

## How it all began for Otsego County

(Cont'd from P. 10)  
 from Gaylord, and supplies arrived by train for the Lake community. With the completion of the railroad the following summer, 1873, I think that Col. Dickinson, William H. Smith, W. S. Carmichael, Dr. N. L. Parmater and brother William, and Thomas C. Wooden were of the number, and also Joe Jessup and wife and "wee" daughter Elsie came that fall. All of these worthies mentioned have passed on to the great beyond, except Mr. William H. Smith, who is spending the winter with her daughter Mary at Seattle, and Mrs. Joseph Jessup and daughter Elsie.

For many years Mrs. Jessup was an integral part of the community life of Gaylord, and now at the advanced age of 78 years is on a bed of affliction awaiting the summons from on high. She has seen many changes in the course of her life, passing through varieties of fortune, experiencing both adversity and prosperity, and has seen and kindred rise and fall peace and war succeeding in their turns; the face of her country undergoing many alterations, and the very city in which she dwelt rising in a manner new around her. And such is life. One generation succeeds another, and so she is becoming a stranger to a new set of people now on the stage of action.

As a matter of course, the development of the lumbering industries of Northern Michigan was the primary force which drew the railroads into this country, and to a large extent the growth of the salt industries also contributed to their extension from Saginaw to Ludington and Manistee and their construction along the Lake Huron and Michigan shores, and up through the central part of the state to Cheboygan and the Straits.

Yes, lumber, salt, climate, scenery and fruit and "spuds" were the chief forces contributing to the growth of Northern Michigan. When the railroads had fairly established themselves in the northern country the benefits became mutual. Saw mills and grist mills were built; lumbermen came, first into the regions around Manistee, Ludington, Alpena and Cheboygan, then at West Branch, Asoscommon, Grayling, Waters, Otsego

Lake, Gaylord, Vanderbilt and Wolverine.

Camps, villages and cities appeared; general trade and commerce were founded and expanded, new settlers and farmers kept flocking in, and another civilization was developed from the wilderness. Logging railroads ramified the country to better assist and facilitate lumbering operations, which reached the zenith of the development in the year 1886, and from that time began to decline.

Amazing figures can be produced showing the great wealth emanating from the industry, and we will just cite one channel to corroborate that fact: that is the AuSable River, for more than a billion and a half feet of logs were run out of that river from 1867 to 1882, and since that time many more millions of feet of timber has reached the markets by that same source.

Yes, many millions of dollars were spent in the erection of mills and their equipment, wages paid to men, and transportation, and many men were greatly enriched by reason of the industry, which is now almost a thing of the past, only a few mills of small capacity yet remaining to cut for home consumption.

**CLIMATE, SCENERY** and nature as a whole have also contributed in a degree to the development of all Northern Michigan. The reputation as an ideal region for those seeking rest, recreation and invigoration spread abroad, the coming of the railroad and the added incursion of visitors broadened its fair name, and Charlevoix, Harbor Springs, Petoskey, Cheboygan and other places combined with the picturesque and freshening regions around became annually so many meccas for tired and restless pilgrims who flocked thither in thousands, by boatloads and trainloads, from every section of the universe.

Substantial stores and industries; great hotels; meeting places for literary and religious organizations, villages, towns, and cities followed in the wake of this periodical migration which was ever leaving behind not a few permanent settlers who could not break away from these charms of nature.



THE EARLY Otsego County Courthouse stood where the present City-County Building stands.

As stated more in detail; Northern Michigan has come into her own as the playground of hundreds of thousands of people from the inland cities of the middle west and south. The summer resorter is a development of the old-time picnic party, and in the progress of development from the drive to the country, with its merry crowd of young and old spreading a feast beneath the trees. On the banks of the river or lake, the great resort centers of this wonderful region have come to be known throughout the length and breadth of the United States, and even people from the old world are annually attracted to this region.

Here the climate plays an important part in making this an ideal vacation country. In the old days back home, a picnic was not a picnic unless the scene was laid on the banks of a river; but here, in the land where lakes are so numerous, the resorts are principally located on the shores of the big lakes and the smaller lakes or on the banks of some of the hundreds of beautiful small

streams which abound in the region.

The rivers and brooks throughout the whole territory are the natural home of the brook trout, and the lakes are as naturally the habitat of the black bass, the pike and the lordly muscullong and gamy pickerel, while the smaller pan fish, such as perch, bluegills, and rock bass abound everywhere. The woods cover furnish the sportsmen with such sport as kings spend millions to preserve, in the gamest of all game birds, the ruffed grouse. The lakes and waterways are the breeding ground of the wild duck, and in season, these birds are taken in large numbers.

The swamps of the far interior shelter deer and bear, with occasionally a cat to enliven the monotony of the stilly night. All of this paradise of picnic ground and sporting country is easily accessible to the tourist through any of the railway stations or lake spots, or by auto, which has become the best means of reaching this enchanting region. It is estimated that no less than ten million strangers and tourists

annually visit this section of Michigan either for sport or recreation, and a mint of money is left behind in the hands of the merchants and tradesmen and auto mechanics that are required to keep the "gas buggies" in good running order.

The first settler located on the present site of Gaylord in the summer and fall of 1873. It was originally known as Barnes, but the name was subsequently changed to Gaylord through a law firm in Saginaw, Hanchett & Gaylord.

For the first few years Otsego Lake was the most important trading center of the county, and the most populous, at one time, 1884, some 800 people had homes there, but since that time has dwindled by reason of the decadence of the lumber industry and the better farming land to the north of it, until now it has less than a hundred people with habitation there.

In the spring of 1875, Charles L. Fuller, of Owosso, conceived it would be vastly fine to start a newspaper in the county, so he came to Otsego Lake in the month of March,

bringing with him a newspaper outfit from the defunct Crusader publication that had been published in that city in the interest of temperance, and established the Otsego County Herald, which began its career, the first newspaper being issued on Friday, March 27, 1875, and from that day to this the paper has continued in existence through various editors and publishers until at the present it is known as the Herald Times, with Paul MacDonald at the helm of affairs.

**IN THE SPRING** of 1878, a county seat was developed by reason of the more populous northern townships in which the chief farming and trading was now done, and in order to gain that desired goal, a number of the business men of Gaylord went to Petoskey and hired a number of woodchoppers to come over to Livingston township and cut wood that was in big demand, and gain a resident vote, and by that means the northern part of the county won out in the spring election by a small majority, and the

(Cont'd on P. 13)