

**THE
HISTORY
OF
THAYER**



Sack's Place

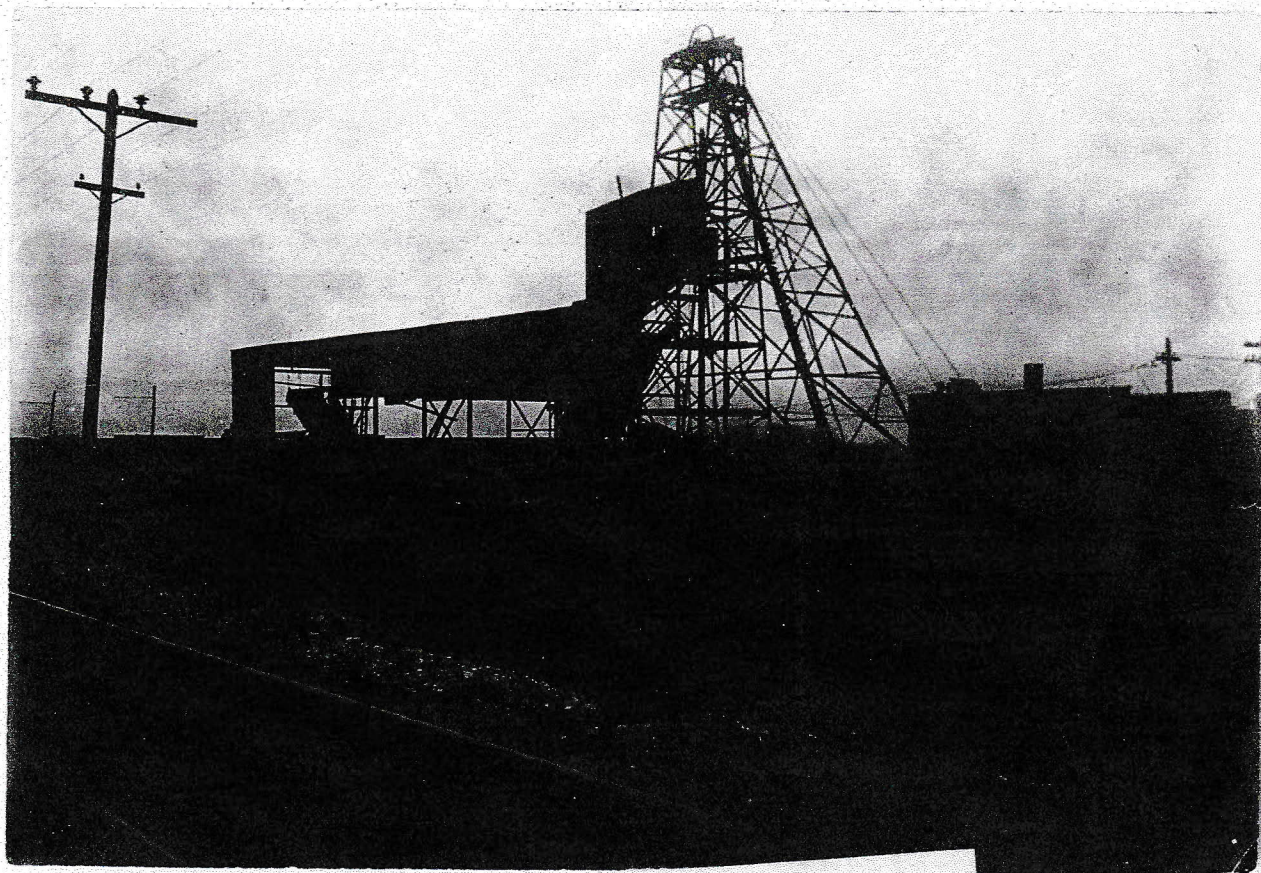
Old Pt. 66

Thayer IL. 62689

Subject: Re:
From: Bill Bednarchik (bilb@royell.org)
To: papa_dude_01@yahoo.com;
Date: Saturday, April 4, 2015 5:01 PM

BOB.....OMG... WAY BEFORE MY TIME, WAY BEFORE..... But many many nights spent horsing around with the others that had no place to "kick it"..... He was a good man. Remember a kid, asked for a "bag of chips and a soda for a washer". Kid got the order and "Ole Jack" got the washer..... Imbo... Jack also laughed... Many memories of the "Jacks place". Thanks for sharing....bill.b.
Enlarge to check out the old auto in the garage, must be in the "20's"....

| -----






Worker killed at Thayer Mine January 17, 1924

William Seaborn, well known farmer northeast of Virden, was instantly killed at the Thayer mine. He was struck on the head by a piece of falling coal while loading a car at the bottom of the shaft.

Paul Dubinick, 82 years old, met with a tragic death when he fell under a moving C & A train, when he undertook to catch a ride.



 **Pamela Yourek** originally shared this

 10 days ago  Site / Building / Place



THE EARLY DAYS OF THAYER, ILLINOIS

Before the "Town"

One of the very early settlers in the area of the present-day village of Thayer was John Jacob Rauch. Rauch's life, as outlined in the History of Sangamon County, Illinois, began in Germany in 1796. He came to America in 1818 as an indentured servant, was sold for \$70.00 upon arrival and sent to Alabama. Conditions were so severe in Alabama that he ran away to Kentucky where he was married to Pauline Poley. In October, 1829, he moved to Illinois because of the influence of slavery in Kentucky. He wanted to live in a free land to raise his family.

It is recorded in Sangamon County that in December, 1829, he bought $\frac{3}{4}$ of Section 33 which is in the southern tier of sections in Sangamon County. Among the first things he did was to build a saw and grist-mill near the stream called Sugar Creek which ran through his land. Rauch's mill was known far and near, especially to hundreds of weary emigrants, as a rest-haven since his house was on the road from Springfield to St. Louis.

Rauch died November 23, 1843. His grave can be found today located at the Thayer Cemetery in Thayer, Illinois.

The oldest grave found in this cemetery is that of Hanna Poley who died in 1832. She married Pauline Rauch's brother, Joseph Poley, and it is believed that they may have come to Illinois with John Rauch in 1829.

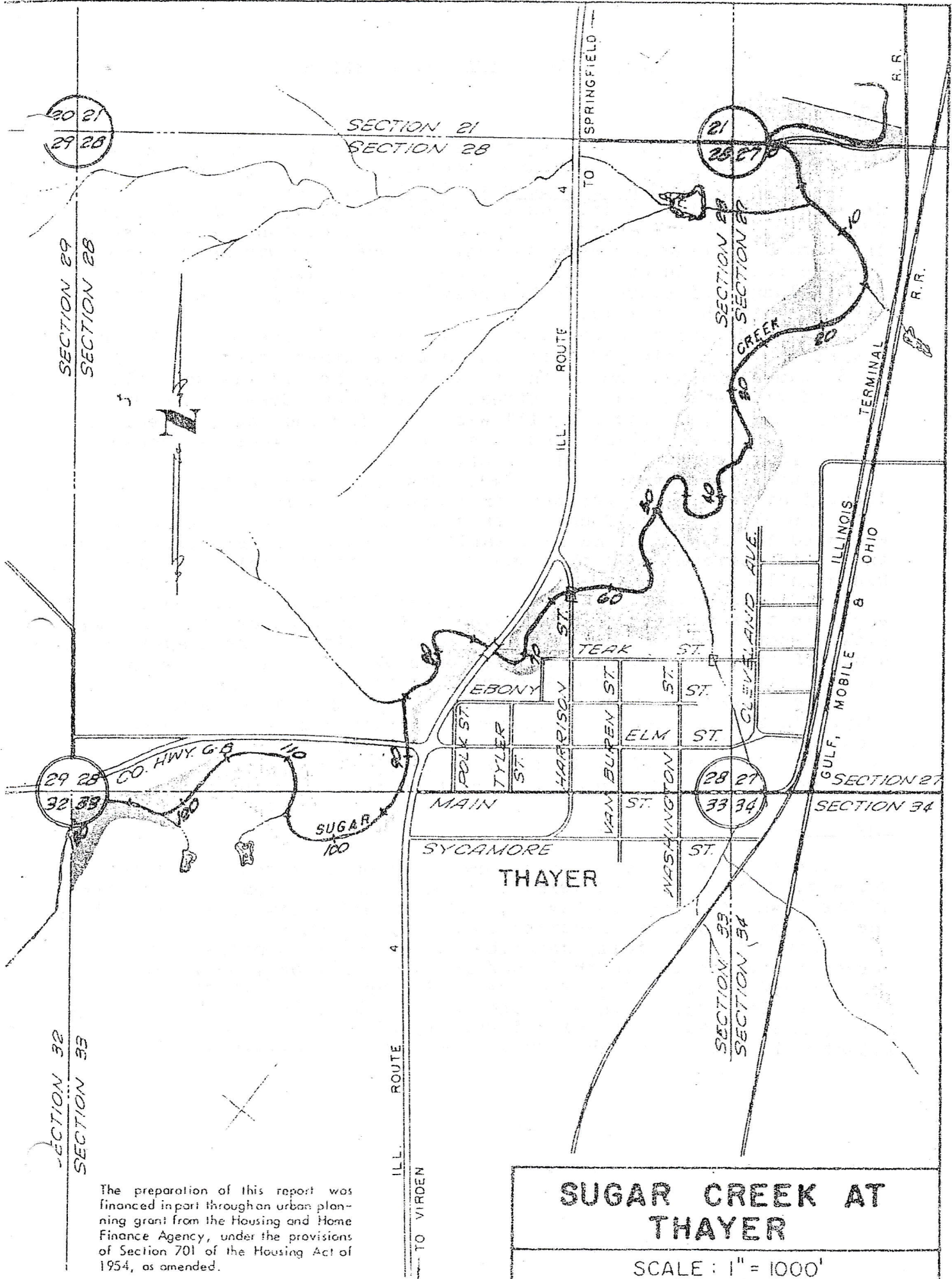
It seems possible that a family named Dick may also have settled early in this area. It is believed that John Dick or his son, Daniel Dick, donated the property for the present site of the Thayer Cemetery since it is located on a farm they once owned. Daniel Dick who died January 4, 1878, is also buried at the Thayer Cemetery.

The Thayer Cemetery Association was organized in September, 1945. In its by-laws it is stated that this cemetery had been known as the old Dick Cemetery and also known as the Shanklin Cemetery, but now (1945) it is generally called the Thayer Cemetery. I was not able to attain any information regarding the name Shanklin.

The Town

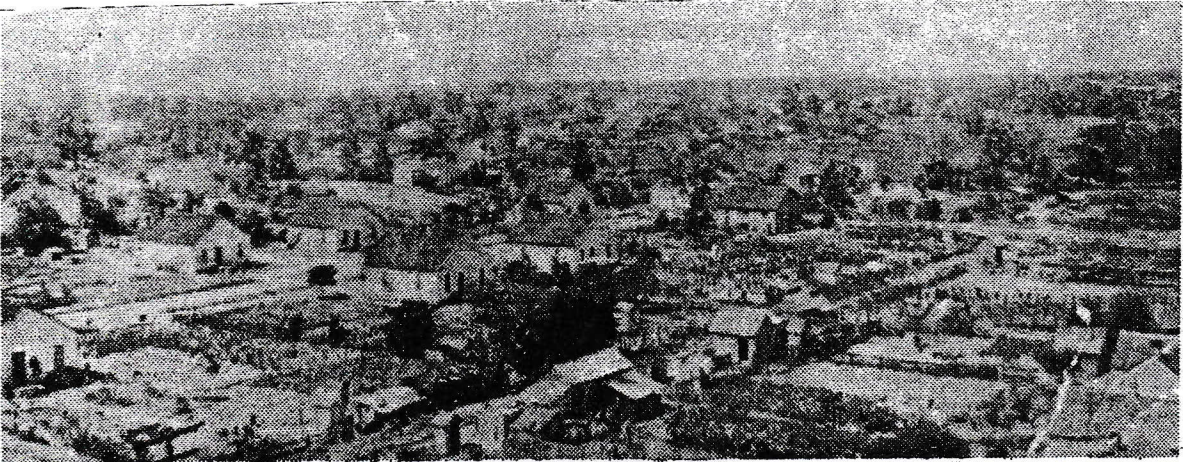
There are no records of an organization of a town until the Chicago, Wilmington, and Vermillion Coal Company became the owners of the Town of Thayer on May 18, 1901, at which time the filing of the plat of Thayer was recorded in Sangamon County.

Thayer is officially described under the Rectangular Land Survey System as the South $37 \frac{66}{100}$ acres of $SE\frac{1}{4}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 28, West $18 \frac{65}{100}$ acres of $SW\frac{1}{4}$, $SW\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 27, North $9 \frac{94}{100}$ acres of $NE\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 33, North $47 \frac{1}{100}$ acres of $NW\frac{1}{4}$, $NW\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 34, Township 13 North, Range 6 West, of the 3rd Principal Meridian. Thayer is situated in Auburn township which lies near the middle of the



The preparation of this report was financed in part through an urban planning grant from the Housing and Home Finance Agency, under the provisions of Section 701 of the Housing Act of 1954, as amended.

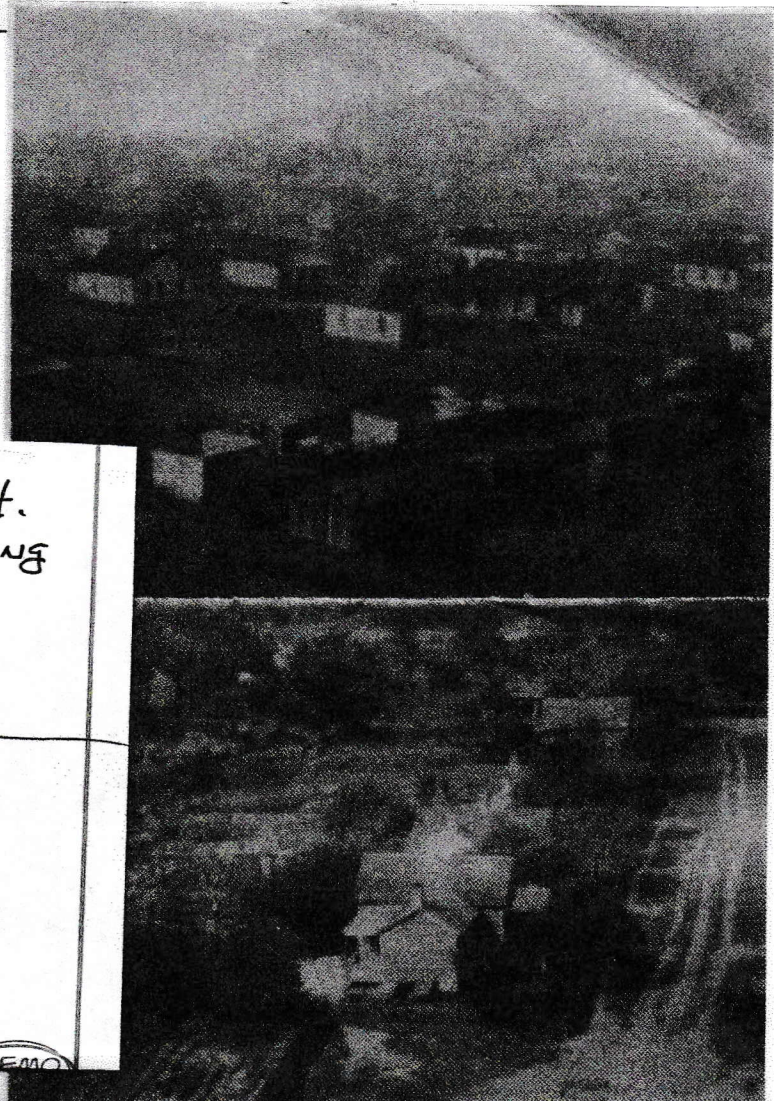
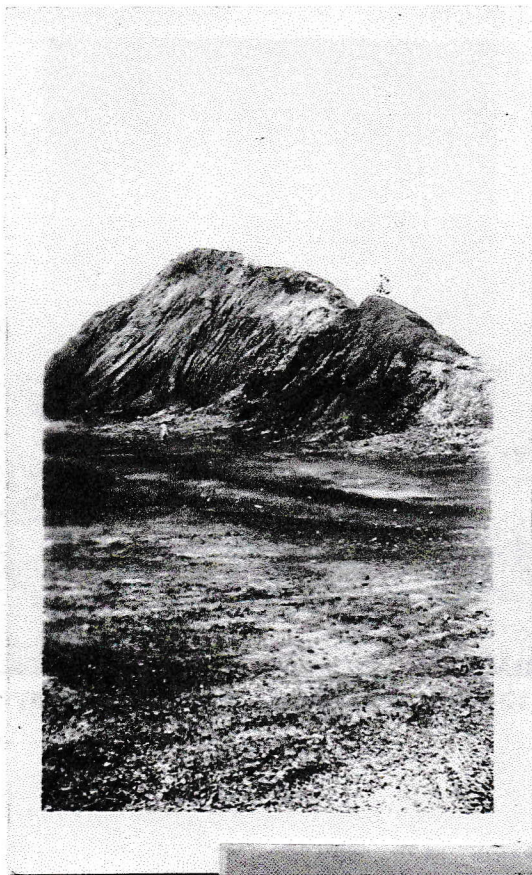
SUGAR CREEK AT THAYER
 SCALE : 1" = 1000'



Old time photo showing northeast section of Thayer taken from slack pile

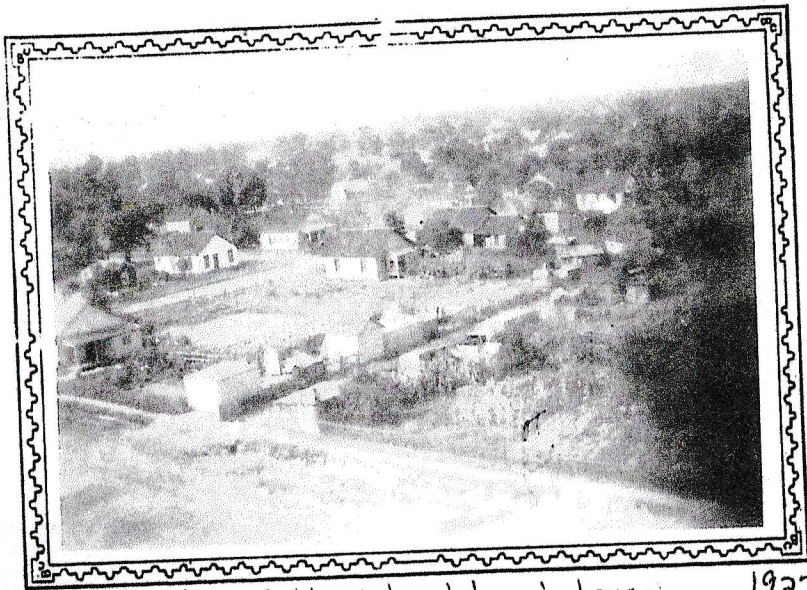
And give me the



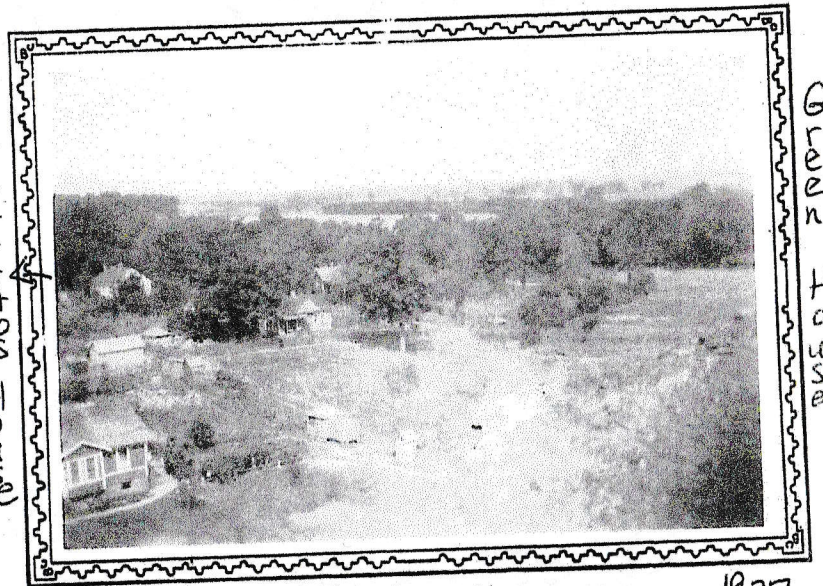


YEAR 1926
BOTTOM PHOTO: - CHERRY ST.
FROM ATOP "SLACK" PILE LOOKING
WEST. BEDNARCHIKS' HOUSE
FRONT BOTTOM HOUSES ABOVE
TOM + ANDY MORELOCKS'

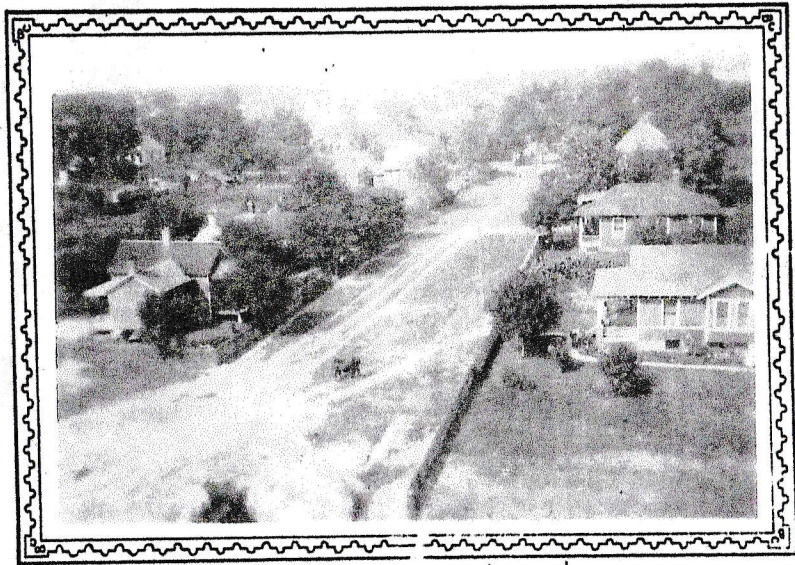
TOP PHOTO: ALLEY BETWEEN
CHERRY RIGHT + HICKORY LEFT
MICKEY WARGO (LUKES') LEFT
J. BEDNARCHIKS' RIGHT



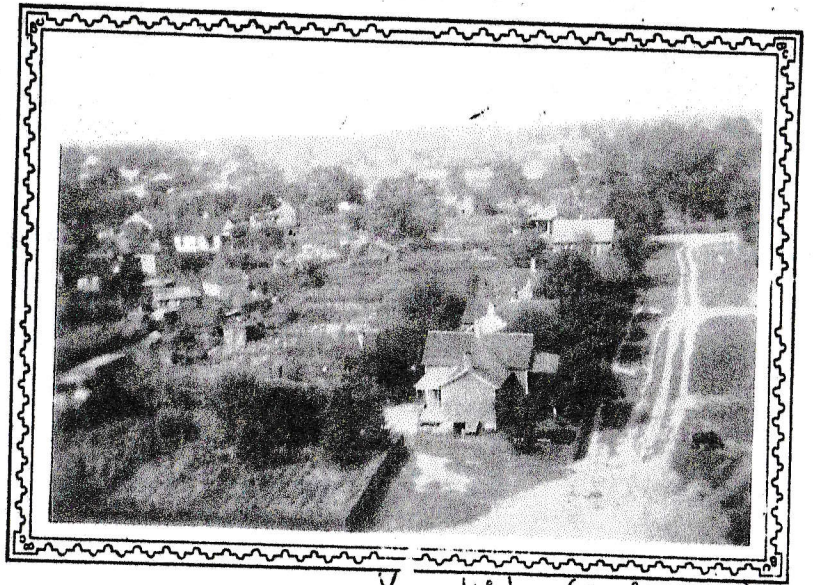
The Shack, Back of Yonski's, Wargo's house 1927



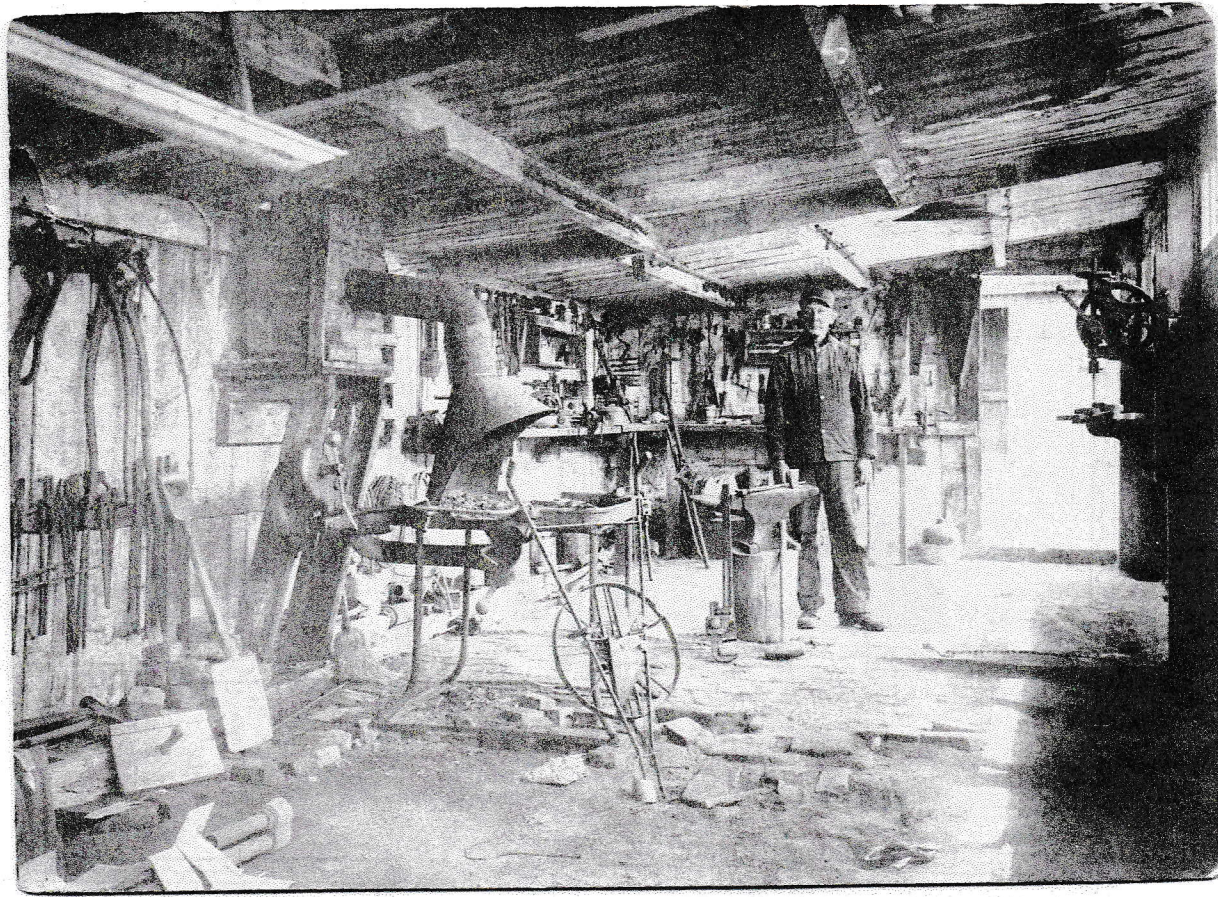
Fedor's and Fedor's outhouse 1927



Fedor's cow taken from the dump



Yonski's (Bednarchik)



Thayer's tall smokestack bites the dust

September 28, 1983

Thayer's highest structure, the 150 foot tall smokestack at the Old Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin mine southeast of Thayer, fell to the ground, demolished by a blast of 250 pounds of explosives.



Mined Lands Reclamation Project

Thayer smokestack demolished

Thayer's highest structure vanished from the sky Friday.

The 150-foot tall smokestack at the Old Chicago, Wilmington and Franklin mine southeast of Thayer fell to the ground Friday morning, demolished by a blast of 250 pounds of explosives.

The Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council listed the area as one of three abandoned mine sites to be cleared, mine shafts filled, and the location revegetated.

Lieutenant Governor George Ryan, chairman of the council, in a news release dated Sept. 20, explained that reclamation is necessary to eliminate a possible safety hazard posed by open mine shafts. "By reclaiming these mines, we can help ensure citizens' safety," said Ryan.

"Furthermore, restoration will help alleviate the eyesore of these abandoned

sites," he concluded.

Apart from the Thayer mine, the Council also authorized the reclamation of the Panther Creek No. 1 Mine north of Auburn and the Morgan County Coal Company in Franklin. Truman L. Flatt and Sons Co. of Springfield received the bid to do the work at a cost of just over \$81,000.

Local people involved included Harold Bruley and Snell Plumbing, Heating, and Air Conditioning who drilled the core and set the charges, and Virgil Mueller who was general superintendent on the job for Truman Flatt.

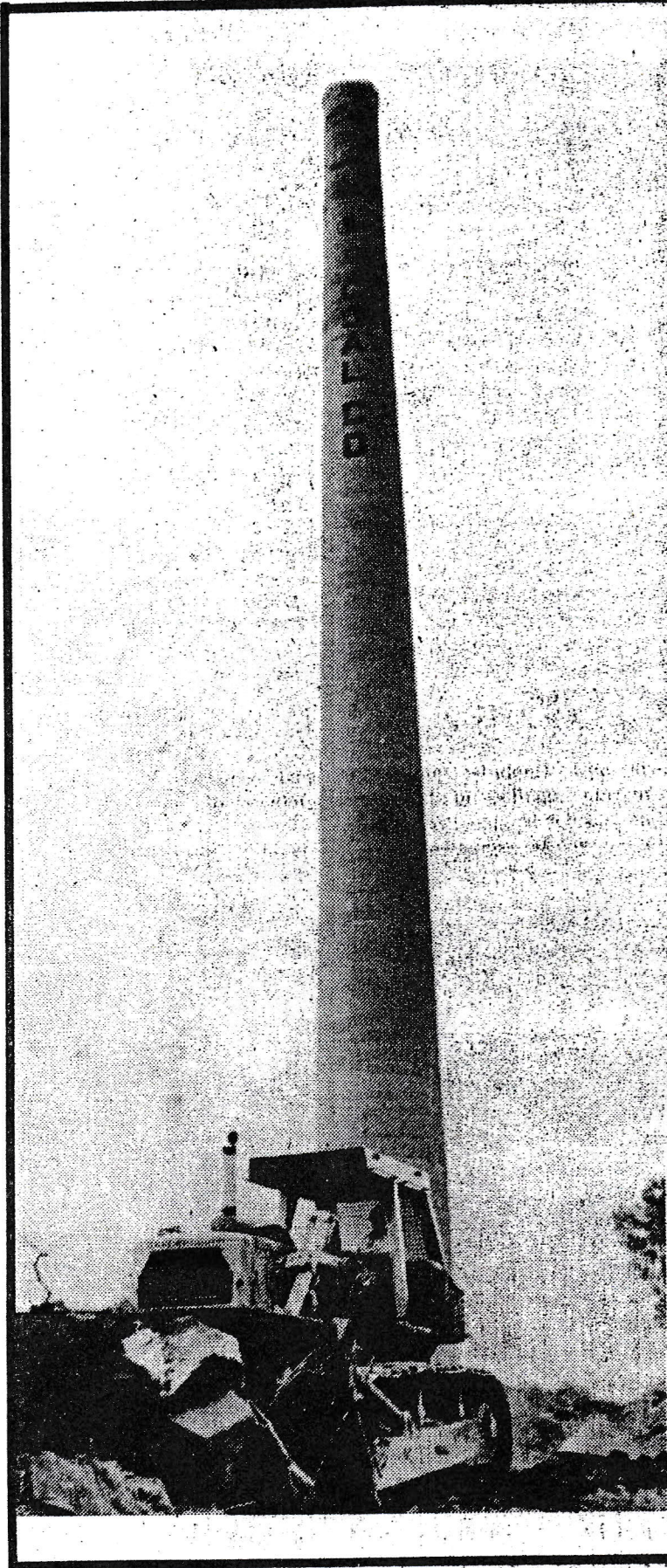
Mueller said they had Frank Siciliano of Mechanicsburg use his heavy equipment to remove the large sections of concrete at the site and dump it into the main shaft to fill the 300 foot deep hole. Mueller said they were burying the gob pile this week and should be

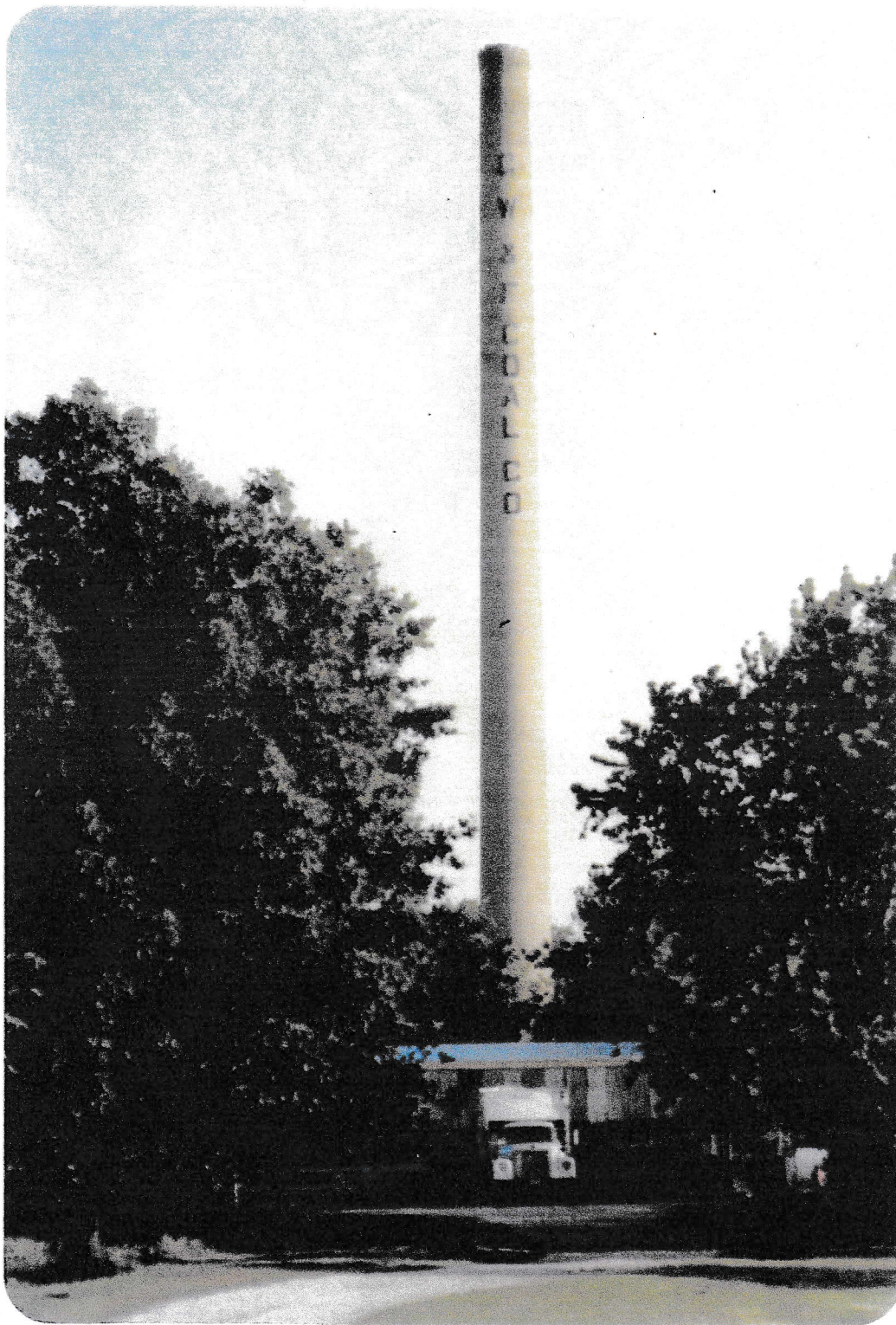
through with the job by Thursday. They will seed the area for natural prairie next spring.

The smokestack was a monument of Thayer's origin which began when the Chicago, Wilmington, and Vermillion Coal Company recorded the filing of the plat of Thayer in Sangamon County on May 18, 1901.

The name Thayer was selected in honor of one of the stockholders of that company, Nathaniel Thayer. The mine operated from 1900 to 1924 and the smokestack was part of the steam plant which powered the facility.

The mine's first superintendent, R. D. Fletcher, had 86 houses, a hotel, and a large store built there in 1900. In 1912, the mine employed 450 men and had a capacity of 2400 tons of coal each day. It is reported the mine employed as many as 600 men during its heyday.





Shayer Coal Mine Chimney

extreme southern tier of townships in Sangamon County. (See map 1 below.) Thayer is located between the towns of Auburn on the north and Virden (Macoupin County) to the south.

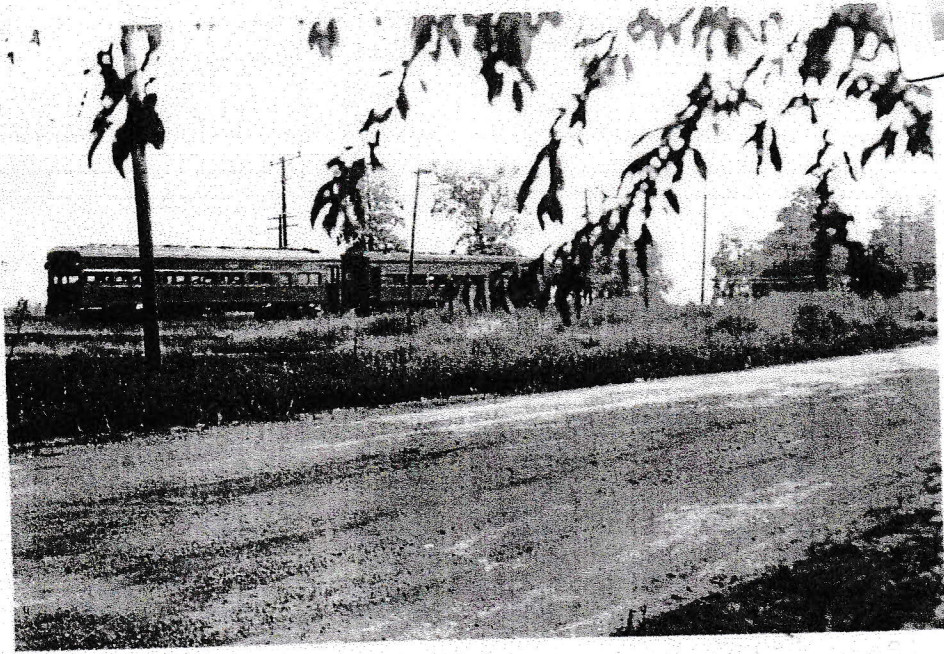
Map 1

Thayer was named in honor of one of the stock-holders, Nathaniel Thayer, of the CW&V Coal Company. In attempting to discover why Thayer was named as it was, I found that no one whom I interviewed, except Mr. Littlejohn, knew the reason. I had discovered the name Nathaniel Thayer in some old records of the CW&V Coal Company, but was not certain that Thayer was named for this man until Mr. Littlejohn verified my findings.

Many of the people who came to Thayer were from northern Illinois mining towns searching for better mining conditions. The first men came in 1900 to help sink the mine in the southeast part of town. The first mine manager at this time was a Mr. Westwood; the first superintendent a Mr. R.D. Fletcher. Mr. Fletcher retired before the mine closed in 1924. He was followed in succession by T. H. Holmes, John Moreland, Mr. Gordan, and Joe Smith who was superintendent when the mine closed. The mine ownership changed several times; the first owner being the Chicago, Wilmington, and Vermillion Coal Company and the last the Chicago, Wilmington, and Franklin Coal Company. (See figure 1.)

According to the Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Sangamon County, Mr. Fletcher had 86 houses, a hotel, and a large store built in 1900. Among the first families to have company houses were the Rees' and the Watkins'. As people arrived at Thayer, they usually boarded with others until they could obtain a house. (See figures 2 and 3.)

According to a deed abstract, an election was held on October 26, 1901, in order to determine the organization of Thayer as "The Village of Thayer." On October 30, 1901, George Murray, Judge of County Court of Sangamon County and Robert Connolly and J. F. Brinkerhoff, Justices of the Peace of Sangamon County, canvassed



The S. Iban
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 and Mrs.
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30. (AP)—Eight
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 ternal injuries.

BRIDE SAS CITY

30. (AP)—Col.
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MAN DIE CRASH

—Percy Jenks,
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 -old daughter

INSLEY'S IS DEAD

ine 30. (AP)—
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 the Atlantic
 It-34.

(PREF.)
 R.D. FLETCHER
 6/30/29 88
 DIED
 7/1/29 P.I.
 THAYER-CIVIL
 WAR
 VET
 MASON & CAR
 MARRIED

proper goal, however, should be
 to break the cycle of depend-
 and the way to do this is not

Conference

Atlanta, Ga., June 30. (AP)—Educators from all sections of the United States, here for the convention of the National Education association, today took a post graduate course in phases of southern history and culture in Atlanta and vicinity.

From early morning to night, automobiles, furnished by local civic clubs, toured the city and surrounding battlefields. Primary teachers were especially interested in "The Wren's Nest," where Joel Chandler Harris wrote of the doings of Uncle and Br'er Rabbit in the bramble patch. The site, the relics and the gigantic oil painting of the battle of Atlanta during the Civil war attracted the attention of the history experts, as did nearby Kenesaw mountain, the scene of another hard fought struggle.

The only general gathering of the convention delegates today was at vesper services where Dean Walter Williams of the University of Missouri School of Journalism, was on the program with an address on world affairs from the viewpoint of a newspaper reporter.

Uel W. Lampkin, president of the association, announced today that ten nations will participate in the first Inter-American conference on education which will open tomorrow in connection with the N. E. A. convention. They are: The United States, Chile, Cuba, Dominican republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

The conference will last three days and will center around two major themes, character education and elementary vdcation for farm, home, office, factory and home industry. Plans for an inter-American federation of education associations also will be discussed.

LOWELL PITTMAN IS REPORTED IMPROVING

Lowell Pittman, son of Rev. H. H. Pittman, pastor of First Congregational church, who was seriously injured in an auto accident recently, is reported to be improving. It is not probable that the boy will lose the sight of his injured eye.

d millions in currency, but he is seeing fore. He is shown above, left, checking issued July 10. With him are Henry treasury (seated), and Director Hall of ating, who supervised the manufacture

R. D. Fletcher Of Thayer, 88, Dies at Home

Civil War Veteran Was Ill Several Years

R. D. Fletcher, 88, of Thayer, died at his home yesterday afternoon, at 1:30 o'clock. Mr. Fletcher had been in failing health for a number of years.

Mr. Fletcher was born near Clarks-ville, Tenn., on December 2, 1840, the eldest son of John H. and Alice Ben-nyworth Fletcher. The family came to Illinois in the spring of 1851, lo-cating in Greene county but later moved to Nilwood, Macoupin county. He was first engaged with his father in farming and later clerked in a grocery store, leaving this position to enlist in Company F, 122nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, which was or-ganized at Camp Palmer, Carlinville.

At the close of the war he began working for the Chicago & Alton Railroad company, first as brakeman and later as telegraph operator, his last service with this company being as ticket agent and operator at Strea-tor. On June 15, 1873, he entered the employ of the Chicago, Wilmington & Vermillion Coal company, at Strea-tor as shipping clerk and operator, remaining until April 1, 1890, when he became General Manager of the River Bank Coal company, but re-signed this position just three months later to again return to the C. W. & V. coal, as superintendent of their Streator properties.

In May, 1900, the same company, having purchased mining rights and coal lands in the south end of Sangamon county, sent Mr. Fletcher to open up the Thayer mine and build the town of Thayer. He continued in this capacity until December 1, 1911, when at the age of 71 years he retired from active service.

Mr. Fletcher was united in mar-riage with Miss Rachel S. Proctor, of Mason City, January 12, 1873, by whom he is survived and also one daughter, Edna M., at home. A son, Ralph Proctor, preceded the father in death in 1899 at the age of twelve years.

Mr. Fletcher was a member of the Masonic Order, being a member of Virden Lodge No. 161, A. F. & A. M. and Elwood Commandery No. 6, Springfield. He was also a member of Stephenson Post, G. A. R. of Springfield. Politically he was a Republican.

Funeral services will be held at the Wagner funeral home, Streator, Wed-nesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock with interment in Riverview ceme-l-tery.

Runs To Aid Child.
 His father, who was, about one hundred yards away, came run to his son's aid and jumped into the water. He is a poor swimmer and almost drowned in his attempt to rescue the child.

In speaking of the accident, he said: "The children had been play-ing in the water for some time and I was keeping close watch on them for fear that they would get too far out into the current. Joseph was unable to swim, but they had been very good about staying close to the bank and I went down the bank about a block to bait some fishing lines.

"My daughter, Mary, started screaming and calling me, and I started on the run to where they were playing. While I was still about half a block away I could see my boy struggling to get out. His efforts were taking him farther away from shore, and before I could get there he had gone under. I jumped in with all my clothes on, but being a very poor swimmer I had a hard time get-ting out myself. As soon as I could get out I shouted for help."

When Radosevic called several men who were fishing nearby ran to the scene and dived into the river in an effort to find the boy. A young man from Kincaid found the body on his first dive and brought it ashore.

The men attempted to revive the boy and one of them called Dr. J. W. Cantrall, of Rochester, who arrived about thirty minutes after the ac-cident and at once started artificial respiration.

Brought To Hospital.

After nearly two hours the parents started into town with the boy. They went immediately to St. John's hos-pital and artificial respiration was continued for more than an hour.

The accident happened about 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon and it was 5:30 o'clock when a doctor at St. John's hospital declared him dead.

Joseph is survived by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Radosevic; two sisters, Mary and Kathryn; two brothers, Mathew and Tony, Jr., and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Vlahovic, of Lincoln. Funeral ar-rangements are incomplete and will be announced later.

No date for the inquest had been set by a late hour last night, but it is expected that it will be held some time today.

FIVE OTHERS DROWN.

Quebec, Que., June 30 (AP)—Five men were drowned at Riviere Du Loup today when a bridge at the Warren mills on which they were standing collapsed and threw them into the St. Lawrence river.

The dead, all workmen, were at-tempting to open the gate of the locks at the Warren mills when the bridge suddenly gave way.

THREE MEN DROWNED.

Midland, Ont., June 30 (AP)—Three men were drowned today when eight persons fell from a boat into the Georgian bay. The accident was said to have been due to the sudden listing of the vessel. The dead: B. Banatter, George Wiegler and Felix Malone, all of Guelph, Ont.

JURIST NEAR DEATH.

Solon Springs, Wis., June 30 (AP)—Charles H. Crownhart, justice-of-the-Wisconsin supreme court, nar-rowly escaped death by drowning here this afternoon when his rowboat overturned in Lake St. Croix. Ray Little, village constable, who saw the

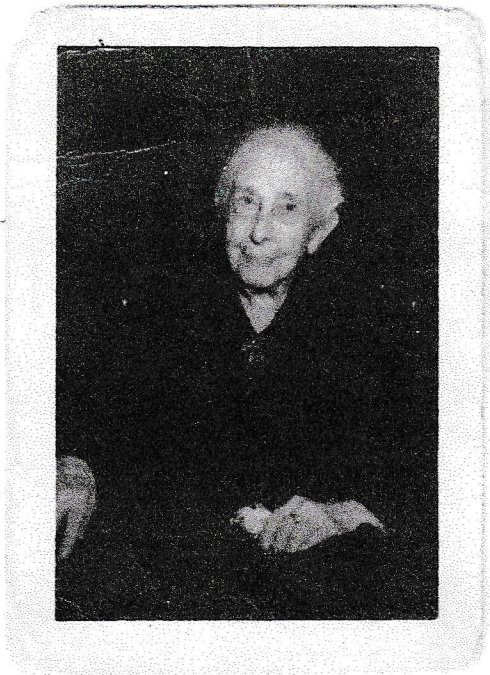
K. of C. Members Will Hold

ISSJ 7/1/29 P.1

DIED 6/30/29 AGE 88

CIVIL WAR VET
R. D. FLETCHER
FATHER OF EDNA MAY FLETCHER

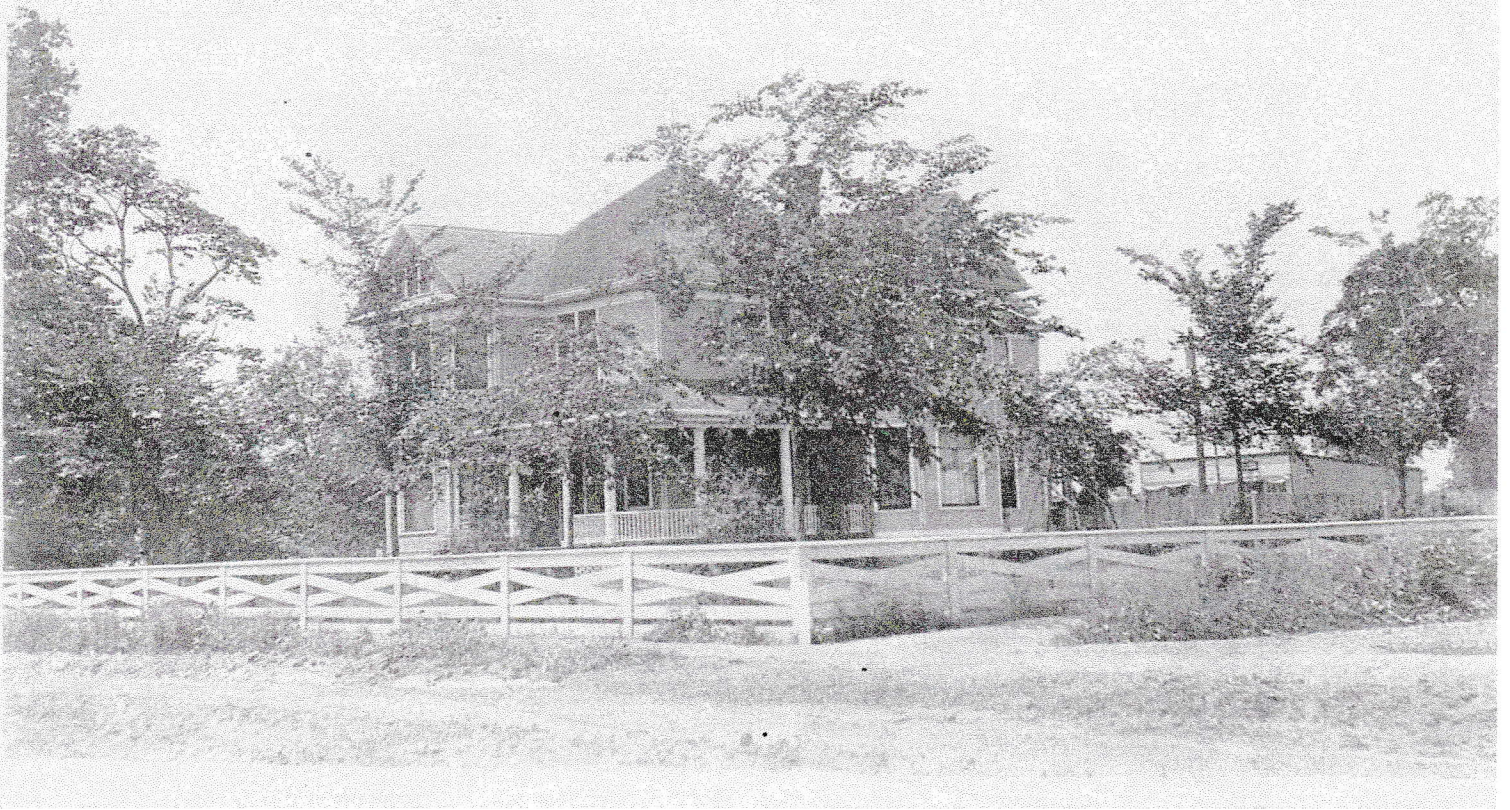
MOTHER WAS RACHEL S. PROCTOR
SHE DIED JAN 26, 1946 ^{OF MASON CITY, IA} AGE 90 YRS. 11/27/46
MARRIED JAN. 12, 1873 ISSJ P. 17
R. D. FLETCHER



DEATH AND CLAIM NOTICE —
Estate of EDNA MAY FLETCHER,
Deceased, No. 70-P-775. Notice is
hereby given of the death of the
above and that Letters Testamentary
were issued December 16, 1970, to
SPRINGFIELD MARINE BANK,
Springfield, Illinois 62701, whose at-
torney of Record is Barber & Bar-
ber, 1006 First National Bank Build-
ing, Springfield, Illinois 62701.
Claims against the estate may be
filed in the Office of the Clerk in
Room 412, County Building, Spring-
field, Illinois 62701, within 7 months
from date of issuance of Letters;
and any claim not so filed is barred
as to the estate inventoried within
that period. Also, copies of claims
must be mailed or delivered to the
Executor and to the Attorney,
Dwight H. O'Keefe, Jr., Clerk of the
Circuit Court, Probate Division, San-
gamon County, Illinois.
(Publish 12-17, 24, 31-70)

Edna Fletcher
died 10-30-70

Fletcher House





Fletcher Home

LOOKING NORTH

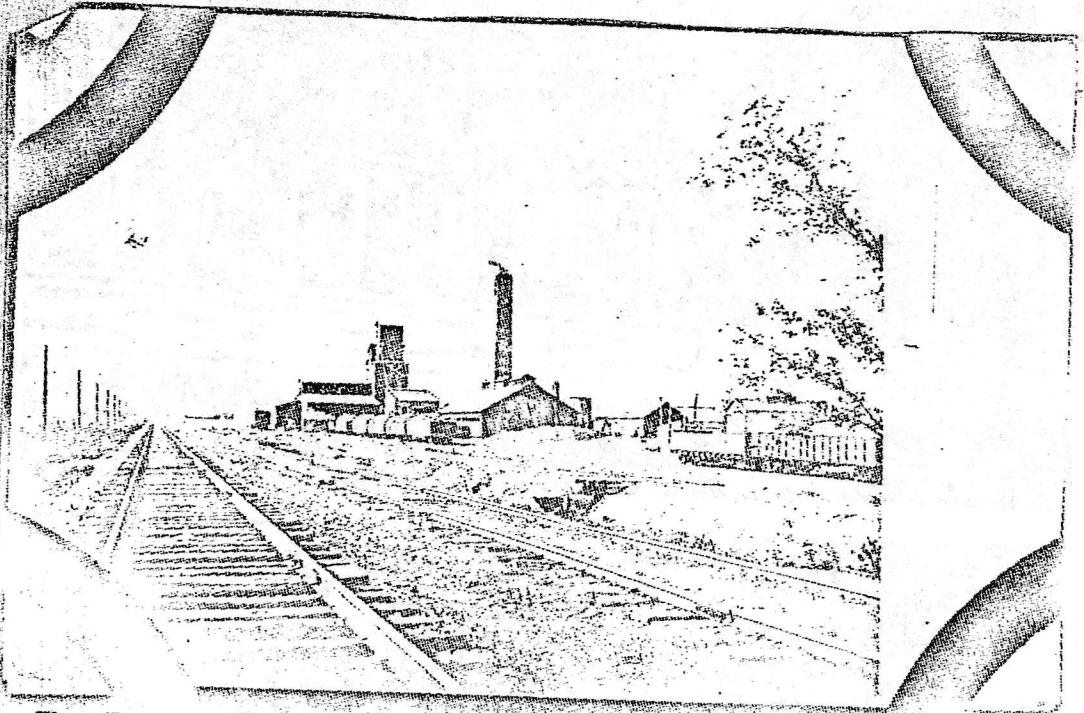
UG NW BACKROAD

NOTICE THE DIFFERENT FENCE

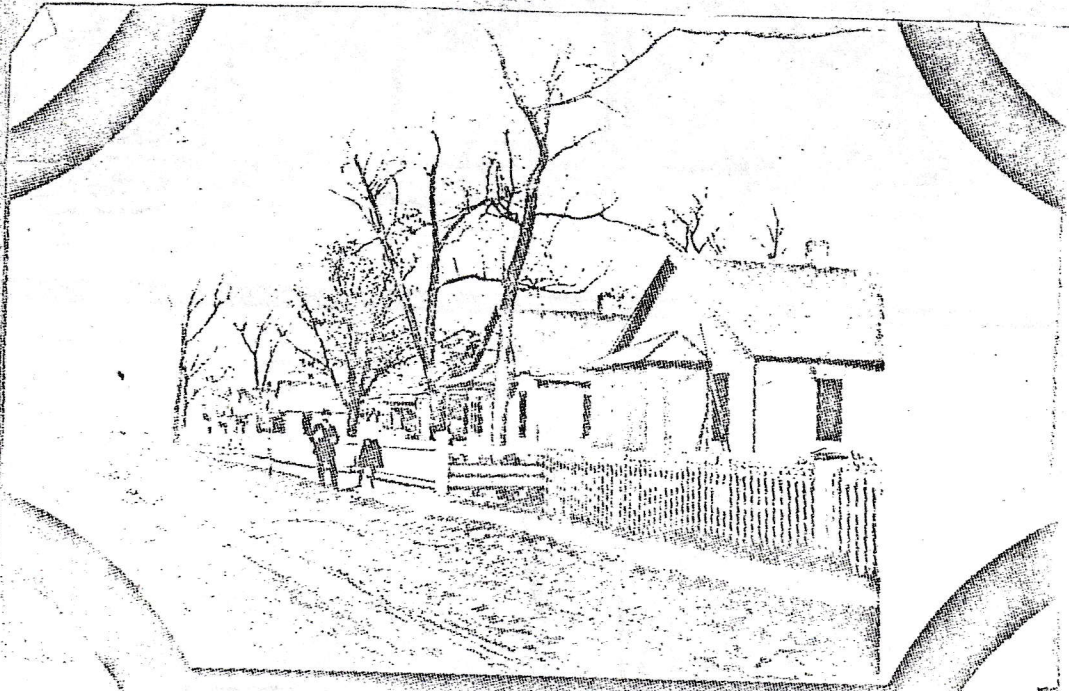
R. D. FLETCHER HOME



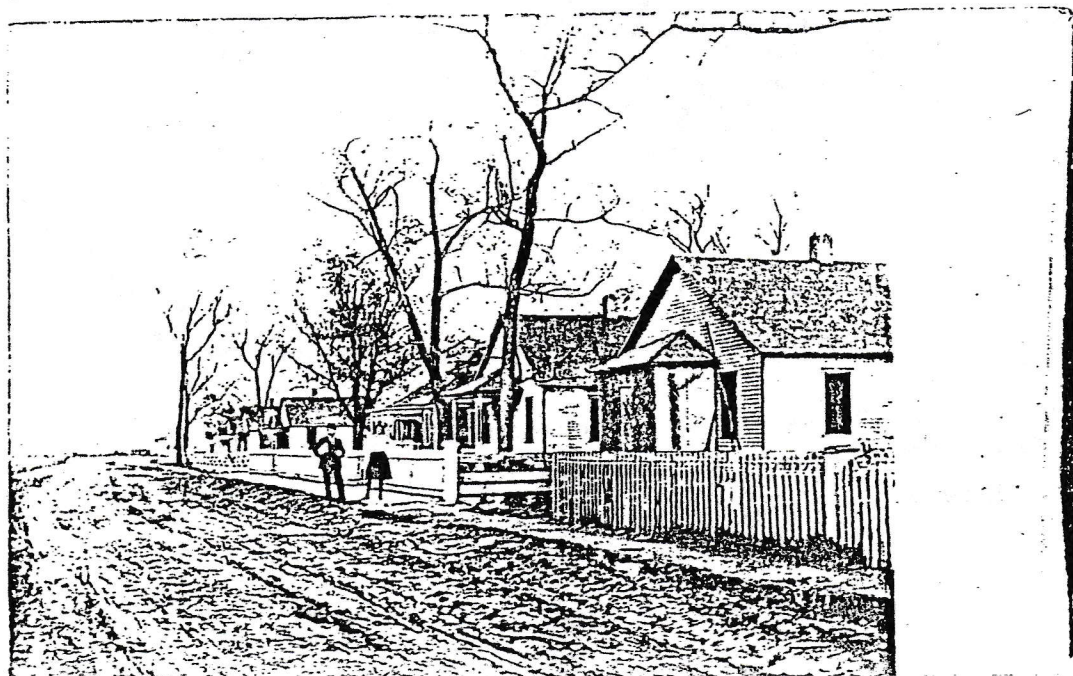
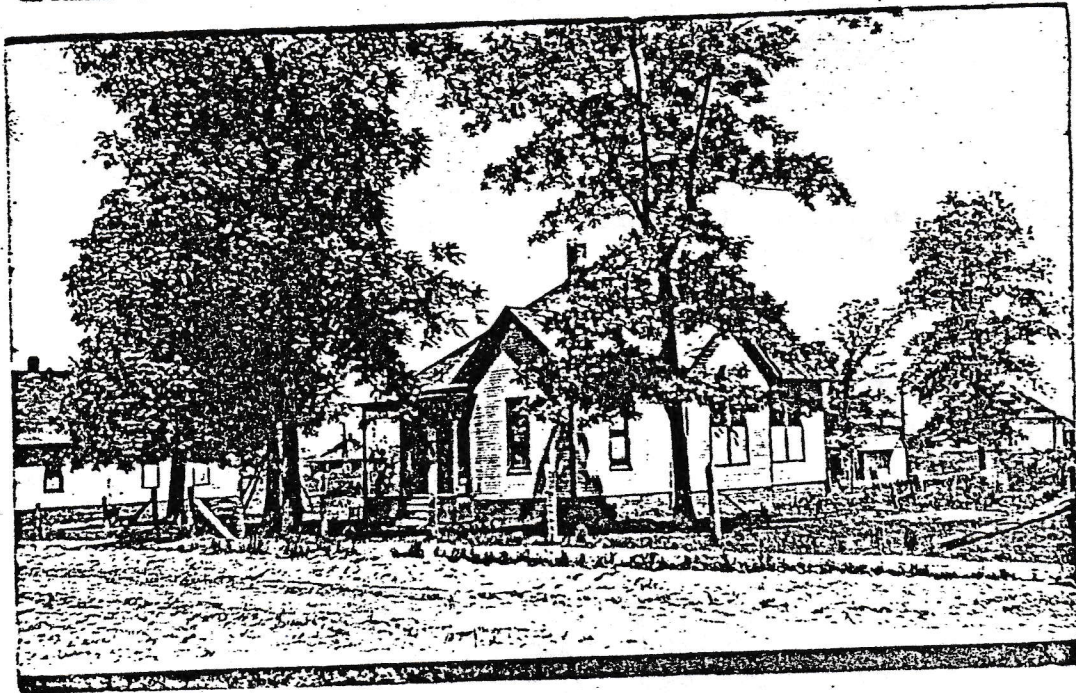
Chicago, Wilmington & Vermilion Coal Co.

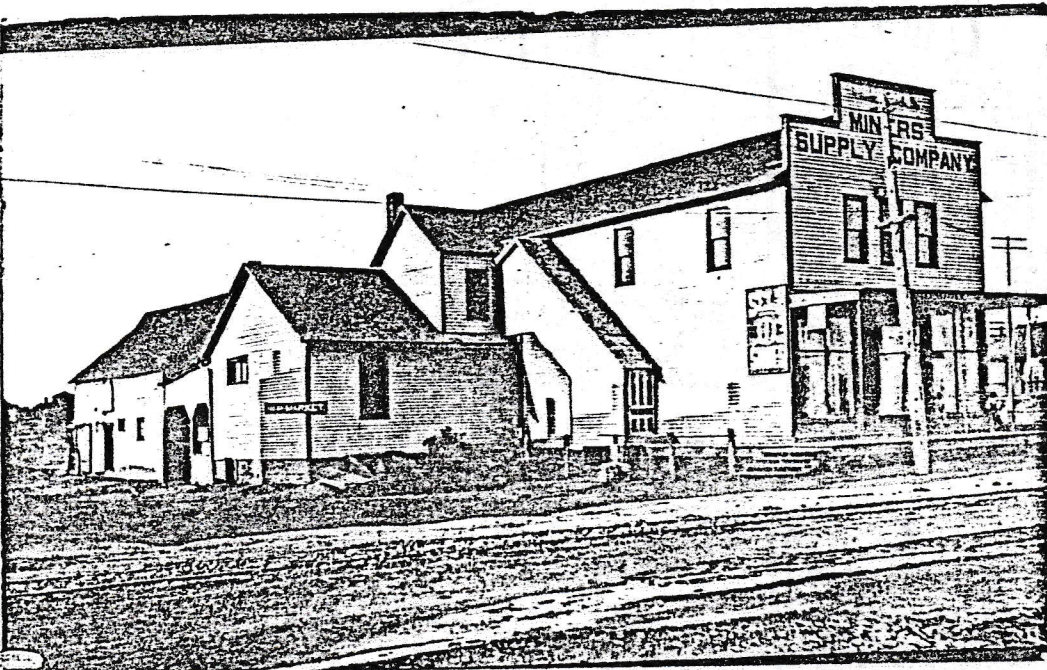
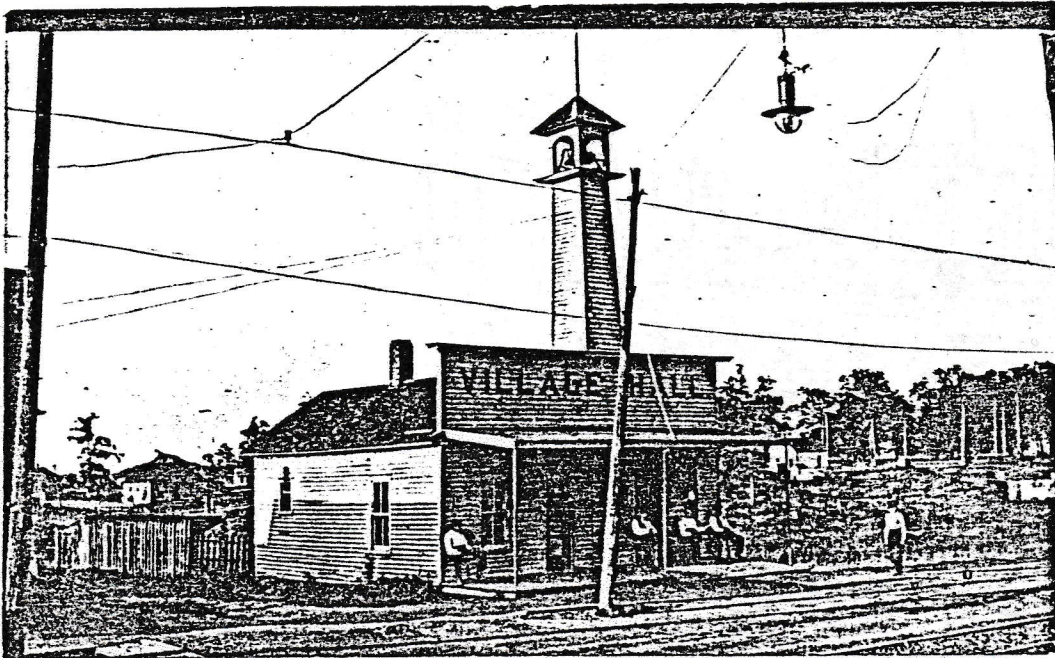


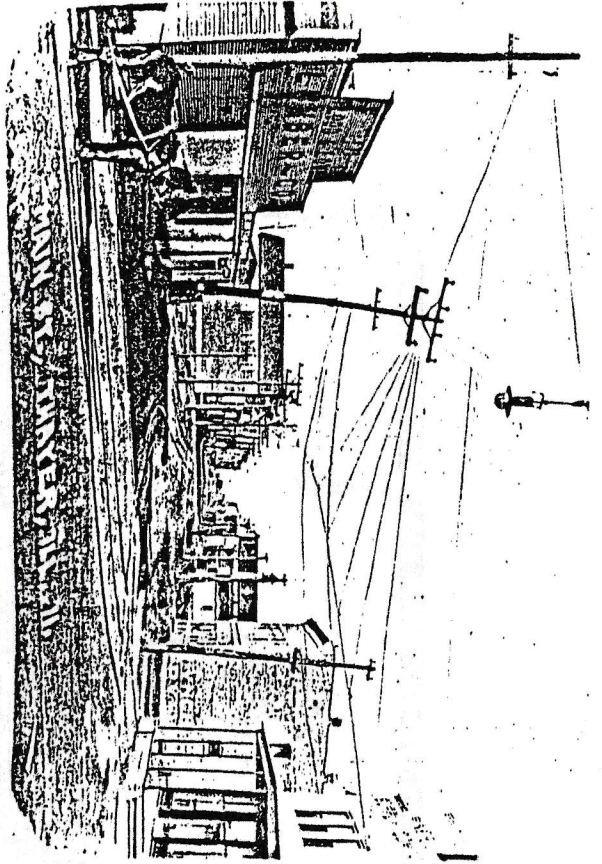
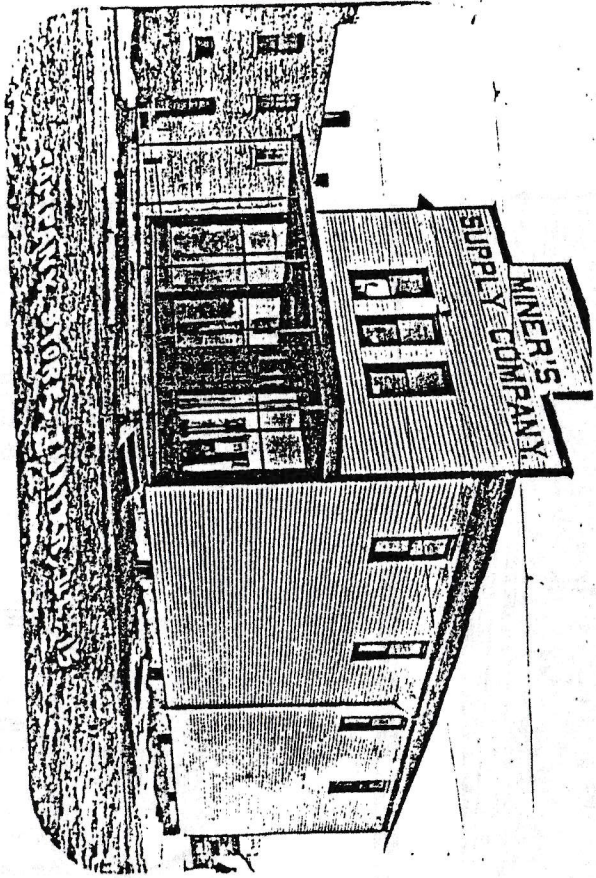
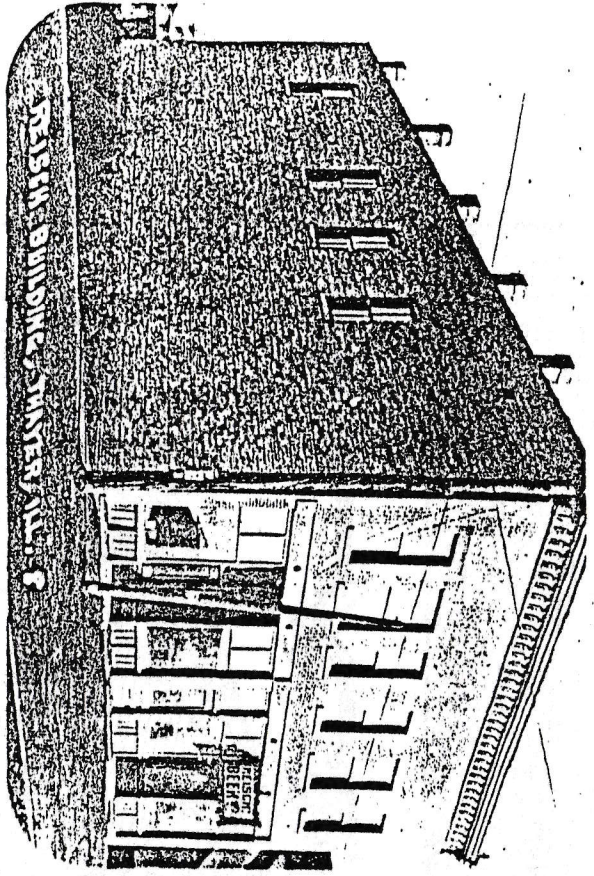
The Thayer Mine. (From Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois. No date.)

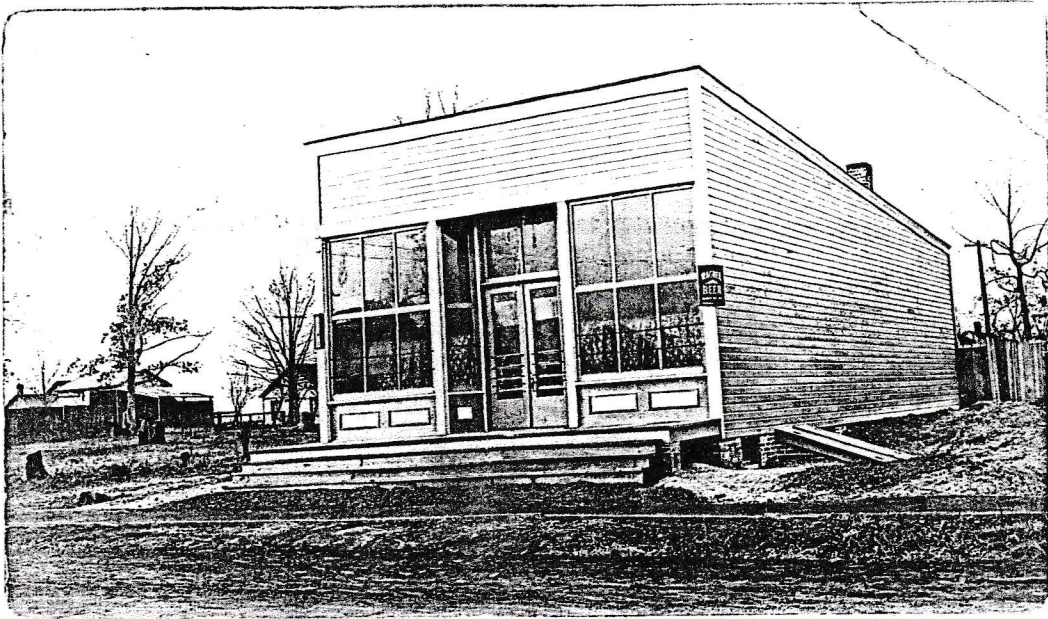


These may not be the first company houses, but this is the structure of them. (From Historical Library, Springfield, Ill. No date.)

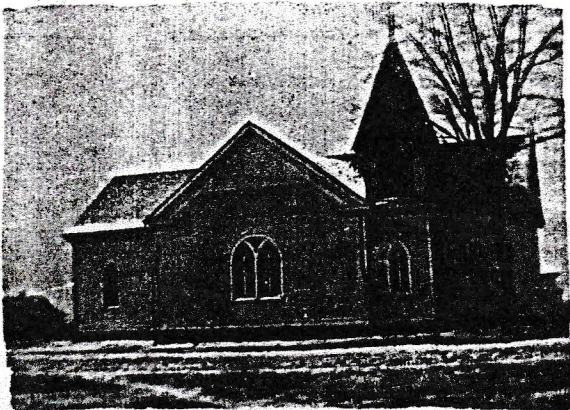
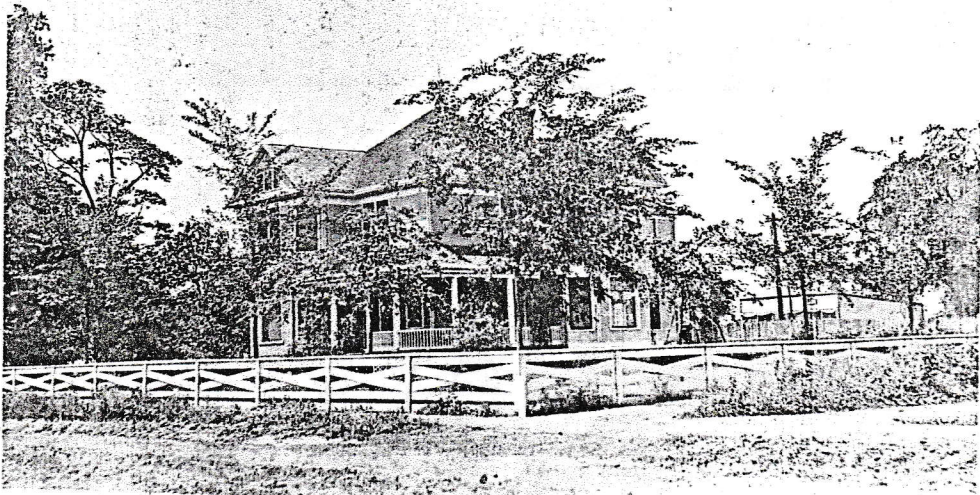


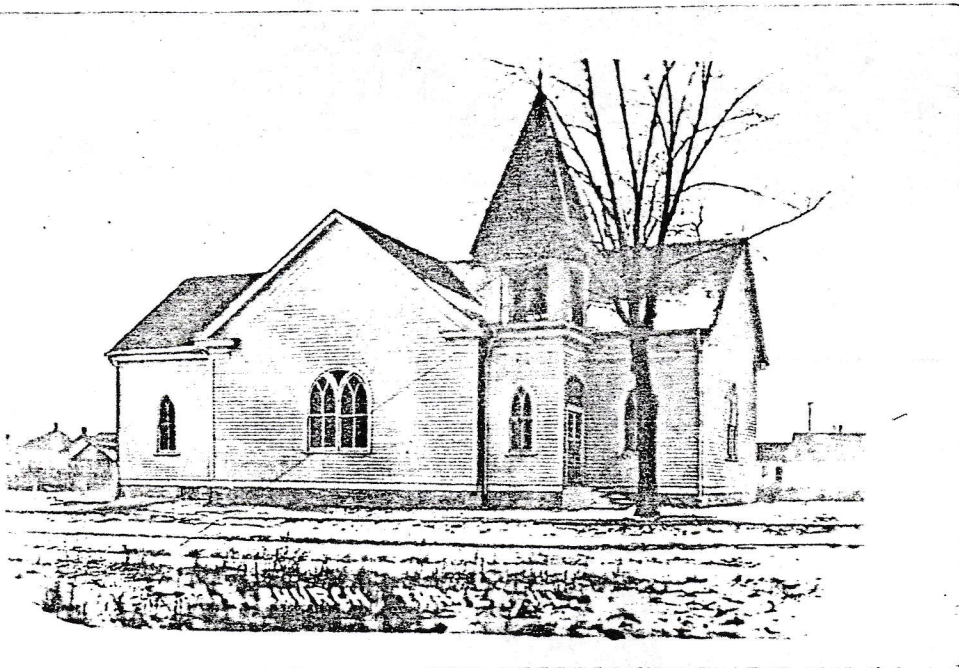
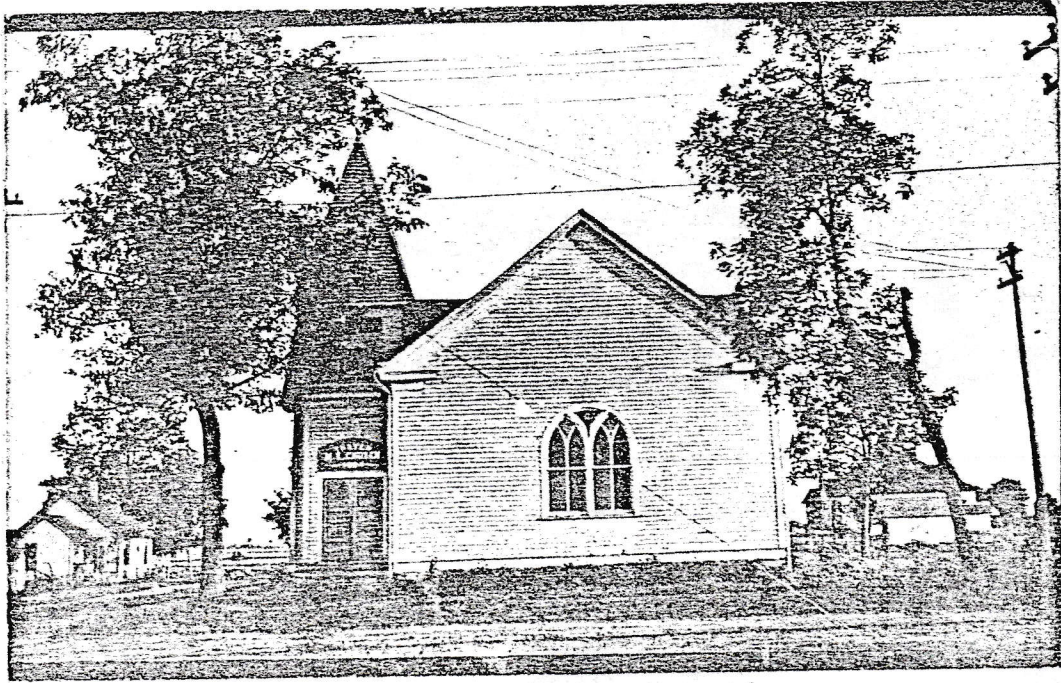


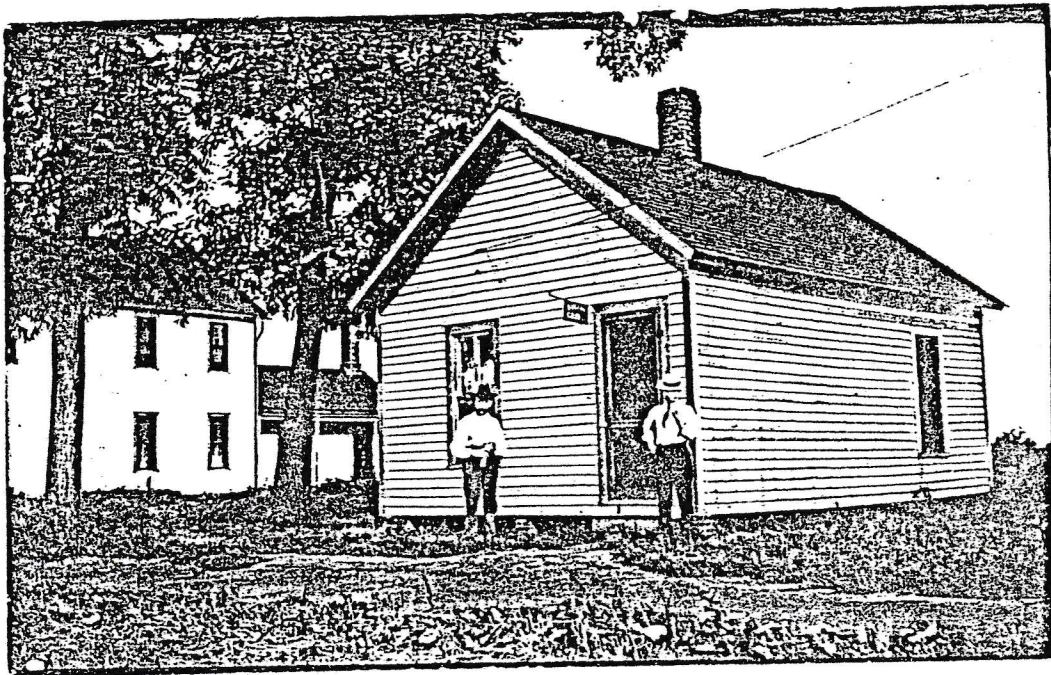


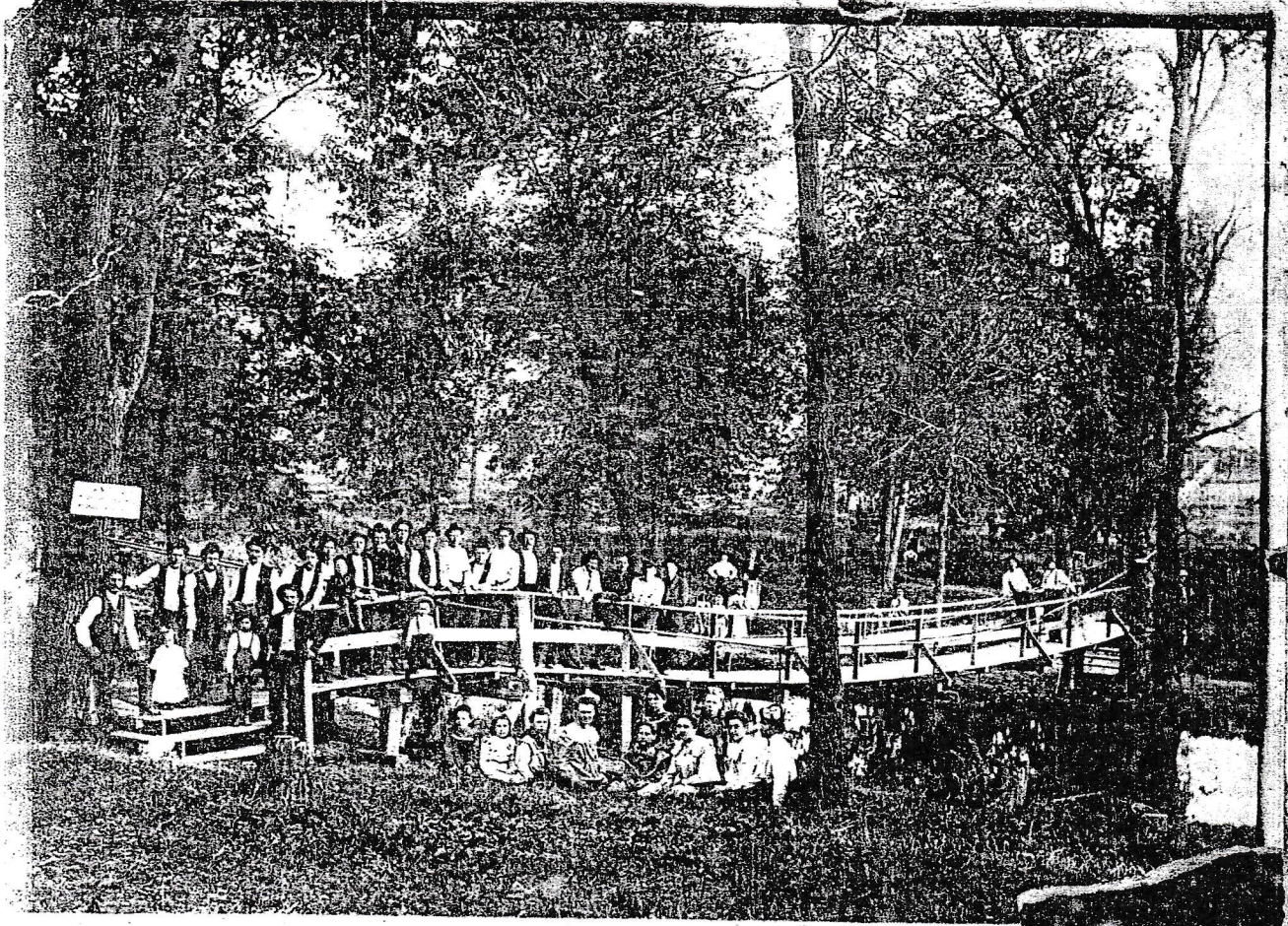


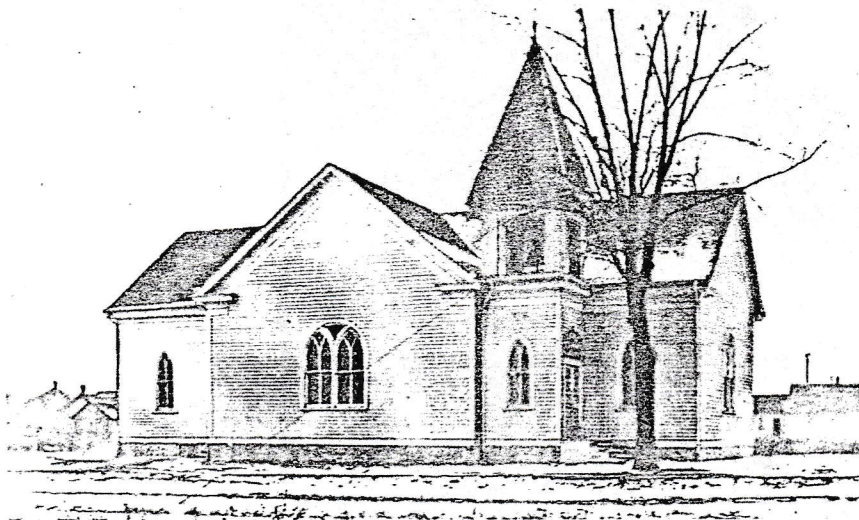
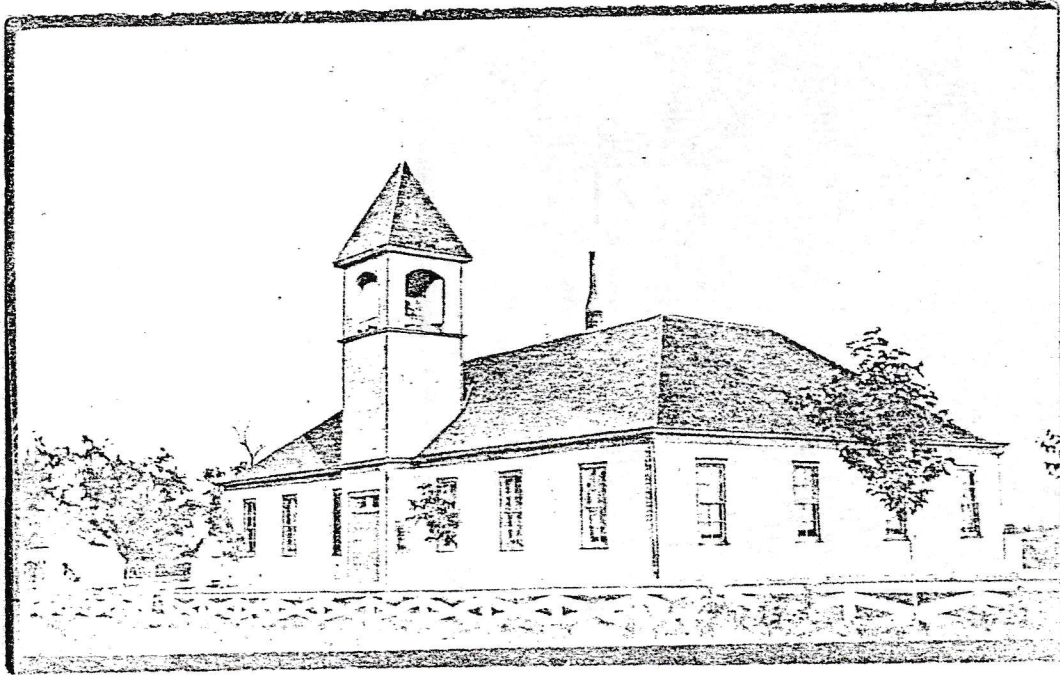
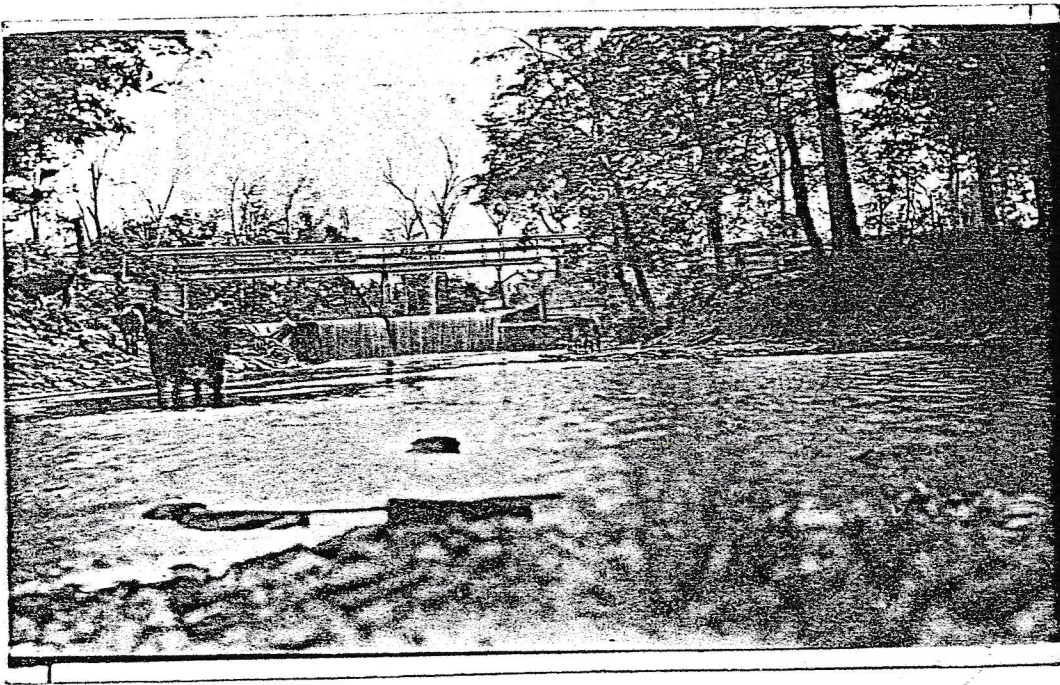
Fletcher House

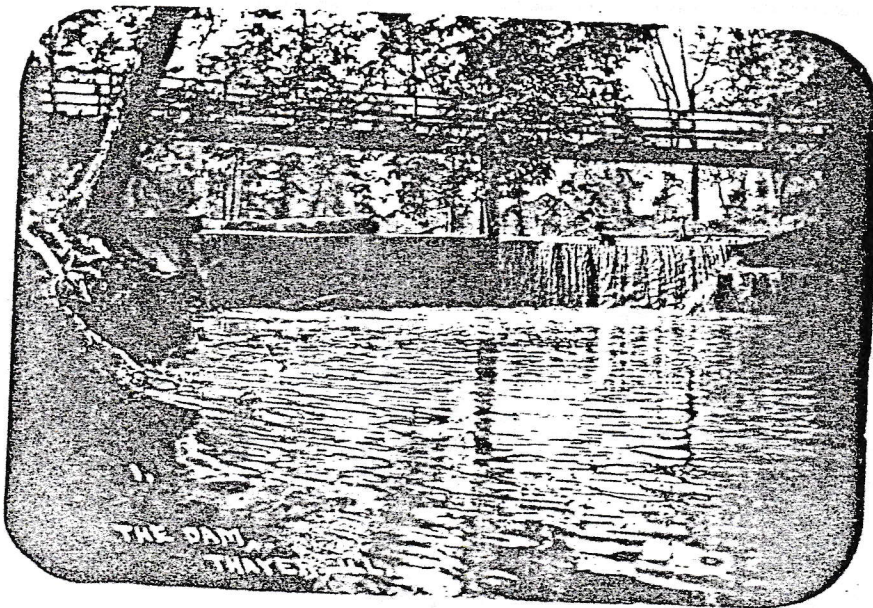
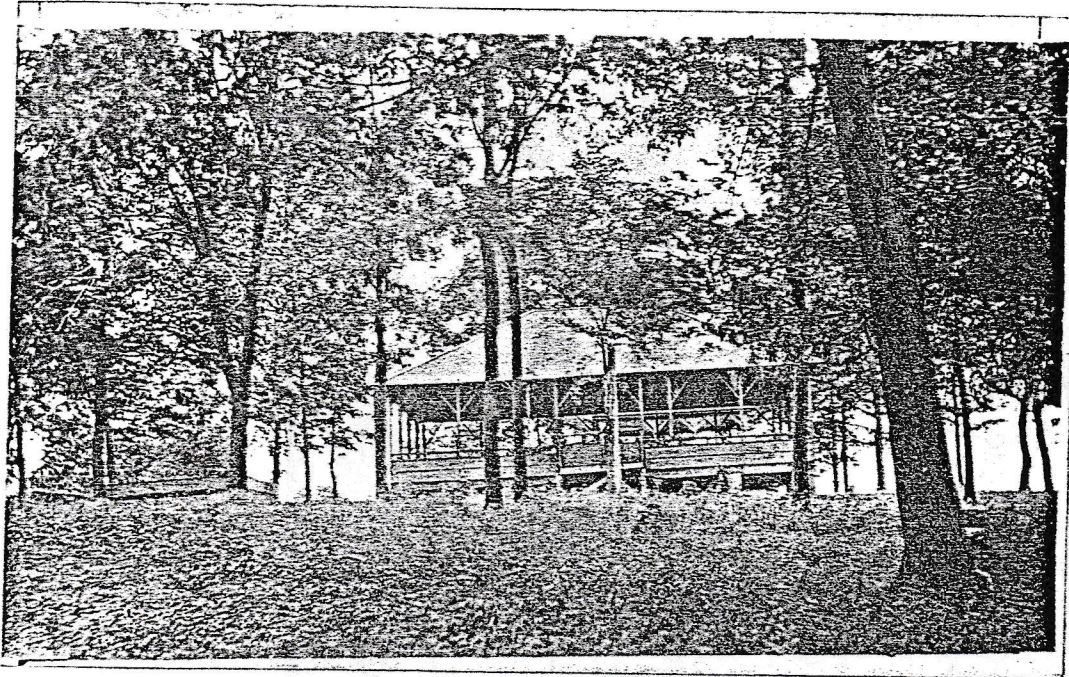








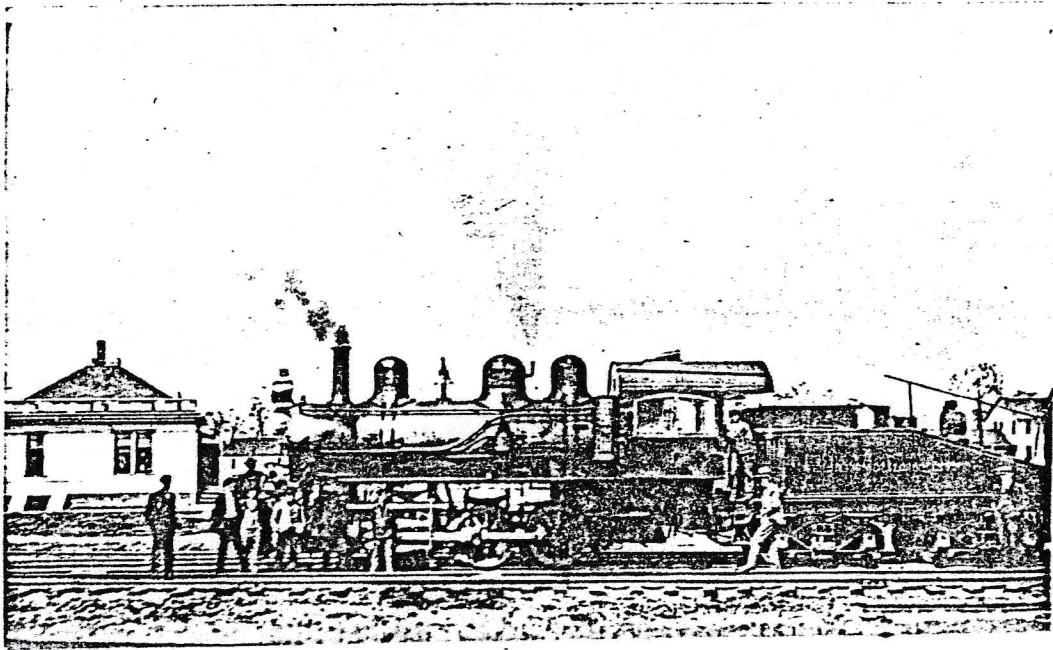
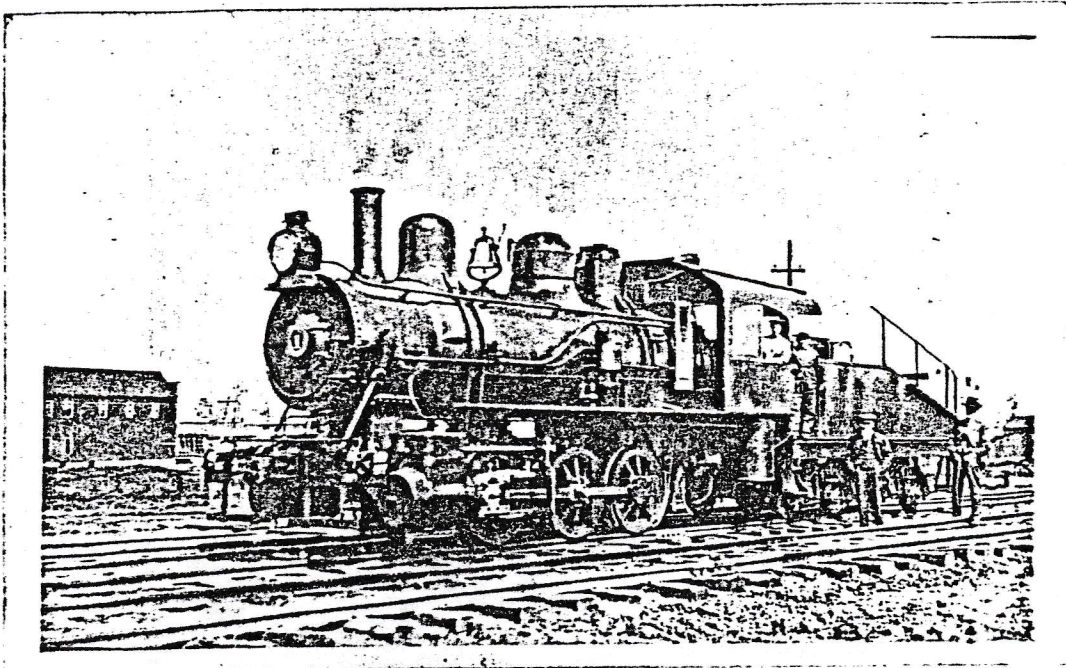
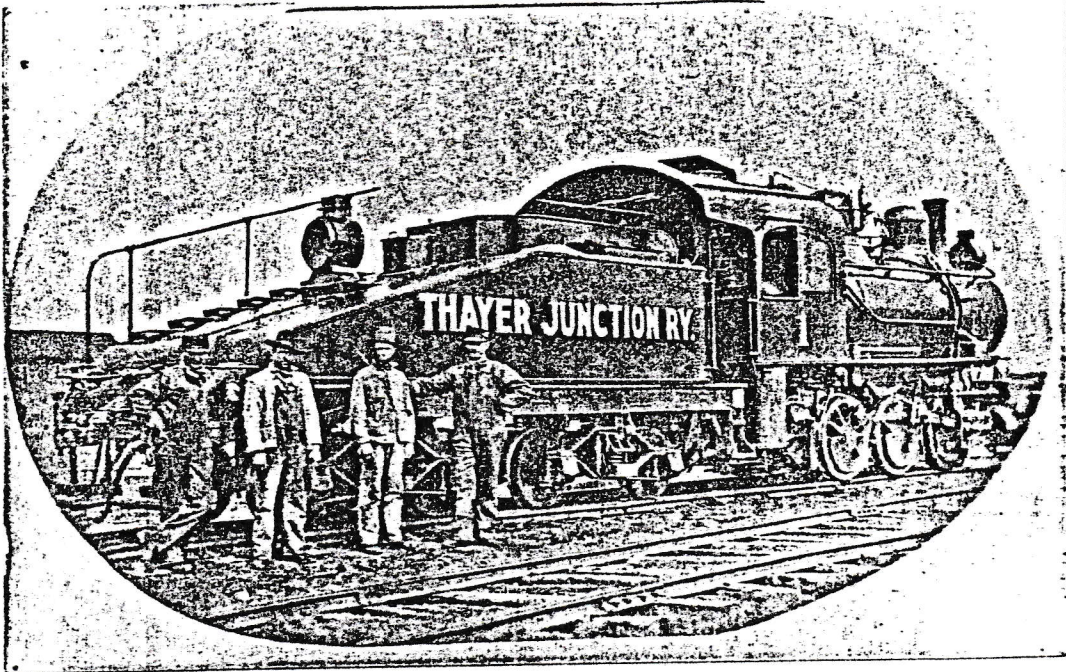


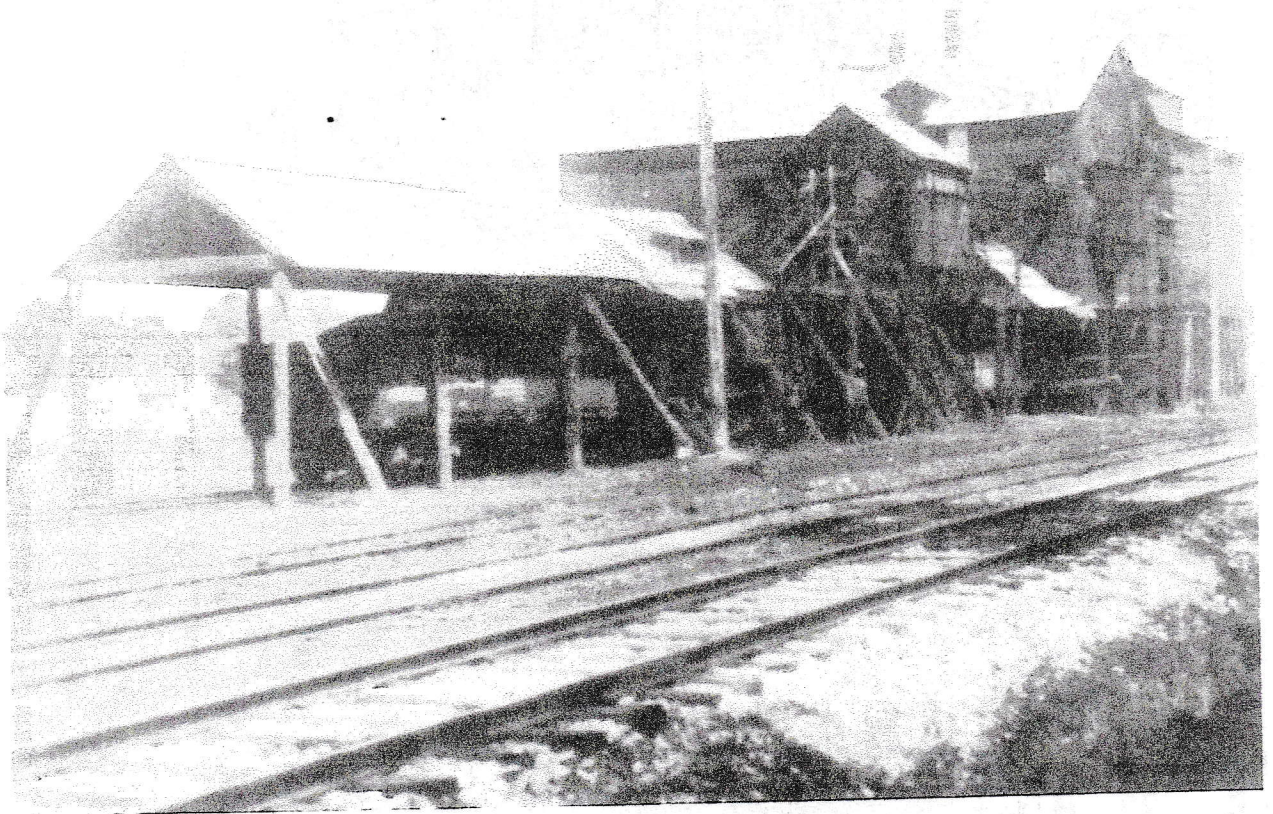


THE OLD
THIVE



THE SPRINGS
WATER FALL





the returns of the proposed organization and found 42 votes cast in favor of the organization and 2 votes cast against it. Thus Thayer was organized as a village.

Mr. Fletcher had been the Superintendent of the CW&V Coal Company at Streator before coming to Thayer. According to the account of Mr. Fletcher in the Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Sangamon County, it was he who made it possible for the miners to own their homes with only a few residents being renters. In 1912 it was reported that 450 men were employed by the mine and that the mine had a capacity of 2400 tons of coal each day.

Mr. Fletcher had a handsome residence built for himself and his family. (See figure 4.) His daughter, Miss Edna, worked as a clerk in her father's office, later becoming timekeeper and recorder of the payroll. She resided in Thayer the remainder of her life and died only a few years ago in her mid 90's.

Miss Edna recalled in an interview for the Virden Recorder in 1968 that there were as many as 600 miners on the payroll at Thayer in the "good days." Paydays were the 15th and 30th of each month and payments were made by cash, brought for each payday from Chicago via train. She recalled that many of the guards were apprehensive, but she never was, and nothing ever happened to the money.

Two railroads, the ITS and the C&A, ran along the east part of town. Until 1910 the interurban ran through the town - right down Main Street then turned south at the end of Main Street toward Virden.

A group of six company houses across the railroad tracks to the east became known as the "Dirty Six." This was because the area was especially muddy, with no walks, and the houses were weathered and in need of painting.

The whole northeast part of town became known as the "Washer Side" because this was the location of the coal washer. (See pictures attached to paper.) It was here that the coal was literally washed in order to remove impurities. This operation was separate from that of the mine. A man named Bill Forester owned the washer and Joe Woodward operated it. A refuse pile of coal began to form which looked as though it were a small mountain. Many people scavenged for usable coal in this area. Two women were killed here when the refuse pile caved in on them while they were trying to dig coal.

Main Street

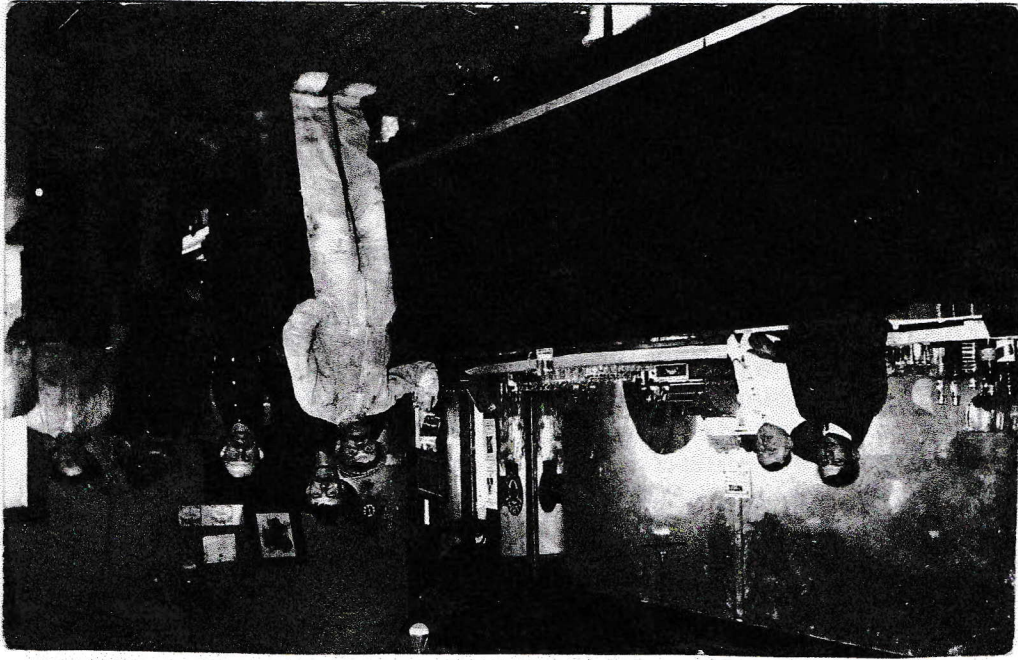
As Thayer began to grow, quite an assortment of buildings sprang up along Main Street. In addition to the Company Store, which offered just about everything the miners needed, and the hotel that were built by the mine company, many saloons, a movie house, a drug store, a lumber company, and grocery stores began to appear. (See figure 5 and those attached to paper.)

Among the saloons in town were "The Pink," "The Little Red Onion," "Reeva's," "Johnny Connors" in the Reisch Building, and "The Belmont Bar."

Thayer slack pile kills 2 ladies

May 14, 1931

Mrs. Mary Bednarchik and Mrs. George Dolack of Thayer were killed last Saturday when the culm pile left beside the old coal washer in Thayer caved in on them while they were salvaging small bits of coal left in the old slack pile.



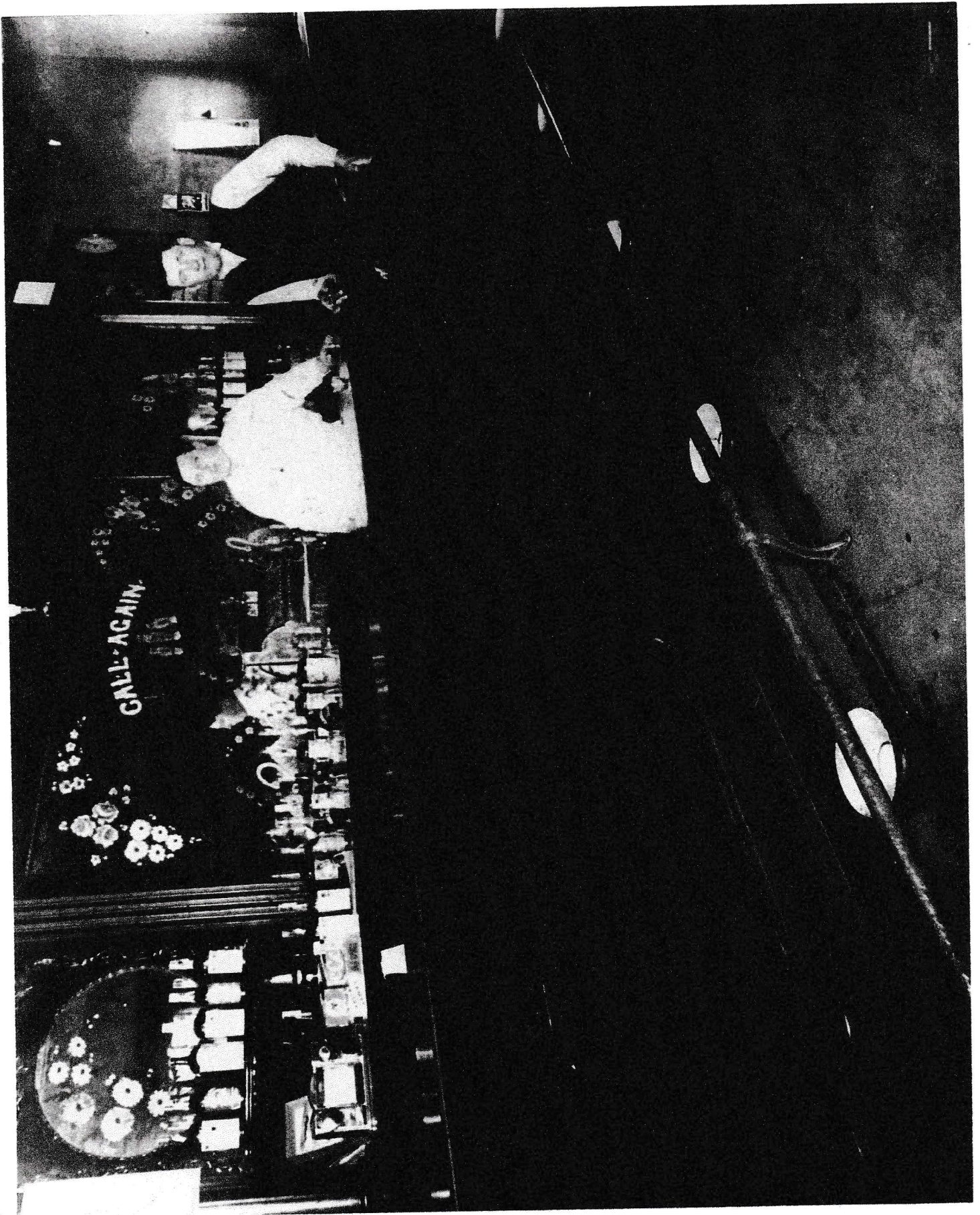
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TO HAVE A BAKERS
SHOP ON MAIN ST.

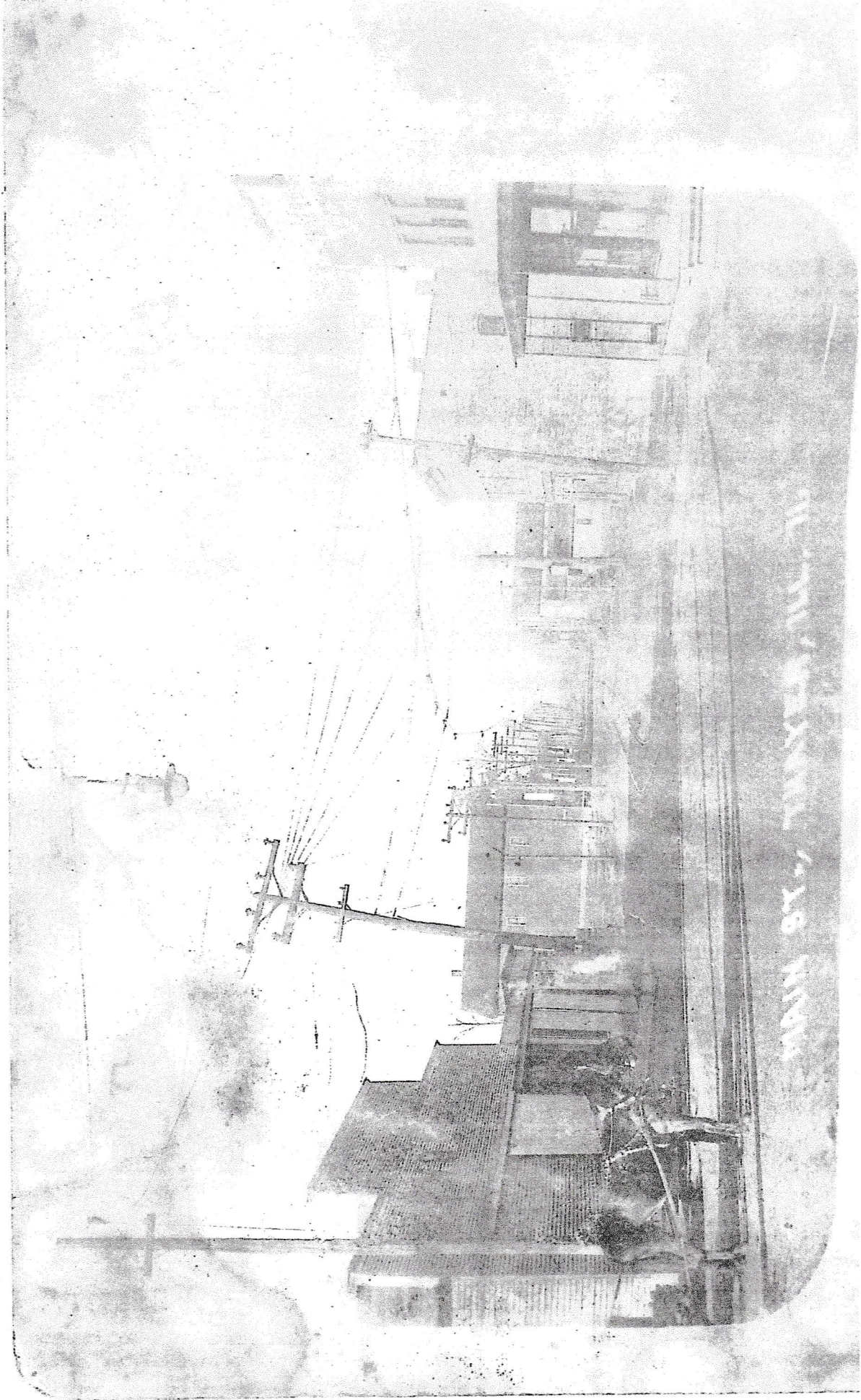
CARMAZINAS



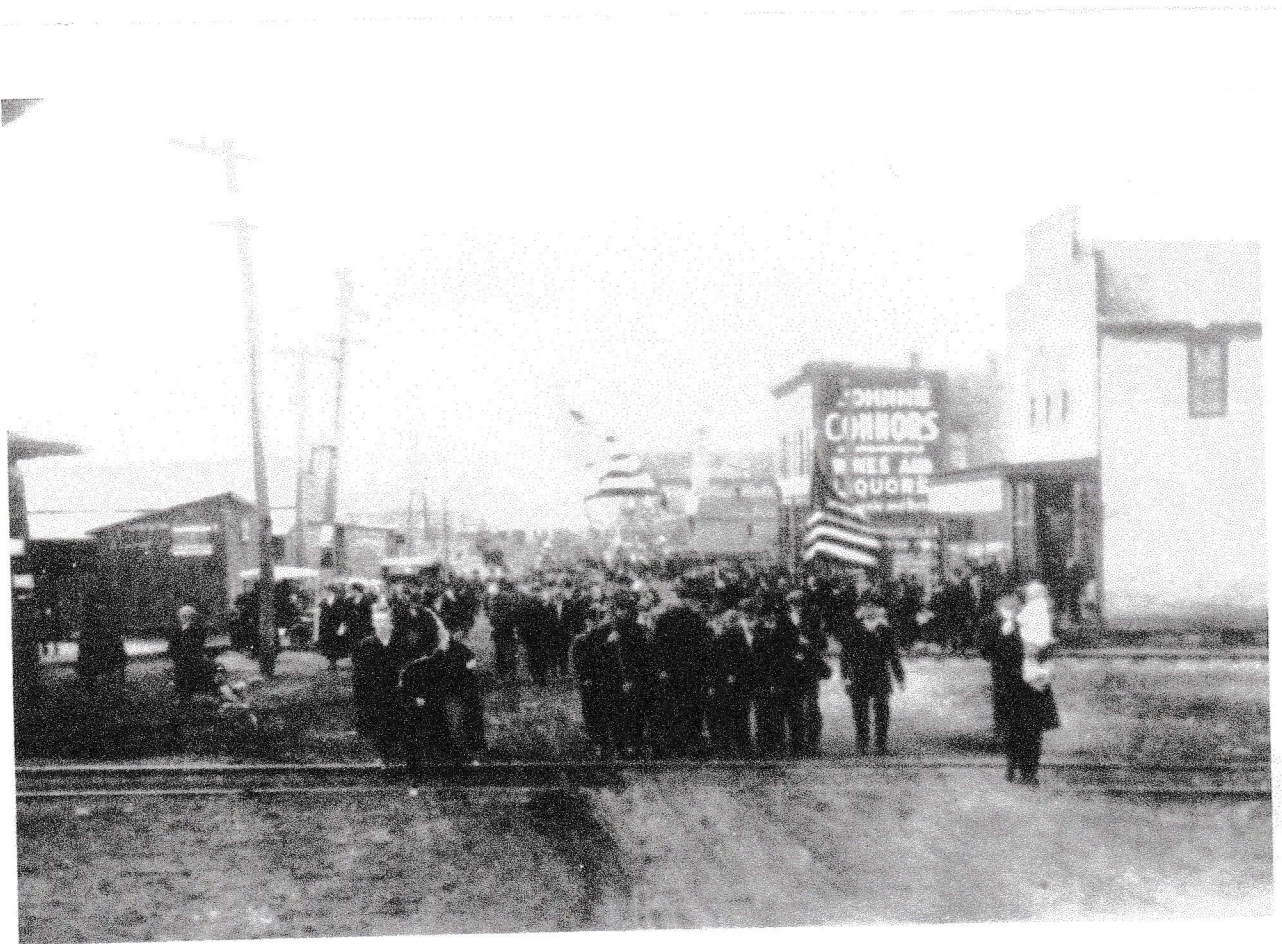
Socket's Tavern in Thayer

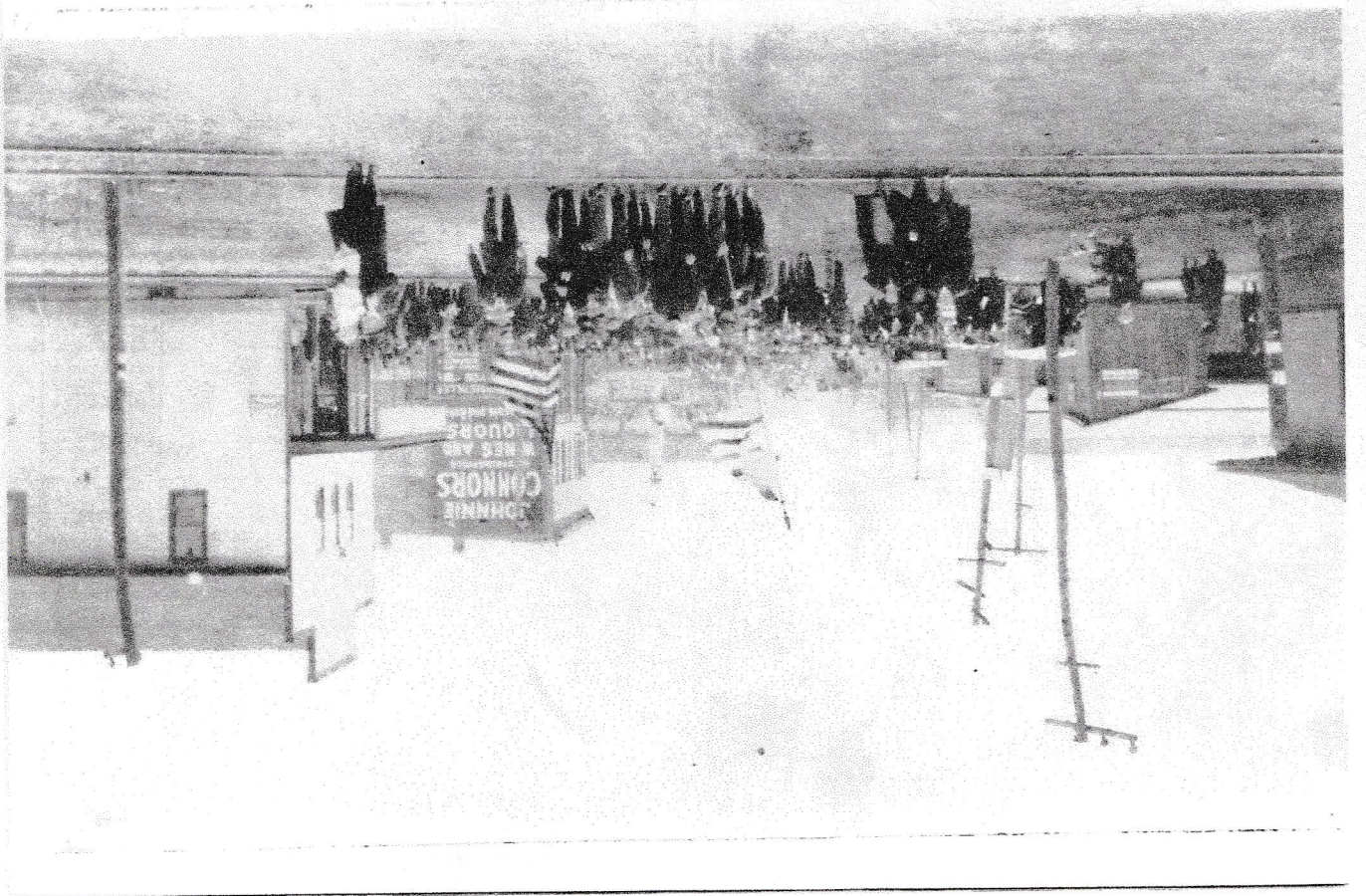
Back in the early 1950's, a group of fellows gathered at Thayer's Socket's Tavern for a laugh or two. Shown from the left are (standing) Mike Semanik, John Semanik, Johnny Oleyer, Swede Johnson, Cliff Johnson and Socket Yourek. (Seated) George Howarth, Bruce Davis and Teaddle Boyle. (Photo courtesy John Semanik)





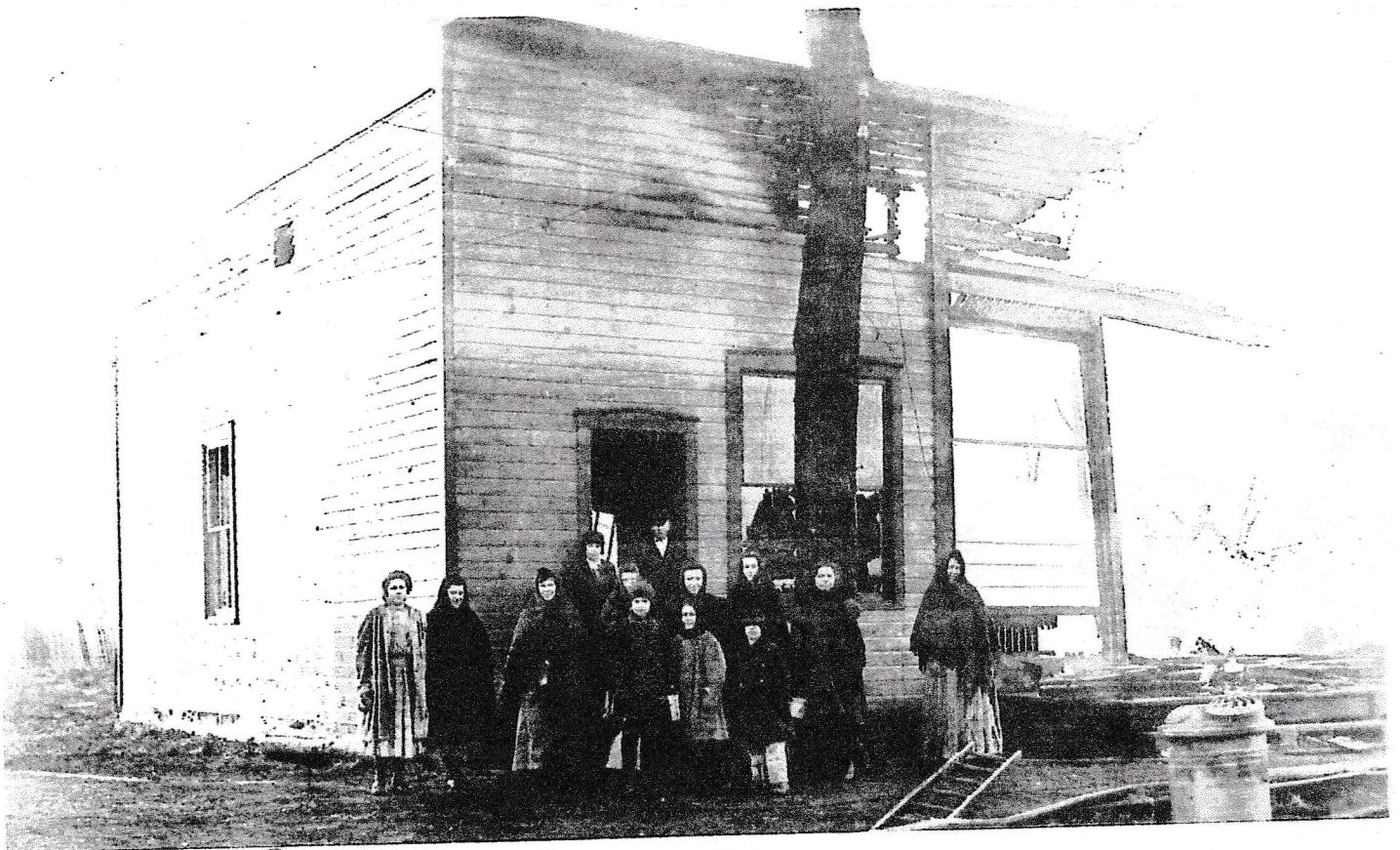
MADE BY THE MANUFACTURING CO. OF NEW YORK



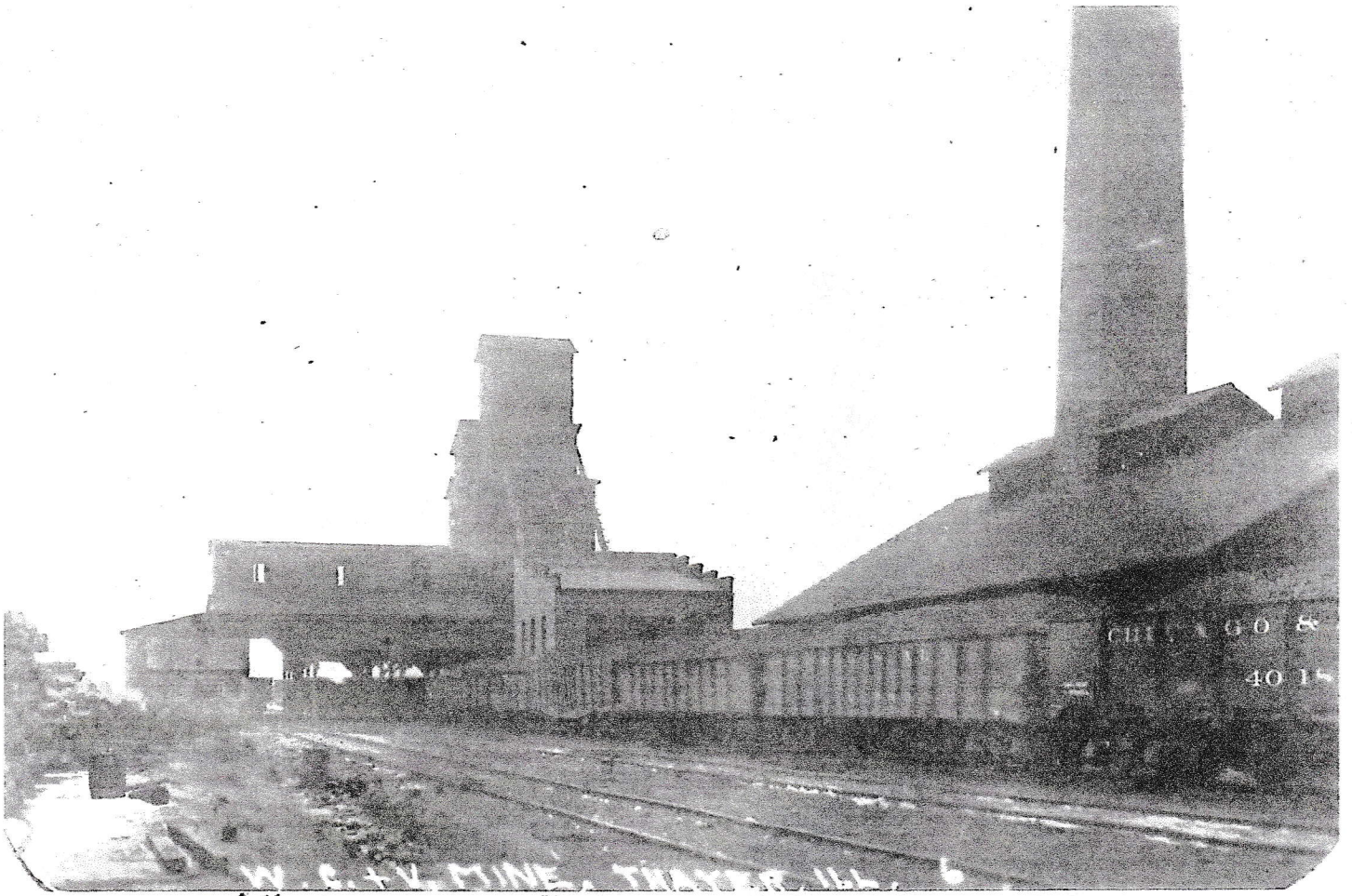


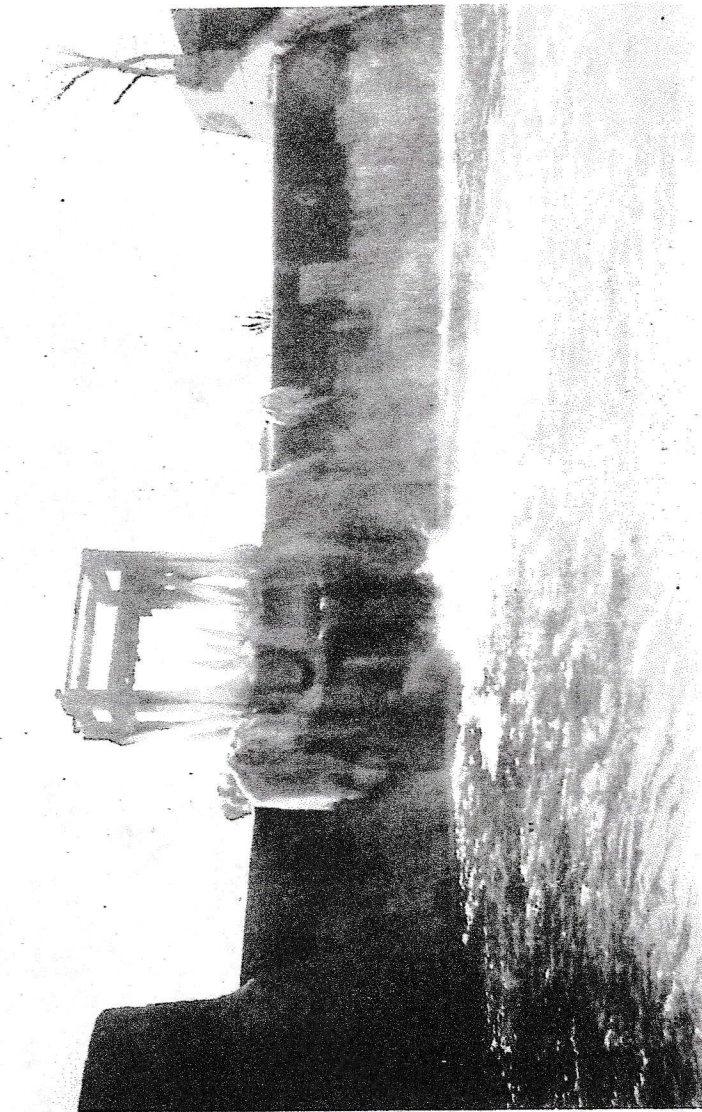


RUINS OF WILLIAMS BUILDING, THAYER, ILL.



Remains of Barber Shop



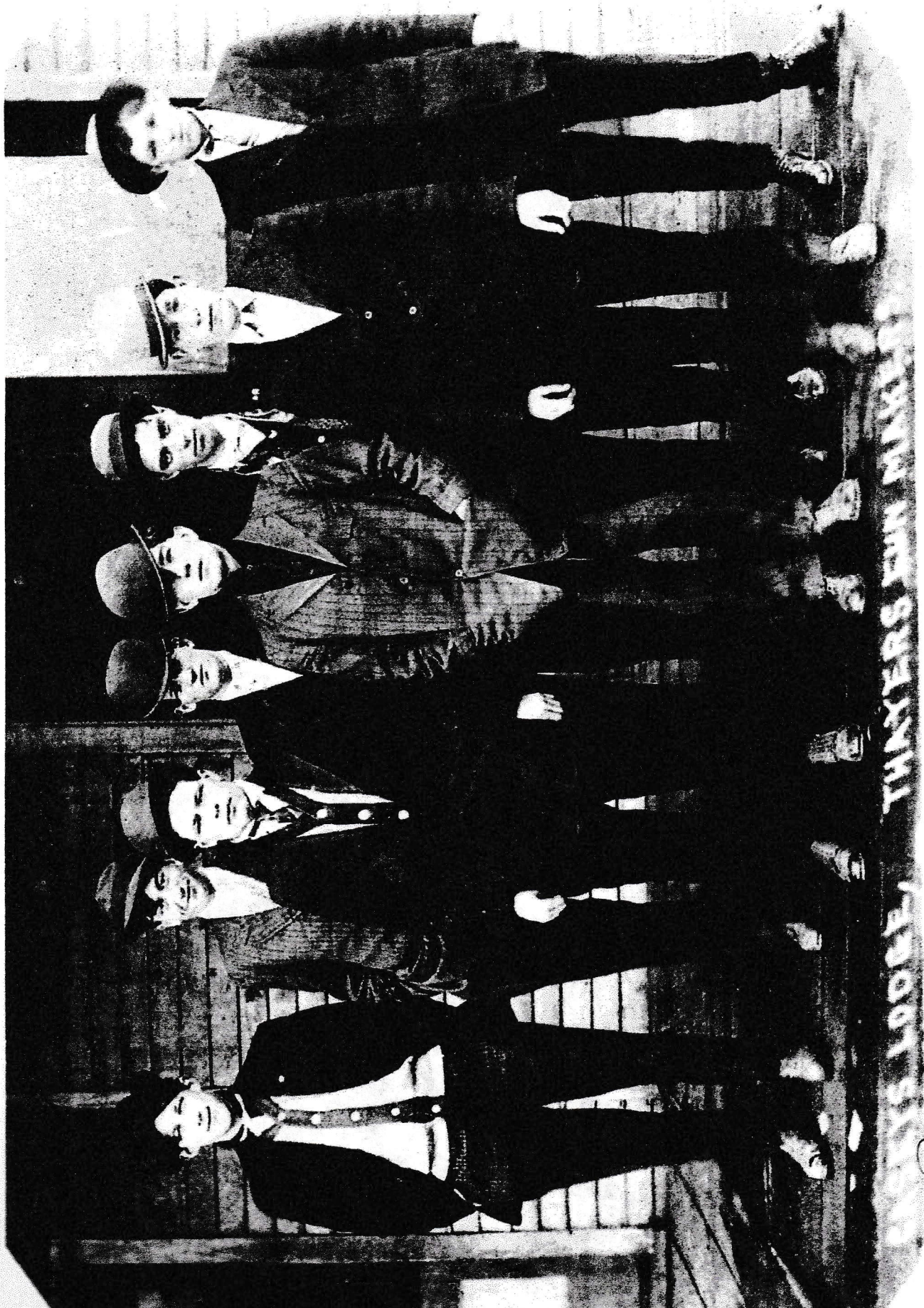


"The falls in Thayer after a heavy rain."

(Dam behind Brian Wood's house now.)



Estelle Voges Durham and her sister, Helen Voges, both of Springfield brought in these two old photos
around the year 1920. The top photo is of the Deerbrook Drill Team, on the bookcase is identified as



LADY'S LOONEY, THAXERS SUN MAKER

Costume
No 1

"The Pink" was under construction in 1904 when a wind storm blew it over and it had to be rebuilt. After the building was completed, James Micheletta, the owner, moved his family to Thayer, living at the rear of the building with a saloon on one side, a grocery and candy store on the other, and a dance-hall upstairs.

Many of the saloons were set up in the same fashion - saloon and store downstairs with a hall upstairs. These saloons offered quite a variety of entertainment besides dances. Vaudeville acts or musicians frequently came to Thayer to perform in the later 1910's. One of the favorites was Cornelis Jones, a Negro piano player, who performed at Radford's Movie House which was built about 1912 or 1913.

Reeva's Building, in addition to containing a saloon and dance hall, held a restaurant and grocery store operated by Elec Bartlena.

Johnny Connors' Saloon was called "The Brick" because it was a brick building. The upstairs of "The Brick" was frequently used for lodge meetings. These lodges were social in nature with such names as "The Redmen," "The K P Lodge," "The Companion Lodge," "The Oddfellows," or "The Rebeccas."

The building in which "The Little Red Onion Saloon" was located is still standing today, but not on Main Street. It was moved and today it is the home of another tavern, "Chappy's." (1973)

In addition to the above-mentioned saloons, two others, managed by Dick Peacock and Charles (Spud) Clark, were also on Main Street.

In 1901, Mr. Wanless who worked at the mine also ran a pool-room in the evenings in his building on Main Street. Soda-pop and peanut taffy were available. In 1908, he and his family moved to the building, and instead of the pool-room, he opened a grocery store which he operated until 1955.

Karaffa's grocery store, which is still in operation today, was bought by Mr. Karaffa about 1913 from a family who had moved to Thayer from Streator. Apparently, Karaffa was "talked into" buying the store since the owners wanted to return to Streator. Today, Andy Karaffa, whose father originally purchased the store, is still operating the only store of any kind in Thayer.

Miss Clenigus operated the drug-store on Main Street during Thayer's early years. The post office was also contained in her building. When this building burned in 1914 (as did the hotel which was not rebuilt), she moved her drug business and post office into the Company Store which she shared with the manager, W. F. Schaffer, until about 1918 or 1919 when he retired. Jennie Puma then managed the Company Store and post office until her retirement in 1953. The building was subsequently sold and demolished.

The first doctor's office was also located on Main Street. It is believed that either Dr. Utley or Dr. Bell was the first doctor. Other doctors who practiced in Thayer were Dr. Conway, Dr. Goodpasture, and the last being Dr. Alderson.

Also located on Main Street during the early 1900's were a barber shop owned by Bill Fox, a shoe shop owned by Mr. Fassero, a livery barn run by Bill Morris, a photography shop and an ice

Thayer physician dies from stroke

October 4, 1934

Dr. Arthur S. Alderson, 64, Thayer physician since 1904, died in the hospital in Springfield. He suffered a stroke from which he never rallied. Funeral services were held at the residence.

cream parlor run by Louie Golletto, a village hall and jail, two butcher shops operated by Mr. Spencer and Harry Millhouse, and the Fred & Lowe Lumber Company managed by Port Robbins.

The hotel, built by the mine company in 1900, was apparently managed by a number of people. Among these were Billy Bailey in 1904, Pauline Sokatch, and a family named Cook.

William and Minerva Coates bought land on Main Street from the CW&V Coal Company in 1903. There they erected a dry goods store described as a long, two-story wooden building with a large porch which contained no roof.

Thayer was quite a "booming" town during the mining days. One lady referred to the town as being on the map from Springfield to St. Louis and being known as "wide open". Although there were special police assigned to the saloons, no one recalls anything "bad" ever happening.

The Park

Sugar Crèek runs through the north part of Thayer. Over this creek in the early days was erected the "swinging bridge" which connected the park area to the town. Everyone remembered this area with nostalgia. Picnics and games were held at the park, in addition to dances, since there were two pavillions - one for dancing and one for the band. During the winter, ice skating was very popular on the creek. People came from miles around to skate on Sugar Creek.

Later a dance hall was erected in the park area called "The Pastime". This was also the area where gypsies camped from the spring through the fall. They used to walk through the town trying to be paid for telling fortunes. They came for a couple of years until the town council finally prohibited them.

The creek was really quite large. (See figure 6.) The mine company built a dam so that it could use the water power. To the east of the park area, Mr. Wilkerson operated the pump house and an ice house located near the dam. In 1920 a tragedy occurred at the dam when two young boys were drown.

The dam was dynamited when the paved road was being put in through Thayer during the mid 1920's. The dam was dynamited in order to prevent the flooding of the road. It dried up the creek.

The School

The first school was held upstairs at the Company Store in September, 1901. The teacher was Mrs. Lena McGlothlin.

In December, 1902, the first school building was completed, but in February, 1903, it was completely destroyed by fire. (See figure 7).

There is quite a story that involves this fire. One of the teachers, Pearl Martin, had been warned by her brother, one of the carpenters who helped build the school, that the contractor had used wood instead of steel or tin furnace ducts. He cautioned his sister to place her hand on the bottom step of the school

JOHN MAYNARICH 7 YRS. OLD
NORMAN WALTERS
DROWNED AUG 6, 1920
@ THE PUMP HOUSE

ENJOY SOCIAL MEETINGS

Numerous Gatherings of Clubs
Were Had Yesterday.

Literary Researchers Debate a
Meeting to Longfellow.

Cosmopolitan Club is Entertained at
Progressive Euchre—Other
Gossip of Society.

The Literary Researchers were entertained yesterday afternoon at the residence of Mrs. H. W. Magill, 349 South State street. The subject now being studied by the club is "Longfellow" and the program yesterday included several of his works. The program follows: Instrumental solo, Miss Maud Savage; character sketch of Longfellow, Mrs. Claspill; vocal solo, Miss Lee Snodgrass; two papers were read, an Evans-line, one by Mrs. William Eads and one by Miss Ruby Jones; recitation, "The Village Blacksmith," Roswell Magill; instrumental solo, Miss Maud Savage. The next meeting of the club will be with Mrs. J. R. Miller of North Fourth street, when "Longfellow" will be discussed. The Entre Nous club met yesterday afternoon with Mrs. Erazee of South Seventh street and engaged in the usual game of progressive euchre. The winning ladies were: First, Mrs. H. K. Weber; lone-hand, Mrs. R. Smith; guest prize, Mrs. Beal.

Will Give Entertainment.
The ladies of the Plymouth Congregational church will give an entertainment in the church next Tuesday evening. The following program will be followed: Instrumental solo, Miss Bessie Eudaly; recitation, Alma Shryer; Grace Sutton; Ethel Searcey; selection by quartet; vocal solo, Miss Lewis; instrumental solo, Miss Eaton; recitation, Grace Lomilino; instrumental solo, Effie Adams; vocal solo, Bertha Wilcox; selection, quartet; dialogue, "Lippin of Church Scheme," by the ladies of the church; instrumental solo, Inez Christine.

Mrs. E. A. Nartack of 615 South Fifth street entertained the Cosmopolitan club yesterday afternoon at cards. Four tables were utilized and a very interesting game of progressive euchre played. Those winning prizes were: First, Mrs. Elmer Ott; second, Mrs. William Neer; guest prize, Mrs. Ray Hudson; consolation prize, Mrs. Paim. After the play the hostess served refreshments. The club will meet in two weeks with Mrs. E. A. Wilson, 100 West Allen street.

Meeting of Card Clubs.
Mrs. Allen Enos of North Fifth street entertained the Eureka Card club yesterday afternoon. The ladies winning prizes were: First, Mrs. Edward Groves; second, Mrs. George Ritter; third, Mrs. William Blueke. At the next meeting the club will be the guests of Mrs. E. W. Clifford of Pawnee, who is being entertained by Mrs. Enos.

The Literary Researchers will meet Monday evening, March 2, with Mrs. C. O. Jones of West Grand avenue, south. The husbands of the ladies of the club will be guests, and an elaborate program is being arranged for the event.

Mrs. Harry Knotts of 315 Logan avenue entertained a number of her friends yesterday afternoon in honor of Mrs. W. N. Hanford of Peoria, who is visiting in the city. A very pleasant afternoon was spent and the hostess served luncheon.

Miss Helen Luers of 929 South Second street entertained the Queen Esther circle of King's Daughters yesterday afternoon.

The Mission Study class of Christ's church met yesterday afternoon with Mrs. C. E. Matheny of South Fourth street.

Young People Entertained.

Smith, soldiers' home, Danville, Ill.; Paul McWilliams, Mount Sterling, Ill.; James Mitchell, Soldiers' home, Danville, Ill.; Samuel E. White, Mattson, Ill.; Joel Sherr, bottom, national military home, Danville, Ill.; Gallant A. Busswell, Girard, Ill.; Widows, miners and dependent relatives—Clara Schlimmer, Waterloo, Ill.; Eliza M. Wilson, Litchfield, Ill.; Mary F. Swisher, Danville, Ill.; Mary P. Sutton, Centralia, Ill.; Orleans Owens, Bingham, Ill.; Laura J. Schwab, Taylorville, Ill.; Sarah S. Hancock, Flora, Ill.

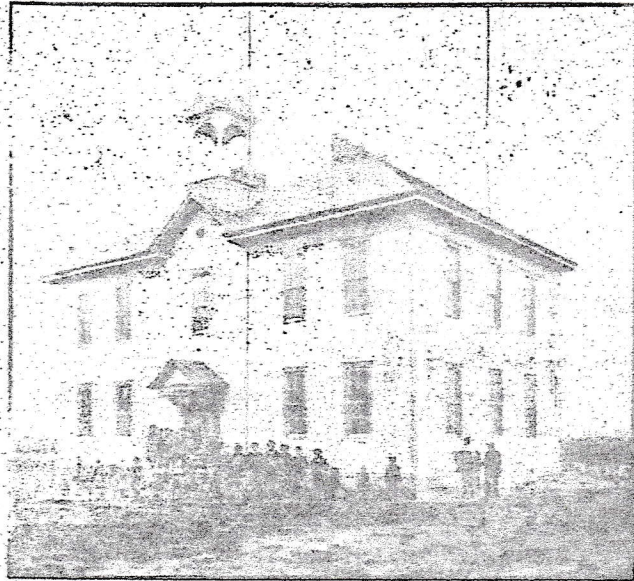
WILL PICK JUDICIAL NOMINEES

McLean County Republicans to Hold
Primary Today.

Bloomington, Feb. 20.—Special.—The Republicans of McLean county will hold a primary tomorrow to nominate a candidate for circuit judge. There are five counties in the circuit but by reason of its population and importance McLean county is allowed to name one of the candidates.

Four Bloomington lawyers are contesting for the honor. They are Judge C. D. Myers, the present incumbent; Judge Thomas P. Tipton, who has

CALDWELL SCHOOL AT THAYER WHICH WAS DESTROYED BY FIRE MONDAY MORNING



The Thayer school house, which was completely burned and from which thirty-two children were rescued by the bravery of Miss Edyth Martin, their teacher, was opened last December. Work on the building was begun in September and the structure was dedicated Dec. 26. The school was named for Ben F. Caldwell, by whose contributions, in large measure, the erection of the building was made possible. Whether the school will be rebuilt is a matter which has not been decided by the citizens of the town. The miners' hall in the village of Thayer, in the meantime, will be converted into a temporary school house.

previously been on the bench for a period of two terms; S. F. Robinson and Calvin Rayburn.

THOUGHT DEAD! COMES TO LIFE.

Cordova Man Causes a Panic Among
His Relatives.

Cordova, Feb. 20.—Special.—John Marshall of this place, after being pronounced dead by his attending physician, created a panic among his relatives and friends who were watching over the supposed corpse, by springing up from the death couch and assuming a sitting posture among the assembly. The supposed dead man completely revived and was able personally to dismiss the undertaker, who appeared shortly afterward to take charge of the body. The people of Cordova and the members of Marshall's family regard the occurrence with superstition.

KAISER'S ORTHODOXY IS

ACCEPTED AS SATISFACTORY.

SNOW STORM HINDERS TRADE.

Grain Earnings for February Show the
Usual Gain.

New York, Feb. 20.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade tomorrow will say:

Just as the railway congestion began to give way before the vigorous efforts of traffic managers, the situation became further complicated by the worst snow storm of the season and the movement of merchandise was again interrupted. Latest figures of gross earnings show the usual gain, February thus far surpassing last year by 17.6 per cent.

Trade was interrupted to a considerable extent by the inclement weather except in certain seasonal lines, notably heavy wearing apparel. Wholesale houses dealing in staples have received liberal orders and much forward business has been placed. Traders urge quicker shipments on old orders while travelers send in many new contracts.

Manufacturers of paper, straw goods and clothing report conditions fully as satisfactory as a year ago, aside from some interruption by labor controversies.

Bids are invited for extensive building operations, giving strength and activity to materials and supplies.

The actual output of pig iron decreases

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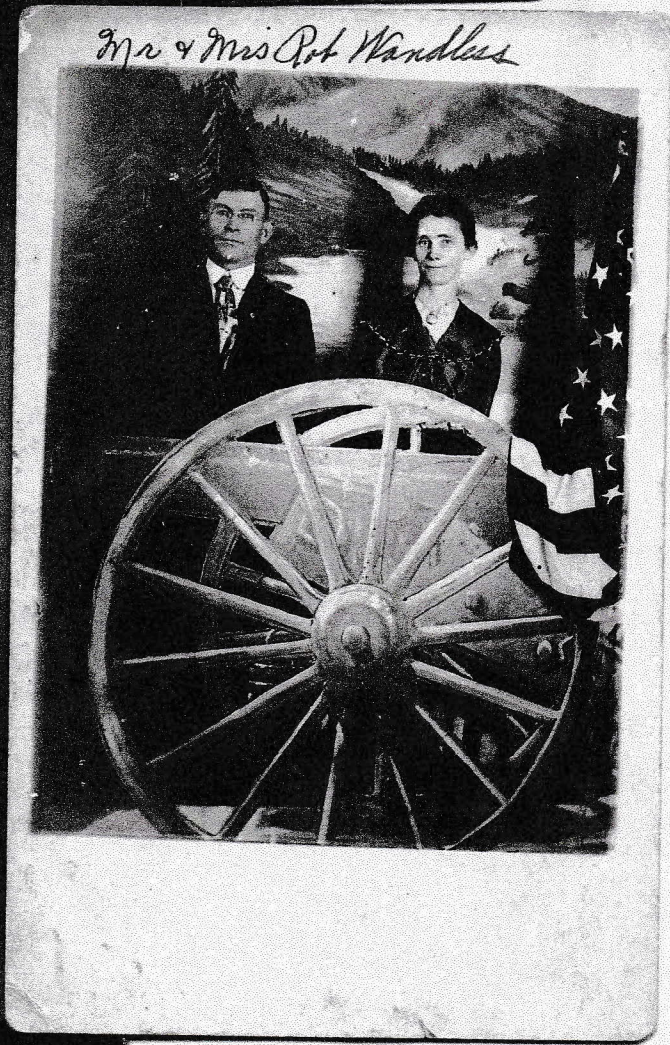
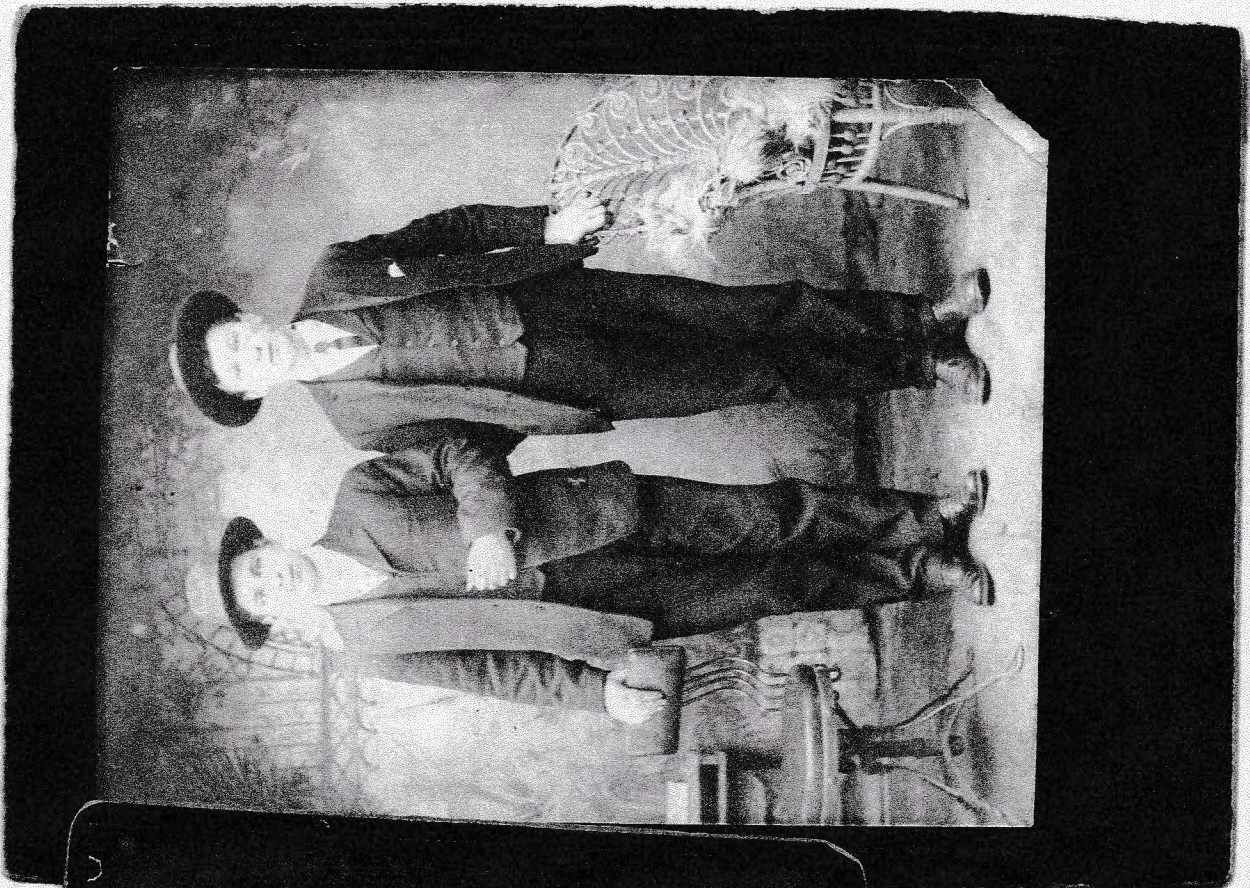
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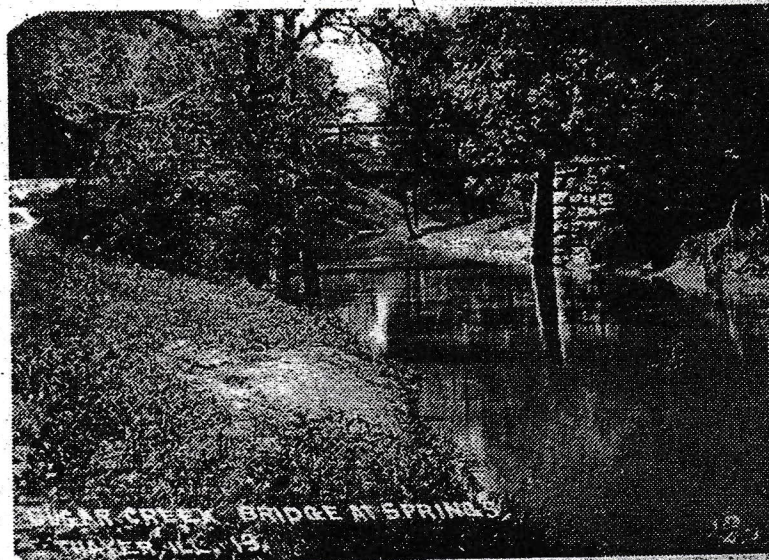


Thayer was once quite a nature preserve, and people would travel from miles around to "bottle up" some of the village's spring water. The dam, which was located east of Jim Evans' home, was dynamited out in 1924 when the state built Route 4.

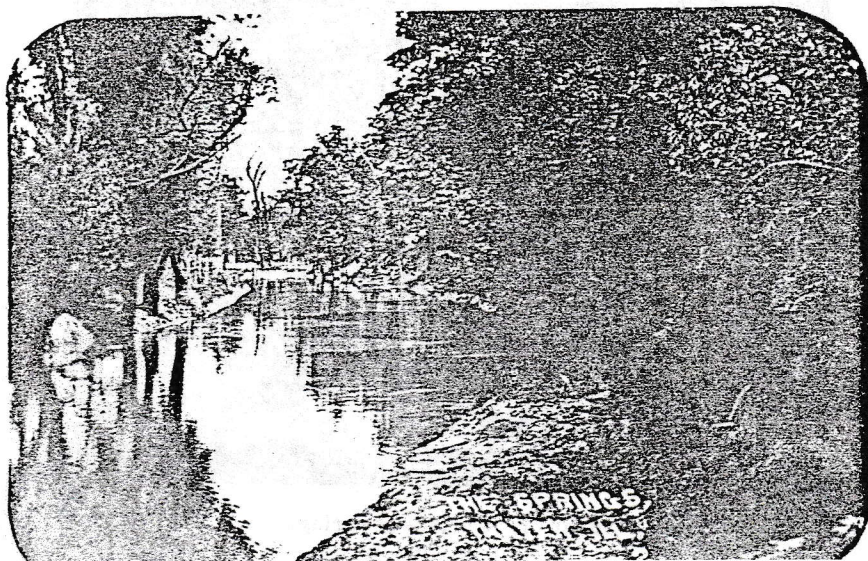
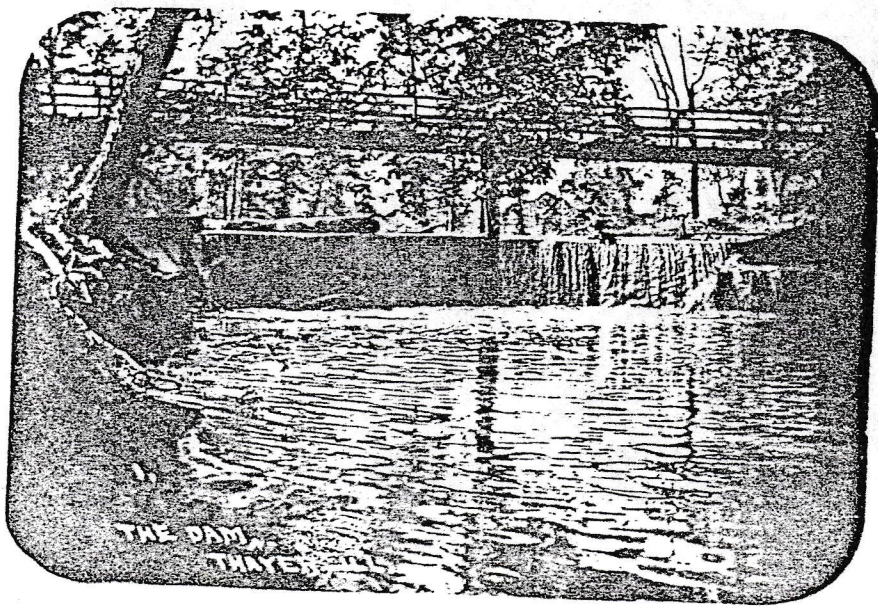
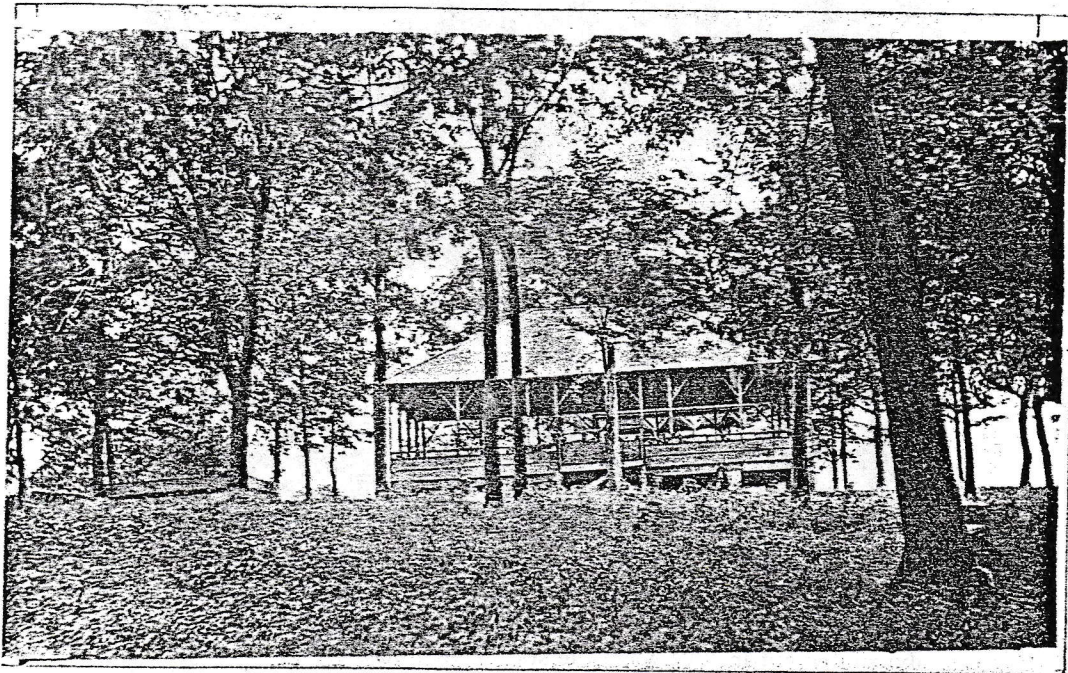
(Photo courtesy Idabel Emerson)



Below the dam

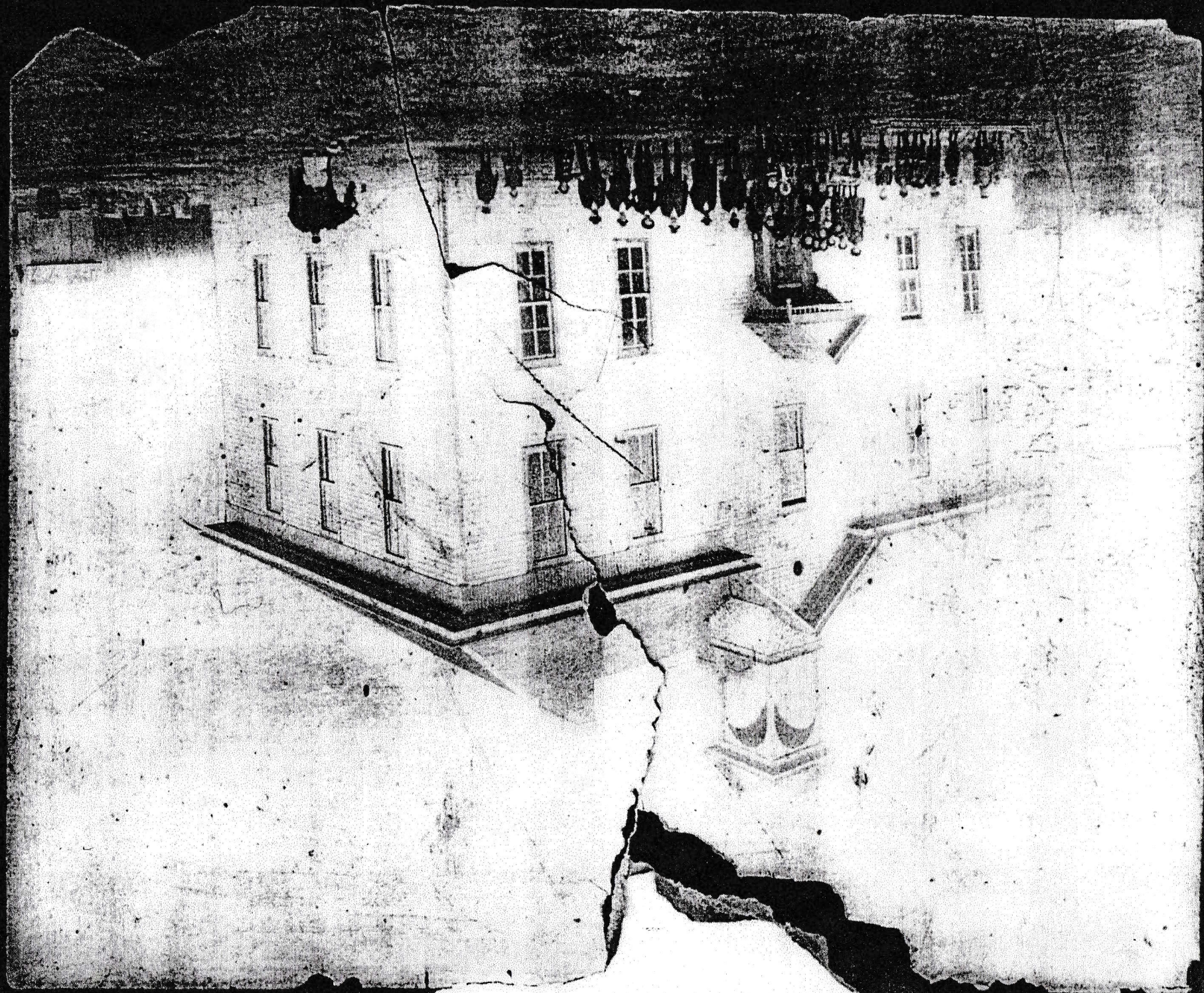


Sugar Creek bridge at springs
(West of Louder Road Bridge)

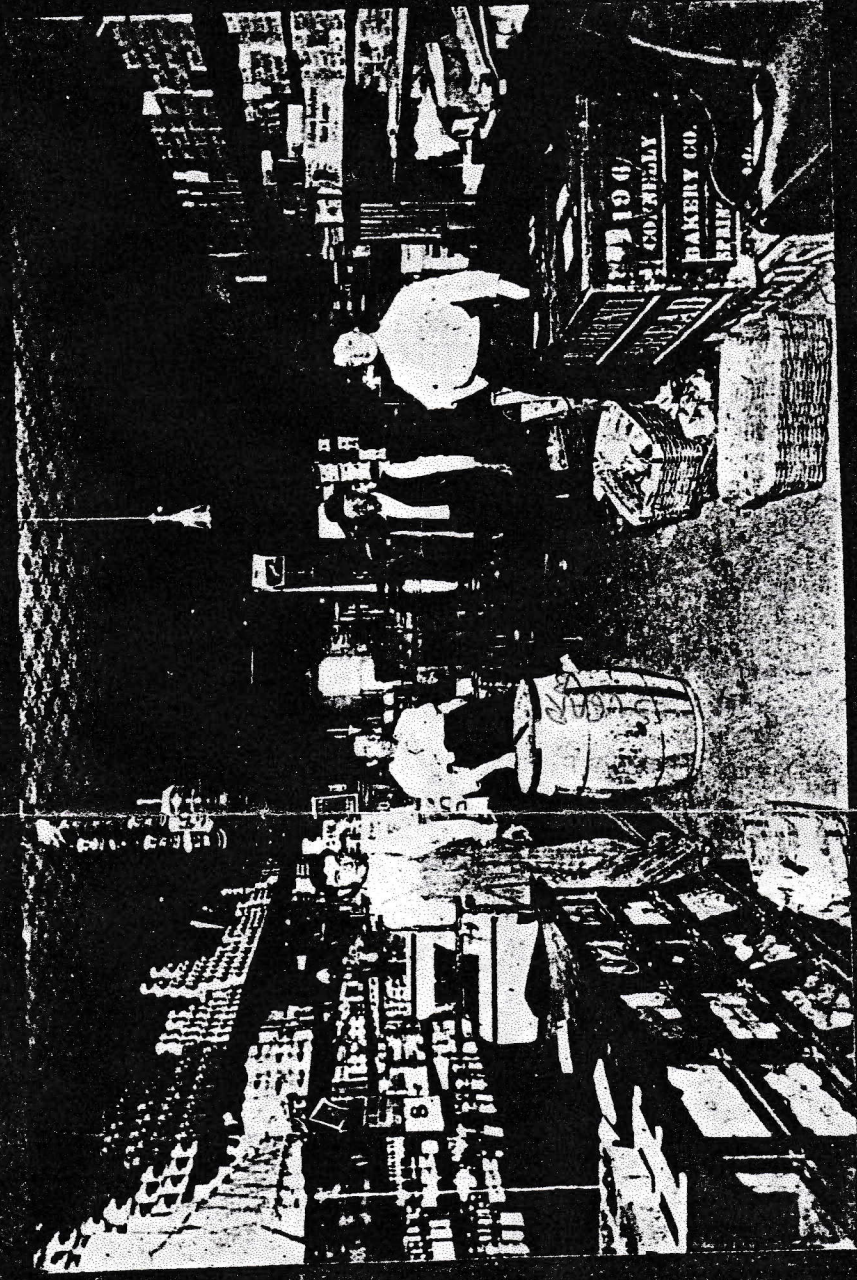




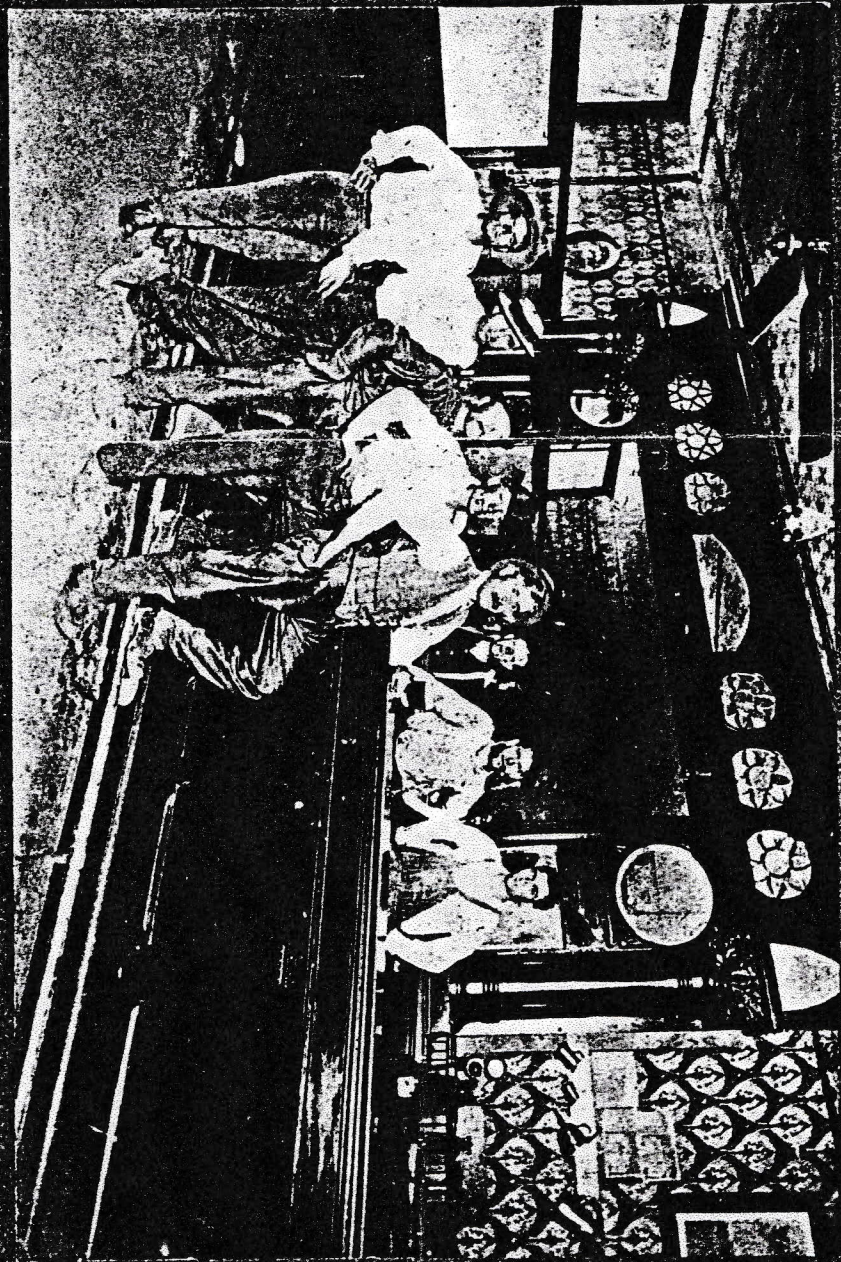
GRANDMA COATES IN DOORWAY
LOT $\frac{1}{2}$ EAST OF KARRAFA'S STORE
GROCERY
MAIN ST.



GRAND MA COATES
GRAND PA COATES
THE L SUTTIE
JIM SUTTIE



FRONT ROW 3RD FROM RT. JOHN BRUNAW MUSTACHE
 FRONT ROW 2ND FROM RT. JOHN WASHKO
 FRONT OF BAR
 STRAW HAT JOE FOX



BILL GATES
 JACK GEORPER
 BACK BAR
 JIM SUTTIE

before entering, and if it were warm, she was not to enter. Apparently she did this a few times, but failed to do so the day of the fire. No one was injured in the fire. The children were thrown (if panicked) or jumped from the windows onto mounds of snow outside. For the night before there had been a heavy snowfall. This was a blessing for the children who had to jump from the upstairs.

In addition to Pearl Martin the staff consisted of three other teachers and the principal, Mr. John Gardner.

After the first school was destroyed, another had to be erected. Part of this building is still being used today as Thayer School.

Churches

Apparently there were two religious affiliations in Thayer - Episcopalians and Methodists.

The first Episcopal services were held upstairs at the drug store by Miss Lusbee and a visiting minister, Rev. Firth. Later, about 1915, Mrs. Brackett held Episcopal services in a small church. Visiting ministers held services for adults. Both Miss Lusbee and Mrs. Brackett held Sunday school for children. The girls were taught to embroider and the women came to quilt. Mrs. Brackett's church was moved about 1925 to Springfield. Although the location of the church could not be discovered, it is believed the church is still in Springfield today.

The Thayer Methodist Sunday School began on January 22, 1902, by Mrs. Mary Gillespie. The first services were held upstairs at the Company Store until May, 1902. For a short time services were then held in the Park, later moving to the present site of the church. Logs were used for seats and a giant oak tree provided shade. When the first school was completed in 1902, services were held there on Sunday by Rev. M. M. Want, pastor of the Virden Methodist Church, or Mr. Mark Turner, ordained as a local preacher, until the building was destroyed by fire in 1903. No services were held while the new school was being erected.

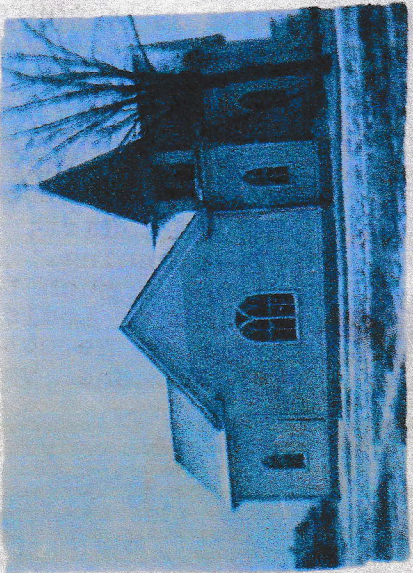
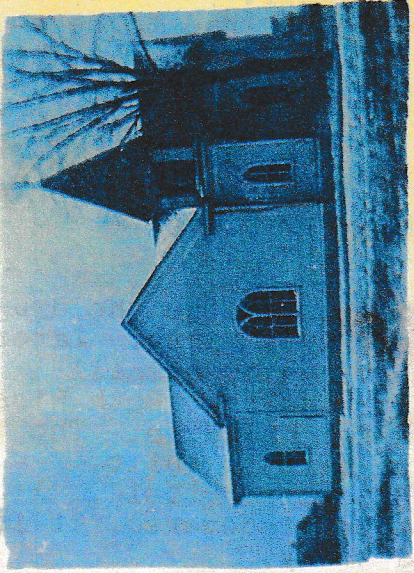
After many deliberations and negotiations, the old Walnut Grove Church located one mile east of Thayer was moved in sections to the present site of the church. A new church was built using this old church as wings. The church building was completed in late 1904 and still stands today serving as Thayer's only church.

A Rags to Riches Story

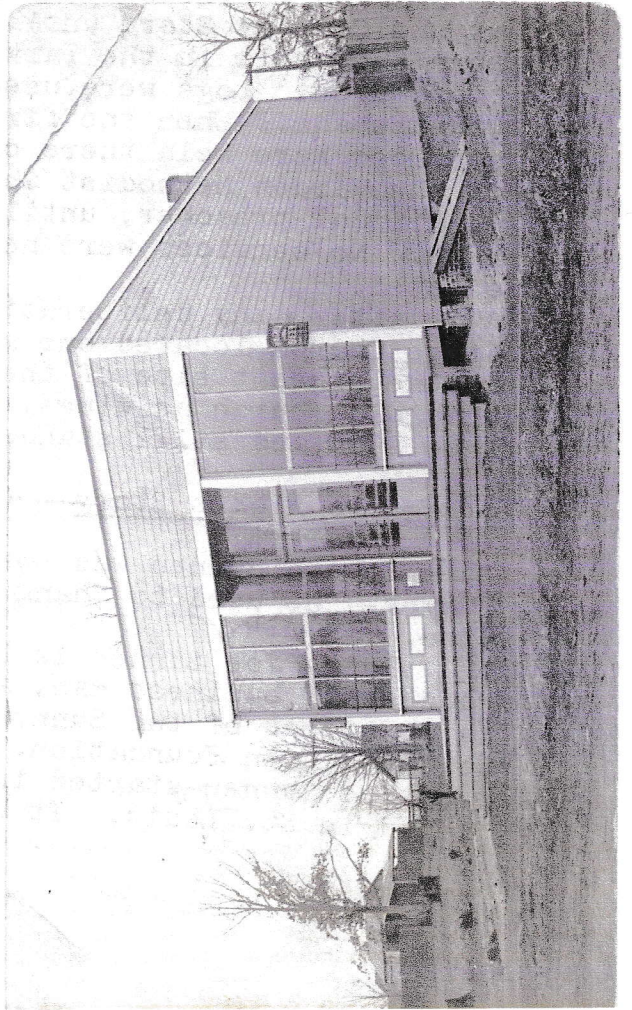
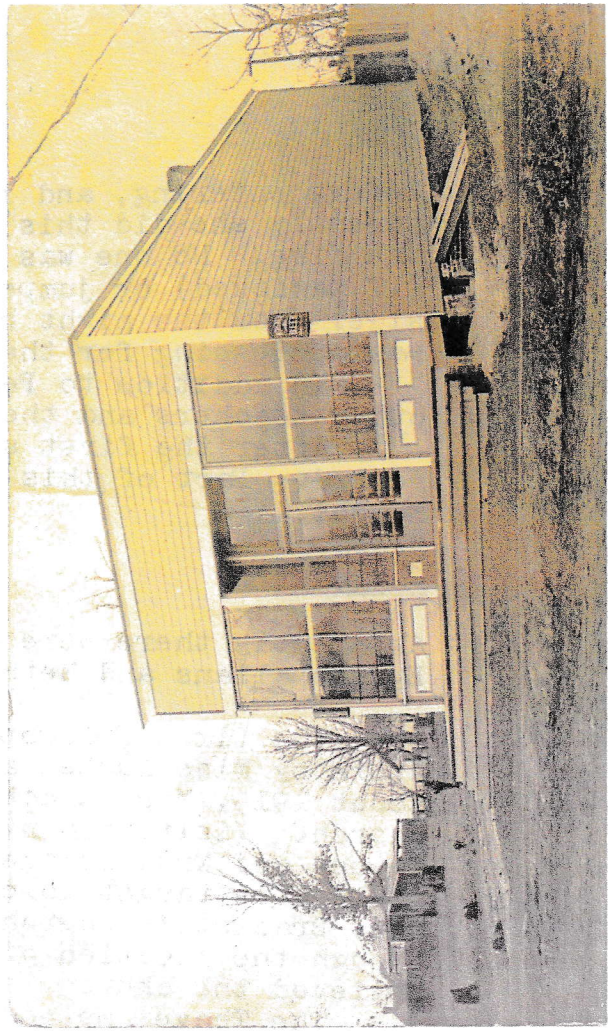
Joseph Sunnen was born in Kangley, Illinois, and raised in Thayer. He used to "hang around" the machine shop of the Thayer mine.

Today Joe Sunnen is known as an inventor, industrialist, successful business man, and a crusader for family-planning. He is president of the Sunnen Products Company and devotes much time to the Sunnen Foundation. Both are headquartered in St. Louis.

Joe Sunnen started in business with a small garage he established in St. Louis. It was here his first invention, the valve



THAYER METHODIST CHURCH



HISTORY OF THAYER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL 1954-2004

The people of the Thayer United Methodist Church and Sunday school have been very active during the last 50 years.

In the beginning, the Women's Society has been the backbone of the church by holding dinners, bazaars and many other fund raising events to help the church financially, plus donating to different missions. Each May the ladies sponsor a Mother & Daughter Banquet and in August they prepare a Father & Son Banquet. Their contributions to the church treasury have helped pay the utility bills, insurance, repairs and other things needed for the church.

The Sunday school children have been active in our church by presenting Christmas programs, special music, lighting the altar candles and passing out programs at the start of church each Sunday.

Listed below are Sunday school Superintendents who gave so generously of their time and talents through the years:

Mrs. Nellie Emerson

Mr. Alonzo Dawson

Mr. Richard Marsaglia

Mr. Ted Cinotto

Marjorie & Bonnie Pulliam

Mr. & Mrs. Terry June (Present Superintendents)

The Thayer United Methodist Church has been the only church in Thayer so it's like the "Light House" of the community. We hold special services at Easter, Christmas and other special days inviting the community to worship with us. During the early part of 1980 it was a blessing when we were able to install air-conditioning, lay new carpet and paint the old church.

In June of 2001, a heavy rainstorm damaged the church roof, rafters and ceiling.

For safety reasons the board voted that it would be best to have a Structural Engineer inspect the building. His recommendation would break many hearts in the community by saying the repairs would be too costly and that we would have to close the church, which was done on June 21, 2001. After closing the church we held a meeting with the entire congregation and discussed the future of the only church in Thayer. We all voted to rebuild our church on the present location and prayed that with God's help this could be done.

In July 2001 after the church was closed we started having the Sunday service in the Community Building just one block South of the old church. The city of Thayer let us use the building at no cost and we also stored our furnishings from the old church in the Community Building until we got the new church built.

To start the long process of building a new church the community donated many items for a large rummage sale that made approximately \$2,600 to start the church Building Fund. It didn't seem like much but it brought hope to many members for the beginning of a new church.

On October 21, 2001 the Thayer - Virden Fire Departments burned down the old church at no charge. The firemen were thanked for their hard work with a served lunch in the Firehouse in Thayer.

During the period from November 1st through 24th, 2001, the old basement was cleaned out and fill dirt, sand and gravel were hauled in and compacting began to hold the new concrete floor. On November 26th, we framed and poured footings for the new church, which was provided by members of our congregation.

From the start date of November 17th, 2002 we built a beautiful church with the help of the entire community. Many of the old church furnishings were brought back into the new church but the most meaningful were the worn and tattered pews, which were restored and reinstalled in the new sanctuary. These pews hold many memories from years gone by and will now hold many more for years to come. The cost of the new church was approximately \$250,000.

The first service was held in the new church on Sunday August 4th, 2002. On November 17th, 2002 an Open House and Dedication Service was held at the new church. It was amazing, the church was filled to capacity and we had to put out extra chairs in the aisles to seat all the people. The dedication service was at 10:00 a.m. and the corner stone was laid at 11:30. The congregation stood motionless while the masonry crew laid the cornerstone. This was the last and most important piece of stone that the crew put in it's resting place. The Cornerstone reads "Methodist Church 1904-2002".

With God's help the new church was completed in just one year and that's why it is named; **"The Church of the Resurrection"**

Pastors who have served our church are as follows:

William Pruitt

O.J. Hensley

Atile Chitti

William Laughlin

Donald Mann

Albert Murphy

Bill Woodruff

Robert Sabo Present Pastor

As we enter a new century it will be up to the younger generation to keep our light shining in the community as well as the world.

A special service and music followed by a catered dinner was held on October 10, 2004 to celebrate our 100th birthday.

Compiled by:

Dorothy M. Clarke

James W. Evans

Thayer church revived after being rebuilt

By DEBRA LANDIS
CORRESPONDENT

THAYER — In the late 1990s and the early part of this decade, some people wondered whether Thayer United Methodist Church, whose congregation dated to before 1900, should close its doors for good.

Sunday worship attendance had dwindled, and the old wooden church needed so many repairs that an architect said it wasn't worth remodeling.

But faith, a desire to look to the future and support from residents of this community of fewer than 700 prevailed, said the Rev. Robert Sabo, the church's pastor.

A new church, valued at \$700,000, was built in 2002, thanks largely to contributions and donated labor.

Membership grew. And last Sunday church celebrated the fact that its \$1 mortgage was paid off.

"We had a luncheon and a ceremony in which a copy of the mortgage was burned," said Sabo, a retired Methodist pastor who came to Thayer in the mid-1990s on a part-time appointment.

It took less than eight years to pay off the mortgage, Sabo said, thanks to donations from church members.

**"WE HAD
a luncheon
and a
ceremony
in which
a copy of
mortgage
was
burned**

— THE
ROBERT

Thayer Methodist Church celebrating 110 years!

Announcing a Special Sunday at Thayer United Methodist Church! Whether you have attended Thayer Church one time, attend regularly or have not attended for many years, you are cordially invited to join us as we celebrate Thayer United Methodist Church's 110th Birthday! Sunday, November 16, 2014: 8:00 a.m. Adult Sunday school, 9:00 a.m. Worship Service, and at 10:30 a.m. a Special Brunch is being served. Thayer United Methodist Church is located at 114 East Main Street, Thayer, IL 62689.

Thayer Methodist Sunday School began January 22, 1902, under the leadership of Mrs. Mary Gillespie. The first church services were held upstairs of what was called "The Company Store" until May 1902. For a short time, services were held in the park, later moving to the present site of the church. Logs were used for seats and a giant Oak tree provided shade.

When the first school was built in 1902, services were held there on Sundays led by Reverend M. M. Want, Pastor at the Virden Methodist church, & Mark

Turner, a licensed local pastor. That was building was destroyed by fire in 1903. No services were held while the new school was being built.

After many deliberations and negotiations, the old Walnut Grove church building, located one mile east of Thayer, was purchased and moved in sections to the present site of the church. A new church was built using the old church as wings. That building was completed in 1904 & stood until 2001. The building was condemned by a structural engineer in July 2001, and was then burned in October 2001 by the Thayer and Virden Fire Departments, who volunteered their services.

At the December 2001 church conference, a vote was taken & a decision made to build a new church and fellowship hall. It was passed by a unanimous vote. The new church was completed in the fall of 2002. It was dedicated on November 17, 2002. Laying of the cornerstone was also done that day. Reverend Glen Bocox, Superintendent of the Sangamon River District of the Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United

Methodist Church, presided at the dedication & consecration service.

With God's help, the new Thayer United Methodist Church rose from the ashes of the old church and was completed in just one year. That is why we call ourselves "The Church of the Resurrection."

On October 10, 2004, a celebration of the church's 100th birthday was held. 2014 is the 110th birthday of our church. Throughout the years, God has blessed and sustained us. We look forward to what the future holds for us. "For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord..." Jeremiah 29:11.

The Thayer United Methodist Church continues to be a vital part of the Village of Thayer and surrounding communities. It has been through the dedication, prayers, sacrifice & earnest seeking of God's will by past and present members of the congregation that has made this possible.

The Thayer United Methodist Church is a place where "Unity Builds Community" and a place of "Open Hearts, Open Minds and Open Doors."

lifter for automobiles, was perfected.

As a crusader for family-planning, Sunnen donated funds to the St. Louis School of Pharmacy to invent a birth control product that would be medically approved, cheap and easy to use. Through these funds the first spermicidal aerosol contraceptive came into being.

Sunnen, a multimillionaire, is known as a philanthropist who has helped many individuals, organizations and church groups achieve their goals.

Thayer Today

With the close of the mine in 1924, many families left Thayer in search of other occupations. Many migrated to the mines in southern Illinois. Thayer did not become a "ghost town", however. Those who did remain, though, were those who were able to find jobs in neighboring towns.

Today, there is a tavern, the village hall, the post office, and Karaffa's store located on Main Street. This is quite a change from the booming days. Today Thayer is known for its one restaurant, Mick and Mary's (formerly Maggie's) which was established by Maggie and Dominick Enrietta about 1926. Many people come from Springfield and surrounding communities to enjoy the family style setting.

Although in recent years some "new" people have moved to Thayer, many of the residents are the "old timers" or their descendants. Even though Thayer is not what it used to be, it has survived and is an example of the diminishing "small town."

John Madiar heads Slovak Club

January 17, 1935

Slovak Nonpartisan Club of Virden elected John J. Madiar, president; John Adams, Mike Feccho, John F. Mayernick and Andrew Hovan.

December 19, 1935

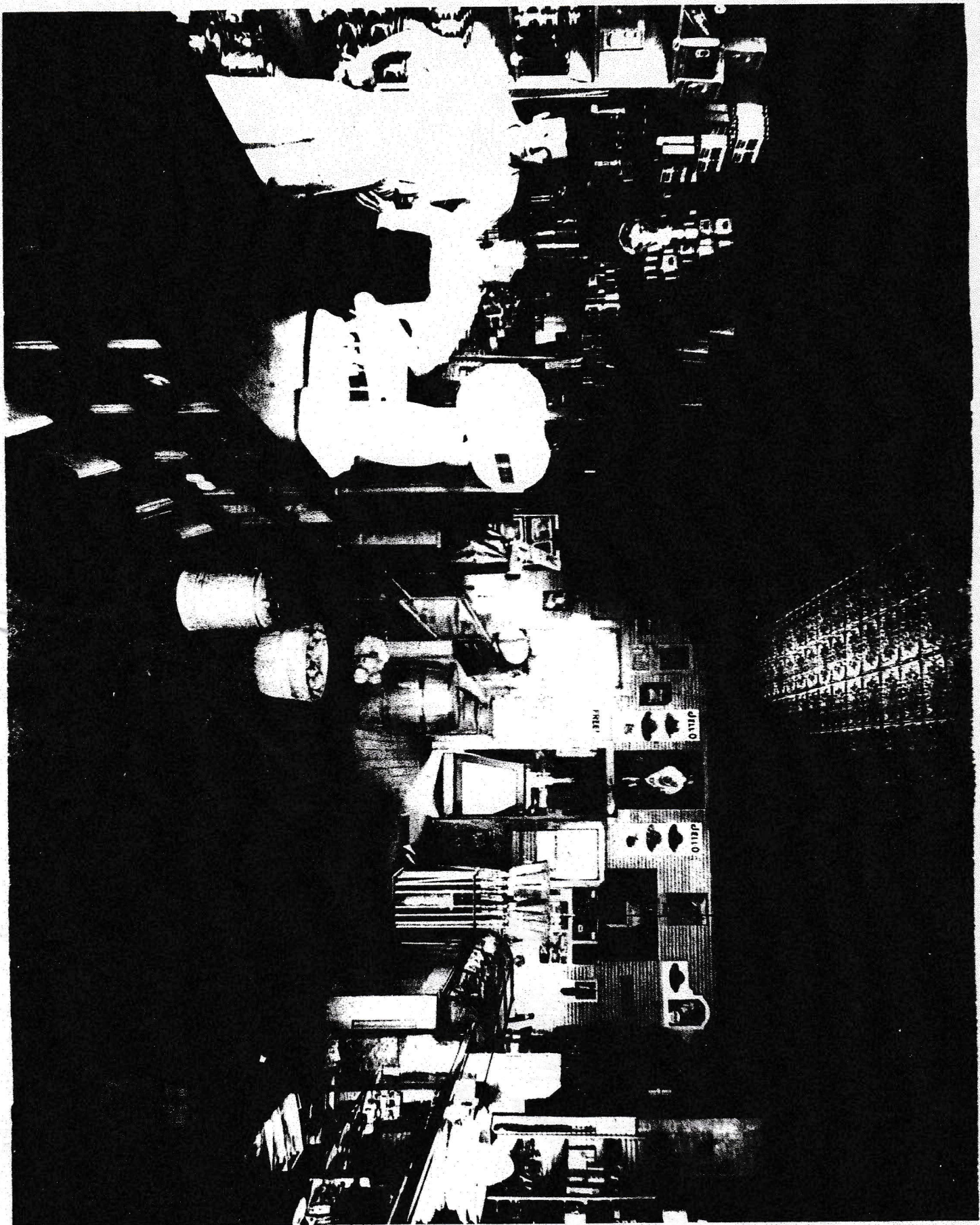
Slovak non-partisan political club annual meeting was in Virden Slovak Hall. Elected were president, John J. Madiar; John Adams, Mike Feccho, Sr., John F. Mayernick, Andrew Hovan, Andrew Stalmah, John Sepesy, John Massich and Joe Sholtis.

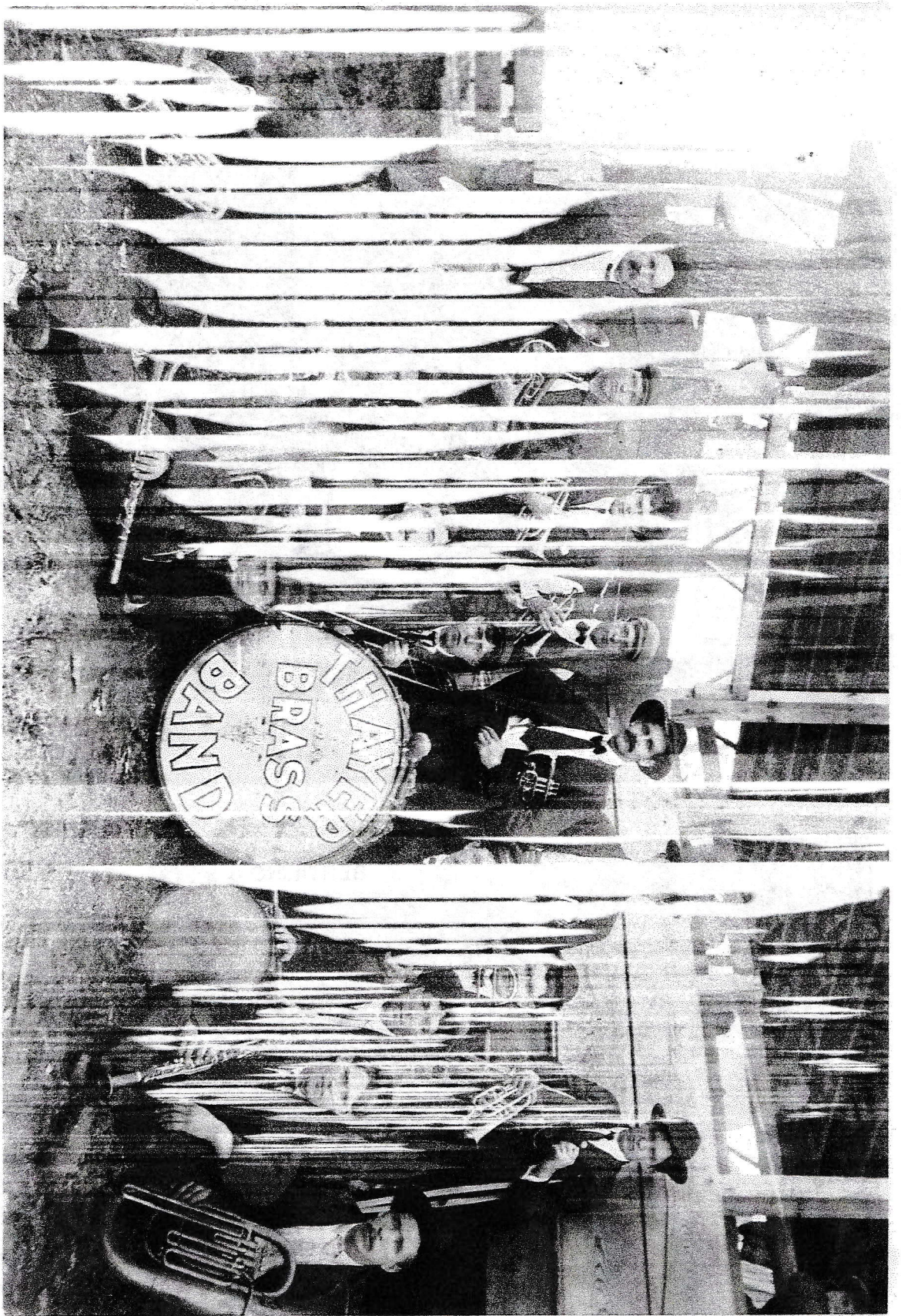
January 13, 1938

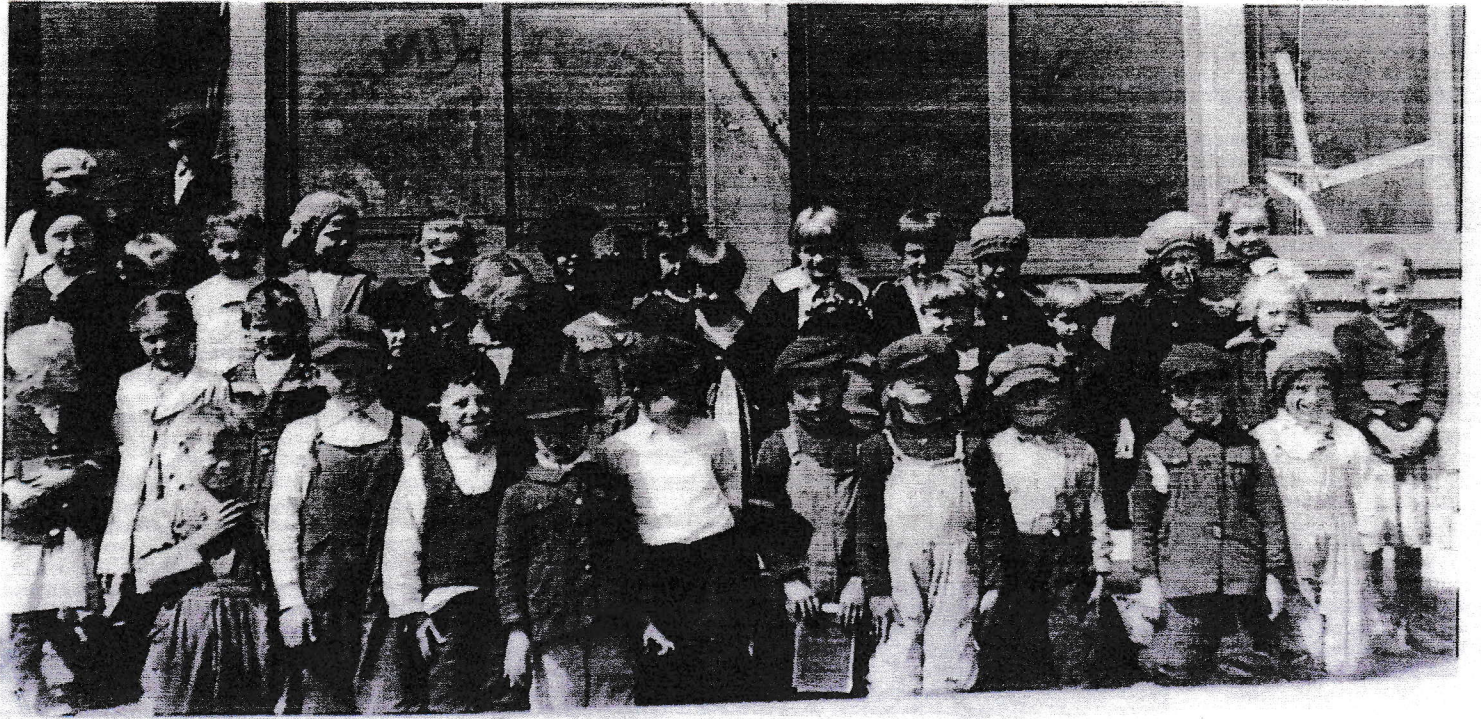
Slovak non-partisan political club of Virden elected John J. Madiar, pres.; John Adams, John Mayernick, John Las, John Massich, Andy Stalmah, John Sepesy, and Andy Hovan.



L TO R - THAYER MEN'S SLOVAK LODGE
FRONT ROW: TOM MARELOCK, LOILLIE HUK, GIBBY
ROW: TOM SESTAK, JOHN BEDNAR, PAUL TIMKO
BOYLE, STEVE KREMPASKY, GEG. CHIZNIK
2ND ROW: TOM MIKUS,
JOHN MAYERNICK, JOHN MADIAR, GEG. YACUP,
JOHN KURCIK, ANDY KMETZ







BERTILINO'S



Sources

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History of Sangamon County, Illinois. Chicago: Inter-State Publishing Company, 1881.

Modean, Erik W. "Joe Sunnen's Private War on Poverty." Christian Herald Magazine, June, 1965, pp. 22, 32. (?)

Pictorial Album: Thayer, Illinois. (Copies from Historical Library, Springfield, Illinois.)

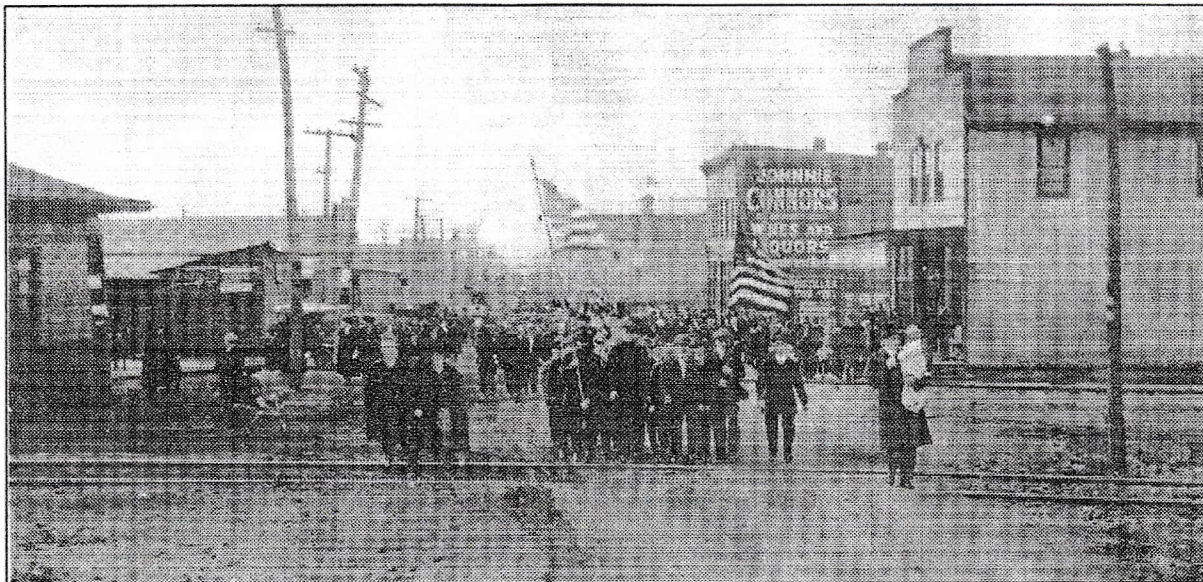
Interviews with:

Mrs. Carolyn Blue
Mrs. Jennie Bruna
Miss Idabel Emerson
Mrs. Nellie Gray
Mr. George Howarth (Negatives for pictures)
Miss Mary Karaffa
Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Littlejohn
Mrs. Jeanie Rees
Mrs. Margaret Stelle
Mrs. Hannah Talkington
Mrs. Evelyn Wirth
Mrs. Irene VanWinkle

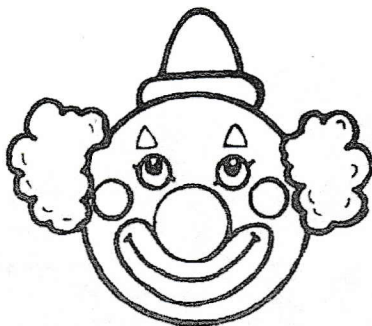
pp. 22-32

pp. 22 and 32

Parade In Thayer To Celebrate The ^{AT} ~~End~~ ^{BEGINNING} Of World War I,
TO SEND ~~OFF~~ ^{And} Our Soldiers Coming Home



Thayer Centennial Tee Shirts Available

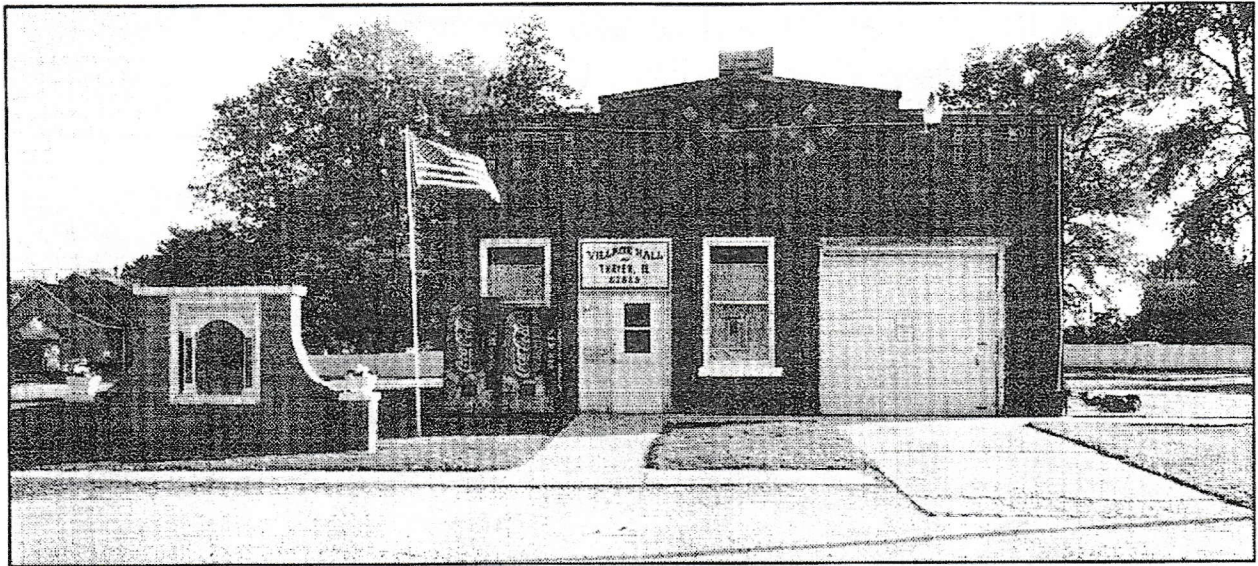


*Come join us
and celebrate
Thayer's
100th birthday
party.*

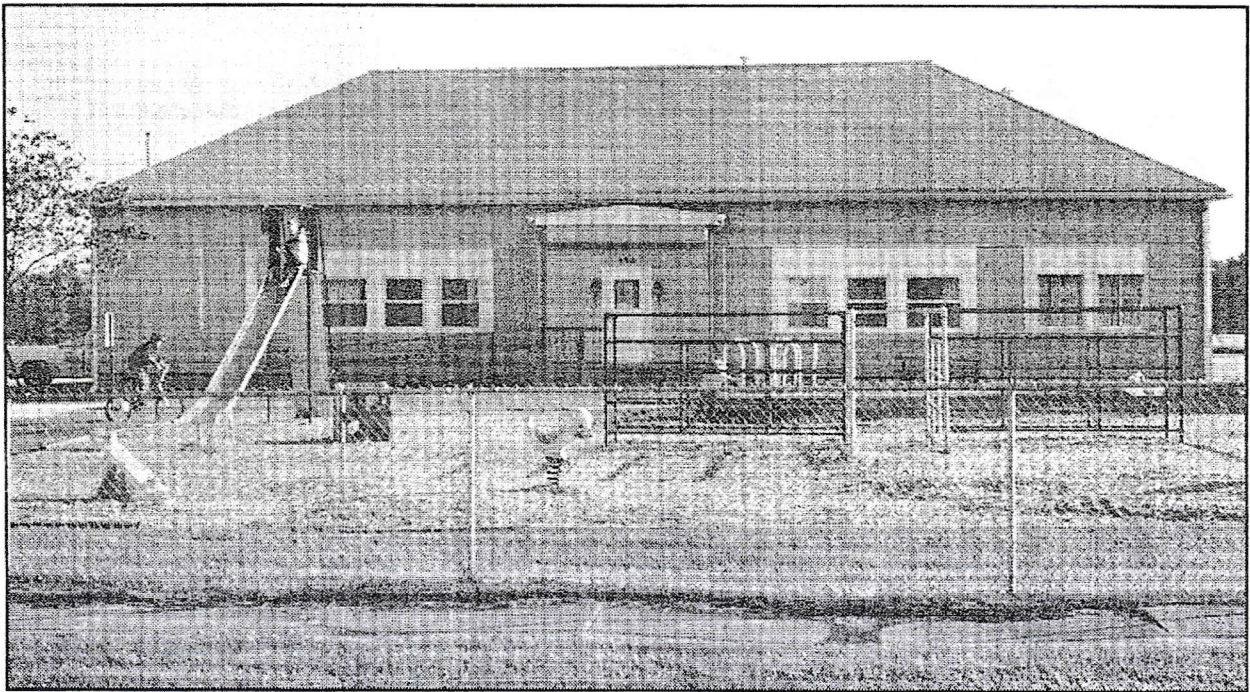


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Thayer, IL 62689

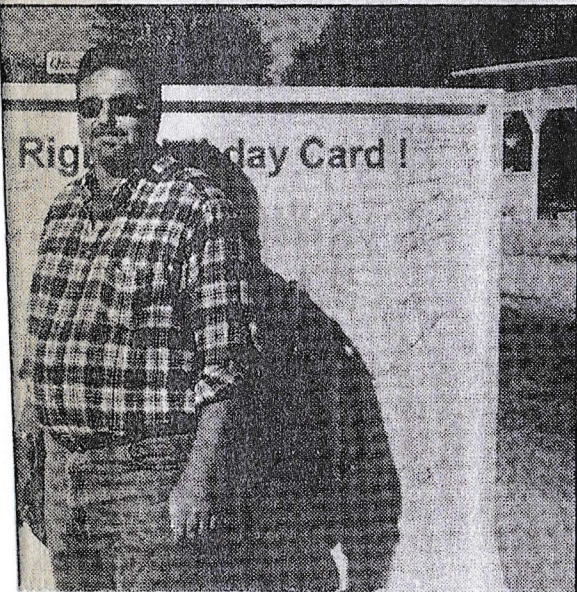
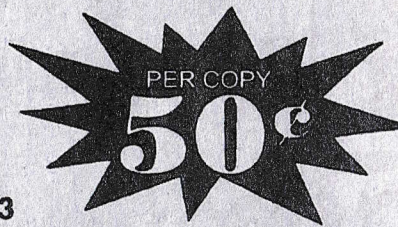


Thayer Community Building & Play Ground
114 East Sycamore St.
Thayer, IL 62689
Hall Available For Rentals

Wirden Recorder

Lively newspaper, the pulse of a growing area

90 Wednesday, October 24, 2001 Three sections — 44 pages No. 43



Thayer to celebrate Centennial Oct. 27

Thayer will be celebrating its Centennial Saturday, Oct. 27, with a full day of activities.

A parade is scheduled at 12 noon. The parade will start on old Rt. 4 (Harrison St.) on the north edge of Thayer, continue south to Main St., proceed east on Main St. to Sycamore Street, and then south and west on Sycamore to the Thayer Community Center.

Grand Marshall will be Elizabeth Jane Reines, the oldest resident of

- 4 p.m., apple peeling contest
- 4 p.m., basketball shooting contest

- 4:30 p.m., Halloween Parade (kids)

- 5 p.m., Haunted House opens

Throughout the day, rides for the kids, historical display, face painting, craft booths, food stands, games, music, 50/50 tickets, beer tent will be open.

Organizations working on the event include Illinois Valley Head



The

A

Volume 136 Virden, IL 626

Spotlight

Doug Boston joins firemen Sunday morning for the razing of the Thayer United Methodist Church. Determined unsafe by structural engineers earlier this year, church members in the town of about 700 voted to tear down the church and rebuild. Virden and Thayer Fire Departments were on hand for the burn.

It's Hard To Find The

HAPPY
100th
BIRTHDAY

Start, Thayer Methodist Church, Virden Soccer Association, Virden Masonic Lodge, Sons of the American Legion, Sangamon County Sheriff's Dept., Virden/Thayer Fire Department will be concluded as the D. Thayer. Rob Bell will be the Master of Ceremonies and will also perform the D.D. Thayer. Rob Bell will be the Master of Ceremonies and will also perform the D.D. Thayer. Rob Bell will be the Master of Ceremonies and will also perform the D.D.



Thayer residents Frank Maynerich Sr. (left) and George Fedor were some of the first few signatures to go up on the Thayer Centennial Birthday card created by Bob Young. The 'card' will be on display as a float during the Centennial parade this Saturday at 12 noon.

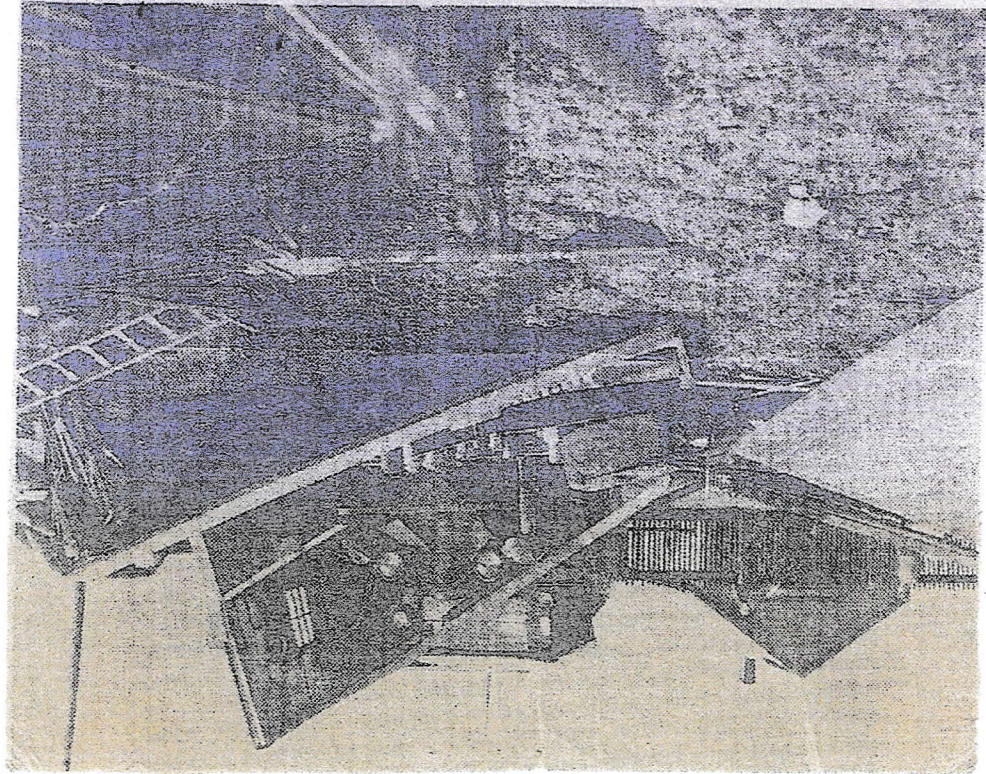
JUST REMINISCING . . .

Thayer to celebrate Centennial

October 24, 2001

Thayer will celebrate its Centennial Sat., Oct. 27, with a full day of activities. A parade will feature Elizabeth Jane Baines, the oldest Thayer resident, as Grand Marshall. Bob Bell will be the Master of Ceremonies and will also perform as the D.J. Other events include Tae Kwon Do demo, chili cookoff, washer tournament, Marge & Becky's Dance Studio performance, apple pie baking, pumpkin carving, apple peeling, and basketball shooting contests and a soccer kick competition.

The nearly 100 year old United Methodist Church in Thayer will not be present at the town's Centennial celebration set for Oct. 27. Declared structurally unsound earlier this year, Virden and Thayer firemen burned the building Sunday morning, with much of the population watching. The initial church was built in 1902. In 1904, two sections were added from a former country school, (town historians believe the Walnut Grove School), located east of Thayer.



SAT.

APR 19, 1941

State Register Photos

The tornado destroyed the garage of Mrs. Mary Maynerich at Thayer, topping the boards around the automobile in the building, but causing little damage to the car. Mrs. Maynerich is shown clearing away part of the debris and looking over the auto. Part of the debris shown in the picture, Mrs. Maynerich said, was blown from a considerable distance.

Legendary restaurant burns down

Mick and Mary's famed over area

By CHRIS GREEN

STAFF WRITER

THAYER — Mick and Mary's restaurant, an institution among central Illinois eateries, was gutted by fire late Thursday and early Friday.

Volunteer firefighters from three fire districts were at the scene of Mick and Mary's, also known as Maggie's, for more than 16 hours before the last smoldering pieces of wood and ashes were squelched.

Firefighters from Girard, Virden and Auburn battled the blaze from 11 p.m. Thursday to about 3 a.m. Friday, and again from 4:30 a.m., when the roof fell in, rekindling the fire, until mid-afternoon Friday.

The origin and cause of the fire are unknown.

Dominick and Maggie Enrietta, the original owners, opened the restaurant in the 1920s in Thayer, a town of about 750 people about 2 miles north of Virden.

The restaurant, two houses remodeled and joined together, encompassed two large dining rooms with a seating capacity of 160.

For years, the restaurant operated without a menu, serving mainly chicken, steak and spaghetti. A limited menu was put together by the current owners, Larry and Debbie Kester, when they took over in 1985.



Larry and Debra Kestner of Auburn are the new owners of Mick and Mary's Restaurant in Thayer.

State Journal-Register / Bill Hagen

Area volunteer firemen remained on the scene most of the day Friday after an early morning blaze destroyed Mick and Mary's restaurant in Thayer.

"It was just a homey kind of feeling that we tried to give to our customers," former owner Steve "Mick" Stanvoken of Girard said Friday.

"All the politicians and governors came down to eat here," Stanvoken said, "most recently Gov. (William) Stratton."

Mary Stankoven, who with

Mick had owned the business from 1956 to 1985, said Friday, "I've been so upset, I can't talk about it."

The restaurant had been closed since New Year's and was not scheduled to open again until Tuesday. It was unoccupied at the time of the fire. No one was reported injured.

The news on Friday seemed to get to everyone who ever frequented Mick and Mary's — except the present owners.

The Kesters, who reportedly were on their way back from vacation in Florida, had not been reached as of Friday evening.

The Kesters are believed to

have insurance for the building. The value had not been determined by Friday afternoon.

A backhoe was called in by the state fire marshal's office Friday morning to knock down the remaining walls and keep the fire from spreading to a neighboring Jacuzzi.

wn that coal mining built

pot belly stove reviving tales of everyday, said O'Brien. She died in the early 90s.

After the coal mine closed, people flocked in other prospering local areas and continued residing in Thayer, moved on to new mines outside the area, or traveled to Springfield to join the industrial work force, O'Brien.

Thayer has undergone many changes since its mining days of the 1890s. "When I first came to the post office, you never had anybody move into town or out of town," O'Brien said. O'Brien, who married a miner's daughter and raised five children, now admits he doesn't know much of the village's 800-some residents.

Frank Maynerich, a 69-year-old long-time resident of Slovakian ancestry, never entered the coal mining industry. Instead, he spent 35 years at Chalmers, a factory in Springfield. He also married a village girl

and raised six children here.

Maynerich, who peddled papers in Thayer as a lad, can describe the village over the last 60 years, virtually house by house.

The first house built by the mine was at Teak and Roosevelt Streets, he says. In his youth, Maynerich shared a company house with his family of 10 and another mining family, the Hunters.

Thayer acquired a nickname back in those days, and some oldtimers still refer to it as "Pudock." This is attributed to the pigs, chickens and other farm animals the residents raised in the village alleys. "It just plain stunk," said Maynerich.

In 1926, the town's legendary eating establishment opened under the proprietorship of Dominick and Maggie Enrietta. Maggie's (now Mick and Mary's) began as a tavern and expanded into a restaurant by adding another Thayer house onto the original structure. "I helped my father

and brothers build the archways for the restaurant," said Maynerich. The restaurant serves home-style dinners and will spark recognition of Thayer on a city-dweller's face.

Thayer's historic landmark, an 80-year-old smokestack, proudly bore the copper initials of the coal company. Maynerich clearly recalls an eighth-grade school day when lightning struck the top of the 150-foot stack and it had to be repaired with cement.

But in 1983, a mine reclamation project claimed the village's landmark. The mine shaft was filled in with concrete chunks and the stack was dynamited and bulldozed. Maynerich was present the day of the explosion.

"It's a shame. I was standing on the railroad track when it fell and we saw it go down," said Maynerich. He treasures a brick from the stack as a keepsake of days gone by.

All banks ordered closed

March 9, 1933

Business suffered quite a setback this week due to the closing of all banks in the U.S. by state and federal orders. Scrip is being used in some parts of the country, but the attitude in the smaller places is that of watchful waiting to see what the federal government will do to stabilize the monetary system of the nation.

Percy Rutherford, who saw active service in the World War, received from the war department the military medal known as the Order of the Purple Heart.

Otto Atteberry and family moved to the late Mrs. Kate Clark residence on W. Jefferson, Girard.

While testing cattle on the Dr. A.E. Seymour farm near Atwater, Dr. A.T. Fletcher, veterinarian of Virden, suffered a fractured leg and torn ligaments.

Virden Building and Loan Assoc. combined offices of secretary and treasurer naming William F. Haines, former secretary, to the office left vacant when Frank Perks died.

Virden student council considered names for the news notes which appear weekly in this paper. "V.C.H.S. Breeze" was chosen.

Mesdames J. O. Beasley, Z. Galli, Harry Babbitt, Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Clemmons, Mr. and Mrs. Elwynn Clemmons, Virden, attended the opening of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hoppin's new drug store in Virginia, and all assisted in waiting on customers.

Thayer man electrocuted at work

March 8, 1923

Carl Arthur Oeser of Thayer, employed as an electrician at the CIPS substation near Aurora, met death by electrocution.

Officials consider waterworks plan

August 4, 1927

Mayor J. H. Riffey and Alderman Roy Organ of Girard and engineer Potter of Jacksonville attended Virden City council meeting to discuss plan whereby Girard, Virden and Auburn could get water from reservoir on Sugar Creek, the dam to be built near Thayer. Mayor Riffey stated townships of Virden and Girard, an area of about 6 sq. mi. with population of about 10,000, was listed as most densely populated area of this kind in U.S. without waterworks.

Thayer was the boom town

Editor's note: This is the last in a series of articles about towns in Sangamon County. The articles were originally written for a feature writing course taught at Sangamon State University by Mary Bohlen.

MARILYN WELKER

CORRESPONDENT

THAYER — Bordered on its northern and western sides by Sugar Creek, Thayer lies 20 miles south of Springfield on Illinois 4 at the southern tip of Sangamon County. The town is now tranquil compared to its booming coal-mine days of the early 1900s, when immigrants from Eastern Europe mined its coal by pick and shovel and raised large families here.

In 1901, the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermilion Coal Co. founded the town and named it in honor of a stockholder, Nathaniel Thayer. Many of its early settlers were immigrants from Slovakia, Italy, England and

Scotland. Miners from Streator and Braidwood, northern Illinois mining towns, also migrated to Thayer for new opportunities.

One resident who can trace his roots to England and a Thayer coal mining family is Jas O'Brien. A life-long resident, O'Brien served as Thayer's postmaster from 1953 to 1989. Born in 1925, O'Brien traces his village ancestry to Mary Evans, his maternal grandmother of English descent, and a family heritage of Thayer coal miners.

"They came to work in the mine. It was the town's only employment," said O'Brien. Some 600 men daily mined 2,000 tons of coal during the mine's peak production in 1912.

R.D. Fletcher, the first mine manager, owned the company houses where the miners resided with their families. Because of the influx of people, inadequate housing conditions existed. Many times two and three families, each with eight to 10 children, lived together in one house,

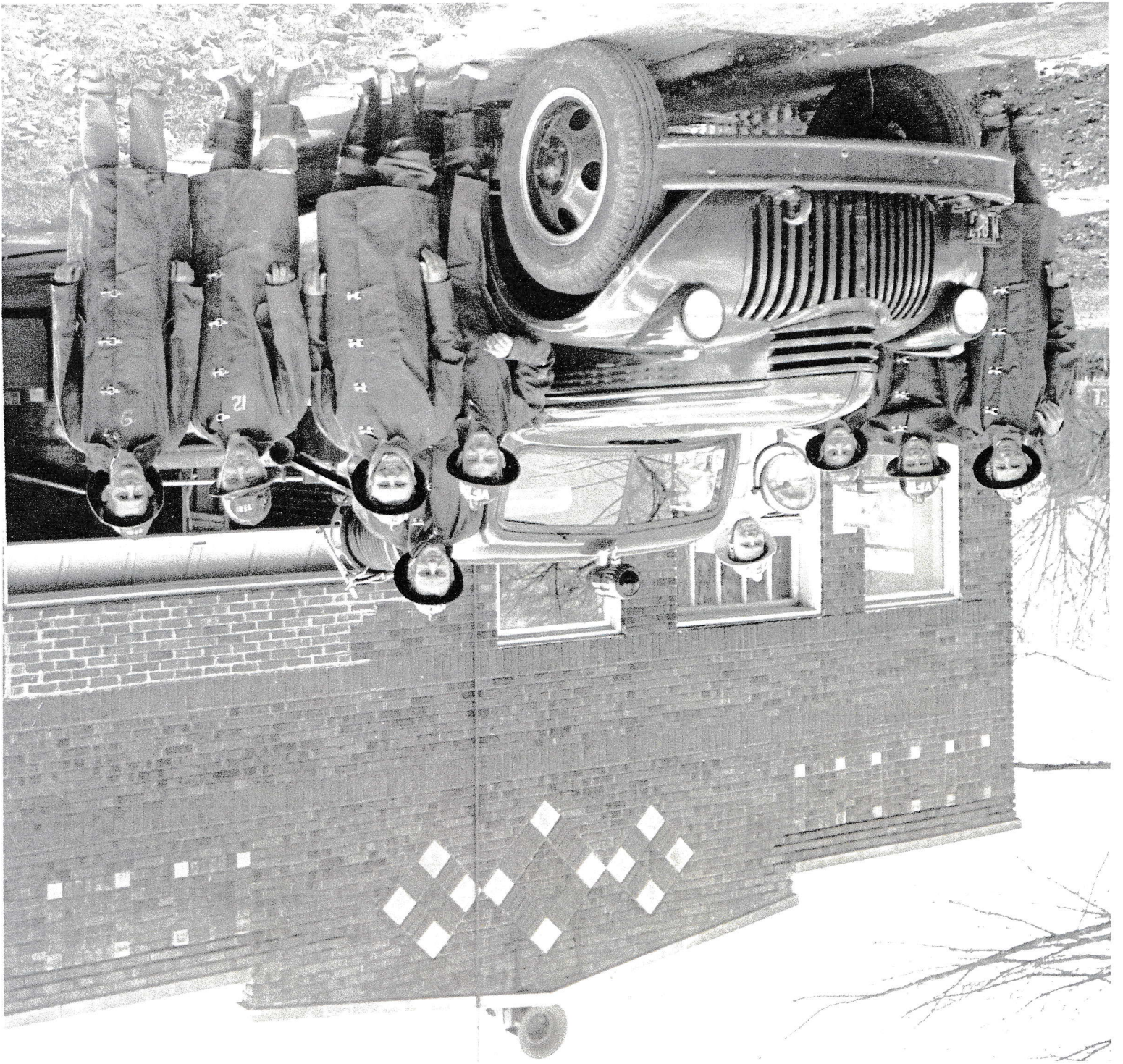
said O'Brien.

"They took someone in until they could find a home or one could be built," said O'Brien. Some miners later joined two of these unpainted, weatherboard houses together. Growing up in a cheaply constructed company house, O'Brien knew about them first hand.

Fletcher also owned the town hotel and "the company store." "Coal mines don't like to talk about the company stores," said O'Brien. The miner and his family could buy things on credit, but the store took its money before the miner received his pay. Many times the miner ended up with little or no wages. This system kept the indebted miner tied to the company.

O'Brien knew Fletcher's spinster daughter, Miss Edna, who served as clerk for the coal mine office. Miss Edna made her daily journey to the office long after the mine closed in 1924. Until her death in the 1970s, she could be found in a huge rocker by an

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THAYER VOLUNTEER FIREMAN ~ 1950's ~

LTDOR:

AL WEILAND, WALTER HAART, FRANK MAYNERICH, FIRE CHIEF, ANDY KARAFFA,

GEORGE SOWERBY, TOM GUBACH, JOHN BEDNARCHICK,
ELDON MARSAGLIA, JOE YASINSKI

Youngsters drown in farm pond

July 30, 1959

* Two Thayer brothers, William Lynn Davis, 12, and Robert Dean Davis, 9, sons of Mr. and Mrs. William Davis, drowned Tues. afternoon in a farm pond near W. edge of Thayer.

Bandleader Paul Neighbors has been booked for an appearance in his hometown of Virden. Virden American Legion post will sponsor Neighbors and his orchestra for a dance at the high school gym Sept. 22.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Keirs entertained at a picnic supper for Vird Inn employees at Lake Springfield home of Norbert Keirs.

M. O. McMullin, principal of Virden High School, announces that 2-year course in Spanish will be offered this fall. Ann Erwood is teacher.

Rev. Glen W. Hitt and family moved to Virden where he is assuming pastorate of Church of the Nazarene. Retiring minister, Rev. Joseph W. Peters and his wife Dortha, continue to make their home in Virden.

F. Guy White, Girard, was named to advisory committee of U. of I. College of Agriculture. He will serve a 3-year term in agricultural engineering. He is technical dir. of Granite City Steel Co.

Wellworth store committee, M. C. Shutt, Clifford Gauble and Phil Cherry, together with their wives, drove to Harlan, Iowa, where they bought toys and Christmas merchandise for the store.

Don Hartsook, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hartsook, rural Girard, won Macoupin Jr. dairy judging at the fairgrounds.

* Leonard "Froggie" Allen is arranging to lease the Oklahoma service station 1 block N. of Virden's square. He had previously operated the station in 1948. He has been a Virden resident for 23 yrs.

Dale and Harold Lobsinger, sons of Mrs. Laura B. Virden and brothers of Mrs. Cecil W. Turner, all former residents of Virden, now living in Denver, Co., were top men in their field for 1958 in United Air Lines, and were honored at an awards dinner.

Virden will have a croquet tournament next week at Heaton Park playground. Mr. Boehm is in charge.

Log cabin erected at lake

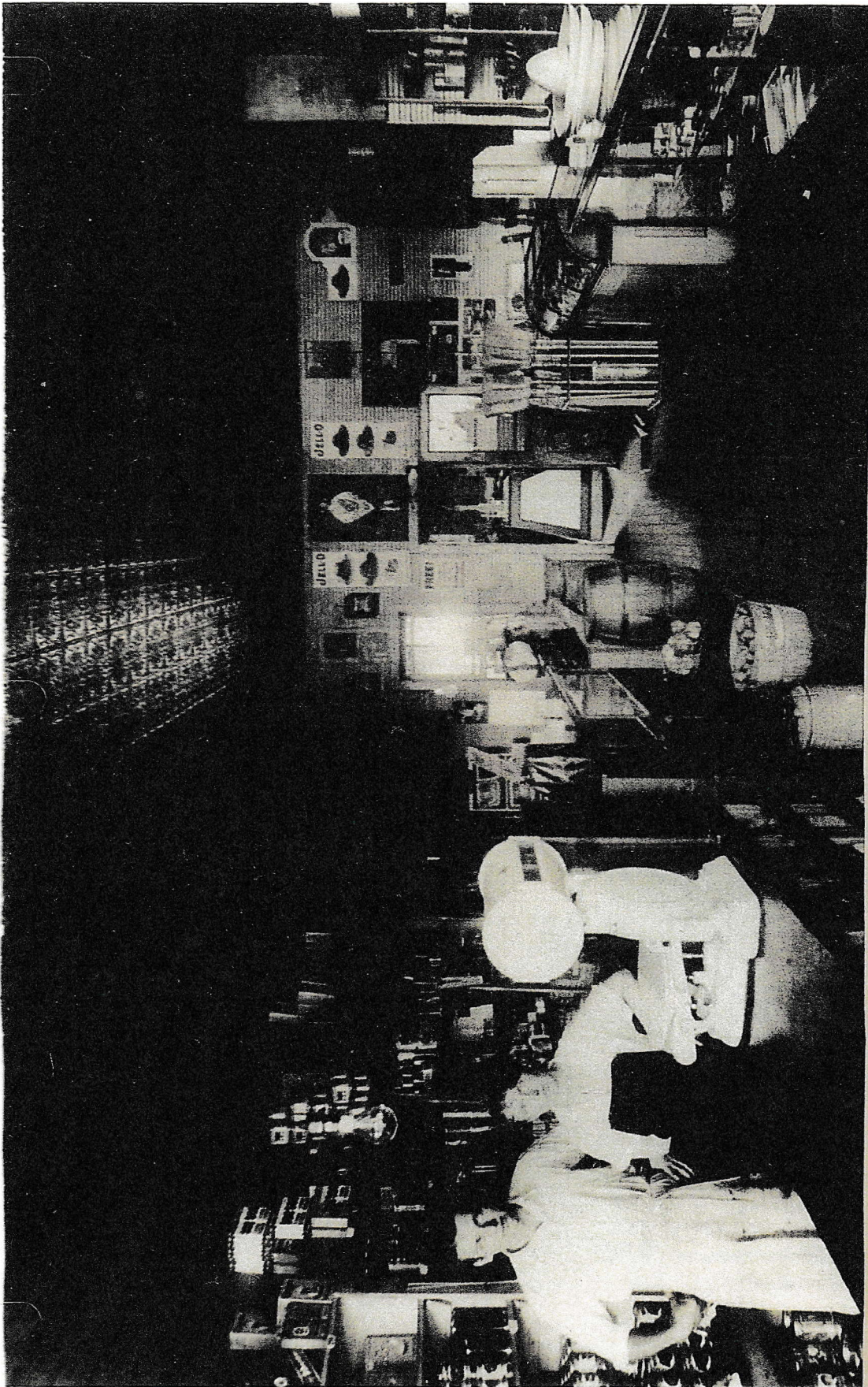
March 22, 1956

The foundation was completed for the first log cabin at Sunset Lake on the lot leased by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Dukett of Springfield.

Ernest Langheim and Dr. Robert Gillespie are candidates for Virden school board election with Wm. P. Miller and Joseph L. Anderson, incumbents.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Keirs sold their home on N. Springfield, Virden to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Jones and are moving into their newly remodeled apt. above the Vird Inn.

* Rt. 4 Drive In restaurant at north edge Thayer opened with Mrs. Grace Nichols manager.



Andrew Karaffa

Andrew J. Karaffa, 84, of Thayer, died at 7 a.m. Friday, Nov. 2, 2001, at his home.

He was born Oct. 22, 1917 in Thayer, the son of John and Susan Pohorence Karaffa. He married Helen L. Graham Oct. 13, 1940 in Virden. He was preceded in death by a granddaughter, Shauna Dodd; one brother, John Karaffa; and two sisters, Anna Brennan and Susan Tranquilli.

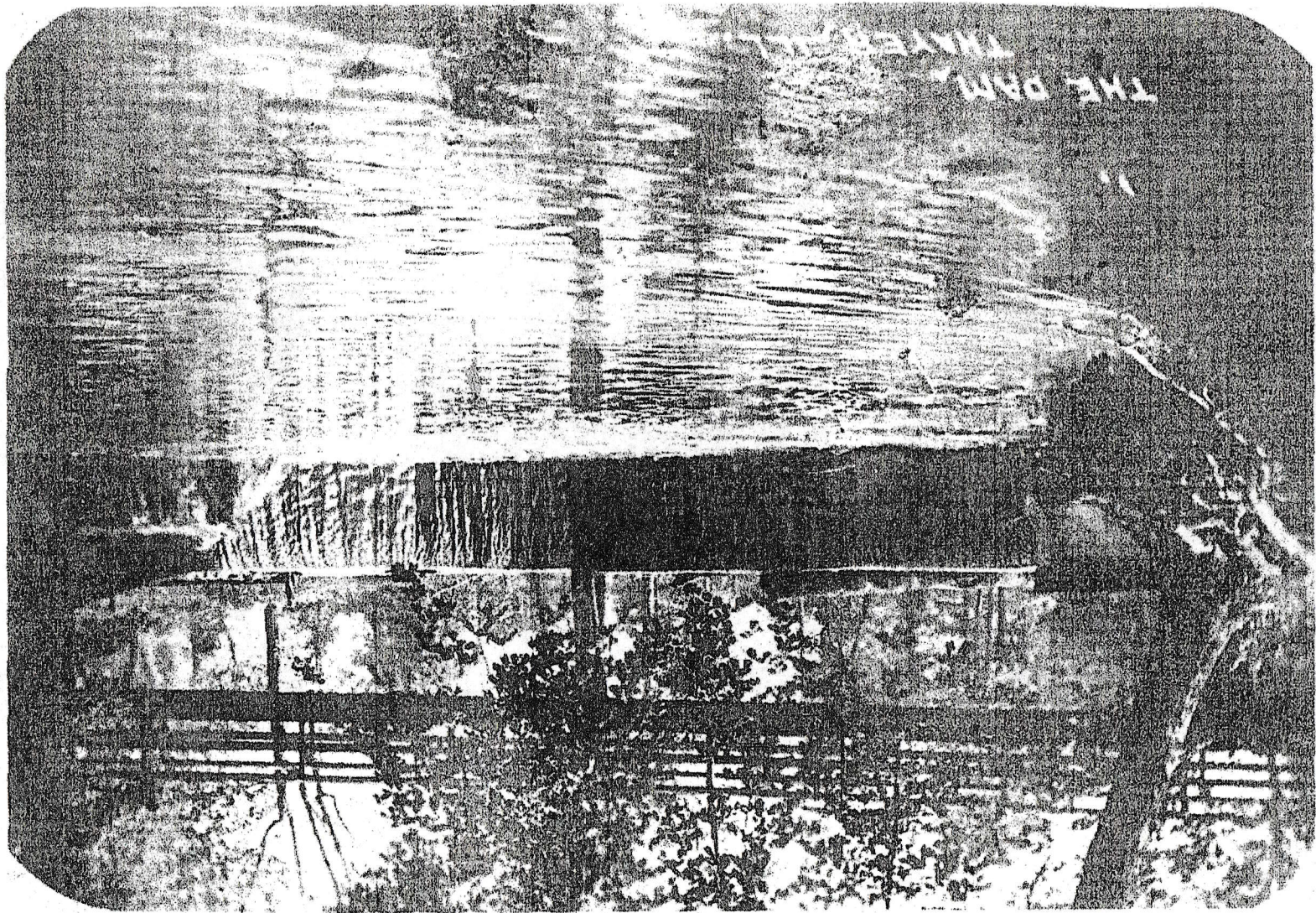
Mr. Karaffa owned and operated Karaffa Market in Thayer for over 45 years, retiring in 1978. He was a member of Thayer Senior Citizens. He also was a member of Sacred Heart Church and Knights of Columbus Council 2321, both in Virden. He was a former member and past chief of the Thayer Fire Department.

Survivors are his wife, Helen; a son, Bruce A. (Betty) Karaffa of Waverly; a daughter, Mrs. Robert (Andrea K.) Dodd of Virden; five grandchildren, Shannon Mueller, Robert and Meredith Dodd, Dustin and Melissa Karaffa; two great-grandchildren, Devon Karaffa and Logan Mueller; and a sister, Mary Karaffa of Virden.

Graveside services following cremation were 1 p.m. Saturday at Virden Cemetery, Rev. August Spertl officiating.

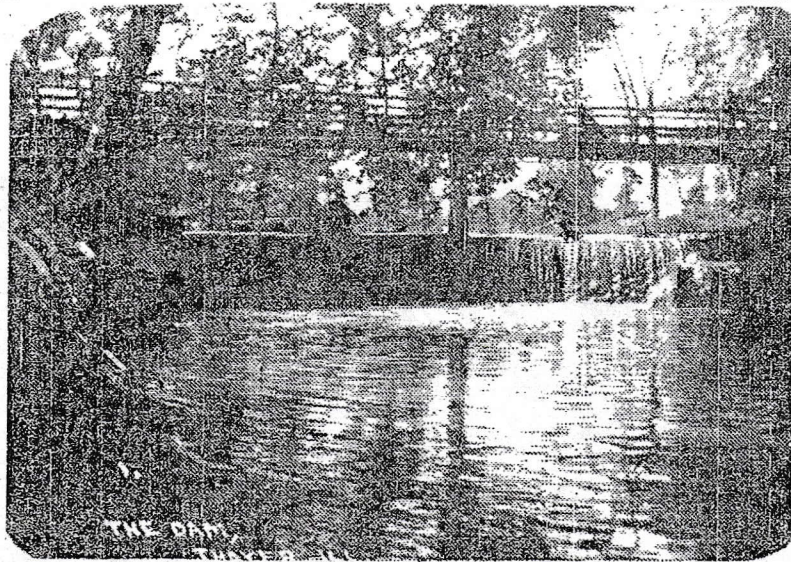
Calvert and Ferry Funeral Home in Virden was in charge of arrangements.

Memorials are suggested to the Thayer United Methodist Church Building Fund or to Sacred Heart Church, Virden.



THE DAM

THREE



Thayer was once quite a nature preserve, and people would travel from miles around to "bottle up" some of the village's spring water. The dam, which was located east of Jim Evans' home, was dynamited out in 1924 when the state built Route 4.

(Photo courtesy Idabel Emerson)

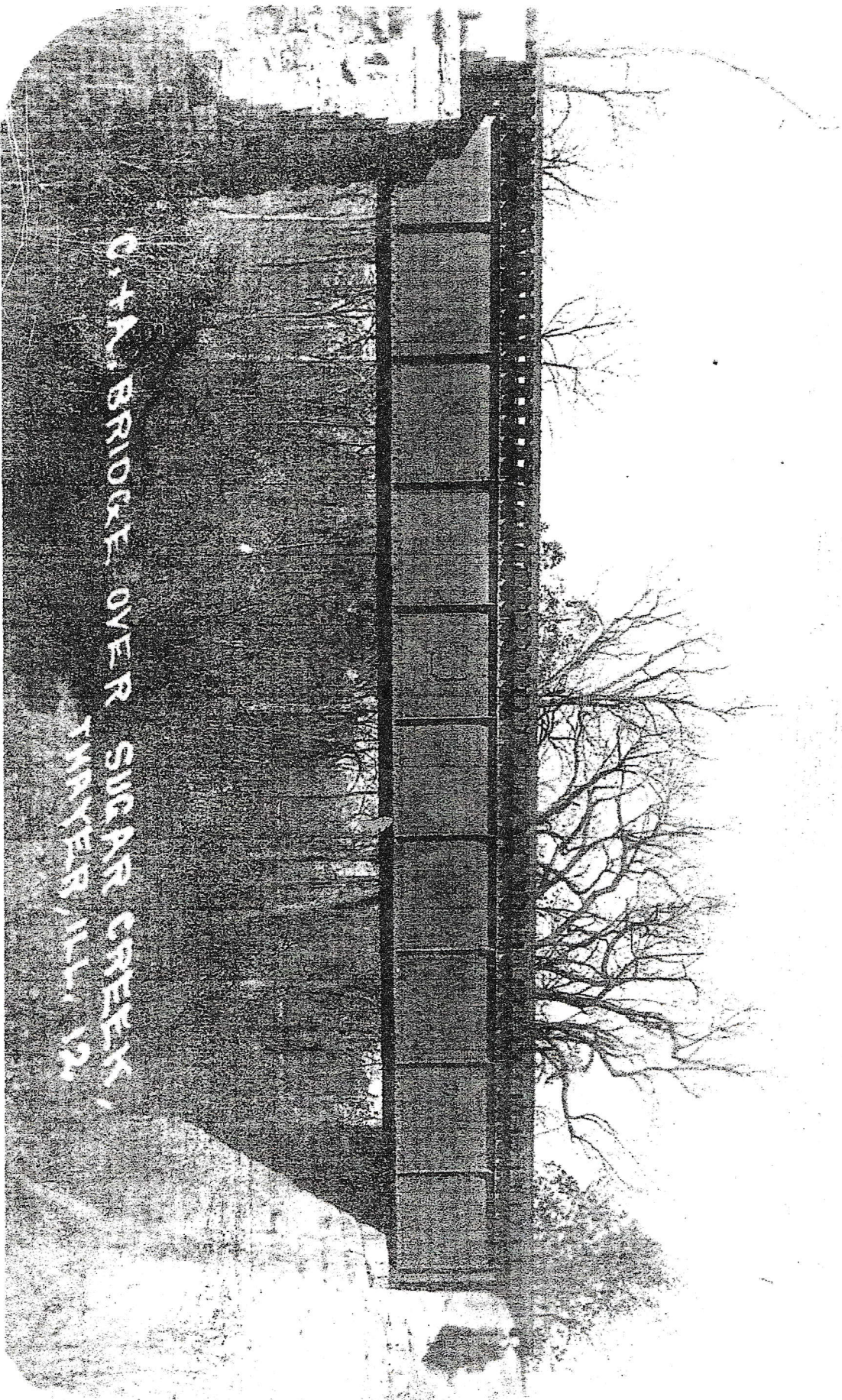


Below the dam

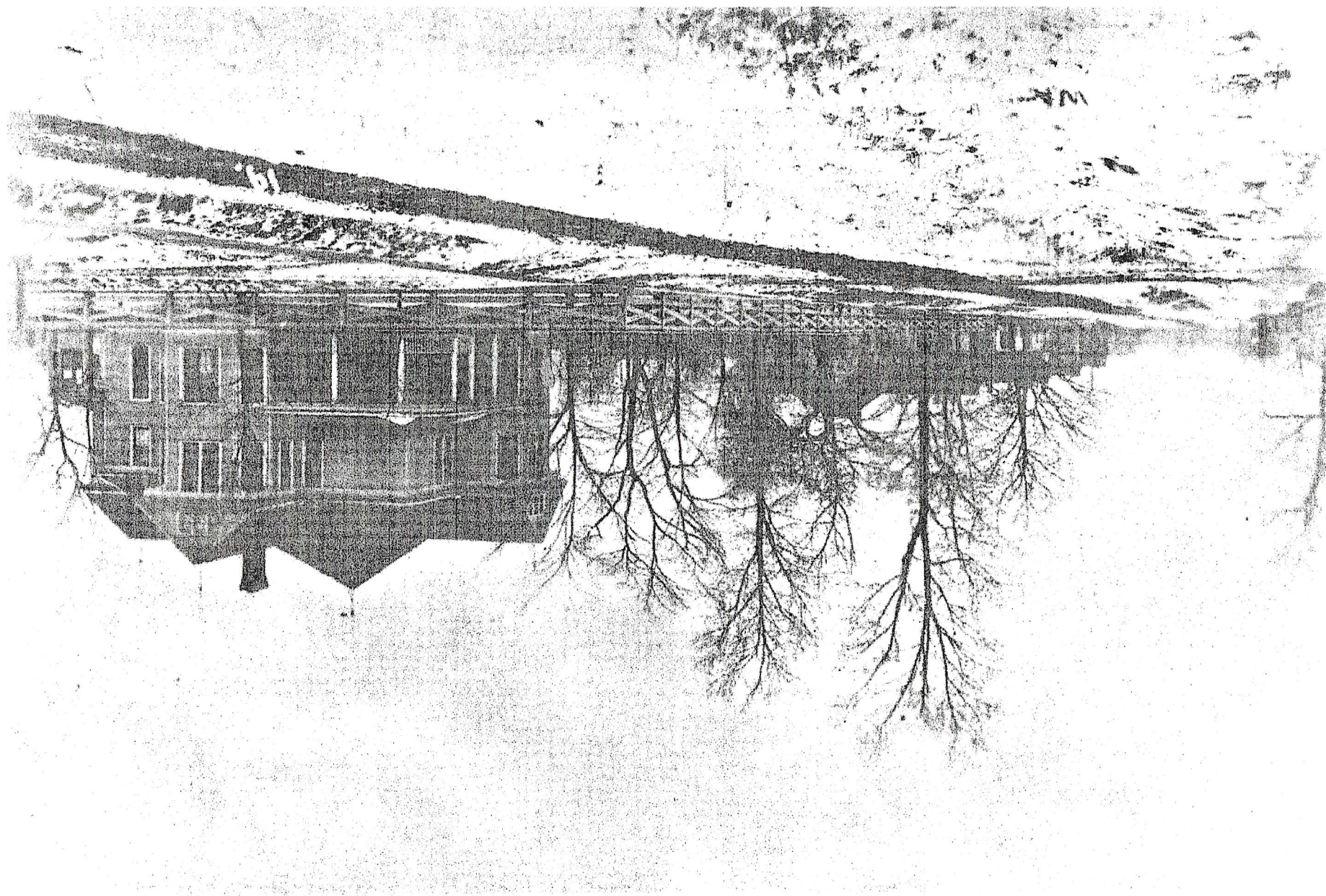


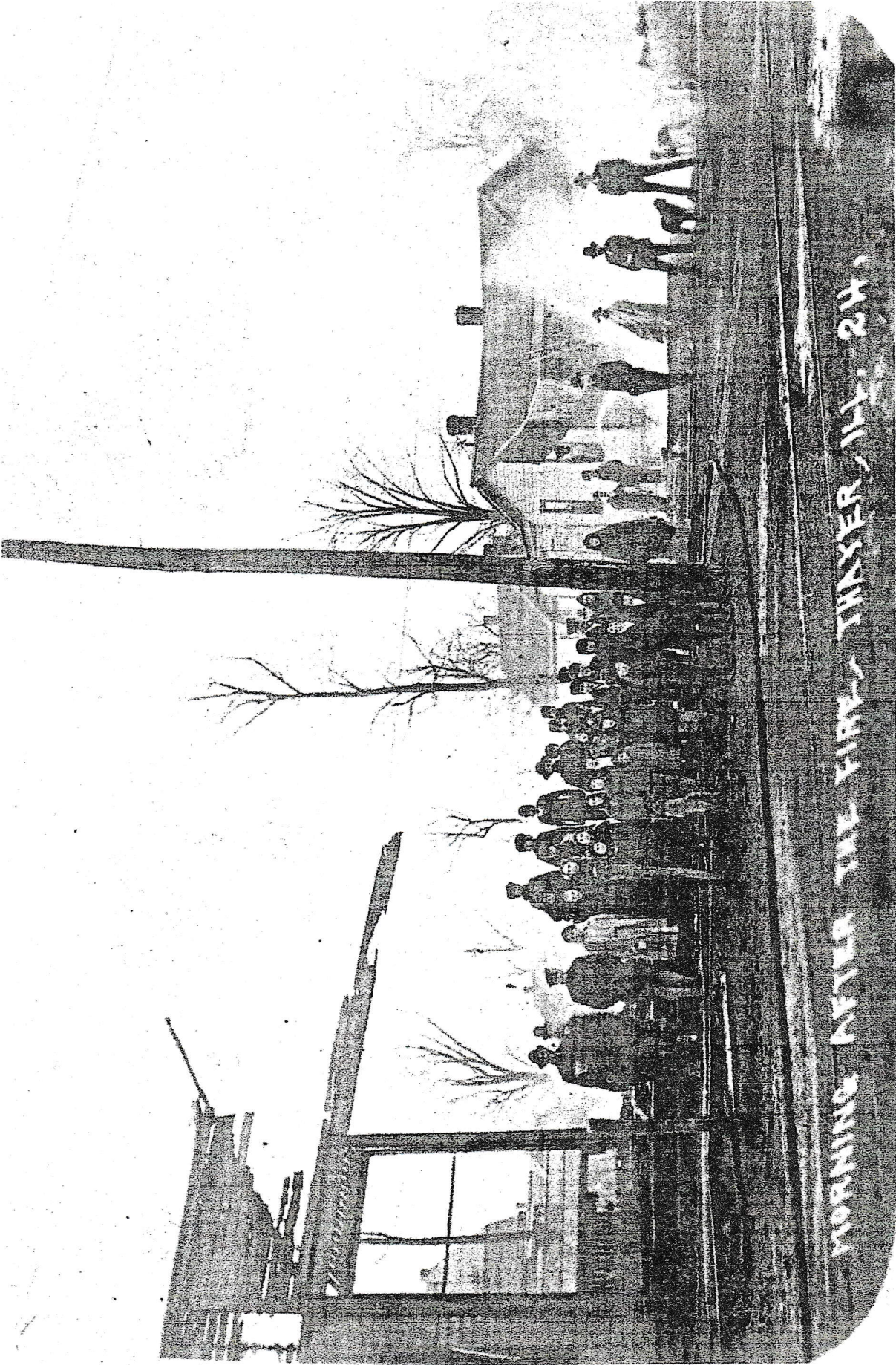
Sugar Creek bridge at springs
[West of Lowder Road Bridge]

O. H. A. BRIDGE OVER SUGAR CREEK,
TAYLOR MOUNTAIN, TN.

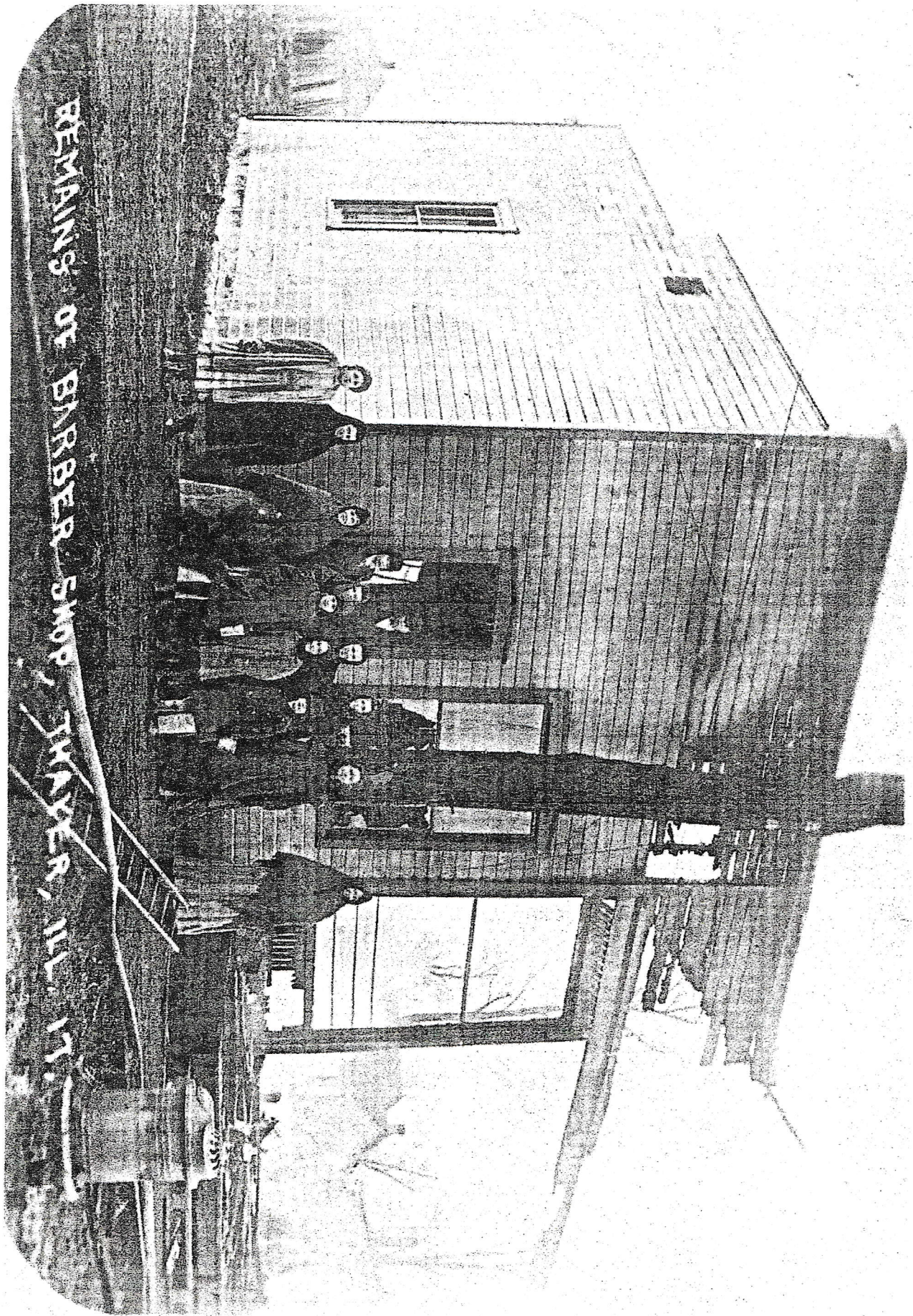








MORNING AFTER THE FIRE - THAYER, ILL. 24.

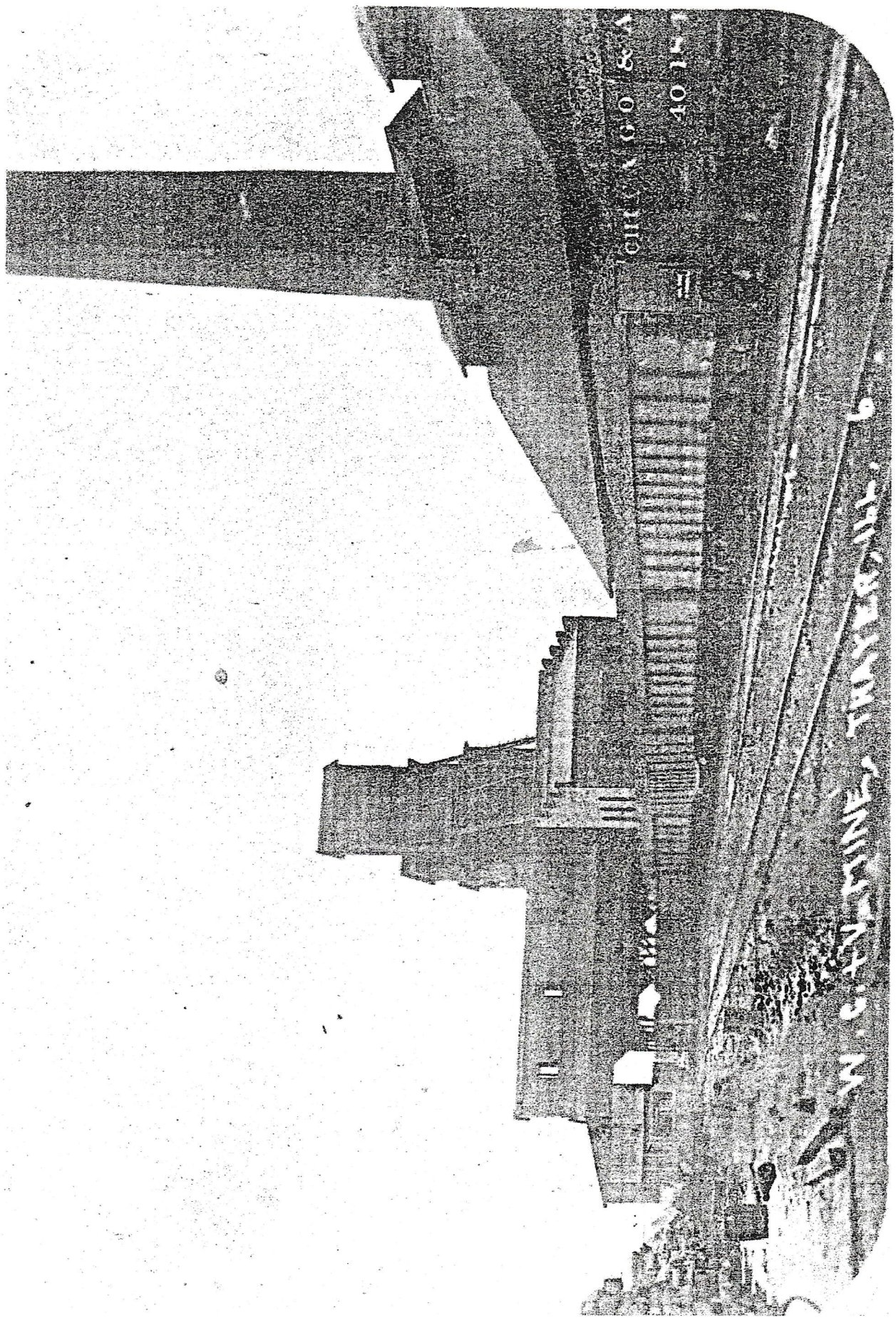


REMAINS OF BARBER SHOP, THAYER, WY. 1911.



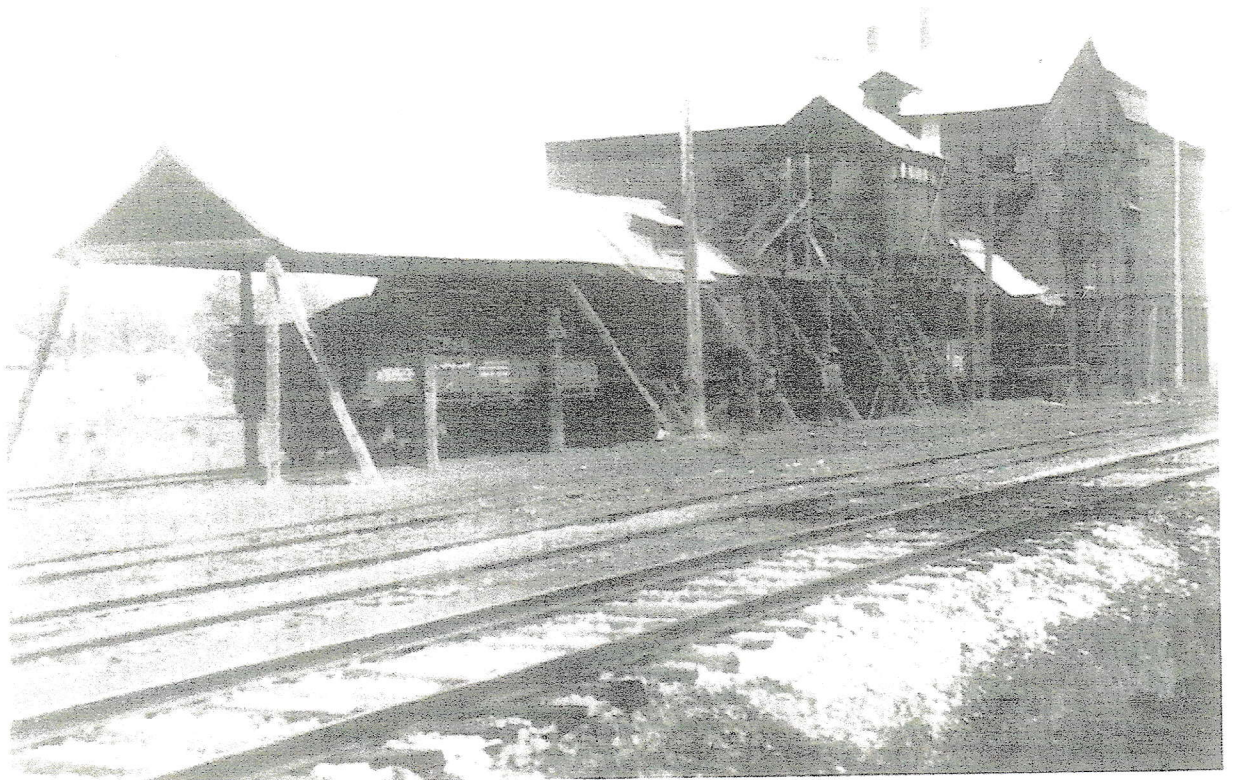


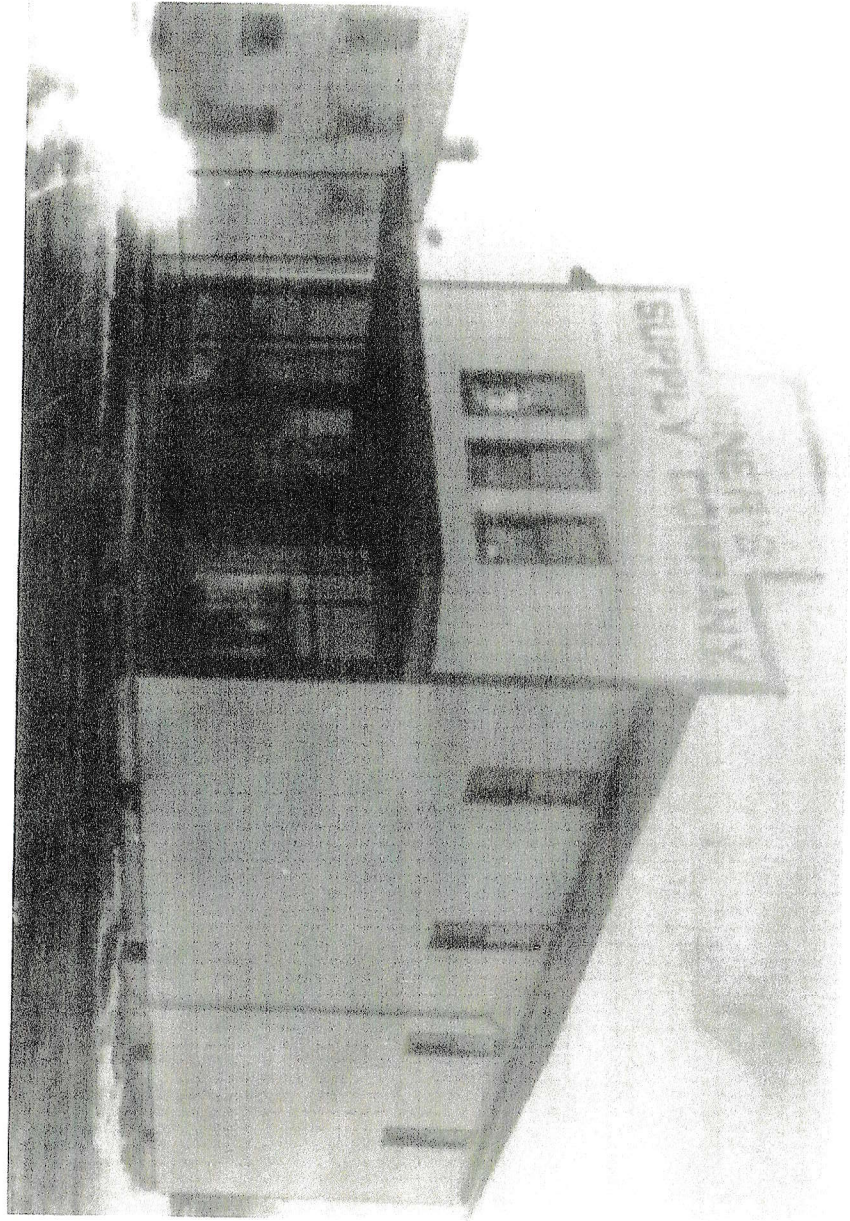
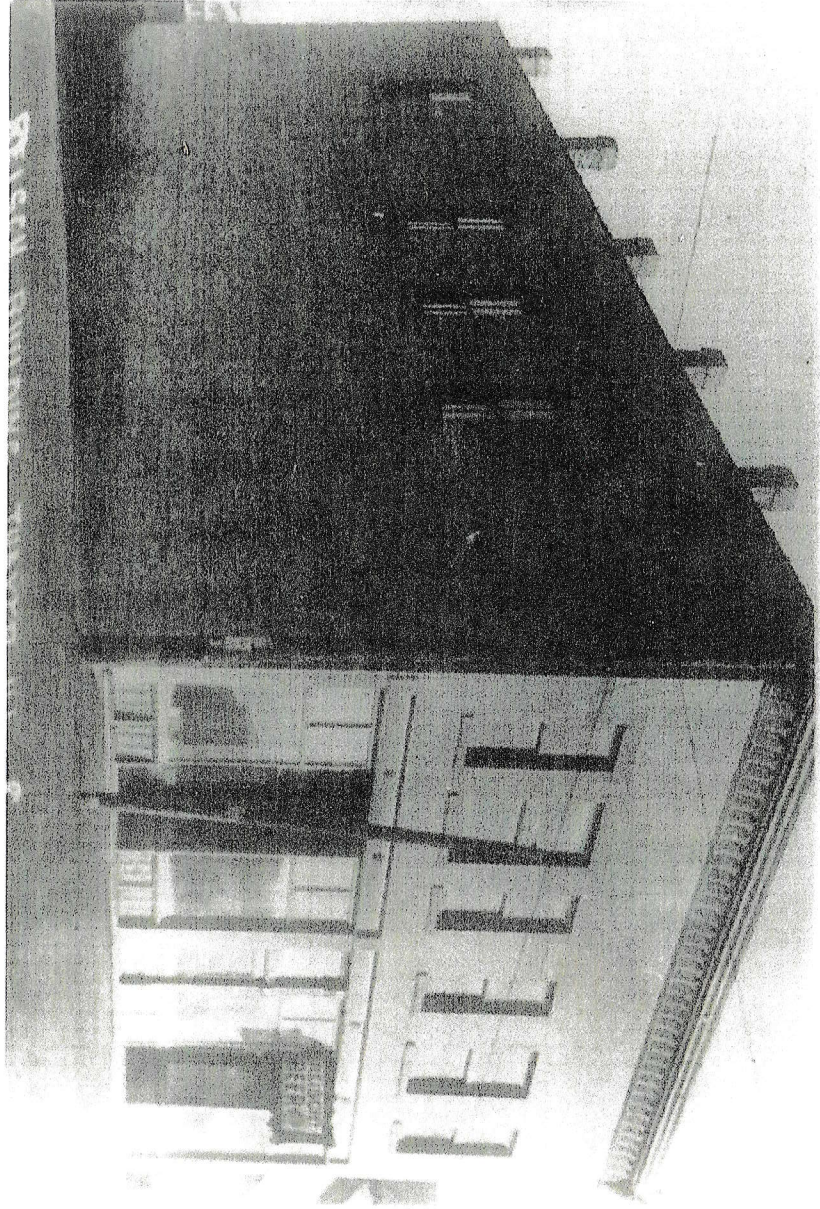
C. & N. DEPOT, TAYLOR, ILL. 101

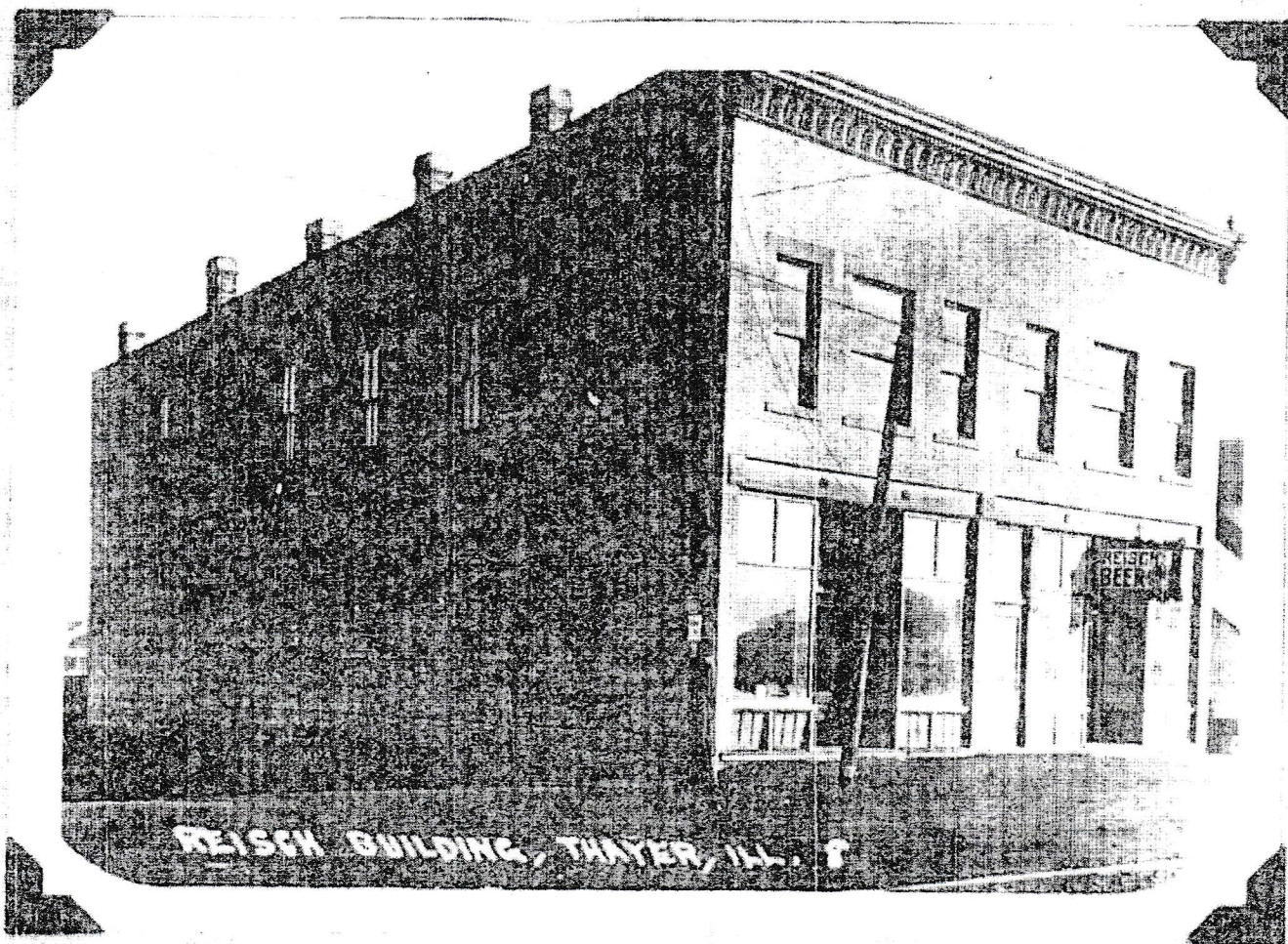


CITY & CO. & A
40 147

W. C. HARRIS, TAYLOR, ILL.

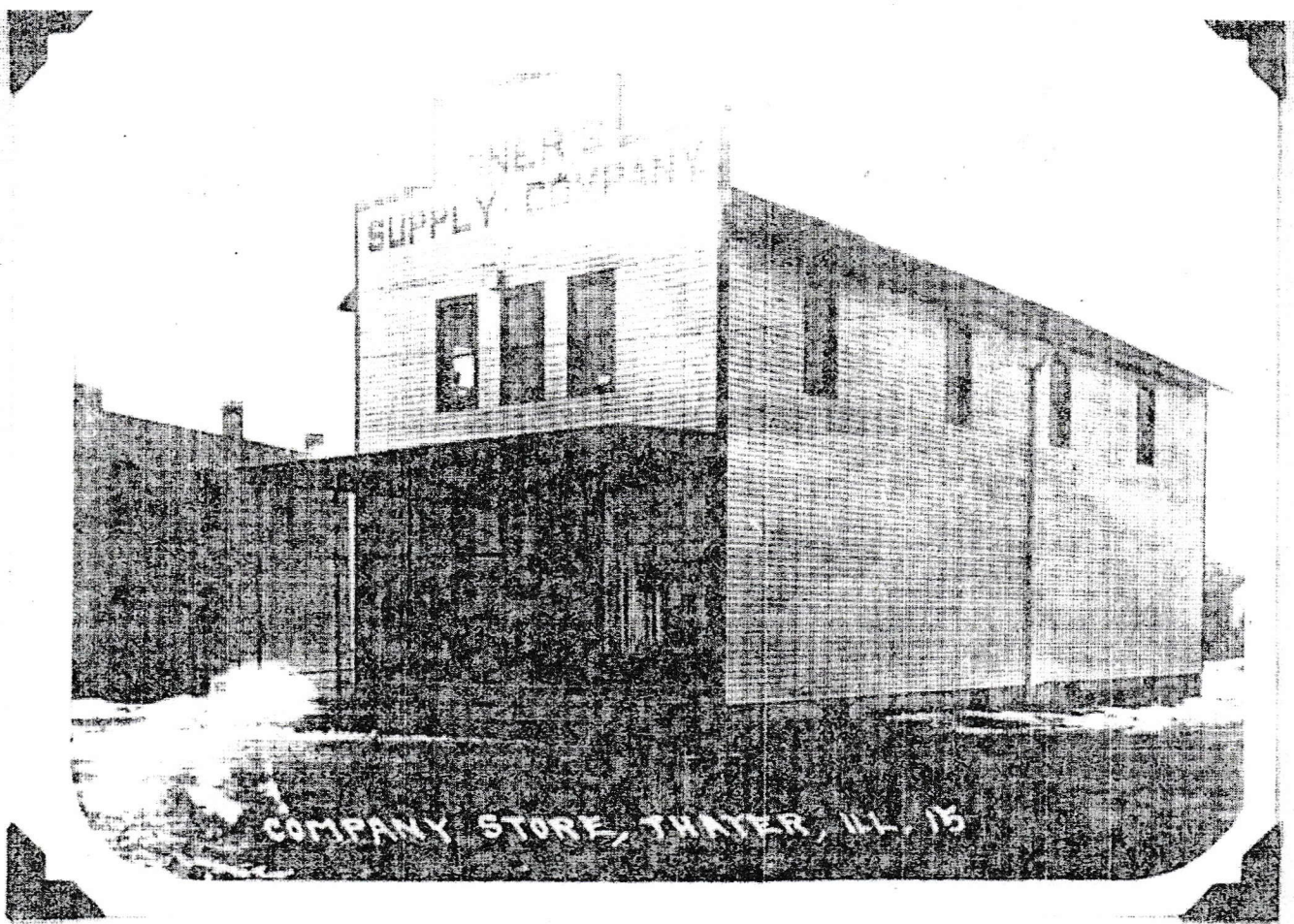




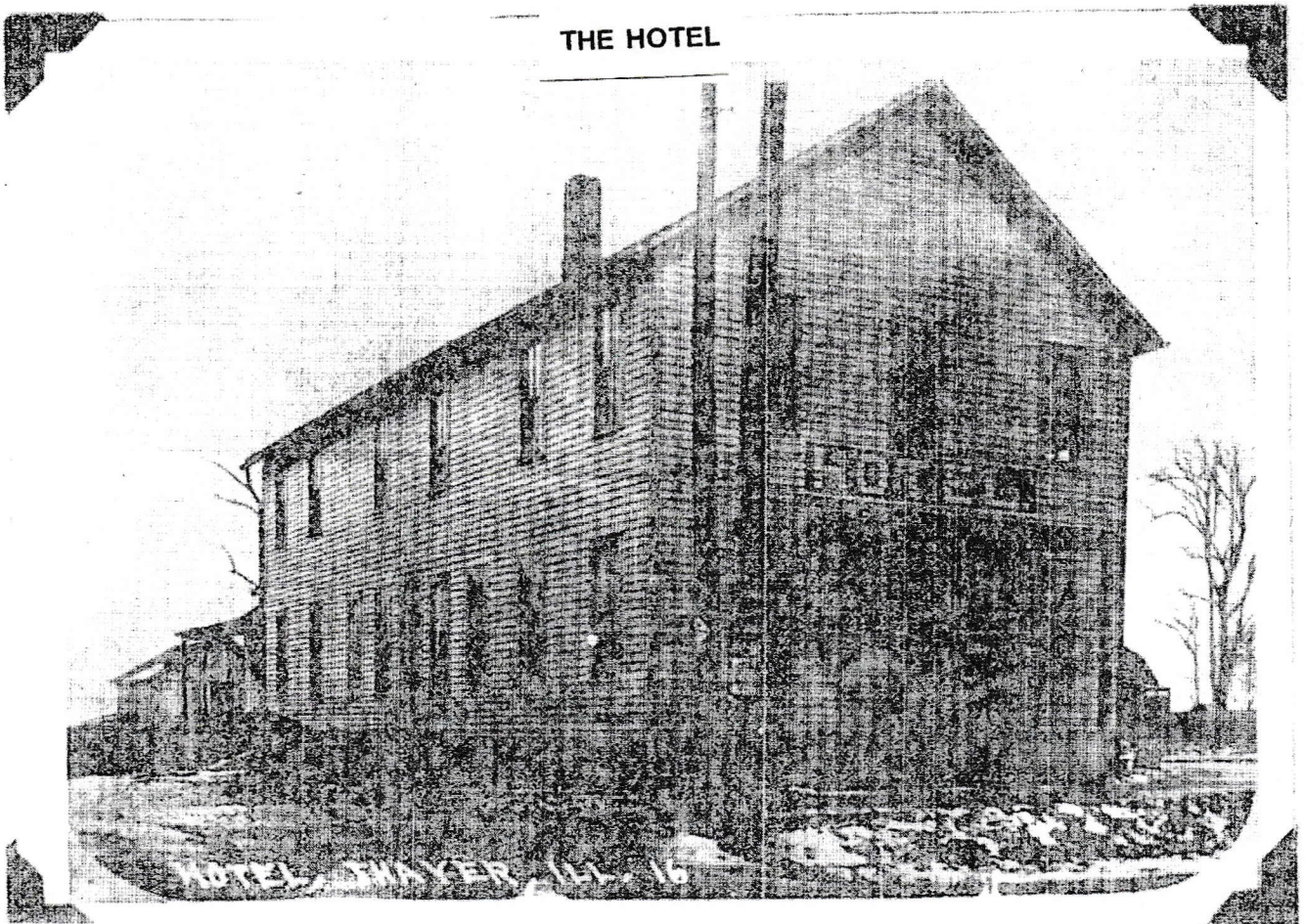


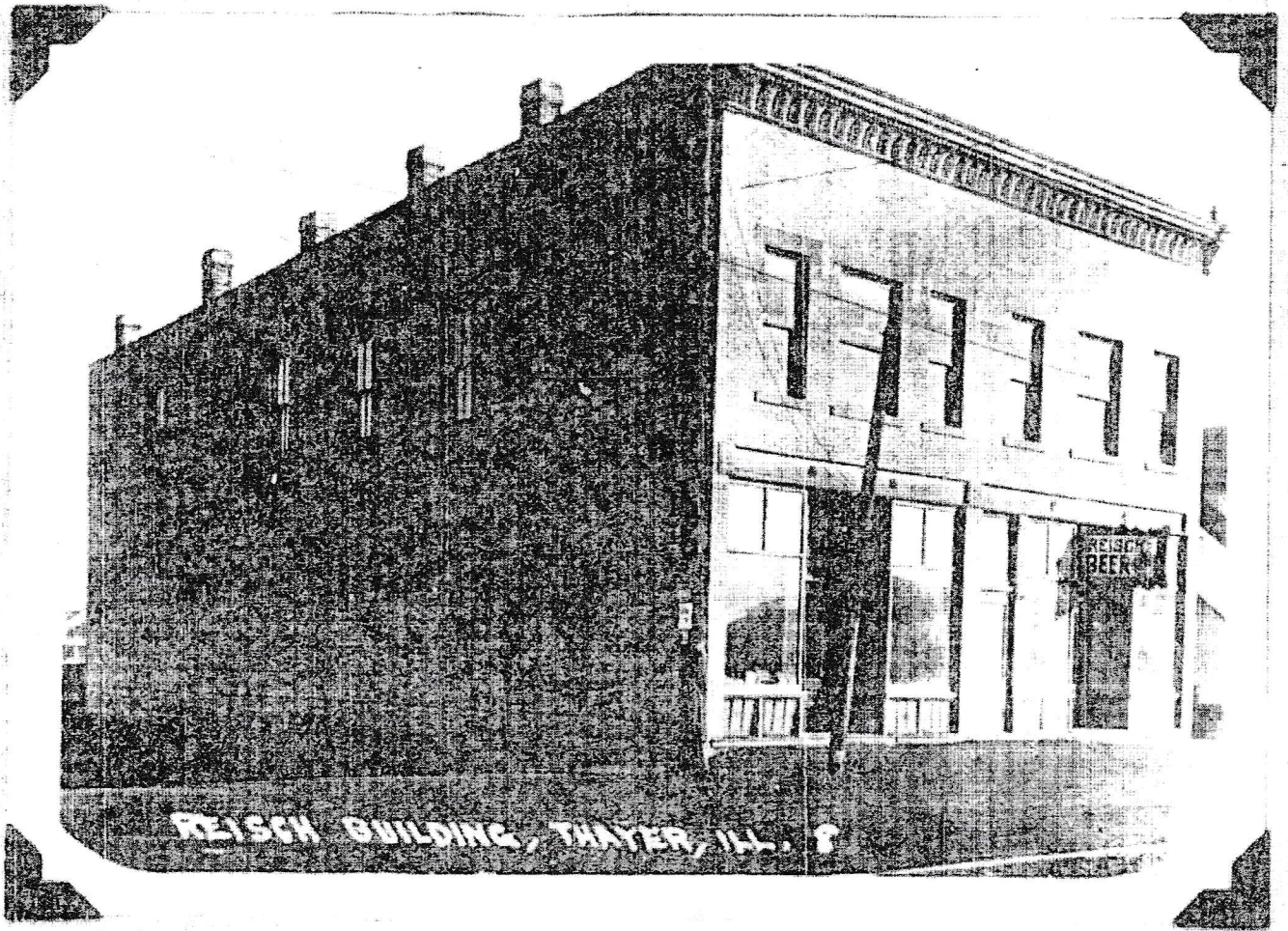
REISCH BUILDING, THAYER, ILL. 8

THE RIECHS' BUILDING



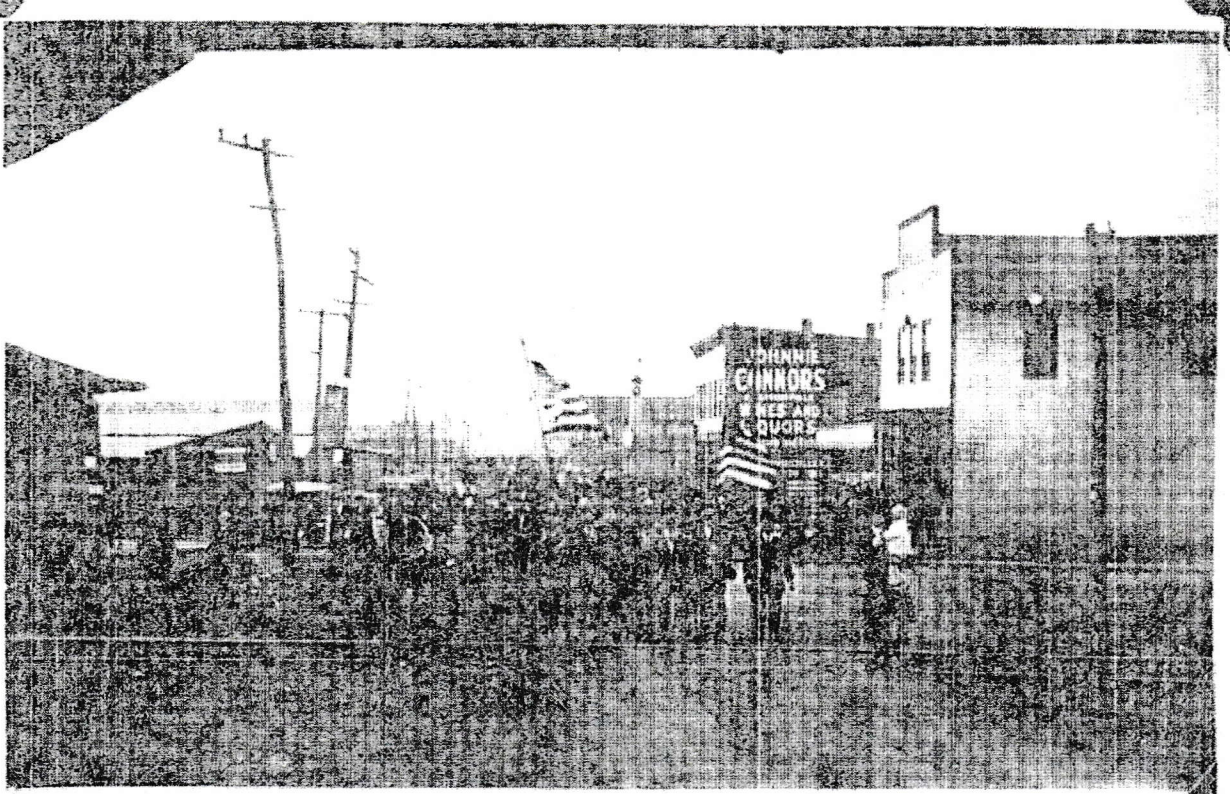
THE MINER'S S SUPPLY





REISCH BUILDING, THAYER, ILL. 8

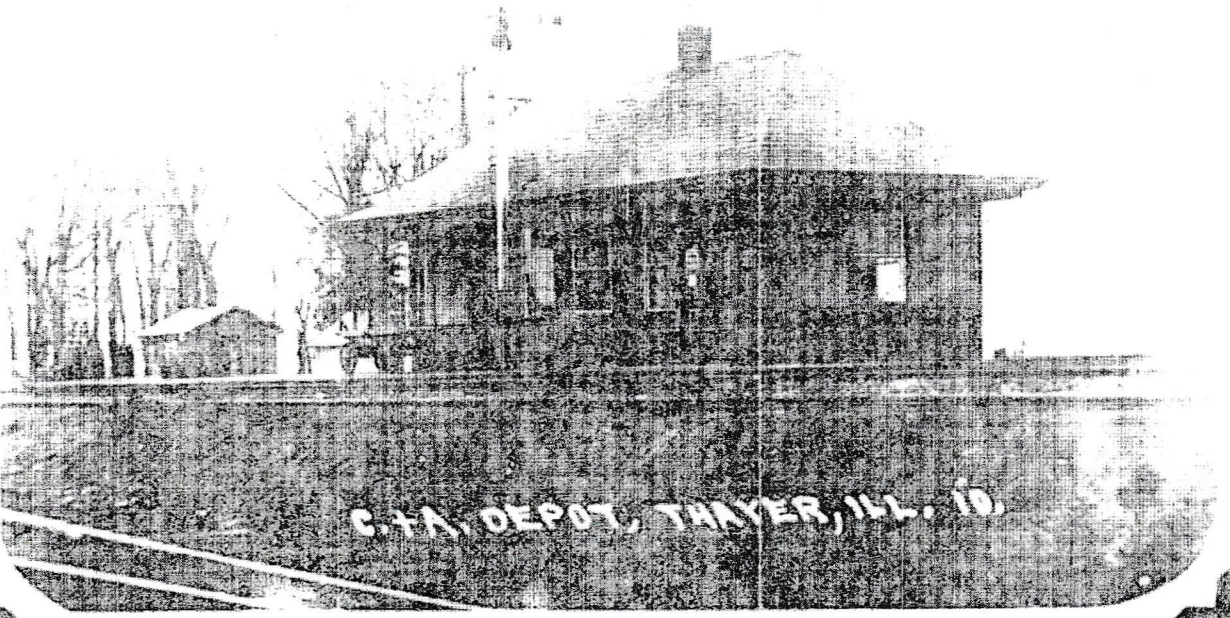
THE RIECHS' BUILDING

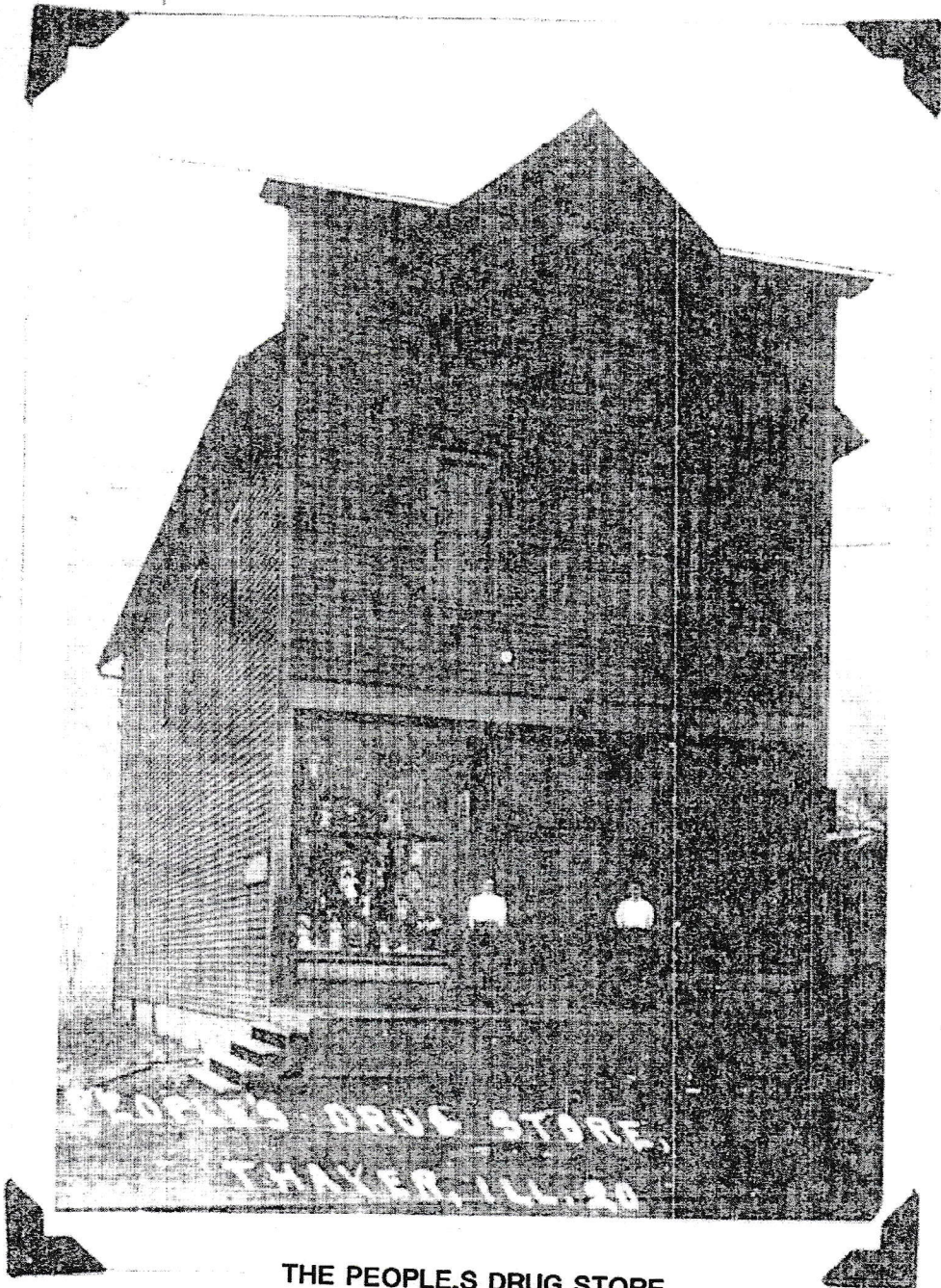


1917 - Thayer men leaving for service.
Picture of main street.

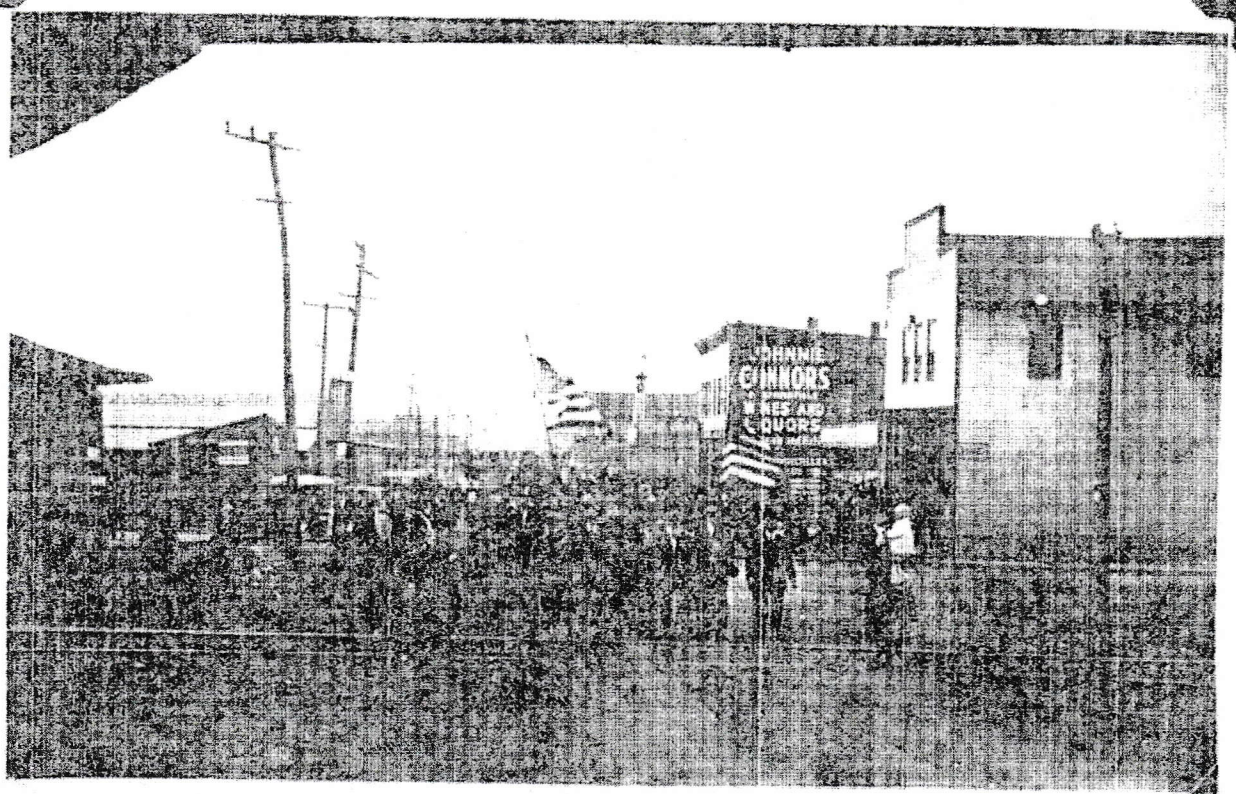
MAIN STREET APRIL 1918

THAYER MEN LEAVING FOR THE WAR





THE PEOPLE,S DRUG STORE

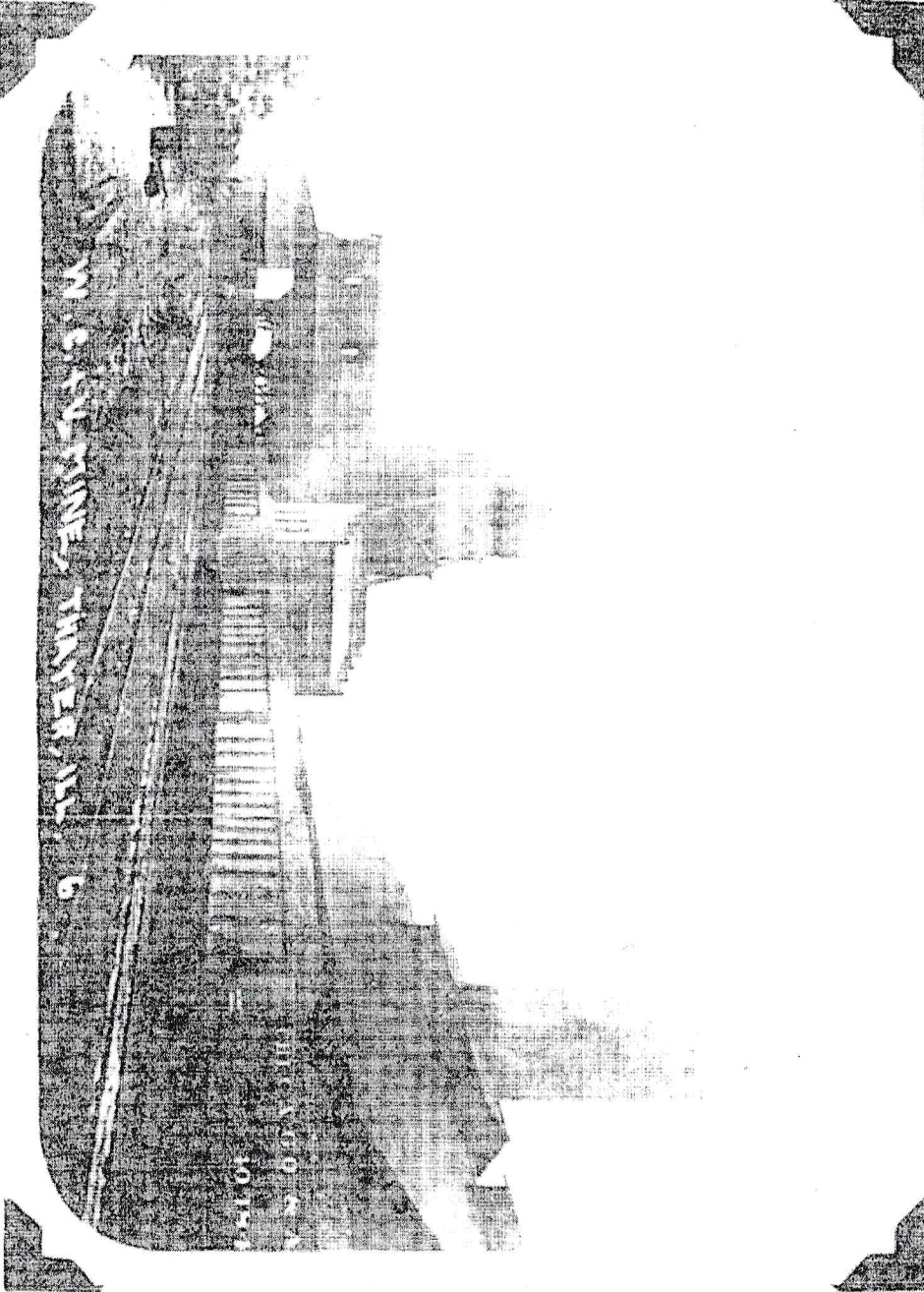


1917 - Thayer men leaving for service.
Picture of main street.

MAIN STREET APRIL 1918

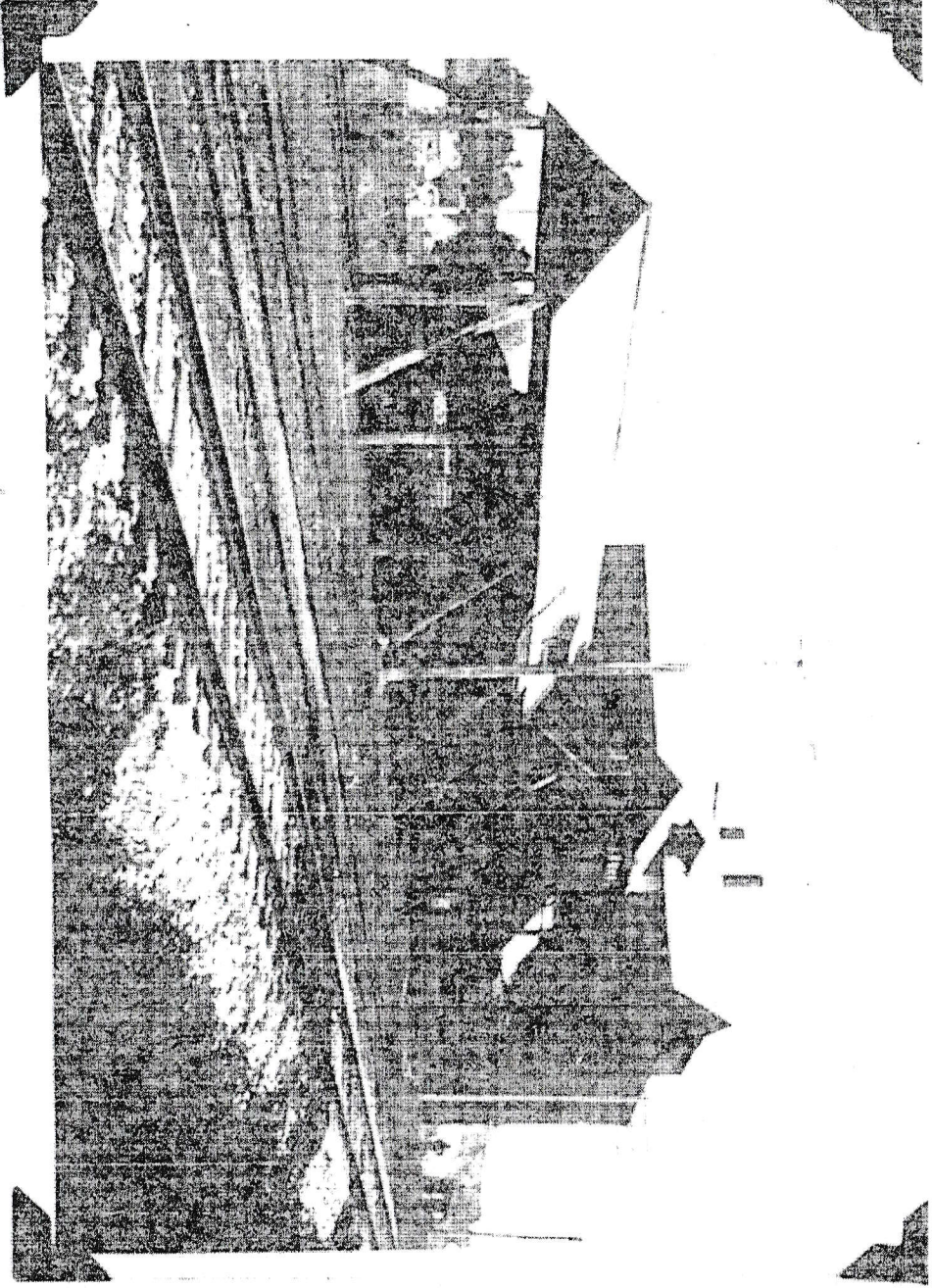
THAYER MEN LEAVING FOR THE WAR

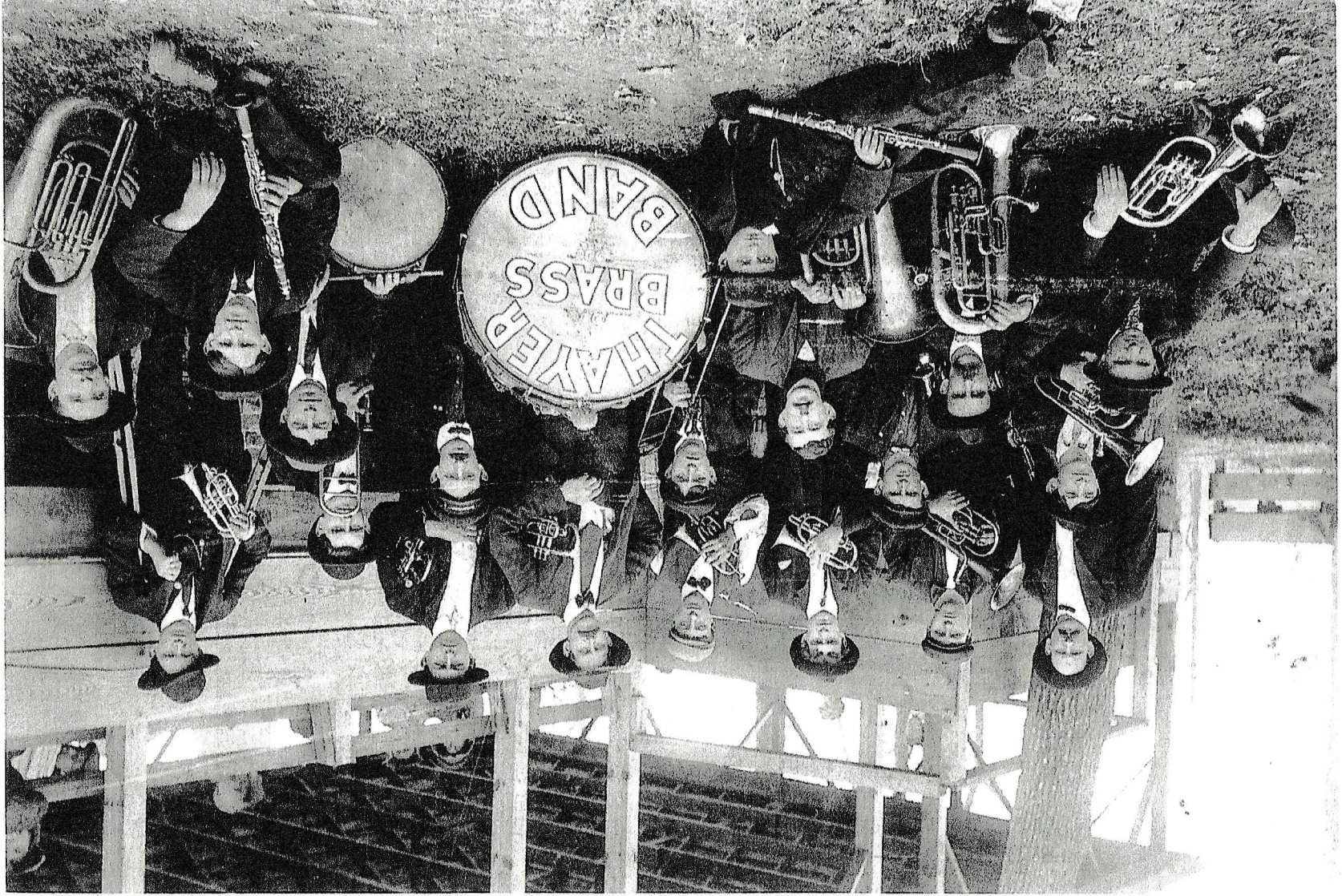




W. S. K. D. T. N. I. N. E. T. W. Y. E. R. I. N. G. 6

The coal washer.







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Volume 136 Virden, IL 62690 V

Spotlight

Thayer celebrated its Centennial Saturday with a parade and full schedule of events. Shown above is the Parade Grand Marshal, Elizabeth Jane Baines, Thayer's oldest resident.

Thayer marks centennial

Hundreds lined Thayer's streets and an enjoyable place to call





Bill Bednarchik Village of Thayer, Illinois Community Page

45 mins ·

A flash of the past (67 yrs ago). Photo and info of teen and preteen boys of Thayer all engage playing summer baseball. Much unlike youth of today wit smart phones taking selfies and looking for Pokeman.





46 mins

A flash of the past (67 yrs ago). Photo and info of teen and preteen boys of Thayer all engage playing summer baseball. Much unlike youth of today wit smart phones taking selfies and looking for Pokeman.

MAGGIE'S

JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM

PHOTO 1949

THE JUNIOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM SPONSERED BY MAGGIE'S RESTAURANT DURING THE SUMMER OF 1949 JOURNEYED TO SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS TO SEE THE MOVIE "THE BABE RUTH STORY". THE MOVIE WAS SHOWN AT THE ORPHEUM THEATER LOCATED ON FIFTH STREET BETWEEN ~~MADISON~~ ^{JEFFERSON} AND WASHINGTON STREETS. PRIOR TO LEAVING FOR SPRINGFIELD MAGGIE'S RESTAURANT TREATED THE TEAM TO A CHICKEN DINNER WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS. THE BLACK AND WHITE MOVIE WAS RELEASED DURING SEPTEMBER 1948 WITH WILLIAM BENDIX PLAYING THE ROLE OF GEORGE HERMAN "BABE" RUTH. THIS PHOTO WAS TAKEN IN FRONT OF THE THEATER.

ORGANIZERS AND COACHES: CLARENCE "SNUB" BOYLE AND "ANDY" KARAFFA.

FRONT ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: CLARENCE "SNUB" BOYLE, WEARING HAT, (FATHER OF KENNY). PLAYERS: BOBBY BEARD (BROTHER TO KENNY), JACKIE BOYLE, GEORGE MORELOCK, KENNY BEARD, TOMMY BRUNO, AND RONNIE REESE (BROTHER TO EDWIN).

SECOND ROW: SONNY "CREEPER" SEHON (BROTHER TO TOMMY), BILLY GALL, EDWIN "PEDRO" REESE, KENNY "ADLI" BOYLE, DAVE WIELAND, TOMMY "CROUPER" SEHON, DAVE "WHITEY" JOHNSON AND "ANDY" KARAFFA.

BACK ROW: LEO "FOO" SESTAK, ELDON "TUDSIE" MARSAGLIA, BILLY "YONSKI" BEDNARCHIK, JOHN "JAKE" BEDNAR, ARTHUR "CORKY" FREEMAN, AND DALE "BUSTER" STARLING.

MISSING FROM PHOTO: BILLY FEDOR, BILLY "CHAPPY" JAYNE AND BROTHER KENNY.

TEAM

MAGGIE'S RESTAURANT
OLD SPRINGFIELD TO SEE
ORPHEUM THEATER
JEFFERSON AND
WASHINGTON STREETS
MAGGIE'S RESTAURANT
TREATED THE TEAM TO A
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