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CENTENNIAL HISTORY
OF
Highland, Illinois
1837 1937

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Prepared by A. P. Spencer
DEDICATION

To the generations of men and women, who have lived in Highland and vicinity and aided in the progress and development of our civic, moral and industrial life, this story of early and recent years is most respectfully dedicated.
PREFACE

The greater part of the local historical matter that appears in the following pages has in times past been published in the Highland News Leader and was avidly read by a goodly percent of Highland people. Many readers tried to preserve the files of the paper containing the historical articles and others clipped out the columns that were most interesting and preserved them in scrap book form. However, hundreds of readers were unsuccessful in getting the record in the form they wanted it and have repeatedly requested that the whole be published in book form.

The approaching Centennial celebration of the founding of Highland makes the present time a most appropriate one in which to accede to the requests, and in consequence we are reproducing in book form the most interesting and pertinent portions of the historical matter that appeared in the News Leader, arranging it in proper sequence and adding thereto such recent history as will aid in giving every reader a clear perspective of the first one hundred years of the life of Highland.

Highland Centennial Association.
ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Many of the records left by early Highland people were written and printed in the German language, as were also the first newspapers published here. The needed translations from those historical records were made mainly by Rev. C. E. Miche. The needed translations from the old newspapers were made mostly by O. F. Hoffmann, but to some extent by Louis Lory and Mrs. Edward Pacatte. I acknowledge my indebtedness to each of them.

I also wish to express my appreciation of the help that has been given me by numerous elderly people of Highland, some of whom are yet living but many of whom have now passed on. They were very kind and indulgent and their stories of the past were helpful in putting the writer on the right track for much of his investigation. Their helpful interest made the work less laborious and I am deeply grateful.

A. P. Spencer.
SOURCES

The local data contained in this book has been gleaned in part from the writings and records left by some of the first settlers, particularly among whom were Joseph Suppiger, Dr. Casper Koepfli, Jos. Koepfli, and most helpful of all, the historical writings of Jacob Eggen.

Records left by a later generation of scholarly men have also been of vast help to us. Prominent among these were Heinrich Bornstein, Adolph Bandelier, Dr. Bernard, John R. Blattner, Chas. Seybt, and John S. Hoerner.

In addition the writer has had access to and made frequent use of Highland newspaper files that date back to 1857. "Der Highland Bote," "Die Highland Union," "The Highland Herald," "The Highland Journal" and the "Highland News Leader" have all been consulted as occasion made it necessary.

The records of Highland Village Boards and City Councils have also been available and such statements as pertain to municipal life can be fully verified therein.

Such events of the past twenty-five years as are chronicled herein have come under the personal observation of the writer and are presented as truthfully as possible.
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Before the Coming of the Swiss

It is claimed that the first white settlers to locate anywhere near the present site of Highland came from Kentucky and North Carolina in 1804 and settled in the southeast part of what is now Helvetia Township. Prominent among them was one Joseph Duncan with his wife and first child (born during the trip to Illinois). A dozen years later he became an important figure in the life of this community. He had located in Section 15 and in 1817 was made the first Justice of the Peace in these parts. A Justice was a personage of vastly more importance in those days than he is now and Mr. Duncan continued as such an official for more than forty years. For many years he also had a postoffice at his place on the east side of Sugar Creek. Not until after Highland had blossomed into a settlement of some pretensions did the Duncan home site cease to be a legal and social center for the community. The land which this early pioneer settled still remains in the family and is now farmed by one of his great-grandsons, Lawson Duncan.

At about the same time that Duncan settled there, the Higgins and Hobbs families settled farther to the southeast near the Clinton County line in what is now the Sugar Creek neighborhood. Later came other families who settled near. Among them were Herbert and John Hobbs, Geo. and Lee Cuddy, Alexander Forister, James Gingles, John L. Hearin, Jas. and Morris Ramsey, Robin Craig, John Gracey, Allen Bryant, B. Gullick, Thos. Savage, Adam Kile, Calvin Lee and Oliver Hoyt.

All of the above named people located at places south and east of Highland. They did not at first buy the land, but “squatted” at any place that suited them. A dozen years later after Illinois had become a State, many of them secured title to the same tracts on which they had squatted and made improvements.

In this connection we might describe one kind of outrage that caused no little trouble to the early settlers here during the first years that Illinois was a state. Many of the settlers located on and built house and barn on tracts of land to which they had no title. They figured on acquiring title later. Unscrupulous land dealers knew of this condition and took advantage of it. They would purchase of the Government for $1.25 an acre a quarter or half section on which they knew improvements had been made and then force those who had made the improvements either to pay them $4 or $5 per acre, or give up possession. Rather than lose all the improvements they had made the early settlers in many instances complied with the demands of the land dealers.

It is said that the first bona fide land owner in Helvetia Township was Wm. Morrison, a merchant and contractor of Randolph County, who, in April, 1815, received a territorial grant for the land now known as section 36.

About the same time that the families mentioned above moved into
the country southeast of Highland a number of other families were similarly "squatting" on land north of Highland. Among those families were Howards, Husers, Chiltons, McAllilly, etc.

Only a few of the families north or south were there during the War of 1812 to have any experience with unfriendly Indians. During that war British agents incited the Indians to espouse their cause and such families as were located here at the time had to be ever on the alert to prevent Indian atrocities. After the War of 1812 was over and a good part of the danger of Indian troubles past, immigrants came in increasing numbers. A few years later, in 1818, Illinois was made a state and that gave better government and more secure land titles.

The mode of life experienced by the people who resided near here in the years between 1804 and 1830, would not be endured today under any circumstances. Their food was of the plainest, the meats consisting largely of wild game. For cereals they had corn and more corn, crudely ground, but deliciously baked. Later on this was varied to some extent with wheat. For fruits they had what they could find in a wild state during the summer season. But despite these dietary limitations, they seemed to acquire all the vitamins necessary for life, strength and growth and we presume were just as happy as we are today.

Their clothing was of the coarsest and plainest: home spun cloths and home tanned furs furnishing the greater part of it. Tallow candles furnished such light as they had at night. Whenever enough of them were located close together a primitive school would be conducted at one of the homes and religious services held on Sunday. Nearly all of them believed in the John Wesley, Alexander Campbell or Peter Cartwright brand of religion, which met their spiritual needs at that time.

During the quarter century that elapsed between the coming of the first settlers and the emigration of the early Swiss, small settlements sprang up at Edwardsville and Marine. From 1812, when Illinois was made a territory, to 1818, when it became a state, Edwardsville was the seat of government. We can presume that these early settlers made trips to Edwardsville and also to St. Louis which at that time was bigger than Highland is now. But such trips were not accomplished with the ease that they are today. It took two days to go to Edwardsville and return and the best part of a week had to be devoted to a trip to St. Louis and back. This inconvenience caused them to establish stores and trading points at convenient places just as soon as possible.

Most of the country around here at that time was covered with timber but two large prairie tracts were near Highland and had their influence on the early settlement here. It is said that the first house built north of town was built by a widow Howard of Tennessee in 1809. She selected as a site a ridge at the edge of the timber, affording an excellent view of Looking Glass Prairie. Later this became the Rillett place and was named "Sonnenberg" (Sun hill). About 1818 the Samuel McAllilly family settled a short distance north of the present
site of Highland for the same reason. His early location afterwards came into the hands of the Lorenz family and was farmed for many years by Ed. Lorenz. The McAllily family plays an important role in local history because it was with them that the first Swiss people stopped when they came here in 1831.

Father McAllily was an active man. He planted the first fruit trees in this section which was then called the McAllily settlement. He was of Scotch descent and born in South Carolina. One night he shot and killed a panther measuring nine feet from tip to tip. The animal had been in a tree on the present Ambuehl farm. At that time deer were seen daily tripping over Looking Glass Prairie in droves of from ten to fifty and other game of all kinds was also plentiful. Elk, bears and wolves were not uncommon.

The early settlers around here took life easy, hunting, trapping and planting only what they needed for themselves, and their necessities were very moderate. The first Swiss to come were not favorably impressed with the natives in some ways. Solomon Koepfli wrote back to one of his friends in Switzerland as follows: "It is true that our eyes were often offended when we met men whose naked knees and elbows were exposed through their tattered clothes, looking miserable. These indolent and aimless people compose the greater part of the inhabitants of Illinois and that is what probably causes them to be nicknamed 'suckers.' But in another letter Koepfli stated that in their rough and rude surroundings they were honest, sincere, hospitable and very kind to their neighbors.

The above quotation from Koepfli should be kept in mind by our readers because it shows that the foreign immigrants who came after 1831 had little in common with the native squatters on the lands near here, and it will also explain the gradual withdrawal later of most of the native families.

The tribe of Indians that roved this section prior to the coming of the white man was the Kickapoo. The only time they made any trouble was during the War of 1812-14. They then became hostile and began plundering, stealing and murdering. The early settlers often had to take refuge in the so-called "forts" of that time, which consisted of a number of log cabins surrounded by a log stockade. One of these forts, (Chilton's) was located a short distance west of the present site of St. Jacob and was a secure refuge for all who sought it. Another fort (Cox's) was near old Aviston. Mrs. Jesse Bailes was shot and killed by Indians on Sugar Creek in 1814. After that war was over, however, such Indians as remained near became peaceful and caused no further trouble. As far as is known the first white child born in Helvetia township was H. M. Duncan on Dec. 16, 1816. The first school was conducted in a private cabin on Sugar Creek by one George Ramsey. Religious services were also held there.

Up to the time the first Swiss came not more than 25 families were
in the township and they had under cultivation not more than 500 acres of land, all told.

One of the most urgent needs of the early settlers, removed as they were from towns, was salt. To meet this need in 1823 William Briggs, who came from Kentucky, after finding a saline brine on Silver Creek in Section 19 of Saline township, sunk a salt well to a claimed depth of 440 feet and started a salt works, the first industry ever attempted near the present site of Highland. It did not pay sufficiently and was soon abandoned.

(Ed. Note—We are inclined to doubt that part of the above story that has to do with the depth of the salt well. We do not think there was any equipment in the U. S. at that time with which a well could be drilled to such a depth, and especially not in this remote section.)

The First Swiss Settlers Arrive

In the decade between 1820 and 1830 a German by the name of Gottfried Duden had emigrated to the State of Missouri and had lived there several years. On his return to his native Germany, he capitalized his experiences by publishing a book describing the State of Missouri as a wonderful new country where emigrants from Europe could easily get a start and live more happily and acquire more property than they could in their native land. Following the publication and circulation of his book German immigration to Missouri increased by leaps and bounds.

Copies of Duden’s book also found their way into Switzerland where at Sursee, in the Canton of Luzerne, lived one Dr. Caspar Koepfli, who had long cherished an ambition to lead a colony of his countrymen on a voyage to the new country. Dr. Koepfli eagerly read Duden’s description of the new country and then entered into correspondence with the author in order to elicit further information than was given in the book.

Dr. Koepfli at that time was a man of mature years. He was born at Neuenkirch, Switzerland on April 17, 1772. He was educated in the best schools that Europe then afforded and took up the practice of medicine. He had practiced very successfully for thirty years, had practically raised his family, and was in good circumstances. He had also had much experience as a military surgeon. Much was printed in Europe at that time extolling the advantages of America, and Dr. Koepfli was discerning enough to know that Swiss people would make excellent immigrants. That country had begun to feel overpopulated and he realized that it needed an outlet for its people and also that the new America needed such immigrants as the Swiss would be. He afterwards claimed that he made the first trip solely so that he could best advise residents of Switzerland how to go about immigration in the most economical and effective way. We suppose a desire to travel and to see the wonderful America also helped to influence his action.
It is claimed that he entertained the ambition to remove to America for about twenty years before he finally put his plans into action.

Finally early in the year 1831 he completed arrangements for the immigration and persuaded a number of his relatives and friends to come with him. In the party were the following people all from the town of Sursee, Switzerland: Dr. Caspar Koepfl and his wife, three of their sons, Bernard aged 27, Joseph aged 23 and Solomon aged 17, two daughters, two of his nephews, Joseph and Anthony Suppiger, both young men, a hired girl and a carpenter, Alois Kapeler. In the same party were four other men from other Swiss localities: Joseph Vonarx, Sebastian Keller, Caspar Helfenstein and Moritz Guissheuser, making in all a party of fifteen people. Dr. Koepfl's entire family did not come along; one son, also a doctor, remained in Switzerland and did not immigrate until about eight years later.

The party assembled their baggage, bade friends and relatives good-bye and left Switzerland in the spring of 1831, going to Havre, France, where they took passage on a sailship, "The Henrietta," for New York City. Jos. Suppiger kept a diary during the voyage from the time they left Switzerland until their arrival in St. Louis. There is only one copy in existence so far as we know. Ferdinand Jehle of Connecticut has it.

The immigrants arrived in New York City in July, 1831, and from there proceeded to come to St. Louis by the way of the Hudson River, Erie Canal, Lake Erie, Ohio Canal, Muskingum River, Ohio River and Mississippi River. Just why they took such passage as that is hard now to understand. But it is very likely that they listened to some advance agents who had exploited such a route as the best. Canals were a new thing in this country then and were receiving much publicity, and doubtless the party of Swiss immigrants were impressed.

At any rate from New York City they took passage on a steamboat and went up the Hudson River to Albany. The Erie Canal from Albany to Buffalo had been completed in 1825. That course is 363 miles long, and in it are some 70 or 80 locks. Buffalo is 568 feet higher than Albany; therefore locks are necessary. In his diary Jos. Suppiger made a drawing to show how the change of level was possible. Travel along the canal was in long, slim packet boats, drawn by horses that walked along the bank, the connection being like that on a side draft sleigh. We do not know how long it took the Swiss immigrants to get through the Erie Canal, probably more than a week. The best time ever made for the distance was 3½ days by using constant relays of horses and keeping them moving on the trot all the time.

After arriving at Buffalo, N. Y., they took a steamer on Lake Erie to Cleveland, O. The lake was very rough and the party suffered more seasickness there than they had while crossing the ocean.

From Cleveland they traveled south through a waterway composed of the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas rivers supplemented with the Ohio Canal, going by canal boat to Dresden, in the northern part of Mus-
kingum Co., Ohio. There they hired a flatboat on which they loaded their belongings and floated down the Muskingum river to Marietta, Ohio. From there they took passage by river steamer on the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to St. Louis. One of the first things Dr. Koepfli did after arriving at St. Louis was to write letters back to Switzerland cautioning future immigrants not to follow the route he did in coming to St. Louis, but to come by the way of New Orleans. A steamship ticket from France to New Orleans could be purchased just as cheaply as one to New York City and the trip up the Mississippi was much cheaper than along the route he had taken.

After arriving in St. Louis some of the men in the party obtained work, but Koepfli and his family devoted themselves to looking over parts of the state of Missouri available for settlement. The country there did not suit him at all. It was very broken, and was all timber and would have to be cleared before it could be cultivated. He also did not like the institution of negro slavery which at that time flourished in Missouri. After spending a few weeks looking it over, he decided against locating in that state and turned his attention eastward to Illinois.

Vandalia was at that time the capital of Illinois, and the party made a trip there to acquaint themselves first hand with desirable locations in the state and also with methods of acquiring land titles. The trip to Vandalia was made by going directly east from St. Louis to the present site of Sandoval and then north to Vandalia. Even at that time there was a well marked road from St. Louis to Vincennes, Indiana (the old State Road, now U. S. 50), and they followed that as far as they could. Most of the country seen on the trip there was heavily wooded and suited Koepfli about as little as had Missouri.

When they started to return to St. Louis they took a more direct route which brought them near the present site of Highland and Koepfli got a look at Looking Glass Prairie. He realized at once that this was the kind of location he had been seeking, and stopped over here with some of the natives to learn under what conditions he could get ownership of some of the land.

Buying Land and Founding Homes

After having decided that the wooded edge of Looking Glass Prairie was the place where they wanted to found a settlement, the Swiss immigrants set themselves promptly to the task of acquiring some land and moving their effects from St. Louis to the new location.

Before doing so, however, they entered into a contract intending to work on the community plan. The contract that they drew up was rather an elaborate affair and too lengthy for production here. Joseph Suppiger was made the bookkeeper for the company and the contract was written by him. A copy of the contract, and also of the book he kept covering all activities is now the property of Leo Ammann. He began his record by making a careful inventory of all the property the
different members of the company had on hand. Everything that the Koepfli family had was carefully listed, with a cash value placed on it, and everything that the Suppiger brothers, Joseph and Anthony, had was also carefully listed and a cash value placed on it, and all was turned over to the Company that was formed on Oct. 1, 1831, while the immigrants were staying in St. Louis.

Not all of the party of immigrants who came over together entered into the Company or community plan, only Dr. Koepfli, his three sons, the Suppiger brothers and Joseph Vonarx. It is not known what became of the other four men that were in the party, but it is presumed that some of them probably obtained work in St. Louis and later returned to their native land.

The ones going into the Company plan also pooled their monies on Oct. 1, 1831, and then had a capital of $6,195.23.

While they were yet staying in St. Louis they made their original purchases of land in the name of the Company buying altogether about 700 acres of land for $2,177.38. After they had moved out here, late in the year 1831 and early in the year 1832, the Company purchased about 350 acres more for $550 bringing their total holdings up to more than a thousand acres at an investment of $2,727.38, or $2.70 per acre.

This thousand acres of land was not in one contiguous tract but was very much scattered and only a small part of it was in the present limits of Highland. 240 acres of it was in Section 32, Saline township, 300 acres in Section 31, 80 acres farther north in Section 20, where the Ed Ambuehl farm now is, and 160 acres a mile farther north in Section 17. Why the purchases were thus scattered we do not know nor is there any record left. During the next few years the Company and also different individuals acquired title to other neighboring lands.

The record shows that they bought a horse, named Fritz, for $60, two cows and calves for $20, 3 bee hives for $6, 26 chickens for $2.25 and 21 hogs and a cow for $48 and many other similar investments in live stock. Before leaving St. Louis they also bought a lot of farming tools, household furniture and equipment. They had one bit of bad luck with one of their purchases made in St. Louis. They paid $2.25 for a big jug of whiskey to take with them to the new home, but broke the jug before getting started. The record shows that they then invested $3.37 in a small barrel of whiskey, which presumably would not be broken.

With all preparation made, the immigrants left their temporary quarters in St. Louis and moved to the new home, coming through Edwardsville on the final trip here. On their arrival they were quartered for a time at the McAllilly home north of town until such a time as they could erect a house.

The Community or Company contract entered into on Oct. 1, 1831, did not prove to be a workable plan and did not last but about a year. Entries a year later showed that the property was divided up and held afterwards separately by the Koepfli and Suppiger families. Several
years later quite a bit of hard feeling existed between the families which probably grew out of their Company contract.

For a few days after their arrival here the immigrants stayed at the Thos. McAllilly place north of town, some of their land having been purchased of him. They at once went to work to erect a double log cabin in which they spent the first winter. Some of the natives assisted them in the erection of the log house, which was quickly put up in the approved manner of that day. Logs were cut in lengths to suit the size of the cabin desired. The sides were shaped with an adze or broad-ax so that they would lie close together and the ends of the logs were so hewn as to interlock at the corners and make the building strong. Rafters were laid and a covering of thatch of any kind obtainable had to suffice for a roof. In one end of the hut a big fireplace was built of wood but carefully plastered with mud so the cabin would not catch on fire. This fireplace served not only to heat the house but to cook the food. The Swiss newcomers had been used to tile stoves in their native country and such accommodations as were afforded by a fireplace seemed very primitive to them.

Their arrival was too late in the fall for any work to be done that year except the erection of the house in which the entire Company spent the winter of 1831-32. But they were industrious and added to their cabin many little niceties that the native Americans never thought of.

The men of the party that winter enjoyed as never before the hunting of wild game. All of them were good shots with a rifle, as were all Swiss people at that time, and the younger Koepflis and the Suppigers spent much time in the heavily wooded country, shooting the wild game that was plentiful. Deer and wild fowl were to be had in abundance and every day during the winter the young men brought home good kills.

During that first winter they also had plenty of time to write long letters to their friends in Switzerland. In these letters they described in great detail all the particulars of their voyage across, and gave glowing accounts of the lands and people they had seen. They realized at once, that, if the community was to develop into a worth-while place, more new people must come—people who knew how to work and make from raw materials the many things the community needed. Where to get those people was the question. It was no use to go to St. Louis and try to get skilled workmen to come from there. St. Louis people could easily learn what the living conditions were, and would not think of enduring them. The only thing to do was to persuade more of their countrymen to immigrate, and they began at once to work toward that end.

During the winter of 1831 and 32 they put in all their spare time writing letters to friends and relatives they had left in Switzerland. The parents of the Suppiger brothers lived in the home town in Europe, and one son and many other relatives and acquaintances of
Dr. Koepfli lived there. To all of these they wrote long letters describing in great detail all about their trip and all about the new country. Everything they wrote was eagerly read in Switzerland. Relatives read the letters first and then handed them to neighbors. At firesides and in public places they were discussed; Koepfli's description of Looking Glass Prairie filled them with wonderment. Many of them had never seen a tract of level land bigger than a few acres. They marveled at the price of the land, so cheap in comparison to the Switzerland price. Could it be true that such high wages were paid in the cities? How long would it take to save enough to come back home and retire?

Suppiger's diary was published and had a ready sale. It described the whole trip, the journey from Switzerland through France to Havre, the embarkation on ship, the wonderful ocean voyage, New York City, bigger than anything in Switzerland, that wonderful Erie canal, then one of the greatest engineering feats ever accomplished, the great size of the country, where a small farm was not an acre but 160 acres, the abundance of wild game, the magnitude of the forests, the trees so tall and straight that you could split out rails and build more fence in one day than you could build out of stones in Switzerland in six months. All these things and many more were faithfully described in the letters and they instilled into the relatives and friends of the immigrants a strong desire to come to the new country. A few announced their intention of making the trip. That helped others to come to a decision. The parents of Joseph and Anthony Suppiger determined to come.

More Swiss Settlers Come

The efforts of the first Swiss settlers to get more of their countrymen to immigrate and settle in this community began to bear fruit in 1833 when the second contingent left their native land, and at Havre, France, took ocean passage for New Orleans and from there came up the Mississippi river to St. Louis on a steamboat. All future immigration was by that route. Among those who came during that year were Joseph Suppiger, Sr., the father of Joseph and Anthony Suppiger, who were members of the first party. He was accompanied by his wife and his third son, Melchior. In the party were his brother, Johann Suppiger, and family, consisting of wife, three sons, Xavier, John and Bernard, and two daughters. Other immigrants from Switzerland in 1833 were Johann and Rudolph Blattner, Wm. Hagnauer, Jacob Eggen and the Buchmann family.

Whether or not all of the above came at the same time, we could not learn, but all of them arrived during the year 1833. Neither can we say for certain that they were all who came that year; no source we could obtain was definite on that point.

During the next year, 1834, five daughters of John Suppiger, Sr. and his son, David, arrived. From the names given thus far it is easy to be seen that the Suppigers were better represented in the early life of the settlement than any other Swiss family.
When these immigrants arrived in St. Louis, they put up at taverns along the river until such a time as their relatives on "Riga" could be apprised of their arrival. The relatives then would make the trip to St. Louis, advise the new immigrants as to purchases that had best be made before leaving that city, and the whole party would make the slow and tedious trip to New Switzerland, as the settlement was called. The trip frequently took more than one day to accomplish.

The new immigrants all brought some money with them, and they promptly proceeded to buy farms of the native Americans, who were the original "squatters" on the land. The price paid ranged from $1.25 to $5.00 per acre. The purchase of land generally included such cows, hogs and chickens as the owner possessed. The records of sales that have been left lead us to believe that there were very few horses obtainable around here at that time. Or it may have been that the Swiss immigrants had not learned to appreciate their value.

After selling his land and possessions the "squatter" would generally load up his family and few household possessions and move on to some other place.

Most of the land purchased by the new comers was in Saline township north of where Highland now is located. Father Koepfli, as Dr. Casper Koepfli was called, had built himself a home on what is now known as the Ed. Lorenz farm and the Suppigers had built a home where Ed. Matter, Sr. now lives. At this place Joseph Suppiger, Sr. died, just a few months after his arrival, and his body was carried from there north and was the first one buried in the present Highland cemetery.

Let us digress here to state that many of the early immigrants were bitterly disappointed when they arrived at the new settlement. In their imagination they had pictured conditions to be much better than they actually were. They had cut loose all moorings in the old country and besides did not have the necessary money for a return trip and all they could do was to stay and make the best of it. In the past hundred years there has been many a case of homesickness among new comers to Highland, but we doubt if any in later years suffered as poignantly from nostalgia as did some of those during the early years of Swiss settlement here.

Dr. Koepfli's residence north of town soon became a kind of center for the people in the new settlement. He was the only physician in the country and all cases of sickness were treated by him. His advice was also sought on all matters concerning the purchase of land and other legal matters, and his place was the first refuge sought by all the new immigrants.

After the second lot of immigrants arrived in 1833 we find that there was no arrival of any number of new people for several years. A few kept coming once in a while but no large numbers. One of the early writers explained the situation in this way. He states that the first settlers, the Suppigers and Koepfli, over-exploited the new country
and that, when the second body of immigrants arrived in 1833, many of them were bitterly disappointed and did not hesitate to write back to their friends in Switzerland and state in plain terms that they had been deceived. This caused a temporary lull in immigration.

Thus it happened that the first settlers by overdoing the matter of exploitation partially defeated their own purpose. They did not get skilled workmen to immigrate at once in the numbers that they desired, and it was several years later before several of the tradesmen most needed in the new settlement put in their appearance. But meantime those who were here were doing the best they could for themselves. They mingled freely with the native Americans, but were sometimes disgusted with the shiftlessness of the latter. However they helped the Americans to build cabins and the Americans in turn helped them.
The early settlers experienced their greatest trouble in getting work done that required the service of a skilled woodworker or a blacksmith. There was a fellow who had a shop near Sugar Creek church, who could do fairly good work at making parts for a wagon and they had to go to him, a distance of six miles when they wanted any work of that kind. The nearest blacksmith had his shop on Deck's Prairie, 5 miles northwest and they had to go to him for any metal work. Frequently they needed both woodworker and blacksmith and then they would have to make the trip of 11 miles from one to the other. The only place near where both kinds of work could be secured at once was at Lebanon, and that was a long way off in those days when there were no roads of any kind. Frequently they had to stay over night there as the round trip was too much for one day. And again, if the Lebanon smiths happened to have a lot of work ahead they had to remain for several days, or make another trip to get the finished work.

All this delay did not bother the native Americans much. They had more time than anything else, were at home wherever their hats were off, and rather seemed to enjoy hanging around a place and waiting for work to be done. But it was very irksome to the Swiss settlers, who had set about in earnest to build a settlement and establish permanent homes. They did not like to waste time waiting and they tried to get the smiths to move closer to the new settlement, but to no avail. Not until after Highland was platted and a few houses built were they successful in getting workers of that kind to come and stay.

The Swiss emigrants soon began to improve on the quality of the homes they built and they also tried hard to make living conditions better in every way. We have been told that they were the first to raise wheat and potatoes in order to get an improved diet. They also raised chickens in great numbers, and eggs and poultry soon were seen more regularly on the tables than they are even now. To illustrate how plentiful these were a story is told of one immigrant here who wrote back to his relatives in Switzerland that he was overfed on eggs and chickens. Now in Switzerland at that time there was a ready market for eggs and poultry, and in consequence they were not found on the tables of the poor except on special occasions. Here there was no market and all that were produced were eaten. But the Swiss relatives got the idea that if this man was overfed on eggs and chicken he must be rich, sleek, and fat. The relatives themselves emigrated and were met in St. Louis by the overfed one. He had to make the trip to St. Louis to meet them in very bad weather and, on his arrival there, was soaked with rain and besmirched with mud. One of the old ladies had been expecting a finely dressed gentleman to meet them, and when she saw him and his condition she gave vent to her disappointment saying, “So you are the man who is fed up on eggs. I had expected to see some one more neat and clean.”

During the 6 years that elapsed between the first coming of the Swiss and the founding of Highland there was no church or school
in this locality. There was a church at Pocahontas, of what denomina-
tion we do not know, and Presbyterian religious services were held
in a school house at Sugar Creek. However the early Swiss population
did not regret so much the lack of a church as they did the lack of a
school, and the best information we can get is to the effect that the
children living in this locality at that time attended a school west of
here in St. Jacob township and one to the southeast in the Duncan
settlement.

In 1833 another event occurred that had its effect in our local his-
tory. Some families by the name of Thorp had settled in St. Jacob
township and began prairie farming. In 1835 a relative of theirs,
Nathan Thorpe, emigrated from Stratford, Conn. and settled in that
township. Importance was attached to his coming because he had a
family of five good-looking, grown daughters. They were high-spirited,
attractive Yankee girls and their fame and name spread for miles
around. Among others who were attracted by these girls to the Thorpe
home were the young men of New Switzerland including young Joseph
Suppiger. He had the manners and address, having been originally
educated for the Jesuit priesthood, he could speak English fluently,
and it was not long until he won the heart of one of the girls, Mary
M., and on March 22, 1837, she became his wife.

Relative to the marriage a story remains that three of the girls
were married at the same time, a Rev. Benson, performing the triple
ceremony, but no record is left of the names of the men who married
the other two girls.

Having now a wife and need to provide for a family, Joseph Suppiger
began the erection of a home. It was the first house built in the present
city limits of Highland and was located on the present Martin Huber
lots on West Main Street.

The Platting of Highland

During the winter of 1836-37, at the regular session of the Illinois
Legislature, appropriations were made for the building of railroads in
various parts of the state, and among others, an appropriation of
$1,600,000 was made for a railroad to connect Alton, Ill. with Mt.
Carmel, Ill. It was figured that this road would go through Helvetia
township about where Highland is now located. General Semple was
then Speaker of the House and lived in Alton. He had a number of
relatives in the East and they were alive to the speculative possibility
connected with the ownership of land along a new railroad. They
purchased a number of tracts in Madison County close to where they
thought the railroad would go in the hope that they might hit a future
town site and be able to sell at big profits.

The early Swiss settlers were then in and around Highland to the
number of 50 or more, but they took no interest in the proposed rail-
road until one day two strangers, General Semple and another, rode
into the community and began asking questions about the ownership
of the land. They particularly wished to talk with Jos. Suppiger and Dr. Koepfli, the earliest Swiss settlers. Jos. Suppiger was at the time engaged in building his dwelling. General Semple told them that he and others had purchased 80 acres of land here and in view of the building of the railroad they proposed to plat a town site. He asked Jos. Suppiger, Dr. Koepfli and J. Reynolds, a Justice of the Peace, to take part in the enterprise. After some consideration the local men agreed to the proposition that 100 acres be platted into a town site. Jos. Suppiger donated 40 acres on which the above-mentioned home stood. Dr. Koepfli gave 40 acres just east of that and Semple & Co. two 20-acre tracts just south of these two forties. The northern boundary of this tract was what is now Eighth St., the eastern boundary was Olive St., the southern boundary was Thirteenth St. and the western boundary was Chestnut St. along the Mill railroad switch. Benalnah Robinson was then Surveyor of Madison County and he was called on to make the survey. The tract was divided into 45 blocks, 300 feet each way, each block divided into 12 lots, 50x140 feet. Each block was bisected by an alley, 20 feet in width, and the streets between the blocks were to be 60 feet in width with the exception of one street east and west which was to be 100 feet wide as it was supposed the proposed railroad would run through on that street. The streets were all named, but since the names at that time do not agree with present names we will not confuse readers by giving them.

The entire platted tract extended 9 blocks east and west and 5 blocks north and south and comprised considerably more than the 100 acres planned. As near in the center as was possible one full block was set apart for the public to be used as a park and for any other public purpose desired. The public school building was until recent years located on that block.

When it came to naming the new town, the founders could not agree. Suppiger and Koepfli favored such names as Helvetia or New Switzerland but Semple thought a more American name should be chosen. The name "Highland" was finally agreed upon as it suggested both the Scotch nativity of Semple and the altitude of Switzerland, the beloved fatherland of Suppiger and Koepfli.

The Public Sale of Town Lots

It was decided to hold a big public sale of the lots and the date set for it was Sept. 16, 1837. They had no newspapers or printshops in which to have advertising matter prepared, but Semple had a notice of the sale published in an Alton paper and also in an Edwardsville paper. But in the main the advertising of the event was accomplished by sending a rider to all neighboring settlements and communities to inform them of the event, to tell them how they could make money by buying a lot for a nominal sum and make a big profit by holding it until after the railroad was built.

The day of the sale arrived, a warm September day although the
previous two weeks had witnessed excessive rainfall. The crowd that assembled was disappointingly small to the town-site promoters; it numbered not more than a hundred men in all.

No one could come from west of Silver Creek or east of Shoal Creek because of the high water, there being at that time no roads and no bridges. The Swiss settlers from north of town were all present and the near-by natives. Several came over from the settlements in St. Jacob township and a few from the Marine settlement. The latter however were not much interested as they figured that if the railroad went through Highland it would also go through their settlement. Men rode up from Sugar Creek and from the Duncan settlement, a less distance southeast.

Many of those who came had no intention of buying anything nor did they have any money. But a gathering of such size was a rare thing in those days and not to be neglected. The natives from near-by settlements all came on horseback with rifle slung over the saddle and powder horn attached, which was the customary method of travel then. Each man was also followed by a pack of hound dogs, and it is claimed that the presence of so many of the latter occasioned several good entertaining dog fights before the sale of lots started.

Some of the natives who attended had an ulterior purpose in doing so. They had heard of these strange Swiss folks who lived close by, of their queer habits and funny language, and were prompted by a desire to get a first hand view of them and to hear them talk in a foreign tongue.

When the crowd was assembled and all was ready Constable Nick Kyle of the St. Jacob settlement was introduced as the auctioneer. He was a dapper little fellow, capable and energetic and had a good voice and a lively imagination. He conducted the assemblage over the site of the entire 45 blocks that had been platted, explaining to them that the railroad would go through on the 100-foot street and that lots fronting thereon would be most desirable for business locations and that residence locations should be selected on back streets where the noise made by the trains would not bother so much.

The entire town site looked very pretty on that September day with the exception of a good sized pond which covered a few blocks in the vicinity of where the shoe factory now stands. The heavy rains had filled the depression with water, but Auctioneer Kyle readily explained how easy it would be to drain it and assured prospective buyers that the railroad builders would either fill it or effectively drain it.

In the crowd that had gathered were some skeptics and some knockers. A few claimed that the town site had been platted in the wrong place and that the railroad would not go through here at all. This argument discouraged quite a number from buying lots.

Finally everything was in readiness, the site had been looked over and the sale began, the auctioneer standing on a crude wagon at a point which is now the intersection of Main and Walnut Streets, the
Columbia Hotel corner, from which a view of most of the town site could be obtained except where obstructed by trees.

Auctioneer Kyle announced the terms and conditions of the sale stating that, if any one who purchased a corner lot would obligate himself to build a house thereon within a year, he would be given the adjacent lot as a bonus. Also he said that anyone who would buy a corner lot not wishing to build thereon but to hold it for speculation would be given an inside lot in any part of the town where he did wish to build providing he would build thereon. He also announced that any lot would be put up for sale on which any person present desired to bid. The auctioneer did his best but the people present were not enthusiastic and the sale was a failure. Wesley Dugger of St. Jacob township bought the corner lot where the Ford Motor Service now is located and received the one next to it free. Right after the sale he built a small frame house on that corner and started a small country store, the first merchandising attempt in the present limits of Highland.

When it was evident that the people present at the sale did not intend to buy very many lots, a hired bidder bought several corner lots at $80 each. After the sale was over he was encouraged to hold them as a bargain. He kept them two years and then when it was learned that the railroad bubble had exploded, he sold them at less than half what he had paid for them. A few of the Swiss people bought lots at the sale, the most of which were located in the northwest part of the plat near where Jos. Suppiger had built. They wanted the lots for residences later and the speculative idea did not appeal to them. The native settlers who had ridden in to attend the sale refrained from doing any bidding. They had no vision of a town building up here in a few years and were not interested in making money that way.

All in all the sale was a big disappointment to its promoters, but they put a cheerful face on the matter and a free lunch was served to all who attended. It is claimed that the total cost of that lunch was $10.50, and it was served in an improvised shed adjacent to the newly built home of Jos. Suppiger, with Suppiger's young Yankee wife, whom he had married six months previously, officiating as the charming hostess.

Although not many lots had been really sold at the public sale, yet it did serve to advertise the town site thoroughly, get some improvements made thereon and made the future sale of lots much easier.

After the public sale Semple and his associates withdrew from the scene and gradually disposed of their holdings as best they could, and in the end we presume that they made some financial profit out of the enterprise. But they had no connection with the future development of Highland and drop out of the picture entirely.

To young Joseph Suppiger must go the honor of being the town builder. He was in it, and he was going to see it through. He had been put to no little trouble and expense to get the town site platted,
the surveying done, the instruments properly recorded, and while thus engaged had entertained visions of what might be here at some future date. But he realized at once that industries must be started on or adjacent to the town site which would cause other people to want to come here.

The only industry, other than farming, that was started prior to the platting of Highland was the pottery works started on the Lorenz farm north of town in 1835 by Jacob Eggen, who made pots for the White Lead factory in St. Louis. Eggen and a few associates did all of their own work in connection with this.

Suppiger realized that an industry must be started that would help sell the town site and the one most needed at that time was the one that occurred to him, that of a steam mill to grind grains. He accordingly began to plan to that end and to arrange for the necessary capital that the enterprise would require.

Meantime the Swiss immigrants who were here had become accustomed to living and working under existing conditions and were sold on the new home and its possibilities. They wrote back to relatives and friends urging others to come and their efforts began to bear fruit at once.
First Houses and Industries

Although the public sale of lots in the town site of Highland in September, 1837, was a most pronounced failure, not more than a tenth of the 528 platted lots being sold that day, yet we do not want our readers to get the impression that the promoters lost any money thereby. They did not. The land platted had cost them but a few dollars per acre, and before the sale power of attorney had been given Jos. Suppiger to convey any and all of the lots. This power was left with him. After the sale Semple and Bagby lost interest in the proposition altogether, and three years later Koepflí lost all interest and sold his part to Suppiger. Reynolds never did have any financial interest in the proposition. In time Jos. Suppiger came to own nearly the whole town site and he richly profited thereby. As the town developed the lots became more valuable and he disposed of them as opportunity offered, and we find that he was still selling lots twenty years later and selling them at very fancy prices for those days. If the property owners in Highland will refer to the abstracts covering title to their lots they will find that nearly all of them were first conveyed by him.

The first dwelling built on the town site after the lot sale was a log hut erected where the Steiner Bros. store now stands, in the 800 block on Broadway, and the story of that log hut is quite an interesting one.

The log house had originally been erected near the town site by a Yankee squatter named Montgomery. Among other emigrants who arrived from Switzerland in the summer of 1837 was a Heinrich Meier and he bought the Montgomery farm. He had some money and did not like the idea of living in the log house, and immediately began the building of a frame house. He hired a carpenter, Max Mueller, who had arrived that same year to help him with the work and contracted with Max for the sale of the log house at a price of $25. Max paid him $5 down and later paid $20 more with the understanding that the log hut was to remain where it was until Max could acquire a lot in Highland on which to place it. Max finally secured a location for it and arranged to move it and then discovered that in the meantime it had disappeared. Another fellow had taken it and already had it up on the Steiner lot as above stated. To make a long story short, Max had to buy the lot on which it stood in order to come into full possession of his log hut. They had a queer way of adjusting property equities at that time.

All this happened in the few months that followed the public sale of lots. Meantime Jos. Suppiger had begun the erection of a steam mill, on the southwest corner block of the platted town site, the site of the Highland Milling Co. for 90 years afterward.

As soon as Max Mueller came into possession of his log hut he rented it for a month or two to Anton Buchmann and the latter boarded some men who had begun work on the mill. Meanwhile Buch-
The author's conception of Highland on January 1, 1838, showing the log hut where the dance was held, the Eagle Inn, the residence of Joseph Suppiger, the store of Wesley Dugger and frame work of the mill which was being built.
mann was erecting a frame building in the same block which later became the Eagle Inn, at about the present site of the Columbia Hotel. By January 1, 1838, he had this finished and moved into it, taking his boarders with him. Several men had come in from other localities to help build the mill and an eastern millwright, named Gale, was supervising the work. All of these men boarded with the Buchmanns and gave them a start in the hotel business. New immigrants also were arriving all the time and had to be cared for at the hotel, unless they had relatives among those already here.

After the Buchmanns vacated the log hut it was rented to a newcomer from Bern, Switzerland who started therein a "Schnaps Kneipe" or booze joint where he sold whiskey. On New Year's Day, 1838, he gave a big dance there, the first public dance ever given in Highland. The log house was about 20 feet square and had two doors but no windows. In one corner a whiskey barrel was used for a bar and in another corner Father Leder took his position with his violin and the dance was soon in progress. The dance floor was constructed of rough-hewn oak boards and far from being level or waxed, but that did not hinder the dancers most of whom wore hob-nail shoes which they had brought from the Old Country. All afternoon of New Year's Day the dance was kept up and apparently greatly enjoyed by the young men and women who participated in it, the floor being filled to capacity all the time. When it began to get dark about 4:30 in the afternoon, the dance had to break up for the very good cause that the proprietor had no means of lighting up the cabin so that it could continue. The participants wended their way home, tired but happy, as a result of the afternoon's pleasure.

This Father Leder, whose musical talent is frequently alluded to in the early history of New Switzerland, was the grandfather of the late John and Jacob Leder and came here from Switzerland sometime prior to 1837, and seems to have enlivened many a gathering of the first settlers with his music.

Before we close the story of this log hut we might say that it was allowed to remain on that site for a number of years, but having no windows it soon went begging for tenants. But during the time that the town was getting started many very poor families arrived here from Switzerland, families who had spent their last penny in making the trip here, and a number of them were allowed to occupy the log hut temporarily until they could go to work and earn money to obtain better quarters. After a few years it fell into the hands of a man, who tore it down and built a residence there, the walls of which were of clay and straw. Only two houses of that kind were ever built in Highland. They were not adapted to this climate.

If an airplane picture of Highland could have been taken on Jan. 1, 1838, it would have showed the residence of Jos. Suppiger of which we have written, a frame house used for the Eagle Inn, the log hut
An airplane view of Highland as it appears today when approached from the southwest.
where the dance was held, Wesley Dugger's little frame store at the corner of Broadway and Pestalozzi and the preliminary frame work for a steam mill on the city block at the southwest corner. Not much of a town, you will say, but it was at least a start and during the next few years development was more rapid.

Right at the time of the founding of Highland the United States was in the throes of what was perhaps the greatest business depression it ever experienced. It is known in history as the "Panic of 1837" and was occasioned by overdevelopment and too much speculation in wild cat investment schemes. It made business difficult here because not much money was in circulation and other things had to be used instead at exchange value. One thing that probably helped greatly here was that a constant stream of immigrants were arriving from the old country and in most cases they brought some perfectly good money with them and it got into circulation soon after their arrival.

Despite the fact of the panic Jos. Suppiger and his associates went right ahead with the building of the mill. He well knew that the successful completion of that enterprise would guarantee the growth of the town and he pushed it as rapidly as possible. The engine, the mill stones and all equipment had to be purchased elsewhere and transported from St. Louis by ox teams. The latter months of 1837, all of the year 1838, and the first months of 1839 went by before the task

The mill, founded by Jos. Suppiger in 1837, as it appeared 80 years later after being remodeled many times. It has now been razed
was at last completed and the mill ready to operate. In connection with it a saw mill was installed and the industry made Highland the center of activity for this section of the country and assured its future growth.

Before Suppiger got through with his project he enlisted the financial assistance of Caspar Meyer and Dr. F. Ryhiner and formed a partnership known as Joseph Suppiger & Co. Dr. Ryhiner was not at that time a resident of Highland. He practiced medicine in Marine from 1835 to 1837, and then for three years in St. Louis. His financial assistance was what was desired. Later he moved to Highland and started the first bank.

**Highland during 1838, 1839 and 1840**

The mill when completed in 1839 had a capacity of 30 barrels of flour in 24 hours. A saw mill was constructed adjacent, so that the same power would do for both, and for six years they were operated without any change and that block was the center of business activity. They made good flour and people for miles in every direction came here to get their wheat and corn ground, and those nearer hauled in their logs and had house and barn patterns sawed out.

Quite a number of single men and not a few families moved into the community during the winter of 1838-1839, but in the spring of 1839 two young men arrived who were warmly welcomed. One was a wagon-maker named Kruker from St. Gallen, Switzerland, and the other was a blacksmith named Lang from northern Germany.

Kruker, as soon as he learned that there would be a big demand for his services, erected himself a shop on the block somewhere near where the Hundsdoerfer Bakery is now located on Ninth Street and Lang built a shop on the next lot east. Jacob Eggen was the first man to give them an order for a two-horse wagon. They made it and it was a good one, the best that was to be found in this part of the country. After that orders came a plenty and the two men had all the work they could do. Business fell off with the Sugar Creek wagon maker who was not so skillful as Kruker and he eventually sold out to the latter who continued at the trade in Highland for a number of prosperous years. Lang, the blacksmith, did not long remain here. He removed to Nauvoo, Ill. in 1840 where Joseph Smith and his colony of Mormon adherents were then founding a settlement. However his going was not missed in Highland as before leaving he sold his shop to another smithy just as capable as he was.

During the year 1838 Elijah Ellison built a little building and started a store on the lot where the three story brick now stands just east of the Columbia Hotel and late in 1838 or early in 1839 David T. Thorp built a building at about the present location of the three-story Spindler building on Main Street and therein he also started a little
store. You will thus see that the store business was overdone even in those days. By the end of 1839 the town had three stores and not much over 50 inhabitants.

However Thorp's store soon came to be the leading one and he was shrewd enough to have himself appointed the first postmaster of Highland, which brought added business to his place. Previous to this time the mail had been received once a week from Troy, Anthony Suppiger, the grandfather of Leo Ammann, being the carrier, making the 52 trips back and forth necessary for the salary of $76. Before getting it from Troy, it had been received from a place called Clifton's in Clinton County.

The rates of postage which people paid at that time would be prohibitive now: 25c for a letter anyplace in the U. S. and 50c for one to Switzerland. There was no such a thing as a postage stamp and the postage was paid in cash. However along about 1840 postage stamps came into use.

At about this time a shoemaker named Schmidt, who had emigrated in 1833 and been located in the neighborhood, built himself a shop in the town limits where he could secure much more work. He was a good workman and himself and family played an important part in the early life of the town.

Sylvan Utiger, a new comer, installed a wood turner's lathe in the mill and began making chairs, bed posts and beds, wagon wheels and various kinds of wood work that required skill. All of this was much needed in the growing village and he found a ready market for his output.

The first brickyard was started just west of the town limits by a negro, but he did not thoroughly understand the business and his output was so inferior that it was not marketable. Eggen and Labhardt took over the brickyard and made good bricks right from the start and that industry was another drawing card for the village.

Before the close of 1839 a large number of new immigrants had come over from Switzerland, some of whom were relatives of those already here and their coming had long been desired. A Mrs. Suppiger, the mother of some young men already here, arrived with her two daughters, the Durrer family, with three daughters, arrived and took immediate charge of the Eagle Inn, which up to that time had been conducted by Anton Buchmann. Dr. Caspar Koepfl, Jr. with his wife, two daughters and a son arrived. Miss Nanette Zumbach, the fiancee of Sylvan Utiger, was one who came, and Francisca Fischer arrived from Canton Luzern. She is said to have been a whole lot better dressed than the average immigrant. These were all expected by relatives who had made big preparations for their coming.

After the Durrer family assumed charge of the Eagle Inn, it became the social center of the village. All meetings of any importance
were held there. Outside workmen, engaged at the various enterprises about town, all boarded there, and in the evening after the day's work was done nearly all the people collected there for a little chat before bed time. It was a good place for the older people to exchange news and gossip and a fine place for the young people to get acquainted with one another.

So many children were with the families located in town and nearby by the spring of 1839 that it became imperative to build a schoolhouse. The nearest schools over in St. Jacob township were too far distant. Joseph Suppiger was the moving spirit in the erection of the first school house which was built on Methodist Hill in 1839. That place was selected for the site because it was covered with trees forming a natural park and the builders of the schoolhouse thought they would do the children the favor of giving them the pleasure of shade and pleasant surroundings. The building was erected at a cost of $300, by a carpenter named Joseph Mueller. It was not only to be a schoolhouse but a general place of meeting and one of the first things held there was an election on the first Monday of August, 1839. It was the off year election at which a Congressman, some state officers and legislators were elected. Not many of the Swiss immigrants were allowed to vote, not having yet been naturalized.

At the time the Swiss settled here the Illinois law provided that every able-bodied citizen should work five days of the year on the roads of the state. Shortly after the Swiss came this work was exacted of them. The road overseer at that time was a fellow named Pritchett, who lived near Troy, and he saw to it that every one of the Swiss put in their five days. He had a two-fold purpose in doing so; in the first place the Swiss were good honest workers, and secondly they were objects of never ending curiosity to the native Americans and it was easier to get the latter on the job if they knew that there would be a few Swiss working in the crowd, and they would be entertained by the strange speech and customs of the newcomers.

By the end of 1839 Highland began to have the appearance of a town. So that our readers may have the proper mental picture, bear in mind that the eastern half of the platted town site was heavily wooded and the western half was open prairie. When the winter months of 1839 came on the settlers for miles in every direction could observe the smoke arising from the rude chimneys and curling over the frozen hills and they knew that a center for their civilization was in the making. The settlers for many miles in every direction began to talk about the town, what rapid progress it was making and what future possibilities it had. And above all they never got tired of talking of the queer speech and dress and the still queerer customs of the Swiss immigrants who were the moving spirits in the town's development. The more progressive of the native Americans tried to get in line so as to profit through the town's growth. The first three stores were started
The Columbia Hotel of today, which stands on the site originally occupied by the Eagle Inn. Erwin Lory is the present proprietor.
not by Swiss but by natives: Wesley Dugger, Elijah Ellison and David Thorpe. A year or two later the fourth store was built by another Yankee named Garrett Crownover who moved here from St. Clair county and built a frame building on the corner of Main and Laurel.

These storekeepers had a wide acquaintance throughout the territory, and in conjunction with the grist mill and the saw mill they drew the trade for many miles in every direction. The people began to like to come to Highland, not only for the better trading facilities that the place afforded but also that they might see sights new to them in connection with the Swiss immigrants who were constantly arriving. By common consent it was soon taken for granted that every public meeting of any consequence would be held in Highland.

The American farmers appeared mostly on horseback, with rifle and powder horn slung from their shoulders and accompanied by a pack of hound dogs. Their clothing consisted of home spun materials; spun, woven and sewed by their wives and daughters. In some cases they wore deer skin breeches and coats made from skins which had been tanned by the men. The needlecraft displayed in the making of some of these garments exceeded that of many European tailors. Their shoes and boots were of minor quality but all wore good wool socks and no one was seen going around barefooted, a sight to which the Swiss had become accustomed at gatherings in their native land. Their head gear was not at all uniform but so varied that one might think they had bought a job lot of a Jew peddler: broad brimmed felt, knit stocking caps, caps made of skins, no derbies, but an endless variation. The Swiss considered the attire of the Americans as quite droll and got no little amusement out of it, and could talk and joke about it as much as they pleased with the comforting knowledge that the subject of their merriment would not know what they were talking about. On the other hand it was quite a spectacle for the Americans to view the many strange things the people of Switzerland brought with them from over seas. When a group of new immigrants would begin to unpack they were sure to be surrounded by as many curious American men, women and children as were near. And when the clothing and bed clothes were hung up to air the American women would feel of their texture and make comparison with local cloths.

One thing that caused much wonder was the pocket watches and jewelry that the immigrants brought with them. Watches were things unknown to natives here, although common enough at that time in Switzerland where they were first made, and there was but little jewelry of any kind to be found in the native homes around here. As a result some of the natives got the wrong idea about the worth of the immigrants who were arriving. It is true that the first immigrants, the Koepflis, the Suppigers and some others brought with them considerable sums of money and some of their relatives who came later brought good sums in cash or credit, but the great majority of the immigrants
who arrived near 1840 had but little more than what it took to get them here. The clothing they had and the jewelry, mostly heirlooms and a few cheap gew-gaws, led the natives to overestimate their wealth.

As a result of the observations of the Americans, one evil grew up in the little settlement. The native Americans liked to put up a show. In order to do so they began the practice of borrowing articles from the Swiss immigrants. When they wanted to attend a wedding or other function where glad raiment was required, they would borrow watches with gold chains, stick pins, finger rings and nice garments of the Swiss. The families who were good hearted enough to lend them gen-

Highland's first schoolhouse, erected in 1839 on the northwest corner where Zschokke and Twelfth Streets now intersect

erally had to wait a long time for the return of the articles and in many instances they were never returned and no little hard feeling resulted. Some things were returned after they had been practically ruined. Some of the borrowed watches bore evidence that they had been taken apart by the inquisitive Yankees in an effort to find out how they were made.

After a post office was established here in 1839 in the David Thorpe store, two Highland citizens subscribed for a newspaper. One of them took the "New and Old World" published at Philadelphia in the German language. The other subscribed for "The Anzeiger" published likewise in German in St. Louis. The two subscribers would read the issues when they arrived and then lend them to neighbors and friends, a practice that has not altogether discontinued at this time. The newspapers put the town in touch with the world at large and the immigrants began to take pride in being residents of America and sought naturalization as quickly as possible after their arrival.
In years gone by some of the most important offices in Helvetia and Saline townships have been held by men who had not gone through the formality of becoming naturalized. And they made perfectly good and competent officials and the general public never knew the difference.

**Highland in 1840 and 1841**

By the time January 1, 1840, had arrived, such citizens as then lived in Highland and the community near here realized fully that their dream of a railroad through the town on the wide street now called Broadway was a vision never to be realized, and all plans based on that eventuality were abandoned.

However such people as were here had been advertising by letter the merits of the new country and town to their friends in Switzerland and a harvest of new immigrants resulted. They came not only from Switzerland but from the adjacent German states where word was disseminated concerning the possibilities of the new country. Europe at that time was in a bad way. Nearly every country there was governed by a despot and an aristocracy that made living conditions for poor people almost intolerable, and the natural result was that when these same poor people learned that there was a land beyond the sea where every man was rewarded according to his own effort, where no class distinction prevailed, where accident of birth was not taken into consideration, where it made no difference whether you were the offspring of a nobleman or a commoner, they became ambitious to immigrate and build their fortune in the new country. Every country of Europe lost population by immigration faster than it was renewed by birth. Shipload after shipload came from Ireland, from England, from Germany, France, and Switzerland. So great was the immigration that in the interim between 1840 and 1850 the population of the U. S. increased by leaps and bounds. In the whole history of the world there is no record of a country gaining inhabitants so fast as did the U. S. in that decade. Those immigrants made this country. As soon as possible they became naturalized citizens, passed up forever allegiance to their native flags and became imbued with the spirit of their adopted land. In a score of years the Shamrock of Ireland, the Rose of old Scotland, the Fleur-de-lis of France and the Edelweiss of Switzerland and Germany cross-fertilized and blossomed into the Golden Rod of America.

Among immigrants arriving in 1840 we find the familiar family names of Bender, Meyer, Hammer, Bader, Hotz, Foederer, Rall, Trautner, Fellhauer, Essenpreis, Weber, Kustermann, Holzinger, Voegele, Schwarz, Frey, Schaefer, Bellm, Barth, Koch, Winter, Woll, Weidner, Hoffmann, Zof, Gall, Willi, Branger, etc. All of these settled within a radius of two to seven miles from Highland and the larger number of them began farming. Many of them did not have money enough to
buy a farm and build a house, but had to put up for a few years as best they could while they worked and saved a little stake.

In March of that same year some people arrived who had an important influence in molding the destiny of Highland. They were a number of people who a few years before had emigrated from Saxony, Germany and located at Louisville, Kentucky. They did not like conditions there, especially because of the element of negro slavery, and made inquiry concerning a location that would suit them. Learning that the new settlement of Highland had a promising future and that they could there be among people who spoke the German language and lived as near to old country customs as possible, they decided to cast their lots here. They were Charles and Edward Kuenne (now Kinne) Frederick Kinne and wife, her mother, Mrs. Richter, Miss Emily Richter and Edward Hammer, an uncle of the Kinnes. These men were all skilled workmen in their special lines and were doubly welcome for that reason. Charles Kinne was a saddler and harness maker; his brother, Fred, was a cabinet maker; and Edward Hammer was a carpenter and glazier. The town stood in need of such workmen as they proved to be, and they were kept busy as soon as people learned they were here, music lovers and brought some instruments with them. In company

Another way in which these newcomers from Louisville aided the community was in the formation of the first orchestra. They were with Joseph, Melchior, David and John Suppiger, who already resided here, they formed the first orchestra and furnished good music for gatherings, concerts and all kinds of entertainments. Thus they proved very valuable additions to the life of the Highland of 1840.

So many new immigrants arrived in 1840 that great difficulty was experienced in taking care of them until homes could be provided. The little Eagle Inn, conducted then by the Durrer family, could not accommodate very many, and had its capacity taxed all the time to board and room the outside workmen who were helping with various budding enterprises here. It thus became necessary for the private homes to shelter the new comers. When a family of their relatives arrived, owners of private homes were willing to do this, but the larger number of the immigrants had no relatives here. Part of the problem was solved by the Suppiger brothers, who had by that time erected the large barn and stable that is yet in use on the Ed Matter farm north of town. The Suppigers themselves lived in a special residence part of this large building, and they were kind enough to let the incoming immigrants find shelter there. And more than once it was temporarily filled to capacity. In the autumn of 1840 when 68 immigrants arrived here at one time about half of them were sheltered there until arrangements could be made for them to abide elsewhere.

Another building that was occupied to more than capacity all during the year 1840 was the log hut which we have formerly mentioned.
that stood on the top of Broadway, where the first dance was held on January 1, 1838. It came into the ownership of a shoe maker named Zimmermann and since he did not live in it he would let two and three families of the immigrants stay there until they could build or buy better quarters. It was 24 feet square, had two doors, but no windows, and was anything but an attractive place. But it served the purpose.

When a family of immigrants arrived, their relatives assisted them with all possible despatch to erect a home that would shelter the family, provided they had the money to do so. But every new home had to be dedicated with a dance and frolic, with music by the orchestra, and a frugal lunch before the occupants moved in.

The new immigrants came from different provinces in Germany and different cantons of Switzerland and as a result there was great confusion in language for several years afterwards. All spoke German, but in different dialects that occasioned no end of misunderstandings. In the end they all learned to understand each other.

By the spring of 1840 the population of Highland had grown to 120 and the people began to put on style. A very beautiful spring season featured that year, and each Sunday would find the Highland people walking out into the country to behold the bursting beauties of nature. Winter clothing was discarded for lighter spring raiment and the gay colored hats and bonnets of the girls attracted a lot of attention.

They had no sidewalks, not even a made street to follow, just foot paths and wagon tracks, but some of the girls carried parasols, brought with them from Saxony, and it was the last word in style for a young Highland lady to sit on a stump with a parasol over her head and chat banteringly with her young men friends.

During the summer of 1840 several new houses were built. Frederick Kinne built himself a home immediately after his arrival; Jos. Supplegier wanted a nicer home than the one he had erected three years before, so he built another; and J. N. Blattner built what was called the "knohhouse" and Dr. F. Rhiner and family moved here from St. Louis and occupied it.

After Eggen and Labhardt began to manufacture brick successfully, that material began to be used in house building and several of the buildings erected then are yet standing. Possibly the oldest brick house in this neighborhood that remains in use is the one north of town occupied by the Bargetzi family. It was built by Squire Reynolds in 1835 or 1836, and was quite an imposing residence in its day, and has been in use now for almost 100 years. The oldest brick buildings inside the city limits are the one on the alley of the Martin Huber residence and the old brick on the Dr. Kyle lot.

By the first of January, 1841, there were at least 50 dwelling houses on the present site of Highland, a growth that was considered very
remarkable in those days, and caused no end of comment in other places. This growth had all been made in three years' time and was due almost entirely to immigration. A few native Americans had moved in as before stated, but the attraction for them was the prospect of making money off the immigrants.

The new comers were not here long until they wanted to become full-fledged Americans and consequently applied early for naturalization papers. Records at the Courthouse in Edwardsville show that at that time in the county's history, more applications for naturalization came from Highland than from all other parts of the county. On August 4, 1840, fifty-four people from Highland and vicinity received their naturalization papers at the same time. There being so many of them, the oath of allegiance was not administered singly, but in three groups of 18 each at the reduced rate of 50¢ per person.

Never before nor since have so many foreigners been made Americans in one day's time. On August 22, 1840, sixty-eight more immigrants arrived and settled, some on nearby farms and many of them in town. All of them were from Canton Graubuenden, Switzerland. Coming in such numbers it was necessary that those who had no relatives here be temporarily housed.

Two more log huts, in addition to the one previously mentioned, were set apart for the exclusive use of newly arrived immigrants, but the location of the other two we were unable to learn. Among those immigrants we find the names of Laescher, Scheisser and Ruedi, all of whom bought land near the Gruetli place and built houses as quickly as possible. These families had come from a mountainous part of Switzerland and had no little difficulty in adapting themselves to such flat land as was to be found here.

**NAME OF TOWN CHANGED**

During the year 1840, and after David Thorpe had had the postoffice established in his store for about a year, a letter was received from the Postoffice Department at Washington informing them that the name of the postoffice must be changed to something other than "Highland." The reason given was that there was another town site in the northern part of Illinois that had been given the name of "Highland" first. Investigation showed that this town was located at the present site of Highland Park, Ill., a short distance north of Chicago. Quite a lot of mail matter was delivered to one address that was meant for the other and confusion resulted. Accordingly, for a period of a few years the postoffice here was known as "Helvetia," a name that did not conflict with any other in the State. A few years later the town in northern Illinois was incorporated as a village under the name of "Highland Park," and since the change to "Helvetia" had not helped the postal department very much, much mail matter for people here continuing to be addressed to "Highland, Illinois," the department insisted that the original name
of the postoffice be restored. The change was made, but even to the present day mail matter addressed to residents of Highland Park continues to find its way here and vice versa.

The 120 people that lived in Highland in 1841 began then to feel the results of the panic of 1837. Owing to the failure of so many banks, paper money was either worthless or greatly depreciated, and small change had disappeared altogether in most communities. However building of homes continued in Highland. The immigrants always brought with them some money and many transaction were made without the interchange of any cash at all, but by barter. The four stores the town boasted by that time took produce in exchange for the commodities they dispensed and in turn exchanged the produce in St. Louis for a further stock of groceries. Once each week a wagon was sent to St. Louis, loaded with the eggs, chickens and butter which the little stores here had accumulated and returning brought stocks of such groceries, dry goods and tobacco as were needed.

To illustrate how difficult it was to get small change at that time Jacob Eggen says that he visited Switzerland in 1841, returning in 1842. Accidentally before leaving Switzerland he obtained several small Swiss coins, about the size of a quarter-dollar, and worth 2½ cents each. On the return trip he sold these small coins to the captain of the boat for 75c each, so eager was the captain to get some small change.

**Dr. Koepfli Returns to Switzerland**

During the time that Highland was passing through its first years, Dr. Koepfli and his family continued to live at their farm home north of town, the Doctor and his sons managing the development of the extensive farm lands which they owned. Dr. Koepfli practiced medicine among all the people, natives and immigrants, far and near. He was the only physician in the county until 1839, when his son, who was also a physician, emigrated and located here for a few years. In 1840 Dr. F. Ryhiner, moved out from St. Louis, already having a financial interest in the mill here, and that made three physicians, an ample number to look after the bodily welfare of residents here.

The elder Dr. Koepfli also put in part of the time during his first years of his residence here in writing about his experiences, the lands he had seen, and in describing in great detail every characteristic of America. He wrote voluminously of the Indians, the early white settlers, the topography, the fauna and flora of America. In fact he wrote about everything that he knew anything about and quite a lot that he did not know anything about. These writings of his were later published in Switzerland in several volumes and some of them are to be found in various libraries of historical collections at the present time.

During 1840 the elder Dr. Koepfli began disposing of his holdings in and near Highland, being ambitious to return to Switzerland and have his writings published. He sold much of his land to the Graubuendeners
and also sold a lot of farm implements and stock to the same folks. Many other things he sold to other settlers, taking notes when he could not get payment in cash, and when all was done he called his family together for a conference. At this conference he told them, "It is now ten years since we departed from Switzerland in 1831, and at that time I promised our friends that we would visit with them again after 10 years. The opportunity is now favorable and we will depart from here about the end of March (1841)."

After a person stays away from his home community for ten years, it is useless to contemplate returning there to live. In that length of time you get completely out of tune with things there. One is disappointed in old neighbors and old customs and they in turn are disappointed in you.

Dr. Koepfli and his two sons, Joseph and Solomon and their families returned to Switzerland via New Orleans. On arriving there they were warmly received by relatives and old friends and neighbors, but life in the freer America had spoiled them and they found many things in the homeland not to their liking. Before his immigration in 1831 Dr. Koepfli had entertained very liberal religious views, and ten years in America, where the spirit of religious freedom was at its best, had not made those views any less liberal. On his return to Switzerland he found that the government took a hand in religious matters and that so-called non-conformists were not at all popular. While in America he had cultivated the habit of talking as much as he pleased, to whom he pleased and on any subject that pleased him. In Switzerland he started to pursue the same course but soon discovered that everything he said and did was being regularly reported to government officials by spies, and his friends warned him that if he was not more circumspect he would likely land in jail. It seems as through the old man had become a little inflated over his success in Highland and thought himself amply capable to give the President of Switzerland helpful advice. But he soon learned that being an important person in Highland did not give him any prestige in Switzerland. All European countries were displeased about their losses through immigration and Switzerland was no exception.

When he submitted his voluminous writings to printers for publication he was informed that they would have to be revised and a lot of objectionable matter deleted before publication would be possible. The printers were going to take no chances on being thrown into jail for publishing religious and political views at variance with the Swiss government.

There is no doubt but that Dr. Koepfli returned to Switzerland with the intention of ending his days there, but the conditions he encountered caused him to change his mind. The visit of himself and sons was anything but pleasant. After two and a half years the sons returned to Highland and made arrangements to spend the remainder of
their lives here. But the father was determined to get those voluminous writings into print and that made it necessary that he stay there much longer.

Jacob Eggen followed the Koepfli family in the fall of 1841, being very much interested in a young lady, Rosa Koepfli, who afterwards became his wife. He was soon disgusted with his native land and returned here in 1842.

Getting the First Road Through Highland

By the time the year 1840 drew to a close, 120 people were living on the town site and twice that many more in the country near by; and a flour mill and a saw mill were in operation as was also a brickyard. A number of mechanics had set up shop and were building wagons, making furniture and doing various other classes of skilled work. But there were no regularly laid-out roads and people traveled across the prairies and through the timber tracts on whatever line was most convenient.

Along about this time the town leaders, Jos. Suppiger, Dr. Ryhiner, David Thorp, and Garrett Crownover learned that there was a possibility that the then called "Cumberland Road" would be extended farther west. Its western limit at that time was Vandalia, the capital of Illinois. The U. S. Government desired to extend this road from Vandalia to St. Louis to form a direct overland connection for eastern cities with St. Louis. Previous to the completion of this road, all communication between eastern cities and St. Louis was by slow water route around Florida, through the Gulf of Mexico and up the Mississippi River.

By the time that the Highland men learned that the road was to be established, a route had been tentatively selected that did not pass through here. The planned route came west from Vandalia to Pocahontas, then continued through the present site of Grantfork and the then village of Marine, thence southward through Troy and Collinsville.

When the Highland men learned of that plan, they were much disappointed. They well knew that it would mean greatly increased business for all of them, insure better mail facilities and be the making of the town if the road could be brought through there.

Jos. Suppiger at once appealed to his former friend and partner, Col. James Semple, who had been elected in 1840 to the U. S. Senate. Semple had not yet disposed of all his interest in the town site, and it was not hard to persuade him to get busy on the matter. Through his influence a change was made and the road re-routed from Pocahontas through Highland, Troy and Collinsville. But a condition was attached; that the people of Highland and others along the route should build the road from Pocahontas west through Highland to Troy.

Highland did not have any chamber of commerce at that time, but a public meeting was called that convened at practically the same place where weekly meetings are now held (the Durrer hotel on the site of the present Columbia Hotel). The speaker apprised those present of
what the road would mean to Highland and also forewarned them that it was a big job to undertake and would take a lot of time and cost no little money. Due to the fact that some of those present could not understand Swiss and others could not understand English, it took considerable time before it was made plain to all. When it was, a vote was taken which was almost unanimous in favor of the undertaking.

Some money had to be raised because in a few places a right of way had to be purchased and lumber had to be bought for the numerous bridges that were necessary. The Illinois law at that time provided that each male citizen should work 5 days of each year on the road, but the promoters of the project knew that would not suffice and some laborers would have to be paid from the general fund that was raised.

The road from here to where the overhead bridge is located west of St. Jacob was fairly good and the farmers of St. Jacob township aided the laborers sent out from Highland in putting that in shape and building the necessary bridges. Great difficulty was experienced in making the road across the two bottoms this side of Troy and bridging Silver Creek. It was finally accomplished by laying small logs side by side, a species of construction that came to be known as "corduroy" roads.

A route had to be surveyed between here and Pocahontas, but the actual building of the road was made easier than expected because the "Badenites" who settled on the high land between here and Pocahontas were very much pleased at getting the road and did much more of the work than had been expected of them.

Durrer, whose family conducted the hotel, was the overseer in charge of the road work. He seems to have been one of the post popular and active citizens of the town in that early day. Previous to the end of the road building, he had succeeded David Thorpe as postmaster and had the office in the hotel, an arrangement that was more pleasing to the Swiss and German immigrants, who had experienced no little difficulty with Thorpe, who could not understand their language and was heartily glad to get rid of the office.

All residents who had no other necessary employment were asked to donate their services at road work, and every morning several wagons would be drawn up near the hotel on which the volunteers would ride to the job, happily singing as they rode along. Each of them took his lunch and it is recorded that some also took along a bottle of schnapps occasionally. They had a lot of fun as they worked due to the fact that it was the first job that brought together all the different immigrants who had settled near here.

The highest price that had to be paid for any of the right of way was for a timber tract just this side of Pocahontas for which $50 had to be paid, all the money being raised in Highland.

Before the stage line could be put in operation it was necessary that the company arrange for local accommodations for both man and beast. Durrer's hotel met the requirements for the former and a large stable was built somewhere near the corner of Eighth and Walnut, where the
company horses were kept so that changes of teams could be quickly made when the stage arrived here.

When the National Trail was completed from Pocahontas to Troy in the summer of 1845 and late that fall the stage coach line was established through here, the inhabitants of the town took no little pride in their achievement. The first stage came in on Sunday, which was made a holiday, and a celebration was held. The largest crowd of people that had ever assembled in Highland up to that time was present to witness the arrival. There was no band then, but the orchestra turned out and furnished music for the occasion, and the town leaders made speeches, extolling the virtue of the stage line and outlining the possible benefits to come.

Quite a lot of benefits did come from it. For one thing, it greatly shortened the trip to St. Louis. Previous to that time, the trip to St. Louis could not be made in one day, it being too much for one team of horses to accomplish. True, horseback riders could go there one day and back the next, but to take a team and wagon required at least four days for the round trip. The stage line, with relays of fresh horses every ten miles, made the trip when the roads were good in six hours, and in one day when they were at their worst. Another benefit that came from it was that mail could be brought from either direction direct to Highland and all kinds of mail matter was received more promptly than before. After the establishment of the stage line it was no longer necessary for a mail carrier to go to Troy to get Highland mail and bring it to the post-office here. The stage line carried all the mail in and out of town for the next dozen years, until the B. & 0. railroad was built through Trenton in 1855. From that time until the completion of the Vandalia railroad through here in 1867, Highland mail was received through Trenton.

Not the least of the benefits that accrued from the stage line was the direct contact it brought with the outside world. Every stage had passengers making the trip from eastern cities to St. Louis and vice versa. Many times each month these passengers stayed over night at the Eagle Hotel and Highland citizens had a chance to contact the best minds in the country. Statesmen and politicians of that day did their traveling by stage and steamboat, and many of them stopped over, as did also other prominent people in all walks of life: writers, engineers, manufacturers, etc.

Another benefit derived from the opening of the National Trail was that a steady stream of travel proceeded westward along it. Families who had lost their all during the panic mentioned before left their eastern homes and sought new homes on government land west of the Mississippi. The most direct route for families from all eastern and northeastern states was along the National Trail and that took them through Highland. They traveled in wagons and made slow progress, but people had a better chance to meet them and talk with them than we do with the hurried traffic that speeds along the Trail today. We see
some odd sight and odd people on the Trail now, but we do not get near the "eyeful" that our forbears did along Broadway from 1846 up to the time of the Civil War. During the gold-rush to California in 1849, a steady stream of immigrants went through, creating no little interest and resulting in no little profit to Highland.

The stage-coach fare between here and St. Louis was $1.50 for a one-way trip, and there has been no very great variation from that figure by the different means of public transportation that have been adopted since. When the railroads came they gave quicker service at a slightly lower charge, and when bus transportation took the customers from the railroad, the price for the trip was made still less, so that now the price for the round trip is about what it was for a one-way trip ninety years ago.

The stage coach took the people to the banks of the Mississippi, and they then would cross to St. Louis on ferry boats, for which an extra fee had to be paid. There was no bridge of any kind across the Mississippi at that time.

During the summer and fall months when the roads were comparatively good, the stage coach arrived in Highland about the noon hour from St. Louis and its arrival was the big event of each day. It brought the mail, which was eagerly awaited, and it also invariably brought some traveling salesmen and other interesting people. Also, after the line was established, all immigrants from the old country used it to make the trip from St. Louis here and relatives would gather at the stopping place of the coach to greet and welcome them. Every day at about the time for the arrival of the coach, all residents who had the time to spare would gather at the hotel corner and await its coming.

During the winter months when the roads were not so good, it did not arrive until nightfall and sometimes not then. When the roads got so bad that the heavy coach could not be dragged through the mud, a modest two-wheeled cart was pressed into service and made to answer the needs of the public as best it could.

Nearly every winter there would come a time when all travel would have to stop and all communication be shut off. Highland would be surrounded by unfathomable mud. Nothing could be taken out and nothing brought in. The grocery stocks would get very low in the stores and some of them would sell out entirely on certain lines of provisions. Eggen says that he remembers a time when not an ounce of coffee could be purchased at any of the stores in Highland due to that cause. On the other hand the eggs and butter that the merchants had taken in exchange for provisions could not be sent to the St. Louis market and would spoil on their hands. Conducting a store in Highland today is no sinecure, in fact is an occupation fraught with plenty of grief, but the old time merchants had their troubles also, and not until after a railroad was built were they sure of always having a stock of necessities on hand and of getting their perishable produce to a larger market.
**Highland, Illinois**

**Koepfli’s Return**

When the Koepfli family returned to Switzerland in 1841 Solomon and Joseph Koepfli kept most of their land holdings here and put another man in charge of them. When the money stringency became so tight in 1842 that this manager was unable to make collections of rent, interest or principal of notes that was due the brothers, he wrote to them and urged them to return and attend to their own business affairs. By that time they had their fill of Switzerland and needed but little urging. During the summer of 1843 they came back.

The new settlers both in Highland and on the farms near by were having a hard time to get along. There was no market for anything they raised, and when they were able to sell anything they could not be sure that the money they received, (if in bank notes) was worth anything. Under those circumstances there was but little demand for labor, and general dissatisfaction resulted. Many of the immigrants became very discouraged and sincerely wished that they had remained in their native land. But they had no money to buy return passage and had to stay here and make the best of it.

After the Koepfli brothers returned from their visit to Switzerland they began preparatory work for building a fine residence on the hill north of town where Hugo Schmidt and family now reside. The south slope of the hill was planted with grapes and afterwards became quite a notable vineyard. At that time the north slope of the hill was covered with virgin timber, and they had it transformed into a small park. On the top of the hill they built the most imposing residence to be found in the country at that time, consisting of eight rooms which when done were handsomely furnished.

The house which the Koepflis built was completed in 1845 and remains in many respects the same to this day. About 20 years ago the present owner remodeled it and made some changes. But much of the interior is the same as then. Christian Kuhnen, the grandfather of F. C. and L. O. Kuhnen, was the contractor who had charge of building it for the Koepflis.

**The First Orchestra and Instruments**

Ever since the coming of the first Swiss settlers in 1831, winter seasons had the hard time to endure. During the summer months the country was beautiful, the people could travel for miles and see the various interesting localities and observe fauna and flora different from what they knew in their native land. But during the winter months travel was very limited, not much work could be done, and time hung very heavy on their hands.

During the first year after the town site was platted and the building of homes thereon began, the social life of the settlement lagged. In a former chapter we told of the first public dance held on January 1, 1838, but it was a very primitive affair, held in the afternoon, with one
lone man, Father Leder, furnishing the music. It was not followed by any others. After a new home had been completed, a housewarming would follow, relatives, friends and neighbors gather, and if any music could be obtained or improvised, they generally danced.

But by the time the winter of 1843-1844 came, the residents began getting better acquainted with each other and a distinct social life began to develop. We told in a previous chapter of the coming of the Kinne brothers and their families to Highland and of the formation of the first orchestra, each of the seven members of which was either a Suppiger or a Kinne. This orchestra played at all of the housewarmings, and their services were also solicited to help celebrate marriages and baptisms. Shrovetide and Fastnacht also furnished appropriate occasions for masquerade balls at which the services of the orchestra were very much required.

From the best information we can get the orchestra rendered their services gratis. We do not find a single record of where they charged for their services. They rendered music because they found pleasure in doing so and because their neighbors and friends enjoyed their playing. All of the early settlers of the town were unanimous in their claim that life in the settlement was much more pleasurable after the formation of the orchestra.

The instruments used in this early orchestra would seem like odd equipment to an orchestra leader of today. The ones the Suppigers owned had been brought from Switzerland or purchased in St. Louis, and those owned by the Kinnes had been brought from Saxony. However the orchestra held practice sessions at the homes of the members regularly and soon were playing in perfect harmony. They played the tunes learned in their native lands and picked up some others from the Yankee fiddlers who lived in the community. A practice session for that orchestra was real practice. They had no sheet music for each instrument but had to depend on ear alone for attaining the greatest possible harmony. Some of the members had been well trained in the elements of music, and we do not doubt that the results obtained were all that could be desired.

One of the needs greatly felt by this orchestra was for a bass viol, there being none in the settlement, and no one had money that they felt like investing in such an instrument. However the need was urgent and the trained ears of orchestra members were offended at each practice session by the lack of bass. Finally Fred Kinne and his uncle, Edward Hammer, undertook to make such an instrument. How long it took them to do so we do not know; neither could we learn just what materials were used. It was undoubtedly a task that required a great deal of time and patience. Likely they got Sylvan Utiger, who at that time had a wood-turning shop in a part of the mill, to fashion some of the pieces for them. It took them a long time to fashion all parts and put them together and to fashion strings and bow but in the end it was accomplished and the bass viol became a part of the instrumentation of this first local orchestra, Eggen records that for many
years this instrument continued in use; in fact the quality of the tone it produced was better than that of some regularly-made viols on the market at that time.

When one reflects what toil and patience the task must have required, we cannot help but admire the stuff of which these early musicians were made. We have many musicians of excellent merit in Highland today, but we doubt if a single one of them is so devoted to his art that he would undertake to duplicate their feat. What became of this instrument after it was out of use, we do not know, but it would be an attractive relic were it here today.

Fred Kinne's zeal for the musical welfare of the new settlement did not end when he made the bass fiddle. The orchestra got along better after that, but the need of a piano in town was also felt and Mr. Kinne was instrumental in obtaining the first piano that was ever brought into this city.

In 1834, before Highland was founded, Dr. Beck emigrated from Freiberg, Switzerland, and settled at Marine. He had a family of children and among the family possessions which they brought with them was a piano. Dr. Beck soon became very much dissatisfied with conditions in Marine as they were then and resolved to return to his native land. While making preparation for his return he became sick and died. His family either returned or moved elsewhere; and his household effects, piano included, were stored in a log hut in Marine where they remained for several years, and of course the neglected piano got in a very bad condition. Zealous for the advancement of music in Highland Mr. Kinne learned of this piano stored at Marine and had no rest until he had purchased it of the Marine citizen who was looking after the property affairs of the deceased Dr. Beck. He hauled it to Highland and installed it in one of the homes where orchestra practice was held and tried to restore it to usefulness.

The only man in the settlement who had ever played a piano was Jacob Eggen and his help was solicited. Eggen in his youth had been instructed in piano and became very proficient. We have heard people say that when he was a very old man he retained remarkable skill in this respect and seemed to the end to get pleasure out of playing.

At any rate it took all his skill and no little time to tune properly the instrument that had been out of use for six or seven years. But he succeeded in putting it in shape and thereafter played with the orchestra.

In the course of time other and more costly pianos were brought to Highland, but it is a matter of record that this one was the only one in town for a number of years and was kept in use for about 20 years after it was acquired. When the first public school house was built on what is now the public square, this same old piano was given to the school and used for a number of entertainments and programs. Finally its tone got so bad that a new one was purchased, the old one being stored in the school wood shed for a time and eventually chopped into
The First Building Boom

We wrote in an earlier chapter of how the depression that followed what is known in history as the "Panic of 1837," began to be felt in Highland shortly after 1840 and caused a cessation of building operations for a few years following, only such buildings being erected as were absolutely necessary. This condition continued for a few years, but after the return of Solomon and Joseph Koepfli from Switzerland in 1843 they helped to instill new confidence in the people by starting the erection of the stately residence on the hill north of town, so that by 1844 comparative confidence was again restored and other people began to build and develop the town.

The two years of 1844 and 1845 were marked by rapid development of the town and the coming of some new citizens who greatly helped it. Also these years were marked by many people moving from St. Louis to Highland. Some of those who emigrated to Highland prior to 1840 soon became discouraged with conditions in the new town and moved to St. Louis, where they obtained employment and remained for a few years, but after the real development started here in 1844 nearly every one of these families returned, and what is more they brought others with them.

John Boeschenstein, who had emigrated from Switzerland to St. Louis in 1838 where he spent several years in the mercantile business, moved his stock of goods to Highland in 1846 and built a store on the corner where the Kempff Pharmacy now stands. He conducted a mercantile business there for several years; and a few years after he came his nephew, Chas. Boeschenstein, also an immigrant from Switzerland, came here and worked in the store for him. This Chas. Boeschenstein still later drove the stage coach between here and St. Louis, also carrying the mail, and after the B. and O. railroad was built through Trenton he carried the mail from Trenton to Highland. In the early 60's he was elected Justice of the Peace and for many years was one of Highland's most prominent citizens. He was the father of Charles Boeschenstein of Edwardsville.

The John Boeschenstein mentioned above bought that valuable corner lot of Frederick Kinne for $100. Kinne had bought it two years before of those who platted the town for $75. Boeschenstein died in 1853 and his heirs sold the property and business to Charles Feickert and Henry Weinheimer, who conducted a mercantile business there for a number of years.

At about this same time the first barber shop was opened in Highland. Where it was located or the name of the proprietor we could not learn. Eggen says that the barber not only cut hair and shaved people but that he also practiced "blood letting" and "cupping".

As might be expected some of the early business men of Highland became discouraged with competition and adverse conditions and their stores changed hands. One of the first to quit and sell out was Elijah Ellison who had one of the first stores across the street west of the
Eagle Hotel. He sold his lot and building to another man, and Peter Tuffli and his father-in-law, John Laubinger rented it and started there in the first butcher shop in Highland. Previous to this time no fresh meat had been obtainable here and the need of it was greatly felt especially in cases of sickness. We, who live here now, and can obtain any kind of fresh meat any day of the year, little realize what the absence of it would mean.

About this same time J. R. Blattner erected a building at the corner of Ninth and Walnut where the Masonic Temple now stands. It was his intention to produce silk on a large scale and the building was fitted in every respect with that object in view. The industry at that time was followed very profitably in France and parts of Germany and Mr. Blattner thought it could be done likewise here. The record we found of his attempt states that he planted a lot of young mulberry trees and then secured his eggs, kept them at the proper temperature and succeeded in hatching the larvae in large numbers. Where he had estimated wrong was in the amount of mulberry leaves that it would take to feed them. The silk worm is a voracious feeder and long before Mr. Blattner had them of a size to begin to spin a cocoon his mulberry leaf supply was exhausted and the attempt had to be abandoned.

He at once set about having the building which he had erected remodeled into a hotel to derive a measure of profit from his investment. When done it was known as the New Switzerland House and was a famous landmark here for many years. The building continued as a hotel for more than 50 years and was razed in the early part of the present century when the late John Wildi became the owner and erected a fine residence on the site. The latter was remodeled and an addition built in 1920 and is now the John Wildi Masonic Temple, one of the show buildings of our city.

About this same time when new merchants were coming in, Wesley Dugger, who had started the very first store in the fall of 1837 on the corner of Broadway and Pestalozzi, became discouraged with business prospects and sold his store to his eldest son. The latter took in a younger brother as a partner and together they conducted it for a few years. After they had disposed of it the older brother bought the corner diagonally opposite and built the first story of the St. Louis House, the building that formerly stood on the corner now occupied by Ed Walter and S. L. Jenny. The building he erected there was later enlarged, another story added, and it was a well known hostelry for many years. It was destroyed by fire in June, 1913.

During the year 1844, when building activity in town was at its best and the surrounding farm lands were being improved by the new immigrants, Jacob Eggen started the first distillery at the west end of Main Street on the site of the first brickyard which had been in operation there for several years. Whether or not he discontinued making brick before he began making whiskey we could not determine. He may have made both at the same time. At any rate he started it in 1844, and a
short time later took in Henry Hermann and Geo. Ruegger as partners. They continued the business until 1849, making good whiskey which found a ready sale in all surrounding cities. However, the local merchants refused to handle their product and that caused trouble. The merchants objected to the business policy followed at the whiskey still, which was much the same as that followed at flouring mills: the distillers allowed their farmer patrons to bring in a small amount of corn and in return gave them so much whiskey. The merchants wanted to sell the whiskey outright to the farmers and objected so strenuously to this policy of the still as to refuse altogether to handle their product, and a great deal of ill feeling resulted.

In 1849 Eggen and Ruegger became disgusted with the enterprise and their interest was acquired by Anton Mueller and J. J. Spindler, the latter a young man who had just come to Highland that year from St. Louis. The new owners changed the policy to some extent and got along better with the merchants. They also moved the still to a different location. They continued to run it until 1865 and in the end made quite a lot of money out of the business. At the close of the Civil War the revenue on the manufacture of whiskey was greatly advanced, but the act was not retroactive and did not apply to whiskey that had already been made. Of course the selling price advanced immediately after the revenue act was passed. The Highland distillers were fortunate in that they had a very big supply on hand which had accumulated during the war years. They also owned the output of another big still that was operating in the country near here so that when the act was passed they were the happy possessors of several thousand gallons of good whiskey which was not taxable but which the revenue act had made worth several times its former price. They sold out their big stock at about 1000 percent profit, quit the business and embarked in other enterprises.

During this same year of 1844 Karl Mueller erected the main part of the building that stood for many years at the corner of Broadway and Walnut and was used for a tin shop, a saloon, a saddler shop and later as a newspaper office by the Highland Journal. It was torn down a few years ago to make a site for a Standard Oil filling station. For what purpose it was erected and first used we were unable to learn.

Highland Men Prepare for War with Mexico

Following the election of James K. Polk as President in November, 1844, everyone knew that a war with Mexico was certain to come. Early in his administration he made good his campaign promise and Texas was admitted to the Union. Texas claimed her western boundary was the Rio Grande river and Mexico just as stubbornly insisted that it was the Neuces river, several hundred miles this side of the Rio Grande. When Texas was admitted the U. S. of course took up the dispute and it became a national affair. Even before war was declared, in all parts of the country military companies were formed and drilled in expecta-
tion of it. The people of the nation were much more war-minded then than now and looked forward to war with a measure of eagerness.

Early in 1845 Highland fell into line and caught the war fever. John Guggenbuehler, who had, in company with F. Weber, started a brewery here in 1843, had sold out to Daniel Wild, and having nothing to do proceeded to raise a company of infantry. Guggenbuehler had been a soldier in Germany before emigrating here and had been made an officer and thoroughly understood military discipline and tactics. He had no trouble raising a company of almost 100 men, nearly all of whom were of either German or Swiss nativity and many of whom had seen service in the armies of those countries before emigrating. In just a few days' time he had the company raised, was himself chosen captain, (a title which clung to him as long as he lived and of which he was very proud) and proceeded to drill daily. Under his thorough and competent leadership and due to the fact that there were several ex-soldiers in the ranks, the company soon became very proficient in military maneuvers. They practiced rifle shooting at which most of them were very adept, and thoroughly enjoyed their drilling and practice although they were never called into service.

At the same time a Mr. Richardson, who was a school teacher, formed a company of cavalry. This was the branch of the service that appealed more strongly to the native Americans in Highland and the vicinity near. They were better horsemen than the Germans and Swiss and liked to ride. They figured that a cavalry company would furnish more excitement and give them a chance for more display than one of infantry and they rallied quickly to Richardson's standard, electing him captain of the company. It is claimed that there were only three of the Swiss immigrants in this cavalry company, all the others being native Americans from Highland and the country around here, some coming from St. Jacob, Saline and Marine townships as well as Helvetia. This company, like the infantry, drilled until they were very proficient but were never called into service.

It was also desired to form an artillery company, but more difficulty was experienced getting recruits for that. It seems that volunteers could not be secured because the proposed captain of the company was unpopular with the rank and file of the people. We infer from what we have read that this proposed captain was one of the Koepfis but do not know for certain. The difficulty was finally solved by making Jacob Eggen the captain, and he immediately proceeded to enroll a company. Mr. Eggen in his younger days, before his emigration, had served in an artillery company of Canton Argau, Switzerland, and had attended the military school at Thun. He refused election as captain of the company but agreed to give them the needed instruction, and he accordingly did.

At that time there was a state penitentiary at Alton, and the warden was the custodian of the armory there and also a state Representative. He was solicited to furnish the artillery company of militia in Highland
with a cannon and agreed to do so if a responsible person was selected
to bring the cannon from the armory there to Highland. Eggen headed
the delegation that went to Alton after the cannon, taking an extra
team of horses along to haul it back. It took them two days to make
the 40-mile trip there. When they arrived, they found that most of
the cannons were not nicely housed in the armory but about ten of
them were lying out on the river bank about half covered with sand
and mud, and from those that were outside they were to have their
choice. They found one on a little piece of high ground that seemed
to be in better condition than the others. The tongue was broken but
the barrel of the cannon was in good condition. They had the tongue
repaired, hitched a team to it and started on the return journey.

Before leaving Highland they had arranged for other members of
the company to meet them outside of town on their return trip with
fresh horses and a supply of powder so that they could fire a few
salutes when they got near the town. They were met at Silver Creek
bridge. Eggen formed the company in proper military order. The rank-
ing officers were all in their positions, the privates in step, the cannon
was charged, the primer placed and Eggen gave the command to fire.
But the man whose duty it was to handle the linstock was so nervous
that he could not touch the primer with it. Eggen had to grab it from
him and touch the primer. Before it could go off, the men stationed
around all fled, giving as an excuse later that they did not trust cast
iron cannons. Eggen had it loaded again and fired a second time and
made them stand at their places.

In the spring of 1845 the Governor of Illinois revived the militia
law which had gone unobserved for ten years previous. Locally the
restoration of the militia was begun at Marine and in the fall season
of that year a big review of the troops was held there. The law pro-
vided, however, that wherever a battalion was formed a review might
also be held. Highland, having three uniformed companies, was qualified
to form a battalion, and they accordingly proceeded to do so.

The first thing necessary was to select a battalion chief. Each of
the three companies had a candidate for the place. The cavalry com-
pany voted first but instead of voting for the candidate that was a mem-
er of their company they all voted for Eggen. Next the infantry com-
pany voted, their captain being one of the candidates. All but one of
them voted for Eggen. The artillery company voted solidly for Eggen
making him almost the unanimous choice of all. The artillery company
then made Schaefer Koetter their captain to succeed Eggen in that
place. As head of the battalion Eggen received the title of Major which
remained with him the rest of his life and in which he took a reason-
able degree of pride.

After that the battalion as well as the companies from near by places
held their big review at Highland, and the event drew the biggest
crowd that up to that time had ever been in town. The majority of
the members of the battalion were immigrants and most of them had
seen service in European armies. As a result of this they were easily trained. Two adjutants from the U. S. army who attended the big review held here stated afterwards that never had they seen a battalion of militia so well trained as were those at Highland.

Reviews were held up to the year 1848 but were discontinued after that, as the need was no longer urgent, the uniforms were not so new and shiny as at first. The officers however preserved their titles throughout their lives.

The big cannon brought from Alton was used at all these reviews. After they were discontinued it became in a way the property of the city and was used on the Fourth of July and other public occasions when a big noise was in order. For many years now it has been kept at Lindendale Park, but its voice is heard no more.

The Cholera Epidemic

The town site of Highland was platted in 1837 and at that time there was only one newly built residence, that of Jos. Suppiger, within the confines of the original plat of 45 city blocks. Three years later, in 1840, the total population of the place was 120 men, women and children. During the ten years that followed growth was very rapid as those who have followed these historical notes must fully realize. By the time the year 1850 dawned more than 500 people were living in Highland, making a gain of at least 300 percent for that decade, a greater percent of increase than it has enjoyed in any ten-year period since that time. But had it not been for the most awful pestilence that ever visited this part of the country, the gain would have been 600 or 700 per cent. Full one half of the people that emigrated here between the years of 1840 and 1850 fell victims to a disease, new to this country, the dreaded Asiatic cholera. This emigration was greater during the years of 1848-1849 than at any other time in the ten-year period, due to the revolution in Germany, but family after family that fled from the old country to find homes in the new, arrived here only to sicken and die a few days after arrival.

The Asiatic cholera as a disease is endemic to India. It never made its appearance in any European country until about 1830. Shortly after that time it made its appearance on this side of the Atlantic, first in Canada. In 1832 a body of Irish immigrants brought it from Canada to Detroit and from there it spread south and west. Occasional deaths were caused by it in the Mississippi Valley all during the years from 1835 to 1845, but in 1848 it broke out in virulent form and took its heaviest toll in Highland during the year 1849.

The fact that it took such a heavy toll of death here was probably due to the unhygienic methods of living that had to be adopted here in order to accommodate the hordes of new immigrants that were constantly arriving. It took heavy toll in St. Louis, in Belleville and in other nearby places, but not so great a percent of the people died as did here. We must remember that these other towns were not getting im-
migrants in proportion to their population at as high a rate as was Highland. The spread of the cholera germ was accomplished much the same as is the typhoid fever germ at the present time, and the immigrants had to live many in a house and under unfavorable conditions after their arrival here as well as on boats up the river from New Orleans. The people who had lived here for a number of years and had homes of their own did not die in such numbers as did the new arrivals, for the simple reason that they took better care of themselves and were not exposed to the dangers of catching the disease.

Highland at that time was not an incorporated village, nor was Madison County under the present township organization, consequently no record is left of the names of the people who died in such numbers. There was no regular resident pastor of the Evangelical church nor resident priest of the Catholic church, hence no church records are left. There would likely have been none of the latter anyway for in most cases no funerals were held. The art of embalming was unknown and from the nature of the disease decomposition set in at once, so that generally funerals were dispensed with and burial took place a few hours after death.

One Henry Boernstein, an educated immigrant, lived in Highland during 1849. Before the end of the year he moved to St. Louis, fleeing from Highland because he thought that before the disease was got under control the entire population would become victims of it. Several years afterwards, while living in St. Louis, he described it for the newspapers there. He stated that it was no uncommon thing to meet and talk with a man on the streets of Highland one evening—and the next morning be told that the man had been stricken and died during the night and was already buried.

Locally no newspaper account of the epidemic is obtainable. The nearest newspapers that were published at that time were at Edwardsville and at Belleville, but no one in Highland essayed to correspond for either of them nor was there any one here at that time who wrote for any of the St. Louis newspapers, consequently the names and ages of the great number of cholera victims will never be known. A record was made of the deaths of those who were fortunate enough to have relatives here in good standing, but the great majority of them were strangers here, with no relatives and no friends, and their few bitter days spent in the land they had longed so to reach is a story that can never be told.

This same Bornstein, whom we previously quoted, stated that having relatives did not always mean that an attempt would be made to save a victim's life, or give him a decent burial after death. The rank and file did not know exactly how the disease was propagated and were afraid even to visit a relative who was stricken. Many a one sickened and died with no alleviation from the pain save what could be given by the over-worked physicians in the settlement. Of some of these physicians he speaks very highly, especially a young doctor named
Bruckner who came here about that time. His remarks about another physician, who left the sick and dying here and moved to another locality, are not so kindly.

So many of the victims were poor people and had spent their all for their passage over here, making them dependent on charity after their arrival, that it was evident an overseer of poor was necessary. This undesired appointment was thrust on Jos. Suppiger by the County Court. Be it said to the everlasting credit of this man who had already done so much for Highland that he assumed the responsibility; and, although he was then well to do and could have avoided any chance of contamination had he chosen, he spent his time doing what he could for those that were stricken and giving the victims as decent a burial as was possible. He was greatly hampered by the rulings of the Court, which was at that time practically the legislative as well as the judicial branch of the county government. The court ruled that the Overseer of the poor should observe when some one was in need and then make application to Edwardsville for relief funds, or for a burial fund should they die. Can you imagine how that worked, especially during the months of July and August, 1849, when from one to ten died every day? When the poor persons got sick, they had died and were buried before his application for relief could be forwarded to Edwardsville. It was too slow a process and would not work. The better class of residents got together and made up their own relief fund. Jos. Suppiger, the Koepflis, John Boeschenstein, Garritt Crownover, Jacob Durrer, Jacob Weber, Peter Tuffli, Jacob Eggen, Karl Mueller, and many others pooled resources and saw that as much relief as was possible was given to the poor.

Not only in 1849, but again in 1852 was heavy toll of death taken by this dread disease. All through the fifties it occurred sporadically, but deaths from it since that time have been few.

In 1852 when it was apparent that the plague would again visit the settlement Jos. Suppiger refused to act longer as Overseer of the Poor and a committee composed of himself, F. Ryhiner, Garritt Crownover, Christian Kuhnhen and W. Fisher petitioned the County Court to have Dr. Theophilus Bruckner, a capable young physician, appointed to that place. They also petitioned the Court to change the restrictions that had hampered Jos. Suppiger with his work in 1849, so that the new overseer would have on hand a fund in preparation to fight the spread of the disease. Dr. Bruckner was appointed and the restrictions removed, but their fears were well founded. In July and August of that year the disease again made its appearance and many died, but not in such numbers nor under such deplorable circumstances as in 1849.
First Religious Services

From the time of the coming of the first settlers until the town of Highland was platted but few church services were attempted. The only place to hold them was in one of the residence cabins, and that proved unsatisfactory.

But in the fall of 1839 the first primitive schoolhouse was built on Methodist Hill and almost as soon as it was put to use for the school the people of the village began to hold services therein. There were no resident ministers, only such as visited the new town occasionally. Nearly all were invited to hold services in the little schoolhouse. It made no difference what creed they represented; they were welcome to speak and the people went to hear them. German and Swiss people always have been remarkable for their broad-minded tolerance on religious subjects, and the early settlers of Highland were no exception. The little schoolhouse was open to any one who wanted to use it, and but few questions were asked.

Among the Protestant clergymen who administered to the spiritual needs of the community in that little schoolhouse was Rev. J. Rieger. He was a devout Christian and a good man. He first visited Highland in the year 1840 and kept coming at intervals during 1841 and 1842, holding his services in the schoolhouse, baptizing the babies, confirming the children, solemnizing marriages, and spreading cheer and sunshine with his presence. He was what at that time was known as a "circuit rider" and would go from one congregation to another at regular intervals.

Another Protestant minister who held services in the schoolhouse on Methodist Hill was Rev. F. R. Cioline, who made regular trips to Highland during part of the years of 1843 and 1844.

During the years that these two ministers held services in the schoolhouse, the Roman Catholics in the new town were also permitted to hold their services there, that congregation likewise having no resident pastor.

Nearly everyone in the new town liked to go to church, and by 1843 it was decided that the schoolhouse on Methodist Hill was much too small. A new building was talked of, but the people were not united on what it should be. Some wanted it to be a church exclusively and some wanted it to be a schoolhouse. After a lot of argument the two factions got together and decided that it should be the same as the first one, a combination church and school.

During the year 1843, while the matter was being discussed, times were very hard, money was very scarce, and everyone knew it was a big proposition to undertake the new building. But on Oct. 7, 1843, a public meeting was called and a committee of arrangements appointed. The committee were to give consideration to all suggestions as to plans and prepare a report from which a start could be made.

The committee reported that the building should be erected of limestone, be 24x40 feet in size, of proper height and located on lots 8 and
10 in Block 4. (The site of the present Evangelical church.) The committee further advised that the building be used for church services on Sundays and for school purposes during the week.

Another general meeting was called for Oct. 27, 1843, at which the suggestions of the committee were unanimously adopted. The general meeting made more definite plans for the construction. It was agreed that the carpenters who worked on the job were to receive $1.00 per day, the stone masons $1.00 per day, and common laborers 62½c per day. Double oxen or horse teams with driver were to get $1.50 per day, and the hauling of four perch of stone or four wagon loads of sand was to be considered a day's work for them, whether it was performed at one time or at different times.

A soliciting committee was appointed, who made a thorough canvass of the town, seeing every person, no difference how small his contribution would be. They succeeded in getting promises for $846.18%, a good part of which was to be worked out.

The masonry work was awarded to Jacob Leder (the early musician of whom we have previously written), by the contract instead of by the day. He was to receive 50c per perch for laying the stone and the quarrymen were to receive 37½c per perch for quarrying it. The total amount of stone needed amounted to 235 perch.

The old stone church, built in 1844 as a combination church and school-house but never used much for school purposes.
The work did not progress as fast as it might have done and additional funds were solicited all the time it was in progress, yet we know that the building committee ran out of money and were not able to finish the building at once. The contract for the inside finishing and the plastering was not let until almost four years later, on May 29, 1847, and it was to be completed by Oct. 1 of that year.

The greater part of the wages for the workmen was paid when their work was completed, but not all. Some promised contributions were not paid, and the expense ran higher than was expected so that when the building was finally completed there was a deficit of $325.44. Those to whom it was owing wanted their money. The school room fittings had all been paid for and $2.00 remaining turned over to the church. But the church people had a small tower and belfry erected at the rear end of the building and thus added $150 to the debt, making it $475.44, without consulting the school faction and that caused hard feeling.

The creditors began crowding for their money, and, on Aug. 25, 1849, another public meeting was called.

The trustees of church and school reported that they had done their best to raise the needed money to pay off the debt, but could not. Those present did not know what to do until Jacob Eggen took the floor, and gave them a plain talk. He said that the constant quarrel going on between the preacher and the school teacher had made the ill feeling worse and that both deserved to be discharged. To bring the matter to an end he proposed that the building be sold and the incumbrance paid off out of the receipts of the sale. After some discussion his ideas prevailed.

On the first Saturday in 1850 the building was put up for sale and was bid in by the school people, who agreed to pay off the incumbrance if they could have undisputed possession of the building.

Later in the year, however, the school people realized that the building would not be suitable for their purpose since the town was growing so fast that it would soon be too small; and an agreement was reached by which the church assumed the debt and became the sole owner of the building.
The Evangelical Church

After becoming the sole owner of the stone building the church began to function in an orderly and businesslike manner. A board of elders was elected which consisted of Waldemar Fischer, John Leder, Josias Bardill, Peter Grass and Christian Hirni and the name of “German Evangelical Church” was given to the organization. Later on such terms as “Protestant” and “Allg. Chrl. Kirche” were used but were never officially authorized. It is now incorporated under the name, “Evangelical Church in Highland, Illinois.”

Waldemar Fischer was the only one of the first board of elders that lived in town; all of the others lived on farms near here. Their first task was to pay off the existing debt on the building as the creditors were clamoring for their money. They raised $220.18, with which they paid for the tower or belfry that had been erected on the north end of the building a few years before, and they borrowed the money to pay the balance giving a note due in 1855. When the time came for payment they renewed the note so as to have money to purchase a church bell to be installed in the belfry.

While the building was yet being used as a school Bernard Suppiger presented it with a tower clock, but from the best information we can get the school did not install it and it was later used by the church. It is not, however, the tower clock now in use. The present one is of a much later date.

We have already mentioned two men who were pastors for the congregation here before the stone church was built, Rev. R. J. Rieger and Rev. F. R. Cioline. Perhaps the first pastor to hold services in the stone church was H. R. Willmer, who held services here regularly through the summer and early winter of 1845. But little record of his work is obtainable now. He was followed by a Rev. Douy of Belleville, who made trips regularly to Highland for two years, 1846 and 1847, and held services there at stated intervals. Then for the year 1848 Rev. Rheineke of Marine was employed, he likewise coming here to preach only at stated intervals. Marine at that time was an older settlement than Highland, fully as large, and the pastor chose to live where his largest congregation resided. He was followed in 1849 and 1850 by Rev. Jacob Meier of St. Louis. It was during the pastorate of this last named man that the name of “Allgemeine Christliche Kirche” (a church for Christians of all denominations) was adopted and was in use for a good many years afterwards. Our readers will bear in mind that many of the ministers employed were what was known as free ministers and their doctrinal views were not all alike.

During the year 1851 Rev. Ernest Krause was the pastor and he was followed by Rev. August Lepique, who gave the congregation the longest service of any of the early pastors. He first served from 1851 to 1854, and in 1856 the congregation sought his return and he stayed four years until 1860. Between the time of his two pastorates Rev.
John J. Mueller was pastor for a month or so and Rev. Carl Rettig for the two years, 1854 to 1856.

Late in the year 1859 Rev. John H. Luchsinger took charge and was pastor for two years. He is well remembered by some of our oldest people. He was a man of exceptional scholarship and pulpit ability but he had a weakness for drink which caused the congregation here to discharge him.

During the closing years of the Civil War and the period of Reconstruction Rev. Nicholas Schuepbach was in charge from 1863 to 1867. He was a dearly beloved pastor and many Highland people of today were christened by him and there are a few yet living who were confirmed by him in the old stone church. He was a very old man at the time of his pastorate here.

On Easter Sunday, 1867, Rev. John Mettelmann of St. Louis became the pastor and he remained in that position for twelve years. During his time the church grew rapidly in numbers, and it was realized that the congregation had outgrown the old stone church. Under his leadership the work of building another was attempted. A stately edifice on the site of the old was completed in 1878. At the time it was built it was one of the most pretentious of that kind in this part of the state, and served the congregation for 43 years.

Building of the new church in 1878 was started in August and completed, as far as funds would allow, the following November. On July 13, 1878, an advertisement requesting bids on the building was published, stating that the plans and specifications could be seen at the office of the Buchter Lumber Yard. The bids were to be sent to J. J. Spindler and the contract was to be let on July 15. The contract was awarded to F. Oswald and J. Kamm, Jr., and work was started on the new building immediately. They were to receive $4300 for the work.

Just a day or two after the contract was let about twenty volunteer workers met on the site and completely razed the old church which had done service for 34 years. The stone and brick in it were sold for $9.80.

The foundation work was far enough along that the corner stone laying could take place on August 25, 1878, and the building near enough completed for the first service and dedication on Sunday, November 17, 1878. The galleries were not completed at the time of the dedication.

In connection with raising funds for the building the women of the church held a big bazaar at Lindendale Park on October 18, 1878, at which 403 prizes were given away and 1475 tickets were sold. They thus raised $390.20.

The entire cost of the building was $4705.50. The money was secured as follows: donations $2817.90; sale of stone and brick $9.80; bazaar $390.20; borrowed of Christian Hirschi at 8% interest, $1300.00, and of F. Ryhiner & Co. $134.30 and incidental collections $53.30.

Shortly after the church was completed, in fact before all of the interior work had been done, Rev. Mettelmann resigned. He was suc-
The spacious and modern Evangelical Church building after being enlarged and remodeled in 1934-1935.
ceded by Rev. G. Rentschler under whose direction the interior was completed, an excellent organ procured and three church bells purchased. Rev. Rentschler was likewise a popular pastor and remained here for eight years until 1887. He also organized the first large mixed choir which was under the direction of C. H. Seybt and developed into one of the best in the country.

He was followed in that year by Rev. Eschfeld who remained only one year. He was a very sickly man and his health kept him from mixing with his congregation and doing the many little things that make for popularity.

His successor, Rev. Rumpf, also stayed only one year, and that was a fateful year for him, for during the time he had one child die of scarlet fever and a daughter was killed by a Vandalia train while crossing the track at the depot to meet her father who was a passenger on the train.

All of the pastors employed since that time have given longer service here and have been able men. Rev. Pedro Ilgen served from February, 1890, to January 1, 1896; Rev. Paul Gerber from 1896 to 1903; Rev. J. Moeller from 1904 to 1908 and Rev. Carl Maier from 1908 to 1916.

The longest continuous pastorate in the history of the church was that of Rev. C. E. Miche, who came here in September, 1916, and served continuously for 15 years. Under his direction the church gained vastly in numbers and all departments thereof were put on a thorough business basis.

It was realized that the church building no longer completely fitted modern needs, and in 1920 the late Chas. Schacht, then president of the congregation, donated $1000 to start a building fund. To this was added a legacy of $500 left the church by the late Fred Kaeser. The late Louis Latzer and Mrs. Louisa Wildi also contributed liberally to start a fund, and in the end the whole congregation and others outside were solicited and a building fund of $25,000 was raised.

It was decided to remodel the church building and erect an annex. The work was begun on April 13, 1921, and by November 6 of that year was complete and the new edifice was appropriately dedicated.

In 1911 Mrs. Louisa Wildi had donated a handsome Wick Pipe Organ to the church as a memorial to her deceased husband, John Wildi. When the church was remodeled this organ was rebuilt, electrified throughout, and made modern in every respect.

As manager during the time of the rebuilding, Rev. Miche directed improvements and at the same time saw that all the financial affairs were carefully looked after so that there was no unpleasant aftermath such as occurred after the building of the first church.

In the autumn of 1931 Rev. Miche notified the congregation of his intention to resign and Rev. O. C. Bassler was employed and began his pastorate on October 1, 1931.

Rev. Bassler has proved to be an excellent successor to Rev. Miche, and under his pastorate the membership continued to increase and
church activities expanded until 1934 when plans were formed for further enlargement of the church. Late that year work was begun and at a cost of many thousand dollars there was built on the east side a large addition which rendered the auditorium ample for all occasions, gave the needed convenience for efficient Sunday school work and gave the congregation sufficient dining room space that large numbers could be accommodated as occasion demanded. It also furnished them with an assembly room where stage productions and entertainments in connection with church activities could be produced and well presented. The older part of the building was also refinished at the same time and the whole now presents a uniform and beautiful appearance and fully meet the needs of the congregation.

The following is a complete list of the pastors who have served the congregation during the past hundred years: Rev. J. Rieger, 1840-42; Rev. F. R. Cioline, 1842-43; Rev. H. R. Willmer, 1843-45; Rev. Dony, 1845-47; Rev. Rheineke, 1847-48; Rev. Jacob Meier, 1848-50; Rev. Ernest Krause, 1850-51; Rev. August Lepique, 1856-60; Rev. J. J. Mueller, a few months; Rev. Carl Rettig, 1854-56; Rev. August Lepique, 1856-60; Rev. John Luchsinger, 1860-63; Rev. U. Schuepbach, 1863-67; Rev. John Mettleman, 1867-1879; Rev. G. Rentschler, 1879-1887; Rev. Eschfield, 1887-1888; Rev. Rumpf, 1888-1889; Rev. Pedro Ilgen, 1889-1896; Rev. Paul Gerber, 1896-1902; Rev. J. Moeller, 1904-1908; Rev. Carl Meier, 1908-1916; Rev. C. E. Miche, 1916-1931; Rev. O. C. Bassler, 1931-

**Early Business Men**

Most of those who entered mercantile pursuits during the early years, 1840 to 1850, only remained in business for a few years and then turned their attention to other things. Wesley Dugger, who started the first store at the corner of Broadway and Pestalozzi in the fall of 1837, only remained in business for six or seven years and then retired in favor of his sons and they soon ceased mercantile pursuits altogether. Elijah Ellison, who during the following year started a store across the street west of the Columbia Hotel, only followed mercantile pursuits for a few years and then quit it entirely, renting his building to Peter Tuffli and others so that they could start the first butcher shop in Highland. The butcher shop having been moved to a new location, the Ellison store room was razed in less than a dozen years after it was built, and on the site Jacob Weber erected the three-story Highland House, which is there now.

David Thorpe who in 1839 started a store about where the Martin Huber house is now located and became the first postmaster of Highland, did not remain in business more than a dozen years at the most and his store was never a very large one.

The leading store, based on the amount of business done, from 1840 to 1850, was the Garrett Crownover store in the building that yet stands at the corner of Main and Laurel. But Mr. Crownover got a keen rival when John Boeschenstein built the Kempff Pharmacy building just
across the street from him and started to carry the same lines of merchandise. Death cut short the business life of Mr. Boeschenstein a few years later and his widow sold the business and building to Henry Weinheimer and Charles Felckert. They were live merchants and under their management this store took the lead. They kept expanding until they carried a large line of merchandising, and they also dealt in farm produce of all kinds and at one time had nearly the whole of that corner lot under roof to care for the various lines of business in which they were engaged. For a number of years this business was very successful and the owners made a lot of money from it. During the time he was engaged in business there Mr. Weinheimer built the Mrs. Laura Everett residence at the corner of Eighth and Laurel, which was probably the finest house in the city limits at the time of its building.

Another business in Highland that was very successful during the decade from 1850 to 1860 was a furniture store conducted by Herman Liebler in the present Ben. Haselhorst building at the corner of Ninth and Cypress. Mr. Liebler started it as a furniture store, but he gradually branched out until he boasted that a young married couple could come into his store and get everything they needed to start up household keeping excepting farm machinery. When the cholera epidemic came he laid in a stock of coffins and bought a hearse. During the years when inhabitants were dying so fast he did a big undertaking business and his success led him to over-expansion. It is claimed that at the beginning of the second cholera epidemic in 1851 he ordered and stocked such a large supply of coffins in anticipation of business needs that he had some of them on hand yet when he retired from business twenty years later. The second epidemic was put under control a whole lot sooner than the first one in 1849 and the number of deaths was not near so great.

Liebler not only did an extensive and profitable business over a number of years but he also continually furnished the town gossips with plenty to talk about. His family life was none too agreeable, probably caused by his own propensity to seek congenital pleasures indiscriminately. Shortly after the Civil War during a quarrel with his wife he became exasperated and threw his wife downstairs (their residence was on the second floor.) The lady was so badly injured that the sympathy of the people was aroused in her favor and in later years Mr. Liebler's business was not so profitable as it had been. He removed from this city shortly after 1870. The late John S. Hoerner states that he then returned to Germany, but some of the older residents of Highland are authority for a story that he went to Texas and was shot and killed there.

Another pioneer in his line of business here was John Buchter, who started the first regular lumber yard here in 1850 and conducted it successfully for about thirty years.

Previous to that time no one here had been engaged regularly in handling lumber and great inconvenience had resulted, and no little-
extra expense. Rough, native lumbers for foundations and frames could be obtained at the saw mill in connection with the Highland Milling Company, or at other smaller saw mills that had been established in the country near town. These mills all sawed walnut along with other kinds of lumber and among the immigrants were many very skilled wood workers who could take that same walnut and make therefrom inside finishing lumber for the homes, or could also make it of oak. But all of that work meant extra expense and there was need of a place where the cheaper, and more easily worked pine lumber could be purchased at all times. The purchase of windows, doors, etc., at first had to be made through the stores, or trips made to St. Louis to obtain them. Consequently when Mr. Buchter started a lumber yard and stocked all building lumbers needed, his enterprise was hailed with delight. Not many years later Nick Rohr and Son established a planing mill and from that time on all building needs have been met locally.

In 1846 one Nicholas Wochner bought a lot at the corner of Ninth and Laurel and built the residence now standing there which belongs to Alb. Kleiner and is occupied by the chiropractor. In 1850 he sold it to John Buchter who at the same time acquired the adjacent frontage now owned by Carl Huegy and there started the lumber yard, which he continued to be in successful charge of for 30 years.

Another of the early business men of Highland and one but little remembered because his residence here was so brief was Henry Bornstein, to whom we made reference when writing of the cholera epidemic. Bornstein came here from Germany in 1848 and bought the corner lot where the Roy Schwartz saloon is now located, also owned at present by Albert Kleiner. Whether or not he built any part of the building now standing there we do not know. But he conducted a store there for a little more than a year. When the cholera epidemic became so bad in 1849 he and his wife fled to St. Louis and we do not think he ever afterwards resided in Highland. Mr. and Mrs. Bornstein were both talented people and in 1848 were among the group that started the production of theatricals or home talent plays in Highland.

The Wool Factory

In 1843 a man named N. Smiley came here, from where we do not know, and started to make woolen goods. A few years after his coming he got some others interested in his enterprise and bought the lot at the corner of Broadway and Washington where the shoe factory now stands, and erected the old part of the building which still stands there and is in use, although now covered with kellastone. The brick for the building were made at the foot of the hill east of town by a man named Moser who had a brickyard there for a long time. He afterwards left Highland and moved to Wisconsin. The building when completed was quite a commodious factory building for that time and Smiley purchased and installed therein all the machinery necessary for making a rough sort of woolen cloth out of the raw wool, not enough of which to supply
him could be obtained locally but had to be shipped in. The machinery necessary was expensive and it is likely that when Smiley got ready for business he had more money invested in the enterprise than was at that time invested in any other business in Highland, the flour mill not excepted. At any rate he had to mortgage the building to get the needed funds and the mortgage hung heavy over the heads of one boss after another for thirty years and then creditors had to take it.

Smiley struggled along for seven or eight years but could not make it pay. His operating cost and selling expense was too great. He made good "jeans" and also lighter woolens but could not find a market where he could dispose of them at a profit. By 1852 he was thoroughly disgusted with it and building and business passed into the hands of Chas. and Wm. Stahl. What became of Smiley we could not learn.

After the Stahls got hold of it they conceived the idea that it would pay better if factory operations were simplified and only yarns and yarn products put out. A lot of the expensive cloth wearing machinery was sold for what they could get and yarn making machines and knitting mills installed. A few more years went by but no financial profit resulted. After a time Bosshard, Feickert & Co. became the operators and still later Bosshard, Pfenninger & Co., and finally, deserted by all associates Bosshard himself continued to operate it until 1874 when he discontinued the business and as near as we can figure out by the records he turned the building over to his creditors, the F. Ryhiner & Co. bank.

Church of St. Paul

As a proper background for our story we want to remind our readers that the first Swiss settlers of this community, the Kœepfi family, and young Joseph Suppiger, who played such an important role during Highland's infancy, had all been reared as members of the Catholic Church. In fact the very fine education that Joseph Suppiger possessed had been acquired in preparation for work in the Jesuit order. The first death that occurred in the Swiss settlement was that of Suppiger's father who died in 1833, a month after his arrival here. His body was carried across the fields from the present Ed Matter place to the City cemetery and there interred, and it is a matter of record that his relatives gave him as near a Catholic burial as was possible without the presence of a priest of that church.

In 1840, among immigrants to Highland, were eight families from Baden, Germany, all of whom were devout Catholics. They settled on farms mostly northeast of town. In 1841 seventy-two more came with such names as Foederer, Hotz, Rall, Trautner, Fellhauer, Essenpreis, Weber, Voegel, Schwartz, Frey, Schaefer, Bellm, Barth, Koch and Winter, all from Baden and all Catholics. Also at the same time came Catholics from Switzerland such as the Gall and Willi families to join other Swiss Catholic families already here.

The organization of the Catholic church in this part of the U. S.
was not as perfect then as it is now, but the spiritual needs of the immigrants in Highland and the country near here were kept in mind by the heads of the church and we learn that the Coadjutor Bishop of that time and later the Right Reverend Archbishop, Richard Kenrick of St. Louis, sent priests to Highland from time to time to hold services in the homes and other available places. It is a matter of record that such irregular services were held in the Peter Tuffli home and also in the little school house that stood on Methodist Hill after 1839. But the visits of these priests were very irregular, could not be fixed in advance, and were not very satisfactory to members of that church.

Among the clergy who visited Highland at that early time were Rev. James Cating S. J., who ministered to their spiritual wants on several occasions, and Father Joseph H. Fortman, who was pastor of what was known as Shoal Creek church at Germantown.

In 1843 Highland was a village of sixty families and the Catholics in town and in the country near here decided to build a church of their own in the town. The location selected for it was on Lot 7 of Block 1, the most northeastern block of the town as then platted. This location was probably selected on the advice of the visiting priests and the lot donated free of charge for the purpose.

A committee of nine members was appointed to devise ways and means of building. This committee consisted of John Schwarz, Conrad Bader, Solomon Koepfli, William Long, Dr. Caspar Koepfli, Jr., John Frey, Theodore Mueller, Nicholas Voegele and Jacob Durrer. This committee was found to be rather large and unwieldy so a sub-committee of three, Solomon Koepfli, Jacob Durrer and Conrad Bader, were named to make a subscription campaign to get the money and to supervise the erection of the building.

This sub-committee was well chosen. Solomon Koepfli had just returned from a visit of two and a half years in Switzerland and was thoroughly disgusted with conditions in his native land and ready to build a home and make his permanent abode in Highland and help the town in every way he could. Jacob Durrer, the proprietor of the Eagle Hotel, had a chance to meet and talk to all the people that came into Highland, and was well liked and very influential. Conrad Bader was a farmer living in the country northeast of Highland and had a great deal of influence among the Badenites who would form the greater part of the membership of the new church.

Plans were made for the building without any thought of architectural design. It was decided to make it a one-story frame, 25x40 feet with stone foundation and the studding filled in with brick as was then the custom with buildings of that kind. Work was begun in the winter of 1843. Trees were felled and the logs brought to the saw mill so that the frame work could be sawed, stones were hauled for the foundation, and shingles for the roof and lath for the walls were riven from the straight-splitting timber that was then plentiful near town.

Everything was in readiness for work to begin in the spring. Quite
a number of the members preferred to donate labor instead of cash and their offer was cheerfully accepted. Work on the foundation was started as soon in the spring as possible, and on May 1, 1844, the cornerstone was officially laid with proper ceremony by Rev. J. Catling S. J.

The work had been started when only part of the needed amount of money had been subscribed and a good deal of difficulty was experienced in raising the balance. The work progressed slowly, and the building was not ready for occupancy until 1846 in which year Rev. Jos. Kunstler, pastor at Teutopolis, Ill., offered the first mass in the new church.

First Church of St. Paul, built in 1844 and yet standing. Now used as a hall for gatherings and entertainments

All of this original building yet stands on the site where it was erected 90 years ago and is a part of what is known now as St. Paul's Hall. Additions have been made to it to accommodate various activities of the congregation, the floor was raised and a basement put under it, but the walls of the original building yet remain and are in a good state of preservation. In fact the weather-board, which has been kept well painted seems even better than weather-board that was put on other buildings a half century later.

Church services were held regularly in the little building even before it was fully completed on the inside and furnished as the rites of the church prescribe.

Among the priests who came to Highland at intervals, even before
the church was finished, was Rev. Charles Joseph Marogna, a very able and zealous man who was located at Germantown and came from there to serve the Highland congregation. His work for his church during that early period was of such a nature as to cause him to be greatly admired during his lifetime and his memory to be revered by parishioners for years after his death. There is no record left at the church here of baptisms, deaths and marriages among the people, or the work of any of the priests that preceded him. If such are in existence they would be found in St. Louis, Teutopolis, Germantown and other cities from which the early priests came for occasional service in Highland. However, in 1848 Father Marogna started a record book for the Church of St. Paul. It is still legible and is kept in the vault at St. Paul's and greatly prized on account of its historical value. The first baptismal record is dated January 23, 1848, and is that of Mary Anna, born December 21, 1847, daughter of Philip Hirsch and his wife, Mary Anna, nee Pfiffner. Sponsors were Mathias Fellhauer and his wife, Elizabeth. Among the first names recorded in the Register of baptisms are such names as Peter, Rickher, Ammann, Etzkorn, Linenfelser, Dammert, Dumbeck, Gruenenfelder, Hartlieb, and others. A little later such names appear as Speckart, Nagel, Wagner, Knebel, Rinderer, Spengel, Isert, Braun, Deutsch, Walter, etc. The first marriage recorded is that of John Frey and Prisca Habich who were joined in wedlock on January 29, 1849.

It was during the time that Father Marogna had charge of St. Paul's that the cholera epidemic raged in Highland. Nearly every family in town lost some members due to the plague, and in a few instances whole families were wiped out. A cemetery became an imperative necessity. In this emergency Father Marogna used a good part of the money he had brought with him after a visit to Europe to purchase forty acres northeast of town. The land was ideally located for the purpose and is still serving as a burial ground.

Everything indicates that Father Marogna labored tirelessly for the parish here during its formative period. It was during the years 1848-1851 that immigrants came to Highland in such large numbers, and when that is taken into consideration along with the cholera epidemic it can readily be seen what great need there was for a priest here and what sacrifice he must have made in making the many necessary trips from Germantown to Highland and back.

The last registration made on the St. Paul's church records by Father Marogna bears the date of January 27, 1851, and it is presumed that at about that time he concluded his arduous work in Highland. He had bullded well, and all thoughtful members of the congregation have always given him great credit, and properly revered the memory of the man who made the long horseback rides from Germantown in all kinds of weather to serve his Master and his people.

In 1851 Rev. P. Limacher was appointed as the first resident priest in Highland. He was appointed to the post by the Bishop of Chicago,
the diocese of Alton not having been instituted at that time, and this church being under the jurisdiction of Chicago.

Father Limacher was a young priest, newly ordained. He arrived in Highland about the middle of September, 1851, and took up his residence with the family of Jacob Rall, about three blocks from the church. Later he lived with the Peter Voegele family just across the street from the church.

The task that confronted Father Limacher was no sinecure. His flock was scattered over a territory that extended ten miles in all directions from Highland and each family had to be visited in order to take a census properly. His visits also were necessary for other purposes. Due to the fact that services at the church had not previously been held at regular times, and the people were not always apprised of when they would be held, a number had either ceased to practice their faith entirely or were on the verge of losing it. In both cases they had to be reclaimed. Also the sick had to be visited, sacraments administered, and children instructed. The task was a big one, and Father Limacher was not experienced. Yet he went to work with great zeal and energy. In fact, history seems to show that he was over-zealous in that he did not use sufficient patience in surmounting the many obstacles that presented themselves. He expected results which could only be obtained from a thoroughly organized body, and St. Paul's at that time was not. This will explain the arguments, quarrels and defections which marred his career as pastor and embittered his life and finally caused his removal. That he was a good priest morally and most zealous in his work no one has ever denied.

Father Limacher fitted out a class room in the Liebler home, the present Ben. Haselhorst building at the corner of Cypress and Ninth Streets, on the first floor of which at that time Herman Liebler conducted a furniture store. There he taught the first class of children, and it is said that he even organized classes for adults, giving both instruction in the elementary branches as well as in religion.

During Father Limacher's pastorate, part of the forty acres purchased by Father Marogna which was being used for cemetery purposes was inclosed with a fence so that it could be better kept, and the balance of the land was cleared and leased and thus became a source of revenue for the church. To care better for the business of the congregation, a Church Council was organized, consisting of two trustees and seven committee members, which undertook to govern the church. This Council appointed a sexton for the cemetery and made rules governing burial therein. It ordered that the priest be given a salary of $270 a year and also all the fuel he would need; it appointed a regular teacher for the school and a sacristan, who received detailed instruction as to his duties together with a salary of $30 a year. Every member of the congregation was expected to pay four, three or two dollars a year besides contributing to regular Sunday free-will collections.

Under Father Limacher's pastorate the church grew rapidly in num-
The Church of St. Paul, erected in 1856. Adjacent thereto is the Rectory which was built in 1890.
bers, and since services were held regularly it was found that the little church building would not at all times accommodate the people who attended. Also the use of an improvised room in the Liebler building as a school was not at all satisfactory. Many members began to advocate that they build a new and larger church and use the old church for a schoolhouse. The idea met with instant favor; and, on November 13, 1853, at a meeting of the congregation following the suggestion of the Church Council, it was definitely decided to build a new church.

A building committee was named consisting of Solomon Koepfli, Treasurer; Joseph Suppiger, Building Inspector; Nicholas Voegele and Valentine Krenzer. Their first work was to find a location for the new church. Solomon Koepfli promptly offered to donate two lots near the public square for that purpose. The building committee accepted the offer, but at a meeting of the congregation it was rejected and Mr. Koepfli was besought to donate two other lots near the site of the old church. He cheerfully acquiesced and donated two lots at the corner where St. Paul’s Church now stands.

Acting on the advice of the Archbishop of St. Louis Father Limacher obtained the services of an architect and contractor named Melcher, who drew plans for a church of Roman style and in dimensions 110 by 45 feet. At the same time the Church Council began the harder task of taking up subscriptions to raise the necessary funds.

At that time the B. & O. railroad was being built through Trenton, and employed in its construction were great numbers of Irish Catholics, some of whom had visited the church here and thought well of Father Limacher. He personally visited them at Trenton and received subscriptions in proportion to their ability from nearly all of them for his new church.

Stone for the foundation was furnished by Solomon Koepfli, and all the labor on that part of the building was donated by members of the parish and other citizens of Highland who were not members of the congregation. Thus the foundation was put in with no cash outlay.

The work of building the church proper progressed slowly because it was found to be difficult to get the money. Notes had been taken as subscriptions in lieu of cash. Most of these notes were in amounts from $5 to $100 and were made payable in a year and two years after date. Consequently it was not until Easter Sunday, 1856, that the first services could be held in the new building. Even then the steeple was not completed, there were no pews, no communion rail, pulpit or organ and not the slightest trace of interior decoration.

However, as time went on all this necessary equipment was purchased and installed. The total cost of building and equipment was $10,000, and when it was finished it made the most imposing appearance of any church this side of St. Louis. The parish raised a total of $7500 and at the end of 1858 were only $2,900 in debt.

All this was not accomplished without some difficulty. Such a thing
never is. Some were dissatisfied in a few respects and there was the usual number of quarrels. Some who contributed liberally thought they were privileged to dictate to the committee in charge; while others, who gave but little, threw out a smoke screen to hide their lack of charity by caustically criticizing the committee's work. It was ever thus.

After the new church was ready to be used for the regular services, the old church which had done service for a bare dozen years was converted into a schoolhouse and a regular teacher employed. The records show that he got a salary of $150 a year and was lodged in an ante-room of the school building. Among the teachers who served there up to 1861 the records show the names of Pichler, Peter Wais and John F. Nolte.

Prior to the year 1857 the priest boarded with parishioners, now here, now there. There were many calls for his services, and some of the calls meant long trips on horseback into the country to visit the sick. He needed to be permanently located, so that he could always be found, would be always available for members of the parish, and also would have a place for needed office equipment.

Realizing this, Father Limacher decided to build a rectory; and, since it was impossible at that time to raise any more money from residents of the parish, he elected to pay for it from his own resources. How he accomplished it is not easy to understand because it was only in 1857 that Bishop Junker established a salary of $500 per year for the Highland priest. How much less it was before that time records do not show. But he built the rectory and paid for it.

The church was blessed by Bishop Junker in the year 1861. The date is memorable in the annals of St. Paul's because it recalls a very disagreeable occurrence. The Bishop, a good but very methodical and severe man, thought that the pews should be rented for a certain sum. To this the parishioners objected and manifested their unwillingness by leaving the church. The incident brought the parish in rather bad repute for some time and ended with the removal of Father Limacher by the Bishop and his transfer to Waterloo, Illinois. The Bishop threatened to leave the church without a pastor but relented and sent Father B. Bartels in the year 1861 to care for the flock.

This period is a sad one in the history of St. Paul's. Father Bartels was a strict disciplinarian and tried to bring harmony and order into the parish without surrendering any part of the Faith or deviating from what, in his judgment, was the right thing to do. He found his parishioners just as determined to have their own way. The result of course was bitterness, charges and counter charges, until in the year 1863 he left Highland to serve the parish at Bartelso, which town was named after him.

The parish was left without a resident priest from January, 1863, until May of the same year when Rev. P. Peters, then pastor of Edwardsville, agreed to administer to the parish. Quietly he assumed his duties, trusting in God and relying upon the better disposed people
of the church. The first half year passed without any particular occurrence to be noted in our history, unless it be noteworthy that Father Peters used this time to study the parish and the people and to plan his future operations. We find in his record that he paid off the debt of the parish, some $1500.00, and in the year 1865 began a campaign for a new school. Fortunately, the lots in the block in which the church and rectory were situated had not been sold and were quickly purchased at no great cost. Subscriptions to the amount of $6000.00 were taken, and it was decided to have sisters teach not only a grade school but also to start a secondary school to be known as an academy for young ladies. It was decided to manufacture the brick right on the property. The new school was finished November 1, 1866, and put in charge of the School Sisters de Notre Dame. The entire cost was about $10,000.00, and it is noted that the plan of manufacturing their own brick worked out so well that they were able to sell $850.00 worth of brick after the school was built.

The academy did well and many of the young ladies of Highland received their education there; but, though the building was large for that time, it was found that the number of grade school children attending became so large that it was no longer possible to conduct the academy as a boarding school, and the secondary school was abandoned. The people appreciated their new school and were justly proud of it. The influence of the sisters in the parish seems to have created a new and much more wholesome atmosphere. The people of Highland owe much to these pioneer nuns who labored so successfully with their children. Year after year, the school under their efficient guidance has grown and has been kept entirely up-to-date in pedagogy.

Father Peters asked for bells for the church and the response was immediate as five men, Frank Frey, Adam Nagel, Christian Hotz, John Frey and Frank Hegner, donated $1179.00 for their purchase. At this time also the church was completed. The unplastered walls were now plastered and decorated; the steeple was built and new winrows installed. The historian tells us that the result was beautiful. He says: "Many of us have seen nicer churches but none of us dare tell that to the people of St. Paul's."

Father Meckel, from whose history we are taking these notes, says he would like to tell us the cost of this work but that a goat which it seems used to roam over the church lawn got hold of the book and, without any care for their historical value, devoured the two pages which held this data.

In 1874, Father Peters was given the large and important parish of St. Mary's in Alton and was succeeded by Rev. Oberprantach, who remained but a short time. This man, seeing that the parish needed a rest after all the sacrifices made to build their wonderful plant, gave his special attention to the spiritual needs of his people and limited his financial expenditures to bare current needs of maintenance. At this time, there were some very fine donations of church furnishings made
to the congregation among which must be mentioned the fine altar given by Christian Speckart at a cost of $1100.00. It is a matter of record that Father Wallescheck, a former citizen of Highland, read the first mass at this beautiful piece of church furniture. Father Oberprantacher endeared himself to his people because of his quiet personality and lovable disposition, but his health was poor and he soon returned to his native Germany.

He was followed by Rev. Jos. Meckel, whose incumbency was marked by decided spiritual improvement in the parish, a feature brought about by the organization of vigorous societies such as St. Joseph's Society, Purgatorial Society, Infant Jesus Society and the Third Order of St. Francis and quickening into new life the older societies existing in the parish.

Although Fr. Meckel's time was marked by a spiritual awakening, he also looked after the material interests of the parish and made many improvements inside and outside the church. He was also the founder and builder of the original St. Joseph's hospital. After a successful pastorate at Highland he was sent to St. Mary's at Alton in 1896 and died there.

He was succeeded by Rev. August Schlegel who did some very able work here and put the parish in splendid condition. At the height of
his success he died and was the first priest to be buried in the parish cemetery here.

Father Ferdinand Stick succeeded him. He was very old when he took charge but threw himself into the work with the zeal of a much younger man. He soon gave out and was an invalid for a few years before his death in 1914. He was buried beside Fr. Schlegel.

From 1911 to 1919 Rev. J. H. Gramke administered the parish. Not being pastor, he did his work quietly but did it remarkably well. In 1919 Father Gramke was sent to Jerseyville and Rev. Jos. DeChene became pastor here. He did good work, his most notable achievement being the remodeling and modernizing of the school building at a cost of some $20,000.

The school building originally contained living quarters for the sisters on the third floor, which was little more than an attic and by no means pleasant or convenient. In remodeling, this floor was vacated, and at a cost of $14,000.00 a new and comfortable convent was built, just west of the school, for the nuns.

Father DeChene was aging; his health became impaired and he was forced to retire from active duty, leaving the physical work in the parish, as much as possible, to his assistant. He spent his declining years in the sanctuary of his extensive library browsing through his books on science and calmly awaiting the call of the Master. Early in 1927, he retired to St. Joseph’s Hospital and the following spring, April 17, 1928, peacefully surrendered his soul to his Master.

The year 1921, during the administration of Father DeChene, is memorable in parish annals because in that year the church suffered two disastrous fires. On January 6, at 1:00 A. M., fire from an overheated furnace destroyed the entire interior. The building itself was saved only by the prompt and expert work of the fire department. Perhaps the greatest loss was the destruction of the fine pipe organ which had been the pride of the congregation. But the Wick Pipe Organ Company generously replaced it with a remanual instrument, a new and better organ than the old one. Then in June of the same year lightning struck and destroyed the graceful steeple of the church. It was never rebuilt. In fact, only temporary repairs were made after these two destructive fires because it was thought a new church would soon have to be built.

On September 11, 1927, August M. Hohl was sent to Highland to continue the work of his predecessors. The people of St. Paul’s by their ready and cheerful cooperation, have been a constant inspiration to the pastor and his efficient assistant, Rev. Alphonse J. Bertman. The congregation owes much to the long line of zealous men who spent the first years of their priestly lives as assistants in the parish. Among them must be noted: Fathers F. Reinhard, Anthony Kersting, Joseph Jele, William Oberdoerster, August Forster, John A. Duval, John B. Wardelin, F. Kopp, A. Shokard, J. Dietrich, Oscar Wernet, Anton F. Jaschke, John A. Gramke, Joseph A. Reis, Henry B. Schnelten, George Faller,
John Klaes, Lawrence Winking, Stanislaus Yunker, James Telken and Francis Enzweiler. Father Bertman, the last of this long line to take up his labors in this particular part of the vineyard, came directly from the seminary to assist Father Hohl in June, 1928.

A new rectory, of pleasing architecture, commodious and fitted for parish needs with adequate office room, vaults for records, instruction rooms and visiting parlors, was built and, through the remarkable generosity of the people, entirely paid for in 1930.

Architect's sketch of the new high school building for St. Paul's parish, which will be erected in the near future

The church, badly in need of repairs, was renovated as much as practicable. The building is old and much too small for present needs. Its capacity is 445 and a conservative estimate of the regular Sunday attendance is over twelve hundred. It is necessary to have three masses each Sunday to accommodate all with seating space. This is a problem which priest and people will have to solve in the near future.

The school, under the immediate supervision of Father Bertman as principal and with the help of the experienced corps of Notre Dame teachers, has been made one of the outstanding parochial schools of the diocese, having a full state- and university-accredited four-year high school. The future of the parish looks bright.
Highland Breweries

The first beer ever sold in Highland was brought from Belleville and placed on sale at the Eagle Hotel shortly after Durrer succeeded Anton Buchmann in the management of that primitive hostelry. For a few years that was the only beer that was sold here, and it was available only on special occasions. Having it on hand at all times was not possible, but Mr. Durrer was progressive enough to be sure of a supply for week-ends and other occasions when he thought the demand would be good.

Among the immigrants who arrived here shortly after the town site was platted was one John Geismann, a cooper by trade, and to him Eggen gives the credit of being the first to make beer in Highland. Mr. Geismann found the demand for barrels and kegs not sufficient to keep him busy and as early as 1841 began to brew beer. He continued to make it until 1877 when extreme age forced retirement. He bought a lot and built a home in the 700 block on Broadway where Ed. Zolk now lives, and at the rear of the house he built a cellar in which to age the beer. This cellar was about 20x18 feet and built of stone with an arched ceiling. It had not been used in recent years and the entrance had become filled up, but after Mr. Zolk acquired the property he repaired the entrance and any one can see it if he wishes to. Although Mr. Geismann continued making beer for many years, he never made it in large quantities, his output being greatly exceeded by another Brewery that began operation a year or two after he did.

In 1843 John Guggenbuehler and F. Weber started what they called the Jefferson Brewery. It was of small capacity and had only indifferent success. Later it passed into the hands of Daniel Wild, who continued to operate it for several years.

Although they then had two small breweries, the records show that the people of Highland were not satisfied with the quality of the output of either of them; and considerable beer continued to be brought in from Belleville and St. Louis all during the time from 1845 to 1850.

During the revolution in Germany in 1848 a large number of highly educated people had to flee from Germany and some of them located in Highland. Among these were several brothers named Bernays. Two of them were physicians and all had received technical education in their native land. About 1854 one of them, Chas. L. Bernays, essayed to manufacture a brand of beer that would neet public approval. He effected a consolidation with Daniel Wild and began the manufacture in a combined residence and brewery building of brick located on North Mulberry St. This was the building razed a few years ago by the heirs of the late Ed. C. Feutz. This building in its day was a substantial two story brick, with two arched cellars each 15x45 feet built underneath. The ground floor and cellars were used for the brewery and the second floor for a residence. The Bernays family lived there for a time. In 1856 he took Gerhard Schott and his son, M. J. Schott,
in as partners and the next year sold his interest to them, after which M. J. Schott and family moved into the second floor residence rooms.

Gerhard Schott and his family had emigrated from their home town in Germany to this country in 1855 locating in Highland. The following year, 1856, his son, M. J. Schott, who had been living in France since 1849, also emigrated and came to Highland. During his youth M. J. had been apprenticed to a cooper and brewmaster in Germany, and he had become very proficient both at the trade of cooper and in the art of brewing. He left Germany in 1849 during the revolution and went to France and worked there at these same lines. Very shortly

The brewery as it appeared about 50 years ago at a time when the business was very prosperous after his arrival in Highland, he and his father bought an interest in the Brewery.

The next change that was made in ownership was when Gerhard Schott sold his interest to M. J. and his other son, Christian. Several years later the latter retired, leaving M. J. Schott as sole proprietor.

Meantime the beer they made met with public approval, and the business outgrew the cramped quarters first prepared for it. In 1866 it was transferred to the present location of the Schott Brewing Co. which, with adjacent hills to give room for convenient cellars, was a good location.

The business continued to prosper, and demand for part of the output came from outside cities. By 1880 the output had become 6000
barrels per year, and 12 laborers were employed. In 1881 $45,000 worth of beer was sold.

In 1884 the business was incorporated as The Highland Brewing Co. and a number of stockholders taken in. From that time on expansion was rapid. M. J. Schott died in 1893 and his sons, Albert, Eugene and M. J. Schott, Jr., continued the management of a property that was growing fast. In 1911 Albert Schott sold his interest, and his place as brewmaster was filled by Hans Kalb, an expert brewer, and a brother-in-law. Extensive improvements were made, the capacity increased to 75,000 barrels per year, underground cellars for lagering extended in size, ice plants installed, and the sales territory extended until it included all of Southern Illinois.

For a decade prosperity followed. Then came the most shameful legislation ever perpetrated by the American people, the passage of the Eighteenth amendment and its subsequent enforcing act, which rendered practically worthless a quarter of a million dollars worth of property which good Highland citizens had spent a lifetime time in developing. The Brewery was forced to close its doors and the vast property deteriorated rapidly. For a dozen years it stood idle, save for the manufacturing of ice and an insignificant amount of malt. Even the ice business fell off woefully, due to the development of home refrigeration during the decade.

During the years of expansion the Brewing Company had acquired a lot of properties not only in Highland but in all surrounding cities and prohibition greatly decreased the value of all of them.

During the first years of prohibition the Highland Brewing Company suffered such reverses that it became involved in debt to a Collinsville bank, due to decreased value of its real estate. Eugene Schott, the
main owner, struggled along as best he could during all the trying years of foolish prohibition. Finally, after it became evident late in 1932 that the Eighteenth Amendment would be repealed, he had the Brewery property so incumbered, that its rehabilitation involved a big expense. He formed a new company, called the Schott Brewing Company, associated himself with a number of Collinsville men and some local men, had the plant put back into shape and early in 1933 the manufacture of beer was begun with Frank Santner, formerly of Chicago, as the brewmaster.

The product is an excellent one and has found a ready sale. Mr. Schott died less than two years ago and the business is now carried on by Guy R. Kneedler Sr., the President, and the following directors; Charles Maurer, George M. McCormick, Albert Schmeltzle, Edward Jones, A. H. Winter and R. E. Baumann. The last two named are the only Highland men on the present board of directors.

**The Old Methodist Church That Stands on the Hill**

At the time that Highland was settled a wave of religious fervor was sweeping over the United States and the church that was gaining fastest in membership at the time was known as the Methodist. The most active apostle of that faith in Illinois then was Peter Cartwright, a preacher and presiding elder. He traveled up and down the state, holding revivals, organizing congregations and helping to build churches. In other states of the Union the creed had also taken hold and a nation-wide organization resulted.

A few years later the guiding officials of Methodism in the United States noted the many communities that had been settled almost exclusively by immigrants from Germany and Switzerland, in which class was Highland, and arranged to present the Wesleyan faith to them through the medium of what was to be known as the German Methodist Church, the ritual being printed and sermons preached in the German language. The idea started in Pennsylvania and Ohio, where there were many German settlements, but it was not long until it spread to the German settlements in the Mississippi valley.

The first introduction of the faith into Highland was in 1845 when Rev. Wm. Hemminghaus, a German Methodist preacher of Mascoutah, came over here and held services in the first little schoolhouse that stood at the corner of Zschokke and Twelfth, but was destroyed by fire in 1850.

The next year, 1846, the Rev. Chas. Koeneke came here and preached at regular intervals. As the result of his efforts, the first society was organized that year. Some of the first members were Michael Mollet, John Zimmerman, Philip Gruen, J. Mueller and C. Kluge. As it soon appeared necessary to have a house for worship, a deliberative meeting of the society was held on December 14, 1846, at which it was decided to build a church; but owing to circumstances it could not be undertaken right away.
In 1847 Rev. Koeneke was succeeded by Rev. Louis Kunz, and a year later he was succeeded by Rev. Wm. Fiegenbaum, the father of Dr. Fiegenbaum, who died a few years ago at Edwardsville. Rev. Fiegenbaum was very active and resourceful. Before his coming some plans had been made for the building of the church and some money subscribed. He rapidly augmented those plans, and in the fall of 1848 he got the work started. It was carried on until the building was under roof before winter set in. Its completion, however, was delayed until the following spring. It was dedicated on June 26, 1849, by Rev. Henry Koeneke, who was then the presiding elder in this district. It is one of the oldest buildings in town. It is 40x30 feet and two stories high. When first built it was adorned with a steeple and a bell. It cost about $2000 at the time it was built.

Venerable Andy Herr says that he has been told by good authority that John Blattner built the church and made the brick from which it was built. The same authority informed Andy that Blattner was one of the first to preach sermons therein. Personally we could get no information as to who built it, and do not know. We have no reason to discredit Mr. Heer's story.

The peculiar construction of the old building has excited our curiosity. Investigation reveals that the first story, which is built of rough stone, was paid for exclusively by the German Methodist congregation; and the second story, or church proper, was paid for jointly by them and what was known as the American Methodists. It seems that no sooner was a German Methodist society organized here than some of the people insisted that they should have Methodist sermons in English and formed what was known as the American Methodist Society. The two societies, however, worked together and jointly built the church as told above.

The German Methodists exclusively owned the first story and they used that as a residence for their early pastors. With the church proper they arrived at a happy solution of differences. During one year German services would be held in the forenoon and English services in the afternoon. The next year it was reversed.

Other early members of the German congregation were F. Kandert, J. Kircher, Gallus Rutz, Henry Becker, J. Kaeser, Chas. Grundenberg and C. Britt. The English congregation had for a leader Garrett Crownover, then a prominent merchant, and among members included such families as Reynolds, Manners, Todds, House and Kielth.

After the church was built and a resident minister installed, Highland became the center of Methodism for this part of the country. From here congregations were served at Edwardsville, Fosterburg, Staunton, Beaver Creek, Blackjack, Silver Creek, Ridge Prairie, The Bluffs, Moro and Upper Alton. Rev. Wm. Fiegenbaum was in charge and he had two assistant preachers. They were Rev. J. Keck and Rev. Herman Koch, the latter being also a teacher in the school here for a time.
Those early preachers labored long and devotedly. They were on horseback most every day going from place to place, and on Sundays they preached in log cabins, schoolhouses, and wherever they could get an audience. For their services they asked but little and received less; they worked for other than monetary reward.

When the cholera broke out in Highland in 1849 and eight and ten people were dying each day, Rev. Wm. Fiegenbaum and his assistants were stopped from traveling on their rounds for fear they would spread the disease. Rev. Fiegenbaum immediately devoted himself to nursing the sick and for two months administered faithfully to their bodily and spiritual wants. He then resumed his preaching and built up all the Methodist societies near here.

For thirty years after the church was built the congregation here grew and prospered and remained the big center for all nearby Methodist churches. Nearly all of the quarterly meetings were held here and there was always a good attendance from outside of town. Every Sunday there were two Sunday schools conducted there, one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, and each was followed by the regular church service.

Finally dissension arose between the German and the English societies which became more acute as years passed and finally ended by the German Society buying out the interests of the English Methodists. Most of the latter then joined the Congregational Church.
The German Methodist Society continued to maintain the church and a parsonage which was built later for many years. Finally the congregation dwindled until a resident pastor could no longer be supported and the parsonage was sold. Then for a number of years the pulpit was filled at irregular intervals by ministers who resided at other places. The last of these we believe was Rev. Mark Koenig of Granite City. Eventually even that was given up and the church property itself sold to Mrs. Cath. Buchter about 25 years ago who in turn sold it to its present owners, the Woodmen of the World.

We would like for our readers to understand that from the outset the English Society never did support a resident pastor. The decline of the church can largely be attributed to the fact that ministers who could preach in German became scarce in the Methodist Church, and also the number of congregations that desired sermons in German gradually declined.

The old church has been a landmark ever since it was built; that part of the city has always been called Methodist Hill. When it was built the only other building near it was the little log schoolhouse diagonally across the street. It seems rather odd to note, but the two nice buildings that were finished in 1849, that church and the three-story Highland House were both located on the highest spots in Highland.

Windstorms have damaged the roof of the building more than once. Along about 1870 the whole roof was blown off, and at different times parts of it have been damaged. The old bell finally became so rusty and useless that it was sold for junk, and the belfry was torn down when the building was being re-roofed. Altogether it is not much of a building any more, but it played a part in the life of Highland that was worth while.

The Carriage Factory

Highland was full of skilled mechanics of all kinds in an early day and especially were blacksmiths and wagon makers plentiful. They were kept busy and the product they turned out was good. Among them was one Thomas Korrink, who essayed to do yet finer work and about 1850 started a carriage factory at the west end of Twelfth Street which he managed successfully for about 20 years. All of the more well-to-do people of that period had carriages. And some of them were very ornate turnouts, and the making of them required no mean skill. Our readers must not get carriages confused with the buggies that appeared on the market a quarter-century later. A carriage had much more durability and was also more showy. Farmers that were well-to-do wanted them for use in visiting and also for some trips to town. And the business men of the city, who were best off financially, all kept a horse or team and a carriage, which would be put to use on summer evenings, on Sundays and on picnic days. There was no little rivalry among a few in town as to who could exhibit the flashiest turnout. Hence Korrink
found business profitable and kept up a high standard of workmanship and took a pardonable pride in the quality of his output. That it was good is attested by the fact that when the first Madison County Fair was held at Edwardsville in 1863 Korrink had one of his carriages on exhibition and it won first prize despite the St. Louis dealers who had their quality articles in the same class.

The Helvetia Sharpshooters

No story of the development of Highland would be very much of a story if it did not chronicle the activities of the Helvetia Sharpshooters' Society, an organization more than 70 years old and still very active and one which has exerted no little influence toward making Highland what it is today. With the exception of the churches, it is the oldest of present day organizations; and numbered among its members at one time or another have been practically all of the men of influence and power that this community ever produced. The society has always been the owner and manager of the recreation center for the town and in a way has suggested, if not dictated, what pleasures might be enjoyed. Our recreation plays no little part in our development; hence we do not think it exaggeration to say that this society has had a molding influence on the lives and characters of our citizens.

Nearly every stranger who moves into Highland to make his home, especially if he comes from an ordinary American community, is filled with wonder concerning this Society of Sharpshooters that is so influential in Highland life. In years past when active shooting was regularly followed at the rifle range their curiosity was even keener than it is now. For the information of such people, we state that the best information we can get is that the sport of "Sharpshooting," as it was followed for many years in Highland, is of European origin. It had its beginning in the countries of Germany and Switzerland and grew out of the military rules that prevailed in those countries during the first half of the nineteenth century. At the time that Highland was in its infancy and while so many immigrants were annually coming here, military service was demanded of all in both Germany and Switzerland. Every able-bodied young man had to serve so many years in the army, and not a few came to America for no other reason than to avoid that service.

Rifle practice was the most recreational feature of that army life. It provided the competition that lends zest to any sport. It naturally followed that men whose days of army service were over would organize so as to continue to enjoy what had been such a source of pleasure. Their ranks were augmented by others who had not yet seen military service but wanted to prepare for it. Regular, close-knit organizations were formed in many places and strict rules for the practice adopted. The next step was for several such societies to organize into what we would now call leagues. Thus was the foundation laid.

It naturally followed that those localities in America which had been settled in the main by Swiss and German immigrants would get most
of their recreation ideas from the mother countries, and in this way the Sharpshooters' Societies were formed on this side of the Atlantic and soon a National organization developed. It was a manly sport, appealed to old and young, and was adopted and extensively followed in the U. S. by thousands not of German or Swiss birth.

Among the hundreds of people who came to Highland in the two years preceding 1850 were many who had enjoyed this sport in their native land and longed to see it started here. One of these was John R. Blattner, a shooter of renown, who in an early day had constructed a powder mill in the country east of here. He also had started many other new ventures which we have mentioned in this story at various times. With him a desire meant action, and when he felt the urge for his beloved sport he got busy at once. He personally furnished the money and assisted with the work and had a small tract of land cleared of underbrush, a rude shooting stand erected, and four targets put up. This first practice ground was located just about where the present shooting range is, but the distance was only 450 feet. He began this work in 1853 and by the next year, 1854, had it all in readiness. He and all others who so desired enjoyed the sport there that summer.

But for some reason it did not go from this first start. Why, we do not know. (The records show that after a season or two the range fell into disuse and the society that had been formed was dissolved.)

Nothing was done for about five years. Meantime such societies were flourishing at St. Louis, Belleville, Alton and other places where there was a large German element among the people. These folks were acquaintances and friends of the Highland men and urged them to organize again.

In the winter of 1859-60 the Helvetia Sharpshooters Association was formed and on Feb. 5, 1860, the body joined the national organization. The first president was Henry Hermann and the first Secretary was George Ruegger. There were no other officers at that time.

The newly formed society planned to give their first "Schuetzenfest" in the fall of 1861 and invite all other societies of that kind to attend and participate in the competition. With that end in view the shooting range was improved to some extent, the shooting house repaired, and some other preparations made. But the plan had to be abandoned due to the emergency of the Civil War. However the intention of the Society to give it had been spread around and a number of honor prizes were sent here by shooters from other cities, and cash donations were received to the amount of $100. From the Swiss people in far-off San Francisco they also received a beautiful gold medal to be given as a prize at the shoot. The Highland men kept the medal here to use as a prize at a later shoot, but the cash donations they returned to the senders.

For the next two years the Civil War engrossed the attention of all and no shoots of any size were attempted at the range, although the local members took weekly practice and improved the range to some extent.
Before Highland had become a town of much size, the people began to recognize the natural beauty of the spot now known as Lindendale Park. The land was owned by the Koepfli brothers, Solomon and Joseph, and they encouraged the people to frequent the spot for picnics and social gatherings of all kinds. It was perfectly natural, therefore, for them to give John R. Blattner permission to fix up the first shooting range at a place thereon that was naturally fitted for the purpose, where there was a level tract to shoot over, and a raise of land back of the targets in which the bullets could bury themselves. When the second attempt at organization was made, they objected not at all to the use of the place.

The brothers had vision enough to see that the new organization would become a prominent factor in the life of the community, as it was made up of the most reliable men. There was no village government then to be taken into consideration, and had there been it probably would have made no difference to them.

At a meeting of the Helvetia Sharpshooters' Society held on Jan. 17, 1863, a letter was read to the members the contents of which was a proposition from Solomon and Joseph Koepfli to donate outright the tract of land which is now the Park to the Sharpshooters just as soon as that organization would become incorporated so that they could hold title to it. The letter described the natural beauty of the place, recited how the Koepfli brothers had long desired that it be kept for the pleasure of the public and had accordingly preserved the virgin timber as much as possible, and told how admirably it fitted the needs of the Shooters and other societies that might be formed in Highland. The letter also stated that other citizens would probably donate cash and labor toward fencing it, planting rare shrubs and trees, building promenades and resting places, clearing away hazel brush and weeds and in every way adding to its natural beauty. The letter stated that the object in making the gift was to provide a place of recreation for the town of Highland through years to come, for societies of all kinds, for sports of any nature, for schools, and for the community at large. It stated that a provision would be made that if ever the Sharpshooters' Society was dissolved the land should be turned over to the town of Highland, and be kept for the purposes stated above. (The Koepfliis evidently knew it would not be long until Highland would incorporate as a village or city.) There was a provision made, however, that, if it ever were turned over to Highland and afterwards another Shooters Society was organized, the 6¾ acres on which the shooting range is located be given them for free use. The letter also said there would be a provision that neither the Shooters nor town of Highland could ever sell or give away any part thereof to any person or corporation or dispose of it in any way.

The following day, Jan. 18, 1863, the proposition was gratefully and formally accepted by the Sharpshooters, who voted unanimously that both Koepfliis be given honorary membership in the Society in token of appreciation of such a very generous offer.
The Sharpshooters immediately got busy and petitioned the State of Illinois for a charter as a corporation. The petitioners were Peter Streiff, Albert Bruckner, Bernard Durer, B. A. Suppiger and David Suppiger. The petition for incorporation was promptly prepared and forwarded to Springfield, where on Feb. 6, 1863, the Society was incorporated by a special act of the legislature.

The writer has been unable to learn why a special act of the legislature was necessary for the incorporation. It may have been that the license feature of the Articles of Incorporation made that necessary, or it may have been that prior to the adoption of the Illinois State Constitution of 1870 all incorporations required such action. At any rate it was so done and the fact that it was done that way has always proved beneficial to the Society and does even at the present time. We reproduce in full below the bill that passed the Legislature.

AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE "HELVETIA SHARPSHOOTERS' SOCIETY" OF HIGHLAND, MADISON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois represented in the General Assembly: That Peter Streiff, Albert Bruckner, Bernard Durer, B. A. Suppiger and David Suppiger, and such other persons as shall from time to time become members of said Society, are hereby incorporated and shall be a body corporate and politic, by the name and style of the "HELVETIA SHARPSHOOTERS' SOCIETY," located in Highland, Madison County, Illinois, and under that name shall have perpetual succession and shall be capable of suing and being sued, pleading and being implored, in all courts, both of law and equity, in this state; and may have and use a common seal, and the same to alter and amend at pleasure; and by this corporate name and style shall be capable of in law contracting and being contracted with, and acquiring, by purchase or otherwise, and of holding and conveying real and personal estate, either in fee or for a term of years: Provided, that they shall not at any one time name or hold property exceeding in value of ten thousand Dollars.

Sec. 2. Said corporation shall at all times have full power and authority to ordain, make and establish such by-laws, rules and regulations as they shall judge proper for the better government and regulation of the officers and members of said society and for ascertaining an equal annual rate of contribution to be paid by the members thereof, in aid of the funds of said society and for prescribing the time, place and manner of practicing in shooting, and the rules regulating the same by such by-laws, not to be inconsistent with the laws of this State and of the United States.

Sec. 3. Said society may select one of its members to act as steward or landlord, furnishing victuals and refreshments on the premises and in the buildings of the society only, at the days and hours appointed by the Executive-Committee thereof, said steward and landlord to be exempted from license.

Sec. 4. That for the better carrying on the business and affairs of said corporation, there shall be annually elected on the first Monday of April of each year an executive committee, consisting of one president, one vice-president, one secretary-treasurer, one vice-secretary, and one sergeant-at-arms, who shall hold their office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 5. In all suits at law or equity, brought against the society or in any suit brought by this society, against any of its members or
against any other person or persons, any member of this society shall be admitted as a competent witness.

Sec. 6. This act to be in force from and after its passage.

(sig.) S. A. BUCKMASTER, Speaker of the House of Repr.
(sig.) FRANCIS A. HOFFMANN, Speaker of the Senate.

Approved February 16, 1884.
(sig.) Richard Yates, Governor.

United States of America, State of Illinois, ss.

I, O. M. Hatch, Secretary of the State of Illinois, do hereby certify, that the foregoing is a true copy of an enrolled law now on file in my office. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the Great Seal of State at the city of Springfield, this fifth day of March A. D. 1863.

O. M. HATCH, Sec. of State.

Following incorporation, the Koepflt's deeded the tract of land of 31 acres, 1320 feet east and west and 1023 feet north and south, to the society, the deed containing the provisions previously mentioned.

At once plans were made to hold a big shoot there on July 4, 1863, and the following days. Volunteer help was solicited for the purpose of fencing in the tract and by May, 1863, that had been accomplished. Money was also donated with which a better shooters' house was erected 580 feet from the target house. Every Sunday forenoon of that spring and summer groups of zealous shooters went to Lindenthal with axes, spades, shovels and hoes, made roads and promenades, and built steps where they were needed to go up and down the hillsides. By the first of July the place had been transformed into a sylvan retreat of great beauty.

A "Stich" and an "Honor" target were added to the ten already there, a well was dug at some distance south of the shooters' stand, and Jacob Weber installed a good cellar in the hillside north of the shooters' stand so that the drinks could be kept cool. Ice was a luxury in those days and the beer as well as the wine was drunk at only cellar coldness.

While a number of the buildings were placed just where they are now located, not all of them were. The first dining hall, kitchen and speaker's stand were farther south than at present, being built toward the south end of the knoll about where the stock pens were located at the time of the last fairs.

The men who were members were not the only ones who worked at beautifying the park. Everyone in town was willing to help. Even the women and children undertook some of the work and did it well. By the time the first of July arrived, everything was in readiness for Highland to entertain the largest crowd of strangers who up to that time had ever gathered here.

We do not want to weary our readers, but think it not out of place
to mention some of the high spots in connection with this first big event of that kind that was ever held at the park.

John Suppiger and Bernard Suppiger took care of the quartering of the many visitors expected, private homes volunteering to board and room them while they were here. Others agreed to take care of the parking of rigs and the feeding of the horses, quite an item in those days; and others took care of the guests who came on the train via Trenton.

Looking down Lindendale Avenue, the street that leads to the beautiful Lindendale Park

Heinrich Bosshard, the Swiss poet, who then owned the John Zolk place, wrote an appropriate poem and had it printed on cardboards and posted in places at the park. To impress duly all strangers, a town slogan was adopted, "Three flags, three languages, but only one people." Signs with that slogan on them were printed and painted, the smaller ones being placed in the windows of the homes and the larger banners bearing the same words being placed across the fronts of stores, saloons, etc.

The first out of town shooters to arrive were a delegation from Quincy on July 2, the next day the Louisville Rifle club came in a body, and the night of July 3, in the midst of a big thunder and lightning
storm, the St. Louis delegation came and with them were shooters from Peoria, Morganfield, Charleston, Evansville and Tell City.

The morning of the Fourth, Cannonier Riedling woke the town at five o'clock with six successive cannon shots. He used so much powder that the windows in the houses were made to rattle. At seven o'clock another shot was the signal for all to assemble at the corner of Main and Laurel, and under the direction of Geo. Ruegger, who was made marshal, they marched to the park, the band, the target pointers dressed in red, the school girls, the bell boys, the Good Fellows lodge, the visiting shooters, and then all local societies of every kind.

Arriving at the park Dr. Felder and Mr. Bandelier made addresses, the shooting started, and the big event was on. As evidence of the immense throng that gathered there that day, we note that 82 gayly decorated wagons came from St. Jacob in a body and all other nearby neighborhoods were equally represented with the exception of Marine whose delegation did not arrive until July 5, having to wait for flooded creeks to subside before they could get here.

A. Bruckner was the shooting master who handled this first big event which was put over very successfully and thoroughly established for all time the name and fame of the Helvetia Sharpshooters.

A year later, July 3rd and 4th, 1864, another similar event was held at which $500 worth of prizes were given away; then in May, 1865, after Highland had been incorporated as a village, the Society became more ambitious and staged the first festival of American Shooters' League. For this event almost $4000 worth of prizes were donated. The first prize was a corner lot donated by Jos. and Solomon Koepfl and valued at $200. It was lot 12 in Block 32, on which now stands the residence occupied by Ed Netzer and family and belonging to the estate of the late Louisa Hagnauer. John Munch of Chicago won the lot.

It would not be interesting to our readers to give individual accounts of the many shooting festivals that have been held at Lindendale. After the close of the Civil War some kind of a shooting festival was held there nearly every year. Some of these were only local in their scope, some took in several states, and some were national affairs.

In this connection we might mention that it was at Highland in 1864 that the National American Sharpshooters' Society was organized. During a festival here the idea of national organization was born and the Society formed. The first officers were all Highland men: Dr. Abraham Felder, president, and the two Bandelliers, David Suppiger and Tim. Gruaz the other officers. The affairs of the national society were administered from Highland for a number of years.

Through these shooting festivals Highland became widely and very favorably known, and the beauty of Lindendale was widely advertised. The strangers who came here to attend the festivals were quartered in the homes of Highland people while here, and they were always very favorably impressed with the merit of the town and the people.

As an illustration of the above we want to record the experience of the now venerable Dr. Julius Wirth, who as a young man came here
from New Orleans to attend one of these festivals, was assigned to the home of John Spindler, fell in love with one of Spindler's daughters and has been a useful, distinguished and highly respected resident of this city for seventy years.

From the very time that the park was deeded to them, the Sharpshooters took great pride in beautifying it and would stand back at no expense to accomplish that purpose. They were assisted by nearly all the people of the town and how well they succeeded is attested by the fact that many of the older people claim that its beauty fifty years ago exceeded that of today. The writer knows only what he has been told in that respect. We do know that at present it is a beautiful place, but it may have been that when it was more heavily wooded with virgin timber it was even more inviting than at present.

Gradually the park came to be used for all public purposes. After the formation of the Highland Gymnastic Society, that organization made frequent use of it to hold district turnfests and other events of similar nature for which purpose it was admirably adapted. The churches also used it for their picnics and social gatherings.

Even in an early day it was a place of public resort on Sundays and holidays. It was within easy walking distance of town (in those days most people walked), and every Sunday afternoon in summer time a goodly crowd gathered there. Jacob Weber, then proprietor of the three-story Highland House, built the little cellar and bar just north of the shooting house, and he carried an advertisement in the "Bote" advising people to come there to enjoy cool and refreshing drinks on Sunday.

After the park came into general use by the different societies of Highland, the kitchen and dining room were moved farther north to their present location, so as to be more centrally located. The part of the park thus vacated was given over to hitching and feeding places for horses, for in those days the presence of a crowd in the park meant that a lot of horses had to be cared for.

In 1877 the first bowling alleys were installed and later newer ones in a covered building on top the hill west of the shooting house. These alleys were constructed as they are at present but were only 36 inches in width instead of 42 inches as regulation alleys are now. The ball used was made of lignum vitae, the hardest and heaviest wood known, and had no finger holes. Some of the Highland men became very expert and made remarkable scores. Most of the bowling was what is known as prize bowling and not scored as a regular game is now. The alleys were used for many years and greatly enjoyed.

At first only active shooters were members of the Society, with the exception of the few that were made honorary members. But gradually as civic pride increased and all people realized that it was a project that deserved the financial support of all, others joined the organization regardless of whether or not they wanted to take part in the shooting; hence the roster of membership would show the names of nearly all of the more prosperous class of people who have resided in Highland for the past 70 years.
An every day scene at the modern swimming pool that is now one of the recreational facilities of Lindendale Park
The Society has not always prospered financially. More than once in the years that have passed has the pinch for funds been keenly felt. The financial records show that for a period of several years every-thing would go smoothly under some able leadership, and then would come a few years during which all was not so well. Like every organ-ization semi-public in nature, a faithful few have had to do most of the work, and too often they have received only a modicum of the credit they deserved.

In 1898 when the Highland Madison County Fair Association was organized, the park was used as a place to hold it and continued to be during the more than 20 years that the annual fair was held. For this, some special provisions were made and some buildings erected, the last of which was the octagonal building south of the dance pavilion, for which very little use has been found since the fair was discontinued.

Fairs there were discontinued after the advent of prohibition when they no longer were profitable, and the Fair Association surrendered its charter.

A year ago a new Highland-Madison County Fair Association was formed and a fair was held there in 1936. Another and a bigger one will be held there in September of this year.

Large crowds were drawn to the park during the years that a race track was maintained on the Paris land west of the park. But with the advent of the auto all local interest in horse racing disappeared, and the track itself is but a memory now to most of our people.

Shooting continued at the range until a few years ago when it was practically discontinued, not enough members being interested in the sport to justify the organization in going to the necessary expense for regular Sunday shoots.

In the fall of 1922 when the Highland Golf Club was organized, the Sharpshooters permitted the use of part of their tract of land for that purpose.

The park itself has been very much modernized during the last few years. Modern toilet facilities have been installed, and in 1929 and 1930 a modern swimming pool was built at a cost of several thousand dollars. It affords a pleasure much desired during the summer season.

A few years ago the shooters also purchased the Paris land to the west and used it for a baseball diamond and also for parking purposes.

During the past few years the park has been extensively patronized nearly every Sunday by parties of St. Louis people among whom it enjoys an enviable reputation. Much work has also been done in late years toward keeping the premises more attractive than ever before. At the present time it is in excellent condition, and with the repeal of prohibition it is very likely that the Sharpshooters can conduct it at a greater profit than for several years past. It is to be hoped that they can. The organization is in debt at present due to the installation of the swimming pool and the purchase of the Paris land, but not to such an extent that it will not be wiped out with the earnings of a few prosperous years.
The French Church and the Congregational

On September 6, 1848, the stage coach from St. Louis brought to Highland an even dozen emigrants who hailed from French Switzerland, that part of little Switzerland where the French language was then spoken. Three of the twelve immigrants that arrived at the same time were destined to become very influential men here. The three were A. E. Bandeller, Constant Rilliet and Rev. Francis Vulliet. It seems a little strange that the three of them should have arrived at the same time.

Rev. Vulliet was a middle aged man when he came to Highland. For twenty years before he had been an ordained minister of the National church of Switzerland. But from 1830 until 1848 all Switzerland was in discord due to political and religious strife, the details of which would not be of interest here. Suffice to say that Rev. Vulliet and 200 other ministers in 1845 refused to obey longer the mandates of the political party that was in power and he quit his pastorate there. But his enemies made things very unpleasant for him, and as a result in 1848 he emigrated and with his five children came to Highland, where he could find the religious freedom that had been denied him in his native land.

Soon after his arrival here he opened his house for religious worship every Sunday to all persons who could understand French, natives of Switzerland as well as of France.

He soon attracted good sized gatherings not only of people from town but also from the near-by country, a number of French having already settled southeast of town.

The doctrine preached by Rev. Vulliet was most like that of the Presbyterian Church, and he was frequently urged to identify himself and his congregation with that sect. But he steadfastly declined to do so and continued to hold his services regularly and remain independent.

But as was to be expected dissensions soon arose in the little flock that was attracted by his preachings. Some wanted a more familiar form of worship, and some wanted a more definite organization, so that members could be controlled. There was not then the religious tolerance that there is today. All people were their "brother's keeper" when they could be.

The upshot of the dissension was that part of Rev. Vulliet's first little flock withdrew and in 1850 began holding meetings of their own under the name of "Brethren." Eventually they built a little church a half mile this side of Sebastopol and worshipped there many years.

After the secession of the "Brethren" the dozen families that still acknowledged Rev. Vulliet's leadership asked him to draw up articles of faith for them. This he did in 1851 and thus was the French Evangelical Church of Highland organized.

For seven or eight years after that he continued to hold regular meetings first at the house of one member and then at the home of
another. Country members came to town sometimes to worship and town members went to the country.

In 1858 the church resolved to buy lots and build thereon. In order to do that a Board of Trustees had to be elected. The first trustees were Constant Rilliet, J. G. Chipron and Francis Grauze. They purchased lots 1 and 2 in block 63, at what is now the corner of Zschorke and Thirteenth Streets. A contract was let for the construction of a brick church in the center of the two lots. Nicholas Rohr, who conducted the first planing mill ever established in Highland, got the contract for $1352.20. The new building was dedicated on the first Sunday of October, 1859.

In this connection we want to state, that although Highland had a newspaper at that time, no mention of this dedication of a new church was made in its columns. We wonder why.

After the church was built Rev. Francis Vulliet was elected pastor, and he remained in that position until the time of his death on February 21, 1874. The following May his son Rev. Louis Vulliet was made pastor to fill the vacancy, and so far as we could learn they were the only two men who ever were pastors of the church at that location.

About the time of the beginning of the pastorate of the younger Vulliet, the church resolved to revise its constitution and identify itself with the Congregational churches of America. This was not fully accomplished however until April 6, 1876, when the Southern Association of the Congregational Churches of Illinois convened at Bunker Hill in Maconpin County and admitted the French Evangelical church by her delegates as a member of the Association. At the same meeting Rev. Louis Vulliet was ordained a Congregational minister and continued in charge of the church.

Meetings were held in the little brick church until 1887 when a new church was built on the site of the present Congregational church at the corner of Eighth and Washington. The little brick church was then sold and was remodeled into a residence. Of late years it has been further changed and improved and is now the modern residence occupied by Geo. Rauscher and family.

At the time of the building on the present site, the trustees were Eugene Hollard, William Ramsey and Henry Balsiger. A parsonage was erected just south of the church at about the same time. About twenty different ministers have been employed there since the time of Rev. Louis Vulliet and some of them have been very able men.

The church as built in 1886 served the needs of the congregation for about 30 years without any alteration. About 1916 it was extensively remodeled, the building being elevated so that a commodious kitchen and dining hall could be arranged in the basement. The size of the main auditorium was also somewhat increased and a more imposing front given to the edifice.

About five years ago the old parsonage was removed from the site it had occupied, and a new and modern manse was erected in its.
place. We have understood that the expense of building the new manse was borne almost exclusively by the late Mrs. Louis Latzer and her daughter, Miss Alice.

Following a long line of able pastors, a complete roster of which is given below, Rev. W. B. Steele accepted the pastorate in November, 1935, coming here from Toulon, Illinois. Under his charge the church spirit became stronger and in 1936 the congregation was inspired to plan the building of a new church on the same site. The new building is in process of erection as this book goes to press, and when completed, will be the most beautiful and most modern religious edifice ever erected in this city. The cost will probably exceed $75,000.

Unfortunately the building is not far enough along that a picture of this marvelous stone structure can be used herein. An architect’s sketch will have to suffice.

The following were pastors of the church: Rev. Francis Vulliet, 1851-1874; Rev. Louis Vulliet, 1874-1883; Assistant Pastor G. R. Wallace, 1883-1886; Assistant Pastor F. Bagnall, 1886-1890; Rev. L. E. Jesseph, 1890-1893; Rev. J. B. Williams, 1893-1894; Rev. W. H. Stubbins, 1894-1899; Rev. J. C. Myers, 1899-1901; Rev. George Dalzell, 1901-1903; Rev. Firth Stringer, 1903-1908; Rev. A. A. Wall, 1908-1909; Rev. J. E. Bodine, 1909-1912; Rev. D. G. Davies, 1912-1918; Rev. A. Wood, 1918-1919; Rev. H. K. Eversull, part of 1919; Rev. J. E. Miller, part of 1920; Rev. F. L. V. Meske, 1920-1926; Rev. F. L. Edwards, 1926-1928; Rev. J. D. Schmidt, 1929-1935; Rev. W. B. Steele, 1935 to date.
The architect's sketch of the new Congregational Church which is now nearing completion. It will be the most costly and imposing religious edifice that was ever constructed in Highland
Highland During the Civil War

The following chapter is a very disconnected story of events that transpired here during the four years of the Civil War. We have selected from newspaper files of that period the incidents that we thought would be of most interest to readers. To tell all of the story would require a volume. No sequence was attempted in the stories.

In 1860, before the outbreak of the war, there were between 1500 and 2000 people living in Highland. It was not an incorporated village hence exact population figures are not obtainable. The government in town was no different from that in the country nearby, since both were governed by the County Commissioners, no townships having yet been organized. Highland had grown very fast, mainly through immigration from Europe. Among these immigrants were many very scholarly men, graduates of the best European schools, who were casting their fortunes in the new world. We would not hesitate to state that the Highland of 1860 harbored more scholarly men than does the Highland of today. We think we could prove the truth of that statement.

These men had ideas of their own, were energetic and capable; they founded businesses, started factories, and made their presence felt in every laudable way. They also took keen interest in the governmental life of America; and, when in 1858 the great educative debates between Lincoln and Douglas were held at different places in Illinois, these thoughtful men of Highland gave earnest consideration to every thought expressed in the speeches or the newspapers of that period. A large number from here attended the debate at Alton and many others heard Lincoln speak at Greenville.

As a result of all this, each political party gained adherents among the Highland people. The vote in the fall of 1858 showed that the people here were about equally divided in allegiance to the conflicting doctrines of Lincoln and Douglas, but in the presidential election of 1860 Lincoln received a majority of the votes. This vote was accorded him despite the fact that the only paper published here at that time, "The Highland Bote" was radically opposed to him. In fact it had been founded for no other purpose than that of opposition to the growth of Lincolnism.

When this first Highland newspaper was founded in March, 1858, it was called "Der Erzaehler" and was published by Rudolph Stadtman and John Karlen. Stadtman had been a teacher in the schools here and was of a literary turn. Karlen was a printer, and a month later sold his interest to Stadtman who changed the name to "Der Highland Bote." Later in the summer the latter sold it to Peter Voegele who published it for several years in the little brick building across the street south from St. Paul's hall. He was publishing it there with Heinrich Stiefel as editor when the Civil War broke out.

"Der Bote" was not enthusiastic about the election of Lincoln; and, at the time of his inauguration on March 4, 1861, predicted disaster.
After Fort Sumter was fired on in April, 1861, and Lincoln issued a call for volunteers to serve 90 days or to the end of the war, the paper lent no encouragement to any of the young men of Highland to enlist. However there were many good men in Highland who realized the Union must be preserved at all costs and they got busy at once. The young men and boys also had their imaginations fired and many of them wanted to go.

The two leaders who came more to the front at this time than any others were Jacob Eggen and Dr. Gallus Rutz. We have written much in previous chapters about Jacob Eggen in the first years of Highland and during the Mexican War. In 1861 he was well past 50 years of age, but his soldier spirit flared up as though he were many years younger. Right away he caused to be inserted in the "Bote" over his signature a notice for the young men of Highland and vicinity to come to a mass meeting to be held on the night of May 4, 1861, at the "Gesthaus" then conducted by John Menz, and located on the corner of Twelfth and Walnut where the Claude Pyle residence now is.

This meeting was attended by more than a hundred young men and speeches were made by Jacob Eggen, Constant Rilliet and John Blattner. As a result a number of young men signified their willingness to enlist. Jacob Eggen proffered his services to begin drilling a company of infantry, and Constant Rilliet, who at that time was Swiss Consul and located in Highland, tendered his services to drill the cavalry.

The drilling began the very next evening and at the same time an application was sent to Richard Yates, the elder, then Governor of Illinois, for places for the Highland young men in some Illinois regiment. The application was made through Garrett Grownover of Highland, then a member of the Legislature. Yates promptly told him that the Illinois quota had been filled.

They then learned that Missouri being a border state had not been able to fill her quota so readily and that they could get in a Missouri regiment. The drilling continued every evening until July 30, 1861, when 40 of the young men went to St. Louis in a body, led by Dr. Gallus Rutz, and enlisted in the 15th Missouri Infantry. To get to St. Louis they traveled by wagons to Trenton very early in the morning and took the train there. H. H. Just, Jacob Hoffmann and Manner Roll furnished the teams and wagons to take the 40 to Trenton, and Daniel Wild, who conducted a brewery gave them several kegs of beer to drink en route. Thus were the first 40 Highland boys on their way to the Civil War, many of them never to return, and the local newspaper of that date did not do them the honor even to mention their names.

There is no way that we know of to get the names of all of the 40 men and boys. It was the largest single body of men that left at one time during the whole course of the war.

Among those that we know were in that group of 40 were Maurice
Marcoot, then only 16 years of age, Jacob Wernle, a man of 40 years, August Mosimann aged 31, Fred Krueger 33, John Luehm 31, John Bernhart 35, John Tischhauser 29, Abraham Rutz 18, Frederick A. Blum 25, Dr. Gallus Rutz 30, John Beeley 26, and Joseph Bader 30. Others who probably were in the group were Jos. Droesch, Dominic Weber, Henry Voigt, Emil Siegrist, Wm. Neumann, Wm. Lorenz, Gabriel Fuerst, Sebastian Bucher, Christian Spohr, Cassimir Mueri, John Kuhrt and John Hoffmann. Wm. Bloemker, who died in Andersonville prison, and Ernst Schmidt, who died at Nashville, Tenn., were also probably members of this group.

Our older readers will remember many of the above men whose names are mentioned here because they were the first from Highland to respond to the call. During the years of the war that followed, when the demand for soldiers to recruit the ranks became urgent, the response from Highland was all that could be desired. Nearly every Illinois regiment that was recruited after July 1, 1861 had several men on its muster roll who claimed Highland for their home, and the same could be said for nearly every Missouri regiment that was recruited after that time.

It is claimed, and we have no reason to doubt the truth of the statement, that at the time of the presidential election in November, 1864, one out of every four men eligible to vote in Highland was either in the U. S. Army or had seen service in it and been discharged. A better record than that could not be boasted by very many localities.

The hundreds of young men and boys who enlisted from here at different times during the four years of the war all were good soldiers and made enviable records. And when the war was over and they returned they promptly took up peaceful pursuits and became good citizens. That their patriotic spirit remained alive however is attested by the fact that the first G. A. R. Post to be organized in Madison County was the one at Highland, in 1884.

One thing that occurred in Highland in the early summer of 1861, shortly after the war started, that grieved nearly every resident of the town was the death of Joseph Suppiger on April 24 at the age of 57 years. This man had molded the destiny of Highland from the day the town was platted up to that time more than any other one person. He was interested in nearly all financial ventures and a leader in everything that was for the civic good. After his death "Der Bote" devoted more than a full page to the story of his life and character, printing more than two columns in each of three successive issues. No local man, before or since, was ever honored by so much newspaper space for an obituary as was he, and none so richly deserved it.

The first call for soldiers was for 100,000 volunteers to serve 90 days. The President and his advisers thought the war would be over in three months. The Illinois quota was 18,000 men and that many volunteered by the middle of May, hence there was no place for the first Highland contingent in Illinois regiments. The 15th Mo. Infantry,
on account of the great number of Highlanders and St. Louis Swiss in it, came to be known as the Swiss Regiment.

Before the end of the summer of 1861 what was known as the "Home Guard" had been organized in Highland and counted among its members many of the then prominent citizens. Such organizations were necessary in nearly all Southern Illinois towns because of the number of southern sympathizers that were to be found in every community. Highland was no exception. Another organization that was founded at the same time, with which the war spirit likely had something to do, was the Sharpshooters' Society, the full story of which is told in a separate chapter.

In August, 1861, before the Swiss Regiment had left St. Louis, Major Landry, their division commander, visited Highland. The people here did him great honor. Led by the Home Guard a big parade was staged, lighted up with torches, and having every musical organization in the town in the line of march. Jac. Weber at that time had a beer garden on the lot with his 3-story hotel at Main and Walnut; after the parade the guest was taken there, and many were the drinks taken to the health and happiness of the Highland boys in the Swiss Regiment. One local citizen presented Maj. Landry with a gold watch with the understanding that, after the first battle in which the Swiss regiment participated, it was to be given to the most outstanding and courageous soldier.

A woman's auxiliary had also been organized in Highland by that time, and the members of it participated in the parade that night. At the close of it they presented the Major with a beautiful Swiss flag of their own making.

By the fall of 1861 the war spirit took precedence over everything else. In Highland as in all other places the war was the one all consuming topic. All building operations ceased for the time being. Business was sacrificed for the good of the public, and bitter enmities developed between those who were whole-heartedly for the North and those who were only lukewarm in support.

One thing very noticeable about the volunteers from Highland during the first year of the Civil War was that the great majority of them were men with families. Why this should have been the case we do not know. In most communities in Illinois the first volunteers were young men, mostly from 18 to 21 years of age. Records concerning those that volunteered from Highland during the first year, however, show that the majority of them were married men with wives and children at that time.

There existed here in Highland at that time what was called "The Citizens' Benevolent Society." It was first formed during the cholera epidemic of 1849-52 to relieve the cases of distress that resulted from the deaths of so many people. After that it was continued so that indigent immigrants and other poor people might have help when they needed it.
In 1861 a meeting was called of the officers of this society, and they urged all members to pay their dues for three months in advance so as to have a fund on hand with which to pay claims as they came in. In their notice to members they told about the number of family men that were in the army and unable to pay their dues.

One very noticeable effect that the start of the Civil War had in Highland was to stimulate the desire for many citizens to have a better knowledge of the English language. We presume this was due to the fact that the completest of the war news was carried in the papers printed in English and the people wanted to be able to read it and keep themselves informed. It seems that up to that time most of the instruction given in the 4-room school building that stood on the north part of the square had been in German and most of the parents were not interested in having their children learn English. But with the start of war this was changed, and young and old became desirous of knowing how to read English. So urgent was the demand that they petitioned H. J. Klein to start classes for instruction in English and a room in the school building was given over to his use. He charged a tuition of $1.00 per week for each pupil and his school was attended by the younger ones in the day time and the older people at night.

No sooner had the war started than the kind hearted people of Highland began to respond to the calls for assistance that came from every city in the land. One church in St. Louis devoted itself to the task of getting clothing and food for the soldiers' widows and children who were left with no resources when the husband went to war. Before the close of the year 1861 Highland people had sent in very liberal donations of clothing and cash, so much so that the minister of the church, Rev. Wm. Giedinghagen, had his congregation give Highland a special vote of thanks for their liberality, the minister expressing the hope that no Highland women would have to suffer want and privation as did some St. Louis women.

In December, 1861, came reports of the first deaths of Highland men who were in the service. The first to die was Jacob Witschie, aged 23. He took sick while on service near Rolla, Mo., was sent to the Military hospital in St. Louis and there passed away. Rudolf Hirschi aged 19 died in similar manner a few days later. The hardships experienced in the campaign on the Gasconade river led to the death of Jacob Schmid, aged 22. That campaign was not one of fighting but one of marching and being out in very inclement weather without sufficient food and protection, as described by the late Maurice Marcoot, who was in the same command. All three of the men named above were natives of Switzerland who had immigrated to Highland.

We have stated before that not all citizens of Highland were in sympathy with the war. In January, 1862, action was taken that showed just how bitterly some opposed it. From the outset of the war President Lincoln had it in his mind to declare the slaves free if such action was necessary in order to weaken the South. He did it early
in 1863, but many of his closest advisers were urging him to do it as long as a year before that. In this connection Highland people did a thing we find it hard to believe, and would much rather not chronicle, but do so in the interest of truth and accuracy. A petition was circulated about town and signed by 165 citizens of Highland and community asking President Lincoln not to free the slaves and stating that they believed in the institution of Negro Slavery. They forwarded that petition to Washington. Can you imagine a thing like that being done in a community were nine out of ten of them had been born in the oldest republic on earth, and had been taught the principles of human freedom from infancy up?

That action of the anti-war faction, however, only served to make the war party more belligerent. The following month, Feb., 1862, the Regimental band of the 15th Missouri was secured for a big concert in Highland. They came and played at the Switzerland House, where John R. Blattner was the host, at the Gesthaus, where Constant Rilliet boarded, at the Jac. Weber hotel and the Spoerri hotel, which was in the building now owned and used for a residence by Lan. Houseman. They also serenaded Bernhard Suppiger who was the man who donated the gold watch spoken of before. Needless to state, at each of these places this band was royally entertained and their visit served to stimulate patriotic ardor.

The first conflict in which the men who were in the Swiss regiment had their baptism of fire was the battle of Pea Ridge in March, 1862. It was feared many of the Highland men had been killed there, but when authentic reports were received it was learned that only one local man, Jacob Kircher, had been killed, and Gabriel Fuerst, John Beeley, D. Baumann, John Hoffmann and two brothers named Wanner were all taken prisoners by the Confederates.

Jacob Kircher was buried by his comrades in the company where he fell. At that battle a company of Indians who were serving in the Confederate Army scalped many of the dead, but the body of the Highland soldier was not thus mutilated. The Highland men who were taken prisoners at Pea Ridge figured in an exchange of prisoners a few weeks later and were returned to their regiments.

After the battle of Pittsburg Landing more uneasiness was felt as it was known that several Highland men were in the so-called “Koerner-Regiment” which participated in that. Their fears were dissipated however when authentic news arrived.

One Highland volunteer who had been badly overworked during the first year of the war was Dr. Gallus Rutz. In his capacity of regimental surgeon and physician, he had a full size job with no assistants. The change in living conditions from home life to camp life caused a lot of sickness in addition to injuries in battle and his services were constantly in demand. He did his work so faithfully as to rouse the admiration of Gen. Sigel, who personally congratulated him on the excellence of the medical and surgical attention he gave the men of the
regiment. In the end his health did break and he was not able to continue throughout the war.

More than 1000 of the soldiers who were wounded in the Battle of Pittsburg Landing were sent back to St. Louis to recover from the injuries received. Among them were several Highland soldiers. Those who had the ability for leadership, as soon as their wounds were sufficiently healed, were made recruiting officers and one or more of them sent to every town and city in the north.

In July, 1862, Lieut. Frey was the recruiting officer stationed here and he made a great effort to get men to join what was known as the Hecker regiment. Governor Yates had issued a call for 50,000 men from Illinois, and it was a part of them that Frey and others were trying to recruit.

By that time it had dawned on officials in the North that the war was going to last a good while and men were requested to enlist for a three year period or during the war. As a special inducement they were offered a bounty of $100 in addition to the regular soldier’s salary of $13 per month, the bounty to be payable when their term of enlistment expired.

Lieut. Frey had to leave Highland for a few weeks in July to do some recruiting work farther north in the state and he turned the task to getting recruits here over to J. Guggenbuehler. They did not succeed in getting many until after harvest in 1862, but then were more successful for the boys and young men were out of work.

At the same time another recruiting officer, Dr. James Affalter, was at work here for the Col. Charles L. Wundt’s regiment and he succeeded in getting several to join that outfit.

Despite the war Highland celebrated the Fourth of July very appropriately, forgetting their troubles for that day. It was very hot, but the business places closed and the farmers came to town. A parade was formed at Spoerri’s hotel, headed by Willimann’s band and the Sharpshooters. They marched to Lindenthal where everything was decorated for the occasion. The Bote said that laughter flowed from all bottles and smiles illuminated every face, especially when the band played. Constant Rilliet of Highland and a Mr. Ackermann of St. Louis were the speakers for that celebration.

Another recruiting officer that worked in Highland in the summer of 1862 was Max Lehmann. He urged the Highland men and boys to enlist in a regiment made up largely at Pocahontas and led by Wm. Fuchs, a highly experienced war officer from the old country. Quite a number from here joined that command.

The war spirit dominated everything. In September, 1862, a large company of boys not yet old enough to enlist began to drill on the school square. Some of them had rifles and some had drums. They drilled as best they knew how, but at each practice were roundly applauded by people who gathered to watch them.

In October, 1862, despite the anxiety felt in many homes here for the
welfare of those in the army, the Sharpshooters made plans for a big celebration at Lindenthal in honor of the 31st anniversary of the founding of Highland. The preparation was marred somewhat by the death of Constant Rilliet, Swiss Counsel and Assistant County Judge, at the age of 48 years. He was a pronounced leader in Highland at that time; and the loss, occasioned by his death, was keenly felt. However the Sharpshooters continued with their preparation and held the celebration. They drew a good crowd and all had a good time.

Early in 1863 the war casualties began to increase vastly in number and appeals were made in every issue of the "Bote" for the people to contribute to the relief of the soldiers. Anything that could be donated by Highland people, money or clothing, was to be left at the Jos. Suppiger residence, the house now occupied by Dr. A. H. Kyle.

In the spring of 1863 several things happened that caused no little bad feeling in Highland. First Lieut. John Spoerri of Hecker's regiment returned home after having been dishonorably discharged. The radical Union men and women publicly let him know that in their minds he was disgraced. Others upheld him.

John Spoerri was the proprietor of a hotel located at the corner of Broadway and Mulberry. He was active in raising a company in which he became a Lieutenant. The first time the company got under fire Spoerri could not stand the gaff and fled from his command, an offense punishable by death. He was court martialed and sentenced to be shot. President Lincoln, however, ruled that he should not be shot, but fixed his punishment at being publicly disrobed before the men of his company. His company was assembled and in the presence of his men all cash was taken from his pockets, what salary he had coming was cancelled, his uniform was torn off him, and he was sent out of camp stripped. The story was ordered published in all Illinois newspapers.

Spoerri returned to Highland on a Tuesday and that night a crowd of people gathered around his house and presented him with a wooden sword which they had made for the purpose on which was inscribed "Thou Shalt not Kill." When he would not accept it, the crowd nailed it to the wall of his house. A number of southern sympathizers had gathered there to serve as a kind of bodyguard for Spoerri and they were pretty roughly handled, and the house itself was also somewhat damaged. While the crowd was active, a band they had with them played "Katzen music." However Spoerri was not injured bodily, but he realized he was forever disgraced and left Highland shortly after that.

The winter of 1862-63 passed in Highland with the people that were left at home pursuing their work as best they could and all giving generously to see that the widows and children of the soldiers were taken care of as well as possible.

In January of that winter President Lincoln issued his emancipation proclamation thus freeing the slaves in the states that had seceded. This did not please all in Highland. A hundred and sixty-five residents
of this community had signed a petition just a year before that stating
that they believed in negro slavery, and had mailed that petition to
the president. In as small a town as Highland then was, it soon be-
came known who the persons were that had affixed their signatures to
the petition. When the president acted just exactly opposite to the
advice offered in the Highland petition, it put many prominent citi-
zens here on a bad spot. Their townsmen and neighbors who were
followers of Lincoln began to exult and a lot of bad feeling followed.

Although Peter Voegele, the editor of the “Bote,” tried to steer a
middle course and opened his columns to anyone who desired to write,
regardless of their political alliance, it became bruited around that he
was one who signed the anti-emancipation petition and the radical
Northern sympathizers made his life and work very unpleasant for
him. On the other hand those who had southern sympathies were con-
tinually urging him to come out stronger in advocating opposition to
the war. Feeling ran very high in both parties and we suspect Editor
Voegele had few happy days at that time. The upshot of the matter
was that in March, 1863, he announced that he wanted to sell his print-
shop. It was purchased by Timothy Gruaz, another one of the men who
was reported to have been a signer of the anti-emancipation petition
and who was much more radical in his opposition to the war than was
Voegele.

When Voegele retired as editor, he was glad and his farewell to his
readers occupied but a few lines and was very formal. He invested
the money received in a cider-press and later that summer was furnish-
ing most of the thirty saloons then in Highland with what cider they
needed, that being a very popular drink at that time. We suspect that
in dispensing cider he found much more real happiness than he did in
publishing a paper.

When Gruaz took over the editorial reins on April 10, 1863, he tried
to be fair. His convictions on the mooted subject were well known,
but he was broad-minded and tried to make the paper representative
of the entire community. In his opening announcement he stated that
he intended to make the paper generally useful. He said that since
political questions were the dominant thought of the day a discussion
of them could not be kept out of his columns, but that those discussions
would always be in the spirit of true patriotism. He asked all, regard-
less of party, to contribute articles whenever they saw fit, and assured
them their articles would be printed if they contained nothing that
would cause hard feeling and enmity. He stated his regret that the
people of Highland had become such radical partisans when they were
all practically from the same fatherland. He said it was bad to see
neighbors who formerly had been friends now acting as enemies, and
that it was a pity that many citizens would not greet others when they
met them on the street, for no cause but politics. He devoted a column
to making an impassioned plea for all to be more liberal minded and
not dislike each other just on account of their different political faith.
He drew the analogy that no two leaves on a tree were exactly alike, and that no two people could think exactly alike but that a difference in political conviction was not sufficient cause for any two people to become enemies. At the end he stated that he would do his best to conduct the "Bote" so that the best interests of the Country and of Highland would be served and above all he would advance and defend the general interests of the German population.

In July, 1863, on the anniversary of the battle of Vicksburg, Highland homes displayed flags, and the old cannon which Jacob Eggen and others had brought from Alton in 1845 was taken to the school square whence 34 shots were fired. That night a big parade was formed and, led by Willman's band, paraded the streets. Speeches were made by John Blattner and Dr. Gallus Rutz.

Already in 1863 a booklet entitled "The War with the South" had been printed and was on sale for 25¢ at the "Bote" office. The sale of that book was a mistake on the part of the "Bote," for the book criticised the method of prosecuting the war and that made some people more unfriendly than ever to the "Bote."

In the late summer of 1863 the "Bote" took the lead in getting donations of a lot of vegetables to be sent to the soldiers in the south. Thousands of the men in the armies sickened and died for no other cause than lack of wholesome and seasonable food. They did not get any vegetables even during the summer months. The "Bote" made a plea for vegetables to be donated and left either at the "Bote" office or at H. Weinheimer's store. This was done and many wagon loads of vegetables were collected here, hauled in wagons to Trenton, and shipped to the armies in the south.

In the last campaign conducted in Eastern Tennessee in 1863 by Gen. Rosecrans, the Swiss Regiment lost heavily and Highland men killed and wounded were Capt. John Krebs, Liet. H. Koerner and Sergeant Wagner, dead; and Lieuts. Postel, Randall, Rummell and Murt, wounded.

The summer of 1863 was marked by another event of importance in Highland: the immigration of a large body of Swiss people, forty or more coming at one time. What prompted them to emigrate to Highland while this country was in the throes of a Civil War, we do not know. However, they came, and since most of them were very poor families their presence only added to the distress and privation that had to be endured, and those who could afford it had to give more to charity than ever before.

Dr. Gallus Rutz had to give up his military work as regimental surgeon for the 15th Missouri early in the year 1863 on account of a breakdown in health. He returned to Highland and during the summer of 1863 was very active in promoting the cause of the North, taking the lead in every movement in that direction. He was one of the men who thought the "Bote" was not giving the administration sympathizers a square deal. A lot of others thought the same thing. The
upshot of the matter was the formation early in October, 1863, of the "Republican Literary and Publishing Society," whose avowed intention was to start another paper in Highland, one that would openly espouse the cause of the North. Shares in the new society sold for $5 each and no man was allowed to own more than one share. In ten days 200 shares had been sold and a meeting of the stockholders was held at which C. H. Seybt was elected president and Dr. Gallus Rutz, Secretary, and it was voted to start another paper at once with the $1000 that had been thus raised. The equipment was hurriedly purchased in St. Louis and installed in the building that stood until a few years ago on the corner of Broadway and Walnut, where a Standard Oil filling station is now located. The print shop was not installed in the main room of the building (that was used for a saloon) but in the little east room where C. H. Molt formerly had his cleaning and pressing shop.

Before the first issue of the paper could be got out 100 more subscribers to the stock of the company were received at $5 each, thus assuring a good working capital and also insuring a subscription list of 300, a fairly good list in those days.

The new paper was named "Die Union" and the first issue appeared on Oct. 24, 1863, C. H. Seybt being named as editor. Thus Highland had two newspapers before it had even been incorporated under village government.

In his opening statement the editor said that Highland had long been in need of a loyal newspaper, and the "Union" was started to fill that need. He said he would make the paper a messenger of intelligence and leadership and would publish all interesting items about government, politics, science and social events, foreign news and neighborhood news, and he would always endeavor to be truthful and accurate. To accomplish this he asked the cooperation of all friends of the paper, soliciting their written contributions and also any suggestions they might want to make. He dwelt at some length on the awfulness of the Civil war that was being waged, the sorrow it had brought to so many homes, and pledged the support of the paper to every movement that would have a tendency towards ending the struggle.

As the winter of 1863-64 came on, it was evident that there would be a great deal of suffering among the women and children, the widows of soldiers killed and the wives of those in the army. To obviate this as much as possible, a meeting was called to be held at the schoolhouse on Nov. 15, 1863, for the formation of a Welfare Society. Both newspapers supported the movement and the meeting was held. Adolph Glock was made president of a Welfare committee, the other two members of which were a Mr. Schumacher and Mr. Haffter, (the newspapers of that time did not always print first names or initials.) An active campaign was started to raise money, food and clothing, and perfect an organization to see to it that the deserving poor did not suffer during the winter.
As stated before not many improvements were undertaken in Highland during the years of the Civil War. However, the place needed coal badly, and during the winter months it was expensive to have it hauled over the muddy roads. The first effort to obtain coal was made during the winter of 1862 when a shaft was dug a short distance west of the present city limits. At a depth of 75 feet a 26 inch vein of coal was found, but that was not thick enough to mine profitably so they continued to a depth of 170 feet and then for some reason abandoned the enterprise. It was not taken up again until 1882 when the shaft was continued to a depth of 365 feet when so much water was encountered that it had to be given up. The Helvetia Milk Condensing Co. later used it for a water supply, but for many years now it has not been used at all.

At the beginning of the war more men enlisted from Highland than could find places in Illinois regiments, but long before the war was over Highland was always very much behind on its quota enlistments and one of the big problems through 1863 and 1864 was to get men from this community to enlist. The Union League was organized mainly to secure these enlistments. The Republicans blamed the Democrats for this condition and the Democrats blamed the Republicans, and that condition led to many street quarrels. The "Bote" tells a story of two fellows, a Democrat and a Republican, both of whom had carefully avoided joining the army, getting into a quarrel, each one daring the other to enlist and neither willing to be blistered. It ended up by both of them enlisting. We doubt if either ever made a good soldier.

When the draft was put in operation in the Northern states there was a very large number of young men in Highland who were eligible for army service, but who had never enlisted. A meeting of all those who had been drafted was called. Fred Leinhard was secretary of the meeting and J. Harnisch had prepared a petition to be circulated. By the terms of the draft law, if a man could secure a few signers stating that his services were needed at home, he could have the privilege of hiring a substitute to go to the army in his stead. It was no trouble to get the petitions signed in Highland, but it was some trouble to find men willing to go as substitutes for there was an unusually big list of people here who were willing to hire substitutes, and not enough poor devils who were willing to put themselves up as targets for a few hundred dollars. The problem was finally solved by the employment of an agency in St. Louis who secured substitutes from other communities and they were paid various sums, from $300 to $1000 each, to go to the army in place of the men drafted from Highland. More than one Highland man never did see or know the fellow who did army service in his stead.

But despite all this most of those who were at home worked zealously for the Union cause, and the holiday season of 1863 saw very generous contributions of money, fruit and vegetables go from here
to help feed the armies in the field. Adolph Glock and Sebastian Haffter solicited very zealously and got together more than one carload of food which was shipped from Trenton to the armies.

It was during these trying years of the Civil War that the idea of a community hospital began to take root in Highland. Quite a large number of the boys and young men who had enlisted in the army had been sent home, some of them sick, some recovering from wounds, and most with no relatives or friends able to care properly for them. On December 20, 1863, a meeting called by J. Harnisch was held to discuss the matter of starting a hospital. At this meeting Daniel Wild, who then owned a kind of a double building on West Broadway in the 600 block, formerly used as a residence and blacksmith shop, offered that for use as a public hospital. Whether or not it was ever used for the purpose we could not learn. Dr. Alois Wick, a veterinarian and the father of the late Joseph Wick, was also active in promoting a hospital to care for the crippled soldier boys. He succeeded in getting one started, and in 1864 he solicited the Welfare Society to furnish him with funds so that he could employ an experienced physician and surgeon to be in charge of it.

In February, 1864, the Swiss Regiment to which many Highland men belonged was sent to St. Louis, and the Highland soldiers whose three-year term of enlistment had nearly expired, were given a month’s furlough and told that they could go to their homes. Col. Conrad, the commanding officer wanted to visit Highland and arranged to go with them. A false report got out as to the time they would come and several men and boys waited the best part of a day on the Trenton road south of town expecting to greet them. They did not arrive in Highland until the next day and then came in hacks and wagons hired in Trenton for the purpose.

On arriving at the Mill Hill they formed in line and marched into and through Highland under the leadership of Col. Conrad and headed by a brass band. One of the soldiers bore aloft the remnant of the old Swiss flag which had been presented to them when they left Highland three years before. The parade terminated at the Switzerland house where a big feast had been prepared in their honor, a feature of which was plenty of wine from the Koepfli vineyard north of town. That night a big ball was given in their honor, the proceeds of which was donated to soldiers’ widows and orphans. The next day the Koepfliis feted the officers at their home on the hill north of town, after which the officers went back to St. Louis, but the privates remained their full thirty days and enjoyed a continuous round of entertainment.

While they were here on furlough many other Highland young men enlisted in the Swiss regiment as they got a bounty of $352 besides the regular salary for doing so and that amount of money looked good to a lot of them.

The late summer months and early winter of 1864 were perhaps the most trying time that Highland people had during the four years of
the Civil War. By that time the glamour of the thing had worn off and the enthusiasm of the young men to enlist and the older ones to care for the widows and orphans of soldiers had ebbed.

The most bothersome thing was the "draft." The president was calling for more troops and Madison County was short 1627 men. This condition was partly due to the fact that so many young men from this county enlisted in Missouri regiments and not all of such left records so that they could be counted against this county's part of the Illinois quota. Besides, many able bodied young men in Highland and other parts of Madison County preferred to remain at home and make money, easy at that time, instead of going to the army. Highland's part of the 1627 that Madison County was short was 45 men, and try as they would they could not raise that number.

On Sept. 24, 1864, a meeting was called at the "Gasthaus" to discuss ways and means of meeting the quota. All parties attended it, but it bore no fruit. It was then decided to raise a sum of money that would insure those who enlisted that their wives and children would be cared for during their absence. $2000 was accordingly raised but even such bait as that did not bring forward the necessary number of recruits. C. H. Seybt, who was active in the matter even went to other cities, Alton in particular, to try to raise recruits for Highland. What inducement he offered we could not learn, but it was all to no avail. On Oct. 8, 1864, another meeting was called to take place in the school yard but it was as fruitless of results as the first had been.

At the end of the month the whole town was made happy by the word that the "draft" had been satisfied as far as Highland was concerned, and that from that time on no more demands would be made on this community except for such young men as would volunteer. The "Union" said that the committee that accomplished the satisfaction of the draft consisted of T. Gruaz, John Blattner, J. Menz, A. B. Hoffmann and Chas. H. Seybt. What strings they pulled to accomplish their purpose will likely never be known. It is known that they raised a large sum of money and that nearly every one in this community contributed to it. The price paid new volunteers was boosted to $200 before the last one was signed. With the end of the war in plain sight that was a fancy bounty for a few months' service. The Koepflis north of town and the Ramsey's southeast of town were liberal donaters to the fund.

The first of July, 1864, after having been editor of the "Union" for all of 8 months, C. H. Seybt resigned from the job. He gave as his reason the press of other business. In the fall of that year he became an unsuccessful candidate for Sheriff of Madison County.

One business that had been rather prosperously carried on in Highland for a period of 20 years gave up and quit business in 1864. That was the distillery which had been conducted here since 1845. The owners probably made more money by quitting at the time they did than they made in all the years of active distillation. The business was owned mainly by John Spindler and Henry Herman. In 1864 the revenue on the manufacture of whiskey was raised $1.50 per gallon. The
Highland men had seen what was coming and had a vast quantity already distilled to which the revenue did not apply. During the few years that followed they sold this at greatly advanced prices and netted themselves a sizeable amount. When their own supply eventually gave out we have information that they contracted for the entire output of a big "moonshine" still that was being conducted north of town, and they made more profit from it.

Late in the fall of 1864 news came to Highland of the death of two more soldier boys from here. Fred Weiss, who was in a cavalry regiment, was shot and killed at Searcy, Mo., in a skirmish there; and in November word came here that Mathias Lehmann, who had also enlisted from Highland, had died at Little Rock, Ark., after a brief illness. He was an immigrant from St. Gallen, Switzerland.

When the election came on in November, 1864, party lines were very tightly drawn in Highland and much unpleasant feeling existed. The "Bote" was outspoken for the Democrat ticket and the "Union" just as radical for the Republican ticket. Nearly every man in town was lined up on one side or the other. Both candidates for Congress made speeches here. The most popular gathering place for the Democrats was at Jac. Weber's hotel and saloon at the corner of Main and Walnut and for the Republicans at the "Gasthaus" two blocks south of there.

About 460 votes were cast in Highland. For President, Lincoln got 268 and McClellan, his Democrat opponent, got 163, and 32 Highland men would not vote at all for that office. For Governor, Oglesby got 281 and Robinson 176. The vote on Congressman was odd for Highland. Baker, a Republican and avowedly "dry," got 272 and Morrison, who was wet, got 177. They voted the ticket in those days. A bitter fight was waged between two local men for Sheriff: Chas. H. Seybt got 248 and Geo. Ruegger 210, but in other parts of the county Ruegger ran better and was elected, the first and only Highland man to ever fill that office.

Before the close of the Civil War it became very apparent to the leading minds in Highland that the town should be incorporated. During the four years of the war many things came up that could have been dealt with to better advantage had there been some kind of village government here. There was none and the place was governed from Edwardsville just the same as it were all rural territory. There were more than 1500 people living in 45 blocks originally platted, but no form of local government. The problems of the War showed them beyond doubt that something of the kind was necessary, and the leaders here began to shape sentiment so that it could be brought about.
The Winter of 1864-1865

After the November election in 1864 politics quieted down in Highland. The more urgent troubles, incident to the war, again became uppermost in people's minds.

When Christmas time, 1864, came around, all Highland and the country for miles around was a sea of mud. It had been a very wet fall and early winter with some freezing, and just before Christmas the bottom seemed to drop out of everything. Even a trip from the edge of town to one of the stores gave plenty of trouble, and holiday visits between town and country people were well nigh impossible. The papers of that date described the awful condition of the streets and urged the people to hurry up and get a charter for a village government so that some work could be done to make them better.

The second draft caused plenty of trouble in Highland during the first months of 1865. The government by that time was strict, and Highland, behind with its quota, was in plenty of trouble. Other localities were also behind with their quota, especially other cities in Madison County, and they were willing to pay Highland young men bigger bounties than the local people here would pay them. The boys who enlisted in 1865 insisted on the bounty being paid is cash; they would not take promises. The year before some had accepted promises for part of their bounty and the promises had not always been made good.

John Menz was secretary of the Highland Draft Club; and, to show our readers what sums were raised here to pay bounties to get the boys to enlist, we reprint a financial statement of his which was published early in 1865.

Receipts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paid in on Draft No. 1</td>
<td>$4,271.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paid in on Draft No. 2</td>
<td>5,182.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,453.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For 49 Recruits for Draft No. 1</td>
<td>$4,900.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation and Printing</td>
<td>105.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,005.45</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash on Hand for Draft No. 2</td>
<td>$4,447.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promised, but not paid</td>
<td>878.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

He estimated that $1,075.00 should yet be raised if they were to meet the quota on Draft No. 2.

There was great indignation in January, 1865, when recruiting agents from Marine, Collinsville and Saline came here and by paying bigger bounties than Highland was offering got several men from here to enlist. Highland would have to take care of their families while they were away and yet would get no credit for their enlistment. The Bote stated that such action was very unjust and advised that if a man from here enlisted from another town, he should move his family to
that town and stay there. Twelve men left Highland on Feb. 9, 1865, who were solicited from Saline and there was a lot of hard feeling about it. Saline seems to have been able to make up a bigger bounty fund than Highland. It seems that nearly every man in Highland had contributed toward this bounty fund. The Bote published a list of the contributors and there must be 200 or more names on the list. Highland, as we told before, also tried to hire recruits in other cities. They got a number of them in Alton, and John Menz’s report states that one fellow who went from Alton to help fill the Highland quota never did claim the bounty that was due him.

Early in the year 1865, the petition for incorporation of Highland was presented in the legislature and passed both houses so that the people were free to go ahead and organize a village government, they did shortly after the close of the war.

In February 1865, Captain Emil Frey returned to Highland after having spent 20 months in Andersonville Prison. In spite of his prison experience he looked hale and hearty. This Captain Frey had been a farmhand near town and had enlisted at the outbreak of the war. He was well educated and far above the ordinary private in intelligence. He rapidly rose in the ranks and was made a captain before his capture by the Confederates. After the war he left here and returned to Switzerland and eventually served a term or two as President of that little Republic.

During January, 1865, two soldiers returned to Highland, who had been mourned as dead. Lieut. Cassimir Mueri of the 15th Missouri was one of them. He had been wounded and taken prisoner at Chickamauga, but comrades seeing him fall had written home that he had been killed and relatives and friends here had mourned him as dead. On his return here he told the cruel story of his imprisonment. He said a prisoner’s rations consisted of a pint of corn, a tablespoonful of flour and a little molasses and salt each day. If they had any protection from the weather they had to make it themselves and also get their own wood if it was possible. In the prison where he was kept, 1700 captured officers were held and they had practically no medical attention. He was held there for 15 months and was never given a single change of clothes. When he got back to Highland he was a physical wreck and much in need of a long rest.

The other who returned was private Tiefenaner, who had been reported as killed at Chattanooga by “guerrillas.” His relatives here had mourned him as dead. His imprisonment had been spent at Andersonville, Ga., the most horrible of all the Confederate prisons. It was a tract of land of about 40 acres, surrounded by a stockade in which the Confederates kept many thousands of northern prisoners under the most horrible living conditions imaginable. Barely enough food was furnished to keep them alive and to keep warm they had to dig holes in the ground and burrow in them like rabbits. For the slightest infraction of prison rules they were ruthlessly shot by guards. His
mother and other relatives were very glad to see him as they had long thought him dead. He was very weak, had nearly lost his voice and his stomach was in awful condition from protracted hunger. His health had been entirely ruined by his imprisonment.

At the outbreak of the Civil War a nation wide benevolent society had been formed whose object was to give aid to the thousands of German and Swiss born soldiers who were in the armies, the great majority of them being in the northern army. Most of the soldiers who went from Highland came under this classification and their hardships were somewhat alleviated by the ministrations of this society. The money to support this society was made up in Germany, in Switzerland, and in the German and Swiss communities of the U. S. Highland people contributed to it and took active interest in it. Before the close of the war, John Hitz, whose home was either in Highland or nearby, was sent to Washington, D. C. and remained there until the close of the war to administer better the charitable affairs of the society and be in closer touch with the places where the services of it were most needed.

The Harmonic

Vocal music has always played a prominent part in the life of Highland. Jacob Eggen has left writings that describe how the very first settlers on the town site loved to express their sentiments in songs learned in their native country. He also tells us how shy they were about singing when native Americans were within sound. The latter got a great kick from hearing the Swiss songs and listened eagerly when they could persuade some one to sing them. But most of the singing was done when the early Swiss were in groups by themselves either at work or at home.

In his writings Eggen tells of the singing done by the workmen who first opened and built the road between here and Vandalia, especially on the trips to and from the work. He also tells how the Swiss would entertain with song at some of the early "cabin raisings" described in earlier chapters of this story. All this of course was impromptu effort but showed the elemental love for vocal music and led to organization of regular singing societies as soon as possible.

From 1840 to 1850 there were several private singing societies formed in Highland, the members of which held weekly meetings at the various homes and received instruction from their most proficient members. It was not until after a four-room schoolhouse had been built on the north side of the school square in 1850 that a regular singing school was organized. At that time Julius Hammer was teaching German in Highland. The only public school teacher employed then was Emily L. Thorp, but this Julius Hammer conducted a German school which enrolled more pupils than did the public school and one room of the new school building was given over exclusively to his use. He organized the singing school which met at night and studied music under his
direction by the light of coal oil lamps which were hung on the walls of the school room with reflectors back of them. The class grew rapidly from the very first, old and young joining it until more than a hundred belonged.

Just how all these people were given instruction and training we can not find out, but we know that the fame of Highland as a singing center was broadcast during the next few years and that the body obtained membership in the Western Saengerbund, an organization which covered several states. This organization held an annual festival and in 1855 that festival was awarded to Highland. Lindendale Park not being available at that early date, this festival was held on Koepfli's hill north of town where Hugo Schmidt now lives. Part of that hill-site at that time was a natural park and there the festival was held, the visiting singers being entertained at the homes in town. It was very largely attended and is remembered by a few old people as having been a grand success.

The holding of this singers' festival greatly encouraged the vocalists of Highland, and the following year they again participated, the festival being held in St. Louis. The Highland group carried off first honors from the festival.

The singing classes continued to flourish until the beginning of the Civil War. During that four-year period not much was accomplished as most of the young men were in the army and those who remained at home were engrossed with more serious tasks.

No sooner, however, was the war over and things coming back to normal than interest in singing was revived, culminating in 1867 with the formation of the "Maennerchor Harmonie, which has continued an uninterrupted existence to the present time. A "damenchor" was formed a few years later.

The late Fritz Kaeser, father of Dr. A. F. Kaeser, was the first president of the Society, an office which he filled, all told, thirteen different years. As long as he lived he remained an enthusiastic member and was an accomplished vocalist even in his old age.

The first meetings of the Society were held in homes of members, but as membership increased a more public place was necessary. A hall was secured in a part of a building that formerly occupied the site of the present Herb, Stocker's residence on Walnut Street. Later the place of meeting was changed to the second floor of the Dumbneck building at the corner of Main and Olive, now used by Louis Spengel as a funeral parlor. The next place of meeting was in a dance hall of the saloon building that formerly stood where the New Highland Hotel now does and was operated first by John Schlaeppi and later by Albert Mueller and Jacob Janett, all of whom are deceased. After that building was destroyed by fire the meeting place was changed to the Stoecklin Hall, on Ninth and Cypress and later to the W. O. W. Hall where it now is.

At the time the Janett building was burned some of the early
records and much music belonging to the Society was burned. The music could easily enough be replaced, but the minute book of the meetings held during the first years, valuable for reference, could not be replaced and the loss of it is to be regretted.

During the more than 70 years of its existence the Society has participated in many singing festivals in cities near here and has been the host at a number of them which were held at Lindendale Park. The largest of these was one held in the summer of 1905 when Fred Siegrist was President of the Society and Louis Koch the Director. At that festival a mass chorus of 800 voices sang under Mr. Koch's direction. To make such a thing possible he previously had to visit all the societies in St. Louis and other places and give them instruction in the songs that were to be rendered en masse. The event was a very successful one and is yet much talked about by older people.

Through all the years practice meetings have been held regularly, generally on Friday nights and some very good voices have been developed. The members have always been ready and willing to donate their services in places and at times where such were needed and have thus proved to be an organization of value to the community and deserving of great credit.

No thought of financial reward prompts the members in their practice nor has ever done so. All actives are great lovers of vocal music and get their pleasure out of the weekly sessions and the companionship of fellow singers, and there are a number of members who have attended for years and years without missing a meeting.

The Society admits others to membership except those who desire to sing and now has a paying membership of about 65 of whom 20 or 30 are active. They also now have 40 honorary members.

We list below the men who have held the offices of President and Director of the Society since the beginning of it and the different years that they served.

**Presidents**

Jacob Weber, 1871, '73, '74, '75.
Fritz Kunz, 1876.
J. J. Briner, 1882.
Christ Koch, 1883, '84, '95.

**Musical Directors**

Sam. Weber, 1868.
John Williman, 1869.
Mr. Springer, 1870.
A. Naegeli, 1871, '72.
C. Meyer, 1873, '74.
Ernst Gaudard, 1898, '99.
Rud. Charmillot, 1900, '01, '02, '03.
Louis Koch, 1904, '05, '06, '07, '08, '12.
Carl Maier, 1909, '10, '11.

Heinrich Bosshard

Perhaps the most inspired man who lived in Highland prior to the Civil War was Heinrich Bosshard, the Swiss poet. Mr. Bosshard was born at Bolstern, Canton Zurich, Switzerland, on April 8, 1811. He received a college education in his native land and took up the vocation of teaching which he followed for 17 years and ceased only when lung trouble warned him that he should spend more time out of doors. He then became an apiarist and in 1851 came to Highland and acquired the tract of land a short distance south of town now owned by John Zolk. After coming to America he traveled some and published several little pamphlets which contain his observations on life and customs in America and which had a ready sale among his native people in Switzerland. At last he settled down on what was then called the “Jura,” planted a vineyard and devoted himself to the care of it and also to his bees. While he was living there just south of Highland, he composed the “Sempacher Lied,” a poem in Swiss, the historical basis of which is the battle of Sempach fought July 9, 1386, between Austrians and Swiss. The poem instantly made a world-wide hit, and it became the basis of the Swiss National Song and Bosshard became one of the Swiss immortals.

He died at his home on “Jura” on April 3, 1877, and his funeral and burial was as unique as his life had been. Funeral services were held at the home, a teacher name Naegli, who lived here at that time delivered the funeral discourse and burial was made in a little orchard near the house. The body was never removed from that place, the spot today marking the last resting place of Switzerland’s most loved poet.

Like many other really noted men, his full fame was not achieved until years after his death, and the true worth of what he had done could be appraised through the perspective of years.

Early in the year 1909 the Swiss Society of America, the national headquarters of which was in St. Louis, became interested in doing honor to Bosshard’s memory and had a beautiful monument erected in Lindendale Park. On Sunday, April 13, 1909, the monument was unveiled and thousands of Swiss from all parts of the U. S. were here to witness and participate in the event. A special train was chartered.
from St. Louis and the day made one of the high spots in the history of Highland.

The Swiss Society wanted to erect the monument in the orchard where he was buried, but Mrs. Sabastian Zolk, who at that time was the owner, thought that it would be cumbersome and inconvenient to have it there, and a compromise was arrived at. The monument proper was erected at the park and a small but permanent granite headstone was placed in the pear orchard at the head of the grave and may be seen there now by visitors at the Zolk home. It is better that the monument is at the park, where it is annually seen by thousands of people, but we are sorry to state that but few of them have any idea of its significance.
Highland, Illinois

Highland Becomes a Village

We do not suppose that in the whole history of Illinois there is any parallel to the story of Highland in respect to incorporation. From the time it was platted in 1837 it grew steadily, more rapidly than the ordinary settlement, due to so much immigration. No exact population figures for different periods can be obtained on account of it not being incorporated. Jacob Egggen states that by 1840 the people who lived on the 45 blocks that comprised the platted settlement numbered almost 200. During the next ten years the population was more than trebled and at the time of the cholera epidemic was conceded to be more than 600. The basis for that figure is taken from letters written by Garret Crownover, John Boeschenstein, Henry Bornstein and Chas. Kinne, all of whom were in business here then and also statements made before the Court at Edwardsville by Joseph Suppiger, Christian Kuhnen and others when they were asking the Court to appoint an overseer for the poor here during the cholera epidemic.

In spite of the setback caused by the ravages of cholera, immigrants continued to come here; and by 1860 it is conservatively estimated that at least 1,500 people were living in the platted town. Even during the Civil War the population continued to increase, and in the Brink & Co. history of Madison County, which was published in 1882, the statement is made that at the close of the Civil War 2,000 people lived in Highland. We think that figure is an exaggeration, but the fact remains that it was a very large place to be without any government other than such as county officers afforded.

We people of the present would not at all tolerate the conditions they lived under then. The streets received no more attention than if they were country roads. The county government provided for a Highway Commissioner who looked after all the roads in this corner of the county, and he was in charge of the streets as well. His work consisted mostly in building wooden bridges where they were absolutely necessary, and if he spent as much as $100 a year on the upkeep of more than 100 miles of roads and streets that he looked after he was considered extravagant. (As a result the roads near town and the streets in town were impassable at certain times of the year.) The stores had no delivery wagons, but if they had they would have been of little use. The hack that advertised to make regular trips between here and Trenton to meet the trains made them if it could, and there was a lot of time during the winter months when it couldn’t. When that condition prevailed the people put off their planned trips to the next day, or the first day possible.

Getting around town on foot was also troublesome in muddy weather. The storekeepers built little board or brick sidewalks in front of their places of business, and the better class of residents would also build them along the front of their lots; but the poorer people could not, and in every block there was one or more vacant
lots for which frontage no one cared, and street crossings were not cared for at all.

During the muddy months of winter and spring if anyone wanted to go to the Columbia Hotel, which was then the bus station, they either had to be taken there in a wagon or buggy or badly soil their shoes in getting there. Some of the town dandies who made frequent trips to St. Louis adopted the plan of wearing rubber boots up to the hotel and carrying their shoes. When they arrived they would change and leave their boots there until they got back a few days later.

Another thing that caused the better class of people to want a village government was the utter lack of police protection of any kind. There was no such thing as a peace officer. The county government provided for a constable, but generally he lived in the country and would never take any action unless authorized by a warrant. During the years of the Civil War there were plenty of street brawls and fights and no one to quell any of them. When two men got into a scrap they would fight it out on the street unmolested by any officer. A lot of strangers passed through during the war days, going to and from the armies, buying horses and mules and other war provisions. The presence of so many saloons made them like to stop here. Many of them were bad actors, and when one of them became drunk and disorderly there was no way to control him.

It is small wonder then that the need for village government was felt by the town leaders, and in 1865 both newspapers began to advocate it with the result that the legislature was petitioned for a charter which was granted readily.

On March 20, 1865, an election was held to decide whether or not to accept the charter and incorporate. A good vote was polled and it carried by a good majority. However, 25 votes were cast against, those 25 objecting because it would increase their taxes. Even in that day they were plenty who were tax-conscious.

That vote having carried, Monday, Apr. 3, 1865, was set as the day for the first election of village officers. The polls were to be open from 2:00 to 6:00 P. M., not a whole day being used for it.

The elective officers demanded by village government were a board of four trustees and a president. For this purpose the town was divided into four wards, each of which was to elect one trustee. All wards voted on the president as we now do for mayor. The polling place for the first ward was at Peter Voegele's, for the second ward at J. R. Blattner's, for the third ward at Jacob Weber's and for the fourth ward at John Menz'.

Getting a suitable candidate for president was no easy task. The differences of the war had caused a lot of enmities, and every man of any ability was strongly opposed by certain factions. It was conceded that John Suppiger was the man who would be acceptable to the greatest number and he was solicited to become a candidate; but after due consideration he declined the honor, thus passing up his chance to figure at any length in this history.
But others were found who were willing to be candidates. One faction nominating John Blattner, who had been very active in the Union cause all through the war. Another faction nominated Jacob Eggen, who was then getting along in years and had taken no active part in the many town quarrels during the Civil War. Eggen was elected over Blattner 83 to 74, this seems a small vote to poll in a town of that size but our readers must remember that only men could vote and over half the men were serving as soldiers at the time. Eggen owed his election primarily to the fact that he had remained aloof from factional strife during the war. Jos. Speckart was elected trustee from the first ward without opposition as was Henry Weinheimer in the second ward. In the third ward there was a contest between Xavier Suppiger and J. Wickenhauser, the former winning, and in the fourth ward Frank Appel defeated Dr. Gallus Rutz, who was then editor of the Union.

Thus were the first village officials inducted into office. Of the meetings they held and some of the village ordinances they passed we shall have more to say later.

Jacob Eggen, when elected President of the Village, was almost 62 years of age and had retired from active business. He had been born in Switzerland in 1803 and emigrated to America in 1833 when 30 years of age, coming to the Swiss settlement here. He lived and worked here before the town was platted and built up an extensive acquaintance all over this part of the country. As early as 1835 he started a pottery on the Lorenz farm north of town. Later he made the first brick that were ever manufactured in this section, and in 1844 he was instrumental in starting the first distillery. He had witnessed the plating of the town and observed its growth from virgin prairie and timber to a village of almost 2,000 people. In ideas and training he was the most cosmopolitan of any of the early Swiss immigrants, and at the time of his election as village president he knew personally nearly every one in the town and was admired and respected by all. He had taken no part in the factional strife that caused so much trouble locally during the Civil War, but held aloof and thus gained the respect of all. He was a fit man on whom to bestow the honor of being the first President of the village.

Jos. Speckart, who was trustee from the first ward, was a prominent business man of Highland and at the time conducted a butcher shop across the street north of where the Turner Hall is now located. He had for several years before been identified with every move for the good of the town, and when the people from this part of town wanted to pick some one to fairly represent them their choice naturally fell on him.

Henry Weinheimer, the trustee from the second ward, was one of the most prosperous merchants in the village at that time. About 1856 he purchased of the John Boeschenstein heirs the building that now houses the Kempff Pharmacy and established a very profitable general merchandise business there. He expanded until his line included even
farm implements and at one time he had nearly the whole of that corner lot under roof to accommodate the extensive business he conducted. Yet he found time to accept a place on the first board of aldermen and give a lot of attention to the formation of a village government. He also built and for a number of years resided in the present Mrs. Laura Everett residence.

Xavier Suppiger, another trustee, was engaged in the saddlery business on West Main street and was a very representative and conscientious citizen.

Franz Appel, the fourth trustee, at the time of his election was a cooper and conducted a barrel-making shop near where the residence of the Graffenried Sisters is now located on the corner of Twelfth and Washington. He was a man of integrity and excellent reputation. When advanced in years he gave up the coopers' business and conducted a saloon on the site where the new postoffice is now located.

Such was the body of men on whom fell the responsibility of making the first laws for the government of the infant village.

For the purpose of election the village by the charter was divided into four wards. Main street running east and west and Laurel Street running north and south were the dividing lines. The northeast part formed the first ward, the northwest part the second ward, the southwest part the third, and the southeast part the fourth.

The members of the new village board took their oath of office before Squire Adolph Glock on April 11, 1865, and held their first meeting on that date. One feature of the oath of office which they took is rather amusing to people of the present. In addition to the oath that they would support the constitution of the U. S. and faithfully perform the duties of their office, they all swore that they had never participated in a duel, as principal or second, and would not do so while they were in office. Aldermen of the present day do not take oath to that effect.

At this meeting on April 11 the election returns of April 3rd were ratified, it was agreed to advertise for applications for the offices of Clerk, Treasurer and Street Commissioner, and Henry Weinheimer was authorized to purchase a seal for the village.

On April 19 the second meeting was held to choose a clerk, treasurer, and street commissioner from the applications received. Lo and behold, when they got there they had not a single application for either of the offices, no one being at all anxious to serve. In this extremity they solicited people to serve in those capacities, appointing B. E. Hoffmann, who at that time was a teacher in the schools here, as clerk: a man by the name of Maroni was made street commissioner; John Menz was appointed treasurer; and John Lehnmacher was made constable and town collector. At this second meeting elaborate rules of procedure were also adopted and the duties of each city official clearly defined.

The board met again the following night, April 20, and began the adoption of ordinances to govern the village. Meetings followed one another in rapid succession all through the months of May and June.
until a full list of ordinances was adopted and everything working smoothly.

All of these first meetings of the village Board were held at the office of John Menz, a Justice of the Peace, and who at the same time conducted a store. His place of business was the original part of what is now the Highland Store building. A few months after village government was started, John Blattner tried to get the Board to hold their meetings at his office in a then new residence at the corner of Broadway and Zschokke, but they declined to do so. They established a village board room in the school house on the north side of the square and held their meetings there for several years until other arrangements were made.

Not all of the meetings of the Board were held at John Menz’s office prior to the selection of the schoolhouse as a regular place of meeting. We notice from the minutes of the meetings that quite a few of them were held at the home of Jacob Egggen, but where he lived at that time we do not know.

Both President and members of this first City Council served altogether without pay. Their only recompense was that they were exempted from street labor or poll tax, a matter which probably meant $5 or $6 a year. During the months of April, May, and June in 1865, they held at least one meeting each week and sometimes they held several during the week so it will be seen that they sacrificed quite a lot of their time in order to get the village government started off right.

One of the first things they did was to get control of such fire fighting equipment as was in town. For a number of years before village government was adopted, there had been a fire engine here which originally had been purchased through contributions by various business men. This fire engine was housed at the schoolhouse on the north side of the square so as to be centrally located and available for use at any time. As soon as the new village board became organized they wanted to buy this fire engine so that the village would be the owner of it. They caused an advertisement to be inserted in the papers to the effect that they would reimburse anyone who had contributed toward the purchase of it, but no one appeared to make any claim, so the village board took possession of it and made rules for its use that were adhered to ever afterwards.

The very first ordinance to be adopted was one fixing the licences for drams shops and groceries. The license for selling anything you wanted to in the way of drinks was fixed at $150 a year; but you could sell groceries, including beer and cider, by paying a license of only $60 a year.

Another ordinance forbade any furious riding or driving on the streets at a speed that endangered the lives of pedestrians. Little did those early city dads think that a day would come when horseless vehicles would go along the streets faster than a horse could run, and that motorcycles would go around the corners at a similar speed.

One ordinance that gave the board lots of trouble in enforcement for
a time was one forbidding the slaughtering of any animals within the village limits. Previous to that time the butchers had their slaughter houses located conveniently close to their butcher shops and they did not take kindly to an ordinance that forbade such as that. Several had to be fined before it was successfully enforced.

Another thing that caused this first City Council no little trouble was to enforce control of live stock. At that time most of the families in town owned a cow, and some owned a few cows and a bull. These cattle were allowed to run at large and pasture on the streets, on the uninclosed vacant lots and on any unfenced land near town. Nearly every family also owned a few pigs, and these pigs were permitted to run at large on the streets. These pigs rooted at will when the ground was soft and did no end of damage. Of course there were some people in town who took pride in the appearance of their premises and objected to all this, but could do nothing until after formation of village government. Right away pressure was brought to bear on the town board to do away with such nuisance and they set about it. As a starter they passed an ordinance that the bulls should be kept confined. That was received graciously by the public because only a few had bulls. Thus encouraged they passed another ordinance prohibiting swine from running at large. That caused a storm of protest, because the majority of the people kept swine. However the town board stood by their guns and enforced it as best they could although there were numerous violations of it.

The ordinance about slaughter houses, the one about swine, one about city cleanliness were so difficult of enforcement and so many claimed they were not fair, that the town board decided to sidestep the issue themselves and put it up to the people as a whole. They ordered a special election to be held on Dec. 15, 1865, to see whether or not the slaughter houses should be removed from the corporate limits and whether or not the ordinance concerning privies and manure piles should be enforced. Charles Kinne, J. J. Spindler and Joseph Harnisch were made judges of this special election. The vote showed that the majority of the people wanted the ordinances enforced.

Previous to the adoption of village government a Cemetery Association had been formed by a number of men who owned the land that is now the old cemetery and cared for it. The Town Board wanted it to come under village control. Accordingly the owners appeared at the village board meeting on March 12, 1866, and deeded it over to the city, and were glad to be relieved of what had been a burden to them.

We do not want any of our readers to think that being a member of this first village board of trustees was any sinecure, for it was not. They served the year for nothing, received no emolument whatever, and they incurred the enmity of a goodly part of the population. No one gave them any credit for the hard work they had done in getting the village government started. Instead the people found fault with every ordinance that had been passed that in any way infringed on personal liberty. The butchers were all sore because they had been
forced to move their slaughter houses, the grocers were all peeved because they had been made to pay a license of $60, and the saloon men thought the whole expense of village government had been saddled on their shoulders with the $150 license that they were forced to pay. In addition the laborers were out of humor because they had been made to pen up their hogs and do other little things that proved irksome. There had been a lot of bickering about the street work that had been done, the biggest item of public expense. It seemed that every voter

The old mill, built in 1866 at the west end of Main Street and destroyed by fire many years ago

had a grievance of some kind or other and the village board had to stand the brunt of all of it.

With things in such condition Jacob Eggen became disgusted and refused to be a candidate for reelection as president. Some of the board members, however, had not his wisdom, or could not resist the itch for official title, and became candidates at the election on April 2, 1866. Henry Weinheimer got only three votes in his ward for reelection and Franz Appel got 6. An entirely new board was elected consisting of John Buchter as President, and the following for trustees: Leopold Knoebel, J. R. Blattner, Alois Brugger and Christopher Menz. We digress here to state that a year later this board was almost as unpopular as its predecessor had been, Alois Brugger being the only one of the five to be reelected.
When the first year of village government came to a close, the treasurer's statement showed that there had been receipts of $1673.60 and the total expenses to pay all bills for a village of almost 2000 people were only $1560.87 leaving a balance on hand of $112.73. How was that for an economical municipal government? Highland spends more than that each day now.

The Old Market House

Although not a single member of the first Board of Trustees was reelected, yet when the second board organized on April 9, 1866, they reelected Bernard Hoffman, Clerk, and John Menz, Treasurer. These two had not been blamed for any of the objectionable ordinances passed by the first Board.

At a meeting called for the next Saturday night, April 14, a motion was carried that the salary of the Clerk be fixed at $100 a year instead of $150 as the first Board paid. Hoffmann refused to accept it, the office of clerk was declared vacant, and the minutes of that meeting were subscribed by B. E. Hoffmann as clerk pro tem. Little more than a week later the resolution fixing the salary of the clerk was reconsidered, and a motion carried that he be paid $150 a year as formerly. Hoffmann then did an odd thing: he said that since they had agreed to pay him $150, he would show them that he had the interest of the village at heart and would serve for only $100. The Treasurer's statement shows that he was paid only $100 for his year's work. We judge this is the only instance on record where a Highland official insisted on taking less than was offered him. We mention the matter here only as a sidelight on the character of one of the men prominent in Highland life at that time. We might also add that this B. E. Hoffmann lived until almost 90 years of age. Later in life he removed to Belleville but continued to visit Highland at intervals. There are many people living in Highland now who knew him well during his later years. He passed away eight or ten years ago, the Highland Harmonie going to Belleville in a body to attend his funeral.

No sooner was the second village board in control of affairs than they had to make good on some of the campaign promises they had made, repeal some of the ordinances passed by the first board, and pass others to take their place.

The very first thing they did was to repeal the ordinance that called for saloonkeepers to pay a license of $150 a year. They cut that license fee in half, putting it at $75 a year. That added to their popularity because at that time there were 26 saloons in Highland, and the license received from them was the biggest source of revenue until after the railroad was built and began to pay taxes. These licenses were called "grocery licenses" but they were the same as our present dramshop licenses.

This second Board also passed an ordinance creating the office of
town constable, and a fellow named Jacob Weber Jr. had the honor of being the first incumbent and the forerunner of our present police system.

On August 29, 1866, a special meeting of the Board was called at which J. R. Blattner and Alois Brugger reported that they had circulated a subscription list to raise funds to build a "Market House" and had obtained pledges to the amount of $570. At the meeting it was resolved to advertise the letting of a contract to build such a "Market House," the bids to be in by Sept. 7th. On Sept. 8 a meeting was held. Only one bid was presented, that by J. and M. Kamm for $2850. The bid was rejected. A resolution was then passed that the Board undertake the building of the "Market House" themselves and that $2,000 be appropriated for that purpose, the President, John Buchter being authorized to employ laborers and purchase materials. Work on the building was started at once under the direction of John Buchter.

Just what benefit was to be derived from this "Market House"? that the people of the town should subscribe so liberally and the Village Board also appropriate so liberally, we do not know and have been unable to learn. But it seems that everybody was enthused about it and for some reason thought it would be very convenient and also very profitable.

The building was erected right in the middle of Broadway in front of where the Tibbetts & Co. store now is. It was built of brick, with brick floors and clapboard roof. From the best information we can get at this late date it was about 50 feet long and 24 feet wide, and was divided into six or eight stalls, half of which faced south and the other half north. The street was open to traffic on both sides of it. By January, 1867, it was all completed; and it was found that the total cost was $2195, of which $613 had been raised by voluntary subscription and the balance paid out of the village treasury.

On Feb. 11, 1867, an ordinance was passed relative to conducting it and the ordinance named it "The Town Market." The stalls in the Market were to be leased to the highest bidder. They could be opened for business as early in the day as the lessee wished, but they had to be closed at 10:00 A. M. on week days and 9:00 A. M. on Sundays. They were to be used mainly for the sale of beef, pork, fish, fowl, etc., so it will be evident that Highland people in those days had to buy their supply of meat early in the day. The whole building was to be under the supervision of the town constable whose duty was outlined to see that all stall rents were paid, to see that no spoiled meat was sold, and to see that traffic did not congest the street at that place, and look after it in every way. The ordinance drawn up to regulate it was a very elaborate affair and showed that Highland people expected big things of their "Town Market."

How different was the reality. The butchers of the village did not seem to be very anxious to bid on the stalls, and we find that the first year only four of them began business there: Felix Gassmann, Anguster
The only known picture of the Old Market House. It can be seen to the right and back of the two schoolhouses.
and Heer, Otto Spellerberg, and Wm. Spellerberg. The total rent receipts for the first year were only $232 and that was much the most they ever were. Peddlers were also allowed to use the stalls that first year and they paid about half the amount received.

The Treasurer's report for the year 1868 seems to have been prepared so as to cover up what the rent receipts for the "Market" really were, but in 1869 J. J. Spindler became Treasurer to succeed John Menz and he shows the rent receipts for that year at $100 with four butchers occupying the stalls: Arnold Tschudy, Felix Gassmann, Casper Kamm and Otto Spellerberg. In 1870 and 1871 only the latter two rented stalls. In 1872 they were joined by Jacob Kurtz who rented three of them, and in 1873 Jos. Speckart joined them. From that time on little change was made, Kamm, Spellerberg and Speckart renting stalls until the close of 1879.

For several years before that, it had been evident that the "Town Market" was a bad financial venture; and, as the building was very unsightly with its location in the middle of the street, there arose a clamor to do away with it.

At a meeting of the village Board held on Dec. 23, 1879, a petition was presented signed by 81 legal voters asking that the "Market House" be declared a nuisance and be removed. Accordingly bids were asked on it. At the Board meeting on Jan. 16, 1880, three bids were received G. L. Junod offered $31 for it, Rud. Baumann offered $80 and John R. Blattner offered $125. It was sold to Blattner, who paid for it, razed it, and cleaned up the street where it had stood.

Thus ended what was a disastrous financial venture on a small scale. The building cost $2,195. All the stall rent received in the more than ten years than it stood there did not amount to $1,000 and it was sold for $125. There's not much profit in such business as that. But there never afterwards was any local desire for a central "Town Market."

Highland and Railroads

Railroads are only 100 years old. There are a few people living now who were born before a railroad was thought of. The locomotive steam engine was invented by George Stephenson of England and was first successfully used Sept. 27, 1825. The first railroad in the U. S. was a stretch 11½ miles long from Baltimore to Elliott's Mills, Maryland, and was put into use in July 1830. The few coaches which constituted a train were termed a "Brigade of Cars" and were pulled by horses or mules, much like the street cars were in the cities before the application of electric power for that purpose. It soon became known that Stephenson's latest engine which was called the "Rocket" could attain a speed of 15 miles per hour, and before the end of the year 1830 locomotives were being used on 23 miles of railroad in the U. S.

But even the slow speed that the early engines made was faster than travel by water, and the smarter men of the country immediately
visioned what could be done through railroads. The whole country went wild over the new idea, and thousands of plans were made to connect the cities all over the country in that manner.

Illinois was then one of the younger states and our legislature was filled with enthusiastic young fellows who believed fully that too much money could not be spent on improvement and that there was no improvement like railroads. With that in mind they voted appropriations of money to aid in the construction of railroads between the largest of the cities. Of course these appropriations were always asked by the men promoting the railroad who hoped to get rich through the success of it.

Among other appropriations made at the session of 1836-37 was one for $1,600,000 to build a railroad from Alton to Mt. Carmel, as told in an opening chapter of this history. That piece of legislation caused Highland to be platted where it now is, so as to be on the line of the proposed road. All that is familiar history to us. But what likely will be information to many of our readers is the manner in which that appropriation of $1,600,000 for such a purpose was secured.

The proposed road was to run from Alton to Edwardsville, thence southwest through where Highland now is to Carlyle, thence to Salem, Fairfield, Albion and Mt. Carmel. Any one of the present generation knows that, had such a railroad been built, it would never have been profitable; it went from one very little city to another very little city and along the route would be nothing but little unimportant towns.

Vandalia was at that time the capital city of Illinois and this legislature held its session there. Springfield wanted to be the capital, and Sangamon and adjoining counties had nine members in the legislature who thought of nothing else but to get the capital changed. One of these nine, in fact the main planner among them, was Abraham Lincoln. These nine men were willing to lend their influence and votes to any proposition provided they could get others of their fellow legislators to vote to change the capital to Springfield. Thus it was that, when urged by a few skilled promoters, the legislators who came from Alton, Edwardsville, Carlyle, Salem, Fairfield, Albion and Mt. Carmel asked for an appropriation of $1,600,000 to build such a railroad, the upstate legislators agreed to help them to get it providing they would vote to change the capital. The Sangamon group also made trades with many others, and it is a matter of history that the appropriation bills passed at that session of the legislature got Illinois into debt to the amount of $17,000,000. But the capital was changed.

We have told previously how the following summer Col. James Semple, Jos. Suppiger and others platted the town site of Highland along the line where they thought the railroad would go and in September, 1837 held a public sale of town lots.

The first plat of Highland filed at Edwardsville stipulated that our present Broadway was to be only 60 feet wide like any other street. A year or so after the first sale of lots, however, this was changed to 100 feet and all lots on the south side were replatted 40 feet further
south. The few men who then constituted the City Planning Commis-
sion also decided that the depot should be located about where L.
Houseman's residence now is.

But all their planning was for naught. The legislature made the
appropriation and the promoters got hold of the good part of it. They
spent some on making fills and grades between Alton and Edwardsville
and also purchased part of the right of way. But their available cash
soon gave out, the Panic of 1837 came on, and the whole thing was
abandoned. No work in preparation for that railroad was done near
Highland. However we have our Broadway on account of it.

Highland's second chance at getting a railroad came in 1853 and
1854, and that time the project got so far along that not a little work
was done near here. It is more difficult to obtain information about
this second railroad story than it is about the first for the reason that
the men at the head of the enterprise did not live near here.

When the first railroad was built connecting Columbus, Ohio, with
Indianapolis, Ind., one of the leading men in charge of the enterprise
was John Brough, who afterwards became a Governor of Ohio. Brough
was a man ahead of his time. Even in that early day he could envision
a railroad empire. No sooner was the road built from Columbus to In-
dianapolis that he began to plan extending it to Terre Haute. That
was soon accomplished and a year or two later it was brought into
Illinois, first as far as Marshall and later to join the Illinois Central at
Effingham.

He then tried to extend it on to St. Louis but fell down on that part
of the task. The Illinois Legislature, remembering its sad experience
in 1837, would make only slight appropriations and the sale of stock
did not go over very big in the cities along the proposed route. Finally
a money crisis came on in 1857, and Brough had to sell out to other
interests and give it up. He devoted himself to Ohio politics exclusively
and made an excellent record as a governor from 1864 to 1869.

The proposed route of Brough's line did not come through High-
land, missing it by a mile at least. Why this should have been the case
we do not know and have been unable to learn. But it is evident that
he meant to pass up the town. He purchased right of way and made
cuts and fills through the country about a mile north of town. The
evidence of the proposed route, the cuts and the fills and some of the
rock that was to be used for culverts, may still be seen on the Ed.
Matter farm north of town and on other farms east and west of there.

One aged resident of Highland told us that he had been told when
a boy that the reason the route did not come through or nearer town
was that the residents here would not make a sufficient contribution.
However, there is no way to prove that and we merely mention it here.
It might have been.

The thing that interfered more than any other with Brough's sale
of stock in this locality was the fact that the O. & M. Railroad Co. was
being built from Vincennes to St. Louis through Trenton at the same
time. St. Louis also did not take much interest in his venture because the O. & M. offered them an outlet to the east.

As long as they knew no better, the Highland people were in a measure content to get along without a railroad, making their trips to and from St. Louis in a stage coach and sending such produce as they sold there in wagons, which on their return trip would bring out merchandise that was needed here. It took one day to go there on the stage coach and another day to come back. The wagons usually took about four days for the trip there and back. If livestock were taken there, it had to be driven on foot, a tiresome process. In winter when the roads were real bad travel was out of the question.

Highland people endured this patiently until after the railroad was built through Trenton. Then they became much dissatisfied. The stage line between here and St. Louis was abandoned, and a stage line conducted between here and Trenton. They could go to Trenton in the morning on the stage, take the train to St. Louis, spend several hours there, go back to Trenton and then take the evening stage back home, thus cutting their St. Louis trips to one day. Freight also was hauled back and forth from the railroad at Trenton. It was then that Highland realized it must have a railroad at all costs, and that the town could never make the most of its possibilities unless one would be built through here. Every movement in that direction was greatly encouraged. The Civil War came on and with the increased activity and greater travel which it made necessary the need was felt more and more. The people talked railroad and dreamed railroad, and when a population gets fixed on any one subject, some realization is going to grow out of it.

Finally during the war local people opened negotiations with the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad, to learn under what terms a branch road could be built from Highland to Trenton and connect with the O. & M. there. In reply the local people were told to see how much money they could raise. Solicitors got busy and pledged subscriptions for $60,000.

Some of the larger subscribers to that fund were as follows: Joseph and Solomon Koepfl, $15,000; Jos. Suppiger & Co., $10,000; Bernard Suppiger, $1,400; Chas. H. Seybt, $2,000; Nancy Thorp, $1,000; Mueller, Herman & Co., $5,000; Dr. F. Ryhiner, $2,000; John Suppiger, $1,500; Ad. Bandelier, $1,000; Moritz Huegy, $1,000; H. Weinheimer, $1,000; Nic Voegele, $1,000; Peter Tuffli, $1,000; Jos. Speckart, $1,000; John Leder, $1,500; A. J. Parkinson, $1,000. Nicolaus Ambuehl, $2,000; Christian Waage, $2,000; William Giger, $2,000; John Ambuehl $1,000. There were also more than a hundred others who donated lesser amounts.

When the O. & M. railroad heads were informed what the Highland people had done, they plainly stated the terms on which they would build the branch. They wanted $140,000, and that amount could not be raised. The railroad, however offered to pay $40,000 of that amount.

During this fruitless effort to obtain the money a year went by and
the Civil War came to an end. The government had got deeply into
debt, and Congress instead of voting subsidies for railroads began levy-
ing taxes on them. The O. & M. withdrew its offer of paying $10,000
toward the work and the whole plan fell through without ever having
progressed far enough for a single shovelful of earth to be turned.

Following the failure of the effort to get a branch line from Trenton
to Highland no further action was taken for a year or two following.
However the matter was ever uppermost in the minds of the business
men of the city and they investigated carefully every possible chance.
Their past experience proved profitable to them and they no longer put
out any money or played the sucker for greedy promoters.

Be it known though that all of the towns located in Illinois along
the Old National Trail, which had been a stage coach line, were clamor-
ing for a railroad. Effingham was served north and south by the Illi-
nois Central, but Vandalia, Greenville and Highland were completely
left out and residents of those other cities were as keenly alive to what
they were losing as was Highland.

Finally, just after the holidays in 1867, a proposition was put up to
Highland, and other towns and cities along the trail that looked good.
After a long and honorable career in the U. S. Army and Navy, Gen-
eral Winslow had decided to capitalize his military fame by entering
the railroad game and becoming the chief officer of a prosperous line.
Even then it could be foreseen that a railroad president would be sit-
ting pretty. (We would like for our readers to understand that follow-
ing the Civil War every industrial movement of any importance was
led by some man of military rank, who in a way attracted a following
from ex-soldiers. That accounts for the presence of General Winslow
in the railroad picture.) As a matter of fact Winslow was backed by a
number of Eastern capitalists who were wise enough to know it would
be good policy to keep his name in the foreground.

Winslow made very fair propositions to all towns along the line.
He insisted that each town and the country through which it was to
pass should give all the cooperation possible. The right of way was to
be obtained without a cent of cost to the Railroad Company. In his
prospectus he stated that one-fourth of the cost of the railroad would
have to be paid by the people along the line, the money to be raised
by selling shares of stock. But the money was not to be payable until
the road was actually built into the town that had made the subscrip-
tion.

This last feature looked good to the citizens of Highland. If they
could know that the railroad had to be actually built before they had
to pay over the money, they were perfectly satisfied. Whether or not
the money raised along the line paid only one fourth or more of the
expenses they never did know.

It can be readily seen that under the plan proposed the Railroad
Company could build very easily. If the supposed one fourth that was
contributed did not pay all the expenses after the right of way had
been donated, it was very easy to issue bonds secured by right of way
and road bed already built and get what was needed. After they had built from East St. Louis into Collinsville, Collinsville had to pay; when they continued to Troy, that city had to pay; and as soon as the road was built to Highland the local men had to pay. The records show that at the time of the first building the Railroad Company did not have to go much into debt. Later on when they had to make their road bed more substantial, a large debt was incurred. In addition to conditions already named, the prospectus stated that the road would be finished into Highland by September, 1867. That feature also looked good to citizens here and they went to work in earnest.

The quota of funds assigned to be raised in Highland was $150,000. It seemed like a big amount to the business men here. But they had all sorts of courage, and above all things they wanted a railroad, so they tried to raise it. Tim. Gruaz, then editor of the Highland Bote, had an original idea of the way in which it should be raised. He figured it out that if every farmer along the proposed route would subscribe $1.00 for each acre he owned within three miles of the track that the desired amount could thus be raised. Did the farmers favor that idea? Not at all. Some of them had already donated right of way or were being asked to do so. Others could not see where the value of the land would be raised to that extent of $1.00 per acre. There were a few who said that they did not want any railroad engine and cars going along their farms and scaring the horses and cows.

The town people, however, held a meeting and decided to make an effort to raise the amount by stock subscription. At the meeting a committee was elected to do the work consisting of Ad. Bandelier, John Suppiger, Chas. Seybt, Dr. Felder, Henry Weinheimer, David Suppiger, John Spindler, S. T. Mason, Christ Hotz, John Buchter and Nic. Voegele.

This committee got busy and, by Feb., 1867, had $45,500 subscribed. By February 15 the amount totalled $80,000 and the list of more than a hundred persons and firms who had subscribed was published in both local papers. The subscriptions ranged from $9,000 down to $50. The heaviest subscribers were some of the same people who had subscribed a few years before for the Highland-Trenton spur, as follows: Henry Hermann & Co., $9,000; D. Suppiger & Co., $9,000; Josephine and Ella Suppiger, $3,000; John Suppiger, $2,000; Ad. Bandelier, $2,000; Nic. Voegele, $2,000; J. J. Spindler, $2,000; Mrs. Waage, $2,000; Wm. Giger, $1,500; Chas. Kinne, $1,200; John Ambuehl, $1,000, C. Brossard, $1,000; M. and C. Schott, $1,000; Caroline Suppiger $1,000; M. Huegy, $1,000.

It will be observed that the large subscriptions differed somewhat from those made a few years before for the Highland-Trenton spur. At first Solomon and Jos. Koepfli would not subscribe anything. Later they did. During the few years between the two efforts, the New Mill had been built at the west end of Main St., and you will notice that the two mills each subscribed the same amount.
One thing that greatly interfered with getting the utmost in the way of subscriptions was the uncertainty as to the route the track would take. Many would not subscribe because they thought the railroad company would follow the route of the old Brough line going north of town, some of the cuts and fills having already been made on that route. Some of the Highland subscribers to the stock made the reservation in their subscription that it was to be void if that line were followed.

From what the writer has read he is of the opinion that it was the intention of the Railroad Company to use the prepared Brough line road-bed, had they been able to get the Highland payment that way. But the Highland men had been tricked a time or two and held on to their money, and it is a matter of record that the road was built as far as St. Jacob before any definite assurance was given or a survey made of the route from there into Highland.

So much difficulty was experienced in raising the money in Collinsville, Troy, and Highland that Madison County was appealed to for aid. A county election was called for Apr. 2, 1867, to vote on the proposition of bonding the county for $100,000 to assist in building the road. Part of the county was opposed to it, and a big pre-election fight was being waged when just a day or two before the date it was learned that sufficient length of time had not been allowed between the legal notice thereof and the day of election. Two days before the vote was to be taken it was called off and postponed indefinitely. As far as we know it was never held.

Right after he issued his plan of procedure at the beginning of 1867, Winslow started work out of East St. Louis, laying the track between that city and Collinsville in a few months; and by May 1 he was ready to collect from each of those two cities, his contract being that whenever he was ready to enter the city with his track the money was due.

Armed with the money thus collected he started work at once between Collinsville and Troy, and during the month of June 1867 his crew of hundreds of men almost made the distance into Troy, but after that progress was slower.

This first track was put together in the crudest possible manner, and the road bed but illy prepared for it. Our readers must not get the idea that they built a track anything like the present one in such a short length of time. Their money was due when they got the track into a town and they got it there as quickly as they could, regardless of the quality of it.

Despite their best efforts Highland men did not succeed in raising the quota of $150,000. In fact they could not reach $100,000. Meanwhile the road was coming this way and by the end of June, 1867, was built as far as Troy. Then it was that Highland folks were told that they would have to raise $10,000 more if they wanted the road to come into the town, the railroad company claiming it would cost that much more to build it into town than it would if the Brough line was fol-
owed. They had evidently had it in their minds all the time to use that proposition as a lever for a final holdup of the Highland citizens.

At any rate it worked. Highland people became keyed up to greater effort than ever. At their meeting on Aug. 9, 1867, the Village Board was asked to appropriate $10,000 for the purpose. The next night a big meeting was held at Edelmann's, where it was decided to hold an election on Aug. 12 to see whether the majority wanted to pay what money they had raised and let the road go through three-fourths of a mile north of town or raise $10,000 more and get it to touch the town. The election was held, 243 votes being cast, 167 in favor of having it touch the town and 76 content to let it go through three-fourths of a mile north.

Despite the fact that by the fall of 1867 the railroad was built as far east as Troy, there were many who were skeptical about it ever being built as far as Highland. In this connection one rather amusing circumstance occurred. John Dugger & Co. owned what was called the "Omnibus Line" which operated between here and Trenton. Of course, when they realized the railroad was coming, they were willing to sell it. You would not think that six months before the railroad was finished into Highland they could find a buyer, but they did. It is a matter of record that in December 1867, W. Aeble & Co. purchased the line outright from Dugger & Co., and were confident they would have a good business for several years to come. They advertised that they would call at the homes for St. Louis passengers each morning at 4:45 A. M. and take them to Trenton where they could take a train and spend the day in the city. The price was $1.00 for the round trip. Six months after they purchased the "Line" at a good price, the first train came into Highland and their whole investment was rendered worthless.

After the people of Highland had held an election as described above and definitely decided that the majority wanted the railroad to come into the town, the next proposition that confronted them was how to raise the extra $10,000 that the railroad company demanded for making the change. A bond issue was voted to raise it. Also at this juncture Solomon and Joseph Koepfli stepped into the breach and made a subscription of $8,000 in cash and some land. The railroad company practically accepted and changed their plans to have the road touch the town.

The latter part of August, 1867, the question of a depot site was settled without difficulty. It was to be on the Marine Road in the Koepfli field. The railroad company promised to build a depot building 50x100 feet with a 10-foot, board covered walk in front of it, and a double track to be laid just south of it, one of these tracks to be used as a switch.

The Koepfli's were also asked for some ground on which to build a machine shed and a round house, it being thought then that Highland would probably be the end of a "division" and that many machin-
ists would have to reside here to take care of the engines. Little did the first subscribers to the railroad stock dream that the time would come when most of the trains did not even stop here and that many of them would go through the place at a speed equal to a bat fleeing the infernal regions.

Although all preliminary preparation for the railroad's coming had been completed by the end of August, 1867, for some reason the work was suddenly stopped about a month later and suspended for the winter. There it rested—track built from East St. Louis to Collinsville, from there to Troy and from Troy part way to St. Jacob, but not a sign of a depot at any of the places. A big complaint was voiced at once and there were all kinds of accusations of double crossing. Some accused Gen. Winslow of being the cause of it and others accused Rice, the civil engineer in charge of the work.

At the time work ceased, nothing at all had been done between Highland and St. Jacob; but in September, 1867, a force of men were put to work in the Sugar Creek bottoms between here and Pierron and were kept at work preparing a road bed there until winter set in.

One thing that caused a lot of trouble in Highland originated when a number of Highland men took it upon themselves to have a survey secretly made between here and St. Jacob for a right of way, expecting to get the railroad company to adopt that survey. In this they failed, and the only thing they accomplished was to make themselves quite a number of enemies. During the winter of 1867-68 the engineer Rice made the survey and definitely assured the people about the route the road would follow and told them that building would be resumed just as early in the spring of 1868 as rails could be obtained.

When spring came work did go forward at a fast pace. On March 27th a large shipment of rails arrived in East St. Louis, enough to build the road as far east as Highland. They were immediately moved to where they were needed and work of laying them started.

It was then that the enthusiastic railroad builders assured Highland people that the first locomotive would pull into the town not later than May 1.

On April 6, 1868, a railroad meeting was held here at which the charter, which some Highland men had been holding since 1864 for the building of what was to be known as the Highland & St. Louis Railroad, was transferred to the new company; the St. Louis, Vandalia & Terre Haute Railroad Co. It seems that this charter permitted some privileges which the new company was anxious to take advantage of.

On May 8, 1868, the St. L. V. & T. H. bought the necessary land to build a depot in East St. Louis (between the Under Ferry and the Chicago depot) and paid a price of $75,000. The contracts for the buildings were let and work on them started at once. At the same time contracts were let for the building of depots in Collinsville and Troy, and the railroad people assured Highland folks they would run trains into town by June 1st.
It was at this juncture that John Suppiger, the local secretary, announced that since the road would be into Highland by June 1, he was ready to collect the subscriptions that had been pledged. The great majority of the subscriptions were collected without trouble, but with others he had plenty of trouble; and it is a matter of record that a goodly number of them were never paid. It is that way with nearly all subscription lists. We have consulted several sources but have been unable to learn the exact amount that Highland people finally paid toward the railroad. We doubt if any one really knows. The railroad company got the last penny that they could.

It was claimed that they got a total of $90,000 and that it took all but $230 of the last $10,000 to pay damage claims to numerous people between here and St. Jacob. The names of some who received damages were Dugger, Metzger, Spohn, Tobler, Erben, Traver, Schott, Chipron, Zopf, Frey, Schaeffer, Lambelet, Lembach, Gisler and others. The court costs alone in settling those damage claims amounted to $2,500.

Work on the road went on rapidly and after the weather became settled it was not an uncommon thing for one-half a mile and sometimes three-fourths of a mile of rails to be put down in one day.

With the absolute certainty that the railroad would soon reach here, real estate values in town became very much inflated and some properties changed hands at higher figures than they ever have since. A building boom was also generated and the post-war boom about which we will have more to say in a later chapter. Pocahontas caught the spirit and some enterprising real estate dealer there laid off a subdivision and held a big public sale of town lots each 60x120 feet.

Finally in the latter half of June the track laying began this side of St. Jacob and steadily proceeded until June 26, 1868, when the first locomotive, pushing ahead of it several flat cars loaded with rails and equipment, came into the present City limits. There was general rejoicing.

While these railroad builders were working on either side of town and through it, Highland enjoyed a business prosperity beyond anything it had ever known before; and the people, who had "paid until it hurt" to get the railroad, were glad of the sacrifice they had made. The town now had a modern outlet to the markets of the world and could expand as fast as it wished.

There is but little more to tell in connection with the railroad. On July 10, 1868, a notice was published stating that attempts had been made to derail some of the trains on the road and the notice went on to state that summary vengeance would be wreaked on the heads of any parties caught in the attempt to do such a dastardly deed.

Gen. Winslow and his associates in the venture continued to build the road eastward from Highland until March 13, 1869, when they sold out their interests to a big eastern railroad syndicate, the Pennsylvania Central, the Pan Handle and the Indiana Central. What mea-
sure of profit they received for the work they had done we have no way of knowing but presume it was plenty. The Highland interests in the line were looked after by the late C. H. Seybt, who continued to do so for many years afterward.

A Hundred Meetings in a Year

City councilmen of the present day devote a lot of time to the city’s interest. By that we mean a lot of time that they are not paid for—not even thanked for. But we want to call your attention to one set of city councilmen who really worked.

Highland’s first and second village boards did much toward getting the town started off right, and we do not want to detract a mite from the credit that is justly due them, but it remained for the third village Board, the members of which served from April, 1867 to April, 1868, to establish a record that we do not think has been equalled before or since.

The personnel of that Board was J. H. Willimann, President, and Chas. Kinne, Dr. A. Felder, Alois Brugger and Andrew Just members; and they held close to 100 Board meetings during the year they were in office, an average of two a week. John Blattner was their appointed clerk, but so much writing had to be done during their year in office that the special services of J. H. Luchsinger, a man who wrote a beautiful script, were enlisted and he was paid extra for transcribing the lengthy ordinances that were passed, the contracts that were made, etc.

Immediately after their election this Board made up its mind to settle definitely the question of swine running at large. Each of the two preceding boards had passed ordinances forbidding that, but the ordinances did not have enough teeth in them and the hogs continued to root up the streets at will.

Before passing an ordinance on the subject, this third board called a special election for May 13, 1867, asking the people to vote on whether or not they wanted swine to run at large. The vote was 133 for its prohibition and only 13 in favor of it. Thus backed, the Board passed an ordinance that required the constable to impound in a village-owned pen every hog that was found at large in the village limits, and that made the owner pay handsomely to get them out. If left in for a few days, they were auctioned off to the highest bidder.

That ordinance had plenty of teeth in it and it forever broke up the custom of letting hogs run at large. But quite a number had to be publicly sold before the owners fully realized their position.

No sooner was the hog question disposed of than the Board was petitioned by a number of interested citizens to borrow money and build sidewalks along Troxler, Pestalozzi, Zschokke and Franklin Sts. (now Main, Ninth, Broadway and Twelfth), which at that time were the four principal streets.

Up to that time no sidewalks graced the sides of the streets, except in front of the stores and a very few of the residences; and not all the stores went to the trouble. In the main there were none, and the people
had to wade mud every winter and the women drag their long skirts through the weeds along narrow paths in the summer. Had it been fashionable then to wear as short skirts as they do now, they would have been inconvenienced less.

The petitioners wanted the Board to bond the village and borrow $5000 to build these sidewalks. The Board looked with favor on the project and called another special election for July 22, 1867, to submit it to a vote of the people. However a week or so later a matter came up that was of greater importance than sidewalks and that special election was called off and indefinitely postponed.

The interest which eclipsed the desire for sidewalks was put before the Board at their meeting July 13, 1867, by a petition signed by 25 prominent residents of the village requesting them to bond the village and borrow $10,000 to purchase railroad stock and aid in getting the railroad built from East St. Louis to Highland.

The Board proceeded as they had in the other two important matters brought before them,—they called a special election to get the sentiment of the people on the proposition. The election was held on Aug. 12, 1867, and 243 votes were cast, nearly the full voting strength of the village. 167 votes were in favor of it and 76 against it.

With this backing the Board entered into a contract with Gen. Winslow, the railroad promoter, agreeing to furnish the $10,000, if the road was completed into Highland by Jan. 1, 1868, if it was routed so as to touch the corporate limits, and if the depot were placed just about opposite the center of town, to all of which Winslow agreed.

Then Board meetings followed each other in rapid succession until an elaborate ordinance could be drawn up and passed making the necessary provisions so that the village could live up to its contract.

To get a proper idea of how vast an undertaking this was for the village of Highland at that time, our readers must remember that during the first year of corporate existence the entire receipts of the village were less than $2,000, and during the second year, with the rent from the Market House included, it was but little more than that amount. It must be remembered that during Highland's first three years as a village, no corporation tax of any kind was assessed. The dramshop licenses, the part of the road labor that was paid in money, and the little rent received from the Market House after it was built, with the addition of a few fines, were the only sources of revenue. The village president and trustees received no compensation, and the appointed officers only very modest stipends.

In order to borrow $10,000 and make arrangements to pay interest and principal, it was necessary to provide for the taxation of both real and personal property; and that meant more long ordinances and more meetings for the overworked village leaders.

However in a month or so it was accomplished. An ordinance was drawn up and passed governing the issuance of the bonds and a very long ordinance making the provisions for the levy and collection of
property tax. A total of 100 bonds of $100 each was to be issued, with coupons attached good for an interest rate of 10 per cent on the investment. $1000 of the bonds was to be retired each year so that the last would have been retired by 1875. Both the selling of the bonds and the collection of principal and interest were to be taken care of by the banking firm of F. Rhyinner & Co., who then operated a bank in a part of the building now used as a residence by Mrs. Martin Huber. They were to get half percent for selling the bonds and a half percent on all money they handled in the collection of payments of principal and interest.

About the time that the village Board had all details of the transaction fixed, Gen. Winslow realized his railroad would not be here by Jan. 1, 1868, and in December he appeared before the Board and asked that the contract be modified so that he could have to July 1, 1868. After taking time to consult Judge David Gillespie to determine if their action would be legal, the Board granted the extension.

One more difficulty presented itself for solution before this busy village Board before their year in office was completed. That was the matter of raising money to keep streets and culverts in repair.

The poll-tax law did not work out well. By its terms a man could work two days each year on the streets, or he could pay $4.00 and the street commissioner would then hire some one to work in his stead. Most of the men in the village elected to work out their time instead of paying the money, but they generally wanted to work it out at a time when they could do nothing else. If a fellow appeared to work out his two days in the middle of January with everything frozen up and the thermometer down to zero, the street commissioner had to let him work; but of course anything he could do would amount to nothing. Many did not work at all; neither did they pay any money.

During the last month of their tenure of office this Board changed all that. After getting a start at a property tax through their ordinance to raise money to pay the railroad bonds, they concluded they could go a step farther, passed another ordinance that did away with the "labor" method of keeping up the streets, and provided for the levy of a property tax for that purpose. That method has been followed ever since.

During the time that this Board was working on the railroad matter, they were continually harassed by Herman & Co., mill owners, concerning a switch. The millers wanted the switch built even before the railroad was within 10 miles of Highland.

Of course all this work was not accomplished by the Board working unanimously, but the President and three of the members stuck religiously together on all propositions and accomplished a year's work that was a mark to shoot at. This Andrew Just, however, was generally against everything that came up. When their time was up he was the only one that was a candidate for re-election. The others realized that the constructive work they had done had made them a number of enemies and declined to be candidates.
The Highland Gymnastic Society

For the last 70 years the center of the social life of Highland has been at the Turner Hall at the corner of Main and Pine Streets. The various activities that have been fostered within its walls for two-thirds of a century have had a marked influence on the lives and characters of all citizens who spent their youthful days in Highland. Men and women, now past middle age, have told the writer that the happiest hours of their lives had been experienced in that old building. And even today, after time has taken its toll, all native born Highlanders have a tender affection for the place where they experienced many of the highlights of their lives. A brief story of the events that led up to the building of it, of the sacrifices that made it possible and of the dedication and first use will be the gist of this chapter.

The teaching of gymnastics for the development of the human body dates back to the days of early Greece. Even the religion of that period defied the physical man and woman. They strove for perfection in physique, and through that striving a science of gymnastics was gradually evolved and put into use nationally while that country enjoyed world leadership.

After the fall of the Roman Empire and all through the dark ages no physical education was attempted in any part of Europe. It was not until the beginning of the 19th century that European countries began to try to develop the physical body by regular and intelligent instruction in gymnastics. When they did, little Switzerland was the leader in the movement, and prior to their emigration hither many of the early settlers of Highland had taken regular physical instruction in schools in their native land. In Switzerland and Germany these were called turning-schools and that name spread to America.

It was not until 1853 that the early Highland settlers made any move toward the establishment of a turning-school here. By that time there were a lot of young men and boys here who had enjoyed the pleasures of such a school in their native land and longed to continue their development here. In the fall of 1853 the Highland Gymnastic Society was started here. It grew rapidly and was the pride of every member. They at once began to raise money to purchase a site and build a hall. In a few years they had money enough for the site and with the aid of John Blattner a deal was made whereby the two lots on the corner of Main and Pine became the property of the Society for a consideration of $350.

Jacob Jahn was the first regular instructor for the Society, and among the records is the original letter of appreciation which he wrote after being chosen for that important position.

Although the minutes of all the meetings held from 1853 to 1861 have been carefully preserved as originally written, there is nothing in them to indicate the location of the building in which they held their meetings and the hall in which the apparatus was kept and where classes
received instruction. One aged resident tells us she thinks it was on the second floor of what is now the Highland Store building, but she is not certain.

At any rate the Society grew and prospered and in a few years the classes felt competent to compete for honors with neighboring turning-schools and those in St. Louis. Two important turnfests were held here prior to the Civil War. The smaller of these was held in the school square, which in the summer season was used as a place for instruction and practice by the early actives. A larger one, attended by the classes from many societies was held in the Koepfli grove on the hill north of town, where Hugo Schmidt now lives.

When the Civil War broke out in 1861, nearly all the younger members of the active class enlisted in the army and all turning activity here had to be given up. The last recorded minutes show that this first-formed society gave up the ghost in September, 1861. Nothing further was attempted until after the war was over and things had again settled down.

In 1866 the Society was again organized, the leading spirits in it being a number of young men of that time, Louis Kinne, Jacob Menz and Selmar Pabst. F. Kaltenbacher was elected physical instructor. The first members were fired with enthusiasm and the Society grew fast. It was at once apparent that a hall or meeting place was needed, and the members began to raise money for the purpose by popular subscription.

The necessary amount of money was not hard to raise. Many business enterprises in the city had prospered greatly during the War and money was plentiful, much the same as immediately after the World War. Early in October, 1869, it was announced that the money had been raised and a meeting was held to let the contract for putting up the building. Henry G. Metzger was a popular building contractor here at that time and he got the contract, the price being $3,590.

The corner-stone was officially and formally laid on October 31, 1869. Quite an occasion was made of it, all other societies of the city being invited to attend the ceremony and participate in it. A very large crowd gathered as all were pleased in anticipation of having a finer place to hold social events than they had ever previously known. The Harmonie furnished music for the occasion.

The contractor employed every carpenter that he could get and rushed the work through as quickly as possible. Bad weather prevailed with a lot of rain, snow and sleet but despite that the building was under roof by December 9.

On the day after Christmas, Dec. 26, 1869, the new building was formally dedicated. The weather was so mild that day that it was like springtime and people felt more comfortable outside than in the houses. The roads were somewhat muddy but not enough to interfere with the celebration.

At the appointed hour, 1:30 p. m., the band and the different soci-
eties of the town met on the corner of Main and Walnut and there organized a parade. The band led the march as they proceeded to the newly built hall. Although it was supposed to seat 700 people such a crowd was present for the dedication that not nearly all of them could be seated. While the march to the Hall was in progress every bell in town rang merrily, the school bell and all church bells. Many out-of-town people were here to witness the event, especially the friends of those who were active in promoting the building of the hall.

The interior of the new building was tastefully decorated for the occasion. The Star-spangled Banner was draped above the stage, as was also the "White Cross in the Red Background." In a prominent place stood a bust of Alexander of Humboldt, with a look on his sculpted face that seemed to say that he enjoyed being there. On the walls hung portraits of William Tell, George Washington, the turning leader Jacob Jahn and other notables.

The Harmonie began the program rendering Breitenbach's interpretation of the 150th Psalm of David. After the applause had subsided Adolph Bandelier made the formal dedicatory address, delivering one of the most masterful speeches of his public career. The Harmonie closed the program by singing "Was ist des Deutschen Vaterland."

That night the first dance was held on the new floor. It is claimed that 300 couples were present for the dance, and although a lot of wine was consumed perfect order was maintained. Messrs. Baumann and Appel had charge of the refreshments at the hall that night.

Immediately following the dedication of the Turner Hall, the people of Highland began to make use of the building for every possible pur-
pose. Every inhabitant of the village was proud of it, and no stranger spent any time in Highland without his friends taking him to see it.

At the time of its erection the Society had enough money to pay for the main building, but in order to furnish it properly they had to incur a small debt. To pay that debt, early in January, 1870, a series of lectures was given at the hall for which a small admission fee was charged. The first of these lectures was delivered by John Springer, a teacher in the public school, and it was followed by others given by other men of note who then lived in town.

We have stated before that the early Highland had a greater percentage of men of outstanding education and ability than has the Highland of today, and these men were prevailed upon to give addresses on various subjects in which they were well versed. The people attended them and were benefited thereby, and thus the small debt that had been created was wiped out. In that manner the Turner Hall became the literary center of the town and remained so for many years.

On Sunday night, January 30, 1870, Messrs. Mays and Tobler gave the first program of instrumental music at the new Hall, being experts on the violin and zither. The event was well attended and greatly enjoyed by the music-loving populace, and from that day to this most concerts of merit of that kind have been rendered there.

The first mask ball was held on February 26, 1870, and was a gala affair. Over a hundred were masked, some in very expensive costumes, and the event was so successful that one has been held each year since that time.

It would be tiresome to tell you of all the uses to which the hall was put right after it was built. Everything that called for a few people to get together had to be held there. Previously the place of general meeting had been in the dance halls adjacent to the saloons, but after the building of the Turner Hall all that was changed and every meeting of any importance was held there.

The first attempt at a fair of any kind was held there on March 15 and 16, 1870, under the auspices of the ladies of Highland. It was an exposition of the domestic science arts mainly; fancy work, clothes making, quilting, canning and baking; but it drew a big crowd and was voted a grand success for that early day. Subsequently more pretentious events of the same kind were held there.

You might know that the Society would not have the hall long before they would be holding a turnfest. The first of these was in May, 1870, held at Lindendale, with the night events at the hall. It was attended by thousands of people from St. Louis and elsewhere and marked Highland as a popular place for such events. It also had the effect of helping to gain new members and before the end of 1870 the Society enrolled 64 members of whom 38 were actives.

As time passed the scope of physical instruction given at Turner Hall was expanded until it included classes for both sexes and for all ages of people. The directors have followed the policy of employing
graduates of the best physical schools in the country as instructors, and as a result some very able men in that line have at times been teachers here, and the young folks profited thereby.

As early as 1859 there was organized here what was known as the Highland Library Association of which Ad. E. Bandelier was president and other trustees were Frederick Ryhiner, Jos. Suppiger, Sol Koepfl and John Suppiger. This association collected what was in that day a very valuable library, carefully selecting works that would answer the respective needs of pupils, teachers and people of all vocations in life. Where that library was housed prior to the building of the Turner Hall we could not learn; but after that it was kept in a reading room which was then maintained in the Hall, and for many years was in charge of the literary section of the Turnverein and was open to the general public.

In order to create a desire for study and self-education these founders of the library arranged courses of lectures during the winter months which were illustrated by an expensive physical apparatus. The lecturers were Professors Baer and Julius Hammer, Doctors Rhynier, Suter, Bernays and Halter and Messrs. A. E. Bandelier, C. L. Bernays, A. F. Bandelier and others. Most of these were held in the reading room at the Turner Hall, were well attended, and put Highland on the map in a literary way.

As time passed and the demands of the people in the way of entertainment became different some changes were made in the Turner Hall. In the 70's an addition was built on the west side and two bowling alleys installed, 36 inches in width as was then the custom. They were used for many years and greatly enjoyed by the various clubs that frequented the hall. The alleys were not always kept in the pink of condition as bowling alleys are today. The janitor did not always have the time to care for them, and one man told us it was not an uncommon occurrence for bowlers who wanted to use the alleys on Sunday afternoon to go there that forenoon and dress the alleys themselves.

In 1913 the bowling alleys were sold to the late Jacob Janett, who moved them into the west part of the Alb, Kleiner building at the corner of Ninth and Laurel, and even today they could be found under the residence floors in the west part of that building.

About 25 years ago when moving pictures were introduced into this city an attempt was made to popularize the Turner Hall certain nights of each week as a moving picture center, but the effort met with only very moderate success and was eventually abandoned.

For three generations the Turner Hall has been a popular place to hold political meetings, because of its capacity and the freedom of conduct that was permitted. Every spellbinder, from the days of U. S. Grant up to the present time, who was a candidate for office in this Congressional district, has made his appearance there and made the walls ring with his forensic efforts. The policies of Reconstruction following the Civil War have been discussed there, countless speeches have
been made within those walls relative to the comparative merits of a protective tariff and free trade, the point at issue between the two main parties from 1870 to 1890, advocates of free coinage of silver as well as their opponents made speeches there in 1896, and four years later the futile issue of "Imperialism" was freely discussed.

During Teddy Roosevelt's and Taft's administrations about the only political speeches heard there were Congressman Rodenberg's utterances here, but in 1912 the voice of the Bull Moose was heard more than once.

The Turner Hall all through the years has been Highland's "Forum." Representatives of all parties have been allowed to use it and speak their mind,—no, not all; as far as we know no Prohibition speaker was allowed to use it. The trustees drew the line there.

In speaking of political meetings that have been held there, we can not refrain from mentioning how popular such meetings were with a certain element from Greenville in pre-Prohibition days. How they would hear of them, we do not know; but a goodly crowd from that county seat would always be on hand and partake liberally of the refreshments.

For many years the Turner Hall was the only semi-public building in the city that was equipped with a kitchen and outfitted for the serving of meals to a large number. During the winter months, when the park dining room was not available, it was always used for that purpose several times each year. Of late years the churches and other buildings have been equipped, and the Hall is not used for that purpose to the extent that it once was.

But we do not want to leave this subject without telling briefly how well the Gymnastic Society has succeeded in the primary cause for which it was organized, the development of the physical health and strength of the young people of the town. Competent instructors have always been in charge and classes for all ages have been regularly organized. Some of these students have developed into marvels of physical grace and skill. They have entered into competition with the best developed in other schools in the St. Louis district and have acquitted themselves with great credit. Some of the products of the school here have themselves become teachers and very successful ones at that. Others have continued in the active class for many years after reaching manhood, solely for the reason that they greatly enjoyed the weekly classes and were benefited thereby. Thus in its main object the work of the Society has been a success, and in its auxiliary benefits it has had more to do with shaping the lives and characters of the Highland people of the last three generations than any other one agency.
Highland as a Village

During the first years after Highland was incorporated as a village, a custom was practiced by the village councilmen of taking an inventory of everything that belonged to the village. These inventories were made a matter of record by the village clerk. With the hope that it will prove of interest to some of our readers, we reproduce the village inventory that was taken in April, 1868, after the town had been under village government for three busy years:

Real Estate—Five acres of land for cemetery purposes, Market House with 6 complete stalls and 2 partially done.

Fire Extinguishing Apparatus—One Engine, hose cart and hose, one water tank and four ladders.

Tools and Equipment—4 wheelbarrows, 3 picks, 1 plow, 1 scraper.

Furniture—Office Desk, 4 Poll boxes, Town Seal.


Miscellaneous—One Cannon, one Engine House, one Hog Pen.

From the inventory it will be seen how very modest were Highland's possessions in 1868 in comparison to what they are now.

Jos. Harnisch was the fourth man to be elected President of the Village of Highland, taking over the office in April, 1868. Just before he came in, the retiring Board had passed the Ordinance mentioned in the last chapter requiring the poll tax for the upkeep of the streets be paid in money instead of in labor. That ordinance was unpopular and the first thing Mr. Harnisch and his Board did was to put it to a vote of the people at a special election.

(Note: More special elections were called in the first ten years of the corporate life of Highland, than have been in the last 50 with all the important improvements that have been made. Every question that came up on which there was a difference of opinion was the occasion for a special election.)

At this special election the project of collecting corporation tax for the upkeep of the streets was voted down overwhelmingly, 155 to 31.

During the term of Mr. Harnisch the first paved streets were laid in Highland and also the first sidewalks built.

The first paved streets were nothing more than plank roads made of two-inch and three-inch planks about 20 feet long, which were laid against each other to form the road. The village Board made an appropriation to cover half the costs of such streets to be built at places where the abutting property owner would pay the other half of the cost. There was a provision in the act that held the total cost down to $40.00 for a hundred square feet of such plank roads. From the best evidence we can get the longest stretches of these plank roads were laid on Main Street and Broadway, east of the school square. They were not very satisfactory, as they would get all out of shape every winter from the freezing and thawing and resultant deep mud.

Pres. Harnisch and his Board also passed the first sidewalk ordi-
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nance, which provided that sidewalks should be built of boards, 4 feet wide, at a cost not to exceed 20¢ for each running foot of walk, half of which expense was to be borne by the city and half by the property owner. If the property owner wanted his sidewalk made of brick instead of boards, the village would pay 10¢ per lineal foot and he would have to pay the remainder.

The board sidewalks became very popular right away along east and west streets as it cost the property owner but $5.00 to have them put along a 50 foot front. But along north-and-south streets it was a different story and not many of them were so improved.

One thing that all the early Village Boards did was to take a keen interest in the roads leading into town. A perusal of their expense sheets will show that they paid out fully as much money for road and bridge work outside the corporate limits as they did within. In fact the largest debt contracted by one of the early town Boards was for building a bridge south of town, entirely out of the corporate limits. It was several years later before the debt was ever paid as the people in another one of these popular special elections refused to vote a tax on themselves in order to pay it. The election was held June 27, 1868, only 8 voting in favor and 114 against it.

Jos. Harnisch and his Board did not hesitate to spend money for roads out of town. We find where they bought 3000 rails at $3.50 per hundred, and with those rails they built what was called a "corduroy" road along the place where Adolph Wernli now lives east of town. They also bought rails and had them imbedded at bad places in the other roads leading into town.

During the year that Jos. Harnisch served as President there was one little unpleasant occurrence. John Menz had been Treasurer almost from the beginning, and it seems that he had his own ideas of how the village funds should be spent. In September the Board ordered a village check issued to some person, and Mr. Menz refused to issue it. Whereupon the Board promptly removed him from the office of Treasurer and appointed J. J. Spindler. But they had some trouble making Mr. Menz turn over the books and papers of the office; in fact the whole village Board had to go to his place in a body in order to get it. Both Mr. Menz and Mr. Spindler were good treasurers and it is a pleasure, even at this time, to inspect the neat and practical manner in which they kept the accounts of the village.

It was during Mr. Harnisch's term of office that the railroad was built into town, the payment made of the $10,000 which was raised by a bond issue, and the City received its shares of stock which was then expected to some day be very valuable.

The building of the railroad into town brought with it another grave difficulty. Previous to that time the village had no jail, nor had one been needed. No sooner, however, did those railroad workers come into town and fill up with booze, than it was becoming evident that we had to have a jail and have it right away. In the emergency the Board
rented G. Ruegger's powder house for the purpose. He was to make some needed repairs and to receive $30 for the use of it for nine months.

The income of the city immediately increased appreciably. Every red haired Irishman that got a few drinks in him, and began to talk hard was socked in jail and fined until it hurt.

This powder house which was improvised for Highland's first jail was located on the extreme southeast corner of the lot on which the Masonic Temple is now located. It had been built by Rud. Blattner as a storage house for powder when he was engaged in the manufacture of powder at a mill located several miles east of town. When G. Ruegger bought the property he became the owner and he made some improvements before it could be used as a jail.

The fellow to whom goes the honor of having been the first prisoner confined in the jail was a railroad worker named Mike O'Rafferty, who was arrested on a charge of disturbing the peace, or, as they called it in their ordinance at that time, "breaking the peace." He was held there over night and given a stiff fine the next day. We do not think Mr. O'Rafferty ever became a permanent resident here.

In April, 1869, Chas. Kinne was elected president of a board of trustees that consisted of Stephen Schwarz, A. Felder, C. Feicker and Martin Hahn. All five of them were new men making an entirely new Board. Chas. Kinne had been elected President without opposition. Why he was selected we do not know for certain. John Buchter, a lumber dealer, had served one term; J. H. Williman, a merchant, then served a year and was followed by Jos. Harnisch, another merchant. We presume that they then insisted it was Kinne's time to do his bit, as he was then in business on the present Kinne corner.

When this Board took office, the members found plenty of work awaiting them. Two years before the Market House had been built. It was not working out at all as its promoters expected, and the features of its control and operation were becoming irksome. A year before the railroad had come into town and the infant village had borrowed $10,000 to take stock in that and adequate means of raising the money to meet interest and principal had not been adopted. There were also other problems of lesser importance.

One of the things that had become evident was that the school house was not a desirable place to hold the Board meetings, and all of the hotels were too public. Complaint had also arisen about the amount that had to be paid for the rent of the jail. In this emergency a move was started for the village to purchase some lots on which to build a village hall, jail, etc. Some one proposed to sell to the village four lots No. 3, 4, 9 and 10, in Block 32 for $2500. Bonds would have to be issued to pay for the lots, but the Village Board was in favor of making the purchase. First, however, they called a special election for Aug. 23, 1869 to vote on the matter. The people thought the railroad debt was enough to have on their hands and voted down the proposition over-
whelingly by 121 to 19, and the matter of building a City Hall was not brought up again until a good many years after that.

At this same special election however the people voted on themselves an extra road tax, the vote being 114 to 34. They considered it more urgent to fix up the streets than to build a city hall.

It also fell to the lot of this village board to raise the first of the money necessary to meet the railroad debt, and to do that they had to appoint both an assessor and a collector. That was before the time of township organization of Madison county, and assessments and tax collections in villages had to be cared for locally. Alexander Beck was appointed Assessor and Moritz Huegy Collector, the salaries of both being very modest.

Mr. Beck made a careful assessment of all property in the village, which totaled $267,078, and the village board levied a tax of 4/5 of one percent on that amount, in order to get the money to meet the first railroad bond.

The first four village Presidents, Jacob Eggen, John Buchter, J. H. Williman and Joseph Harnisch, served but one year each. The first one ever to be honored by reelection was Chas. Kinne. During his second year, however, he came in for plenty of criticism, although the year was uneventful in a civic way. During the year the village was hard pressed for money all the time. A tax was levied to meet the payment on the railroad stock for which the village had been bonded and another slight tax for street improvement. No other sources of village revenue were coming up to expectation. The market house built a few years previous was proving to be a white elephant, the expense necessary for it being greater than the income received therefrom; and the saloon-keepers were mostly behind with their license fees. In this extremity Mr. Kinne, who was a very prosperous business man and wanted to get improvements accomplished quickly, would frequently advance the necessary money for some village expenses and later have village orders made out to himself to repay it. This practice led to some misunderstanding and a lot of talk, the result of which was that in April, 1871, he was not again a candidate and John Suppiger was elected Village President. Mr. Suppiger was a merchant who conducted his business at the corner of Walnut and Main in the building now known as the Martin Dresch building. After he took office, charges were made against his predecessor, Mr. Kinne, and a committee of investigation was appointed. This committee worked about six months on the books of the previous year and in the end made a report completely exonerating Mr. Kinne of all wrong-doing. In fact their investigation showed that during the two years he had served he had spent a lot of his own money for the city for which he had never been repaid in any way. To make his exoneration complete, in April, 1872 he again became a candidate for President and was unanimously elected.

During the few years following 1870, the village had a hard time meeting expenses and was generally behind with all payments. A
number of the people thought that if they had a police magistrate it would help out to some extent. Previously all fines were assessed by justices of the peace and turned into the school fund. They thought if the village had that source of revenue it would be helpful. A petition was prepared and acted upon by the board and in April, 1872, the first police magistrate was elected. He was Jacob Eggen, the same man who had been selected for the first village president in 1865.

Early in 1872 the Village Board passed an ordinance creating the office of "town engineer." The ordinance was a lengthy one and went into great detail describing the duties of that official and the emoluments he should receive. At the board meeting on June 3, John Blattner was appointed as the first town engineer. During the year he made an elaborate survey of the village and established the levels for all the streets at all locations and also the levels on which sidewalks should be built. Mr. Blattner was village clerk at the same time that he was town engineer, and the duties of the two offices just about kept him busy. His remuneration, however, was only trifling, and he must have had some other way of making a living.

Events of Interest in the 70's

The greatest building boom that Highland ever enjoyed was during the 10-year period that followed the close of the Civil War, the establishment of village government, and the coming of the railroad. Many of the business buildings erected at that time are yet standing and giving service today, and some have been razed to give place to more modern structures.

Among those still giving service is the Kuhnen & Siegrist Hardware Co. building, which was built by Sam Mason and from the first was used as a hardware and implement store. The Emil Wildi building just north of it, occupied by Mrs. Josephine Buchmiller, was erected slightly earlier by Rudolph Baumann, who established therein a bakery, grocery, saloon and his residence. It was the custom at that time to erect all business buildings so that they would at the same time supply living quarters, with the result that nearly all people lived on the second floor above their stores.

Another building erected in that period was the Henry Jost building facing on Main St., which was built by Arthur Oehler and first used as a saloon. Our informants claim that the Mosimann building farther west was built by John Mueller, who at an early time had a tinshop and other merchandise in it. A part of the C. Kinne & Co. building was also erected by Chas. Kinne during this boom period. It was built for the sale of general merchandise as was also the three-story brick building in' the 700 Block on Main Street which was built by John J. Spindler. The Martin Dresch building was erected early in the period by John Suppiger, a victim of the Schiller disaster, and used at first for a general store.
The present Schmetter store building was also erected during that period. It was built by Alfred Junod and used at first for furniture. Later the present Rikli Bakery building was built by Erwin Baer and Christ Maechtlin, as was also the Hagnauer & Knoebel building by Chas. Paul Chipron.  

About 1868 Louis Appel built the Fred Neumann building and established a saloon therein, and a little later Leopold Knoebel built the Emil Keilbach building and conducted a saloon at that stand. For almost 70 years those buildings have been used almost exclusively for that purpose.  

The Gus Reichert building was also erected during that boom period by a tailor named Schwarz, who used it for his residence and shop. The building at present occupied by Louis Spengel as an undertaking parlor was also built at that time by Geo. Dumbeck, who represented the east end on the village board for a number of years.  

Another building of that period was the present City Garage, which was built by the late John S. Hoerner and from 1874 to 1900 was used as a newspaper office. The first part of St. Joseph Hospital, consisting of 28 rooms, was also built during this boom period. A part of the Highland store was built then, and the whole of the brick building at Laurel and Ninth occupied by Roy Schwartz. It was built by J. H. Willimann, president of the village board for many years, and in it he conducted a general store and specialized in music supplies. In addition to the business buildings mentioned, there were many others of lesser note not standing any more that were built then and also hundreds of residences. Our purpose in presenting it is to show our readers that those ten years 1865 to 1875 were very busy and prosperous years in Highland. Everybody had work, business was good and the town and country was being developed more rapidly than ever before.  

During these prosperous years the village board had little trouble and things went rather smoothly. J. H. Williman served four or five successive terms as president of the village, and he was followed by Moritz Huegy, who served two successive terms. Some of the doings of these boards, however, are worth being recalled.  

During this period the fire department came in for a lot of attention. At first all firemen were Turners, but eventually that feature was given up and a volunteer group organized outside that society. In 1877 the town bought its second fire engine, for it had been determined that one was not enough to serve all parts of the city. A chemical engine was considered for a time, but the idea was abandoned. The fire engines had to be taken to the scene of the fire by horses, and, when an alarm was given, the man who was there first with a harnessed horse received $5.00. As a result of that offer, no sooner did the alarm begin to sound than teamsters would begin to race their horses to the engine house so as to be first and get the $5.00. The water for the fires was obtained from the street cisterns, to the building of which a lot of attention was given.
The matter of lighting the streets also came in for much attention. Such street-lighting as was done was by merchants who had coal-oil lights on poles outside their places of business. The saloon-keepers who would keep a good coal-oil light in front of their place were rebated $15.00 per year on the license they paid.

During this period the village board succeeded in paying off the last of the bonds for the $10,000 they had borrowed to purchase railroad stock. The railroad began to make money and eastern investors were paid dividends. The investors at Highland, Greenville and Vandalia were not, hence a big mass meeting was called to be held at Vandalia. Whether it accomplished anything we do not know.

In 1877 the post-Civil War boom began to fade out all over the country, and the first big labor troubles made their appearance. In all the large cities there were strikes and rioting of all kinds. St. Louis was affected, large numbers of idle men almost taking possession of that city. Delegations of them also visited the smaller towns and stirred up all kinds of disorder. It was thought they would come to Highland. The village president called a mass meeting and had the first "home guards" organized here. They drilled some and made preparation to defend the town, but the threatened visit of the rioters never materialized.

On July 29, 1878, on the petition of about 40 voters, a special election was held in Highland to decide whether or not the village should change government and go under what was called the "general charter." The proposition lost by a majority of 129, but one of the questions voted on that day was whether the board of education should be made to remove the two schoolhouses that stood on the school square, or the public should renounce its claims and let the square be school property. By the same majority of 129 it was voted to become school property. The village board then took up the matter of seeing that the board of education got a proper title to the square, and through that influence all the heirs of Joseph Suppiger and other founders of the town were prevailed upon to sign quit-claim deeds in favor of the school trustees.

During the two years 1873-74 and 1874-75 that J. H. Williman was village president, everything ran along very smoothly; in fact the board of trustees did not make a single new ordinance during those two years and no unpleasantness of any kind occurred on the board. However in April, 1875, Mr. Williman was reelected for a third successive term, but he was given an entirely different set of trustees, composed of very able men—Louis Kinne, Tim. Gruaz, Chas. Kuhnhen and Geo. Dumbeck. Right away action began. Gruaz had a few ideas of his own about how a village should be run, and he began at once to propose some new ordinances. For one thing, he wanted the village to borrow $2,000 and with the money build four big cisterns in the streets so as to have an ample supply of water with which to fight fires. He also wanted to get rid of a little village debt of about $800 that had been incurred by building sidewalks for which the village had to pay half. He wanted a
tax placed on the dogs that ran at large, and he wanted an ordinance forbidding the use of firearms within the village limits. He at once proposed ordinances on all the above subjects, and his colleagues agreed to put all the questions up to the voters at a special election to be held June 16, 1875. At that election the voters by a vote of 146 to 55 decided against borrowing $2,000 to build cisterns. They also voted 142 to 55 against a special tax to pay off the $800 debt incurred by the sidewalks, 149 to 55 in favor of licensing dogs, and 140 to 51 in favor of prohibiting the use of firearms. Mr. Gruaz thus lost out on two of the projects he proposed. But nothing daunted, he kept proposing others.

Highland Schoolhouses

At the time of the arrival of the first Swiss immigrants in the vicinity of Highland there was only one schoolhouse near the present site of the town. It was located on the old St. Jacob road, near the Pritchett farm in the hollow near the bridge. It had been built on that site because a modest spring furnished drinking water for the children. The building was a log hut, with no windows but a few improvised openings to let in some light, the door also being left open when whether permitted. Up to the autumn of 1839 children who wished to attend school from the Highland settlement had to go to that schoolhouse. However not many of them availed themselves of that privilege, their parents preferring that they remain at home and be taught the essential rudiments by the parents themselves. However it is a matter of record that a few of them did attend that school for brief terms.

Shortly after the town was platted and building of homes began, it was realized that a convenient public school was desirable, and by the fall of 1839 the demand had become so keen that a contract was made with a carpenter, Jos. Mueller, to build a one-room schoolhouse. The platters of the town site donated a lot for the purpose on Methodist Hill. It was Lot 7 in Block 34, now owned by Emma Gilgen on which is the residence property where Harry Zeller and family now live. Mueller contracted to erect a nice frame schoolhouse there for $300 and by 1840 it was ready for use. The money was furnished by popular subscription the people not wanting to go to the trouble to organize a school district and levy taxes, although they could have done so.

At that time there was no church of any kind in Highland so the building was used not only for school purposes, but at any time that there happened to be an itinerant minister in town he was allowed to hold church services there regardless of what his religious creed might be.

After about three or four years of service this building was found to be too small for the school and also for church services, so school people and church people jointly erected a stone building 40x24 feet on the site of the present Evangelical church. It was paid for by popular subscription and was used jointly by school and church, but not without a lot of friction between the two.
The school building located on the Public Square which served Highland from 1893 to 1913
The full story of its building is told in another chapter dealing with the Evangelical church in Highland. It is sufficient to state now that the church people made it miserable for those who wanted a school conducted there. Continual quarrels between preachers and teachers arose, and although it was far enough finished by 1844 that the first school could be conducted there, we find that the teachers soon had to take the school back to the frame building on Methodist Hill.

In 1847 the school district was formed and a tax levy made. In the following year of 1848, school expenses were first met from taxes. In the summer of 1848 the directors held a meeting at which they decided to improve the Methodist Hill schoolhouse in the following ways: the south and east sides of the building were to be filled in with brick (we presume between weather boarding and plaster), the window lights were to be repaired so as to make the house comfortable for the winter term, and it was further ordered that some earth be drawn up around the foundation of the house where it had washed away.

The minutes of this same board of directors on September 27, 1848, show how they fixed the salary of the teacher. If 20 pupils should attend, the teacher was to get $2.50 each for a three-month term. If 25 attended she was to get $2.25 each and if 30 attended, $2.00 each. If 35 pupils attended, one of the "big scholars" was to be employed to assist in teaching the little ones.

The school must have enjoyed some reputation even at that time and we find that pupils from other nearby districts attended here, until the board of directors had to take action and make them quit unless they paid tuition.

On a warm spring night in 1850 the little school house on Methodist Hill burned down. No school was being held in it at the time, nor was there any fire of any kind in the stove. Ugly rumors floated around town, as the quarrel over the stone church building was then at its height. School people had first agreed to take it over and then later turned it over to the church faction. Nothing was ever proved as to the origin of the fire, but it left Highland without a schoolhouse when the census showed 300 young folks under 21 years of age living in the district. Our readers will wonder with such a census showing as that how the school facilities had been made to suffice, but it must be remembered that only a small part of the young people attended the public schools. There were several private teachers in town who had more pupils enrolled than the teacher of the public school.

Shortly after the burning of the schoolhouse, Joseph Suppiger called a public meeting and laid the matter before the people. At that time he was School Treasurer of the township, and it is from records left by him that we obtained much of this information.

At this public meeting it was agreed to erect a two-story brick building of four rooms on the north side of the public square. When the town was platted the square had been left as a site for a park or any other public use—that the people desired. By 1850 the lots
The school building that served Highland from 1913 to 1935
in the original town had been pretty well sold, and there were no available sites for a schoolhouse except outside town limits. They knew it was going to be difficult to raise enough money to erect the building without having to go to the expense of purchasing a site. At the public meeting some one suggested the use of the square as a site; the suggestion was hailed with delight and the site problem quickly settled.

Getting the funds to build such a schoolhouse was not an easy matter. The regular tax money was not nearly sufficient. Popular subscription was resorted to, and the records show that $2213.15 was thus raised. With $1407.87 available from taxes, there was a total of $3620.92. The largest donors toward the enterprise were Solomon and Joseph Koepfl who gave all told $500. A full record of every person who subscribed to the fund with the amount they subscribed and the time it was paid was left by the painstaking Joseph Suppiger. The last of the pledges was not paid until the latter part of the year 1853.

Meantime the building had been erected and put to use in the fall of 1850. At first only one of the four rooms in it was used by the one public school teacher employed. The other three rooms were used by the private teachers before spoken of. However, a few years later this condition began to change and more and more the parents began sending their children to the public school with the result that 17 years later in 1867, another building had to be erected. One as nearly like the first as possible was built on the south side of the block, and these two four-rooms buildings sufficed for the school needs of Highland for the next 25 years. Most of the people of 60 years or more now living here received their schooling in them.

By 1893 these buildings were found to be inadequate, especially since a high school had been established. A bond issue of $20,000 was voted with which to erect an entirely new, modern schoolhouse. The old buildings were razed and sold, the newer one for $75 and the older one for $50. The original part of the East End Merchantile Company was built with the brick from one of them. Plans for the new building were drawn by a Mr. Allen, who built a model for a school which won first prize at the Chicago World's Fair. This new building was put to use in the school year of 1893-1894 and housed over four hundred pupils. As the high school grew, more room was needed, so a high school addition was built on the south side in 1913. This enlarged building was used until 1935.

Even after the high school addition was added in 1913, the building did not meet the needs of the community. It provided for a little gymnasium in the basement but that was much too small for any athletics such as were being featured by other schools. Also the auditorium was too small for public gatherings of any size. The population of the school district increased rapidly in the decade that followed 1915, and agitation for a new and modern school building
was begun as far back as 1923. C. L. Dietz was the Superintendent, and had been for many years before. He realized the insufficiency of the building on the public square and knew that the boys and girls of Highland were being denied many privileges on account of it. In the High School year book of that year he made a strong plea, both verbally and pictorially, for a bigger and better school building. He wanted to close his long and highly efficient record as superintendent by seeing his beloved school modernly housed. His fervor was fruitless, and his supplication was heard only by deaf ears. He died in California without ever having realized his life time ambition.

Not much was done toward a better building until July 1933. At that time the PWA was put forward as one of the governmental agents for business recovery. A. P. Spencer, editor of the Highland News Leader, recognized the opportunity and in an editorial in the paper urged that Highland people take advantage of the PWA to help finance a new school building. The evening of the same day, L. O. Kuhnen, then President of the Chamber of Commerce, appointed a committee to devise ways and means to accomplish such an end.

The district was then faced with the question as to whether a new high school should be erected and the old building continue to serve as a grade school or an entirely new plant to serve the needs of all twelve grades. It was finally decided in an election held February 24, 1934, to abandon the old building mainly because of its bad location (on the trail in the center of the business district) and the expense of maintenance. A ten-acre tract of land, formerly a part of the golf course, was purchased, and the construction of the new building, planned by Knoebel and Pabst, began October 15, 1934. On September 15, 1935, school opened in the new building.

The total cost of the plant was $211,915, of which $64,400 came from the Federal Government and $157,000 from the local district derived from the sale of bonds. The balance was made up from a premium on the sale of the bonds, accrued interest, and $3,000 in gifts.

The building was planned to fit the educational needs of the community for many years. It is a two-story structure with a gymnasium-auditorium in the center, a high school wing to the left, and a grade school wing to the right. Additional classrooms may be added without affecting the appearance or balance of the structure. The grade school houses ten class rooms, principal's office, teachers' room, bookstore, clinic room, cafeteria, and storage space. The high school wing has eleven classrooms, principal's office, superintendent's office, and study hall. A library is located on the second floor above the main foyer so it can be used by both schools. The cafeteria, home economics rooms, and manual training department are centrally located so they may be used by both grade and high school classes. The main foyer may be shut off from the two wings for public entertainments. The gymnasium is large and well-equipped. At one end is a stage fitted for all kinds of entertainments.
The modern combination grade and high school building that was erected in 1934-1935 at a cost of $212,000.
The curriculum of the school is exceptionally broad for so small an enrollment; hence the school attracts many students from neighboring districts. In addition to the regular academic courses, the subjects of agriculture, business training, home economics, and industrial education are offered. The faculty is well-trained and the school is accredited with the State Department of Education, the University of Illinois, and the North Central Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges. Highland has reason to be proud of her new school.

The Highland Foundry

Anyone who has occasion to enter the Ed Schmetter store at the corner of Washington and Main will notice on the metal sill on which you step the imprint "Highland Foundry 72." You will notice the same inscription on the middle entrance to the Highland Cash Store, although there it is worn until the date is effaced. The same thing only with the date a year later can be noticed on the metal sill of the Chevrolet sales room conducted by F. J. Leutwiler, on the entrance to the Alb. Kleiner building where Roy Schwarz conducts his business on the corner of Ninth and Laurel, and very plainly can it be seen on the entrance to the three-story brick building on West Main built in 1876 by John Spindler. There are also other places in town where this stamp is in evidence, and altogether they tell a part of the story of an industry that once existed there but is now remembered only by our oldest people, namely the Highland Foundry.

During the 100 years that have passed since Highland was platted, many different industries have been attempted here—far more than is usually attempted in a city of this size. Some of them have been very successful and became permanent assests to the town. To such an extent has this been true that the Chamber of Commerce has seen fit to place on the sign boards at the east and west entrances to town the inscription "Highland, a City of Diversified Industries." But we want to tell our readers briefly in this chapter of one business started here that was not successful, never had the ghost of a show from the time of its inception, and finally petered out completely after two different firms of proprietors had each tried to make it go.

After the close of the Civil War, Highland was very prosperous and had a population of 2000 people. In 1865 is was incorporated under village government. Joseph Koepfli who owned land east of the platted town promptly laid off an addition and began to sell lots. Early in 1870 he sold Lot 3 in Block 53, the site of the present J. H. Seitz residence, to A. F. Vallotton and F. A. Leilauron. These two gentlemen promptly built thereon a frame building of cheapest construction at that time possible and equipped it in a crude way with machinery for molding cast iron. To do so they had to borrow money of the private bank of Ryhiner & Co. and give a mortgage on the lot, building and equipment.
We were unable to learn anything much about Mr. Vallotton, but Mr. Lelaurin had previously been a machinist at Troy and was said to be skilled in his chosen line. Just why they chose Highland as a proper place to locate such an industry we do not know. All successful industries of that nature are always located where one or the other of the two raw materials most needed, coal and ore, are readily obtainable. In Highland neither was accessible. Coal had to be hauled in wagons from the mine at Trenton at that time, and any ore they might need had to be shipped to them over the newly completed Vandalia railroad without even the convenience of a switch to their plant. It can readily be seen why they would not be able to do business in a profitable volume.

The two proprietors, however, seemed to have the idea that they could get enough business to make it pay, and they sent word out to all farmers to bring in any parts of broken machinery and have new parts made when needed. Their plan of procedure was to take the broken casting, make a mold of it, and then cast a new one in that mold. Not any great volume of business, however, could be expected from the farms, and they launched out into making sill plates and bearing plates for buildings such as we see in the Highland buildings above named. We could find no records of them having made any larger castings than sill plates.

The town people bought everything of them that they could on account of it being a home institution and employing several local men. They were also able to get some orders from other cities but never in a quantity that made their business profitable. After five years of effort, in March 1874, Lelaurin sold his interest to Vallotton, and a month later the latter gave up in disgust and let the bank have the property to satisfy the mortage. It was a white elephant on the bank's hands, and they tried to get someone to take hold of it. Later in the year F. A. Gleyre and J. Brunenschweller formed a partnership known as the Highland Mechanical Works and began operating it again, but confined their work mostly to farm machinery and equipment. They likewise had to have the backing of the bank.

One of the notable achievements of these proprietors was the making of the first cast iron roller that had been on any of the farms around here. Previously the farmers had made their own rollers of well rounded logs, the working of which was not very satisfactory. The foundry people, when they had their first one finished, gave a farm demonstration on the Schlaeppi farm, where Henry Landert now lives and succeeded in getting a good many orders from the farmers. They also manufactured a versatile horse power machine that could be used for a good many purposes, and that found a fairly good market among the farmers. They did not attempt to make any building iron as had their predecessors.

But demand for the output was never sufficient to make it pay. During its latter years it furnishing a market for scrap iron; but a
lot of the work turned out was unsatisfactory, newer and improved machinery was coming on all the time, and the business did not pro-

per. It had practically been discontinued in 1882 when the building caught fire and burned. The title to the site reverted to the bank and was sold along with some of the bank's other assets at a public sale in 1886 after the bank had failed.

The Schiller Tragedy

All Highland people who are familiar with the City cemetery will have noticed the tallest of the old monuments, one located near the little tool house near the northwest corner of the old cemetery. It is a monument erected to the memory of a beloved family of Highland people who were drowned at sea, while enroute on a trip to visit their native land. We have been asked to incorporate in this story the details of that tragedy. Since is happened more than 60 years ago and but few of our people are left who remember the local victims of the disaster, it has been difficult to get the needed information. We have done the best we could.

In the spring of 1875 a number of Highland people prepared to go to their former home in Europe to spend the summer months. Such trips were very common at that time. Nearly all of the then prominent and well-to-do citizens of Highland had been born in either Switzerland or Germany, nearly all of them had the ambition to make at least one trip back there for a visit. Hence nearly every summer witnessed the departure of quite a number of them.

Prominent among those who took the trip in 1875 were John Suppi-
ger and his family. Mr. Suppiger had long been a very prominent man here. He was a native of Switzerland, but his father, who was also named John, had emigrated to Highland in 1833 and brought with him a large family of 11 children, of which this John was one of the eldest. During middle life he became one of the prosperous early merchants of Highland. He built the brick building at the corner of Main and Walnut, now owned by Martin Dresch, and for many years conducted a general store at that location. His business was a prosperous one for many years. He retired from active business during the winter previous to making this trip.

All acquaintances admired him. During the trying years of the Civil War, when the town was badly disrupted by the enmities and bad passions that were fostered by that conflict, he seems to have been one man that so conducted himself as to keep the respect and friend-

ship of all. Following that, when Village government was formed, he was the unanimous choice for the first mayor, an honor which he politely declined. However he served in many public capacities and had made an enviable record.

We have been told that Mr. Suppiger himself was not desirous of making this trip to Europe, but his wife was in poor health and she
pleaded with him until he consented. They took with them his grown daughter and their small son. Thus the whole family perished at one time.

Another Highland passenger was L. G. Suppiger, a young nephew, who had just graduated from a St. Louis school of medicine. We have also been told that he did not want to make the trip and only did so at the insistence of his mother and brother, who were anxious that he continue his studies in the excellent medical schools that Germany and Switzerland then afforded.

Another Highland man that was in the party was Christian Hirni, a retired farmer. He had been reared in Switzerland, had emigrated when young, and counted much on the pleasure that he would obtain by again visiting his native land and mingling with the friends of his youth.

All the party went from Highland to New York by rail and there embarked on the German steamer "Schiller," a new ship, and one of the very best afloat at that time.

In order for our readers to understand the cause of the disaster, we must give a little maritime history. Each trans-Atlantic steamship line at that time was trying to outdo all others by making the trip across in the least possible time. The "Schiller" was a ship of the latest model, of the then new "screw-propeller" type, and captain and crew were anxious to make records so as to build up passenger business for their company.

The trip across was smooth and uneventful until the ship reached a location south and west of England where bad weather was encountered which made a high sea, and in addition such a fog prevailed that the charted course could not be followed. On rounding the Scilly Islands, twenty or more miles off Land's End, the southern extremity of England, the vessel struck a rock and it was soon apparent that it was doomed to go down.

The place where the accident happened was known as a dangerous part of the course and protected accordingly. A lighthouse was maintained on one of the outmost islands, Bishop's Rock, and a warning fogbell was also kept there. Survivors of the Schiller disaster maintained afterwards that they could neither see the light nor hear the fog bell, although when the ship went down it was only a third of a mile from the lighthouse and only a half-mile off its charted course.

The ship struck the rock at 10 o'clock at night and remained partially afloat until 4 o'clock the next morning when it disappeared from view. Of the exact manner in which the Highland people met their death no one ever knew. There were altogether about 400 people on board and only 44 were saved, 15 passengers and 29 members of the crew.

After the ship struck, it soon listed to such an extent that the high waves washed over the deck and many of the panic stricken passengers were swept into the sea. Whether or not the ship carried life belts
for all passengers we do not know, but it is doubtful. Life boats were carried and the panicky crew succeeded in lowering seven of them. Had they been properly lowered and manned, most of the passengers might have been thus saved; but it seems that no semblance of discipline was maintained by the ship's officers following the catastrophe.

Captain Thomas was severely criticized for continuing on his way in the fog, instead of "laying to" until the weather cleared, but he was anxious to make good time as stated above.

In the official investigation that followed the disaster it was pointed out that there should have been telegraphic communication between the lighthouse and the shore. Furthermore it was never understood why the inhabitants of the adjacent island did not hear the cannon shots fired by the Schiller to indicate its distress nor see the rocket flares that were sent up. The ship was six hours in sinking, and several things connected with the appalling loss of life occasioned have never been explained to this day.

Telegraphic news of the disaster was received here the next day and occasioned untold grief and sorrow. After complete confirmation of the death of the Highland people had been received, memorial services were officially held; and a few years later the monument in the cemetery was erected with appropriate ceremony.

Highland Very Prosperous

Perhaps the greatest period of material prosperity that Highland ever enjoyed was the ten years that followed the end of the Civil War, the establishment of village government, and the completion of the railroad through here. It took a few years after the war closed before the discharged soldiers were able to adjust themselves again to the commonplace things of civil life, but they ultimately did and showed as much mettle in the way they worked to establish homes and businesses as they had during their years in the army service. The local enmities engendered by the years of civil strife also gradually disappeared as other interests took the front of the stage and in time became but a memory to which allusion was seldom made.

The infant village government had a rather stormy time at the outset as we have detailed in previous chapters, but by 1870, all necessary ordinances had been passed and the municipal life of the town was running smoothly. The ablest of the business men of the town were willing to serve as Presidents and members of the Village Board of Trustees and they guided well the infant government. Following the administration of Chas. Kinne, J. H. Willmann, another popular merchant here, then was elected three times successively as Village President and his years in the office were marked by comparative peace and tranquility.

The coming of the railroad greatly increased all business here and was instrumental in bringing a few new industries into town. In those
days the leading industries were the two flouring mills, the old Suppiger mill, almost as old as the town itself, and a newer one, built in 1866 at the west end of Main Street by Henry Herman, John Leder and C. H. Seybt, which was called the Highland City Mills. Both of these mills were being operated very profitably during that prosperous period, and their output was not only used locally but was shipped all over the surrounding territory. The activity of these mills also made Highland the best grain market in this part of the country, and grains were hauled here for 20 miles in every direction and sold. The mills gave employment to quite a number of men.

Other local industries that were going strong at that time were the carriage factory of Thomas Korink, a planing mill that was operated by Nic Rohr & Sons, the Highland foundry and machine shop, which we described earlier, the corn and grist mill of Jacob Grossenbacher, the tannery run by Henry Zweck and Jos. Speckart, a large winery, the brewery and a dozen smaller industries too numerous to mention.

A building boom was likewise enjoyed during that decade; in fact that period was remarkable in that respect. Many of the buildings built at that time are yet standing and giving good service and we will mention a few of them—the Fred Neumann building on Broadway, the Emil Kellbach business building on the east side of the square, part of the Kuhnen and Siegrist building and also the Emil Wildi building, the Fred Brunner building, the Mrs. Hediger building since remodeled, a part of the Columbia Hotel building, a part of the C. Kinne & Co. building, the Martin Dresch building, the Henry Jost building on Main, the Gus. Reichert building, the Albert Kleiner building occupied by Roy Schwarz, a part of the Highland store building, and the three-story Spindler building. These are only a small part of the number that were built then. There are some yet standing that we have not named, and a very large proportion of those built at that time have since been razed to give space for more modern structures. We have only given you enough to show that the period was a very prosperous one in the life of Highland and that everybody was at work, who wanted to work and everybody was making money.

One of the best indices to show how rapidly the wealth of the town increased at that time is given us in the record of the assessments made to pay off the $10,000 in bonds which indebtedness the village incurred by subscribing to the railroad stock. When the first assessment was made in 1869, the value placed on the property of the residents of the village was less than $200,000. Five years later this assessment showed property in excess of $500,000, and before the last of the bonds were retired in an eight-year period the assessment exceeded a million. That's going some for property value increase.
The Founding and Growth of St. Joseph’s Hospital

We have told of the first attempt to start a hospital in this city. In 1863 quite a large number of men and boys of Highland had been sent home from the army, some of them to recover from wounds received in battle and others to recover from chronic diseases which they had contracted in army service. Most of them had no relatives or friends properly able to care for them and as a consequence on December 20, 1863, J. Harnisch called a public meeting to discuss the matter of starting a hospital. At this meeting, Daniel Wild, who owned a kind of double building in the 600 block on West Broadway, offered that building as a temporary hospital. His offer was accepted and under the leadership of Dr. Alois Wick, a Highland veterinarian of that early day, the place was crudely furnished for hospital use and there sick and crippled soldier boys were cared for until the end of the Civil War.

There was a Welfare Society in Highland at that time, and that organization furnished the funds to employ a physician and surgeon to care for the sick and wounded men and boys whose cases would otherwise have been neglected. With the end of the war the need for such an institution was not so pressing, and the financial support dwindled until it was discontinued altogether.

During the reconstruction period that followed the war, Highland people were very busy with material things. A big building boom was experienced, many of the buildings that are yet being used for business were erected at that time, as was the Turner Hall and other places for public gatherings. But the idea of a hospital seems not to have entered the picture, we presume because the need of it was not so urgent.

It was in the year 1877 that Mrs. Litz lay dangerously ill at her home and required not only the intermittent services of a physician but the constant care of a professional nurse. There were no trained nurses resident here, and in that extremity a sister of the Order of St. Francis from Litchfield was called to her bedside. This Sister Rosa was the first sister nurse to make her appearance in Highland, and her careful and untiring service created no little favorable comment. Mrs. Litz finally died, with words of praise and thanks to Sister Rosa on her lips. During her illness many people had visited her and made note of how the kindly ministrations of the sister nurse had served to alleviate the suffering incident to her sickness. The sister returned to Litchfield but during her short stay she had created a desire among Highland people to have resident sisters who would be at the service of the sick and afflicted at all times.

Rev. Jos. Meckel was the pastor of St. Paul’s congregation at that time; and, since the desire for resident sisters was voiced most insistently by members of his church and since he was a man keenly alive to all things that were for the good of the community, he lost no time in trying to bring it about. In 1875 he had been instrumental in getting the sister nurses sent to Litchfield and naturally desired to do the same for his new charge at Highland.
There had been a "Mother House" established at Litchfield in the latter part of 1875, the sisters connected therewith being mostly of foreign birth. The political and religious conditions which existed in Europe at that time caused such sisters to emigrate in large numbers. Catholic leaders in the Alton Diocese had established a home for them in Springfield and from there sent small colonies to Belleville, Litchfield and Decatur. These sisters had experienced many hardships in their native land and after arriving here were willing to carry on their charitable work with added consecration and fervor.

In January, 1878, the first sisters arrived here for service. They were Sisters Severa and Silvana, sent here with the agreement that the very small sum of $20 per year be sent to the Mother House (meaning the head office and place where they were kept in waiting for calls from the people) for each sister, and also the transportation from Litchfield. That $20 was intended to pay for their clothing during the year, which was issued from Litchfield, the sisters themselves receiving no compensation for their services. At first the Notre Dame convent rented a home for these two sisters, from whence they could be called at any time.

Meanwhile Rev. Meckel obligated himself to see that the $40 was paid and caused to be published a notice to the citizens of Highland that the Sisters were at their service without charge but that a voluntary donation would be gratefully received. He also wanted to know to what extent the general public was interested.

The plea for help did not fall on deaf ears. From nearly every home in Highland came a response. Some donated money; others, furniture of various kinds; some beds; others cooking utensils. The whole was very satisfactory and arrangements were begun at once for the establishment of a small hospital.

The house in which Sister Rosa had cared for Mrs. Litz during the previous summer was rented for the purpose. It was located a block west of St. Paul's Church. Sister Rosa, herself, was recalled here in February, 1878, to take charge of this first hospital.

A Mrs. Ring was the first patient in the little hospital, and during the first year a total of 23 patients were cared for there, while 78 others were given the care of the sisters in private homes.

By July 20, 1878, four sisters were working here: Severa, Silvana, Jovita and Portomiana. The need had grown until it was evident more commodious quarters for the hospital would have to be secured. All sorts of plans were discussed by those most interested in the matter. They first thought of buying the Voegele place, then the Adam Nagel residence. Later they considered the Zweck place which was located just outside the city limits on East Broadway and then belonged to Catherine Grill. It had been offered for lease.

Finally opinion molded into the thought that it would be the best thing to build a new building especially for the purpose. As a site the lots where St. Paul's hall now stands were at first considered with the
idea that the building already there could be remodeled into part of the new building. Finally opinion crystallized into the idea that the best thing to do, if sufficient money could be raised, would be to acquire a new site and put up an entirely new building.

After it had been practically decided that the most feasible way to get a good hospital was to secure a suitable site and erect an altogether new building, the difficulties that would have to be encountered began to present themselves. First and foremost of these was the raising of that amount of money. Throughout the summer of 1878 the matter was freely discussed in public meetings and at private gatherings in Highland, but the consensus of opinion was that it would require so much money to build the hospital that the amount could never be repaid out of the earnings of the institution.

However, there were a few who persisted in the idea that it could be done, and some of those were not Highland residents but lived in towns and the country near here. The first significant gesture toward consummation of the hospital idea was made by a non-resident. In the early summer of 1878 Jodocus Petermeyer, of near Breese, came to St. Paul's Rectory and pledged $25 toward the building of a hospital. To him goes the honor of pledging the first contribution. He took a keen interest in the makeshift hospital that was then being used and donated several loads of wood which he caused to be hauled there. Personally Mr. Petermeyer was never in Highland but once after making his pledge. It is recorded that he died before the hospital building was erected.

During the summer of 1878 public opinion became pretty well molded in favor of building such an institution; and, on August 9, 1878, the first public meeting was held especially to discuss the matter. The meeting was held at Turner Hall, as were all big public meetings at that time, with the late C. H. Seybt serving as Chairman, and Chas. Boeschenstein, now of Edwardsville, serving as Secretary. Mr. Seybt made an address explaining why the meeting had been called and dwelt at length on the great good that such an institution would do the community. Rev. J. Meckel made an address on the subject "Sisters of Mercy," at the close of which he invited questions; and Ad. Bandelier led with questions until those present at the meeting were satisfied that if the hospital was built it would be at the service of the entire community.

At this meeting the matter was also discussed of having the Village of Highland finance the enterprise through a bond issue and pay for it through special taxation. After full deliberation it was decided that the village could not legally embark on such an undertaking, hence that idea died shortly after birth. Before the meeting adjourned, it was definitely decided that the cost of a hospital would have to be met mainly through private subscription, if one was to be built, and that the project could not be undertaken unless at least $2000 had been previously pledged. A building committee was also named consisting of Chas. Boeschenstein, Dr. A. Felder, Ad. F. Bandelier, Emil Spieler,
Jos. Speckart, and Christian Hotz. The first duty of the committee was to see whether or not they could raise the desired amount of money.

Two weeks later they reported that they had been fairly successful, and that those who were unable to give any money were at least giving the project their full moral support. A few of the larger contributions that they secured on their list were $100 from Mrs. Christian Speckart; $25 each from Rev. Reinhart, Ad. Nagel, Dr. Ryhiner, Cath. Spieler and Jos. Speckart; $20 each from Dr. Felder and Lorenz Winter, and several hundred other people subscribed amounts ranging from $1 to $15.

During the last months of 1878 and the first months of 1879, the effort to get subscriptions was kept up with the result that finally $1869.00 had been pledged, and with this amount as a basis it was decided to get ready to build.

The site selected for the building was the block at the east edge of the city, lying between Main and Ninth Streets and a block east of St. Paul's Church. It was not at that time a very attractive looking tract of land. The highway to the east ran right through it, and where the roadway crossed the tract it had made a rather deep cut. However, in other respects it was all that could be desired; it was at the edge of town and afforded ample room for the construction of walks, gardens, etc., which were so essential.

The plans for the first building were drawn by an architect, B. Schilling of St. Louis; and Fridolin Oswald, who died a few years ago at Alhambra, was put in charge of the construction. Right from the start it was seen that it would have been much better if the plans had provided for a building ten feet wider.

The entire cost of site and building was $6000, and our readers may be interested in knowing how the money was raised. Shortly after the railroad was built through Highland in 1868, Jos. Koepfl platted an addition to the village consisting of six blocks on the north side of the original town. Six single lots in those blocks he donated for future charity purposes. When it was decided not to use any of them as a part of the location for the hospital, it was agreed that the six lots in the half block should be sold at public auction or raffled, the money obtained to go to the hospital fund.

On July 19, 1879, a picnic for the benefit of the hospital was held at Lindendale Park, and one feature of the picnic was the effort to raffle off those six lots. Four of them were successfully raffled off that day: Lot No. 1 in block 55 was won by C. L. Maechtlin, lot 8 in block 51 by Alois Siedler, lot 6 in block 53 by George Becker, and lot 5 in block 54 by Jos. Behle. The raffle of those four lots netted $891. A few days later the other two lots were sold at private sale for $381.75, both amounts going to the hospital building fund.

By the middle of August, 1879, the building was completed and on Thursday, August 21, 1879, it was formally dedicated. The program began in the morning with a solemn high mass at St. Paul's Church which was largely attended by visiting clergy and laymen. A united
St. Joseph's Hospital as it appears today
chorus of St. Henry's of East St. Louis and St. Paul's choirs featured the program. Rev. Reinhart made the address at the church lauding such a noble undertaking. A procession to the hospital followed, and the priests sang "Magnificat" during the course of the dedication. Dr. Felder was one of the speakers on the program and the fluent A. F. Bandelier was another. Both congratulated the people and praised the work, giving special credit to St. Paul's Church for taking the leadership in the work.

The celebration wound up at the Turner Hall where a musical concert was rendered by St. Henry's Choir of East St. Louis and St. Paul's choirs, at which the Maennerchor Harmonie rendered several selections. The receipts of the concert netted $114.75.

Although the hospital was dedicated, it had not yet been all paid for. On October 27, 28 and 29, 1879, a benefit fair was held at Turner Hall. Things donated by the people and business men were shown there, put on sale, and eagerly purchased by the crowds of people that attended. Music and other entertainment were a part of the program and the event was very successful, clearing a total of $711.60.

After the Fair a report was published in the Highland Union covering the two year period 1878-79, which was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>RECEIPTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collected from Subscriptions</td>
<td>$1859.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>For care of the sick</td>
<td>203.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two lots (sold)</td>
<td>381.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four lots (raffled)</td>
<td>891.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raffle at Park</td>
<td>54.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Picnic at Park</td>
<td>57.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concert at Turner Hall</td>
<td>114.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from Fair</td>
<td>711.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borrowed in cash</td>
<td>1000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Receipts</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURES</th>
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<tr>
<td>Furniture and Utensils</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
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<tr>
<td>Well</td>
<td>79.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fences</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>2905.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>Help hired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous expenses</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4513.83</strong></td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts</td>
<td>$5273.30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditures</td>
<td>4513.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash on hand</strong></td>
<td><strong>$759.47</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>
During the next two years much more money was spent in improving the hospital, and Anton Buehlman, a patient, did much toward beautifying the ground.

The first direct legacy ever received by the hospital was from Mrs. Catharine Rueggli, who was for a time a patient there. She died on March 28, 1881, and left a legacy of $1535.35 to the hospital as evidence of her appreciation of the tender care that was given her during her sickness.

The original hospital building was approximately 60 feet east and west and 40 feet north and south and was the central part of what is now known as the old building. The entire cost of the building proper was $2905.75, but a building of similar size today would cost at least $12,000 or $15,000. It was two stories in height and was so partitioned into rooms that about 12 patients could be conveniently housed therein in addition to the sisters in charge. By doubling up, more could be cared for at one time. The building was of plain construction, with no attempt at ornamentation except for the entrance. Much material was donated, and this fact will account for the low cost. The stone for the foundation was quarried at Grantfork and hauled to the site with teams, that work being almost wholly donated, as was much other work in connection therewith.

It was planned at the beginning for the institution to be self-supporting and not to be supported through charity. Accordingly an elaborate set of rules was drawn up for the conduct of it, which provided that every patient should pay a regular rate if he were able. A provision was made for a somewhat lower rate for the poorer class of people, and also arrangements made so that some strictly charitable cases could be looked after. For a time a special house doctor was named, Dr. Felder, Dr. Rutz, and Dr. Knoebel, each serving in that capacity. However after a few years that practice was discontinued. Although the hospital was under Catholic supervision from the beginning, patients were admitted regardless of church affiliation then, just as they are now.

After the opening of the hospital in 1879 the number of patients there gradually increased each year until four years later, in 1883, when it became apparent that an addition would have to be built. The number of sisters also had to be increased to five to care for the housework and do the nursing. By January 1, 1883 all indebtedness on the original building had been cleared up and a small cash balance was on hand. By that time the management was no longer afraid to contract debts, so the work of erecting the needed addition was started without any delay, the contract for it being let to James Miller, then one of the most successful resident contractors. The plans for the addition called for a two-story building 40x50 feet, just east and adjoining the original building in which was to be included a chapel for religious services, and another entrance to be built to the new part. Before the fall of the year 1883 the new addition was completed at a cost of $3133. While it was in process of construction several substantial financial
gifts had been made toward it, and one man who died had bequeathed $200 to the institution, which, with other donations and the cash on hand at the beginning, were sufficient to about half pay for it. After the work had been fully completed the financial report on January 1, 1884, showed an indebtedness of only $1850.

After this first addition was completed the hospital could care for about 30 patients at one time, and its reputation had spread over the surrounding country so favorably that almost immediately nearly all of the rooms were being used and the staff had to be increased to seven sisters to take care of housekeeping and patients.

During the year 1884 the earnings were $1233 (including money paid by one patient for care for the rest of his life). This amount greatly lowered the existing indebtedness and made further improvements possible. During the year 1885 a steam heating system was installed which was purchased of the Nelson Co. of St. Louis at a cost of $1369.

The next few years were very prosperous ones for the hospital, the number of patients being so great at times that portions of the halls had to be improvised as bedrooms, and the sisters had to go to the garret for sleeping quarters. Also during this period several patients who died made bequests to the hospital with the result that by January 1, 1887, the statement showed no debts and a nice balance on hand.

In the fall of 1890 plans were made for a second addition which was to be 40x50 feet, at the west end of the original building and would make the whole more symmetrical. It was thought that the capacity could thus be brought up to fifty patients, enough for years to come. The plans also called for improvements to be made to the heating system and to the drainage system. In the spring of 1891 the building work began. Jos. Lutzeier and C. Neier did the foundation work, which was of rock like the older building. Jacob Christian had the general contract. A St. Louis man had the roofing contract. The plasterers were W. Rawson and Jacob Delport, Phil. Wallischeck was the painter, the N. Rohr mill did the planing work, John Blattner did the drain work, and a St. Louis firm took care of the heating job.

With the work completed, on Thanksgiving Day, 1891, a special service was held at St. Paul's Church in thanksgiving for the blessing the new hospital would be to the community, and that evening a monster meeting, open to the public, was held at Turner Hall. At this meeting Dr. Julius Wirth presided and made the opening address. There was also an address by Louis Appel, who was then mayor, and another by Jones Tontz, of near Grantfork, who was at that time a member of the Illinois State Legislature. Local musical organizations were in evidence and the occasion made a memorable one.

On January 24, 1892, at about the noon hour, the roof of the original hospital was discovered to be ablaze, and although the fire department was immediately called it was soon evident that patients and sisters would have to get out as quickly as possible. A fire at any time or
place is very bad, but at a hospital it is indeed a calamity. Those of
the sick, who could possibly walk, were led down the steps, others were
carried out on chairs and still others on cots. Those who could packed
up a few of their belongings. A high west wind was blowing and it
was four o'clock in the afternoon before the firemen finally had the last
vestige of the flames subdued. By that time, that which in the morning
been a fine appearing, newly-furnished building presented a sorry
picture. Fortunately the west and newest wing had a slate roof and
was not damaged to any great extent. The firemen had kept the flames
confined much to the upper part of the building so that the bedding
and furniture was mostly carried out but damaged by smoke and water.

Some of the patients were taken to the Sisters at the Convent where
they remained until they were recovered, being cared for by the hospital
sisters who made that their temporary abode. Other patients were taken
to the homes of relatives and cared for there.

No time was lost following the fire. The insurance adjusters came
out the following day and estimated the damage at $4103.30, a figure
which was satisfactory to the hospital authorities; and the work of
repair and rebuilding was immediately started. Nic Rohr and Fred
Harnist were the building supervisors. As the building was repaired
special attention was given to the chimneys to make sure they were
safe, an elevator was installed to make the work of taking things from
one floor to another much easier, more elaborate outside steps were
added, and all the roofs were changed to slate, that having proved to
be safest, and dormer windows were added to attic rooms in the older
part to make them more habitable as living quarters for the sisters.

By April 17 of the following year the repair work was finished, and
the whole building presented a nicer appearance than it had at any
time in its history. It was destined to remain much the same way for
34 years before any further great improvement was made.

After the fire damage had been fully repaired, a group of young men
known as the "Young Men's Volunteer Combination," whose main object
was to help put the hospital back to its former condition, held a meeting
at St. Paul's hall on January 30, 1892, and elected officers as follows: G. J. Koerner, President; E. Todd, Vice-president; Ad. Meyer,
Secretary, and Louis Genzel, Treasurer. This club put on a big enter-
tainment at the Turner Hall on February 27, 1892, and raised consider-
able money for the purpose. Some of the men who took prominent
parts in those activities in addition to the officers above named were:
Louis Spengel, Orville Kinne, T. Mills, Louis Liedel, Henry Lory, John

The last addition to the hospital was made in 1926 and is too fresh
in the minds of our readers to need much description. It is the big
new addition to the east of the older building, and is as modern as
any hospital quarters found in any of the larger cities. Its building
gave St. Joseph's a capacity to care for as many as 80 patients at a
time, and the rooms in that part of the building have been in great
demand ever since they were built. The older part of the building will eventually have served its day and will have to be replaced with a newer structure, more modernly designed. When the time comes that such action is imperative, we have no doubt but that the people of Highland will rise to the emergency, as they have in the past, and see to it that the sick, injured and afflicted of this community have right at hand as good hospital accommodations as can be found anywhere.

**Highland Becomes a City**

During the first fifteen years that Highland was a village, municipal affairs were carried on very modestly, but by 1880 there were quite a large number of very prosperous men in town whose influence was beginning to be felt and from that time on the place began to tone up in an official way.

Previous to that time the village constable had appeared on the streets garbed in any kind of clothes that he chose to wear, but in 1880 the board of trustees requested him to dress in official blue with brass buttons on his coat and to carry a regulation police club. Chas. Britsch was then constable (and for several years after that); and, as his salary was only $200 per year, the board of trustees annually appropriated $30 additional to pay for his blue clothes.

Another evidence of the toning up spirit is found in an ordinance passed that year that forever put an end to any kind of live stock being allowed to run loose on the streets. With great difficulty they had forced the people to keep their swine penned up for several years before that, but cattle and horses were allowed to pasture at will along the streets. The ordinance of 1880 put the taboo on that practice for all time to come. A special election was carried 90 to 24 authorizing the trustees in their action.

Still another thing that indicated the spirit of improvement that was in the air was the purchase of a burying ground for dead animals. It had been the custom previously to allow the owners of dead animals to bury them where they desired, but in 1880 the village purchased a 10-acre tract about 2 miles east of F. Ernst for $350 and made a dead-animal burying ground of it. It was always used exclusively for that purpose. The only other use made of it was for a pest-house once for a few who were afflicted with a contagious disease. A few years ago the City sold it to Charles Beichel and C. A. Yann for $200.

By 1881 the board of trustees had become very tired of meeting in the public halls adjacent to saloons and began to dream of having a city hall. At one of their meetings, they offered a prize of $10.00 to the person who would submit the best plans for a city hall, jail, fire engine house, etc. We could not learn whether or not anyone ever actually got that cash prize.

It was also in 1881 that the first telephone franchise was sought in Highland. The telephone was just then coming into commercial use. The Central Union Telegraph Co. sought the privilege of erecting poles
and stretching wires in Highland. After much deliberation it was
granted them on condition that they would confine themselves to streets
and alleys and would put up a central service station some place in
the village.

One thing that always caused trouble on the village board of trustees
was that all of the other officers had to be appointive ones. The clerk-
ship and treasurership especially had always been bones of contention,
and gradually a feeling began to grow that city organization would
be better so that more of the offices would be elective instead of ap-
pointive. There were also many other advantages to be derived from
city government.

The matter finally came to a head in March, 1882, when one-eighth
of the voters of the village petitioned the trustees to bring the question
to a vote at the following April election. The trustees complied but
the first effort to change to a city was lost by a vote of 154 to 99, prob-
ably because a number of the voters did not thoroughly understand it.

In this same year of 1882 a final effort was made to locate a coal
mine here. During the Civil War and afterwards, the coal shaft just
west of town had been sunk, some little coal mined, but no vein of
paying thickness had been found. In 1882 a subscription fund was
raised by interested citizens the last $200 of which was appropriated by
the village. The driller who was employed used a core drill and went to
a depth of more than 500 feet but found no vein that would be thick
enough to make it profitable to work it.

The idea of changing to a city form of government lay dormant for
two years after its defeat in April 1882. In February, 1884, another
petition was circulated and signed by the necessary one-eighth of the
voters. On April 7 of that year the proposition carried by a majority of
118, and a week or so later May 6 was set as the date for the elec-
tion of the first city officers.

Fred B. Suppiger, who had been village president for several years,
was elected as the first mayor; Alexander Beck, who had been village
clerk, was elected as city clerk; Adolph Mueller was elected treasurer.
Aldermen elected were Jacob Grossenbacher and John Dumbeck, in the
first ward; John Guggenbuehler and John Wildi, in the second; and
Ad. Ruegger and John Hermann, in the third.

They took charge on May 12th, were duly organized, and immediately
the fire and police committee announced its intention of trying to build
a city hall at a cost not to exceed $3500. The council appropriated
$2700 to a building fund that very night and later appropriated $600
more. On August 9 of that year lots 7 and 8 in Block 21 were purchased
of Christian Tontz, Sr. for $900, there being a residence already on the
site. Plans were made for a city hall of which the first floor was to
comprise a residence for the city marshal, a jail, and a fire engine house,
and the second floor, a council chamber and committee rooms. Bids
were asked on building the structure. On Sept. 12, 1884, the bids were
opened. J. H. Miller had one in for $2180 and Caspar Schneider one for
$3750. The contract was given to Miller on his bid. He also contracted to do some extra work not in the plans, part of which was to build a belfry and move the town bell from the scaffold on which it had been hanging to this belfry. The extras increased his contract price to $2320.

Miller put a goodly force of men at work and put the building up in a hurry. In a week or so he was ready to lay the corner-stone. This was made quite a ceremony.

It might be interesting to our readers to know what was put in that corner-stone. It contains (1) a copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Council on Sept. 20, 1884, when the contract was let, (2) a copy of Jacob Eggen’s History of Highland, (3) a book of the old village ordinances, (4) a copy of Ad. Bandelier’s History of Helvetia Township, (5) a copy of the Schuetzen Calendar of 1883, when the National Schuetzenfest was held here, (6) a current copy of the Highland Union and Highland Telephone, (7) cards of the business houses of Highland, (8) names of the societies of Highland, (9) names of the members of the city council and officers of Highland, (10) $1.90 in money, consisting of a dollar, a half dollar, a quarter, a dime and a nickel, (11) a plat of the city of Highland, (12) a pictorial view of Highland.

By December 1, 1884, the contractor had the building done. He was paid for it in full and the building was put to city use and has been in such use for more than a half century.

Highland’s First Bank Failed

Eighty-three years ago, the summer of 1854, Highland was enjoying a period of great prosperity. Only 17 years after the town had been platted, the population had grown until it numbered almost 1000 people and that despite the ravages of Asiatic cholera from which more than 300 died in the years 1849 and 1851.

The town was prosperous in more ways than one. First, it was financially prosperous; the Suppiger Mill was doing a big business over a large trade area, the Wool Factory was going at its best and employing quite a number of people, a distillery was going well, two breweries had been started, a big cooper shop had all it could do, a carriage factory had been started, and there were half a dozen shops where blacksmithing was done and adjacent to each a shop where wagons were made.

For all this work many skilled mechanics had to be employed, and they and their families had to be clothed and fed. The surrounding farms were also being rapidly developed, and all that made business good. The big stores were prosperous: the Crownover store, at the corner of Main and Laurel, the Weinheimer Store where the Kempf Pharmacy now is, the Duckart Store across the street south of the Evangelical church, the Liebler store at the corner of Cypress and Ninth, and a dozen other smaller mercantile institutions were all doing well. In a financial way the town was booming.

It was also doing well in many other ways. A good four-room school-
house had been erected on the north side of the square, and there was
great interest in education and in all things intellectual. Among
the immigrants who poured in here in 1848 and the few years follow-
ing, were many very learned men and their presence helped in the
cause of education. They formed a real intelligentsia even in that
early day that found its outlet in literary societies, singing schools, and
every auxiliary of mental development.

In such a setting as that briefly described above in the year 1854,
Highland's first bank was started, the founders of it being A. E. Ban-
deller, Dr. Frederick Ryhiner and Moritz Huey. Dr. Ryhiner was the
oldest of the three, but all of them were men of middle age and held in
high regard in the community. A few words concerning the personal-
alties of these early Highland pioneers in a business that is much in the
public eye and public print even in this day will not be amiss.

Of Dr. Ryhiner we have already written much in this story. He was
educated in Switzerland and first practiced there. He emigrated to
America in 1835 and settled at Marine. Later he went to St. Louis to
practice. While there he furnished funds to help build the Suppiger Mill
in Highland and became interested in that business. In 1840 he moved
to Highland and practiced here until the bank was started after which
he gave that institution almost his undivided attention.

A. E. Bandeller was a native of the French part of Canton Berne,
Switzerland. He was educated in that country, specializing in law, and
first came into prominence there when he was made a judge at the age
of 21. He presided at a court there for a number of years and pursued
studies along many lines, being especially fond of naturalist work.
Finally during the political troubles there in 1846, he got in bad with
the administration in power, as many others did at that time, and
decided to emigrate to a new land. He went to Brazil in 1847 and
remained there for a year. He then came with his family to Highland,
which had acquired fame through the Koepfli books and letters, and
decided to settle here. He bought the farm northeast of town on which
Frank Kustermann now lives and at once entered actively into the busi-
ness, literary and social life of the youthful Highland. He did not per-
sonally work on the farm, but hired the work done and devoted his
attention to improving Highland along literary and educational lines,
taking a keen interest in the early school, church, and musical organ-
izations. As a hobby he also pursued a study of the flora and fauna of
this locality. He understood taxidermy and had his residence orna-
mented with mounted animals, birds, and reptiles. He was especially
interested in the study of bird life and insect life. There are men
living in Highland today who can remember that as boys he would pay
them a nickel for any highly colored butterfly that they would catch.
In addition he personally conducted the education of his own children
and did much to improve the early public schools here. He had a world
of information on a lot of subjects, was a good lecturer and public
speaker, and enjoyed serving the public in those respects. He was one
of the founders of the first Library Association, contributed liberally to it, and gave a long series of educational lectures in connection therewith. Also during the troublous years preceding and during the Civil War, he was ever ready to make a speech at any kind of a public meeting. Altogether he was a man of unusual talent and odd ways, not in the least the kind of man that usually is interested in becoming a banker. His one quality that fit him for banking was his ability to lead and a sort of domineering mentality that brooked no interference.

The one of the three partners that seemed to fit best in the banking picture was Moritz Huey. Like the other two he was also an immigrant from Switzerland, coming here in 1848 and entering the mercantile business, at which he acquired a competence. He was a staid, dependable merchant and had his store in a brick building on west Main street that is now a part of the Mrs. Martin Huber residence. After the formation of the banking partnership, he discontinued the store and the building was used for the bank. As far as we have been able to learn the banking business was conducted at that one place during the 31 years of its existence.

The banking firm which they organized was given the name of F. Ryhiner & Co., for the reason that Dr. Ryhiner was the senior of the three partners, had a large following made through his professional ministrations and his wide business connections, and also assumed the larger share of the stock when the bank was organized.

In 1854 banks were few and far between. There were only two others in all Madison County. Neither state nor federal government had adequate laws for their control. Private banking was permissible and most banks were of that kind. It was all right as long as the right men were in control and management of them, but all wrong when the other kind got at the helm. A lot of eastern banks had failed during the panic of 1837, but the lesson learned from that experience was soon forgotten and no regulatory statutes resulted.

The men who started the first Highland bank at that early date were of the right kind, and confidence in the institution was secured at once. The business and the industries of the town needed a bank and it was a convenience much appreciated by all the people in the trade area.

As a result of this confidence the bank grew rapidly from the very start and served the people of Highland well during the years of the Civil War and during the period of reconstruction when the U. S. currency was not at all stable.

Later when village government was organized in 1865, the services of the bank were much in demand to finance the infant municipal government, a demand which was readily complied with, and the labors of the first village boards were lightened thereby.

When the railroad came through in 1868, the finances of Highland people were strained to the utmost, and again and again the bank came to the front and took the risk and carried the load. All the above happily turned out to be very profitable business and the bank grew in financial strength and usefulness.
In the decade that followed the completion of the railroad Highland enjoyed one of its greatest building booms and through that period the bank proved its usefulness and grew in financial strength and all the time gained greater confidence among the people.

Not only did the institution gain in prestige at home, but it became favorably known abroad, especially in Switzerland where a banking connection was established.

The bank could easily make loans on real estate at good rates of interest, and in order to get sufficient money for that purpose they solicited deposits from people in Switzerland and paid them a higher rate than usual for such deposits, thus getting a lot of foreign money into the bank.

But meantime the original founders of the institution were growing older, and as each of them had families they began gradually to pass the business along to their sons. By 1880 A. E. Bandelier was the only one of the three founders of the bank who was left and he was being influenced by the change in ownership and was also exercising a greater influence over his younger associates than he could have done with their fathers.

To get a proper idea of all the things that caused Highland's first bank to fail, after it had been prosperous for many years, our readers must get an idea of the close relationship and friendship that existed between the three founders of the bank and their families. Not only were the three men that founded it business associates but they were also warm personal friends. As their children developed into young men and women they continued in the serenity of the family friendship. A. E. Bandelier was by instinct and training both a scholar and a teacher. He had a son A. F. Bandelier whom he privately tutored until that young man became such a scholar as was his father with the same predilection for scientific research that the father possessed. Not only did the older Bandelier tutor his own son, but he also tutored the sons of his business partners. Dr. Ryhiner had a son, F. C. Ryhiner, and one of Moritz Huegy's several children was Moritz Huegy, Jr. These two young men the elder Bandelier took a particular interest in, and was mainly responsible for the education each of them received, beyond what was afforded by the public school of that time. Thus the children of the three banking partners became great friends and all of them were raised almost to idolize the elder Bandelier as the embodiment of everything that was noble and desirable in adult manhood. To cement further the friendship of the families the younger Bandelier eventually was married to a daughter of Moritz Huegy. Thus the bank became somewhat of a family institution.

The first of the three original partners to die was Moritz Huegy, who passed away in 1872, eighteen years after the founding of the bank and while it was a very thriving financial institution. For a good while after his death, none of his family were actively connected with the bank, although they retained their financial interest. The younger
Moritz Huegy was then and later engaged in mercantile pursuits and in newspaper work. However in 1877 he assumed active participation in the management of the bank.

The second of the original partners to pass away was Dr. Fred Rhyniner, who died in 1879, his place in the bank having already been assumed by his son, F. C. Rhyniner. The younger Bandelier had been given some stock in the bank by his father and had acquired more through his marriage. Thus 25 years after it was founded the bank was being conducted in the main by the sons of the founders, all of whom, however, took advice from the elder Bandelier, who made daily trips into town for the purpose of keeping control of it.

Another feature that entered into the picture at this time was that the younger Bandelier had ambition to build himself up in the scientific world, especially in the field of archaeology. That required long absences from Highland and also meant considerable expense. All too often the money for these trips and explorations in the southwest was obtained on notes given by himself and his father.

Shortly prior to the time the young men came into the management, some very bad investments had also been made: $100,000 had been placed in jeopardy and was eventually lost through railroad bonds. Immediately following the Civil War farm land values and town property values boomed to high peaks, much the same as they did in the first five years after the World War, and led the bank to make loans on real estate in excess of what they should. Later came a depression, much the same as the recent one, and the land owners could not pay. Those two things, together with the fact that the Bandellers themselves ultimately borrowed sums amounting to $85,000, were the main sources through which the money was lost.

F. C. Rhyniner and Moritz Huegy wanted to close down and liquidate the business several years before the failure, but were overruled by the Bandellers, especially the elder one, their old tutor, of whom they stood a little bit in awe even in manhood. He always argued that they could weather the storm, and particularly he did not want the institution closed until his son could get far enough along with his scientific research that he could get some income out of that. Thus they coasted, hoping for the best but fearing the worst, until the crash came in 1885.

The first thing that started uneasiness in Highland about it was reports brought from Switzerland by Mrs. Helmuth, who had returned from a visit there. The deposits of Swiss people in the bank almost equalled those of the Highland people, and she brought word that they had banded together for the protection of their interests. That caused alarm here, withdrawals followed, and when the rumor was fully verified the failure followed.

The men who were active in the bank at the time of the failure were the four named above and Franklin Beck, then a very popular and well liked young man, who was employed as a clerk.

Public indignation ran high. Highland people had lost vast sums
of money and were incensed beyond measure. They blamed everyone connected with the institution, and especially those who owned the stock, for their misfortune. The only law under which the managers of the bank could be punished was the same as the one in effect now: the law that makes it a criminal offense for a banker to accept funds on deposit after he knows his bank is insolvent. The aid of that law was shortly invoked.

The elder Bandelier had evidently foreseen what was coming. He was out of town at the time of the failure and he never did return to this city. So far as we could learn not much attempt was ever made to prosecute him. Perhaps it would have been could he have been found at the time, but he could not be located for a few years after that time. Several years later it was learned that he was living with his son in Arizona. When very advanced in age he returned to his native Switzerland where he died in 1895 at the age of 85 years.

F. C. Ryhiner was a bachelor and had few family ties to hold him here. He remained for a few days after the failure and then disappeared, one of his friends taking him to Trenton after night from where he took the train. He never returned to Highland but died in the state of Washington in 1899 at the age of 53 years.

When the bank failed, the people did not think that they were to lose such a great part of their money. After the receivers got to work and made out their statements and it was learned that about three-fourths of every deposit account would be wiped out, the feeling became very bitter, especially towards the younger Bandelier, who had been particularly active in securing deposits just a few days before the failure.

More than two weeks passed before any effort was made at any arrests in connection with the failure. Then J. A. Unterainer got out a warrant for the arrest of all four of the principal stockholders of the bank. There whereabouts of the elder Bandelier and Ryhiner were not known and the warrants could be served only on A. F. Bandelier and Moritz Huegy.

The charge brought against them was that of accepting deposits after they knew the bank was insolvent. They were taken before Squire Rinaker and placed under $1000 joint bond for their later appearance. Moritz Huegy had plenty of friends despite the failure, and John Blattner and John Balsiger readily went on the bond.

The preliminary trial was set for May 27. That morning Mr. Huegy, grieved because of the attitude of some of the people and especially so because he had been deserted by the elder Bandelier and Ryhiner, became despondent and took his own life.

A. F. Bandelier was arraigned before Squire Rinaker and bound over to Circuit Court. He either could not or would not furnish any bond and was remanded to jail at Edwardsville. It was the intention of the constable who had him in charge to take him to Edwardsville on a train that went west in the afternoon. A large crowd was at the
depot. Among them was a farmer who expected the arrival on the train of a bull that he had purchased, and he had a long rope in his hand with which to take the young bull home. The presence of this rope and the size of the crowd at the depot led some imaginative persons to believe a lynching would be attempted. But there was no truth to that.

Bandelier spent one night in jail at Edwardsville. The following day some Edwardsville men went on his bond, and he immediately left the country, going to New Mexico, where a week later he had resumed his archaeological work as serenely as though nothing had happened.

He was financed for this continuation of his scientific research by friends in Edwardsville and by a drawing account which he had with the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C.

He was never in Highland but once after that time. Three years later he came here and spent one night with friends, but remained no longer. He continued his research and eventually became famous. The scientific books which he wrote are to be found in every library in the land, and the state of New Mexico named a state park in his honor. His studies took him to countries in South America, his wife accompanying him. She died on one of their visits to Peru. He later married again and his second wife aided in his work, and even carried it on herself after he had become blind. He died in Madrid, Spain, in 1922.

A month after the bank failure all of the men who had been active in the management were gone from Highland, never to figure actively in the life of the town again. The board of four receivers settled up the business as rapidly as possible and paid the depositors as much as they could out of the proceeds received.

A few years later another bank was started which has developed into the "First National Bank" that we know today. Thirty or more years ago the "State and Trust Bank" was organized, and a short time later the one now known as the "Farmers' and Merchants' Bank." All three of them are strong, well managed banks, and stood the test of the recent depression very successfully. Highland people need never fear another bank failure.

The Helvetia Milk Condensing Company

With this chapter we take up the story of the condensing of unsweetened milk in Highland, an industry which flourished here over a period of 35 years, made fortunes for those who promoted it, and helped to build up the community in every way, both country and town. Although discontinued here 17 years ago, its beneficent effects, manifested in various ways, will last for years.

For a proper understanding of what will follow, it is necessary that the younger portion of our readers get an idea of the conditions that existed in the country around Highland during the years 1881-1884. The year 1881 was a disastrous one from a crop standpoint. Very little
wheat was raised and still less corn due to drouth and a heavy infestation of chinch bugs. The next few years were but little better. In addition to light crops, prices were very low and farmers were considerably discouraged.

At that time and for several years previous, some of the farmers had been dairying on a good scale, some shipping their whole milk direct to a distributor in St. Louis, and others shipping it only as far as Troy where the St. Louis Dairy Company then maintained a plant for cream separation. That company bought the milk, sold some of it as whole milk to consumers in St. Louis, and made part of it into butter and other milk products.

Shipping milk to either of those places was difficult for Highland dairymen. The milk train went west very early in the morning, and the practice followed was for the dairymen to take the milk of the evening before and that of the same morning and ship it on this train. That made very early rising and early milking necessary for the milk had to be brought into town before train time. Some may think the life of a present day dairyman is an arduous one, but it was even more so then. Do the best they could they could not always get their milk to the market in good condition. It might also be mentioned that the checks received were not very satisfactory either, being less than $1.00 a hundred, with a lot of docking for sours and spoils. In fact the dairymen were more dissatisfied with the marketing conditions offered them then than are present ones with the plan now in vogue.

In the autumn of 1884, when farm and dairying conditions were in this state around Highland, there came to St. Louis from Switzerland a man named John Meyenberg. Previous to leaving Switzerland he had been employed in a factory where an attempt had been made to can milk and preserve it. How successful that attempt had been we do not know, and for the purposes of this story it is not necessary to know.

Taking up his residence in St. Louis, Meyenberg applied for and obtained from the U. S. government two patents, either on machinery or processes which would be necessary in the canning of unsweetened milk so that (as he claimed) it would be indefinitely preserved. Thus fortified he tried to interest the big milk distributors in St. Louis, such as Cabanne and others, in building a factory and condensing and canning the milk. Those distributors did not altogether refuse, but gave thoughtful attention to his idea and asked for time to consider the matter.

During his stay in St. Louis Meyenberg learned of the many Swiss people who lived in and near Highland and visited this city. One man whom he cultivated particularly was the late John S. Hoerner, then the publisher of the Highland Union, a weekly newspaper published in the German language. To Hoerner he described his patents, advanced his ideas, and told of the difficulty he was having in getting the St. Louis milk men who had money interested in his enterprise. Mr. Hoerner
Highland, Illinois

listened attentively to all he said, associated much with him, drank sundry beers in his company; and, thus encouraged, Meyenberg made the Union office practically his headquarters on his visits here.

During these conversations it never dawned on Mr. Hoerner that this proposed milk condensing factory would probably be a good thing for Highland to secure. Although he was a publisher and as a fine a man as ever lived he was not what would be called "on his toes" as a newspaperman. But in his office, working for him at the time he had a reporter named Krepps, who heard all the conversations and conceived the idea that Highland could handle such a proposition as capitalizing a company and equipping a factory to condense milk right here. Krepps asked Hoerner to let him try to work up sentiment for it through the newspaper and in the end Mr. Hoerner gave his consent. Krepps then interviewed Meyenberg, who had no money of his own, and on Nov. 19, 1884, under the caption "A Good Opportunity for Highland. Will it be Grasped?" he wrote the following article for the paper:

"We are reliably informed that a certain party in St. Louis intends to erect an establishment here for condensing milk, if from 800 to 1000 gallons per day can be secured at a price not higher than 10 cents a gallon, and that $15,000 will be invested in buildings, machinery, etc., if sufficient encouragement is offered by farmers and citizens of Highland. We are told that this would be in every way a more desirable and safer enterprise than either a creamery or a cheese factory, since all milk delivered in the morning would be condensed and in a marketable condition already in the evening of the same day, besides farmers would not be compelled to make delivery so early in even the most disagreeable weather as is now the case, and in summer all losses by milk turning sour while being shipped would be avoided."

"Repeatedly farmers assured us that the milk business was safe and paying much better than depending entirely upon corn, wheat and other crops. Now let some of our prominent farmers and business men of Highland come together to investigate the matter without delay, and if they find that the establishment in question would be to the advantage of our farmers and the business interests of our city, then let us have a united and strong pull to secure it. Who will take hold of the matter? Delay might cause regret!"

A week went by and nothing was done except that Krepps appeared before the Agricultural Society, an organization that flourished here at that time, and presented the matter to them. He then, by letter and through the paper, invited Meyenberg and his St. Louis associates to come out and talk it over with the members of that society.

Two weeks passed and then Meyenberg and one other man came out to Highland on a Sunday and boosted the idea as much as they could with those they met. They found that Highland people had been talking about it among themselves and promised to come out again when a formal meeting could be arranged.

But several weeks more were required before enough interest could be built up to get a meeting. Finally arrangements were made for a body of business men and prominent farmers to meet with Meyenberg at the then new City Hall on Dec. 27, 1884, two days after Christmas.
At that meeting Meyenberg gave his estimate of what it would cost to buy the necessary machinery, equip a building and start the factory going. He also assured all present that those who invested in it would be sure to get an annual return on their investment of at least 55 per cent.

That started the ball rolling and a committee, consisting of John Wildi, Dr. Knoebel and Adolph Glock, was named to go to St. Louis and see what kind of a market such a factory would have for its output. They went on Saturday following and they must have reported favorably for on Monday night another meeting was held and a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions of stock. That committee was composed of Louis Latzer, Frank Lorenz, Jos. Blattner, A. J. Pagan, John Wildi, Jacob Grossenbacher, Chas. Tuffli, Dr. J. B. Knoebel and Jacob Kleiner. Things moved fast. Before the week was over the necessary subscriptions of stock had been made, and a meeting held at which it was decided to organize a Stock Company called "The Helvetia Milk Condensing Co." with a capital stock of 150 shares at $100 each. Dr. Knoebel, John Wildi and A. J. Pagan were authorized to become the incorporators and also to investigate the stability of the patents which Meyenberg claimed to possess. We do not know for certain but we presume this latter precaution was taken before any stock was issued to Meyenberg. We judge that part of the capital stock was to go to him in payment for his patents, and his associates wanted to be sure that he had something worth while before they issued him any stock.

Reporter Krepps was very jubilant at the progress made and wrote at great length about it describing in roseate terms the good it would bring to farmers and to business men.

Two weeks more elapsed before a report could be obtained on the validity of Meyenberg's patents. When it did come it was favorable. A few weeks later the incorporation papers were received, and on Saturday, Feb. 15, 1885, formal organization of the company was effected by electing Dr. Knoebel, Geo. Roth, John Wildi, Louis Latzer, and Fred Kaeser as directors, Dr. Knoebel being made President and John Wildi, Secretary-Treasurer.

At the same time that the men interested in forming the Helvetia Milk Condensing Co. were perfecting their incorporation, raising capital and choosing officers, they began to consider what would be a suitable building in which to establish their factory. The only vacant building of any size in the town then was what was known as the "Wool Factory Building" located at the corner of Broadway and Washington and a part of the present Moulton Bartley Shoe Factory. In the spring of 1885, when the Milk Condensing Co. arranged to lease it, this building was owned by the banking firm of F. Ryhiner & Co., which was then in existence. It had been obtained by them, together with all the wool carding machinery therein by the foreclosure of a mortgage on the property which the bankers had held for many years.
The building leased was only the west wing of the present shoe factory building, being in dimensions about 40 by 100 feet. It had been built in 1845 by N. Smiley; and, with the exception of the building on the corner of Main and Laurel, is the oldest business building yet in use in Highland. It was forty years old at the time the Milk Condensing Co. leased it. In building it and buying the necessary equipment to manufacture woolen cloth Smiley had to mortgage it and although it passed through a succession of owners after him, none of them ever did a business profitable enough to pay off the mortgage. In 1874 all attempts at running a wool factory there ceased, the bank took over the building and machinery and for ten years following it stood there idle until leased by the Milk Condensing Co.

In February, 1885, the Milk Condensing Co. signed the lease and the work of getting the wool machinery out of the building was started so that it could be repaired and made suitable for the new tenants. In commenting on this the Highland Union said, "Life is thus again brought into quarters that were dead for many years."

During the first week in March the documents assigning Mr. Meyenberg's patents to the Milk Condensing Co. were received, and immediately afterwards an order was placed for the necessary machinery and the work of remodeling the building was started. It was then thought that by the first of May everything would be in readiness to begin operating. However there was the usual delay about getting the equipment here, and it was the middle of April before the new boiler and a large Cameron pump were installed and tried out. At the same time Meyenberg, provoked by the delays, left for New York to hasten the filling of orders that had been placed and also to place others.

At about this time the Highland Foundry burned to the ground and more than a dozen men were thus deprived of steady employment. It had not been a profitable business, and people knew it would not be rebuilt and were all the more anxious for the Milk Factory to get started.

By the last of April it was evident the factory could not be started by May 1, but Meyenberg gave assurance that he had secured all necessary machinery and that June 1st would see it in operation.

Then during the first week in May came the financial crash, the failure of the banking firm of F. Ryhiner & Co. How that affected the newly formed company is told in the following note that appeared in the paper on May 6, 1885:

"The Milk Condensing Company's cash is "condensed" in the amount of $4,306.05. They tried to draw the money on Wednesday afternoon, but were given a draft to St. Louis with the assurance that it would be all right, as they had money there. The draft was presented immediately after the bank opened the next morning, but a telegram had already arrived announcing the crash, and the directors were therefore compelled to return with the consciousness that the condensing of said cash was a success. Besides this sum two drafts, of a thousand dollars each, were not heard from some time after the closing, but we now know that luckily they were presented and paid just in high time.
More money is therefore needed and our business men are making special efforts to secure it, knowing that now the enterprise is only so much more a necessity."

The bank failure impoverished a number of people and was a serious setback to the infant company. But the orders for equipment had already been placed and had to be paid for and there could be no turning back. The stock subscription solicitors again went to work, getting some new subscribers and getting some of the others to enlarge their holdings. Everybody in the community seemed to realize that the town needed the factory more than ever before and all went to work to make a go of it.

Meyenberg returned from New York the middle of May stating that three car loads of machinery ordered at Little Falls, N. Y., would follow him in a week. One car load of the machinery did arrive from St. Louis in which was included the first cooling and stirring apparatus.

Meyenberg had spent part of his time while in New York in interesting big merchants in his product-to-be and came back very enthusiastic about the kind of a market that the company was sure to have. True to his statement the three car loads of machinery did arrive the following week, and thus everything was on the ground so that operation could begin as soon as it was installed. On June 2 the statement was made that everything was practically ready and would be tried out later that week so that regular condensing could begin on Monday, June 7. A week later the same promise was made again with the starting date set at June 14.

Meantime a circular was sent out to dairymen telling them how to care for and when to deliver their milk. The circular stated that to begin with the milk produced by those who had stock in the concern would be given preference until such a time as the factory could increase its capacity so as to use all the milk produced in the community.

Operation began on June 14, 150 gallons of milk being condensed each day. After two weeks it was shut down for a week for alterations, and when it resumed 300 gallons of milk were condensed daily. The water supply was found to be insufficient for any more, but the factory promised to drill an artesian well and stated after it was drilled they would have a capacity of 800 to 900 gallons daily.

The first milk put on the market was labeled "Highland Brand" and was widely advertised by circular. There was a good demand for it at once, the market having long been in need of such a thing as unsweetened canned milk. No trouble whatever was experienced in getting initial orders.

Locally, the cooks of Highland did not think it was so good; they preferred ordinary milk and cream. But some housewives whose husbands were interested financially in the enterprise finally began to use it when they entertained, and sometimes got the laugh on those who didn't notice the difference.

But all was not as lovely as it might have been. Some of the ma-
chinery was constantly causing trouble and the factory would run a few days and then have to cease for a few days for repairs. Meantime those farmers who had been selling would be put to the inconvenience of using the milk themselves. Finally on July 8, when steam was turned into the patent preserving apparatus, the thing burst with a loud detonation that was heard all over town. Fortunately no workmen were hurt but the factory had to be shut down two weeks for repairs in spite of the fact that orders for the product were piling up on them.

A full month passed before operations could be resumed, but when they were resumed the factory took all the milk that could be procured, and in order to do so leased just as many wells as possible in adjoining blocks so as to get the necessary amount of water until their artesian well could be completed. The condensed milk was sent out to experts for chemical reports, all of which were favorable and the demand for it increased from all parts of the country.

A Mr. Beebe of St. Louis was given the contract to drill the artesian well and began on it the last week in August, 1885. To get a supply while the well was being drilled the factory laid pipes to artesian wells at the Brewery. From all of this it is evident that the founders of the enterprise had not realized the vast amount of water that would be required in operation, for one of their struggles all through the years they operated here was to get a sufficient supply of water.

At the start all dairymen were paid the same price for their milk, regardless of quality; but, by the first of October, after being in operation four months, the factory changed all that and began to pay according to quality, a method which they followed through all later years.

By the close of the year 1885 the new enterprise was running smoothly, they had sufficient supply of water, they were using all of the milk that was being brought to them, and they had an ever ready and waiting market for all the condensed milk they could put out at a price that netted them a very handsome profit for operation.

Before proceeding further with our story of the rise of the Helvetia Milk Condensing Co. in Highland, we deem it appropriate to acquaint our readers with the quality of the men who were selected as the first Board of Directors and who successfully guided the young and untried enterprise through the years of its infancy.

Dr. J. B. Knoebel, President of the Board, was then a man of 53 years and the oldest of the five. He had long practiced medicine in Highland and vicinity and had a host of acquaintances, all of whom were his friends and had every confidence in his unquestioned integrity. The confidence and trust which the people reposed in him made him the right man for the place.

Next in age was Geo. Roth, then a man of 40 years, who had been in the Hardware and Implement business in Highland for a number of years and was a good and influential business man with a wide acquaintance. In addition to that, he was fearless and had a quality of stick-
ing to a thing and fighting his way through. At one time he was the largest stockholder in the enterprise.

The third in age was Fred Kaeser, 38, then a farmer in Saline township, but a well educated, high class farmer who had great influence among other farmers and dairymen in the country near Highland, an asset which was needed in getting such a business launched.

Next was Louis Latzer, 37, then a farmer living south of Highland and representing Helvetia Township on the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Latzer had been schooled at McKendree College and the University of Illinois and in addition to conducting a model farm took keen interest in all civic affairs and everything that promoted the good of the community. Like Mr. Kaeser he was very influential with other farmers.

The youngest of the group was John Wildi, then 32, who likewise had a good education, was a member of the general merchandising firm of Ammann & Wildi, was serving as Alderman on the City Council, and was a young man of boundless ambition. He was made Secretary-Treasurer of the Board and thus was prominent in shaping the early business policies.

From the above brief description our readers will see that a body of very able men were in control of the business from the very start: men who had real ability, men who had education and best of all men who would work all day and all night if necessary to make it a success. Meyenberg, the first manager, was never given a place on the Board of Directors.

The company had not been in operation but a few months until it was realized that the original $15,000 was not enough capital stock. Orders always exceeded production; and, with money tied up in merchandise in transit, the credit of the youthful company was soon overtaxed. A stockholders' meeting was called for Nov. 7, 1885, at which it was decided to increase the capital stock from $15,000 to $50,000.

The phenomenal success of the company during the first six months of operation had been noised about, the city papers carrying articles in description of the milk condensing process and greatly exaggerating the amount of profits that were being realized by stockholders. In fact up to that time no profits had been paid, the directors being at their wit's end all the time to get the money and credit to carry on. But those in close touch with the business realized after the first few months that it would be a bonanza if ever got to running right. We know that idea leaked out to the general public, because, when the $35,000 of new stock was offered in Nov. 1885, there were outside capitalists who wanted to subscribe for all of it. The Highland men, however, were not green enough to permit anything like that, and maybe afterwards lose control of their company. Instead they sold it to local people, the directors themselves taking sizeable blocks of it. It was not long until all of it was placed.

During the remainder of the first year of 1885, the orders continued to come in at a rate that took all the milk produced in the community
and more could have been used. Our readers must bear in mind that milk production in this community was nothing then like it is now. As near as we can learn, receipts at the factory during 1885 were never as much as 5000 lbs. per day. In December of that year the pay roll to the dairymen was only $1300 and that was the peak month of the year.

Meantime the company kept advertising its product, especially by sending sample cases to places where they knew it would create comments; and if it were found good favorable orders would follow. Thus when a big catastrophe occurred at Galveston, Texas, the company sent 10 cases of milk into the stricken area. Orders from Texas immediately followed. It is a matter of record that the company accepted an order for 3000 cases from New Orleans before the end of 1885 and were able to fill the order only partially.

Early in 1886 John Wildi made a trip through the southern states during which he introduced the product into many southern cities and came back with glowing reports of the prospects.

At the end of the first year after the incorporation of the company, an annual meeting was held on Feb. 20, 1886, in the factory building, at which Dr. Knoebel, the president, formally resigned from the Board of Directors. David Suppiger was elected to succeed him and other directors re-elected. At the organization meeting Mr. Suppiger was made President of the Board as Knoebel had been.

Sometime during the year 1886 Meyenberg's connection with the business was severed. We have no documentary evidence of what caused it. The local newspaper of that period was strangely silent on the subject, not so much as stating when or why, nor even so much as telling when he left Highland. The story, as it has been told by others to the writer, is to the effect that quantities of the condensed milk which had been processed under Meyenberg's direction began to be returned to the factory by customers who complained that it was spoiled and unfit for use. After this had continued for a time the Board of Directors, who had been paying him a good salary, concluded to probe into the matter.

When cans of the milk would spoil, Meyenberg, under whose direction the processing was done, would generally blame the tinniers who soldered the cans and claim they had not been air-tight. The cans were made in the factory here right from the start. The directors investigated and came to the conclusion that the trouble was not in the cans but in the way the milk was processed, and that some experimentation would have to be carried on and a better plan for processing the milk found, if the factory was to continue.

They had been paying Meyenberg a salary of $500 a month. They made a proposition to him that they would pay him $300 a month if he would stay with them and carry on experiments to determine a better plan for processing the milk. He flatly refused the offer and left the infant company to get along as best it could.

People employed at the factory and some milk producers became in-
censed at Meyenberg after he quit, and one morning there was a straw man hanging out the window of the factory, hanging in effigy being then one of the ways of expressing displeasure.

As an evidence that very ill feeling existed locally relative to the matter, there can be found in the issue of the Highland Union (German) of Dec. 25, 1886, a very scurrilous piece of poetry, written in Swiss, and which is apparently directed at Meyenberg, who must have been unpopular with many here. Some fifteen or twenty names were signed under the poetry attesting that those people subscribed to the sentiment of it. However in a later issue the editor of the Union stated that he was receiving so many contributions relative to the matter, from both sides, that he would rather drop the subject and publish none of them.

At any rate Mr. Meyenberg left Highland and before the end of 1886 was trying to establish a company in Walton, N. Y., similar to the one in Highland. He later did establish one, or maybe two, in northern Illinois, and we have been told that he was instrumental in starting the Carnation Company which afterwards grew to very sizeable proportions. Later yet he started the M. & M. which a few years ago was absorbed by the Pet Milk Co.

From all of these facts it can be seen that he probably was most successful as a promoter. So far as we know he never figured in the life of Highland after 1886. He died in the west about 18 years ago.

If there was any considerable amount of spoiled milk returned to the factory, the newspaper made no mention of it. (Naturally not.) There was hardly an issue during the year 1886, however, but told of big orders received, of recommendations of the product by physicians and hospitals, of analysis by experts, and various other boosting articles.

In August of the second year, the practice of condensing twice a day was begun; prior to that it had been done only once each day. The following month new machinery was installed with increased capacity and in November the Union proudly announced that the factory had a daily output of 35 cases, four dozen pound cans to the case.

More milk was needed than was produced here and an effort was made to have milk shipped here by rail from other places. The railroad company, however, put a damper on that. At least they were blamed with frustrating the attempt. But local dairymen were constantly increasing their poundage to the factory; and, by the end of 1886, after less than 1½ years in business, the directors began to talk about enlarging the factory to meet the demand.

At the annual meeting on Feb. 26, 1887, the same Board of Directors was continued in office, and Fred Kaeser's work had increased to such an extent that he had to resign an office he held in Saline township. At the same time the deep well was completed by Mr. Beebe of St. Louis, who had gone to a depth of 265 feet and found what was then
thought to be an adequate supply of cold water with good mineral qualities.

In June, 1887, the company purchased the property in which they were located, paying $3000 for the building and three lots. They were then ready to begin expansion.

People who were at that time in a position to know state that for several years after the Helvetia Milk Condensing Co. began its work of processing and canning milk here a part of the output was at intervals returned to the plant having become spoiled after it was shipped and found to be unfit for use. The exact proportion of the output that was returned no one knows. They do know that during the nine or ten months Meyenberg was in charge of the processing a part of it always came back, and for five or six years after that it was no uncommon thing for shipments to be returned. One man told us that as much as a car load was returned at one time during those early years.

Right from the beginning the directors and those in close touch with the business noticed that the whole of some batches was good, never a spoiled can in the lot, and on the contrary the whole of some batches was bad, every can of it would spoil. That circumstance proved definitely to them that they processed some batches right and some wrong and proved to them that if they ever wanted to make their business most profitable they would have to experiment and learn enough that they could process every batch right.

This much the directors had learned while Meyenberg was yet with them. When he refused to accept a salary of $300 a month and stay with the company to make the necessary experiments, the directors realized that it was up to them to work out their own salvation.

At that time there was a practicing physician in Highland named Dr. Werner Schmidt. He had studied at the best universities in Germany and was highly schooled, being especially proficient in chemistry. He had been practicing medicine for a year or two in Highland but with no great degree of success. He maintained an office in a building that stood where the Kroger store is now located.

Since his medical practice did not bring him any big return, he readily agreed to give it up to enter the employ of the Milk Co. and assist in making the necessary experiments so that a system of sterilization of milk could be arrived at that would work at all times. One room of the factory building was set apart for that sole purpose. Louis Latzer, one of the directors, gave up all other work and spent every day in this laboratory with Dr. Schmidt. John Wildi also spent some of his time there. Mr. Latzer had taken courses in chemistry during his school days at McKendree College and at the University of Illinois and naturally liked such work and was very proficient at it. Mr. Wildi had also studied chemistry in his school days.

Day after day the laboratory tests went on in an effort to determine the process that would be right for all kinds of milk. But it wasn't accomplished nearly as quickly as they expected. What they thought
was a work of a few months proved to be a work of several years, and after the company had been operating for three or four years it was no uncommon thing for some of their shipments to be returned.

Just how long Dr. Schmidt assisted with these experiments we do not know, but do not think it was for as long as a year. After that the others carried on the laboratory work for several years until they determined what was exactly the right way to process the milk, but his assistance had been very valuable to them.

We have been unable to learn when this Dr. Schmidt left Highland or where he went. We have been told that he afterwards became the author of a textbook on the application of chemistry to dairy products and that his textbook became a standard work at many schools and colleges.

However, for several years certain batches of the milk continued to spoil. Some of this spoiled product was dumped at the place to which it had been shipped, but most of it was shipped back to the factory and had to be cared for here, thus apprising both town people and dairymen that all was not as it should be at the plant.

As much as could be of this spoiled milk was sold to farmers to feed to their hogs. Sometimes the farmers would get a wagon load of it for $1.00. At other times it was given to them for nothing in order to get rid of it. If farmers could not be induced to haul it away it was emptied into the sewer and flowed down into the branch which during hot weather in those years was ten times more stinking that it was a year or so ago when it carried the brewery waste.

After milk had been coming back that way for a few years, the small stockholders began to think that the institution would never be put on a paying basis. Nothing like a dividend had ever been paid, and the directors had to borrow all the money they could all the time to keep it going. Stock in the factory was considered to be of little value, and some of it changed hands at ridiculous prices. One saloon keeper held a single share which he gladly traded for a barrel of wine. Another disposed of one he had for two barrels of cider. A farmer traded two shares for a horse. Another farmer found himself without money to pay the attending physician after his wife had given birth to a child, and readily gave up a share of the stock, which the doctor sold for $25, and considered it a good deal. Such was the value placed on stock that less than 35 years later was to sell at $20,000 per share, each share of which in the meantime had earned as much as $20,000 additional in dividends.

Although the farmers did not think much of the value of the stock, they did like for the factory to keep going. During those first years they were paid $1.50 per hundred for milk, a fair price as conditions were then. Later after the dairy industry was built up in the community that price was revised downward. The business men were also pleased because the money paid out for milk and for labor was spent
in town and came in from outside. They considered such an industry an ideal one.

In spite of the fact that much milk spoiled and was returned during the first few years, it is certain that the company operated at a profit from the first. They had to expand rapidly and that consumed the money as rapidly as they earned it. Also practically all of the five directors were on the pay roll after the first year, and their salaries were never niggardly. They had to keep purchasing and building new machinery all the time during those first years and that also took money.

The needs of the factory also made much employment for teamsters, hauling to and from the railroad, and gave jobs to some blacksmiths and machinists a good part of their time. These needs also gave some of the workmen in the factory a chance to give expression to their latent inventive genius, an opportunity taken advantage of by a few of them, perhaps most by Emil Wildi, who in the course of a half dozen years there became the patentee of several machines and also devised some on which he did not take out a patent.

As stated before, the company purchased the property in which the factory was located in June, 1887. It came to them at the very low price of $3,000, probably because it was part of the assets of the defunct F. Ryhiner & Co. bank and had to be sold. Right away improvements were planned, and before the end of the year the work of erecting an ell to the building was started and completed early in 1888.

At about the same time a frame building which stood on the alley where the present shoe factory office is was remodeled and used as the office for the milk condensary.

In 1890 a three-story east wing was built in order to care for the increased business that was constantly coming to the factory. When this was erected the company thought they had sufficient room to meet their needs for many years to come, but they did not then anticipate that they would ever grow to such an extent that a completely new building would be necessary.

During the years that these first buildings were erected and improved machinery installed in the plant, spoiled milk continued to come back at intervals and frequently the company was hard put to raise money to meet their regular pay roll.

We have stated that the first president of the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company was Dr. J. B. Knoebel and that he served but one year and then resigned, being succeeded by David Suppiger in February, 1886. Mr. Suppiger continued in that capacity for two years and then he likewise resigned. At no time during his presidency of the Board of Directors did he take any very active part in the business, but merely presided at their meetings and assisted them in getting much needed credit. Mr. Suppiger at that time was a man of rather advanced years, had been actively identified with the Highland Milling Company which then was a very prosperous business, and was widely and favorably
known in financial circles. His selection as president of the Board of Directors was probably more due to the financial prestige it would give the new company than to any other cause. In addition he enjoyed an excellent reputation locally and his presence on the board inspired confidence. After two years of struggle with the difficulties encountered by the new and untried industry, and all too frequently having to iron out the differences that arose between the other members of the board who were active in the management, he concluded that the game was not worth the candle and resigned.

In February, 1888, the board of directors organized by electing Louis Latzer, President; Geo. Roth, Vice-President; and John Wildi, Secretary and Treasurer. Fred Kaeser had been in the position of general superintendant for two years before that. For the five years following 1888 those four men exclusively were responsible for the guidance of the enterprise and the degree of success it attained. Mr. Latzer remained President as long as the business was located here, and Mr. Wildi remained Secretary and Treasurer for practically 20 years after the above date. It was during the five years following that the business was put on its feet and the foundation laid for the expansion of the industry that was to take place in later years.

During those five years a plan of processing the milk was perfected that insured only a negligible amount of spoiled milk. When Dr. Werner Schmidt was employed to assist with experimentation, it had been with the explicit understanding that whatever was learned thereby should be used exclusively for the advantage of the company. After his services were dispensed with, Mr. Latzer continued the experimentation, much of the time by himself, and gained still more knowledge on the subject.

Another great thing that was being accomplished at the same time was the world-wide introduction of the product. This feature of it was not so difficult as might at first be supposed. To begin with, there was a great demand for just such a thing. In the mining districts of the west, in the lumber camps of the north, and everyplace where large bodies of working men had to be fed, such a product was sorely needed. It also ideally met the need in the regular army. Best of all it was the ideal product for use on ocean going ships and through that agency was introduced into every port in the civilized world, and its merit extolled by word of mouth in every clime and in every language.

The managers themselves were keen to place it before the public advantageously at all places where it would be called to the attention of vast numbers of people. The first effort of this kind was made at the Paris Exposition in 1890 and was so successful in getting it advertised in Europe that in 1893 when the World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago the company spent $3000 to make a proper exhibit of their product. John Wildi spent a good part of that summer there looking after the advertising features of the company's exhibit. Later that same year they made a similar exhibit at the Mid-Winter Califor-
nia Fair. At all these expositions the Highland product was awarded the blue ribbons and thus became known as the best product of that kind on the market.

During those five years after Latzer assumed the presidency, when the product became known all over the world, the plant here was increased in size and efficiency and the process of condensing the milk perfected, but some other features were not so lovely. The company was constantly in need of money—and more money. They were doing a very profitable business and the directors knew it, but such rapid expansion was necessary in order to meet the demand for their product, and so much money was always tied up in shipments in transit to all parts of the country that they were in sore financial straits all during that period. The directors themselves advanced to the company all the personal funds that they could, and the company borrowed all they could from everybody they could. Geo. Roth, who at that time was the wealthiest one of the directors, frequently had to come personally to their relief. A man who was cashier for them at that time tells us that he well remembers one occasion on the date of the bi-monthly pay day, when the bank balance of the company showed but $2.87. Private funds had to come to the rescue on that occasion.

There was a time about 1892 when it looked as though the crowding of creditors might cause the collapse of the enterprise. What was known as “The Highland Bank” had been started here a few years after the failure of F. Ryhiner & Co. and the milk company had borrowed $15,000 of this bank. The bank demanded payment and the company had no funds on hand with which to pay. A real savior had to be found. In this extremity John Wildi prevailed upon his father-in-law, John Spindler, to furnish $15,000 in gold with which the bank’s demands were met.

It does not look like a local bank should have thus crowded them, but the bankers had the experience of their predecessors in that business freshly in mind and were taking no long chances, just looking after their own interests first.

It must also be remembered that at that time the managers of the business were not riding on a wave of local popularity. During the years that so much of the milk came back spoiled, a large number of the many small stockholders got cold feet and disposed of their stock for whatever they could get for it. Of course they should not have done so but they did, and as a result they lost their money. As might be expected, after they learned it would have been to their profit to have held on, they naturally wanted some one to blame, and thus the managers came in for a lot of censure. This was aggravated when it was learned that the managers themselves had picked up most of the cheap stock as opportunity afforded, until four of them owned about four-fifths of the entire stock.

The farmers also had a grievance. When the factory was started they had been promised $1.50 per cwt. for milk, which price was paid
the first few years, but during the lean years of the early 90's it was materially reduced.

But, in spite of everything, the business prospered greatly in that period and each successive year's invoice showed greatly increased assets, although not a dividend of any kind had yet been paid. The payroll at the plant increased until it numbered from 75 to 100 people and 3000 gallons of milk was condensed daily. All this helped the town and helped the country around. Meantime the four managers did not reveal any more of the intricacies of their business to the public than was absolutely necessary, kept their own counsel, and carefully laid the foundation for future business greatness.

By the beginning of the year 1893 the financial difficulties were a thing of the past, the success of the business was assured; and it was then that the four fellows, who had stuck together through adversity, could not see things alike when prosperity came to them, and difficulties of another nature arose.

During the latter half of the year 1892, the orders for condensed milk came into the factory here in such numbers that they were always very much behind in filling them. By that time sections of the country where the product had been tested out and found to be all that was desired placed orders for car-load lots, and all through the summer of 1892 these orders could not be filled because the factory here did not have sufficient capacity to fill them.

The directors then began to seek a location for a first branch plant and finally decided on Cedar Rapids, Iowa. That city fit into the picture because it was farther west, and most of their big orders were from the west. In addition it was in a rich agricultural section where they thought the dairy industry could be easily built up. Accordingly late in 1892 the work of getting a plant in shape there was started and completed early in 1893. A force of men from Highland with Fred Kaeser as manager was sent to Cedar Rapids and the operation of the first branch plant was thus begun.

It was only in operation for a few months, however, until destiny decreed otherwise. Before mid-summer of 1893, a panic came on which all the old people remember to this day. Early in the spring, with both plants in full operation, the Helvetia Company was from 36 to 48 car loads back in their orders. By mid-summer everything had shut down and they could not sell the output of one plant, much less that of two. In this extremity there was nothing to do but cease operation at Cedar Rapids and have the men who had moved there come back to Highland. This was done. For some unexplained cause the plant at Cedar Rapids was never reopened. It remained the property of the Helvetia Milk Company for quite a number of years. It stood idle until the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898 when it was leased to a company and used as a place to manufacture gun stocks. Later it was sold outright.

Meantime the year 1893 witnessed the first serious dissension that
had arisen among the four men who thus far had controlled the destinies of the industry: Latzer, Wildi, Roth and Kaeser. What gave rise to the trouble the writer does not know and would not want to record even if he did. It is sufficient to state that they no longer agreed on policies of management; and the upshot of the quarrel was that Mr. Roth set a price at which he would sell all his holdings, and the other directors agreed to that price.

Mr. Roth had 119 shares of the capital stock of 500 shares for which he was paid $250 per share, although no dividend of any kind had thus far been declared; but it was figured that the stock had enhanced that much in value. The company also owed Mr. Roth $16,000, which he had advanced at different times when it was needed, and some smaller amounts. He was paid off in full and his stock distributed among friends of the company, the other directors themselves taking over part of it.

That left the practical control of the company in the hands of three men, Latzer, Wildi and Kaeser and it remained that way for the next 14 years, the period of the great growth and expansion of the business.

For the purposes of this story only the merest outline of that growth and expansion is necessary. The panic year of 1893, although it forced them to close their first branch plant, did not seriously affect their business. After they accommodated their output to the demand, they continued to make money as before, so that by 1894 we have been told the first cash dividend on the stock was declared. It was a dividend of 15 per cent and was paid nine years after the original stock had been issued. After that dividends were paid regularly as long as the company operated in Highland.

From 1893 to 1898 the business of the company had a steady and profitable growth. More and more farmers of this vicinity took up dairying, and enough milk was furnished to the plant that it could keep fairly abreast with orders. The processing had been perfected, constant improvement was made in machinery and building, the business returned a handsome profit, and everything went along very nicely, with only the one plant in operation.

In 1898 the Spanish-American War broke out, and immediately the company received big orders from the government at fancy prices. Right away it was apparent that one plant would never be able to supply that demand.

Instead of going to some remote city to establish a branch plant, the directors decided it could be better supervised if near Highland and selected Greenville as the place to build it. Work was started at once and pushed with all possible speed so that the plant was in operation early in 1899 and the output greatly aided in meeting the demands of the army for the product. Uncle Sam was in no hurry to disband those Spanish-American war soldiers, and hence that demand kept up for several years and the operation of the two plants was twice as profitable to stockholders as one had been.
The Spanish-American War enabled the company to make its first real big money, but that was not the best thing that it did. Those soldiers were assembled from all parts of the U. S., and after they were disbanded each and every one of them was a walking and talking advertisement for the Highland brand of evaporated milk.

As a result after that war was over and the country had settled down to a period of peace and internal development, the demand for condensed milk became greater than ever and the company gradually had to continue its program of expansion in order to supply the demand for the product.

During the first 20 years that the parent plant was in operation here, one of the biggest items of expense was for hauling, due to the fact that it was not located on or near the railroad so that switching facilities could be obtained. All the coal used had to be hauled from the depot, also the tin and other articles of daily need. Then the condensed milk had to be hauled from the factory to the depot. All this was very expensive.

To do away with that the company in 1904 purchased land where the Hug Company and St. Louis Dairy is now located, and in 1905 they erected a modern plant there, building switches so that everything was made very convenient. When it was finished the plant was moved into it and the old building abandoned. It stood idle for several years except that it was partly occupied for a time by the Wick Pipe Organ Company when that industry first started here, and was then sold for a song to a group of five men, Louis Koch, Chas. Hoefle, Adolph Meyer, J. G. Bardill and C. T. Kurz. They later moved the frame office building and built in its place a brick building which served Highland as a post-office for about 20 years. A part of the old factory building was rented for a while to Fred Leutwiler for a garage and another part to the Highland Store for a poultry house. In 1915 it was remodeled into about its present condition to accommodate Highland's first shoe factory, the Lund-Mauldin.

In 1905 a second branch plant was built at Delta, Ohio, located in one of the most beautiful dairy sections it was ever our privilege to visit. Another was built at Wellsboro, Pennsylvania, in 1907, one at Hudson, Michigan, in 1909, one at Mulvane, Kansas, in 1910, also one the same year at New Glarus, Wisconsin, one at Westfield, Pennsylvania, in 1911, and one the next year at Lamar, Colorado.

From the fact that so many branch plants were built during that period our readers will readily understand that the company was doing a very profitable business. The erection of a new plant each year did not make any appreciable dent in the dividends that were paid. Mean-time internal dissension again arose among the three directors who were the guiding geniuses of the company, and when the smoke of battle cleared away but two of them were left.

John Wildi had been the Secretary-Treasurer of the company from its inception and, as we stated previously, was a very able and ami-
tious man, and had done a lot for the company during the years when it was struggling to get started. Late in 1906 differences over business policy arose between him and Messrs. Latzer and Kaeser. What those differences were the writer does not know and would not record them if he did. At any rate, at the annual meeting in February, 1907, the board of directors, virtually controlled by Messrs. Latzer and Kaeser, did not reelect him as Secretary-Treasurer of the company, Adolph Meyer being advanced to that position. However, he was elected as one of the directors and continued to serve in that capacity some time longer. Later that same year Mr. Wildi formed another company and built a plant at Marysville, Ohio, which was operated very successfully for a number of years. In 1910 he died very suddenly at his home here in Highland where the Masonic Temple now stands, that edifice being named in his honor. Mr. Wildi continued to hold his stock in the company, (more than one-third of the whole) after his retirement and his widow after his death, as long as the company was in Highland.

That period from 1910 until the outbreak of the World War was one of great prosperity for the Helvetia Company, new plants being erected or taken over at intervals as the growth demanded. Then when the World War broke out the business became vastly profitable.

Shortly after the close of the World War, trouble arose here between the milk factory and the dairymen which eventually terminated in the plant here being closed and the offices of the company being moved to St. Louis.

During the last twenty years that the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company operated their factory here a reciprocity custom developed between them and the big distributors of fresh milk in the City of St. Louis which worked as follows:

If, at the same time the factories here and at Greenville were receiving more milk than they found it profitable to condense, and the distributors in St. Louis were short of the quantity they needed, it was no uncommon thing for a part of the daily receipts here and at Greenville to be shipped into St. Louis and sold as whole milk through the big distributors there, such as the St. Louis Dairy Company and Pevely.

On the other hand if the two condensing factories needed more milk than they were regularly getting in from the dairymen and at the same time the St. Louis distributors were receiving an over supply, it was also a common thing for them to ship their excess either here or to Greenville where it was condensed and marketed in that form.

This practice had been followed at different times over a period of years, and in September, 1920, much of the milk that was being received here and at Greenville was not being condensed but shipped direct to distributors in St. Louis. An unusual amount was being disposed of that way due to the fact that the St. Louis distributors were not getting their usual amount in the regular way.

Most of the dairymen in Madison County and adjoining counties who directly shipped milk to St. Louis distributors at that time belonged to
The Helvetia Milk Condensing Company Plant as it appeared at the time the industry was discontinued in Highland
an organization known as the Southern Illinois Milk Producers' Association. This Association and the Distributors could not agree on the September price, the distributors offering $3.55 per hundred pounds and the Association holding out for $3.60. A strike was called among members of the Association, and as the supply of milk to the distributors fell off, they asked the Helvetia for more and more.

The dairymen who at that time delivered their milk to the Helvetia factory here did not belong to this Southern Illinois Milk Producers' Association; in fact they were not organized at all, and the Helvetia was paying them $3.25 for September milk that year.

The officers of the Producers' Association were quick to see that, unless the Helvetia could be stopped from shipping whole milk to St. Louis producers, the strike they had called would not likely have any degree of success; and emissaries were sent into the territory of the Highland and Greenville dairymen to organize them if possible, get them to call a sympathetic strike, and thus keep the Highland and Greenville milk off the St. Louis market.

The first meeting of dairymen in Highland for that purpose was held early in September and was addressed by Don Brooks of Marine, who was active in the Producers' Association. It was not attended by a very large crowd, but those present were impressed and the trouble began to foment.

Meetings then followed in rapid succession. On Thursday night, September 16, a meeting attended by several hundred dairymen was held at the Palace Theatre, a building since destroyed by fire. At that time the organization of an affiliated branch of the Producers' Association was effected, officers elected, and a resolution adopted to the effect that a committee of dairymen elected should call on Louis Latzer, President of the Helvetia Company, and convey to him the information that unless the Helvetia ceased shipping whole milk to St. Louis distributors a sympathetic strike would be called. Mr. Latzer was requested to make reply not later than Monday evening, September 20, for which date another meeting had been called.

Mr. Latzer's reply was of considerable length. In it he reviewed the pleasant and helpful relations that had existed between factory and dairymen for many years, but stated most emphatically that in this case he would not accede to their wishes and gave his reasons for not doing so. His reply was read at a monster meeting at the Palace Theatre on Monday night, September 20. Speeches followed, with the result that a second committee was selected to call on him and see if he could not be prevailed upon to change his mind. Another meeting was called for Wednesday night, September 22, at which this committee reported its utter lack of success.

At this meeting another letter from Mr. Latzer was read in which he reiterated that he would not accede to their wishes and in which he expressly stated that, if he were forced through their action to close the Highland plant, it would never be reopened.
As a result a strike was called to be effective the next morning, Thursday, September 23, and on that day the Helvetia only received about one-tenth of the usual supply of milk. Some of the Highland dairymen had refused to join the organization and continued to deliver to the Helvetia. Up to that time the plant had been condensing part of the milk received each day; but, after receipts fell to about one-tenth the usual amount, the company claimed that it was no longer profitable to condense, ceased operation altogether, but continued to ship what they did receive to St. Louis distributors.

The striking dairymen adopted various methods of disposing of their milk. Some sold to the Sugar Creek Creamery which put in a station here, some shipped it direct to places in St. Louis themselves; and still others found a market at an Aviston station. Mostly the milk was separated at home, the cream sold, and the skim milk fed. DeLaval cream separators found a bigger market the next few weeks than they have ever had before or since.

The whole thing happened so fast and so much ill feeling was engendered locally that there was no patching up of differences possible. Business people in town in the main tried to appear neutral in the matter and thus pleased neither side to the quarrel. There were a few who saw that espousing one side or the other could be turned to their profit and did not hesitate to act accordingly.

There has never been much doubt in the mind of this writer that, had the factory made any overtures to striking dairymen three weeks after the strike was called, enough milk would have again been secured that the plant could have been operated. But no conciliatory measures, whatever, were ever adopted, the plant was closed and remained closed.

The business of the company was conducted from the head offices of the company here for a few months after the strike, and then the offices were moved to St. Louis and quartered in the Arcade Building where the business is now carried on under the name "Pet Milk Company."

The machinery in the plant was dismantled and such parts as would be of service were shipped to other plants where it was needed. The main factory building was first leased to the St. Louis Dairy Company and afterwards sold to them, the office building was sold to the Hug Company as was also the old tinshop building.

Although the offices were moved to St. Louis, Mr. Latzer, the President, continued to maintain an office and a laboratory here until the time of his death. And thus passed out of the life of Highland the biggest and most profitable industry that was ever carried on here, or likely ever will be. In the 35 years that it was conducted here the original capital stock of $50,000 grew to have a value of at least $10,000,000, and meantime vast dividends had been paid.

The industry was of a kind that is valuable to any community; one that brings in a lot of outside money and distributes it at home. The loss of the factory was keenly felt as was also the loss of the head offices which took from our city quite a number of very desirable
families. The whole, coming as it did in the wake of prohibition which had just closed the brewery, put Highland on the blink for a time. But new local markets for milk were created, other minor industries were promoted, and the city has continued to prosper and steadily improve.

However, several generations of people will come and go before the story of condensed milk ceases to be told in connection with Highland, and as long as there is a Highland the names of some of the men connected with that industry will be held in little less than reverence.

Highland Men in County Office

During the first thirty years of the life of Highland not a man from this city ever aspired to be elected to county office. That is not at all surprising when we remember that all of the then prominent citizens of the place were educated in foreign countries, spoke foreign languages better than they did English, and were not fitted by either birth or training to enter into the game of politics as it was played in Madison County at that time. During those 30 years there were men here who more than likely were solicited to become candidates, but they refrained from doing so, preferring to devote their time and talent to business, professional, or literary pursuits, all of which were more lucrative than any county office.

From 1819 until 1849 Madison County was directly governed, as far as legislation was concerned, by a Board of three County Commissioners, but the name of a Highland man is not to be found among any of those commissioners.

From 1849 until 1874 the County was practically governed by the County Court, but from 1874 to 1876 the Commissioner System was in vogue again until the adoption of township government in 1876.

The first Highland man ever to be elected to county office was George Ruegger, who was elected sheriff in 1864. He was a native of Switzerland and emigrated to Highland in 1845. His first business venture in the then young village was the manufacture of soap. Later he became connected with the Highland Woolen Mills and helped operate them for a time in a part of the building where the shoe factory is located. He was postmaster here from 1856 to 1861. In 1864, during the throes of the Civil War he was elected sheriff of Madison County on the Democrat ticket and received an excellent vote in Highland, although this city went overwhelmingly for Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate for president. He served as sheriff for two years and then returned to Highland where he served on the Village Board for a year or two. His death occurred in December, 1869.

The second man to be elected to county office from Highland was B. E. Hoffmann. Mr. Hoffmann came here at first to take charge of the public school. When the village was incorporated in 1865 he became the first village clerk, and in 1866 he was appointed postmaster, holding that office until 1869 when he was elected County Clerk on the Repub-
lican ticket. Four years later he was reelected and served eight years in all. He lived to be well past 80 years of age, dying a few years ago at Belleville.

The third Highland man to be chosen for county office was Adolph A. Suppiger, who was elected county Superintendent of Schools in 1873, served in that office altogether 13 years, and was elected three times on the Republican ticket. He was the eldest son of Anthony Suppiger, one of the original Swiss settlers here. After finishing school in Highland he graduated at the Illinois State Normal University and then taught for six years, four years in Marine and two in Highland previous to his election to office. After going out of the office he made his home in Edwardsville until the time of his death.

During the time that Mr. Suppiger was serving as county Superintendent of Schools, in 1877, Adolph Ruegger of Highland was elected as County Treasurer; and for a time this city furnished the incumbents for two county offices, a circumstance that has seldom happened since that time.

Adolph Ruegger was the eldest son of George Ruegger, who served as sheriff from 1864 to 1866. Following his public school days he attended St. Louis University and then was engaged in the insurance business with his stepfather, Timothy Gruaz, until 1877 when his Democratic friends got him to become a candidate for treasurer. He served one term of five years, lengthened on account of a change in election laws. After his tenure of office he returned to Highland and became connected with the Highland Milling Company. He was working there when he died about 28 years ago.

The only man from Highland to fill the office of Circuit Clerk was Robt. Hagnauer, who was elected in 1880 on the Democratic ticket and served altogether a period of 12 years. He was a son of one of the pioneer Swiss families, received his education at Normal, Ill., later clerked in a store at Sebastopol, and was in the hardware business in this city at the time of his election. After leaving the office he resided in cities on the west side of Madison County until his death.

More men from Highland have succeeded in being elected to the office of County Clerk than to any other one office. As told above B. E. Hoffmann filled that office from 1869 to 1877. Nine years later, in 1886, another Highland man, Henry Rinaker, was elected to it. Mr. Rinaker had been for years a prominent business man of Highland, who enjoyed the confidence and esteem of all. He was elected County Clerk in 1886 and served until 1890. He was again elected in 1894 and served continuously until 1902, when he was succeeded in the office by another Highland man, the late Edward Feutz.

Shortly after the expiration of Mr. Rinaker's term of office, he removed to California and made his home there until his death a few years ago.

Mr. Feutz was a native of Highland and also an active business man here. He had been a clerk in stores at Grantfork and at Highland, had
been in the sewing machine business, and also the marble business. When the streets of Highland were first improved by macadamizing them, Mr. Feutz got the contracts and did the work well. He had extraordinary ability as a salesman and was clever in all his social contacts. He was elected on the Republican ticket in 1902 and again in 1906. Another Highland man, a present resident here, who served as County Clerk is Calvin J. Battner. He was appointed to fill a vacancy but in 1916 was elected to the office and served until 1922, being again elected in 1918.

From the above it will be seen that Highland has had good representation in the County Clerk’s office. But it should be remembered that two county offices, County Judge and Surveyor have never been filled by a Highland man.

The only Highland man ever elected to the office of Coroner was Chas. F. Tuffili, who was elected to that office in 1900 after having long been a very successful business man and real estate dealer in Highland.

The only man from Highland to be elected to two different county offices was Joseph P. Streuber, now of Alton. Mr. Streuber came here from Greenville in 1894 and started in the practice of law, being then very young. He was successful and gained quite a reputation that went beyond the limits of Highland. When the office of Probate Judge was created, he was elected as the first incumbent in 1910 and was reelected in 1914. Two years later he resigned to become a candidate for State’s Attorney and filled that office for two terms from 1916 to 1924, when he retired and began the private practice of law in Alton.

Perhaps there is another man whom we should mention before leaving this subject, and that is George Hotz, who was elected Sheriff in 1882 and again in 1890. Mr. Hotz was in a way a Highland man at the time of his election for he was farming in Saline township and representing that township on the Board of Supervisors. He was a very successful farmer, made a good record as sheriff, and remained a popular and successful citizen of Edwardsville until the time of his death.

The Highland Embroidery Works

Embroidery by the aid of special machines was first introduced into Highland in 1881 by Johann Rusch, a Swiss, who came here for the express purpose of founding such an industry. He had been educated and worked in Switzerland where in 1838 an Alsatian named Heilman had invented the first embroidery machine. The machines had been much improved and had been used in Swiss factories for many years. Rusch got his training in one of these factories and then emigrated to Highland where he figured he could start a factory and do a profitable business.

He rented a building of Dr. Gallus Rutz, installed a machine and went to work. But he had no capital, could not lay in anyways near the necessary amount of stock, and had no sales organization to see that
his output found a market. The result of all this was that in two years time his business affairs were hopelessly messed up.

But he still had faith in the idea that such a business would go over, if properly organized, and in 1883, succeeded in getting two Highland young men to join with him in the enterprise. These young men were John Wildi and John J. Spindler. Mr. Wildi was then a young Highland merchant and Mr. Spindler's father conducted one of the biggest general merchandise stores in Highland, through which he had become trained along merchandising lines, and also could obtain the capital necessary for the new business.

The three of them, under the name, "Highland Embroidery Works," formed a corporation, ordered new and better machines to be sent from Switzerland, purchased an ample stock of raw materials and went to work in earnest. Rusch was at first the factory Superintendent, Mr. Wildi, the Secretary and Mr. Spindler the President and also the main salesman. Through his and his father's connections he got a foothold and succeeded from the start in profitably marketing the output of the factory.

From the best information that we can get it appears that the industry prospered steadily from this start in 1883. The changes in ownership were not many, and none of them were of a character to disturb the business policy adopted at the beginning and followed for many years. After he became interested in the Helvetia Milk Condensing Co. Mr. Wildi disposed of his holdings and then or later both his brother, Alfred Wildi and L. J. Ruhr, a nephew to Mr. Spindler, became interested in the enterprise and continued so for a long time.

During the remainder of his lifetime Mr. Spindler devoted practically all of his attention to the development of the business. That he succeeded well is attested by the fact that the factory was enlarged from time to time, new and very stable buildings being erected for the purpose, and in them were installed some of the highest class machinery of that kind that was obtainable. The sales field was also enlarged until the product of the factory was to be found in all the best stores in the big cities of the U. S. and was also marketed in Europe. The Highland workmen were well trained, the best designers were employed, and a very favorable reputation resulted.

Beginning with only a few employees, more were taken on as business warranted and as many as a hundred or more have been employed there during busy seasons.

For years the business was a very profitable one, perhaps more so than any other ever established in Highland with the one exception of Condensed Milk. It prospered during all the years that John J. Spindler conducted it and after his death in 1916 it continued to prosper under the management of his son, Julius and his associates.

About five years ago the demand for embroidered dress goods fell off and the factory was shut down. The proprietors adopted the wise course of ceasing operation before they had suffered any sizable losses. It re-
mained inactive until a year or so ago when George Glassmaker, who formerly had been an employee there, rented one of the buildings, rehabilitated some of the embroidery machines, and is finding a market for his output. He is not operating on a scale near so extensive as in former years.

Highland Newspapers

Highland had grown to be a town of more than 1500 people, and was a very prosperous business center before any newspaper was published here. That would not have been the case had the residents here been an English-speaking people. Instead all street conversation was in German and all records were kept in the German language. As a result no local newspaper was attempted until after the town had been in existence for 22 years. None might have been attempted at that time had it not been for the local strife and difference of opinion that grew out of the vital questions there were being discussed prior to the Civil War.

On March 26, 1859, when the country was worked up over political questions brought out in the Lincoln-Douglas debates, the first issue of “Der Erzaehler” was published in Highland, the publishers being Rudolph Stadtman and John Karlen. The former was the editor and a month later became the sole proprietor. The paper was welcomed by a part of the people in town, but loudly denounced by another faction. In May Editor Stadtman changed the name to “Der Highland Bote,” but it did not go any better under that name than the other, and in June, 1859, after only three months of being Highland’s first editor, Stadtman was glad to sell it to Peter Weiss and Peter Voegele. Mr. Weiss assumed the responsibility of editor for only six months; then he sold out to Voegele. The latter employed an editor and conducted the paper until April, 1863, when he sold it to Tim. Gruaz. The latter made of it not only a local paper but the official organ of the American Sharpshooters’ Society and was the editor until June, 1868, when he sold to B. E. Hoffmann and Maurice Huey. They conducted it for about a year and then Mr. Hoffmann was elected to a county office and he discontinued the paper and moved the material to Edwardsville.

During the troublesome days of the Civil War what was known as the Republican Literary Society was formed here in Highland, the members of which were at variance with political principles expressed by Gruaz in his “Bote.” As a result on October 24, 1863, a second German paper was started here known as “Die Union.” It was owned by a stock company and Chas. H. Seybt was the first editor, a job which he held for more than a year. Two rival papers in the town, with radically different views on national subjects, made plenty of trouble, and nearly every inhabitant was deeply partisan on one side or the other. In January, 1865, Dr. Gallus Rutz, who had been wounded in the army and returned home, became editor of the Union. Bitter feeling existed between it and the Bote until the latter was discontinued as above stated.
Dr. Rutz liked to edit a paper as long as he had a fight on his hands; but, after the "Bote" was discontinued and he had everything his own way, he tired of it and in 1874 sold his interest to John S. Hoerner, who became sole proprietor.

Mr. Hoerner had no opposition in the business at all for about seven years, then some of the leading citizens concluded that they had become enough Americanized that they should have an English newspaper. Accordingly a number of business men got together, raised the capital, bought an outfit and employed Wm. H. Toy as editor. Backed thus, the first issue of the "Highland Herald" appeared on April 13, 1881. Some of the stockholders soon became dissatisfied, and two months later L. E. Kinne and Geo. Roth bought the others out and made T. S. Richardson editor. That arrangement lasted only two months; then Chas. Boeschenstein and J. A. Krepps bought it. Less than a month later Krepps sold out and Boeschenstein became sole owner. For a year and a half Mr. Boeschenstein published it; and then, finding the field here much too small for his ambition, he purchased the Edwardsville Intelligencer and in 1883 absorbed the Highland Herald in it.

Through the "Highland Herald" the people came to like an English newspaper and after the Herald was discontinued there was a demand for one. To meet this Mr. Hoerner and J. A. Krepps established "The Weekly Telephone" which was printed in the same office with the Highland Union, the building where the City Garage salesroom is now located. Two years later the "Telephone" died a natural death for want of sufficient advertising patronage to support it.

There followed then a period of eight years during which the only local paper was the Highland Union (printed in German) which had taken firm root in the community.

Late in 1892 demand for an English newspaper again became pronounced. A stock company of business men was formed under the direction of Chas. Weiss, and on January 27, 1893, the first issue of the Highland Journal was published. One Thos. Lakin was the first editor, but he made the mistake of trying to work over Highland and make the people here conform to his own ideas. Eighteen months later he was fired and Alb. J. Utiger bought an interest and became editor. The firm name was Weiss and Utiger. In September, 1895, J. N. Stokes bought the Weiss interest and the paper was published by Utiger and Stokes. In 1898 Stokes bought out Utiger and remained editor and sole proprietor until August, 1933, when he sold it to V. W. Ittner.

On October 19, 1895, what was known as The Citizens' Publishing Company started a paper here called "The Highland Citizen" with Rev. W. W. Stubbins as editor. The paper stressed temperance and religious ideas and did not fit very well into the community. It was printed in the Union office for about six months and then suspended.

J. S. Hoerner remained sole proprietor of the Highland Union from 1874 to 1898 when he sold it to C. T. Kurz who had previously been an Evangelical minister at Marine. After two years of publishing experi-
ence, Mr. Kurz realized that the prestige of a German-language newspaper was gradually declining, and he decided to start an English paper in connection therewith. On September 4, 1900, he launched the Highland Leader and for 13 years thereafter successfully conducted from the one office both a German and an English newspaper. In 1913 he became desirous to sell his business but found it difficult to do so on account of the German paper. Consequently he discontinued that in April, 1913, and on July 1, 1913, sold the Leader to A. P. Spencer.

Altogether the people of Highland and vicinity enjoyed the privilege of a German newspaper for a total period of 55 years, 1859-1913. There has been none published here since that time although for many years afterwards a lot of the older people thought there should be.

From 1905 to 1910 C. F. W. Riedel published locally a semi-monthly paper in the German language called "Das Neue Blatt." However, the publication never attained very much prominence.

Early in 1920 S. M. Drum, Frank A. Winter and Edgar Hoffman formed a company and started the publication of the "Highland News," the first copy of which appeared on February 25, 1920. The Highland Leader and Highland Journal were both being published at that time and in consequence the city then could boast of three newspapers. Mr. Winter remained in the company for only a few months, but Messrs. Drum and Hoffman continued to publish the paper until August 1, 1921, when Mr. Hoffman and A. P. Spencer bought out Mr. Drum's interest and the Highland News was absorbed by the Highland Leader, the name changed to "Highland News Leader" and the paper has been published by Messrs. Spencer and Hoffman since that time.

A brief word concerning some of the most outstanding of the editors will not be amiss. The honor of being the first one goes to Stadtman, although his period of service was but brief. In length of service the record of J. N. Stokes surpasses all the others. For 35 years he was at the editorial helm of the Journal and his writings were forceful, entertaining and effective. J. S. Hoerner was a publisher and proprietor for many years but during most of that time he elected to employ an editor to do the actual writing. Mr. Hoerner preferred to give his attention more to the mechanical end of the work. He was of a thoughtful and inventive turn of mind and was ever alert to find ways and means to improve the print shop machinery of his day. He was the inventor of the Hoerner Type High machine, which was for many years very much in use and on the sale of which he received royalties until his patent expired. The machine is still sold under his name. After retiring from the publishing business, he gave much attention to the collection of historical data concerning Highland and writing facts about early conditions here. He died in Chicago a few years ago.

The Highland editor who became most widely known was Chas. Boeschenstein. His newspaper work here was brief, because he sought a larger field. As editor of the Edwardsville Intelligencer he became nationally known, attained highest rank in the council of the Demo-
crit party, and has had an influence in all governmental movements during the past two decades. At present he heads the Edwardsville National Bank and resides in that city.

Perhaps the most colorful of all Highland editors was C. T. Kurz. Born, reared and educated in Germany, he came to this country as a minister. After buying the old Highland Union he applied himself to the study of the English language and of American institutions and made such progress that a few years later he was able to edit the Leader creditably. Not many men, when near 40 years of age as he was at the time, would have had the temerity to have undertaken such a task and the perseverance to have accomplished it. Mr. Kurz died quite a number of years ago in St. Louis.

Most of the other men who have been editors in Highland were only such for a short time, as can be seen from the above record, and made their main mark in life in other vocations.

Highland Men in State Government

During the 100 years of the life of Highland, comparatively few of her citizens have been prominently identified with the Illinois state government. If we look for the cause of that condition, it is not hard to find. Practically all of the first settlers and the prominent men of the town in early days were of foreign birth, had been educated in Switzerland, France and Germany and consequently were not exactly fitted for leadership or to take prominent roles in state government. Neither were any of them ambitious to do so. They had emigrated here for the sake of the added chance it would give them to succeed in agricultural, industrial and mercantile life, and after arriving they were content to apply their main energies to those pursuits. As they became accustomed to the ways of the people in the new country and became able to communicate more and more in the English language, the more intelligent and public spirited individuals among them did take a keen interest in state affairs, cultivated the acquaintance of the legislators from this district and other men prominent in state government at that time.

When Highland was first founded Vandalia was the capital of Illinois (although not for long after that). Edwardsville was a very prominent city of Illinois at that time, and since it was a county seat it had plenty of politicians among its residents who aspired to state office. Since Highland was off in one corner of the county and populated by a foreign people, it was given but very little attention politically.

Among the early legislators from Madison County there was one, however, who took a special interest in the Highland settlement and who was looked upon as its best representative. That was Curtis Blakeman, then of Marine, who served several terms in the legislature shortly after Highland came into existence and had a prominent part in shaping the Constitution of 1848, the second one of the Illinois constitutions.
Mr. Blakeman was an early settler at Marine, and he understood full well the interests of the foreign people who had settled in this part of Madison County. He was a man of wide experience, being a sea captain who it was claimed had been in nearly all parts of the world before he decided to quit the sea and settle at Marine. The story is told that his residence in Marine was a great show place because of the different kind of articles contained therein that he collected from all parts of the world. He served several terms in the legislature between 1840 and 1850.

Of men who lived in Highland and were elected to the state legislature there have been but three, and strange to say each of them was a prominent Highland merchant. The first of these was Garrett Crownover, who was elected in November, 1860. Mr. Crownover had been a merchant in Highland for 20 years before that. He moved here from St. Clair County in 1840 and set up a general store at the corner of Main and Laurel. A few years afterwards he erected the brick building now owned by Bert Hotz and ran a store there for many years. He invested his savings in land which afterwards sold for double and triple what he paid for it and hence became well to do.

Shortly after he became a member of the legislature, the Civil War broke out and Governor Yates called a special session to provide ways and means for Illinois' part in that struggle. That put Mr. Crownover in a difficult position. The residents of Highland were divided into two factions, one in favor of the prosecution of the war, and the other just as strong against it. Crownover's action in the legislature could therefore please only part of them. He did his best, but was so disgusted with the turn events had taken that he was not a candidate for reelection. In fact a few years later, he sold his store and moved to Pocahontas where he died on May 31, 1879. Two of his children are yet living, Mrs. Lillian Hadley of Pocahontas and Mrs. Jacob Leef of Alhambra.

It was 12 years later before another Highland man was chosen for legislative honors. In 1872 Henry Weinheimer was elected. Mr. Weinheimer had also previously been a very prosperous Highland merchant and for many years he and Crownover had been business rivals. He came to Highland in 1853 from St. Louis and bought the Kempf Pharmacy building, which John Boeschenstein had erected about eight years earlier; and therein he conducted a general store for a score of years, expanding his business until at one time he had almost that entire corner lot under roof. As a merchant he made an independence, and during that time built the present Laura Everette home, which was quite a pretentious residence in those days. His service as a legislator was marked by no unusual features. He served only one term. Whether or not he was a candidate for reelection in 1874 we could not learn. He continued to reside here for a number of years after that. He died in St. Louis in 1891, and was buried on the family lot in the Highland cemetery.
After Weinheimer's service a period of 36 years elapsed before another Highland man was privileged to sit in the General Assembly at Springfield. In 1908 J. G. Bardill, who was also at the time a prominent Highland merchant, was elected as a Representative in this 47th District. To him goes the honor of the longest period of service any Highland man has given the state. He was re-elected Representative in 1910, and in 1914 was elected State Senator, a position which he filled for the succeeding eight years. Mr. Bardill rendered good service to the district during the twelve years of his incumbency and took active part in the shaping of important legislation. An outstanding part of his service was in connection with the wild life of the state. He was made chairman of the Fish and Game Committee, for which he was admirably fitted since he was an ardent sportsman. In that capacity he shaped and put through some conservation laws that have been in effect ever since. He also never lost sight of the interests of Highland and southeast Madison County. Things that could be done for the interest of this section were always promptly done. During the dozen years that have elapsed since his retirement our people have frequently felt the effect of having no one in the legislature who took a personal interest in us.

But it is very probable that many years will elapse before Highland has another man in that august body. We are located wrong. The west side of Madison County has the density of population and from the industrial centers located there will likely come the legislators of the future. We will have to get along as best we can.

In this connection we would like to mention a few legislators, who, although not Highland residents, lived near here and took keen interest in our welfare. One of these was Alfred J. Parkinson, a prominent resident of St. Jacob township, who was State Senator from 1878 to 1882, and Jones Tontz, a well remembered resident of Saline, who served in the House from 1880 to 1882 and again from 1884 to 1886.

In addition to legislative work some Highland men rendered the state other signal service. Among these might be mentioned Solomon Koepfli, who was a delegate to the convention that in 1862 shaped a third constitution for the State of Illinois. This constitution was rejected by the people of the state at a special election held on June 17, 1862, but that did not detract from the service that Mr. Koepfli had given in helping to shape it.

The late Jos. C. Ammann served as a member of the State Board of Equalization from 1889 to 1892 during the period that John W. Fifer was governor of Illinois. The State Board of Equalization was created by the Legislature in 1869, and their duty was to equalize the tax assessments in various counties of the state. The Board was discontinued in 1919 and since that time a State Tax Commission has taken over that duty.

Some Highland men have also rendered the State service without emolument therefor. Of these we would particularly mention two: L. E.
Kinne, who was a member of Gov. Richard Yates' staff from 1900 to 1904, and C. J. Hug, who under Gov. Emmerson was a member of the State Park Advisory Board.

Off and on during all the years there have been Highland men who held less important state positions. It is not meet that they be named here, even if we could do so. One and all of them have been conscientious officials, it being no part of the Highland makeup to slight official duties of any magnitude.

**What Became of the Railroad Stock?**

During the summer of 1867, as the railroad was being built from Troy east to Highland, and every dollar possible was being raised to promote the venture, the village of Highland was petitioned to invest $10,000 in the capital stock of the company that was building it. The petitioners argued that it would be a good investment for the infant village, because a dividend would annually be received which could be used to pay village expenses. They also claimed that the stock would rapidly enhance in value and at some later time could be sold so that the village would make a handsome profit.

Before the village board would agree to it they caused to be held at Edelman's saloon a big public meeting of citizens to discuss the matter. At this meeting it was decided to submit the question to a special election to be held on August 12, 1867. The election was held, 243 votes being cast. 167 were in favor of the village buying that amount of stock and 76 were opposed to it. The election settled the matter and the village board then went ahead with the steps necessary to consummate the transaction. But first they adopted a resolution that the whole proposed transaction was to be void unless the railroad came through at the north edge of the city and the depot was built approximately at the most central place thereon.

The only way the money could be raised by the village was through a bond issue, and the matter was rendered more complicated because up to that time there had never been any corporation tax levied in Highland, the expenses of the infant village being met entirely with the money raised through licensing the saloons and groceries where whiskey and beer were sold, of which at that time there were more than twenty.

On August 20, 1867, Gen. Winslow, the promoter of the railroad, met with the village board and a contract was entered into that was satisfactory to both parties, as it provided for the railroad to be finished into Highland by January 1, 1868. But on December 9, he appeared before them again and begged that the time be extended until July 1, 1868. After getting legal advice on the question the board granted his request.

At the next board meeting A. Bruegger and Chas. Kinne were made a committee of the aldermen to prepare a plan for issuing the necessary bonds. This committee decided on the issue of 100 bonds of $100 each,
which would bear interest at the rate of 10 per cent, and be payable at the banking House of R. Ryhiner & Co. The first ten of the bonds were to become due on February 1, 1869, and ten each year thereafter until all were paid.

It then became necessary to make plans to raise the needed money to pay off the bonds when due. On January 14, 1868, the board adopted an ordinance that provided for the appointment each year, by the president of the Board, of an assessor and collector for the village, his appointment to be ratified by a majority of the aldermen. The first tax levy made by the village board was one per cent, which it was thought would raise a sum sufficient to pay the interest and retire the first ten of the bonds. The banking firm of F. Ryhiner & Co. very graciously agreed to take all the bonds at par.

At the April election in 1868 Jos. Harnisch was elected President of the village board. His appointment as the first assessor was B. E. Hoffman, whom he had also made town clerk. Instructions to Mr. Hoffman were to make his assessment of the property of the village correspond as much as possible with that of the county assessor.

On July 7, 1868, the railroad having been built into town by that time F. Ryhiner & Co. were ordered to pay over to Gen. Winslow the $10,000 and take in return therefor 100 shares of stock in the road, the stock to be issued in the name of the Village of Highland.

When Hoffman got through with making the assessment he found that the assessed value of all the taxable property in the village limits was only $151,290, one per cent of which would not be sufficient to pay interest and retire 10 of the bonds. The board at first thought they could tax some people outside the village limits, or raise the assessment to a figure that would provide enough money. They got a legal opinion from Judge David Gillespie that they could do neither one, and he advised that they make a higher rate the second year and thus meet the deficit.

The board, though, did not follow the lawyer's advice. Instead they made up their minds to have another assessment made. They offered the job of assessor to Chas. Boeschenstein, but he declined. They then gave it to Alexander Beck, who accepted and his assessment showed property to the value of $222,485. He charged $18 for making it.

Moritz Huey had been made collector, and out of a total tax roll of $2224.85 he collected $1857.46 and turned the rest over to the sheriff as delinquent. Enough of the delinquent was collected that the first payment of $2000 was met, and as each year thereafter the amount grew less, and the value of taxable property increased, it was not troublesome to pay off the bonds as they came due. Altogether the taxpayers of Highland, in principal and interest, eventually paid $15,500 before this first bonded indebtedness was wiped out. But each payment was met promptly as all bond issues have been since that time.

Then, what? For several years after the last bond was paid off in February, 1878, the village board or city council took no action what-
ever relative to this railroad stock. We are told that it declined in value rapidly. There is a record that in 1883 Tim. Gruaz wanted the proxy to vote at the annual meeting of the stockholders. His request was denied.

Not another mention is made of the stock until the meeting of February 13, 1888, when Fred Siegrist, then an alderman, made a motion that the Finance Committee be instructed to find out what the 100 shares were worth and report at the next meeting. At a meeting on March 12, 1888, the Finance Committee reported that St. Louis brokers would pay $8 a share for them less 20% brokerage, net $6.40. Some of the council wanted to sell them at that figure but John Wildi made a motion that no immediate action be taken, and it carried.

The next mention of the matter in city records is in the Council proceedings of April 9, 1888, and is couched in the following language: "Resolved that the offer made by Adolph Ruegger for our shares of the St. Louis, Vandalia & Terre Haute Railroad Co., at the rate of eight dollars per share be accepted. Highland, April 9, 1888.—John Wildi."

However, we have carefully examined the accounts of the City Treasurer for the fiscal year of 1888-89 and can find no statement therein to indicate that Mr. Ruegger exercised this right to purchase the stock at $8 per share.

We have the word of some of our old citizens that the city continued to own the stock for several years after that. Early in the decade between 1890 and 1900 it began to pay dividends, and paid in years following at a rate that caused the stock to become worth as much as $225 per share on the market. Highland could have taken profit as well as other stock holders and could have drawn dividends as well, but the stock disappeared. When, where and to whom is not known by anyone who will tell it. The city was defrauded to the extent of about $20,000 through the transaction, and there is no way to tell how it was accomplished. The minute book that contained the record of Council proceedings from 1888 to 1898 is missing from the vault at the City Hall. The writer tried to locate it until he was told by one old citizen to make no further effort as the book had been burned. Whether or not it was destroyed so as to leave no record of some crooked Council work, we do not know. The City Treasurer's book covering that decade is in the vault and after examining it carefully we find that there is no record of Highland ever receiving one penny in return for its outlay of $15,500. Draw your own conclusions.
Lodges and Societies

Perhaps the first lodge or order of any kind to be formed in Highland was the one known as "The Good Fellows." Whether or not that order was national in its scope we have been unable to learn, but at any rate such an order was formed in Highland along about 1850, between the first and second outbreaks of the cholera here.

The object of the order was twofold, both objects being expressed in the name. The members were Good Fellows to everybody who was in trouble or distress and they also were Good Fellows when they held their stated meetings and mingled socially.

During the second outbreak of Asiatic cholera in 1851 they had ample opportunity to exercise the basic principle of their order to the utmost. They cared for the sick, they assisted in giving a decent burial to the dead, and they looked after the welfare of the widows and children and those rendered homeless and defenseless through the ravages of that dread disease. Through their efforts the plight of those afflicted was rendered less horrible and sanitary conditions were looked after so that the disease did not take as great a toll of death as it had during the first epidemic in 1849.

Following recovery from the ravages of that plague the Good Fellows were not called upon to do a great deal for others for several years. Occasionally some immigrants would come whom they would have to help until the man could get a steady job; but their services were not needed much, and they continued to exist just as a social order until the Civil War got under way. After that all was changed. The first soldiers to go from Highland were mostly married men, and it was not long until a number of them were killed in battle and their wives and children were left with nothing. As the war proceeded such conditions became worse and the services of the Good Fellows were more and more in demand. They appealed for new members so that their work could be better cared for. The appeal met with prompt response so that by the close of the Civil War the Good Fellows were the largest organization in town, having more members than the Sharpshooters. In every parade during that martial period of the town's history both of these organizations invariably appeared in the line of march.

After the war was over and there was no more active work to be done, the membership gradually fell off and in the end the order was discontinued and, is now but a vague memory, even with our oldest residents.

In the decade that followed the Civil War the lodge and society spirit was very active here.

On the eleventh of September, 1867, Jerome Gorin, then Grand Master of Masons in the State of Illinois granted a dispensation to Curtis Blakeman, Robert Halter, John B. Knoebel, Gallus Rutz, H. E. Todd, Robt. Suppiger, H. M. Thorp and Henry Laengle to meet and work with John Bevens of Marine Lodge 355 as Worshipful Master. On the sixth
of October, 1868, a charter was granted to Highland Lodge 583, with the
above and Otto Brodtbeck, Louis Kinne and Louis Appel as charter
members. The first Worshipful Master was Robt. Suppiger and the
lodge was formally constituted on November 19, 1868.

During the 65 years of its existence the lodge has had a steady
growth and now numbers more than a hundred members. The meetings
have been held in only four places: first in the Blattner residence at
the corner of Broadway and Zschokke, second on the second floor of
the Fred Neumann building on Broadway, then on the third floor of
the C. Kinne building until 1920, when the present John Wildi Masonic
Temple was erected.

Another lodge organized during that period which has long been
defunct was the "Druids." Highland Lodge 44 V. A. O. D. was organi-
ized September 19, 1874. The charter members were Martin Hahn,
Frank Lorenz, Arthur Oehler, Charles Boeschenstein, Frank Weiss and
Fritz Kuhn. Eight years later the lodge had only 18 members and
never did become very strong from that standpoint. However it was
a nation-wide organization, had a protective insurance feature, and
after it was discontinued here such members as wanted to transferred
their memberships to other places.

Another lodge that flourished here for a score of years and then
was discontinued was the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. High-
land Lodge 651 I. O. O. F. was instituted February 1, 1878. The charter
members were James N. Jarvis, J. B. Purviance, Charles Boeschenstein,
Arnold Stoecklin and Jacob Buehlman. Four years later the lodge had
grown to 24 members. Right from the start this lodge had a number
of members from Troy and St. Jacob; and eventually, when that mem-
bership became more numerous than those from here, memberships
were transferred to St. Jacob and the lodge here surrendered its charter.

Another lodge that once had an enthusiastic membership here, but
is no more, was the Knights of Honor. Highland Lodge 1605 K. of H.
was instituted May 15, 1879, with 29 charter members as follows:
Arnold Stoecklin, Charles Boeschenstein, H. E. Todd, James H. Miller,
Robt. Hagnauer, Charles Bossard, Fritz Kunz, Frank Weiss, Jacob
Maechtlen, Jas. A. Kieth, Jacob Zimmermann, Dr. J. Wirth, L. L.
Maechtlin, E. J. Raith, W. J. Collins, T. J. Richardson, Louis Grantzow,
Emil Chipron, Adoph Mueller, J. V. Roseberry, Fred Harnist, J. C.
Ammann, S. Pabst, Jacob Menz, Henry Riniker, E. B. Huey, F. B. Sup-
piger, H. Meyer and P. C. Chipron. It will be noted that some of the
charter members of this lodge are yet living. The lodge doubled its
membership in a few years and was for a time very active, its prin-
ciples being based on a spirit of helpfulness.

The Highland Agricultural Society was founded here in January,
1869, by A. E. Bandelier, Jacob Eggen, John Balsiger and others. It
soon developed great activity and was the first organization that made
a study of all branches of agriculture. This organization was also the
The John W. Wild Masonic Temple, built in 1920. Property donated and endowed by Mrs. Louisa Wild as a memorial to her deceased husband.
first to put on agricultural and industrial expositions which were later called "Fairs."

In 1871 under the leadership of Charles Boeschenstein, F. Kunz and Jacob Weber a society was organized called the "Gruetli Verein" which had for its object mutual assistance in cases of need and distress and also the purpose of mental culture. The society was patterned after, those of the same name in Switzerland which had for a historical background the original agreement entered into by the different cantons at the time of the organization of the Swiss Republic.

Another lodge that was active here for many years and had a large membership was known as the "Treubund". After the M. W. A. began to get strong it was more popular with the young men and this lodge was dissolved.

In his historical writings, J. S. Hoerner also speaks of a lodge of Red Men as having once existed here, but the writer has been unable to find out anything about it of an authentic nature.

A perusal of the names of the members of the various lodges that existed in Highland 50 years ago shows that a number of men here belonged to five or six of these secret societies. The reader must remember that that was a lodge-joining era, and it was no uncommon thing in any little town for a man to belong to so many lodges that he had to be away from home every night of the week. Highland women of today, accustomed as they are to having their husbands remain at home night after night, will envy those housewives of two generations back who immediately after supper could get rid of friend husband and not be bothered with him again until a late bedtime.

The present most active lodges of Highland are the A. F. & A. M., the Royal Arch Masons, the Eastern Star, the Knights of Pythias and the Knights of Columbus. To these must be added those which carry an insurance feature such as the M. W. A., the Royal Neighbors, the Woodmen of the World, the Mutual Protective League, etc.

Highland Postmasters

When the first Swiss Settlers came to the vicinity in Highland in 1831, they had to go to over into Clinton County near where Sugar Creek church now is to get their mail, and this condition continued for several years. At that time there was a stage coach line between St. Louis and Vincennes, Indiana, passing through where Trenton now is, and the mail was left at one of the towns along that line and then transported to a post office at Sugar Creek which then was the most thickly populated of any community near here.

After the town of Highland was platted in 1837 and the erection of buildings began, the people here changed their post office address to Troy, where seemingly mail was delivered pretty regularly from St. Louis. Anton Suppiger, the grandfather of Leo Ammann, was then a young man, and he was hired by people here to make regular trips to Troy after this mail, since it was cheaper for them to hire one person
to go after it and get it for all of them than for each one to make the long trip by himself.

Finally by 1839 when the population of the town numbered about 100 people and before a stage coach line was established through here, David Thorp, one of the early merchants here, sought and secured for himself the appointment of postmaster. His second commission was dated December 16, 1843, and signed by John Tyler, then President of the U. S., having succeeded Wm. Henry Harrison, who died a month after his inaugural. Thorp had the postoffice in his store which was located near the corner of Main and Walnut about where the Martin Dresch building now stands. The post office remained there for six and a half years under Thorpe, the mail being carried to and from Troy to the post office here.

In 1845 James H. Polk, a democrat, became president, and on July 3 of that year he relieved Thorpe of the job and appointed Jacob Durrer, an early hotel man as postmaster. Mr. Durrer established the post office in his hotel, located where the Columbia Hotel now is, and continued to hand out the mail for four years.

Meantime John R. Blattner, who had built and started the New Switzerland house a block farther north where the Masonic Temple now is, had his eye on the postmastership. He was a business opponent of Durrer. He got his chance after Zachary Taylor was inaugurated president and received his appointment on August 16, 1849, Durrer having served a little more than four years.

Blattner held the office and maintained it at the Switzerland House for seven years. He might have kept it longer, but he sold his hotel business to George Ruegger in 1856, and on November 24th of that year President Franklin Pearce appointed Ruegger as Postmaster He continued to conduct it in the Switzerland House for four and a half years longer.

After a long line of Democratic Presidents, Abraham Lincoln, a Republican, was elected in 1860, and a month after his inaugural, on April 8, 1861, he commissioned Chas. Kinne as Postmaster.

The mail was brought by stage coach to all of the above named postoffices until 1855, when a railroad was built through Trenton. After that date it was brought by a government hired carrier from Trenton here.

Chas. Kinne established the Postoffice in his store near the corner of Main and Laurel and continued it there until October 2, 1866, when he was succeeded by B. F. Hoffmann, who received his appointment from President Andrew Johnson. What chain of circumstances led up to this change we do not know and have been unable to find out.

Mr. Hoffmann established the post office on Main St. near where the Opera House is now located, but his tenure of the office, was very brief. U. S. Grant was inaugurated President on March 4, 1869. He had been the great military genius of the Civil War, and got busy at once bestowing Postoffice appointments on ex-soldiers of the Civil
The Highland Post Office building erected a few years ago by the Federal Government
War, the most prominent one of whom in all Highland was Dr. Gallus Rutz. Dr. Rutz was also the editor of the only paper then in town (Republican), and that did not hurt him any in President Grant’s estimation nor that of the party leaders then in power.

Dr. Rutz held the office for the longest period of time that any one ever did, more than thirteen and a half years. For the greater part of this time he had the office in his business building at the corner of Broadway and Pine where the Ida Freulor residence now stands. He received two commissions from Grant and one from President Hayes. During this time Dr. Rutz was a very busy man; he practiced medicine, conducted the post office, and until 1874 was the editor of the Highland Union, a trinity of jobs that should have kept him going all the time.

On November 4, 1882, Louis E. Kinne was appointed postmaster. He was a son of Chas. Kinne, the war time postmaster, and they are the only father and son to serve in that capacity. Mr. Kinne had the post office in his store and served for three years.

After Grover Cleveland, a Democrat, was made President, he appointed Chas. Hagnauer postmaster on October 5, 1885. Less than four years later on April 12, 1890, Benjamin Harrison, a Republican president appointed Jacob Maechtlin. Cleveland then got a second term, and on June 23, 1894, named Robt. Kamm for the office. Four years later on May 24, 1898, President McKinley commissioned L. J. Appel, who served eight years and was succeeded on May 4, 1906, by John A. Leu.

C. G. Hagnauer, Jacob Maechtlin, Robt. Kamm, L. J. Appel and John A. Leu for a part of his term all conducted the post office in the building on the west side of the square now occupied by the Lanore Beauty Shoppe. About 1910 it was moved to the site of the present Shoe Factory office and a few years ago to the new Federal Building.

Mr. Leu served as postmaster for nearly eight years, being succeeded by Frank A. Winter in 1914. Five years later he was succeeded by Ed. Suppiger who served until October 1, 1923, when L. M. Stoecklin was appointed.

Mr. Stoecklin served for twelve years and nine months making his tenure of the office second to only that of Dr. Gallus Rutz. On July 1, 1936, he was succeeded by A. H. Winter who has now been in office for more than a year.

The business of the post office has grown through the years and is now as great as in any city of this size. It is conducted in a big Federal building erected at a cost of many thousand dollars and which is ample to serve the needs of the city for years to come.
Highland Municipal Electric Plant

A little less than 100 years ago when the first homes were built on the platted town site of Highland, no form of home lighting was known except by the use of tallow candles. A brand of coal-oil (oil made from coal) could be obtained then and used for illumination, but it was so expensive that few pioneer families cared to indulge in the luxury. The people used tallow candles and burned them only when it was absolutely necessary. These candles, already manufactured, were a staple commodity in the country stores of that early day. They could also be home-made, although that brand was not so satisfactory unless made by an expert. All the more well to do country families had a brass mold to use in making them and some made them so well that they could find a market for them at the stores, much the same as a good butter maker finds a market for her product there today.

But many of the pioneer families were very poor and could not afford the luxury of candles. In fact there were a number of families in Highland during its first years that went months at a time without ever having a light of any kind in their home. Especially would this be true of the poorer families during the long summer days. It is a matter of record that the first dance ever held in Highland on Jan. 1, 1838, was held in the daytime and closed at dark because there was no way to light the log building in which it was held.

In the average home of that period light from a burning fireplace helped to some extent at night and the candles were brought into use when necessary, but always used economically. For outside use when it was necessary they had a lantern so constructed as to hold a candle. If a family was in affluent circumstances they could of course use a lot of candles and illuminate their homes as much as they pleased.

Prior to the Civil War no attempt of any kind was ever made to light the streets of Highland or any portion of them. Some of the early merchants had small lights put out in front of their places of business. These were coal oil lights, very dim, and it cost 5c or 10c a night to keep one of them going which was thought to be quite an extravagance then. One writer in describing the town as it was in 1845 said that at night one little light could be seen on the Columbia Hotel corner, two lights, one on each side of the street at the Kempff Pharmacy corner and one light in front of a store at what is now the corner of Broadway and Pestalozzi. Of course in the few years that followed that date, while the population was increasing very fast, many other lights were placed in front of hotels, saloons and stores.

About 1850 the first kerosene, made from petroleum, was introduced into Highland and sold at a much less price than coal-oil had commanded, consequently it could be purchased by all classes of people and it was then that lamps came into general use, both in residences and in front of business places along the street. The invention of the globular lamp chimney was not long in following the discovery of petro-
leum and the tallow candles were quickly succeeded by lamps that illuminated the interior of homes and stores much better. Ceiling lamps, wall lamps, etc., quickly came into use and places for public gatherings could be lighted so as to be used at night as well as in the day time. Business places then began to put bigger lights, and more of them outside and thus helped to light up small portions of the streets.

Such was the lighting situation in Highland during the Civil War and for about 20 years thereafter with but little change. It was during the Civil War that kerosene-burning torches were first introduced. Their introduction caused more outside meetings to be held at night than had been before because the illumination could be easily furnished with a sufficient number of torches. During the years that followed the Civil War nearly every family had one of these long handled torches and some had several. They were used at political rallies and on all other occasions when outside illumination was desired.

In respect to lighting of the streets Highland continued to get along with just such lights as were privately furnished in front of stores, saloons, hotel, livery stables and a few private residences until some time after April, 1888, when after lengthy discussion and investigation the City Council entered into a contract with the Globe Light & Heat Co. of Chicago for the installation and use of a system of street lights.

We can not tell the exact time when this contract was made nor the exact terms of it for the reason that the City Council records of that period can not be found and the proceedings of that body were not then regularly published in the newspapers.

The information we glean from such records of that period as are available is that the City Council contracted to pay the Globe Light and Heat Co. $1,000.00 a year to properly illuminate the city with gasoline light. The company erected poles and installed thereon 65 lights in all, and employed a local man to attend to the lighting of them each evening and to put them out each morning.

The service such a system afforded was not satisfactory right from the start, but was severely criticized by two classes, those who wanted no street lights at all and those who favored electric lights which were then coming into vogue.

In less than a year after the installation everybody was dissatisfied with the system and in Dec. 1890 the City Council notified the Globe Light & Heat Co. that the service would have to be improved or the contract would be called off. From that time on the council continued to express their dissatisfaction at every meeting.

We rather think that the first contract with this Globe Light & Heat Co. was for three years, because it expired in Sept., 1891, and thereafter the City Council refused to renew it except for just a few months at a time. They also kept count of the lights that were out of commission part of the time and allowed pay to the Chicago Company proportionately.

Meantime a constant agitation was going on for electric lights.
Vandalia, Collinsville and Effingham were enjoying electric service and Highland men who had visited those cities at night were loud in praise of it. Editor Hoerner of the Union became all worked up and on June 12, 1891, editorially expressed himself—"The present system of street lights is unbearable, also dangerous, and we should be ashamed of it. So many strangers come to our beautiful little city, and what do they say when they learn that we pay $1,000 a year for such a system of disgraceful street lights as we have. It's time definite steps were taken."

So keen was the interest in electric lights that a local company known as the "Highland Lighting Machinery Co." was formed, (we presume only tentatively) and appeared before the City Council offering to build an electric plant here and furnish the city with 90 32-candle-power Glow Lamps for $1800 a year or with 20 Quadrant Lamps for $2000 a year, conditional that the contract be for ten years. We do not know the personnel of the local company that contemplated going into the electrical business, but apparently their offer did not strike a responsive cord with the councilmen.

However a committee was appointed to visit other towns where electricity was being used and to make a report of what they learned.

Meantime the quarrel between the Council and the Globe Light & Heat Co. kept up and finally got so bitter that all relations ceased in October, 1892, and the Council ordered the company to come here and take their posts and equipment out of the way, which they did.

The City Council committee recommended the installation of Quadrant Lamps for electric lighting and during the summer of 1892 the Council was busy trying to get the thing arranged. The idea at first was for the City, itself, to buy the Quadrant Lamps, wires, etc., and then take bids for furnishing the service.

The City Council Committee that handled the matter was composed of Louis Knoebel, J. G. Bardill and Jacob Hediger. Their final decision was that the General Electric Light Co. of Chicago had made the city the most favorable proposition for furnishing electrical service. The Chicago people at first wanted a 10 year contract, but finally were prevailed upon to accept a contract for seven years. The ordinance relative to the contract was passed on August 23, 1892, signed by Louis Appel, Mayor and Fred Wildi, Clerk, and provided that the plant was to be installed within four months, and that the City was to rent 20 or more arc lights and pay a yearly rental of $90 for each of them. Also that the lights were to burn from dusk to daylight each night except those that were so moonlit that the service was not needed.

The Chicago company built a little plant at the west end of Eighth Street, installed an engine and dynamo, erected poles and strung wires along the streets and into the stores and residences where lights were desired. They had the work done in the prescribed four months and announced themselves as ready to fulfill their contract. From the start the service that they rendered was never satisfactory. They figured about half of the nights to be moonlight ones and as a result were in
Highland Municipal Electric Plant in its present highly efficient condition
constant disagreement with the City Council, the members of which thought that a street lighting service which cost them $1,800 a year should be better than what they were getting. The service in the homes and stores was also poor, the lights failing at inopportune times and sometimes being off as much as a half hour at a time. There was never any service early in the morning when it was needed as much as at night.

The quarrel and discontent kept up during the whole seven years that the contract was in effect. During the seven years the Chicago company disposed of the little plant here to a few outside men who called themselves the Highland Electric Company, the latter taking over the remaining part of the seven-year contract. As far as service was concerned the change accomplished nothing. The work of the second set of owners was no more satisfactory to Council or people than had been the work of the first ones. The dissatisfaction continued during the whole of the seven years, and culminated when public opinion became strong that the city itself should own and operate the plant. Finally a deal was made and late in 1899 an ordinance was passed which provided that the city should take over the plant at a price of $8500. Another ordinance passed later authorized the issuance of bonds to raise the money, and a third one fixed the salary of a city electrician at $70 per month.

Under city management the plant was made more efficient, but its growth and development was not rapid. The number of home users of current gradually increased as was the case with business users. All users had to pay good rates in order to keep it going and from time to time considerable public money had to be diverted to the purpose of maintaining and improving it. About ten years after the city took it over a few industrial users of current were first obtained. About 1915 the first electric stoves were connected up. To take care of the increased load the plant had to be constantly enlarged and improved. In 1915 the shoe factory load came on and other Highland industries began to use it altogether. To take care of such increased volume meant expense. By 1922 the City of Highland found itself $60,000 in debt, and most of that debt had been incurred through the attempt to keep up the electric plant. Funding bonds were voted to take care of the debt and the plant put on a business basis so as to care for itself after that. It would have done so, without doubt, so that another bond issue in its favor would have never been necessary, had it not been that much of the earnings of the plant were diverted to pay for other public improvements such as paving and sewage disposal.

In 1935 extensive improvements were made to the plant, the work being done on the PWA plan, and bonds issued to the extent of $30,000. The plant now is in a high state of efficiency, the rate to consumers of all kinds is somewhat lower than the average in the state, and the profits it has accumulated are sufficient to pay off all outstanding in-
debtedness and have a sizable sum left. The people of Highland are proud of the plant and the class of service it renders, and thankful that civic leaders of 40 years ago had the foresight to obtain ownership of it.

**Wicks Pipe Organ Factory**

The Wicks Pipe Organ Company came into being in 1906 when Mr. John F. Wick, who was at that time studying the organ, became intensely interested in constructing one. He had been reading many text books on the subject. When his brother, Adolph was injured and unable to perform his regular duties as a cabinet maker and carpenter, he asked him and his brother Louis J. Wick, to start working on a small instrument. As a result the first organ was constructed about 1906, on the second floor of the present Seitz Jewelry Store. The instrument is still in use in the Catholic church, Lively Grove, Illinois.

Their achievement prompted them to investigate the possibilities in this field, with the result that a corporation was formed in 1908. Operations began in the old Helvetia Milk Condensing plant, now enlarged and occupied by the Moulton Bartley, Incorporated. Noted organ builders from various factories throughout the United States joined the organization. During the first few years a limited number of instruments were built, as might well be expected from a new firm competing with builders who had been in the business for a century or more. Approximately 140 instruments were constructed up to the end of 1914. From the year 1915 to date over 1500 have been built and installed throughout the United States and Foreign Countries, which is indicative of the progress made after the firm became well established as recognized organ builders. The peak was reached in 1928, when a total of 120 complete organs left the factory.

It must be remembered that the floor area of the plant is 40,000 square feet, thus placing it on a par with some of the largest organ factories in this country. In this factory practically every component part of the organ is manufactured, which is not the case with most firms in the field. There is a foundry in which raw metal is converted into an alloy of a certain percentage of tin and lead. This metal, in molten form, is poured to a thickness gauged to the thousandth of an inch. A machine shop containing all of the very latest machines, a battery of punch presses, lathes, shapers, grinders, etc., makes possible the production of the special parts so characteristic of the Wicks product. There is a special division of the factory devoted to the making of the blowing plants. These units vary in size from one-quarter horse power to 10 horse power or more, depending upon the size of the organ.

A corps of expert pipe makers are busily engaged in the construction of pipes of all types, some of them reaching 16 feet in length, each one weighing several hundred pounds. Pipes 32 feet in length are also made, in fact the largest organ in the world has pipes of 64 foot pitch. At the opposite end of 16 foot pipes we find some which are as thin as
a slate pencil (about three-sixteenths of an inch diameter) and seven inches long.

The department where magnets are wound, switches, relays and a host of other electric parts are made, is very interesting. Two winding machines, built in the Wicks factory, indicate the exact number of turns of wire on each magnetic coil, which is imperative in the development of the correct amount of power.

There is a large mill room in which every type of woodworking machinery is to be found. Thousands of feet of lumber are cut each week. The men employed in this department are experts in selecting lumber and matching it. All lumber is kiln dried to avoid warping or twisting. A great selection of wood is available. We find walnut, red oak, white oak, quartered red oak, quartered white oak, gum, birch, maple, poplar, spruce, pine, fir, cherry. These woods are used in different thicknesses ranging from one inch to two inches. There likewise are various textures of oak and gum. Thousands of feet of lumber are in storage at all times. This is important because organ consoles and cases must match the other furnishings of churches, homes, etc.

In the cabinet shop there are men who have been in the employ of the Wicks Company since its infancy. Many of our readers would gasp with amazement if they could see the works of art produced by these craftsmen, many of which we find in glorious cathedrals and other magnificent edifices.

At the extreme end of the factory, in rooms apart from the noises of machines, etc., there is located the voicing department, which might well be considered of paramount importance. A pipe organ is a musical instrument and for this reason the quality of tone is receiving, and always has received, major consideration. At the head of this division is one of America's outstanding voicers, who, together with his able associates is placing the Wicks Company in an enviable position. The masterly hands of these men produce the sweetest, softest and most mellow tones; but they likewise can develop a powerful, thundering tone, brilliant reeds, singing strings, sonorous diapasons, which when combined will produce a glorious satisfying ensemble.

Another very important section of the plant is devoted to the finishing. Only the very finest lacquers, varnishes and shellacs are used. This division is in charge of the outstanding artist of this city, who is an expert in this line. He is able to match any finish—gloss, dull, velvet or whatever is desired. Every part is finished with the greatest care. Even interior parts, which are very rarely seen, receive one coat of each shellac and varnish.

In the center plant is the division where consoles are made, wired and tested. Other parts such as rack boards, relay boxes, chests, reservoirs, combination actions, tremoles, chime and harp actions and other similar items are also constructed there. The making of organ cables calls for the services of an expert. To fully appreciate this one must see a formed cable. Some of them contain thousands of feet of wire.
All cables are made in the Wicks factory. For ease in tracing troubles, six various colors of double cotton covered number twenty-four and twenty-six gauge wires are used.

Extreme care is taken in testing every section of the organ. Even the smallest parts such as switches, relays and magnets are subjected to thorough tests before assembling, and finally the entire instrument is installed and tested on the factory floor. This final test is given by the factory superintendent to forestall the possibility of difficulties at the time of installation, when the facilities for adjustments are not as ideal as in the factory.

After every conceivable test has been made the organ is taken apart again and packed in sections. If the distance between Highland and the point of installation is not too great the shipment moves via Wicks trucks, otherwise by rail. In recent years factory trucks have made repeated trips as far as New York, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, Minnesota and, of course the states near by. Some of the largest instruments shipped weigh approximately 30,000 pounds when ready for shipment.

While the tone producing units necessarily must receive most careful attention, the mechanical side is none the less important, for no matter how exquisitely a pipe organ is voiced it has little value if the mechanical portion thereof does not function properly. It may safely be said that in this respect the Wicks Company with its direct electric action has no equal. This is an exclusive patent which guarantees protection until 1946. The first patent was granted on January 17, 1922. By the year 1929 such a great improvement had been made that a new patent was granted. It may safely be said that the direct electric action is largely responsible for the success of the Wicks Company. A brief history of the mechanical side of the Wicks organ might prove of interest.

The first instruments were of the tracker type; all movements being mechanically controlled. This was objectionable because of the pressure required to depress the keys especially when an organ assumed any proportion. Next followed what was called a tubular-pneumatic action—tubed air, operating pneumatics. It overcame the heavy touch objection but many other difficulties developed. There were so many parts that the system was exceedingly complicated, hard to repair and many of the important parts were built of perishable material. Quite a number of these were built between the years 1907 and 1913. About this time the electro-pneumatic organ, which is partly electric and partly pneumatic, was finding favor. At this point the Wicks Company strayed from the paths of tradition by venturing into an entirely new action field.

Mr. A. J. Katt, a graduate engineer of the Illinois University, together with one of his associates, came to Highland late in the year 1913 with a working model of the direct electric action. It was presented to the Wick brothers who had by that time built a few of the electric-pneumatic organs. These men immediately recognized that tre-
Airplane view of the Wicks Pipe Organ Factory
mendous possibilities were lying dormant in a direct electric action, for
the indefinable dynamic force of electricity was each day proving more
and more practical. They felt that if it was possible to make an organ
action partly electric it could just as well be electric throughout. With
this thought in view they started preliminary work early in 1914.
Approximately one year later the first Wicks Direct Electric Pipe Organ
was completed. It was indeed very crude, and had it not been for the
tenacity of purpose, the firm determination to win, as well as the
utmost confidence in their product, the interested individuals would
surely have been discouraged and failed as did their contemporaries.
Nevertheless, despite the very discouraging results of this new creation,
and disregarding the very uncharitable and disheartening remarks of
the “it-can’t-be-done” class of human beings with whom every inventor
has to contend, further experiments were made.

They were firmly convinced that electricity could be brought under
control so that it would operate the mechanism without the use of a
host of intricate and perishable parts. With this thought in mind they
spent every ounce of their energy, exerting every force within them,
in the face of financial ruin, to reach their goal and to prove to the
world that it could be done. Only the inventors of this system, and
their associates will ever know what hardships were endured between
the years of 1915 and 1919, which constituted the experimental period.

Every Wicks organ built from that time to date speaks for itself.
The year of 1919 was the turning point, which is evidenced by the fact
that up to that time only 275 organs had been built. Within the next
fifteen years almost 1000 followed, many of them being large three- and
four-manual organs. Recently a very compreensive installation with
two consoles (one is located near the altar and the other in a tran-
sept) was made in one of the finest cathedrals in this country—St.
Mary’s in Covington, Kentucky. Practically a duplicate was made for
a million dollar structure in Cleveland, Ohio. Then followed an instru-
ment containing almost 3000 pipes. It is playing in the Church of
Our Savior, Jacksonville, Illinois.

To substantiate some of the claims that the Wicks action is far in
advance of any other type available and that eventually all progressive
builders will be forced to resort to a direct-electric action, it might be
well to quote from a leading trade journal the prophecy of an authority
on the subject: “By 1940 all progressive builders will be using a direct-
electric action.”

One of the most recent developments in the Wicks factory is a
small two-manual and pedal organ for residences, funeral homes,
churches, lodges and such places where pipe organ tones are desired
at little expense. Even though the proper amount of publicity has not
yet been given it, a goodly number of sales have been made. Nothing
like it has ever been produced.

In conclusion it might be appropriate to quote the words of Dr. Wm.
H. Barnes, an author and a leading authority on the organ: “We recall
the Biblical question, 'Can any good come out of Nazareth?' We can say that some good has come out of the little town of Highland where the Wicks brothers have been quietly plugging away with an idea that they could some day build a successful direct-electric organ and what is more, they have done it."

The Highland Home

One of the most useful institutions that the City of Highland affords at the present time is the Highland Home, which was erected in 1912 and since that time has been instrumental in making pleasant the declining years of many an aged person. The idea of building such a home here had its origin early in the present century with the members of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Evangelical Church. As far back as 1902 that society began planning toward the building. Through the medium of suppers and bazaars money was collected and a building-fund started. It was constantly added to each year. Some charitably inclined people also swelled the fund by liberal cash donations, with the result that by 1910 enough had been raised that a site could be secured and the building definitely planned. It was completed and appropriately dedicated in 1912 and has now been in use for twenty-five years.

The aged people who reside there are in nearly all cases men and women who have been left alone in life and have no near relatives with whom they want to live. The Home has twenty-seven rooms available and at present all of them are in use. The practice followed is to charge each aged person a stipulated sum, the amount depending, as in insurance, on expectancy of life. For that original payment they are given good care for the rest of their lives. Since only so many can be accommodated at any one time, there is always a waiting list. When one dies, or for any other reason leaves the Home, the first one on the waiting list is given a chance. They are first taken in on a three-month trial; then if both parties to the contract are satisfied, the arrangement becomes permanent. We do not know just how many old people have spent their last years there since the Home has been established, but think the total number would be much in excess of a hundred.

The organization is incorporated and any person, young or old, is eligible to become a member of the corporation. The business affairs of the institution are managed by a Board of Directors. A matron is constantly employed and also an excellent cook so that meals and room service may be everything that is desired. Regular physicians are also employed.

Although first planned by ladies of the Evangelical Church, members of every creed are admitted to the Home, neither are there any restriction as to the locality from which the aged people come, other than that if Highland people are on the waiting list, they are given preference. Many of the old people, who have spent their last years there, have very graciously left small legacies to the Home which has aided in its support. It is now highly efficient, well managed and one of our much prized institutions.
The Highland Home, erected in 1912 and now furnishing a modern home for twenty-seven aged people.
Highland in the World War

When the World War broke out in Europe in the late summer of 1914 Highland people took keen interest in the progress of the struggle. Most of our population was of either German or Swiss descent and hundreds of people lived here then who had been born in either one or the other of those countries. Those who were not born there had numerous relatives in those countries.

At that time at least half of the conversation heard on the streets and in the stores was in the German tongue, sermons in the German language were delivered regularly at the Evangelical Church and German hymnals were also in use for church song. The study of German was emphasized in the public school curriculum and the school children taught from the first grade on upwards to make use of that language whenever they could. The schoolhouse at that time was located on the Public Square and many people yet living can well remember with what pleasure they would listen to the liquid melody of "Deutschland ueber alles" as it came in volume from the throats of the entire high school assembly at their morning programs.

Very naturally, when the war broke out in Europe, the sympathy of many Highland people was with the Entente Powers. Especially was this the case with the older residents, and it continued that way all during the late months of 1914 and through the years of 1915 and 1916.

During those years business was good in Highland. There was an ever-increasing demand for condensed milk to supply the European armies, and that meant increased prices for the raw product to our dairymen. In addition the prices of grains and live stock continually advanced which added to their prosperity. Highland merchants also enjoyed the most profitable era of their lives. The cost of merchandise was constantly on the advance. During the interim between wholesale buying and retail distribution prices would advance to such an extent as to make very large profits possible. The big flour mill of the Highland Milling Company was kept going day and night. All other local plants were very busy and the only idle workmen in our city were those who did not want to work.

When the presidential election of 1916 came on President Wilson was reelected largely due to the campaign slogan "He kept us out of war." Quite a number of Highland people, who had formerly been allied with the Republican party, crossed over and voted for Wilson in the hope that he would continue to keep this country out of the turmoil and thus permit Germany and her allies to win the struggle.

Then following on the heels of Wilson's second inauguration the United States was precipitated into the conflict. It then became the bounden duty of a large part of our people to prepare for Highland's part in the great conflict. Some unpleasantness was the first result, but as time went on and more and more of our local boys crossed the sea to do their bit, our people became more united again and all
worked together in movements that tended to make more pleasant the life of the soldiers and to finance the cost of the gigantic struggle.

When November 11, 1918, arrived and the Armistice was declared there was heartfelt rejoicing in every home in Highland. The demonstration of that day is well remembered by all who witnessed it.

Altogether 283 young men from Highland and vicinity were identified with some branch of the military service during the big conflict. A few were in the Army and Navy prior to the time war was declared. Approximately a third of the others enlisted voluntarily while the opportunity afforded or for purposes of getting in some branch of the service that suited them. By far the larger number awaited the orderly process of the call.

Many of them made splendid records overseas. The only one of the number that was killed in action was Leroy Iten who lost his life while on patrol duty in the St. Mihiel Sector on October 8, 1918. Edward Kustermann lost his right arm at Chateau Thierry on July 22, 1918, and Eugene Iberg lost his left arm in action in the Meuse Argonne on September 26, 1918. Many others suffered minor wounds, some were gassed, and some were invalided in other ways while in the service.

When the young men returned home they were given warm welcomes and a year or so later a full account of the service each had rendered was embodied in a little book called "Pass in Review" which was published by Allan Huber, now deceased.

After their return they resumed their former places in the community life and have made just as good a record as citizens as they did as soldiers. They organized the Lee Iten Post of the American Legion and through their activity in that body have exerted a very helpful and beneficial force in our community life.

The Shoe Industry in Highland

The first shoe factory that was ever established in Highland started operation here late in 1915. The industry was obtained through the activity of the Highland Merchants League of which J. G. Bardill was at that time President and J. B. Menz was Secretary. The outside man, who looked after the promotion of the project here was R. L. Lund, now with the Lambert Pharmaceutical Company in St. Louis.

During the summer months of 1915 Mr. Lund came here and looked over the town, deciding that it was possible to obtain here the needed amount of labor, that there was a vacant building which could be remodeled so as to meet the needs and that such financing as would be required could easily be done in Highland. The matter was presented to the members of the League and they were given the information that approximately $20,000 in cash would have to be raised at once if Highland was to take advantage of the opportunity. The money was raised through a popular subscription by local business institutions, general donations from some industrial leaders and through the agency of a big industrial picnic that was given at the park.
It was decided that the best location for it would be a vacant building at the corner of Broadway and Washington. The building was old and in bad repair but could be repaired and remodeled to meet the needs. The portion of the building that was selected at the start, had been originally built, in part, about 1845 for a wool factory. After years of unsuccessful operation that industry folded up and the building fell into the hands of the Ryhiner & Co. Bank. After the failure of the bank it was acquired in 1885 by the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company, repaired by them, additions built thereto and used by the company until 1905 when they built a large modern plant in the north part of the city where railroad switching facilities would be possible. After being abandoned by them the building stood vacant for several years and at the time the first shoe factory came here was owned by a group consisting of Louis Koch, Charles Hoeble, J. G. Bardill and Adolph Meyer.

The contract entered into at the time was that the building was to be purchased of the owners and become the property of the shoe factory company after a stipulated amount had been paid out in wages by them to Highland people.

Mr. Lund had associated with him in the venture four other men, Messrs. Williams, Creel, Mauldin and Chambers. They gave their organization the name of Lund, Mauldin Company and in the autumn of 1915 installed machinery and started the manufacture of men's shoes. There was no skilled shoe labor in Highland when the factory started, and but comparatively few local people were employed during the first few months. However, that condition soon bettered itself. Highland laborers readily acquired the needed skill and constantly increasing numbers of men and women were later employed. The factory met one need in the labor life of the town: it gave employment to all kinds of people, many of whom would not otherwise have been able to get any steady employment.

The industry prospered greatly at the start. The World War was on in Europe and there was a constantly increasing demand for men's shoes. Regardless of how indifferent they were made, they could be sold. After being in business a little more than a year the company expanded and doubled their capital stock. Highland people were given a chance to invest in the preferred stock of the company and many of them did so. Those who did not, were wiser. In 1917 the United States went into the war, and the product could be sold without trouble. The newer part of the building was acquired and changed from a two-floor structure to a three-story building so as to correspond with the older part. The company expanded and built a new branch plant at Vandalia. Meantime, Highland became the home of many shoe workers, our local people who had acquired the skill and others who moved here from various places.

The above conditions prevailed until the war was over and for a year or two after that, then the shoe field became more highly competi-
The Moulton, Bartley Shoe Factory in Highland
tive and the company went on the rocks financially. Highland people lost considerable money, and also the banks here suffered to some extent. Very naturally, the partners fell out and the climax of the matter was that about July, 1922, Lund and Williams took the Vandalia factory and Creel, Mauldin and Chambers took this one. They continued to operate here until early in 1927 but they made no money and eventually had to fold up.

Another thing that entered into the picture in 1922 was the organization of a second shoe factory here under the direction of M. E. Kannally. Mr. Kannally had been superintendent for the Lund, Mauldin Company and when the split came, he was out of a job. He was a very popular man in Highland at that time and had many friends who wanted to see him stay here and who were willing to back him with their money. The result was the organization of the Kanally-Wick Shoe Company, who established their business in a building now owned by the Chamber of Commerce at the corner of Cypress and Sixth Streets. They manufactured exclusively boys' shoes. Thus, for a time Highland had two shoe factories. Neither one of them made any money, but the services of the best shoe workers were eagerly sought and it resulted in the payment of very good wages for a few years to that class of labor. About 1926 the Kanally-Wick factory ceased operation. We do not know for certain, but we do not think any local people profited through it. We have been told that considerable money was lost.

During the summer of 1927 there was no shoe making activity here at all, but late in that year the Chamber of Commerce negotiated with Wm. Moulton of St. Louis for the opening of the Moulton Bartley Shoe Factory in the building that had been occupied by Creel, Mauldin and Chambers, the ownership of which had gone through several hands and was then with an out-of-town man. The contract provided that town people pay a part of the rent for the building and assumed no further responsibility. The latter factory has been operated here by Mr. Moulton ever since under those terms and is now one of our most valued institutions. As many as 400 people are employed during the rush season making what is known as a junior woman's shoe. The output of the factory averages from 1200 to 1800 pairs of shoes daily.

The Streets of Highland

When Highland was platted in the late summer of 1837 it was provided that each street in the original town be 60 feet in width. Just a few months later, the street which is now Broadway was made 100 feet in width so as to accommodate a railroad which it was supposed would be built along it and a depot site arranged for about where the L. W. Housemann property now stands. In order thus to widen Broadway all lots and street south of it were moved 40 feet farther south. The move proved futile as far as a railroad along Broadway was concerned, as plans for that fell through when the country got into the depression that followed the historical panic of 1837; but in the end
it was a blessing as it gave us the 100 foot street that is the main highway through Highland today.

When the town was first formed all streets were originally dirt and the sidewalks were merely dirt paths from house to house. During the first thirty years of the life of the town, but very little street improvement could be made because there was no village government—the town was just a part of the road district and each street got just as much attention as any piece of country road and no more. In fact, with the exception of Broadway and Main, they did not receive as much attention as the country roads. Previous to Township Organization in Madison County, which did not occur until 1876, road districts comprised more territory than they do now, and the commissioner appointed what was known as a “road boss” in different localities. These road bosses were selected from among the natives of the community, who knew the ins and out of politics and not from among the Swiss immigrants. The result was the road bosses put in most of their time on country roads and let Highland get along with her streets as best she could. Streets that were filled with mud in the winter and befogged with dust in the summer resulted. There was a number of places in town where the mud holes would get so deep that teams and wagons would become hopelessly stranded in them. One of the worst of these places was in front of where the Turner Hall now is, another on Broadway at about the State and Trust Bank corner, and a third along what is now the 900 block on Twelfth.

The mill was practically the first industry started within the town limits, and the owners of it privately and collectively did a lot toward improving some of the worst places in the roads in and near town. More than one bridge and culvert were built and paid for by the Milling Company. The mill spent money to corduroy some of the worst mud holes in the main streets. (This was done by laying poles 10 feet long and 4 to 6 inches in diameter up against each other for a half block or so as occasion required.) It made a rough road for both winter and summer but it kept the wagons from miring in the mud. One record shows that the mill paid the entire expense of thus fixing the road in the creek bottom northeast of the Herbst filling station, and that was entirely out of the town limits. Another shows that they did likewise in the low place just south of town on the Trenton road.

In 1845 a wool factory was started in the west part of what is now the shoe factory building, and that industry, although never very affluent, assisted the mill in the work of improving the streets. In reality they were not streets—they were merely wagon tracks, with foot paths at the sides.

As stores and businesses of various kinds started each assisted in keeping the street in front of them in fairly good condition. Thus around the Columbia Hotel and on the corner of Main and Laurel, where good stores were located the streets could always be traveled. However, there was no getting from one place to another at certain seasons of
the year except by wading mud and having footwear that would permit you to walk in it. Even after a stage coach line was established between here and St. Louis, some of the dressy inhabitants who wanted to spend a day in St. Louis would wear a pair of boots on their trip to the hotel where the stage stopped and carry a pair of shoes which they would put on before getting on the stage and leave the boots at the hotel until they returned.

Such conditions prevailed for almost the first 30 years of the life of Highland, until after the Civil War, and a desire for street improvement more than anything else was what prompted the first organization of a village government in 1865. Then for 60 years thereafter the improvement and care of the streets was the biggest problem that confronted each successive village board of trustees or City Council.

The first village board of trustees levied a poll tax which a person either had to work out or pay for the improvement of the streets. So many dodged working it out that later a cash payment of it was made mandatory. Grading the streets and building culverts were the first things done. The first paving attempted was the laying of a plank road along Main Street from the northeast corner of the square east to Cypress Street. This was 20 feet wide and made out of three-inch plank. It was was quite an improvement in its day and strangers who visited Highland were always invited to take a look at it. However the wearing qualities were not all that had been hoped for it, and keeping it in repair proved too expensive for the slim village treasury of those days.

We do not find where the like was attempted in any other part of town. However, all streets were carefully graded and drained and bad mud-holes right in town became a thing of the past.

After the village government was changed to the city form in 1884, real street improvement was started; and Highland quickly stepped to the front. It was decided to macadamize the streets gradually. The first streets to be thus improved were Laurel and Walnut from the Pennsylvania depot south to the square. Those two streets were more used than any others at that time, Walnut led from the depot to the hotel section of the city and Laurel from the depot to the business section around the square. Each succeeding year more and more of the streets were macadamized, the late Ed. Feutz getting the most of the contracts therefor, until the majority of them were thus cared for and Highland was well equipped to give pleasure to travelers as long as horse drawn vehicles were mainly in use.

Then came the change from horse-drawn vehicles to automobiles and trucks. After the use of the latter became common, the macadamized streets were continually worn full of holes, and it was an endless expense to keep them in repair. For more than 15 years Highland made a gallant effort to keep her rock streets in good condition, but in the end had to give it up as an impossible task.

About 1917 or 1918 the first concrete street was put down in Highland, a strip on Cypress from Broadway north to Sixth Street, mainly
Airplane view of Highland's uniformly paved streets as seen from an eastern approach.
for the accommodation of the Pet Milk Company which at that time was our largest industry. From that time on it was realized that concrete streets were what would be needed in the future, but the cost of a city-wide system of that kind was so appalling that nothing further was attempted immediately. Instead, we went back to our old way of trying to keep the rock streets in repair.

In 1919 and 1920 the state laid an 18-foot slab along the National Trail up to the city limits at each terminal of Broadway. The law was then that the State could not build through the corporate limits of towns of more than 1000 population. They built through St. Jacob and Pocahontas but would not build through Highland.

Following that was a period of five or six years that made plenty of trouble for us. Auto and truck traffic increased rapidly all the time. There was a lot of touring and a lot of heavy through trucking. The pasteurizing plants here also started up in that period and their heavy loads of bottled milk had to be hauled over the streets. It was impossible to keep them in repair. The holes in the macadam in one block were no sooner repaired than worse ones became worn in the next block. For a number of years the Highland street force kept up the battle of trying to make them do but in the end failed. Broadway became a fright to drive over and every motorist who passed through

Broadway paved sixty-five feet in width as seen from the western city limits
our city voiced his resentment from the time he entered town until he had left.

In 1926, after a law had been passed permitting the state to build roads through cities of 5000 or less, an 18 foot slab was laid the length of Broadway and helped out to some extent, especially accommodating the through traffic.

After some ill-planned attempts to widen the paving on Broadway and pave around the square had died abortively, early in 1927 C. J. Hug fathered the idea of uniformly paving every street in the city at the same time. Others came to his aid in promoting the idea on account of the economy that would be thus effected, and by the end of the year the great majority of the property owners in the city were sold on the idea. In 1928 the needed court action was taken, a survey made, an assessment roll established, the contract let and before the end of that year the big job was in progress. It was completed in 1929 at a very modest cost as compared with what people in other cities have to pay for paving. Most of the residents of the city paid for the paving in one lump sum. Some could not do so and had to take advantage of the yearly installments that were made possible through a bond issue. Only a very small proportion of the bonds remain unpaid now. The people who paid it all at once are glad that they did so before the depression came on and wiped out a lot of their funds. No such big expenditure of public money could be undertaken now, but every man, woman and child in this city is glad that we have the uniformly paved streets and that this generation will no more know the mud and dust of former years.

That city-wide paving project was the biggest thing that Highland ever undertook, or likely ever will undertake. It involved an outlay of $360,000 which was a big proposition for a city of only 3,000 people. The outlay would have been much greater than that, had not the utmost economy attended every move in connection with it. At that time C. J. Hug was the head of a very prosperous business here, the Hug Company. Associated with him in the business was R. K. Tibbetts, who was elected Mayor in 1927. Immediately after his election a campaign of education was organized and prosecuted in every block in the city, acquainting the people with the advantage that would result from uniform paving of all the streets at the same time. Nearly all Highland business men rallied to the standard at once, and after Mr. Hug had given the assurance that the whole would not cost more than $400,000, most of our citizens fell in line with the idea and an election was carried to issue bonds in that amount. The cost of the expensive preliminary work to get a favorable vote at the election was borne mainly by Mr. Hug and his company, as was also the costs of some later court action. To save further on expense V. H. Koch, Secretary of the Hug Company, was appointed to make the property assessment. The legal fee for that work alone would have been almost $8,000, but it was done in the Hug Company office for nothing.
Airplane view of Highland's uniformly paved streets as seen from a southwestern approach.
The work was advertised and let to the lowest bidder, a contracting firm from Leavenworth, Kansas. Harry Baumberger of Greenville did the civil engineering work at a price that was much lower than what is usually asked for such work. About four-fifths of the total cost was paid by property owners in proportion to frontage on the streets and about one fifth was paid by the city for the paving of the intersections. The city also had to pay for some frontage where there were public buildings such as the Post Office.

Ten years has now passed since the movement was started and eight years since the improvement was completed. Very few of the bonds that were issued, are now unpaid. That financial debt is almost discharged, but the writer feels that this generation of Highland people always will owe a debt of gratitude to C. J. Hug for his wise leadership at that time.

**Highland's Water System**

During the early life of Highland the water supply was secured solely from dug wells and cisterns. The first industries established here that needed any unusual supplies of water were the flouring mills and the brewery. The mills needed nothing except for steam and the need was met by impounding surface water. The brewery had to have a supply of purer water, but in the early days had trouble getting it and built some very large cisterns at various places in order to obtain it. They later had deep wells drilled.

The shortage of water was felt here as never before after the establishment of the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company in 1885. After that industry got into successful operation a vast quantity of water was needed. They tried many expedients in order to meet the need. They built cisterns, they dug wells, they rented wells on private property, they had deep wells drilled, one even to a depth of 1000 feet. Even then the need could not be satisfactorily met. They went further and laid a pipe line from the old coal mine shaft west of town in the hope of having an inexhaustible source. In the end they bought a tract of land north of the city and impounded a supply which after being piped into town met their needs as long as they were operating here. In the project of impounding a supply they were joined by the Highland Brewing Company and the supply also met their needs as long as they were permitted to operate, the brewing industry being put out of business after the ratification of the Eighteenth Amendment in 1919.

The two companies had purchased a tract of about 80 acres that formed the basin of a natural little watershed. Water that fell on the area was formerly taken care of by Silver Creek, but the two companies had a dam built that impounded the rainfall just before it entered the creek. They also had a concrete tank built where the hill was higher south of the supply, water would be pumped into the concrete tank and then would travel by gravity to the two industries through pipe lines, which they had laid. This concrete tank was higher
than any spot in the city limits, and although there was not much pressure to the supply it met the needs of the factories for many years.

In the course of time some other industries and buildings in Highland desired to connect up with this supply of water and the owners were gracious enough to permit a number of such connections. We do not know how many industries eventually established connection, but we do know that the Mosimann Building on Main Street and the News Leader Building on Broadway were connected up with it. The rental charged for the water supply was negligible.

Such was the condition when in 1919 the passage of the Eighteenth Amendment forced the brewery out of business and in the fall of 1920 a strike of milk producers forced the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company to cease the operation of their big plant here. With no further profitable use in prospect for their impounded water supply the two industries were ready to dispose of it. At the same time there was a strong agitation for the City itself to acquire a sufficient water supply. It had been the custom here for the better class of homes to be equipped with cistern and basement pump. A good grade of plumbing was in most of the homes. The pumps were continually getting out of order and the cistern supply falling. The people knew that with very little expense they could hook up to a city supply and be relieved of trouble. In addition the Highland Dairy Farms Company had begun bottling milk here for the St. Louis market and that industry needed a vast supply of water for washing bottles, etc. At about the same time the St. Louis Dairy Company acquired the former Helvetia Milk Condensing Company plant here and began a similar business. The presence of those two pasteurizing plants made the need of a city water supply more imperative than ever.

The issue came to a head early in 1925 when the City Council made arrangements to make a sale of water certificates to an out-of-town firm and thus get money to buy the reservoir of the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company and the Brewing company and made the needed improvements to the plant so that all residents of our city could be supplied therefrom. The amount of money arranged for at the start was about $175,000. Of this amount $50,000 was paid to the two companies that owned the reservoir. Later $4600 more had to be paid due to the fact that the late Fred Mueller owned a lease that provided he could have the use of the 80 acres for pasture or crop purposes as he pleased. He had originally been the agent in purchasing the tract and the companies had granted him the lease as compensation for his services. At the time the city purchased it the matter of acquiring his lease had been overlooked, probably due to the negligence of city officials.

The remaining portion of the $175,000 was spent in laying pipe lines all over the city, in building a purifying plant adjacent to the reservoir and in other necessary ways. The company that had the contract for laying the pipe lines did not do the best kind of a job. They fur-
Picture showing Highland's impounded water supply, the purifying plant; the elevated tank and the City Park in the background.
nished a brand of pipe that has not stood up under use and they were permitted to use leadite at the joints instead of lead. The result has been that no end of trouble with pipe lines has been experienced from that day to this.

In 1929, after the water plant had been in service for several years, it was found that the concrete tank on the hill north of town was no longer serviceable. It had previously been unsatisfactory because its height did not furnish the desired pressure. While R. K. Tibbetts was mayor, at a cost of approximately $7000 a new elevated tank was constructed at the same location on the hill and it now furnishes the needed pressure in all parts of the city.

The use of water in the homes of the city constantly increased as did also the amount necessary for the industries. In the same year of 1929 it became necessary to raise the dam at the reservoir so that a bigger supply of water could be impounded. A five-foot raise of it was made that year at a cost of $6000. It was then thought that the supply would be sufficient, but during the summers of 1934-1935 and 1936 this section of country experienced severe drouths and the supply of water became dangerously low. The first move made to rectify that condition was the installation of a large pump so that water could be forced from Silver Creek during its flooded stages into the reservoir with great rapidity. This was done in 1934 and cost about $4000. The next move was another raising of the dam, this time to the extent of ten feet which was done in 1936, and as a result the capacity of the reservoir was increased three- and four-fold.

The condition now is very flattering. The reservoir is ample and can be kept almost full by taking water from the adjacent Silver Creek, the purifying plant gives the city a supply of water that by test is excellent for all purposes, the pressure is all that can be desired, and the city is gradually transforming the 80 acres into a very beautiful and attractive park. Fishing in the big lake is excellent and attracts people from many miles, as does also the attractiveness of the surroundings. There is a possibility that some day the site will be more attractive than even our beautiful Lindendale.

**Highland Sewage Disposal Plant**

At the time the original town of Highland was platted and for a half century or more afterwards, such a thing as a modern sewage disposal plant was unknown. The large cities of the United States at that time had in use systems that disposed of sewage by letting it flow into adjacent rivers and bodies of water. Smaller towns, that were so located that no large river was convenient, had to make use of creeks, however small they might be. Highland was unfortunately located in that respect. However, the people early realized the importance of adopting sanitary measures to protect health. Especially was this true after the cholera epidemics in 1849 and 1851. Although not
incorporated at that time, the leading men of the town took control in the matter and saw to it that the village was kept unusually clean. The same idea has prevailed here ever since, and even before the invention of septic tanks or similar devices Highland was kept very clean. After incorporation as a village in 1865 some of the very first ordinances passed were those forcing all people to be very cleanly around their premises so that the health of no resident would be endangered.

Following the invention of septic tanks about forty years ago all of the better homes in Highland were equipped with private ones, and from them the sewage was drained to either the branch south of town or the one east of town. The water waste from the two big industries, the Helvetia Milk Condensing Company and the Highland Brewing Company was disposed of in similar manner. That system worked very well for a number of years but with the growth of the city the need for a completely sanitary sewage system was felt more and more all the time. After the installation of a water plant in 1925 the City Council favored the improvement. A special election was called and a vote carried to build such a system at a cost of approximately $125,000. An assessment was spread that called for $100 to be paid on each lot in the sewer district, payable over a ten-year period. Following the necessary court action bonds were issued to provide the needed money.

The contract for the installation was let to an outside company and the system installed during 1925 and 1926. The main outlet was along Park Avenue through the Park to a septic tank that was built on an acre or two of land, acquired for that purpose, just north of the Park and adjacent to the junction of the two creeks. Most of the homes and the business houses in the city were connected up at once, and such as have been built inside the district since that time have all been connected up.

It wasn't but a short time after it was built until difficulty was experienced in operating it successfully. Some waste from the brewery and more from the milk pasteurizing plants were thrown into it and it seemed it would not take care of that. Either the trouble was caused that way or the septic tank was too small. At any rate its operation was very unsatisfactory for the first six years. In 1932 it was greatly enlarged and improved, a special man put in constant charge and trained for the purpose, and since that time the operation has been satisfactory. The improvement work was done at an approximate cost of $65,000 which was paid out of accrued earnings of the Municipal Electric Light and Power Plant. Two or three other smaller sewerage districts have been formed in recent years and connected up with the main one.
Highland's modern Sewage Disposal Plant, showing beautiful Lindendale Park in the background.
Highland Dairy Farms Company

The Highland Dairy Farms Company was organized in 1920 by over 600 dairy farmers in the vicinity of Highland, Illinois, for the purpose of processing and marketing milk and milk products in St. Louis, East St. Louis and surrounding territory. The affairs of the company were placed in charge of nine trustees; namely, Julius Reinhart, Fred G. Wildhaber, John Iberg, Bruno F. Tschannen, Louis Walther, August Weder, Chas. A. Rogler, J. Ben. Schumacher and Nick L. Pacatte, four of whom, Messrs. Reinhart, Iberg, Walther and Weder are members of the present Board of Directors.

The construction of the first bottling plant on land purchased from Clementz Mettler, Sr., was started on Armistice Day in 1920. While building operations were under way in Highland, distributing stations were purchased or leased in St. Louis and East St. Louis, and the distribution of milk and milk products started on April 1, 1921. A campaign had previously been conducted through expert milk salesmen, who sold customers on the fact that Highland was bringing in to the market a better quality of fresh, whole milk bottled in the country. Within a few months it was found that the distributing stations were inadequate, and it was necessary to lease additional buildings to handle the company's increasing business. New distributing stations were erected in St. Louis at 4321 Chouteau Avenue in 1924 and in East St. Louis at Ridge and Wimmer Place in 1928. Mr. Bruno F. Tschannen, formerly Secretary, was made General Manager with offices at the Chouteau Avenue plant; and Mr. Eugene Iberg was made Branch Manager of the East St. Louis Branch.

It followed as a matter of course that the original pasteurizing and bottling plant in Highland, Illinois, became inadequate and a new plant near the original plant was erected in 1926-1927, the former plant being converted to a powder plant manufacturing skim milk powder, which was sold throughout the nation and was used in the manufacture of bread, sausage, candy and other commodities.

The company continued its advance in the dairy industry, and because of its success, overtures were made to it by the National Dairy Products Corporation. In March, 1930, the shareholders of Highland Dairy Farms Company authorized the trustees to sell the business to the national company as of January 1, 1930, since which date the Highland Dairy Farms company has been receiving the benefit of the advice and counsel, and laboratory and other facilities of National Dairy Products Corporation. The sale resulted in Highland's shareholders receiving four shares of stock and over $80.00 cash plus accrued dividends for each share held.

The Highland Dairy Farms Company began to feel the effects of the depression in 1931 and, due to changing conditions brought about by the building of hard roads and governmental, state and municipal orders and regulations, the directors found it necessary to change their
Highland Dairy Farms Plant at Highland, erected in 1926-1927
method of operation to meet the new conditions. Plans were formulated to coordinate more closely the receipt of raw milk and the pasteurizing, bottling, transportation and delivery operations to insure to the public in the St. Louis sales area, milk and milk products which fully complied with the new conditions.

It was also found impractical to continue the bottling plant of the Highland Dairy Farms Company at Highland, which entailed the transportation of dead weight to and from St. Louis and East St. Louis, because of the heavy burden of cost affecting such transportation. To meet these conditions, from economic and health angles, and to enable the company to comply with regulations of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration, a new plant was erected at 20th and Chestnut Streets in St. Louis, to process milk and milk products for the Highland Dairy Farms Company under its supervision. This dairy plant, which may properly be stated to be the world's newest and finest dairy, is now open for inspection and the readers of this article are cordially invited to go through the plant at any convenient time.

The plant in Highland, Illinois, will continue in operation as a receiving and cooling station from which the milk will be transported in fast moving tank trucks to the plant in St. Louis. The powder plant will continue in operation. The above plants will be utilized in the manufacture of such by-products as may be found profitable in competition with the world market.

In thus reviewing briefly operations of the company, it would be improper to omit, first, the fact that in 1922 the company found it necessary to call upon the trustees and some of its share-holders individually, to advance funds to save the company from untold losses; and second, to the fact that Mr. Bruno F. Tschannen retired from the management of the company on October 31, 1936, because of ill health. Mr. Tschannen died in Havana, Cuba, on February 19, 1937.

In the large majority of instances, the same men and women who were in the employ of the company when it started in 1920 are still in its employ. Mr. Julius Reinhart is Chairman of the Board and Paul Y. Versen, who assisted in the organization of the company in 1920 and who acted as attorney for the company since that time, is now the President of the company with headquarters at Chouteau Avenue in St. Louis, Mo.

The Highland Dairy Farms Company will continue the delivery of milk and products to the people of Highland, and in joining with its citizens in the Highland Centennial Celebration, wishes to thank the citizens of Highland and others who have had a part in the building of Highland Dairy Farms Company.
The Hug Company

The Hug Company was incorporated under the laws of Illinois on January 24, 1922. The company later increased its capital stock and in 1930 re-incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware and again increased the authorized capital stock. The Hug Company was organized by C. J. Hug, a resident of Highland, and other Highland citizens. The object of the corporation as covered in the charter is the manufacturing and assembling of roadbuilding equipment machinery and motor trucks.

The incorporation of The Hug Company was the direct result of C. J. Hug's roadbuilding and contracting experience. Prior to the organization of The Hug Company, Mr. Hug was identified with the building material and contracting business. During 1919 to 1921 his contracting company had several large contracts for highway work. These contracts were in the vicinity of Highland, extending from Pocahontas to Troy. One of the major obstacles encountered in the completion of these contracts was the lack of adequate transportation equipment. Mr. Hug had used various makes of trucks but was unable to secure equipment that would stand up under the severe operating conditions encountered in this type of work. It was during this time that Mr. Hug conceived the idea of building a motor truck designed to meet the conditions of operation encountered in the roadbuilding field. In the early part of 1920, C. J. Hug started to lay out and plan the type of motor truck which he thought would answer his requirements and finish his contract on scheduled time. By the fall of 1920 he had his first truck ready to operate and after putting the truck through gruelling tests, built additional units to complete his contract. The success of the first trucks built was immediately apparent to other contractors and Mr. Hug received requests from other contractors to build similar trucks and as a result, The Hug Company was organized in 1922.

The Company's first plant was located south of the Pennsylvania Railroad tracks between Laurel and Washington Streets. Increased volume of business necessitated plant expansion and in 1925 The Hug Company purchased of the Pet Milk Company its office building and adjacent land and erected a new plant on Sixth Street between Zehokke and Cypress Streets. Subsequent plant additions were necessary and in 1930 The Hug Company completed a new brick addition. Although the Company at one time built other construction equipment, such as subgrading machinery, turntables and templates, its present production consists almost entirely of motor trucks, the major part of the truck production being Roadbuilder models, however, the Company also builds a conventional type commercial truck for ordinary commercial transportation.

The Hug Roadbuilder Truck is a specially designed transportation unit, designed to operate on practically all types of construction work
requiring dump truck service. It is built of heavy duty truck units and includes special features of Hug design that adapt the truck to the severe conditions of operation encountered in this field of work. These trucks range in capacity from one and three-quarters ton to 20 tons. Although the majority of the trucks are powered by gas engines, the Company also furnishes Diesel powered units, using Diesel engines furnished by Diesel engine manufacturers.

Since its inception, The Hug Company has gained an enviable reputation for its products in the roadbuilding and contracting field. The Hug Roadbuilder trucks are being used in practically every state and in Canada, Cuba and Mexico.

Mr. C. J. Hug has been president of the Company since its inception. Other officers and directors are R. K. Tibbetts, Vice-President and General Manager; V. H. Koch, Secretary-Treasurer; John A. Latzer, Robert L. Latzer, Adolph Meyer and A. P. Spence, Directors.

The Louis Latzer Memorial Library

The first attempt to establish a public library in Highland was made during the decade between 1850 and 1860, when the town numbered among its citizens many very scholarly men and took pardonable pride in their literary attainments. These scholarly men under the leadership of the elder Bandelier grouped themselves together in what was then known as a Literary or Debating Society. They held regular meetings each week and presented programs that were eagerly looked forward to and attended by as many people as could be seated in any auditorium that the town afforded. One of the things accomplished by this society was the establishment of the nucleus of a public library. The books were acquired mainly through donations of volumes by the different members and in the course of a few years quite a sizable collection was made. The books were kept at a central location and the general public was allowed to use them free of charge.

This first little crude library was much used up to the time of the Civil War. During that crucial period the use of it became less, and in the first years that followed no one wanted to donate their services to take care of it. As a result, after the Turner Hall was built in 1869, the library was turned over to the Highland Gymnastic Society. At one time it was well cared for and much used there, but as years went by the older leaders in the library movement either died or lost interest and it was not much used. Meantime the public school began building up a library and many of the books that had formerly been at the Turner Hall found their way into it.

For many years the need of a complete public library had been felt. During the years that Andrew Carnegie was helping to build libraries in so many little cities, there was much talk here of trying to get one of them for this city, but the right people never got behind the movement and nothing came of it.

After the death of the late Louis Latzer, one of the most prominent
The Louis Latzer Memorial Library, the building of which was completed in 1929
and helpful men that ever figured in the industrial life of Highland, his six children erected as a monument to his memory the Louis Latzer Memorial Library, located at the corner of Ninth and Washington Streets. The cornerstone was officially laid in 1928 and the building completed and dedicated in 1929. It is an elegant stone structure of imposing design and built for permanence. The building cost more than $100,000 and was endowed by the builders to the extent of $25,000.

The management is in the hands of a Library Board of Managers and it is in part supported by a city library tax.

The institution filled a long-felt need in Highland. There are 4000 books on the shelves, and a constantly growing number of readers. In addition the institution provides an auditorium that is especially adapted to a class of public gatherings that could not be accommodated elsewhere. This generation of Highland people and other generations to come will be bettered through the agency of this institution. The donors were Miss Alice Latzer, John A. Latzer, Mrs. Jennie Latzer Kaeser, Mrs. Lenore Latzer Gilloon (now deceased), Robert F. Latzer and Mrs. Irma Latzer Gamble.

The Public Square

The full story of the Highland Public Square can be told in a few paragraphs. It was the central block in the originally platted town and no use whatever was made of it from 1837 to 1850. It was not an inviting spot during that period; there was not a building on it nor was there a fence around it. In 1850 a schoolhouse was built on it and for 84 years thereafter it was used for school purposes. From 1850 to 1894 it was kept fenced, but never after that. During all the years that it was used for school purposes it was at the same time used to some extent for village and city purposes and for outdoor public gatherings. Trees were kept growing on it so as to make it more attractive.

In the filed plat of the original town it was dedicated as a public square and no very secure title to it ever did rest with the school district. About 1878 quit-claim deeds from the heirs of the original owners were made in favor of the school, but it was always a mooted question as to the real ownership. The school district paid its part toward some public improvements, but not all. When the last school house was removed in 1935, court action was sought and the ownership and control forever placed with the city. The latter at that time refunded to the school district approximately $5000 which the district had spent on public improvements.

The square has recently been beautified by the building of a big and attractive fountain, said to be one of the most beautiful in the United States. Uniform circular and cross sidewalks are being built, the whole has been carefully graded and will be sodded and beautifully landscaped. The improvement is being made at city expense and will cost approximately $20,000 but it will give pleasure to every person that looks at it for the next century.
Newly constructed fountain in center of Public Square, which will be dedicated August 13, 1937, the first day of the Centennial Celebration
# Mayors of Highland

**UNDER VILLAGE ORGANIZATION**

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<tr>
<td>Jacob Eggen</td>
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<td>John Buchter</td>
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<td>J. H. Willimann</td>
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<td>Jos. Harnisch</td>
<td>1868-1869</td>
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<td>Chas. Kinne</td>
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<td>John Suppiger</td>
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<td>Chas. Kinne</td>
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<td>J. H. Willimann</td>
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<td>Moritz Huegy</td>
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<td>Fred B. Suppiger</td>
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**UNDER CITY ORGANIZATION**

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<td>John Guggenbuehler</td>
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<td>Louis Appel</td>
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<td>Jos. C. Ammann</td>
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<td>George Roth</td>
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<td>John Leu</td>
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<td>Jos. G. Bardill</td>
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<td>Robert Kamm</td>
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<td>Alfred Wildi</td>
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<td>Eugene Schott</td>
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<td>Dr. A. A. Wick</td>
<td>1921-1927</td>
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<tr>
<td>R. K. Tibbetts</td>
<td>1927-1931</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. H. Stocker</td>
<td>1931-to date</td>
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## Note

In connection with the story of the Cholera Epidemic, which appears on page 59, we desire to make a supplementary statement that should have been made there. Among the men who did help care for the cholera victims during that trying time, none were more active than three fellows who were joint tenants of a building that stood about where the Mrs. Henry Lory residence now is, in the 700 block on Broadway. They were George Kaindl, a maker of instruments and fine tools, who was the grandfather of Dr. A. F. Kaeser, Martin Leonhard, a wagon maker who was the father of Mrs. Pauline Mueller, and a Mr. Baertsch, a blacksmith. George Kaindl had come to Highland as an immigrant in 1839. He not only helped to nurse the cholera victims but he also helped to bury them. In fact he sacrificed his life in his zeal to help. Before the disease had run its course, he contracted it himself and died. Dr. Kaeser’s mother, Catharine Kaindl, was born after his death. Mr. Leonhard moved to Trenton and went into the hotel business there. This note may explain to a discerning mind the attitude of helpfulness that George Kaindl’s descendant has always manifested in the present life of Highland.
Dear Folks: I have prepared the copy for this volume at the request of the Highland Centennial Association without asking for or receiving anything for the work. It is not all that it should be, but it is the best I could do in the limited time. I should have been given two years in which to prepare it, instead of two months. If, in the main, it pleases you, I shall be glad. If there are some who are not pleased, it makes no difference to me. I have no relatives in the community, neither have I tried to favor any of my friends. I have told the stories of some of the events that have occurred in the life of Highland and gone on the assumption that the men and women who figured in those stories were ordinary men and women, much the same as you and I. Some were more talented than others, some were more fortunate than others and some were more industrious than others. I have deified none of them, for all had faults, and plenty of them.

In preparing the copy I have made no attempt at literary excellence. A lifetime of experience has taught me that grammar and rhetoric amount to but little. Most of the subject matter was originally written in a hurry for newspaper copy and was as hurriedly re-prepared for this book. Four of the articles were written almost entirely by other people.

The idea of the Centennial Association is to distribute the books throughout the community at less than a cost price so that Highland people can have a handy record for reference, become better informed about the former life of the city, and perhaps some of our young people become inspired to emulate the example of some of our past civic leaders. If it accomplishes all or any of those ends, I shall feel repaid.

Yours truly,  

Amos Patrick Spencer.
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