system being developed throughout the state by Equity.

It was planned most carefully by its Manager, Mr. C. F. Claflin and Mr. Peter May plus several others. Reedsville was chosen to serve this area and Bonduel to the north was built at the same time.

Open house and a tour of the new facility was held on Sept. 26, 1958 and was a very well attended event.

The first auction sale was held on Tuesday, September 30 at 9 a.m. Auctioneer Roy Jones of Watertown, assisted by Jim Esch of Bonduel and Ray Stiedl of Milwaukee raised the gavel, tapped it sharply and the sale method was underway.

Through the late winter and spring of 1958, a fund raising drive, the selling of stocks in Equity, was conducted by area residents.

A tract of land was purchased from the Elroy Spatchek farm and a building was begun. The barn at the time was 75 feet wide and 144 feet long, and could accommodate a large number of livestock. However, as time went on the need for more space became ever more demanding and the present additional wing to the south was added in 1970.

At the time of opening, Mr. Roger Robson was in charge of management, assisted by Mr. Charles "Chuck" Isley. A few weeks later, Mr. Isley was appointed manager at Reedsville and the late Mr. Robson continued at Bonduel.

Managers following Mr. Isley were in order, Mr. William Daley, Mr. Armin Wegener, the late Mr. John Zutz, Mr. Lyle Schwahn, Mr. Kenneth Cole, and at present Mr. Richard Zuelke and Mr. Donald Pearson, assistant manager in charge of barn operation.

A luncheonette is part of all of Equity’s sales facilities. At Reedsville this was to prove a most popular feature. In 1958, the late Mrs. Tillie Enders was in charge of feeding Equity’s hungry. Mrs. Enders was followed by Mrs. Anton Stueber, and at present, Mrs. Ray Kostechka is in charge.

The selling by auction of calves, hogs, cattle, sheep and occasional nanny orilly goat and penning all purchased stock for each buyer constitutes a barn employees day. At opening time a staff of about 24 men was a must. However, as years have gone by, the building was remodeled several times for greatly increased handling and efficiency, speed and safety and today half that number can do the job as well.

At the time of opening, Mrs. Henry (Doris) Behnke was appointed office manager and continues in this capacity with an office staff of about seven on auction days. Weekly auctions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Also, Herd Dispersal Sales are held.

In summary, the auction sales began with a question mark in the minds of some. Today, the Auction Market has become positive and serves a territory of all the Door County area, south to Sheboygan, west to Fond du Lac, north to Appleton and Green Bay.

Feile's Repair Shop

In the early 1900's, Hugo C. Feile had a repair shop in what is now the Lawrence Peik property on Fourth Street. He was able to fix just about anything.

Mrs. Feile kept a greenhouse so that plants and flowers were available to her customers.

Friedens United Church of Christ

In the late fall of 1895, the need for an Evangelical Church was felt in Reedsville. The first service was conducted at the local school house by Rev. P. Albert of Appleton, Wisconsin. On January 30, 1896, a meeting was held for the purpose of organizing a congregation. At this meeting it was decided to call the newly organized church the German-English Evangelical Friedens Church.
The first board of trustees chosen from the charter members was composed of: President Alexander Mahnke; Secretary Gustave Olm; Treasurer Frank Gisch, Trustee Ernest Deffke, Trustee Otto Ehnert, and Trustee William Hagenow.

At the time of its organization, the church had a membership of 25. During the first few months of its existence, the church was served by neighboring pastors. Among those who supplied were Rev. P. Albert, Appleton; and Rev. A. Jung, Marblehead; Rev. Ernst Grauer, Black Creek; and Rev. John Heinrich, Manitowoc. These services were held in the public school.

On March 1, 1896, Rev. E. J. Fleer of St. Cloud, Minnesota, was installed as pastor of the Brillion-Reedsville charges, with each congregation paying one-half of his salary. The pastor was to reside at Brillion.

April 6, 1896, plans were completed to have the church affiliate with the Evangelical Synod of North America. One week later two lots were purchased from Mr. Kiehl at a cost of $250.00. These lots were to be the site of a new church building. By May 14, plans were completed to erect a structure 34' x 64' in size.

The new church was formally dedicated on November 15, 1896. The guest speakers for the three services of the day were: Rev. F. Moeckle, Rev. P. Albert, Rev. August Fleer, and Rev. E. C. Grauer. A Sunday School was also organized during this year as well as a Ladies Aid. After completion seven years of service in April, 1903, the Rev. Mr. Fleer resigned as pastor of the church. The pastor to follow was Rev. Robert Grunewald. Next was Rev. Carl Nagel. He in turn was succeeded by Rev. C. H. Wittbracht, who organized a new church at Collins. This church was named St. Paul's Church. It was then decided to have the churches at Reedsville and Collins served by the same pastor and to sever connections with the Brillion church. In June 1909, Rev. C. Oberdoerster was installed to serve these two churches. He was later succeeded by Rev. J. J. Merdorf and Rev. L. G. Berlepp.

In 1915, the Reedsville Church was again served by the pastor of the Brillion church. There was Rev. Hugo Weichelt, followed by John Biger and the Rev. Mr. Foesch.

On July 9, 1925, during the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Leonhardt, the church was destroyed by fire, having been struck by lightning during a severe electrical storm. It was decided to begin the erection of a new church building as soon as possible. In the meantime, services were held in the Village Hall. On October 10, 1926, the dedication of the new church was held, with a remaining debt of only $300.00.


During the pastorate of Rev. Mr. Siegle, the members of the Collins church expressed their desire to become members of the Reedsville church. The Collins church was then closed, and the Reedsville church now represented the union of the two churches. The Rev. Mr. Siegle was succeeded by Rev. E. D. Rodel who resigned in 1946. He was succeeded by Rev. Marvin P. Lehmann, during whose pastorate the church celebrated its 50th anniversary in September 1947.

The next pastors were Rev. Ralph W. Kluge, seminary student Ralph J. Ratzlaff, Rev. Lloyd Freid, Rev. Karl Koehler and Rev. T. R. Hilgeman. The present pastor is the Rev. Helmut Kehle.

Friedens Church is proud of the fact that it has two sons in the Christian Ministry, namely Rev. Zane Pautz, at Milton College, Milton, Wisconsin, who was ordained in February 1947 and Rev. Calton Krueger, pastor of First United Church at Toledo, Ohio, who was ordained in June 1952.

Our members of longest standing are Mrs. Clara Deffke Klann, who was confirmed in 1903, Mr. August Schaefer who joined the church in 1914, and Dr. and Mrs. A. H. Junge who joined in 1915. It is through the generosity of the Klann family that we have our
present fine organ.

The years of Friedens Church have been richly blessed. We are everlastingly thankful to God our Heavenly Father and to Jesus Christ His Son.

**Gisch Tin Shop**

The Gisch tin shop was on the site of the empty lot west of Reedsville Sheet Metal. Later Fred Maertz enlarged it. It then comprised a barber shop, photograph gallery and dry goods store. It was destroyed by fire.

**George and Richard’s Service Station**

George and Richard’s Service Station is located on Highway 10 and Mill Street.

The business place and living quarters were first owned by W.C. Maertz who sold the two lots to H.C. M. Krueger in 1894. In the early 1900’s, the lots were bought by W.C. Maertz. The lots were sold to August Kienbaum; upon his death and the land ownership passed to his widow and daughters, Bertha Krueger and Lena Bruss. Mr. John Shimek, the girls’ guardian, maintained a tailor shop in his home near to the present service station property. Later Mr. Shimek had his shop in the old bank building on Manitowoc Street.

Acting in the interest of the two girls, Mr. Shimek sold the lots to Herman Frederick with the understanding that the old barn had to be moved. The land was known as the “swamp block”.

Fred O. Kiehl purchased the property from Frederick in 1932. At this Highway 10 was being laid out and Mr. Kiehl sold to his son Fred W. Kiehl. After selling portions of the land to the government for the new road, the young Kiehl built a station in 1933. The old home in which the Kiehls lived was torn down to make way for the new business place. Upon completion of the station, he moved his home from Sixth and Mill Streets and enclosed the portion between the station and home which served as the first paint and body shop in Reedsville. Kiehl was a mechanic working on Model A cars.

While Kiehl was owner of the service station, Joseph Shimek worked for him. It was during this time that it seemed Reedsville would become a gold mining town. During the process of pumping water from the 40 foot deep partially dug and partially drilled well, Kiehl discovered gold chips. In the hours after school and Saturday that Joe worked at the station, he was kept busy at the pump in his spare time. He did pump out quite a bit of gold dust into the bag that fastened to the pump. Apparently it came to an end, for Reedsville didn’t strike it rich in that respect. The well is still there and the water is still good although it is not used for drinking since waterworks were put in.

In 1946, the Kiehls sold their station to Edward Zachek who operated it until May of 1949. That is the time Tony and Bernice Denk took over after purchasing the business. Prior to living in Reedsville and running the service station, Tony and Bernice lived on a farm near St. Nazianz. When Tony was a young man, he worked for Ray Frosch in Grimms where he started learning the mechanic trade. He later attended a mechanic school in Milwaukee. At the time of his marriage to Bernice Walt, he worked at the Reinemann Elevator.

In 1966, the business was sold to George Schisel. He and his grandson Richard Wiex operate the service station at the present time.

**H. K. Molding Co. Inc.**

H. K. Molding Company was started out in business on October 1, 1973 at the corner of fifth and Mill streets in Reedsville. Formerly known as the old site of Rusch’s Lumber Company, H. K. Molding started as a division of Manitowoc Plumbing Supply, Inc. primarily in the production of Creative Lustre vanity tops. Since then, it has expanded to the production of shower enclosures, bar tops and table tops.