



Dedication

This book is dedicated to the early settlers of Harris, and to those Council Members that persisted in forming a governing unit until a special legislative law made this governmental unit a legal reality.

1984
by
Harris Centennial Committee
Coordinated by: Irene Martinson and Inez Hanson
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Printed by



Preface

We knew at the beginning of this project we would not be able to cover all the history and interesting events of the first one hundred years of Harris. We have put together a compilation of contributions from numerous individuals, accounts we have written from notes given to us, and summaries we organized after reading the secretarial reports of organizations. Many people were interviewed for information, old biographical books were researched, an 1888 Atlas of Chisago County was studied, abstracts were examined, tax rolls were checked, local old editions of the Rush City Post and other old news articles were studied. Information was received from the United States Postal Department and the Minnesota Historical Society. Some articles are simply reminiscent so this generation gains some understanding of the lifestyle in the early 1900 period.

The history of Harris and how it became a legal governmental unit is all from the local minutes of Harris. The law that made Harris a legal unit is from the General Laws of Minnesota.

We appreciate all the generous cooperation we received from those people we contacted for information and those that gave us pictures to use for the book. A special thank you is due Holger Warner for his suggestions, help, and advice.

We hope this book will contain something of interest to you. Perhaps at least one copy will be around in 2084 so comparisons can be made. We decided to assemble material for a book as no one else volunteered to do it. Our task was sometimes frustrating, but it was also very interesting, and often unusually enjoyable.

Explanation of Cover Art

One of the first projects of the Centennial Committee was securing a Logo. We announced a contest. The prize winner was Carl David Anderson of Harris.

As you look at the circular shaped logo, you will notice a softball pictured on each side. This is appropriate since after 1930 softball has been the main recreation of Harris. The train emerges from the site of Harris. In the early years of Harris, potatoes were the main crop for cash, while corn was raised for feeding cows and hogs. In the lower silhouette the churches and water tower are depicted.

As mayor of Harris, I wish to extend my personal, as well as an official welcome to all who have come to help us celebrate this centennial.

To those of you who grew up here, I can assure you that it's the same small, friendly town that is has always been; and we're proud to call it home, as I'm sure you are.

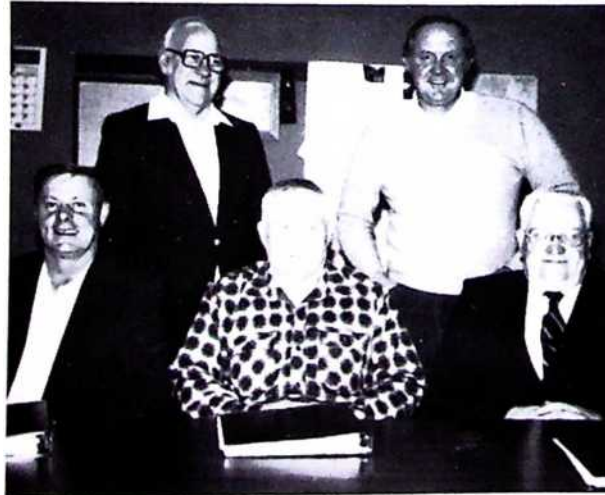
You'll notice there have been some changes these last few years. Since getting the city water and sewer, there have been some lovely new homes built, and we expect there will be many more. We also have a very nice seventeen-unit senior citizen apartment building built on the north end of town.

Looking back over the years, we see this has always been mainly a farming community, starting with potatoes, then diversifying to grain, corn, soybeans and dairying.

So, we've seen many changes over the years, but one thing changed, that is the gospel message that our churches have proclaimed throughout these many years; and they want to welcome you to worship with them on Sunday.

As we observe this centennial, may we, with gratitude, remember those that have gone before us and strive to make this a better place for the generations to come.

Warren H. Johnson
Mayor of Harris



HARRIS CITY COUNCIL 1984

**Back row: Harold Peterson and Dean Ramberg. Front row:
Donald MIndrup, Mayor Warren Johnson and Ed Nelson**

Greetings from Government Leaders

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 27, 1983

To the Citizens of Harris:

I am pleased to join all those gathered to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Harris and to send my warm congratulations.

The spirit which has built and sustained your community reflects the energy which has forged America into a land of wonder. As a community held by fellowship and goodwill, Harris has become "home" to many who love it dearly. Further, it stands as an example of the blessings of liberty and freedom to those around the world.

Again, my hearty congratulations on this proud, historic occasion and my best wishes in the years to come.

Ronald Reagan

RUDY BOSCHWITZ
MINNESOTA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 1984

It is a great pleasure to send greetings to the citizens of Harris as you celebrate the centennial of your fine city.

Minnesota's small communities are truly the foundation upon which our society is built and Harris is a fine example of the stability and progress which were important in the past and are essential to our future.

Sincere congratulations to each of you. May Harris's second century be as good as the first.

Cordially,


Rudy Boschwitz
United States Senator

RB:mf

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 12, 1983

Mrs. Inez Hanson
and John A. Strom
City of Harris
Harris, Minnesota 55032

Dear Inez and John:

Thank you for your invitation to the centennial celebration for the City of Harris August 18 through August 25, 1984.

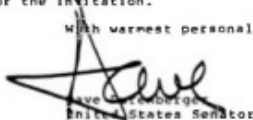
Because I am currently uncertain of my schedule for the month of August and how it will affect my Minnesota appearances, I'm unable at the present time to accept your most kind invitation.

I have, however, referred your request to my Minnesota scheduler, Mary Feldmann. Your invitation has been put on the list of considerations for August and as soon as we determine my schedule, she will be in touch with you as to whether or not we can accommodate your request.

Please be assured that Mary will be in touch with you as soon as a decision is made. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact her at 612-349-5111 or on my Minnesota toll-free line, 800-752-4276.

Thanks again for the invitation.

With warmest personal regards,



James L. Oberstar
United States Senator

pn/wf

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 10, 1984

Mrs. Inez Hanson
Mr. John A. Strom
Co-Chairmen of the Centennial Committee
City of Harris
Harris, Minnesota 55032

Dear Mrs. Hanson and Mr. Strom:

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I offer my sincerest congratulations to the citizenry of Harris on the happy occasion of its Centennial celebration!

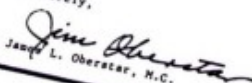
As I look back over the pages of history which Harris' first century have filled, I am awed by the deep sense of commitment the 45 men who first voted to incorporate as a village, shared. I have no doubt that the Village of Harris would feel nothing short of elation at the way in which the City of Harris has evolved.

The people of Harris have long prided themselves on their deep sense of community. This was first evidenced in 1885, when the Village Council was deemed unconstitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court, and the Council decided to forgo ahead and "continue as they (were) organized for the public welfare". I think that this is exemplary of the dedication to the public welfare that abounds in Harris today.

A landmark celebration such as this gives us special cause to reflect back over the hundred years of progress Harris has witnessed -- and the depth of this progress gives us every reason to approach the next hundred years with great optimism.

Happy Birthday Harris!

Sincerely,



James L. Oberstar, M.C.



RUDY PERPICH
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ST. PAUL 55155

August, 1984

Dear Mayor Johnson and Citizens of Harris:
Congratulations on the 100th Birthday of the City of Harris.

This is indeed a tremendous milestone in the history of your community. Each of you must take great personal pride in the role you played in helping Harris' grow and develop through the years, and I know Harris' future will be as exciting and challenging as its past.

On behalf of the state of Minnesota please accept my best wishes for a delightful centennial celebration, and for another century of progress.

Sincerely,

RUDY PERPICH
Governor

RANDOLPH W. PETERSON
Senator 19th District
126 State Capitol Building
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
Phone: 296-8018
and
195 Colton Street
Wyoming, Minnesota 55092

Senate
State of Minnesota

January 24, 1984

The Honorable Warren H. Johnson
Mayor, City of Harris
Harris, Minnesota 55032

Dear Mayor Johnson:

Congratulations to you and to all of the people of Harris as you celebrate the 100th anniversary of the settlement of your city.

The citizens of Harris can truly look upon the achievements of the past one hundred years with great pride. They can also be proud of the work they are doing in Harris today.

The people who settled in Harris a century ago shared a pioneer spirit that enabled them to meet the rigorous challenges of life in the 19th century. As they prepare for the challenges of the 21st century, the citizens of Harris today still exemplify the pioneer spirit of those settlers.

It is fitting that you honor your city by celebrating its centennial. I look forward to joining you in your celebration.


Again, my warmest congratulations to the people of Harris.

Sincerely,

RANDOLPH W. PETERSON
State Senator
District 19

John T. Clawson
 District 19B
 Chicago-Isanti-Pine-Kanabec Counties
 Committees:
 Governmental Operations
 Personnel and Administration
 Subcommittee, Chairman
 Health and Welfare
 Local and Urban Affairs
 State-Local Fiscal Affairs Division
 Chairman

Minnesota House of Representatives
 Harry A. Sabin, Jr. Speaker



To All the Residents of Harris:
 Congratulations on your centennial! What a proud and exciting year this will be for all of you.

Much of our state's history is involved with railroads, lumbering, farming - and immigrants. All of that history comes together at Harris, a community which owes its existence to the railroad, which has served as a commercial center for agricultural and lumbering activities and which has a past tied to a rich heritage of an immigrant people looking for a place to call home, in which they could worship, educate, play, work and live the life of freedom our country offered them.

Your history is uniquely yours. And yet at the same time it is also that of the North Star State and of our great nation.

I recall fondly my years living in Harris; I'm going to look forward to taking part in your many activities, this year, as you celebrate your past and rededicate yourselves to carrying forward into the future the rich heritage of our past.

John T. Clawson
 John T. Clawson
 State Representative

Fish Lake Township
 ROUTE 1
 HARRIS, MINNESOTA 55032
 March 13, 1984

To the Citizens of the Village of Harris, Minnesota

We have been informed that Harris Village is celebrating their 100-year anniversary. It is our sincere feeling that any township or village that has operated for a hundred years deserves to be honored.

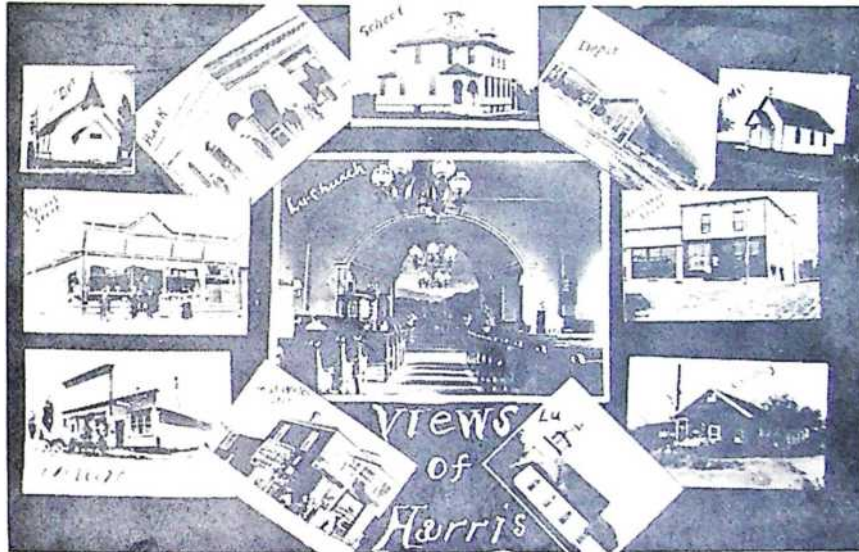
Therefore, be it resolved that the electors of Fish Lake Township during its annual meeting this 13th day of March 1984, herewith heartily extends our congratulations to the Village of Harris on their Centennial Anniversary.

Citizens of Fish Lake Township
 Fish Lake Township Board Members

Orville Anderson
Charles Lindke
Garret Wilson
Kenneth Wilhelmson

Harris Beginnings

In its early beginning Harris was known as Harris City. The name Harris was to honor a prominent officer of the St. Paul-Duluth Railroad Company. This company completed the railroad from St. Paul to Duluth in 1870. The station interested several settlers in settling nearby and an extensive trade in hay, wood, wheat, and rail ties was begun. In a short time, there were four stores, two hotels, three elevators, three hay presses, two blacksmith shops, a skating rink, an agricultural warehouse, livery stable, two saloons, a meat market, and a depot. According to state historical records, Harris was platted in 1873.



Views of Harris around 1892.

This area of Minnesota became part of the Minnesota Territory March 3, 1849, having before been under Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin Territorial governments. In 1851 Ansel Smith of Franconia and W.H.C. Folsom petitioned the Minnesota Territorial legislature to create Chisago County. A bill was passed, and Chisago County became the fifth Minnesota County.

About this time there was an influx of settlers to this area. The same year that Minnesota became a state, 1858, Sunrise Township was established. It included all of today's Sunrise Township plus all of today's Harris, Fish Lake, Branch City, and North Branch. In 1868 the western portion of this large township petitioned the County Board to set aside all of Township 36, and all of the present Harris, except Sections 27 and 34, and the West One-Half of Branch including North Branch. This was done on September 4, 1868, and became Fish Lake Township. In 1872 Eighteen Sections became a part of Branch Township.

In 1884 Harris felt the need to become a separate governmental unit. Thirty-two voters signed a petition asking for a vote to incorporate. Twenty-four Sections as a Village. They were getting tired of having to go to Stark and vote. This petition was presented to District Judge McCluer, who in July 1884 ordered an election to be held at the schoolhouse, Saturday, August 2, 1884, between 10:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. for the purpose of organizing a village. The men designated to conduct the election were George W. Flanders, F.H. Wolf, and Jno. A. Hokanson, (Through out the early Harris minutes John is always written Jno). H.F. Robie, printer of the Rush City Post, was appointed Justice of the Peace. George Flanders was Chairman of the first meeting. Forty-five people voted. Some of the voters were Charles, George, John and Sam Sybrant, John Jarchow Sr., Louis Larson, John Stolberg, J.G. and A.D. Sayers, George W. Flanders, Frank Reed, Frank Palmer, Fred Wolf, Jno. A. Hokanson, and L.J. Stark. It is interesting to note that L.J. Stark was organizer of Fish Lake Township and George Flanders had been involved in North Branch. Elected were President, George Flanders, Council, Fred Wolf, Jno. Herring, and Jno. Hokanson. The recorder was A.G. Marden who was the depot agent. John Stolberg was the first treasurer. The Justices of Peace were H.M. Avary and L.J. Stark. The Council organized it immediately and adopted the seal which is still in use. August 4, 1884, at 7:00 P.M., a second meeting was held at Flander's Store. The Council decided to meet the first and last Saturday of each month. They set up fifteen rules for conducting their meetings and passed nine ordinances.

It was an exciting February 3, 1885, for that day the Council received a notice from the Minnesota Supreme Court notifying them that their governmental unit was unconstitutional. They acknowledged the receipt of this notice in the minutes and moved to dissolve their governmental unit. However, the following few days must have been days of interesting discussions and some soul searching because on February 7, 1885, the Council met again and rescinded the minutes of February 3, and decided to "continue as they are organized for the public welfare".

Why did Harris have problems being legally recognized? One can only surmise. According to definitions a legal township requires Thirty-six Sections. Harris organized as a village having Twenty-four Sections, but four of the East and Northeast Sections joined Sunrise Township. They did not want to be taxed for improvements to the platted area and were concerned about all the bridges that would have to be built. Evidently someone thought twenty sections as sparsely settled as Harris did not qualify as a village. For this reason, Harris was not permitted to have its own assessor and Harris had to go to Fish Lake to collect its tax share. This created bitter feelings.

Again in 1887 the legality of Harris is questioned. The Council appointed Lars J. Stark to assure the legality of the incorporation. March 19, 1887, the following resolution was passed, "That whereas L.J. Stark is doing good work in getting the village legally incorporated, Therefore,

be it resolved that said L.J. Stark be compensated for said work as per his bill when handed in". L.J. Stark's bill was handed in and was for \$8.75.

Up to this time they had governed the area as a township. On May 25, 1887, a special election was held, and village rules were followed. The following resolution was passed. "Whereas the new organization of the Village of Harris has been perfected as of the 25th day of May A.D. 1887, and Whereas the Council deems its work terminated by such organization, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Council of the former organization of the Village of Harris, hereby turn over all the accounts, books and property belonging to said Village to the new Council, the property consisting of one record book, one chattel mortgage file book, one register book for births and deaths, one ordinance book, one statute book, and supplements thereto, one license book, one ballot box, one corporate seal, one extra jail lock and keys, two road scrapers, one road plan, one cash book, and various blanks too numerous to mention and one hundred four dollars and fifty-six cents as per report of Village Treasurer". Resolution adopted.

In 1891 the legality of Harris climaxed. State Representative August J. Anderson was asked for assistance. February 16, 1891, Mr. Anderson introduced House File Number 433 pertaining to Harris. The bill was patterned after a bill that had passed in Alabama where a government unit had similar problems.

Harris was the second Village in the United States to be legalized by a special bill such as this.

General Laws of Minnesota for 1891
Chapter 101
House File Number 433
General Laws of 1885, Chapter 145
Village Incorporation

An Act to amend, an Act to provide for the incorporation of Villages, and to define their duties and powers, and to repeal certain laws in relation thereto, "being Chapter one-hundred and forty-five (145) of the general laws of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five, so that the Village of Harris in Chisago County, Minnesota, shall be a separate election and assessment district, and be separated in all municipal affairs from the towns of Sunrise and Fish Lake.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. Chapter one hundred and forty-five (145) of the General Laws of one thousand eight hundred and eighty-five (1885) be amended so that the provisions thereof relating to election and assessment districts, and to collecting and paying over taxes for village purposes, shall not apply to the said village of Harris, Chisago County, Minnesota, and that said Village of Harris shall constitute a separate election district for all election purposes from the towns of Sunrise and Fish Lake in

which said Village is located. **Provided** that an election held in said Village shall be subject to the provisions of said Chapter one hundred and forty- five (145) relating to the election of village officers.

Provided further That all general elections held in said village shall be subject to the provisions of the general election laws of the state.

Section 2. The Village Council of said Village shall, at their first (1st) meeting, in the month of April, in each year, elect an assessor, who shall be styled the Village Assessor, who shall perform all the duties in relation to assessing of property for the purpose of levying of all village, school, county, and state taxes, and upon completion of the assessment roll he shall deliver the same to the Village Board of Equalization, who may alter, revise and equalize the same as they may deem it just and proper; Said Village Assessor shall hold his office for one (1) year, and until his successor is elected and qualified. **Provided However**, that such Village Assessor shall be subject to and be governed by the general laws of the state relating to assessors and their duties.

Section 3. All taxes levied on the taxable property within said Village, except for improvement of streets, highways, sidewalks and crossings, shall be levied and collected as prescribed by the statute of this state for the levying and collection of township taxes, and it shall be the duty of the County Treasurer of said Chisago County to pay over to the Village Treasurer of said Village and for the use of said Village, all the money collected as taxes on all the taxable property taxed within said Village of Harris.

Section 4. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 5. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved April 11, 1891."

It was September 7, 1907, that the recorder was ordered to notify all legal voters that the council had been summoned to "appear in the Minnesota Supreme Court to show cause why the incorporation of Harris should not be declared null and void". The voters were to meet at the Village Hall Saturday, September 14, 1907, at 7 P.M. and respond to said information. At that meeting it was moved by Trustee Chas. Johnson and seconded, that the Village Council employ an attorney to defend the village in an action brought against the council that the incorporation of the Village of Harris be dissolved. President John Stolberg was appointed to go and see if they could hire A.G.L. Roberts of Pine City as an attorney. At the September 28 meeting President Stolberg reported he went to Pine City Tuesday September 17, to see A.G.L. Roberts and at that time Attorney Roberts did not give him a definite answer. Friday, September 20, A.G.L. Roberts telephoned John Stolberg and asked him to come to Pine City. Mr. Stolberg went to Pine City and employed Attorney Roberts to

defend the village before the Supreme Court. Nothing more was included in the minutes about the Supreme Court hearing but at the October 5th meeting a bill of \$100 to A.G.L. Roberts for legal services was ordered paid.

I would like to return to the Supreme Court hearing. I have often wondered why, after sixteen years, the Supreme Court again became concerned about the legality of Harris as a governmental unit. From what I have heard the lawyer merely presented a copy of House File number 433, Chapter 101 from the General Laws 1891 and the case was dismissed. I cannot verify this, but, since Harris continued as a village, it appears very likely that is what happened.

FROM FIFTY YEARS IN THE NORTHWEST
BY W.H.C. FOLSOM Cort. 1888

The town of Harris contains twenty-four¹ sections of Township 36, Range 21, the four western tiers of sections. The soil is a sandy loam with a clay subsoil. The town is well watered and drained by Goose Creek, which entering the town from the northwest, and bending at first southward, then eastward, leaves the town near its southeastern line in Section 22. The timber consisted originally of oak openings and pine; 10,000,000 feet of the latter have been moved from the southeastern portion. Luxuriant wild meadows are found along Goose Creek. The first improvement was a farm made by W.H.C. Folsom in Sections 21 - 22³ in 1854. The first permanent settler was Henry H. Sevy who located on this farm in 1856. The town of Harris was organized in 1884.

HARRIS VILLAGE

A charter organizing Harris Village was granted by the District Court, under the General Law, in 1882. A subsequent legislature act confirmed all similarly organized villages in the state. The Supreme Court decided the organization of such villages illegal and the legislative act sanctioning it unconstitutional. It was subsequently organized legally. The Village was surveyed by A.D. Miller and platted in May 1873, in the South Half of Section 21, Township 36, Range 21. Phillip S. Harris and N.D. Millers, Proprietors. It derived its name from Phillip S. Harris, a prominent officer of the St. Paul and Duluth railroad.

Fred Wolf³ was the first settler in 1870, and the first merchant and first railroad agent in 1873. He acted as postmaster subsequently and filled other offices of trust. His interests are intimately blended with those of the Village. Isaac Savage was the second settler and merchant. He was the first postmaster in 1873. The first school was taught by May Gwinn in 1873.

1. Harris never had twenty-four Sections. The four northern sections on the east side immediately decided to stay with Sunrise.
2. Section 22 was in Sunrise Township and 21 in Fish Lake Township.
3. John G. Mold, Sr. built a store in 1868 and sold general commodities. Fred Wolf, his brother-in-law worked for him. Mr. Wolf bought the store in 1875.

The first marriage was that of M.P. Smith and Charlotte Swenson. The first child born was Brague, son of W.D. Sayers. The first death was that of Isaac Morrell. A good schoolhouse was built in 1877. The Village is rapidly growing. It has an extensive trade in hay, wood, ties, and piles. Wheat shipments are large. It has four stores, two hotels, three elevators, three hay presses, two wagon and smith shops, one agricultural warehouse, one skating rink, one livery stable, two saloons, one meat shop and a railroad depot.

INTERESTING NOTES FROM MINUTES OF VILLAGE OF HARRIS

October 4, 1884 A pound master was appointed. Straying animals were to be placed in a barn. A fee payment was required before the animals would be released.

October 18, 1884 A poll list was arranged. Ordinance I was adopted. It related to a poll tax. "All male members 21-50 are to work or pay \$1.50 instead of working, except idiots, lunatics, paupers, and such as are exempt by law." The Street Commissioner would notify them when they get to work. The Treasurer's salary was two percent of all the money spent.

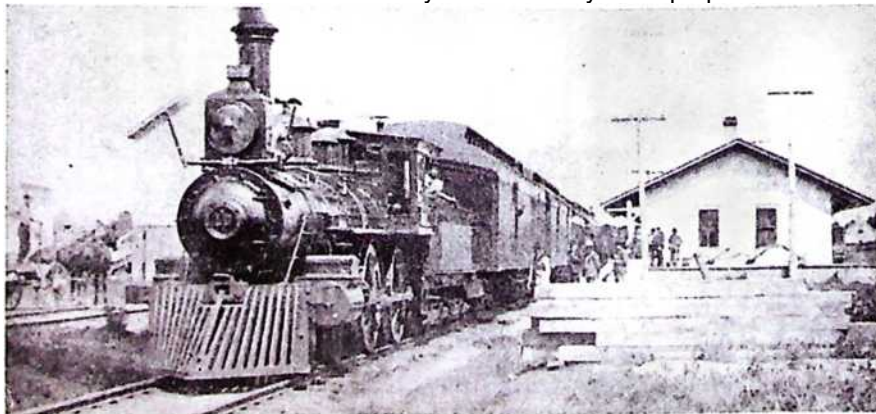
June 6, 1885 The Road Supervisor was ordered to be "economical" in the purchase of supplies.

September 15, 1885 John Stolberg was given thirty days to dig out a ditch he had filled and replaced a culvert he had removed. (Mr. S. did not enjoy all the water draining his way.)

May 1886 Because they had trouble with blind pigs, they refused to issue pool table licenses. (Blind pig is serving liquor away from public view).

October 8, 1888 They levied \$400 for road purposes.

February 1889 John Jarchow, Sr. went to Pine City. He purchased the old Village Hall for \$225 and six chairs, two bracket lamps, one stove, and two card tables for \$9. The building, 30' x 20', was to be used only as a council chamber and never for Sunday School or any other purpose.



September 30, 1902 The barber was hired to light the city lamps. He was paid \$1 per lamp a month.

September 5, 1908 the following resolutions were adopted. That hitching posts are not allowed on streets with the sidewalk not curbed. Be it further resolved that on streets where the sidewalks are curbed that hitching posts are allowed providing that there are 2 posts or more connected by a chain strong enough to tie to.

October 5, 1912 Four electric street lights were to be installed. For November and December they were \$10.66 a month. After that it was \$8 a month.

Harris Jail



THE CITY JAIL

One of the first concerns of the newly organized governmental unit of Harris was to provide a jail. On September 20, 1884, they specified a jail 12' x 16' x 8' with "three cells (this is the spelling from the minutes) and an anteroom' be built. On December 5th, the final plans were made, and bids were let. The jail was to be 12' x 16' on the outside. It was to be ten feet from floor to ceiling and have a gabled roof. The walls and partitions were to be 2 x 4's, spiked flat, with spikes no farther than one foot apart. Twenty penny spikes were to be used. The floor was to be two-inch oak planks covered with one-inch oak board. The ceiling was to be the same as the floor. There were to be two cell doors and one door in the middle, size 2x6, two half windows, twelve lights, one on each side of each door. (Where the others were to be wasn't specified). The windows were to be barred with 7/8 rounded iron bars, four inches apart both ways. Each cell door had a 12" x 12" hole barred similar to the windows.

Six bids were received: John Stolberg, \$209; L.J. Stark \$208; H.M. Avery \$250; George Starkweather \$209.85; Edward Ward \$199; J. Conrad Johnson \$175. Lowest bid was accepted. He had six weeks to complete the work.

Before they built the jail, George W. Flanders had promised to rent land to them. The final agreement for the rental fee was Five Dollars for five years with one dollar to be paid each year. However, they must fence in the jail area. The jail, according to an 1888 Chisago County Atlas, was located northwest of where the lagoon is, about half the distance to County Road #30. Later it was moved to the Village proper and located south of the Village Hall. In 1922, when the Harris Creamery was built, they wanted the jail area, so the Village sold the jail to Gust Jarchow. He used it as a granary. When there was talk of demolishing the jail, the Lions Club came to the rescue. They purchased it and plan to do some renovations. The jail now is located very near to where it first was.

EARLY ROADS

In the 1850s five military roads were constructed by the Federal Government in the State of Minnesota. The one nearest Harris was the Point Douglas - St. Louis River Road. This route from Point Douglas to Taylors Falls was almost the same route as State Highway 95 today. From Taylors Falls it followed the St. Croix River to a point directly east of Sunrise City. There it angled northwest along a route quite similar to County Road 9 for some three miles before heading north again. In this area it became known as the Government Road. At the point where the Government Road turned north, another road went straight west. This road followed much the same route as County Road 9 does today. From platted Harris this road continued to Stark, Cambridge, Princeton, and St. Cloud. I have not found any verification that it was a stagecoach route, but I know the house below Sayers Hill was a stagecoach stop. It is also rumored that Captain James Starkey and his thirty men of the St. Paul Light Cavalry stopped at that stagecoach stop station for "refreshments" on the way to the Sunrise Cornstalk War in August 1857.

As late as 1888 there was no laid out road north of Harris. The only road to Rush City was east to the Government Road and north to Rush City. The road to North Branch was east of the railroad tracks and south to the North Branch town line road where it crossed the railroad track and went west of the tracks to North Branch.

The best road in Harris was the east-west road. This is why people from Cambridge and even farther west used Harris as their railroad point. Harris had railroad service twenty-nine years before Cambridge. In 1898 farmers with horse-drawn wagons came from Cambridge to Harris to get the Cambridge Lutheran Pipe Organ which had been purchased from the W.W. Kimball Company in Chicago.

When the railroad came through Harris in 1870, the Government Road lost its importance.

Tax List

1892 was the first year Harris did its own assessing. Previous to that, Fish Lake and Sunrise townships did the assessing of the portions that were considered part of their townships. Harris was not accepted as a legal governmental unit until 1891.

The following is a list of the taxpayers in the platted area and the number of lots they owned:

P.H. Stolberg - 71¹/₂ lots and everything west of Goose Creek in Block 16
S.O. Johnson - 3 lots
Ida E. Clover - 2 lots
Baptist Church - 2 lots
Ida E. Olson - 1 lot
Ernest Waldhoff - 3 lots
F.H. Wolf - 11 lots
D. McClean - 2 lots
School District - 2 lots
Mary E. Ward - 1 lot
J.S. Sayer - 1 lot
J. Hammargren - 1 lot
Ida Marden - 1 lot
Hall Thomas Mfg. Co. - All East of Goose Creek Block 16
L.J. Stark - 28 lots
John Stolberg - 10¹/₂ lots
Johanna Blomquist - 4 lots
Mary E. Savage - 2 lots
Lutheran Church - 2 lots
G.J. Nordfell - 2 lots
Elias Nyquist - 2 lots
Village of Harris - 1 lot (exempt)
Julia Sayers - 2 lots
George W. Flanders - 1 lot
M.A. Willoughby - 1 lot
Chisago and Isanti Cooperative Association - 1 lot
John Willig - 2 lots
S.J. Nyquist - 1 lot
Starkweather and Larson - 2 lots
Mission Church - 2 lots

1894 Businessmen in Harris

JOHN STOLBERG came to Harris in 1881 and established a general merchandise store to which he added a hardware store. He had a three-story livery stable and twenty rigs. He was joined by his brother, Peter, in the store business in 1881 and the firm name became Stolberg Brothers. He assisted his brother in the sale of lots. They owned two hundred lots that were priced from \$200 to \$1,000.

PETER H. STOLBERG became an active lawyer in 1884. In 1894 he was serving his third term as County Attorney. He was also a realtor and owned many farms. He backed the sales of the Sauer potato digger.

W.D. SAVAGE was the Postmaster and a partner of Edward W. Stark in a general store.



The restaurant is the former Ed Stark Mercantile. Across the street is Henry Jarchow's Saloon. Willig's Blacksmith Shop can be seen next to Dr. Ticten's Office and Drug Store.

EDWARD W. STARK and Savage owned a large general store. His wife had a millinery shop. They had a drug section and compounded prescriptions. They had a complete lumberyard.

MCKEEN AND CO. had a meat market managed by Chas. Avery and run by C.O. Lovejoy. Mr. Lovejoy also ran a feed store and paid cash for hides, tallow, poultry, hogs, and veal.

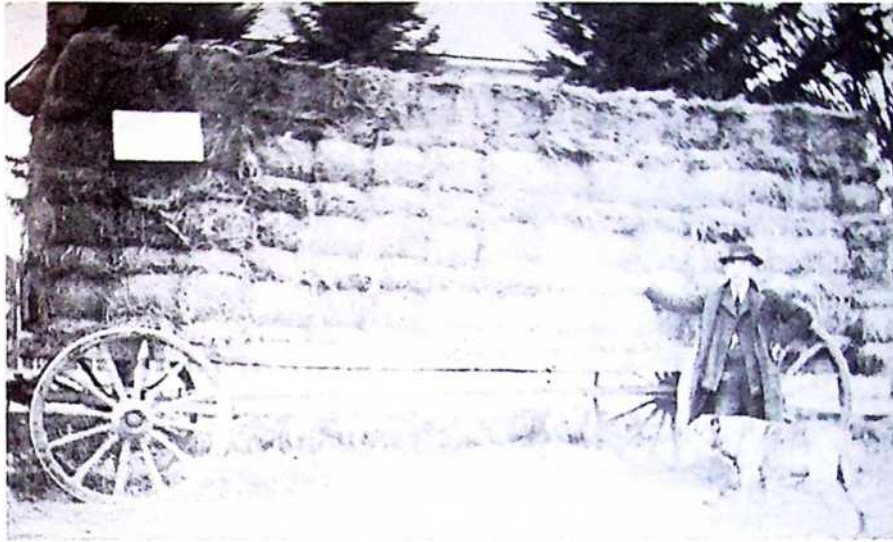
STADIN AND OLSON had a twenty by sixty-foot building located on a street corner which was their photo and art gallery.

W.W. WILLOUGHBY had a large general merchandise store. He had been in business for ten years. He taught at the local school for two years. He also was a real estate agent.

MCINTYRE AND W.E. ERICKSON had a large dry goods store specializing in clothing. They also were dealers in all kinds of machinery.

F.H. WOLF was the owner of the Pioneer Store and owned a two hundred forty-acre farm. He was a potato buyer.

HALL, THOMAS MANUFACTURING COMPANY were owners of a starch factory which was built at a cost of \$15,000. They handled two to three thousand bushels a day. C.J. Lovejoy was the engineer. They employed fifteen to twenty men.



Fred Wolf standing by a load of hay. He was an early dealer of hay and feed. The hay was sold to lumber camps where horses were used to pull logs out of the woods.

T.E. LINDSTROM owned the Railroad Wine House and sold the best brands of whiskey, ale, wine, etc.

VICTOR JOHNSON had a saloon and billiard parlor. "A popular place to spend your leisure hours".



Victor Johnson's corner — Notice the wooden sidewalk.

A. MCPHERSON was the village blacksmith. His was the busy repair shop.

OSCAR NYQUIST had the corner saloon. He had a combination pool and billiard table. He sold the best foreign and domestic liquors as well as Pabst beer.

GEORGE P. BECKER AND CO. was a complete hardware and furniture store. They handled every variety of stoves.

ALFRED T. SELINE was the leading tonsorial artist located next door to Vic Johnson. He could “give you a shave, hair cut or a sea foam on short notice.”

JONAS HANSON had a carding and wool mill as well as a feed hill. He carded wool for ten cents a pound.

DR. ALBERT J. TICTON was a surgeon, practiced general medicine and was a pharmacist.

REUBEN HOLMAN had the local hotel.

LEYDICK AND MARKHAM were the local veterinarian and breeder, buyer, and sale of horses, respectively.

P.M. HAWKINSON invented a potato bug killer and sold it for \$85. He also was a salesman for windmills.



An unidentified man in front of Willig's Blacksmith Shop.

JOHN WILLIG was a blacksmith that specialized in horseshoeing. He was a salesman for Davenport Wagon Equipment.

OTTO PETERSON was the machinery dealer. He had a 66 by 85-foot warehouse. He carried a full line of machinery and repairs.

This information is from the Rush City Post - June 15, 1894.

Family Life in Early 1900

With all of our conveniences, it is difficult to realize how hard it was to have an orderly, organized home life in the early days. But they did! Most families knew that Sunday was a day of relaxation and a day to set aside for spiritual services. To them it was a day when they were especially well dressed, and they respected a day of rest. However, with sun down, the thoughts of Monday appeared. If it was summertime the wash tubs were filled with water so the dirtiest clothes could soak overnight.



A common Sunday afternoon scene — waiting for the train.

Monday was wash day. You filled a wash boiler with water. While this was heating on the wood burning stove, you wrung out by hand the clothes you had soaked overnight. On a wash bench you had two tubs. In one was clean cold water. The other you had warm water in, from the now warm boiler, and a wash board where you scrubbed the clothes using homemade laundry soap, or Fels Naphta, Rose Queen, or other laundry brands. The white clothes were usually boiled for some ten to fifteen minutes in a soapy hot water in the wash boiler. The boiled clothes had to be rinsed in clear water and then in a tub of water to which some of Mrs. Stewart's bluing had been added. Remember, all wringing was by hand! The first tub of rinsing water was used to wash the colored clothes. For overalls, a scrub brush was used. If there was extra time some gardening was done before the clothes were brought in and folded.

Tuesday was the ironing day. One had to be careful how hot the fire was so the irons wouldn't scorch the clothes. An iron would stay warm about three minutes. It was a hot and tedious job and almost everything required ironing.

Wednesday was repair or mending day. One was thankful if the clothes were quite new. Even young people had to sew on buttons and darn socks.

Thursday was some freedom. It was a day for socializing. Either you gathered at the neighbors, celebrated birthdays, or attended a church organization.

Friday you cleaned and dusted all the rooms except the kitchen.

Saturday you did your baking for Sunday and scrubbed the kitchen. After the evening work was done, a tub was brought in and again the wash boiler was used to heat water for the baths. Remember in most cases all the water was pumped by hand, carried in, and carried out. Some homes had cistern pumps, and also sinks for drains. When the children were clean and in bed mother laid out the clothes on separate chairs for each child so they could dress for Sunday School in the morning. It was Dad's job to polish the shoes.

Interspersed with all the aforementioned work was gardening, canning, possibly helping in the fields, and milking.

It wasn't all work. In summer from seven to nine was family time which was usually outside, playing games and possibly wrestling. In winter, family time was reading, doing crafts, studying, discussing the news, and best of all, in my case, singing accompanied by Dad's violin.

HOMEMADE SOAP

5 pounds lukewarm melted fat (2 cups to a pound)
1 can lye dissolved in 1 quart (4 cups) cold water
3 teaspoons borax
1 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons sugar
1/2 cup cold water
1/4 cup ammonia

Let lye cool to lukewarm. Slowly pour fat into lye, stirring constantly. Mix and add the remaining ingredients. Stir for at least half an hour (using a wooden spoon) or until it gets thick like honey. Let stand for 24 hours, then cut. I put the soap in cardboard boxes after it is cut. The longer it stands and the harder it gets, the better it is.

The Potato Era

The land that was cleared around Harris in 1881 looked like small garden-like patches. These patches were planted to rye, wheat, and a few potatoes. The grains were brought to mills to be ground into flour. The potatoes provided a basic food and a crop for barter for necessities. The southeast part of Harris was pine forest, white pine, and jack pine. The rest of the area was red and white oak and in the extreme west and north were maple, elms, and poplar.

To clear land was hard work. Trees had to be cut down and stumps pulled or chopped out before the land could be plowed and prepared for planting. Since it was done by hard manual labor, it proceeded slowly.

In preparing seed for planting the potatoes had to be cut. One looked for healthy eyes on the potato and one was sure you had one or two good eyes on each seed piece. The first planting was done slowly using a spade. This was inserted into the soil, pushed forward, and a cut potato piece dropped in the hole made behind the spade. The spade was removed, a foot was dragged over the opening forcing dirt over the seed, and then one foot stomped on the dirt. As the potatoes grew so did the weeds. This brought the entire family into the field to hoe the potatoes. In a few years a hand planter was invented. This led to the use of a horse drawn marker, marking five rows at a time. A one-horse cultivator aided in keeping weeds down. The field still required hoeing. There was a problem of the potatoes pushing up out of the soil and turning green. A one horse "hiller" solved this problem and so did "hilling" by hoeing. Machine planting helped for a while. There were two—the Aspinwall and Splittstoser. Farmers were unhappy with them because cultivating could only be done one way. Many returned to marking their fields in squares, so they had better results from cultivating, and they planted by hand.



A common August scene — a grain field, all shocked, on the right; a potato field, not yet ripe, on the left.

After raising potatoes for a few years, the potato beetle or "bug" arrived. In the beginning the problem was solved by handpicking, knocking them off with a shingle or brush into a pail of water. Then a Paris green spray was used. At first some lime and Paris green was placed in a cloth and was shaken over the plants. This was not successful. A sprayer with a Paris green and water solution was used. A quart-sized hand sprayer requiring three or four pumps a plant was satisfactory but was slow work and had to be repeated every three or four days until the bug cycle was broken. By 1894 a local farmer, P.M. Hawkinson, invented a horse drawn sprayer which sold for \$85. This had a fifty-gallon barrel with a pump that would spray four rows at a time. Two men walked behind directing two hoses each at the potato plants. This went fast but was expensive because it required so much Paris green. If it was a windy day the men were also sprayed.

The potato crop was harvested around the twentieth of September. This involved the children as they had two or three weeks vacation from school. They looked forward to this as for many it was the time they earned the spending money for the entire year.



A late autumn scene some sixty to eighty years ago. "When the frost is on the pumpkin and the fodder is in the shock."

J.W. Riley

Small potato farmers dug the potatoes by hand using a six-tined fork. To assist the pickers, a horse drawn stone boat was used. On it were four or six baskets. When they were filled, they were brought to a central area to be dumped. Count of the number of bushels picked was done by placing in a shallow hole a potato for each basket dumped. This count helped decide how many bushels were in the pile and most children were paid a penny a bushel for picking. If you picked for your neighbor, you often were paid two cents a bushel. Often one had to wait until the crop was sold before you received your pay.

The first potato digger used in this area was made by the local black smith. It had a beam like a walking plow, an angle shaped share, and a grating behind the share with a cast iron paddle wheel to shake the grating up and down. It was like a walking plow with two wooden handles and pulled by two horses. This was a big improvement over the fork as there were no spiked potatoes.

In 1880 a local man, Peter Stolberg, sold a Sauer digger. Others on the market were Champion, Hoover, Dowden, and Splittstoser. The use of elevators that elevated the potatoes onto a shaker caused the potatoes to drop in straight rows and a turner forced the vines to the side. Later there was a place where a man could stand on the digger and sack the potatoes. This was a real boon.

After the potatoes were harvested the potato piles or pits had to be tended to. These had been covered with straw and dirt, with a vent at the top. These piles were uncovered and either hand-sorted on the field or shoveled into a wagon and run over a sorter at home and stored in the basement. Ability to store potatoes in the basement influenced the time



Potato Harvesting — Potatoes were dug by hand.

of selling. For this reason, houses with large basements were an asset. Some farmers built houses that could store a carload of potatoes or more. Potato prices usually were better in winter or early spring. If one had no basement, the potatoes were usually sold as they were sorted from the piles. The cull potatoes were used for cattle and hog feed. If used for cattle, they were cut into smaller pieces to avoid the possibility of a cow choking. For the hogs, they were cooked in a thirty-gallon kettle with some rye mixed in. This made good hog feed.



Lucy and John Jarchow, picking potatoes.

In the earliest days, before Harris was a railroad town, money was scarce. For groceries and other merchandise, they traded butter, eggs, and potatoes. This was called "on the book" trading. If the produce had more value than what they purchased, credit slips were issued. After the railroad came, all this changed. Harris became an important potato marketing center. Three early buyers were Wm. M. Willoughby, Fred Wolf, and the partnership of George Starkweather and Louis Larson. Larson



One of many potato pits in a field.

and Starkweather had their own warehouse and scale and for several years sold three hundred fifty carloads a year. In 1893 Mr. Wolf sold two hundred eighty-five carloads. Mr. Willoughby made no statement about his sales. At one time there were seven buyers. Farmers were eager to get to market early. A line of fifteen or more loads to be unloaded was not uncommon. If the market was strong, all the buyers might bid for your load. If the market was weak, maybe you would receive only one bid. If some buyer needed only one load to fill his car and he found some unusually nice potatoes, he would pay a more generous price to give his carload a good appearance. Some of the later buyers were Gust, Henry, and Henry J. Jarchow. Arvid Sederberg, Earl Palmer and Art Deming.



Weighing in a load of potatoes at the scale house.



The inside of Henry Jarchow's potato warehouse From left to right: Henry Jarchow, Gid Miller, Earl Palmer.



Weighing potatoes inside a warehouse.

When the seller decided what bid to take the load was weighed. dumped into a hopper and run over a sorter. The potatoes that were culled out you brought home. You were weighed again and then paid by check. At first potatoes were sold by the bushel and later by the hundred weight. If there was a shortage of potatoes, prices might go as high as \$4 per hundredweight. If the market was glutted, the price might be ten or fifteen cents and they were sold to the starch factory.

Before the railroad went through Cambridge, farmers from near Princeton as well as Cambridge and Grandy brought their potatoes to Harris. It is said that one day, at its marketing height, over four hundred loads of potatoes were unloaded.

Gradually the potato crop began to diminish. It became more difficult to get good seed and even with good seed the acreage production was low. Mother Earth had been "potatoed out". In 1938 our last potato buyer was A.S. Deming. Then the farmers turned to corn and soybeans as cash crops. The potato era of some forty years was over.

Today very few farmers in this area raise potatoes, even for their own use.

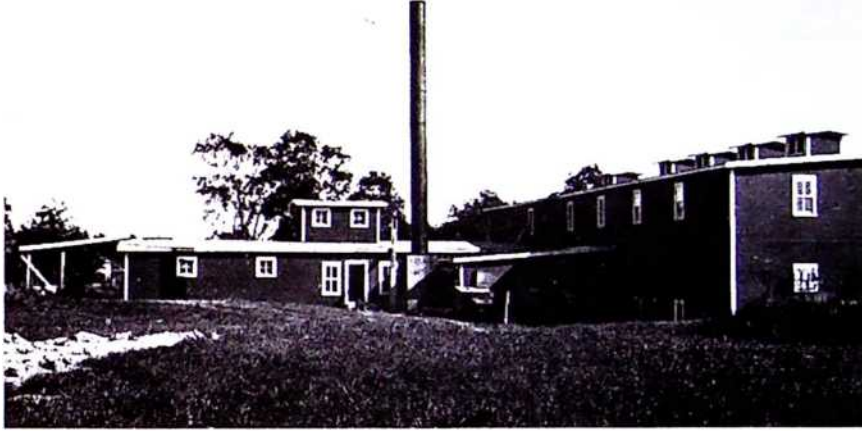


Some potatoes grew large. The young boy is Dellos Palmer.

Harris Starch Factory

From 1880 until the 1930 period the leading cash crop of the Harris area and neighboring communities was potatoes. After the potatoes had been sorted by the warehouse owner or manager, the culls were often sold to the starch factory. This factory was built by Mr. Began in 1904. In 1909, the factory was sold to Charles Johnson, Gust Jarchow, Paul Olson, and P.J. Anderson. Under their management the factory prospered until 1935, when it was closed down. The closing became necessary because there had been several years of poor potato crops due to a potato blight. Also, the Great Depression caused prices to fall so low that it became unprofitable to continue making starch. The building stood empty for some time, but some people remember having Boy Scout meetings in the scale house. Remains of the ramp can still be found among the underbrush.

The large red wooden building was located just west of Harris on what is now County Road #9. As it was a well-known factory of its kind in the area, farmers from both Chisago and Isanti counties hauled their potatoes there to be sold. They drove their horse-drawn wagons up the ramp where the potatoes were weighed and dumped into bins. Later, they were ground up, mixed with water, and allowed to stand in deep vats where the starch settled to the bottom. When the water was drained off, the starch was moved to the dryers. It was then packaged, crated, and shipped to St. Paul to be distributed. Starch was in much demand as a food thickening and for starching clothes.



Potato Starch Factory

The factory provided jobs for many people as it was kept operating from early fall until spring. It also brought much business to the town. At that time, Harris was a busy city, but the closing of the starch factory in 1935 marked the end of an era.

Harris Grain Market

Written by Gottfred Lundeen - 1958

Possibly the first cash grain market in Chisago County after the completion of the St. Paul-Duluth Railroad through this county and along this line was operated at Harris, about the years of 1875 to 1880. As some of the settlers had a few surplus bushels of wheat they sold them for a few dollars, because money seemed so hard to acquire in those days. First, they had to allow for what was necessary to provide flour and bread for their families during the coming year and also for seed wheat the next year.

This venture was operated by John G. Peterson, a brother-in-law of the late Judge P.H. Stolberg, and an uncle of Judge A.P. Stolberg and Gottfred Stolberg.

His place of storing the grain as he bought it from the farmers was a building a short distance west of our present Village Hall. When he thought he had a carload, or near to that amount, he'd ship it by car to the large mills in the Twin Cities.

This project was rather short-lived as the settlers started to move to the western part of Minnesota to break up the rich prairie land there. The farmers in this part of the state could not compete with the prairie land in raising wheat.

Uncle John, as he was often referred to, was called back to his home town where his folks, brothers, and sisters lived, a little town about five miles southeast of Montevideo. At that time, it was called Meyers, but it is now called Wegdahl. He carried on his business on a larger scale, as the farmers in that community appointed him manager of the Farmers' Cooperative Elevator of Wegdahl.

Returning to the subject of the building he used while in Harris, perhaps some of you can remember it. It was the building west of the town hall that for many years was used as a shed for storing tools and road equipment owned by the town and county. However, when the time came to put in a better pump for the Harris Cooperative Creamery, that building had to be removed.

Early Flour and Saw Mills

Prior to 1880, Louis LeRoy Griggs built a flour mill on his farm in Section Six. Northwest of Harris. This mill was powered by a water wheel on Goose Creek. To this mill the early settlers in the area brought their grain to have it ground into flour. It is unknown how long this mill operated as a flour mill, but by 1880 it had been converted into a saw mill. Griggs



Archie Sybrant's Logging Camp in 1902. It was on Pine Lake near Finlayson, Minnesota. The contract was for \$1,100.00 and was paid in gold. From left to right they are, Sam Sybrant, John Zimmerman, the cook, unknown, Claude Deline, Uncle Will Daw, Harry Sybrant, Archie Sybrant, unknown, Arthur Sybrant, unknown and Uncle John Sybrant. The dog was named Dewey.

died rather young when a tree fell upon him. His youngest child was only three days old when this happened. Fred Wolf of Rushseba Township later operated this mill for a short time. He also owned a sawmill in Rushseba Township. The Griggs' mill structure was later dismantled and rebuilt by the main road, now Chisago County No. 9, and used as a barn until just a few years ago.

Fillmore Johnson informs us that when his grandparents John and Ingrid Johnson came to the Harris area in October of 1881 they stayed with relatives and neighbors during the winter. In the spring of 1882, they purchased eighty acres of land in Section Twenty. They bought rough lumber from the Griggs Mill. This lumber was tied into small bundles with willow brush and floated down the winding Goose Creek two- and one-half miles until it reached the Johnson land. It was pulled ashore and carried to the building site and used for the first dwelling.

It should be added here that during the great logging days of the white pine in this part of Chisago County, Goose Creek was used for a number of years as a waterway for thousands of logs from the Goose Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and Neander Lake area logging camps. These logs passed through what is now Harris on their merry way to saw mills on the St. Croix River. It is likely many floated as far as the Stillwater mills. Gust Jarchow told about loading fuel for trains at the five-mile turn. We were unable to learn if there ever was a railroad sidetrack there.



These logs were cut by a local citizen in his pasture. They were sawed into lumber for building a chicken coop.

Charles O. Swenson, father of Wm. P. Swenson operated a sawmill on his farm on so-called Pine Island, S.E. of Harris for many years. C.O. was an old hand at sawing lumber. He either owned or sawed lumber at other mills in the area. For many years Swenson also owned and operated a threshing machine. His first machine was powered by an Aultman- Taylor 10 horsepower steam engine. Later he purchased an all-steel grain separator and a tractor and threshed many years in the Harris area. Some of the fall runs lasted up to forty days, with a usual crew of six or seven men. Another resident of Harris who owned and operated a threshing machine, for a number of years, was William 'Bill' Hawkinson who resided just West of Harris, but it seems no details are available about his operation.

Going back to sawmills, Alphonse Peterson operated a mill in Fish Lake Township on the Grundsten farm for a time. In the fifties he moved his operation to Harris, located across the road from the present Pine wood Apartments. His was a very modern mill. He did no custom sawing. Instead, he bought stumpage and logs from area farmers. In the later years he also dressed some lumber and sold the finished product. Peter son sold his mill to James Milton in 1967. He ceased operation in 1972 and in 1983 sold this property to Jeff Gossen of Rock Creek.

Lee Brothers operated a sawmill for a few years south of Harris on the east side of Chisago County Highway #30. The Lee's either sold their mill or moved it to Wisconsin in the 1960s.

Harris & Fish Lake Shipping Association

The Fish Lake and Harris Shipping Association was organized in the early twenties and to begin with there was only a loading chute to a sidetrack on the east side of the railroad. Farmers backed their hauling rigs, mostly horse drawn, off old highway #61. After a year or two of operation they built a small stockyard and a scale house on the west side of the railroad where there was also a sidetrack, just south of the south railroad crossing in Harris. This yard was large enough to handle three carloads of livestock.

Martin F. Carlson was the first manager and he shipped one, some times two, carloads of cattle, calves and hogs every other week to South St. Paul. This was a great boost to the farmers of the area, as their live stock was sold at a competitive market, which usually meant higher returns than they would receive from local buyers. The managers' report for the year 1926 lists total sales of \$38,641.20 and total carloads shipped at 24. The total number of head—1580.

Later on as roads became better and trucks became more common and equipped to haul, farmers shipped by truck direct to market. Truckers picked up the cattle at the farm and the farmers usually received their pay the next day.

The first trucker for the Association was the manager Martin F. Carlson, who did so until 1940. The Association began to fail when several independent truckers also started to truck cattle, so in 1940 the Association reorganized and selected new officers. Those elected to the new board were Clarence LeMon, Pres.; Sixten Swenson, Sec.-Treas.; directors were Fred Peterson, Guy Deming, Mark Sybrant, Clifford Melin, and Albin Hanson. Ed Goldbloom served as truck-manager until 1948 when Redell Hokanson took over. Others serving as truckers later were Russell Fletcher, Stan Teeman, Kermit Larson, and the Slater Brothers.

Those who held the office of President of the Association throughout the years were Clarence LeMon, Clifford Melin, Albin Hanson, Fillmore Johnson and Lloyd Colliander. Fillmore Johnson held the office for 24 years from 1952 to 1976. Other members who served as directors over the years were Anton Anderson, Merrill Anderson, Melvin Landin, Herbert Noyed, Edwin T. Gustafson, Russel Blomster, Everett Deming, Curtis Carlson, Robert Moore, Caleb Nelson, Floyd Beilin, Allan Jarchow, Charles Stolp, Bernard Beise, Arnold Danson, Kenneth Holmstrom, Melvin Mold, Ano Alberg and Art Colliander.



The Fish Lake-Harris Shipping Association board members and their wives en route to the annual banquet of the South St. Paul Cooperative. There were many onlookers as they unloaded at the St. Paul Hotel front entrance.

The office of sec.-treas. was held by Sixten Swenson until 1960, when he retired. Warren Johnson was then elected to this office, which he held until the end of 1981. At that time the members voted to disband and go in together with Spring Lake. This is now known as the Spring Lake and Harris Shipping Association.

We add here a little sidelight which might be of interest in connection with the Shipping Association. On December 18, 1925, Martin Carlson unloaded two rail cars of steers (70 head) at the Harris Stockyards.



Some of Martin Carlson's steers.

that he had purchased at South St. Paul. These steers were herded home to the Carlson farm north of Stark, on road #10 to Stark, then north on #8 to the Carlson farm a distance of 6 1/2 miles. With a lead team and wagon, and three men, the trip took 2 1/2 hours. These steers were grained and fattened through the winter until Saturday, June 19, 1926, when the 70 head were again herded back to the Harris stock yards with a lead team and wagon—plus six men, one on horseback. It took four hours on the return trip as the animals were very fat and heavy and tired easily, so they had to rest often. Some interesting things took place on this drive.

They required three R.R. Stock cars on the return to South St. Paul, and the steers were sold on Monday the 21st of June and brought 14 cents a pound, having dropped one cent a lb. from the previous week. The cost of the grain, hay, straw and labor plus the cost of the animals in the first place ran into the thousands and the receipts of sales barely covered the total cost of the whole project. Mr. Carlson made no profit.

This cattle drive was likely the largest and the last drive of cattle in Chisago County. Imagine today driving down the road and meeting a herd of 70 head on the hoof!

Harris American Legion

Post No. 139

A group of men that had served in World War I met August 27, 1919. Everett Stromgren of Center City was in attendance and presented to the group the purposes of the American Legion. After some discussion the group decided to organize a local unit at Harris. Twenty-five men decided to pay 25 cents each and signed an application for an American Legion Charter. They were Fred M. Hawkinson, Fred W. Sybrant, Raymond Stark, John Nelson, Alfred and Victor Ramberg, Victor, Arthur and Albert Lundeen, Aaron Nyquist, Bert Frans, Forte Olson, Fred Hultgren, Oscar Anderson, Richard Ogren, Einar Kofod, Arvid Larson, Theodore Lindholm, Clarence Folsom, Ragnar Krantz, Clifford Melin, Esphen and Carl Carlson and Fred Prosa.

At the first meeting after the initial one, Alfred Ramberg was elected Post Commander, Fred Sybrant, Post Treasurer and Raymond Stark, Post Adjutant. The annual dues were set at 50 cents. Seven more members joined. They were Arnold Anderson, Elmer Lofgren, Wm. O. Hawkinson, Frank A. Nelson, George F. Robinson, Hjalmer Carlson and Ed Neander. At the October 7 meeting, Ed Noyed, Fred Peterson, Floyd Anderson, Arvid Teeman, Clarence Lindstrom, James Sybrant, Bert Robinson, Paul Gerdes, Carl Nelson, Alex Mattson, Ed Nyquist, John Schmidt and Myron Ingberg joined.

At the November 4, 1919, meeting, the constitution was approved, and a homecoming supper was planned. After this their activities appeared to

be an annual rabbit stew dinner in winter, helping the local Commercial Club promote the good of the community and organizing Memorial Day services aided by the G.A.R. After year 1944 the G.A.R. was never mentioned. In the summer an annual picnic was held at Fish Lake. The Legion also provided aid to ill members.

From May 1947 to March 11, 1958, the minutes of meetings are missing, either lost or destroyed. During this period the present Legion Hall was purchased and moved into town. This was the former Willow Grove School, originally located on the Albert Johnson farm 2¹/₄ miles north of Harris.



American Legion Hall

Many money-making projects were needed to raise funds for maintenance and improvements on the building. For several years they sponsored a Memorial Dance at the pavilion at Fish Lake. Finally at one dance when they netted only forty-nine cents for their work, they switched and instead sponsored annual fall auctions until the year 1969. In 1959 they began to talk about an addition to the hall and also decided to hook up to natural gas. Stan Teeman drew plans for a sixteen-foot addition. In 1961 Ralph Swanson installed a well which was a donation. Peoples Gas Co. donated a stove and installed it. In 1962 the addition became a reality. Much of the work was done by the Legion members as a donation.

Around 1962-63 there was a joint fund with the V.F.W. This was discontinued in 1967 when the V.F.W. charter was discontinued.

Gradually more work was done to the building. Clifford Melin and Carl Carlson put in the floor on the stage and painted the ceiling. There were roof repairs, outside wall repairs and door alterations. During this period the finances were abetted by numerous monetary gifts from the auxiliary amounting to \$2,150.00 from March 1964 through March 1973.

Most of the years they gave a gift to a boy at the Red Wing Correctional Institution, starting with a \$2.00 gift and in the sixties, they started giving a radio. In November of 1926 the Legionnaires moved the remains of several Civil War Veterans to official cemeteries—these veterans had originally been buried on their home farms and in one case in an early cemetery that had later been abandoned. In May 1928, they prepared a register of Veteran's graves in the local cemeteries. Early in the twenties they provided tombstones for deceased veterans whose graves were not marked.

The Legion Hall has been rented out to different groups for a number of years. To begin with a \$10.00 fee was charged. In 1972 the rent was raised to \$25.00 minus \$10.00 if they cleaned up the hall after meetings

At the May 6, 1968, meeting eight charter members were honored for fifty-year memberships. They were Fred Peterson, Ted Lindholm, Victor Ramberg, Arvid Teeman, Clifford Melin, Elmer Lofgren, Carl Carlson and Victor Lundeen. Each one was presented a cap patch and a card.

Next project was a new sign for the building. The hall was carpeted with the Auxiliary paying for the carpet. Treads were also placed on the stairs. Individuals purchased jackets. They inaugurated the turkey bingo idea to raise money for the Harris Athletic Association. The Veterans brick monument was crumbling and became a concern because of children playing around it, so it was replaced with a granite marker. The chairs were purchased from the North Branch Cozy Cafe. New tables and other improvements have made the interior very inviting. The Auxiliary donated \$1,350.00 and much hard work towards the hominess of the interior. There is much evidence of cooperation between the two organizations.

When a veteran is ill they pay his dues and volunteer help to the family as needed. Their hall is used as a meeting place for the A.A., Lions, 4-H. and others. The hall is donated for use for the Centennial Celebration without charge. They offer monetary support to the Harris Athletic Association. A donation was given to the firemen for pagers. They aim to help in any way they can for the good of the community. November 11, 1983. the presentation of sixty-five year patches to Victor Ramberg. Carl Carlson and Elmer Lofgren was a highlight.

Each year on Memorial Day the Harris American Legion Post #139 conducts a Memorial service for departed veterans at the Fish Lake Baptist. Fish Lake Lutheran, Harris Covenant, Oak Grove, and Sunrise cemeteries. As the roll of departed veterans is called a Boy or Girl Scout places a small American flag in a cross for each veteran, a chaplain offers a prayer, a firing squad renders a gun salute, and the service ends with the sound of the bugle "taps" in the distance.

In connection with the write-up of the War Veterans and those who served their Country in times of need it seems not out of place to quote part of a narrative given at the Centennial Anniversary of the Chisago County Fair in 1972. (Quote) Men and women from Chisago County have served in all wars from the Civil War up to the present (women maybe did not serve in the Civil War but they served on the home front). In days past when the Civil

War veterans marched in their uniforms on Decoration Day. later known as Memorial Day, the parades at Harris were led by First Lieutenant Frank Palmer riding on his horse. (End quote)

Harris American Legion Auxiliary Unit No. 139

The Legion Auxiliary was organized March, 1949 in Jarchow's Hall. The charter members were: Esther Alvin, Clara Carlson, Lois Carlson. Belle Collins, Anna Hammargren, Lorraine Hokanson, Ruby Hokanson, Maxine Johnson, Joyce Lindholm, Lydia Lindholm, Ida Lofgren. Elin Lundeen, Dorothy Martinson, Pearl Melin, Myrtle Munson, Louise Nyquist, Marjorie Ogren, Pearl Ogren, Hildur Olson, Ethel Peterson, Norma Ramberg, Shirley Ramberg, Margaret Stoss, Alice Teeman, Sylvia Tromsness. Gold Star Mothers: Nina Hokanson*, Marie Stark**, and Charlotte Martinson*.

Maxine Johnson was the 1st President and continued for 28 years until she moved to Florida.

We started meeting the same night as the Legion in the old "Legion Hall".

In the early 1950s, the old hall was torn down and the Willow Grove School House was purchased from Albert Johnson for \$300 and moved to the site. About 1962 a stage and downstairs kitchen were added. Much volunteer work was done by the men, and the ladies held many rummage and bake sales to make it possible.

The Auxiliary has been in continuous service since 1949. serving families of veterans local and distant, and donating to the services rendered by the District, State and National levels of the American Legion Auxiliary. by donating for Gift Shop Supplies and volunteer programs to make Veteran Hospital stays more pleasant for patients. Locally the Auxiliary personally sponsored benefits for tornado victims, fires and other hardships.

Together with the Legion, the Auxiliary has never missed observing Memorial Day, with reverence, by helping to honor the war dead, selling poppies and helping with the program.

Since 1949, every year the Legion and Auxiliary have had an "Armistice Day" dinner together. The last dinner held at the Legion Hall was in 1966. Since then it is held at the local Kaffee Stuga each November. Millie Price served as President from 1977 to 1982. at which time Marcia Ramberg was installed as President.

Added as gold star mothers are Helen Buisman, Doris Hammerstrom and Hilda Holm.



In 1917, Ida Swenson Lofgren, Gotha Swenson Wilcox, and Agnes Berntson Johnson made the flag they are holding. The names of service men who lived around Harris are embroidered on the stars. The flag now hangs in the Legion Hall. (Picture courtesy of Gotha Wilcox.)

Gotha Wilcox of White Bear had this snapshot. The service flag pictured was made in 1918 by Ida Swenson Lofgren, Gotha Swenson Wilcox and Agnes Berntson Johnson. This flag was made for eleven men and one lady who served in World War I and were members of the Horse Shoe Creek Farmer's Club who met at the District 33 School House—which is now the residential home of Earl and Donna Hammargren. This Club folded up in 1923.

Ida Lofgren later donated the flag to the Harris Legion Auxiliary and they have since added twelve more stars of World War I veterans who lived in the Harris area. Names are embroidered on each star—at present there are twenty-three blue stars for the men and one red star for Svea Swenson Roberts, who was a nurse in WWI. The flag is displayed in the Harris Legion Hall.

Local Modern Woodmen of America

It was 1895 when Modern Woodmen of America Ticten Camp 2776 received its charter. Since Dr. Albert Ticten was the local doctor and pharmacist, one would assume he played a leading role in the camps organization.

The National Modern Woodmen of America was founded January 5, 1883, by Joseph Root of Lyons, Iowa. Lyons is now a part of Clinton, Iowa. It was to be a fraternal insurance organization. By 1890 there were 12,000 camps. The organizations prospered because they filled a socializing need. Their ritualism was very popular, as was also their desire to be helpful in the community. They would provide the wood fuel for a needy person, help plant fields for an ill farmer, or help harvest crops when it was needed.

To provide insurance funds, there were monthly dues. Things went well until the time of the Great Depression. Then members became delinquent as they could not pay their dues.

The Modern Woodmen of America drill teams were of interest to the members. Harris, too, had a drill team. They had uniforms and used axes and swords to add to their formations. In 1896 standardized drills came into use and drill teams competed at contests for prizes. The members were called foresters, and the Chief Forester was the drill master.



TICTEN CAMP — 1926

Back row, left to right: Art Palmer, Ernie Coleman, Harry Hawkinson, John Larson, Willie Ogren, Gotfred Anderson. Front row, left to right: Henry Jarchow, Jr., Jess Holman, Ralph Sybrant, Richard Ogren, John Johnson, Marcus Hammerstrom, and Nels Hanson. Holding banner, left, Gilbert Hawkinson, right, Chas. Ogren.



The last Modern Woodman Drill team participation in a parade was July 4, 1926 in Forest Lake.

The Harris drill team marched in 1926 in the Forest Lake Fourth of July parade. This was the last performance as a team as their Chief Forester, Nels Hanson, died in September. The drill teams also performed ritualistic work for the initiation into the fraternity.



The Modern Woodmen members cut down trees, sawed and split it for ill member John Johnson.

During the depression the camp became inactive. November 18, 1954. The national organization dissolved the Harris Camp. The membership became a part of the North Branch Camp.

Five early members whose families benefitted from Modern Woodmen of America insurance were: Charles E. Baker, farmer. September 29, 1907; Clyde C. Gardner, barber, February 28, 1901; James E. Welch, merchant, May 24, 1908; Morton P. Clover, farmer, August 20, 1905; and Frank H. Palmer, September 1902. These are the members death dates.

The Creed, written by Edward C. Markhan, sums up the Modern Woodmen of America's philosophy. "There is a destiny that makes us brothers; None goes his way alone; All that we send into the lives of others. Comes back into our own".

Harris G.A.R. Circle

During the twenties and thirties, and very probably earlier, there was a chartered Grand Army of the Republic Circle in Harris. To qualify for membership, you had to be a blood relative of a Civil War Veteran. It's official name was "The Marietta Palmer Circle of the G.A.R." Marietta was the wife of Frank Palmer.

In contacting a former member of the Circle, it was learned that they met once a month all the homes of members. They elected officers, paid dues, but were mostly a social group. They always marched as a group on Memorial Day and they placed flags on veteran's graves. When Mrs. Addie Holman, one of their members was ill, the Circle

sent her a bouquet of flowers. The following is a thank you that was printed in the local paper contributed by her granddaughter, Doris Holman Mold. Members not mentioned in the thank you were Alice and Verna Jarchow, Helen Ide, Pearl Ogren, Jennie Stark, Grace Hals, Hattie and Minnie Starkweather. It is assumed they were not members at the time Addie was ill.

"CARD OF THANKS"
(Copied as printed originally.)

"Dear Circle Sisters:

As I lay here on my back, looking at the flowers I received from the Sisters, it occurred to me that I should write you a note of thanks.

Now I don't know how to do that like others, but I will do my best. I see here a stately little stalk of salmon colored larkspur that reminds me of our dignified little President, Sister Bessie Smith, and here on the right of it is a little white snapdragon, that looks slightly bruised and bent, but nevertheless, it stands ready to shoulder its sisters' burdens just the same; you can see in this blossom the smiling face of our Secretary, Sister Ella Carlson.

But, who is this pink rose unfurling its leaves to each day, to scatter its beauty and fragrance to all its sister flowers, why, it's Past President Alice Sybrant of course, long may those leaves continue to scatter sunshine. I see on the other side a pale yellow larkspur standing so modestly in case of need. I can't name that anybody but our Treasurer, Sister Nellie Jarchow. And here is a small plump rose so full of leaves there seems to be no room for another one on the stem, and I know there are plenty to reach every sister with its message of kindness and love, you have all guessed right, of course, it is our Junior Vice-President, Sister Belle Warner, you can see her face in that rosebud. Here are two tall cream colored snap dragons standing so close together that it seems each one was ready to hold the other in any trial that might come to them. Blessings on their kind hearts and willing hands, yes, they are Sisters Alice and Mary Wolf. Now who is this lavender larkspur, oh, yes, when I take a closer look, I see the smiling face of Sister Louise Deming, may she continue to smile for many years. Now there are two snow white snap dragons, one seems to have been injured in some way, but she stands ready to help and we love her all the more for it. These are two dear Sisters, Rose and Lucy Jarchow. And here is but one marigold which reminds me of Sister Grandma Jarchow. And here I find another rose, the other flowers turn towards her, it is Sister Sophie Palmer. And not so very far away is a beautiful larkspur that stands beneath the weight of several other plants, but so strong and sturdy that she bears them all, of course, this is Nellie Palmer. As I turn the vase around I come to the bright snap dragon leaning away from the others, looking closer I see the stem runs down into the vase and mingles with those there, although the blossom is away apart, yes, it is our Sister Lillian Nyquist, God bless her.

Here is another beautiful lavender larkspur, I can't call it anyone but our Sister, Alice Strom, it looks so energetic and business like, and always with time to offer her well-filled hands to help others. Now I see a rose colored snapdragon and also a lavender one, so close together that only for the colors one would think them on the same stalk, they are our Sisters Florence and Sylvia Sybrant. Now here comes two at once, one a rose and one a lavender colored larkspur, so busy and move with quick action, each doing any and everything that comes their way. It is hard to distinguish them, they are two loyal members and much loved delegates, Sisters Mae Miller and Helma Palmer. Here I see a white rose with the edge of the leaves tinged with pink, it comes so quietly, brings a beautiful fragrance and doing its labor of love and moving away so quietly, It cannot be anyone but Sister Louise Franklin, who makes them all pussy foot around the house like mice.

Now here's the staff, all the flowers are leaning on, composed of staunch forms representing the strong, brave and the true, Brother J.J. Ide. I have had oceans of flowers, but none were enjoyed more than those sent by Marietta Palmer Circle No. 92, G.A.R. The flowers did me a world of good, for which accept my sincerest thanks.

Sister Addie Holman"

Harris Farm Bureau

The Harris Farm Bureau Unit was organized April 20, 1949 with the assistance of Chisago County Farm Bureau President Carl Strand. The first officers elected were: President, Albin L. Hanson; Vice-president, Sylvester Moore; Secretary, Marie Johnson. The meeting was held at the Jarchow Hall. Afterwards the meetings were at the schoolhouse.

The membership grew rapidly and some meetings had as many as fifty in attendance. At each meeting there was at least one informational presentation. These were given by people that were specialists in their field. This organization ended with their October 1, 1952 meeting.

December 14, 1955 a group met at the Clarence T. Johnson home and reorganized the unit with President, Sylvester Moore; Vice-president, Allan Jarchow; and Marie Johnson, Secretary-Treasurer. There was a discussion about the Farm Bureau in general. At their next meeting Arnold Gredvig was present. He informed them of the legislation passed the past year that was favored by the Farm Bureau. The organization became interested in the D.H.I.A. (Dairy Herd Improvement Association) and Farm Bureau products for sale. Resolutions protecting the rights of farmers and the use of Farm Bureau products were adopted.

As the meetings continued, their interests became more diversified. New laws were discussed. If they disagreed with the new laws that had been passed a resolution was sent to the proper governmental office. Some members usually attended the state meetings of the Farm Bureau as well as legislative hearings and reported back to the group.

In 1966 the women became more involved. That is the first time a mention is made of anyone attending a women's workshop or of participation in Farm Bureau baking contests. That was the first year also that they sent young people to citizenship seminars.

Some projects and plans were repeated every year. There was usually a local picnic, a county picnic, plans for a County Fair booth for which they often won first prize, a Christmas party, and an Easter project packing cookies in baskets for the Rush City and North Branch nursing homes. These last years they have sent money to the Helping Hand in **The Farmer** instead of sending cookies to the nursing homes as so many other groups brought treats there.

At the 65th Annual Meeting of the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation, December 1-3, 1983, one of the Harris Units members, Glen Holmstrom, was chosen the Bureau's 1984 "Young Farmer of the Year". Glen and his wife, Carolyn, received a plaque, the use of an Allis-Chalmers tractor for one year, and a trip to the national convention in Florida. At this meeting Doris Mold, a University of Minnesota student and daughter of Sarah and Melvin Mold, received the first Farm Bureau Scholarship. The previous year another unit member, Jim Swenson, was "Young Farmer of the Year".



President Merlyn Lockensgard presenting the Award to Glen and Carolyn Holmstrom.

There are members from various areas of Chisago County belonging to this unit but the nucleus of the early organization was the Harris Farm Bureau unit and therefore retains this title. Although Chisago County has a county Farm Bureau organization the only active unit is at Harris.

The Farm Bureau Federation is the largest general farm organization in the United States. It was organized in 1920 by twenty-eight state organizations. This organization helps members solve problems, promotes research, works to expand markets, and acts to control crop surpluses.

In many states insurance, cooperative and group purchasing of farm supplies and marketing of farm products are some of its services. They promote farm safety, citizenship, leadership training, education, social and community betterment.

Goose Creek Local

During the 1950s and 1960s a Farmers Union unit known as the Goose Creek Local was active in Harris. They met in homes or at the Legion Hall. For a period they had very active meetings. The interest did not continue as the younger, energetic members did not assume leadership. The members from the Rush Lake area continued their interest and are still active. There are two other active units in Chisago County and also a county organization.

The National Farmers Union is made up of state farm organizations. It was organized in Texas in 1902. It is dedicated to obtaining parity farm prices for farm products. They promote legislation that benefits farmers, cooperative buying and selling businesses.

In 1984 the state president of Minnesota, Cy Carpenter, was elected to a two-year term as national president.

Harris Volunteer Fire Department

The Harris Fire Department became a reality in April 1950. Since insurance rates are based on fire protection, the local people needed a relief in their insurance rates. The community was divided as to the need for a fire department. This division of thought was instrumental in petitioners asking for a vote to establish a municipal liquor store and to use the stores profits to finance the fire department. The vote was favorable.

There were thirty men in the original group. Their first fire chief was Harold Nelson. The first purchase was a 1939 Ford Army Service Fire Truck which was kept at the Harris Garage. Since a fire barn was needed the volunteers went to work and with volunteer labor, built a concrete brick structure south of the old village hall.

A pumper, with a 750-gallon capacity, was the first added equipment. A generous volunteer was Alphonse Peterson, the owner of the sawmill just north of Harris. He donated the first tanker and many incidents such as new batteries. Next a grass fighting truck holding 300 gallons was added. A 1,000-gallon tanker and a portable cloth tank make up the rest of their fleet. When a water supply is not available, the tanker empties into the cloth tank to be used by the pumper, while the tanker returns to a water source for water.

In their thirty-three years of serving the community, they have encountered only two fire fatalities. The fire involved the most fire departments. was April 22, 1978, when a train "hot-box" caused grass fires from Stacy to

Pine City before the train was stopped. Because so many ever greens south of Harris were involved, Harris firemen called Brainerd D.N.R. for help. A bumper, filled with fire retardant water, was ready to take off at once as a previous call from McGregor had just been cancelled. They made two runs over the tree area and returned to Brainerd, the round trip requiring fifty-eight minutes.

Two weeks after the train fire, a private party burned brush by the sinkhole and started a peat fire which lasted all summer. The D.N.R. took charge of the peat fire but Harris was on stand-by for the near-by residences.

There have been several arson fires. The largest one was the Lakeside Pavilion which was originally Payne's Pavilion. Those arsonists were apprehended.

Several firemen have attended vocational training for instruction and officers. In the St. Croix District, there is an informational and instructional meeting for the fire departments in the district during the summer. Other chiefs serving after Harold are, in order, Ralph Swanson, three years; Gordon Nyquist, Norm Balfanz, and Clifford Ramberg, one year each; Ed Nelson, nine years; Clifford Ramberg, three years; and the present Chief, Wendell Swanson, twelve years.



Harris Fire Hall

In 1972, a Harris Municipal Building was built. The building the firemen first erected was demolished along with the City Hall. The new building is used as a City Hall with the Fire Hall adjoining it. When this was being built, water became a problem and the firemen used Goose Creek. During the winter they used an ice augur to get to the water. They welcomed the arrival of warm weather as the creek was almost frozen solid.

They do have two social events. In the spring they entertain their wives by having a dinner out. In July they have a picnic for their families in Firemen's Park which is just across Goose Creek to the west on County Road 9.

We are thankful for these volunteer workers. The entire City, platted as well as rural, receive better insurance benefits. Let us express our thanks to them for the time they give voluntarily for our protection.



Firemen's Park

The Women's Community Club of Harris

Members of the Club met at the School House February 29, 1928, and drew up the constitution for the Club.

ARTICLE I

Name of the Club shall be "Women's Community Club". Organized for the purpose of sponsoring any movement which aims to improve the social, physical, moral or aesthetic conditions of our community or to cooperate with any other organization which works along these lines.

ARTICLE IV

Any woman who has the welfare of the Community at heart may become a member.

ARTICLES II, III and V dealt with the day, time and place of meetings, dues and lunches.

At the first regular meeting in March 1928, Adelaide Stark was elected President, Emma Reed, Sec.-Treas. The Constitution was read and approved.

The first project the Club undertook was to improve the appearance of the railroad right of way through town. At the May 23rd meeting, Adelaide Stark presented the lease of the park given to the Club by the Northern Pacific Railway Co. The lease was accepted, and plans were made to serve lunch to those who would help work the plot. The Club assumed the responsibility of keeping the park mowed and had many money making projects to raise money.

The Ostlund Nursery was hired to landscape the Parkway in 1935.

In March 1930 a play, "The Zander-Gump Wedding", was given. The proceeds from this entertainment were \$56.40 and were given to the school for basketball equipment.

"The Womanless Wedding", a play directed by Loureena Anderson, was presented in 1938. The bride was Chas. Hultman, the flower girl, Filmore Johnson. The wedding ring was a ring of bologna. Disaster almost struck when Chas got hungry and started to eat the bologna. A wire was found, and the remaining meat was formed into a ring.

When the Club presented "The Man on the Flying Trapeze", Ted Lindholm was the leading man.

Another highlight was a Major Bowes Program, complete with sour notes and gong.

In December 1946, the Club served a Smorgasbord dinner to more than 200 people. Clara Swanson, Wanda Osterkamp and Irene Martinson mixed the ingredients of potato sausage and Glen Clover helped fill the casings. We bought all the lutefisk in town and Clara Carlson made the white sauce. A popular dish that evening was Herring Salad made by Loureena Anderson. She spent most of the evening making more. Sara Moore and Clara Nelson learned how to make "Ost Kaka". A quartette composed of Hynie Nelson, Lydia Lindholm, Maxine Johnson and Violet Hokanson sang Christmas Carols several times during the evening.

On November 1, 1940, the club sponsored a Carnival. Fortunes were told by May Miller, Mrs. Wallen and Bernice Berglund. The program was an Old Time Fiddlers Contest, and the contestants were: Oscar Rundberg, Bill Ogren, Max Boyce, Ed Johnson, Babe Sayer, Sadie Sybrant, Sixten Swenson, Lloyd Hammargren, Herb Nelson, Filmore Johnson, Rydell Hokanson, and Mrs. Herbert Olson. The contest was won by Oscar Rundberg and his prize was to be a contestant in a contest on KSTP Radio Station.

A money-making project In February 1940 was a rummage sale that netted \$8 on lunch and coffee and \$25 on the sale. Times must have been better in 1944, when a rummage sale netted \$62.29.

In March 1944, the club served lunch to the Republican County Convention. A doughnut, rusk and coffee sold for ten cents. This was served in the Jarchow Hall where there was no kitchen. Each member had to bring 6 or 8 cups.

The Harris Creamery asked the Club to serve a dinner celebrating their 25th Anniversary, February 25, 1947. 350 guests were served and two ladies talking on the phone in Sunrise were "rubbered on" and heard to say that it was one of the nicest dinners they had ever attended.

In 1950 the Club had a cookbook printed. Each recipe donor was asked for a photo to be printed by her recipe. The books were popular, and a second printing was necessary.

When Softball became King in Harris, and the team sponsored tournaments, the Club made its money working in the pop stand during tournament weekends. To show its gratitude to the ball club, donations of money were given toward new uniforms, insurance, and in 1982, we gave our total savings to help them with the new building.

Club members enjoyed working together, but it wasn't all work.

One time several members took the 4 o'clock train to the City to see the Ink Spots and returned on the 1:30 A.M. train. Another time several attended a play "Voice of the Turtle" at the Log Cabin. In March of 1959 many went to the City to watch the TV Show "Treasure Chest". The Club's birthday was celebrated in various ways—a dinner in Cambridge at the King's Pantry and movie "Wild Irish Rose" in 1948; Ice Capades in 1952; WDGY TV Game Show in 1956, 3 members were chosen to try for prizes, Sis Mold, Carol Gilson and Irene Martinson. In 1960 a party was held at the Legion Hall. Husbands were invited, and cards and checkers were played. A delicious lunch with a beautiful birthday cake made by Lois Wilcox was served. The last outing was a Dutch Treat Dinner on April 1, 1978, at the Windjammer at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. Present were Jim and Glennys Smith, Harold and Leona Peterson, Bonna Stark, Fredolph and Irene Martinson, Harold and Hynie Nelson, Ed and Clara Nelson and Ralph and Elsie Swanson.

At the present time, our Club is inactive, but happy memories linger on.

Members in 1930

Nellie Jarchow, Helma Palmer, Emma Deming, Alice Lindquist, Laura O'Brien, Iva Mold, Adelaide Stark, Martha Ledin, Belle Collins, Amalie Steinke, Jennie Coleman, Emma Reed, Anna Peterson, Jennie Nelson, Evelyn Sybrant, Marie Stark, Elizabeth Schundicht, Florence Johnson, Elsa Clover, Loureena Anderson, Lydia Hammargren, Bessie Smith, Beulah Deming, Myrtle Jarchow, and Mrs. Rolig.

THE ZANDER-GUMP WEDDING - March 21, 1930

Cashier - Bessie Smith		Total Receipts
Broadcaster - Loureena		\$56.40
Rinky Dinky Club		Four little boys
Miss Emmy Schmaltz	Adelaide Stark	An Old Maid
Moon Mullins	Beulah Deming	An Old Batchelor
Kayo	Kelly Hokanson	A small boy
Jiqqs	Mrs. Leonard	A Hen pecked husband
Maqqie	Alice Martinson	Jigg's Wife
Walt	Mrs. Gotfred Anderson	A stout man-a good old
Skeezik	Dwight Sybrant	About 6 yrs old-Walt's
Rachael	Alice Larson	Walt's Servant adopted
Goliath Gump	Baby	Andy & Min's Baby
Mutt	Caroline Jarchow	Tall slim man
Jeff	Anna R.	Short fellow - Mutt's Pal
Tom Carr		Tall Slender
Mary Gold		Small & Attractive
Mandy	Sig Christoperson	Flapperish Negro
Plato	Iva Mold	Mandv's Man
Boots	Emma Deming	A real flapper
Boots' best buddy	Leora Stark	A real flapper
Flapper Fanny	Alice Strom	A real flapper
Freckles	Jim Smith	A little freckle face boy-
Jay	Jr. Stark (Albert)	Freckle's pal fed hair
Taqalong	Darrell Hanson	Freckle's pal
Barney Google	Mrs. Amelia	A little Short Man
Sunshine	Curtis Anderson	A little Negro Jockey
Toots	Mabel J.	A small flapper type
Rejected Suitor	Ted Stark	Ghost of the Widow's old lover
Wedding Party:		
Groomsmen:		
Mae	Mrs. Hegman	A small man
Hairbreath Harry	Florence Jarchow	Handsome Young Man
Bridesmaids:		
Tillie the Toiler	Marion Marier	Flapper Type
Belinda	Verna Blanchard	Flapper Type
Flower girl:		
Orphan Annie	Mabel Strom	Little Girl
Ring Bearer:		
Chester Gump	Frederick	Little Boy
Train bearers:		
Katzenjammer	Dean Hanson	
	Dean Sybrant	Two small boys
Bride:		
Henrietta Zander	Helma Palmer	
Matron of Honor:		
Min Gump	Myrtle Jarchow	Slender not too tall
Groom:		
Uncle Bim	Elsa Clover	Small lady
Best Man:		
Andy Gump	Sylvia Hawkinson	Tall & Slender
Justice of the		
Major Hoople	Mrs. Rollg	Tall & Slender

Golden Gophers 4-H Club

A Chisago County 4-H was organized in the 1920's, but not individual clubs. The Harris club was one of two clubs originally organized in the first Chisago County program. In 1933-34 Harris organized a boy's club under the leadership of Everett Deming. A girl's club was also organized under the leadership of Loureena Anderson and Mabel Strom. They met at school and worked on projects. The boy's club first officers were: Jim Smith - President, Harvey Smuder - Secretary, and Dean Hanson - Treasurer. The first officers of the girl's club were: Lorraine Stark - President, Martha Lundeen - Vice-President, Louise Samuelson - Secretary, and Helen Ledin - Treasurer.

In 1935 the two clubs joined together and added Ted Stark to their leadership staff. In 1936 they became the "Husky Hustlers". In 1937 they changed the name to "Golden Gophers", symbolic of the University of Minnesota's famous football team. Other leaders during the late thirties and forties were: Ted Lindholm, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wenell, Doris Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Sylvester Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Freeberg, and Mrs. Dalles Stark. The club rose to a high of 47 members but some years it was considerably less. The meetings were generally held in the homes. Great emphasis was placed on 4-H projects and county fair exhibits.

After missing one year, the club was reorganized in 1953 with leaders Mrs. Frank Anderson, Mrs. Sylvester Moore and Mrs. Curtis Carlson. In 1954 the Horseshoe Hustlers joined our club and leaders Mrs. Holger Warner and Mr. and Mrs. Foster Loudon added their help. The club has never missed a year since then. In 1958 Mr. and Mrs. Joe Blom were added as leaders. Club booths, scrapbooks and parades were added to the club activities along with the regular projects. Mrs. Allen Jarchow added her leadership in 1965 and in 1967 Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Holmstrom started serving. The same leaders served for many years. The Joe Bloms and Betty Jarchow served as leaders for 17 years each. In 1979 Karen Charbonneau became a leader and then Carole Stenger was added. Many others served as project leaders during the years.

Since the 1950s, the club has met regularly in the Legion Hall in Harris. The club tours, fair exhibits, parties and project meetings have been a part of every 4-Her. Many ribbons were won at both County and State Fairs. Members have been chosen for Junior Leadership Conference, won State Fair trips, have held Chisago county 4-H offices, won 4-H Citizen ship trips to Washington, D.C., served as 4-H ambassadors and won scholarships to the University of Minnesota. Only one club member has won a trip to the Club Conference in Chicago, the highest honor, and that was Doris Mold. A former outstanding 4-Her, Janet Miller, is the present leader.

The club has added a lot to the Harris community these fifty years and will continue to do so with leadership and help.

Harris Lions Club

The Harris Lions meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month at the American Legion Hall and the Board of Directors meet every third Tuesday at the Harris Village Hall.

In October of 1976, twenty local men met at the Village Hall and organized the Club. James Phillippi was elected as the first President. The Rush City Lions Club was the guiding Club. In January of 1977 the Club became a chartered member of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

One of the first projects undertaken was to reactivate the Harris Harvest Fair which had not been held for a number of years. It was felt that old timers as well as youngsters of the area would enjoy it. On Labor Day weekend of 1977 the Lions Club held their first Harvest Fair and it has been held every year since but is now held the last weekend in August.

Another event that the Club sponsors is the Old Timers Tournament (fast pitch softball). This Tourney is held the weekend after Labor Day at Stark Field in Harris.

Most of the proceeds from fund raisers go back to Community projects. Special pancake breakfasts and spaghetti suppers as well as raffles are held to keep up the tradition of what Lionism is. The motto is "to serve". Money raised through the different projects is given to the Hearing Foundation at the University of Minnesota, the Eye Bank, Leader Dog, Camp Courage, Camp New Hope and several other groups too numerous to mention. If anyone in the area has need of these services, contact a member of the Harris Lions Club.

It has been a pleasure to serve the Harris community and the Club hopes to continue this service for many years to come. The Club extends good luck wishes to the Centennial Committee on their large undertaking and hopes the celebration will be a ROARING success.

Boy Scout Troop 157

The first Boy Scout Troop was chartered on April 17, 1946. Conrad and Orlie Anderson, Merle Freeberg, Bruce Larson, Gerald Lindholm, Charles Marrier, Arvin and Willis Peterson, and Roy Wenell, Jr. were the first chartered scouts with Redell Hokanson as their first Scoutmaster. After three months Richard and Eugene Lindholm, Harry Rielander, James Gray, Gene Finders, Basil Smith, and Russell Wenell joined. The Troop was sponsored by the Harris Commercial Club. They met at the schoolhouse.

This troop was very active in the community for nine years. The scoutmasters and other adult leaders were Redell Hokanson, Lloyd Johnson, Lloyd Peterson, Arne Oberg, Ed Sirkinen, Philip Lindblom, Stan Pieterick, and Gordon Nyquist.

The Harrisons Club and Legion Post also served as sponsors. After the school burned the meetings were held in the Lutheran Church basement.

The troop did not recharter in 1955 and Harris did not have a scout troop again until December 1962 when a group of fathers and their boys chartered another troop. Some of the fathers had been active in the troop of the 40s and 50s. The troop was sponsored by the First Lutheran Church. Eight boys and seven leaders held their meetings in the church basement. This new troop was also very active in the community and, with the help of a new cub pack, the troop grew. There were twenty-seven boys at charter time in 1968. Two boys earned the rank of Life Scout, and several earned the rank of Star Scout. Many boys earned the Pro Deo Et Patri award in their church.

The scoutmasters for this troop were Marvin Blomquist, Dennis Johnson, and David Christianson. The troop did not recharter in 1973.



Back row: Marvin Blomquist, David Gervais, Steve Carlson, Bruce Lind, Donald Wilcox and Mark Alberg. Front row: Joel Johnson, Ronnie Ramberg, Jack Wilcox and Roger Lind.

The Cub Scout pack chartered in 1966 with the help of Den Mother Sally Carlson. This den had been active in the pack at North Branch. Russell Fletcher was their first Cubmaster. Ronald Ramberg, Don Gustafson, Park Christianson, Joe Gervais, John Wilcox, Wendell Swanson, Dan Bursaw, Rockie Naylor, Roger Lind, David Balfanz, Joel Johnson, Michael Swanson, and Michael Barker were the first chartered Cub Scouts. Sally Carlson, Mavis Ramberg, Karen Fletcher, Sharon Ramberg, and Phyllis Swanson were the Den Mothers. The Pack was sponsored by the Lutheran Church and met in the church basement. As the boys advanced in rank and age, they would leave the pack and join the troop. They did not recharter in 1973.

Steve and Scott Blomquist attained the rank of Star Scout and Life Scout. They also received the Pro Deo Et Patri award at the First Lutheran Church of Harris as did Donald Wilcox, Mark Alberg, and Steve Carlson. David Nyquist received his Pro Deo Et Patri award at the Harris Covenant Church.



February 1967, Pro Deo Et Patri Awards. Left to right: Sally, son Steve, Wilbur Carlson, Doris, son Mark, Ano Alberg, Scout Master Marvin Blomquist, and Pastor Buendorf.

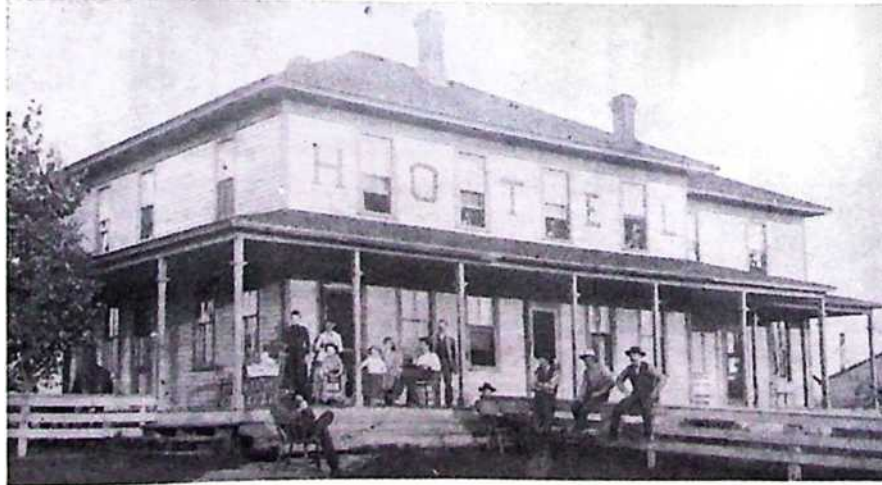
Holman



K. A. Holman, Prop.
Rates \$1.00 and \$1.50 per day.
f.v.

This stationery heading is the original design used by Mr. and Mrs. R.A. Holman who owned and managed the Holman House Hotel in Harris. The following article is printed exactly as it was published in the Rush City Post on June 15, 1894...

"This is a very popular house and is owned and managed by R.A. Holman. It is a two-story frame building with about twenty good rooms and is the only hotel in the city. Mr. Holman has resided here for twenty years or more, and for nine years he has been engaged in running this hotel. His worthy wife assists in running the house in a very agreeable manner while Mr. Holman is attending duties on the farm. This hotel not only has the reputation of setting an excellent table, all nice and clean, plenty of variety and the best of everything well cooked, but really is an excellent place to stay. Having been here some time we can truthfully say that we have received the best and kindest treatment with a variety of choice, well-cooked foods and clean beds, than in all our travels the last five years. Mr. Holman is a pleasant gentleman and is very ably assisted by his wife. The cooking is of the best quality and in the way of vegetables and meats, there



The Holman Hotel

is no lack and they are sent onto the table in a very palatable form. But this isn't all. Mrs. Holman is an excellent pastry cook and no one fond of these dishes need go away unsatisfied.

Everything about the house outside and inside is kept in apple pie order and the location of the building insures perfect sanitation. It is located on the rise of ground just east of the station, is quickly accessible from the station, and is about the first building seen when coming into town from the south. This is owing to its prominence. It feeds and cares for a great many travelling men and "Rube" is a favorite with them.

It makes no pretensions to being a city hotel, but the management does its best to give its patrons the worth of their money, and my short stay at the house warrants me in saying that no hotel along the line better fulfills its mission."

It was decided to print this to remind us how articles were written in those days.

The hotel was built at least as early as 1885 by a man named Vandemeer. North of the hotel was a large livery barn for Mr. Holman's farm horses and horses for the convenience of roomers. When the Holmans ceased running the hotel, it was used as an apartment building. In the early part of the forties, the building was dismantled and the lots sold to C.A. Nyquist. Harold Nelson purchased the corner lot and built a house. A house for Mrs. Goldbloom was moved to the south lot.

Clover Hotel

Mr. Fred Steinke bought the hotel from Mary Sayers in 1926. His daughter and son-in-law, Glen and Elsa Clover, took over the management of the hotel. Mr. Steinke completely remodeled the building, taking off three rooms and the front porch. He put in a complete basement and added a gas station to the front of the building.



The man on the steps is Glen Clover, about 1928.

This place operated as a hotel. Meals were served to the public and to the train crews that were on the noon trains. In 1933 they started serving beer. At this time they stopped serving regular meals but served lunches, pie, cake, with ten-cent hamburgers as their specialty.

In 1939 Jim and Bob Smith took over the gas station from Mr. Clover. When Bob left for school, Harold Nelson ran it for a short time then Dale Smith managed the station until Mr. Clover had to remove the station so the highway could be widened.

The hotel was sold to Don Ward in 1945 when Elsa and Glen purchased a store which came to be known as the Clover Store. Wards sold to a Mrs. Thorp and Mr. and Mrs. Wheeler managed it for her. Later some people named Finder moved in. Wanda and Albert Osterkamp managed the hotel before Norm and Ruby Balfanz in December 1953. Norm sold to Minke in May 1971. Norm also had a repair and blacksmith shop.

Since then there have been nine changes of ownership. The present owners are Bill and Jim Thompson.

Herreid - Strom & Co. Store

(Referring to the store across from the Lutheran Church Parsonage)

This building was located east of what is now the Lutheran Church parsonage. The store and the bank building which is adjoining it faced south across Brook Street. The store was owned by O.W. Herried and Albert Strom for a time and probably housed the Harris post office temporarily.

The State Bank of Harris was chartered in 1908 and this was its first home. The picture does not have the word "State" in the lettering on the bank window.



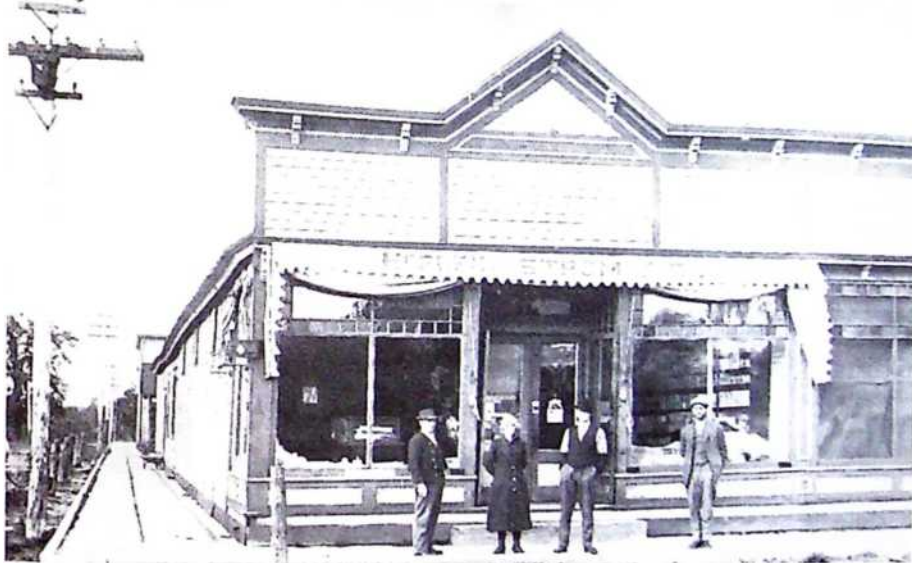
Herreid and Strom Store — Notice lantern used as a street light. On right is location of the First Bank in Harris.

Early ledgers from the store indicate how difficult times were then. It was common for people to make purchases of 42 cents, pay 20 cents,

and charge the remainder. Surplus eggs taken in on trade would be shipped by train to Bridgeman-Russell in Duluth to be used in making ice cream. The store carried several bolts of cloth for making dresses and shirts. Red Wing shoes and Gordon hats were big items then. China and glassware were good sellers.

Jim Kirkland owned the store for a time until it was eventually torndown and the property purchased by Stark Bros. Lumber Co.

Along the west side of this building and up to the corner of Stark Bros. Hardware Store were hitching posts with a log chain through the top part of posts. Here the farmers tied their horses hitched to wagons and buggies, while they did their banking, shopping etc. in town.



Herreid and Strom Store — This is after 1912. Notice the electric street lights and hitching posts along left sidewalk.

W.P. Swanson Confectionary

Prior to prohibition, the corner bar, known now as T & D's Bar, was owned by Victor Johnson. After prohibition the business was opened as a confectionary store operated by Mr. and Mrs. Marian Warner. This was somewhere in the early 1920s. Around 1923 Mr. and Mrs. William (Bill) P. Swanson bought the business and it continued to be a confectionary store. They sold ice cream, candy, bread, fruit, magazines, tobacco, gifts, and numerous miscellaneous items. The store was heated in the winter by a large round oak wood stove and the kitchen range. The round oak became a gathering place for many to discuss weather, crops, politics and to tell stories. In the summer this area became an ice cream parlor where you could get your favorite malt, sundae or quick sandwich.



Bill Swanson's Confectionery Store — Bill is behind the counter.

The confectionary store was open seven days a week, so it was common for people to stop after church to pick up the Sunday paper or to buy a loaf of bread for Sunday dinner.

They are remembered for the nickel ice cream cones (double dip). They sold plants and flowers in the spring. The 4th of July was a special time. Everyone came to town to see "Bill's" fireworks display. These 4th of July evenings are still remembered by many of the local people who grew up here. Especially remembered was a time when a parachute came out of a rocket and landed in Clara's strawberry patch. The parachute was rescued, but the strawberry patch was beaten into the ground. Clara, needless to say, was very upset over this. The first child to get to the parachute and bring it back to Bill would get a triple deck ice cream cone free.

The ice house out back was always filled with ice packed under saw dust or straw. The ice came from Fish Lake. The sawdust for awhile came from Charlie Swenson's sawmill.

The Swansons were known to be generous and helpful. During the depression, many people known in those days as tramps, would jump off a freight train and find their way to Clara's kitchen door for a handout.

In the mid-thirties, Bill started selling 3.2 beer. A pool table was added along with the usual punch boards and card games. In late 1938 Bill and Clara sold the business. People who remember Bill and Clara's confectionary store often think of the good meals served during the depression days. In a narrow room at the back of the store where there were no built-in cupboards, no spacious counters, and no running water, Clara had a refrigerator, stove and table. It

seemed that was all the equipment that Clara needed to serve delicious basic meals, including your choice of homemade pies, puddings, other desserts, or ice cream. These meals were served country style. That meant the food was passed in bowls, and so on around the table. You could eat your fill, and all this for thirty-five cents!

Wayside Equipment Company

Don Wilcox opened Wayside Equipment Company on January 1, 1948. The original building was built just after World War II by the Anderson Brothers Cattle Company. This building is now occupied by Harris Tire Company.

Mr. Wilcox began by selling and servicing used farm machinery, eventually becoming a dealer for Minneapolis-Moline, Allis-Chalmers, New Holland, Owatonna and other lines. It is estimated that he has brought close to 2,000 truckloads of used machinery to Harris during the last 36 years, coming from southern Minnesota, Wisconsin, the Dakotas, Iowa and Nebraska. Shipments of new machinery often come by rail.

Wayside Equipment Co. has employed many local people over the years—too many, in fact, to mention all of them here. In the early years of operation during the 1950s, Don's cousin, Weslie Wilcox, was mechanic and the late Vern Finkelson of Stark sold parts. Mr. Finkelson also managed the business for several years during the 1960s.

Other former employees who have now passed away include Ed Sirknen, Willie Turner, Arlie Olson and Ed Wredberg. For a number of years the late Harry Sorenson lived in a small house which was located on the premises but has since been demolished. In later years another cousin, John A. (Spike) Wilcox is frequently seen at Wayside.

Mr. Wilcox had a small black dog named Sam who never missed a day on the job at Wayside all his life—except for one year's leave of absence. Once on a business trip to Blue Earth, Sam got out of the truck and couldn't be found when it was time to leave. After diligent search, Mr. Wilcox had to return to Harris without him. A year later—on the same Blue Earth street — Mr. Wilcox noticed a small dog, and called out, "Sam!" Needless to say, Sam was very happy to be back at work, and never got lost again!

Years after Sam died, a large German shepherd came to work at Wayside. Duke was not very popular with burglars. He once lunged through a thick glass door which someone was trying to break into and successfully foiled the would-be thieves. Another fierce watchdog named Daisy is now the family pet of Darrell and Janet Ramberg, owners of the Kaffe Stuga Restaurant in Harris.

During the 1970s Wayside Equipment instituted annual spring auctions, which became very popular, drawing crowds of as many as 700 people. In those days, that meant that the population of Harris was more than doubled for a day!



Wayside Equipment Company

In 1973 Mr. Wilcox erected a new building to house Wayside Equipment, just south across the street from the old building on the site of Bird Stolberg's house. There the business grew and expanded, as the Wilcox family had also grown and expanded to number eight children who were now growing up. With the exception of the youngest son, Charles, who operates the family farm, all of the Wilcox children have been employed at Wayside.

Eldest daughters, Charlotte and Anne, have both taken their turns at bookkeeping. Janet began working behind the parts counter in 1970 just after graduation from high school, and worked continuously until two years ago when her first child was born. Two more daughters, Alice Mary and Nancy, now run the parts department and office. Mr. Wilcox's wife, Alice, has also contributed over the years by making hundreds of trips to the Twin Cities to pick up needed parts.

Don retired from the business January 1, 1977, turning it over to his two sons, Bert and Ralph (Pete), and daughter, Janet, and her husband John Swanson. Retirement for him didn't last long however. He has built one new building on the family farm for every year of his retirement, doing almost everything himself. And that includes cutting down the trees on his own land, and sawing the lumber himself on his brother's sawmill!

Still, on a rainy day, you can be sure to run into him at Wayside and pick up some useful tidbit you didn't know about that combine or tractor of yours. Now at the age of 70, Mr. Wilcox is considered one of the "old-timers" at Harris. He may well hold the record for having eaten the most roast beef dinners at the Kaffe Stuga of anyone in history.

Blomquist Construction Company

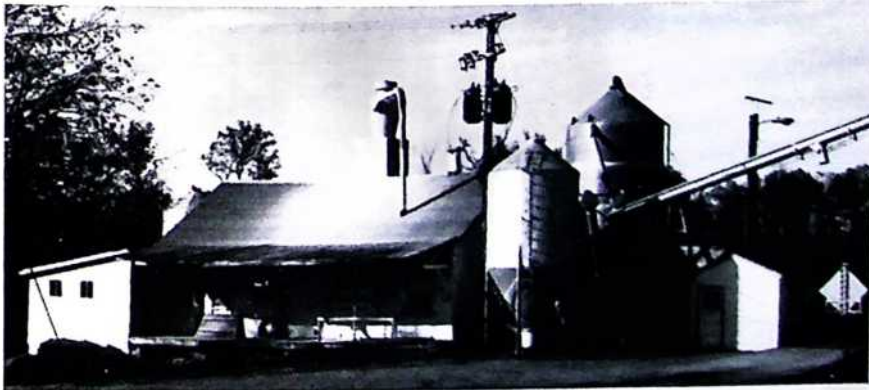
In the summer of 1962, Marvin and Dorothy Blomquist started a construction company in Harris. Marvin had been working as a carpenter in the Twin Cities and suburbs. They moved back to Harris and have been building homes and doing remodeling work in Harris and the surrounding area ever since. The company has built additions to and helped remodel both the Lutheran Church and the Covenant Church in Harris.

In 1979, their youngest son, Scott, became a partner in the company.

Blomquist Construction Company continues to serve the area and has been instrumental in the recent growth of Harris.

Harris Feed Mill

The mill is an outgrowth of the original North Branch Mill. The North Branch Mill was organized June 14, 1899, and opened for business December 9, 1899. The first officers were J.A. Rystrom, A.M. Burlingame, E.M. Dahlby, and H.O. Herreid. They operated several substations. One of these was at Harris. Relatives of Mr. Rystrom were connected with the mill and station at Harris until they sold to Burton Peterson, November 1, 1956. Mr. Peterson sold the Harris Station to Joe Nelson on January 1, 1957. Mr. Nelson sold to James O. Reilly in March of 1963. Donald Kennen purchased the mill February 26, 1972.



Harris Feed Mill

Since Donald became owner he has made several improvements. Behind the mill he erected a large storage shed. This is near the area where the Harris Ice Company had their building for storing ice for their ice boxes. He has his own scale and two large bins which hold twenty-two thousand bushels each. He grinds and mixes feed, buys and sells grain, especially corn, dries corn, handles chemicals, fertilizer, seeds, animal health products, and other miscellaneous agricultural goods.

In 1872 this lot was owned by Philip S. Harris after whom Harris is named.

Classic Auto Works

This new business was established in May of 1979. Bruce Anderson, age twenty-two, purchased from Russell Fletcher a 22' x 36' building that was located on Block 11, Lots One and Four of Stolberg's First Addition to Harris. This original building was remodeled and a 14' x 26' fully equipped spray booth was added. By July 1979 the building was ready for a body repair and painting business with room for four cars inside. The business grew steadily. Soon there was not enough room to do the work. In November of 1982 construction of a 40' x 62' addition began. When this was completed two more floor hoists, a frame repair stall, and the installation of City water and sewer added considerably to the growing business. There was now room for eleven cars and an office.

In May of 1983 a new service was offered. Froggy's Fast Oil Change, Inc., operating in the same building, now does a ten minute oil change and ten point maintenance check. Along with the new service came a sparkling sign on old highway 61 now known as County Road 30.

Services offered at Classic Auto Works include restorations of antique to late model cars, minor to major body repair and paint matching, insurance claims, glass replacement, frame straightening, mechanical work, as well as custom body work, painting, lettering, murals, and sign painting.

Classic Auto Works appears to have a bright future and we hope it does, along with Harris.

E.F. Hals' Sons, Inc.

Edward Hals' boyhood was spent in the Stark area. His early married life was spent farming about a quarter of a mile north of Spring Lake on the Spring Lake-Stark road. In 1914 he moved his family to North Branch. There he became the local drayman at first using one horse and a single



Office of E.F. Hals' Sons, Inc., located on the Pine Island Road.

wagon. He kept busy hauling freight from the depot to the various business establishments. Soon he was expanding into other areas and was in the dirt and gravel business. He acquired four dump trucks and a horse operated loader.

In 1962 he purchased a hot mix asphalt plant. Three years later his business was incorporated and became known as E.F. Hals' Sons, Inc. A ready-mix concrete plant was purchased in 1968. Up to this time the business office had been in North Branch. In 1970 it was decided to move the business office to the "gravel pit area" in Harris where they had their equipment. Since this move, they purchased the Ready-Mix Plant in Lindstrom in 1979.

Presently they employ approximately forty people and have a fleet of thirty trucks, blades, and loaders. They provide ready mix concrete and hot mix asphalt. They excavate, doze, and do blacktop paving. They provide sand, gravel, road maintenance, road building, snow removal, and their customers are both residential and commercial.

Barbers

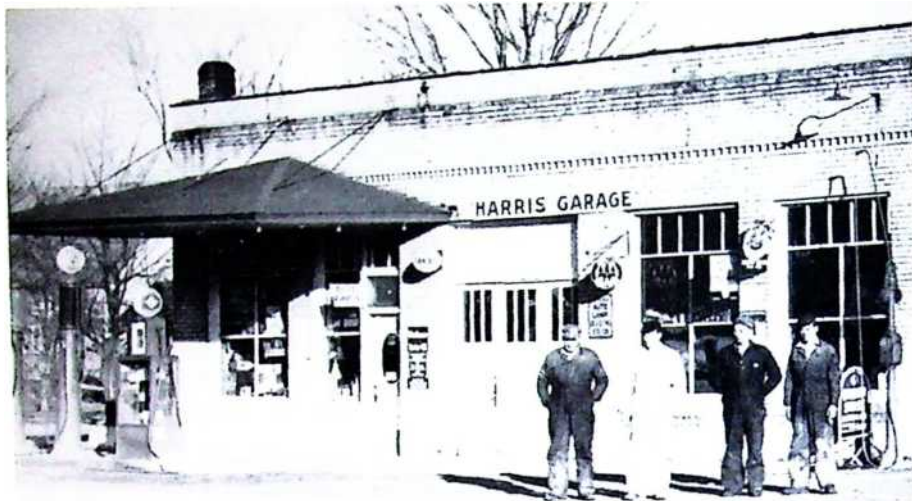
The first barber or "tonsorial artist" as he was then called, was Alfred Seline. His shop was next to Victor Johnson's Saloon, whose building was south of the present Post Office - Bank Building.

The next barber we learned anything about was Jack Saunders. He had his shop in Henry Jarchow's saloon building. This building was located at the south end of the block from Victor Johnsons. When Saunders was barber, the bar part was still in there. The pool room that had been used in the saloon days was still in use. This was a two-story building and the upstairs was used for living quarters. Mr. Saunders sold his shop to a Mr. Everson. Mr. Everson stayed only two or three months before selling to Arleigh Christopherson in 1938. The corner building evidently was torn down as Christopherson's building just north of the saloon building was the barber shop and residence from 1938 - 1978. Since then, Harris has had no regular barber. For a short time a barber from Rush City came twice a week. This evidently was not profitable.

While Saunders was here, there was another barber, Ferdie Franklin, who had a shop for awhile. His shop was just north of the old City Hall.

Harris Garage

In the early days Carl Nyquist started the first garage by moving a building from the west side of the tracks to the spot that is now the Getty Gas Station. After Carl moved to the new brick building that he had built across the street, the old building was used for a blacksmith shop, first by August Chelberg and then by Bill Ogren. Later the County built their garage and attached it to Carl's garage.



The Harris Garage before the gas pumps were moved to the north side of the building when Highway 61 was widened. From left to right: Alfred Larson, Harold Nelson, Chester Mattson, and Samuel Samuelson.

Harold Nelson and Ralph Swanson purchased the garage from Carl Nyquist in 1945 during a time when many cars were being repaired. The blacksmith shop in the rear of the building was a busy place. Lathework and tire repairing kept the men busy. They sold the Minnesota line of arm machinery which was popular in this area. They also stocked repair parts that were necessary. Other items sold were Norge appliances, Zenith TVs, Enterprise paint and many hardware items.



Inside of the early Harris Garage.

When a law was passed that trucks hauling milk to the creamery had to be in a closed van, they bought Charlie Hultman's chicken coop and moved it into town and converted it into a shop in which they built enclosures for the trucks.

The first TV in Harris was at the garage. It was a Zenith with a 10" picture. Many folks spent evenings watching Milton Berle and Arthur Godfrey or whatever was on. As time went on, many homes had Zeniths.

As the community developed, they started drilling wells and installing water systems.

When Highway #61 was improved and widened, the gas pumps in front of the building had to be moved to the north side.

Those who worked with Harold and Ralph through the years were Alfred Larson, Chester Mattson, Ed Goldbloom, Sam Samuelson, Albert Strom, Vernon Johnson and Russell Fletcher.

The garage was sold to the County in 1965, and it became part of the County garage that was attached to the building.

Harris Oil Company

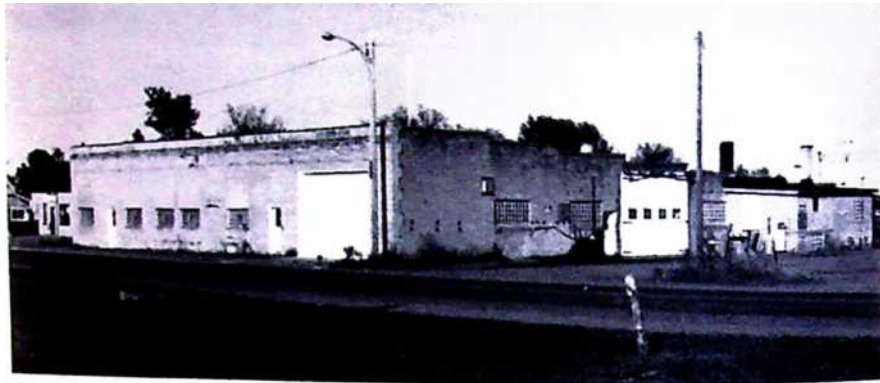
About 1922 Carl Nyquist originated the Harris Oil Company at the site of the present Chisago County Garage. Carl was associated with Gust Jarchow in the early years. In addition to dealing in Skelly Products and repairs, his garage was used for winter storage for cars including those used by the mail carriers.



Carl Nyquist and his delivery truck.

In the early years the price of gasoline was six gallons for \$1.00, kerosene for 13¢ a gallon, and #2 fuel was 7¢ a gallon. During the Depression items such as overcoats, suitcases, and watches were often exchanged for the products.

Carl's son, Gordon, entered the business in 1948. The present filling station north of the garage building was built in 1950. A blacksmith shop was formerly located there. Gordon serviced bulk gasoline and fuels while Carl dealt in bottle gas. The North Branch Hardware purchased the bottle gas business in the 1960s. Gordon's son-in-law, Curtis Wetsel, continued to operate the oil company after Gordon's death.



The Chisago County Garage — The left side was the original Nyquist Garage.



A 1983 street scene, looking north on County Road 30. The first building is the County Highway Garage. The sign on the south wall of the Kaffe Stuga is visible.

The business was in the Nyquist family for fifty-five years, being the second oldest Skelly jobber. In 1977 the business was sold to the Curtis Oil Company and became the present Getty Oil Service in 1983.

Gid's Feed Store

The North Branch Milling Station in Harris was managed for many years by Gid Miller. When Gid left the mill, he built an addition to his house and started his own feed station. He did not do any grinding but mixed feeds, sold flour, medications for poultry, cattle, and hogs, plus other incidentals.

After his death, his building became the property of Leona and Vernon Johnson. When Harris voted in a municipal liquor store, Leona was hired as a manager. The feed part of the building was converted to a liquor store. The Municipal Liquor Store was discontinued in February of 1982 and it has since been owned and run by a private party.

Jim Ledin

For many years a very popular man in Harris was Jim Ledin. He could repair shoes in a very innovative way. Some work shoes had unusual patches but their life was lengthened by Jim's work. People that had horses could always get their harnesses repaired by Jim. He also repaired women's purses.

During the days of grain binders, when harvest time came, Jim repaired the binder canvas. If a stack cover needed repair, Jim could do it. In summer he might be in his shop at 6 A.M. and at sundown he would still be busy.

1893 -1894—18 5—1696—1897—1898—1899 1900
1913 1911 1915 1916 1917—1918—U19

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OTTO PETERSON

Farming Implements

Extras Always Kept On Hand
Stock Farm In Connection



Among the first farm implement dealers was Otto Peterson. As a young man he worked in logging camps in the winter. He also worked for the railroad in the Twin Cities and tended bar for Victor Johnson in Victor's Saloon in Harris. When he was twenty-seven years old, in 1893, he started a farm implement shop in Harris where Wealthy's Bar is now. He handled several makes of machinery. His early stationery headings listed the following makes: Litchfield, New Idea, Minnesota, and Stoughton Lines with repairs for all makes.

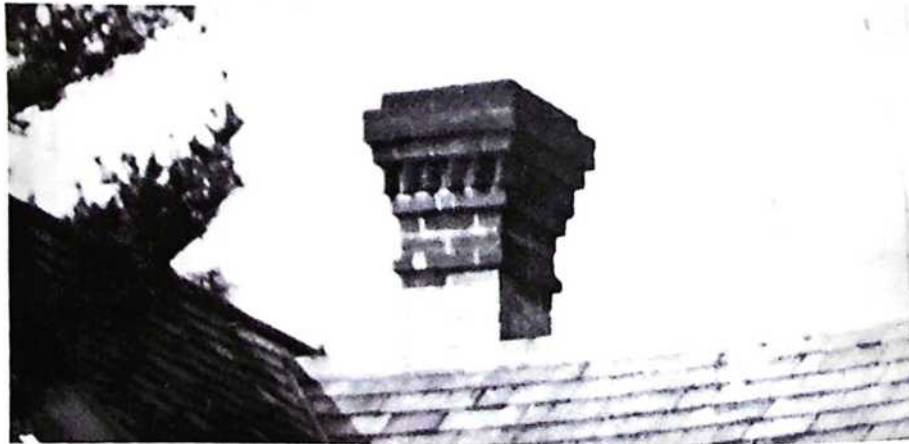


Otto Peterson's Implement Store — Otto Peterson, standing on the steps of his implement store. The Peterson living quarters are on the left. That building was moved to his farm and used for living quarters while they built their new home.

As a salesman he covered a wide area in northern Chisago as well as a part of Isanti County to make personal contacts with farmers. His mode of transportation during the first years was by bicycle. At this period in history, it was customary to sell machinery on time and accept livestock as part payment. This led to the need of housing for the livestock. About 1901 Peterson moved his business to a farm northwest of the village proper. Here he built a set of farm buildings and moved his implement business to the farm. He had built a two-story warehouse for his retail sales.

On this farm his machinery business flourished for many years. In the later years he held an auction to reduce his inventory. He continued with the Minnesota line of machinery and binder twine until the 1940s. He reduced his new equipment inventory and continued selling mostly repair parts until his death in 1948.

Otto's brother, Charles Alfred Peterson was a brick layer and cement worker by trade. His home farm was the East ½ of the Northeast ¼ of Section 29-36-21. At the turn of the century Alfred, as he was called, built many chimneys in the houses that were built. Today some of those old homes still have these decorative chimneys. The tops above the roofs are flared out in fancy brick designs and often attract the attention of persons interested in old history. Incidentally, the farm Alfred owned has two cemeteries on it, on the north end the vacated Lutheran Cemetery and, on the south, end the Harris Mission Cemetery.



Charles Alfred Peterson, more commonly known as Alfred or “Brick Layer”, was the creator of these ornate type chimneys. There are still such chimneys left in the area.

Harris Tire and Auto Center

Around 1940 Floyd and Wallace Anderson were dealing in livestock and horses. They went to the Red River Valley to purchase horses for their business. In 1947-1948 they built the building north of the Wayside Equipment Company. They obtained a Moline franchise and also were machinery dealers a few years. They sold their building to Vern Finkelson and their inventory to Donald Wilcox. Later Vern took over the inventory. About ten years ago, Ed Hockensmith purchased the building, and his business operation is known as Harris Tire and Auto Center. The machinery operation moved across the street, and with new buildings, became the Wayside Equipment Company.



Wallace and Floyd Anderson built this building. It is now the Harris Tire and Auto Shop.

Beauty Shops

Alice Eastman was our first beautician. Her husband worked in the creamery, and they lived in the house just northeast of the Sayers house. Just when she first opened the shop at the house, no one remembers. The family left Harris around 1937-38. We know the shop was there for at least six years and perhaps more.

Mildred Johnson, a local girl, had a shop in the present Lutheran parsonage southwest room during World War II. Her stay in Harris was rather brief.

Today one has a choice of two places. Anita's Beauty Nook, owned by Anita Ryberg, is located about two miles west of town. Judy Collins owns Judy's Hair Styling which is a block east of the Kaffe Stuga. These two also do much of the male hair styling as well as caring for women's beauty needs.

General Merchandise Store

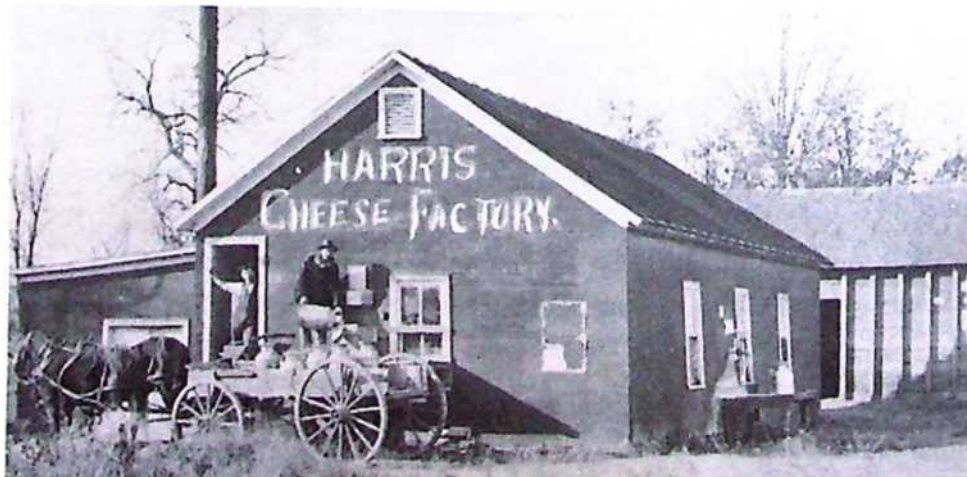
The Wayside Equipment Building today is on the corner where there formerly was a general merchandise store. It seems that T.S. Lewis was the first owner. The next person mentioned was James E. Welch who died in 1908. He was married to Bird Kirkland, later known as Bird Stolberg. Bird's father ran the store from 1908 until he sold to Ed Carlson.



Carlson's Corner 1919 — Edwin Carlson's Store, Bird Stolberg's House, Kaffe Stuga, and Nyquist Garage.

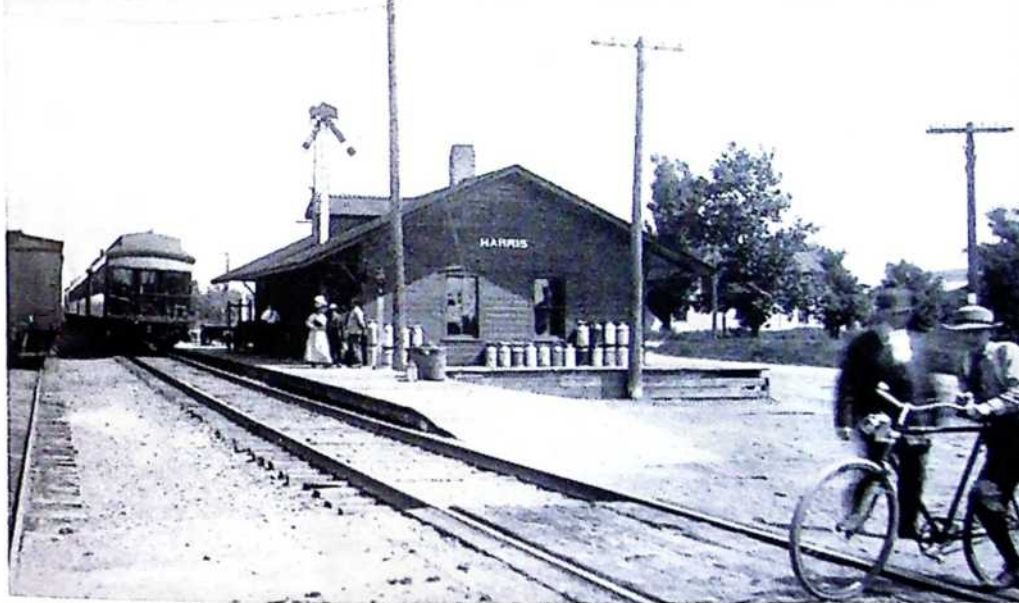
When Mr. Carlson became manager of the Chisago County Poor Farm, Lawrence Stark purchased the store. After ten years he sold to Ben J. Peterson. Hilding Peterson purchased the store from Ben, and in 1939, he left this location and purchased the John G. Mold store.

Bridgeman-Russell Creamery

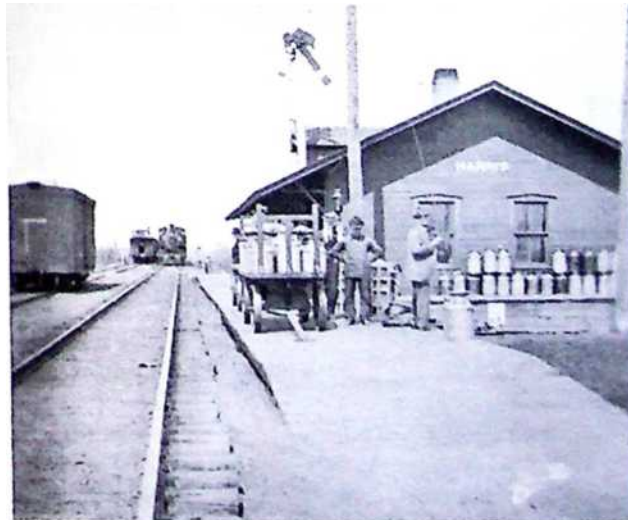


Fred Steinke ran this milk station for Bridgeman-Russell, starting in 1910.

In 1907 Earl Caulder and Mr. Van Der Veer opened a business which was known as a cheese factory. In 1909 Bridgeman and Russell of Duluth bought the building and used it as a milk skimming station. Fred Steinke was hired to manage the station with Guy Clover as his assistant. This building was located by the creek on the eastern part of what is now Firemen's Park. In the beginning only cream was shipped by the passenger night train to Duluth. The skim milk was given back to the farmer. As time went on whole milk was also shipped.



Notice the cream cans. Cream was shipped daily to Bridgeman-Russell in Duluth. These are empty cans that have been returned.



Cream cans to be shipped to Bridgeman-Russell in Duluth.

Mr. Steinke ran the station for nineteen years. Then it was sold to the Carlson Creamery of Rush City. He worked for them for three years. The competition of the Harris Cooperative Creamery led to the closing of the station.

Harris Cooperative Creamery

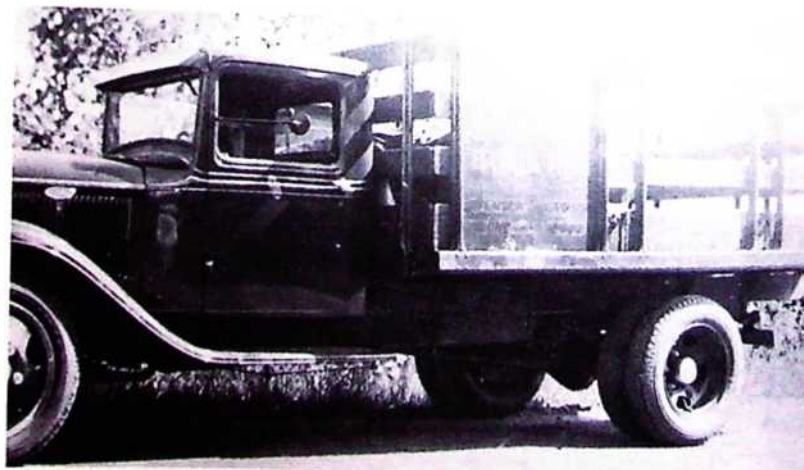
The creamery was built in 1922. First board members were: Bill Hassel, Pres., Art Deming, Secretary, Gust Jarchow, Treas., Markus Hammerstrom, John Johnson and Fred Peterson from Stark.



Harris Cooperative Creamery

The first Buttermaker and manager was Martin A. Nielson from southern Minnesota. First helpers were Gilbert Hammerstrom and Theodore Eastman.

The grand opening was scheduled for February 14, 1923. Meat to be barbecued for the event was donated by Grandpa Samuelson. The worst blizzard on record developed that day and it was impossible to roast the meat outdoors. A train was stalled south of Harris. Mrs. Warner, who was operating what is now the Kaffe Stuga, roasted the meat and it was served to the people on the stalled train. Six cattle in the cattle car froze to death.



The first Harris Creamery milk truck.

The Creamery Association at Stark dissolved and joined the Harris Cooperative. A skimming station was built in Stark and the cream was hauled to Harris. This operation continued until about 1938. Skimming stations were also established in Kost and Sunrise, and the cream was delivered to Harris. In 1931 Dale discontinued its creamery. They received whole milk there and trucked it to the Harris Creamery.

In 1929 Mr. Nielson won First Prize nationwide for butter and was presented with a gold medal. A picture of the medal was printed on the butter wrappers thereafter.

Roy Wenell took over management from Mr. Nielson in 1938 and left in 1949. In the early forties the creamery became part of the Land-o-Lakes organization. Arne Oberg was Buttermaker from 1949 until January 1, 1954, when the Harris Creamery closed and became a part of the Rush City Cooperative Creamery.

A year or more later, the building was sold at auction to Mr. Bakkee for \$1,800.00.

Gasoline Anyone?

To find a place to purchase gasoline in Harris was no problem in the thirties. The Lakes Pure Oil Company of Forest Lake built a log cabin station. This was in the area north of the Kaffe Stuga now used for parking. The first manager was Gotfred Stolberg. Jack McClean operated the station from 1935 until 1942. Laurence Strom was in charge for the next few years. At this time, Lakes bought a bear and had it at the station as an attraction. When Laurence left, Leo and Kelly Hokanson became operators until the station was moved away.



Log Cabin Oil Station

It was during this period that Dwight Jarchow built a station on the southeast corner of his lot. He sold co-op oil and gas. At the Clover Hotel you could purchase Standard Oil. The store just north of Clover's

Hotel sold Phillips 66. The Harris Garage handled Skelly Gas and if you stopped at the Stark Brothers Hardware you could purchase Barnsdahl Oil.

Butcher Shop

The first butcher shop was owned by McKeen and Company and was managed by C.O. Lovejoy. He handled smoked and salted meats and fresh bologna. He butchered choice beef and always kept game, if it was in season. He paid cash for hides, tallow, and poultry. He also bought hogs and veal and shipped them to the city market. This was evidently the shop that Bill Palmer purchased and with the help of his wife served the community as butcher until 1922. That year the business was sold to Leonard "Butch" Hanson. To give people better service, he delivered meat on four different routes mostly east and west of town. In 1932 this market burned and Hilding Peterson took over the sale of fresh meat. Mr. Hanson did butchering for Mr. Peterson for a few years.

Bill Palmer had a slaughter house just southwest of town where La Rochelles live. Butch Hanson had his slaughter house west of Bill Hawkinson, which is where the Bait Shop is. It is said that when Butch slaughtered, Goose Creek was his disposal plant and there was no swimming in the creek for at least three days so the creek could clear.

The Pioneer Store

John G. Mold built the store in 1868 and in 1869 he was selling all commodities and also railroad ties, cordwood, furs, and berries. a while he was joined by his brother-in-law, Fred H. Wolf. It was called the Mold-Wolf station. In 1875 Fred Wolf purchased the store.



Wolf's Store and Post Office and Clover Hotel, looking south on Old Highway 61.



Inside of Wolf Store.

When Wolf was postmaster, the southwest area was used as the post office. Besides being a regular general store, it was said that "everything from shoes to eggs, lamp chimneys to bulk crackers, long underwear to smoking tobacco, bulk kerosene to shots of whiskey, buttons and books to yard goods, and hay to coal" was sold here. In 1918 a grandson of John G. Mold whose name was also John G. Mold purchase the store. He and his wife, Iva, operated the store until 1939 when they moved to a farm east of town. Hilding Peterson became proprietor of the store and he did some remodeling. In 1948 Hilding's son, Donald, became the owner until leaving the business in 1980. It appeared the once sold but the purchaser did not stay. The place is now or sale.



Pioneer Store — Left to right: Iva Mold and Maxine, salesman, Fred Steinke and Jack Mold.

Clover's Store

Clover's store was probably built about 1908 by Albert Strom who contracted with Alfred Newdell, an uncle of Clayton Anderson, to do the actual construction of the building. O.W. Herreid was a partner of Strom in the early years of what was known as "The Big Store". The store offered dry goods as well as groceries and meats. Ben Peterson was a partner of Strom for a period in the 20s. Albert Strom bought out Peterson in 1928 and was sole owner of the store until his death in 1937.



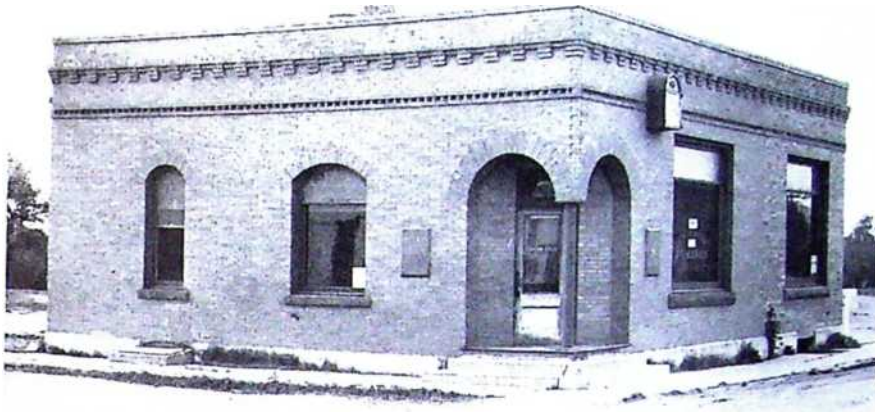
Clover's Store — The only grocery store in Harris in 1984.

Prior to World War II most of the meat and groceries came by rail from the Twin Cities. In the 30s bread was 13 cents, butter 17 cents, Swift's lard 6 cents a pound, yeast 3 cents a cake, pork chops 5 cents each, ladies dresses \$1.50, slippers 25 cents, and Lee overalls \$2.00. Most of the coffee sold was ground at the store. Eggs were taken in trade for groceries and dry goods. Twenty-five pound sacks of Model Home flour from North Branch Milling Co. were a big item. One year a huge shipment of Hurricane lamps from the East arrived in time for Christmas. They were the "in" thing that year and sold out quickly for \$3.00 each.

After Mr. Strom's death the store was sold to a man from Bradford, Minnesota. Because of ill health he was in Harris less than a year, selling to Herb Simmons. The next owners were Glen Clover followed by Jim Smith. Smiths sold to Ralph Swanson who sold to Olive Sederberg in 1961. She retired in 1977 when her daughter-in-law Connie Balfanz Sederberg became the owner. Energetic Connie is still the owner in 1984.

Harris Bank

In 1908 some local businessmen realized the need for a local bank. They applied for a bank charter and May 4, 1908, they were issued Charter Number 811. The original bank capital was \$10,000. The shareholders were as follows: Fred H. Wolf, President (30 Shares); Albert O. Stark (20 Shares); Victor Johnson (20 Shares); Peter H. Stolberg (20 Shares); and Fred W. Hals (10 Shares).



The State Bank of Harris moved to this building in 1914.

In the forties this bank was sold to a banker from Mora who soon sold to the Cambridge State Bank. It apparently became difficult for the Cambridge State Bank to staff the bank so in July of 1950, the Harris Bank moved the bank to Cambridge and the original Harris Bank Charter was relinquished. It is interesting to note that at one time there were 1791 state bank charters and as of September 1983, there were only 553.

Some of the men who had worked at the bank were Fred Hals, Art Carlson, Gottfred Stolberg, Dellos Palmer, Laverne Carlson, and Gilbert Holum. After that there were so many young women that worked there that no one is sure of how many there were.

When the bank left Harris, the Harris Commercial Club solicited money and purchased the building. They tried to get another charter. This proved futile, so in 1959 they sold the building to Myrtle Jarchow. She sold the building in 1977 to the Rush City State Bank.



The Rush City Bank and the Post Office now are in the former Harris State Bank building.

Since the early fifties, the building has been the home of the Harris Post Office. It also now houses a branch of the Rush City State Bank. Rush City has had a branch bank in Harris since March 1978. The first years they were in a mobile home. In 1980 the Almelund Bank built a branch bank in Harris. This bank opened for business November 25, 1980.



The front entrance to the branch of the Almelund State Bank in Harris.

From 1908 to 1914 the bank was located in the building east of the Herreid-Strom store. In 1914 the bank officers purchased the brick building now occupied by the Harris Post Office and the Rush City State Bank from Fred H. Wolf. This became the permanent bank building until the Charter was moved to Cambridge.

When the inner bank building was dismantled the counters and grillwork were stored in a shed at Green Acres and later moved to the treasurer office at Chisago County Court House. The treasurer's office was later moved to the County Office Building. At that time the only bank furnishing kept was a coin changer which is still in use at the treasurer's front desk. One of the marble slabs became a valued table top.

Kaffe Stuga

One of the popular places in this area, especially at noon on Sundays, is the Harris Kaffe Stuga.

Before the place was a restaurant, it was a feed mill and store owned by a man named Kost. He had moved the building from west of the tracks. Just when he sold the building to Mr. and Mrs. Warner is not known, but it appears to have been before 1920. They started a restaurant which they sold to Earl and Helma Palmer in 1927. In 1946 Palmers sold their place to Lee Grays who were owners until 1954 when Albert Berg became proprietor. He must have financed some people who tried to run the place. Lloyd Marrier entered in 1956 and until 1959 there were many changes. In 1959 Bonnie and Willard Ramberg owned the place, selling in



Palmer's Cafe in 1931; now known as the Kaffe Stuga.



Earl and Helma Palmer sitting outside their cafe.

1961 to Willard's folks, Anna and Frank Ramberg. During this period Darrell started work there and Darrell and Janet Ramberg became owners in 1981.

People that have stopped at the Stuga for lunches and meals while passing through Harris have become regular customers. The tasty food, home cooking, and reasonable prices appealed to them. There is always a crowd for the annual "lutefisk" supper.

The Kaffe Stuga is the busiest business in town. The interesting part is how often when away from home, if asked where you are from and you reply Harris the response is, "We have eaten at the Kaffe Stuga. As a good place to eat, it is indeed well-known!



The popular Kaffe Stuga.

Harris Hardware Store

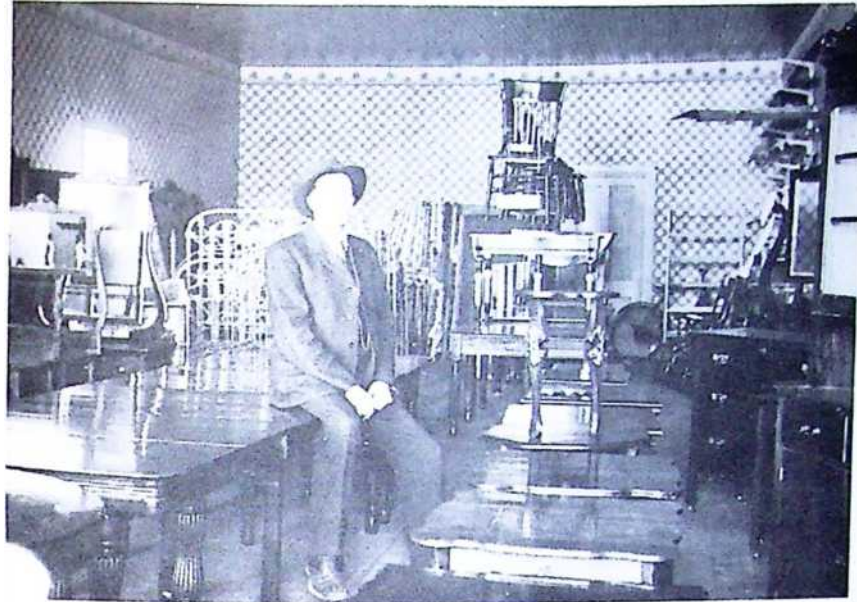
In 1894 Mr. A. Erlandson and Albert Stark formed a partnership in the lumber business. This yard was across the street from the Lutheran Parsonage and a bit east. Later Albert's father, Lars J. Stark, bought Mr. Erlandson's share. In 1901 a hardware store owned by Mr. Becker was for



Hardware Store, facing north. Looking at the right side of the picture, one can see the Herreid and Strom Store, which faced south.

sale. Albert Stark and Victor Johnson became co-owners of this store. In 1908 Arthur Stark bought his father's share of the lumber business. When Victor Johnson died, Arthur bought Victor's interest in the hardware store. In 1917 the Stark brothers decided to consolidate the lumber and hardware business. They also began handling furniture and farm machinery. Albert was a licensed mortician and Arthur a funeral director.

In 1938, Theodore Stark, Albert's son, a mortuary science graduate, joined the firm. In 1945 the establishment was sold to Interstate Lumber Company. Orrin Olson purchased the funeral supplies.



Stark and Johnson Store — A.O. Stark in the furniture section of the Hardware Store.



The Stark Brothers — Left to right: Arthur, Edward, and Albert.

The Interstate Lumber Company closed the Harris store in the early fifties, moving the inventory to Rush City. In the fall of 1952, the first

floor was converted to a school as the local school had burned in June. It was used as a school for three years.



The former Stark Brothers Hardware Store. People still live upstairs. It is now an Antique Store.

Today this building is an Antique Store with the proprietor residing upstairs.

Fish Lake Live Bait Shop

Many sportsmen traveling north on Interstate Highway 35 have found it very convenient to exit at the Harris ramp and immediately on the right is the Fish Lake Live Bait Shop. David C. Anderson is the owner and operator. He started his business at the west end of Fish Lake and around 1980 moved to his present location. Since coming to the Harris community he has built a large shed in which he has minnow tanks. The water from these tanks drains into a minnow pond David has developed. He is kept busy supplying the ever-increasing number of customers.

When David was asked about his business, his enthusiastic response was, "It is growing by leaps and bounds!"

Julius Johnson

The jewelry repair business of Mr. Johnson originated in Stark where he lived in a combined store-residence with his father, Eric Johnson. During the 1918-1919 school year that building burned. Julius moved to Harris and had a small room in the west area of the Swanson Confectionary. In his later years he lived upstairs in the Oscar Franklin home. Mrs. Franklin was his twin sister.

Julius never had a regular jewelry store but he would order jewelry from his catalogs for his customers. Many rings, watches, pins, and wedding rings around Harris were purchased through his orders. He taught himself how to repair clocks and watches. He was a quiet, unassuming man.

The Mint Farm

Just below the Pine Island Hill east of Harris and to the left, Herman C. Keacher owned one hundred twenty acres of land. He decided to raise mint. This was around the mid-forties. To concentrate the mint juice he used a steam powered engine for power for his concentration plant. This engine was driven to his farm by Herman (Polly) Lehman, a man remembered by many people of that period.

One year several barrels of mint were sold to Wrigley Spearmint. The next year the oil did not have as strong a mint flavor because of weeds in the mint and was not as acceptable. The business did not last more than a few years as it was too difficult to cope with the wet land and weeds.

Office of Price Administration Rationing

During World War II the Village of Harris was very much on the map as far as residents of Chisago County were concerned Harris was the village in which the Ration Office was located and every person in the County had something to do with that. A whole book could be written about the rationing program and how it affected everyone, but this article will only deal with some of the facts.

To begin with, Arthur Stark of Harris was chairman of the Chisago County War Price and Ration Board #6413 and the office was first set up in the Stark Brother's Hardware Store. Mrs. Ted (Ethel) Stark was the chief clerk. First item rationed was sugar and as the program increased and more office space was needed, the Harris Village Council granted the use of the Village Hall.

Rationing of gasoline began May 15, 1942. All car owners were issued an A book. Those whose work required extra driving were issued B books and C books were issued only to doctors, law enforcement personnel and mail carriers. R ration coupons were issued for agricultural tractors, gas engines, etc.

Ethel Stark resigned as chief clerk effective Feb. 1, 1943 and Holger Warner was appointed to fill said position. Ration Book II was issued Feb. 24, 1943 and on March 1st, canned goods came under rationing. Arthur Stark resigned as chairman of the Ration Board and Theo. Lindholm was appointed to fill the position. Tires were an important item —only five tires were permitted for each car and serial numbers of each tire had to be registered. Before a tire certificate could be issued by the ration board the tires on a car had to be inspected by an official tire inspector and he had to list the serial number of the tire to be replaced. A speed limit of 35 miles per hour was enforced throughout the nation, the purpose was to save rubber.

As the war continued more and more items were added to the rationed list. At one time all the following required stamps or certificates for purchase, sugar, coffee, canned goods, meat, fruit, tires, tubes, gasoline, fuel oil, kerosene, oil stoves, cars, trucks, motorcycles, shoes and boots.

There were many volunteers from all parts of the County that came certain days to help at the ration office — all they received was a good meal at noon. The County Commissioners approved the meals as a county expense for volunteers, and the meals were served by Belle Collins and Elsa Clover.

At certain periods the office contacts by the public were so heavy that the office force did not have time to open the daily mail. At one time they were three days behind and kept separate boxes for each days mail so they could be handled in the order they were received. Some days the office received over 150 letters and quite often mailed out up to 200 letters a day.

The office hours were from 8:30 A.M. to 5:50 P.M., six days a week. The War ended August 14, 1945 and gasoline, fuel oil and processed foods were removed from rationing the same day. One August 31, Saturday work was eliminated and the work week was reduced to 40 hours perweek.

On December 31, 1945 the Isanti County Ration Office was closed and said County came under the jurisdiction of the Harris office until that closed December 10, 1946, when all rationing had been discontinued.

The employees that worked at the Harris office were, Ethel Stark, Alice Strom, Margaret Bloomquist, Holger Warner, Mildred Olson, Betty Goebel Devlin, Lorraine Lindstrom Lindholm, Elizabeth (Betty) Wilcox, Marlys Larson Johnson, and James Smith.



Alice Strom, Mildred Olson, Betty Goebel, Margaret Bloomquist, and Holger Warner.

Politicians

Lars J. Stark served as an Officer in the Minnesota Territorial Legislature. In 1865 he moved from the Chisago Lakes area to Fish Lake Township. That year he was elected Representative from his district to the State Legislature. In 1875 he was again a representative from this area. Around 1880 he moved to the Harris area and was instrumental in the organization of Harris as a governmental unit.

Edward W. Stark, Lars' son, was elected for one term as a House Representative from this district. He served as Judge of Probate Court in Chisago County for fifteen years. In 1921 he was appointed a member of the State Securities Commission. In 1925 he was appointed State Treasurer and served two years.

Peter H. Stolberg was born in Sweden in 1848. He arrived in America in 1866 and in 1871 ill health caused him to leave his work with Senator Stockridge of Michigan and come to Fish Lake. He bought some land near where his father lived. In 1881 he moved to Harris and entered the mercantile business with his brother John. In his spare time he studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1888. In 1877, and for six years he was County Sheriff. He served as County Attorney for twelve years. He was a District Judge from 1907 to 1915. His son, Alfred, served as a District



This picture of Judge Alfred Stolberg was evidently taken when he was attending Gustavus Adolphus College. He was District Judge from 1924 to 1949.

Judge from 1924 until 1949. Pictures of the Stolbergs may be seen on the Courtroom walls at the old Chisago County Courthouse.

Nonpartisan league

In 1915 a group of North Dakota farmers founded a political party known as the Nonpartisan League. They aimed to establish state-owned institutions for the benefit of the people and to restore government control to the farmers. From 1916 to 1921 their influence spread to other states.

Two of these political rallies were held at the Louis Larson farm just south of Harris. On Sunday, June 6, 1920, A.C. Townley was supposed to come by plane — but failed to appear. Instead, Charles Lindberg, Sr. of Little Falls, was the main speaker. We are told that young Chas. Lindberg, Jr., the famous Col. Lindberg who was the first man to fly across the Atlantic, was with his father on this trip.

We are informed that A.C. Townley did appear at another rally at the Larson farm and we assume that this was at a later date. There are no details on that meeting.

The Nonpartisan League always stressed the importance and strength in organization. One of the favorite stories often told at their rallies was about the young colored boy who was taking the landowner for a tour of the plantation with the buckboard and mule. The youngster was showing the owner how adept he was with his whip. He could flip the whip and knock a horsefly off the mule's ears without fail on the first try. This amused the owner and as they passed under a tree, he spotted a hornet's nest with a hornet sitting on the outside — so he said to the boy, "See if you can hit that hornet with your whip". The boy replied, "No sir boss, them's organized."

Jarchow's Hall

The second floor of the building which was the Victor Johnson Saloon was built specifically for roller skating. The flooring was made of two by fours with the narrow edge up. The corners were made especially to facilitate skaters.

This second-floor hall became known as Jarchow's Hall as early as 1915 and perhaps earlier. John Jarchow owned the building and Bill Swanson rented the first floor for his confectionary. This hall was used for roller skating, dancing, and school programs, and was the place where the Creamery Company, Telephone Company, and Shipping Association held their annual meetings. Here the Royal Neighbors and Modern Woodmen met. Any entertainment that came to town used this hall.

When John Jarchow had public dances in the hall, his wife, Lucy, provided refreshments. I remember her talking about baking pies and cakes for two days before the dance and running out of places to put the

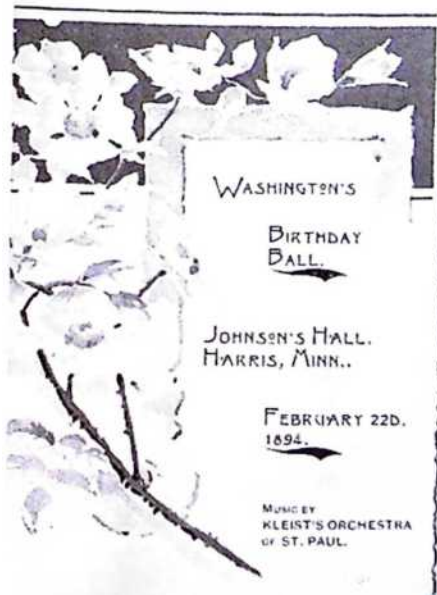


This was the old Victor Johnson building. Notice the “Harris Hey o sign. That is the door that was the entrance to the Jarchow Hall which or many years was the entertainment center and place for meetings.

pies to cool so she placed an oilcloth on the bed and put the pies there to cool. She always concluded with “I’m telling you I worked. I worked hard!”

One early orchestra that played for the dances was the Martinson Broers from Shafer. Later ones were the Mello Blues and the Johnsons. Ven Ollie Skrathult played at dances in Harris. When larger dance halls called pavilions became common, the smaller dance halls lost their popularity.

larity.

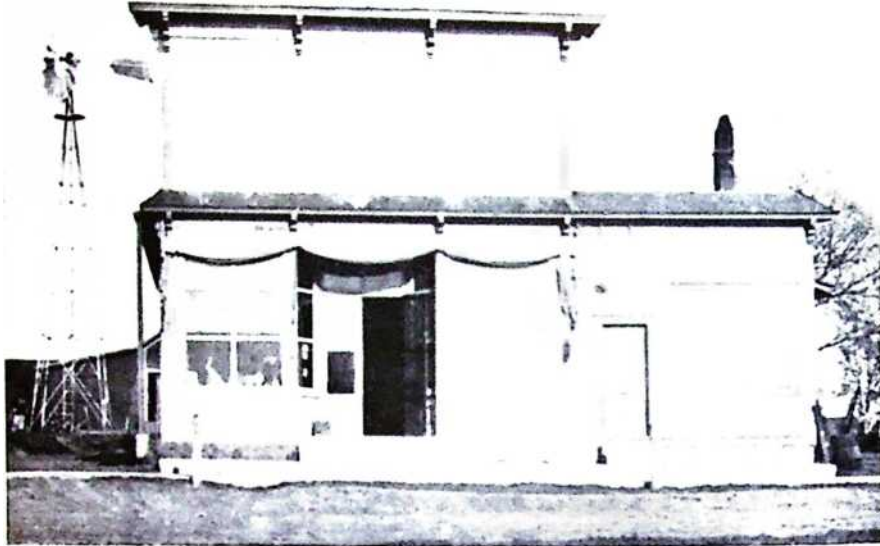


Order of Dances

- 1 Grand March
- 2 Quadrille
- 3 Waltz
- 4 Quadrille
- 5 Schottische
- 6 Tempest
- 7 Oxford Minnet
- 8 Quadrille
- 9 Waltz. (Ladies Choice)
- 10 Polka
- 11 Quadrille
- 12 Opera Reel

Myrtle Jarchow

Harris Post Office 55032



A 1920 picture of the Pioneer Store and Post Office. Notice the letter slot on the Post Office door at the right. Also a good picture of a windmill.

The Post Office in Harris was established on March 16, 1874. Isaac Savage, who had previously served as postmaster in Stark from 1871- 1873, was appointed postmaster. He served until July 1875 when Frederick Wolf took over the duties of the office. Mr. Wolf had purchased the store owned by John G. Mold and the post office was in the south section of the store. The building still stands. William W. Willoughby became postmaster in 1889 and was followed by John Stolberg in 1892, Wallace D. Savage in 1893 and Mr. Wolf again in 1897. During the term of Wallace D. Savage, there were 200 mailboxes in the post office, but there was no rural route. While Mr. Wolf was serving his second term of office, Rural Free Delivery of mail began on a limited basis and by 1904 was general throughout the area. The first mail carriers were James Smith, Alfred Hawkinson, Chas. Hyland, Chas. Ahlstrom and Olaf P. Lindell. The job was not sought after because it meant owning a horse and having a place to keep it. Automobiles were first used about 1915 or 1916 but could be used only from late spring to early fall when the roads were passable.

In those days we didn't have radio and T.V., and the only tie to the outside world, for the early settlers was the daily paper and other publications. Telephone service, by the newly formed Stark Rural Cooperative Company, began in 1909. Therefore, Rural Delivery was appreciated in the community. Roads weren't snowplowed and the carriers weren't always able to get to all the mailboxes. When Fred Sybrant was mail carrier,



Harris Post Office, 1908 — Left to right: Fred Smith, Ernest Waldhoff, Fred Wolf, Olaf Lindell, Mary Wolf, and Charlie Ahlstrom.

there were times when he walked to “Section 12” where he was met by Sixten Swenson and Holger Warner on skis. Then they delivered the mail around the neighborhood. Ted Lindholm used to call patrons from Olson’s store in Stark and patrons walked more than a mile to the store to get their mail. In the 1930s, Frank Ramberg walked the “Pine Lake Loop” many times because of snow or mud, while Fred Smith drove the passable roads in nearby areas.

Popular publications were the Twin City daily papers, the St. Paul Farmer, the North Branch Review, the Rush City Post and others. Two Swedish papers in the area were the “Stats Tidning” and the “Svenska Amerikanska Posten”. The magazine was the “Qvinorna och Hemmet (Ladies and Home). One lady told me that her grandmother subscribed to this magazine, and on the day, it was due to arrive she had the house in order and a big kettle of soup prepared. After the mailman delivered the mail, the family was on its own. Grandma sat in the “other room” and enjoyed reading the continued stories, articles of interest, recipes and instructions for fancy work and sewing.

When Gust Jarchow became postmaster in 1911, he moved the post office to the south addition of the Jarchow building, the building north of Clover’s store. Mr. Jarchow served until February, 1920, when John McLean took over to serve until August of that year. At that time Dwight Jarchow became postmaster and held that position until 1934. He was followed by Irene Almquist Martinson who served until 1944 when Mildred Olson took over the duties. In the early 1950s she moved the office

to the bank building then owned by the Commercial Club. Mrs. Dwight



Post office from 1911 to early 1950s. Postmaster Dwight Jarchow (Post master from 1920-1934), stands with his brother Percy Jarchow.

Jarchow bought the building in 1959 and the Post Office Department paid \$50.00 a month rent. In 1969 the rent was \$74.00 a month. Elsie Mae Swanson assumed charge in 1968. At the present time the post office shares the building with a branch of the Rush City bank, who bought the building in 1977.

There were three routes until the early thirties when one route was eliminated. Fred Sybrant then moved to North Branch. Ted Lindholm,



Delivering mail in "Horse and Buggy" days.

who had served since 1917 remained the carrier on route one until his retirement in 1965. It is interesting to note that Ted used only three days of sick leave in all the years he served as mail carrier. He took sick leave because of injuries suffered when a cow on Clifford Melin's farm kicked him. Fred Smith became the regular carrier on route two in 1915 and retired in the mid 40s. John "Kelly" Hokanson replaced Fred. After Kelly's death in 1951, Stanley Pieterick became the route two carrier. He served until his retirement in 1981.

At the present time route one is 90.30 miles long. Violet Kranz is the carrier. Brian LaBelle is the carrier on route two. He drives 101.55 miles. There are 122 boxes for rent in the office.

I have found no official record of office clerks or sub carriers. The following names come to mind: Sub-Carriers - Fred Smith (before 1915), Leonard Lindell, Wilfred (Pat) Lindholm, Frank Ramberg, Pete Stark, Violet Kranz, Penny Boyce, Kevin Mold, Douglas LaBelle, Debra Mold, and Doris Gilquist. Post Office Clerks - Mary Wolf, Verna Jarchow, Flossie Jarchow, Olga Goldbloom, Henry F. Johnson, Marian Marrier, Wanda Osterkamp, Irene Martinson, Elsie M. Swanson, and Muriel Ramberg.

Until 1851, the cost of sending a Single-Sheet letter 40 miles was either 6 or 8 cents. When the letter traveled over 400 miles, the cost was 25 cents. These prices doubled, tripled or quadrupled with each additional sheet. Envelopes were not used, the letter was folded and the address placed on the outside sheet. Although postage stamps were made available in 1847, mailers had the option of sending letters COD until 1855 when prepayment became compulsory. If the addressees refused to accept the letter, the Post Office's labor and delivery costs were never recovered.

From July 1885 to 1932, the postage rate on first class mail varied from 2 to 3 cents. The rate remained 3 cents per ounce until August of 1958, when it increased to 4 cents. Since then there have been increases of 1, 2, or 3 cents until 1981 when we had a 5 cent increase, which makes our rate 20 cents for the first ounce and 17 cents for each additional ounce for first class mail.

Progress in Harris

In 1970 the present City and Fire Hall was built. It is located on the same corner as the first hall.

City water became a reality in 1975. They already had a well. Before the creamery closed; it was ordered to get a better well. This well was on City property which they had leased. When they were no longer going to be in operation, they sold the well to the city.

By 1972, the City of Harris decided that it needed a water system to provide fire protection and dependable, good quality drinking water, and a sewage collection and treatment system.



A most welcome addition in 1975.

The City retained Mateffy Engineering & Assoc., Inc. to prepare a feasibility study and to assist in securing grants and loans. The Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) provided a low-cost loan (5% interest, 30 year) for the water project. Bids were taken on August 6, 1974 and construction was completed in 1975 at a cost of \$300,000. The water system is comprised of a 152 foot deep well which supplies a 50,000 gallon water tower and a distribution network of 9,800 feet of six and eight inch diameter water main.

In May of 1979, construction began on the sewer system thanks to a \$85,000 grant from the Upper Great Lakes Regional Commission and a \$390,000 grant and a \$335,000 loan (5% 30 year) from the FmHA. The system was completed in 1980 at a cost of \$810,000. The sewer system consists of 9,900 feet of eight- and ten-inch diameter lines, two lift stations and a 10 acre stabilization pond with three cells.

The City Council demonstrated its leadership ability in securing grants, acquiring low interest loans, and managing construction of these complex projects. Residents of Harris have a right to be proud of the work the City Council has done for them.

Pinewood Apartments

Even before the sewer system became a reality, several citizens abetted by the City Council were promoting plans for an apartment building to house senior citizens and the handicapped. In February of 1982 the Pinewood Apartments were ready for occupancy. They are located across Goose Creek going north on County Road #30 and to the right.



Pinewood Apartments

This seventeen-unit one-story building has one unit that meets the Federal Government's specifications as an apartment for the handicapped. One apartment has two bedrooms. The rest are one bedroom apartments. David Berndt of White Bear owns the building. There is a garden area for the residents who wish to do some planting.

History of Harris School District No. 43

School District # 43 located in Harris was established on October 28, 1878. According to information received, the first school house was a small sod building located on the John Stolberg farm. The second school house was the Wolf house and school was held in that building until a larger school was built. We know this new school was taught in 1893-94 by Louise Voss, Principal, assisted by Hattie Starkweather as reported in a June 15, 1894 Rush City Post. This building was of two stories and had three classrooms. School was held in this building until 1952 at which time the building burned on Friday, June 13, at 2:30 A.M. after being struck by lightning. For the next three years school was held in the former hardware building. Since 1955, all of the school children have been transported to North Branch.

Over the years some of the smaller schools closed and transported



3-Room Harris School

their students to larger schools. In 1932 Peaceful Valley students were transported to Harris school for one year. The Stark sixth grade was transported to Harris school in 1953 and one through six in 1954.

In the spring of each school year a play day was held. Students from neighboring schools came to Harris and athletic contests were held as follows: racing, jumping, sack races, ball games, etc. The winners received red, white and blue ribbons.

Stage programs were presented by the students at Christmas time and in the spring. These were given in the hall above Swanson's confectionery store. Admission for the program was a whole ten cents. Holiday parties were held at the school and many times the Harris Woman's Club furnished refreshments.

A hot lunch program was started in the late 1940s. Milk could be purchased both morning and afternoon for one cent a pint. Sarah Moore was the hot lunch cook.

A school band was formed under the direction of Melville Stout. There were eighteen members. They played the entrance march at eighth grade graduation exercises in 1941 as well as at other programs.

State Board Exams in arithmetic, spelling, history, geography and grammar were held in the spring of each year. Pupils had to pass these

exams to graduate. The exams were held in the larger schools and students from the smaller schools were notified where to report for the exam. Many of the students had more than ten miles to go and a lot of them had to walk to get there and return home. These exams took two days. Later each school that had an eighth grade class held the exams in their own school.

The annual commencement exercises were held in various places in the county. Some were held at the Chisago County fairgrounds, some at the school auditorium in North Branch, and some at Chisago Lakes High School.

Following is a list of the Harris School District # 43 teachers: Belle Almquist, Jennie Anderson, Loureena Anderson, Alma Carlson, Judith Carlson, Emma Cedergren, Clara Clausean, A.B. Clinch, Edith Clinch, John Clover, Howard Folsom, Jessie Gillis, Alice Gobler, Esther Gustafson, Lilly Gustafson, Mary Gwinn, Edith Hammargren, Helga Hanson, Mabel Herberg, Alvina Holum, Elsie Hoyt, Catherine Hynes, Florence Jarchow, Myrtle Jarchow, Alpha Johnson, Alvira Johnson, Marie Krantz, Hazel Klock, Elvira Lemon, Hazel Lindholm, Ellen Lindmark, Theresa Lindmark, Luella Lundberg, Elin Lundeen, Miss Lundren, Marguerite Maloney, Clara Matson, Jane Mciver, Joel Mciver, Robert Meachue, Hilda Moline, Anna Moore, Edith Nyquist, Myrtle Olson, Sophie Jarchow Palmer, Nellie Palmer, Anna Roos, Elizabeth Schunicht, Ruth Sgerer, Christine Shinko, Eleanor Skogman, Tiny Smallund, Hellen Smith, Mary Stark, Hattie Starkweather, Miss Stephan, Miss Stokes, Margaret Stoss, Dorothy Sturmer, Rose Swebland, Augusta Swenson, Tillie Taylor, Agnes Vaughin, Louise Voss, and Ethel Winkelecher. County School Superintendents were Mr. Modin, Mr. Cedergren, Mr. A.L. Almen, Mr. E.J. Cederholm, Miss Loureena Anderson, and Miss Nordica Melin. Those who served the position of janitor were Mr. Perman, Frank Reed, en Peterson, Henry Johnson, and Emory Hokanson.

Willow Grove School

The Willow Grove School has many pleasant memories for the hundreds of people who received their early education within its four walls. It was located on County Road #59 about 214 miles northwest of Harris. When the rural schools were reorganized, District 42 became part of independent School District 139, Rush City. The building was sold to the American Legion. In 1953 it was moved into town and became 'The Harris Legion Hall'. Every year on the third Saturday in June, former students, their families, and friends gather here for the annua "WILLOW Grove Picnic". After a bountiful potluck dinner, they like to visit and reminisce about their school days. Often someone will say, If these walls could talk, what stories they would tell".

The first school was a frame structure located at the north end of "Horseback Hill". As the enrollment increased, this building became too crowded, so a larger building was erected in 1894 at a cost of \$200. It

was built on a new site which was more centrally located in the district. The acre of land for the schoolyard was purchased for \$6.00. Willow trees were planted on three sides for a windbreak. Later it became known as the "Willow Grove School".

The new frame building was about 40 by 25 feet. It had windows on two sides which created a glare on the blackboard so it was difficult for the pupils to see their assignments. Many years later, kerosene lamps were installed on the side walls; but they were seldom used. Still later, shades were hung on the south windows which helped the glare problem.

Heat was supplied by a big round oak stove set in the middle of the room. People in the district either sold or donated wood for fuel. It was the teacher's duty to build and keep the fire going. Sometimes the older boys would carry in the wood and empty the ashes for her. In the later years the older children were hired as janitors. Double desks were nailed to the floor. When the stove was fired up, those sitting near it would be roasting and those farther away were freezing. Coats and caps were hung on hooks in one corner of the room and lunch pails were placed on a shelf in the opposite corner. On cold days the lunches might be frozen by noon. In later years the pupils brought food in fruit jars and the teacher heated them in a hot water pan. This was a little different from our present day Hot Lunch Program! A pump in the yard supplied water. Again, it was the teacher's duty to pump a pail of water before school started in the morning. Pupils drank from a common dipper. When a bubbling fountain was purchased, it still had to be filled from the pump in the yard.

Books and materials were scarce and in the early days slates were often used instead of paper. The Library was a small bookcase containing a few books.

Although the teacher had many duties, the most important one was teaching. She taught all the grades from first through eight. Sometimes the enrollment reached 40 or more. The subjects taught were, reading, writing, grammar, arithmetic, and geography. Social studies, art and music were taught later.

In the spring, State Board Examinations were given to seventh and eighth graders. They walked to the Harris School where the exams were given, bringing their own pen and ink. After walking that distance and taking tests from a strange teacher, it is a wonder they could concentrate on the questions. However, they passed with high marks which is an indication of the quality of education received in a one-room school.

There were no busses, so everyone, including the teacher, walked to school. This often meant wading through several feet of snow as the roads were not plowed. Sometimes parents came with a sled and horses to pick up their children after school. That was great fun!

Recreation was taken care of by the pupils themselves at noon hour and the morning and afternoon recesses. A favorite activity was swinging

on the supple willow branches. The more active ones played baseball, bringing their balls and bats from home. In winter they brought their sleds and skates and had fun sliding on the hill or skating on the frozen ponds in the neighboring fields. As time went on, physical education equipment was purchased and the pupils took part in county field meets. In 1935 Willow Grove won a Champion Banner. Other highlights of the school year were the Christmas and Spring Programs. Sometimes they had Basket Socials and the money received was used to buy some needed things for the school such as library books or physical education equipment. In the 1930s a P.T.A. was organized and people came from far and near to socialize and enjoy the entertainment.

It is interesting to compare early school costs with those of the present. Records show that in 1880, total expenditures were \$68.22 for the year, the teacher receiving \$37.50. These gradually increased until in 1899, when the total cost was \$416.54, with the teacher receiving a salary of \$210.00.

Those who went to the Willow Grove School in the years between 1894 and 1953 didn't have all the advantages that present day pupils have; but they learned the real meaning of life and how to cope with their problems. And many of them will tell you: **"Those were the good old days!"**

CHURCHES...

Apostolic Gospel Church

The friendly, enthusiastic Apostolic Gospel Church in rural Harris had its inception in the early 1970s when several area Pentecostal families began meeting together for worship and fellowship.

The church was incorporated in 1977 and became affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church International in 1977; Clifford Thoen, who is an ordained minister with the UPCI, as its pastor.

Services are held at Pastor Thoen's residence, where an area of the walk-in basement is set aside for that purpose, meeting Sunday. A.M. for Sunday School and worship; Sunday evening worship and Wednesday Bible Study.

Members are involved in jail and prison ministry, and they also conduct home Bible studies to better acquaint others with the scriptures.

Apostolic Gospel Church helps to support several foreign missionaries on a regular basis.

As the assembly has grown, the congregation is looking forward to having a church structure in the area. There is always a welcome to everyone to come and enjoy the refreshing presence of the Lord.

Harris Baptist Church

On September 10, 1893, twenty-one members organized the Harris Baptist Church. Twenty of these were former members of the Fish Lake Baptist Church. These twenty lived in the immediate Harris area and found it difficult to get to services regularly at Fish Lake. They felt the need to live closer to a place of worship. They erected a building and had services regularly for over fifty years. They were a training station for the many young men that later moved on to larger fields. George Ferre became a medical doctor, missionary in the Philippines, and author. Nels Ferre became a college professor of theology. Rodger Goodman served pastorates in Chicago and California. Carl Lundquist became President of Bethel College.



Bapitst Church — Frank Reed house on the left, Arvid Cederberg house is across the street.

The Church had ups and downs. The darkest period was 1915-1929. The brightest and most prospective period was 1935-1942. The last new member was entered in 1947 and the Church disbanded in the late forties selling their building to Orrin Olson of Rush City around 1950. In 1956 the building was sold to Lloyd Marrier and he started converting it into a residence. This was never completed as he left Harris. In September 1953 Albert (Bud) Mold purchased the lot and dismantled the building.

Harris Covenant Church

It was on February 14, 1887, when a meeting was held at the John C. Nelson home in Harris to discuss the possibility of organizing a Covenant Church in the Harris Community. With the Lord's leading, business sessions followed, and worship services organized. A lot was purchased by the railroad tracks and by November the church was built and a dedication service held. The church was called the Swedish Mission Covenant Church of Harris, Minnesota. The church joined the Mission Covenant Church of

America in 1901. The parsonage was purchased in 1905. This was sold a few years ago.



The first Mission Church. It was located where the Legion Hall is today.

Laymen in the community who were able to lead services and preach were Otto Olson, J.C. Ramberg, and John S. Swenson, as well as others. Rev. Otto Bengston was the first resident Pastor.

The Mission Cemetery is located just west of Harris. Members of our church serve on this board and many faithful members and friends have been laid to rest there.

In 1923 the church was moved to its present location and a basement and two Sunday School rooms were added at that time.

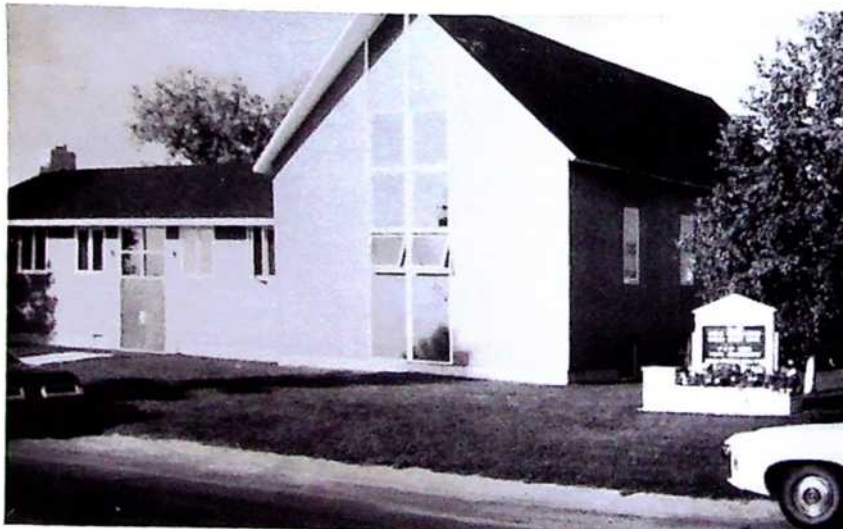
In 1941 two more Sunday School rooms were added and some remodeling and improvements were made. 1956 brought more changes when Pastor Chester Johnson supervised and helped install plumbing and washrooms as well as two heating furnaces to make our church more comfortable.

In 1972, with Pastor Harry Dau's guidance, our church was completely remodeled and a lovely fireside room, classrooms, and a new foyer built as well as expanding our sanctuary. The men of the church did much of the work with Marvin Blomquist as contractor.

The lot south of the church was purchased and this is used as the parking lot.



The Mission Covenant Church after it was moved to its present location, and before it was remodeled.



The remodeled Mission Covenant Church.

It was in 1932 when the constitution of the church was translated from Swedish to English and services began to change to the English language.

The first Sunday School was held on December 11, 1887, and has been an important part of the church since that time. In 1931 Judith Carlson began the Daily Vacation Bible School and this continues each summer. Our young people plan activities and have the opportunity to go to Lake Beauty Bible Camp near Long Prairie, Minnesota. Confirmation classes have been held by the pastors serving the church. Sunday evening services are planned as well as Wednesday evening Bible Study.

The Ladies Aid was organized on February 6, 1896, and has been active since that time. We call it Covenant Women now and meet the third Thursday of each month. We are part of the Braham District and meet twice a year for district meetings.

A China Society, now called Missionary Society, was started in 1906. This helps support our missionaries and teaches about the work on the mission fields. In 1949 our own Kathryn Johnson left for South America to serve three terms in Ecuador as a Missionary teacher. It was exciting to send one of our own to the mission field! At this time we help support the Toziers as well as share in the needs of other missionaries. Our sewing circle has rolled many bandages and made many articles for our missionaries.

God has watched faithfully over the congregation and work of our church.

Pastor Arnold Carlson is now serving our congregation. We trust that as the folks in the area walk through our church doors they will feel God's love and blessing as we continue to worship the Lord together.

First Lutheran Church of Harris

In early January 1891 a group of Swedish settlers met in Harris to plan the organizing of a Lutheran Church. L.J. Stark had donated two lots as a building spot. A notice was posted in both English and Swedish stating, "On the 30th of January, 1891, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon a meeting will be held in Stolberg's Hall for the purpose of organizing a church and conducting such business as is needed". Twenty-two men attended, all of whom are listed on a plaque at church. They were P.H. and John Stolberg, L.J. and E.W. Stark, N.G. and Gustaf Bloomquist, P.J. Krans, Andrew Staffson, Frank Elmgren, Carl Lundin, Johan Johanson, J.P., A.G.L., Ernst, and Johan Alex Johnson, E.A. Samuelson, C.J. and Magnus Lundeen, Frank Nelson, Magnus Wyman, Gustaf Holmstrom, and John Anderson. Pastor E.G. Thegerstrom was the presiding officer. Elected were five deacons and three trustees. Pastor Thegerstrom was hired to preach once a month for one year at a total salary of one hundred fifty dollars. Dues for men were set at three dollars and fifty cents a year, women at two dollars and fifty cents a year, and hardship cases were exempt. Plans were made to build a 35 x 45 structure. All building work was volunteer except for Emil and Conrad Johnson who were in charge of the work. Before the work was completed a sacristy was added. The completed Church was blessed in September of 1893.



The inside of the Harris Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The painting was done by a local man, John Bloomquist.



Harris Lutheran Church

Shortly after C.W. Samuelson became pastor in 1918 the church building was raised and placed on a more solid foundation. This permitted the installation of a furnace. In the late sixties the present addition was made. Previous to that, in 1953 we purchased the present parsonage.

From the time of its organization until 1974, the Church was struggling to become a single congregation. We started being jointly with Fish Lake but only for one year. From 1892 through 1906 we were joined with North Branch. After that it was Rush City until 1927 when we were again united with Fish Lake. From 1940 until 1966 we had student and lay pastors, and for ten years O. Birger Nelson, a retired pastor was hired on a yearly basis. Beginning in 1966 until 1974 we shared a pastor with Rush Point. In 1974 we became a single parish.



This was the first parsonage that the Lutheran Church owned.

We have benefitted from many generous gifts given to the Church in memory of loved ones, some for specified items and some *for* the general memorial fund, all treasured and remembered. Each Sunday as we enter Church we view the High Altar given in memory of Peter Stolberg by his wife in 1919 or 1920.

The Church was called the Swedish Evangelical Lutheran Church until 1953 when the name was changed to First Lutheran Church of Harris and this was recorded in Center City.

During the 1920 - 1925 period, all minutes of meetings were recorded in both the Swedish and English language. This was also when some English services were first conducted. Gradually the English language was used most often and after 1940 the Swedish language was discontinued.

Two Other Churches

In the early days, the building which was the first schoolhouse in Harris was also the Methodist Episcopal Church. We have a picture of that which verifies that fact. How long it was active we have not been able to ascertain. It later was the home of Fred Wolf. After Wolfs, it became the property of Lloyd Johnsons. Today the R. Kopp family reside there.



This Church was also the first school. It was remodeled by Fred Wolf for a home.

The children in northwestern Harris first attended school in a building built at the north end of the "Horseback Hill". In 1894, this school was abandoned for a larger more centrally located new school building which became Willow Grove School. The abandoned school building was converted to an Episcopalian Church. How long it was active and anything about it, no one seems to know. It was later moved to a lot across from Moulton's Rollerdom in Rush City and is used as a residence.

Cemeteries

Harris has three cemeteries. The Mission Covenant Cemetery located just west of Harris on County Road 10 and the vacated Lutheran Cemetery just west of Harris on County Road 9 were purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peterson in 1891 for \$75 each. When the Council decided to develop a City Cemetery, the Lutheran congregation voted to vacate their cemetery. They then sold three-fourths of their property back to the original owner.

Oak Grove Cemetery was purchased from Louis Larson in 1894. The first lot was sold to Johan Johnson for eight dollars. This was a full lot that had room for twelve burials. They have purchased additional acreage for further expansion as need arises.

From May 5, through June 4, 1936 a W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) project sponsored by Harris Village worked the Oak Grove Cemetery. The crew consisted of eight to ten men who worked four days a week. During that period they cut down and made wood out of 26 large oak trees and grubbed out by hand 67 oak stumps. (These stumps were from previous storm damage.) They also raked, leveled, and removed.



A 1936 W.P.A. project; digging out oak stumps at the Oak Grove Ceme-

several concrete borders around cemetery lots.

No question where the name "Oak Grove" came from.

A Rescue

Three men, Rev. Clifford Thoen of Harris, and Oscar Larson and Romanes Mauer will attest to the fact that miracles do happen as the following article reveals.

Saturday evening, September 25, 1982, Don Ayers, a guest at the Thoen home, turned on a CB radio. This radio had been used when Thoen was farming, enabling him to contact his wife. It was normally good for about three miles. This evening they were getting scratchy signals on Channel 26. Thoen recalled that earlier that week he had been in a discussion about how ships tell their positions by a loran system. Curiosity led him to write down the numbers they were getting and later latitude and longitude locations. There was a call for help from anyone hearing this message. Thoen relayed his information to the Chisago County Sheriff who gave the information to the Coast Guard rescue station in Santa Barbara, California. A plane was sent out. It spotted the boat. By dawn on Monday a Coast Guard cutter rescued Larson and Mauer from their boat, the Merry Romer.

Thoen said the signal he picked up was a “skip”. A “Skip” is a radio transmission that has bounced off the atmosphere back to earth allowing it to be heard miles beyond normal background range.

It was some time before Rev. Thoen heard from the men in whose rescue he had a part. He received a letter written by Mauer. Larson and Mauer were on their way from San Diego to Brookings, Oregon. Their trip started in calm seas and when they turned on the engine the transmission failed. They put up the sails and trouble began. Troubles multiplied and finally they had neither manual nor auto pilot control. They were unaware they were involved with Hurricane Buelah. They were battling eighty mile per hour winds. Mauer said, “It was like being in a giant blender.”

They had to get rid of the mast and boom because they were pounding against the hull so badly they feared they would batter through it. They cut the cable. They just did not know how they were able to stay with the boat. Mauer unpacked the CB radio. He received garbled reception so he sent out lines of position and a description of the boat. It was this message Thoen received.

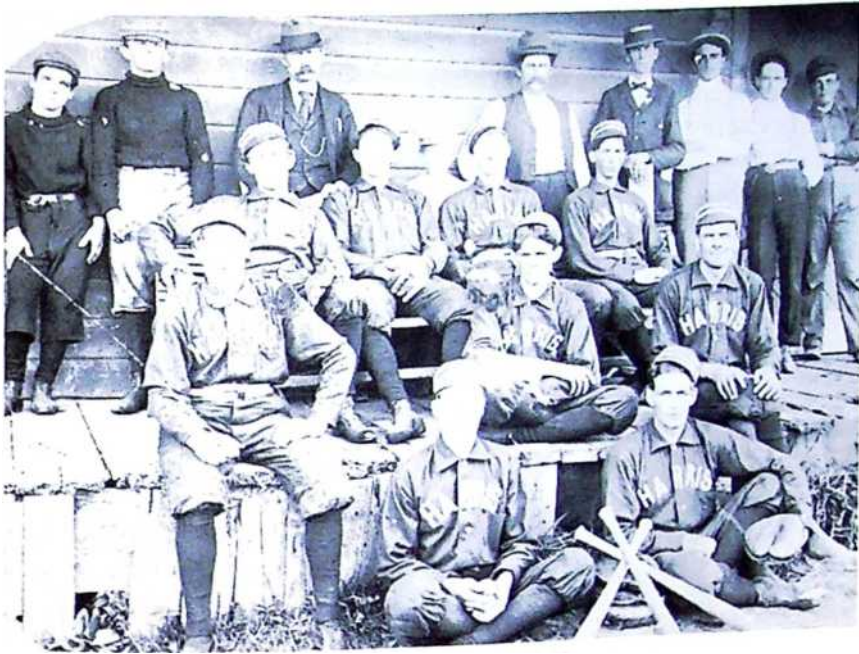
The following two paragraphs from Mauer’s letter gives some insight to his feelings.

“I have thanked the Lord every day — for an unknown but beautiful caring person who heard my distress transmission and became involved by passing my message on. There is an age-old saying that our Lord moves in strange, wonderful ways, and I am living proof of that.

I can only thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you did and for being instrumental in my being here to write to you.”

Summary from articles in St. Paul Dispatch 9-28-1982,
and East Post Review 1-20-1983, and by permission of
Rev. Clifford Thoen.

Softball



1901 Harris Baseball Team



**Frank Nelson, Jr. wearing
a Harris baseball uniform.
This was in the 1920s.**

During the 1920-1930 period there was an enthusiastic group of hard ball players in Harris. Sunday afternoons they would either have a game at Harris or head off for various surrounding towns and even into Wisconsin. Fred Smith was the manager. Of those who played, none of the original players are around anymore.

In 1930 the interest switched to softball. Sunday afternoons would find a group on the flats below Ted Lindholms. An Alberg would be pitching, many foul balls landed in Goose Creek, and the right fielder played on the hillside. This enthusiasm grew and in 1948 Mr. and Mrs. A.O. Stark donated the present Stark Field to Harris. Thanks to an excellent promoter, Stan Pieterick, work was begun at once and light poles were erected. In August of 1948, the field had lights for the first time. The following years one might say that every summer Harris was obsessed with softball, especially the Invitational Tournament period.



Stan Pieterick — picture by Paul D. Hastings, courtesy of the Chisago County Press.

On October 29, 1983, Stan Pieterick was inducted into the Minnesota Softball Hall of Fame. Mark Alberg, one of Stan's former players, wrote the recommendation for Stan's application. Mark said, "Stan has given a major portion of his free time to softball in our community. Many people

have contributed their time to Harris softball over the years, but Stan was the leader. Through his tireless efforts softball has provided the residents of Harris, whether it be as participants or as spectators, with many hours of enjoyment each and every summer.”

Harris Softball History

The present Goose Creek Valley League got started in 1978 and has been operating with five or six teams.

In 1984, the teams are Harris Plumbing and Heating, Cambridge, Swede O's and Merchants State Bank. Most of the players from three of these teams are from the Harris-North Branch area.

Other teams that have participated in the league over the last five years are Forest Lake, People's Bank of Cambridge, Grantsburg, Wis. and Pine City.

In 1948 a former cornfield was graded for proper drainage, leaving a sandy surface without a blade of grass. This became Stark Field. The Village, with the help of volunteer labor, installed poles, lights, and a backstop of tamarack poles and chicken fencing. The outfield poles were later moved farther out to their present position.



Stark Field, when there was no activity.

The City pays for the electricity used for field lights and power for the pop stand. It also pays for mowing and the monthly sewer and water costs.

The Harris Athletic Association was organized to manage and maintain the field for the city. Under its direction some major capital improvements have been made in the last few years. A new chain link fence and backstop were installed at a cost of \$5,500.00. Additional lights have been added to the infield poles. A new pop stand with bathrooms was built with help from the Harris Lion's Club, Harris Plumbing and Heating, Jon and

Lyle Ramberg, Gil Swanson, and other volunteers. New projects needed to further improve the field include additional lights on the out field poles and an infield cover for use during tournaments. The poles, wiring, and many of the lights are now 35 years old and eventually will have to be replaced. The field is in excellent condition and will continue to be a wonderful source of entertainment for Harris and the surrounding area. Thousands of games and a lot of exciting tournaments have been played on Stark Field. We want to continue to improve and maintain the field in the years to come.

Johnson Stuns Feigner with Shutout

Eddie Feigner is recognized as the Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth and Mighty Casey of the softball world. But sometime Sunday afternoon, July 6, 1969, Boo Johnson must have been thinking "He ain't so tough".

Johnson, recognized by many area softball fans as one of the better hurlers around, added some beef to his legend by blanking "the King of the Court" at Stark Field, 4-0.

The Harris chucker used his low rise, drop and change-up, to subdue Feigner and his four-man crew on only four hits.

Johnson's pitching feat may take on more dramatic proportions when one realizes that this is only the second loss this year for Feigner. He has won 98 games.

Bud Fisk scored twice for the Tigers. His second run scored when he crossed the plate ahead of Duane Fisk, who had clubbed a home run to right field. Feigner was doing the pitching from second base at the time.

Harris collected eight hits in the game, far above what Feigner is accustomed to allotting.

The fielding gem of the game came in the seventh inning when Lee Boyce creamed the Centerfield fence to rob Bailey of a home run. The only man coming close to scoring was nabbed at the plate on a great throw by Larson, the right fielder, to Delmer Fairbanks. Not another runner got past second base.

The cocky Feigner crew, being ridden hard by Howie Hanson and Stan Pieterick, the two coaches, folded under the pressure and played listless ball, losing their second game out of a hundred for this year.

On the strength of a 98-2 record, no one would deny that Eddie Feigner is the "King of his Court", but Boo Johnson and his court may have tarnished the crown just a bit.

A Minnesota Historic House

DESCRIPTION:

The Sayer House occupies a prominent position on the southeast corner of County Roads 30 and 9 in the city of Harris. The house is located across the highway and railroad tracks from the principal section of town.



The Sayers House in the fall of 1983. (West Side)



The Sayers House (East Side)

The Italianate structure, dating ca. 1875, is distinctive among the housing stock of Harris, a very small trackside town. Its large scale and its utilization of a local interpretation of a popular style make it a local landmark. The two story frame house features a low hip roof with scroll saw brackets under the eaves. The building is comprised of two rectangular sections. The north section measures two bays wide by three bays deep; the south section, which is set back further from the street and houses the main entrance, is three bays wide by one bay deep. Windows are double hung, two over two lights, and are flanked by wooden shutters. A bay window is located on the south facade. The main entry is located in an enclosed front porch which extends across the front of the south section of the house. A rear entry covered by a hood is located on the east facade of the north section. A smaller section, possibly predating the rest of the house, is located at the rear of the house where the principal sections join.

A one story gable-roofed garage is located immediately east of the house. The house has been well maintained and retains significant design integrity. Exterior alteration is limited to the enclosed front porch. The interior is also well preserved.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Sayer House is significant as a locally distinctive residence in the small trackside community of Harris, representing the speculative plans of the area's early settlers. The Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad crossed the county in 1869 precipitating considerable growth and founding of several new towns. Four years later the town of Harris was platted and named for one of its original proprietors, a prominent officer in the railway company. County records indicate that George Flanders, an early Harris settler and local promoter, likely built the house shortly after the town was platted. The building was allegedly planned for use both as a private residence and as a stop for rail travelers between St. Paul and Duluth and horse and wagon travelers between Taylors Falls and Cambridge. The town of Harris did not undergo significant later growth as did the neighboring trackside towns of North Branch and Rush City, and the Sayer House remains a dominant structure in the community. Distinctive for its large scale and greater attention to architectural design elements, the house is a link to the speculative era of the settlement of Chisago County. The house today is better known for its association with the Sayer family, who have owned the building since 1889, and is a landmark in Harris reflective of the area's nineteenth century development process.

Alura (Lou) Gardiner

Lou, as she was known to everyone, was born in 1879, in Harris. During an interview on her 97th birthday, she told interesting facts about her life. She lived with her parents, Alford D. and Julia Sayer, and brothers, Babe and Brague, in "the mansion on the square". The house still stands and is inhabited by her niece, Sally Carlson. Lou had intended to go to



Alura (Lou) Sayers Gardiner

Hamline University after she finished school in this area, because that is where some of her friends were going, but she said, "I gave up school to get married". Lou lived across the street from the train depot and that is where she met her husband, Harry P. Gardiner, who was the Depot Agent. After their marriage, they lived in Duluth for thirty years until Mr. Gardiner's death in 1930, when Lou returned to Harris to live with her mother. She had one son, Lloyd, who preceded her in death, and one daughter, Bernice "Toddie" Rockefeller, who died in 1983. Her grand daughters, Jerona Pearson, lives in Duluth and Joan Shaw lives in Chicago. At the time of her death, Lou was a great-great-grandmother.

During the interview, Lou talked fondly of that big house with the 14 rooms and 12 foot ceilings. There were no modern conveniences. For Lou, life was busy and frivolous in the late 1800s. She said that Pine City was the center of social activity for the young. "We went there a lot to go to dances. We even went to a dance there on a freight train once, or they would take a slower trip in a hay wagon. We used to dance until 3 A.M. and sometimes take the 5 A.M. train home from Pine City."

According to Lou, Harris used to be one of the friendliest towns and one of the busiest along the railroad line in the heyday of the potato business.

Lou loved to go to movies and would walk many miles to see a movie. She was a great reader and she remembered everything she read.

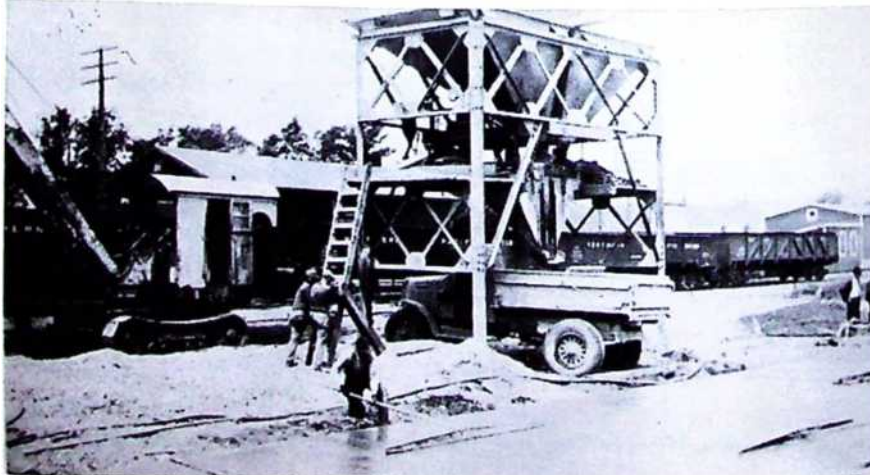
Lou, who resided at Green Acres Nursing Home during the last 15 years of her life, remained sharp and cynical until her passing in 1979, which was three months before her 100th birthday.



Four generations of the Sayer family. From left to right: Bernice Gardiner Rockefeller, Joan Rockefeller Shaw, Julia Sayer, and Lou Sayer Gardiner.

Some Road History

The road east of the railroad in Harris has always been part of the road from the Twin Cities to Duluth. In the 1919-1920 period this road was graveled and was known as State Highway 1. In 1927 the highway



Paving State Highway One in 1927.



*/ **Paving State Highway One in 1927.**

became a concrete highway. About 1951 a big improvement took place. The narrow pavement raised sides were widened so there were road shoulders and this was all covered with a tarvia overlay.

In 1959 a new road era appeared. Hearings were held about a proposed freeway system. In the late sixties the freeway system was gradually



View from County Road No. 9 overpass, looking north in September of 1968.

moving northward. Finally, November 25, 1969 was ribbon cutting day as Interstate 35 from Lino Lakes to Rock Creek was opened on a Tuesday afternoon. At each ramp, dignitaries representing federal, state, county, and local units of government participated in multiple ceremonies. At Harris, Mayor Albin L. Hanson spoke for the city. The North Branch Review summarized the ceremony as follows: "Mayor Albin Hanson of Harris probably summed up the reaction of many observers when he spoke to the crowd at the intersection of *I35 and* County Road 10. He referred to minutes taken when he was Village Clerk in 1959 at the first hearing in this area regarding the proposed interstate route. He headed his minutes 'A Motorist's Dream Come True. Duluth to the Twin Cities without a Stop'." That headline is now a reality."



Governor Harold LeVander speaking at the opening of Interstate 35 at the Harris intersection on November 25, 1969.



November 25, 1969 — Albin Hanson, Mayor of Harris, speaking at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on the occasion of the opening of Interstate 35. The ceremony was held at the Harris intersection. Others on the platform from left to right: Teddy Waldor, Howard Nelson, Robert Becklin, Governor LeVander, and Ed Nelson.

IN APPRECIATION

WE THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE COUNCIL,
AS WELL AS OUR MANY CITIZENS, WISH AT
THIS TIME TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO
OUR OUT GOING MAYOR, JAN. 1ST,

Mr. Albin Hanson

MR. HANSON SERVED FAITHFULLY ON THIS
BOARD IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES FOR A PERIOD
OF 28 YEARS, THE LAST 6 YEARS OF WHICH HE
SERVED AS MAYOR.

Harris Village Council

This appreciation was published in the North Branch Review when Albin completed 28 years on the council, ending December 31, 1969.

The Bank Holiday

March 4, 1933 was the day of Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidential inauguration. On March 6, he declared a "bank holiday". The need for such action was caused by a banking panic which had begun about three weeks earlier. Depositors were withdrawing their money and gold from the banks. The Great Depression was getting worse. The unemployed workers formed long bread lines so they could get food for their families. There were daily foreclosures on farms and homes and everyone realized the situation was not improving. On March 3, over 5,000 banks had to close.

March 6 was an unexplainable and traumatic day. Having deposited my pay check on Friday, I left early Saturday morning by bus for Minneapolis. It was at the bus depot I heard the cries of the newsboys, "Extra! Extra! Read all about it! Bank holiday — all the banks are closed!" I knew then I would return on the next bus.

While waiting for the return bus my friend and I walked through the stores and past some banks. There was very little shopping being done. Outside the banks were crowds of people. They were screaming, crying, and visibly distraught. There were no smiling faces that day.

Sunday, committees appointed by the local bank officers visited the bank customers and asked each one to sign away thirty-five percent of what he had on deposit at the bank. March 9, the Banking Act of 1933 was passed by Congress. This allowed banks that had enough money to reopen any time after March 13. The Harris Bank reopened as it was declared solvent. Many banks never reopened.

Anyone that lived during the Great Depression, which became a reality in October 1929 and continued several years beyond the Bank Holiday, is well aware that those were not the "Good Old Days".

The Armistice Day Storm

The fall of 1940 had been an unusually pleasant one. October had really lived up to its reputation with many days of "bright blue weather". This mild weather continued into November.

Armistice Day was on Monday, so for many folks it was a three-day weekend. A drizzling rain began on Sunday and on Monday the radio announcers were warning of an approaching storm. Because of the radio reports, the Dellos Palmer family left after an early noon meal for their home in Minneapolis. This was to be their last visit with Grandpa Guy Deming before winter set in. They had just passed New Brighton when they had to stop because of a car-bus accident blocking the road. By then it was snowing heavily, the wind was blowing hard, and it was getting bitterly cold. They left the car and struggled through the snow to a small nearby house. In response to their knock at the door a man opened the door and said, "You might as well come in. Everyone else is here." They never did find out where all the people were from.

The house was owned by an elderly lady. Unfortunately her food supply was very limited. A man in the group brought in a case of eggs from his car. These they scrambled. There was only water for the children to drink. They found two beds for the seven children to lie on, the rest stayed up all night. There was nothing to do but talk.

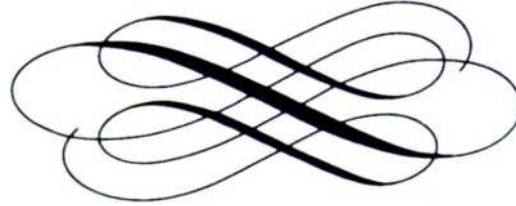
At noon the next day a snow plow came by. When Dellos had his car started, his family left, accompanied by another man and two children that lived along the route the Palmers would be driving. They were happy to get home though it took a long time to get the house warm. A window had blown out in the storm.

In Harris, people who had come to town during the day, spent the night in taverns and at the hotel. Just east of Harris, the John Mold Clover Hill Turkey Farm had turkey problems. The sudden weather change was disastrous. When the rain turned to snow and the chilly winds began to blow, the turkeys ran for shelter over a hill and into ravines. They crowded together and soon were covered with snow. Neighbors with sleighs and horses were called on to help rescue as many turkeys as possible. People formed lines to pass the turkeys to the sleighs. When there was a load, they were brought home to the sheds. People from Cambridge and Rush City came to help.

No loss figures were ever quoted. However, the presence of clouds of

blue bottle flies in the area where the turkeys had run to for protection were present a long time when the warm weather arrived.

Throughout the state many people froze to death. Duck hunters that sought protection under boats were found frozen. Entire families froze to death in their cars. The storm was the beginning of a long winter.



RESOURCE LIST

The historical facts in this book were obtained from the following sources:

Clerks minutes of Harris, 1884

Chisago County Atlas, 1888 .

Central and Northern Minnesota Compendium by Geo A. Ogle and Company, 1904

Minnesota Historical Society

Chisago County Tax Lists

Rush City Post

North Branch Review

United States Postal Department

Fish Lake Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1867-196

World Book Encyclopedia

Modern Woodmen of America, Rock Island, Illinois

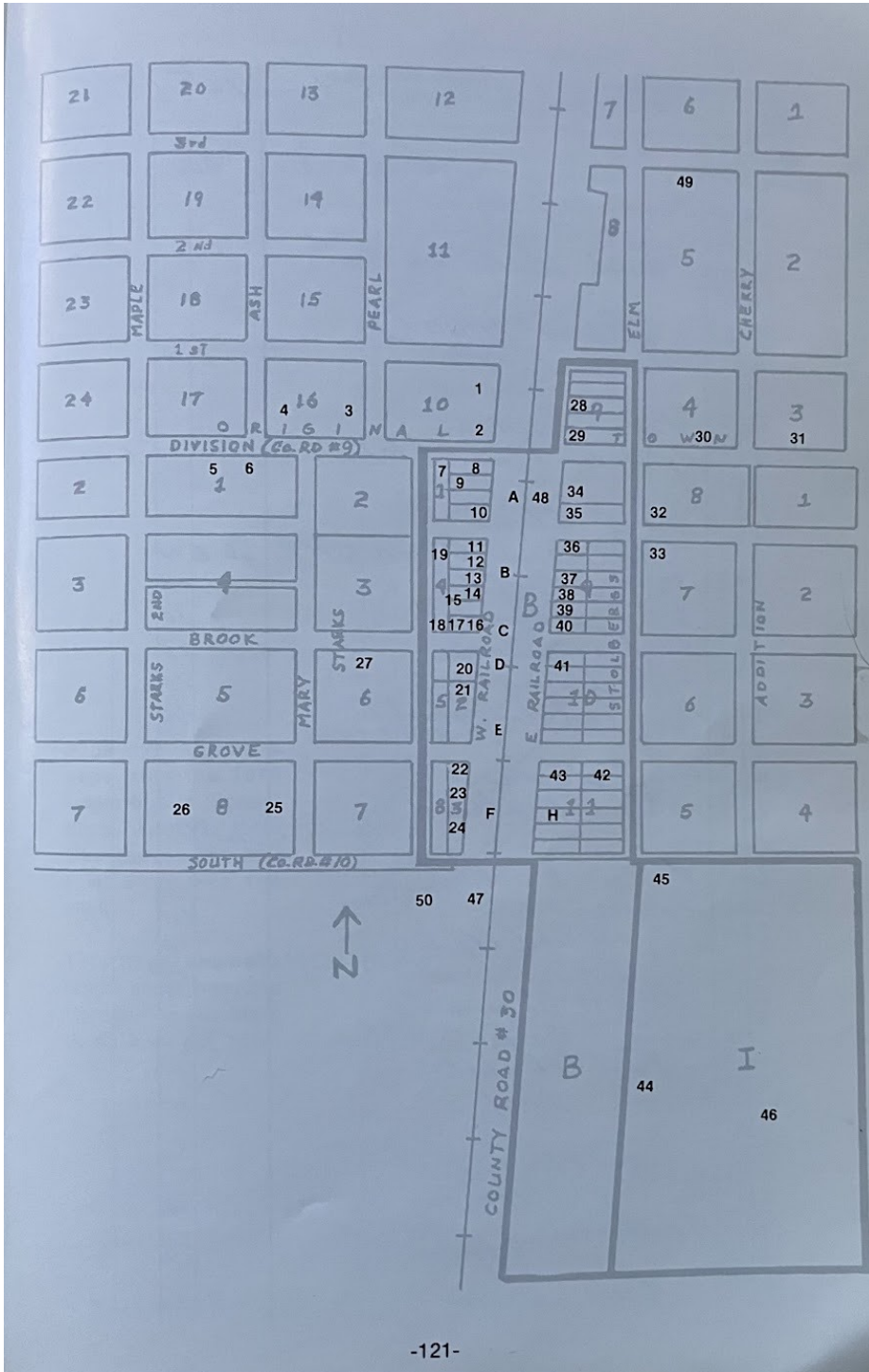
Minnesota State Banking Department

Tracing Minnesota's Old Government Roads, Grover Singley

LEGEND FOR THE PLAT MAP

1. Harris Feed Mill
2. Dwight Jarchow Oil Station
3. Hall - Thomas Potato Starch Factory
4. Harris Potato Starch Factory
5. Firemen's Park
6. Cheese Factory, Bridgeman Russell Creamery
7. Water Tower
8. City and Fire Hall
9. Harris Cooperative Creamery
10. Bank Building, today, Harris Post Office, Rush City Bank
11. Victor Johnson Saloon later John Jarchow Building
12. Old Post Office
13. Dr. Tieton's Office and Drug Store That building was moved across the tracks. A. Strom built a store there. Now is Clover's Store.
14. Otto Peterson Machine Shop
15. Willig Blacksmith Shop. That area has the residence in which Arleigh Christopherson had his Barber Shop.
16. Henry Jarchow Saloon
17. Bank 1908 - 1914
18. Herreid-Strom Store
19. Harris Hardware
20. Ed Stark Mercantile
21. Jim Ledin Repair Shop
22. Gid Miller Feed Store
23. American Legion Hall
24. Old Mission Church
25. Present Mission Church
26. Stark Field
27. Lutheran Church
28. Pioneer Store, then Peterson's Food Market
29. Clover's Store
30. Methodist Episcopal Church (Second school building)
31. Baptist Church
32. Holman's Livery Stable
33. Holman Hotel
34. Sayer's House (A Minnesota Historical House)
35. Harris Tire and Auto Center
36. Wayside. (This corner area had the store owned by Lewis, Welch, Kirkland, Carlson, L. Stark, B. Peterson, and H. Peterson).
37. Butcher Shop
38. Log Cabin Oil Station
39. Kaffe Stuga
40. Skelly Oil Station (Now Getty)
41. Harris Garage. (Today County Garage)
42. Classic Auto Works
43. Harris Oil Storage Tanks
44. Jail
45. City Garage
46. Lagoon
47. Shipping Association Stockyard
48. Depot
49. Pinewood Apartments
50. Almelund Bank
- A. Railroad Supply Shed
- B through H. Scalehouses

Special Note: There were two sidetracks in the potato period. One was west of the main track. The second was east of the depot and the main track. The Lake St. crossing was closed shortly after an accident causing six fatalities occurred. At that time flashers were installed at the north and south crossings.



Harris Station June 20th / 1873

June 20 th	William Wolf Accts Sett		
	By 4 calf skins		2 00
	Cash Sales T.O. Moose		8 65
21	Hans Hassel		
	1 Pair Boots	5 00	
	Petter Erickson		
	By Order From L Olson		6 00
	Loss Olson		
	Paid your Order to P. Erickson	6 00	
	3/4 # Coffee	1 00	
	6 # Sugar	1 00	
	2 Bar Soap	20	
	2 # Smoked	20	
	1 Pint Alcohol	40	
	2 # Small (apples)	10	
	Iron Hooks		
	1 Spool Thread	5	
	1 Bushel Potatoes	65	
	Petter Erickson Candy	20	
	2 Bars	40	
	2 # Dried Apples	30	
	3/4 # Chestnut	54	
	Hogus Engeman		
	1 Pair Boots	5 50	
	1 Pint Alcohol	40	
	2 Bar Soap	20	
	J. Wolf		
	By J. Wolf Miller 7 # Sugar	1 00	
	4 Brown Eggs	50	
		25	
	Cash Sales		8 20

April-18-14

	Chas. Nordberg	
	to 1 Lamp	25
	1 lb. Sugar	40
	3# Coffee	56
	1 Hat	100
	Syrup	25
254	Shoe Polish	10
	Tea	25
	Matches	5
	1 B. Measur	25
		<u>211</u>
	to 12 dy Egg - 15	180
	Ch. to bal	<u>531</u>
	Ben J. Peterson	
	to Oatmeal	25
	B food	15
	Aug Carlson	
	to 2# butter	58
	Chem	25
	Acid Grease	10
	Hat	<u>250</u>
		<u>343</u>
	Fred Stenke	
	to 1 1/2 Cloth	30
	" Jello	10
		<u>40</u>
	Chas. O. Nordberg by Ben	
	to 1 lb. 5g Ch. 150	275
	6 g Ch. 150	150
		<u>425</u>

Page 122 shows a page from the 1873 ledger of The Pioneer Store. John G. Mold was the owner and F.H. Wolf was the clerk.

This page shows a ledger sheet from the Herried—Strom Store dated April 18, 1914.

PRICES IN 1984

Indicated below are food prices as taken from a March, 1960 issue of the North Branch Review. A 1984 comparison list is at right.

Flour-10 lbs	2.19
Coffee-2 lbs.....	4.99
Large can tuna	1.39
10 lbs. Russet potatoes	2.39
1 1/2 gal. ice cream.....	1.19
200 ft. roll wax paper.....	2.19
1 gal. Purex bleach.....	99
Large grapefruit - 1 lb	39
Grapefruit - 6 for.....	1.29
Betty Crocker cake mix.....	99
1 pint strawberries	69
Bananas -1 lb.....	33
Cucumbers - 3 for.....	89
Tomatoes -1 lb	99
Seedless grapes -1 lb.....	1.29
Rice -16	49
Oatmeal - 2 lbs. 10 oz	1.69
Asparagus -112 lb	72
Carrots - 2 lbs.....	89
Ring bologna -14 oz	1.79
Duncan Hines brownie mix.....	1.47
Bag of frozen vegetables -16 oz	79
Asparagus - 10-112 oz. can.....	99
Bag of radishes -1 lb.....	59
Mixed nuts -12 oz	3.59
Hills instant coffee - 8 oz	3.69
Grape jelly	99
Frozen bread dough - 5, 1 lb. loaves	99
Dog food - 25 lbs	3.99
Land O Lakes butter -1 lb	1.99
Milk -1/2 gal.....	100
Large eggs -1 doz	95
Loaf bread -1-112 lbs	79
Sweet rolls - 6.....	1-05
Wheaties -12 oz	99
Lean hamburger -1 lb	1.39
Rib roast - per lb.....	2.69
Rib steak -1 lb	2.99
Golden Plump chicken -1 lb.....	83
White sugar -10 lbs.....	2.59
Brown sugar - 2 lbs.....	79
Hersheys baking chocolate - 8 oz.....	2.29
Cream of tartar -1-112 oz	87
Calumet baking powder - 7 oz.....	1-20
Yeast -3,4 oz. pkgs.....	62
Cinnamon - 4 oz.....	2.31
Peanut butter -16 oz.....	1-39
Graham crackers -1 lb	1-37
Ham - half (1 lb.).....	3.19
Banquet frozen dinner -11 oz	79
Ketchup - 32 oz	88
Schilling pepper - 4 oz	69
Coke in cans -12 pack.....	2.88
Tide detergent -171 oz	5.98
Tom Sawyer weiners - 2 lbs	2.59
Vanilla ice cream - 5 qts	3.29
Assorted ice cream - 5 qts	3.59
Crisco shortening - 3 lbs.....	2.49
Stew meat -1 lb	2.09

Sekelgammalt Amerika-Kontrakt

STATE-LINE
 Chief-Office Glasgow
 Agent i Hall
 F. M. Lunde
 Svenska Chambers
 Företagskassa

No 3323

STATE-LINE.

Jag undertecknad, Nilsen åtager mig ålönad och skattskyldigt utvändigt behörigt
 från Göteborg till Harris Minnesota
 med utgående 1879 års Dobari
 utgående fall högt, landföreläggning i Amerika landförbud.

I den underskrift, Nilsen bevisar sig förordet underförstått utgående
 från Göteborg till Harris Minnesota
 för den mån av 1879 års
 beting payment in full, and including landing expenses in America.

Reva och härtida ang.
 fartyg den 14 Juli 1882
 guld 100 E

Passagerers namn.	Ålder.	Födelseort.
<u>Nils Eklund</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>Luffe i den</u>
<u>Anna Anna</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>Harris</u>
<u>Son Nils Johan</u>	<u>14</u>	<u></u>
<u>Son Carl Gustaf</u>	<u>11</u>	<u></u>

The American will take place from the 14th of July 1882
 From Harrisburg the passenger will be taken to the Sturgeon in Hall, and thence within 12 hours after the customs examination, to Glasgow or third class carriage on the railroad. The departure will take place from Glasgow by the first steamer belonging to the State-Line which departs weekly within eight days from the arrival there.

In the above payment is included:
 Storage in the Sturgeon and third class carriage on the railroad. Forwarding of baggage 10 shillings for each person over 11 years & one half for children between 1 and 11 years. Good and sufficient food from Oronochoro to New-York and lodgings in England and Glasgow.

I öfriga delar innehåller detta kontrakt af mig af skilda åtaganden, eller som medföljande & skedderna ålönad berättar jag mig de bruksmän- ner, som innehåller 1, 2 & 3 nummer af Utvandringslagen af den 6 Februari 1882.

Göteborg den 14 Juli 1882
N. Nilsen

Uppliu' i orb godklattf Jjom ippr(iU4i i Jfr rriMIBi si'e 864 Koigl Firerille<te << * Mr. ISO; Wtgar: GtHttor, < PolUkomuwtv

This is a copy of the passenger contract issued to Nils Eklund, his wife Anna and two sons on July 14, 1882. The total cost from Goteborg, Sweden to Harris, Minnesota was \$187.60. Many descendants of this family still live in nearby areas, especially Rush Point. This copy is from a paper published in Sweden and was given to us by Hilda Holm.



A street scene going north before what was Highway 61 was hard surfaced. Perhaps at that time it was known as State Highway 1.



West side of railroad tracks: left to right, Willig's blacksmith shop, Otto Peterson's machinery store, doctor's office, drug store and Ice cream parlor in one building, ice house in background, and Victor Johnson building. In the foreground is the scale house.



The first train from St. Paul to Duluth went through Harris August 1, 1870. The depot was built before 1875. It was last used in 1965 and was torn down in 1966. The lumber was taken away by Harold Kick of Pine City.



Vic Johnson's Corner. Notice the post office sign. Mr. Jarchow moved the post office to this building in 1911. The next building was a drug store, Ice cream parlor and doctor's office. Willig's blacksmith shop and house are next in line.



Looking southeast, a view of Wayside Equipment with the old livery barn in the background.



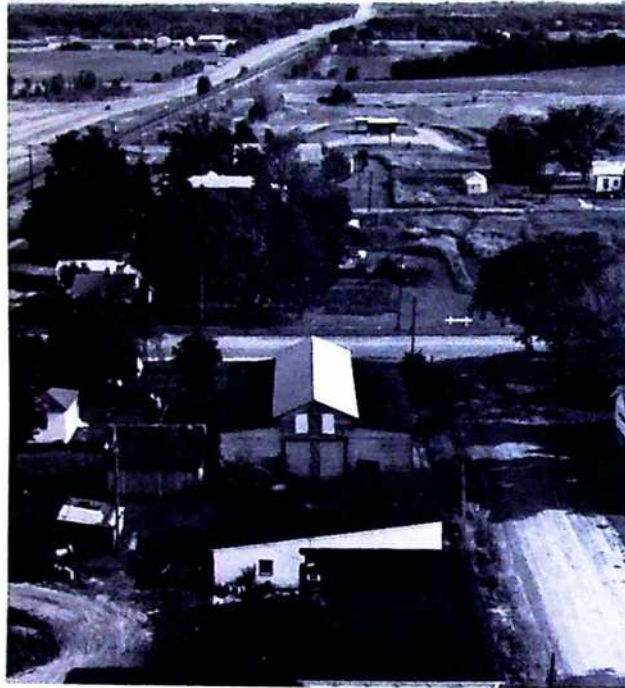
Looking southwest one sees the Lutheran Church and to the right is Stark Field.



Looking southeast. In the foreground is the Kaffa Stuga, Getty Oil Station, County Garage, Classic Auto Works and in the distance the lagoon.



Looking northeast across the tracks to Pinewood Apartments.



Looking south over the old hardware store (now an antique store). The tiny white roofed building is the Almelund Bank.

