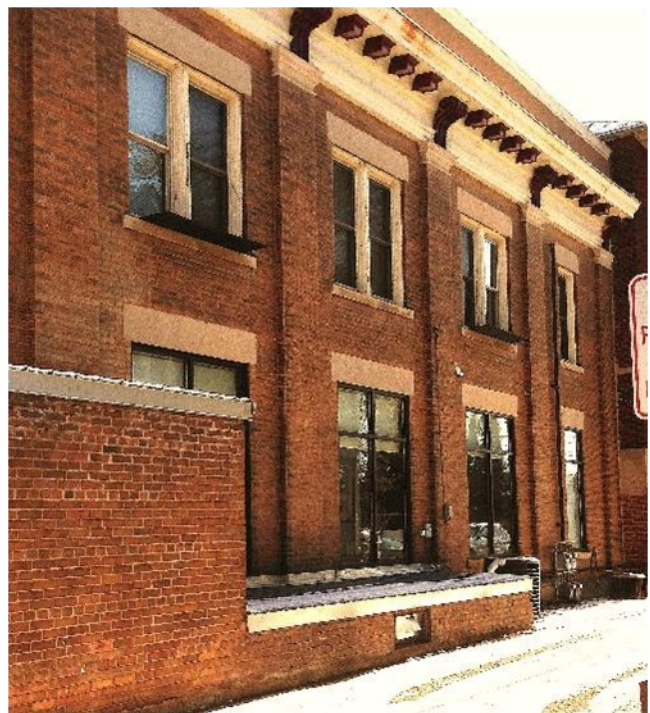


108 W 4th Street
Architectural Style: Neoclassical
The Connor Building

Built in 1903, designed by architect J.H. Jeffers, this building is the only surviving building associated with the city's early lumbering industry. Originally facing Main on the corner of 4th, it was moved in 1951. The symmetrical brick main facade is topped with a cornice; the frieze below has 4 large brackets indicating structural load; & engaged pilasters below. The west façade repeats the same pattern, with bays between pilasters wider. The building part above the cornice is original; it was designed to accommodate 6 stories in the future. The date "1903" is engraved on the base of 1 pilaster facing 4th & 1 now within the added basement entry. The original main facade lower windows were 3 over 3 sash with a fixed transom above, & the entries were not recessed but had transoms above.



Front view of building.



Right side of building showing basement entrance.

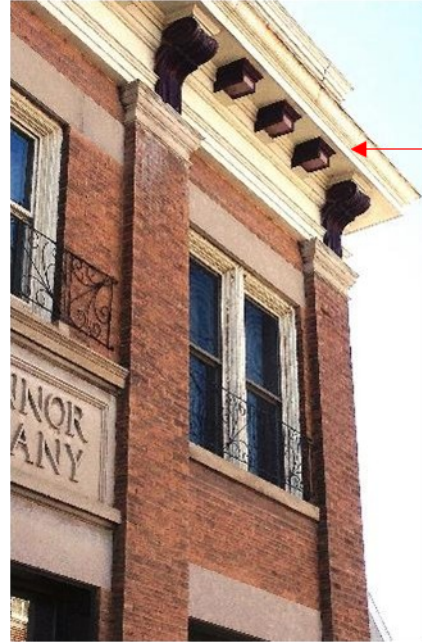


Cornice
Frieze
w/brackets

Pilaster capital

Engaged
pilaster

Pilaster base



3 non
structural
load
bearing
brackets



4 non
structural
load
bearing
brackets

Original window infilled
when basement stair
addition added after
building was moved to
current location.



“1903”

This original part of building above the cornice is there because the building was designed for 6 stories in the future; it was built with that structural load in mind.



Now a Stock Company.

The firm of R. Connor & Co., at Auburndale has been succeeded by the R. Connor Company. The new firm is a stock organization with R. Connor, president, W. D. Connor, vice-president and treasurer, and T. A. Tack Secretary.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 07 Aug 1890, Thu • Page 1

The R. Connor Company have commenced running their mill at Auburndale. They will cut out about 4,000,000 feet of lumber this season.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 21 Jan 1892, Thu • Page 5

The store and saw-mill of the R. Connor company at Stratford, are rapidly nearing completion. Logs are coming in very rapidly and a large stock is already on the grounds.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 11 Feb 1892, Thu • Page 4

The R. Connor Company shut down their saw mill at Stratford on Friday last, having cut out their supply of logs. It will be about six weeks before it will be started up again. The Rausch mill has also closed down.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 13 Oct 1892, Thu • Page 4

Logging operations in the woods will commence somewhat earlier this year than usual. The R. Connor Company will commence putting on crews about the first part of next month.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 20 Sep 1894, Thu • Page 5

LOGGING ON THE LAKE SHORE.

About 25,000,000 Feet will be Gotten Out for the Mills on that Line.

Logging operations along the line of the Lake Shore road between this city and Wausau will be quite extensive this winter. Camps are being already put in and large crews will be kept at work all winter. The forests will soon ring with strokes of the ax in the hands of the hardy woodsman. The R. Connor Company, of Stratford, have put in three camps, two in the town of Cleveland and one in the town of McMillan, and will get out about 8,000,000 feet of pine and hardwood. Rusch Bros., who have a mill just this side of Stratford, will log about 1,500,000 feet, as will also the North Milwaukee Lumber Co., this side of the mill of Rusch Bros. At Fenwood, Curtiss Bros., of Wausau, will bank about 8,000,000 feet and at Edgar the Quaw-Gumaer Co. intend banking 5,000,000. Besides this there will be several million feet brought in to the mills along this line by farmers, making in all about 25,000,000 of logs that will be gotten out this winter.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 17 Nov 1892, Thu • Page 1

A sale of hardwood timber which attracted many buyers, was held at Wausau last week, the property being land in the town of Emmet, Marathon county, known as the August Daul land. The tract is one upon which hardwood dealers have long gazed with a longing eye, being considered one of the finest pieces of hardwood timber on the market. The tract was sold at auction in parcel lots, and some spirited bidding was indulged in. All in all, 1,200 acres was disposed of, bringing a total of nearly \$7,000. Among the purchasers of parcels was the R. Connor company, who secured several valuable lots, as follows: SE SE section 7 and S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW Sec. 8-27-5, 120 acres, \$725; N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8-27-5, 80 acres, \$1,040; NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8-27-5, 120 acres, \$610; N $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 8-27-5, 80 acres, \$725.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 05 Nov 1896, Thu • Page 5

HON. ROBT. CONNOR DEAD.

SUMMONED SUNDAY MORNING.

While on a Short Visit to His Children at Auburndale the Death Messenger comes unexpectedly, —The Pioneer of the Northern Wisconsin Wilderness and Father of Auburndale.

CONNOR— Hon. Robert Connor, of apoplexy, at Auburndale, Sunday morning, January 5, aged 58 years.

As the end of the present century approaches, the ranks of the old pioneers of this northern country are being thinned rapidly by the unrelenting hand of death. In a short time their faces will be but memories, enshrined in the hearts of the second generation, whose pathways in life are smooth, and whose eyes now rest upon broad acres and fertile plains, instead of an unbroken wilderness, tenanted by Indians and wild animals.

A splendid example of the hardy woodman of an early day has just pass'd over. The Hon. Robert Connor was born at Houston, Renfrewshire, Scotland, November 25, 1838. He received his education in the common schools of his native country, and when sixteen years of age he emigrated to Canada. In 1873 Mr. Connor, with his brothers, John and James, came to Wisconsin and located where the village of Auburndale now stands. At that time the Wisconsin Central railroad had just been completed as far as Colby, but only construction trains were being run. The three brothers purchased land and commenced to carve out a home. The following year the subject of this sketch opened a general store, and with his brothers bought and sold lands, timber, etc., in vast quantities. The town of Auburndale as organized by the trio of brothers then included Marshfield and Milladore. Mr. R. Connor served respectively as clerk and treasurer of the town for a number of years. During this time the saw mill of Hoskins, Rowe & Co. started up in the village. O. W. Sanders was the "company," and in 1878 Mr. Connor bought the Sander's interest in the mill. Two years afterward, he and J. D. Witter of Grand Rapids, acquired the entire property. The partnership of Connor & Witter existed for three years and then Witter sold out to Mr. Connor. The firm of R. Connor & Co. was then organized, with R. Connor, president; W. D. Connor, vice president and treasurer. Mr. Connor retired from active business about six years ago, and his son, Mr. W. D. Connor, assumed control.

In his day, Mr. Connor stood high in the councils of the republican party, and was elected a member of assembly from Wood county in 1888. He was the father of the town in which he lived, the pioneer in a wilderness which was almost unbroken from Stevens Point for a long ways to the northwest. Marshfield was then known as Thirty-two, meaning that it was thirty-two miles from Stevens Point. Louis Rivers was the only resident and he kept the railroad station and a sort of hotel where lumbering parties could stop for the night and where the Indians could dispose of their furs and other surplus game, and have their wants, and other necessities of life, supplied. Mr. Connor found and purchased a tract of land and hardwood timber near the railroad a few miles east of Thirty-two, and at once set to work to build a store and a settlement about it. He brought his brothers and a few others from Canada and commenced business in a methodical way. As soon as he could furnish men with employment he attracted them to Auburndale, as he called his settlement, and gave the preference to men with families. There were no settlers or clearings for miles around, and the only outlet was the new railroad. Soon after the store was erected, a school district was formed and a school house, a rude affair made of logs, was put up and a teacher engaged to instruct the few children. That was the beginning of Auburndale and the place has prospered since that time. Connor paid cash for his land and had

methodical way. As soon as he could furnish men with employment he attracted them to Auburndale, as he called his settlement, and gave the preference to men with families. There were no settlers or clearings for miles around, and the only outlet was the new railroad. Soon after the store was erected, a school district was formed and a school house, a rude affair made of logs, was put up and a teacher engaged to instruct the few children. That was the beginning of Auburndale and the place has prospered since that time. Connor paid cash for his land and had money enough to go on and carry out his modest plans.

In 1878 Mrs. Connor died, leaving her husband and seven children, W. D., Robert, Ann, Mary, Elizabeth, Agnes and Jessie C., to mourn her death. In 1879 Mr. Connor married again, choosing as his wife Miss Rebecca W. Waite of Auburndale, who with four children survives him. About five years ago he moved to Indianapolis, Ind., where he has since resided. He was visiting his children when the final summons came.

He was in his usual health and spirits when he retired Saturday night, but about 12 o'clock, his daughter, Mrs. Hills, heard him call out and then turn on the heat in his room. She at once went to his room and found him complaining of a severe headache. In a few moments he became unconscious. A physician was at once sent for and a message dispatched to the son, W. D. Connor, in this city. Before their arrival the old gentleman had rallied from the first attack, but the second fatal shock followed soon after, from which he never recovered consciousness.

The funeral was held in the Presbyterian church at Auburndale yesterday forenoon. Rev. Brickles, of that village, assisted by Rev. Patch, of Stevens Point, conducted the services. The body was borne to the grave by Messrs. J. C. Keiffer, Samuel Smith, Geo. O'Brien, William Drolliger and T. A. Tack, all old employees of Mr. Connor.

Among those in attendance were the widow and children from Indianapolis; Robt. Gibson, a nephew, Port Huron, Mich.; John Connor, a brother, Ft. Scott, Kas.; and D. A. McLeish, a brother-in-law, Brandon, Ia.

(from The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 09 Jan 1896,
Thu • Page 1)

The R. Connor company has had sad ravages made among its horses at Auburndale through the effect of glanders. Last week the state veterinarian ordered that eight horses be killed, and the week before the company had to kill a valuable stallion. The loss is several thousand dollars and it may be that more of the horses will have to be killed as a number of the horses suspected of being affected are still quarantined. The state makes an allowance for the horses killed but it is only a mere nominal figure, the highest appraisal possible being about \$33 per head. The stallion which had to be killed a short time ago was valued at no less than \$700 and the other horses at \$125 to \$150 each.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 30 Jun 1898, Thu • Page 4

Northwestern Hardwood King.

In the last issue of the American Lumberman, the leading lumber journal of this country, that paper refers to Mr. W. D. Connor as the Northern Hardwood King and has the following to say of the R. Connor Company.

"The R. Connor Company, of Marshfield, Wis., is doing an extensive business in hardwood lumber this year. W. D. Connor, the energetic head of this concern, states that at the company's two mills, at Stratford and Auburndale, it will manufacture about 40,000,000 feet of lumber this year, of which from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 feet will be pine and hemlock and the balance hardwood. Besides this the company has purchased a number of stocks of hardwood lumber in central Wisconsin and has stocked a number of small mills, so that 60,000,000 feet would probably be a low estimate of the amount of lumber the company will handle this year. The mill at Stratford was built over last winter and is now new and up to date. The planing mill facilities are excellent and a specialty is made of basswood siding, ceiling, casing and base. Being in a position to ship mixed cars of these basswood specialties, hemlock, pine and all kinds of hardwood lumber, it would be difficult to name anything that this company cannot supply in the lumber line."

The R. Connor Company is putting in four camps near Stratford and one camp near Auburndale.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 19 Oct 1899, Thu • Page 5

The R. Connor Company has just received a carload of buggies which they will sell very reasonable.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 06 Jun 1901, Thu • Page 8

The R. Connor company, one of the largest manufacturing concerns in Wisconsin, with mills at Auburndale, Stratford and Laona, has its headquarters here. B. F. McMillan & Brother's large manufacturing plant is located within a few miles of this city at McMillan. Marshfield is the headquarters of a large number of lumber buyers, representing different firms in the northwest, which, owing to the fact that the city is the center of an extensive hardwood lumber section, make it their home.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 17 Oct 1901, Thu • Page 6

The R. Connor company intends to start a crew of men at camp 7 soon to extend the road two miles farther east.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 21 Aug 1902, Thu • Page 8

Rhineland Vindicator: G. H. Bulgrin, with the R. Connor Company of Marshfield, is in the city looking for men to work on the new railroad into Laona. While here he posted notices offering wages from \$30 to \$35 and board.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 28 Aug 1902, Thu • Page 5

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 19 Oct 1899, Thu • Page 4

Messrs. Cole & Lupient are in Stratford painting the interior of the R. Connor company's store.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 22 Jan 1903, Thu • Page 8

A carload of buggies and a carload of machinery was received by the R. Connor company this week.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 26 Feb 1903, Thu • Page 8

SAYS CENTRAL WISCONSIN HAS BRIGHT OUTLOOK.

The following interview with one of Marshfield's leading citizens, published in the Milwaukee Sentinel of Monday, should prove interesting to the readers of The News:

W. D. Connor of Marshfield, the head of the R. Connor Lumber company, was at the Hotel Pfister yesterday, having just returned from a visit to French Lick, Ind.

"There is just as much lumber available in Wisconsin today as there was twenty years ago," he said. "When people say that there is practically no lumber left in the state they know not whereof they speak. Of course, there is foundation for the belief in the eyes of some people, these being the men who formerly conducted mills where nothing was manufactured but white or Norway pine goods. It is true that this kind of wood is nearly exterminated. But where a quarter of a century ago there was little wood other than pine used in constructing buildings, the harder woods are now being used and we can start all over on these kinds, which exist in abundance. New lumber companies are being organized in this state constantly and new mills are in the process of erection. Hemlock, cedar, and birch trees are being cut up in the woods of Marathon, Iron and Forest counties, where there are still miles upon miles of woods which are almost untouched by the ax and saw."

"The actual cutting of timber is still being done in the winter mostly, in spite of the fact that the railroads have made it possible to ship the logs at any time of the year. The cause for this probably rests largely in the fact that the men feel more like working during the frosty days and that they can also find more congenial work on the farms during the warm weather.

"The land up there makes fine farming country when the trees are cleared off, and it is settling as rapidly as room is found for more people. A few years ago almost the only persons to come there were emigrants from Germany or Scandinavia, who were attracted by the low price of land and the ease with which any one could find good employment. All this has changed, however, and the people who are now filling up the region are educated, progressive farmers from southern Wisconsin and Illinois. There is no finer class of people in the world than these, and they are making the country boom. As yet most of their time and money have been spent in getting their property in first class shape, and there are some things, such as the condition of the roads, which show that the development is not complete. But this is being overcome rapidly. Ten years ago there were no roads whatever in most sections, the traveling being done through the woods on the lumber trails which had been opened during the winter. The improvement has been marked, and but for the difficulty of obtaining gravel in large quantities everything would be in first class shape now. In connection with the ingress of farmers, in order to show the extent of this, it is only necessary to call attention to one case during the last month, when a party of Illinois agriculturists bought up an entire section of land and will move there immediately with their families. There are plenty more similar instances, and it is reasonable to think that within ten years the northern part of the state will be nearly as thickly settled as the southern section."

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 07 May 1903, Thu • Page 1

ANOTHER LUMBER YARD FOR ABBOTSFORD.

Owing to the very successful retail business of the past year in this city, the R. Connor Co. have decided to open other retail lumber yards. One is now being started at Abbotsford, the growing village which was selected by the Wisconsin Central company as division point. Ground was purchased one block from the depot and carpenters are now at work erecting an office, sheds for storing lumber and other buildings. The company intends to carry a full line of rough and finishing lumber, sash, doors, flooring, etc. It has not been decided upon as yet who will act as manager of the yard for the R. Connor company.

Abbotsford now has a population of about 1200 with electric lights, opera house, several hotels, a bank which has only been established a few months and recently declared a 3 per cent. dividend, brick round house with 22 stalls for locomotives. Last year 65 buildings were erected and the railroad company alone spent \$200,000 in improvements there. Water is pumped through an 8-inch pipe from the Eau Pleine river a distance of four miles and stored in a stand pipe 100 feet in height.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 14 Jan 1904, Thu • Page 4

The R. Connor company were awarded the contract last week of supplying the interior finish for the new Catholic school building now in course of construction at Rozellville.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 28 Jul 1904, Thu • Page 6

ANNOUNCEMENT

We wish to announce to the public, and especially to our friends and patrons, that in a few days we will have as complete and up-to-date stock of goods as has ever been placed before the people of Stratford. We expect to have them ready for inspection about September 5th, and at prices that will be right. We will have in addition to the stock we have always carried a line of men's clothing, ranging in price from \$5.00 to \$20.00, and made in the latest styles and by one of the best clothing houses this side of New York City.

R. CONNOR COMPANY
STRATFORD, WISCONSIN

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 01 Sep 1904, Thu • Page 8

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed bids for the additions to and remodeling of the Presbyterian church, of the city of Marshfield, will be received by the building committee up to 7:30 o'clock P. M., June 12, 1906. A certified check for \$300 must accompany each bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish a bond for \$6000 for the faithful performance of the work. The work is to be performed according to the plans and specifications furnished by Van Ryn & DeGelleke, copies of which will be furnished by any of the members of the committee. All bids to be addressed to F. R. Upham, secretary, and the building committee will meet at the time specified above at the offices of the R. Connor Company and open the bids and award the contracts. The committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

MRS. IDA SEXTON,
F. R. UPHAM,
R. CONNOR,
Committee.

2t

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin, 07 Jun 1906, Thu • Page 4

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Brief Story of the Life of William Duncan Connor

(From the Fond du Lac Bulletin.)

When the unbiased historian of the future tells the story of the great struggle and the ultimate triumph of a principle that meant much for the welfare of the state and nation, due credit will be given not alone to those who occupied prominent positions upon the stage within easy range of the public eye, but also to those master minds without which these reforms never would have been possible, at the time being at least, and might have "died aborning" and before the nation's ear had been attracted to the cry.

From among the names of those who will stand out in letters bold that of Hon. William D. Connor of Marshfield, chairman of the republican state central committee, who has become a candidate for the office of lieutenant governor. He will be remembered as the one whose splendid generalship, wrested from seeming defeat a political victory almost without parallel in the annals of Wisconsin history; by this act assuring the enactment into law of those great measures of common interest, renewing the courage of those who had fought long and bravely in Wisconsin, and giving heart to those in other states to go forth and give battle to the "system" and its votaries.

The story of the life of William Duncan Connor should prove of interest not alone to his political and personal friends, but to all citizens of the state. He has attained a prominence few men of his years have succeeded in doing, and it is well that all should know what manner of man he is. Mr. Connor had the good fortune to be born of parents not too liberally blessed with this world's goods, and his childhood and boyhood days were not spent in indolence and ease. He was born on a farm near Stratford, Ontario, and when eight years of age his parents disposed of their Canadian farm and came to Wisconsin, taking up a homestead in the then wilds of Wisconsin, at a point about ten miles east of where the city of Marshfield now stands. The pioneer's life is not an easy one. Its hardships have been told over and over again, but time shows that no life so develops character and rounds out sturdy, self-reliant men, as did that of the pioneer. Young Connor's life did not vary much from any of the sons of other pioneers. It devolved upon him to assume his share of burdens as fast as his strength would permit.

The school days of the subject of

This sketch are covered by the district school and two years at the State Normal School at Oshkosh, completing the same before he attained the age of seventeen. His ambition had been to become a lawyer and with this in view he entered Lake Forest University. He had hardly spent two months in this institution when the failing health of his father made it imperative that he return home, which he did, at once taking charge of his father's farm and logging operations, which, from the nature of his early training, he was capable of doing. He never returned to again take up the study of law, but from that time on has followed logging and lumbering and every branch of the work incident thereto, from surveying and estimating timber to marketing the products of the forest.

The years following the panic of 1893 and when everything was at a standstill, Mr. Connor showed his unbounded confidence in the future of Wisconsin by investing every dollar he could get together in hardwood timber lands. Taking advantage of the experience he had gained in the woods, he personally examined timber lands all over northern Wisconsin, living out in the woods with the cruisers and surveyors and doing his share of the work. In this manner he acquired in an early day large holdings of heavily timbered hardwood and hemlock lands, getting them at a time when no one thought them of any particular value. The last few years have shown the good judgment exhibited in foreseeing the future of such property.

In spite of his many private duties he has never lost sight of the fact that he owes certain obligations to the public and for twenty years he served as member of the county board of supervisors of Wood county. He has always shown a keen interest in educational matters and has been an outspoken advocate of manual training and other progressive modes of education in public schools. He is now and has been since the establishment of the Wood County Normal Training school for teachers, one of its board of three trustees. He is also one of the trustees of Carroll College, at Waukesha.

Six years ago Marshfield had been striving for a long time to get a free public library. One effort after another had been tried to bring the necessary financial aid, but all of them had failed. Finally a library board was organized, Mr. Connor was chosen president and he took hold of the matter and built up a library so successfully that today Marshfield has what is conceded to be one of the best equipped and most modern free libraries in the state.

Although Mr. Connor has been eminently successful in the field of commerce and industry, this success is due almost solely to his own efforts

and foresight. He has worked day and night, caring for the details of his business, which has grown steadily from year to year. Money making has not been the ruling passion of his life. He has always been liberal with his money, not merely of late years, but each year as he went along. He has liberally helped churches, hospitals and educational institutions of all religious denominations. His one great hobby has been work, and the accumulation of wealth has been but an incident to his work. He is a hard,

persistent worker, one who can labor long and accomplish much, and one who enjoys the confidence and esteem of his neighbors and fellow citizens.

Personally Mr. Connor is one of the most easily approached of men. He is modest in his dress and unassuming in his manner. He is one of the most democratic of men and studiously avoids ostentatious display. One cannot converse with him an hour without becoming convinced that he is the possessor of a mind of marvelous quality, stored with a fund of inexhaustible knowledge of men and events, well trained and capable of reasoning quickly and well. Like most of those of Gaelic extraction he is apparently reserved in his manners; the most adroit reporter can draw from him no information he is not desirous of having made public, and because of this during the last campaign he was often referred to as "Silent William;" but behind this reserve beats a warm heart and in his veins pulses warm, red blood. He has always kept in close touch with his employes, and there never was a time when one of the men who had a grievance, or a fancied one, but what felt that he could go to "W. D.," as he is familiarly called, and talk it over as man to man, knowing that if he was right he would receive a favorable decision, if in the wrong that it would be shown to him, shown as one friend to another. Many of the men who grew up with him are today occupying positions of responsibility and trust with the R. Connor Company. Some of the older ones who worked for him on the farm, in the mills and logging camps are still in his employ. During all these years Mr. Connor has never had a strike among his men.

A high conception of the duties towards the commonwealth induced him to cast his political fortunes with those of the Halfbreed element of the republican party. This act showed that he had a high appreciation of his duties as a citizen and is also possessed of sufficient moral courage to stand forth boldly in advocacy of what he believes to be for the common good. It was by no chance that he became chairman of the republican state central committee of Wisconsin, the nominal and active head of the republican party. He was in close touch with the party and the principles it has contended for and above all he

was an organizer and a man of rare executive ability. Mr. Connor was called upon to lead the party at a time when the cause of the people never looked darker, and when the interest of the whole nation was focused upon what history will record as one of the grandest struggles for individual liberty which has ever occurred in any state.

In the conduct of a political campaign no one individual has ever shown greater generalship than was exhibited by Mr. Connor. In the preceding two elections the Halfbreed element had been successful in electing Robert M. La Follette governor, but unfortunately the legislature was so constituted that promised legislation could not be enacted. The opposition was one of the most formidable ever built up for political purposes, and nothing had been left undone that would tend to weaken the Halfbreed forces. The pre-convention fight between the two factions of the republican party in Wisconsin was one of the most fierce and bitter ever fought in this or any other state. For a time the question of the renomination of Gov. La Follette was doubtful. The enemy claimed to have his forces routed all along the line, and when his most ardent supporters, those who had a clear conception of the situation, were forced to admit that the outcome was doubtful. In this hour of extremity, when it seemed as though the tide of battle had gone against the administration forces, when defeat was almost admitted as a certainty, W. D. Connor was appealed to. He dropped his business interests, and for the next six weeks devoted his whole time to organizing the administration forces. At the convention held at Madison in June, Gov. La Follette and the administration ticket was renominated. The same convention named Mr. Connor as one of the four delegates at large from this state to the republican national convention held in Chicago. These delegates were not seated, however, the national convention being dominated by the "system," which seated all delegates elected by the "rump" convention. The same convention elected Mr. Connor state chairman, it being felt that because of his splendid executive ability he was the man who could do most to build up the party organization and bring order and system out of chaos, resulting from the division of the party.

Upon assuming the chairmanship of the state central committee, Mr. Connor found the situation which confronted him peculiar in the extreme. There was no precedent to follow, many of the questions which confronted the chairman were new ones, a large and powerful element of the party was arrayed upon the side of the opposition, the organization had to be built up, and in handling the work new methods had to be introduced and previous political generalities reduced to business principles. It takes money to successfully conduct a campaign, and especially where the conditions were such as they were here. One of the most serious prob-

lems to confront the new chairman was that of securing the necessary financial support to carry on the campaign. Having unbounded faith in the patriotism of the people, the common people, in their sincerity and their desire for the success of the principles for which his party was contending, Mr. Connor conceived the idea of appealing directly to the people for the finances with which to carry on the campaign. That his judgment was not in error was soon evident. Responses to his appeal soon began to be received. Small contributions, a dollar, two dollars, five dollars, began to roll in from all parts of the state, the greater portion being contributed by farmers, mechanics, small business men and laborers. It was the first time in the history of Wisconsin, or any other state, that a campaign fund had been raised in this manner.

Mr. Connor took active charge of the campaign and opened up headquarters in Milwaukee and built up a thorough organization, which embraced every county and assembly district in the state. It was at this time that his prodigious capacity for work was most clearly shown. During the entire campaign he was on duty day and night, not infrequently spending eighteen hours in a single day at his desk. All the details of that memorable campaign he appeared to be able to carry in his mind. Each day it seemed that he could tell what was the condition of each district. The people were demanding literature. Thousands of pieces of literature were prepared, nearly all of them suggested by Mr. Connor and sent out under his direction. Greater powers of organization and executive ability have never signalized the work of any other state chairman, but the crowning feature of the whole campaign is that never was a promise made by the chairman which he did not redeem, for Mr. Connor clings to that homely old idea that it never pays to tell an untruth, not even in politics.

Gov. La Follette sent the following telegram to Mr. Connor after election:

Madison, Wis., Nov. 9, 1904.
Hon. W. D. Connor, Chairman Republican State Central Committee,
Plankinton House, Milwaukee:

You have conducted a clean, able campaign, remarkable for thoroughness and freedom from error. You successfully applied your wide experience in business to the field of politics. I congratulate you most heartily and express without reserve my profound obligation to you for the great personal sacrifices you have so generously made to our cause.

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE.

As state chairman Mr. Connor had made certain promises to the people and felt that it was incumbent upon him to see that those promises were kept. He urged the voters to keep in close touch with their members of the legislature and have them use their best efforts for the enactment of the party pledges into laws. In shaping and preparing the measures introduced in the legislature, Mr. Connor played an important part, giving prac-

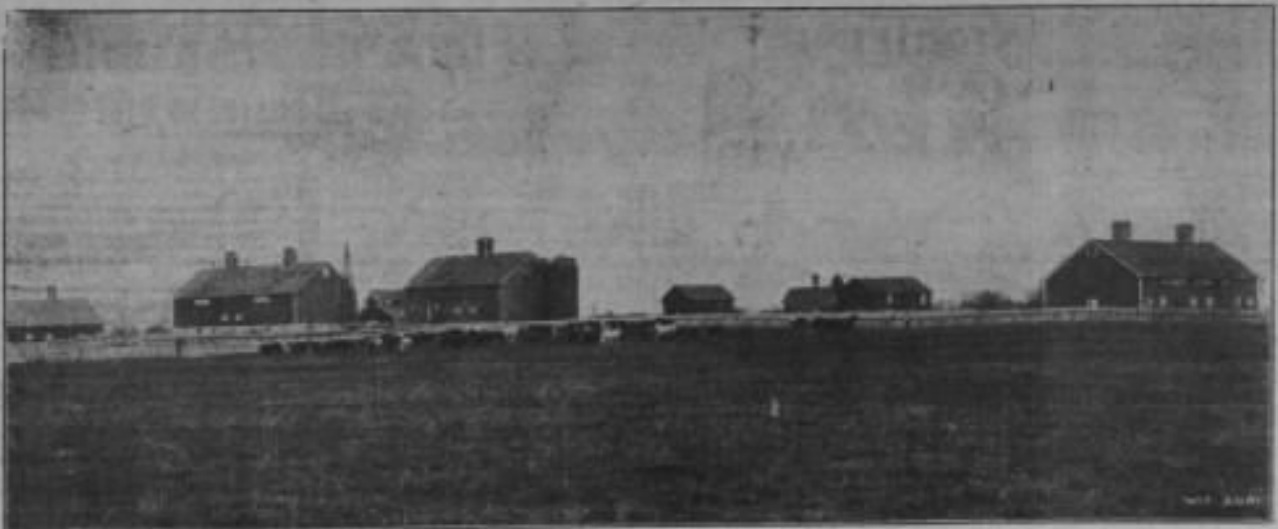
tical advice as to the framing of the different measures, those in charge frequently calling upon him for advice. After the railway rate bill came before the joint committee of the senate and assembly, at the request of those most interested in the measure Mr. Connor appeared before the committee and discussed the matter in a special way and from the standpoint of a shipper and the practical business man.

For twenty years Mr. Connor has taken an active interest in the republican party. He has always stood for clean politics, improved conditions and advancing issues favorable to the people.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
23 Aug 1906, Thu • Page 12

C. E. Tucker, bookkeeper for the R. Connor company at Auburndale was a Marshfield visitor Monday. He reports the new store as opened and successful and everything moving along prosperously.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin
Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
20 Dec 1906, Thu • Page 5



Some of the Horse and Cattle barns on the R. Connor Co's stock farm at Auburndale.

Photos and write up taken from the Wisconsin Agriculturist.

The Shorthorn herd of the R. Connor Company at Auburndale stands today as the combination and perfection of several noted herds in that section of the state. Dr. H. A. Lathrop and C. E. Blodgett had both expended much time and money in developing first class Shorthorn herds on their farms near Marshfield, and upon retiring from active farming both breeders sold many of their choicest animals to the Connor firm, which has since carried on the business of maintaining and developing the characteristic qualities possessed by the cattle taken over by them.

Reuben Connor and the herdsman, L. S. O'Brien, both hold decided opinions as to what qualities are required in the breed, and believe that above all things the Shorthorn should be a good milker. Every cow, to find a permanent home in the Connor barns, must fully demonstrate her ability to give a good allowance of milk, for the management has no place for nurse cows.

The Connor farm is a holding of about 1,000 acres situated at the very edge of the busy and thriving little town of Auburndale, which is also the home of one of the Connor Company lumber mills, for which the firm is equally well known as for the practical interest it takes in the breeding of Shorthorns. Fully one half of the farm is under the plow and, owing to the excellent lay of the land, is farmed with comparative ease. The chief features of the farm are, besides the Shorthorn herd and the Shire stud, a small but well bred flock of Shropshires and small droves of three different breeds of swine. The Shire stud is a practical necessity on the farm which, in winter, is given over to logging. To furnish suitable teams for their several camps the firm must buy or breed many substantial draft horses. In their breeding operations these men have pinned their faith to the Shire breed and an inspection of their barns convinces one that their

confidence has not been misplaced.

But this article has more particularly to do with the Connor Shorthorn herd, which today contains sixteen breezy aged cows and a splendid lot of young heifers, besides nine or ten growthy young bulls ranging in age from a few months to two years. At the head of the herd is Sir Donald (182767), who is unquestionably one of the most massive and best built bulls in the state. He tips the scale at something over 2,500 pounds, but his strong bone has no difficulty in supporting this great weight. Sir Donald was bred by M. H. Cochrane of Hillhurst, Quebec, and was sired by Scottish Hero (145553) out of Imp. Diamond. In a short time the old bull will be assisted in the herd by a Royal sultan bull which today gives every promise of developing into an excellent sire if he continues as he has started. This youngster is first class in every respect, having an attractive roan color and being uniformly good

throughout in his conformation. He is directly related to the "upper 100" in Shorthorn aristocracy, and will undoubtedly render full account of his noted ancestry.

A number of good bulls and bull calves are up at private auction and we believe these youngsters will, without exception, develop into valuable sires. Some of the group were sired by Prince Arthur, and others were by the present herd bull, Sir Donald. In not a few instances the dams of these males were Arabella cows, which predominate in the Connor herd. The Auburndale Hellyhoek family, which has proven a splendid breeding family, was developed from Imp. Arabella and in consequence possess pedigree sufficiently good to commend them to breeders. With such ancestry coupled with good conformation, it is beyond speculation to predict breeding usefulness for this line of young bulls. The prices will please the buyers.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

The herd of shorthorns exhibited at the fair last week by the R. Connor company from their Auburndale farm, will be on exhibition at Wausau this week and at Stevens Point next week. From there they will go to Rice Lake and other fairs held in the northern counties, leaving out the state fair. They are accompanied by George O'Brein, herdsman.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
05 Sep 1907, Thu • Page 5

MILL AT STRATFORD TO RUN NIGHT AND DAY.

Beginning December 15th the R. Connor Company's mill at Stratford will begin the winter season's run with a night and day shift. They now have four camps in the woods but will curtail their usual winters cut to about three fourths. Many of the lumbering concerns further north will not open camps this winter.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
05 Dec 1907, Thu • Page 1

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
24 Jan 1907, Thu • Page 4

The R. Connor Company's Auburndale Stock Farm--the Home of the Short Horn Cattle.



VIEW OF SOME OF THE BARN AND BUILDINGS ON THE CONNOR STOCK FARM AT AUBURDALE.

The R. Connor Co's stock farm at Auburndale, consists of 1200 acres. Nearly 900 acres of this vast tract are under cultivation and it is proposed at the end of another two years to have it all cleared as crews of men are now engaged at the work. When this is accomplished but few if any farms in this section of the state will be larger or better fitted for a stock farm. The land lies on either side of the Wisconsin Central railroad and stretches east and west $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles and north and south $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles. It is slightly rolling and like the rest of the soils in northern Wood county is of the richest kind. The land is the original homestead of R. Connor and his two brothers James and John and was located in 1872. Year by year as the forest was brought to the mill, the cut over lands were cleared of stumps until now the fields of waving grain and green pastures, where the

forest stood, is a feast to the eye of the agriculturist.

To maintain and manage a farm of this magnitude requires as much attention and interest as one would invest in the performance of any other great enterprise and in this Lieut. Governor Connor devotes much of his spare time. If he had not learned the lumber business so early in life no doubt he would be following the plow at this time and making hay when the sun shines. By combining the two, farming and lumbering, he has made a success of both but when he wants a rest from the cares that beset the business man you will find him at the farm an interested observer in its every detail. He is a believer in up-to-date farming and likes fat cattle and sleek horses. But few are a better judge of an animal than he is and he can read breeding and points at a glance. The neighing of the horses, the lowing of

the cattle and the bleating of the sheep all have a liking to his ears and that is why at every given opportunity he visits the farm.

Unlike most stock farms the one in question serves a double purpose, for in summer the herds of heavy woods horses owned by the Connor Co. are pastured and cared for there until work begins in the fall. While this is true it is also the home of one of the finest herds of short horn cattle found in the state. In addition to these is a splendid showing of full blood Shropshire sheep and a large drove of Berkshire hogs. The farm is divided into departments, the cattle from the sheep, sheep from the hogs and hogs from the horses. On the place are seven large and substantially built basement barns lighted by electricity and arranged with every convenience to make feeding and care easy. Three of the barns are 140x40, two 100x40 and two 40x60.



GROUP OF SHORT HORN CATTLE SHOWING SEVERAL GENERATIONS.

At present there are 266 horses on the place ranging in weight from 1200 to 1800 pounds. Most of them were brought from the woods at the close of the logging season for rest and recuperation over the summer. They plainly show the hard knocks off the average pinery horse but after a month or two of rest with green feed and an allowance of grain their flesh and spirits return and they are young again when the time comes to be exported back to camp life. A veterinary is employed looking after them while taking their rest and every bad tooth, hoof or cellar bolt is properly cared for. Odd

enough when these animals are in pasture each pair are as companionable as if they were in harness. They feed side and side and fight for one another. Another strange feature is the treatment accorded the drivers by the work horses. They are not allowed to mingle in their society. Feeding or fighting flies they are reminded to keep their distance by a rip on the neck or more frequently by a pair of broad hoofs striking them in the ribs. Along with the horses is brought the harnesses and other paraphenalia. These are turned over to two harness makers and each set of harness is thoroughly

washed, oiled and repaired, the work being done in a shop on the farm built for that purpose. Breeding heavy horses is systematically kept up and for this purpose an English shire, Prince Albert by name, coal black and weighing 2100 pounds was imported from England last winter. He is five years old and a perfect type in blood and breeding. On his arrival he was placed at the head of the herd instead of St. Andrews who has occupied the place the past six years with splendid results.

(CONTINUED ON FOURTH PAGE)

Not an altogether new departure in horse breeding will again be taken up this year. Several years ago an attempt at raising fast horse was begun and while some good ones were brought out this particular strain was lost sight of in the eagerness to get draft horses. This year, so it is said, will mark the beginning of a new attempt and if followed up as carefully as has been the custom in other lines, something fine in the way of drivers and track horses may be looked for.

Readers of the News have no doubt

on previous occasions had the opportunity of seeing a part of the short horn herd of cattle owned by the Connor Co. They are kept at the Auburndale farm and like the other animals on the place are looked after by Geo. O'Brien herdsman. If you were to talk from now until Christmas you could not tell him anything about these cattle he doesn't already know. Ever since they were brought there he has had them to look after and he knows the age of every animal and where they stand on the registry book. Helping in the work



SIR DONALD.

are half dozen barn attendants and together they see that nothing is left uncared for. Last Thursday we found O'Brein engaged in shearing sheep and he was getting the wool too. As mentioned before the breed of sheep is Shropshire and their yield of wool is astonishing. The smallest fleece weighed nine pounds and the largest 17, averaging throughout a little better than 11 pounds to the sheep. This is far above the average as a 6½ to 7 pound yield is considered good.

With this work over and barns and grounds cleared of the winter offal, Mr. O'Brein will begin fitting up the herd he intends taking out this fall

for exhibition at the different fairs. He expects to make Marshfield his starting point and from here he will take in the leading fairs of the state. This practice has been followed the past five years and the armful of blue ribbons already earned from all over the state are sufficient evidence that in the short horn class none are better.

Through the courtesy of an artist and the skill of a reproducer we are enabled to show herewith a few of the leaders of the herd together with a landscape view showing a part of the farm buildings. The group of cattle shows four generations and as will be seen are beef from the hoof to the



SULTAN OF LODI.

horns besides being of a good milking strain. Sir Donald, shown elsewhere, is a mammoth animal weighing 2640 pounds. He was imported by Graham Brother's of London, Canada, is of perfect breeding and has won the admiration of cattle fanciers wherever seen. But the king has been dethroned and now the Sultan of Lodi, a two year old weighing 1800 pounds, with fully as many good points as Sir Donald, takes his place at the head of the herd. No

less attractive is the prize cow Duchess and her offsprings one of which, a six months old, is shown in the group picture. Last fall a car load of yearling bulls were sold and the demand at all times is greater than the supply. You will have a chance to see this celebrated herd at the fair this fall and the story your eyes will tell you then will make you soon forget this word picture of ours.

Last year, from the land not used



DUCHESS

for pasture, 275 tons of hay were harvested besides several thousand bushels of oats. This year there will be more grain and roots raised as the company intends to plant largely to carrots and sugar beets. The feed proposition is the greatest of all to be

looked after and to meet the demand all possible haste is being made in clearing the balance of the farm—about 300 acres. When this is accomplished Wood county and the town of Auburndale can boast of having within its territory one of the largest and best farms in this state.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin
21 May 1908, Thu • Page 4

VOLLMAR-BELOW LUMBER OFFICES TO MOVE.

The Vollmar-Below lumber offices now located on the second floor of the postoffice building will locate in the old Bever block, corner of Maple and Second streets about December 1st. The change is made to get vault room, one of the essentials not provided in their present quarters. The building they now propose to occupy was once the home of the R. Connor Company offices in which there is a large stone vault. They will occupy the entire lower floor.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin
26 Nov 1908, Thu • Page 1

The R. Connor company have decorators at work on the walls of their office and will begin the New Year amid beauty and cleanliness.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin
24 Dec 1908, Thu • Page 5

The R. Connor Company will soon issue one of the finest calendars ever gotten out by a business concern of this city.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub
Marshfield, Wisconsin
31 Dec 1908, Thu • Page 5

**R. CONNOR COMPANY
ISSUE FINE CALENDAR.**

One of the most original wall calendars ever given out by a lumbering concern was issued the past week by the R. Connor Company. The size is 20x30 inches and is printed on heavy book calendared paper with as many pages as there are months in the year, each page containing a photographic scene of some one of their building's, camps or railways. On either side of the picture at the top are pine trees on which is nailed a sort of a shield bearing the company's monogram, R. C. C. Underneath and constituting the calendar part, is a rollway of logs, the ends being used on which to print the figures for the month. With the exception of the photo and figures, which are in black, the work is done in a delicate green. The first scene shows the home office building in this city, the other eleven scenes being their lumber mills and yards at Stratford and Laona, camp scenes, rollways, hauling and cutting and the store and stock farm at Auburndale. It is an elaborate and handsome souvenir.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
28 Jan 1909, Thu • Page 1

The W C depot at this place was broken into last Monday night. The thieves must have been amateurs to think they would find any money in Auburndale after the sale at the R. Connor Co store last week.

The R Connor Company has shipped 13 head of full blood short horns to the Short Horn Breeders Association sale to be held at the state fair grounds in Milwaukee, April 9th.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
08 Apr 1909, Thu • Page 8

**R. CONNOR COMPANY
ILLEGALLY ASSESSED.**

The tax suit of the R. Connor Company against the Town of Bergen, in Marathon County was decided February 1st, by Judge Reed of Wausau, in favor of the company. The suit was brought by the R. Connor Company against the Town of Bergen in the Circuit Court to set aside the assessment roll for the year 1907 on the grounds that the assessment was unfair and out of proportion. The case was tried in January at Wausau and was bitterly contested on both sides, occupying the time of the court for over a week. The evidence showed at the trial that the local town board was discriminating in the assessment against non-resident property owners the property of the non-residents being assessed at full value and in some instances at more than full value, while property of the residents of the town was assessed in some instances at less than one fifth of its value and personal property of residents of the town being practically left out of the roll entirely. Messrs Goggins & Brazeau, of Grand Rapids, conducted the case for the R. Connor Company and in the decision just rendered they were successful on every count. According to the decision the assessment is declared illegal and unfair on the grounds stated above and the re-assessment of the town is ordered by the court.

This case was watched with a great deal of interest by people in Marathon County and elsewhere and was the result of long years of unfair assessment in this town with reference to the property of non-residents. Every means was tried by the R. Connor Company to get the matter adjusted before the Board of Review and the town board but nothing was done in the way of equalizing the assessment so that as a last resort the case was taken to the circuit court with the above result.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
04 Feb 1909, Thu • Page 5

Live stock farming is fast developing. Indeed, Marshfield has long been known for the excellent Short-horn cattle which were formerly bred upon the farm of C. E. Blodgett, and Auburndale is fast gaining a like distinction for its Shorthorn cattle now being bred by the R. Connor Stock Company. Dairying is developing rapidly among the farmers, and they are paying attention each year to improving the condition of their herds and the individuals that compose them. Dairy sires are being introduced and a number of pure bred herds and grade herds have already been established.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
22 Apr 1909, Thu • Page 8

The R Connor Company saw mill will start up this week.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
17 Jun 1909, Thu • Page 4

AUBURNDALE.

There was a big drop in provisions at the R. Connor Company store last Saturday afternoon when about a ton and a half came down with the elevator.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
18 Nov 1909, Thu • Page 8

**R. CONNOR COMPANY
LOSES LOGS BY FIRE.**

The home office of the R. Connor in this city received word the first of the week of the burning of 400,000 feet of logs in the rollway at camp 12 near Laona, the result of forest fires. The loss will amount to something like \$5,000 with no insurance.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
21 Apr 1910, Thu • Page 5

**R. CONNOR COMPANY
BUY MORE TIMBER.**

Stratford will benefit by a recent timber deal made by the R. Connor Company. A dispatch from Wausau says that they have purchased all the land and timber owned by the Mosinee Land Company in the town of Emmet and will extend their logging road so as to haul the logs to Stratford to be sawed into lumber. The land comprises some 3000 acres of virgin forest. It will add largely to Stratford as a manufacturing town.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
12 May 1910, Thu • Page 1

**CONNORS SELL STOCK
IN NEWS COMPANY.**

E. S. Bailey, former part owner in the Marshfield Times has purchased the stock owned by the R. Connor Company in the Marshfield News. The present publishers will remain in possession until Mr. Bailey can arrange differently.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
27 Oct 1910, Thu • Page 1



Office of the R. Connor Company, corner of West Fourth Street and Central Avenue about 1910. The building was later moved to 108 West Fourth Street and rotated so the building faced north. (Shelby Weister)

Returns From Laona.

W. D. Connor, president of the R. Connor company, has returned from a trip to Laona, where he spent election day and looked over the work being done by the company's flooring mill and sawmill at that place. Mr. Connor states that the winter's cut is over but that there was still sleighing there the last of the week and that logs were being hauled every day.

The Connor flooring mill is probably a model for the other mills of this kind in the country. The sawmill at Laona cut one million feet of lumber a week during the operating season, working twenty hours a day.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
13 Apr 1911, Thu • Page 1

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
18 May 1911, Thu • Page 1

SPARKS JUMP MILL

**Stratford Property of Connor Co.
Endangered by Fire.—Stables
and Four Horses Burned.**

The property of the R. Connor company at Stratford was in great danger of total destruction Friday morning, from a fire which probably started in flying sparks from the smithshop. Efforts of 200 men were directed toward saving the mills, and while these were successful sparks were blown entirely over the mill property and lodged on the roof of the stables, which were burned to the ground, with four horses. Two carloads of shingles were also burned.

The loss is estimated at \$4,000, with insurance to cover it. Members of the company consider that it was fortunate the loss was no larger. The burned buildings will be rebuilt as soon as the insurance has been adjusted.

Good work was done by the company's own fire department and by the volunteers from mills and village. The dry kiln, dry as tinder, was only 100 feet from where the fire broke out, but was saved.

Stratford got the worst of it in a battle with the gale. Every south window in town that was exposed to the hailstones was broken, and the loss on glass will be several hundred dollars. The R. Connor company is now replacing three stacks which were blown over, and is re-glazing about half of the windows on its mill. The roof of the power house was torn off.

It is reported that a number of barns were blown down in that part of Marathon county most affected by the storm.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
25 May 1911, Thu • Page 1

The R. Connor company had the old plank sidewalk on the north and east sides of the office building torn up Monday preparatory to the laying of a new one.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
17 Jul 1913, Thu • Page 7

AUBURNDALE IN REIGN OF SORROW

CAUSED BY DEATH OF MRS. CONNOR, WHO PASSED AWAY SATURDAY.

Born in Canada in 1858 Lived in Auburndale 36 Years Funeral Yesterday.

Auburndale and Marshfield were stirred into deep sorrow and sympathy Saturday when it became known that Mrs. Rebecca Connor, widow of the late R. W. Connor, a pioneer of Auburndale and one of the most beloved women of her community, had been removed from this life by the messenger of death. Heart trouble, complicated with other ailments, was the cause of death, and the end came quietly and peacefully. Her burden of illness was of long duration, extending to nearly five years, and at one time, last winter, so heavy that her strength failed her nearly four months, but she bore all cheerfully and gradually recovered to an extent that she was able to be up and around again, much to the happiness of her children. At one time during her last winter's siege of illness her strength was so low that hopes for her recovery had nearly been given up. Thursday she suffered another turn for the worse and failed rapidly.

Mrs. Connor was a truly good woman. Her sterling character won respect for her wherever she was known and her gracious manner and kindly sympathies endeared her to scores of staunch friends.

She was born in St. Mary's Ontario, Canada, in 1858. In 1872, when she was fourteen years old, her parents moved to Waupaca, this state, where she was reared to young womanhood. Seven years later she came to Auburn dale to stay with her sister and a short time later she became the wife of R. W. Connor, who preceded her in death in 1894. Her husband was engaged in the lumbering business in Auburndale at that time and was the founder and head of the R. Connor company, which operated the Auburndale saw mill for some years, discontinuing a few years ago. Her maiden name was Rebecca Waite.

The union was blessed with six children, of whom four survive, being Wallace, Craig and Reuben Connor of Auburndale and Mrs. Walter Drollinger of Green Valley, Minn. Surviving her are also five brothers and four sisters, who are Thomas and John Waite of Tenney, Minn., Danial Waite of Minneapolis, George and Eugene Waite of Saskatchewan, Canada, and Mrs. John Porter of Almond, Wis., Mrs. Ed Joy of Fairmont, N. D., and Mrs. James Baker and Mrs. William Allee of Indianapolis.

The funeral was held from the house at 10 o'clock yesterday forenoon, Rev. Ambrose officiating. Interment was made in the Greenwood cemetery at Auburndale. The pallbearers were James Glennon, George Schmidt, N. M. Berg, Ed Kennedy, J. C. Kieffer and Louis Grube. The floral tributes were numerous and beautiful and lay about the bier as mute but strong testimony of the high regard entertained for her through her walk in life.

(from The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin, 30 Sep 1915,
Thu • Page 1)

The R. Connor company has purchased the Jahnke block on South Central avenue, occupied by the Lavalie barber shop and the Swerdlow store.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
14 Aug 1919, Thu • Page 9

It was reported that the R. Connor company plans to relieve the house shortage by building about 25 bungalows in this city and six in Stratford.

The Marshfield News and Wisconsin Hub, Marshfield, Wisconsin
27 Nov 1919, Thu • Page 9

An announcement is that the R. Connor company store of Auburndale has been sold to a concern composed of farmers in and around Auburndale, who will conduct the business on the co-operative basis. The price was reported to be close to the \$50,000 mark. A five-year lease on the building was given.

Marshfield News-Herald
Marshfield, Wisconsin
25 Mar 1920, Thu • Page 9

KIEFFER SELLS STRATFORD STORE

Announcement is made that the Kieffer store has been sold, stock, building and fixtures to the R. Connor Company, says the Stratford Journal. The store has been closed and the stock will be transferred to the big store.

Thus is closed probably for good this well known store, and with it the long and honorable business connections of Mr. M. E. Kieffer with Stratford. He has not decided what business he will enter in the future, but will probably continue to make Marshfield his home.

Marshfield News-Herald
Marshfield, Wisconsin
31 Aug 1923, Fri • Page 5

Sold His Lumber Yard

The R. Connor Company has made the purchase of the Spencer Lumber and Supply Co. from T. A. Tack, who will devote his energies entirely to a milk condensary which he recently started in Spencer.

Marshfield News-Herald
Marshfield, Wisconsin
17 Jul 1924, Thu • Page 1

Connor Fire Costliest

The heaviest fire loss during the year was \$17,790.00, caused by the fire that destroyed the woodworking shop and the north end of the R. Connor company warehouse and water damage to a great deal of lumber, on Oct. 11. The next heav-

Marshfield News-Herald
Marshfield, Wisconsin
31 Dec 1930, Wed • Page 6

Connor Company Finishing Timber Cut at Stratford

SAWMILL THERE HAS OPERATED 39 YEARS

Village Changes From Lumbering Center to Agricultural Region

Central Wisconsin, once the hub of Wisconsin's lumbering industry, is soon to pass from the scene entirely so far as logging operations are concerned. This fact became definitely known here today following announcement by officials of the R. Connor company that their timber cut at Stratford will be finished this spring. The Stratford plant is in its thirty-ninth year of operation and during its lifetime has turned out over 580,000,000 feet of lumber cut from timber harvested within an area of 225 square miles surrounding Stratford.

Whether or not the plant will continue to operate on timber brought by rail from Michigan is as yet undecided according to officials of the Connor company but it is hoped that the mill can continue for a year or more, pending developments in the lumber industry and cost of transporting raw timber as compared to locating another plant in Michigan. But as far as the timber cut in this section of the country is concerned it is depleted. One would have to travel over 100 miles north before again striking timber. Marshfield was once famous over the state as the "Hub" of the lumber industry.

All Virgin Timber in 1891

Not a tree had been cut when the Connor company purchased timber land about the present site of Stratford late in the fall of 1891, and began setting up the plant. It was virgin territory that eye witnesses

say was, "the most beautiful forest you could want to see." The site is on the Northwestern line which runs between Marshfield and Wausau, both flourishing lumber towns at that time. Material for the mill had to be framed at the Auburndale plant and hauled by a round-about rail journey to the location of the Stratford mill. Early in 1892 it was ready for operation and a big cut began with approximately 80 men employed, who were housed in a frame building used for rooming house, saloon, and dance hall which was erected only a short time before for use by railroad men while they were extending the Northwestern line from Marshfield to Wausau. Most of these men were of the Paul Bunyon type who could relate tales of the mythical Paul's prowess that would strike dumb the greatest of present day exaggerators.

In the spring of '92 a more steady type of settlers and loggers migrated to the site of the new Connor mill and were given permission to erect shanties on the land south of the plant which was immediately given the moniker "Shanty Town" and the district retains the name to this day, though it is now made up of fine, modern homes.

Became Village in 1910

In fact the section settled by the first employees was called "Shanty Town" before Stratford had any other name. The town was at first part of Cleveland, Eau Pleine, and McMillan townships, and though it had long previously been named Stratford, was not definitely established as a town until 1910 when Stratford was incorporated as a village with a population of over 800 people. In the matter of population old residents of the village say that enumerators who were sent to take the census never were able to take it accurately; being strangers, they did not know just where to look for the entire population. They say that that census takers never looked over the range line where a number of the population lived and as a result, in 1920, when the official population was 1014, there were really

more than 1200 residing there. The population today is 967.

Stratford boomed with the Connor company as many other typically lumbering towns did when such an industry moved in and created a settlement. Stratford began as most other towns and cities in Wisconsin—a small spot in a vast area of virgin timber centered around a saw mill. A store was built and to it ran a path through a dense forest. The path eventually became a street of sorts. Other buildings went up and, as in the case of Stratford, the saloon business flourished particularly well. By 1895 there were eight saloons in the village. That same year the school days of Stratford children began with the erection of a frame school building destined to serve the community until 1910, when the new, modern, brick high school was built.

Agriculture Replaces Lumbering

The passing of the lumber industry from Central Wisconsin has meant one basic industry of the country making way for another, here as it has in other parts of the United States. Beneath the towering foliage of centuries old timber lives and breathes a soil as fertile and productive as any that can be found. And the nature of the people who have taken land around Stratford will not allow the village to die as many others of similar origin have done. Farming, the other basic industry, will hold the village together and keep it prospering.

Every city or village where the means of livelihood of men changes from one form of industry to another must go through a readjustment period. This has been going on in Stratford for the past two years and when the Connor plant closes down, the population nearly will have brought about this readjustment. Condenseries and other forms of industry are already flourishing as a result of the productive nature of the soil which so long harbored the lucrative forest.

39 Years to Exhaust Timber

Duane Ried, who operates a draying business in Stratford, claims to be one of the first residents of Stratford, having been sent there from Auburndale in the interests of the Connor company when the new plant was being planned. He relates that Stratford has been a booming town since its beginning until the last two years when it has been affected by the business depression as other places have been affected.

According to Mr. Ried, the future of Stratford in the early days was regarded as rather dubious. Everyone predicted that the timber cut would last no more than 20 years and that would be the end of the village. Operating at full tilt for 10 months of each year, and five of those months operating night and day, it has taken the Connor company 39 years to cut the timber

available in that vicinity. The prediction that the village would not last is significant with forecasts regarding other lumbering towns where the growth of the farming industry had not yet been envisioned. Had Marshfield followed the predictions of popular opinion it would have been a thing of the past long ago. But Marshfield continued to grow and prosper after the passing of the lumber industry as a mainstay, and residents of Stratford have faith in agriculture to keep that village alive.

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17 Feb 1931, Tue • Page 3

The R. Connor company department store in Stratford is being remodeled and a gymnasium installed, 43x87 feet, to be constructed on the north side of the building. The store furnishings will be moved to the opposite side of the store.

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Marshfield, Wisconsin
07 Mar 1931, Sat • Page 2

Auburndale Destroyed By Fire 25 Years Ago Today

Twenty-five years ago—the date was Friday, May 18—fire swept through Auburndale and left in its wake only ashes where stood a home or a business place. What was one of central Wisconsin's most prosperous villages was reduced in a few hours to a mass of smoldering ruins from which arose new buildings of more substantial construction.

Account of the disaster is reprinted herewith from the Marshfield News of May 24, 1906:

"The fire of last Friday will long be remembered by the people of Auburndale. Rising generations will repeat the story of the holocaust that destroyed the prosperous village leaving only ashes to mark the spot where a home or business place stood. It was just such a day that the fire fiend glories in his strength and awfulness. The wind was blowing a gale from the south and the west. Some one passing the rows of cord wood piled along the Central railroad (now the Soo Line) tracks just west of the depot, discovered an incipient blaze. It was likely in one of the pine woodpiles, for in less than a few minutes the flames, fanned by a terrific gale, rose up like monsters and leaped from pile to pile.

"It was about 10:30 a. m., when the first alarm was given and there hurried to the scene the excited villagers and R. Connor company's mill crew, men who knew how to work and who did work to desperation. Without adequate fire-fighting apparatus, not even a force pump, it was difficult to fight the blaze. Bucket brigades were form-

ed but each moment the flames gained headway filling the air with brands of fire which were carried across the street, setting fire to the row of wood buildings on that side. The first of these to catch was the general store of Mrs. Anna Frederick and an instant later the three dwellings to the west were also in flames. The first was owned by O. A. Kieffer and the other two by the R. Connor company. The last two were occupied by the Baltus sisters.

"When flames began shooting up from the roofs of these homes with the rows of wooden buildings adjoining and wind and heat increasing in volume, the full realization of the situation dawned upon those who were bending every effort to hold the fire in check.

Robert Connor of this city was notified by telephone and with horses and buggy drove the distance, 10 miles, in almost the incredible time of 31 minutes. On his arrival he saw at a glance that the village was doomed. Assistance was sought from Marshfield and Stevens Point, the former responding with 1,000 feet of hose and 100 citizens with pails.

The train left here about 12:45 but reaching Hewitt was sidetracked for 15 minutes for a freight. Twenty minutes after arriving at Auburndale a special, from Stevens Point with a fire engine pulled in, but before this arrival the fire demon had done its worst.

"Main street on the north side beginning on a line with the Catholic church and extending to the old Connor residence was leveled to the

ground. Following is a list of the property burned with the approximate losses and insurance:

Connor's Heaviest Losers

"O. A. Kieffer, residence, \$600; small insurance; two residence owned by R. Connor company, general store, stock of goods and residence of Mrs. Frederick, \$7,000, insurance \$4,500, Louis Koller, large hall, saloon and residence, \$5,000; insurance \$2,600; George Schmidt, hotel, livery and saloon, \$7,000, insurance \$3,000; blacksmith shop, shop and tools owned by Mrs. Schluenz, no insurance; butcher shop and residence of A. B. Schultz, \$2,500, insurance \$900; the R. Connor company's store large barns, grain, hay, wood, entire loss estimated at \$33,000, insurance \$24,000.

"The fire is believed to have been started by a spark from a passing engine. When it leaped across the street and began its work of destroying the row of buildings and residences, the occupants hurried to remove their household goods and in almost every instance succeeded in getting the greatest part to safe quarters. For acres around on the green grass were scattered family belongings. Around these disordered heaps mothers with tear-dimmed eyes, guarded their children. As the afternoon wore on, farmers from near and far, attracted by the smoke, came to the rescue and to those who had been rendered homeless offered places of shelter and food and by the time darkness came there was nothing of the household litter on the scene."

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18 May 1931, Mon • Page 6

BOARDING HOUSE AT AUBURNDALE BURNS

Owned by R. Connor Lumber Company; Estimate Loss at \$2,500

(By News-Herald Correspondent)

Auburndale, May 25—Fire of undetermined origin, discovered Sunday afternoon in the attic of the R. Connor company's boarding house, caused the destruction of the building, together with part of the furnishings. The loss is estimated at \$2,500.

The building, formerly used as a residence, was remodeled a number of years ago for a boarding and rooming house, and had been conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Anderson, who saved most of their household goods. Bedroom furnishings on the second floor, however, were a total loss.

The flames were discovered by Mrs. Anderson, who was home alone, and who immediately sent in a call for aid, after which she began carrying out personal effects. The Marshfield fire department sent over a truck, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to check them, and attention was given to preventing the spread of fire to other buildings.

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Marshfield, Wisconsin
25 May 1931, Mon • Page 1

R CONNOR COMPANY ADDS RAIL MILEAGE

Some Trackage Built For Use Next Fall

The R. Connor Lumber company is preparing for lumbering operations in its timber holdings in the vicinity of Ironwood and Wakefield, Mich., by making surveys of present trackage and laying out some new railroad mileage to be ready for use next fall.

Cutting is expected to be rather light this winter and will be confined to the Laona mill. At present William Stenerson, Laona, is in the Michigan holdings making surveys of both constructed and contemplated railroad lines. Mr. Stenerson is timber cruiser for the Connor company and estimates that the holdings still contain more than 600,000,000 board feet of standing timber, mostly hemlock, pine, spruce, and cedar.

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Marshfield, Wisconsin
12 Aug 1931, Wed • Page 3

Do You Remember When - -

One day in May during 1911 in front of R. Connor company's office two men met in a handshake that bespoke more than a passing acquaintance. One of them was Hon. W. D. Connor and the other Indian Albert of Kansas. Twenty-five years had elapsed since they met and as they held and shook each other's hand there was a feeling akin to brother love expressed in their regard. Back in the early history of this section Albert was chief counselor for all the Potawatomie Indians on the Eau Pleine rivers and through his kindly advice and tact kept them together and looked after their interests. He was honest and upright in all his dealings, especially with the white man who was fast invading the country.

His friendship for Mr. Connor was two-fold, first in a business sense and secondly from the assistance he once rendered him when found in the woods crippled by an accident. In some way while looking after the work of his lumber camps Mr. Connor was struck by a falling limb which broke his arm and injured his leg so he could not walk. He was alone at the time and as he lay on the ground suffering Albert and a companion found him and carried him to one of their logging camps. The incident took place in the '80's. Shortly after this occurrence Albert together with other members of the tribe went to live in Kansas. Upon his first return visit here in 1911 his first inquiry upon arriving was for "Willie" Connor and although he called at the office several different times to

find Mr. Connor out he patiently waited for the time of the meeting. Albert's hair in 1911 was still the color of the raven's wing but his years had brought on a tottering step that he aided with a cane. From here he went to Skunk Hill for a visit with a little handful of his people who live there, but before leaving Mr. Connor took him to his home where they enjoyed a dinner together.

Believing it might be of interest to its readers The Marshfield Herald in 1911 published the number of automobiles in Marshfield, together with the names of the owners. The number of vehicles was 79 and their names and owners were as follows: H. R. Bathrick,

* * * * *

Overland; Fred Bauer, Maxwell; Herman Bauer, Maxwell; C. E. Blodgett, Stoddard-Dayton and Maxwell; George Booth, Maxwell; W. H. Budge, Buick and Bendix; H. L. Butler, Austin and Maxwell; L. E. Colvin, Reo; Jerry Case, Mitchell; W. D. Connor, Knox and Maxwell; Robert Connor, Locomobile; Consolidated Farm company, Buick; Eli Crotteau, Buick; Anton Dallendorfer, Ford; Peter Daul, Peerless; E. M. Deming, Maxwell; Theodore Domer, Oldsmobile; Dr. K. W. Doege, Detroit-Chalmers and Maxwell; E. N. DuFour, Reo; D. M. Glassner, Maxwell; Fred Graham Maxwell; E. J. Hahn, Stoddard-Dayton; Burt Hosterman, International; J. P. Hume, Buick; Harlow Hyde, Dayton; Frank Johnson, Ford; J. A. Jorgensen, Buick; Henry Kalsched, L and S; W. H. Kamps, Maxwell; Fred Kuehl, Overland; Fred Bauer, Maxwell; Herman Bauer, Maxwell; C. E. Blodgett, Stoddard-Dayton and Maxwell; George Booth, Maxwell; W. H. Budge, Buick and Bendix; H. L. Butler, Austin and Maxwell; L. E. Colvin, Reo; Jerry Case, Mitchell; W. D. Connor, Knox and Maxwell; Robert Connor, Locomobile; Consolidated Farm company, Buick; Eli Crotteau, Buick; Anton Dallendorfer, Ford; Peter Daul, Peerless; E. M. Deming, Maxwell; Theodore Domer, Oldsmobile; Dr. K. W. Doege, Detroit-Chalmers and Maxwell; E. N. DuFour, Reo; D. M. Glassner, Maxwell; Fred Graham Maxwell; E. J. Hahn, Stoddard-Dayton; Burt Hosterman, International; J. P. Hume, Buick; Harlow Hyde, Dayton; Frank Johnson, Ford; J. A. Jorgensen, Buick; Henry Kalsched, L and S; W. H. Kamps, Maxwell; Fred Kuehl,

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03 May 1932, Tue • Page 4

MRS. CONNOR DIES AT NOON

Wife of Former Lieutenant
Governor Succumbs to
Long Illness

LIVED HERE 40 YEARS

Mrs. William D. Connor, 70, died at her home, 403 E. Third street, shortly before noon today.

Mrs. Connor had been seriously ill since last February and had been confined to her home. Lately her condition had been more serious, then apparently improved until it became critical this morning and resulted in her death about 11:30 o'clock.

Funeral arrangements have not yet been completed and will be announced tomorrow by members of the family.

Lived Here 40 Years

Mrs. Connor had been a resident of the city of Marshfield for nearly 40 years, and had lived all of her life in central Wisconsin.

As the wife of William D. Connor, who was once lieutenant governor of Wisconsin and is still president of the R. Connor company and the Connor Land and Lumber company, she was known throughout the state.

In her home city she was recognized as an active leader in the organizations of which she was a member and in her church work. To her family she was revered as a mother and a homemaker.

Born At Wisconsin Rapids

Mary B. Witter Connor was born Sept. 16, 1865, at Wisconsin Rapids. She lacked but two months of reaching the age of 70 at the time of her death.

She was the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George F. Witter of Wisconsin Rapids, where Dr. Witter was one of the earliest practicing physicians.

Her home continued to be in Wisconsin Rapids during her younger years. She graduated from the grade and high schools there and became one of the first women to attend the University of Wisconsin after that institution was opened to women students.

Was School Teacher

After two years at the university she returned to her home county as a school teacher, serving for several years in the schools at Wisconsin Rapids and also at Auburndale.

Aug. 11, 1886, she became the bride of William D. Connor at Wisconsin Rapids, and they went to Auburndale to live. They made their home there 10 years or more

(CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT)

DIES AT NOON MRS. CONNOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

before moving to Marshfield, which has been their residence ever since.

Mrs. Connor was a charter member of the Marshfield chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and also served as regent of the D. A. R.

She was also a charter member in the old Travel club, which later became the Marshfield Woman's club. She had the honor of serving that organization in the capacity of president.

Active In Church Work

Always a member of the First Presbyterian church here, Mrs. Connor took an active part in the church and its functions as long as her health permitted.

She is survived by her husband and five children, Helen, Mrs. M. R. Laird, Marshfield; William and Richard Connor, Laona; Gordon Connor, Ironwood, Mich.; and Constance, Mrs. James R. Modrall, Santa Fe, N. Mex. Two children, Marian and Donald, preceded her in death. She also leaves 14 grandchildren and one brother, George F. Witter, Oakland, Calif.

Definite funeral arrangements could not be announced this afternoon. The time of the services will be announced in Wednesday's News-Herald.

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16 Jul 1935, Tue • Page 8



W. D. Connor

W. D. Connor Dies Monday Evening at Phoenix, Ariz.

Local Lumberman Was Formerly Lieutenant Governor of State

W. D. Connor, former Lieutenant Governor of Wisconsin and one of the few if not the only remaining member of the group of pioneer lumbermen who developed Wisconsin's great timber industry, died at a Phoenix, Ariz., hospital early Monday evening.

Mr. Connor, who was 80 years of age, had been at Phoenix for the past three weeks with his daughter, Mrs. James R. Modrall, having gone there from Laona to escape the changeable fall weather of Wisconsin. He had only recently recovered from a severe attack of pneumonia.

His death was ascribed to asthma, aggravated by heart complications. With him at the time of his passing were two of his sons, Lt. Comdr. W. D. Connor Jr. of the U. S. Navy and Gordon Connor of Wakefield, Mich. One of his daughters, Mrs. James R. Modrall of Albuquerque, N. M., had just returned to her home.

Funeral Rites Saturday

Mr. Connor had been seriously ill last June, when he received treatment for pneumonia at St. Joseph's Hospital here. By August he had recovered sufficiently to go to Laona, where he took an active part in the business affairs until his departure for Arizona.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed, but it is expected that rites will be conducted at the Connor home, 403 E. Third street, on Saturday morning at 11 o'clock. His sons are expected to arrive here from Arizona on Friday.

William D. Connor, long a prominent figure in Wisconsin business, political, and civic circles, was born at Stratford, Ontario, Canada, on March 24, 1864.

He was eight years old when his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Connor, came to Auburndale, east of here, and as a boy he combined work in his father's sawmills and timberlands with his schooling.

Pioneer Lumberman

After completing his studies in the district schools he attended Lake Forest Academy and the State Normal School at Oshkosh, but before completing his formal education he was called home to help in his father's lumber business, a task which he made his life work.

He had charge of the construction of the Stratford mill of the Connor Lumber Company, and after the death of his father in 1896 he became president of the R. Connor Lumber Company, which had been established in 1872 and incorporated in 1890. Later a mill near Wakefield, Mich., was put in operation.

On Nov. 28, 1900, Mr. Connor established the Connor Lumber and Land Company, with headquarters at Laona. The story is told that he walked 40 miles from the end of the railroad to select the side of what became his extensive timber operations in Forest County. He continued to preside over the affairs of both companies until his death, and was also president of the Canadian-Puget Sound Lumber and

Timber Company of Victoria, B. C.

For many years he was president of the American National Bank here and of the First National Bank of Stevens Point.

Was Lieutenant Governor

Politically, he was prominent as a Republican, and served as Lieutenant Governor under Gov. James O. Davidson in 1907-08. He had been a delegate to many state Republican conventions prior to that, and was a delegate to the national convention of the party in 1904.

From 1904 to 1906 he was chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, but he was active in the local as well as in state and national political affairs and was a member of the Wood County Board of Supervisors for more than 20 years, serving for a considerable time as its chairman.

His civic activities included a long period of service as a member of the Marshfield Library Board, of which he was president for 15 years. It was through his generosity and interest that the establishment of the Marshfield Public Library was made possible.

His further interest in education was indicated by his service as a trustee of Carroll College at Waukesha, and as a trustee of the Wood County Normal School at Wisconsin Rapids.

Headed Defense Counsel

In addition to other wartime activities during World War I he was chairman of the Wisconsin Council of Defense.

His marriage to Miss Mary B. Witter of Wisconsin Rapids, daughter of Dr. G. F. Witter, took place on Aug. 11, 1886, and they resided at Auburndale for about 10 years before coming to Marshfield. Mrs. Connor died at their home here on July 16, 1935, at the age of 70.

Their five children are Helen, wife of Sen. M. R. Laird of Marshfield; Constance, now Mrs. James R. Modrall of Albuquerque, N. M.; William D. Jr., now a lieutenant commander in the Navy; Richard, at Laona; and Gordon, at Wakefield, Mich. Two children, Marian and Donald, are deceased.

Surviving sisters are Mrs. Robert (Mary) Hackney, Milwaukee; Mrs. T. J. (Elizabeth) Graham, Louisville, Ky.; and Mrs. H. R. Messer, New York City. Three sisters and a brother preceded him in death.

He also leaves two half-brothers and a half-sister, Reuben A. Connor, Auburndale; Mrs. Walter (Ruth) Drollinger, Crescent City, Iowa; and Wallace Connor, Detroit, Mich.

There are 18 grandchildren, of whom two, William, 13, and Elizabeth, 11, have spent their entire lives with him at his home here.

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21 Nov 1944, Tue • Pages 1 & 6

The Connor Lumber and Land Company, which plans construction of a large business building at 400 S. Central avenue, was authorized to secure a permit, providing its loading area in the rear is 14 feet 8 inches by 34 feet, as shown in architects plans, and that neither the alley nor the sidewalk be blocked by trucks during the course of such loading and unloading.

Originally the permit had been refused on the grounds that plans did not conform to the zoning regulation that not more than the front 85 per cent of a lot be used for building purposes in a commercial area.

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11 Oct 1950, Wed • Page 7

Building Sale Is Completed

The deed for the American Legion clubhouse at 108 W. Fourth street was signed and delivered to the Connor Lumber and Land Company late yesterday, Elmer J. Martin, commander of Lesselyong-Sadowska Post 54, reported.

The action completes the sale of the building to the firm for the price of \$17,000, which was authorized at a special meeting of Legionnaires last month.

Work preparatory to moving the clubhouse to the rear of the lot was expected to start today. The Connor company plans to move its present building at 400 S. Central avenue to its newly acquired property and construct a new building on its Central avenue lot.

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17 Oct 1950, Tue • Page 12

Legion Clubhouse Moved 44 Feet—'Everyday Job'

When workers of the Frank P. Noe Company, Chicago, began to get the former American Legion Clubhouse on W. Fourth street ready for raising and moving Oct. 19, sidewalk superintendents were saying, "It can't be done."

Wednesday morning after 45 minutes had elapsed from the time the winch on the truck pulled the building back the first foot, the "impossible" had been done and the large brick structure was eight feet higher and 44 feet farther back than it had been.

For the workers of the company that specializes in this sort of work, the operation was just an ordinary everyday occurrence, to quote one of the men on the job.

To the sidewalk supervisors who witnessed the moving in progress it looked much simpler than it had when the work was first started. A steel track had been laid, which when used with rollers every few feet, made the big building look like a giant box-car on a railroad track.

Raised Eight Feet

The most time on the project was consumed by breaking the building away from its old foundation. Holes had to be drilled in the concrete base about every 2 inches apart.

After these holes were drilled through the foundation, "feathers and plugs" were inserted and hit with a sledge until the stress and strain caused the concrete to crack. This operation was performed all around the base of the foundation until it had been broken free—quite evenly.

The "cribbing," or large timbers set up for supports, was erected in about six or seven hours and then with the aid of 44 jack screws the clubhouse was raised eight feet. At this height the building was all set for the steel "saddles" to be placed, on which the rollers slowly and steadily moved the house to its new location.

A truck which had a winch mounted on the back provided the power for pulling the building into place. The steel cable extended to the rear of the building and when the cable was tightened by the power of the truck a series of pulleys went to work and made the building move as easy as a locomotive pulling a train of freight cars.



CLUBHOUSE MOVED—The former American Legion clubhouse was moved 44 feet from its old location Wednesday to make room for the Connor Lumber and Land Company building which will be moved in a similar manner. The structure had been raised eight feet before the rollers were put on the steel "saddles" which were supported by timber cribs and pulled into its new position by a winch powered by a truck. After the Connor building is moved back a larger business building will be erected by the firm, facing Central avenue.

Larger Project Coming

After the big house had been put into place the workers busied themselves turning the 44 jacks, in rotation, to raise the structure to the desired 10-foot height. When this height is reached a concrete foundation will be poured from the new cement floor to the base of the building.

"Just an everyday occurrence," the workers say and now the sidewalk superintendents can say it was easy. They too, know how it's done!

One more major moving project remains to be done at the clubhouse site. The present Connor Lumber and Land Company building at 400 S. Central avenue will be moved back to the location made available by the moving of the former clubhouse. And on its old site the Connor firm plans to erect a large business building.

Youth Center Is Accepted; Union Pact Returned

Street to Be Closed To Facilitate Moving Of Connor Building

By a unanimous vote of the seven members present last night, the Common Council adopted a resolution accepting the gift of a youth center from the Miller Foundation.

The building, the former Alliance Missionary Church at 215 W. Depot street, is the present of Steve J. Miller of Marshfield, with the stipulation that it be used for a youth center.

City obligations in the operation of the building are confined, by the resolution, to furnishing heat, lights, and water, and maintaining the exterior of the building.

Acceptance of the gift was recommended to the aldermen last week by representatives of a citizens' committee which had made the preliminary investigation. Student groups of both the public and parochial high schools here have indicated that the building is ideal for teen-age purposes.

City Represented

The resolution also empowers the Board of Public Works to appoint one or more representatives to serve on the governing body of the center. The Marshfield Community Chest has agreed to underwrite the cost of supervision, at least for the first year of operation.

When the center will begin operating is not yet definitely determined. City Atty. John H. Stauber, in response to a query, said the deed had not yet been received.

A recommendation by the Labor Committee concerning the 1951 contract with municipal employees' Local 927, as returned to the committee for the second time since negotiations began.

Both union and councilmen are agreed on an 8-cent raise and four instead of two paid holidays for employees, and the latest recommendation of the Labor Committee eliminated a section which would have had the city clerk handling a check-off system for the payment of union dues.

Connor Building

Point of contention is a paragraph which states that the mayor and Common Council, as a matter of policy, favor union membership for employees after 30 days of service with the city. Aldermen, while expressing the view that personally they could favor union membership for all employees, said they were opposed to it as representatives of the city.

Leonard Britten, representing the Connor Lumber and Land Company, appeared before the Council to get its consent for closing the 100 block on W. Fourth street and the adjoining alley when necessary for moving and turning the present Connor Building, 400 S. Central avenue, onto its new location on the former American Legion Clubhouse site at 108 W. Fourth street.

The actual moving is expected to start today or Thursday and will take about four days, he said. In addition to barricading the street and alley, five parking meters must be temporarily removed.

Purchase Discussed

Some discussion ensued over a Board of Public Works recommendation to buy a new earth-mover with plow and cab for \$12,108.65, due to the fact that it exceeds outlays provided in the 1951 budget. Board members pointed out that the purchase would take care of equipment problems for some years in the future and also avoids likely future difficulties in securing equipment during mobilization for defense or war.

The board's recommendation finally was unanimously approved.

A Finance Committee recommendation that the city pay taxes on two small strips of property leased from private owners was approved. Taxes involved total \$38.06.

A claim of Edward Arnett for a refund on a \$10 weed-cutting charge was referred to committee. Arnett denies that the weeds were cut by the city. "I had 18 head of cattle on this property and I think they took care of cutting the grass," he claimed.

Bills and Payroll

Prepaid bills in the amount of \$25,818.50 and a payroll of \$22,697.87 were approved for payment. Included in the total was a \$5,000 payment to the Appraisal Engineering Company, La Crosse, which was held up pending an informal meeting of the aldermen and the appraisers now conducting the revaluation of real and personal property here.

The payment is the first asked by the firm on its \$12,500 contract and is merely being delayed on a technicality. The original agreement called for a \$3,500 payment when a land value map was completed, and a similar payment when plat cards were given to the assessor.

The appraisal is taking longer than first anticipated and maps and cards have not yet been turned over.

Treasurer's Report

The city treasurer's report showed \$35,003.56 in the general and \$13,214.78 in the utility account at the end of 1950. Parking meter receipts for December were \$1,586.50.

In the Street Department, payroll expenses were \$7,785.67 for December, while revenues from men and machinery hired out totaled \$243.21.

Aldermen approved minutes of a Water and Light Commission meeting ordering the payment of utility bills amounting to \$29,502.68 and the payroll totaling \$12,589.70.

The report of the Recreation Board showed that 6,697 persons participated in December activities at a cost of approximately 5 cents per person. Net December expenses were \$344.93.

Three aldermen were absent last night: William Scheller, Paul Mueller, and Leo Nikolai.



PREPARING THE TRACK—Workmen for the Frank P. Noe Company, Chicago, are shown as they prepared the track for moving the Connor Lumber and Land Company office building, 400 S. Central avenue, to its new location half a block west on Fourth street. The first phase of the moving operation—pulling the brick building back to the point where it will be turned at right angles to its old position—was completed late yesterday afternoon before a large and appreciative audience of sidewalk superintendents. The actual moving job is expected to be completed Saturday.

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11 Jan 1951, Thu • Page 3

Moving Permit Issued For Connor Project

A permit for the moving of the brick Connor Lumber and Land Company building, 400 S. Central avenue, to 108 W. Fourth street, was issued this week by Inspector Peter LeMahieu. The task of moving the large building to make room for a new structure is in progress.

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13 Jan 1951, Sat • Page 2

CONNOR BUILDING

A major commercial building project now underway here is not expected to be affected by the government "freeze" order.

"The Connor building was started last fall and thus does not come under the stop order," W. D. Connor of the Connor Lumber and Land Company said this morning.

The firm is presently engaged in moving its old office building from its site at 400 S. Central avenue prior to constructing a new building on the location.

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15 Jan 1951, Mon • Page 1



The R Connor office building being moved from 400 South Central Avenue to 108 W 4th Street. Once at its new location the building was rotated so the front entrance now faced north. In this photo, the building has not yet been rotated.

For additional information on this building from the Wisconsin Historical Society:

<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI55495>

Also check these stories from the Marshfield History Project for more family information:

Mary I. Roddis Connor—Gordon Robert Phelps Connor

https://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/Mary_I_Roddis_Connor_Gordon_Robert_Phelps_Connor.pdf

William Duncan “W. D.” Connor

https://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/William_Duncan_W_D_Connor.pdf