

1 *Poy Sippi* 2  
8 *150th* 0  
5 *Celebration* 0  
3 *Aug. 1st, 2nd, & 3rd* 3



Front Cover

07-17-03

Dear Jim & Arlene,

Appears that for such a small community, a number of people have put forth a great amount of effort.

We were looking forward to the 3-day event. However, the Beaman family is gathering in Ohio @ this time and we will be away from 8/1, 2 & 3 days.

Love,

Barb

2

Sometimes you have to step back to see the true beauty of something. When asked by some "out of towners" where I lived years ago, I would say, "Where "D" comes onto "49". They would reply, "Oh, by that beautiful bluff. Those hills are so pretty around Poy Sippi. Why, sometimes we take a ride just to look at them!"

I can only imagine how this area looked to George Hawley, Martin Becker, Vernon Evans, and Dr. J.S. Ewing in the summer of 1848. These men had traveled from Waukau to Berlin, then to Wautoma, before finally arriving in this area. They were so taken with the beauty, that they wrote "claimed" on all the trees. Legend had it that a Potawatomi Indian, named Indian John, befriended this party of men and set them straight about the "do's and don'ts" of the area.

Yes, our town has prospered over the years. At one time, in the late 1800's, we had a wool curder, cabinet maker, blacksmith, general merchant, justice of the peace, doctor, physician and surgeon, manufacturer of lumber, wagons and sleighs, grist mill, carpenter, and hotel keeper, just to name a few.

If you have lived here for some time, you can remember two feed mills, Daisy Dairy (where many a housewife and teenager earned extra money), three gas stations, a lumberyard and farm implement dealer.

Who knows what the future will hold for our tiny town. People come and go - places come and go, but if we all have just a bit of luck, may we all be here to celebrate in 2053!

I apologize for any misinformation or anything left out. My sources were "Those Dodds Girls of Poy Sippi" by Dorothy Dodds Rogers and various articles from 1953.

Judy Schierland

3

We hope that in the following pages, you will get a little insight into our past and present and you will say a time or two "I remember that!"

CORPORAL FRANKLIN BLAISDELL

CAMP CURTIS SULPHUR SPRINGS, MO. DEC. 23

Dear Uncle I received your letter today with pleasure I hasten to answer I think from your letter that Lowell (his first Cousin) did not receive my line to him. At the time of receiving his letter I was ill with the measles but answered as soon as my health would admit, my health is now as good as usual. I was on picket guard last night and the weather was cold for this country. We have two inches of snow but snow seldom on here more than two days at a time. Our camp is 20 miles from St. Louis on the river and on the Mississippi our business is to guard the rail road as the rebels are not in any force in this Section and we shall see no fighting unless we move from here. The Regiment are generally in good health but we have nearly 200 cases of measles. I think we have verry fine officers out Col. is an experienced officer having done service in Mexico and the men have great confidence in him as commander We are under Brig. Gen. Hallick Great preparations have been made to do down the river and numerous gun boats have been fitted up at St. Louis which will be verry destructive to the rebel batteries down the river. The Wis. 11<sup>th</sup> are with us and government have established a military post here and it is verry probable that we shall remain here this winter. Soldiers life agrees with me verry well although it is verry unlike home life. We have never fairly had a chance to try our pluck but was near enough to Fredericksburg to have the cannon balls plow the ground in front of our line and much disappointed in being held as a reserve which however was a post of honor. I am going to send you a paper I do not know as you will get it. Ruth (his Daughter) wants I should kill the Southernns and come home tomorrow. I thank you for your kindness in sending those Stamps but I am not verry poor I have 18 dollars per month and I do not spend but verry little money if I survive the war I shall do middling well in dollars & cents if the war does not last too long but I would not have you think I would enlist for money. We have plenty to eat and plenty of clothes to keep us warm. Please write again and I shall answer any inquires.

F. Blaisdell

.NOTE: Letter as written by Franklin. From The Blaisdell Papers, June 1962 with permission.

# POY SIPPI AND THE CIVIL WAR

By Kim J. Heltemes

Poy Sippi is a small town nestled between the hills about 30 miles west of Oshkosh, Wisconsin. During the Civil War, the patriotism fever was intense there. The Poy Sippi Cemetery reflects this patriotism of its citizens as well as that of the neighboring communities.

The Grand Army Post in Poy Sippi, the James S. Ewing Post #231, had about 60 members throughout the years. Named after James S. Ewing, an Assistant Surgeon of the 5<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf., the post remained active until the death of its last member, Fred Hawley. The U.S.A.R. flag was turned over to the Sons of Veterans in about 1927. Hawley's Granddaughter, Mrs. Jessie Dodds, remarked "The properties which they wish to bequeath to you SONS, are not valuable in dollars and cents, but oh how priceless the memories of other days when the order was flourishing". Dr. Ewing was interned in the Poy Sippi Cemetery, along with 34 other known Civil War veterans. Dr. Ewing died Dec. 28, 1901 at the age of 61. This article was written on his 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary of his death. He was a doctor in Poy Sippi after the Civil War until his death. He was remembered for horseback visits wearing a gray shawl as an overcoat.

Franklin Blaisdell fought with the 8<sup>th</sup> WVI. This was the "Old Abe the War Eagle" regiment. He was in Co. D. The marker dedication set for August 3, 2003 will be for Franklin at 4:00 p.m. at the Brushville Cemetery located north of Poy Sippi about 3 miles.

The cemetery is the resting place for Captain Riley P. Colt of Co. H, 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Captain Colt made it through the full term of the war. Co. H was the unit for Nathan Barker, buried not far from Colt, Edward Ballou, KIA at Shiloh, Tenn. on April 6, 1862, and Jerome Brewster, who was discharged on June 16, 1862 for disability. They are also resting in the Poy Sippi Cemetery. Another Co. H boy, George Vincent, whose headstone photo accompanies this article, was captured at Corinth. He re-enlisted as a musician. Darrin White wasn't so lucky. He was a prisoner of Shiloh and died on July 16, 1862 in St. Louis of disease. Charles Spencer, another Co. H boy, was also a prisoner of the Shiloh battle. He managed to serve out the war until March 1864. Captain Colt made it through the war mustering out in July 1865.

The 30<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Vol. Inf., Co. H, famous during the Sioux Indian uprisings in Minnesota, Dakota Territory, had several Poy Sippi boys in the ranks. Surviving the war were Daniel Cate, Corporal George Cate, Henry Baxter, Hubert Randall, and Sylvester Shumway. Addison Bronson died October 19, 1861 at Fort Sully, Dakota Territory, of disease. William Mathews, a Wagoner from the Town of Leon, was discharged for a disability. James Mathews of Leon served from August 1862 and was discharged in September 1865. Nathan Mathews of Auroraville was a Corporal and also served from August 1862 to September 1865. John Maitland, also from Leon, was discharged for a disability in September 1863.

Frederick Noyes was a Sergeant in the company who was discharged for disability in April 1863. Robert Davidson of Poy Sippi, also of Co. H, served from October 1863 until the end of the war. But he left the service with a disability. Henry Lampier of Kenosha of Co. H is buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery near William Matthews, Noyes, Davidson, and Maitland.

Edgar Brewster was discharged from the 16<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co K, on October 19, 1862 and later drafted into the 6<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co C, of the famed Iron Brigade, mustering out in July 1865. William Cockerill of Seneca, also drafted in November 1864, was a prisoner of Gravelly Run and was mustered out in July 1865. John Vincent, a house builder after the war, was discharged after 8 months in August 1862 from Co K, 16<sup>th</sup> WVI. Amos Shepard of Berlin joined Co H, 16<sup>th</sup> WVI, in January 1864 and served to the end of the war. Lyman Warner of Co. D, 16<sup>th</sup> WVI, a citizen from Beaver Dam, died in St. Louis of disease. Brewster, Cockerill, Vincent, Shepard, and Warner are buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery.

Edwin Bowen of Appleton was discharged in February 1863 from Co. D of the 21<sup>st</sup> WVI.

Albert Chapin of Farmington, west of Waupaca, served in Co. B of the 29<sup>th</sup> WVI for his 3-year enlistment. Another Farmington boy, John Holsworth, served in the 20<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co. E from August 1862 to July 1865. John Eldridge of Concord was in Co. F of the 29<sup>th</sup> WVI and served his 3-year term too. Bowen, Chapin, Holsworth, and Eldridge are buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery.

Edward Plummer fought with either the 6<sup>th</sup> WVI or the 52<sup>nd</sup> WVI. Lars Jenson of Oconomowoc was with the 15<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co. D. He served from November 1861 to February 1865. Plummer and Jenson are buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery.

The 32<sup>nd</sup> WVI had two soldiers in Co. C from the area. They were Captain Wiley B. Arnold of Berlin and Private Edwin Briggs.

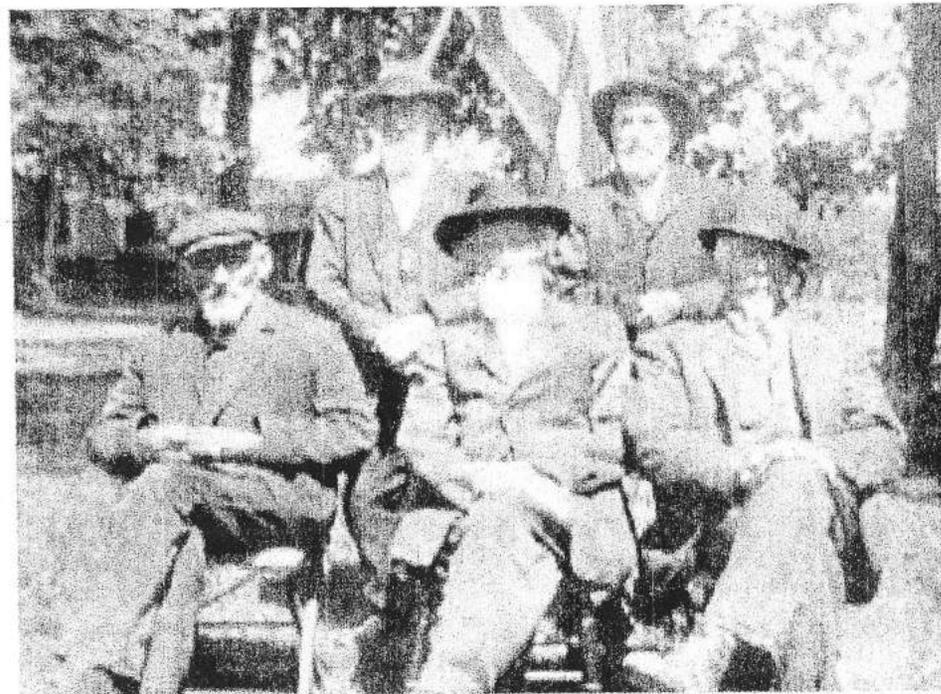
Three Elkhorn soldiers that are buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery served with the 36<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co. A. Levi Putnam served from February 1864 to July 1865. William Upright didn't make it through the war. He was wounded on June 18, 1864 at Petersburg, Va. and died at City Point, Va. On June 22, 1864. Fredrick Dewey was also wounded that year and was discharged on October 1864.

There were three area men in the 49<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co. B. A Mt. Morris man, William Wendt, and a Poy Sippi native, Jacob Vanaerman served from February 1865 to November 1865. George Hildom of Poy Sippi, died in Madison of disease on March 9, 1865, one month after enlisting. One man, drafted from Berlin, served in the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Cavalry as a Corporal. Ensign Tabor served from November 1863 to July 1865. Nelson B. Hull, of Wiota, was in the 5<sup>th</sup> WVI Co. I as a Corporal and a Sergeant from June 1864 to June 1865 Tabor and Hull are both buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery.

Philander Cady of Poy Sippi was in the 37<sup>th</sup> WVI, Co. K. He was killed in November 1864 and mustered out in July 1865.

There are three out of state soldiers buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery. They are Noah Allen of the 86<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, David Ball of the 107<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, Co. F, and John McCue of the Iowa Infantry, Co. K.

*(memory?)  
If my guess is correct, John McGregor is also buried in the Poy Sippi Cemetery.*



The above photo shows the last five men from the James Ewing Grand Army of the Republic Post #231 of Poy Sippi, Wisconsin. They are from l-r, standing: John McGregor and David Kimball. Seated, l-r: Edgar or Jerome Brewster, John McCue, and Fred Hawley, the last survivor of the Poy Sippi G.A.R. men. The date of the photo is unknown but guessed to be around the late 1910's to 1920. The photo is courtesy of Judy Schierland.

*John McGregor*

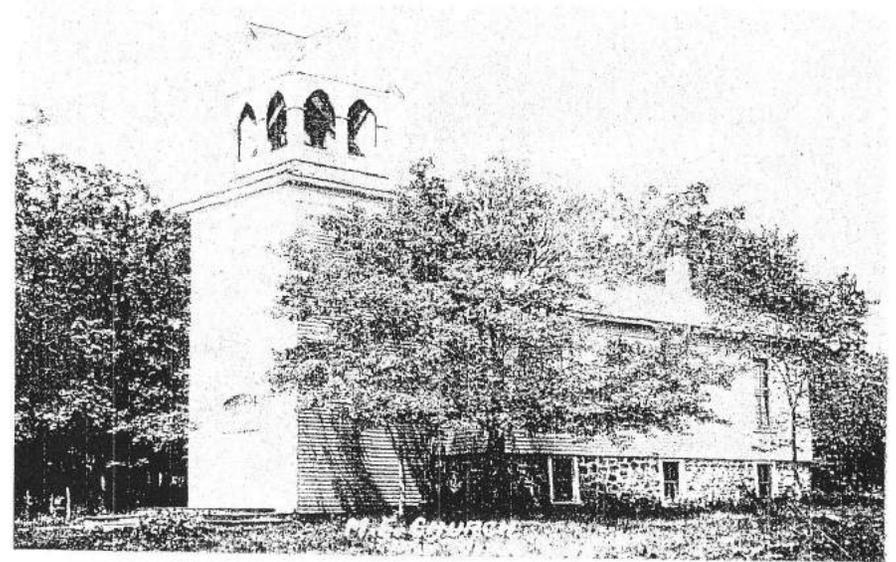


The above photo is of the Poy Sippi Grand Army of the Republic Women's Relief Corp. Back row, l-r: Carrie Horn, Anna Clark, Mrs. Holsworth, and Min Georgeson. Front row, l-r: Mrs. Amos Shepard, Clara Hanson, Emma Wagoner, and Lucy Warner. The date of the photo is unknown. The photo was taken from inside the G.A.R. Hall Post #231 in Poy Sippi. The photo is courtesy of Joanne Brinkman.

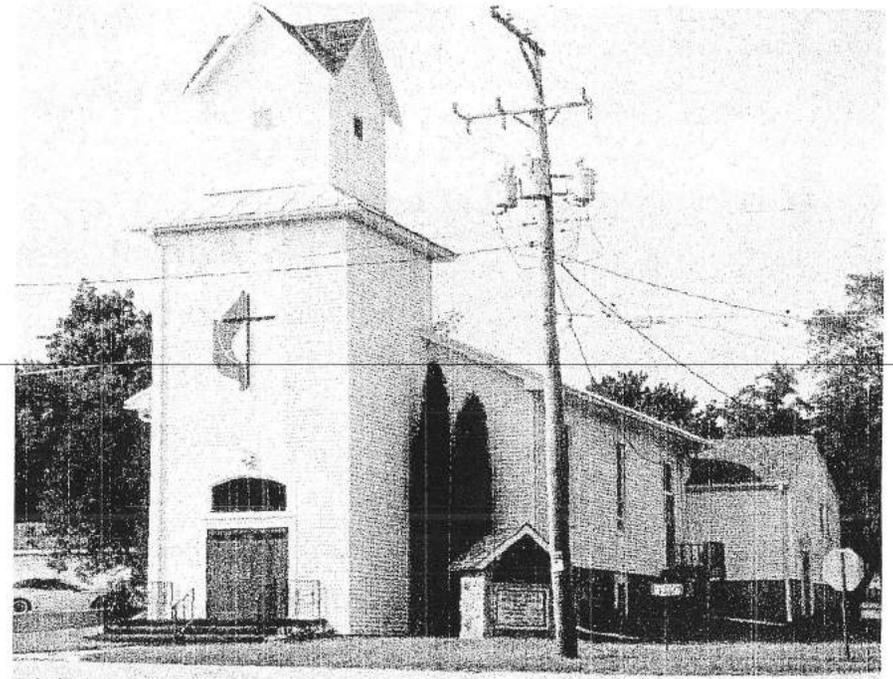
Prepared by Kim J. Heltemes, Patriotic Instructor, Wisconsin Department and Old Abe Camp #8, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

NOTES: Quote taken from "Those Dodd Girls of Poy Sippi" by Dorothy Dodd Rogers.

KIA means Killed In Action  
WVI means Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry



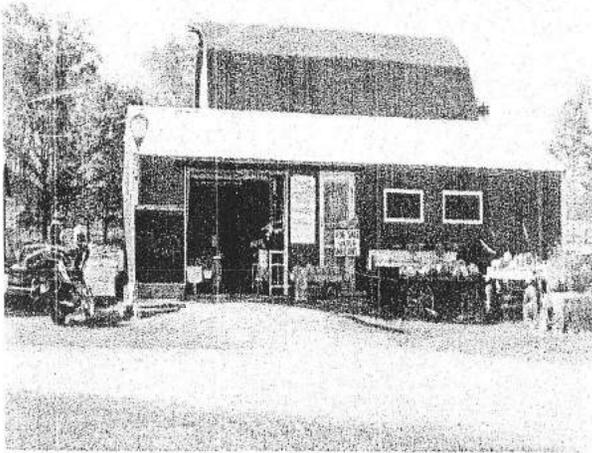
Methodist Church, built in 1877 (top).  
How it looks today (bottom).



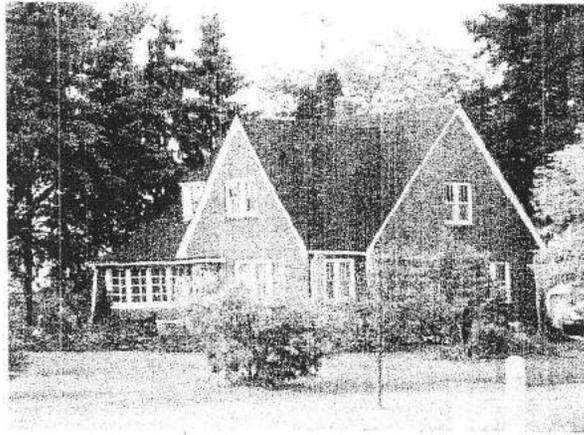
"Jose Rodd Sible..."  
include Rued Rodd  
Darrison (Mc-Style  
Darrison.)

He have Grandma  
Jennie's membership  
"pin" from the  
Woman's Relief Corps.

Barb's Postit's from  
Page 10 (they were covering  
the photo and narrative!)



Fountain  
Valley Farm  
Market,  
1963-1999.  
Owners, Orlo  
and Norma  
Manweiler.



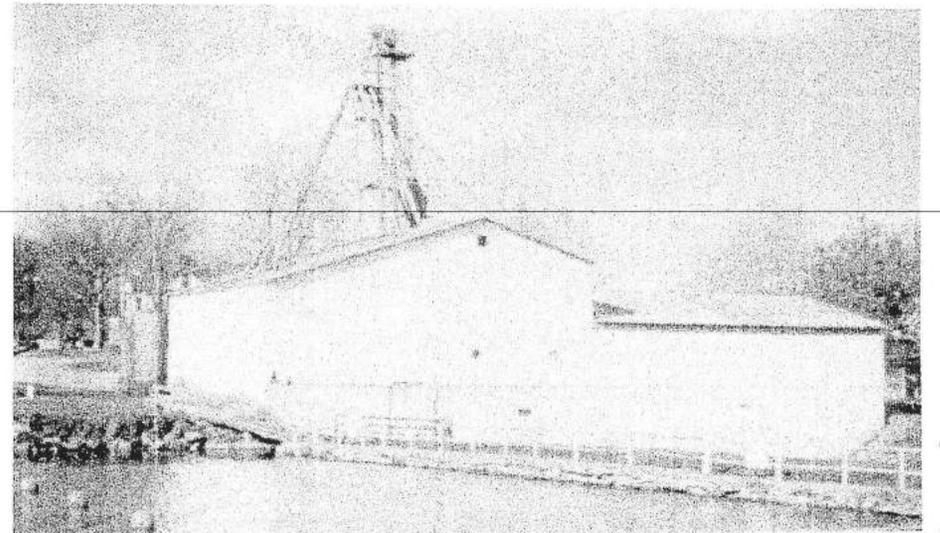
Hansen Farm  
Market &  
Greenhouse.  
Owners, Bud  
and Phyllis  
Hansen.



Martin's Farm  
Market  
raised  
vegetables  
for 55 years.  
Owners,  
Frank and Liz  
Martin.



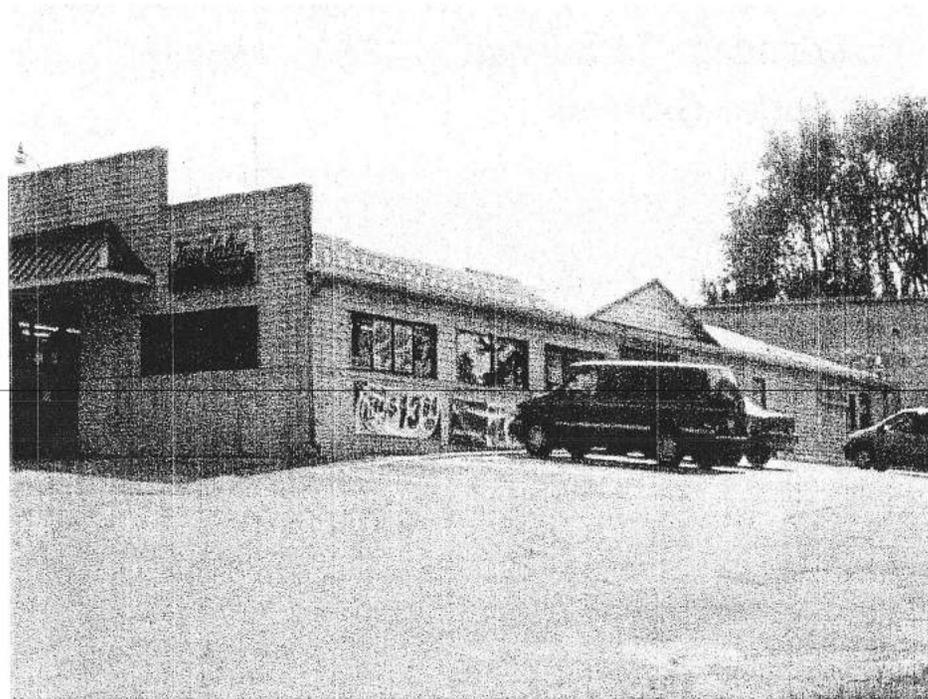
Radke's Mill, built in 1852. Sawed lumber  
and ground feed. Owned by Hans and Merrill  
Paulson. Then owned by Adolf Radke from  
1943 to 1957. It was then taken over by his  
son, Leonard. It burned in 1967. How it  
looks today (bottom).



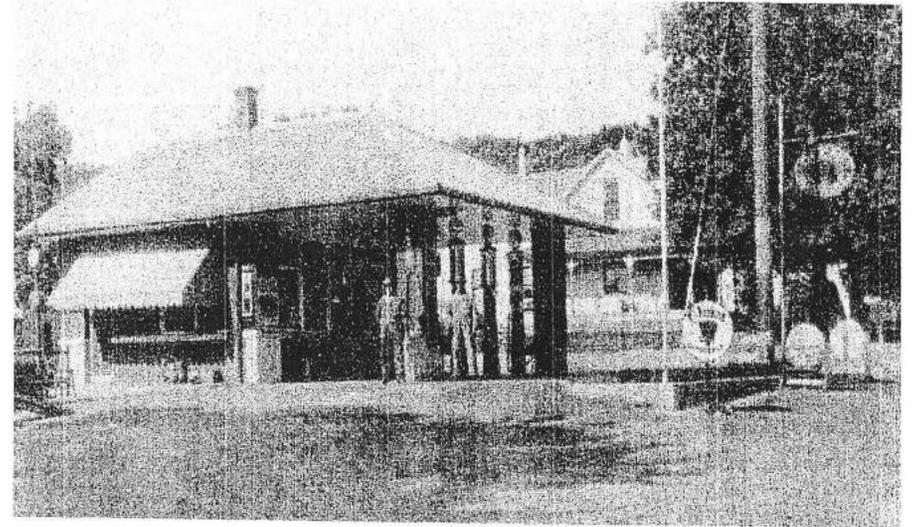


Nehring's  
Sinclair  
Station,  
1966  
(left).  
Reinhold  
and  
Esther  
Nehring,  
owners.

Poy Sippi Amoco (below).



14



Johnson's Service Station in the 1950's  
(top). Today, Harlan's TV & Antenna (below).  
Owners, Harlan and Paula Hanson.



15

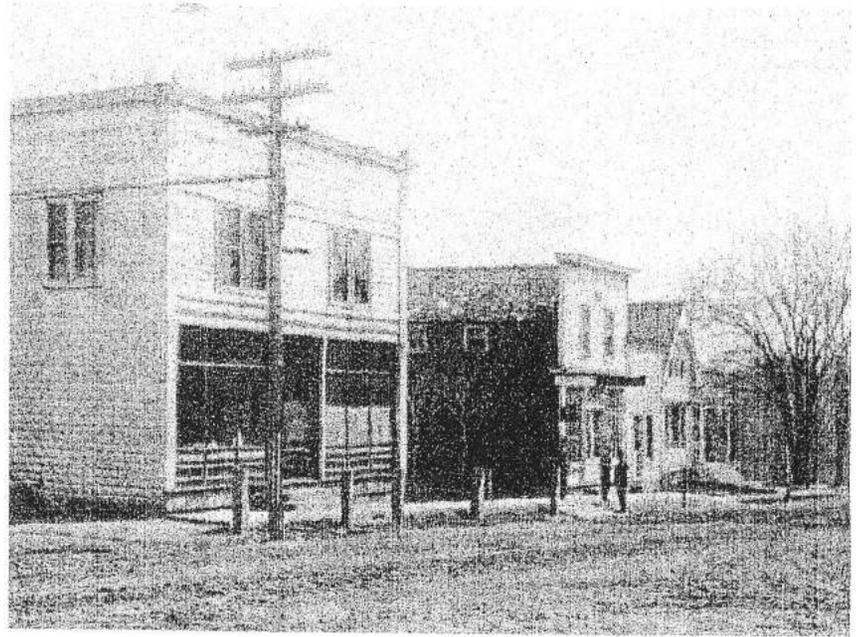


First Lutheran Church, 1901 (top).

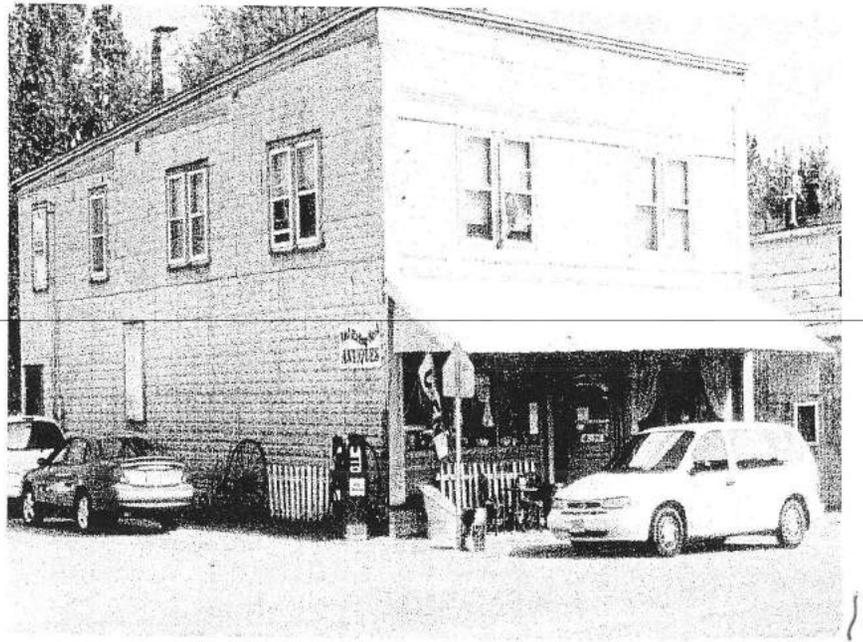
Now, across the street, 2003 (bottom).



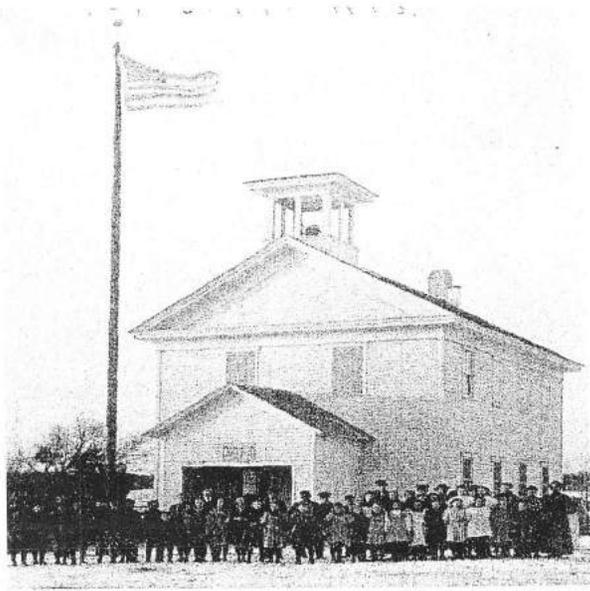
16



G.A.R. Hall on left and hardware store on right (top). Red Riding Antiques (below). Owners, John and Joanne Brinkman.

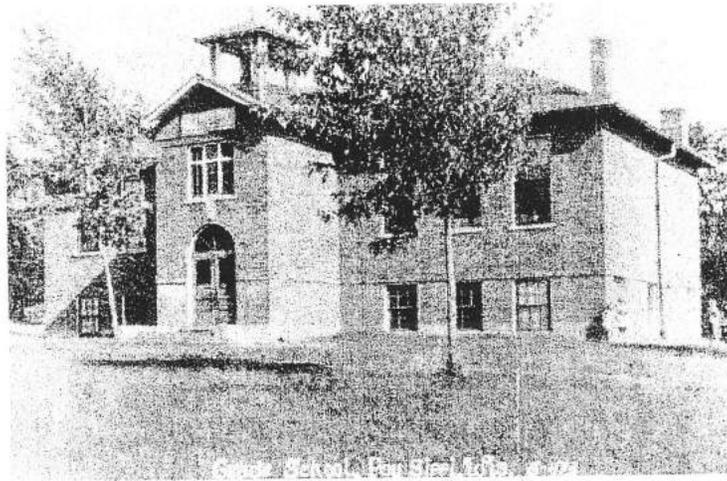


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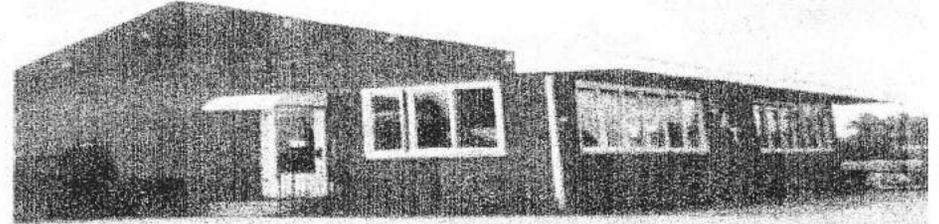


Poy Sippi  
School  
Top picture:  
early 1900's

Middle  
picture:  
1921-1963



Bottom  
picture:  
1963-  
present



Ila Pike's Restaurant - "Pike's Peck Inn" 1974

Ila Pike's restaurant, built in the early 1970's.  
Timm's Hair Salon and Tanning. (below)  
Owner's: Carter and Gail Timm



POY SIPPI SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

AUGUST 1-3, 2003

POY SIPPI PARK

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>

BEER & FOOD STAND OPEN / GAMES & RAFFLE ----- 4 PM  
BUCKSKINNERS  
CORNROAST ----- 6 PM TILL OUT  
WATERFIGHTS ----- 7 PM  
PRESENTATION OF TROPHYS  
AUCTION COMEMORATIVE BUTTONS #'S 1 - 5 & 150 ----- 8:30 PM  
MUSIC BY D.J. RAY ----- 7 PM - 11 PM

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup>

BEER & FOOD STAND OPEN / GAMES & RAFFLE ----- 9 AM  
CRAFT SALE ----- 9 AM  
PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL ----- 11 AM - 3 PM  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY CARRIAGE RIDES  
BUCKSKINNERS / CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT  
GREWE'S BLACKSMITH  
STEP BACK STUDIO OLD TYME PHOTO'S  
OPENING CEREMONIES ----- 12 PM  
SPEAKERS: ASSEMBLY REP. - LUTHER OLSEN  
STATE SENATOR - ROBERT WELCH  
TOWN CHAIRMAN - LARRY ALBRIGHT  
SINGERS: MARK & MELISSA (TIMMERMAN) EDINGER  
CORNROAST ----- 12 PM TIL OUT  
PEDAL PULL FOR KIDS ----- 1 PM  
KAREN AND THE POLKA GENTS ----- 1 PM - 4 PM  
HEADSTONE DEDICATION AT BRUSHVILLE CEMETARY  
BY SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF CIVIL WAR ----- 4 PM  
SILENT AUCTION ----- 10 AM - 5 PM  
RECOGNITION OF 1953 QUEEN & COURT ----- 8 PM  
BACK AGAIN SHOW BAND ----- 7 PM - 11 PM

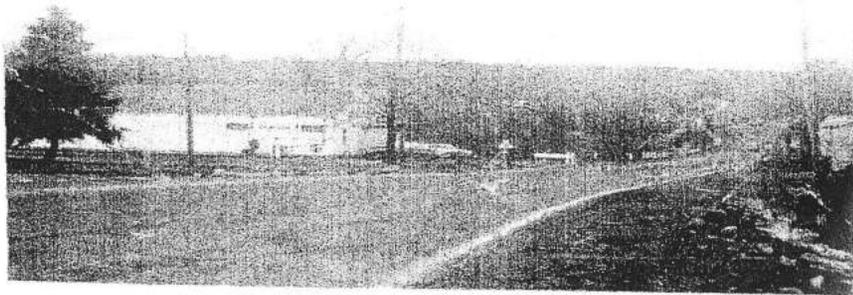
SUNDAY, AUGUST 3<sup>RD</sup>

BEER & FOOD STAND OPEN / GAMES & RAFFLE ----- 9 AM  
BUCKSKINNERS / CIVIL WAR ENCAMPMENT  
GREWE'S BLACKSMITH  
FOUNTAIN VALLEY CARRIAGE RIDES / DIZZY D. CLOWN  
"PARADE OF THE SUMMER" ----- 1 PM  
MEL ALBRIGHT BAND ----- 2:30 PM - 5 PM  
RAFFLE / DRAWINGS ----- 5 PM

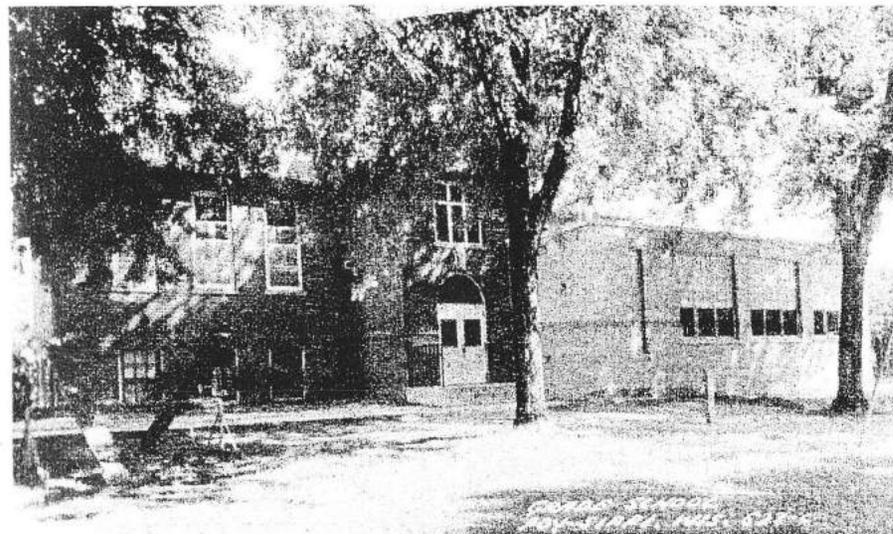
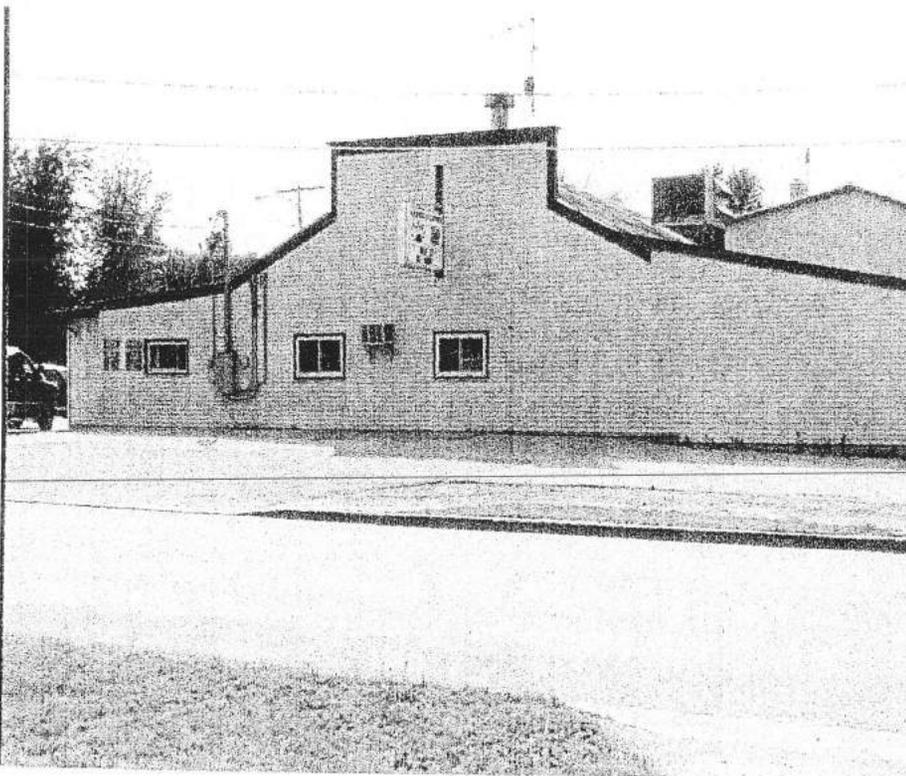
FREE ADMISSION TO ALL BANDS

20

21  
~~20~~  
2

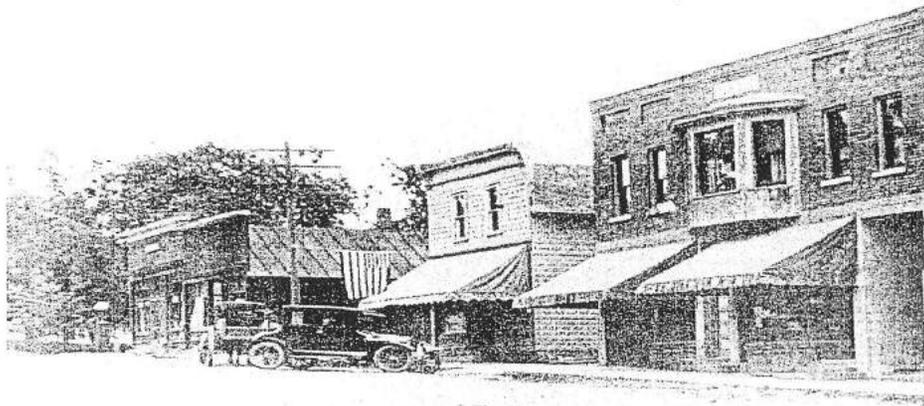


Poy Sippi Lanes built in the 1940's by A. Gates.  
Previous owners: Buzz and Marge Leipzig, Stub  
and Mabel Vergin, Dale and Darlene Hempel and  
Dave and Barb Madell. (below)

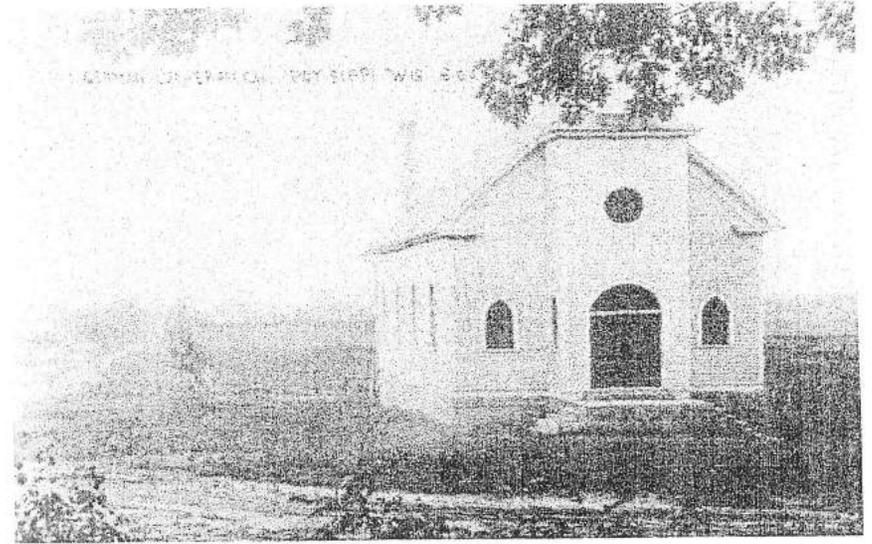


Poy Sippi Library moved into the old first grade  
building in the 1960's. (top, right side) A new  
addition has begun this year to current building  
(below).



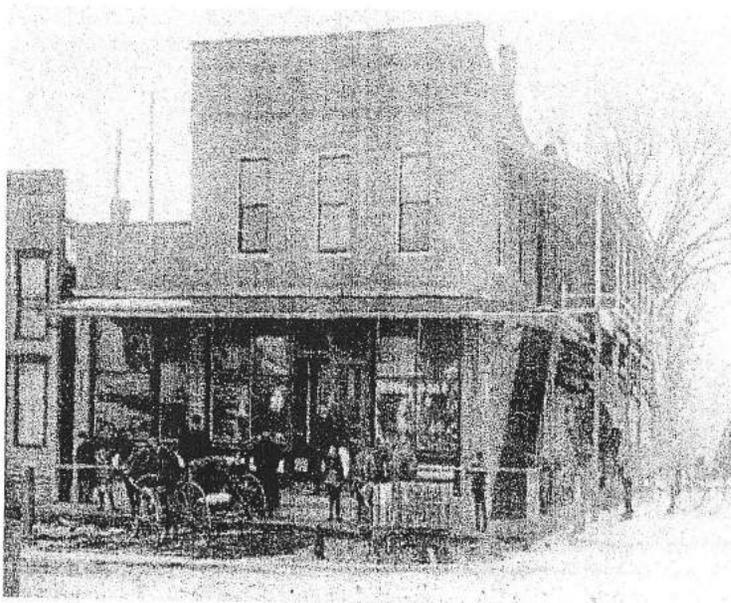


Above building was built in 1921 and has been a tavern/dance hall and restaurant for many years. Below, Reflections Supper Club and Barbara Jean's Kitchen. Owners, Harry and Barb Underberg.



Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1907 (top). Existing church built in 1962 (bottom).

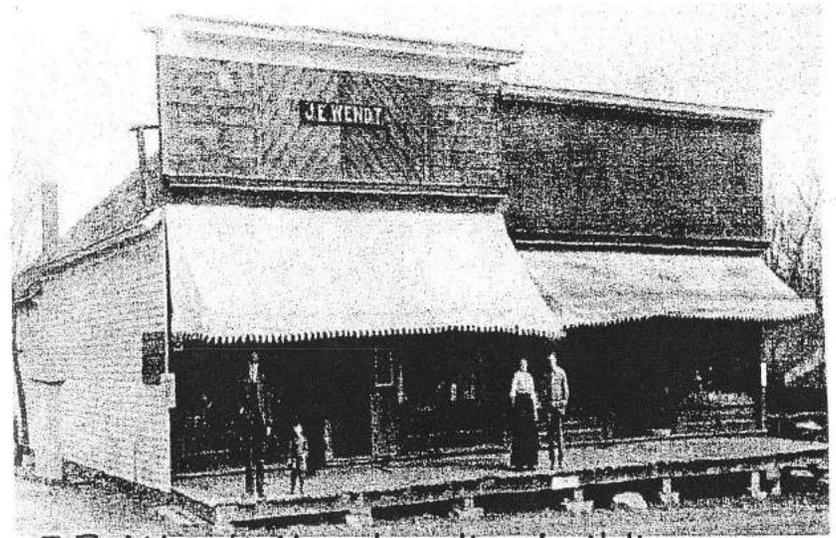




N.P. Steffenson's General Merchandise (top). "49" Meats and Groceries (below).



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J.E. Wendt Merchandise building was destroyed by fire in 1931 (top). Recent building (below) was moved from Tustin in 1932. It took 9 days. Today, it is home to Country Rose Gifts, owners Todd and Mary Schapekahn.



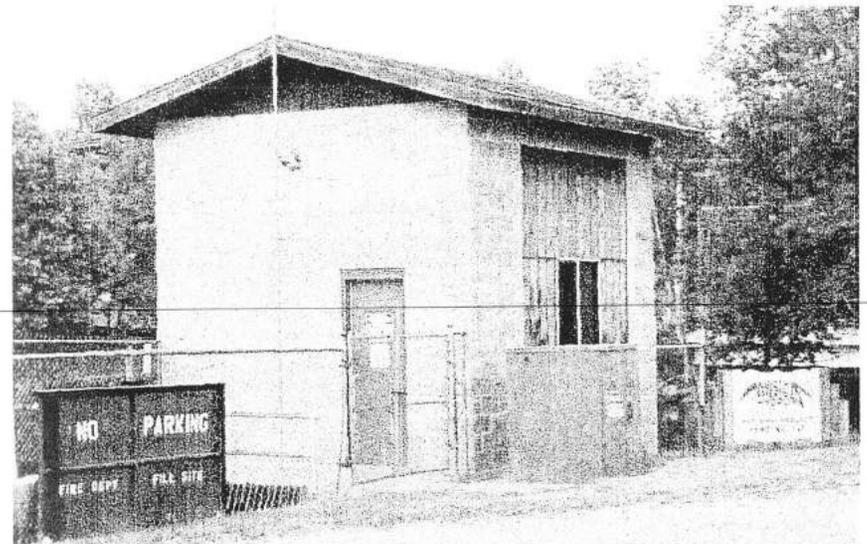
27



PSFD originated in 1937 to cover Fire and Rescue for the Township of Poy Sippi. Today, we have 44 volunteer members with 8 trucks. Training and meetings are held every Wednesday night.

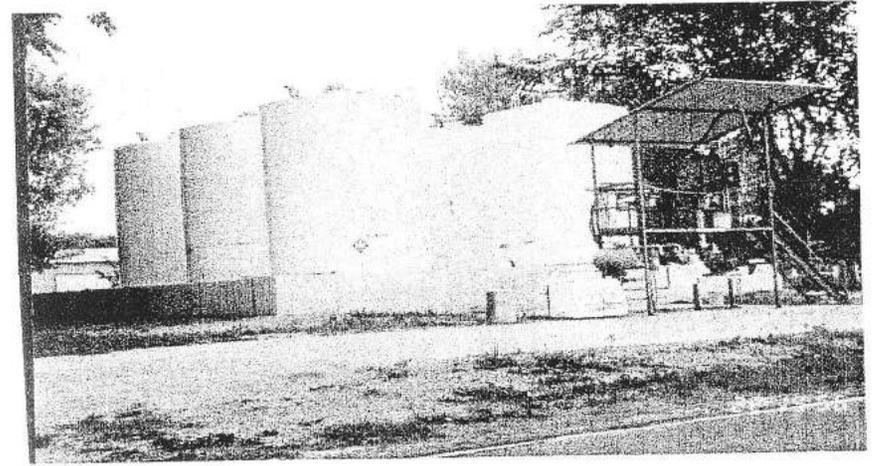
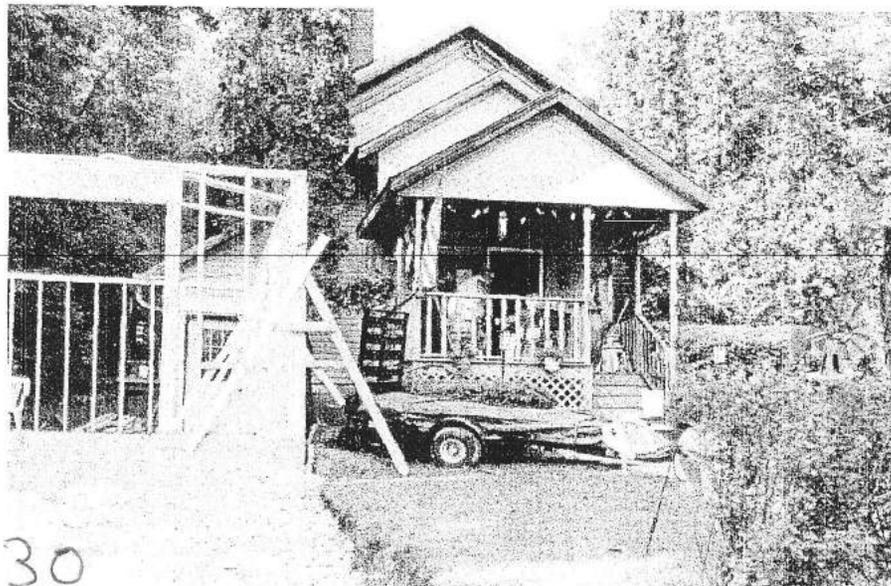


Owners of the Hawley Mill thru the years (picture above, 1903): Hawley, Colts, Alfred Olsen, A. Gates (1935-1940), Duke Kempf (1940-1960), Russ Grambsch (1960-burnt 1975). The Hydro Plant (below).





In 1864, the Seventh Day Adventist Church was started in Poy Sippi (top). It is reported to have been the oldest church in town. The church closed its doors in the late 1990's. It is now a private home (below).



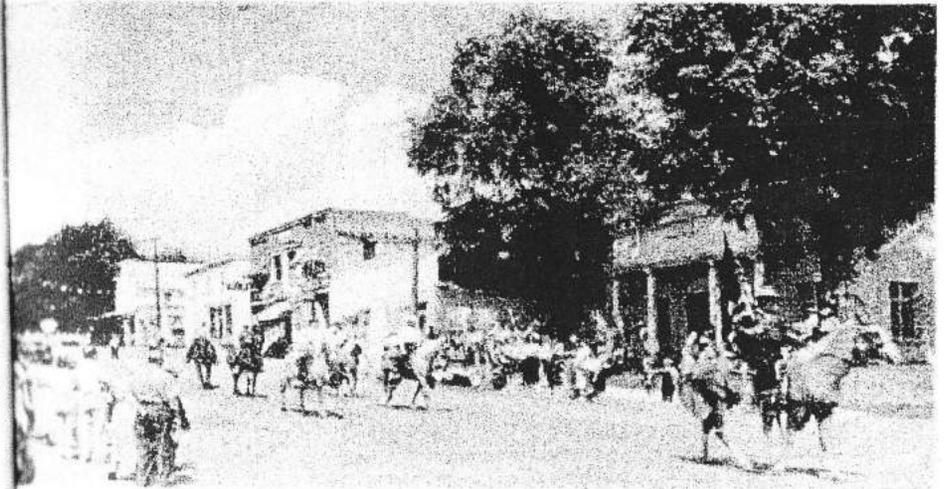
Hein Oil Company, Inc. (top). Located on Cty Hwy. H. Owners, Ron and Colleen Hein.

Poy Sippi Park, built in 1952 (bottom).



Post Office  
Thru the  
Years

Early to mid  
1900's (right)

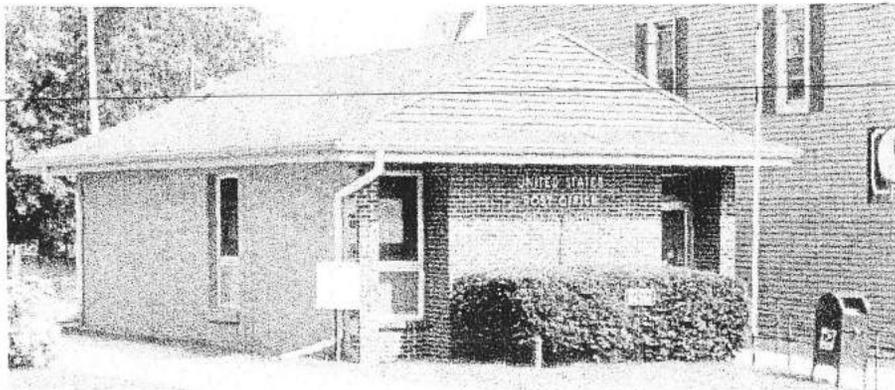


Farmers State Bank (right). Grant Godson was head of bank for many years and was a great help to many people.  
Baylake Bank (bottom)



1940 to early  
1970's (left)

Phyllis  
Hansen  
Postmaster  
from 1966-  
2002

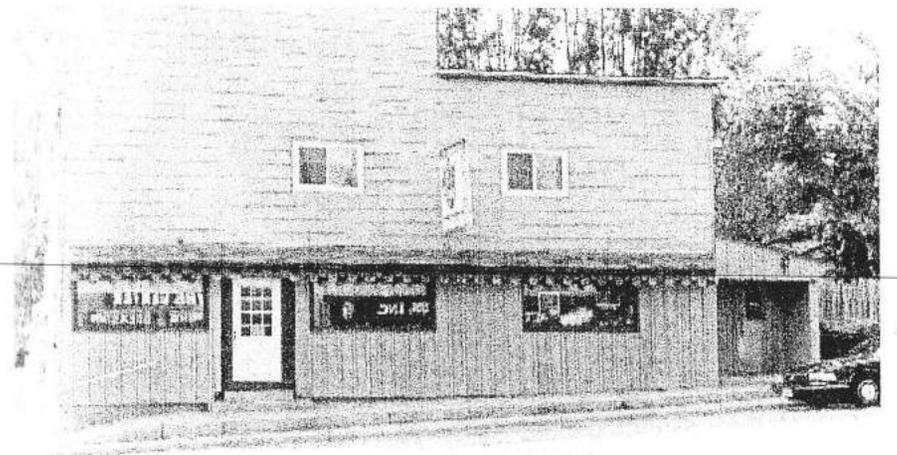




Daisy Dairy Cheese Factory as built before the turn of the century (1800's) (top). Pictured below is the river View Apartments, which took it's place in 1995-96.

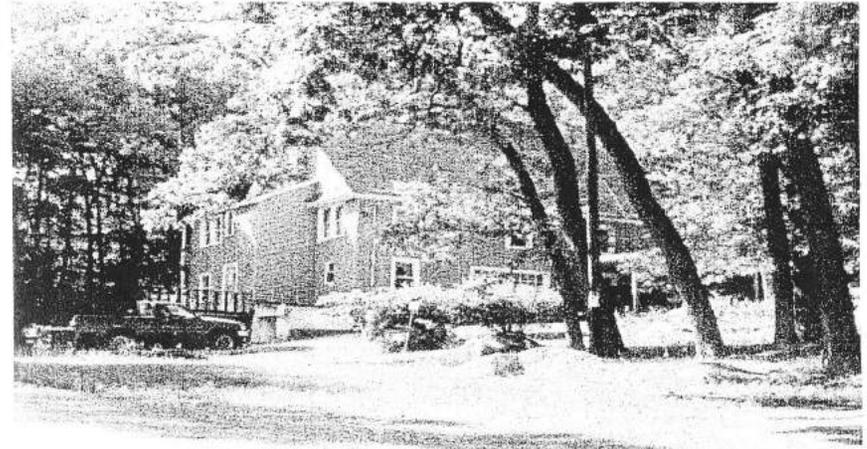


Village Inn has known a number of owners thru the years (top, left side). Last Sippi, owned by Sally Benz (bottom).

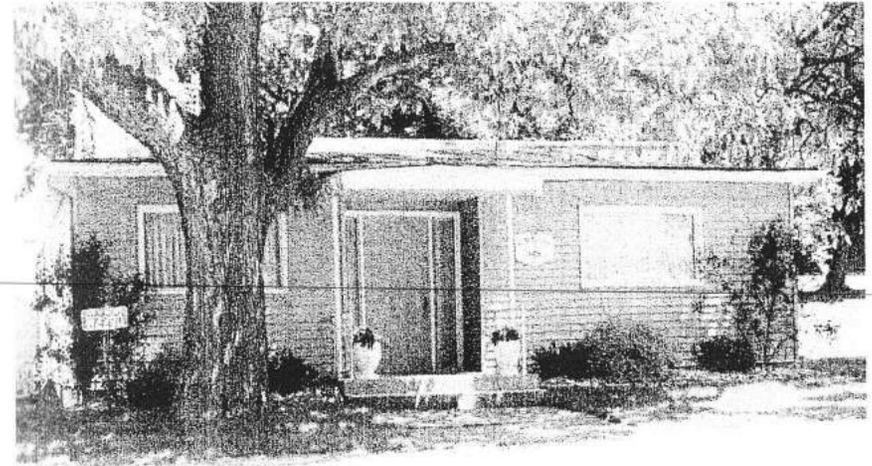


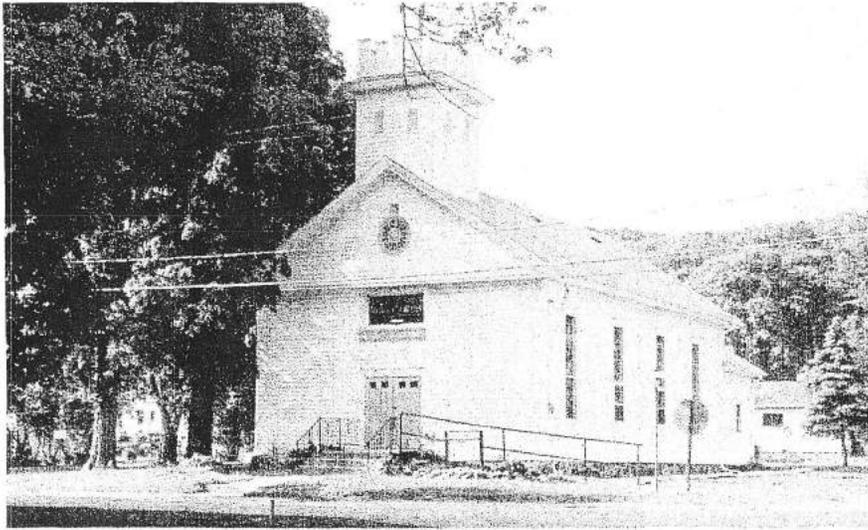


Bill's Tire & Automotive, Inc. , est. Nov. 1992. Clearwater Car Wash, est. June 2001 (top). Owners, Bill & Kelly Clark. First National Bank, est. Oct. 1998 (below).

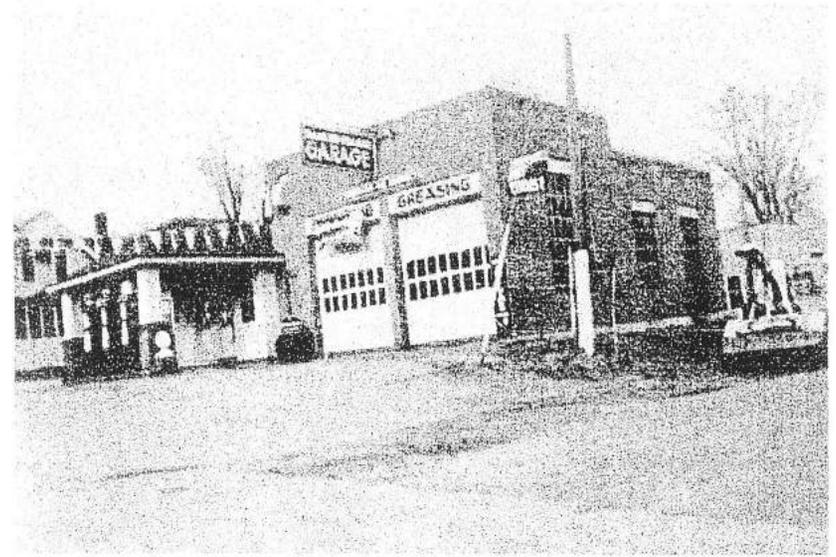


In the early 1900's, this building (top) was the Evangelical Church. In the 40's, it became Hempel's Funeral Home. In the 50's, Ray and Louise Hempel moved to the building below. Now it is owned by Holly and Sons, Waupaca.



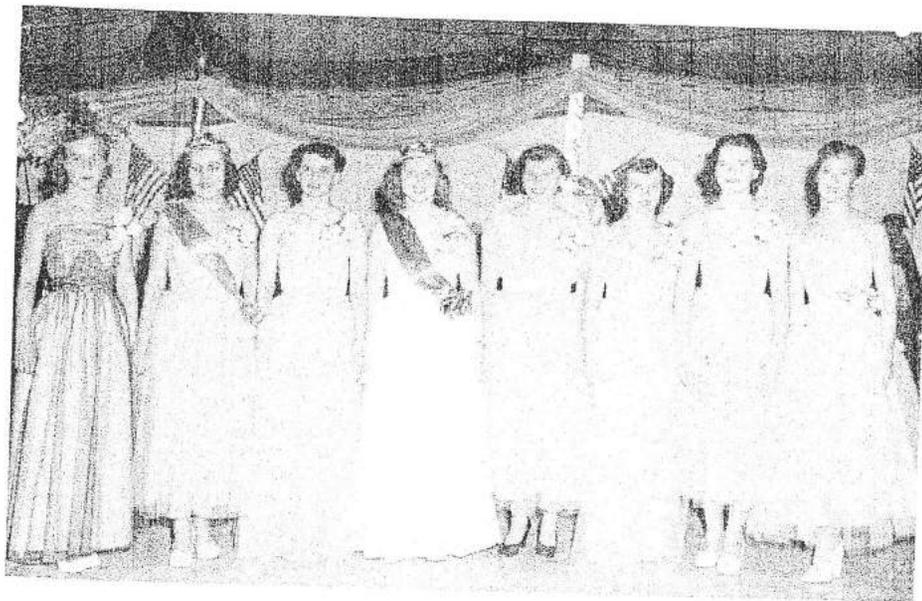


In 1873, this was the Congregational Church. Now, it is Sacred Heart Catholic Church.



Dahlke-Fraser Garage in the 1960's (top). Owners- George & Betty Dahlke, Art & Bobby Fraser.  
Auto Center Plus, Inc. (bottom).  
Owners Scott & Lisa Nitzke.





Centennial Queen, Joanne Nitzke, and her court, Carol Fraser, Joanne Nehring, Marilyn Sobieski, Marilee Cate, Phyllis Bohren, and Jeanette King, 1953 (names may not be in correct order).



Joanne Nitzke Brinkman, today.



Back row: Joe Nicholas, Tom Marini, Jerry Strehlow, Judy Roland, Joanne Brinkman. Front row: Kelly Clark, Reggie Vergin (chairman), Judy Schierland (co-chairman), Jackie Hofflander, Mary Gengler. Other members not pictured: Terry Lippert, Nancy McCue, Kim Heltemes, Pam Strey, Judy Button, Jim and Tim LaSure, Terry Elendt.

Special thanks to these supporting organizations:

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