



**Chester C. Mitchell**

community for many years. They gave concerts, sponsored many parties and, in 1884, took first prize in the second class State Band Tournament.

In 1884 the first complete tax roll was made and the first recorded deed appeared in the records. That year, also, St. Mary's Church was established with its first resident priest, Rev. Fr. Leopold Opyrchalski. During this period several lumber mills were established as a part of the problem of meeting the needs of the community as well as furnishing lumber for shipment out of the area. Those mills which were located within or very near to the village limits were: Humphrey Brothers doing custom sawing, Jackson-Wylie, hoop and stave, Frank Buell, sawmill, Dayton Last Block Works, unfinished shoe last blocks, later unfinished golf heads and, for a short time, finished ten pins.

The first doctor to live in Gaylord was N.L. Parmater, M.D. He had arrived in the County in 1873 to homestead in Livingston Township. In 1888 he moved to Gaylord for two reasons: to do less traveling to see his patients and to be near the school which his daughter and only child would attend. He installed a telegraph instrument in his house, connecting it with his office, the bank and several other residences. His daughter, Viena, was the first child born in the County, October 14, 1874. Her daughter, Violette Shipp Butcher still lives in Gaylord.

A bank was established in 1889 by Cooper and Crain, attorneys and real estate salesmen. It was a private, lot chartered by the state. They operated this until March

1893 when a group of local businessmen took over the assets, added capital and became chartered as a state bank, known as the Gaylord State Savings Bank. January 1948 the name was changed to Gaylord State Bank. Through the years this bank has taken over the assets of other banks . . . Otsego County, Exchange and a small bank in Johannesburg . . . when those institutions wished to discontinue.

In 1891 the local paper stated that there were 1,000 inhabitants in Gaylord and fifty businesses. That year a new Court House was constructed of brick. This served, with some alterations over the years, until the present one was built as a City-County Building in 1967. The first electric generator was installed in 1898 by Richard Hartnell, a lumberman who had a sawmill on the shores of Otsego Lake. He also built a large brick hotel on the corner of Main and Center Streets, which burned in January 1907 with the loss of one life.



**Gaylord City Band**

Frank Calkins, manager of the coal kiln north of town for some years, built the first telephone line in 1899.

The life of the village was not always a rosey one. Fires swept through many of the early buildings and great epidemics made life precarious. The worst epidemics were scarlet fever and typhoid fever, which took their toll of lives, especially among children and young adults. No one was immune from this grief. One local doctor lost two of his own small children from scarlet fever and the newspaper editor, H.C. McKinley lost two young adult sons from typhoid fever.

In spite of adversity, life must go on and these hardy people managed to make and enjoy their own entertainment. Besides the Gaylord Band and its many activities, there was an Opera House where many home talent plays were presented. There were lodges which had their social activities, musical groups, instrumental and vocal, the Study Club which started in 1896 as the