

Chapter Two

1890-1899

Settling In



Downtown Barnum 1890

There never has been a time in our history when work was so abundant or when wages were as high, whether measured by the currency in which they are paid or by their power to supply the necessaries and comforts of life.

Benjamin Harrison U.S. President.

Annual Message to Congress, December 6, 1892 (Less than a year later, the economy collapsed into the second worst depression in American history.)

The mission of the United States is one of benevolent assimilation.

*William McKinley U.S. President.
Letter, December 21, 1898.*

The 1890 Chicago World Fair was fraught with excitement evoked by the idea of America stepping into a new century, and also heralded a thesis offered by Fredrick Jackson Turner that would impact the United States. Turner saw that Americans were a people onto themselves, not a mere hodgepodge of other nationalities that happened to reside in the same location. Had Turner looked toward Barnum, he would have found the proof of his theory in working reality.

In 1892 Barnum was known as one of the most important towns

along the old St. Paul and Duluth Railroad line. A description of the town released by the Railroad Company read:

Barnum is 113 miles from St. Paul and 28 miles from Duluth and has one of the best sawmill plants along the line of road operated by the Messrs. S.S. Johnson and Co.

The town is pleasantly located in one of the finest agricultural districts along the road. The village has a population of about 700 people and has stores, churches, and saloons. The County Fair Grounds of Carlton County have been located at this point during the past year.

The 1890's were turmoil-filled times in the United States. Labor unrest and violence clouded the country's growth. In Minnesota, dairy farming began playing an ever-important role in the state's economic system. Barnum was a beehive of expansion and growth. Lumbering remained the town's chief industry. In 1890 Samuel S. Johnson's sawmills hit peak production---19,800,000 board feet of lumber. Some of the white pines that donated to that count were eighteen feet in circumference before they were felled.



The S.S. Johnson Sawmill located on the Mose Horn River

The majority of the lumbering took place in the depths of winter. By four a.m. Jacks garbed in their flannel and wool took to the forests to hunt the great White Pine. Cries of "Timber", the rattling of logging chains, the sharp ring of crosscut saws and the crash of monolithic trees reverberated throughout the frozen stands of pine. Oxen teams were used to pull wide sleds with

heavy loads over roads that had deep grooves cut for the sled runners to follow. Eventually, the oxen were replaced by teams of horses, which, while not as strong as the oxen teams, moved the sleds, much more quickly. A teamster would drive a load of thousands of feet of logs pulled by a team of up to six horses. The roads were kept well iced by pulling a water tank over them on nights of below freezing temperatures. The Road Monkey would precede the teamster and scatter hay or sand on the steep slopes in order to avert a serious accident when sleds, men and horses would be trapped under a tonnage of logs. Logs were dumped along the edge of the Moose Horn River above the dam to wait for the spring thaw. The lowest paid man in a lumber camp was known as the Chickadee. His primary task was to shovel the horse manure out of the iced ruts on the logging road.

A Lumberjack's life had improved considerably over the course of two decades. In the early 1870s Lumberjacks were known as Shanty Boys in honor of the disreputable conditions they lived in during the winter. The Shanty Boys generally lived in poorly constructed, cramped log cabins or tar shacks. They slept on a dirt floor, suffered from the cold, as their only source of heat was a smoky open fire that also doubled as the cooking facilities in the center of the room. By the 1890's the camp's men had evolved into Lumberjacks and were better accommodated. Sturdy log bunkhouses sported windows and a box-stove cradled in a container of sand to provide warmth. The bunkhouses' kerosene lamps provided light for heated games of cribbage. Jacks slept in bunks with mattresses stuffed with hay or straw. Most camps had separate cook shacks and dining halls that offered up a huge breakfast and supper daily. The men's noon meal was sent to their worksite. The camp's Cookie or Bull Cook would announce both breakfast and the start of another long workday by sounding a five-foot horn made of tin and the cry "Daylight in the swamp, boys--roll out!".

Probably the most uncomfortable part of a Lumberjack's winter was the lice, better known as "traveling dandruff". Most Jacks believed it was unhealthy to bath before spring thaw and the lice agreed with that opinion. A variety of remedies to rid themselves of the unwanted guests were used, ranging from laying fresh balsam boughs on the bunks to turning one's long-handles inside out.

Once the ice opened on the river, the logs were rolled into the freezing water and the dam was opened. Jacks known as River Pigs

and armed with long handled peaveys took charge of the winter's harvest. Before the drive commenced an advance crew was sent down the river to clear brush and fallen trees along banks which may impede the logs' journey. Wing dams were built by the crew to channel the river's current and ensure enough water would be present in the shallows to keep the logs afloat. When the dam's gates were opened to send the logs tumbling down the sluiceway into the river a careless River Pig was apt to wind up crushed by the onslaught. During the drive itself the men were divided into three crews. The Driving Crew kept the logs moving and worked to steer them out of backwaters. The Jam Crew, probably the most dangerous position requiring agile footwork, stayed close to the head of the drive to keep the lead logs from piling up and to break any log jams that occurred. The Boss Driver was ultimately responsible for all three crews and also expected to be knowledgeable in



Logging operations were big business in the 1890s

the techniques of keeping logs from jamming and how to untangle the mess if a jam did occur. The Sacking Crew were the wettest and dirtiest members of the drive. Slugging through swamps, wading through mud, and scouring the riverbanks this crew followed behind the drive hunting for logs that had gone astray and

shoving them back into the river's concourse. A large log drive could be heard rushing down river a mile away.

It was obvious to anyone visiting the busy town that the lumbering industry was Barnum's mainstay. The large, flat field immediately north of town was covered with row upon row of fine, white pine timber.

William Sauntry, a successful lumberman, moved to Barnum and formed a partnership with Martin Cain. Together, they constructed a sawmill at Sand Lake and employed hundreds of Barnum-area lumberjacks. The partners also established a company store, known as Sauntry and Cain, in the village.



The Sandy Lake Mill the scaler is Aaron Rundgren. He is standing under electric light and has moustache and is holding scaler's rule. The Sawyer is Andrew Johnson, he is fourth from the right and is holding lever.

With business booming, the villagers began taking a stronger interest in the appearance of their town. This spark of civic pride prompted the Village Council to instruct the Street Commissioner, Mike Felgen, to build wooden sidewalks in front of all business establishments. The sidewalks, although a step up from dirt walkways, were uneven, rough and riddled with holes.

They were often termed, "an accident waiting to happen". Other tasks laid upon the Street Commissioner were those that would usually have been preformed by an Overseer of Highways. He was instructed to work on the streets, avenues, sidewalks and any public grounds. In addition, he was charged with the care of street lamps, their lighting every evening and to ensure they continued burning throughout the night. As Street Commissioner, a person was paid \$1.10 a day, each day consisting of no less than 10 hours, and received an additional \$10.00 a month for attending to the street lamps.

The Carlton County Agricultural and Industrial Association, the organization ultimately in control of the County Fair, was incorporated on July 13, 1892. Prior to that date, the organization had



1892 Carlton County Fair
Getting ready for the horse races

sponsored the first Carlton County Fair in a store in Carlton. The location was found to be cramped, dark and generally unsuitable for the Fair, and the Association began searching for a permanent site for the Fairgrounds. Suitable land for a racetrack was unavailable in Carlton. G.L. Goodell, a member of the Fair Association, obtained a 29-acre tract

of land in Barnum from the Northern Pacific Railroad. This, combined with the influence of Goodell and H.H. Hawkins, Vice-President of the Fair Association at that time, convinced the Board to move the Fair to Barnum in 1892.

For many area residents, the County Fair was the highlight of their year. Families tied their prize stock to the rear of a flatbed wagon and loaded it down with feed and necessary personal items. Taking the younger family members with, parents would make the four-day trip into Barnum. Close neighbors not able to attend the festivities and older children remaining behind were given the responsibility of caring for the farm and doing routine, tedious chores. The Fair was the one annual opportunity farmers had to gather and discuss politics, farm practices, crops, weeds, insect control and thousands of other related topics. C.A. Mackey, editor of *The Barnum Advocate*, owned the first horse that won a race at the new Barnum track.

Not only did the Fairgrounds draw huge crowds into Barnum each fall; they also served as a location for the town's social events. Ballgames, village picnics, vocal oratories and 4th of July celebrations were routinely held on the grounds. Every young boy in Barnum must have thrilled to the *Holland and Company Circus*, most likely consisting of a few trained dogs and a small troop of jugglers and trampoline artists, who performed on the grounds in 1892.

In town business was on a rapid upswing. Hitching posts, which

announced the presence of a commercial establishment in town, bordered the village's main street. The businesses also thoughtfully provided a boot scraper by the door to accommodate the ladies and gents cleaning their footwear from mud and other street-found messes. A store owner's life was no less adieu than that of a lumberjack or farmer. No later than six a.m. the entrepreneur would be sweeping out the store, dusting counters, filling kerosene lamps and trimming the wicks. In the cold months the task of stoking the woodstove standing majestically in the center of the store was added. The business owner's day ended anytime after 9 p.m.

In 1891 Charles and Augusta packed their belongings and moved from their homestead on the Military Road into Barnum and opened the Barnum Hotel. During Barnum's heyday sawmill period, many a Jack warmed his feet by the Ziebler fire and was treated to a free cup of dark, steaming coffee. Charles went on to become the new proprietor of the American House, expanded the building and added a saloon. New businesses were taking hold in the village. Charles Goodell constructed a flourmill. Gerlach, who had gleaned retail experience from employment at both Johnson's and the Sauntry and Cain Company, formed the Barnum Trading Company.



The Barnum Hotel 1891
owners: Charles and Augusta Ziebler

It was in 1894 when the United Methodist Church organized in the settlement. At this time John D. Conner, who was having a home built in the village, made several trips to and from Duluth. On these trips he would meet with Dr. Robert Forbes, the presiding Elder of the Duluth Methodist Church. Dr. Forbes agreed to come to Barnum to conduct worship services if a meeting place could be secured. That year the first worship service of Barnum's United Methodist Church was held at the Fairgrounds. J.D. procured an organ, chairs and a choir for the services. Mrs. William

Oliver and her two daughters sang. The church's first collection totaled \$9.00.

At the second worship service, Dr. Forbes proposed building a Methodist Church in the village due to the success of the first meeting. Forbes came to Barnum and secured several subscriptions from the town and \$600 from the Methodist Board of Church Extension toward constructing a church. The St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Company donated lots for the church to be built upon.

G.W. Smith and Peter Havestead began construction of the



Farming was small scale, but farmers were justifiably proud of their cattle. In this photo from 1896 is G.W. Smith and his bull, Lord Salisbury Sr.

church immediately following receipt of the subscriptions. While the church was being erected, parishioners met in the Sauntry and Cain Hall for worship services. Emma Linderman and Peter Havestead organized the first Methodist Sunday School during that time.

On November 25, 1898 the Barnum Methodist Episcopal

Church was incorporated. Articles of Incorporation were drawn up by John D. Connor, H.J. Hugson, August Meyers, W.H. Robinson, Robert Forbes and John Cain as Trustees. Rev. W.H. Robinson became the church's first minister. The pastor resided in Thomson and stayed with the Connor family when in Barnum to conduct services. Robinson did not receive a regular salary, only what the congregation could afford. Because of his family's need for new clothing, he asked for a transfer before the end of the 1890s.

Immediately following the completion of the church, financial difficulties set in. Several of the subscribers had moved prior to paying their pledges. The congregation set to work to remedy the situation. Dr. Forbes contacted a friend in Minneapolis who donated \$25 toward an organ. Mr. Connor offered the remaining \$25. Eventually, the amount owed in unpaid subscriptions was paid and the church could attend to the business of seeing to the villagers' spiritual needs.

Generally, attendance on a Sunday morning totaled eleven parishioners. On a very good day the number jumped to fourteen. Among those who attended routinely were Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Connor, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Foland, Mrs. Fraggert and her daughter Mamie-Lee, Mrs. Meyers, Mrs. John Cain, Peter Havestead, Mr. and Mrs. Shamp and son, Mrs. William Oliver and her two daughters Minnie and Mamie, and Richard Linderman. Mrs. John D. Connor was elected president of the newly formed Ladies' Aide, a position she would hold for fourteen years. One of the Aides' first projects was to raise money to plaster the church.

The first effort to build a Catholic Church in the early '90s was undone by misunderstandings between the builder and the congregation. The builder eventually took over the structure to cover his expenses, forcing the parishioners to continue celebrating Mass in private homes. In 1895 William Oliver donated six lots on top of a hill west of Barnum overlooking Bear Lake. Father Girous had a small church constructed on that site.

The Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on December 8, 1889. Ernest Gross, Christ Gerlach, Christ Rohlf, Henry Biel, Charles Zeilber, John Frohmader, Edmund Gross and John Gross signed the church's first constitution.

Earlier, in 1893, the first Lutheran Church building had been erected. According to the minutes of the secretary, the building cost \$600 of which the pastor was to provide \$400 and the members \$200. A collection was taken up at the lumber camps in the Barnum area and a dance held at the Star Hall to raise the money. During the church's first years all services were held in the German language. Eventually, English services were alternated with the German.

Although progress was seen in the village, the residents' way of life remained difficult. Outlying settlers, following narrow footpaths, continued to carry their produce into town in exchange for supplies. Husbands, wives and children all labored diligently on a daily basis in the fields, barns and homes. Wash day in and of itself was a trying task as one woman noted:

To Wash Clothes:

Build a fire in the back yard to heat kettle of rainwater.

Set tubs so smoke won't blow in your eyes.

Shave one whole cake of soap into boiling water.

Sort things. Make 3 piles--

*1 white, 1 colored,
1 work britches and rags.
Stir flour into cold water until smooth
then thin down with boiling water.
Rub dirty spots on board, scrub hard.
Then boil.
Rub colored but don't boil, just rinse and starch.
Take white things from kettle with a broom handle,
then rinse, boil and starch. Spread towels on grass.
Hang old rags on fence.
Pour rinse water in flowerbed.
Scrub porch with hot, soapy water.
Turn tubs upside down.
Go put on a clean dress.
Smooth your hair with side combs.
Brew a cup of tea.
Sit and rest and rock a spell and count your blessings.*

Losing establishments though fire had taken its toll on the village. Haphazard bucket brigades weren't effective in handling the crisis fire created. On April 4, 1891, the Council ordered a small hand fire engine, 500 feet of hose and 24 rubber pails to be purchased. Nearly two years from that date, April 28, 1894, the Barnum Fire Department was organized. C.P. Peterson was elected president, John Devlin, Vice-President. The Council also issued ordinances to provide for the prevention of fire. Chimneys were to be "Built of brick, stone or other earthen material, to be plastered up inside with good mortar, to have a hole or opening for a stovepipe lined with sheet iron or earthen thimble." There were strict regulations for disposal of ashes, which could not be deposited, within 50 feet of any building. No combustible material could be within 15 feet of any stove. Citizens could not scatter flammable or combustible material in streets or alleys. The Village Marshal was given the added responsibility of serving as Fire Marshal.

By the early 1890s organizations were beginning to emerge in the village. On July 18, 1892, the Carlton County Industrial and Agriculture Association was established in Barnum, following a trend of farmers across the United States. G.L. Goodell was elected president. In December of that year the Barnum Lodge No. 204

Independent Order of the O.D.D. Fellows was organized and a charter granted.

Due in part to the rigid conservatism of President Cleveland, the bankruptcy of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad and the failure of the National Cordage Company, another depression hit the United States in 1893 and lasted until 1897. The Stock Market collapsed. Within six months 8,000 businesses failed, 150 railroads went into receivership and 400 banks suspended operations. By the end of 1893 491 banks and 15,000 other businesses had failed. . At that time many people reached the conclusion that wages, prices and living standards had struck a level from which there would be no upward trend. "Tramps" accumulated in such numbers that armies of them were moving across the country. "Coxey's Army" and Kelly's Army", groups of these unemployed wanderers, frequented the Barnum area. In 1894 Coxey's Army would organize into a literal army of unemployed who descended upon Washington D.C. amass as a protest to relieve the unemployment crisis.

The national economic depression had a less immediate impact on Barnum than did its predecessors in the 1870s and '80s. The St. Paul and Duluth Railroad Company remained free of receivership and appeared to be on the rise. The local businesses in the village remained viable. The only major change was not necessarily a negative one. On May 3rd of 1893 the railroad company was granted permission to move the tracks and depot from the west side of Front Street, thus eliminating the track's dangerous curve. Unfortunately, the Panic that began in 1893 paved the way for the alarming Pullman Strike of 1894. George Pullman had made a fortune in the manufacture of his luxury sleeping cars. The unstable economy of 1893 caused a sharp drop in orders for the Pullman cars and the company laid off a third of the work force and cut wages for the remaining employees by up to 30%. The Pullman Strike resulted. While the "battle zone" was based in Chicago, stoppage of the rail system paralyzed the nation. As during the Railroad Strike two decades before, Barnum was isolated from the rest of the state for the duration of the strike.

In 1893 C.A. Mackey opted to add to the village's wealth of knowledge and began publication of Barnum's first newspaper, *The Barnum Advocate*. If anyone outside of Barnum ever doubted that the village was soundly established, the opening of the newspaper put those doubts to rest. It was also obvious that Mr. Mackey was

a staunch defender of Barnum and its school system. An Eastern journalist was quoted in the *Advocate*:

The unkindly spirit of the teacher is strikingly apparent; the pupils being completely subjugated to her will, are silent and motionless, the spiritual atmosphere of the classroom is damp and chilly.

To which Editor Mackey replied "Bunk. Obviously this man has never ventured into Barnum's school." Mackey did, however, agree with William Bagley's opinion on education originally printed in the book *Classroom Management* and reprinted in part in the *Advocate*. Bagley applauded the modern educational system promoting its worth by saying "..... the educative forces that are slowly transforming the child from a little savage into a creature of law and order and fit for the life of civilized society".

As the village's population continued to increase, so did the student enrollment. By the mid-1890s it was obvious to Barnum's citizens that the White School had become inadequate to house the growing number of students. The State Board of Health agreed with this conclusion and informed the Village Council that either the school must be enlarged or a new facility built. The Red School, an impressive two-story building, was erected next to the existing White School. It boasted large, well-lighted rooms and an impressive winding stairway, which provided a thrilling ride down its banisters if no school official was nearby to nix the students' fun. Both facilities were heated by wood and from fall until early



spring great piles of cordwood could be seen stacked between the two buildings.

Grades 1 and 2 continued on in the White School while upper grades moved to the new building. On the bottom

level of the Red School a female teacher taught grades 3 through 5; grades 6 through 8 were upstairs under the instruction of a male teacher who also served as principal. Aside from the three "R's", students studied German, Ancient



Red School house
White School house in background

History, Language, Physiology, Algebra and some Latin. Both stories held small libraries, which proudly displayed such educational objects as a skull and full human skeleton.

In June 1897, proud relatives, friends and interested spectators crowded into the Red School to observe the 1st Annual Barnum Schools' Commencement Exercises for five students. The program read:

PROGRAMME

Salutatory---Alm A. Hough "Summer Fancies"

Essay--Jessie M. McVoy "Education"

Song--Joseph G. Skelton "Hoe Your Own Row"

Recitation--Henry E. Skelton "Massachusetts and S. Carolina"

Valedictory--Han H. Oldenburh "How To Win Success In Life"

Parting Song--Class

Class Motto SCIENTIA ET PATENTIA

1894 heralded more changes in the small village. The old jail was termed no longer fit for occupancy, and on May 18th the Village Council awarded a contract to R. Chilton to construct a new building. Chilton's bid was \$97.32. In September kerosene streetlights were installed. On November 27th Dr. T.S. Carpenter was appointed Health Officer for the village, he was replaced September 7, 1895, by Dr. Iena Legg. In 1899 Dr. Tictin, who oper-

ated the first drug store in town, assumed the position of Health Officer. In 1895 E.G. Shamp assumed duties of Railroad Agent.

In 1895 the Depression hit home when Johnson closed his mills and established his business in what he saw as a more prosperous Cloquet. Barnum was spared rampant unemployment thanks to the continuing operations of Sauntry and Cain cushioning any negative effects on the community's economy that Johnson's move may have wrought.

The ability to communicate with the outside world took a step beyond the Postal Service in 1896 when the Village Council granted the American Telephone and Telegraphy Company permission to "Erect, operate and maintain lines upon, along and under highways of Barnum." In consideration of these rights the company was to "Provide free of cost to the Village one ten-pin cross arm attached to the top of all poles for police and fire alarm systems."

The installation of the telephone system did not always go smoothly. It was reported in *The Advocate*:

Last Sunday evening the crew that are building the new telephone building got into a scrap with their night watchman. He called Marshal Felgen who proceeded to arrest one of the gang. While he had his man and was about to take him to the Bastille, someone threw a stone, striking the Marshal on the head. Then war was declared and two men were forthwith landed in jail. The next morning J.S. Goodell went to Moose Lake and arrested the fellow who threw the stone. He was fined \$40 and costs and the other two \$10 and \$5 and costs. The town may be small, but it takes a big gang to run it and the fellow who thinks he can run over its citizens will never find a better place to have the conceit taken out of him.

In 1899 Barnum had telephone service and Anna Felgen became one of the first telephone operators at "Central". Sauntry and Cain and the Goodell Company were the first establishments to install telephone systems. This new form of communication began transforming village life. News, gossip, party invitations and secrets became everyone's business with the installation of the "modern" party line. A majority of the first telephones were rude, home-made instruments.

The telephone was not the only luxury item that was making its way into Barnumites' lifestyles. Nearly every family proudly displayed a stereoscope and its accompanying, incredible pictures in

a prominent place on the parlor table. With this extraordinary machine one could closely view the panoramic Grand Canyon or inspect the busy streets of New York. If a family were wealthy, or lucky, enough they would own an Edison phonograph. The manufacturers claimed the machine to "provide an evening of entertainment." The decorative horn and winding crank kept children busy for hours. Housewives found the five-cent tins of Old Dutch Cleanser and Gold Dust Washing Powder miracles for relieving the drudgery of housework. Young boys scrimped and saved to purchase a Hehner H. Harmonica for eighty-eight cents, guaranteed to impress their "best gal".

Novels such as *The Laughing Cavalier*, *The Boy Scouts* and *The Army Airship* and *Lord Loveland Discovers America* entertained both children and adults. The number of American magazines available through the mail had increased tremendously by the 1890's. Periodicals such

as *The Scientific American*, *Popular Science Monthly*, *The National Geographic Magazine* and *Ladies' World* could be found in villager's mailboxes. Young boys set their life's goal as the ownership of the "New Safety Bicycle", however, the outlandish price of \$100 made it forever out of reach.

The villagers generally relied on one another's talents for entertainment. A few of the more gifted residents, or those willing to invest between \$3.70 to \$7.90 for an instrument, would entertain at gatherings. These makeshift orchestras were usually composed of the period's favored instruments--banjos, guitars, mandolins, fiddles and blow accordions.

An increase in heavy traffic in the business district prompted the Village Council to enforce traffic regulations. The group mandated it, "Unlawful to ride or drive any horse, team or other animal or animals or any vehicle in or about the streets, avenues or alleys faster than 8 M.P.H." There was to be no driving on the sidewalks and no coasting on sleds on sidewalks. The fine for disrespect of this law was no less than \$1.00 and no more than \$100. The Council also fixed guidelines for choosing a Village Marshal and removing him at will. The job entailed "serving all village notices, arrest all offenders of laws, serve all warrants" and in general maintaining the peace and order of the village. For this he received \$30 a month and functioned under the knowledge that he could be instantly removed from office for any neglect of duty or

moral infraction.

A sullen, gray dawn on July 2, 1897 saw disaster sweep through the progressive village. A storm raged from July 2nd through July 3rd, depositing enough rain to flood the tributary to the Moose Horn River. The dam burst, flooding the town and countryside. The Cub and Hanging Horn Bridges were destroyed. The flood washed out railroad track up to a few miles north of Barnum. At one point the washout was so deep that ties and rails were left hanging with no support under them. Homes were flooded forcing neighbors to crowd together in those dwellings on higher ground. Roads washed out creating the necessity of rowboat transportation within the town.

When the storm finally abated and flood waters reluctantly receded the town's people set to work rebuilding bridges and establishments, cleaning debris from homes, repairing washed out roads. The residents of Barnum were determined that the village would survive.

In April of 1898 the community received news that the United States was engaged in war with Spain. Declared in April, over in August, it was thought by some to be a "splendid little war". More than 1 million men volunteered for duty. Fewer than 500 were killed or wounded in combat, an amazingly low number considering that the recruits made do with archaic Civil War rifles and were outfitted in heavy flannel uniforms which were unfit attire for Cuba. The most visible heroes of the War were Teddy Roosevelt and his Roughriders while equally as brave troops such as the 9th and 10th Negro Cavalries faded into the background. That winter the common snowball fights held between older and younger Barnum students during recess became known as "Spanish Americans" and frequently turned into more all-out wars than had the original engagement.

Following the war Theodore Roosevelt encouraged Americans to participate in the "strenuous life" and participate in more "sporting activities" in order to avoid a nation of "soft spirits". Perhaps citizens of the metro areas were in need of vigorous exercise, but Roosevelt would have been pleased with the heartiness of Barnum's residents. Area residents did, however, pursue sporting activities in what little leisure time they had. Swimming had always been a favorite with Barnumites. When the bicycles and roller skates came into vogue village youth were eager become

owners of either bikes or skate, or preferably both. Lawn tennis and baseball in the summer and ice-skating and hockey in the winter were enjoyed by all the villagers.

In 1893 *The Gazette*, a rival paper to *The Advocate*, was established. Subscription for one year was \$1.00. Goodell and Company was flourishing. On a good sale a consumer could purchase a 16-ounce loaf of white bread for a nickel or a 14-inch General Purpose Plow, delivered, for \$10.

During that year two of the well-established stores were destroyed by fire. On July 4th Sauntry and Cain's general store burned. In 1898 they rebuilt and relocated their business. Shortly after, Charles Peterson's store was consumed in flames. In late 1898 Herman Gerlach and Ray Barstow constructed the Trading Company on the old Sauntry and Cain site. The building housed a general store, town hall and post office.



The Peterson Grocery Store was constructed in 1890 and burned in 1893. The Bank, was erected on the site in 1903 and the Post Office moved to the location on the left.

On November 25, 1897 the Clifton House was ready for business and on December 9th of that year the Ziebler Hotel was painted, renovated and reported to be "one of the best in the country". Goodell and Company advertised, "For fine young pigs go to Goodell and Co, \$2.00 each."

The Barnum Creamery had been founded in 1895 to help local

dairymen receive "decent prices" for their milk. In 1898 Bomier served as president, J.D. Barstow as secretary, W.M. Cain as treasurer. The creamery had begun to flounder and in 1899 there was a change in the Board. William Cain became the Creamery's president and General Manager. A. Anderson became the vice-president, C.L. Goodell the secretary and J.D. Connor the treasurer. Despite everyone's efforts to keep the establishment afloat it survived only until the end of the century. An 1899 statement for work done by Peter Boos for the creamery read:

Wm. M. Cain, Pres't and Gen' Manager Directors:

A. Anderson, Vice President Wm. M. Cain, A. Anderson, Mitchell Bomier

C.L. Goodell, Secretary J..D. Connor, James McHarg J.D. Connor, Treasurer

OFFICE OF Barnum Creamery Company

Barnum, Minn., Oct. 16, 1899

Peter Boos, Esq.

Hauling 7 Cord Wood @ 50 3.50

Work on Ditch .50

No Debts 4.00

Paid Oct. 16 '99

During the late 1800's J.D. Connor opened a Land Company, dealing in "Wild lands and improved farms." Mr. Connor kept a diary for a short time and noted:

January 7, 1897--Today has been a foggy, drizzly, rainy day. The snow is about two feet deep on the level. I made two trips to Barnum today with a one-horse sleigh. Mrs. Parks from Barnum and family with Miss Green spent the evening with us. The wind has been in a southwesterly direction all day. The telegraph announces a fall of 20 degrees inside of twelve hours.

January 14, 1897--Went to town in the morning. Met Mr. Robe from Iowa and showed him the country around here in the interest of the St. Paul and Duluth R.R. and in the evening went to town. It was damp and chilly.

June 31, 1897--Monday we went to town to Decoration Day Services being held. It was quite cool and the wind blew the sunshine away.

July 8th, 1897--Another very hot day. Rained a little--keeps

raining right along. People cannot hay or cultivate and crops are getting very weedy. Rains are washing out the ground very badly in almost all places.

December 19th, 1897--Was sunshiny and not so cold. 6 degrees below today with a little wind. Peterson and Co. Store burned this a.m.

The era ended with dramatic campaigning by Democrats, Republicans and Populists. William McKinley was elected President. Barnum was taking root. The village had survived three economic depressions. It had grown in population, organizations, school enrollment and industry.

Then, when Sauntry and Cain ceased operations, it looked as though the town would collapse, but Barnum villagers held a bright outlook for the future. *The Barnum Gazette* reported:

Old Barnum is a thing of the past and the new Barnum is full of life and energy and is fast developing into the prettiest and busiest city in this section of the state.