



Reprinted with permission of Ginny Hall, author of "Meandering Around Walworth County"

On Highway NN, east of Elkhorn, the first driveway you come to is the Highway Shop and UW-Extension Research Demonstration Sludge Plots.

Across the road is the newly built, WALWORTH COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER, OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF.

The next building to your right is the COUNSELING CENTER AND SENIOR CENTER, which is now a part of the Department of Human Services. The building began its use in October, 1971. The County Board created this counseling service in 1959, the clinic began offering its services in 1960.

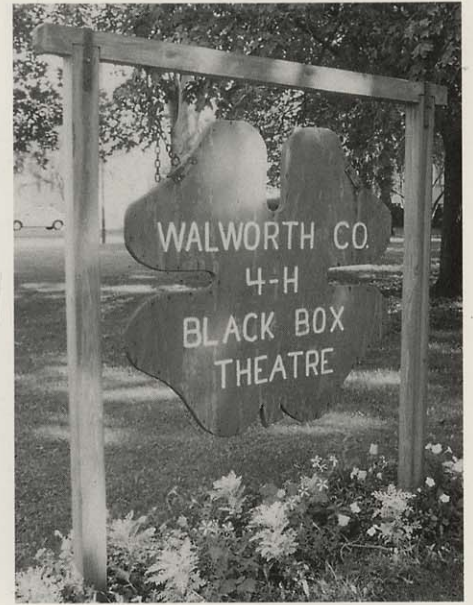
The Commission on Aging was established by the County Board on February 12, 1974. Over the years this has included the

Federal Nutrition Program sites, retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), van drivers, outreach services, senior discount program, County Housing Authority, Senior Aide program, Senior Center, and benefits specialist.

LAKELAND MEDICAL CENTER: This institution evolved from the County Hospital Infirmary which began in the 1920's to care for the residents of the county institutions.

HUMAN SERVICES ADMINISTRATION CENTER: Walworth County had a county pension department which was disbanded in November, 1937 when Public Welfare was established by the County Board. It merged into the Department of Human Services in January, 1988 along with the Lakeland Counseling Center, the Department of Aging, and Developmental Disabilities.

THE WEEK



COUNTY ANNEX-WEST. Note the cupola on the roof. This was the original Walworth County General Hospital. Later it housed the County Poor Farm residents. In 1967, it was remodeled and became the Walworth County Hospital and Home Annex.

UWEX, University of Wisconsin-Extension, was first available in this county when the first county agricultural agent, James Murphy, was hired on February 15, 1915. He worked with farmers' clubs, established a farm employment bureau, did rope splicing, tested soil, started dairy testing programs, and helped control hog cholera. Mr. Murphy later established Murphy Products Co.

Other departments included the ASCS (Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service), Land Conservation and Soil Conservation Service (SCS), County Housing Authority, and the Association for the Prevention of Family Violence.

LAKELAND NURSING HOME. This institution began in 1852 as the Walworth County Poor Farm and the Asylum for the Chronic Insane. In the early days, many residents worked on the county farm to help produce food which they would be eating.

In 1879, a separate institution for the insane and another for the homeless and poor were established. In 1917, a county asylum with infirmary was built.

In 1970, the name Lakeland Nursing Home was initiated for the institution to serve aged, infirmed and the residents from the County Mental Hospital.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES. The first recorded Health Committee meeting was October 29, 1921. A budget of \$4,000 was established to start a County Infant Welfare Association. Miss Bertha Becht, R.N., was the first county nurse.

LAKELAND FARM. With its herd of Holstein dairy cattle, the farm is a research center in cooperation with UW-Extension and UW-Madison. Bi-annually it hosts the Walworth County Dairy Breakfast. More than 3,000 attended this sesquicentennial year.

THE WEEK