

son League of Illinois, which has a large Swedish membership. He is a member of the Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Pythias. On December 23, 1912, Mr. Olson married Mabel V. Middlekauff and they have one daughter, Rogene.

OLIVER L. SPRECHER is the son of George and Amanda (Conaway) Sprecher and was born Nov. 18, 1872, on the family farm home located 1½ miles northeast of Mount Morris. He graduated from the public school in Mount Morris in 1888. There were only three in the class, the others being Nettie Kinsey (died in 1889) and Ada Mumma (Mrs. Oliver Watts). He attended Mount Morris College and graduated from the commercial department in 1893. Later he served for ten years as private secretary of John Alexander Dowie at Zion City, Ill., and for thirteen years in the paymaster's office of the Nash Motors Company at Kenosha, Wis. Mr. Sprecher has been connected with the original Christian Catholic Apostolic Church in Zion since the day it was organized in Chicago, Feb. 22, 1896. At present he is living and employed in Zion City, his address being 2219 Gideon Ave. He was married in 1898 to Hannah Tronsen and they have five children: Paul Dowie, Olive Lois (Mrs. Joseph Weil), June Rose (Mrs. Arthur Friend), Theodore A. (deceased), and Ruth (Mrs. Clarence Couper).

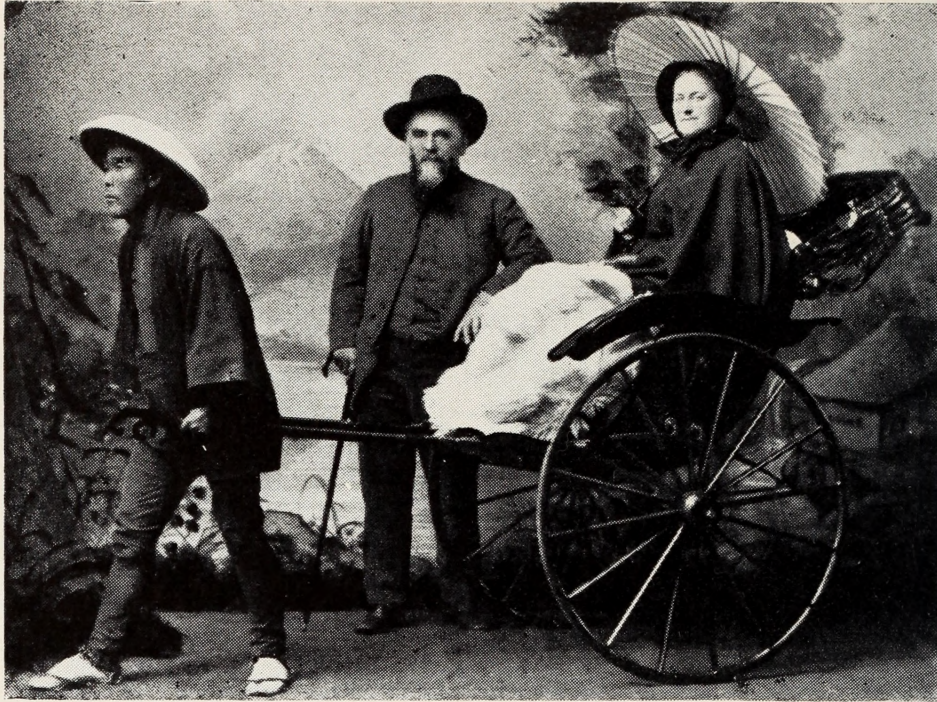


MR. AND MRS. JOHN D. MILLER celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1935. Mr. Miller, who has been a life-long resident and business man in Mount Morris, is the son of Upton and Maria (Davis) Miller and was born in Mount Morris, October 26, 1858. He attended the Mount Morris Public School and worked on a farm for a number of years. He learned telegraphy in 1881 and worked as operator for seven or eight years on the Burlington, five of which were in Mount Morris. In about 1890, he purchased the harness shop of Wm. Cushing, which he operated for 13 years, and then sold it to Fred L. Watts. He then purchased the farm south of Mount Morris now owned by the Poultry Tribune and conducted a retail dairy business in Mount Morris for a number of years. After a period of 25 years, he sold the farm to J. W. Watt and purchased the Fred Watts home in Mount Morris where he is living a retired life. He is a member of the Lutheran Church and the Modern Woodmen. He was married in 1885 to Carrie E. Stone and they had six children, three of whom died in infancy. The other three were Dale E. (died 1932), Harvey L. and Wilbur C.

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ELDER D. L. MILLER was probably Mount Morris's most experienced traveler. He made seven trips abroad, including two trips around the world. Mrs. Miller accompanied him on five of these trips. The above picture was taken in Japan during their world tour of 1904-1906.



THIS PICTURE was taken on the occasion of the fiftieth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Willoughby Felker, on Dec. 22, 1918. The grandchildren in the picture are Mrs. Hugh Blake, Paul and Harold Felker, Willoughby Long, Hugh Felker, Emmerson Long, Mildred Felker, Jeanette Watts and Marshall McNeel. Mr. Felker died Dec. 17, 1922, aged nearly 79 years, and Mrs. Felker died Dec. 27, 1919, aged nearly 74 years.



MOUNT MORRIS BASEBALL TEAM of 1895, which played in the Tri-County League with Polo, Oregon, Lanark and Dixon. They lost the championship in a tie game with Dixon. From left to right, front row, Howard Newcomer, Carl Cheney, Howard Withers, Wm. Householder, Bert Thomas; second row, Frank Marshall, Morris Newcomer, Virgil Trine, John Rice, Chas. Ford; at rear, Jacob Strock, manager; Wm. Keedy, umpire; lying in front, Roy Brayton, mascot.



OLDER CITIZENS will remember Robert Allen, brother of E. J. Allen, who started for the Klondike goldfields with the equipment shown in this picture. The plan was to go as far as possible on bicycles and the dogs were to be trained to draw a sledge in the north country. Mr. Allen is shown on the right and the man on the left was from Chicago. They got only as far as the State of Washington on their trip.



THIS FOOTBALL TEAM, known as the Mount Morris Athletic Club, played a schedule of games in the fall of 1914. Those in the picture are, from left to right, top row, Charley Unger, Fred Hilger, Edward Allen, Mac McCosh, Paul Holsinger; second row, Glenn Unger, Earl Allen, Orville Diehl, Ralph Mahoy; bottom row, Jesse Smith, Paul Martin, Carl Withers, Harold Ross, Boyd Grush.



THIS BASKETBALL team was an independent organization which played the season of 1914-1915. Those in the picture are, from left to right, standing, Forrest Shaw, Wentworth Sharer (coach), Raymond Stouffer; sitting, Paul Holsinger, Eugene Mishler, Fred Hilger, Max Mishler, Ralph Mahoy.



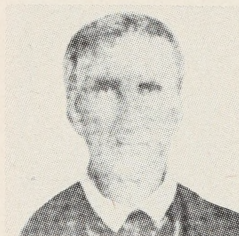
THE "REGULARS" was the name of the above basketball team which made quite a record during the 1910-1911 season. Those in the picture are from left to right: First row, Roy Baker, Max Sharer; middle row, Wentworth Sharer, John Donaldson, Perley Rees, Ray Baker; at top, Vernon Rees, manager, and Clifford Miller, referee.



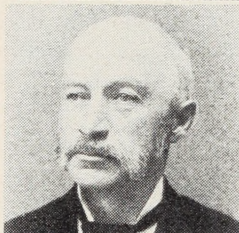
THIS building, located on the corner of Hitt and Clark Sts., was built by Boyd Stouffer for a baby chick hatchery and is now occupied by the Home Service Laundry operated by Ernest Lundin.

SIX GENERATIONS OF THE BRAYTON FAMILY

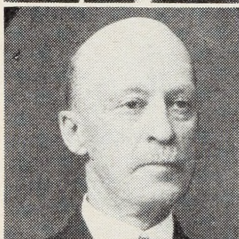
The name Brayton has been prominent in business and social circles in Mount Morris since 1841. The fine Brayton home in the southeast end of town has for many years been one of the show places in the village.



REV. DANIEL BRAYTON came to Mount Morris in 1841 and opened the first store in Mount Morris. He was a Methodist minister and came here from the State of New York. He passed away June 30, 1851. He had a family of four children.



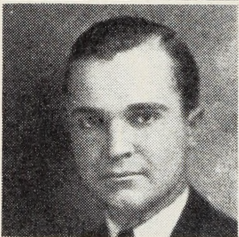
FREDERICK B. BRAYTON, son of Rev. Daniel Brayton, came to Mount Morris with his father in 1841 and they opened the first store in Mount Morris. After his father's death he continued the business. Mr. Brayton was born in New York State in 1818 and died in Mount Morris in 1897. He had a family of five children.



ARTHUR W. BRAYTON, of the third generation of Braytons, was the son of Frederick B. Brayton and was born in Mount Morris Jan. 7, 1847. He was associated with his father in business and carried on the business after the father's death. He died Jan. 19, 1922, aged 75 years. He had a family of three children.



LOUIS FREDERICK BRAYTON, fourth generation, was the son of Arthur W. and Harriet Brayton, and was born April 19, 1877, in Mount Morris. He graduated from the University of Illinois, and became a structural engineer. He married Grace Benjamin and they have two sons, Bruce and Louis Frederick, Jr.



LOUIS FREDERICK BRAYTON, Jr., fifth generation, is the son of Louis F. and Grace Brayton, and was born Nov. 20, 1909. He married Flora Heft and they have two sons, Robert Frederick and Donald Bruce. They are residents of Detroit.

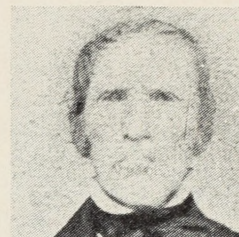


ROBERT FREDERICK BRAYTON, sixth generation, is the son of Louis F., Jr., and Flora Brayton, and was born June 3, 1936. He lives with his parents at Detroit, Mich.

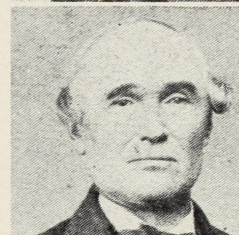
SIX GENERATIONS OF THE THOMAS FAMILY

The name Thomas has been prominent in Mount Morris and vicinity from the earliest pioneer days and a record of six generations of this family is given here.

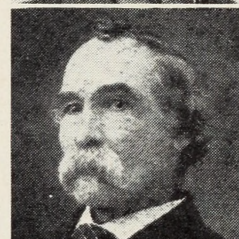
HENRY THOMAS brought his large family to Mount Morris about the year 1840 and took up a large claim about three miles northeast of Mount Morris. He was born in 1783 and was married in 1808 to Catherine Schechter. They had nine children: Susan (Mrs. John Huffman), Joshua, Elias, Ezra, Abraham, Ruana (Mrs. David Newcomer), Julia Ann (Mrs. Simon Geeting), Samuel, Elizabeth (Mrs. Henry Middlekauff). Mr. Thomas died in 1863 and Mrs. Thomas in 1864.



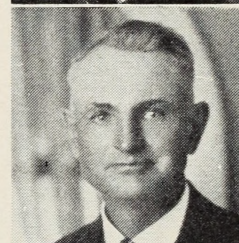
JOSHUA THOMAS, son of Henry and Catherine Thomas, was married twice, first to Salina Landes, and their children were Permelia (who married Robert S. Hitt), Mary Catherine Funk, Henry L., Louis and John. In 1850 Mr. Thomas joined the gold rush to California where he remained two years. In 1862, he married Susan Felker and they had two children, Lee and Frank. The family home is three miles east of Mount Morris.



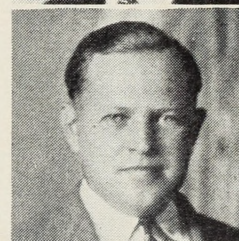
HENRY L. THOMAS, of the third generation, came to Mount Morris with his father, Joshua Thomas, when he was but two years of age and lived his entire remaining years of 86 years in or near Mount Morris. He married Mary Ellen Felker and they had nine children: Lillie, Ada, Nellie, Edgar, Florence, Chas. H., Fred H., Kathryn and Noble F. Mr. Thomas died in 1927 and Mrs. Thomas in 1928.



NOBLE F. THOMAS, of the fourth generation, is the son of Henry L. and Mary Ellen Thomas and was born Dec. 12, 1872, near Mount Morris. He married Susan Young and they have three children: Worthington, Alice (Mrs. Hennebach) and Marion (Mrs. Chester Helland). The family retired from farming and are now living in Mount Morris.



WORTHINGTON THOMAS, fifth generation, is the son of Noble F. and Susan (Young) Thomas and was born near Mount Morris, Aug. 16, 1898. He married Miss Lorraine Brown and they have two children, Alan Keith and Nancy Adeline. A more extended biography will be found in the chapter on "Village Newspapers."



ALAN KEITH THOMAS represents the sixth generation and is the son of Worthington and Lorraine (Brown) Thomas. He was born Aug. 25, 1933, in Mount Morris, and thus he becomes the youngest standard bearer of the Thomas klan in this vicinity.

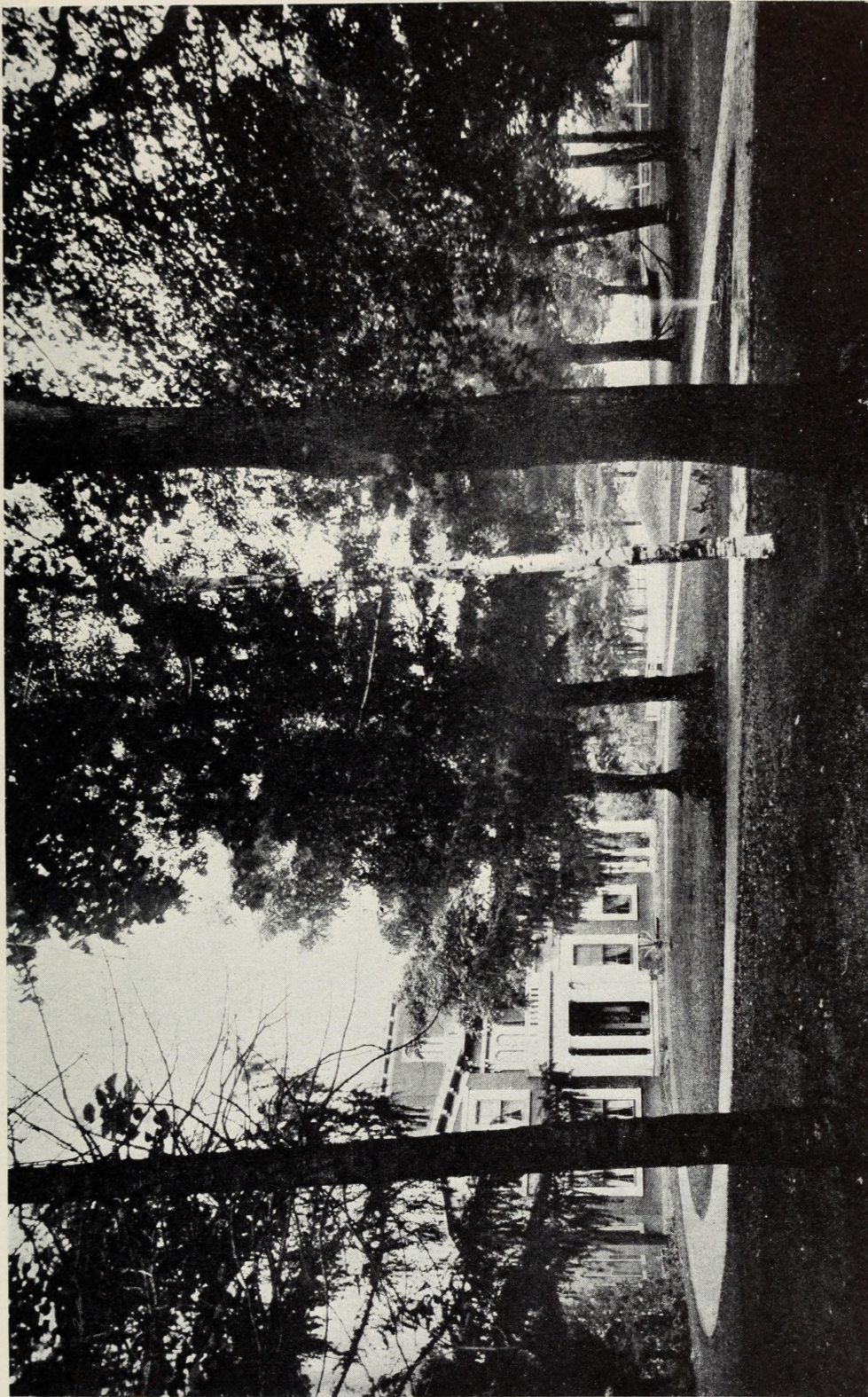


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COUNTRY HOME of Henry J. Farwell, who died in 1890, now owned by his son, George V. Farwell. It is located about a half mile south of the corporate limits of Mount Morris.



The Beautiful Brayton Home and Lawn in the Southeast End of Town.



THE ABOVE was the home for many years of Congressman Robert R. Hitt. After the death of Mr. Hitt, this property was purchased by Harvey J. and Harry G. Kable in the year 1916, who tore the old house down and used much of the old lumber in the erection of their two new homes now standing on this

location, which is the northwest corner of Hitt St. and Seminary Ave. The Hitt residence was originally built in 1876. It was greatly increased in size in 1883 and still another addition was built in 1894. The house was built by N. E. Buser.



HOME of Mr. and Mrs. Harry G. Kable which was erected in 1916 and rebuilt in 1933. It is located partly on the site of the Robert R. Hitt home which was torn down in 1916, and a considerable quantity of lumber from the old house was used in the construction of the Kable home shown above.



THIS HISTORIC GATHERING of old people was held at the home of Peter Funk, August 24, 1897, in honor of the one hundredth birthday of Aunt Kitty Rice. Those in the picture are, from left to right, front row: George Griswold, Eliza Hammer, Mrs. George Griswold, Anna Funk, Susan Bovey, Barbara Rice, Daniel Zellers, Mrs. Anna Zellers, Aunt Kitty Rice, Mrs. Mary

Etnyre, Peter Funk, Mrs. Peter Funk, Mrs. Michael Funk, Mrs. David Forney, Michael Funk; standing, Mrs. Quinby Allen, Mrs. Barbara Emmert, Mrs. Andrew Newcomer, Mrs. Samuel Billig, Ella Griswold, George Griswold, Mrs. Anna (Rice) Mumma, Harry Griswold, Clinton Forney, David Forney.



FAMILY OF REUBEN S. MARSHALL. This picture was taken about the year 1900. From left to right, standing: Ida (Mrs. George Wilson), William, Emma (Mrs. Henry Clements), Grace (Mrs. Melvin Rinehart), Alburthus, Viola (Mrs. David Bock); in front, Frank, Oliver, Ira and John. The mother died before this picture was taken. The father (in chair) died in 1907.



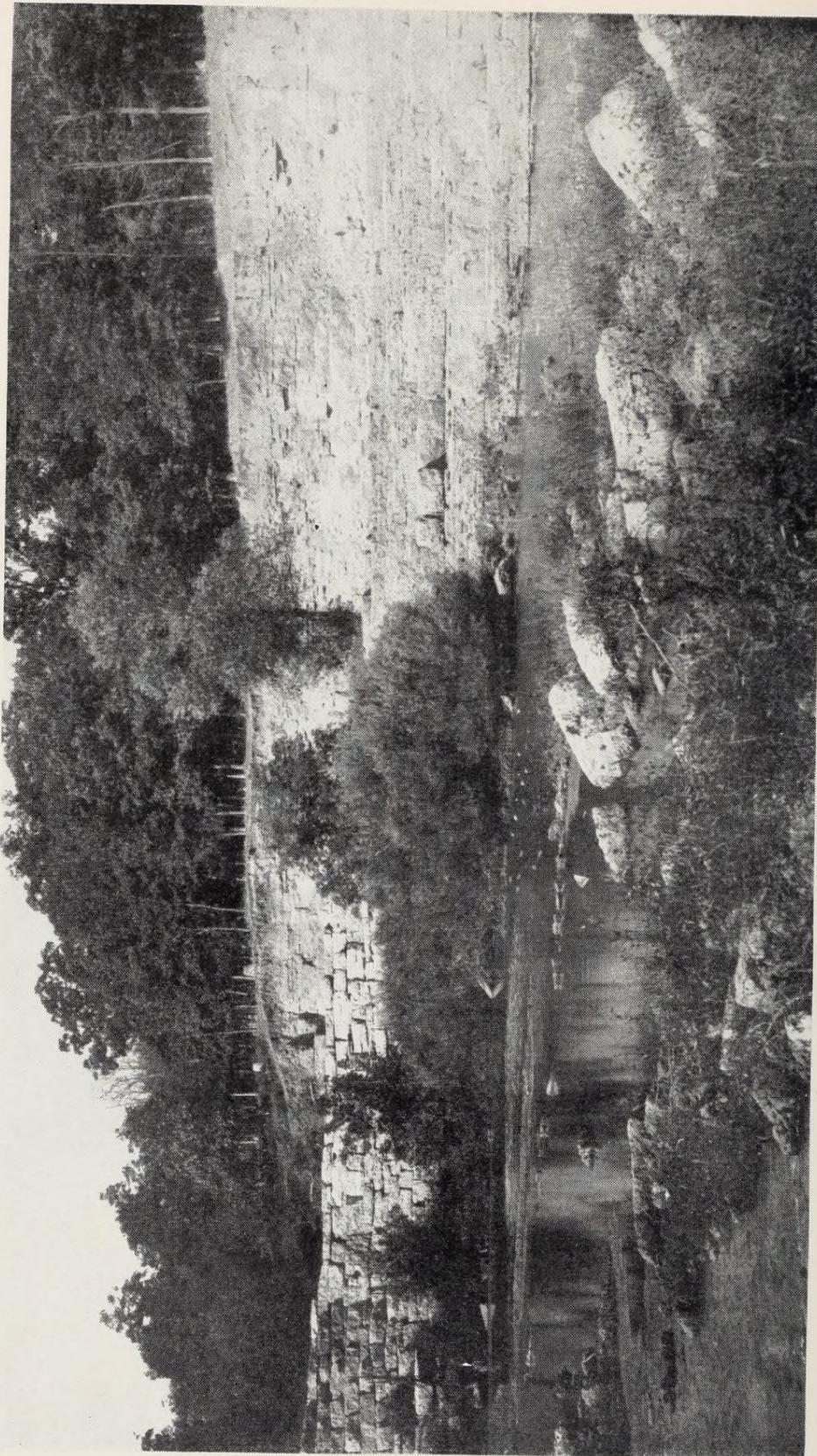
THIS PICTURE of the Kable family was taken about the year 1918. The children sitting in front are, left to right: Justin Kable, Harold Longman, Roger Niman, Joyce Longman and Ruth Niman. Mr. and Mrs. Kable are sitting in the center with Forrest Kable on the left and Don Niman on the right. Those in the rear are from left to right: Pearl Hershey Kable, Harvey J. Kable

(with Virginia Kable in arms), Chas. Niman, Dorothy Niman, Minnie Kable Niman, Ruth Kable, Hale Niman, Faith Longman, Harry Longman, Lulu Kable Longman, Milo Zimmerman, Ward Zimmerman (in arms), Hazel Kable Zimmerman, Edith Walkup Kable, Harry G. Kable, Robert Kable.



MEMBERS of the Mount Morris Gun Club: Standing, left to right, Charlie Bishop, Mrs. C. J. Price, Grant Unger, Price Stouffer, Jim Aikens, August Dunne, Fred Middlekauff, John Rice, A. W. Neff, Charles Pettegrew, Harry Cushing; sitting, Gregor Thompson, Dr. C. J. Price, Samuel Sprecher, Mrs. A. T. Olson. This picture was taken at Castle Rock in 1910.

MEMBERS of the Mount Morris Gun Club: Standing, left to right, Charlie Bishop, Mrs. C. J. Price, Grant Unger, Price Stouffer, Jim Aikens, August Dunne, Fred Middlekauff, John Rice, A. W. Neff, Charles Pettegrew, Harry Cushing; sitting, Gregor Thompson, Dr. C. J. Price, Samuel Sprecher, Mrs. A. T. Olson. This picture was taken at Castle Rock in 1910.



A TYPICAL VIEW of beautiful scenery along Pine Creek near Mount Morris

Chapter 20

MOUNT MORRIS OF TODAY

AS this last chapter of the revised edition of "*Mount Morris: Past and Present*" is being written, the village which we proudly call our home is entering into the second century of its existence. Nearly a year has been spent in delving into old records, histories and newspaper files in order to put together a correct picture of the progress and growth of this community which started from scratch a hundred years ago.

During the greater part of this period the principal interest in the community centered around its institution of learning. This brought to the village men of learning and those who wanted to learn. The thousands of students who received inspiration here scattered all over the United States and Mount Morris wielded an influence far greater than the average town of its size.

It is true that the seminary and college were never successful financially but that fact does not detract from the great influence the institution had in the growth and development of the village. The second phase of the development of the village is the industrial which fortunately grew during the decline of the college and took the place of that institution when it was finally compelled to close its doors. During the early days, Mount Morris was known far and wide as an educational center, and now it is even better known as a great printing center, and hundreds of thousands of magazines are broadcast each month all over the United States and Canada.

It so happens that this hundred-year period which saw the evolution of our community from an open prairie into a thriving little city, also covers the greatest progress in science and invention which the world has ever seen. At

the time the first settlers wended their way from the east by slow means of transportation very few of the important modern conveniences and inventions were in existence. There were no railroads except several short lines in the east; there were no automobiles, no telephones, no electric lights, no radios, no airplanes, no motion pictures. Most of these inventions might be classed as luxuries, but today they are considered necessities in the life of the average American.

It will, therefore, be interesting to check up on when these inventions were first used in this country and when they first came to Mount Morris.

RAILROADS

THE first railroad built in the United States for the purpose of transporting freight and passengers was the Baltimore & Ohio. Construction began in 1828 and the laying of rails began in 1829. Up to 1832, horses were employed to haul the cars and the first locomotive was not used until 1830. When the first settlers began to come to Ogle County in 1836 and 1837, there were no railroads whatever west of Pennsylvania and the only means of travel to the new country was in wagons drawn by horses or oxen, or by boats on the great lakes and rivers. The railroad through Mount Morris was not built until the year 1871, or nearly 35 years after the village was founded.

AUTOMOBILES

THE modern automobile propelled by means of a gasoline engine was not in general use in the United States until about the year 1902, and the first machines did not appear in Mount Morris until the year 1904. Edward Thomas claims to have brought the first ma-

chine here in May, 1904. It was a single cylinder machine known as the "Silent Knight" and he bought it at Hagerstown, Md., for \$600.00. Later he shipped it to Porto Rico, where he was employed as an engineer. Mr. Thomas also claims to have owned the first bicycle brought to Mount Morris. That was in the year 1889 and it was built with a high wheel in front and a small wheel behind. It took a gymnast to ride one of those early bicycles. Chas. Ford, son of Rev. L. Ford, also had one of the first bicycles of that type.

Dr. A. W. Price probably owned the second automobile in Mount Morris. *The Index* of June 29, 1904, contained the following news item in regard to it: "Dr. A. W. Price brought his new automobile home from Rockford, Saturday. It is a two-seated proper, but can be quickly changed into a four-seated affair by a clever folding arrangement in front. The machine is the Knox patent and is propelled by a 10-horsepower gasoline motor, the entire outfit weighing 1760 pounds. It is a handsome make and outline and is considered one of the best patterns on the market. The purchase was made through the agency of F. G. Jones of Oregon, but the price paid has not been revealed. Since his return Mr. Price has given many of his friends and a large number of little folks rides about town and on the frequent trips up and down Main Street, it is a matter of surprise how well most of the horses met have behaved. It would seem that in a very short time all danger of a scare from this source by the horse family will be over."

Others who purchased machines in those early days were Prof. G. W. Furrey, Frank Keedy, Willis Mumma, O. S. Watts and George Windle. However, this new mode of transportation did not materialize very fast in Mount Morris because five years later *The Index* of May 6, 1909, had the following news item: "Price Stouffer is the possessor of a new Jackson touring car, having made the purchase through the agency of Wingert & Clevidence. Mr. Stouffer and Mr. Clevidence went to Chicago on Tuesday of last week and in the afternoon ran the auto out as far as Elgin, resuming the journey to Mount

Morris on the following day. The car is of excellent make and Mr. Stouffer is already becoming quite proficient in handling it. A year ago there was not an automobile owned in town, while now there are sixteen and others are considering purchasing. It took Mount Morris folks a good while to catch the auto fever but it is now in full swing."

TELEPHONES

THE telephone was invented in 1876 by Prof. Graham Bell and by 1903 there were 1500 exchanges and over three million telephones in use in the United States. The first telephone was installed in Mount Morris in 1893. It was a public station in the hardware store.

The first telephone exchange was installed in September, 1900, in the Seibert Building over the Citizens Bank, at which time there were 86 subscribers. Miss Maude Rowe (Mrs. B. E. Avey) was the first day operator and David Craley the night operator. Business and professional men who installed phones at that time were Adams Express office, B. E. Avey hardware, Baker & Coffman, Citizens Bank, H. H. Clevidence elevator, Clark & Wingert, City Water Works, Hotel Rohrer, Dr. Hanes office, D. F. Hamlin store, Index office, W. H. Jackson office, Fred Long livery, Oliver Miller stable, Dr. J. B. Moats office, News office, Niman's livery, C. E. Price hardware, Dr. C. J. Price office, College office, J. Strock grocery, O. S. Watts grocery, Wolfe's bakery, Burlington depot; also the residences of E. J. Allen, Prof. A. L. Clair, Dr. J. F. Canode, C. C. Crowell, Dr. W. W. Hanes, J. G. Royer, G. E. Weaver, Fred Frederickson, Samuel Rowe, Dr. G. B. McCosh and Prof. W. L. Eikenberry. The exchange was put in by the Ogle County Telephone Co.

In 1904 Charles Weaver was the local manager. In 1913 the name of the company was changed to the Rock River Telephone Company with Walter Stage as local manager. In 1926 the DeKalb Telephone Company merged with the Rock River Telephone Company under the new name DeKalb-Ogle Telephone Company and since that time Miss Matilda Bock has been the local manager.

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Service work has been handled by the manager at Oregon. The present telephone operators are as follows: Mrs. Frank Nachtman, Mrs. Hannah Ride-nour, Mrs. Stewart Merryman, Miss Lois Merryman and Miss Frances Sawyer.

The number of telephones gradually increased each year until the present time when there are 800 in Mount Morris and surrounding country. Very few houses are not equipped with this modern convenience.

RADIO

RADIO was first heard in Mount Morris in 1922. *The Index* of July 6, 1922, announced that Bert Baker had installed the first receiving set, and Bert Tilden also put in a set about the same time. Harold Tracy, Erwin Hough and Nelson Rittenhouse were also pioneers with radio sets in the same year. These first sets were very crude and were equipped with ear phones. Later on they were connected with loud speakers. Now after the elapse of only 16 years nearly every home has one or two radios and many automobiles are equipped with them.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

THE introduction of electricity for light and power was made about the year 1880, and gradually came into general use, especially for street lighting with arc lamps.

Mount Morris got along with kerosene lamps until the year 1901, when the village board granted a franchise to Edgar F. Thomas, who installed an 80-horsepower steam engine with a belt-driven dynamo in a building east of the railroad tracks in the north end of town. This plant was put in operation for the first time on Jan. 8, 1901. Most of the business houses and a number of residences had been wired and street lights installed.

Mr. Thomas operated the plant until December, 1903, when he sold the business to W. N. Wilkins of Mayfield, N. Y., who operated the plant as the Mount Morris Electric Light & Power Co. The plant was sold again in several years to Walter B. King of Redwood

Falls, Minn., and he in turn sold to another group of out-of-town men.

In 1909, Kable Brothers Company acquired the electric light plant and moved the equipment to its own building and enlarged it sufficiently to furnish light and power to the village and the printing plant as well. After three years the plant and franchise were sold to the Illinois Northern Utilities Company. The generating of current was discontinued in Mount Morris and the electricity has since been brought in over high voltage transmission lines.

MOTION PICTURES

CHAS. WISHARD started the first motion picture theatre in Mount Morris in the year 1912 in the small building now occupied by Hagemann's Service Station, and this theatre was used until the Wishard Building was built in 1920. Sound pictures were first shown here in February, 1930.

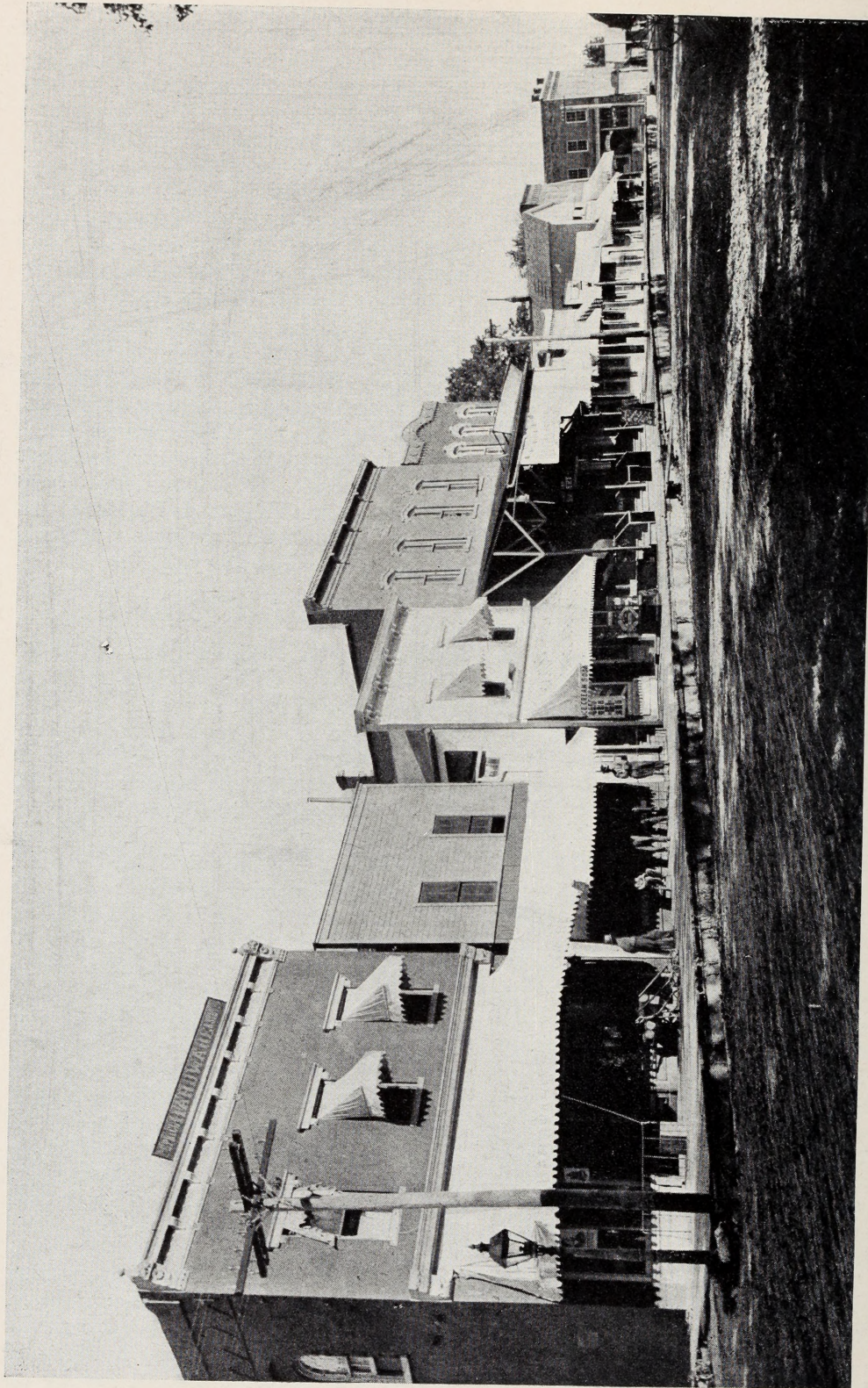
THE AIRPLANE

IN THE year 1905, aviation was in its infancy and Wilbur Wright made the first successful flight in a heavier-than-air machine in that year. It was 13 years later when the first airplane landed at Mount Morris and *The Index* of July 31, 1919, reported the incident as follows: "The circling of an airplane over Mount Morris for a few minutes shortly after 7 o'clock Thursday morning and its final alighting in the pasture field of Price Stouffer at the south edge of town, attracted much attention and a large crowd soon gathered to learn what the early visit meant, for it was the first airplane to stop in the town, although others have passed over in their flights elsewhere. The machine, a small two-seated Curtiss biplane, was in charge of two young men recently discharged from the service and they were enroute to deliver it to parties at Madison, Wis."

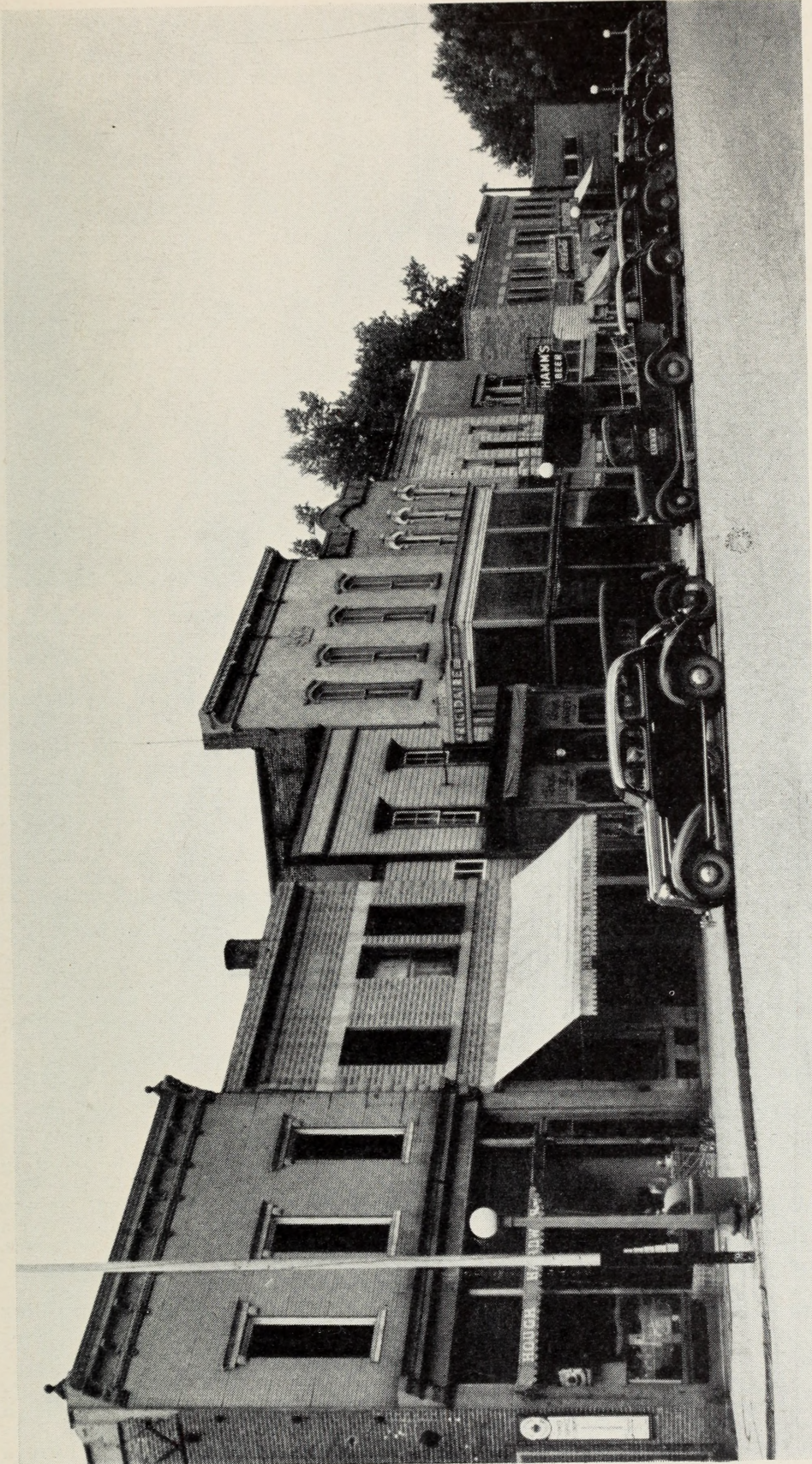
In 1938, Mount Morris has everything that an enterprising city should have. All of the important streets are paved with concrete; the business houses and homes are protected against fire by an adequate water system of mains and hydrants and fire-fighting apparatus;

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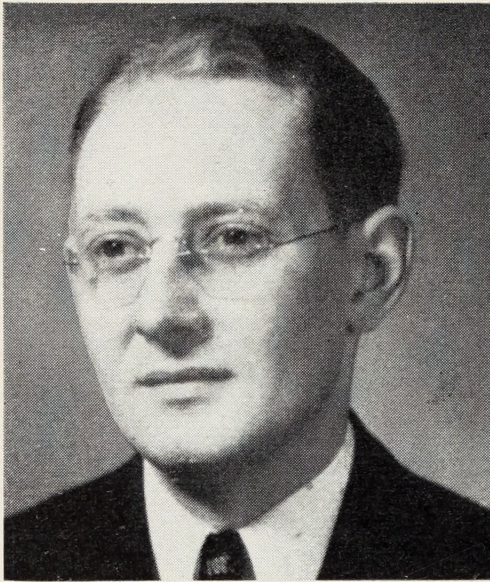
THE SOUTH BUSINESS BLOCK as it appeared in 1900, before the street was paved. Note the old Startzman building at the farther end of the street, now replaced by the Township Hall. Also note the kerosene street lamp on the corner at the left.



THE SOUTH BUSINESS BLOCK as it appears in 1938, 38 years after the picture on the opposite page was taken. Quite a few changes can be seen in the buildings at the lower end, including the Brayton Block and the Town Hall. Note the electric lights and street paving.

the streets are well lighted with electricity; the educational facilities are ample and well administered; there are four prosperous churches which fill the religious requirements of our people; fraternal and social organizations are in a flourishing condition; and the business interests are ably represented by our enterprising merchants.

Brief sketches are given in the following pages of the business men and enterprises in Mount Morris which are not covered in preceding chapters.



ORLO AUMAN, owner and operator of "Whitey's" Barber Shop, came to Mount Morris from Lanark in August, 1933, as barber in Harrington's shop. He started in business for himself in June, 1937. He is the son of George and Fanny Auman and was born Sept. 12, 1909, at Kent, Ill. He graduated from the Cissna Park High School in 1927 and attended Mount Morris College for one year. He graduated from Molar's Barber College in Chicago in April, 1932. He was married in September, 1936, to Helen Wolfensberger.

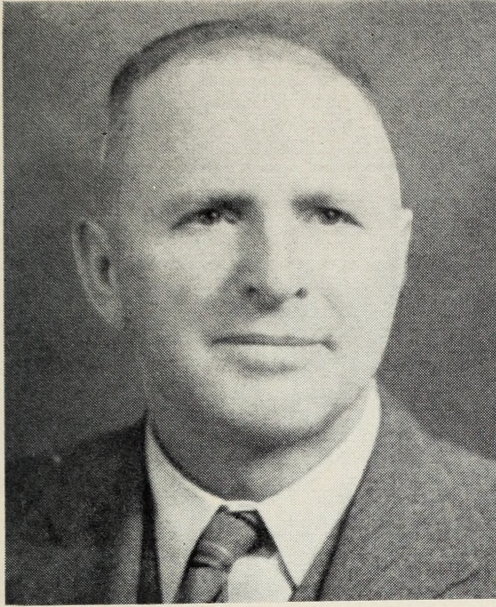
HOWARD CORBETT, manager of the local Standard Oil Station in Mount Morris, is the son of Joe and Bessie (Ballard) Corbett and was born March 24, 1913, at Oregon, Ill. He graduated from the Polo High School in 1930 and attended Mount Morris College for two years. He was a member of the undefeated football team of 1931. He was employed by the Kable News Co. from 1932 to 1936, and in March, 1936, became the manager of the Standard Oil station. Mr. Corbett was married in 1934 to Olive Weybright and they have two children: Joan and Carol.



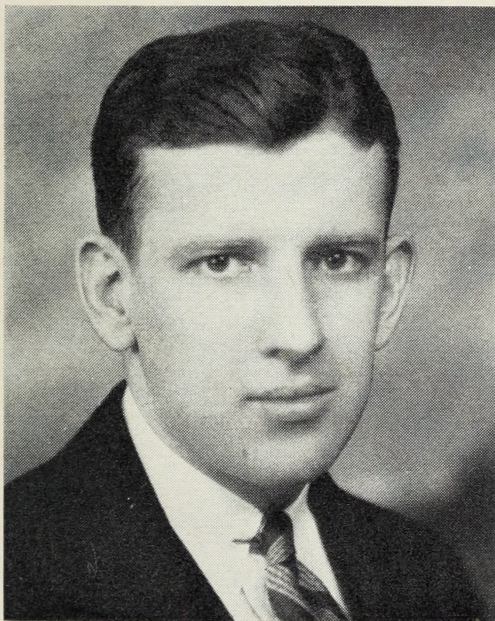
SYRIL E. AVEY, owner of Avey's Electrical & Variety Store, is the son of Solomon E. and Belle (Beard) Avey, and was born Jan. 26, 1899, in Mount Morris. He graduated from the Mount Morris High School in 1916, attended the Marian (Ala.) Military Institute for one year, and the Naval Academy at Annapolis from June, 1917, to October, 1920. He learned the electric business with the Seaman Electric Company at Middletown, Ohio, and was local manager for the Illinois Northern Utilities Company from 1921 until 1929. Since then he has been in business for himself. He is a past commander of American Legion Post No. 143, and is a member of the local Masonic lodge and the Business Men's League. In 1922, he married Lulu Pyper of Leaf River and they have had five children: Robert, Jean, Spencer, Dorothy and Betty (deceased).

JAMES BARBEGELLO has been operating the Mount Morris Cafe since December, 1937. He previously operated a restaurant in Rockford. He was born Jan. 17, 1883, at Calascibatta, Italy. He attended school in Italy and served in the Italian Army during the World War. He became a U. S. citizen in 1937. He was married in 1905 to Angelina Bonzignara and they have three children: Joseph, Antoine and Carlo.

ALLISON BLAKE has been operating a shoe shop in Mount Morris since September, 1937. He is the son of Errett and Bessie (Black) Blake and was born north-east of Mount Morris, Aug. 8, 1914. He graduated from the Mount Morris High School in 1934. He married Winona Burright in October, 1936, and they have a daughter, Karlene Marie.



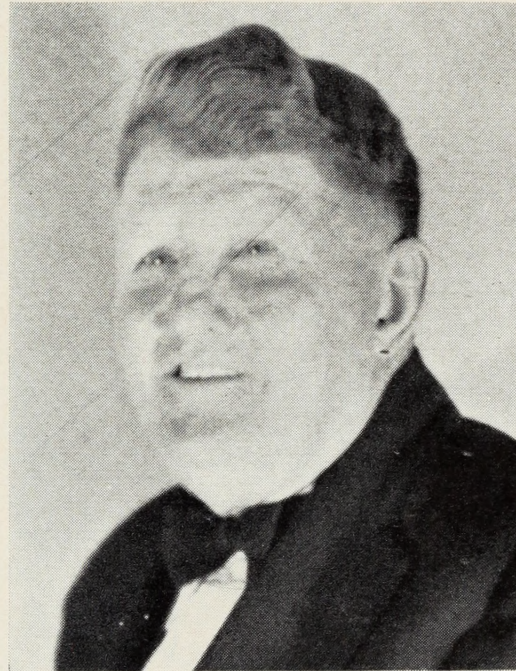
ROBERT E. BUSER, president of the Buser Concrete Construction Company, is the son of Nathaniel E. and Arbanna C. (Middlekauff) Buser. He was born in Mount Morris Sept. 7, 1880. He attended the Mount Morris Public Schools and graduated from Mount Morris College in 1905. He taught country schools in 1898 and 1899 and then became associated with his father in the building and building material business, of which he is now the head. He was married in 1905 to Elva M. Jacobs and they have three children, Maurice E., Gail J. and Doris (Mrs. Harry Conrad). He lives at 104 Emily St.



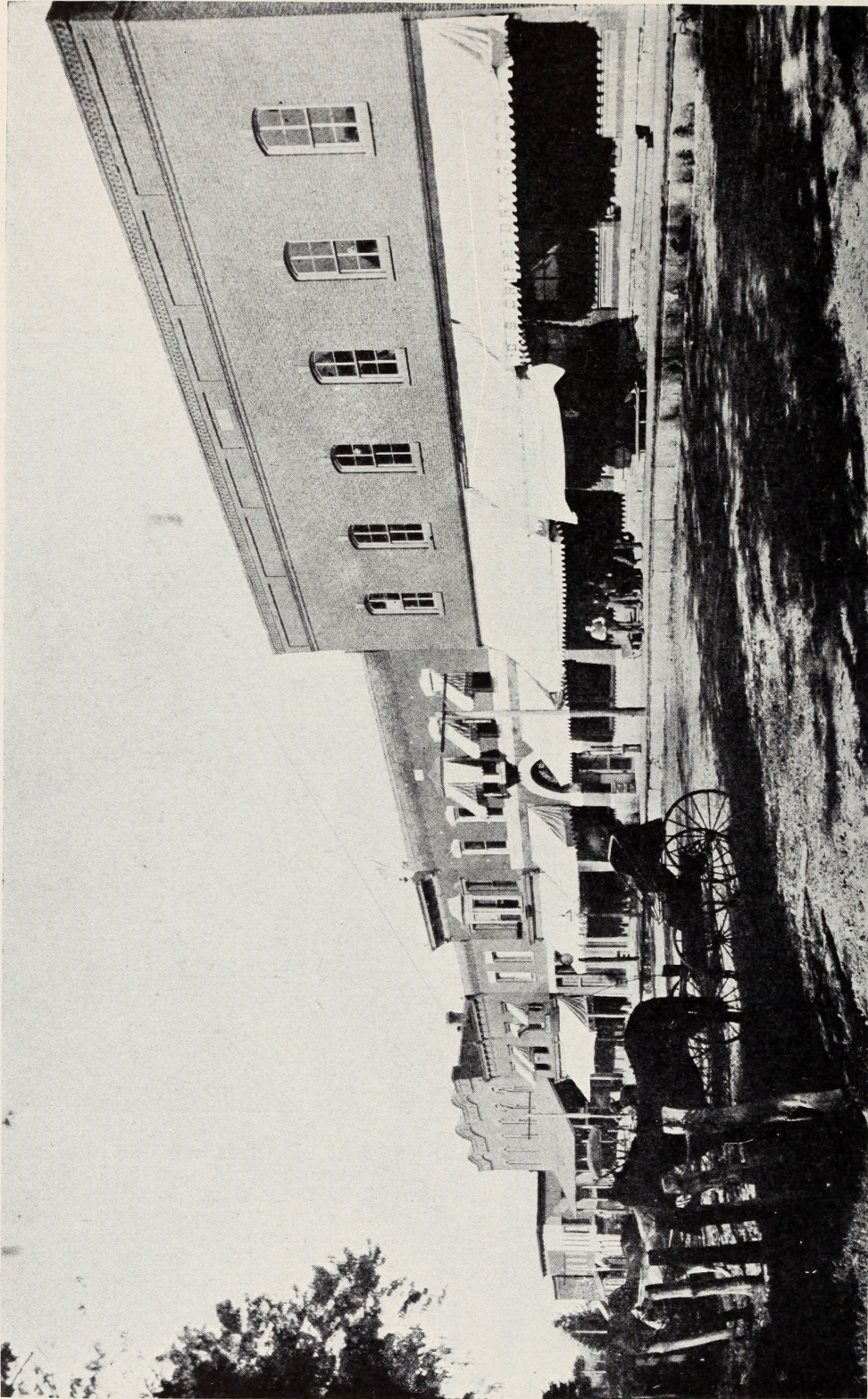
DR. PAUL BOYLE, Dentist, located in Mount Morris in October, 1935, and has

built up a large practice. He was born Jan. 3, 1911, at Sutherland, Iowa, and graduated from the Lanark High School in 1929. He attended the University of Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois College of Dentistry in Chicago in 1935. Prior to coming to Mount Morris he served as instructor in operative dentistry in the school in Chicago where he graduated. He is assisted in his office by Mrs. Raymond Osborne. Dr. Boyle was married in 1935 to Miss Lilian Borop and they live in the Kable Apartments.

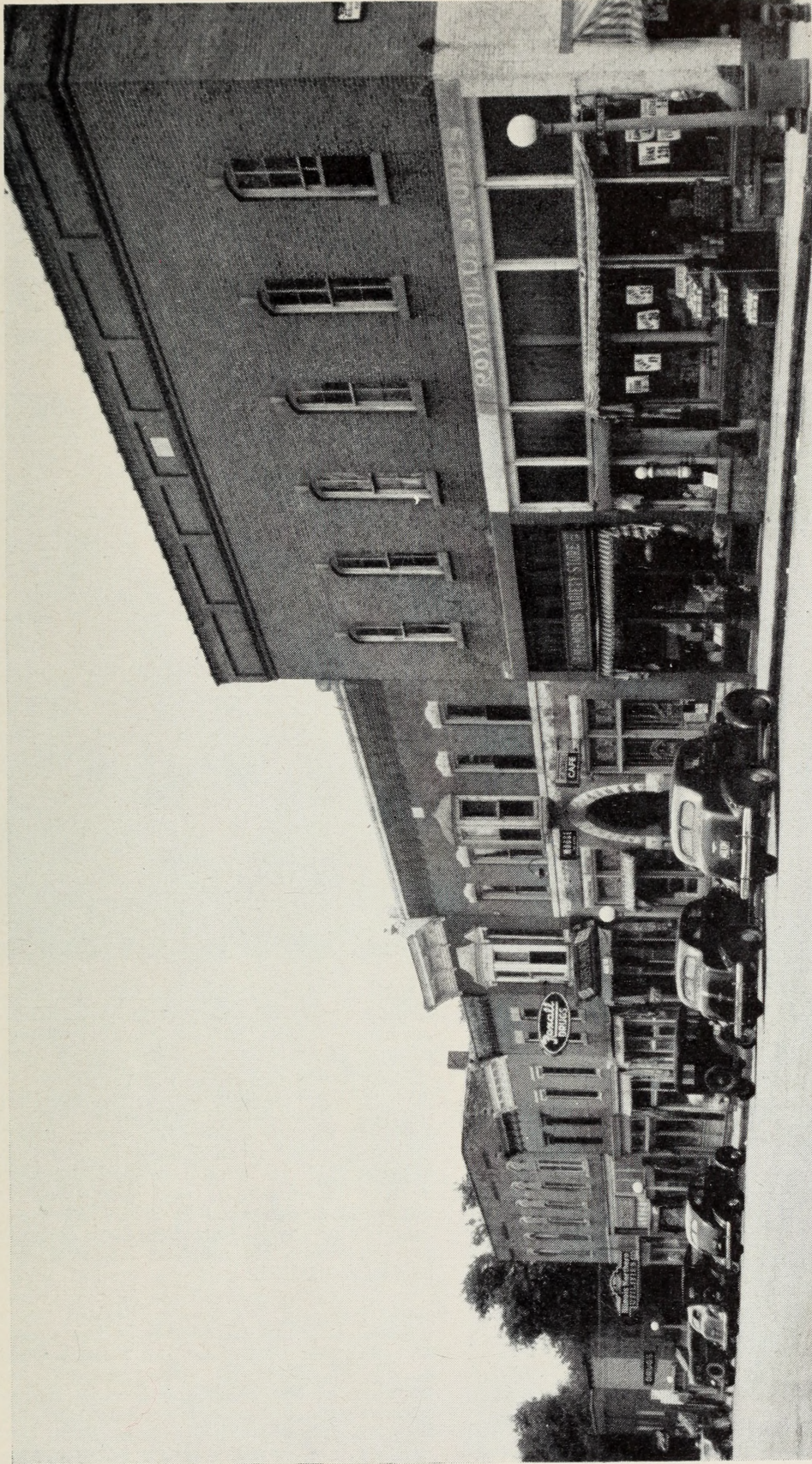
CHARLES O. BAKER has been in the bakery business in Mount Morris since 1921 and operates a high-grade establishment. He employs Wm. Esderts. Mr. Baker is the son of O. W. and Eleanor (Wilson) Baker and was born in Mount Morris, March 18, 1885. He attended the Mount Morris public schools and worked at the baker's trade in Benton Harbor, Mich., Dallas, Texas, and Rockford, Ill. He is married and has three children.



ERNEST A. BRUNER owns and operates a Confectionery store at 115 S. Wesley Ave. He is the son of Theodore L. and Etta (McCoy) Bruner. He was born at Somerset, Pa., April 7, 1880, and came to Mount Morris in 1888. He attended the Mount Morris Public School and later engaged in farming at Stillman Valley. In March, 1929, he purchased the confectionery business from Daniel Kees which he has conducted since that time. He is a member of Mount Morris Business Men's League. Mr. Bruner was married in 1905 to Gertrude Leupkes and they have five children: Theodore, Kenneth, Bernice (Mrs. Forrest Kable), Lois and James.



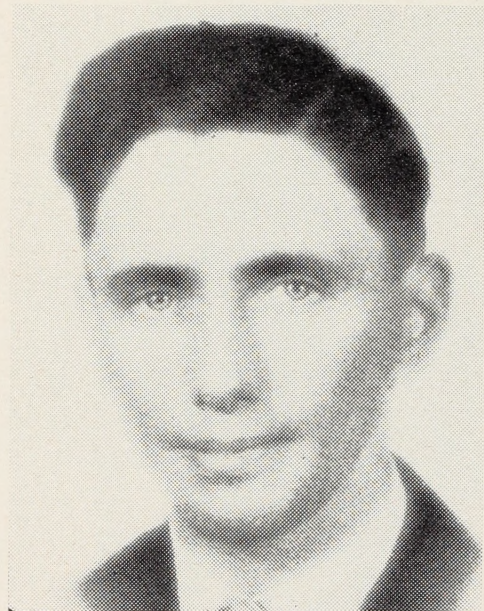
THE NORTH BUSINESS BLOCK as it appeared about the year 1900, before the street was paved and before the general use of automobiles. Note the horses hitched along the street.



THE NORTH BUSINESS BLOCK as it appears in 1938, 38 years after the picture on the opposite page was taken. The buildings are practically the same, but autos take the place of buggies and the street has been paved.

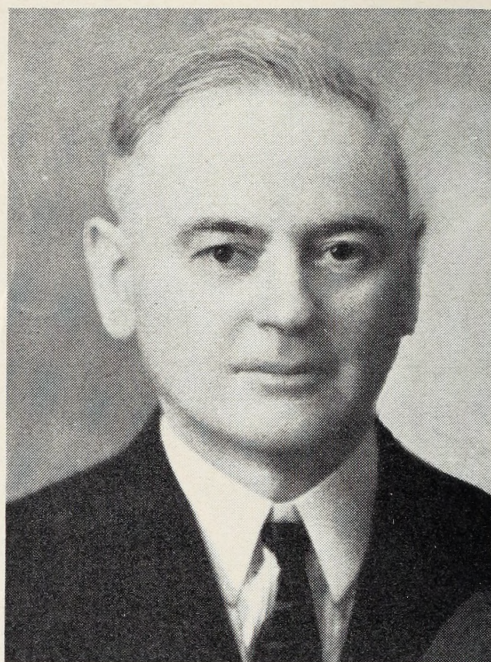


MAURICE E. BUSER, secretary-treasurer of the Buser Concrete Construction Company, is the son of Robert E. and Elva (Jacobs) Buser and was born at Stillman Valley, Nov. 21, 1907. He graduated from the Mount Morris High School in 1924, and attended Mount Morris College for one year. He was a member of the 129th Infantry Band of the Illinois National Guard for three years. He is a member of the Business Men's League and of the local Masonic lodge. He was married in August, 1925, to Leotta Hefty and they live at 306 W. Hitt St.



CARROLL BOSTON is manager of the local office of the Illinois Northern Utili-

ties Company. He is the son of Charles and Virgie (Campbell) Boston, and was born April 30, 1903, at Girard, Ill. He graduated from the Mount Morris High School in 1922 and from the Sweeney Electrical Trade School at Kansas City, Mo., in 1924. He worked in the folder department at the Kable plant for 1½ years, and then as electrician and clerk for C. H. Newcomer. In 1929, he started as service man and lineman for the Illinois Northern Utilities Company and was appointed local manager in January, 1937. He was Master of the local Masonic Lodge in 1937 and also Worthy Patron of the Eastern Star. He is president of the Mount Morris Business Men's League. He was married in August, 1929, to Arminnie Sons.

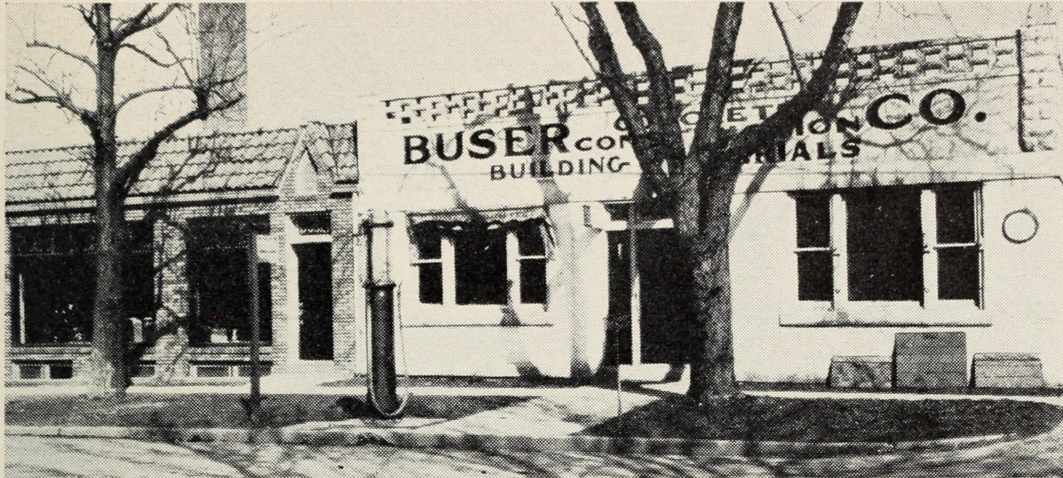


BERT A. BAKER has been in the automobile and radio business in Mount Morris since 1914. He was one of the first persons in Mount Morris to operate a radio receiving set. He is the son of Edward F. and Barbara (Hammer) Baker and was born in Pine Creek Township, Feb. 7, 1886. He attended the Pine Creek school and graduated from Mount Morris College in 1910. He then attended the University of Michigan and graduated in electrical engineering in 1914. He was a member of the Village Board of Trustees for ten years. He married Edna M. Fry in October, 1923.

MRS. LETTIE CRAMER is the owner and operator of the LeMae Beauty Shop at 6½ W. Main St. She received her training at the Rockford Beauty School and became a licensed operator in 1930. She came to Mount Morris in 1932. Mrs. Cramer is a member of the Eastern Star.

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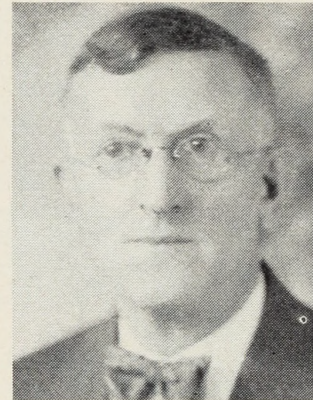


THE BUSER CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY is an outgrowth of the contracting business of Nathaniel E. Buser. He operated independently for a number of years, then in partnership with Willis Mumma, and later added building material and coal sales to the business. The business was then incorporated in 1906 by N. E. Buser, Robert E. Buser, and John W. Wine. N. E. Buser continued as president until his death in 1931. The present officers and directors of the company are Robert E. Buser, president; Elva M. Buser, vice-president; Maurice E. Buser, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. B. C. Buser, director. All of the stock of the company is held by members of the family. The regular employes of the company are Grover Eakle, Errett Blake, Albert Sprecher, Ben Corbett, Jesse Raney, Darrell Toms, Keller Smith and Faustina Curley.

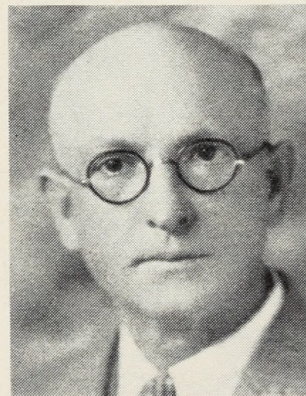


MARY CATHERINE (SPRECHER) MILLER, daughter of John and Alydia Ann (Palmer) Sprecher was born in Mount Morris on June 13, 1875, and attended Mount Morris Public Schools and Mount Morris College. She has been connected with her father's store in Mount Morris since 1894, and for a number of years has been the efficient manager of the store. She married Supervisor John H. Miller, who passed away in December, 1936. She is a member of the Church of the Brethren.

CHARLES C. SPRECHER, son of John and Alydia Ann (Palmer) Sprecher, was born in Mount Morris, October 22, 1873, and attended Mount Morris public schools. He has been connected with the Sprecher store since 1903. He is unmarried.



WENTWORTH WHEELER SPRECHER, son of John and Alydia Ann (Palmer) Sprecher, was born in Mount Morris, Dec. 17, 1877,



and attended Mount Morris public schools. He has been connected with the Sprecher store since 1902. Mr. Sprecher was married Sept. 7, 1921, to Essie Pieper and they have two children, John and Lois.

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