



Hamming it up on an unknown occasion are one-time Otsego County Chamber of Commerce Director Doug Nash (left) and former Gaylord High School principal, Henry Smith.



On the occasion of the dedication of the new chamber of commerce building in 1948, Bill Stribley addressed the crowd of proud members and residents. Also on hand were (l-r) Allen Schreur; Helen Bradley of the Petoskey Chamber of Commerce, Ed Strolle, and chamber president Louie Dittmer.

## Murdick: starting from nothing

**W**hen the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce dedicated its new log headquarters on the corner of First and South Otsego avenues in 1948, P.H. "Pete" Murdick was the keynote speaker.

At the time, Murdick was secretary-manager of the Grand Haven Chamber of Commerce and a former resident of the Alpena and Bay City areas.

He was invited to the local chamber's dedication after officials said he'd pointed out the need for a structure to house the local chamber's activities, according to newspaper accounts of the dedication.

Nine years later, Murdick became executive manager of the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce.

He took the job for only a year, he said in a recent interview, on a trial basis.

So for 1957, he became manager, at the same time the late George Doumas served as president of the organization.

"We didn't have much of anything," he said when asked about accomplishments during his administration. Murdick indicated he attended some promotional shows for tourism and winter recreation. "It wasn't set up for me," he said of the chamber

position.

Prior to moving to Gaylord, Murdick had been a sales manager for Michigan Brass and managed United Way campaigns. He'd come north at the invitation of Rean Mooney, an active chamber member.

Murdick handed the job over to Harry Collins who retired from the post 12 years later.

As for today's chamber, and the fact it's celebrating its 50th anniversary, Murdick commented: "I think they're doing very well. See, they've got some industry who can (help) carry the ball," referring to the expanded economic base the chamber has helped bring about.

This Page Courtesy Of

**Cooley's**

Alpine Plaza Gaylord 732-4012

**Gaylord/Otsego**

**Chamber of Commerce**

125 South Otsego Gaylord 732-4000

Thursday, February 8, 1990 HERALD TIMES/CHAMBER 50th 13