MINOCQUA, VILAS CO., WIS, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 1902.

NUMBER 2



Supt. Nevin of the State Fish Hatchery Commissioners, who has been taking mustamorage spaw, at the Tomanawk and Minocqua lakes the past month, informed us that E. D. Kennedy and himself captured the two largest muskallonge ever taken in these waters. The largest one was caught in Macqua lake, and weighed 102 pounds, the other being taken in Tomahawk lake and weighed 80 pounds. After the spawn was taken from these monsters they were turned back into their native waters, where they await the sports, and to try and land them. Mr. Nevin has taken muskallonge spawn at this place for the past four years, and says that in sating this senson they have caught more small muskallonge than ever before, which goes a show that they are irreasing He also informes us that they have about 25,000,000 pike fry ready for distribution and 2,000,000 muskallon to fry, which will be planted in the lakes of Vilas, Oneida and Forest councies. The State itself latcher Commissioners are expected here Saturday to look over the batchery at this place and to lay out improvements to be done.

Village of Buswell

Early lumber settlement vanished from area scene

BY MICHAEL J. DUNN, III

Of all the chapters in Lakeland area history, one of the shadowiest is the story of a vanished lumber settlement known as Buswell. Its name was appropriate-even if the spelling did not quite match-because for the brief span of four or five years the town indeed did buzz well with the varied sounds of logging camps, saw and planing mills and a community of perhaps 30 or 40 families.

Buswell was named for the mill village's developer, F.W. Buswell, a lumber man who came from the Twin Cities via Wausau (where he hired much of the skilled manpower for his town here) and went on to the forests of the Pacific Northwest.

Buswell's advance men cruised within a triangle of land roughly midway between present-day Presque Isle, Boulder Junction and Manitowish Waters, picking not only the timber they wanted to cut, but a town - and millsite near the very middle of that triangle-far from where North Lakeland Elementary school is located today.

In the fall of 1905, the Buswell' Lumber and Manufacturing Company began acquiring land, and wagons teamed in a small mill and other supplies all the way from the Chicago & Northwestern railway station at Manitowish. The little mill cut wood to build the bigger one, whose machinery would be coming over the new Milwaukee Road (the St. Paul, as it was then popularly called) when the track would be finished into Buswell proper the next spring. That fall also saw construction begin on the village, and establishment of a post office under the direction of a gentleman with the very British-sounding name of John Bull!

Occasional items in the old Minocqua Times give us flashes of what Buswell must have been like in the booming days of 1907, for they carry mention of electric lights and power from the mill dynamo, two shifts working at the mill, the hiring of 33 more men for the woods (most lumber companies, Buswell's included, employed "mancatchers" in Hurley and the Twin Cities to lureshanghai might almost be a better

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of northern Wisconsin). Buswell had about four or five major camps by turns as it logged

Claim 102-pound musky captured here in 1902

Was a 102-pound musky captured in Minocqua Lake back in

The claim was made in the Minocqua Times on May 1, 1902, when the above picture appeared with the headline "Largest Muskallonge Ever Captured.'

Here's a portion of the story: "Supt. Nevin of the State Fish Hatchery Commissioners, who has been taking muskallonge spawn at the Tomahawk and Minocqua lakes this past month, informs us that E.D. Kennedy and himself captured the two largest muskallonge ever taken in these waters.

"The largest one was captured in Minocqua lake, and weighed 102 pounds, the other being taken in Tomahawk lake and weighed 80 pounds. After the spawn was taken from these monsters they were turned back into their native waters, where they await the sportsman to try and land them.

'Mr. Nevin has taken muskallonge spawn at this place for the past four years, and says that in seining this season they have caught more small muskallonge than ever before, which goes to show that they are increasing."

As to the validity of the story, only Supt. Nevin and E.D. Kennedy, both now deceased, really knew for sure whether or not they did indeed capture a 102-pound musky.
In May, 1974, the late Jim

Kennedy, son of E.D. Kennedy, told the Lakeland Times that perhaps the story was true. He concluded by saying that the whiskey flowed quite freely in those days."

Take it or leave it...

Woodruff

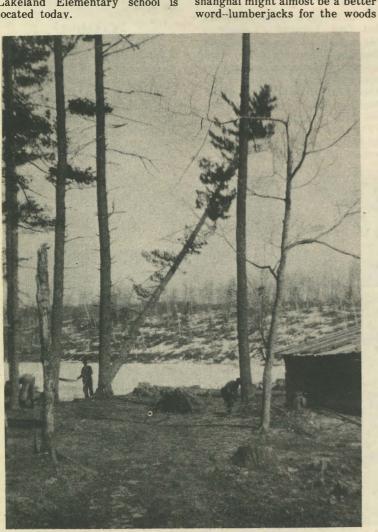
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at home. Bonfire and taffy pulls were forms of excitement. Dates enjoyed an evening out on a horse and buggy ride.

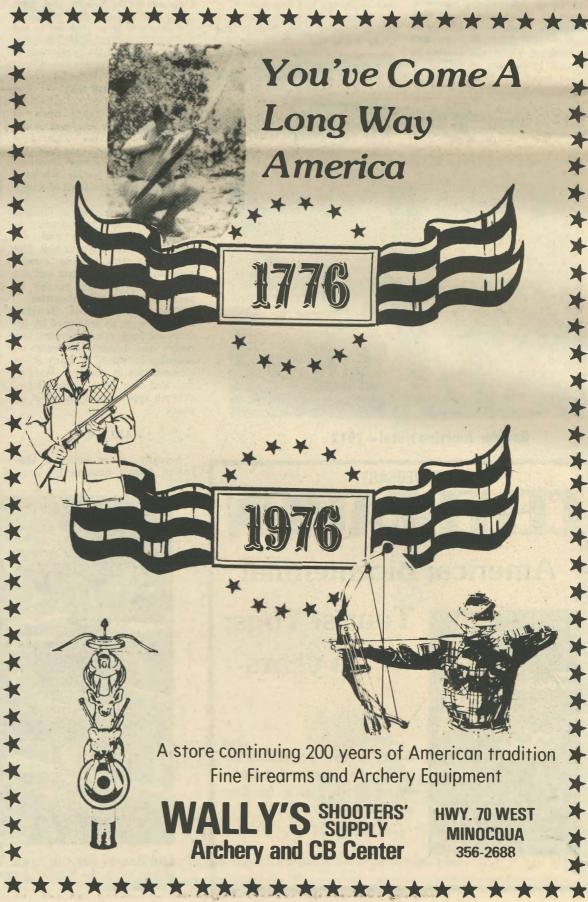
According to Gladys Johnson, born in 1896 in Woodruff, girls did not usually go to town unaccompanied. Although Woodruff did have a bowling lane, females were not seen in the building. 'When I wanted to go to town, Johnson said, "My mother would walk me there along the railroad

Woodruff has grown slowly, yet steadily. Though few of its early settlers are alive today, it is because of them that Woodruff has grown into a town with paved streets, brick buildings and a variety of businesses and shops.

Almost all roads in the area are based on abandoned railroad beds.



ALMOST LOGGED OFF . . . The picture above shows the last few trees to be felled at Stang's Camp, Rice Creek, Island Lake in the Manitowish Waters area.



Buswell is no more...

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intermittent forties from as far west as modern C.T.W, just south of Turtle Lake in Winchester township, to the lands south of Presque Isle Lake. It had its own logging railroad, complete with dinky locomotives and standard gauge cars, to link the woods with the mill in town.

Reminiscences of oldtimers give even more vividness to our knowledge of the town. A sizeable company store contained company offices, post office and barber shop as well. A small school, a boarding house of two or three stories, and a few fancier executive houses broke the pattern of small white clapboard houses arrayed on a hillside, their fronts on stilts, their backs at ground level, and all linked by board walks.

Personalities still recalled were the school mistresses, Gertrude Falconer (probably the first, 1906) and Daisy Martin (probably the last, 1909), company doctors Frankel and Hamilton, even a horse named Barney that worked the lumber trans (between the mill and drying piles) and knew the routine so well that he needed no driver and even found his own way back to his stall by himself at the quitting whistle.

Diversions were supplied by a band, a baseball team, the inevitable fishing and hunting, and visiting the camps by "speeder" via the company's private logging railroad. Kids loved the cook shack and cooks loved kids; so the combination always meant a big treat of cookies or doughnuts waiting!

The first week in the parched

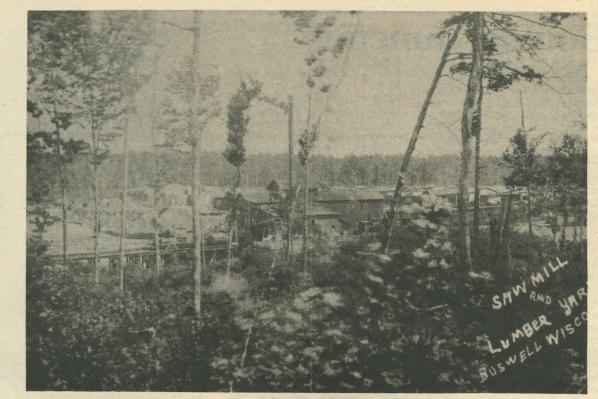
July of 1910 meant a diversion, however, that also signaled the premature end of Buswell, Wis.

While the mothers and children fired off the holiday fireworks collected for the forthcoming Independence Day a few days beforehand, on an island to which they had been evacuated, the fathers and breadwinners struggled on the mainland to contain a devastating fire that swept in from the west. They failed, however, and the fire left the mills (bandsaw, planing and lath-and-shingle) and much of the town in smoking ruins.

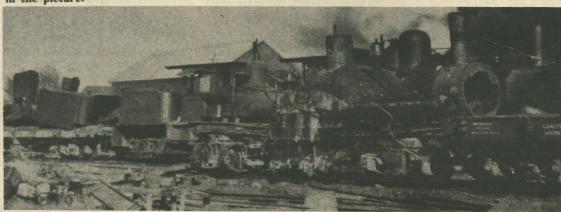
Almost at once Buswell began its transition to ghost town, as the mill workers, their jobs vanished with the mill smoke, drifted off to other towns.

The little mixed-freight/passenger train of the St. Paul still came a few times a week to bring in a few supplies and to take out logs that Buswell loggers could still cut in the unburned woods east toward Presque Isle Lake (and which went to Wausau for sawing). The boarding house-hotel stayed open a summer or two longer.

But early in 1914, the trains stopped their regular visits, the post office closed (reports are that toward the end it was located in the main logging camp east of town), and the company sold its land to a developer. Only sheep, and later pigs, which the developers tried to raise on the derelict townsite, remained as an ironic mockery of the promise of the neat little village of only a few years before!



TOWN OF BUSWELL... Above is one of the few pictures available of the sawmill and lumber yard at Buswell, taken in 1909. The town's boarding house and homes were to the right on top of the hill not shown in the picture.



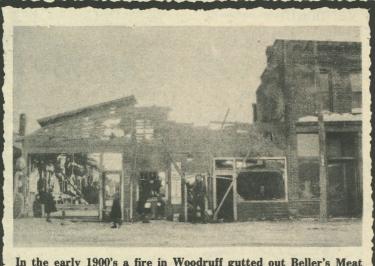
OLD LOCOMOTIVE . . . Here's a picture of one of the old locomotives used during the early 1900's when logging was intense in such now-vanished communities such as Buswell.



OLD RAILROAD BED... Birch trees were used for ties on the railroad bed at Stang's Camp near Island Lake in the Manitowish Waters area. The bed obviously had been laid after an early snowfall.



LOGGED-OVER SHORELINE ... How did the Lakeland area landscape look during the intense logging days of the early 1900's? This picture vividly gives the description. By today's standards, not very attractive.



In the early 1900's a fire in Woodruff gutted out Beller's Meat Market and Fred Johnson's garage. Sportsman Bar stands where these buildings were earlier located.



LUMBER CAMP SCENE... Some of the loggers posed for this picture at one of the logging camps during the early 1900's.

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