

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD ABRAHAMIC FAITH

North Third Street, Oregon, Illinois

Contributed by Janet Stilson

Circuit riders who taught the Second Advent of Christ and the future Kingdom of God on Earth, visited in the Oregon area as early as 1861. A.J. Eychaner, a graduate of the Rock River Seminary, included Paynes Point, Oregon, Adeline and Lanark on his circuit. A small group of believers met in homes for Bible Study long before any church buildings had been constructed.

In 1898, the Illinois State Conference of the Church of God was organized at its summer meeting in Oregon, Illinois. This organizational meeting no doubt influenced

the Oregon congregation to formally organize, for on March 11, 1899, the S.H. Lindsays, the Knodles, and others, drew up a constitution. The core group, which had been studying with the Methodists, made plans for a local congregation. As soon as was possible, they purchased the Old Stone Church and began remodeling. They built a wooden dormitory behind the church to accommodate the visitors from the summer conference meetings. After the Church of God General Conference was organized in 1921, in Waterloo, Iowa, the Oregon Church of God hosted summer conference meetings until the early 1950's. Community members graciously opened their homes to visitors during this week as there weren't enough hotel rooms to hold them all.



Soon after purchasing the Stone Church, (circa 1900) the Church of God began holding summer conferences and Bible Study School. (Courtesy of Mrs. Howard (Lois) Cline)

The Old Stone Church was expanded in the 1930's, with an addition to the front of a vestibule and tower with a balcony. In 1964, the single-story Christian Education wing was added. The sanctuary was reversed at that time. The old dormitory was razed to make room for this addition. The congregation continued to grow and the building became overcrowded. In the 1970's, a second story was added to the Christian Education wing. Presently, the church is overcrowded once again. To accommodate the increase in the congregation, two worship services are offered on Sunday mornings, and the youth

work has been moved to another site, under the capable leadership of the Youth Pastor, Bob Alcumbrack. Plans are being made to enlarge the church once again. Much credit should be given to the twelve pastors who have served the congregation, and a special thanks to Pastor Hollis Partlowe, who has served the congregation since 1976. Many changes have occurred under his leadership that have helped the congregation to have a vision, face conflict, grow spiritually, and reach outside its own walls and invite others to participate.



Church of God, 310 N. 3rd. St., Pastor Hollis Partlowe. Building was the First Catholic Church, organized by Michael Noke and John M. Schneider. Built in 1862, for a total of \$1,600. (Donna Kennedy photo)

The Church of God has always shown its interest in ministering to the community. A concert series has recently been added to the Outreach Program. People of the community have had the opportunity to enjoy several leading artists in concert. Dale Ramsey, Chairman of the Music Committee, has worked hard to organize each series.

As the congregation has grown, interest in foreign and home missions has also grown. Several Mission Chairmen

have encouraged the church to send individuals and teams into the foreign field. In the summer of 1985, a youth team traveled to Mexico to work with Food for the Hungry. Another team is being planned for the summer of 1987.

Another program which has been popular in the community is the Summer Vacation Bible School, which is planned and conducted by the active Sunday School Staff. Classes of 150 children is not uncommon, and all involved have a good time learning from God's Word.

The congregation welcomes everyone to come to the services and to spend time getting to know the members and the pastors.

EAST OREGON CHAPEL CHURCH OF GOD

The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Chapel coincides with the 150th Anniversary of the City of Oregon. The church building was dedicated on May 23, 1943. The informal beginnings of the chapel go back to 1937, when Mrs. Floyd Nedrow began telling Bible stories to the children of the community in her son's filling station. By 1941, a regular Sunday School had been established. Classes were held outdoors in good weather, and the rest of the time they were held in the Pleasant Hill Grade School, until the erection of the first church, which seated about fifty people. While the Church of God was an important influence in the development of the chapel, credit must



Soon after purchasing the Stone Church, (circa 1900) the Church of God began holding summer conferences and Bible Study School. (Courtesy of Mrs. Howard (Lois) Cline)

Approximately 1952, showing the Illinois Conference Building attached to the back of the church. J.R. LeCrone was pastor at the time picture was taken. (Courtesy of Mrs. Howard (Lois) Cline)



1987, East Oregon Chapel Church of God, Route 2, North Daysville Road. Pastor Jeff Fletcher. (Donna Kennedy photo)

also be given to individuals across the nation from Churches of God, who heard of the work and responded to the needs with financial help and prayers.

The chapel went from being a Sunday School Mission to a church and finally, was organized as a congregation of the Church of God denomination in the late 1940's. Since that time, the teaching and preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has been its mission. Over the years, many of the students from the Oregon Bible College have assisted with the work that is being done.

Many men have served as pastor throughout its history. Most recently, Pastor Dick Eldred brought revival into the congregation. Under his leadership, the church board voted to start a building project to accommodate the increasing attendance. To the south of the existing sanctuary, a large new sanctuary was added, with full basement classrooms and a fellowship area. The new building seated 150 people comfortably. Parking facilities were also constructed at that time, in front and behind the new building.

After Pastor Eldred left the community, he was succeeded by Pastor Gary Smith, and the current Pastor, Jeff Fletcher. Recently, in an act of faith, a second full-time pastor was added as ministry opportunities expanded. Tom Schmitt was the first Youth Pastor in 1984, and his



This building was the first home of the East Oregon Chapel. It was built around 1950, by local contractor, Henry Mattison on land donated by Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Myers. (Courtesy of Mrs. Howard (Lois) Cline)

innovative programming attracted close to 50 youth on Wednesday evenings. The present Youth Pastor is Mike Mattus, a senior at Oregon Bible College.

As a "daughter" church, the chapel has always received the gracious help of others. In the summer of 1986, they sent a team of seven people, in cooperation with the Oregon Bible College, to a Church of God Mission in Labor Vieja, San Luis Potosi, Mexico. The team helped with a Bible School, leading choruses in Spanish, and teaching the crafts. Churches thrive as they learn to give of themselves outside their own four walls, and the chapel eagerly anticipates more growth and more outreach activity.

Many people within the East Oregon Community, and outside the community, now call the chapel their church home. Welcome to all of you who are looking for a growing, friendly, Bible-based church. "Come, worship and work with us."

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD GENERAL CONFERENCE AND OREGON BIBLE COLLEGE Contributed by Janet Stilson

The Church of God General Conference was organized in Waterloo, Iowa in 1921. At that time, it was decided that the denominational headquarters should be in Oregon, Illinois, as the religious paper was already being published in Oregon, by S.J. Lindsay. (*Restitution Herald*, 1910 to present.) It should be noted that several other attempts had been made at organizing a Church of God National Conference but a majority of the people were anti-organization. These attempts were made in Philadelphia, 1888; Chicago, 1889; and Waterloo, Iowa, 1910.

In 1922, the new organization purchased the Gilbert home on the hill at 7th and Franklin Streets. Before the Gilberts purchased it, this home had been one of Oregon's first schools, the Union School, built in 1858. The Church of God had intended to use it as a home for the elderly within its denomination. Since its purchase by the Church of God, the home has been used continuously for religious purposes, including using it as a retirement home. Most recently, it has been used by the Oregon Bible College as a dormitory, and as a classroom/administrative building.



Oregon Bible College, 110 N. Seventh Street. (Donna Kennedy photo)

In 1979-1980, as the Old Union School was being remodeled, tattered school papers from the year 1865, were discovered in the upstairs floor. It is presumed that the janitors emptied the wastebaskets at the end of a term as some remodeling was being done to the existing stairwell. These papers included children's tests, spelling practice sheets, grade cards, teacher's notes, lesson plans, etc. Some of the names on the papers included Gale, Phelps, Cartwright, Ettinger and others. They are now part of the Oregon Bible College Archives.

Spelling paper belonging to John Mix, now a part of the Oregon Bible College Archives. (Courtesy Oregon Bible College)

Prairie John Mix
 Locomotion Steel
 Locomotive Whilled
 Locomotion Charcoal
 Moorland Carbon
 Blacksmith Carbon
 Hoammer Water
 Sledge
 Tongue
 Forge
 Bellows
 Blast
 Fur nace
 Butter is
 Materials -
 Iron
 Wrought
 Cast
 Nail cable 19

Spelling paper belonging to John Mix, now a part of the Oregon Bible College Archives. (Courtesy Oregon Bible College)



O'KANE'S HOTEL,

Oregon, Ogle County, Illinois.

Formerly known as the "Farmers' Home," refitted and newly furnished, Nov. 1, 1868.

Stages leave this House daily.

Good Stabling and Attentive Hostlers always in attendance.

Horses and Carriages ready to convey Guests to any part of the County.

Dinners prepared for Wedding Parties, on short notice.

JAMES O'KANE, Proprietor.

Oregon, Ogle Co., Ill. Jan 25 1871

Know all men that Walter D. King has a right to

Items found during remodeling of old Union School. On file with Oregon Bible College Archives. (Courtesy Oregon Bible College)

Handwritten notes and signatures, possibly related to the Oregon Bible College Archives.

Oregon Dec. 15, 1865

Mr. Brown Dear Sir

Please excuse Milton for being late this morning and oblige yours truly
 William C. Light

Oregon Bible College was organized in 1929, as the Bible Training School of the Church of God. It was discontinued during the years of the depression, but was reorganized in 1939. In 1942, the name was changed to Oregon Bible College, and the Spoor property north of Oregon was purchased to accommodate the new program. This property is now the site of Maxson's Manor. In 1950, the publishing department was moved to a building on north third street, and the Oregon Bible College moved back into town, following the completion of an addition to this building. As the student body grew during the 1960's, dorm facilities were built on the site at 7th and Franklin Streets. The remodeling of the Union School in the 1980's allowed the college to move to a centralized campus.

The Church of God General Conference oversees the operation and development of Oregon Bible College, Outreach, Missions, Publishing and Youth Work throughout the denomination. Mission projects throughout the world include Mexico, India, and the Philippine Islands. In addition during the 80's, strong emphasis is being placed upon planting new churches within the United States, and revitalizing existing congregations, which in some cases means relocation to a more populated area.



Church of God General Conference Building located in Oregon, Illinois. (Donna Kennedy photo)

The message of the Church of God has always been the Oneness of God, the Second Advent of Jesus and the Kingdom of God on earth. The message has been delivered by a mission to reach the unchurched.

The Church of God is congregational in government, and although organized as a General Conference, each church retains autonomy to conduct its own business. Each Summer Conference, business is conducted by delegates from local churches at an annual meeting held on some college campus in the U.S.

The present organization is guided by a Board of Directors elected at the annual meeting. The President of the Conference, currently Mr. David Krogh, of Oregon, Illinois, interfaces the board, the department chairmen, and the delegates, in the day to day operation of the business.

The Church of God General Conference has enjoyed an amiable relationship with the community of Oregon over the years. The community has welcomed the employees of the General Conference and the students of Oregon Bible College with generosity, friendship and employment. We thank you for your interest and support, and hope that as times and needs change, a warm relationship will continue in the future.

The first church built in Oregon, shows the American House (Spoor), before addition was put on Lutheran Church, standing in courthouse square, north side, about 1879. This is looking west from 4th and Washington Streets, taken approximately from in front of the National Clothing House. Stone building built around 1845. (Courtesy Agnes Spoor)

THE OREGON LUTHERAN CHURCH HISTORY

The first Lutheran services were held in Oregon by the Rev. N.J. Stroh as early as 1844, and the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Oregon was organized March 16, 1848.

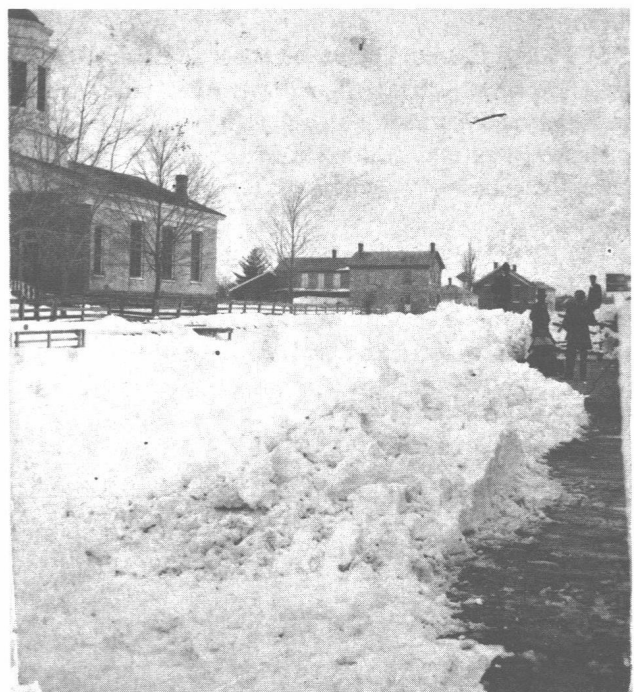
On the frontier, there were 20 Lutheran congregations, 17 preaching stations, but only three churches, one of them in Oregon. The first church being erected on the courthouse lawn, approximately where the Second World War Veterans' Memorial now stands.

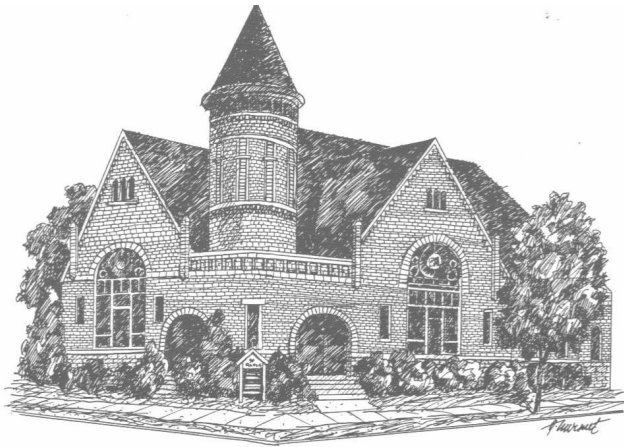


*EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH - 1850 - 1893 - OREGON, ILLINOIS
FIRST BUILDING*

The Red Brick Church was built in 1893. The plans were drawn by Lawrence Fischer, a member of the congregation and was used by the congregation for 70 years. The round bell tower held the bell which had been a part of the original church.

The church was organized under the name "Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Oregon, Ogle County, Illinois" and on June 3, 1894, the name was changed to "St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church".





ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-1850-1893- OREGON, ILLINOIS
SECOND BUILDING-

In 1851, the Ladies' Philanthropic Sewing Society was formed. Through their efforts and with community cooperation, \$300.00 was raised for the purchase of a bell to be hung in the tower of the Lutheran Church. The bell was used for the ringing of the services on Sunday and to alert the community to events of local or national importance.

Records show the bell was rung in celebration on April 9, 1865 with the news of the surrender of General Robert E. Lee to Lt. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomatox. The bell was rung again with the grim news of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln. The bell cracked in 1915 and was sold.

The post war era was a time of great growth for St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Whereas in 1852 there were 64 members, in 1958 there were 600 baptized and 400 confirmed members. The new church, constructed of Wisconsin Lannon Stone, was dedicated April 20, 1958. The indebtedness of the church was paid in eight years and the mortgage burning service was held on April 24, 1966.

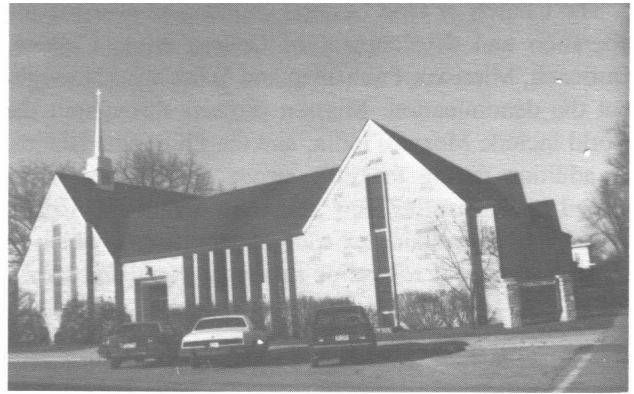
St. Paul's Lutheran Church has sponsored the Religious Art Show since April, 1964, in conjunction with Autumn on Parade and has been well attended.

Handwritten information submitted but unsigned. We thank the contributor, but cannot credit with no identification.

The first pipe organ was purchased in 1875 for \$1,500. One hundred years later, in the mid 70's, a new pipe organ was ordered to be custom built for the church sanctuary. It has a very unusual feature with several



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH- OREGON, ILLINOIS
DEDICATED APRIL 20, 1958



1987: ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH. 114 S. 5th. St. Rev. Frank E. Lay. First church in Oregon was built in 1850. It was first organized in 1848 with services held in Phelps School, then in the courthouse, then to the new church located on the north side of the courthouse on Washington St. Present Church is the third Lutheran Church in Oregon. (Donna Kennedy photo)

trumpet-like horns projecting forward from the pipes. This gives the organ an authentic brass sound which can be powerfully loud. On the Sunday afternoon of the organ's dedication, a noisy thunderstorm raged outside which matched the strong voices of the large pipes crash for crash like majestic tympany. Many in the worshipping congregation felt God was speaking both inside and outside his sanctuary on that day.

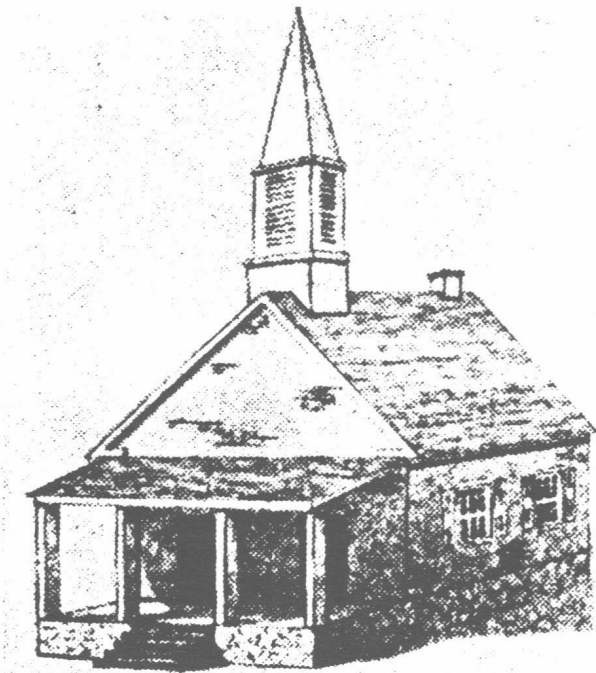
OREGON METHODIST CHURCH

Four years before Oregon became a city, the Rev. C.G. Worthington organized the first Methodist class in Oregon. As early as 1835, Oregon was an occasional preaching appointment of the Rev. James McKean of the Buffalo Grove Circuit. Others who occasionally preached to the Methodists of Oregon were the Rev. Barton Cartwright, Thomas S. Hitt, and Erastus Wadsworth.

The first Methodist Church building in Oregon was built in 1858, during the pastorate of the Rev. Henry L. Martin. It was located on the corner of Third and Jefferson Streets. "It was a small rectangular building of red brick, surmounted by a very pretty white spire. On the east were two front doors opening on a broad porch."

The minister assisted in rafting the lumber for the building down the river from Rockford and helped in the construction, which cost \$3,000. The congregation numbered only 68 in 1857. Prior to this time they had met in private homes, the Phelps School House, the courthouse and in the Lutheran Church, which was the first church building in Oregon.

In 1874, under the capable leadership of Rev. G.W. Carr, the membership grew to 203, taxing the capacity of the old building. Mr. Carr inspired the congregation to erect the imposing \$15,000 structure at Fourth and Jefferson. The cornerstone was laid in May of that year, with the following names sealed within it: Judge F.G. Petrie, Col. B.F. Sheets, Major Albert Woodcock, Capt. A.D. Ettinger, E.P. Piersol, Thomas Rutledge, Erastus Wadsworth, James A. Barden, Edward Hinkle and J.I. Clover.



Pencil drawing by Mrs. James Bardon of the First Methodist Church, 1858.

On February 14, 1875, the new building was dedicated just four months after the dedication of the Presbyterian Church a block to the west.

While the building was still new, a chandelier of lighted kerosene lamps fell inside the church. Only the quick thinking of the janitor, who tore up the carpet to smother the fire, saved the building.

In 1868, the first parsonage was built (205 S. 4th St.) during the pastorate of the Rev. A.P. Hatch, Erastus Wadsworth, a local preacher and long-time friend of the church, gave not only a tenth of his income to this project but also donated all the income from his farm for the Lord's work.

About 1900, during a severe windstorm, the family of the pastor, the Rev. W.H. Otgen, left the new parsonage, built next to the church in 1898, and took refuge in the



1987: UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. 200 S. 4th. Rev. Maynard Beal. First church was built in 1858 and was located at 200 S. 3rd. Second church was built in 1875 at the present location. An annex was added on May 4, 1952. After remodeling in 1956, the church was dedicated on March 4. (Donna Kennedy photo)

Zibe Landers home south of the church. The wind was threatening to topple the one hundred forty-three foot north spire of the church, and there was danger that it might fall on the parsonage.

Sometime during the night the steeple crashed to the ground, falling across the street to the east and sparing the parsonage, which is still in use today. The steeple was not replaced, and the south spire was removed to match it. The two towers were capped with brick and roofed over, remaining that way until 1955.

The exterior of the building, in fact, saw very little



The second Methodist Church was built in 1874 and dedicated in 1875. Part of the parsonage can be seen on the right side. This house was moved to another site when the church was remodeled.

change for the next fifty years, except to become more weatherbeaten and worn with age. In 1951 and '52, an educational wing was added south of the sanctuary. The cornerstone of the new wing was a stone from the foundations of the Whitehouse which was being renovated. It was secured through the persistence of the Rev. Edwin Hunt.

In the early 50's it became apparent that more space was needed. In 1955, the old sanctuary was renovated and rebuilt from the inside out. It was reversed with small balcony and organ loft seating overflow. It was called, "The New Church Within the Old," and was dedicated March 4, 1956. Rev. Fred Anderson preached the consecration service.

Recently, the church completed the addition of a chapel on the north, and used the opportunity to encase the old building, still visible at the apex of the roof, in brick veneer to match the rest of the building.

Over the years, the congregation has ministered to the community through its Boy Scout Program, Married Mixers, Bible Study and Mens' Work. They have also been active in jail ministry using film conversations, and they have taken the lead in working with the Yellow Bird center.

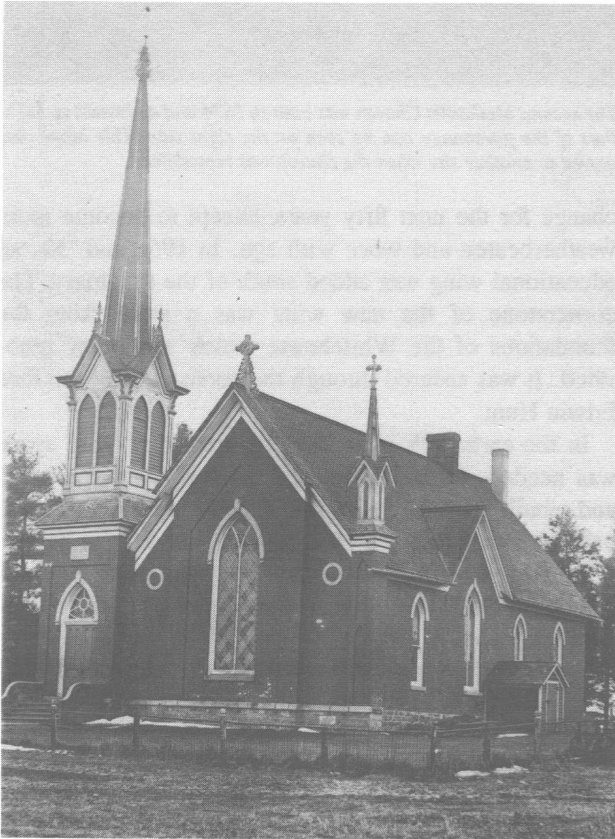
LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Lighthouse United Methodist Church, six miles southeast of Oregon, has in common with Oregon the celebration of its 150th Anniversary in 1986. As one of the first organized Methodist Churches in the Rock River Valley, its story adds an interesting chapter to the history of the area.

In 1836, Dr. John and Elizabeth Roe and five sons moved to the edge of the prairie bordering Rock River Hill Country south of Daysville and west of Washington Grove. As Dr. Roe was often away from home making rounds on the prairie, his wife left a lantern in the window so he could find his way in the dark. Prairie schooners traveling by, also came to identify the area and passed the word back to other travelers about "Lighthouse Point."

The Roes and others began the first Bible Class of Methodists which became part of the Buffalo Grove Circuit. The Rock River Seminary at Mt. Morris was Methodist and supplied several pastors and circuit riders to the local work. The seminary also turned out one early preacher for the Church of God, Elder A.J. Eychaner. It also served to educate any who needed work beyond the elementary years, even if they didn't want to be a pastor.

By 1839, there were 100 members at Lighthouse. In 1844, Dr. Roe donated land for a church and cemetery. The church was built and paid for by subscriptions of members. The first parsonage was built the same year.



Lighthouse United Methodist Church before lightning struck the tower. This may have been taken in the fall of 1932. This was the third reconstruction. The church was destroyed by fire two times previously. The Lighthouse Church celebrated its 150th birthday in 1986, at the same time as the City of Oregon. (Courtesy E.G. Landers)



LIGHTHOUSE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Corner of S. Daysville Rd. and Lighthouse Rd. Pastor D. Brent Miller. Church organized in 1836. First Stone Church built in 1846. It was taken down and a brick veneer church was built in 1876. This building burned down April 2, 1932. Present church was built in 1932-33 and dedicated May 28, 1933. (Adaline M. Hay photo)

Over the years the church has changed from stone to brick veneer. When the wind and lightning destroyed the steeple, it was replaced with a shorter one and bolted in place. Along the way, the name, Light House Point was changed in the minutes to Lighthouse. Around the turn of the century, Epworth League was organized as was the Sunday School, and the Ladies' Aid. During these years, old fashioned revival services were held frequently.

In April, 1932, the church burned to the ground. Only the organ was saved. Plans were made immediately for a new church. The cornerstone was laid in September, 1932 at a ceremony attended by 500 people. The first service in the new building was January 20, 1933.

In 1949, the old parsonage was sold and a new one was built on the north side of the church.

The church at Lighthouse serves as a community center. Here, suppers and dinners are served, meetings held. Other organizations, such as Farm Bureau, Home Extension and 4-H Clubs use it also.



Inside the Lighthouse United Methodist Church during their 150th anniversary celebration.

In 1978, Lighthouse stepped out on faith and hired its own pastor. Recently, the loft above the rear classroom has been converted to a choir area. The kitchen has also recently been remodeled.

One notable "Son of Lighthouse," was John V. Farwell, who moved to Chicago and entered the mercantile business in the 1830's. One of his co-workers and later, his chief competition, was Marshall Field. Farwell became a leading citizen in Chicago and was good friends to Dwight L. Moody. He was often in Moody's company at his Evangelistic meetings and helped support his ministry financially. He was a trusted advisor in the formation of a layman's institute whose name was changed after a few years to Moody Bible Institute.

In the last 150 years, Lighthouse has seen many of its sons and daughters leave the congregation to settle somewhere else. Yet, like John V. Farwell so long ago, the church can take pride in having trained its young people well in being good citizens of this world and the next. We hope Lighthouse has many more years of ministry ahead.

Biblio:

Hay, Don. Letter and Interview with Jan Stilson, circa 1980. Hardesty, M.L. "Lighthouse Religious History, 1836-1936." Roe, Elizabeth. Recollections of Frontier Life. 1885. Roe, Morrie. Interview with Jan Stilson, November, 1986.

From: Ogle County Republican reporter, November 3, 1952.

The following poem was written by Bertha Sanford in memory of the Lighthouse Church which burned April 3, 1932.

LIGHTHOUSE

On a bare, bleak, jagged rock in the sea.

A boat was dashed by the cruel waves,
And seventy souls went down in despair
To their watery grave in the great wide sea.

Then men rose up in their strength and might
And builded a lighthouse on that cruel rock,
A lighthouse whose message of warning and cheer
Kept many a boat in future safe.

On a great wide prairie land in the west,
Were many a bold and hidden rock,
On whose jagged points thrice seventy souls
Were dashed to death and a hopeless grave.

Then men rose up in their faith and might
And builded a Lighthouse on that prairie land,
A lighthouse whose message of warning and love,
Kept many a soul in future safe.

A lighthouse whose beauty cheered weary hearts
And helped the sincere of mind to praise,
Whose beautiful spire pointed ever up
To the source of the Light it gave to men.

A lighthouse whose gleam showed the hidden rocks
And painted the bold ones in colors true,
That all might see and seeing flee
To the path of safety for all who trod.

A lighthouse whose beams cheered the burdened heart,
And helped the bereaved to see through their tears,
And solved the perplexing problems of life
For those who toiled and those who learned.

May the Light of that Lighthouse never be dimmed,
But brighter gleam as the years go on,
For men need its brightness to lighten their toil
And youth needs its guidance to direct their paths.



The Church of Jesus Christ, 603 Webster St. was built for a (IOOF) Lodge Hall, after their building on Washington Street was sold. The Webster Street hall was purchased by Dr. Srichai for an office, but he never used it as such. He later donated it to the Church of Jesus Christ. Mrs. Rose Jones, Pastor, and the congregation, made it into a church.

OREGON CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

The Church of the Nazarene in Oregon, Illinois, was officially organized in 1940 by Dr. E.O. Chalfant, District Superintendent of the Illinois District of the Church of the Nazarene. The actual creating of the Oregon Church of the Nazarene came about primarily through the efforts of Reverend Helen Peters. She had been a pastor on the Illinois District and felt the leading of God to plant a Church of the Nazarene in Oregon. "Sowing the seed," in due time she did reap and with seven charter members: Fred and Elsie Buse; Elbert and Emma Shank; Dale Vincent; Martha Shin; and Mattie Nuppenau—the Oregon Nazarene Church was started.

Reverend Peters was soon succeeded by Reverend (Mrs.) Charles Reed as pastor in 1941. In 1942, Rev. H. Wilke served as pastor, followed by Rev. T. Dricoll in 1943. Since that time, the pastors who have served the church are: Rev. R.H. Canfield, Rev. J.W. Brown, Rev. J.W. Silvers, Rev. Ken McClain, Rev. J. Dunham, Rev. Willard Hollis, Rev. Wayne Albright, Rev. Wayne Hus-song, Rev. Stuart Abel, Rev. Paul Aurand and Rev. Donald Bard, the most recent pastor of the church. Rev. Bard left the community in September, 1986, to assume a mission in Africa.



1987: Church of the Nazarene, 105 S. 9th St. Reverend Lawrence Hartssock. Built in 1946 with lumber made from timber donated by O.H. Canfield and William Fritz. (Photo by Lawrence Hartssock)

The significant development of the church took place under the ministry of Rev. Canfield. The church's original location was on the 400 block of Franklin Street. The congregation worshiped in that facility until 1947. At that time, under the leadership of Rev. Canfield, the church was able to purchase lots at 9th and Washington Streets, and an entire relocation project began.

The years 1947-1950 were years that could be described as "the worst of times; the best of times." These were the years the present worship facility was built, and it proved to be a task of patience and consistency, and one that required much sacrifice. The basement of the church was constructed in 1947, and served as the worship facility for that year. In 1948, the parsonage was built, and in 1949, the church sanctuary was erected. The entire complex was dedicated in 1950.

Although much was done during this time, much was still required. There were few resources available and money was scarce. Truly, the realization for what was done came only by the promise of Jesus, when he said, "I will build my church." Other than that, there was not much from which to start. It was the goodness of God, combined with the sacrifices of the people that made the dream a reality. Money was donated from the most unlikely sources, and members of the church never showed signs of holding back. "The hand was put to the plow." The ceiling beams that add a rustic beauty to the sanctuary, are evidence today of the people of the church that labored sacrificially.

The beams were made from timber that was donated by Mr. O.H. Canfield and Mr. William Fritz, of Chana. It was a gruelling task to cut the timber and haul it to the sawmill, and Mr. Canfield's car suffered irreparable damage in the process. However, the finished product makes one feel most appreciative when they see a Church of Jesus Christ carved out of wood and stone.

The message and the mission of the Church of the Nazarene, cardinaly, is Jesus Christ is God, manifested in the flesh. He and He alone, is the saviour of the world. The doctrines and tenets of the Church of the Nazarene are in agreement with the Protestant Orthodox Tradition, and concur with the scriptural teaching that, "The Body of Christ" is the true Church of Jesus Christ. Within the mainstream of the Christian Faith, it would identify with the Evangelical wing of the church, holding to all of the historical doctrines of the New Testament, and emphasizing the Wesleyan Doctrine of Sanctification, or scriptural holiness. This is the message of the Church of the Nazarene, distinctively, and the mission of the church is Holiness Evangelism. The Church of the Nazarene grew out of the Holiness Revivals that were taking place throughout America in the late 1800's, and the early part of this century. It was established as a denomination in 1908 and its objective was to preach scriptural holiness as a definite reality with the heart and life of the believer.

Briefly, the doctrine of scriptural holiness holds, that at the time one chooses to receive by faith, Christ as

Saviour, and is thus "born again" or justified by faith, he is in addition led by the Holy Spirit into the experience of sanctification whereby he is made holy and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the acceptable and perfect will of God.

With its International Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, the Church of the Nazarene continues to serve the world by means of Holiness Evangelism. The Church carries on work in every state in America and in 75 countries around the world. Its mission work is a very strong part of the overall ministry of the Church, and per capita giving for missions is as high as any other denomination. World evangelization will always be a high concern to the people called Nazarenes as they seek to remain true to the Saviour's mandate to, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every man, baptizing in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Submitted by Rev. Donald Bard

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

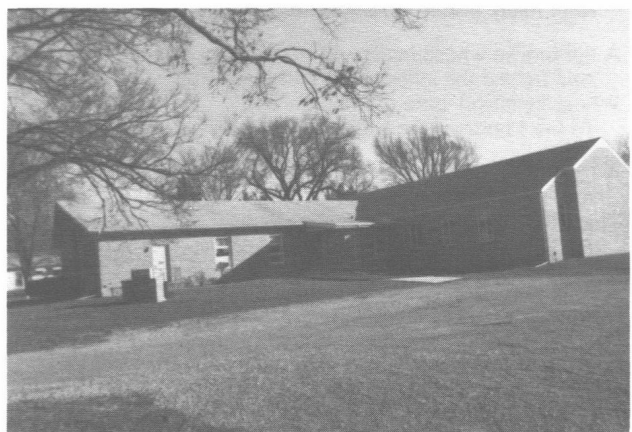
In 1955, Memorial Baptist Church, of Rockford, Illinois, did survey work in Oregon to learn of possible interest in a new church within the community. Approximately twenty people met for the first Baptist service in October of that same year.

The first meetings were held in the back of the Untz building at 603 Webster Street. The congregation met there and coped with lack of space and growing numbers until they decided to purchase land and build a church.

In the early 1960's, land was purchased on Hill Street, and a large brick building and parsonage were constructed on it. The church seats 200 comfortably.

The congregation has always been evangelistic in ministry. Each year, revival services are held and are open to the public. Awana Clubs for children and youth have been an ongoing ministry for a number of years. This program stresses memorization of the Bible, and good citizenship.

Over the years, the Baptists have sent out a clear message of desire to be obedient to the Gospel of Christ, and to remain unswerved from it. The present Pastor,



1987: First Baptist Church, 505 Hill St. Pastor Bruce Spencer. (Donna Kennedy photo)

Bruce Spencer, invites all to stop in and get acquainted. The music is good, the people are friendly, and the preaching is Bible-based.

Interview with Pastor Spencer, November, 1986.

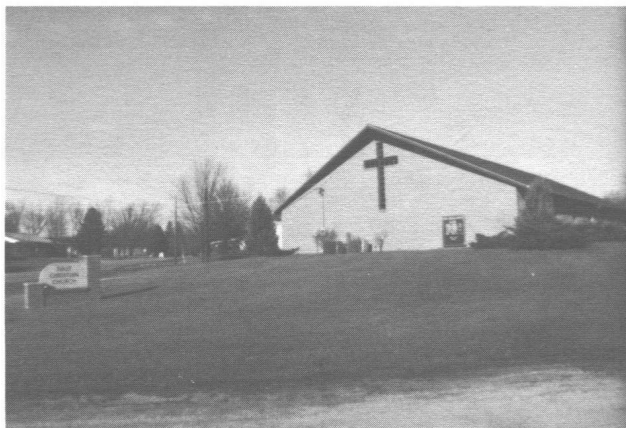
HISTORY OF THE FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The First Christian Church was organized October 18, 1959. It began with only twenty-one charter members, but now has an active membership of over one hundred. The congregation first met in the coliseum. At that time, the elders of the Central Christian Church in Rockford helped the new congregation.

The next location, at 504 S. 9th St., was purchased in December of 1960. In 1961, Ed Bowers came to minister to the congregation and served until March of 1966. The building was remodeled and several classrooms were added to accommodate the growing congregation. In 1965, seven lots on the corner of Tenth and Webster Streets were purchased for future building. A new parsonage was built adjacent to the site. The congregation approved a plan for a new church, and worked hard to build it quickly. It is contemporary in design, with a large sanctuary, fellowship hall and classrooms. It has an all brick exterior and a large parking lot.

Jack Allbee served the church from July of 1966 until 1971. He was followed briefly by Gerry Lilly, 1971-1972, and by Merrill Davis, the present pastor.

The First Christian Church is a congregation that is completely self-governing, but a part of a fellowship or brotherhood of some 4,500 congregations in America called Christian Church or Churches of Christ. It is a part of a communion which began in the early 19th Century led by several different leaders, the best known being Thomas and Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone. These churches have no written creed, but stress the authority of the Scriptures and believe that the church today should work to restore the doctrines, ordinances, and life of the church of the First Century. Their worship is non-liturgical, but a simple, dignified service in which the Lord's Supper is observed every Sunday. Membership is open to all who confess faith in Jesus Christ as the Son



1987: First Christian Church, 609 S. 10th St. Rev. Merrill Davis. First church located at 504 S. 9th St. in December, 1960

of God and with a personal faith and repentance are baptized (immersed). Each congregation governs itself with the leadership of elders, deacons, trustees, and the minister. They are not affiliated with the National Council of Churches. They do cooperate with other Christian Churches in supporting several Bible Colleges and Christian Colleges, hundreds of missionaries, numerous camps, and benevolent institutions.

The church offers a wide range of programs to the community. They have an active Youth Group which meets Wednesday afternoons after school. They offer Christian Education, women's groups, and a strong missions program. Each fall, they emphasize evangelism and missions through a rally or meetings. The congregation supports seven missions, including the Rock River Christian Camp.

Over the years, the congregation and pastor hope that the church will continue to be an influence for moral and spiritual improvement in the community. It will continue to teach and preach the word of God to meet the needs of every age.

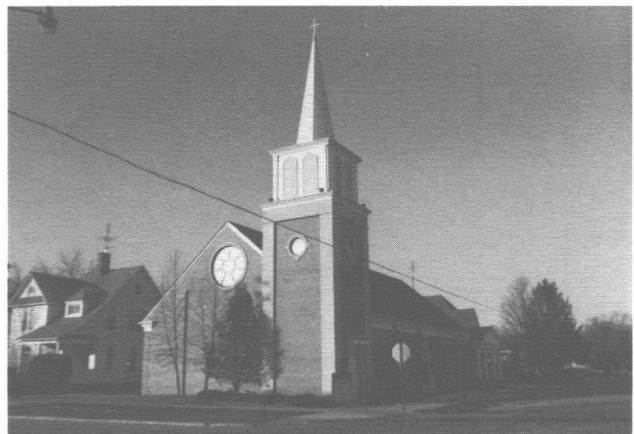
Interview with Pastor and Mrs. Davis, November, 1986,
Jan Stilson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

In the early 1870's, several former Lutherans desired to form a congregation of Presbyterians in Oregon. E.L. Wells, and Margaret Mix called a meeting which resulted in the formation of a new congregation. It began with 23 members.

The group desired to build a suitable church for worship and made plans accordingly. On October 6, 1873, the cornerstone was laid and the building was completed the following year. Total cost was \$9,824.00. A few years later, a bell was purchased which continued in place until 1978 when it was damaged in the fire which destroyed the building.

While the Methodists were building their new building



1987: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. 200 S. 5th. Rev. John W. Patterson. Built in 1873-1874. The cost of the completed church, \$14,000. An educational addition was built in 1961. Church Edifice burned December 23, 1978. The present building was dedicated October 11, 1981. (Donna Kennedy photo)

in 1874, work progressed at the new Presbyterian site also. The two churches were dedicated within four months of each other. The dedication service was in November, 1874. A special hymn was written by W.W. Bennett for the day.

*With reverent hearts, O Lord, we come
To lay our offerings at thy shrine
Make this thy Holy Spirit's home
And fill our hearts with love divine.*

The building was unique in church architecture compared to other Oregon churches. The ground floor was the Fellowship Hall and classroom area, with the sanctuary being on the second floor. One reached the sanctuary by one of two winding hardwood stairways with elaborate rail and bannister. One felt close to God in the "upper room."

This church continued in use for worship, public school activities, Boy Scouts and Friendship Club until it was destroyed by fire December 23, 1978. Such a disaster was widely reported in the papers and the community rose up to offer hope and encouragement to its Presbyterian friends.

During the interim, services were held at Stronghold of the Blackhawk Presbytery, and the local congregation grew stronger as a result of its difficulties. In the face of

overwhelming loss, they faced the future and planned a new building for a continued Christian witness in Oregon.

The interim leader, Mr. Dean Hay, helped plan a building with no stairs to aid the elderly and handicapped. Aid for the new building came from members and other Presbyterian congregations, one pledging from Omaha.

On November 8, 1980, the cornerstone for the new building was laid. A new sanctuary was built and the education building was remodeled to provide a kitchen, fellowship area, conference room and church offices. A new pipe organ was made by Howell and Co. of Dixon, Illinois.

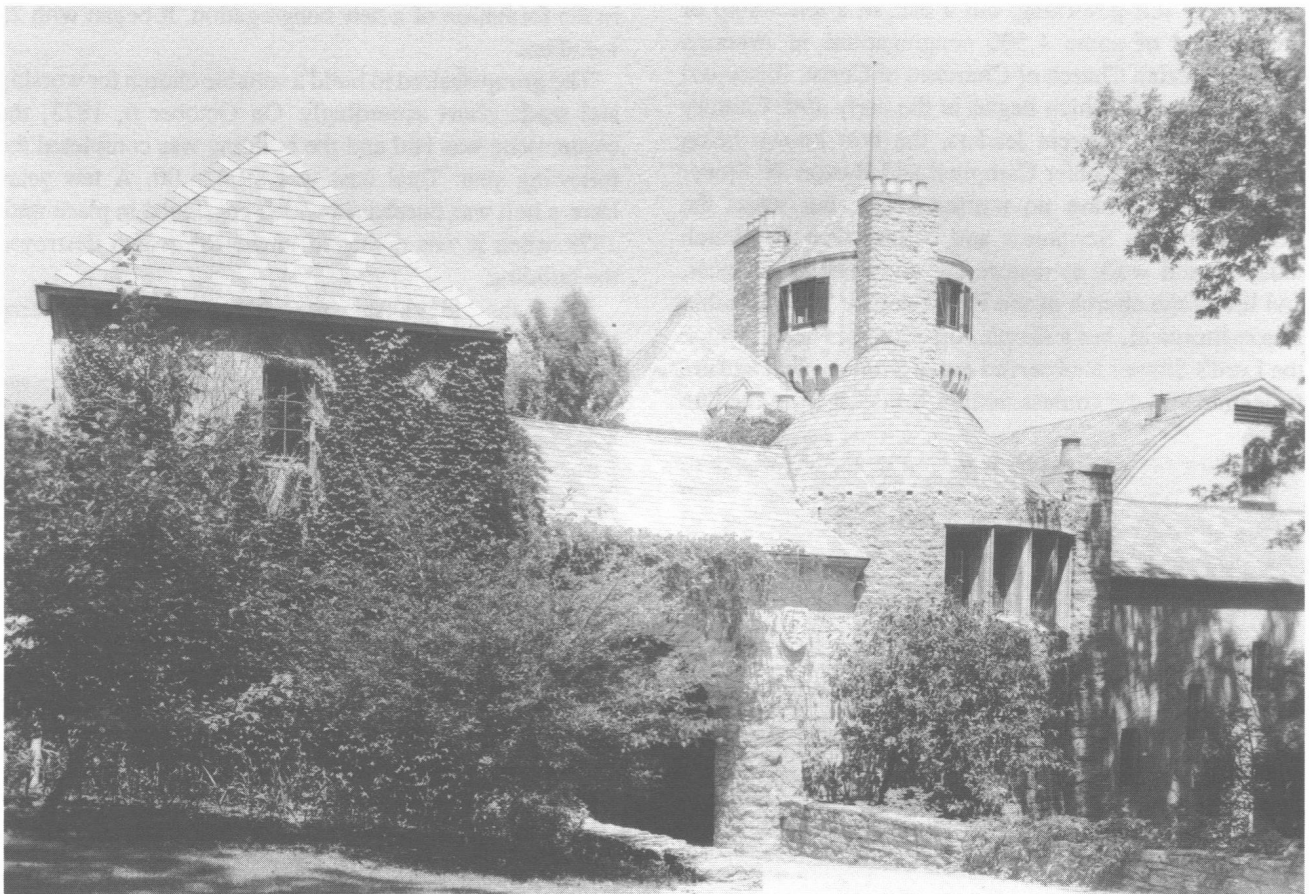
On October 11, 1981, a dedication service for the new church was held with the theme, "We Rededicate Ourselves and Dedicate Our Building to the Glory of God and the Service of the World."

The current pastor, the first to serve the new church, is John Patterson.

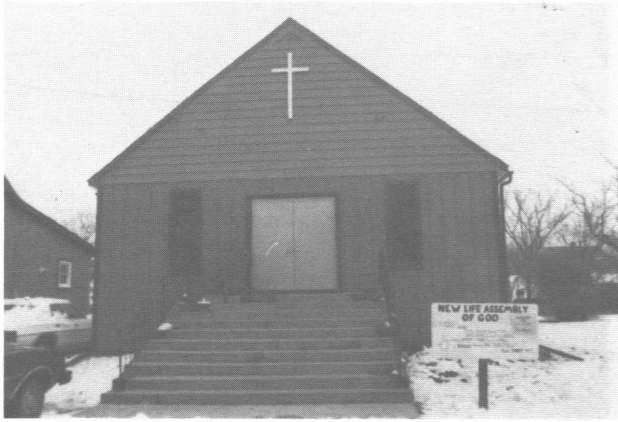
(compiled from various notes and clippings about the fire.)

NEW LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

New Life Assembly of God had its first service November 4, 1984. The need for an Evangelical Pentecostal Church in Oregon was presented to Pastor Dennis Taft by his grandmother, Nina Taft, a longtime resident of Oregon. Pastor Dennis Taft and his family began to pray and felt God was leading them to begin the church.



Stronghold of the Blackhawk Presbytery. (Courtesy of John Remour)



1987: NEW LIFE ASSEMBLY CHURCH OF GOD. 403 South 8th St. Pastor Dennis Taft. (Donna Kennedy photo)

With the help and guidance of the Assemblies of God Illinois District, Faith Assembly of Byron, Calvary Lighthouse of Rochelle, and Dixon Assembly of God Church, the New Life Assembly of God was born.

Thanks to the help of the Village of Progress, a place to worship was found. The Village of Progress was generous to allow us to meet temporarily in their facilities and with the help of the Lord, we grew from 24 to 41 members in the first two years.

The church began to look for land for a building for its permanent home and after prayer, eventually purchased the old Foursquare Church property located at 401 South Eighth Street, for \$5,000.00. With a loan from United Bank of Ogle County, a major remodeling is currently under way and the church hopes to be in the building by the beginning of Spring, 1986.

(Submitted by the church)

ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Setting on the western bluff above Oregon, St. Bride's Episcopal Church meets the needs of Episcopalians in two communities, Oregon and Mt. Morris.

Starting from a small informal group in both communities in 1957, the present building was built and dedicated



1987: ST. BRIDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. Rt. 64 and Mongan Drive. Rev. Linda P. Fernandez. First service held in church, May 29, 1960. (Donna Kennedy photo)

in 1960. The original group, numbering around 20, had met originally in the Oregon Public Library, but as the numbers mushroomed to 100, it became necessary to think in terms of a new church.

The western bluff was chosen because it was convenient to both communities. First services in the new facility were held May 29, 1960. The Rev. Robert Cunningham was the first resident priest. Since then, several priests have assumed the pulpit at St. Bride's, all of which have contributed community service and have influenced the congregation to Christian witness in both Mt. Morris and Oregon.

The Anglican Communion, of which the Episcopal Church in America is a part, dates from the establishment of Christianity in Britain around 200 a.d. For a time it was an autonomous national church. In the seventh century it joined the Roman community where it remained until the sixteenth century when its independence was again established.

Remaining Catholic in its essentials, but heedful of the right criticisms of the reformers, the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion has since continued as a church both Catholic and Protestant, seeking to assert the best of both traditions and at the same time be flexible and alert enough to welcome new insights into the eternal truth of God.

Bride, or Bridget, patron of the parish, was a British saint, a contemporary of St. Patrick, who assisted him in the Christianizing of the Celts.

ST. MARY'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The story of St. Mary's Church which presently stands at 301 N. 4th and Monroe Streets, begins with the early pioneers to the Oregon area, pioneers who had to be satisfied with having the services of a priest only once in four years.

In 1833, a priest left Chicago on horseback for the lead mines of Galena. Stopping in Elgin, he inquired of a hotel-keeper if there were any Catholics living between Elgin and Galena. Told of a Francis Ryan, who lived between Oregon and Grand Detour, he determined to visit the Ryan family. At the end of two days of hard travel, exhausted and covered with mud, he reached the Ryan home. Staying with the family for four days, he celebrated Mass each morning, with his congregation consisting of six persons: Mr. and Mrs. Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Fenlon, Mrs. Robinson, and her servant girl. During his visit with the Ryans, he baptized the Fenlon's year old daughter.

Following his visit at Galena, the priest again stopped at the Ryan home, staying two days and celebrating Mass. This was the first priest the Ryans had seen in four years at Oregon. In 1842 Ryan moved to the Fenlon settlement north of Durand where a priest visited the Catholics there once each year.

In 1859 and 1860 some priests from LaSalle came and celebrated Mass at Oregon, but the real start of a Catholic

Church in Oregon came when Michael Nohe, grocer, and John M. Schneider, clothing merchant, settled at Oregon and began working toward the establishment of a congregation.

In 1862, at a cost of \$1,600.00, the first church building was completed, financed by subscription of those interested in it. Father Louis Lightner of Dixon came to Oregon once a month to offer Mass. The building, located at Third and Monroe Streets now belongs to the Oregon Church of God.

In 1908 the entire interior of the church was frescoed freehand.

With the establishment of a diocese of Rockford, September 23, 1908, St. Mary's became a part of the new See.

Father Arthur Kreckel was appointed pastor in January, 1940. The following year Court Oregon No. 1337, with thirty-six candidates for membership, was formally joined to the National Catholic Daughters of America. In 1942 St. Mary's Social Center was opened after the arrival of four Sisters of the order of the Holy Trinity from Philadelphia, PA. They desired to be of help and service to all in the community. Their services included caring for the very young and supervision and special care for children whose mothers had to be away from home. Apparently the community had little need for this type of service and their venture into Oregon was of short duration.

In September, 1944, four Presentation Sisters from the Mother House at Staten Island, New York, arrived to open a kindergarten in Oregon. Rising from Father Kreckel's conviction that there was an urgent need for Catholic education in Oregon, permission was given for the Sisters to come. Mother Mary Regis Joseph, Sister Mary Rita Joseph, Sister Mary DeLourdes Joseph, and Sister Mary Paul Joseph arrived with four valises and a hundred dollars.

A home for them, which doubled as a school, was



1987: ST. MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH. North Fourth and Monroe Streets. Rev. Father William Budden. First church (presently Oregon Church of God) was built in 1862 at a cost of \$1,600. It was organized by Michael Noke and John M. Schneider. Present church was built in 1893. Rev. Father Goldsmith, an Oregon son, was one of the early priests. (Donna Kennedy Photo)



1987: ST. MARY'S LEARNING CENTER. Rt. 3 West Rt. 64. Father William Budden. Built originally for a school—Kindergarten through 8th grade. (Donna Kennedy photo)

purchased at 505 N. Fourth Street. The sisters lived on the second floor, the first floor serving as the school. In many ways it was inadequate for a school but it was a beginning.

Personal transportation for the Sisters was provided first by an old station wagon, later by a new one given them by a local car dealer. School transportation was provided by an old school bus that frequently broke down. On those occasions when it could not be used, the Church of God offered the use of their bus to pick up the children. Frequently one of the Sisters could be seen riding the Church of God bus through the City of Oregon. Father Kreckel enjoyed a splendid relationship with the Church of God which was always ready to lend a helping hand in time of need.

Father Norbert Richter succeeded Father Kreckel who moved to Pecatonica. During the time before Father Richter arrived, Father Earl Ambre served as administrator, July, 1958-March, 1959.

During Father Richter's pastorate, land for a new school was purchased from George Etnyre and Charles Mongan. Located west of Oregon on Illinois 64, at the top of Liberty Hill, the twenty-one acre site was well suited to serve both Oregon and Mt. Morris.

On September 25, 1959, Bishop Loras T. Lane of Rockford dedicated the new, \$300,000 building. This amount included the cost of equipping the school.

After six years in Oregon, Father Richter was assigned to St. James Church, Rockford, with Father Franz J. Bonnike of Sterling named as a new pastor of St. Mary's. Known throughout the Diocese for his Pre-Cana and Cana counseling, Father Bonnike's greatest contribution to the entire community was in the field of guidance and counseling. He stressed in his parish that today's church cannot exist on yesterday's contribution and a tithing program was initiated.

To assist with parish administration, a Parish Council of seven commissioners was appointed. Much of the school's indebtedness was reduced and the entire church building was modernized during Father Bonnike's three

years at Oregon. An unusual mural was painted on the front wall of the interior of the Church. A gift of the Bonnike family, it is entitled "The Manifold Presence of Christ In the Eucharist." It depicts Christ in His Priesthood, in the Sacred Species, and in the Community of God's People. The pulpit, carved in the form of a book, represents Christ in His Word; the Altar represents Christ in the Eucharistic Action.

Since 1968 the grade school program was discontinued for a number of reasons. Students were subsequently included in the public school system. St. Mary's school facility has been kept open for religious education classes, meetings and community programs.

Recently, renovation has been done on the school and church to save energy and make the facilities available to the handicapped. A new Fellowship Hall has been added to the church basement.

St. Mary's continues with a strong proclamation of the Christian confession. Several Masses are offered each week to a congregation numbering over 400. This church has helped the congregation of Byron to get started and continues to influence several communities within the Ogle County area through its preaching and counseling ministry.

(Sources: Notes and clippings)



1987: Ebenezer Reform Church, German Church Road. Reverend Robert Hoffman. Congregation organized in 1869 and met in homes until church was build on donated land in 1875. In 1969 a new church was built across the road from the original church. (Donna Kennedy photo)



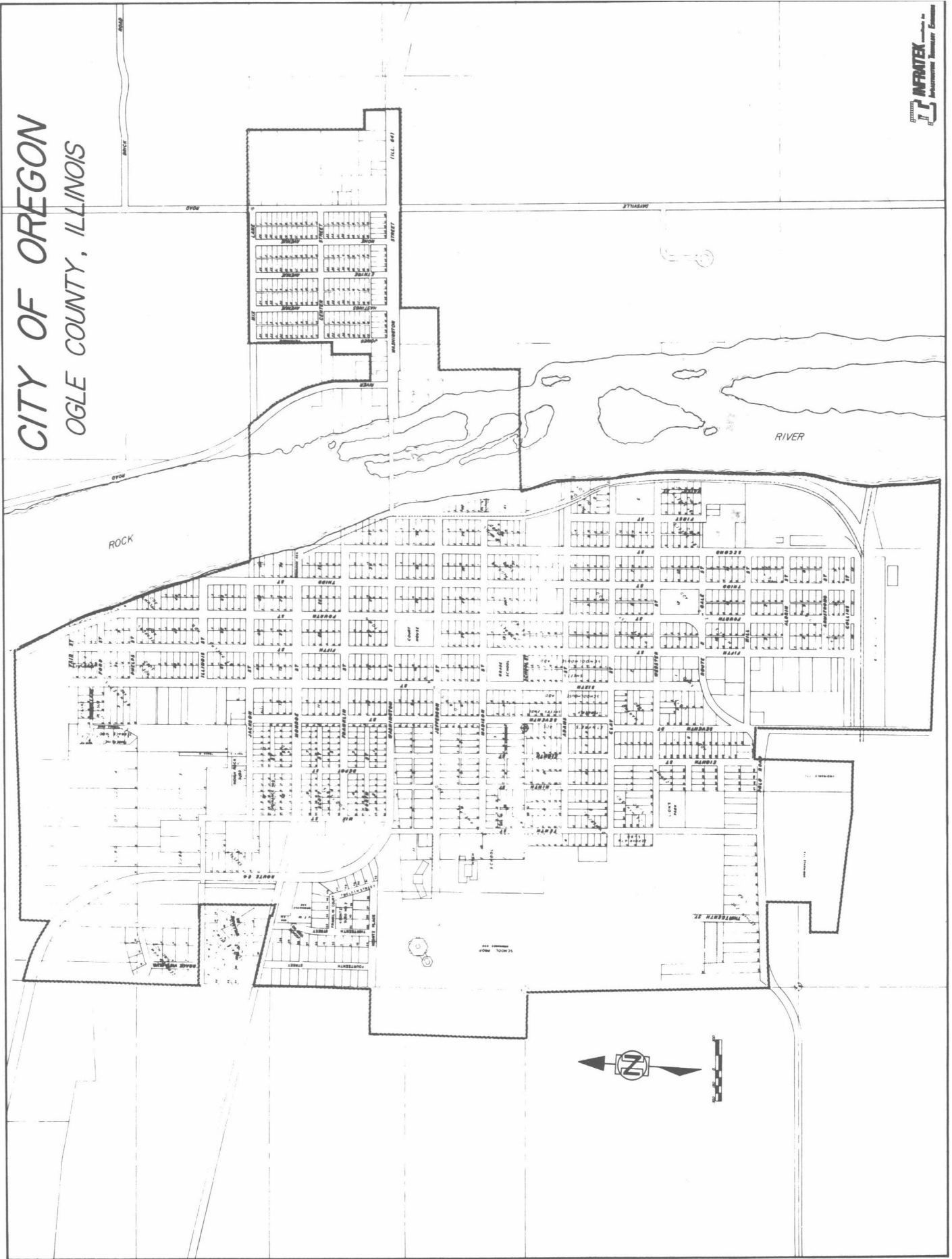
1875 Church. (Rev. Robert Hoffman photo)



City Government

Flag Ceremony was held June 8, 1985 on the Coliseum Lawn. The committee consisted of high school student Debra Foster, Harry Nurmet, Kathryn Gelandner. We understand that Debra Foster wrote a letter to Mayor Barnes concerning the need for a City Flag. Harry Nurmet designed and Kathryn Gelandner wrote the symbolism. And may it ever wave proudly . . .

CITY OF OREGON
OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS



ROCK RIVER VALLEY

*Oregon is a beautiful city,
Where you'll find a sweet haven of rest.
Here they always wish you well—
A friendly town where kind folks dwell,
In Rock River Valley we love best.*

*If you're tired, and feel somewhat weary,
It is here you will find sweet repose;
All your cares and worries flee
Only joy and peace you'll see,
Where no hate, only kindness one knows.*

*We have highways of radiant splendor,
Stately trees on each side of the street;
Folks are kind beyond compare—
Goodwill and honesty they share,
None other with them can compete.*

*Oregon, Byron, Rockford, and Dixon,
Quaint little town of Grand Detour, too,
Like sentinels they proudly stand
They give to all a welcome hand—
Rock River Valley, we are proud of you!*

Written by Edith Andrew Burchell. Provided by Mrs. Richard (Edith) Fridley.

CITY GOVERNMENT

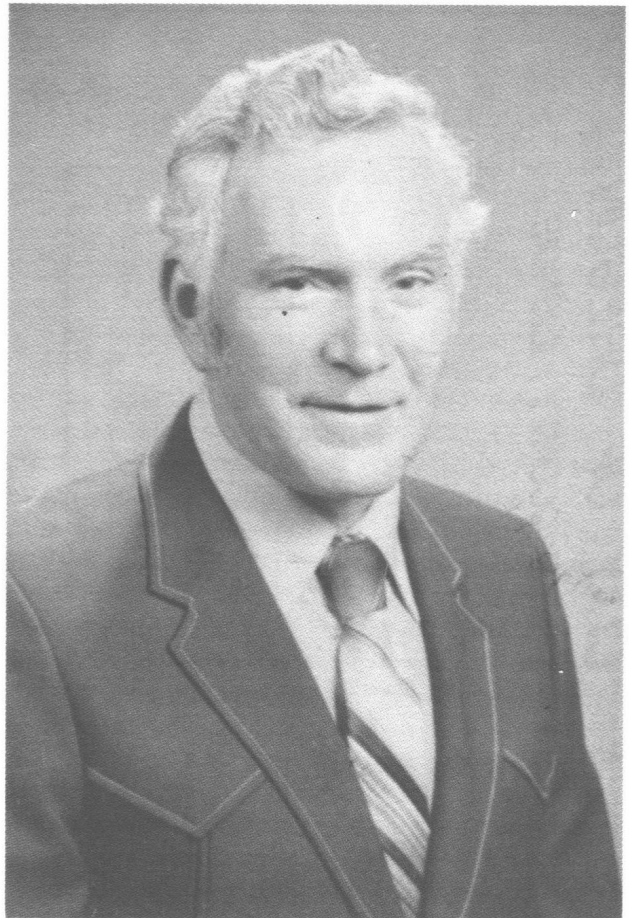
In 1835 Fletcher Hill, a surveyor, subdivided the area and in 1836 the site was regularly laid out. The name Oregon City was given to the community by John Phelps' daughter, Sarah. The certificate for Oregon City was filed with the County Clerk on December 4, 1838.

For a short time the city had the name "Florence" and by action of the Legislature of Illinois, in February 21, 1843 the city was officially recorded as Oregon, Illinois. By 1838 the city had grown to 225 people.

By 1870 the city and surrounding area had grown to approximately 2,000 inhabitants. The city was incorporated as a city with the first election held on March 21, 1870.

Mayor	James V. Gale
City Clerk	John Rutledge
City Attorney	E. F. Dutcher
City Treasurer	Michael Nohe
Police Magistrate	Hiram Currier
Aldermen	George Dwight, Christian Lehman, Joseph Hitt
City Surveyor	J. L. Ettlinger
City Assessor	Michael Nohe

The city was again reorganized March 29, 1873 with James Cartwright elected mayor.



Mayor James Barnes

Jim Barnes became involved in community service in 1969 when he joined the Volunteer Ambulance Service and still serves as a member. He became actively involved with Oregon's "Autumn on Parade" festival which started in 1970.

In 1975 he was elected as City Commissioner. In 1978 he was selected from the commissioners to assume the unexpired term of Mayor Martin. He then ran for the office of mayor and was elected over four opponents in 1979. He served again in 1983 and as of April 7, 1987 again won election.

Members of the present council are Jim Lauer, Norm Collins, Gail Crenshaw, and Roger Logan.

The people of Oregon are proud of our city and its lovely location. In the past few years it has annexed East Oregon into the city. With this came the extension of water and sewer lines. In the near future it will be necessary to add a well to this area to serve those homes already there and those to be built.

The city has finished a tree program under the direction of Howard Fox, and diseased trees will be removed and it is hoped by Fall to offer to the residents new trees for planting.

The city is considering replacing the street lights as they are nearly 40 years old. We would like to have them replaced with lights of the turn-of-the-century design. This would be in keeping with the style of the buildings.

Oregon can be proud of its housing of senior citizens and those of low income. Two locations were built—one on the corner of Third and Jefferson and the other on South First Street. The housing is under the direction of the Ogle County Housing Authority, but the applications were started in Oregon. The city would like to see more buildings added.

Tourism plays a big part of our economy with the attraction of thousands to the Autumn on Parade weekend. Our area offers campers several locations. Our newest development is the Sand Sucker Recreation area located south of the dam on the west side of the river. Plans call for it to be started the summer of 1987.

WATER

Cool, clean water has always been enjoyed by residents of Oregon. This was nearly lost to us in December 1974 when the EPA introduced Rule #305 stating all public water supplies that serviced 15 families or more must add chlorine.

Councilman Jim Barnes and many citizens began action to get this stopped. Records of our tested water were presented. The requests were continually turned down and the city was ordered in 1979 to begin chlorination.

Oregon continued its fight. Several representatives and senators joined our fight. Area towns supported us and followed our progress. Finally in August of 1984 a letter was received from the Illinois EPA stating Oregon was exempt from chlorinating our water.

The following song tells the story of our "Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water:

PURE WATER

By John A. Lindhorst

Now listen to my story and I think you will enjoy the saga of a small town called Oregon, Illinois. Like David and Goliath, the town put up a fight even with the odds against them, they stood for what was right.

They wanted . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

The E.P.A. official said your water's real good but there is something missing, it don't taste like water should.

So we'll spend lots of money and we will analyze there is more beneath the surface here, than surely meets the eyes.

Then you'll have . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

(so the state spent lots of tax dollars, and they came up with this brilliant conclusion)

There's hydrogen and oxygen, minerals, lime and sand, it's colorless and odorless and really tastes quite bland.

But we've got the solution that will make your water great, we are going to insist that you must chlorinate.

Then you'll have . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

(well, you can imagine how well that went over in Oregon!)

The town was in an uproar and they said, "We'll take a stand!"

The mayor said, "Our water is the finest in the land."

The E.P.A. said, "You'll be fined a thousand bucks a day and when you come to your senses, we're sure to get our way."

Then you'll have . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

The legal battle started and it dragged on through the court and years and years went by, waiting for that last report. But at that final moment, just as the judge spoke, his throat went dry, his tongue dried up, and he began to choke.

He needed . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

(so they brought him a nice big glass of water)

He raised his glass, he tipped his head, and took a good long drink.

His eyes grew wide, he licked his lips, and he began to blink.

"Why, I haven't had a drink this good, not since I was a boy,"

"Oh your Honor," said the Mayor, "that water is from Oregon, Illinois."

Where we have . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

To ruin this wonderful water, would really be a sin so go on back to victory, Oregon, you win!

and as for you Mr. E.P.A. why don't you practice what you preach?

Go on back to Springfield, and gargle with some bleach!

Then you will appreciate their . . .

Cool Water, Clear Water . . . Pure Water.

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John A. Lindhorst, a native of Villa Park, Illinois, has made his home in Oregon for nearly a decade. An active person in the Oregon community, he is past president of the Oregon Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Rotary Club, and serves on the Autumn on Parade committee. John is founder and director of the Oregon Community Chorus and also organizes and conducts the Oregon Brass Band. Perhaps Lindhorst's most noted role is as co-writer, producer and director of "Livin' On The River." Two of Lindhorst's compositions, "River Flows



John A. Lindhorst at his Washington Street Mercantile and Coffeehouse.

"Through Me" and "Pure Water" were featured in the productions.

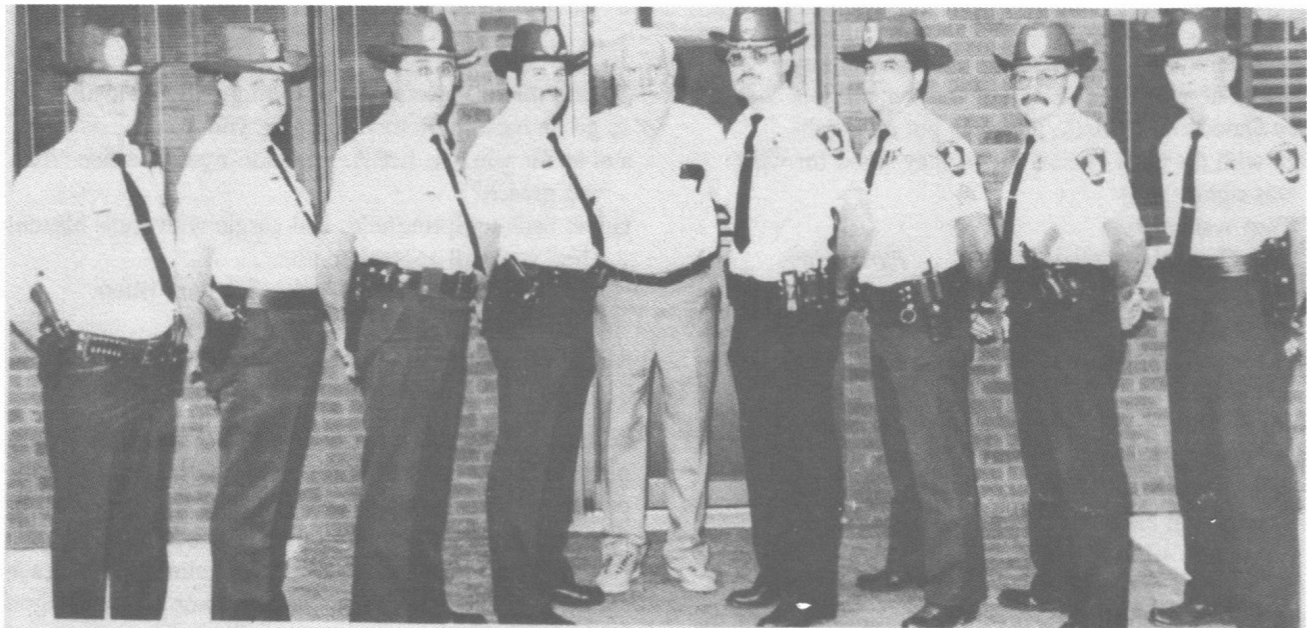
Lindhorst carries on the folk music tradition through extensive performances, teaching, and through his unique shop, The Washington Street Mercantile and Coffee house. This nationally acclaimed folk club is located downtown Oregon and attracts well-known musicians from throughout the country. Oregon has rapidly become a focal point for folk music in the Midwest.

OREGON POLICE DEPARTMENT

For 104 years Oregon has had city police protection. On February 10, 1882 Mayor Petrie approved an ordinance defining the duties of the first City Marshall. Oregon through the years then went to a Chief of Police title



"Jiggs" Burrig and Vic Westendorf. Late 1930's. (Photo courtesy of Remour)



Police department

For 104 years Oregon has had city police protection. On Feb. 10, 1882, Mayor Frederick Petrie approved an ordinance defining the duties of the City Marshall. Above, Oregon's present mayor, Jim Barnes, stands in the center of the 1986 police force. From left to right are: Officer Ed Bowers, Reserve Officer Duane Linscott, Officer Robert

Jones, Reserve Officer John Mershon, Officer Jeff Whittsel, Sergeant William Hitchcock, Police Chief Thomas Miller, Reserve Officer Stan Braden. Reserve Officer Steve Burdette was not present when the photo was taken. Earleen Hinton photo.



Cast Iron Mike located at 401 Washington St. gives a refreshing drink, for dogs at the base, a step for children, a trough for horses, and a fountain for adults and children. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Some men that have held the title in the past have been Chief "Jiggs" Burreight; Chief Mason Hayenga; Chief Robert Jones; Chief Thomas Miller.

The present police department is made up of five full-time officers: Officer Edward Bowers, Officer Robert Jones, Officer Jeffrey Whitsell, Sgt. William Hitchcock, and Chief Thomas Miller. The department also has an active four-man reserve unit consisting of Reserve Officer Duane Linscott, Reserve Officer Stanley Braden, Reserve

Officer John Mershon, and Reserve Officer Steve Burdette. Mayor James Barnes is the commissioner in charge of the police department.

JAIL LOCATIONS

At the turn of the century the police station was located on the lower level of the bandstand that stood on the north corner of the Court House square.

In 1918 the city jail was located north of the present City

Hall. It was burned to the ground November 11th by some "high spirited" persons, as Oregon celebrated the end of WW I.

The department then used an area in City Hall as a "holding cell" and the County Jail for more serious cases. It continues to do so today.

Former center of Oregon social life became office space at fairgrounds By KATHRYN GELANDER

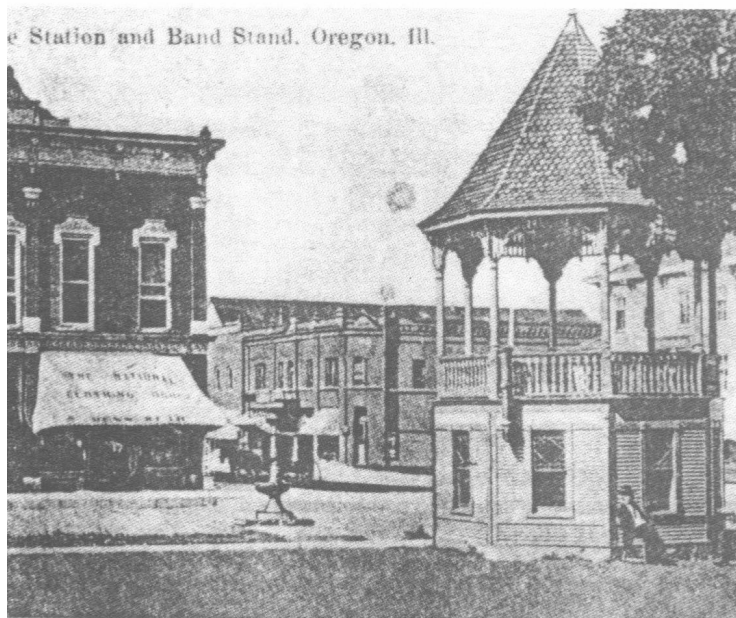
OREGON—At the turn of the century, Oregon's Saturday night social life centered around the old bandstand located on the northeast corner of the Courthouse Square, across from the National Clothing House which is still a flourishing business today.

Residents of Oregon, as well as farm families from the surrounding area, all gravitated to the Saturday evening band concert. The program usually consisted of a number of John Philip Sousa marches, featuring local musicians as vocal and instrumental soloists.

While the band marked time on the upper level, the local police conducted their business in the police station on the first floor, where a small, sturdy cell served as a place to lock up any "undesirable elements" who were bent on disturbing the peace.

Music was not the only sound to come from the platform. On many occasions it was used as a public "soap-box" from which various political candidates tried to promote their election campaigns.

Local legend has it that at one time, a public apology was made from the bandstand. It seems that following the assassination of President McKinley, a local citizen was taken there to apologize for certain remarks he had made regarding the fallen leader.



Oregon's old police station and bandstand in 1911 photograph—social life of town centered around this area. The bottom half was later moved to the fairgrounds and used as an office building. (Photo from Oregon Republican Reporter)

It also has been reported that a suicide was committed there.

No one seems to know exactly when the bandstand was removed from the courthouse site.

However, the lower section of it was relocated on the Ogle County Fairgrounds, just outside the entrance to the grandstand where it served as an office building for many years.

From *Oregon Republican Reporter*. Date?.

OREGON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT by Jim Rosenbalm

In April, 1876 an ordinance was passed by the city council and mayor to create the first fire fighting unit. It provided an appointment of chief fire marshal, assistant marshal, engineers, hosemen, hook-and-ladder men as well as bucketmen, all appointed by the city council.

The ordinance regulated the care and maintenance of fire fighting apparatus, location of the building and duties of fire personnel. All aldermen were appointed "ex-officio" fire wardens and were to be present at all fires, and return to the station to clean equipment and make it ready for use again. Those refusing to obey were fined \$2 and could be expelled from the force. They were also given the power to inspect all building, manufacturing establishments and depository of ashes, etc.

The first wardens were: F. F. Jones, J. W. Mack, E. P. Piersol and J. T. Gantz.

All town residents were obligated to attend fires and follow the instructions of the fire marshal and his assistants. Refusal to obey subjected the person to a fine of \$5. The equipment which was all hand-operated was stored in the building owned by W. A. Mix for a rental fee of \$75 per year.

The first authorized fire truck and pumper was a Model T Ford believed purchased shortly before WWI.

In 1922 the city purchased an American-LaFrance truck on Reo chassis which was the ultimate for its time. In 1926 a GMC tanker was purchased and in 1936 a Ford truck was acquired.

Equipment advanced with the 1945 purchase of a new tanker from E.D. Etnyre Company and 1948 a referendum was passed and an International bought. In 1957 a pumper truck was purchased from the volunteers' earnings and benefit fish fries held by the firemen. In 1964 the firemen again purchased a GMC auxiliary truck with the city passing a referendum in 1967 to purchase a new pumper truck and the firemen purchasing a new tanker from their earnings. In 1968 the firemen purchased a pickup truck to be used by the Oregon Fire Chief.

Former Fire Chiefs were Lester Grimes, Paul Johnson, Burton Haas, Harold Carman, Joseph Stevens, Ralph Stiles, Chrissie Myers, Wendell Long, Donald Blumeyer, Elmer Mammen, Jim Rosenbalm and Garry Griffin, present Chief.

The fire department was operated by the City of Oregon until 1976 when the Oregon Fire Protection District was created. Three men were appointed by the County Board



New Station House. 1987 crew: (Kneeling): Bob Stone, Gary Griffin, Ed Wehmhoepfer. (Standing): Dick Little, Ralph Gelande, Terry West, Ray Hawn, Brian Bauer, Walt Janssen, Dave Landers, Randy Travis, Mike Dvorak, Reuben Barnhart, Mike Long, Jim Brown, Jim Rosenbalm, Doug Colson, Tom Seaworth, Don Griffin, Rich Rhoads, Don Heller. (Not shown): Jim Egyed, Dan Miller, Joe Adrian, Ken Maxwell, Rob Diehl, Dave Jenkins.



Oregon Fire Protection District building at 100 Washington Street. (Donna Kennedy photo)