

History of Cyrus, Minnesota

The land on which the village of Cyrus was located was first owned by Mr. Charles Olson and Mr. O. H. Dahl. Mr. O. H. Dahl homesteaded this land. Some of the first settlers in the community were: Lars Hegland, Christian Jacobson, Hans Gudvangen, Thov. Hagen, Charles Olson, and Mr. Bjork. Those people arrived in this vicinity in 1866. A few year's later, about 1872--1876 the following men came and filed on a homestead in this vicinity; O. H. Dahl, Else Larsen, Gunder Larson, and Christian Estby.

The pioneers began immediately to develop their farms. Oxen were used to plow and do the heavy hauling at times the food became very scarce, because their were ravages of prairie fires and grasshoppers. The early pioneers were forced to go as far as St. Cloud for some of their necessities of life as this was the closest railroad town. Sometimes it was necessary to make the trip on foot. A little later it was possible to get supplies at Sauk Center, and then at Morris.

These settlers had frequent visits from the Indians during the early days. They passed through this vicinity every fall on their way to camping places for the winter when in the settlers home they begged for tobacco, but were always friendly.

In the year 1881 the town side of Scandiaville, was laid out and platted by O. H. Dahl and Charles Olson owners of the land and Fish and Livingston railroad officials of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

In the same year the first building was built by H. P. Hanson for a general store, on the site now accupied by the State Bank of Cyrus, in the spring of 1882 another building was erected by A. P. Kron on the site now occupied by the Olson Brothers,

Tilford and Warren under the name of Red Owl Agency.

In the early days all merchandise was hauled to them by team. In the summer of 1882 the Northern Pacific Railroad built there branch line from Little Falls to Morris which gave the town a railroad and depot. The same year Mr. A. J. Sawyer built a grain elevator, P. M. Danielson a blacksmith shop. Frank Cronquist made application for Post Office and built a store building, this building was used for Post Office, Drug store and later as a Restaurant a few years ago t is building burnt down.

The name of the village was Scandiaville, but owing to the fact that there was another Post Office in the state by the name Scandia in Minnesota, the village took the name of Cyrus. The name was suggested by Charles Olson, there being a lake Cyrus south of the settlement. The first station agent was Mr. Bowlbe the present Depot Agent is L. T. Ristvedt. The first section foreman was Ole Olson.

The following year 1883, Mr. Iver Thompson, built a store building and started the first Hardware Store and Impliment business in Cyrus, after Mr. Thompson passed away his daughters Ellen and Alma Thompson are conducting the business in the same building.

The first school house was built in 1883. The members of the first school board members were Iver Thompson, O. H. Dahl, and H. P. Hanson. The first building was burned down, and a new building was built a few years later a block of land was purchased and a brick building was built.

On September 16, 1916 the School District immediately south of Cyrus voted to consolidate with school District No. 58, thereby making the Cyrus School a Consolidated School. An addition was built to the main building in 1917 making the building twice the size of the first building. In 1919 School District No. 2 Stevens County voted to consolidate with School District No. 58 of Cyrus. In 1922 under the supervision and guidance of Supt. O. G. Berkeland our school became a State Accrediated High School. The enrollment was at that time 245 pupils. The school has taken part in Debates, Declamation, Athletics and has a Glee Club, Mixed Chorus and Literary Organizations, the school has a very active Parents and Teachers Association. In 1938 an up to date Gymnasium was built onto the main building, which is used for playing Basket Ball, Physical Ed., Parents and Teachers programs and other organizations. We are proud of the fact that many of the graduates from this school have continued their education and have become Ministers of the Gospel, Doctors of Medicine, Dentists, Lawyers, Public Accountants, Nurses, Bookkeepers, School Supt. and Teachers, farmers and Housekeepers. A modern and up to date Athletic Field was added next to the school lawn, and is used by the school teams and the town team. A Grand Stand was recently built overlooking it for the spectators benefit.

The first Hotel was built in 1882 by Mr. Hagen, and is at the present time occupied as a restaurant by Norman Thompson.

The first Harness and shoemaker was Mr. Carl Froseth. Mr. Alfred Folin built a new modern brick and tile shop which he occupied until his death after which his son George Folin took it over and after a few years he sold it to Mr. A. A. Ettesvold who converted it into a restaurant. Mr. Ettesvold built an addition on the side the same size,

and changed the Restaurant into the new building and Pool Hall in the old building.

The first Meat Market was started by Mons Ness Sr. and Mr. Snestad, later they sold it to the Jacobson Brothers and continued the business. P. O. Jacobson continued til his retirement a few years ago and since meat has been sold in the stores.

In 1886 H. C. Estby and Louis Hegland started in the Hardware and Implemēt business and they continued that partnership until Mr. Hegland passed away in 1896 after that Mr. Estby continued that business alone, in 1898 he was honored by being elected Representative to the State Legislature from Pone County. P. O. Lee had charge of the store while Mr. Estby was in St. Paul through the Legislative session. Abe Abrahamson is now conducting a Farm Implement Shop in this building.

As early as 1869, Rev. Nels Brandt came to this community as a Minister and Missionary. A few years later, in 1874 Rev. Koefod came and served the people as pastor. The Lutheran Synod Congregation of Cyrus was organized in 1884. The first Pastor of the Congregation was Rev. H. Johnson, who served the congregation half a year when he resigned and Rev. A. J. Anderson served the congregation then Rev. P. A. Dedrickson served, then Rev. A. O. Dolvin, Then Rev. A. G. Quammen, Rev. O. T. Haaland and Rev. L. M. Osness is the present Bastor. The Church was built in 1898.

The first Pastor of the St. Petri Church was Rev. Dahle. Rev. Winter was Pastor at the time the Church was built in 1898. The following Pastors have served the Congregation Rev. Olson, Rev. Torgerson, and Rev. Sevig is their present pastor.

Mr. O. H. Dahl, conducted a second hand Furniture Store also made cabinets and cupboards and different articles.

From the year 1881 when the village was platted the village was under the jurisdiction of the Township Government of New Prairie. On March 13, 1899 a special election was held for the purpose of incorporating the village. The population at this time was 105. There were 33 votes cast. The members of the first Council were: H. E. Olson, President P. O. Lee, Recorder Iver Thompson, Treasurer and Peter Peterson, Assessor. P. M. Danielson and H. C. Estby were the other two members of the Council.

During the year 1899 the long distance telephone was installed in the H. E. Olson Store. A year or two later a Mr. Wheaton of Morris built a local telephone into Cyrus and a telephone booth was installed in H. C. Estby's store. A Telephone Company was organized in Cyrus and officers elected were H. C. Estby, President P. O. Lee, Clerk O. E. Bjorgaard, Treasurer, and the Company bought the local Telephone System from Mr. Wheaton. That was in 1904 and in 1908 the company was incorporated in 1913 a 16 X 24 building was built for a Telephone office and work shop. In 1933 this building was burned down. The switch board was saved and set in a residence across the street and in 1937 a new modern brick Telephone building was built. H. S. Peterson was operator and manager for 32 years. After his death his wife Mrs. Edelwiss Peterson took over the management of the company.

Mr. John Estensen built a Flour Mill in about 1892 and Arne Arnesson was the miller and after a few years he sold it to P. O. Kronstad and Axel Felt was the Miller. Some years later the mill was dismantled and sold. The land and the foundation of the mill is owned by Ruth Ness. To Mr. John Estensen must be given credit for owning

the first automobile in Cyrus--a Rambler.

In 1894 Mr. Aaberg built the building in which P. O. Lee and P. O. Barsness started a General Merchandise Store in 1902 which continued until 1908. Mr. Lee has been continuing the business alone since that time until 1939 when he discontinued the business and closed out the stock of merchandise and sold the building to C. J. Applen and he has converted the building to a print shop and publishing the Cyrus Leader.

The first news paper edited in Cyrus, was published in 1901 it was called the Cyrus Courier. This paper was later discontinued. Two years later Mr. Hiel E. West again started a paper in Cyrus and called it the Cyrus Leader. E. B. Vangness purchased the paper from Mr. West and sold it to Mr. C. J. Applen the present editor.

Mr. F. B. Gustafson built a store building on main street that was first occupied by Sather and Fjelstad of Glenwood and later by Mr. Gustafson then he sold out his stock to Carl Buesing of Glenwood and he continued business in that place until it burned down at the same time as the Telephone building burned. Then Mr. Buesing started in the Gust building and continued there until he sold out to Geo. Gilbertson.

In 1903 a volunteer fire department was organized and is now equipped with a modern fire truck with a 360 gal water tank for use on out of town calls.

In 1903 ~~Dr.~~ Helmark located in Cyrus as the first Doctor. He remained here until 1905 when he sold his practice to Dr. Herman Linde. Dr. Linde has been practicing medicine here up to this time.

~~In October 1901 W. J. Carson of Glenwood~~

In October 1901 W. J. Carson of Glenwood built a Bank building on the location where the Post Office is now located and started a Bank in Cyrus. Mr. Carson was president and Ole Irgens Cashier, In August 1902 Mr. Irgens was succeeded by O. E. Bjorgaard. In 1907 the bank was incorporated as a State Bank. The present bank building which is modern and up-to-date was erected in 1915 its Capitol Stock is \$20,000 and its officers are President P. O. Lee, Vice President A. H. Toftner, Cashier O. E. Bjorgaard, and Asst. Cashier C. W. Sægvold. Director A. H. Hanschen.

In 1915 the Farmers State Bank was organized with T. O. Ofsthun as President and C. O. Ofsthun as Cashier and the first building it occupied was destroyed by fire in 1926. A new modern brick building was erected on the old site in 1929. The Capitol Stock was \$15,000 the officers were Julius Halvorson President, O. A. Solvie Vice President, C. O. Ofsthun Cashier and F. T. Olson Asst. Cashier. In 1935 this Bank moved to Morris.

The first Farmers Creamery was built in the early 1890's on the lot where C. Guy Eddy residence is now located. There were no cream separators at that time. They had two horse-drawn wagons with tanks gathering the skinned cream on the farms, but it was not a paying proposition so they sold the plant to H. E. Olson and he used it for awhile to rework the butter that the farmers brought to his store. That also failed so it was dismantled and the machinery sold. In 1910 the Commercial Club took up the creamery question and it was decided to build a new Creamery. Stock was sold to the business men and to the farmers at \$100.00 per share and a creamery was built and started to do business and continued for a few years and lost money on the deal. Had to make an assessment of \$100.00 per share quit business. So the Creamery was leased to Peter Miller and after

a couple years it was sold to C. C. Thoen of Westport and he run it for a few years and he again sold it to A. B. Johnson and in a couple years it burned down and he fixed up a Garage up town and continued the business and then that burned and that was the last of the Creamery.

Some years later G. L. Martin of Glenwood came here and bought a lot and built a modern brick building and run it for a while and he sold it to the Ahlstrand Brothers with Gilbert Ahlstrand as Manager. They have built on to it a cold storage locker plant and are doing a successful business.

The first elevator owned and operated by the Farmers Elevator Company was destroyed by fire and their present elevator was purchased from S. S. Stewart of Morris and since they have built an office and warehouse. This year 1949 they constructed a building for feed grinding, feed mixing, and fanning mill.

The first elevator built by A. J. Sawyer was destroyed by fire and it was rebuilt on a different location and the present owner is A. W. Johnson.

There were two Lumber Yards here. One was owned by E. J. Jones Lumber Company of Morris and a Line yard of the Standard Lumber Co. In 1916 the Cyrus Lumber Company was organized by W. B. Hanson, P. O. Lee, O. E. Bjorgaard, A. H. Toftner and Isaac Thompson, and bought the Jones's Lumber yard and also the Standard Lumber Yard and conducted the Lumber business. In 1945 they sold the business to the Skoglund Bros. & Company of Starbuck. W. B. Hanson still continued to be employed in the yard.

