

THE PRESCOTT COMMUNITY

THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF M. A.

C. M. Campbell

1934



THESIS

Prescott, Michigan - Social  
conditions  
Social surveys











THE PRESCOTT COMMUNITY

By  
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Dean of Graduate School

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THESIS



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C. M. Campbell.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### Purpose

During the past one thousand years, and more especially the last one hundred, mankind has made enormous strides in most of the elements of material civilization. The sciences of chemistry, physics and biology and their applications have changed entirely the possibilities for raising the standard of living. There need be no more fear, for the present at least, that there will be insufficient food, clothing and shelter so far as the means of production are concerned.

It has been estimated that man's efficiency in the manufacture of electric light bulbs has increased nine thousand times since 1914. In the steel industry, the increase in man's efficiency has been estimated at six hundred fifty times. It has been estimated that the human labor needed for the production of one bushel of wheat a hundred years ago was about four days and this has now been reduced to about four minutes. These estimates may not be exact but, it cannot be questioned that the increase in efficiency has been enormous. Therefore, if people suffer for want of food, the trouble must be in our social or political organizations and not in the economic production of goods.

In statehood, judicial procedure and social customs we have moved very slowly. It is believed by some people that, in judicial procedure, we are not far beyond the



Justinian Code : in our laws of inheritance we have changed little from our feudal ancestors : we still recognize property rights above human rights. we consider labor as a commodity to be bought and sold rather than a co-operative arrangement for more efficient production.

The adoption of the Christian philosophy of the brotherhood of man has been a valuable change yet, in some ways, our system of charity seems less wise than that of some earlier civilizations among whom there were smaller per centages of physical and mental subnormality and more equitable distribution of goods.

If, by applying the same principles to social affairs as we have applied to material affairs, we could make the same progress as has been made in economic affairs, our difficulties might vanish. But, if social and political conditions are to improve, the stimuli for human behavior must be changed. For social conditions and social progress are determined by the interactions between man and his social and physical environments. The individual consists of a physical mechanism capable of reacting to certain kinds of stimuli; a more or less perfect nervous system; certain hormones and enzymes which interact with the nervous system and which regulate the metabolic processes thereby influencing the vitality and emotions.

All of these are, no doubt, influenced by heredity but they are also influenced by food, temperature and, in fact, all physical and social conditions. Each contact between individuals and their surroundings leaves an imprint in the form of habit or ideal. We may only hope to improve our social conditions by adjusting these social contacts and physical conditions.

The community appears to be the primary and basic unit of social organization and of economic production and distribution. Communities are the units which supply the stimuli for individual effort and fulfill the immediate wants of the individual. It is chiefly the community which is responsible for the perpetuation of habits, customs and traditions. From the time the infant takes its first breath until the aged forever drop the working tools of life, the neighborhood and community as well as the physical surroundings; the hills and valleys, the woods and plains, buildings and streets, direct his thinking and acting or, in other words, shape his life. And each word and act of his influences the surroundings.

The community sets the standard for home life; it determines the amount and quality of school training; it determines the social set-up which regulates the social conduct and kinds of recreation. The social traditions together with the location and natural resources determine the

vocations and all of these have a direct bearing on the development of personalities. It is the community to a great extent, which decided the relative amount of joy and sorrow, of pleasure and pain of its members.

If proper habits could be developed in the young; if the pressure for food, shelter, clothing and the other human desires could be equalized with the amount of effort exerted; if the amount of sub-normality could be decreased rather than increased; if a larger per centage could be employed in production and a uniformly larger portion of time saved for self improvement and, if all could learn to enjoy a reasonable amount of luxuries and conveniences of life, crime and poverty should nearly or quite disappear and a uniformly high standard of life be enjoyed. It is these problems which lend so much interest and importance to a study of the growth, nature, organization and the causes of the evils, mal-adjustments and decay of communities.

The area selected for this study is one in which many of the pioneer settlers are still active and where the transition from a lumbering to a farm-village type of community is still taking place. It, therefore illustrates many of the processes which older communities do not. It is much more nearly isolated from outside



influences than the average community or has been until the very recent introduction of radios and common use of automobiles; however, many horse drawn vehicles are still seen on the streets. In recent years the younger generation have tended to emigrate from the community until the depression came which has caused some to return from the cities.

Sanderson has defined a rural community as : " A rural community consists of the social interactions of the people and their institutions in a local area on which they live in dispersed farmsteads and in a hamlet or village which forms the center of their activities." This is the sense in which the term "community" has been and will continue to be used in this thesis. (1)

(1) Sanderson, Dwight  
page 481

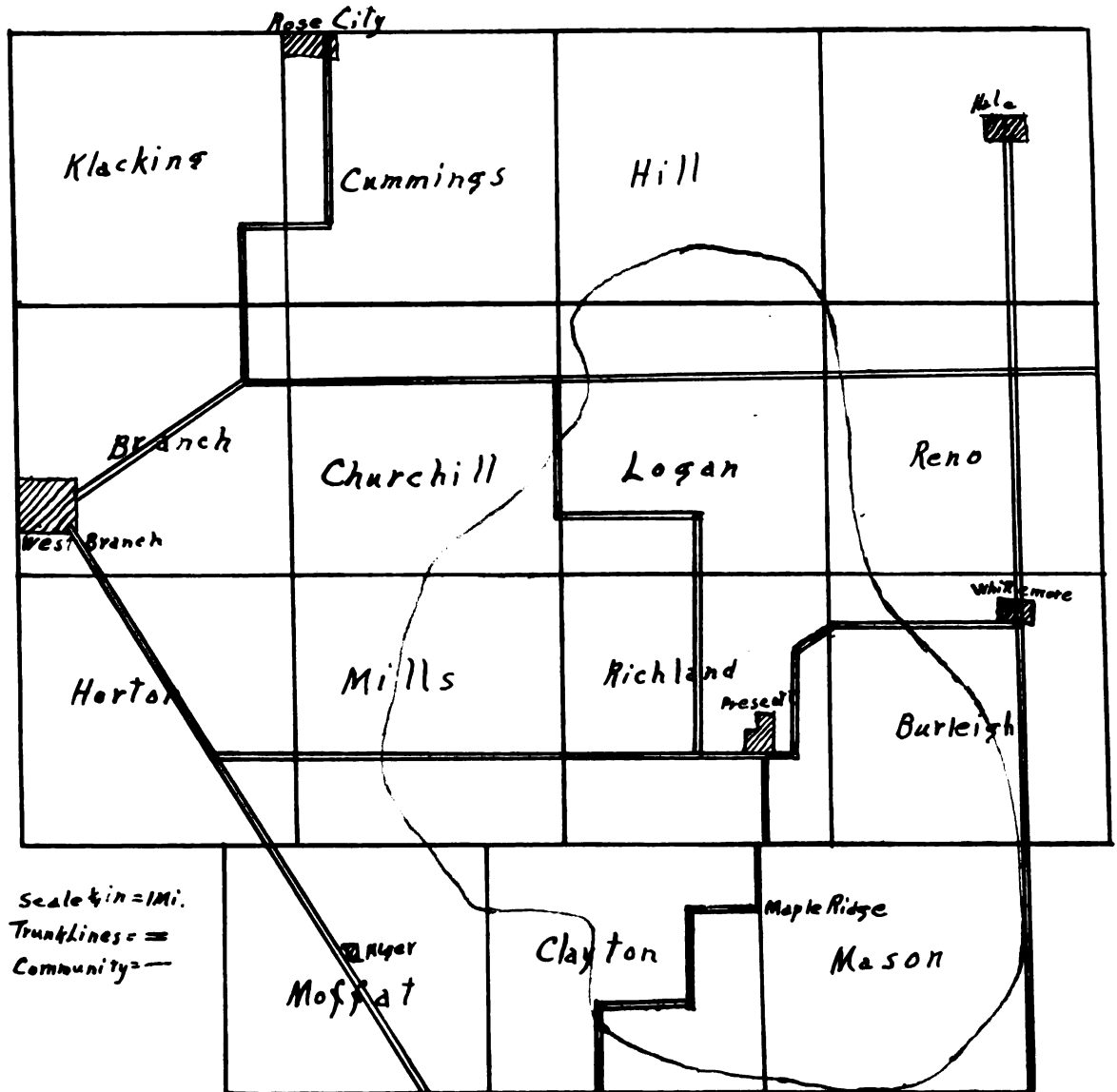
"The Rural Community" 1932

MAP I SHOWING LOCATION OF PRESCOTT COMMUNITY.



# MAP II

SHOWING AREAS SERVED BY VARIOUS AGENCIES OF PRESCOTT.



## Location

Prescott Community is located in the northeastern part of Michigan, about fifty miles north from Bay City and twenty miles inland from Saginaw Bay and Lake Huron as shown on MAP I of Michigan. The boundary of the service area of Prescott village is shown on MAP III. The high school, banking and sale of produce areas agree very closely and were, therefore used to form a composite which is the one shown on the map. The widest divergence in the three areas was found in the northern part of the community as that part sends very few pupils to any high school. In attempting to use the sale of merchandise as a criterion for determining boundary there seemed to be some confusion. The lists of regular customers were secured from the merchants and it looked as though they had been a little over zealous in claiming customers. Then, too, the Weinberg Company has stores in both Prescott and West Branch and it was difficult to distinguish the customers of each. The churches seemed to be neighborhood centers rather than community centers. So, for these reasons, neither merchandizing nor churches were used in determining the community boundary.

The community as described includes the territory within a radius of five to twelve miles from the village of Prescott which is the community center. It is bounded on the west by the Rifle River which separates it from



West Branch Community. On the south it is separated from Standish Community by a deep ravine which is bordered by some wild, hilly land. On the east and north there are no geographic barriers but the areas are divided between Prescott and Whittemore Communities.

It is a farm-village community with Prescott Village as the service center. Three miles to the south of Prescott Village and within the community lies the hamlet of Maple Ridge with a general store, a garage, three churches and a primary school with one teacher. The nearest village outside the community is Whittemore which lies a little north of east and is nine miles distant. At one time it would have been considered as part of Prescott Community. The development of gypsum industries near there has caused it to become incorporated and to establish an accredited school so that it is now about the size of Prescott. West Branch, the county seat of Ogemaw County, lies twenty five miles to the northwest of Prescott. Tawas and East Tawas are northeast on Lake Huron and about thirty miles away. Sixteen miles south of Prescott is Sterling and five miles southeast of there is Standish, the county seat of Arenac. Both of the last two mentioned towns are on the trunk line pavement which extends from West Branch to Bay City.

This community would be considered within the sub-metropolitan area of Bay City since its merchants are supplied with goods chiefly from wholesalers there, its bank is closely associated with the Bay City banks and the Bay City daily newspaper is read in a large proportion of the homes of the community. A few of the citizens of the community transact business in Detroit. This is especially true of the shippers of live stock and other farm products. Quite a large amount of such produce is trucked to Detroit. The Detroit daily newspapers rank next in importance in the community to those from Bay City. Until the closing of the Detroit Banks, the Prescott banks carried credits there. From these facts it would be inferred that Detroit forms the metropolitan center for the community of Prescott.

## Population

The following table shows the population of the townships wholly or partly within the community as drawn on Map II, together with the fractional parts lying within the community. The fractions used in determining the population of the community are the same as the territorial fractions except in Mills township where most of the people live in the eastern part around the lakes and in Mason township where the population is more dense in the northwestern part.

TABLE I

### POPULATION OF THE COMMUNITY BY TOWNSHIPS.

| Township Name       | Population<br>Census 1930 | Fractional Part<br>Included | Population<br>Within Comm. |
|---------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Richland            | 690                       | All                         | 690                        |
| Mason               | 636                       | 3/4                         | 497                        |
| Clayton             | 625                       | 1/2                         | 312                        |
| Mills               | 125                       | 4/5                         | 100                        |
| Reno                | 333                       | 1/8                         | 41                         |
| Burleigh            | 533                       | 1/4                         | 133                        |
| Logan               | 291                       | 2/3                         | 194                        |
| Churchill           | 459                       | 1/8                         | 57                         |
| Hill                | 414                       | 1/8                         | 52                         |
| Total for Community |                           |                             | <u>2,076</u>               |

As noted elsewhere, the southeastern portion of Ogemaw county possesses the richest soil found anywhere in the County. In spite of this fact, the open country showed a steady decline in population from 1910 to 1930. But this was also true

of all townships in the county, the loss reaching as high as 84 per cent in Foster Township in the northwest part of the county. The loss in Michland Township was 23.6 percent or slightly over 200 people. It is difficult to say just to what extent these losses have been made up since 1930 by people returning from the cities. A few new homes have been built; several of the resort cottages near the lakes have been used as permanent dwellings and a few abandoned buildings have been fitted up for dwellings.

Most of the pioneer residents of Prescott Community came from the southern part of Michigan and from New York State. They are mostly of Scotch, English and German extraction and occupy the more fertile farms in the southeastern portion of the community. The later immigrants are Italian, Polish and Hungarian and occupy the poorer land in the western portion of the community, especially that part in Mills Township. Most of the people of the village are the pioneers or their sons and daughters. Short biographies of some of them are given under the topics of "Early Settlers" and "Leadership". All in the village are native Americans. The 1930 Census of the United States shows 33.9 per cent of the families of Ogemaw County to have foreign born parents and Prescott Community probably averages about the same in that respect as the county.

The people are, as a rule, peaceable, contented and happy in their homes and community. Even the south European immigrants, including some with criminal records, all appear to be cheerful, friendly neighbors and loyal to the United

States though they still harbor resentment and vindictiveness toward the governments of their native countries. It would seem that release from arbitrary coercion by organized society and the ability to enjoy home life and the fruits of their labor have tended to destroy at least some of the anti-social sentiment



## Prescott Village

Most of the business section of Prescott Village is located around the corners of an east and west street and one leading northward from that one. These two streets are paved through the business section but the side streets are either gravel or dirt. The streets are electric lighted by incandescent bulbs suspended over the street corners. The village is partly provided with concrete side walks though some of them are in a bad state of repair.

The business portion consists mainly of two department stores, one grocery, two barber shops, a pool room, a shoe store and a small wood bank building all located on the north and south street. The three garages, drug store, bank and post office are located along the east and west street. The depot is a square two storied wood building, standing a little to the west of main street and north of the business district. The upper story of the depot contains living rooms and is occupied as a dwelling. There is also an abandoned lodge hall standing on main street which is used by both school and community basket ball teams for practice and exhibition games.

If you were to visit the village on a summer afternoon you would find the streets deserted. The business men would be resting in the shade of the buildings or standing in groups of two or three visiting. After supper,

however, the village takes on a different appearance. Especially on Saturday evenings the streets are filled with shoppers, stopping here and there to greet and to visit with their neighbors. Automobiles line the streets on both sides from shortly before sun down until about midnight. There are automobiles of nearly all makes and ages. Scattered among them are a few horse drawn vehicles, varying in style from the Irish model of two wheeled cart to lumber wagon. On pleasant days in the winter, many farmers spend the afternoon in the village but, as soon as spring work begins, nearly all the shopping is done evenings.

While Prescott supplies the community with most of its needs, a few of the people journey to Bay City to secure things a little more fashionable or for supplies not kept in Prescott stores. A few go there for professional services and a few go for entertainment.

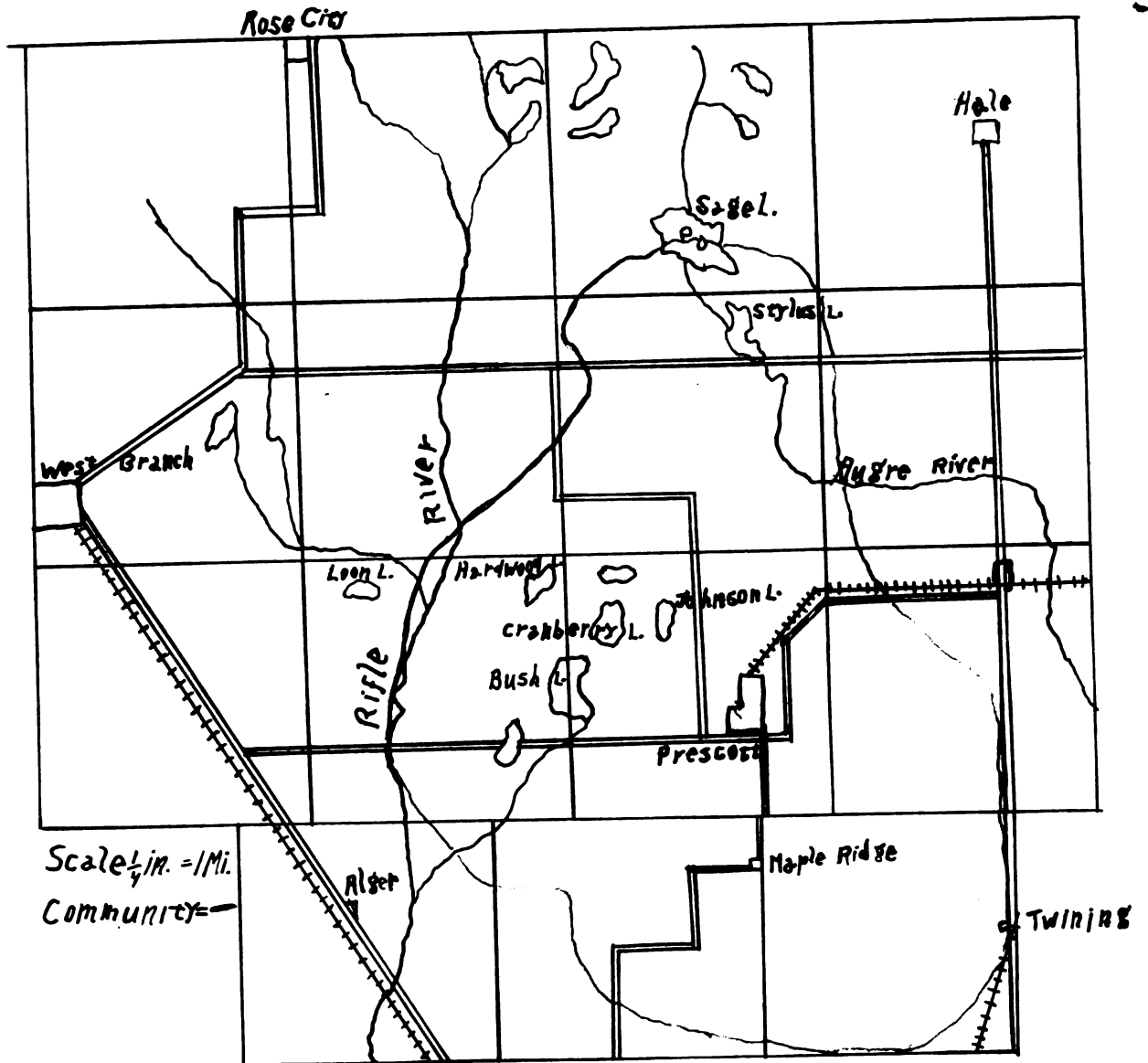
Since the village is unincorporated, the government of Richland Township takes the place of a city or village government. The township pays for the street lights of the village. The streets and side walks have been paved by the township. And the Consumer's Power Company sell electricity under a franchise granted by the township.

Of the 690 people in Richland Township as given by the 1920 Census of the United States, about 200 live within

what might be considered the village limits. The assessed valuation of the township, including the village and the 125 farms of the township, is \$ 629,755.00 and its bonded indebtedness is \$ 13,000.00 . \$ 5,000.00 of the indebtedness was recently incurred to replace some of the township's money which was lost in the bank failure.

MAP III

GEOGRAPHY OF PRESCOTT COMMUNITY



### Surface and Soil

The surface of this section is covered entirely with glacial drift material. The relief is somewhat varied but there are no great elevations, most of the surface being between 750 and 1250 feet above sea level and from 350 to 700 feet above the surface of Lake Huron. The northwestern portion of Ogemaw county is more dry and sandy while the southwestern part contains considerable swampy and mucky land. A strip extending from the northeastern portion of the county through the central and south central parts is more varied or spotted and the southeastern part of the county is mostly a loam with a clay sub-soil and is, therefore, the most suitable portion for farming. The rest of the community extending into Iosco and Arenac counties corresponds very closely to the southeastern portion of Ogemaw. (1)

(1) J. O. Veatch, et. al. Soil Survey of Ogemaw County Of Michigan (1928) Page 903.

The Rifle River crosses Ogemaw County from north to south, a little west of the center while the AuGres drains the eastern portion of the county. The Prescott Community is well supplied with lakes the largest of which is Sage Lake. The lakes are fairly well stocked with fish and are used quite extensively as summer resorts. Most of the region was once covered with dense forests of hard maple and beech or with mixtures including white pine, hemlock and some Norway pine.

The swamps which occupy nearly twenty per cent of the area, were filled with spruce, balsam, fir and tamarack. But, in about 1872, lumbering began and now what is not cleared for cultivation, is covered with burned over slashings, small growth Jack pine, low blue berries, sweet fern, bracken, scrub oak, poplar and beach. It is estimated by the Department of Agriculture Soil Survey (1) that only twelve to fourteen per cent of this cut-over land of Ogemaw County has been cleared of second growth brush and stumps for farming purposes.

Lumbering has entirely ended and only agriculture and the occupations closely associated with it are practiced in the community though gypsum products are produced ten or twelve miles to the east.

(1) J. O. Veatch, et. al. Soil Survey of Ogemaw County, Michigan 1928.



Nearly enclosing the community on the north and west is a government owned forest which is continually being improved by settings of trees, extensions of fire lines and improvement of roads. This gives employment to several people in Prescott Community. Much of the employment is temporary and uncertain but a few find steady employment. These forests also furnish refuge for game.

The following quotation from a government report shows the location, size and condition of the forest.

"Ogemaw Forest, situated in Ogemaw, Roscommon Gladwin and Arenac counties, contains within its boundaries 255,340 acres of which 135,193 acres or 40 % is held by the state. The plantations which have been set thus far total 10,101 acres. Firelines to the number of 140 miles have been built. The headquarters is four and one half miles north of West Branch on the Mackinaw division of the Michigan Central which bisects the forest. This unit is served by trunkline highways M-77, M-55, M-30 and M-66."(1)

(1) Michigan Department of Conservation, Fifth Biennial Report 1929-30.

## Climate

The nearest weather observatory is located at West Branch where the average annual temperature is 43 degrees Fahrenheit and the mean annual precipitation is 29.59 inches. The winters are long and cold but the summer seasons of 116 days between frosts, on the average, seem sufficient to mature the crops. The precipitation is quite evenly distributed throughout the year though there is slightly more during the spring and summer than for the rest of the year. The average snow fall at West Branch is given as 51 inches but at Prescott there has been very little for the past two years. Old residents claim that there seems to be a strip of territory extending nearly northeast and southwest, including Prescott Community, in which the snow fall is less than in the territory farther from the lake.

## Transportation and Communication

The older settlers told of a time when they followed the Indian trails from the older settlements in what is now Arenac County to Johnson Lake on fishing trips. These seem to have been about the only routes of travel until about 1870 when logging roads began to be built.

The first railroad was built by a Mr. Hale but, upon his financial failure, the road was taken over by C. H. Prescott and Company with C. H. Prescott as manager. This

company also failed and the property was taken over by Mr. Prescott late in the seventies. In 1881 the first passengers were carried over this road as far as Camp Six which was located where Prescott Village now stands. The road was soon sold to Governor Alger who widened it to standard gage and, in 1888, extended it to Alger Village where it met the Michigan Central Railroad. The bridge where the railroad crossed the Rifle River was seventy feet above the bed of the river and, therefore, difficult to maintain. So for this and, no doubt, other reasons, the road between Alger and Prescott was abandoned, leaving Prescott at the end of the road. Now the main line of the Detroit and Mackinaw Railroad runs from Bay City to Alpena and the road to Prescott remains as a spur from National City. The road sends in one train per day and one agent tends the station at Whittemore and also the one at Prescott. He lives at Whittemore where he spends the afternoons and spends the forenoons at Prescott.

The first telephone line to be built into the community was constructed from Turner to Prescott by Mr. Joseph Cluly in 1900. The first telephone pole set in the village still ornaments Main street though the line was sold to the Bell Telephone Company and later abandoned. A short time after the first line came here, a local line was built by about thirty subscribers who sold out there interests to Mr. Simon Champaigne in 1915. The number of patrons remained between

thirty and thirty five during the twelve years of Mr. Champagne's ownership. This line is still in operation under the ownership and management of Mrs. Thompson and with very little change.

In 1910 another farmer's line was organized which now has about one hundred fifty subscribers and maintains a central in the parsonage of the County Line Church about three miles from Prescott Village.

The Finger Line which was started in 1915, extends westward from the village accommodating forty families. The Logan Line extends northward from the village into Logan Township and serves thirty five families. All of these lines are coordinated through the Prescott Central and are there connected with the Bell System through Tawas.

The rates on these lines are one dollar per month and a toll charge of five cents for three minute calls by anyone not a member of a subscriber family. The Prescott Central receives two dollars per phone per year from each of the subsidiary companies for the services rendered. A survey report by Michigan State College, Department of Sociology, shows that the per centage of farm homes of Ogemaw County having telephones is 42.5 .

### Method

This study is primarily of the case study type by a resident observer, the author having resided in the community for three years. There is, however, some historical and some statistical material used. Most of the information has been obtained from conversations with old pioneers and other residents, from diaries, public records and other data contributed by residents of the community.

The subject matter and manner of arrangement follow somewhat those of some of the similar surveys made in New York State. More of the historical back ground has been given as it is believed that present conditions can only be understood in the light of such history. There is no attempt in the present thesis to make a comparison of village and farm population as has been done in several of the other surveys. It is hoped that some light may be shed on existing conditions and that some problems may be shown, together with their causes. While some remedies may be suggested, it is not hoped to furnish remedies for all of their social, political and economic puzzles.

In addition to the above named sources the following questionnaire was given to one hundred fifteen pupils of high school and grammar grades. The answers were collected and checked. In several cases answers were given by two or more pupils from the same home. These were compared and,

in each case, the one which seemed the most complete and definite was retained and the others were discarded. In such cases the different reports from the same family compared favorably in most instances though some estimates differed as in the number of days spent in hunting and fishing or the number of social functions attended during the year. Seventy nine lists of answers were retained and used in the theses.

Since the questionnaire reached only 79 families and only those represented in school, it is probable that the data may not be entirely typical for all purposes yet, as to land ownership, size of farms, kinds and amount of recreation and, in fact, for most phases of the community it seems fairly adequate. The size of families may be somewhat larger when compared to those of the whole community as those with no children or with only very young children were not represented. There is, also, a possibility that the standard of living would range a little high as very few pupils come from the northern part of the community where it might be expected that there would not be as many home conveniences.

#### Questionnaire

1. Name.
2. Number in family.

3. Education of father.
4. Education of mother.
5. Occupation of father.
6. Political offices held by father during year.
7. Size of farm owned.
8. Owner, renter or laborer on farm.
9. Number of rooms in home.
10. Do you have electricity in the home ?
11. Do you have a bath room ?
12. Do you have a radio ?
13. What musical instruments do you have in the home ?
14. Do you have an automobile?
15. Do any of the family belong to a church ?
16. How many church meetings were attended by one or more members of the family during the year ?
17. To how many fraternal societies do one or more members of the family belong ?
18. How many fraternal meetings were attended by one or more members of the family during the year ?
19. How many co-operative meetings were attended by one or more members of the family during the year ?
20. How many social functions were attended by one or more members of the family during the year ?
21. How many picture shows were attended during the year?
22. How many days were spent by one or more members of the family in hunting, fishing or camping ?



23. How many magazines are read in the home ?
24. How many daily papers are read in the home ?
25. How many books are read by the family during  
the year ?

## CHAPTER II

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE COMMUNITY

#### Indian Tradition

The name of the Saginaw valley was derived from an Indian word, O-Sauk-e-non, meaning the land of the Sauks. Tradition has it that, originally, the northeastern part of Michigan was inhabited by a warlike tribe of Indians known by that name, who were much at war with the Chippewas on the North, the Pottawatomies on the South, and with other nations of Canada. Finally a council was held on Mackinaw Island consisting of Chippewas, Pottawatomies, Menomenes, Ottawas and the six tribes of Iroquois. They proceeded from there to the land of the Sauks, attacked them in their villages and massacred all of them that could be found. They, then agreed to use the territory as a common hunting ground. So many who came to this place to hunt never returned that the Indians came to believe that the grounds were haunted by the spirits of the dead Sauks. It is probable that the few Sauks who survived the massacre and their descendants were responsible for these disappearances.

There is an Indian legend which appears to have originated from the fact that in 1842 a white owl was shot in a lone tree a short distance north west of Bay City.

The Indians believed that the owl was a spirit bird. They said that an old chief, Sauk-e-non, had sent the bird to watch over the people. But, after the bird had been killed, the white people drove the Indians from their hunting ground.

After white people began to migrate here from Detroit and New York, several treaties were entered into with the Indians through which they were gradually dispossessed of their hunting grounds. The first of these treaties was obtained by William Hull, the territorial governor, in 1807. In 1819, General Cass negotiated another treaty with the Indians by which they ceded to the United States all of the Saginaw region except forty thousand acres which was reserved to them as a hunting ground. And, in 1837, the date of Michigan's admission to the union, this last tract of land was ceded to the United States after which the Indians rapidly disappeared.

#### Organization of Townships

All of that territory surrounding Saginaw Bay and including the valleys of lower Saginaw, Kawkawlin, Pinconning, Pine, Rifle, Au Gres and Quanicassee rivers was organized into Bay County by act of the legislature 1857.  
(1) R. H. Page, History of Bay County 1883.

Their first election was held in June of that year and the following officers were elected : William Simon, sheriff ; Elijah Catlin, clerk ; James Watson, treasurer ; Thomas Bleigh register of deeds ; S. S. Campbell, judge of probate ; C. H. Freeman, prosecuting attorney ; Stephen Wright, circuit court commissioner ; Benjamin Partridge, surveyor and William Spicer, coroner; all of whom were duly installed. Saginaw, however, protested as Saginaw and Midland Counties had been exercising judicial power over the whole region and their representatives had only consented to the legislative enactment after it had been so amended as to nullify the bill according to their opinion. The collection of taxes by the officers of the newly created county offered an opportunity to test the legality of its organization before the courts. In 1858, the decision was handed down by the State Supreme Court that Bay County had been duly and legally organized.

The surveying of this part of the state was started in 1840 and, in 1875, Iosco and Ogemaw Counties were set off. Ogemaw was, evidently, taken from the name of the Indian chief Ogemaw-gegoto, who did most of the talking for the Indians in the negotiations with General Cass when the treaty of 1919 was signed.

In 1874, Moffit and Mason townships in Arenac County were organized and many of the early settlers of Richland township first settled in the Arenac townships but soon

moved on farther north in search of better opportunities. Maple Ridge was about the first settlement in any of these townships. The village was given its name by William Smith who started it. Mr. Smith's brother who came a little later still resides a little way north of Maple Ridge corners. As previously mentioned, the soil in the southeastern part of the county is more fertile than the rest which fact, no doubt, accounts for the name of the township of Richland.

### Early Settlers

White traders visited the region as early as 1792. The first one is said to have been a Mr. Trombley, a gold smith, who made trinkets for and traded with the Indians. Gassette Trombley was, for some time, employed by the government to teach the Indians the art of agriculture. His own statements on the subject indicate that he made very little progress. Jacob Graverot, another of the early traders is credited by some reports, with the honor of being the first settler in this part of Michigan. By others, Leon Trombley, who settled in Lower Saginaw (now Bay City) in 1831, is credited with that honor. He was soon followed by others and the speculations during Jacksons administration did much to stimulate this immigration.

The first settler of what is now Richland Township appears to have been Mr. Henry Craner who home steaded one hundred sixty acres in the township in 1866. In 1870 Mr. Pitt Blackman came to Ogemaw County and purchased forty acres from Mr. Craner but in 1878 he again sold it to Mr. Franklin Pierce and moved onto a homestead at the present site of Prescott. In 1879, Mr. Pierce succeeded in having Richland set off from Alabaster Township to which it had been attached. He became the first treasurer of the township with Napoleon Scott as supervisor, Eugene Wilcox as clerk, William Moore as highway commissioner, and Mortimer Noble as justice of the peace. The township then included what is now Mills as well as the present township of Richland. Mills was set off as a separate township about twenty five years ago, then reunited for a short time and is now a separate township once more.

Among the others who helped to make the early history of the community was Abram Scott who settled on a farm in Richland in 1870. In 1880, Mr. Scott erected the first store building in Maple Ridge. His widow is still quite hale and resides with her daughter in Prescott. Mrs Scott still recalls the recalls the time

when her husband walked and blazed the trail through the wilderness from his home in Richland to the village of Alabaster, a distance of between twenty and thirty miles, to secure the organization of district number one of Richland. Later Mrs. Scott taught in the school though she was not the first teacher. The first school building and the one in which Mrs. Scott taught is still standing but was moved a little way west of its original site to make room for a larger and better structure. The building was unoccupied for many years but, in 1933, it was repaired and used during the year for a residence.

HOME OF ABRAM SCOTT. BUILT IN 1878.



George Eymer was born in Wisconsin in 1852 but, while still young, was taken by his parents to New York State where he attended a rural school winters and worked on a farm summers. In 1874, he and another young man of his own age, named Perry, landed in Bay County with a gun and three dollars in money each. George Eymer located at Maple Ridge where he started teaching school but soon purchased the Forest House Hotel in Sterling. A little later, he and a Mr. Hanlin started another hotel at Camp Six which was afterward called Prescott. In 1878 he bought a small sawmill which he operated for two years, then he sold this and erected a larger mill with a circle saw. In 1883, he moved his mill to Prescott and, the same year, was elected supervisor of Richland Township. He started a general store in 1890 and somewhat later added a hardware stock. He was married to Miss Bell Munroe on July the fourth 1879 to which union two children were born, Grace and Harry. Mrs. Eymer died on January seventh 1888 and in July 1889 Mr. Eymer married Katy Franks who left one daughter, Mrs. Blanche Eymer Coffey, now residing at Long Beach California. After the death of his second wife, which occurred on July twenty third 1908, Mr. Eymer was married for the third time in 1909, this time to Mrs. Carry Weeks of West Branch. Mr. Eymer passed a-



way October twenty sixth 1926. His widow has since married and maintains a home in Prescott.

Mr. Robert Cliff came to Ogemaw county with his father in 1879 and to Prescott Community in 1880. He erected a shingle mill at Johnson Lake which he later moved to Prescott Village and, in 1894, he added a sawmill. Mr. Cliff relates that at the age of twelve to fourteen years he learned to be a shingle sawyer, working in his father's mill along with the men. He states that in the operation of his own mill there was a considerable length of time that they used very little money, most of the business transactions being carried out by barter. Mr. Cliff has been a member of the township board or of the school board much of the time since moving here and still holds the position of secretary of the Board of Education of the Prescott Schools.

Still another early pioneer who is still in active business is Mr. Henry Zeran. Mr. Zeran was first appointed postmaster of the Prescott office by President Harrison. In 1896, he suffered a severe financial loss in the destruction by fire of both stores which he had established. The next year he rebuilt and was again appointed postmaster by President McKinley which position he held until the change in party control at the election of President Wilson. In 1897, he started the

business which he continues to operate. From 1913 to 1918, he was also proprietor of a hotel known as Rice and Zeran. From 1884 until the time of the erection of the present school building, Mr. Zeran was treasurer of the school board.

The neighborhoods included within the community have largely resulted from these early settlements. As mentioned above, Maple Ridge seems to have been settled first and to have taken the lead for a time. The County Line Neighborhood near the corner of Ogemaw, Iosco and Arenac was established soon after Maple Ridge. The early settlers of County Line soon established a church and organized the first school district in Richland Township. This neighborhood still shows a great deal of solidarity and is quite thoroughly segregated from surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to the church and school, they have a neighborhood telephone line and central. The Johnson Lake neighborhood started around a sawmill. The neighborhood still maintains an identity though about the only uniting influence is now the primary school district. The Bush Lake neighborhood is probably about the least united of all. In fact, it may be questioned as to whether it

should be called a neighborhood. It is located in Mills township and contains people of several nationalities and religions. The primary school is about the only unifying factor. Most of Logan township except the northwestern part may be considered as a neighborhood, since it contains a country store, primary schools and a telephone line. The southwestern portion of Burleigh Township contains a neighborhood around a primary school. The settlement around Sage and Stylus Lake form still another neighborhood.

## CHAPTER III

### BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

#### Lumbering

While some of the early settlers of Prescott Community came with the idea of homesteading land and carving out farm homes, most of them were attracted by the valuable forests of virgin timber as was true in nearly all of northern Michigan. Some of the companies who helped lumber this territory were: The Keystone Company, C. E. Eddy, Murphy and Dorr, Moffit, Pitts and Crange, Hale and Prescott, M. and B. Mills, Sage and McGraw, and Johnson and Wilder. Most of these companies floated the logs down the streams to Saginaw or Bay City where the mills were located and combined the sawing with the salt industry. The cut of lumber for one mill per year reached twenty eight to thirty million feet. On November ninth 1867, Sage and McGraw made a test run for twelve hours and in that time their mill cut 370,797 feet of lumber. Moore Smith and Company are said to have been the first to float logs

down the Rifle River. Their mill had been built in 1854 and was bought by them in 1858.

Most of those who did homestead or buy farms, worked in the lumberwoods during the winters and, after the logs had been driven down the rivers to the mills in the spring, they spent the summers clearing land and caring for crops. While the men and older boys were in the lumber camps, the responsibility of doing chores, getting up wood and caring for the home, rested on the wives and younger children.

#### Merchantile Establishments

One of the first businesses to locate in the community was a hotel and saloon. Peter Hanlin was part owner and was the manager. The hotel was located at the present site of the McKay home in Prescott. This one was started in 1883 and soon others came until there were three located here. Many stories are told of the brawls in which men's noses were rubbed with lighted cigars, heads singed with lighted candles, windows and furniture smashed and men battered up in general. The saloons are gone but the wisdom of the

village is now passed around the card tables of the village pool room which has taken the place of the saloons as the "Poor Man's Club".

The store built by Mr. Scott in Maple Ridge is still in operation and carries on a general merchantile business. There seems to be some confusion as to when and by whom the first store in Prescott was started. By some of the residents it is claimed that the first store was started by William Moore at the site of the present Stoner building. The business was soon sold to Mr. Weinberg and still later a store and salonn was operated at that place. It was known as the Worm Hole because of the numerous small additions which had been added on irregularly. By other residents it is claimed that the first store was opened in a tent located where the Mallory and Common Store now stands. Mr. Weinberg had come to the location as a house to house salesman but ; after buying the Moore Store, he prospered and expanded the business until he had established a chain of stores. Five of them are still in operation under the management of his son Sam. Besides the one at Prescott there are four in near by villages.

The drug store which Mr. Zeran started in 1897 and which he still continues to manage, was a direct follow up of his general store started earlier. In addition to the drug business, he operates a hotel business, accomodating transients to both rooms and table board.

The Eymer Department Store which was started by Mr. George Eymer is now under the ownership and management of his son, Harry Eymer. He carries stocks of fresh meats, groceries and hardware.

The Mallory and Common Company first built and operated a hotel in Prescott in 1915 but, the next year, they sold to Mr. Richard Weishuhn and, in 1920, they bought the store of Mr. Corey Stoughtonberg which they have continued to operate to the present except for one year which they spent in Caro. Their store was first located in the Stoner Building from whence it was moved to its present location.

About the year 1900, Mr. Simon Champaigne purchased a hearse and undertaking equipment and opened a mortuary at Prescott. Mr. Champaigne operated the business for twelve years when he sold to Mr. Jud. Little who added a stock of furniture and still continues the business. Mr. Champaigne operated the local telephone exchange for a time but is now retired from active business though he still holds the positions of deputy sheriff and member of the Board of Education.

Blacksmithing was an important business from the lumbering days until the common use of the

automobile. There is still a blacksmith shop in the village but, because of the scarcity of that kind of work, the blacksmith is employed in the shop only part time.

There was a harness and shoe repair shop started about 1900 at the present site of the Prescott Elevator by Mr. Claude Marsaw and Mr. Jack Frost. As the automobile industry increased the harness business decreased and a stock of shoes was substituted for the harnesses. Then the partnership was dissolved, the management passed to Mr. Marsaw and the business was moved to its present site. About 1926, Mr. Marsaw died leaving the business to his widow and children who continue its operation.

#### Banks

The first bank was established by James McKay in 1908 and still enjoys a wide patronage. About four years after the first bank was established, a second one was organized by Mr. Weinberg and placed under the management of his son Jacob. The bank was known as the Farmer's and Merchant's Exchange Bank but closed its doors in March 1931 and the First National Bank of Bay City was appointed as receiver. The latter



banks also became insolvent but has been reorganized. As has been true in nearly all such cases, the failure has had a bad effect on the finances of the whole community as well as producing much bitterness of feeling. Many had all their savings in the closed banks and, with the decline in the price of their products, were unable to pay taxes or purchase the necessities of life. The township of Richland lost twelve thousand dollars in the bank failure and was obliged to bond for five thousand dollars to pay the school districts for their share of the tax money which was included in the loss and which was still in the name of the township treasurer.

During the existence of the two banks, they served as nuclei around which were grouped two business factions. The two banks sponsored rivals for members of the board of education and other political positions which might add prestige to the respective banks or offer economic advantage. This had a strong disintegrating influence on the community. While the two factions still exist, it is to be hoped that the fact that one bank has been eliminated may help to heal over the division in the community when the harm done by the bank failure has been forgotten.

### Garages

The first person to engage in the garage business in Prescott was Mr. Orville Leslie who recalls the time when he measured out gas with a quart measure. He first opened business in an old building then standing on main street. From there he moved into an old blacksmith shop and, in 1917, built the front part of his present building, finishing it in 1922.

The next to enter the garage business was Mr. Laurel Law who occupied the vacated blacksmith shop before Mr. Leslie secured it. Mr. Law erected a new building when he discovered that the shop had been sold to Mr. Leslie. Mr. Law spent some time as mechanic in a garage in Detroit during which time the local garage was run by Mr. Bisbing but, in 1932, Mr. Law returned and the two controlled the business as partners for about a year when Mr. Law again left the garage under the management of Mr. Bisbing. A third garage was built in 1930 by Mr. James McKay. This is now the Chevrolet agency and is operated by an employed manager.

The first dance hall was built in 1893 by Mr. William Henry who had come to Richland Township in 1890 to work in the lumber woods. Mr. Henry later

established a barbershop which he operated for several years. At present Mr. Henry is janitor of the village school. There are now two barber shops in the village.

Sales figures were not available for the various merchantile establishments of Prescott but the averages for Ogemaw County for the year 1929, as taken from the United States Census report, in the various enterprises were as follows;

TABLE II

|                                          |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Grocery Stores (without meats) . . . . . | \$ 26,300 |
| Grocery Stores (with meats) . . . . .    | 14,000    |
| General Stores . . . . .                 | 43,500    |
| Motor Sales . . . . .                    | 90,220    |
| Filling Stations . . . . .               | 11,800    |
| Garages . . . . .                        | 9,000     |
| Furniture . . . . .                      | 13,000    |
| Shoes . . . . .                          | 9,600     |
| Lumber and Building Material . . . . .   | 55,500    |
| Hardware . . . . .                       | 17,600    |
| Drugs . . . . .                          | 16,200    |

#### Professional Services

Doctor Wakeman came to the village in 1888 but remained only two or three years. He was succeeded by Dr. Trask and he by Dr. Vorhees who came in 1895 and remained

until his death in 1930. Dr. Beebe came in 1931 but remained only a year before removing to West Branch. The village is now without medical service nearer than Whittmore which is nine miles in one direction and West Branch which is twentyfive miles in the opposite direction. The charges made by these doctors are six and ten dollars respectively per call. For many of the people these charges are almost prohibitive and, so far, there have been few calls but there have been no serious contagions and not much illness since the doctor left. There has never been a dentist at Prescott but there is one at Maple Ridge who does some work. This lack of the presence of doctors and nurses illustrates one of the evils of our present system of employing doctors only when we are seriously ill. If the people are relatively well the doctors starve out and, if the doctors thrive, it is the patients who starve. In Saskatchewan, Canada, where doctors are publicly employed and paid out of tax money, the cost is reported to be about \$ 7.50 per family per year for looking after their health. In the United States where voluntary groups have tried similar plans, the cost has been about \$ 20.00 per family per year for like service. In contrast to this, the plan of employing a physician only when a person is ill, averages \$ 60.00 per family per year in the United States.

PRESCOTT GRAIN CO. ELEVATOR



CO-OPERATIVE ELEVATOR



## Elevators

Two grain elevators are in operation in the Village of Prescott. One was built by the Saginaw Milling Company and was then sold to the Prescott Grain Company. It is operated by a local manager and does quite an extensive business in beans. The other is a co-operatively owned concern which has been carrying on business for over thirteen years (1933). It is owned by one hundred fortyfour farmers with total assets at the end of the fiscal year 1931 of \$ 25,306.00 and of liabilities amounting to \$ 6,910.83 . During that year, the \$ 56,097.40 worth of business done showed a profit of \$5,925.65 or 9.7 per cent on the amount of business transacted.

## Farming

Fifty nine per cent of the families of the community own farms as indicated by the questionnaire but only 56 per cent live on farms, including 9 per cent renters and 4 per cent who are hired laborers on farms. The average size of the farms is 497 acres but this is hardly a fair index since there are two very large farms owned by absentee land lords; one of 17,000 acres and one of 1,800 acres. The modal farm is one of 80 acres as there are 19 of that size out of the 79 reporting. The smallest one included was one of six acres which, perhaps, might not be called a farm in this region. Many of the farms are, however, quite large because of the low cost of land and because there is no intensive farming. Much of the land is used for pasturing. The low cost of land may be responsible for the low per cent of tenancy which is 14.5 for the county as a whole and 10.2 for the state of Michigan.

Some of the effects of the low prices of produce have been mentioned. The community has produced a plentiful supply of food ; meats, butter, eggs, beans, cereals, potatoes and vegetables and there is plenty of wood for fuel, obtainable by labor but people have been unable to secure enough money from their produce with which to buy the needed clothing, farm machinery and to pay taxes.

Some farmers have two or three years crops stored, yet people in the cities are suffering for want of these

foods and are unable to manufacture the clothing and machinery to exchange for the food because of lack of capital with which to carry out the enterprises.

It is noticeable that when marbles start in the spring each boy brings a dozen or two of marbles and all play. With in a few days one or two boys have the whole pile and all quit playing. The same thing seems to be true with dollars. But here the community is helpless. Coinage and circulation of money, regulation of banks, laws of inheritance, blue sky laws and all others effecting property rights are questions for larger social and political units.

TABLE III

Current prices for farm products at the local elevators for December 1932 were as follows :

|                         |        |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Wheat per bu. ....      | 40 ¢   |
| Oats per bu. ....       | 16 ¢   |
| Corn per bu. ....       | 28 ¢   |
| Barley per bu. ....     | 50 ¢   |
| Beans per bu. ....      | 90 ¢   |
| Pork per cwt. ....      | \$3.45 |
| Beef per cwt. ....      | 3.25   |
| Butter fat per lb. .... | 21 ¢   |
| Milk per cwt. ....      | 90 ¢   |



Since a majority of the people own farms, the relatively high cost of farm machinery and the high taxes as compared to prices on farm produce has caused a great deal of financial embarrassment. One farmer just hauled his bean crop to market to raise a little money with which to stay off the mortgage foreclosure on his farm for he had paid no interest or taxes in two years. After the deductions for picking, they brought him eighty cents per hundred pounds.

The kinds and amount of produce exported from the community is indicated by the shipments given in table IV. To these amounts should be added the amounts hauled by three men who are engaged in trucking and the amounts which are hauled by the producers themselves directly to the larger markets. These figures are difficult to secure as no definite records of them are kept. A considerable quantity of produce is loaded on trucks and started for Detroit in the evening so as to be placed on the market the next morning. These amounts have increased from year to year during the past few years.

TABLE IV

As nearly as could be computed from the local railroad reports, the amounts and kinds of freight shipped out from Prescott for the years named were as follows :

| 1928         |                | 1929         |                |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| L.C.L. Mdse. | 80,000 lbs.    | L.C.L. Mdse. | 80,000 lbs.    |
| Live Stock   | 1,651,000 lbs. | Live Stock   | 1,282,000 lbs. |
| Grain        | 250,000 lbs.   | Grain        | 493,000 lbs.   |

|          |              |         |              |
|----------|--------------|---------|--------------|
| Beets    | 100,000 lbs. | Pickles | 128,000 lbs. |
| Wool     | 40,000 lbs.  | Beans   | 201,000 lbs. |
| Beans    | 90,000 lbs.  |         |              |
| Potatoes | 30,000 lbs.  |         |              |

#### Enterprises Which Have Failed

Several enterprises have been started which have been of short duration. A small establishment which did custom work in carding and spinning of wool was operated for three or four years by Theodore Reed. A grist mill was started by C. H. Prescott in 1892. Another mill was started a short time later by Mills and Common but both have disappeared. Two creameries have been started at different times, but these too have gone. There are still quite large quantities of milk and cream produced in the community but they are purchased by two cream stations and shipped to other localities. It is difficult to learn just to what extent lack of co-operation and of local support were responsible for these failures.

The business men seem to be unable to carry on concerted action for any continued length of time. The most successful attempt of the kind has been the free motion pictures which were sponsored by them for a time but broke up in 1932 and has been replaced by a "Talkie" operated by a proprietor from Bay City. The business men seem more interested in "cutting corners" than in community development and expansion but, perhaps, the depression has made this policy more necessary

during the past two or three years. The farmer's Co-operative Society has helped to bring the farmers together but has done little toward bringing villagers and farmers together.

On being invited to a business men's meeting to hear an speaker from out of town on the subject of "Community Interest" one of the older business men asked, "What do I get out of it?" Yet one of the younger business men replied to the same invitation, "I think it is a fine thing. If the business men will only co-operate in such efforts they will not have to complain that all the good things go to West Branch and Prescott gets nothing. The men of West Branch are organized." May we repeat that the Co-operative elevator seems to indicate that the farmers here have learned to work together better than the business men of the village.

The fact that many of these village residents have passed through the hardships of frontier life and fought most of their battles alone accounts for much of the sentiment which prevails. The principles of Laissez Faire and of Caveat Emptor formerly were their rules of business and they have not learned that, in modern business, competition is, to some extent, the death of business.

CHAPTER IV  
VOTER LIFE AND RECREATION  
Housing Conditions

Each house in Prescott Community represents a family, and all families live in some type of dwelling house except six families who are housed in the rear of, or in the second story over some of the business places in the village of Prescott. Nearly all of the buildings are of wood, many having been built during the lumbering days. Only two of the dwellings have well kept lawns; few of the buildings are painted and a few are covered on the outside with tar paper. During the summers, flowers are grown by many of the residents. Perhaps the frontier life has accustomed them to modest surroundings. The isolation, too, has tended to prevent ostentation and promote contentment. But contentment does not stimulate pride and ambition to improve.

According to the results of the questionnaire described under Method, the housing seems fairly good so far as the amount of room is concerned. There is an average of 1.14 rooms per person but the houses, as a rule, are not supplied with modern conveniences nor do they tend toward beauty in appearance, though 37 per cent of the homes reporting are supplied with electricity as compared with 4.6 per cent of the homes of Ogemaw County and 20.7 per cent of the homes in Michigan. (1) There is an abundance of water power within

(1) Fifteenth Census of the United States 1930.

twenty to thirty miles of Prescott and there is no reason why all could not be supplied with light and power so far as availability of power is concerned. ten per cent of the families in the community reporting have bath rooms while the average for the county is 3.6 per cent and, for the state, 9.3 per cent. (1) So it is evident that the 79 families do not rank so poorly when compared with the rest of the county or state in the proportion of homes enjoying these conveniences. Yet, the average wealth, as indicated by the land holdings, would indicate that it is not poverty which prevents a much larger number from enjoying the same conveniences.

### The Family

Many of the courtships begin at school and, occasionally a pupil leaves school before completing the course in order to marry and establish a home. Other opportunities for young people to meet those of the opposite sex are furnished by house parties, dances and picture shows.

Home making is about the only vocation open to women in the community. A few girls attend the county normal and teach school a year or two before marrying. A few married women as well as single ones are employed in the beanery for a part of the year. Sometimes girls find employment at housework in the homes of neighbors. But for a large per centage, the only alternatives are to marry and become a home maker or leave the community.

There are no pre-kindergartens or kindergartens to develop sociability among the children in their early years. In most of the homes the children number more than one so they learn to divide their possessions and learn responsibility for each others care. Most of these early years are, however, spent pretty much with the parents, the brothers and sisters and possibly one or two near neighbors.

The median size of family in Prescott Community, according to the questionnaire, is larger than that reported for the county or state by the 1930 census of the United States. The median family numbers six, as compared to a median of 3.65 for Ogema County and 3.66 for Michigan. Lynd found an average of 5.4 persons per family among the working class in Middletown in 1924. (1) The largest of the 7 families reporting was 15, the smallest reported numbered 2 a mother and daughter. As explained, the median given for the community may be a little high but there can be little doubt that the families in the Community are larger than the average for the state.

Of these families, 55 per cent are supported on farms, the heads of two of the families are conservation officers, two are day laborers, three merchants, two preachers, one traveling salesman, three are retired, one is an engineer, two are mechanics, two stock buyers, one blacksmith, one mail carrier, three truck drivers, one teacher, one veterinarian, one postmaster, two elevator managers and seven where the heads of the families were dead or occupations unknown.

(1) Lynd, R. S. and Helen in "Middletown" page 24.

There are very few broken homes due to divorce, but more on account of death of husband or wife. In all of these cases the families are being kept together by the surviving parent. There are many instances where parents are being cared for by the children. These conditions indicate a great deal of family unity. Perhaps these strong home ties with the fact that few boys and girls play on the streets but have home chores to do, may account for the low rate of serious crimes in the community. There are a few petty offenses such as boys swiping candy or gasoline but there have been no arrests of local residents for serious offenses during the past two years.

#### Home Entertainment and Recreation

There is much more home recreation in Prescott Community than in urban communities where there is more commercialized recreation. Home recreation, for the most part, consists of games, music, listening to the radio or phonograph and reading.

Sixty seven per cent of the homes studied have radios and 74 per cent have phonographs. Twenty seven per cent of the homes studied have no musical instruments such as piano, violin or mouth organ; 39 per cent have at least one instrument; 21 per cent have two instruments; 9 per cent have three each; Two families have four instruments each and one home reported five instruments requiring skill to operate.

A large proportion of those having no musical instruments are the same ones who reported no radios or phonographs.

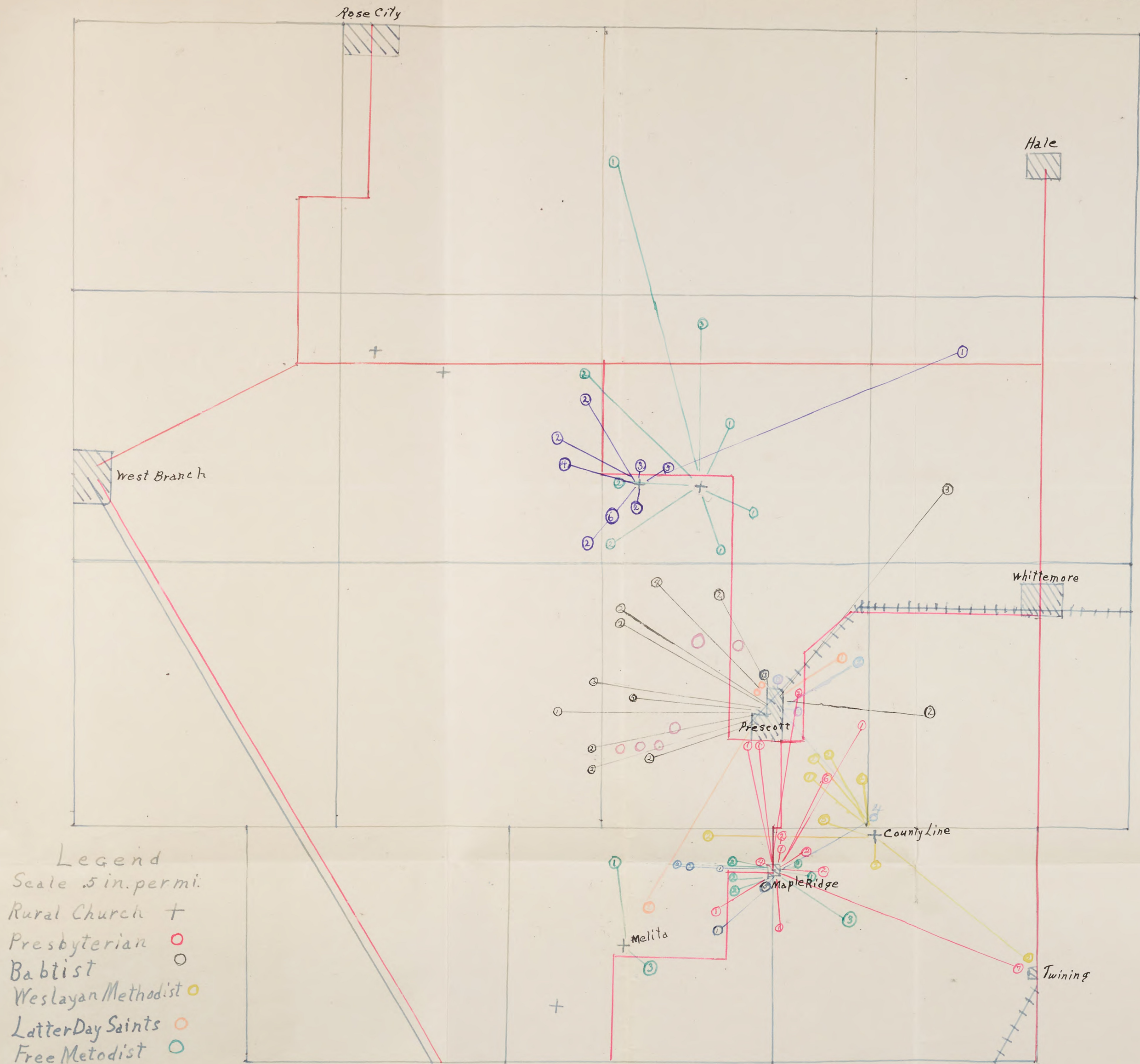
Twenty three families reported no daily newspaper in the homes ; 43 take one daily paper each ; two families take three dailies each and one family takes five different daily news papers. Seven families take one magazine each ; four take two magazines each ; sixteen take three each ; nine take four each ; seven take five each ; six take six magazines each ; two take seven each ; four take eight each ; one takes nine ; three receive ten each and one family receives twelve magazines according to the reports. But kind of magazine may be more significant than the number since pupils were asked to report the names of magazines read in the homes. Out of 260 magazines reported, 160 or 61 per cent were those dealing with some phase of farming or farm life in the home or field. There were five Literary Digests and several scattering names of literary and news type magazines ; only six True Story ; eight Good Stories ; and two Detective Story Magazines. This list compares very favorably with the list found by the author in a sub-urban community in 1929. On the news stand in that community there were 105 different magazines kept for sale. In that list there was not a single Literary Digest or other magazine of that type, although the clerk reported the sale of one and some weeks two Colliers. The leader was True Story with 50 sales per week and The Argosy and Western Romance with forty sales each per week.



Fifteen families reported no attendance at social gatherings during the year and the 64 who did averaged 54.6 meetings per year at which one or more of the members of the family were present. A large portion of these were house parties, card clubs and dances. Fifteen families attended no picture shows during the year, but the other 64 averaged 29 shows per year. Picture shows are given in Prescott only on Saturday evenings, but many attend movies at West Branch, Standish and even Tawas and Bay City.

Sixteen families do no hunting, fishing or camping and each of the families who do average 38.2 days per year for one or more of its members. Two of the estimates seemed exceedingly large (250 and 300) but the average is, probably not far from correct as both fishing and hunting are good and are enjoyed by many of the residents. If these outdoor sports could be enjoyed by all in a more nearly equal ratio it might contribute greatly to the health and happiness of all.

The fact that very little charity is required by the native residents but that nearly all of the aged and infirm are cared for in the homes of their children and relatives indicates greater congeniality and solidarity in home life than is the case in urban communities. The cheap and bountiful supply of food may, however, help to influence these conditions.



Legend  
 Scale .5 in. per mi.  
 Rural Church +  
 Presbyterian ○  
 Baptist ○  
 Wesleyan Methodist ●  
 Latter Day Saints ●  
 Free Methodist ●  
 M.E. Methodist ●  
 Brethren ●  
 Catholics ●

# MAP IV

Showing residences and number of persons  
 from each claiming membership in the respective  
 churches



## CHAPTER IV

### CHURCHES

The accompanying Map IV shows the location of the eleven churches within the community boundary and two which are near the boundary. In Prescott village there are three, one Methodist Episcopal, one Baptist and one Latter Day Saint. Maple Ridge Hamlet contains three, one Free Methodist, one Methodist Episcopal and one Congregationalist church. The locations of the residences of the communicants of these several churches are also shown on the map, together with the particular churches to which they belong. In addition to those shown on the map there are several Catholics, some Lutheran, spiritualists and other denominations who attend church outside the community if at all since they have no particular place of worship for their respective creeds in the community.

The first church in the community and the mother of several of the others was started in Maple Ridge in 1884 as a Methodist Episcopal Church with twelve charter members. Rev. Gabriel Sanderson was the first pastor and Mr. Thomas Gregg was the first superintendent. Some of those who started with the Methodists were really of the Presbyterian faith so in 1886, when they felt their numbers sufficiently strong, they withdrew and formed a new organization of their own with fifteen charter members. The Methodists seem to have co-operated with them in securing a new building for their new organization.

At Present the Methodist Episcopal Church of Maple Ridge claims fifteen members. Rev. Ethan Pray of Twinning is their pastor and Mrs. C. J. Hull, who has been an active member almost from the start, is president of the Ladies Aid. The Presbyterian Church now claims a membership of thirty-four but there are not that many active. Their resident pastor at present is Rev. Mr. Gawne.

The Wesleyan Methodist Church at County Line is another off shoot of the M.E. Church at Maple Ridge. It was organized in 1887 at the home of Mr. David R. Scott by the Rev. Mr. Dodds who was the pioneer pastor of the church. There were five charter members. The services were held in the Stone school house i.e. District number one of Richland, until 1893. At that time a church edifice was built on the farm of George Morse and has since been known as the "County Line Church". The church held many "revivals" and grew until other denominations came into the vicinity and began prosyliting its members since which time its membership has decreased.

Still another off-spring of this parent church was the Free Methodist organization of the same place. In 1877, Rev. S. S. Crandall came to visit his brother at Maple Ridge and was invited to preach in the little log school house. This seems to have been the first work of the Free Methodist denomination in this section of the state. The place of meeting was soon changed to the school house just north of Maple Ridge. In 1880, a definite Free Methodist organization

was formed, known as the "Clayton and Ogden Circuit" which was extended northward to include what is now Rose City. In 1891, a church edifice was started in Maple Ridge but progress was slow and it was some time before the building was completed. In 1899, a store building was purchased by the church and remodeled into a parsonage. The Maple Ridge Free Methodist Church was organized with twelve charter members and has grown to twenty-one. Rev. Mr. Davis is now serving as their resident pastor.

The Free Methodist pastor from Maple Ridge held religious services at Melita, a hamlet about five miles west of Maple Ridge. The services were held in the school house until 1898 when the Rev. William Bennie started the erection of a church. The building was completed and dedicated the next year. The membership at Melita is now six.

From time to time, itinerant Free Methodist pastors held meetings in a school house in Edward township and, in 1893, Douglas Harvey of Rose City organized a church there with eight charter members.

In 1892, Rev. D. C. Embury preached the first Free Methodist sermon in Logan Township and soon after that the Sage Lake Church was organized with nine charter members. In 1908, the school house was purchased by the church society and has since been used for religious worship. The membership is given as seventeen at the present time. The pulpits at

Sage Lake and Edwards as well as Melita are filled by the pastor from Maple Ridge.

The Free Methodists have never effected a permanent organization at Prescott but, from time to time, the pastors from Maple Ridge have held services here. Spiritualists occasionally hold meetings in the township hall. The few catholic families who reside in the community, belong or attend worship at other places, chiefly West Branch and Whittimore.

In 1890, the Rev. Mr. Crandell of Maple Ridge began holding meetings in the school house at Prescott. The next year a church was organized and, soon after, a building was erected by the Methodist Episcopal Denomination in that village. At the present and for some time past they have had no resident pastor, though they still have fifteen members and hold Sunday school with an approximate attendance of fifty.

The same week that Mr. Crandell started his meetings, the Rev. Mr. Waterbury, a presbyterian, started meetings in Prescott. Mr. C. H. Prescott gave much aid and encouragement in forming a church organization and in providing a building. The church was christened the "Judson Baptist Church" and started with sixteen members. Mr. Joseph Thorne who was the first deacon and a charter member, is still an active member and has been made a life deacon of the church.

At present Rev. Mr. Farvey is the resident pastor and claims a membership of forty-two but only about thirty-five are still resident and active members.

About the year 1900 the Latter Day Saints established a church one and one half miles southwest of Prescott. The church grew quite rapidly for a time until 1923 when they numbered forty five. About that time the building was moved into the village. Since then the membership has declined and now numbers about fifteen. Rev. Mr. Somerville, the pastor, still resides at Prescott but church services are only held intermittently.

In 1905, a colony belonging to the German Baptist Brethren Denomination established themselves in Logan Township. They built a church in 1915 and, for some time, possessed a large and loyal congregation, consisting of one hundred members. But, according to the report of a young lady member, "Many of the younger generation have left the community and others have rebelled against the strict rules of the church and the plain uniform which marked them off from other young people and have, therefore, left the church." At present there are fifty members and their pastor is Rev. Farvey Good.

Some of the church leaders in the community were asked why they did not unite with other units and thus economize and, at the same time, produce stronger organizations. The

reply was, invariably, "We would not object to having \_\_\_\_\_ join us only we would not want them to teach a certain portion of their doctrine in our church." Not any of them suggested having their own church join another.

Traditional church dogma and sectarianism are not the only causes of smallness and multiplicity of congregations. Desire for personal recognition as piano player or Sunday school superintendent or pastor cause some to leave one organization and go to another or start a new one. Others leave because of dislike for the pastor or someone else in the church whose association is not enjoyed. Competition among pastors and church officials to increase the number of church units or to do "missionary work" is still another cause.

The most active groups within the churches are the Ladies Aid Societies. In Prescott both Methodists and Baptists possess such organizations and a goodly share of the church funds are raised through public dinners served by these groups. But, even with this help, the churches are not entirely self supporting. The Methodists are unable to maintain a pastor and it is reported that the Baptist Church receives aid from a missionary fund.

The survey by means of the questionnaire indicated that 61 per cent of the 76 families answering the question have one or more church members among their number. The 63 families who reported attendance at religious gatherings,



averaged fifty meetings per year attended by one or more members of the family. The highest number reported by any one family was that of a pastor who reported 160 meetings attended by one or more members of the family during the year.

There is very little co-operation among the churches. As the pastors supply several churches, they do, sometimes, arrange church services so they will not conflict with other meetings held in other churches of the same locality. So far as the author has learned, about the only union services held are the annual baccalaureate services held for the school.

The ten or twelve churches which serve the community cannot contribute much toward community sentiment and solidarity under these conditions. The consolidation of some of these units would appear to be a much more economical plan and the churches could then be more effective for good. It could then contribute to the unity and solidarity of the community. But church creed, dogma and selfishness keep them apart.

## CHAPTER VI

### POLITICAL AND CIVIC CONDITIONS

#### Political Isolation

The community is not effected to any great extent, by either state or county except for taxes which go out to these units and the amounts which come back to the schools, to highway construction and improvement and in pensions from the National Government. State police are called in once or twice a year and the county sheriff a little oftener. For the most part, the township government and local deputies look after local affairs.

There are three state conservation officers living in the community: One of which cares for a fire tower and the other two are engaged mainly in the conservation of game. There are a few arrests for violation of game laws but many are warned and occasionally there is a fine paid.

Crime does not seem to be a serious problem in the community. There have been a few cases of petty larceny and one instance where some young school boys broke into the pool room at night and stole a few cigarettes and some candy. There has been one case of

suicide due to lack of home felicity. Occasionally some of the young people get out and celebrate for want of more wholesome recreation and some are sometimes guilty of carelessness. But, for the most part, habits of industry, economic return for labor and the stabilizing influence of home ownership have made Prescott about as free from crime as any American community. And, it is possible that social adjustment might be more effective against the irregularities mentioned than criminal procedure.

Possibly a "supervisor of morals" to look after the habits formed in youth as was the custom in Athens, might be more effective than the police department, playing hide and seek with those who have become antisocial.

The deputy sheriff was asked in regard to the enforcement of the cigarette laws, prohibition laws, and laws prohibiting school children from entering gaming houses. His reply was: "It is impossible to go beyond what public sentiment will support." A mother asked him to keep her young son from entering the pool room but he felt that parents should have enough influence over their sons to keep them away.

The county highway department maintains a garage, trucks, road scrapers and other equipment in the village of Prescott for keeping the highways in repair. Many

of the highways have been turned over to the county so that the township has much less of that kind of work to do.

A doctor, dentist, welfare worker and three nurses are employed for the counties of Arenac, Iosco, and Ogemaw Counties and are paid for out of the Cousin's Fund. Their work does not extend much beyond the schools and their connection with the schools is described under that topic.

As shown in the sample tax receipt, the school tax and the township tax including bond payment and interest are nearly equal, the school tax amounting to 6 mills on the dollar and the township tax 7.6 mills on the dollar. The county tax, however, amounts to 11.4 mills over and above the special drain assessments. In contrast to these the state tax amounts to only 3.2 mills and yet the school and state taxes are the ones most commonly criticized. If the county tax could be reduced to that for the township exclusive of bonds, the rate would nearly come within the fifteen mill limit provided in the constitutional amendment recently adopted by referendum vote.

There has been a great deal of criticism as to the amount of taxes and it is probable that they are far from being distributed according to ability to pay. Yet,

45 to 95 per cent of the real estate taxes were paid in the period 1926 to 1933 as against 45 per cent and 35 per cent in 1932 and 1933 respectively, though they were reduced in the latter period.

TABLE V

Example of a farm tax receipt for 1932.

|                                           |               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Valuation of land and buildings.....      | \$ 3,100.00   |
| State tax .....                           | 9.92          |
| County tax .....                          | 17.53         |
| School tax .....                          | 21.67         |
| Street lights and graveling highway ..... | 13.18         |
| Bonds and Interest .....                  | 11.33         |
| County and Covert road .....              | 15.05         |
| Drain No.1 Spec. ....                     | 6.57          |
| Prescott Cleanout Spec. ....              | 4.49          |
| Total tax .....                           | <u>118.36</u> |

The earliest township meeting in Richland of which there was any record found, was held on the sixth of April 1885. William Moore acted as chairman, Park E. Chapell as justice of the peace and Michael Roe as clerk. At that time there were seventy registered voters in the township. The Board proceeded to count the ballots and declared the result of the election to be :

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| George Wyner     | Supervisor           |
| Michael Roe      | Clerk                |
| James Gregg      | Treasurer            |
| William Donaghey | School Inspector     |
| William Cliff    | Highway Commissioner |
| Thomas Gregg     | Justice of the Peace |

An interesting item in the minutes of the meeting held the next year shows the appropriation of one hundred fifty dollars for the establishment of a township library, showing the early interest in reading. At present and for some time past there has been no township library though the school library is used some by the public.

The adoption of woman suffrage nearly doubled the number of registered voters of the township but, since that time, the number has not varied greatly. In 1922 the list of voters included 416 names but this dropped again to 364. In 1932, there were 279 men and 211 women registered. This larger number can be accounted for by the added interest in the election due to the depression and to the fact that the depression has driven some of the unemployed of the cities back here where food is more plentiful and rent lower.

The republicans seem to have had everything their own way from the beginning. One election showed three democratic votes and the primary election held September 13, 1932 showed five democrats voting on the nomination for congressman

While the republicans polled all votes for the same office.

Prescott seems to be more free from political bias than more densely populated districts. It is true that there are local politicians and that some have more political influence than others, yet there seems to be more independent action, in local affairs at least.

During the year 1932, a petition was circulated and signed by a large number of voters for the purpose of changing the office of highway commissioner to an elective position by popular vote in place of being appointed by the county board of supervisors. The change has not yet been made but it shows the sentiment for more democratic control of public office. In a rural school district where the tax rate was nearly two and one half per cent on the assessed valuation they were offered an opportunity to transport pupils to the village at a saving of, approximately one third of their total school expenditure but refused to send the children so far from home. Such facts show clearly the individualistic sentiment which hinders consolidation or the delegation of authority. They have been monarchs of their own little realms for so long they are loathe to make any move which looks to them like a release or delegation of authority. The late Dr. Jordan estimated that half a million persons have been responsible for all the world's progress, (1) so perhaps, the natural

(1) The late Dr. David Starr Jordan of Leland Stanford University in his lecture "The Picked Half Million".

natural inertia of the average individual is also responsible for the resistance to change.

Twenty one freshmen in high school interviewed a total of 98 persons to determine the amount of interest in politics. It was found that 77 of the 98 had voted. Of the twenty one who had not voted three were aliens, four thought it useless or were careless, one husband would not permit his wife to vote, three did not have time, one felt unqualified, and two lacked conveyances to the polling places. Two forgot to register, one was ill, and one had not gained residence.

It is probable that this comparatively high percentage is due to the depression and is, therefore, higher than the average, but it is also probable that the average is higher than in urban communities or for the state as a whole.

The township does not maintain any means of fire protection. This, of course, makes the insurance rates very high. One owner tells me that he pays \$25.00 per year for \$1,200.00 coverage on his home. Fires are not so very frequent although two homes burned in the community during the year 1932.

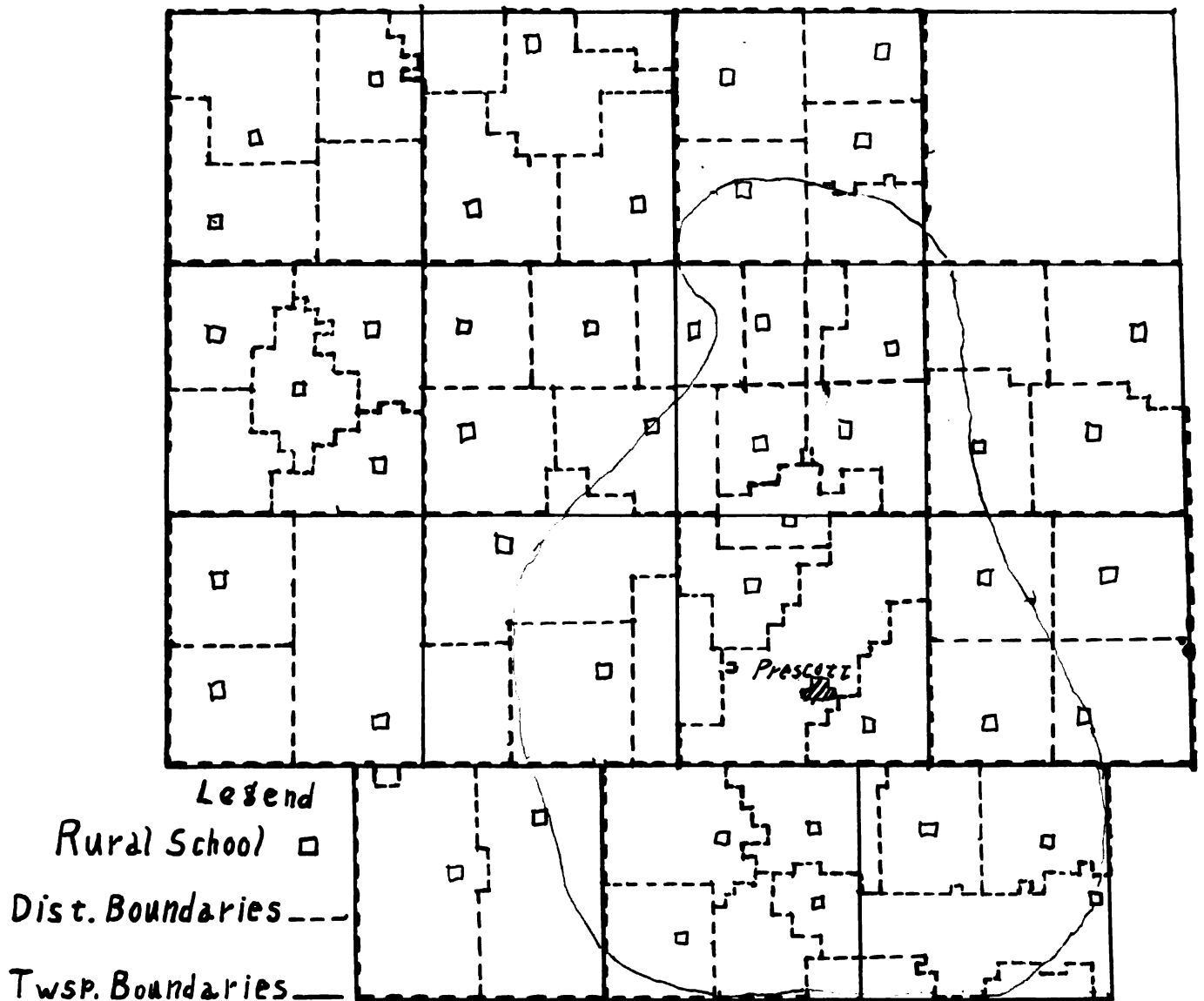
Rose City and West Branch, the two other political as well as social and economic units in the county



have very little in common with Prescott either socially or economically except in the payment of county tax. The county school commissioner has not visited Prescott schools in two years. The county highway department maintains a local highway supervisor and the sheriff visits occasionally especially before election. As awkward as this political situation seems to be, the township unit does not seem to fit the situation much better. Highland Township performs for the community all the municipal functions which are performed and yet includes a very small portion of the area of the community. Much of the taxable wealth lies in other counties and many of the people who should be among the social and political leaders of the community live in other political divisions. This breaking up of the community into several political units and parts of units has a strong disintegrating effect.

MAP V

SHOWING DISTRICT BOUNDARIES IN THEIR RELATION TO PRESCOTT.



## CHAPTER VII

### EDUCATION

Primary schools were started very early in each of the neighborhoods settlements but secondary education has made slower progress. Because the primary schools were started in this way there has been no consideration given to the size, shape, convenience, economy or efficiency in laying them out. Their assessed valuations and tax rates vary greatly. Map V shows their boundaries to be very irregular both as to size and shape. In many instances pupils are nearer to schools in adjoining districts than to the schools in their own districts. Enrollments are very low in many of the schools, especially in the north and west portions of the community where population is sparse.

The Prescott School or District number four of Richland is large but it too is very irregular and the school is far from the center. It extends from the northeastern corner of the township to the southwest yet there is a school of eight grades less than two miles from the village. To the west there is a school three miles away. There is a total of five primary schools within five miles of the village. The total attendance of four of these schools is only fiftyfour and their tax rates vary from six to over twenty two dollars per thousand dollars valuation.

One of the districts in Logan Township has no record of having sent any pupils to high school for a period of seventeen years and very few pupils have been sent to high school from any of the districts in the northern part of the community. There are several reasons for the small number being sent from these one room schools. Boys and girls have been needed at home to help in clearing up the farms and caring for the crops, roads have been poor and, farmers have felt unable to meet the expense of better clothes, transportation, books and other expense incident to high school attendance. It is probable, too, that family tradition has had a strong influence in keeping down the highschool attendance. Parents and grand parents went through the third or fourth grade so, to them, an eighth grade education appears to be all that is required for the children.

#### Prescott Schools

Though no records of board meetings held prior to 1885 were found, there appears to have been a school held for some time before that. It is reported to have been held first at the home of Mr. Blackman by a teacher named William Smith and with an enrollment of three pupils but the school was soon moved into the town hall. The second teacher employed was Johnny Franks.

At the annual school meeting held September 7, 1885, Mr. Franklin Pierce was elected director; Henry Zeran, assessor ; and Alex MacLean, clerk. It voted to have a three months summer

term and a four months winter term; to raise \$ 250.00 for teacher's salary ; \$ 75.00 to pay outstanding debts; \$250.00 as a building fund and \$ 25.00 for fuel. A motion was offered to raise \$ 100.00 to establish a school library but the motion was lost.

On November 20 of the same year, a special meeting was held to establish a school site and to borrow further funds. At that meeting a portion of the present site was selected. It was also voted to borrow \$ 300.00 which was to be repaid in three equal annual installments. Alex MacLean, William Moore and Peter Hanlin were elected as a building committee. The harmony of these meetings from the fact that, though there were only twelve votes cast at each meeting, half of them were challenged and marked at each ballot.

In 1890, the school was found to be too small so the building was enlarged and another teacher engaged which, it was believed, would be enough for all time. But, in 1912, the third teacher was added. In 1914, the school building had again become too small to accommodate the number of pupils. This time the old wood building was moved from its site and an entirely new building erected which was occupied the following year. It is a two story, brick building with full basement and located on the old site to which was added enough land to make a little more than two acres for a school play ground and play area.

The basement includes one large room which is used at times for handicraft, luncheons and for play room. One of the rooms was remodeled in 1932 for a combination laboratory for physics, chemistry and biology. There are, also, furnace and engine rooms and a large space for fuel storage.

The first floor is occupied by the first eight grades. The kindergarten, first and second grades with a total enrollment of 27 occupy one room; the third fourth and fifth with an enrollment of thirty four occupy another room and the sixth, seventh and eighth with an enrollment of 42 occupy the third room. The second floor contains a superintendent's office, two recitation rooms and a general study hall with a seating capacity of 87 pupils. The study hall is equipped with a stage and is about the only place in the village in which theatrical productions and other community gatherings can be held. This gives a total enrollment, for the grades below high school, of 101 pupils. The high school has enrolled a total of 88 this year (1933-4). Of the grade pupils, there are two from outside the district and fifty of the high school pupils pay tuition.

In 1917 it was made a tuition school with ten grades, and, in 1921, the last two grades were added, making it a full high school. The first twelfth grade consisted of two pupils who graduated in 1922.

There had been some agitation for having the school placed on the accredited list of schools of the University of Michigan. An inspection had been made by the State Department of Public Instruction with a view toward such accreditation but little had been accomplished as the members of the Board were divided on the subject. Some of them thought that the community was doing all it could afford in the way of offering educational advantages and feared the accrediting would involve expenditures beyond their ability to pay. In the spring of 1931, one of the business men moved away with the declaration that he "wished to give his children better educational advantages." Soon a petition was circulated and signed by a large number of tax payers of the district, asking the Board to take steps toward the accrediting of the school. Nothing more was done, however, until the annual school meeting in July, 1931 when a motion was made, supported and carried that the district meet the requirements for accrediting.

Up to the middle of August no move had been made to carry out the motion made at the annual meeting and yet two teachers had been hired for the high school neither of whom had the training required by the University. At that time a committee of the Board, the janitor and two teachers made a call at the State Department. They were informed that one more teacher would be required to meet the immediate

demands. The additional teacher was secured and the school was duly accredited. As the thirty or forty additional tuitions received as a result of the accrediting cover the added expense, those who had objected, seemed satisfied.

The Whittamore school had been accredited a little earlier and had been drawing tuition pupils from Prescott area so that, if Prescott Schools had not progressed, it is doubtful if Prescott Village could have survived as a community center. But, as a result of the accrediting, Prescott drew about thirty extra tuition pupils the first year.

The Prescott School District has an assessed valuation of \$ 341,525.00 which is comparatively low for the maintenance of a high school, but the tuition brings in nearly \$ 3,000.00 and the primary fund has amounted to about \$ 1,750.00 more, so that it has been necessary to levy a tax of only five to ten dollars per thousand dollars valuation. By operating the school conservatively, this amount would have been sufficient but for the fact that only thirty five per cent of the tax has been collected for the past year. This has made it impossible to purchase all the equipment needed for efficient work.

#### School Organization and Curriculum

The school is organized on the eight four plan. The attendance ranges from 75 per cent to 98 per cent of the



enrollment with a general average of 91 per cent. About ten per cent of those who enter high school in the fall, quit before school closes in the spring. In most cases , the dropping out of school is caused by discouragement over low marks and failures and lack of interest in the courses offered. The number of teachers and the facilities are too limited to offer much beyond the subjects required for college entrance. The sentiment of parents, too, helps pupils to become discouraged and disinterested. One boy who dropped from the tenth grade said that he intended to become a farmer anyway and did not need the school training. His grand father said that he had sent his (the grandfather's) daughters to high school and they had all married as soon as through thus " wasting all the money he had spent on them."

While the school has been unable to offer substantial courses in manual training and household arts, it has done considerable club work. In 1924, handicraft and sewing clubs were organized and, since that time, the school has won several awards for its exhibits. The walls of the school are decorated by several photographs of and ribbons won by such exhibits. In 1927, the school drew three first prizes, two seconds, one fourth and one fifth prize . Again in 1930, an exhibit was sent to the state fair and the school brought back two first prizes, one fourth, and one fifth. Besides these, the school has won several prizes at smaller exhibits and three scholarships at Michigan State College have been awarded to pupils of the school.

The school offers the ordinary courses in hygiene but does not have a regularly organized course in physical education. The Children's Fund of Michigan provides a dentist, doctor and nurse who spend one day each year in the school examining pupils. At least that has been true for the past two years. As the dentist and doctor have two other counties to look after, it is probable that they are unable to devote more time to this school. One pupil who received a ticket from the dentist last year, notifying the parent of the need of immediate care of the child's teeth, this year received a pin for having perfect teeth, though no dentist had been visited in the mean time. Another received a ticket notifying the parent to have a certain tooth filled but, when taken to another dentist, the parent was told that the milk tooth in question should not be filled as it would be shed in a very short time. The two children who were selected for having the most perfect teeth have never used a tooth brush in their lives. Some misunderstandings are bound to happen but such stories circulated, cause loss of faith in dental skill.

During the winter of 1932-3, an objective test was given to a class of twenty-two pupils. It was first given in a room which was somewhat crowded and, therefore, communication without detection was very easy. Three days later, the same test was given on mimeographed sheets, in a large room where communication was extremely difficult. The results of the two tests

were compared answer for answer in the case of each pupil. If questions were correctly answered on the second test which were missed on the first, it was supposed that the pupil had looked up and learned the correct answer between examinations. But, if two or more were correctly answered on the first trial and missed on the second, it was judged that the pupil had received help. Four of the twenty-two showed quite unmistakably that they had received help and the four without exception were the weaker pupils of the class.

Modern Educational theory argues that the accumulation of factual knowledge is much less important than the formation of proper habits and ideals but much of the latter type of training must be given in the ordinary routine and along with the subject matter of the academic and vocational subjects. The mastery of facts and skills cannot be entirely ignored. Facts cannot all be obtained the instant needed and they are necessary to clear and accurate thinking and the formation of new concepts. If the schools could function perfectly and if it were not for the almost uncontrollable influences of the home and street, a large part of our social ills could be prevented. But teachers sometimes lack definite objectives, skills and facilities, and their efforts are often negated by the influences outside of school.

The course of study is indicated by Tables VI, VII and VIII. Because the school has been so recently accredited, very few pupils have been recommended to college. One or two have been recommended to state teacher's colleges and a few others have attended county teacher training classes.

TABLE VI

DAILY SCHEDULE OF CLASSES  
FOR  
1932-1933

|                |                |              |            |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|------------|
| 9:00 to 9:45   |                | Eng. III& IV | Algebra I  |
| 9:45 to 10:30  | Com. Civics    | Latin II     |            |
| 10:30 to 11:15 | World Hist.    |              | Algebra II |
| 11:15 to 12:00 | Civics         | English I    | Geometry   |
| 1:00 to 1:45   | ACTIVITY       | PERIOD       |            |
| 1:45 to 2:30   | Ind. Geography |              | Biology    |
| 2:30 to 3:15   |                | Latin I      |            |
| 3:15 to 4:00   |                | English II   | Chemistry  |

TABLE VII

CREDITS ALLOWED TOWARD GRADUATION

|                              |               |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| English 3 or 4               | Chemistry 1   |
| Latin 2                      | Physics 1     |
| History 2                    | Agriculture 1 |
| Comm. Civics 1               | Biology 1     |
| Civics $\frac{1}{2}$         | Geography 1   |
| Economics $\frac{1}{2}$      | Handicraft 1  |
| Algebra 1 or $1\frac{1}{2}$  | Sewing 1      |
| Geometry 1 or $1\frac{1}{2}$ | Music 1       |

TABLE VIII

Showing the per cent distribution of marks for the first semester of the year 1931-2 by each of the three high school teachers and also the averages for all three.

|   | Teacher I       | Teacher II         | Teacher III     | Average            |
|---|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A | 5               | 12.7               | 9               | 8.9                |
| B | 20              | 25.4               | 17              | 20.8               |
| C | 43              | 21.8               | 36              | 33.6               |
| D | 26              | 32.7               | 24              | 27.6               |
| E | $\frac{6}{100}$ | $\frac{7.3}{99.9}$ | $\frac{13}{99}$ | $\frac{8.8}{99.7}$ |

FIRST SCHOOL HOUSE IN RICHLAND



PRESCOTT PUBLIC SCHOOL



### Extra Curricular Activities

The school has participated in basketball and baseball for several years, but never has made any exceptional records. The basketball teams are handicapped by the inconvenience and quality of the hall used for practice and school closes too early in the spring to carry out a schedule of baseball games. Many of the boys and girls live so far from the hall that it is difficult for them to attend practice.

The school has put on theatrical productions each year since the stage was built. In 1932, two plays were given, one by juniors and one by seniors. In 1933-34 the classes carried out the same program. At each one of these performances the room was well filled. In the fall of 1933, a community meeting with a speaker supplied by the state department of education, was sponsored by the school. A fair with fruit and vegetable exhibit and community supper was also given. Later in the year, a musical was put on by the school. All of these have been very well attended though the musical drew a somewhat smaller crowd than the others.

In 1933-34 the school organized a band with string ensemble and a glee club of thirty voices. All members of the band started the year with no experience or training but made rapid progress and gave several public concerts during the year. Each organization practiced once a week during the activity period.



## Teachers

During the past ten years, there have been twenty one different teachers employed in the Prescott Schools with an average tenure of 2.38 years each. Five of them have been men and sixteen women. Three have been married women. Thirteen have been residents of the community and the rest have been secured from a distance.

The high school is now taught by three teachers including the superintendent. All of them hold Bachelor of Arts degrees and one has a Master of Arts degree. They have all majored or minored in the respective subjects taught by each and two of them have had previous experience in teaching. One of the grade teachers has a life certificate while the other two each holds a limited certificate but all of them have had previous teaching experience.

## Informal Education of the Youth

It can hardly be doubted that home influences which begin at birth, together with the influences of the street, playground and other groups, far out weigh if they do not actually destroy some of the effects of school training. It may be possible, however, to accomplish considerable through the substitution of different forms of recreation, entertainment and social organization.

In many ways, informal education in Prescott is more wholesome though less broadening than in urban communities. As pointed out elsewhere, home life is more congenial and family ties are stronger where families are widely separated as they are here. Children from their earliest years have some responsibilities. A few may be overworked but that is the exception if it exists at all. They are, as a rule, quite well provided with food, clothing and, in prosperous times, with spending money. The mothers are in the homes, too, and not so many boys and girls are on the streets except on Saturday evenings when the whole family goes to town. When not in school, the boys and girls work with their parents. After finishing the chores in the evening, the younger children gather around the stove and pop corn, listen to the radio or play games. But, in many instances, the older children drive the family car to dances, house parties or to picture shows.

Home discipline has relaxed materially; though, perhaps not so much as in less isolated regions. One parent when spoken to in regard to his son's conduct, replied, "I do not wish to cross the boy too much because it might make him irritable." He had not distinguished between directing and nagging.

The following dialogue was carried on in a home and illustrates some of the difficulties of home training. The dialogue as given is substantially correct although some of the strongest adjectives have been omitted.

When dad came home from his work at 6:30 P.M. the coal schuttle was empty. Dad to his ten year old son, "It seems to me that you should know by this time that it is your job to get the coal in before dark."

Son, "But I hant had time."

Dad, "Not time ? School lets out at four o'clock don't it ?"

Mother, "Yes but he just got home. He never came near the house after school : he just goes over to that old basketball hall every chance he gets, and I've told him he should stay away from there. He hasn't any business there with that cold he has. He'll get an arm broken some day and then there'll be a doctor bill to pay." To the son, "The next time that I catch you over to that hall I'LL give you a whipping that is one." Sonny then denies being at the hall.

Mother contradicts vehemently and adds, " Its every night the same thing. He never stays at home. He's always all over the streets. Saturday I never saw a thing of him after I sent him out of the house at 9 o'clock, until 2 P.M. He don't even know when its time to eat." Dad quietly says, "Well, be quiet now, ma, you've tried to bring 'em up and can't make 'em mind; now I'm going to take things in hand. I do not blame 'em for not binding you. All you do is yell at them and they know that will be the end of it. Now boys, hereafter, I want you at home as soon as school lets out. I want that coal pail full every night before dark and, to-morrow night, you pick up all the tin cans in the back yard. And, from now on, I don't want either of you boys to leave this yard unless you come to where I work and ask me if you can. You have a big yard to play in and you stay there and keep away from the basketball hall."

But father's rules and threats had little more effect than mother's, for the boys remembered them for only part of the afternoon. Is it any wonder that children grow up with the idea that rules and laws are made for the purpose of being violated?

Boys of tender years are taken into the poolroom where the atmosphere is thick with tobacco smoke and profanity which would not appear to be conducive to the formation of ideal habits. Boys and girls learn to drive an automobile at quite an early age and are able to get far enough from home

so that parents do not know where they are or what they are doing. It was suggested to a young man twenty years of age that, "The moral conditions among boys and girls in a rural community like this, must be much better than in larger communities." His reply was, "You don't know because you don't see what is going on. It's pretty bad." One parent learned that his daughter of eighteen had refused to smoke a cigarette while all the rest of her companions had indulged. So, as a reward, the daughter was given a new dress. But, for all this, petty thievery and more serious crimes are not common and the general standards of honesty and morality are probably as high here as elsewhere.

The young people here are less inclined to form clicks and gangs than in most communities, this is especially true among school pupils. Wealth and occupation of parents do not segregate them into groups. The pupils are, as a rule, sociable though there are a few cases of isolation. One such case is illustrated by a young lady whose mother wishes her to take a part socially and make progress educationally which the girl is unable to do. As a result, the young lady is directed by her mother in all her actions and has no chance to make any choices for herself or to settle any of her difficulties. If the young lady feels slight-

ted (which often happens) the mother "bawls out." the children whom she believes to be responsible for the slight.

Many of the oldest traditions, no matter how unreasonable, are instilled into children's minds from the earliest childhood. Fourteen lists of superstitions were handed in by high school pupils. These lists included one hundred twenty two separate superstitions; others not listed as separate ones, differed in some particulars though some times slight. For example, one might say that a cat crossing the path foretells bad luck and another would say a "black" cat. Many of the traditions dealt with numbers as three, seven, and thirteen, others dealt with birds, cats, and the moon. When asked if they believed in these omens, three of the pupils declared that they always thought of them but did not really believe in them. One "believes, but doesn't let it worry her." One "believes in them." Five "know some of them are true because they have proved them." Minds filled with such superstitions, traditions and prejudices are hardly open for the acceptance of truths from new observations.

The effect of these home teachings is shown in the case of the son of a pastor in a religious denomination where the theory of evolution is taboo. The son,

ajunior in high school, was asked to prepare a paper on "Geographic Influences in History". In his preparatory reading, he started "Nature and Man in America", by Shaler. He read for some time without recognizing any of the words connected with the proscribed theory and commented on the evident truth and general application of the statements made in the text. As soon, however, as words were recognized, identifying the statements with the hated doctrine, the attitude was completely reversed. Not only the traditions of the ages are passed down to the children but, also, the sentiments, ideals and prejudices formed by the parents through their life struggles. These struggles of pioneer life have tended to make them more or less greedy for immediate personal gain, the accumulation of property and a lack of social co-operation. On one occasion, the board of education was asked for the use of the school building for an extension course to be given to about twenty five teachers from the rural schools of the surrounding area. The teachers were asked five dollars per evening rental which they refused to pay. Some time after this, it was suggested that one additional tuition pupil would have paid the rental and, besides this, it would have done much to secure the good will of the rural districts from which the teachers came. The Board members replied that they had not thought of that.

A class of pupils was asked what could be done to make Prescott more prosperous and a better place in which to live. Nearly everyone expressed the need for a big factory or other large economic institution. They wanted a Santa Claus to present Prescott with something which would give it prominence as though "bigness" alone were the thing to be desired. It had not occurred to them that the resources already here and the social and and conditions could be developed by the people who are here and thus make life richer and happier.

#### Education Among Adults

Among the older generation, education, especially college work, was considered a preparation to earn a living, which may account for the results which the questionnaire showed. Seven per cent of the men had some college training while only one per cent of the women received such advantage. When it came to high school and eighth grade graduates, the figures show that the boys stayed at home and worked on the farms while the girls went to school, for 15 per cent of the women had finished high school and 51 per cent had finished the eighth grade while the corresponding figures for the men were 10



per cent and 43 per cent respectively. Twenty per cent of the men had less than an eighth grade education and 2.5 per cent had none while 15 per cent of the mothers had less than an eighth grade education and 1 per cent had none. For sixteen per cent of the fathers and 17 per cent of the mothers no report was given to this question in the questionnaire.

## CHAPTER VIII

### VOIUNTARY ORGANIZATIONS

#### Fraternal Organizations

The Macabees seem to have been the first fraternal order to start in this locality. They organized in 1900 and erected the building which is now being used by the high school basketball games. It is also used by the independent teams, but is getting into a somewhat dilapidated condition as no one takes any interest in keeping it in repair. The lodge still has a few members here and the charter is retained, but the dues are now paid at West Branch.

The Masonic Order has never established an organization in the community though it contains several members. There seems to be something of a mutual understanding between the villages of Prescott and Whittemore by which the Oddfellows of both places continue to attend lodge at Prescott while the Masons of both places attend at Whittemore. This arrangement may have a slightly detrimental effect in withdrawing interest from the

community, yet it tends toward economy, makes for stronger organizations and has a solidifying influence on the communities.

The Oddfellows had formed a lodge at Maple Ridge in 1891 and, in 1908, twenty seven of them withdrew and became charter members of a new lodge at Prescott. The lodge has grown and prospered until they now enroll one hundred fifty members and own a goodsized brick venier building. The building houses a lodge hall and billiard and card rooms on the second floor and kitchen and dance hall below.

According to the questionnaire 47 per cent of the families are unaffiliated with any fraternal organizations. Fifteen of the 79 reporting have at least one member belonging to only one fraternal society; fourteen families are represented in two organizations; seven are represented in three; seven in four; one in five; two in six; and one family is represented in eight organizations by one or more members. Forty-four  
Forty-four of the 79 families do not attend fraternal gatherings and the 35 who do average 22.2 meetings per year at which one or more of the respective families are present.

### Home Economics Extension Groups

The Extension Department of Home Economics of Michigan State College was instrumental in organizing a society known as the Prescott Nutrition Club. It was started in 1929 with sixteen members and continued until 1931 when they reorganized with twelve members and the club was rechristened the Prescott sewing club. The club together with similar clubs in other communities send delegates to central places where they receive instructions from an extension worker and then return to their home units to pass along the information so received. The local unit meets once in two weeks. Each spring a county achievement day is held at which all the units meet and exhibit the work done during the year.

### The Red Cross

At the entrance of the United States into the World War in 1917, Prescott was among the first to respond to the call of the Red Cross. At the first roll call eighty-nine responded and the community has maintained a chapter ever since, though the membership has declined until there are only twenty members left. This unit was the first in the county to do sewing for the soldiers, and is now sewing for the needy.

### Congenial Groups

There is very little class distinction in Prescott Community, at least very little based on wealth, though the people are more or less divided into congenial groups. Perhaps this division is more pronounced because of the lack of unifying influences including the whole community or, it may be the cause. The churches appear to help in producing these divisions, as well as the differences in cultural tastes. The people are cordial and friendly but not too intimate with strangers. Their groups are more or less closed to new comers and one gains admission only by gaining intimacy with one or more members of the group.

During the winter, dances are held almost weekly on Saturday evening at a privately owned dance hall and occasionally at the Oddfellows Hall. The public dances are conducted for profit and no one is excluded, while the fraternal dancing parties are more selective and generally attended by older persons. There are reports of considerable drinking in the community which is severely criticised by the more sober minded. But, when the Congress and state legislatures are more interested in the return of beer than of business, can the younger generation be blamed? Again, if the stories told by the older people of booze parties and saloon brawls are true, conditions have not so greatly degenerated.

Sleighbing parties and socials which formed such a large part of the social life in pioneer days and formed a strong influence in solidifying and socializing the people, seem to be things of the past and joy riding with two or, at most four or five, have taken their places.

### Community Sentiment

The community does not support a newspaper and hence the community sentiment is formulated and passed around at the pool room, at social gatherings, on the streets and in the stores and other places of business. The telephone, too, helps greatly in the dissemination of news. Much of the news is scattered by neighborly calls and garden fence conversations. A boarder had a dispute with the landlady and left. Within an hour the information had been carried across the village by these means. Announcements are made through the school and so reach nearly every home the same day. So, perhaps, these agencies are nearly as efficient as a daily newspaper so far as local news is concerned. Of, course, the weeklies of Ogemaw and adjoining counties carry columns of Prescott news. Items of extra sensational importance are reported to the larger dailies of the state, and nearly every one takes the Bay City Times Though a few prefer the Detroit papers. As in nearly all small communities and, perhaps in larger ones,

there is more or less gossip. The small coterie whis-  
per to each other the latest bit of sensational news and  
many suffer social stigma and snubs because of it. Those  
who pass these stories are not always careful to verify  
their truth, and, consequently, many of the social pun-  
ishments are unjust. While each bit of gossip is seized  
with as much avidity as ever, it is doubtful if social  
penalties are as severe as they used to be. There is more  
tendency to condone the violations of the accepted moral  
and ethical codes. The belief that man is a free moral  
agent, born with a knowledge of good and evil, is uncon-  
sciously weakening. People are more and more saying that  
such acts are due to home training or lack of it, to  
associations or other conditions. Yet there are many  
who are accused, tried, convicted and punished without  
ever being "confronted by the accuser or being informed  
of the accusations." Nor is the evidence scrutinized,  
weighed or verified.

## CHAPTER IX

### LEADERSHIP

#### Formal Leadership

The term formal leadership is here used to apply to the persons who are elected to public office. As the village of Prescott is unincorporated, the only officers in the community are those elected by the township and by the school district. To these, perhaps, should be added the pastors of the churches and the public school teachers. Such persons prove by their election that they are recognized as leaders. Many of the leaders in the community are either the pioneers or children of such pioneers who owe their prestige to long residence in the community. There are few new comers in the community who have been elected to public office.

The members of the Board of Education, though composed of older men, have accomplished a great deal for the community. They have succeeded in keeping the school district solvent and still gradually improving the condition of the school. As at present constituted, the Board of Education consists of one French Canadian by birth, eighty years of age, who completed about the fourth grade in the Toronto schools, came to Prescott in 1883, has engaged in various enterprises and is at present deputy sheriff and health officer. Another member is sixtyeight years of age, went to work in his father's shingle mill at the age of twelve, came to Ogemaw County in 1879 and



is at present retired. He is the father of seven children all of whom are married except two. A third is fifty years of age, born and reared at Prescott, educated in the elementary school and is at present proprietor of a general store. A fourth member is forty five years of age, the son of one of the early pioneers, has been employed at various occupations in the state and is at present operator of a farm. His school attendance covered the eight elementary grades. The fifth member is forty years of age, the son of a preacher. He, also, had an elementary education, was employed in a bank for some time, held the position of township clerk for a time and is now engaged in farming.

Of the township officers, the supervisors are by far the most important for they, not only represent the townships at the meetings of the county board in legislative matters for the county, but they also act as the chief executives of the townships in which they are elected. In Richland Township the position is of especial importance since it is chiefly through the interest and co-operation of the supervisor with the people of the village that the village streets are paved and lighted.

The three characteristics which seem to be most essential to success among township officers are : long residence, for the candidate or his parents, a pleasing personality, and wider experience through travel or having

lived in other communities for a time. School training and wealth seem to have little weight in bringing political access.

Following are brief characterizations of the supervisors of Richland and the other townships, portions of which lie in the community.

One was born in the southern part of the state, came to Prescott with his parents, finished the local elementary school, married and went west for a few years, returned and is at present operating a portion of his father's farm. He is now forty-six years of age. He has a pleasing personality and considerable ability.

A second is thirty eight years of age, the son of a pioneer doctor and was born and reared at Maple Ridge. He attended school at Maple Ridge and entered high school but dropped out in the tenth grade. He operated a store there for some time then moved to Tawas but has lived on a farm at Maple Ridge for the past eight years. He has two daughters now attending high school.

A third supervisor who, at a very early age, came with his parents from New York State, has engaged in farming at which he is quite skillful and his farm shows him to be carefull, thorough and systematic. He has the reputation of being "level headed". He served as township

treasurer for four years and has been supervisor for four years. At present he is chairman of the county board of supervisors.

A fourth is sixty years of age, came to the community with his parents and received an elementary education. For a little over thirty-five years he has owned and operated a one hundred twenty acre farm and has sold insurance as a side line. He served as justice of the peace for several years, as treasurer for a term or two, and has now served as supervisor for two years.

A fifth is fifty years of age, a native of the community, having spent all of his life in his present locality and been engaged in farming. He has only an elementary education but is said to be a good "mixer" and a genial fellow. He held the office of justice of the peace for a short time and was then elected supervisor.

A sixth is fifty five years of age, a native of the community and operates a farm of one hundred sixty acres. He is said to have held some township office ever since he was a young man, which seems to be an exception for this community. Reports indicate that his prestige rests on confidence in his ability which, no doubt, has been gained by his experience and the confidence established by his long tenure.

Data were not secured for the rest of the township officers for each of the townships included or partly included in the community. So far as known, they are somewhat younger than the supervisors. Otherwise, the same characteristics seem to be required for their success as for supervisors.

Most of the pastors and teachers do exercise considerable leadership, especially in the organization of social and recreational groups of young people. Their influence is greatly hindered by their short tenures of office. The pastors serve several churches, too, so that their interests and efforts are scattered. As an illustration : the Baptist pastor who resides at Prescott, serves a church at Hale, one at Twining and two rural churches about equally distant. In return, the Methodist pulpit at Prescott is supplied with a pastor from Hale. The M.E. Methodist church at Maple Ridge is under the charge of the pastor from Twining.

#### Informal Leadership

Several persons were asked for lists of community leaders. The first, a middle aged business man, said that he knew of only one. The one named was another business man about sixty-five years of age who moved

into the community in 1912. The reporter said that he frequently goes to this leader for advice and knows of many others who do, because the advice received is always carefully thought out and is consequently sound.

A young day laborer twenty-five years of age, was asked for a list of leaders. He first asked if the list should include those who thought themselves leaders or those whom he thought were leaders. After being assured that his opinion was desired, he named eleven persons of whom six were women and five were men. The women ranged in age from forty to seventy, the average being 48 and 1/3 years. Their leadership was exerted through social clubs and churches. Of the men, one is fifty, a business man with an eighth grade education and his leadership was accounted for because of his helpfulness. The second is a man of sixty, a successful farmer who has been successful in promoting farm projects.

The banker, a man of fifty-five, was named as a leader because of his "political skrewdness". Another business man of forty-eight was named as a leader because of his "experience and knowledge of farm problems". and the last one named was a pastor who holds a doctor of divinity degree. He is a man sixty-five years of age and has lived in the community for twenty years. He appears to have a wide acquaintance and is held in respect because of his training.

An ex-postmaster was asked for a list of community leaders, but hesitated for some time, declaring it to be a difficult task. At last he contributed a list which contained numbers two and four of the preceeding list in addition to six farmers who ranged in ages from sixty to eighty and who owe their recognition as leaders to pioneering efforts. This reporter stated that "number two had been the first in the community to introduce certified seed oats, hardy alfalfa and registered cattle. Number four started an elevator with ninety share holders at ten dollars each and, in about fifteen years, built the business up to a plant of sixteen thousand dollars valuation". Then from these two lists only two business men were named, and only one who had more than a high school education.

A middle aged farmer who has been fairly successful, an ex-bank cashier, two merchants and two elderly retired gentlemen each was asked for a list of community leaders. Each expressed the difficulty of preparing such a list but they said they would try. No lists have been contributed by them. It is possible that, in some of these cases the individuals were unable to solve the dilemma of either showing egotism by adding their own names or by apparently admitting their own lack of influence by its omission. Some may have been merely negligent but the whole situation seems to indicate a lack of clearly recognized community leadership.

## CHAPTER X

### CONCLUSIONS

The community is only about fifty years old and it is difficult to say what another fifty years will bring. The telephone, the radio and the automobile are breaking down the isolation which has existed for the past generations. The younger generation is enjoying greater educational opportunities, both formal and informal. The depression is driving into the community new citizens. Present enterprises may be extended and new ones started. If the great lakes to ocean waterway becomes a reality, ocean vessels may dock within thirty miles of the village of prescott.

The central location of the community and distance from other community centers point to permanence and stability. The fertility of the soil, nearness to forests and abundance of wild game and fish furnish economic bases which should help to make such permanence secure.

This village is passing through the same stages of evolution as other similar communities; first lumbering, then farming and, if location and other factors are suitable, they pass on into industrial centers. It is doubtful if the Community of Prescott becomes industrial soon although there is ample water power not far to the north, gypsum to the east and coal deposits not far south.

Oil wells are being sunk in various places in the county of Ogemaw. The area is well suited to stock raising and much of the land is suited to crop raising. These need further developing but, at present, prices are too low to warrant this procedure. With modern means of production it is possible for all to have modern conveniences in the home and on the farm if the people can learn to enjoy higher standards.

The influence of pioneer life are still very strong in the community. Many of the early settlers who faced the privations and struggles incident to pioneer life are still active and influential. Most of the pioneer enterprises are still under the control of their original promoters or their sons. For this reason Laissez Faire and Cavelent Exptor are the general principles of business.

Most of the home life is happy and contented and family ties are stronger than in urban communities. But community isolation is breaking down so that the younger generation is more and more seeking recreation, not only outside the home, but outside the community as well. Yet hunting, fishing and camping still furnishes a large amount of recreation for the community.

The people attend church more than those in localities where motion pictures and other forms of commercial recreation are more thoroughly organized and patronized, but sectarianism is strong. If the religious denominations could be organized into fewer and,



therefore, larger groups it would contribute materially to the solidarity of the community where now it constitutes a disorganizing factor. Their zeal could then be directed toward better standards of living rather than struggles over prosyliting eachothers members.

Interest in politics is fairly strong. The voters are fairly sturdy, independent, and as free from the domination of "ward heelers" and political bosses as any. Of course, there are local leaders who exercise influence but they are less secure in their leadership if people become suspicious. Their local affairs appear to be quite well cared for although they are not aggressive and the county appears to consume an undue proportion of the local tax. The fact that county and township lines dissect the community without regard to geographic or social boundaries constitutes one of the disorganizing factors.

The school has been one of the strongest unifying influences of the community. All are willing to patronize and support the school. Nearly every program, social or otherwise, sponsored by the school, is well attended. At the annual meeting, however, each shirks the responsibility and wishes someone else to act and the attendences there are small. In this connection, social and economic leaders are greatly needed.

Yet, in spite of all this, the schools have made quite steady progress. The school districts have been laid out without any consideration of economy, efficiency, or convenience. Many of the schools in the community have too few pupils to maintain an efficient school. Many pupils are nearer to schools in other districts than to the school in their own districts. Tax rates differ greatly in the different districts. The high school might serve better as a community center if it were controlled and paid for by the community rather than by a district. Its curriculum as well as its extra curricular activities could then be extended and its staff could be enlarged.

Informal education of the younger members of the community is more wholesome but less broadening than in more densely populated communities. Home training is relaxing in discipline though it is probably more severe here than in industrial communities.

Perhaps some of the social needs are even greater than the economic ones. The depression has effected the community badly but no worse than other communities, and this would not prevent greater sociability and co-operation and a breaking away from individualism.

Fraternal societies and other social groups furnish some entertainment and help in socializing but there are no community wide agencies and no community wide religious movements.

Leadership is fairly capable but inclines toward conservatism and lacks the wider vision which more school training and wider contacts might have given. There is, too, a lack of clearly recognized leadership.

If the school or Farmer's co-operative association could extend its influences so as to bring farmers and villagers together or, if a citizen's club could be organized to accomplish this result, it would help materially. A more extensive program of recreation--one which would include both old and young--would help a great deal in socializing the residents. A series of inter group games or community gatherings might offer values of this kind.

If social agencies like the churches and telephone companies could be united into community wide organizations in place of small, competing unprofitable factions, it would contribute to the solidarity of the community.

Some means of caring for the health of the people of the community is greatly needed. Though it has been estimated that 10,000 people are needed to support a hospital economically yet, it would seem, that some scheme might be devised by which small communities of this kind might profit from the available scientific knowledge for maintaining and restoring health.

More trunkline roads leading into the community and

roads leading to the lakes and hunting grounds need improvement. More attention might be given, also, to the beauty and attractiveness of the community. These improvements would bring more revenue from hunters, fishermen and campers. It is true that some progress is being made in improving the conditions of the highways but it requires unified effort to secure good roads.

It is quite safe to predict that the community, because of its location and sound economic base will continue to function and will gradually overcome its handicaps. As the highways improve it becomes more closely linked with its sub-metropolitan and metropolitan centers. The only real rival it can have is Whittamore which is located on a stronger trunk-line road and possesses the gypsum industries. But fertile soil and more central location would seem to outweigh the more transient conditions of manufacture and good roads if the people of Prescott Community will pull together to make use of the advantages which they possess.

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