

Mr. Polus II

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Keywords:

Elmira

Railroads

Weddings

Athletics

Had store in Elmira.

On the 4th of July people came to the store for watermelon and ice.

Most people purchased with credit in those days.

Elmira was a center for the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. Had a coal dock and a water tower which they pumped out of Pumphouse Lake with small steam engines.

Trains would stop in Elmira and fill up to go to Mackinaw City.

There was a roundhouse, which would turn the engines around. Could hold four or five steam locomotives.

"Gypsies" would steal from the store and other businesses.

Store burned down in 1928. Did not know how.

Bank shut down in 1924.

Culture:

Polish weddings – lots of good food; polish sausage, sweet sauerkraut, cabbage, potatoes and gravy. Kids really enjoyed it. Homemade beer, maybe some moonshine as well.

Always cider in a barrel and donuts.

Dance would last until 3 or 4 a.m. Party would continue the next day and go to around midnight.

Homemade dance floor under a tent. Good music, concertina. Father would play the accordion.

School:

Elmira School built in 1906. It had a huge bell that would vibrate the building when in rang.

Elmira's school was only ten grades. So when playing Gaylord in basketball, they would ask Gaylord to limit its team to tenth graders to make it fair.

Harry Lynch was Elmira school superintendent and coach. After games in Gaylord he'd take the team to the Sugar Bowl.

Transportation:

U.S. 127 between Gaylord and Otsego Lake. Plowed by horses. Road was very sandy and hard to traverse during any season. Old Alba Road was a better route to Elmira.

During the winter, it would take several hours on horse and sleigh to get to Gaylord from Elmira.