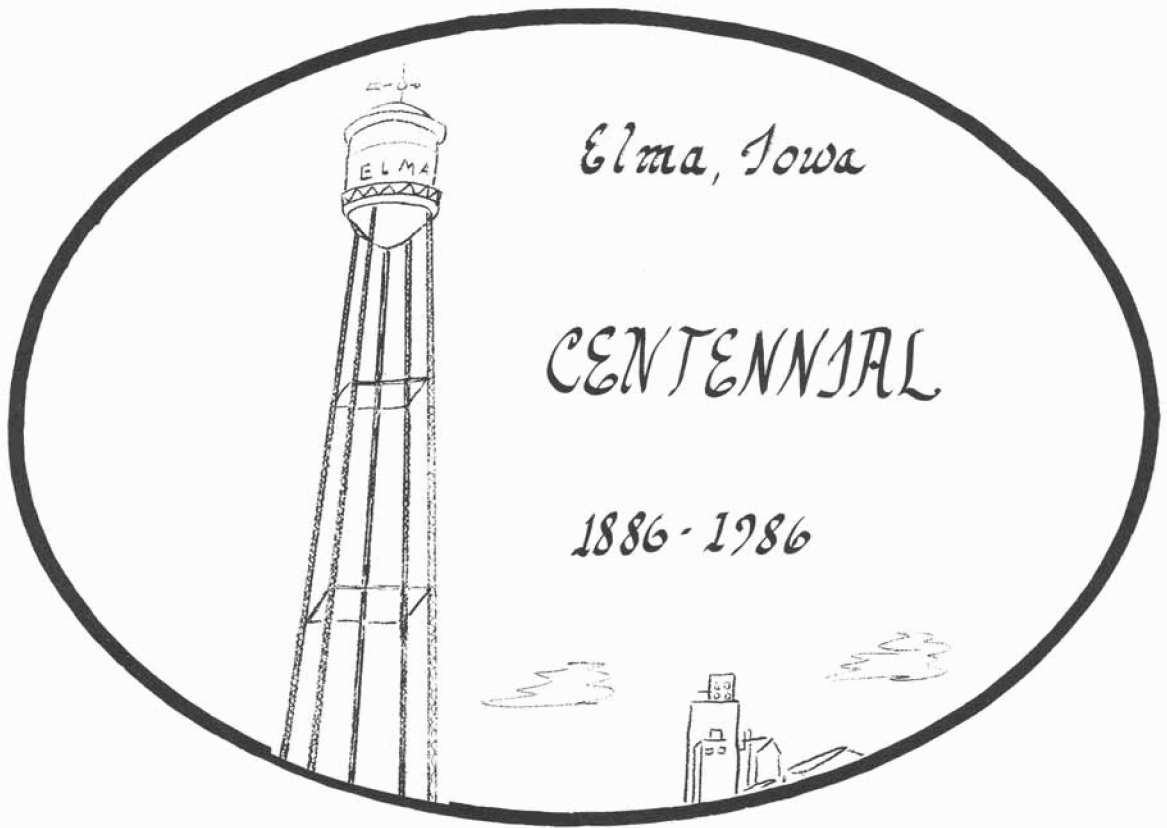


Progress



submitted by Marge Gansen

The land claims of the 1850's brought many settlers to Howard County and the area which is now Elma. The nearest trading post was at McGregor, a distance of 80 miles. Small towns formed to supply the settlers with the wares they needed to exist. Post offices were established in many of these towns but later were discontinued. Many of these towns faded almost immediately, while others continue to exist with a church being their primary drawing point.

The locations of the early post offices were often in a general store. The sites of the Busti Post Office varied and are all but impossible to trace. Elma's post office was at several sites, the longest established site was Lot 20, Block 10. A post office was located in the Devereaux building just north of the Richmond Drug Co. in 1908 in a room 22.8 by 41 on the first floor.

A news clipping gives this information:

"The government has rented the Devereaux building just north of the Richmond Drug Co., which is being fitted up for a post office. Mr. Devereaux has placed therein one of the finest sets of post office fixtures to be found in any town of this size. There are call and 100 lock boxes. The prices are fixed by the government and are for each quarter: the call .20, small lock .35, med. lock .45, large .50. Mr. Buell moved in yesterday."

This building is now the Whiting Insurance Agency and the Hairport.

An abstract entry of October 1, 1914, executed a lease to the United States for a post office for 10 years with annual rent of \$199. The lease was renewed in 1924 for annual rent of \$390. The building was purchased for \$1,200 by a group of Elma businessmen: Coleman Foley, E. W. Richmond, L. E. Wentz, E. E. Evans, Klobassa brothers, C. H. Kelly, R. Cunningham, George Budke, and S. R. Depres. This note to the Farmers Bank dated January 6, 1914, was paid August 2, 1928, by George Budke.

The Elma Post Office moved from third class to second class in July of 1953.

The Post Office remained at this location until May 31, 1960, when it moved to the west side of Elma to 412 Main Street, its present location.

The following list gives information about all the post offices in the Elma area through the years.

Post Office in Howard County, Elma Area

Acme On CGW Ry. about 7 miles southeast of Riceville, 7 miles northwest of Elma (SW Sec. 10, Afton Twp. 98N, R14W). Established January 6, 1891, Thomas J. Hartnell; discontinued October 31, 1917.

Busti About a mile north of Elma (SE/NE, NE/SE Sec. 36, Afton Twp. 98N, R14W). Established April 11, 1860, Thiophilus K. Dana; renamed Elma September 22, 1886, Jeremiah E. Roche.

Cecelia About 4½ miles southwest of Elma (SE/NE Sec. 16, Afton Twp. 97N, R14W). Established October 12, 1875, Patrick L. Connor; discontinued July 10, 1886.

Crane Creek On east bank of Crane Creek 7½ miles northeast of Elma (NW Sec. 31, Paris Twp. 98N, R12W). Later the Lourdes post office was at almost the same site. Established June 20, 1864, Michael Montague; discontinued July 8, 1868.

Howard old At site now within city limits of Elma (SE/NE Sec. 1, Afton Twp. 97N, R14W). The later Busti post office was so nearby that the two could not long operate simultaneously. Established January 8, 1856, William P. Hough; discontinued July 23, 1863.

Lourdes Eight miles east of Elma (crossroads at center of line separating Sec. 31 and 32, Paris Twp. 98N, R12W). Established December 23, 1879, Julia Guyette; discontinued April 15, 1907.

Maple Leaf On Crane Creek 8 miles N.E. of Elma, 16½ miles southwest of Cresco (SW/NW Sec. 10, Howard Twp. 98N, R13W). Established December 22, 1893, George W. Lockie; discontinued April 15, 1907. The one-word name MAPLELEAF was used for an undetermined period.

Oakdale Nine miles northwest of Protivin, 10½ miles east of Elma (NE Sec. 10, Paris Twp. 97N, R12W). Established January 21, 1884, James Cannon; discontinued June 20, 1884.

Sturgis About 8½ miles southeast of Elma (SE Sec. 7, Paris Twp. 97N, R12W). Established January 25, 1858, John I. Sturgis; discontinued April 26, 1859.

Elma S½ of W¼ SW¼ quarter of Section 6 in Township 97 north, Range 13 west, Howard County. 20 rods from the Elma Station of the M and N W Railroad, on the east side of the railroad. Established September 22, 1886, Jeremiah E. Roche.

Elma South East quarter of Section 1 in Township 98 north, Range 14 west, Howard County. 75 rods from the Chicago, St. Paul, Kansas City RR Station on the west side of the railroad. January 23, 1891, Levi H. Sisco.

Elma 1914 S W corner of Section 6 Township 97 north, Range 13 west of the 5 principal meridian, Howard County. 250 feet from the C G W RR on the east side of the railroad. Lot 20, Block 19. 620 Busti Avenue. January 6, 1914.

Elma May 31, 1960, Lot 6 and 7, Block 30, 412 Main Street.



Elma Post Office on east side of town.

Busti Postmaster

- 11 Apr. 1860 Theophilus K. Dana
- 17 June 1862 Royal T. Sutton
- 9 Nov. 1864 Wm A. Pierce
- 22 Aug. 1866 James Hall
- 22 Feb. 1869 Wm H. Mereness
- 12 June 1874 Darius E. Potter
- 24 July 1876 George A. Burgess
- 27 June 1880 John P. Biber
- 26 April 1881 George A. Burgess
- 13 Nov. 1882 Ashen L. Townsend
- 25 June 1883 Augustus A. Carter
- 6 Aug. 1886 Jeremiah E. Roche

Busti Changed To Elma, Iowa, 22 September 1886

- 22 Sept. 1886 Jeremiah E. Roche (N B) 5 May 1887
- 27 Dec. 1888 Levi H. Sisco
- 17 Apr. 1893 Leo C. Wachtel (N B) 16 Oct. 1894
- 29 May 1897 Edgar E. Buell (P&S)
- 18 July 1901 Francis Trunkey (P)
- 16 Dec. 1901 Francis Trunkey (P&S)
- 10 Jan. 1906 Re-Appointed (P&S)
- 13 Jan. 1911 Re-Appointed (P&S)
- 20 Feb. 1914 J. W. Conway (P&S) Acting
- 3 Mar. 1914 John W. Cannon (P&S)
- 5 Sept. 1918 Re-Appointed (P&S)
- 8 Feb. 1923 Cornelius A. Rubly Acting
- 29 Nov. 1924 Elizabeth A. Rubly Acting
- 21 Jan. 1926 George L. Evans
- 31 Jan. 1930 Re-Appointed (P&S)
- 22 Jan. 1934 Harry L. Conway Acting
- 31 Jan. 1934 Harry L. Conway Appointed
- 1 July 1939 Re-Appointed (P)
- 15 Jan. 1945 Loretta A. Stapleton Acting
- 25 Oct. 1945 Loretta A. Stapleton (P) Appointed Retired
- 31 Jan. 1960 William F. Landholt Acting
- 12 Feb. 1960 William F. Landholt Acting
- 15 Sept. 1961 Thomas A. Smith Acting
- 30 Aug. 1965 Thomas A. Smith (P) Appointed

Clerk

- Elizabeth Cashman (Mrs. Walter McGrane)
- Mamie Weers (Mrs. Edward Kruger)
- Terrence Cannon (Mrs. Robert Mealy)
- Doris Fallgatter (Mrs. Edward Conway)
- Catherine Regan (Mrs. Avery Marr)
- Margaret Trunkey Evans (Mrs. George Evans)
- Donna Pantier Vick (Mrs. Edward Vick) (R) Retired 1 June 1971
- June 1940 Lorraine Stapleton (Mrs. Merle Hayden)
- 15 May 1946 Agnes Budke Riley (Mrs. Paul Riley) (PTF) Retired 15 Jan. 1983
- 15 May 1971 Avis Balk Roethler (Mrs. Keith Roethler) (PTF)

- 30 June 1983 Margaret Rounds (PTF) Transferred to Waterloo, Iowa
- 25 May 1985 Nancy White Mahoney (Mrs. Tom Mahoney) (PTF)

Abbreviations:

- (P)—appointed by the President.
- (P&S)—appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
- (N B)—notice in bulletin—some mention of the office was made in the Postal Bulletin, a publication of the Post Office Department.
- (R)—regular full-time clerk.
- (PTF)—part-time flex clerk.

At one time Elma was served by four rural mail routes. Each carrier selected one or two substitutes to take over postal duties when the designated carrier was unavailable. Route three was discontinued in 1945 with route four being discontinued in 1928. Earl Reinhart (Route Three) was transferred to Alta Vista, Iowa. Ed Clark (Route Four) was transferred to Elma Route Two.

Following is a complete list of Rural Mail Carriers and some of the substitutes. This covers a span from 1904 to the present.

Rural Route One—Established 1 June 1905

PERIOD	CARRIER
1 June 1905—31 Mar. 1918	Edward B. Bond
1 Apr. 1918—30 Sept. 1918	George L. Shannon
1 Oct. 1918—15 Feb. 1919	Morgan H. Conway
16 Feb. 1919—15 Mar. 1925	Elias C. Streeter
16 Mar. 1925—28 Feb. 1965	George L. Shannon Retired
1 Mar. 1965—12 Mar. 1965	Lee P. Shannon Temporary
13 Mar. 1965—15 Mar. 1986	James E. Gansen

Rural Route Two—Established 15 April 1904

10 May 1904—16 June 1928	August F. Rohde
17 June 1928—30 Nov. 1957	Edward A. Clark Retired
2 Dec. 1957—17 Oct. 1958	Joseph F. Sullivan Temporary
18 Oct. 1958—	Lyle E. Hart

Rural Route Three—Established 15 November 1904

15 Nov. 1904—20 Feb. 1923	Sylvanus Young
21 Feb. 1923— Sept. 1923	Floyd Jacoby Temporary
10 Sept. 1923— 1Feb. 1945	Earl Reinhart Route Discontinued

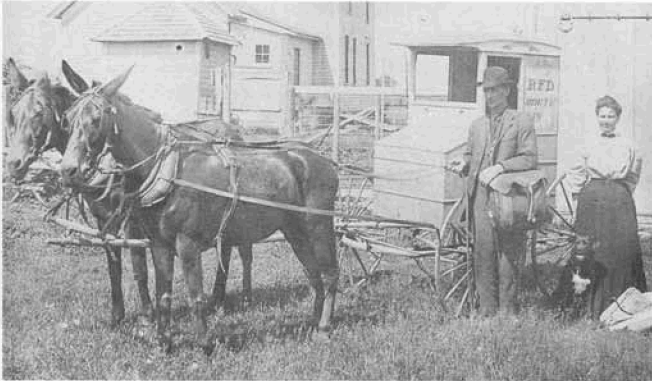
Earl Reinhart transferred to Route One, Alta Vista, Iowa. Retired 30 November 1965

Rural Route Four—Established 15 April 1904

29 June 1914—16 June 1928	Edward A. Clark Route Discontinued
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Charlie McCullough delivering mail in early Elma days. Building on the left stood where the trailers are now on the corner of 5th and Main (SE corner). The house in background is the Leander Heying home.



Ed Sayers, substitute mail carrier—1909.



George Shannon's horse drawn mail delivery vehicle.

Some of the Substitute Rural Carriers

Clem Kelly	Daniel Conway
John Seery	Jerome Conway
Edward Vick	Joseph Ludwig, Jr.
Victor Streich	Thomas Gebel
Enno Bentrup	Marvin Nielsen
Albert Womack	Joseph F. Sullivan
Edward Showalter	Fern Hammond
Paul Shannon	Avis Roethler
Lee P. Shannon	Michael Brophy
Harold Showalter	



George Shannon sorting mail in 1965 just prior to his retirement.



August F. Rohde, rural carrier on Rt. 2, Elma, starting on his mail route December 23, 1924. Leaving from in front of the Rohde home, which is now the residence of John Kobliska.

Ed Clark—June 29, 1914, Ed Clark left the Elma Post Office on his first trip delivering mail. On November 30, 1957—43 years, 5 months and approxi-

mately 13,000 trips later he made his last round on Rural Route 2. The next day he started a well-earned retirement. Ed says there has been quite a few changes since he first started carrying mail; the first year he made rounds with a horse and buggy or sled depending on road conditions. He traveled over all dirt roads and in bad weather it was hard to tell where the road ended and fields began. His first car, a 1915 Model-T Ford, was used only when the roads were good.

The first three years he boarded out; his room and board and laundry cost him three dollars a week, a gallon of gas cost ten cents. Ed had around twenty horses plus some he kept "trading off" and has worn out fifteen automobiles. He has driven approximately 900,000 miles without getting more than ten miles away from Elma, while on the route.

The first few years the mail was light, usually one



George Shannon and one of his first sleds used for winter mail delivery. Picture is near the Jim McAvoyn place on the west end Main Street in Elma.

bundle 14 inches high, but his last carload filled the front and back, with packages filling the trunk. He made 180 stops on a 60-mile route.

George Shannon retired as rural mail carrier at Elma on February 27, 1965. His mail service began November 2, 1917. During the span of 47 years he estimated he traveled 750,000 miles and used at least 35 automobiles. During the early years he used a team and sled when the snow was deep and traveled at times on horseback when the dirt roads were too difficult because of snow and rain. Route One was 85 miles long.

August Rohde began carrying mail for Uncle Sam on Rural Route Two out of Elma in 1904. He carried the route north and west of Elma for a period of about 25 years. Many times he walked his entire route when the roads were too badly blocked for his horses. Mr. Rohde retired from the postal service in 1928 at the age of 65.



Ed Clark, Elma rural mail carrier.

Dedicate Elma Post Office

A large crowd attended the dedication of the new Elma Post Office on Sunday, October 2, 1960. The Crestwood High School band played several numbers. The I. C. chorus sang two numbers. Four I. C. students gave a reading "Ode to a Flag." They were: Al Biwer, Charlene Sullivan, Connie Conway, and David Lamers. The Boy Scouts performed the flag raising cere-

mony, all joined in the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner.

H. R. Gross, Waterloo, 3rd District Congressman, was the speaker. Dan Conway acted as the M.C. Bill Landholt, postmaster, gave a welcome. Past postmasters and postal employees were guests of honor. Rev. Francis Cassidy gave the Invocation and Rev. Clarence Stenbeck, the Benediction.

The brick and glass building has a floor space of 38½ x 52 feet, sizably larger than the old post office in Elma. The number of lock boxes increased from 204 to 264. The new building is air conditioned and has all new postal equipment. It has a loading dock covered by a canopy to help keep mailmen dry in bad weather.



Elma Post Office in 1986 is located on west Main Street.

Elma's Fire Protection

Elma did not always have the fire protection it enjoys today. Fires in early Elma were numerous and often caused great losses of property. The earliest available map shows Elma to have "No protection against fire, no hose carts, no steam or hand engines."

In 1905 Elma still had "no fire department, no independent hose cart, no hook and ladder truck." A notation on one of the businesses gives the information that they had no watchman and no fire apparatus.

The articles of incorporation were adopted in April of 1915. Trustees appointed were: James Murphy, Sr., 1-year term; J. D. Fogarty, 2-year term; T. E. Kelly, 3-year term.

L. E. Wentz was appointed to head a committee to give a fireman dance and the following men were to act as the committee: W. J. Clancy, Simon Harris, Ned Parker, and F. E. Silver.



Elma's first truck bought in 1939 is shown in action at the fire of 1948 on Main Street.

The first dance was held April 23, 1915. Dance tickets brought in \$184, supper \$37.50, check room, \$8.00, pop sold, \$9.95, spectator tickets \$2.50, donation, .01. Among the expenses: Kinney Orchestra \$25, floor wax, \$1.

By 1920, Elma had a volunteer fire department consisting of 22 men and two hose carts, with 500' of 2½" cotton rubber-lined hose on each. They also had one hook and ladder cart with 120 foot ladders, and a fire alarm whistle. There were no boundary fire limits. Fire protection improved considerably with the construction of the waterworks in Elma in 1914.

In 1939, the town council met to discuss buying a new Ford fire truck, if \$1,000 could be raised by subscription. The money was raised and the truck purchased.

"Elma's new large fire truck arrived from St. Louis, MO, and is now ready for service. George Shannon, fire chief, drove the truck back to Elma, making the five hundred mile trip in 13 hours.

The new truck, modern in every respect, and capable of coping with all fires, was purchased by the town with the financial assistance from a large group of farmers in the immediate Elma territory. The truck will be subject to call by these farmers at no expense to them."

This, being the first fire truck purchased by the town, was a great source of pride to the community.

In 1953 a new International truck was purchased by the rural township trustees. In 1955 the town purchased a new Chevrolet truck and sold the 1940 Ford to North Washington. The current town truck was bought in 1982.

The Elma Fire Department is a volunteer program, which is governed by the city mayor, five councilmen and nine township trustees. The Fire Department covers the city of Elma, all of Howard Township, and parts of Afton and Paris Townships. Members must be 18 years of age and live in the city limits. Fire Department members come from all walks of life; merchants, farmers, mechanics, managers, laborers, factory workers, postal workers, bookkeepers, truck drivers and so on.

The present equipment consists of the aforementioned 1982 truck with a 750-gallon per minute pumper carrying 1,000 gallons of water. They also have a 1955



Fire Chief Linus Lentz and the Elma Fire Department's newest truck, bought in 1982.

Chevy pumper, capable of pumping 500 gallons per minute, carrying 500 gallons of water, as a good back-up truck.

The Elma Rural Fire Department has a 1968 rural Ford truck with a high pressure pumper, pumping 60 gallons per minute and carrying 500 gallons of water. The Iowa Conservation Commission lends a 1966 Ford (used army truck), and the Elma Rural Fire Department owns the 1,000-gallon tank and quick dump equipment.



Elma Fire Department station house equipment for town and rural fires.

The quick dump can empty that 1,000 gallons of water into one of the holding tanks in 45 seconds. This equipment can then go back to town for another load of water. This is a great help since water is not readily available on farms since the advent of automatic livestock waterers replacing water tanks on the farm, old cisterns are no longer in use, plus the rivers have filled in in recent years, making drafting from rivers almost impossible. An army jeep, also a loaner from the Iowa Conservation Commission, is being equipped with 50 gallons of water.

When the jeep was obtained, the railroad was going through town and grass fires were quite numerous along the right-of-way; since the demise of the railroad, we still have grass fires, but not nearly as many.

With all the synthetic and plastic material in our homes and on the farms, toxic fumes from these products are a great hazard and air packs are a must. These packs contain air, not oxygen, as one might think. There are four air masks and eight bottles that carry approximately 30 minutes of air each. At the fire station there is a cascade system which consists of four large bottles that carry approximately two hours of air each.

Elma has always had an excellent working relationship with the Alta Vista Fire Department, along with Cresco, Protivin, North Washington, New Hampton, Lime Springs, Chester and Riceville.

Our alarm system comes in by telephone to 14 homes and the fire station. The whistle, which is located on the town's maintenance building, is sounded from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. to alert Fire Department members. Since the 1968 tornado, the whistle has not been blown at night for fires. This time is reserved in case of a tornado alert only. The fire whistle was blown on the afternoon of May 15, 1968, which may have prevented many injuries or deaths.

Elma's present fire station had its problems. The

building was started and about half completed when the cement work didn't meet approval. For nearly two years construction was halted until problems were worked out.

During the last decade, continuing education and training programs have been of great help.

The Elma Fire Department became a member of the Howard County Firefighters Ass'n by going county wide with Cresco, Protivin, Lime Springs and Chester Fire Departments. This provided easier access to instructors for training sessions on LP gas, pipeline fires, anhydrous ammonia, car fires, house fires, and advance breathing apparatus. In addition, the Elma Fire Department has a 12-hour study course once a year, plus regular monthly training sessions held on the second Wednesday of each month.

The department answers 18 to 25 calls a year, with 39 calls being the highest. Not only fire calls are answered, but assistance is given when called to auto accidents, drownings and searching parties.

One project the Elma Fire Department is well known for is the annual Masquerade Dance, which is usually held the last Saturday in October. Other activities include putting up Christmas decorations in town the last Sunday in November and helping with the children's Halloween party, as well as assisting Santa at Christmas time dispensing candy to young Elma residents and shut-ins.

Fire prevention posters are drawn by school children during Fire Prevention Week, which are judged for state competition. The balance of the posters are hung in business places in town.

Fire Department members have won a number of trophies in the waterball competition in surrounding areas in recent years. The Elma Fire Department went to State Fair competition twice, while their wives entered State Fair competition once.

The Elma Fire Department continues to attend "Instructional Classes" to better utilize their existing equipment as well as be informed of new techniques in fighting fires. The fire house is well maintained and there is an element of pride in each fireman towards the important and responsible job that they are doing.

Elma Fire Department

1936

Carl Weber, Chief
Denny Brandmill
Tom Kelly
Arlyn Weers
Art Mulick
Hi Erion
Alvin Gross
Bob Mealy
Gaylord Robison
George Shannon

Clarence Mantz
E. H. Bentrup
Ed Vick
Archie Walker
Orville McGrane
Ed Richmond
Cass Weber
Dr. W. C. McGrath
Gus Leitz
Art Weers

1945

George Shannon, Chief
Ed Vick, Asst. Chief
Abe Kozlen
Ed Richmond
Dr. W. C. McGrath
Herb Lamprecht
Jim Conway
Joe Reynolds
Frank Hruska
Art Weers
Tom Kelly

Cyril Finch
Ralph Biwer
Arlyn Weers
Art Gansen
Ed McGrane
Francis Meirick
Emmett Burke
Melvin McGrane
Vic Anderson
Dave Lohuis
Bob Conway

1954

Reuben Tuchek, Chief
Bob Conway, Asst. Chief
Paul Shannon
Dan Conway
Ed Vick
Abe Kozlen
Arlyn Weers
Emmett Burke
Ed McGrane
Jim Conway
Herb Lamprecht
Francis Enright
William Landholt

Merle Schroeder
Jack Althof
John Schroeder
John Friedhof
Harold Stapleton
Don Lentz
Harlan Hyberger
Art Weers
Ralph Biwer
Francis Meirick
Harold Brown
Melvin McGrane

1958

William Landholt, Chief
Bob Conway, Asst. Chief

Harold Stapleton
Harlan Hyberger



1986 Fire Department (Back row)—Tom Smith, Mike Zeimetz, LaVern McGrane, Ken Gebel, Cleon Seedorf, Dean Kruger, Jeff Schwartzkopf, Gerry Buttolph, Charles Dockendorf, Lyle Streich, John Lentz, Jerry Heying, Jr., Darrell Knecht. (Front row)—Pat Boyle, Jr., Nick Zeimetz, Steve Worple, Ed Voves, Jr., Bill Enloe, Jerry Steven, Vern Voves, Merle Worple, Pat Fogarty, Tom Hiding, Linus Lentz.

Francis Meirick, Foreman	Ralph Biber
Kenneth Stevenson,	Harold Brown
Asst. Foreman	
Reuben Tucheck	Al Weber
Melvin McGrane	Keith Roethler
Francis Enright	Arnold Maravetz
Merle Schroeder	Leroy Mohrfeld
Dan Conway	Gay Loftus
Jack Althof	Lee Shannon
John Schroeder	Elmer Heying
John Friedhof	Louis Meyerhoff

1986

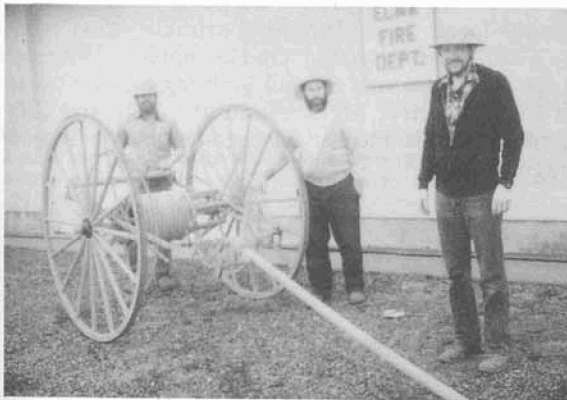
Linus Lentz, Chief	Pat Fogarty
Vern Voves, Asst. Chief	Kenny Gebel
Merle Worple	Vern McGrane
Nick Zeimetz	Tom Hidding
Pat Palmersheim	Mike Zeimetz
Darrell Knecht	Jerry Heying, Jr.
Pat Boyle	John Lentz
Bill Enloe	Chas Dockendorf
Ed Voves	Cleon Seedorf
Jeff Schwartzkopf	Lyle Streich
Steve Worple	Jerry Steven
Tom Smith	Gerald Buttolph
Dean Kruger	Joe Whiting



Elma had garbage pick-up early in the 1970's, one of the first in the county.



Ebert Brothers laying sidewalk in front of the Brick Flats.



Firemen manning the "old hose cart" are Jerry Heying, Jr., Fire Chief Linus Lentz, and Darrell Knecht.

They are wearing helmets made of steel, and on the front of the one Linus is wearing, it reads "Fire Chief E.F.D." On the other helmets it reads "Elma." They are probably from the same era as the cart.

In an early ordinance book it instructs anyone in the vicinity, when hearing the fire whistle, to hitch their team to the hose cart and head for the fire.

Elma Utilities

Elma operated its own electric light plant in the early years. The Consumers Electric Light Company was incorporated July 14, 1916. From the minutes of town council meetings, it was discovered that Elma had an operating electric light plant at the time of incorporation of the town in 1891.

In 1908 the town invested in a fire alarm whistle and installed it at the electric light plant. In July of 1914 the council decided to install a larger engine and furnish continuous service day and night. This plant was

destroyed by fire in 1918 and rebuilt. The system was changed from direct current to alternating current at this time.

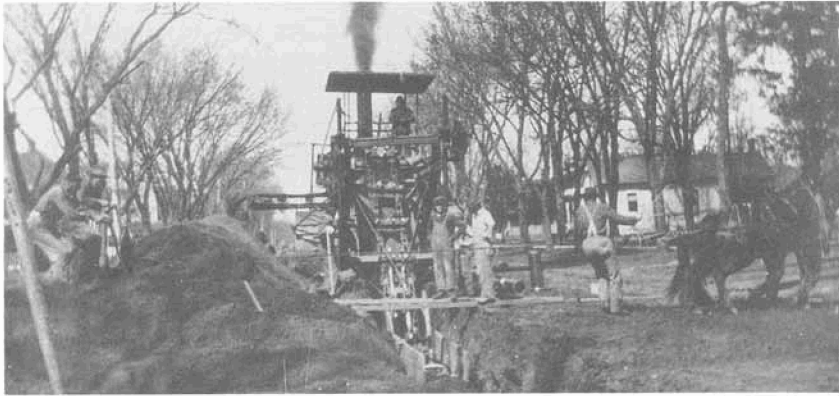
The electric plant was sold to Central States Power and Light Co., and later at some time in the 1940's, to Interstate Power Company, who continue to supply the electricity to Elma.

The council passed an ordinance in 1905 specifying that all sidewalks must be cement or fire brick.

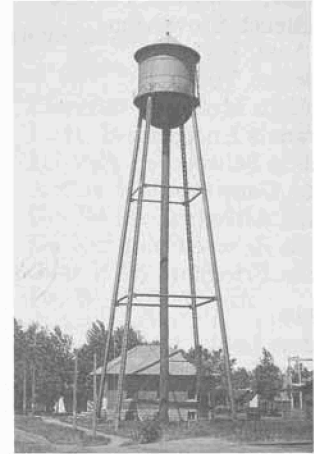
In 1973, approval was given for a weekly garbage pick-up with the contract given to Marvin Nielsen. The city dump was closed May 1, 1973. Paul Wheeler took over the garbage pick-up in 1976. Presently Elma is served by Hawkeye Sanitation.

Water facilities in Elma have improved from a system of private wells and cisterns in 1894 to a municipal facility. In 1914 a contract was signed with Des Moines Bridge & Iron Co. for the erection of a water works system for Elma. The water facility was a gravity or direct pressure system supplied from one well. An electric motor supplied the mains directly or by gravity. The tank capacity was 50,000 gallons. The tank was elevated 100 feet on a steel trestle. The average daily consumption was estimated in 1920 as 40,000 gallons. The system was installed and mains laid in 1914. In 1943 a new well was drilled.

The old state garage was purchased by the town in 1949. An addition was built to the town maintenance garage in 1953. This building housed the town equipment and fire equipment until the new fire station was built around 1978. A new county shop was built a



Installation of Elma's water and sewer system around 1917. Believed to be working on west Main Street. The digging machine was steam powered and the ditch was being back filled by a lip-scraper (on the left) pulled by a team of horses. House on the right is Merle Jacoby's (none of the men are identified).



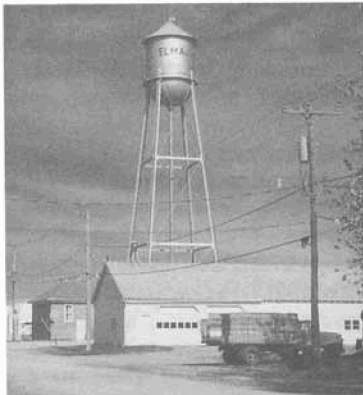
Elma's water tower shortly after its construction.

City Hall

block east of the I.C. Church in 1939. An addition was built on the north end in 1952.

The streets of Elma were level grade but unpaved into the 1930's. Calcium chloride was applied to the streets to help hold the dust down. In 1948 the blacktop from the state highway on the north edge of town was extended through town with adjoining property owners paying half. In 1950 machinery and equipment was purchased by the town that would be used to oil most of the streets of Elma. This equipment was later sold and street work was done by private contractors.

Elma's City Hall was built around the time of the installation of the water system in Elma. The pump for the well is housed in the basement of the building. Also housed in this area was the city jail. Prior to this, there were other buildings used for the jail or "calaboose." The map of Elma of 1894 shows a City Hall & Calaboose located in the approximate area that Kenny's D-X is now located. On the maps of 1900 and 1905, the calaboose was a small building located north of the Elma Electric Light Plant. By 1920 the City Hall had been built and the former calaboose was now a storage shed.

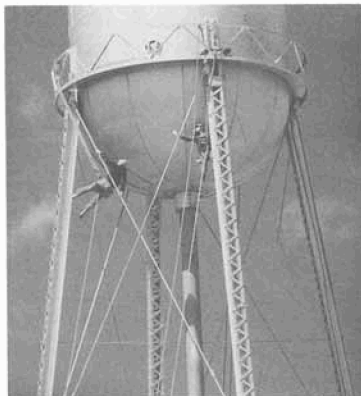


Elma's water tower in recent years. Please note the town maintenance garage in the foreground.



City Hall as it looked when it was first built.

Workers officially painting the water tower; they are not the pranksters that used to scale the tower to place their messages such as "Class of ___", or hang someone in effigy.



City Hall after minor changes. Picture taken in 1970's.

In the photo of City Hall, the front door was a double-wide garage type door. The fire department had a two-wheel hose cart which was stored in this door. The cart was towed by a group of firemen down the ramp when there was a fire. The ramp area was later made into steps, and after the fire cart moved out, was remodeled into the town library. After the library moved out in 1969, the hall was used for various club groups, the most regular being the Senior Citizens. They have since changed their meeting place to the Memorial Hall, because of the easier access. The town council hold their meetings in City Hall and town records are stored there. It is uncertain what the building in the background is, but for many years the city operated the Elma Electric Light Plant in this location.

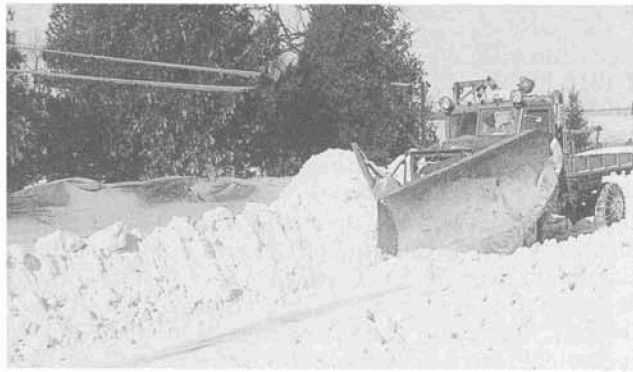
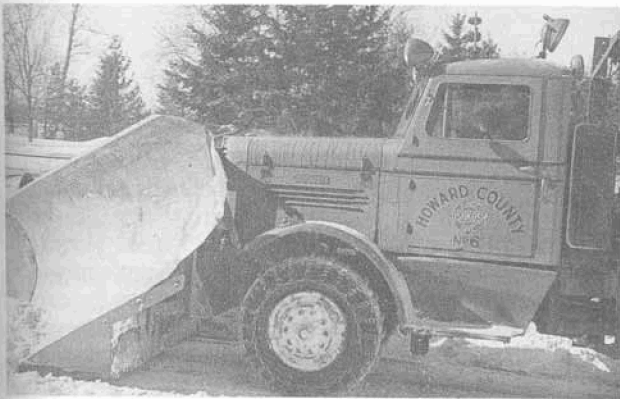
Howard County Maintenance



This was the first Howard County Highway Department snowplow out of Elma. In the early 1930's Lyle Hyberger and Arlyn Weers operated it. During the summertime a grader was pulled behind it.



Lyle Hyberger checked the snowdrifts and operated a snowplow in the 1940's.



This truck was an early 1940 Osh Kosh, 4-wheel drive with an under-bodied blade.



In the spring of 1948, soon after the snowplow equipment was removed, this new FWD four-wheel drive truck was acquired. Ed McGrane, on the right, was the truck operator. Arlyn (Shrimp) Weers, on the left, was also employed on the truck in the winter months for snowplowing. In the summer, he operated a drag line. This picture was taken in front of the County shop. Arlyn Weers was employed by the Howard County Highway Department for more than forty years. Both Lyle Hyberger and Ed McGrane worked for the county for more than thirty years.

Elma Public Works



Maurice Silver was the Street Commissioner for the town of Elma in the 1920's and early 1930's. He is shown here operating an earlier model road grader. His son-in-law, Tom Kelly, was also employed by the town of Elma as a Street Commissioner for many years.

Elma Public Library

The Elma Public Library was organized in January of 1913 by Mrs. H. L. Spaulding, Mr. Frank Howard, and Mrs. Harry Pardee, who acted as the board. Mrs. Pardee acted as librarian when the library was located above the Davies Drug Store on west Main Street.

Sometime later, the library was moved to the City Hall, where it remained for several years. At that time, the library board consisted of Emma Pardee, Pres. H. Diekmann, Mrs. W. H. Tate, Rev. R. A. Hallett, and Mrs. Myrtle Galligan. Acting Board: Mrs. Ray Elwood, secretary and treasurer; and Mrs. Dan Noonan, librarian.



Mrs. E. O. Longstreth (right), librarian at Elma, shares interest with two other librarians, Analynn Moe of Lake Mills (left), and Alice Killerlain of Charles City, in a schedule of program activities at the library workshop held last week at the University of Iowa. The program centered on the theme "Ways to Build Good Reading Habits." A meeting attended by our librarian in the 1950's.

When the telephone company changed to the dial system, the brick building which had housed the telephone office was given to the town in 1969. After extensive remodeling and an addition was completed, the Elma Public Library moved into it.

Emma Longstreth was the librarian for over 40 years. She was the instrument by which Elma gained the present brick building, which she achieved through



Elma Public Library, 1986.

a national library grant awarded her for her outstanding library work. Emma prided herself on having read every book that had gone into the library.

After Emma's death in 1980, Tom Offerman was hired as librarian. He was assisted by Pat Streich. He later resigned and was replaced by Dolores Palmersheim in May of 1982. She is assisted by Mrs. John (Connie) Ludwig.

The library is open three days a week—Monday, Thursday and Saturday. It offers a full line of reference material for students and many sources of enjoyment for Elma readers.

The Elma library is also associated with the Northeastern Iowa Regional Library System. Books can be borrowed from them that are not available in our library. They also have "large print" books for the visually impaired. Paintings are also loaned and may be obtained to be used in library patron's homes.

The library also has a projector, which may be borrowed. During the summer months, a story hour for the youngsters of the area is provided. The inventory of books is updated to keep up with current requests.

Part of the decor of the library is a painting by Dick Weers and it is of "The Walter Sisters' House." Interesting to anyone that remembers Elma.

A book drop is conveniently located next to the entrance of the building. There is a display window in the front of the building used for Memorial Day decorations, and as a method of introducing new books to the public. A flower bed compliments the structure, maintained by Librarian Dolores Palmersheim.

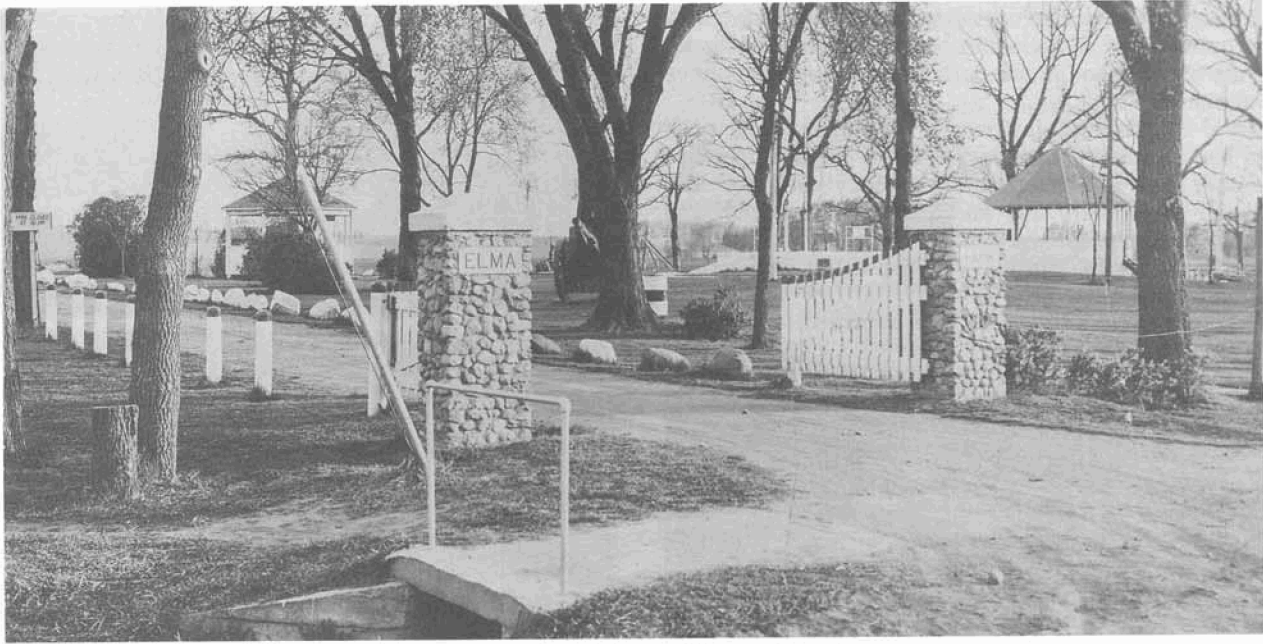
Members of the library board are: Jim Gansen, Mary Gansen, Kendra Kleespie, Charlotte Platte and Kay Hayden.

Elma Park

In December of 1935 the property known as the Kennedy place was purchased by the town for a park. Work began on the new park for Elma in April of 1936. An initial allotment of \$1,350 was awarded the Elma project to be used for labor. The 12 men from Elma on WPA rolls who had been working on the Riceville sewer project and elsewhere the previous winter were assigned to the job. Clarence Mulick was foreman. The WPA stood for the Works Progress Administration.

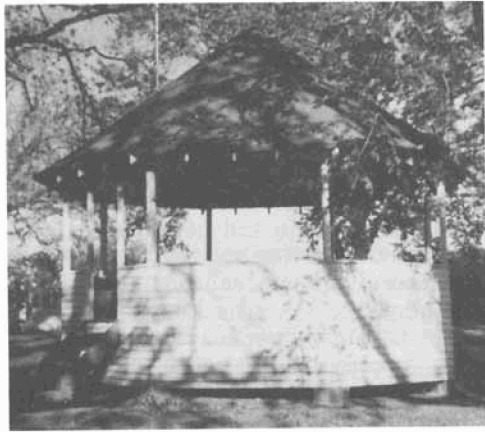
The project called for the development of the eight acres of the Kennedy place where the house had burned in 1931. The basement of the house was made into rest rooms. The land extended from the road south of the public school to the Wyrön Buchholz land on the south (now the Emil Platte farm), and from the Alta Vista road on the east to the J. W. Mahoney property on the west (now used by Dr. Oelberg for storage), with the home of Mrs. N. A. Parker taken out of the northwest corner of the plot.

Workmen leveled off the ground, grubbed out stumps, and seeded down the ground. The bandstands were moved in and permanently located here. Landscaping was begun with shrubbery and trees planted and a rock garden built. The fieldstone fireplace was laid up by Will Weers. Several winding drives for cars were made, allowing cars to drive completely through the park area. The drive through the main gate has been closed off in recent years to keep travel through



the area to a minimum. The front gateposts are made of fieldstone.

A fine addition was made to the Elma Park when a government cannon was brought from the federal



donated when the government issued a call for scrap metal to aid the war cause during World War II.

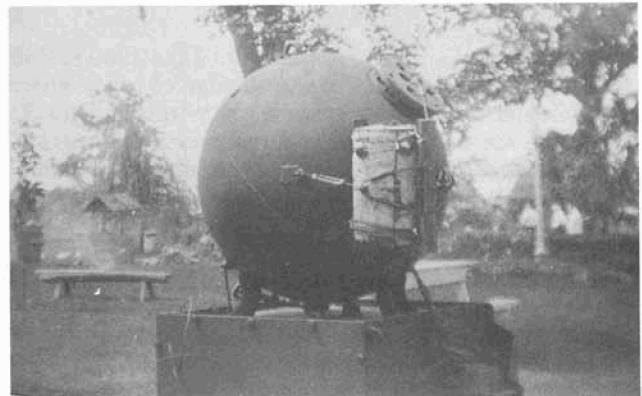
By June of 1937, the grandstand had almost been completed. On the north side of the ball diamond, a fence eight feet tall had been started and plans were made for a fence on the west side. Our park was fortunate to have the grandstand with room underneath for storage and dugouts for use by the ball teams.

The park project was closed in August of 1937. A great deal of credit was given to Mayor F. C. Fencl, E. B. Richmond, N. A. Parker, L. E. Markham, and D. Brandmill.

Work has continued through the years. Lining the center drive was a row of tall light poles. The rock garden was complimented by the addition of other rocks found in unique sizes and shapes. The playground area was originally located in the southern part of the park grounds where the Sportsmans Building was also located. This is now town property, but old habits die hard and it is still referred to as the "Sportsmans." Two additional shelters have been added to accommodate park visitors. Playground equipment has



arsenal at Rock Island, Illinois, in October of 1936. The cannon, a 44.7-inch gun and carriage, weighing in excess of 7,500 pounds, was placed near the northeast gate of the park facing north. A mine located farther west on a cement platform and the cannon were both



also been added on the north half of the property. New restrooms were installed in recent years. The bandstands which stood in the park for so many years have been dismantled.

Besides offering playground equipment, the park also has a tennis court, basketball hoop, a horse shoe pitching area, an open area for a volleyball game, and the ball diamond. Elma has a summer baseball and softball program for the youth. The well-lit diamond is also the scene of many hotly contested ball games played by the older groups.

Elma's Park continues to be a source of enjoyment and pride.



Elma did not have a town park until the 1930's. Ball games had been held on the west edge of town where the Colonial Manor now stands, prior to this time. In 1935, the town council discussed a suitable location. The following article appeared in the New Era in 1935:

Elma Park

Square Block Will Be Developed and Beautified

At a special meeting of the Elma Commercial Club, it was decided to urge the town council to purchase the square block on the west side of town south of the Longstreth residence and east of the O'Toole residence, to be used as a park and playground.



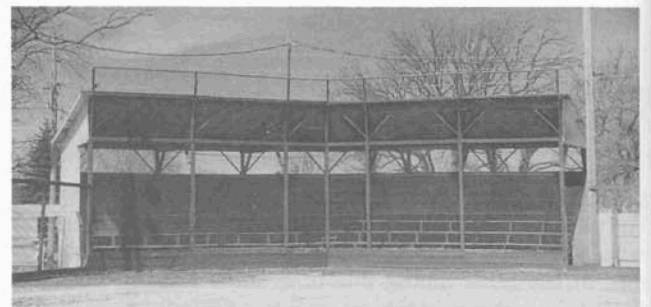
The lots were purchased from the owners: Wm Sweet, Mrs. J. W. Harris and Mrs. Chas Conway. The commercial club, the council and other civic bodies were to seed down and develop this property.

It was felt that Elma urgently needed such a project since Elma was one of the few towns in this section without some sort of public park or playground. This site was ideal because of its location about midway between the public school and the I.C. Academy. It was easily accessible for residents of both the east and west sides of town.

Plans called for plowing and seeding down the block with grass seed. It was then planned to place playground equipment, lay out a kittenball diamond and tennis courts. Plans were also made for a good bandstand on the premises of a permanent nature to hold summer band concerts in, doing away with holding concerts on the streets, which has always caused congestion and been dangerous for children.

It was felt development would take several years.

This park may or may not have been started, but it is



not the park that Elma has now. This site was where the homes of Lucille Corrick, Harold Showalter, Kenneth Stevenson, and Marian Frank now stand.

Memorial Hall

The Elma community, feeling there was a need for a community hall and also a permanent site for the American Legion Post, held an election in the fall of 1948. A bond issue passed and the low bid submitted by Otto Lentz was accepted in November of 1949. The hall was constructed in 1950. Prior to this time, the Legion held its meetings in the New Era building.

The east end of the hall contains the John Frahm Post of the American Legion. Next to this room are the kitchen facilities for the hall, recently remodeled and equipped.



Elma Memorial Hall

The front of the hall contains a room now used for storage which was originally a cloak room. On the opposite side are the restrooms.

The central hall area has been redecorated several times. At the time in the 1950's when the hall was used for teen dances, a mural was painted on the east wall. Part of this was lost in later remodeling. A stage was located on the east end and was moved to the south side of the hall. The stage is portable and is used for programs and community events such as style shows. It also is used by bands who provide music for the many dances held there through the year. Around 1976, booths were added along the north side of the hall. Recent additions have been: a ramp to provide access for the handicapped, recoating of the exterior, and an enclosed patio to the south for use by guests at social functions.*

The Legion rooms are used by several groups. The hall is used by the senior citizens for a Meal Site on Wednesday and by the Elma Senior Citizens meetings on Friday. The younger persons of the community roller skate on Friday evenings and some Sundays.

There is a P.A. system mounted on the wall and available for making announcements. Several fans are

*Framed for display on the walls are maps of Elma in its earlier days, also surrounded by pictures of Elma. These lighted displays are enjoyed by many Memorial Hall guests.

mounted on the ceiling for circulation. It is a perfect place for receptions and other social functions.

Telephone Company

The telephone system was invented in 1895, and one of the earliest recollections obtained was of a telephone operator in the early 1900's. Her name was Katie Hansen, and she was extensively trained for this position. She boarded with the Gus Rohde family.

Daniel and Garfalia Cole were in business in Elma and their daughter, Edith, at the age of 16, worked at the telephone office. At that time, there was just one operator with a relief operator, so it was necessary for the one on duty to sleep at the telephone office.

Smith Cole, Edith's brother, was the line man. Bert Addy was their immediate boss. Edith married Al O'Donnell, who had come to town to work at the C. W. Chapman Lumber Co. for his brother, Gus, who was manager. Al had been a widower.

Frank Fencl was manager of Northern Iowa Telephone Co. for many years. In 1912 the telephone office and the building that housed the "Elma New Era" burned. They were located where the "Grand Opera House" was later built, now the site of the Elma Locker. A building north of there was then used as the telephone office. Later, the office was moved into the north side of the locker.

The town of Elma was served faithfully and well by Genevieve O'Brien, Lill Vokaty, Maggie Berry, and

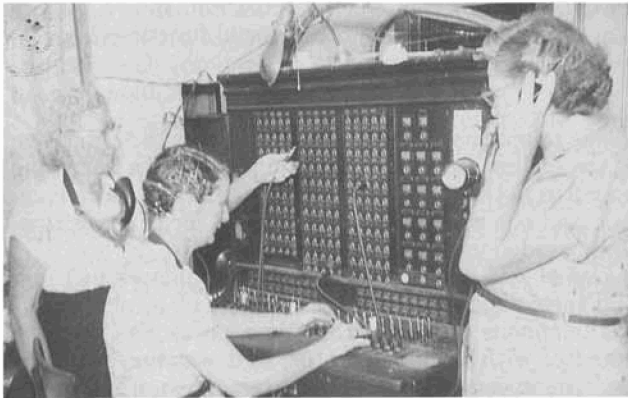
Edith Cole, telephone operator, with brother Smith seen up on the pole as a lineman.



Lola Papach. When these operators were hired, they worked for 12 cents an hour. They also were required to remain at the office overnight when they were on duty, in a bedroom connecting the office.

In the forties, Marian Frank was a telephone operator, and in the fifties Mary Gansen was employed as an operator. Jean Shannon was also a telephone operator in the '40's in Elma.

The telephone operators through the years were required to call an ambulance, direct them to the area requesting it, answer fire calls, almost as a dispatcher as



Lill Vokaty, Genevieve O'Brien, and Maggie Berry at the switchboard.

well as routine duties. It was also their job to stoke the fire. Apparently a "job description" was very lengthy.

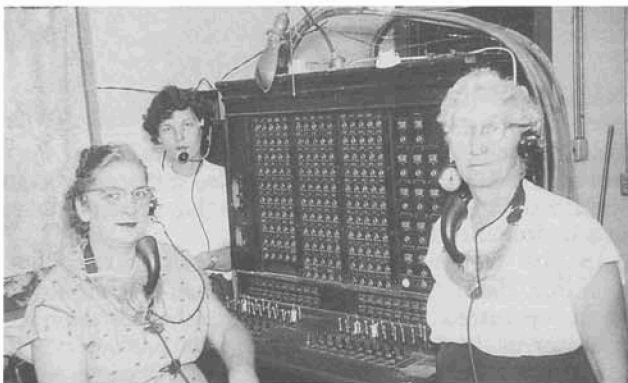
The telephone company in Elma was owned by Northern Iowa Telephone Co. in the 1930's and 1940's with Bert Addy being manager. Central Iowa Telephone Co. purchased the Elma Co. in 1953. During this period the dial system was installed on March 5, 1957. A building was built for that purpose in 1955.

Mayor Cliff Stratton made the first call out on the new system. Central Iowa operated here until 1966 when General Telephone bought the Elma Co. with Walt Jones of Cresco being manager until 1979. A new addition was built in 1980 to facilitate new electronic equipment. Delbert Burris moved to Elma in 1959 and was the service representative until 1983 when he retired. In 1980 new cable was placed, and it was cut over in August of 1980. In 1981 the poles and wires once so familiar were removed. John Kaiser has been service manager since 1979. His office is in Cresco.

Excerpts from the General Directory of the Northern Iowa Telephone Co. dated 1934. The local manager was W. H. Forry and the company was based in Cresco, Iowa.

Use of telephone is restricted to subscribers and their employees.

The instructions strongly state the party speaking must hold the phone $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from their mouth, neglect-



Lola Papach, Maggie Berry and Lill Vokaty. You can almost hear them say "Number, Please!"

ing to do so would produce the following results: One inch away would be equal to lengthening the line 57 miles, two inches would equal lengthening the line to 114 miles, and etc.

In Case of Fire Alarm—The operators are instructed to advise the different fire companies in preference to



Jean Shannon, telephone operator in Elma, and later transferred to New Hampton.

all other calls, therefore, if you do not get an immediate answer (or perhaps none at all) you will bear in mind that with the large number of calls which invariably come to "Central" when there is a fire, it is impossible to answer a fraction of the calls.

When the operator tells you the "Line is Busy," the apparatus she works with automatically tells her the line is busy, she does not plug into a busy line.

From the above, you will understand why the operators do not take the line away from a line monopolizer—they usually do not have time to listen to see whether business or gossiping is holding up the line.



Mayor Cliff Stratton making the first call out on the new dial system on March 5, 1957.

In making a "Long Distance" call, give the operator your number, name, and details of your call, including the number of the desired telephone, if you know it. "Long Distance" will acknowledge your call and if the distant town can be reached promptly, you will be asked to hold the line. If not, you will be informed that you will be called by the operator, then hang up the receiver.

On opposite page is a 1925 phone directory.

Elm Go Corporation

In 1971, a group of concerned citizens held a meeting to discuss the possibility of building low-rent housing units in Elma.

After an extensive evaluation of the need in the community, Elm Go Corporation was organized. The Chairman, Harold Showalter, explained that it would be necessary for the Corporation to raise 2% of the total cost of the unit, which was \$54,000.

A drive was begun and increments of \$25 were collected, far exceeding the required amount. Thus, the first unit, containing five apartments, was built in 1972, on the corner of 8th and Oak. In 1973 the second unit was built on the east side of town on the same block as St. Peter's Lutheran Church. These units were so successful that two more units were built on 7th Street in West Elma in 1977.

Harold Showalter has managed these non-profit apartments for 14 years. Currently, Harold is acting in an advisory capacity, and Mrs. Darrell (Cindy) Knecht is in charge of the units.

Rent is established by a certain criteria, including net worth.

The current Elm Go Board includes: Leroy Mohrfeld, president; Ralph Klobassa, vice president; Kenny Gebel, secretary; Phil McCarville, treasurer; Reuben Tuckek, Merle Schroeder, Lucille Stapleton, Delbert Burris, and Jim Gansen.



First unit of Elm Go on the corner of 8th and Oak.

Nursing Homes in Elma

Although the name may range from nursing home to care facility to old folks' home, the purpose is still the same. That purpose is to provide a home with nursing care for our elderly or disabled who cannot care for themselves.

The first nursing home that we know was the Stark Nursing Home. It was located in the house now oc-

cupied by Delbert and Betty Burris. The home had room for five residents. One of the ladies who worked there was Ella Palmersheim.

In 1957 Evan Evans and his wife, Fanny, opened a nursing home in the old John Mahoney house just west of the Elma Park. The Evans Rest Home was later sold to Earl and Janice Shaffer. They operated the Shaffer Rest Home until December of 1973.

Merirest operated from 1965-1967. Owner Mary Mulick was licensed to provide nursing care in an area in the downstairs of her residence on Main Street.

Attempts were made to gain approval for a nursing center. On March 25, 1976, approval was granted by the State Office of Planning and Programming for a 60-bed nursing center, consisting of 17 skilled care, 13 intermediate care, and 30 custodial care.

Two corporations were set up to sponsor the task of final approval. A Developing Corporation was set up to sponsor the organization. This was a non-profit corporation with no limit on membership. Its main purpose was to obtain loans. The second corporation, an operating corporation, was a profit organization with the responsibility for operating the center. This corporation entered into a lease purchase agreement with the Elma Development Corporation and was to pay the Development Corporation enough so loan payments could be met.

The first board of the Elma Development Corporation was: Joe Ludwig, Jr., president; Edwin Streich, vice-president; Edna Schroeder, secretary; Reuben Tuckek, treasurer; Joe Rouchka, Kenneth Fangman, and Delbert Burris, directors.

Colonial Manor of Elma board members were: Jim Gansen, president; Kenneth Gebel, vice-president; Ed Diekmann, secretary; Adolph Ludwig, treasurer; Joe Klobassa, Lee Shannon, and Harold Stapleton, directors.

The first personnel were: Administrator, Kent Martens; Health Services Supervisor, Jane Mai, R.N.; Food Services Supervisor, Mary Worple; Activities Coordinator, Bernice Felder; Laundry and Housekeeping Supervisor, Charlotte Cameron; Cooks, Hazel Lentz and Leona Jacoby; Consultant Pharmacist, Linda Nightingale.

The Colonial Manor is now a 62-bed facility. In the lobby of the home can be found a list of families and organizations who have made contributions to the facility. Clergymen from the northeastern Iowa area visit often. The staff of the Colonial Manor continue to make this "home" to the residents who reside there.



Elma Nursing Home

The Hastings Hospital (Elma In The Hands Of Time)

The Hastings Hospital or Elma Hospital, as it was known to some people, was open to the public on January 31, 1929.

The hospital was built of fireproof material and was placed on a high foundation, thus making the basement high and well lighted. The hospital was reached by a short flight of stairs. Entering, we were placed in the recreation room with comfortable seats. To the left was Dr. Hastings' private office, which from the north led to the drug storage room. From this room another door led to the hall of the hospital. On the right of the reception room in entering the hall was the sun room. This was well furnished with comfortable fixtures and furniture and had attractive curtains and light fixtures. After leaving the reception room, one entered a long hall running the length of the building. The hall had a sanitary drinking fountain, settees, tables, and floor lamps. There were six patient rooms well furnished; each room had a closet for the convenience of the patients. There was a large bathroom with every modern convenience and at the extreme north of the building was a very well lighted operating room and a sterilizing room in connection. Across from the operating room was a kitchen equipped with modern stoves and refrigerator, there also was a linen closet, built-in tables, cupboards, ironing board and sink. The basement had a well-stocked vegetable and fruit room and dining room. The doors of the hospital were of birch slab, oakwood trimmings and glass knobs.

The hospital had a system of bells and buzzers. At that time, Miss Erma Bachmann was the head nurse and Dr. John Hastings, House Doctor, who by their ability were ready to lighten the suffering humanity. Dr. Hastings was a human friend, an able physician who believed in fairness for his service. Elma can call herself proud for having such an institution.

1986

Throughout the years the hospital building has been remodeled and redecorated several times, only recently when an office was prepared for Jeff Ernst, D.D.S., in January of this year, who joined Dr. Rainy.

It has served the community well, thanks to the foresight of Dr. Hastings and Irma Bachmann, who built it. It has provided office space, examining rooms, a small laboratory (in the same location it has always been), a pharmacy, a beautifully-decorated waiting room. It has been known for the past 32 years as Dr. Rainy's office, and stands ready to be of service for many more years.

Elma's Doctors

As Elma became a community, no addition to the population was more welcome than our doctors. Money was a rare commodity, for many times doctors' fees were paid in such produce as the pioneer farmers could spare and the doctors could use.



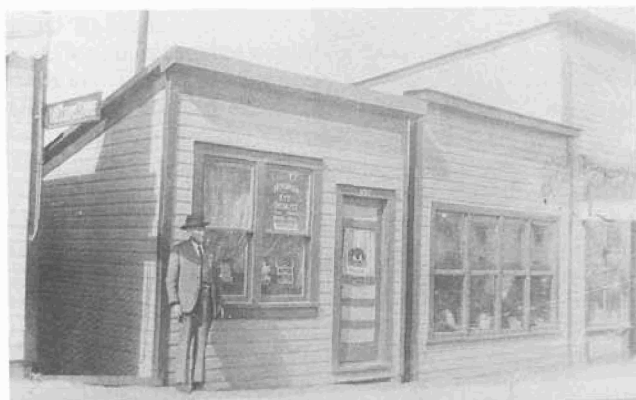
A building that has withstood the hands of time.

According to a pioneer woman, "Of the pests we endured there were three in particular—the 'shakes,' the Indians, and the doctors' 'medicines.'"

The doctors' stock of surgical instruments, appliances, and medicines was extremely limited. A supply of calomel, some jalap, aloes, Dover's powder, castor oil, and Peruvian bark constituted his basic supplies.

If a cruel cathartic, followed by blood-letting and a

fly-blisters, did not improve the condition of the patient, the doctor trusted to the sick man's rugged constitution to pull him through.



Dr. Dunham standing ahead of his office, with the window clearly reading "Eye Specialist." He was also a physician and surgeon.



J. W. Mulick, M.D.



J. C. Hastings, M.D.

In the face of biting winds, chilling rains in the darkest hours of the night, crossing sloughs and pushing his way across the trackless prairie, the doctor made his visits.

The early sacrifices and labors of our pioneer doctors paved the way for modern miracles in science and medicine which were to come in the future.

In 1893, Dr. Mabry came to Elma from Vandalia, Illinois, and practiced medicine. He was the father of two sons, Dudley and Bob, and two daughters, Mrs. John Mahoney and Mrs. Frank Trunkey.

In 1886, Elma's doctors were E. H. Dunn and M. D. Dunn.

In 1898, Dr. Dunn of Elma was physician and surgeon for Howard and Afton Townships.

Dr. Jerald built the "George Kirchner home" on the north end of east Busti Avenue now owned by C. Oelberg, D.V.M., housing his research business. The stairs were especially wide to provide for patients to be taken upstairs when they required "hospital-type care."

Dr. Overfield was a pioneer doctor and drug store owner. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge.

Dr. Gillespie and Dr. Spooner had their offices over the Farmers Bank.

Among the many dedicated doctors to serve the

C. I. Fox, M.D., entertaining the hospital board at a cookout.



Elma community was Dr. J. W. Mulick. Dr. Mulick was born near Riceville, February 4, 1867. He had three brothers: John, Patrick and Joseph; four sisters: Sister Mary Leontine, Sister Mary Seratina, Sister Mary Mark, and Miss Anna Mulick.

In his youth, he attended schools in Riceville and Osage. He attended Rush Medical College in Chicago, graduating in 1899. He served as an intern in the "Lying-in" Hospital in Chicago under a Dr. Lee. He began his professional career in McIntire, Iowa, where he remained for one year.

In 1900 he came to Elma and served the community for 34 years. On June 7, 1905, he married Catherine Cullen of Montreal, Canada. To this union four children were born. A daughter, Catherine, died in March 1912. Two sons and a daughter survived them, Arthur, Clarence and Mildred. Miss Mildred was a teacher in area country schools and in later years was a companion to her aunt, Miss Anna Mulick.

Doctor Mulick was president of the Howard County Medical Ass'n in 1917-1918. At times patients were cared for in his home, which is the stately home on Hwy. 272, now occupied by the Don Dybevik family. Doctor Mulick died in his home November 8, 1934. His wife preceded him in death in October 1918.



Mrs. Emma Clynch, R.N.



Mrs. Mary Kay Loes, R.N.



Miss Irma Bachmann, R.N.

Two nurses who assisted Doctor Mulick were Katie Falada, who later married James Kovarik, and Irene Saul.

An interesting ad in the 1911 "Elma New Era" read "Special attention to diseases of women and children." Dr. Mulick's office was located over the Farmers Bank at that time.

Dr. H. E. Dunham was a physician and surgeon in Elma in the early 1900's, and with his wife and daughter, Juanita, lived in what we know as the brick flats. He was located in an office next to the William's Store for a time, and by 1911 was located in the Tierney Building.

In the 1911 "New Era" he also had an ad which read "All calls answered day or night. Special attention to chronic diseases and fitting glasses."

Dr. Franz Epeneter was listed as a doctor in Elma in 1916-1917. Dr. John O'Keefe and Dr. Hastings both had offices over Gitzy and Stack Drug Store at one time.

Dr. J. C. Hastings was born on July 26, 1875, at Bailey, near McIntire, the son of Michael and Mary Gilvoy Hastings. He graduated from Rush Medical College in Chicago in 1902. He established his first practice in Alta Vista, Iowa, being joined in 1907 by his brother Dr. P. H. Hastings. He married Hazel McKirchy October 26, 1904. They had four children: Merle, who died in 1950, Wallace, Dr. R. C. Hastings, and Mrs. J. F. Swantek (Hazel).

It was good news for the town of Elma when on January 3, 1918, Dr. Hastings moved to Elma. The doctor rented the Owen's house on the west side of Elma. He set up rooms over the Rexall Drug Store for his office and consultation rooms. He had practiced in Alta Vista for sixteen years, and he was still able to care for much of his country practice. This estimable family was welcome in Elma.

He kept a buggy, cutter and three teams of horses. During the flu epidemic of 1918, Dr. Hastings made so many calls that he wore the horses out. That was the end of the horse era anyway. The doctor had purchased his first automobile, an air-cooled Franklin, in 1912.

Miss Irma Bachmann, R.N., had joined Dr. Hastings a couple of years after he came to Elma. Through the years they had employed Marion (Anderson) Ashley, R.N., and Lorraine Bachmann, Elma (Larsen) Burgart, Margaret Kobliska, Mrs. Phyllis (Maravetz) Casey, and Julia Casey as nurse's aids and kitchen help.

In 1929, Dr. Hastings and Miss Bachmann financed and built the Elma Hospital.

Dr. Hastings, at the age of 75, decided to retire after 46 years of service to the area. His only criteria for retirement was someplace where he wouldn't be on call. This was in 1949.

Dr. and Mrs. Hastings moved to Waterloo and later to Florida.

Miss Bachmann was a nurse in the area for 29 years, the last 20 spent in the Elma Hospital. She and Dr. Hastings were joint owners of the hospital. She retired after devoted and faithful service to the community and moved to Florida in 1949. She later married and is known as Irma Manning.

Dr. C. Dean and Mrs. Dowling bought the Elma Hospital on June 30, 1949.

Dr. Dowling was a native of Lincoln, Illinois, where he graduated from school. He then attended medical school at Creighton University in 1930. He served one year of his internship at St. Joseph's Memorial Hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, one year there as a surgeon, one year in Cincinnati, Ohio, and another year at the Cook County Graduate School of Medicine in Chicago, Illinois. His last practice before coming to Elma was at Shellsburg, Iowa. Mrs. Dowling was a registered nurse, and was invaluable to the operation of the hospital.

After Dr. Dowling decided to continue his practice elsewhere, the town of Elma bought the hospital in 1953.

The Elma community was very fortunate to have Dr. C. I. Fox of Charles City, Iowa, open an office in the hospital temporarily, until a permanent replacement could be found. He was a very pleasant man and an asset to the area.

It is interesting to note that our present doctor, Dr. C. W. Rainy became aware of the need of a physician in Elma through the son-in-law of one of Elma's first doctors, Dr. Mabry.

Mr. John Mahoney, a resident of Elma became ill while visiting in Cedar Rapids and was taken to St. Luke's Hospital where Dr. Rainy was in residency. While caring for his patient, Dr. Rainy was encouraged to look into the possibility of coming to Elma.

Dr. C. W. Rainy was born in South Dakota. He attended Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and graduated in 1949. He served his internship at Oliver General Hospital in Augusta, Georgia, and Fitzsimons General Hospital in Denver, Colorado. His residency was spent at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Dr. Rainy served in WW II in Australia and New Guinea, and is also a veteran of the Korean War, serving there from 1950-1953.

Dr. and Mrs. Rainy, with their 2-year-old daughter Christine, came to Elma on September 15, 1954, and opened their office in the "Elma Hospital." Mrs. Emma (Praska) Clynch, R.N., joined Dr. Rainy as his nurse, coming from Cresco, Iowa, in 1954. She continued in that capacity until her retirement in 1973. Mary Kay (Mahoney) Loes, R.N., of Alta Vista was hired in the fall of 1973, and continues to be the office nurse.



Dr. Rainy greeting Mrs. Jennie Hart at his "Appreciation Day" in 1979.



Some of the children and mothers that were delivered by Dr. Rainy between 1954-1979.

Dr. Rainy makes routine daily visits to St. Joseph's Community Hospital in New Hampton, where the majority of his surgical and medical patients needing hospitalization choose to go. However, he is also on the medical staff of Floyd County Memorial Hospital in Charles City, Iowa.

In 1956, Dr. and Mrs. Rainy became the parents of a son, Charles Ashley, currently in the United States Army.

In 1960, when Elma lost its drug store, Dr. Rainy felt the need, as a convenience to his patients, to add a pharmacy to his office. This was set up in the previous kitchen of the hospital.

In January of 1986, Dr. Rainy discontinued his obstetrical practice, but continues in his role as general practitioner and surgeon.

On September 16, 1979, an appreciation day was held for "Doctor and Caroline" in the Elma Park for 25 years of service to this area. (No plans have been finalized for their fiftieth.)

Frederick N. Stute, D.D.S.

Frederick N. Stute, the youngest of four children, was born in 1874 on a farm between Lyle and Johnsbury, Minnesota, which had acreages in Iowa and Minnesota. His father, Carl, was a German immigrant who was sent to America at the age of sixteen by his parents. Carl, after arriving in America, first lived in Sparta, Wisconsin, then moved westward. At age seventeen, Frederick's parents elected to send him to school. He attended Cedar Valley Seminary, Osage, Iowa, and then graduated from the University of Iowa Dental School in 1899.

Frederick first learned of Elma while he was returning home for summer vacation in 1898 from Iowa City to Lyle, Minnesota, via a bicycle. He stayed overnight in Elma, liked the town, and the following year after graduation from the School of Dentistry at the University of Iowa, started his practice in Elma in 1899.

Dr. Stute married Gertrude Tierney in November 1907, and they lived with her mother in west Elma. After the death of Mrs. Tierney in 1940, Dr. Stute purchased the home and the family resided here for many

years. Four children were born of this union, one of whom died at birth. The surviving children are Frederick Wallace, a World War II veteran, who is a retired Certified Public Accountant; Lorraine (Fenstermaker), a retired social worker, both of whom now reside in Rock Island, Illinois; and Francis aka Frank, who married Lois Ann Oliver. Francis completed graduate school in 1956 and joined Kimberly Clark Corp. as a research chemist. He is manager of Environmental Services. They have four children and live in Neenah, Wisconsin.

Francis or "Corky" was to have been called F. Bernard, but Father Donnelly's first visit after his birth changed that with his greeting, "How's Barney?" At that point he became known as Francis. About the same time a local nurse (unknown) noted the new comic strip "Gasoline Alley" also had a new arrival nicknamed Corky, which was attached to Francis. He is best known in Elma by this nickname.

In June 1949, Frederick N. Stute, D.D.S., died in Elma at the age of 75. His wife, Gertrude, made her home here until the late 1960's. She died in February 1971 and both are buried in the family plot in Calvary Cemetery, Elma.

Dr. Ewert O. Longstreth

Dr. Longstreth was a man of numerous talents and interests.

Music played an important role in his life. He organized and directed the Elma band. He was instrumental in having music introduced into the Elma Public School. He instructed two daughters, Dianne and Vionne, and son, Langdon, in instrumental music, a knowledge which they utilized in high school and college.

One of his interests was carpentry. Achievements included building of kitchen cupboards, china cabinets, and refinishing of floors.

Other interests included a miniature "farm" on his acreage adjacent to his home. Time was spent preparing income tax returns. His involvement in the development of the Elma Park made it a place of beauty.

At the close of his career there were many people



E. O. Longstreth, D.D.S.

whom he had helped during his dental practice. Some had been able to pay cash for dental work; some paid through produce; some couldn't pay at all. He believed that everyone deserved to be helped.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge and American Legion, having been a veteran of World War I.

He was born in Afton, Iowa, February 8, 1895, to Orlando Langdon and Mary Louise (Wells) Longstreth. He graduated from Creston, Iowa, High School and University of Iowa School of Dentistry in 1925.

Dr. Longstreth's office was located north of the "old" post office on the east side of town. The building was owned by Leo Heineman. Later he purchased property from Mrs. Walt Helms. For many years it was used as a barber shop by Mr. Helms, and later by Don Murphy. It was located north of Reed Elwood's law office. Dr. Longstreth died July 15, 1952.

Dr. Lowell Carter Family

October, 1932, Dr. Lowell Carter with his wife, Mildred, and three daughters, Marjorie, Lois, and Kathryn, arrived in Elma to make their home.

Lowell was born June 3, 1895, to Charles O. and Eva J. Carter in Des Moines, Iowa. He was graduated from his parents' alma mater, Drake University, Des Moines. He received a D.D.S. (Doctor of Dental Surgery) degree from the University of Illinois, Chicago, in 1919. He served in the U.S. Navy during W.W. I. He married Mildred Stimson in Chicago June 29, 1918, before starting his dental practice in Des Moines in 1919.



Lowell Jameson Carter, D.D.S.



Mildred Stimson Carter

He began his dental practice in this area in Alta Vista with a young physician surgeon, Edwin C. O'Connor. The close and true friendship shared by these two men lasted for the remainder of their lives.

The Carter family was blessed by the arrival of a son and brother, Bruce Jameson, July 13, 1935.

Dr. Carter moved his office to his home in Elma in 1938.

He was an active member of the board of education of the Elma Public School, ultimately becoming its president. He encouraged the addition of more sciences and foreign languages to the curriculum.

He believed in brotherhood and good fellowship and became an active member of the Masonic Lodge.

He died at the age of 56, May 6, 1952, and was followed in death by his wife on December 27, 1953.

Jeff Ernst, D.D.S.

Dr. Jeff Ernst was born on May 12, 1959, in Waterloo, Iowa, to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ernst.

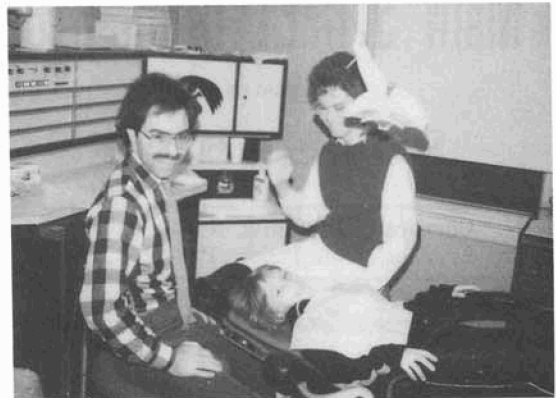
He was raised in New Hampton and graduated from New Hampton High School in 1977. He then attended the College of Dentistry at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, graduating in 1985.

His dental practice began on July 1, 1985, with certain days designated for his practice in Riceville and in Lime Springs.

On January 7, 1986, he opened an office in Elma in Dr. Rainy's office (The Elma Hospital Building), and although he is here part time, makes it clear he will respond to all emergencies.

There was a reception at the Peoples Savings Bank's meeting room to give the community a chance to meet Dr. Ernst and his parents on January 19th.

Dr. Ernst will live four miles south of Elma in a modern log cabin style home. Dr. Ernst is the newest addition to our medical family.



Dr. Jeff Ernst and his dental assistant, Tracie Simons of Riceville, Iowa, in his Elma office. Patient is Jessica Miller, daughter of Tom and Sue Miller.

In the late forties Elma also had Dr. Nichols, a chiropractor, who lived with his family in the Billington house west of the Lutheran church. He had his office in his home.

Comprehensive Systems

Following the closing of the Immaculate Conception Elementary School in 1969, Comprehensive Systems



These two pictures show north and east exposures of the Cottage. Note the basketball hoop and bicycles, several of the many features which help to provide a home-like atmosphere for the clients.



The entry to the Activity Center which provides school rooms and the workshop.

of Charles City obtained possession of the gymnasium and Convent.

Extensive remodeling of the gymnasium and Convent were completed for the purpose of providing educational training and housing facilities for the mentally and physically handicapped young people of Elma and surrounding communities.

The cottage located across the street from the Work Activity Center provides sleeping facilities decorated according to the clients' interests, a well-equipped kitchen, dining, and recreation facilities.

E. E. OVERFIELD, M. D.

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