

Otsego County
PROGRESS

Gaylord Centennial
1881-1981

Contrasting centuries

A contrast of centuries is depicted in the full-color photo on the cover of the Progress Centennial edition.

The old is represented by a horse-drawn wagon pulled by a team of horses owned by Marvin Kelso of Elmira, who holds the reins. With him in 19th Century attire is his wife Nancy, and son Mark, 13. The antique wagon, belonging to Martin Kucharek of Gaylord, bears a mythical inscription, "Kucharek Feed & Grain."

The new is in the background — an exam-

ple of theme architecture in the Alpine Village — the Irish Investment Building on North Court Street.

Special thanks to Keith Gornick, resident director and member of the board of directors of Hidden Valley, for making the commemorative color photo possible. Hidden Valley is a pioneer of the Alpine theme in Gaylord.

The photo was taken by Arnold Mackowiak, Herald Times editor.

Credits

The Herald Times' 1981 Progress edition offers a special salute to Gaylord's Centennial.

Many individuals, businesses and organizations have been most helpful in producing this 56-page tabloid edition. The Herald Times is particularly indebted to the

Otsego County Historical Society for providing access to the historical photographs displayed in the issue.

Extra copies of the Centennial Progress edition are available from the Herald Times, 122 N. Otsego Ave., Gaylord MI 49735.

Otsego County Herald born in a log hut

GAYLORD — A printer named Charles L. Fuller, formerly from Owosso, came to Otsego Lake toting an old fashioned Washington hand-printing press and some type.

That was in 1875. Functioning out of a log hut, Otsego County's first newspaper, The Herald, was born.

As Herald Times contributor Helen Murdick related the story in the HT's own centennial issue in 1975, Fuller got his paper out every Friday onto the street of the fledgling Otsego Lake village.

Fuller, also postmaster at Otsego Lake and the first treasurer of the county, moved the newspaper to Gaylord (then named Barnes) after the county seat was transferred in 1877. He set up business in a little wooden building on what is now N. Otsego Ave. After more location changes, the paper's office today is on the same street.

As Mrs. Murdick wrote the history, things must have gotten a little rough for Fuller, because in 1884 he disappeared with \$5,000 of county funds. He found refuge in Canada, and couldn't be forced to return because of a lack of extradition laws.

The printing business was sold to H.C. McKinley, an employee of the Herald since 1878. McKinley came to be recognized as the dean of journalism in northern Michigan.

By no means was The Herald the only paper around. T.B. Willoughby published the Otsego County News around the turn of the century. In the 1900's, attorney W.A. Harrington published the Otsego County Champion. A Mr. Shunk edited the Independent, another short-lived paper.

Outside of Gaylord, the Vanderbilt Review, the Elmira Express and the Elmira Sentry sprouted up before the turn of century, but also failed to last.

In the late 1890's, Richard Crenore came to Gaylord to work for the Herald. Two years later, he started the Otsego County Times with Frank H. Wilson. The paper was later sold to Glen R. Miner of Midland.

Miner bought the Herald in 1906, and the papers were consolidated into the Otsego

AMONG OUR NEIGHBORS

LOCAL NEWS AND PERSONAL
GOSSIP ABOUT THEM.

A Variety of Interesting and Newsworthy
Items Collected by Industrious
Reporters of the Herald.

Standing head of a regular column appearing in an 1888 issue of the Otsego County Herald. An issue of the weekly paper then averaged eight pages.

County Herald Times. But that did not mean the end of competition.

In 1912, Mrs. Murdick notes, the Otsego County Advance appeared in Gaylord. J.E. Goldie and F.A. Lord were editors and publishers. F.H. Wilson purchased the Advance in 1918. When Wilson bought the Herald Times in 1920, the Advance eventually faded away.

Lord returned to become publisher in the 1920's, while McKinley continued to edit the Herald Times. Paul McDonald later became HT publisher, selling his interest in 1944. The paper changed hands again in early 1945, when J.R. McKiddie bought it.

In 1948, the Petoskey News bought the paper and C.O. Reed became managing editor. Neil Hercules became editor in 1953, succeeded by Robert Benedict in 1964, and James Grisso, present publisher, in 1968.

Today, the Herald Times is published each Thursday, with the free circulation Northern Michigan Herald Times appearing each Monday.

Existing through a number of ownership and office location changes and fires, the Herald Times enjoys the distinction of being the oldest continuing business in the county.

Some things don't change

"It is not our purpose to magnify nor misrepresent Gaylord and Otsego County or persons or things or conditions in this edition, but to present county, town, industries and people as they actually have been and now are — just a truthful portrayal of facts. By the assistance of the artist and the engraver we are enabled to present an artistic edition, and from the older inhabitants and a very little printed history, we are enabled to give you a picture of the past. Our town is not so old nor as large as others we know of, but it has the distinction of furnishing the men of brains that have and are now helping run the country and government. Besides, Gaylord has men that are recognized as giants in the business world. It is from towns such as ours and our farms that the men who possess the clearest intellects and keenest intuition of moral sense, are furnished as the backbone of our nation. We are aware that many imperfections have been overlooked in this write-up, and feel that a second attempt would be crowned with greater success and many more improvements. However, we are sure of this, that this is the best edition of the kind ever printed in Gaylord ... As you turn its pages and you are met by familiar faces and scenes we believe you will find much to interest as well as instruct you, and believe that you will say with us that it is a fair representation of our country and town, its industries, its homes and its people. There are few, if any industries not mentioned. We know that you will realize that it has taken much time and hard work to accomplish what we have and keep up the other necessary work. The various obstacles we met were either overcome or walked around."

Otsego County Herald
Friday, Sept. 15, 1905
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Proud to be part of a
great tradition



Herald Times

Otsego County's Oldest Business
P.O. Box 598 Gaylord (517) 732-5144