

PIERREPONT HISTORY:

Stores

Editor's Note: The following is ninth in a serialized version of the history of Pierrepont being printed in the Courier and Freeman. The history was researched and written by Town of Pierrepont Historian Betty B. Newton.

Probably Hannawa had the most number of stores of any part of the town. To my knowledge there have been at least 10 there through the years.

Charles St. Onge's store has been a business site almost since the village was founded. Early in history it was a feed mill and store with living quarters overhead. At one time a Lucas ran it. When fire claimed this building it was rebuilt as a small gas station, run by Billy Holden. Mart Manley succeeded him and added a few groceries. When Adelaide Fiske took over she added to the rear and stocked a larger variety of merchandise. Walter and Janet Martin added a wing thus increasing the floor space and increasing the inventory. Walt's poor health forced them to retire. His daughter, Nancy, and her husband, Charles, took over. Besides the grocery business, Chuck is building a gunsmith's trade.

In the corner across the road, Katie Lucas had an ice cream stand and sold baked goods at one time in the '30s. Going two places down the street from St. Onge's, where Louis LaBarge once had a garage, Ed Siedelecki opened a store after extensive renovations. While he was proprietor, the place was very successful. When he sold it to Coveys, it was not nearly as successful. They in turn sold to Paul Green. He converted the building into a ranch-style home, built up the back yard and improved the beach area.

Just behind in the triangle formed by the old road and the new there used to be a house owned by Hazle Bancroft. At one time she also operated a gas station and sold candy and gum.

On the east side of the river, one of the earliest stores was located in the Northwest corner of Route 56 and Grove Street. C. Spear ran the store and was also postmaster in 1855 and 1865. The last known business to occupy the building was a pool hall run by Pomp Post. The building was demolished, probably in the late '20s.

Right across the corner is the old Welch place. This, too, was an early store. Other proprietors included the Hentzes, Fred Bogart and Howard Holden. When Holdens moved across the river this was turned into a two-apartment house.

A Mail Order Bride

Going toward Potsdam, we come to the spot where the Wellars ran a store for many years. Built by his father, Archie continued to operate it after his father died. His mother Mina lived with him. He was a confirmed bachelor, but apparently as his mother became more feeble he began to see the advantages of married life. He advertised or answered an advertisement and brought the first and I guess only mail order bride to Hannawa. When Mina died, the family moved away. Claire Cain then became proprietor. The fact that she went daily to Potsdam for fresh meat made it a popular place for people to do business. When she married Herb Bullock, they converted the entire building into a home.

Directly across the street, in what is now the post office, there also were a series of store proprietors. The place was originally built by Gardner Cox for a Mr. Anderson—presumably run much like a company store, as Cox owned much of the property and industry in the hamlet. I believe that Gene Hentz at one time ran this store also. In my time Kent Wellar had a hardware store there, then for some reason, he used it as storage and all the merchandising was done across the road. Kent moved away and Archie managed both areas. Hazle Hitchcock decided store management was more to her liking than the milk route industry after her husband was killed, so she sold her farm and she and daughter Helen reactivated the site into a thriving business. When her nephew, Fay Collins, came home from service, he wanted to become a farmer. Consequently, Aunt Hazle went along to keep house and advise the young man. Another veteran, Al Bogart and his wife Betty took over the store. They are now in California. Mrs. Hughes ran the place as a store for a while, but she gradually phased out the merchandise and devoted all her efforts to being postmistress. Her daughter, Barbara Flanders, replaced her when she retired.

Newest of all the merchandising ventures is the Country Store. Started by Fran and Mary Thomas, they ran it until Frannie's poor health forced them to sell. They also had a small restaurant (now an antique shop) in the wing. It is now run by Charles VanFleet.

Across the street in the old Train-Huckle-Cavey place, Ed Austin runs the Lazy River Ceramics Shop. This is the second venture in this area. Norma Morton gave lessons in her place across the river off and on for several years.



HUBBARD'S GENERAL STORE — This old photograph shows Hubbard's General Store in Pierrepont in 1832. In the buggy are Lansing Gleason and Irving

Leonard. The man with the whiskers is Philo Leonard, proprietor. Standing are the Hubbard boys.

And of course, we must not forget the thriving business that Harley Rivers did on his property in the corner across from the church when he was so famous for his home-cured meats.

Back of his place on Church Street, in what I know as the Clarke house, the Whitfords used to run a small store for the convenience of their neighbors. Nestled in the trees on Coney Island Drive, is the Wikki-up. It offers hand-crafted jewelry and leather goods.

In Pierrepont Center, there were at one time or other businesses on all four corners. Austin Leonard was a dealer in dry goods, groceries, hardware, tinware, and country merchandise in the 1865 directory. He was located where Lawrence Tupper now lives. It was also at one time a hotel and dance hall.

Beakman had establishments for general merchandising at one time. Frank Vico ran this store in more recent times. He used to travel around the area with fresh meat as his specialty. The Post Office was also located there at one time.

In the corner where Gardners now live there was also a store as early as 1865. Whether this was in the house that stands there now or in the lot beside it is unknown. The only business that our generation can remember there was a bar known as the Shanty.

Going up the hill toward the Town Hall, and almost across from it, was the Gleason Store. Marcus Grossman ran this before Earl Gleason took over. His family ran it until it was no longer profitable. The building stood for many years in such a state of disrepair, that

the town finally had it torn down.

Among the outlying stores, the one at West Pierrepont endured the longest. It came into being sometime between 1865 and 1896. It looks as though in the earliest days it might have been up the road a bit. We do know that when Harold Curtis operated it, it was on its present site. It also served as the Post Office when one was in existence there. It became almost inactive for many years after the Curtis' retired. One of the Hagler girls and her husband, Alex Presspiel, revived it and were apparently making it into a successful venture. However, during the year of 1978 they have moved away and it is again vacant.

The saga of the Cook's Corners store is covered in the chapter of the Orebek Road. It is safe to say that the Sandfords

operated it longest and most successfully.

Unheard of until just recently is a store and dance hall up near Fred Selleck's present home. That too is covered in the area about the Selleck Road.

At one time the Herricks ran a gas station and small store in the northeast corner of the Russell Turnpike and Route 56. It was not very successful so its term of business was short. For a short time it was used as a residence, then became a storage area.

Kitty-corner across the road in the southwest corner of the intersection, the Four Ways Restaurant, gameroom, store and laundromat has come into being. Started by O.D. Farns.

OLYMPICS:

The Snow Must Go On

LAKE PLACID — It's supposed to snow soon in Lake Placid, but even if it doesn't, it already is.

You might call it selective snow. It's the man-made kind, and it has been falling steadily on the trails and ski-jumps to be used for the 1980 Olympic Winter Games.

Despite a lack of natural snow in the Adirondack Mountains so far this winter, the tons of man-made snow blowing on the trails virtually guarantees that skiing events will go ahead as planned at the Games, Feb. 12-24.

"We're almost ready for the Olympics now," said John Plautenstein, associate manager at Whiteface Mountain, scene of the alpine events. "The giant slalom run is ready to go now, and the slalom is 90 percent finished, with just a bit of touching-up to do."

"The downhill are about 80 percent covered, and all that remains to be finished are the lowest and most accessible parts. If we absolutely had to, we could have the downhill courses ready for competition in three or four days. The slalom runs would also take about the same length of time to finish up."

Cross-Country
The cross-country and biathlon trails at Mt. Van Hoevenberg are 90 percent covered, but there is still little reason for concern with the Games' opening four weeks away.

However, if worse came to worst, snowmakers could still cover all but 12 to 14 of the 38 kilometers (23.5 miles) that make up the Olympic cross-country and biathlon trail network.

"That means we'd have to run some loops twice in a day of the events, but we'd certainly be able to stage them all properly with only a few minor alterations," said Wendell Broomhall, chief of course for cross-country skiing.

Work crews have been making and stacking snow near the biathlon course since November.

In the extreme unlikelyhood that no natural snowstorm takes place before the Games open Feb. 12, the trails need only three inches of the man-made stuff on top of the man-made base already there.

Even though natural snow is much more compactible than man-made, three inches of the cloud-borne variety would also suffice.

At Whiteface, four feet of natural snow would pack down to one foot or less. There is very little packing done on man-made snow, Plautenstein pointed out. "We're at the point now where we'd be better off if no natural snow falls at all."

The denser, heavier man-made snow requires much less grooming than the natural stuff, and is much easier to handle and hold in place.

The state-owned Whiteface Mountain has invested \$5 million in snowmaking equipment, including four pumphouses with the capability of pumping water up a vertical rise of 3,200 feet.

Whiteface has snowmaking on all 10½

miles of its trails. It costs \$300 an hour, operating 24 hours a day to keep the snow guns firing, said Whiteface Manager Bob Paron.

Using a mixture of water and compressed air, Whiteface's snowmaking operation consumes about 1,500 gallons of water per minute to blast out 500 cubic feet of snow in the same time.

Snowmaking has been a boon to resort owners and skiers since it came into widespread use almost 20 years ago. And with the round-the-clock use of the snow cannons have found at Whiteface, Mt. Van Hoevenberg and on the Olympic ski jumps at Intervale, snowmaking has indeed made Lake Placid's Olympic Winter games weatherproof.

OF INTEREST:

Restoring Another Market Street

Editor's Note: When any major disaster strikes a downtown area there is always a period of uncertainty about the future. But as this story shows, appropriate planning can lead to a successful outcome.

BY ARLENE BOOTH
New York State Department of Commerce

Ten years ago, you could ask a New Yorker about the city of Corning and she'd say "That's where the Glass Works is."

In June of 1972, nearly everyone in the United States heard about Corning, one of the cities hard hit by Hurricane Agnes, the worst flood of a century, which devastated the downtown area

and inundated the Glass Works property including the Corning Glass Center, one of the major tourist attractions of up-state New York.

Today, this city of 17,000 stands as a model of public, private and industrial cooperation in a restoration project that got off the ground when the Chemung River's waters receded and the mud was shoveled out.

According to Norman Mintz, director of the Market Street Restoration Agency, "we had to completely rehabilitate the buildings—repaint, clean the bricks, improve the storefronts by taking off additions that were made in the '50s and '60s, and install awnings and new signs."

The first step came with a federal open space grant with which the Urban Development Agency made physical improvements. New brick sidewalks were installed and trees planted along the four-block length of the main business street.

"Exactly two years after the flood, actual construction began," Mintz said. "One hundred thirteen honey locust trees were planted. They all survived." Mintz was hired in 1974 to head the MSRA, an operation funded by the Corning Glass Works to provide a free design service to merchants and property owners on Market Street.

Mintz was an ideal choice for the job—a graduate of Pratt Institute with a degree in industrial design, holder of a master's degree in restoration and preservation of historic architecture from Columbia University and the former owner of an antique shop in New York City.

So far, 75 to 80 percent of Market Street merchants are part of the revitalization.

Five years ago, there were 15 to 20 vacant buildings on Market Street. For the last two years, only one or two at a time await occupancy.

"Market Street began in the 1850s and really started being built up in the 1870s and '80s," Mintz said. "Construction continued into the 1930s, and what makes downtown so interesting is that it has storefronts from the art deco period, from the '40s and '50s that is really very good. The fact that a 1920 storefront is next to an 1880 storefront doesn't matter. The era is 1980. The era is today."

The decade of the 1920s produced larger store picture windows and signs in recognition of the automobile. The trees were planted during the period enhanced by ornate and finely crafted neon signs, the 1940s saw corrugated glass as a prime building material.

After World War II, automobiles and suburban shopping centers forced

downtown merchants to revamp their storefronts in order to compete, and that meant covering old buildings with modern materials quickly and inexpensively.

By removing the panelling and other false facades on some of the Market Street buildings, glazed terra cotta storefronts, ornate cornices, glass transoms and other architectural treasures were discovered.

"The average cost per merchant for all the improvements was about \$2,500. "Downtown revitalization can prove that you don't have to spend a lot of money," Mintz said. "It's basically cosmetic treatment to the buildings."

The Market Street Restoration Agency is now expanding its scope of operations to include nearby Bridge Street and the north side of the city. According to Mintz, Market Street and its new look is attracting thousands of shoppers.

With buildings only two or three stories tall, Market Street fits beautifully into its natural hilly setting. Now, it is the nostalgic main street that many remember and with appeal to all.

And, because of that Hurricane in June, 1972, this historic district has become a tourist attraction in its own right.

Urban Renewal Agency Completes Federal Closeout

The Potsdam Urban Renewal Agency has announced the closeout of its ten-year-old downtown project with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

At a 3 p.m. press conference last Wednesday, Agency Chairman Norma Thayer stated that the agency had received a letter from HUD approving the closeout and naming \$313,615 as the amount of surplus funds from the urban renewal project available to the village as Community Development funds.

A public hearing on amending the village's Community Development

(Small Cities) budget to include those funds has been set for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7 in the Civic Center board room.

Agency officials said that work on closeout with the state should begin immediately, with state closeout to be accomplished sometime this year.

Still to come for the agency is the final resolution of several legal actions, including lawsuits brought by JVL Construction of Waterford and local businessman Harry Bronson. The agency has some \$200,000 set aside in an escrow account to meet those legal expenses, as well as to pay administrative costs, surveys and ap-

praisals, other legal costs and final payments on site improvements.

A \$415,000 note was paid off prior to closeout, ending several years of "roll-overs" during which no funds were set aside to pay off the note.

The urban renewal agency itself will continue to exist; other remaining tasks include some site improvement work and the sale of the remaining land parcels.

Crafts Barn Over Half Mark

There is good news and bad news as the Crafts Barn continues to seek pledges that will enable it to become a profit-making corporation and avoid closing down entirely.

The good news, according to Frank Moore, is that the organizers are more than halfway along in getting the \$6,000 worth of pledges that will enable them to begin incorporation.

The bad news, he said, is that the Crafts Barn has lost its present location as of Feb. 1. Their building, a converted gas station at the corner of Market and Depot streets, has been rented to another party, Burns said. He does not know who that is, he said.

But, because the financial bid is looking good, Moore said the group is hoping to incorporate and to be in a new location by March 1.

The pledges are actually promises to buy shares in the new corporation at \$25 apiece.

The Crafts Barn had been run as a non-profit crafts cooperative until Jan. 1, when the costs of operating became too high for the group to sustain.

Persons who wish to buy a share in the corporation are asked to contact Moore at 265-8304 or Ann Mason at 265-4355.

Relief Route To Be Bid

The state Department of Transportation will open bids for the controversial Potsdam Relief Route Feb. 7, as plans continue for the relocation of the Potsdam Depot, the historic building that has delayed the construction of the new road.

A contract for the construction of the \$7.5 million project should be awarded within 45 days of the bid opening, according to the DOT.

Meanwhile, DOT officials, along with the Village of Potsdam, the state Historic Preservation Office, and the Federal Highway Administration have verbally agreed to move the Depot, and an official settlement is expected to be signed by the agencies in about 30 days.

The village has agreed to provide a relocation site by June 1, although a site has not yet been pinpointed. Two possibilities—one in the Depot's present parking lot and another on the VanNess property at 23-25 Depot St.—have both been considered by the nearby Montgomery Ward's store.

Store officials have charged that moving the Depot to either of those two spots would force them to close the

business within a year.

In a related development, the state DOT has been issued a Department of the Army permit to construct the piers for the new bridge included in the relief route project. The project is located in the Racquette River. An existing gas main owned by the St. Lawrence Gas Co. will be rerouted to make way for the new piers.

LBSH Project

May Open By June

BRASHER FALLS — The Lawrence-Brasher-Stockholm-Hopkinton Housing Corporation Site Committee met Jan. 25 at the LBSH Housing Project in Brasher Falls.

The Site Committee, contractor and HUD decided that with fair weather and barring no major hold-ups, the opening is anticipated for June 1980.

Discussion was held regarding rumors on applications. No applications have been accepted as a meeting with HUD is required first.

THE CENTER-BOARD
INTERNAL STAFF NEWSLETTER

POTSDAM CENTRAL SCHOOL JANUARY 1980

...Vital decisions came from January 15th board meeting, after executive session at which personnel matters were filed.

...Twin headline items: Teachers' contract with district for two years, beginning July 1, '80 approved by virtue of funding resolution passed by board. Senior high school principal position filled, capping three month process, by Wilford "Bill" LeFevre, Jr. Bill now working with Troy, NY district, plans Potsdam start in early February. Sincere thanks to students, teachers, parents and administrators, who helped superintendent and board to arrive at decision. Few districts encourage broad involvement used here.

...Principal Ben Daniels gave board and public a glimpse of first stages of in-school suspension program installed at AAK this year. ISS concept growing. Look forward to its expansion at PCS.

...Clarkson College in lieu of tax contribution in the amount of \$2,500 officially accepted with appropriate appreciation expressed. CCT began practice in '78 with intention of continuation.

...April 16th date set for public vote on bus purchase plan, details of which yet to be developed. Finance committee and Gann House, in positive response to serious transportation equipment problems, working on various methods to add five vehicles for '80-'81 fleet. This "busch-up" move brought about by under purchasing during last few years. Two vehicles per year scheduled replacement must prevail in '80's. Preliminary requests for next year BOCES services reviewed and sent to them. BOCES applies for shared service approval from SUNY Albany, with results back to us for a final '80-'81 order in spring.

...District's activities regarding increased computer use for instructional purposes reported to board. Various proposals for state and federal monies for more equipment and staff training in the works. Preliminary approval so far on one \$2,000 mini-grant to be used for additional micro unit in high school. Some movement toward goal of increased computer literacy beginning at grades six and five. This is not bandwagon educational movement! This is reality for schools in '80's. Watch it grow.

...Rev. Landy, who is to take leave of absence, replaced as English teacher by Don Chubboff for balance of school year beginning 1/28.

...High school occupational enrollment stands at 73, forming the basis for next year's billing. This is an increase over previous years, possibly reflecting changing career choices into new decade.

...Besides standard monthly bills and payroll approval, finance committee received full board approval for borrowing resolution with \$700,000 cap. Schools forced into borrowing mode between tax revenue time and arrival of state aid checks in new NYS fiscal year (April 1st).

...Board approved superintendent's recommendation for tenure for Barbara Morrison, administration; Lorraine Ford and Kathryn Landroville, elementary teaching; and Davon Wright, reading teaching. Recommendation on Henry Kriescher tabled in advisory vote until February.

...Thomas Sawyer hired as math aide at middle school to start 1/21/80. New custodial worker assigned to Lawrence Ave. School, Gene Reagan, approved at step one.

...Elementary teachers, Susan Stacy and Joan Edelwald to finish current year on unpaid leaves. Each to be enjoying company of new arrivals at home.

...Board approved placements recommended by COH, and reviewed suggested new policy on variety of coats.

...February board meeting schedule altered from standard plan due to Olympic activity. Regular full open meetings set for Tuesday 2/25 and Tuesday 2/26. No meeting 2/12. January committee meeting set for 1/29 at senior high school.

...Do you know? Department: In 1979, PCS High School team with best win-loss record?

Answer: Girls' Junior varsity softball with eight wins and no losses.

Boys' J.V. baseball with 12-2 count, next close behind are boys' soccer (12-2-1), division I champs, and girls' basketball (varsity) with a record of 14 wins and 5 losses. Other teams with winning record are boys' hockey, boys' track, golf, girls' volleyball and girls' bowling. Twenty-six boys' and girls' teams ran up total of 158 wins during year.

...CENTER-BOARD written monthly by superintendent as one way of improving communication among district employees. Copies distributed to all with teachers encouraged to post and share information with pupils. One 1980 goal to get CENTER-BOARD into hands of district residents who want it. To help us develop mailing list, readers are asked to give name and address to S. Theobald in superintendent's office, by phone or through mail, at 29 Leroy St. We know what happens to most newsletters! In general mailing. We only want to bother you with another piece of paper, if you want it! Please help us improve communication without pushing costs up. Call or write. Thank you.

MAIL LIST SOUGHT — This newsletter, distributed to faculty and staff at Potsdam Central School, could be mailed to homes in the Potsdam Central School District, according to Superintendent of Schools Dr. Carlos Gutierrez. The superintendent said that he would like to send the letter to interested taxpayers to improve communications between the school and community, but he would first need to have a mailing list of those who want to receive the newsletter. Anyone who wishes to receive the mailing should call the school at 265-2000 to have their names placed on the list, he said.

A MONTHLY DATE!
Mark it on
Your Calendar.
ONCE A MONTH...
EVERY MONTH.
Breast
Self-Examination