



Chronology

1885 - The first **Wheaton Gazette** was published March 6, 1885.

An emigrant wagon, with the usual amount of stock following, passed through town, a sure indication of spring.

Frase, Rain and Hallberg each erected ice houses and had them filled with ice.

Coffins sold for \$15, a sack of flour for \$2.75.

T. Roin was credited with setting out the first trees in the village.

A fine yoke of oxen was sold at sheriff's sale for \$68.

Fresh oranges and lemons were received at Mork's Pioneer Drug Store, which advertised the "Purest Lemon Extract", manufactured and sold at Mork's.

R. S. Tyler and W. A. Kindred purchased ten acres of land for \$750.00 from S. C. Odenborg to be platted into town lots and sold.

A ten-pound girl at the residence of Chas. Pickle claimed the honor of being the first-born of Wheaton.

A few loads of gravel were scattered over the streets to free them from mud.

1886 - In February the "atmosphere was very clear at this point, buildings at a distance of fifteen or twenty miles being very plainly discerned," pointing out the flatness of the land, lack of trees, and scarcity of buildings.

County treasurer Marshall came to Wheaton to collect taxes, saving taxpayers a trip to Browns Valley.

Loads of old buffalo bones were bought by a meat market in Wheaton and shipped to Eastern parties; twelve to fifteen loads a day were bought with up to \$10 a ton being paid for good clean bones (one party brought in over 8,000 pounds in one day).

In April Wheaton lacked just seventy-five citizens of having enough to incorporate under the new laws, which required 300.

1887 - A bill was introduced to reduce the number of inhabitants needed to incorporate a village; if passed, Wheaton could incorporate at once. The census showed 180 residents.

Every farmer was encouraged to set out trees around his residence.

Wood sidewalks were constructed the full length of both sides of the street; earlier a much needed sidewalk had been built from the depot to the busi-

ness district.

C. H. Colyer, Andrew Peterson and E. F. Joubert were appointed inspectors of the first election to be held at the townsite of Wheaton on May 24, 1887.

Over \$1,700 was subscribed at the first meeting to organize the establishment of a mill; the goal was \$3,000 to get started. Solicitation was to be made among the farmers to raise the balance.

Businessmen joined in a decision to close their doors on Sunday, previously one of the more popular shopping days.

T. K. Mork and Dr. Lampanius put up a telephone line connecting the drug store and the doctor's residence.

Gravel was being unloaded and scattered on streets at the rate of five carloads a day; Wheaton was boasting of fine streets.

A village jail was erected.

Wells, Schroeder & Co., H. Benno, and Earsley & Eaton put street lamps up in front of their business places.

Traverse County was now entitled to five county commissioners instead of only three.

1888 - There were 162 votes cast in Wheaton, the largest vote in any town in the county.

Sale of school lands by the state was begun in March.

1889 - A number of citizens planted shade trees: "A quarter of a century from now, the citizens of Wheaton will thank these citizens for their thotfulness."

Proprietor of the Wahpeton Creamery located a man and team to gather cream from farmers here.

T. K. Mork received a machine for concocting the most delicious of temperance beverages, the "milkshake".

At an election in May, 948 votes were cast in the county on the issue of the county seat selection. Wheaton received 740 of the votes (eight townships cast a solid vote for Wheaton, one cast all but one vote, and one all but two votes).

S. C. Odenborg commenced erection of one of the finest residences in town on the north side of Wheaton (Dick Thomsen home at 1112 Fourth Avenue North).

1890 - The well was moved from the center of Broadway to the corner of Erickson-Hellekson's hardware store.

There was a great demand for carpenters; wages were good at \$1.50 a day.

The Bank of Wheaton was selling immigrant tickets from all Scandinavian points to Wheaton for \$39.35.

The question of allowing more than three saloon licenses in Wheaton created considerable strife in the election of councilman.

The new \$500 reservation bridge was completed.

At two o'clock on a Saturday in March there were 305 teams standing on the streets and vacant lots; over 300 farmers were in Wheaton doing business.

1891 - The sixth saloon in Wheaton was licensed.

On June 30 a special election was called to vote on bonding to erect a courthouse and jail.

Eggs sold for 10 cents a dozen, coffee 25 cents a pound, and sugar \$1.00 for eighteen pounds.

Salary of the city marshal was set at \$40.00 a month.

There were 148 births recorded in the county in 1891.

1892 - Council appropriated money for 100 carloads of gravel for the streets due to heavy mud.

Ordinance 12 was passed regulating setting of hitching posts on Broadway and Minnesota Street.

There were four active political parties: The Peoples', Democratic, Republican, and Prohibition Parties.

Nelson, the shoeman, sold men's fine calf shoes at \$1.00 a foot.

The council passed an ordinance giving the marshal authority to compel village prisoners to work out their fines on the streets.

Candidates for county offices ran on a party ticket.

W. H. Spong remodeled the lower story of his boarding house for a public hall having seating capacity of 200.

New buildings included the new courthouse and jail, \$11,000; Citizens' Bank, \$800; P. J. Hopkins' Livery Barn, \$2,000; and twelve new houses.

1893 - O. H. Hellekson made a trip to the pineries of northern Minnesota to arrange for a supply of lumber.

A wing of the National Elevator collapsed with 15,000-20,000 bushels of wheat spilled.

High water in the Mustinka River washed out several bridges; Lake Traverse north of the Reservation Bridge refilled, having been completely dry in the fall of 1892.

Council authorized laying of additional sidewalk four feet wide, of two-inch planks.

Ordinance 16 passed designating a village dumping ground.

The 1893 levy of county taxes consisted of one mill general school tax, \$8,000 revenue tax, \$750 poor tax, and \$1500 road and bridge tax.

1894 - A couple of hundred boxelder trees were planted on the courthouse yard.

The council adopted Ordinance 21 regarding keeping hogs and pigs within a certain boundary within the village limits.

Wheaton voted to separate its government from Lake Valley Township.

Work of ditching the Redpath and Tintah slough was let, as provided under the state drainage law, for the sum of 8½ cents a cubic yard.

1895 - A petition with 100 signers requested a special bonding election for water-works; the issue passed with 55 for, 9 against, but only \$3400 could be written in bonds due to debt limitation (\$6,000 was needed).

A notice in the September 20 weekly paper read: "The Village dog tax is due and all canines not ornamented with the official tag by Monday next will be taken in tow by the City Marshal and furnished free transportation to dog heaven."

1896 - In 1892 Traverse County cast over 1,000 votes, in 1894 it increased to 1,382, and in 1896 there were 1,746 votes cast.

Council passed a resolution to suppress gambling.

1897 - Village Council ordered 300 tickets printed for free meals to be distributed to people begging for meals, given only after they had performed some labor for the village.

R. Williams, proprietor of the mill, suggested putting in a dynamo to furnish lights to the city; the Council ordered four arc lights and twelve 32-candle lights in case an electric light plant was installed.

1898 - Buildings totaling \$39,700 were added this year including the hospital \$3500, Crown Elevator \$6,000, Mission Church \$1400, and the Colver & Barrett brick building \$5,000.

The street commissioner collected a poll tax, and citizens could produce the required \$1.50 or spend a day improving the streets and highways.

With the completion of the new Crown Elevator with a capacity of 25,000 bushels, Wheaton now had seven first class elevators.

Hilmar Benno installed an acetylene gas plant in his place; the light furnished was far superior to kerosene oil and less expensive; the Palmer House was similarly lit.

Typhoid fever was prevalent due to impure water.

A ten cents a glass war tax on beer was imposed to finance the Spanish-American War until a war revenue bill could be enacted effective July 1, 1898.

1899 - The Wheaton Council adopted an ordinance establishing certain limits in which frame buildings could not be erected, the area being three blocks on Broadway.

An ordinance was adopted requiring business houses in certain parts of Broadway to construct sidewalks of cement and eight and a half feet wide.

Ads for bicycles appeared in the newspaper.

State Board of Corrections condemned the county jail because of fire danger; later in the year the Grand Jury also condemned it.

Merchants Hotel burned out and later in the year the Monarch Elevator was destroyed by fire caused by lightning.

1900 - The Palmer House advertised for a girl to do laundry work at \$3.50 a week.

The village council purchased a dump ground one mile north of town on the east side of the railroad tracks.

Myren & Nelson opened their bottling works, manufacturing carbonated drinks, mineral and soda water, gingerale, birch beer, and cream and lemon sodas.

Al Setterlund was awarded the contract to build Banker (Andrew) Peterson's residence (now the Wm. Swanke residence) at a cost of \$3,000.

Bicycle riders were warned that there was an ordinance against riding bicycles on the sidewalks.

The first sewer lines were installed down Broadway.

A stock company was organized to erect a large ice house on the railroad right-of-way for the handling of Ortonville ice to supply local demand as well as that of four neighboring towns.

1901 - The council passed a resolution prohibiting school students entry to local saloons and sale of cigarettes to them.

Annual salaries for county officials were \$1200 for the treasurer, \$1150 auditor, \$700 attorney, \$700 superintendent of schools, and \$500 judge of probate.

Social events within a week included a valentine social at the Spiritualist Temple, masquerade ball at the Opera House, and a three-act drama at the Opera House.

The council granted permission to W. I. Gray and F. W. Murphy to erect an electric light plant with a franchise given for twenty years with the village having the option to purchase at the end of five years.

Bids were let for waterworks including six-inch and eight-inch mains, hydrants and tank with an eighty-foot tower.

A council resolution prohibited use of firearms or air guns in the village.

Peter Peterson was hired to plant 150 trees at a cost of \$150.00 in the public park.

Wheaton Drug received a carload of bottles to be used in bottling their remedies.

Jenson Bros. advertised 500 pairs of blue denim overalls at 45 cents a pair.

1902 - Those not having water connections were charged as follows: Household purposes, \$2.00 per family; horses or cattle, \$1.00 per head; tank, 50 cents; and barrel, 5 cents.

Gust Raguse advertised sawed wood: Maple, \$6 a cord; oak, \$4.75; and basswood \$4.00.

A new franchise was granted to the electric light company with 45 cents a light per month charged.

The cost of sugar was \$1.00 for 20 pounds, \$1.00 for 10 pounds of coffee, \$2.75 a keg for nails, and \$2.25 for a full-size iron bed.

Erickson & Hellekson's new store building was dedicated at a free ball.

1903 - Fine all-leather suitcases sold for \$5 at the Model Clothing House.

Village salaries included \$10 a year for the fire warden, \$50 for the treasurer, and \$75 for the recorder (village clerk).

Excursion train tickets to Fargo to see President Teddy Roosevelt cost \$3.15 round trip.

Coal sold for \$9.50 a ton.

Duck hunting limits were 100 ducks in possession.

Carl A. Riewe purchased a 223-acre tract in West Taylor township for \$6250.

1904 - A scarlet fever epidemic closed public schools and public gatherings.

July 4 was celebrated with an artillery salute at sunrise, street parade, barbecue dinner, high diving exhibition, trap shooting, ball game, street sports, boxing contest, supper, "punch and judy" show, movies, fireworks, and a grand ball.

1905 - A home rented for \$12 a month.

Assets of the village totaled \$21,249.95 and included a jail, an enginehouse, hook and ladder truck, fire engine, power house and wells, hose and hose cart, waterworks plant, and a water reservoir.

A. Wells Co. installed a cash carrier system in their large store, lending a decidedly metropolitan appearance.

C. H. Colyer opened a new hotel next door to the Palmer House and advertised steam heat, electric lights and electric call buttons.

High-armed sewing machines with complete set of attachments and ten-year warranty sold for \$12.95 at Boley & Nordin's.

An alumni association was formed following the 1905 school graduation with F. F. Stoebe president.

Erickson & Hellekson advertised four tons of loaded shells, ten, twelve and sixteen gauge.

1906 - A. Wells sold men's suits for \$8.75.

A movie was shown at the Opera House which included pictorially the destruction of the San Francisco earthquake.

A new bridge was erected north of Wheaton at a cost of \$1,979.

- 1907 - Wheaton ministers organized an inter-denominational association.

Twenty automobiles were now owned by local people.

A resolution was passed by the village council that each male inhabitant between ages 21 and 50 and not exempt by law be assessed one and one-thirds days' poll tax or street labor.

- 1908 - In early 1908 there were two dentists, three physician-surgeons, and four attorneys practicing in Wheaton.

The Monarch Elevator was destroyed by fire; arson was suspected.

Nordrum & Anderson sold checked gingham for 6 cents a yard.

In both Grant and Stevens Counties new drainage ditches were being constructed to lead into the Mustinka River.

The local churches were referred to ethnically; the Norwegian Lutheran Church, Swedish Lutheran Church, German Lutheran Church, and the Swedish Mission Church.

A saloon keeper was fined for selling liquor on Sunday, and a few days later the council revoked his license; the reform wave had struck Wheaton.

Council passed an ordinance to keep horses, mules, bicycles, and skaters off of sidewalks.

The county jail was brought up to requirements with inside walls steel-lined to prevent escapes.

- 1909 - The Civic League of Wheaton with 38 members was organized to promote cause of temperance and civic reform.

Wheaton voted "dry" by majority of 46 votes (156 to 110); saloons were

closed and license money refunded to saloon owners.

An ad appeared for Edison phonographs and Amberal records.

Albert Olin owned seven stores named "Model Clothing House", one in Wheaton and others in the area.

- 1910 - An ordinance prohibiting throwing paper or refuse on streets or alleys was enacted.

A sample ballot published in the **Gazette-Reporter** had a section labeled "Women's Ballot" containing one name, that being W. T. Williams, candidate for county superintendent of schools, with blanks for a write-in name (women were not eligible to vote for other offices).

- 1911 - Senator Rustad successfully introduced a bill for Mustinka River drainage which carried a \$35,000 appropriation.

Ice cream sold for 25 cents a quart.

State law specified a speed limit of eight miles per hour on any street within the settled portion of any city or village, four m.p.h. through inter-sections, and twenty-five m.p.h. on other roads.

In June an earthquake centered in South Dakota was felt by several people in Wheaton; it was strong enough here to move chairs in which people were sitting.

The county auditor's salary for the year was set at \$100; the position was held by Victor E. Anderson, attorney at law.

P. Johanson had the contract for prison-made equipment: \$40 for a five-foot mower, \$119 for a seven-foot binder.

The Baptist young people had a "measuring social" and charged five cents a foot plus one cent for each

additional inch, measuring everyone's height as they entered; \$30 was raised.

The Music Store received a solid carload of Kimball pianos.

"Bums" (itinerant unemployed) were wise to avoid Wheaton, where they were put to work on the streets.

1912 - Effective January 1 a new law provided that car licenses be issued for three years at a cost of \$1.50.

The first full carload of flour to be shipped to the eastern market left from the local mill for New York City in January.

Oranges sold for 50 cents a peck, dill pickles for 25 cents a gallon.

"The Detroiter", a full five-passenger, 25 h.p. auto with torpedo body, sold for \$850 complete with top and windshield.

Wilson elected President of the United States; "he will take over March 4, 1913, under favorable conditions without a 'visible cloud in the financial sky'".

1913 - An organization called Fargo & Southern County Fair Circuit was established so that fairs in the area could work together in securing attractions and arranging dates to avoid conflicts with one another.

This was the first season that autos were used throughout the winter months because of closed autos and little snow.

The Workmen's Compensation Law went into effect October 1.

1914 - An ordinance was enacted prohibiting erection of outhouses, privy vaults or cesspools on lots fronting on streets, avenues or alleys in which water and sewer pipes were laid.

A street sprinkler was purchased by the village to eliminate dusty streets.

Several playground devices were purchased by the Civic League and erected at City Park.

1915 - Election held in Traverse County on county option regarding sale of liquor resulted in the county voting dry.

Surplus water and insufficient drainage became a problem in West Central Minnesota; meetings were held and committees appointed to study the problem.

1916 - Wheaton's first community Christmas tree was erected in the center of the community building auditorium.

White sewing machines sold for \$35-45, pianos for \$225-350, Edison diamond disc machines (cabinet phonographs) for \$80-250.

1917 - Sunday dinners were advertised for 35 cents.

The "King of Trails" military highway from Winnipeg to Galveston and San Antonio was surveyed, and Wheaton was selected as one of the cities through which it passed.

Johanson & Goldbloom remodeled feed mill so they could now manufacture high grade corn meal and graham flour, as well as grind all kinds of feed.

Due to a water shortage, Otter Tail Power Co. ceased to furnish light service in Wheaton between 1:00 and 5:00 a.m.; the council fought this, as the franchise called for 24-hour service; the local plant was used to serve the town on the off hours to give the town full service.

One of the many war charities was an appeal for old shoes to be sent to France, where thousands of poor women, children and old men would go into winter barefoot unless footgear was furnished.

Weather services updated from temperature and rainfall information to daily forecasts with flags denoting weather conditions 24 hours in advance.

1918 - Car licenses were raised to \$5.00 for three years.

A federal income tax officer was in town to assist individuals with returns.

A Monday closing order was issued by the government to save fuel.

Due to a rapid spread of Spanish influenza, the school and all public gatherings were closed for one week at three different times over winter; there were many deaths from flu and pneumonia.

Townpeople including women helped with grain harvest on farms due to drafting of farm workers in World War I.

1919 - Daylight savings plan was enforced for the second year.

Wheaton claimed the first war baby in the State of Minnesota: Allene Howard was born the very day her father landed in France.

1920 - Bessie Caswell succeeded W. T. Williams as county superintendent of schools; she had a spelling book of 3,000 words published for use in county schools.

Smallpox vaccinations were recommended, with several cases in a neighboring county.

In order to get federal road funds of \$40,000 and state road aid of \$19,500, county commissioners decided to bond the county \$100,000 for county roads.

All three banks in Wheaton installed burglar alarm systems.

Olle i Skratthult, America's foremost Swedish comedian, appeared at the Grand Theatre.

Women had full rights at the polls for the first time in the fall elections.

H. E. Kiger, the mayor, announced that boys and girls were not allowed on the streets after 8:00 p.m. without a parent or guardian.

The 2,000 barrel watertank in the north part of town (located at present Darrel Johnson residence) fell to the ground after iron supports had rusted and weakened.

A water pressure system was installed in Wheaton at a cost of \$20,000.

1921 - Work started on a 100,000 gallon steel water tank to be placed on a 100-foot tower on the property south of the first fire hall, with a new fire hall to be erected on the same site.

A committee appointed by the commercial club met with village council with suggestions for a tourist camp at the park across from the fairgrounds.

1922 - Main Street and downtown laterals were oiled to give dustless streets.

Railway fares from Wheaton to Dumont were 27 cents, to Graceville 64 cents, to White Rock 34 cents, to Minneapolis \$7.91, and to Chicago \$22.47.

Graveling started on two miles of the road east of Wheaton; farmers were paid 20 cents a yard for loading and 20 cents a yard for each mile hauled.

1923 - A mass meeting was called by the Commercial Club and Traverse Farm Bureau to devise some method of securing fair farm prices.

The American Legion Post offered a dozen men with rifles as protection against bandits holding up banks and businesses in the area.

1924 - There were nine mortgage foreclosure notices published in one **Gazette-Reporter**.

The Ford Motor Co. was advertising a Ford for \$295 f.o.b. Detroit, starter and demountable rims \$85 extra; Wheaton Auto advertised an Overland touring car with sliding gear transmission, \$495 f.o.b. Toledo.

Out of an estimated 2,950 legal voters in the county, 2,657 voted in the general election.

There were 22 deaths from tuberculosis in the past five years in Traverse County, and in 1924 there were 45 active cases.

1925 - Grace Norgaard succeeded Bessie Caswell as county superintendent of schools.

Thirty-six out of thirty-eight owners of property abutting on Broadway signed a petition asking the council to pave four blocks, including curbs and gutters.

For the 1924-25 school year Superintendent J. E. Pearson was paid \$2,650, the principal \$1,550, and other instructors from \$967.50 to \$1,400.

1926 - A celebration was held in observance of completion of Highways 6 and 10 through Wheaton (present highways 27 and 75) and completion of street paving and "white way".

Twenty-two men were jailed here after IWW's (Industrial Workers of the World), sometimes called "I Won't Work", came from Ortonville on the freight train; trouble had started at Clinton, Graceville and Dumont.

G. O. Imm advertised airplane rides at two passengers for \$5.00 during the county fair.

A free chest clinic to detect tuberculosis was held at the courthouse.

1927 - Lawrence Peterson, local rural mail carrier, invented an attachment for his Ford which enabled him to jump drifts.

Rozella Johnson won the state spelling contest two years in a row, 1926 and 1927.

General Electric refrigerators were announced for the first time.

Grocery ads showed soap chips for 19 cents; corn flakes, two for 25 cents; five pounds of jam, \$1.25; and No. 2½ can sliced pineapple, 29 cents.

The **Gazette** held subscription contests in schools with winners receiving free playground equipment.

Two men drowned in November in six feet of water on Lake Traverse while fishing illegally.

1928 - Fire Department members appealed to the council for more fire hydrants and better access to a hydrant shutoff by a fence, also for smoke masks.

Proposed amendment to the State Constitution was on the ballot providing that a third of the gasoline tax be used on secondary roads; previously all gas tax money was going to the trunk highway fund.

A special village election was held regarding the re-incorporation of the village; voters voted 389 to 102 favoring a new charter; a vote on Sunday movies resulted in 321 yes, 216 no.

1929 - Vaccinations for diphtheria were offered free of charge to those children whose parents requested the treatment.

The Palmer House placed a new painting, **In the Land of Ducks** by Stewart, a 5 foot by 10 foot duck masterpiece, in the lobby (it is still there).

By mid-winter over 5,000 jack rabbit pelts had been purchased by the Wheaton Produce Co. at \$1.15 a pound for dried pelts.

Wheaton's first airplane was a Swallow airplane purchased by J. Elmer Nelson and G. P. Walseth; Nelson served in the Aviation Corps in WWI, was an expert sergeant mechanic, and held a federal mechanic's license; Walseth was an electrical expert.

Without warning a loud explosion shattered the top of the water tank, causing several hundred dollars in damages; Edwin Nelson had been running a steam engine to thaw out the tank when it exploded.

Skelgas was available in cylinders, making available real natural gas, purified and compressed.

New currency, one-third smaller than the old, was circulated; this was the first change by the government since 1861.

1930 - Madeline Rinke (Timm) was awarded a trip to the 4-H Club Congress in Chicago for junior leadership.

The Minnesota Highway Patrol was organized.

Unemployment census of Wheaton showed 18 persons out of work who were able and looking for a job.

A fall special on house dresses ranged from 98 cents to \$2.98, silk hose 98 cents to \$1.49, and bloomers 49 cents to 98 cents.

Banker H. A. Quast died of injuries suffered in an auto accident on a Fair Good Will Tour; Sidney Odenborg and T.K. Ranney were injured in the accident.

The **Wheaton Gazette** held a huge subscription drive contest with local girls winning cars: Meta Neuman (Robison) won a \$790 Chevrolet sedan and Jessie Deatherage a \$610 Tudor Ford sedan; prizes totaled \$4,000 including other prizes awarded.

The first polio case in Traverse County was that of Waldemor Lehman, age 9, a farm boy from Parnell Township; there were 378 known cases in Minnesota by fall.

1931 - Wheaton enacted two ordinances, one designating State Highway 6 (now 27) a through highway with stop signs to be erected at intersections, and the other prohibiting "U" turns at intersections of Minnesota and Burke Streets with Broadway; later an ordinance required parallel parking on Broadway.

Fifty-seven people were examined at a chest clinic with the cost met by sale of Christmas seals.

Temperature went to 110 degrees on July 15.

Three new wells, each about 200 feet deep, total yield 24 gallons per minute, were ready to go into operation; a good water supply had been a perpetual problem for the village of Wheaton from the day the town was founded.

The Wheaton Community Relief Fund to help the needy was started by various organizations in town with Bess Burns serving in an advisory capacity in dispersing funds.

Theo. Lindig, 24, was electrocuted in his father's meat market when he contacted loose wiring laying in water in the basement following a fire in the meat market.

1932 - The Wheaton to Herman road was oiled; now Wheaton had oiled roads to north and east, and south was being worked on.

Erickson-Hellekson-Vye Co. conducted a free employment bureau where prospective employees and employers might get in touch.

Corner Drug Market Day special was three ice cream cones for 10 cents.

Adolph Gail attempted a new crop, mushrooms; he sent for the "spawn" to a company in Canada and grew the mushrooms in a small dark building.

Thirty-five thousand pounds of flour arrived in Wheaton to be used in relief work in the county; used clothing was being distributed to the needy by the county nurse.

1933 - Governor Floyd B. Olson declared a mortgage moratorium until May 1 pending legislative relief.

The village council passed an ordinance permitting sale of 3.2 percent beer, both "on sale" and "off sale".

Every motorist was required to have a state driver's license, cost of which was 25 cents.

The legislature passed a bill for state income tax requiring single persons with income over \$1200 and married persons with incomes over \$2000 to pay tax after making permissible deductions.

In June four boys from Wheaton enrolled in the "forest army" or Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); they were accepted for six months' work, had to be on or near relief status; and were paid \$30 a month wages with room, board, clothing and medical care furnished.

A test well dug east of Wheaton looked promising; during the past ten years the village had spent \$26,000 searching for and furnishing water.

A special election regarding repeal of the 18th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution (Prohibition) resulted in a county vote of two to one in favor of repeal.

Two road graveling projects in the county were a source of employment to those needing work; Traverse County was allotted 348 workers under the Civil Works Administration to provide continuous employment.

1934 - A President's Ball was held, the first of many, honoring President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and endowing an infantile paralysis fund.

Wheaton voters by 394 to 10 approved a plan to dig a new well and pipe water into town on issue of \$20,000 bonds.

The county board required licensing of dogs permitted to run at large at the rate of \$1 for males, \$3 for females.

Ilene Jacobs (Rinke) won the most popular baby contest in a local promotion.

1935 - The State Legislature passed an Old Age Pension Act, providing \$30 a month for all eligible Minnesotans 65 and over, half paid by the state and half by the federal government.

Heavy rainfall prompted a mass meeting in Wheaton to discuss construction of additional storm sewers.

Fifteen women started work on a sewing project sponsored by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) making children's dresses. WPA projects for Wheaton to give work to unemployed totaled almost \$4500, including repair of council rooms and fire hall, two miles of grading and reshaping roads, sidewalk, curb and gutter, and a school library assistant.

In August President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Law.

1936 - The lowest temperature in twenty years was recorded when it reached -36 degrees on January 22; for a month average temperature was -12.86 degrees, and all roads in the area were blocked by storms which interrupted mail service, postponed ball games and other events. On July 6 an all-time heat record was set at 112 degrees.

In September drought effects were apparent when 378 Traverse farmers certified for employment on WPA projects.

1937 - "Journal Pete" (Muellenbach) wrote of trip to Washington, D.C., and thanked the subscribers who helped him win the trip.

Wm. Powell, Jean Harlow, Spencer Tracy, Pat O'Brien, and Myrna Loy were showing in films at the Gem Theatre, and tickets were 10 cents and 15 cents.

The local barber shop was offering face massages for 25 cents.

The area around Wheaton received 31 inches of moisture in 1937, almost a foot above average, after several years of drought.

1938 - Voters of the county defeated a \$60,000 bond issue which would have constructed a new courthouse along with a federal grant of \$63,000.

The December 31 county financial statement showed current assets and liabilities of \$1,092,391.57.

Kenneth Bohnenstingl produced 14,000 gopher tails to win a rifle at the Farmers Store.

Lorraine Konop had a perfect attendance record for 12 years, being neither absent nor tardy.

1939 - Wheaton merchants sponsored a public street auction the first Wednesday each month.

Market Day specials were brown sugar at 5 cents a pound; three pounds of coffee, 82 cents; and the Cloverleaf Cafe had T-bone steak dinners for 75 cents.

On June 1, 1939, a federal appropriation of \$1,474,000 for the Bois de Sioux project was passed. Gov. Bushfield (SD), Gov. Stassen (MN), and Gov.

Moses (ND) were among the dignitaries in Wheaton for the celebration to mark the beginning of work on the project.

New sidewalks and curb and gutter were laid with WPA furnishing labor and property owners the materials; costs averaged only 12 cents a square foot for sidewalks and 59 cents a lineal foot for curbing.

Oiling of several streets took place in July.

1940 - Franklin Roosevelt was elected President for an unprecedented third term.

Highway 75 was designated a military highway.

1941 - Mattresses were being made by workers under a program sponsored by the Extension Office and the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (AAA).

Plans were made by the Commercial Club for "On to Nicollet" day which would advertise Wheaton as duck capital of America at the baseball game at Nicollet Field in Minneapolis.

A vote on the question, "Shall Wheaton borrow money for the construction of a sewage disposal plant in an amount not to exceed \$50,000," passed!

David Ranney received his Eagle Scout award, the second Eagle Scout in Wheaton — the first was Stanley Sorenson.

A float advertising Wheaton, Land of Ducks, was built by the Fire Department and was used in several parades.

1942 - The rationing board met daily, had charge of distributing tires and tubes; sales of new cars had stopped.

The Commercial Club collected waste paper — 17,000 pounds were sent out in one week.

Air raid wardens were appointed and trained; Wheaton's first blackout was held December 14.

Minnesota speed limit was set at 40 m.p.h. to save tires.

Food stamps for families on welfare became available.

The government paid \$25 a ton for old rubber with proceeds going to the USO and American Red Cross.

Traverse County won a salvage pennant for meritorious work in collecting more than one hundred pounds of scrap per capita during September and October — the pennant was a large "E" to be flown from the courthouse flag staff.

1943 - A 5 percent Victory Tax went into effect January 1 with employers deducting the tax from paychecks.

Mrs. C. F. Ewing was the first to donate knives destined for the war front in the Pacific in jungle warfare; knives of the hunting type with sturdy handles and blades four to six inches long were being requested.

The price of milk was increased to 10 cents a quart.

Ducks Unlimited conducted a feather drive to contribute to safety of war-time flyers by saving the down and small body feathers of wild ducks and geese for lining high-altitude flying suits; sportsmen were later notified that deer hides were also needed for the war effort.

The American Legion sent eleven cases of cigarettes to Armed Forces overseas, and the Auxiliary was collecting shoes and clothing for Russian Relief.

Approximately 50 deer were killed in the county and neighboring territory during a five-day season.

The Morris Production Credit Association which served Traverse County observed its ten years of existence.

1944 - A waste paper drive was conducted including magazines, newspapers, and paper boxes to help production of paperboard containers and paper products for the war effort; Red Owl asked patrons to bring their own shopping bags to conserve paper bags.

A list of 465 men in service from Traverse County was submitted to the Commercial Club.

The newly-organized Prisoner-of-war Subcommittee of Traverse County informed relatives about prisoners and internees of war.

Tiny Little and his orchestra played at the fairgrounds.

Traverse County had two deaths from tuberculosis from 1930-34 and ten from 1940-44.

1945 - Traverse County was asked for 50 donors to go to Willmar to donate blood to the Red Cross, as the Armed Forces were direly in need of blood.

The legislature passed a law requiring every automobile owner to secure public liability and property damage insurance.

Bids were awarded on a combined highway-drainage project in and to the north of Wheaton, a major project in the state costing approximately \$212,000.

The fair association had planned a "War-Time Fair" — in August the theme was changed to a "Victory Fair".

1946 - Wheaton faced a serious housing shortage, businessmen anticipated hiring 85 employees.

A victory clothing drive sponsored by the Library Club asked for every piece of clothing that could be spared to send to destitute people in foreign lands.

A Victory Loan in the county brought \$488,484.25, nearly double the quota; this was the ninth such fund-raising drive since WWII began.

Bank deposits recorded nearly \$4,000,000 in deposits, an all-time high.

The first automatic washers were offered for sale by Vernon Haugland.

1947 - The County Polio Committee started a drive for funds - Minnesota had the most 1946 polio victims.

A War Surplus Store was located at Ike's Station.

The road over the White Rock Dam was opened and used for public travel.

The village council let contract for street signs.

Flying farmers Erick and Henry Cordes and Paul Frisch shot 315 foxes in three weeks from a light plane, working with the game warden to rid the county of ravagers of small game.

1948 - Liquor store profits of more than \$35,000 in 1947 and \$48,921.53 in 1948 kept Wheaton funds in the black.

The district judge appointed a board to study the possibility of a charter for the village.

VFW members installed numbers on residences and business buildings in Wheaton.

Marian Adams was burned to death in a shop explosion in Traverse Implements, Inc.

1949 - County salaries for 1949 were \$4200 a year for the county engineer, \$1800 for the janitor, \$1440 for the clerk of court, and \$2640 for the sheriff.

Powers Produce was seeking women applicants, paying 60 cents an hour.

Judicial Ditch 12 became a U.S. Supreme Court problem with the Great Northern and Soo Line Railways appealing the unanimous decision of the state high tribunal which ordered establishment of a drainage system.

James Eastwood of OK Rubber Welders announced that B. F. Goodrich Rubber Co. had come out with a tubeless tire.

Telephone rate increases were approved; individual line rates increased from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a month.

Lois Johnson represented Wheaton in the "Miss Northwest" beauty contest at Detroit Lakes; 1947 representative was Muriel Larson, 1948 Eunice Tobeck.

Mrs. A. D. Trochinski had submitted 1800 recipes to contests, 59 of which had won her national recognition and prizes.

1950 - Corrine Quast won highest honors in the State High School Speech Contest and received a gold medal.

Cyril Wieser, WHS athlete, was picked one of the top ten outstanding athletes in the area as a result of a poll by radio station WDAY.

Construction of a street widening project on Broadway progressed, with the street widened sixteen feet.

Paving was completed on Highway 75 between Wheaton and Dumont.

Several Wheaton Scouts attended the National Jamboree at Valley Forge, PA; Fred Fleischer, Jr. was a torch bearer on the stage with President Truman when he spoke to the 47,000-Scout gathering.

Rainfall ranged from two to nine inches in a four-day period, bringing an end to one of the driest spells of recent years; matured grain fields were flooded; and most residents of Wheaton had flooded basements.

Governor Luther Youngdahl spoke at the dedication of the new community hospital and Highway 75 paving.

- 1951 - Self-employed persons were brought under the Social Security law effective January 1.

The local chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (polio) assisted eight patients in 1951, spending \$8,469.68.

- 1952 - REA purchased a new "Bombardier" snowmobile, a special truck to use in snow and soft soil; it was available for public emergencies involving sickness and response to calls.

Market Days resumed April 2 with a free public street auction, the 231st.

St. John's Lutheran Church sponsored a refugee family from the Eastern Zone in Germany.

Banks were offering interest of 1½ percent on six-month certificates, 2 percent on one-year certificates.

The village bought a diesel motor patrol with scarifier, snowplow and wing for \$2,650.

- 1953 - The 1953 tax levy for the village was set at \$15,000, up \$5,000 from 1952.

Work began on the Mustinka River project, deepening, cleaning and straightening the channel for a 20-mile distance.

- 1954 - Traverse Lutherans shipped the first railroad car of corn in the state to be used for overseas relief.

A controversy going on several years was settled when Wheaton voters turned down the proposed municipal

light plant at a cost of \$452,000; in 1949 the vote had favored the plant but five years of litigation by Otter Tail Power Co. had followed.

The Gopher Theatre announced the use of their giant wide screen with the showing of "Gun Fury".

- 1955 - The Salk polio vaccine was publicly declared safe and effective and a series of two vaccine shots was given to the public immediately; free vaccine was available.

Wheaton voters approved a plan allowing for appointment of the clerk, treasurer and assessor rather than their being elected.

The first outdoor telephone booth in Wheaton was installed downtown.

The Wheaton Fire Department helped in the search for seven Iowans who drowned in Lake Traverse in a sudden squall.

Wheaton streets were being prepared for bituminous surfacing, a three-year plan set up to combat dust.

- 1956 - The bid for paving 15.7 miles of Highway 75 from Wheaton north totaled \$1,084,806.

A junior police force was organized.

Wheaton's retail trade committee announced that Wheaton stores would be open Friday evenings instead of traditional Saturday evenings.

Otter Tail Power Co. completely rebuilt the distribution system in Wheaton, costing over \$76,000.

An Army Reserve Unit composed of five officers, 148 enlisted men and an enlisted cadre of 21 was activated at Wheaton with Lt. Clarence Fauskins as commanding officer.

Wheaton banks announced an increase of interest on time deposits to 2½ percent.

President Eisenhower signed the 1956 farm bill which contained authority for a \$1,200,000,000 soil bank to take land out of production.

Starting in November Social Security benefits were payable to qualified women at age 62.

The commercial club voted to buy a street banner for Broadway.

1957 - Diane Rowland was named the 1957 Easter Seal Girl.

Voters approved a \$27,800 bond issue for modern street lighting.

C. H. Johanson was featured in a **Time** magazine two-page advertisement for American Hardware Mutual Insurance Co.

1958 - An Industrial Development Corporation was formed with shares selling for \$25.

The Wildlife Exhibit Building was built at the fairgrounds with area Sportsmen Club members furnishing volunteer labor.

The Alexandria television station started operating October 1.

1959 - John Mathiason, a high school junior, took top honors in the **Star's** annual World Affairs contest; he won a set of **Britannica Encyclopedia** for the school and a trip to the United Nations for himself.

The WHS Senior Class lost two members within a week in separate car accidents, namely John Carlson and Sandra Moen.

Wheaton Lions' new project was to provide TV outlets and signal boosters in the 32 rooms of the Traverse County Nursing Home.

As a result of a split decision, some merchants stayed open on both Friday and Saturday nights.

1960 - Flax straw became big business in the area with an average of 200 tons daily being weighed in at the Standard Lumber Co.

Traverse County began participation in Lakeland Mental Health in Fergus Falls.

1961 - Two-way police radio equipment in the sheriff's office was to be operated between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; the villages of Wheaton and Browns Valley shared in the total cost of \$6,171.45.

A fund-raising project by the American Legion hoped to raise \$5,000 for summer band uniforms, each costing \$50, for the high school band.

A. L. (Art) Jacobson was named president of the Minnesota Retail Jewelers Ass'n.

A new inter-com system was installed in the entire hospital.

The 16.8 miles of Highway 27 between Wheaton and Herman were reconstructed at a cost of \$804,454.

Traverse County contributed 425 birds, mostly pheasants, to the hospitalized veterans' dinner from Traverse County; hunters also donated 36 pheasants to the Traverse County Nursing Home.

J. E. Pearson resigned as deputy motor vehicle registrant, a position he assumed in 1953, marking the first official deputy registrar in Traverse County.

1962 - The Donk family from Holland arrived under sponsorship of the Presbyterian Church and World Council of Churches.

A pageant entitled **Out of the Ice Age to Wheaton-Traverse** was presented at the county fair in celebration of the 75th anniversary of Wheaton.

Everett Moede was named city clerk.

A crippled children's clinic was sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary with 52 children examined.

The first oral polio clinic was slated November 30 for general public at a cost of 25 cents per person.

1963 - New overhead mercury vapor lights were installed along Highway 75 through Wheaton.

President John F. Kennedy was assassinated November 22; people of the community joined together in church services the day of the funeral.

A petition to divide Lake Valley Township into two separate townships was rejected by the county commissioners.

Three drownings occurred in Lake Traverse in vehicles going through the ice, victims; a man from Browns Valley and two youths from Rosholt.

1964 - Livestock trucks enroute south loaded with hogs were halted by NFO'ers and refused passage through town after livestock holding action began.

Nationwide direct-dial service was inaugurated by the Lake State Telephone Co.

Bids for a 40-block street improvement project were \$100,000 below estimate.

Business places held the second annual Moonlight Madness promotion.

1965 - A new "Wheaton" sign was erected at Broadway and Highway 75 with cost split by the Chamber and the Village.

The village council authorized up to \$600 to erect a grandstand at the Athletic Field with seating capacity of 200; bleachers were installed with volunteer labor of the baseball association.

Assessment rolls on the 40-block northside improvement area were aired; actual cost was 98 cents a square yard of property owned.

County commissioners eliminated all fox bounties in the county.

Tom Wieser, a 1965 high school graduate, set a 12-year perfect attendance record.

County highway employee Leslie Keppler was killed instantly when struck from behind by a semi-truck while operating a tractor-mower.

The village acquired a street sweeper designed to pick up rubbish and dirt.

Several people in the community reported seeing flying saucers.

1966 - Operation Edith fire drills started in 1966.

A new alarm system was inaugurated in the village with the fire siren slated to give warning for danger.

A junior-police program for girls, similar to that which had been ongoing for boys, was instituted under director Darlene Ulmer.

1967 - Taxes on household personal property were eliminated by vote of county commissioners.

The village council abolished its assessor's post and contracted with the county to take over the assessing.

Operation Head Start commenced; funded with federal monies, it was designed for children of low-income families and children educationally disadvantaged.

1968 - Curb and gutter and paved streets in the west end of town were assured when bids came in \$40,000 below estimate (storm sewers had been installed in 1967); later \$175,000 in improvement bonds were sold.

The Chamber of Commerce and National Farmers Organization sponsored a pork barbecue as an idea of NFO to hold farm products for a price — 7,000 sandwiches were served.

As a result of the new sales tax law, Traverse County got \$317,000 in sales tax funds.

A free class for adults interested in obtaining high school equivalency was offered by WHS.

The city council passed a trailer residence ordinance limiting the location of house trailers as permanent residences.

An Arabian stallion owned by Horace Janke placed first at the state fair.

Vern Radel began work on a new mobile home court in the east end of town.

Twenty 50-year members of the American Legion were honored.

1969 - Licensing was required on all snow-mobiles with the cost \$8 for three years; even when licensed they could not be operated on highways.

Janette Wahl (Schmidt) won top honors in statewide competition in Distributive Education and won the right to represent Minnesota at the National Conference at Atlantic City, New Jersey.

As a result of Father Isaac Braun's expressed needs for Brazilian people in his missionary field, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Meyer crated up a maternity delivery table for shipping to Brazil.

New street construction on Highway 27 through downtown Wheaton was completed.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ranney's Great Pyrenees dog, Traverse Brutus of Galaxy, became a champion, out-classing the Canadian national champion in two dog shows.

After months of bargaining, a new teacher salary schedule was agreed to for 1969-70. A teacher with three years training and no experience would start at \$5850; a teacher with a B.A. degree, no experience, \$6400; one with an M.A. degree, no experience, \$7100.

The Magnuson Clinic building was bought by the county to be used for county offices. Asking price was \$5,000; for an additional \$3500 the equipment was purchased and utilized at the Traverse County Nursing Home.

A record number of votes were cast on a \$2,100,000 high school bond issue — it was defeated 1,081 to 491.

1970 - A breathalyzer machine was purchased jointly by the village and the county for use with breath tests to determine alcoholic influence.

Open house for Key Row Housing was held in June. It was a three-building complex of 64 apartments constructed by Catholic Charities of the St. Cloud Diocese under a federal rent supplement program, Wheaton's first apartment buildings.

County population dropped 1,249 in the past decade with 77 percent of the loss in departure from farms.

Donna Johnson and Mary Cawelti took part in the national Office Education Association conference in Texas after placing in a contest on the state level in March.

1971 - A new water chlorination system was activated in the village water facility.

1972 - Following closing of the local dump ground, arrangements were made with the Eastman Disposal Service to pick up garbage.

Pacemakers were now being implanted at Wheaton Community Hospital.

Traverse joined Stevens County in sharing the position of county engineer.

Redistricting gave the village of Wheaton and Lake Valley Township two county commissioners.

The FmHA announced availability of \$5,000 aid grants and 1 percent disaster loans for operating for area farmers qualifying.

First federal revenue sharing funds were received with Wheaton getting \$5,609 and the county \$60,419.

1973 - The FmHA office was picketed by farmers protesting disaster aid cutoff which occurred a few days earlier.

The village joined the county in purchase of new radio equipment for law enforcement use.

The third official trailer court in Wheaton, Berg's Trailer Coach Park, gained approval of the village council.

County commissioners passed a resolution practically eliminating possibility of a "rock festival" or similar gathering.

The village council adopted a system of every other year elections to begin in 1974.

One hundred new WHS band uniforms were bought for \$10,134.

Employees formed a County Highway Department Employees Council as a wage and benefit bargaining tool.

1974 - A state law effective January 1, 1974, created statutory cities — Wheaton was no longer a mere village!

Fifty-cent gasoline became a reality when the price "soared" to a new high.

Wheaton High Madrigal Singers appeared in concert at the Minnesota Music Educators Association mid-winter clinic in Minneapolis with Verle Ralston directing.

The school board held firm in terminating the counselor position of Karl Schulz. A public hearing had been demanded and held, and in August Judge Stahler ruled that Schulz would continue on the faculty by court order.

The Class of 1974 (76 members) was the first to graduate in the new high school.

About 2,000 Mexican migrants moved into the area to work in sugarbeet fields. A special school was started in Tintah, which would also serve adjoining counties.

A long, hot dry spell brought heavy damage to crops, and water level of Lake Traverse dropped lower and lower.

Citizens of Wheaton voted 384 to 94 favoring a proposed bond issue of \$165,000 to construct a combination fire-city hall on the old high school site.

1975 - A 12-unit apartment building was built on 12th Street North by Ron Jossart and C. H. Bonrud and was named Andell Apartments.

Gordon Donnelly was named head of the Independent State Bank of Minnesota, the new bankers' bank.

The first all-class alumni reunion attracted over 2,000 visitors with classes dating back to 1904 represented.

The mobile meals program was started with hot meals furnished to health-impaired shut-ins, and volunteer drivers delivered the meals.

An earthquake was felt in July, but did little damage.

Vernon Schmitz, state highway employee, lost his life in a work-related highway accident.

A conciliation court was started in Traverse County.

A boxelder tree at Shady Dell appeared on the 1975 "Current Champion List of Native Big Trees of Minnesota". It had a circumference of 1,211 inches, was 60 feet high, and had an 82-foot crown spread.

1976 - Traverse County and its officers were sued by the State Tax Commissioner over their refusal to raise valuations of ag property a second time in 1975. A jury trial was set, but the controversy was settled with the Commissioner of Taxation modifying his order before the jury was called.

On March 28 a large number of people attended a hearing conducted by the Minnesota Environmental Quality Council to oppose a 400 kilovolt power line proposed to be run through this area by two Twin Cities power cooperatives. Opposition had started already in 1974.

Tami Krenz and Toni Erickson were selected to participate in the USA European Touring Band.

Traverse joined Big Stone Weather, an association of western Minnesota counties hoping to bring needed moisture by "seeding" clouds with silver iodide crystals.

The office of Register of Deeds was redesignated County Recorder effective August 1, in compliance with legislation.

Congregate meals and social programs for senior citizens began on October 11.

Almost 1,500 people were immunized in one day in Wheaton with swine flu shots.

1977 - A bomb scare, the first ever in Wheaton, brought a shut-down of schools for one day, but no bomb was found.

A major fuel shortage across the nation brought calls for conservation in homes and public facilities. The school board approved going to a four-day week to save fuel.

A cable television franchise was awarded to Communication Systems, Inc., of Hector.

Wheaton city council reinstated the position of city assessor.

1978 - Dome Pipeline Co. began installation of a pipeline north of Wheaton.

The city council hired a city planner, Brian Slama, on a one-year trial basis, with funds for his salary to be paid by Rural Minnesota CEP (Concentrated Employment Program).

1979 - Vandals toppled a power line tower in Traverse County.

Total assets of the two Wheaton banks reached more than \$40,000,000 in January, compared with \$7,455,767 in 1960.

Five leukemia cases among highway workers in Wheaton brought Health Department study after a request was made by the Traverse County Chapter of the American Cancer Society.

Traverse County commissioners entered into an agreement with Big Stone County to lease and put into operation a landfill site in Big Stone County following the closing of the facility by its operator Warren Eastman.

Local truckers joined a nationwide strike protesting the high cost of diesel fuel, coupled with a grievance against weight limitations.

"You never miss the water 'til the well runs dry" — and it did! The pumps on both wells were out at the same time, the water tower went "bone dry", and the City Fathers had a worrisome two days. A month later it happened again.

Traverse County's budget was set at \$1,047,952 for 1980, for the first time exceeding a million dollars.

Dr. David Naatz became involved with an experimental program of treating multiple sclerosis victims with milk from cows having received special vaccinations.

1980 - Price of gasoline went over a dollar a gallon and No. 1 fuel oil was nearing the dollar mark.

Construction of storm sewer, curb and gutter and paved streets in the south and east parts of Wheaton began. A 5 percent FmHA loan provided \$1.2 million for the project.

Census figures showed that Traverse County had an 11 percent drop in population in the past decade.

The first woman to serve as a Traverse County commissioner, Joyce Cole, was elected to office.

1981 - Paul Zabell celebrated his 100th birthday.

A new well for the city capable of producing up to 1,000 gallons a minute was completed by Whaley Well Drilling.

1982 - The Defending Agriculture, Industry and Retailing Organization (DAIR) which was born in Wheaton a year ago, came to an end when only eight people came to the first annual meeting.

Door-to-door delivery of milk was discontinued due to excessive cost of delivery.

Traverse County was taken out of the Seventh Congressional District following redistricting. It became a part of the Second district.

West Central Regional Development Commission, of which Traverse County was a part, closed the commission in June, 1982.

A weekend blizzard dumped 16 inches of snow in Wheaton in late March.

Voters named a woman to the city council, Mary Ann Przymus. In 1921 Lucille Cunningham became village recorder, and in 1927 Frances Lewis had been elected mayor.

1983 - A furnace blast at the city sewage plant heavily damaged the unoccupied control building.

Money market insured savings drew interest of 9.125 percent at the local banks.

The first Walleye Masters Tournament was held on Lake Traverse with 84 men and women participating. Their efforts produced only two qualifying walleyes, one 2½ pounds, the other 2¼ pounds.

The North Star 4-H Club beautified the island at the intersection of Broadway and 16th Street, and it became their annual project.

The city council passed a junk ordinance prohibiting parking or storage of junk vehicles outside the confines of a junkyard or a lawfully erected building.

A car-truck accident at the intersection of Highways 75 and 27 took the lives of an elderly Sisseton couple. A few days later a third fatality occurred on Highway 75 when Lester Schultz was struck by a car and killed while riding his bicycle.

The Minnesota Emergency Services Division, midway in a 12-year period to devise an evacuation plan for the Twin Cities metro area in the event of a nuclear attack, named Wheaton as a host city; Wheaton could expect 10,000 people.

- 1984 - Children in Wheaton schools were fingerprinted by the Wheaton police department to establish a missing persons file.

The new Wheaton Elderly apartment complex was built with twelve units including one for handicapped.

The Edsel Club of America contacted Bill Hunder when it was found that he was the only original owner in America of a 1960 Ford Edsel, also known as Ford's Folly. Hunder's auto still ran well, despite the fact that it had been in storage since 1972.

Community education was offering 47 choices this winter, the largest offering yet. Over 1,000 had entered classes the preceding winter.

LuAnn Peickert, a resident of the Traverse County Nursing Home since its beginning, was sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce in the Miss Wheelchair Minnesota Pageant.

- 1985 - A parcel of land 60 feet by 80 feet, located behind Cottonwood Lane and 13th Street North, was given to the city by Harold and Frances (Steidl) Pederson for a permanent shelterbelt.

Mrs. Frances Spafford, Wheaton's oldest resident ever, observed her 105th birthday at a party at the nursing home. A few days later she died. She had been a widow for 67 years.

The city council authorized the sale of \$500,000 in industrial bonds for erection of a building to attract new business or industry.

Craig Bihrlle returned to his hometown and began publishing a monthly

outdoor magazine, **Tri-State Outdoors**.

A new "pocket park" was established on the vacant lot at Broadway and 11th Street which John Drewelow sold to the city for \$1 after his building burned.

Mike Larson and Randy Olson were named co-winners of the Wheaton Centennial logo contest.

Three charitable gambling sites were approved by the city council, and later the Wheaton Firemen's Relief Association was given the right to operate charitable gambling within the city, as a result of new legislation.

After 23 years of "BINGO" in the Catholic church basement, parishioners called it quits.

A \$205,000 industrial development grant was approved for the City of Wheaton by the Minnesota Department of Energy and Economic Development. Recipient of aid from these funds was Reese Welding and Supply.

The largest bid ever let in the history of Traverse County was awarded to McLaughlin and Schulz Construction of Marshall for \$2,035,868.70. The bid included four major road improvement projects in the county scheduled for the summer of 1986.

County commissioners approved a contract with the city of Fergus Falls for delivery of three to five tons of garbage daily for ten years, once a solid waste incinerator is in operation.

- 1986 - Mary Lampe was selected to compete in the 1986 Miss Teen Pageant in Roseville in July.

Soil Conservation Supervisors claimed a breach of contract by the USDA, SCS in the elimination of the Soil Conservationist position in the Wheaton office.