

# Recollections of Life in Plymouth...

## "Ice Making" – written by Robert Aderman

I was about 12 yrs. old when I started cutting ice with my dad, Harry Aderman. In the ice business, of course, the best time to cut ice is when it's the coldest. I remember my dad saying, "It's 10 degrees, the ice will slide good tomorrow!" In those days we had no insulated cloths; the hard work kept us warm.

We had a team of horses named Puss and Doll. The team pulled a scraper to get the snow off the surface. My dad and I would go out at night and cut down to the last 4 inches of ice. The next day the workers would cut through the last inches of ice. Ice blocks were cut into 28x30 inch blocks. We had to cut channels so the ice could float down to the ice house. We would go out at night and put kerosene lanterns out to mark the open channel for skaters.

The old timers were Herman Feste, Hasso, Peak, the Beaker boys, the Gerschmel boys, and the Miller boys. My mother and the girls would cook meals for the workers.

When it was time to fill the ice house, we would clean out the old sawdust and put in new. At the ice house, there was a slide that the ice was pulled up on. The slide had 5 different heights. There was a long cable that was hooked onto a jack. The ice was slid up 5 blocks at a time. A pulley was attached to the ice house where the horses pulled it up. When the ice house was full we put 12 inches of sawdust on top of the ice and 12-14 inches of sawdust on the sides.

We had two ice houses in Plymouth, one on Alfred Street and one on East Main. We also had ice houses in Glenbeulah and Elkhart Lake. We delivered ice first to private homes, taverns, and businesses. We delivered to the ice cream factory. We might deliver as much as 60 ton a day to fill train cars. The cars were filled with cheese from Borden's and Kraft Federation. Plymouth was also known as Cheeseville at the time.

We cut ice south of the island on the Mullet River on the end of Alfred Street. Our home, icehouse, and property, up to the river, were owned by my dad. The house where I grew up is still there.

When the work was done my dad would set up a barrel of beer at Borgenhagen's Blacksmith Shop which was across from our ice house on Alfred Street. It was nice and warm there. I still have the pitcher and mugs that we used for beer.

This took place in the 1930's.

We read from pages of winter issues of the Plymouth Reporter...

*Dec. 8, 1872* – H. Boecher has a patent on a new washing machine known as "The Cataract." He also has a patent for a new copper bottom boiler and tea kettle.

*Nov. 27, 1873* – J.W. Dow & Son plan to establish Bank of Plymouth in the lower story of C. Bade's new brick building.

*Dec. 4, 1873* – a fire and burglar proof safe weighing 6,200 lbs. arrives for the State Bank of Plymouth. Wm. Russell's new hotel to open. "The Hub House" is capable of seating 60.

*Dec. 26, 1874* – there were 156 teams of horses counted on Mill St. at one time last Saturday.

*Dec. 29, 1881* – work resumed on the coal shed for the Wis. Central Railroad.

*Jan. 7, 1886* – Mrs. P.H. Smith pays the highest taxes in the city. \$182.

*Dec. 1, 1887* – Santa Claus headquarters at A.W. Schram's where can be found a large line of shoo-fly and hobby horses, toy bureaus, chairs, doll cradles and sleighs.

*Dec. 8, 1887* – the ice skating is fine and the pond is nightly thronged with skaters.

*Nov. 29, 1888* – cathedral glass windows placed in St. Paul's Church. They admit more light and add much to the appearance of the church.

*Dec. 27, 1888* – good roasted coffee for 20 cents a pound. The first sleighs of winter seen on the streets.

*Dec. 12, 1889* – John W. Taylor, one of the city's earliest residents dies. Arrived in 1846 with his parents. Was influential in the construction of the plank road and platted the western part of the village.

Rests at Union Cemetery.

*Dec. 18, 1890* – a new clock for the Lutheran Church was shipped from New York.

*Dec. 25, 1890* – a new pipe organ has been placed in the Lutheran Church.

*Dec. 31, 1891* – M. Sweet and wife are rejoicing over the birth of a 15 lb. girl.

*Dec. 22, 1892* – telegraph wires are now connected in the North Western Railroad office.

*Dec. 7, 1893* – mumps are prevalent in the city.

*Nov. 29, 1894* – on Friday evening G.W. Zerler furnished skaters at the large pond with 50 – 60 Chinese lanterns. Each skater carried a lantern and the pond was brightly lit.

*Dec. 10, 1896* – it is suggested that in 1900 a new division of the year into 13 months be instituted. The first 12 months would have 28 days and the new month 29 or 30 in a leap year.

*Dec. 1, 1888* – "Souvenirs" is the maiden name of "rubbish."

---

The first paper published in Plymouth was the Plymouth Sentinel, August 8, 1868.

Advertisements included,

Smith & Huson – dry goods store  
Benfey & Horats – dry goods & grocery's  
New Paris Flouring Mills  
Geo. Barnard – notary public  
E. Kaestner – boots & shoes  
C. Bade – wagons & carriages  
Conover & Crockett – cheese factory

John Rossman – Central House  
Dr. J.N. O'Brien – physician  
Schwartz Bros. & Co. – novelty iron works  
H. Boecher – hardware dealer  
Frederick Knirnschild – furniture  
Rossman, Beinward & Co. – wagons  
Tanner & Bowers – livery

Articles tell of a fire engine purchased from Seneca Falls, N.Y. which was expected in a few days. Hoop skirts seem to have been the style of the day. The Plymouth Cheese factory was using the milk of 150 cows and manufacturing about 2,000 pounds of cheese a week. Hotchess & Puhlman had shipped from their mills during the week 700 barrels of flour.

-Plymouth Reporter – June 16, 1892-

---

It was only 100 years ago... Plymouth's downtown was bustling with shoppers...

Plymouth Review – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1908

\***Holiday Opening Sale December 1908** Plymouth Toyland at *Wensink – Stolper Co.'s Store*. The Children's Christmas – Christmas means more to the children than anyone else. This Christmas will mean more than any that have passed if an Edison Phonograph is among the gifts. It is something that will give them more real pleasure than anything else you will buy. Phonographs - \$12.50 - \$25.00 - \$35.00

\***Exceptional Bargains on Dolls** at *The Leader*. Boy Doll in fancy uniform, moving eyes, 15 " high....76 cents Dolls in Dutch costume, best paper Mache body, 13" high...33 cents Dolls dressed in silk with waist of allover lace, hat to match, moving eyes, long flowing curls, 28" high...\$4.29 Wool Sheep mounted on wheels....33cents Leather covered cow...89 cents child's parlor suit, 3 pieces, wood highly polished.... 6 cents.

\***Christmas headquarters** at *E.L. Petersen's*. We are showing & offering the largest and most beautiful collection of attractive Christmas Gifts. Watches, Diamonds, Rings, Bracelets, Combs, Jewelry, Toilet sets, Sterling and Plated Ware, Moulton's Wireless Umbrellas. Special low prices Violins, mandolins, guitars, banjos, zithers, accordions, and all other band and orchestra instruments, as we carry the largest selection in Sheboygan County.

\*Ladies single muffs and sets, single scarf's \$1.50 - \$30.00 per set. Men's fancy vests, smoking jackets and bath robes in all sizes. *Huson & Zerler*.

---

More from 1908:

◇Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> – a robin has been seen in this city, but it is not a sign that spring is at hand.

For several days last week the bird was eating from the refuse heaps of Milwaukee Avenue residents.

◇For an appropriate Christmas Gift to a child or older person call at the *Plymouth Exchange Bank*, deposit \$1.00 or more to the credit of the person you wish to make the gift to and get one of our little banks free. We are the pioneers in the use of these little banks and solicit your patronage. 3% interest paid on time and savings deposits. Chas. D. Eastman Pres. O.A. Scheibe V. Pres. R.H. Koehler Cashier.

◇We are prepared for the holiday trade with the most choicest most complete most varied  
*Corbett & Ackermann*.

◇Holiday Economy sale *H.J. Goelzer Co*. Hitch your dollar to a bigger load than it ever

pulled before. A Bevy of Bargains in our Grocery Department. Mixed candy 6 cents lb.

Cherries and Apples on wire 10 cents lb. Mixed nuts 10 cents lb. Seedless raisins 7

cents lb. Candied lemon and orange 20 cents lb. Shredded coconut 15 cents lb. and

naval oranges CHEAP!

❖ Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> – Christmas at St. John's Catholic Church will begin at five o'clock in the

morning with a high mass and sermon. The sermon in the evening will consist of solemn

vespers and benediction.

❖ An old German saying is that between 11 and 12 o'clock on Christmas eve water can be

turned into wine. The lamp or candle must not be allowed to burn itself out on Christmas.

❖ Christmas Coal brought from this yard will make the brightest fire on record. It's impossible to find better or cheaper than ours. Ring us up and give an order now while

your are thinking about it J.H. Timm Co.

**Plymouth Review Dec. 30<sup>th</sup>, 1908** – Hail to the New Year! The Clock has Struck Good Cheer!

Good Luck in 1909! An appropriate service will be held at the Congregational Church on New Years Eve. Beginning at 9 o'clock and continuing until the New Year is ushered in. From 9 o'clock till 10 o'clock the pastor will conduct the sermon. Special music will be furnished

by Mrs. Nutt and readings by Mrs. Dr. Robertson and Mr. Wilson. This will be followed by a

social hour and refreshments.

Herrings Ensure Prosperity – To ensure prosperity and good luck during the ensuing year, eat herrings on New Years eve, or, if this edible is disliked, sleep with a piece of new and a piece of dead coal under your pillow on that and the eight following nights.

*Crystal Theatre – Commencing tonight! The Cattle Rustlers – a story of the golden west.*

*Noisy Neighbors – comedy. Song, 'Your lust a little bit O' sugar Cane' and...*

*Amateur Night pie eating contest*