

## [Mr. E. E. Beers]

Mrs. Moran

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Mr. E. E. Beers

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin [Historic?] [1st?]

Mr. Beer Beers is 74 years of age. As the oldest member of the Lion's club of Sun Prairie, he broadcasted a talk over WIBU, the Portage station, on the "Progress of Sun Prairie". Mr. Beers was born in 1862 on a farm three miles southeast of Sun Prairie,—Bird's Corners, as it is called. He saw Sun Prairie grow up since he was a boy so he was surely qualified to speak on the subject. Mr. Beers lived on a farm for several years, but 46 years ago he decided to sellll sell out and move to town. At that time, hogs sold for \$2.50, chickens for three and four cents a pound, butter eight and nine cents, and eggs six and seven cents. That was quite different from the prices of today.

At that time the streets were almost impassable in rainy weather. Most, if not practically all, of the sidewalks in the village were on Main Street. The City Hall, a one story structure about 24x32 feet, was also the home of the jail, or the "cooler", an it was called then. In 1895 a new City Hall was brought into existence by bonding the village for \$7,000 (the hall cost \$9,000). This was the first time Sun Prairie was ever bonded, and as a result there was much argument but the bonding carried by a few votes. Next came the extension of Market Street over the realroad ground to the depot. After the street was built the railroad company built a ten foot barbwire fence across the entrance of the street, as they had bitterly protested the extension. The same night the fence disappeared, and the street has been over ever since.

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In 1893 the Sun Prairie Fire Department organized.

In 1899 the village was bonded for about \$25,000 for the water works. The Electric Light plant which had been privately owned was next bought by Sun Prairie by whom it is still owned.

Sun. Prairie has one of the best sewerage systems of any village in the state. The village was bonded for this at a cost of about \$33,500. 1924 there was more argument over the \$10,000 bond to build the public library, but the people in favor of it were successful, and the building which stands on the site of the historic old Bud homestead was erected at a cost of about \$13,000.

The high school, of which all Sun Prairie is justly proud, was built in 1928, at a cost of \$124,000.

With all of these improvements the village has only \$15,000 bonds left, but this fall they intend to pay off \$10,000, leaving only \$5,000 indebtedness. (This does not include the high school building as they still have \$80,000 to pay on it.)

Other improvements of Sun Prairie in the last forty-six years are listed as:————

6 tobacco warehouses 1 new large grain warehouse, silo type 6 large cement coal silos a splendid new large canning factory 4 now churches priest's home Sacred Hearts School

Parish Hill

Creamery Building

Cheese factory building

The [Proceclain?] Factory and Buildings which cover nearly one acre of ground employ about 125 people.

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The “Fireman's Park”, one of the most beautiful in southern Wisconsin, has thousands of dollars worth of buildings,-also a race track.

All buildings in five blocks of Main Street comprising the business section, with the exception of three, are two and three stories high. These are all built of brick. No frame structures are allowed.

The residential is most attractive,—the homes and lawns unusually cared[ for?] The whole village has cement sidewalks. Part of the streets are concrete, and have cement curb and gutter.

All these improvements have taken place in the last 46 years and to quote Mr. Beers, “All we need now is an air-port and a swimming pool. All the difference between Sun Prairie and Madison is that we haven't a State Capital”.

Sun Prairie, by virtue of all these improvements, is “on the map, never to be rubbed off.”