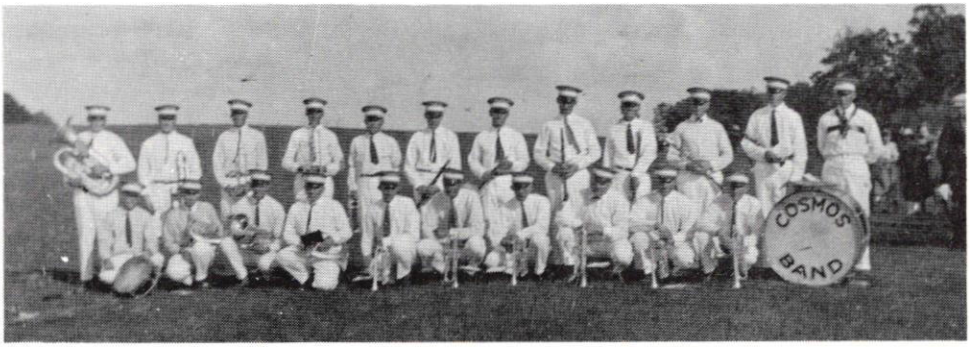
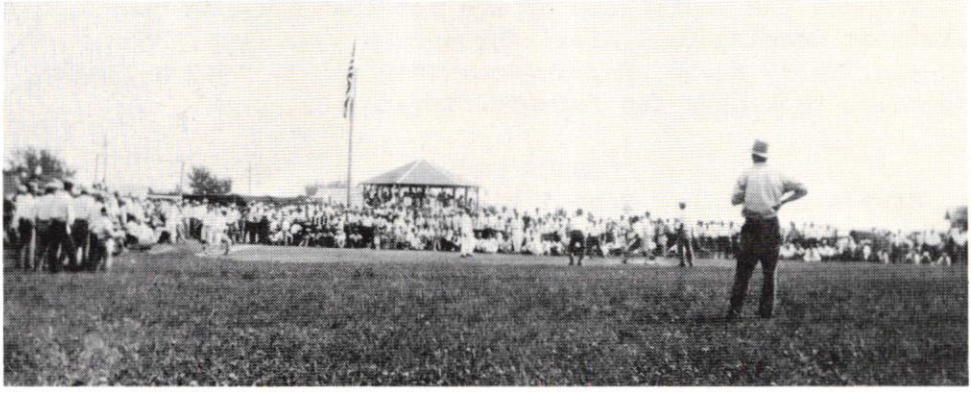
til 1942 when the band was disbanded when many of the young men went into service during World War II. The money in the band treasury was turned over to the Cosmos Band and the instruments turned over to the Cosmos School.



The Cosmos Band in 1925. Band concerts on the creamery lawn were always enjoyed.



Cosmos band picnic in the days after the band was organized. Notice the nice big band stand that was moveable.



Cosmos Band in 1942 in a parade.

GROWTH CONTINUES AFTER RAILROAD CAME

The Penn American Oil Co. had a bulk station built in 1923 after the railroad came in. It was north of the Stearns Lumber Yard, now what is a residential area about where the Clarence Lietzau home is located. Bill Nelson operated the bulk station until 1929, then Shell Oil bought the plant and George Davis operated the station. After some years this ceased to operate.

Just north of the Penn American Oil Bulk Station, Hugo Boetcher had a black smith shop. That was built in 1923.

In the early 1920's, Cosmos business district got its first Elevator, built by Hoppenstedt brothers, Fred and William. The first elevator burned down, but soon was rebuilt by the Hoppenstedt men.

Previous to the development of the dairy and poultry industries in the Community, the marketing of grain was the main source of income to the farmer and helped to a large degree the commercial and financial growth of the town.

Through the years some of the men that were in the elevator were Bunyan, Alvin Abrahamson, Rasmuson, John Larson, Harry Keene, Marvin Koerschen and in 1957 Roland C. Matthews took over the Farmers Elevator Co. Inc.

COSMOS SCHOOL

Cosmos Elementary School District #93 was organized October 3, 1923. Officers were: Clerk, Mrs. C. J. Larson; Treasurer, Roy Olson; Chairman, Clarence Paulson. A two room school was built in 1924.



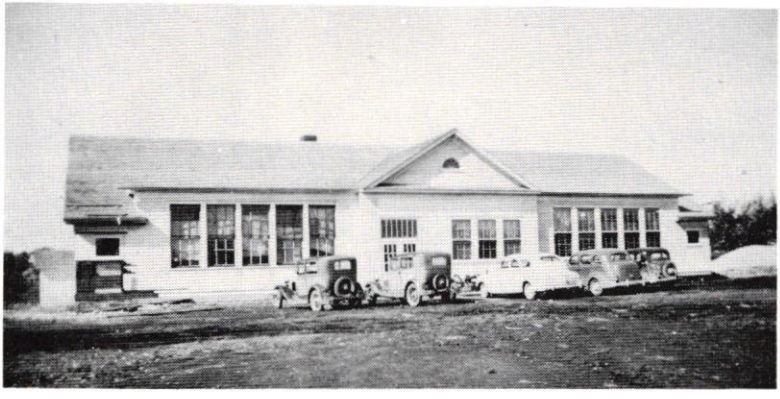
FIRST COSMOS SCHOOL

In 1940 the Cosmos village population was increasing so rapidly that additional class rooms were needed to meet the educational needs of the community. It was decided to build an addition to the existing structure and through their effort they received a Federal grant of $500.00 toward the ex-

pense of construction.

The building was ready for occupancy in 1941.

The ground floor had four available school rooms, three of which were used at this time with an enrollment of 78 pupils. Each room had an individual library and cloak room and there was a general library.



Cosmos Elementary School after the addition in 1941.

The basement had a furnace room, mechanical arts room and a domestic science room electrically equipped with built in cabinets. The beautifully finished knotty pine auditorium was 40x52, had a seating capacity of 300 and was equipped with stage, dressing room, ticket booth and check room and served as a Community Center.

The Cosmos school at this time excelled in its furnishing and appointments all other school structures in the entire county except in villages that maintained a high school. This school was used til 1956.

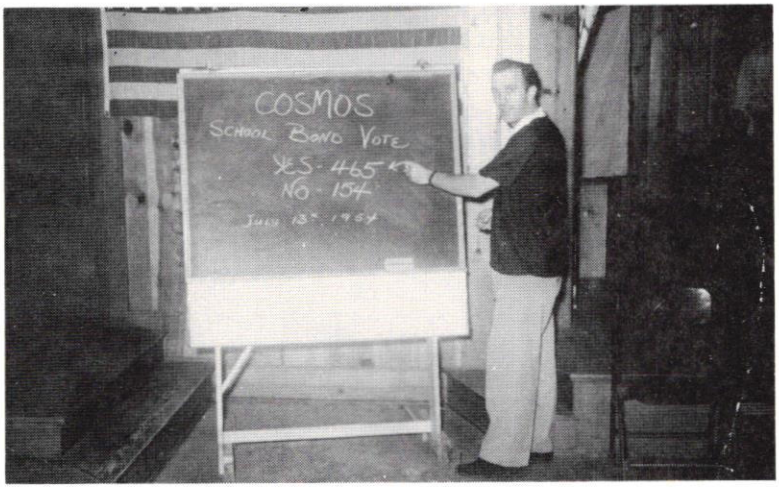
In the spring of 1952 a delegation of rural and urban people called Supt. Knutson of Danube on the possibilities of organizing a new school in the Cosmos area.

Meetings were sponsored by the Cosmos Commercial Club with Mr. Knutson as speaker. The people of the area in August of 1953 requested the county superintendent to call an election of rural districts on consolidation. Voters approved the merger by a vote of 293 to 107 on August 29, 1953.

July, 1954 a bond issue was presented to voters in the amount of $560,000. and carried by a margin of 465 to 154.

After nearly twenty months of construction, the new Cosmos Elementary and High School was built. J. M. Lietzau, Dr. Russel Backe, and Fred Hesser of Cosmos and members from each district that worked for the new school saw this become a reality when it was dedicated in August, 1956 and school opened September 4, 1956.

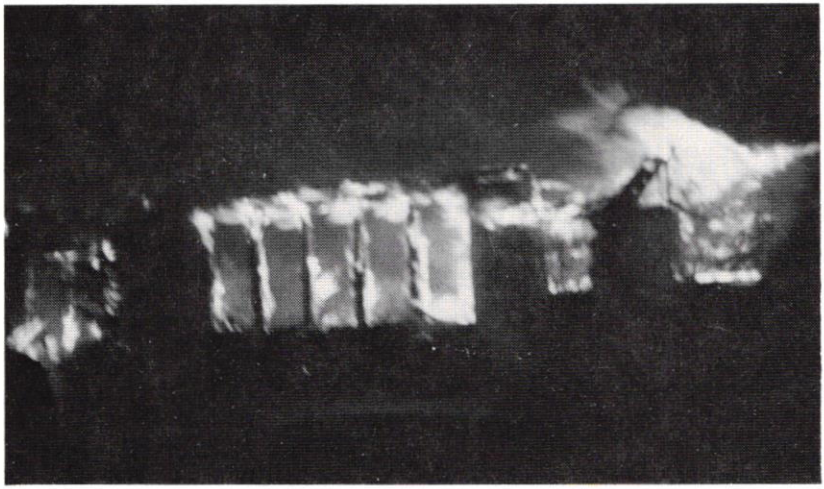
The building at this time consisted of six elementary classrooms with a capacity of 200 students.



Dr. Russel Backe with the results of the bond issue for the building of a Cosmos Elementary High School, 1954.

The secondary area was a 6 year high school with a capacity of 300 students.

Band and athletics were offered at this time with the regular school courses.



The PolyLite Plant which was in the Old Cosmos Elementary School burned to the ground 1963

The Board of Education members at this time were: Chairman, Russel J. Backe; Severin Olson, Arnold Adams, Wesley Youngblom, Melvin Bipes, Emanuel Jensen and Stanley Mortenson. Superintendent of School was K.B. Knutson.

The first football game played on a local field was won over Big Lake with a score of 19-6. The business places closed to attend this big event.

Since the school has been built, the school has had several new additions. In 1964 the school had a large Elementary School addition added.

The Board of Education members at this time were Arnold Adams, Marvin Hackbarth, Herman Raske, Merrill Flemming, Loren Pearson and Earl Koeberl. Superintendent of School was Gale G. Lennon.

A bus garage was added in 1966 and with the increasing number of musicians, a band room was added in 1973. A tutors Special Education room was added to the school in 1975.

The Board of Education at the present time is Dale Anderson, Myron Reinke, Ronald Park, Earl Raske, Marvin Hackbarth and Robert Tharp. Superintendent of School is Lynn Townsend.

COSMOS INCORPORATED

The original townsite consisted of four blocks and undivided Out Lot C. The plat was filed January 31, 1923 and the survey was made by Sven A. Vaule. The town was laid out by Harry Hart, August 29, 1923 and the engineer was T. S. Herverdine of Olivia.

From records back fifty three years ago, lots in this new Luce line town were sold at an auction and there was much interest. H. F. Hort was the seller and lots sold from $75.00 up to almost $500 and he had sold about $20,000 worth of lots up to that time.

When Cosmos was laid out, plans were made for the beautiful wide Main Street that Cosmos is known for.

The original townsite was increased by the following additions, Larson's First, Anderson's Addition, and Rearrangements of Out Lot A, Lietzau's First, Lietzau's Summit, Nelson's First and Nelson's Sub-division of Section 21.

During these early years the village had a slow but steady growth and it was September 24, 1926 that the present village was incorporated. Ernest Grussendorf, J.M. Lietzau and Albert Anderson were the promoters for incorporating the village. The first Mayor was Arthur W. Johnson.

The years of the 1920's saw several business places added to the business district. In 1924 Harry Strom built what is now the Turner Radio & TV Shop. Through the past years many different operators have had business here. Ed Koenig had an IGA Store, Leonard Svien, an IGA Grocery Store; Elsie Maag had a grocery store and Mr. Gilberts a grocery store and Ray Erickson Store and an IGA Store.

In the later years there was a restaurant in the building with Herman Boetcher, Jack Porath, Bud Harris, Lyle Thomas, Clifford Mortenson, Elva Meyer, Archie Ditters, Ken McDonalds, Nick Theis and Alfred Gorrs and others as operators at different times. In 1973 Maurice Turner moved into the building and this is the Turner Radio & TV Shop at the present time.



Clerks in Leonard Sviens IGA store in 1943. A Ryan girl, Ardell Schiro Johnson, and Lou Ella Flemming Benson.

In 1924 Julius Jacobson built a restaurant and he and his wife operated this for several years followed by Lawrence Thurston and Hugo Boetcher. In the fall of 1937 Elmer Holmquist and Abel Oman took over the restaurant business and at that time a complete meal cost 35¢. A ham, beef or pork sandwich was 10¢. In the fall of 1940, Herman Boetcher went into the restaurant business taking over from Holmquist and Oman. After some years Wesley Grussendorf opened up a Gamble store January 1, 1940 in the building, taking over the business from Wallace Mortenson and Donald Grussendorf who operated the business in another building. After several years of operations, Wesley Grussendorf sold out to Verne Fredin on November 11, 1949. After 25 years of operation Vern sold out to Stanley Koch in March, 1974 and this is the Cosmos Hardware and Supply.

The International Implement Building was built in 1924



Hackbarth's International Inplement with gas pumps.

by Emil Hackbarth. At this time the highest price tractor sold for $680.00. Also, this same year, Hackbarth put in the first gasoline pump in Cosmos and gas sold for 22¢ a gallon.

In 1946, Marvin Hackbarth and Bernard Arnold bought out the International Implement Business from Emil Hackbarth and the business became known as the Cosmos Implement. In 1951 Marvin Hackbarth bought out Bernard Arnold's interest and the business is known as Hackbarth Implement Co.



This is the Emil Hackbarth Implement September 1941. Notice the pot belly stove. Bernard Arnold is behind the counter.

Two brothers, Arthur and Lewis Johnson in 1924 built the present K.F. Garage and operated that for several years. Around 1930 a bowling alley was built in the north side of the building and was in existence for 2-3 years and operated by Albert Wooley, Sr. Around this time Carl Ulrich was in the garage followed by Emery Phillips. In 1950 Lyle Petersdorf became owner of the building and in 1951 Orton Melberg joined in the garage business until 1964. Lyle Petersdorf sold his interest to his partner and in 1969 Darrel Ketcham became owner-operator of the K.F. Service Garage. Lyle Petersdorf operates "Lyle's Repair" in Cosmos.

A new business place was built on the west side of the street in the south part of the village in 1925 by Henry Gutzke. In here Andrew B. Nelson had a Meat Market, followed by Carl Soltau.

In the fall of 1931 Mr. and Mrs. R.J. Broderius started the Rainbow Hatchery in this building and engaged in the poultry business. They started with a 16,000 egg capacity incubator and centered their efforts in raising the very

best strain of white leghorns. They met with marked success and by 1933 they added a unit of 35,000 capacity and in 1937 a 16,000 unit. From February to July 1, 170,000 chicks and 30,000 turkey poults were hatched. The breeding stock was secured from an Ohio breeder and the initial stock was from the best English strain.

The Rainbow plant was a state accredited hatchery. There was a great demand for the hatchings in Meeker and surrounding counties.

The Hatchery ceased to operate some years ago and in 1956 Maurice Turner opened a Radio & TV repair shop in the building.

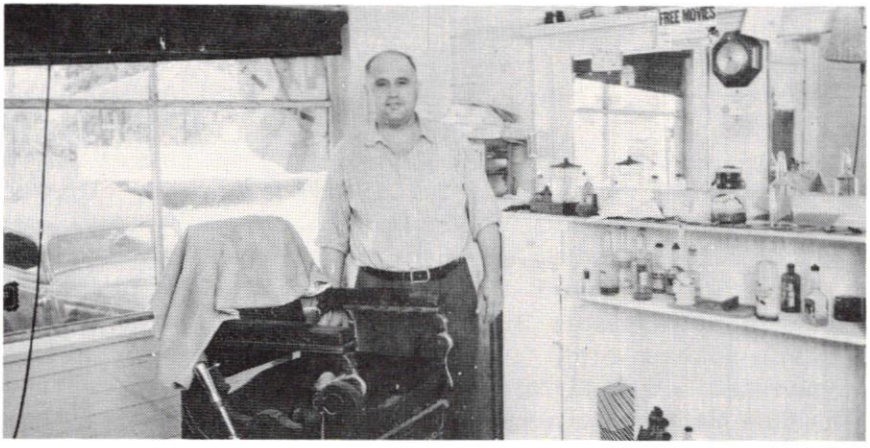
Following, Dr. David Allison and Dr. Gregory Olson had their office in the building, moving from their former office above the drug store. The doctors had their office here until the early part of 1976 when this was discontinued.

In July of 1963, Cosmos welcomed a new business, the Kemco Specialties, with Sherrill Koch as head of this manufacturing company, and this opened in the basement of this building, the Turner Radio & TV Repair Shop.

This chemical company manufactured Kemco Bowl Cleaners, Kemco Liquid Detergent, Kemco Liquid Car Wash, Klear Spray Glass Cleaner. All products of Kemco Specialties, Inc. were original formulas devised by Koch and manufactured in the place of business.

This business moved later across the street. The building now has living quarters in it.

The year 1926 saw a new barber shop built by Albert O. Anderson. Mr. Anderson was in the barbering business until 1950 when Vern Soltau took over the shop. He continued in the business for 11 years and in 1961 Paul Peterson became barber and is in the barbering business at the present time.



Albert O. Anderson in his barber shop in the late 1930's. Note the band stand across the street.

COSMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT

At the April 16, 1927 Council Meeting, the matter of purchasing a site for a fire hall was discussed and the offer of Albert Lietzau was accepted for the sum of $100.00.

On May 5, 1927, the bid from Lester Wall to build the fire hall was accepted for the sum of $1,490.00.

A volunteer fire department was organized, December 14, 1927 with 18 members and Ernest Grussendorf as fire chief. The equipment consisted of a combination International truck with hooks, ladders, chemical and water tank, and pump purchased in 1930 in cooperation with the town.

This station was sold to the Hector Telephone Company in 1953 for $1,000. The building is being used by the Continental Telephone Co.

The present fire hall was bought by the village in 1953 and was the former Anderson-Wothe garage. An addition was added on to the fire hall in 1958 at a cost of $7,360.00.



COSMOS FIRE DEPARTMENT in 1957

Front row - left to right; Doran Anderson, Richard Mortensen, Wyman Lundstrom, Robert Erickson, Merrill Meyer, Elmer Retzlaff, Erwin Hukreide. *Second row;* Harold Hesser, Bud Harris, Herbert Schiro, Lyle Perersdorf, Harold Minnick, Sr., Martin Kutzke, Marvin Koerschen. *Back row;* Glarence Geier, Sr., Walter Reinke, Floyd Murray, Delano Lietzau, Donald Zrust, Clifford Olson, and Vern Fredin.

Through the passing years, new equipment has been added and in 1956 an ambulance was purchased after a fire necessitated the use of an ambulance. There are eleven volunteer qualified EMT (Emergency Medical Technicians) ambulance personal, with Harold Hesser as Ambulance Squad Captain. Merle Olson is Fire Chief and Tom Smith, Assistant Chief, assisted by about 21 other volunteer firemen. Herb Schiro and Robert Erickson are charter members of the fire department and are honorary members.

After the town was incorporated from early records from the Village Council meeting of November 18, 1926 a petition was presented to the Council to enact a rule forbidding children under the age of 16 years on the streets or in any

business places of the Village, unaccompanied by their parents, after 8 p.m. until May 1, 1927 and thereafter until October 1, 1927 after 9 p.m. The petition was granted and the constable to put the rule in force.

At this same meeting, the Council was to make a survey of the business section and designate the location for necessary lights and to proceed with erecting these lights.

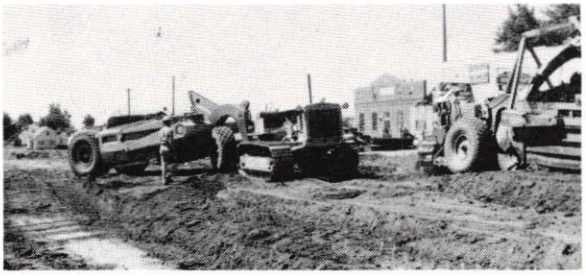
Council members at this time in 1926 were A.W. Johnson, President; H. L. Swanson, Clerk; H. A. Schramm, E. A. Hackbarth and Arthur Flemming, Trustees.

At the February 10, 1927 Council meeting a fire bell was voted upon, the purchase price $45.00.

The December 2, 1927 Council Meeting, H. L. Schiro was engaged to attend and keep fire in the fire hall for the sum of $2.00 per week during winter months as long as it was necessary to have heat.

At this time in the 1920's, in addition to the railway transportation, there were two state highways, Number 4 going North and South and Number 7 going East and West furnishing connections with trunk highways. Cosmos also at this time had telephone connections through Grove City and Hector exchanges.

Not only were business places added to the business district, but many new homes in the residential area were being built at this time.



Highway No. 4 rebuilt through Main Street, Cosmos in 1950's.



Road construction in the early 1950's in front of the Larson and Peterson Store. Notice the height of the sidewalk. In front is Mrs. Edward Olson with daughter, Nancy, C.J. Larson, Mollie Albrecht in the doorway and the man on the right is unknown.

AMERICAN LEGION AND LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Beack Thompson Post 126 was organized in 1926 with 13 members: Commander, Alvin Gunderson and Adjutant, Albert Anderson.

From the early records of the Post, they met every month with the exception of July and August, and the meetings were held the first Thursday of each month in the school auditorium. Some of the activities the Post took part in the first years were the repair of the village hall, post financed Junior and Adult ball games, Post and Ladies Auxiliary outline and charge of Memorial and Armistice Day celebrations. The Post also had charge of decorating graves of the Soldiers of the Civil, Spanish, World Wars in the following cemeteries: Spring Grove, Cedar Mills, First Lutheran Cemetery of Cosmos, Brookfield Lutheran Cemetery, and Peace Lutheran Cemetery.

The past years the Legion has grown considerably and has given generously to local and state organizations. They have given to the Cosmos Summer Recreation program, hired managers for Legion baseball, sponsored a Boy for Boys State, remember veterans at Christmas time, purcased American flag for Cosmos library, give two American flags at Cosmos Space Festival drawings, support the Cancer Society, made and installed scoreboard for softball field, donate to Red Wing Training School for boys, purchased a Bicentennial sign for Cosmos, help sponsor a fishing trip for veterans at St. Cloud Hospital, gave donation to a needy family, and gave American Flag and material for lights for Cosmos Park to fly flags day and night and remember servicemen and women in the service at Christmas time. Officers for 1975-76 are Commander, Willard Arndt; First Vice Commander, Paul Lux; Second Vice Commander, Ralph Inselmann; Adjutant, Clarence Geier, Sr.; Chaplain, Ronald Mortenson; Treasurer, Dorin Anderson; and Sgt. of Arms, Harvey Picha.

LADIES AUXILIARY OF BEACK THOMPSON POST

The Ladies Auxiliary of Beack Thompson American Legion Post 126 was organized July 11, 1928 with 14 members. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. E. Y. Koenig; First Vice President, Mrs. Lewis Johnson; Second Vice President, Mrs. Mary Meyer; Treasurer, Effie Meyers; Chaplain, Mrs. E. H. Maag; Sgt. at Arms, Mrs. Alvin Gunderson; Historian, Mrs. W. Lietzau; Chairman of Committees: Rehabilitation, Mrs. Mary Meyer; Membership, Mrs. H. Boetcher; Music, Mrs. Alvin Gunderson and Effie Meyer.

The officers were installed by Mrs. S.B. Keen, District President of Olivia, Minnesota on July 27, 1928.

The Legion Auxiliary, like the Legion, during their early

years was very active in patriotic and civic affairs, and had performed various charitable services and also had helped in shaping and conducting the Memorial and Armistice Day programs.



Mrs. Mary Meyer on her 90th birhtday. Mrs. Meyer was a charter member of the Legion Auxiliary of Cosmos and second vice-president of the newly organized Auxiliary.

By 1942, the Auxiliary membership had increased to eighteen.

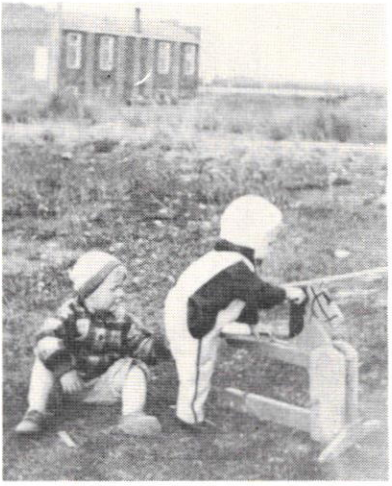
Some of many projects that the Cosmos Legion Auxiliary helps with are: gives to the American Cancer Society, gives money to the $ bill shower for veterans, gives money for gifts for veterans gift shop, give gifts each year to men in service, donates to Redby Indian Mission, makes robes and bibs for veterans in the hospital, gives gifts to needy in the community at Christmas, sponsors parties at the nursing home. These are a few of the many worthwhile projects done for veterans and the local community.

The officers for 1975-76 were: President, Mrs. Levi Lietzau; First Vice President, Mrs. Alice Anderson; Second Vice President, Mrs. Richard Mortenson; Secretary, Mrs. Willard Arndt; Treasurer, Mrs. Gordon Johnson; Sgt. at Arms, Mrs. Dorin Anderson; Chaplain, Mrs. Glarence Geier, Sr.; Historian, Mrs. Milan Retzlaff.

Around 1926, the Cosmos Town Hall was built by the town, with Adolph Holmgren the contractor. This was a place of much entertainment, dances, the talking movie, parties, socials and town board meeting.

To initiate the new Town Hall, a grand opening was held with a dance with people coming from far and near and the receipts that night almost paid for half the hall. The hall was taken down in the late 1940's.

Holm Brothers joined the business district of Cosmos in 1928 when they took over the first store in Cosmos, which was now a hardware store from Charles J. Larson. William Holmquist was named manager. Merrill Meyer was named man-

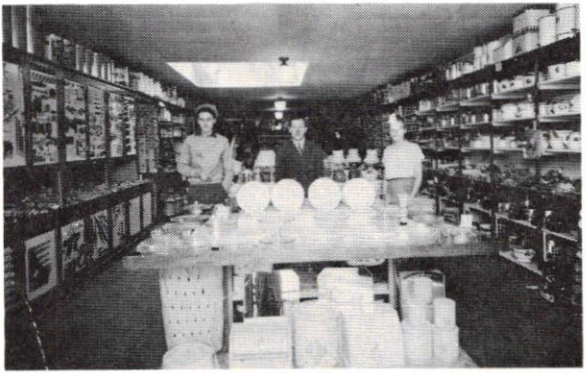


Cosmos Town Hall in 1935. This was taken down and was where Highway 7 went. Donald and Daryle Zrust are the two little boys.

ager some years later. Holm Brothers sold out to Leonard Svien and William Holmquist and they remained in the business for a few years and then sold out to Albert Flemming, Jr. and Wallace Mortenson. In 1951, Fred Hesser bought out the hardware and implement line and Bernard Arnold took over the implement line in 1951 and carried the Minneapolis Moline line. Fred Hesser sold the hardware store in 1962 to his son, Harold Hesser, and it is known as Hesser OK Hardware.



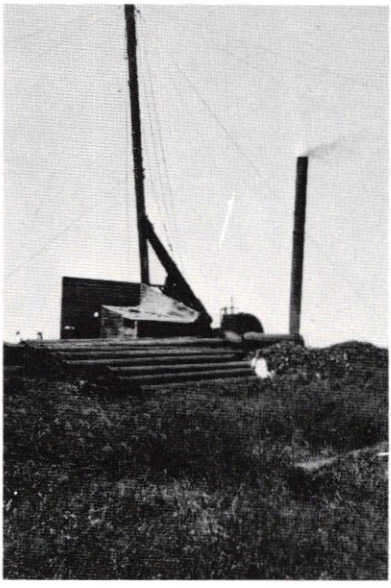
Holm Brothers store with the gas pumps - around 1933. This is now the Hesser OK Hardware.



Holm Brothers Hardware around 1939 with Lloyd Bergman, Merrill Meyer, manager, and Aretha Hogemeister Olsen.



Albert Jordin, Sr. and Bernard Arnold in the Arnold Implement Co. Jordin worked for Arnold. This was taken about 1954.



The oil rig digging for oil in Cosmos in 1929.

The year 1929 was a big year for Cosmos. Prospectors started digging for oil on the west edge of Cosmos, just south of the Cosmos Nursing Home. This was a futile attempt as far as finding oil. The tube still remains in the ground.

COSMOS 4-H ORGANIZED

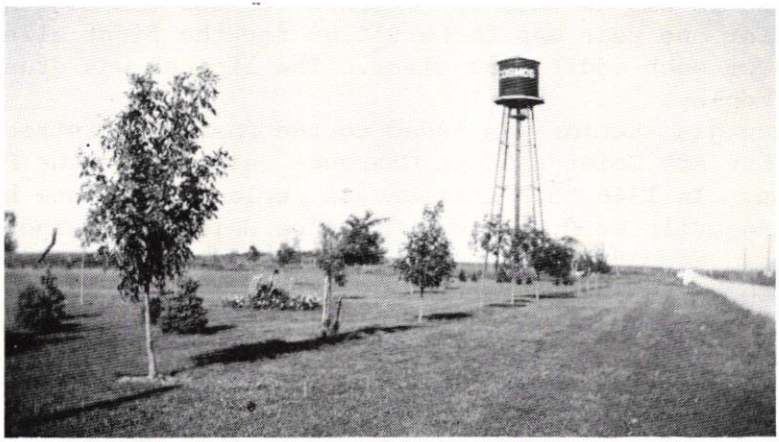
The youth of Cosmos organized the Cosmos 4-H Club in 1929 with the following officers: President, Emily Olson; Vice President, Marshall Olson; Secretary, Doris Larson; Mrs. Alice Abrahamson, local leader; Mrs. H. J. Koch, local leader; Mrs. A. G. Abrahamson, local leader and Mr. E. Holmquist, local leader. The enrollment was fourteen girls and fourteen boys.

The club disbanded after some years and reorganized in January 1958 and Cosmos Comets was the name chosen by the newly organized group with 17 members. Officers elected were: President, Cheryl Petersdorf; Vice President, Judy Podratz; Treasurer, Gary Welander; Secretary, June Frederiksen; Reporter, Nancy Olson. Leaders were, Mrs. E. J. Thomas, Mrs. Edward Olson and Mrs. W. Welander. The present officers for 1975-76 are: President, Martha Sharpe; Vice President, Gary Schmidt; Secretary, Gene Schmidt; Treasurer, Cindy Schultz; Reporter, Kevin Driver and leaders are: Mrs. Charles Sharpe, Mrs. Marvin Schiro and Mrs. Kenneth Driver.

COSMOS PARK

In 1929 during the administration of Mayor William

Holmquist, the question of establishing a village park was given consideration. The leadership in this movement was furnished by E. A. Hackbarth, Ernest Grussendorf and Wm. Holmquist. It occasioned a bitter controversy, but in the end a tract of land, five acres, block 25 and 26 were purchased from the Interurban Development Company.



Cosmos Park in 1939. Notice the only road was South of the park. No. 7 had not been built.

The park was developed and partially landscaped by W.P.A. labor in 1935. E. A. Hackbarth was in charge as Park Commissioner and took a great deal of pride in the development of the park. A 35 foot flag pole was erected in 1942 in the park.

This beautiful park that lies at the intersection of highways 4 and 7 attracts many tourists for a stopping place for picnics with a Lions' Shelter, picnic tables and amusement slides and swings.

In 1930 the census for the village of Cosmos was 279.

Social function of these years consisted of Christmas festivals, holiday celebrations, donation parties, spelling bees and meetings of the Farmers Grange.

From the minutes of the April 8, 1930 Council Meeting of the village of Cosmos, a petition for license to operate pool tables was submitted by Ernest Grussendorf. Permit and license were granted to operate four tables; the license thereon being at the rate of $5.00 per table for a period of one year beginning March 21, 1930.

THE 1930's BRING NEW BUSINESSES

Around 1931 a Phillips "66" Station was built on the east side of main street where our new Post Office is built. Harry Springer had this for a number of years followed by Albert Flemming, Jr. and Leonard Meyer, Emery Minnick and in October, 1946, Harold Minnick, Sr. started in the station.

In the January 1931 Council minutes it is recorded that three street lights be placed as follows, one at the corner of the John Anderson property, one a block west in the direction of the school house and one on Main Street South near the Fherm property.

The Council meeting of the Cosmos Village of November 14, 1933 it was decided the license fee for the Bowling Alley for one year was to be $10.00 for the first alley and $5.00 for each additional alley. The license was granted to A. E. Wooley.

A new gas station was added to the business district in 1933 when Art Geier and son Glarence Geier built the Home Oil Station. In 1946 this station was replaced by a new brick building built by Art Geier, Glarence Geier and Vernon Swigart. The station and bulk service is now owned and operated by Vernon Swigart.



Glarence Geier by the gas pump - note the price of gas, 11c per gallon plus tax. Taken around 1937. In the background is the Dvork building.

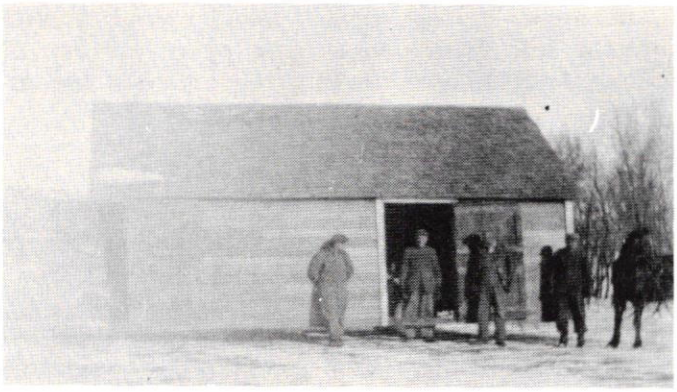
Also this same year, 1933, saw William Holmquist enter into real estate business in Cosmos.

Cosmos continued to grow with a new Lumber Yard and Hardware started by J. M. Lietzau in 1934 in the south part of Cosmos, east of Peace Lutheran Church.

With the steady growth of business and more employees, this business made a move to a much larger newly constructed building on Main Street in 1948. This building housed a grocery store, men's clothing store, hardware, lumber and machinery.

The grocery store was run by Leonard Svien, until the spring of 1950 when Marcus Larson took over and in the fall of 1950 Glenn Dahlquist bought out Larson and continued in

business until January 1963 when Mr. and Mrs. Ted Wothe took over the business and continued until October of 1973.



Jack Lietzau's first lumber yard, which was the Rosendale Methodist Horse barn that had been moved in. On the picture is Walter Reinke, Otto Reingke, Robert Lietzau and Albert Lietzau. This was taken in 1934



The lietzau Hardware and Lumber after they moved in their new building in 1948. On the picture are three generations, Albert Lietzau, Jack Lietzau, and Levi Lietzau.

Elmer Holmquist moved his clothing store to this new building in 1949. J. M. Lietzau operates the J. M. Lietzau Lumber and Hardware, Inc.

The Community Oil Co. Station was built in 1935 by Mr. Ingerson of Fairmont with Art Rykken as manager. This station was located just a little south of the new Milky Way Restaurant. In 1941 Vern Fredin was in the station for some years followed by Henry J. Koch. This building was moved to the country some time later.

In the fall of 1936, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Broderius started a most unique side line of business, when they started

their mink kennels. They started with six females and one male and by 1937 the litter was increased to thirty and by 1938 the number had increased to seventy. In the year 1938, the single domestic pelts had an average sale price of $40.00. The kennels were located in the northwest part of town which is now a residential area.

"THE COSMOS COURIER"

"The Cosmos Courier" made its first appearance June 25, 1937 and was compiled and printed in the office of the Grove City Gazette at Grove City. The Gordons were editors of this eight page paper. The staff writer for Cosmos was Miss Lavern Olson. Of interest under the locals in this paper were "The Cosmos Junior Baseball team defeated Lake Jennie, the score was 6 to 1."

"The businessmen of Cosmos have a lawn mowing party every Monday evening in the park in order to keep it in trim."

"Talking Movie to be shown - Friday, July 2 'The Fire Trap". "The local fire department will sponsor the movie in the town hall."

"This picture gives you the low down on how fire bugs and crooks work when they plot to make money by the sacrifice of human lives."

"The Fire Trap will give you an evening of entertainment you will seldom see anywhere else. And in addition, a good comedy will be shown. Both are talking pictures."

"No organization is more deserving than the firemen. So turn out and give them a good crowd. Admission is adults 25¢ and children 10¢."

In some of the ads: Holm Brothers Birthday Sale. Ironing Board-48 inch folding $1.09; House paint-5 gal. cans per gallon $1.84; 7 piece Berry Set only - - 25¢.

Peterson's Cash Market - Beef Pot Roast, per lb. 22¢; Ground beef-pure - - 20¢; Peanut butter - Swift's Best in Bulk 15¢.

Larson's Fairway Store - Kohinor flour per bag $1.98; Men's work shoes $1.98; Men's Union suits 49¢; Ladies frocks $1.09 and $1.98.

Cosmos IGA Store - Cocoa 2# box - - 13¢; Sugar 10# 53¢; Bananas per lb. 5¢.

Under the Church News Notes:

Peace Lutheran Church - "The Peace Lutheran Church will have English services at 10:30 a.m. Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. Rev. E. J. Kaiser Pastor."

First Lutheran Church - "First Lutheran Church will have English services at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning. The Ice Cream

Social which was postponed last Friday evening will be Friday evening, June 25 at the Luther League Hall of the First Lutheran Church." Rev. G. Larson, Pastor.

Other business places carrying ads in the paper were: Service Garage; Minor Motor Co., C. A. Jacobson, Local Agent; Cosmos Harness and Shoe Shop, Herb L. Schiro, prop.; North American Cry., A. O. Olson, Prop.; Litchfield Produce; First State Bank of Cosmos; E. A. Hackbarth, McCormick Deering Dealer; Home Oil Co; Ernie's Place, Ernest D. Grussendorft, Prop.; Cosmos Inn, L. R. Thurston; The Rainbow Hatchery; Phillips Service Station, Meyer & Flemming, Prop.; Stearns Lumber Co.

It was January 14, 1938 Cosmos welcomed their first dentist, Dr. Donald Gilman and his office was above the Larson's store.

By 1938, the village had contracted for the establishment of a water works system, which was in process of being constructed under a W.P.A. project in which the government furnished $22,000 and the village an equal amount. The well had an 8" casing and was 153 feet deep.

The estimated population in 1938 was 375.

The incorporated village had an area of one square mile and embraced four sections: the SW ¼ of 15; SE ¼ of 16; NW ¼ of 22; and NE ¼ of 21.

The village officers at that time were: President, R. J. Broderius; Councilmen, H. H. Maag, Carol Ulrich and Ernest Grussendorf; Recorder, F. H. Zrust; Treasurer, H. L. Swanson and Constable, Robert E. Erickson.

The establishment of a water works system hastened the growth and development of the village and numerous residences were erected.

June 6, 1939 the Council established the water rate for a period of one year. Rate was set at $2.50 per quarter with a 50¢ discount if paid on or before the due date.

By 1940 the population had doubled from when the Minnesota Western Railroad was built in 1922. Few towns this size could boast such an up to date and extensive sewer and water system as Cosmos had just installed. The main thoroughfare was now hard surfaced and had a spacious and inviting business district. Sidewalks also at this time were being extended, giving the village an attractive appearance.

In 1940 Mr. Charley Ahlbrecht and his family came to Cosmos and started the Cosmos Apiary. When he came to Cosmos, he had a few hives and by 1942 the hives numbered 107. Each year new swarms were purchased and some from as far off as Grocerville, Arkansas. In 1941, besides comb honey, he marketed one ton of strained honey. He found a ready market for his product in Cosmos stores and neighbor-

ing villages.

In the early 1940's during the open season for pheasants and ducks, the Cosmos territory was known as hunter' paradise. Citizens opened their homes to out of county hunters at this period and extended every possible courtesy.

Around this time the village hall served as a voting center, council room and a community center for social purposes.

"COSMOS?"

In January 1940 the "Cosmos?" published by O.T. Bergstrom at Grove City made its appearance as a newspaper in Cosmos.

The "Cosmos?" had these articles of interest: "A.O. Anderson as Mayor Heads a Fine Village." "Albert O. Anderson now is mayor, having succeeded R. J. Broderius who retired at the close of his term in December. F. H. Zrust is the veteran Village Clerk, Councilmen are H. H. Maag, Ernest Grussendorf and Art Geier."

"17 New Homes Sold by Lietzau Building During 1939 around Cosmos."

"Perhaps the truest picture of Cosmos progress can be gained by a glance at the new structures that grace the surrounding territory, as well as the many new homes in Cosmos village."

"Rainbow Hatchery to Have 100,000 Volume With New Incubators."

"The Rainbow Hatchery Building is being remodeled and enlarged for installation of all new Robbins incubators with a capacity of 100,000 eggs to meet the increasing demand for Rainbow baby chicks and turkey poults."

"Win $3.00 Prize for Naming This Paper."

"As this will be a Community newspaper, devoted to the interests of Cosmos and surrounding territory, the publisher and business men who are advertisers are backing the new undertaking, wish the community to have part in naming the paper. A prize of $3.00 cash, donated by a Cosmos business man, will be given for the name selected."

Under the Cosmos Locals written by Bertha Koch was "Peace Lutheran Church held its annual meeting Thursday evening and officers elected were: Ervin Nelson, Chairman; Walter Homan, Deacon; Floyd Jacobson, Secretary; Chas. Hoecke, Treasurer; Carl W. Hoecke on Sunday School Board."

Business ads that appeared in the paper at that time were:

Meyer & Flemming Super Service
Try the Phillips "66" Twins

Holm Bros.
Minnesota Machine Line
Merrill Meyer, Mgr.

Gamble Store Agency
1940 Coronada Radios - Liberal
allowance for your old one
Mortenson & Grussendorf, Props.

Johnson Produce
Hybrid Seed Corn
Alfred O. Olson, Mgr.

Rainbow Hatchery
Chicks & Turkey Poults
Feeds for Every Need

Maag's Livestock Transfer
We buy Livestock, Monday & Thursday
Office on Main Street North of
Stearns Lumber Co.

Spud's Cafe
Where Coffee is the Best
E. M. Johnson, Prop.

E. A. Hackbarth
Mc Cormick-Deering Machinery
Special This Week
8 inch Feed Mill Bradley Make

J. M. Lietzau Lumber Co.
We are dealers in High Grade
Hardware & Western Lumber

Holmquist Remedy Company
Quality Poultry Remedies
Also handles Real Estate

C. J. Larson
General Merchandise
Special This Week
Mens 4 Buckle Overshoes All Rubber $1.98 to $2.49

Home Oil Co.
Open their doors for Direct Service
January 8, 1940
Art & Bud

Adolph Holmgren
Contractor and Builder
See me for estimates
First Class Work at
Lowest Prices

Stearns Lumber Co.
"Where the Good Grades Come from"
Put in your order for that Brooder House
F. H. Zrust, Mgr.

Community Oil Co.
Always ready to serve you when you call at our store.
Petroleum Products at very lowest prices
Art Rykken, Mgr.

Litchfield Produce
Cash Buyers of
Cream - Eggs - Poultry - Hides & Wool
H. O. Flemming, Mgr.

Enoch Peterson was granted a permit to use the M. W. Stockyards as a slaughter house if he operated under State

Board of Health rules governing slaughter houses. This was granted by the Council in March, 1940.

People hired by the year for jobs by the Council were discussed and acted upon at the January, 1941 meeting. Robert Erickson was hired for Police duty, Water system, and Park care at a salary of $235.00 per year. Mr. Emil Hackbarth was assigned Park Commissioner and Art Geier was assigned Street Commissioner.

"THE COSMOS ENTERPRISE"

In a couple years, in June 1942 "The Cosmos Enterprise", edited by Frank B. Lamson, came as a supplement to the Meeker County News.

In this paper, an article of interest is the "Community Picnics." "Cosmos has promoted each year for seventeen years without interuption, a Community Picnic gathering open to the people of Meeker and adjoining counties."

"An unusually fine program has featured these events consisting in campaign years of addresses by representatives of opposing political parties. The speakers are chosen from men of state wide reputation, candidates of all parties who attend as introduced. A band is present and there is a program of games and sports. The ladies of the Community provide lunches at reasonable prices and unobjectionable concessions are granted."

"These picnics usually occur the first Saturday and Sunday in August. They draw immense crowds, have become very popular and have been self sustaining."

Also in this paper was an article on "Free Movies Wednesday Nights." "The business interests have made arrangements whereby on each Wednesday evening free out-door movies furnish free entertainment to the people residing in the Cosmos territory. The film programs are greatly enjoyed by those in attendance. Each Wednesday night all the available parking space is utilized."

"KOCH'S TRUCKING SERVICE"

"Henry J. Koch established himself in the local and stock hauling business in March 1941, since then he has built up a successful and growing line of business. He makes regular trips to the St. Paul Stock Market and has been known to make three or more trips in a 24 hour day. On his return he hauls products for Cosmos businessmen where the demand requires speedy delivery."

"LUMBER YARDS"

"Cosmos is one of the outstanding building material markets of Central Minnesota."

"It has two outstanding lumber yards that have a trade area far in excess of the Cosmos Community. They operate under a very low overhead. Both yards have facilities to provide skilled carpenters whereby they are able to furnish interior finishings and cabinet work."

"These yards are keenly competitive and their trade area covers a radius of thirty miles."

"Both yards specialize in portable farm buildings."

"They are among the largest shippers from the Cosmos territory over the Minnesota Western Railroad."

"These two yards are among Cosmos' greatest assets."

In the Cosmos Business Directory at that time were First State Bank, J. M. Lietzau Lumber Co., Erickson I.G.A. Store, Koch's Trucking Service, Henry J. Koch; Stearns Lumber Company; Spud's Cafe, E. J. Johnson; Rainbow Hatchery; Litchfield Produce, Herman Flemming Agent; Cosmos Inn, H. G. Boetcher, prop.; Cosmos Cooperative Creamery; Holm Bros. Hardware, M. A. Meyer Mgr.; Home Oil Company, Art & Bud; Holmquist's Poultry Remedy Company, William Holmquist; The Fairway Store, C. J. Larson; Poultry Products, H. O. Flemming; Cosmos Garage, A. E. Hackbarth; Hoeckes Food Market; Ed's Tavern, Ed Paul Prop.; Daylight Tavern, Ernest Grussendorf Prop.; Cosmos Construction Co., E. H. Maag, Prop.; Phillips 66 Service Station, Meyer & Flemming; Community Oil Co., Vern Fredin, Manager; Peterson Meat Market, Enoch Peterson, Prop.; Cosmos Harness & Shoe Shop; Maag's Live Stock Transfer, Herbert H. Maag, Prop.;

Other lines of business at that time listed were: Minnesota Western Railroad, C. J. Jones, Agent; F. Hagemeister, Milk Distributor; Builder & Contractor, Adolph Holmgren, Ahlbrecht's Apiary; Dovart's Machine & Welding Shop; Olson's Blacksmith Shop; Olsen Produce Company; Anderson's Barbershop; Gamble Store; Garage; Riebe's Local Trucking Service.

From the records of the October, 1943, Council Meeting, it was decided to have a curfew at 9 o'clock for all school children unless they were with their parents. No bicycle riding on streets ro after dark without lights was allowed.

In 1944, an ordinance was adopted to discontinue having poultry or stock yards which were objectionable to Village property owners in the village.

COSMOS COMMERCIAL CLUB

Around 1946 the Cosmos Commercial Club was organized by Cosmos businessmen. This organization through the years has sponsored various activities as Corn Days and Free Monies in the years gone by, with Christmas drawing and Santa Claus day as some of their Community Projects.

Present officers are: President, Rich Jamison; Vice President, Merle Olsen; Secretary, James Christopherson; Treasurer, Jerrel Sharpe. Present projects they are sponsoring are Community benefit supper during the Space Festival and a golf tournament during the space festival.

The year 1947 brought the Holmquist Clothing Store to Cosmos that opened in the former Lietzau Barber Shop and operated by Elmer Holmquist.

ROD & GUN CLUB

The Rod & Gun Club had their first meeting February, 1948 in the Flemming Mortenson Hardware Store with Arthur A. Flemming, Wm. Schiro, Melvin(Louie) Schiro, Marshall Olson and Harris Nelson organizers. Officers elected in March were: President, Emerald Gunderson; Secretary-Treasurer, Arthur A. Flemming and Board Members Lyman Stafford, Marshall Olson, Floyd Jacobson, Melvin(Louie) Schiro, Erwin Heller, Clarence Beckstrand, George Kaddatz, Albert Flemming, Wallace Mortenson, Emery Phillips and Herman Flemming. The club disbanded in 1953 with 156 members.

The club reorganized in 1967 with the following officers: President, Delano Lietzau; Vice President, Delbert Wiederhoft; Secretary-Treasurer, Leo Plut; Directors Eldon Froehlick, Charles Lietzau, Dennis Bellig, Paul Peterson and Harold Minnick, Jr.

The present officers are: President, Louie Schiro; Vice President, Delbert Wiederhoft; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Lorayne Caawuwe and present membership is 55.

The Rod & Gun Club have donated to Rapid City flood, planted pheasants, give gun training classes, snowmobile training classes, given to the ambulance fund and also bought ambulance coats and given to other worthwhile causes in the community.

The year 1949 was a year Cosmos had substantial growth in the business district. In that year the town welcomed the new "Hub" Theatre built operated by the Hukriede brothers, Maynard and Erwin.

They continued to operate this for a time and this was taken over by Wesley Grussendorf, November 1, 1950. Mr. Grussendorf operated the theatre until March 1, 1969. The building was sold to Stanley Koch in 1971 for $143.00. Libby's Beauty Salon & Boutique is now in part of the theatre building.

Also at this time Hukriede brothers, Maynard and Erwin built a restaurant just south of the theatre. Restaurant operators there have been John Whisler, Rueben Bahr and

Wesley Grussendorf.

In 1954 the Post Office was moved into this building from the Larson and Peterson Store with Dorin W. Anderson, Postmaster.

After the post office moved to its new building in 1961, the building later was used by Mr. Sherrill Koch for Kemco Specialties. In 1971 Koch purchased the building and it is the Farm & City Laundromat.

In 1949, Stanley Koch built a furniture store just north of the theatre. Gordon and Donald Grussendorf were in the furniture business for a time. Later in 1953, Donald Grussendorf sold the building to the village. In May, 1953, it was voted at a Council meeting to set up a municipal liquor store in the building and was passed by 4 ayes and 1 nay. Only part of the building was used for this purpose. Royal Barklow was the first Manager with a salary of $250.00 a month. The liquor store was remodeled the summer of 1975 at a cost of approximately $36,000. The present manager is Tom Dege.

The vacant part of the Municipal building was leased to Jack Lawrence for the purpose of a Feed Store in 1955. He operated this to about 1958 when Donald Smith took over the business. In 1961, Donald Smith built the Cosmos Farm Supply on the north edge of town and operated the business until the spring of 1968. Kenneth Zimmerman took over the business and it was called Cosmos Farm Service. September 1, 1971, Earl Blackwell became owner and operator of the Blackwell Farm Supply.

The south part of town was progressing rapidly at this time in 1949 with the Pure Oil Station built with Don Koch as operator. Some of the other station operators were Lyle Haley in 1952 and 1953 followed by Albert Flemming, Jr. and in 1961 Arnold Lang took over the Pure Oil Service Station and it is known as Lang's Union 76 Station.

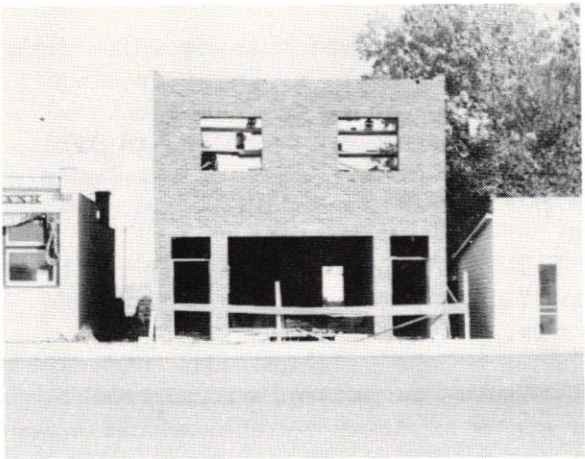
COSMOS GROWING IN THE 1950's

In 1950, the Nazarene Church was built; but this did not remain a church for long as it was in 1954 C. J. Larson bought the building and a duplex was made out of it.

The Drug Store was built in 1950, which also had office space for a Dentist Office and Doctors Office on the second floor.

The year 1950, also saw the building of a garage by Dorin Anderson and Theodore Wothe. This was located east of the First State Bank, which is now the Cosmos Library. This garage building was sold to the village in 1953 for the Cosmos Fire Hall.

Cosmos was happy to get Dr. Russel Backe in the dental



Construction of Drug Store in 1950.

office in 1951; also Dr. Sol Austrian, M.D. in the new doctors office. Dr. Ray Nyberg followed Dr. Backe as dentist and Dr. Russell Thompson followed Dr. Austrian in the medical office and remained there until the middle of 1959.

Dr. David Allison and Dr. Gregory Olson came from Litchfield and agreed to conduct an office in Cosmos part time. Their services were carried on until the first part of 1976.

The 1950's saw Cosmos continually on the move with more advancement in business.

An implement building was built in the east part of Cosmos in 1950 by Harvey Stark. In 1951 Richard Defries and Royal Barklow bought out Mr. Stark and carried a line of Massey Harris machinery. Some time later, in 1967 Johnson Hardware bought this building and operated this with a John Deere line of machinery. The building was vacant for a time and Stanley Koch purchased the building in 1973 when he used it for storage. In 1975 Pal's Discount Mark-It Warehouse opened up in it.

The year 1951 saw the building of the American Legion Building on Main Street with Building Committee: Albert O. Anderson, Adolph Holmgren, Wallace Mortenson and Gordon Johnson. Officers of the Legion at that time were Commander, Wallace Mortenson; Adjutant, Henry Larsen; Finance Officer, Erwin Meyer.

In 1951, Elmer Holmquist moved his Clothing Store from the Lietzau building to the main floor of the Legion building. Mr. Holmquist continued in business until 1954. After a few years Mrs. Herman Klemp operated a Variety Store in the building.

At a special meeting in 1952 by the Cosmos Council, the issue was a $6,000 Bond for street light improvements and also at Council Meetings at that time was the discussion of garbage disposal.