began around 5 a.m. in the cupola on the roof, started by sparks from the chimney. Firemen from Northville and Plymouth battled the fire until 8 a.m., on what some said was "the coldest day of the year."

Only a few blackboards and chairs were saved from the school.

The 358 elementary pupils were temporarily housed by grades in the American Legion Hall, Lapham State Bank and the Richardson Building. Supplementary books and supplies were donated by the Plymouth school system.

Construction began on a new elementary school in July, 1936. The school, known as the Main Street School, was completed February 6, 1937, at a cost of \$99,000. Dedication ceremonies were held April 22, 1937.

With the expansion of Northville, the city's school system again reached the point where more classrooms were needed.

To alleviate the problem, an addition was built on to the Main Street School in 1949.

A new elementary school, Russell H. Amerman, was opened September 8, 1955. The school had a capacity of 300 students with 10 classrooms for grades kindergarten through six. It was built at a cost of \$300,000.

An addition was built on the school in 1957. The eight more classrooms increased the school's capacity by 200 students.

Building projects in the school system continued and plans were laid for construction of a \$2 million high school in 1958.

In a unique ceremony, ground was broken for the new school March 14, 1958, by members of the high school student organizations. City officials aided in the shovel-turning.

The school was completed in the spring of 1959 and both junior and senior high students were moved into the building. The Main Street School was then remodeled at a cost of almost \$200,000. When completed in September of the same year, it became

See "First" on Page 13-D

Wolves Greeted Students of Past

by Ida Hamilton Hendryx

AUG. 26, 1927 - I find in examining old school records, the first settlers came to our town in 1826, and our first school house was built in 1827. This was but a log hut on a farm then owned by William Barton, Elizabeth Yerkes being the teacher. She taught ten scholars. She later married Mr. Wilkinson. The winter following Hiram Willworth (an uncle of Asa Randolph) taught school in a log cabin on what is now the William Taft farm. Mr. Randolph attended school here, and on being dismissed one day, as he came outside, he saw two wolves coming down the hill, which at that time was a dense woods.

The next season a public school was built by Bela Chase, on the C. A. Griswold farm. Some say this was where the old barn stood on the Griswold mare; some say it was near where the George Yerkes house now

Grade School Dedicated Here

APRIL 16, 1937 - Dedication of Northville's new \$99,000 grade school building next Thursday, April 22, will feature an address by Dr. Eugene E. Elliott, state superintendent of public instruction.

The new grade school (now called Main Street Elementary) building replaces the old one, torn down after being razed by fire on January 13, 1936. Construction on the new building, of an entirely modernistic design, began July 26, 1936. It was completed February 6, 1937.

PWA offices in Detroit estimate that 33,600 work hours were put in building the structure and approximately \$27,700 spent in wages. A PWA loan of \$27,000 and an outright grant of \$42,954 aided Northville in financing the building.

From the time the old grade building burned until classes were held in the new structure, pupils were "farmed out". Teachers met their classes in deserted houses and empty buildings.

Chapman Annexed

Aug. 11, 1955 - Chapman School District No. 7, Novi township, electors voted Monday, 55-18, to annex the Chapman school at Nine Mile and Taft roads to the Northville Public School system.

stands. Mr. Chase built of logs, hewed on one side, so they were flat, and made the seats in the same way. He furnished all material for building and furnishings inside for \$35.00.

In 1833 a meeting was called in District No. 2 in Plymouth, at the house of Samuel Stirling, to make arrangements to build a public school house. Daniel Cady was called to the chair. Messrs. Dunlap, Stirling, Meed and Watson were elected trustees. The site chosen was north of what we called the Hirsch blacksmith shop, which stood at the corner of Main and Hutton Street. The building was to be of cobble stone, laid in lime mortar, eight feet between joints, eighty feet long and twenty-four feet wide, for the accommodation of one hundred scholars. I have been informed Stephen Gage was the first teacher in this building. He had the reputation of being a wonderfully good instructor at that time. David Gage was his son, and is the only one now living who attended this school that I know. In later years David Gage was also a very able teacher. The wages (not salaries in those days) were from \$1 to \$2 per week. They taught from eight a.m. to five p.m., Saturday included. Occasionally they had a half day off on Saturday. A tax of \$300 was levied to build this stone school house, and I am

told it was very hard to raise this amount.

November 16, 1840, an important document had been delivered to the director by Daniel Cady, same being a warranty deed executed by William Dunlap and wife, Sally, on the 4th day of September, 1834, deeding the land on which the stone school house was

built to District No. 2 in Plymouth to the directors and successors in office.

Private schools were in different places in town. Abbie Horton taught in the ball room of what is now Northville Hotel and Cafe. Mr. Service taught in a house that stood where the T. G. Richardson house is and now occupied

See "Failed" on Page 18-D

First High School

Continued from Page 12-D
the "new" home for junior high students.

Another elementary school was added to the system in 1967 with the opening of Moraine Elementary School. The 12 classrooms housed 350 students in grades one through five. Total cost of the school was \$716,325.

In October, 1967, Ida B. Cooke Junior High was opened. The school was built at a cost of \$1,369,414. The junior high on Main Street was used partially by Main Street Elementary School. Part of the school was used for the Board of Education offices which were moved from the old library building, now the Township Hall.

An addition to the high school was built at a cost of nearly \$1.1 million. The capacity of the school was boosted to more than 900 students when the

addition opened last year.

An indoor swimming pool was added to the school and dedication ceremonies were held in April 1969.

Northville High School held its 100th commencement June 10, granting diplomas to 183 students.

The city's school system has come a long way since 1826 when ten pupils attended school in a log hut. Former Superintendent of Schools, Russell H. Amerman, administrator for 32 years, began his career in 1927 as high school principal. There were then 600 students and 30 teachers in the system.

Today there are 2,500 students and 130 teachers housed in five modern buildings.

As Northville grows, the school system continues to grow, keeping pace with the changing world.



E. C. LANGFIELD AND THE SCHOOL BAND THAT HE HELPED ORGANIZE IN 1927



ONE OF NORTHVILLE'S POPULAR 'CITY' BANDS

We've started the fire to light the candles
on your birthday cake.



Congratulations
to our hometown
newspaper.

CAL'S GULF STATIONS

202 W. MAIN

NORTHVILLE

470 E. MAIN

School Builder Jailed for Book Theft

Continued from Page 13-D

by Grace Tremper and mother, Alice Hinman of Northville, and Milton Wives of Birmingham, attended both schools. I know of no others who are now alive. I am told of one school in the house south of the office of the late Dr. Turner, but find no record of teacher. One on the site of Mrs. L. L. Brooks' house, taught by Mr. Ames, who later built the Northville Academy and taught there.

The Shea family owned the house corner of Randolph and High Streets, now owned by G. W. Hills. Betsy Shea had a select school in the parlor of this house. Alice Hinman, Emma Johnson, Eva Soave, Charles Harmon, Dean Griswold, Charles Sessions, Arabella Tinham and Alvin Blair are all I know who are alive who attended this school.

We now come to our Northville Academy, the record of which was written by Frank Beal for Mrs. Narcia Dubuar, who loaned it to me, and which I copy as written:

"If somebody - some day - should scrape off the outer coat of paint, it would disclose the words 'Northville Academy' in plain black letters over the entrance of the building now owned by Asa Randolph and family ('now the home of Mr. Randolph's daughter, Mrs. John Tinham'). The building was erected by A. G. S. Ames, who had been keeping what was called a 'Select School' on the spot now occupied by Mrs. L. L. Brooks. I suppose 'Select School' was designed to distinguish it from the common district school, where the students were confronted every term with a 'rate bill', computed by adding all the items of expense for the term and dividing it by the total number of days, which were taught, then charging each patron with the number of days his children had attended, a process which involved some perplexing fraction of a cent per day.

To return to our academy, Ames' connection with it was short lived, and ended by his being convicted of stealing books from a Detroit concern and his sentence to Jackson prison for a term of five years.

The school was re-opened by Sylvester Cochran, who came from Vermontville, with a wife, one son, Lyman, and a daughter, Sarah. The academy had more than a local reputation and the names of Isaac Buch and Jerome Turner, both from Howell, and two sons of Governor Bingham were on the school roll. I think the two

latter came from Lansing. Mr. Cochran was an ordained Congregational minister and served as pastor of the 'New School Presbyterian Church', now the 'Ladies' Library'. The entire family rests in Rural Hill Cemetery.

The Northville Academy came to an end about the time the public schools became free, but it still lives in the hearts and minds of those who had access to the advantages that it gave. Among them can be counted the writer of this sketch, for in its halls he gained the little that he knows - F. R. Beal, Detroit, August 23, 1919."

On October 14, 1843, a larger school building was needed and a committee appointed to draft plans for same. They reported later to the board, but too late to begin building that fall. January 16, 1844, a special meeting was called, with so few present that they decided to wait until the district wanted a school house before they built.

September, 1849, the board moved to again consider building a larger school house, and in 1863 they decided to raise \$5,000 for that purpose. At this time the name was changed to Northville High School, and



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DESTROYED BY FIRE IN 1936

the number of trustees to six. The site chosen was the west end of the Dr. Gregory lot. It was voted to build of brick, have a 'basement and two stories.' This was finished and occupied September 4, 1865, costing \$7,000. The site was the same our present high school. I can remember very well how thrilling it was to be one of the first pupils in this perfectly wonderful building. Nothing like for miles around. For non-residents, the tuition for a term, academic, \$5.20; junior, \$4.50; intermediate, \$4; primary, \$2. There were extra charges for drawing, music and penmanship.

Good board and room could be had in private families for \$3.50 per week.

November 6, 1865, the school board voted to buy a melodian for use in school. This was the first time music was added to the curriculum.

Miss Alice Beal was the first graduate to receive a diploma. This was given in June, 1875, and was handpainted by A. M. Randolph on parchment paper.

This school house burning in 1914, and our present school house built in 1915-16. The grade school was erected in 1907.

Congratulations

to

The

Northville

Record

MONSON
TRAILER PARTS

200 S. Main Northville

Your Day at Wash-Oat

Curriculum Sugges

This section is for

Suggestions from teachers who have used Wash-Oak School and can share ideas that would help others use the materials, books, facility.

We expect this section to be added to, and to be updated regularly.

Recess Games

Lunch Suggestions

Recess

As the nineteenth century progressed, a new educational awareness of recreation entered the teacher's lesson plan. We have included a series of games popular in the nineteenth century, some which have remained popular until today. Exercise was also brought into the classroom after the mid-nineteenth century. If it is raining during your visit, you may have your students do some stretching or minimal movement exercises such as toe touches, jumping jacks or arm circles.

Nineteenth-Century Children's Games for During Recess

Hide-and-Seek Tag Games London Bridge Follow-the-Leader Mulberry Bush

The Story Game

One of the players starts an original story, and leaves off in a very exciting place. His left-handed neighbor must instantly continue it, also stopping in an exciting place. The game continues until the story is ended by the last player.

Twenty Questions

One of the players is sent out of the room, and the others agree upon some subject, which he is to discover within twenty questions. They must all be of the nature as can be answered with "yes", or "no".

Leap Frog Relay

Form two or more lines. The last person in each line leap-frogs over the others who are squatting to the front of the line. Once they have reached the front, they squat, and the last person begins moving up the line. The team wins whose players have all moved up the line one time.

Children's Games

Hide and Seek	Touch Football	Round the Mulberry Bush
Pom-pom Pullaway	Tag Games	Simon Says
Run Sheep Run	Blind Man's Bluff	Hide the Thimble
Ring Around the Rosie	London Bridge	Drop the Handkerchief
Tug-O-War	Hopscotch	Skipping Rope
Farmer in the Dell	Follow the Leader	May I?
		Catch

Mill Race Games

Have You Seen My Sheep

Players sit or stand in a circle. "It" goes around outside of circle, stops behind second player and asks, "Have you seen my sheep?" Second player answers, "What does he look like?" "It" describes third player, and second player tries to guess who was described. If he guesses correctly, he chases the third player around outside of circle to tag him before he can return to his place. If third player is tagged, the second player is "It" and the first "It" takes a place in the circle. If the second player cannot guess correctly who the third player is, "It" moves behind someone else and begins again.

Trades

Mark goal line across each end of play area. One group stands behind each goal. First group decides on a trade. They leave their goal, go to the other group calling, "Here we come." Second group asks, "Where from?" First, "Postsmouth", second, "Whats your trade?". First, "Lemondade", Second, "Show us some!" First group pantomimes a trade (carpenter, spinning, etc.) Second group guesses trade. If they guess correctly, they chase the first group. First group tries to reach their goal before being tagged. If they are tagged, they join the second group and the second group then repeats game.

Cross Tag

"It" chases a player to tag him. The winner is safe if another player crosses (deliberately or otherwise) between him and "It". "It" must chase the one who crossed. If more than one player crosses, "It" chases the nearest to him. The one tagged then becomes "It". The original "It" becomes the runner.

Prisoner's Base

Mark bases on each end of playing area. Each team has one end base. Mark prison on one end of each base. Each team tries to take members of the other team as prisoners. A tagged player becomes a prisoner. He is placed in prison. A team member may free the prisoner by reaching the person without being tagged. Those with prisoners (tagged or being freed are safe. Those between their own goals are safe. Team with most members at end of game wins.

Yards Off

A post, tree, or wall is goal. Players group around goal. A player throws a stick away from goal. "It" gets the stick & brings it back to goal while others run and hide. Then "It" looks for others. Anyone seen by "It" must go to goal as a prisoner. A player may free all prisoners if he can return to goal and throw stick away from goal without being seen by "It". The freed prisoners hide again while "It" replaces stick. Last player caught becomes "It". First "It" throws stick.

Hunt the Ring

A ring is threaded on a long piece of string with the ends joined. The players stand in a circle, the cord passing through their closed hands. The ring circulates from one to another, while a player in the center of the circle endeavors to find it. When he does, the person in whose hands the ring is found takes his place.

Drop the Handkerchief

The players stand in a circle and join hands. One walks round outside the circle and drops a handkerchief behind one of the players, who instantly picks up the handkerchief and pursues him. When he catches him the two change places and the game continues.

The Drawing Game

The players must be provided with paper and pencils and each makes a rough sketch at the top of his paper illustrating some historical or well known scene. Writing at the bottom of the paper what it is, and turning over what is written, he passes the drawing on to the player at his left side, who writes at the bottom what he thinks it represents, then turns it over to his left-handed neighbor; and so the game continues until all have guessed. The owner then reads to the rest the scene represented.

Choosing "It" Rhymes

Little boy driving cattle, don't you hear his money rattle? One, two, three, out goes he.

Aina, maina, ickery on, Feelsa, folsa, Nivholas John, Quever, quaver, English naver, Stingum, stangum, jollo buck.

One-ry, two-ry, discum dary; Hackibo, crackibo, Henry Lary; Discum dandy, American time, Humelum, jumelum, twenty-nine.

Apples and oranges, two for a penny, Take a good scholar to count as many. O-U-T, out goes shel

Hunt the Slipper

The children sit on the ground with their knees crossed and close together. A slipper is handed to someone in the circle and is passed on the outside of the circle (behind the children's backs). One has been left out; the slipper is given to a child who says: "Cobbler, cobbler mend my shoe, get it done as by helf-past two." The child then attempts to guess who has her slipper; this goes around until the slipper is found. Whoever is caught with the slipper stands in the center and the game is repeated.

Telegraph

The players sit in a circle and the leader whispers some anecdote or quotation to his left-handed neighbor, which he in turn repeats to the person next to him, and so on. The last player repeats what has been told to him. The original is then repeated.

Earth, Air, Fire and Water

The players form a circle, and one stands in the center holding a handkerchief knotted into a ball. He counts up to ten, then throws the ball into someone's lap, calling out either, Earth, Air, Fire, or Water. If he cries "Earth" the person in whose lap the handkerchief has fallen must instantly name some animal which live on the earth; if the word "Water", some fish must be named; if "Fire", something that can exist in fire; if "Air", some bird. If he allows the ball-thrower to count up to ten without his answering he must pay a forfeit, by moving into the center.

The Feather Game

The players sit close together, and one of them taking a piece of down (a feather) blows it up into the air. The other players must keep it afloat by their breath. If anyone allows it to sink to the ground he must pay a forfeit.

Games

Children have always played games. Team games, solitary games, and games played while singing were as popular in the 1700's as they are now. The following games were played by pioneer children and are still played today.

Hide and Go Seek
Leap Frog
Hop-Scotch
Tug of War
Jump Rope
Checkers
Cats-Cradle
Marbles
Tag
Blindman's Bluff
Tug-of-War
Baseball
Horse-shoe Pitching
Dancing Round the Maypole
Kite Flying



Games Played While Singing

Here We Go Round the
Mulberry Bush
Oats, Peas, Beans and Barley
Grow
Go Round and Round the Valley
London Bridge is Falling Down
Ring Around the Rosy
I Put My Right Foot In

Pioneer Games

First - Third Grade Games

Call-Ball (Callie-ball, Ballie-callie)

Originally played: Throw ball against wall and call a player's name. Person named must strike ball back against the wall on the first rebound and call another player's name.

Variation: Players form circle. One child in center. He tosses ball, calling a player's name. Player catches ball on first bounce. If he succeeds, he takes the place of the one in the center.

Charlie Over the Water

Charlie stands in center while players walk left in circle with hands joined, chanting: "Charlie over the water, Charlie over the sea, Charlie caught a blackbird, But he can't catch me!" Players squat on "me." Charlie tags a player before he squats. One tagged takes Charlie's place.

School-Ball or Teacher-Ball

Six to eight players stand in line facing "teacher." Teacher tosses ball to each player in turn starting at head of line. Player returns ball to teacher. If player or teacher misses they go to the foot of the line. First in line is teacher.

Ducks Fly or Cats Fly

Leader calls, "Ducks fly! Birds fly! Horses fly!" etc. Leader pretends to fly each time he names an animal. Group imitates leader. Player who makes a flying motion when an animal is named that does not fly is either out of the game or becomes the leader. Other actions such as swim, jump, etc. may be substituted.

Blind Man's Buff

It is blindfolded in center of circle. Circle moves to left until *It* claps his hands. *It* points toward circle, calling the name of an animal. The player to whom *It* is pointing must make the animal's noise. *It* must guess who the person is. *It* is given three chances. If the player is guessed, he becomes the blind man. If *It* fails, the game starts again.

Stone-Tag

Mark goals at both ends of playing area. One player is Stone. Stone squats in center of area. Players gather around Stone. They run around him while he sits very still. When he calls "Stone!" he jumps up and tries to tag them. They run to either goal. Anyone tagged becomes a Stone also. All Stones try to tag others. Game is continued until all are caught. The first person caught becomes the next Stone.

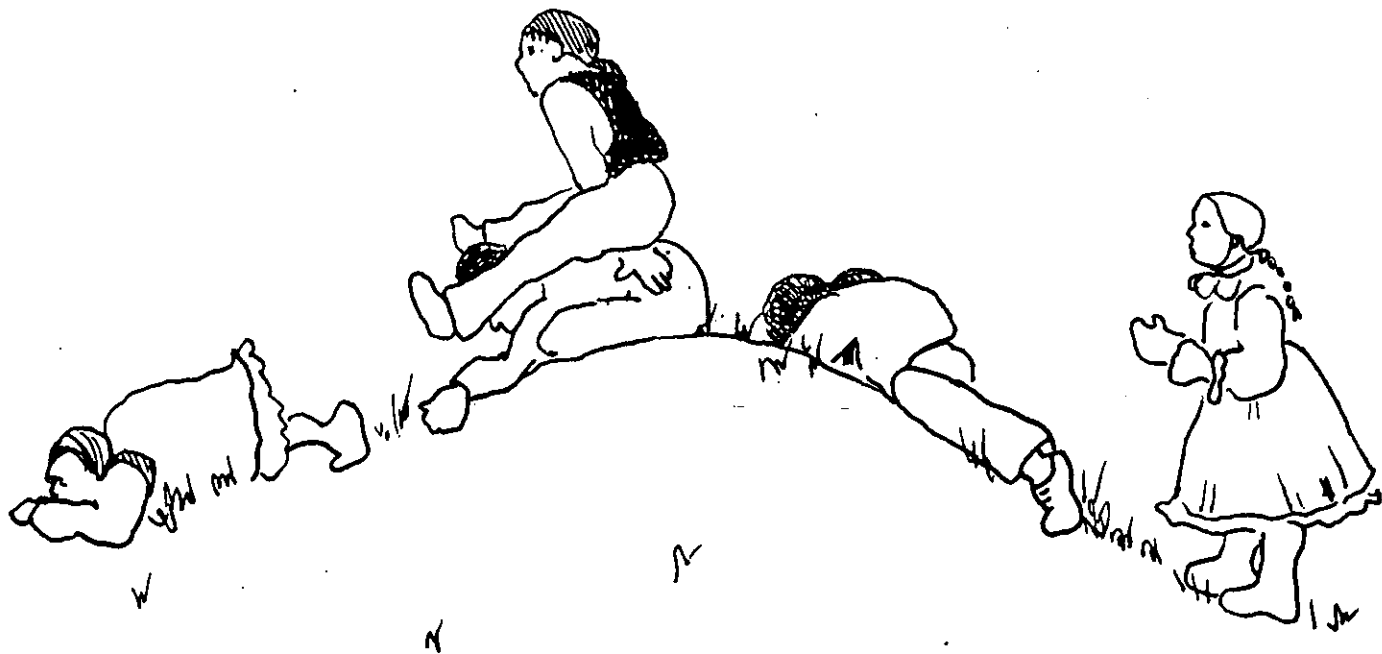


Pioneer Games

Fourth - Sixth Grade Games

Have You Seen My Sheep?

All players sit or stand in circle. *It* goes around outside of circle, stops behind second player and asks, "Have you seen my sheep?" Second player answers, "What does he look like?" *It* describes third player, and second player tries to guess who third player is. If he guesses correctly, he chases the third player around outside of circle to tag him before he can return to his place. If third player is tagged, he becomes *It*. If he is not tagged, the second player is *It*. The first *It* takes a place in the circle. If the second player cannot correctly guess who the third player is, *It* moves behind someone else and begins again.



Trades

Mark goal line across each end of play area. One group stands behind each goal. First group decides on a trade. They leave their goal, go to the other group calling, "Here we come!" Second group asks, "Where from?" First: "Portsmouth." Second: "What's your trade?" First: "Lemonade." Second: "Show us some!" First group pantomimes a trade (carpentry, spinning, etc.). Second group guesses trade. If they guess correctly, they chase first group. First group tries to reach their goal before being tagged. If any are tagged, they join the second group. The second group repeats game.

Cross-Tag

It chases a player to tag him. The runner is safe if another player crosses (deliberately or otherwise) between him and *It*. *It* must chase the one who crossed. If more than one player crosses, *It* chases the nearest to him. The one tagged becomes *It*. The original *It* becomes the runner.

Prisoner's Base

Mark bases on each end of playing area. Each team has an end base. Mark prison on one end of each base. Each team tries to take members of other team as prisoners. A tagged player becomes a prisoner. He is placed in prison. A team member may free the prisoner by reaching the prison without being tagged. Those with prisoners (tagged or being freed) are safe. Those behind their own goals are safe. Team with most members at end of game wins.

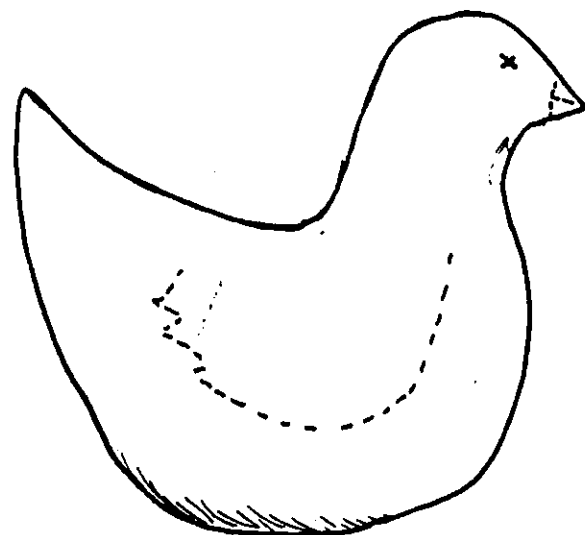
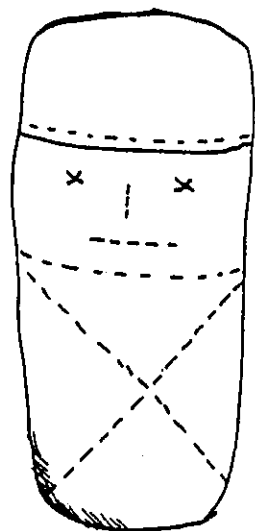


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Stealing Sticks

Choose two teams, each having the same number of sticks. Draw a line. Members of each team put their sticks on their side of the line. Whoever crosses the line may grab a stick, but if caught (tagged) is put in prison marked out on each team's side. Only one stick can be taken at a time. A player may return safely to his base or side of line if he has a stick or is freeing a prisoner. The prisoner is freed if his team member makes it to the prison without being tagged. The game is played until one team has all of the sticks and has none in the other team's prison.



Beanbags: for toss and catch games

A good beanbag is one made of sturdy cloth, well sewn, and partly filled with dried beans. A beanbag gets rough treatment in use, so it must be of sturdy construction. The fabric must be strong, the thread heavy, and the stitching well done.

Method:

1. Cut out the material (two sides in the shape desired.)
2. Add face details or decoration to one side.
3. Place the two halves of the bag together (face side inside) and sew together around the outside except for an opening about 2½" long.
4. Turn the bag through this opening to bring the face side out and to conceal the seam.
5. Partially fill the beanbag with dry beans, either soybeans or navy beans.
6. After filling, close the opening by turning the edges in and hand-stitching.

Lunches

You may wish to suggest to students certain lunch items to add to the authenticity of the day. Discuss with your children food items that might have been available in this region. Before the days of commercial and home refrigeration, food variety was often restricted to regional produce, meats, fish and fowl.

Suggestions from our research:

meat sandwiches
jelly sandwiches (peanut butter was a scarce commodity except in local growing areas)
homemade bread
home-churned butter
johnny-cakes
hard-boiled eggs (children often carried warm boiled eggs in their mittens to keep warm)
fruit (fresh or dried)
raw vegetables
cheese
beef jerky
pickles
milk
ginger ale
root beer
grape juice
doughnuts
cakes

Children would have carried their lunches to school in a basket, cloth bundle, in their pockets, or later in the nineteenth century, a tin lunch kettle.

Corn Bread

(9 servings)

*1 cup Quaker yellow corn meal
1 cup sifted all purpose flour
¼ cup sugar
4 teas. baking powder
½ tea salt
1 egg
1 cup milk
¼ cup shortening, soft*

Sift together corn meal, flour sugar, baking powder and salt in bowl. Add egg, milk and shortening. Beat with mixer until smooth, about 1 minute. Bake in greased 8 inch square baking pan preheated hot oven 425 for 20 to 25 minutes.

Ice Cream

(1 gal)

*4 eggs
2½ cups sugar
6 cups milk
4 cups light cream
2 tbs. vanilla
½ tsp. salt*

Beat eggs until light. Add sugar, gradually beating until mixture thickens. Add remaining ingredients, mix thoroughly. Freeze in ice cream freezer.

Coriander Crisp Cookies

(50 cookies)

½ cup shortening
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. soda
5 tsp. coriander seeds (ground)
1 cup sugar
1 large egg
2 cups sifted all purpose flour
½ cup buttermilk

Preheat oven to 375

Cream first four ingredients and gradually blend in sugar

beat in egg

add flour alternately with milk, making sure it is blended well into dough

Grease cookie sheets and drop about half a teaspoon of batter on the sheet for each cookie

bake for about 15 minutes or until lightly browned around edges

cool on racks and store in airtight can if not to be eaten immediately

Butter

½ pt. whipping cream. Pour into glass jars. Shake into solid. Pour off extra liquid which is buttermilk. Sprinkle small amount of salt on butter.

Peanut Brittle

Pour 1 or 2 cups white sugar into pan. Heat slowly until sugar starts to melt. Do not stir until small spot is melted. Stir only where sugar is melted or it will be lumpy. When all sugar is melted pour into a buttered pie pan which has been covered with peanuts. When cold, break into pieces.

Boston Brown Bread

(makes 2 loaves)

1 cup rye flour
1 cup yellow cornmeal
1 cup whole wheat flour
¼ tsp. baking soda
1½ tsp. salt
¼ cup molasses
2 cups buttermilk
¼ cup raisins

Step 1 Wash and dry coffee cans (1 lb.)
Grease the insides of cans and lids with butter.
Sift dry ingredients and set aside.

Step 2 Combine molasses & buttermilk in a deep bowl and beat vigorously with a wooden spoon.

Step 3 Add dry ingredients one cup at a time, stirring well after each cup is added.

Step 4 Add raisins and thoroughly mix them into batter.

Step 5 Pour batter into cans so that each 2/3 full.

Step 6 Put plastic lid on each can and cover the lid with foil, securing with string so that lid is absolutely watertight.

Step 7 Place cans on trivet or rack in large kettle. Kettle should then be filled with boiling water halfway up the cans.

Step 8 Cover kettle and steam for about 2½ to 2¾ hours. Add more boiling water if necessary. Bread should be removed immediately from tins if you plan to eat it right away.