

Chapter Four

1910-1919

War, Agriculture and Fire



Downtown Barnum in 1910.

It is a distressing and oppressive duty, gentlemen of the Congress, which I have performed in thus addressing you. There are, it may be, many months of fiery trial and sacrifice ahead of us. It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance.

April 2, 1917 from President Woodrow Wilson's War Message

The day of our supreme test is come. This Empire and the great Republic must then be the main guardians of civilization in the future.

Dr. Page, American Ambassador, August 4, 1917.

1910 Rules for Female Teachers

- 1) *Do not get married*
- 2) *Do not leave town at any time without permission of the school board*
- 3) *Do not keep company with men*
- 4) *Be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.*
- 5) *Do not loiter downtown in ice cream stores*
- 6) *Do not smoke*
- 7) *Do not get into a carriage with any man except your father or brother*
- 8) *Do not dress in bright colors*
- 9) *Do not dye your hair*
- 10) *Do not wear any dress more than two inches above the ankle.*

By the early 1910s Barnum began a period of stabilization as an agricultural center of northeastern Minnesota. As early as 1911 farming was recognized as the most prosperous business in the area, offering the, "best and brightest prospects for young men." The Barnum Creamery began purchasing cream according to quality. One penny more was paid for Number One (sweet) cream. Average cream checks grew from \$37 to \$40 a month and then close to \$100. The Creamery itself was gaining national prominence. In 1911 Harry M. Lemon, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Washington D.C., traveled to Barnum to confer with H.C. Hanson. Mr. Lemon used the Barnum creamery as an example of progressive efficiency in the dairy industry during a lecture given in Chicago. H.C. received national recognition when the Saturday Evening Post published an article about him and the Creamery. The accompanying photo showed him at home, calling the Creamery. Mrs. Hanson and her mother were both highly embarrassed by the photo as Mr. Hanson had neglected donning a tie for the occasion.

During this time the Bridgeman and Russell Trial held Barnum dairymen's attention. The heated trial dealt with discriminatory prices paid for cream. Farmers in surrounding areas charged that Bridgeman was paying them less than farmers in other towns were paid. This, coupled with the Milk War raging throughout Minnesota which cut milk prices to seven cents a gallon, kept farmers on edge for many months.

The town's people were engaged with other concerns. Use of

that wonder of ages, the telephone, drew sharp criticism from some citizens. One town resident wrote to the *Barnum Herald*:

It brings country people within talking distance of each other, it enables a farmer to call his neighbors, in case of sickness or death it halves the distance between doctor and home and, properly used, it tends to develop the social life and do away to a great extent with the isolation of the farm which has been one of the main objections to farm life.

But---there is a problem with eavesdroppers. We may pardon the curiosity of the child as it has come into a world where everything is new and strange; but the curiosity should be controlled and limited to things which are for his good. The curiosity that is pardonable in a child is anything but excusable in an adult.

New waves in music drew applause from some and harsh criticism from others. Ragtime was sweeping the nation and a new song, "The Monkey Rag", received positive comments from the *Barnum Herald*, "The melody is thousands of miles away from any other rag song and takes you clear to Africa. When you hear it sung or played you will think you are in the jungle doing that monkey dance." However, Dr. Brunner of Berlin viewed the dance differently and declared that all Ragtime "will drive everyone crazy. It jars the nerve centers and brain cells and is responsible for business failures and cases of hopeless insanity."

Fashion evolved to correspond with the music. The advent of bobbed hair, Tango shoes with Louis heels, small-feathered hats and slit skirts came in the Ragtime. The increase of automobiles purchased brought about automobile veils, gloves and goggles. Gents sported two-button jackets with patch pockets, raccoon coats, porkpie hats and fedoras.

In 1910 a wave of panic spread across the United States. Thousands of people were convinced that, with the passing of Haley's Comet, the end of the world was at hand. Ads for Comet Pills, which supposedly protected the consumer from the deadly effects of the comet, were prominent in the local newspaper. Some rural families took to their basements and root cellars the evening the comet made its sweep across northern Minnesota. Mark Twain was born when Haley's Comet came that year. His prediction that when the Comet made its next appearance in 75 years he would die came true.

Perhaps the most bitter and longest controversy in Barnum during that time arose between the "Drys", or the antiliquor populace, and the "Wets", those who both favored and frequented the town's saloons.

This move toward Prohibition had come about from the Progressive Reform and had a very realistic basis for wanting the sale of alcohol banned. In poor, working class area of larger cities and in some of the more rural areas, the breadwinner of the family would frequently drink away his minimal weekly wage. The loss of those financial resources in poorer families oftentimes led to spousal arguments, which could escalate, into physical violence. The Progressives eventually joined forces with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Anti-Saloon League; presenting a united front that would move the nation into a Prohibition era.

In Barnum well-attended temperance meetings were held on a routine basis. John A. Shields, Field Secretary of the Minnesota State Prohibition Committee, addressed a group calling themselves The Advocates of Cold Water. This group stated that, "Every right-thinking person in the village should attend this meeting." The overall village population backed E.E. Lobeck, from the Prohibitionist Party for governor in 1912.

In December of that year a petition with 32 names affixed was presented to the Village Council to put the question of issuance of liquor licenses before the public. This petition tore the town apart. Backers of a "Dry" town believed their movement would secure the required votes to outlaw saloons within the town limits. Opposition believed that people would go to Moose Lake to imbibe and then return home drunk and disorderly; thus the saloons should remain in Barnum. Mr. A.H. Clark of Minneapolis delivered an impassioned temperance lecture at the Methodist Church, bitterly harraigning saloon keepers, all newspapers carrying liquor advertising and both political parties for being closely bound to liquor trust money. "If the village keeps the saloons," he thundered, "it will be due to the moral cowardice of its citizens to losing trade and their fear of increased taxation to supplant the lost liquor license." Much to the dismay of the "Dry" crowd, the "Wets" claimed victory in an election held in February of 1912. The saloons remained in the village by a vote of 48 to 15.

As did the census, which was 262 in 1911, the businesses in the

village were growing and expanding at an amazing rate in the early 1910s. Mrs. S. Fraggartts opened a restaurant and bakery in the Kronfuss Building. Her specialty, "Servin' Farmers' Dinners every day--a meal of bread, butter, vegetables, meat, pickles and dessert" could be had for a quarter. Christenson's Hardware advertised a new luxury service, "Washing clothes done while you wait--washed by Dinah. Note, she uses a Hickory Washing Machine and Hickory Wringers".

In 1912 R.W. Barstow sold the Brick Plant to H.O. Wilson who expanded the operations to manufacture common building bricks, hollowbrick, tiling and flowerpots. The plant had laid idle for an extended period of time, but the new owner, employing ten to twelve men on a regular basis, forecast production of 30,000 bricks a day.



General stores like the Sauntry and Cain, were kept busy selling horse collars, seed, water pitchers, and fabric.

In 1911 George Deiter opened a butcher shop and R.W. Barstow bought out J.M. Sauntry's interest in the Barnum Trading Company. Cain and Dathe sold Circle Blend Coffee for twenty-two cents a pound and Jack Bell ventured out on an independent business venture selling a boot and shoe brusher, guaranteed to remove mud from footwear without bending over. "The farmer's helper", the

ad cried, "the farmwife's dream!"

Unlike previous decades, the village was not with medical services. Dr. A.W. Bix of the Duluth Dental Company visited the community and promised, "High-grade work, painless methods and moderate fees". Dr. Shannon, Barnum's resident physician, frequently received unusual requests as one letter clearly indicated:

Dere Doctor, Will you pleas get me a baby, if you can get me a pare of twings. How much will it cost? How soon could you get it for me? I want a boy or a girl. I would rather have a boy. I have told Papa for about three years. I seen in the paper wher you took them to other people. Either tell Papa or write me a letter.

You little patient, Georgie.

The Barnum Hotel and Saloon changed hands in early 1911. Frank Shillin, having purchased the establishment from Charles Zeibler made the decision to locate in Barnum, "On account of good educational facilities expected in the near future."



Formerly the Ziebler Hotel, the establishment went on to be known as the Barnum Hotel.

Indeed, Barnum would have new school facilities, even in view of the controversy that arose over the proposed bonding issue. Those against the bonding stated that the present schools could supply an education for children for years to come. They felt the School Board was not doing justice to the existing schools One person in favor of the proposed building project stated that, "The old log schoolhouses are as much out of date as the antiquated ox cart". The visit of S.A. Challman, a State Grade School Inspector, settled the matter. He condemned the present school facilities and stated that a considerable amount of money would need to be expended on the buildings prior to the start of the next school term. With that prompt, the school bond was passed and A. Roberts and Co. was secured to build a new school at the cost of \$11,293. The new building, constructed of brick, consisted of four room, basement and stairs. The basement held a new boiler system that supplied steam heat to the building. On March 10, 1911,

300 people attended the dedication of the new building that would house 118 students the next fall. In 1912 the Red and White Schools were auctioned off. Cain and Dathe purchased them for a total cost of \$230.

Barnum's pride in its school system and students was displayed in many ways. In 1913 a new piano was purchased from Ivers and Pond for \$300 and music lessons were implemented. G.G. Barnum donated 243 handsomely bound volumes to the new school's library, among them were two sets of Shakespeare, one volume of Robert L. Stevenson and one volume of William M. Thackeray.

As with any school system, Barnum's educational facility was run on a rigid budget. For one year the district had \$2,630 to cover



Photo from 1915 showing "modern" horse-drawn school buses.

expenses. Teachers' salaries took \$2,475 leaving \$165 for transportation, janitorial services and fuel. In order to procure the services of a competent music instructor, music and a few instruments, a Three-Act Drama, *The Face In The Window*, was presented at the Trading Company Hall by students.

The *Herald* closely followed what was in the school system and routinely ran an update of those events in a column entitled School News. In February of 1914 the *Herald's* editor noted:

A meeting of the directors of School District No. 6 was held at the school house Friday afternoon with Messrs. Thompson, Hanson, Youngren and Fisher in attendance. Only the general routine business was transacted and the auditing and passing of bills

for fuel, supplies, etc. that have accumulated since the last meeting of two months ago, amounting to \$237.85. Prof. Schwartz was present and was asked for an opinion as to whether he could suggest any plan for the betterment of certain conditions that exist in the third and fourth grades owing to Miss Seimer's inability to be present in the classroom while instructing the domestic science class in the basement.

In 1914 the personal property taxes ranged from \$307.30 paid by the State Bank of Barnum, to thirty cents paid by W.K. Sherwin. A visitor from Pennsylvania studied the tax problem and reflected, "Well, you've got a school that is worth that if nothing else."

The Village Council was kept busy with other business than merely raising taxes. The safety and welfare of the citizens was always a prime concern for the Council. The elected officials resolved to grant \$15 a month to aid Mr. and Mrs. Krepin, an elderly couple. "They have scarcely anything in the house to live on, the property it stands on and a few chickens", reported one Council member. On December 19, 1911, the Council voted to purchase 32 electric streetlights. On August 10, 1911, these lights were illuminated. The cost of operation for the new lighting system was \$13.50 a month, the same as it had cost to run the old oil lamps. Dr. Shannon was appointed to the Board of Health in 1911, the same year the Council condemned the wooden sidewalks in town and requested to have the platform at the depot extended to better accommodate passengers.

In 1912 the Village Council did, because of the vote to keep saloons in town, grant Frank Shillin a liquor license, but jumped the fee from \$500 a year to \$1,000. The sympathy of the village was raised for Mr. Shillin; even those who were opposed to the sale of liquor believed that Shillin had received a raw deal from the Council.

Most likely the largest undertaking by the Council during the 1910's was to replace the old bridge across the Moose Horn River by the Creamery. The old bridge was deteriorating rapidly. Farmers bringing loads to town on heavy wagons found the structure totally impassable and other citizens filed frequent complaints of its poor condition. Planks were missing; pilings rotting. A contract for a new steel bridge to span the river was entered into with the Great Northern Bridge Co. of Minneapolis. The bridge was to be a

steel structure with cement abutments, cement decking and a cement walk for a cost of \$1,500. The plan was undermined when State Highway Commissioner Cooley and State Bridge Engineer Nagel of St. Paul refused to sanction the proposed construction, claiming its span was too short and the girders not heavy enough. Later in 1911 a second contract was awarded to W. Hewitt, Great Northern Bridge Co., for a price of \$2,900. This structure was approved by the Commissioner and construction began in the spring of 1912.



Newly built bridge over the Moose Horn River.

Not all of the local controversy was focused on the Village Council. Fred Hecker recalled that:

Old William Brockman used to have tame ducks and they would swim in the river. Fred Simpson was a young scamp and he shot the ducks out of the river. They said you could hear Brockman yelling all over town.

In mid-1912 the "Drys" were busy campaigning to oust saloons from Barnum forever. A Prohibition Convention was held in the Barnum Methodist Church featuring the famed Prohibition Campaign Automobile. Speaking from atop the auto, Quincy Lee Morrow revived the heated debate of Dry vs. Wet. In 1913 the village again voted in favor of maintaining a saloon in the village, 37 to 15, but the issue was far from dead. Feeling so pressured from the negative feelings of many citizens and the increased license fee, John Shillin sold his saloon to John Neelund and moved out of town. In 1914 the question again came before the voters. The *Herald* noted, "It does seem peculiar that one will vote for a thing that he knows is demoralizing and will endanger the health and oftentimes the life of those he hold most precious." The vote that fall saw the saloon ousted from the village by a vote of 51 to 25. Mr. Neelund closed the Barnum Hotel and Saloon and moved from the village.

Readers of the *Barnum Herald* were entertained by serials, on-going novels, which ran weekly. Stories such as Sir Arthur Canon

Doyle's inspiring hero Sherlock Holmes in *The Adventure of the Red Circle* and Jack London's exciting *Sea Wolf* kept readers spell-bound week after week. The *Herald* also carried advice for the lady of the household. Hostesses were advised to, "Give a coffee party. Change from the tea that is so popular. A hostess can provide delightful entertainment at comparatively small cost in a somewhat unusual fashion."

Laundry advice was also freely given:

Shave one ounce of paraffin and bar of laundry soap into a basin of water and boil for a few minutes until soap and paraffin dissolve. Pour into a boiler of boiling water and mix. Wet soiled clothes with cold water, wring and put into boiling suds. Boil ten minutes.

Naturally ads for "cures" were prominently scattered among the columns. Hanford's Balsam of Myrrh was recommended as, "A liniment that cures domestic animals as well as man". Cascarets were recommended for liver, bowels, sick headaches, bad breath, sour stomach and constipation--all for only a dime a box. Women were advised to take Lydia E. Pinkhom's vegetable compound, "Tired, nervous women, those with change of life and other female complaints".

In the early 1910s a business took hold in Barnum that would span the next few decades. Hugo Anderson founded the Maplewood Hatchery and Poultry Farm, bringing to Barnum another alternative income, eggs and poultry. By 1912 Barnum eggs were in demand in New York City restaurants. In 1916 Anderson had built his business to staggering proportions, it would become the largest poultry farm in Carlton County. He received one order for 3,000 day-old S.C.W. Leghorn chicks, an order that was not uncommon.

The Guernsey business continued on an upswing during this time. W.W. Jessup, F.M. Duesler and H.C. Hanson upgraded their herds by purchasing a herd of high-grade Guernsey from the Jean Duluth Farm near Duluth. Jessop paid an astonishing price of \$250 for one bull.

In keeping with the upgrading of cattle, the Barnum Bull Association was formed. Six registered bulls were purchased by the Association through loans made at the State Bank of Barnum totaling \$1,200. One member was designated as the "Bull Keeper" and paid a fixed salary for keeping the animals and allowing breeding

to be done on his farm.

Agricultural education was promoted within the community. A short course in agriculture was conducted by F.B. Moleran during a Farmers' Institute. In the later part of 1912 N.E. Chapman, later to be known affectionately as "Uncle Chappy", made his first of many appearances in Barnum speaking at a Farmers' Institute held at the Trading Company Hall. In the fall of 1912 the Minnesota Agricultural College presented a traveling show aboard a train. Four cars of equipment, lectures on farming and exhibits were featured. For the gentler folk, lectures on "The Farmer's Wife" were held in the Hall. All in all, the villagers felt it was, "Better than a circus".

When C.L. Duxbury was a student on the Agricultural Campus at the University of Minnesota in 1927 the General Manager of the Land O' Lakes Creamery addressed his class. Afterward C.L. went to visit with the speaker. Duxbury recalled

I told him I had worked in the Barnum Creamery the past two years. He bristled and said Their butter is not 93 score or better.' He hated the Barnum Creamery because Land O' Lakes had not been able to cut into the Duluth butter market. Yes, they copied H.C. Hanson's Barnum Creamery quality, but they couldn't be it. I believe that the Barnum Creamery was the first one in the United States to make exclusive sweet cream butter.

By the 1920s Barnum's egg business had grown to be the 2nd largest Leghorn Center in the United States, with only Petaluma California beating the Barnum farmers. The University of Minnesota Agriculture school held their poultry short course at Barnum High School in 1925. It was the first and only time the course would be taught off the U of M Ag Campus.

Various farming organizations were formed, disbanded and reorganized. In 1911 the Co-operative Farmers' Stock Company was organized and in 1912 the Barnum Guernsey Breeders Association reorganized. By late 1912 the Guernsey Breeders dissolved, the six bulls auctioned off with a total receipt of \$552 being split among the members. In 1915 the Farmer's Co-op disbanded in view of another group, the Equity Group, being formed. This latter group opened a potato warehouse in Barnum in the hopes of raising prices on the vegetable. Potatoes were selling for twenty cents a bushel at the time. Later that same year The Arrowhead Sales Association, under the leadership of Carl Hanson,

was formed. Unfortunately, this group became unpopular as people felt that, as long as cattle were sold on commission, the manager would sell the stock only to make money. Farmers were afraid that any appointed manager would "sell the county out".

A farmer's life was not always one of ease, as S.J. Bloomquist could attest to. He was chased around his barns and buildings several times and finally forced to take refuge in a tree in order to escape the attack of a young bull he owned. As soon as the animal tired of the chase and left, Bloomquist started for town and negotiated the sale of Taurus, the young bull, to Mr. Dieter, the butcher. Dieter went to the farm and, after considerable trouble, succeeded in getting the rebellious bovine to his establishment where the bull was quickly converted into "a less lively and more peaceful state".

Beside the plagues of potato rust and "hoppers", farmers were forced to suffer through Cream Day in town. They held to the belief that housewives enjoyed the crowded conditions of the stores each Monday, Wednesday and Friday and made a practice of doing their shopping at those times, much to the dismay of the dairymen. One farmer grumbled to the *Herald*:

Your advertisers don't want us to send away to mail order houses for our supplies, and yet, in many cases, it is the wives of the businessmen in your town who are the cause of us doing it. Hanson's checks are as good in Chicago as they are here and we won't be interrupting the Barnum ladies while they look over every blessed thing your storekeepers have to sell.

A landmark of the 1910s was the building of the new Creamery, a sturdy 34x75-foot building constructed of Barnum Brick, located on the south side of the old Creamery. H.C. Hanson turned down the low bid on an out-of-town construction crew in favor of Mr. Christenson and a local crew. On June 23, 1916, the Barnum Creamery held its Grand Opening Celebration at the Fairground. The *Herald* reported that, "It took a wagonload of sandwiches, a hog's head or two of coffee and a small mountain of ice cream to feed the crowd". Aside from the picnic's speakers, a band concert and games ranging from a shoe and stocking race to tug of wars and ending with an "all out" horserace were featured. The Creamery was a feat of modern technology. The "large, well-lit building is supplied with modern equipment," the *Herald* lauded.



Buckboards waiting in line at the Barnum Creamery.

Hanson had ordered a new boiler that would furnish heat and auxiliary power installed as well as the installation of a shower, bath and toilet room for the employees. The total cost of the building and new machinery was \$10,000. Elmer Anderson was employed as Chief Buttermaker and Ernest Will and Anton Nelson were hired to drive the Butter Wagon to Mahtowa, Sandy Lake and Atkinson to collect cream. Will was later promoted to the position of Chauffeur Of The Auto Truck, which was purchased to supplant the team of horses and wagon. In 1914 butter fat and egg prices delivered at the Creamery were *Butter Fat, No. 1..23 cents Butter Fat, No. 2 27 cents Eggs cartoned per doz 27 cents.*

The Creamery was not the only business expanding and making changes. The *Herald*, now under the management of Mr. Thompson, moved from the Post Office building to its own residence immediately across from the Creamery where it would remain until its closing. In 1912 M. Christenson, Cain and Dathe had a brick building constructed and christened it the Barnum Stock Co. M. Wicker and Sons opened the Barnum Clothing Store in August 1913, but by that November the business had gone bankrupt. The J.S. Cain and J.S. Goodell Livery Stable became Cain's Livery when the two men dissolved their partnership.

R.E. Johnson expanded his business and opened a restaurant in

the Pool Hall. Nels Christenson purchased the Barnum Hardware from C.A. Pearson in 1918 and the Post Office moved to the Trading Company, leasing the area for seven years.

By the end of the 1910s Barnum saw the changing of the guards at the Telephone Station, Miss Dahlberg took charge when Miss Schultz resigned. Dr. Shannon had moved from the village by 1918; however, Dr. Anderson picked up the practice immediately following Shannon's departure.

Running a private enterprise was not altogether without interesting events. The following was reported in the *Barnum Herald*:

A young lady, who they say resides near Nemadji, was shopping in town and stepped in Cain and Dathe's. Smiling charmingly at Mr. Dathe, who came forward to wait on the lady who said, "It is my desire to obtain a pair of circular elastic appendages capable of being contracted or expanded by means of oscillating steel appliances that sparkle like particles of gold leaf set with Alaska diamonds and which innate delicacy forbids me to mention." Tony had just enough time to hand out a pair of garters before he fainted.

The Clifton House, later to become known as the Barnum Hotel, began a changing of hands that would continue for some time. Having been vacant since early 1914, Mrs. H.A. Havery reopened the hotel but soon afterward sold her interests to the Obergs. On April 1, 1914 Mr. and Mrs. John Muller purchased the hotel from the Obergs. In turn, J.H. Muller sold the establishment to H.C. Hanson later that year. Hanson installed a heating plant and remodeled the hotel, but did not feel the investment was paying off. Lyman Rhodes took possession of the Clifton House. A newspaper release classified the hotel as a:

Traveler's delight as a place to eat, table service, lunch counter, steam heated, electrically lighted, well-furnished hotel with hot and cold running water. A hotel of service from the time you register until your departure. The headquarters for famous chicken dinners, soda fountain, cigars, cigarettes and confectionery.

In 1915 the Weske brothers and Edward Blaha opened the City Meat Market which was housed in the building that would become the Farmers' Co-op Feed Store Office. In 1919 a new building was constructed and the Meat Market moved. The Meat Market adver-

tised "FRESH AND SALT MEATS Always in stock. Highest Market Prices Paid for Poultry, Cattle and Hides."



The City Meat Market - Pictured is Ed Blaha in 1915

Businesses routinely ran specials or promoted themselves in the *Herald*. Specials for one week at the Barnum Supply Co were;

*4 pkgs Corn Flakes a quarter 7 Bars Lennox Soap a quarter
Brick Cheese per lb. twenty-two cents
A Fresh Line of Bread, Confectionery, Groceries,
School Supplies, Etc. Constantly on Hand. Give Us A Trial*

George Gonser, Proprietor ran the Barnum Dray Line and promised to "Meet all trains that arrive in day item. Your Patronage Solicited."

The C.L. Goodell and Company Furniture and Undertaking, R.L. Goodell, Manager, informed Barnum area citizens:

*Our Mr. C.L. Goodell and R.L. Goodell are both Licensed
Embalmers.*

*Hearses, Hacks and Carriages Furnished on Short Notice
Anywhere in the County.*

*Complete Stock of Caskets, Robes, Etc. constantly on hand for
immediate use or shipment.*

Calls Promptly attended Day or Night Phones Nos. 4 and 15.

The Barnum Trading Co advertised:

Come To Us for your wants in our line. We will give you the Best we have for the Least Money possible. Not how much we can get but how Little we can charge and make a profit is our policy. If you are not already a Customer of our we would like to see you join the large list of our Satisfied Customers. OUR MOTTO: Right Goods, Right Prices, Right Treatment.



Barnum Trading Co.

Dr. S. Shannon Physician and Surgeon Barnum and Moose Lake posted the notice, "All calls attended day or night. Office and residence on Main Street, Barnum. Eyes tested and Glasses Fitted."

Prior to the liquor controversy John Neelund had purchased the Banum Hotel and placed this notice in the *Herald*:

The Hotel Barnum Under a New Management

When in Barnum do not fail to come to my hotel if you want the best of accommodations. I endeavor to please all guests and you will find the place unexcelled in this section.

Give me a call. First Class Sample Room in Connection.

John Neelund, Proprietor

Moving pictures were a main source of entertainment for the relatively isolated villagers. In 1913 the West Photo Play Co. made

regular visits to Barnum. Mrs. West gave vocal and piano accompaniment to the silent movies. In 1914 Felgen and Lovejoy purchased a moving picture machine, set it up for operation in the Trading Co. Hall and showed a, "First class show one night a week." The first series of movies shown was *The Trey O'Hearts*, shown every Wednesday evening. The picture was proclaimed, "A serial play in fifteen series, and is without a doubt the best moving picture play in films today. Every man, woman and child in Barnum and vicinity should see this great picture play." Children under five were free if accompanied by an adult, children under fifteen years of age paid ten cents admission and adults were charge fifteen cents. Other major hits that were run in the Barnum Theater were *The Hoosier Schoolmaster* and *Don* that starred Lew Dockstader, the famous minstrel. In 1915 Felgen and Lovejoy closed their business and moved to Rush City. Y.E. Yarron, manager of a moving picture theater in Carlton, stepped into the gap and in late 1915 rented the Barnum Trading Co. Hall to show moving pictures during the summer months. Admission for the first release, *Texas Cattle King*, was ten cents for children and fifteen cents for adults. During the winter months L.P. Lovejoy provided moving pictures twice weekly. Such great dramas as *Heritage* starring Ella Hall and Bob Leonard, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *Ten Nights In A Bar Room* held the villagers' rapt attention. The most memorable movie seen during this decade was noted to be *Jungle*, "One of the greatest socialist stories ever written, when the book first came out steps were taken to have it suppressed due to the vivid manner it dealt with conditions in Packingtown". One film that was more than likely never viewed on a big screen in Barnum featured Theda Bara as *Cleopatra*. Bara was renowned for her many roles as a vamp whose charm led men to ruin. Her less than modest costumes drew huge enthusiastic crowds, mostly of the male persuasion.

With the disagreements on liquor licenses, varying views on socialism and disputes between villagers and farmers, the local residents decided measures needed to be taken to help unify the area. In 1915 a "Get Together Meeting" was held at the Trading Hall in the hope of unifying the area. E.E. Fisher spoke on the *Farmer and Producer*, H.C. Hanson addressed the issue of taxes, Rev. Parkinson gave a stirring speech on, *Rum and Its Kindred Which Opens The Gates Of Hell*. Mr. Christenson addressed the

benefits of a head tax on all males over 21. The audience became roused over Mr. Christenson's address and, "about half the crowd got loose from their chairs and started to help him out with the speech". At that point the meeting was adjourned before people started addressing each other physically. A few days after the meeting a Tax-Payer League was started by E.L. Barstow. This also was a failure, and the first meeting was reported to be, "one of the most bitter sessions ever held at the school".

In 1915 the saloon issue was again addressed. The "Drys" were angered at the rumor that the Council might override the citizens' vote against the saloon. Another source of irritation for those upstanding citizens was the increase of illegal alcohol and stills, better known then as Blind Pigs, which were used in the manufacture of the liquor.

The Farmers' and Businessmen's Protective Association opposed the Temperance Group on the anti-saloon bill. Their belief was that a licensed, well-regulated, tax-paying saloon would be good for the moral welfare of the community. More petitions were circulated to the public and submitted to the Council, demanding that the Anti-Saloon Law be revisited by the voters, not merely the Council.

At this time Puritanism was sweeping the county, spurred on by high anxiety created by the movement for sexual and gender equality. Conservatives believed that the "new women" would transform all American cities and towns into dens of iniquity. Vice commissions sprang up to clamp down on drunkenness and pornography. The campaign for prohibition was gathering steam. Movie theater owners were being pressured into banning "indecent" films. This Cultural Conservatism was strongest in farming communities and small towns. Barnum was no exception and during the reentry of the saloon debate the Anti-Saloon League went so far as to arrange with Felgen and Lovejoy to show a, "Stirring two-reel motion picture, *In the Grip Of Alcohol*, and forty other moving pictures depicting the war on *John Barleycorn*." In 1917 the issue was resolved when Minnesota passed the Statewide Prohibition Act.

In 1914 Barnum residents gathered to celebrate a momentous occasion, the anniversary of the village's incorporation. It was a grand affair, as reported in the *Barnum Herald* on Friday, February 13, 1914:

Village Celebrates the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Its Incorporation

Barnum celebrated the 25th anniversary of its incorporation as a village at the school house last evening and about 300 people, according to a conservative estimate, were present to listen to the flow of oratory that they came prepared to listen to. There were in all 13 speakers which gave a rare opportunity for talks that ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous. We'll stand for our share of the last part of this statement. Our honored guests were Mr. Geo. G. Barnum for whom the town was named, Dr. L.A. Sukeforth, the first resident physician of the town and Mr. J.E. Cooley one of the first white men to brave the raging Moose Horn each related experiences that confronted the early pioneers.

Our very own Harry Patterson was master of ceremonies and when introducing the speakers he did it so artfully that each one could do no less than just get up and talk and it was agreed by everyone present that a very creditable talk fest was presented.

Mr. C.L. Goodell, who was unable to be present, sent us his best wishes and also a communication which was read by his niece, Miss Luella P. Goodell.

The village of Moose Lake conveyed her sentiments in a telegram signed by Mayor Gay of that town and was read by the toastmaster. Nemadji and Mahtowa were each represented by a large delegation of their best citizens and good looking ladies. The program lasted for nearly three hours and a half and seemed to be thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Afterwards a lunch of sandwiches, cake and coffee was served and those who baked the cakes and served the refreshments are entitled to their share of the glory for the part they took in the evening celebration. The orchestra and quartette, for without their services the exercises would have been rather flat, proved to our visitors that the people who are now living here, besides clearing and farming the land, also find time to indulge in the finer things that help make life enjoyable.

Those who spoke from the rostrum were Messrs. Geo. G. Barnum, J.E. Cooley, Dr. L.A. Sukeforth, H.R. Patterson, H.S. Lord, H.C. Hanson, A. Anderson, J.P. Thompson, R.E. Johnson, M. Christensen, A.H. Dathe, W.H. Eikenberry, Mrs. H.R. Patterson and Miss L.P. Goodell. After the refreshments had been disposed

of, several boxes of perfectos were brought out and passed around, with the invitation to have a smoke on Mr. Barnum.

Organizations abounded in the small village. The various groups' roots began with "gatherings" held in private homes, entertaining up to 30 people at one time. Some private citizens provided small bands for dances or organized sleigh rides and game parties. In 1915 a Boys' Club was formed and met in one of the schoolrooms. The purpose of the group was to allow boys to interact in a cooperative spirit. That year the Commercial Club, which had been organized in late 1908, disbanded and in its stead the Civic Club was formed. This group remained active until 1917 when it again reverted to the Commercial Club.

Other active groups included the Modern Woodsmen, Royal Neighbors of America, Independent Order of the O.K. Fellows and the Eureka Rebeckahs. Churches continued to play a dominant role in the Barnum villagers' life. Socials, vocal groups, potlucks, quilt-ing bees and study groups could all be found in the Presbyterian, German Lutheran, Swedish Lutheran and Catholic Churches.

Between 1913 and 1916 the Methodist Church's Pastor was Rev. W.A. Parkinson. Parkinson was a staunch believer in tithing being the Church's main income. On those grounds he refused to allow the Ladies' Aide to sponsor fund-raising activities for the support of the Church and went so far as to dispose of all eating utensils that had been used for Church suppers and for serving at the Fair. Rev. W.E. Ellis replaced Parkinson, but resigned in 1918 to enlist in the Army. For a time various pastors sent by the District Superintendent attended to the Church.

In 1917 the Barnum City Baseball team was reorganized, and found faithful followers in the citizens, even when the team lost. One game was reported to be the, "saddest affair ever held on a baseball field. Our boys played their best, but the uneven score shows we have a long way to go". In 1916 the Volunteer Fire Department was organized. The First Annual Firemen's Ball, held on St. Patrick's Day, was held immediately after the Department's organization in order to raise funds to purchase new fire-fighting apparatus.

The automobile's role in the American way of life was becoming increasingly more obvious. In 1915 Charles Almquist returned from Minneapolis sporting a "Dart" Five-Passenger Auto that H.C.

Hanson had purchased, the first of its kind in the county.

In 1916 safe speed laws were initiated by the Council. A speed of 10 M.P.H. was allowed through the business district or on Market Days in the entire village. One could travel 15 M.P.H. outside the business or residential districts. Dr. Walters was arrested and fined for speeding his



One of the new autos that 'sped' through town.
Picture are Baffer and Binnie Rudebeck.

auto through the village. The Constable reported, "He was going so fast that he was fairly burning a hole in the air." Joseph Hennes was fined \$2.00 in charges and \$5.00 in fees. The fine was heavy, as the speedster had been warned to slow down twice before. Finally, in an effort to maintain an orderly speed through town a "KEEP TO THE RIGHT" sign was posted near the Clifton House. Marshal Riley was instructed to post himself at that spot and watch for speeding motorists. Four arrests were made the first day the sign was in place.

Speeders were not the only villains Marshal Reily was on the lookout for. With the dawning of Prohibition came the birth of bootlegging. On one occasion five men and two women were arrested when their car broke down north of Barnum and 250 gallons of whiskey, brandy and gin were discovered. The women had hidden liquor bottles under their dresses in the hope they would not be searched. Another instance involved a Mr. Charles Lindskog. A complaint had been sworn by H.C. Hanson that Lindskog was selling intoxicating liquors at his pop stand near the Neelund Hotel and also at Lindskog's home. A search warrant was issued and the investigating deputies discovered a large quantity of Hamms Beer in pint bottles and two one-gallon demy-johns filled with a decoction that smelled like whiskey. Lindskog was given the choice of a \$50 fine and costs or 60 days of imprisonment. He chose the jail term, as he had no family to bail him out. Other residents who felt the need for a "boost" frequently visited the drug store with complaints of cough and sore throat and received an alcohol-based medicine.

In 1919 the Council issued an ordinance to prohibit the use of public highways, streets, alleys, sidewalks, lands, buildings, premises within the village for transportation, sale or distribution or in any manner obtaining intoxicating liquors or liquids and compounds containing alcohol in sufficient quantities to produce effects of intoxication. The *Herald's* editor noted, "Personally, we would like to see this business held up here long enough to make sure the stuff that the cars are carrying would give us a head pain on the morning after."

As a result of the ordinance, four cars were stopped and their occupants were fined \$100 each and their booze confiscated--all within one week. A dozen or more cars escaped after several charges of buckshot were fired into them by the village officials. In desperation, the Village Fathers ordered a heavy chain to be hung across the street in order to force the bootleggers to stop. Their efforts were in vain, for the only cars that stopped were driven by law-abiding citizens. The illegal vehicles drove right through. The bootleggers did create added excitement in the otherwise quiet lives of the villagers, and if caught, added to the village funds.

Pool and billiard halls were a constant headache for the Council. During 1917 many complaints were filed regarding the inappropriate running of Johnson's Pool Hall. Johnson was fined \$20 and \$6.79 in costs for keeping the Hall open after hours on Monday nights. The Council ordered that a license of \$5.00 per table per year be required in order to operate a pool hall. They further stated that no drawn or closed curtains or screens were to be on the windows; nor were the tables to be hidden or obscured from public view in any manner. The halls were to be closed between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. on secular days and open only between 12 noon and 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Citizens were not limited to concerns within their own area and closely followed national and world events. They were thrilled with the development of a submarine that made Jules Vern's dream a working reality. The performance of the new sub, "surpassed that of Vern's Nautilus". They followed the construction of the "Big Ditch" and applauded President Roosevelt when the Panama Canal was opened in August of 1914. People were shocked at the Titanic tragedy in 1912 when 1400 passengers and crew were drowned, and supported the St. Paul City Council when it

decided to ban the Grizzly Bear Dance which was considered obscene and disorderly.

Guest speakers kept the villagers in touch with the world. For a short time the village courted socialist speakers and, after hearing C.H. Taylor's address on *What's Wrong With The World?*, a small number of the town folk banded together to form the Socialist Club. A.S. Broms was a frequent guest speaker at the Trading Co. Hall. By 1917, with the world involved in war, Broms and other socialists' presence were given a frigid greeting and their lectures drew criticism. In late 1917 Mr. Broms was arrested in Litchfield and charged with traitorous utterances. From that time on he was banned from speaking in Barnum.

Following the 1914 massacre of four Americans by Mexican soldiers, Barnum kept close watch on the United States' southern border. In 1916 President Wilson issued a declaration of war against Mexico and American troops were in hot pursuit of Francisco Villa, the famous Mexican bandit. Papers reported on a weekly basis that Villa was, "just fifty miles ahead of his pursuers". In 1916 Minnesota National Guard Units were called to serve along the Mexican border and 100,000 men from all regions of the state were mobilized. The 3rd Minnesota Regiment was the first northern group to arrive and most likely would have dove into the heat of the fight had they not arrived before the supply train bearing their uniforms and weapons did.

Thomas H. Fairfax managed to take the citizens' minds off problems on the border when he began petitioning Congress to form a new state to be called Scandiana or Chippewa. Carlton County would have become a part of this new state, but the bill died in a Senate committee.

By 1915 the European War Theater was posing a threat to the small community. Since the assassination of Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria on June 28, 1914 by 19 year old Gavrilo Princip, the angry war clouds had been slowly spreading across the world. Old World countries began forming alliances and on August 2, 1914 World War I began with eight German cavalymen began firing on a French sentry post located at Belfort. Each week the *Herald* carried more news of death and disaster in Europe, posing in many of the villagers' minds the question of how soon the United States would drop its isolationist policy and support its allies.

In 1916 President Wilson warned citizens to prepare for involvement in The Great World War. The Mexican conflict and internal problems had prompted Wilson to attempt to stand behind his campaign motto; "He Kept Us Out Of War". By early 1917 Wilson could no longer ignore German attacks on unarmed vessels and injury to U.S. citizens, or the rumor that Germany would ally with Mexico and invade the United States via its southern border. Wilson pushed to end the war in Mexico, and having done so, delivered a War Message to Congress proclaiming a State Of War against Germany. Projecting the image that entering the European Theater would be akin to a modern crusade, Wilson outlined the United States' objectives of protecting democracy, rejecting militarism and basically offering a sound thumping to the corrupt and barbarous enemy across the ocean. Minnesota immediately pledged assistance when the conflict would occur and placed itself on record as favoring a large appropriation for soldier pay and for use in helping dependents of soldiers while they were engaged in the conflict. Immediately after the proclamation, Barnum's young men began enlisting to show their support for the nation's entry into the war to end all wars. Crowds gathered at the Depot to send their boys off. Children waving small American flags and adults harmonizing in patriotic song crowded the departing trains. By July 27, 1917 25 Barnum men had entered the war service.

In May 1917 the Draft Army Bill passed Congress. As a result, on June 5, 1917 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 p.m. all persons [male] between the ages of 21 and 39 were to present themselves at the register of their respective election precincts to be registered. All Federal Marshals, Deputy Marshals and Police Officers were called on to be ready to render whatever assistance was needed to maintain order in places of registration. By the end of the war Selective Service Boards had registered 24 million men aged 18 and older and had drafted close to 3 million into the military. Another 2 million patriots had volunteered for service.

Not everyone was willing to enter the service. Two Barnum men disgraced the town by dodging the draft. One, who claimed to be a conscientious objector due to his religious beliefs, was apprehended in Duluth and "did time" in a Federal prison. The other was reported to have eloped to Mexico and, despite all-points bulletins being sent across the United States for his arrest, made a

clean getaway.

Jack Rudebeck had a well-remembered departure. Emily and he married in 1917, immediately prior to his enlistment, on Emily's parents' farm. She had baked a beautiful wedding cake and proudly displayed it on one of the reception tables set up out-of-doors. The domestic animals appeared to enjoy the sight of the cake, as the family's rooster chose it for his roost much to the astonishment, and then delight, of the guests. Soon after the wedding Jack bid his farewells and prepared to leave wedded life for Army life. On the day he was to leave he came down with the mumps and was placed in quarantine rather than in a ship's bunk.

Barnum citizens rallied together to help the war effort in various ways. Liberty Loan Bond meetings were held and concerned, "anyone who has \$50". 180 Liberty Bonds were offered for sale in the town, a total of \$9,000 was asked for from the people in order to end the war. Villagers, afraid the war would engulf the United States, eagerly responded and raised the requested monies. In 1917 the Red Cross Society was formed. Members of Barnum's fairer sex sold Red Cross buttons for \$1.00 each with a total of \$76 being raised. The Red Cross also made an appeal for rags for cleaning guns. With the overwhelming support of the village, the organization sent hundreds of bundles of rags overseas. A Patriotic Party, held in the Hall, raised \$45.78 to send overseas to aid the soldiers.

Problems on the home front did not cease with the proclamation of war. The 1917 Nationwide Railroad Workers' Strike crippled the nation. Barnum citizens were advised that, unless the strike was averted, no freight would be accepted after March 17. The strike went on as scheduled and Barnum was literally cut off from the rest of the world until it was settled.

Farmers were fighting another war. The Legislature was hesitating to pass an "Oleo Tax". Embittered farmers who cried that "the shame of oleo" would cut deeply into the butter business, lobbied their representatives to push the tax forward.

Despite the Oleo Battle, farmers were doing their bit for the war effort by raising as much poultry as possible to add to the nation's food supply. Barnum was cited as an example for good poultry raising. Villagers were encouraged to do their part to help make Barnum, "The Middle Part of the Chicken Highway in the United States". Hugo Anderson's fame continued to spread as he

received orders for eggs as far away as Glacier National Park.

Barnum pushed for increased egg production and better understanding of the poultry business. The First Annual Poultry Show was held in Barnum, a three-day event that was termed the largest and most influential poultry show in the state. The poultry farmers' efforts had paid off. Overall, the state farmers showed a 20% decrease in egg production; Barnum showed an increase of 23%.

Guernsey farmers pushed to increase production as well. The Creamery had installed a new ice cream freezer to help keep ahead of the cream farmers brought in three times a week. The Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association held a calf show at the Fairgrounds and the Guernsey Cattle Breeders held their cattle show in town with 350 Guernsey dairymen attending. At that showing F.M. Duesler refused a flattering offer of \$200 for a five-year-old Guernsey cow. By the end of 1917 the Barnum Creamery made the highest score at the Buttermakers' Convention.

Business in 1917 remained stable despite the war. H.C. Hanson became the local agent for Ford cars and boasted a line of three different styles, he specialized in the Willys-Knight model. The auto's cost was \$360 plus freight. The Tri-State Telephone Company moved its office to the rear of the Barnum Hardware Store. Conflict had arisen early in the year when the Telephone Company threatened to move the office to Moose Lake due to the frigid conditions of the old quarters during the winter months. The Barbershop relocated to the basement of the Bank building and Thomas Brennon assumed ownership. Mr. Brennon advertised that, "If you haven't been satisfied with the running of the Barbershop before, I think you will be hereafter as I understand the business." The Barnum Hardware Store ran promotional contests to spur on business. One such contest involved forming as many words as possible from one word--ADVERTISE. The winner, Goldie Cummings, was awarded a diamond ring. Other promotions included gifts of baby rings, sets of silver and a full-place setting of china.

The *Barnum Herald* ensured its readers "ALL the news" and in March of 1917 carried a message from Theodore Roosevelt:

We are fighting to make democracy safe in the world. The Kaiser told Ambassador Gerald that Germany would attend to America after this war. The way to head off this menace is to Hold Beat Germany. The time to do it is now, the place is Europe. Those who oppose fighting in Europe now are working to force the U.S.

to fight Germany later--and alone--on American soil.

In direct response to Roosevelt's message a Peace Party, loudly verbalizing strong anti-war sentiments, was formed in Barnum. The organization, feeling the direct result of the citizens' wrath, was short lived. The Minnesota Commission of Public Safety served to promote the war effort by banning labor strikes and lockouts, blocked unionization and issued a "work or fight" order early in the war. It also banned "peace" meetings--meetings which Barnum's Peace Party certainly would have encouraged.

A.S. Broms, the notorious socialist speaker, ignoring the ban placed on him in many villages, was once again touring the county. Several Barnum residents attended a meeting in a nearby town that Broms was speaking in. Because of a stirring speech on Americanism made by C.L. Goodell, the socialistic gathering was rapidly turned into a Loyalist gathering. Mr. Broms was unceremoniously removed by law officers.

Barnum's school system continued to grow and change during this time period. The School Board, concerned with over-crowding on the horse powered school transports, instructed all bus drivers to exclude all persons not attending school from the busses while they were conveying pupils.

In another Board meeting it was decided to comply with a state Board of Education's mandate and provide each bus pupil a dish of hot, nourishing food to be eaten with their midday meal. State Aide to the schools was increased by the Legislature. Funding to the amount of \$1,600 was given to promote the formation of agricultural, industrial, domestic science and sewing classes.

The money provided for two instructors to teach all of the extra courses. Teachers' jobs were made easier by the instillation of an electric clock in the school.



The 1918 School Board, Pictured are School Board Members and their wives. Left to right: the John D. Connors, the Roy Goodells, the H.C. Hansons, Mr. fisher and spouse. Mr. Bung and spouse, Mr. Flenegan and spouse, and in the background, upper right, Instructor Surfer.

In 1916 F.C. Schwartz, Superintendent of Schools, resigned. The Board was taken aback as Schwartz had just accepted a salary raise. He reported to the Board members that he was transferring to Moose Lake for higher pay and due to the fact that his, "relations with many people here have become unpleasant". F.O. Flenniken took over the vacated Superintendent's position. He urged parents to ensure their children entered school at the beginning of the year, not several weeks into the school term. "Every young man or young woman who has not completed a High School course should take this opportunity to enroll. Even in this enlightened age," Flenniken reported to the *Herald*, "we find parents who keep their boys out of school, claiming that a High School education doesn't pay."

Students were as active as the Board and school faculty. The Wilson Literary Society that promoted cultured reading was organized in the High School and presented several dissertations for the public. The High School Debate Team took honors over several schools, including a debate against Carlton High School. The topic for that evening was, *Resolved That The Monroe Doctrine Should No Longer Be Upheld*. The debate team consisted of Helen Medjo, Walter Erickson and Olov Medjo. While the cooking class served luncheons at fifteen cents a meal, the High School boys presented variety shows.

In December of 1916 a special meeting of the Board was called by Dr. Shannon, Health Officer of the village, because of an outbreak of smallpox in the community. The Board was given the option of vaccinating all pupils or closing the school for three months. An order was made to vaccinate the 80 students at a cost of \$60.

That spring a traveling library was formed in the village. The Library Association consisted of ten or more members who agreed to pay freight charges on books and a uniform fee of \$1.50 or fifteen cents a member. The traveling library was housed at the school and open to the public three nights a week.

A moving picture machine was purchased by the school after much debate. Agreement to purchase the machine was made only after it was decided to pay off the machine by monies received for admission to the shows.

Despite all the business at hand, the school system did not neglect their duties for the war effort. Patriotic programs were held

by the students with an admission of a quarter for adults and a dime for students being charged. The proceeds were donated to the Red Cross. During school hours students were encouraged to purchase Red Cross Seals; in a four-month time frame 400 Seals were purchased by students reaching a total of \$4.00. A Jr. Red Cross was formed with the school pledging a quarter per student. Of all the war effort campaigns, the War Support Carnivals seemed to have been the most popular among students. A game known as *Swat The Kaiser* drew large crowds with each person anxious to donate a quarter to swat one student unlucky enough to have been chosen to play the role of Kaiser. At one carnival \$76 was raised from that game alone.

The war that was expected to end by the closing of 1917 raged on into 1918 and civilians were beginning to feel the effects. Citizens were urged to save waste paper for the government to recycle. Barnum Hardware ran its own campaign and offered a set of Rogers Silverware to the person bringing in the most pounds of waste paper in the form of old books, newspapers, magazines or catalogs. In 1918 Federal Income Tax was initiated. Unmarried men earning \$1,000 and up and married men earning \$2,000 and up were required to pay tax. A \$200 exemption was allowed for each dependent child under 18. The penalty for failing to file was not less than \$20 or more than \$1,000 plus 50% of the tax due. Coal for fuel became scarce and by the winter of 1918 the county faced a coal shortage of 38 million tons.

Unrest was being promoted by what the Public Safety Commission termed "war lies." Patriots were called upon to report neighbors, coworkers, and teachers--generally anyone they suspected of subverting the war effort. The Commission counseled citizens to trace the lie back to the war liar and haul him or her before a Department of Justice Official. One of the war posters the Commission sent to Barnum read "German agents are everywhere." One "lie" that created great concern in Barnum was that the Government was planning to commandeer all stocks of potatoes. During that time the potato industry in Barnum was beginning to make headway; the confiscation of the tuber would plunge the village into a financial slump.

Early in the course of the WWI the Committee on Public Information was established to publicize and popularize the war. "Four-Minute Men" were trained to deliver stirring motivational

speeches on supporting the war effort and toured the country. The CPI had opened the democratic dams and released a tidal wave of patriotism and democratic enthusiasm. In some parts of the nation German Americans became the focus of popular hatred. Performances of Beethoven's symphonies were banned in Boston. Sauerkraut was renamed "Liberty Cabbage". Schools were urged to ban the teaching of the German language. Prohibitionists blamed German American Brewers of producing ale and beer in order to sap the people's will to fight. The American Protection League was formed shortly after the first Espionage, Sabotage and Seditious Act was passed in Congress in 1917. Comprised of average citizens, the group worked as an agency of surveillance and routinely spied on their coworkers and neighbors. Fortunately, in Barnum the patriotic fever did not run that hot.

Newspapers printed literally tons of pro-war literature and official government accounts of valid reasons why America was at war. War posters were plastered on the walls of offices, ships, theaters, homes, the school and churches. Agencies such as the National Security League were emerging as powerful influences on society. The CPI encouraged movies such as the *Prussian Cur* and *The Beast of Berlin*. The Commission would have been proud to know that the Barnum Theater gave its all and presented stirring movies such as *The Battle Cry Of Peace*, "A wonderful war picture in 9 tremendous reels. Be sure to see New York attacked by a foreign Army and Navy. Watch its buildings leveled to the ground. You will never forget it. Better than *Birth Of a Nation*." Another "mammoth" 5-reel picture was, "endorsed by the Secretaries of War and Navy officials. It shows what Uncle Sam is doing and what he has to do". No one in town missed the special showing of *For King or Kaiser*, a "high-class drama".

Life on the home front began feeling the strain the war created. Daylight Savings Time was implemented in March of 1918. Beginning that spring families were encouraged to use less than four cups of flour a week for all baking needs. This was ordered in an effort to save over 100,000 barrels of flour each week for use overseas. "The greatest aid housewives can give the war," the *Herald* reported, "is to save on food, food will win the war."

In mid-1918 Herbert Hoover, newly appointed Federal Food Administrator, restricted the use of meat. Later the "meatless days restriction" was lifted for 30 days in the hope that an

increased use of meat would save of wheat. The National Board issued orders that all business was to be done on a "cash and carry basis", no longer could grocery stores extend credit to well-known customers.

Restaurants labored under harsh restrictions. Hoover ordered no bread to be served with the main course. In the fall of 1918 he extended the orders to include only one type of meat to be served, no bacon could be sold in the establishments. No sugar bowls could be set out on tables or counters and only one teaspoon of sugar per customer was permissible.

The beginning of 1918 held personal tragedy for the entire village. That February a school bus, a canvas-covered sleigh with an airtight wood heater and bench seats on the sides, was hit by a freight car at the Barnum railroad crossing. The train was nine minutes late on its run. Assuming that the train had passed through the crossing as usual, the bus driver did not send a passenger ahead to see if the track was clear, the normal procedure. Consequently, the bus driver proceeded out in front of an on-rushing train traveling between 40 and 45 m.p.h. The train rammed the back of the bus, throwing the bus, its 33 passengers and driver from the track. Eight students were killed. One young girl was injured and lay unconscious in a Duluth hospital for three weeks after the incident. One student was thrown 160 feet. The four-foot banks of snow surrounding the tracks broke his fall and saved his life. One child was caught in the cross chains of the sleigh and dragged several feet until the train could lock up its breaks. Killed were: William Fogarty aged 15, Homer Stoller aged 16, John Daivo aged 12, Charles Kaivo aged 7, Arthur W. Kaivo aged 6, Altha Harrington aged 14 and Mary Snoecks aged 15.

The tragic events were not to stop with the school bus incident.

On an extremely hot, dry and windy afternoon October 12, 1918 the smell of smoke and fire hung heavily in the air. Barnum received a call of distress from the neighboring Kettle River and Automba areas. The towns were enveloped in flame and all available Barnum men were asked to assist in fighting the fires that were consuming the towns at an alarming rate. Barnum citizens could see bursts of flame and smoke on the purplish northwest horizon. Fireballs were reported jumping from treetop to treetop. Barnum itself was spared the sorrow of having the town devastat-

ed, unlike the surrounding area. Only the E. Dahlberg and the R.I. Hayes' homes and the abandoned residence of Mrs. Harrison were burned. Throughout the night villagers turned out to help neighbors in wetting down buildings in order to save them from the flaming sparks which the wind forced in from Moose Lake. Roy Rudebeck and another villager fought to save the Todd farm buildings immediately north of Barnum. All night they hauled water to ensure the homestead's safety. The owner became exhausted and retired, leaving the two good Samaritans to carry on alone. H.C. Hanson loaded his truck with ten-gallon cream cans filled with water and, after loading them into his wagon, raced to the depot. Grabbing one of the monstrously heavy cans in each hand, he repeatedly soaked the building's roof to save it from flying sparks. The smoke from the fire was so thick that it was seen as far away as Worthington in southern Minnesota.

The next day the Home Guard, 51 young men who had been organized under the direction of George Falconer and J.E. Bauer

earlier in the year to provide protection in case of a disaster on home territory, traveled to the fire-swept communities of Moose Lake and Kettle River. Their task became that of locating the dead. Barnum's Pool Hall was set up as a Red Cross station and soup kitchen. The Clifton House was turned



Three of the Home Guard on duty after the 1918 fire. Roy Rudebeck is pictured, the others names are unknown.

into an emergency hospital and the Barnum Hotel housed and fed 175 refugees. C.L. Goodell was appointed the unpleasant job of burial arrangements. Electric and telephone lines servicing the town had burned and, while the telephone service was restored relatively quickly, the village was without electricity for days. While the "Great Fire" had been extinguished, fires, which continued to burn in the swamps surrounding the town kept the villagers on edge for weeks afterward.

With the emotional wounds from the conflagration fresh in the villagers' minds, letters from the boys in overseas service were trickling home reminding everyone of the suffering hundreds of

miles away.

Paul McHong wrote home from "Somewhere in France":

Dear Pa,

I suppose you received the card before this saying I had arrived safely here. The trip on the whole was good. I was sure glad to get on land again after not seeing it for so long. We got here a few days ago and have already been moved three times and I expect to get back with the battery soon. Well, I think this is all the news I am allowed to tell you, but write soon and don't sell out till I come back.

Paul

A letter from Herman Brandt included the news:

.... We have just come off a forced march, the hardest I ever went through. Only slept 10 hours in 6 days and for 72 hours my only rest is what I could steal during the brief hours on the road. Then the wounded began to come back along the roads, the worst cases in ambulances, others in trucks and a long line of stragglers--the walking wounded--a sad sight as they were bloody and covered with dirt, with white faces, limping along. German prisoners, wounded and coming along with French, American and Morocco troops, holding each other up sometimes. One big German had no shoes and his socks were nothing but shreds.

In the moments when we are most tired and sick and disgusted with it all we lose sight of the real reason for it all and say some pretty unpatriotic things to say the least. But way down deep in our hearts we know we are right, our government is right, the President is right and that we are backed up by the people at home, the noblest in the world.

Ed Baumann wrote from France:

We are located in a permanent camp at last. The country is rather rough here and covered with good timber resembling our spruce and balsam. The people seem happy and contented and are industrious, but very slow, especially in their logging. The houses are built from stone and many women and children wear wooden shoes. The censorship is very strict over here and my letters would be all cut up if I said anything except in the most general way. We hear practically no news here except what happens local -

ly and so I do not know how the war has gone for the past month.

A letter from Emil Miller noted that thirty shells had fallen on his encampment one night. Curious about the shells as no one had been injured, the battalion examined them and found that the weapons contained nothing but sawdust.

Other letters offered requests for special food packages, such as, " a box of fried chicken and some cake, and anything else you want.... I must have candy to whip the Germ out of Germany." Other letters reflected the despondency created by the constant horrors of war, "I wonder if I will ever be where the guns don't roar and the birds are singing."

In order to improve falling enlistments, a new mandate was issued by the government and was known as The Fight-Or-Work Law. This law demanded that people abandon unnecessary jobs and either seek productive employment or enlist. Those affected by the law were:

Idlers, gamblers, bucket shop employees, racetrack attendants, clairvoyants and the like, professional golfers and baseball players, elevator operators at clubs and stores, club and hotel doormen, waiters in hotels and clubs, ushers in theaters, attendants at sports events, persons in domestic service and clerks in stores. A special exemption was made for actors.

During those war years people turned to major entertainment to ease the stress. The Carlton County Fair offered just such an escape. In 1915 the old grandstand had been replaced and thirty feet added to its length. The Fair had grown to such large proportions that the Fair Committee requested a list of names of parties in Barnum who had rooms and beds to spare during the Fair week to house out-of-town participants. In 1916 there were 170 autos parked in the village and 100 on the Fairground itself that were owned by Fair visitors.

May 1917 saw the Fairground nearly leveled by fire. Thanks to the fast action of a human bucket brigade only four horse stalls were damaged and the sheep pens were destroyed. That fall the Bark's Merry-Go-Round drew large crowds of the curious and daring. Special arrangements were made with the railroad for limited runs and discount rates were offered to Fair goers. In 1918 a man named Barber, said to have come from Pequot, ran a "Near Beer" stand on the ground during Fair Time. He scammed the villagers by

passing out a number of worthless checks to the outrageous amount of \$60 and then faded into the night without a trace.

Area farmers continued to work diligently to improve their herds and poultry farms. The Society of Equity managed one major accomplishment. During the later part of 1917 the Society petitioned for a County Agent to be hired as a means to upgrade farming and better determine costs of production. In May of 1918 C.P. Johnson was appointed County Agent for Carlton County. In 1916 Dr. C.E. Seimer began his lengthily veterinarian practice in Barnum.

Poultry and Dairy Shows continued to be held for the agricultural community. Farmers' Institutes were provided routinely at the school. Keeping in the spirit of educating the farmer, the



Carlton County Fairgrounds in 1914.

Creamery offered training in important farming matters such as *Water Supply For The Farm* and *Silos and Silage For Barnum* free of charge on each Cream Day.

During 1918 the town pasture was a meeting place for young farm boys. John Martin Thompson was one of the young men who would walk the family cow to the pasture, which was located immediately north of town over the bridge by the Creamery. After he retrieved the family bovine each evening he was assigned the task of carrying the milk to Jack and Emily Rudebeck's farm to have it run through the cream separator.

The efforts the farmers put forth paid off. In 1916 photos of Barnum's poultry and dairy enterprises were featured in the State University Farm publication. The price of butterfat jumped to thirty-six cents a pound and eggs to nineteen cents a dozen, if cartonated. Barnum Guernesys were selling well; an 18-month-old heifer commanded a minimum of \$140.

One of the chief concerns of farmers and villagers alike was the poor road conditions. A 12-year-old boy wrote to the *Herald* about the deplorable road conditions and offered his solution "The makeshift business of construction and maintaining of public highways should be abolished. The main importance is to see that the public highways are thoroughly drained." People were both angry and disillusioned with the State High Department's continual promising to improve road conditions and the failure of the Department to follow through on those promises. Early in the 1910s a Good Roads Group was organized to work on upgrading road conditions and to prompt the Legislature to allow citizens' involvement in planning highways. Finally, in 1918, the Carlton County Commissioners were persuaded by the group to expend \$1,100 on the road leading east of Barnum. The Legislature listened to a group of local lobbyists and agreed to run the state road in front of the Creamery, through the Brickyard's property and to intersect with the old road at Bell's farm. At the same time the Barnum Village Council agreed to invest \$400 on road repairs on the three roads leading from town.

Other concerns that plagued citizens of Barnum were of equal importance to the local populace as were the weighty matters that the Minnesota Legislature dealt with. The women of town complained to the Council of the actions of a few young men and boys at the swimming hole in Brant's pasture. The ladies who had cattle pasturing on the Brickyard property were required to bring the cattle in through the gate close to the swimming hole. Certain members of the male species spied the women entering the gate and, "got out of the water to exhibit themselves in a shameless manner". The members of the weaker sex were advised to borrow a shotgun, load a few shells with a mix of bird shot, rock salt and to give the dose a lasting effect, add a dash of red pepper. It was warranted that one dose of the prescription fired into the unruly gentlemen's hides would make them "caper" and cure them of any desire to make indecent exposures in the future.

On November 8, 1918, a special edition of the *Herald* was run decreeing:

Yesterday afternoon it was told to us by people who come from the cities that peace has been declared and that the last shot of the war has been fired. What terms were exacted we were unable to learn, but only that Germany has laid down her arms and sur -

rendered.

On November 11, 1918 newspapers across the United States announced:

RED FLAG OVER KAISER'S PALACE. FIGHTING HAS STOPPED.
America's Aims Accomplished--Wilson

Exactly five years to the day when the Great War began with the shooting of the archduke, the treaty ending the war was signed. The next week the *Herald's* banner screamed:

GREAT WAR IS OVER.
GERMANY ENVOYS ACCEPT ALLIED TERMS OF TRUCE

In 1916 Minnesotans had considered themselves to be living in a "Peace State" and struggled with the idea that President Wilson's isolationist policy may be broken. When the War was declared, the President's and Congress' decision had ultimately been supported. Years after the war, Colonel J.E. Nelson of the Adjutant General's Office offered an overview of what Minnesota troops had accomplished in the Great War. Over 126,000 of the State's men and women had seen service of some type. 3,400 were victims of the war and close to 5,000 had been wounded.

The decade came to a peaceful close. Crowds filled the Depot to welcome back the tired, war-worn but happy troops. Banquets were held at the Hall in the veterans' honor. During the summer of 1919 picnics were arranged with the soldiers as guests of honor. These activities made a special point of reminding everyone of the "bounty of peace, the terrible price of war".

The United Boys Working Reserve was formed in the summer of 1919 to provide young men with worthwhile past-times. The group performed any manner of village work in return for an Honorary Bar of Government Service.

A Spanish Influenza, named after 8 million Spaniards had fallen ill in May and June of 1918, outbreak in the winter of 1919 placed the village under strict quarantine. Warnings were placed in the *Herald* and posted about the town:

INFLUENZA

*Frequently Complicated With Pneumonia
Is Prevalent at this time throughout America
If you are have a cold and are coughing and sneezing*

GO HOME AND GO TO BED UNTIL YOU ARE WELL!

No church services were held. School was closed. Clerk A. Faggott was instructed to call at all the homes in the village and tell members of the house that, if the illness hit and no doctor was available to treat the ill, they were to keep strictly by themselves until all danger had passed. He was also to call on quarantined homes on a daily basis and take orders for the needed provisions and deliver the goods.

As early as 1916 President Wilson had predicted triumph for Women's Suffrage. A Suffragette Social was held in Barnum and promoted:

*The Suffragettes have lofty minds
and are as smart as all creation.
They can give the men some pointers
On how to run the nation.
Don't miss the celebrated meeting
In the Hall on Monday night.
For they area fine bunch of orators
And a mighty handsome sight.*

But Women's Suffrage was a serious matter. Susan Anthony, aged 80, went to hear the infamous Socialist Eugene Debs speak. Debs met the Suffrage leader afterward and told her, "Give us socialism and we'll give you suffrage." Anthony replied laughingly, "Give us suffrage." In 1919 the Minnesota Suffrage Bill passed the Senate. The final vote of 49-11 gave women the right to vote in Presidential elections.

The school system became involved in a controversy that dealt with the school providing health services. In June the County Nurse had visited schools and examined each child. The Board was negative to the service, feeling that more injury was caused by her hurried visit to the school than if she had, "just stayed away". Some citizens scorned the idea of a school nurse providing health services and believed it to merely be a new fad. There was; however, enough village support behind the idea to sway the Board's decision. A trained nurse was employed. Apparently the spirit of health and safety was upon the Board, for at the same meeting they approved the purchase and instillation of a fire gong and

ordered fire drills to be organized immediately.

Not everything the school did pleased the citizens. A school play, *Arrival of Kitty*, angered the villagers with its increased admission price. Due to the lingering war tax, the admission had been jumped to an exorbitant thirty-five cents. Parents also complained of their sons arriving home with the odor of tobacco on their breath. While investigating the matter, the school administration found several male students smoking behind the school. They were reprimanded and a copy of the law governing the use of tobacco was distributed to students. The law stated that anyone under 18 or currently in school was prohibited for using tobacco, if caught doing so the student would be given a \$10 fine or 5 days in jail. The boys all agreed that, if caught again, they'd just as soon spend the five days in the brig as discuss the matter of borrowing a ten-spot with their fathers.

In the fall of 1919 the City Council advised the Board of Health to institute a complete sanitary reform. Every manure pile, privy, vault or other accumulations of filth within the village limits was to be removed at the expense of the person who created them.

Barnum residents were treated to a rare sight on one bright Friday afternoon. As the editor of the *Herald* observed, "Friday, shortly after 1 p.m. an airship traveling from Minneapolis to Duluth gave villagers some excitement. It was the first aircraft most of us had ever seen." A difference of opinion of how low the plane was flying ensured. The opinions expressed by villagers placed the plane somewhere between 600 to 5,000 feet above the treetops.

1919 was brought to a somber close by the death of Theodore Roosevelt. However, the economy was on the up-swing, the Great War was over, the boys were home and Barnum's agricultural and business communities were prospering.

The next ten years looked nothing if not promising.