

From

The Wausau Herald
November 5, 1921

VILLAGE OF UNITY HAS DISTINCTIONS

People There Say Village
Gets Along Without Mar-
shal or Justice

IN FINE DAIRY SECTION

Community Has Good Bank,
Churches, Schools, News-
paper and Children

(By Staff Correspondent)

Unity, Nov. 4.—The village of Unity, located half in the county of Marathon and half in Clark county, on the little Eau Pleine river, is different from other villages of this and other counties of the state in several ways, some of them of special significance and importance; there is no marshal of the village nor any justice of the peace, and its jail is only used by spiders and as a gentle reminder, for the village has not sent a criminal case to be tried at the county seat in twenty years, and no one seems to want the police jobs, fearing perhaps to die of inertia.

Other Features

There are between 500 and 600 people within the village limits and there are two churches, both English, and no German and no Catholic church. It is also a town of "Jiners" for there are lodges of half a dozen fraternal orders, women's as well as men's, and there are Masons who go to Colby for their affiliation.

It was the home of Alfred Cook for many years, and he was the village president from its incorporation until his death a year ago, and to him is given much of the credit for the orderly processes of life, the freedom from litigation and other legal troubles.

The Cook family has farms here yet, and the boys are prominent factors in the village, town and county, Walter and George and L. H. Cook, the latter being the county's representative at the state legislature.

Editor Cook

It was in Unity where L. H. Cook was an editor and publisher of a newspaper for eight years, and there he says gained more knowledge of human nature than in all the other years of his life, for newspaper work was not always smooth, even in the early days of the twentieth century. Mr. Cook bought a small printing plant in 1902 and started a paper which he kept going for eight years, selling to E. L. Messer, who has conducted the Marathon County Register for twelve years, with the help of his duties of postmaster, and as he was appointed by President Taft and kept on all during President Wilson's administration, it is possible he may remain to see President Harding go out.

Best There Is

Mr. Messer says "Unity is located in the best dairying section of this or any state. Its soil is Colby silt, a rich heavy clay loam, which holds moisture, and the farms and dairy herds which have developed, make it the best farming community to be found anywhere."

And other citizens of Unity modestly admit that as a place to live, Unity cannot be beat.

Early History

Edmund Creed, who had had a store at Nelsouville, Waupaca county, secured sixty acres of land in the unbroken forest here in 1871 and he built a commodious log house, his wife and two children coming the following year. They were the first and for a time the only settlers in this section, and Mrs. Creed, who survives, recalls vividly the life of fifty years ago, when transportation was on very poor roads and communication infrequent; and also of the good times enjoyed when travelers stopped over for the night.

Henry Darling took up a tract adjoining them the next year, and on these two tracts, the present village of Unity is located; the name

being selected by the government from a list furnished by Mr. Creed who for many years was postmaster at this station on the Central Wisconsin railroad; now the Soo line.

First Saw Mill

The first saw mill here was built and operated by Dudley Spaulding who moved it to Owen in 1891. Other saw mills were built and were operated in the passing years, but these have all disappeared but the settlement which grew up around them remained and grew, until about fifteen years ago the village was incorporated.

Previously it had two sets of township officials, one for the town of Brighton in Marathon county, and one set for the part in Clark county, in Unity township.

Mrs. Creed is the only survivor of the very early settlers but Joseph Amos Pettet, a civil war veteran, came in 1869, remaining until death called him last Wednesday, October 19; the last of the union veterans of the village.

Phillip H. Klein, a merchant, and Mr. and Mrs. John W. Salter are among those who came in the early 80's, and many more have been here for more than a score of years, the village almost merging into the country, as farmers increased their herds and prospered.

Village Officers

F. C. Gillett is village president. J. E. Fuller, clerk, Edgar Ayer, treasurer, and J. P. Johnson is assessor, and the trustees are Walter E. Cook, L. P. Taplin, George Burgess, Charles Creed, W. E. Morgan and Oscar C. Perschke.

Unity High School

Unity has an accredited high school with fifty pupils and a good graded school with eighty-five pupils.

The high school faculty consists of F. C. Weidman, principal, and Miss Wanda Bahl and Miss Viola Gustin. The grade teachers are the Misses Dora Peters, Ruth Peters and Antonia Oson.

The school board is composed of: Martin Hellestad, president; Walter E. Cook, treasurer and S. J. Falck, clerk.

Parents-Teachers Association

There is an active Parents-Teachers association with Mrs. John W. Salter, president, Mrs. Malon Wilson, secretary and treasurer, and Mrs. George Cook, vice-president.

The association met last Monday evening, over sixty attending, and many subjects were discussed. An effort is to be made to make this association into more of a Community club and to take up matters not confined to the school. The of-

ficers plan for a meeting this month when Miss Mary A. Brady, home demonstrator, can attend and offer advice and assistance. There is no Woman's club in the village and a Community club is believed to be what is needed.

Boy Scouts

There is a live Boy Scout troop of which the Rev. R. J. Fleming is scout master and Chester Perschke is assistant. There are twenty-six members and interest is maintained by weekly meetings.

There have been Camp Fire Girls and a girls sewing club, but these have not been reorganized this fall.

Last year also there was a strong Boy's and Girl's agricultural club, under the direction of Wakelin McNeel of Wausau, but this awaits his coming for winter reorganization.

The public school is conducting a lyceum course of three numbers, the first, "The Hoosier Male Trio," to appear on November 17, in the village hall, and the others come a month apart.

There are also several basketball teams connected with the school and also an Agricultural club which has good programs.

Unity State Bank

The Unity State Bank with a capital and surplus of \$12,000 was incorporated in 1909, a neat, attractive building being erected. The present officers are: Edgar Ayres, president; Edgar Ayres, vice-president; S. J. Falck, cashier, and these with Phillip H. Klein and L. H. Weyers constitute the board of directors.

Churches

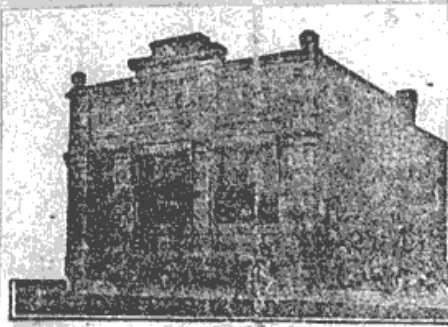
The Methodist Episcopal church has an attractive building and a large congregation. The Rev. R. J. Fleming came in the early summer as a student supply, but pleased so well that he was accepted as permanent pastor, the church now for the first time supporting itself.

The Ladies Aid society assists materially in church work, its officers being: Mrs. Walter Cook, president; Miss Edith Cook, secretary, and Miss Martha Clark, treasurer.

The choir consists of twenty-two singers with M. L. Fansher as choir leader and Mrs. L. J. Scott as pianist.

Trinity Lutheran

The Lutheran church was first organized as a Scandinavian church, but was changed last year into the Trinity English Lutheran church, with the Rev. Mr. Johnson as pastor. The congregation is large and the Ladies Aid society, under the presidency of Mrs. Martin Halle-



UNITY STATE BANK

stad, is doing much for the welfare of the church and community.

Good Hotel

The Forest Hotel had been conducted the past fourteen months by M. L. Fansher, but he retired last week on account of other duties, and W. R. Hudson, the former landlord assumed charge.

The village is supplied with books kept at the hotel, and sent out from the Wausau Public Library as they are wanted, and this service is appreciated by Unity, young and old people, who are thus able to have almost any book they desire for reading.

Two Parks

The village has a very pretty boulevarded park extending down the center of the Main street which affords fresh air and opportunity for flowers and shrubs in the summer, and just outside the village is the county park of eighteen acres which is being fixed up by the Marathon County Park commission. A log cabin for a comfort station is to be erected there and a well drilled to give a supply of good water. This will make a splendid tourist park and is sure to draw many auto parties.

Many Lodges

For a moderately small village Unity is well supplied with lodges. The Odd Fellows have a subordinate lodge and an Encampment. The subordinate lodge officers are: Noble grand, Earl Salter; vice-grand, Carl G. Johnson, secretary, John M. Vaughn, treasurer, Phillip Klein. The officers of the Rebekahs are: Noble grand, Etta Mason; vice-grand, Ruby Salter; secretary, Sigma Johnson, and treasurer Mrs. Earl Salter.

There is also a lodge of the Modern Woodmen, Woodmen of the World, of Beavers, E. F. U., and of the Royal Neighbors, and it is said that wives know where their husbands are every night in the week for they are at some lodge meeting.

Great Dairy Country

This is a great dairy country, some of the best herds in Taylor and Marathon counties being in the vicinity of Unity and Colby.

There is the big herd of seventy registered Red Polks belonging to John W. Salter, who has won prizes year after year on his exhibits and tests at the National Red Poll contests and farm and dairy editors are constantly "writing him up."

Mr. Salter came to Unity early in the eighties and taught school several years, graduating the first high school class of seven. He and his sons devote much attention to their farm and herd, but Mr. Salter has many other interests also and he is a busy man.

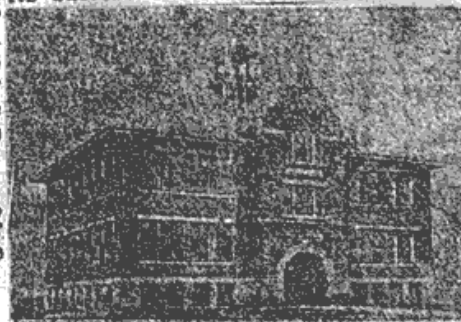
There are splendid herds of other breeds of cattle in this vicinity. Among these are the Guernsey herd of E. C. Vogt who has a group of pure breeds imported direct from the Isle of Guernsey, and many of American birth.

Other Guernsey breeders are Herman Francer and Charles Johnson. Among the Holstein breeders are Walter Cook, George Cook and Peter Lydickson and many others. Brown Swiss breeders include Godfrey Safemaster, and Charles A. Lain, and Adolph Groecele, and Matt Orth have fine herds of Ayrshire cattle. W. J. Rogan, county agent last week assisting in the organization here of a county Ayrshire breeders association.



ASSEMBLYMAN L. H. COOK

Mr. Cook started the Marathon County Register in 1902 and was its editor for eight years.



UNITY HIGH SCHOOL

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3