



[History](#)

[Town Hall Page](#)

HOME

[Area Maps](#)

[Village Page](#)

[Tourism](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Churches](#)
[Organizations](#)
[Business](#)
[Yellow Pages](#)



History Pages

[1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#)
- [5](#) - [6](#)

[Volunteer & Projects Page](#)

Explanation of Future Data Collection and Volunteers Needed

Secret Societies

[Knights of Pythias-1](#)

[Knights of Pythias-2](#)

[Knights of Pythias-3](#)

[Knights of Maccabees](#)

[Knights of Maccabees](#)

[Secret Societies](#)

Wausauke Centennial Issue
Aug 5, 1987
Interviews

[Andrew Nejedlo](#)

[Jim & Helen Schlies](#)

Wausauke Area History Page 2

Touch a picture for an enlarged view.

Touch underlined text for expanded document.

Booming Hotels



1883 Munroe Log Cabin



Chamberland Hotel



1889 Hotel Wausauke



Exchange Hotel 1888



Shepherd Hotel



Atlas Hotel

At one time there were six hotels and numerous boarding houses in the Wausauke community. The original Monroe log cabin, Chamberland Hotel, Hotel Wausauke, Exchange Hotel, Shepherd Hotel and the Atlas Hotel are depicted above.

The log cabin was torn down to build a farm implement business owned by Roy Gustaveson and then later became Smith's Hwy 141 Grocery.

The Chamberland Hotel was situated where the current Norm Smith Home is located on 1st street. Norm bought two 50 foot lots, sold the lumber for \$1 and built his home. This was the main street in our village at the time.

The Hotel Wausauke built in 1889, is the only original hotel structure still standing. It currently houses Graphic Impressions Photography Studio on 502 Main St.

The Exchange Hotel, built by John Underwood in 1888, burned in 1911 and was demolished. The site was the location of Frank Murphy's Tavern, restaurant and rooming house. The Murphy Manor was also the home of

Miscellaneous Stories

[Dr. DeSalvo](#)

[Dynamiting Stumps](#)

[Interconnecting
Railroad History](#)

Contributions to our history
can be sent to:

brian@giphoto.com

George E Bogrand. The Exchange Hotel was located in the lot between the Newingham Supper Club and Carriveau Insurance.

The Shepherd Hotel was later modified as an apartment house and was located west of the railroad tracks & the Chippewa Bar Property. The flat store front was removed and a new entrance and windows were built to accommodate the multi story apartment building. Demolition of the building was done in the Summer of 2010 with an economic stimulus grant given to Newcap to allow construction of four new apartments in the form of townhouses to replace the old structure. Land and building will then be given back to the Village of Wausauke.

The Atlas built in 1888 by Tom Allen went thru a succession of owners until it was torn down.



Shepard Hotel on
right and 1915
School on left



Hotel Boarders



Front of Hotel
Wausauke



Hotel
Wausauke 1967



Ted Painting in
1960's

The former Shepherd Hotel shown adjacent to the Old School on the left was modified into a multi apartment building. Granma Shepard was a red head, and lived there with her daughter, Vivian. The Hotel acted as a boarding house for new and unmarried teachers. The Shepard Hotel building and the adjacent school property was demolished in the Summer of 2010 and two single story townhouse apartment buildings with four apartments will replace the former Shepard Hotel Building.

With the influx of laborers and sales men to the area, the high population of the village required numerous hotels and boarding houses. Many of the laborers eventually stayed at the lumber camps spread all over the area so they could be closer to their work.

The 1889 Hotel Wausauke was built by a man named Clawson of Oconto. It changed hands several times until sold to the Skidmore Land Company. Gould Smith operated the hotel for the Land Company for a while and then purchased it and operated it on his own for a time. He then sold it to Ted and Hattie Krzewina. The Hotel Wausauke was a boarding house with sleeping rooms, saloon, apartment for the owners and served dinner for its guests continuously from 1889 until 1984. Rooms were still being billed at \$7.00 per night up until it closed in 1984.

A second addition was added to the north side soon after it was originally built creating the floor space of over 4300 square feet. A four season sun porch was added to the East side by the current owners increasing the building space to 4500 Sq Feet. One of the Hotel Register books is currently in the Amberg Museum on display and shows various people renting rooms for daily or weekly use.

Several of building owners came upon owning the structure thru card game winnings. The longest recorded owners were Ted and Hattie Krzewina who owned it for 48 years and maintained it as the Wausauke Hotel up until one year before selling it to Ann Christofferson, a nurse, in 1985 and it was re-opened by Brian & Ann Hartnell as a Bed & Breakfast for five years. The building has been completely renovated using color schemes, antique furniture, & wallpaper to maintain the flavor of the past. It functions as a residence for the owners and is the current location of Graphic Impressions Photography Studio.

Ted Krzewina is seen painting the porch of the Hotel Wausauke in the 60's.



Menominee River Brewing Company



Menominee River Brewing Company Beer Bottle



Hotel Wausauke Stained Glass Window



Hotel Wausauke Hotel 2009

One of the earliest owners of the Hotel Wausauke was the Menominee River Brewing Company who had to purchase the building in order to sell liquor in the area. Kegs and bottles of beer were brought into the area for consumption from the Menominee River Brewery.

The Hotel had a beer bar supplied by Menominee River Brewery. Above the four 52 inch display windows of the hotel lobby you can see two original leaded stain glass windows. Two of the original stain glass windows remain today. There was a third stained glass window above the front lobby door that appears in one of the photos above, it is behind the men standing in front of the hotel. This center window was replaced by a metal panel for some unknown reason. No history was passed on to the owners as to what happened to that window.

Two of the same large stain glass windows were in the Menominee River Brewing Company Factory in Menominee Michigan. The Menominee brewing company windows were purchased by George Litts, an Antique Dealer. The brewing company windows were destroyed in a fire at the Antique Dealers warehouse years ago.

The dining hall, where meals were served, is currently used as the studio shooting area. There was a swinging door that lead from the dining hall to the kitchen. A 3 inch hole was bored thru one of the door panels to allow the people in the kitchen to peer into the dining hall to determine if people were done.

The beer hall was originally in the lobby and then later moved to an adjacent room which is now currently an office. Men drinking in the beer hall had opportunities to relieve themselves either in the small bath below the stairs or the one hole outhouse in the barn. Sanding and bleaching the bathroom floor could not totally fix the results of bad aim on the part of the beer hall participants.

The building had 12 bedrooms up, 1 bedroom down and one and a half bathrooms shared by boarders and the owner's family. Six rooms are currently still available as bedrooms on the second floor and the current owners use 3 former bedrooms for other purposes. Over time some of the smallest rooms were taken out to create an apartment with more spacious rooms.

Wausauke Independent Newspaper - December 1, 1900

Assault with intent to kill....George Belling, a woodsman, will have to answer to that charge. He pointed a revolver at Charles Giguere's head in the sample room of the Wausauke Hotel Sunday afternoon. Belling came to Wausauke Saturday night from Holmes & Son's camp and took on a fair size load of booze. The next morning, he proceeded to increase the size of his hag, and when he called at the Wausauke Hotel, he was magnificently skated. Mr. Giguere, who runs the place, claims that Belling came up to him as he was standing near the bar and struck him. One thing led to another, with the belligerent Mr. Belling pointing a .38 revolver at Giguere's head. Giguere ducked. Belling was apprehended by Deputy Sheriff B.S.

Casterton and thrown in the slammer in Marinette. Later, he was found guilty, fined \$25 and court costs (\$45.69). Unable to raise the cash, Belling served his debt to society in the Marinette county jail.

The Hotel property originally came with a two story barn just east of the hotel that contained a one hole outhouse, storage shed area with ground and second floor loft storage and a two story section used as an ice storage house, horse barn and then garage. Ice was cut from lakes and transported to the Ice Storage House. The ice was placed into the ground floor portion of the building on the street side and each layer was covered with straw for insulation. It was then sold a block at a time. A cistern was located under the barn and has since been filled in and the garage built above it.

The original heating was done with cast iron stoves which were vented thru the two chimney's. Heat would drift up the stair wells, and grates left in the floors of the rooms above. The wood lobby floor has a stain of the Cast Iron Stove floor plate still evident.

A stoker coal fired boiler system with radiators throughout the building was later added for more even heating. The stoker bin could hold approximately 24 hours worth of coal before it had to be refilled. A one pipe steam radiator system heated the rooms, steam went up the pipes and heated large iron radiators and the cooled water would then return to the furnace thru the same pipe. Water for the boiler system and washing was drawn from multiple cisterns located under the foundation of the barn and hotel. All of the cisterns were connected to the downspouts of the roofs to collect water. Water was then siphoned out of the cisterns using a hand lever water pumps. One was originally located in the kitchen sink of the residence.

When Ann was at work in Marinette, the auger system supplying stoker coal to the furnace failed to shut off. This caused the inside of the firebox to overheat to a point the outside of the furnace was glowing. The fire box was destroyed. Luckily Ann arrived after work and checked the system to find the problem and turned off the power to the Auger before there was a total meltdown. This coal plant was replaced with a new oil burning furnace and then later was converted to a natural gas supply when natural gas was piped into the building. Difficulty in finding repair technicians to maintain the balance to the old one pipe steam system forced a change to the current copper pipe baseboard hot water system with a high efficiency furnace.

Every room (25) in the building has been restored since 1985, four roofs were removed to replace it with 35 year sculptured shingles, all downstairs floors sanded and stained, Vinyl siding was added to protect the exterior, seamless gutters, metal clad soffits, new porches on Jackson street side and main street front, two & 1/2 car garage added, extensive landscaping with stockade fencing. Care was taken to maintain the look and feel of an older home but adding many modern touches inside. The entire building was rewired for electric, attic insulation blown in, side wall insulation blown in before the siding, drop ceiling added to many rooms, 12 ceiling fans added for ventilation in many rooms. The last major renovation was a complete remodel of the kitchen from non functional to modern convenience. The four season room adds 200 square feet of living space adjacent to the kitchen and offers a buffer from the northeast winds that always made the kitchen uncomfortable.

Three Beer Bottles in Antique Collection. Three of the brown Menominee Brewing Bottles with corks are on display at the Hotel Wausaukee and were donated by one of Graphic Impressions customers who found them in his basement.

Role of Secret Societies in Era



Knights Of Pythias



Maccabees Medallion

The **Knights of Pythias** building was located on the property immediately North of the Monroe Log Cabin on Main Street. The Knights were a benevolent organization with the original chapter formed in 1864 in Ontario Canada. It is unknown as to when the Wausaukee Chapter was formed or when it disbanded. We continue to investigate their role within the community at this time. This organization is still active in the US, Canada and the State of Wisconsin. See their website for information at <http://www.pythias.org/>.

The Knights building was used as a meeting hall/banquet facility and was open to any group wishing to use the building. The full basement had a dirt floor and was used primarily for storage. Local kids were allowed to come to the hall and use their air rifles to shoot target practice in the upper hall.

Norm Smith

The Knights of Pythias building was purchased and converted to a Gamble Hardware Store that was owned and operated by Chet Ryan of Middle Inlet. Bob & Pat Bastian purchased the Gamble Store business and eventually moved their hardware store to the Laun Bros Store Building on Main and Harrison when it came up for sale in 1967.

Bob Bastian sold the former Knights of Pythias/Gamble Hardware building to Mike Elias in 1967 and it was opened up as a cabinet making shop. Bank North purchased the building and land from Elias for their new bank on the corner and asked Elias if he wanted to move it. Elias raised the building and moved it to the lot immediately north of the former Hardin Welding block building currently used by Bank North for storage. Elias then continued to run his cabinet shop out of the relocated building.

Another beneficial order operating in the area during the logging era was a group called the **Knights of Maccabees**. This group originally was formed in London Ontario in 1878 and eventually made their headquarters in Michigan. They offered a death benefit of \$1,000 to widows, dismemberment and sick benefits from \$4 to \$10 per week, and offered insurance to working people from birth to age 70.

After 1962, although the Order was consolidated with an assurance company, members stayed with the Order as a separate social chivalric entity until the demise of all of the older members in 2000. It then completely became an insurance company and this chivalric aspect of the Order was revived in 2001. See PDF files explaining secret societies. Many insurance companies were not interested in sales to ordinary people and there was little in the way of "safety nets". Groups like the Maccabees, Foresters, Woodmen, and so on provided a safety net along with pleasant social meetings and other gatherings.

America Letters From Wausaukee to Antwerp 1887 - 1937

"... Louis Slaets wrote to his mother in 1898 that he had been the president of a local assurance company for four years and that they had 75 members. This local assurance company was actually the brotherly society of the Wausaukee Lodge of the Knights (and Ladies) of the Maccabees. The members were mostly ordinary people such as foresters and woodmen. They

joined the Lodge as it organized pleasant social meetings but especially because they got, after paying a monthly contribution, sick and death benefits. The Lodge had more than two hundred thousand members in 1896. They converted to a life insurance company in 1962 and changed its name to The Maccabees Mutual Insurance Company.

Dominique Van Rentergem

The current Knights of Maccabees organization has returned to its original roots and is no longer involved in the insurance business. See the current Web site for details.

<http://www.dubsarhouse.com/kotm/index.html>

(Wausauke Independent Newspaper, Jan. 6, 1906)

"Louis Slaets and Victor Debot went to Crivitz on Wednesday to identify the remains of the late Al Hamilton who committed suicide (by poison). They represented the Knights of the Maccabees of which the deceased was a member carrying \$1,000 insurance in the society.

(Wausauke Independent Newspaper - Sat, December 21, 1895)

KILLED AT DUNBAR - Last Friday morning, the Girard Lumber Company's mill was the scene of a fatal accident. Charles H. Sandstone was running the edger when the plank that was being trimmed pinched the saw and was thrown back, striking Mr. Sandstone in the side. The accident happened at 10 o'clock in the forenoon and the injured man lived until 3 o'clock in the afternoon, being conscious to the end. Deceased was 29 years old and leaves a wife, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Debot of Wausauke to whom he was married a little over a year ago, and one child, an infant. He was a member of Dunbar tent, K.O.T.M., in which he had his life insured for \$1,000. He had worked for the company for five years as edger man and was well liked and highly respected by his fellow men and associates who extend condolences to the bereaved wife. The funeral was held at Wausauke on Sunday, the remains being brought down by a special train on the branch, the Dunbar Maccabees being on board. The Wausauke Maccabees joined their fellow sir knights in the impressive ceremonies of the order and marched in the funeral procession which was one of the longest ever seen in this vicinity.

See [Secret Societies](#) for additional information about both groups and their founding.

The Story of Mc Neely's



Mc Neely's 1989



Mc Neely Drug Store Interior Prior to 1989



Mc Neely After Extensive Renovation 1992



Mc Neely Grand Opening 1992



Mc Neely's Drug Store 2009 Image

The original Mc Neely building located on the Corner of Hwy 141 and Tyler was built in the late 1800's and was owned and operated as a livery stable by a man called O.H. Herman until sold and re-opened as a Drug Store in 1910 by George L. Mc Neely. George was born in Menominee

Michigan on 12/21/1891 and his wife's name was Alva.

[A recollection of the Mc Neely store thru young Hank Laun.](#)

Rudy remembers tearing down the livery stable building behind the Mc Neely's store when we were doing work behind the alley. There was all kinds of junk in the building along with some horse related collars. Kenny Gocht had to get permission to store block on the McNeely lot because he didn't own it and they were there to clean up the site. *Rudy Messar*

When he was young he remembers kids went into the drug store and George used the ice cream cooler in a back room during the Winter to save electricity rather than running the one in front and the back. In the front of the store he had hard candies in large containers with lids. The kids would order ice cream knowing George would have to go to the back room and they would lift the lids on the candy jars and each take a piece of candy out while he was gone. It took awhile before George would catch onto what was going on and then he would dart into the back room and come back just as quickly to see if anything was going on behind his back. *Norm Smith*

George Mc Neely was tighter than bark on a tree. If you had 50 cents and took a girl there you could get a couple malted milks for 25 cents but it wasn't very thick. We would go down at noon because school was open as long as you got back on time, you could get an ice cream cone for 10 cents. *Rudy Messar*

Mitch Wengiel and his as she win the community, plding in the 50 to Corior of the building drawers stacked underneing to hold liquotted/canned ite scases for merold fashioned soda tools and counand booths on the otha bas ement with a dirt floor, office/storage addition and a second floor for a merchandise storage area. Mitch was also an engineer that came with experience from down south of the state with Water & Sewer Departments of large cities. He was instrumental in designing the Waste Water Pond System and water/sewer system for the Village of Wausaukee.

Art Dashut purchased the building in 1989 and started a major restoration of the exterior and interior of the Mc Neely Drug Store building. Outside windows and clap boards were replaced, sanded and restored to original finish, new outside sign painted onto the North exterior wall, signs painted to the front window panels under the glass, Awning erected. A courtyard was developed on the South side using pea gravel , plantings around the base of the building and attractive exterior table & chairs. The inside floors were sanded to original finish, back wall was removed to open the interior, staircase & bath rebuilt, all walls & ceiling were repainted, ceiling fans installed. The original building became a much more vibrant store with lots of light and charm. It was then re-opened in 1992 as Mc Neely's Gift Shop and operated by two different managers. The first was Barbara Burns and then later came Cathy Mitchell.

The building has been purchased multiple times with the first owner O.H. Herman, George Mc Neely, Mitch Wengiel, Art Dashut, Tom & Sue Delabreau (Daisy Antiques). Prior to the sale of the building by Art Dashut to Tom & Sue Delabreau, there was an auction of all interior content. The building was vinyl sided, thermal windows installed and upgraded for heating and cooling by the Delabreau's.

It has functioned in its history as a livery stable, drug store, items for sale include: gifts, soda fountain, fishing supplies, cards, newspapers, magazines, and pipe tobacco products, and Antiques. An auction was conducted to sell off off the internal fixtures and furnishings. The empty building was then placed up for sale by the owner, Art Dashut.

The building was purchased by Becca Lacoy (Becca's Antiques & Trading Post) and featured antiques, unique gifts, furs and home decor. It was then sold to Nate Gamlin and houses his Realestate Office called Big Woods Realty.

The Blacksmith Shop



Spangler Black Smith Shop Interior



Spangler Black Smith Shop Exterior



Spangler Building Destroyed in Tornado 1958



Temporary Location of Hardin Welding after Tornado of 1958



Former Hardin's Welding Building - 2009 Image

The Spangler Black Smith Shop was located in the empty lot east of the current American Legion building on Harrison St. "Mr. Spangler had his shop in a barn next to his house and the large double doors were always open. We watched him make horseshoes, shoe horses and repair farm implements. His hearth was kept hot by a bellows he worked with his foot or he could use his hands as well. He heated a piece of iron, hammered at it on his anvil to shape it and then doused it in a big water trough. He was friendly to the boys who watched and cheerfully went on doing his work even when we were in the way. Mr. Spangler's son became Marinette County Sheriff." *Hank Laun*

After WW II, Spangler retired and sold the business to Joe Netupski, who also lived in the adjacent home just east of the shop. He maintained ownership of the building until the tornado of May 21st, 1958 destroyed the building. JoAnn Netupski said "The tornado hit on a Saturday and Dad had to go to Father Sladek to ask permission to get men to work on Sunday to knock it down because it was leaning toward our house." Johan Netupski is shown in the plaid coat standing in the photo of the damaged Welding shop.

Harry Hardin had purchased the business from Netupski and was running the welding operation and renamed it the Wausauke Welding Shop. Hardin's shop was temporarily set up in a Red Barn on Butternut Street for a few years, just East of the Krist Oil station.

The Welding shop was rebuilt and then re-opened in the cinder block building on Harrison Street that currently is used by Bank North for storage. It is two lots west of the original Spangler Black Smith Shop. Harry Hardin sold it to Bill Zahorik on a land contract in 1969 and Harry Hardin passed away in January 1970. The new owner only made sporadic payments towards the purchase and the business was eventually turned back over to the family of Harry Hardin in 1972 and the business was shut down.

The cinder block building was also the home to Jerry's Service from the Fall of 1979 thru the Summer of 1985 when he built his new location on Hwy 141 and moved. The cinder block building is currently owned by Bank North.

The American Legion



The former Christ & Smith Store on Main Street



Polomis-Tahlier American Legion Post 150



Former American Legion & now Land of Oz Museum



2009 American Legion Building

The original Christ & Smith Store property on First Street was purchased by the Wausauke American Legion. The food store portion of the building was the land developed as the new Legion Building. The older legion

building had been renovated some years ago to accommodate handicap access, new roof, new siding and windows. When the Legion purchased the former Blue Delft Liquor Store for their relocation, they rented the old building to the Land of Oz Museum which is owned by former teacher, Gary Parrett.

The current American Legion building on Harrison street sits on the formerly vacant lot that was west of the Spangler Black Smith Shop.

Ownership of this building went from the Jehovah's who originally built their Kingdom Hall on this lot. The Jehovah's moved to Hwy 180 and sold the building to Shirley Hawley of Silvercliff and it was re-opened as the Blue Delft Liquor and Restaurant Supply. When the owner died the building was vacant for a few years until the building was purchased by the American Legion and renovated to its current appearance.

Frank Murphy & Murphy Manor



Murphy Manor



Murphy Manor with
Sidewalk Canopy
Frame



Unerwood / Frank
Murphy's Bar

Built as a rooming house, adjacent to the Old Post Office was a building known as Murphy Manor. Frank Murphy was a large individual that walked around with a big cigar. We liked to follow Frank around because when he bought something, he pulled a huge roll of bills with a rubber band around it from his pocket. *Hank Laun*

The owner, Frank Murphy, built a navy blue canvas covered walkway from the front door to the sidewalk making this establishment more inviting and attractive from the street.

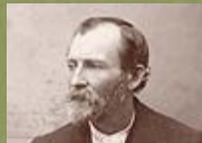
The Murphy Manor building was later owned by Helen & Wally Bereza and became the Doll and Button Museum. The fabric on the sidewalk canopy was long gone but the metal frame for the fabric was still intact on the property. As the Doll and Button Museum the house was filled with over 50,000 buttons in baskets, barrels and bins and numerous antique dolls.

The bar that Frank Murphy owned is on the property just north of where Murphy Manor was located. The original log building is on the foot print of the very North of the Newingham Supper Club that includes the small lunch room, bathrooms, and the hallway to the larger banquet hall in the rear.

Rollo's Restaurant was opened in 1983 and over the years increased the size of the restaurant going south and was the largest supper club in the Village of Wausaukee for years.

Built in 1884, the log cabin bar has gone thru 12 owners and so many renovations that the original buildings has been totally replaced over time. See the [PDF listing the former owners](#) and dates of their ownership.

Photographers History



Photographer Peter Bogrand, Father to George E. Bogrand



Peter Bogrand born in 1847, married Rose Mathilde Greenwood in 1869 in Oconto. They migrated to Wausauke after his Photography Studio was burned to the ground on June 1887 in Marshfield, Wood County. The Fire started in a local sawmill and progressed to destroy 250 businesses and almost wiped out the city of Marshfield.

Four samples of Peter Bogrand's portraits are shown above, individuals have not all been identified. Notice the Studio name and City/State in the lower right/left corner.

They had two children, George E (1874 - 1942) of Wausauke and Hermina (1881 - 1900) of Marinette. His studio location within the village has not been determined at this time. George E. Bogrand Sr. was the owner of the Wausauke Independent Newspaper.

Records show that there was a photography studio located for a time within the Flat Iron Building. It is unknown who ran it and in what time frame it was open.

Graphic Impressions Photography LLC was located in the Hotel Wausauke building from 1991 until Dec 31st, 2015. The building was purchased originally by a nurse, Ann Christofferson. She married Brian Hartnell and they restored the buildings and grounds. They opened a full service photography studio within the south and northeast sections with a residence in the rear upper and lower levels. Brian received his degree in photography in 1971 and worked as an Industrial/Marketing photographer with Snap On Tool Corporation of Kenosha for 10 years, the Ansul Company of Marinette for 10 years and then started his studio in Wausauke in 1991.

Early Immigrants



Louis Slaets, his wife Joanna and their children in front of their first house on 1 Maple Street in Wausauke. They arrived in our town in 1892. A letter he wrote to Belgium explains some of the conditions of the area.

[1903 Letter](#)

Louis Slaets family studio portrait taken to share with family members.

The Victor Debot Family in Wausauke, they lived in the south part of Wausauke on 3 Maple Street.

The only jobs available in Wausauke were as Lumberjacks and sawmill workers. Living in this modest log cabin the Emil Everix family dreamed of opening a bakery in Wausauke. [History of the family](#)

Views of the Streetscape



Downtown Street Scene



1907 View looking to West at 1st Street



1908 Main St looking south



Wausauke Boosters



Wausauke 3rd Street

Dirt roads were the main thoroughfare with horses and wagons hauling logs, equipment and people. Logs were piled next to the tracks for pick up by train. Wausauke's population in its logging heyday was measured at 1,700 inhabitants. People used board walks to travel from store to store and stay out of the muddy streets.

1907 view pointed southwest, shows the original Smith family home (Small white house in center) and to the far right the original Parsons Funeral Home. The succession of owners include: Parsons, Bunker, Morasky, Mike & Coral Messar and now Anderson of Stephenson MI. The business has been upgraded and enlarged over the years by the Messar's to improve service with their office in the adjacent home to the Parlor. Current operators are Mike and Coral Messar of Wausauke.

To draw business to the area, the downtown held Booster Programs to generate excitement and sales for the local merchants.

On Third street, the building at the end of the road was owned by Henry Laun and he ran a bean snipping business where people were paid to cut off the ends of fresh wax and green beans. The store front on the left is unknown, the house north was Bud Payant's, next house was a Weiting, and the house at the end of the block was Vernon Smith, Norms brother.

Third Street Bean Snipping Business: We hauled beans and I remember it to this day. Every time I look at a can of beans on a shelf I get a backache. Dam, when I picked them beans on my hands and knees and I would fill the bag to the top, the guy would do two shakes of the bags and the beans would fall half way down and he would say now fill it. *Rudy Messar*

Return to History Pages: [1](#) - [2](#) - [3](#) - [4](#) - [5](#) - [6](#)