

TEN YEARS AGO.

It is just a decade since we put our spare shekels into Ravinook, and one wise man told us we were so foolish to go way off down there in the woods where none would live, at least in our day. Then the city council met in one half of Charles Kuist's hardware store, and the library was in the other half. The building was on stilts then. John Middleton was mayor and John Finney city clerk. The one justice establishment was that of the late Judge Davis in the front end of an old building, in that lumber yard north of Freberg's livery. A. W. Fletcher had the only lumber yard in town then, with a steam mill in the rear of Judge Davis' law office, while Mr. Fletcher's little office was a 7x9 shanty where Mr. Collins' shop stands. Prof. King bossed the mill, yard and office when our supervisor was not "to home."

Frank Green ran the Central hotel in those days, while some one had a bakery and so-called restaurant, we believe, in a ramshakly building where Alex Noerren is now located. Mayor Evans lived in a white house near the rear of Goldberg's opera house block. There was one "regular" physician, a young man, Dr. Deitweiler, and Dr. Hull cured some people. Dr. Bergen soon came. Of course Dr. Baker, one of the best of physicians, dealt out little pills and saved lots of lives. A. W. Fletcher sold coal, the only one we know of. The post office was in Dunn's store, and very convenient with its old boxes, and Mrs. Jennings ran it—and never was it run better; we paid her our first box rent.

The Baptist church had a resident pastor, Dr. Soule was just finishing his work with the Presbyterians, Dr. Elmendorf of Racine supplied Trinity, some one from Lake Forest supplied St. Mary's, and the others we don't know. There were no Military, Alta or Sylvan Dells schools then; the public school was down in that old antedeluvian structure, with a high school in the air. Professor Ray was then on deck as school master, literary leader and guide generally.

Vine avenue, as well as the Sheridan road south and all the adjacent regions, were howling wildernesses. There was no water works, the old artesian flowed its own sweet way and will; people drank from filthy cisterns or poisoned wells in too many cases; and a sewer was unheard of, till Colonel Davidson came and agitated the matter. The old St. Mary's church was standing down

there in the cemetery; there was not a rod of water or sewer pipe in the city, nor a foot of paved or macadamized streets, but people trotted over the bridges and rode on bikes where they liked. W. R. Kenney sold all the hardware of the town, while G. B. Cummings dealt out all the pills and plasters. There were no dead-beats; the pesky newspaper man was unknown and all the town was happy, and the boom, like prosperity, was coming then, as now.

A WORD EXPLANATORY.

The Editor of the News like Tennyson's story of "The Brook" may say,

"Men may come, and men may go,  
But I go on forever."

for whatever changes come to the business department of the News, he holds his seat on the editorial tripod. He is happy to say that while Mr. Herbert Evans sells out and retires, it is not because the News is a failure, for it is a phenomenal success. Mr. Evans retires to go to college, a most worthy thing for any young man, who has the grit and sand, to do. For a young man in his teens to put the News where it is, is no small honor. True he has had the valuable aid of his brother's energy and business ability, to say nothing of the ponderous brain power of ye editor!

Of Mr. Forrest, who with Mr. Arthur E. Evans make the new firm of Evans and Forrest, publishers, it may be enough for me to say he is an accomplished, practical printer having learned the business in New-England. Hence there will be nothing but advance in the News and its finely equipped job office.

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