

Aug 18, 1997
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Spring Valley, Ca. 91977

Merrill Historical Society Inc.
P.O. Box 64
Merrill, Wi. 54452

To The Merrill Historical Society Staff:

Hello Again. Once more I have found items which I hope will prove to be of use and some value to the Society.

While going through some old photos, taken during past visits to Merrill, I came across an old print of the Merrill Woolen Mills, taken in august of 1970. Granted, it is not a very good exposure, but I thought you might still like a copy, since you are currently engaged in a review of Merrill's "Mercantile Past", and this particular structure no longer exists.

It is of particular interest ~~at~~^{to} me, since the Emerich Family played such a prominent role in that enterprise. First my Grandfather Joseph and later my uncles and Father.

I particularly recall being allowed, as a child, "Free Rein" to wander about all three floors of the mill during operation. It was a great adventure, always, watching the operating machines and in time I knew the names of most of them and what their purpose was.

Members of the crew came to recognize me during my visits and I in turn came to recognize many of them by name. A few I still recall

including the late "Ginny" Gunnell (Foreman) the late Walter Gronlund (Carding Machines) John Bartosh (Looms). Also Art Engstrom and Oscar Cloustad. For the latter two I cannot come up with a specific job, but most of the crew handled virtually all the machines including the two spinning machines (one frame and one mule), up on the second floor.

My late uncle Lyndon managed the mill for many years until his retirement and the mill was sold in 1959 to the Rock River Woolen mills.

My Father, Carlos, assisted in many capacities until he moved the family to Wausau in 1951 and established the Wausau Woolwn Co. This firm was still operating during my last visit to Wisconsin in 1994, although it has had several owners since 1957 when we sold the Business and left the State for San Diego, California.

The second photo, that of the old Milwaukee Road Railroad Station, I'm sure you must have, but I've enclosed my particular print anyway. It also was taken during august of 1970 , apparently after the building was painted and converted into some kind of recreation center, and even later, I heard into a craft shop or something similar before it was eventually razed.

I also have sent several more cassette tapes in addition to those

already presented during my last visit to Merrill. I found one additional program of H.V. Kaltenborn to those already in your possession. In this Particular cassette, three of the four news commentaries, dated august 10, 1945, discuss the closing events of World War II. AND should contribute to the W.W.II material you assembled for an exhibit one summer a few years back.

The additional tapes contain recordings of FDR's "Day of Infamy" speech, Congressional deliberations regarding a Declaration of War, the short wave broadcast of the Japanese Surrender and General MacArthur's speech aboard the USS Missouri and the Post War MacArthur speech and miscellaneous commentaries and radio exerpts. All these should serve to enhance your W.W. II "Archives".

Also enclosed is a Mutual Radio Network Recreation of top 1937 News stories.

Again, I sincerely hope some of these items will prove of some use and value to your organization.

I would also be at your service regarding taped material, as I have been an avid collector of old radio shows of all types and

varieties for close to thirty years.

If there is something, let me know. We wish we could have been there for the "Jenny fest" this year.

We will surely come and visit the Museum during our next visit to Merrill.

Best Wishes for continued success in your Historical endeavors.

Sincerely

Terry + Norma Emerich

Terry & Norma Emerich