

## How it all began for Otsego County

(Cont'd from P. 13)  
 choked folks walking on the street close by it. The writer of these pithy remarks in company with Steve Humphrey, was nearby in front of the structure when it collapsed and got an awful scare.

Who can hark back to the time when Al Demerest built his big roller skating rink just north of where the Old Herald printing office stood for years? The rink was 120 feet by 40 feet in size, and day and night it was filled with the bon-ton of Gaylord whose great delight was gliding around and round the hard maple floor that cost Al eight hundred "plunks" to lay.

The roar of the swiftly gliding crowd as they circled the rink is yet sweet melody in the ears of ye scribe, who was even in the thick of the fun. It proved such a money-maker that A.J. Tallord and Dick Harding erected an opposition rink on the ground where now stands the Ben Gocha garage, but the craze ran its course and died in due time, full of sweat and perspiration.

The Methodist, Baptist and Congregational

churches were established in Gaylord at about the same time, in 1880, and have been the means of keeping the morals of the old town in a more healthy condition than would be the case were they not in evidence. Of course they have had their ups and downs, but just the same you can count your blessings in greater number by reason of their existence.

Gaylord was first incorporated as a city in 1922, with John Hamilton as its first mayor.

The George & Henry Redhead shingle mill was for many years operated southwest of the village, and Henry Lord also operated a shingle mill out in the same neighborhood.

The first hotel in the county was run by C.S. Brink at Otsego Lake, which also boasted of the Hooker House, and the Matthews Hotel, and the Charles Bahel drugstore and barber shop, the big company store and Hyman Joseph's clothing store, a jewelry shop, boot and shoe shop conducted by Deacon Kellogg and sons Delos and Frank, several livery

barns, for that was in the days before the auto came onto the stage of action, and the roads were unimproved, for it was almost a day's journey from Gaylord to the Lake in those days, by reason of the sandy roads. For many years George Durfee and Charley Menzies conducted a livery business in Gaylord, as did also Al Demerest and John Rolinski.

James and Willard Humphrey came to Gaylord from Western New York in 1883, Willard setting up a blacksmith shop while James and his three sons, Adelbet, Rolla and Stephen, operated a wagon and repair shop on the corner of Main and Elm Streets, which was afterwards used by Ben Huff.

Yes, and if our memory serves us right, Willis Shepard came from York State with the Humphrey crowd.

AND DO YOU RECALL the first burial in the north cemetery? It was the young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Humeston, who met her tragic death in a fire that nearly destroyed

their farm home north of Hetherton.

Then there was the pugilistic Wid Lambert, who went about with a chip on his shoulder ready to knock the "block" off any man who crossed his wishes. He had but one redeeming trait—he was a good checker player. He was also a veterinary surgeon.

Mr. Ticknor was Gaylord's first village marshal, and during those stirring days when the saloons were open from morning till night and some of them seems to never close and especially at the time when the railroad was pushed on to Cheboygan and the Straits, in the fall and winter and summer of 1881, when hundreds of men were laying the rails and ballasting the track, drunks and fights were numerous and in the discharge of his official duties Mr. Ticknor shot a man to death. He was exonerated by the majesty of the law for his exploit in upholding the dignity of the law.

The Agricultural Society of Otsego county was organized in 1880, and its

first fair was held in the open air on the court house square in Gaylord in the autumn of that year, and was officered as follows: President, Jas. Demerest; vice-president, Charles S. Fuller. There were, all told, one hundred and eighteen entries and \$48 paid out in premiums. Since that time many annual fairs have been held with varying success, but the time seems to have come when some radical changes must be made in order to make both ends meet. As it is now, the society is playing a losing game, and fails to keep up to its running expenses. It seems too bad to lay down in the job now after all these years, but how to keep the society alive and on its feet in a financial way, is a problem yet unsolved.

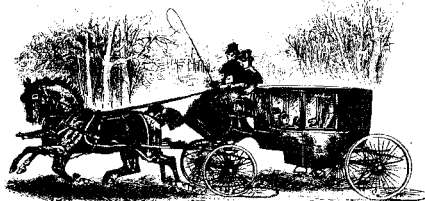
Just where the leak is, is not for me to point out, for I confess it is an unsolved riddle to me. But it may be that some method can be provided or devised whereby the annual meetings can be continued, for certain it is that the society is an institution that ought to be fostered and

kept alive for the sake of the agricultural community and the people at large, for it is the means of publicly exploiting the county's agricultural progress and stock raising possibilities, and also a safe and sane way of amusing and instructing the youth of the county in farm life and methods that ought to be conserved and maintained.

Now I must admit that this quick write-up of some of the early history of Gaylord and the county is somewhat rambling and disjointed, but the plain unvarnished facts are there and you can put them together to suit your taste. When I have a more convenient time I will try and rearrange this story so that it will be more ship-shape and include other valuable data and items of common interest not here recorded.

AMONG THE EARLY SETTLERS not enumerated here can be named, the Wiggers, the Skiltons, the Meachers, the Binghamms, the Sellers, the Ordways, the Franks, the Hallocks, the Newsomes,

(Cont'd on P. 15)



### Service...The Challenge Of The Day

Service is the challenge of the day...now as it has been for the past century, service— whether in the meat market, the grocery store or snowmobile or motorcycle business— means just this: The man who satisfies the people with his products, his price and his methods of dealing gives people service and gradually draws and holds business to him.

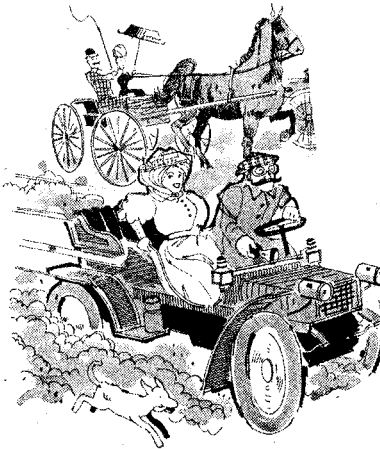
10 years experience in the snowmobile and motorcycle business means dependable service to you. 100 years ago man provided his own transportation— his horse or his feet. Today it's various machines that do the job for him and when they need service you take them to someone who can give you skilled service...and with a smile—like we do!

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