

977.359

B416

Bellflower 100 Years,  
1871-1971.

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY.





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# BELFLOWER

## 100 Years

### 1871-1971



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## 100 YEARS

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One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh;  
but the earth abideth forever. --Ecclesiastes 1:4

1871 - 1971

### TIME AND MEMORIES

To walk down memory land can be sad or sweet,  
Pleasant memories and old friends you meet.  
If you think of things that could have been, and it makes you blue,  
A chance you had to help a friend, and didn't, comes back to you.  
If you regret something you did, or said, in days gone by,  
Or remember an almost forgotten love with a sigh,  
Remember these are gone; they are a yesterday.  
Tomorrow will come, but not to stay.  
Time comes and goes and it is to be forgotten, too,  
You can't live in the past, the future is ahead of you;  
Live each day as it comes, for it must go,  
Tomorrow will come and what it brings, you do not know.  
You can't dwell in the future, there's some happiness in the  
past,  
We must live and work today for it goes so fast;  
Soon to be a yesterday, with the days gone by;  
Only to return with a memory and a sigh.

### BELFLOWER TOWNSHIP

The township was originally named Prairie when the township organization was effected. It was the only township in the county which possessed very little timber as the Southern part was swamp land. On April 27, 1857, the entire body of voters numbering 18, assembled at the home of Jesse Richards, which was located on the highest point of land in the township. At this meeting they proceeded to appoint a Moderator, a Secretary, and elect a Pound Master and Township Supervisor. After this they returned to the yard and went into a committee of the whole to determine the name of the new township. Someone of the group tossed a Bellflower apple to Mr. Richards with the remark that, "It was the best apple ever grown," whereupon Mr. Richards held it up with the statement that, "We will call the new township Bellflower."

This name given by Mr. Richards, who had been elected as the first Supervisor, was at first spelled Bell Flour and appears in the records as such for several years. The spelling was then changed to Bell Flower and this lasted until the depot was first built in the year of 1871. When the name of the station was painted on the depot it was spelled Belleflower, for a pretty girl and a blossom. At the time the Post Office was started here, 1872, the letter "E" was dropped and the Post Office name of the town is Bellflower.

Bellflower Township is in the Southeastern part of the County. It was first used as a cattle range by the pioneers of Cheney's Grove and other sections. Parties from Springfield bought the land, but it was not drained and occupied until after the Civil War.

The Quarter Section of land on which Bellflower stands, was first granted by the government to an Indian squaw as a bounty, and afterwards, passed into the hands of Mr. George N. Black of Springfield. He platted and laid out the village of Bellflower.

The story is told that, "The first building erected in Bellflower was a grain office owned and operated by George N. Snoak and R. E. Moreland, the lumber being hauled from Saybrook by "Scotch" John Nickols and Pat Fagin, known as "Ireland." They arrived at the present site of Bellflower with the lumber and a quart of whiskey, and Mr. Snoak placed a piece of lumber on Fagin's shoulder and said, "Here, Ireland, carry

the first piece of lumber into Bellflower." The whiskey was then opened and with the assistance of Mr. A. A. Marquis who was afterwards the first station agent at Bellflower, the event was further celebrated.

There is a duplicate copy of a contract dated September 20, 1869, in which Bellflower Township agrees to donate \$30,000.00 to the Decatur and State Line Railway Company which was to build a line from Decatur through Farmer City, establish and maintain a depot at Bellflower, thence through Saybrook, Chatsworth, to Wilton Centre and thence to Chicago over any practicable route, within a period of two years from date of election. For some reason this line was not constructed. However, within the two years a road was built through here, going instead through Gibson City to Gilman. The first train passing through Bellflower was carrying a load of lumber in September, 1871.

The first depot was located east of the Illinois Central tracks on the site where the Foesland Grain Company now have their office and elevator.

The Narrow Gauge railroad one mile south of the village, a branch of the I.C. was incorporated January 1, 1873. It was extended from LeRoy to West Lebanon, Indiana. Farmers would take their grain to the small stations along the way. They were Laurette, Meharry and Sumner, the latter also called "Trotter Crossing."

This railroad found it difficult to keep its head above the water - and there was much water; ponds and even swamp along its right-of-way. To conserve the few funds available, the road was built as a narrow-gauge, three feet wide between the rails. The entire set-up sank or sagged into the mud at times and was very unsuccessful. The entire property was in a deplorable condition when it was taken over June 3, 1887 by the I.C. and made a standard gauge line.

The entire road was sold "under the hammer" for \$100,000.00, less than one-third its original cost. When the I.C. took over, it immediately issued gold bonds in the amount of one million dollars to finance reconstruction. It was said that one could ride more hours for twenty-five cents on the "old narrow gauge" than on any railroad in the United States. Due to its meandering through the fields, it was and is still known as the "Pumpkin Vine." Passenger trains used to operate a round trip, six days a week, between LeRoy and West Lebanon, Indiana. There was a local freight serving the line, one "local" making a round trip, six days a week between Rantoul and LeRoy, and another, between Rantoul and West Lebanon. With the coming of motor cars and all-weather highways, passenger trains were dropped. Some freight service is continued.

### OUR HERITAGE

However God created you  
Be proud of what you are,  
A candle's light can throw its gleam  
Much farther than a star!  
Whatever be your heritage  
Uphold it strong and true,  
Your race, your creed, the name you bear  
These are God's gifts to you.

Each one of us is privileged  
To live in his own way,  
To worship, and to earn his bread,  
To rest at close of day;  
And in that blessed freedom which  
Is part of God's great plan,  
Equality exemplifies  
The brotherhood of man.

Lorraine Good



## ACTS OF ORGANIZATION

Call of an Election for March 1890. In pursuance to a petition presented by the legal voters of the proposed Village of Bellflower, an election was called by the County Judge for the first day of March, 1890, to decide by ballot whether the proposed Village of Bellflower should or should not be incorporated. Result was as follows: "For incorporation" received 33 votes; "Against incorporation" received 31 votes.

Clerks were W. D. Wimer and M. B. Jones. Judges were F. M. Jones, E. H. Fuller, W. T. Ward.

The trustees of the Village held their first meeting April 22, 1890 and organized by electing the following officers: J. W. Edwards, President; W. C. Morgan, Clerk; W. T. Ward, Treasurer.

I, T. S. Innis, do hereby certify that I am clerk of the Village of Bellflower, in McLean County and that on May 14, 1900, J. W. Edwards was president of the Board of Trustees, and C. W. Johnson, Sr., W. C. Moreland, J. T. Poe, S. F. Teal, N. P. Ward and F. J. Dunn were trustees of said village duly elected and qualified as such, as appears from the records kept and on file in my office. T. S. Innis, Clerk.

Some excerpts taken from the ledger of 1890 are as follows:

First meeting was called April 28, 1890. Motion was made to take a vote on amount of the liquor license. \$900.00 was declared to be the amount for one year. The tying or staking out of any animal shall be staked for they cannot get nearer than 10 feet from center of roadway. The word "calaboose" whenever used in any ordinance of said village shall be held to mean the one story frame building situated on the N. W. corner of Block 10, at corner of Main and Barclay Streets. (where calaboose now stands). Boys under age of 15 shall not be allowed on the streets after 8:30 p.m. without giving sufficient and satisfactory explanation for his being out.

A motion was made that each member be required to vote on every question or be fined a peck of apples. October 7, 1890, at the request of any two members of the Board, the President, with them, constitute a Board of Health, and at the breaking out of any contagious disease in this Village or immediate vicinity, they shall have power to make or enforce any rules and regulations tending to check the spreading of such disease within the limits of this Village as they may think proper, and for this purpose, they shall have power to shut up any house or place, where any infected person may be.

December, 1891 -- Permission was given by the board of trustees to W. W. Brandon and A. C. Halliday to conduct a "shoot-match" South of the tile factory under the following conditions: That it be control of the marshal; that he stop proceedings at any time it is not properly conducted; that the above parties pay the marshal \$1.50, and that no shooting be done less than one hundred yards of any house.

January 20, 1893 -- The addition to the town of Bellflower known as the Western Addition, has been and is now recognized and accepted as a portion of the village.

March 7, 1893 -- Discussion on town well; nothing done.

August 7, 1894 -- Motion made and carried that there be levied and collected on all personal and real estate property within the Village, the sum of \$350.00 for miscellaneous purposes.

1894 -- Sunday Closing Ordinance. It shall be unlawful for any person to keep open or permit to be kept open his place of business or pursue his daily labor of occupation within the corporation limits of said Village on the first day of the week commonly called Sunday. May be fined \$3.00 to \$20.00 for each violation.

This section shall not apply to cases of necessity or of charity or the legitimate business of Hotels, Eating Houses, Drug Stores or Livery Stables.

Bills allowed, September 3, 1895 -- W. E. Bunney, \$2.00 for hauling prisoner; Jeff Brooks, \$1.00 for assisting marshal; F. M. Jones, \$2.50 for boarding prisoner; Jim Rhea, 27¢ for car fare to Farmer City; Alva Jayne, \$2.00 for mowing in Village at 20¢ per hour; L. O. Burnett, \$1.05 for 7 hrs. work unloading lumber to be used in building sidewalks. (Lumber was bought by car load for this purpose.)

December 4, 1895 -- Decision of Town Board, "That who-

soever shall on the streets of Bellflower, throw a snow-ball, shall be fined not less than \$3.00 or more than \$10.00"

Clerks at Village elections received \$3.00. Town Marshal received \$80.00 per year.

Salaries: F. M. Jones, marshal for one month, \$12.00; labor on streets, per day, \$1.50; using team, \$2.20; mowing weeds, per day, \$1.50; expense for buying two dogs, 50¢; W. J. Dollins, for lighting street lamps and seeing to water works (oil-tin town pump and windmill), per month, \$2.00; Alva Jayne, bill for labor on streets, 44 hours at 15¢, \$6.60.

Received of Buckskin Bill Specialty Show \$2.00 license for showing in said village July 7 and 8 and 9, 1897.

Street Commissioner Rubin Miller (Grandfather of the late Rolla Miller) was instructed to have feathers removed from the street. Ordinance No. 11 - Section 2 - May 14, 1900. "No person, Company, or Corporation shall run any passenger train or car in or through the Incorporate limits of the Village of Bellflower at a greater rate of speed, than ten (10) miles an hour.

## INTERESTING FACTS

In 1870 Alexander Whitaker sold land to the Bellflower Cemetery Association according to the Recorder of Deeds.

Destructive fire of 1923 - burning buildings on West side of street, including Corner Grocery, Hardware, Stites' Grocery and the Telephone Office.

Many early settlers lived on hog and hominy during the severe winters.

Telephone poles were placed in Bellflower in 1891.

The brick Township building was built in 1917.

The Light Plant was built in 1919.

October 3, 1905 - A letter was read from the Consolidated Gas & Electric Company in regard to buying lights for the Village. The clerk was instructed to send for one street lamp on fifteen days trial. (Motion carried).

Decoration Day is observed on Sunday preceding Memorial Day. Flowers are placed on Veterans' graves by school children. A short program is also held, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

Anyone who has attended Bellflower Township High School is welcome to attend a picnic dinner, held the second Sunday in June, at the High School. It is a family affair, and a good time to see how much faster your old buddies have aged than you have.

Bellflower Water project -- a \$75,000 project to give Bellflower its first municipal water system had cleared all major hurdles and was well on the way toward completion by March 1952.

The first movies were shown by Tom Innis, 1910, in the K of P building. The latter built in 1906 was razed February, 1952. The store building had been used by the late Charles Kiler and the late Frank Carlyle, Druggists, and by the late Charles Fosnaugh, Grocer. Later it became Restaurant quarters and was last used as Foster's Variety Store.

We know of the crude implements with which our ancestors did their farming, but with the era succeeding the Civil War, there was a wonderful development along these lines. Wooden plows went out of use, and improved makes of steel plows became common. Gang plows, or those with several blades instead of one, came into fashion. Then the riding plow, on which the farmer could sit and drive his team as they went across the field. Corn planters of a mechanical kind succeeded the old hand planters. Reaping machines came into use, and the old methods of threshing grain gave way to steam engines and separators which could take the grain from the straw. Wagons, too, were improved in size, make and capacity for hauling. With all these changes and betterments of implements, the size of the farms which one man could manage and cultivate, constantly grew. It also gave rise to the custom of tenant farming, where the owner of the land could live in a nearby village or distant city, while the actual farming was done by a man and his family who lived in a tenant house and performed the work for a proportion of the crops, or paid the owner a certain rate per acre in cash.

The values of farm lands had a gradual but steady increase. We have been told many of the farms were bought for \$1.25 per acre.



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When the County was six years old the first newspaper made its appearance, called "The Morning Observer." First issue was January 14, 1837. Due to hard times, it ceased to be, June 1839. About 1846, a weekly, the Western Whig, was established. There were several changes from that time until 1852, when the name was changed to the Pantagraph, meaning "write all things." It lived through several changes in name and proprietorship, but about 1871 it was incorporated under the title of "The Daily Pantagraph." A Bellflower Journal was published 1893-1894.

**FIRST BUSINESS MEN**

- R. E. Moreland - in Grain business 1871; followed by A. J. Henry.
- John Nichols - Grocer., 1871. He put up the first dwelling house in Bellflower, and it is believed to be the house known as the Yarrington property which was located across the street from the present Fire Station.
- A. Libairn - General Merchandise Store, 1871.
- T. B. Groves - Hardware and Implement Dealer, 1872.
- J. W. Eyestone - Grocery Store, but later sold to Robert Row.
- L. I. Rush and J. W. Stokes - Druggists.
- Cline Brothers - Grocers.

**BUSINESSES IN 1879**

- H. P. Plummer - Grain, Lumber and Lime
- J. H. Pumpelly - Grain, Lumber and Lime
- E. H. Fuller - Wagon Maker
- A. C. Brandon - Blacksmith
- George H. Mittan - Blacksmith
- W. T. Ward - Boarding House, and Carpenter
- M. McFarlin - Grain Dealer

In the earlier days Bellflower had two doctors; two banks; tinsmith; livery barn; poultry house; blacksmith; harness maker; shoe cobbler; milliner; cabinet maker; tile factory; hotel; ice-cream parlor; print shop and funeral parlor.

Some of the early settlers were: J. B Gearhart; W. T. Brooks; W. E. Bunney; W. D. Richards; A. Burnett; John Carlyle; Lee Paullin; W. T. Bradbury; Marlon Gibson; Amos Jayne; John Halliday; Hugh McIntyre; John Nichols; David Ritchie; Ed Van Sickle; J. A. McIntyre; J. W. Edwards; D. M. Keefer; William Daniels; George and Charles Flint and L. F. Rohde.

If you could have strolled down the mainpart of town in days of yore, you would have seen the Livery Barn, (operated by Frank Hensley) where the feed mill is today; next to it was the Village Blacksmith, Mr. Myers. When we studied the poem "Th. Village Blacksmith," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, it was quite an "outing" to go as a class, to watch the blacksmith at his work.

V. W. Brandon's Meat Market and General Grocery Store, where no tramp was ever turned away without first receiving a "free hand-out."

W. C. Morgan's General Store; Barber Shop; Exchange Bank; Johnson's Grocery; Hardware; William Sities' Grocery; Telephone Office, operated by Mrs. Jim Rhea and her son, Buck, for over 50 years; Restaurant; Drug Store; Dr. Copenhagen's Office which was moved in 1918; Tom Innis' Ice Cream Parlor; Jake Johnson's Tin Shop and Plumbing Establishment; Yarrington Shoe Repair Shop and their dwelling. On East side of street, Dave Richard's Home; Dr. Conkling's Home, Mrs. Baker's Restaurant; Campbell's Harness Shop; Dr. Ward's Office; Edwards' Store and Funeral Parlor and Gooch Brothers' Bank. Bill Rose had a Poultry House.

The Stork Yards and Slaughter house were in the Northeast part of town. The cattle were driven in from the rural areas (many times causing heart breaking damage to lawns and gardens), then loaded in cattle cars and shipped to Chicago.

Thriving business places of years ago would have no counterpart today because their reason for existence has been removed.

Many hitching racks were located in various places in the village. From the corner Grocery to the alley East of the

M. E. Church accommodated many horses; also from the Gooch building to within a short distance of the Depot, and another was along the alley of the M. E. Church. On Saturdays, the farmers would get their food supplies for the week. The conveyances ranged all the way from pony carts and heavy buckboards, to the fancy "surrey with the fringe on top." A large watering trough for the horses was located across the street southeast of the M. E. Church.

The men who built Bellflower and those who made it prosper during its early days were men whose faith in its future was unshakable."

**BELLFLOWER MAIL ROUTE - 1901**

Name	Business	Nativity	Year They Came To Wp.
Buckles, J.	Farmer & Stock	Illinois	1869
Bradbury, W. T.	Farmer & Stock	Ohio	1860
Clayberg, E.	Farmer & Stock	Illinois	1869
Eyestone, J. W.	Grocery Store	Ohio	1865
Easterbrook, J. M.	Farmer & Stock	Ohio	1867
Fuller, Ephriam H.	Wagon Maker	Vermont	1870
Flint, George H.	Farmer & Stock	N. H.	1869
Guthrie, R. E.	Farmer & Stock	Ohio	1826
Groves, T. B.	Hardware Dealer	Ohio	1868
Halliday, John	Farmer & Stock	Scotland	1866
Carlyle, John	Farmer & Stock	Scotland	1861
Hanson, William A.	Farmer & Stock	Illinois	1869
Lateer, N. C.	Supervisor & Stock	N. J.	1861
Latham, W. A.	Farmer & Stock	Ohio	1871
McFarlin, M.	Grain Dealer	Ohio	1871
Marquis, A. A.	Station Agent	Ohio	1866
McIntyre, Hugh	Farmer & Stock	Scotland	1866
Muller, H. J.	Farmer & Stock	New York	1867
Murphy, William P.	Farmer & Stock	Ohio	1868
Nicol, John	Farmer & Stock	Scotland	1852
Pepper, Jacob	Farmer & Stock	Ohio	1871
Porter, Hugh Reid	Farmer & Stock	-----	1862
Rankin, W. H.	Farmer & Stock	Indiana	1838
Rush, E. L.	Druggist	Ohio	1862
Rhea, William	Farmer & Stock	Illinois	1869
Ritchie, James	Farmer & Stock	Scotland	1873
Sutherland, Mark M.	Farmer & Stock	Illinois	1873
Vreeland, J. H.	Farmer & Stock	N. J.	1857
Vreeland, M. H.	Farmer & Stock	N. J.	1860
Ward, W. T.	Carpenter	Kentucky	1867

Just a bit of verse to remind us of the days of yore, from the pen of the late Howard B. Austin.

**DOWN ON THE FARM**

Down on the farm, 'bout half-past four, I slip on my pants and sneak out of the door;  
 Out of the yard I run like the dickens to milk ten cows and feed the chickens,  
 Clean out the barn, curry Nancy and Jiggs, separate the cream, and slop the pigs,  
 Work two hours, then eat like a Turk. And, by heck, I'm ready for a full day's work.  
 Then I grease the wagon and put on the rack; throw a jug of water in an old grain sack,  
 Hitch up the horses, hustle down the lane-Must get the hay in, for it looks like rain.  
 Look over yonder! Sure as I'm born, cattle on the rampage and cows in the corn.  
 Start across the meadow, run a mile or two, heavin' like I'm wind-broke, get wet clear through.  
 Get back to the horses, then for recompense, Nancy gets a-straddle of the barbed-wire fence.  
 Joints all a-aching and muscles in a jerk, I'm fit as a fiddle for a full day's work.  
 Work all summer till winter is nigh, then figure up the books

and heave a big sigh.  
 Worked all year, didn't make a thing; got less cash now than I had last spring.  
 Now, some people tell us there ain't no ----, but they never farmed, so how can they tell?  
 When spring rolls around I'll take another chance, while the fringe grows longer on my old gray pants.  
 Give my s'spenders a hitch, my belt another jerk, and, by heck, I'm ready for another year's work.

#### POPULATION

In the year 1860 the population of Bellflower Township was 141; by the year 1870 population was 659.

Year	Village	Township
1880	250	1,282
1890	---	1,294
1900	356	1,241
1910	394	1,167
1920	441	1,183
1930	442	1,220
1940	425	1,070
1950	413	964
1960	389	927
1970	400	952

Early settlers went to the Village of Saybrook or Cheney's Grove as it was then called to get their mail which was brought from Bloomington once a week. Whoever chanced to go to Cheney's Grove brought all the mail for the Bellflower neighborhood; but letters were few and magazines less frequent. The first Post Office building was located west of the Illinois Central about where the Legion building now stands. It was destroyed by fire many years ago. Numerous fires in Village history finally developed plans for a permanent Post Office building which was constructed in 1930, and the present structure was built in 1961.

Bellflower R.F.D. began in 1900 and served Glenavon, Kummer, Laurette, Meharry and Troster. The first rural mail carrier was Jesse Poe. George Moberly was rural carrier for 37 years. Present rural carrier is Emory Tipsord.

Mr. W. C. Morgan had the Post Office in his store for about 22 years.

#### BELLFLOWER POSTMASTERS

Post Office established as Bell Flower on January 22, 1872. Name changed to Bellflower on June 20, 1892.

Postmasters	Dates of Appointment
Albert H. Margins	January 22, 1872
James W. Eyestone	January 6, 1873
Emory L. Rush	November 14, 1873
Lafayette B. Grant	September 23, 1874
Charles W. Johnson	November 20, 1884
Percival G. Jones	August 17, 1885
William C. Morgan	March 5, 1887
Orr B. Straight	August 21, 1897
DeWitt R. Gooch	March 17, 1907
William C. Morgan	October 6, 1909
Robert McIntyre	May 3, 1922
William Kitts, Jr.	December 11, 1926
Omer Ashworth	August 22, 1935
Mary Mears	July 1, 1942
Carrie L. Smith	March 1, 1954
Dolores L. Monical	March 6, 1971

Information through 1929 obtained from National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C. Since 1929 information received from Post Office Department.

#### MY CHURCH

My church should be a friendly church  
 With doors that open wide  
 Inviting every lonely heart  
 To fellowship inside;

My church should be a lamp for those  
 Who somehow went astray,  
 And even now, confused and hurt,  
 Need light along the way.

My church should be less occupied  
 With ritual and creed  
 When simple Christian kindness is  
 By far the greatest need.

And yet my church, where God should dwell,  
 May never make a start,  
 Unless I first shall make a home  
 For Christ within my heart.

#### THE EARLY CHURCHES

Some of the early Scotch settler established a United Presbyterian church in the old Caledonia school house, October 21, 1871. On this day and at this place the Rev. J. C. Truesdale from Paxton preached. Twenty-one were at the meeting and John Ritchie and Calvin Beattie were elected ruling elders.

Names of members at organization of said congregation were: Mr. and Mrs. John Ritchie Mr. and Mrs. James Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. David Ritchie, Mr. and Mrs. John Carlyle, Mr. and Mrs. John Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. James Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. John Foster, John Nichol, James Ritchie, Jr., Calvin Beattie, Mrs. Hugh McIntyre, Miss Jane Ritchie.

Services were held on Saturday or the Sabbath. Other ministers were: Rev. J. V. Pringle, Rev. John Todd, and Rev. Fairley. Our last reference states Rev. Fairley baptized Robert Sherman, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Ritchie, on Sabbath, May 1, 1886.

The first settlers of Bellflower Township held religious worship in their homes and in school houses. Prior to this time, camp meetings were a wonderful source of help in the religious life of the early settler. These camp meetings continued long after the first churches were established.

Bellflower had been a preaching point on the Saybrook charge until the year 1871. At the Quarterly Conference of the Saybrook Charge, held October 30, 1871, J. T. Orr, pastor and H. Buck, Presiding Elder, the new Bellflower Circuit was authorized. O. Springstead was appointed pastor. The first official members were: W. T. Kerr, J. C. Butcher, and C. R. Scranton. Class Leaders and Stewards were: C. E. Wilson, J. W. Buoy, William Thomas David LaTeer, Joseph Easterbrook, J. B. Ghearheart, and George Davidson. The organization began with 26 members but records show that by the beginning of the second year there were 89 members, and at the close of the second year there were 180 members.

Out of these meetings grew a desire to found a Methodist Church, so September 23, 1873, the church was completed on the site of the present M. E. Church.

The architect was Norris Lateer. It is said that this man took the installing of the bell very seriously. He was very dubious about the belfry bearing the weight of the bell and "he took great pains" to reinforce the belfry. Later two class rooms were added, on the north and south sides.

After about thirty years, the first church seemed inadequate for the growing congregation. Under the leadership of Rev. C. M. Fultz (the pastor here from 1909 through 1910) the members began plans for the building of a new church, the present brick structure, at a cost of between \$8000.00 and \$9000.00.

The building committee consisted of C. W. Johnson, Sr., A. J. Powell, W. T. Kitts, W. S. Bingham, Hatch Flint, Robert Ritchie and Hugh McIntyre. R. N. Jenkins was the contractor and Gooch Bros. furnished most of the materials. Pearl Hinshaw hauled most of the building materials. Frank Hinshaw mixed the mortar for the laying of the brick and Frank Bristow did much of the wheel-barrow hauling at the scene of the building.

The first official Board members were as follows: Trustees, W. T. Kitts, A. R. Rinehart, W. T. Bradbury, Ed Bradbury, W. C. Morgan, Allen McIntyre and C. W. Johnson. The stewards were: I. N. Rinehart, Hugh McIntyre, Robert Ritchie,



First M. E. Church, Completed Sept. 23, 1873

Ephriam H. Fuller, W. S. Bingham, G. M. Carson, W. S. Polk, W. D. Barnhart, Ed Williams, J. H. Copenhaver, Hatch Flint and Henry Morling.

R. N. Jenkins was the Sunday School Superintendent, Grace Johnson was President of the Ladies Aid Society that first year and W. H. Kitts was President of the Epworth League.

Down through the years many memorials have been added in memory of loved ones, making the M. E. Church a beautiful place in which to worship.

Ministers through the 100 years are as follows:

1872-75 - J. Ingram. (Also preached at Center, Halls, Gibson City; churches were built at Bellflower and Gibson City.)

1875-76 - H. C. Turner

1877-78 - J. K. Maxfield

1879 - J. Long

1880-81 - J. M. West

1882-83 - J. O. Collins

1884-85 - E. M. Jeffers

1886 - J. Muirhead

1887-89 - D. C. Burkett

1890-91 - A. Wells

1892-93 - J. F. Horney

1894 - S. H. Huber

1895-97 - John B. Martin

1898-99 - B. D. Wiley

1900-01 - S. M. Van Cleve

1902 - W. C. Woodyard

1903 - C. W. Jacobs

1904 - J. F. Clearwater



Bellflower Methodist Church Today



1905-08 - E. K. Crews  
 1909-10 - C. M. Fultz  
 1911-12 - C. S. Baughman  
 1912-14 - Harris G. Beck  
 1914-17 - A. N. Simmons  
 1917-19 - E. A. Hedges  
 1919-20 - J. E. Evans  
 1920-21 - S. N. Madden  
 1921-23 - J. T. Stretton  
 1923-24 - S. H. Hoar  
 1924-25 - J. F. McAnally  
 1925-29 - E. C. Swaney  
 1930-32 - J. C. Berry  
 1933-37 - Ralph Fitch  
 1938-42 - Fletcher DeClark  
 1943-44 - Lee Baldwin  
 1944-47 - Carol Lanus  
 1947-50 - Robert Robey  
 1950-53 - Cecil Dallas  
 1953-56 - Charles Hanna  
 1956-57 - Dr. Sidney Guthrie  
 1957 - Oscar Weber  
 1957-59 - J. C. Wiedrich  
 1959-61 - J. O. McClarey  
 1961-64 - Douglas Jones  
 1964-66 - Daniel J. Sullivan  
 1966-70 - Marshall D. Ulm  
 1970 - Thomas Owen Candler

In early years of the church the members were required to prove themselves worthy of membership and were taken into the church on probation.

It was interesting to read, Rev. Springstead's salary was \$400. Rev. Ingram's was \$550.00 to \$650.00.

Rev. H. C. Turner had written the following quotation: "May the Lord help us all to be more devoted to his work and may the burden of souls rest more sensibly upon us."

#### HISTORY OF BELLFLOWER CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The Bellflower Christian Church was organized October 1, 1891, by evangelist, J. S. Clements, of Normal, Illinois. An eight weeks meeting was held in a tent set in a field just west of the M. E. Church. W. C. Swartz was song leader, Ella Harris (Mrs. A. F. Rohde, deceased) presided at the organ. During that meeting there were 150 members organized into the Christian Church. A few were already members, but most all were those converted, and baptized during this meeting in the Sangamon River near Saybrook.

After the organization they immediately began the erection of a church building upon the lots where the present structure



First Christian Church Dedicated Jan. 1, 1892  
 (Billy Daniels In Doorway)



First Christian Church Rededicated Sept. 14 after wind storm  
 June 10, 1902

now stands. Church services were held in the school house until the building was completed.

The building was a frame structure and when completed, cost \$3500.00, which was no small sum at that time. It was dedicated January 1, 1892. The following were on the building committee: W. S. McDaniel, Dr. H. L. Harris and David Keefer. First officers of the church were: W. S. McDaniel, S. C. Innis, Dr. H. L. Harris, Jacob Johnson, W. H. Hougham, William Smith, David Keefer, George Gathman and Robert Stuffing.

On June 10, 1902 a wind storm wrecked the tower on the church and destroyed the East side of the building. The church was rebuilt and rededicated September 14, 1902. The parsonage was also built that year, costing \$2000.00. It was the second church to be built in Bellflower.

At a Missionary Meeting in 1912 the question arose, "Shall we remodel our church or build a new one?" The men decided a new church should be built, so with the help of the Ladies Aid, who pledged \$2000.00, the present church was built, cornerstone laid in 1912. It is a brick structure costing \$15,198.69. It was dedicated May 11, 1913.

The following ministers have served the church in the order named:

T. M. Johnson; W. C. Swartz; Herbert Yeuell; E. S. Hart; J. H. Swift, January, 1900-03; J. D. Williams, January, 1904-January, 1905; C. C. Wisher, February, 1905-March, 1910; and L. S. Harrington, June, 1910-December, 1911.

Also, M. O. Dutches, March 1912-January, 1913; D. D. Dick, March 1913-1917; E. E. Higdon, July 1917-1919; W. D. DeWees, 1919; Jessie Struebing, 1920; and C. J. Robertson.

Also, R. M. Deskins, October, 1920-1927; C. S. Linkletter, February, 1924-October, 1927; A. Paul Baugherty, October, 1927-May, 1930; J. A. Sinclair, January, 1930-September, 1933; C. M. Read, November, 1933-November, 1934; H. C. Boyts, May, 1935-April, 1937; L. C. Million, June 1937-September, 1941; E. R. Berry, 1941-September, 1964, and C. T. Parke, September, 1964 to present.

Many changes have been made in the sanctuary, which not only have added to the beauty, but to the spiritual atmosphere.

#### ST. JOHN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

1897 - Permission was granted to establish a Catholic Church to care for the Catholic Families of Eastern McLean County. Pledges of \$2500.00 were subscribed to build a new church.

1899 - Father John Cannon, pastor of Gibson City, administered the new parish which was built by Peoria Contractors and was named St. John's in memory of Father Cannon and Mr. John Power, Sr. John Lancaster Spaulding, Bishop of Peoria, dedicated the new church August 23,



First Christian Church in Bellflower Today

1899, and following the dedication, confirmed a large class which included many from Roberts, Melvin, Gibson City, Bellflower, and Farmer City. Following the confirmation, he was driven to Farmer City to lay the corner stone of the present church.

- 1901 - Farmer City became a parish and St. John's at Bellflower became a mission to Farmer City. Father Michael Abbott was the first pastor.
- 1903 - Father W. P. White became pastor and began having Mass every Sunday. He would travel by "Lively Rig."
- 1907 - Pastor, Father John Armstrong.
- 1918 - Pastor, Father Beno Blaschke.
- 1920 - Pastor, Father James Fitzgerald.
- 1923 - Pastor, Father James V. Greene.
- 1933 - Pastor, F. J. Schaff. The Altar and Rosary Society was organized.
- 1939 - Pastor, Father Frank Faulstich.
- 1946 - Pastor, Father Raymond Schueth.
- 1956 - Interior of church was renovated and impressive wood carvings depicting the Crucifixion, by Professor Martin of University of Illinois were installed.  
Pastor, Father Thomas Carmody.
- 1965 - Pastor, Father T. J. Lesniak.
- 1966 - Parishioners participated with the parishioners of Farmer City, and the Bellflower Methodist Church, in the food stand at the Farm Progress Show.
- 1967 - Sanctuary was renovated and exterior of the church was painted.
- 1970 - Pastor, Father Koloman Kassovic. Installation of a new gas furnace and an air conditioner.

#### HISTORY OF IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, OSMAN

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Osman, Illinois, is one of the oldest churches in the Central Illinois District of the Lutheran

Church - Missouri Synod. It started as a mission post, and the services were held in various homes for a time. On March 17, 1895, after having been instructed by a student from the Springfield Seminary, a group of men and women were confirmed. This confirmation service was held in the Osman Methodist Church.

On July 19, 1910 the little congregation, with Rev. W. T. Vogel as their minister, decided to organize, and a constitution was adopted. In 1909 they built a small white frame church.

On July 28, 1912, Rev. M. Monteuffel was installed as minister. At this time the German language was dropped and the services were conducted in English.

On February 20, 1921, Rev. H. Predoehl was installed as pastor. During his stay, the Ladies Aid Society was organized (July 1921). In August 1927, the Ladies Aid purchased the former Dunkard church. A group of men from the congregation moved it. They built a sturdy frame of large beams on which they placed the building. Then Mr. C. G. Leistman pulled it with his steam engine to the lot beside the church in Osman. For the last mile, the building had to be pulled across fields as it was too wide to cross the bridge on the Osman road. The Hall, as the building is now called, was recently remodeled, and is used for many church activities - such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Aid Meetings, Youth activities, Suppers, etc.

In 1928 Rev. Predoehl left Osman and Rev. C. W. Long became the minister. He was followed by Rev. C. L. Bliss in 1931. Then in 1938, Rev. G. W. Malling accepted the call to Osman. In 1943 F. H. Reimann became the pastor. During Pastor Reimann's tenure, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized (1946). The money which the ladies collect in their mite boxes is used in missionary projects here in Illinois, in our nation, and the entire world - to build chapels, schools, churches, etc.





St. John's Catholic Church In Bellflower Today

In 1948 Rev. William Timm was called to be pastor. During his ministry, the congregation decided to build a new church. The white frame building was torn down and a larger brick building erected. It was dedicated on May 20, 1951.

Rev. Timm left in 1953 and Pastor Wackler from Thomasboro served as vacancy pastor until December 1953, when Rev. Channing E. Miller accepted the call and served until 1957.

Since then Rev. M. E. Wackler has served as minister. We now have a total communicant membership of 185, total children 62, and total baptized membership of 247.

The Young People are very active and enjoy their meetings. Another organization of the church is the Lutheran Laymen's League which helps support two worthy projects - "The Lutheran Hour" on radio, and "This is the Life" on television.



Immanuel Lutheran Church, Osman, Ill. Dedication May 20, 1951



Immanuel Lutheran Hall, Osman, Ill.





Methodist Church in Osman Today

#### M. E. CHURCH HISTORY (OSMAN)

A community of the Bellflower Township is the small village of Osman. It is located on the Wabash Railroad. The village was laid out by Moses Osman, a pioneer railroad builder of the area.

According to information received, Pioneer John England preached the primitive gospel in 1876, at which time Sunday School was held there in the public school house. In 1877 a Church of 12 members was formed, probably by John W. Snyder, and in 1885 a Union church was built to be used half time each by the Church of Christ and the Protestant Methodist congregation.

November 5, 1885, with Reverend R. E. Fox as chairman, a group met in Osman and elected Trustees of the Osman Society of the Methodist Protestant Church of Foolsland Circuit of the North Illinois Conference. The following were elected: Calvin Beatty, Orvin Warner, Benjamin Jones, Hugh R. Porter, and James Lady.

Sworn before Justice of the Peace J. P. Pollock, January 13, 1886 and filed January 19, 1886. The land for the church site was purchased from Christina Miller for \$1.00, December 16, 1885.

The following pastors have served:

1886-1890	Rev. R. E. Fox
1890-1892	John A. Reichard
1892-1897	I. T. Haverfield
1897-1899	Rev. A. J. Wolfe
1899-1902	I. T. Haverfield
1902-1904	J. P. Collier
1904-1905	J. D. Green
1905-1906	Thomas Rhoden
1906-1908	R. E. Fox

1908-1910	R. H. Goodpasture
1910-1915	Rev. S. E. Nicholson
1915-1916	Rev. A. L. Stinefelt
1916-1918	Rev. S. E. Nicholson
1918-1922	Rev. E. W. Kowalsky
1922-1924	Rev. A. Darnell
1924-1926	Rev. Nicholas Weiler
1926-1930	Rev. J. T. Hutchison
1930-1934	Rev. G. D. Ray
1934-1938	Rev. F. L. Rogier
1938-1939	Rev. George M. Hovda
1940-1944	Rev. H. R. Coulter
1944-1949	Rev. S. N. Madden
1949-1953	Rev. James T. Heady
1954-1955	Rev. Robert Farless
1955-1957	Rev. Eugene L. Priest
1957-1961	Rev. Delmar Smith
1961-1964	Rev. David Graham
1964-1967	Rev. Richard Adair
1967-1969	Rev. John Kovalcik
1969-	Rev. Paul Darling

#### AM I A BUILDER?

I watched them tearing a building down, A gang of men in a little town.

With a ho-heave-ho and a lusty yell they swung a beam, and the sidewalk fell.

I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled, and the men you'd hire if you had to build?"

He gave a laugh and said: "No, indeed! Just common labor is all I need.

I can easily wreck in a day or two what builders have taken a

## EARLY SCHOOLS

Whenever the subject of early schools in Bellflower Township is mentioned, it seems to cause a controversy as to which rural school can claim the honor of being first. Statistics seem to prove that the Center school north of the village was first. Prior to the building of Center, pupils received their education in private homes.

The first school in the village was in 1858, and the first teacher was a Miss Green. The building was moved from the southern end of the W. T. Kitts farm (the Edd Zimmerman farm) and transferred to the site of the present grade school. Later, in 1872, another building was added to meet the growing needs of the village. Two teachers often taught as many as 130 pupils.

In 1887 the village decided to erect another building. The two old school houses were removed, one being converted into a residence by Hugh McIntyre, and the other into a residence by Jack McIntyre, and is located East of the lumber yard. The new building was a two story, four-room school. The water supply came from a pump in the school yard, and we all drank from the same rusty tin cup. This school served the village until 1918.

The district was then reorganized by petition, enlarging the school territory. The new building was built in War times when cost of material was high. The school ground was enlarged at this time and three buildings south of the present building were moved, one now being in the North end of town; another across the street North of the school, and the other was probably destroyed. Total cost for building, etc., was about \$28,000.00.



K. P. Lodge—Built 1906, Demolished 1929

year to do."

And I thought to myself as I went away, which of these roles have I tried to play?

Am I a builder who works with care, measuring life by the rule and square?

Am I shaping my deeds to a well-made plan, patiently doing the best I can?

Or am I a wrecker, who walks the town content with the labor of tearing down?

Author Unknown



Grade School No. 58—Built 1888, Torn Down 1918



**Bellflower Township Grade School—Brick Building Built In 1918**



**Bellflower Elementary School—New Addition Dedicated 1957**



**The First Board of Education of Bellflower Township High School. They are, left to right: Front row—John Troster, William C. Morgan and DeWitt Gooch II. Back row, left to right: Edd Williams and Henry Struebing.**

### **BELLFLOWER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL**

Bellflower can claim the distinction of building the first Township High School in the county. It was built in 1905 at a cost of \$13,000.00. R. N. Jenkins was contractor. Since then the building has been enlarged and remodeled. The first trustees were W. C. Morgan, Edd Williams, John Troster, Henry Struebing and Dewitt Gooch II.

The school started with 45 students. The first track meets were held in a field east of the village on the former Andrew Powell farm.

High School started with a two-year course in the two story grade school building, with A. C. Stice as principal. In 1906 the school entered their first athletic and literary contest, winning two firsts. Halsey Bingham (deceased) won first in the mile race and Besse Richards Kumler (deceased) winning in essay. It was during this year that the colors Nile Green and White were chosen



**Bellflower Township High School Today**





**MR. AND MRS. MARION O. FLANIGON**

Many people of the community have given of their time and energy to build our schools, churches, etc., but M. O. Flanigon made a large contribution when he bequeathed money and land amounting to a fortune to the Bellflower School Districts. The estate consisted of \$79,995.17 in cash and notes, about \$8,000.00 in collectable notes, 240 acres of land near Bellflower and 530 acres in Indiana.

With the cash on hand the trustees obtained permission from the Circuit Court to purchase a section of land near Bellflower at a cost of \$165,000. The Indiana land was sold and the proceeds used to pay off mortgages necessitated in the purchase of the new section of Bellflower land.

Marion O. Flanigon was born near Washington Court House, in Fayette County, Ohio, October 20, 1846. He lived the greater part of his boyhood days with his uncle, Mr. George McDaniel. At the age of twenty-one he came to Illinois with a Mr. Hiram Rush, in a covered wagon and on horseback. Soon after arriving, he purchased a forty-acre tract of land three miles northwest of Bellflower and built a small house upon it. Two years later he returned to Ohio and was married to Phoebe Lucinda Carson at New Martinsburg, Fayette County, February 20, 1870; and shortly returned to Illinois and started their new home on the small farm he had recently purchased. In a few years he acquired a 240 acre farm a short distance from his first purchase and they moved to this place, which is now known as the Flanigon homestead. They lived here until 1885 when they moved to Bellflower. They lived in Bellflower until death, Mrs. Flanigon departing this life July 27, 1918, and Mr. Flanigon February 13, 1927.

Soon after moving to Bellflower Mr. Flanigon became engaged in the grain business with Mr. H. F. Helmick, having purchased a half interest from Mr. C. W. Johnson Sr. In 1895 Mr. Helmick retired from the firm and Mr. A. J. Powell and Mr. Linville Rohde became partners of Mr. Flanigon, and they engaged in the lumber business in addition to the grain. In about 1902 they sold the business.

In 1893 he was instrumental in organizing the first Bank in Bellflower, known as the Exchange Bank, he owning a large share of the stock. This was a private bank and each stockholder was liable for the amount of his private worth. Later, after the bank was reorganized, as a State Bank, he continued as an important stockholder.

In 1909 Mr. Flanigon became a stockholder in the grain firm of W. T. Bradbury and Company. This company was reorganized in 1920 and became known as the Clarence W. Johnson Grain Company. He held an interest in this firm at the time of his death.

He was a public spirited and charitable man. It is known that he aided several young people to get an education. He helped

organize several farmers' elevators and was instrumental in the building of the Odd Fellows Hall, which was the first brick building in the village. He had very keen business ability and created a large fortune consisting of about fifteen hundred acres of land and a large amount of money, stocks, bonds, and mortgages. He gave large bequests to relatives and friends, but the major part of his estate was left to the schools of Bellflower, thus exemplifying his community spirit, by both aiding the schools and helping the people to bear their tax burden. In his will, Mr. Flanigon stated that Districts Number 311 and Number 88 were to benefit equally from his estate.

Memorial stones and tablets have been erected in honor of the people who have left gifts to the schools of the community. A stone has been erected on the old homestead northwest of Bellflower with this inscription:

**MARION O. and LUCINDA P.  
FLANIGON  
lived here 1870-1885  
and later donated  
this 240 acre farm to the  
schools of  
BELLFLOWER**

On the section southeast of town a stone has been erected with this inscription:

**FLANIGON  
Marion O. Lucinda P.  
1846-1927 1848-1918  
donated this section of land  
to the schools of  
Bellflower**

In the Grade School building is a bronze plaque with the inscription: "Dedicated to the memory of Marion O. and Lucinda P. Flanigon, as a token of appreciation for their generous contributions to the school district Number 88." A similar plaque is in the High School, the only change being in the number of the district.

Also in the High School building is a plaque bearing this inscription: "Dedicated to the memory of Agnes Ritchie Powell, as a token of appreciation for her generous contribution to school district 311." A third plaque in the High School reads: "Dedicated to the memory of David W. Richards, as a token of appreciation for his generous contribution to the school district 311."

David William Richards was born in Columbus, Ohio, March 30, 1831 and passed away in Bellflower February 10, 1910. He often remarked that education was one of his ideals, and regretted the fact that he didn't have a chance to get a better one. He admired youth, and feeling that an education was a necessity, he often tried to encourage people in their teens to attend school. Thinking that he might help young people to have a better chance for school and training than he had had, he bequeathed the amount of \$2000.00 to the Bellflower Township High School for the establishment of a Manual Training department.

The following pupils were in the class of 1899: Mary Copenhaver Brower, Hatch Flint, Ellen Helmick Holladay, Janie Irish Williams, Grace Kitts Johnson, Marie McIntyre Biggs, Bill Rose, Lulu Ward Miller, Burke Wheeler, and Carol Wiley.

Most of the country schools in the district consolidated with Bellflower in 1947. However, Osman District did not merge until 1949. Center School which was built at the close of the Civil War, was probably the first school in the Township. It was the center of neighborhood gatherings. The old school burned and was replaced in 1900.

A school site on the farm of Moses T. Hall, was deeded to the district, and a school erected in 1864, bearing the name "Hall School."

The Oliver School District was laid out in 1857, but the school house was not built until after the close of the Civil War. The site was donated by John C. Oliver. The second school was built in 1898. It was considered one of the best because it had a basement. Because of small enrollment, it was closed in 1938.

The first Osman school was located one mile west of the present site, during the year 1870. In 1885 the structure was moved



B.T.H.S. McLean Co. CHAMPIONS 1914

Left to right, Orville Wheat, Marion Troster, Joe Ward, Jesse Ward, Clarence Wheat and Linden Smith. Coach—Edd Williams



B.T.H.S. McLean Co. CHAMPIONS 1965

Front row, left to right: David Campbell, B. J. Beckley, Greg Lykins, R. C. Masonbrink and Mike Kelly. Back row, left to right: Mike Boman, Don Warsau, Jerry Sprau, Keith Springer, Bob Zimmerman, Manager Merle Shelton and Coach Don Harden.

and remodeled in 1913. In 1919 the brick structure was constructed at a cost of \$4000.00.

The Caledonia district was laid out in 1866, consisting of eighteen sections, having scattered settlements. In 1870 six sections were detached to the south for Osman District and four sections to the west for Bellflower District. The new schoolhouse was then erected on a site in Section 23 In 1919 the house was removed one-half mile east on the Bunney land for which the district paid \$25.00 a year rent. The name was suggested by the tune, Caledonia, from the hymn book used in Sunday School in the new schoolhouse.

In 1870 District No. 1 was organized and a school house known as old No. 1 was built. In 1875 the building was divided, and

moved to about the center of population in the new district. Since the cozy little white school could be seen for a great distance across the prairie, it was named "Prairie Cottage." In 1902 a new building was erected in a new location.

The Victoria School District was organized in 1870. In 1875 part of the Prairie Cottage school was moved to the Victoria site. The school burned March, 1927, but a beautiful new building was completed in October. An admirer of Queen Victoria suggested the name.

Pleasant Valley, named for its pleasant surroundings, was organized in 1872. It was well maintained until about 1930.

McDaniel School, named for George McDaniel, was also called Bradbury School for W. T. Bradbury, who owned the land. The district was organized in 1871. The building was built in 1874, the lumber being hauled from Champaign.

#### MORAL AND SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS

New schools are springing up across our land,  
Their architectural details carefully planned,  
With classrooms well equipped and so designed  
To make for harmony with eye and mind.

Today our small village is endowed  
With progress such as thus, of which we're proud  
And grateful too, since knowledge is the key  
With which we'll work for world democracy.

But in the midst of all that's shining new,  
We must hold fast those truths our Fathers knew.  
Our spiritual progress must keep steady pace  
With growth of any kind in every place,  
That growing hearts and minds shall be well versed  
In moral values that have placed God first.  
With this foundation Freedom shall endure  
Long after wisdom outlaws future war.

#### BELLFLOWER'S CREED??

To do good and be a blessing to others, especially those who are in real need of the special help I can give.  
To overcome what is weak and lowest in myself and seek to combine the best and the loftiest



To eliminate the false and ugly and search for the true and beautiful.

To meet all conditions of life with a smile, poise, courage and strength.

To never blame anyone for my misfortunes.

To harm no one by thought, word, or deed, **FOR WHATEVER I GIVE OUT MAY RETURN TO ME.**

### ORGANIZATIONS

The Masonic Lodge No. 911 was granted its first charter on October 5, 1881, and surrendered it July 13, 1886. Again it was started under a dispensation from the Grand Lodge, March 1908. The first Master was Joseph M. Jordan; Secretary - William C. Morgan. The first member raised was John J. Foster. After working under three years under dispensation on the recommendations of Farmer City No. 710, Mansfield Lodge No. 801, and Cheney's Grove No. 468, this lodge was granted a charter to allow them to work and receive candidates. This Lodge was then called Bellflower Lodge No. 911 A.F.A.M., 26 members. The first Master was Joseph M. Jordan, Secretary was William C. Morgan. Lawrence Flint was the first member raised in this new Lodge. A new lodge Temple room was erected in 1911.

In 1969 the lodge purchased the room below the lodge room, in order to accommodate small gatherings. This gave them possession of the whole building.

At present the Lodge has ninety-eight members, including four fifty-year members. They are: Oliver Troster, Stanwood Haigler, Percy Irish and Edd Barnhart. Present officers are: Worshipful Master, Eugene Miller; Senior Warden, Kenneth Curtis, Junior Warden, Bill Basham; Secretary, Raymond Syplut.

The Bellflower Exchange Bank, now extinct, was organized in 1891 by George W. Stokes. It was the first bank to be organized in Bellflower. The bank was privately owned and for three years Mr. Stokes owned no safe, but each night he would carry the deposits home, hide them under his wooden sidewalk, and take them back to the bank the following day. When organized, the bank had a capital of \$10,000, and the officers were: president, H. F. Helmick; cashier, J. E. Carson. G. M. Carson took his brother's place in July, 1894, the office he held until May 25, 1920. On June 1, 1919, the bank became a state bank, and J. E. Smith was elected president with H. L. Helmick vice president. G. M. Carson, cashier and Miss Helen Helmick, assistant cashier.

In 1923 L. Walter Brown replaced G. M. Carson as cashier. The bank closed January 20, 1932. It paid its depositors in full with 5% interest on deferred payments. It took approximately ten years to completely liquidate the bank's assets.

The Gooch Bank was in the building which is now the office of Dr. Elfers. In McLean County records it states, "Bellflower State Bank, founded 1892: President, A. F. Gooch; Vice-president, D. R. Gooch, Jr.; Cashier, A. G. Gooch."

The Needlecraft Club organized in July, 1913, is Bellflower's oldest social organization. The club's original membership was 24 and by the following November, 36 were enrolled. The late Grace Wheeler Paulin Melvin was the first president. Present officers are: President - Verla Williams; Secretary - Erma Giertz; Treasurer - Ruth Kurtz.

### BELLFLOWER MID-CENTURY CLUB

On April 7, 1948, twelve women of the community met in the High School library with the purpose of forming a Bellflower Junior Woman's Club. Mrs. Claude Kinsella and Mrs. Douglas Mayhan of Lexington were present to introduce the organization to the women.

The purpose of a Woman's Club was to bring young women of the community together for educational, literary, musical and cultural meetings as well as social and recreational benefits. The club was also to be a service club and contribute to the community.

Mrs. Orville Beetzle was elected first president and when the first club year opened in the fall, the membership had grown to 25. Meetings were held in the homes. Over the years the

membership has grown steadily to the present 69, and meets in the music room at the grade school.

Many different projects have been carried out over the years. The Club has:

- Brought the chest X-ray unit to Bellflower.
- Built outdoor fireplace and picnic tables.
- Had public cancer meeting.
- Sponsored heart drive.
- Sponsored public square dance.
- Held family and husband's nights.
- Sponsored art contests.
- Sponsored swimming lessons for all children of the community.
- Sent High School students to Egyptian Music Camp.
- Held County and District Conventions and furnished County and District officers.
- Sent remembrances to Shut-ins at Christmas.
- Held Easter Egg Hunts for children.
- Brought outstanding speakers and entertainment to the members and to the community.

Present officers are: President - Mrs. Carl Lawrence; Secretary - Mrs. Frank Roop; Treasurer - Mrs. John Bright. Although the Bellflower Mid-Century Club is only 23 years old, it has made Bellflower a more interesting place in which to live and continues to be an asset to the community.

Grant Post No. 202 was granted its charter August 10, 1920, with about 80 members. It was named in honor of Earl and Erwin Grant, sons of Richard Grant, both of whom gave up their lives in the war. Earl died in Jefferson Barracks, and Erwin died in France after the close of the war, when he was returning with his regiment from Germany. The first officers of the Post were: Commander, S. W. Haigler; Senior Vice-Commander, J. Warner Carlyle; Finance, A. G. Gooch; Adjutant, B. F. Hinshaw; Service Officer, DeWitt R. Gooch III; Sergeant-at-Arms, John Jensen. The present Commander is Lowell Raymer; Vice-President, Paul Gunner; the Adjutant, Tobey Bane; and Finance Director, Russell Bulta.

The Grant Unit No. 202, American Legion Auxiliary was organized January 13, 1946. There were 22 charter members. Mrs. Emil Scott, now of Ellsworth, was the first president. Present, Mrs. Dorothy Eubank; Secretary, Mrs. Earleen Woods; Treasurer, Mrs. Lucille Monical. Present membership is 29.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Christian Church was organized about 1900, and to the recollection of some, the late Mrs. Lucy Smith was the first president. In the early organization of the society, meetings were held in the upper story of the late Mrs. M. O. Flanigan's home, (now the Fosnaugh residence), when the meetings consisted only of a short devotional period and a quilting bee.

The present officers are: President, Lorean Hinshaw; Vice-President, Eleanor Bidner; Secretary, Geraldine Noe; Treasurer, Isabell Struebing. About 35 members are enrolled.

The Boy Scout Organization has been on again off again. At present their Scout Master is Michael Santora. Cub Master is Paul Bessler.

The Fire District was organized the summer of 1948, and the first fire truck was purchased in October of that year.

Present Fire Chief, Jerry Decker. Jeffrey Power, Paul Bidner, and John Straub are trustees. The most valuable of the civic organizations is the Volunteer Fire Department: Jerry Decker, Allen Flint, Leo Coons, Raymond Syplut, Dale Clifton, Duane Voorheis, D. B. Lykins, Loren Forrest, Robert Kammeyer, John Scott, Lowell Raymer, David Dunn, Paul Healea Lloyd Bidner, Don Fugh, Walter Boman, Russell Bulta, Bob Hobbs, Orville Beetzle, George Hinshaw, Frank Hutto, Carol Sprau, and Owen Candler.

### VILLAGE BOARD

Mayor, Dr. George Elfers  
Treasurer, Florence Lykins  
Clerk, Ruth Jayne  
Trustees, D. B. Lykins, Tykee Kumler, Kenneth Curtis, Leo Coons, John Scott and Merle Shelton.



## SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

The Club was organized in 1933. The organization meeting was held in the Grade School Basement. The first officers were Loren Kumler and Bob Copenhaver. Meetings were held at various places through the years. In 1970 they bought the former Grocery Store. They now have a membership of 176. Officers are: President, Marvin Nelson; Vice President, Maurice Pendleton; Secretary-Treasurer, James Eubank.

## LITTLE LEAGUE

The late Warner J. Carlyle organized the Little League in 1955 and was their leader until his illness in 1967. Duane Anderson is their present president.

## LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club was organized in the summer of 1958 and was granted its charter in September. It has a membership of 30. Present officers are: President, Richard Bedford; Secretary, John Armitage; Treasurer, John M. Scott

## BOARDS OF EDUCATION

High School: Russell Buita, Merle Hendren, Lee Paullin, Jeffrey Power, Donald Savage, John M. Scott, and Dean Sommer.

Grade School: Lee Bidner, John Bright, Marty Callison, Dr. George Elfers, Wilson Mears, Jeffrey Power and Harold Schroeder.

Mrs. Isabell Struebing is Treasurer of both Boards of Education.

Mrs. Bess Foster was the first President of the PTA. Present officers are Co-chairmen President, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Curtis; Vice president, Mr. and Mrs. John Armitage; Secretary, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Schroeder; and Treasurer, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woods.

President of Home Extension is Mrs. Earl Tibby; Secretary, Mrs. Oliver Bidner; Treasurer, Mrs. Roy Stutter.

## SUPERVISORS

Jess Richards was the first Township Supervisor being elected in 1858. He was followed by W. T. Bradbury, 1896-1897; I. N. Rinehart, 1897-1913; J. E. Smith, 1913-1931; Clarence Johnson, 1931-1939; R. H. Copenhaver, 1939-1961; Harry Struebing, 1961-1967; Wilbur Kumler, 1967-...

## REASON FOR LIFE

I don't know how to say it but sometimes it seems to me  
That maybe we are stationed where God wanted us to be;  
That the little place I'm filling is the reason for my birth  
And just to do the work I do He sent me down to earth.

If God had wanted otherwise I reckon He'd have made  
Me just a little different, of a worse or better grade,  
And since God knows and understands all things of land and sea  
I fancy that He placed me here just where He wanted me.

Sometimes I get to thinking, as my labors I review,  
That I should like a higher place with greater tasks to do  
But I come to the conclusion, when the envying is stilled  
That the post to which God sent me is the post He wanted filled.

So I plod along and struggle in the hope when day is through  
That I'm really necessary to the things God wants to do.  
And there isn't any service I can give which I should scorn  
For it may be just the reason God allowed me to be born.

## PRESENT PLACES OF BUSINESS

Margaret's Klip and Kurl opened for business June 2, 1953.  
Bellflower Feed Mill - Merle Shelton opened for business in  
fall of 1968.  
Standard Service - Bob Hobbs - January 1970.

Bill's TV Sales and Service - Bill May - January, 1959.  
Clifton's Plumbing and Heating - Dale Clifton - February 1954.  
Dr. George Elfers - Began practice here July 1, 1954, when he  
purchased business from Dr. Noah M. Koehnberg.  
Foosland Grain Company  
General Telephone Company of Illinois - 1930.  
Lion's Den Cafe - September 1969.  
Stensels' Funeral Home  
Barney's Electrical Service - 1963.  
Independent Oil Dealer - John Straub, June 1930 - Station 1957  
Farm Service - Wilbur Kumler - March 1968  
Standard Oil - Lindauer, 1971  
Fertilizer - Lindauer  
Northern Illinois Gas (Allied) summer 1967.  
Contractors:  
Roy Sloat - 1953  
Raymond Reed - 1959  
Russell Woliung - 1963  
Kenneth Curtis and Clyde Furnish - 1969  
Barber Shop - 1969

In May, 1939, Stensel Brothers built a modern funeral home on the site of the J. W. Edwards undertaking establishment. Three generations of Stensels have served Central Illinois as funeral directors since December, 1867. They also have funeral homes in Mansfield, Farmer City, LeRoy, Heyworth and Saybrook.

## WHAT TO DO

Retired, yes, well, what do you do?  
That is the question they all put to you  
What do I do? I laugh and say:  
"Not enough hours for those I love,  
Not enough hours to help HIM above,  
Not enough hours for recreation,  
Not enough hours to serve the Nation,  
Not enough hours for friends old and new,"  
And still they ask me - What do you do?

Fred Glissman said, "Ol' Billy Golden used to say, 'when the sun started shinin' on both sides of the street it was time to come out and get movin'..."

The Carpenter that built the Calaboose must have been too happy that his work was completed. We have been told he got drunk and was the first to occupy it.

Living retired businessmen and people serving Bellflower.  
Charles Hensley - Poultry Business - retired 1957.  
Walter Foster - Standard Station - retired 1968.  
Roy and Francis-Bristow - Grocery Store - 1963.  
Carl Lawrence - Grain Elevator - 1965.  
Richard Kleinbeck - Contractor - 1969.  
John Cherry - Farm Service Bulk Truck - 1968.  
D. B. Lykins - Standard Bulk Truck - 1971.  
Roy Monical - Contractor - 1966  
Alex Dykes - Sawmill - 1954

## School Teachers:

Mrs. Ruby Moore - 1966  
Miss Bertha E. Halliday - 1961  
Mrs. Ethel K. Wheeler - 1950

## THE TEACHER'S PART - A. J. DUNLAP

It's wonderful for men to build,  
With hammer, drill and forge,  
A bridge to span the cataract  
That rushes through the gorge.  
It's wonderful to build a town  
Where massive buildings tower,  
Where giant engines pull and puff  
And motors spin with power.  
It's wonderful to write a book,



MR. JOE ROY WAS THE DRIVER FOR YEARS  
*Stensels' Funeral Home*

M. STENSEL  
 F. STENSEL

FARMER CITY  
 ILL. 61001

**An early Stensel Bros. Hearse**

To paint an amber sky,  
 To give the world those deathless things  
 That never fade or die;  
 But still more wonderful to build  
 The women and the men,  
 Who build the cities, span the floods,  
 Or wield the brush and pen.  
 More wonderful to build a soul  
 To have a teacher's part  
 In molding dreams and hopes that stir  
 The adolescent heart;  
 And when they win, through stress and strain,  
 More wonderful to be  
 The faithful teacher who can say:  
 "They went to school to me."

**TRIAL BY JURY**

In weaving a pattern on my loom,  
 As the warp and woof forge ahead,  
 The finished picture could never depend  
 On any one single thread.  
 Each thread must be interwoven  
 With others, some dark, some light,  
 And only when all blend together  
 Is the picture seen clearly and right.  
 And in this same way, how can we judge  
 Any man by one act of his life,  
 Or base a fair verdict entirely  
 On one deed in peace or in strife?  
 Not on any one hour or day of the year  
 Should his worth or her merit depend,  
 For what jury can arrive at a verdict  
 'Til the trial has come to its end?

The preceding served this village and helped to write the pages of History and should receive recognition.

Grocery Store closed May 1970



THE OUTCASTS (The way we heard it)

The B.T.H.S. basketball team, 1909, was to have an evening game at Melvin or Roberts. Wanting to practice on the foreign court, they boarded the morning I.C. train to go to their destination. When Professor McRight heard the news, he sent word that that team would not play ball that eve, because they were

"outcasts" but he would have a second team there. So . . . the Outcasts had Photographer Hays of Saybrook take their picture. They are:

Halsey Bingham	Fred Innis	Warner Carlyle
Earl Daniels	Harry Barnhart	

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This history of Bellflower has been based upon hearsay of friends, concentrated study, investigation and reflections of our many friends.

We hope it will be enjoyed by those of us in the present generation and offer limitless enlightenment to all who read it in the timeless future.

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We wish to thank those who have helped to gather these facts, and especially do we thank Kirk L. Bristow for use of many of the pictures.

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The Bellflower Centennial organization wishes to thank Bertha Halliday for the time and effort she expended in writing the 100-year history of Bellflower, Illinois. This book will be often read and long remembered.

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# BELFLOWER CENTENNIAL SPONSORS

## ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Auxiliary  
American Legion Grant Post 202  
Bellflower Fire Protection District  
Bellflower Home Extension Association  
Bellflower Lions Club  
Bellflower Methodist Kingdom Builders  
Bellflower Methodist W. S. C. S.  
Bellflower Mid-Century Club  
Osman Methodist W. S. C. S.  
Bellflower Needlecraft Club  
Bellflower 911 AF & AM Masonic Lodge  
Bellflower Sportsman Club  
Bellflower Christian Church Ladies Aid  
Osman Lutheran Ladies Aid

## BUSINESSES

Bellflower Barber Shop  
Webb's Men's Wear, LeRoy  
Bill Case, Gibson City  
Ivan Sloat, Gibson City  
Red's Guitar, Gibson City  
Gill's Drugs, Gibson City  
Schockey's, Gibson City  
Ken Rost Ford, Gibson City  
IGA, Gibson City

## INDIVIDUALS

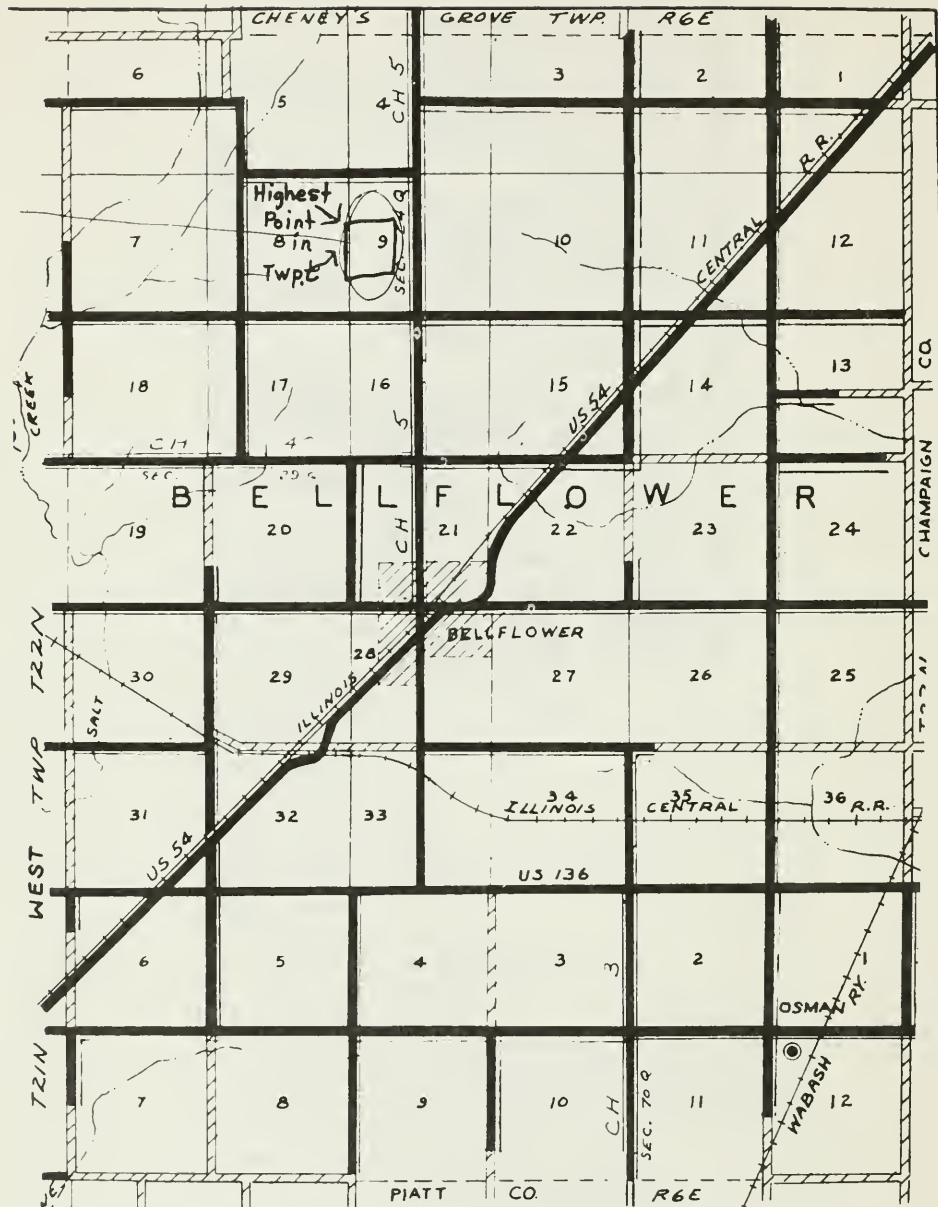
Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Bristow  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Brandon & Sons  
Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Williams, Annette & David  
Mr. and Mrs. John A. Power and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Edmond Barnhart  
Bertha Halliday  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Taylor and Marsha  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schmall  
Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Builta  
Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bristow  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Poppe and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hensley  
Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Giertz  
Mrs. Luella Ruch



Mr. and Mrs. Walter Boman and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Milford Arndt  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Brandon and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Orville Beetzle  
Mrs. Harry Struebing  
Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Moots  
Mr. and Mrs. Linville C. Amdor  
Jeffrey Power  
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Raymer  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bedford and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Miller and family  
Mr. and Mrs. James Carrell  
Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Mears  
Mrs. June F. Kumler  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Golden  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Kleinbeck  
Mr. and Mrs. John Cherry  
Mrs. Alma Beatty  
Mrs. Russell Kuntz  
Mrs. Andrew Zimmerman  
Mrs. Paul Gilbert  
Mrs. John Smith  
Leota Smith  
Helen B. Coons  
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Pendleton and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Clark Bierbower  
Mrs. Virgil Shelton and family  
Mrs. Maude Brandon  
Helen Brandon  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Fegan  
Mrs. Lee W. Smith  
Bobby & Margie Leffler  
Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Kuntz and family  
John E. Power  
Mrs. Harvey E. Monical  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woods and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Foster  
Mrs. Bertha Lawson  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Sallee and Steve  
Mr. and Mrs. William J. Sallee, Angela and David  
Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Champagne, Vicky and Lori  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold A. Schroeder  
Mr. and Mrs. John Kumler  
Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Kumler and Paula  
Mr. and Mrs. John M. Scott and Dawn  
W. H. Soward  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mears and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Woliung  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kammeyer



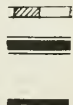
Mr. Logan Holler  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Kurtz  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bidner  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Roberts and Tim  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence King  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Zimmerman  
Mable Dohleman  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Baxley  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wallis  
Mr. and Mrs. Tobey Bane  
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Paullin and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Tibby  
Mr. and Mrs. John Straub  
Mrs. Warner Cole  
Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Kumler and family  
Mary Ellen, Brian and Barry Mears  
Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grussing  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Brown and family  
Mr. and Mrs. Luther Ward  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Loren Durlinger  
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Roberts and sons  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Leonard  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Builta



LEGEND  
 TOWNSHIP ROADS  
 EARTH  
 GRAVEL  
 BLACKTOP

BELLFLOWER  
 TOWNSHIP  
 MCLEAN  
 COUNTY

STATE AID ROADS  
 GRAVEL  
 BLACKTOP  
 STATE ROADS  
 CONCRETE



**BELLFLOWER CENTENNIAL COMMITTEES**

**WILSON MEARS AND RUSSELL BUILTA, CO-CHAIRMEN**

**LUCILE MONICAL, SECRETARY**

**PARADE:** Wilbur Kumler, chairman; Lee Paullin, John Armitage,  
Wanda Bedford

**PAGEANT:** Dorthy Woliung, chairman; Leota Smith, Juanita Amdor

**FINANCE:** Gene Leonard, chairman; Dwight Kurtz, Dick Kleinbeck

**PUBLICITY:** Dorothy Eubank, chairman; Dorothy Arndt, Ila Kumler

**ADVERTISING:** John Scott, chairman; John Bright, Kenneth Bright,  
Bill Basham, Harry Allen, Maxine Leffler, Alice Jiles

**PRINTING:** Delmar Bulta, Chairman; Orville Beetzal, Kirk  
Bristow

**HISTORY:** Tyke Kumler, chairman; Bertha Halliday, Jeffrey Power

**PROTECTION:** David Dunn, Jerry Decker

**SQUARE DANCE:** Clarence Warsaw, Lyle Sprau

**FIREWORKS:** Jerry Decker, chairman; Frank Hutto, Lee Bidner

**BEARD GROWING:** Maurice Pendleton, chairman; Marvin Nelson,  
Marty Callison

**DRESSES:** Bernadine Beckley, Beverly Schroeder

**PROGRAM:** June Greene, chairman; James Noe, Paul Bidner

**CARNIVAL:** Don Harden, chairman; Ronnie Warsaw, Bob Zimmer-  
man, Butch Sprau

**FOOD:** Tobey Bane, chairman; D. B. Lykins, Dick Bedford, Earl  
Sprau, Robert Welch

**TEEN DANCE:** Merle Shelton, chairman; Terry Hinshaw, B. J.  
Beckley

**GROUNDS AND ELECTRICAL:** Bill Basham, chairman; Jim  
Greene, Barney Voorheis, Bill Brandon

**ANTIQUES:** Carl Curtis, chairman; Jane Kumler, Lloyd Bidner,  
Verla Williams, Ruth Kurtz, Roy Monical

**AUCTION:** Kenneth Golden, chairman; Jack Woods, Dale Clifton,  
Dwight Kurtz, Dick Kleinbeck

**SOUVENIRS:** Roy Jiles, Erma Giertz, Nancy Hobbs

**BASEBALL GAME:** Duane Anderson, Kenneth Curtis

**CHURCH SERVICE:** Rev. Candler, Rev. Parke, Fr. Kassovic,  
Rev. Wackler

P R O G R A M

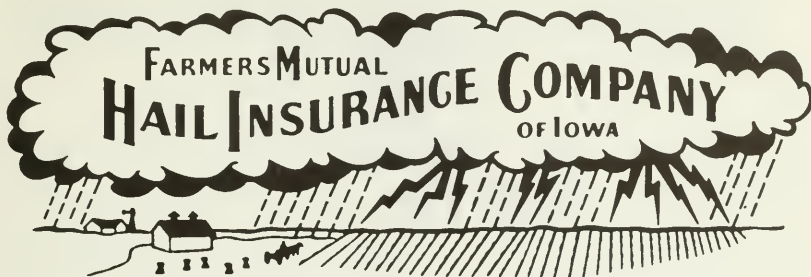
PRAIRIE TRAILS - YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW

SATURDAY, JULY 3, 1971

- 10:00 a.m. . . . . Parade  
    **Parade Route**  
    Beginning at the Grade School, East through  
    to the Township Building, West to the High  
    School corner. South one block, West to  
    Cole's corner. East to Josie Denney's, South  
    Bertha Halliday's, East to Grade School
- 1:00 p.m. . . . . Auction, Stage  
2:00-5:00 p.m. . . . . Antique Display, Farm Shop  
4:30 p.m. . . . . Supper  
8:00 p.m. . . . . Pageant, Stage  
    (High School Gym in case of rain)  
    Teen Dance following Pageant to 11:30 p.m.  
    Grade School Blacktop (Grade School gym in case of rain)  
    Square Dance following Pageant to 11:30 p.m.  
    High School south of old bus garage (High School gym in  
    case of rain)
- Food Stands, Rides, Carnival . . . . . High School Grounds

SUNDAY, JULY 4, 1971

- 10:00 a.m. . . . . Union Church Service, Stage  
    (High School Gym in case of rain)  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m. . . . . Antique Display, Farm Shop  
2:00 p.m. . . . . Prairie Fashions, 1871-1971, Stage  
Beard Judging following Prairie Fashions . . . . . Stage  
4:00 p.m. . . . . Sky Jump, High School  
4:30 p.m. . . . . Supper  
7:30 p.m. . . . . Little League Ballgame, High School  
    Fireworks following the ballgame . . . . . High School  
Food stands, Rides, and Carnival . . . . . High School Grounds



HOME OFFICE - 2323 GRAND AVE.  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50312

## WE SPECIALIZE

The oldest and largest Company in  
America specializing in crop hail  
insurance, with over 75 years of  
farm-oriented management.

Representatives in your area are:

**Myron (Tyke) Kumler**  
Field Supervisor  
Bellflower, Illinois



**Phil W. Lawrence**  
Agent  
Fisher, Illinois



If we haven't helped you at our old address of 203 N. Sangamon,  
we're looking forward to serving you at 101 S. Sangamon (in  
Gibson City.)

**Sale**  
**Everyday**  
**At**  
**ouR**  
**Store**

**Sears**

**Owned and Operated**  
**By Two Bellflowerites**  
**Ralph & Maxine Leffler**



SYMBOL  
OF  
SERVICE



Compliments of

**Geo. H. Dunn**

**Your**

**International Harvester Dealer**

**Farmer City, Ill.**

217-928-2154

# **Farmer City Grain Co.**

**1945-1971**

**L. E. West President**

# **Pacific Grain Co.**

**1961-1971**

**L. E. West President**

# **Feed Department**

**1966-1971**

**Leon Gibson Manager**

# **Fertilizer Dept.**

**1970-1971**

**Gary Kennedy Manager**

# **PG Store**

**1970-1971**

**Leon Gibson Manager**

# BUILDING TODAY ... FOR TOMORROW!



When in Farmer City, be sure to inspect our fine new banking facility. We are proud of the loyalty and support of so many fine area families, making possible our growth and expansion.

We will continue to bring you the best in full service banking.

**CONGRATULATIONS BELLFLOWER**  
Our Best Wishes for  
Another Hundred Years

## FARMER CITY

## STATE BANK

**Downtown  
In Friendly  
Farmer City**

Member FDIC

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO A  
GREAT COMMUNITY**

**McLean County**



**Service Company**





High School Board of Education in the past. Left to right: Arthur Paullin, Walter Parks, Elmer Kumler, Reuben Bidner and

Henry Struebing.



Mr. Arthur Vasey, a well digger by trade, owned the west half of Bellflower, and was instrumental in having it made into lots. He lived in the large house one block west of grade school. He also owned the tile factory in 1885. It was later sold to Hugh McIntyre, Sr.



This is the old wooden 16 stockholder elevator torn down in 1920. Jesse Provine put the flag on top of elevator. C. W. Johnson bought all stockholders out and built present elevator.



Unloading corn at Henry Struebing farm



Picking Chickens at Billy Rose's Poultry House—Left to right: Silas Williams, Billy Rose, Mr. Brownfield, Clifford Morgan, Mike Richards holding turkey, Arthur Gooch, Jr., George Brandon and Everett Smith.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**BELLFLOWER**

**GIBSON CITY** **COURIER** *SINCE 1873*

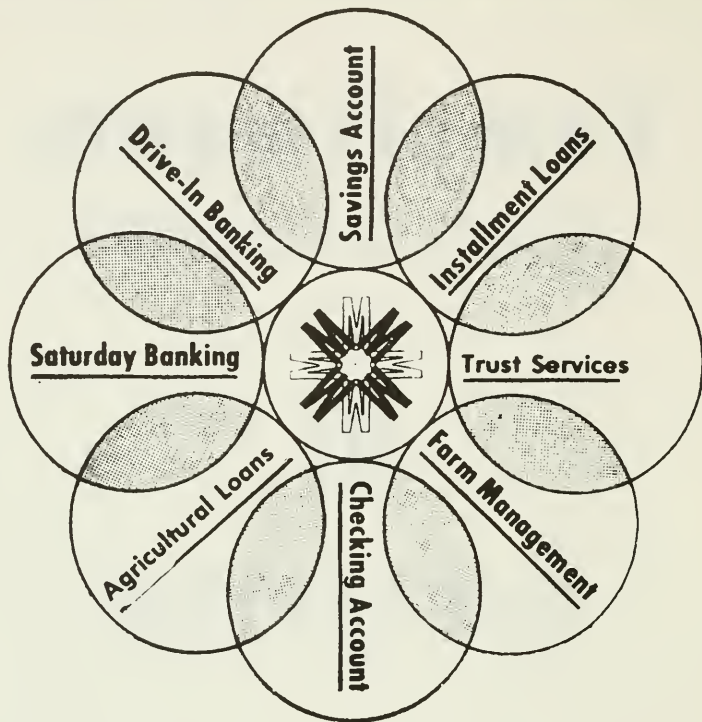
TWO-TIME WINNER OF 'OUTSTANDING ILLINOIS WEEKLY' AWARD

**Compliments**

**Of**

**CENTRAL SOYA**

**Company**



**YOU'RE BANKING**  
 in the  
**RIGHT CIRCLES**  
 at the  
**"PACESETTER" BANK**

 *McLean County Bank*

*Member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation*

Towanda at Empire



Bloomington



**SMILE WHEN YOU CALL IT A SILO...**



it isn't a silo at all...it's a

**HARVESTORE®**

feed production system

The HARVESTORE system gives you a revolutionary new way to crop, harvest and handle feed. And it can give you greater net profit from your land, labor and livestock . . . through these profitable advantages:

- \* BETTER FEED FROM YOUR LAND.
- \* MORE FEED FROM YOUR LAND.
- \* MORE PRODUCTION FROM YOUR LABOR.
- \* MORE PROFIT FROM YOUR LIVESTOCK.

It's this combination of advantages that can expand your management flexibility and profit potential . . . a combination that an ordinary silo can't match. That's why we say "smile when you call it a silo." You'll smile too when you see how a HARVESTORE system can increase your profit. Let us show you how.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY BELLFLOWER**  
**Central Illinois Harvestore**

**Eureka, Illinois 61530**

Compliments

of

# GEORGE ELFERS

MD

## Ford Insurance Agency

**Life**

**Auto**

**Health**

**Homeowners**

Saybrook 475-2831

**Farmowners**

**Bonds**

Colfax 723-3711

**Liability**

## SIMMONS APPLIANCE

“CHARLIE”

Sales

Zenith and G. E. Television

G. E. Appliances

Color or black and white

Saybrook, Illinois

Phones 475-3131 or 475-2321

## **Congratulations Bellflower**

**See Us For Petroleum Products Fertilizer**

**Agriculture Chemicals L.P. Gas**

# **Standard Oil Co.**

Phone 722-3264

Home 475-6164

**Don Lindauer**

**Heating Air Conditioning Washers & Dryers**

**Gas Stoves & Refrigerators**

# **Stensels' Funeral Home**

Established 105 years

**Ambulance Service**

**Any Time Any Where**

Farmer City

Bellflower

LeRoy

Saybrook

Mansfield

Heyworth



Loafing at the gas station. You guess WHO. We tried.



Fred J. Dunn  
Depot Agent



Threshing scene—Carl Struebing, Henry Struebing, Archie Patterson, Samuel Beaver, William Beetzel, Mr. Struebing, William Kennedy on engine.



Wreck at Kumler



# LOTUS GRAIN & COAL CO.

Incorporated

Phone (217) 897-4110

P.O. FOOSLAND, ILL. 61845

LOTUS — OSMAN — BLUE RIDGE

Compliments of

## **Alexander Lumber Co.**

**The Best of Everything for the Builder**

Chet Eden, Manager

Phone 928-4422

# **CLIFTON'S**

Since 1954

**Plumbing - Heating - Cooling**

**Dealer**

**Crane Supply Co. Equipment**

**Pump's - Softeners - Plumbing fixtures**

**Owner:  
Dale Clifton**

# **SABINA ELEVATOR**

**Best Wishes**

**Othelia, Kevin, Bruce Bunney**

# **DUGGINS ELECTRIC**

**Electric Cooling & Heating**

**Installation And Maintenance**

**Gibson City, Illinois**

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**Phone 784-4771**

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Farmer City Ready Mix**

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Business Phone 217-928-8051

Residence 217-928-3432

Compliments

**RICHARDS EISNER AGENCY**

Farmer City, Ill. Phone 928-8541

Compliments to

**BELLFLOWER 'Pride Of The Prairie'**  
**CARGILL INC.**

Seed Division

**Earl Sprau, Representative**

# O'S GOLD

Quality Seed Corn

America's Fastest Growing Seed Co.

**Congratulations To The Community of Bellflower**

**On It's 100th Birthday**

David Dunn, Area Supervisor

James Wagner, Distributor



**ROTH-HONEGGER & CO.**



**RT. 2**

**BLOOMINGTON. ILL. 6 1701**

**Phone 828-5160**

**"CARSH" KLOPFENSTEIN**

Owner



# STATE BANK of SAYBROOK

Phone 475-2511

Saybrook, Ill. 61770

Home of the Indian Springs

## Saybrook Auto Sales

Ford Cars & Trucks

Sales and Service

Saybrook, Ill.

Phone 475-2811

100 Congratulations to our neighbors and good customers in Bellflower.

We've only been here in Leroy since 1895 but still aiming for our 100th birthday.

# THE HOW

Men & boys clothing - Shoes for the family - Furniture, Carpeting and floor coverings - Appliances - Paint & Wallpaper.

# **THE FASHION SHOP**

**Phone 784-4830**

**206 N. Sangamon Ave.**

**Gibson City, Ill.**

**WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S READY-TO-WEAR**

**CARPETS, HOME FURNISHINGS - GIFTS**

**"Try the Fashion Shop First, You'll Be Glad You Did"**

**Compliments of**

## **Bellflower Sportsman Club**

**Compliments of**

## **Dick Naughtin**

**PROFESSIONAL**

**Lake of the Woods Golf Course**

**Mahomet, Illinois**



William Struebing Public Sale—Held on John McNulta farm in 1900. Pictured In Foreground: Lee Smith, Dr. Rittenhouse, Hugh McIntyre, clerk. In bottom right hand corner, William

Beetzel who later rented farm and has been farmed by Beetzelz to date.



Albert Lawson and N. P. Hinshaw with an unidentified boy. Horse was purchased from Charley Kumler



Home talent plays were given by the M. E. Epworth league. Clifford Morgan, Rolla Sypult, Faye Fenstermaker, Charley Kumler, Julia Morgan Smith, P. M. Watson, Elmer Kumler, L. L. Flint, Gertrude Greaser and Will Kitts.



Three Crates brothers plowing

# CONGRATULATIONS

**On Bellflower's 100th Birthday**

We have been honored to serve many fine friends from the Bellflower vicinity, and look forward to seeing all of you at the centennial.

# WALKER'S TIRE SERVICE

**The Goodyear People**

Rt. 54 West in Farmer City Bill Maxwell, Owner

Phone (217) 928-5491 For Prompt Service On Your Farm

**Carroll and Charlotte McCartney**

# C & C LIQUOR STORE

Pizza and Sandwiches

1 Block West of Main St. on Rt. 54

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**Standard Service**

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# **McConkey Motor Co.**

## **FORD-MERCURY**

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**Dial 928-2106**

### **Clean Our Town**

Compliments of

### **Electrolux Sales & Service**

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**Florence Lykins,**

Bellflower, Ill.

Compliments of

### **People's State Bank of Mansfield**

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*Bloomington Livestock Commission Co.*

PHONES 829-1985—829-2650

COL. HAROLD KINDRED—Owner-Auctioneer

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BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS

**SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY—12:00 P. M.**

One of the most modern Sale Barns in the State of Illinois

Compliments  
of

**FS SEED CORN**



**Lee Paullin**

Compliments

of

**VERNON GOLDEN**

Compliments

of

**Frey Seed Corn Co. Inc.**

**Lyle Amdor**

Congratulations

# Collier Appliance Co.

**Farmer City, Ill.**

Phone 928-2151

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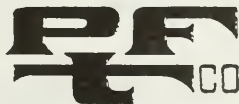
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No limit on specials



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Elmer L. Kumler in the field.



Bellflower's jail today.



Train arriving at the Illinois Central depot. Pictured, left to right, are Robert Ingle, W. W. Brandon, Fred J. Dunn (depot

agent for many years) and Clarence Carbaugh.

Compliments of

**Loren 'Buck' Forrest**

Bellflower, Ill.

Compliments of

**Foosland Grain**

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See us for

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**Downtown**

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of

**BOWER AUTOMOTIVE**

312 W. 8th St.

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**BEST WISHES**

**First National  
Bank and Trust Co.**

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Compliments of

**Lions Den Cafe**

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**CONGRATULATIONS  
on your 100th year**



**Gibson City, Ill.**

Congratulations To

**Bellflower**

**RUSSELL WOLIUNG**



**General Carpenter  
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**PLANT**

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**SEED CORN**

**W. C. Beckley and Sons**

FOR WOMEN . . . FOR CHILDREN . . . FOR THE HOME

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**Helen Andris**

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**Pole Buildings**

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617 S. Sangamon Ave.

Phone 784-5634 Gibson City, Ill.

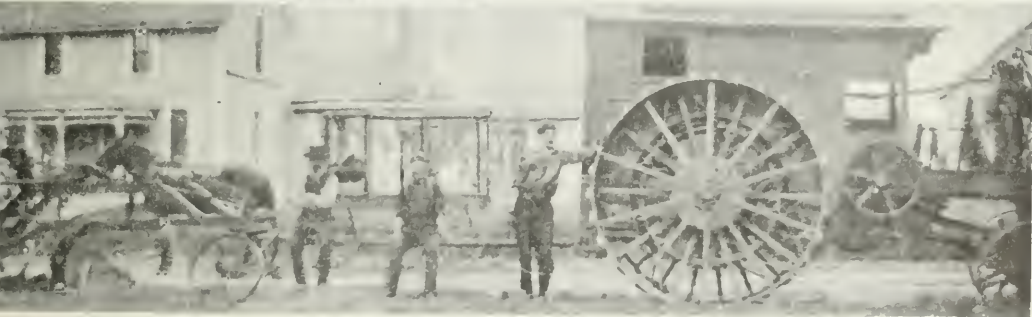


TOP-Laying of the cornerstone of the Bellflower Christian Church, 1912.



LEFT-The Tilers. "Those good old back-breaking tasks."

BELOW-Minneapolis gas tractor owned by W. R. Sypult. Left to right: Wesley Johnson, W. R. Sypult, and Clifford Morgan. Grading street west of Methodist Church. B. F. Hinshaw Grocery Wagon with Pearl Hinshaw, driver, in background.



Compliments

# **Young's Barber Shop**

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Congratulations

# **EPPSTEIN'S**

**Footwear Since 1886**

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# **MASON REXALL DRUGS**

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**Margaret's**

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**MEARS FUN FESTIVAL**

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## **Winn's Super Market**

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Saybrook, Ill.

**DON GIBBENS**



**Shell Oil Distribution**

Saybrook, Ill.



Looking west from Exchange Bank corner in 1930



View of Bellflower  
showing the  
Johnson Scale  
building in 1930



Main Street in 1910—Livery, Stable, Blacksmith Shop, Brandon's Market, W. C. Morgan's store. Bank building built in 1873-1874. Henry Struebing standing at left.

# BELLFLOWER FIRE DEPARTMENT





Building the Exchange Bank



Muddy street in Bellflower in 1910



Northwest  
End  
Latchet  
Street

Tom Innis' The Wesley  
Ice Cream Yarrington  
Parlor Shoe Re-  
Jewelry & pair shop  
Photo shop. & residence.  
Jake 1919  
Johnson's  
Tin shop.







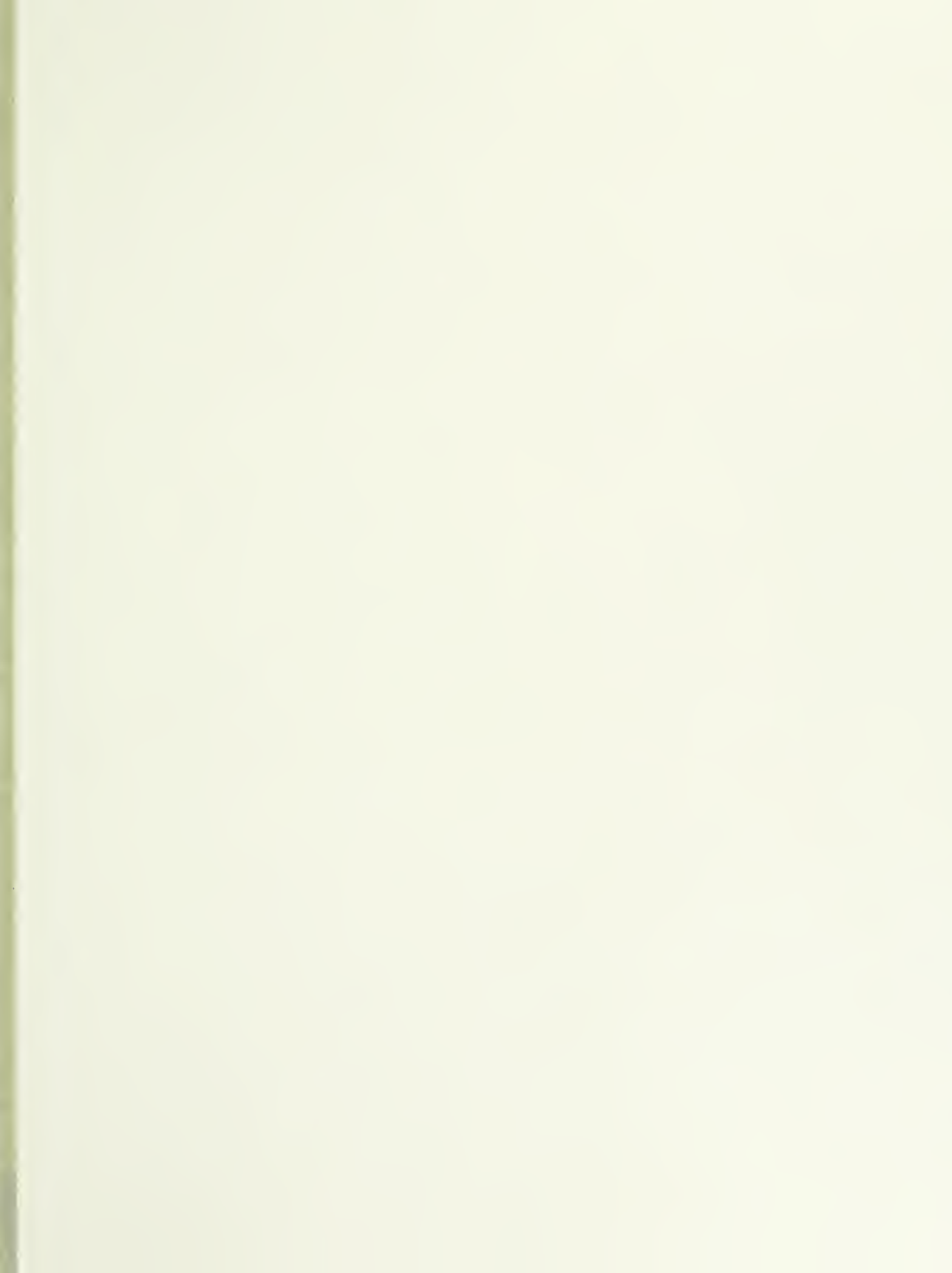












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Chawlor