Businesses in Edgar

Edgar Newspapers

The Edgar Enterprise began on May 14, 1901 and continued until 1904. The publishers were George Meacham and J.L. Hutchins.

The Edgar Press began in 1904 and was published until 1909. J.L. Hutchins was publisher from 1908 until 1909.

The Edgar News began to be published in 1909 and continued until 1948. Earl B. Crawford was publisher from 1909 till 1924. Fran and Clara Guinan published the News from 1924 till 1919. Clifton, C. Edom took over in 1929 and published it for one year.

Cletus J. Greisch came to Edgar in 1930 and published the Edgar News until 1945 when he passed away. In 1945, Ham W. Robinson took over the paper. He only published it for one year before turning it over to Raymond A. Shoeder in 1946, who published it until 1948.


The Record Review began publishing in 1976 and continues to be published to this day.

First Telephones in Edgar

Our records show that the first telephone in Edgar was installed by Michael Schill, in 1899-1900. Mr. and Mrs. Schill at that time operated the Schill's Saloon and Boarding House, now the Central Silo Offices. This was prior to the establishment of the Edgar Telephone Exchange. A Mr. August Baeseman, who resided six miles west of Edgar in the town of Wien, was the proud owner of the first farm telephone. Mr. Baeseman got his phone after the local Switchboard was installed in Edgar.

Mrs. William Bier was manager of the Edgar Telephone for 45 years. She was manager from the start of operations in Edgar. She assumed charge of the first switchboard at Edgar, years before telephones were established at Athens, Stratford or Marathon City. It was the first exchange between Marshfield and Wausau. The operator had to turn a hand crank to ring the individual phones. Mrs. Bier once stated, "Conversations in the early days were mostly of a social nature, but after about ten to fifteen years most of them became business calls and comparatively short."

The Telephone Exchange was located in the William Bier Home. Mr. Beir also operated the first Barber shop in Edgar, in the same location. The house still stands and is at 114 S. 3rd Avenue. During the first years that the Bier home was located in Edgar their house was actually surrounded by woods, as it was one of the last houses on the block.

Edgar Pharmacy/Drug Store

In 1900, W. W. Albers, owner of a Drug Store at 301 3rd Street, in Wausau, opened the first Drug Store in Edgar. The Drug Store was in the 1st floor of the Anton J. Cherney building along with Mr. Cherney's living quarters. William H. Schmidt was hired to run the operation.

In 1902, Frank J. Tomkiewicz moved from Milwaukee and took over the Drug Store. The name of the store became, The Edgar Pharmacy. During Mr. Tomkiewicz time in business the store was moved one block south and across the street from the Cherney building. This would have been in the vicinity of the Wagner Furniture and Undertaking business. Mr. Tomkiewicz continued to run the store until 1926 when he passed away.
Mrs. Tomkiewicz sold the Pharmacy to Gordon P. Zemlika, who came from Stratford. Mr. Zemlika was the Druggist for six years. He married a Edgar girl, Rachael Greve and they later moved to Luxemburg, Wisconsin.

In 1932, Harold Anderson became the Druggist and held the job until 1956. At that time Harold C. Gohdes purchased the business and catered to the needs of the Edgar and surrounding area for the next 40 years. Shortly after purchasing the Drug Store Mr. Gohdes moved the location up and across the street, to the corner of 3rd and Maple Street. At the time of the move Mr. Gohdes also installed a modern soda fountain along with the Drug Store.

In 1975, Mr. Gohdes retired and sold the property to Allen C. Lang. He operated the business until the 80's when Don Johnson took over. Mr. Johnson operated the Drug Store until it closed due to the changes in how the drug industry operated, chain store, mail order prescription etc.

Central Silo Services, Inc.
September 11, 1977, Donald Behnke, began selling Hanson silo unloaders and equipment for Bob Kaas. Donald sold equipment in Wood, Marathon and Clark counties.

In December of 1978, Donald along with Fred Schindler purchased Edgar Implement at the present location of 211 5th Street. Donald and Fred sold Hanson unloaders and feeding equipment. The company also began selling Rochester silos, in December of 1978.

On February 6, 1979, the partnership became incorporated under the name of Supreme Services, Inc. August 20, 1979, the company changed its name from Supreme Silo Services, Inc. to its present name of Central Silo Services, Inc.

In 1980, Central Silo Services, Inc. also began selling silos manufactured by Hanson Silo Company. Today Hanson Silo Company is only one of three companies manufacturing stave silos.

On November 21, 1980, Donald became sole owner of the company.

In 1988, Donald Behnke purchased the old Edgar Bottling Building because of the growth of the company. The present warehouse was built to storage equipment in 1990.

Central Silo Services, Inc. has 12 full time employees. The company sells and services farm feeding equipment in Marathon, Clark, Wood, Taylor, Lincoln and Portage counties. The company also provides equipment to agricultural dealers in the northern two-thirds of Wisconsin.

Pauly Cheese Plant
March 20 will mark the final day of operation for the Pauly Cheese Company in Edgar. Pauly Cheese had ended its operations in Edgar, the result of expansion at its packaging plant in Wausau.

The Pauly Cheese Company has run its Edgar operation as long as most residents can remember. The plant was set up as a central collecting point for cheese from various small cheese plants scattered through the local dairyland. Cheese was brought in-first by wagon and sled, then by truck-tested for moisture, graded, aged, and then sent to Wausau for packaging. Eventually the cheese would wind up on the Green Bay Cheese Exchange and to retailers all over the nation.

The cheese plant also sold cheese making equipment and supplies to their patron cheese factories. Edgar’s Pauly Cheese plant provided wrapped cheese for these plant’s retail outlets. In Edgar, Pauly Cheese retailed some cheese, but mostly for community relations.

Duane Arneson, plant manager, notes that local cheese plants that used Pauly as a buyer will retain their markets. “All our shippers are hauling into Wausau or right into Green Bay. They all have their markets,” he said.

Pauly Cheese Company is a division of Swift and Company, which in turn is owned by a holding company named EsMark, Inc.

The Edgar cheese warehouse has done business with quite a number of cheese factories through the years. Arneson mentions Frankfort Cheese, Cherry Grove, Honeybee (which Pauly owns), Gad Cheese in Medford, Maple Hill in Boyd, Harris Cheese, Ludemans, Elmdale and Edeweis.

Going strong, the Pauly warehouse could handle 400,000 pounds of cheese per week. Its many refrigerators and coolers could hold 17 truckloads of cheese.
Some of Pauly’s coolers are kept cold by modern Freon units, but there are still some ammonia gas refrigeration units in operation.

Back before plastic wrap, men used to paraffin the cheese at the Pauly plant, dropping cut cheese into steam heated tubs of melted wax.

Pauly Cheese also handled cheese in all shapes and varieties: 22 pound rounds, named “daisies,” 40 pound boxes, and 500 pound barrels of colby and cheddar. The plant stored 37 pound flats, five pound mozzarella's and five pound baby jack cheeses.

In 1939 the company was purchased by Harry and Alvina Henrichs and was known as Henrichs Box Company.

It was sold again in 1944 to Eleanor and William Erny and was known as Standard Container Company. It also went under the trade name of Badger Basket Company, since baskets were the main item manufactured.

The Erny’s continued to manufacture veneer woven baskets. Mainly woven clothes baskets and clothes hampers. Later they added a line of woven picnic baskets to the line. In the mid 50’s they started manufacturing bassinets made of wicker. Then in the late 50’s they added a line of wicker doll cradles, bassinets etc. to the line.

In September of 1959 the building burned to the ground except for a small brick section that housed the boiler and maintenance room. A new one story building was put up by early 1960 and production continued. In May of 1966 the plant was again hit by fire. This time burning out the center part of the plant. Within two weeks they were back in production.
The plant has grown over the years. It is presently owned by Jon and Janet Rasmussen (Janet, William Erny’s daughter).

In 1986 nostalgic handwoven wicker juvenile and doll toys were added to the line which often become family heirlooms. The company has a large line of wicker juvenile furniture and an assorted line of soft goods or bedding to go with the juvenile furniture. There are also over 30 different doll toys.

Badger Basket Company has been a large part of the Edgar Community for many years, and we hope to continue to grow and be part of Edgar’s future.

Brooklyn Hill Court

In 1967 Brooklyn Hill Court was established by Ed & Sandy Martyn with ten mobile home sites. By the year 1970 they added four more mobile home sites on Brooklyn Avenue.

January 1, 1974, Don and Elizabeth Fahey and Tom and Mary Fahey purchased the mobile home park from Ed and Sandy Martyn. In 1979 Don Fahey passed away leaving the mobile home park to Elizabeth Fahey and Tom and Mary Fahey. In 1984 Tom and Mary Fahey purchased the mobile home park from Elizabeth Fahey.

In 1988, Tom and Mary purchased land from Randy and Nancy Koehler and Wilfred Miesner located at 509 Redwood Street. Now that address is known to be West Side Mobile Home Park, which consists of twenty-four mobile home units. September 1, 1988 the first lot was rented and all units were filled by February of 1989.

Berg Sales Inc.

The earliest date recorded in the abstract for Lot 12 and 13 where Berg Sales is situated is September 17, 1891, when Alfred Carey surveyed and mapped the area.

Alfred Carey owned lot 12 and 13 until March 1892 when he sold lot 12 to Julius and Anna Marquardt. Lot 13 was sold to Frank and Anna Pivernetz in the same year.

In 1902 Julius and Anna Marquardt sold Lot 12 to Charles Hahn. Frank Pivernetz died and his wife Anna sold Lot 13 to Charles Hahn in August of 1914. After this time the
two lots remained together as one piece of property.

Charles and Martha Hahn sold the lots to Michael Van Abel and his wife Cecilia in November of 1928. A business was located on this property beginning in 1922. The Van Abel's sold the property to Loraine Van Abel in April of 1941.

In March of 1945 Oscar and Edna Berg purchased the property from Loraine. Mr. Berg had been running the business on this property for many years prior to this sale.

In 1946 Clarence Berens started working for Oscar Berg as an electrician, plumber and mechanic. Some of the other workers at that time were Walter Krueger (mechanic), Earl Koehler, Hank Tamborino and Elmer Werner, all plumbers and electricians.

During the time period Berg Co. was involved in the sale of New Idea, Gehl-Allis Chalmers farm equipment and Chrysler Plymouth cars.

In 1957 Clarence and Florence Berens obtained Berg Co. from Oscar and Edna Berg and continued the business. Florence started doing the book work at this time. Clarence was dealer principal for Chrysler. Walter Krueger continued working as a mechanic until his death in early 1960's. Harold Werner took over the position as mechanic at this time. During the 60's Bernie Riehle and Kurt Handricks also worked in the plumbing and electrical department. Oscar continued working as salesman for about 5 years after the sale of the business.

In the early 1970's they fazed out farm machinery. Continuing with electrical, plumbing, heating and new and used car sales and service. Clarence was the salesman and still did plumbing and electrical work at the time and Florence continued doing the office work.

In 1970 their son, David, started working in the plumbing and electrical area, working with Clarence. This continued until 1978 when Allen Huebisch started as plumber and electrician and Clarence began working mainly in the shop as salesperson.

In the early 90's son, Jeff, began working with plumbing and electrical. Rich Michelawicz also began around this time.

In 1973 Russell started working as auto mechanic with Charlie Schoenfuss who was the head mechanic at the time. Later, after Charlie left, DuWayne Werner started.

In 1990 Berg Co. was incorporated and the name was changed to Berg Sales Inc. The corporation included Clarence, Florence and four sons; David, Russell, Jeff and Gene.

Clarence continued working until November of 1996 when he died of a sudden heart attack. Florence continues as the Dealer Principal and handles the office work.

Edgar Theater Inc.

Standing room only signs were hung out early on the evening of September 27, 1950, as the new theater in Edgar was formally opened to the public by Edgar Theater Inc. The evenings motion picture was preceded by a brief ceremony in which Anton Hoffman, village president, Dr. Harold Leppla, president of the Edgar Chamber of Commerce, Dr. H. A. Schulz, a member of the village board and former chairman of the Marathon County Board of Supervisors and Frank Cartwright, president and manager of the theater company, participated.

Frank Cartwright, a former Marathon County traffic officer, and associates operated the new enterprise. The theater held performances twice nightly and matinees on Sunday afternoons. The modern theater building had a capacity of about 325 and was built with fireproof construction. The equipment used at the theater was the latest development in the motion picture industry for 1950. The seats were placed to provide ample room between rows and separated by wide aisles. They were fully upholstered and equipped with automatic uprights.

The sound equipment was of the highest quality and the projecting equipment of high intensity to permit live-like reproduction without loss of color. The screen was made of cycloramic which had been the most important picture development in 30 years and afforded clear view without distortion from any angle in the theater.

The view of the screen was also accentuated by the absence of pillars in the theater building. Laminated trusses were used to provide the supporting roof strength.
The theater lobby also held a modern soda fountain which was operated in conjunction with the theater. Frank Cartwright continued operating the Edgar Theater until 1968, when he sold the building to General Telephone. The building was dismantled and a new Telephone Building was erected on the same site in 1969. This building still stands there today on Third Avenue.

**Brooklyn Hotel**

The Brooklyn Hotel was not where one might expect it to be. It was in Brooklyn, all right-across the bridge, all right-but this Brooklyn Bridge did not span the East River. It crossed, instead, Scotch Creek which flowed between Edgar and Brooklyn in Marathon County, just a mile off State Highway 29. During the thirties, Edgar had a population of about 700 souls and flaunted seven taverns, three churches, a high school and a basket factory. Brooklyn, a cluster of twenty-five houses on the south side of the creek, might be called a “suburb” of Edgar.

Of four hotels in Edgar, the Brooklyn Hotel on Quaw Avenue was the only hotel without a tavern. The sprawling stucco house, with a pillared porch across the entire front, boasted two parlors, two dining rooms and eight bedrooms. It was owned and operated by my grandmother, Alvina Zimmermann. Having been widowed in 1922, while eight of her eleven children still lived under her roof, she boarded high school students from the neighboring farms during the week. Before long, single men and women who worked in the factory and at other jobs in the community found room and board at a dollar a day in the rambling house. In 1923, the State of Wisconsin granted Grandma a Class C Hotel License.

There was no indoor plumbing. A hand pump on the back porch, remarkable for its convenience to the kitchen, was the only source of water. An outhouse and chamber pots, deodorized with Lysol solution and kept discreetly under the beds, were the only toilet facilities. An iron stove in the kitchen was fueled by chips and chunks bought from the basket factory, delivered by truck and dumped in the back yard. An occasional transient (never a “bum”) could earn a meal by carting bushels of chips into the woodshed or stacking chunks in neat rows. Since the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Depot was just across the creek, and since a foot bridge furnished a convenient shortcut to the Hotel, the number of transients increased as the Great Depression deepened. No one left hungry or without a brown-bag lunch. If they needed a bath or clean clothes, (they brought no baggage), they were accommodated. Somewhere pants were found for them to borrow while their clothes went into the washtub and were washed on a washboard with the others.

I recall one burly fellow in bib overalls who entertained the household in the back yard one summer evening. As we watched, breathless, he balanced a glass of water on his forehead, lowered himself to his knees and finally to his back without spilling a drop.

Businessmen in town would sometimes call ahead to arrange for dinner for their associates in Grandma’s special dining room. At these times, Grandma was quite the professional business woman, and we had better be on our best behavior. No horsing around in the kitchen! One memory comes forward among the many. When I was about fourteen, the Rottners came to town. The
Rottners were a tent show troupe and Mr. Rottner, the leading lady, and one or two others of the cast always stayed at the Brooklyn Hotel. They were, of course, special guests. This time they came when the Hotel was full of visitors. All of my aunts and uncles from Milwaukee with their husbands, wives and children had come for the Fourth of July holiday. Thirty-five people were served meals that day from a kitchen that had no plumbing, no hot water tank, no dishwasher. The whole back yard was strewn with drying towels.

Four bedsprings were set on barked chunks in the woodshed and covered with Strohsacks, literally straw sacks, providing sleeping accommodations for eight men and boys. While they were at breakfast, my aunt and I were assigned to "tidy up out there." We were assailed by the fragrance of newly cut logs and fresh straw combined with the scent of healthy young men. Never since have I encountered such pungent perfume! Cots were set up in every available space while some opted for the big front porch for it was July and the air was sweet, the breeze gentle.

The tent show was, of course, the highlight of the occasion. We dressed to see and be seen. In the darkened theater, we sat on bleachers and watched the performers, who, without benefit of electronic sound equipment, enacted a three-act "mellerdrama." Between acts, a vendor hawked boxed candy among the crowd. He guaranteed a "valuable gift in every box," and reported that previous buyers had found diamond rings and Bulova watches. The price, as I recall, was twenty-five cents—equal to the price of admission! Lucky me! I had a quarter to spend. In the reckless spirit of the occasion, I shot the works. "There must be a bathtub in that one!" the vendor quipped as he handed it to me.

The box was, indeed, heavy. I couldn’t wait to see what rare and priceless jewel my quarter had produced. I opened the box very carefully lest I lose or break this precious prize. Behold! A belt! Made of composition rubber, it had a large metal buckle and was long enough to go around my then twenty-four inch waist at least twice. Surprisingly, there were also a few pieces of candy.

I chuckle as I recall the time my grandmother hired an electrician to install a red light above the front door bell to accommodate tourists who might call during the night. My aunts and the young women who lived at the hotel were horrified. They railed unrelentingly at Grandma, for she was stubborn, all four feet and seven inches of her. With patience borne of desperation, they explained to her that the red light indicated a brothel. Grandma indignantly waved aside their rantings as "poppycock." She had never heard of such a thing. However, after a period of consideration, during which groups of ribald jokers hooted and guffawed in the seven taverns about town and the women of the household all bordered on hysteria, she surrendered. The little General was forced to concede to the "Rules and Recollections" she herself had established for the governance of her domain. The red lens was exchanged for a white one, a dubious victory.

In time, all of Grandma’s sons and daughters left to find lives of their own, each one fortified by the knowledge that there was a place—a place where, if worse came to worst, could be found a roof—a meal—a bed—a kind of security not found in a safety deposit box—a commodity sorely needed by the children of today and tomorrow.

Would they find sympathy? Love? Grandma rarely exhibited tenderness. She employed a nuts-and-bolts kind of logic in the resolution of her own problems, and expected others to do the same. She sometimes appeared uncaring and hard-hearted to her children, but we all learned from her to separate reality from fantasy. She knew, whether by instinct or experience, that here was no free lunch.

I spent many summers at the Hotel after my parents separated. My mother’s brothers and sisters became my peers and the Hotel a monument of stability in my precarious life.

The Brooklyn Hotel continued in operation until the 1950’s when Grandma, yielding to failing strength and vigor, was admitted to the Grand Army Residence at King, Wisconsin. There she lived until her death, February 7, 1961, at the age of eighty-nine.

The building remains occupied, having been divided into four separate apartments. It’s lovely facade, the pillared porch, has been torn away, giving it a sad and lonely expression like a dowager stripped of her mascara. Only in memory is it the youthful, lively, lovely place it was. by: L. L. Larson

Lindner Dairy Equipment, Inc.

Lindner Dairy Equipment, Inc. was founded in 1961 as Lindner DeLaval. The Original mission was to sell Dairy Equip-
ment and supplies. Today, the company has expanded into Feed Carts, TMR's and a complete line of dairy products. As well as our original mission of selling dairy equipment.

Our company has been located in Edgar, Wisconsin. The company is located at 127 S. 3rd Avenue. Changes that have occurred are as follows:

- 1961-1977 Lindner DeLaval Sales and Services
- 1977-1993 Lindner Dairy Equipment
- 1994 Lindner Dairy Equipment, Inc.

We believe that people are what makes the difference. Our employees are family members. Our staff is well trained and qualified to handle everything needed on the dairy, from installation, service to scheduled maintenance and supplies and accessories. We believe that our employees help give us the competitive edge.

Oldest General Store in Edgar
Operated by DeLong for 34 Years

C. C. DeLong and A. W. Puchner both gave it to August Tegge as being the dean of the present business district of Edgar—the oldest business man in town, that is the longest in business—so it must be so, but at any rate Tegge carries off the distinction by only a narrow margin. He was here when the railroad came in, DeLong arrived the next year, and Puchner two years later.

But the margin is even closer than that—for DeLong had his interest in the DeLong store a year before he arrived himself. It was established in July 1892, a partnership of Mr. DeLong and S. B. Roberts, who passed away in 1901, about the time the present store was built.

Interesting reminiscing, this about the very early days of Edgar, when the forests were still here, and the deer and wild game roamed almost through the streets of the town and around the settlers' cabin doors.

"There wasn't much money in circulation in those early days", mused Mr. DeLong to the News representative. "And you took your pay for what you sold mostly in butter and eggs and forest products. Settlements were made, when they were made at all, once a year in the fall. Taxes and interest had to be paid in cash and when this was done, if there was any left, you got the balance 'cash on account'."

"Yes, August Tegge had his store on the corner, where he still is, when I came the next year after S. B. Roberts, my partner, had the business under way. We had the old building next door at first for six or seven years, and then built this building my store still occupies. It was that year Steve died, I remember, though I did not buy his interest of the widow until four or five years afterwards." We called the firm C. C. DeLong & Co. Steve was 'the company'. I later dropped 'the company' when I bought Steve's interest in.

So for 34 years the general store of C. C. DeLong has been a dominant factor in the business of Edgar, and for 25 years has been under the direct management of Mr. DeLong, personally, the long busy life of the
well-known Edgar business man has been closely interwoven with the very history of Edgar in every way.

Mr. DeLong was one of the incorporators of the Village of Edgar some 30 years ago and served as its first board president for the first two terms. For 28 years, he has been a member of the school board, and still is. And through these many years he has been a member of the Village Board of Trustees except one year.

When the Bank of Edgar was organized into the state bank, Mr. DeLong was one of the original incorporators, serving as a director, and at present a good selection of trunks, grips and being the vice president as well as director.

"Edgar didn't have many business activities in those early days," continued Mr. DeLong. "there was the woodenware factory of the firm that had headquarters in Menasha, and the brick year of Quaw & Guamer, managed by a man named Pratt. But the woodenware factory did not run many years after I came here; they finished their cutting and left Edgar.

"There were lots of queer characters around in those early days; the pioneer life and too much solitude made funny twists in human minds. Most of the early day trade came into Edgar from the old Colby road, they called it State Highway No. 16 now. I remember hearing of Mr. Bahr the father of Mrs. Charles Greves was the post office manager at Wien and in Edgar Sam Cardinal had a store on the corner and was our first post-master after the railroad mail service was established."

This article would not be complete without something being said about the oldest general store in Edgar, a store within a few months as old as the town, that is when the railroad made it a town and not a community crossroads center.

The DeLong store is housed in roomy quarters, the building erected 25 or 26 years ago, 32 by 100 feet in size, with half basement, and two storied. Both the upstairs and the first store building adjacent are used for warehouse purposes. Despite the fact the store was established 34 years ago, there is a metropolitan air to it through its modern arrangement in the display stock.

The stock of general merchandise carried is very large and covers a wide variety of service to the community wants. Dry goods and novelties are combined in one large department, the selection of dress clothes being particularly in wide range. The hosiery line, too, is exceptionally heavy abreast of the modern tendencies of feminine knee-length wear. They are agents for the famous "Black Cat" line.

The store prides itself on the line of footwear, including shoes, oxfords and slippers for the whole family, and a long rubber-goods line to match. The men's furnishing department is resplendent in the new styles and modes, and work clothes are given buying. Here are the reefer and sweaters, too, hats, caps and gloves.

But it is in the underwear department for all the folks, mother, dad and the children large and small, that the DeLong store has their strongest service of all, a stock so large that it is seldom found in such selection in towns of Edgar's size or much larger.

The "Pearl Patent" flour of Wausau is their leader and their stock goods feature a good line known as the "Allen" of Kenosha make of oil cloths. The baggage section carried traveling bags, blankets, comforters and quilts make one of their sidelines.

Mr. DeLong, despite his many years of community merchandising service vice, continues active in the business and in executive charge of the management, assisted by his son, C. H. DeLong who can truthfully be said to have been "raised" in the store and is familiar with all its details. Beyond any doubt the DeLong store is a strong drawing power for trade to Edgar-a widespread clientele which has been won to it thru the years.

Published in Edgar News, December 10, 1926

Edgar Packing Plant

November of 1940, saw a modern Packing Plant open for business. The Edgar Packing Plant was at the time the most modern plant in the state. E.S. Grosskreutz was Plant Manager.

The new packing plant was a one story brick, concrete and steel building and took about seven months to build. The main building was 47 x 105 feet.

The plant had the capacity to process 400 veal calves daily. The operation of the plant was on an assembly line basis, with no duplication in handling the animals. A doorway led directly from the receiving pens to the slaughter house. From there the animals went to the cutting room and then into the refrigeration room. The carcasses were shipped using both truck and railway. A spur track had been laid up to the plant.
Lockers and showers were also provided on the main floor of the plant. This was for the 15 employees of the plant and also the full-time Federal Inspector, that was needed. Refrigeration and heating machinery were located in the basement. A separate disposal building was located along side the plant. This was necessary as all waste materials needed to be treated before they were allowed in the village sewer system.

The need for the Edgar Packing Plant arose due to the changes in federal regulations regarding shipment of meat interstate. Before the plant could even be built the government needed to be satisfied that there was a steady supply of calves, as the Federal Government paid the inspector’s wages.

The plant was incorporated for $50,000.00, with Mr. and Mrs. E.S. Grosskreutz and Mrs. Anthonia Grosskreutz as the incorporation. The Packing Plant was the first major building project in Edgar in more than a decade.

Shortly after the plant began production, Grosskreutz sold the company to Frank Zahrobsky who than began managing it. The calves were shipped to Dauber Bros. in Chicago for the final processing. The trucks and railcars in those days were not refrigerated, so for each row of calves there needed to be barrels of ice between them.

In the early 1950’s Wilson Meats purchased the Edgar Packing Plant. Dean Bernard took over as manager. The plant was processing between 500 to 500 calves per day. The waste blood from the calves were used as fertilizer for area fields.

In the 70’s a Company by the name of Berlinger & Marx Inc. took over the plant. They sold veal under the name of Plume De Veau.

At this time the Edgar Packing Co. added to the original building. Office space, extra coolers and a larger stock yard were necessary to continue business. They were now able to process 150 calves an hour and had a workforce of 40 employees.

In June of 1991, Berlinger & Marx Inc., who were still running the plant at the time, shut the plant down. A company by the names of Con Agra, purchased the plant and began major remodeling to change the veal processing to a beef processing. 110 employees were laid off while the conversion work was done. The plant expected to reopen with a workforce of 210 employees, once all was complete.

As the work on the plant continued a problem arose as to what to do with the added waste and the fact that Edgar’s sewer system could not handle the amount the new beef processing would cause. It was finally agreed on that a joint payment on improvements to the sewage system by Conagra and the Village would happen. The Beef Processing Plant reopened it’s door in the spring of 1992.
On May 18, 1994, the employees at the Conagra Packing plant were told not to return to work. Due to a conflict regarding and for spreading waste on, the plant decided to stop processing beef all together. March, 1998, Geneva Lake Cold Storage purchased the plant.

Will’s Radio & TV
In 1949, Wilfred Hall, opened a small radio shop at the rear of Schoeder’s Store and 3rd Avenue. As the business grew, he purchased a shop south of the railroad tracks from Frank Shortner in 1950. In 1952, a new product called the television was becoming the big thing and Mr. Hall began selling them from his radio shop.

In 1965, Ervin Ringle purchased the building that Wills Radio and TV was located in. The new shop was opened on the corner of Maple and 3rd Avenue in the building owned by Oscar Berg.

In the spring of 1979, the shop was moved to the garage of the Hall family, located at 204 Freeman Street. It operated there until 1981 when the business closed.

Edgar Implement Co.
A. F. Baeseman came to Edgar in 1919, with his wife Elsie (Ummus) Baeseman and daughter Margorie. He traveled around the area selling lightning rods and silos, to the area farmers. Gradually he began to carry other useful farm related items, in his buggy.

In 1921, he bought the first Bank of Edgar building and began a hardware store.

His wife worked with him in the business. Over the years he sold many different products including: Whippet, Willy’s Knight and Pontiac automobiles. Mr. Baeseman started the International line of tractors and farm machinery in 1925. Later New Holland and Meyer’s machinery were added.

During the early 40’s a tractor arrived at the store while A.F. and Elsie were on vacation. The employees were given strict orders if anything came in they were to do nothing with it until the Baeseman returned.

One of their daughters (a high school student at the time) decided “Daddy would be so pleased and proud” of her if she sold the tractor. Against the sound advice she was given she did just that.

Daddy was neither pleased nor proud. In fact he was quite livid, the tractor happened to be off the Black Market and it nearly cost him his business to straighten the mess out.

In the early 1950’s a partnership was formed with Wm. Schneider. At this time Baeseman Hardware became incorporated under the title, Edgar Implement Co. This partnership lasted several years and was then dissolved. In 1968, after the death of his father, Arden took over the business. Due to inflation and poor management the business closed in 1976.

The Edgar Cooperative
The Edgar Cooperative was organized in 1924, during an era when the economy was booming. It was the start of a freewheeling

The Baeseman Hardware Store in 1924. It was started about 1921 in this location, the former Bank of Edgar building. l-r, Arnold Baeseman (1890-1968), Louis Grosskreutz 26-year employee, and unknown.
A review of some of the events in the history of the Edgar Cooperative reveals its ever changing attempts to provide the services most desired.

- 1924 - Members of the Edgar Equity Produce Co. approve transfer of stock in old company to form new warehouse company. Approval given to build 30X50 foot warehouse to house feed and flour. Directors elected were George Wagner, A. J. Lang, Otto Summers, Joseph Berg and Charles Kurudus. Grinder man to be paid $3 a day for running grinder. A. J. Lang named secretary-treasurer and manager of company.

- 1925 - Members approve 12x30 foot warehouse addition. Stockholders approve merger of Edgar Equity Live Stock Shipping Assn., with Edgar Equity Produce Co.

- 1926 - Purchase of the Ruder Brewing Co. building adjacent to the warehouse completed for $800. Stockholders approve construction of new building to house new feed grinder.

- 1927 - Board declares 8% dividend on earnings from past year. Purchase of barn from A. J. Lang approved.

- 1928 - Board approves automatic donations to members suffering misfortunes.

- 1931 - Approval given to 10% reduction in salary for all employees “until conditions will improve.”

- 1932 - Board approves cash only sales.

- 1934 - Members vote to convert business to a cooperative. New name is Edgar Equity Co-op Co.

- 1935 - Board approves purchase of land to build a service station, and buy supplies from Midland. Co-op sales hit $150,000.00 with net earnings of $4,900.00. The association, after 11 years of business, handles flour, feeds, grains, hay and straw, petroleum products and groceries.

- 1937 - A new Ford truck is purchased.

- 1938 - Board approves purchase of bulk gasoline tanks from Midland. Co-op purchases new feed mixer and blower.

- 1940 - Manager reports sales of $106,600.00 and net earnings of $1,250.00.

- 1941 - Members voted to buy building so grocery and locker plant could be expanded.

- 1942 - Co-op Sales more than double in two years reaching a total of $234,311.00. Net earnings were $20,133.00.

- 1946 - Sales at the warehouse go over one quarter million mark; gas and oil sales $30,000.00; store and locker plant $71,000.00.

decade, a period when Americans were craving excitement. Ever friendly, but never to effective, President Warren Harding died shortly before the Edgar Cooperative was formed. Calvin Coolidge then took the reins of the county — when he wasn't taking one of his regular, long afternoon naps.

Most every home had an ice cream freezer and a coffee grinder. And there was still a feeling that women who used bakery bread instead of making their own were neglecting their families.

Feed, seed and fuel became increasingly important in farming operations. Farmers had already gained experience with marketing cooperatives to do a better job of selling, and many were now turning to supply cooperatives to do a better job of buying.

Edgar Cooperative was founded because key men in the community felt a responsibility to provide a better way of life for their families and neighbors. Through the years responsibility has remained a key word at the Edgar Cooperative. Through responsible service by the board and employees, and through responsible membership by its patrons, the cooperative has returned hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and stock certificates, (more than $80,000 for the 1972-73 fiscal year alone) to its patrons.

But the patronage refund is only a small part of the story. The important part — the part that's increasingly important to busy people — is service.
Through the years Edgar Cooperative has seen many changes - in name, service, products, personnel, and membership. But its goal and spirit remain the same because its roots are firmly anchored in the community it serves.

The hundreds of families who use Edgar Cooperative's services also own and control it.

In 1978, a pole building was erected near the office for storing chemicals and oil. Excitement came to the Edgar site in 1984 when the Cardtrol was brought on board! In 1989, the cooperative's members approved the bylaws as amended and restated, converting from a stock cooperative to a non-stock cooperative on membership basis. 1991 brought renovations at the cooperative, replacing the truck scale, feed leg and elevator. Edgar Co-op purchased the Johnson oil route in 1993 and took in its customers.

On August 1, 1993, the Marathon County Farmers Union Cooperative and the Edgar Cooperative combined to form Rib River Valley Cooperative (RRVC). All board members from both cooperatives continued for one year following the unification. After one year, a new board was chosen from designated areas and reduced from 12 members to 8. 1994 brought major remodeling, including changing murals and eliminating a wall at the Edgar location for greater customer accessibility.

The reconstruction of Highway 29 prompted foresight by the Rib River Valley management and board to purchase land on the corner of Highway 29 & H for a future convenience store and restaurant. In 1996, RRVC introduced hedging its grain transactions to protect gains and minimize loss due to market fluctuations.

Over the years, it has been Rib River Valley Cooperative's privilege to serve the community.
needs of the community and to be part of Edgar's first hundred years. Now as Edgar is set to celebrate its Centennial, Rib River Valley Cooperative is excited to join, with the village of Edgar, in this celebration and to be part of the village's next hundred years.

As the centennial year begins, Rib River Valley Cooperative is set to begin another service to the village of Edgar and surrounding areas, by supplying a full service truck stop and convenience store, located on the corner of County Highway H and Highway 29. Through this facility, Rib River Valley Cooperative hopes to meet the needs of the community with employment opportunities and needed services that were not available before.

The new facility will offer, in addition to the convenience store, a Hot Stuff Pizza franchise and a Cinnamon Street Bakery franchise, which will become Edgar's only “fast food” stop. The Hot Stuff franchise specializes in personal size pizzas to accompany their normal size pizzas. Besides these selections, the store will feature a TYME machine, the sale of money orders, a variety of trucker supplies, and full selection of convenience items.

Rib River Valley Cooperative hopes to continue our tradition of high quality products together with superior service all at a fair value price.

**O & H Feed & Food, Inc.**
60th Anniversary
O & H Feed & Food was established in September of 1938, by Otto and Hattie Untiedt, when they moved to Edgar with their two sons, Norbert and DuWayne. A small building was purchased from Clover Leaf Lumber Company and the land was rented from the railroad. A warehouse and basement were added for grocery items. Some of the prices of food items in the late 30's and early 40's were:

- Coffee 1 lb. can @ .21¢
- Grassland Butter 1 lb. @ .31¢
- Sugar 10 lb. bag @ .48¢
- Cookies 2 lbs. @ .21¢
- Pillsbury Flour 49 lb. sack @ $1.57
- Jersey Cream Flour 49 lb. sack @ $1.29
- Peaches .79¢ per crate
- Potatoes 10 lb. bag @ .27¢
- Oranges 2 doz. @ .31¢
- Grapefruit 38 lb. bag @ $1.19
- Pancake Flour 5 lb. bag @ .15¢
- Apples 1 bushel for .98¢
- Onions 10 lb. bag @ .15¢
- Brown Sugar 4 lb. bag @ .19¢
- Crisco 5 lb. can @ .47¢
- Cabbage .05¢ per lb.

Store hours were from 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM Monday thru Friday, Saturday from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM and on Sunday from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM serving customers for grocery items, produce and feed supplies. Eggs and chickens were purchased from area farmers and they in turn bought groceries and feed supplies.

In the early years, grain was brought to the mill with horses and wagons. Sleighs were used during the winter months. Feeds were delivered from Minneapolis, Minnesota by train. In later years, most feeds were brought in by trucks.

A large warehouse was purchased in 1941, from Ivan Cherney, which was located where the present IGA store is today. This warehouse was used for storing bagged lime, fertilizer, bran, beet pulp, salt, corn and wheat.

In 1946, the Fenwood Mill was purchased from the McCory Bros. This mill burnt down in December 1948. The mill was back in operation in 30 days (1949). O & H purchased a mill in Merrill, Wisconsin in 1952. Norbert and his family moved to Merrill to be the manager. In 1959, the Merrill mill was sold and Norbert returned to Edgar to be the manager of the Edgar mill. DuWayne became the Head Mechanic of the O & H fleet of trucks and equipment.

In 1964, O & H purchased the land it had been renting from the railroad. A new warehouse was built in 1964 just east of the main mill. A building was moved from east of the main mill across the street to serve as the present truck maintenance shop.

In March of 1968, Otto Untiedt passed away. Norbert became general manager of O & H. In 1972, extensive mill remodeling was done which included a roller mill, 2 - 10 ton mixers, two elevator legs along with four overhead bulk bins. In 1974, Norbert and DuWayne purchased O & H Feed & Food from Hattie Untiedt.

Today's hi-tech farming requires computer operated custom field sprays for chemicals and liquid fertilizers, along with computer balanced dairy rations, for today's modern dairy farms.

O & H employed two people when business opened in 1938. some of the earlier employees included Ed Weisenberger, Paul
Frederich, Delbert Rasmussen and Dave Watterston.
Norbert retired in 1993 and DuWayne retired in 1995. Norbert’s son, Corky is the present day general manager of O & H Feed & Food.

Johnson Oil Company
Don Johnson came to Edgar in January, 1940, to work at the co-op Station with Ernie Voight. The business was where D. J. Schmidt is located now, but it was not the same building. That one burned and was torn down. We did a lot of welding and machine work. I repaired cars and trucks. We built a couple of farm tractors and a lot of farm wagons, a drill press, band saw and things like that.

I will never forget the acetylene mixer we had. You put carbide and water in it and it made acetylene. It had to be cleaned out when there was too much spent carbide in it. One day when Jake Hornung was going to high school he came down to help me clean out the mixer. We took a plug out and nothing came out, so I turned the crank, that mixed the carbide with water, to build up some pressure. Jake was standing in the wrong place. He got plastered with wet white sludge. I don’t think he went back to school that day!

On October 12, 1942, I was drafted into the Army and went to Fort Lewis, Washington, for basic training. Almost as soon as basic was over we shipped out to New Caledonia. it took 31 days to get there - top speed was 8 knots zig zag - four minutes one way and four minutes the other, so the Japanese couldn’t hit us with a torpedo. We spent the whole time in the pacific islands and ended up in Cebu Province of the Philippines repairing Jeeps and trucks all the time. Came home in 1946 and VI was still waiting so we got married. Came back to Edgar and worked with Ernie Voight at the Co-op again.

On April 1, 1951, I bought the Krause Oil Company. Ed Krause worked for me for a while, then he bought a farm and left. I got Dennis Schmirlar to help after school and evenings. I tried to work from seven in the morning until nine at night but someone would always come with a five minute job at five to nine that sometimes took until eleven or twelve at night. One late night when I was about to lock up, Orville Mancke stopped in to ask if I had a fuel pump for his dump truck. I said, “Sure”, so he said, “Let’s go put it on so I can get back to hauling granite in the morning.” The truck was in a farmer’s yard quite far west of town. We put the pump on and I got home late that night, but Orville was happy.

Another time I had a milk truck to grind valves on. Those days they hauled milk in cans and no one had an extra truck so the truck had to be on the road in the morning. I had the head back on with the valves all refaced and the seats ground, started the engine to check the head bolts and set the valves. I was almost done when I dropped the feeler gauge that I was setting the valve clearance with. I got down off the bench that I was standing on and was leaning on the fender. Got the gauge but I could not stand up. I crawled out the back door to get some fresh air. I was laying out there when Orville saw the lights were on so he stopped in. He helped me get back into the office, because I was pretty darn cold. I had the back door open because I had the truck engine running, but the overhead furnace was taking in the exhaust from one end and blowing the heat on the back of my neck with too much exhaust in it. It felt good, but with both the doors open it was cold. That was a close one - probably caused a lot of my heart problems later on. That was before the west addition was added in 1959, which made the place twice as big as it was with a twenty thousand pound truck hoist in it.

Al Brzezinski, owner the saw mill in town, had an end loader. I think Gottschalk built it. They would always need a new clutch that had to be put in after the mill stopped for the night. We even made some special tools to get at some of the bolts that had to come out to get it apart.

In 1955, Roman Wagner came to work for me. We took on all we could handle and then some. I remember we took a milk truck that needed a short block. It was to be at the station around four o’clock but it didn’t get there until almost six. We pulled the engine out. It was a valve in the head of a Ford V8. We took off the heads, ground the valves and seats. Took everything else off the old block - intake manifold, starter, generator, flywheel, fuel pump, water pump, etc. Put it all on the new short block and put it back in the truck. Got it running at six o’clock the next morning, and there was the driver to pick it up. Went home for breakfast and back to work at eight.

One night when the fire whistle blew Roman and Fritz McHugh, the gas truck
Railway Fares

EDGAR TO—

Stratford $1.40 Marshfield .93
Appleton .68 Merrill .49
Chill $1.30 Manitowoc 5.54
Chicago 12.24 Neenah 4.94
Chesaning 6.37 Oshkosh 4.62
Eau Claire 4.11 Racine 8.87
Sparta 6.86 Rib Falls 4
Pon Du Lac 1.51 St. Paul 7.43
Green Bay 3.39 Sheboygan 6.80
Hales Corners 4.04 Milwaukee 3.25
La Crosse 1.85 Marathon City 2.22
Madison 7.74 Milwaukee 3.98
Milwaukee 1.94 Wisconsin 1.58
Milwaukee 1.94 Rapids 1.93

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JULIUS WERNER
LIGHT AND HEAVY HARNESSES
Baskets, Stocks, Fly Nets, Harness
Grooming Shoes and Ice Counters
Repair Work NEEBY Done
AT YOUR SERVICE

Straub's Garage
B. F., Straub, Prop.
Dealer in Buick and Chevrolet Cars
Auto Accessories, Tires and Tubes
REPAIRING ON ALL CARS
Storage Battery Recharging and Repairing
TOURIST TROUBLES OVERCOME

Driving Distances

EDGAR TO—

Miles

Penwood 6 Plover River 22
Stratford 14 Wausau 23
Streets 18 Rib River 18
Hartville 16 Spencer 23
Marshall 26 Antigo 32
Ashwaubenon 34 Sheboygan 40
Sherry 38 Black River 50
Stevens Point 45 Fall 89
Big Rock River 16 Milwaukee 218
Little Aux 47 Appleton 135
River 23 Green Bay 93
Wisconsin 56 Antigo 58
Ripon 55 Merrill 54
Wisconsin River 28 Medford 49
Woodstock 22 Florence 26
Rib Falls 6 Kelly 26

Edgar Bottling Works

Pete Mathis, Prop.
Manufacturers of Quality Ice Cream and High Grade Soft Drinks
EVERY DRINK A GOOD DRINK
PHONE NO. 48

CLOVER LEAF LUMBER COMPANY

Quality Headquarters for Building Material of All Kinds—Where You Get the Grade You Ask for and Like the Grade You Get
W. F. Hyder, Manager

A STRONG BANK IN A GOOD COMMUNITY
THE BANK OF EDGAR
Capital and Surplus $60,000.00
One Dollar Starts a Savings Account
The Bank That Backs the Farmer and the House Business Man

1921 POCKET DIRECTORY OF EDGAR

A. J. CHERNEY
Hay and Grain
Every Day in Farm Produce
Insurance and Real Estate
A SQUARE DEAL FOR THE WHOLE YEAR AROUND

A. J. HOENISCH
Meat and Groceries
Fresh Fruits and Vegetables
Ours Is the Trade That Pays You Back
PHONE NO. 48

W. M. MEYER
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Groceries, Dry Goods, Millinery
William M. Meyer & Ice Cream Parlor
In Connection
The Seller of Guaranteed Goods

—STOP AND SHOP AT—

C. C. DE LONG
GENERAL MERCHANDISE
Ladies', Gents' and Children's Furnishings
Agents for the Whole World
Where Price and Quality Balance

1921 POCKET DIRECTORY OF EDGAR

Railway Time Table

No. 316 Daily ex. Sunday 5:18 a. m.
No. 325 Daily ex. Sunday 5:18 a. m.
No. 108 Daily 10:11 a. m.
No. 284 Way freight daily 11:00 a. m.
No. 551 Way freight daily 10:15 a. m.
No. 215 Daily ex. Sunday 1:45 a. m.
No. 211 Daily ex. Sunday 1:45 a. m.
No. 167 Daily 1:50 a. m.

THE EDGAR MEAT MARKET

S. H. Helfinger
Fresh Salted and Smoked Meats
House-Made Sauces—Pantry Line of Groceries and Canned Goods—We Buy Holes, Dovetail and Yeste Caisers
At All Times
We Are Here to Serve You

A. F. BAENSEMAN
EVERYTHING IN HARDWARE
Shoe and Heavy Hardware
Stoves and Ranges
Auto Accessories, Paints and Oils
A SPECIALTY IN SEAS
Our Prices Are Right

1921 POCKET DIRECTORY OF EDGAR

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Above: Shimmel Bar, Gust Hannaman bartender, 1914. Below: Interior of the John Sacho Saloon in 1912. It was later sold to Herman Pelatzke, l-r, Alex or Tommy Sacho, Mrs. and Mr. John Sacho, John Jr., Tony Malawski, Peter Lossesh. Note the gasoline tank for lights and radiator for hot water heat.
driver, and I all went to the fire - a straw stack was burning. We had to tear the stack apart to put it out and we got back to town about nine o’clock in the morning. The station was still locked so I went to work. Roman and Fritz went home for breakfast and when they came back I got to go home to eat.

I took care of the fire trucks and ambulances. In fact, I mounted front mount pumps on a 1950, 6 cylinder, 500 gallon per minute pump, and on a 1961 tanker. They said it could not be done on a 6 cylinder. I had to raise the fan and radiator. The 1969, 366 V8 was just sold to Schueller Company this year and a 1000 gallon a minute pump on the ’80 Chev that is still in service. The manager from W. S. Darling in Chippewa stopped to look at it and asked me to go to Australia to show them how to do it.

Tom Sommers and I also built a trailer with a 500 per minute pump and a six cylinder Ford engine. Later we put a 350 Chev V8 on it.

Bud Raleigh came to take over the gas and fuel truck. He was an excellent truck driver and took good care of the truck. I bought a 1963 Chev truck that had a lot of miles on it. He made many thousand more with it with no trouble. We never had to replace a clutch in any truck he drove.

Tony Straub worked part time in his later years. He and Bud kept the place laughing. One day Tony said, “Don, you’ve got to see this.” He had a fake snake tied to a piece of fish line at its head, laid it on the right side of the seat and tied the line to the left inside door handle. Bud went out to the truck, opened the door and the snake came right at him. He jumped back, looked at it again and said, “Tony Straub, you son of a ____.” You could just read his lips. He never said a word and Tony never got his snake back, I don’t think. Bud probably tried it on someone else. Like I said, between the two of them there was never a dull moment.

Ron Mroczenski came to work for me in the late ‘80’s. Everyone called him Short Wheel Base. The last years Louis Andrashak came in almost every day. He would talk to everyone all morning and then say, “Well, it’s too late to start anything today - might as well do it tomorrow.” He was the life of the place after Tony left us, always joking about something.

We, I rented the place out now. I don’t miss the work so much as I miss all the customers and people that came in.

City Bakery

Around the year 1924 or 1925 Anton Knetter Sr. purchased the City Bakery and a farm from a Mr. Bogard who resided in Chicago.

He bought the bakery primarily for his daughter, Theresa, who had a leg amputated a couple of years earlier, due to blood poisoning.

Anton felt his daughter would have a difficult time getting a job and she had expressed a desire to be a baker.

As happened along came the Great Depression and Mr. Bogard foreclosed on Anton Knetter and consequently he lost both the bakery and the farm.

Around 1938, a K. Carpenter ran the bakery for a short period of time.

Theresa Knetter Guralski, was the mother of David Guralski Jr., Elizabeth McHugh and Sister Louise Marie Guralski.

Schueller Company

Louis Schueller was introduced to carpentry work at a very early age. At 14 years he helped his dad build a home on a farm 2 1/2 miles west of Edgar. He then helped build barns, working with his dad in the Gleason area.

When World War I started he went into the army and was stationed in France and Germany. He served there until the War ended.

He returned to Edgar, got married and started farming in the town of Johnson. In March of 1931 he moved to a farm on the south edge of the village of Edgar.

With the drought and depression during the early thirties it was necessary for him to seek other means of income. His dream was to be a carpenter, a builder of homes. In the early 40’s he had an opportunity to work with Carl Schutte, building homes in Wausau.

Having goals bigger than working for someone else, Louis decided to build homes in Edgar. Soon he was given a chance to go into commercial construction.

With the help of his four oldest sons, he contracted to build churches, schools and other large buildings.

Louis and his sons formed a corporation and called it L. H. Schueller & Sons Inc. During the next 20 to 25 years they built an airplane hangar at the Wausau Municipal Airport, high school gymnasiums and class rooms at Abbotsford, Edgar and Marathon. They got into building churches when they
were offered the contract for a church in Stetsonville. After that they built churches in Westboro, Sheldon, Boulder Junction, Monitowish Waters and Lac Du Flambeau.

Lac Du Flambeau was the largest church. It was built on the site of an Indian Cemetery on the reservation. The cemetery was moved but there were some unmarked graves. As the excavation for the new church progressed all work halted when a unmarked grave was discovered and a proper transfer to the new cemetery was made. By the time this job was finished 350 ton of quarry stone from a quarry in the Fond du Lac area had been hauled to the site.

Several buildings were also built for G.T.E. These buildings are in Marshfield, Minocqua, Marathon and Edgar.

Three grade schools are also on the list. In Exeland, Wisconsin a eight room school was built. In Colby, classrooms and gymnasium were added to a school. In Edgar, an addition to St. John’s School was completed.

Other buildings constructed in Edgar, but not mentioned include the Post Office, Beauty Shop and Laundry. The Edgar Clinic building and the Edgar Theater, which was located on the site of the G.T.E. building.

In 1960, Louis decided it was time for him to retire. Two of his sons had other interests and wanted to get out of construction. Victor and George then formed a new corporation and called it Schueller Company Inc.

This was a time when the construction business was becoming very competitive. Needing a better source for supplying their needs as contractors and to remain competitive, the corporation bought a building on 5th Avenue in Edgar and started a retail lumber yard. After a few years it became obvious that running a retail yard and contracting was more of a job than they could handle, Victor and George bought land on 6th Avenue and put up a new office and store.

They both retired in 1987. Victor’s two sons Mike & Gary bought shares in the cooperation and are running the business at this time.

East Side Market & Edgar Locker Plant

Charles Barrett had been the sole proprietor of the East Side market on Beech Street of Edgar, Wisconsin.

In 1947, when Charles Ramaker was discharged from the Navy, he entered into a partnership with Mr. Barrett. As a young man, Mr. Ramaker had been employed by the Barrett brothers buying calves, eggs and poultry.

After forming a partnership in the store business he took over the meat cutting portion of the business.

They had a thriving egg business and carried on a northern route every Thursday selling eggs and chickens to the northern resorts. All eggs sold were candied by hand and took up many hours of labor.

Mr. Ramaker married in 1947. A new foundation was built under the aged building and the second floor was remodeled into a comfortable two bedroom apartment. Charles and Lois Ramaker had a cozy new home.

In 1954, the Edgar Cooperative put their grocery, dry goods, and locker plant up for sale. Wanting to enlarge their business Barrett and Ramaker bought the larger store and closed the East Side Market. They called the new business The Edgar Locker Plant.

Charles Ramaker bought out his share of the East Side Market and used it only as a home. After about a year in the building, it was sold to Norman Kleinstick.

Virginia Fischer had been an employee at the East Side Market. John Eberhardy had been the butcher for the Edgar Cooperative, so he was hired to continue on as their butcher.

The Locker business was good because home freezers were not too common at that time. The veal packing plant across the street also provided income as they made extensive use of the freezing process.

When John Eberhardy left for other employment, Mr. Ramaker again took over the meat processing part of the business. The largest beef that Charles processed was 1125 pounds of dressed weight brought in by Melvin and Earl Tess.

The store had the only elevator in town. It was hand operated and was helpful for transferring merchandise for storage in the vast second story.

Refrigeration was powered by six generators in the basement. Every time the power went out, the generators had to be checked to be sure the surge had not blown a fuse.

As a point of interest, a Mrs. Roberts from the state of Washington, stopped at the store to see the store and the village. Her husband had been in partnership with C. C. DeLong at this site. Her son was instrumental in propagating the large Delicious apple.
In 1960, Charles Barrett died suddenly of a massive heart attack. Charles Ramaker then became the sole proprietor and continued the business until his retirement in 1980.

Employees hired during this era were Ella Barrett, Henrietta Viegut, Doris Smith, Vivian Boorse, Goldie Brothers and John Eberhardt.

The building which was built in 1900 was sold to Greg and Karen Stark who remodeled it into a florist and craft store.

**Mueller Builders**

Mueller Builders is owned and operated by Rick Mueller. Rick took over this family business in 1996, after being employed by his father for fifteen years.


Mueller Builders is still a family business, consisting of Rick, Elgart, and Rick’s brother, Jeff Mueller.

Construction projects have consisted of many new homes, remodeling and having the privilege of helping restore the log cabin at the Oak Street Park.

**Louie’s Bar**

Paul Jagodzinski started a tavern in the Bogart building in the early 1950’s. He ran the business in that building for three years. He then purchased the Schroeder house next door, built on an addition to start a new tavern in 1956. He operated that business until 1947 when he sold it to Hilbert Uekert.

Mr. Uekert ran the bar for 33 years. He sold it to Dave Krause in 1980 and it is still in operation today. The tavern is now known as Louie’s Bar and is located on Redwood Street.

**The Bank of Edgar**

The Bank of Edgar was established in 1903 as a private Banking House by G. W. Dudley and W. T. Whitney. Several months later it was reorganized as a State Bank listing A. W. Puchner as President and G. W. Dudley as Cashier. These two gentlemen, along with H. G. Flith, Thomas Hill and C. C. DeLong, constituted the first Board of Directors. The first Bank building, like all the Bank buildings since, was located on 3rd Avenue. In 1926, that building housed Baeseman Hardware. Today it houses Central Silo Services Inc. The June 1904 Bank Statement of Condition lists assets of $47,500.00.

In 1919, the Bank moved into a brand new building on the northeast corner of Redwood and 3rd Avenue. An article in the December 10, 1926 Edgar News states that the building was “a fine, brick block of fireproof construction.” The same article goes on to state that it had “customer and director’s rooms, a ladies rest room and the most modern of banking fixtures and mechanical appliances.” Also in the building were a large vault containing approximately 200 safe deposit boxes and a burglar-proof safe. Both were said to be fire proof and electronically protected. By 1923 assets had risen to $441,100.00. Twenty years later, in 1943, assets were at $1,088,700.00.

Twenty-seven years later, on November 29, 1946, that new building was the site of a robbery. According to newspaper articles from that time: “The robbers were two young men approximately 20 - 24 years of age, 5'6" - 7" with dark complexions. One robber stayed in the hold-up vehicle while the other ‘using a yellow silk or satin scarf to cover the lower part of his face’ entered the Teller area by going thru the Cashier’s Office. Because the robber come thru the Cashier’s Office, the three employees thought at first it was their Cashier, W. C. Seim, the robbers got away with $5222.00 in bills no larger than $20’s. The hold-up vehicle was said to be a gray 1939 International truck with a green corn rack. The two young men had been in the Bank the week before to cash a check for corn they had sold to an Edgar feed dealer. All highways leading out of Marathon County were blockaded in an effort to nab the robbers. A $300 reward was offered for information which would aid the capture of those bandits.” It appears that the bandits were eventually captured. Assets listed on the
Statement of Condition for December 31, 1965 were just over 3 million dollars.

In October 1966, construction was begun on the third building to house The Bank of Edgar. That building was directly across the street to the west of the brick building. Throughout that winter and spring construction continued. In June of 1967, operations were moved across the street to the new building. By the standards for that time, the building was large and modern. Offices were set up for two loan officers. The Cashier had a separate work area. There were four teller windows and room for two bookkeepers. The Bank also opened its 1st drive-up window. The brick building was sold to Lawrence Boehm. It now houses Boehm Insurance Agency and Byron Hurst DDS.

By 1983 assets had risen to $24,710,800 and space at the Bank was getting tight. The decision was made to expand and renovate the current building to more than double the size. The operation of the Bank were carried on while all around and above construction was being done. Eventually, bookkeeping was moved to the basement while tellers and other employees were moved into the unfinished north end of the new building. construction and renovation then continued. Open house was held on May 6, 1984. The teller area had been expanded to six windows with a walk-in area added to the drive-up area. Customer Service officers now had their own area to meet with their customers. Loan Officers were added along with a separate room for Bookkeeping. The only area which remained untouched was the vault area.

By the end of 1993, the assets had again more than doubled to $60,343,200. In June of that same year, construction was started on the 4th and current home of the Bank of Edgar. The new building was to be 8,400 square feet and was to be located on the north end of Edgar under the water tower. January 31, 1994, marked the first day of operations in the new state-of-the-arts facility. Upon entering, customers saw something both familiar and new at the same time. The teller line from the old bank had been moved to the new bank, rearranged and was being used in the new facility. There was a large seating area near offices which contained the Customer Service officers and the new Brokerage Financial Officer. A “mini-bank” consisting of the walk-in, an office and a small reception area could be used as part of the entire bank and also closed off and used by itself during expanded hours. The Lending Department and it’s personnel were all together in the same area. The drive-up was expanded to three lanes. The basement contains a large open area which can be used for meetings and seminars. The old
building was purchased by the Village of Edgar. It houses the Village offices, the Edgar branch of the Marathon County Library and Marathon County Nutrition site for seniors.

For the past 95 years, The Bank of Edgar has been a strong business partner in Edgar and the surrounding area. It’s Board of Directors has consisted of people who are community leaders and successful in their own private enterprises. Today’s Board of Directors shows those traits are still true: Roy E. Jaeger, Dave E. Myszka, Marvin E. Radue, Jon Rasmussen and Richard Wirkus. They and the entire staff of the Bank of Edgar strive to not only offer financial services and support but also to enlighten and educate the surrounding community in all aspects of finance and banking.

In 1995, the bank began participation in the School To Work Program. This program takes a student as an employee during their junior and senior years and trains them in all areas of bank operations. The student earns credits toward schooling banking and finance areas. In an effort to continually offer up-to-date products, the Bank installed a full service ATM machine in the new Rib River Valley Coop Convenience Store at the intersection of Highways 29 and H.


Cashiers of The Bank of Edgar have included: G. W. Dudley, Otto G. Fehlhaber, Wm. C. Seim, R. E. Meyer, Keith A. Garnatz, Marvin E. Radue, Margaret Ledbetter, Susan Ballerstein and Debra Steinke.

In 1903, the list of employees at the then newly opened Bank of Edgar numbered three: A. W. Puchner - President, G. W. Dudley - Vice President and Otto Fehlhaber - Cashier. It’s assets were listed as $47,500.

Today, February 1998, that employee list has risen to 27 employees with assets at the end of 1997 listed as $68,262,700. Following is a list of those employees and the years they began working at the Bank: Marlene Socha, Customer Service Officer, 1962; Linda Berens, Data Processing and Security Officer, 1972; Susan Ballerstein, Teller (part-time), 1977; Jayne Strasser, Administrative Assistant, 1978; Judith Trawicki, Vice President/Personal Investment Officer, 1979; Penny Kraft, Personal Banking Officer, 1982; Deb Steinke, Cashier, 1984; Leta Ebben, Teller (part-time), 1988; Mary Jo Werner, Loan Secretary, 1989; Gail Mroczinski, Head Teller, 1991; Emily Lindner, Bookkeeper, 1991; Elizabeth Sommer, Retail Sales and Marketing Manager, 1991; Joselyn Schreier, Teller (part-time), 1992; Jane Erdman, Loan Secretary, 1992; Kim Bauer, Loan Secretary, 1992; Vicki Hughes, Customer Service Rep, 1994; Jamie Lacke, Teller (temporary), 1995; LaRee Manson, Teller (part-time), 1996; Roy Jaeger, Jr., President, 1997; Brenda Alger, Administrative Assistant, 1996; Pamela Engel, Teller, 1996; Michael Madden, Vice President/Loan Officer, 1997; Duane J. Wright, Agricultural Loan Officer, 1997; Terra Albrecht, Youth Apprentice, 1997; Sharon Myszka, Teller, 1997; Jill Tess, Secretary/Receptionist, 1998.

Cherry Grove Cheese Factory

In the early 1900’s William Bergs built a cheese factory on this site and named it Cherry Grove for the wild pin-cherries growing in the area. William’s son, Joe married in 1915 and continued making cheese. The factory was replaced in 1918. A house was built in 1919 and both are still there today.

In 1948, Joe’s son, Wilfred Bergs, operated the plant till 1954 when it was sold to Ervin Jagodzinski. Ervin operated the plant with the help of his sons; Dale, Daryl and Daryn, for 38 years until he retired.

The equipment was sold and sent to the country of Ukraine. Over the years many changes occurred. A hand-fired wood boiler was converted to oil and then to natural gas. Wooden open cheese vats that required manual labor were replaced with enclosed stainless steel, automatic vats. Cream stored in milk cans, cooled in water were replaced with a refrigerated bulk tank. Additions were made to accommodate a larger cooler, tubular pasteurizer, clarifier, ph meter, fine saver, automatic cheese-making equipment, vacuum packaging equipment, presses and holding tanks. This plant was the first in Marathon County to operate a Ultra-filtration unit to remove protein from whey for human consumption.

Cheeses made were Colby Horns, Colby, Cheddar, Daisies, Pepper Jacks and Mozzarella. The price of milk in 1954 was $3.00 per hundred weight for Grade B. When Ervin retired in 1992, milk was purchased in two grades; Grade “A” was $13.00 and Grade “B” was $12.45 per hundred weight. Ervin and
Arlean (Butalla) Jagodzinski live on the same site today.

Midwhey Powder Company

In 1958 land was purchased on the northeast edge of the village limits of Edgar, from Mrs. William Drumm, for a whey processing plant. It was started by five share-holders, William and Dennis Dvorak, Joe and Charles Mullins and Ervin Jagodzinski. Whey was picked up at various cheese plants to eliminate stream pollution and utilize its product for animal feed. For more efficiency an evaporator was installed in 1980. Product was sold as ground or “pop corn.” Today mostly “pop corn” is sold through a broker. Three plants ship their product and the plant operates five days a week. Ron Graveen is the manager.

Edgar Pop & Ice Cream Factory

The Edgar Pop & Ice Cream Factory started sometime in the 1800s. This factory was operated by Peter Best and was located in Brooklyn on the east side of Highway H.

In 1901 Henry Shortner took over the operation. After several years he relocated the factory to Redwood Street. Chas Tess took over the operation and continued until 1916 when he sold the business to Peter Mathiesen.

Peter Mathiesen married Cecelia Plansky on June 14, 1909 in the town of Carlton, Wisconsin. They resided in Two Rivers for a short while before moving to Edgar to operate the Pop and Ice Cream Factory. In the 1920’s the Mathiesen’s added onto the original building.

In the early days the pop was delivered using horse and wagon. They purchased their first truck from Puchner’s Ford, which was the first of many trucks to hit the road. Many of the area taverns and stores were supplied by the Edgar Bottling. The truck had routes as far away as upper Michigan.

Some of the flavors processed at the factory were orange, grape, cherry and the speciality of root beer. The root beer was made directly from roots, while syrup and sugar were delivered weekly by train to process the remaining flavors.

Many adults from Edgar have fond memories of standing outside the back door watching the ice cream being made inside. Cecelia would often give the children samples of the goodies being made. The Edgar Pop Factory continued to stand at the Redwood location until 1988, at which time it was torn down and replaced by the current Central Silo warehouse.

Snack Shack Restaurant

In the spring of 1975, three first year teachers at Edgar Elementary School and their spouses, Ronald and Carolyn Hahn, Shirley and Leonard Lechleitner and Lynn and Jeff Indgier got together socially one evening. In the course of conversation someone wished Edgar had a place open during the evening hours so we could go get a hamburger and ice cream, without driving all the way to Wausau. Before the evening was over we had decided perhaps we could fill that need ourselves.
On May 8, 1975, the Halein Corporation was formed using the first two letters of each of the three family names. About seven acres were purchased on the northwest corner of the intersection of State Highway 29 and County Highway H in the Township of Rietbrock. Plans were drawn and a 30x40 foot (1200 square feet) A-frame type structure was constructed by the six members that summer.

We opened for business on September 15, 1975, serving mainly hamburgers, cheeseburgers, french fries, donuts, soft serve ice cream, coffee and soda. Our hours were 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Within two months we decided to open earlier and serve breakfast and add a Friday fish fry. At that time Aggie Krueger decided to retire and closed her restaurant in downtown Edgar. She graciously offered to come and work for us on Friday nights for a few weeks to help us get started serving fish fries.

In February of 1976, the Hahns and Indjiers decided to leave the corporation. Len and Shirley continued on with the business.

Over the years the business grew and so did the building. Our first addition was a 20x20 foot west dining area. Later a walk-in cooler and freezer were added. In 1987, an east dining area and an office were added and the kitchen and storage areas were both enlarged.

In 1997, we had to vacate the building due to Highway 29 becoming a four lane highway with an interchange at Edgar Corners. Our last day of business at the original location was February 15, 1997. A restaurant equipment auction was held on February 28th and in early March the building was demolished.

It was decided to enter into a joint venture with Rib River Valley Cooperative (Bob Dinkel, General Manager) to build a 9000 square foot building with each of us owning one half. On January 28, 1998, we opened for business at our new location on the southwest corner of State Highway 29 and County Highway H intersection in the Township of Wien.

by: Len and Shirley Lechleitner

Stark's Floral

Stark's floral was started in the spring of 1961. Greg Stark, a student and member of Wien Wildcats 4-H Club, began growing vegetables and flowers to exhibit at the fair and a few to sell. Sensing he had a money-maker, he wanted to plant and sell more.

In 1964, the High School was to be torn down and the salvage was put up for sale. Greg and his Dad, Harvey, decided to purchase the windows and put up a small greenhouse made from the double pane windows. It wasn't long and it was too small and a 21x50 foot glass house was built on the east side of the house with a showroom attached.

Betty Stark started making corsages at the kitchen table for Mother's Day in 1967. Hence, the floral business began, celebrating the 50th Anniversary in 1997.

After High School, Greg attended school at Kenosha Tech., two years for Greenhouse Production and one year for Greenhouse Management.

In 1970, the Stark family was certified by Duncan Ceramics as instructors of ceramics. The "Ceramic Cellar" was started in their home basement. Classes were held in all types of ceramic techniques. Our 27th Ceramic Anniversary will be celebrated this year.

After High School, Karen attended the American Floral Arts School in Chicago, Ill. She also attended the U W Extension in Art and NTC in Interior Design. Greg and Karen added TANDY Leather and bee supplies to the business in 1977.

In 1977, Greg and Karen Stark (Stark's Floral) moved temporarily to the old IGA Store in downtown Edgar on 3rd Avenue. The old Edgar Locker (C.C. DeLong) building was purchased from Charles Ramaker in the summer of 1980. Before remodeling the 1900 Historical building the first craft show was held that fall.

The Grand Opening of Stark's Floral, Ceramic and Greenhouse was held in the
spring of 1981. A partnership was formed in 1985 between Greg and Elaine Stark and Bruce and Karen (Stark) Schmitt.

The Back Room soda shop opened in 1995. It is run by Amber, Jennifer, Krystle and Miranda Schmitt (Karen’s daughters). The original antique soda fountain was obtained from the Edgar Drug Store. The lights were recycled from St. John’s Catholic School. The soda shop offers phosphates, ice cream cones, sundaes and malts with candy, in an old fashioned setting. Betty and Harvey Stark continue to offer guidance and assistance.
Views of Edgar from the top of the feed mill elevator.
Northwest
North
Northeast.

The Edgar Lanes.

The potato warehouse.
The International Association of Lions Clubs
CHARTER
To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come:
GREETING

Know ye that The International Association of Lions Clubs
has granted, and by these presents does grant to the Members,
whose names are hereunto affixed, and to all regularly elected
members and their successors, this Charter, fully constituting them
a Local Club, under the name and title of

THE LIONS CLUB OF
Edgar

located at Edgar, Wisconsin with all the rights and privileges given
to members of The International Association of Lions Clubs, according to
the rules and regulations of the constitution and by-laws of the International
Association now in force, or hereafter enacted.

This Charter shall be in full force and effect from the day of the date hereof,
and for such time as the Members of the Local Club shall conform to the laws
and rules of the International Association. Otherwise this Charter shall be revoked.

In Witness Whereof, The International Association of Lions Clubs has authorized its President and
Director-General to affix their signatures, and caused the seal of the Association to be hereunto affixed this 15th
day of January in the year of our Lord 1951

Charter Members

A. F. Baeseeman  Stanley Gallenberg  John B. O'Neill
Charles J. Barrett  Harold C. Gohdes  Charles Ramaker
James Beidt  Raphael C. Hawley  Dr. H. A. Schulz
Donald R. Brady  F. E. Hutchins  M. D. Singkofos
Frank H. Cartwright  Rev. Wm. Kenoblock  A. C. Wagner
father O. J. Cramer  George Maki  Dr. H. D. Lasker

The Charter of The Lions Club of Edgar, 1951.