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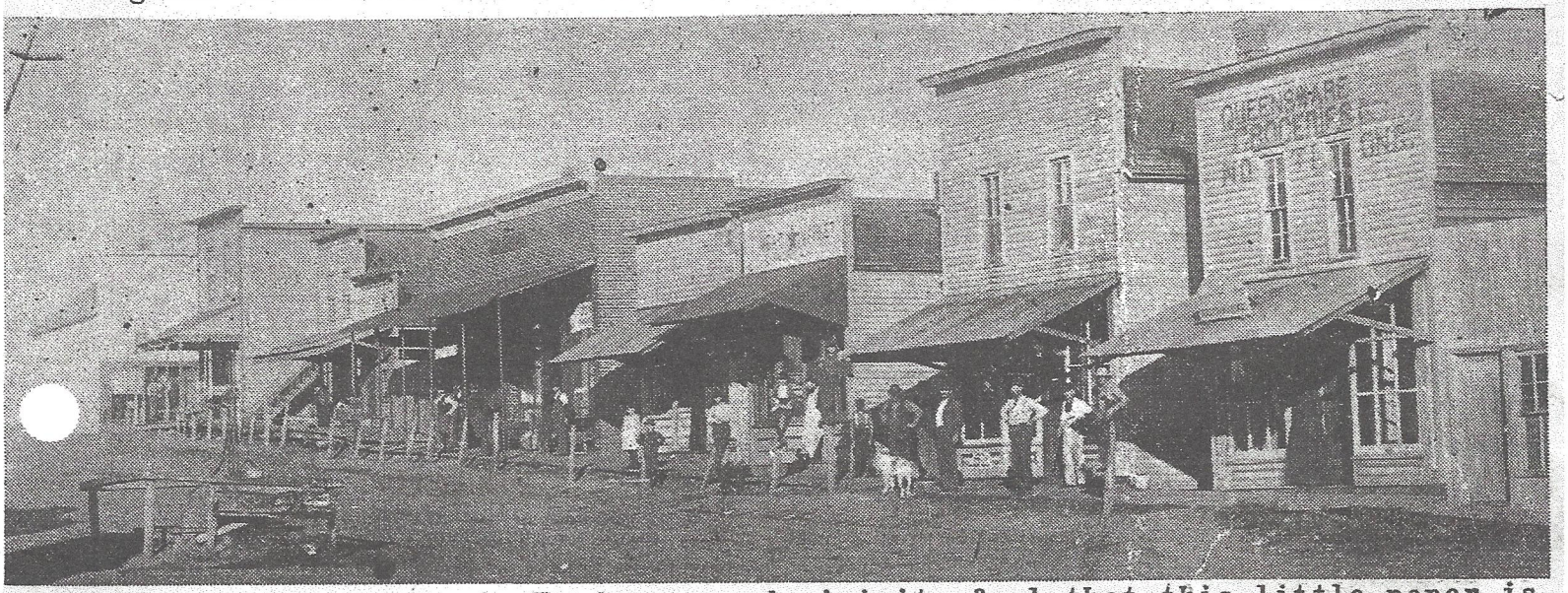
THE NISHNA VALLEY NEWS

VOLUME 2 | WEDNESDAY AUGUST,8,1962 | ISSUE 22

PUBLISHED BY THE NISHNA VALLEY NEWS | EMERSON,IOWA

EARLY HISTORY OF HENDERSON

This week we pay tribute to our friends and neighbors at Henderson,Iowa. The business men have been very kind to us of the Nishna Valley News,the ladies have given their news and church notes for which we are indeed very grateful.



We hope that everyone in Henderson and vicinity feel that this little paper is as much a part of them as are the others in the Nishna Valley. With the help of Mrs. Bertha Thorson,our English Instructor of the N.V.Schools,who has written this history in good form,Mr. Judd Coppock and Mrs. Art Fritcher who has sent

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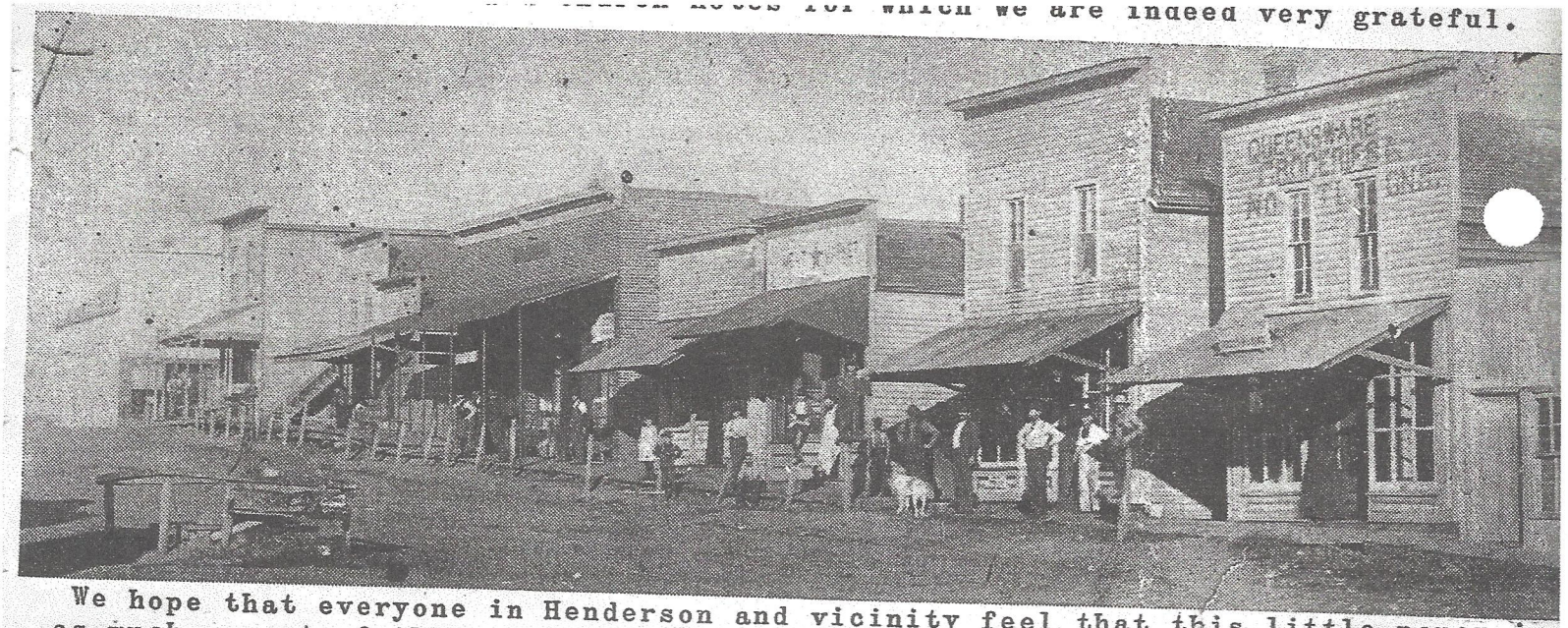

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In 1875, there was no such place as Henderson, but by February 24, 1877 a thriving little community was organizing a Church of Christ, proof positive that man does not live by bread alone.

The name first given to this village was Potter, but the name was never used either by the railroad or the postal department. The railroad was instrumental in naming the town. Their crewmen camped in the yard of a farmer named Dave Henderson. They called this place Henderson's Crossing, later shortened to Henderson.

The town's business section was originally located east of the present site. Anthony Baumgartner once operated a store where Virgil Moms' house now stands, but he later moved his building nearer the railroad where the old D K oil station is located.

A short time later John Barr opened a combination grocery store and post offic Early businesses were operated by Thomas Phillips, lumberman; Stanet and Son, merchants; G.F.Waterman, druggist; Jay Phillips, blacksmith; W.A.Chapplear, hotelman; Frank Campbell, station agent; Mrs. Williams, dressmaker and millinery; Mr. Crane, newspaper and editor; Bosbyshell and Mason, elevator and F.J.Taylor, elevator. Also early druggists were James Greig, Woods Brothers (Joel and Isaac) and C.E. Irwin. Two early operators of a grain elevator, Trimble and Irwin, sold their business to W.H.Harbor, grandfather of Wm. Harbor.

Before any church was built, services were held in the railroad depot. Later on they were held in the hall above Stanett's store. The first church erected belonged to the Lutheran Society and occupied the site where the present Christian Church now stands. The Christian Church purchased the building from the Lutheran Society. Their first minister was A.McFadden. The First Methodist Church was built in 1882. Joel Woods deeded the present site to the church trustees. Their first minister was Reverend Beck.

About 1880, five families located on the present site of Henderson. Two miles southeast was the nearest school. Many pioneers including, Mrs. T.D.Phillips, Mrs. U.G.Hockenberry, and Mrs. C.E.Irwin, attended that school.

In 1881, the first school was built near where the A.S.Paul house stood between the two churches. Directors of this school were Ed Lawrence, J.J.Ewing and Thos. Phillips. Miss Lizzie Archibald was the teacher.

Later the school was moved, and in 1896 a new building was placed where the present school is now located. In 1908, fire destroyed this building, and a new brick building was erected in its place.

Early history of Henderson, Iowa continued:

The first class to graduate had eight members. Of these there are two members, Pearl D. Pierson Clark of Henderson and Claude Owens of Omaha, who are still liv-. In 1920, Henderson united with some rural schools and became a consolidated ~~ool.~~ School

The earliest organized club was known as the Holmes Reading Circle and was formed in 1896. This was followed by the Women's Advance Club, organized and federated in 1901-1902. This club was later known as the Bay View Study Club.

Perhaps the most important event in the town's growth was the completion of the branch of the Burlington Railroad between Hastings and Avoca. This work began early in 1880, and on July 1st of that same year the first passenger train carrying many of the townspeople, traveled the full line of the branch system.

The first inhabitant of the Henderson area was John Whilesicles, a bachelor, farmer and trapper. He was followed soon after by Joel Woods, whose farm home stood on the site of Mr. LeRette's house, now the Clair Aukland home. Later on Jacob and Wesley Coppock and Henry Darnell established farm homes north of where the present town is now located.

Some other early settlers were James Ewing; Daniel Hougas; A.S.Paul; James Boileau; Thomas Phillips and his son, Thomas Jr.; M.C.Harover; W.H.Harbor; Joseph Graham; John A. Boswell; Calvin and Cyrus Turner; [illegible] Alexander Harover; Edward Slump; Mosely Chase; Isaac Wilson; Robert Pierson; A.Badham; A. McClennahan; Alexander Harover; Edward Slump; Herbert Buck; J.G.Bone; James McGee; Richard Thomas; W.R.Cooper; John Pritchen; George, John and Valentine Plumb; George Parker; J.D.Newton; Robert Sowers; Hayden Carter; Al Lumm; Henry Maxwell; A. Stonebraker; Jacob Coughill; Robert, John and Thomas Stewart; Martin Brammier; J.B.Fickel; James Grieg; J.Houser; John Barr; L.J.Allensworth; Thad Kilgore; Judd Coppock and G.E.Owens. Early settlers, Mr. and Mrs. John Barr were parents of the first child born in the new town.

From these sturdy stock grew the present town of Henderson and many of the family names listed above are still to be found in Henderson's telephone direct-ory

Henderson Businesses

Allensworth Transfer
Browns Service
Art Fritcher, Auctioneer and Rodeo
Phillips Lbr. Company
Thos. Reiken Cont.
Harover & Becker Ins.
State Savings Bank
Locker & Grocery

Bolton Insurance
Byers Bros. Trucking
Harbor Feed & Grain
Hendrix Implements
T.C.Shook Oils
Sowers Plbg. & Htg.
Myers & Randolph
Conservation Work

Brown's Feed Store

Byers Station
Harbor Grocery
Home Cafe
Pete & Irene
Nelson 's
Corner Tavern
Dr. W.L.Vanderlinden
(Veterinarian)

First Methodist Church
(Rev. Clement Rowe)

American Legion

First Christian Church
(Rev. Robt Jones)

Henderson is now enjoying dial telephones being a member of the Southwest Tel. Exchange with free lines to Emerson and Macedonia.

Recently a vote was taken on city water and it was an Aye vote.

We were unable to get recent history making events but we do hope many little memories will creep into the minds of our friends in Henderson and to those who have perhaps moved to other locales.

C.M.BOLTON
INSURANCE AGENCY
Henderson, Iowa Phone 825-3300
POTTAWATTAMIE MUTUAL INS.
and
IOWA MUTUAL TORNADO
Macedonia Henderson Emerson

STATE SAVINGS BANK
HENDERSON and MACEDONIA
FARM LOANS
INSTALLMENT LOANS
CURRENTLY PAYING 4%
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TIME CERTIFICATES of DEPOSIT
Complete Insurance Service

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Hendrix Implements
T.C. Shook Oils
Sowers Plbg. & Htg.
Myers & Randolph
Conservation Work

Byers Station
Harbor Grocery
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DONALD L. SMITH, MGR.

DR. W. L. VANDERLINDEN
Henderson, Iowa Phone 825-3601
VETERINARIAN

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Delbert McVey on July 26 1962, a son.