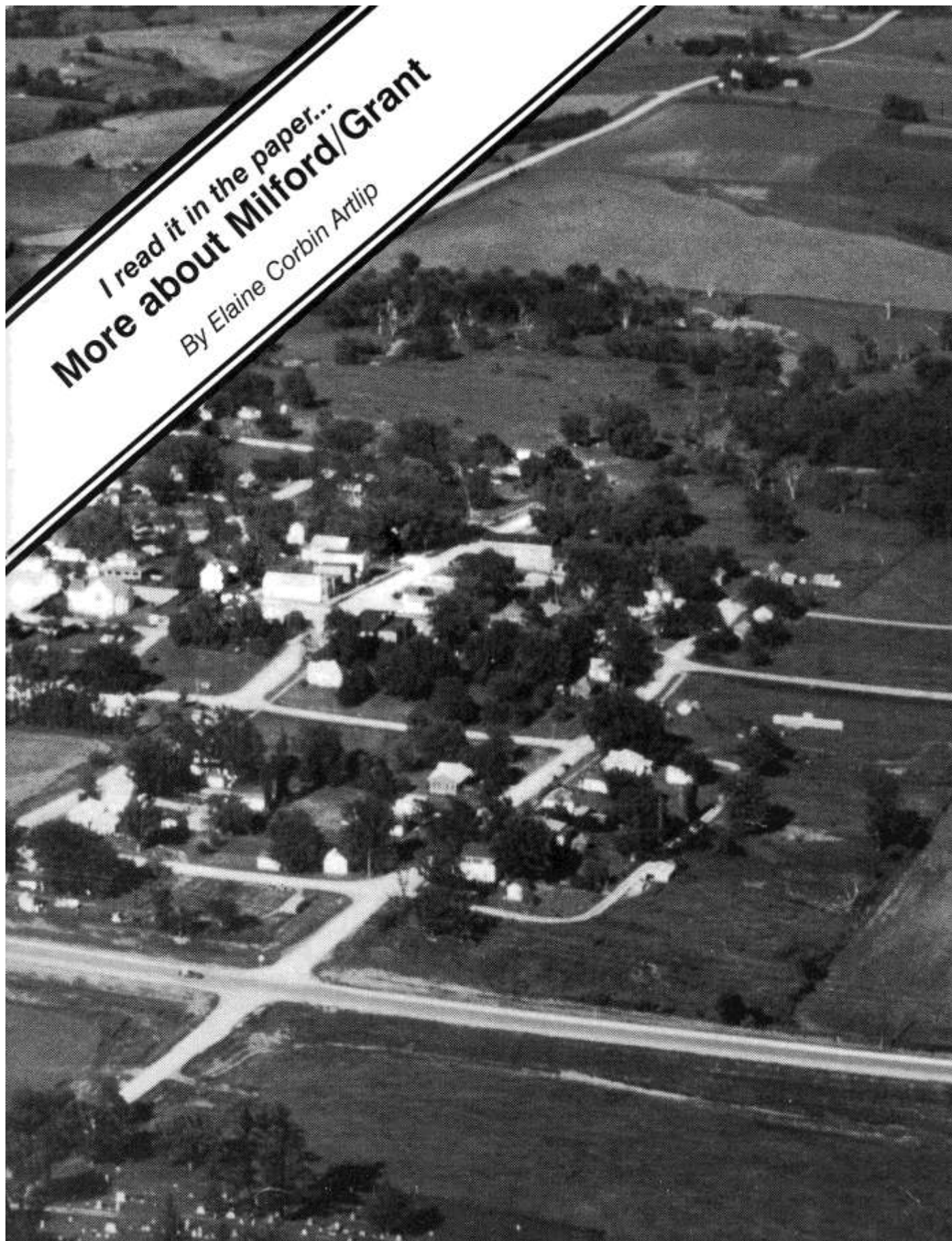


I read it in the paper...
More about Milford/Grant

By Elaine Corbin Artlip



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I read it in the paper...
More about Milford/Grant

Elaine Corbin Artlip

1998

The aerial photo on the cover was taken about 1973.
Courtesy Betty (Mrs. Tim) Shafer

Notes

When the book *I read it in the paper...All about Milford/Grant* was printed I thought I was through with the subject. But there were some complaints because I had ended with 1940. Well, that was all the information I had at that time. Shortly after, I became involved in an intensive research project that came up to the present time, so again I saved Grant items. The material offered an opportunity to add further information about the early years, and also to correct a few bad guesses. ☹️

I was surprised to find how much traffic there was in the Grant area in the earliest times, as claimed by these items from later publications:

1853 (28 June 1888; Review:) Judge Snyder was the first to live on the land where Wm. Stipe now lives.

Montgomery County History; 1881: page 366: Judge F.S. Snider lived on the land afterward purchased by James Carlisle, who bought Snider's claim in 1853. Snider then removed to Douglas township and entered a tract near the present town site of Milford, which he shortly after sold to Wm. Stipe, and moved to...Kansas.

28 September 1933; Express: obit of Margaret Hobson Wilson, daughter of George Hobson...came to Montgomery County in 1857; settled first on the site of the town of Grant.

17 January 1884; Review: J.L. Brenton settled on the spot where Milford now stands. ('57 or '58).

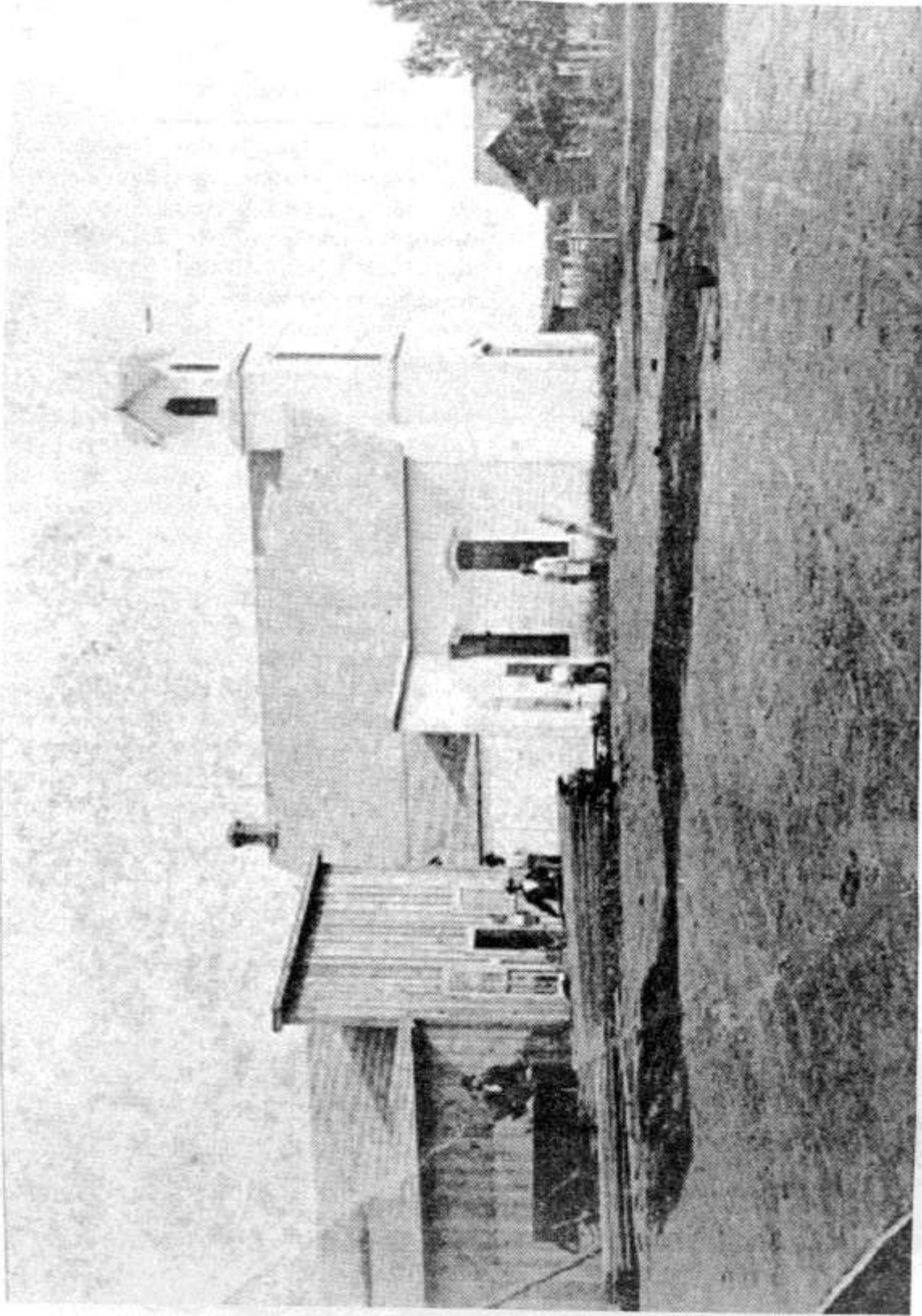
Like all small communities Grant had a busy social life, and those activities continued after 1940. Very little professional entertainment made its way to this village so far off the beaten track, but the home grown variety thrived. It included dances, sports, cards and music. Church services and associated events were held regularly. There were many women's clubs which met frequently. School news was reported.

All of this activity overwhelms the historian. For this report only token notice is given to such events. As before, emphasis has been placed on the business establishments of the community.

As the years have passed there has been less and less business to note, and much of that has been unreported. It is sad to see the gradual decline of these small communities which have contributed so much to Montgomery County history. Perhaps my efforts will help to preserve the fascinating story of Milford/Grant for future generations. 😊

Elaine B. Artlip
Elaine Corbin Artlip





Grant Methodist Church about 1875. To right, Donoho residence. Left, Gould harness shop and hardware store. - courtesy Sue Eldridge

....A Second Look at the Early Days



1857 (17 October 1914; Review; Grant) Obit of Samuel M. Smith: ...He came to Grant in 1856 and his family came in 1857...

24 October 1858 (6 November 1908; Red Oak Express; Elliott): Just 50 years ago last Saturday, October 24, in the home of...Sam Smith, on the lot where Dave Vetter's Department store now stands, occurred the marriage of James Madison Smith to Mary Bancroft, Col. Zacariah Lawrence officiating. Col. Lawrence was a soldier of the War of 1812 and an elder in the Christian church...

(Note: Lawrence was probably instrumental in the organization of a Disciples of Christ Church in the southern part of the township which was reported in the Andreas Atlas, 1875. That congregation eventually became the Morton Mills church.)

1861 (3 March 1915; Review) from the Grant Chief: Mrs. S.E. Smith came into this office one day this week and showed us an interesting document...The paper gives the muster roll of the "Montgomery Rangers", a company which was organized in 1861 to offer their services to the union in case of need. The company was never mustered into active service. S.M. Smith was captain of the company; Wm. Focht and Wm. Dunn, first and second lieutenants; John Shafer, J.C. Patterson, A.W. Reed and J.M. Christopher, first, second, third and fourth orderly sergeants; A.W. Shoemaker, Thaddeus Strait, Robert Wallace and P. Archer, first, second, third and fourth corporals. There were 50 men in the company. Because the names will bring back memories of old friends and comrades to our older readers we publish them here:

Wm. Focht, Sam'l. M. Smith, Robt. Wallace, John Archer, Benjamin Archer, Wm. Walker, Wm. T. Atwood, Frederick Persons, Wm. Stipe, Harvey Newcomb, James Brenton, Tho. Donoho, David Hunt, Milton Smith, Orlando Caywood, J.H. Bean, C. Caywood, A.M. Shoemaker, A.M. Reed, Benton Reed, W.T. Reed, Isaac Coon, Joseph Gourley, Thomas Russell, F.M. Redmond, J.M. Christopher, Wm. Dunn, R.D. Sperry, Thaddeus Strait, J.L. Patterson, John Yergey, Waldo Conner, H.D. Taylor, J.L. Shoemaker, J.W. Patterson, John Shafer, A.W. Bunnell, F.M. Wax, Wm. Gilmore, P. Martin, S. Berry, H. Miller, S.J. Miller, J.H. Nolon, L.C. Cook, Simeon Hunt, Lewis White and P. Archer.

1863 (21 July 1893; Red Oak Sun): A very interesting service was held at the (Red Oak) ME church last Sunday morning...G.W. Holt read a paper compiled from the quarterly conference records:

In 1863 we find the first recorded minutes of any quarterly conference in...the Frankfort circuit. The conference was held at Milford. Members present were: Bennett Mitchell, presiding elder; B.W. Coe, pastor of charge; J.M. Hewitt, William Stipe, G. Gardner, stewards... This conference allowed their preacher \$350 salary and the elder \$40. The collections on hand were: Milford \$24, Red Oak \$26.75, Edna \$3, Liberty \$5.50, Frankfort _____. Those were the appointments constituting the conference.

1864 (27 December 1901; Sun): ...The Sciola Baptist Church was organized as a branch of the Milford Church in 1864...

(Note: Historical Sketches of Iowa Baptists; page 244: 1864- ...During the year 19 have been baptized at Milford...

19 September 1872; Review: The Southwestern Iowa Baptist Association met at Villisca.

(Note: Historical Sketches of Iowa Baptists; Page 248: 1873- ...last year ...R.R. Hanley was at Milford...

(A tradition says that Hanley lived in the Baptist parsonage at Milford; if so, he must not have been there much of the time. He lived at Tabor, where he had been pastor for several years. That was a long trip by horse-power. Hanley was said to be both preacher and doctor.)

23 September 1875; Review; Milford: ...The post office is soon going into a new building, better suited for the purpose.

(Note: Electa Donoho was post-master, so it seems logical that she would build on land she owned. The lithograph in the 1875 Atlas shows the Gould harness shop and a hardware store south of the church. A photograph taken about that time shows a pile of lumber just south of the hardware store; perhaps that was when a building was erected on the south third of Lot 6, Block 3, Donoho's Addition.)

26 November 1879; Express; Milford: ...last Wednesday...Mr. Simon Main moved his household effects from Hiram Main's building to the building in which he keeps his store. He will live upstairs.

(Note: The Main store was south of the hardware store in Block 3, Donoho Addition. It could have been on the south third of Lot 6, or perhaps in the building on Lot 5.)

28 May 1886; Sun; Milford: The carpenters are finishing Stipes' palatial residence.

6 July 1888; Express; Pilot Grove: Orson Dewitt of Milford...passes regularly through this part of the country selling dry goods, groceries, etc., and buying eggs and butter. This is very convenient for the farmers in such a busy time.

14 December 1888; Review; Milford: Our township used to bear a very unsavory name, as respects its temperance character. It used to be a common saying that a jug of whiskey would carry the vote of Douglas Township.



24 October 1890; Sun; Milford: The G.A.R. post has purchased the building formerly owned by O. Dewitt and will build on 16 feet on the north and use it for a hall.

(Note: That must have been the "cubbyhole of a building just east of Vetter's store" erected by Dewitt in 1889 as a post office. The hall was on Lot 7.)

26 September 1890; Sun; Milford: A pleasant time was had at the wheelbarrow party given at the brick kiln grounds Tuesday evening. All took part in the wheelbarrow rides and jumping the rope, etc. The old grew young and the children were happy...

10 April 1891; Sun; Milford: A branch of the Farmers Alliance and Industrial Union was organized at this place March 31.

3 July 1891; Sun; Milford: ...Our old and faithful mail-carrier, John M. Sadler, delivered up his charge...the mail is carried 18 miles a day on this route at a charge of 75 cents per day.

16 February 1894; Sun; Milford: Mr. Duff has opened a new meat market one door south of Wahlund's store...

(Note: That is why the north 15 feet of Lot 5, Block 3, Donoho's Addition, was reserved when the rest of the lot was sold in 1894.

(The meat market had changed hands several times when B.F. Cozad became the proprietor in November 1896. That is the last account found for that location or for the building.)

13 June 1894; Sun; Milford: Dr. E.S. Montgomery from Atlantic has located here.

5 April 1895; Sun; Milford: 1895 census of Milford, 143.

5 February 1897; Sun; Milford: Yellow Smoke and his band of Omaha Indians have been camped near here and the chief has been begging with persistence and some skill.

12 April 1900; Review; Milford: The lamp in front of the ME church furnishes light for both saint and sinner.



23 August 1900; Review: The new Grant Camp of the MWA No. 8485 was duly installed.

19 July 1901; Sun; Milford: R.F. Wiman (Wyman) and C.C. Waterman, in the hardware and implement business here under the firm name of Wiman and Waterman have dissolved partnership, Mr. Wiman retiring. He is succeeded by Samuel M. Smith and the firm name has been changed to Smith and Waterman.

30 May 1902; Sun; Milford: C.G. Sumner's furniture store is now on wheels ready to be moved as soon as the weather is favorable.

(Note: Sumner's store opened in March. Why was it moved two months later? Perhaps it had been built on the corner, and the bank wanted that site.

(Samuel M. Smith divided Lot 4 Block 2 into four sub-lots, filing the plat on 22 May 1902, although the deed to Wilcox & Pipher was dated 9 May 1902. Sub Lot 2 wasn't deeded to Sumner until the first of July 1902.)

15 August 1902; Sun; Milford: Bert Porter has bought the Sam M. Smith half interest in the hardware store.

26 June 1903; Review: Charles Waterman has sold his interests in the firm of Waterman & Porter to Joseph Coziah.

22 August 1903; Sun; Milford: J.W. Houchin is erecting a two story business building here, the ground floor to be used for a restaurant and the second floor for a billiard hall.

(Note: The building was south of the bank. In September 1905, J.W. Winter bought the Houchin "boarding house" and leased it to A.J. Boggs for a hotel. In March 1909 Elmer Smith bought the building and Rollie Smith moved his butcher shop into it. In November 1910 there was a hardware store in the building and Elmer Smith opened a restaurant there in 1911.)

18 August 1904; Review; Milford: At a meeting of the telephone association...it was decided to leave the central office at A.J. Ashbaugh's. Misses Jennie and Alma Ashbaugh are the operators...

(Note: From Good Times in Montgomery County; page 137: Ed Bell, Hanna, Alberta: "I don't remember just when we first had a telephone, but it did make some difference in our lives. A 'company call' was put out at a certain time each day and the operator gave all the local news. It was like having a radio, before it was invented. Two Ashbaugh girls ran the exchange in their home...")

23 June 1905; Sun; MILFORD - These resolutions expressing indignation at the desecration of Decoration day were adopted by Dick Rouet Post G.A.R. of Milford...

We, as members of Dick Rouet Post, No. 472, which was organized in 1891, have observed with public and sacred exercises every Decoration day since and now feeling as our last Decoration day was desecrated by turning the day into jollification by ball games - therefore be it

Resolved, that hereafter we meet at our hall, a Post and Circle and prepare flowers and wreathes and visit the cemetery and decorate our comrades' graves and disperse and return to our homes.

Resolved, that we hold no more public exercises on Decoration day until the people of Grant and vicinity guarantee that the day be held sacred as designed by our government which we helped save...



26 October 1905; Sun; Milford: The seats for the new church were brought over from the station at Elliott Monday.

12 January 1906; Sun; Milford: ...The M.E. church society of Milford is one of the oldest in the county. It dates from 1855...Services were held for some time in the old log schoolhouse now being used by Mrs. A.C. Miller as a chicken house...

(Note: That is an intriguing statement, with no way to prove or disprove it.)

15 June 1906; Sun; Milford: On condition that they will not play ball on Sunday or on the occasion of any religious or memorial occasion Frank Smith has donated to the Milford baseball team the use of his pasture north of the creek for ball grounds.

26 April 1907; Sun; Milford: The steam boat that has been a popular attraction at Milford in the boating season was sold recently to F.P. Tyler of Villisca who hauled it to that town.

8 November 1907; Sun; Milford: The Milford Lecture course for this season costs \$320.

23 April 1909; Sun; Grant: Fred Barker is the new veterinary doctor located in Grant.

(Note: He wasn't there long; he went back to school.)

13 January 1911; Express; Grant: Mr. Liston, the implement man, has moved to Grant.

(Note: In the Elmer Smith building.)

16 March 1917; Sun; Grant: A chautauqua will be held this coming summer for the first time...the Travers Wick chautauqua circuit...

---At a special meeting of the town council held recently it was decided to permit Scott & Still to operate their stock yards on the unopened street running just east of the Coffey & Irwin Implement Co. office.

19 May 1938; Sun: The W.P.A. is getting rock from the quarry north of Grant.

24 November 1939; Express: The original site of Montgomery's county seat, Frankfort, today is marked by a large boulder, dedicated Friday p.m. in a ceremony conducted by the Federated Women's clubs of the county ...Mrs. Edwin Curry of Grant, county club chairman, was in charge of the program.





1941

14 August; Review; Grant: Earl Courcier has installed a feedgrinder in his blacksmith shop.

25 September; Review; Grant: The city of Grant has purchased a road grader and is now busy on the streets...

2 October; Review: The Tyler Ice & Coal Co. will establish a new locker plant in Grant...Work was started Wednesday on construction of the plant which will be in the rear of the building occupied by the Oscar Zappe general merchandise store...

27 November; Review; Grant: The school gym is being remodeled by Harris and sons. They have made two stairways to the balcony and made a lunch room under one stairway and a cloak room under the other. The north wall was moved about four feet to the north, making the gym floor larger.

(Note: The deed transferring the property to the school district wasn't made until 26 April 1944.)

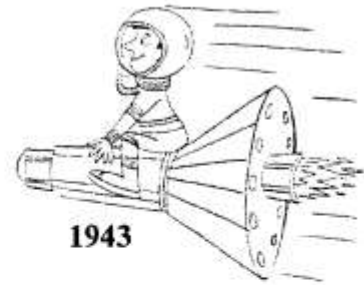
1942

5 March; Review; Grant: The Grant library will close Monday because of lack of funds.

19 November; Review; Grant: A large crowd attended open house held Sunday at the Mrs. Glen Comstock nursing home. It is in the H.A. Workman property.

(Note: By July '43 the Comstocks were in Omaha. Mrs. Comstock was a niece of Hazel Mennealy.)

From 1941 To 1998



1943

18 March; Review; Grant: The Victory dance sponsored by the American Legion Thursday evening was a huge success. Around 350 tickets were sold...

9 September; Review; Grant: Albert Eshelman of Elliott has purchased the library building and he will move it to Elliott. Saturday was a busy day at the library, giving books back to the ones who had given them and sorting books and magazines. The books that were not returned will be given to the Victory book campaign. The children's books are being taken to the parsonage study and will be loaned to anyone wanting them.

30 September; Sun; Grant: ...Louis Spiker of Omaha spent the week-end here on business.

(Note: No date has been found for the opening of the Grant Electric Shop, but it would have been about that time. The business was in the old bank building.)

25 November; Sun: Miss Jeanette Winter, local librarian, acknowledges the receipt of 653 books for the Victory Book Drive donated by the Grant library.

1944

1 June; Review; Grant: E.H. Krohn of Lewis has purchased the Albert Bender grocery business and work was started Monday in the store to refinish and remodel. Modern shelving will be installed and an up to date self-service system carried out...J.H. Rickens of Lewis will have charge of the store...



Thomas and Electa Donoho, first postmasters of Grant. —courtesy Sue Eldridge

13 April; Review; Grant: The annual Firemen's Ball was held Friday evening in the Jones hall...Leo Spiker and his orchestra furnished the music...

--- The first baseball game of the season was played here Tuesday afternoon with Elliott. Grant was the winner 27-6.

1945

8 March; Review; Grant: Ed Brown has purchased the Workman drug store and after July first he will move his hatchery there.

21 June; Review; Grant: The Grant post office was moved Saturday from the Krohn store to the Redman Beauty shop. Mrs. Duane Redman will have charge of the post office...

2 August; Griswold American: Adv.-
Public Auction
Oil Station and Equipment
at Grant, Iowa
Wednesday, Aug. 29; 1:30 p.m.
William Hickcox

(Note: Elver Shafer bought the station; it was on the site of the present fire station. Hickcox purchased the property in May 1937 from C.T. Conklin. In 1949 the town of Grant acquired the lot for use as a fire station.)

29 November; Review; Grant: Elver Shafer has rented his service station to Vernon and Jack Taylor...They plan to operate a café, too...at a later date.

(Note: That was the station on the corner south of Mueller Hardware store.)

1946

25 July; Review; Grant: Members of the Grant Base Ball team sponsored a dance Wednesday evening at the Jones hall. Leo Spiker and his orchestra furnished the music. The boys cleared nearly \$100.

(Note: A ball team was organized by returning servicemen. The ball diamond was in the Donoho pasture south of town.)

24 October; Review: The new Villisca rural fire truck has arrived...The chemical truck formerly used for rural fire protection has been sold to the town of Grant.

21 November; Review; Grant: Mrs. Delbert Starlin has taken over the cafe that is located in the Fisher and Taylor oil station. Mrs. Lola Cox was the former operator.

--- The American Legion boys are making preparations for their opening day of the Legion hall to be held Tuesday November 26. The hall has been redecorated, the basement has been finished, and divided into three rooms, a kitchen, club room and utility room, and a new lighting system installed...

1947

17 April; Review; Grant: ...a Bingo party is held each Saturday evening at the Legion hall.

18 August; Express; Grant: Four members of the American Legion post at Grant flew to Sioux City last week where they attended sessions of the state Legion convention.

Russell Larson was the pilot, and he was accompanied by Roscoe Kenworthy, Elmer Long and Delbert Starlin.

28 August; Express; Grant: For the first time in many years there will be no high school at Grant...because of small attendance, per capita cost and other factors..

(Note: Earl Spiker purchased the gym building from the school and moved his 71 Garage into it. It was probably about 1950 that Spiker constructed an addition at basement level on the south end of the building.)

11 September; Review; Grant: The Fire Department and American Legion Post of Grant announce a Homecoming celebration on Sept. 15, 16 and 17...Headlining the affair will be a baseball tournament in which six teams will compete...

The Soo Rides & Amusements Carnival Company will be there. There will be dances on Tuesday and Wednesday nights...

1948



8 April; Review; Grant: Mrs. Blackburn fell in front of the Rogers grocery store...

20 May; Review; Grant: Russell Larson has built a landing field on his farm at the north edge of Grant.

27 May; Review: The new American Legion park in Grant will be dedicated Sunday, May 30...The land, located in the southeast part of town near the site of the old mill, was purchased recently from Mrs. Flora Bacon, and much work has been done in putting it in condition. A baseball diamond has been laid out and other improvements made...

10 June; Review; Grant: Several girls met to organize two soft ball teams. Leo Spiker will manage the teams.

5 August; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hoyland, sr., have purchased the cafe at the Taylor-Fisher service station from Mrs. Delbert Starlin...They have named it the "Normandy Cafe".

--- The Commercial club and American Legion auxiliary...homecoming at Grant will be held August 9 and 10 at the Legion park ...Free picture show...Griswold band... KMA Country School...dancing, horseshoe pitching, ball games...

2 September; Sun: Great excitement prevailed in the little town of Grant and the surrounding community in the northeast corner of the county when definite rumors of "OIL" were intensified by the arrival of Geologist W.G. Osborn, representing a group of enthusiastic experts from Burlington, Iowa. He began the work of "spudding in" on the Fred Kenworthy land near the town on Tuesday morning...

...This vicinity has long been considered a likely locality for finding "black gold" deep in its subterranean formation...Geologist Osborn made scientific surveys of the terrain and decided upon the proper place for drilling...a pipe...will be sunk until a depth of 1,500 feet has been reached...

...Mr. Osborn was given the privilege of making the Houghton cabin his summer home during drilling operations...

23 September; Review; Grant: ...the new factory of M. Paul Wahlund is nearing completion and plans are being made to transfer production activities here from Omaha some time in November...

21 October; Review; Grant: Don Bryson has leased the service station a block north of Main street...

(Note: The reporter was rather confused. Don leased Elver Shafer's station and operated it for ten years.)

23 December; Express: Twenty-six \$300 bundles of fur are cutting capers in the basement of the Ayers home in Grant.

Chinchillas -13 pair of South American Imperials...are the fast growing hobby of Dr. and Mrs. Ayers...

1949

17 February; Review: ...the Nodaway Valley Amateur Baseball League was organized last Sunday afternoon...

(Note: Ten teams were divided into two divisions, with Grant playing in the West Division.)

7 July; Review; Grant: A large crowd attended the Fourth of July celebration held Monday at the Legion park in Grant...girls' softball, baseball, barbecue dinner...

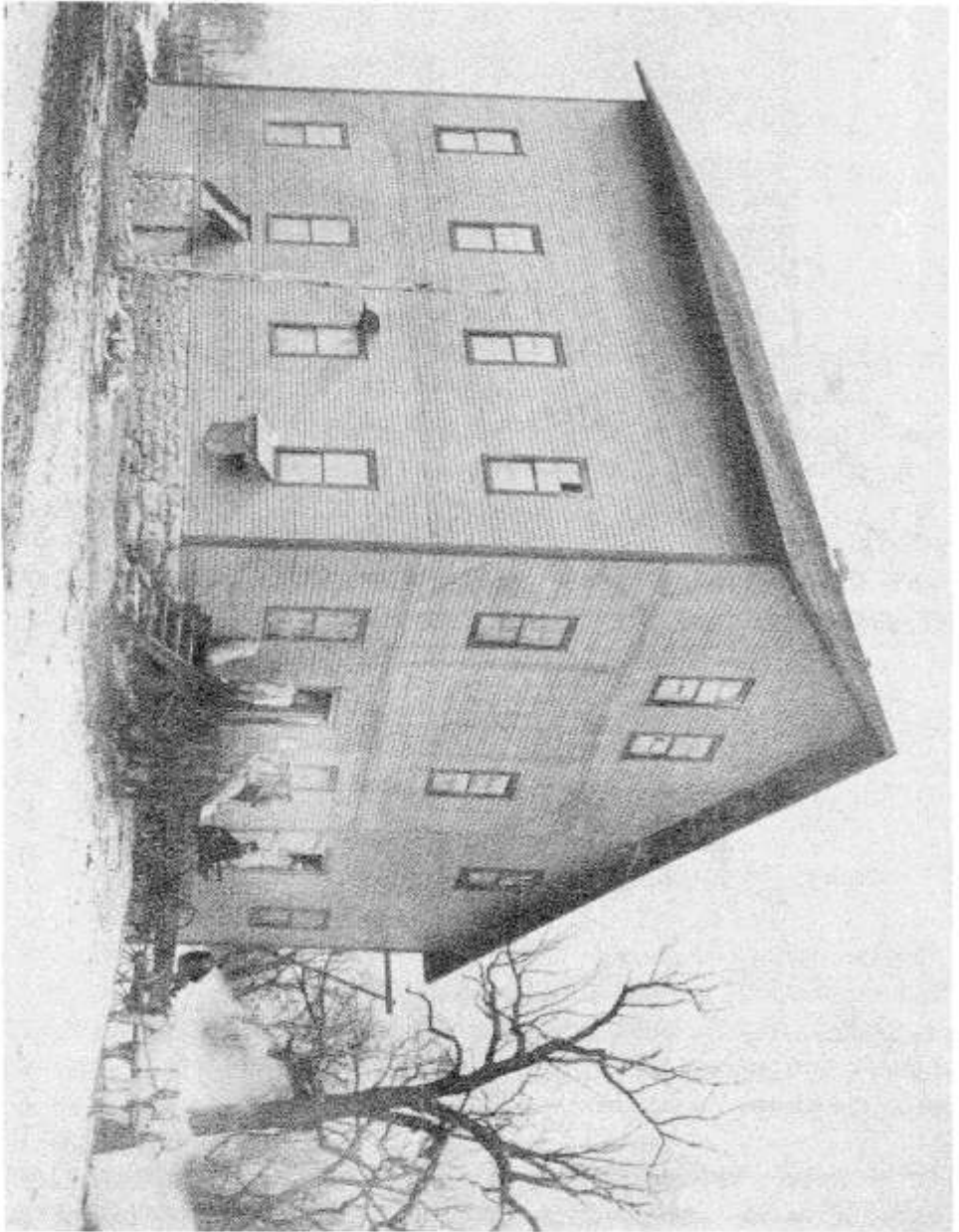
--- The Sunshine Garden club of Grant will sponsor its first flower show July 18, to be held in the basement of the ME Church. The club is planning an annual showing...

14 July; Express: Dr. and Mrs. C.R. Ayers of Grant...have built a 50x25 building near their home to house their business and hobby...Aircooled and with humidity reduced to 40 per cent...An ultra-violet light over the entrance purifies the inside air...The building is equipped with burglar alarms and is "fire-proof"...There is room for 70 pairs of chinchillas in the structure...

28 July; Review: Mrs. Cliff Pettingill operates the cafe at Grant.

22 September; Corning Free-Press: Grant captured the Nodaway Valley league play-off championship with a 5-4 decision over Carbon on the fair grounds here Sunday...

(Note: Grant was second in the West division; the first two in each division entered the playoffs.)



John Wimer bought the Grant Mill in 1902; he modernized the mill and operated it until about 1909. John, in white jacket, is standing in the doorway. Some of the products of the mill were Wimer's Best Hazel, a fine grade of cornmeal, pancake flour and Germ Gritz.

-- Courtesy Garland Lewis



Samuel M. Smith, miller





A spring on the river north of town was a popular spot for class party weiner roasts. The pipeline company's rope swing across the river was irresistible to the boys.

15 December; Express; GRANT: ...A meeting was held recently at the Legion hall. A spokesman for the Missouri Valley Limestone Company told of explosives used at the quarry opened near here.

22 December; Review;: Grant: Mrs. Howard Nippert...has been announced as winner of a Croseley (sic) Shelvador refrigerator...The award was given by the Grant Electric shop...Louis Spiker is owner of the shop...

29 December; Review: The Sinclair Oil Company service station in Grant, which was recently sold to Merrill Foote of Grant, will be taken over by the new owner January 1. It was sold by Robert Boseck of the Boseck Oil Company of Griswold and had been operated by Clarence Weaver.

1950

27 April; Review: Next Monday, May 1, the sign, "D. Vetter", which has hung above the door at the front of Vetter's general store in Grant since 1887, will come down. On that day Lloyd Wohlenhaus will take over the business, having purchased the stock and building from O.L. Zappe, son-in-law of the late David Vetter...It will be operated under the name of the Grant Food Market...for the last six years Mr. Wohlenhaus has been manager of the Spiker implement business.

25 May; Review: Harry Olson and Howard Campbell have purchased of Earl Spiker of Grant his International Harvester Company dealership contract and stock of machinery and parts, taking immediate possession. They

will close out their implement stock in Morton Mills.

Mr. Campbell, who has been in charge of the Olson & Campbell business in Morton Mills, will manage the implement store in Grant. Mr. Spiker will give his entire attention to the Chevrolet agency...

12 September; Sun: Frank (Hop) Kenworthy will be "king for a day" Sunday when the town and hundreds of baseball players observe "Hop Day" in honor of the old-time baseball star and manager of Grant clubs for many years. There will be a reunion of old-time baseball players, and thus far responses have been received from several hundred...A feature will be a game between the present Grant club and one of "Hop's" favorite teams of a number of years ago. A plaque will be presented to "Hop" along with a lifetime pass to all Grant baseball games.

1951



8 February; Review; Grant: There is a youth center in the Legion building.

26 April; Sun: The residence of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Long, in Grant, was nearly demolished Monday when a huge rock moving machine crashed through the front porch, through the dining room and into the kitchen of the home.

The machine, a "Tournarocker", weighs 14 tons empty and is controlled by push buttons instead of the conventional steering gear. The driver, said to be a novice, lost control...

14 June; Review; Grant: Everett Sprague of Villisca opened a barber shop in Grant Friday. It is located in the basement of the Grant Electric shop.

27 September; Review; Grant: Mrs. Charles Hensel has purchased the cafe from Kenneth Jarvis and opened on Saturday. The cafe has been named Dorothy's Cafe.

29 November; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jarvis...operated a general store in Grant until two years ago...

1952

7 February; Review; Grant: Duane Redmon, who has had the Kenworthy tavern leased for the past year, sold his interest back to Roscoe Kenworthy and Mr. K. took over January 31.

8 May; Review; Grant: The Grant baseball club has been organized for this year...New suits for the "Indians" will be purchased by the merchants of Grant...

24 July; Review: Members of the Ground Observer corps of Grant learned the value of the corps through means of a lecture Friday evening at the Legion Hall.

Another meeting, the second in a series of four planned will be held (soon).

14 August; Review; Grant: The Grant homecoming will be held Aug. 21 and 22...

1953

19 February; Review; Grant: The Methodist Church at Grant is being remodeled on the interior...an oil furnace will be installed...

12 March; Review: ...Grant will not have a team in the Nodaway Valley League this year.

16 April; Review: Two teachers in the Grant public school and a former instructor there have received word from the Drama Guild Publishing Co. of Boston that a play written by them will be included in a book of short plays published by the company.

The teachers are Mrs. Maude Brown and Miss Helen Blackburn, and the former teacher is Mrs. Rose Tanner. The play, "A Christmas Frieze", was presented last year at the Grant school.

20 August; Review; Bernard Page, driver for Starlin Trucking Co. of Grant...lost control of his gravel truck which smashed through the front of the Westerlund tavern at Grant...

27 August; Review; Grant: The Forsythe Cafe here, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Willard Forsythe, observed their second anniversary in business Thursday August 20...

29 October; Review; Grant: The third annual God's Portion parade and sale was held at Grant October 23.

5 November; Review; Grant: Approximately 250 people attended the Feed Fair and Hospitality Day Wednesday at the N.H. Jones store...

1954

4 February; Express; GRANT - By a vote of 68 to 16, Douglas township voters at a special election approved a 1.5 mills additional township levy for purchase of a new fire truck and equipment.

The new truck will serve both Douglas township and the town of Grant and will be maintained by the Grant Fire department.

The new truck will replace the present Grant truck, a 1930 Chevrolet purchased second-hand in 1946 from the Villisca Fire department. New equipment, including ladders, a pump, hose and fog nozzles will be purchased.

22 February; Express; Grant: A square dance party was held Tuesday evening at the Legion hall. Another party has been scheduled in two weeks.

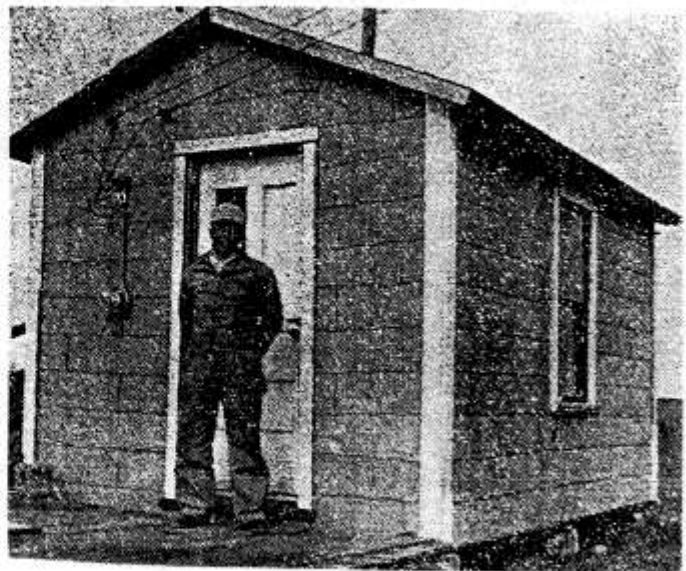
8 April; Express; Grant: ...at the town council meeting...Delbert Starlin, Carroll Zappe and Elmer Long were appointed as a committee to make plans for a new fire station here.

29 April; Review; Grant: A Boys Scout troop has been organized...

6 May; Review; Grant: The new fire truck purchased by the town of Grant and Douglas Township was received Thursday.

11 November; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Everett Courcier moved...to an apartment over their grocery store which they recently purchased from Mr. and Mrs. B.F. George...

25 November; Express; GRANT - Members of the Ground Observation Corp have built an observation post at the northwest edge of town on town property...the building was built of lumber made available when the old Grant fire station and city hall building was razed to make way for a new fire station-city hall. The GOC sold the rest of the lumber...and made cash donations themselves ...There are 52 GOC observers at Grant, including 15 Boy Scouts. The group meets each Sunday afternoon.



25 November; Review; Grant: A new 27 passenger school bus has been purchased by the Grant school board...

9 December; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Duane Redmon have purchased the Courcier grocery store...and moved to the apartment above the store.

-- The Missouri Valley Limestone Co., which has a lease on the farm at the south edge of Grant, has resumed its operations this week. The quarry has not been crushing for about four months. The Farquhar Quarries, Inc., of Red Oak, is in charge of the rock crushing.

1955

10 March; Review: The 100th anniversary of the Methodist church of Grant will be celebrated Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 18, 19 and 20...

(Note: A booklet was printed and sold, reviewing the 100 years of history.)

28 April; Review; Grant: The Little Red Schoolhouse southwest of Grant was recently purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Claypool. Tuesday they had the building moved to their vacant lot here in town and expect to remodel it into a home.

23 June; Review; Grant: Brown's egg plant has resumed operations this week.



1956

1 March; Review; Grant: Grant's square dancing club completed their series of beginner's lessons this week...

(Note: The club was called "Circle 71" and was active for many years.)

15 March; Review; Grant: George Courcier, who has been employed the past five years by the Spiker Electric & Plumbing has bought the plumbing part of the business.

12 July; Review; Grant: The town council voted to repair the stones in the east cemetery which were damaged recently by vandalism.

(Note: Vandals struck again in November 1994. Major restoration work was done in the spring of 1996.)

23 July; Express; Grant: The Grant Commercial Club ...approved the wiring of Delbert Starlin's riding ring so that it may be used for night activities. This work has been completed by Louis Spiker who donated his services.

6 August; Express; Grant: Friday completed the Red Cross swimming lessons held at Villisca for the 68 pupils enrolled from Grant and surrounding community.

8 November; Review; Grant: Westerlund's Tavern, owned and operated by George Westerlund, was sold to Arvil Phillips of Griswold. The building, owned by Frank Kenworthy, was not included in the sale.

27 December; Express: Grant's GOC Post, one of the oldest Ground Observer Corps posts in length of service, recently completed four years of operation...

Started in 1953 at the school house, a post building was built in 1954...Because of its location, the building is high enough to afford excellent visibility without using the added height of a platform. This is one of the few operational posts built on the ground.

Clyde Jones, Grant merchant, contributed a stove and fuel for the comfort of the observers.

At last count there were around 70 volunteers working at the post, according to Franklin Vestal, post supervisor.

1957

21 February; Omaha World-Herald; Grant: The driverless truck has replaced the runaway house as a menace to residents along Highway 71 at the south edge of Grant.

Mrs. Paul Wahlund, municipal clerk, said Saturday that the town council had been considering an ordinance to require all drivers of vehicles to firmly brake their cars on the hill above the residential section when stopped here.

In the last four years, eight vehicles without drivers have crashed down the highway into a residential front yard, causing extensive damage to trees and houses.

Mrs. Wahlund's husband died of a heart attack after one of those crashes in the front yard of a neighbor last December...

28 February; Express; Grant: A telephone booth for public use has been installed here by the Grant Mutual Telephone company. It was placed on the east side of Highway 71 on the Masonic Lodge property.

--- An oyster supper preceded the regular business session of the Grant volunteer fire department Tuesday evening at the Louis Spiker recreational rooms...

30 May; Review; Grant: Louis Spiker is now employed...in Atlantic...

(Note: No date was found for the closing of the Grant Electric Shop.)

11 July; Review; Grant: The Mechanical Laboratory is operated by Mrs. Dora Wahlund.

--- ...Elliott's baseball team includes members of Grant's last year's team...

18 July; Review; Grant: Mrs. Harold Petty, new manager of the Coffee Corner cafe here held open house Saturday...

12 August; Express; Grant: Charles Ruhl, who has operated a feed grinder in this community for several years, has sold his grinder to Maurice Pelzer of Lyman.

26 September; Express: This school year a hot lunch department has been added at the Grant School, which serves kindergarten through eighth grade...The children eat in the gym...The charge is 25 cents per meal.

1958

27 March; Review; Grant: Attendance was good at Olson & Campbell closing out sale held Tuesday at the Harry Olson building.

23 June; Express; Grant: The desire of a pair of Creighton U. (Omaha) students to earn money towards their college expenses has resulted in a unique industry for Grant.

John McElroy, a dentistry student and Ned O'Brien, who was graduated this spring from the medical school are operating a business here raising animals for experimental work.

With the aid of a friend Jay E. McDonald, they...made arrangements to buy the concrete block building Dr. and Mrs. C.R. Ayers had used in the chinchilla operations.



McDonald has moved to Grant to manage the business...Currently, there are 3000 white mice, 120 guinea pigs and 100 hamsters...

10 July; Express; Mrs. Neta Page and son Bernard...have bought the Coffee Corner Café from Mrs. Harold Petty...

31 July; Express: Grant: Virginia and Anieta Kimpson entertained 24 young folks...at a dance party at the Bernard Page recreational room...

2 October; Review; Grant: Theron Shafer... will operate a service station...

13 October; Express; Grant: The annual carnival will be held Friday evening at the Grant school. The students and teachers will present a miscellaneous program in the school auditorium at 8 p.m...

Following the program all will return to the gym for the regular carnival activities...

11 December; Express; Grant: An old Grant landmark is no more and in its place stands a new modern service station, with its grand opening scheduled for this Saturday, Dec. 13.

The service station is that of the P & B Oil Co...Owners are Don Bryson and Clifford Pettingill. Their station features a truck stop including a café operated by Mrs. Delbert Starlin.

The land had been in the Donoho family since 1853, and the original house was built in 1857...and had been remodeled from time to time...

1959

19 February; Express; Grant: Mrs. Earl Stone...chief operator for the Grant Mutual Telephone company for the past three years will leave in March for the west coast...

12 March; Review; Grant: The GOC building at Grant was sold at public auction Friday to Gerald Taylor. The building and contents brought \$79 which will be donated to the organ fund for the ME church.

28 May; Review; Grant: The Grant Bowling team, sponsored by Spiker Chevrolet, won first place recently in the Night Owl League ...in Atlantic.

28 May; Express; Grant: Creation of the Griswold Community School District No. 2 was approved in a special election Monday.

...The action adds the Grant Independent School District and part of Douglas Township to the district...

10 September; Review; Grant: At the Grant Center of the Griswold Community school district which opened this week there were 146 pupils enrolled in grades K through 6...

12 October; Express; GRANT - An 82-year-old man, Edward Brown of Grant...has operated the Brown hatchery here for over 25 years...Brown sells poultry supplies, feeds and medicines to poultry owners...

The hatchery is Brown's third career. He...was a rural school teacher and a farmer...

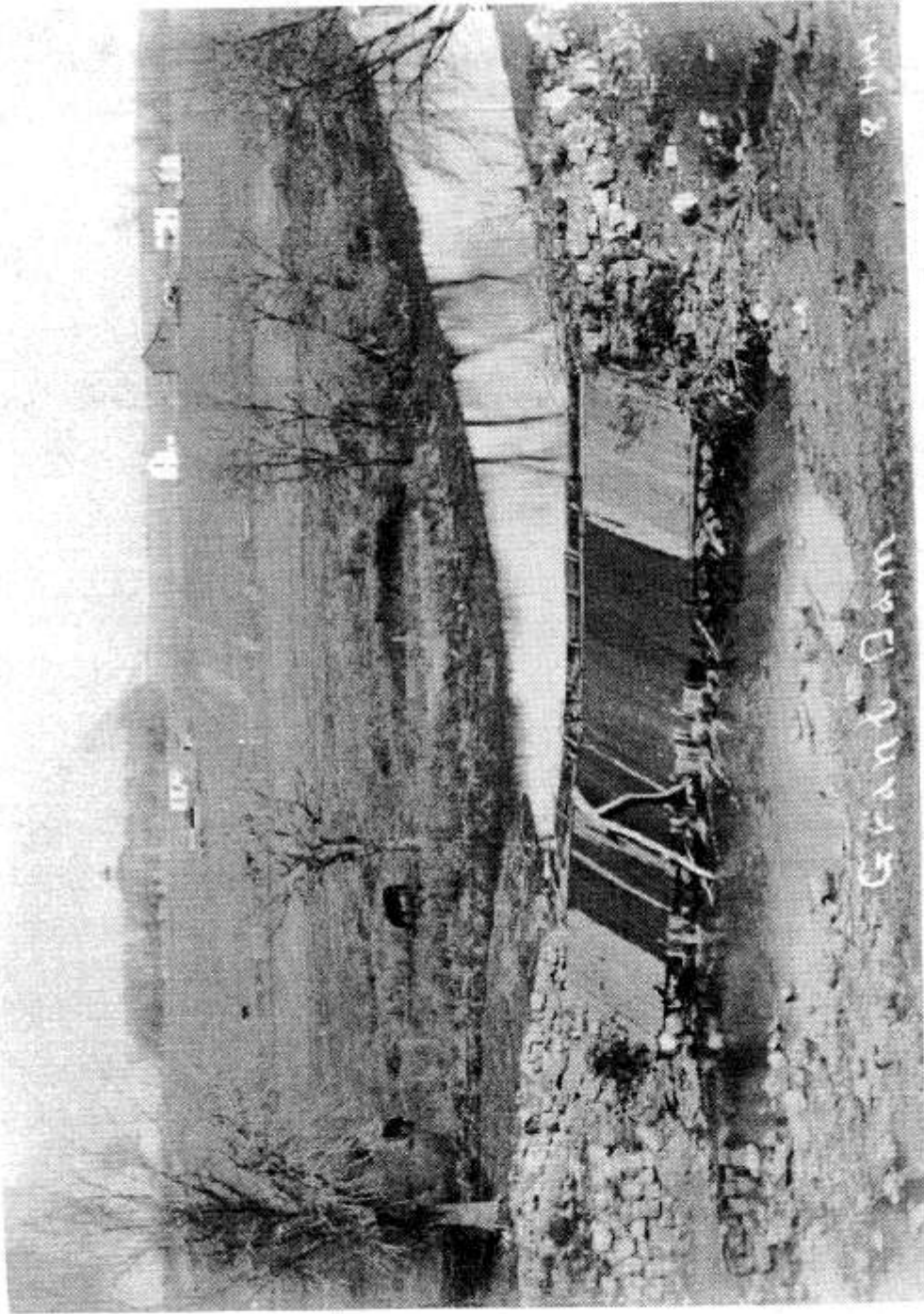
26 November; Review; Grant: ...farmers Leslie and Clifford Embree invented a work-saving tractor hitch...and this year it won first prize in the gadget show at the Iowa State Fair.

14 December; Express; GRANT - A shop and trailer used for storage were destroyed by fire about 11:43 a.m. Thursday at the Kaser Construction Co. rock quarry, northwest of Grant. The blaze was started when the furnace exploded...

1960

3 March; Review; Grant: Duane Redmon, owner of Redmon's Grocery announced last week that he is closing out his business. Mr. and Mrs. Redmon plan to continue living in the building as the post office is located there.

10 March; Express; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Dale Schrier moved Saturday from the Grant Mutual Telephone residence. They expect to leave this week for Elm Creek, Nebr. He is in the trucking business...Mr. and Mrs. John Culbertson moved to the telephone office. Mrs. Culbertson was hired recently as chief operator.



The Grant Mill Dam – The picture is undated, but was probably taken before 1900. Many layers of various materials had been added since the first log dam was constructed in 1854 –Historical Society.



7 April; Review; Grant: The Coffee Corner Cafe, located at the Shafer Oil Co., changed hands last week. Mrs. Charles Peterson, who has operated the cafe for several months, sold the stock to Margaret Shafer and Lela Courcier who took over management April 1.

1 August; Review; Grant: Two old buildings in the town of Grant are being torn down this week. One...formerly housed the town's barber shop and also the post office. Duane Redmon is doing the work.

The other building is the GAR hall, which for many years served as the town hall...Proctors of Lyman are dismantling this building and hauling away the lumber.

29 September; Review; Grant: Jerry Wright is the new operator at the Coffee Corner Cafe.

24 November; Express; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Starlin will serve venison supper to the public next Monday evening at their cafe in Grant. The proceeds...will be donated to the organ fund of the Methodist church...

1961

23 March; Review; Grant: Appreciation Day for their ten years in business was sponsored Saturday by the Foote Oil Co.

5 September; Review; Grant: Warren Jones ...is employed in the plumbing business with his father.

1962

21 June; Review; Grant: A donkey ball game is scheduled to be held Monday evening, June 25 at the American Legion park in Grant...

12 July; Review; Grant: The office building of the late Dr. D.J. Chalmers has been purchased by the council to be used as the home of the town hall...

1963

21 February; Review; Grant: Two prominent men of this community, John Culbertson and Stanley Taylor, have purchased the Foote Oil Co. business and took over management on February 15...as the C & T Oil Co.

7 March; Review; Grant: The town council has purchased a new fire whistle to replace the one destroyed a year ago when a tree limb fell, forcing the line to come in contact with a high voltage wire...

17 October; Review: Arvil Phillips of Griswold who owned and operated the Phillips Tavern in Grant for the past several years has sold the business to Floyd Lockhart.

7 November; Review; Grant: A new Hammond organ was installed Wednesday at the Methodist Church in Grant.

30 December; Express; GRANT - In the not too distant past all telephone switchboards were of the magneto type involving use of a generator in each telephone. Gradually, most telephone firms changed to use of the manual type switchboard and now the dial system is most prevalent.

However, Iowa still has a few magneto type switchboards and one of these is that of the Grant Mutual Telephone association, which serves 245 subscribers. The firm has been in operation since 1903...



1964

19 March; Review; Grant: The city council issued a building permit to Merrill Foote to enlarge his service station.

16 April; Review; Grant: The town council ...issued a building permit to P & B Oil...

26 June; Express; Grant: Mrs. Kate Givan entertained Tuesday eve...34 members and former members of the MP club honoring Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smith. The club was organized in January of 1920 at the Smith home.

19 November; Express; GRANT - Mrs. Kate E. Givan and Mrs. Fern Zappe entertained at a "Senior Citizens" dinner...in honor of those of the community who are 80 and over...This is the fourth similar dinner given by Mrs. Givan and Mrs. Zappe...The pile of old pictures of Grant and early citizens brought out many stories...

10 December; Express; GRANT - An early morning fire Thursday caused extensive damage to the Grant Tavern...

1965

18 March; Review; March marked the 110th anniversary of the Methodist church in Grant, and on Sunday, March 7 a celebration was held for the special occasion...Anniversary history books were made and sold...

25 March; Review; Grant: ...Jim Towne, operator of C & T Oil...

(Note: No date was found for the closing of the station, but it was before July 1973 when Foote sold the property to Kenneth Mueller.)

2 August; Express; Grant: "Homecoming", sponsored by the Commercial club of Grant, the volunteer fire department, and the American Legion...has been planned for Friday August 13.

There will be free swing rides and free pony rides for the children. There will be a riding lawn mower race, sport contests and races, horseshoe pitching and a tug of war.

...baseball, softball, teen dance, square dance, parade, stage show, food stands...Pop will be free all day to the public.

1966

13 January; Express; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Long were hosts Saturday evening to the regular meeting of the Hazel Grove club held at the club house near Grant...

(Note: Another item said that the schoolhouse was owned by 12 families.)

24 March; Express; Grant: ...Neal Curry, U.S. Marines, who has been serving in Viet Nam, has just arrived in California.

7 April; Express; Grant: The Easter Cantata, "Mine Is A Risen Savior", was presented Sunday night at the Methodist Church in Grant...

8 August; Express; Grant: The town council met Monday evening...the park committee discussed plans for the cement slab to be placed in the town park...they instructed the clerk to post signs covering the riding of bicycles after dark without proper lights and reflectors. Violators are to be apprehended and their bikes held for three days at the hall.

6 October; Review; Grant: Herman Carlson of Villisca has purchased the Grant Tavern from Floyd Lockhart.

13 October; Express; Grant: For the sixth year Mrs. Kate E. Givan and Mrs. Fern Zappe have entertained at a "Senior Citizens" dinner to honor those of the community who are 80 or over...Mrs. Givan presented each guest with a booklet as a souvenir...Mrs. Givan states that the aim of the group is "To Stand Together and Give Ourselves a Pat On the Back."

1967

17 August; Review; Grant: ...the new fogging machine recently purchased by the town council for use in controlling mosquitoes...

--- Julian Machinery Sales of Cedar Rapids have purchased the Carder Equipment at Grant and arrived this week to liquidate the property. Dora Wahlund owns the building.

24 August; Review; Grant: I.A. Odell moved...to Grant. Mr. Odell will operate the Odell Implement here.

19 October; Review; Grant: The cement slab voted recently by the town council...was installed this week...to be used for ice skating in the winter and basketball...Electric lights have also been placed there.

9 December; Review; Grant: ...Mr. Koenig owns and operates Koenig Implement.

1968

4 April; Review: ...A group of Grant area sportsmen...has leased the 26 acre abandoned gravel pit at the south edge of Grant and plan to plant trees, stock the 6 acre lake with fish, develop picnic and camping areas and build rifle and shotgun ranges...Membership dues will be \$10 per year...The organization will be known as Rock Springs, Inc...

9 May; Review; Grant: 750 trees and shrubs were planted Saturday at Rock Springs.

(Note: That was the last item found about Rock Springs. Kenneth Jarvis commented, "A lot of us chipped in \$25 or more, but nothing ever came of it. The farm was sold to some doctors who wouldn't sell the quarry area to the sports group; guess we didn't have enough money. After a couple of years a family from Council Bluffs bought the quarry and built a very nice vacation home there. I think everyone that had put money in Rock Springs got their money back.")

13 June; Review; Grant: ...Gebhart Construction of Grant...

15 August; Review; Grant: The town council...passed a resolution for the proposed relocation of US 71...all dead trees taken off private property must be...burned.

1969

13 February; Review; Grant: Orville Drenner of Cumberland made application for a beer and cigarette license at the regular session of the town council...Mr. Drenner is planning to re-open the Grant Tavern in the near future...

24 April; Review; Grant: The Administrative Board of the Grant United Methodist Church met Friday evening and voted to accept the proposed uniting of the Noble Center, Grant and Lincoln Center churches after June 1...



4 August; Express: Popularity of the first Southwest Iowa Antique Machinery - Threshing Show held three miles west of Grant Friday through Sunday assures that it will be an annual event, according to the sponsor, Albert Eshelman. who has been working toward the show for more than seven years...Highlight of the show was an actual threshing demonstration, complete with a huge steam-powered tractor...and teams of powerful draft horses.

9 October; Review; Grant: The Grant firemen sponsored their annual wiener roast and picnic on Wednesday evening at Legion Park here...Their guests included firemen's families and children of the town.

16 October; Review; Grant: The Douglas Township and Grant Cemetery Board...have purchased land from Kenneth Gridley adjoining the west side of the cemetery so as to enlarge the plot...

6 November; Review; Grant: The first meeting of the Grant Community 60 Plus Club...was held Monday p.m...the club will meet every three months...

20 November; Review; GRANT - By a vote of 41-4 the citizens of Grant Tuesday approved a 25-year franchise to the Griswold Cooperative Telephone Co.

18 December; Review; Grant: School closes on December 19 for Christmas vacation. Plans now are to close the Grant Center.

1970

15 January; Review: Theron Shafer, operator of Shafer Oil in Grant, closed the door of the service station on Jan. 1...

--- Kenneth D. Mueller has accepted a position with the Elliott office of the Houghton State Bank of Red Oak. Mueller has been the owner and operator of the Mueller Insurance Agency in Grant, also the Mueller Hardware Store here. The agency will be merged with the Elliott Insurance agency. Mr. Mueller closed the doors of the Hardware store on Friday night.



26 February; Express; Real Estate Transfers: Griswold Community School District No. 4 to William B. Chalmers...

(Note: The deed was for the Grant school grounds; the building was razed. A picture dated October 1970 shows the school house in an advanced stage of demolition. School records were taken to Griswold. Some items, such as sports trophies, are at the fire station.)

23 April; Review: Bruce Claggett, Resident construction engineer, announces the closing of US highway 71 from US 34 to the south junction of US 92 to begin April 22nd ...

29 June; Express: Anderson-Spiker Chevrolet Dealership Effective July 1 - Involved in the merger are Fox-Finley Chevrolet Co. of Red Oak, operated by Glen W. Anderson, and Spiker Chevrolet of Grant, operated by Earl Spiker. All operations will be conducted from the Red Oak location with the Spiker firm at Grant closing...Spiker has been a Chevrolet dealer at Grant since 1928...

3 September; Review; Grant: Women from Grant organized a softball team here for the summer.

1971

18 February; Review; Grant: Beginning on Monday of this week Mrs. Delbert Starlin, operator of the Starlin café, started a new program by serving "Meals on Wheels" to those of the town who desire that service...

(Note: In 1971 Delbert and Shelia Wilcoxon bought the café at the P & B Oil station; they called it the W & R Café.)

29 July; Review; Grant: Both the men's and women's softball teams played Monday night at Massena.

18 November; Express: ...work on US 71 south from Lyman in the Grant area is running behind schedule...

1972

18 May; Review; Grant: The Grant business men will furnish uniform shirts for the women's Softball team...

20 July; Review; Grant: Mrs. Mary Redmon, Postmaster in Grant for 27 years, retired June 20...Mrs. Alice Shafer is acting officer in charge.

3 August; Review; Grant: A large crowd attended the evening of free entertainment at Pilot Grove Park Saturday. The women's Softball team played a team of men from the Grant vicinity. This was followed by an exhibition by members of the Circle 71 Square Dance Club...a home talent show...a dance followed.

30 November; Review; Grant: Bernard Darnold of Villisca began his duties November 11 as officer in charge at the Grant post office, succeeding Mrs. Alice Shafer, who has retired...

1973

4 June; Express; GRANT - Rupert Knee Post No. 506 of the American Legion was in charge of Memorial Day services at the Grant cemetery Monday, May 28...

Due to inclement weather the Court of Honor flags were not displayed. Fifteen new flags were presented for dedication...

Note: That was to have been the first year for the Court of Honor. Each year the Avenue of Flags has grown and by 1997 the Post had received 54 flags.)

12 July; Review: Mrs. Michel Weston is now the officer in charge of the Grant post office.

9 August; Review; Grant: A crowd of approximately 800 attended the program of free entertainment Saturday evening August 4 at Pilot Grove Park...

23 August; Express; Real Estate Transfers: Earl and Velma Spiker to Ronald Swartz and Harlan Holldorf; Lot 3, Block 2, Milford.)

(Note: Swartz and Holldorf operated an implement store in the old 71 Garage building. In October 1981 they sold the property to Donald Chase who opened a garage.)

4 October; Review; Grant: The Wicker Cafe is now called the Grant Cafe.

(Note: Dorothy Wicker bought the cafe from Wilcoxons prior to July 1973.)

13 December; Express; Real Estate Transfers: M. Paul Wahlund, deceased, by Executor to Ronald W. Swartz et al, part of Lot 1, Block 2 and...north half of Lots 7 and 8, Block 2.

(Note: Ron Swartz purchased the Grant Tavern from Orville Drenner, and assumed management 1 January 1972. He moved the tavern into the Wahlund building in February 1974. He called it "The Hayloft".)



1974

18 July; Express: Rising 96 feet above the alfalfa field on the Jim Kenworthy farm east of Grant, (an) oil drilling rig attracts many people from surrounding areas to view the attempt to find oil in Montgomery County. Plans call for four such drilling attempts in the Grant area as part of oil exploration in Iowa...After a week of drilling which has taken the drill bit over 1,600 feet into the earth...officials say there is reason for optimism...

There have been five oil shows, traces of oil in sand samples, during drilling so far...

26 September; Review; Grant: The Legion Auxiliary hosted a community card party at the hall Saturday evening...Members of the former Masonic Lodge were special guests...the Auxiliary president, Mrs. Kenneth Jarvis, thanked the Masonic members for the hall which was given to the Legion and Auxiliary when the Lodge was recently disbanded...

(Note: The Grant Masonic Lodge merged with the Griswold Lodge.)



1975

17 April; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Williams and Mrs. Gerald Taylor attended a county Bicentennial meeting and workshop March 31 in Red Oak. Mr. and Mrs. Williams are co-coordinators for the Grant community and Mrs. Taylor is chairperson for the Grant community.

(Note: Committees were named for organizing a Bicentennial celebration to be held in 1976.

(A special effort was made to clean up the town in preparation for the celebration, and it is said that the bank building and the old Jarvis store were razed at that time.)

15 May; Express; GRANT - ...The American Revolution Bicentennial flag will be dedicated Monday, May 28, as part of the Memorial Day service at the Grant cemetery.

29 May; Express; Real Estate Transfers: Earl and Velma Spiker to Delbert and Shelia Wilcoxon; Lot 15 and parts of Lots 14 and 16 in Grant...

(Note: That included the building where Spiker Chevrolet had closed in 1970. Wilcoxons used it for storage, and it wasn't until 1 February 1984 that Delbert opened a garage in the building.)

18 September; Review; Grant: The Rancheros, a Country Western Music group, managed by Jim Ramsey, played Saturday evening in Council Bluffs...They also were entered in the Country Western Music contest recently held at Brownville, Nebraska.



1976

1 January; Review; Grant: The plates commemorating the Grant and Douglas Township Bicentennial have arrived and are now ready for sale.

8 January; Review; Grant: Effective January 1, 1976, Robert Bryson will be in partnership with his father, Don Bryson, in operating the P & B Service Station. Don has been in the business the past 28 years and was formerly associated with...the late Clifford Pettengill.

26 February; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Joe Driver...have purchased the former drugstore building on Main street and operate an Antique Store, both buying and selling.

4 March; Review; Grant: ...Orders are now being taken for the Bicentennial history books which will be ready in three weeks at a price of \$8 each.

10 June; Review; Grant: Memorial Day ...afternoon the Bicentennial program at the site of the new flag pole included ...crowning of the queen (Lillie Mullen) and king (Seymour Taylor); dedication of the flag pole...and the Old Mill Marker...

1 July; Review: Grant Celebrates Bicentennial - The Grant-Douglas Township Bicentennial weekend celebration started Friday evening with a Grant High School alumni reception at the Methodist Church, with 350 attending...Helen Blackburn, a teacher for 47 years, dedicated the Bicentennial rock for the high school...

Saturday's program opened with the flag raising at 10 a.m. by the Iowa University drill team. There were approximately 90 entries for the 11 a.m. parade...

The pageant was presented Sunday evening in six episodes...Mrs. Clarence Lenz was the author of the pageant.

(Note: The pageant, scheduled for Saturday evening, was delayed by a severe storm.)

--- The softball game between KWMT Radio's "Slo Boys" and the Grant Country Boys will be played Saturday July 3, 2 p.m. at the Grant ball park. Refreshments will be available but please bring your own lawn chair as seating accommodations are not available...Proceeds for the benefit of ball park improvements.

19 August; Review; Grant: ...the Montgomery county Bicentennial rock was loaded onto a pickup for the trip to Des Moines...The rock is red and is 18x24 inches and came from the Grant Rock Quarry located on the Theo. Lenz property...

(Note: Each county was to furnish a rock from which a map of that county would be cut. The stones would then be assembled into a map of the state, which would be on display in Des Moines.)

1977

27 January; Review; Grant: Mrs. Stanley Pelzer...will start a BLS-CPR class for the Grant firemen and any other interested persons...

2 June; Review; Grant: The Grant Women's Softball team...would like to thank the Nyman Electric Co-op for setting posts for the new back stop at the ball park.

16 June; Review; Grant: Men of the community have organized a slow pitch softball team. They played Elliott here Sunday evening and won the game.

8 December; Review; Grant: The Montgomery County minibus will start serving the senior citizens of Montgomery county the week of December 12...The Grant and Morton Mills community will be served on Tuesday...The trips will be alternated each week between Red Oak and Atlantic...

1978

3 August; Review; Grant: Grant Men's Softball team Sunday p.m. defeated the WOW Softball team of Omaha. This was a benefit game for park improvement.

31 August; Express; GRANT - Griswold State Bank, low bidder, purchased the \$20,000 in anticipatory revenue bonds sold by the Douglas Township Board of Trustees August 21.

The bonds...have been authorized...for the purpose of improving the fire protection services of the township...

7 September; Review; Grant: Grant men's Softball team sponsored a pork barbecue supper and game with "the old-timers" Sunday evening at the Grant ball park...

1979

21 June; Review; Grant: The annual Firemen's Ball was held Saturday evening at the new fire station...

(Note: The building was enlarged with an addition on the south.)

8 November; Review; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Gary Easterlie will be the new managers of the Grant Cafe...

15 November; Review; Grant: Federated Sunshine Garden Club...Civic committee reported on improvements in Grant and community...several old buildings being torn down and several new ones built...Swartz Implement for clearing the sidewalks around their business on Main street...

(Note: Swartz razed the Legion building in 1979.)

1980



8 May; Express; Grant: ...The Grant unit, Legion auxiliary, received a gold ribbon and national citation for making their membership goal this year...Helen Blackburn received a gift and honorable mention for the unit scrapbook which she made...

27 May; Express: The Silver Trail is Montgomery county's once-a-week transport for the elderly...

3 July; Review: Villisca Commercial Club: Come Share a Fifth! ...on July 4 and 5 there will be a 16 team double elimination, slow-pitch softball tournament...The participating teams include...Stanton, Grant, Red Oak, Elliott, Villisca...

11 August; Express; Grant: Mr. and Mrs. Stan Peterman, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Ruhl and Mr. and Mrs. David Skahill represented Grant in the "Anything Goes" program during the Montgomery County Fair.

4 September; Express: Bug Bomber. It's a rather uncomplimentary term, but it describes very well what Don Chase does—climbing into his plane, sweeping down within feet of crops and letting loose on the little critters.

He's been doing it for over 20 years now, he says, mixing his love of the land with that of flying...He started flying in 1943 in the Navy...But now, spraying is all he does. And to be fair, there is lots more to crop dusting than just bugs...When there is little need for a bug bomber...the duster focuses in on weeds.

His main adversary in his job—the wind. "On some days, you can't do anything but sit on the ground and watch the wind blow."

His first plane carried 40 gallons of herbicide. Now he carries 270 gallons...

2 October; Express; Grant: ...Sunday afternoon there was a ball game and barbecue at the Grant ball park.

18 December; Express: Certificates for continuous membership in the American Legion...were recently presented to Jay Bryson for 61 years, Carl Vetter for 61 years and Welch Pogue...for 60 years.

(Note: It is now 78 years of membership for Welch Pogue.)

25 December; Review; Grant: The Grant Fire Department will sponsor a community birthday and wedding anniversary calendar...

1981

25 June; Review; Grant: Thimble Club had their annual guest day...The club began as Larkin Club in 1924 and has changed names several times.

--- The annual community picnic will be held at Pilot Grove Park on the Fourth...

13 August; Review: ...on August 8 the Grant Methodist Church was burglarized...Altar vases, altar plates, pictures and several other items were found in the grass behind the church. And in the basement a small fire had been set around a cross, but the blaze had extinguished itself...

12 October; Express: ...Asphalt resurfacing is nearing completion on U.S. 71 from near... Atlantic south to U.S. 34...

1982

12 August; Review; Grant: Grant men's Softball team sponsored a slow-pitch softball tournament at the ball park with ten teams competing. Elliott was first, Grant second...

1983

30 June; Review; Grant: Plans are complete for the old-fashioned celebration to be sponsored by Grant United Methodist Church on Sunday, July 3, at the Grant Ball park. The afternoon's entertainment includes ball games, contests and a talent show. Barbecued pork for which a fee will be charged will be served during the event...

1984

27 July; Express: Albert Eshelman of Elliott and his children have been organizing threshing bees of the historic vintage for more than 15 years now on the Eshelman farm near Pilot Grove Park.

The threshing machine and antique farm equipment show traditionally held the first part of August has become an institution of sorts to the residents of southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska. But after this year the annual event will become history itself. The Eshelmans have decided that the 1984 show will be their last...

1986

5 June; Review; Grant: Homecoming 1986 was very well attended during the Memorial weekend. Saturday night supper, which was catered...was served to 223 at the fire station. Kenneth Gridley was master of ceremonies. Lyle Ruhl read the Grant school history.

Donna Pelzer read the roll call of the graduating classes. Grace Penfold was the oldest grad present, graduating in 1915; Treva Stinemates was the earliest teacher present.

--- The 131st anniversary of Grant United Methodist Church was celebrated with a rededication service held May 25...

1988

28 April; Review: ...Grace Wohlenhaus...is preparing for Saturday's open house celebrating her 38th year in business at the Grant Food Market...

19 May; Review; Grant: The Grant softball team is sponsoring a free breakfast on Monday, May 30, at the Grant fire station.

1989

25 May; Review: Adv. -

Service Station Auction
Real Estate Equipment Tools
Wed. May 31- 4 PM Grant, Iowa
Don and Betty Bryson, owners of P & B Oil
are retiring after being in service station
business for 42 years.

--- Grant Boars ball team will have a free breakfast on Memorial Day at the fire station.

20 October; Express: Montgomery County Conservation Board...at 7 p.m...

(Note: The Board approved a canoe access on the Nodaway River at Grant, and wrote a grant application for funds. The facility was constructed near the site of the old mill.)



1990

16 February; Express; Grant: The Sixty Plus Meal Site at Grant served 14 meals and one carry-out February 7.

22 February; Review: Adv. –
Grant Softball Stag
Saturday March 3
The Hayloft -Grant



1991

22 August; Review: ... (a) body was found in a shallow grave in an isolated field...two miles southwest of Grant...

(Note: The grave was just a short distance from where John Stipe was shot in 1860.)

1992

22 September; Express: ...Annual events in Grant include the Memorial Day breakfast served by a local softball club...

(Note: Former team members say that 1992 was the final regular season. The Grant firemen served a Memorial Day breakfast for a few years.

(In the summer of '95 some of the former players decided that it would be fun to play again. So they invited neighboring towns to send teams to compete in a tournament to be held the last weekend of August.

(It was reported that everyone had a wonderful time—until the next morning, when they decided that they were too old for that sort of thing.)

1994

24 February; Express: A Grant man has been arrested in what may be one of the largest marijuana busts in Montgomery

county, certainly one of the largest in recent history...More than 300 growing marijuana plants were seized, along with a large amount of cash, processed marijuana, grow lights and related equipment used in the processing and sale of marijuana...



1995

13 June; Express: The Grant School Alumni Banquet was May 27 in the fire station with 150 attending...Donna Pelzer was Mistress of Ceremonies for a short program...Ed Weeks, class of '21, was the oldest graduate present.

Special music...Theron Shafer of Grant showed his slide collection of old Grant pictures and gave some history of the town and surrounding area.

(Note: An invitation was sent to Welch Pogue, but he was unable to attend as he was touring Europe at the time.

(The October/November 1994 issue of Air and Space magazine published an article by Henry Scammell, featuring Welch. It started by stating that L. Welch Pogue was born "in the tiny town of Grant, Iowa, on the cusp of the 19th century".

(Welch was attending high school in Red Oak in 1916 when the Villisca ax murder trials were held. Welch sat in the courtroom every day after school, and by the time the litigation was finished he had decided on a career in law.

(In 1944 the United States invited 55 friendly nations to participate in an

International Civil Aviation Conference in Chicago. The American team included the chairman of the Civil Aeronautics Board, L. Welch Pogue.

(The 50th anniversary of that convention was noted with two conferences held in the fall of 1994, in Chicago and Montreal. Welch Pogue was a featured speaker at both meetings.)

--- ...On Memorial Day the firemen served breakfast to the community...the Methodist women served dinner to approximately 230 people. Following the dinner, a program was given in the church sanctuary celebrating the church's 140th year...

3 October; Express; Land transfers: Delbert Wilcoxon and Shelia Wilcoxon to Audie Rainey; contract...

(Note: Delbert had been semi-retired for some time; he closed the garage and held an auction sale.)

19 December; Express: ...on May 27, 1996 the people of Grant will dedicate a memorial marker marking the first settlement in what is now Douglas Township...

(Note: In 1995 plans were proceeding for the Iowa State Sesquicentennial observance in Montgomery County. It occurred to some residents of the Grant community that it would be a good time to honor William Stipe, the first permanent resident of the area.

(A site was selected across Old 71 from where Stipe settled. The county provided crushed rock for a parking area. A search was made for a suitable rock, and one was brought to the site and placed in a concrete base.)



1996



17 January; Omaha World-Herald: Voters in Grant, Iowa, approved a local-option tax Tuesday that would add a penny sales tax to the state's 5-cent sales tax. Voters in Red Oak and rural areas of Montgomery County solidly rejected the proposed tax for a second time.

(Note: On the first attempt, Grant votes were tied.)

29 February; Review: ...Last week Grace (Wohlenhaus) said the time had come for her to close the market.

Grace reminisces about those earlier times. She and her husband, Lloyd, bought the store in 1950. About two year later, her husband died, and she assumed the role as solo business owner.

...Toward the back stands the round, silver, coal-burning stove...She remembers winter months when the stove provided warmth for those who gathered around it to exchange news.

Her hours are shorter now...In those earlier years...it was open six full days plus Sunday morning. Oh yes, the market was also open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday evenings.

The business and contents have been purchased by Bill Christensen and the store's closing is March 30...

2 April; Express: An open house for Grace Wohlenhaus was March 20 at the Grant Food Market. Grace retired after 45 years in the store...There were 90 present...

21 May; Express; Grant: ...The Grant U.M. Women...planned for the Memorial Day Dinner May 27...

(Note: After the dinner a short program was held in the church sanctuary. The Stipe memorial marker was dedicated, and "William Stipe" reminisced about Grant history. Grace Wohlenhaus was recognized and a historical review of the store was made.)

2 August; Griswold American; Grant: In celebration of the Grant Sunshine Garden Club's 50th year, the members held a display at the Community Center in Elliott during the Elliott Fall Festival...They had a float in the parade which took first prize. (in the Service Organization division)

1997

19 March; American; Grant: The Grant Sunshine Garden Club was invited to present a class on "Flower Beds" at the Southwestern community college in Red Oak...The first of two classes was on Thursday, March 13...

20 March; Review: ...slides of... interesting and little known historic places in the county will be shown at the program "Off and On the Beaten Track" on Sunday p.m. at the History Center in Red Oak...

(Note: One of the sites visited was the Stipe memorial marker. The plaque has been affixed to the rock. It reads:

To Honor All of Our Pioneers

And particularly

WILLIAM STIPE

Whose Cabin Was Built Near This Spot

In 1853

26 June; Review: Mother Nature strikes again! ...Tornado winds bounced through the town of Grant and beyond in the wee hours of Saturday morning...Just west of Grant...large round hay bales were tossed around like marbles. At the north edge of Grant the roof was blown off the Bill Chalmers barn and landed in the feed yard, killing some cattle and injuring others...

...Deloris Weaver's garage fell on her car and also on her daughter's car. Large trees in several yards were snapped off like toothpicks. Windows broken, trees uprooted ...The town was without electricity for several hours, due to downed power lines.

Dean Orstad's farm lies on the northeast edge of the city limits. Virtually every building is damaged; some leveled...

The small town of Grant rallied early Saturday morning...tackling the tremendous job of cleaning up...

Karen Taylor

30 October; Review: On October 4, the Grant Volunteer Fire Department honored two of its brigade members for years of service. Honored were Delbert Wilcoxon who has been a member for 40 years, while Kenneth Mueller served 62 years.

(Note: Mueller was named secretary of the new organization in 1935, and served in that capacity for 60 years, resigning from the position in 1995.)

1998

3 June; Express: A large contingent of folks whose roots are in Grant attended the May program at The History Center in Red Oak. The program by Elaine Artlip, "Milestones from Milford/Grant" encouraged enthusiastic discussion of high points of the community's history, such as why it had two names and the mill's story. Helen Blackburn paid tribute to three past members of the board. Hazel Penwell told of her rides on the AN & S RR.



A shared heritage brought these folks to the History Center in Red Oak 20 May, 1998, for the program, "Milestones from Milsford/Grant". Front row: Helen Blackburn, Grant; Hazel Bryant Penwell, Morton Mills; Don Bryson, Red Oak. Second row: Maxine Vetter Orstad, Grant; Nancy Jarvis Isaac, Junction City, KS; Marcella Bryson Jarvis, RedOak; Lola Smith Ogden, Stanton; Elaine Corbin Arltip, Tenville; Fran Corbin Cunningham, Villisca; Phyllis Porter Taylor, Red Oak; Russell Orstad, Grant. Third row: Lynn Shaffer, Grant; Kenneth Meyers, Red Oak; Vernon Taylor, Red Oak; Dick Watson, Carroll; Wayne Weeks, Carroll. — Express photo.



1958 - Villisca Centennial

The Grant Fire Department

Early Grant was built of wood. Such structures were extremely vulnerable to fire, and it struck often. The bucket brigades labored valiantly, but met defeat with distressing frequency.

In April 1912 the Grant Town Council approved Ordinance No. 14 which stated regulations permitting organization of a fire company. There is no record that such a unit was formed. In 1915 a chemical engine was considered but nothing came of it.

The present Grant fire department began in 1935 with the purchase of a two-wheeled trailer with a chemical spray. Pressure was generated when a bottle of acid was broken in the tank. The cart was housed under the Jarvis store. The device was maintained and operated by a group of volunteers. In 1937 there was a reorganization of the association and regular meetings were held.

In June 1925 Villisca decided to buy a chemical fire truck. Local problems delayed the project and it wasn't until November that the unit arrived in Villisca.

According to the 18 September *Review* the vehicle cost \$2,750. It had Oberchain-Boyer equipment with two 35-gallon tanks on a Reo one and a quarter ton chassis. It was maroon in color, and had a siren. The truck was equipped with two hundred feet of chemical hose.

By June 1939 the Reo had become surplus, and it was sold to the town of Grant for \$200. It had been driven a total of 500 miles. Grant kept the truck in the basement of the Jones building.

In 1946 Villisca was using a 1930 Chevrolet truck with a chemical unit for rural fire protection. In October the new Villisca country truck arrived, and Grant purchased the Chevy.

The old Reo was sold to a junk dealer, probably Delbert Artlip in Elliott. Then there is a gap of several years in the history of the Reo. About 1954 the truck was purchased by Frank Tomasek of Omaha, who is now deceased. His son, Rick Tomasek, thinks the truck came from Red Oak. Then the story is continued by the present owner.

18 October 1997
Antique Fire House
Loveland, Colorado

...In May of 1955 I traded a 1923 Buick touring car even up for the Reo with a Mr. Frank Tomasek who had a machine shop in South Omaha. He mentioned that he got the truck out of a junk yard in Iowa.

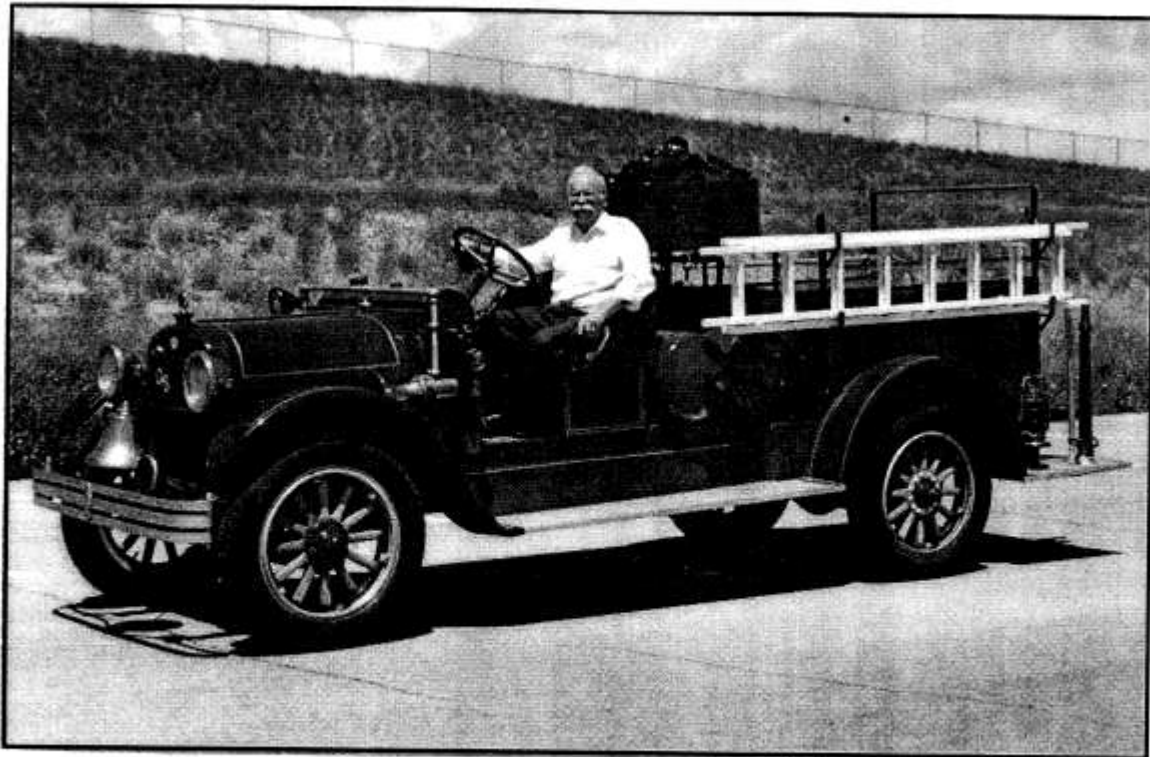
I was interested in old cars at the time, not a fire truck, but the situation presented itself, so I became the owner of a fire truck. It has an Obenchain-Boyer chemical tank hose-body. I went back to Logansport, Indiana where it was built, and have a copy of the

original order. I will see if I can find it and send you a copy. The firm has since gone out of business.

I painted the truck and drove it in a parade for the annual May festival at the University of Omaha where I was attending at the time.

In 1957, I had it in storage and some kids broke in and stuck a match in the gas tank and blew it up. The lady I was dating loaned me \$50.00 to purchase a parts truck. She said I never paid her back so she married me in August of 1957. My so called buddies got the truck out and had it in front of the church as a surprise. They then took us to the reception on it. My son painted it and used it at his wedding, and we also used it at my daughters wedding.

In 1958 some men from Villisca came to Omaha and took the truck over for your 100 year celebration. I worked with Jim Chew who was from Villisca He set the thing up and we went over for the big parade.



We moved to Colorado in 1969 and I got involved with the Antique Auto House. I wound up buying it and was in the business of restoring, buying and selling Antique, Classic & Special interest cars & fire trucks. I then started the Antique Fire House as a side business. One just helps the other.

Some men from Villisca have been here and gave me a firemans coat and badge. I was in Villisca many years ago and visited the fire house.

Since owning the truck, I have rebuilt the engine twice, redone all the wood, repainted it twice and added some equipment that was missing. The truck is ready to go in a moments notice. We take it out every chance, or excuse that we can. The enclosed photo was taken 21 June 1997 at a local parade. I am the driver in the photo.

I am presently Pipe Major for a Bagpipe Band in Denver. So, will have pipes at my funeral and get carried to the cemetary on the REO.

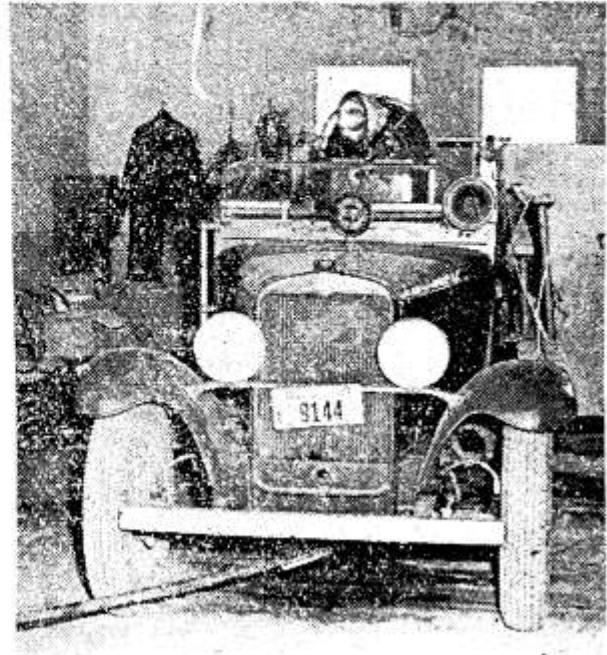
*Yours for longer hoses,
John R. Bergquist, Chief*

Wesley Van Valkenburg drove the fire truck in Villisca's Centennial parade in 1958. That seems appropriate – he was the designated driver when it was new and his garage was responsible for maintenance.

In 1949 the town of Grant purchased the northwest corner of Lot 1, Block 2, from Elver Shafer, to be used for a fire station. The north end of the structure was remodeled to permit housing the fire truck in the building.

A special meeting of the Grant Town Council and Volunteer Fire Department was held 9 October 1953. The main center bearing had gone out of the fire truck, and

the meeting was to discuss ways to meet the emergency. Many suggestions were offered, but the only positive step taken was to immediately fix a tow-bar to the front of the fire truck so it could be towed to a fire if necessary.



1930 Chevrolet

On 2 November 1953 a resolution was signed which said, "Our fire truck has broken down and is beyond advisable repair and the community is without fire protection. Funds are requested for the purpose of purchasing a later model fire truck."

Early in 1954 Grant and Douglas Township voters approved a 1.5 mill additional tax for purchase of a new fire truck and other equipment. The Ford truck arrived in May and is the only new vehicle the department has had.

After the new truck was assured it was found that the '30 Chevy could be repaired after all. The work was done, and the truck was kept on a stand-by basis for a few months.

About 1 October 1954 the town of Nodaway paid \$250 for the old Chevy. Grant had never received a certificate of title for the truck from Villisca so it took a lot of paperwork. Grant left the plates on the truck when it went to Nodaway, then found that was an error and had to retrieve them. The red tape was finally conquered and Nodaway used the truck up into the 1960s.

In the summer of 1954 the old service station building was razed and a new, larger fire station-city hall was erected on the site. The Ground Observer Corps salvaged the lumber from the old structure, and used it to build an observation post.

In August 1974 Grant filed an Inventory of Vehicles with the Iowa Department of Public Safety. At that time the rolling stock consisted of the 1954 Ford and a 1959 Chevrolet.

In August 1978 the Douglas Township Trustees sold \$20,000 in revenue bonds to finance improvements in fire protection. By June of 1979 an addition had been built on the south side of the fire station.

Richard "Slim" Byerley, a former resident of Nodaway, is a member of a fire company in New Jersey. For more than ten years "Slim" and his company have donated surplus equipment to the Nodaway Fire Department. The Nodaway men have generously shared the bounty with other small units in the area, and about 1994 Grant received several fire coats.

In 1998 the department maintains five units: a small tanker-pumper; a '66 Dodge pumper, purchased from Griswold; the '54 Ford pumper, and two 1,000 gallon tankers: a Ford bought at auction in Corning, and a Chevy purchased from Lawrence Foote.

