



Fun and Games — way back when —

CONGRATULATIONS & BEST WISHES
on the
PHILLIPS CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



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Celebrations...



July 27, 1895 - First Celebration After The Fire



July 27, One Year After the 1894 Fire



Laying Cornerstone of Masonic Temple 1895



Celebration in Phillips



Celebration in Phillips



Phillips Welcomes Homecoming Soldiers 1919



Speaker's Platform, Homecoming Day, June 4, 1919



June 4, 1919 - Homecoming Parade Down Lake Avenue

Churches...

PHILLIPS IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN A CITY OF CHURCH-GOING PEOPLE

Count the spires, steeples and crosses. Listen to the bells, music, children's training groups, and sermons. You'll hear Sunday morning call-to-worship bells, vesper bells and tolling bells. You'll hear the traditional organs and pianos; some modern stringed instruments and, perhaps, a musical saw. You'll hear old time hymns and some lively young chants. You'll hear several languages, for there are many in Phillips who want the word of God spoken in a beloved mother-tongue.

You'll hear stickin' - to - the - WORD sermons and various modern applications of Bible stories sermons, all as different as the men of God who present them. No matter what the building, the denomination or ritual, "a week begun with Sunday worship is better," say Phillips church people.

Traditional structural design give visitors church locations. Name placques invite and indicate worship times. If you accept the invitation, you'll be glad. Your welcome will be Phillips-warm, your week better, too.

This Centennial celebration inspired all church historians to relive their treasured pasts. Enough fine material is available from these efforts to afford each congregation a Centennial History Booklet of its own.

However, this album, of necessity, must confine itself to pictures and brief sketches for each congregation.

denominations lived in harmony, The People's Church of Phillips was erected. Reluctantly, as the city grew, this united group finally had to separate into various Catholic and Protestant organizations, each building a church to meet its special need.

Among these will be remembered the Swedish Lutheran and Four Square churches.



First Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The first protestant church service in Phillips was conducted by a Rev. Galloway in the Hall over Alexander's Saloon on January 21, 1877.

In the years following, religious services were sporadic and unorganized. Sunday school was conducted in a warehouse, an empty store building or in Fewell's Hall - where the Birchland Building now stands.

It was at a church service held in Fewell's Hall under the leadership of a Rev. J. M. McMahon of Philadelphia that some 25 followers signified desire to organize a Presbyterian Church. Thus, Price County's first church was organized March 26, 1882. The church building was dedicated July 28, 1889.

The Presbyterians, as all efforts in Phillips, suffered the devastation and interruptions of fires, changing ministries and changing economies.

The church, with timely innovations, stands today as dedicated in 1895. The inscription on the church bell reads:

"PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PHILLIPS, WIS.
EASTER 1895 - CHRIST IS RISEN
SAMUEL HOWELL MURPHY, PASTOR"

The lovely-toned pipe organ is the result of efforts initiated by the Lydia Mess Memorial Organ Fund in 1950.

As one parishioner comments, "A church is not just a building. A church is the people who worship there, who work for it and who, by word and deed spread its mission throughout the community."

From 1889, beginning with Rev. James Todd, some 15 ministers have served the church. Rev. Joel Huenemann is the present pastor.



First Mission House

EARLY MISSION AND CHURCH HISTORY IN PHILLIPS

Missionary work began in the Dud Spaulding warehouse in the early 1900's. Then, as soon as the Fewell hall became available, organized Sunday School started under Methodist, Presbyterian and itinerant Catholic priest leadership.

In the spring of 1889, because people of many



ORIGINAL ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, built by E. Friedl for the sum of \$1,625.00 in 1916. Worship services were held here until the dedication of the present building in 1932, after which it became a hall for recreation and special dinners. Extensively remodeled, it remains a popular dancing place and dining hall for Catholics and their Protestant friends.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The year of 1915 was a memorable one for the Slavonian Catholics of Phillips, Wisconsin. It was on October 2 of that year that a Warranty Deed was issued to the Bohemian Benedictine Order of Lisle, Illinois for the purchase of ten acres of land, all of Schauer's Addition, for the building site of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Slavonian Congregation Church.

These Slavonian families with the assistance of Rev. Aloysius Keclik O.S.B., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, on March 3, 1916 elected Jerry Sedivy Sr., secretary; Joseph Polacek, Sr., treasurer; and trustees George Glonek, Sr. and Steve Sagan, Sr. Joseph M. Koudelka, Bishop of Superior gave them permission to build a 78' x 25' church for approximately 250 people. Men volunteered to collect monetary donations in the Lugerville, Fifield, Emery, Little Chicago, Kennan and Phillips areas. Vegetables were also collected and shipped by rail to the Benedictine Order of Lisle, Illinois to be used as payment toward the property.

July 17, 1916, Articles of Association forming a corporation in the name of St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Slavonian Congregation was filed with the Secretary of the State of Wisconsin.

At this time the Jednota, the First Catholic Slovak Union, St. Joseph Lodge was installed, and were active in supporting the building of the church. Several years later the womens organization, the Immaculate Conception Lodge, was formed and together, held many social gatherings for the benefit of the parish.

Church records show that Fr. Paul Konicek O.S.B. was the first pastor of St. Mary's in January of 1918. He resided at the Holy Cross Mission.



St. Mary's Catholic Church

The first baptism recorded was Rosalia Radovic. The first marriage recorded was Stephan Janos and Catherine Matejovic. The first death recorded was Francis Matzik. The first confirmation was August 17, 1919 with 104 confirmed.

Fr. Konicek remained as parish priest until December 1919. At that time, Fr. Bartholomew Kvitik O.S.B. was appointed pastor. It was through the hard work and dedication of the people that the loan to the Benedictine Order was repaid during his stay at St. Mary's.

Fr. Cyril Zenicek O.S.B. served the parish from 1923 to 1938. Under his direction a new church was erected and the grounds landscaped. Dedication of the church was held in June of 1932. Building committee members for the new church were John Warga, Sr.; John Jasurda, Sr.; Frank Fojtik, Sr.; Steve Sagan, Sr.; and Joe Polacek, Sr. For over 14 years while Fr. Zenicek was at St. Mary's, he resided at St. Patrick's rectory.

In 1937 the St. Cyril Methodist Catholic Central Union Lodge was formed and was active in sponsoring dinners and dances from which proceeds were used to help the church financially.

In 1938, Fr. Andrew Skvarla O.S.B. was appointed as pastor of St. Mary's. A rectory was approved and erected on the church property during the short time he was here.

Fr. Cyril Zenicek O.S.B. returned to St. Mary's as pastor in 1939. About this time St. Mary's Altar Society, later known as St. Mary's Council of Catholic Women, became active. After many years of indebtedness, the mortgage on the new church and rectory was repaid. Fr. Zenicek celebrated his 50th anniversary to the priesthood in 1948. After faithfully serving the people for approximately 25 years at St. Mary's, Fr. Zenicek retired to St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois.

Fr. Alphonse Biskup O.S.B. became parish priest in 1948 and stayed until 1950. The Holy Name society was formed under his direction. With the leaving of Fr. Biskup the sermons in Slovak and Bohemian were soon discontinued.

In 1950, building of a catholic school became the main concern of the parishioners. It was in this

year that Fr. Alcuim Kasny O.S.B. came to take over duties as pastor of St. Mary's. During the time of his pastorate, St. Gregory's Catholic School was built under the joint efforts of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's parishes. Members from St. Mary's who served on the building committee were, Fr. Kasny O.S.B., Frank Ondrejka, Edward Jasurda, Peter Tennesen, Tom Matsick, Frank Marlenga and Andrew Matonek.

In 1959 Fr. Bede Cernik O.S.B. was appointed pastor of St. Mary's. Remodeling was finished in 1963 when Fr. Vincent Novotny O.S.B. became pastor.

With Vatican II many changes took place in the Catholic Church. The sanctuary was remodeled. Liturgical changes encouraged greater participation of the people in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

With the help of Fr. Novotny, a CYO was formed and became a very active group in the church.

In 1969 Fr. Florian Herides O.S.B. became the pastor. The garage was replaced and a larger office was built to the rectory while he was in Phillips. The fall of 1972 saw the closing of St. Gregory Catholic School. Fr. Herides returned to St. Procopius Abbey in 1973 due to ill health.

Fr. Frederic Beller O.S.B. was then appointed pastor and is presently ministering to over 240 families who are parishioners of St. Mary's. Under Fr. Beller's direction a new heating system was installed and other improvements are taking place.

At this time the Council of Catholic Women is a very active organization at St. Mary's. The spiritual well being of the people within St. Mary's parish, with the help of God, continues to flourish.

ST. PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

The first Catholic services in Phillips were conducted in October 1876 when Reverend Bernard July came from Stevens Point to say Mass in the home of Judge E. M. Murray. For the next sixteen years the parishioners were tended first as a mission of Medford, then by Franciscan Fathers from Ashland who celebrated Mass in settlements up and down what is now Highway 13. Records show that in Phillips, Mass was said in the homes of M. Nicholson and John Meaus. In July 1888 the congregation was incorporated as St. Patrick's Church with Bishop Flasch of LaCrosse as president, Rev. Fabian Rechiene, pastor, Judge Murray, secretary, and William Farrell, treasurer. A church was built on the corner of Avon and Chestnut Streets.

On July 27, 1894 during the devastating Phillips fire the church and rectory were completely destroyed and the pastor Reverend John Hauck subsequently left the parish. In the next year the original property was sold and five lots on Argyle and Chestnut purchased; a beautiful parsonage and a temporary building for services were erected and excavation begun for a church. But more trials were ahead. In 1900 while Father James Koreczek



St. Patrick's first church burned July 27, 1894 at the time of the Phillips Fire. This, their second church, was almost completed when a cyclone demolished it July 7, 1900.



St. Patrick's Church, Pentecost Sunday May 19, 1918, 4:00 A.M. Destroyed by cyclone

was pastor the whole edifice almost completed, was totally demolished by a summer cyclone. Finally on Christmas Day 1900, through the efforts of the congregation, Bishop Schwebach, Phillips citizens, the German Aid Societies and the Catholic Knights of Wisconsin, Mass was said in a new church.

The parish of 133 families prospered. During the pastorate of Reverend A. M. Wuchter the only church pipe organ between Stevens Point and Ashland was installed, St. Patrick's Cemetery was established, and the Baptismal, Marriage and Confirmation records were re-written.



St. Patrick's Catholic Church
Adjoining school and rectory - 1976

Many people of Slavic origin belonged to St. Patrick's and longed for a church in which they could worship in their own language; they were given permission to establish Immaculate Conception parish (now St. Mary's) Parish in 1915.

Constant improvements were made at St. Pat's, but catastrophe followed again. In May 1918 a cyclone destroyed the wood-built St. Patrick's for the second time. Records show that the first "groom" married in the old St. Patrick's was Dan Sullivan, and the last "bride" was his daughter, Inez, now Mrs. David Foster.

A week after the disaster the pastor, Father Aloysius Keclik, O.S.B. and his parish had decided, despite the war and scarcity of materials, to rebuild, this time using brick. Building committee members included names still familiar in our area - Dan Allard, Frank Gwosh, Eugene Kaufman, C. C. Kelleher, Henry Niebauer, Dan Sullivan, Vincent Tauchen, and James Timlin.

The years that followed were trying financially, and in 1923 Bishop Joseph Pinter of Superior placed St. Patrick's in the care of the Benedictine Fathers at St. Procopius Abbey, Lisle, Illinois, emphasizing that a parochial school be built to serve both parishes. This dream finally materialized during the pastorate of Reverend Andrew Skvarla, and through the efforts of a joint building committee including Bert Hicks, Walter E. Niebauer, M.D., Leo Weyers, Paul Pisca, Frank Kandutsch, William Christman and John Baumann from St. Patrick's, and Father Alcuin Kasny, Frank Ondrejka, Edward Jasurda, Peter Tennesen, Thomas Matsick, Frank Marlenga and Andrew Matonek from St. Mary's. The architect was Paul Skvarla of New Jersey; the contractor Sam Neeck and Sons of Park Falls. Finally in August 1953 His Excellency Albert G. Meyer, Bishop of Superior dedicated St. Gregory's School, named for Pope Gregory the Great, a Benedictine monk and one of the Church's most learned educators. The Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother of Milwaukee came to teach the eight grades in four rooms.

Vatican Council II prescribed many changes for Catholic churches and schools, which were implemented by Reverend Clement Sobr, O.S.B. As the teaching Sisters numbers decreased, St. Gregory's was taught first by both Sisters and lay teachers, then reduced to six grades with three lay teachers, and finally when the pattern of decreasing enrollment continued, a joint committee of both parishes voted to discontinue the operations of the school starting with the 1971-72 school year which is now used for religious education classes and other church and community purposes.

Four sons and nine daughters of the parish have dedicated their lives to the service of God: Rev. Wilfred Bieberstein, O.S.M. Cap.; Brother Phillip Heitkemper, O.S.B., Rev. John Slowey, Rev. Gabriel Zepczyk, M.S.C. and Sisters Mary Borgia Dama, Robertine Nebish, Pamcratia Schoos, Donatine Heindl, Solina Hicks, Margarite Slowey, Rose Zepczyk, Benedict Revak and Marian Johnson.

The present pastor of St. Patrick's, Rev. Louis Cernak, O.S.B. who researched the history for this article, serves a parish of 200 families which shares in celebrating the Phillips Centennial.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Trinity Lutheran Church of Phillips, Wisconsin, was organized July 6, 1885. Eight men under the leadership of the then Lutheran Missionary, Rev. L. G. Dorpat, whose headquarters were in Butternut, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Peters and organized a Lutheran congregation, adopting a constitution. Previous to this time, perhaps since about 1880, missionaries of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod had come to this area to contact fellow Lutherans.

For the first four years after its organization there was no church building and services were held in various homes and in a school house in the Cramer District. In 1888 the parcel of land on which the church and parsonage now stand was purchased. In October of the same year, the congregation voted to build a parsonage for the resident pastor. In December of the same year it was voted to build a church according to plans submitted and a church school was started. The church and an addition to the parsonage was completed in 1889 and in August of that year, the church was dedicated. Much of the material and labor was furnished by the members.

At the time of the Phillips fire in 1894, the church and parsonage were among the few buildings spared. The church was used as a hospital and place of refuge for those who had been made homeless. Clothes, Bibles and money soon arrived from fellow Lutherans throughout the State.

Throughout the years, additions and improvements have been made to the buildings and premises. The church is often referred to as "the White Church on the hill".



Trinity Lutheran Church

In 1935 the congregation celebrated its fiftieth anniversary and in 1960, its seventy-fifth. Its present and fourteenth pastor to serve Trinity Church is Pastor Rex Rinne who was welcomed and installed in August of 1975.

In this year of 1976, the BiCentennial of our Nation and Centennial Anniversary of Phillips, the congregation can observe its ninety-one years with thankful hearts and say - My church is the place where the Word of God is preached, the Power of God is felt, the Spirit of God is manifested, the Love of God is revealed and the Unity of God is perceived.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

According to past records, the first Protestant religious service held in Price County in 1876 was by a Methodist minister from Medford, namely Rev. Henry Galloway. The congregation at that time was mostly lumberjacks and the services were held in a gambling house, closed for the occasion, above Alexander's and Murphy's saloon.

Rev. Galloway was followed by Rev. Jones, and in 1880 by Rev. Barker, who served one year. Then the work was discontinued because of the Union Church. In 1894, Rev. W. Kloster and a group of 30 adults organized the Methodist Church, elected the proper officials, and made plans to erect a building for the worship services.

That fall, Rev. T. Knudson came and through his efforts, the present church was completed in 1895

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1976 Centennial

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Methodist Episcopal Church, Erected 1895



United Methodist Church and Parsonage - 1976

at a cost of \$2400. In the years from 1896 to 1909 the church was served by a number of pastors.

In 1910 Rev. D. E. Hill came and during his two years of service a choir was organized. Several pastors filled the pulpit before Rev. Applegate arrived in 1922. The present parsonage was built at this time. He was followed by the Reverends M. Fansher, J. Moats, Lee Holmes, F. J. Ashworth, Paul Graham and Fred Smith.

Mrs. Mabel Kaneen next served the Phillips-Kennan charge. In 1938 the church was struck by lightning and the tall steeple was badly damaged. It was removed, leaving the four small steeples.

Rev. D. E. Hill was again assigned to the charge, serving from 1939 to 1945. He was succeeded by Rev. Charles Brown and Rev. Niles Stein.

In the fall of 1949 Rev. F. Norman Barthel was assigned to the Phillips-Kennan charge, with the Hawkins Methodist Church being added in 1952.

Extensive remodeling of the church began in 1950. In removing the foundation for the present basement a metal box was found in the cornerstone, which had been placed in the original church July 27, 1895. An enclosed front entrance was added which gave the exterior of the church a new look. The new cornerstone was put in place July

25, 1965, marking the 70th anniversary of the church.

In 1968, the Methodist Church changed its name to the United Methodist Church following a merger with the Evangelical United Brethren Church, becoming the second largest American Protestant body.

Recent changes have been made by paneling the entire church, modernizing the kitchen, and carpeting the sanctuary and adjoining room.

Well-known community events are the annual Buck Supper, prepared by the men of the church, and the Christmas Bazaar, given by the United Methodist Women.

The membership of the church has grown to 172 under the leadership of Rev. and Mrs. F. N. Barthel. As a gesture of appreciation for their twenty-five years of service, they were given a trip to the Holy Land in 1975, by their many friends.

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



On July 14th, 1907, a group of 10 German families who had separated from the Trinity Lutheran Church, laid the cornerstone for the new church.

The parish was served by three different pastors from 1907 to 1921, and covered almost a thousand square miles, equal to three times the size of the city of Chicago.

The German congregation disbanded and St.



St. John's Lutheran congregation, Phillips, Wisconsin - March 27, 1932



St. John's Lutheran Church

John's English Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Northwest Synod was organized. Rev. Stump, then a student pastor became the "Guiding Light" that has led the way to what St. John's is today.

The church edifice has been added to and renovated several times since June 4th, 1922 and nine pastors have served as shepherds to the congregation, with Rev. Fredrick Lueders, now in Christ's service at St. John's, in Phillips - April, 1976.

SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH



Alvina Nelson, (Minister), (?), Hjelmer Olson (?), Alfred Nelson, (?), Bessie Nelson Florence, (?)
Confirmation Class - Swedish Lutheran



Swedish Lutheran Church about the year 1920



Former Swedish Lutheran Church, Germania Ave.



(Thought to be a class picture)
Possibly the Swedish Lutheran Church?



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

In May, 1952, Pastor A. J. Hulbert, State Missionary of the Wisconsin Baptist Conference, came to Phillips to explore the possibility of establishing a Baptist Church.

Shortly thereafter, interested people gathered at the Fred Knez home. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss further the feasibility of organizing as a church group. Seven families were represented, and expressed a desire to commit themselves to the founding of a Baptist Church. A committee was formed, and the first order of business was to find a suitable building in which to worship.

Soon a building was found, and rented. It was the former City Bakery, owned by Mrs. Bertha Gutekunst.

After much remodeling and painting, the store part of the building became the sanctuary, and the kitchen and back rooms were made into Sunday School classrooms.

Furniture was brought in from the Worcester Church, given by the Prentice Baptist Church. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh donated a piano. Hymnals were given by the Wentworth Church. The Ogema Baptist Church contributed Sunday School Supplies for a year.

Thus a building which was once used to dispense the staff of life, was now ready to be used to give forth The Word of Life.

Dedication Services for the Phillips Baptist Chapel were held on June 22nd, 1952. Area and Community pastors participated. At that service twenty-two Charter members were recognized. They were: Mr. and Mrs. William Simpson, Mrs. Herman Bliese, Mrs. Ernest Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Simpson and children, Lee Allan, Edwin Jr., Sharon and Annette, Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Marsh and Son, David, Mrs. Harry Laueremann, Mr. Ulrich Kleineschay, Mr. and Mrs. Laddie Vlck, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Knez and son, Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Trainer.

Thereafter, Worship Services were held each Sunday, morning and evening, and Mid-week Prayer Services were held on Wednesday Nights. Sunday School was established immediately, with classes for all ages.



Phillips Ministerial Association 1976

A Womens' Mission Circle and a Young Peoples' Fellowship were begun later that year.

A Constitution was drawn up, an Affirmation Of Faith and a Church Covenant were adopted. The members voted to affiliate with The Wisconsin Baptist Conference.

Soon a committee was chosen to find a suitable land site in the city on which to build a church. A building fund was set up.

The first full-time pastor to be called and ordained was Elmer Fischer. In April, 1958, lots were purchased on Flambeau Avenue. In September the Kieble home was bought for a parsonage.

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new church were held in July, 1958. The first services, held in the basement of the church, were in May, 1959. The building was completed to where services could be held in the main auditorium in March of 1960; but there was much left to do.

Decorating and finishing the interior of the building continued, and finally the work was completed.

Dedication Services were observed in November, 1963. It was a time of thanksgiving to the Lord for His guidance and strength. Dreams and plans had become a reality.

The mortgage was burned on August 25, 1968, with five Charter members present to take part in the ceremony.

Church membership growth has been gratifying. At present there are 79 people on the membership roll. Sunday School enrollment is 55.

Serving as pastor at the present time is Reverend Arlo Little, who also serves the Prentice Church.

The Pastor, officers, members and friends of the First Baptist Church, Phillips, extend to all a cordial invitation to worship with them at any time.

Thomas Callan was the first Justice of the Peace and performed the first marriage in Phillips, in the front of the dining room of Waddel's. First groom was John King, first bride was Susie, who waited on tables. Mr. Callan, who stuttered ended the ceremony by saying, "I pronounce you man and wife, by G-o-o-o-o-d."

Education...



Phillips Public School - October, 14, 1897



The first school of Price County, WOODLAND SCHOOL of Ogema, was moved to Price County Fairgrounds, 1959 for a permanent historical exhibit. Before it left its 1887 location, these three members of its first class visited the school: Gust Olson, 79; Miss Alma Edmunds, 78; and Emma Westor, 84.

From a Greeting Card Collection

Examples of discipline - by hand?

Just a little card,
But it brings my thanks
for giving me those well earned spanks!
I would have sent a bigger card
If you hadn't hit so gosh - darned hard.



Big Elk School at Hoffman's Corner. BACK ROW: Katie (Folger) Heitkemper, Fay Bolton, teacher - Pat Bolton, unknown, FRONT ROW: Ted Bolton, Dorothy Bolton, Margaret Andrea Curran - about 1905.



Lake Ten school in 1912



Mount Hope School, 1897



Phillips High School and Price County Training School



Phillips High School, 1897

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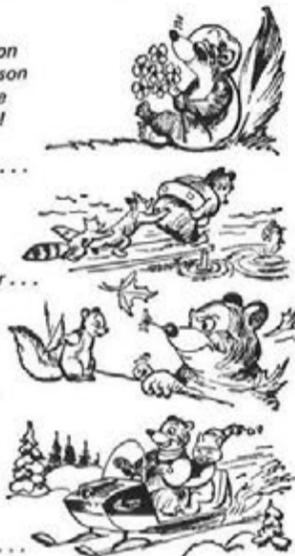
Vacation
any Season
of the
Year!

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Summer ...

Fall ...

Winter ...



The 1916 Phillips High School Graduating Class, FRONT ROW: Christine Vanderwall, Nettie (McKee) Munson, Irene (Curly) Witt, Barbara Becker, Lucy (Hebert) Ek. BACK ROW: Fred Merrill, Hannah (Johnson) Erickson, Abe Levitt, Harlow Olson, Nina (Fox) Knapp, John Ek.

We pay tribute to these two fine pioneer ladies who represent the several country school teachers still living, who taught our area rural schools.

NORA EVANS MEIER

Born August 11, 1891 and moved to Phillips in 1900. Nora graduated from the Phillips High School with the class of 1910. She taught in the rural schools in Spirit and graded schools in Abbotsford and Phillips.

MARY - "MATTIE" (SHANKS, KNOBLOCH, BODENBURG)

Mattie was born October 8, 1890, graduated from Phillips High School with the class of 1911 and began her teaching at District No. 1 graded school in the Town of Worcester.

In those days, Mattie recalls, "Each school possessed a large A B C chart, a five foot x 20 inch wooden map case, a pointer, 2 coal oil lanterns, a water pail and dipper, a wash basin, soap and towel. May McNely was Price County Superintendent of Schools and a large chair was kept in the rear of the room just for her."

Christmas was a big occasion in the school of Mattie's day. She comments: "I remember making a bushel basketful of pop corn balls for the children. I made 28 strings of salt-and-flour beads for the girls and bought each boy a jackknife or a mouth organ at the Kinney Variety Store for 10c each."

Mattie also taught at Crane-Chase school located near the present Galen Denzine farm on Short Cut Road off Highway 13. There the children were of farm families newly from Bohemia. Mattie says, "I had to learn some 'Bohemian' in order to teach them." "The parents, too, wanted to learn English to enable them to acquire citizenship. I taught them the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments and we sang My Country 'Tis of Thee and The Star Spangled Banner."

When Mattie quit teaching there were 204 one room schools in Price County.

Asked why she chose to be a teacher, Mattie explained: "I guess, because I liked books. My grandparents were of the Pennsylvania Amish who settled in Indiana. They insisted that I read the Bible daily. That instilled in me the desire to read and to teach."



Teacher - Mrs. C. D. Fenelon Nee - Elizabeth McDonald. Teaching in the Phillips area in 1884, Bessie McDonald attended the first county teachers institute in Fifield in April, 1884.



Mrs. Anna Van Ostrand at 92 in 1965. In 1894 she taught in the Phillips Public Schools.

A parade of dedicated teachers have taught the children of the Phillips area.



Phillips Public School, 1909 — Esther Curley, Teacher



The Eighth Grade Graduating Class - 1911

STANDING, in the back row: Miss Cowles, teacher, ? Wollenburg, V. Prill, Della Hewitt, ? Wollever, Mildred Lappin, Alice Lyon, Madge Wilmot, Mildred Sullivan, Unknown, Verna Gear, Loretta Wood. KNEELING: Agnes Rogers, Nettie McKee, ? Iverson, Hilma Dahlie, Clara Anderson. SEATED: Harold Olson, Arthur Hartman, Max Riley, Evan Evans, Elmer Johnson, Howard Craft, Bartlett Jackson, Ward Cress, Aubrey Christianson.



The last graduating class from the old Price County Training School

FRONT ROW: Frances Favell, Jennie Aho, Esther Allard, Margaret (Ehle) Elsworth, Mildred Bjorklund, Evelyn Larson, Marie Suder, Olga Harrold. 2ND ROW: Dorothy Doll, Signe (Olson) McCarty, Ellen (Kehusmaa) Kelland, Alvina Nelson, Helen (Ehritz) Zierer, Alma (Knutson) Spearbreaker, Lillian (McBride) Jorgenson, Grace C. Helvey, Fern V. Edinger. 3RD ROW: Vera Olson, Mabelle (Dahlie) Anderson, Elsie (Marheine) Fraser, Mabel Christianson, Lois Davis, Alice (Schancer) Langner, Helen Kaartunen, Margaret (Neumann) Lind. 4TH ROW: Althea Van Ostrand, Esther Anderson, Lucille (McMullen) Upson, Lauratta (Jansen) Halvorson, Elsie (Shierland) Schmuland, Olive (Solberg) Anderson, Marie (Fraser) Troebs.



Price County Training School students posed for their portrait in 1916 outside the school building. We have no identification on most of the students, but you may recognize some of them. The photo

belongs to Mrs. Chas. Papke. In 1924 the first class was graduated from the new Price County Normal School erected in 1923.



First Graduation Class of The Price County Normal School, 1924

UPPER: Helen Marinak, Catharine Milne, Laina Pajunen, Florence Kagel, Esther Soetebeer, Agnes Frisk, Esther Heise. LOWER: Mabel Dorman, Eldora Binleau, Carol Johnson, Anna Ehn, Gladys Martin, Brynhild Christoffersen, Loretta Henningfield, Myrtle Lundberg.

The growth of Phillips and the increasing number of students in graduating classes are synonymous. Prior to 1900 only eight students received high school diplomas, in 1926 there were 50 graduates, and in 1965, 130.

HISTORY OF PHILLIPS IN VERSE

(And An Appeal For A High School Gym)

I'm no poet as you will see
But here's a few words about our city.
What I say of this little burg,
Is not what I've seen, but what I've heard.

The older ones have told me
About this city in its infancy,
Of the streets and buildings of wood,
Built where once pines and hemlocks stood.

The woodpecker was out in the morning sun
Hunting food for his little one.
Passing underneath along the trail,
You'd catch a glimpse of a cottontail.

Fighting bobcats and coyotes too,
Wolves, and bear, and caribou.
But lo at last, the woodsmen came,
Endured the cold, the storms, and rain.

Cut down the trees, and with their teams,
Hauled the logs to the nearby streams.
Then came at last the lumber mill,
The lumber-jacks and "Fighting Bill".

Then finally the railroad came,
And took the place of horse and wain.
Then houses were built, churches and store,
Restaurants and saloons, every fourth door.

Then came a disaster which goes by the name
Of the "Phillips Fire," with its liquid flame;
Burned all the houses that it found
Lowly and smoothly to the ground.

That was long ago and now we find
A city of Phillips of another kind;
Houses and schools and grocery stores,
Doctors and lawyers on second floors.

These have been threatened a time or two
By terrific wind storms that were passing through
But this Phillips stands safe and sound,
As if it were bolted fast to the ground.

It is up-to-date at the present day
Has a sewerage system and waterway,
The fire department, a volunteer
Is rarely called out twice a year.

The business affairs are carried on fine,
Showing each other a mighty good line.
But the poor children, where shall they go?
To school during the day, at night to the show.

At the pool rooms they collect, by the dozens there,
Breathing the germs of the impure air.
Just think of the pleasures a gymnasium would give,
Develop strong bodies, and help them to live.

They'd be up and attentive for the general good,
And attend their school in a better mood.
They'd make better citizens when they are grown
And not be classed as not worth a bone.

They'll soon be old and will think of the past,
Then they will build a gymnasium fast.
For this is an age, when we hate to see
The younger children grow up like leaves of a tree.

That only move when stirred by the breeze
Then are cast down from the top of the trees.
Then let us be up and moving to get something done
And make this Phillips a prosperous and glorious one.

Herman Miller '27

From the Wabasso 1926



Even the basement was used for industrial arts.



Typing and shorthand were a part of the school. Future stenographers — BACK ROW: Cecilia (Beiberstein) Willemssen, Miss Rogers, teacher, Ruby Charrow, Frank Petesch, Lillian (McBride) Jorgenson. SECOND ROW: Unknown, Margaret (Neumann) Lind, Eleanor (Niebauer) Raymond. FRONT ROW: Ruth Chesley, Henry Ringersma.



High School "Main Room" 1920



Phillips High School — Class 1933



Band Practice in Phillips Normal School



1936 High School Band - Phillips



Phillips High School Band about 1926-1927

Early Phillips High School teams were small in number, but great in power.



E. Jacobson, L. Everson, H. Olson, C. Cummings
E. Laux, E. Carlson, Coach Allen Whelan

A taste of vocational education was provided for the students. In the "olden days" the top floor of the old high school was used for classes.



BACK ROW: Bartlett Jackson, Harlow Olson, Ralph Vanderwall, Coach Francis Schlosser. FRONT ROW: Albert Nelson, Abe Levitt, Robert Shelly

Remember the old Rag Man?
The Watkin's Man?
The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea wagons?
The Ice Cream Vendors and the Ice Man?

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100th Birthday

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for 28 Years

Happy 100th Birthday

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Phillips, Wisconsin



Phillips High School Football Squad 1922

FIRST ROW - BACK: Alois A. Fix, Coach; Tony Zeeman, Tackle, Full-Back; Chester Watson, Guard; Dan Halbert, Guard, Tackle; John Lipells, Center, Guard; Charles Lacina, Guard; William Milne, Manager. SECOND ROW - CENTER: Marshall Ehle, Half-Back; Wilfred Allard, Half-Back, End; Carl Bjork (Capt. Elect), Half-Back; Bob Timlin (Captain), Quarter-Back; Melvin

Schleife, Center, Guard; Jack Owens, Substitute - Line; Clarence Tauschman, Substitute Back F.; Clayton Peterson, Substitute, Back F. THIRD ROW - FRONT: Adrian Anderson, End; Glendon Murray, Substitute, End; Leonard Curley, Full-Back; Howard Seeburger, Tackle; Alex Matsek, End.

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Since 1946



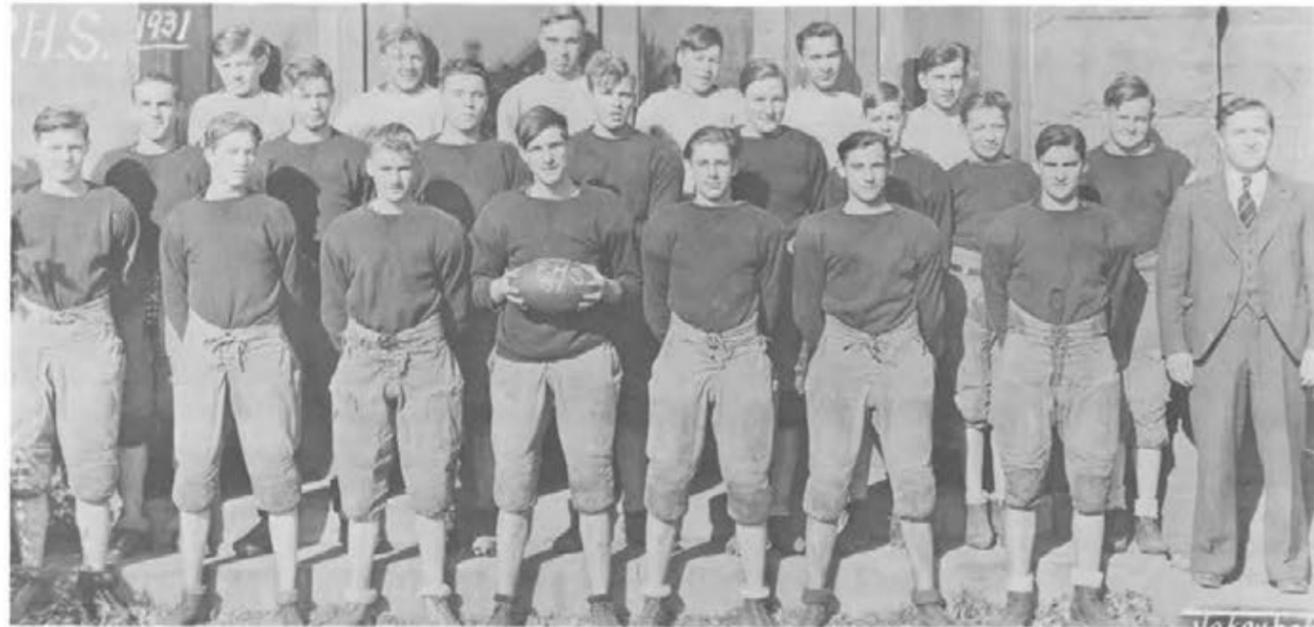
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THE GREAT UNDEFEATED PHILLIPS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM OF 1931 - (back row) L. to R.: Ed Vacula, Bill Olson, Harold "Nub" Peterson, Jim Anderson, Louie Minar, Ed "Pussey" Denk. (Middle row) Archie Fleitner, Lyn Everson, Gerdon Horton,

Nolan Olson, Karl Mess, Adelbert Parker, Willis Hutnik, John Berg. (front row) Kenny Olson, Clayton Thomas, Mutt Berg (Andrew) Jerry (Butch) Sedivy, Paul Meyer, Hal Meyer, Elroy Florence, Walter Kube, coach.

In 1938, a new addition was built on the high school. The grade school took over the first floor and the high school classes the lower floor for home economics and physical education. They used the top floor for academic classes.



Then came the new elementary school in 1959 and the high school classes took over the entire high school building.



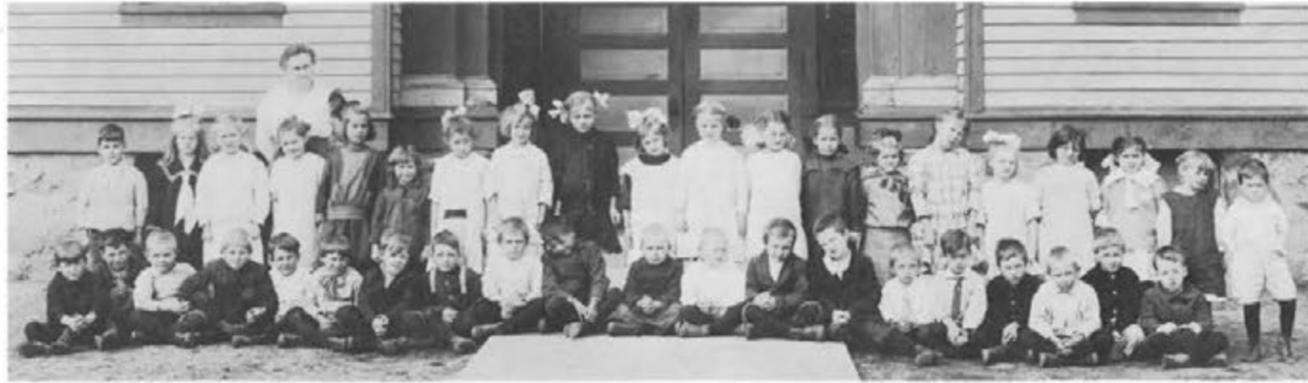
Grade School Faculty - Back in the 40's

ROW 2 - Miss Dahlie, Mrs. Neef, Miss Anderson, Miss Berg. ROW 1 - Miss McGilvery, Miss Carrigan, Mr. Slowey, Miss Higgins, Miss Blixt.



Grade School Basketball

ROW 2 - Freeman, Griffen, Weber, Fields, Rab, Hanish. ROW 1 - Rzepecki, Bowman, Best, Josephs, Krieling, Mr. Slowey. IN FRONT - Weber.



Old Grade School — Phillips



Sokol Hall once served as a classroom for Phillips youngsters. Teachers - unknown.

Congratulations Phillips
on Your 1976 Centennial

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CENTENNIAL GREETINGS
FROM

**W. E.
NIEBAUER,
M.D.**



Pictured is one of the first kindergarten classes in the new addition to the High School. Mrs. Esther (Curly) Neef was the teacher in this 1940 class. ROW 4: Unknown, Unknown, Janet Bruce, Elsbeth Niebauer, Eileen Staley, Ronnie Kenyon, Betty Jones, George Seeburger, Unknown Roger Samuel, Unknown. ROW 3: Shirley Nelson, Unknown, Unknown, Jimmy Gerard. SEATED ON CHAIRS: Gail Anderson, Donna Kreiling, Ethel Liebelt, Helen Kinnear, Mary Van Hecke, Virginia Kuzey, Barbara Batha, Linda Thomas. SEATED ON FLOOR: Bern Rabb, Shirley Brendel, Billy Jo Petitch, Don Marsh, Luanne Lillie.

Successful schools have an interested, concerned school board.



Schoolboard Members - 1958. George F. Franek, Mike Stanke, John Meives, Richard Denny, Wm. Milne, Ingvar Rohling, Karen Kralacek, Thora Rishel, Vincent Adomatis, Art Stanke.

On Sunday, April 26, 1959, the building, simply called the Phillips Elementary School, was "Dedicated to Mr. William Milne and to the boys and girls for whose better education he devoted a life time."



He was surrounded by former superintendents with whom he worked. Left to right: Ingvar Rohling, State Superintendent of Public Instruction George Watson, William Milne, Walter Ploetz, J. C. Rutherford, William Heath.



Others helping with the dedication were Mrs. Kay Bostrom, Principal, Mrs. Thora Rishel and Mrs. Karen Kralicek, School Board members, and Superintendent of School Stan O. Gabrielsen.



Finally in 1972 the present high school was completed on Highway "W" just beyond the city limits on the west side of Phillips. The Middle school students in grades 5 through 8 took over the old high school building.

Music, Music, Music...



Carl Anderson, Laddie Peroutka, D. Kenyon, Tony Podhora, Joe Kopka, Pat Dahlie, Frank Dusek. Director, Liggter, Len Hickey, (Bugle), Hugh, Charles Shell, James Weber, ?, ?, ?, Storll, K. Toby.



AFTER THE FIRE
Most names unknown



FRONT ROW, left to right: ? Rex, Ed Riorden.
SECOND ROW: Ole Olson, Geo. Froseth, Rub Gassman,
? Phillis, J. F. Roberts. THIRD ROW: Ed Hunt, Dick
Breitengross, Ben Davis, ? Meyers, ? Wiesbrod, John
Hunt, Al Waterhouse, Will Fordice, Otto Gassman, and
Henry Meyers.



Mooney Moquin, Woodie Johnson, Howard Soetebeer
Kenny Enger, Beatrice Peters



Drum, Tony Podhora; Trombone, Charles Mencl; Sax,
Al Smetana; Bass, Carl Red Fern; Piano, Marianne
Smetana; Trumpet; Laddie Peroutka.



Drums, Frank Hora; Violin, Wayne Hegg; Accordion, Joe
Kurka (?); Violin, Lad Frank (?); Bass, Dick Mozick (?);
Trumpet, Laddie Peroutka.

Centennial Greetings

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PHILLIPS COMMUNITY
FOR 50 YEARS



Main Cast of "SYLVIA" an operetta by Faculty and Students, 1914-1915

HALLOWEEN PRANK - 1912

Mary Budenburg tells this story about Halloween Eve - 1912: "Charles Markes, George Marks and the Ruka boys stole a four wheel cart from Grandpa Lile. They removed the shafts and then put the cart with George in it up on the roof of my school and left it sitting there.

Charles Marks had tied a long clothes line rope to the big belfry bell, he took the loose end and hid in the woods and rang that bell, never stopping.

Other neighbor boys, two Rehagens and Herman Shanks ran over to the school to see why the bell was ringing. A large crowd gathered. That bell rang at least fifteen minutes before someone stumbled on the rope and nabbed the culprit that held the end of the rope.

Charles kept yelling, "I've got to get my brother down off the roof". The Rehagen boys and my brother Herman got the situation in hand. Charles was taken off to jail - given a good scare, and released. I saw it - it is true.



Drum Corps "Stag" - Feb. 3, 1937

Sports



An early Phillips Baseball Team

TOP ROW: second from L. Chas. Nelson - 3rd, Chris Bleise; 4th, ? Sackett. CENTER ROW: second from L., Gus Berg. Far right, Bill Jackson. FIRST ROW, center, Dan Barnett.

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2 miles South of Phillips
on Hwy. 13



Left to Right: W. K. Parkinson, Bert Alm, John Manis, George Reedal, Joe Kolar



1915 Baseball Team

Jim Cowan, Manager; Con Nolan, Scorekeeper; Joe Kolar, Business Manager. Players: Frank Hegg, Outfield; Hjalmer Olson, First Base; Monk Raymond, Outfield; Russell Lile, Catcher; Jack Pohl, Infielder; Jack McQuillan, Pitcher, Joe Vokoun, Shortstop, Eddie Soledar, Infielder; Claude H. Murray, Outfield.



Phillips Sokol Gymnastic Class

1ST ROW: Ella (Sedlacek) Purma, Rose (Sedlacek) Hora and Elsie (Loula) Vynes. 2ND ROW: Anne (Loula) DuMonte, Julia (Estok) Balusik, deceased and Sylvia (Bartos) Rundquist, deceased. 3RD ROW: Gertrude (Zacharias) Kenyon, Mary Ann Smetana and Mae (Vlach) Cervenka. LAST ROW: Anne (Koci) Peroutha and Lydia (Urban) Mencel.



Jan. 1915, GRAND AGGREGATE WINNERS INTER-NATION BONSPIEL Duluth, Minn. George Reedal, Bert Alm, Clyde Sullivan, C. E. Tobey.



George Reedal, Burt Alm, Joe Farr, Dr. Soulen



Congratulations Phillips

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BEST WISHES

THE
REEROOF

8 Miles West on "W"
KARIN AND ALRICK ANDERSON



Basketball Team
1905



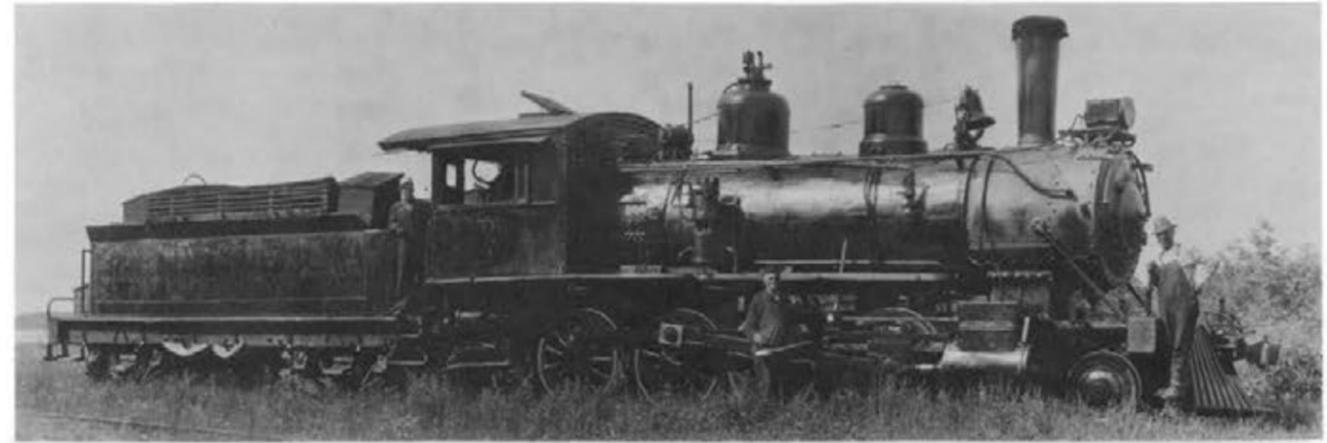
Back row left to right: Chas. Shell, Chris. Bleise, Fred McDonald. Front row left to right: Frank Bruchert, Gus Berg, Nathan Strimling.



1905 COMING MEN OF AMERICA BASEBALL TEAM
Left to right: Charles Hogylind, with white hat, Louis Stremling; Henry Anderson, Charles Dixon and James

Slowey. Seated: Russell Lile, Joe Whitman, Gus Berg, Ernest Johnson, Fred Buchert and Frank Sotebeer.

Transportation...



Engine No. 218 - Man on tender: Sam Anderson, Man with oil can: Sanford Shell, Man on front of engine: John Anderson.

WHY THE RAILROAD RUNS THROUGH PHILLIPS Wm. F. Turner

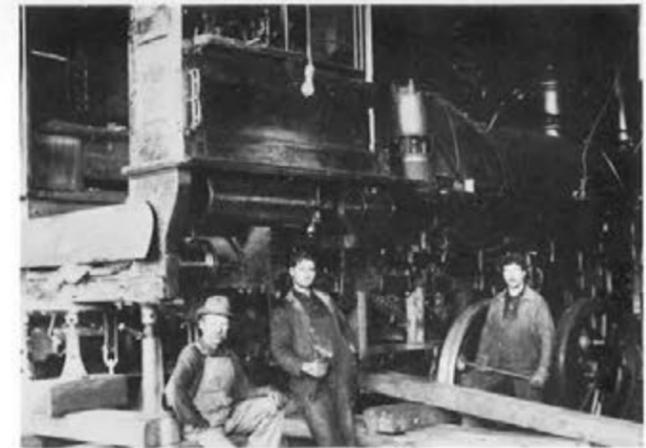
"In the spring of 1874, the Wisconsin Central Construction officers, Chas. L. Colby and C. B. Phillips with their chief engineer, Cap. W. W. Rich met in my office and talked over the advantages to be had changing the direction of the survey due north to a more westerly course so as to strike Elk Lake and Muskallonge Falls, —now known as Park Falls. As a result of this conference a new survey was run on the line the railroad now occupies. I have always felt a little pride in the fact that I was in such an important conference and that the course I advocated was adopted."

ONE OF WM. F. TURNER'S RAILROAD TALES

In November all of the men working on the Railroad were laid off, and the Company would not or could not pay them. When work was stopped the men lay in camp about two weeks, when 900 of them took possession of the train and all the supplies it carried. The train consisted of 25 cars and a locomotive. The men then got on the train and ran it to Stevens Point. There they put tar on the big wooden bridge across the Wisconsin river and threatened to burn it and the depot if they were not paid. The Railway Company paid the men and suspended work. That left a few of us away up in the woods. Our tie contractors were all busted and there we were. Mr. Levit, (the tie contractor), had not gotten a cent and, of course, could not pay us. He even could not get money to take his wife and daughter out of the woods.

This railroad strike and panic was the most disastrous event in the building of that great enterprise, the Wisconsin Central Railway. Its effect upon the Company was to retard the great work for three years. The last iron rail reached Section 101 north of Stevens Point in 1873 and the end remained in the center of that great forest until 1876.

My experience in railroading had not been of that pleasant and agreeable nature to create in me a



Engine in the Round House - men unknown

heartfelt desire to pursue it further. On the break-up of the railroad work I found myself with \$40.00 in my pocket and Del St. John had \$6.00. We gave all this money to Levit for a yoke of steers, two quarters of beef, one sack of flour, some dried apples and a camp outfit. In addition I got one load of supplies free gratis from big Jim McGaffney, the leader of the men who captured the train and run it to Stevens Point.

In this way Dell and I, who had been the capitalists - to the extent of \$46.00 - by this transfer, became the loggers, and Levit became possessed of enough money to get his family out of the country.



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Phillips, Wisconsin
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Train time - a daily social event



A. L. Green and his lady friends



Arthur Beijer in his 1907 Ford Model N



*ALLIS CHALMERS
Purchased second hand by Jerry Bartos, 1918*



1907 International Car driven by Ben Chase. Passengers are L. E. Chase and Albert Habel.



*Bicyclists - about 1915
Tony Stelcich, Vales Rames, Josef Rames and Tony Kurka*

Centennial Wishes To
*The City that was my
birthplace in 1902 and is
still in my thoughts though
I've been away many years.*

**COMPLIMENTS
OF A FRIEND...**

COMPLIMENTS OF:

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V. Rames - Flying machine - taken at 1912 fair. This plane, scheduled to make flights at the 1912 Price County Fair, attracted hundreds of spectators - but never got off the ground. Prof. Hantschel promised to make a flight next day but the water cooled engine froze open overnight - he did not make the flight.



Boys, Hugh Johnson, Leland Hebert and Wesley Johnson go Greyhound from Phillips - about 1940.

Early Scenes...



August 11, 1894,
where once stood the Davis Company Store



One year after 1894 fire



Emergency cook shanty after the fire



Avon Ave., Phillips, Wis. 1895. (Left to right) Lumber Office, dressed lumber. Shed: Barn and feed room. Grocery Store. Owner: D. Van Ostrand in front and W. A. Grant.



Note Hitching Post - Groceries - Now Bank Building



Bird's eye view of Phillips 1913 or 1914



Lake Street, Phillips, Wisconsin 1916



Fair time in Phillips, Wisconsin - some time ago



Note: The BEE is downstairs,
As it is now after their fire of March, 1976



F. Schwede & Son Farmers Home



Laying the first water main in Lake Street about 1906.



"Ike" Brazelton on the oil wagon



1907 to 1915, Post Office was on the first floor of the Masonic building. Herman Anderson, Postmaster (left).



Postmaster Herman Anderson and Rural Carrier, John Weber Sr., watch as Joe Collins drives a load of mail to the depot. The Dray Line was owned by James F. Sullivan.

This was an every night procedure. There were 4 Passenger Trains daily. The mail came from the South at 5:30 A.M. and at 4 P.M. in the afternoon. In the afternoon many patrons crowded the lobby of the Post Office waiting for the letters to be distributed. Sometimes it was so crowded a path was made for the clerks carrying in the mail bags on their shoulders. This ended in 1926 when the Phillips City delivery started. The first City Carriers were James E. Slowey and Wheeler Anderson. Clyde Sullivan was Postmaster at this time.

PHILLIPS POST OFFICE

The first Post Office in Price County was established in Phillips in 1876. The next in succession were Fifield and Ogema in 1877; Spirit in 1880; Prentice in 1882; Coolidge and Worcester in 1887; Kennan and Park Falls in 1889; Brantwood in 1895 and Catawba in 1898.

After the Phillips Fire, the Post Office was located at a site near the Phillips Cafe. It was later relocated on the first floor of the Masonic building until 1962. At this time it was moved to the new spacious structure just completed on the corner of

Avon and Cherry St. It was dedicated on November 10, 1962. Andrew Warga was Postmaster then.

The names of Postmasters in succession from the first available records are: Darwin Sperry; Herman Anderson 1907-1915; John Barry; Mrs. John Barry; Clyde Sullivan, 1920; Joseph Kolar; Rudolph Baumann; Edward Donovan; William Pope; Andrew Warga; Daniel Cress. Mr. George DuPree is the present Postmaster.



Left to right: Phil Marsh, unidentified, Ernie Ruka, Carl (Monk) Raymond, Clyde Sullivan, (Postmaster) and Jim Slowey.

Centennial Wishes
from

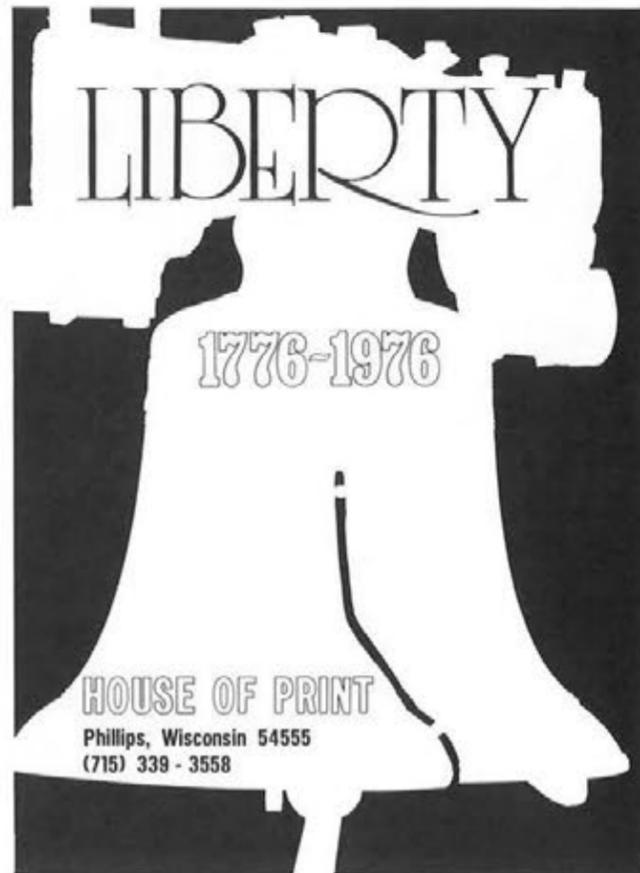
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Isaac Brazelton arriving at the Court House with the "Last of the White Pine" log which is on display on the Court House lawn.



City Officials ready for the placing ceremony of the great white pine log on the Court House Lawn.

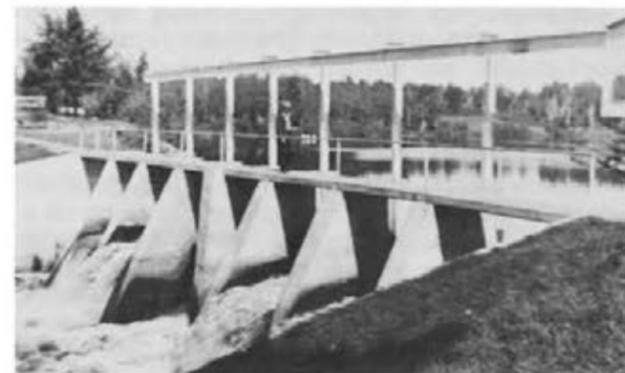


Looking north on a snowy Phillips main street.



Phillips had snow in those days - When?

The Dams... *By Gordon Dahlie*



Gil Turner built the Musser Dam on the Big Elk river above Phillips.



Reedal Family at Musser Dam - 1915

The Phillips area has a network of waters that has served us well. The Elk rivers, and their tributaries, have had a tremendous part in our settlement and growth. Flowing rivers and sparkling lakes have become a part of our lives and few of us would be happy away from them.

I am sure our waters were most important to our early residents. Indians located their villages near water because it was an easy means of travel and a source of food. Early trappers worked the waters in their quest for furs. Cutting of our virgin pine started on the stream banks where logs could be piled to await transportation by the fast waters of Spring floods. Railroads, mills, tanneries, settlements, all located near rivers and lakes because water was a first necessity. The early homesteader who found a stream on his land considered himself lucky. The location of a village was most often determined because abundant water was at hand.

Our people, however, were not quite willing to accept the whims of nature or the variety of the seasons to regulate our rivers and lakes. To gather water for their use, loggers built scores of dams on rivers and small streams of the Phillips waterways. These logging dams, many on old beaver dam locations, sometimes served the loggers for only a

year or two and then the gates were removed and the streams reverted to their natural state. These dams, nevertheless, did leave their mark. Clearings on the shoreline, abandoned camps, skidding trails to the streambed, silt covered upstream meadows, ponds, exposed rocks, and dead trees showed where the dams had been. These areas became important to wildlife and years later became wild hay meadows where settlers gathered forage for their stock.

The big river dams were more permanent and held water for log drives of immense size. The well organized control of a series of dams kept log drives moving for a hundred miles. Log driving crews would know to the hour when a head of water would reach their logs. Experienced dam tenders and a communication line of fast traveling runners helped the white water carry the logs to the market. The big dams near mills held water all year as water was needed to hold a supply of logs that could be channelled into the mill. The lakes were also important to the limited sports and recreation of the early days and were the hub of both summer and winter sports.

In the 1930's the City of Phillips, seeking work for many unemployed area people, decided to



Man on the right - Mr. Jobe of Jobe's Dam.



Jobe's Dam on the Elk river, below Phillips, built by A. B. McDonald.

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CHES & EVIE BROZEK ● JOHN KLOCEK

create employment by rebuilding dams at some of the old logging locations. State permits to build a dam and getting flowage rights were not serious problems as much of the land was of low value or in public ownership.

A W.P.A. project was started to rebuild Bolton dam which would create Musser Lake. This dam is on the Big Elk river 8 miles east of Phillips. Materials and supplies were furnished by the City and labor was supplied for the Federal project. Bolton dam was rebuilt and before the basin had filled with water a similar effort was started to rebuild Jobes dam 3 miles west of Phillips on the lower Elk. This was a much larger dam and raised the water of both Elk Lake and Lake Duroy within the City. The dam also created Wilson Lake by raising Wilson Creek, a tributary of the Elk. Long Lake increased in size and stable water was achieved. A picturesque shoreline was created with high points becoming islands and secluded bays making an appearance. All in all it became a beautiful recreation lake.

The next dam to be reconstructed was the Murray dam eleven miles west of Phillips on the Elk and a mile from where the river joins the Flambeau. This dam raised the water in Soo Lake and formed a large island area. It quickly became a popular and productive fishing lake.

The fourth dam to be rebuilt was Solberg on Squaw Creek. This is a small stream flowing south

for 12 miles to join the Elk river near the Fairgrounds. There had been 5 logging dams on its short length, the largest being Solberg located 4 miles northeast of Phillips. The lake formed here encompassed no natural lakes. The area was completely wild and over half of the shoreline was in a County Forest. Solberg Lake was largely unknown and unseen until the late 1940's.

It takes several years for a flowage lake to establish itself. The level of the water works to create a shoreline. Logs and stumps are washed free to float around until they go over the dam or lodge on the shoreline. Bogs rise to the surface and then break up and disappear from wind and water action. Trees killed by flooding are cut down or allowed to remain to become fish spawning grounds. Naturally, where there is water fishermen will try their luck. If they meet with success the lake begins to get heavy use. Most flowages go through a series of ups and down and then are planted with fish most suitable to the waters.

It took some time for the importance of the new lakes to be recognized. If you will remember the 1930's and early 40's you remember that not much attention was given to lakeshore living and recreation. It was a period when other, more important things were taking place. It was a period when the new lakes stabilized and the rough edges were taken off. It was not until the end of World War Two that a movement began that heralded the present day desire for space and country living. Bit

by bit lakeshore property was bought and cabins built. An owner of land might sell a lot to a friend or a larger parcel to a speculator. Land was cheap and there was lots of it. New owners built cabins that were suitable for summer use. On Solberg Lake, as an example, the County platted 100 foot lots and sold them to the highest bidder. Prices were low and still all the lots did not sell. Later, of course, all the lots were sold.

As the nation prospered and people had more money to invest, lakeshore property became a good investment. Many of the owners fell in love with their new property and determined to live, at least for a part of the year, next to water. Cabins were built, beaches were cleared, trees were planted, docks built into the water, with vigor and enthusiasm. In the meantime, the Towns were building roads around the lakes, electric power lines were going where service was needed, and mail routes brought mail where it had never gone before. Resorts were built, taverns turned on their friendly lights, campgrounds got a heavy play. Picnickers asked for beaches and playgrounds, fishermen wanted boat landings and places to park

their cars. Now permanent homes were being built. Former summer cabins were enlarged, modernized, and winterized. Everyone wanted running water, a septic system, lights down by the dock, and their own unique sign on the road so visitors could find their place.

Today the popularity of lakeshore and open space living is well known and understood. The Townships with lakes and subdivisions have achieved new value and are becoming more populated. Exodus from the cities is a part of the reason, retirement to the quiet of the north is a factor, the desire of young parents to give their children room to play, are all reasons for lakeshore and country homes. Additional lands are being platted and almost every suitable piece of land is being prepared for some sort of recreational use.

A place on a lake, where the rising fog of early morning and the dancing reflection of the moon on the water at night is a magnet few can resist. Now and then, we could give a thought to those almost forgotten barriers, made of cement and dirt and wooden gates, the dams, that have made so much of this a reality.

Hester "BABE" Day



The home of Albert and Ernestine Bolton built in 1887 at Musser Dam - 14 of their 16 children born in the home.

The family home of Albert and Ernestine Bolton was built at the Musser Dam in 1887. All but the first 2 of their 16 children were born there.

In 1926 Babe, the youngest, went to work in various offices at Donaldson's in St. Paul, but preferred managing the book department.

She married Howard Day on February 9, 1928. They had one son, "Bing" (Howard Jr.), who lives in Bloomer, Wis.

Musser flowage always held special appeal for Babe and Howard. In 1961, they purchased an island in Musser flowage from Ole Peterson. The only access to the island is by boat in open water and on foot or snowmobile on ice. In between times one stays put, either on, or off the island.

On one of her earlier visits to the island, Babe brought a McCulloch chain saw, a Franklin stove



Hester Day's Island Retreat - 1961

and a tent; and the determination to use them.

They brought a small, inexpensive mobile home to the island one winter to serve as their home, thinking if it broke through the ice their loss would be negligible. But the venture was successful. Next, they built an addition to the mobile section, doubling their living quarters, and modernizing the complete unit, except for the plumbing. This allowed freedom to leave the place for extended trips in the wintertime without worry about frozen plumbing systems. A "jet" well supplies plenty of water.

Fire wood, fuel oil and bottle gas are all transported from the mainland by boat. The McCulloch chain saw is used to cut popple limbs that the beaver leave behind. The soft wood is ideal to burn in the Franklin stove on chilly evenings.

Howard Day passed away in 1969, soon after



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Hester (Bolton) Day
Relaxes in her cozy island retreat
on Musser Flowage

heart surgery. Babe stayed on at the island retreat. Babe is not a hunter nor a trapper and the birds are her friends. She feeds all the wildlife that comes to her door. She likes summertime fishing and goes swimming every day from spring breakup to fall freezeup.

Babe's home is very much a part of her. The walls are lined with shelves full of books, whole collections by Taylor Caldwell, Mazo De La Roche, John Steinbeck, Wm. Shakespeare, Edgar Allan Poe, Wadsworth, Thoreau, and hundreds more. It is fabulous.

It is a revelation to step inside her cozy retreat, Babe lives as she is - a knowledgeable, gracious, lady - who is as natural as the nature she loves.



Babe's Retreat - with the addition - as it is in 1976

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Agriculture... By Milo Johansen



Harvesting Potatoes
W. H. Parkinson and H. J. Rahmlow facing camera

Phillips has always been a rural community and trade center. Its economic base in the early days was forestry. Agriculture followed and then came recreation and industry.

Looking at the influence of agriculture, we note that in 1880 there were 42 farms in Price County, increasing to 2514 farms in 1935. The number has declined to about 775 at the present writing, 1976. Unit acreage has increased nearly in that proportion. Gross farm income has just a few dollars to about \$6,000,000.00 annually today.

The early farm can best be described as a place to live and raise the family food supply, with income from woods work and the saw mills bringing in the family cash. The pioneer barn measured about 14'x24' and housed two horses, one cow, one sheep and one hog. Today's barn is about 36' x 200' and houses 50 to 75 cows and young stock.

Livestock enterprises have been the main source of farm income. Dairying has been and is the main effort with attempts at hogs, sheep, fox, mink and beef. In 1946 Phillips became headquarters for the North Central Wisconsin Mink Club.

The Phillips Creamery located where the I.G.A. Family Shopping Center now operates, and dating back to about 1919 was the market for suppliers' cream. The Creamery, started by Borst and Paulson's was later taken over by the Tilleson and Hoos. James Yanich and Laddie Peroutka managed the plant. About 1939, cheese making was added to the plant's operations. The plant ceased operation while under the ownership of Laabs in the 1950's. Over the years, the Creamery sold butter to the A.&P. and cheese to Peter Fox and Sons of Chicago. Early history also refers to Borst's Cream Station from which local residents purchased milk and home made creamery butter.



It's Haying Time



Cranberry Development

Over the years, the farmers have looked to Phillips for supplies and services and the businessmen to the farmers for trade.

Feed and seed supplies were handled by nearly every grocery and hardware store. Suppliers have included Peter's Grist Mill, located south of town; Ernest Leibelt's, now the Gilge Beer Depot;



Hand-Stacked Grain

Bloom's, adjoining Bloom's Tavern; Brendl's, now the Family Shoe Store; Farmers Corp., now I.G.A. location. Present suppliers include Dahlie's Hardware, Weber's Grocery and Flambeau Farm Service. An interesting sidelight: feed business increased during prohibition.

Over the years, cash crops for the farmers have included potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, mangels, beets, onions, gensing, peas and beans. Potato growing was most successful. In 1924 Price County ranked 4th in the state in the production of potatoes. Phillips had, at least, three warehouses. Peak acreage reached 2,460 acres in 1922. Potato production continued until 1935 with as much as 27 car loads being shipped to Florida, Texas, Missis-



The Old Threshing Machine

sippi, Alabama and Louisiana in one year. By 1949 production had decreased to 460 acres.

The Airport area at Phillips was once a sheep farm, changing from that to potatoes under the management of Parkinson's. Later, Conradi Bros. Other large acreage growers were Mr. Van Ostrand, Karl Mess and John Tadin. Potatoes served as a source of employment for Phillips youth. School vacations of one to two weeks were granted so that the young people could help with the potato harvest.

Rural and townspeople have always shared common interests and participated in common activities: these activities include the County Fair, 1976 will be the 91st year for the Fair; 4H projects, Dairy Days, Farm Institute, etc.

PRICE COUNTY PUBLIC OFFICIALS and OFFICERS

County Clerk Clarence Cvengros
 County Treasurer J. Muriel Cress
 Register of Deeds Charles Pouba
 Clerk of Courts Marlene Charbonneau
 County Judge Hon. W. Patrick Donlin
 District Attorney Dave Deda
 County Sheriff Paul Gehring
 County Coroner Chester Brozek
 Veteran's Service Officer Richard Reese
 Highway Commissioner Walter Zierer
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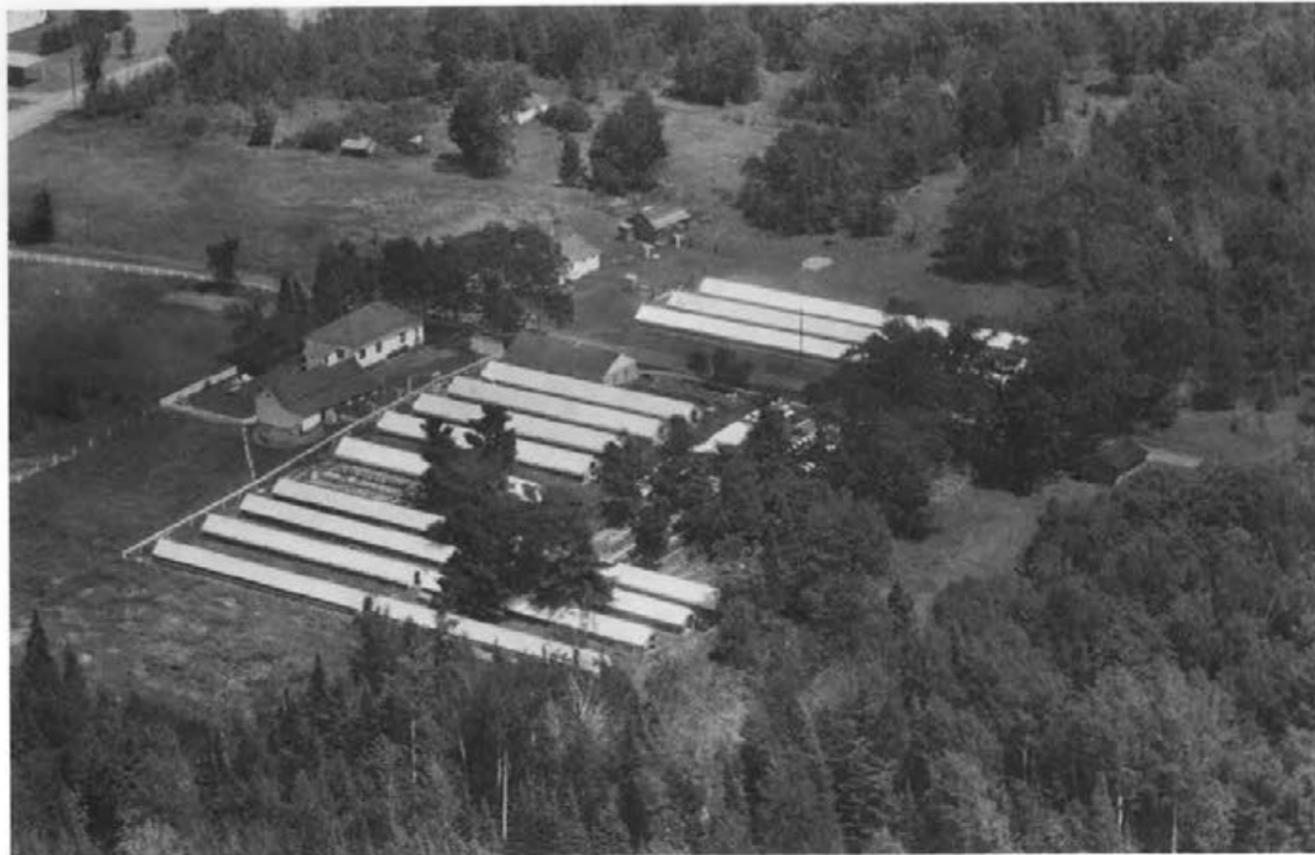
Price County Fair Exhibits



Price County Fair Exhibits



Price County Fair Grounds



Rudy Heisler Mink Ranch, Lugerville

FUR RANCHING IN THE PHILLIPS AREA

Wild fur bearing animals have been trapped for their pelts for years in the Phillips area. However, the ranching of fur bearing animals as a business began in the early 1920's with fox and muskrats raised for pelts. Mr. Ralph Wilson and Mr. Tabor operated a muskrat farm. Mr. William Moebius of Chicago moved to Phillips and started a fox ranch eight miles west of Phillips on County Trunk W. He was followed by Claude Dutcher, Richard Glissendorf, Al Ziehm, Edward Bornhoeft, Stanley Mason, Rudy Hlavacek, Sr. and Anton Bernard.

In the late 1940's the fur industry changed when long haired fur went out of fashion and shorter hair brought mink into world demand.

Among the men who developed Mink Ranching as an industry into the Phillips area are: John Jakoubek, Rudy, Bill & Carl Heizler, Charles Brendel and Andy Pilch. During the 1950's, some 30 ranchers operated full time in the Phillips area. The industry was growing throughout the United States and Europe.

In 1946 the area ranchers, along with Mr. Frank Rabinowich of the Phillips Flambeau Feed Co. and Mr. William Rogan, Price County Agricultural Agent, felt the need for an educational club to promote the welfare and business of the local mink industry. The North Central Mink Club, Inc. was organized and Phillips became headquarters for



1935 - Carl & Rudy Heizler

regular educational meetings at the Moose Hall. Annual three-day mink shows were held in Phillips. Mink ranchers, commercial men and interested people from several states and Canada came to Phillips to attend these meetings and shows.

In the 1940's, '50's and '60's, these names, also, were synonymous with substantial area mink operations: Steve Hargas, Norman Hohenstein, Walter Johnson, Stan Kolnik, Almond LeClaire and Son, Fran Martwick, Joseph Voldrich, George Weber, Bill Zeman, Ed Cechvala, Leopold Bros., Ed Murphy, Alfonse Jusunas, Clyde Clare, Lacina Bros., Tom Beecham, Ludwig and Joe Janos & Valiga Bros.



William Moebius' Fox Ranch, 8 miles west of Phillips on County Trunk W - 1935

A change in fur fashions and a decline in the world economy of the fur business began in late 1960. Fur ranchers were encouraged to pelt down their stocks and, a majority, pelted out their ranches.



Isle of Pines Minkery, Phillips, Wis.

The North Central Mink Club, Inc. has discontinued the annual fur shows. Regular meetings are still conducted with membership from surrounding counties. Local Mink Ranchers continuing in 1976 are John Baumgartner and George and Joe Valiga.

Newspapers...



Interior View of The Bee
Geo. R. Foster (center) and Mrs. Gust (Queen Stevenson) Berg.

One of the Phillips' historians stated, "One afternoon I noticed a man, of dark complexion, with a high forehead, sitting on top of the woodpile (three-foot wood used for firing locomotives) with a tab of paper and pencil, writing. That man was F.

W. Sackett, and a few weeks later The Phillips Times appeared."

It is more than coincidence that newspapers accompany the development of any territory. One has but to note that a century ago, when railroads



Phillips Times Office Bldg.

were being extended, that with the development of communities, newspapers were founded within a short time. That held true for many of the Price county communities on the railroads running north and south and east and west.

Perhaps the reason is that newspapers were based on the "comings and goings" of the people—and the only method of knowing about "comings and goings" in those days was observing the activities at railroad stations, for railroads became the most important method of transportation.

It was F. W. Sackett, a Democrat, who, in 1876, established the first newspaper at the station called Phillips, the publication being called The Phillips Times. Other sources of income were needed by a newspaper owner, and thus Mr. Sackett became postmaster and justice of the peace to supplement his earnings. Geo. E. Sackett, a brother of F. W. Sackett was editor of the Fifield Advocate. He later was associated with "F.W." in publication of The Phillips Times.

Other men became interested in publishing, and in 1884 Charles L. Darlington, who had ownership of The Phillips Badger, a competing paper with Republican leanings, sold out to Mr. Sackett, and then started a new paper, The Bee. This publi-

cation which at one time was scheduled for the name, The Flea, was more like a handbill, and because of its size had difficulty in getting mailing privileges.

The Bee, within a year was taken over by George J. Osterman who ran it for five years. In the next 15 years John D. Rowland, E. W. Hand, Charles Durkee, Ernest L. Messer and J. H. Waggoner, had control of the paper.

Then in 1905, a man named George R. Foster, who had received his newspaper and printing experience in Milwaukee, Madison and Mineral Point, bought out The Bee which then had a subscription list of 200, and which often depended upon subscription payments by vegetables and wood. Those were lean years for the Foster family and there were many residents of the young city who predicted "an early folding." However, Mr. Foster, who was one who was able to face adversity, and with the help of his two sons, David G. (Shrimp) and Edwin J. (Red), success finally came. Plugging steadily forward in the next 25 years, the owner of The Bee was able to purchase the rival newspaper, The Phillips Times, and combine it with The Bee.

Big strides in newspaper publication came during

the early part of the 20th century. The handsetting of type, the printing of a newspaper by human muscle power and the use of "canned materials" were changed over to setting by linotype, the use of waterpower from the lumber mill for press power, and more personal writing took the place of the earlier methods.

For many years The Bee offices were located in the basement of the Masonic Hall located on Lake Avenue. As the financial status of the owners improved, a new modern building was constructed near the Soo depot and that new site became the location of the paper in 1947.

The Bee became larger in size and eventually had a subscription list of near 5,000 in an area covering all of southern Price county and beyond. Mr. Foster and his two sons, needing assistance in the writing department added F. W. Heath, city school superintendent, to the partnership in early 1949. George R. Foster died in August, 1951, at a time when The Bee was becoming one of the outstanding weeklies in the state, so far as size and quality were concerned.

In June, 1959, The Prentice News, published by Ralph Nehls, and which was one of the last hand-

set papers in the state, became the property of The Bee ownership. The Prentice News was continued as a separate paper for three years after its purchase and then was combined with The Bee in 1962.

The editorship of the paper changed in August, 1963, when Mr. Heath decided to return to the educational field. J. Milton Neuhauser became editor and served for a number of years. The newspaper was then sold by the Fosters in February, 1970, to the Bee Hive Press, Inc., with the new owners being Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kempkes and their son, Ted Kempkes. Many changes in operation have taken place with linotype operations being replaced by offset methods.

A popular column of long standing is "Wood-smoke" contributed weekly to the Bee by Ced Vig, Superintendent of Schools, Rhinelander.

Tragedy struck on March 4, 1976, when fire gutted the interior of the fine building on Lake Avenue. The loss was great and operations were shifted back to the old publishing site, the Masonic Hall basement. Plans have been made for rebuilding the plant near the depot.

ONE OF WM. F. TURNER'S PIONEER TALES

I pre-empted three forties of pine land near the crossing of the Little Black and about one mile south of where Medford now stands. I built a shed roof shanty and took five men who agreed to stay with me because they could not get home without money. With these men I moved into my camp on the Little Black and commenced cutting pine logs. We had in about 40,000 when our supplies gave out. I told the cook, Dave Moore, to fry some doughnuts out of what flour we had left and the next day Dave and I filled our pockets and started to hoof it to Neillsville to arrange for more supplies. We were dressed in Mackinaws and had nothing to carry. We went to where Colby now stands and from there turned west on a road that had been cut through the woods to a settlement called Gravesville where we arrived about seven o'clock that evening. We found a hotel, but the door was locked. Someone from the inside, in response to our loud calls, asked us what we wanted. We told him we wanted to stay all night. The man said we could not come in. Then we told him that we must have something to eat and he handed us a chunk of bread and we traveled on our weary way to our destination, Neillsville.

After traveling about eight miles farther we came to a road side tavern. A woman saw us coming and she rushed into the house and slammed the door shut. We entered the barroom but no one was to be seen. From an adjoining room someone spoke and wanted to know who was there. I replied that we were from "The Line" (as the railroad was then called) and that we wanted something to drink. We were told to help ourselves and

get out of there. We did both and after traveling about eight miles farther we came to another stopping place and met with about the same reception. No one wanted to see us and we wanted to see anyone. The truth was that the toughest holes of cities had been scoured by the railroad contractors for laborers, there had been some wild depredations during the panic and the reputation of the "Gang" had traveled far. However, after having again helped ourselves we again started on and soon saw two men coming toward us. But, the moment they caught sight of us they cut for the woods and ran away around us.

By this time Dave Moore commenced to complain of being very tired. We soon came to an inviting looking house and I said to Dave, "Let us go in and stop until morning." All the front doors along this road had a board nailed across them. We went to the back door and could hear a man praying. After he had finished his prayer I knocked at the door and the man called out, "Who's there?" I told him it was two men from the "Line" who were very tired and cold and wanted to stay until morning. That we could lay on the floor or anywhere. But he called back "You can't come in here!" I again told him we were tired out, but he again said we could not come in. I then told him that he had better pray again as God was very slow to hear the prayers of such brutes as he was showing himself to be.

Leaving the praying sinner to his own meditations, we traveled on, and as we neared Neillsville, and approaching a bridge over a creek I heard a noise behind me and looking around I saw something dressed in a long nightgown, bare-footed and