



Harvard Fire Department, 1920. They did a good job!

Civic Associations Safeguard Community

Harvard City And Rural
Fire Protection District

On February, 1865 a few men got together to purchase a fire engine for the village of Harvard. Six years later, in 1871, the Great Chicago Fire took place and Harvard sent their fire truck to help fight this fire. The Harvard Fire Department still owns that same truck and it is on display in our fire station.

In 1892, Kenosha, Wisconsin had a large fire in which Harvard also fought. The old hand pumper was loaded on a train car and was sent to Kenosha. Harvard received a banner which read: "A Testimonial for Heroic Services Rendered by Steamer Co. No. 1, April 19, 1892 by the City of Kenosha, Wisconsin."

The first Constitution and By-laws were drawn up for the Harvard Fire Department in 1899. The first Fire Marshall, Sebra Butts, ran the department and L. A. Reid was secretary. The department then had 26 members. Marshall Butts resigned due to his age on May 2, 1919. Eugene Saunders then was appointed new fire chief. In 1927, Chief Saunders resigned and Ray Eugene Lush was appointed. He held office until R. Eugene Shepard was appointed chief in 1958.

In 1935, talk was started about forming a fire district. On December 7, 1945, a Board of Trustees was formed for the Harvard Rural Fire Protection District. At this time there were two separate departments, city and rural, under one chief, R. E. Shepard. When Chief Shepard retired on May 1, 1962, Clifford Vierck was appointed to the chief position.

On November 3, 1971 the city and rural departments held their first meeting under a new merger between these two departments. The city had merged into the Rural Fire Protection District. Clifford Vierck was the chief of the department at this time. Today this same district is in

operation with a board of trustees. Clifford Vierck retired as chief on May 1, 1974. Arnold Carlson was then appointed chief.

There is much history to this department and many fine men have served on it.

The 1976 Harvard Rural Fire Protection District Board of Trustee officers are: Jack Ryan, President; James Perenchio, Secretary and Treasurer, Clifford Vierck. Officers of the department are: Arnold Carlson, Chief; Clifford Wagner, Assistant Chief; Aaron McConnell, Assistant Chief; Stuart Nerge, Secretary and Treasurer.



Firemen include: Art Anderson, Dennis Bischke, Don Bleiler, Charles Burkart, Dan Burton, Eugene Burton, Kelly Camp, Robert Camp, Arnold Carlson, Gene Garey, Richard Goad, Dan Guttschow, Jim Hartwig, William Hartwig, Elwyn Jones, Aaron McConnell, Jim McCullough, Ron McFarlin, Ray Mulvenna, Robert Mulvenna, Stuart Nerge, William Olbrich, Jack Perenchio, Stanley Raupp, Tim Reckamp, Loren Rice II, Jack Ryan, Robert Stoxen and Clifford Wagner.



The Rescue Squad. Grown to two vehicles, they are proud of what they do, and Harvard is proud of them.

Harvard Rescue Squad

Harvard's Rescue Squad was chartered in April, 1956 under the State of Illinois Not-for-Profit Law. The Rescue Squad went into operation on May 31, 1956. Members were required to have the standard First Aid Card and complete the advanced course within six months after joining.

Establishing the Rescue Squad was a project of the Harvard Jaycees and the majority of squad members came from the Jaycee ranks. The Walworth, Wisconsin Rescue Squad was very active in forming the local group. The Harvard City Council did what it could in a legal way to help buy its first truck from the Walworth Rescue Squad. They sold to the Jaycees a 1953 GMC pickup truck for \$600.00 cash and it was promptly traded to the Village of Walworth for a 1949 Dodge walk-in van complete with First Aid and lighting equipment. In 1968 the Squad was using a 1960 Ford for its emergency calls to accidents, fires, and the carrying of stricken persons to the hospital.

During the fall of 1974 a concerned drive was set up to acquire newer equipment. In a total of 73 days, the people of Harvard answered the Rescue Squad's call and raised over \$27,000. With this, and the sale of one of the older vehicles, the purchase of an "Ambulance type" truck was achieved. Two heart monitors, at a cost of over \$4,000 each, were purchased and the balance of monies collected were used for other smaller articles.

Because of its strict charter, the Rescue Squad members are bound together as a close knit group. The inserts quoted below give an example:

"A member absent more than one meeting a year without just cause, is automatically banished from the organization."

"A member found guilty of talking to anyone about what is seen or heard in anyone's home while on business of the Rescue Squad is cause of banishment."

"No member can refuse a call..."

The Harvard Rescue Squad is an all volunteer group subject to call 24 hours a day. They will continue their samaritanship through foul or fair weather whenever called. We, the Rescue Squad of your city, hope this small summary of the happenings of our first twenty years and our country's first 200, gives you something else to be proud of. Obviously, we could not describe any of the major disasters or calls we attended, and do so in good taste.

Presently, the Rescue Squad's moving vehicles consist of a 1975 Dodge purchased in 1975, and a 1970 Ford purchased in 1971.

Harvard Rescue Squad members from 1956 to 1976 include: Erwin Menzies, Louis Vits, John Lake, Harry Stafford, Clarence Meseck, Ollie Blank, Ray Krohn, Richard Shields, Charles Heiden (deceased), Frank Gile, Herb Turner, Clarence Axelson, Richard Flugler, Adrian Dewey William Ward, Robert Sorensen, Elmer Frenk, Glenn Sherman, Gene Cavin, Bill Soucie, Bill Schilthelm, Leroy Carlson, Francis Cavin, Bill York, Jerry Meade, Jim Carbonetti, Don Ruhff, Perry Jones, Robert Jacobs, Steve Redding, Chuck Lockwood, Brandon Piper, Robert Justen, Steve Bell, Mark Hayes, Jerry Groskinski, Dennis McCauley, Edward Jones, Ray Groskinski, Ken Burma, Eugene Hartwig, Donald Schumacher, Tom Jones, Douglas Ingraham, Jerry Raupp, John Jones, Ed Fair, Don Carlson, Frank Godo, Dale Carlson (deceased), Ken Kolls, Ed Repa, Gene Melby.

Harvard Postal Service

The history of the postal service in the Harvard area dates back to January 28, 1846. First known as Byron and later Dunham, the first post office was located in a small cottage on the west side of South Division Street about 302 now part of Admiral Division of Rockwell International.

On January 9, 1857, the name and location was changed to Harvard. These changes were numerous during the early years, finally locating at 104 East Brainard Street on September 1, 1903. For 22 years, until January 1, 1925 this location served the postal requirements; however, in 1925, the office was moved to the Ferris Building on the corner of Ayer and West Brainard, at 36 N. Ayer Street, where it remained over 37 years. The present office at 300 North Eastman Street was occupied on August 1, 1962.

Harvard became one of the first to acquire rural delivery service with establishment May 1, 1900. By 1909 seven rural routes were serving the area, averaging approximately 25 miles per route. With improved roads and transportation, the routes were lengthened and consolidated until the present three, covering a total of 190 miles serving 822 rural families.

City delivery was established August 1, 1908 with two foot routes. On March 1, 1910, a third one was authorized, with Ray Carpenter being appointed carrier. Parcel Post service was started January 1, 1913. On October 6, 1956 an extra city mounted route was established, making three city foot and one mounted routes. There are now five city routes - 3 foot,

one mounted and one auxiliary. Two offices in the vicinity were discontinued, Big Foot Prairie on December 31, 1934 and Chemung on July 15, 1943. The rural routes serve the residents of these communities, as well as the Alden rural patrons. Alden is a contract rural station of Harvard.

On July 1, 1948, Harvard was designated a first class post office, having reached the required \$40,000 receipts the previous year.

Unlike early years, no mail is dispatched by rail. All incoming mail, with the exception of one pouch, arrives twice daily via truck routes. Star Routes operate daily to and from Barrington and Beloit, Wisconsin.

Retired Harvard postal employees still living include, Alvin Cooke, George Hawley, Virginia Van Tassel, Henry W. Croak, Thomas R. O'Neil and Margaret O'Leary.

Dedication ceremonies at the new post office included an Open House on November 18, 1962. The program included the Harvard Hornet Marching Band, Lester T. Peacock, Postmaster; Hugh A. Deneen, Assistant States Attorney, Master of Ceremonies; Rev. Joseph Healey, St. Joseph's Church, Invocation; Mayor Ronald J. Morris, Welcome; Dedication address, Frank G. Sulewski, U.S.P.D.; U.S. Senator Paul H. Douglas, flag presentation; Ode to the Flag by Roland P. Lemker, Post Chaplain No. 265 of the American Legion; and benediction by Rev. Luther C. Mueller.

Former postmasters were: Robert Latham, 1846; Ansel K. Goodsell, 1849; Robert Latham, 1853; Wilson Randall, 1854; Sowell Mason, 1857; Wilson Randall, 1857; Richard DeLee, 1861; Alonzo E. Axtell, 1866; John W. Groesbeck, 1876; John A. Sweeney, 1888; Henry T. Woodruff, 1889; John A. Sweeney, 1894; Michael F. Walsh, 1898; Michael F. O'Connor, 1913; Benjamin T. Manley, 1922; Eugene Saunders, 1927; Rudolph B. Cook, 1933; John T. O'Brien, 1934; Donald E. Palmer, 1944; Lester T. Peacock, 1953; Jay Thomas, 1963; Henry Croak, 1963; Henry Brickley, 1964; Thomas R. O'Neil, acting, 1964-65; Roland McCauley, 1966; C. A. Haffner, Jr., 1966-73; Anthony J. Pacelli became postmaster on June 30, 1973 and is still serving.

The Court System

By: Duncan Jay Lanum

The practice and administration of law in the Harvard area has changed significantly over the years as a result of state wide changes in legal and judicial procedures, modernization of facilities and changing public attitudes.

Changes in the Constitution of Illinois in the mid 1960's saw the legal demise of the Justice of the Peace Court System and the Police Magistrate Court System, which had been such a familiar part of the judicial scene of Harvard and throughout Illinois. Those Court Systems dispensed justice and settled controversies within their prescribed jurisdictional limits at the local level of townships and incorporated municipalities.

Justices of the Peace and the Police Magistrates were not required to be lawyers, and generally their income was derived from other businesses which they operated. Their court rooms were often in their own particular places of business, and court sessions were held at varying hours throughout the day or night as might be required. Although "J P's" and Police Magistrates were elected officials, their compensation for such services was directly dependent upon the court costs involved and the particular decisions rendered in each case.

Two long serving, well remembered J P's included Charles Vierck and Lorenzo "Lon" Diggins. With the constitutional change, those "local level court systems" were centralized and merged into those courts of broader jurisdiction which had always been operating on a county-wide level out of the court facilities located at the County Seat in Woodstock.

In the mid 1930's Illinois State Law was changed by act of the legislature to grant women the right to serve on juries. Such a change inevitably brought with it the removal from the court rooms of the brass cuspidors that had previously been placed on the floor by each of the jurors seats.

Prior to the advent in popularity of instantaneous radio, and much later TV, reporting of news events, a court room in the Court House on the square in Woodstock would be absolutely packed to overflowing with spectators when an important trial was in progress. Hard wooden benches, and steaming hot court rooms without air-conditioning were no deterrent to those spectators who came to be entertained by the much more theatric and flamboyant court room styles then permitted and engaged in by trial attorneys. Tactics of surprise, intense personal rivalries and gilded oratory were commonplace in those court rooms.

The more folksy, homespun atmosphere of decades ago has been slowly replaced by the more sterile, but perhaps more fact-finding, style of court room practice and atmosphere found in present day trial practice. Modern trial procedures and practice are heavily influenced by uniform jury instructions and pre-trial discovery procedures which are specifically designed to assure that all relevant information can be available for evaluation by judge and jury alike.

The new court house complex built on Route 47 north of Woodstock in the early 1970's, with its six court rooms and other modern facilities, resulted from the constantly increasing needs of the growing population of McHenry County for judicial and other governmental services.

In the 1920's, McHenry County had only one Circuit Court Judge, and even he was subject to call when needed to conduct trials in neighboring Boone County, which had no Circuit Court Judge of its own. Presently, McHenry County, which has been reorganized into the 19th Judicial Circuit which also includes Lake County, has three full Circuit Court Judges and three Associate Judges serving McHenry County exclusively.

Harvard can proudly boast that it has always had its own active legal community to serve its citizens needs. James J. McCauley actively practiced law in Harvard continuously for nearly fifty years until the late 1960's. Clarence Darrow, immediately after his graduation from law school around the turn of the century, opened a law office for several months on Ayer Street in Harvard above what is presently the News Depot. Other attorneys who are includable in the legal community which has served Harvard since 1856 to the present time include—

Arthur B. Carlson, J. P. Cheever, John Coulman, Hugh A. Deneen, Paul J. Donovan, Traver Ellis, Mandel Elman, William J. Gleason, Calvin J. Hendricks, Thomas V. Houlihan, Paul Jevne, Duncan Jay Lanum, Robert E. Lessman, John B. Lyon, B. F. Manley, Robert F. Marshall, L. B. Palmer, Bruce Parkhill, Anthony Rocco, John Rutledge, David T. Smiley, Charles T. Smith, Charles C. Stadtman, T. B. Wakeman, James H. Weir, Albert W. Young and Roland Herrmann.



Delos F. Diggins Library. This is the first library building built in McHenry County.

Delos F. Diggins Library

Even in the earliest days of "Ayer's Corners" this settlement was not without books, and those that had, loaned. Later certain stores advertised that they had books to sell, and "to rent", a sort of commercial library. Then in 1908, Delos F. Diggins, a former Harvardite, died in Michigan and, in his will, bequeathed to Harvard the sum of \$40,000 to buy a site and build a library so that Harvard became the first town in the county to have a library building. Mr. Diggins appointed, in the will, the first library board with instructions as to how the members should be replaced when individuals died or moved from the town.

The board met almost immediately, and the building, erected by W.H. Ward and Son, was dedicated in May, 1909, and opened to the public for use in August of that year. Later that year it had to be closed for twelve days, due to an epidemic of diphtheria. Again in 1910, it was closed while repairs, necessitated by a fire on October 29th, were made. It reopened November 24th.

Over the years, many Harvard people and organizations have gifted the library with things needed for progress or maintenance. In 1910, the Woman's Club sponsored a New Year's reception at which books were accepted. Over the years, they were responsible for other donations, \$440.00 in 1925 being one. In 1911, a carnival on Central School grounds raised \$654, in 1920 a tag day brought in \$500. There was a lecture course in 1918, but whether it was to raise money or just for the cultural advancement of the town, is not stated.

In 1916 a tax levy for the benefit of the library was begun. Then, and in 1917, the library received \$900, in 1918, \$1000, and there it remained until 1931, when the city stopped contributing, not to resume until 1935. It was receiving sums from Temperance Hall (the Mary D. Ayer Apartments) but in the lean days of the depression might literally have had to close if not for a sizable donation from an anonymous donor.

By 1950, so many things needed repair or restoration that the whole city began to help. Temperance Hall installed new flooring; the Knights of Columbus paid for fluorescent lighting; the Lions took over the redecorating and varnishing of the woodwork; and the Business and Professional Women purchased new window shades. The basement room was turned over to the school board to use for a kindergarden until the school would be completed. City funds were increased, and a bequest from Blanche Conn stipulated the money was to be used for books, as was \$3000 donated by Rotary.

Other bequests from Mrs. Flora Whipple, Mrs. D.I. Hine and Mrs. Michael Walsh have been much appreciated when received.

Before the library opened 722 books were purchased, but with donations, this number had reached 1794 by opening day; by the time the 1912 history was published, that number would be 4500. No number is given in the 1922 county history, but Lowell Nye, in the Centennial edition of the Herald stated the library housed 11,339 volumes. Now, through the library's membership in the Northern Illinois Library System, almost any volume which is in print is available to Harvard readers.

In 1958 a sum of \$20,000 was collected by civic, business and professional groups and the library remodelled, the office being placed directly behind the desk and the glass vestibule added, a reference room being established in the former office, new stacks and shelves being set up.

Many organizations have used the library basement as meeting rooms, and the Harvard Art League, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and the Business and Professional Women's Clubs joined together in the 1960's to plaster, paint and tile the rooms, and add a kitchen complete with a combination stove, refrigerator and sink.

Since 1909, when Miss Bessie Wilson, assisted by Eva Peterson (Mrs. Ralph Marshall,) first acted as librarian, there have been only ten others, although numerous other people have assisted. (Lulu Barter, Vera Knopp, and Winifred O'Conner filled in when Mrs. Ford was injured in an automobile accident from June 18, 1960 until May 1961.) Some of our librarians have been here just a short time -- Blanche Hamilton coming in 1912, Cleo Lichtenberger in 1913, Vera Gher (Knopp) in 1914. Ida Lou Gehrig (Dickson) came in 1916 and stayed until 1930. Mrs. Knopp returned to the library in 1930 and continued until 1959. Mrs. George Ford was often her assistant and when Mrs. Knopp retired, Mrs. Ford became librarian, with Mrs. Knopp assisting when help was needed. Without the time she assisted then and after Helen Ford was so badly injured, she worked in the Diggins Library thirty-one years. Mrs. Hem came in 1961 and when she left in 1963, Mrs. Ford returned for a time, and was assisted by Guinn Gonzales and later, June Whipple, being followed by Nola Lutz who was here until 1973, when Linda Bigelow became librarian. Recent assistants have been Margaret Mooney and Barbara Powers.

More services are continually supplied by the library; there you can obtain not only books, and answers to questions from various research organizations, but movies, records, tapes, film strips and paintings. Various programs are given through the year, for benefit of all caring to come.

The board chosen by Mr. Diggins were: his brother, Albert B. Diggins, R.A. Nugent, M.F. Walsh, F.F. Axtell, W.D. Hall, H.D. Crumb, and James Lake. They elected the first four mentioned as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer in the order they are named. Over the years, B.B. Bell, Robert Uecke, L.A. Keller, J.F.C. Wells and W.J. Heatley replaced original members and were themselves replaced when no longer able to fulfill their duties. Hugh Deneen, Paul Marcks, W.W. Meyer, George Lake, Frank Lanning, W.J. Hereley all served. R.C. Diggins, A.C. Strain, Frank Flores, R.M. Galvin, Delos McFadden, Walter Burton, Lester (Butch) McFarlin. When Al Strain moved to Florida, Charles Burkart was asked to be on the board, and at his death, Jim Weir took over. Sue (Mrs. Daniel) Hereley is the last member selected. There has usually been one of the Diggins family on the board.