CHAPTER X

1869-1969

A. 1869 — 1890

We now move from the story of the early days in Two Rivers to a consideration of the century of history ending in 1969.

The Two Rivers of 1869 was a community busy with the task of getting ahead. On the national scene, the War between the states was over, but the reconstruction armies remained in the South. President Grant directed a nation dedicated to binding up the nation’s wounds. At a place called Promontory Point, Utah, the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railways joined their rail lines to form the first transcontinental railroad.

In Two Rivers the boys in blue had come home to their farms and factories. Citizens were saying their good-bys to the last of the departing Indians. The farmers were busy clearing some of the remaining woodlands for plow land. The fishing and lumbering industries were doing well and an upstream village had grown up around the tannery.

Mayor John Oswald, in 1869, saw a small progressive town taking its place as an important economic cog in northeastern Wisconsin. The population of the town had grown to over 1300 souls and the big topic of discussion locally was when Two Rivers would get a railroad connecting it with other areas of the state and nation. In 1870 Manitowoc County incurred a bonded indebtedness of $216,000 to aid the Appleton and New London Railway to build a line from Manitowoc to Appleton. The next year, 1871, County Clerk P. P. Fuessenich absconded with $20,000 of the county’s money and was never heard from again. On June 22, 1871, the first locomotive in the area, the “Ben Jones” was sent by boat from Buffalo, New
York, to Manitowoc. Railroads continued to be big news, interrupted only by news of the forest fires which raged north and west of Two Rivers and which were a part of the larger phenomenon known as the Peshtigo Fire of 1871. In 1872, the Manitowoc to Appleton line was completed. News of the strivings for a local railroad link would now be carried by a new local newspaper. The Manitowoc County Chronicle, of Two Rivers, was founded by Henry S. Pierpont who had formerly served as a County Judge. The Chronicle favored the Democratic Party in its political outlook. In 1872 it was sold to William F. Nash who became known as an outstanding newspaper writer and was read throughout the state. One of the tasks of the local paper was to carry the presidential election results of 1872 which showed: Greeley 2,627 and Grant 2,289.

By this time two new national groups had settled in the Two Rivers area, namely the Poles and Bohemians. The Poles had suffered under the oppression of their Russian conquerors and the Bohemians came to Manitowoc County as the result of droughts and crop failures in their native land. Many members of these two groups turned to farming. The Bohemians settled in Cooperstown, Gibson and Mishicot and later some of their numbers moved to Two Rivers. The Bohemians set up the fraternal insurance society known as the Z.C.B.J. and the physical culture group known as the SOKOL.

On September 22, 1873, a railroad line running from Milwaukee to Manitowoc was completed. A merger of the lines connecting Manitowoc with the nation was brought about in 1873. The new company came to be known as the Milwaukee, Lakeshore and Western Railroad. In 1874, with the help of H. H. Smith, a Manitowoc to Two Rivers railway line was built by the Milwaukee, Lakeshore, and Western Railroad. (later the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad)

The completion of a railroad gave Two Rivers a precise transportation link to add to the steamship service on Lake Michigan. Telegraph service had been added earlier and it was easy to see that Two Rivers had the necessary links to a world growing steadily smaller.

In 1876 Editor Nash of the Chronicle could report on one page the events surrounding Custer’s Last Stand on the Little Bighorn and on another page the founding of our state’s second kindergarten at Two Rivers. In 1877 Mr. A. Thomas was hired as superintendent over an enlarged school system that now included Two River’s first high school. The school of-
ferred a three-year course and our high school graduates soon distinguished themselves in institutions of higher learning. Early graduates of the high school included Professor Kahlenburg of the University of Wisconsin and Schlundt, Grimm, Colomon, Grover Huebner, and others in higher educational work.

Also in 1877, the schooner Magellan of St. Catherines, Canada, was ship-wrecked off of Point Beach. She carried a cargo of 20,000 bushels of wheat and a crew of nine all of whom were lost at sea. Editor Nash of the Chronicle noted a change in the times and the newspaper business as the leading area Germanic newspaper, the Manitowoc Zietung, folded in 1877.

As a Two Riverite walked along the board sidewalk and dirt street known as Smith Avenue (15th Street) in 1878, he noted the sound of hammers and saws at work on the new life saving station building being constructed across the Mischicot River. The United States Government, after noting that fourteen vessels had sunk off our immediate coastline, had made the decision to build the station in 1878.

In 1878 a city charter was granted to Two Rivers. An election was then held with the result that M. Maloy was chosen mayor and E. Hammel treasurer of the newly declared city.

The Chronicle often published accounts of local history contributed by its members and as a result of interest on the part of area residents an Old Settlers Society was formed in 1879. Of more importance historically was the founding of the Manitowoc County Historical Society in the year 1879. "William F. Nash, a Two Rivers editor, was an organizer of the Manitowoc Historical Society."1

In 1880 our county population had soared to 37,506 and Two Rivers could claim 2,052 of that number. The presidential election returns of that year showed the Democrat Hancock, 3,676, and the Republican Garfield, 2,988 in county returns.

The year 1880 found the city with a predominant number of frame buildings and fires were a frequent occurrence. The volunteer fire department, which Deacon Smith had helped found twelve years earlier was now known as the Dexter Hook and Ladder Company and had as its foreman George Burnell. All of the early fire fighting equipment was kept on the ground floor of a two-story city hall which had been erected six years

earlier, in 1874. The upper floor of the brick building contained the City Council Chambers and Offices for Mayor William F. Nash, Treasurer H. Hansen, and Clerk Felix Walsh. From this administrative citadel the officers of city government held sway. They were joined by the aldermen from the three city wards, the three constables, a marshall, and a harbor master. The city council in 1880 consisted of E. Niquette and H. Lohman of the 1st ward, Joseph Schwab and R. E. Mueller of the second ward, and Peter Stout and A. Wehausen of the Third ward.

In the year 1881 the City of Two Rivers was covered with a healthy blanket of snow and mail service was discontinued for nine days. In the summer of this same year the tragic news of the assassination of President Garfield was carried in the pages of the Chronicle. In the same year James E. Hamilton reported a sizeable profit accruing from a wood-type industry just one year old at the time.

The year 1883 was a bumper year for shipwrecks as the schooner Dart broke up off the beach of what is today the Neshotah Park and the Oliver Culver went aground off the Silver Creek just two miles north of town.

In 1884 a new industry was added to the assets of the city when the Egger veneer and plywood firm began operations here.

Two Rivers in the 1880’s was receiving immigrants of Bohemian and Polish ancestry to add to the New Englanders, Canadian French, and Germans already residing in the community. In 1885, the city’s population had soared to 2,564.

Along the dirt streets of the city were located four houses of worship; The Emanuel Congregation, St. John’s Lutheran, St. Luke’s Catholic, and the Congregational Church. During this period congregations were considering moving from older frame church buildings to newer, more durable structures.

In 1887, the Steamer Vernon enroute from Charlevoix, Michigan to Chicago foundered off Two Rivers Point. Of the forty-one people aboard, only one, Alfred Stone, was saved. Alfred Stone drifted for several days on the icy sea and when rescued was incoherent in his speech. He was committed to a mental institution.

We move along to 1888 and find that saloon license fees were increased to $200 in cities and $100 in towns. Many cities in the United States of the 1880’s had a “saloon-gambling-sheriff” situation existant at the time. A writer of the period
remarked: "While the city of Two Rivers is abundantly supplied with saloons, it does not follow, as is the general rule, that the place is a disorderly one. On the contrary, very few arrests are made in a year's time, and for that reason, the city is put to little expense in policing the territory within its confines. This speaks well for Two Rivers. Two members of the force are all that are required; one man for day duty who carries with his office the high sounding title of chief of police, and one for night duty."  

B. The "Gay" Nineties

Two Rivers entered into a new era in the 1890's. New industries were founded, churches erected, workers came in search of jobs, new services and stores sprang up, and the decade had all begun on a sound financial footing. The Manitowoc County Chronicle said of Two Rivers on September 20, 1892: "A city destined by nature to be one of the most important manufacturing centers of the West." While this statement is typical of the overstatement habit of editors of the period, it does evidence something of the pride people took in their communities in the 90's.

If one were to walk down the Walnut Street (17th Street) from the eastside of those days, he would view the new factory of the Hamilton Manufacturing Company on his right along with Voshardt's Dance Hall. As he proceeded in a Westerly direction, he came to the intersection of Jefferson and Walnut and noted a hostelry known as the Washington House. Walking another block he came to view the old City Hall on the corner of Walnut and Washington Streets. A block to the right in an area where the United States Post Office is located today, was a Turner's Hall. Our subject now decides to turn south and walk along Washington Street toward the Lake. As he comes to the corner of Main Street (16th Street), he stops to chat with friends at the Lake House operated by Peter Rau. Today Plantico Drugs occupy this spot. Across the street is the Two Rivers Bank. Walking one block farther south on Washington Street brings our subject to the Chronicle Office, situated on a spot later occupied by the Hotel Hamilton. If he were to walk across Smith Street (15th Street) and cross Washington Street, he would arrive at the Union

2 H. C. Wilke, History of Manitowoc County, p. 418.
House, run by C. Saubert. Upon crossing the Washington Street bridge and arriving on the southside of town, he would notice the flour mill run by A. Wehausen along with the new train depot. Other prominent businesses and businessmen came to mind. There was the Schneider Clothiers whose new competitor in town was Max Israel, the proprietor of the New York Clothing Store. Andrew Baetz was still making wagons and doing general blacksmithy work. Manseau and Craite were
plying the legal trade in town and the Schroeder Brothers were firmly established in the General-Merchandise business. The local brewer and malster was R. E. Mueller and the pharmacist was H. M. Gebhardt. The really good hotel in town was the Waverly, operated by Gagnon and Bartelme. His friendly undertaker and furniture store operator was H. F. Wilsman. Mr. Wilsman's business competitor was Frank Miller. He could recall the last time he stopped in to see J. N. Simonis, a dealer in liquors, wines, etc. and discussed their mutual membership in a lodge called the "Sons of Herman." His local baker was J. Trindl and his friend Anton Kumbalek ran a saloon.

As our friend arrived home that evening he found that the Chronicle issue was out for that week. He glanced through its tiny pages and came to be caught up on all the latest local news. As he turned the pages he came to the humor column of that day. Witness the following sample:

*Mistakes occur.*

*George*—Suppose a fellow's best girl gets mad when you ask her for a kiss?

*Henry*—Take it without asking.

*George*—Suppose she gets mad then?

*Henry*—Then you've got some other fellow's girl.

*The Joseph Mann Library*

No account of the Two Rivers of the 1890's would be complete without the mention of the Joseph Mann Library. The organization that spawned our library was formed in 1888 and known as the Chautauqua Reading Circle. While the name of this organization sounds strange to us today, it was, nevertheless, a part of the national chautauqua adult educational movement of the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The chautauqua group discussed the possibility of establishing a public library in the year 1890. A committee began to correspond with other library associations. It was determined that a fund of $4,000 would be needed for the project. H. C. Wilke relates that; "Leopold Mann, or his wife, was a member of this committee and reported that he or she, whichever it was, had talked over the matter of establishing a library here with Milwaukee friends and relatives connected with the Two Rivers Manufacturing Company, and would subscribe $500 and a site for the building. It was then decided to send out a subscription
paper and solicit the necessary funds from the citizens in general, of Two Rivers, and all friends of the project outside who were interested. Agreeably to this plan, subscription lists were circulated and a few weeks later the committee reported a proposition from Mrs. Joseph Mann, widow of a former resident of Two Rivers, to the effect that if those in authority would name the proposed institution the Joseph Mann Library, she would give $1,000 toward the library building. This generous offer was accepted. The balance of the report was equally encouraging. From it was learned that large subscriptions from manufacturing concerns and individuals, amounting to $2,500, had been secured; and these subscriptions to the amount of one dollar and over entitled the signers thereof to membership in the embryo association.” Henry Mann later contributed $500 to further the realization of the new library.

On December 21, 1893, the state of Wisconsin granted the Joseph Mann Library Association a charter. The original articles of association show that the charter members were: Dr. J. R. Currens, Father Geissler, F. E. Manseau, Peter Gagnon, C. H. Johannes, H. P. Hamilton, C. O. Marsh, Rev. Chambers, J. E. Hamilton, L. C. Travers, S. S. Van Nostrand, Leopold Mann, and Oliver Pilon.

Even earlier, in 1891, the library building had been completed at a cost of $3,500. With funds depleted, the association decided to borrow $500 so that books might be purchased. Many additional books were donated by citizens of Two Rivers and added book purchase monies were obtained through association projects. At the end of the first year of operation, the library was $100 in debt. A petition was submitted to the City Council asking that $500 or more be contributed by the city for library support on a yearly basis. The petition was defeated and the association began to solicit funds from among the factory workers. Further debts and a growing patronage by readers characterized the later 1890’s. Finally, after a third vote, the association’s petition passed in the City Council and the City has taken over the support of the library ever since.

The American Frontier disappeared in 1890 and the citizens of our town settled down to the tasks of building a city. It was a matter of a city hall, a high school, a waterworks, an electric plant, a sewage plant, better streets and modern communications. We can look back and appreciate the public-spiritedness of our earlier townsmen as they set out to modernize our city.
Schools

In 1876, the second kindergarten in the state was begun at Two Rivers with Miss Josephine Arstein in charge. The next milestone of educational progress came in 1877 when a free public high school was built at a cost of $7,000 and a three-year course began with J. M. Rait as principal. It required only two teachers to man Two River's first attempt at secondary education. In this same year, the first Catholic school was constructed by St. Luke's Parish.

The early textbooks used in Two Rivers schools were the Bible, foreign and English books brought west by the settlers, McGuffery's readers, Sander's, Swinton's, Watson's, Harvey's, and Harper's readers and spellers; Robinson's and Roy's arithmetic, McConnell's and Mitchell's geographies, Goodrich's history; and Kerl's and Green's grammars were used. Library books were uncommon.

Spelling bees, singing societies, and literary clubs were popular. After the turn of the century, town and county spelling, adding, and achievement contests were in vogue. One room rural schools were acceptable until 1905 when a state law set class size at 65.

Elmer Beth tells us that, "Agitation for a modern new high school began about 1900, and in 1905, a large red-brick high school was dedicated. It was valued at about $80,000. In its day, it was an exceptional high school, and had, among other things, such modern innovations as a vacuum sweeping system, a large gymnasium, and shower baths, beside a large auditorium and a (1911) domestic and manual arts department. The south side was accomodated with a grade school built on School street, which school was lately named the Roosevelt School. St. John's Lutheran School, a brick structure next to the H. P. Hamilton School, was erected to give parochial education to Lutheran children, and after May 10, 1889, when the Polish element of St. Luke's Catholic Parish separated and built its own church under Rev. F. Luczychi, another parochial school for Polish Catholics was started."

Transportation

The year 1896 saw the first "Carferry" line instituted between Manitowoc and Frankfurt, Michigan. In that same year the Wisconsin Central Railroad completed its line from Mani-
towoc to Menasha. Ever since Two Rivers received a branch railroad line in 1875, the clamor for a branch line north to either Green Bay or Sturgeon Bay had been heard. The Goodrich lakeboats and the railroad competed for freight and passengers with the result that the Goodrich line erased Two Rivers from its port-of-call list shortly after the turn of the century. Thomas Higgins of Menasha and Henry Higgins of Marinette obtained a 35-year franchise in October of 1900, to start a Manitowoc and Northern Traction Company. In the spring of 1902, this electric interurban line between Two Rivers and Manitowoc was opened and prospered until the 1920's when automobile and bus competition on the new concrete highways reduced the patronage. The Wisconsin Public Service Corporation then acquired the property and improved the service. Beth tells us that, "Due to controversy over street paving between the tracks of the line in the city, electric interurban service was discontinued in the spring of 1927, and a bus service substituted."

Athletics and Entertainment

Old-timers recall with affection the heroics of the Quinn Athletic Club. It was one of the early organizations to make Two Rivers prominent in the area of amateur and semi-professional sports. The club purchased an old church for its future gymnasium and went on to become state amateur basketball champions.

The Quinn Athletic Club was preceded by the Turnverein which carried on everything from gymnastics to weekend dances at the local Turner Hall. The Turners were a German-oriented organizational push that had earlier seen the formation of such societies as the Sons of Herman and the Liedertafel. The Turners eventually sold their hall and it became the City Opera House.

Silent movies began to be shown at the Opera House around the turn of the century. "The Great Train Robbery" had its effect on the masses of silent screen viewers and in 1911 the Empire Theatre joined in the showing of the new variant in entertainment.

Waterworks and Electric Plant

A special election was held on November 13, 1901, and the
result was the authorization of the city to sell bonds to the extent of $65,000 for the purchase of the Two Rivers Waterworks, Electric Light and Power Company. This plant came equipped with a 125-foot high standpipe and a capacity of 185,000 gallons of water. The standpipe reservoir was first supplied with water from deep wells drilled along the Lake Michigan shoreline. A lake-crib intake was later constructed.

The city sewer system began with the laying of sewer mains beneath Monroe Street in 1895. Year by year the city improved the sewer system adding auxiliary storm sewers around the turn of the century.

Politics of the Period

Manitowoc County has traditionally been Democratic; however, in recent years it has served as a test or barometer of statewide political intent due to the balanced vote it has displayed in elections. Parties were of little concern in city elections until the 1890’s when the Populist Party was formed nationally. In 1896 a populist candidate named Louis Zander won the election for mayor of Two Rivers and his party also claimed a majority of the City Council seats. The populists soon faded as a movement, but not before they had made the two older parties aware of some needed reforms.

The Organization of Labor

Two Rivers saw its first labor organization spawned in 1894. The organization came to be called the Mann Mutual Aid Association and a union of woodworkers was soon formed from it. In September of 1895, nearly one hundred workingmen of the Two Rivers Manufacturing Company went out on strike. The next strike occurred in April of 1897. The biggest strike came in the year 1920 in the plant of the Hamilton Manufacturing Company, as the union men struck for shorter hours, increases in pay, and recognition of closed shop policies.

Bridges and Parks

Eastsiders saw their link with the rest of the city torn down in the early 1890’s as Mayor J. E. Hamilton and the Council authorized the destruction of the 16th street plank bridge and the construction of the new Walnut Street (17th Street) bridge.
For the period this bridge was indeed novel. It was of the pivotal variety with the center of the roadbed resting on a turntable which in turn rested on a stone-block abutment. The roadbed was high enough off the water so that the fishing tugs could pass underneath the bridge easily. When taller vessels wanted to enter the East Twin River, men had to turn a large pole key in the center of the bridge in order that it be opened to traffic.

In 1898 the city welcomed a new businessman by the name of Joseph Franz Galecki. Mr. Galecki had emigrated from Berlin, Germany and began a tailor and clothing operation where the present Schroeder Bros. Building is located.

C. The Ice Cream Sundae

One of the incidents that I will now mention concerns a turn-of-the-century Ice Cream parlor and the invention or concoction of the ice-cream sundae.

The Two Rivers Reporter’s Centennial issue of July 24, 1936, reproduced a much earlier story of the origination of the ice cream sundae. It said:

“The ‘try anything once’ attitude of a young blade of the nineties made Two Rivers the birthplace of the popular ice cream sundae, it was interestingly revealed by E. C. Berners, retired Two Rivers confectioner whose parlors were a popular spot before the turn of the century.

Try Anything Once

“It’s a long story,” said the pioneer ice cream manufacturer, but as sure as my name’s Ed Berners, the ice cream sundae had its birthplace in Two Rivers and was named in Manitowoc.

“Forty years ago the ice cream sundae was to appear and credit goes to George Hallauer, now a prominent citizen of Marshall, Illinois.

“One night George dropped in to visit with me and ordered a dish of ice cream,” said Berners. “As I was serving it to him, he spied a bottle of chocolate syrup on the backbar which I used for making sodas.”

“Why don’t you put some of that chocolate syrup on the ice cream?” ‘asked Hallauer.’

“You don’t want to ruin the flavor of that ice cream,” answered Berners. ‘I only use that to make chocolate sodas.’
“I know what you use it for,” replied Hallauer, ‘but I’ll try anything once.’

Sundae Was Born

“So Berners poured some of the syrup over the ice cream. George Hallauer liked it and the ice cream sundae was born. “According to Berners, the dish was named by a 12-year-old girl in Manitowoc, Wis. ‘The late George Giffy, he said, ‘operated the finest ice cream parlor in the district years ago. When I started to dispense flavored ice cream to my customers, it created a lot of interest in Manitowoc, six miles away.’”

Well, George Giffy came to my place and asked what in blazes I was doing by putting chocolate flavor on my ice cream. He said that the practice would put a parlor owner out of business at a nickel a dish, and added that his Manitowoc customers demanded that he serve it himself. But he added the chocolate on Sundays only and that had started the whole affair.

“One day a little girl came to the fountain and asked for some ice cream ‘with stuff on it,’ Giffy related.

“I only serve that on Sundays, my little miss,’ said Giffy.

“Why then it must be a Sunday,’ the little girl replied, ‘for that’s the kind of ice cream I want.’

“So Giffy called it a sundae and sundae it remained. Glass-war salesmen who called on Giffy and Berners spread the word everywhere.

“A year after that,’ reminisced Berners, ‘I unpacked some dishes and found them marked ‘Handle With Care—Sundae Dishes.’

“Hallauer, whom Berners credits as the originator of the sundae left Two Rivers in 1900. He established a water and electric utility plant at Marshall, Ill., but retired 10 years ago when he sold out to a large Illinois firm.”

Still Standing

The birthplace of the ice cream sundae is a prominent landmark in downtown Two Rivers on 16th Street, earlier known as “Smith Avenue.” The Berners ice cream parlor, just west of the Malley-Kanzelberger Printing Co., now the home of David Greenwood, was built by an Englishman, Hosea Allen, for the
Berners family. It was a popular and reputable courting spot for many of the young people of Two Rivers for some years after the turn of the century.

While other places, including Evanston, Ill., and Pittsburgh, Pa. have also taken credit for originating the ice cream sundae, the late H. L. Mencken, in Supplement One of “American Language” published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1945, in confining several pages in dealing with the suffix, “DAE” as in sundae, wrote that the “most plausible of their theories ascribes the introduction of the ‘sundae’ itself to George Hallauer, of Marshall, Ill., and the invention of its name to George Giffy, of Manitowoc, Wis.”

In editing the supplement to “The American Language,” Author Mencken corresponded frequently with Seymour S. Althen of The Reporter as the former sought to establish proof of the origination of the ice cream sundae. In his last letter in the late 1930’s he wrote that he was convinced that Two Rivers possessed the best claim to the distinction.

D. City and Farm in 1900

The City

At the turn of the century Two Rivers could claim a population of 3,784 souls. In the year 1900 our community looked back on the Spanish American War and remembered. The result of this remembrance was the erection of the soldier monument which was dedicated to the men who died for their country. This monument of a Civil War soldier was first erected in the center of Washington Street but later moved to its present site near City Hall. In 1900 our people helped elect McKinley president, parked its bicycles, eyed the new cars on the market, looked forward to weekends up the river at Still Bend Rest, and read the Chronicle.

In the years following 1900 the progress of the community continued. In 1901, the Two Rivers Knitting Mill was started. Four years later the Zula Knitting Mill began operations in Two Rivers. The industry received added emphasis with the development of the Crescent Woolen Mills and the Wesco Mfg. Co. which were formed largely by the initiative of Mr. A. M. Webster. Following in the cloth product manufacture of this later period was the Schwartz Mfg. Co. of Two Rivers. In 1902, a second bank, the Two Rivers Savings Bank, was
established. With the tragic death of President McKinley, Teddy Roosevelt came to the White House and the nation and Two Rivers entered into the Progressive Era. It was a period of national labor discontent that saw men like Robert LaFollette Sr. rally the masses in search of economic and political justice.

In 1905, the city population had grown to 4,602 and it was in that year that Fred Althen, a native of Two Rivers, established the Two Rivers Reporter, a six-column quatro. The Reporter was published on a weekly basis and expounded liberal principles in an “active and ethical manner.”

We have been relating the story of life in the city of Two Rivers and it might be well for us to take a glimpse of life on a farm some 70 years ago. Jerry Ahrens is the writer of the following account.

“Life on a farm at the turn of the Century.

I was born in 1898, so you see I was very young at the turn of the century. I will, however, attempt to write from memory. Life varied from farm to farm, let us therefore explore practices common to most of them.

John and Martha Schmidt, with a family of five lively youngsters, lived in a log house with a lean-to kitchen. John put on his sheep-skin coat and wore his woolen cap. He did not wear his heavy woolen sweater because it was March, and there was a breath of Spring in the air.

Martha busied herself with starting the kitchen fire and preparing breakfast.

John lit the lantern and stepped out on the porch. He could see the outline of the large frame barn completed in 1888. It took four years to build. The stable housing the farm animals was a short distance away. He could not see the privy, smoke house or the wood shed because they were located somewhat to the rear of the house. A lean-to attached to the big barn served as a granary and completed the farmstead. The stable was built of logs. When the mortar between the logs began to crumble the inner walls were lined with bricks from the Schaaf brick yard at Eastwin.

John made his way to the stable and opened the door. A big cloud of vapor greeted him. He knew that the animals

were a wee bit crowded and needed more ventilation, but that had to wait. The three horses five cows, three head of young stock, and three sheep took up plenty of room. The thirty-eight chickens occupied a wire fenced area at one end. John had to provide an extra pen for two or three pigs which he hoped to buy at the Mishicot fair on Monday.

John's favorite mare whinnied as he walked toward the oats box. She received an extra handful of oats. (She was heavy with foal.) John picked up a long rope and headed for the hay barn. He made a sling out of the rope and bundled up a large quantity of hay, slung it over his shoulder, and headed for the stable. He could hardly get through the stable door with the big bundle of hay. Two more trips with the big woven basket for cut-feed completed the early chores. John blew out the lantern and walked the well worn path to the house. He thought about the poor ventilation in the stable and the new frame house he hoped to build soon.

Martha had prepared a cooked cereal. John did not like fried potatoes for breakfast so Martha seldom served them. He did, however, like the home made bread baked in the outdoor oven. Martha's jam and barley-malt coffee completed the meal. While John ate breakfast, Martha was busy preparing the weekly wash. The large clothes boiler covering two lids on the wood-burning kitchen stove was already completely filled with water. Martha made several more trips to the well to fill the tub on a bench in the middle of the kitchen. The washboard and home made soap were handy on the bench. Martha, too, looked forward to the new home with a cistern for rain water near by.

John finished breakfast, then went out to water the livestock and complete his chores. The balance of the day was spent cleaning the seed grain for planting.

Spring was a busy time on a farm. Crops of oats, barley, wheat and peas had to be planted. Some corn was raised for fodder. If the season was favorable some ripe corn was harvested. Then, too, the calves began to arrive, milking became a twice-a-day chore, hens began to lay, and a large garden had to be planted. The family plot of potatoes was also an important crop.

Late June and early July was haying time. Hay was cut with a mower drawn by two horses. The ditches and rougher areas were cut by hand, with a scythe. Wherever possible the hay was raked with a dump rake pulled by one horse. When
dry, the hay was loaded by hand with a fork unto a wagon equipped with a rack, and unloaded. As more land was cleared of brush, trees and stones, John thought of trying a mechanical hay loader. He also thought about buying a double harpoon fork for unloading the wagon with rope and pulleys—one horse could do the heavy work.

While John was busy mowing, Martha and the children would go out and pick wild strawberries along the fence rows and around the stumps on the back forty. Martha was proud of her canned goods. She knew by fall several shelves in one corner of the cellar would be loaded with canned rhubarb, wild strawberries, cherries, plums and apple sauce. John thought about planting several pear trees next spring.

Cultivating corn took all day. It had to be cultivated three or four times during the growing season. Walking up and down the long rows was a tedious job, both for the one leading the horse and the one holding the hand cultivator. John had heard about storage of green corn in cylinder-like bins called silos. If the early experiments proved successful he was going to build a silo.

Grain harvesting was done in August. Most grain fields were opened by moving around the outside by hand with scythe and cradle. The loose grain stalks had to be tied by hand, then the heavy grain binder drawn by three horses completed the job while Martha and the older children shocked the bundles. When the shocks were dry, the bundles were hauled to the barn and stored in the large barn until threshing time later in the fall.

Rye fields were plowed, and prepared for seeding in the fall. Rye was traded for flour at Shoto.

The children over six years of age had to be prepared for school. Four quart tin pails served as lunch boxes. It became quite a chore for Martha to select a tempting lunch every school day. The children were good students and both John and Martha hoped they would graduate from eighth grade.

John squinted up at the sun several times that morning and wondered why the threshing job at Brown's was taking so long. Finally, he heard the three long blasts of the steam engine whistle indicating the job was done and the machine and crew would soon be on its way. John hurried to the house to inform Martha. He observed the long dining table had been stretched out to its full length with benches on the long sides and two chairs on either end. Martha was glad she could
seat the entire crew at once. John went to the pantry shelf and got two quart bottles of whiskey. "Here's something to cut the dust," he said and placed them on the table. Huge portions of roast beef, potatoes, gravy and garden fresh vegetables and apple pie were needed for the hungry sixteen-man crew and family. Martha was already planning on serving roast pork and custard pie for the next noon meal.

It took a short time to spot the threshing machine on the barn floor, the belt was lined up, and dust began to billow out of the barn door. Several men moved a large load of split pine stumps nearer the engine to be used as fuel. The crew consisted of an engineer, a fireman, a water boy, a blower boy, and two men to feed the machine. Five of John's neighbors pitched bundles out of the mow and five more carried the grain in sacks on their shoulders to the grainary. The straw from the first mow of bundles had to be blown outside on a huge stack. John watched his straw stack grow until it was almost as high as the barn. When the mow was empty the blower was turned inside and the remainder of the straw was blown into the empty mow. The dust was so intense that John could hardly see the men move about in the barn. The job progressed very well, and so the next afternoon, four meals and three lunches later, the threshing was completed. Adolf, the owner of the threshing rig, handed John a bill of $19.80 for the entire job and asked to be remembered next year. John knew that the sale of some of the rye was ample to cover all of the expenses.

By now, the heat of the summer was moderating. John used every spare moment he could find to do the fall plowing. When the soil was hard and dry, he hitched all three horses to the hand plow. The youngsters picked ripe corn from the stalks to be fed to the hogs. Later the corn stalks were cut by hand with a corn knife and set in shocks to be used for fodder. John was glad that he had replaced the old horsepower with a windmill to pull the feed cutter. The frozen corn stalks rattled as they were being cut.

John helped Martha dig the potatoes and harvest the garden. Apples were sliced and dried, carrots and beets were stored in dry sand. Cabbage was shredded and made into sauerkraut. By Thanksgiving, John and Martha had much to be thankful for.

The days were getting colder, so John decided to butcher two of the fat hogs. He called on a neighbor for help. The
big black iron kettle was set up outside, and filled with water. A roaring wood fire was built under it. When the water was boiling hot, the hogs were bled and placed in a large wooden trough one at a time with chains underneath them. It took two men to pull on the chains to roll the hog in the hot water. Soon the hair loosened and were scraped off with scrapers. With the dressing completed, the hogs were split in half length-wise and hung up over night to cool. The next day was a busy one, the sausage was made, the lard was rendered, and hams and bacon placed in salt brine in large crocks. Some of the pork was fried and hot lard poured over it packed in crocks, stored to be used later. When the hams and bacon were well cured in the brine, about six weeks, they were hung on poles in the smoke house. The best maple wood obtainable was used for smoking.

So you see John and Martha provided well for the long winter ahead.

Martha was glad that she had three bags of washed wool to card and spin. She liked to hear the whirr of the spinning wheel as the bobbins were being filled with long and even yarn. She had hoped to knit three pairs of mittens and three pairs of long stockings before Christmas.

John was extra busy in the wood lot, besides cutting a big pile of fire wood. He cut the big pine trees to be used for lumber for the new house.

John often thought of the increase in population and the future demand for farm products. The future did indeed look bright. He knew nothing about our modern production that we take so much for granted today.”

“Other Events of the Period”

In 1909 many residents of our city journeyed to Manitowoc Rapids for a ceremony attended by several thousand county citizens. The occasion was the unveiling of a monument to Chief Mexico, and Indian who figures heavily in the history of our county.

On March 7, 1909, the New Grace Congregational Church on Washington Street was dedicated in loving memory of Grace Hamilton Sweeney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Hamilton.

It was during this period that cigar-making was at its peak in Two Rivers. The cigar makers' stores opened in the 1880's and continued to flourish until at least 1915. Gust Thomas-
chepsky and Christ Meyer were two well-known local cigar makers. After 1915 the trade disappeared for a lack of apprentices. Most of the workers were finding employment in local industries.

In 1910, a later segment of the city’s population began to arrive. With new jobs opening up in our industries about “fifty families of Canadian French descent”4 emigrated from Niagara and Coleman, Wisconsin, to Two Rivers. Names like Brault, Lesperance, Durocher, LaMarsh, Payette, Gibault, Kenville, Sauve, Beaufre, and Belonger were added to the composite descent picture of our city.

An early An early musical group that became extremely popular over the northeastern Wisconsin area for nearly a quarter of a century was the Gloe-Naidl Orchestra. A magic name to dance lovers, the Gloe-Naidl Orchestra provided music also for concerts, theatricals, fashionable weddings and house parties. The orchestra’s expanded personnel through the years was much in demand for social events as it formed string, woodwind and brass trios for parties in Manitowoc and Two Rivers homes. On numerous occasions such combinations played in the homes of the Rahr family, prominent in the earlier days.

The Gloe-Naidl Orchestra was originally the Gloe Brothers, formed in 1904, of which two of the members survive. They are the twins, Arthur and Archie. The others included August (Gussie) Gloe, Frank Lamach and Henry Tesmer. Arthur was the violinist, Archie cornetist, Gussie pianist, Mr. Lamach clarinetist, and Mr. Tesmer, the drummer. Two Riverites in 1907 saw the founding of the Gloe-Naidl Orchestra, as Frank Naidl, trombonist, Joe Naidl, clarinetist, and Dr. Albert R. Naidl, drummer, joined the three Gloe brothers. Archie Gloe was the manager and Arthur arranged the music for the various events. All of the Naidls are deceased.

For a number of years, the original Gloe-Naidl troupe carried on. However, in 1918, Richard Luebeke and Clarence W. (Fritz) Gesell, now residing on 29th Street, replaced “Doc” Naidl as drummers. Two years later William F. (Bill) Kapitz of Manitowoc succeeded Gesell and remained with the band until it disbanded. He also played the xylophone.

During the years of popularity, the Gloe-Naidl organization was augmented by the addition of a large number of ac-

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4 Napoleon Lintereur, The French in Two Rivers, p. 3
accomplished musicians in the area. Among these were the late Edward Schmitt, cellist and bass violinist; Charles Ahrens, bass violinist; Olga Johannes, pianist, and Miss Martha Bonk, deceased. Miss Bonk frequently substituted for Gussie Gloe as pianist and continued at the piano until the orchestra disbanded.

In the early 1920's the younger brother of Arthur and Archie Gloe, the late Randolph (Randy) Gloe, who later had his own orchestra, joined the group. He had spent three years earlier as saxophonist and cornetist with the Ringling Brothers Circus Band under the famed Merle Evans.

During the later years of the orchestra, other talented musicians were a part of the band. They included the late William C. Dufano, drummer and xylophonist, Clarence Becker, trombonist, the late Edgar Wilsmann, violinist, who earlier was with a Milwaukee dance band, and Arthur Kirchen, now of Manitowoc. Years earlier musicians with the band frequently were the late Henry Grimmer, clarinetist, and the late Hans Hansen, bass horn player.

E. World War I

In the summer of 1914, World War I began. By October of 1914, a social note in the Two Rivers Reporter did note that "Mrs. Charles Sibenhorn has received a letter from an uncle in Berlin, Germany. She has also received copies of German newspapers and half of the space is devoted to lists of dead and wounded soldiers. The letter says that the German people are confident of the final success of the Germany army." Our nation stayed out of the war for three years. Our entry into the war in the spring of 1917 brought about a great many changes in the community. Our armory near the Picnics Hills became a beehive of activity. The usual rush of enlistments and the extremely orderly conscription of young men in the community were a part of the 1917 picture. The Two Rivers Reporter contains items that depict the mixture of war news and home front activity so characteristic of the Two Rivers of the period. Witness the following excerpts from that paper:

TWO RIVERS - Walter Suettinger has received and accepted a position in the machine department of the motor-

5 "From our Files," The Two Rivers Reporter, October 20, 1964.
cycle corps of the U. S. Army.
John and Mitchel Lafond leave Friday for Camp Custer, Mich. to visit the Two Rivers boys at the camp.
In the recent prize essay contest conducted by the Chamber of Commerce campaign management 318 pupils of the schools participated. Winners were: Margaret Beth, sixth grade; Helen Marek, first; Loretta Wilsman, third; Margaret Beaton, fourth; Gertrude Baetz, fifth; Gladys Elliot, sixth; George Beth, seventh; Angeline LeClaire, ninth; and Paul Schroeder, eighth . . . Elmer Braun left for Rice Lake Monday where he will make cheese the coming winter . . . Robert Jebavy is home from the Navy on a furlough. He serves on the battleship Montana.
The Two Rivers basketball team will open the season at home on Friday night, Nov. 16, against the Sheboygan team. The local team consists of Dan Blaha, center; Conrad Althen, forward, Ed Stangel, forward; John Schroeder, and Clarence Everson, guards . . . Two Rivers has more men serving in the army in proportion to population than any place in the county. There are between 85 and 90 . . . H. S. Dickson was a business visitor in Milwaukee Saturday.
With less than one-half of the $900,000 Liberty Loan bonds allotted to Manitowoc county subscribed Tuesday, the committee in charge of the canvass sent out the SOS to workers throughout the county in hope of rescuing the county's reputation for loyalty to the government. Two Rivers has reached the sum expected of it, namely $150,000 . . . Stangel Brothers Meat Market has been considerably improved of late. Henry Kappleman, owner of the building, has had a steel ceiling put in. All the interior walls are now of fireproof material . . . R. H. Suettinger and Joseph Koenig hunted ducks on Lake Poygan a few days last week.
George C. Brown who was accepted in the Aviation Corps of the army several weeks ago has departed for Austin, Texas, to be prepared for service abroad. Mr. Brown has made this city his home since his marriage a few weeks ago to Miss Alma Berger . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. P. Hamilton, H. C. Gowran, J. F. Magee and G. A. Magee were at Milwaukee Saturday to listen to the speech of ex-Ambassador Gerard . . . Albert Albrecht left for Racine Sunday where he will be employed.
The big Chamber of Commerce membership drive is on. Up to noon Tuesday more than 100 persons had subscribed and each of the committees report that they have many excellent prospects . . . Hundreds of wild geese flying near the Twin River Point Light, five miles north of here, Wednesday night, did great damage to the lenses of the light house. Many flew against the lenses breaking them. Five of the geese got inside and were captured by
the keeper, E. C. Sterritt . . . Miss Katharine Schaff entertained friends at a beech nut party last Sunday.
Two Rivers now has a chamber of commerce. The membership of this new organization is composed of people in every trade, profession, business and industry as well as a number of farmers . . . . Mrs. Frank Zivny who has been sent as a delegate to the conference of the Bohemian National Alliance in Chicago, returned to her home Saturday . . . .

On Friday, Oct. 26, the Camp Fire Girls invite the men and women, girls and boys to come to the Opera House and join in a confetti frolic and dance. The girls will buy Liberty Bonds with the proceeds.

As the war continued in 1917 and 1918, several of our local industries received war-goods' contracts. Chief among these was the Hamilton Manufacturing Company which obtained a government contract to build DeHaviland aeroplane fusilages and wing frames. The Aluminum Goods also produced millions of canteens, cooking utensils and mess kits.

Gradually the war news darkened. Before the conflict was over eleven young men from our community had given their lives for their country. They were:

Charles Allie  Robert E. Burns
Harry Bartz  Isadore Lesperance
Charles Bugler  Anton Polcar
William Allen  Eugene Dupras
George Simonis  August Wisen
Adolph Wondrash

Important American contributions helped the allies rout the Germans in the summer and fall of 1918 and on November 11, 1918, the armistice was signed at Compeigne, ending the Great War.

After a few months of occupation duty in Germany, our servicemen were re-united with their families. The years 1919 and 1920 were years of change as an America at war became an America beset with internal problems. The year 1919 saw the 18th Amendment and the Volstead Act passed. These two measures launched Two Rivers and the nation into an era known as "prohibition days." Since the last legal beer and whiskey was sold here in 1919, the decade of the twenties was to see a variety of illegal still and brewery operations in the area.
F. The Twenties

The new decade of the twenties began with the announce-
ment of the retirement from active business of J. E. Hamilton. In
the same year Fred Bishop was appointed superintendent of
schools for the city. The population of Two Rivers con-
tinued to climb as a total of 7,305 people were noted. The
year 1920 saw the formation of the Hamilton Band and Lorenz
Lueck was named director the following year.

In 1921 the city mourned the passing of an old favorite, Dr. J. R. Currens and took time out to honor Rev. J. A.
Geissler on the occasion of his 25th anniversary in the priest-
hood.

The early twenties saw the formation of a good many clubs and organizations in our community. The Robert E. Burns Post #1248 was chartered in 1924.

Civic and Church Affairs

In 1922 a new high school was erected at the north end of
Washington Street. This building was a fine addition to the
educational picture of the community and this writer is just
one of the many students who had the privilege of graduating
from the school. In 1924 a swimming pool was added to the
building. The pool was the generous gift of Mr. J. E. Hamil-
ton.

On April 18, 1924 an election was held on the question of
adopting the city-manager form of government. The vote
proved favorable. On May 18, 1925 the City Council ap-
pointed Richard Biehl as City Manager. Biehl served from
June 1, 1925 to June 15, 1928.

In 1924 St. Marks Congregation was organized because of
overcrowding at the parent church, St. Lukes. The Rev. P.
J. Nilles was appointed pastor of the new parish on the city's
southside.

The year 1924 saw a native son, lately a lawyer from Helena,
Montana, step into the national spotlight. Senator Thomas J.
Walsh was grilling witnesses in the Teapot Dome Case held
in the nation's capitol. Walsh succeeded in breaking the case
when Edwin B. McLain of Washington admitted that he had
been a courier and had transmitted a bribe from the Sinclair
and Doheny Oil interests to Secretary of the Interior Albert
B. Fall. Fall was sent to prison and Walsh drew the acclaim
1863 — The Tannery buildings located on the East Twin River near the Albert Geimer farm.

1879 — An artist's version of the city.
The Twin Rivers Lighthouse in the 1880's is shown in a recent painting by the late Ed Carron. The old brick tower was taken down to roof level in the 1890's as a new steel lighthouse was erected.

H.H. "Deacon" Smith, an early civic-minded Two Riverite.
1887 — The Waverly Hotel which was constructed by Gagnon and Bartelme.
1890 — The Two Rivers Lifesaving Station taken from the south pier. Oliver Pilon was the Station’s captain.

1887 — The steamer Vernon which was later shipwrecked off Point Beach.
1890 — A view of the West Twin River looking northwest from the present site of the Two Rivers Water and Light plant.

1891 — The original Jos. Mann Library. This building was later moved and became the city hall.
1895 — The original building of the Hamilton Manufacturing Company known as building “A”. Mr. H.P. Hamilton is standing in the doorway in the center of the picture.

The old Turner Hall (Opera House) which stood where the present post office is located.
1899 – The Goodrich Docks at the north bank of the junction of the two rivers. This picture was taken from the Coast Guard Station.

1900 – The dedication of the Civil War monument in the center of Washington Street.
1900 — A view of Washington Street looking southeast. This picture was taken from the bell tower of the old city hall on 17th and Washington Streets.

1900 — The old city hall which stood on the corner of 17th and Washington Streets.
1903 — A view of the West Twin River looking northwest from the present site of the Two Rivers Water and Light plant.

1903 — A view of the city taken from the Picnic Hills. The road in the foreground later became highway 42 and the house in the left foreground was that of David Le Clair.
Sunday, October 3, 1909 — Automobiles congregate in front of the Hotel Hamilton. The picture was arranged by former Mayor Currens of Two Rivers and former Mayor George Duval of Kewaunee and was taken by John Braun.

1912 — A Southside band.

1919 — A view of Washington Street looking north. The victory arch commemorates the Allied victory of World War I.
1925 – A “steamer” fire engine purchased in 1871. Left to right: Chief Ed Lahey, B. Lawler, Charlie Waskow, Ervin Monk, Arthur Rahn, and Alex LaFleur.

July 12, 1930 – The old sawmill of the Mann Bros. Co. burns to the ground. This mill was located on the north shore of the West Twin River at the junction of 18th and Madison.
1930's — The Hamilton Manufacturing Co. office on 18th Street.
1933 — The J.E. Hamilton Community House.

1934 — The Two Rivers fishing fleet assembles in the harbor.

1969 — The U.S. Coast Guard Station.
1969 — The Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant looking southwest.

1969 — Washington High School showing the new physical education unit.
of his colleagues for his fine work in exposing one of the scandals of the Harding Administration.

On October 5, 1926 the City was shocked by the fatal shooting of policeman L. Rocque as he stood at the entrance of the police station which was located at the corner of Washington and 17th Streets. The murder was never solved although the investigation of this crime was conducted for some time afterward.

The mid-twenties were the golden age of sports nationally and our community was swept up in the national mood. “Doc” Delmore was an early baseball and basketball hero and the Two Rivers Mirros dominated the baseball scene. On September 9, 1928, the Mirros emerged the State League baseball champs.

The year 1927 saw Arthur Baetz purchase the Chronicle newspaper and consolidate it with the Weekly Reporter. Also in 1927 the Wisconsin Public Service Corporation introduced central gas to the community.

Ever since 1902 Two Riverites had become accustomed to the sound and sight of street cars in the city. A municipal squabble occurred in the mid-twenties that resulted in the street car service being discontinued on May 15, 1927.

In 1928 Earl J. Donnelly became City Manager and served the city in that capacity until 1940. An ordinance was passed in 1928 that set up our first recreation board. A governing board elected Arthur Eckley, the principal at the Roosevelt School, its first recreation director. City Manager Donnelly was to see an enormous growth occur in the city’s recreational organization under the administration of Eckley. A major reason for recreational growth in the community was the fine gift of a Community House by J. E. Hamilton.

Arthur Baetz, noted for his newspaper activities, sold the Reporter-Chronicle to Mark Byers in 1929. Mr. Byers then founded the Daily Reporter. One of the Daily Reporter's early activities was a fish tug race conducted on Lake Michigan. In 1929 the tug Doughboy won the Reporter race.

The Thirties

On May 5, 1930 a new choral group called the Meistersingers was formed. In sports a new activity was introduced in the community with the building of the Fairview Golf Course in 1930. In July of 1930 approximately five thousand people
attended the Lutheran Saengerfest held in our city.

Also in 1930 the new Koenig school was constructed on the southside of the city.

The Thirties were ushered in with one of the finest gifts a citizen could bestow on a community, the J. E. Hamilton Community House.

G. The J. E. Hamilton Community House

Few American cities have had the benefit of a philanthropic venture such as the J. E. Hamilton Community House. For the past 37 years the citizens of our community have met in this fine structure in order to enjoy athletic, recreational, social, and intellectual pursuits.

The project grew out of a series of preliminary talks that J. E. Hamilton held in the summer of 1929. One of “Ed” Hamilton’s original ideas was to construct an all-weather swimming pool in Lake Shore Park. A survey of the city’s needs was conducted and it became apparent that what was really needed was a community building. The firm of Childs and Smith of Chicago drew up a preliminary building plan and established cost estimates. The estimated cost of this original plan was set at $100,000. Mr. Hamilton agreed to offer the city of Two Rivers the building itself if the city would provide a suitable plot of land.

Mr. Hamilton wanted the building to be something more than a monument. He envisioned a multi-activitiied usage of the building that would include facilities not ordinarily found in a city of Two Rivers’ size. These additional facilities more than doubled the cost of the building. Mr. Hamilton’s plans were aided by the work of a close associate, Mr. T. W. Suddard, a plant manager and secretary of the Hamilton Mfg. Co.

The building is constructed of materials that will stand the test of time. The foundation was laid on deep-driven piles. Concrete and steel line the inner areas of the building and stone walls add to the beauty of the structure.

The Immel Construction Company of Fond du Lac was engaged to build the Community House. The Lannon stone that was used came from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

The completed building was to be operated by the Municipal Recreation Department of Two Rivers. A special board, appointed by the city manager, was set up to hire personnel and establish rules and policy in the use of the building.
As one enters the front of the building he is met by a large lounge area. The center of the first floor houses an outstanding gymnasium and auditorium room. The basement of the building contains bowling alleys, a banquet room, a kitchen, a billiards hall, hand-ball court, and locker rooms. The second floor of the building contains several meeting rooms and balcony gymnasium seating. The Community House remains a tribute to the man who envisioned it, Mr. J. E. Hamilton.

The religious environment of our community was augmented in 1932 by the erection of the New Emanuel United Methodist church. This fine example of English gothic architecture is located on the southside of Two Rivers on Madison Street. The Reverend Franklin Schleuter was the pastor of the church at the time of its construction.

The year 1933 brought with it the pit of the great depression. President Franklin Roosevelt took over the reins of government and tried to bring us out of the depression with a controversial program known as the new deal. One of Roosevelt's appointments to a Cabinet Office was Thomas J. Walsh who was to serve as the new Attorney General. Walsh died shortly before he was to take office in the spring of 1933.

The Civil Works Administration became in 1933 the federal government's reply to the unemployment situation across our land. In Two Rivers a number of CWA projects were begun. The CWA started the construction of Thomas J. Walsh Memorial Field in that year. Other projects involved constructing comfort stations and wading pools at playgrounds, transplanting trees, grading of streets and ball diamonds, and the construction of a girl scout house in the Picnic Hills.

On November 28, 1933, a new federal post office building opened its doors to the public.

As the unemployment situation in private industry began to worsen, the city began to tighten its financial belt. City taxes in 1933 amounted to $52,531 and were lowered to $48,839 for 1934. In addition an ordinance had to be passed extending the time for the payment of taxes.

The City's Annual Report for 1933 stated that, "In addition to the cash reimbursement for all communities that joined the state unit, aid was given in the form of surplus commodities, such as pork and eggs. During the months of November and December, Two Rivers received fifteen cases of four hundred and fifty dozen eggs, and ten thousand pounds of dried salt-cured pork, which was distributed to relief accounts
and 175 borderline cases." The American Red Cross supplied 930 barrels of flour and clothing for the relief workers. In a city of 10,264 people, the records show that some 2,642 people owed part of their livelihood to local and federal relief programs. A total of $141,671 was spent on the unemployed in 1933, where the total expenditure for the unemployed in 1928 had been $3,701.

Despite the conditions evident during a depression, crime did not show a sizeable increase. The local police force carried on its duties in a Ford, a Whippet, and two motorcycles.

We move on to 1935 and find the city continuing its numerous building projects with the aid of the unemployed. In 1935, $205,183 was spent on relief; $83,051 by the city. Some of the projects for 1935 were: a new athletic fieldhouse and classroom addition to the high school, fence and backstop at Walsh Field, planting of trees, and a new $115,000 water filtration plant was completed near Lakeshore Park.

With the repeal of the 18th Amendment by the passage of the 21st Amendment, beer, wines, and liquor could once again be legally produced for normal sale in the United States. During the prohibition era the local brewery had to produce soft drinks as an alternate requisite of staying in business. By 1934, beer was back and being produced by the local brewery. A check of other industries locally showed slightly higher employment in the year 1935. Numerous businesses that were representative of the period, continued in operation during the year 1935, among them the Metalware Corporation, Schwartz Mfg. Co., Crescent Woolen Mills, Pauly and Pauly Cheese Co., Enterprize Plating Works, and the Nelson Lumber Company. The Reporter-Chronicle was joined by the Free Press to complete the newspaper picture in the city.

By 1935 two new deal agencies were involved in the relief picture in Two Rivers. The F. E. R. A. and W. P. A. were now household words. The city was gradually starting the long climb out of the depths of the depression by 1936. The city anticipated spending $38,000 less on relief in 1936 than in 1935. More home construction was started and jobs in industry began to stabilize slightly. The city turned its attention to a myriad number of improvement projects among them the purchase of a new police car and motorcycle for the combined price of $800.

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6 City of Two Rivers, Eight Annual Report, p. 21.
H. Centennial Year—1936

In the year 1935 the Two Rivers Reporter was absorbed by the Evening Telegram of Superior, Wisconsin. Seymour Althen continued as the local editor of the newspaper.

This community of 10,000 people had come a long way since the day when Oliver Longvine operated the old sawmill owned by Judge Lawe and John Eberts. The Two Rivers' reporter did a fine job of publishing a centennial edition of its newspaper. This edition contained histories of many areas of interest in the community and also carried the news of the world. Mirrored in its pages were the rise of Adolph Hitler, the workings of the “New Deal” Democrats, and the ouster of Eleanor Holmes. The reporter carried its regular features such as Ripley’s Believe It or Not, The Washington Merry-go-round, Scotts’ Scrapbook, and the “Old Days in Two Rivers” column.

The city received a great deal of publicity concerning its “summer snow” activities and its cool penninsular climate of the mid-summer months. It was during the mid-thirties that professional football teams began to take advantage of our climate and facilities by holding their summer training camps here. First came the Pittsburgh Pirates and the Columbus Bulls.

A centennial parade was staged which reminded our citizens of their heritage. Numerous floats complemented the usual parade groups. One such float featured “Duke Bridges” portraying Pere Marquette in a bark canoe.

The Snow of 1936 Makes the City Famous

The Date was July 9, 1936 and it found the midwest suffering in 104° degree temperatures.

Two Rivers—“the coolest spot”—enjoyed a moderate 82.

At School and Fourteenth St., where WPA (remember?) crews were at work on a proposed city park, one of the workmen turned over a spadeful of dirt and uncovered—of all things—SNOW.

Then the fun—and nationwide publicity for Two Rivers—began.

The snow, which had fallen to a depth of some four feet the previous winter, was preserved under a coverage of black dirt thrown over it in the spring.
Hit the Network

Informed of the rare find by The Reporter, the Associated Press sent the story over its nationwide news network. It was no mere gag designed to boost this city as the “coolest spot in Wisconsin” for E. J. Donnelly, then city manager, had proven the snow’s presence here in the midst of the surrounding heat wave by bringing a foot square chunk of the cold, white substance to the newspaper office. It was only moments later that pictures were taken of Two Rivers’ summer snow bank which in the next couple of days was to appear in daily papers throughout the nation.

In neighboring Manitowoc, the Late Mayor Arthur Schuetze scoffed at the snow find as a Two Rivers publicity stunt. That afternoon the good mayor was made to believe when Donnelly placed a bucket filled with the snow right on the mayor’s desk in the city hall at Manitowoc.

Snowball Fight

A couple of weeks later the Two Rivers Junior Chamber of Commerce promoted a snow fight here with the Manitowoc Jaces providing the opposition. Ammunition, of course, was the snow found at the School and Fourteenth street project.

Then, for the ensuing three summers, the Robert E. Burns post, American Legion, continued to make capital of the idea, promoting mid-summer snow festivals in Walsh field, complete with a snow queen, snowball fights and all of the rest of the colorful pageantry that went with it.

During the early post war years the snow festival observance was not held. Two Rivers, thanks to its ideal location on a peninsula jutting out into Lake Michigan, continues to be the coolest spot in Wisconsin.

With the Centennial year behind them, the citizens of Two Rivers welcomed the year 1937. The depression was still in evidence and the W.P.A. and P.W.A. were the most prominent lettered agencies active in our community. A total of $140,402 was spent on relief in Two Rivers of which $45,603 was spent directly by the city government. The new Washington grade school was finally completed under a P.W.A. grant. The city officials in 1937 were representative of the many fine civic-minded individuals who have come to serve our community. The 1937 officials were:
City Manager - E. J. Donnelly
City Treasurer - Jos. Doleysh
City Assessor - Wm. Halberg
City Clerk and Auditor - John Hoffman, Jr.
City Librarian - Mrs. B. H. Knight
Health Officer - Dr. A. P. Zlatnik
Council President - Napoleon Lintereur

It was during this time period that “Ed” Hamilton bridged the gap between professional furniture and children’s nursery furniture. The Hamilton Manufacturing Company continued the move to diversify its production in the succeeding years.

Another industry worthy of mention was the Carron Net Company which began production in 1936. Its primary products were basketball and fish nets which were produced for firms in the area. The Carron Net Company received it principal boost from a U.S. Government war contract for camouflage nets in 1941. Adding to the growth of the net industry in the years that followed were the Gagnon and Ace Net Companies.

The year 1938 ushered in an increase in relief activity in our city. The nation had suffered a temporary economic setback in 1937 and it was deemed necessary to continue the “pump priming” activity of the new dealers. In 1938, the city spent $52,296 on relief out of a total relief budget of $294,556. This was the largest relief expenditure for any depression year. The city received a P. W. A. grant to build a new sewage disposal plant. Other relief projects entered into were the construction of sidewalks, tennis court fencing, tree transplanting, repair of city docks, construction of a new water tower and the repairs of the Monroe Street bridge. The city also allocated $4,000 for the purchase of land which would eventually become the Point Beach State Forest. At this point I will relate the story of the State Forest.

Point Beach State Forest

One of the premier attractions of our community is a beautifully forested area of land six miles north of Two Rivers known as Point Beach State Forest. The 2,511 acre tract of native woodlands and beaches had its humble beginnings as a 60 acre federal plot in 1938. The Point Beach Forest is a tribute to 3 parties. First, the late Frank Kaufman, who amassed a sizeable acreage in the area and had vision enough to see that one day this area might be of great citizen value if it
could only be preserved in its natural state. Secondly, the public spirited citizens of our County who persevered in their efforts to see Kaufman's idea realized and, thirdly, the state forestry and park division who saw the recreational and nature study advantages which the forest could supply to our citizens.

In 1938 the City of Two Rivers voted a sum of $4000 toward the purchase of part of Kaufmans preserve. The Manitowoc County Board voted an additional $4500 for land purchase in the area. These sums together with state funds, made possible an initial purchase of 770 acres at a cost of $18,000.

In May of 1948 an important additional land purchase was made by the state of Wisconsin. A 250 acre parcel was added to the state forest area at a cost of $13,000.

At present the forest contains 2,511 acres and occupies 2½ miles of Lake Michigan beach land and extends inland about ½ mile.

The sandy beaches and dunes are set off by the beautiful 125 foot high Point Beach lighthouse, long an attraction to a sightseeing public. The dunes feature sand grasses and junipers as well as sand cherry bushes. As one proceeds inland, he notes alternating ridges and swamps which are said to be portions of glacial lake shorelines. The ecology of the region includes species of cedar and beech trees at the beach edge of the forest.

As one moves into the forest he sees beautiful stands of trees that include white birch, white pine, norway pine, hemlock, yellow birch, cedar, oak, and maple. Auxiliary species in the region include tamarack and black alder in the swamp areas as well as chokecherry bushes in the higher land areas. The botanical life of the region is complimented by many species of flowers that line the forest floor. Species of the orchid family such as the ladyslipper are found here. Other floral species include the trailing arbutus, marsh marigold, wintergreen, creeping snowberry, two species of violet, partridge berry, bearberry, and mayflower.

The forest supports a variety of game animals and birds highlighted by a deer herd that numbers approximately 80 animals. Other species includes cottontail rabbits, grouse, partridge, and red and gray squirrels.

The southern boundary of the park area is marked by an Indian campsite. Menominee, Ottawa, and Pottawatomie tribes lived in the area 150 years ago and left Indian relics in the sandy camp sites. Many interesting collections of Indian artifacts have been made by local residents who have searched
this area during the past 50 years.

In more recent years, a public made aware of the pollution menaces that appear in large areas of our land, has come to recognize Point Beach State Forest as a natural oasis in the midst of our modern society. Park buildings, roads, and camp-sites have been added in growing numbers. In the early 40's it was decided to build a recreation building and picnic grounds near the north end of the park. Later, park managers home and station were constructed near the Point Beach lighthouse. On a road between the managers home and the recreation building were constructed 114 campsites. In 1966, 38 new campsites were constructed along an inland road in order to accomodate more campers. For the moment the presence of decaying alewives along the beach shoreline has slowed camp-ing activity in the area. Programs for the control of the ale-wive problem are being worked out, the first of which was the introduction of the coho salmon which feeds on the ale-wives.

The popularity of the park has grown with improvements carried out by Orville Coenen, the park's manager. In recent years a new contact station and additional camper toilets have been installed as well as a new ice rink which attracts as many as 400 area youths at a time.

In 1967, the number of persons who were attracted to Point Beach State Forest amounted to 171,832. This figure was a 25.7 per cent increase over the 136,628 attendance figure for the 1966 season. The Forest continues to be one of the fine appointments found in the Two Rivers area.

I. The World War II Period

The year 1939 saw events overseas explode into World War II. Adolph Hitler, already bulging with Austria and Czechoslo-vakia, struck at Poland on September 1, 1939, and brought the nations of Europe into a general war. The concern over the depression in this country grew into a concern over America's possible entry into World War II. As the Fascist dictator Hit-ler tried to enslave Europe, President Franklin Roosevelt took increasingly war-like measures to aid the allies.

American sympathy gradually shifted toward aid to the Al-lies and was reflected in a small number of enlistments both on the allied and American side of the war. A local man by the name of Roland LeMere joined the Royal Canadian Air
Force, was sent to England and died in the skies over Europe in 1940. In the same year, Burton Hanson was killed at sea while serving on an American ship in the North Atlantic.

During 1940 and 41 the Kahlenburg Co. exported 14 engines to the Institute of Fisheries, Batavia, Java for the Dutch government. The last two units never reached Java, due to the war and were shipped instead to Melbourne, Australia. American army authorities in Java appropriated the engines before the Japanese occupation forces landed. The engines were taken to Australia and used in vessels that played a key supply role in the early war in the South Pacific. Another local industry, the Hamilton Mfg. Co., had introduced the electric clothes dryer during the previous year. The nation’s first dryer was a Hamilton exclusive and was invented by J. Ross Moore of North Dakota.

Two Rivers was a town of some 12,000 people in 1940. Somehow there were a great many things happening locally that helped to keep our minds off the war. Ed Hall had come to town a few years earlier and was now building high school basketball squads of a high caliber. His 1941 team defeated top-ranked Shawano and won the W.I.A.A. championship.

The Masonic Lodge had to be rebuilt following a fire on December 25, 1940. The newly furnished Lodge was opened on October 2, 1941.

Public opinion began to firm up for the allied side as dictators posed an ever increasing threat to the allies, and in the case of Japan, to the United States. Finally on December 7, 1941, the “day of infamy” occurred as Japan carried out a sneak attack on Pearl Harbor. Enlistments in Two Rivers went up overnight and the nation braced itself for a long war. As World War II progressed a draft law was instituted and worked smoothly due to nearly unanimous public opinion in favor of the allied and American cause. National guardsmen from Manitowoc County were among the first to leave and large enlistment numbers in every branch of the service soon swelled the ranks of the military in a nation at war.

For a glimpse of Two Rivers in mid-war we turn to the Two Rivers Reporter and note the following items that appeared in the paper in 1942.

“Two Rivers’ first surprise blackout came shortly after eight o’clock last night and the test brought out the important fact that the warning signal was not sufficiently audible in the outlying sections of the city. . . . The Purple
and Gold society of Washington High School has voted money to frame a water color painting done by Dick Allie, a student in the 12th grade. This painting is the artist's conception of the launching of the submarine, Peto, and will be hung in the school . . . Sgt. Eugene Bartelme, Presidio, San Francisco, arrived in the city last night enroute to Fort Benning, Ga., where he will enter officers' candidate school.

TWO RIVERS - The largest unit ever to take part in war time efforts will be the Junior Army for scrap formed among all the school children in the city. It is estimated that more than 3,000 students will take part. Virgil Dallman, senior at Washington high school, is acting in the capacity of major for the drive . . . Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars auxiliary will hold a mother and daughter luncheon on Nov. 5. Mrs. Fern Cochenet was named chairman at a meeting last evening . . . . Apprentice Seaman Francis J. Rehrauer is now stationed at the U. S. Naval Training station at San Diego, California.

TWO RIVERS - That Wisconsin is more firmly entrenched financially after a four year Republican regime than at any other time in its history, was the statement of Governor Julius P. Heil in a campaign address for re-election before a gathering at the Community House Friday . . . Carl Griep and son, Paul, are leaving for Los Angeles, Calif. this evening where the latter will enter the Curtis-Wright Institute. Mrs. Griep will remain at Los Angeles for three weeks as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Luebke, former Two Rivers residents . . . . Willard Birr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Birr, has enlisted in medical corps of the United States Navy.

TWO RIVERS - Of 122 draftees from District No. 2 who passed physical examinations at Milwaukee last Saturday, 54 were Two Rivers men. It is the largest contingent ever to be sent from this city. Among the selectees who will enter the armed forces is the veteran councilman, Fred F. Krueger . . . . Co-chairmen H. C. Wilke, Emanuel Galecki and Ed Weber have arranged a program for the third annual farmer-business and professional men's "get together" this evening at the Community House . . . .

Pic. Harlan J. Bohne and Mrs. Bohne left this morning to make their home at Amarillo, Texas.

In 1943 the Vets of Foreign Wars sponsored a paper called the SOJOURNER. It was mailed monthly to all servicemen from this area. There were approximately 600 recipients of the paper. E. J. Smeijkel was the paper's advisor and the printing was done in the vocational school print shop.

The year 1943 proved to be the pivotal year of the war as the allies reversed the trend of battle at such scattered points
as Stalingrad, Guadalcanal, El Alamein, and the Battle of Midway.

As could be expected the industrial potential of Two Rivers was converted to war production. The Aluminum Goods Manufacturing Company made utensils, parts for airplane fuel tanks, airplane engine deflectors, radar parts, and cartridge cases of brass and steel. Some of its rolled aluminum went to the Lend-Lease program. The Hamilton Manufacturing Company also had war contracts for the manufacture of metal ammunition cases. The Carron Net Company made camouflage nets and the Paragon Electric Company made marine switch boxes and timers.

Victory seemed in sight in 1944 as MacArthur employed his "island-hopping" technique in the Pacific Theater of War and Eisenhower prepared for D-Day in Europe. Back in Two Rivers our citizens were growing accustomed to regulations and conditions imposed by a government at War. Rationing of vital foods still left the population with a more than adequate diet. Gasoline was rationed and resulted in the high school bus being retired until such time as more gasoline became available. A few cases of gasoline siphoning were reported by the police. Workers in Two Rivers industries arranged "car pools" to lower individual gasoline consumption and a fleet of used buses were molded into the Victory Bus Line by Ernie Sorenson. The Victory Bus Line transported Two Rivers residents to Manitowoc primarily for work on the Manitowoc submarines. At the high school, shorter athletic school trips saved on gasoline as the conference officials split the Northeastern Wisconsin Conference into four-team sections. Each of the teams engaged in a home and home schedule with its opponents in football.

The year nineteen forty four saw the Rivoli Theater running June Allyson movies to packed houses. The city welcomed home a continued flow of its servicemen who were home on leave.

As 1945 approached, it was evident that allied victory was assured. Hitler's Germany surrendered in the spring of 1945 and with the dropping of two A-Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Japanese surrendered in mid-August of 1945. The War was over and our servicemen began to return home in the months that followed. Some of those who went to war were not to return to their homes in Two Rivers. The following Two Rivers' servicemen lost their lives in World War
II:

Nineteen forty-six saw most of our servicemen returning home and becoming “re-adjusted”. Many resumed pre-war jobs in industry while others took advantage of the “G.I. Bill of Rights” which included college training at U.S. Government expense. Ceiling prices were removed from our economy and an inflationary period set in. Our new President was Harry Truman in those post-war years. Returning veterans enlarged the ranks of the American Legion and the Vets and a new veteran’s group, the Amvets, began to organize.

By 1947 it was apparent that our wartime alliance with Russia had dissolved as the Soviets now tried to extend their control over the remainder of the world. We were entering a new period of history known as the “Cold War” which was exemplified in 1948 and 1949 by the Berlin airlift. These were days of Communist victories in Czechoslovakia and China. Here at home our citizens were enjoying the post war years hoping that President Truman would somehow come up with the right set of policies resulting in the containment of the communists. Mr. Truman’s Marshall Plan Aid to help revive Western Europe economically and his Truman Doctrine designed to offer military assistance to any country in danger of being overrun by the Communists did contain the reds for a time. On June 25, 1950 the North Korean Communists suddenly and deliberately attacked South Korea. The United States and the United Nations went to war to halt communist aggression. In Two Rivers a limited number of young men joined in the war effort, as a limited military force was called for in this war.

On September 21, 1950, the new 17th Street Bridge was opened, with entertainment by an accordion band, the Calico and Kerchief Square Dance Club, and the Dude Ranch Boys. The ribbon was cut by Joan Hoffman, daughter of City Manager John Hoffman.
In 1951 St. Luke’s Church held its Centennial observation. In that same year the Schmitt Brothers quartet, which developed some of its talent in the St. Luke’s Choir, won the International Championship of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

The city welcomed the truce which proved an end to the war in Korea in 1953. The men who gave their lives for our country deserve special mention in this narrative; they were: Elmer Albrecht, Paul Blasczyk, Ivoe Corbiel, Wayne Kruger, Richard Schultz, Gerald Sekadlo, Paul Shebesta, Donald Tuma, and Dale Weber.

It was on July 26, 1953, that the ground breaking ceremonies of Our Saviour Lutheran Church were held. The new church is located at 34th and Tannery Road.

On Sept. 19, 1953, the first cargo of fuel oil was delivered via pipe line to the new storage tanks of the Two Rivers Terminal Corporation on the West Twin River. The tanker TAURUS, first to make Two Rivers a regular port of call, scraped harbor bottom with a cargo of 532,000 gallons to be unloaded at the city owned docks at the foot of Jefferson Street.

The mid-fifties were the Eisenhower years as the World War II General was overwhelmingly elected to two four-year terms as our president. Scattered “cold” war incidents marked this period, among them the Lebanese Occupation, sputnik, and the Castro takeover in Cuba. At home the city experienced two “recessions” or minor dips in our economy.

In religious news, 1957 was the year that Monsignor Hugo resigned as pastor of St. Luke’s Church. In that same year the first mass was read at Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church which is located on Tannery Road.

Back on the national scene a Two Rivers painter was making history. Lester Bentley, the well-known Two Rivers artist, was commissioned to paint the White House portrait of President Eisenhower. Bentley had earlier painted a number of portraits of Wisconsin governors for the state capitol building.

It is a well-known fact that many of the early church services in Two Rivers were held in a tongue other than English. In 1958, St. John’s Lutheran Church conducted its last service in German. This event marked the close of an era of bilingualism that characterized homes of many of our earlier citizens. In 1960, St. John’s Church honored its retiring pastor Rev. Haase. As the decade of the sixties arrived, St. John’s made plans for observing its 100th anniversary which was held
in the year 1963.

In that same year our young president, John F. Kennedy, became an American martyr on the streets of Dallas. Shortly afterward, the Warren Commission, a representative investigative group, appointed by President Johnson, studied and reported on that dark day in American History. One of the members of the Warren Commission was Leo Gauthier, a Two Rivers man, who had been a longtime confident of J. Edgar Hoover of the F.B.I. Gauthier was considered to be an “expert witness” in matters relating to charting criminal scenes and activities.

Nineteen sixty-five was a year for religious news. In that year a charter was signed which led to the formation of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. The new church is located at 3234 Mishicot Road. In 1965, a new Catholic High School was built between Two Rivers and Manitowoc. The school was to be staffed by Franciscan Sisters and the Christian Brothers and was named after Pope John XXIII whose family name was Roncalli. The first principal of the school was Brother Cyril F. S. C. and the assistant principal was Sister Elizabeth Ann, O.S.F. In the area of public schools the Two Rivers system was expanded to include the new Eastside School and the Magee School which served the citizens of the northern end of the community.

It was in the mid-sixties that our citizens were following the political career of John Gronouski, postmaster-general of the United States and later ambassador to Poland. The ambassador’s parents were residents of our city.

It should be noted here that the community of Two Rivers has been gifted with more than its share of artists. The best known area artist is undoubtedly Lester Bentley. One could easily conceive of a list of recognized local artists which would include names like John La Fond, Bill Lachowicz, Edward Carron, and Michael Kazan.

In the area of literature Two Rivers will be remembered as the subject and setting of the novel “Miss Monday” by Sophia Belzar Engstrand. In the early 1960’s George Vukolich, the Madison author, wrote a book entitled “Fisherman’s Beach.” The book deals with the life of Two Rivers fishermen and the George Le Clair family supplies the basis for the fictional characters in the book.

Of interest to the many sportsmen in the Two Rivers area was the planting of Pacific Coho Salmon in Lake Michigan in
1966 by the Michigan Conservation Dept. The Coho were responsible for quickly making Manistee, Michigan the nation's hottest fishing spot. The Wisconsin Conservation Dept. quickly followed Michigan's lead and planted Coho's near Algoma, Wisconsin. Today, the Coho has been established as one of the major game fish in Lake Michigan.

An event of great impact on the community was the construction of the New Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant in 1966.

**J. Point Beach Nuclear Plant**

On May 18, 1966 the Two Rivers Reporter announced in large headline print the plans of the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Company to build a new 60-million dollar nuclear power plant about 10 miles north of Two Rivers along the Lake Michigan shoreline. The new 450,000 kilowat nuclear plant was to be the largest piece of construction work ever developed in Manitowoc County.

The immediate benefits to the community of Two Rivers were outlined by company representatives who spoke to clubs and civic groups in the area. Approximately 500 persons, connected with construction of the plant, would be area consumers until their departure in 1970.

On October 27, 1967 the announcement was made that a second unclear power plant to be owned by the Wisconsin Electric Power Company would be built next to the first Point Beach Nuclear Power Plant. The cost of construction of the two units would amount to 120 million dollars.

The town of Two Creeks site had been selected by the Companies over a number of others in the Great Lakes area. One of the deciding factors was the location of the Point Beach Plant almost directly east of the Appleton main office of the Wisconsin-Michigan Power Co. and the coolness of the water in Lake Michigan.

The main contractor for the Point Beach Plant is The Westinghouse Electric Corporation, Atomic Power Division, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Westinghouse has engaged the Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco to design the structures and non-nuclear portions of the plant, and to construct the plant.

The two companies estimate a yearly construction payroll of some 4 million dollars, a fact that will certainly influence business and housing interests in the Two Rivers area. When
completed a total of 85 people will be employed at the two plants.

It was Michael Kazar, who, on January 27, 1966, appeared before the Two Rivers Historical Society and proposed that a fishing industry museum encompassing three blocks of Rogers Street, be established.

In 1966 a new motel began to be constructed at the east end of Washington Street. Due to interim financial difficulty, the project stalled for a time and is now being completed by the Ramada Inn establishment. The motel is being built along the shoreline of Lake Michigan near the water plant.

In 1967 Seymour Athen, well-known editor of the daily Reporter newspaper, retired after an illustrious career that began back in the days when the Reporter was a weekly paper. Also in the area of a communications media was another local man, Charles La Force, who was a fixture on Milwaukee television as a master of ceremonies and weatherman.

The Decade of the sixties saw this nation involved in its longest period of military action, the war in Vietnam. At this writing the war had claimed the lives of Thomas Sagen, Robert Ruminski, Allen Kakuk, William Behrens, Edward Brefczynski, and Karl Weber.

In the year 1969, the big news locally was the merger of the Hamilton Manufacturing Company of Two Rivers with the American Hospital Supply Corporation of Evanston, Illinois. Mr. R. G. Halvorsen, Hamilton Company president, announced that the activities and operation of the Hamilton Company would continue as in the past with the possibility that Hamilton would manufacture a member of new products.

In 1969, a new president, Richard M. Nixon, assumed control of our nation’s government and leads us into new areas of national history. It is at this point that I will conclude the story of Two Rivers with the hope that the pages of this book will serve as a resource for citizens of our community who pause to reflect on their heritage.