

Williamsville Centennial

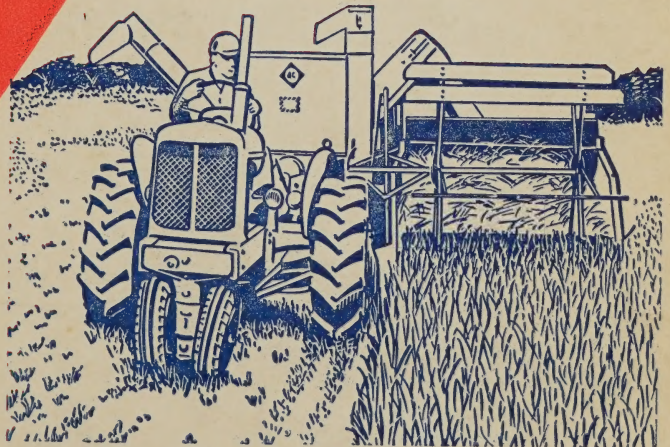
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SOUVENIR PROGRAM

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1853 + 1953



July 23, 24, & 25, 1953

Price \$1.00

Compliments of . . .

**WILLIAMSVILLE
STATE BANK**

Williamsville, Ill.

Member F. D. I. C.

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GEN.

Welcome
To Our
Centennial



**YOUR
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H. N. BLACK & SONS

100th YEAR FOR WILLIAMSVILLE

31st YEAR FOR

**W. W. HILL
GRAIN & FEED CO.**

ELEVATORS AT

★ **WILLIAMSVILLE**

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★ **SHERMAN**



MANUFACTURERS OF

HILLTOP FEEDS

TOPS 'EM ALL

**A COMPLETE LINE OF
HIGH QUALITY
ANIMAL AND POULTRY FEEDS**

This historical souvenir program is dedicated to Miss Jane B. Groves because of her ceaseless and untiring effort in compiling the historical data recorded herein. Her ancestors, for more than a century, have been closely associated with the economic, social, political, religious and educational life of Williamsville and surrounding community.

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Schedule Of Events

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1953

10 A.M. OFFICIAL OPENING

Master of Ceremonies.....Spizz Singer
Place.....Old Grade School Yard
Remarks.....S. E. Moore, President of Village Board
Remarks.....J. R. Graham, General Chairman
Address: "Milestones".....William Westbrook
Chief of Automobile Dept. for Secretary of State

Presentation of Prize for writing winning Centennial
Slogan "A Century Old And Still Progressing" to
Miss Constance Bottorff.

11 A.M. Horseshoe Pitching Contest

In Charge: H. E. Hussey, Burgess Cunningham

Historical Exhibit.....Old Grade School Building

Antique Exhibit.....Old Grade School Building

Doll Exhibit.....1. Prettiest Old Doll
2. Best Homemade Doll
(Old Grade Building) 3. Best Dressed Old Doll
4. Most Unusual Doll

Exhibit of Old Bibles, Books and Newspapers.....
Old Grade School Building

Home Talent Music

12 NOON Lunch

2:30 P.M. Sack race for boys 10 - 15 years of age

Women's Nail driving contest

Girl's nail driving contest

Women's tug-o-war

George Richter in charge

3:30 P.M. Entertainment

7:30 P.M. Band Music

Presenting of old grade school building and grounds to
Village of Williamsville.....J. M. Shearl

9:00 P.M. Free Street Dance

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1953

- 10 A.M. Pie Eating Contest.....Boys 12 - 15 years
 Three legged race.....Boys 12 - 14 years
 Girl's three legged race.....12 - 14 years
 Rev. C. E. Withrow in charge
 Home Talent Music
- 12 NOON Lunch
- 1:30 P.M. Men's Tug-o-war
 Turner Claypool in charge
- 2 P.M. Free Entertainment
- 2:30 P.M. Children's Parades
 Doll buggies
 Boys and Girls in Centennial Costumes
 Decorated Bicycles
 Riding Ponies
 Lucile Patterson, Mona May Graham, Ellsworth Patterson and Russell Hackett in charge
- 4 P.M. Greased pole climb.....children under 15 years
 Frank Shepard in charge
- 6:45 P.M. Clown Band
- 8 P.M. Pageant.....High School Athletic Field

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1953

- 10 A.M. Boys and girls races.....Ages 8 - 10
 Boys races.....Ages 11 - 13
 Girls races.....Ages 11 - 13
 Rev. Robert Green in charge
 Spelling Bee.....6, 7, and 8th grades
 40 years and over
 Grace Lercher in charge
- 11 A.M. Judging of beards
 Judging of ladies costumes
 Finals of horseshoe pitching contest
- 1:30 P.M. Grand Parade of Bands and Floats
- 4 P.M. Old Timer's Get Together.....High School
 Community Room
- 7 P.M. Awarding of prizes to winner of horseshoe pitching,
 beards, and ladies costumes
- 8 P.M. Pageant.....High School Athletic Field

-:- WILLIAMSVILLE -:-
THROUGH THE YEARS

A Review of a Golden Century

By Howard Paul

PROLOGUE

Scene 1 Exodus and Arrival

The departure of the Indians and the arrival of the first pioneers.

Scene 2 Home Folks

Life of the pioneer family. The first wedding in the area.

Scene 3 A City is Born

The platting of the town, sale of lots and the difficulty in selecting a name. The reason for the present name of Williamsville.

Scene 4 Stake in the Nation

The citizens interest in their government. The Republican caucus. The incidents leading to the support of Abraham Lincoln for President. The victory celebration upon his election. The effect of the Civil War upon the city and the final passing of the Lincoln funeral train.

Scene 5 Growing Pains

The problems of the community such as schools, taxes, the failure of the well periodically, the reduction of speed of trains, etc.

Scene 6 Gay Nineties

The prices of merchandise in 1890, the first street lights, barber shop quartette singing, a review of transportation in 1890 and the presentation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

Scene 7 Century of Progress

The arrival of the first automobile and panic in Perce's Hall.

Scene 8 Yanks are Coming

The efforts of Williamsville during World War I.

Scene 9 Roaring Twenties

Review of fashions and dances of the 1920s. The construction of the hard road and the first radio sets.

Scene 10 Pearl Harbor

Review of efforts of Williamsville in World War II.

Scene 11 A Century in Review

A comparison of the fashions, transportation, farm machinery, etc. through the century. A salute to the Williamsville citizens who have attained fame, the local civic organizations, the oldest and newest citizens of Williamsville.

Scene 12 Faith of Our Fathers

The organization of the churches and the rededication of the citizens to faith for the future.

OUR FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

By Jane Brown Groves

1853 Aug. 25, 26 and 27, Town of Benton platted on land owned by Abraham V. Flagg. (Joel A. Matteson was Governor of Illinois; the population of Springfield was about 5000; Chicago, 28,269; there were 1800 miles of boggy roads in the state; the first State House, now the County Court House, had just been completed; the first State Fair was to be held in Springfield. Stage coaches were still in use). September 14, first sale of lots occurs. (This sale was well attended. Among the persons who bought lots on the day of the sale or soon after were Orlando Bates, Alexander Fisher, Andrew and James Lester, Wm. Yocom, John Poorman, Levi Cantrall, Wm. Cline, Isaac and Avery Constant). September 15, 16 and 17, Wm. Harpole's Addition was platted. (Among the purchasers of these lots were James Hanes, John George, Peter L. Earnest, James T. Dade and Adam Mills). October 18, the Chicago & Mississippi Railroad completed to Normal . . . Autumn, Jacob Flagg builds the first house, which was lived in by his father, Abraham Flagg and family. **1854** The Chicago & Mississippi Railroad builds a station; Peter L. Earnest opens the first store; four or five houses were built; first post-office established in the home of John George. George Fisher and Avery Constant open a second store. (When the Government was petitioned for a post-office it was found there was another town of Benton in the state. The name of Williamsville (so called in honor of Col. John Williams, a land owner in the vicinity) was given to the post-office and later to the town. **1855** April 16, 17 and 18, Jones' (Samuel and John R.) First Addition platted. April 18 and 19, Flagg's Second Addition platted . . . May 28, Williamsville now has 20 houses, a post-office, three or four stores. . . . Dr. Wm. Conrey first physician, arrives. (Dr. Conrey died in 1857) . . . October, the first school, a one room frame structure, opens. The first teacher, a Mr. Mills. (This school was located where the home of Mr. James Conrad now stands). **1856** Spring, two young Republican leaders, S. H. Jones and Jacob Beck, call one of the first 'Republican caucuses in Sangamon County. Mr. Jones occupied the chair and Mr. Beck made the speech of the occasion . . . May 14, terrific wind-storm hits community. Home of Evans Brittin, Northeast of town demolished . . . June 26, George Groves and Andrew and James Lester his brother-in-law, plat an addition . . . June 27 and 28, Jones' (S. H.) Second Addition platted . . . Dr. Mahlon K. Mathus locates in town . . . October 7, Lively Lodge No. 203, A.F. & A.M. chartered. Charter members were: Charles F. Wertz, B. J. Purcell, A. D. VanMeter, O. Bates, P. L. Earnest, H. VanMeter and Wm. Council . . . **1857** Chicago & Mississippi Railroad changes name to St. Louis, Alton & Chicago . . . M. E. Church built . . . Buffin Grain Company starts up in business . . . October 28, People's Meeting held. (A great meeting. The townspeople took their stand against Slavery and Stephen A. Douglas). **1858** February 17, Abraham V. Flagg, founder of the original Town of Benton, dies . . . May 14, Doctors J. Y. Winn and Henry VanMeter hang up their shingle . . . Wesleyan Council embarks in the grain business. (He bought out Buffin Grain Co. in 1863). September 7, potatoes 62½c per bushel. "Farmers bring in your potatoes while they are a good price." . . . Autumn, Christian Church completed . . . Nov. 5, 'Dr. James Halbert, familiarly known as "Dr. Red Drops", pioneer physician in this territory dies . . . George Groves and George Constant open up a grocery store . . . Dr. Thomas M. Helm arrives. **1859** Isaac J. Taylor and Alexander Fisher open a general store. (By this time Williamsville was a thriving village of close to 400. Farmers and cattlemen for miles around came here to trade and get their mail. It remained, as platted above, for many years).

1860

March 6, the Williamsville Republican Club formed for the purpose of advocating and extending the principles of the Republican Party and "securing, if we can, the nomination of Abraham Lincoln for the Presidency." Miletus W. Ellis was president of the Club . . . August 8, at a great Republican Rally in Springfield, attended by thousands of people from Central Illinois, Williamsville was well represented, 500 persons going from this community. "Perhaps the most imposing delegation of all came from Williamsville," stated the Illinois State Journal. An immense wagon, on which blacksmiths, wheel-rights and rail-splitters were at work, drawn by a 23 yoke ox-team, driven by A. D. VanMeter and W. S. Constant, took part in the parade . . . August 25, Republican meeting at Williamsville, 2000 in attendance . . . November 29, great Republican barbecue held to celebrate Lincoln's election. (Result of a bet whereby George Power, Fancy Creek, a Democrat, lost a fine beef ox to the Republicans of Williamsville) . . . **1861** February 11, Lincoln leaves Springfield for Washington. Miletus W. Ellis, Republican leader from Williamsville and his little daughter, Frances, bid Lincoln good-bye at the train. "Be a good girl," said Lincoln to Frances, as he laid his hand affectionately upon her shoulder. (Frances was our Mrs. Fanny Jones - mother of Mrs. A. L. Stuttle). April 12, Ft. Sumpter fired upon - Lincoln calls for 75,000 men. **1862** June 3, Stephen A. Douglas dies in Chicago . . . October, 130th Infantry organized at Camp Butler, with Francis M. Pickrell, Williamsville, as First Lieutenant. Many Williamsville men were in this Company - the 114th Company also included Williamsville men . . . Eggs \$1.00 a dozen; coffee, \$1.00 a pound . . . Railroad changes its name to the Chicago & Alton (which name it held until 1947) . . . **1863** January 1, Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation - 3,000,000 slaves set free . . . February, Dr. John M. West now practices in this community . . . Summer, (approximate date) "Copperheads" (Knights of the Golden Circle) from the Barclay-Dawson vicinity march on Williamsville. D. C. Duncan rode out the South road to meet them with the information that Williamsville had been warned and was prepared for them, with bloodshed, if necessary. They were persuaded to leave. **1864** March, ten days' public discussion between Evangelist J. S. Sweeney of the Christian Church and Rev. M. M. Davies of the M. E. Church. **1865** February 16, by a special act of the Legislature, approved this date, the Town of Benton officially becomes the Village of Williamsville. . . April 9, Lee surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House . . . April 14, Abraham Lincoln assassinated . . . April 19, (Sunday) memorial services held at the churches . . . May 3, Lincoln's funeral train passes through Williamsville about 8:30 A.M. An arch, draped in black, spanned the track -- inscription "He has fulfilled his mission." . . . At the close of the Civil War 12,000 Confederate prisoners, on their way to Rock Island, passed through Williamsville. ("Greatest sight I ever saw," said Mr. "Pete" Mount). **1866** May 14, first meeting of newly elected Board of Trustees was held. Wesley Council, president; Elijah K. Durnbaugh, George Groves, Eugene Hockaday, John Nanson, trustees. E. H. Callarman, police magistrate; Wm. T. Jones, Justice of the Peace; George Stevens, Clerk; Lemuel T. Berryhill, Constable; John Nanson, Street Commissioner . . . July 12, the first money received into village treasury was for 2 licenses to operate 2 saloons, at \$75.00 each, and \$1.00 from a showman . . . Summer, first improvement to the town was the construction of board side-walks. **1867** Summer, new brick school of four rooms built, costing \$12,000. The first principal of this school was Henry A. Allen, who taught from 1867 to 1870. The members of the first Board of Directors were George Groves, Sr., N. R. Taylor and Jacob Beck. **1868** March 23, W.F. M.S. organized at the Methodist Church . . . April 15, twelve feet on South side of Main Street leased to lot-owners for a term of 100 years . . . Presbyterian Church was built this year.

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1870

January, scarlet fever in the community. Four of Dr. Winn's own children die within a two week's period . . . April 29, the Village Board donates \$100.00 to build a high board fence around ground given to the community in 1864 by David G. Jones for a burial place (Walnut Hill Cemetery) . . . November, N. R. Taylor & Son (John B.) opens store - hardware, cutlery and provisions. (This store was where the bank is now located). November, Ninian Riley Taylor, Democrat, elected to represent Sangamon County, in the 27th General Assembly for two years. **1871** October 7, great Chicago fire occurs . . . October 16, public well fails. Arrangements made to procure water. **1872** March 9, village donates \$14.36 for lumber to build a pagoda on Main Street for Williamsville Cornette Band organized by Jacob Mountz. April 16, James Stewart, first settler in Williams Township dies at the age of 94. Burial was made at Stewart Cemetery near his home. **1873** August 30, new pump put in town well. Cost \$11.00. Dr. Henry VanMeter died this year. **1874** Summer, Dr. R. E. McClelland, son of John McClelland, opens his office. October 15, many Williamsville people attend dedication of Lincoln's tomb. **1875** Captain W. L. Perce purchases drug-store from J. C. Ballou. **1876** (approximate date) Hussey, Gilbreath & Co., open first bank in Williamsville in rear of Groves & Gilbreath's Store. (The old safe is still to be seen in the rear of Harvey Black & Sons' Hardware Store). **1877** March, Dr. A. D. Taylor, son of Isaac Taylor, enters into practice here. Summer, Wesley Council built a fine new grain elevator. August 23, new ordinance No. 13, requires that "trains in inhabited part of town shall proceed at no greater speed than 10 miles per hour with 10 minutes limit blocking of crossings" . . . August 5, Z. A. Enos engaged to survey the town . . . About this time John Conrad and wife took over the village hotel. It was known as Conrad's Hotel for about 30 years. **1879** April 13, Wm. L. Jones, at whose home the Christian Church was organized in 1843, dies.

1880

Summer, much agitation in town regarding unlawful traffic in liquor . . . **1881**, winter began on November 7, 1880. Eleven weeks of steady cold, thermometer as low as 24 degrees below zero. (Winter of 1880-1881 known as the winter of the deep snow) . . . Feb. 5, water famine in Central Illinois. Water hauled for stock 75c to \$1.00 a load. Feb. 7, rain at last...Feb. 12, a blizzard, snow, ice, "grand sleighing, excellent slipping." . . . March 5, milk 5c a quart; eggs 12½c a dozen; butter 25c a pound; grade A potatoes \$1.00 a bushel; wages for farm hands \$17.00 to \$20.00 per month with board. April 1, town pump again out of order. Duncan & Bates, a committee to fix it. Pump fixed . . . Roads impassable, mud 8 to 10 inches deep . . . April 28, car load of coal-oil received by druggist, W. L. Perce . . . Summer, a long distance telephone installed in Perce's drug store . . . **1882** July 16, Mrs. Abraham Lincoln dies in Springfield . . . **1883** February 2, severe sleet storm hits Williamsville, worst in history of Central Illinois . . . June 2, public well fenced and pump fixed . . . **1884** July 14, Village Board appropriates \$650.00 for purpose of securing ground, building and furnishing a calaboose . . . May 15, special election held regarding change of village organization from special to general law -- 47 for and 17 against the change . . . May ?, R. C. Spencer starts Williamsville Gazette, first newspaper in town. (office up-stairs in a house where George Miller now lives) . . . July 4, Big Fourth of July celebration. Pagoda on Main Street contained all the fire-works, which caught on fire about 8 o'clock in the evening. Celebration short and exciting . . . November 8, Democrats celebrate resurrection of Democratic Party after 24 years under "the Republicans" with a huge bon-fire on Main Street in front of Riley Taylor's. An immense flag (borrowed from the Republicans) stretched across Main Street . . . **1885** January 1, brilliant Leap Year party held at the home of Miss Carrie Mathus, daughter of Dr. M. K. Mathus . . . January 25, "a double birthday party

was held at the commodious home of John R. Jones for his daughter, Miss Nellie, and his nephew, J. Frank Prather" (Ill. State Journal) . . . Bijou Roller-skating Rink, operated by George Brown, very popular this winter (location Ellis Hale's Store) . . . May 3, an old hand bill advertises that Frank Chenery's Legendary Extravaganza, "The Dehorned Cow" will be given by a home talent group. "No toothpicks! (Take a splinter from the floor.) Come out in the eventide and we will make old Billtown howl" . . . November 2, tile route through village surveyed and contract for laying same let to John Kreiser at 40c a rod. **1886** January 18, the Combination Club was entertained at the elegant and commodious home of Mr. C. S. Jones. "The apparel of the ravishingly attired ladies hung about them debonairly." **1887** January 3, weather flag signals purchased for the town. Display pole erected at N.E. corner of Perce's Drug Store awning . . . January 14, bitter cold, 20 to 40 below . . . July 19, Henry Miller, Boots & Shoes, refused to allow pound-master, Millar, to impound his roving cow. A special session of the Board was called to consider this matter. November 15, Dr. J. Y. Winn dies suddenly . . . Jno. B. Jones and J. P. Turley buy out Taylor & Son. **1888**, summer, M. E. Church builds a new parsonage. October 6, a great Republican Rally was held this day . . . speaking at the Rink -- marching clubs of men and boys -- supper served to 600 marchers on a block-long table lighted by crossed torches, extending down East Harpole. Large mounted delegations came from Cantrall, Athens, Fancy Creek, Barclay, while 100 strong came from Elkhart on the "cars". It was a great day. **1889**, April 1, Village Board votes to purchase a set of extension ladders and water buckets for fire fighting purposes.

1890

June 5, first Commencement of the Williamsville High School held at the Christian Church. Professor Tavenor was principal. Graduates were Jessie Lowrey, valedictorian; Willie Taylor, salutatorian; Laura J. Hussey, Dora A. Jones and Frank Taylor . . . "Les" Mountz opens a barber shop in the old Hanes Building . . . Williamsville Bank of J. F. Prather & Company opens for business, J. F. Prather, President; W. L. Perce, Cashier; J. F. Prather, John R. Jones, J. W. Groves, D. W. Smith and Otis Humphrey, Directors. This bank was located on the east side of Perce's Drug Store on Main Street . . . **1891** May 4, new town hall completed. **1893** Creamery built this year . . . and the buttermilk well . . . **1894** April, Uncle Tom's Cabin show in town, 25c admission . . . **1895** Opera House built . . . April 18, "James H. Wise is the owner of an ewe that is the mother of 4 ewe lambs. The whole family is doing well." (Williamsville Times). Clayton Hartley, livery and feed stable advertises, "First class rigs let at reasonable prices". April 13, Professor Merry's orchestra gives a musical in Epworth Hall over Groves' Store. The Misses Mountz, Minnie, Laura, Grace and Lily sang "Greeting in Spring". Oct. 7, new coal oil street lights set up and in operation, only 5 or 6 lights at first . . . Adam Mink, first lamp-lighter . . . **1896** November, John W. Groves, Republican, elected Treasurer of Sangamon County. **1897** February 17, first concert of the High School Concert Band, held at the school. April 20, W. F. Merriman, elected mayor of Williamsville (served 23 years) . . . June 8, new band stand constructed on Main Street. Williamsville High School Band played there in the summer and in the winter at Perce's Opera House . . . May, Wesley Council, pioneer grain dealer, and his wife both died this month . . . **1898** January 14, streets and roads impassable. April, first strip of concrete walk in Williamsville laid in front of Mrs. Evans Brittin's (Paul Clines). Oct. 1, George Groves, pioneer merchant and cattleman, dies . . . Oct. 11, 12, 13, Sangamon County Farmers Institute held in Williamsville . . . **1899** September 4, Miss Ila McClelland holds a musicale for her pupils at the Opera House. Among those taking part were, Iva Tuttle, Pearl Jones, Nellie Wright, Edna Yocom, Mable Jones, Donnie Lake, Norma Council . . . Gilbert & Sullivan's Operetta, "Pinafore" given at Opera House by local talent.

1900

May 7, Dr. A. L. Stuttle hangs up his shingle. (Dr. Stuttle is still in practice here). C. R. Taylor and M. E. Jones, his brother-in-law, form a horse importing firm. (This firm became one of the leading importers of pure bred draft horses in America. Mr. Taylor became a live-stock judge of great repute.)... Summer, small-pox in town. Everybody vaccinated... September 25, the C. & A. station and Council's elevator burn to the ground about mid-night. Pumps and buckets save the town... **1901** March, pest house established in old creamery. (One of the patients was George Snyder, long time carpenter here) ... April 1, J. W. Mount granted petition to establish the Sangamon Valley Telephone Company service in this community... April, great hail storm hits this community about 4:30 P.M. stones as big as eggs fell... May 10, Frank Baker opens up Baker & Son Lumber Co., which served this community until 1947 when it was sold to E. F. Dunbar... May 22, James Lester, 50 years, Elder in the Christian Church and one of the chainmen who helped survey the original Town of Benton, dies at the age of 76... September 18, President McKinley assassinated... September 19, business houses close during the holding of Memorial Services for the deceased president... **1902** Autumn, (approximate date) the Missionary Society of the M. E. Church takes Williamsville people on a "Trip around the World". (An outstanding event)... Dec. 1, first chemical fire-fighting apparatus purchased for the town... December, the congregation of the Methodist Church celebrates the completion of the new Mary J. Prather Memorial church (pipe-organ donated by Mr. Will Council). **1903** February 2, first gas street lamps erected at M. E. Church and Christian church corners. June 3, President Theodore Roosevelt visits Springfield... Summer, old board walks give way to new cement walks in various parts of the town... December 1, the Bank moves from Perce's Drug Store to new J. F. Prather building on the corner of Main and Pine. **1904** July 4, great Fourth of July celebration. James H. Groves & Son's float advertised "We sell White Pearl Flour", and a 5-lb. sack was distributed to every home in town during the parade. In Hobkirk and Telfer's burlesque on a butcher-shop, featuring sausage making, the pig got too hot and died... November 21, congregation of Christian Church hold all day dedication services for new brick building... Dec. 4, J. F. and J. W. Prather ship a carload of fine Shorthorn cattle to the International Live Stock Show, Chicago. **1905** February, Harry H. Braun purchases drug business of Lloyd & Perce. (Braun's Drug Store sold out to James Logan in 1952, after having served this community for 47 years). April, Dr. T. W. Priest enters practice here. **1906** Summer, C. W. Dye enters the concrete business and Wm. Bourne establishes himself as a barber in this community. (He is still in business after nearly 50 years)... December 15 or 16, passenger service on newly completed Interurban System begins. **1907** February 8, the Aedificium Society of the Christian Church (composed of young people from both churches) gives home talent play, "The Chaperon" at the Opera House... April, Harley Glenn opens his black smith shop (He still continues his work)... December 30, Mrs. George Adams, (wife of the editor of "The Index") entertains the young crowd at "Progressive Peanut". **1908** January, many ice skating parties by the young people this winter... March 6, Mr. and Mrs. John Maxwell depart for Scotland... August 1, Milton Munch, Lovington, buys out The Williamsville Index from Editor George Adams... August 15, race riot in Springfield... September, XXOB Band organized... Summer, Main Street gives up its mud. Twelve carloads of crushed rock spread between C. & A. tracks and Elkhart Street... November, town hall moved from West of the C. & A. tracks to its present location. Adam High did the moving. **1909** February, Rev. Henry Parsons, minister, conducts outstanding revival meeting at the Christian Church... March, the Billy Sunday Evangelistic Meetings in Springfield attract many Williamsville people... May, Mr. Ed Millar of near Selbytown buys the first automobile in this vicinity... June, J. Frank Prather buys the first auto in town. It was a Grant... July 6,

hitch-rack taken out of street opposite A. B. Constant & Co.'s store and the hole filled with cinders. (Good-by to horse and buggy days) . . . Summer, C. R. Taylor and family travel in Europe . . . October 22, an evening storm -- the worst ever known around here, occurs. Trees, telephone lines and poles were blown down. November 12, the Young Men's Club gave a big masquerade dance at Perce's Hall. (The outstanding character was John W. Prather, who went as the North Pole) . . . November 25, Thanksgiving Day, about 1:30 A.M. "The Index" Office burned to the ground.

1910

January 14, about 60 young people of the village went down on the Interurban to the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Millar, near Selbytown to a large party. February 10, the XXOB Band gave a concert at Perce's Opera House. The alarm of fire was given and a panic resulted (Interurban Station was on fire). No casualties . . . October 10, first issue of "The Williamsville Sun", weekly paper published by Charles and Grace Buckles, appears . . . October 30, an automobile full of young folks took a ride to Mt. Pulaski, Cornland and Lake Fork. They were gone 2½ hours and travelled 42.03 miles.

1911 February 11, President Taft visits Springfield. **1912** February 29, a big Leap Year Dance was given by the "Girls of Williamsville" at Perce's Hall . . . October 8, Edward A. Korn carried the first air-mail pouch out of Springfield, destined for delivery at Williamsville, but just a short distance out of Springfield, he was forced down in a pasture. **1913** March 2, an all-day program at Christian Church to celebrate end of great Red and Blue Sunday School contest. Reds won by 6. Contest began Dec. 1, 1912. Leader, "Reds", Mae McClelland; "Blues", Jane Groves . . . April 13, Dr. C. C. Hastings opened his office of Veterinary Medicine. He is still practicing in our community . . . June 3, Alfalfa Day Meet. Over 1000 persons enjoyed free meal donated and served by the ladies of the community at Taylor & Jones' sale barn. The XXOB Band furnished the music . . . September 1, franchise granted John W. Prather and Isaac F. Groves, grain dealers, the right to erect and maintain an electric power line for a period of 20 years. **1914** January 11, John R. Jones, large land owner and early breeder of fine stock in this community, dies . . . April 1, electricity turned on in 60 homes in town on this date. Current secured from the Illinois Traction System . . . July 6, electric fire alarm installed at the telephone office . . . September 1, Williamsville's first garage, run by John Maxwell and J. W. Telfer, opens for business in the Dye Building (now occupied by Turner Claypool as Greyhound Bus depot). These men were agents for the Overland, Buick, Grant and Hudson cars. **1915** October 4, new concrete crossing put in between John B. Taylor & Son's Store and the Bank . . . October 5, Dr. C. E. Bucher killed instantly in auto accident north of town . . . October, Dr. C. D. Haskel, begins practice here . . . October 21, Dr. J. M. Shearl opens up his office here. He is still a practicing physician here. **1916** Williamsville now has 20 electric street lights installed, with 100 watt lamps . . . May 7, new electric boulevard lights placed at each end of the park. **1917** April 6, U. S. enters World War 1 . . . April 9, Flag pole placed at East end of the Park and a flag purchased . . . May 7, Williamsville people go to Springfield to see General Joffre, "Hero of the Marne" . . . July, Wortham & Davies Shows give a week's excellent entertainment at the Opera House. (For several years the coming of this show was scheduled and always well attended). **1918** March 15, Red Cross Society of Williams Township holds sale. It was the biggest sale in the county. Net proceeds \$2,523.69. A quilt donated by the Ladies Aid Society of the Christian Church realized \$550.00. (It was finally purchased by Mrs. J. Frank Prather). A rooster sold and resold brought \$153.00. Auctioneer, Col. W. F. Merriman, Mayor of Williamsville; Chairman of sale committee, Robert Richardson; clerks, Harry Conrey and James Conrad . . . May 7, Williamsville celebrates over-subscribing of Liberty Loan. A gala day. Watch Factory Band leads parade which extended six blocks. Feature of the day was the dedication of the new steel flag pole. George L. Daigh, Veteran of the

Civil War, assisted in unfurling the Stars and Stripes to the breeze. A Farmers' Ball at the Opera House concluded the day... October 15, the terrible influenza epidemic begins with two cases reported today... November 4, public well declared unfit for use (again). **1919** June 1, Bugler Hildred "Dutch" Davis, Company C, 124th Machine Gun Battalion, a former Williamsville boy wins Distinguished Service Cross for extraordinary heroism in action near Bugneville, France, on November 11, 1918... October 15, great home coming for returned Veterans of World War I. Dedication of the Roll of Honor Arch the event of the day. About 2000 in attendance.

1920

April 2, a great Easter blizzard occurs... Summer, C. W. Dye constructs new brick building on South Pine (present location of telephone exchange and post-office)... September, newly constructed Williamsville Township High School opens. **1921** January 27, a small group of women met in the Sunday School room of the M. E. Church and organized the Williamsville Community Club, with Mrs. Maude Edwards as president... March 15, the Farmers Co-operative Grain Company starts up in business... March 19, Hayden Meredith buys out Thornton's Barber Shop. He still barbers here... May 2, first oiling of village streets arranged for at 1c a gallon (if we heat the oil)... August 11, Mrs. Agnes Darnell, pioneer resident in this community (1839) celebrated her 93rd birthday at her home south of town... August 15, Miller's Shoe Store on Main Street (now occupied by West's Grocery) robbed of all its shoes by unknown parties... Prather & Groves purchase first radio in town... November 11, Memorial Tree Planting held at the High School with an all-day program -- under auspices of Williamsville Community Club... **1922** January 13, Selbytown Mine broke a record -- hoisted 1387 tons of coal in a single day... November, S. E. Moore elected State Representative. (Mr. Moore is now Mayor here). **1923** March 13, proposition to put new paved state highway (Route 4) through village passed - 149 votes for; 114 against... August 28, huge revival at Christian Church, Rev. Clyde E. Fife, Evangelist. The Klu Klux Klan attended one night. (Very mysterious)... September 28 and 29, first Williamsville Community Fair (sponsored by the Community Club) held at Taylor & Jones sale barn... November 5, a cannon secured for the Park by J. Frank Prather, placed on concrete base beneath Honor Roll Arch and anchored by steel rods. **1924** Summer, first filling station on new hard road established by A. B. Singer & Son in Hartley's Livery Barn. November, Ernest A. Dye elected coroner of Sangamon County. December 11, a great sleet storm hits Central Illinois. Tree branches and wires down all over town -- no lights or telephone service for several days. (We got out the old lamps and candles). Harley Glenn, blacksmith, (with helpers), during the first ten days after the storm, put on 1200 shoes. They worked from 4 A.M. until 11 P.M. The sleet stayed on about 6 weeks. **1925** January 1, the Pleasant Hill Dairy advertises "milk tickets, 11 qts. for \$1.00". (This was John Cooper's Dairy)... March 15, J. P. Turley, leader of the Christian Church choir for 30 years, died while conducting the Sunday evening service. The choir was singing "Where he leads me I will follow"... September 1, the W. W. Hill Grain Company, established here on July 1, 1923 with R. W. Erdman as manager, buys out all grain and electric properties of Prather & Groves. **1926** April 15, Lindbergh carries the first contract mail out of Springfield... June 21, the Patterson Brothers (Wyatt and Paul) started operating the Williamsville Oil Company, having purchased it from Frank Todd. Name later changed to Patterson Bros. Oil Co. which is still in operation... September 9, the heaviest rain in years hits Williamsville and Central Illinois. Rivers and creeks on a rampage... December 24, ceremony attends lighting of the first Community Christmas tree, at Memorial Arch -- under auspices of Williamsville Community Club. The Christmas story in pantomime was given by members of the Christian Church Sunday School. **1927** April 23, J. Ed Taylor former Williamsville boy, elected County Supt. of Schools... May 21, Lindbergh

makes first successful New York to Paris flight in 33 hours and 30 minutes . . . May 25, the P. W. A. library project established at town hall through efforts of Community Club. **1928** Aunt Jane Taylor, widow of John B. Taylor, and long time leader of the Ladies' Aid Society of the Christian Church, died at her home following a quilting. (The Ladies' Aid was a village institution for nearly 40 years.) Aunt Jane put in the quilts and Aunt Parthena Constant (Mrs. W. S.) marked them off). **1929** December 16, the Christian Church burns to the ground about 7:30 P.M. Property damage about \$35,000. (Wilbur Fraze gave the alarm).

1930

January 8, the home of Mrs. Margaret Stitt on East Main Street burns to the ground. (This was the old Wesley Council place) . . . Summer, Mosser's bakery burns. (Where Dr. Shearl's office is now located). At this time the old town well, established on West Main Street in 1853 was pumped dry. Not long after, it was covered over and a village institution for nearly 80 years passed out of existence) . . . December 7, the Williamsville Christian Church holds dedication services for its new church which replaced the one burned on December 16, 1929. Earl Wilcockson was the contractor . . . **1932** April 7, the Welcome Class of the Christian Church holds large Colonial Tea at the church. 700 invitations issued. (A beautiful tea) . . . Summer, Mrs. Betty McClelland's home on Main Street burns to the ground in the night. ("Operator! Operator! Ring the whistle!" cried an excited voice to Miss Belva Greenwood, night operator) . . . August 31, corn 8c a bushel; oats 4c a bushel . . . October 27, wheat lowest in 70 years. Williamsville elevators paid about 31c cash to farmers) . . . October 31, chickens, 8c a pound. **1933** January 7, former President Coolidge dies . . . March 2, a "Hobo Party" was given at the High School Gym by the Community Club. "A grand time was had by all" . . . March 4, Moratorium begins (National Bank Holiday) . . . August 2, ten weeks of drought . . . November 13, the great South Dakota dust storm covers this area. **1934** December 5, the new High School Gym dedicated -- the finest in Central Illinois. ("kudos" for Wm. Vasconcellas). **1935** February 19, the Women's Home Missionary of the Methodist Church presents "Scenes from Williamsville History" at the High School Gym. (A "smash-hit") . . . April-May, everybody in Williamsville writing chain-letters to each other. **1936** January, five weeks of bitter cold weather with the thermometer hovering between zero and 10 below for some time . . . June 16, Ralph J. Taylor holds big cattle sale (Scotch Shorthorns) at Imperial View Farm . . . September 10, after a long period of construction the Williamsville Water System, servicing approximately 120 homes, officially approved and accepted by the Illinois State Department of Public Health. **1938** July 6, village contract for the Sanitary Sewerage System entered into under the W. P. A. (Completed in fall, 1940) . . . August 5, R. G. Waldron advertises August specials on coal ranges (Majestic, Monarch, South Bend and KeenKooker); Hugh Hobkirk advertises his Pure Bred Berkshire Sale, and the merchants of the town advertise "free movies in the Park" . . . December 4, the Christian Church holds all-day services to celebrate burning of \$4000.00 mortgage incurred when old church was destroyed by fire in December, 1929. **1939** January 19, the Williamsville Community Club presents a "Hillbilly Wedding" at the High School Gym . . . July 21, the 100th birthday of Mr. Jacob Yocom, Civil War Veteran, observed by a great Community Celebration. Flagstaff and marker installed by the Village of Williamsville on front lawn of the Yocom home . . . November 5, full military rites mark funeral services at M. E. Church for Uncle "Jake" Yocom.

1940

January 31, D. W. Shelley, old-time tinner and merchant dies . . . July 1, Williamsville State Bank holds open house to celebrate its Golden Jubilee . . . Nov. 6, 62 men gather

with teams and wagons at the home of Mrs. Fay Ash to husk 26 acres of corn. Mr. Ash was killed on September 5. The ladies served a dinner to all at noon. **1941** January 29, benefit basket-ball game for "Mile of Dimes" campaign played by North side men vs South side men at High School Gym . . . July 2, Chief radio-man, Earle Baker Perce, U.S.N. honored at public dinner at High School Gym. (Given under the auspices of the Williamsville Men's Club with the Williamsville Community Club serving). Perce was the hero of Admiral Byrd's 1939-1940 Antarctic Expedition to Little America. (In February, 1942, Perce was given the DFC together with his co-pilot Ashley C. Snow, Jr.) . . . Dec. 7, on a quiet Sunday afternoon, Williamsville people hear over their radios the tragic news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese . . . Dec. 8, "in response to President Roosevelt's special message, Congress by unanimous vote declared War against Japan. Germany and Italy at once, then, declared war against the United States." **1942** the machinery of World War II is set in motion and price controls, rationing of gas and sugar get under way . . . June 26, the merchants of Williamsville advertise "free movies at the Park every Tuesday evening" . . . November, John R. Jones, elected treasurer of Sangamon County. **1943** November 4, Williamsville Christian Church, organized in 1843 at the home of Wm. Jones, southwest of town, celebrates its centennial by an all-day program. **1944** April 21, Lieut. Dale Cravens awarded Silver Star for gallantry in action. Lieut. Cravens remained at his post three days surrounded by the enemy because his radio was the only means of communication with friendly troops . . . The Senior Class of the Williamsville Township High School, presents "The Arrival of Kitty", at the Gym. Part of proceeds of this play were used to purchase a Service Plaque containing names of approximately 160 former students W.T.H.S. in the armed forces . . . Nov. 4, Harold C. Groves, cashier and secretary of the Williamsville State Bank for the past forty years, dies suddenly at his home.

1945 April 12, President Franklin D. Roosevelt dies . . . May 8, V-E Day . . . Aug. 14, V-J Day . . . Nov. 20, Williamsville Grade Schools sold a total of \$8,892.50 in the Eighth Victory Loan Drive. Highest in the county . . . Dec. 31, Mrs. Jay M. Brittin, Asst. County Chairman of the Women's Division, received citation from the U. S. Treasury Department for distinguished services rendered in behalf of War Finance Program from 1941-1945 (this is the highest award given). **1946** May 18, beautiful home and furniture of Mrs. Emma B. Jones, widow of W. E. Jones, sold at auction. A very large crowd was present . . . June, Amvet Post No. 83 organized, with George Caldwell, Commander . . . September 16 to 22, Amvet Post 83 institute a Clean Up Week (the town needed it and they did a good job). **1947** February 24, Mrs. Frank Baker, organist at M. E. Church for more than 40 years, honored at dinner and program at the church . . . June 12, The Order of the Eastern Star instituted with Mrs. Don Stitt, Worthy Matron, and Harvey E. Black, Worthy Patron. **1948** many beautiful elms throughout the town killed this year by the fatal disease, phloem Necrosis . . . **1949** Williamsville bids a final farewell to the old steam engines on the C. & A. which became part of the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio System in 1947 and which by 1949 was completely dieselized.

1950

March 10, Mrs. Johanna Walsh, widow of Thos. Walsh, and mother of 9 children, who was born in Williamsville in 1859, dies at the age of 90 years. Five children, 16 grandchildren, 28 great-grandchildren, and 6 great-great grandchildren, survive her . . . May 14, Harry Braun, druggist for 40 years, dies . . . December 20, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Taylor install first television set in Williamsville at their home . . . December 24, Mr. J. W. Mount, manager of the first telephone exchange in this village, dies at the age of 93. **1951** June 27, terrific windstorm hits Williamsville (about 9:30 in the evening). Roof of M. E. Church blown away. The West and South parts of town most severely

damaged. Property loss set at \$200,000. Many beautiful trees blown down. No casualties. (Thousands of sight-seers from out of town drove slowly through the streets for several days viewing the damage) . . . October 31, a big community Halloween Party held at Gym. **1952** June 6, Recognition dinner for Dr. A. L. Stuttle, who has served this community for 52 years, held at High School Gym. (Sponsored by the Men's Club -- the ladies of the M. E. Church served the dinner) . . . October 26, the Methodist Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of the completion of its "new" brick church . . . December, the new Williamsville Grade School completed (the Williams Township High School, organized about 1915, under the Township High School Law, continued to operate as such until the new Community Unit School No. 15 was formed by an election held on August 26, 1947. Members of first Board were: Dr. C. C. Hastings, John J. Jerome, Robert Cooper, E. W. Lowry, Estle McGee, Frank Hinds and Wayne Graham. Walter Slater was the first superintendent. On May 26, 1951 a special election was held and \$294,000 in bonds were voted to construct two new grade school buildings, one to be located at Williamsville; the other, at Sherman. (The present superintendent is E. R. Jones). **1953** January 1, bells of the old grade School, the Christian Church and the Methodist Church, pealing in unison, ring in Centennial Year . . . July 23, 24 and 25, Centennial Celebration.

--: PRIZES --:

HORSE SHOE PITCHING:	Singles	\$5.00	Doubles	\$5.00
DOLLS: Each Group	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
BOOKS:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
BIBLES:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
NEWSPAPERS:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
SACK RACE -- NAIL DRIVING -- TUG-OF-WAR:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
PIE EATING CONTEST:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
THREE LEGGED RACE:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
CHILDREN'S PARADE: Each Event				
Doll Buggies -- Boy's and Girl's Centennial -- Costumes				
Bicycles -- Ponies	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
GREASED POLE CLIMB:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
SPELLING BEES:	1st Prize.....	\$2.00	2nd Prize.....	\$1.00
	3rd Prize.....	50c		
BEARDS:				
Best looking beards -- men under 25 years of age:	1st Prize.....	\$5.00	2nd Prize.....	\$3.00
	3rd Prize.....	\$2.00		
Best looking beards -- men 26 years of age and older:	1st Prize.....	\$5.00	2nd Prize.....	\$3.00
	3rd Prize.....	\$2.00		
Man with the most or ugliest beard.....				\$5.00

--:-- **CONTRIBUTORS** --:--

Nathan Hussey	Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Fraze
Jay Dennison	Mr. and Mrs. Orville Meredith
Willard Boehner	Mr. and Mrs. Turner H. Claypool
Edna Yocom	Mr. and Mrs. James T. Irving
Carl Jones	Lewis Bock
Nick Fanale	William Bourne
John T. McAfee	Hayden Meredith
Paul Patterson	Jones Floral Shop
Mr. and Mrs. Donovan Davis	Harold Vasconcells

--:-- **WHO'S WHO** --:--

J. F. Baker "Married" Alice Lankton
Chester Baxley "Married" Gladys Black
Harvey Black "Married" Irene Budd
Harvey Black "Married" Mary Carwile
Evertt Bock "Married" Evelyn Gilbert
Willis Boner "Married" Mable Wheeler
Harold Bozarth "Married" Marjorie Robison
Jewell D. Brachear "Married" Reva Conrad
Joe Claypool "Married" Edna Slaughter
Irving Dilks (Deceased) "Married" Hazel Burkhardt
Wilbur Fawns "Married" Ruth Bencenhauser
Charles Fox "Married" Hulda Schulze
George Gaddie "Married" Goldie Parsons
Harlie T. Glenn "Married" Myrtle Hopkins
Frank I. Groves "Married" Josephine Smith
Ellis Hale "Married" Barbra Coe
Haskell Harris "Married" Gertie Linsey
Albert Hartley "Married" Avis Fortner
C. C. Hastings "Married" Lily Little
George T. Hobkirk "Married" Vernena Rhodes
Thomas Houlihan "Married" Lucille Peratt
Merle Jones "Married" Mary Caldwell
Pat. Laffey (Deceased) "Married" Florence Walsh
Elmer Lowrey "Married" Pansy L. Clayton
Paul Lugibill "Married" Dorothy Burton
Roy McVickers "Married" Marian Copper
Paul E. Poe "Married" Margaret Oglesby
Robert D. Shearl "Married" Sherry Baxter
Clarence Wilcockson "Married" Elsie Fry

METHODIST CHURCH



The first Methodist Society was organized in Williamsville in the year 1857.

The first church edifice was built in the year 1858. Some years later the first building was destroyed and another more substantial frame structure was erected.

In 1902 the second building was removed to make way for the present brick structure. The present church building was partially destroyed by a tornado, June 27, 1951. The building was completely restored and the interior extensively remodeled. Rededication services were held October 26, 1952.

Services are conducted each Sunday with the Church School at 9:30; morning worship at 10:30; the Youth Fellowship meeting at 7 P.M.

The present pastor is Charles E. Withrow.

THE WILLIAMSVILLE CHRISTIAN CHURCH



The Williamsville Christian Church was organized in the home of William T. Jones in November 1843, and was first known as the Fancy Creek Christian Church.

Upon the formation of the town of Williamsville this group changed their name to the Williamsville Christian Church.

Our present structure was built in 1930, by our local carpenter Earl Wilcocksen.

The Williamsville Christian Church has always stood upon the principles of the Scriptures and looks to the future with a greater determination to be of service to Christ and Williamsville.

-:- Services -:-

Bible School	9:30	Morning Worship	10:30
Evening Services	7:30	Youth Hour	8.30

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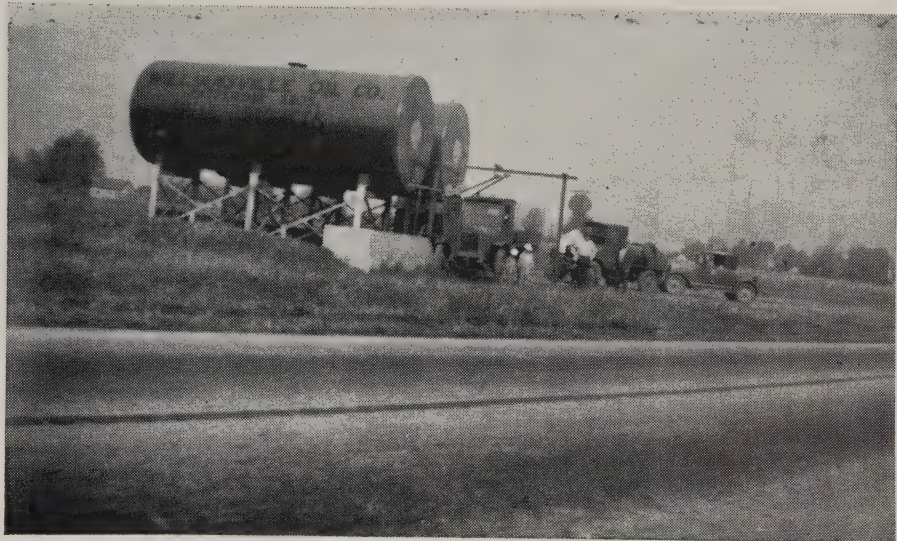
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This could be possible only by Good Fellowship, Sincerity and Sociability, and will be remembered a long time.

Thanks again, to all of us, from all of us.

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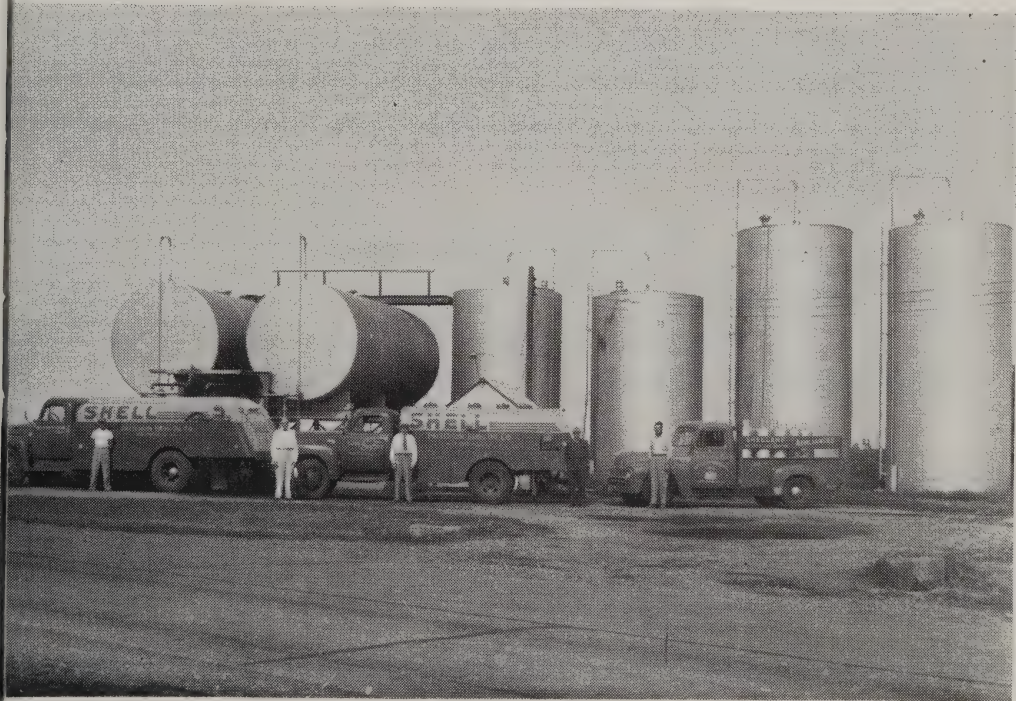
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As we scan the first hundred years we find many instances that depict the adventurous spirit and wanderlust which prompted most early settlers to seek new frontiers. Those sturdy individuals that braved the many ever present hazards predominant in their new destination.

With an unfaltering determination they met the challenge of hostile tribes, wildlife, desperadoes and the elements that had ruled the domain. They moved in by covered wagons and oxen to stake out claims, build log cabins, turn the unbroken prairie and cut the virgin timber.

The poor facilities for transportation abetted by bottomless mud led to establishing small communities and trading centers. Despite the fact that most of their needs came directly from the soil, they found time to establish community, governmental, social, educational and religious movements which have grown into our present modern institutions.

As we stand on the threshold of the second lap, true to the spirit of our colonial pioneers, with faith, confidence and determination, let us turn our eyes, thoughts and actions toward the unblazed trail that blends with future progress.

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