

Rothwell Lumber Celebrated 50th Anniversary, 1952

(Jan. 31, 1952)

50 years of progress will be celebrated this coming Saturday, Feb. 2, by the J. M. Rothwell Lumber Co. on South Spring St., with Open House. The public is invited to join with this widely known firm in observing its half century of service to this area.

Fifty Years Ago

The history of the successful growth of the Rothwell Lumber Co., dates back to the day of Feb. 2, 1902, when John M. Rothwell, then associated with the Scroggin & Sons Bank, now Farmers Bank, purchased the comparatively small lumber business from W. D. Mitchell. The original office consisted of a 12x34 building which was used until the completion of the new office and sales room a few months ago.

In 1922 all sheds with the exception of the original office and main building, were torn down. The main building and office were remodelled at that time. Seven years later in 1929, a partnership was formed between Mr. Rothwell and his son, Keith, the business then becoming known as the J. M. Rothwell Lumber Co. Mr. Rothwell retired from active management of the business in 1935, but was compelled to again take charge of the company when Keith was called into service in 1941 when World War II broke out. This was to be particularly trying period for Mr. Rothwell for coupled with the added duties of management was the scarcity of materials, and the most tragic of all, was the disastrous fire on Aug. 19, 1945, which wiped-out all buildings except the office which stood in front of the main building.

J. M. Rothwell retired again for the last time in 1945 following his son Keith's return from service. Rebuilding on an even bigger scale was started at once on Keith's return, but progress was slow due to the scarcity of materials. However, time remedied all these difficulties and today one of the finest lumber plants to be found anywhere in the state stands as a monument to its founder, J. M. Rothwell, who passed away Aug. 5, 1949.

New Building Ultra-Modern

The new building was constructed of glazed tile and the office measures 36x70. Its concrete floor is covered with asphalt tile, and random width knotty pine was used on walls. Acoustical tile on the ceiling coupled with fluorescent lighting, makes it a quiet, well-lighted salesroom. The gas-fired hot water heating system provides an even heat for the building. Merchandise displays add to the attractiveness of the large room, with both island and counter displays. A complete kitchen cabinet unit is arranged on the north side of the room to give the housewife an opportunity to better visualize it in her kitchen. An inter-communication system, throughout the entire yard is a great time-saver.

The housing facilities cover 5200 square feet of covered drive ways, with 30,000 square feet for storage and two acres of outside storage space. A large warehouse on the north of the main building is used for the heavy materials, including plaster, cement, nails, etc.

Keith Rothwell, owner and manager, has as his assistant manager, Otto Ey, and Miss Anna Roth, bookkeeper. Four trucks and a tractor are operated by four yard men — "Nick" Niekrenz, Charles Schultz, Vernon Voelker, and "Mike" Koehler.

The first postmaster of this place was Jabez Capps, and the second was Ezekiel Bowman. Dr. John Clark held the appointment from 1851 to 1857, in December of which year S. Linn Beidler was appointed. This gentleman held the office continuously until June, 1882, except the last two years of Johnson's administration, when the appointment was held by T. H. O. Mattfeldt. In June, 1882, John W. Seyfer succeeded Mr. Beidler.

Old Ice House Familiar Sight

After Mt. Pulaski was founded in 1836, and people began to locate here, they needed ice to take care of their foods in the summertime. This was done by building ice houses, and hauling the ice in horse-drawn wagons from Salt Creek, three miles north of town. This practice was also used in the country areas.

As Mount Pulaski began to grow, and new business houses were constructed, the need for a big supply of ice became necessary. The meat markets had their own ice houses. The grocery stores and other businesses, as well as homes, depended on an ice dealer, who built a large ice house, and deliveries were made about the city. All the ice was cut on Salt Creek and brought to town in horse-drawn wagons. The "ice harvest" was a busy time each winter, and many men found employment while it lasted.

The first break in the old method of getting ice to the consumer was when ice was made in plants in the cities by a new process. This method is now almost a thing of the past since nearly every one has a deep-freeze outfit with ample ice cube capacity.

Visitors to Mount Pulaski will find the city filled with gracious hosts and hostesses. Our folks have always had a fine reputation for friendliness and this occasion will fully prove it.

GEORGE H. HUBBARD PROMINENT EARLY GRAIN BUYER

Prominent among the energetic, enterprising and successful business men of Mount Pulaski, was the late George H. Hubbard, secretary and treasurer of the Mount Pulaski Grain Company.

He was born Jan. 23, 1865 on a farm in Prairie Creek township, Logan county, and was the son of Nicholas and Mary (Smith) Hubbard, both natives of Prussia, Germany, the former born in 1825 and the latter in 1830. In their family were nine children, namely: Nicholas, Mary, Theresa, Frederick, Anna, Emery, Jacob, Louis, and George.

George remained on the old homestead and had charge of the farm after his father's death until February 1893, when he moved to Lincoln and embarked in the grain business, as a member of the firm of Hubbard Brothers & Company, but in March 1896, became connected with the Mt. Pulaski Grain Company and lived in Mount Pulaski.

This company was organized March 14, 1889. The officers were president, John Lincoln; vice-president, Andrew Eisiminger; secretary and treasurer, George Hubbard.

In 1893, Mr. Hubbard was united in marriage with Miss Mary A. O'Connor, of Logan county, a daughter of John O'Connor, and they were the parents of five children: Anna, Nicholas, John, Paul, and Harold.

AUDIENCE OF 1,000 ENJOYED DR. JOHN HOLLAND (March 9, 1950)

The Men's Club of the Christian churches of the county, made history here Tuesday night, when

they brought Dr. John Holland of radio fame to the community, to address a public meeting at the high school, which was attended by nearly 1,000 interested listeners.

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LINCOLN, ILL.

72 Years of Service To The Farmer

AS our City of Mount Pulaski celebrates its Sil-Tennial, all eyes are turned backward for a few days to remember the many achievements of the past that have helped to make the city grow to the fine place it is today. In this reminiscent mood, we remember with pride the 72 years our company has served the farmers of this area.

IT was back on March 14, 1889 that we organized to buy the grain produced by the fertile land that surrounds Mount Pulaski. Since that time there have been good years when we shared the growth and prosperity with the farmers, and lean years when we were both able to struggle through the adversities of weather and finance.

FOR the most part, it has been a record of success, however, and today we operate three elevators—in Mount Pulaski, Narita and Cornland.

THE history of this company is also that of the Hubbard family in Mount Pulaski. George Hubbard was secretary and treasurer of the Mount Pulaski Grain Company when it was first organized, and served in that capacity for many years, later turning his duties over to his son Nicholas, who now operates the business.

WE feel we have been very fortunate to merit the confidence and friendships that have enabled our business to grow and prosper as it has, and express a heartfelt Thank You to all those we have been able to serve.

WE also feel very proud of Mount Pulaski and her accomplishments as a city, and extend Sincere Greetings and Best Wishes to every resident of the area on the Celebration of the 125th Anniversary of her founding.



GEORGE H. HUBBARD

MOUNT PULASKI GRAIN CO.