

# The Weidman Messenger

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## Editor's Column

By Connie

### JUST SOME RAMBLIN'S THIS WEEK

We have just a few rambling thoughts to offer this week, and we're still enchanted by some old letters and some new ones (as Grace Watson's last week) about old days in Weidman.

We go through the voluminous accumulation of notes, clippings and old photos, and we'd like to devote the whole paper to Weidman's history. (May we shall, one day.)

We have Vina Bailey's own writing on her first recollections as a child in the town aborning; we have notes taken during talks with Leon McArthur; and we have innumerable mementoes from many people, all of which we treasure and which we will share as time and space permit.

We have some notes from Orval Walker, titled, "Weidman as I Remember It":

Among the people I remember were J.S. Weidman, Floyd Mitchell, Charles Woolworth, Ad Scott, George and Miles Drallette, George Middlesworth and family, the Rufners, the Carpenters, Charles Carr, Mr. Roe, Mr. Rand.

Pete Aylsworth built the first hotel. Weidman and Barryton were my two market towns when I was on my farm at Brinton.

I remember hauling beans, wheat, rye and clover seed to the elevator when there would be a lineup of wagons (not trucks) 1/4 mile long, waiting to get unloaded.

I bought building material for my barn at Weidman. Ship-lap siding was \$22 per thousand, shingles about \$3 per thousand, cement \$1.60 per barrel. Some difference from today's prices!

What a difference in the roads of today! No matter which road you took in the old days, you'd wish you had taken the other one.

Although it has been nearly 40 years since leaving that community, I have many fond recollections of it.

Always glad to meet people from there.

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And then we have some notes about a visit from Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Miller of Valpairiso, (Continued on Back Page)



**AN EARLY WEIDMAN DAY CELEBRATION**--Probably around the turn of the century. Note the amusement tents on the street, and note also that there were no carnival rides at that time--at least, none available to a little town. Shown also is the old band stand, which stood smack in the middle of the intersection of Main and Third Street (Woodruff Road), and was no hazard, as horse-and-buggy transportation was the way of life. Photo apparently was taken looking north, showing clearly Drallette's Store and the rest of the east side of the street. We believe the first celebration day in Weidman was about 1897, when John S. Weidman called for and personally prepared a "field day". From that developed the long-lived custom of Weidman Day. Photo loaned the Messenger by Leila Shook.

### MOTHERS' CLUB PRESENTS SPRING CARNIVAL HERE

The Weidman Mothers' Club, a group of concerned parents of children in the Weidman School, are presenting their first Spring Carnival this Saturday evening, May 5, at the Weidman School.

All sorts of entertainment are provided, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

Proceeds from the carnival are earmarked for much-needed equipment at the Weidman School, according to a spokesman for the club.

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### DEEP WELL DRILLED FOR TWO BUSINESS PLACES HERE

A deep well (to 84 feet) has been completed on the Gary Sprague property to service Bud's Party Store and Weaver's Tavern.

The well was deemed necessary after Health Department officials threatened to close both places May 1 on account of unsatisfactory water supplies.

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### HOME PAPER FOR THE WEST HALF OF ISABELLA COUNTY

### CATTLE RUSTLING IN THIS AREA?

We all realize the price of beef is high, but we never expected to hear of rustlers, or would-be rustlers, right in our own area. But it happened.

Monday morning Dan Kripa went to a barn and pasture on his farm in Gilmore and discovered a calf, securely tied and all four feet helpless.

Paul Cole and Richard Mahon had been hunting night-crawlers till about midnight the night before, and spotted two cars parked in that immediate vicinity, for no apparent reason.

Richard called police, who possibly scared away the would-be rustlers, leaving the calf tied up and ready for loading.

Would-be rustlers were notified that we do have quick police response, and it's hoped no further instances of this kind will be found.

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### THIS WEEK'S JOKE

Middle age is the time when your children leave home, one by one, and return, two by two.

--Detroit Free Press

### LARYNGITIS FOR A RADIO NEWSCASTER?

Jim Hughes, news director and broadcaster at Radio Station WCEN at Mt. Pleasant, called the Messenger Monday to report on his weekend as National Trout King at Kalkaska, and mentioned that he came down with laryngitis on his way to Kalkaska Saturday evening.

"I thought I wasn't going to be able to talk that night, then I thought I couldn't talk Sunday, but here I am," Jim said.

He said the usual capacity crowd was in attendance for the trout festival, and also mentioned that he, a non-fisherman, caught a trout while at Kalkaska.

Nice going, Jim, and take care of that throat. We want to hear you on the news.

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Mr. and Mrs. Durwood Granger of rural Harrison were Thursday evening visitors of Frances Tranbarger and Connie Skinner. The Grangers took us out to dinner at the Coldwater Lake Inn.