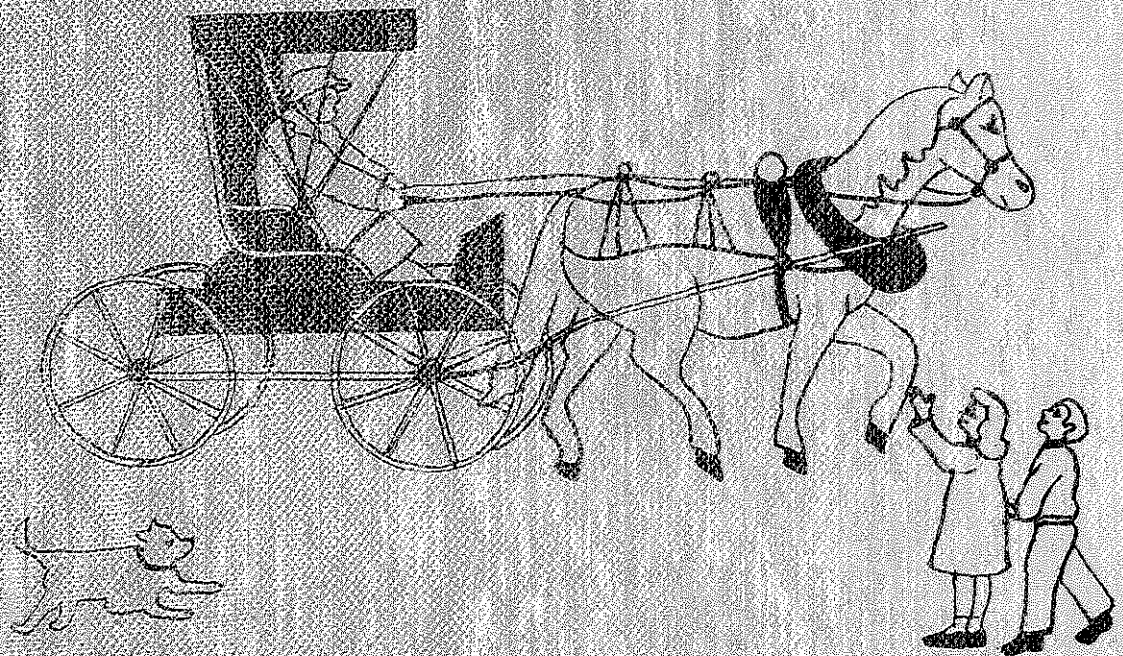


MORSE BLUFF

AND
SURROUNDING RURAL AREA

1887-1987



Acknowledgements

The Centennial Book Committee expresses appreciation and thanks to the citizens of the area who shared their clippings, pictures and recollections of the Morse Bluff area's past and present.

Much appreciated was the help received from the Register of Deeds and School Superintendent's Offices at the Saunders County Courthouse, the North Bend Public Library, and the State and County Historical Societies.

100 YEARS OF MORSE BLUFF and Surrounding Rural Area



Main Street, 1909.



Main Street, 1987.

Introduction

One hundred pages does not begin to cover all the important and interesting events of the area. Morse Bluff area has an interesting history that should be preserved for future generations. The events of the past that have brought the area to its present are a great heritage and unique just to this area.

While some information is documented from records and newspapers, much comes from eye witnesses and memories. As accurate an account as possible was given.

The family history response was exceptional. It was necessary to simplify articles in order to include all families in the pages allotted. Regrettably detailed information could not be included. Much thought, discussion, and compromise went into the final decision.

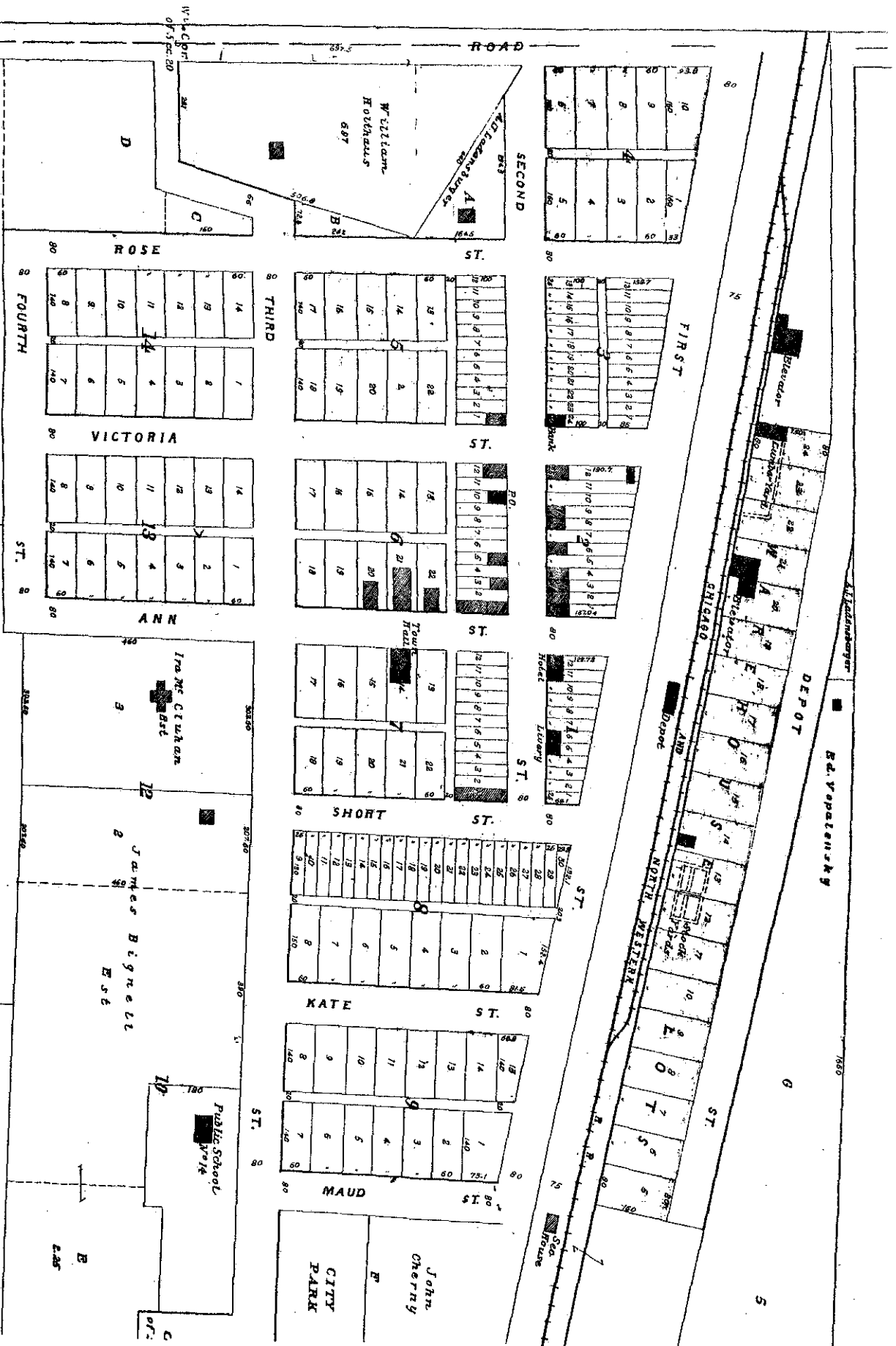
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Marceline, Mo. 64658
1987

UBLIC

Jos. Smoody

IRA Mc CLuhan Est 3549

Frank A. Hines 9406





The first inhabitants on the prairie.

100 Years of Morse Bluff

Morse Bluff, NE was one of the busy agricultural towns of Saunders County, located in Morse Bluff precinct. The village was platted June 27, 1887 as *Morse*, for Chester Leroy Morse who owned the land at the town site. *Bluff* was added in the early 1900's to avoid confusion with another Morse on the Chicago Northwestern Railroad.

Two land development companies purchased many of the business lots and promoted their sales.

A branch of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad was built through the town in 1887. A water system was installed in 1910 and electricity was supplied in 1912.

Morse Bluff was at its peak during and for a few years after World War I. At one time the village had 2 banks, a meat market, a produce station, a blacksmith shop, 2 general merchandise stores, a cement block company, a hotel, 2 lumber yards, a furniture store, 2 hardware stores (one with undertaking services and one with farm implements and well digging services), a candy store, a drug store with the post office, a doctor's office, a poolhall, a barber shop, 2 livery barns, 2

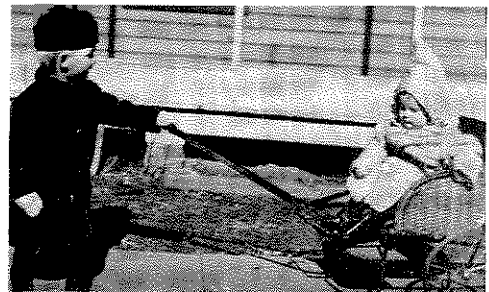
taverns with dance halls, 2 grain elevators, a railroad station and 2 stockyards.

Progress in modes of transportation and travel plus disasterous fires were the major factors in the decline of the business and population.

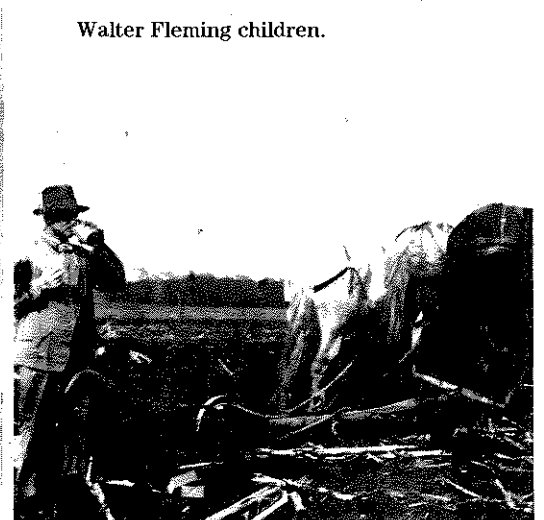
There are still several businesses in Morse Bluff and area but the main street shows just a very few; the post office, a tavern, gravel company garage, a well-digging company and a honey processing plant. There has been an increase in population the past 2 years.



Before trees, fences and tilling of the soil—Platte River bottom in the 1860's. The John P. Dodge family.



Walter Fleming children.



Dodge Bros.' Reeves steam engine and their covered wagon. John M., Henry, James, John L. Humlicek (Blanche Nesladek's father) and his horsedrawn one-bottom walking plow. Frank & Charles and Stacy & Rose Janecek.



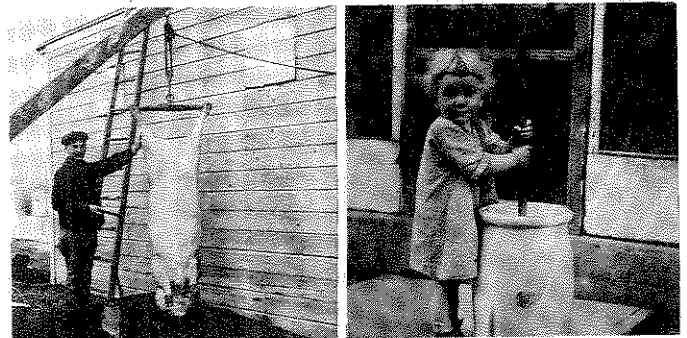
Team of 8 oxen hitched up to a load of logs, supposedly on the Wilma Dvorak farm—notice the wooden wheels on the wagon. John P. Dodge family at work.

Local Newspaper

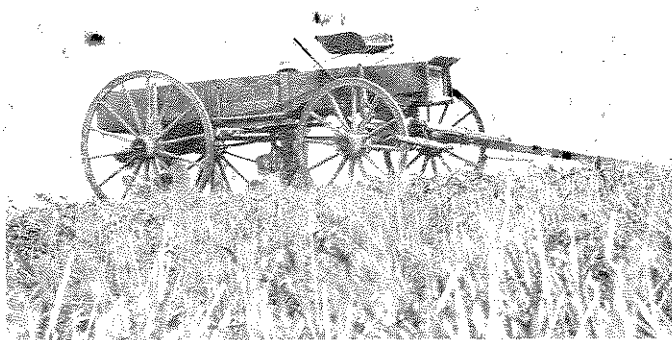
There was a newspaper in Morse Bluff in the late 1800's. It's date of termination is unknown. Here are two articles taken from the Wahoo Wasp, relating to the local paper:

April 5, 1894: *R.S. Honey, who has been running a paper in Morse Bluff for sometime is moving to Prague and establishing a newspaper business there. (He moved one week later.)*

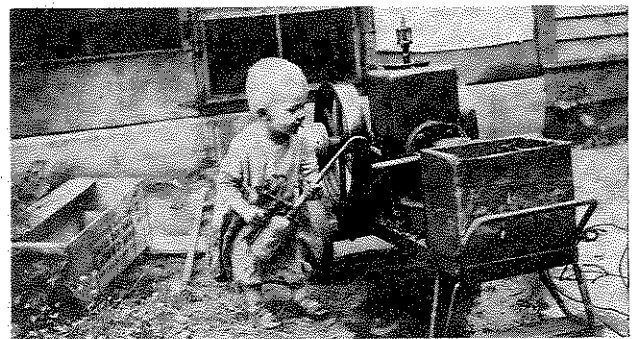
March 28, 1895: *The name of the Morse Bluff newspaper was "Local Gleamings." It started in 1894. (Evidently bought out R.S. Honey.)*



John L. Humlicek butchering. Jean Fleming churning butter. Blanche Nesladek's father



Spring seat and wagon abandoned on the prairie.



Don Fleming oiling the washing machine's gasoline engine.

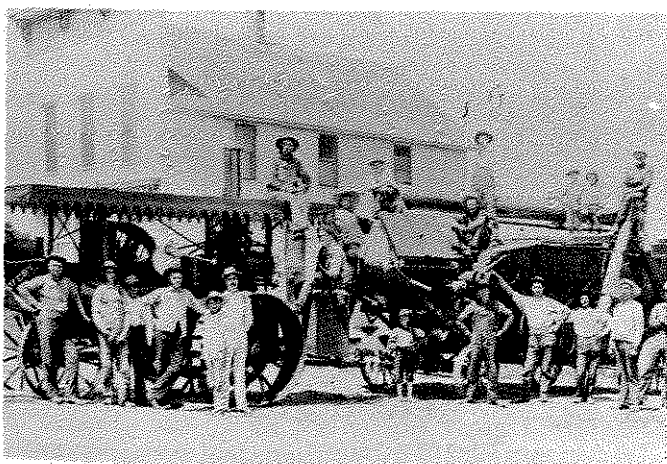
Number, Please!

Those were the first words one would hear when making a telephone call before the dial system. An operator was on duty at a switchboard 24 hours daily to make the necessary connections to complete a call.

The first phones installed in Morse Bluff about 1904 cost \$12 a year. Mr. Jamison as owner of the telephone exchange, built the lines and installed the telephones. His wife was the operator in the office located upstairs in the Bank of Morse Bluff building on the corner of 2nd and Victoria. In 1906 nine businesses and ten residences according to an article in the North Bend Eagle had telephones.

In 1910 the Citizens Telephone Company under Emery Hunt of Blair, Nebraska purchased the exchange. The Bank of Morse Bluff preparing to build a new building on the corner moved the old building to the rear of the lot and in August 1910 sold the north 30 feet with the building to the Citizens Telephone Company. The building's interior was remodeled, moving the telephone office downstairs and providing living quarters for the operator and family. There the office remained until 1926 when a new office with living quarters was built on the north side of 2nd Street in block 2, the present Charles Hampl home. It was the telephone office until dial phones were installed August 15, 1960 by the Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company.

Early operators besides Mrs. Jamison were Mrs. Mattie King, Mrs. Anna Bernasek, Mrs. Acom and Mrs. Hager. From 1913 to 1917 Ethel and Marie Vasina were the "hello" girls. Mrs. Anna Hampl, her daughter, Irene and sons, Joe, Milo, Frank and Charles, moved into the telephone building in 1917. Mrs. Hampl was the operator until her death in October 1935. Her boys "tended the board" until Charles married in 1936. His wife, Leona became the operator until 1960.

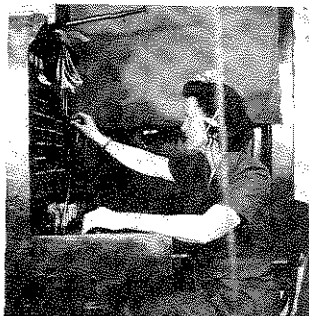


Avery Steam Engine and Avery threshing machine in front of the Telephone Office between 1st & 2nd on Victoria, 1910-1926.

The Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company, a newly organized company in 1956 began negotiations with the Citizens Telephone Company of Blair. On September 12, 1958 the Nebraska Railway Commission approved Northeast's application to serve Morse Bluff and several surrounding communities in Saunders County. The Rural Electrification Administration granted a loan in 1959 and construction began in 1959 to build lines and install necessary equipment to provide dial service. The new dial system was put into service August 15, 1960.

On March 12, 1964 Albert Hines of Morse Bluff was named on the Board of Directors. Tom Hruza after the death of Mr. Hines in 1971 was chosen to fulfill his term and was later elected to serve on the Board of Directors which he continues to do.

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company provides an up to date and reliable grade of service to almost every home and business in the Morse Bluff area and neighboring communities of Linwood, Prague, Malmo and Weston, Nebraska.



Leona Hampl, at the switchboard



J.P. Dodge family threshing from a stack.

Jail

The village jail was built on the lot behind the village hall next to the alley in Block 3. It was built in 1896. In fact an ad in the North Bend Republican newspaper reads:

May 22, 1896:

**WHO SAYS MORSE BLUFF CAN'T HAVE A JAIL?
NOW THE BUMS HAD BETTER WATCH OUT.**

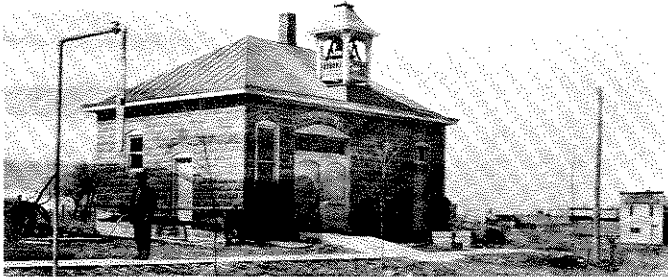
Village Hall

When C.N. Taylor was chairman in 1907, plans were being made to build a town hall.

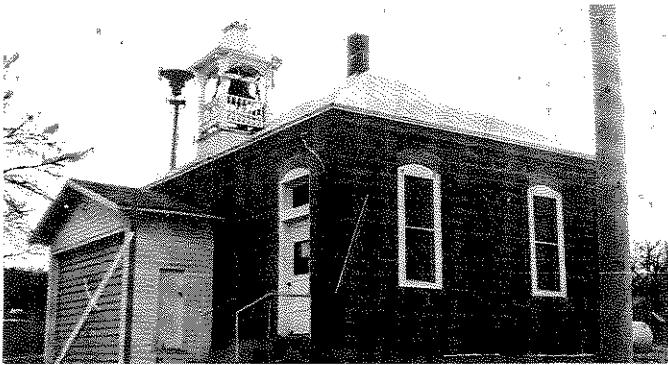
In 1908 the Village purchased Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block 3, from Fred Bignell for \$100.00 each, with intentions of constructing the hall. The decision was made to build on Lot 1.

It was constructed of cement blocks and P.P. Mowrer was the mason. He also laid the concrete floor in the pump pit. He was paid \$160.00 for his labor. John W. Paseka put in the cement steps in front of the Hall in 1910. There were many other local residents who also helped in the construction of the building.

Upon completion of the building a committee of two



Village Hall, 1908, and also early Fire Hall, 1st & Victoria.



Village Hall, 1987

was assigned by the chairman to purchase the furniture for the City Council Room. They were H.D. Mackprang and J.F. Reznicek.

Many of the town board books have been lost over the years, therefore accurate records of all the chairmen and board members are unknown. Frank Kaplan was chairman when the Hall was being built in 1908.

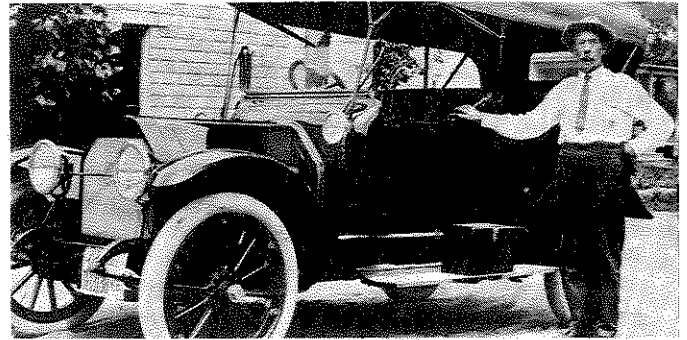
Water System

Plans were underway in 1908 for a water system. N.C Wagner was appointed Superintendent of Water Works Construction. The Crane Co. of Omaha drew up the blueprints and also put in the system. The cost was approximately \$6000.00.

C.A. Killian dug the reservoir and drilled the well. Frank Zakovec was hired to dig the pump and engine pit and to wall up the same with cement blocks and to put in the concrete floor at \$2.00 per day for man and \$4.00 per day for man and team. The cement blocks were 15 cents each for the plain blocks and 16 cents each for rock face.

A 15 H.P. Davis Gasoline Engine was purchased from Galloway Co. for \$282.00 and John C. Pabian and wife deeded a tract of land for the reservoir site for \$155.00.

The water system was completed by the end of 1908 and Chris Zeller was appointed the first Water Works Commissioner on November 9, 1908.



First Water Commissioner, Chris Zeller and his 1912 EMF.

Ordinance #45 was drawn up regulating and governing the water works, establishing rates and regulations for the government of water consumers, plumbers and others and to protect water works, including pipes and other apparatus from injury and providing penalties.

The rates established were: 75 cents per month for running fans by water pressure; \$10.00 per year for Cement Factory; \$2.00 per year for Meat Market; 50 cents per month for automatic pressure pump to furnish air pressure for beer pump.

Water meters were installed in 1935 at \$8.60 each. Consumers were allowed 15,000 gallon for \$1.25 for three months.

The first water samples were sent to State Laboratory on February 14, 1938.

Due to a series of problems through the years, it was decided to relocate the well. A new well was put in south of the village, on top of the bluff along the east side of Highway 79. A new reservoir was also installed. This was done in 1979.

Present rates are: \$15.00 per quarter minimum for up to 5000 gallon; 60 cents per 1000 gallon for the next 5000 gallon; 50 cents per 1000 gallon thereafter.

Electricity

On January 19, 1912 the citizens and tax payers petitioned the Village Board to install an electric light plant in connection with the water plant. It was

signed by thirty-two people. All equipment was purchased, including a 25 H.P. gas engine, current generator and storage batteries, for \$2652. All equipment was housed in the pump house. The telephone company poles were used for distribution of electric current. The rates were 25 kwh @ 15¢, next 25 kwh @ 13¢, next 25 kwh @ 12¢, all in excess of 75 kwh @ 10¢, minimum charge of 75¢ per month.

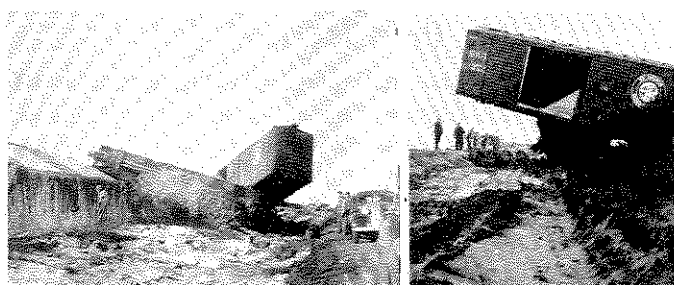
The engine was not big enough and after much expense in repairs, traded it for a 50 H.P. engine and paid \$1150 difference. By 1915 the new engine was overhauled, causing more expense.

In 1916 the village signed a contract with North Bend to receive current from the Fremont Plant, via North Bend, at wholesale price of 7¢ per kilowatt, metered current in North Bend. It cost \$3128 to build a three-mile transmission line and had service by 1917. After rates were raised in 1923 and still having financial problems, negotiations were made with North Bend for a lower wholesale rate, however the slight reduction was not of much benefit.

Nebraska Power Company offered a proposal in 1928 to purchase the entire electric system for \$9000. It was accepted and transfer of property was made October 15, 1928.



Morse Bluff Depot—Bessie Edmiston holding brother, Donald, 1922.



Train derailment west of Morse Bluff, early 50's.

Trains

The Chicago Northwestern Railroad built a new line to provide service to the people from Fremont to Hastings and Superior in 1886. This Hastings-Superior line crossed the Platte River a few miles west of Fremont and followed the river valley, passing through

Morse Bluff to Linwood. At Linwood the lines divided, one going to Hastings, the other to Superior.

In the top years of the railroad four daily passenger trains were required to handle the trade as well as several daily freight trains plus special freight trains during harvest season. All stopped at Morse Bluff to leave and pick up passengers and freight. During the depression years when it was a common site to see hobos riding the boxcars, Morse Bluff had its "Hobo Jungle". It was near the railroad close to the stockyards. The stockyards were in the area of today's County Maintenance building.

All the passenger trains delivered mail to Morse Bluff. It was part of the postmaster's job to meet the trains to get the mail. For this he used a push cart to carry the mail bags. Each passenger train had a mail car where the mail was sorted for delivery along the line.

With the advent of modern hard top roads and improved motor transportation the trains, both passenger and freight were losing business. Just before World War II the Hastings branch was discontinued. This reduced the railway traffic through Morse Bluff. In 1960 severe flooding east of Morse Bluff washed out long sections of track. Some of the sections were never completely replaced.

On June 15, 1962, at 11:18 A.M. a diesel engine and caboose switched into the Morse Bluff siding to a single boxcar at the Morse Bluff Grain Company elevator. This marked the end of service to the Morse Bluff station. The depot and section house were torn down shortly before 1960. Only the train crew and a handful of local people heard the last blast of the train whistle as the train vanished around the curve on its final trip to the west.



The last train through Morse Bluff, June 15, 1962.

The railroad played an important role in Morse Bluff's history. It did not only provide transportation for people and farm products but added to the population and gave local young men an opportunity for employment.

Much of the maintenance and repair work on the track was accomplished during warm weather

employing extra crews on the section gang. These extra men many times were local residents. It became a full time job for Charles Hampl, George Marshalek, Jerry Kratochvil and Frank Kratochvil.

Some of the railroad family names that resided in Morse Bluff were Edmiston, Timblin, Applegate, London, Munson, Widener, Stanwood, Aringdale, Cornelius, Nichols and Trueblood.

Fires Destroy Businesses

Fires have been a major factor in the decline of the Morse Bluff business population. Very few businesses were rebuilt after fire destroyed the buildings.

The first major fire happened on December 4, 1927, a very cold sub-zero night. It was discovered about 8 o'clock in the evening. The fire was of unknown origin and completely destroyed the building occupied by Duffield merchandise store and Malloy oil station. The building was owned by John Heuser with a loss estimated at \$4,300 to the contents of the building. An automobile belonging to Mr. Edwards was also burned. A Malloy oil tank truck was saved. The building was on the northeast corner of 2nd and Victoria. Neither business was rebuilt.

The next major fire happened again in December. This time it was December 8, 1932 about 2:30 in the morning. Four buildings were completely wiped out. The buildings were the building where a corn show was held, the May garage used as storage and both owned by Henry May and Elmer Buchholtz, the poolhall operated by Louis Urban and owned by A.J. Ladenburger and the Frank Kaplan harness shop. The buildings were located on the east one third of the block on 2nd Street between Victoria and Ann. Extremely cold weather handicapped the firemen from Morse Bluff and neighboring towns of Prague, Cedar Bluffs and North Bend. The firemen worked over three hours to save surrounding structures. The intense heat broke the large plate glass windows in the Walla Brothers store across the street as well as windows in other nearby buildings. Damage was approximately \$10,000 with very little insurance carried by the owners. Only Frank Kaplan rebuilt his business, the harness shop.

1939 had two more fires in the business district of Morse Bluff. One on February 4, 1939. A fire that originated in the blacksmith shop destroyed three buildings and their contents at a loss estimated at \$10,000. Besides the blacksmith equipment owned by Tom Beck and the building by Walla Brothers, two storage buildings owned by Frank Urban were destroyed. Five automobiles stored in the buildings owned by Frank Urban, Frank Bartosh, William Pabian and Charles Hampl and some village equipment was also destroyed. The loss was only partially covered by insurance. The blacksmith shop was constructed on the site the next year by Joe Fencl.

The other 1939 fire was on March 23. Electrical wiring was believed to have been the cause of the fire that destroyed the meat market and residence of Frank Brabec, estimated damage at \$5,000. North Bend firemen joined the Morse Bluff firemen in combatting the blaze. The meat market was destroyed and fire swept through five of the seven rooms in the residence at the rear. These two rooms still remain as a reminder of what was once part of a business next to the building housing the Wolf Sand and Gravel Company.

The last major business fire did not happen until June 22, 1953 about 1:30 A.M. The fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the Pabian Grocery and Tavern. The Morse Bluff and North Bend firemen battled the blaze for two hours before bringing it under control. The building housed two stores, the tavern on the east part and the store on the west. The building was owned by Frank Zakovec of Fremont. George Pabian had operated the tavern and grocery store about 25 years. The Wolf garage which housed the Catholic Church had smoke and water damage.

These fires all left a definite loss to the community as well as to the business district of Morse Bluff.



Post Office, 1987, 2nd & Victoria Streets.

Post Office

The history of the mail service in the Morse Bluff area goes back beyond the days of Pony Express, however the knowledge of it is unknown. The Pony Express started in April of 1860, its route originating at St. Joseph, Missouri, and ending in Sacramento, California, making its way through parts of Nebraska. During a short period of that time it was routed along the Platte River from Des Moines, Iowa, to Kearney, Nebraska. A local resident remembers his father talking of a post office located about two miles east of town and it may have been a Pony Express relay station but it is not known for sure. A rider changed horses at relay stations, which were set about ten or fifteen miles apart, transferring himself and his "mochila," (a saddle cover with four pockets or tantes for mail), to the new mount, all in one leap.

The transcontinental telegraph line was completed and the Pony Express ended October of 1861, and became history. To send by telegraph was found to be too expensive and the railroad became a new way to transport mail across the states. The mail was sorted on the train and dropped off at all the settlements.

A post office was established at Benton, which was a dug-out located on a ridge on the northeast edge of Morse Bluff in Section 20. The land is owned by James Vopalensky today. The post office was established June 8, 1868, and discontinued April 23, 1877. The postmaster was James R. Sloan.

Another post office by the name of Slavonia was established southwest of Morse Bluff on December 12, 1872. The name was changed to Cedar Hill on May 13, 1874, but the post office was discontinued on March 10, 1888. The following is a list of the postmasters and their date of appointment:

Fredric F. Doubrava	December 12, 1872
Bissel P. Rice	May 13, 1874
James H. Noteware	February 1, 1876
Harriet S. C. Noteware	September 18, 1877
Rainsford Brownell	October 24, 1882
Rainsford C. Brownell	January 16, 1888

Two months before Cedar Hill closed, the Morse Bluff Post Office was established on January 20, 1888, and continues yet today. Its original location in the village is unknown but in 1900 it was moved into the Mackprang Drug Store. It remained at that location until it was then moved to its present location. The following is a list of the postmasters and their date of appointment:

Anton K. Walla	January 20, 1888
John L. Hanks	April 5, 1888
Samuel W. Auten	September 11, 1890
Joseph F. Prai	May 24, 1893
Nicholas C. Wagner	November 21, 1895
Hiram Watts	January 31, 1898
Hans M. Mackprang	September 20, 1900
Emil R. Sandberg	April 22, 1911
Frank E. Lehmer	November 28, 1916
Fred W. Earle	April 2, 1938
James Vopalensky	December 31, 1945
Antoinette Buchholtz, OIC**	September 30, 1966
Raleigh R. Robertson	December 2, 1966
Barbara Belsky, OIC**	May 31, 1983
Donna L. Hansen	August 15, 1983

**Officer-In-Charge in between postmasters retirement and new appointments.

Rural Carrier service was established February 1, 1904, and there has been one rural route out of Morse Bluff since that time. The following is a list of the rural carriers and their date of duration:

Frank A. Hines	February 1, 1904 - June 14, 1904
Frank J. Krause	June 15, 1904 - May 31, 1935
Leo H. Scholts	June 1, 1935 - November 21, 1937
Frank E. Lehmer	April 4, 1938 - February 29, 1940

John H. Beto	March 1, 1940 - May 14, 1948
Frank I. Vlasak	June 26, 1950 - September 29, 1982
Charles L. Beranek	September 30, 1982 - December 31, 1984
Phyllis M. Pabian	January 5, 1985 - present carrier

Frank E. Lahmer held the position of postmaster the longest in the history of Morse Bluff, with twenty one years of service.

Frank I. Vlasak held the position of rural mail carrier the longest with nearly 32 years of service. Another long-time carrier was Frank J. Krause, with nearly 31 years of service.

Frank Krause traveled approximately 270,000 miles which is eleven times around the earth. He was born with a handicapped hand, forcing him to drive with one hand. He used a horse-drawn buggy for the first nine years. The next five years he used horse and mail wagon part of the time and an automobile part of the time. His last years he used strictly automobile and he wore out six of them. The lowest price he paid for gas was ten cents and the highest thirty cents.

Frank I. Vlasak started out with a Jeep and traveled approximately 800,000 miles. The most difficult period of travel was the winter of 1959-60. Due to heavy snows and a long winter, flooding occurred between North Bend and Morse Bluff and he brought the mail across by means of rowboat, sled, coaster wagon, wheelbarrow, bicycle and finally his Jeep. He made his first and last trip around the route with the same Jeep which he bought new and still owns. He also drove sixteen new automobiles during his career, all Fords.

In May of 1934, it was proposed to eliminate the rural route from Morse Bluff by Post Office Department and to consolidate it with the Cedar Bluffs route. The village board called a special meeting to pass a resolution, opposing the consolidation.

The Rural Free Delivery was a cultural and social agent for millions of Americans, and is still a vital link between industrial and rural America.



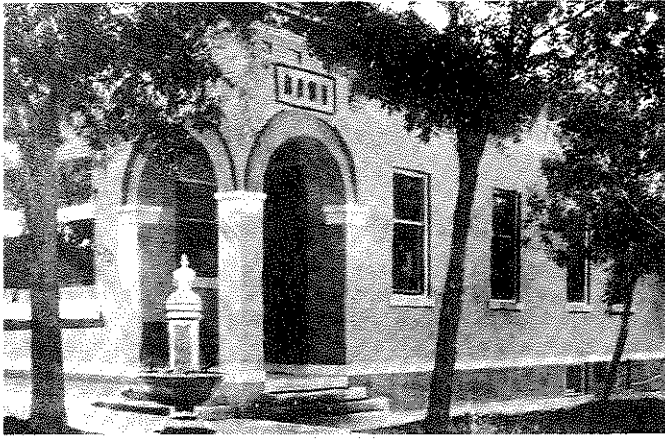
CENTENNIAL STATION

AUGUST 8, 1987

MORSE BLUFF, NE.

68648

This Special Cancellation, designed by Postmaster Donna Hansen in commemoration of the Morse Bluff Centennial, depicts a mode of transportation used by many pioneers and by a local gentleman—an individualist, who enjoyed wildlife, animals and mankind but ignored progress and modernization. He used the horse and buggy until his death in 1965, having made his home in Morse Bluff and vicinity for over fifty years. His name was William "Bill" Quackenbush.



Bank of Morse Bluff, incorporated 1891, 2nd & Victoria. This new brick building was built in 1910.

Bank of Morse Bluff

The Bank of Morse Bluff was incorporated June 27, 1891, with \$15,000 capital stock and \$10,000 surplus. Original stockholders included J.C. Hall, O.S. Christian, W.W. Hall, J. Gidley, Henry Wolfe, R.C. Brownell, Erik Olsen, Peter Wolff, Walter Fleming, J.G. Wilson, David Roberts, William Moody, Peter Jessen, E. Schurman, C.L. Morse, Francis Geverin, Otto Schurman, S.W. Auten, Frank Vopalensky, M. Ladenburger, Frank Krause, F.C. Kavan and Andrew Fleming. The first board of directors were Jesse Gidley, president; Andrew Fleming, vice president; J.C. Hall, cashier; and W.W. Hall, C.L. Morse and F.C. Kavan as directors.

The bank was located on the first floor of a two-story wooden frame building on the northwest corner of 2nd and Victoria Streets. In 1910 the two-story building was moved to the rear of the lot to make way for a new brick building. The brick building remained the Bank of Morse Bluff until the name was changed to the Platte Valley Bank in January 1934.

Emil E. Wolf began his long association with the Bank of Morse Bluff in March 1910 when he accepted the position of cashier. He advanced to president during the years following. Cora Skinner was another long time employee, first as assistant cashier and later as cashier.

The bank closed January 4, 1932, voluntarily. After several months of reorganizational planning the Bank of Morse Bluff reopened its doors on August 4, 1932. At a January 1934 stockholders meeting it was voted to move the principal place of business to North Bend, Nebraska since North Bend had no banking facilities. They also voted to change the name to Platte Valley Bank.

Platte Valley Bank's original directors were mostly from the Morse Bluff area, Richard McCluhan, Edward Walla, Phillip Walla, O.O. Ladenburger, J.M. Easom, H.R. Wilson and Emil E. Wolf, Sr.

A full 100 per cent payment to the old waived

depositors of the Bank of Morse Bluff was completed in 1950.

The Platte Valley Bank had its main office in North Bend but also maintained a branch office with Cora Skinner as cashier in Morse Bluff until 1942. The bank building was sold to James Vopalensky in 1946 to use as a Post Office.

Emil E. Wolf served until his death in 1955 as president. His son, Arden, took over as president until his death in 1974. Emil E. Wolf, Jr. held that position until his death in 1979. At that time Tom Wolf, son of Arden Wolf, became the executive officer of the Platte Valley Bank with a vital link to the history of Morse Bluff.

Farmer's State Bank

The former Zakovec Hall on lot 10 of block 2 became the location of the Farmer's State Bank. The exact dates that this bank was in existence could not be determined. A certificate was issued from the bank with a 1914 date on it. An article in the Morse Bluff news in a Wahoo newspaper indicates that it was operating in 1922. Among the officers were Frank Zakovec and Charles Beranek. Jimmie Zakovec was the cashier. During World War I the Farmer's State Bank took an active role in the liberty loan drives, always topping their quotas.

Blacksmiths

The locations of all the blacksmiths in the village are uncertain, however at one time there was one located on Lots 29 & 30, Block 8, now Francis Sullivan residence, and on Lots 21 & 22, Block 6, which still stands but with closed doors.

James Datal, son of Frank, moved his father's shop from Cedar Hill to Morse Bluff in 1888, location unknown. John Pabian was also a blacksmith in the village but location unknown.

Records prove that in 1902 there was a blacksmith on the Killian property and that in 1908 Jens Miller was the proprietor of the only blacksmith shop in town and was still operating in 1910. His shop was very probably located on Lot 22, owned by C.A. Killian.

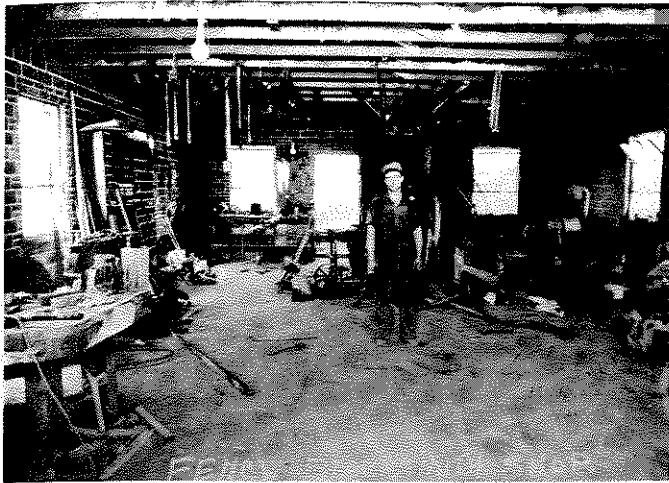
Walla Bros. purchased Lot 22 in 1920 with the blacksmith shop on it and they leased it to Anders Anderson. Mr. Anderson purchased this blacksmith shop in 1921 from the Walla Bros. and sold it back to them in 1932.

Tom Beck leased it from Walla Bros. in 1932 and operated his shop there until the fire in February of 1939, which destroyed his blacksmith equipment as well as the building.

Joe Fencl Blacksmith Shop

Louis Stranik, Joe and Leona Fencl purchased the blacksmith shop in March of 1939. Joe had previously

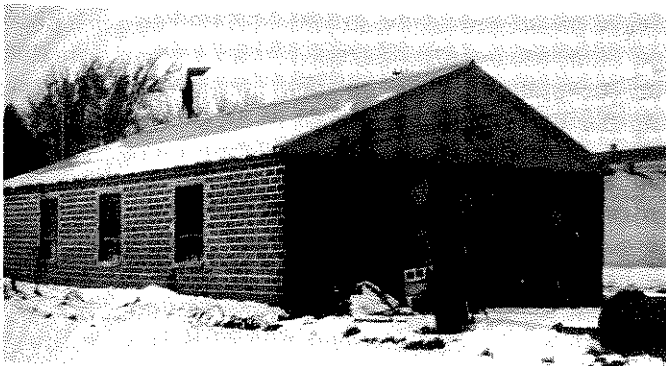
worked for Tom Beck. Joe, with the help of his father-in-law, built the hollow tile building in 1939.



Joe Fencil in his blacksmith shop, 1939. He was 23 years old.

During World War II, Joe hand built many disc harrows and converted many horse cultivators to tractor operation. He converted many other machines, as new machinery was not available due to the war. He rebuilt many wooden wagon wheels and wagons, as this was before the general use of rubber tires on wagons. He was very innovative and could fix most anything and it was a special challenge if someone said something could not be fixed.

In 1953 Joe added on the 60' x 60' corrugated tin building in the rear. Throughout his career Joe was assisted by his wife, Leona, who did all the bookkeeping and assisted him with his shop work. Other assistants over the years were Frank Urban, during the war, and Jack Stanek, Frank Lodl, Jr., Alvin Soukup, Leonard Maly, Stanley Vyhldal and Joe Bunda. He slowly expanded his business until at various times he sold two brands of feed, seed corn, oil, grease, hardware, tools, ammunition, auto parts, New Idea machinery, chain saws, paint and even pancake flour. It was an old saying that if Joe doesn't have it, you don't need it.



Joe Fencil's Blacksmith Shop. On Ann between 2nd & 3rd

The Fencils had a very disasterous fire Jan. 1974, destroying most of the back building and heavily damaging the front building. He never fully recovered from it. Both buildings were repaired but never fully cleared of the debris. His health slowly began to fail in the late 1970's and in January 1983, he passed away.

There was a huge two-day auction of the shop contents on April 15 and 16, 1983, conducted by Jack Nitz and Associates. The Morse Bluff Volunteer Firemen and other individuals helped to complete the auction. It was, "The End of an Era." Joe's shop is in the memory of many a Morse Bluff citizen and others who no longer live in the area. Many a farmer had his problem solved at Joe's and many a boy bought B-B's for his air rifle or maybe 22 shells for his rabbit gun or perhaps fish hooks.

The buildings are used only for storage now and it is doubtful if ever again the ring of the anvil will be heard in Morse Bluff.



Fencil Blacksmith Shop auction, April 15 & 16, 1983. "End of an Era."

Brick Factory

A brick factory was built on the southeast edge of town on the bluff on what is the Wieneke property today. William Mines built the factory in 1886 and moved it to North Bend in 1888. He continued to get the clay from the bluff to make his bricks. Most of the buildings in both towns have foundations made of Mines bricks. He had a very prosperous business.

Cement Block Factory

In 1909 Nick Wagner and Frank Zakovec started a cement block factory on Lots 3 & 4, Block 1. In 1910 they sold out to John Paseka and A.T. Ondracek. It was then known as J.W. Paseka, Jr., Concrete Co. and was one of the leading enterprises of the town. Mr. Paseka was also a contractor for brick sidewalks, foundations, buildings, cement tanks, cisterns, chimneys and caves. He was an experienced workman and guaranteed all his work to be "first-class." He also sold cement at a reasonable price.

Killian Store

Charles A. Killian started a well and windmill business in 1888 and in 1890 purchased Lots 18, 19, 20, 21 & 22, Block 6. He located his store on Lots 20 & 21. His business being highly successful, he added an agricultural line—implements, wagons, buggies, paints, oils and a full line of pump equipment.

In the early 1900's he added his plumbing business with the village water works being his first contract. He continued his business until 1920, when he sold Lot 22 to Walla Bros. and the rest of the property to Frank J. Urban. Mr. Urban used the buildings on Lots 20 & 21 for rental storage until a fire in 1939.

Livery Stables

It is not certain when the livery stable was built on Lots 5 & 6, Block 1. It was in the early 1900's and J. McVittie was manager. Edward Vopalensky purchased the business March, 1908, and also did dray work. Timothy and Allison Dodge purchased the business January, 1911 and continued the same line.

There were several owners after Dodges, however all the managers' names are unknown. The livery part was discontinued but the dray continued. Owners were: 1912, Frank Zakovec; 1913, Frank J. Urban; 1916, Charles Vasina; 1916, John Svoboda; 1917, Louis Urban; 1918, Amiel Mizera; 1919, Jake J. Kimble; 1921, Frank J. Urban; 1927, Adolph J. Cerny; 1934, George Bobek.

Records show that it was known as Kimble Transfer Stables and Stock from 1919 to 1927, with Jake J. Kimble as manager and it was under Adolph J. Cerny management in 1927 and 1928. Local residents remember of Frank Urban and a Mr. Havelka as managers in the past. George Bobek managed the business for awhile when he bought it in 1934 and later he tore it down but the exact year is unknown.

On Lot 8 of the same block, records prove Dodge Stable & Stock existed from 1920 to 1925. This building was removed by 1926 and the Citizen's Telephone Co. office and dwelling was built on this lot.

Lots 1 & 2, Block 7, where Tom Mensik lives today, was once the site of a huge livery barn. Records show that in 1907 and 1908 it was known as Babka's Stable. This barn was moved to Scott's Lake, date unknown, and used as a barn on the farm for many years. It was torn down in the spring of 1984.

Other known records of livery stable owners but locations unknown are: 1888, Mr. Casey sold livery barn to Elmer and Bob Tracy; 1897, John Bignell quit the livery and dray business and Bob Thompson took it over; 1899, Charles W. Mosier was in the livery business; and 1901, Frank Matipka sold livery business.



This huge livery barn was originally located at 2nd & Short Streets.



Moved to Scott's Lake and used for storage, torn down in 1984.

Unknown Hotel

In 1887, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Thompson built a hotel but the location is unknown.

Morse Bluff Hotel

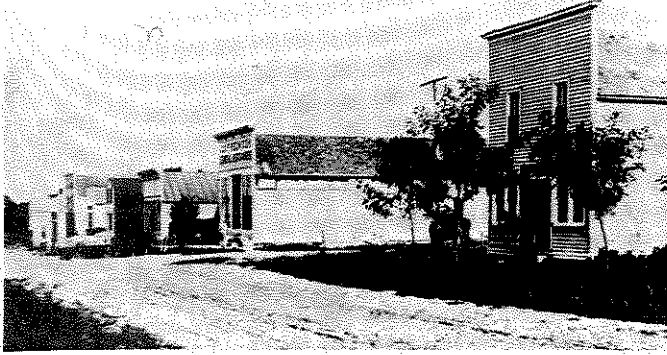
Fred Miller built a hotel on the northeast corner of 2nd & Ann Streets in 1901. It was adjoined with an orchard to the north. During its years of existence it was a very prominent and well patronized hotel with people from all over the state passing through on the railroad and spending the night. It had a restaurant and bar within the premises.

The following were the succeeding owners: 1905, Frank Hough; 1906, S.W. Sherman; 1909, J.P. Paseka; 1910, Margueritha Seligman; 1918, C.M. Daly; 1920, James T. Dodge; and 1925, Emil Bunda.

There were various managers through the years; however names are unknown. Its doors were closed in the middle twenties and was moved by Dodge Bros. steam engine to its present site, west of Morse Bluff—in the trees on the bluff of the Dodge property.

Boarding House

The old office of Mizera & Klug Lumber Co., located on Lot 1 & 2, Block 5, was used for a boarding house in the 30's and managed by Linden Leach.



Main Street 1910, Leach Boarding House to the right.

Mizera & Klug Lumber Yard

The building on Lot 1, Block 5, was built as a saloon by Joseph and Barbara Racek January, 1888. Thomas Suchy became a joint owner in June, 1888. It was a large building with a dwelling in the rear and a dwelling on second floor.

The property was purchased by Anton Ondracek, January, 1893 and sold to Frank Kavan July, 1900. Little is known about this business.

Frank Brosovsky purchased it September, 1901 and opened up a butcher shop. It remained his butcher shop until April, 1904 when H.M. Mackprang purchased it. Local residents think Taylor Slack and wife, Mary, had a butcher shop on the premises but dates unknown.

Margaretha Seligman purchased the property January, 1908 and quite sure she used it as a boarding house until late 1910.

Louis C. Klug purchased Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 on September 20, 1911 and formed the business of Mizera & Klug Lumber Yard. He used the existing building on Lot 1 for his office and the remaining lots for lumber yard. The business existed only five years.

A.J. Edmiston purchased the property November 4, 1916 and by the 1920's it was a boarding house with a cafe, leased to Linden Leach. When the Leach family moved out in the early 1930's, Bert Cummins moved his barber shop into the building and operated it until 1936.

George H. Pabian purchased the property in 1945 and used it for his feed store, with the dwelling still in the rear and the dwelling on second floor. He closed his business in 1954. It is still Pabian property today and the lots are vacant.

Wahoo Wasp 1/24/1901: Several ladies in village participated in feather stripping party last Thurs. eve at Mrs. Vopalensky's.

Early Doctors

Dr. Mastin was the physician in the late 1800's, however his location is unknown. He moved to Holt county September 4, 1896.

Dr. John A. Parmenter started his doctor's office in 1908 on Lot 12, Block 7. It was a little south of the present American Legion building. He was a graduate of the Creighton Medical College of Omaha in 1908 and had also taken a nine-month course in the Swedish Mission Hospital.

He delivered and doctored many babies and some of them still reside in Morse Bluff today. He closed his office in 1915.



Dr. Parmenter-John Fishler, serious game of cards, early 1900's.

Walla Bros.

Phillip Walla, Jr. and brother, Ed Walla, on completion of a business course at the Fremont Normal College, were employed at Reznicek's General Store. In 1906 their father purchased the Reznicek share and the two brothers started their own mercantile business known as "Walla Bros."

A new brick building was constructed around 1912. Bordering the sidewalk on the east side of the building was a row of hitching posts to accommodate horse-drawn buggies and wagons, the transportation of the day.

The store was stocked with groceries, dishes, dry goods, clothing, shoes, hardware and some furniture. Many groceries came in bulk: namely, vinegar, coffee, cheese, sugar, dried beans, rice, cookies and candy, to name a few. There was a large pickle barrel and from a low ceiling in one area, hung a stalk of bananas.

World War I brought a rise in prices and flour was

somewhat limited. Cornmeal and rice flour were possible substitutes.

In the 1920's, school 10th grade graduations and Christmas programs were held at the Lodge Hall. Afterward, customers came to the store to finish Christmas shopping. One family came to town in a horse-drawn sleigh, and the memory of sleigh bells ringing on those cold, clear nights lingers on.

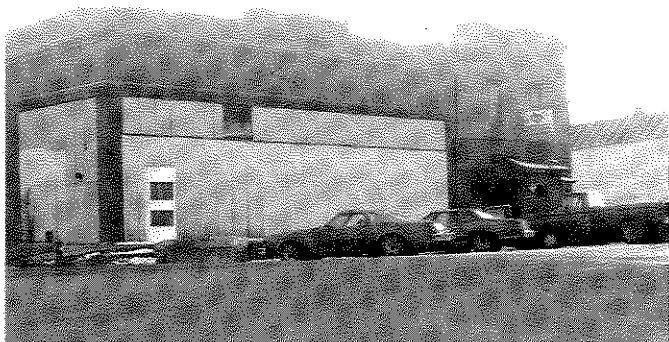


Walla Bros., 2nd & Ann Streets, taken about 1912. Notice the team of mules.

A later decade brought the depression and drought years, hardships were felt by everyone. Farmers traded butter, eggs and chickens for necessary staples such as coffee, yeast and salt.

World War II brought rationing of food items such as butter, meat and sugar.

Due to ill health, Ed Walla retired and sold his share in 1938 to Phillip, who continued as sole owner until 1946. At that time he sold the business to his nephew, Donald Walla. In 1957, Donald sold the stock at auction, and the building was later purchased by Bill Baxter to be used for a bee and honey processing business.



Baxter Bees, formerly Walla Bros., 1987.

Baxter Bees

The first owner of the Baxter property was John Eckery who in April, 1891 purchased Lots 1 & 2, Block 6 and built a frame building on Lot 1 and started a furniture store. Miss Lillie Bartosh was the clerk. He later added a line of general merchandise.

February, 1895 Anton Chapek traded Mr. Eckery his farm for the business. Mr. Chapek was the proprietor until 1900.

From 1900 to 1905 it was referred to as the Reznicek General Store. As previously recorded, Walla & Joseph F. Reznicek purchased the property October, 1903, becoming Walla Bros. In 1906 however, a local resident has a token that says, "Vojtech-Walla Store" but relevancy is unknown.

The frame building was tore down and a brick one was built covering both lots between 1912 and 1916. March, 1963 Bill Baxter purchased the building and after extensive changes were made on the interior, it became his Honey House.

Bill has been with bees and honey since he was born. His father was in the business and Bill worked for his father until high school graduation but due to hay fever, left the business until his marriage in 1947. He then borrowed money and with his father's help, started with 150 hives of bees, later increasing to 500. He bottled his own honey in glass jars and sold to grocery stores. He sold all that he produced as well as his father's honey and also bought from other beekeepers. He was selling honey to wholesale grocers under his own label as well as three private labels for other companies, with food brokers representing him in several states. He did this for at least 20 years and then sold the packing part of the business and concentrated entirely on producing honey.

In 1946 he started placing bees on farms in Saunders and Butler counties and had hives at Blair for 17 years. With the purchase of the Morse Bluff property and the modern extracting equipment, it is possible to process from the honey comb to liquid honey, about eight to ten barrels in a four-hour period with two or three helpers extracting.

The truck is brought inside the building to unload. The boxes of honey are on pallets and are unloaded in a short time. The "uncapper" can handle about nine honey combs or frames per minute. These are placed in extractions which hold about 60 to 80 frames. All the honey flows to a holding tank in the lower level, where it is warmed slightly by circulating hot water, then pumped back up to the three tanks on the upper level where it is later emptied into barrels in the lower level.

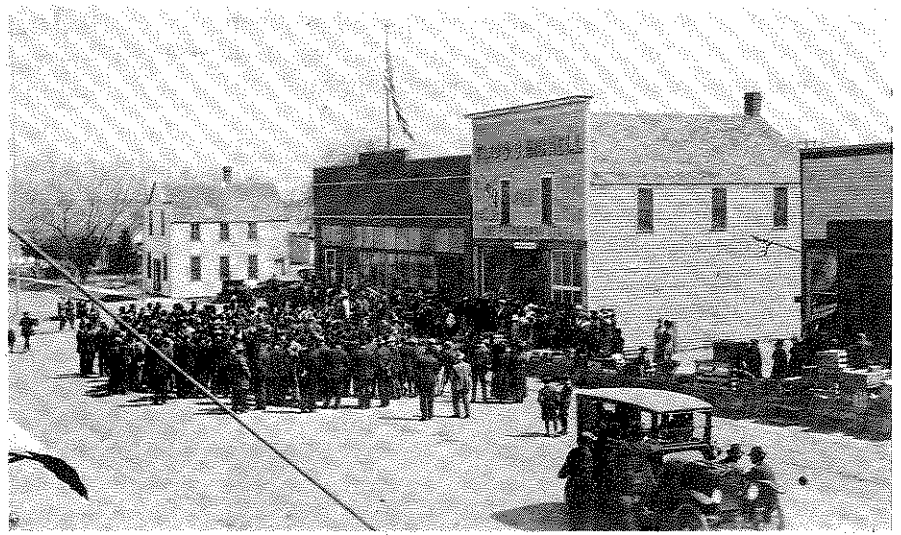
An electric chain hoist is used to bring the barrels back up for loading onto trucks for market. Wax from the cappings of the honey combs is separated and melted into cakes in the wax room in the lower level.

Nearing his retirement, Bill has been in the business more than 40 years and will probably keep a few hives of bees for a hobby.

Wahoo Wasp 4/18/1895: The sugar beet boom has struck us and there will be nearly 50 acres of beets planted perhaps Monday. J.E. Dorsey and B.T. Slack are putting in about 20 acres.



Double "A" Saloon, 1987.



1918 Saunders County Red Cross War Fund Auction, netted \$9451.71. *l-r:* (Far left) Livery Barn, Dr. Parmenter's Office, Walla Bros., Bignell "One Price Cash Store," and Meat Market.

Double "A" Saloon

Mark Ahlquist purchased the Double "A" Saloon in September, 1985. It is located on Lot 3, Block 6, and at the time of writing is the only public business where the public can congregate and socialize. Besides serving beer, liquor, soft drinks and lunches, it has billiards, cards and a confectionery.

During the Francis Sullivan ownership, Jack Howellwater or Howarter, a traveling artist, painted a mural on the east wall for \$200. He was a very heavy drinker and spent most of the \$200 on drinks before he left town.

During the Terry Friesz ownership, the bar back on the west wall was removed and is now in the Louis May Museum in Fremont.

The history of the building managers and type of businesses is unknown until 1919, however in the early 1900's it was used as the Methodist Church for a short time. Walla Bros. used it for storage from 1919 to 1933.

Owners and dates of purchase are: John J. Vlasak, July, 1894; John Eckery, March 1895; F.M. Dorsey, February, 1901; Fred Bignell, September, 1902; Selina Bignell, April, 1918; Phillip Walla, Jr., March, 1919. Mr. Walla rented it to William (Spider) Pabian in 1933 and it was made into a saloon. Mr. Pabian purchased the property November, 1939.

Owners and managers since that time are: D.A. Chase, September, 1948; Francis Sullivan, October, 1948; Ronald Ondracek, September, 1972; Leon Semrad, August, 1973; Thomas O'Keefe, May 1975; Terry Friesz, April, 1980; Robert E. Chromy, August, 1982; and Mark Ahlquist, September, 1985.

Wahoo Independent 7/16/1891: James Bartosh driving from bend—one horse of his team frightened, upturned buggy breaking wheels.

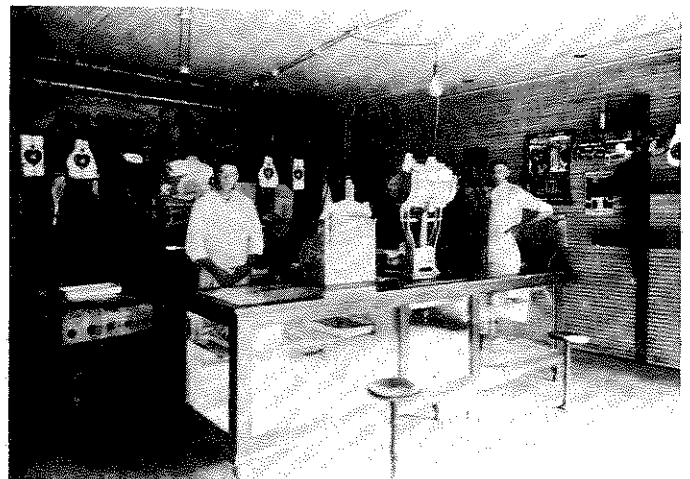
Seligman Meat Market

Mrs. Martha Jane Thompson purchased Lot 5, Block 6, April, 1892, believed to have been used as an apartment house. She sold it to Dougal Allen April, 1905.

August Seligman rented the property in 1908 and started The Cash Meat Market. He sold fresh and salted meat, and fish and game when in season. He bought and killed his own meat. His slaughter house, known as Seligman's Slaughter House, was located west of Morse Bluff about one-half mile, up in the draw.

In 1910 he sold his business and equipment to Joe Cuhel. Mr. Cuhel kept it as a butcher shop and had rendering in the rear of the building. He was proprietor of the shop until the end of 1921.

Lambert Faltys purchased the property December, 1921. His type of business is unknown. The building



Seligman's Meat Market, early 1900's. August Seligman, Jr. is to the right.

was vacant until 1929 and the rendering had been removed in 1922. From April, 1929 to 1943 it was used to store county road equipment, maintainer and supplies.

In 1944 Mr. Faltys leased the property to A.J. Ladenburger, who used it for a warehouse and tank truck garage for Ladenburger Oil. In 1946 Mr. Ladenburger purchased the property, keeping it for his warehouse until 1982.

Robert E. Chromy purchased the property August, 1982 and he sold it to Mark Ahlquist September, 1985. He is the present owner and uses it for private storage.



Interior of Dougal Allan's Racket Store, 1905-1919. Dougal is standing behind the counter.

Dougal Allan's Store

According to an old diary, Sam Auten built a merchandise store and later sold it to Elmer and Bob or Bill Tracy. County records show that William & E.N. Tracy purchased Lot 7, Block 6, January, 1890.

Dougal Allan purchased the property April, 1905 and had a racket store there for 14 years. Local residents remember it as "The Candy Store." He carried a line of light hardware and many other useful articles. A full line of stock food was also handled.

Christine Bignell purchased the property March, 1919 but evidently leased it, as in 1920 it was known as the Jones dwelling and in 1944 it was known as Wescott Barber Shop. Other businesses but dates unknown were Herman's Dry Cleaners, Bert Cummins Barber Shop, Leon Schinkel Barber Shop, Martins Grocery, liquor store, and rental home until 1983.

A.J. Ladenburger purchased the property March 1946; Tom Ladenburger, November, 1954; Robert E. Chromy, August, 1982; and Mark Ahlquist, September, 1985.

The last business in this building was Robert Chromy, Jr.'s Bait Shop during the summer of 1984. It is used for private storage today, with Mr. Ahlquist as owner.

John Swan Meat Market

In 1887 John Swan built a meat market on Lot 9, Block 6. Little is known about his business, however. On June 11, 1891 John Holcomb moved into this building as a shop and was the proprietor until it burned August, 1894. The lot has been empty ever since that time.

Doctor Hubenbecker's Office

A doctor's office was built on Lot 9, Block 6, in 1916. It adjoined the drug store to the west. It was leased to Dr. John C. Hubenbecker, who practiced medicine in this building until 1946, when he moved his business to North Bend due to ill health of his own.

This lot was previously empty and owned by Hanson Stone who purchased it August, 1890; Hans Mackprang, July, 1898; Emil Sandburg, May, 1911. Mr. Sandburg was owner when the doctor's building was erected.



Doctor's Office built 1916 and Drug Store built 1887.

Drug Store

In 1887 J.L. Hanks built a drug store on Lot 9, Block 6. Mr. Hanks was the druggist and possibly the post office there in 1888. In 1891 a circular library was put in the drug store and Henry Mackprang was chosen the librarian.

In 1900 the post office was moved into the store, then known as the Mackprang Drug, and remained there until 1946 when both the drug store and post office were moved into the bank building on corner of 2nd & Victoria Streets.

The drug store had many owners, Emil Sandburg purchased it May, 1911, the same time he purchased Lot 9. Later owners of both buildings were: Fred Earle, 1920, Frank E. Lehmer, manager of post office and drug store from 1916 to 1938. He then leased the store to Fred Earle who also managed the post office and drug store until 1945. James Vopalensky purchased the property December, 1945 and managed both businesses until they were moved into the

building in 1946, leaving both buildings vacant.

From 1949 to 1951 Mary L. Racek had a cafe in the old drug store and the doctor's office building was used for a residence for a few years.

Later owners of both lots were: 1953, Francis Sullivan; 1960, Joe Fencel; 1983, Robert E. Wolf.

Liberty Theatre

In 1887 Anton Chapek built a furniture store on Lot 12, Block 6. He closed out the furniture stock in 1891 and put in shelves, then leased the building to Frank B. Datel and Joseph F. Prai for a general merchandise store. Newspaper articles state that Datel & Prai were robbed October 19, 1894 and November 23, 1894. Frank B. Datel purchased the property October, 1897 and named it The Datel General Store.

Joseph F. Reznicek rented the property in 1905 and had The Reznicek General Merchandise Store there until 1913. John J. Pabian moved his business into the store in 1913 and kept the same line of merchandise. He was manager until 1920 with Fanny Pabian helping the last years.

In 1920 it was known as The Bignell Store. It was a general merchandise store with groceries. They used the building on Lot 11 as their warehouse. Records show that the warehouse building on Lot 11 was removed in 1922 and that the Bignell Store was vacant in 1922.

About 1925 the Bignell Store was made into a theatre and was referred to as The Liberty Theatre and managed by a Mr. Herman. Anna B. Moss purchased the property January, 1931, however she had

possibly rented it earlier as it was referred to as Moss & Smith Theatre in 1929.

In 1936 it was vacant but shortly after, Berka and Emil Mizera had a produce store in the building, handling cream, poultry and eggs. When Frank Brabec Meat Market burned in 1939, he moved his meat market into this building.

Wolf Sand & Gravel purchased the property September, 1948.

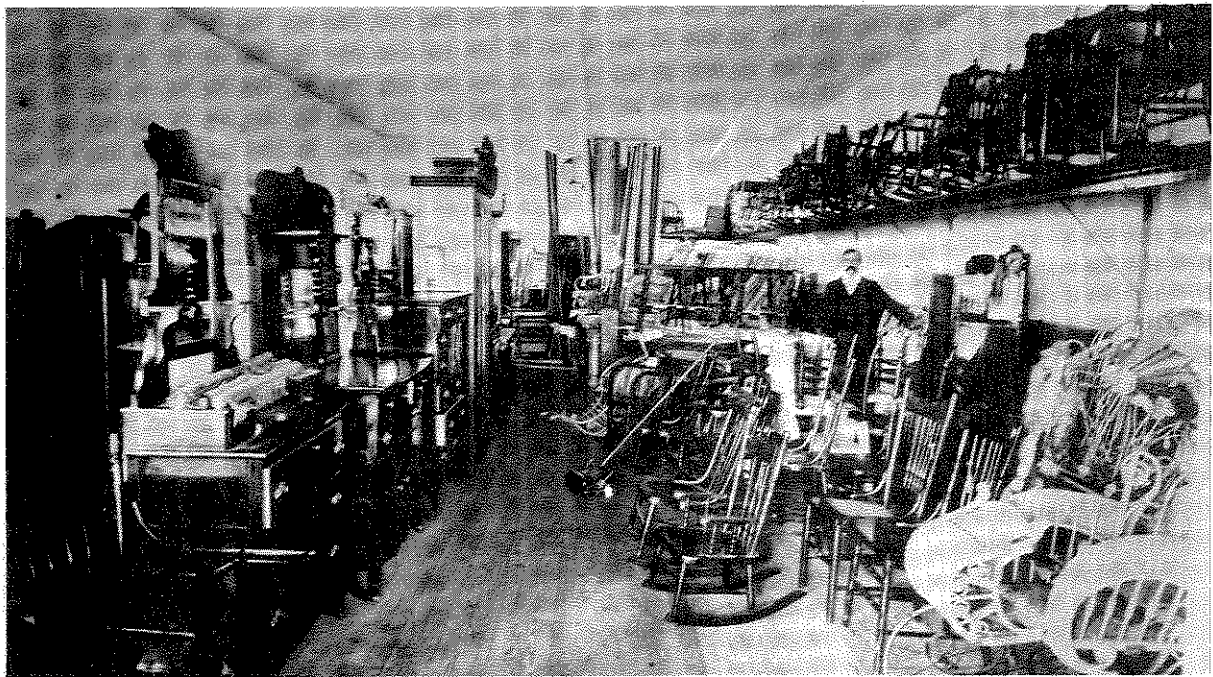
Movies

According to the town board books, on May 13, 1912, it was moved by Wolf and seconded by Sandburg that H. Hager be allowed a flat rate of 75 cents per night for his moving picture machine. It is unknown where they were viewed.

In the late 1920's and early 1930's silent movies were held in The Liberty Theatre. Alfreida Urban and Irene Herman played piano for the movies.

In the middle 1930's Joe Jenny came to town regularly with free shows. He charged the village \$3.75 per trip. The free shows were outdoors on the lots that are Minarick's today. They had two big telephone poles back near the Harness Shop with boards across for a screen. The people sat on planks laid across cement blocks, some brought their own chairs or sat on blankets but most of the people sat in cars. They were parked double and sometimes triple on Ann Street north between 1st and 2nd. Mr. Jenny was still coming to town in the middle 1940's.

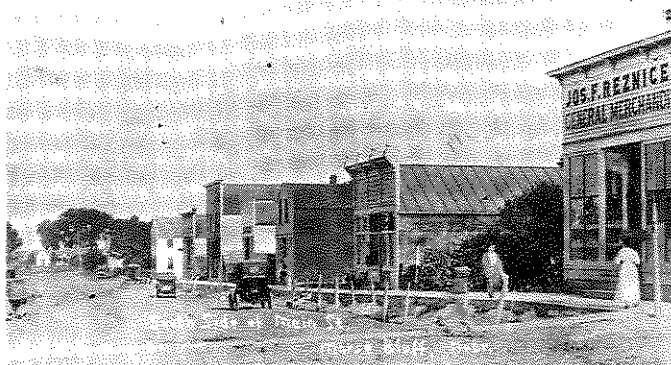
By 1949 William Vrana came to town with shows, charging the village \$17.50 for each trip.



Chapek Furniture Store, 1898. Mr. Chapek made all of his furniture. He is standing toward the rear of the room.



Anton Chapek General Store before 1890. Mr. Chapek behind the counter.



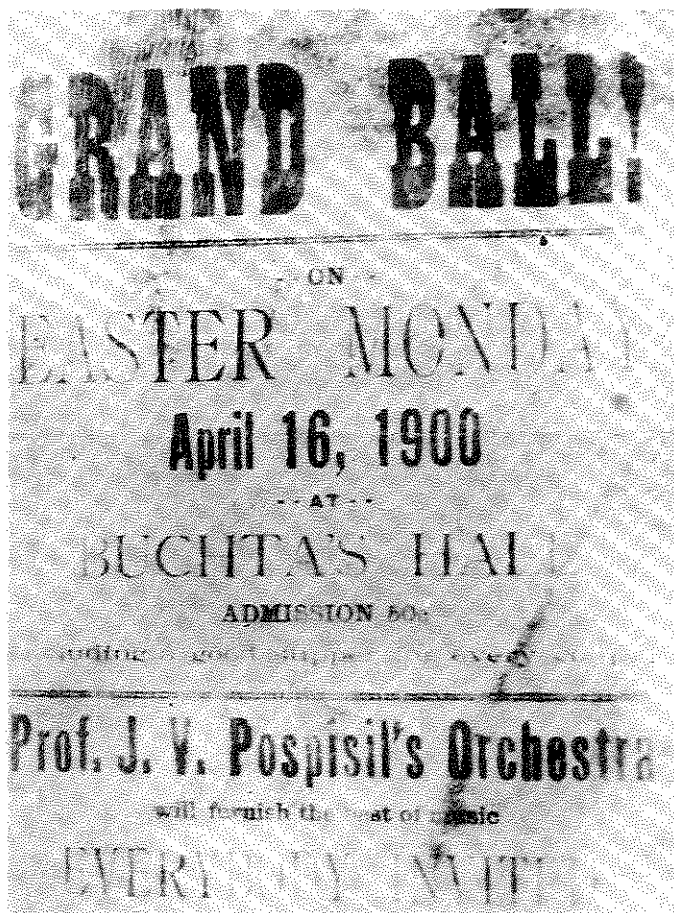
So. side of Main Street 1910, l-r: Dr. Parmenter's, Walla's, Bignell's, Seligman's, Candy Store, Drug Store & Reznicek's.

Ondracek's Saloon & Dance Hall

In November of 1887 John Wirka and Joseph Heneck built a saloon on the northwest corner of Second and Ann Streets on Lots 1 & 2, Block 2. The second floor had a dance hall with a stage.

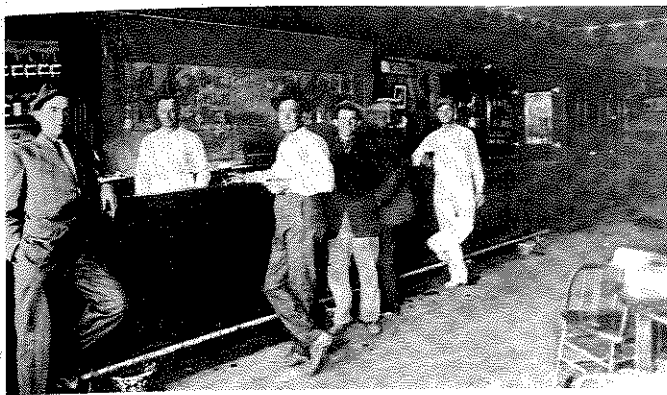
In 1888 it was sold to Frank Hines. Many dances were held in the hall and Professor Proj conducted a Bohemian school and had 40 scholars enrolled. He held class each Sunday at the Hines Hall.

In 1895 it was sold to Anton Ondracek. He owned and operated the saloon and dance hall until 1902, when he sold the business to Frank Buchta. Mr. Buchta sold it back to Anton Ondracek in 1905. During these ten years it was referred to as "Ondracek's



Dance announcement for "GRAND BALL" at Buchta's Hall, 1900. "Admission 50¢, including a good supper for every couple." The Good Old Days!

Saloon," "Ondracek's Hall," "Buchta's Saloon" and "Buchta's Hall." Besides the many dances and events held in the hall, graduation ceremonies were held there.



Racek Saloon, 2nd & Ann, built 1887.

Emil Racek was the next owner, date unknown. He added a line of general merchandise and also had a garage on the lot to the west of the saloon. Frank A. Vlasak was manager of the merchandise store and Emil managed the garage. John Svoboda later had joint ownership with Emil Racek, date unknown.

During the 1910's a two-lane bowling alley was installed. William A. Vopalensky set pins for two and a half cents per game and would make up to ninety cents per night. Emil sold the business to William Racek, who in turn sold it to Henry May.

Henry May was a mechanic and operated the garage until 1931, then went into partnership with Elmer Buchholtz and purchased a garage from John Heuser, using the previous garage for storage.

At the time of the fire of 1932, corn shows were being held in the corner building on Lot 1, and the garage on Lot 2 was used for storage. A. J. Ladenburger purchased the property in 1933 and sold them to Jim Minarick in 1977. From 1932 to 1944, all that existed was the private ice house of A. J. Ladenburger.

Ladenburger Saloon

Lot 3, Block 2, was Pioneer Town Site until March 20, 1907, when J.H. Matejka purchased it, selling it eleven days later to A.J. Ladenburger.

It housed a pool hall with a confectionery business and an adjoining barber shop. Mr. Ladenburger never managed the place of business. In 1911 he leased it to Otto "Sticks" Ladenburger, who managed the pool hall and Frank Steiner was the barber.

He leased it to Joe Ladenburger in the 1920's and Bert Cummins was the barber.

He leased it to Louis Urban in 1932 and it was destroyed by fire the same year. It is owned by Jim Minarick today.



Webster Well Company 1987, formerly Kaplan Harness Shop.

Webster Well Company

Webster Well Company was started in September, 1976 by Jim Minarick of Webster. In the summer of 1977 he purchased Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and part of Lot 5, Block 2. The large steel building was erected in 1980 and the shop addition was completed in 1981.

The Company started with one domestic drilling rig from San Jose, California and grew to include three drilling rigs, service trucks, backhoes, trenchers and related equipment. A complete irrigation division was added in 1979 with the purchase of Terra Western's Well Division.

The Webster Well Company now serves eastern Nebraska with complete domestic and irrigation well drilling and related services.

First Harness Shop

Charles Sang built a harness shop on Lot 4, Block 2, in 1887. He sold it to Rainford C. Brownell October, 1900. In December, 1901 it was sold to Frank Kaplan.

Frank Kaplan Harness Shop

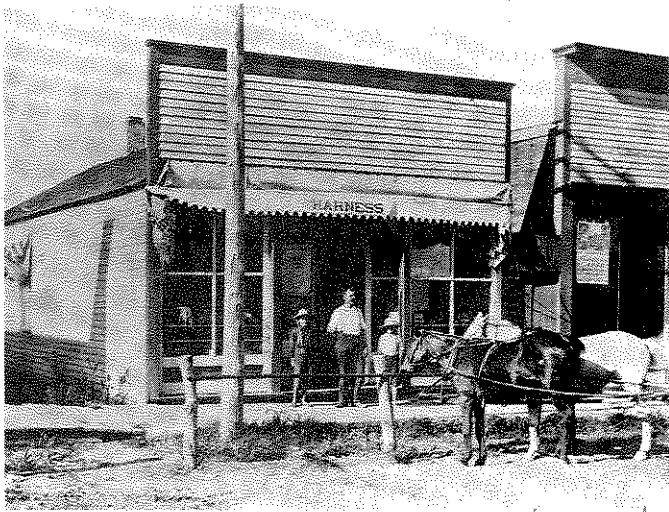
Frank Kaplan, son of Anton and Anna Kaplan, was born in Bohemia, June 6, 1867. He emigrated to the United States in 1891 and came to Nebraska in 1896.

The nine years preceding his entrance into the harness and shoe repair business in Morse Bluff in 1900 were spent in different labors, mainly on farms.

R.C. Brownell sold Frank Lot 4, in Block 2, for \$250.00 on December 2, 1900. The harness shop was built the next year by J.P. Shavlik.

He lived in the back of the shop and ate his meals at Mrs. Seligman's Hotel located on the corner where the Ladenburger Oil Company later had a gas station. After his marriage, he moved into a house.

All the harnesses sold in the early 1900's were sewn by hand. Later Frank started to sell factory made harnesses because they were cheaper but many of his customers still preferred hand sewn harnesses and would put in special orders for them. These were



Frank Kaplan Harness Shop built in 1900, Ladenburger Pool Hall to the right.

made after supper by the light of an oil hanging lamp that could be lowered or raised.

On December 7, 1932, a fire about 2:30 in the morning destroyed four buildings and their contents. One of the buildings was the Frank Kaplan Harness Shop. The others were the building where a Corn Show was being held, The May Garage, which had been used for storage, and the pool hall operated by Louis Urban.

Many firemen turned out into the sub-zero weather to battle the blaze that morning. No clean-up could be done until the next spring.

The shop and its contents were fully insured and in 1933 plans were drawn up by Carl Pearson of Wahoo for a new brick building with a full size basement. It was wired for electricity. That was the first time Frank had the use of electricity.

His son, George, had graduated from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in 1931. There was the Great Depression and there were no jobs, so he settled for a job with his father. There was no money; pay was mostly in the form of grain, cattle and swine.

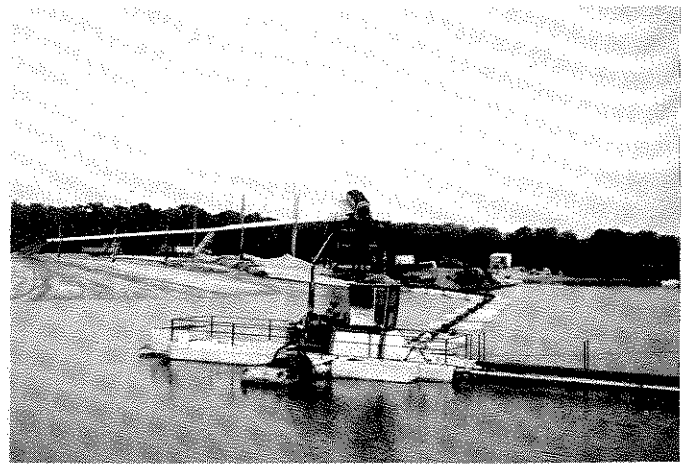
Mr. Kaplan died September 11, 1940, and George, with the help of his brother, Emil, took over the business.

When World War II broke out, George went to work at the Mead Ordinance Plant and Emil continued to operate the shop alone.

Many changes had taken place over the years. There were no more harnesses or any horse related items sold. There were still some binder canvas belts sold and repaired but that too, in time, was phased out.

When Philip Walla, owner of the Walla Bros. Store, decided to sell out his stock of shoes, Emil bought it and from then on, he sold shoes and repaired shoes. He died March 27, 1965.

The Shoe Shop was later sold to Francis Sullivan and his wife. They later sold it to Jim Minarick, owner of Webster Well Drilling Co.



Bluff Gravel Co. since 1983. The portable dredge was designed and built by Minarick brothers.

Bluff Gravel Company

The Minarick brothers, Ted, Jim and Steve, purchased the Drevo Sand & Gravel Co. August, 1983. They named their new company "Bluff Gravel Company." The plant is located one mile east and one and one-half north of Morse Bluff. The office is located on Lot 4, Block 2 in Morse Bluff.

The original plant was operated as purchased for one year. Realizing a need for better production and efficiency, a portable dredge was designed and built in Morse Bluff. The new unit's production increased 50 to 75 per cent and fuel consumption was cut in half.

The following year the old-fashioned flat deck gravel screen on top of a 60-yard holding bin was replaced by a barrel-type rotary screen. Placing the 8000 pound screen on top of a 21 foot high holding bin was difficult but successful. It provided a much more consistent product and again improved efficiency.

The current production line includes road gravel, concrete and fill sand and two sizes of mud rock material.

John J. Pabian General Store

In 1887 Anton Walla built a hardware store on Lot 6, Block 2. He was postmaster at the time and had the post office in the store.

In 1888 Mr. Walla sold the store to Frank Vopalensky, who kept the same line of merchandise, however the post office was moved into the drug store across the street.

In 1893 Mr. Vopalensky sold the hardware store to John J. Pabian and Nick C. Wagner. Mr. Wagner became postmaster in 1895 and the post office was once again in this store.

In 1896 Mr. Wagner sold his share of the property, making Mr. Pabian sole owner. It was named the J.J. Pabian General Store. He had dry goods business and his stock was also composed of notions, gents fur-

nishings, shoes, groceries and queensware. His motto was, "The Best for the Lowest Price."

In 1913 Mr. Pabian sold the property to Mike Pabian and moved his business into another building. Mike Pabian leased the building to August Seligman and it was made into a meat market. Louis Urban worked for Mr. Seligman and when Mr. Seligman's health failed, Mr. Urban took over and managed the meat market until 1927. During Mr. Urban's management, the property was sold to Frank, Henry and Charles Dodge in 1917. They used part of the property for auto supply storage, leasing the meat market to Mr. Urban.

Frank Brabec purchased the property in 1927, remodeled and added space for a residence and in 1935 he built a garage in the rear. He continued the meat market until a fire in March, 1939, which destroyed his business and all but two rooms of the residence. He then moved his business to the Liberty Theatre.

William Buchholtz purchased the property November, 1939 and lived in the two remaining rooms.

Other owners in the 1920's were John Svoboda and Frank Kadlec, dates of purchases unknown. Wolf Sand & Gravel Co. is the present owner.



l-r: J.J. Pabian Store (previously John McVittie Furniture Store), Farmers Grain in view, and Kaplan Harness Shop, 1918.

Restaurant

In 1888 John Metipka built a restaurant on Lot 7, Block 2. He managed the restaurant for three years and then leased the building to Mr. Day, who opened a butcher shop in the building June 11, 1891.

John Metipka sold the property to J.F. Prai in 1895, type of business is unknown.

Hiram Watts rented the property in 1897 and again made it into a restaurant. He became postmaster in 1898 and moved the post office into the restaurant.

September, 1900 Anna Bernasek was the new manager of the restaurant, keeping it until Henry Houchen's management from 1909 to 1910.

Village Board Books: (1911) Voted to plow Kate Street into a back furrow and harrow it.

Clint Young Barber Shop

The history of Lot 8, Block 2, is unknown other than from 1907 to 1910 Clint Young had a barber shop there. The building was torn down in 1910.



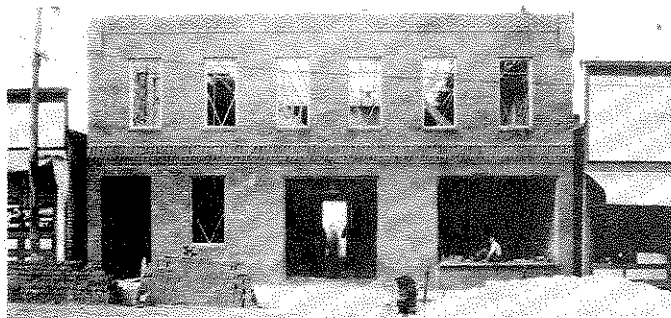
Interior of Clint Young Barber Shop, 1909.

Dodge Bros. Garage & Hall

In 1911 Frank Zakovec built a two-story brick building on Lots 7 & 8, Block 2. The main floor was a garage where he sold Fords and Buicks and the second floor was a large dance hall with a stage across the north end.

The Dodge Bros. had an automobile and garage business here by 1920, owned by Frank, Henry and Charles Dodge. They sold Buicks, Fords and Chevrolets, did motor repairing and had steam engine service. They used the frame structure on Lot 6 for supply storage.

The hall was referred to as the Dodge Bros. Hall and also Morse Bluff Opera House. Many dances were held in the hall with bands from various parts of the country playing. Wrestling and boxing matches were held here too, with admission, 50 cents, 75 cents and \$1.00, including war tax. Music was furnished by the Morse Bluff Band for the matches.

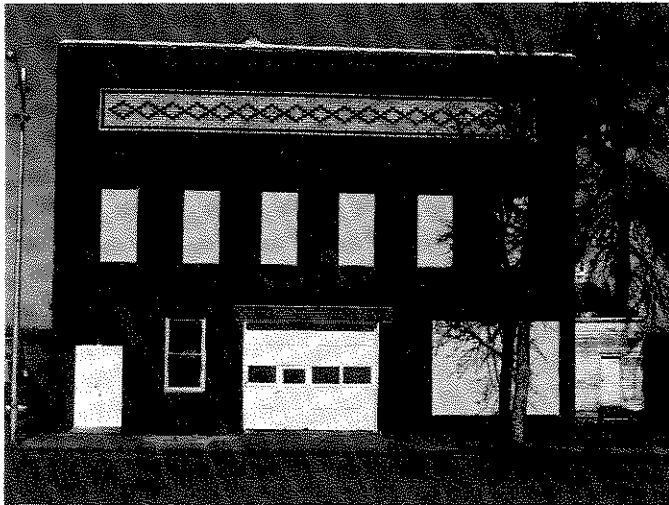


Construction of Dodge Bros. Hall & Garage by Frank Zakovec.

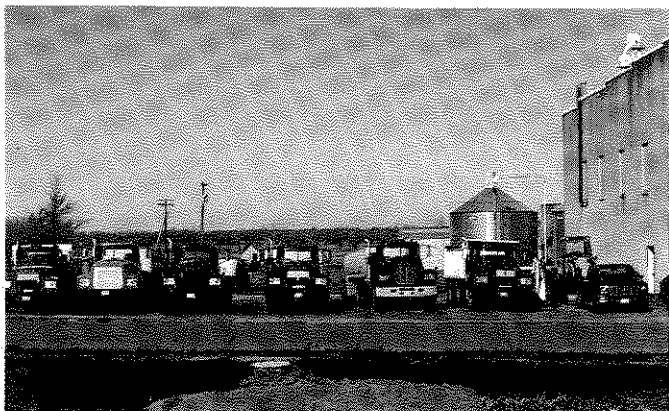
When John H. Heuser took over the property in the middle 20's, he built an apartment on the second floor and his family lived there. This was on the south end, overlooking the street. The rest of the second floor was used as the Catholic Church until the new church was built. It was used for the Morse Bluff High School gymnasium and basketball court from 1930 to the early 1940's. Dances were still held there too.

Mr. Heuser had a garage on the main floor. He had a Whippet dealership and the garage was also a Whippet test station. The Whippet Company from Fremont would send a man driving a new Whippet to the Morse Bluff Test Station, where it was quickly checked over, gassed up and sent back to Fremont. Local residents reminisce of how those Whippets would come flying into town at 25 miles per hour. The cement slab where the Test Station was, is still there on the south side of the building.

Henry May and Elmer Buchholtz purchased the property in 1930. He repaired cars, trucks and tractors and managed the business until 1942 when they sold it to Emil Wolf, Sr.



Wolf Sand & Gravel Co. garage, 1987. The oldest business in Morse Bluff, incorporated 1933.



Wolf Sand & Gravel Co. fleet, 1987.

Wolf Sand & Gravel Company

Wolf Sand & Gravel was incorporated in 1933 and is the oldest business in Morse Bluff; has been in business for fifty-four consecutive years serving Morse Bluff and Saunders county.

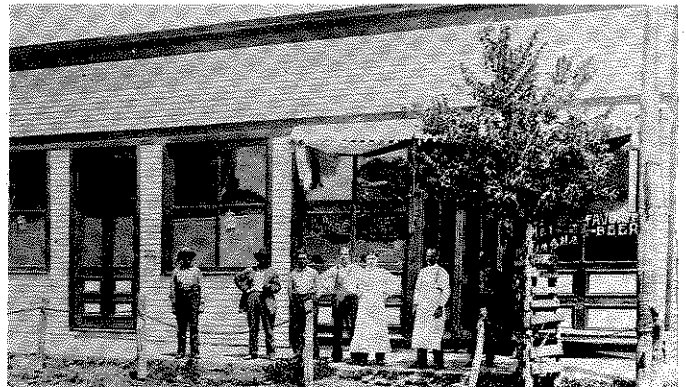
Emil Wolf, Sr., purchased this building in 1942 from John H. Heuser. Emil Wolf, Sr., was president from 1933 to 1955 and Emil Wolf, Jr., was president from 1955 to 1979. Alice Wolf succeeded him as president. Robert Wolf is vice president and general manager. George Muff was foreman in 1937 and until his retirement in 1979. Jack Edwards, having 37 years of gravel business experience, succeeded Mr. Muff and is public relations representative and sales manager. Emil Urban is plant manager.

The company's gravel pits are located two miles east of Morse Bluff and another is located south of the Platte River bridge on the west side of Highway 79.

The Wolf Sand & Gravel Company building is a two-story red brick building located on Lots 7 & 8, Block 2. It is used as their garage.

Zakovec's Saloon and Hall

Frank Datel and Frank Beznoska built a tavern and dance hall on Lots 9 & 10, Block 2, in 1887. In February, 1898, Frank Zakovec purchased the property, acquiring the name "Zakovec Saloon" and "Zakovec Hall." Dances, graduation ceremonies, wrestling matches, checker tournaments and home talent plays were held in the Hall.



Fishler Saloon on north side of Main Street, 1911. John Fishler and Henry Wagner bartenders. Dance Hall to the left and saloon to the right.

January, 1911, John H. Fishler bought the property but sold it back to Frank Zakovec April, 1912.

The building on Lot 9 was always a tavern. After Frank Zakovec moved to Fremont in the 30's, the tavern was leased by Jim Vlasak and later by George Pabian.

The building on Lot 10 was remodeled in 1914 to accommodate a bank. After the bank, the building housed the Riley's Ice Cream Parlor and later the

Frank A. Vlasak Grocery Store. Vlasak had a McCormick Deering farm implement business also, on an adjoining lot. George Pabian also leased the building for his grocery business.

All the buildings on Lots 9 & 10 were destroyed by fire in 1953. Wolf Sand & Gravel purchased them and are present owners.

Fairmont Creamery Co.

The Fairmont Creamery Co. out of Fremont started a branch station in Morse Bluff in 1910. They bought cream, butter and eggs from local farmers. Joseph Hurka was the local manager and had extensive experience in this line. The station was located behind the Zakovec Saloon.

Farmers Union Mercantile Store

The Farmers Union Mercantile was in conjunction with the Duffield Store on Lot 12, block 2. Leonard Habel was the manager. The exact years of existence is unknown.

Pabian Grocery, Tavern & Feed Store

In 1927 George Pabian, Sr., took over management of the general merchandise store previously managed by Frank A. Vlasak. It was located on Lot 10, Block 2. He had a full line of groceries, general merchandise, clothing and a produce station in the rear. In 1934 he

built an ice house behind the building which supplied various local businesses.

At the end of prohibition he opened the tavern in the adjoining building on Lot 9 and operated both businesses until they were destroyed by fire in 1953.

During this tenure he purchased the Edmiston property on Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4, Block 5, in 1945, using the Edmiston building for a feed store. This was an independent business from his others with the scales, cash register and all pertaining equipment. He sold farm feeds, oyster shells and other farm commodities and managed all three businesses from 1945 until the fire of 1953.



George Pabian Tavern. Frank I. Vlasak to the left and George Pabian, Sr. and Jim Vlasak behind the bar.



Interior of George Pabian Grocery. George Pabian, Sr. to the left and Frank I. Vlasak to the right.

J.J. Janovec General Store

In 1887 James Racek and Frank Soukup built a saloon on Lots 11 & 12, Block 2, northeast corner of 2nd & Victoria Streets. They sold it to Frank A. Hines and Ed Vopalensky in 1901. They made a hardware store out of it known as "Hines & Vopalensky Hardware."

In 1908 they sold the property to John J. Janovec. He continued the hardware business known as "J.J. Janovec General Store." He added a machinery line and also an undertaking business; he stored coffins in a building behind the hardware store. November, 1912, Mr. Janovec put a gas pump up on the corner of 2nd & Victoria.

The following are owners succeeding Janovec but business names are unknown: Charles Botsch, James Zakovec, O.V. Scheer, Fred G. Stenger, George T. Keras and E.E. Wolf.

In October, 1920, John H. Heuser purchased the property and leased it to Dick Duffield until it burned in December, 1927. On the west side of the store was Malloy Oil Station and garage, which also burned, however the tank wagon was saved.

Owners since the fire have been John Svoboda, Frank L. Vopalensky, Wolf Sand & Gravel and Frank I. Vlasak. Wolf Sand & Gravel purchased the lots in 1959 and still own them today. They are used as a parking area for Wolf Sand & Gravel equipment and have maintained the gas pump for private use.

Ladenburger Oil Co.

In 1930, Art Ladenburger purchased the oil station that Robert H. Fleming had built in 1927. It was located on Lots 10, 11 & 12, Block 1, on the corner of Second and Ann Streets. His bulk oil tanks were located northeast of the station, next to the railroad. Some of the bulk materials came to the plant by train.

In 1945 his son, Tom, started working for him; he ran country delivery truck for many years. Art's oil transports hauled petroleum products to several other stations throughout the state.

When Art passed away in 1959, Tom took over the business and was a distributor, wholesaler, importer

and retailer. He had three outlets aside from Morse Bluff. They were in Bruno, North Bend and Fremont.

When Tom retired, the station and lots were sold to Gary Hampl; the station is still there but not in business.



Ladenburger Oil Station on 2nd & Ann Streets, built in 1927.

A.J. Ladenburger Gravel

Art Ladenburger opened a permanent gravel pit on his land north of the village in 1933; the small lake east of Highway 79, about one-fourth mile north of Morse Bluff, is a reminder of this. He was awarded many state contracts for gravel and his sons were the managers.

A.J. Ladenburger Livestock Co.

In 1884 Art Ladenburger started buying, feeding and selling livestock. He was 18 years old and the youngest businessman selling to the Omaha Livestock Co. His business was located north of the railroad tracks and his office was on Depot Road.

His favorite breeds were Hereford cattle and Chester White hogs. He marketed livestock for 67 years to Omaha Livestock market. Nearly every night he shipped one to five carloads and annually he shipped 200 cars of livestock and marketed many special straight trainloads. In fact, when he married Emma Malloy, the Northwestern railroad gave them a



A.J. Ladenburger's new gasoline transport, 1936 Chevrolet, with Lloyd Hansen ready to drive it home.

wedding present of a ticket good for 30 days because he was their largest shipper.

He also held the record of selling the heaviest load of steers on the Omaha market. One of his loads averaged 1980-pound beeves and had one mammoth steer that weighed 3000 pounds. The load sold at Cudahy Packing Co. for \$9.05 per hundredweight. This was about 1904.

He retired this trade in 1951 and was honored by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce Agricultural Division for his many years of marketing at their annual Pioneer Shippers Recognition dinner.



A.J. Ladenburger office on Depot Road. Youngest businessman selling to Omaha Livestock Company in his day.

Updike Elevator

There are two different theories as to when this elevator was built. According to an old diary an elevator was built in Morse Bluff in 1866 and it could not have been Farmers Grain Company. According to a newspaper article, the Updike was built in 1890.

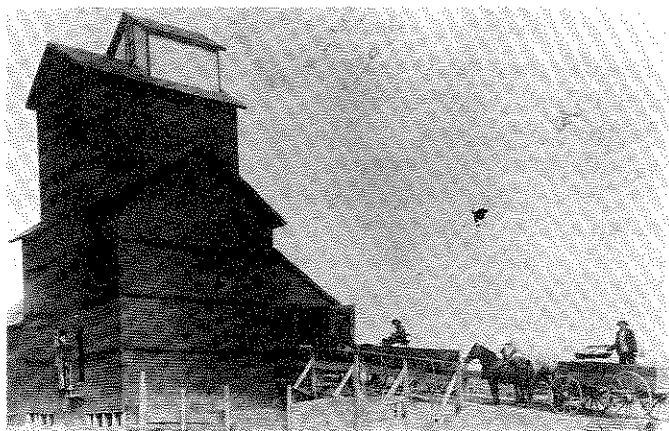
The Updike was established as the Nye, Colson & Company and was later referred to as Nye, Schneider, Jenks Company and also Nye, Schneider, Fowler Company. It was located on the north side of the railroad tracks, north of First & Rose Street.

By 1910 it was referred to as the Updike Elevator with Nick C. Wagner as manager. There are no known records as to when Mr. Wagner started and quit, however he was manager from 1901 to 1910 for sure. Henry Reichert assisted him.

Frank A. Vlasak was the manager about 1920 to 1924 and George Pabian, Sr., worked there in 1925.

In 1921 it was recorded as a branch of the largest grain elevator company in the world and had a 15,000-bushel capacity. Their office was in with Cherny & Watson Lumber Company office in the Lumber Company's building next to them to the east.

The Updike was still in business in 1927 but not in 1928 according to town board books. Local residents say that it was torn down in 1930.



Updike Elevator, west of Cherny & Watson on Depot Road, 1910.

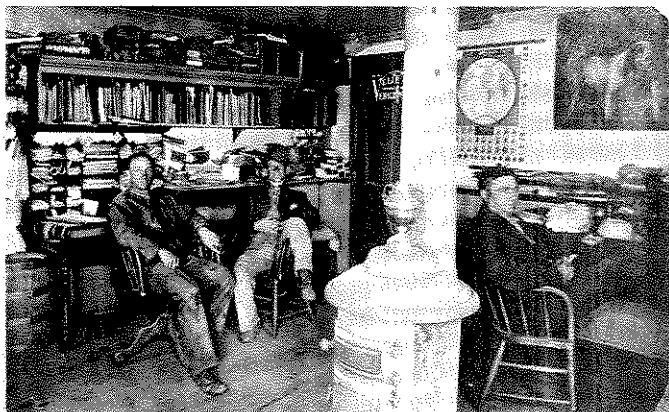
Cherny & Watson

In 1887 Cherny & Kavan Lumber Yard was established. It was located on Lots 22, 23 & 24 of the railroad right of way, with the office on Lot 24. They shared their office with Updike Elevator. Cherny & Kavan handled lumber, implements and coal.

In 1901 C.A. Killian sold his implement business to the company, by then known as Cherny & Watson. Mr. Killian was then chosen manager. This company handled lumber, coal, John Deere and McCormick Deering-International implements, a full line of paints and builder's hardware.

Records show Claude Taylor as manager in 1909 and local residents say John Vopalensky was their last manager, however exact dates are unknown.

Cherny & Watson was still in business in the middle 40's but date of termination is unknown. The buildings were removed in 1954.



Interior of Updike Elevator office, 1910. Nick C. Wagner, manager to the right.

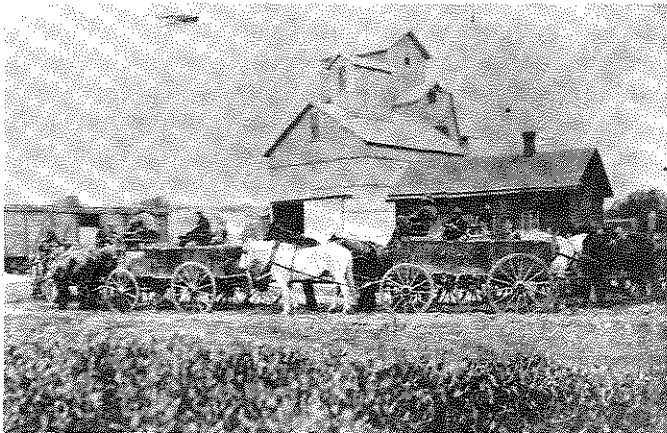
Wahoo Wasp 12/31/1896: The local sports of this burg organized a hunt last week which took place on Sun. There were 14 on each side. They killed 64 rabbits, 10 quails, 1 squirrel and 1 jack rabbit. They were just a tie on the rabbits and one side having a squirrel and jack rabbit, the most was given the honors of the affair by the big supper and dance on Sunday night.

Morse Bluff Grain Co.

Records show that Chester L. Morse and Raiter built an elevator in 1886 on the railroad right of way and in 1892 Morse & Rogers Co. sold their interest to Moritz Ladenburger.

In 1898 this company incorporated and it was known as "J. E. Dorsey Grain Company" with T. H. Mitchell as manager. The elevator had a 25,000 bushel capacity. Mr. Mitchell was manager until 1912.

August 14, 1912, seven men incorporated and formed the Farmers Grain Company. The men were A. J. Ladenburger, E. P. Malloy, W. J. Magher, Charles Beranek, Michael Shanahan, Frank L. Dodge and Joseph B. Hines. The nature of this business to be the buying and selling of grain, livestock, lumber, lime, coal, stone, fencing, salt and all kinds of agricultural implements and machinery; and to lease, purchase and acquire lands and buildings suitable and necessary for carrying on the business. Capital stock authorized to be \$12,000. They built a new office building and the company was located on Lots 19, 20 & 21. It is evident that J. E. Dorsey Grain Company was dissolved and joined with Farmers Elevator since their locations are on the same lots. Frank Bartosh was the new manager.

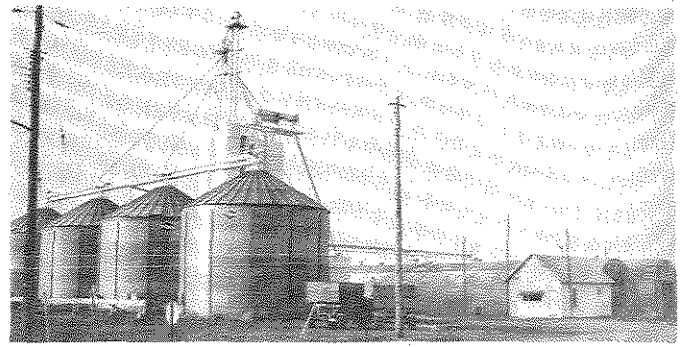


Farmers Grain Company, incorporated 1912.

In the late 30's or 1940 the elevator was purchased by Walter Dawson and known as "Dawson Grain Co." with Frank Bartosh manager until 1943. A later manager under this ownership was Sam Allen.

Raymond Janovec purchased the property in 1955 from Walter Dawson. It was then named "Morse Bluff Grain, Inc." with Frank Datal as manager. It handled grain and Supersweet Feed. Lumir Krivanek and Robert Daul were other managers under this ownership. Raymond Janovec passed away April 1965 and son, Vernon, continued ownership until August 1972. The office was in Cedar Bluffs and grain buying and selling was done at both locations.

During the Janovec ownership, the quonset just north of the elevator was built in 1955, the furthest



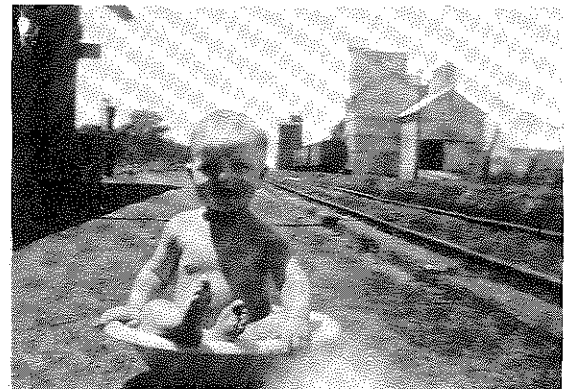
Morse Bluff Grain 1987, formerly Farmers Grain Company.

north one in 1956 and the one to the east of the drive was built in 1957.

In 1972 the company was sold to A. Glenn and Georgianne Kluck of Richland. Bill Ladehoff was manager.

In 1973 it was sold to Thomas Hruza. He leased it to Robert Ladehoff for ten years and it was known as "Ladehoff Grain." On October 28, 1982, a fire destroyed a 10,000 bushel bin full of grain.

Thomas Hruza took the elevator over in 1983 and appointed Randy Kremlacek as manager. It remains the same today.



Donald Edmiston, 1922. The Depot to the left and Farmers Grain Company to the right. The Updike Elevator can be seen in the distance.

Cedar Hill Construction

Jerry and Cec Hall returned "home" to the Morse Bluff-North Bend area in August, 1979. Jerry and Cec began their own business at that time naming it after Cedar Hill, a "town" that had existed until its post office was discontinued in 1888. The church remains.

Jerry had built homes in the Weeping Water-Plattsmouth, Nebraska area before beginning this contracting services here. New homes, room additions, remodeling and cabinetry are the majority of services offered. Recently log homes have been a new aspect of the business. The business is located on their farm as well as in a shop located in Morse Bluff.

Dolezal Trucking

One might say that Lawrence Dolezal started his hauling of grain as a boy, when he had to walk a wagon full of corn to the elevator, pulled by a team of horses. The wagon held about 50 bushels. Years later, he used a Model T truck, also with 50 bushel capacity. Corn then sold for nine cents per bushel.

He started commercial hauling in 1947 with a 1941 black cab-over Ford straight truck, having 300 bushel capacity. In 1948, he purchased a yellow cab-over. The main commodities hauled were grain, livestock and feed.

In 1964 his son, Larry, started trucking and took over his father's business in 1969. He started the Dolezal Sand and Gravel in 1985, his office located on the farm three miles south and three miles west of Morse Bluff. His sand pit is two miles northwest of Morse Bluff near the Platte River. His brother, Kenneth, helps with the business and is a diesel mechanic in North Bend.

Jim Hansen Trucking

Jim Hansen bought his first truck in 1959 and started a trucking business with his father. It was a 1952 Ford straight truck. He has had one or more trucks ever since, today owning two tractors and trailers.

The main commodities that he hauls are grain and hay. Some of his business is in other states but mainly local. His office is in his home five miles southeast of Morse Bluff; his wife, Diane, is bookkeeper.



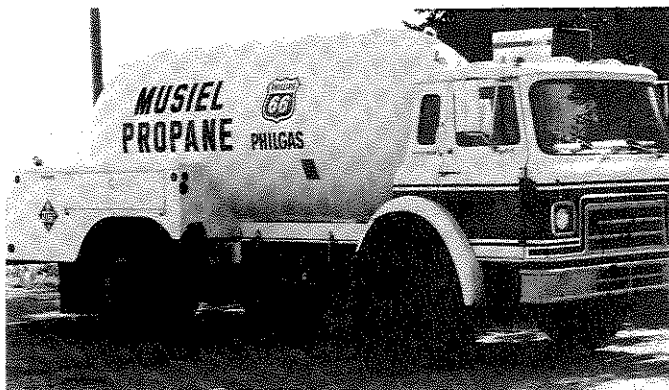
Jim Hansen and his first truck, '52 Ford straight truck.



Hansen Trucking fleet, 1987.

Musiel Propane, Inc.

Bud Musiel started the propane business in 1967. The plant is located three miles north and one mile east of Prague. His office is in his home on the bluff in Morse Bluff with his wife, Carole, as bookkeeper. Leroy Dvorak has been a long-time employee.



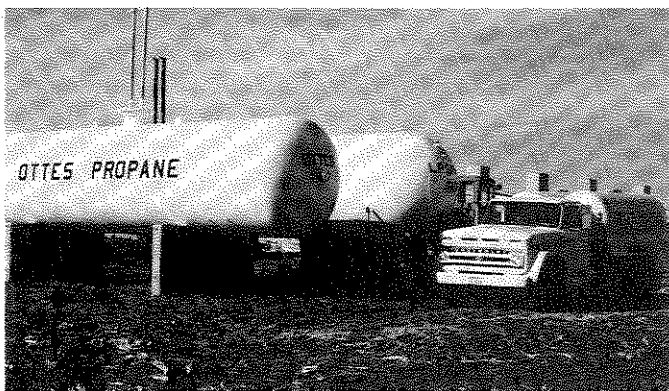
Musiel Propane, 1987. In business since 1967.

Otte's Propane Co.

Otte's Propane Co. started in 1966 as B & O Supply, as a partnership between V. G. Bauman and Mervin Otte. It was located on Mr. Bauman's farm near Linwood.

In 1976, V. G. Bauman retired and Mervin Otte formed the Otte's Propane Co., with his wife, Esther, as bookkeeper. The business sells propane for home heating, grain drying and irrigation and supplies.

Mervin Otte retired in 1982. His grandson, Tom Mensik, has taken over the duties of the business and is headquartered at his home in Morse Bluff. The tanks and office are at the David Otte farm near Linwood.



Otte's Propane Bulk Plant, 1987. In business since 1976.

Wahoo Wasp 3/7/1901: A.J. Ladenburger had 18 hogs stolen from feeder lot north of the track Sat. A.C. Wagner lost 3 about 4 weeks ago. Determined to try the law on them and sent blood hounds of David City. The dogs led the party to yards of one of the wealthiest farmers in the county.



Nadine Racek—"Fresh Homemade Yummies!"

Nadine Racek - Morse Bluff's "Kolache" Lady

Nadine Racek's love for baking started when she was a small child, helping her mother in the kitchen. By age eleven, she already had an intense desire to bake and with encouragement from her parents, has pursued her life's dream.

In 1951 she started her business by opening a Saturday afternoon bake shop in her home and also baked special orders by request. She entered three baking shows; a televised show held in Lincoln, the State Fair, and a hobby show in Saunders County. She won first prize in all three. Her first "large" order was for 1,000 kolaches for a priest's ordination, and as a result, received many orders from fellow parishioners.

Her business has grown to include special orders from local people, surrounding towns, out-of-state customers for graduations, weddings, anniversaries, holidays, etc. She sells at arts and crafts shows, flea markets, high schools, extension clubs and other special events. She has never advertised as she believes the best advertisement has proved to be "word of mouth."

She bakes kolaches, dinner rolls, tea buns, sandwich buns, sweet rolls, cinnamon rolls, pecan rolls, bismarks, sweet breads and pies. She never sells anything frozen, everything is finished right before the customer arrives.

Occasionally she is required to start baking at 3:00 a.m. in order to have her baked goods at the Omaha airport in time to meet a flight to California or some

other state for an evening wedding. She never refuses anyone's order, in spite of the hour, accommodating the customers by allowing them to choose their time for pick-up. Those orders to be delivered by airplane, bus or mail are packed in specially-wrapped boxes to ensure that it reaches its destination.

Her bakery is in her home about three miles south of Morse Bluff on Highway 79.

Rooter Wiz

Terry Friesz has been in the plumbing business since 1964. After working in Los Angeles, California, for three years, he started his own business in Omaha in 1969. He did sewer and drain cleaning and repair, and remodeling plumbing work. In the mid-70's he branched out into new construction.

He moved his company to Morse Bluff in November, 1979 and re-named it "Rooter Wiz." The office is in their home on 2nd Street.

Vosler Trucking

In 1982, at age 20, Ron Vosler bought his own tractor and a new grain trailer and started his independent trucking firm of Vosler Trucking. Since that time he has changed tractors, added another tractor and purchased another trailer and extended his business into six states. The primary commodity hauled is grain and occasionally fertilizer.

His wife, Gloria, having had experience as a truck driver for a company in Lincoln, has since obtained her CC license and drove a truck for her husband for two years. The office is located in their home on 2nd Street with Gloria as dispatcher, secretary and bookkeeper.



Vosler Trucking, '69 White.



Vosler's '75 Diamond Reo and his '82 Hobbs trailer.



Zeleny Oil Co. 1955-1985.

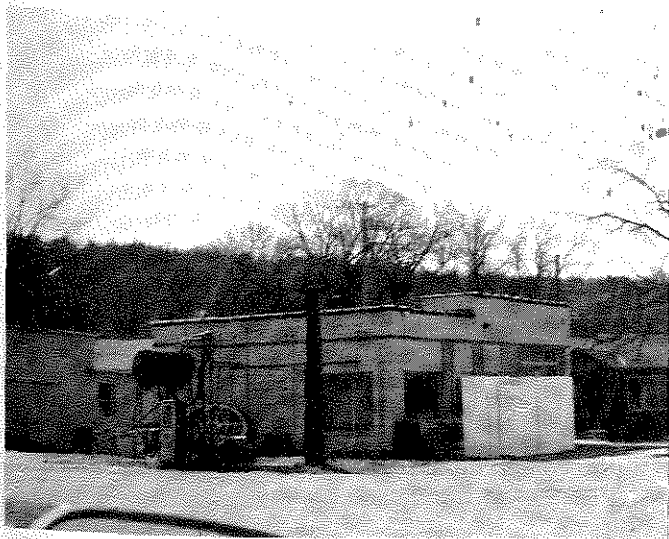
Zeleny Oil Co.

Zeleny Oil Co. served the Morse Bluff community from January 1, 1955 to March 31, 1985. It was owned and operated by Ed and Rita Zeleny, with the help of their children, Liz, Joe, Jon and Lionel. The station was a friendly gathering place for the local residents to visit and staple grocery items could also be purchased there.

The Champlin Station had a tank wagon which served the community throughout the 30 years and continued for approximately one year following the station closing.

Zeleny Oil Co., located on Lots 9 & 10, Block 4, was formerly Hynek Oil Co., owned and operated by Mrs. Zeleny's parents. Mr. Hynek had installed 2-2500 gallon and 3-1000 gallon underground tanks for gasoline and fuel on March 11, 1940.

The station is presently the office of Zeleny Apiaries, owned and operated by their son, Joe.



Joe Zeleny Apiaries, 1987. Started as a school project in 1978.

Zeleny Apiaries

Zeleny Apiaries is owned and operated by Joe Zeleny. This beekeeping operation got its start in 1978 as a science project in high school, and it slowly grew into a large hobby. By 1983 he had about 150 beehives.

After his high school graduation in 1983, Joe realized that beekeeping was what he wanted to do as a career, so he pursued it by expanding his operation. He presently has 1,000 beehives placed in Saunders, Nance, Greeley, Wheeler and Boone counties and a honey processing plant in Morse Bluff. He sells his honey to Sioux Honey Association, in Sioux City, Iowa.

Zeleny Apiaries processing plant and office are located at his residence on Lots 9 & 10, Block 4, formerly Zeleny Oil Co.

Known Businesses: Dates or Locations Unknown

These excerpts were taken from old diaries, newspapers, town board books and local residents:

Mr. Fendrick was probably the first blacksmith in the village. In the late 1860's and early 1870's he made machinery shovels and did repair work for Philip Nesladek's grandfather.

1887: *Mrs. C. Bignell had a millinery store and she was also a seamstress. It was known as the Bignell Variety. Location is uncertain but area residents believe it to have been where the Double "A" Saloon is today.*

1887: *Sam Rogers and Peller built a merchandise store.*

1896: *H.D. Mackprang has rented the building belonging to John Matejka and it will be used as a furniture store.*

1899: *Charles W. Mosier was in the livery business.*

1900: *John Bauer started a butcher shop in our city and will be prepared to supply customers with line. He lived over top of the restaurant.*

1901: *Zakovec sold saloon to Frank Matejka.*

1901: *Mr. Shanahan sold Shanahan Mercantile business to Mr. Zakovec.*

Dr. O.C. Martin must have been a veterinarian—North Bend Argus ad says that he did egg hatching.

1907: *John McVittie, drayer*

1907: *John Becak Meat Market*

1908: *Art Ladenburger owned furniture store. He bought it from John McVittie in 1908 and sold it to Mrs. Davis of North Bend January 14, 1909. The Village Hall furniture was purchased here.*

1908: *Jacob Cohen, a shoemaker has located in Morse Bluff. He may be found in*

- restaurant of Ladenburger's building.
- 1908: Joseph Hurka Produce
Frank Hines, Inn Keeper
Anton T. Ondracek, Inn Keeper
Frank Mizera, Granary Business
Anton Bartos, Dining Hall
- 1910: L.U. Hupps owns the only barber shop in town.
- 1926: C.W. Siders Pool Hall
- 1928: Berka & Shanahan
- Business with no dates:
Shinkle Bros. barbers
James Bunda, carpenter out of his home on Kate St.
Schulte Barber Shop
John McVittie, drayer
Sam Moser ran delivery wagon



Racek Saloon, 2nd & Ann Streets, built 1887.

Dances and Halls Not Previously Mentioned

Around 1915 public dances were held on an outdoor dance platform made out of brand new wooden planks, located a little northwest of where Dorothy Hynek lives today. It was along-side of the old Holthaus Hill, the name of the hill before the highway was straightened out.

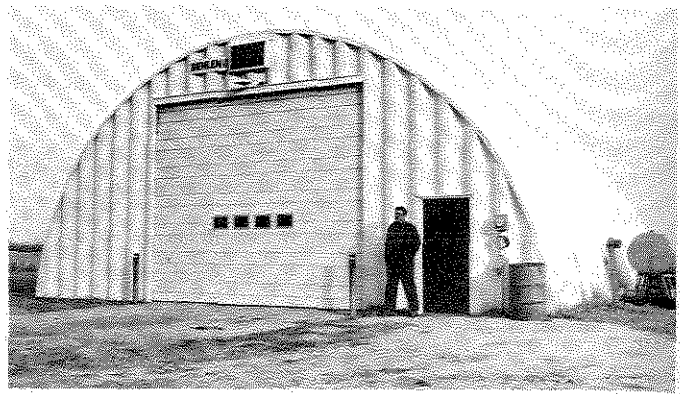
Here are articles taken from the Wahoo Wasp concerning unknown halls:

December 17, 1896: *Dance to be held at Palace Hall south of Morse Bluff on Friday night. (Possibly the hall built by John Zakovec in 1876, on the present-day site of Louis Zakovec farm.)*

July 16, 1891: Dance at R.C. Brownells, Saturday.

July 7, 1891: 4th of July celebrated with a dance at the arbor east of Racek's Saloon.

Wahoo Wasp 3/1/1894: The Morse Bluff News says that several farmers are selling their land in that vicinity at \$45 and \$55 per acre and buying land in Dodge County for \$25 to \$35 per acre.



Anton Wirka by the County Maintenance building, 1987.



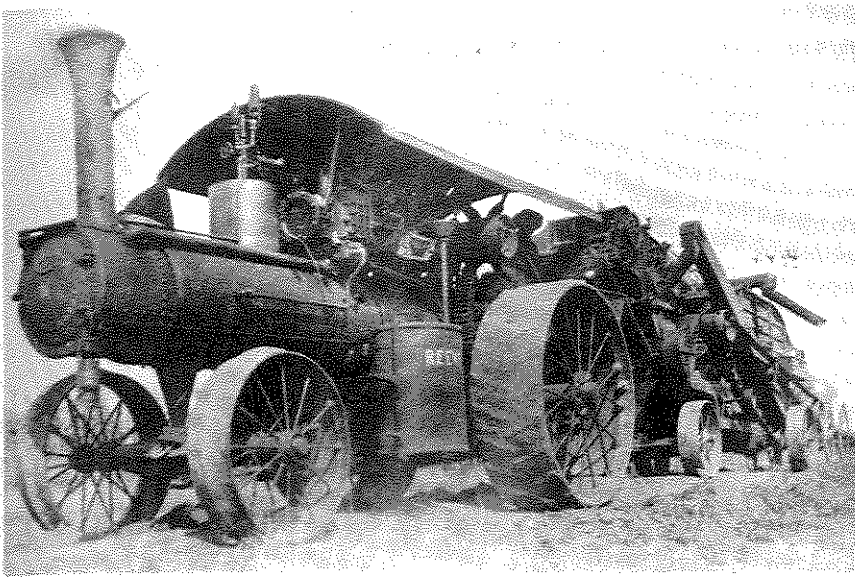
Bluff Gravel Co. truck by Minarick building, 1st & Ann, 1987.



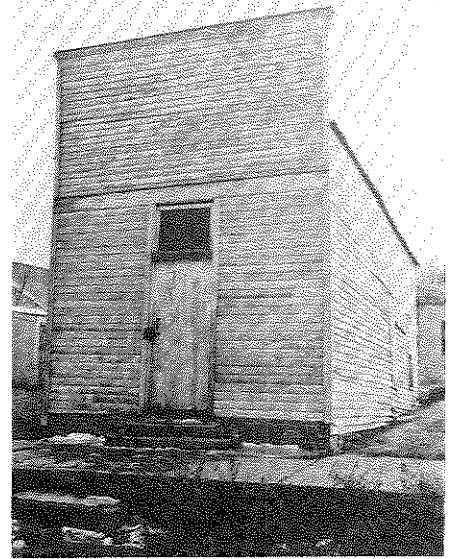
Anton Chapek General Store, 1890.



Unloading corn on the Fleming farm.



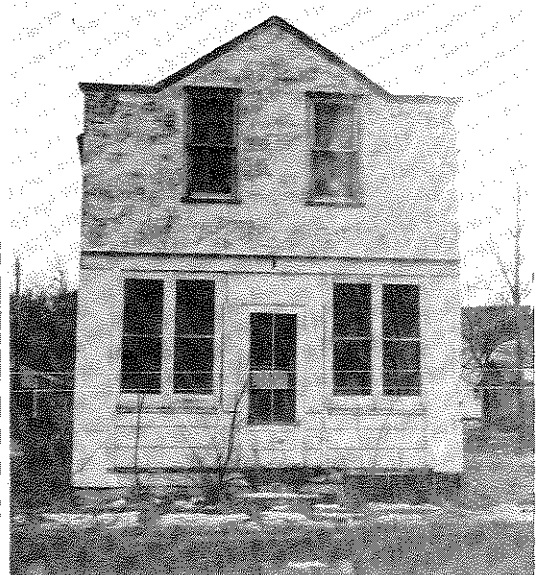
Reeves steam engine & 30x53 Reeves threshing machine, bought in 1908 by Frank and Charles Dodge.



Vacant building on south side of Main Street, 1987. Previously Seligman Meat Market.



Another view of the above.



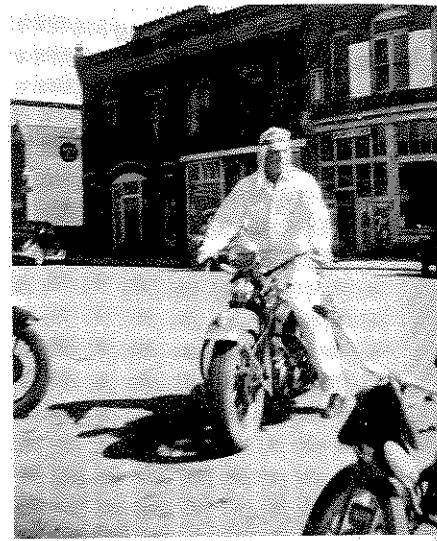
The Old Candy Store, vacant store, 1987.



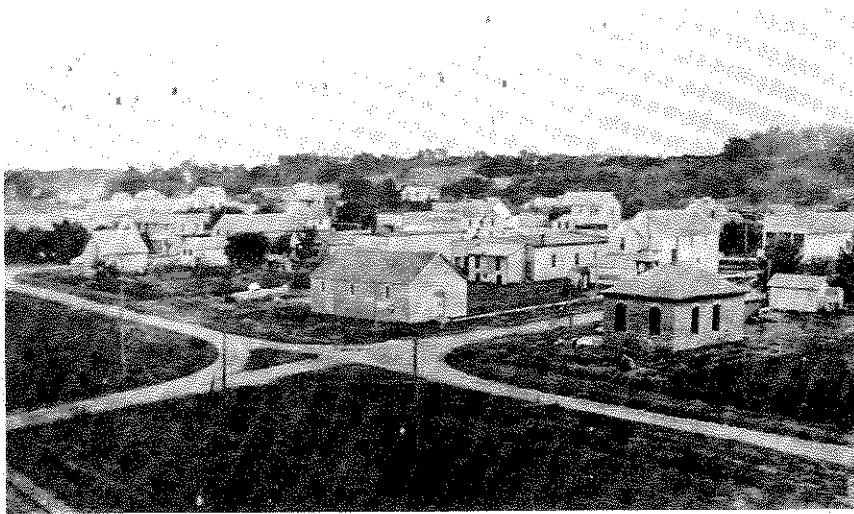
Walter Flemings grinding corn.



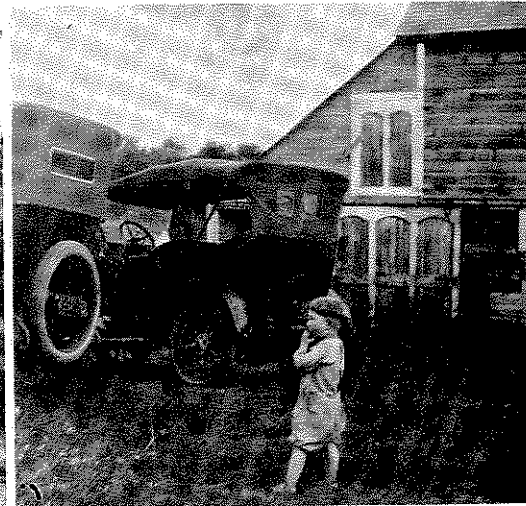
Dodge Bros. sawmill—was west of Morse Bluff on Linwood road.



Don Hines on his Harley in the late 40's.



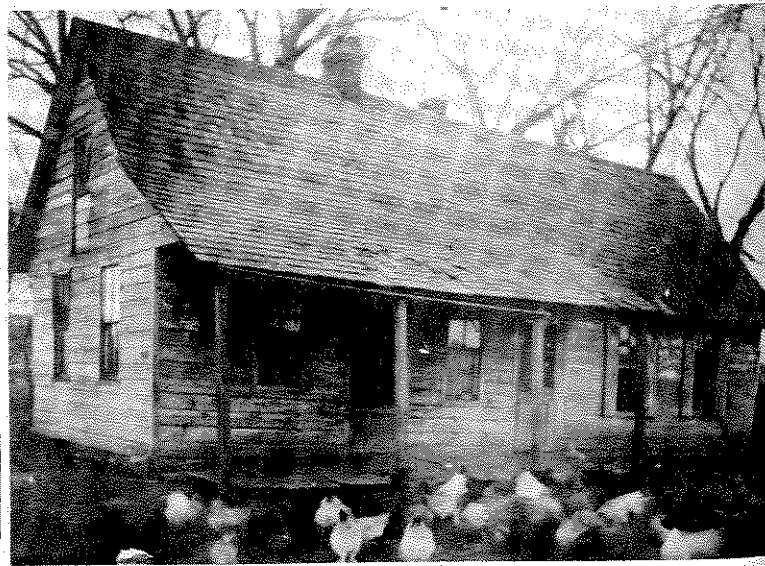
Morse Bluff, 1908, taken from the top of Updike Elevator.



Joe Bauer—Which one should I take today?



Oil Station still stands on 2nd & Ann, now used for private storage, 1987.



Old Mares home was located on today's George Kavan farm.

Churches

Protestant

Before Morse Bluff was platted there was a settlement six miles south and two miles east of present day Morse Bluff known as Spring Creek. Here lived the Fleming, Wilson, Wilcox, Gidley, and Farris families. Nearby were also other families as Settles, Wolfe, Tawney and Roberts. There was a blacksmith shop, a post office, a school and a church. The church became a Methodist church around 1912. Before that church services were conducted by ministers available. As a Methodist church it was active only a few years. In February 1921 the church building was sold to James McDaniel for \$457.50. The Spring Creek Ladies Aid Society continued meeting once a month and contributed to the Morse Bluff Methodist church until the late 1950's.

As more protestant families moved into the Morse Bluff area they attended church at Cedar Bluffs or Spring Creek. The river prevented them from attending regularly in North Bend. Transportation was the main problem of these earlier settlers causing them to want a closer church.

Before a church was established Sunday School was held on Sunday afternoons in a school house southeast of Morse Bluff. Mr. Meecham was the first Sunday School superintendent being assisted by Miss Selina Bignell. Rev. Inches, a Presbyterian minister from North Bend, Nebraska also conducted church services on Sunday afternoons. Later this school building was moved to a hill side one mile south and one-half mile east, known as Buchholtz hill. Itinerant ministers served the community with no particular denomination meeting in available places as the school house and even in the taverns. The dream of these pioneers was to have an organized congregation with a house of worship.



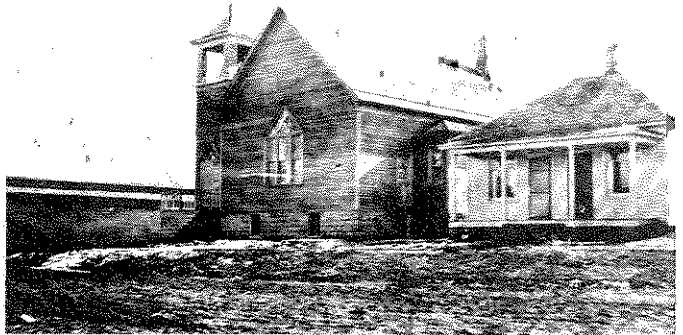
Reverend J.R. Jordon, first minister of the Methodist Church.

Wahoo Wasp 3/7/1901: Funeral for Joe Malloy, an old settler, was held Thursday.

In 1913 this dream became a reality. Much of the realization of that dream has been attributed to the leadership of Rev. Mory, a retired minister, Rev. Brock, a student minister from Spring Creek, Rev. J.R. Jordon and lay person J.G. Wilson. On October 7, 1913 the First Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in Morse Bluff with the following trustees elected: W.R. Bignell, Fred Bignell, Miss Cora Skinner, E.R. Sandburg, and A.J. Edmiston. The church was housed for a short period in buildings on the main street with regular services beginning immediately.

The task of raising funds for a church building began with the support of the congregation and local business men. When the fund reached \$2,700 a building committee, E.E. Wolf, Fred Bignell and W.R. Bignell was elected. On October 26, 1913 a plan was presented and adopted to build a 28' x 40' building with a belfry tower to house a bell from a South Omaha Church. The church was to be located on Lots 7 and 8 in Block 5.

In January 1914 J.W. Paseska laid the basement foundation and corner stone for forty cents an hour and donated ten percent of his work. The carpenter did likewise. Mr. McMasters was in charge of the construction.



Methodist church and manse, 1914.
(Klug lumber yard to the left)

Dedicatory services were held the week-end of June 27-28, 1914 conducted by Dr. Williams, District Superintendent.

In October 1914 the property next to the church was purchased to serve as the parsonage for \$1,400. This parsonage was rented whenever the minister did not live in Morse Bluff and was sold to William Pabian in March 1948 for \$1,575.00. At the present time it is part of the Libbie Racek estate.

The Epworth League was an active youth organization of the church in the 1920's and 1930's. On November 17, 1934 the District Booth Festival was held in Morse Bluff with 175 guests registered for the dinner @30 cents a plate. The Ladies Aid Society served roast beef, potatoes, macaroni and tomatoes,

cabbage salad, rolls and apple pie. They netted \$51.00.

The Morse Bluff Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Church was organized in September 1913. Mrs. Wm. Bignell was the first president; Mrs. A.J. Edmiston, the Secretary; and Selina Bignell, the treasurer. The Ladies Aid sponsored several money making projects through the years as bake sales, ice cream socials, and community suppers. Many recall the ice cream socials being held in the city park on Maud Street.

The Morse Bluff Methodist Church was served by ministers from Cedar Bluffs, from 1933 to 1942. During this period the congregation reached a high of thirty-five members with fifty enrolled in Sunday School. From 1943 to 1947 Purple Cane ministers served the church and in 1948 it became a charge of the North Bend Methodist Church being served by their ministers until the closing due to a decline in membership and church attendance. A Service of Discontinuance was held Sunday, June 8, 1985 with Rev. Cindy Karges officiating.

Pews and other church furniture and equipment was sold at auction shortly after the closing. The building was sold to Jerry Hall and Dale Crofton in 1986.

Ministers serving the Methodist Church

1913-1915 J.R. Jordon	1938-1942 E.P. Booher
1915-1918 G.M. Jones	1942-1943 E.T. Baldwin
1918-1919 Allen T. Frazier	1943-1948 H.C. Seidel
1919-1920 Frank Finch	1948-1949 Charles O. Troy
1920-1921 W.W. Appleyard	1949-1952 W.W. Maxwell
1921-1923 Henry Ibsen	1952-1956 I. Lester Hart
1923-1926 D.W. Parker	1956-1960 Hugh H. Houchin
1926-1927 Carl Stromberg	1960-1960 Don Stewart
1927-1929 Ralph Rasmussen	1961-1964 Robert E. Favre, Jr.
1929-1930 Harry C. McClellan	1964-1967 Charles D. Mitchell
1930-1931 K.E. McDaniel	1967-1967 Sherman Ragsdell
1931-1932 Wilber Miller	1968-1968 Carlyon
1932-1933 Bruce Gideon	1968-1977 Audrey Scott
1933-1935 C.M. Shaub	1978-1981 Anderson Kwankin
1935-1938 H.S. Weary	1981-1982 Don Ibbotson
	1982-1984 Gary Main
	1984-1985 Cindy Beasley Karges

Catholic

Saint George Catholic Church

A Catholic church in the town of Morse Bluff did not become part of the town's history until 1945. Those of the Catholic faith in the area had to travel either to Cedar Bluffs, North Bend or to Cedar Hill to attend church.

Early in 1945 the pastors of the Prague and Cedar Hill Catholic churches with the aid of E.E. Wolf and Phillip Walla, prominent business men of Morse Bluff met with Bishop Louis B. Kucera. Mr. Wolf offered the use of a garage dance hall, rent free if the Catholics wished to use it as a temporary church. Mr. Walla offered a house for the priest when available. As a result of this conference Bishop Kucera on March 16, 1945

named Father George J. Livanec as the first pastor of the new parish to be established in Morse Bluff. He was to serve the Sacred Heart Church at Cedar Hill also.

The dance hall was located on the second floor of a garage building on the main street of Morse Bluff. The work of transforming the hall into a church was accomplished through the efforts of Father Livanec, the parishioners of both the Saint George and Sacred Heart parishes, and the priests in the area. Various Catholic organizations donated furnishing and monetary gifts.

On June 24, 1945 Father Livanec became the full time priest of the Morse Bluff and Cedar Hill parishioners. The first mass in the temporary Saint George church was offered on Sunday, July 1, 1945. Sixty-seven were present for the service.

1945 being a time of housing shortages and gas rationing Father Livanec commuted to his parishes from Wahoo where he had been an assistant priest until the house was available. Father Livanec even spent a few nights in his car during the height of gas rationing, but with his pleasant personality, his pioneer spirit and priestly dignity he soon accomplished his goal.

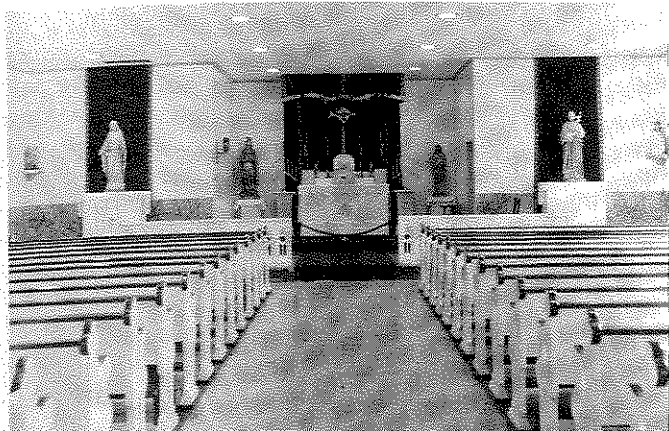


Saint George Church on Short Street

In 1954 the parishioners began a building project for their own church. Serving on the building committee were Frank Blatny, William Codr, William Kracl, Charles Hampl, Edward V. Hines, Amiel Keller, Thomas Ladenburger, George Marshalek, George Muff, Anton Nesladek, L.C. Pabian, Rudy Stranik, Francis Sullivan and William J. Vopalensky. A Belen constructed building began in October 1954 and was completed in 1955. The building was a combination church and hall of metal with a brick front. The cost was approximately \$24,000 with over 4500 hours of donated labor from the parishioners of both parishes. The altar that had been donated in 1945 by the Catholic Church Extension Society was moved to the new building. New stations of the cross were given by Mrs. Adah McCluhan of Winnebago, Nebraska in memory of her husband, John, a Morse Bluff native.

Monsignor M.W. Nemecek blessed the cornerstone on

September 25, 1955. Bishop Louis B. Kucera officiated at the dedication and offered Solemn Pontifical Mass in the new Saint George Catholic Church on December 21, 1955. An addition to the hall was constructed for youth classes in 1983-1984. It also made additional space needed for other activities of the church.



Interior of Saint George Church

Father Livanec after a lingering illness completed his work of evangelization on August 5, 1961. He came to Nebraska from Cleveland, Ohio and served the Lincoln Diocese for twenty-one years, the last sixteen in Morse Bluff and Cedar Hill. Father John Kozlik of Cedar Bluffs substituted for Father Livanec during his illness and was appointed administrator of the two parishes until Father Henry Denis was named pastor on October 25, 1961. Father Denis continued until his retirement on June 19, 1974. Other priests who served as pastors were Father Otto H. Ekhaml, 1974-1978; Jerome Pokorny, 1978-1979; John M. Hebert, 1979-1982 and Reverend Meldon Wass, O.F.M. from 1982 to the present time in 1987.

Sacred Heart Church, Cedar Hill

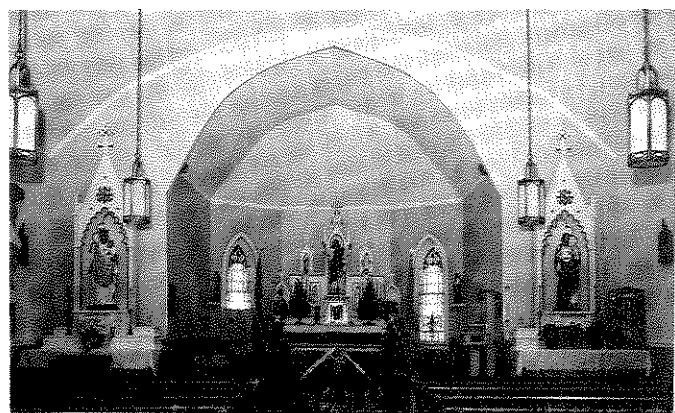
By 1879 the Sacred Heart, Cedar Hill parish was officially formed though priests had been serving the area before this. The church itself was not built immediately. Poor crops and disagreement over where the church should be built delayed progress. A building committee, Vaclav Bures, Josef Pabian, Jacob Dvorak, Vaclav Hajek, and Jan Vyhlidal were selected. In March 1880 over thirty wagon loads of lumber were hauled from Fremont, Nebraska. A 40' x 60' structure was built over a cornfield; the corn stalks from the last crop can still be seen in the crawl space under the church. The field was burned off since the tops of each stalk are charred. Almost 15 acres were deeded to the church by Mrs. Harriet Noteware; a cemetery, hall and church farm grounds surround the church building. In 1893 the tiny altar that looked much like a chest of drawers was replaced by the present altar. In 1924 the front of the church was enlarged

by adding a bell tower and entrance; to the east a sanctuary and sacristy were built. At the same time, outside buttresses were added on the north and south in order to replace cables that were installed inside across the interior to keep the walls from bulging. Unlike other churches that either have burned or have been replaced because of inadequate size and deterioration, the original church is used 107 years later.

On July 1, 1945, Sacred Heart was separated from St. John's of Prague and became the mother parish to St. George parish in Morse Bluff. After St. George's was completed in 1955, Sacred Heart again became a mission church, this time to St. George's church in Morse Bluff.



Sacred Heart Church, Cedar Hill



Interior of Sacred Heart Church

Priests Serving the Sacred Heart Parish

to 1904:	1931-1934:
Rev. W. Coka	Alfons Biskup, O.S.B.
V. Kocarnik, O.S.B.	1934-1938:
S.B. Koutek	Bede Cernik, O.S.B.
P. Stutz	1938-1945:
F. Hovora	Rev. Josef Tupy
M. Bor	1945-1961:
J. Vlcek	Rev. George Livanec
1904-1908:	1961-1974:
Rev. Jan Novotny	Father Henry Denis
1908-1920:	1974-1978:
Rev. Vaclav Pokory	Father Otto H. Ekhaml
1920-1924:	1978-1979:
Rev. Martin Bogar	Jerome Pokorny
1924-1926:	1979-1982:
Rev. Jaroslav Hancik	John M. Hebert
Ignac Skopal	1982-1987:
Adolf Jasek	Rev. Meldon Wass, O.F.M.
Frantisek Jemelka	
Vaclav Supik	
Antonin Rehor	
Ferdinand Pokorny	
1927-1930:	
Alois Horacek	

School Memories

School Picnics: All schools in the area celebrated the end of a school year with a picnic. Over the years the time they were held has changed. At first the picnics were held the very last day of the school year. After the picnic dinner, games were played. Maybe a ball game or two between the young and the old. Later the teacher or teachers would present the report cards and special awards. Many teachers had a school souvenir pamphlet to present to the pupils with a list of pupils, the teacher's name and school board members plus a poem or two.

Now some of the schools hold their picnics on a Sunday shortly before the last day or the picnic is held in the evening since daylight savings time gives more daylight later in the day.



Spring program, April 1921, at District #14
Victor Jelinek, Sylvia Vopalensky, Edward Nesladek, Irene Bartosh, Raymond Shavlik, Ida Edmiston, LeVern LeGrande, Mildred Bernasek, Delbert LeGrande, Emily Walla

The Morse Bluff school for many years held the picnic at Scott's Lake. Boating, fishing, races, ball games, climbing trees and water fun with squirt guns were all part of the days activities. Ice cream marked the climax of the day. The Scott's Lake picnics were discontinued at the onset of World War II. Picnics were held at the school. The ball game between the pupils and the dads became an added highlight.

Christmas Programs: If one attended a rural school much of the time between Thanksgiving and the day of the program was spent practicing and making decorations for the school room. Getting a tree and decorating it was another big activity. The older boys would help set up a stage with curtains. The early schools did not have electricity so the programs were either held in the afternoon or some ways of providing lights had to be arranged. Benches, desks and chairs had to be put in place for the audience. The Morse Bluff school until the stage was built in the school house in 1932 held their programs at the Z.C.B.J. Hall. A huge tree reaching to the ceiling had its place in the corner near the stage. Most remember the cold walks to practice and then finding it not much warmer in the hall.

No matter which school or where the program was held all can recall how they felt facing those adults and kids in the front rows. The big highlight was the arrival of Santa Claus with treats for all.

Other School Activities: Many remember those blustery March winds that seemed to go right through the walls of the school building making one wonder if the school would blow away.

How about those ink wells in the desks and what happened to the girls pigtails or long hair!

Do you remember the iron fence around the Morse Bluff school grounds? It kept the "town kids" off the grounds until the first bell had rung.

The swings in the 1920's and 1930's were long ropes hanging from a bar between two very tall trees. Those high school girls could really push one very high. The swings today just don't go that high!

Remember the track meets between the various 10 grade schools in Saunders County. Both boys and girls competed — and that was in the 1930's! They had races, base ball throws, bicycle races, shot put, pole vault, relays of various kinds and ball games.

Watermelons: The Morse Bluff school looked forward to the fall day when the Krause Brothers would load their watermelons in the farm wagon, hitch up a team of horses to the wagon and come rolling into the school yard on a Friday afternoon about recess time. The rest of the school day was spent eating watermelon, all one could eat!

Wahoo Wasp, March 1, 1894

The city of Morse Bluff and vicinity are afflicted with a plague of measles. The village school was closed last week as nearly every child of school age in the district was under doc's care.

Schools

Morse Bluff School, District #14

The Morse Bluff School District #14 was formed in 1869 with various boundary changes during the years. On July 11, 1960 District #15 directly west became part of District #14. On April 6, 1964 District #79 was dissolved, part merging with District #34 and the rest joining District #14. The boundaries changed again in June 1970. Districts #77, #78 and #86, all south and west, consolidated with District #14. There have been other changes by land transfers by the owners.



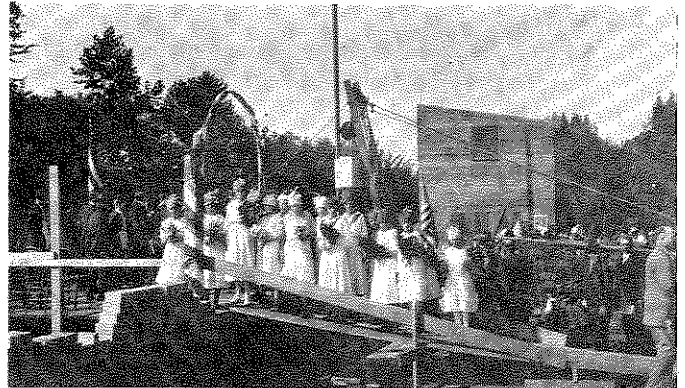
District #14 schoolhouse in the 1880's

The first known school house of the district was located to the south of the section one-half mile south of Morse Bluff. The legal description read one acre, Northeast corner N $\frac{1}{2}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 17, Range 6 in Morse Bluff precinct. In 1886 the district purchased this one acre for one dollar from Anton and Barbara Somers. When no longer needed for school purposes, the acre was deeded back to the original eighty acres in 1898, then owned by Frank Hines. The school house was moved into Morse Bluff, used first as a town hall and Z.C.B.J. Hall and later moved again in the same block and used by Walla Brothers for storage.



Morse Bluff schoolhouse 1896-1923

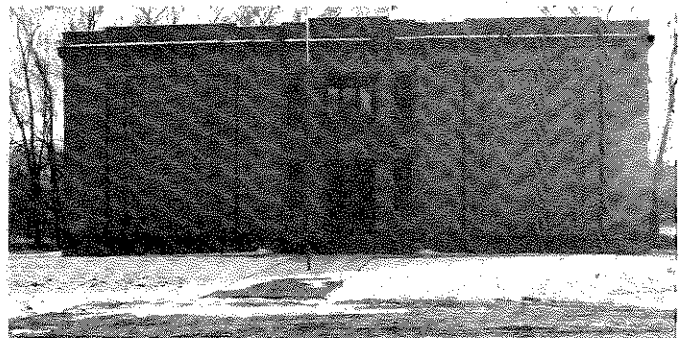
A two-story frame building was constructed on land purchased from Chester L. Morse at Third and Maude Streets in 1896. The building was west of the present school building. This building was dismantled after the brick building was completed.



September 25, 1923, dedication of cornerstone

On September 25, 1923, the cornerstone for the present brick building was laid with ceremonies conducted by the Masonic Lodge. In the spring of 1924 over 80 pupils and four teachers moved into the new building which is being used in 1987.

Basically this building has remained the same but many interior improvements have been made. A stage was added in the basement in 1932. Fire doors were installed in the basement and upper floor as well as new windows and doors.



Schoolhouse 1923 to present time, 1987

A janitor was hired for the school in 1924. It is not known for certain if the teachers were the custodians or if there was a janitor for the wooden building. Frank Jelinek was the first of several custodians serving the brick building. He served until 1930 when Frank Urban took over his duties until 1942. John Vopalensky then became janitor. After John Vopalensky's death in 1959, Frank and Ruth Vopalensky became the custodians. They were followed in 1972 by Loy and Blanche Zeller. They retired in 1985 and the present custodians are Adolph and Ann Vyhldal.

The first school census on file at the County Superintendent's Office at Wahoo, Nebraska was taken by John B. Swan, the director of the school board in 1886. It included the names of 82 children with family names as Bignell, Beranek, Blanchard, Buchholtz, Dodge, Enbody, Fowler, Krause, Lehmer, Levy, McCluhan, Mizera, Somers, Swan, Tomasek, and Wheeler.

The school terms the first few years varied. Generally two teachers were hired, one for three months and one for five to seven months since many only attended when there was no field work. Starting in 1892 two teachers taught the same number of days usually from September to June. However, the number of days varied from 100 to 192.



1923—80 pupils and teachers, Millie Cherny, Catherine Farrel, Alice Hines and Marie Farrell that moved into the new building.

With the building of the two-story frame building three or four teachers were contracted depending on the enrollment. In 1900 a ninth and tenth grade curriculum was established with the first class graduating in 1902. This curriculum continued until June 1952. Many continued their education by attending Fremont Normal at Fremont, Nebraska or high school in neighboring towns. From 1952 most of those completing the eighth grade went to the high school in North Bend, Nebraska. In 1968 a class six rural high school, District #95 of Saunders and Dodge Counties was formed. It is known as the North Bend Central Junior-Senior High located at 11th and Walnut in North Bend, Nebraska. This district consists of grades seven through twelve and includes District #14.

District #14 is in 1987 a K-6 school with four contracted teachers, a Class I teacher, and a music and physical education instructor on a part time basis. The enrollment for the 1986-1987 school year was 62.

At the annual meeting in June 1985 the school board membership was extended to include six members instead of three to give a better representation in the district. Serving on the school board for the 1986-1987 school year were Wm. F. Chromy, James F. Vech,

Sharon Cody, Deanna Wolf, James Hines and Ted Minarick.

Basketball at Morse Bluff High

1930 with Konrad Magnusson as the superintendent of the Morse Bluff school saw basketball introduced to this area. Almost all of the boys in the 9th and 10th grades participated and sometimes 8th grade boys were needed for the team. They played teams from other 10 grade high schools and the reserve teams of some 12 year high schools.

Mr. Magnusson was the first coach of the Morse Bluff Cardinals. On the very first team in 1930 were Otto Virka, Ivan Karpisek, Raymond Otte, Donald, Kermit and Kirk Fleming, Emil Wolf Jr., Lumir Urban and Raymond Vopalensky. Practice was held behind the school house on a clay court, in the school basement and at the dance hall above the garage down town. Games were played above the garage.

C.J. Dubry and John Holtorf coached the boys in the following years. Basketball continued until World War II when gas rationing restricted travel.

Many of the boys continued playing basketball in their remaining high school days. Kirk Fleming went on to Midland College with his basketball career.

Several trophies were won during those years. There are still some of these trophies in the trophy case at the Morse Bluff school declaring Morse Bluff as Saunders County basketball champs.



Champion Basketball Team—1933

Ivan Karpisek, John Hubenbecker, Leonard Wirka, Francis Chvatal, Bob Lehmer, Ray Vopalensky, Ray Otte, Emil E. Wolf Jr., Jesse Aringdale, Konrad Magnusson and Marvin McGinn.



Teachers in 1928-1929

Sylvia Vopalensky
Alberta Curtis
Millie Chery
Libbie Novak

Teachers at District #14

F. Seykora, 1885-1886
 W.G. Sittel, 1885-1886
 S.W. Der, 1886-1887
 Mary Seykora, 1886-1887
 Lizzie A. Burton, 1887-1888
 W.C. Hill, 3 months, 1888
 J.W. Lewis, 3 months, 1889
 Mary Eason, 1888-1889
 Grace Copp, 1889-1890
 Adda Wheeler, 1889-1890
 Steve Rogers, 1890-1891
 Laura Hicks, 1890-1891
 Louise Lampert, 1892-1893
 C.B. Goodspeed, 1893-1895
 F.J. Krause, 1894-1895
 Dora Phelan, 1895-1897
 E.V. Rakestraw, 1895-1896
 J.W. Ball, 1896-1897
 D.B. Juckett, 1897-1900
 Miss Dodge, 1897-1898
 J.D. Raitt, 1898-1899
 Anna M. Lampert, 1898-1902
 Clarke L. Robinson, 1900-1905
 Linna Barnett, 1900-1902; 1908-1913
 Anna Schroedter, 1902-1906
 Lizzie Raitt, 1903-1907
 Anna Raitt, 1904-1905
 Joe G. Widhelm, 1905-1906
 Loy J. Gilkeson, 1906-1910
 Mae Revis, 1906-1907
 Fern L. Ort, 1906-1910
 Ethel Admire, 1907-1908
 Flora Teeter Cheney, 1908-1915;
 1917-1918; 1945-1948
 Marie Rochford, 1910-1911
 Mildred Kavan, 1910-1911
 Margaret Tedy, 1911-1912
 F.A. Lorenc, 1912-1914
 Louise Sinamark, 1913-1915
 Mary Sudik, 1913-1915
 D.D. Marcellus, 1914-1915
 J.J. Keepe, 1915-1916
 Adah Kelly, 1915-1917
 Gizela Lauvetz, 1915-1917

Hattie Sudik, 1915-1917
 Agnes Hansen, 1917-1919
 LeRoy Malloy, 1916-1918
 Millie Cherny, 1917-1925; 1927-1930
 Olive Gilmore, 1918-1919
 Roma Daily, 1919-1920
 Hilda Sabatka, 1919-1921
 Anna Roubal, 1919-1920
 Susie Thomsen, 1920-1922
 Catherine Farrell, 1920-1925
 Julia Ondracek, 1921-1922
 Marie Farrell Schinkle, 1922-1925
 Alice Hines, 1922-1924
 Adela Lodi, 1924-1926
 Lydia Shavlik, 1926-1927
 Clara Bunda, 1926-1928
 Alberta Curtis, 1926-1930
 Libbie Novak, 1926-1932
 Wm. J. Curtis, 1926-1927
 Sylvia Vopalensky, 1928-1931
 Eloise Datel, 1930-1932
 Konrad Magnusson, 1931-1934
 Mary Ripp, 1931-1933
 Lola Applegate, 1932-1936
 Gertrude Hyatt, 1932-1933
 Vivian Harbottle, 1933-1938
 Catherine Tawney, 1933-1938
 C.J. Dubry, 1934-1936
 John Holtorf, 1936-1941
 Edith Roos, 1936-1937
 Margaret Mae Steiner, 1937-1941
 Dorothy Frandsen, 1938-1941
 Ernest Humlicek, 1938-1939
 Wilma Walla Kunkle, 1941-1946
 Vlasta Kavan, 1941-1943
 Raymond Vopalensky, 1941-1942
 Geraldine Teply, 1942-1943
 Margaret Sinkula, 1943-1944
 Mabel Stranik, 1943-1944
 Dorothy Grady, 1945-1947
 Elizabeth Lockhart, 1947-1948
 Elaine Vlasak, 1947, 1948; 2nd Sem. 1963
 Alice Jirik, 1948-1951
 Jeanette Schroeder, 1948-1952

Sophie Stritecky, 1948-1952
 George Hlavinka, 1951-1952 (resigned)
 Amelia Renard, 2nd Sem. 1952; 1958-1962
 Marilyn Pabian, 1952-1954
 Gladys Marshalek, 1952-1955
 Pauline Kelly, 1952-1953
 Rita Hynek Zeleny, 1953-1957
 Opal Scott, 1954-1958; 1966-1967
 Merle Lees, 1955-1957
 Rose Wilcox, 1957-1959
 Ida Welker, 1957-1958
 Mae Wagner, 1958-1960
 Loretta Ladenburger, 1959-1962
 Mildred Paasch, 1960-1961
 Darlene Ladehoff, 1961-1962
 Bernice Kodad, 1962-1965
 Dorothy Watters, 1962-1963—1st Sem.
 Joyce Nesladek, 1962-1966
 Gloria Kammerer, 1963-1964
 Carol Snover, 1964-1966
 Theona Nelson, 1964-1970
 Hattie Houtby, 1965-1974
 Glenda Preister, 1966-1969
 Wilma Jean Racek, 1967-1968
 Elizabeth Drudik, 1968-1970
 Iris Lamme, 1969—2nd Sem.
 Gladys Cajka, 1969-1970
 Eudean Lehn, 1970-1971
 Florence Blanchard, 1971-1979
 Brenda Strand, 1971-1974
 Jolene Varriano Cerny, 1971-1974
 Dorothy Ales, 1974-1975
 Majorie Hubbs, 1974-1975
 Janet Pebley, 1974-1978
 Eileen Cash, 1975-1987
 Cora Hansen, 1975-1987
 Diane Kubicek, 1978-1979
 Debra Lambrecht, 1979-1981
 Madalyn Boettcher, 1979-1981
 Ruth Latto, 1981-1983
 Debbie Riley, 1982-1987
 Barbara Soukup, 1983-1987

Morse Bluff 10th Grade Graduates

This is not an official list of the graduates. This list was compiled with the help of various graduates and graduation programs.

1902
 Carrie Killian
 Ray Killian
 Mary Vopalensky
 Roy Widener

1903
 Walter Fleming

1904
 Louise Seligmann

1905
 Millie Killian
 Emil Klappal
 Frank Mizera
 Julia Vopalensky

1906
 no graduates

1907
 Lizzie McGinn
 Harry Sherman
 Blanche Widener

1908
 Verna Bignell
 Etta Dodge
 Lewis Dodge
 Anna Killian
 Rosa Klappal
 August Seligmann
 Anton E. Soukup
 Mary L. Vopalensky
 Nora Widener

1909
 Eva Bignell
 James Cipperra
 Leonard Killian
 Millie Ondracek
 Frank L. Vopalensky

1910
 Frank Cherny
 John Dodge
 Edward V. Hines
 Julia Klappal
 Anna McMartin
 Mary Seligmann

1911
 Agnes Bauer
 Bennie Bauer
 Victor Killian
 Libbie Ondracek
 William Pabian
 Mary Vech
 Emma Vopalensky
 Jimmie Vopalensky
 Emma Walla

1912
 Amiel Beranek
 Elza Bignell
 Adeline Kavan
 Herman Keller
 Eddie Vopalensky
 Jimmie Zakovec

1913
 Polley Bignell
 Albert Hines
 Mae Pabian
 Alfreda Seligmann
 William Vopalensky
 Barbara Walla

1914
 Dorothea Bignell
 Albina Hines
 John McCluhan
 Ruth McVittie
 Irma Ondracek
 Marie Vasina
 Emma Zakovec

1915
 Emma Bauer
 Julia Ondracek
 Tillie Pabian
 Mary Shavlik
 Emanuel Soukup
 Helen Vopalensky

1916
 Amiel Bauer
 Albert Vopalensky
 Anna Zakovec

1917
Emma Hines
Mille Cherry
Blanche Kratochvil
Josephine Walla

1918
Alice Hines
Agnes Shavlik

1919
John Bauer
Agnes Bunda
Joe Hines
Raymond Janovec
Julia Tawney
Walter Tawney
Mildred Vech
William Walla

1920
Walter Edmiston
Mary Louise Franta
Emily Franta
Frank J. Shavlik
Amiel F. Urban

1921
Albin Bunda
Anton Cippera
Irene Hampl
Clara Havelka
Lucille LeGrande
Lillian Navrkal
Hilda Pabian
Lydia Shavlik

1922
Anton Bauer
Jim Franta
Victor Hines
Edward Nesladek
Joe Nesladek
Delbert LeGrande
Alva McVittie
Emily Walla

1923
Libbie Havelka
Otto Hines
Victor Jelinek
Mamie Krause
Sylvia Vopalensky

1924
Irene Bartosh
James Bignell
Ida E. Edmiston
Rose Franta
Helen Kaplan
Anna Kratochvil
Gerald Kratochvil
LaVerne LeGrande
Raymond Shavlik
Joe Vojtech

1925
Joe Hampl
Leona Havelka
Harold Homer
George Kaplan
Harry Tenopir
Milford Schuler
Wilma Walla

1926
Francis Bartosh

Susie Bignell
Helen Kratochvil
Francis Krause
Adolph Nesladek
Anton Nesladek
Wilma Shavlik
Libbie Stranik
Marietta Wala
Arden Wolf

1927
Sylvia Blanchard
Rudolph Bunda
Viola Buchholtz
Bessie Franta
Milo Hampl
Emil Kaplan
Anthony Karpisek
Agnes Kavan
Hazel Krause
Ravha Leach

1928
Ella Beranek
Billie Buchholtz
Albin Cihacek
Martha Cummins
Arnold Edmiston
Annette Otte
Leona Pabian
Raymond Racek
Orville Walla

1929
Mabel Cippera
Edward Franta
Charles Hampl
Wilma Kavan
Esther Ladenburger
Alta Leach
Ernest Vojtech

1930
Norma Cummins
Alice Franta
Phil Hynek
Ruby Jelinek
Emma Kratochvil
Eileen Krause
Leo Ladenburger
John Ranselm
Bernice Sweet
Irwin Vopalensky
Phil Walla

1931
Wilma Buchholtz
Mildred Cummins
Donald Fleming
Jean Fleming
Kermit Fleming
Marcella Ranselm
Orland Svoboda
Ethel Urban
Otto Virka
Wilma Vopalensky

1932
Charles L. Beranek
Theodore Blatny
Marietta Downey
Adeline Dvorak
Margaret Edmiston
Kirk Fleming
Ivan Karpisek
Katherine Leach

Eileen Mizera
Raymond Otte
Lumir Urban
Evelyn Vopalensky

1933
Marietta Bauer
Francis Chvatal
George Krause
Marvin McGinn
Marie Racek
Gertrude Shanahan
Leonard Virka
Raymond Vopalensky
Emil E. Wolf, Jr.

1934
Jesse Aringdale
Ernest Blatny
Alvin Eckstein
Bobette Fleming
John Hubenbecker
Victor Humlicek
Bob Lehmer
Mervin Otte
Evelyn Racek
Dorothy Shanahan
Leona Stranik

1935
Josephine Blatny
Marie Eckstein
Marion Homer
Jean McGinn
Alvin Soukup
Eugene Thompson
Leonard Vopalensky
Donald Walla
Edward Walla
Elaine Wolf

1936
Matilda Beranek
Marcene Pabian
Marie Vojtech
Bernice Vopalensky
Ernest Vopalensky

1937
Max Aringdale
Bernice Buchholtz
Melvin Buchholtz
Loretta Shanahan
Anton Soukup
Mabel Stranik
Wilma Svoboda

1938
Joe Bauer
Henrietta Brabec
Milton Eckstein
Edward J. Hines
Carol Lehmer
Frank Vlasak
Betty Vopalensky

1939
Geraldine Beranek
Norma Brabec
Curtis Fleming
Quintin Fleming
Ervin Hines
Elaine Jelinek
Loren Racek
Harlan Schauer
Arlene Walla

1940
Jimmie Bauer
Henrietta Buchholtz
Lillian Hines
Albert Kavan
Delbert Otte
Louis Stranik
LaVina Svoboda
Ann Tenopir
Wm. J. Vopalensky

1941
Bernard Blatny
Frank Brabec
Dorothy Cornelius
Melvin Dodge
Anton Eckstein
Kathleen Fleming
Irene Kavan
Leonard Kavan
Edwin Racek
Margaret Racek
Clara Virka

1942
Betty Buchholtz
Leona Buchholtz
Maxine Chvatal
Maxine Cornelius
Donald Hines
John Hines
Johnny Navrkal
Billy Jack Pabian
Bernard Paseka
LaVern Walla

1943
Shirley Beto
Lyle Blanchard
Wilma Kavan

1944
Amiel Lou Beranek
Ruby Hines
Ruben Kavan
Dale Keller
Elden Kracl
Dennis Novak
Delma Svoboda
Jack Tawney
Madeline Tenopir
Dorothy Vopalensky

1945
Richard Hynek
Richard Kubr
Bonnie Pabian
Alice Stanek

1946
Vonda Buchholtz
Dorothy Karpisek
LaVae Kavan
Josephine Leach
Dorothy Wagner

1947
Jack Beto
Jim Cornelius
Frank Dodge
Joan Hines
Lloyd Keller
Marjorie Karpisek
Frank Lodl
Marilyn Pabian

1948
Jessie Ann Cornelius
Dolores Dvorak
Maxine Fencil
Orvil Kavan
Donald Lees
Roy Lodl
Gladys Marshalek
Albert Vopalensky

1949
Lou Ann Buchholtz
Johnny Hobza
Joe Lodl
Alice Marshalek
Clara Jean Racek
Raymond Stranik

1950
Adolph Codr
Delores Kavan
Irene Paseka

1951
Laddie Lodl
Wilma Racek

1952
Mary Ann Feala
Marvin Hines
Keith Racek



Adah Kelly's room, 1915-1916

Wahoo Wasp, April 7, 1895
Professor Proj who is conducting a Bohemian school reports 40 scholars enrolled. School is held in the Hines' Hall.



District #14, 1926-1927

Row 1: Eleanor Heuser, Eugene Zakovec, Lester Urban, Francis Edmiston, Henrietta Brabec, Matilda Beranek, Carol Lehmer, Vera and Zola Edwards
 Row 2: Alvin Soukup, Anton Soukup, Charles Leach, Bernice Vopalensky, Wilma Svoboda, George Krause, Harold Edwards, Ernest Vopalensky, Elaine Wolf, Roland Vrba, Edward Hines, Richard Ranselm, Frank Vlasak
 Row 3: Emil E. Wolf Jr., Adeline Kratochvil, Evelyn Vopalensky, Katherine Leach, Ann Kavan, Bobette Fleming, Betty Heuser, Janet Edmiston, Edward Walla, Vernon Cummins, Joe Pabian, Charlie Beranek, Kirk Fleming, John Hubenbecker, Bob Lehmer, Otto Virka
 Row 4: Norma Cummins, Marcella Ranselm, Eileen Mizera, Wilma Buchholtz, Ethel Urban, Wilma Vopalensky, Emma Kratochvil, Eileen Krause, Lumir Urban, Ray Vopalensky, Kermit Fleming, Charles Hampl, Orland Svoboda, Orville Walla, Irwin Vopalensky
 Row 5: Margaret Edmiston, Miss Alberta Curtis, Marietta Downey, Miss Clara Bunda, Mildred Cummins, Marcella Svoboda, Wilma Kavan, Mabel Bartunek, Ella Beranek, Miss Lydia Shavlik, Martha Cummins, Professor Swihart, Leona Pabian, Miss Millie Cherny, Esther Ladenburger, Alta Leach, Ernest Vojtech, Annetta Otte, Arnold Edmiston, Phil Walla, Ray Racek, Billy Buchholtz, Edward Franta, Albina Cihacek, John Ranselm.



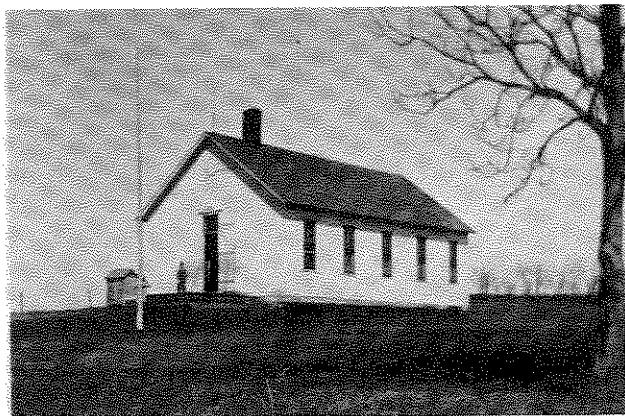
District #14, 1941-42, upper grades

Row 1: Donna Svoboda, Jack Beto, LaVae Kavan, Marjorie Karpisek, Frank Lodl, Lloyd Keller, Jim Cornelius, Mary Bert, LaVida Kavan, Marilyn Pabian, Josephine Leach, Dorothy Wagner, Shirley Bert
 Row 2: Ray Vopalensky, Joan Hines, Charles Buchholtz
 Row 3: Dorothy Vopalensky, Vonda Buchholtz, Evelyn Kavan, Wayne Cornelius, Frank Dodge, Lloyd Blanchard, Bonnie Pabian, Dale Keller, Delma Svoboda, Dorothy Karpisek



District #14, 1947, lower grades

Row 1: Roger Buchholtz, Roland Otte, Dale Muff, Marie Pabian, Sharon Ladenburg, Eldine Foral, Gary Hampl, Charles Vopalensky
 Row 2: Robert Racek, Delbert Mach, DeeAnn Buchholtz, Carol Kaplan, Elaine Hines, Linda Buchholtz, Georgia Ann Mach, George Pabian, Leonard Simanek



District #15 schoolhouse

District #15

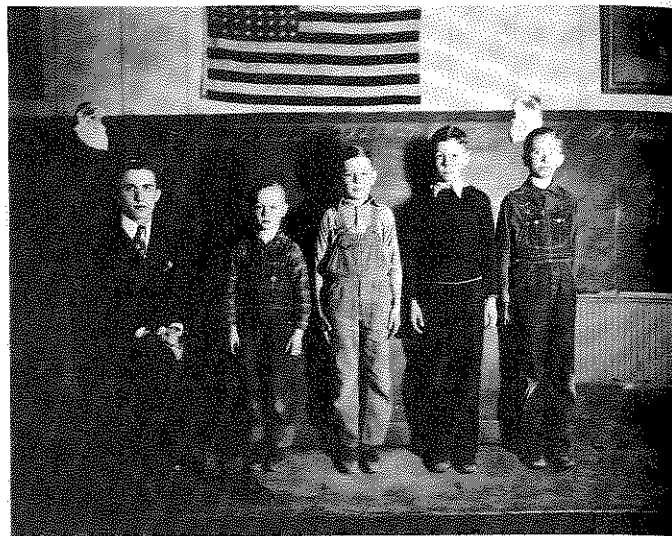
District #15 was located one-half mile south and two and one-half miles west of Morse Bluff in Bohemia precinct, section 23, township 17, range 5. The school house was a one room frame building.

The first school census on file was taken in 1886 by Frank Vojtech. There were 64 children on this census. It is not known how many were in attendance at school. The teacher was Agnes Malloy. Family names appearing in 1886 included Bunda, Cippera, Dodge, Eckstein, Feala, Franta, Janovec, Nesladek, Roubal, Vojtech and Walla.

It was the custom in the 1900's for the teacher to give a souvenir booklet at the end of the school year listing all the pupils, the teacher and the school board members. The booklet also contained a poem or two. One such souvenir dated 1912 listed Antonette Herman as teacher, George Vojtech, Peter Hayek and Leopold Mares as school board members and 38 pupils. Another dated 1919 had Cyril M. Humlicek teaching 46 pupils with F.J. Vojtech, J.A. Franta and Leopold Mares on the school board. Mr. Mares served on the school board about fifty years. Other early teachers included Katie Pepperd, Katie and Emma Fingado, Joe Cherny, E.B. Ebdyer, Mary Roubal and Carrie Chmelka. Other family names were Karpisek, Dvorak, Mares, Bartunek, Navrkal, Cihacek, Vyhldal and Bauer.

Teachers from 1920 were James Vech, Clara Bunda, Frances Dwyer, Edward V. Roh, Libbie Novak, Anna Hobza, Agnes Stanek, Mamie Krause, Mildred Mundy, Eileen Krause, Ernest J. Humlicek, Raymond Vopalensky, Edna Vopalensky, Blanche Zeller, Flora Ceney, Leona Kobza, Helen Vavak Vyhldal, Gladys Fujan, Alice Marshalek, Lillian Vyhldal, Marlene Tomek, Rita Zeleny and Gladys Chvatal.

The 1959-1960 school year was the final year for District #15. Seventeen pupils were taught by Viola Van Gerpen. School board members were Joe Vojtech, grandson of the 1886 director, Wm. Vyhldal and Joe D. Bauer. Family names on the last enrollment records



1935—District #15: E.J. Humlicek, teacher; Dennis Cippera, Delbert Otte, Jimmie Bauer, Johnnie Navrkal

included Bauer, Kavan, Otte, Vojtech and Walla. The district merged with District #14 in June 1960.

All that remains today are the memories. The building has been moved and the school ground reverted to the adjoining farm acres.



District #54 schoolhouse

District #54

The District #54 school located two and one-half miles south and one-half mile east of Morse Bluff is in Morse Bluff precinct, section 32, township 17, range 6 on land donated by Mathias Racek. For many years the school was known as the Racek School.

The first building was the typical one room school house popular in the 1800's. In 1930 a new brick building was constructed with a basement. Several improvements have been made including fluorescent lighting, fire alarm system, new north windows and rest rooms.

The 1886 school census shows 18 families with 56



1931—District #54: Row 1: Bob Shanahan, Leo Shanahan, Edwin Racek Row 2: Albert Kavan, Joe Kavan, Leonard Hines, George Hynek, Ervin Hines, George Kavan, Loren Racek, Tom Shanahan Row 3: Irene Kavan, Helen Kavan, Geraldine Beranek, Marie Hines Row 4: Marie Racek, Libbie Stranik, Evelyn Racek, Adeline Kavan, Adeline Beranek, Mildred Kavan, Ann Tenopir, Lillian Hines

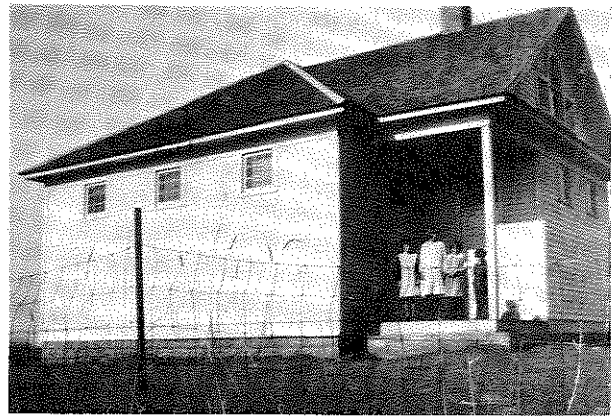
children. Mathias Racek was the director of the school board. Family names included Beranek, Bignell, Fleming, Jones, Malloy, Kavan, Racek, Shanahan, Sousek, Welty and Zakovec.

In 1923 the southeast part of the district became part of District #79, a newly formed district southeast of District #54.

Early teachers included Mary Fleming, Maggie Krause, Mary A. Malloy, Katie Howard, Will F. Smith, Mary O'Connon and C.A. Pancost. Teachers that can still be remembered are Alice Hines, Mary L. Franta, Christine Jerabek, Ethel Ladenburger, Gladys Malloy, Libbie Stranik, Mildred Mundy, Violet Carlson, Georgia Sudik, Raymond Vopalensky, Maude Harms, Norma A. Nelson, Vernetta Anderson, Angelyn Wesley, Nadine Ladenburger Racek, Bonnie Pabian Roberts, Madeline Tenopir, Sophie Havelka, Maxine Wesely, Alice Marshalek, Opal Scott, Bernice Kodad, Connie Kudlacek and Mary Robinson. Family names appearing on census records in later years included Soukup, Gaskill, Virka, Zakovec, Beranek, Racek, Kavan, Paseka, Vachal, Hynek, Tenopir, Shanahan, Lees, Borer, Thege, Hines, Tawney and Bauer.

The present board members are Francis Zakovec, Debbie Kavan and Larry Racek. Donna Vacha who taught from 1966 to 1973 returned to District #54 in 1980 and continued teaching through the 1986-1987 school year. There are nine pupils enrolled in grades K-6. The older pupils in the district attend North Bend Central Junior-Senior High School, a Class Six Rural High School.

The Jensen family moved into the District in October 1985 ending the five and one-half year "reign" of all boys. Stacy Jensen enrolled as a second grader in 1985 and her sister, Kristen entered Kindergarten in the fall of 1986.



District #77 schoolhouse

District #77

District #77 was located two and one-half miles south and two and one-half miles west of Morse Bluff in section 2 of Bohemia precinct. The school census taken by Joseph Pabian in 1888 shows the following family names: Pabian, Ondracek, Novak, Satorie, Bauer, Dvorak, Bartosh, Hines, Matjicek, Sloup and Vyhldal. Other names appearing over the years included Steinbach, Chvatal, Kavan, McGinn, Hynek, Vech, Thege, Wesely, Nesladek and Dolezal.

The district had two buildings in its history. The first was the typical one room school house. As near as can be determined the second was built around 1915. Information received stated that Frank Dolezal built the second building. It is said that he gave the district the money in cash and also donated labor to build it. The one room school house was moved to the Dolezal farmstead where it was converted into a machine shed.



District #77: Front: Frank Pabain, Ernest Dolezal, Victor Pabian, Frank Byhldal, Lawrence Dolezal. Back: George Vyhldal, Wayne LeGrande, Bernard Vech, Tom Pabian, Mike Pabian, Marvin McGinn

The teachers since 1920 included Anna Vech, Lillian Vech, James E. Vech, Clara Havelka, Ludmila Rerucha, Christina Jerabek, Mrs. C. Navrkal, Frances Bresee, Wilma Shavlik, Emily Stuchlik, Adeline Dvorak, Bernice Wernsman, Lillian Hines, Eleanor Belik, Irene Kubik, Marilyn Pabian, Maxine Fencil, Joan Musiel, Ilene Hynek, Marlene Fencil Thege, Ethel Finegan, Trina Hakel and Mae Belle Dodendorf.



District #78, School picnic, 1930

District #78

School District #78 was organized March 29, 1923 to provide a school that was closer to attend and to help with a large enrollment in Districts #80 and #86. Sections 31, 32, and 33 from District #86 in Bohemia precinct and sections 4, 5, and 6 from Chester precinct formed District #78.

A new building was built by J.P. Shavlik and son of Morse Bluff at the cost of \$3,240. The first school board members were E.O. Thege, Rudy E. Kavan, and John L. Hajek. The first teacher was Martha Thege. Her salary was \$75 for teaching and \$5 for fuel to heat the building. She had to furnish the fuel for that \$5. Family names on the school census were Tomes, Bright, Kavan, Wirka, Lodl, Navrkal, Thege and Hajek.

The teachers the following years included Clara Bunda, F.A. Kavan, Edward Cejka, Gwendola Thorson, Wilma Shavlik, Rilla Kohler, Blanche Kriz, Olga Dolezal, Anne Walla, Lillian Brecka, Neva Tichacek, Evelyn Ruzicka, LaVina Voboril, Marie E. Eckstein, Adeline Dvorak, Emily Ladenburger, Betty Vachal, Rosalie Daul, Shirley Moerker, Donna Wirka, and Amelia Renard.

The district's final school year was the 1967-1968 school year with Edith Chapman as teacher. The last eighth grade graduates in 1967 were Regina Codr and Cheryl Hovorka. In June 1970 the district merged with the Morse Bluff school. Cyril Codr, Richard J. Thege



District #78, May 1967: Teacher, Edith Chapman, Cheryl Hovorka, Henrietta Codr, Regina Codr, Judy Nelson, Cindy Nelson

and Edward Hovorka served on the final school board of the district.

District #79

The history of District #79 goes back to 1923. Over crowded conditions in Districts #34, #54, #91 and #92 plus patrons wanting a shorter distance to a school house prompted petitions for the formation of District #79 on April 12, 1923. The school house was located four miles south and two miles east of Morse Bluff in Section 9, Township 16, Range 6 in Douglas precinct.



District #79

I.D. Wolfe, Walter Fleming and T.M. Settles were elected to the school board. Louise Berge, teacher, started the 1924-1925 school year, resigned during the year and was replaced by Naomi Benson. Other teachers that followed were Mildred Emig, Mamie Krause, Irene Bartosh, Bernice Miners, Elaine Rood, Mable Frahm, Fern Fisher, Anne Rassmussen, Bernadine Holtorf, LaVerne Lindgren, Ruth Nelson, Elva Schutlz, Lillian Vech, Maxine Jambor, Ardith

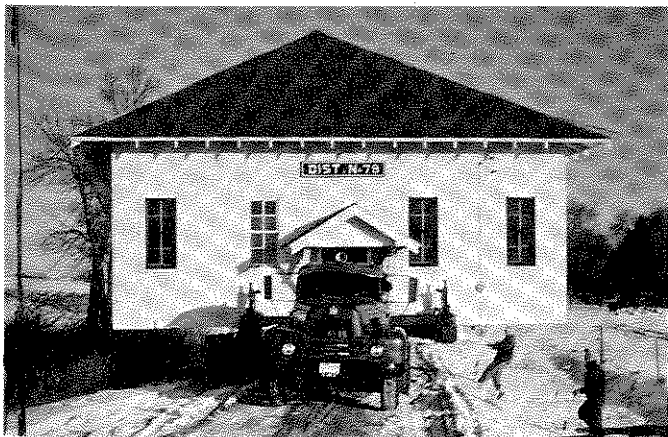


District #79, about 1930: Mamie Krause, teacher. Boys: Leon Settles, Harold Wolfe, Lynn Settles, Donald Fleming, Ed Wolfe, LeRoy Settles, Dean Settles. Girls: Jean Wolfe, Cecilia Sousek, Vivian Lemke, Dorothy and Gertrude Shanahan, Helen Wolfe, Jean Fleming, Phyllis Roberts, Odette Fleming, Clare Shanahan, Joy Roberts, Lillian Lemke

Moser, Marjorie Moser Hynek, Leona Karpisek, Bonnie Roberts, Irene Cihacek and Georgia Shmirka.

Family names of the district included Cerny, Fleming, Ladenburger, Lemke, Malloy, McDaniel, McHenry, Roberts, Settles, Schauer, Shanahan, Sousek, Wesely, and Wolfe.

The district contracted the pupils for the years 1960-1964 to other districts, due to low enrollment and a teacher shortage. On April 6, 1964 the school district was dissolved, part merging with District #34 and the rest with District #14. Board members in 1964 were James J. Cerny, Ernest J. Ladenburger and Tom Roberts.



District #79 on the way to its new location in Morse Bluff

The school house was sold to the Morse Bluff American Legion and moved to Second and Ann Streets in Morse Bluff. It was remodeled and is used for the American Legion and Auxiliary meetings and other community activities.



District #86

District #86

Venzel and Anna Cerny deeded one acre square of land in the NE¼ of NW½ of section 29, township 17, range 5 in Bohemia precinct to District #86 for the sum of \$5 on March 13, 1874. Shortly after the execution and delivery of the deed, the public road was moved and the school site was also moved to its present location. The new location was fenced by Albert Cerny and has remained there through a quit claim deed by Marie Cerny in 1930.

The last school building was built through an agreement with the moderator Jacob Kavan, treasurer Phillip Walla and the carpenter August Kletke of Linwood, Nebraska at a meeting on July 23, 1900. The agreement contract was for the labor charge of \$212 with material supplied by District #86, said school to be completely built in 25 days.

The largest enrollment took place in the year 1898-1899 with a total of 71 pupils. Teacher that year was Joseph F. Reznicek. The pupils were Annie, Neman, Oba and Raimer Bouma; John Bures; Annie, August and Frank Divis; Helen, Julia, Mary and Raymond Docekal; John Hajek; Celia and Helen Hamr-dla; Edward Homer; Gustie, Josie and Will Jelinek; Annie, Charles, Emil, Emila, Fannie, James, Mary, Milada, Rosy, Rudolph and Stasie Kavan; John, Joseph and Rudolph Krska; Anna, Anton, Anton, Barbara, Charles, Fannie, James, Josie and Joseph Mensik; Anton and Gustie Navrkal; Emil, Frank, James, Mary and Tony Pernicek; Anton and Frank Rehak, John Reznicek; Anna, Anton, Emma, Frank, Frank, Helen, John, Joseph, Louis, Mary, Mary and Victoria Shavlik; Josie Trajiblik; Edward, James, Julia, Louis and Phillip Walla.

The teachers from 1890 to 1970 were Mary Novacek, Anna Malloy, Lizzie Carter, O.T. Tabler, Joseph F. Reznicek, Mary Bors, Emma Christensen, Margaret M. Wood, Adela Stecker, Mabel Aply, Mary Jirovsky, Anna L. Cerny, Emma Cherny, Anna Koutnik, Edward Peltz, Clara Novak, Blanche Scott, Irene Bartosh, Mabel Frahm, Irene Herman, Arnold Edmiston, Mildred Mazanec, Emma Brezina, Olga Dolezal, Adeline Ruzicka, Adela Vrsak, Viola Macholan, George Hlavinka, Jean Dworak, Margaret Flynn, Joan

Strauss, Geraldine Rolenc, Marcella Hladky, Emily Ladenburger, Jean Shavlik, Mae Belle Dodendorf, Bonnie Roberts and Leona Duda.

On August 20, 1970 a farewell picnic was held for all former students and teachers with a large crowd in attendance.



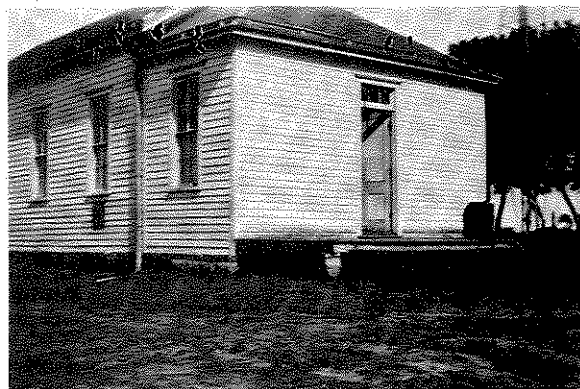
District #86, 1946, teacher, Viola Macholan. LeRoy Homer, Freddy Homer, Edna Kasper, Marjorie Navrkal, Arthur Kasper, Bernard Kavan

District #91

District #91 is located four miles east and one and one-half mile south of Morse Bluff in Morse Bluff precinct, section 35, township 17, range 6.

The first record of the district in 1878 lists the director as E.D. Malloy. There were seventeen pupils enrolled.

The first school census on file was in 1886 with E. Magher as director. Family names included Magher, Williams, Fleming, Wheeler, Lemke, Ranselm, Hartford, Hanson and LeGrande.



District #91, schoolhouse before 1938

In 1923 the southwest part of the district was attached to District #79, a newly formed district. In 1938 the present brick building was constructed. Family names appearing on the record the past fifty years include Blatny, Dwyer, Fencel, Hanson, Hartford, Huscher, Jessen, Jones, Kiser, Konecky, Kubr, Leigh,



District #91, schoolhouse after 1938

Lively, Miller, Pospisil, Ranselm, Seivers, Sweet, Vech and Zakovec.

The annual Christmas program and a district picnic at the close of the school year have traditional highlights.

Among the teachers in the past were Wanda Brabec, Janice Odvody, Marjorie Lindgren, Martha Settles, Florence Blanchard, Jennie Esty, Wilma Spencer, Donna Vacha, Marie Rezac, Nadine Racek, Mercedes Moser, Mary Ann Wesely, Wilma Racek Havlovic, Margaret Williams, Mary Ellen Nick, Lillian Vech, Bernita Gaughen, Mrs. Jimmie Stave, Jr., Jeanne Wolfe, Bernice Vopalensky, Marie Vavra, Clara Bunda and Helen Kaplan.

The 1986-1987 school year had a K-6 enrollment of seven with Maretta Lindgren as teacher. School board members are Eugene Hartford, Susan Hajek and Bryan Anderson.



District #91, 1987

- Maretta Lindgren
 Row 1:
 Bruce Hajek
 Corina Brabec
 Angela Anderson
 Row 2:
 Curtis Brabec
 Rebecca Anderson
 Melinda Hartford
 Crystal Johnson

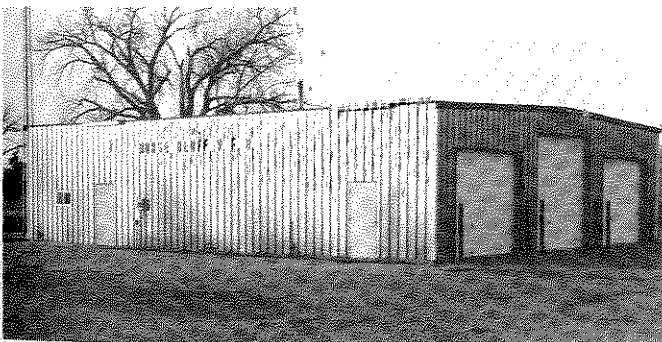
Morse Bluff Volunteer Fire Department

According to a twenty-five year history written by Frank E. Lehmer in 1933 the Morse Bluff Volunteer Fire Department was organized at a meeting held December 21, 1908. The following officers were elected, H.D. Mackprang, president; J.J. Janovec, secretary; Ed Walla, treasurer; and N.C. Wagner, fire chief. There were 30 members in 1908.

The equipment purchased the first few years was not recorded except for a couple of ladders. Later years show the first pumper purchased in January 1948 from the North Bend Fire Department for \$1600. The second pumper was purchased in January 1975 from Wahoo. The present pumper was gotten September 1985. Other equipment included a 4 x 4 weed wagon in 1978, a tanker in August 1964, another tanker in 1982 and a van in 1986.

Major fires from 1927 to 1973 are featured in another article. There was a house fire in 1951 where the Mary Thompson residence was almost completely destroyed by fire.

A Rural Fire District was organized first as a merger with the North Bend Rural Fire District. As the Morse Bluff district area was expanded this merger was dissolved in June 1973 and Morse Bluff formed their own fire district. Fire phones for the new district were installed December 1, 1974. The first Rural Board consisted of Joe Fencl, president; Ray Racek, vice president; Joe Van Ampting, secretary-treasurer; Marvin Hines and Tom Stranik, directors.



Morse Bluff Volunteer Fire Department Hall

Construction of a new fire hall was started in 1977. Dedication of this hall was held August 12, 1979.

An annual oyster supper has been held for many years, the first being February 11, 1930 at the Z.C.B.J. Hall. December 17, 1934 this oyster supper was changed to include the annual meeting. The place it was held changed during the years from the Z.C.B.J. Hall to the Legion Club to the Fire Hall. It has also changed to an oyster and chili supper. During World War II the suppers were discontinued for the duration. The fire department has two fund raising activities an-

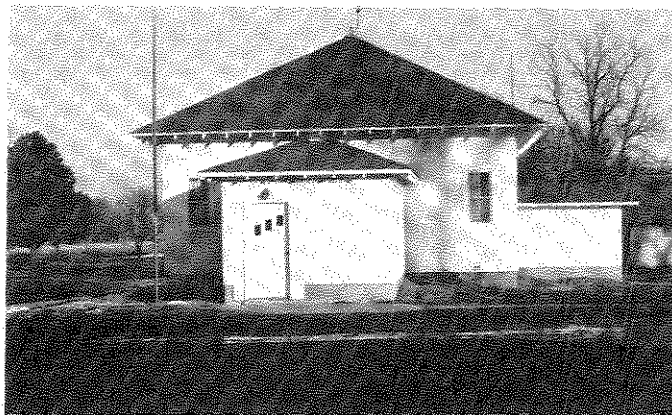
nually, the dance in July and a pancake feed in January or February.

Major fires since the formation of the rural fire district include the Betty Sampson cabin at Wolf's on May 10, 1980. North Bend and Cedar Bluff assisted. Another fire was at the John Navrkal farm where a barn burned. The Ladehoff Grain Elevator was destroyed by fire October 28, 1982.

The 1987 Volunteer Fire Department officers are Vernon Virka, fire chief; Gene Kavan, president; Keith Racek, secretary-treasurer; Jerry Soukup, 1st assistant chief; Dan Bauer, 2nd assistant chief and Russ Stricklin, 3rd assistant chief. There are 24 members on the roll. The two oldest social members both 90 years old are James and William Vopalensky.

American Legion Post #340

The American Legion Post #340, Morse Bluff, Nebraska was organized by Norman Edmiston and Frank A. Vlasak in 1923. Frank A. Vlasak was the first commander. The American Legion was originally composed of World War I veterans. At present, it is composed of war time Veterans of World War I, World War II, Korean conflict and Viet Nam. James Vopalensky is the last surviving World War I veteran still living in Morse Bluff, Nebraska.



American Legion Hall, 2nd and Ann Streets

Prior to World War II, meetings were held in the homes of members. The Morse Bluff town hall was the meeting place after 1945. The present Legion Hall was originally the school-house for District #79, southeast of Morse Bluff. In 1964-1965 the Legion members moved the building to its present site on the southeast corner of 2nd and Ann Streets, constructed a basement under it and remodeled it to fit their needs.

The Morse Bluff Legion Post is well known for its annual Barbecue for the past 34 years, usually the first Sunday in August. The event, open to the public, features an open pit chicken barbecue followed by an afternoon of games, contests and local talent. The first barbecues featured beef. Attendance averages over a

thousand people.

The American Legion Post #340 has been beneficial to the community. It has made its facilities available to the community. Use of the building has been donated to 4H Clubs for their meetings. They sponsor an American Legion Baseball program, County Government Day in Wahoo, Boys State and Law and Order Candidates for students at North Bend Central Junior-Senior High School.

The Legion Post contributes to its Auxiliary for providing gifts and entertainment at Nebraska Veterans Hospitals and provides Christmas treats to several area schools. Members visit and give Christmas treats to elderly citizens of the community. A Service Officer is available to assist any veteran in time of distress or in obtaining benefits through the Veterans Administration.



Memorial Day at Killian's Cemetery, 1964

One of the main projects is the promotion of Memorial Day observances with the V.F.W. Post in North Bend at three cemeteries at Morse Bluff, three in Linwood and one in North Bend. These veterans also conduct military funerals when requested for any deceased veteran.

In 1987 the American Legion Post #340 has approximately 160 members. They hold their meetings the second Monday night of every month at their club rooms.

The American Legion Post #340 is proud to be part of the Morse Bluff community for the past 64 years.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #340

The American Legion Auxiliary held its organizational meeting with Tim Dodge, Legion Commander, presiding 3-25-1925. The following were elected: Ruth Dorsey, president; Ida Edmiston, vice president; and Emma Vrba, sec.-treas. The Unit was chartered 3-30-1926 by the National Secretary and countersigned 4-9-1926 by the Nebraska president and secretary. Other charter members were Lillian Dodge, Marjorie Vrba, Mrs. Babka, Ann Buchholtz, Viola

Buchholtz, Sylvia Blanchard, Golda Urban, Mary Blanchard and Nettie Zeller.

In the first years the Legion and Auxiliary met at homes of members. Later meetings were held at Scott's Lake and at the homes of Mary Racek and Kristena Cippera. After 1965 meetings were held at the Legion Hall.

The Auxiliary takes part in many projects and programs on the National, State and local levels. The oldest and best known program is Girl State in Lincoln. This Unit has sent 36 girls. The Girl Staters were:

Mary Minarick	Judy Beckman
Betty Block	Nancy Odvody
Betty Fishel	Connie Fleming
Dorothy Roubal	Anne Wilke
Merle Lees	Ann Coen
Eileen Lees	Cindy Kavan
Joan Nissen	Susan Roubal
Rose Ann Saalfeld	Nancy Limbach
Judy Kovarik	Rebecca Rochford
Marcia Dodge	Jean Nelson
Cecilia Vojtech	Lori Hines
Betty Chapman	Diane Beranek
Virginia Walla	Sherry Eaton
Kathy Snyder	Ruth Kavan
Nancy Vopalensky	Elizabeth Borer
Janet Eason	Kate Shanahan
Karen Moberg	Deann Kavan
Ruth Emanuel	Deborah Raus

The Auxiliary has used various fund raisers, such as bake sales, raffles, Country Store, lunches at farm sales, special suppers, and donations from their members to meet the expenses of their programs.

The Auxiliary presently has 82 members; 9 are permanent members. Meetings are held every second Monday afternoon of the month.



Carpet balls made by Kristena Cippera for an Auxiliary project in 1964

The Morse Bluff Unit has one Gold Star Mother, Millie Arthur, Fremont, NE. She is honored annually at a May tea.

Extension Clubs Get-together Extension Club



The First Get-together Extension Club

Tena Cippera, Emma Otte, Mary Racek, Clara Vopalensky, Marie Vopalensky, Mabel Cippera, Alma Jelinek, Ruby Bauman, Lydia Karpisek, Martha Homer.

The first Get-together extension Club was organized during the thirties with 15 members living mostly along the Linwood road. During World War II it was dissolved due to gas rationing.

The present Get-together Extension Club was organized in November 1947 at the home of Lydia Karpisek with eight members present. They were Lydia Karpisek, Vlasta Vopalensky, Mabel Cippera, Esther Otte, Lillian Bauer, Juanita Vopalensky, Wilma Dvorak and Marge Vopalensky.

During the fifties the club donated and helped with Polio Fund Drives.

Tours to various interesting sites as museums, manufacturing plants and historical buildings have been taken by the group.



Get-together Club, 1987

Esther Otte, Dorothy Hynek, Wilma Dvorak, Juanita Vopalensky, Lillian Bauer, Darlene Freeman, Seated: Adeline Hines, Bernice Robertson, Agnes Chvatal (Gladys Soukup not pictured)

Service projects have continued to be a very important activity of the club over the years. In place of a member Christmas exchange the members donate funds to be used for some worthy project. Other projects that the club supports annually are entertaining senior citizens at Birchwood Manor, North Bend, Nebraska at Bingo, donating to the Pennies for Friendship and helping and giving blood at the Bloodmobile.

Membership has varied through the years from eight to fourteen. The 1987 membership is ten. Esther Otte, Wilma Dvorak and Juanita Vopalensky have held continuous membership, 1947-1987. The 1987 officers are president, Bernice Robertson; vice president, Adeline Hines; and secretary-treasurer, Agnes Chvatal.

Just Neighbors Extension Club

The Just Neighbors Extension Club was organized on September 9, 1941 at the home of Mrs. Joe Racek. There were thirteen ladies present. The first officers were president, Mrs. Wilfred Wirka; and Mrs. Otto Hines, secretary-treasurer. Original members included Mrs. Amiel Beranek, Mrs. Charles Beranek, Mrs. Charles Fencl, Mrs. Edward V. Hines, Mrs. Otto Hines, Mrs. Victor Hines, Marie Hines, Mrs. Albin Kavan, Mrs. Amiel Keller, Mrs. Ray Odvody, Mrs. Joe Racek, Mrs. Lewis Racek and Mrs. Wilfred Wirka. Many of these are deceased.

The club celebrated each couples wedding anniversary on every fifth year with an evening party of cards, prizes, refreshments and a gift to the honored couple. The members held a charivari for newly married young people of parents who were club members.



Just Neighbors Extension Club with husbands in 1966

Standing: Fred and Mary Lees, Otto Hines, Agnes and Ed V. Hines, Wilfred Wirka, Amiel Keller, Victor Hines, Mary and Albin Kavan, Olga and Ed Virka, Albert Hines Seated: Fannie Beranek, Rose Hines, Helen Wirka, Eval Keller, Libbie Hines, Elizabeth Hines.

It is interesting to note the amount allowed for bills incurred by the club officers. In 1954 the following expenses were allowed,—75 cents for lunch and trip to Cedar Bluffs; 50 cents for a trip to Cedar Bluffs; 14 cents for a greeting card and stamp. Club dues in 1946 were 10 cents a member.

The Just Neighbors Extension Club donated to