

**Keywords**

**Casmir Polus**  
**General Store**  
**Baseball Commentary**

**Casmir Polus**

Born in 1913 and lifelong resident of Elmira (82 at time of interview)  
Father came from Poland in 1903, sent for girlfriend (later wife) who arrived on July 4, 1903  
Worked in Poland as surveyor for railroad company, supervised a team that laid tracks  
Worked at shingle mill in Boyne Falls for eleven years before it burned down  
1914 – Seen opportunity to buy general store in Elmira

**General Store**

Store with a wide front and two entrance doors, located where the old post office was

Entering the south door:

Left side held the office with desk and safe, followed by a showcase of candy, then a display of hardware  
Large display of shoes on wall  
Right side of door had cigar and cigarette  
Long counter of bulk food: sugar, rice, beans, oatmeal, peas and so forth  
Food kept in large drawers with a glass display in front of each to show what was inside  
Scales and cash register on top of the counter  
Dates, bananas, apples, peanut butter and soap chips sat in barrels next to register  
Shelves behind counter held canned goods: peaches, pears, cherries, olives, mustard, ketchup and coffee  
A cracker barrel, cheese barrel and coffee grinder sat at end of counter  
Counter also displayed vinegar and different kinds of flour: regular, cornmeal and baking  
Store heated by a coal furnace in the basement, heat register came up in middle of store

Separate room in the back for the meat

Show window out front for the cold meat and fresh meat  
Meat kept refrigerated by ice cooler above it (14x14, held 1500 pounds of ice)  
Ice blocks weighed 150 pounds, hoisted into the cooler by block and tackle, cooler filled weekly  
Father bought most fresh beef from local farmers  
Butchered beef himself, let the meat cool overnight then brought it to the store cooler the next morning  
Wrapped the beef in cheesecloth to keep flies away  
Farmers butchered pork themselves and sold it to the store  
Other meat came from Chicago in refrigerated railroad car

Sold kerosene from a large tank at back of store  
Single gas pump outside that pumped one gallon at a time  
Gas 21 cents, Kerosene 19 cents, Motor Oil 25 cents a quart

Father bought 1914 Model-T ford to deliver groceries to lumber camps  
He and his brother test drove it from Elmira to Gaylord but couldn't figure how to turn it around  
They lifted the car and moved it back around by themselves

Entering the north door was a separate clothing store with two big showcases  
Right showcase held women's wear, left showcase held yard goods like flannel, velvet and satin  
Easter hats filled both showcases at Easter time, quite the fashion back then

**Baseball Commentary**

Interview taped over with a baseball commentary of women's championship match (Elkand vs. Gaylord)