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THE STORY OF BEAVER CREEK

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INTRODUCTION

The story of the twin areas of Beaver and Pound is the story of any new land. There was excitement, mystery, and adventure in this new and unknown land, but there were also many hardships and many hours of grueling, hard labor before this land was habitable. Only the sturdy ventured and only the very strong survived.

These two townships in southern Marinette County in the state of Wisconsin have as varied and as interesting a history as any other part of our country. Life followed a definite pattern; one dictated by climate and the natural resources of the area and by the cultural background of the people who came to make this land their home.

This must have been a good land or else the people who came to this area founded their homes firmly and established roots strong enough to hold their children and their children's children to this land. On mailboxes and on rolls of schools and churches, we find many of the same names that were found in this vicinity two and three generations ago.

The story of this land and its people, from the first days of its known history to the present time, is of real interest to the present inhabitants and to the people who will occupy these same areas in the future. It is the purpose of this paper to gather, organize, and preserve the history of this good land and the people who settled it and made it their home.

Loaned by Bible of Michael Anuta

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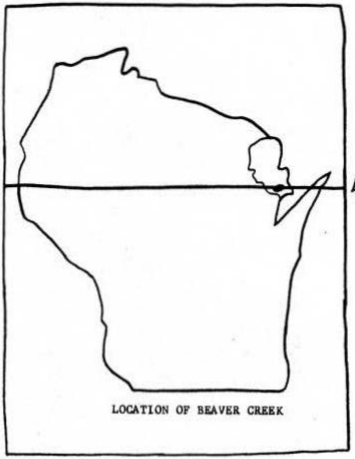
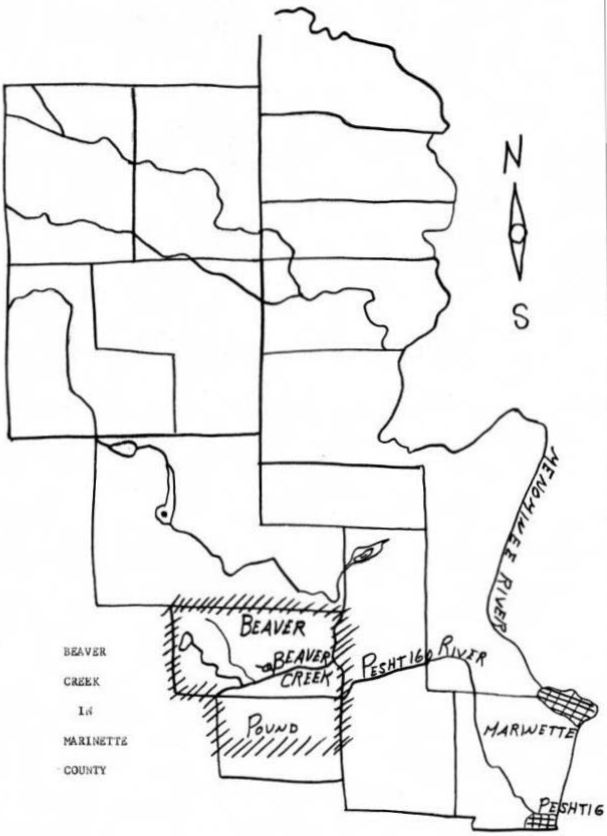
LOCATION

Beaver Creek is a tributary of the Peshtigo River. When the region around the creek was settled by the early pioneers that land was also called Beaver Creek. As the towns and villages were organized part of the area became the town of Pound, and the rest became the town of Beaver.

The towns of Beaver and Pound are located in Wisconsin in the southern part of Marinette County. The area is dissected by latitude 45° north. This latitude is half way between the equator and the north pole. A historical marker on United States Highway 141 directly north of the village tells that fact.



LOCATION OF BEAVER CREEK



BEAVER CREEK IN MARINETTE COUNTY

BEAVER CREEK BECOMES PART OF THE UNITED STATES

There are many interesting stories that can be told about the Indians of Wisconsin, but that part of the history of this area came to an end when some brave men from across the Atlantic Ocean sailed to North America and eventually took over the hunting grounds of the Red Men.

The first of these sailors were the daring Vikings who lived in the north of Europe where the countries of Norway and Sweden are now. The Vikings were bold warriors who spread out from their homeland to many places. Some went to lands near by, but others settled in faraway Greenland, the around the year 1000 Leif the Lucky even reached North America. For a short time there was a colony of Northmen on the coast of North America, the first white settlers on this continent. They did not write much about their adventures, but minstrels sang about them. These songs, or stories were later written down to become the sagas from which we learned about their voyage.

Almost five hundred years after the Vikings left North America, a Genoese Sailor from Italy named Christopher Columbus persuaded the King and Queen of Spain that the earth was not flat, but that it was round as an egg. They gave him the ships he wanted and he sailed west until he landed on the West Indies. Columbus never set foot upon North America, but following his voyages other sailors and explorers came from Spain, France, Portugal, and Italy, and they soon proved that North America was a continent itself.

Although the coast of North America soon became well explored, Wisconsin, and the area of the Beaver Creek was still an Indian wilderness. The history of this area really begins with the French. Their sailors followed the St. Lawrence River to the land of the Great Lakes. Samuel de Champlain, who founded Quebec in 1608, urged the exploration of the waters to the west. He wished to make treaties with the Indians to help in the fur trade, and he wished to find out about a possible route to the Pacific. He found a French youth named Jean Nicolet, who made the voyage and landed at the mouth of the Menominee River just twenty miles from Beaver Creek. There in 1634 a white man set foot on Wisconsin soil for the first time.

Nicolet's voyage was followed by other French explorers. Only twenty years later, two brothers-in-law, Radisson and Groseilliers, built on Chequamegon Bay, an arm of Lake Superior, the first home for white people in Wisconsin. The French period continued with many fur traders and missionaries coming to the eastern part of Wisconsin. It closed after the French and Indian War with the Treaty of Paris in 1763, when sovereignty over all lands east of the Mississippi passed to the British.

The Revolutionary War and the establishment of American independence were important events, not only for the original thirteen states, but for all those states created later. The fate of Wisconsin was determined on the battlefields, and then again when John Jay and John Adams went to Paris to join Benjamin Franklin in making peace. To the north, the most natural physical feature was the Great Lakes, so that was chosen as the boundry line of the new country. Thus, by the treaty signed September 2, 1783, between Great Britain and the United States, after the Revolutionary War, Wisconsin was included within, and became a part of the United States. Beaver Creek was then in the United States.

Although Wisconsin was a part of the United States, the British did not immediately give up their posts. The War of 1812 was fought, and the Treaty of Ghent was negotiated in 1814 before British control in this area was finally at an end. The responsibility for the Indian population, and the white settlers of Wisconsin now rested with the government and the people of United States.

POLITICAL STATUS OF BEAVER CREEK

The story of Beaver Creek begins when it was the home and hunting ground of the Menominee Indian tribe.

The first white man who visited Wisconsin was Jean Nicolet, a Frenchman, who landed on the banks of the Menominee River just twenty miles from Beaver Creek in July, 1634. From that date until 1763 Beaver Creek was a part of New France.

The treaty of peace between England and France in 1763 gave New France to England and so Beaver Creek became a part of the British province of French-speaking Quebec. Although French was spoken in much of the land, from that date the national language of both Canada and United States became English. When the Declaration of Independence was adopted by the second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, Wisconsin was still a part of the British province.

After the close of the Revolutionary Was, England gave up to the American colonies the land bounded by the Mississippi River, the Ohio River, and the Great Lakes. This area, called the Northwest Territory, included Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. Several of the original thirteen states claimed this land, and Virginia claimed west of Wisconsin, but when the Treaty of 1783, between the United States and England was signed, the Northwest Territory became a possession of the United States. Beaver Creek had passed from being the hunting grounds of the Menominee Indians, to that of a French possession, then to an English province, and finally to being part of the United States.

In the Northwest Territory, under the Land Ordinance of May, 1785, there was a standard system of surveying land and describing it for record of ownership. The unit is the surveyor's township, a rectangle six miles square, and within the township, the sections, or square miles, are always numbered in the same order. The survey began in Ohio, in 1785, and nearly half a century later, in 1833, the federal surveys reached Wisconsin. The survey kept on till the completion of the field work in 1865, and of office work the following year. From this survey the Beaver Creek area can be identified as part of Township 31 North, Range 19 and 20 East. The part of Pound that was settled by many of the same early settlers can be described as Township 30 North, Range 20 and half of 21 East.

Congress passed an ordinance in 1784 for the future partition of the Old Northwest. It was to be divided into ten states and there would be equality of status between the new states and the original thirteen.

The Northwest Ordinance of July 13, 1787, repeated all there was of value in the one of 1784, but, there were to be three or five states instead of ten. In order to become a state, a region had to pass through a period of simple

autocracy; when there were 5,000 voters, a territorial state; and lastly, when there were 60,000 freee inhabitants, full statehood.

Wisconsin was organized as a territory of the United States in the year 1836. At that time there were but 11,683 people living in it. Almost 3,000 of the people lived in Milwaukee County; others lived close by, in southeastern Wisconsin; some lived in the southwestern part; and, still others lived near Green Bay. Although Beaver Creek was part of the Territory of Wisconsin, there is no record of any white settlers having reached that area up to that time.

Wisconsin was admitted as a state of the Union on May 29, 1948. There were, at that time, only 30 states in the United States. In 1850 the population of Wisconsinwas 305,391. At that time there were still no settlers in Beaver Creek.

Six years later, in 1856, the Peshtigo Company of Wisconsin formed a corporation, and in March, 1859, they bought up the available timber lands in this community. Lumber companies moved in and operated in this region in the 1860's and 1870's. As the pines were cut the Peshtigo Company sold the cutover lands to immigrants or other land hunters, and, in 1873, the first white settler arrived.

In 1818, when Wisconsin was still a part of the Northwest Territory, Brown County was organized, and it encompassed almost all of the eastern part of what is now Wisconsin. By 1836, when Wisconsin became a territory, there were four counties in that region. Beaver Creek was still part of Brown County, but, the county had lost land in the southern part of the territory. When Wisconsin became a state in 1848, there were 29 counties, the south and eastern parts of the state being dividen much as at present, but, Brown County still contained most of northeastern Wisconsin. In 1851, the northern part of Brown County, in which Beaver Creek was located, broke away and was organized as Oconto County. When the lumbermen and the first settlers arrived in Beaver Creek, that area was part of Oconto County. In 1880 Marinette County was organized from the eastern part of Oconto County and Beaver Creek then became part of Marinette County.

Just as Beaver Creek has been in several counties, it, also, has been part of several different towns. When the Town of Peshtigo was formed it included much of the land from the mouth of the Peshtigo River, north and west, through the present towns of Grover, Beaver, Pound, and Coleman. When the lumbermen came they named the river that flowed into the Peshtigo River, the Beaver Creek, because of the large number of beavers found there. The area around it was also called Beaver Creek by the lumbermen and the first settlers. In 1893 the Town of Coleman was organized, and it included the present Towns of Beaver and Pound. In 1903

When the Village of Coleman was incorporated, the Town's name was changed to Pound. On April 4, 1905, Beaver was organized as a separate town. It contained two full townships of land, with the Peshtigo River flowing through its eastern edge. A few years later the land east of the river was ceded to the adjoining Town of Lake.

THE FIRST SETTLER, LOCHAN DUNCAN MCMILLAN
Told by a granddaughter, Janet McMillan

The desire and need for a new way of life was seen as part of the make up of a man named Lochan Duncan McMillan and his new bride, Ann McKinnon, when they first left their native Highlands of Scotland behind them, in 1861. This was what brought them to America. They had heard a great deal about the new ways which were being established in America. Fur trading, lumbering, and, farming eventually brought them to Wisconsin.

They first established a residence at Marquette, a mining town in Michigan. This is where they lived with their three children until a diptheria epidemic. All of their children fell victims of the "Grim Reaper".

Mrs. Mc Millan, my grandmother, feeling insecure and sorely needing family consolation, returned to her sisters who lived in Canada. After visiting there for six months, she returned to her husband and home. Another child, Catherine, (Tartan) was born in the year 1866, while they still resided in Marquette.

L.D., my grandfather, always looking for more lumbering and fur trading, heard about the opportunities in Peshtigo Harbor. Once more they set out for a new home. What adventures would partake them, they did not know. They went by train to Marinette, Wisconsin, then walked to Peshtigo Harbor. He worked in a saw mill in Peshtigo, later going to a farm in the Town of Grover.

They began farming here on "cut over" land. This was fertile soil where the virgin timber had been cut, the land cleared and worked for farming. They raised grain, hay, and wheat for cattle, and potatoes for food. Peas and beans were grown for coup. They had their own meat, chickens, pigs, and cows. The meat was cured by salting or drying. Horses were used for logging in the winter and for farming in the summer. They put into practice the saying, "Survival of the fittest".

This farm land was rented from a Mr. Sam Newton and it was here that they lived at the time of the Great Peshtigo Fire. They lost all of their personal belongings in the fire and were compelled to move to a new location in the Beaver Creek area.

Peshtigo Fire, 1871.
The recollection of the Peshtigo Fire, as given in an account by Catherine (Tartan), who was five years old at the time.

A tornado-like wind brought the fire roaring into the area in which they lived. They gathered the family together to begin a fast move. Catherine walked hurriedly along with her father. The only possession she took along was a toy dish. This was later found to be worth its weight in gold when it served as an only cup.

Sara was carried by"Ma Mc Millan". They followed a trail that led them to a creek near the John Ramsey place. The family was fortunate that the Heavenly Father saved them as a family. An Indian home was made into a hospital. It was crowded with people and lacked conveniences. A box stove was kept covered with kettles of boiling water. One of the kettles of water accidently was spilled or over onto little Tartan, scalding her feet. The burns caused deep scars which she carried with her even to the Great Beyond.

EARLY SETTLEMENT IN THE BEAVER CREEK AREA

After the fire the Mc Millan family started out again to find a new home. They followed the waterway of the Peshtigo River to Beaver Creek, following up stream. This is where they obtained a homestead as part of Oconto County, described as NE of SE 32-31-20 and SE of SE 32-31-20.

They lived in the Hamilton Lumber Camp while they cleared enough land to build a log cabin. L.D. was a Jobber here. In modern language he would probably have been known as a contractor. His work included the clearing off of the pine and hardwood timber, making the land ready for farming. The logs were sold to the Peshtigo Lumber Company. The land had been previously surveyed by the National Government.

When the Mc Millans arrived here the land was inhabited by many Menominee Indians. They were friendly people, ready to trade their trapped furs with the white man. The furs that were gathered were sold to John Jacob.Astor, a noted fur trader from Green Bay. Many of these furs found their way to Portland, Oregon, which was, by then, a famous trading post.

When their land was cleared my grandparents made a home on their farm. They were blessed with more children and raised a fine family. In the family of L.D. Mc Millan, two daughters, Lulu and Nettie, chose teaching as their career. Their education consisted of eight years in a Beaver Creek school and one year at Oshkosh State College. They spent several years teaching in Marinette County and were known as the two Mc Millan sisters. Then the sisters decided to go west to North Dakota and Montana. Nettie married and stayed on in Montana. She has three children, all living in the Flaxville-Scobey area. The two boys are wheat ranchers, and the daughter, Janet, is a commercial teacher in the Melta, Mondana, high school.

Lulu came back from the Dakotas and continued her teaching in Marinette County. She retired eleven years ago, in 1953, having taught fifty-five years in Marinette County. She passed away at Christmas time, in 1961.

Sid was an adventurous type of person. He left the homestead 47 years ago. He traveled and worked on wheat ranches through the Dakotas, Montana, and western Canada, following the harvests. He has never married, but has made many acquaintances and friends. At present, he is retired and lives in Fargo, North Dakota.

The oldest daughter, Catherine, married Tom Maloney and became the mother of seven children. These children were all so much older than I was that I always regarded them as aunts and uncles rather than cousins. They have pursued many walks of life: mail carrier, nurse, housewife, and park inspector.

Sara Mc Millan Mc Mahon had two children and passed away during childbirth. Her daughter, Catherine (Canny) now runs the Wood's Fruit Market, in Marinette. She, also, teaches and is presently employed at one of the parochial schools in Marinette. Canny's family is spread out: three girls and four boys. They are housewives, garage mechanics, farmers, and even a "jobber" in an Alaskan forest.

Mary went "beyond the sunset" at a very early age.

Margaret was married to J.W. Weed. She spent most of her married days in the west. One of her two daughters lives in Lewiston, Idaho, and is a teacher. The other daughter, June, lives near Los Angeles, California. Much of Margaret's time is spent with her grandchildren. Her husband is a retired maintenance carpenter for the University of Southern California. June is a great collector of antique items.

The youngest son, Neil, lives on the original homestead. Farming has been his livlihood. He is a man of firm convictions. He married Hannah Johnson and is the father of three daughters: Marjorie, Carol, and myself. Carol is married and lives on a corner of the home farm. Marjorie is married and lives at Lake Hoquebay. Both of them have very happy home lives.

My mother is of Scandinavian ancestry. She is a typical Scandinavian homemaker. Her greatest delight is in doing for her family and grandchildren, or having friends in for coffee. My parents are a devoted couple, and this year will mark their forty-seventh anniversary. Their interests and hobbies are many, and they are most kind to any of their fellow workers. The word "No" is seldom spoken in our home. Instead, the phrase "I will" is used.

FIRST SCANDINAVIAN SETTLERS OF BEAVER

In the year 1863, while the Civil War was in progress, the Peter A. Taftezon family came to America from northern Norway. They arrived in New York about the middle of August and stayed there only a few weeks. The family consisted of the father, the Mother, Oline (Oleenay), three sons, John, Christian, and Anton, and a daughter Malene (Malaynie). A grown daughter, Emmerentse, had stayed behind in Norway.

All but the oldest son, John, who remained with his uncle in New York, traveled on to Chicago, where they lived for two years. While there, another daughter was born in January, 1865. She was named Sophio. They were in Chicago when the train bearing the remains of Abraham Lincoln passed through the city. They were part of the procession that passed his bier.

From Chicago the family moved to Omaha, Nebraska, and then to Macon County, Missouri. In the latter place they rented a farm belonging to Lars Jorgenson. From there, in company with one or two other families, rode in covered wagons,drawn by horses, to Chicago, in the spring of 1872. Two daughters had been born to the family while in Missouri.

Leaving Chicago again, they journeyed to a place in Northern Michigan, called Swedetown, where their daughter, Malene (Malaynie) was married to Lars Jorgenson, their Missouri landlord. The Taftezons also lived a short time in Clifton, Michigan, near Calumet, where Mr. Taftezon and his son, Christan, worked in the copper mines. Not liking the mine work, he, and other families, decided to look for land and try farming once more, so, in 1874, they left Michigan and came to Peshtigo, Wisconsin. This was three years after the Peshtigo Fire.

The women and children were left at the home of Anton Strom and family while the men went out land hunting. Three men, P.A. Taftezon, his son-in-law, Lars Jorgenson, and Math Mathis, traveled along the Peshtigo River until they came to Beaver Creek. They followed that creek west for several miles until they found some good farm land. They each chose a piece of land eighteen miles northwest of Peshtigo, which they settled on as homestead claims. The Scandinavian Lutheran Church, in Beaver, stands on the land chosen by Mr. Jorgenson. The farm across from the church was the land selected by P.A. Taftezon. Elmer Johnson is the present owner of Mr. Taftezon's land. Mr. Mathis located to the east of the other two, and until a few years ago, this tract was owned by his son, Math Mathis, Junior. These homesteads were a part of Oconto County, at that time. Marinette County had not yet been organized.

During the summer, the Mathis family moved to Beaver from Peshtigo, by wagon, taking the tote road that followed the river. The first night on their new land the women and children slept under the wagon box, while the men took turns sitting by the fire and keeping guard. For the rest of the time, while their homes were being built, they occupied Sam Hamilton's Lumber Camp, together with L.D. Mc Millan and his family. These camps were used by the Peshtigo Lumber Company, in the winter, while

the pine was being taken out in the vicinity.

The other two families remained in Peshtigo while the men began to build some shelters. Lars Jorgenson's was built first and when finished, both the Taftezon and Jorgenson families occupied the new log cabin. This cabin is still in use, as a part of the house on the Ole Peterson farm. The second cabin was built on the Taftezon claim and stood on the hillside across from where the Scandinavian Lutheran Church now stands. Mr. Mathis' home was built next, in the same way, by all working together to put up the building. When the three families of Taftezon, Jorgenson, and Mathis were living in their respective homes the men helped Mr. Mc Millan build his home. Mr. Mc Millan had come to the vicinity in 1873 and is considered its first permanent settler.

In the fall of 1875 Andrew Gissenas and his family arrived and lived over the winter with the Taftezon family. There were seven members in each family, making fourteen people in all, all living in one small log cabin, consisting of one room downstairs and an attic. Mr. Gissenas chose a homestead to the north and across Beaver Creek from the claims of the aforenamed settlers. A log cabin was built on it, in the spring of 1876. Larger and better dwellings were built later on all these farms.

The above mentioned families were the first settlers in what was then called Beaver Creek. After the railroad was built through the settlement, in 1882, (it crossed the land of F.A. Taftezon and A. Gissenas) the station was named Beaver and the settlement has since carried that name.

In the autumn of 1882, a heartbreaking epidemic of diptheria struck the little community. In the month of December, one child in the Taftezon family, two children in the Gissenas family, and four in the Jorgenson family, died of the disease. Another child in the Jorgenson family had died earlier in the year of other causes. After the epidemic there was only one child left of the six children.

The few roads of those days were meandering logging trails that were muddy and nigh unto impassable in the warm seasons, and did not much resemble the straight and direct hard surfaced roads of today. Paths that led across swamps were called pole trails. They were made of poles laid lengthwise and end to end on the wet boggy ground, which, in the spring, was covered with water. Yet people often walked from Beaver Creek to Peshtigo to do their trading, carrying home sacks of flour on their backs.

One of the girls walked that distance each week to recite her catechism lesson. She was Sohie Taftezon, who was born in Chicago to the pioneer family from Norway, who wandered about Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, and Michigan before settling down in Beaver Creek. Miss Taftezon was the last member of this pioneer family. She passed away June 24, 1947, in Minneapolis, and was buried beside other members of her family in the old pioneer cemetary, between Pound and Beaver, where most of the oldest Beaver pioneers are buried.

When these first Scandinavian settlers arrived, the trees had not yet been harvested on their claims, so the children were cautioned to stay near the cabins, because even the men could get lost in the dense forest. In fact, one day Mr. Taftezon was exploring his new land, to locate the markers left by the surveyors. He could not find his way home and spent the night alone in the woods. The next morning he made as much noise as possible by calling and chopping into trees with his ax. His neighbors, who were searching for him, heard him and were able to show him the way home.

Early in the 1880's, adjacent to the Lars Jorgenson farm, a lumber camp was set up. It was behind the site of the present Scandinavian Lutheran Church. Mr. Coullard, from Oconto, operated the lumber mill on the bank of the South Beaver Creek. The mill was surrounded by cabins and shanties. A fire destroyed many of these buildings around 1890, but, the lumbering continued. As long as the timber lasted, along the banks of the creek, the "drive" was an annual event. There were log jams, skillful use of the spiked boots and the spiked poles, and occasional duckings. These operations ceased around 1900.

Although it was dangerous, even children tried to ride the logs, and Sopie Taftezon, who was not to be outdone by the boys, nimbly rode the logs as they floated down the Beaver Creek.

Other Scandinavians were attracted to this area, and it was not long before the community was populated by many new families. In 1889, John A. Johnson moved to Beaver with his wife and two sons. They lived in an upstairs apartment, with the Taftezons, for two years. By 1891 Nels Anderson, P.M. Nelson, Simon Hanson, Charles Antella, P.N. Pederson, W.O. Johnson, Martin Johnson, Andrew Olson, Gustaf Sundin, Ole Jenson, Adam Erickson, Isaac Isaacson, Carl Olson, Robert Johnson, and Henry Johnson had settled here. Later, Ole Olson, Ole Berg, Peter Makela, Andrew Hall, A.W. Wilson, John Anderson, and John Erickson came.

This part of Beaver Creek was a typical Scandinavian settlement. But, just as the timber disappeared from the land, so many of the Scandinavians also left the area, until today only a few of the family names are heard. The descendents sought their fortunes in other parts of the United States, while those that remained, look over the land and reminisce about the times and the faces that are gone.

THE POLISH PEOPLE

The Polish came to Beaver later than the Scandinavians. Their earliest arrival is noted in 1895.

The reasons for their immigration to America were many. There had been unrest and many wars in their native land, and many people were crowded onto few farms. Only the eldest son had land of his own since he inherited the farm from his parents. Younger sons had no place to go because there was no land to be developed or cleared, and there were few farms for sale. The families clung to their ancestral acres.

Some of the people lived on the border areas of Poland and Germany, or, Poland and Russia. Whole families were sometimes taken prisoners and transported to the victorious country and put to work with a status of little more than slaves. Living on border areas and being prisoners of neighboring countries accounts for some of the Polish immigrants being bilingual, being fluent in their native Polish and, also, in German or Russian.

Some of the families from Prussia went to Russia where there was much land and fewer people. But, many people were not satisfied there because of a Russian law which allowed foreign born to lease land, but not to own it.

Germany at that time conscripted every young man for military service, as did many other European countries. Many young men left their native lands to escape this training.

Almost every community produced at least one adventuresome youth who went to America. He would write to his relatives and friends about the fabulous country he found and the riches that were to be gained with little effort. The adventurer would tell of his success, often stretching his stories until some thought all that was necessary for becoming wealthy was to gain passage to the United States. The greatest motive for moving was that any immigrant could own land and build a farm for himself and his family.

Many of the Polish emissaries arrived in northern Wisconsin where the lumber industry offered employment. They were familiar with lumbering from home. Many stopped in cities such as Milwaukee, and, later followed relatives and friends to Beaver and to Pound. These people, in turn, sent for other members of their families and their friends from Europe and found places for them in this particular area of America.

Sometimes immigrants arrived with a little cash left over and immediately bought land. Others arrived with only a few belongings, such as feather ticks, pillows, and a few clothes in a big bag on their backs. Some had no shoes and their feet were wrapped in burlap. They had no money. Their greatest assets were their healthy bodies, their willingness to work, and their determination to make good in their new land.

They worked very hard in the mills and on the land, often being willing to work for less than others who had come earlier.

Gradually, they each acquired land and all the family worked to make it into a good farm. Children attended school only when there was no farm work to be done.

But the people loved their land and almost all the original farms, cleared by Polish families, today have sons or grandsons of the same name living on them.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORTATION IN BEAVER CREEK

The Menominee Indians paddled along the banks of the Beaver Creek until it emptied into the Peshtigo River. The slow moving waters of the creek were handy, and made an easy highway from the homes of the Redmen to their hunting grounds.

When the logging industry began in the Beaver Creek area, the early loggers again used the river for their highway. The first loggers, who worked from the Peshtigo Company, paddled up the Beaver Creek and decided upon a good location. The camp was established and tote trails were cleared. In the spring, the logs were floated down the Beaver Creek to the Peshtigo River, and then on to the saw mills at Peshtigo.

In the 1870's and 1880's, when the pines were becoming exhausted, and the logging camps were closing, settlers moved into the Beaver Creek area. The first settlers traveled to Peshtigo on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. Then they paddled up the river to their new homesites, or, came by wagon following the abandoned logging trails, or even walked along the trails that ran beside the rivers. Between the homes of the new settlers, the pioneers often laid pole trails, one pole after another, laid lengthwise through the swamps.

The new settlers worked together to improve these trails and to make new roads. With axes and hand saws the settlers cleared the roadbed of trees, stumps, and brush. On high ground a little smoothing of the rough spots with grub hoe and shovel was all that was necessary, but much of the land around Beaver Creek was swampy and so corduroy roads were built. Trees that had been cut to make the road bed were laid crosswise across the road and sometimes sand or mud was shoveled over the top. Although these logs kept the travelers out of the mud, they were very rough. Horses and oxen had to step carefully for the loose logs rattled, and the wagons jounced and bounced along the way. Even travelers on foot found walking on the logs difficult.

It was not long, in the history of Beaver Creek, before the railroads became important. By the fall of 1882, the Milwaukee and Northern Railroad track was laid, as far as Coleman, Wisconsin, which was just about five miles south of Beaver Creek. Work on the railroad was contracted out to individuals and they were responsible for building a certain length of it. By the next year, 1883, the track was laid through Beaver Creek, and by 1884 it was completed as far as Amberg, about 30 miles farther north. Railroad work was discontinued for about two years because of slack times, but, in the spring of 1884, a spur was built from the railroad in Beaver to a gravel pit east of the railroad and near the present State Highway 64. The gravel from this pit was used to improve the railroad beds and the highways.

The name of the railroad line through Beaver changed from time to time. About 1890 it was changed to the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. By 1920 the name "Pacific" was added. At the present time the railroad is known as the Milwaukee Road.

As business increased, the railroad was improved. In 1910 the wooden span with it s wooden trestles was torn down and a new concrete bridge was built across the Beaver Creek. In the early 1940's, heavier and higher rails were laid to accommodate the faster trains.

With the increase in the number and uses of motor vehicles, railroad business fell off. In 1952 the Beaver station was razed and Coleman was designated the railroad business center for the Beaver area.

As time passed, the roads in Beaver also were improved. They passed from the corduroy or dirt stage to the gravel-topped stage in the 1920's. At that time the main road in Beaver ran north and south along the western side of the railroad tracks and was part of Highway 38. A few years later it was named Highway 57. Then it became part of the United States Highway System and became U.S. Highway 141.

In 1932 U.S. Highway was relocated, and it now runs along the eastern side of the railroad tracks. It is a concrete highway and was completed in 1933.

In the 1950's most of the other roads in the town were improved again by blacktopping. One of the oldest roads, old U.S. 141, was one of the last to be blacktopped, being hardsurfaced in 1958. It had been widened and graveled in 1917, then widened still more in 1958, with a loss of many of the maple trees that beautified its borders.

The first bridge across Beaver Creek, on the old U.S. 141, was a wooden structure. On each side were two heavy timbers that were bolted together in the shape of a gable. On the way home from school the most sure-footed and bravest of the school children would run up on one timber to the highest point and down on the other side, with never a slip or accident.

In 1912, after this road had become a county road, a new bridge of concrete, with metal railings, was erected, but the channel for the stream had been built too narrow. The water washed away the earth under the abutments and in the spring of 1919 the bridge collapsed. A new bridge, the present one, was built that summer.

SCHOOLS WERE ORGANIZED

The first community act, of the early settlers of the Beaver Creek area, was to organize a school district, in 1877, just three years after the first family settled here. It was known as District Number 11, of the Town of Peshtigo, in Oconto County. There are no local records of its bounderies, but pupils from a large area attended school in the first school house.

The first term of school was taught in the newly built Francisco barn, and Louis Mc Millan, of Peshtigo, was the first teacher. Charles T. Cunningham was Clerk of the district, and L.D. Mc Millan was the Treasurer. Other settlers' barns in the area were, also, used as schoolhouses.

In 1873 a log schoolhouse was built north of the town cemetary, in what is now the Town of Pound. It was used until 1887 when an area of land was bought near-by and a one-room frame building was erected. This building was painted white, and, for many years it was known as the "White School".

The next year, in 1888, those settlers living in what is now Beaver, organized a district known as Number 10, of the Town of Peshtigo, in Marinette County. The first term of school was conducted in the Isaacson home, located on the present Komontowski farm. According to a lease, dated May 25, 1885, one acre of land, belonging to Lars Jorgenson, was leased for school purposes. The following year, a schoolhouse was built and when the Town of Coleman was organized, in 1893, this school district became known as District Number 7, of the Town of Coleman. Miss Marie Bransfield was the first teacher in the new school.

The original building was remodeled in the early 1900's, to accommodate more pupils, the enrollment now being in the seventies.

In 1904, a new district was formed out of the territory surrounding Bass Lake, and was called District Number 5. Agnes Crawley, of Marinette, was the first teacher. Another school, east of Beaver, was built and was called District Number 4. These schools helped alleviate the overcrowded conditions for the time being. In a few years the number of children of school age decreased.

In the meantime, the "White School" also was crowded. During one year, when Stella Rigby, of Peshtigo, was teaching, there were 73 pupils enrolled. In 1917, a new two room building was erected and it was maintained as a graded school until 1935. By that time the number of pupils had dwindled to 25, and, from then until its closing in 1942, only one room was used. In that year this district consolidated with District Number 9, the Village School of Pound.

In 1920 the school building, in District Number 4, east of Beaver, burned, and all of District No. 7, and, parts of Districts 4 and 5 consolidated and became District No. 7. A two room school building, of concrete blocks, was built at a new location, this one in the unincorporated Village of Beaver. The first teachers were Huldah Johnson and Orvilla Jensky, Principal and primary teacher. Lillian Johnson was the last teacher in the old building. At the time of consolidation, John A. Johnson was the School Clerk, Ole Peterson was the Director, and Charles Wunderlich the Treasurer. The building committee was composed of Henry Pierre, Frank Zinda, and P.M. Nelson. Gus Krause was the contractor who supervised the building operations.

When 1946 rolled around there was more consolidation, and by 1949 there were approximately 100 pupils ready to attend the Beaver School. In the latter year, a modern two-room, brick addition, was built onto the front of the older structure. Clarence Camps had charge of the construction.

Transporting of pupils, who lived outside of the 2½ mile limit, was begun in 1921, but, in 1934 it was voted to transport all pupils in the district. That has been done ever since.

Shortly after the "White School" was built, the Village of Pound withdrew from the original school district and, in 1891, they organized District No. 9. A one-room schoolhouse was built on the present lot. This building was sold, in 1906, and was moved. The district then built a two-story, four-room, frame building. This building was destroyed by fire on a school day, February 20, 1928. No children were injured, but, all papers and school records were lost.

A new brick and tile, four-room, school was built the following year, with manual training, kitchen rooms, and a gymnasium in the basement. Eight grades, and the first two years of high school, were taught there for many years.

As centralization of schools was urged, by 1953 almost all of the schools of Beaver and Pound were united with the Coleman Joint District Number 1, and most of the schools in the rural areas were closed or being closed. Only grades one to six attend the Beaver school and the Pound school. Grades seven and eight and the high school students are transported to Coleman.

In a Harvey school register, showing the enrollment and attendance record, during the year 1897, of District No. 7, shows that 63 pupils were enrolled, and Carrie Peterson was the teacher. The average daily attendance was 29. Of the 63 pupils enrolled that year, 67 years ago, 28 are living today. They are: Mina Hanson, Theresa Anderson Ryden, Charlie Antella Johnson, Martha Antella Rautio, Ovedia Bergh Rockwell, Olaf Bergh, Ida Mekula, Neil Mc Millan, Nettie Mc Millan, Barney Nelson, Annie Nelson Sanford, Astrid Pederson, Louis Rocheleau, Melina Taftezon Powell, Sydney Mc Millan, Tillie Johnson Fryor, Robert Nelson, Esther Johnson Nelson, and Jessie Bice.

EARLY SCHOOL DAYS
Told by Esther J. Nelson

It was the custom, during the gay nineties, for six-year-olds to start school in the spring, in Beaver. The school year seemed to begin than, rather than in September. It was, also, customary, or rather necessary, to have one or two weeks vacation while the roads were "breaking up", that is, during the transition period when the snow was thawing before the arrival of the summer dust. Roads became impassable for both man and beast to travel on them.

My first day of school arrived one bright morning after the usual spring vacation. My mother prepared a sandwich lunch of homemade bread and butter and put it in a tin pail. My father accompanied me to school. I could already read the Scandinavian ABC books so he supposed I would be reading in the English ABC book in school, but, he was told I would be placed in the chart class. He had never before heard of a chart class. He was too puzzled to change his mind, so he bought me a Harper's First Reader anyway from the teacher, and took it home with him. At that time text books were not furnished by the school district. Neither were supplementary readers furnished. Those pupils who were lucky enough and talented enough found their supplementary matter on the walls of their homes because they were papered with old newspapers. I remember one very puzzling word that I was unable to understand. It was the abbreviation "lb". I called it "lib", but twenty lib of anything did not make sense. It was worse still to get the supplementary reading done if the news sheets had been pasted on upside down, but, it had to be read. To this day, I can read with the page upside down nearly as well as right side up.

The frame schoolhouse I attended stood at one side of a one acre plot of ground and faced the east. It had not been painted the traditional red but, instead, was a very dusty old rose. There were three windows on each side and two at the front. The door was placed in the center of the front wall. There was a remarkable porch outside that door. It was as wide as the building, had steps on the three sides, and tapered to the top, but had enough floor space left at the top for the older boys and girls to dance a square dance on it. In due time, however, this passtime was forbidden. It was not acceptable in the eyes of all the parents.

Inside,the door of the schoolhouse, was a central entry which contained little but space, but was a buffer against the severe temperatures of winter. It, also, separated the boys' and girls' halls. Toward the right, as one entered, was the boys' hall where the boys placed their lunch pails, usually discarded lard or syrup pails, on the floor, and hung their wraps on the rows of hooks on the walls. There was a huge wood box in one corner of the hall and it was the duty of

the boys to keep it filled with wood. They never objected if this chore came during school time. Instead it was a pleasure to be allowed to fill it then.

On the other side of the entrance was the girl's hall, arranged like the boys', except that in the far corner there stood a rectangular box with a bucket of water, with a dipper in it on one end, and a wash basin and toilet soap on the other. A linen towel, with red edges, hung from a nail on the wall.

There was no well or pump on the school ground the first years I attended, so the drinking water had to be carried from a neighbor's premises nearly a quarter of a mile away. To be allowed to fetch the water was, also, a much desired activity, and all the stronger bodied pupils clamored for the privilege. Sometimes, on warm days, almost the whole school would meet the water carriers half-way and drink up all the water before they had reached the school yard. Everyone used the same dipper, and, as the thirsty drinkers hovered over the pail water would sometimes drip back into the pail as they were drinking.

The water situation remained in a sad state for years. A well was finally dug, but, the water had a queer flavor and sand impeded the operation of the pump, so the water carrying process began again. The younger pupils made good use of the abandoned well water and sand, however. It was fun to make play cakes and pies, as those materials were unmatched for that kind of cooking.

The rest of the building was a large room for studying and reciting the lessons. There were four rows of double desks and seats. Each desk had a seat fastened on it for the desk to be placed ahead of it. The largest desks were placed at the back of the room, and they diminished in size until the smallest ones were at the front of the room. Thus, as the seats reached in size the desk behind it, most seats were too high for the desk it was supposed to serve. No wonder some of us were prematurely stooped.

There was a space in front of the room where each class stood when it recited its lessons. Most of the classes were not large, but, at one time, when the school population was the greatest, one class not only reached across the front of the whole room, but curved toward the hall doors at both ends of the line.

At the time of the largest school enrollment, no one was assigned regular seats. Each child chose a place to sit when he came to school, and all the seats were filled to capacity. It made no difference whether or not the seat and desk was too big or too small today--perhaps in size there would be better luck tomorrow.

Near the center front of the room was a large box stove which stood on a layer of brick and had a steel jacket around

it. The brick protected the floor, and the steel jacket protected the pupils from the heat. In winter, if the pupils were not satisfied to eat half frozen sandwiches, they placed their pails on the floor around the stove at the time of the morning recess period, and left them until noon to warm up a little.

School sandwiches became extremely monotonous fare before the winter was over. In some families, as many as five pupils attended school at the same time, and it took a lot of sandwich filling for the lunches. It is no wonder that corn syrup and pork drippings were creamed, buttermilk was boiled down to the consistency of cottage cheese and flavored with brown sugar for variations from the ordinary cold beans and salt pork fillings for sandwiches or just plain bread and butter or cold pannycakes.

In the front of the room was a six inch high platform on which stood the teacher's desk and chair. On the wall behind the desk was a blackboard. There were blackboards between all the windows. How happy we were when we heard the words, "You may pass to the board". We loved to write on the blackboard even if we were too short to reach very far up on them.

Girls usually had only two school dresses during the year, one for warm weather and a heavy one for winter. The dresses had to be worn with care because washings were few and far between in the winter, and the summer dresses had to stay clean a whole week.

The girls' hair was braided into long pigtails and tied with a piece of "store cord" at the very end. For special occasions, a silk ribbon bow covered the cord. Sometimes the braids were unravelled and the tresses flowed over the shoulders. Then bows would be tied near the top of the head, one on each side, or only one, high on the back of the head. Sometimes these ribbons had been found and rescued from cigar bundles or stationery.

On the last day of school we had a picnic somewhere, but usually in the woods. Swings were hung from the trees, and ice cream and lemonade were made to top off the picnic dinner. The ice cream was frozen on the spot. The custard was mixed by some experienced matron; one man shaved some ice with a draw knife; another mashed pieces of ice in a burlap sack; and the rest would take turns grinding the crank of the freezer. When the ice cream was too hard for the crank to be turned any more then it was done. If there was time for the ice cream to ripen, the dasher was removed and given to someone to lick, usually a hungry boy. Then the freezer was closed, some fresh ice spread over the top, and all covered with an old carpet until serving time.

Those were the good old days in school.

CHURCHES WERE ESTABLISHED

St. Matthew's Congregation

The people attending Lutheran services at Beaver Creek Settlement increased in number to a great extent. In 1877 there were enough to organize a congregation. The group first met in private homes, then in a school building. During this time, Rev. Adolph Toepel and Rev. Hillemann served the people.

In 1881 Rev. Antol Pieper was called by St. Matthew's jointly with St. John's Lutheran Church of Grover. From that time until 1918, the congregation formed one parish with the church at Grover.

St. Matthew's Congregation was incorporated in 1885, and joined the Wisconsin Synod in 1886. After serving the parish faithfully for seven years, Pastor Pieper left, and the Rev. Christ Gevers was called in 1889. In 1891 St. Matthew's congregation resolved to build a church, but the resolution was not carried out at once. In 1898 Rev. Gevers left, and the next pastor who served the congregation was the Rev. Martin Kionka from Grover. During his pastorate the congregation built its church in 1899. This structure is still in use.

Pastor Kionka accepted a call to Milwaukee in 1907, and the next pastor to serve St. Matthew's was the Rev. C. Kleinlein. In June, 1916, on the night of Ascension Day, lightning struck the church doing considerable damage to the steeple and roof.

In 1918, when Rev. William Wojahn came to Coleman, St. Matthew's and Trinity of Coleman formed one parish. In the fall of 1930 Rev. W. Fuhlbridge came to the Coleman-Beaver parish and remained until 1949.

In the spring of 1952 the new Parish Hall was built. Almost all of the work was done by the members, who worked with zeal to practically complete the building, have it paid for, and dedicated by the time of their celebration in 1952. Much of the material used in the building was also donated by the members.

The church is now served by the Lutheran minister from Crivitz.

American Lutheran Church (formerly Scandinavian Lutheran)

The Scandinavian Lutheran Ladies Aid of Beaver, Wisconsin, was organized July 24, 1892, in the schoolhouse of District Number 7, of Beaver, for the purpose of raising money to build a church and to gather funds to help the mission work. The Rev. T.W.N. Weld, of Menominee, Michigan, was present and organized the society. The first members were, as follows:

Mrs. Henrietta Eggan	Mrs. Sophie Anderson
Mrs. Hilda Pederson	Mrs. Hanna Johnson
Miss Sophie Taftezon	Mrs. Oline Taftezon
Miss Rena Egan	Mrs. Marie Clauson
Mrs. Malene Jorgenson	Mrs. Hetta Johnson
Mrs. Helleborg Berg	Mrs. Lenora Olson

Mrs. Mattie M. Johnson	Mrs. Sigrid Johnson
Mrs. Marie Johnson	Mrs. Thilda Olson
Mrs. Sophie Sundin	Mrs. Johanna Hanson
Mrs. Anna Olson	Mrs. Mary Taftezon

The following were elected as officers of the aid: President, Miss Sophie Taftezon; Secretary, Miss Rena Egan, (now Mrs. Wilson); Treasurer, Mrs. Mattie M. Johnson.

The people in the settlement used to gather in the schoolhouse for church services, but were refused the use of it by the school board. After that, they held their meetings in the Taftezon house, until the church was built.

The Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Beaver, Wisconsin, was organized at the home of P.A. Taftezon, February 11, 1894, for the purpose of gathering funds to build a church in which they could gather to have the word of God. Mr. John A. Johnson presided at the meeting. Mr. Victor Larson led in scripture reading and prayer. The following signed their names as members of the congregation:

Mr. Peter A. Taftezon	Mr. Ole B. Berg
Mr. C.E. Gissenas	Mr. Simon Hanson
Mr. Henry Johnson	Mr. John A. Johnson
Mr. Isaac Isaacson	Mr. Andrew Hall
Mr. Peter N. Pederson	

On September 19, 1894, the Ladies Aid paid Mr. B. Gissenas $1 for writing the lease on the church lot, which was given to the cause by Lars Jorgenson. In 1897 the congregation started to build the church, C.E. Gissenas being elected to supervise the work. The building was finished in 1898 except for the Steeple which was built in 1903. The church was dedicated in 1905.

The congregation joined the American Lutheran Church in 1963 at which time the name of the church was changed to the Beaver American Church.

The Seventh Day Adventist Church

After a series of tent meetings held in Pound, in the summer and fall of 1895, the Seventh Day Adventists organized a church in 1896. The ministers who had charge of the meetings and the organization were Mr. Herman, of Antigo, and Mr. Dirkson, of North Dakota. At that time the following became members of the church:

Mr. Coon	Mr. Ed Gross
Mrs. Furlitt	Mrs. Ed Gross
Mrs. O.F. Cole	Mr. Gust Gross
Mr. Correy	Mr. G. Bedora
Mrs. Frank Cole	Mrs. G. Bedora
Mrs. F. Watthing	Mr. and Mrs. M. Anuta, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Mozdine	Mr. and Mrs. C. Rosner
Mr. and Mrs. G. Pelot	Mrs. J. Dirk, Sr.

In the year 1896, after the organization, the members donated logs, which they hauled to the mills and had sawed for lumber to use in building the church. The church was built largely through the labor of the members under the direction of one of the ministers, Mr. Herman, who had been a carpenter and, therefore, able to take charge of the work.

The Polish Baptist Church

The first Polish Baptist Church was built sixteen years after the first families settled here. Before that, religious meetings were held in private homes, the Adams and Taftezon homes most frequently.

At first the settlement grew slowly, but, in 1887, quite a number of Polish families came here and in 1890 the Polish and Germans united to build the first church, claimed to have been the first Polish Baptist Church in the country.

The first pastor was Rev. Heintz.

In the year 1908 they decided to build a new church in Pound. They built the present large and attractive brick veneer church now in use. The interior is modern in every respect, and has a large seating capacity.

The congretion also built a row of wagon sheds next to the east alley. When there was no further use for the sheds they were taken down and the space was turned into a parking lot for cars.

In the year 1909 the members bought a parcel of land for a cemetery and later bought eight acres to add to it.

In 1900 a band was organized by the church. Land for a park was bought in the name of Mike Bedora. This park was for the band. Later the park was turned over to the church.

The German English Baptist Church

In 1901, there being no English Baptist church in Pound, it was thought advisable for the Germans, who were in the minority, to withdraw and organize an English and German church. This society, however, did not build their church until 1902. The following were the petitioners:

Mr. and Mrs. Cal Dams	Mr. and Mrs. L. Hiesel
Mr. Herman Hiesel	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hiesel
Mr. Rienhold Hiesel	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Zeigenhagen
Mr. and Mrs. L. Adams	Mr. Charles Gross
Mr. C.G. Gross	Mr. August Gross

It was arranged by mutual agreement that services would be conducted in both languages; English two Sundays, and German the other Sundays of the month. Sunday School was to be conducted each Sunday by both, the Germans in the morning and the English in the afternoon.

In 1907 the congregation bought the Jacobson house, on United States Highway 141, for a parsonage. In 1927 they sold the parsonage and the church and bought a block of land on which to build a new church. They built the present brick veneer church and dedicated it in 1929.

The Rev. J.F. Meyer was pastor at the time the church was built and remained the pastor until 1937. The next pastor was the Rev. E.S. Fenske.

St. Leo's Church, Pound

The first meeting to discuss formation of a new parish was held in the former post office building , at Pound, in January, 1902. Mr. Phillip Dwyer called the meeting and acted as chairman. Mr. A.B. Van Vonderen was secretary. At this meeting it was decided to build a Catholic church, in Pound, to be known as St. Leo's Church.

At a second meeting, held May 31 of the same year, articles of incorporation were signed and the following men were elected as first officers:

Patric Murphy---secretary	Phillip Dwyer----Consultor
Joseph Brooks---treasurer	Henry Warning----Consultor

They incorporated and bought several acres of land from Mr. E. Mariner on which they erected the church, the hall, and cemetery. They also built a parsonage. The balance of the land is used for cultivation and as a ball park.

St. Paul National Catholic Church

The St. Paul National Catholic Church, at Beaver, was started in 1929. Father Nicholas, from Chicago, came to Pulaski, Wisconsin, and explained the theories of the church. The following were some of the first signers of a petition for the church: Antone Slominski, Antone Spychalski, Frank Lewandowski, Mr. Sadowski, Frank Blachowiak, and Frank Glass. The services were not held regularly as the priest had seven other churches. Because they wished more religious training for their children, and because it was proven that the National Catholic Church and the High Episcopal were considering uniting, Mr. Slominski made contact with Father Hillstead, of Oconto, an Episcopal pastor, in 1939. As a result, Father Hillstead has been coming to Beaver as a minister for the past five years. This church is now a mission church for the Episcopals.

Full Gospel Tabernacle

The Full Gospel Tabernacle was started in Pound by Rev. Gust Schultz and the following were the first members:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Stanaseszewski

Mr. and Mrs. Julius Hein	Mr. and Mrs. John Leisner
Mrs. Charles Fisher	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Saleski
Mrs. Fred Schinsky	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Gaugler
Mrs. Fred Gulick	Mrs. Louis Shevy
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Nicholas	Mrs. Emil Rakowski
Mrs. Gottlieb Lentz	Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nicholas
Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Frievalt	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Bedora

The first services were held in the Modern Woodmen Hall and later in private homes. Still later the services were again held in the hall until this building was destroyed by fire, in September, 1934. They then purchased the site of the Lutheran church, east of Coleman, and used the lumber in that building in constructing their new church. The new church was built and dedicated in 1952.

The congregation is now in the process of selecting a new minister.

THE STORY OF LUMBERING

The richest natural resource of the Beaver and Pound areas, in the latter part of the nineteenth century, was its vast acreages of virgin forests. The sandier lands produced the magnificent white and red pine trees, and the clay loam soil nurtured the beautiful stands of hard woods, mostly maples. The swamps held many cedars, pine, hemlock, and tamarack, each of which eventually found a use and a market.

The way in which this timber was harvested and put to use forms an interesting saga in an interesting land.

After the forests of Maine, New York, and other eastern states, had been logged off, the lumber barons moved westward and started cutting down Wisconsin's rich timber.

The Peshtigo Company was incorporated by an act of the Wisconsin legislature and was approved on October 11, 1856, and March 15, 1859. The articles of incorporation of the Peshtigo Lumber Company were recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Marinette County, December 31, 1897. This company bought up much of the land which is now Pound and Beaver. The company's name appeared on the abstract of John Johnson, Douglas Nelson (formerly Nels Anderson), Roman Dolato, and others. However, properties belonging to Gisemas, McMillan, Taftezon, and Jorgenson did not have this company's name on their records. These people acquired their land directly from the United States government by homesteading their land.

Logging operations began, in and around Beaver and Pound, in 1870. At that time, there was only a demand for pine lumber. White pine was "king" and commanded the highest price. Its white wood produced a smooth, satiny finish when planed. It was used primarily for making doors, windows, frames, and trim.

Red pine was also in demand. This tree resembled a pine that grew in Norway and many of the early lumberjacks came from Scandinavia and they nicknames it the "Norway Pine". The wood from that tree had a reddish tan color and wasn't as desirable as a finishing wood. However, these trees grew tall and straight and their fibers were long, thus making it a strong lumber. The lumber from these trees was used for structural purposes.

Logging was done primarily in the winter, and camps were set up along the North and South Branches of the Beaver and its tributaries and the Peshtigo River on various level pieces of land. There was a bunk house, a cook shanty, a tool shed, a blacksmith shop, and other buildings, depending on the size of operations. Some camps were pleasant, but others were dismal. The buildings were always rough and would be abandoned as soon as the timber had been removed. Food and other supplies were brought in by a company supplier, who usually started out from Peshtigo.

The lumberjacks were a group of strong, young men who worked hard and put forth a lot of effort. Any weaklings

were quickly ostracized. Each man had his specialized job, whether it was pulling on one end of a cross cut saw or making the ice roads necessary for moving the logs to the landings. They arose before daylight, consumed a large breakfast, and were working before the sun shone on a new day. At noon a hot lunch was brought out by the cooks or cooks' helpers. They worked until dusk, often arriving back at camp after dark.

In 1900 they received about twenty dollars a month, and their board, for those long hours of labor. Most of the men stayed for the winter and didn't return to their homes until the spring drive had delivered the logs to the mill. The Peshtigo Company floated their logs down the smaller creeks, such as the Whiskey and the Murphy, by means of dams. When these dams were opened, the water would carry the logs to the next dam. These smaller creeks emptied into the North and South Branches of the Beaver. These branches join the Beaver Creek on the Wierzarek farm and eventually empty into the Peshtigo River. The Peshtigo Lumber Company then drove their logs on to their mill in Peshtigo. The "drive" sometimes lasted a month, and the men were often thoroughly wet during the cold spring days. Their clothes were often frozen stiff before they returned to camp at night. However, one seldom heard of a lumberjack who got sick.

The trees were generally cut at waist length. They were always cut above snow level, for it was easier to work from a standing position. There was no thought of conservation or of cutting a shorter stump to obtain more lumber. The forests were considered inexhaustible, and the main plan was to cut as many logs as possible in one season. Often the loggers left long treetops in the slashings because they were less than twelve inches in diameter and not considered adequate for the standard log size.

By 1900, however, it suddenly became evident that the great pine stands were gone forever, and the Peshtigo Co. sold the cutover property to land-hungry immigrants or to other prospective land hunters.

In some of the sales of land contracts, the lumber company reserved the rights to enter upon their sold land to remove all pine trees suitable for saw logs for periods as long as ten or more years after the sale. High rates of interest, seven and eight per cent were charged on the mortgages, and the company's legal department was often able to sell a piece of land several times. Each time some improvements had been made and the property was consequently worth more money. Many of the immigrants signed contracts they were unable to read.

Another rapacious practice was the reservation of all mineral rights ever discovered on the property for all time. William Ellis, of Peshtigo, was only one of the dealers who always included this clause in his contracts.

That "cutover" land still contained beautiful stands of hardwoods, and the cedars, hemlock, and tamarack were practically untouched. Only the unsightly pine stumps served as a reminder of the stately pines which had been cut down earlier. As time passed and the pine trees became scarce throughout the settled parts of the nation, the demand for the remaining types of trees grew more insistant. Small logging camps cropped up in numerous places around Beaver and Pound to harvest these trees. The settlers often worked in these camps during the winter months and left their wives and children to tend their farms and animals. Cash was very scarce, and the men were able to earn money for taxes, interest on the mortgage, for a team of horses, nails and windows for their buildings, and for many other expenses with which they had to cope.

Many of the jobbers worked for lumber companies and were paid by the cord of logs taken out or by the forties they logged off. These jobbers set up smaller camps than the big companies who had logged the pine trees previously, but their operations were similar.

Small sawmills sprang up in many places. They were almost always located near a stream so the logs could be floated there and so they had ample water available for the boilers. These mills always used steam power, and bark slabs often provided the necessary fuel. Because the sawmills were of wood construction and because there were always many slashings, a lot of sawdust, dry scraps and boards around, sparks from the wood fires often set the mills on fire and destroyed the buildings, machinery, and the whole year's production of lumber stored in neat piles nearby. There were no guards for the saws or the many belts, so, working in these sawmills was extremely hazardous. Men were frequently injured while working there.

Many of the first houses and barns of the settlers were made of cedar logs. They were light in weight and were more resistant to rot than other logs. The settlers, also, made the cedars into four foot blocks, and with a broad axe they made shingles or "shakes", which were used for roofing and sometimes for siding.

Shingle mills became common and cedar was hauled to these mills and sold or sometimes made into shingles for the settler, who then paid his bill in labor or with extra cedar logs because cash was so scarce.

Cedar poles were also cut for use as telegraph poles and were shipped all over the country. The smaller poles were used for telephone and electric line construction, which was taking place in the settled regions of the entire country.

There was a great demand for ties to be used in railroad construction. There was a mill in Round for squaring the logs that were needed to extend the railroads into new settlements, and for the spurs which were

constructed, to all the mills.

Cedar was preferred, but hemlock and tamarack were also used. Any logs too small to be profitable for converting into lumber were suitable for ties.

The settlers who first purchased lands covered with handwoods had difficulty finding a market for their trees. Hardwoods were hard to saw, difficult to float in the shallow streams, and heavy to handle. The Matt Maloney family bought acreage west of Pound, in 1880, but, they were not, then, aware of the numerous uses for the stands of hard maple located on their property. They wanted cleared land for farming, so, they cut the maples down and stacked them to dry until they could be burned. Only later did the settlers find a variety of ways for using their hardwoods.

Charcoal kilns were built later, in Pound, to the west of the railroad and south of the railroad station. Mr. Joseph Brooks operated these kilns between the years of 1893 and 1903. The very best hardwood brought about two dollars a cord, delivered to the kilns.

The Holt Lumber Company built a flooring mill in Oconto about 1906, and hardwood logs from Pound and Beaver were shipped there. This ready market provided the settlers with some necessary cash, but handling hardwood was strenuous work at a time when little machinery was available and perhaps only one horse was the sole source of power for handling the heavy logs.

Black Ash, elm, basswood, and oak, were shipped to Green Bay. The wood from these trees was used to make wooden pails for jelly and lard and to make barrels to hold crackers and meat, especially pork. Hardwood left no wood taste on the food it contained.

Wooden pails, used in dipping for well water and for watering horses, were, also, made in that particular factory.

There was a similar factory in Peshtigo before that thriving village burned in 1871.

The Tamarack, too, found its place. Tamarack framing, for a barn, was the strongest wood available. Green tamarack planks, joined together with spikes, would never be separated. As the tamarack lumber dried, the long, tough fibers hugged the nail and it was virtually impossible to pull out the spike. That made a strong barn and the settlers soon realized that fact and made vital use of the sturdy wood in their barn building.

There are a few portable mills in the Beaver Creek land now. Occasionally one can see a small mill set up in a farmer's field for sawing, some second growth trees into lumber for some new building or remodeling project he plans. However, these operations are small in size and the job only requires a few men for a short period of time.

The logging camps, the saw, and shingle mills, are

only memories now,as are the stately forests that once stood on our good land. The natural sequence of growth from nurse trees, such as popple, to pine to the climax forest of hardwoods will, perhaps, never be repeated in Beaver and Pound, but, the era of lumbering was unique and interesting in this area, as were the sagas of cowboys and cattle drives in other regions of our diversified and cherished country.

MILLS AND LOGGING CAMPS

The Armstrong Mill

Ferdinand "Pinochle" Armstrong operated a sawmill in the northwest corner of the present Sylvester Meyers farm. The property belonged to Otto Lohner for many years.

Mr. Armstrong was commonly called "Pinochle" Armstrong, because of his fondness for the game.

There were eight or nine houses built near the mill. Mr. Armstrong owned and operated a boarding house and a store. He owned all of the property from the present Jule Henquinet farm to the railroad tracks. He farmed some of this land and raised hay, oats, and field peas, for his own horses and sold the surplus amounts to other loggers. He had a beautiful orchard and dried the apples from it to sell to logging camps.

His first wife was an Indian, who is buried, along with some of her children, on the present Neiland farm, and, his second wife was a Mc Cormick, from Green Bay.

His brother, Mose Armstrong, operated a combination hotel and saloon. This saloon was located on the southwest corner of the first crossing east of Beaver. It burned down, as did the Armstrong Mill.

The Tagatz Mill

Several years after the "Pinochle" Armstrong Mill burned, Henry Tagatz built and operated a mill, from about 1900 to 1905, at almost the same site as the old mill. The Tagatz Mill sawed lumber and made shingles.

The Coulard Mill

The Coulard Mill was located behind the present Scandinavian Lutheran Church, in Beaver, on the South Branch of the Beaver Creek. A spur was built to this mill across the P.A. Taftezon (Presently owned by Elmer Johnson and across the Jorgenson (now belonging to Tony Peterson) land. John Johnson performed several jobs there, such as rolling the logs on the carriage, setting the carriage, and serving as a millwright and blacksmith.

The mill buildings that remained after production stopped were put to practical use by the settlers. The Scandinavian Lutheran Church services were held in the largest building up on the hill, and the services continued there until a new church was built. An organization known as Good Templars, which was dedicated to

prohibition and claimed a large local membership, also held their meetings there. A Sunday School used these same buildings for several years too. The Peter Makelas, A.W. Wilson, Chris Taftezon, Andrew Hall, and other families made their homes in the abandoned buildings until they were able to erect homes on their own land.

The F.X. Hammes, Sr., Mill

This mill was located on Little Nelligan Lake, and Hammes logged the surrounding forties. In 1901 the mill boiler blew up and the story is that the boiler is still somewhere in the Lake. William Squires, father of Ed Squires, lost his life in the explosion.

After the explosion, Mr. Hammes remodeled the mill and continued to operate it until 1906. After that he supplied logs to the William Mattrisch Mill.

The Holt Lumber Mill

This mill is still operating in Oconto. In the period from 1890 to 1910, much of the hardwoods of the Beaver Creek settlers was sent to this particular mill with many of the loads being shipped by rail. The company also had logging camps where Armour's shipping station is nowlocated. A spur railroad track ran to the adjacent Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul Railroad. An ice road extended through the McMillan farm from this camp to the Northwest, and its general location can still be seen.

The E.E. Bowles Mill

This mill was the largest sawmill in the area. It was located on the Little Peshtigo on the site of the present Orlando Dam. There were buildings on both sides of the river on the location of the present Hanrahan's supper club and home. The lumber company also owned a general store there. The company had considerable land and operated its own logging camps. The workers built ice roads to reach parts inaccessible to waterways.

Their large operations included a sawmill, shingle mill, lath mill, and planing mill. The lumber yard extended all the way to the present village of Colman along the west side of the road, and sawdust from the mill was piled in the roadway. In 1905, men received $ 1.98 a day as wages and paid one dollar to board there. The mill continued to run until 1915.

The horse barn from the camp was moved north up

the hill and was used by Otto Zeitler until he built his present buildings.

The Isaac Dunnoe Mill

This mill was located three miles west of Pound on the South Branch of Beaver Creek. The remains of the boiler foundation are still visible. This mill burned down several times and was rebuilt.

Mr. Runnoe had lost his rightarm just below the elbow. Story has it that a horse bit it off when he was young. However, Mr. Runnoe could drive a team as well as anyone else by hooking the lines in the curve of the elbow that was left.

This mill was in operation from 18[illegible] to 1910.

(Contributed by John Slavy)

The Sam Hamilton Mill

A logging camp and sawmill was located on the South Branch of the Beaver and known as the Sam Hamilton Mill. The dam situated at that point created a pond where logs were kept until they could be sawed.

This was one of the first sawmills in the region and was in operation from about 1870 to 1895.

(Contributed by Myrtle Mc Millan)

The Fred Tachek Mill

This mill was located on the Tacheck farm and the land is still owned by their son, Albert. [illegible] small mill and the proprietor sawed lumber for himself and for relatives and friends.

The Gillen and Warning Mill

A position east of the railroad track behind the present Pound Feed Mill was the site of this mill. It operated until 1905. Louis Gillen's grandfather built the mill and his father was killed there.

The Smith and Tuddle Mill

This sawmill was located on a sandhill back of the ranger station in Pound. It had a dug well which supplied

water for the boilers. In 1889, one of the boilers blew up and five men were killed. This ended their operations.

About 1955, two children fell into the well. An older sister of one of the children climbed down into the well and held the children above water until some help came, but one child evidently hit his head in the descent and died of his injuries.

The Brault Mill

Odelean Brault, commonly known as Johnny Brault, built his mill north of the present Ernest Banaczak home on the North Branch and near the railroad tracks. One can still see the foundation of the boiler used in the mill. It was chiefly a shingle mill, but their operations included sawing lumber. This mill functioned from about 1900 to 1906.

The Glawe Mill

Two brothers, Melvin Glawe and Lewis Glawe, had their mill right on the west side of the Peshtigo and north of the present bridge on County Road P. Theirs was a sawmill and a shingle mill. Many people called it "Glover's Mill".

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schultz now live in the house which was occupied by the Glawe family, and the Schultzes and Ervin Boerschinger own all the land where the mill and the lumber piles stood.

The Mattrisch Mill

The "Mattrisch boys" worked at Brault's Mill in Pound when they first came to America.

William Mattrisch built a mill on Gilas Lake. His land had never been logged (even the pine trees were still there), so most of the logs he sawed came from his own property. He also did custom sawing for the residents of Reeds Hill and other communities. The mill still lands and much of the machinery is still intact.

Gottlieb Mattrisch and sons also did a considerable amount of sawing in their mill, which was located on a stream connecting Broderick's Lake and Little Nelligan. This mill was in production until 1935 when it was then dismantled.

The Fred Stank logging Camp

Fred Stank hauled logs across Brook's Lake and had a camp south of Brook's Lake on the Murphy Creek. He hired a sawmill to come in and saw his logs. At one time, there were big piles of lumber on the banks of the creek. John Shevy worked in this mill and rolled the logs on the carriage. These happenings dated back to 1909.

After Clarence Graetz and Sons started making small portable mills, a number of men bought these mills and moved from farm to farm sawing the logs harvested on the various farms into lumber needed by the farmer.

The Wagg Sawmill

John A. Wagg was the builder and operator of the first sawmill in Pound, in 1880. The Village of Pound was founded by Mr. Wagg in the same year, 1880.

THEY TURNED TO AGRICULTURE

When the very first settlers arrived in Pound and Beaver, the chief activities centered around lumbering. Men were lumberjacks, cooks, swampers, teamsters, sawyers, filers, store and saloon keepers. Building of railroads also afforded employment, but, since the railroads received their income from moving lumber products, it could be said that almost all income was derived from the forest.

After the best pine was removed, the land was opened for sale. Lumber workers remaining in the areas bought a forty or two as close to the settlement as possible, then relatives and friends purchased adjecent parcels of land.

Oftentimes the little clearing had many stumps on it and the land was spaded and hoed around these obstructions. At first only a garden was planted. The women and children tended the garden as the men worked long hours each day. This garden had fresh vegetables to last throughout the summer and fall and potatoes, carrots, rutabagas, and cabbage to be stored for winter. They raised field peas for drying and navy beans for use in their good home-made soups.

The vegetables were usually stored in the root cellar because few of the early log houses had basements. Cabbages were hung from the root cellar roof and often lasted all winter. Carrots were often put in pits that were dug below the frost line and were retrieved in spring. If the winter was too severe, they would freeze and were like salve and could not be used. Some years they were as crisp and fresh in spring as when they were first stored.

The larder was supplemented by gathering the abundant blueberries, raspberries, and blackberries. These were canned or dried for winter use. Apple trees were planted in the clearings long before the stumps were removed. The apples were also canned or dried and stored in the root cellar.

The meat consumed was largely products produced at home. Sometimes pigs were allowed to roam the woods to find their own food and then brought home for fattening in the fall. The children picked acorns to help feed them. Pork was a staple. Sometimes a 200 pound hog was butchered, fried down, and the whole pig was put in a big crock. This pork did not spoil and it would last indefinitely as long as the meat was covered with melted fat. Hams and bacons were home-smoked and kept for summer use.

As the fields became larger, the settler obtained a few cows, and his herd got larger in proportion to cleaned acreage. The cows were watched by ten and twelve year old children who would leave with the cattle early in the morning and return with them in time for evening milking. They had no clock, but, the animals themselves knew when to return to the sheds. Occassionally a calf was butchered but it was impractical to butcher a cow, for it was too much fresh meat to keep for any length of time. Cows no longer wanted were usually sold to cattle buyers who made regular calls on each settlement.

Rabbits were plentiful as were the deer, and these and other game supplied food for the tables of many settlers. The young children of the family often provided a meal of fresh fish. Older children and adults were too budy to fish. Chickens which they raised, also, supplemented the food supply.

As the fields became larger, the lumbering industry tapered off and most of the settlers lived by farming. They planted oats for their horses and wheat for themselves. They also began raising tame hay for their animals. Beginning farmers fed the cows mostly straw all winter and they produced no milk. In the fall the cows started eating a strawpile and by the time bad weather came, they had eaten out a hole large enough to provide themselves a shelter of sorts.

Most of the harvesting of the grain was first done by hand. It was cut with a "bow" or a "cradle" which left a swathe. This was picked up by hand and tied with its own straw. Before the advent of threshing machines around here, the grain was flailed by hand, usually on the hay barn floor, after the fall work was finished.

A load of wheat and rye was taken annually to Lena, with horses and a wagon, to be ground into flour by the workers in the Netzer Grist Mill there. It was an all day trek and the farmers had to leave before daylight. Children were happy to be allowed to go on such an outing and they made a picnic out of the trip by taking a box lunch along. The road between Beaver and Lena was so bad that the farmer had to be careful to select a day when he could get through. It was also a catastrophe if it rained, especially on the return trip, but he always carried blankets to cover the precious flour. The farmer paid the miller by leaving a stipulated amount of grain for the bill. He hauled the bran back for his animals' feed.

As the farmer's fields became larger and he became more prosperous, he was able to build a big barn with the stable below and the mow above. The foundations were made of field stone and a good stone mason was much in demand. The plank frames were built on the ground and were raised by the neighbors in a barn raising bee. Barn building was a speciality of some carpenters and these men and crews often lived with the farm families until the barn was completed.

The log houses were replaced by frame homes which were often large but seldom convenient. The house was the status symbol and the barn and its animals were the measure of a man's success.

Between 1912 and 1922 the raising of sugar beets was a cash crop on Beaver and Pound farms. The patches ranged from ¼ acre to big fields. "Pinochle" Armstrong had seventy-five acres of sugar beets at one time and the William Hirton farm boasted of eighty acres being utilized in sugar beet production. Men, women, and children worked in these fields, chopping (thinning) and weeding the beets. Mrs. John Gusick remembers weeding rows of beets on the Hirton farm which extended across a forty, and she received thirty-five cents for each row.

In the fall, a machine dug under the beets to loosen them, but hand labor was required to pull them out and top them. This work was done in the fall when it was cold, and the juices which ran on the hands and arms of the workers caused them to become chapped and cracked. The beets were put into shallow pits and covered with tops and straw. Sometimes they remained there until after a snowfall when the Menominee Sugar Company, which had contracted for them, was able to handle them in the factory. They were shipped to Menominee by rail and the farmers were paid cash. Sometimes farmers took part payment in sugar.

Potatoes were the "mortgage lifter". They were a very popular cash crop as early as 1900 and were still important in 1944. Though prices fluctuated, a farmer who planted yearly potato crops was sure to hit a good year and to make a goodly cash sum, at least occassionally.

During World War I potatoes brought five and six dollars a hundred. John Gusick remembers bringing a wagon load of potatoes to Pound about 1918 and paying his mortgage with the money from his sale. John Johnson, Mrs. Neil Mc Millan's father, lost his wife and his son in one year, and he was able to pay for both funerals by selling a load of potatoes. But, the prices weren't always that good and many potatoes were sold for twenty cents a hundred.

Field peas were also an important cash crop. This was often the first crop planted on the new land, and because the land was so rough, sowing and harvesting consisted solely of hand labor. They were cut with a scyth, dried in piles, and, in later years, thrashed by machine. Good, bright peas could be depended upon to bring in a high price. The Pierre Store bought many of the peas and a carload would be shipped at one time. This practice continued from 1880 until 1930.

Navy beans were similarly raised. They had to be dried on poles in the falls, after which they were threshed by flailing on the hay mow floor. They were then winnowed and cleaned in a fanning mill. Clean white beans brought the best price. In the evenings or on rainy days, the farm family would place a pile of beans in the middle of the kitchen table for sorting. The dark beans were discarded and the good, white beans, were slipped into a bowl held on the lap. Evening work was done by candlelight or by a kerosene lamp.

Cucumbers and beans were still another means of ready cash. Children were able to pick them and add to the family income. As the years passed, children picked cucumbers and beans for their own spending money, until machinery was also invented to replace the hand labor forces.

After the good prices of World War I, the farmers were able to buy more land and more machinery. The size of their herds also increased.

The first income from the cows was in home-made butter. The farm women vied with one another in making a good product.

Many took their butter to Spyhalski's store and were given their pay in trade. Mr. Spyhalski would taste the butter, judge its quality, and pay accordingly.

The farmers in many areas then organized and formed co-operative cheese factories. Milk was taken there each morning and the milk cans were filled with whey to be fed to the hogs. These activities date back to 1920 and 1922.

Most farmers had "separators" to separate the cream/ from the skim milk. The cream was picked up twice a week and hauled to the creamery to be made into butter, while the skim milk was fed to the calves and hogs. It was often difficult to get an accurate test on a can of cream, and so many farmers were unhappy about their cream checks.

Washing the separator and "scalding" its parts was a daily task which the women soon had to accept as part of their everyday job.

In approximately 1927, the White House Condensary, at Marinette, began picking up whole milk at the various farms. Bigger cheese companies also sent trucks out to pick up containers of whole milk to be used in their factories.

In the early 1930's, the Public Service built lines through Beaver and Pound and the farms near the villages. It was not until almost ten years later that the farmers west of the village organized and became a part of the R.E.A., or, Oconto Electric. Not all farmers were interested at first because of sad experience with coops in the past.

After the advent of electricity, milk machines, washing machines, refrigerators, and other improvements formerly enjoyed only by urban dwellers, became a part of rural living also, and by 1955 there was even a television set in most farm homes.

During World Wat II, dairy products were greatly in demand and the federal government subsidized each milk check. Incomes were high and farmers who were well entrenched in farming expanded more and purchased more machinery. Many farmers started raising canning peas and corn, and many acres were used in that way for cash crops.

As the demand for food lessened after the war, many small farmers were unable to meet the increasing demands for new machinery and for the bigger herds and barns, which were necessary to support the farm unit. Farms then had to be sold to the surviving farmers, and the small farmer, who was unable to compete, either moved to a city or worked in some industry nearby. His fields were rented or sold to a neighbor, put into cash crops, or put in soil bank. Many buildings stand vacant, or have been razed. Some owners do a limited amount of farming and either the man or the woman works elsewhere for a salary.

The day when a man could raise a family of eight children by carefully farming forty acres is over. Farming in Beaver and Pound is now big business and it is growing even bigger.

Several successful farmers in each community are forging forward while others seek their income in various other ways.

In a survey taken in a class of twenty-five, sixth grade children, in 1964, only one child's family obtained one hundred percent of its income by farming.

Pickle Salting Station

In 1908 the village of Pound donated a lot for a pickle salting station. It was north of the feedmill. It operated until 1931 and the building was abandoned in 1935.

A similar station was erected north of the depot in Beaver. It continued operating for many years, but was abandoned in 1950.

Ford Garage

In 1915, William and August Seils, Jr., erected a Ford garage next to the Pound Bank. They sold and serviced cars for many years. Then, in 1920, they built the present garage building, standing on what was known as the Driscoll property. The building measures 60 X 130 feet, and is built of cement, brick and tile. They installed the latest machinery and at that time it was the most modern and best equipped garage in the county.

At the present time the garage is operated by the Wolf brothers.

Chevrolet Garage

In the early 1900's, Adolph Penkowski and Charles Wunderlich operated a livery stable in the town of Beaver. In 1915, when they saw that cars were becoming popular, they decided to make the transition to a garage. In 1916, they opened a garage and sold Fords and Chevrolets. They operated their garage until 1924 when Mr. Simon Banaszak bought their business. He continued selling Chevrolets in Beaver until 1947 when he moved his business to Crivitz.

Oil Filling Stations

In the early 1900's, the Standard Oil Company delivered its products from Marinette to this area in horse-drawn tanks. It took two days to make the trip. In 1912, the oil company placed tanks on the railroad right-of-way and built a warehouse in the rear of Brooks' store, in Pound. Hugh Bahlert was made agent to deliver in this territory. He continued to use horse-drawn tanks until 1918 when he started using an auto truck for delivering.

Seils Brothers were the first to set up a filling station in Pound. Now there are many stations in both Pound and Beaver.

Sugar Beet Industry

In 1905, the Sawyer Company, of Marinette, rented 105 acres of land from Ford Armstrong, Senior, and some from William Herton, of Pound. On this land they planted sugar beets to sell to the Menominee River Sugar Company to be processed into sugar. As the sugar beet plants grew, many children from

Beaver and Pound were hired to work in the fields. Older boys were hired for $1.00 a day to hoe the rows and thus remove the extra sugar beets, leaving plants to grow about eight inches apart. Girls and boys about ten years old followed and pulled the tall weeds that grew in the tufts that were left. They earned only 50¢ a day. Last came the older girls, about fourteen years old, who crawled down the rows on their hands and knees to remove the small weeds and the extra sugar beets, so that only one sturdy plant remained in each block. Their wages were 75¢ a day.

The Sawyer Company operated these farms for only a few years. Then farmers contracted individually for raising the sugar beets.

Potato Buying

The first potato warehouse was built north of the railway station in Beaver, near the sidetrack, in the early 1900's, by Herman Tagatz. It was a huge building, but was later remodeled to its present shape. Outside potato companies bought the potatoes at first. Louis Penkowsky was the first local buyer. He bought for the O.B. George Company. John Banaszak was the next buyer. Then the building was sold to Axel Carlson, in 1946, and he converted the building to an egg plant.

The second potato warehouse was built south of the station by John Jenquaine, around 1912. The first buyer was August Gall. This building was bought by Christ Hanson, of Chicago, and then was razed. A new building of tile block was built on the same site. Barney Nelson was the buyer in this building, from 1927 to 1935. The largest shipment in a year during this time was 100 carloads of potatoes.

The warehouse is now operated by John Salewsky.

The Egg Business

Mr. Axel Carlson started in the egg business in Beaver, in 1946, in the former potato warehouse north of the railway station. When he started his business he traveled to South Dakota for eggs. They were taken to Oconto and made into powdered eggs for the government.

At present all routes are in Wisconsin. He buys from farmers as far south as Appleton and sells to Iron Mountain and Northern Michigan. The eggs are candled, graded, and put into cartons. He, also, freezes eggs for bakershops. He has five employees working for him.

The Pound Bank

The Farmers State Bank, which maintains offices in Pound and Coleman, was chartered on July 15, 1915. The first President was Otto Keinig, who served for one year. When his term expired, R.J. Brooks was elected to the office, which

he held until his death in 1959. Since its beginning the assets of the bank have grown to more than $4,000,000.

Present directors of the bank include Dr. Graner, Laura H. Culver, Frank Rost, August Seils, and Robert O. Stadelman. Mr. Stadelman is the vice-president and the cashier. Lorraine M. Woller is assistant cashier, and Leona Martz is manager of the Coleman office.

Bait Box Industry

Mr. Walter S. Cole's entry into the making of bait boxes, one item of the general line of fishing tackle, came about more by accident than design.

Mr. Cole was employed as station agent for the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad at Beaver, but being very fond of stream fishing, he tried his luck whenever conditions permitted. However, he was not quite satisfied with the old stype bait box then on the market. He started making one that suited him. This experimental work was done in the depot as he had time to spare, but had to be on duty.

The trainmen used to drop in at times and would ask what he was working on. When he told them of his ideas, they became interested and asked for one when they became available. This was all hand work and done at odd times. Finally he was in a position to produce on a small scale, and soon his product became known among the trainmen, who used to buy them at Beaver and take them to the railway employees at different points.

In 1917 and 1918, a salesman used to use the train for transportation from one town to another. One of the trainmen bought a bait box from Mr. Cole and showed it to this salesman who traveled for a wholesale hardward firm in Green Bay. He, in turn, reported it to his superior, and Mr. Cole had a request for a sample. This sample brought forth an order from the firm and it was not long before the wholesale houses learned of it. They, also, began buying from Mr. Cole. In this way the distribution increased, until at the present time the sales are from Maine to California, wherever there is a stream for fishing.

In the beginning it was all hand work, even to cutting parts by hand shears and doing the painting by hand. Gradually some machines were installed along with the necessary dies and other assembly tools, so now it is on a factory production basis. The boxes are no longer painted, but are made of a prefinished material which is called lithographing. It really is printing on metal instead of paper.

The depot was closed in 1931. However, Mr. Cole had enough customers at that time to keep himself and several others busy with the employment of making bait boxes.

Graetz Manufacturing Company

Clarence Graetz and his son, Edward, started a small repair shop on their farm in the late twenties. They were so skillful that neighbors and relatives brought their machinery to the Graetz farm to be repaired.

In the early thirties, this father and son team built a shop on Highway 64. It was located where the present office of the Graetz Manufacturing Company now stands. In this shop, they repaired farm machinery, built wagons, and manufactured trailers and tractor manure loaders. They also built small saw mills, which were very popular throughout the area and many of which are still operating.

Mr. Paul Patz became interested in barn cleaners and worked on various models and changes in his own barn. Then Clarence and Edward Graetz experimented with Mr. Patz on improving and revising their ideas. They gradually developed a machine which was very satisfactory. The machine cleaned gutters and loaded the manure directly on a spreader. The barn cleaner depended upon a special link which formed a continuous chain. At first, each of these links was hand-forged, and it took considerable time to build one cleaner. One of the first barn cleaners was installed in the Rudolph Stank barn, where it is still in operation.

Early in the firm's development, Emmett Graetz joined the company, and Clarence Graetz's two other sons, Loren and Harold, joined the company more recently.

The business grew steadily and employment there has risen from the original father and son to over 150 employees.

The steel used is trucked in from Indiana and northern Illinois.

Parts for the Patz Barn Cleaner and Silo Unloaders, the Clover Sprockets, and custom work for many concerns today, comprise most of the work done in the Graetz Company.

The present officers of the Company are: President... Edward Graetz; Vice-President...Emmett Graetz; Treasurer... Loren Graetz; and, Secretary...Harold Graetz.

The Patz Company

In 1948, Paul Patz began building a barn cleaner for his own barn. He worked on it in a log shed on his farm, which is located west of Pound. The first models did not satisfy him, so kept working and making changes.

Mr. Clarence Graetz and his son, Edward Graetz, who are neighbors of Mr. Patz, also helped him make some improvements.

In 1952, Paul Patz built a manufacturing plant on Highway 141, between Pound and Coleman, and he marketed more and more of his barn cleaners. The endless chain, with the famous patented link and the unloader which allows the manure to be emptied directly on to a spreader, made this barn cleaner very popular, and it became the nation's leader in barn cleaners.

The company has also developed other products, which have been accepted favorably by farmers throughout the United States. Other manufactured items,carrying the Patz name, are silo unloaders, cattle feeders, manure stackers, silage carts and blowers, pipe clamps, and manure spreaders.

The company has found it necessary to enlarge their building three times. The last addition was completed in 1963.

The Patz Company markets its products all over the United States and Canada. At present, they are considering the European market.

Paul Patz is president of the organization.

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