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THE HISTORY OF MINIER,  
ILLINOIS

(1967)









# THE HISTORY OF MINIER, ILLINOIS



Centennial - Sept. 2, 3, 4, 1967

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## FOREWORD

Of several possible approaches, we have used the institutions, businesses, and organizations, which have been a part of our town as the central theme for this brief history of Minier. Only a part of our research material could be used because of limited space. Since omissions were necessary, we have tried to select the most representative, pertinent, and interesting information. We have tried to document most of the material used. Even so, there may be errors, some of which may be chargeable to the fallibility of memory.

We are, deeply indebted to our senior citizens: Wm. Munder, W. G. Beal, C. E. Tanner, P. R. Murphy, I. J. Cooper, J. B. Graff, and Mrs. Wm. Freitag for their assistance. The brief historical notes of B. R. Bachman, Mrs. R. C. Carihfield, and Frank Hine were very valuable. Other important sources have been the files of the Minier News, the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary History of St. John's Church, R. C. Carihfield's Band History, B. C. Allensworth's 1905 History of Tazewell County, and the minutes of the village clerks, Township clerks, School Trustees, and clerks of the Cemetery Board. Postmaster Wilson obtained the list of Minier postmasters from the U. S. Postal Department. The pictures used are largely from the C. H. Buehrig collection.

The biography of George Minier was written by Rev. Jack Thompson, and the history of the Christian Church by Ruth Warsaw. The cover was designed by Fred Kurth, and the Centennial seal by Mrs. Judy Buttell.

E. J. Graber, Editor

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Other committees and committee members will be added as necessity requires; but these will come after we have gone to press.



## George W. Minier

George Washington Minier was born in Ulster Township, Bradford County, Pa., October 8, 1813. He was a son of John and Rachel Minier. His father was of German decent and his mother was of English parentage. Both of his grandfathers were soldiers in the American Revolution.

After attending the schools of the rural district in which his father lived, he entered an academy at Athens. He struggled hard for his education, working for his board at a hotel, and walking several miles each day to attend classes.

At the age of nineteen, he obtained a teaching position at Chemung, New York. In these early years he also developed his ability to speak in public.

He came to Illinois in 1837, and settled in Bureau County, where he resided for ten years. While there, he surveyed the state road from Peru to Knoxville and taught school.

January 1, 1839, he was married to Miss Sarah Ireland, who died November 22, 1897. To this union six sons and six daughters were born. In 1839 he surveyed a part of the Illinois River bottom, and ascertained the altitude of Starved Rock.

In the spring of 1841, he was immersed by Dr. P. G. Young in or near Magnolia, Ill., and the next year he was ordained as a minister of the Christian Church.

In 1847 he came to Bloomington and opened a high school for boys and girls, and the following year opened a female college. He was a prominent educator, and one of his greatest ed-

ucational achievements was the introduction of the sciences into the public school curriculum. In 1850, because of his failing health, he sold his school house, and with a land warrant secured one hundred and sixty acres of government land three and one half miles north of Minier. The cost of the land was eighty-three cents per acre. In connection with farming, he served as president of the State Horticultural Society, vice president of the State Agricultural Society, and as president of the North American Forestry Association.

Father Minier, as he was affectionately known, used his fortunate personality, varied talents, and benevolent mind to serve his generation well.

Father Minier was conscientiously opposed to slavery, and during the time of enlisting soldiers for the Civil War made many eloquent speeches in favor of volunteering. He was also a member of the Peace Congress of the United States, and an earnest advocate of its principles; also of all temperance work. He joined the Prohibition party, and was the first man ever nominated in the United States for Congress on the Prohibition ticket.

In October of 1867, he platted the village which bears his name. He evidently received this real estate in payment for services rendered to the Illinois Central Railroad.

Great numbers were converted under Father Minier's preaching. When the National Christian Convention met at Dallas, Texas in 1895, he was

introduced as the oldest living minister of the Christian Church in the United States. He was widely known as an expounder of religious truth, a man of high morals, who wooed and won, enlisted and directed by the sheer power of the truth and his love of mankind. His acquaintances included Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas.

Shortly before his death, February 18, 1902, Father Minier dictated a letter to his friends, in which he said, "We have done what we can to make the world wiser, better and more beautiful, we should be satisfied."

Mr. W. H. Smith wrote a fitting tribute to Father Minier:

The Recording Angel alone can tell how much central Illinois is indebted to him for its marvelous social, educational, and religious elevation. His name is as ointment poured forth, and his memory a priceless treasure to those who knew him best. The highest eulogy one could pronounce for him would be to recite the simple story of his life's deeds.

Contributed by  
Rev. W. Jack Thompson

## TAZEWELL COUNTY

The immediate predecessors of the white settlers in this area were the Kickapoo and Pottawatomie Indians. When the white settlers came, the Kickapoos, under the leadership of Machina (Great Turtle), chief of a tribe which camped near Mackinaw were disposed to annoy the settlers. There was no open hostility, and the Kickapoos left the country with the final exodus of the Indians in 1832.

The earliest settlers within the present limits of the county came from Ohio, and were followed later by large numbers of Kentuckians and Virginians. The first settler in the county was Nathan Dillon, who came here from Ohio in 1823 and located near Dillon Creek. On the twenty-second of January, 1829, Tazewell County was organized by an act of the legislature, and its boundaries specifically defined. When Logan, DeWitt, Mason, and Woodford counties were organized, territory was taken off Tazewell county to form them. Before the present boundaries were fixed, this county at different periods was a part of St. Claire, Madison, Edwards, Bond, Fayette, Peoria, and Sangamon Counties, respectively. The county was named after John Tazewell, who lived in this area in the 1820's. He later moved

to Virginia and there became quite active in politics, serving as U. S. Senator and Governor.

## LITTLE MACKINAW TOWNSHIP

The exact date of the first settlement in Little Mackinaw Township is not exactly determined, but it is known that Samuel and John Stout were the first settlers. Shortly thereafter, there came Thomas F. Railsback, Buchanan Haverhill, Alexander B. Davis, and James Allensworth. They were soon followed by John Q. Adams, Solomon Summers, Jesse and William Samuels, and the Herndon family, all of whom settled at or near the head of the Little Mackinaw timber.

The Township was organized April 2, 1850 at the old Little Mackinaw school house near the present site of the Gaines Cemetery. Thirty-three names appear on the poll book. B. F. Orendorf was elected supervisor and thirty cents on the hundred dollars was levied for township purposes. An ordinance was adopted requiring a board fence to retain hogs and sheep; but this was declared "null and void" at a subsequent meeting. In the early days an Overseer of Highways and a Pound Master were appointed in each school district.

On July 1, 1869, the Township voted 98 to 83 to subscribe \$30,000 to the capital stock of the Peoria, Atlanta, and Decatur Railroad (now the Pennsylvania), which was to run through the Township. The Board of Auditors of the Township refused to audit the claims of the bondholders when the interest coupons on the bonds began to fall due, and the result was that the Township was sued in the United States Supreme Court at Springfield. As the judgement was in favor of the Railroad, the Township voted on May 16, 1879 to issue \$49,000 bonds to pay the railroad debt. The original \$30,000 indebtedness had been so increased by interest, interest on interest, and court costs so that the Township found itself owing about double the original debt. Asa Hicks, who was then supervisor went to Peoria with \$49,000 in cash and succeeded in effecting a satisfactory settlement. The last of these bonds was paid off in July of 1902, and a Township Harvest Festival was held in Minier on August 20, 1902 to celebrate the event. A bondburning ceremony was planned as one of the big events of the celebration but the last batch of bonds did not arrive from Springfield in time. However, when they did arrive the Township officials met and privately touched them off with due ceremony.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MINIER on its 100th ANNIVERSARY

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The following have served as Supervisors of the Township: 1850, B. F. Orendorf; 1851-52, A. B. Davis; 1853-54, G. W. C. Orendorf; 1855-61, J. L. Summers; 1862, J. S. Briggs; 1863, Zerah Munsell; 1864-67, John S. Briggs; 1868-70, N. P. Williams; 1871, Wm. Bennett; 1872-79, Asa Hicks; 1880, G. O. Kilby; 1881-82, Asa Hicks; 1883, Wm. Lilly; 1884-86, B. N. Ewing; 1887-89, Wm. Bennett; 1890-Feb. 1893 (resigned), Henry Imig; Feb. 1893-Apr. 1901 (died in office, B. N. Ewing; 1901-09, Chris Haning; 1910-19, B. F. Quigg; 1920-23, Gus Imig; 1924-29, Jake Haning, 1930-36, Fred Waldmier; 1937-40, V. R. Snider; 1941-48, Wm. Garrett; 1949-56, J. A. Henderson; 1957-66, Hugh Brown (resigned); and 1966- , Delmar Haning.

Data from the township assessors books of 1870: Population 1257; dwellings 233; farms 85; horses 544; sheep 440; mules 25; swine 1530. And in 1884: horses 980; cattle 1382; mules 72; sheep 551; swine 2109; carriages and wagons 319; sewing and knitting machines 170; piano fortes 12; organs 27.

## MINIER

The Village of Minier is located in Section 22 of Little Mackinaw Township. It was laid out October 18, 1867 by George W. Minier, T. B. Blackstone of Chicago, the President of the C & A, and Charles Boyer of Lockport. An election was held on the 17th of July, 1872 to vote for or against incorporation. Fifty votes were cast for incorporation and none against. The board of trustees at this time was composed of D. Saxbury, N. P. Williams, R. J. Mitchell, Louis Spelts, and J. Schaaf. On August 12, 1872, N. R. Baker, E. E. Howard, R. J. Mitchell, J. Schaaf, D. Saxbury, and N. P. Williams were elected trustees of the newly incorporated village, and G. W. Ferree, clerk. These men were duly sworn into office by Henry Freitag, Justice of Peace. E. E. Howard was elected president of the Board on August 15, 1872.

The site of Minier was a low flat prairie, and there were ponds of water within the present site of the village that scarcely went dry during the entire season. Proper drainage was one of the first big problems of the village. Open ditches were dug in the early days to carry the water away. In the summer of 1880, a special tax of

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Wayne K. Urish  
Green Valley, Illinois

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Rte 5, East Peoria, Illinois

Oscar L. Hazelman  
Tremont, Illinois

Donald L. Kilby  
Mackinaw, Illinois

Ralph Muller  
Washington, Illinois

Robert M. Orwig  
Delavan, Illinois

J. Stephen Ryan  
Delavan, Illinois

Oscar G. Weyhrich  
1519 South 7th Street  
Pekin, Illinois

\$2,500 was levied to lay 6100 feet of six, seven, and eight-inch drain tile down Fourth Avenue (now Minier Avenue) to the Sugar Creek, south of town. This was the first tax ever levied for village improvement. This system did not prove to be very satisfactory, so in the summer of 1884, four hundred feet of eighteen-inch tile was laid in the open ditch south of town along the T. H. & P. Railroad (now the Pennsylvania). The project was not completed until 1890. The tile, which ended near the T. H. & P. depot was continued east on North Railroad Street (now Park) to Fourth Avenue (Minier) and thence south to the hollow at South Railroad Street (Central). Thus the unsightly ditch along North Railroad Street was filled. In 1918 a twenty-two inch drain tile was laid down Minier Avenue extending from the C & A Railroad to the Sugar Creek. This tile was continued north on Minier Avenue to Olive Street in 1919. Catch basins and other tile have been installed in the village to insure adequate drainage.

### STREET LIGHTS

In May 1879, ten street lamps were placed on the principle corners of the business district by

the "City Fathers". These were gasoline lamps. The one in front of Stroud's store exploded; but luckily no one was injured. It was then decided to use kerosene in them. A short time afterwards these lamps were sold at public auction. Other kerosene lamps were installed; but they evidently were not kept up properly nor were they very satisfactory. In 1899 the Minier Electric Light Company was organized. A power plant was erected and equipped and electric streetlights were turned on for the first time in the fall of that year to the strains of the combined Mackinaw, Hopedale, and Minier Brass Bands. The early street lights were suspended over the middle of the main street intersections. These lights were replaced in 1912 in the business district by about twenty-five large tungsten lamps on pole brackets at either side of the street. Main Street became the "Great White Way" in 1920, when the pole bracket lights were in turn replaced with one-light metal standards surmounted by a globe. Pleased as we were with these, progress in the field of electric lighting continued and eventually incandescent lamps gave way to vapor and fluorescent lamps. In 1960 the installation of mercury vapor street light was begun, and now all of our streets are lighted by them.



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**to**

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## SIDEWALKS

The first sidewalks in Minier were board walks. During the rainy season, these walks would often float on the puddles of water. South Railroad Street (Central) was particularly low and the walks on it between Main and Pennsylvania were elevated. At the crossing of the present Central and Minier streets, a wood bridge was built over the crossing. In the late 1890's board walks were being replaced by brick and stone walks in the business district, and in the early 1900's concrete walks became "the thing". B. C. Allensworth's brief historical sketch of Minier published in 1905 comments on the "thousands of feet of cement walks in the village".

## STREETS

The early streets, of course, were dirt streets which were kept in shape with graders and drags. They were a sea of impassable mud during the wet seasons, and a constant source of dust during the dry summer months. Streets were oiled for the first time in 1913, and this process was continued each summer until streets were black-topped beginning in 1949. Street oil made the streets a slippery mess when it was first applied; but it did soak in after a time and it did keep mud and dust down. Through the years, low places in the streets have been filled, adequate drainage has been provided, and black-topping has been completed. We now have streets of which we can be proud.

When the village was laid out, Fourth (Minier) Avenue was the only outlet. All of the other streets were dead-end streets. In 1882, the village purchased land from John Theis and R. P. Decker to open Fifth (Main) Avenue south to what is now called the Stringtown Road, and in 1889 arrangements were made with C. W. Livesay to open Third (Maple) Avenue north to the east and west road. In the horse and buggy days, hitch racks lined the uptown streets and several pumps and water troughs were provided to accomodate callers who came to town. When the town board in the fall of 1895 ordered that hitchracks be moved from Fifth (Main) Avenue to side streets, considerable objection was raised. The original town was bounded by St. Louis Street on the south and LaSalle Street on the north. As the town grew a new street north of LaSalle was opened and for a number of years was known as the "Unnamed" Street. In October of 1927, this street

was officially named "Olive Street" in memory of Miss Olive Railsback who had lived on the street and also was very active in community affairs during her life time. In the spring of 1961 some of the streets were renamed and houses were numbered. Originally the north and south streets were numbered First through Seventh beginning at the eastern boundry and were designated as Avenues. The names of these Avenues beginning with First Avenue on the east have been renamed Eastern, School, Maple, Minier, Main, Pennsylvania, and Western, respectively. The names of the east and west streets were left unchanged except for South Railroad Street renamed Central, and North Railroad Street renamed Park.



Mr. & Mrs. L. B. Cornelius, first citizens

## THE VILLAGE GROWS

Shortly after the village was laid out, the sale of lots began. A train carrying prospective buyers was backed from Bloomington to Minier as the C & A Railroad had not been completed west. Lots were purchased by people who lived in the surrounding area and by people from the east, principally Ohio and Pennsylvania. Soon business houses and dwellings were being built and the village grew quite rapidly. The Wm. Johnson dwelling was the only house in the town plot and



In 1875 Henry Peine and Wm. Buehrig ran a general store where the Koffee Kup is now located. (Dry Goods, Glassware, Groceries, Salt \$2.00/barrel).

In 1881, they bought our Stroud (present) building; remodeled, cut door in east side, closed the rear window, and took down the unsightly balcony in the rear of the store. Store was known as "Old Reliable".

Wm. Buehrig sold out to George Peine in 1882.

Built west addition in 1899.

1903, H. A. Peine retired after 31 years of business in Minier. His interest in Company was assumed by his son, W. W. Peine.

Jonathan Burwell had a frame store, on this site, which burned in the big fire of 1870. Brick building built by I. M. Stroud.

# H. A. PEINE & Co.

## MINIER



Benjamin R. Bochmon, first citizen



J. M. Edmiston, first citizen

stood where Earl Kinzinger now lives on the south east corner of Minier Avenue and Chicago Street. We have been told that the lots on which this dwelling stood were sold by mistake. When the error was discovered, the village officials offered to return them to Mr. Johnson; but he refused to accept them and moved the buildings and even the orchard to his property just south of the village limits. The first building was Smith Brothers warehouse for grain, built on the C & A. Among the first stores was J. Lucas's General Store and S. S. Allen's furniture. The latter located just west of the present site on Minier Lanes. The first dwelling of any importance was that of Mrs. Hannah Cooper. A friendly rivalry existed between J. M. Edmiston, Lynn Cornelius, and B. R. Bachman as to who was the first resident of Minier. Each of them was among the first and each had legitimate claim, but absolute priority would be difficult to settle.

Horses were the first means of transportation and many homes had barns next to the street or alley. When the automobile came into use, many of these barns were transformed into garages or torn down. Most home owners in the village built fences around their property to restrain trespassing live stock which often ran at large. Village ordinances were enacted to regulate this problem and a pound master was employed to impound unclaimed strays. In the spring of 1883, the village trustees issued an order that "The law regarding to cows running at large between the hours of 8 P.M. and 5 A.M. will be enforced".

In the early 1880's a number of German emigrants came to this community to join relatives and friends who were established here. Many of them purchased land and established permanent homes in and about Minier. Minier and the surrounding area became largely a German settlement, and the industry of these people contributed a great deal to the development of the farm land around us and to the village itself. We can justly be proud of our heritage, for from the very beginning we have had dedicated community leaders who took great pride in Minier and saw to it that progress was continually being made to make our town a better place in which to live. Pioneers invariably ran into conditions that were less than ideal. Nature was quite often cruel; but that was anticipated. Land had to be cleared and often drained before it could be cultivated or put to other use. The right-of-way of the C & A Railroad dictated the site of the village of Minier. The fact that the land was low, flat prairie was a minor consideration. Lots and farms were purchased, homes and businesses built, churches and schools established, and trees were set out along the streets for shade and beauty. The early farmers realized that when the land was properly drained, they would have some of the finest farm land in the world. The villagers were not satisfied with conditions as they were found; but knew they could be improved. So they set to work and through the years their dreams have become a reality.



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The population of the village in 1870 was 320; in 1880, 611; in 1890, 666; in 1900, 746; in 1910, 690; in 1920, 789; in 1930, 725; in 1940, 737; in 1950, 780; and in 1960 it was 847.

## CALABOOSE

In the early days, the responsibility for maintaining law and order was left pretty much in the hands of the local authorities. The village constable and Justice of the Peace, while not schooled in criminology or law did a pretty good job by using common "horse sense". Squire Tompkins was the first Justice of the Peace. Most of the arrests that were made were for drunkenness or disorderly conduct and the offenders were often locked in the village calaboose until they "cooled off". However, in the winter of 1870 Henry Hensley was arrested for murdering his wife. The trial was held in the room over Kind's saloon which stood on the present site of the entrance to Gene Cooper's new market. Attorney Roberts of Pekin and Adlai Stevenson of Bloomington were attorneys for the state. We have been unable to find any records giving the verdict of the trial.

The old village calaboose or "cooler" was replaced by a more palacious one in 1879 and stood on the east end of the lots now occupied by the lumber yard. This building was moved near the present site of the water tower in 1894. In the fall of 1904, it was replaced by a new brick jail which was torn down in 1955. The present jail is in a back room of the new village hall.

## VILLAGE ADMINISTRATION

Originally the village board of trustees consisted of six members elected annually. The board elected one of its own members to serve as president. The village clerk has always been elected by the voters in the spring election. Beginning in 1887, just three new members of the board of trustees were elected each year to serve for a two-year term. In recent years the term of office has been extended to six years. This is the case for all village officers. Since 1888 the village president has been elected by popular vote.

In the early days there was no town hall as such. Board meetings were held in the office of the Justice of Peace or in the office of one of the board members. A town hall was built in the fall of 1891 near the site of the present one, which was erected in 1955.

The question of the village granting saloon licenses was an issue in village elections. In the April election of 1886, the anti-license candidates were elected for the first time and saloons were closed. The following year, the three new members elected to the board were license candidates, splitting the board three wet and three dry, which in effect kept the village dry as no decisions could be reached on the issuance of liquor licenses. In 1888, the anti-license people did not have a ticket. The three board members elected were license and the village was again wet. Little Mackinaw Township voted anti-license in 1908 and the township remained dry until after the repeal of the eighteenth amendment.

In the April election of 1894, Ben Poe and B. N. Ewing received the same number of votes for village president. Poe offered to withdraw; but would not cut or draw cards in the customary manner for the office. The board of trustees was then faced with the problem of resolving the situation and choosing the president. It was decided that slips of paper numbered from one to twenty-four would be placed in a hat and that a representative from each candidate would draw numbers from the hat alternately. The candidate whose twelve numbers totaled highest would be declared the winner. C. Willems represented Poe and J. F. Davis represented Ewing. On the first draw both had a total of 150. On the second draw Ewing had a total of 154 and Poe 146. B. N. Ewing was declared elected.

In 1882 an ordinance regarding the official village seal was adopted: "That a seal in circular form, with the words 'Village of Minier' on the outside circle, and in the interior and center of said circle the figure of a locomotive shall be the seal of the village of Minier". A village zoning ordinance was put into effect April 21, 1965.

## VILLAGE PRESIDENTS

1872 -	E. E. Howard
1873 - 77	J. M. Edmiston
1878 -	Wm. Buehrig
1879 -	J. M. Edmiston
1880 -	Wm. Buehrig



# C-MART

**Cooper's Variety Store**

**Minier, Ill.**

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1881 - 82	John F. Quigg
1883 - 85	Wm. Buchrig
1886 -	J. M. Hart
1887 -	J. F. Beal
1888 -	D. Strouse
1889 - 92	John F. Quigg
1893 -	C. W. Murphy
1894 -	B. N. Ewing
1895 - 96	Wm. Buchrig
1897 - 98	John F. Quigg
1899 - 1900	G. M. Blackburn
1901 -	John F. Quigg
1902 -	G. M. Blackburn (resigned Nov. 3)
1903 - 04	David Bradley
1905 - 08	S. S. Tanner
1909 - 12	Wm. Buchrig
1913 - 18	C. W. Bird (resigned Oct. 1918)
1919 - 22	E. C. Imig
1923 - 30	C. W. Bird
1931 - 47	W. H. Smith (resigned Nov. 1947) D. Bartlemay filled out term.
1949 - 57	Lee Waldmier
1958 - 64	George Schertz
1965 -	Robert Deems

## VILLAGE CLERKS

1872 -	G. W. Ferree
1877 -	Carl Lay (resigned Oct. 1877 suc- ceeded by J. M. Hart)
1878 -	B. R. Bachman
1879 -	B. F. Norton
1880 -	Maurice Baker (died in office)
1881 - 84	Floyd Baker
1885 -	W. P. Parker
1886 -	J. Schaaf
1887 -	D. Strouse
1888 -	Wm. Boston
1889 - 91	C. L. Moore
1892 - 93	C. J. Theis
1894 -	J. L. Howell
1895 - 96	C. J. Theis
1897 - 98	G. W. Smith
1899 - 1901	B. F. Quigg
1902 -	U. G. Hilpert
1903 -	W. O. Decker
1904 -	B. F. Quigg
1905 - 06	Roy Kinsey
1907 -	Dick Lower
1908 - 09	R. J. Ling
1910 - 19	Henry Blume
1920 - 30	C. J. Theis

1931 - 34	R. C. Theis
1935 - 36	Henry Blume
1937 - 51	R. C. Theis
1951 - 56	Karl Graff
1957 - 63	Wilbur Smith
1964 -	Faye Tackett

## CHURCHES

### LITTLE MACKINAW CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The early pioneers established churches and schools shortly after they were settled in their new homes. The early buildings were used for schools and community meeting houses during the week and for church services on Sunday. The first church in this township was the Little Mackinaw Christian Church which was organized in the home of Thomas F. Railsback (about one-half mile north of the present Gaines Cemetery) in 1833. We quote from the records of the old church book, "At a meeting of the following disciples at Bro. Railsback's on Little Mackinaw, Taz. Co., Ill., on Saturday preceding the fourth Lord's Day in May, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-three, for the purpose of organizing in a church capacity. Elder John Oatman and William Miller being present with the brethren and sisters, agreed to take the Scriptures of Divine Truth as their only rule of faith and practice". The following are the named charter members: Thos. F. Railsback, Louisa V. Railsback, Martin and Ann Judy, Elijah and Mariah Howell, and Alexander B. Davis.

The first public house of worship was the old school house located at about the present site of the Gaines Cemetery. After the Four Corner school house was erected in about 1853, the congregation which had grown and prospered worshipped in this new school building. The first church building was built in about 1863 on the Township line in section 3, north of Minier at a cost of approximately \$2,000. This church was known as the Little Mackinaw Christian Church. Elder George Minier preached the first sermon in it. This building was the place of worship for all members of the Christian denomination until the 1870's, and was the parent church of the Mackinaw, Concord, and Minier Christian Churches. When these churches were established, memberships from the Little Mackinaw Church were transferred to them; but there were occasional services at the old church until about 1900, when the con-

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Pekin Township  
Chairman of the Board

gregation was practically dissolved. In the fall of 1902 the church was sold, torn down, and carted away to Stanford by the purchaser, James Phillips.

## BROADWAY METHODIST CHURCH

The old Broadway school house, situated in the northwest corner of section 35, south of Minier about one-half mile north of the present Broadway Cemetery served as the Broadway Methodist Church as well as a school house. This building was built in the late 1850's and was also used for community gatherings. During the Civil War, it served as a recruiting station. This Methodist Church was first in the Armington-Funk's Grove circuit; but when the Minier Methodist Church was established, it became a part of the Minier Circuit. About 1874 a new Broadway school house was built about one-half mile east of the old building. The old school house was then purchased and converted into a church, which was the house of worship for the Broadway Methodist congregation until 1885 when a new church was built just north of the site of the present Broadway Cemetery. This church was sold and removed in the winter of 1911. Emil Wenderoth purchased the building, C. W. Kingdom the land, and the Sabina Church bought and removed the fixtures.

## MINIER UNION SUNDAY SCHOOL

In the fall of 1895, while carpenters were at work on R. J. Mitchell's house they found an old Sunday School Record book, which did not tell the date, but was calculated to be 1869. This Sunday School was a Union affair and was held in Ley's Hall. In the winter of 1876, after being in operation for seven years, this union Sunday school was discontinued and the Methodist and Christian each organized their own Sunday schools.

## MINIER METHODIST CHURCH

The church building was built in 1869 on Fourth Avenue (now Minier Avenue), where it now stands on property belonging to the George Minier estate. The property is to be returned to that estate in case the church discontinues. The cost of the building was about \$3,000. The congregation was formally organized in 1870 by Rev. Sam Martin, District Elder of the Jacksonville District. The choir for the occasion was composed of Mary Morris, Sally Morris, Mary Ayres, Lou Ireland,

Clara Mordock, Martha Mordock, G. W. Ferree, Ben Clarke, Ezra Howard, Harry Griffin, Tom Davis, Ben Railsback, and B. R. Bachman. Officers and original members also included T. J. Brown, Wm. Glotfelter, Wm. Morris, Jonathan Burwell, A. C. Henslee, and Wm. A. Sallee. Rev. M. Pilcher was the first minister.

In January 1876, the Union Sunday School which had been in operation since 1869 was disbanded and a Methodist Sunday School was organized with the following officers: Superintendent and chorister, G. O. Bailey; Assistant Superintendent, W. A. Arnold; Secretary, W. A. Sallee, teachers, W. Mordock, W. A. Arnold, A. Poe, Mrs. Dawson and Mrs. Henslee.

In the spring of 1882, the trustees of the church made a final settlement with T. J. Brown, W. A. Glotfelter, and Joel Decker and secured a release of all claims against the church leaving it debt free. The church was thoroughly overhauled and repaired on the inside. Services were held in the Christian Church while the work was being done. Rev. J. S. Tyron was the minister of the Stanford circuit of which Minier was a part at this time. While there was no church building in Stanford, the parsonage was in that village and services here held in the homes. A new belfry was built and the church was extensively repaired again in 1885 during the ministry of W. M. Carr. W. A. Glotfelter had charge of the work.

In 1889, the M. E. parsonage in Stanford was sold and the Hart property opposite the Minier Church was purchased for a parsonage for \$650. The Methodist congregation in Stanford was disbanded. The Minier circuit included Broadway, Ebenezer, Armington, and Minier. Rev. R. O. Roush was the first minister to live in the newly acquired property. The Armington congregation disbanded in the spring of 1906 and the church building was up for sale; but before the sale could be held the building burned in a fire that started in and leveled the Verry elevator. This church stood east of the Armington City Park.

The Ladies of the congregation organized early in the history of the Minier M. E. Church. In 1887 the organization was called the "Ladies Mite"; but in 1888 it was referred to as the Ladies Aid Society, which became the Women's Society for Christian Service in 1940, when the M. E. Church South and the Methodist Episcopal Church merged. Women were not admitted to the lay conference until 1890.

Rev. J. O. Collins organized an Epworth League for the young people of the church June 21,

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1899. The first officers were: President, Otis Decker, Secretary, Mrs. E. J. Pitrat; Treasurer, Linda Blome, and organist, Lena Peine. This organization continued until the 1920's and for a number of years, young people from the community at large were included in its membership. Rev. Collins passed away suddenly in the parsonage here in August of 1899.

The severe wind storm of June 11, 1902 blew the belfry off the church headlong to the ground and the interior was badly damaged by water. The trustees immediately organized into a building committee for the purpose of remodeling the Church building. Reverend Frank Black was chosen chairman, and H. A. Peine, treasurer. Solicitation of funds was immediately begun. The church was remodeled to appear as it is today. The entrance was moved from the center to the south-west corner of the building. The hallway and side rooms at the entrance of the church were removed. The ceiling of the auditorium was lowered slightly and concaved. The old wall paper then on the church walls is still intact on the part of the walls that extend into the attic. An 18 x 36 foot Sunday School room was added to the east end of the church, separated from the main auditorium by large doors which can be raised. A ladies society and storage room occupied the second story of the Sunday School room. This room was partitioned and plastered in 1909. The pulpit was moved to the north-east corner of the auditorium. A new carpet was provided by the Ladies Aid and electric lighting fixtures were installed. During these repairs, services were held in the lower room of the Masonic Hall. The church was rededicated Sunday, February 22, 1903. J. F. Beal, who for a number of years was superintendent of the Sunday School gave a brief history of the church, recalling some personal memories of the preachers who had served the church.

A movement to raise the church, put in a basement, and install a furnace was originated in the summer of 1910; but this plan was deemed inexpedient, and instead the church was painted, a new jacket heating stove installed, and the choir loft enlarged by an addition built to the north to provide room for a pipe organ purchased from the Methodist Church in Mason City.

The Ebenezer church withdrew from the Minier circuit in 1912 and organized a new circuit including Ebenezer, Mount Hope, and Funk's Grove. For the first time in the history of the Minier Methodist Church it was not a part of a circuit; but operated independently.

In 1912-13 plans for the building of a new sanctuary were made. Differences of opinion concerning this project arose which were not resolved and the new building was not built. The walls of the church were frescoed in 1924 and church was held in the Opera House while the improvement was being made. Beginning in 1919, when the church no longer employed a resident minister the parsonage was rented, and finally sold in June of 1946.

Recently new fixtures have been installed, a new carpet laid in the auditorium, a public address system put into use, and the old jacket stove removed and replaced by an automatic gas heater. The old pipe organ, for many years lying idle was cleaned and repaired by Martin Barton of San Jose and put back into use. Rev. W. E. Wainright is the present minister, and it is through his leadership that much of the modern improvement has been accomplished.

## ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The St. John's United Church of Christ of Minier was organized on May 29, 1871. It was one year before, in May 1870, that a group of Evangelical people in the vicinity of Minier met, and in their meeting decided to organize an Evangelical congregation. All preliminary plans were entrusted to a committee which met on June 1, 1870. This committee made the plans and formulated the Constitution and its By-Laws which were later adopted by the congregation. This body of Christians decided to build two churches, one in Minier and the other west of the village at the north-west corner of the intersection of Stringtown Road and the first crossroad; this location was on the original Ernest Schroeder farm. It was further resolved that all who wished to become members of the congregation be assessed \$50, of which \$40 should be used for the erection of a building in the village and \$10 toward building in the country. A small school house served as a church and meeting place on the site in the country, and a frame building was constructed in the village on the site of the present property. These buildings served both as schools and churches. The school house in the country was sold at auction to Ernest Schroeder for \$90 in the fall of 1884.

Thus the congregation was born on May 29, 1871, and was known as "The German Evangelical



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St. John's Church of Minier and Surrounding Country, Tazewell County, State of Illinois". The first Board of Trustees elected to serve two years consisted of: Fritz Schroeder, John Hallstein, Valentine Myers, Henry Freitag, and Fritz Imig, Sr. The other charter members were: Valentine Graff, Valentine Imig, Sr., Ernest Schroeder, Henry Imig, Jacob Imig, Jr., C. Wullenwaber, Simon Freitag, J. Schmidt, Christian Haning, Valentine Thomas, Peter Appenzeller, Jr., Carl Imig, and Mrs. Anna Graff. The newly organized congregation accepted Rev. C. Witte of Carlinville, Illinois as the first pastor. Although the original congregation was not affiliated with any denomination, it was decided to adopt the hymn book of the Evangelical Church Association of the West. The first officers elected in an organizational meeting of the trustees were: President, Rev. C. Witte; Vice-President, John Hallstein; Secretary, Henry Freitag, and Treasurer, Valentine Myers.

At a congregational meeting on April 27, 1906, the finance committee of the Ladies' Aid reported on the success of its subscription campaign for a new church building, and suggested that the building program proceed. Rev. F. Bosold was the pastor. The new church was completed in

the fall of 1907 at a cost of \$15,360. This amount included the art glass windows donated by individuals and the pews purchased by the Ladies' Aid. The church was dedicated free of debt December 15, 1907 at the beginning of the pastorate of Rev. Paul Bierbaum.

St. John's Church became a member of the "Evangelical Synod of North America" on June 14, 1908; and the original constitution of 1871 was revised. Also in 1908 the first English Bible class was taught in the Sunday School. The present pipe organ was dedicated on July 17, 1910, and the present parsonage on September 29, 1912. An amendment to the constitution was adopted in 1913 granting women members the privilege of voting in congregational meetings. At a special meeting in April 1918, it was decided to discontinue the regular German services, but to have a special German service on the last Sunday of the month and retain one German Sunday School class. All German services were discontinued in 1933, but the German Sunday School class continued until a few years later. In 1934 through the union of the two denominations, the local church became known as "St. John's Evangelical and Reformed Church."

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In 1957 the Evangelical and Reformed Church united with the Congregational and Christian Churches to form the United Church of Christ. St. John's Church adopted a completely rewritten Constitution and By-Laws for the congregation in January of 1966, at which time the official name of the congregation was changed from "German Evangelical St. John's Church of Minier and Surrounding Territory, Tazewell County, Illinois" to "St. John's United Church of Christ"

During the first sixty-two years of its history, St. John's Church was served by eighteen pastors, the average pastorate being just over three years. This pattern was broken with the arrival of the Rev. William A. Mueller in 1933. Mr. Mueller labored as pastor and active community worker for thirty-one years, until he left the position as pastor in 1964. He remains a respected, active citizen of Minier. Reverend Dan VanderPloeg succeeded Rev. Mueller and is the present pastor of the Church.

The Ladies' Aid of St. John's Church, originally known as Der Frauen-Verein, was organized during the pastorate of Rev. Peter Ott on July 17, 1886. In 1922 the Evangelical Women's Union of the Bloomington Region was formed, and the local organization began paying dues to this regional group in 1923. In June, 1930, a new constitution was adopted and the Ladies' Aid became known as the Women's Union of St. John's Church. Following the merger of the Evangelical Synod and the Reformed Church, the women's organizations of these two denominations also united. On December 4, 1941, an organizational meeting was held in St. John's Church at which time the women of the church became members of the Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. Since there were two organizations in the local church belonging to the newly created Guild, the Women's union voted February 1943, to adopt a new constitution and to restore its original name, thus becoming the Ladies' Aid of the Women's Guild.

The Queen Esther Circle had its origin in the Young Ladies' Sunday School class taught by Mrs. O. V. Hallstein. The group met at the home of Miss Clara Fasse in February of 1919 for the purpose of organizing a Queen Esther Circle. The first officers were: President, Miss Katie Kusch; Vice-President, Miss Elsie Brennehan; Secretary, Miss Leah Graff; and Treasurer, Miss Clara Fasse. The early meetings of the Circle were devoted mainly to a study of missionary topics and to sewing for benevolent institutions.

The young people of the Church are eligible

to become members of the Youth Ministry when they enter confirmation class. The purpose of the Youth Ministry is to develop an understanding of the work of the Church, to train youth for leadership, and to offer recreational guidance.

## CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The present Minier Christian Church was erected in 1874 at the South-West corner of School and Central Streets on property which belonged to the George Minier estate. The charter members were the following: James E. and Ann P. Railsback, N. P. and Catherine Williams, Louisa Railsback, Mary Elliff, T. L. Minier, Jennie Edmiston, John Quigg, Elizabeth and Betsy Johnson, Lou Ireland, Lou McDowell, Carrie Baker, Sophia, Rodney J. and Mary Mitchell. All of these were former members of the Little Mackinaw Church. The first officers were R. J. Mitchell and J. B. Chaplin as elders; and B. N. Ewing, J. W. Chidister and L. L. Munn, deacons.

The first pastor of this church was Reverend Samuel Lowe. In 1893 the church trustees purchased the J. F. Kampf property in the rear of the church for the parsonage. The dwelling just west of the church was used for a parsonage up to this time. The old parsonage was moved to a lot in block nine on North Western Avenue, and the present parsonage was built in 1920.

The church has undergone remodeling at various times. In the spring of 1885, a fence was erected around the church yard. At the turn of the century, during the ministry of Rev. J. E. Couch, many repairs were made to the building. A new Sunday School room was added to the west side of the church. The north entrance was altered and new pews were installed.

Further remodeling was done in 1911 during the ministry of Rev. L. Hadaway. At this time the building was raised, a basement dug, and a cement foundation was laid. An addition 30' x 40' was built at the south of the building. This included a Sunday School room and balcony. A new concrete baptistry was installed also. The new sanctuary was dedicated on Sunday May 14, 1911. Extensive redecorating has maintained the beauty and comfort of the worship unit.

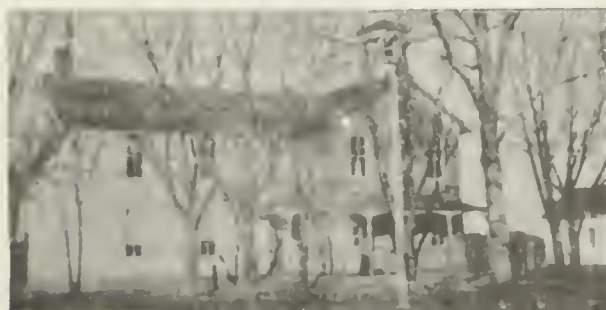
At present the Minier Christian Church has about one hundred fifty active members, who are engaged in an expanding ministry. Some of the ministers who have served this church since 1874 are the reverends: Samuel Lowe, George Minier,

D. Chase, A. Gillet, J. C. Lappin, W. Rowlinson, R. W. Alexander, N. Crabtree, H. L. Maltman, W. H. Turner, Claude Griffith, Myrtle Storm, J. Sharda, Delmar DeBault, John Mann, Carl Patton, J. Wayne Staley, and the present minister W. J. Thompson.

By (Ruth Warsaw)

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The establishment of Churches and schools was of prime importance to the early pioneers. The first school in the township was taught by Thomas F. Railsback in his home. The first school building was built in 1834 on Section 8, near the site of the present Gaines Cemetery and was taught by John Turney. The school known as the "Four Corner School" was built in 1851 and was taught by George Minier. In the early sixties there were six school districts in the township. The north half of Section 22, the present site of the village of Minier, was in District 6. The school house was north of the present village on the farm presently owned by J. Clyde Freitag. Miss Leona Boggs was the teacher in this district in 1868. The building was moved to town after Minier was settled to a site near what is now 407 N. Minier Ave. and later to its present location at 312 South Main, where it has served as a dwelling for many years. The south half of Section 22 was originally in District 2.



Left: Two-story frame, built 1877. Right with belfry: Two-room brick, built 1870. Extreme right: Old Ley Hall used for primary department.

About 1870 a two-room, two-story brick school house was built on the site of the present Elementary School building. D. B. Pittsford, who later became Tazewell County Superintendent of Schools was the teacher in 1869 and 1870 followed by J. Will White in 1871. An interesting entry appears in the minutes of the Township School Trustees meeting of April 2, 1872: "The Bounty Fund of \$351.95 was made part of the principle of the town-



FIRST GRADUATING CLASS---1887

Back row: Fred Buehrig, Homer Schaaf, Charles Railsback, Mory Johnson

Front row: Otto Allen, Lena Blackburn, Anna Cole

ship school fund. This fund represented an amount made up by the citizens of Little Mackinaw Township for the purpose of filling the quota of men required in the call for Civil War troops in 1864, when the Town of Hittle and Town of Little Mackinaw were in the same Provo District. Little Mackinaw furnished more men than was their just proportion and Hittle refunded to us in the Spring of 1871, \$325, which our supervisor loaned at 10% interest from June 1871 to April 2, 1872."

Miss Rice and Miss Ida Burrows taught the two rooms in 1875. Both rooms were filled to overflowing, so in 1876, because of the increased enrollment, a primary department was added to the school system with Miss Kate Denny as teacher. This department met in the German Church until a two-story frame west wing connected to the little brick building was completed in 1877 at a cost of about \$1300.

School enrollment continued to increase and reached 162 in 1880. During the winter of 1881, the directors decided to seat the empty upstairs room in the new frame addition and hire another teacher. Miss Lucy Kilby was engaged to teach the primary department, Miss Julia Allensworth took the second primary, Miss May Burrows the intermediate, and J. D. Stephy was the principal and taught the grammar department. A new bell was purchased and put into position in the belfry in the fall of 1881.

By the fall of 1885 an increase in the population of the village created a need for more school room. Ley's Hall, located on the south-east corner of the intersection of Fifth Avenue (Main) and Peoria Street was purchased and the primary department was moved to this building. M. B. Ransdell

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#### SCHOOL BUILT IN 1905

of Atlanta was the principal, and through his efforts a new course of study was offered and the school was graded with a limited high school course added. "After completing this course, a diploma will be awarded on passing examinations, thus saving two years of additional preparation for those who wish to enter college." During the summer of 1886, Ley's Hall was moved to a spot just east of the school building.

The First Annual Commencement of the Minier Schools was held on Friday, June 10, 1887 at the Methodist Church. Misses Mary Johnson, Lena Blackburn, Anna Cole, and Misters Fred Buehrig, Charles Railsback, Otto Allen, and Homer Schaaf were in the class. Homer Schaaf was valedictorian of the class and also has the distinction of being the first boy born in the village of Minier. At this commencement, as was true in the subsequent ones until about 1916, the graduates each read an original composition as a part of the program. Following is the program of the first commencement:

Overture, "Poet and Peasant" (Suppe)  
Prof. Daab's Orchestra  
Prayer, Rev. Powell  
Salutatory and Essay, "Superstitions"  
Mary E. Johnson

"Hark! Apollo Strikes the Lyre" (Bishop)  
Chorus  
Oration, "Ambition"  
Otto Allen  
Essay, "Sunshine and Shadows"  
Anna B. Cole  
Quartet, "Come Where the Lillies Bloom"  
(Mattie Cribfield, Nell Cole, J. W. Hart, and R. C. Cribfield)  
Oration, "The Past a Dream, the Future a Hope"  
Fred W. Buehrig  
Essay, "The Real and Ideal"  
Lena L. Blackburn  
Violin Duet, "Allegro Moderato, Andante, Allegro Molto" (Wohlfahrt)  
Freitag Bros. (Ed & Carl)  
Oratory and Valedictory, "Culture"  
Homer Schaaf  
Presentation of Diplomas,  
D. B. Pittsford, Co. Supt. of Schools  
Class Song, "The Parting"  
Benedictions,  
Rev. Niles  
Class Motto:  
"We've Launched the Boat"

Principal: J. S. Cole

In Memory of

My Grandparents: Simon and Catherine Appenzeller Freitag

My Parents: Henry V and Mary Freitag Schroeder

My Husband: Charles W. Bird

My Daughter: Mary Bird Wilder

by Ethel Schroeder Bird

In Memory of

**Robert D. Peine**

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The brick school building now used by the Elementary School was built in 1905 at a cost of about \$13,000. E. C. Imig, S. S. Tanner, and G. E. Peine were the directors. The cornerstone containing a Minier News, a history of Minier, membership rolls of various organizations, and other items was laid in a Masonic ceremony. The district number was changed from #6 to #10.

School opened October 30, 1905 in the new building with the following teachers: W. G. Beal, Principal; Miss Myrtle Dennis, Grammar; Miss Mable Gowanlock, Intermediate; Miss Zella Osborn, Second intermediate, and Mrs. Ruie Reed, Primary. There were eighteen pupils enrolled in the High School, twenty-two in the grammar room, thirty-one in the first intermediate, forty-one in the second intermediate, and thirty-two in the primary room. About this time, interscholastic teams in baseball, basket ball, and track were organized competing in a very limited schedule. In May 1906, the first Tazewell County High School oratorical and athletic meet was held in Pekin. Miss Grace Smith in essay, Miss Hazel Davis in recitation, and Homer Hallstein in the 50 and 100 yard dashes were the only entries from the Minier High School. Delavan won the meet with fifty points.

The High School was reorganized in 1909 under the principalship of Ralston Brock, and a four-year course was offered including four years of English, three years of History, two years of Latin, two years of German, one and one-half years of Algebra, one year of Plane Geometry, one year of Physics, and one-half year each of Zoology, Botany, and Physical Geography. There were twenty pupils in the High School and two teachers. Miss Adela Peine (later Mrs. Dr. Rost) taught History and Languages, and the principal Mr. Brock taught mathematics and science.

Vocal music was taught in the schools one day a week by Dorothea Lessing in the early 1900's and later by Mrs. Bessie Freitag. The community Band was taken over by the school in the early 1930's. Since then, instruction in both band and choral music have been a part of the school program. Three Underwood typewriters and other supplies for a commercial course were purchased in 1910 when M. E. Branom was the principal; but an extensive department of commerce was not added until 1921. Miss B. Tavenner (now Mrs. Jake Pleines) taught a home economics course in 1918.

The Minier Community High School District was formed in 1920, and I. D. Taubeneck was em-

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played as superintendent of the district. He was very much interested in public speaking and he proceeded to coach activities in that field. Students took great interest in this new activity, and in 1924 Minier High School had a state championship debate team. The old Lower Hall was remodeled and added to, making it a modern high school building. The High School student body moved from the old school building to the new one in January of 1923, leaving the brick school building for the exclusive use of the Elementary School with Delmar Oehler as principle. A Vocational Agriculture course was added to the High School course in 1927 with Clyde Fry as the first teacher.

Minier High School did not have a gymnasium until 1939. Basketball was played or practices were held out of doors, in Bradley Hall, in the Opera House, in the lumber yard driveway, and in the abandoned washing machine factory at various times. The team was called the Nomads. For several years, beginning in about 1923, the school board banned the playing of inter-scholastic basketball, because of the lack of facilities for home games. After the gym was built, Minier High School came up with some good teams, winning nine consecutive district championships.

The Minier, Boston, Glenwood, Broadway, and Union elementary districts voted to consolidate as the Little Mackinaw Township Grade School District in 1947. The country school houses were sold and all students in the elementary school attended the school in Minier. In 1951 a brick addition consisting of two class rooms and an all-purpose room was erected at the north of the brick building. A five-acre plot east of the city park was purchased and converted into an athletic field and playground by the High School and Elementary School Boards in 1954. These two districts were combined into a Community Unit District in 1959. Further consolidation was accomplished in 1965 when the voters of Hopedale, Armington, and Minier districts approved the formation of Trioka District #708. A more extensive consolidation including the Trioka, Danvers, Stanford, McLean, Waynesville, and Atlanta school districts was approved by the voters. This district officially came into being July 1, 1967.

## PARENT TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Principal Grover Holmes organized a Teacher-Parent Club in the fall of 1914. C. F. Hoover was

elected President and Miss Ethel Shore, Secretary-Treasurer. An official Parent Teachers Association was organized in 1926 when T. C. Hostettler was superintendent. Mrs. Fred Tollinger was the first President; Mrs. John Quigg, Vice-President; G. O. Brummett, Secretary; and Delmar Oehler, Treasurer. This organization has functioned well in the community since that time.

## F. H. A.

The girls in the Home Economics Department organized a Home Economics Club in 1941. Betty Bahan was elected President; Ruth Brenneman, Vice-President; Jacquelyn Tuchel, Secretary; Phyllis Johnson, Treasurer; and Miss Hieser, advisor. This came to be called the Attempto Home Ec. Club. In 1946, the local clubs of the state organized into a state organization called the Future Homemakers of America. The officers of the local chapter were: President, Dorothy Wullenwaber; Vice President, Darlene Barth; Secretary, Marjorie Brooks; Treasurer, Mary Young, Song Leader, Virginia Singley; and advisor, Miss Conard. The F. H. A. has become an important part of the High School Vocational Homemaking Department.

## F. F. A.

A local chapter of the Future Farmers of America was organized in conjunction with the High School Vocational Agriculture program in 1929. The first President was Wm. Kuhfuss; Vice-President, Wilbur Hallstein; Secretary-Treasurer, Ivan Hieser; and Reporter, Herman Brave. The Advisor was the agriculture instructor, Mr. Fry. This organization has a fine program for boys who expect to continue in the field of agriculture and is an important part of the High School Agriculture program.

## LIBRARY

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attach varying degrees of importance to such a statement; but in every community there are at least a few people who feel that an available collection of good books is essential to the cultural growth of the community. Adequate financing is the big problem; but the library-minded persons will find a way to realize their dreams of a good library, at least in part. As early as 1877, a meeting was held in Kind's Hall for the purpose of discussing a township library. Nothing definite came from this meeting; but in 1879, a group of about thirty-five citizens subscribed from two to five dollars each for the purpose of purchasing Harper's "Peoples Library of One Hundred Volumes", and organized as the Minier Library Association. The books were placed in Ewing & Nicolay's Drug store. Non-stockholders in the Association were permitted to purchase tickets at fifty cents each, which entitled the holder to all library privileges for three months. These books were donated to the school library in 1891. The school library was open to the public each Friday afternoon during that summer with Mrs. Ruie Reed acting as librarian.

At about this time, another Library Association was organized purchasing books from the Excelsior Co. of Chicago and housing them in the post office. The Excelsior Co. failed in 1893 and the one hundred forty volumes of the circulating library became the property of the subscribers. During the next few years the library was housed in Allen Bros. store, J. M. Hart & Son's store, C. H. Buehrig's Drug store, and finally in 1905 in the A. T. Miller store.

In May 1906, the Ladies' Athenaeum began a movement to establish a "rest and read" center. A reading-room committee composed of Miss Olive Railsback, Mrs. S. M. McLaughlin, Mrs. Ruie Reed, Mrs. P. A. Lower, and Alma Ewing was appointed. Arrangements were made with the Masonic Lodge to use one of their lower rooms to house the project. Books and money to finance the library were received by the committee. Two travelling librarians were contracted for to supplement the collection of books which were purchased or donated. Miss Olive Railsback served as librarian. The library was open to the public two days each week. Since the library could not be self sustaining, and its finances were obtained largely from donations, the Ladies' Athenaeum sponsored library benefits of all sorts to keep the project going.

In July 1941, the proposition for a Carnegie Library was brought to a vote and was voted down 268 to 216. Under this plan, the Carnegie Foundation agreed to finance the building of the building

if the community would vote a sufficient library tax to insure continued operation and maintenance. In the April election of 1929, a nine-tenths mill library tax carried 112 to 75 and the library came under the jurisdiction of the village. In the fall of the year the library was moved to rooms over H. A. Peine's store, remaining there until the spring of 1946 when the S. P. Smith building was rented. Ralph Allen Insurance Agency purchased the Smith building in 1951 and Allen fitted up a back room to house the Library. The Library is supported by a village tax and is under the supervision of a Library Board of six members, who are elected by the village voters in the spring village election for a term of six years. Mrs. Frank Hine is the chairman of the Board and has rendered faithful service to the library as librarian and board member for many years. The other members of the present board are: Mrs. Elmer Brennehan, Mrs. N. R. Peine, Mrs. C. W. Bird, Miss Odela Pleines, and Miss Geraldine Johnson. Mrs. Harold Wenderoth is the librarian.

## VILLAGE PARK

What is a village without a park? Way back in the spring of 1871, the village trustees purchased block 18 for \$210 and converted it into a park. One hundred evergreens were purchased for \$10.00 and set out on the plot. There is no evidence of these trees at the present time. Other trees were added from time to time including a Centennial Tree in 1876: an old elm about ten inches in diameter, which was planted without ceremony. Elm disease destroyed this tree before Minier reached its Centennial birthday. A new drive was built around the park in 1882. By 1898 shade trees were so abundant in the park that grass would not grow making it necessary to trim and remove others.

The G. A. R. solicited funds for a soldiers' monument to be placed in the Park and this monument was dedicated on Decoration day 1888. A bronze box containing a short history of the township and the village, churches, lodges, societies, John Hunter Post, musical organizations, fire company, list of the deceased soldiers of the township, list of contributors to the monument fund, the words, music, and singers of the dedication ode, and copies of the first and current issues of the Minier News was placed in the monument. The dedication ode was written by a local lady and set to

music by Prof. Daab. In the fall of 1897, a new base was constructed for the monument. Boulders were hauled in by members of the G. A. R. and fashioned into a new base. Concrete steps were built on the west side and an iron railing placed on top of the foundation.

The American Legion engineered the construction of a shelter house in 1946. A concrete and brick band stand replaced the old wooden stand. For the safety of school children, the streets on the north and east of the park were closed in 1954, and in 1957 the P.T.A. sponsored a project of putting new playground equipment in the city park.

Our park has been well taken care of through the years. Wind and ice storms have played havoc with it a few times; but the damage has always been repaired. It has been the scene of many glorious Fourth of July celebrations, Memorial Day programs, Homecomings, and family reunions.

## RAILROAD PARK

Permission was granted by the C & A Railroad about 1916 to lay out a park on the railroad property in the uptown area. Carloads of cinders were furnished by the railroad to be used as fill. The railroad park and flagstaff were dedicated in September 1918. In 1919, memorial trees were planted and plaques placed in memory of our First World War soldiers who did return; Harry Riddle, Howard Ewing, George Wehmeier, John Behrens, and Clyde Kind. The fountain in memory of the soldiers and sailors of Little Mackinaw Township was built under the sponsorship of the Civic Club in 1920. In 1924, the Village Board extended thanks to Wm. Munder and J. Gambrel for "their wonderful work in converting the Railroad Park

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into a beautiful landscape view".

The concrete bandstand was erected in 1929, and a plaque in memory of Paul Hohnstreiter, for a number of years the village police and killed in an automobile accident was dedicated in July 1953. Thus an unsightly mud hole and weed patch was transformed into a beautiful park through the efforts of a number of community-minded citizens. The new park was to be called Victory Park; but the name did not catch on and it is still known as the Railroad or Depot Park.

## CEMETERY

For the first fourteen years of its existence Minier did not have a village cemetery. Burials were made, for the most part in the Little Mackinaw (now Gaines) or the Minier (now Glennwood) cemeteries. In the summer of 1881 the town board decided to purchase five acres of land from John Johnson east of town for a cemetery, and a road-way leading to town, sixty feet wide from J. P. Cornelius on the south side of his farm. By December the plat of the new cemetery had been received and the sale of lots begun. A public sale

of lots to the highest bidder was conducted in May 1882. Mrs. Wm. Mordock was the first person buried in the new cemetery. After the sale of lots, her grave was moved to its present location.

Rosa Shoup circulated a paper in 1891 and raised sufficient funds to have a well dug and a pump installed in the cemetery. About the same time, a board walk was laid from the cemetery to town. Upkeep of the cemetery was a problem, because funds available for the purpose from the village were quite limited. Care of lots, for the most part was left in the hands of the owners. Quite often, considerable work had to be done so the cemetery would have a respectable appearance for Decoration Day. In the early days, the cemetery gate was kept locked except for a couple days a week. Persons who had business there with a team at other times could get the key from the sexton. A concrete walk from town to the cemetery was completed in 1914 through the efforts of the ladies of the Civic Committee. The members of this committee were: Eda Buchrig, Mrs. Herman Lowe, Augusta Naffziger, Mrs. Elmer McLaughlin, and Mrs. Rev. Theo. Bierman.

An acre of land just east of the cemetery was purchased from Miss Geraldine Johnson in 1922,

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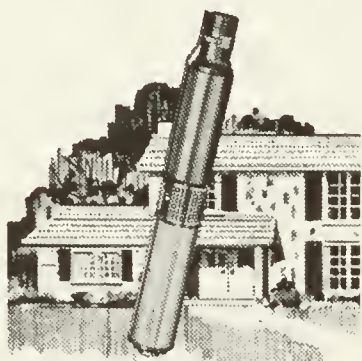
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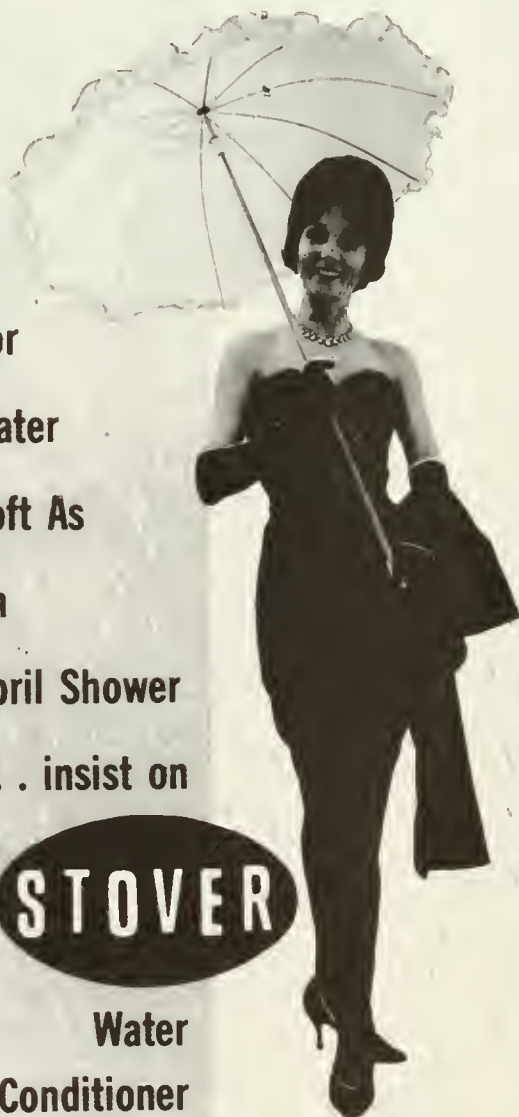
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and the cemetery was again enlarged by the purchase of an additional acre of land adjoining on the north in 1955. The Cemetery Association was incorporated in 1924 and took over the cemetery property from the village. Mrs. C. H. Buehrig was the first President; Val Graff, Vice President; Mrs. Adela Rost, Secretary; Mr. A. L. Wehmeier, Treasurer. The first trustees were: Mesdames C. H. Buehrig, S. S. Tanner, W. H. Neff, P. A. Lower, and Messrs. S. McLaughlin, Val Graff, G. E. Peine, and A. L. Wehmeier. This Association established a fund for the permanent upkeep of the cemetery. The lane to the cemetery has undergone several improvements, as have the drives within the cemetery. They are now all blacktopped and in excellent condition. A Memorial Cemetery Gate was dedicated July 8, 1927 in memory of Mrs. Adela Rost, who for many years was active as a trustee of the Board and also its Secretary. We are proud of our beautiful village cemetery and of the dedicated men and women of the Association, who are responsible for it.

Other cemeteries in the township include the Gaines Cemetery northwest of town. This was the first cemetery in the area and was first known as the Little Mackinaw Cemetery. A number of the early settlers of the township are buried here.

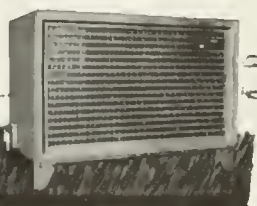
It has always been well cared for.

The cemetery established near the Little Mackinaw Church north of town was first known as the Minier Cemetery, and then the Greenwood Cemetery. In July of 1898, it was incorporated as Glennwood Cemetery because there was another Greenwood Cemetery in Illinois. The bodies of George Minier and his wife lie at rest in this burial ground. The Broadway Cemetery south of town was laid out near the site of the old Broadway Methodist Church. These cemeteries are all kept up in excellent condition since the Harry Riddle Post of the American Legion took it upon themselves a few years ago to clean up the ones in the area that needed attention.

## C & A RAILROAD

The branch of the Chicago, Alton, and St. Louis Railroad, which runs from Bloomington through Minier to Jacksonville, is the outgrowth of the old Tonica & Petersburg Railroad. This road was chartered in 1857, to run from Tonica in LaSalle County to Petersburg and Jacksonville. After building the line from Jacksonville to Pet-

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ersburg work stopped, and the project came to a standstill. Finally, the Chicago and Alton railroad offered to advance the money to complete the road, if the company would allow it to run to Bloomington, thus making it a feeder for their main line. The proposition was accepted. In 1867, when Minier was laid out and the sale of lots was held, the railroad was not completed west and a train was backed from Bloomington to Minier to carry prospective buyers. The road was finally completed in 1868.

J. M. Edmiston was the first depot agent and he relates "That I officed with Railsback & Mitchell in the grain warehouse (in the vicinity of the present site of the Sinclair gas station). As we had little room, I fixed some boards up near the roof and did what little writing there was to do up there. About train time, I took my cigar box of tickets and met the people on the ground floor". The depot was completed in December 1867. The first water tank was on Sugar Creek east of town, and Lynn Cornelius did the pumping. Later the tank was placed in town in the northeast corner of the intersection of the two railroads, a well was dug, and water pumped by a windmill. If there was not enough wind to drive the windmill, the pump had to be operated by hand. In the early 1880's, the pumping station was moved to Hopedale, and in 1884, the Minier well was filled up. Charley Theis and Charley Wullenwaber fell into the well doing a little exploring to find out how deep it was and had to be fished out. They were a little wet but not injured. Andy Sullivan was the first section foreman on the road.

In the fall of 1875, a transfer switch connecting the two railroads was built, and the C & A built a section house in the west part of town in 1876. An interlocking tower to operate the various signals and switches on the two roads was completed in 1902 at the site of the old C & A water tower. This tower remained in service until the 1920's and since has been torn down. At one time the C & A ran morning, noon, and evening passenger trains each way, but all passenger service was discontinued in April of 1960. The C & A was purchased by the Baltimore and Ohio and is now owned by the Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad.

We can only speculate as to the excitement when the first train puffed into the village with its clanging bell and tooting whistle; but it must have been a "red letter" day. Up to the advent of automobiles and trucks, the railroad station

was the busiest place in town when trains arrived, for all merchandise coming into or leaving town was carried by rail, if the distance was beyond the range of horse and wagon. The traveller going too far for horse and buggy travel went by passenger train. All the mail leaving or coming into town was carried by train. All of this held a certain fascination for a certain few villagers, who made it a point to meet every train. Perhaps this was one way of keeping track of what was going on. When the local freight pulled into the station, stacks of merchandise of all kinds was unloaded onto the depot platform to be picked up by the local drayman and hauled by horse and wagon to the merchants who had purchased it. Considerable time was spent switching, to spot carloads of lumber, coal, sand, gravel, cement, flour, potatoes, or other merchandise in the proper place for unloading. Carloads of grain were picked up at the elevators and empty cars left for filling. All of this has changed now. But few trains run on either road and local freight is hauled by truck. When we recall the busy days of the railroad here, Charley Moore with his good story and big laugh comes to mind. Charley was agent here for some forty years. Our present agent, I. J. Cooper is no novice in the business either.

## ILLINOIS MIDLAND RAILROAD

The Peoria, Atlanta, and Decatur Railroad was built through Minier in 1874. Soon after, it consolidated with the Paris and Decatur Railroad and became known as the Illinois Midland. In 1887, it was sold under foreclosure and became the Terre Haute and Peoria Railroad. It was leased to the Terre Haute and Indianapolis Company in 1892, and became a part of the Vandalia system. At present, it is a part of the Pennsylvania System.

J. M. Edmiston was the first depot agent on the I. M. and was replaced on the C & A by E. F. Norton. This gives him the distinction of having been the first agent on both the roads passing through Minier. John Theis was foreman on the I. M. for ten years beginning in 1875. The I. M. Depot was built in 1877. Two express and mail trains and two freights, which also carried passengers in a car at the end of the train began operation in 1875. The evening train from Peoria was one of the combination trains, and was often call-

ed the "whiskey" train because of its cargo. In 1931 the railroad closed its office here. Passenger service was discontinued in 1933 and the depot torn down in 1962.

### INTERURBAN

The Illinois Traction System (McKinley Line) built an electric line passing about half way between Minier and Hopedale in 1908. The station located on the Stringtown road was named Mindale. Passenger service was excellent, for trains ran about every hour, but the ride was a rather swaying, bumpy one in comparison with steam train rides. Grain elevators were built every few miles along the line to facilitate the moving of grain and to give the farmers a handy shipping point for their products. Change in methods of transportation have taken their toll on this enterprise. Trollies and road beds were removed a few years ago on some branches; but diesel freights are still operated on the Peoria-Decatur branch. The Mindale Station was torn down last year.

### BUS SERVICE

After railroad passenger service became practically non-existent, the Illini Bus Line ran bus service from Bloomington to Peoria through Minier. This service operated from 1948 until it was discontinued because of lack of patronage in 1955. Modern improved public roads and the automobile have made public passenger service unprofitable.

### POSTAL SERVICE

In 1866, a post office was established on Broadway, which was on a post route between Mackinaw and Atlanta. The office was presided over by Samuel Buckley, who made frequent trips to Minier with a pocket full of letters he would distribute. The Armington-Broadway route was under contract at the time by Joel Decker for one dollar per trip, who sublet it to Miss Clara Mordock, who later became Mrs. B. R. Bachman. The Broadway post office was in the home of Samuel Buckley located where Howard Brenneman now

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and  
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lives. The name of the post office was changed to Minier on November 26, 1867; but probably remained in the Buckley home until the appointment of S. S. Allen on March 16, 1868. Allen ran a store at that time in a building which stood on what is now W. Central Street just west of the present site of Minier Lanes, and the post office was run in connection with the store. S. S. Allen continued as postmaster until the appointment of Dr. Elbert Young, May 9, 1871. Young ran a drug store in Schroeder's brick building located on the corner where Paul Peine's Apartment building now stands.

Ewing and Arnold purchased the drug business from E. S. Young in 1874, and operated the store in the same location. B. N. Ewing was appointed postmaster for the first time February 12, 1874. Later he purchased property near the site of the present post office and the drug store and post office were moved to that location. B. N. Ewing continued as postmaster until the election of Grover Cleveland for president. B. R. Backman was appointed November 12, 1885, and the post office was moved to his store in the north part of the business block near the present location of Cooper's new market. The Republican party won the National election at the next election, and B. N. Ewing was reappointed postmaster May 14, 1889. At this time the Ewing drug store was located in the building now occupied by Dr. Lainvee. Cleveland became President of the United States for a second term in 1893, and Jacob F. Davis received the appointment as Minier's postmaster on May 10th of that year. The post office was moved from Ewing's Drug Store to a frame building just west of the site of the Farmers State Bank. Hal Davis was the first deputy for his father. B. N. Ewing was appointed postmaster for the third time, May 6, 1897 after the Republicans had won the National election. At this time the Ewing drug store was in his new building, now Cooper's C-Mart.

In the fall of 1900, rural free mail service was provided. Rural Route #1, south of town was put into service in September with W. I. Dickson as carrier. The first trip on Route #2, north of town was made by W. B. Hine in November. The mail was carried in a horse-drawn mail cart if the roads were passable for such a vehicle, and at other times on horseback. Sometimes it would be necessary to cover part of the route on foot. These two routes were consolidated in the early 1930's with Floyd Strayer as the carrier.

B. N. Ewing died April 26, 1901, and his daughter, Miss Alma Ewing was appointed to fin-

ish his term. Minier's next postmaster was C. E. Tanner, appointed June 22, 1905. The office was moved to the building now occupied by Runion's Barber Shop. Mr. Tanner resigned and J. F. Davis was again appointed January 17, 1916. William H. Lower received the appointment December 4, 1922 and Katherine Dickson December 14, 1927. The post office was moved to its present location in the old Minier State Bank Building in 1927. C. E. Tanner again served as postmaster from August 15, 1932 to May 22, 1933, when Miss Hazel Davis was appointed. After Miss Davis' retirement in 1960, Bill F. Brown was postmaster from May 31, 1960 until the appointment of the present postmaster, Bernard C. Wilson.

The story of the postal service in Minier would not be complete without mentioning Bully (Otto) Glaser. Bully carted the mail to and from the depot for many years in a push cart, and dropped dead of a heart attack while on the job July 14, 1954.

## WATER WORKS

In the early days of the village, water consumption per individual was much less than it is today, and each household had its own supply from a well and a cistern. In a few cases, a windmill did the pumping; but in most cases, hand pumps were used to raise the water from the well. In 1882, N. P. Williams had completed a system of water works at his residence on South Railroad Street (now Central) in the house now occupied by the McReynolds Funeral Home. A Bird windmill and pump was erected to raise the water to a tank holding about thirty barrels, from which it was conveyed to all parts of the premises. Hydrants were distributed about the yard, for the purpose of watering the lawn and garden during drought, while pipes conveyed the water into the house for use. A creamer, through which cold water constantly circulated, afforded a receptacle for milk, butter, etc., much superior to a refrigerator, and less trouble and expense. A churn attachment to the windmill did away with the laborious process of churning by hand.

By 1891, the need for a village water system to provide a sufficient water supply and adequate pressure for fire protection was felt, and the village trustees made provisions for such. A water tower was constructed on the site of the present one. A wood tank was mounted on wood piling with a stairway extending to the top. A gilt ball-

# The Centennial Schedule

## Saturday, September 2

6:30 AM	Sunrise Salute - Celebration Officially Begins
9:30 AM	Flag Raising Ceremony - Railroad Park
10:00 AM	Pilgrimage to George Minier Farm Wreath Laying Ceremony at Minier Grave
12:30 PM	Tractor Pulling Contest
2:00 PM	Memorial Service Salute to Pioneers and Service Men
3:00 PM	Pony League Baseball Game
7:00 PM	Crowning of Queen Beard Judging Contest - Dress Contest
9:00 PM – 12:00	Teen-Age Dance

## Sunday, September 3

10:30 AM	Worship - Minier Churches
3:00 PM	GIGANTIC PARADE Floats, Bands, Celebrities Awards and Introductions following parade in School Park Antique Auto Display following Parade
7:00 PM	Amateur Talent Contest
8:30 PM	Historical Pageant

## Monday, September 4

10:00 AM	Children's Contests
2:00 PM	Professional Variety Show Featuring the WHITSENTIDE SINGERS
7:00 PM	Talent Contest Winners, plus the Cherry Drifting Country Boys
8:30 PM	Historical Pageant GIANT FIREWORKS DISPLAY AFTER CLOSE OF PAGEANT

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on a pole atop the tank towered about one hundred feet in the air. Water mains were laid north as far as Peoria Street and south on Fifth Avenue to Chicago Street, also west down the alley next to Buehrig Brothers grocery store (now the Koffee Kup Kafe) to get fire plugs in the rear of the row of wooden buildings on South Railroad Street (Central St.). Water was supplied from the Flour Mill well and pumping done by the milling company's boilers. The contract for this project was awarded to Fairbanks, Morse & Co. and included the tower, tank, foundation, mains, plugs, and hydrants.

It was soon evident that the Mill's well would not provide a sufficient supply of water, so in November 1891, Marion Kinsey of Hopedale was hired to sink a six-inch well one hundred forty feet deep near the new city hall which was then in process of construction. A brick pumping house was added at the rear of the city hall to house the new fourteen horse power boiler and the pumping machinery. This served until the fall of 1897, when a new ten horse power gasoline engine was purchased to operate the pumps. Water mains were periodically being laid to extend the village water system to the residence areas of the village, and by 1904 it reached nearly every house in town.

The old water tank was torn down in 1904 and a new one built. A three-hundred barrel temporary tank was set up at the rear of Buehrig's Store and connected to the mains to supply water during the construction of the new tank. A new two-thousand barrel tank, surmounting an eighty-foot steel structure replaced the old water tower. Its height was one hundred seven feet to the peak of the roof. A new eight-inch well was sunk and water meters were installed for some users. Another eight-inch well, one hundred forty-two feet deep was drilled in 1915. An electric turbine, with a capacity of one hundred gallons per minute was installed in 1930. Another eight-inch well was put down in 1931, and in 1947, a new tank was installed on the old steel structure. A proposition for the improvement of the water system was submitted to the voters in 1948. This proposition carried and new water mains were laid in 1949. The tank was extensively repaired and a new metal dome put on it in 1962.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT AND BIG FIRES

On February 18, 1870, when the village was

less than three years old, a fire destroyed a number of frame business houses in the up-town business block. The fire started in John Barrett's tailor Shop over Railsback & Brigg's Store (the present site of the Koffee Kup Kafe), presumably from a pressing iron from which hot charcoal coals had not been removed when the business closed for the night. A bucket brigade could not cope with the flames, and the blaze spread north leveling John Burwell's two story general store and also his clothing store. Thence west, consuming Strome & Smith's Drug store where the Farmers State Bank now stands, the Wullenwaber building occupied by Wm. Sallee, photographer, and Newt Provine's saloon. Buildings west in the block, beginning with the Stephenson building, which was then just one story, were saved.

A regular fire department was not organized until the summer of 1885. A new "Little Giant" fire engine was purchased by the village fathers and several wells were dug in the business district to provide "An abundant supply of water". The Little Giant fire engine was a manual cylinder pump mounted on a hand-drawn cart, and required sixteen men to properly operate it. A little shed adjoining Ley's Hall (south-east corner of Main and Peoria) was purchased to house the fire engine and equipment. A village ordinance pertaining to a volunteer fire department was adopted. The membership in the volunteer company was limited to twenty-four. Jack Mettlen was elected president of the company and J. M. Hart, its secretary. They made their first trial run June 25, 1885 from the fire house across the street from the old Baker House Hotel east to the school house and were throwing water in three minutes from the time of starting. The next year, 1886, the village purchased a new hose cart and installed a fire bell on a framework built next to the fire house.

The fire wells were dug by Wm. Pucher and Albert Cush in the summer of 1885, three in the business district on the south side of town and one on the north. These wells were eight feet in diameter and from sixteen to eighteen feet deep. The water from well number four, near the present site of the Masonic Hall had a peculiar odor, which lead some to believe that it had medicinal properties. Considerable excitement was generated over this assumption and some testimonials as to its healing properties were received. Some of the local "scientists" coined the word "hypophosphelica" to apply to the chemical ingredient present in the water. We are lead to suspect that Little Dave Strouse, who was a clerk in the clothing



store on the corner next to the well, may have had something to do with this apparent hoax as one of his practical jokes. There was some talk of hiring a reliable chemist to analyze the water. This did not materialize and the excitement soon died down.

## THE 1888 FIRE

About one o'clock A.M. on Monday morning, December 24, 1888 the fire bell rang out to rouse all within its sound to witness the fearful sight of a blaze that seemed to engulf most of the business district of the town. The fire started in a small coal house near the alley at the side of B. N. Ewing's building (where the post office is now located), which had just been occupied by P. A. Lower's Grocery and quickly spread across the alley to Railsback & Mitchell's office and north to Flower & Garrett's saloon and around the corner east to the Union House, livery office and stables. Schroeder's two story brick building on the corner, where Paul Peine's building now stands resisted the advance of the flame until it was surrounded by a sea of fire, and then burst out suddenly from the roof, doors, and windows. The whole row of Railsback & Mitchell's lumber sheds one hundred forty two feet in length along the alley went up in smoke.

The fire was discovered by Henry Swarts, a roomer in the Union House. People sleeping in the hotel were quickly aroused and they fled to safety without any loss of life. The rapidity in which the flames spread, lead some to believe that the fire was the work of an incendiary; but nothing definite was ever proved. The volunteer fire company, with their Little Giant Engine and water from fire wells two and three, and the Bank well were able to keep the fire from spreading across the street north to the elevator and barns, and west to Peine's store, Ewing's Drug Store, Brenn's meat market, and Buehrig Brothers store. All of these buildings were on fire at different times. The loss was estimated to be \$17,000. Railsback & Mitchell's grain office was the only building immediately rebuilt (Mackinaw Valley News Office), and the block presented a view of utter desolation and a grim reminder of the fearful fire for a number of years afterwards.

This disastrous fire aroused the village to the need of more adequate fire protection and in 1891 a village waterworks system was begun. By 1893, nine fire plugs had been installed and 3800 feet of water main had been laid. On the com-

pletion of the water tower, the fire bell was moved to it. In 1892, a brick fire wall was constructed between B. M. Poe's Harness shop and J. F. Davis's Blacksmith Shop about where Graff's Feed Store now stands.

There have been three other major fires in the business district. In 1908, the old People's Hall and the old Shieibly Drug Store building burned. The two frame buildings were moved to face south on Chicago street by Ernest Nagel, when he built his new brick store on the corner in 1902. People's Hall was used for storage of merchandise by Nagel and part of the building was rented to B. F. Bell for his Photography studio. Dr. G. W. Crews, veterinarian occupied the old Shieibly building. The fire department did a fine job in confining the fire to these two buildings.

In November 1906, a fire started from a gasoline stove in the frame building occupied by G. W. Smith's restaurant north of the present Kurth's Bakery. F. H. Hainline's Saloon, and Hammond's Barber shop also were partially burned; but most of the contents of all three building were saved including band equipment stored in the band room above one of the buildings. The fire wall to the north and the E. C. Imig brick building to the south aided against further spread of the fire. The buildings damaged were soon replaced by the brick buildings which are now on the location.

The most recent fire to destroy a business building occurred Sunday morning, October 10, 1965, when the Co-Op elevator, which was purchased from the Peine Grain Company a short time before, burned to the ground. The fire department did a very commendable job in confining this big fire. The old elevator was replaced by the large new concrete elevator a short time after the fire.

In 1933, the village purchased a Chevy Fire Truck, and so the hose carts pulled by the firemen to the scene of a fire became an artifact relegated to history. An electric siren replaced the old bell. The fire company joined the Illinois Firemen's Association in 1938, and in May, 1945 the township officials met with the village trustees and drew up an agreement whereby the township was to furnish a township fire truck to be housed in the village fire house and operated by the village fire department. This arrangement gave the entire township fire protection. A new truck with a foam attachment and the latest fire fighting equipment was purchased in 1955. A new fire house was built east of the village hall at the same time. Wayne Beare, who had served as fire chief under this new arrangement for twenty-one years retired this spring. Darryl Schertz is the new chief.

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## TELEPHONE

Minier was without telephone service until the fall of 1883, when a long distance telephone office was installed in Shiebley's Drug Store with Jerry Shiebley as the chief operator. This gave Minier telephone communication with the various offices located throughout the State. The Home Telephone Company of Bloomington built a line to Stanford and Minier in 1898. Their public station was in the Buehrig and Imig grain office on the site of the present Johnson Garage. In 1899, the Bell System extended their long distance metallic line from Delavan to Bloomington along Stringtown Road with a spur into Minier.

The Mutual Telephone Company was organized in Minier in the spring of 1900 and was granted a telephone franchise by the village board. S. S. Tanner was elected President, R. C. Cribfield, Secretary, R. J. Mitchell, Treasurer, and the directors were Wm. Buehrig, J. Caddy, G. M. Blackburn, and John Quigg. Work began on installation at once and by June service began. Miss Grace Johnson was the first day operator and Wm. and T. F. Buehrig handled the emergency and night service. T. F. Buehrig was the chief electrician, and held that position until the fall of 1907, when he moved to Denver. The Minier exchange was housed in the rear of Buehrig & Imig's Grain Office (where Johnson's Garage now is located) and the Hopedale exchange in the Schlipp building. The first telephone directory was issued in the fall of 1900 listing one hundred eighty-five phones, one hundred eighteen connected to the Minier exchange and sixty-seven to the Hopedale exchange.

The Mutual Telephone Company re-organized and incorporated in January, 1902. The directors were, Wm. Buehrig, C. F. Wullenwaber, R. J. Railsback, John F. Quigg, and R. C. Cribfield. The President was John F. Quigg; Vice President, Wm.

Buehrig; Treasurer, R. J. Mitchell; and Secretary, S. S. Tanner. The company operated four hundred sixty phones in Little Mackinaw, Hittle, Mackinaw, Hopedale, Delavan, Boynton, Dillon, Tremont, and Deer Creek Townships. In 1907, the office was moved to the upstairs of the Nagel Building (now the Men's Club Room) and in 1917 to the old Railroad and Mitchell Grain Office, then occupied by Dr. J. W. Rost and at present by the Mackinaw Valley News. C. F. Hoover became the local Manager in 1907. The Company was sold to Theo. Gary & Co., Kansas City, Missouri in the winter of 1926 and has subsequently been operated by the Streator Telephone Company, Illinois Valley Telephone Company., and since 1956 by the General Telephone Company. Local phones were converted to dial in the fall of 1958, and we said good-bye to the local "Hello Girls."

## ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER

You don't have to be so very old to remember the added chore on Saturday of washing the lamp chimneys, filling the lamps with "coal oil", and trimming the wicks. Even the stores and other public buildings were lighted with kerosene, gas, or acetylene lights. Electric lights were strongly favored in the village election April, 1899. The installation of a light plant begun at once. A frame building was built near the water tower and a 220 volt dynamo, boiler, and engine were installed. Street lights were turned on for the first time on the night of September 29, 1899. C. F. Slinker was employed as the first engineer.

The erecting of the commercial line was begun in January of 1900 and business houses and dwellings were wired for electricity. J. F. Quigg was the manager of the commercial line. Power

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was supplied from the village plant with the stipulation that the village could purchase the commercial line at any time. This they did in 1901. There was no all-day service, only morning service part of the week, and the plant was shut down before midnight.

A new light company with thirty-five stockholders organized in 1919, and the village granted them a franchise. A new line was built from Mindale and 220 volt direct current supplied by the Illinois Traction System. The village equipment was sold. In January of 1920, the current was changed from 220 direct to 110 A. C., 25 cycle, and all-day service began. The village purchased and took over the operation of this plant from the Power and Light Company in 1927. Current was changed from 25 cycle to 60 cycle in 1930. Since 1957, the power has been purchased from Cilco with offices in Peoria.

### MINIER NEWS

The first issue of the Minier News was distributed Saturday, September 18, 1875. The paper

was published by George L. Shoals in Atlanta, and the local editor was Horace Carihfield. In 1881 Horace Carihfield became the publisher and in 1885 Robert Carihfield was admitted to the partnership and the firm became known as Carihfield Brothers. Presses were purchased and a Minier office was opened in the northeast room above Peine's Store. In 1895 the office was moved to the building now occupied by Dr. Lainvee, and shared with Geo. Smith, barber. In 1902 it was again moved to its final location on the north east corner of what is now Main Avenue and W. Park Street.

R. C. Carihfield retired as manager of the Minier News in the Spring of 1921 because of ill health and Cecil Weidner succeeded him. Mr. Carihfield died May 19, 1921 after sixty-four years of active service in the community as business man and an civic minded citizen. Minier lost one of its most active and loyal citizens in the death of Mr. Carihfield.

R. J. Ling and Mrs. Sarah Peine served as local correspondents in the years from 1925 to 1950. In 1961 Stewart and Fink bought out Carihfield Bros. and continued publication of the local paper. In 1956 Kenneth MacLoed established a printing office here in what is now Schertz Hardware Annex and continued the publication of the

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Minier News. On October 16, 1959 the last issue of the Minier News appeared, and it became the Mackinaw Valley News appearing weekly until the end of 1960. Minier was then without a local paper for several months until March 2, 1961 when publication of the Mackinaw Valley News was resumed under the management of L. Pflederer and Ted Smith. The paper is printed by the Tazewell County Publishing Co., in Morton, is issued weekly, and maintains the high standards that have always been identified with the NEWS. Wayne Warner is the present local editor.

## DOCTORS

Dr. Summers and Dr. Taylor attended the physical ills of the township in the early 1850's. Dr. Summers lived on the Simon Freitag place. Dr. W. H. Taylor settled near Tazewell in 1855 and resided there until 1868 when he moved to Missouri.

The first resident doctor in Minier was Dr. W. J. Nicolay. He came shortly after the town was founded and continued his practice here until he

moved to Bloomington in 1887, where he died May 30, 1896. Dr. J. S. Conway moved into Nicolay's office in 1887 and practiced here until 1892. Drs. G. O. Bailey, G. Warlitz, L. M. Bickmore, W. E. Kennett, J. W. Green, and J. B. Rogers were also among those who practiced here in the 1870's. In 1879 there were six doctors practicing here.

Dr. G. M. Blackburn came to Minier from Ohio in 1879 and opened an office in a building just west of the present Farmers State Bank Building. He and Ernest Nagel built the Opera House in 1895 and the doctor moved his office to its lower rooms. Dr. Blackburn continued to practice here until his death in 1925. Dr. L. M. Nusbaum practiced here from 1893. to 1900.

Dr. S. M. McLaughlin opened an office upstairs in what is now Runion's Barber shop at the corner of Main and Chicago in 1899. He later moved his office to rooms above the Peine Store and continued practice here until 1925. Dr. John Nicolay and his wife, Dr. Florence Nicolay opened an office in rooms above what is now Runion's Barber shop in 1900. They were here for several years. Dr. E. R. Holmes came to Minier in 1903 and practiced here for forty-five years until his death in

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1948. Dr. J. F. W. Rost opened an office here in 1906. After having his office in several different locations, he purchased the building which is now Dr. Lainvee's office. He remodeled the building and put a new brick front on it in 1928. Dr. Rost passed away in February 1949 having spent his entire professional career in Minier.

Dr. David Dale practiced medicine here in the frame building west of the bank from 1946 to 1951. Later Dr. Nathan Zolt, nerve specialist had his office in the building. Dr. John Wright began his practice here in the Rost office in March 1949 selling out to Dr. L. Lainvee, our present doctor in 1954.

## DENTISTS

The first dentist in Minier was Dr. Strohm, who built a home and office at the west end of what is now Central Street. Dr. J. L. Gunnell opened a dental office in the Ewing & Arnold's Drug Store (where Paul Peine's building now stands) in January 1876. He sold his property here in 1891. Dr. Black opened a dental office above Peine's Store in 1899. He sold out to Dr.

H. E. Blunt in the fall of 1901, who in turn sold his practice to Dr. W. H. Taylor in 1903. Dr. Taylor continued his practice until 1909 when he sold out to Dr. Elmer McLaughlin. Dr. A. E. Bronson purchased the business in 1917 and remained here until 1935, followed by Dr. Merz. Dr. F. A. Kenward purchased the practice of Dr. Merz in 1938. Kenward practiced here for several years, then moved to Delavan.

## VETERINARIANS

H. L. Ogden, a farmer and stock breeder on a farm south-west of town, also served the community as veterinarian. Dr. Crews took over his practice in 1905 and had his office in the old Shieby Drug Store then located near the alley back of Nagel's Brick Store. After the fire he moved over Peine's. Dr. Mooberry practiced here in 1912 with his headquarters in the old Bradley Livery Stable, where the High School shop now stands. Dr. W. W. Barton began his practice here in the summer of 1912 and sold out to Wm. Chandler in 1952, who discontinued his practice here in 1966.

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## FARMERS' STATE BANK

N. P. Williams, J. E. Railsback, J. F. Quigg, and R. J. Mitchell purchased the present location of the Bank in the fall of 1875, and built a frame building on it, to be used for banking purposes. The Bank opened for business on Friday, November 20, 1875 with J. F. Quigg, cashier and R. J. Mitchell, assistant cashier, and was known as Williams, Railsback and Company Bank of Minier. In 1885, the Quiggs purchased Williams' interest in the bank, and the new firm was known as the Minier Bank of Quigg, Railsback and Company. The Bank was incorporated as the "Farmers State Bank of Minier" in September 1906. The present brick building was built in 1948. Drive-up windows and night depository were installed in the fall of 1959. Morris Peine is the present cashier and N. R. Peine, President.

## MINIER BANK

The Minier State Bank, the second bank in Minier was organized in 1891. A one-story brick

building was built to house the bank, (The present post office building). J. M. Hart was the first cashier, and Wm. Buehrig the assistant. A third bank to be known as the Commercial Bank of Minier was proposed in 1918; but the Minier State Bank reorganized, doubling its capital and distributing additional stock to the subscribers to the Commercial Bank. John Schroeder was the cashier and Miss Eda Buehrig assistant. In 1921, the Nagel building was purchased and the south room fitted for banking purposes and the bank moved to its new quarters. This bank closed in the crash of 1932.

## GRAIN BUSINESS

From its beginning, Minier has been a grain shipping point. Samuel Smith's grain warehouse (near present Co-Op office), and the grain warehouse of Railsback & Mitchell (near present Sinclair station) were among the first buildings erected after the village was laid out in 1867. In those days, there were no elevators. The place where grain was handled was called a warehouse, and the grain was carried from the warehouse to

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the railroad cars in a wash tub or in a small two-wheeled cart. The Railsback & Mitchell warehouse was moved in 1881 to a new location back of their office (on the site of present Mackinaw Valley News) to house lime and cement. In 1903, it was moved to the Jones & Kofoed Lumber Yard where it still stands. B. R. Backman's brief history of "firsts" in Minier informs us the "first load of corn was sold to Railsback & Mitchell by Wm. Lilly, Sr. for 96¢ per bushel, and the first car of grain was shipped out of here October 5, 1867, and freight rate to Chicago being 28¢ per hundred".

The first elevator was built by Smith Bros. in 1869 on the C & A (G. M. & O) north of the present Peine office. This elevator was operated by them a short time and then sold to Williams & Quigg. It was torn down in the fall of 1912. W. E. Verry built the next elevator on the I.M. (Pennsylvania) in 1874 at the south-west corner of the I.M. and C & A intersection. A few years later this elevator was purchased and operated by Railsback and Mitchell. It was destroyed by fire in 1910. Both of these elevators were horse operated. Railsback & Mitchell built an elevator on the I. M. in 1875. Their office was on the site of the present Mackinaw Valley news office. Linebarger Bros. & Johnson built an elevator on the C. & A. near the site of the present elevator on that road in 1877. Henry and Jack Lowers were also in the grain shipping business in 1878. They had several cribs for storing ear corn as did the other grain dealers. Henry Lower sold his interest to Jack Lower the following year. Jack built a small elevator on the I. M. near the present site of the old Co-Op concrete elevator. This enterprise was not too successful and the property was sold to J.M. Hart in 1881.

Wm. Buehrig purchased an interest in J. M. Hart's grain and lumber business in 1882. Hart sold his interest in the business to Val Imig, Sr. in 1886 and the new firm built an addition to their elevator on the I. M. installing a gasoline engine to operate the machinery. This elevator was replaced by a new one in 1894. In the winter of 1906 the newly incorporated Minier Grain Co. purchased the office building (where Johnson's Garage is now located), elevator, and grain business from Buehrig & Imig. Stephen Peine was President, Henry Imig, Secretary, and Nic Graff, Treasurer of the corporation. A concrete elevator with a capacity of 35,000 bushels was built in 1917. In January, 1920 the Minier Grain Company became the Minier Co-Op with H. P. Brenneman, President, and O. V. Hallstein, Secretary. The old grain office was

sold to W. E. Garrett and a new one built near the elevator. The Co-Op purchased the Peine Grain Company property and business in the summer of 1965. The frame elevator on the Pennsylvania was destroyed by fire in October of the same year, and the present 350,000 bushel concrete elevator was built on the same site. The present officers of the Co-Op Grain Co. are: M. Brenneman, President; J. C. Freitag, Vice-President; I. Hieser, Secretary; and B. Schmidgall, Treasurer. A. Whitehead, the present manager reports that 70,000 bushels of corn were handled in one day last Fall; quite a contrast to the record 18,000 bushels received by the Minier grain dealers in October 1898, in one day.

In 1883, the central office of one of the largest grain buying enterprises in Central Illinois was located in Minier. The firms of Williams & Quigg, and Railsback & Mitchell together forming the firm of Williams, Railsback & Co. operated four elevators in Minier, and eight in the surrounding area. The old flour mill located on the S. E. corner of North Railroad (Park) Street and Third (Maple) Avenue was moved five blocks to a site west of the I.M. (Pennsylvania) Railroad and converted into an elevator of Quigg & Railsback in the summer of 1890. This elevator was torn down in 1904, and replaced by a new one. Quigg-Railsback & Co. was incorporated with a capital stock of \$35,000 in the fall of 1906. This organization was engaged in the coal and grain business at Minier and Tazewell and took the place of the old established firms of Railsback & Mitchell and Quigg & Tanner, the former founded in 1867, and the only firm to do business during the thirty-nine years from the founding of the town. The latter was founded in 1879 as Quigg & Williams, and on the death of Mr. Williams in 1885 became Quigg, Railsback & Co. The old Linebarger & Johnson elevator east of Fifth Avenue (Main) on the C & A was torn down in the fall of 1902 and the present elevator was erected. After fifty-three years of continuous service, Quigg & Railsback sold out to the Little Mackinaw Grain Co., which was purchased in July 1933 by the Peine Grain Co.

## LUMBER BUSINESS

Railsback & Mitchell opened the first lumber yard in Minier shortly after the town was founded. The lumber and grain office was located on the present site of the Mackinaw Valley News Office, and the lumber sheds were along the alley back of

the office. These buildings were all destroyed by fire in 1888; but were soon rebuilt.

J. M. Hart started a lumber business in 1880 having his office for a time in Jack Lower's grain office and his sheds across the street on Chicago and Minier Avenue. Wm. Buehrig purchased an interest in this business in 1886, and later Val Imig purchased Hart's share.

C. S. Jones of Stanford and H. C. Kofoed of Normal bought the entire lumber business in Minier from Railsback & Mitchell and Imig & Buehrig, leased land from the C & A railroad, and built the present lumber yard buildings in 1903. In 1910 the business was sold to the Cornish Lumber Co. and later it became the property of the Alexander Lumber Co., who sold the business to the present owners, the Peine Lumber Co. in 1935. The Peine Liquid Fertilizer Co. came into being in 1957 and is now operated in conjunction with the lumber business.

Coal was sold in conjunction with the grain and lumber businesses. Coal bins were built along the switches of both railroads; but these have all been removed in recent years.

A Coal Mining Co. was organized in 1881, and drilling for coal began near the C & A stockyards. After reaching a depth of 236 feet, the hole was abandoned and operations were commenced at a new location near the Midland stockyards. A four-foot vein of good quality coal was struck at 313 feet. On the advice of a practical miner from Streator it was decided not to attempt to sink a shaft. The Company was disbanded in January 1883, and the money in the treasury was paid to the various stock holders.

In the 1920's a number of gas wells were sunk in the community; but after a while the wells gave out and were abandoned. Coal, as a fuel was gradually replaced by oil and dri-gas. In 1965, the Illinois Electric and Gas Company piped natural gas into the village.

## FUEL

In the early days, groves and timbers were prevalent around Minier and firewood was plentiful.

## UNDERTAKERS

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and operated his business in a building west of the present site of the Minier Lanes. Mr. Allen died in October 1877, but his wife and son carried on the business for a number of years after. S. P. Smith Sr. & Beck opened a business near the corner of the present Minier Ave. and Park Street in 1898. After about five years, S. P. Smith, Jr. purchased Beck's interest and the firm became known as Smith & Son. In 1902, S. P. Smith built the present Allen Insurance Agency building and the undertaker parlor was moved to that building. Sam Junior bought his father's share of the business in 1908 and continued in the business until his retirement in 1946. The McReynold's Funeral Home was opened on Central Street, in the old N. P. Williams' Home (later S. S. Tanner's home) in February 1946 and is presently conducting the business.

## FARM IMPLEMENTS

J. F. Beal, L. Hagerbaumer, F. Munder, and C. Willems were among the wagon and carriage makers in early Minier. Both Hagerbaumer and Munder went into business here in the early 1870's and continued until their deaths in the 1920's. They both sold farm implements. The early hardware dealers also sold implements. In 1883, C. Wullenwaber & Son opened an implement business on Main street near the location of the present Brenneman Real Estate Office. At the turn of a century Oehler & Loeffler sold implements and were succeeded by H. A. Gainer.

Warsaw Implements was started here in 1946 by Arthur Warsaw, who built the present building in 1947. Howard Warsaw took over the business in 1948.

Graff Implements originated at Sutter Siding in 1947. In 1935, the present building was built in

Minier, and the business is now under the Management of Harvey Graff, Jr.

The John Deere Implement Co. started business in the old Schroeder Dump Factory in 1953.

Fred Hecker ran the first blacksmith shop in Minier. In 1882, there were four blacksmith shops and six blacksmiths in town. J. F. Davis was in business here for many years. His shop was first on Main Street about where Graff's Feed Store now is, and later was moved to a location east of P. Peine's (building). Harness shops are among the things of the past. Louis Ley & N. B. Baker opened a shop shortly after the town was laid out, and the last shop in Minier was run by Ed. Bartell in a frame building which stood just north of the present Ford Garage.

## GROCERY STORES

The first stores in Minier were general stores dealing in a variety of merchandise. Salt by the barrel, Queensware, flour in 48-pound sacks, kerosene, and bulk vinegar (bring your own jug) were common items in the old days but are not likely to be found in the present day store. There have been dozens of different grocery stores in Minier, so enumerating them is out of the question. Fred Ley ran a grocery business in a frame building located on the south end of the present Cooper's market parking lot. Ley sold out to Thorne, and Thorne to B. R. Bachman in 1877, who replaced the frame building with a brick store in 1899. W. G. Beal purchased the business in 1908, built a brick addition to the south in 1913, and retired in 1960. Gene Cooper moved into the building in 1961, and in 1967, the old building was torn down and the present new market built.

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Buehrig Bros. Store (Koffee Kup Kafe) in 1800's

store in a building which stood near the present site of Val Kampmeier's home in 1880. They moved to the present Koffee Kup Kafe building in 1881, and the business was continued until 1916.

P. A. Lower and J. M. Hart also operated grocery stores in Minier for a number of years. E. & G. Buehrig bought out Hart (where Schertz Hardware now is) in 1905. In 1945 Schertz bought the building.

The present Schmitt's Royal Blue Store was opened in the room now occupied by the Ford Garage in 1934. The same year, they moved across the street to their present location.

## DRY GOODS STORES

J. Burwell operated a clothing store in a frame building on the present site of H. A. Peine & Co. This building burned in the fire of 1870. H. A. Peine and Wm. Buehrig ran a general store where the Koffee Kup is now located and in 1881 they purchased the present brick store from L.M. Stroud. The balcony in the back of the store was taken down and a side entrance was cut on the east. The store was known as the "Old Reliable". Wm. Buehrig sold his interest in the business to George Peine in 1882. In 1899 a brick addition was built to the west. H. A. Peine retired from business in 1903 and the management of the store was assumed by his son W. W. Peine. Wm. Krueger is now the manager of the store.

Chaplin & Woosley operated a dry goods and grocery store in a frame building across the street from the opera house. This business closed in 1878, and Z. McKenzie opened a clothing store in the building, which was in operation for several years.

Jacob Strouse opened a clothing store in

the Hecker building (where Peine's apartments now stand) in 1880. Reinheimer & Co. took over the store in 1884; but David Strouse remained as manager. David and Isaac Strouse purchased the business in 1888 and continued it's operation until the early 1890's.

Ernest Imig built the present bakery building and operated a dry goods store in it from 1894 to 1907, when he sold his stock to Nagel Bros.

## DRUG STORES

Strome & Smith ran a drug store in a building on the present site of the Farmers State Bank. This building burned in the fire of 1870. B. N. Ewing was in the drug business continually from the early '70's until his death in 1921. He built the present C. Mart building in 1895. C. H. Buehrig bought the Ewing drug business in 1903 and continued its operation until his death. Hugh Brown bought out the business in 1943. Cooper's C-Mart opened in the old Krueger Meat Market building in 1963 and moved to the drug store building in 1966.

J. T. Shiebley, who was with Sherman on his march to the sea, came to Minier in 1876, and was in the drug business until 1898. He built a frame store building on the north-east corner of Chicago and Main Streets in 1881. This building was moved back to the alley facing south, when Nagel built his brick store on the corner in 1902, and burned in the fire of 1908.

## HARDWARE & FURNITURE BUSINESS

The first furniture stores in Minier were operated by D. Darnall, S. S. Allen (west of present



H. A. Peine & Co. Store in early 1900's

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UNION HOUSE BUILT IN THE '70'S. C. WULLENWABER, PROP.

site of Minier Lanes), and Geo. W. Burwell (where Dr. Lainvee's Office now is.) Clarke Bros. ran a hardware store in a building about where Val. Kampmeier's home now stands, and Fred Hecker ran one in a frame building where R. N. Peine's apartments now stand in the early 1870's. J. Schaaf & T. Gray were in the hardware and furniture business in the early '80's. Schaaf built the building in which Runion's Barber Shop is now located. Henry Lower built the brick store on the southwest corner of Chicago & Main streets. J. M. Hart bought this building in 1897 and put up a duplicate building to the south. The store was known as "The Golden Rule Store" and sold groceries, furniture, and Hardware. E. & G. Buehrig bought out Harts in 1904 and continued operating the business until the 1940's. Schertz purchased the building in 1945.

E. Nagel was in business with Ernest Imig until 1894, when he moved the old People's Hall building to the present location of the Schertz Annex and opened a hardware store in it. In 1902, Nagel Bros. moved the frame buildings to face south on Chicago Street and built the present brick building at the north-east corner of Chicago and Main Streets.

Nagels continued to operate a general store in the two rooms until 1915, when Ernest moved to Iowa. Other firms operating hardware or furniture stores at some time in Minier include: W. W. Mix, I. N. Ewing, Stevenson Bros., John Walker, and Murphy Bros.

## HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, & BAKERIES

Mrs. Hannah Cooper ran a boarding house in her home in the early days of the village. Pointon Baker built a hotel on the south-west corner of Main and Peoria streets in the early '70's. This was known as the Baker House or Minier Hotel and was operated by a number of different individuals. Mrs. Mary Copper became the proprietor in 1898 and continued the business for seventeen years. The building was finally converted into an apartment house and was eventually torn down this year to make room for Cooper's parking lot.

The Union House, including a hotel, saloon, pool hall, and stables was another of the early businesses in Minier. These were owned by C. Wullen-



Looking South across Chicago Street from Water Tower, early 1900's

waber until they were sold to C. A. Flowers in 1888. All of these buildings were destroyed in the fire of that year.

J. Hammond ran a restaurant in the Saxbury building (now the Masonic Hall) in 1876. At this time this building faced south on what is now Park St. at the location of the west end of the Peine Apartments at this time. Samuel Largent ran a restaurant and bakery on South Railroad St. (now Central) in 1877, and G. W. Hill ran a restaurant and bakery in the Hecker building (on the corner where Peine Apartments now stand) from 1896 to 1906. There were also other restaurants and bakeries too numerous to mention in this short account.

Olive and Roy J. Bement opened a restaurant in the room back of Runion's Barber Shop in 1946. Shortly after, they moved to the present location of the Koffee Kup Kafe. In 1959 the business was taken over by Mrs. Iris Bare.

Kurth & Dreher opened a bakery in 1924 in the present Minier Motors building and in 1932 they moved to the present location. Albert Geske operated the business for a while in the 1950's. Karl Kurth is the present proprietor.

## OTHER BUSINESSES

C. Wullenwaber, Gus Kind, and Newt Province operated the first saloons in the village. In the early 1900's, there were five in operation. The Township was voted dry in 1908 and remained so until after the repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment. Otto Duback obtained a license in 1933 and opened

the West Side Tap. This business was sold to Bud Barrick in 1966. Earl Linewaber opened the Town Tavern in 1934. Glenn Myers took over this business in 1953.

Fred Ley ran the first butcher shop in the rear of the post office in the '70's. Thos. Brenn, Geo. Kauffman, and John Krueger all operated the frame butcher shop across the alley from the present Koffee Kup Kafe. Krueger tore down the old frame building and built the present brick structure.

The first livery stable was owned by Railsback & Briggs and was located on the present site of Schertz's Hardware. J. M. Edmiston built a stable west across the alley from Cooper's Market parking lot in 1875. J. Freeman, J. Galloway, J. Naffziger, and Ed Ziegler were owners of this property at one time or another. Bradley Bros. ran the south side Livery, located where the school Ag. shop now stands.

The first millinery store was run by Ella Briggs. In 1875 Rhoda Baker ran such a store near the Midland Depot, and Mrs. T. Lonecker ran another in a frame building about where the Farmers State Bank now stands. Mrs. M. H. Hand ran a millinery store here in the early 1900's and sold out to Lilla Livesay in 1908. Belle Kilbourn opened a millinery store in a building near the present site of Minier Lanes in 1882 and continued in business there for a number of years.

Steve Skaggs was the first barber in Minier. P. W. Smith went into the business in the 1880's and his son W. H. (Farmer) continued in the business for over thirty years. Ernest Runion has been in business here since 1934, and Dale Boyd since 1963.



Wm. Sallee had the first photo studio in Minier and was here for a number of years. B. F. Bell was another photographer who operated here for some time.

John Barrett was the first tailor. His shop, over Railsback & Briggs (where Koffee Kup is now located) burned in the 1870 fire. C. A. Peterson ran a tailor shop in 1875.

There have been a number of stock dealers in and around Minier in years past. There was a stock yard on each of the railroads and shipping of stock by rail was quite common. Henry Lower, Joseph Reed, Lewis Spelts, Ben T. Briggs, John Johnson & H. L. Ogden, and Quigg & Williams were among these breeders and dealers.

J. M. Edmiston had the Union Central Insurance agency in Minier in the early '70's. He later moved to Nebraska and became the state manager for that company. B. R. Bachman had an insurance office in the Thorne Store at about this same time. In 1921 the Farm Bureau Insurance, with offices in Pekin was organized. Wm. Freitag was one of the founders and the first local agent for this company. This is now I. A. A. Insurance and Dale Naffziger is the present agent. The Allen Insurance Agency was established here in 1931. Albert Laue is the present manager. The Freitag-Gleason Agency

started here in 1953, selling Farmers' Auto Insurance. Grace Gleason is the present agent.

P. W. Smith, Peter Kumpf, George Eckhardt, and M. F. Noel are among the early shoe makers in Minier.

J. M. Shutlz, M. Hamilton (in Peine's Store), and C. E. Stewart (above Peine's) were jewelers here before the turn of the century.

A Ten Pin Alley and shooting gallery was operated in 1883 by Dan Pride on South R. R. (Central) street. At the turn of the century, James Cunningham and James Lancaster also ran ten pin alleys. The Minier Lanes was opened in the summer of 1959.

There have been a number of pool rooms in Minier. Albert Imig operated pool rooms here in the early 1900's. The present William's Pool and Lunch Room was opened in the winter of 1959.

The farm produce business was a big one in the early days. J. A. Zombre ran a poultry house north of the north-east corner of the intersection of Park and Minier Streets. In December of 1898, Zombre shipped 65,258 pounds of poultry, 11,000 dozens of eggs, and 1,217 pounds of butter. Chicken pickers were employed during the winter months, and they quite often complained of having contracted "feather consumption". The poultry house busi-

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ness was moved to the old Kind Hall (south of Beal's Store). Arthur Terrill operated this business for a number of years. Dick Lower was his assistant. Terrill sold the business to Armour Co. in 1941.

The first automobile in Minier was owned by J. M. Hart: a one-cylinder Oldsmobile, chain drive, and steered by a tiller rather than a steering wheel. Schroeder Bros. went into the automobile business in the building on the north-west corner of the intersection of Central & Maple Streets in 1902. They sold Jackson and Moline Cars. Bradley & Hainline opened a Mitchell Garage in what is now the High School building in 1910. S. H. Johnson & Cales built the concrete block garage on Main street in 1912. They sold Fords. In 1924 the business was moved to its present location. Oland Johnson became the proprietor after the death of his father. Since 1932, DeSoto and Plymouth cars have been handled. Reining ran a Studebaker and later Buick Garage in what is now the bakery building, Naffziger and Martin sold Veles about 1912. C. S. Singley opened an Oakland Garage on the Glotfelter place south of town in 1918. In 1926, he moved to his present location in town and became the Chevrolet dealer. Wm. Garrett built the garage on the corner of Main and Chicago in 1920 and was the Buick dealer. Later he sold the garage building and moved to a building back of his home. C. E. Donnan's Ford Garage was opened in 1930 in the building now occupied by Schertz's Annex. Later he moved across the street to the present location of Minier Motors, now under the management of Ronald Timke.

Corn Belt Oil Co. was established here in 1919. Wes Romans ran the station and Albert Cochran the truck. Sinclair purchased the business in 1939. Tom Robbins, Morris Brenneman, and Carl Tichel were among the first proprietors of the station. The new Sinclair station was built in 1962. "Slim" Talbert is manager at present. The Taze-

well Service Station (F-S) was built in 1940. Bill Freitag was its first manager and E. C. Cremeens now operates it. The Phillips 66 station on the north edge of town opened in 1955 with Chas. Barclay as manager. Earl Kirby presently runs the station.

A. L. Capps opened a feed and flour store in 1877. In 1928, Elmer Brenneman opened a feed store in the old washing machine factory. Soon after the store was moved uptown. In 1938 he built the present store south of the new theater building, and operated a feed store in it until 1946, when the business was purchased by Jesse Graff. Gene Graff took over the management in 1966.

Mildred (Lower) Edwards opened a beauty shop in her home in 1928. Elma (Garrells) Graff opened a shop in the Lilla Livesay Millinery building in 1936. Dorothy's (Schmitt) beauty shop was started in her home in 1947, and Freida's has been in operation since 1962.

E. C. Schertz began a building contractor and plumbing business in 1902, and in 1928 went into the plumbing and heating business. His son, Paul organized the P.H.D. Co. in 1965 and is carrying on the business just north of his dad's old location.

There have been a number of real estate businesses in Minier. Joseph Reed, and J. M. Edmiston were among the first. Later came Tanner & Imig. Vic Brenneman opened his office in Minier in 1954.

G. Haggard & F. Bishoff opened a body shop in the back of the old Johnson Garage building in 1941. This partnership was dissolved in 1951 and the body shop has since been moved to the old Garrett Garage.

G. Tyner began the operation of the Econ-O-Wash in 1959. The Bluegrass Creek Golf Course got off to a good start in 1960, and Jim Hart's Electric & Heating started business in 1962.

If you were here in 1891, you would remember Billy Green's popcorn stand on the streets of Minier,

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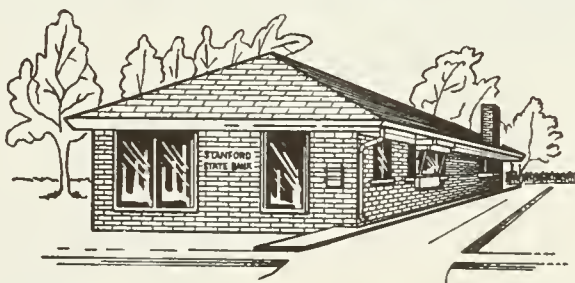
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and at the turn of the century you should remember "The Spider" and "Minier Rose" five-cent cigars made by the cigar makers two doors west of the bank.

Glottfelter's tile factory just south of town was in operation in the early days of Minier. L. Fickle ran it for a number of years. The machinery was sold and moved away in 1904. Ice was cut from the pond in the winters and stored in a frame ice house on the property. The ice was covered with saw dust to insulate it from the heat.

Shield's Croup Liniment Co. was organized in 1903 and incorporated in 1904 with capital stock at \$15,000. The medicine had a great reputation in this section for a quarter of a century. C. H. Buehrig and Dr. S. M. McLaughlin were the chief stockholders in the company.

**FLOUR MILLS:** In the 70's Ihlenfeldt tore down the mill at White Oak Grove, McLean County, hauled it to Minier and reassembled it on the south-east corner of the intersections of Maple and Park Street. Several managers tried their hand at operating this mill; but it was not financially a success. In 1890, it was moved to the I.M. tracks and converted into a grain elevator.

In 1891, a new milling company was organized and a new three-story mill built where the F-S oil station now stands. This project did not prove to be financially successful either, since wheat had to be shipped in. This mill was sold in 1902. The lower floor was converted into a blacksmith shop.

**BUTTER & CHEESE FACTORY:** This enterprise was open for business in April, 1892 in a new plant erected just west of the town hall. This business operated in the red and closed in 1894. The building was sold to Fred Munder in 1895.

**SCHROEDER'S GRAIN DUMP:** H. V. Schroeder received a patent on his grain dump in 1896. The dumps were first manufactured by W. H. Schulte's

machine shop in Hopedale. The Schroeder factory along the C & A was built in 1901. The business grew and additional buildings were erected; but as farming methods changed the market for grain elevators decreased and the company went out of business in 1955.

**SCHROEDER'S WASHING MACHINE:** S. E. Schroeder received a patent on an electric washing machine called the 2 in 1 in about 1912. This machine was first manufactured in a frame building across the street north of the present high school building, and assembled in what is now Schmitt's Grocery. A factory was built west of the railroad Y and occupied in 1915. The washing machine interest of the Schroeder Manufacturing Co. was disposed of in 1926 and the factory torn down in 1938.

## ORGANIZATIONS

**G. A. R.:** George Hunter Post #168 was organized in the winter of 1882 with W. F. Rowell as commander. In 1883 they began raising money for the erection of a soldiers monument in the village park. This monument was completed and dedicated in 1888 on Memorial Day. A big annual Memorial Day celebration was one of the projects the Post. Time took its toll of its members. The last surviving Civil War Veteran in Minier, P. W. Smith passed away February 18, 1928.

A Chapter of Sons of Veterans and a chapter of Women's Relief Corps were organized in 1889. The former was not active very long and the Relief Corps dissolved in 1903.

**AMERICAN LEGION:** Harry Riddle Post #448 of the American Legion was organized in the winter of 1919 with H. C. Livesay as acting commander. Their Hall was in the room above the present bakery building. In 1953, the Broadway School building

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was purchased and converted into a Legion Hall. The Legion and its auxiliary have always been very active in community affairs.

The Women's Auxiliary was organized in 1922 with Alma Ewing as president.

**BUSINESS MEN:** The Minier Merchants Protective Association was organized in 1884. The purpose of this organization was to set up machinery to protect merchants against loss due to issuing credit to customers. In about 1914 a Civic Club was organized to promote village betterment activities. The first Committee was appointed by Village President C. W. Bird for the specific purpose of raising money to build a concrete sidewalk to the cemetery. The Civic Club became a general business and community organization and function until the organization of the Minier Business Men's Association in the Spring of 1960. Gene Cooper was the first President of this organization, and Grace Gleason its first Secretary-Treasurer.

**MASONIC LODGE:** Comet Lodge #641 A. F. & A. M. was chartered October 4, 1870 with Fred Ley as its first master. The lodge hall was in the building then known as Thompson's Hall (east of present Minier Lanes) until 1875, when it moved across the C & A, north to Saxbury's Hall. This building was moved to its present location in 1878 and was purchased by the lodge in 1885. Comet Lodge has been active in Minier for the past ninety-seven years. Dr. John Wright is the present Master.

**EASTERN STAR:** Minier Chapter #388, Order of the Eastern Star was chartered October 5, 1888 with Mary Cornelius as Worthy Matron, and B. N. Ewing as Worthy Patron. Mr. & Mrs. Harold Fort are the present matron and patron.

**OTHER LODGES:** Viola Lodge #638 I. O. O. F. was chartered May 9, 1877 with D. T. Richardson as Noble Grand. The lodge consolidated with Greening Lodge of Mackinaw in 1903, and gave up its charter in 1945.

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zation) was organized in 1877. This lodge disbanded several times but later reorganized. It closed about the turn of the century.

Peine Camp #206 of the Modern Woodman was chartered in 1886. S. S. Tanner became a National Director of the Modern Woodmen in 1911. The Lodge, long since has disbanded; but a number of members still keep up the insurance.

Lena Lawton Rebekah Lodge #260 was organized in 1889, Court of Honor #277 in 1898, Patriotic Order Sons of America in 1890, Yoemen of America (Insurance Lodge) in 1902, Red Men Lodge in 1908, and Palm Camp, Royal Neighbors in 1902. These have all disbanded.

GRANGE: Pomona (Goddess of fruit of trees) Association held a meeting in Minier in 1873. In 1878 a picnic and fair were held at the Four Corner school house. Each farmer brought products for exhibition. This became the Pomona Fair. The first fair grounds was located four miles north of Hopedale, and the Fairs were held there from 1881 to 1883, when the new Pomona Fair Grounds was established near Mackinaw. In 1888 a tragic fire broke out in one of the stables, destroying some valuable imported horses. John Q. Darnall of Little Township was fatally burned in the fire. From

that time on, interest in the Fair gradually died down, and after a few years it was discontinued. The National Grange is celebrating its one hundredth year this year. The last Grange in the township was the Tazewell Grange, which organized in 1917 and built a hall at Tazewell. About 1930, this organization was disbanded and a community club organized in its place.

OTHER FARMER ORGANIZATIONS: The Little Mackinaw Farm Bureau was organized in 1913 and became a part of the County Organization. The local chapter of the Home Bureau was organized in 1919. The Minier Hustlers boys 4-H Club was organized in 1928 with Wm. Kuhfuss as its first president. Bill has kept up his interest in farmer organizations and is now the president of the I.A.A. The Willing Workers girl's 4-H was organized in 1930 with Lucille Hieser as President in 1930.

WOMAN'S CLUBS: The Ladies Athenaeum was organized in 1904 and became the Minier Woman's Club in 1920. The Junior Woman's Club was organized in 1951 with Mrs. Jean Wright as its president. Both of these clubs are still quite active in the community.

THE MINIER SOCIAL CLUB was organized in 1916. L. Kuhfuss was the first president and

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**Atlanta, Ill.**

the club room was located in the upstairs room of the old Nagel building. This club was a thriving, active club for many years; but recently its membership has dwindled to a very few men.

**SCOUTS:** The first organizations for young people in Minier were conducted by interested citizens, who took an interest and were willing to devote time to them. One such organization was the Boy Pioneers, supervised by R. C. Carihfield. Military drills with wooden rifles, music played on celluloid fifes, and social activities amused these young boys. There were Boy Scout troops in 1918 and 1924; but greater interest was developed after the County Organization was formed in 1926. The troops around 1938 under the leadership of Rev. Weaver, and those around 1950 under the leadership of Robert Pawson were very active in the scouting program. The present scout master is M. Williams.

**GIRL'S SCOUTS:** In 1922 a Blue Birds nest was organized to prepare girls for Camp Fire Girls activities. Miss. Dorene Tanner was the guardian. Some time later, the local group of Camp Fire Girls was organized. A troop of Girls' Scouts was organized in 1938. These organizations were disbanded a few year after their organization because of lack of interest in them. A new organization of Girls' Scouts, and Brownies was organized in 1950. The present Girls' Scout came into being in 1960. Mrs. Joyce Myers is the Leader, and the present Brownie group was organized in 1960. Mrs. Wm. Strayer is their leader.

**S. O. P. H. CLUB:** In 1903, twenty young ladies met at the home of B. T. Briggs and launched a social organization with the title S. O. P. H. This club remained active until the 1930's and succeeded, during these many years to keep their full name a secret. Some of the local wags ventured interesting guesses, which have never been proved or disproved. "Still On Pa's Hands", "Start Out Picking Husband", and "Some One Please Hurry" have been suggested. These young ladies established a custom of giving any one of their members who married, a set of inscribed silver spoons.

**OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:** There have been many different organizations through the years in Minier; but we have space to mention only a few. Dance clubs, sponsoring dances periodically were common in the early days. There have been at least three young men's athletic and social clubs. The first was organized in 1882, meeting in Ley's Hall. They purchased and installed, horizontal bars, trapeze, swinging rings, and a spring board, and also were equipped with dumbbells, boxing clubs, and Indian Clubs. In 1898, another such

club was organized and met in Lower's Hall. The last of these clubs was organized in 1903 with Harry Wullenwaber as president and also met in Lower's Hall. None of these clubs were active for a very long time.

Card clubs, and social and community clubs were numerous. The I. C. T. club was organized in 1881, and in 1916 the New Idea, Happy Hour, Grandmother's, and Yougo Igo clubs were organized. A Good Road and Welfare Club was organized in 1914 and continued to meet for several years. In 1950 the Minier Lake Club was incorporated and the Minier Lake, south of town came into being.



**FIRST MINIER BAND, 1870**

Back row: Frank Westfalt, Dave Saxbury, Jake Schaaf, Fred Munder. Front row: Ed. Dixon, John Smith, August Kind, Dave Adams, Simon Petrie, Louis Hagerbaumer, George Whitman.

## BAND

The first Minier Band was organized in 1870. There were about fifteen members in the band and Gus Kind was their leader. Philip Kadel, a well-known Bloomington musician came out occasionally to instruct the band. In 1873 L. Hagerbaumer succeeded Kind as the leader.

The Band was reorganized in 1880 with L. Hagerbaumer as its leader. In 1885 Hagerbaumer retired from the band and Z. W. McKenzie became the leader. In March 1888, the band was discontinued and all band property (seven horns and a bass drum) was turned in; but in April 1888, the band was reorganized. They invested in uniforms and had a great year. They played at numerous rallies and made a trip to Columbus, Ohio to Play at the Grand Army Reunion. In June, 1889, the band entered a contest in Decatur and won second prize.

1890 to 1896 was an inactive period for the





**MINIER CORNET BAND, ABOUT 1888** Standing: John Hort, R. C. Crikfield, Geo. Davis, Carl Buehrig, Frank, Hine, Frank Perry, Geo. Smith. Seated: P. W. Smith, Z. McKenzie (leader), Tom Tonner, Chos. Frank, Ed. Peine, Ernest Imig.



**MINIER BAND ABOUT 1914** Standing: Groydon Lower, Leon Smith, Fred Munder, B. F. Bell, Prof. Doob, Joke Pleines, Wm. Munder, Leo Doob. Middle row: Ed. Steinhour, Joe Hainline, I. J. Cooper, Virgil Neff, Oro Hoover. Seated: Wm. Lower, Raymond Imig, Ben Buehrig, Harry Cates, Donald Crikfield.

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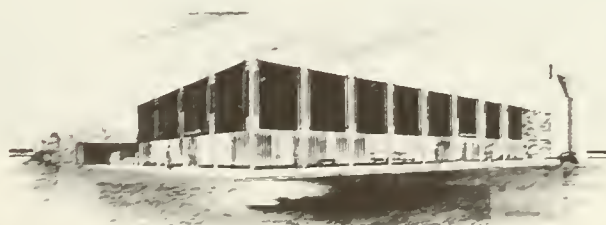
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D.A.A.B. STRING QUARTET Left to right: H. W. C. Daab, Paul Nagel, John Hart, Carl Kuhfuss

band. The band was reorganized in 1896 with R. C. Cribfield its leader. During this period Homer Poe, who later played clarinet in the U. S. Navy Band, was a member of the Minier Band. In 1906, a Kid Band was organized. Cribfield retired from the band in 1910 because of business pressure. John Leader and J. J. Cooper kept the band together until Prof. Daab took over the leadership in 1912. The name of the band was changed from Minier Cornet Band to the Minier Band. Under the efficient leadership of Prof. Daab, a number of young musicians joined the band and soon Minier had another band of which they could be very proud. Graydon Lower, who later played with Bachmen's Million Dollar Band and Sousa's Band got his start in this band, as did his brother Bill, who later played with Red Nichol's, and Herbie Kaye's Dance Bands.

During World War I, a number of the band members went into the service and the band was disbanded. The band was reorganized in 1921 by Prof. Skelton of Bloomington succeeded by Bernard Strongman. This band disbanded after the season and Minier was without a band for several years. Prof. W. F. Burnell organized a kid band in 1930 and through his energy and fine leadership this band soon became a "top-notch" organization with about forty members. After several years, this band was taken over by the schools.

**OTHER MUSIC ORGANIZATIONS:** We have had a number of local choral groups, dance bands, instrumental groups, and orchestras at various times in Minier. In 1882, Prof. Daab organized an orchestra. In 1894, his pupils formed an organization called the D'Accord al Bravura, and in 1897 the D.A.A.B. String Quartet composed of Prof. Daab, Paul Nagel, John Hart, and Carl Kuhfuss was formed. The German people formed a male singing

group called the Froshann Maennerchor in 1896. Rev. Ott was the leader of this group. A number of singing classes have also been conducted in Minier.



1923 TEAM Back row: C. Livesay, R. Gaff, B. Briggs, R. King, E. Tuche. Middle Row: J. Bachmen, C. Tuche, W. Barton. Front row: E. King, G. Steiner, F. Nestor.

## BASEBALL

Minier has had its share of fine amateur baseball players and also rabid fans. In the 1880's, large scores were common. In 1882, Delavan beat Minier 63 to 39. Baseball equipment was not too plentiful for we find in 1885 in a game between Minier and Bradley that "during the second inning, the ball was completely demoralized, and no other being handy, the game was discontinued with the score 27 to 4 in favor of Minier".

In September, 1903, the Minier Baseball Club played the Lexington Club at Schroeder's Ball Park (now Northbrook addition) and lost 3 to 2. Two hundred fans and the Lexington Band arrived on a special train on the C & A and were met by the Minier Band and fans, who paraded to the ball park. McCrystal and Seisler were the battery for Minier, and McCafferty and Frazee for Lexington. Lexington scored a run in the tenth to win the game.

The Minier Baseball Association was formed in 1904, and a salaried team with H. I. Livesay as manager, and B. F. Quigg as team captain was organized. Quigg, Naftziger, Minier, and Wil Freitag were the only local boys used. Minier returned the compliment with a special train and band to Lexington defeating them 4 to 3. This one year ended the all-salary team.

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Space will not permit a complete story of baseball in Minier. Through the years we have had a Minier Reds, Minier Feds, Elite Electric, Minier Colts, and other Minier baseball clubs, just to name a few. S. S. Tanner, P. A. Lower, John Sparling, Farmer Smith, Perch Oehler, Ralph Allen, and E. Graber have been some of the managers. Diamonds have been located on Schroeder's property (now Northbrook Addition), in a field, west of the old concrete elevator, on Darnall's property (at the south end of School Avenue), and at present, on the school field just east of the village park.

In the late 1930's, the Minier Team, managed by E. Graber played in the Illinois State League. They won the league championship and also the Pantagraph's Tournament at Fan's Field in Bloomington two years in a row. This team was made up largely of ex-college baseball players. In 1940, Wm. Kuhfuss and Don McReynolds were selected by Fred Young to play with an American team in Cuba. Minier has since played in the Mackinaw



1895 C. E. Stewart, Pitcher; S. S. Tonner, Manager; B. F. Quigg, Catcher.



1908 Back row: P. A. Lower, Manager; Frank Ireland, Secretary; Middle row: Clif. Livesoy, Herman Sawatzski, John Leader, Herman Poucher, Mase Zambro. Front row: Fred Munder, J. Gowanlack, Fred Lower, Gus Sawatzski.

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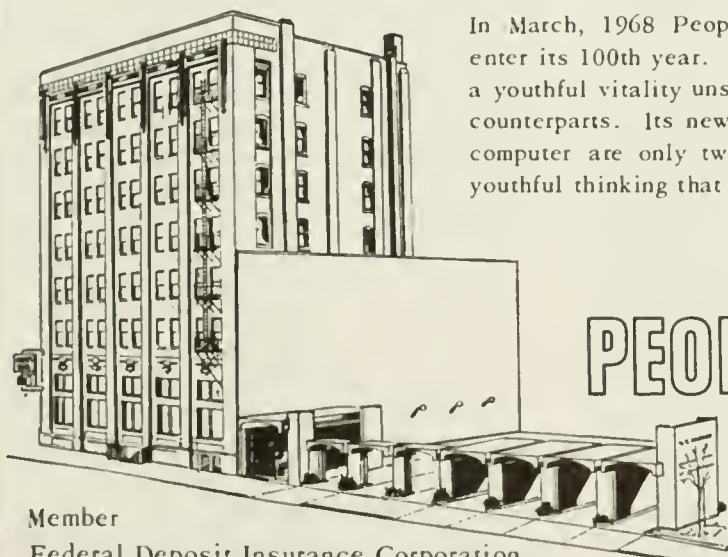




CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: left to right: Bill Kuhfuss, Bill Freitag, Herman Raymer, Byron Barton, Wendel Israel, Bob Buehrig, Donald Graber, Tom Hoerr, Arthur Raymer, Dean Graff, Mervin Hainline, Donald McReynolds, Alfred Malinawski and Manager Elmer Graber.

## 100 YEARS YOUNG

As Minier celebrates 100 years of pleasant existence, it evidences the vitality of youth which belies its ancient heritage. Peoples Bank is happy to extend congratulations on Minier's having reached its centennial year without growing old.



In March, 1968 Peoples Bank of Bloomington will enter its 100th year. And, as with Minier, it reflects a youthful vitality unsurpassed by any of its younger counterparts. Its new drive-in units and forthcoming computer are only two examples of the progressive youthful thinking that marks this "older" institution.

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Valley League, and has always given a good account of itself.

## BASKETBALL

The first game of basketball seen in Minier was played at Lower's Hall in December, 1903 between Hopedale and a team from the Minier Athletic Club. Minier won 17 to 3. Following is a quote from the Minier News: "Basketball is a much faster, hotter game than baseball, is exciting from start to finish, and to the spectator closely resembles football. A team is composed of five men: a center, two guards, and two goal throwers. The game is played in halves and the point to be gained is to get the ball into the goals or baskets which are placed ten feet above the floor and are but a couple inches larger than the ball." This first Minier team was composed of: center, George Buehrig; guards Jay Gowanlock and Harry Wullenwaber; goal throwers, Paul Peine and Jack Bachman, and substitute, I. J. Cooper.

## OTHER SPORTS

In the 1930's lights were put up on the diamond east of the school building and intra-city softball leagues were organized. There were games every night in the week except Saturdays and Sundays. The craze gradually died down and after a few years the sport was practically abandoned.

Minier had an independent football team from 1922 to 1925. They played their home games at Darnall's Park.

The Minier Horseshoe Association was organized in 1927 and had a lighted court just north of the present Minier Motors building. There have been several tennis organizations in town also. Raymond Imig scored 4,885 billiards before registering a miss in February of 1922 in Doc Carroll's billiard hall in Bloomington.

Checkers was a favorite pastime for many years. The checker-playing philosophers would meet to play and discuss timely topics in the various grain offices and in the Men's Club Room. Several tournaments were held with players from surrounding towns.

## ENTERTAINMENT

Kind's Hall and Ley's Hall have previously been mentioned in the pages of this history. These were merely large rooms in business places that were used for public meetings; but they did not have stages or scenery for dramatic productions. These were improvised when the need arose. In 1879, after Carl Ley had moved his business to Hartsburg he proposed that if the citizens of Minier would donate \$50.00, he would build an addition to his building here, take out the shelving, put windows in the sides, build a good stage, and seat the hall partly with chairs and partly with benches. The money was soon raised. J. Schaaf did the carpenter work and S. B. Petrie the scenery and interior decorating. This hall was the scene of home talent plays, lecturers, dances, and social gatherings of all kinds until it was purchased by the school district in 1885. It was moved to the school premises in 1886, and in 1905, when the new brick school building was built it was purchased by Chas. Elliff, cut in two and made into two dwellings which now stand side by side at 313 and 315 N. School Avenue.

In 1889, the Stephenson frame building on South Railroad Street was raised to two stories and the upper room made into a public hall called People's Hall. This hall was opened to the public in August 1889 by a Grand Ball sponsored by the Minier Band. Many entertainments were held in this Hall. The Organtha Dramatic Co. was one of the favorite stock companies to play there.

Lower's Hall (the present High School building) was built in 1891, and opened with the Good Templar's Crazy Supper and Entertainment in February 1892. The Opera House (still standing) was built by Dr. Blackburn and E. Nagel. It was officially opened in October, 1895 by Eldon's Comedians. Both of these halls were used for years for amateur and professional dramatic productions, lyceums, dances, basketball, and all sorts of community functions.

## MOVIES

Kennedy's moving picture show made its first appearance in the Opera House in March 1906. He made a circuit of twelve towns every two weeks, giving a varied program that was both clean and entertaining. The show consisted of a number of short features such as "The Hindoo's Ring",

"Puss in Boots", "Who's Smoking the Rope" and several illustrated popular songs. The American Theater was opened by W. M. Peime in the room above the present Schertz Annex in 1918, with the first of a serial "Neglected Wife" starring Ruth Roland. This theater was later moved to the down-stairs room. In 1931, the remodeled Opera House was re-opened and the American Theater was closed.

The Minier Theater was built in 1938 next to the Koffee Kup Kafe. The theater opened with "The Texan" in September of that year with two nightly performances at 7 and 9 P.M. each week day and continuous shows from 5 P.M. and 3 P.M. on Saturdays and Sundays respectively. In 1941, Robert Wullrab became manager, in 1950, George Davison took over the management, and in 1957 the business men took over the operation of the theater. J. Hart took over the management in 1960 with the village board as sponsor. The theater closed in late 1960 with the final show, "The Ten Commandments".

## OTHER ENTERTAINMENTS

In the early days, a big celebration of the Glorious Fourth was held at the village park. This celebration was eventually replaced by a Fall Festival, and later by Annual Homecomings. Big Saturday night celebrations with free movies and band concerts began in 1914 and were continued for a number of years. Callahan's tent show was here in 1916, and from 1926 to 1931 Worthan's tent show made an annual visit here. The Minier Chautauqua showed here each summer from 1919 to 1924. Circuses, street carnivals, and medicine shows were common. One of the big events in the history of the village, was the 1892 Columbus Day Celebration with its mile-long parade and evening entertainment at Lower's Hall. Hamilton's great steam Merry-Go-Round put in its first appearance here on the Fourth of July 1896.

Bachman's Million Dollar Band gave a concert at the Minier Park, September 11, 1920. Some time later they gave a second concert in the new Buick Garage (now Johnson's). Of special interest from the standpoint of residents of Minier is the fact that the Bachman brothers; Harold, director of the band and Myron manager, although raised and educated in North Dakota, where the



Harold B. Bochman  
Director of Bands, Emeritus  
University of Florida  
Gainesville, Florida

Million Dollar Band originated were natives of Minier. Also two prominent members of the band, Graydon and Nathan Lower, were residents of Minier and received their early training here. Raymond Imig also played clarinet with the band for a short time.

## MISCELLANEOUS

**TAZEWELL:** The little station on the Pennsylvania about three miles north of Minier was originally known as Bradley. Quigg ran an elevator there and George Davis ran a general store and the post office. Mrs. Lydia Bradley, wealthy resident of Peoria owned 320 acres of land adjoining the Davis store. Her husband had amassed a fortune in the distilling business and was killed in an accident. In 1898, Mrs. Bradley gave twenty acres of land as a site for Bradley Polytechnic Institute (now Bradley University) and a half million dollars for buildings and equipment. Later she conveyed several hundred acres of land including the half-section north of Minier as an endowment to the University. Sugar beets were raised on her land in 1899. Mrs. Bradley died in January, 1908 leaving an estate of over three million dollars. The U. S. Postal Department changed the name of the Bradley post office to Tazewell in 1895. Thurman and Rider were other names considered.

October 12, 1875: President Grant passed through our town on a special train. He stopped for a while to shake hands with our citizens.



October 27, 1877: To prevent flies from injuring picture frames, boil three or four onions in one pint of water, and brush your frames over with the liquid. No fly will touch them, and your frames will not be injured.

December 1, 1877: They have begun war on wild turkeys at Mackinaw. Seventeen were killed in about a half hour.

December 19, 1878: On Thursday and Friday nights came one of the heaviest falls of snow in this locality for years, averaging sixteen inches on the level.

November 1, 1879: S. B. Petree is still ahead in the postal card business, having handed us a postal card on which he had written 1329 words, consisting of seventy-two verses of the Seventy-eighth Psalm, the Lord's Prayer, and other matters, and every word can be read by anyone with good eyes.

September 26, 1881: Memorial services for James A. Garfield were held at the Christian Church at 2 P.M.

August 27, 1882: The great comet came into the visible part of the heavens too early in the morning for the great part of our people to enjoy, and a little too late for the numerous couples who swing upon the front gate.

April 13, 1890: A hail storm came up from the west in the afternoon, accompanied by rain and and strong wind. Some two thousand panes of glass were broken in town.

October 7, 1898: An uncanny little experience of a number of Minierites of meeting a tall woman with a shawl over her head, who suddenly becomes invisible have been reported. George and Harry Peine, along with William and Chas. Buehrig have reported an encounter with this "Ghost" on the walk east of the Mill.

March 17, 1899: One curious development of local business customs is the use of the cent piece in making change. Until last year, nobody ever thought of splitting a nickel.

May 3, 1900: Admiral Dewey passed through town on the C & A. He came to the platform, waved, and smiled at the school children assembled.

June 11, 1902: A big wind storm that struck about 11 P.M. left the streets impassable and the park a shambles, but no one was injured.

April 3, 1903: The famous Ewing Mad Stone is again in Minier, in the custody of Mrs. Pauline Vollmer.

February 25, 1916: Mayor Bird has a method of handling hobos: "Each housewife has been furnished with tickets that read, 'Feed the bearer to the amount of 15¢. Must be okeyed by the village police'".

March 17, 1916: Prince, the noble black Newfoundland dog, who weighs 167 pounds and belonged to C. A. Gaines died this week.

September 22, 1916: Free Thinkers of this community have made arrangements with H. Percy Ward of Chicago to give five lectures at the Opera House.

January 18, 1918: Blizzards on Sunday and Thursday stopped all business and left roads blocked.

March 31, 1918: "Don't forget to turn your time piece ahead one hour."

September 22, 1896: Henry Imig and Carl Kuhfuss started from Seward, Nebraska in a wagon. They arrived here October 8, after sixteen days of overland travel.

January 9, 1920: We have heard considerable complaint about people staying away from church. Dr. Shipp in his sermon the other night explained it by saying that black soil and religion don't go together very well.

June 3, 1915: The Denver Express wrecked a mile west of town. P. A. Lower was among the thirty passengers on the train. Several received cuts and bruises; but there were no fatalities.

September 23, 1887: Local markets: Corn yellow 38¢, white 40¢, oats 25¢, wheat 64¢, eggs 12½¢, butter 20¢, lard 10¢, ham 15¢, bacon 10¢, apples \$1.00 per bushel, potatoes \$1.00 per bushel.



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