

# ELD TIMES.

Wednesday, Nov. 29, 1939

Number 5

## Churches of the Community

### Varied Announcements for This Week

#### WILLIAMSFIELD METHODIST

10:00 a.m. Sunday School  
E. D. Johnston, Supt.  
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship with  
special music by the choir and  
sermon by the pastor.  
7:00 p.m. Evening Service  
Mid-week Prayer Service every  
Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock  
Choir practice every Thursday eve-  
ning.

Regular General Aid meeting will  
be held at the church on the after-  
noon of December 7, at 2:30. Devot-  
ions will be led by Mrs. Nellie  
Doulet. Lunch will be served by  
the second division. All members  
and friends are urged to attend.

Division III of the Ladies Aid  
will meet Thursday, December 7,  
with Mrs. E. S. Moon.

#### LAURA METHODIST

Next Sunday's Services.

9:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
10:30 a.m. Church School

Paul Noland, Supt.

T. L. Kneebone, Pastor.

#### ST. JAMES CHURCH

Rev. Thomas C. Harrison, Pastor

Time of Masses:

2nd Sunday of the month, 8:00 a.m.  
4th and 5th Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

### Annual Bazaar

The annual Bazaar sponsored by  
the Aid Society of the Williams-  
field Methodist church will be held  
on Saturday, December 2. Sale  
starts at 3 o'clock. Supper will be  
served at 5:00. Free entertainment.

## Blue Ribbon Store Features

December 1 & 2

Pioneer Coffee, 1 lb. bag	19c
Breakfast Cheer Coffee, 1 lb. bag	14c
Blue Ribbon Pancake Flour, 5 lb. bag	23c
Perfection Syrup, No. 10 pail 58c, No. 5	32c
Navy Beans, choice Michigan, 5 lbs.	23c
Blue Ribbon Gelatine Dessert, 3 pkgs.	14c
Blue Ribbon Toilet Tissue, 4 rolls	24c
Companion Toilet Tissue, 4 rolls	19c
Wash-Rite, finest granulated soap, large pkg.	19c
Ivory Flakes, large box	22c
Old Dutch Cleanser, 3 cans	22c

## Parker & Woolsey

## BATTERIES and TIRES

at mail order prices

Genuine WILLARD built batteries \$4.48 and  
up exchange.

Genuine PREST-O-LITE built batteries \$4.95  
and up exchange.

These batteries carry one year guarantee and  
are backed by two of the oldest battery Man-



# WILLIAMSFIELD

Fifty-first Year

Williamsfield, Illinois, Wed.

## History of Our Village

### Gleaned From Files of Past Fifty Years

So much interest has been shown in the history of the Williamsfield Times published November 1, as we launched upon this, our fiftieth anniversary year of publication, we feel certain that our readers will equally enjoy a brief history of the village as gleaned from the files of the paper.

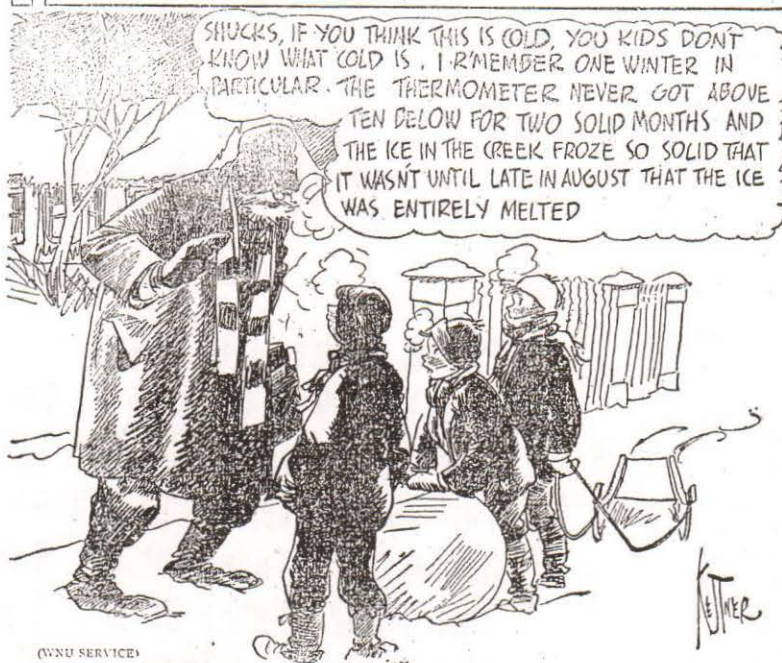
Scarcely more than fifty years ago the site where the Village of Williamsfield now stands was a stretch of rich farm land belonging to Jas. Mahar and was a part of the Mahar estate which so nearly surrounds the town at the present time. The site was described as follows in the first issue of the Times: "Williamsfield is located in Knox County, Illinois 163 miles west of Chicago on the main line of the Chicago, Santa Fe & California Railway, is beautifully situated on a strip of unbroken prairie extending north and south of it for many miles, surrounded by a prosperous population of farmers and stock raisers.

In 1886-7 the Santa Fe, wishing to build a railroad between Galesburg and Chicago, made several surveys through this territory and finally decided upon the present right-of-way. In the early spring of 1887 work on the road was begun in earnest and the following November saw the first train between Galesburg and Chicago make its journey over the new rails.

Stations were mapped out about five miles apart along the line and a spot in Section 23 of Truro Township was chosen for one of these stations. A railroad contractor, whose name was Williams, noticing the large fields of corn on either side of the track, gave the name of Williamsfield to our village. A box car served the purpose of a depot for the time being. R. H. Kline was station agent.

The town was laid out by E. P. Percell on April 24, 1888 and buildings began to appear.

## The Oldtimer



(WNU SERVICE)

## Obituary

Ira Otis Walsh, son of John E. and Laura Walsh, died on November 23, 1939, age 60 years, 5 months and 4 days.

On October 21, 1902 he was united in marriage to Ina Pearl Stargel. To this union there were born eight children, four of whom with his wife preceded him in death.

The remaining children are Nellie Walsh of Williamsfield; Mrs. Lucille Douglas of Elmore; Edwin and Harold Dean at home.

Besides these, he also leaves two brothers and three sisters, namely: David, of Victoria; Clifton, of Kewanee; Mrs. Olof Anderson of Bishop Hill, Mrs. Leo Kuster of Kewanee and Mrs. Harry Robbins of Washington, Ill. He is also survived by one half brother and three half sisters. In addition to these he also leaves a step-mother, Mrs. Mary Walsh of Williamsfield.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 Saturday afternoon at Elmore M. E. church in charge of Rev. T. L. Kneebone of Williamsfield. Service in song was by Mrs. Royce Sargeant and Mrs. Floyd McClellan.

## Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wurmnest were honored on Thanksgiving Day when thirty-three relatives gathered with well-filled baskets to help celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. The event was held in the Machin Cabin.

The honored couple was presented with a lovely 43-piece dinner set, a gift from the relatives.

Those present to enjoy the day with Mr. and Mrs. Wurmnest were Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wepler and son Jack, Mr. and Mrs. William Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Nutty, Joyce and Jimmie, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Meyer, Mr. Fred Muller, Mr. Fred Meyer and son Paul, Mr. Rudy Nannen and Misses Jean Henderson, Eileen Ward and Ruth Meyer, all of Washington, Illinois; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Fee and Mr. Frank Abraham of Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wurmnest and daughter Gerda of Trivoli; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boyer and daughter Joan of Farmington; Misses Louise Meyers and Bernadine Bruner of Peoria and Richard Wurmnest.



## Gleaned From Files of Past Fifty Years

So much interest has been shown in the history of the Williamsfield Times published November 1, as we launched upon this, our fiftieth anniversary year of publication, we feel certain that our readers will equally enjoy a brief history of the village as gleaned from the files of the paper.

Scarcely more than fifty years ago the site where the Village of Williamsfield now stands was a stretch of rich farm land belonging to Jas. Mahar and was a part of the Mahar estate which so nearly surrounds the town at the present time. The site was described as follows in the first issue of the Times: "Williamsfield is located in Knox County, Illinois 163 miles west of Chicago on the main line of the Chicago, Santa Fe & California Railway, is beautifully situated on a strip of unbroken prairie extending north and south of it for many miles, surrounded by a prosperous population of farmers and stock raisers."

In 1886-7 the Santa Fe, wishing to build a railroad between Galesburg and Chicago, made several surveys through this territory and finally decided upon the present right-of-way. In the early spring of 1887 work on the road was begun in earnest and the following November saw the first train between Galesburg and Chicago make its journey over the new rails.

Stations were mapped out about five miles apart along the line and a spot in Section 23 of Truro Township was chosen for one of these stations. A railroad contractor, whose name was Williams, noticing the large fields of corn on either side of the track, gave the name of Williamsfield to our village. A box car served the purpose of a depot for the time being. R. H. Kline was station agent.

The town was laid out by E. P. Percell on April 24, 1888 and buildings began to go up rapidly. C. H. Fuiver was one of the first contractors and builders, working with his father and another carpenter, named Nichols, and later with Van Buren Bros.



(WNU SERVICE)

## Obituary

Ira Otis Walsh, son of John E. and Laura Walsh, died on November 23, 1939, age 60 years, 5 months and 4 days.

On October 21, 1902 he was united in marriage to Ina Pearl Stargel. To this union there were born eight children, four of whom with his wife preceded him in death.

The remaining children are Nevelle Walsh of Williamsfield; Mrs. Lucille Douglas of Elmore; Edwin and Harold Dean at home.

Besides these, he also leaves two brothers and three sisters, namely: David, of Victoria; Clifton, of Kewanee; Mrs. Olof Anderson of Bishop Hill, Mrs. Leo Kuster of Kewanee and Mrs. Harry Robbins of Washington, Ill. He is also survived by one half brother and three half sisters. In addition to these he also leaves a step-mother, Mrs. Mary Walsh of Williamsfield.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 Saturday afternoon at Elmore M. E. church in charge of Rev. T. L. Kneebone of Williamsfield. Service in song was by Mrs. Royce Sargeant and Mrs. Floyd McClellan, with Mrs. John Share accompanist.

Pallbearers were A. W. Gale, W. A. Johnson, Allen Spencer, Ben Walden, Carl Leng and W. J. Duncan.

Interment was in Glendale cemetery.

## Wedding Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wurmnest were honored on Thanksgiving Day when thirty-three relatives gathered with well-filled baskets to help celebrate their 20th wedding anniversary. The event was held in the Machin Cabin.

The honored couple was presented with a lovely 43-piece dinner set, a gift from the relatives.

Those present to enjoy the day with Mr. and Mrs. Wurmnest were Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Weppler and son Jack, Mr. and Mrs. William Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Nutty, Joyce and Jimmie, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Meyer, Mr. Fred Muller, Mr. Fred Meyer and son Paul, Mr. Rudy Nannen and Misses Jean Henderson, Eileen Ward and Ruth Meyer, all of Washington, Illinois; Mr. and Mrs. Gene Fee and Mr. Frank Abraham of Springfield; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wurmnest and daughter Gerda of Trivoli; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Boyer and daughter Joan of Farmington; Misses Louise Meyers and Bernadine Bruner of Peoria and Richard Wurmnest.

## Entertained

Last Wednesday afternoon, the Third and Fourth Grades of the Williamsfield school entertained the



his father and another carpenter, named Nichols, and later with Van Buren Bros.

Mr. Pulver and his father built the first store building in 1887. It was located just south of the east railroad crossing, near where the Powers residence now stands. The store was operated by Mahar and Welsh. Later the building was moved up town on the north side of the street where it was used as a harness shop until it was destroyed by fire.

The first residence was built by a Monica carpenter for R. H. Kline, and is now occupied by Mrs. Lydia Caldwell.

#### First Business Men

Some of the first business men were as follows:

B. F. Shaffer—Post-Office and General Store.

Parker & Nelson—General Store.

Woods Bros.—Clothing Store.

J. W. Powellson—Restaurant.

Tucker & Drake—Hardware.

P. R. Needham—Blacksmith Shop.

Woods Bros.—Drug Store.

M. C. Spangler—Music, Furniture,

Undertaking and Livery Barn.

Bennett & Cramer—Meat Market.

Chas. Knox—Lumber. (In a very short time however, Mr. Knox sold out to J. M. Baird.)

John Cole and J. A. Morton—Doctors

Mrs. Rosa Burt—Hotel.

The first edition of the Williamsfield Times was printed October 31, 1889 by C. D. Benfield.

#### Depot Built

In the winter of 1887-8 the Santa Fe built the depot which still marks our station. Through-train service from Chicago to Los Angeles was put on in 1895. In 1902 Williamsfield was made a watering station for the Santa Fe. The company erected a large steel tank, the water being pumped here from Spoon River near Dahinda. A year later a treating plant was built and equipped to soften the water. The present double track was completed in 1910. The block system was adopted the following year and in June 1924 automatic train control was put into actual operation.

The tracks through town and to the west, have been straightened from time to time, eliminating bad curves. Between 30 and 40 trains now pass through here daily, some of the longer freights having from 130 to 150 cars. Six of the passenger trains are Diesel drawn. W. A. Hann and J. F. Daub are the present Station Agents. Fred Shultz is Signal Service man and Wm. Betts, Section Foreman.

During the year 1890 the town

(Continued on Page Three)

Walden, Carl Leng and W. J. Duncan.

Interment was in Glendale cemetery.

### Community Club

Centennial Community Club held its regular meeting last Wednesday evening at the 'schoolhouse. The business session was conducted by the president, Ralph Johnston. It was voted to have a gift exchange at the next meeting which will be held December 22. The lunch at that time will consist of doughnuts, coffee and popcorn balls.

During the remainder of the evening music by Center Prairie Ramblers was enjoyed, and an oyster supper was served.

### Benefit Party

There will be a Library Benefit party at the Grade School Thursday evening, November 30, beginning at 7.30 o'clock. There will be bridge, 500, Chinese checkers and rook, with prizes for each game. Also a door prize will be given. Refreshments will be served. The sum of 25c will be charged. Come and help a worthy cause.

The party will be in charge of the library board and librarians.

Mrs. Aaron German was called to Capac, Michigan last Tuesday by the death of her nephew, George Eldridge, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Eldridge, who accidentally shot himself while deer hunting. Mrs. Myrtle German stayed with her son and family until Saturday night.

### Auxiliary Meeting

The first Legion Auxiliary potluck supper for the Winter was held Tuesday evening at the Grade school. Following the supper games were played and a good time was had by all present, namely Dr. and Mrs. N. H. Davison and family, Miss Clarissa Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Eldrid Mackie and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Steinman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Murdock and family, Mrs. Edna Stewart and Lorraine, Mrs. Marita Parker and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Carrigan and family, Mrs. Eliza Larsen, Mrs. Rosa Egan, Mr. and Mrs. Jas. H. German and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. German and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Engel, Mrs. Bertha Cole, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Hann and family, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Tucker and family, and Harley Benjamin.

Last Wednesday afternoon, the Third and Fourth Grades of the Williamsfield school entertained the First and Second Grade pupils and their teacher, Miss Hurlbutt, at a Thanksgiving party in Miss Carrigan's room. Games were played and prizes awarded Billy Baird of the first grade, Addie Smith of the second, Nancy Henry of the third and Richard Renwick of the fourth.

Refreshments of ice cream, chocolate wafers and candy corn "flowers" were served from prettily decorated plates. The table was gay with a turkey centerpiece, orange candles, Autumn leaves and blue turkey place cards. Glenn Richard Huber asked the blessing and "America" was sung in unison.

The committees responsible for the nice afternoon were:

Work Committee—

Bobby Mahar

Gene Smith

Glenn Richard Huber

Floyd Gray

Richard Renwick

Decoration—

Nancy Henry

J. E. Terwilliger

Lorraine Ramp

Entertainment—

Marilyn Kneer

Irene Crow

Erma Mae Crandlee

Food—

Betty Swanson

Weldon Niebuhr

Patricia Tucker

Serving—

Lou Wick

Mary Jo Baird

Fred Richard Shultz

Juanita Graves

### Birthday Surprise

A surprise party was given for Mary Louise Hart by her mother, Mrs. Ernest Hart, in celebration of her tenth birthday. Her aunt, Mrs. Mary Myers, came for her in the morning, then brought her back home in the afternoon where she was greeted by a group of her friends. Games were played and prizes awarded. Delicious refreshments were served by Mrs. Hart.

Those present to enjoy the party were Mrs. Beetler, Esther Hausman and Marie Howard of Elmwood, Kenneth Mosher, Jean Griert, Marjorie Meece, Marjorie Leng, John Robert Huber, Patricia and Jean Underwood, Glennavon Grohs, Wilard Carroll, Juanita and Gloria Cain, Mrs. Mary Myers, Mrs. Mildred Ott and Wayne, Mrs. Mary Howard and Bobbie, Mrs. Ernest Hart and Mary Louise.



## Village History

(Continued from Page One)

continued to grow rapidly, many new dwellings being built as well as a number of business houses.

### Sidewalks & Streets

Our first concrete walks were built in 1904. The town at present is well supplied with good cement sidewalks, graveled streets and a macadamized street through the business district and extending two blocks east. We are located on State Route 180 which a mile south of the village limits joins U. S. Route 150. A new subway under the Santa Fe has just been completed.

### Banking Business Established

A bank building was completed January, 1890, L. J. Baird being President and David Cation Cashier of the new institution which was named the Bank of Williamsfield. In 1908 it was incorporated as First State Bank Company with the same officers. About that time Mr. Baird moved to Iowa and Mr. Cation became President, serving in that capacity until March 1931 when the bank was closed, at the beginning of the national financial depression which ended the career of many banks.

### Churches

The M. E. church was erected in 1890 by Van Buren Bros. of Victoria during the pastorate of Rev. Gimson of Victoria. Since that time the church has had a resident minister. A parsonage was built in 1894 and the church was remodeled and enlarged the next year.

The St. James church was built in 1891 under the pastorate of Rev. Father Shannon of Brimfield and has been supplied from Brimfield since with the exception of ten years when it was supplied from Elmwood.

### School System

Up to the year 1900 there was as yet no school building in Williamsfield and classes continued to be held in the small schoolhouse which stood on the corner just west of the N. N. Tucker residence. A building was erected in town that year and school opened in 1891 with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Momeny as teachers. This first building was later moved to the east end of town and converted into a dwelling house, now occupied by Mrs. Ida Fogelson.

In September of 1901 the school building was arranged to accommodate a class of High School students taking a three-year course. The first annual commencement of

Mrs. Helen McClellan—Spbstitute.  
**Band Organized**

A Williamsfield Band was organized in 1890 under the leadership of S. E. Boggess. Among those first players were Arthur Parker, Chas. Eastman, Bert Wheeler, Bert Pulver, Sporty Cole, John Powelson, David Cation, H. J. Bennett, Seth Tucker, Wes Galpin, Dr. Oberholtzer, Dave Cramer and Chas. Johnson. From that time on there were few summers when the village was without a band until 1936 when the Saturday evening concerts gave place to free moving pictures sponsored by the local merchants.

Also during the summer months the merchants sponsor a soft ball team, the games being played on a high school campus.

### National Institute Erected

In 1892 Dr. J. A. Morton and Dr. Vesper Shaffer erected a National Institute to effect a cure for the drug and liquor habit. The building stood just south of Spencers store. It was a large three-story structure, the upper floor of which was used as a public hall or opera house. In the course of three years time both doctors had sold their interest in the building and though the upper floor continued to be used as a hall, the lower part was rented for office and living rooms. The building was destroyed by fire in 1903.

### Cemetery Association

In May, 1894 M. C. Spangler purchased a five-acre tract of land one-half mile north of town where he started the Williamsfield Cemetery. He continued to own it until about 1923 when he sold it to Churchill Construction Co. of Bushnell, who in the fall of 1924 built a fine mausoleum there containing 100 crypts. Three years later a local Cemetery Association was formed, and the burial ground became local property. Since that time many improvements have been made.

### Village Incorporated

Williamsfield became an incorporated village in 1896. J. M. Baird was first Mayor, serving as president of the Town Board twelve years—a considerably longer time than any other one man. Other citizens who have served as Mayor of our Village are B. D. Baird, H. J. Bennett, E. E. German, John B. Gale, J. D. Doubet, O. J. Oberholtzer, E. S. Willard, F. O. Gustafson, L. L. Nelson, Wm. Cation, John Mackie, and at present, P. R. Kimler.

### New Addition

For years, efforts were made to secure additional building lots either north or south of town but the owners of the land were unwilling to sell at any price. Finally

ephone Company, enabling us to talk to all parts of the country and that line was later taken over by the Bell Company. This summer has seen the village lines rebuilt in cable system and the merging of all the small local companies into the Williamsfield Telephone Co. Mrs. Mildred Coe is our efficient telephone operator.

### First Automobile

Our village has the distinction of being the first town of anywhere near its size in the surrounding country to have an automobile. In September, 1902, C. W. Elliott became the owner and possessor of a new, red, one-seated, one-cylinder, high-wheeled Glide auto. This car not only was the object of the envy and pride of our other citizens, who hastened to the windows to view its passing or gathered about it when parked, but also caused our neighboring towns to sit up and take notice as is shown by the following article which appeared a few weeks later in the Brimfield News: "Ho! all ye little cross roads towns like Brimfield, Elmwood, Farmington and Princeville. Take off your hat and go way back and double up while Williamsfield's brand new automobile goes sailing by. For Williamsfield, that much talked of, lied about and otherwise maligned Spoon river hamlet, has an auto, a road-devil, a regular up-to-date automobile and is the first town between Peoria and Galesburg to attain that dignity."

The succeeding year N. N. Tucker followed Mr. Elliott's worthy venture, and even went him one better, purchasing a two-seated, two-cylinder Glide. The event of the auto made it advisable for the village law-makers to fix adequate traffic regulations, as is told by the following item: "At the last meeting of the Village Board, the speed limit allowed automobiles within the village limits was fixed at 4 miles per hour."

### Disastrous Fires

Besides those already mentioned, Williamsfield has suffered a number of bad fires, two of which proved to be very disastrous. The first of these was in September, 1897 when twenty buildings in the business district were burned. While this proved a great calamity to the business men themselves, the village emerged from the catastrophe with better business houses, better equipped to serve the public.

Twenty-three years later, in September, 1920 were another twenty or more of the business houses burned, and as before, out of the ruins there soon emerged a new



sidewalks, graveled streets and a macadamized street through the business district and extending two blocks east. We are located on State Route 180 which a mile south of the village limits joins U. S. Route 150. A new subway under the Santa Fe has just been completed.

#### Banking Business Established

A bank building was completed January, 1890, L. J. Baird being President and David Cation Cashier of the new institution which was named the Bank of Williamsfield. In 1908 it was incorporated as First State Bank Company with the same officers. About that time Mr. Baird moved to Iowa and Mr. Cation became President, serving in that capacity until March 1931 when the bank was closed, at the beginning of the national financial depression which ended the career of many banks.

#### Churches

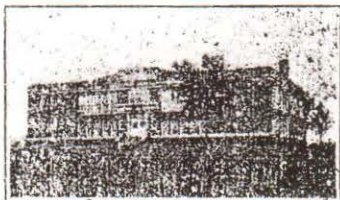
The M. E. church was erected in 1890 by Van Buren Bros. of Victoria during the pastorate of Rev. Gimson of Victoria. Since that time the church has had a resident minister. A parsonage was built in 1894 and the church was remodeled and enlarged the next year.

The St. James church was built in 1891 under the pastorate of Rev. Father Shannon of Brimfield and has been supplied from Brimfield since with the exception of ten years when it was supplied from Elmwood.

#### School System

Up to the year 1900 there was as yet no school building in Williamsfield and classes continued to be held in the small schoolhouse which stood on the corner just west of the N. N. Tucker residence. A building was erected in town that year and school opened in 1891 with Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Momeny as teachers. This first building was later moved to the east end of town and converted into a dwelling house, now occupied by Mrs. Ida Fogelson.

In September of 1901 the school building was arranged to accommodate a class of High School students taking a three-year course. The first annual commencement of W. H. S. was held May 13, 1908, the members of the graduating class being Harriett Doubet, Joye Carrigan, Mable Tucker, Ona Shaffer and M. C. Welsh. Later a fourth year was added to the High School course and in May 1916 it was organized as the Williamsfield Community High School, District 181, which covers a territory extending over a part of five townships.



After a time the Grade building, having to accommodate so many stu-

dent summer when the village was without a band until 1936 when the Saturday evening concerts gave place to free moving pictures sponsored by the local merchants.

Also during the summer months the merchants sponsor a soft ball team, the games being played on a high school campus.

#### National Institute Erected

In 1892 Dr. J. A. Morton and Dr. Vesper Shaffer erected a National Institute to effect a cure for the drug and liquor habit. The building stood just south of Spencers store. It was a large three-story structure, the upper floor of which was used as a public hall or opera house. In the course of three years time both doctors had sold their interest in the building and though the upper floor continued to be used as a hall, the lower part was rented for office and living rooms. The building was destroyed by fire in 1903.

#### Cemetery Association

In May, 1894 M. C. Spangler purchased a five-acre tract of land one-half mile north of town where he started the Williamsfield Cemetery. He continued to own it until about 1923 when he sold it to Churchill Construction Co. of Bushnell, who in the fall of 1924 built a fine mausoleum there containing 100 crypts. Three years later a local Cemetery Association was formed, and the burial ground became local property. Since that time many improvements have been made.

#### Village Incorporated

Williamsfield became an incorporated village in 1896. J. M. Baird was first Mayor, serving as president of the Town Board twelve years—a considerably longer time than any other one man. Other citizens who have served as Mayor of our Village are B. D. Baird, H. J. Bennett, E. E. German, John B. Gale, J. D. Doubet, O. J. Oberholtzer, E. S. Willard, F. O. Gustafson, L. L. Nelson, Wm. Cation, John Mackie, and at present, P. R. Kimler.

#### New Addition

For years, efforts were made to secure additional building lots either north or south of town but the owners of the land were unwilling to sell at any price. Finally however, in 1916 a forty-acre tract just north was bought from James Lambley by the Walton & Taylor firm of Kentucky. This was platted into town lots, streets and alleys and sold at auction on December 13. A \$5 prize offered the person suggesting the most appropriate name for the new addition was won by Mrs. Ona Hendricks who gave the name of Parkview Addition to the new part of town. Previous to this time the company had made the Village Board an offer for a park site but the offer was refused and plans for the long wished for, much talked about park failed to materialize.

#### Lighting Facilities

At first the town was dimly lighted with a few oil street lamps. In 1898 these were replaced with gasoline lights and a number of

near its size in the surrounding country to have an automobile. In September, 1902, C. W. Elliott became the owner and possessor of a new, red, one-seated, one-cylinder, high-wheeled Glide auto. This car not only was the object of the envy and pride of our other citizens who hastened to the windows to view its passing or gathered about it when parked, but also caused our neighboring towns to sit up and take notice as is shown by the following article which appeared a few weeks later in the Brimfield News: "Ho! all ye little cross roads towns like Brimfield, Elmwood Farmington and Princeville. Take off your hat and go way back and double up while Williamsfield's brand new automobile goes sailing by. For Williamsfield, that much talked of, lied about and otherwise maligned Spoon river hamlet, has an auto, a road-devil, a regular up-to-date automobile and is the first town between Peoria and Galesburg to attain that dignity."

The succeeding year N. N. Tucker followed Mr. Elliott's worthy venture, and even went him one better, purchasing a two-seated, two-cylinder Glide. The event of the auto made it advisable for the village law-makers to fix adequate traffic regulations, as is told by the following item: "At the last meeting of the Village Board, the speed limit allowed automobiles within the village limits was fixed at 4 miles per hour."

#### Disastrous Fires

Besides those already mentioned Williamsfield has suffered a number of bad fires, two of which proved to be very disastrous. The first of these was in September, 1897 when twenty buildings in the business district were burned. While this proved a great calamity to the business men themselves, the village emerged from the catastrophe with better business houses, better equipped to serve the public.

Twenty-three years later, in September, 1920 were another twenty or more of the business houses burned, and as before, out of the ruins there soon emerged a new business district. These new buildings are mostly of brick and such as would do credit to any town.

Just before the first of the above mentioned fires, the town had purchased a fire engine, a 16-horsepower Howe, which unfortunately was destroyed in the first building to burn. After the fire this engine was replaced with a 24-horsepower Howe. In 1921 a motor power Waterous fire engine mounted on a Ford chassis, was added to our fire fighting apparatus and the two are housed in a new brick engine house.

#### Grain Elevators

This has always been and still is a center for the shipping of grain and livestock. Two elevators were built when the town was new and for a short time were operated separately but since then both have been under one management. The



## Signs of Christmas



*It's Christmas the year around where these pictures were taken: Christmas, Fla.; Bethlehem, Pa.; Nazareth, Pa., and Santa Claus, Ind. Each year thousands of Christmas cards are forwarded to postoffices at these communities for stamp cancellation.*

## Grade School Basketball Schedule

November 21	Altona	Williamsfield
December 1	Yates City	Williamsfield
December 13	Maquon	Williamsfield
December 20	Maquon	Maquon
January 4	Victoria	Williamsfield
January 9	Altona	Altona
January 19	Wyoming	Wyoming
January 30	Yates City	Yates City
February 7	Victoria	Victoria
February 14	Wyoming	Williamsfield
February 5 to 10	Lightweight County Tournament	
February 12 to 17	Heavyweight County Tournament	

## High School

ized in June, 1924 and an Auxiliary as started.

We also have an active Royal Neighbor Lodge and to this organization is due the credit for our public rest room.

### Home Culture Club

Another organization, and one which has been of considerable service to the community, putting into practice its motto: "To Make Our Town a Better Place in Which to Live," is the Home Culture Club, organized in September 1912 at a committee meeting held at the Town Hall in connection with a Knox County Farmers Institute with Mrs. G. M. Rice chosen as President. The first official meeting was held at Mrs. Rice's home on October 16 of that year. In 1914 the club was federated.

Not only has the Home Culture Club been of social benefit but through its activities have been brought about some great civic improvements. It was entirely through the efforts of the club that the Park site was secured in 1923. That fall the ground was leveled and shrubbery planted. Later, a fine concrete band stand was erected making our City Park one of which any town might be justly proud. Upon completion of the new Grade school building the Home Culture Club furnished the much-needed curtains for the stage in the auditorium. Still another project for which the club deserves credit, is our Public Library, started in February, 1937 and sponsored by that organization until in October of this year when the Library became a WPA project and was moved from rooms in the John C. Kneer home to the Town Hall where with the cooperation of the American Legion and Auxiliary and other public spirited citizens has been provided a well-equipped library and reading room.

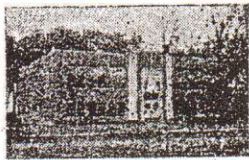
### Happy Hollow Lake

During the summer of 1938 due to continued efforts on the part of a group of public spirited citizens of Williamsfield and nearby towns, was purchased a long-coveted 150-acre tract of land along the old Santa Fe right-of way west of town for a proposed lake and club grounds. An organization has been incorporated under the name of Happy Hollow Lake Association. Many improvements have already been made there, the greatest being the completion of spillways for two lakes, a small one which is already filling and one much larger which will be stocked with fish and will afford a beach and cottage sites.

City Waterworks



Neal Henry, Principal—Sociology.  
 Shaw Terwilliger—Agriculture.  
 Lois Robinson—History and Latin.  
 Helen Clark—Commercial.  
 J. H. Geyer—Science and Band.  
 L. H. Wick—Mathematics, Physics  
 and Coach.  
 Mary Louise Wilson—English and  
 Dramatics.  
 Jane Saddler—Home Economics.  
 Inez Ellsberry—English and Music.



Lambley by the Walton & Taylor firm of Kentucky. This was platted into town lots, streets and alleys and sold at auction on December 13. A \$5 prize offered the person suggesting the most appropriate name for the new addition was won by Mrs. Ona Hendricks who gave the name of Parkview Addition to the new part of town. Previous to this time the company had made the Village Board an offer for a park site but the offer was refused and plans for the long wished for, much talked about park failed to materialize.

At first the town was dimly lighted with a few oil street lamps. In 1898 these were replaced with gasoline lights and a number of business houses installed gasoline lighting systems. In 1912 an electric light plant was built with E. J. LeHew manager, later owner, and furnished light for the Village from dusk until 11 o'clock each night until in 1920 Waibel Electric Co. of Elmwood built a high power line from Elmwood here and 24-hour electric service was realized. This line was later taken over by Suburban Utilities Co. of Dunlap who built a booster plant here in Fall of 1935. On September 15, 1938 the power line came into the possession of the Central Illinois Light Co. and the booster plant building, no longer required as such, was converted into an office and sales room for A. G. Friedrichs, Assistant Manager.

Rural mail delivery out of Williamsfield was established in 1902 with H. H. Caldwell, Carrier. In 1903 a second route was started but the two were combined in August, 1931 and the entire territory served by C. T. Robinson, assisted during the winter months, by James Murdock.

In 1901 a telephone line was built into Williamsfield from the north and the first telephones installed in May. A line also entered town from the east that year. Soon the Victoria trunk line was built, then the one to Dahinda, all of these being owned and controlled by local companies. About this time a company of local stockholders built a toll line to Galesburg, connecting with the Bell Tel-

This has always been and still is a center for the shipping of grain and livestock. Two elevators were built when the town was new and for a short time were operated separately but since then both have been under one management. The Farmers Co-operative Assn. took over the business in 1921 and so the older of the two elevators was torn down and replaced by a feed warehouse. In 1936 the remaining structure was replaced with one entirely new. About ten years ago a feed mill was installed at the Elevator. A complete line of L. C. implements is handled by the company, in charge of George H. Nam. George Besore is general manager of the Association.

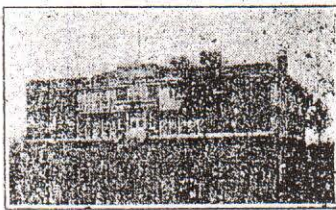
A Livestock Shipping Association was organized in 1919 and several years was of great benefit to the farmers of the community as a stock marketing medium but a few years ago ceased to function so much of the stock being hauled by truck to Galesburg, Peoria and Chicago Markets.

In the early Fall of 1903 a Livestock Show was held, the big feature of the day being a parade and judging of horses. A large crowd assembled, the Williamsfield Band furnished music, and altogether it was quite a gala affair and proved to be the beginning of an annual celebration for Williamsfield. The next and succeeding years it was called a Horse Show until 1919 it was renamed Homecoming, and the Horse Show feature was dropped. In 1925 the local American Legion Post took charge of the day's celebration making it one of the most successful in history. A Homecoming Association has since been formed and each year officers are elected to take charge of the event.

Many lodges have been quite  
tive at various times during the  
history of the village. The C  
Fellows, the Rebeckas, the Ea  
ern Star, the Mystic Workers, the  
Knights of Pythias and the M  
ern Woodmen of America all ha  
had organizations here, and the t  
last named taking the lead.  
American Legion Post was org

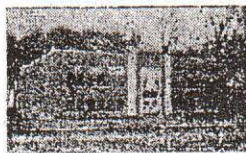


M. C. Welsh. Later a fourth year was added to the High School course and in May 1916 it was organized as the Williamsfield Community High School, District 181, which covers a territory extending over a part of five townships.



After a time the Grade building, having to accommodate so many students, became too crowded so in 1921 a handsome new high school was erected in the new addition in the north part of town. This was, however, very unfortunately destroyed by fire in August of 1923, but the community, showing a wonderful spirit of pluck and courage, immediately started the work of reconstruction and the following spring saw the High School again established in a well equipped modern building. In 1925 W.C.H.S. became a fully accredited High School. At the beginning of the fall term in 1934 a new school bus was put into operation to transport pupils from outlying districts and later a second bus was added. Our teaching staff is now composed of:

Neal Henry, Principal—Sociology.  
Shaw Terwilliger—Agriculture.  
Lois Robinson—History and Latin.  
Helen Clark—Commercial.  
J. H. Geyer—Science and Band.  
L. H. Wick—Mathematics, Physics and Coach.  
Mary Louise Wilson—English and Dramatics.  
Jane Saddler—Home Economics.  
Inez Ellsberry—English and Music.



The old Grade school building, with a few alterations, continued to supply the needs of the pupils of Dist. 80 until March 7, 1934 when it burned to the ground. Plans were immediately made for a new building which was begun early in June of the same year and by October 1, the pupils and teachers were proudly established in their new quarters. The present faculty members are:  
Evelyn Hurlbutt—1st & 2nd grades.  
Joye Carrigan—3rd & 4th.  
Mrs. Winnie Smith—5th & 6th.  
Paul Huston, Principal—7th & 8th.  
Inez Ellsberry—Music.

ted into town lots, streets and alleys and sold at auction on December 13. A \$5 prize offered the person suggesting the most appropriate name for the new addition was won by Mrs. Ona Hendricks who gave the name of Park-view Addition to the new part of town. Previous to this time the company had made the Village Board an offer for a park site but the offer was refused and plans for the long wished for, much talked about park failed to materialize.

#### Lighting Facilities

At first the town was dimly lighted with a few oil street lamps. In 1898 these were replaced with gasoline lights and a number of business houses installed gasoline lighting systems. In 1912 an electric light plant was built with E. J. LeHew manager, later owner, and furnished light for the Village from dusk until 11 o'clock each night until in 1920 Waibel Electric Co. of Elmwood built a high power line from Elmwood here and 24-hour electric service was realized. This line was later taken over by Suburban Utilities Co. of Dunlap who built a booster plant here in Fall of 1935. On September 15, 1938 the power line came into the possession of the Central Illinois Light Co. and the booster plant building, no longer required as such, was converted into an office and sales room for A. G. Friedrichs, Assistant Manager.

#### Rural Delivery

Rural mail delivery out of Williamsfield was established in 1902 with H. H. Caldwell, Carrier. In 1903 a second route was started but the two were combined in August, 1931 and the entire territory served by C. T. Robinson, assisted during the winter months, by James Murdock.

In observance of National Air Mail week, on May 19, 1938 at 3 p. m. was made an Air Mail Flight from the local Post-Office. This was dispatched from W. H. Machin's field south of town in a plane piloted by George Machin, under the auspices of Mrs. Gertrude Daub, Mrs. Jananne McDonnell and Mrs. Alma Woolsey. Postmasters, respectively of Williamsfield, Lausa and Dahinda.

#### Telephones

In 1901 a telephone line was built into Williamsfield from the north and the first telephones installed in May. A line also entered town from the east that year. Soon the Victoria trunk line was built, then the one to Dahinda, all of these being owned and controlled by local companies. About this time a company of local stockholders built a toll line to Galesburg, connecting with the Bell Tel-

chased a fire engine, a 16-man power Howe, which unfortunately was destroyed in the first building to burn. After the fire this engine was replaced with a 24-man power Howe. In 1921 a motor power Waterous fire engine mounted on a Ford chassis, was added to our fire fighting apparatus and the two are housed in a new brick engine house.

#### Grain Elevators

This has always been and still is a center for the shipping of grain and livestock. Two elevators were built when the town was new and for a short time were operated separately but since then both have been under one management. The Farmers Co-operative Assn. took over the business in 1921 and soon the older of the two elevators was torn down and replaced by a feed ware house. In 1936 the remaining structure was replaced with one entirely new. About ten years ago a feed mill was installed at the Elevator. A complete line of I. H. C. implements is handled by the company, in charge of George Hannam. George Besore is general manager of the Association.

#### Livestock Shipping Assn.

A Livestock Shipping Association was organized in 1919 and for several years was of great benefit to the farmers of the community as a stock marketing medium but a few years ago ceased to function, so much of the stock being hauled by truck to Galesburg, Peoria or Chicago Markets.

#### Annual Celebrations

In the early Fall of 1903 a Livestock Show was held, the big feature of the day being a parade and judging of horses. A large crowd assembled, the Williamsfield Band furnished music, and altogether it was quite a gala affair and proved to be the beginning of an annual celebration for Williamsfield. The next and succeeding years it was called a Horse Show until 1919 it was renamed a Homecoming, and the Horse Show feature was dropped. In 1925 the local American Legion Post took charge of the day's celebration, making it one of the most successful in history. A Homecoming Association has since been formed and each year officers are elected to take charge of the event.

#### Lodges

Many lodges have been quite active at various times during the history of the village. The Odd Fellows, the Rebeckas, the Eastern Star, the Mystic Workers, the Knights of Pythias and the Modern Woodmen of America all have had organizations here, the two last named taking the lead. An American Legion Post was organ-



Town Hall in connection with a Knox County Farmers Institute with Mrs. G. M. Rice chosen as President. The first official meeting was held at Mrs. Rice's home on October 16 of that year. In 1914 the club was federated.

Not only has the Home Culture Club been of social benefit but through its activities have been brought about some great civic improvements. It was entirely through the efforts of the club that the Park site was secured in 1923. That fall the ground was leveled and shrubbery planted. Later, a fine concrete band stand was erected making our City Park one of which any town might be justly proud. Upon completion of the new Grade school building the Home Culture Club furnished the much-needed curtains for the stage in the auditorium. Still another project for which the club deserves credit, is our Public Library, started in February, 1937 and sponsored by that organization until in October of this year when the Library became a WPA project and was moved from rooms in the John C. Kneer home to the Town Hall where with the cooperation of the American Legion and Auxiliary and other public spirited citizens has been provided a well-equipped library and reading room.

#### Happy Hollow Lake

During the summer of 1938 due to continued efforts on the part of a group of public spirited citizens of Williamsfield and nearby towns, was purchased a long-coveted 150-acre tract of land along the old Santa Fe right-of way west of town for a proposed lake and club grounds. An organization has been incorporated under the name of Happy Hollow Lake Association. Many improvements have already been made there, the greatest being the completion of spillways for two lakes, a small one which is already filling and one much larger which will be stocked with fish and will afford a beach and cottage sites.

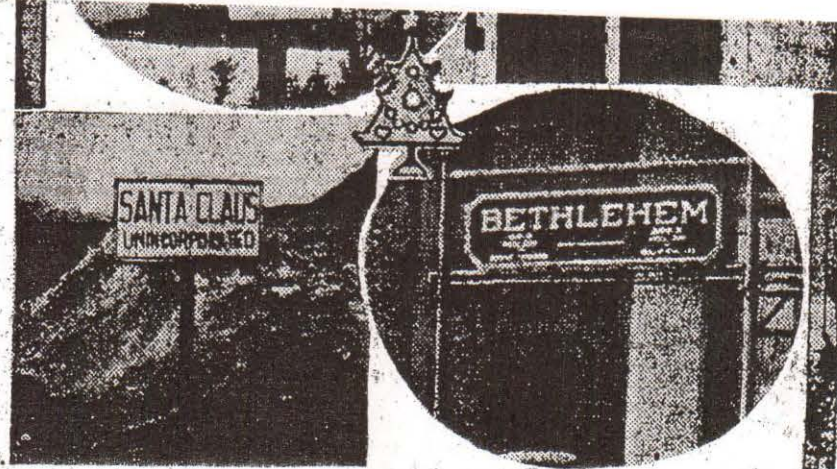
#### City Waterworks

The latest civic improvement—the one which will yet require several weeks to complete—is a city waterworks system. The well and pump house are located just south of Spoon River bridge on Route 180. The watermain is being laid and the tower remains to be built.

#### Professional and Business People

Among our present professional and business people are listed the following:

Rev. T. L. Kneebone—Methodist Minister  
E. J. Oberholtzer—Physician and Surgeon  
N. H. Davison—Dentist  
F. L. Regan—Funeral Home  
Parker & Woolsey—General Store  
G. M. Rice—General Store  
W. L. Kell—Groceries  
C. E. Spencer—Groceries  
P. E. Cadwell—Food Shop



*It's Christmas the year around where these pictures were taken: Christmas, Fla.; Bethlehem, Pa.; Nazareth, Pa., and Santa Claus, Ind. Each year thousands of Christmas cards are forwarded to postoffices at these communities for stamp cancellation.*

## Grade School Basketball Schedule

November 21	Altona	Williamsfield
December 1	Yates City	Williamsfield
December 13	Maquon	Williamsfield
December 20	Maquon	Maquon
January 4	Victoria	Williamsfield
January 9	Altona	Altona
January 19	Wyoming	Wyoming
January 30	Yates City	Yates City
February 7	Victoria	Victoria
February 14	Wyoming	Williamsfield
February 5 to 10	Lightweight County Tournament	
February 12 to 17	Heavyweight County Tournament	

## High School Basketball Schedule

November 27	Rio	Williamsfield
November 29	LaFayette	LaFayette
December 5	Maquon	Williamsfield
December 15	Oneida	Williamsfield
December 22	Altona	Altona
January 5	Victoria	Victoria
January 12	Yates City	Williamsfield
January 16	LaFayette	Williamsfield
January 19	Gilson	Gilson
January 24-25-26	County Tournament	
January 30	Yates City	Yates City
February 2	Altona	Williamsfield
February 5	Maquon	Maquon
February 9	Oneida	Oneida
February 13	Victoria	Williamsfield
February 16	Elmwood	Elmwood



weeks to complete—is a city water-works system. The well and pump house are located just south of Spoon River bridge on Route 180. The watermains are being laid and the tower remains to be built.

#### Professional and Business People

Among our present professional and business people are listed the following:

Rev. T. L. Kneebone—Methodist Minister

E. J. Oberholtzer—Physician and Surgeon

N. H. Davison—Dentist

F. L. Regan—Funeral Home

Parker & Woolsey—General Store

J. M. Rice—General Store

W. L. Kell—Groceries

J. E. Spencer—Groceries

P. E. Cadwell—Food Shop

N. K. Switzer—Lumber Yard

Jas. Fairburn—Blacksmith Shop

C. L. Huber—Cream Station

F. G. Weaver—Feed Store

Gerald Weaver—Hatchery

Moon & Carrigan—Ford Sales & Service

Stodgel & Tucker—Chevrolet Garage.

Mrs. Alice Jones—Restaurant

Mrs. Alma Farquer—Hotel

Clarissa Montgomery—Beauty Shop

Wallace Walters—Radio Shop

Walter Farquer—Barber

E. E. Oberholtzer—Barber

Jas. A. Nelson—Hardware

E. L. Norman—Auctioneer

R. H. Farwell—Auctioneer

Wm. Kane—Shoe Repair Shop

John C. Kneer—Wood Repair Shop

E. W. Farquer—Night Watchman

Jack Kneer—Garage

David Tucker—Tavern

Herbert Tucker—Shell Service Station

Russell Nelson—Knox Co. Oil Agt.

Anton Larsen—Knox County Oil Station

S. A. Tucker—Mobil Gas Station

Royce Sargeant—Standard Oil Agt.

E. D. Mackie, Sr.—Standard Oil Station

O. B. Gray and J. A. Campbell—Veterinarians

Chas. A. Caldwell, M. S. Cadwell and E. D. Mackie, Jr.—Contractors and Builders

Virgil Dudley—Mason

\* \* \*

Much past history we have quoted  
Happenings from day to day

Of the growth of our town

And the folk of our town

Since they built the Santa Fe.

And it brings us to the present

To the village we know and see

And we vote that our town,

Tho of no great renown,

Is a very good place to be.

Future history is now in the making  
We, the pen of the annals wield

As we do for our town

And we boost for our town—

The future Williamsfield.

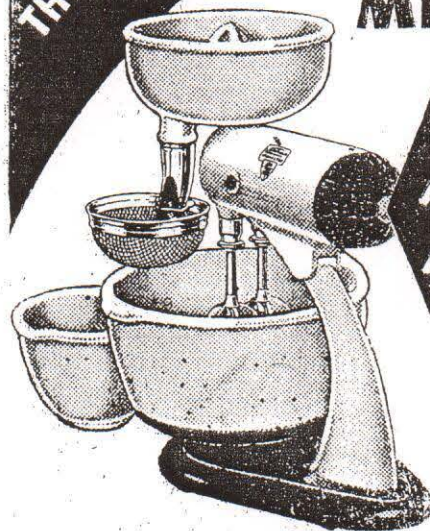
## Basketball Schedule

November 27	Rio	Williamsfield
November 29	LaFayette	LaFayette
December 5	Maquon	Williamsfield
December 15	Oneida	Williamsfield
December 22	Altona	Altona
January 5	Victoria	Victoria
January 12	Yates City	Williamsfield
January 16	LaFayette	Williamsfield
January 19	Gilson	Gilson
January 24-25-26	County Tournament	
January 30	Yates City	Yates City
February 2	Altona	Williamsfield
February 5	Maquon	Maquon
February 9	Oneida	Oneida
February 13	Victoria	Williamsfield
February 16	Elmwood	Elmwood
February 20	Gilson	Williamsfield



THE CORRECT MIXING SPEED AT  
YOUR FINGERTIPS!

WITH THE NEW  
**Sunbeam**  
**MIXMASTER**



*Automatic*  
*Mix-Finder*

Here's another reason  
why Mixmaster should  
be in your kitchen,  
just as it is in nearly  
two million other  
homes today.

Now, you simply dial the exclusive Mix-Finder to the correct speed for any mixing job you have at hand. You have the ten every-day needs right at your fingertips—easy-to-see, easy-to-set and scientifically right. No guess-work. Come in and see the new Mixmaster today. Complete with juicer, only \$23.75.

## Central Illinois Light Company

Phone 43, Elmwood

55 on 58 Williamsfield