



AROUND 1900 this is the way the Wells home looked at 212 South Otsego. In recent years it has been the home of the late Harry Lynch, and Mrs. Lynch. The curly-ques are now gone, but you will recognize the house when you drive by.

## Where they lived

If nostalgia is your "thing," and even if it isn't, it might be interesting to walk past some of the old homes, still standing today, which were the homes of Gaylord people in the long-ago years.

The Kramer home at 221 North Center is now the home of Sheriff and Mrs. Holewinski; Dr. C.G. Saunder and his daughter, Althea now occupy the old James Quick home at 120 North Center.

John Brodie and his family lived at the corner of Mitchell and North 27. This house is over 100 years old. The Charlie and Nellie Haight home is still occupied at West Third and South Court Street, and Tracy and Barb Andrews now live in the former W.S. Carpenter home on the southwest corner of West Second and Court. Across the street, east, is the former C.C. Mitchell home. He built the Congregational Church, and the attic of the home served as the early court house.

Mrs. Arthur Menzies has lived for many years at 526 South Court Street. This is the former home of the Anson Quick family. On the site of the present United Methodist Church, James Hazard built a home prior to 1875.

On the northeast corner of Center and East Huron was the S.W. Buck home. It has been an over-night resort for a number of years. The present old part of the Walker-Bates Funeral Home, complete with cupola, was built by E.B. Bolton, an early Gaylord resident.

Many Gaylord people will recall the Mel Freel home on the corner of North Court and West Mitchell. It was originally built by A.B.C. Comstock, an early Gaylord citizen.

Those who came here after the building of the present post office missed seeing the beautiful trees and the big rambling house which occupied that cor-

ner. It was originally built by Dr. P.J. Fox, and later was the home of Dr. McKillip and his family.

The second house east of the present Masonic Temple was built long years ago by John A. Covert, a Gaylord business man. It is presently occupied by offices.

A daughter-in-law, Mrs. Harold Harris now lives in the home built by Dr. L.A. Harris on the corner of South Center and East 4th. The Victorian bric-a-brac trim adds to the nostalgia of the lovely corner.

Dr. Nathaniel Parmenter, grandfather of Mrs. Jess Butcher of Gaylord, built the home at 320 South Center Street in 1896. It was later occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Norman Glasser, Sr. and is now the home of Stan and Betty Fritz.

In all probability 50 to 75 homes are standing in Gaylord, which are at least 100 years old.

## Vanderbilt grew rapidly in early times

The Village of Vanderbilt saw its first inhabitant, Robert Menzies in November of 1872. He settled his homestead and soon, other families followed. At this time, the land was overspread with virgin timber, which sparked the interest of lumber buyers everywhere. Cornelius Vanderbilt purchased a good share of the land for its timber. When the timber was depleted, he made a gift of his property to the people in the area. In gratitude, they named their town, Vanderbilt, in 1875.

The railroad was probably the biggest factor in Vanderbilt's growth. In 1880, an extension of the railroad from Gaylord to Mackinaw City found the village in its route. Men like John Berry, A.C. Robinson, D.C. Warren, Mr. Dudley and H.L. Bommer did not hesitate to build businesses which would flourish and grow with the town.

The first store was built by H.L. Bonner. He operated a general merchandise shop which had an extensive stock of wares. John Gulburg platted the first parcel of ground. He, along with Peter Nelson built the first home. Dr. H.C. Peckham was the first postmaster. The post office was located in Peckham's drug store. In 1880, the Vanderbilt Congregational Church was established, with Reverend Thomas Nield as the pastor. George Kirkpatrick owned and operated the first blacksmith shop. Mills were erected by Hinkley, Olds & Co., The Vanderbilt Manufacturing Co., Gilson & Zickgraf and Brown & McGregor.

The growth of Vanderbilt was accelerated in the years of 1882-1883. The village welcomed a large number of families who built homes, businesses, mills, churches and a four room school house. The building was constructed on the east side of the village, boasting ten grades. At this time, the Congregational Church had a building with Reverend Abram Van Auken as pastor. The Methodist Church was erected with Reverend A.M. Camp serving as pastor.

The village, now, had three hotels: The Vanderbilt House was owned by A. Herrick, the Commercial House by J.R. Parker and H. Brandt was the proprietor of the Anchor House. The local barber, Elwood Olney, occupied his own shop. A drug store was opened by F.A. Baldwin and Dr. S.E. Woodruff. Two doctors, Dr. S.E. Woodruff and Dr. J.T. Lester, administered to the sick and infirmed. Growth, such as this, resulted in a thriving community.

Without employment, no town can survive, thus, the mills stabilized the community. The Hinkley, Olds Co. was purchased by Millard Olds and C.B. Manley. They maintained a large force of men to manufacture barrel staves and lumber. One of the best equipped, of its kind, the Vanderbilt Manufacturing Co., managed by G.G. Williams, produced wooden bowls to satisfy consumer demand. Gilson and Zickgraf furnished hard and soft wood lumber to a large area. Brown and McGregor added to the economy with their steam saw and planing mill. These mills continued in operation for many years.

bringing a great loss to the owner, Tom Connor.

The early 1900's brought an end to the lumbering era leaving Vanderbilt looking for new ways to continue its progress. In 1901 the village was incorporated. Shortly after, a telephone exchange service was put in by Frank Calkins. Almost immediately, they had 47 subscribers to help communications.

Electrical service was available in 1907. As soon as the franchise was granted, the town was wired. Fred King and John Hixson set the operation up in a single mill on U.S. 27 South. Power was generated by slab wood from the saw mill and coal from the railroad.

Farming was the mainstay in the early 1900's. Men, who no longer had work in the mills, found the fertile land could produce enough food to sell to a ready market. The area surrounding Vanderbilt is still farmed to a great extent, now, in 1975.

Steady growth in the middle 1900's encouraged small industries to locate in the vicinity. Grant Air Mass produces air mattresses, Higgins Industries manufacture copper tubing, Van Products supplies the demand for dip sticks, Unipro furnishes brackets for electric light poles and O.W. Rowley and Sons constructs pallets, skids and boxes.

Always an indication of growth is the school system. In 1952 a fourteen room school was erected only to be outdated by the 1970's. Construction of additional rooms is presently in progress along with a new gymnasium.

Further evidence of Vanderbilt's development is a new Township Hall built by the community. A fine athletic field is used frequently, a Catholic Church has been established and the Community Church has an addition. A memorial park under way at this time will augment the activity of the village. The greatest asset of the village, in 1975, is the enthusiasm and determination of it's citizens. They will perpetuate the work of their forefathers, ensuring the continued growth of Vanderbilt.

An incident recorded in 1883 is of interest as it points out the ingenuity of the people at that time. The railroad went through a cut south of the overpass and on a particular run, it hit a herd of cattle, blowing a hole in one of the cylinders. The inventiveness of the train crew produced a wooden plug cut from a sapling. With the hole neatly and securely plugged, the train continued on its daily run. It can be noted that all but one of the cows was killed,

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