

History of Eagle Village

by

Alice Baker (1958)

How much influence the subjugation of Black Hawk in 1832 had to do with the opening of the Land Office in Milwaukee in 1836 is problematic, but the opening of that Land Office was like the raising of a sluice gate and a flood of settlers, to satisfy their keen land hunger, poured in from New England, New York, England, Ireland, and Germany.

In the years 1836 to 1850, land speculators were buying and selling land. One of these men, Thos. W. Pittman, who purchased a tract south of Main Street (then Jericho Road) and west to the present village limits, decided to stay in the region and in 1845 erected the first frame house. He and his heirs, Mrs. Harvey Clemmons, Mrs. Cecil Minett, occupied that home for many years. Mr. Arthur Juedes then purchased the place, sold lots for the new Park Ave. Development and disposed of the farm unit which has seen many transfers.

There are few records of the village available up to 1850 when the first Assessment Roll was kept. In that book the names of only five men owning property in Section 22 (Eagle Center) are recorded. They are: Thos. Pittman, Geo. Partridge, Col. F.A. Sprague, Wm.J. Kline, and Fred Wilford.

By Jan. 1852 the Milwaukee and Waukesha Railroad was finished as far as Eagle and this accomplishment made the village come alive

Between '50 and '53, W.J. Kline had given land to the railroad for a depot and in that time had built a hotel later called the Diamond Hotel. The depot was located south of the track and west of the present Hy, 67.

Mr. Chas. Bronson built the first store which occupied the south-west corner of what is now the lumber yard. This store housed the post office.

West of Kline's hotel and probably preceding its erection was another hotel named the Railroad House. This hotel served the needs of the railroad men who were stretching the line to Milton, Edgerton, Stoughton, and Madison.

In 1859 Thos Mc. Williams built the store building which Mr. I. L. Grosse occupied for years, but which is now occupied by Mr. Ritterbush.

The great impetus to building, however, did not occur till the Lins family came to Eagle. The Edmund J. Lins family came in 1862 when Mr. Lins opened a meat market just west of the Kline Hotel but later he transferred his business to the location of the present meat-market.

Mr. J. August Lins, younger brother of Ed. J. Lins, however, was the great builder of the town. After his service in the Civil War and his recovery from rather severe wounds, he returned to Eagle to make that place his home. He built the store now occupied by the I G A with living quarters above it, the furniture store which housed both hardware and drugs, and the present drug store which he used for a men's clothing store, The space now taken by the Krestan addition was a side yard, beautifully kept. He had dug a well and erected a windmill at the rear of his lot on land now taken by the Medical Center. He had also installed in this yard and in the center of the village park, fountains which played their water into pools for floating water plants and lively gold fish,

In 1873 Mr. E. L. Bovee established a grocery store on the site of the present Sherman's store.

Mrs. K.Y. Salisbury later ran a millinery store and kept Post Office in the building now owned by Ed. Kuetter.

Still farther east, Mr. B. J. Bossingham ran a tailoring shop. Mr. N. J. Hoswell, who lived in the house now occupied by Robert Finney, was a wagon maker having his factory between the American Legion Hall and the pumping station.

The Settling of Eagle

The settling of Eagle, like many other small villages, did not begin in the final site of the town.

There were two claimants as first settler for Eagle: Ahira R. Hinkley and William Sherman. Hinkley came with his brother Henry, Andrew Scofield and Charles Ranous in late August to Waukesha. They prospected around Mukwonago, Troy, East Troy and finally came to a spot near what is now Hy. NNN, saw a large piece of prairie and just north of it a large spring. He quickly took his knife out of his breeches and rushed to a tree and cut ARH on its bark, Sept. 16, 1836. Andrew Scofield a Quaker, remarked "Thee is quick with thy knife", Ahira.

Mrs. Carolin Barber Ford, Lake Geneva, a granddaughter of Wm. Sherman always claimed as did many others of the Sherman descendants that that Wm. Sherman and Jonathan Parsons were ahead of Hinkley. (I have read Sherman's dictated notes to his daughter about his coming to the farm long occupied by the Luecks, and in no place is there a date.) but Wm. Sherman came the summer of 1836 "Jumped a claim" the land of the Lueck farm; cut wood for a cabin, built it, cut hay for his horse and left that section the first of Nov. to go back to New York state to get his wife. Hinkley and Sherman were always rivals for first settler; always wanted to live the longest, but I believe Sherman beat as he lived 100 years except a day or so.

Hinkley, since he saw how piqued Scofield was, lent him a small sum of money and he located in Eagleville. In Oct. Ebenezer Thomas came and took land south and east of Hinkley. In Dec. Dr. Daniel Bigelow took the Mill site, built a sawmill and used it as a saw mill for a time. The real mill was built in 1839.

In 1837 Jeremiah Parsons built the house on the corner of HyE and Hy99 for a hotel for the Lead Miners whom he saw coming from Mineral Point to Milwaukee. Jeremiah Parsons had a brief stay in Wis. He married a Bovee girl who lived only a few years. Parsons went to California after his wife died since the Gold Rush came on in the early Abstracts 50's. Jerecho was named from Parson's group of customers. Abstracts of places show much interest in the little group of people around those Corners. That region seemed to be the most likely place for a town, although Eagleville was the berg, had a Post Office,

The Old Settlers Records show people living on what is now Hy99 and Betts Road (Harrison /Ward), a tavern at the corner of Hy67 and Hy99 (I. Severance) Howe Tavern east of the Isaac Severance Tavern; Peardons and Crerars around Siloam church.

There were people living in Eagle proper. Mrs. Erla Carlin's place, John Hall's, George Steads, and the next two houses. What was the Lins' Kitchen was the first house built by John Harding out of big black basalt rocks, Mrs. Folsom's place, Matt Kau's place and the Haffner's kitchen were early places in Eagle.

In Jan 1851 the first train went through Eagle.

After John August Lins recovered from his many civil war wounds Eagle began to grow. He built the store Kreston now owns but left a nice side lot on which Krestan has expanded. He lived above the store, had a nice

bay window and a landscaped yard, built the drug store for a tailor shop, built Mealy's for a drug store and put his brother Charles Lins in it. The first store was run by a Mr. Bronson and Vinton Sherman marks the site. What for years was I.L. Grosse's store (Ritterbusch's) was built by a man from Palmyra.

The railroad grew and made Eagle a thriving town. In its heyday, three men were employed to care for its traffic. There were twelve trains a day. Its junction with the Elkhorn road put Eagle on some maps which didn't have Whitewater. It was a better grain market than larger places.

The town has had three bank robberies, but the culprits were always caught except the last one.

It is a purely residential town, and residents want to keep it that way even if it is always dubbed a "sleepy little town".

Government of Eagle

The earliest government of Eagle was that of the township. In the late 1890's, however, the matter of Local Option became so strong that the liquor interests of the village feared a closing of their establishments. This group of people felt that they could control the votes of the people in the village, but not those in the out-lying country. In 1899 a petition for incorporation was made; legal steps complied with; and the village became an incorporated unit with E. J. Bossingham as President.

In earlier years the old Bronson store had been moved east to the lot between the lumberyard and the Masonic Temple (1893). This house was bought by the village and used for village meetings. A recreation park of 31 acres was purchased from Bruno Wingerter. In 1951 a city water system was

installed, the well sunk to a depth of a thousand feet, the pumping station located at the south-west corner of HY, 59 and Partridge St.

In 1957, a new Municipal Building was erected on the lot of the Old Bronson Store. This building houses the fire equipment, furnishes rooms for voting privileges, and has also a room for the prospective Book Mobile library if and when it materializes,

Naming The Town

Many people know the story of the bald headed eagle that Coats, Garton, and Sugden saw on a mound near what was later the Ebenezer Thomas Farm, a fact which established the name of Eagle, but no one knew that, hidden away in lists of Postmasters in the Historical Library at Madison, was the name of Bullion. In the years 1848 to Jan. 7, 1850, Wm. H. Howe was Postmaster. Where housed not known. Then the name of Eagle Center was used till Feb. 1850 when again it was called Bullion, being P. M. retaining it till May, 2, 1852, Mr. Sidney H, Vedder being Postmaster and having a lot number Two Pittman Addition, the location of the present Sherman store.

Communications

Eagle has been served with a weekly newspaper since 1888 when Francis G. Parks took over the editorship of the Eagle News. G. A. Rogers assisted in its publication from 1889 to 1892. In fact, Eagle published two papers from 1889 to 1892 when Wm. E. Hennessey published the Eagle Sun.

The Eagle Quill, however, although employing changing editors, has been most continuous. From 1880 to 1894 W.E. Hennessey editor; 1894 to 1898, Grant Lawton; 1898–1947 H.M.Loibl; 1947-52, Mrs. Isabel

Engebretsen. At the present time (1958) it is merged with the Palmyra Enterprise and is published by the Whitewater Register.

Telephone Service

The Eagle Telephone Company facilitated business enterprises in the whole country around. Founded in 1902 by Mr. E.J. Lins Jr. with a capital stock of 3000 dollars, it employed five girls for clerical and telephonic service, operated seven exchanges and served 1000 subscribers. Upon the death of Mr. Frank A. Abendroth, Mr. Lins became president, a position which he held till his death. The Northwest Co. purchased the Eagle company shortly after Mr. Lins' death.

Education

Four buildings have been erected to foster education in the village of Eagle. The location of the first school has required much search for evidence, but that search has led the people of Eagle to believe that it was at the foot of Diamond Hill on Hy.59, west of the Peardon garage's site wholly inadequate even in that day. The first organization of Dist. No. Nine occurred Dec. 9, 1846. A schoolhouse, "24 by 30 by 12 ft. with balloon frame, at a cost not to exceed \$800 was completed and ready for use in the winter of 1850-51."

The second building was located on the present site on land purchased from T.W. Pittman. "It was a fine two-story frame building. It has a fine main school-room, library recitation rooms on the ground floor, and a large primary department with recitation room and closets on the second floor

together with entries and hall." This building, which was placed farther south than the present one, faced Hy. N, and was destroyed by lightning in 1905.

A third building was erected that same year in 1905, faced and Hy. 67, and was burned by faulty wiring in the winter of 1928.

The fourth building was built in 1928 at a cost of \$35,000.

Eagle school was made a State Graded School about 1901 and continued in that status until 1943. In 1956 Dist. No.3, Ward school, was drawn into Dist. No.9. At the present time the pupils are tutored by a principal and two teachers.

Culture in Eagle

In the two decades, 1880 and 1890 the population of Eagle was predominantly German. For that reason, much interest in music was evinced. In those years the Eagle Cornet Band flourished. Edmund J. Lins Jr. was the founder and director. He employed Thos. Williams of Milwaukee to teach and train the sixteen to twenty members. This training and the native ability of the players earned them the chance, and honor, to play at the Milwaukee Exposition. For ten years this band was one of the outstanding musical organizations of Waukesha County.

Musical history of Eagle is not complete without the record of its musical genius, Charles Lurvey. From virtual infancy Charlie could play the piano, although he had never taken a lesson until he was almost beyond adolescence and not till his early twenties did he study piano seriously. His musical memory was so phenomenal that, having heard a selection once he could reproduce it without notes.

His first position was that of playing for a Mr. Thayer, a piano salesman. This job was followed by his playing for a Milwaukee store. After this he went to Chicago and studied with Glen Gillard Gunn.

Lurvey accompanied Maggie Teyte, a French singer; Italian Mm, Gadski; George Hamlin, a famous American Tenor; and toured with Italian Claudia Muzil until her death.

Church History

Methodist

The history of the Methodist Church in Eagle Township began in 1838, but the history of that church in the village starts in the year 1860 when Mr. John Hage, a lay preacher, purchased the outgrown schoolhouse at the foot of Diamond Hill. For ten years the Methodists gathered there. Then in 1871 the present church was dedicated by a Rev. Bellows.

From time to time improvements have been made in the church; 1910 a basement dug, later electricity added, improved heating system, and other conveniences.

In 1950 Eagle decided to maintain itself as a single charge. A parsonage was purchased, in Jan. 1951. About that time the village installed a water system, and the church added that service to both church and Parsonage.

Since the Sunday School population has increased so materially, a building fund for enlargement of school rooms has been begun, about one-third of the amount having been secured.

In 1953 Troy Center was added as an out-point charge. Church organizations have grown with the years. Now in addition to an over-flowing Sunday School there, are a Woman's Society of Christian Service, a large choir, and senior and junior Methodist Youth Fellowships.

Church History

Catholic

St. Thresa's Catholic Church has had a vigorous and constantly enlarging growth. Before 1882, visiting priests from Waukesha ministered to the needs of the people of Catholic faith, Fr. Kundig being their first priest. In 1858 a small church on the present site was built, and it served the parish till 1895 when the present large and beautiful edifice was erected.

There have been several parochial schools, the first located beyond the old Catholic cemetery. Later as town growth seemed to be farther east, parochial schools have been held on grounds near the church. In 1956 the present large school was started and was finished for occupancy in Jan. 1957. It has an enrollment of 125 children and employs three instructing Sisters. Its cost, 90,000 dollars.

Transportation

Ox-teaming was much too slow for the vigorous, ambitious pioneers of 1836 and stirrings of railroad transportation were in the minds of dynamic men.

The territorial legislature chartered several railroad companies. Of that number, however, only one, the Milwaukee, Waukesha R. R. Co. actually functioned. That road was built to Waukesha by 1851, extended to Eagle and finished in Jan. 1852. In 1850 through business changes, and different concepts of the company, the name of the company was changed to the Milwaukee and Mississippi R. R. Co. The officers had enlarged their scope of service through Grant Co, to the Miss. River. In the busy years from 1836 to 1872 various short lines were being established to St. Paul and other cities and finally to Chicago when the name Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul came into being.

To build the railroad, money was needed and the people who lived in the community were solicited for funds. The convincing argument for the purchase of the Railroad stock was the promise heirs that the purchasers and their heirs would be entitled to passes on the road as long as they lived. That promise, however, was not kept and many of the heirs lived to see its repudiation.

The hey-day of the railroad company was reached in the first decade of 1900. Twelve passenger trains were dispatched daily and three men were employed to take care of its business. Then railroad business began to decline. In the late 1920's the branch line to Elkhorn was abandoned. Automobiles began to compete with the railway and by 1953 passenger service was discontinued. Finally in 1956, the large, still attractive depot, built in the 1890's, was razed.

Automobile Transport

The first garage in Eagle was owned by Smart Brothers, Ed. and Harry on the site of the present Standard Filling Station. Their agency was for the sale of the then "Tin Lizzie" Ford Cars.

Air Transport

Mr. Forrest Reed was and is the only person with aeronautical tendencies, having owned a Piper Cub plane which, for lack of an airfield in Eagle, is kept at Palmyra.

Organizations

Fire Commission

Fire service in Eagle, like most services in any field or any place, had very elementary beginnings. According to the Fireman's 1948 booklet, the

Eagle fire department circa 1925 consisted of “a helter-skelter conglomeration of volunteers who pushed, hauled, or dragged along a two-wheeled cart upon which was mounted a chemical tank that doused everyone who came near.”

As time passed, by dint of solicitation for funds and by sponsoring a home talent play, a Reo-1926 truck was purchased. Other improved trucks were also purchased as needed,

At the present time a Fire Commission consisting of two members from the town two from the village and a fire chief has been established, Mr. Kenneth Mealy now being that chief. New equipment is housed in the new Municipal Building insuring a truly modern dependable helper against man's most tragic enemy, fire.

Open Door Club

Though non-existent since 1931, the Open Door club was an outstanding woman's club. It was founded in 1903 by Mrs. Luella Parks Edwards, Mrs. Marvin Bovee, and Miss Edna (Tot) Partridge, all descendants of prominent pioneers. This woman's club was never affiliated with the State Federation of Women's Clubs, but it never-the-less, gave pleasure to the women of the village and outlying country as they kept abreast of the literary, civic, and world interests of that time.

Eagle Advancement Association

The Eagle Advancement Association was one of Eagle's most influential clubs. It was formed about the time of the Open Door Club (1903) by one of the same promoters, Mrs. Luella Parks Edwards. Mr. B.M. Johnson, owner of the furniture store and Funeral Director, was its first president. The organization was aptly named, for it helped the village in many ways:

1. It built cement sidewalks out to the cemeteries on Hy 67.
2. It built sidewalks past the Good Templars Hall, the M.E. Church and in two other places.
3. Built a pergola across the sidewalk in the park, kept it painted, planted it with vines.
4. It purchased seats for the elder citizens to pass a restful hour in converse with friends
5. It fostered an embryonic fire system by buying a wagon, ladders, and an adequate number of pails.
6. It fostered the first Community Christmas Tree with the money remaining in its coffers. (1931)

Military Service

No history of any place would be complete without the record of the men who fought for their country. That service for Eagle began with the Civil War. The following men from the village of Eagle served in the Northern armies:

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| 1. Matthias J. Bovee | 15. Wm. Logan |
| 2. Harvey Clemmons | 16. Joseph Lurvey |
| 3. Charles Cox | 17. Adelbert J. Pardee |
| 4. Thomas Devereau | 18. Norman Markley |
| 5. John Finke | 19. Andrew J. Reeves |
| 6. Leonard Hinkley | 20. Julius Reeves |
| 7. John Hubbard | 21. Silas Reeves |
| 8. Henry James | 22. Phil. Richart |
| 9. John Kalb | 23. Wm. Sherman |
| 10. Sidney Kline | 24. Matthias Snyder |
| 11. Hiram Lampman | 25. Wm. Townsend |
| 12. Charles Lins | 26. Anton Thiele |
| 13. J. August Lins | 27. Francis Draper |
| 14. George Logan | |

World War I.

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|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Erwin Adler | 7. Machold, John |
| 2. Frank Bazen | 8. Laurel Mayhew |
| 3. George Burton Sr. | 9. Oliver Popp |
| 4. Archie Gale | 10. Guy Silvernail |
| 5. Harvey Green | 11. Albert Smith |
| 6. John Lane | 12. Herman Thiele |

Aurel Baker Pardee served in France in the Army Nursing corps eighteen months, in the American Red Cross, Russia six months.

World War II

1. Agathen, Anthony
2. Agathen John
3. Allpress, Raymond
4. Amann, Everett
5. Baker, Howard
6. Beahlen, John
7. Briedenbach, Robert
8. Burton, Geo Jr.
9. Detloff, Sidney
10. Edmonds, Harry
11. Gale, Frederick
12. Gibson, Richard
13. Grob, Walter
14. Hough, Wm.
15. Houk, Arthur
16. Juedes, Jerome
17. Kalb, John
18. Marquart, Howard,
19. Marquardt, Jack
20. Raduchel, Raymond
21. Raduchel, Robert
22. Sasso, Michael
23. Thomas Schmidt
24. Schroeder, Lawrence
25. Schroeder, Richard
26. Shortell, Joseph
27. Sievers, Wm.
28. Skidmore, Harrison
29. Skidmore, Kenneth
30. Smoley, Dean R.
31. Splechter, Francis
32. Stapleton, Eugene Post Jr.
33. Stapleton, Joseph
34. Stubbs, Laurel
35. Stubbs, Milo
36. Wambold, Harvey

Korean War

1. Chapman, Darrel
2. Chapman, Russell
3. Lake, Frederick
4. Miller, Milton
5. Raduchel, Roy
6. Rockteacher, Melvin
7. Rupp, Evan
8. Thiele, Wm.

American Legion

The Sargeant-Splechter-Schmidt American Legion Post was chartered in Nov. 1950.

George Sargeant lost his life from flu contracted at Fort Leavenworth in 1918, Frances Splechter died in action in the Battle of the Bulge in 1944, Thomas Schmidt was drowned at sea in a blind flying operation in 1943.

At the present time there are thirty-two members in the organization.

In the year 1950 a Drill Team was trained by the present president, Kenneth Mealy. Their training and marching was excellent as evinced by the prizes which they won, their record being six first prizes and two seconds. The team competed at Pewaukee, Mayville, East Troy, Burlington (Purple Heart Parade), Mukwonago, North Prairie, and many others.

Parent Teachers Association

The Parent Teachers Association was initiated in the first decade of the 1900's by the dynamic and resourceful Mrs. Luella Parks Edwards. Mrs. Florence Pardee was its first president. Although there have been many changes in the personnel of the P.T.A., it is still functioning in an admirable way. Much credit must be given to the late Mrs. Georgia Hawes, whose sincere and unflagging efforts were responsible for many aids to the school system and to the children of the village. Mrs. E. Wm. Clarke is the present President. In 1957 and '58 under the able leadership of Mrs. Frank Mich a rewarding Recreation program has been carried through.

HomeMakers

The Eagle Home Makers, a group that has enriched the lives of its members, originally met with the Ward Home Makers, but as the size of the club grew, it was decided that the Eagle group should have a club of its own, 15-20 members being an effective number Officers for the coming year are; Mrs. Mae Schultz, Pres.; Mrs. Alma Eingerter, V.P.; Mrs. Jane Kuhn, Sec.; Mrs. Helen Chapman, Treas.

Over the years, the Home Makers have enjoyed many educational lessons; such as, Furniture care and Repair, Hat Making, Meal Planning, Shopping, Salads, Wills and Social Security, Know your Government, Making Drapes and Slip Covers, Dressmaking, Meats, Freezing Foods, Canning, Re-Upholstering, Rug Care, Table Arrangements and many other equally pleasing and instructive subjects

Other Organizations

Other organizations are those of the Masons, The Eastern Star, the Girl Scouts of which Mrs. Jane Kuhn is the leader, and the Boy Scouts of which Jerome Anderson is leader.

Sciences

Eagle Medical history begins with the entry into the village in 1866 of Mr. C. B. Bannister. He had previously graduated from an academy in Bennington, Vt., had studied with Dr. Samuel Fuller in Madison, N.Y., but his health failing, he gave up the study of medicine and took up farming. Later he resumed his study with Dr. L. Nash and again practiced, this time in Eagle in 1866.

He continued practice in the town and its environs until the late 1880's. In that time, he built the house on Main St. now owned by the Partridge heirs.

Dr. DeWayne Townsend followed Dr Bannister in practice, coming to Eagle in 1881. Dr. Townsend was born in Waukesha Co. a short distance from Oconomowoc. He attended the Medical College of Louisville, Ky. where he graduated in 1876. He practiced for some years but being dissatisfied with his medical training, as soon as possible, he went on to the Chicago medical college, now the Medical School of North western at Evanston. After graduation from this institution, he came to Eagle.

Dr. Townsend's death was due to his deep regard for the Hippocratic oath. Ill with influenza, he was called to a case miles distant in a winter when roads were blocked with snow and winds were blowing with blizzard intensity. His horse became stalled in the snow, but the doctor floundered for three miles through hip-deep banks. On reaching the patient, the doctor was sicker than his patient.

For several weeks the doctor lived on, but he was not able to throw off the effects of pneumonia and empyema. He died in April 1888.

Dr. Chas. Sharpe attended the community in the late 1880's and '90's leaving Eagle to practice in Chicago,

In 1895 Dr. J.J. Fitzgerald came to take up a practice which lasted till 1953 and included the administration of a hospital for many years.

Dr. F. M. Schmidt came to Eagle and served the village till his death. He was a member of the school board for many years, was clerk during the time of the building of the present school. In 1943 his son Thomas, who was earning well merited approval as a flyer, was drowned off the eastern coast of the U.S.A. in a blind flying operation. The son's tragic death was a pronounced influence in shortening Dr. Schmidt's life.

For several years the people of Eagle felt the need of vigorous medical service. Thanks to Rev. Alvin Briggs, the legal proceedings to establish the Eagle Advancement Corporation was established. In Oct. 1954 the first shovelful of soil was turned for the building in which to house doctors, dentists, and whatever specialists were needed in keeping a community well. By December of that same year, the Medical Center gave its Open House invitation to the public. Dr. Wilbur Rosencranz took up a practice which immediately became almost overwhelming. In June of 1958, Dr. Eugene Zwisler came to assist in the ever-growing popularity of the Center.

Dr. Louis Marino, Doctor of Dental Science, came from New York City in March of 1955; Dr. Schoenenberger, Optometrist, was added in '58, and in the summer of 1958, Miss Lois McDowell, a registered nurse was also added to the medical staff.

THE RAILROAD HOUSE

Henrietta Macholdt Lins heard a queer screeching crunching, rasping noise. Sounded east of the house. What could it be? Going through the parlor of her new, handsome brick house, she slid back of the window shade to see workmen tearing down the old Railroad House. (The Railroad House was the rather hastily constructed hotel erected to serve the needs of the men who were building the Milwaukee, Mississippi Railroad on to Whitewater and points west. A pang of regret passed through her lips and a whole segment of her life passed through her mind as the boards were yanked from the remonstrating timbers:

"They're tearing down the old Hotel. Too bad. We had a good time there, Mary and I. That was when times were getting better for us. Of course we worked hard__ had to be on the minute. The trains came in at just such a time and the men had only twenty minutes to eat. The kitchen was upstairs and the dining room down. We girls had to lug steaming food down and dirty dishes up. We went back and forth dozens of times."

"But we were happy there and times were good for us. It wasn't like it was when we got into Milwaukee. That was the awful time. Really our bad luck began before we left the boat at New York. Father had a nice gold watch and chain. We weren't no bodies in Saxony. Father was a man of means and standing as the gold watch showed. How mean that thief was who cut the chain, took the watch, and left the chain dangling over the watch pocket! Then when we got into Milwaukee, Father found that someone had stolen all the money that we needed to start out with. How could we get along? There was no one to go to for help. We couldn't tell people about our

trouble because people didn't speak so much German then as they did in a few years.

Father finally found a man who would rent us two rooms, but how would we sleep with no beds, no covers, nothing! The man we rented from put straw on the floors and we slept in that. What would our friends back home think of that?

But Mary and I were young. People wanted young girls to work in their kitchens and houses. We were good workers. We had been trained in Germany.

How we wished the trunks__ Three foot cube, shaped chests would come. They were full of our clothes, bedding, towels, everything we needed to keep house with. Mother had sewed, crocheted, knitted for a good many weeks to get all the things together, and the good neighbors and friends had given us much, helped us too. If only the trunks would come!! But they never did. We tried to hunt them up, but how could we? New York was a long way off. Then there was that awful, awful time when Mother got the cholera. We all thought she would die, sick in the straw on the floor. Few people ever recovered. For several days the whole future looked black. But Mother lived!

After a while we came to that little house at Palestine (now occupied by the Lawrence Kelseys).

Then Mary and I got the job in the Railroad House and times have got better and better ever since. I met Edmund here and he built this nice brick house for me. (in 1876)

Twice quiet little Eagle has been roused to action and drama by bank robberies. The first one occurred in 1903. A farewell Party, a good watch dog, and a slow horse figured in the thwarting of the try for easy money.

Charles Worm, who lived in the Falter house (now razed) northeast of the old Protestant cemetery on Hy. 67, was having a farewell party and just as the safe-crackers had blasted off the lock of the bank door, the home-going guests of the party began driving through the village. After the second buggy passed by the robbers knew the game was up.

Get-away, even though no money had been snatched, was imperative. But they had provided for just such an emergency by casing the Edmund Whittam Livery stable, then located along the Baker-Pardee driveway.

Whittam's sensitive watch-dog wakened Mrs. Whittam just in time to see a man bring out the big roan horse. The yeggs had previously tried to harness the swift little bays but they were tigers to all but familiar hands and the choice the calm, but slow, roan that permitted their capture was a necessity,

Mrs. Whittam wakened her husband. He thought only of the theft of his horse. Fortunately, telephones had been installed in town and soon two men were summoned to chase the horse thieves. A light snow had fallen making pursuit simple. Whittam harnessed the swift bays, called constable Joseph Von Rueden and neighbor, George Cummings, and over-took the robbers half-way to Mukwonago.

The robbers had hired Clarence Darrow, who was famous as a criminal lawyer at that time, to defend them. Whether his conduct of the trial had influence with the judge, Dick, the culprits were given only one year's

imprisonment and not Twenty-one as stated in some newspaper accounts written at the time of the second robbery.

The Second Robbery

The second time the sleepy little village was marked for robbery was Sept. 28, 1921. The robbers, having parked their car in the Oak Ridge Cemetery, came into town to find a meeting of the directors of the Bank in the room above the Blue Ribbon Saloon. This difficulty was easily overcome by entering Harvey Clemons elevator office (now Dadmun's). Here they tore a narrow strip from the window shade and watched until the meeting had been ended and the men had gone to their respective homes.

When they thought the proper time for operation had come, they cut the outside telephone cable, and blasted off the lock of the door to the bank.

They had, however, overlooked the two concealed telephone lines, and the courage, and resourcefulness of the night operator, Miss Louise Breidenbach (now Mrs. John Hyland still resident in Eagle). She had never gone to sleep since the murmur of the bank directors could be heard and she, at once, took alarm by the noise of the yeggs in their work. She tried to call someone through the cable, but could get no reply. Then she called over the concealed lines to Mr. Jerome Mealy, who opened his window and called out to the robbers. He was soon silenced by their threatening words and gun shots. Next Louise called Mr. Frank Jaken, who Paul Revered through the back street to most of the men living in the center of town.

Even though the yeggs were detected so soon, they made off with a lot of loot some of which they discarded in a field if front of the then Malcolm McNaughton home. Disposal of these papers indicated that the bandits were

Chicago bound. Through some sleuthing on the part of an Eagle citizen, the fence in Chicago was located and since this person realized that publicity would be fatal to him, he relinquished most of the stolen papers and money. All but about \$5000 was recovered and that amount, of course, was covered by insurance.

In the 37 years that have elapsed since the event, people still laugh and talk about some of the events, tragic then, but comic now. There was the boy just home from World War I who had been taught self-preservation by zig-zagging when he ran. He is still razzed as to whether he is zigging or zagging. The conversation between the constable and the bandit sentry is still repeated with considerable relish. When the sentry saw the constable come into the village square, he fired several shots at him. The constable is supposed to have taken his pipe out of his mouth, tapped out the ashes, and like Wouter Van Twiller, have muttered, "Well, by Gawd, if you can fire, I can fire too", then firing off his shot-gun.

Exciting Events

Among the exciting events of the Sleepy little village of Eagle are the discovery of a diamond and two bank robberies.

There was little eclat at the time of the discovery of the diamond, but as years passed by, this discovery proved to be of perennial interest. Briefly the story is this:

Tom Devereau needed a well. He hired a man to do the job. The drilling extended through forty or more feet, when a six-foot layer of a hard yellow material was struck. Penetrating this layer, the digger found a hard stone. It was a pretty stone. The digger, not realizing its value, gave it to a little girl, a relative of Charles Wood. Years later when the Woods needed money, they took the stone to a jeweler in Milwaukee, who pronounced it a topaz, and bought it for a dollar.

The Jeweler, however, had recognized it as a diamond, and not a small one either. He immediately formed the Diamond Producing Company of Wisconsin and salted the region, on which he had taken an option, with small diamonds. The project boomed and the stock was sold by his unscrupulous partner. But the fraud boomeranged when the salted diamond crystals proved to be of South African origin.

Only three people living now in the town can remember the high fence built around the mine. They are Miss Louise Lins, her brother Chris, and Mrs. Mary Shortell. One or two prospectors holes are the only evidence of the big time strike.